

## CHAPTER 3

### The Teykowski/Tejkowski Family

#### First Generation

##### Laurentius (Lorenz) Teykowski and Margaretha Kochańska.

The earliest record that has been located for the family is the marriage record of Laurentius (Lorenz) Teykowski and Margaretha Kochańska on 5 Feb 1832. Wawrzyniec and Małgorzata, and they would undoubtedly be known to their acquaintances were married in the Catholic church in the village of Lisewo, at that time in the Prussian province of West Prussia.



Figure 1  
Parish Church of Lisewo

The parish, dedicated to *Podwyższenia Krzyża Świętego i Najświętszej Marii Panny Śnieżnej* (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross and the Most Holy Virgin Mary of Śnieżna), dates to the time of the Teutonic Knights. The present church, shown here dates to the sixteenth century.<sup>1</sup>

Laurentius' and Margaretha's marriage record shows that Margaretha was from Lisewo. In fact, her family had resided in Lisewo for several generations. Laurentius is shown as being from "villa Skarszewy." Skarszewy lies about 10 miles to the northwest of Lisewo, and is in the Catholic parish of Okonin. Attempts to locate baptismal records from the Okonin parish for the time of Lorenz' birth (estimated to be about 1813) have been unsuccessful to date.

Interestingly, the Lisewo parish records also include the marriage of a Michael Teykowski and Francisca Stachowska on 4 Nov 1850. Michael, estimated to have been born about 1824, is also shown as being from Skarszewy, and might well be Lorenz' younger brother. Baptismal records for Michael are similarly unavailable.

Laurentius' occupation or social standing is listed on the baptismal records of his children as "colonus". This can be translated varyingly as farmer or peasant, from the Latin for tiller of the land. Laurentius and Margaretha apparently had 14 children. One died immediately at birth; seven others died in infancy. A not unusual practice at the time was to reuse names of children who died early in life. Thus, they had three daughters named Marianna, and two sons named Joannes/Johann.

Margaretha's family, Kochański, has been traced, in Lisewo, to 1775.

## Second Generation

### Johann Tejkowski and Rozalia Szychowska.

Johann, born in 1852, married Rozalia Szychowski, widow of Leopold Jamrozy, who had apparently continued to reside in Klein Rehwalde (now Rywałdzik) following Leopold's death on 4 Mar 1877. Johann and Rozalia were likely married in the church of St Małgorzata (Margarethe) in Groß Plowenz (now Płowęż), the Catholic parish encompassing Klein Rehwalde. The parish church is shown above.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, the parish marriage records for Groß Plowenz for this time frame are not available. Johann and Rozalia were married 17 Nov 1877 in a civil ceremony at Ostrowitt (now Ostrowite)) before A. Goralski, the local Standesbeamten (registrar).



Figure 2  
Parish Church of Płowęż<sup>3</sup>

Johann's father's surname appears as "Teykowski" on Johann's baptismal record, but as "Tejkowski" in his civil birth record. His surname likewise appears as "Teykowski" on the record of his marriage to Rozalia Jamrozy, although it appears as "Tejkowski" on the same marriage record where it was signed, apparently by him personally. The family name appears in both forms in records of the early to mid nineteenth century; as far as has been discovered, Johann appears to have been the last to use the "y" spelling. This spelling change from "y" to "j" is not unusual, and is often encountered in older Polish records.<sup>4</sup>

During the timeframe of their residence in Rywałdzik (Klein Rehwalde), in the parish of Płowęż (Groß Plowenz) (1880-1887) Jan served as godfather at the baptism of at least 12 children; Rozalia as godmother for at least five.<sup>5</sup> This suggests a significant level of popularity in the community.

Jan and Rozalia had seven children, all born in Rywałdzik and baptized in Płowęż. There is an unexplained inconsistency in the baptismal records. Their first child, Sophia is recorded as having been born 5 Oct 1878, while their second, Jan, was born 29 Apr 1879.

Their last child, Antonius, was born 2 Feb 1888, almost seven months after Jan's death. Jan's status or occupation is shown as *chłop* (peasant).

Jan died on 17 Jul 1887 of drowning. His body was recovered, according to his death certificate, on 21 Jul. Unsubstantiated family lore has it that Jan was forcibly drowned, perhaps for his political or revolutionary activities. No documentation has been found to substantiate this interesting premise, nor to identify the location of Jan's death. The proximity of Rywałdzik to Lake Płowęż (Jezioro Płowęż) suggests this as a likely location.

After Jan's death, it appears that Rozalia, with her children, may have moved back to her birthplace in Lipinki.<sup>6</sup> Rozalia immigrated to the United States, arriving at Baltimore, Maryland on 2 Jul 1896. Accompanying her were her children Johann, Wincenty, and Angelika. Rozalia's passenger manifest lists her (with her name shown as Rosalie) last permanent residence as "Lippehnken" [Lippinken] Germany. The manifest indicates that she is going to join her son-in-law (and the Tejkowski children their brother-in-law) in South Chicago, Illinois. This is probably a reference to Adam Gospodarek, who married Rozalia's daughter, Anastasia Jamrozy in 1891, well before Rozalia's immigration. A fourth Tejkowski child, Joanna, also immigrated to Chicago; documentation of her immigration has yet to be found.

