

*Krajewski
Family*

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In memory of my brothers

Martin

and

Ladislau

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

RECORDS and FACTS

in

FAMILY HISTORY

of

Sophia Brzecky Krajewski

Mary Krajewski Benaszek

Josephine Benaszek Nowak

Sally Nowak Schmidt

Sophia my great-grandmother, was born in Poland in the city of Bygdosc, near the German border in 1803 and died in Cleveland, Ohio at the age of 87 on December 25, 1890. She had become an American citizen and at the time of death lived at 27 Okuola Street, in the southeast area of Cleveland. Her interment, as recorded by Coroner Schmidt, was at St. John's cemetery located in Section 13H, Range 9, Grave #3. At the time of death, she was attended by Dr. John Nawasatko. This record was traced by my brother Ladislaus and me on October 18, 1954. The record book is badly worn and the recording is handwritten. This record book is located at St. John's Cemetery, Woodland Avenue & East 71st Street.

The following facts, as written, were told to my two eldest brothers, Martin and Ladislaus, by Sophia our great-grandmother. These facts were retold to them by her many times, leaving a lasting impression of her deep desire in locating traces of her blood relatives. She was little aware of what a tremendous undertaking this unearthing of family history would become. This sincere desire still lives in 1959. Although Martin and Ladislaus are both dead, they left with me a lasting impression of their wishes to pursue further the facts they learned. This, they have done through long years of study, research, and travel in order to tie together all the facts as told by great-grandmother Sophia.

In order to clarify the picture, here are a few facts about my brothers. Martin, the eldest of the two, was born October 18, 1874 in Cleveland, Ohio. He was a Captain in the Regular United

States Army and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Martin knew and loved great-grandmother Sophia during the first sixteen years of his life, and did much after her death in discovering the facts concerned with the fate of her blood relatives.

Ladislaus, who became a successful business man, also was born in Cleveland, Ohio on June 3, 1879. He, too, knew and remembered his great-grandmother for the first eleven years of his life. Both men knew her well and loved her for her femininity, which was not to be discounted. She, herself, as a person was strong, alert, and vocally vehement about such matters as the Church, State and Family. Therefore, it is clear to see why these two young lads were so impressed by their great-grandmother Sophia. It is for that reason that they have devoted so much time, after their retirement, to fulfill her hopes and desires. This they did in memoriam to her, I believe. I am their youngest sister, born October 2, 1898, long after the death of great-grandmother Sophia.

The recorded facts of the family history may clarify some of the facts as they were related by great-grandmother Sophia. These facts were obtained as a result of many years' search in trying to trace factually, the stories about the family history as told to Martin and Ladislaus. How far will this pursuit of facts take me? That is a big question, however, I shall try to meet the challenge passed on to me, not only by great-grandmother Sophia, but also in fond memory of the two men whom I loved and regarded as my second and third fathers, during my adolescence.

These are the recorded facts. In 1609, the London Company was recruiting skilled artisans for the contingent of men who were to leave for Virginia in the summer of 1609 from Plymouth, England. Two brothers, Peter and Walenty Brzecky (very young men) responded to the recruiting. They were experts in the field of refining of the by-products of the 'pine' such as, pine oil, turpentine, rosin, tar, charcoal, etc. The reason for their response to the recruitment was the need for men in Virginia to produce these by-products for export back to England. In her telling of these facts, great-grandmother tried to impress on her great-grandsons that adventure was not the motivating factor for the response to the need for men in the new world. They believed that this was the call of duty and presented a challenge to assist in building this new nation. This was the way it had been told to great-grandmother Sophia by her grandparents who, in turn, had been told the same by their lineal ancestors. Upon arriving in the fall of 1609 in what was then known as Virginia, the two brothers were faced with grave disappointment, much unhappiness, and severe privations. (This fact is well known through our American history). Their disappointment stemmed from the fact that they came from a family regimented and organized to a work-pattern. Upon arrival, they found no actual work organized for them. They also learned that many of the men who came had done so for the purpose of seeking wealth and adventure and that they were two of a small group who actually came to work. Beyond these disappointments, and apart from their deep mental anguish, there was a more serious condition. Hunger and malnutrition resulted