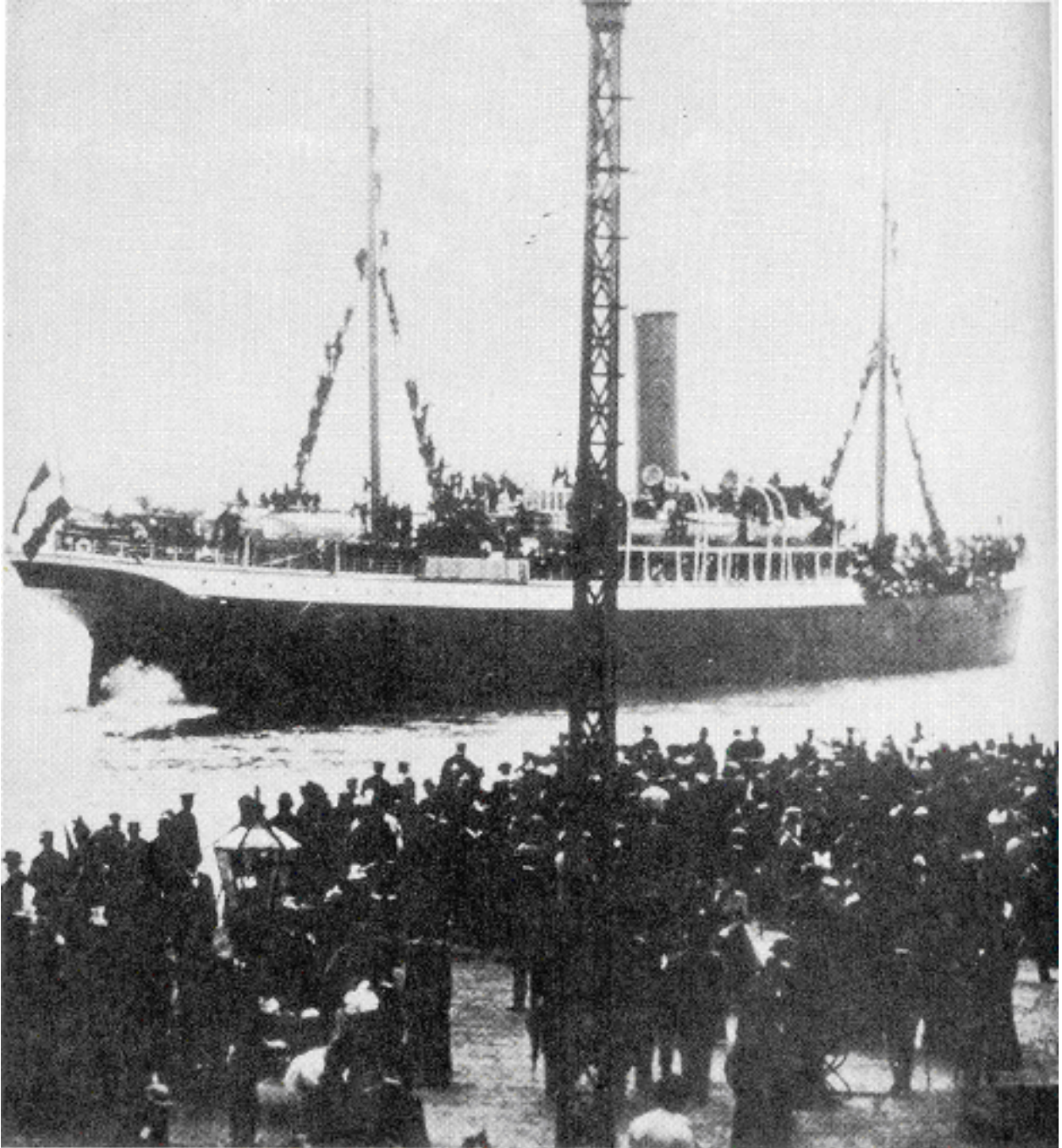
### **Third Generation**

#### **Sophia Tejkowski**

Sophia, the first child of Johann Teykowski (Jan Tejkowski) and Rozalia (or Rosa) Szychowski, was born 5 Oct 1878 according to the parish register from Klein Rehwalde (Rywałdzik). The discrepancy between her birth date and that of their next child Jan on 29 Apr 1879 has not been resolved. Nothing further is known of Sophia.

#### **Jan (John) Tejkowski and Stanisława (Stella) Pluciński**

Stanisława, who later adopted the name Stella, was the second of seven children of Walenty Pluciński and Michalina Ziętek (sometimes appearing as Zientek, which would be pronounced nearly the same). Jan (later John) was born 29 Apr 1879 in Klein Rehwalde (Rywałdzik), the second of seven children of Johann Teykowski (Jan Tejkowski) and Rozalia (or Rosa) Szychowski. Following the elder Jan's death in 1887, it appears that Rozalia returned to her childhood home in Lipinki, about 6 km (4 miles) away. It appears that she lived there with her children until the time they emigrated to the United States. Rozalia was accompanied by her sons Jan and Wincenty, and daughter Angelika. They sailed from Bremen on 18 Jun 1896 aboard the S.S. Crefeld, arriving in Baltimore on 2 Jul 1896. They are listed on the ship's manifest as traveling to join her son-in-law in South Chicago. This would likely be the husband of her daughter Anastasia (Jamrozy), Adam Gospodarek.

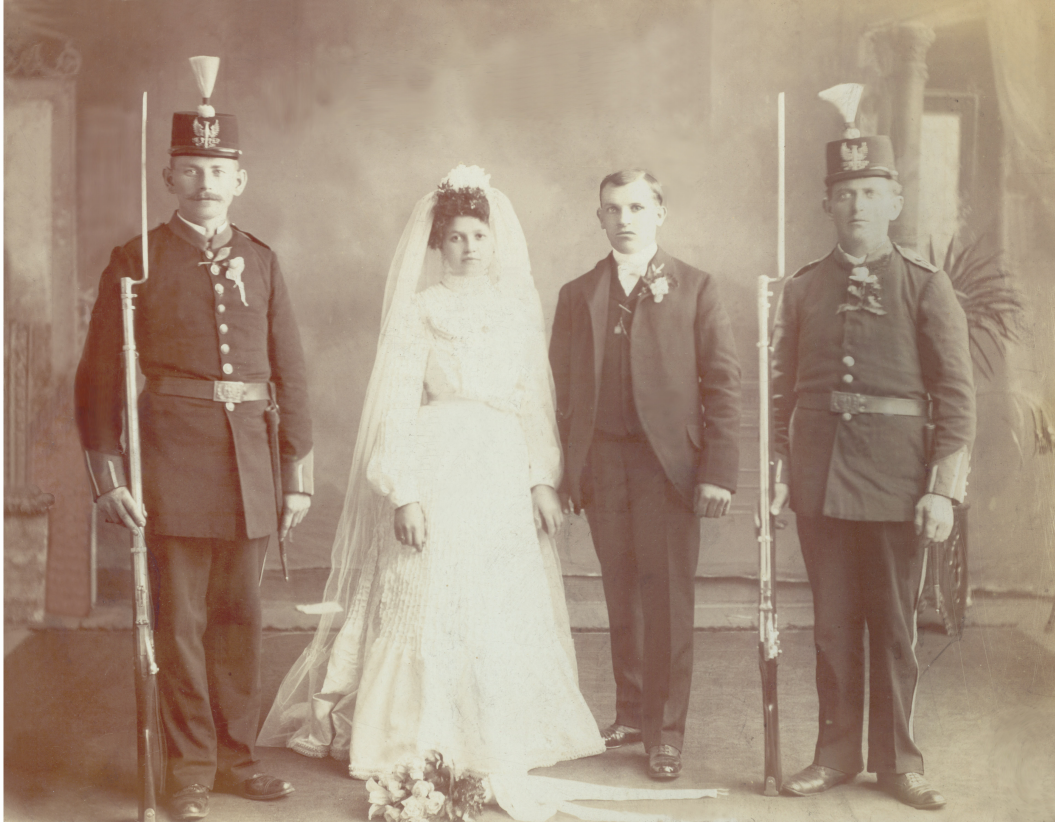


**Figure 3**  
**S. S. Crefeld 1895 North German Lloyd<sup>7</sup>**

By 1900, Jan was residing with Rozalia, Wincenty, and Angelika at 8424 Buffalo Avenue in the Bush community of the South Chicago neighborhood. The 1900 federal census lists his occupation as “at home” (presumably unemployed), and records that he could read and write, and speak English. Adam and Anastasia (Jan’s half sister) Gospodarek and their family resided at 8422 Buffalo Avenue.



On 27 May 1902, John married Stanisława (later Stella) Pluciński, daughter of Walenty Pluciński and Michalina Ziętek who resided at 8426 Buffalo Avenue. The marriage took place in St Michael Church, then located at 3160 East 83rd Street, by Rev. (later Bishop) Paul Peter Rhode.<sup>8</sup>



**Figure 4**  
**Marriage of Jan Tejkowski and Stanisława Pluciński<sup>9</sup>**  
**27 May 1902**

John filed petition for United States citizenship on 26 Mar 1903 in the Superior Court of Cook County. The petition is headed “Petition of Minor and Affidavits.” The interpretation is not, as it may seem, that he was a minor at the time, but rather that he immigrated as a minor. In accordance with the current formula, John swore:

“... in the presence of the Ever Living God, that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and more particularly the allegiance and fidelity I in anywise owe to [the] Emperor of Germany of whom I was heretofore a subject.”

His oath was supported by an affidavit, attesting to his residence, character, and support of the Constitution, executed by John Szafranski, residing at 8500 Buffalo Avenue.

Stella would have automatically become a citizen at the same time, in accordance with the naturalization law then in effect (Act of Congress of February 10, 1855): ". . . any woman who might lawfully be naturalized under the existing laws, married, or who shall be married to a citizen of the United States shall be deemed and taken to be a citizen"<sup>10</sup>. Likely no documentation of her naturalization would have been prepared, or necessary.<sup>11</sup>

As enumerated in the 1910 Federal census, John and Stella resided at 8426 Buffalo Avenue. John's occupation is listed as craneman in a steel mill. This would have been the Illinois Steel Company<sup>12</sup>, only a few blocks from their residence.