in serious sickness and in death for many. There was no planned cultivation, or raising of any kind of crops to feed the new workers, and the men had to fend for themselves struggling as best they could and, in addition, fighting off the Indians for what little food they needed to avoid starvation. Great as the physical discomfort was, the lack of spiritual comfort was even greater. Although religious services, of a sort, were compulsory with some reading from a Book of Common Prayers, it had no meaning for the two young men who were confronted with the language barrier. They came from a country which was deeply religious and Roman Catholic, therefore, the lack of religious comfort spelled great unhappiness for them, coupled with hunger, sickness and deep disappointments. The promises which had been made to the recruits were far from becoming a reality, so it seemed. After a hard winter of sickness, starvation, and open hostility with the Indians, they faced summer with renewed hope. However, the summer proved no better than the preceding hard winter. Their summer diet consisted mainly of shellfish such as shrimp, clams and oysters. To this was added a meager supply of corn obtained either by trade or by force from the Indians. Because the Poles were a rye and wheat-eating people, this change to an all-fish diet was quite drastic. This, in addition to the unhappy spiritual and mental condition, was breaking the men's morale. Hunger forced them to resort to scavenging in the forest and field for anything that could be used as food. Finally Peter, broken in health and spirit, returned to England in 1612 with one of the supply ships.

Note: Peter Brzecky -- "Records of dead in the list of Hatten". February 16, 1623, on page 191 of that list the name of Petter Brishitt is found under the heading, "A list of names of the dead in Virginia". The name is listed under "At James Cittie" (James City). The records show Peter Brzecky - listed as Petter Brishitt - as dead in America, or Virginia Country, whereas actually he returned to England. Also, because of the illegibility of the old records there is some difficulty in deciphering the spelling of the surnames of these men from, what was termed, as Poleland and Sweadland.

However, as told by great-grandmother Sophia, the artisans of Polish and Dutch origin made friends with the big Indian Chief near Jamestown. Several years after Peter had returned to England, he earned enough money to make his way back to Poland. His brother, Walenty, remained in Virginia to keep his bargain as a recruit, in spite of all the reverses this new land had to offer. The two brothers managed to communicate with each other. How? This was done by word-of-mouth news brought back by men who replaced those who had returned to Europe on supply ships. However, this means of communication was slow, and years went by in the interim. Great-grandmother Sophia recounted that Walenty married late in life and had but one son, Walenty II (or William). Sophia also knew that Walenty 1st moved down the James River and worked on a plantation named

Warrascoyuck (history shows it as an Indian name). However, as she was told the facts by the men returning to Europe, this was the altered name of the capital of Poland and its people - WAR-SZAWIAK. Study revealed the plantation's location as the west bank of the James River, north of the mouth of the Nansemond River. This was the first Polish influence on names in Virginia. Later, there appeared the City of Warsaw (County seat of Richmond County, Virginia) to which were added the names of the Counties of Pulaski and Warwick, and cities of Pulaski, Warwick, Crewe, Chilhowie, Saluda, and Palryma. As previously noted, Walenty I's son was named Walenty II, later to be changed to William. The Brzecky surname was altered by removing the 'z' for easier pronunciation. This occurred in the second generation of Walenty I. The death record of William or Walenty II was located in the Parish Register of North Fornham. It is shown as December 19, 1732 - the records of the Parish Register date back to 1672. The search for records continues in parish registers and in old settlements in the area described by Sophia as that most likely to house these records.

Located: recorded as archives of John Breckey, son of William, in "Will Book" #6, page 294 (Mr. Delano, Recorder) at the city of Warsaw, County Seat of Richmond County, Virginia, as follows: John Breckey died March 1, 1762 leaving all his earthly possessions to his son Peter. (The letter e appeared before c in the surname). Further records and facts:

Walenty I - came to America from Poland, fall of 1609.
Married late in life, had one son.

Walenty II or William - Record: Parish Register -
Died December 19, 1732. His son

John - Record: City of Warsaw - died March 1, 1762
left a son

Peter - recorded in the will of John who died in 1762.

Note: The family identity seems to live through the desire for use of names. Memory ties of the family seemed to hold. Was Peter named for the Peter four generations removed, covering a span of some one hundred and fifty years?

After many more years of searching through and reading of old records, the will of Peter Breckey, son of John, was located in the City of Montross, County Seat of Westmoreland County, Virginia -- in the Dead and Will Book #16, page 327 -- Peter Breckey died September 16, 1786 and his will was recorded on the 27th day of February 1787 (Mr. McKenna, Recorder). The will read as follows: "Named slaves to each of his sons: Gerald, John, Peter, William; and slaves to grandchildren of Gerald: (dead) Nancy Morgan Kirkman and Gerald Breckey. To John: negro fellow Joe and my copper still. To Peter: negro fellows Daniel and Ben. To William: negro boy named Tom and woman named Minna and child, Ned, and all her future generations and increse.