In 1910, no doubt seeking to provide for his growing family, John applied, and was accepted for membership in the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, along with the associated life insurance program. John established his coverage at \$1,000, a significant figure at that time, having a value in excess of \$22,000 today.<sup>13</sup>

John registered for the World War I draft in the third registration increment, on 12 Sep 1918. The Selective Service provided for draft registration by age. The third increment consisted of men 18 through 45, although many of these would have been registered earlier.<sup>14</sup> By that time John and Stella resided at 8235 Buffalo Avenue. He listed his occupation as Pit craneman at Illinois Steel Company (South Works).



**Figure 5**  
**8235 Buffalo Avenue<sup>15</sup>**

At the time of the 1920 Federal Census, John and Stella and family still resided at 8235 Buffalo Avenue; John is listed as the owner, free (of mortgage). His occupation is listed as machinist at Illinois Steel Works. The 1920 census record is replete with errors: the family name appears as Takoski, Stella is listed as Mary, Emil appears as Amel, John's place of birth is listed as Russia, rather than Germany (or Prussia). The census lists all of the family as able to speak English as well as able to read and write. Both John and Stella are listed as naturalized citizens. Clara and Emil are recorded as having attended school since 1 Sep 1919.



**Figure 6**  
**8420 Manistee Avenue<sup>16</sup>**  
**Circa 2004**

By the time of the 1930 Federal Census, the family had moved to 8420 Manistee Avenue, still in the South Chicago neighborhood, but out of the Bush community. John's occupation was listed as electric crane operator in steel mill. Both John and Stella are listed as not naturalized citizens. John is shown as owner of the house, valued at \$7,250. Max and Helen Nowak are shown as renters, paying \$33 monthly.



**Figure 7**  
**The Tejkowski Family; L to R: Clara, Stella, John, Emil and Leon seated**  
**Circa 1924 (Photographed at 8420 Manistee Avenue)<sup>17</sup>**

John registered for the World War II draft, at the age of 63 on 27 Apr 1942. He listed his height as 5' 4", weight as 145 lbs, eye color as gray, hair color as black and gray, complexion as ruddy, and his employment as pensioned at Carnegie Illinois Steel.

Stella died 6 May 1944. She was buried on 10 May 1944 in Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois. Records at the cemetery indicate that she is buried at Lot 12, Block F, St. Andrew Section; however, her body as apparently moved at some time, as a headstone indicates her burial at Section 13, Lot 2057, with John and Leon.

John died on 13 Aug 1945, of acute cardiac failure. His death certificate incorrectly lists his date of birth as 29 Apr 1884. His occupation is shown as retired craneman from Carnegie Illinois Steel. He was buried on 16 Aug 1945 in Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois, Section 13, Lot 2057.



### **Joanna (Johanna) Tejkowski and Anton Kamraczewski**

Joanna was born 8 Jun 1881 in Klein Rehwalde (Rywałdzik), the third of seven children of Johann Teykowski (Jan Tejkowski) and Rozalia (or Rosa) Szychowski. She did not emigrate with her mother and siblings. While no record of her actual travel has been located, according to the 1900 Federal Census, she immigrated to the United States in 1892. It is likely she may have travelled with her half sister Anastasia Jamrozy, who likewise is recorded as having immigrated in 1891.

Joanna married Anton Kamraczewski on 30 May 1900 at St Michael Church, at 3160 East 83rd Street in the Bush community of South Chicago. The 1900 Federal Census records Anton and Joanna residing at 8424 Buffalo Avenue, the same address as Joanna's mother, Rozalia. However, this may be misleading as the official census date for 1900 was 1 Jun and thus this may have been only a temporary residence.

At the time of the 1910 census, Anton and Joanna, their four sons, and Joanna's mother Rozalia resided at 8402 Illinois Avenue [Now Baker Avenue], a few blocks away. Anton's occupation is recorded as saloon keeper in his own saloon.

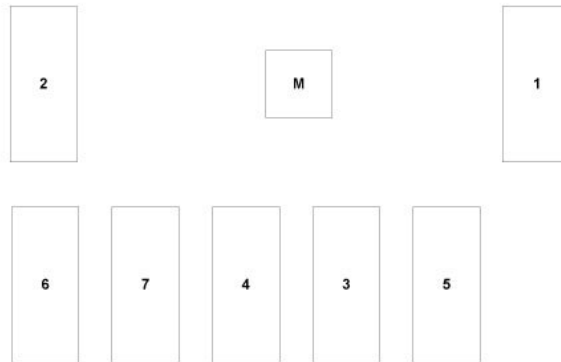
The 1920 federal census shows the family still residing at 8402 Baker Avenue, with Anton's occupation listed as saloon keeper. Edward (listed as Eddie in the census), at 19, their eldest son, is recorded as a core maker at a steel mill (undoubtedly Illinois Steel). Their next oldest son, Anton, at 16, is shown as being employed as a turntable man by the B&O railroad.

Anton and Joanna were to have six sons: Edward (1901-1972), Anton (1903-1958), Vincent "Charley" (1905-1985), Roman (about 1908-1987), Karol (or Carl) (about 1912-1983), and Leon (about Apr 1915-May 1915).

Anton died about Mar 1925 and was buried 18 Mar 1925 in Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois. Joanna died about Dec 1925 and was buried along side Anton on 10 Dec 1925. They are buried in the Kamraczewski family plot at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois, Lot 20, Block A, St. Wenceslaus Section. Joanna's mother, Rozalia Tejkowski is also buried in the same plot, as are Karl, Roman, and Leon.



- 1 Rosa [Szychowski] Tejkowski unmarked
- 2 Leon Kamraczewski unmarked
- 3 Antoni Kamraczewski
- 4 Jennie [Joanna] [Tejkowski] Kamraczewski
- 5 Carl Kamraczewski
- 6 Roman Kamraczewski
- 7 Mary Kamraczewski
- M Monument



**Figure 8**  
**Plan of Lot 20, Block A, St. Wenceslaus Section**  
**Holy Cross Cemetery**

**Marianna Tejkowski**

Marianna was born 2 Feb 1883 in Klein Rehwalde (Rywałdzik), the fourth of seven children of Johann Teykowski (Jan Tejkowski) and Rozalia (or Rosa) Szychowski. No record, other than that of her baptism, has been located. Nothing further is known of Marianna.

**Wincenty Tejkowski and Helen Warzynski**

Wincenty (Vincent) was born 25 Jan 1884 in Klein Rehwalde (Rywałdzik), the fifth of seven children of Johann Teykowski (Jan Tejkowski) and Rozalia (or Rosa) Szychowski. Following his father's death in 1887, it appears that Rozalia returned to her childhood home in Lipinki, about 6 km (4 miles) away. It appears that she lived there with her children until the time they emigrated to the United States. Wincenty, with Rozalia, Jan, and Angelika, sailed from Bremen on 18 Jun 1896 aboard the S.S. Crefeld, arriving in Baltimore on 2 Jul 1896.

In 1900, Wincenty resided at 8424 Buffalo Avenue with his mother Rozalia, brother Jan and sister Angelika. The 1900 federal census records that he could read and write, and speak English.

On 23 Sep 1908 Wincenty married Helen Warzynski at St Michael Church. The marriage was likely performed by now Bishop Paul Peter Rhode, although the St. Michael marriage record is not signed by the officiant.

On 28 Mar 1905, shortly after his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Wincenty appeared before the Superior Court of Cook County, Illinois and petitioned for and was accepted for citizenship in the United States. He executed an oath similar to that of John, renouncing all allegiance to the Emperor of Germany. Incorrectly, his application for citizenship lists his place of

birth as “. . . the city of Posen in Poland in Germany.” Wincenty listed his occupation as baker, and his place of residence as 8430 Illinois (now Baker) Avenue in Chicago.

The 1910 Federal Census shows Vincent and Helen residing at 8342 Superior (now Burley) Avenue in the Bush community. Vincent’s occupation is shown as milkman, employed by a dairy.

Residing at 8339 Burley Avenue, in September of 1918, Vincent registered for the World War I draft. He showed his occupation as B. Dock Inspector at Illinois Steel Company, South Works. He gave his name, and signed as, Vincent Charles Tejkowski.

The 1920 Federal Census lists Vincent and Helen and their adopted daughter Selvia (Sylvia) residing at 8339 Burley Avenue. Vincent’s occupation is shown as crane man at Illinois Steel Mill.

Vincent died in Chicago on 23 Aug 1935. The cause of death, as shown on his death certificate, was coronary occlusion and arteriosclerotic heart disease. At the time of his death he resided at 8326 Burley Avenue in Chicago. His occupation was shown as porter in a tavern.

Helen later married Zenon Bajkowski, and resided at 8325 Burnham Avenue.<sup>18</sup> She died about May 1986.

### **Aniela (Angela) Tejkowski and Lawrence Wasniewski**

Aniela (Angela) was born 4 Mar 1886 in Klein Rehwalde (Rywałdzik), and baptized the same day t Parish of St Margarethe, Groß Plowenz (now Płowęż). Kreis Strasburg. She was the sixth of seven children of Johann Teykowski (Jan Tejkowski) and Rozalia (or Rosa) Szychowski.

Following her father’s death in 1887, it appears that Rozalia returned to her childhood home in Lipinki, about 6 km (4 miles) away from Rywałdzik. It appears that she lived there with her children until the time they emigrated to the United States. Rozalia, with Jan, Wincenty, and Angelika, sailed from Bremen on 18 Jun 1896 aboard the S.S. Crefeld, arriving in Baltimore on 2 Jul 1896.

Angela is recorded on the 1900 Federal Census, residing at 8424 Buffalo Avenue. The census record indicates she was 14 years old, and could read, write, and speak English.

On 25 Nov 1902, at the age of 16, Angela married Lawrence Wasniewski, son of Lawrence Wasniewski and ? Rudnicka, at St Michael Church, at 3160 East 83rd Street in the Bush community of South Chicago by Rev. Paul Peter Rhode.