To grandson, Gerald Breckey: negro girl named Molly. To granddaughter, Nancy Kirkman: negro girls named Jude and Jenny. Girl named Prue and hers forever, and the old woman Prue may take liberty to choose a new master for the price".

Note #1: Peter and John Breckey executed this will.

Note #2: It was pointed out, and based on historical knowledge, that the "copper still" referred to in the will was for the processing, on a large scale, of some of the by-products of the forest - some one hundred seventy-five years of skilled trade, continued by four generations of men.

Note #3: Some faded areas of the will made reference to Darcus Gardner and Sanford but were not clear.

The study of records in the areas known were made over the years. However, after the fourth generation record; and the fifth of the sons of Peter - John, Peter, and William; the sixth, the children of Gerald, son of Peter, Nancy Morgan Kirkman, and Gerald Breckey II, the search became more difficult. However, some trace of information was made of the fact that these fifth and sixth generations moved on into Kentucky, Utah, Missouri, Montana and California.

A vague trace was found in the geneology of the Hord family, by Reverend Arnold Harris Hord, Pastor of Emanuel Church,

Homesburg, Philadelphia, Pa. Printed by J. B. Lippincott Company in 1898, this history is related: "Susan Hord married John Breckey in Washington County, Montana. Further, the Hord family came to Virginia, May 22, 1650 with Colonel Moore Fonntlay. More is written in reference to the Hord family of Virginia in the Virginia Magazine, Volumes 2, page 6, in reference to 25 members of Virginia Society of Cincinnati. More reference was located in Genesis of the United States, by Alexander Brown, Volume I, page 238; George Washington Bi-Centennial Commemoration Report, Richmond Virginia Library; Congress Library of Immigrants. Also, for vague reasons, the names of Lidda, Lucy and Peter Breckey were found in records housed at Middlesex County, Virginia. These early vintage records are faded and often not too legible, perhaps due to the recorder and the recording materials used. Records of sale of land were found in the Parish Register at North Fornham from Breckey to Nowy, March 16, 1665 at the location of great swamp by southwest, at white oak tree, then south by southwest 200 perches to marked oak then north to white oak.

Note: A.B. 8, Page 160, November 5, 1722, record: "John Breckey of Westmoreland County, Virginia leased land from Burges Longworth, in North Fornham Parrish 60 acres: Texte, Joseph Russell, Jr. - William Callis No. 7-1722, page 162 - John Breckey bought the 60 acres".

Note: Record - Warsaw, County Richmond, Virginia, October 20, 1764, death of Sara White, wife of John Breckey.

Note: Copy of letter sent to recorder 'Delano' in City of Warsaw, Richmond County, Virginia:

Dear Sir:

August 29, 1923

Have you any records in your office giving the ages of wife or wives of William Brickey, a Revolutionary Soldier, who lived several years in Richmond County, Virginia. He was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, January 9, 1756. I haven't the date of his death. I shall be very grateful and appreciate any information you may give me concerning the Brickey family and especially the names of the children of William Brickey or Peter Breckey or any member of the Breckey Family.

Thanking you,

Very Respectfully
Mrs. James Rosser
LaFayette, Ga.

Note: Most likely son of Peter Breckey I.

Note: from Kingsbury, "Records of the Virginia Company of London Company of London" under date of July 21, 1619: "Upon some dispute of the Polonians resident in Virginia, it was now agreed (notwithstanding any former order to the country) that they shall be enfranchised, and made as free as any inhabitant there what so ever: and because their skill and knowledge therein for the benefit of the Country hereafter".

The search for records which may give us information was carried on for half a century. Success of location seemed most fruitful in the records of death. In the early history, marriage and birth did not seem to be of the same importance.

The reason for tracing the early history was the fact that there was a general knowledge of where to search.

Locations and possible moves were evident through the third generation. The fourth generation became more difficult to trace because identities of people and places were constantly changing. Great-grandmother Sophia knew that Walenty I and Walenty II (William) were in some way employed by the Washington and Lee families. (Westmoreland County near Wakefield was the location).