Little else is known of Angela or Lawrence. It appears that Lawrence later married a Joanna (last name unknown). It further appears that Lawrence had a son, Edward. Lawrence died 22 Jul 1937, and was buried 26 Jul 1937 at Holy Cross Cemetery,

Calumet City, Illinois. At the time of his death, Lawrence was employed as a coal grinder at Carnegie Illinois Steel, and resided at 8224 Manistee Avenue in Chicago.

### **Antonius Tejkowski**

Antonius was born 2 Feb 1888, posthumously after his father Jan's untimely death by drowning on 17 Jul 1887. Nothing further is known of Antonius.

## **Fourth Generation**

### **Children of John and Stella Tejkowski**

#### **Joseph Tejkowski**

Joseph was the oldest of four children born to John and Stella Tejkowski. He was born in Chicago 7 Apr 1903. On 12 Apr 1903 he was baptized at St Michael Church. Joseph died only three months later, on 10 Jul 1903, and was buried the next day at Holy Cross Cemetery in Calumet City, Illinois.

#### **Clara Tejkowski**

Clara was the second of four children born to John and Stella Tejkowski. She was born in Chicago on 3 Apr 1904, and baptized 5 Apr 1904 at St Michael Church. At the time of her birth the family resided at 8426 Buffalo Avenue, but by 1920 had moved to 8235 Buffalo Avenue in the Bush community of South Chicago. The 1920 Federal Census listed her as having attended school as of 1 Sep 1919, and reflected that she could read and write. By the time of the 1930 Federal Census, the family had moved to 8420 Manistee Avenue. Clara, then 25 years old, is shown with an occupation of Hair Dresser in a Beauty Culture Salon.



**Figure 9**  
**Clara Tejkowski<sup>19</sup>**



**Figure 10**  
**Clara Tejkowski with Leon Tejkowski**  
**(Photographed at 8420 Manistee Avenue)<sup>20</sup>**



**Figure 11**  
**Clara Tejkowski**  
**(Photographed at 8420 Manistee Avenue)<sup>21</sup>**





Clara married Joseph Kubiak on 6 Sep 1933 in St. Mary Magdalene Church at 84<sup>th</sup> and Saginaw Avenue in the South Chicago neighborhood.

An accomplished musician, Clara loved singing, and was in great demand as a soloist at St. Mary Magdalene Church, as well as a member of the St. Mary Magdalene choir.

**Figure 12**  
**Interior, St. Mary Magdalene Church<sup>22</sup>**



**Figure 13**  
**Joseph and Clara Kubiak Wedding, 6 Sep 1933**  
**L to R: Mr. Kubiak, Mrs. Kubiak, Joseph, Clara, John Tejkowski, Stella Tejkowski**  
**Photographed at 8420 Manistee Avenue<sup>23</sup>**



**Figure 14**  
**8324 Oblesby Avenue**  
**Circa 2009<sup>24</sup>**

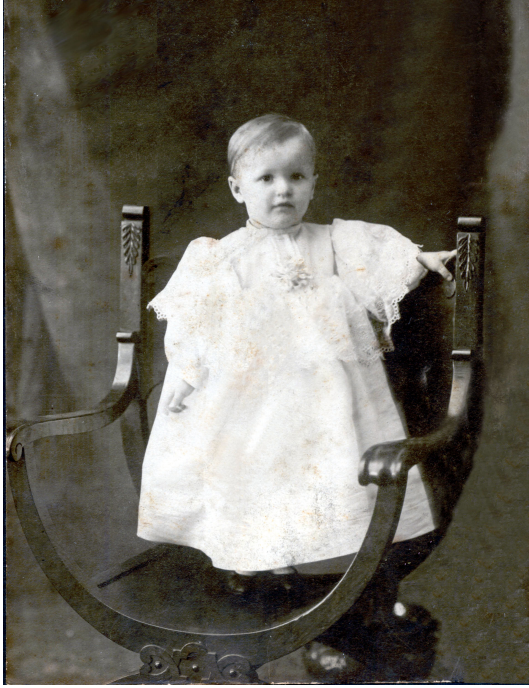
Joseph and Clara lived, for many years, at 8324 Oglesby Avenue in Chicago, where they were to raise their three children. Clara died 31 Oct 1992. Joseph died 24 Nov 2004 in Waukesha, Wisconsin. They are buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois in Section 13.



**Figure 15**  
**Graves of Joseph and Clara Kubiak**



## Emil Tejkowski



**Figure 16**  
Emil Tejkowski<sup>25</sup>

Emil Tejkowski was born 21 Sep 1908 in Chicago. He was baptized 27 Sep 1908 in the old St. Michael Church at 3160 East 83rd Street by Rev. John M. Lange. His godparents were his uncle Lawrence Wasniewski and his aunt, Pelagia (Pearl) Plucinska. At the time of Emil's birth, his parents, John and Stella, still resided at 8426 Buffalo Avenue.



**Figure 17**  
Emil Tejkowski  
Circa 1913<sup>26</sup>



**Figure 18**

**Emil, Stanisława (Stella), and Clara Tejkowski<sup>27</sup>**

Emil transferred from St. Mary Magdalene School to Sullivan School at 8255 Houston Avenue in September of 1921, by which time the family had moved to 8420 Manistee Avenue. He completed the eighth grade at Sullivan on 25 Jan 1924 and was awarded a graduation certificate, which stated that he “. . . has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study prescribed for the Grammar Department in the Chicago Public Schools and is entitled to Admission to the High School Department.”



Emil next attended Bowen High School at 2710 E. 89th Street. Graduating 29 January 1926, his diploma stated, “This certifies that Emil L. Tejkowski a member of the James H. Bowen High School has satisfactorily completed a Two Year Vocational Course in Accounting prescribed by the Board of Education of the City of Chicago and is awarded this Certificate.”

**Figure 19**

**James H. Bowen High School<sup>28</sup>**



The accompanying photograph shows Emil with his High School Diploma in the back yard of 8420 Manistee. The photo is annotated June 1926. Mid-year (i.e., January) graduates likely were recognized in formal graduation ceremonies the following June.



**Figure 20**  
Emil Tejkowski, June 1926<sup>29</sup>



**Figure 21**  
Emil Tejkowski  
South Shore Country Club<sup>30</sup>

For a time, Emil worked at the South Shore Country Club at 71<sup>st</sup> Street and South Shore Drive. Today, it is known as the South Shore Cultural Center, and is managed by the Chicago Park District.

By 1930, Emil was employed in a Steel Mill (certainly U. S. Steel, South Works), as a Car Checker in the Yard Department.



The accompanying photograph, dated September 1930, shows Emil and Stella in front of the Eugene Field Memorial at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo. The memorial has a statue of the "Dream Lady" from his poem, "Rock-a-by-Lady" ..Inscribed, and partially visible, on the base of the statue is his poem, "The Sugarplum Tree. Shown below is a recent photograph of the monument.

**Figure 22**  
**Stella Staroch and Emil Tejkowski**  
**Lincoln Park Zoo<sup>31</sup>**



**Figure 23**  
**Eugene Field Memorial**  
**Circa 2009<sup>32</sup>**

Emil married Stella Staroch on 28 Apr 1934 at St. Mary Magdalene Church at 84<sup>th</sup> Street and Saginaw Avenue in Chicago.



**Figure 24**  
**Wedding of**

**Emil Tejkowski and Stella Staroch<sup>33</sup>**

Standing, L-R: Edmund Jablonski, John Staroch, Sabina Ciechanowski, Gertrude Lenartowicz, Emil Tejkowski, Stella Staroch, Rose Brzozowski, Harry Kupski, Michael Szpajer; Seated: Sylvia Tejkowski, Sophie Szpajer<sup>34</sup>

After their marriage, Emil and Stella lived in the house of Stella's parents at 8346 Burnham Avenue. They were to raise their family of three children, Joan Frances (1935-2009) and two others, there and to live out their lives at the same location.

During World War II, Emil served in the Civil Defense program as a member of the United States Citizens Service Corps in the Medical Corps.

Emil was to become a machinist in the Metallurgical Laboratory of U. S. Steel, South Works. He continued in that position until his retirement in 1973.





**Figure 25**  
**Southtown Dahlia Club Show 1954<sup>35</sup>**

Emil was especially fond of gardening, and for many years was a member of the Southtown Dahlia Club of Chicago. Over many years he earned countless awards and recognition for his magnificent dahlia entries.

Christmas was particularly special to Emil. Each year he would decorate the house with a very large tree, decorated with a wide variety of ornaments, with a nativity scene, a Christmas village, and at times with a farmyard scene, consisting of pieces that Emil had cast of lead.



**Figure 26**  
**Christmas 1959<sup>36</sup>**



**Figure 27**  
**Christmas, circa 1955<sup>37</sup>**



Emil died 19 Oct 1976, and Stella died 10 May 2009. They are buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois in Graves 1 and 2, Lot 2057A, Section 13.



**Figure 28**  
**Graves of Emil and Stella Tejkowski**

### **Leon Tejkowski**

Leon, generally known as Leo, was born 9 Apr 1914 at 8235 Buffalo Avenue, in the Bush community of South Chicago. Four days later, on 12 Apr 1914, he was baptized in the new St. Michael's church. His godparents were his uncle Wincenty Tejkowski and his aunt Maryanna (Mary) Kupski



**Figure 29**  
**St. Michael the Archangel Church**  
**East 83<sup>rd</sup> Street and South Shore Drive**  
**Circa 2010<sup>38</sup>**



**Figure 29**  
**St Michael's Church (second building) circa 1910 <sup>39</sup>**  
**Original Church and grade school, later St. Michael's High School at right**

By the time of Leon's birth, the family had already moved to their home at 8235 Buffalo Avenue. Leon's birth certificate, executed on 2 May has his name blank. At that time, the filing of birth certificates was not universal; the delay in executing the certificate by the midwife may also have contributed to the blank entry. Clearly John and Stella knew the name they were giving their son by the time of his baptism on 12 Apr.