The challenge initiated by Sophia, involved the study of old records and parish registers and county seats. It required a great deal of travel over the years and, in many instances, whole weeks of reading and pouring over records. Most of this was done by my brother Ladislaus (W. J.) After the 1787 records which closed the fourth generation and then on to the fifth and sixth generations, the family dispersed - many of them went west in search of new frontiers. Added search, over many years before W. J.'s death, brought a little more information. This presented a challenge to me and spurred me on to locate the later generations - the records after 1787. The name of Breckey, with any local alterations, is my concern whenever I find myself traveling anywhere. There must be other women who, just as I, originate from a Breckey lineage but cannot be found in print anywhere. These women could be of much help to me for which help I would be most grateful. I am sharing this portion of family history which has taken long periods of intensive research with those readers who, by some chance, may perhaps be able to furnish added factual material so that great-grandmother's challenge of over a half a century ago may be fulfilled.

June, 1959

Sally E. Schmidt (Mrs. Leo)

FAMILY RECORD
OF
SOPHIA BRZECKI KRAJEWSKI
BORN 1803

Granddaughter, by six (6) generations, of Peter Brzecki, who with his brother Walenty Brzecki, came to Virginia with the London Co. - in 1609.

Sophia Brzecki married Ignacy Krajewski, they had five children:

Mary - Peter - Casmier - Jan - Rose

Mary Krajewski married Martin Benasek, and re-married twice later. She had eight children:

Josephine - Martin - Andrew - John - Thomas - Casmier - Adelbert and Ann (note)

Peter Krajewski died as a child.

Casmier Krajewski had three children:

Francis - Anthony - Stanley

Jan Krajewski married late in life and had four daughters and one son:

Barbara - Bertha - Laura (Elizabeth) - Rose - Casmier

Rose Krajewski married Peter Nyka and she had five children:
John (note) - Peter - Joseph - Mary - Pauline (Polley) - Sophia

NOTE after Ann and John. They were first cousins and married to each other.

FAMILY RECORD

OF

Mary - Brzecki, Krajewski, Benaszek, who was a granddaughter by seven (7) generations of Peter Brzecki. Her children were:

Josephine Benaszek Nowak

Martin Benaszek

Andrew Benaszek

Her second marriage

John Wawrzyniak

Thomas Wawrzyniak

Her third marriage

Casmier Wietrzykowski (Jackson)

Adelbert Wietrzykowski (Jackson)

Ann Wietrzykowski Nyka (*)

(*) Ann married her first cousin John Nyka.

FAMILY RECORD

OF

Josephine - Brzecki, Krajewski, Benaszek, Nowak, who was the granddaughter by eight (8) generations of Peter Brzecki.

Josephine (Mother) - Born February 2, 1851

Adelbert (Father) - Born April 20, 1843

Their Children:

Martin Paul - October 18, 1874 (M. P.)

Ladislaus Joseph - June 3, 1879 (W. J.)

(Wladyslaw)

Laura Helen (Dziewieczynski) - May 21, 1883

Francis Genevieve (Golubski) - October 9, 1885

Mary Victoria (Carder) - December 24, 1887

Josephine Adeline (Faldowski) - March 1, 1891

John Adelbert - June 16, 1893 (J. A.)

Salomea Esther Schmidt - October 2, 1898

(Sally)

FAMILY RECORD

OF

Salomea Esther Brzecki, Krajewski, Benaszek, Nowak, Schmidt, (Sally), who is a granddaughter by nine (9) generations of Peter Brzecki (Breckey), who with his brother Walenty (William) came to Virginia with the London Co. in 1609.

Salomea (Sally) married Leo Schmidt (born December 10, 1896) on June 12, 1917 at St. Stanislaus Parish (Cleveland, Ohio)

Their Children are:

Ernest Leo - born July 19, 1918

Arnold John - born February 23, 1922

Nestor Adelbert - born February 19, 1927

All of these births are recorded at St. Stanislaus Parish.

Krajewski Family

Donated By
Zona Gale Forbes

Ernest - Arnold - Nestor are the grandsons by the tenth (10th) generation of Peter Brzecki (Breckey)

Ernest: married Alice Travnikar at St. Ignatius Church, February 14, 1942.

Their Children are:

Ernest Leo - born October 18, 1942

Joan Alice - born January 19, 1947

David - September 17, 1948

Thomas - February 9, 1952

Sarah Ann - June 25, 1954

Arnold: married Gertrude Glowacki at St. Casmier's Church, August 18, 1948

Their Children are:

Gwendolin - born April 12, 1950

Martin - born January 21, 1953

Nestor: married Rose Mary Fiala at St. Therese Church, October 17, 1954

Their Children are:

Mark Nestor - born October 16, 1955

Diane Rose - born September 19, 1956

The children of our three sons are the eleventh (11th) generation of Peter Brzecki (Breckey).

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