**Figure 28**  
**Emil and Leon Tejkowski**  
**Photographed at 8235 Buffalo Avenue**  
**Circa 1919<sup>40</sup>**



**Figure 29**  
**Leon Tejkowski**  
**Photographed at 8235 Buffalo Avenue**  
**Circa 1919<sup>41</sup>**

Little is known of Leon's early years. By sometime in the early 1920s the family had moved to 8420 Manistee Avenue, still in South Chicago, but outside of the Bush community. Leon is known to have been an avid stamp collector, and a dedicated baseball player, as well as displaying an interest in tennis.



**Figure 30**  
**Leon Tejkowski**  
**Photographed at 8420 Manistee Avenue<sup>42</sup>**



**Figure 31**  
**Leon Tejkowski**  
**Photographed at 8420 Manistee Avenue<sup>43</sup>**



Leon attended Bowen High School. The dates of his attendance are not known, but he did attend during the 1929-1930 school year. From annotations in his yearbook for this year, his coursework included Latin and English. There is evidence that this may have been his freshman year at Bowen.<sup>44</sup> His death certificate appears to indicate that he left Bowen in April 1931, apparently due to the disease that was to claim his life on 10 Jun 1933. The cause of death is listed as spongioblastoma of the brain. Unsubstantiated family lore had it that this tumor was the result of a head injury sustained in a baseball game.



**Figure 32**  
**Leon Tejkowski**  
**Photographed at 8420 Manistee Avenue<sup>45</sup>**

Leon was buried on 13 Jun 1933 in Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois. Cemetery records indicate that he was initially buried at Lot 12, Block F, St. Andrew Section; and that his body was transferred (apparently along with that of Stella, his mother) to Section 13, Lot 2057 on 14 Sep 1945, shortly after the burial of John, his father at the same location. Thus Leon, Stella, and John are buried along side of each other.



**Figure 33**  
**Grave of Leon Tejkowski**

## **Children of Joanna Tejkowski and Anton Kamraczewski**

### **Edward Kamraczewski**

Edward was born 18 Sep 1901 at 8402 Illinois (now Baker) Avenue in the Bush community of South Chicago, and baptized at St. Michael Church on 22 Sep 1901. On 17 Apr 1927 he married Beatrice Marciniak in St. Mary Magdalene Church. Edward died 15 Apr 1972 and was buried 20 Apr 1972 at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois in Grave 1, Lot 1172 of Section 21. At the time of his death, Edward resided at 8338 Burnham Avenue in the South Chicago neighborhood. Beatrice died on 24 Feb 1975 in Harvey, Illinois, and was buried 27 Feb 1975 at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois in Grave 2, Lot 1172 of Section 21. Prior to her death she resided at 15109 Blackstone Avenue, Dolton, Illinois.



**Figure 34**

**Beatrice Kamraczewski and Stella Tejkowski  
Photographed at the Kamraczewski Family Cottage,  
Eau Claire, Michigan<sup>46</sup>**

### **Anton Kamraczewski**

Anton was born about 1903. As recorded in the 1910 census, he resided with his family at 8402 Illinois (now Baker) Avenue. In 1920 Anton was employed as a turntable man for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and resided with his parents at 8402 Baker Avenue. He married Charlotte (last name unknown) about 1927. Anton and Charlotte were to have one known child, Alice, born about July of 1929. In 1930 Anton, Charlotte, and Alice resided at 8402 Baker Avenue, by which time the remainder of Anton's family no longer resided there. At that time Anton was employed as the Proprietor of a Pool Room. Anton, while residing at 8220 Burnham Avenue, died about June of 1958. He was buried 28 Jun 1958 at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois in Lot W ½-1968, Section 22.

### **Vincent (Charles) Kamraczewski**



Vincent was born 6 Nov 1905 and was baptized at St. Michael's church on 7 Nov 1905. His godparents were Vincent Tejkowski and Stanisława (Stella) Tejkowski. In 1910, he resided with his parents at 8402 Illinois Avenue (Now Baker Avenue) in the Bush community of South Chicago. Vincent married Irene C. Walzak. Irene died in October of 1983. At the time of her death Irene resided at 18340 Glen Oaks in Lansing, Illinois. Vincent died in April of 1985 while residing at 353 Calhoun in Calumet City, Illinois. Vincent and Irene are buried in graves 3 and 4 respectively, of Lot 16, Block 16 of Section 17 in Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois.

### **Roman Kamraczewski**

Roman was born about 1908. In 1910 and 1920 he resided with his parents, Anton and Joanna (Tejkowski) Kamraczewski at 8402 Illinois Avenue (Now Baker Avenue) in the Bush community of South Chicago. He died in September of 1987, and was buried 23 Sep 1987 at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois in Grave 6, Lot 20, Block A of St Wenceslaus Section, the Kamraczewski family plot. At the time of his death he resided at 9148 South St. Louis in Evergreen Park, Illinois.

### **Karl (Carl) Kamraczewski**

Carl (shown on his birth certificate as Karol) was born 17 Mar 1912, the fifth child of his mother Joanna. Carl was born at the family residence, 8402 Illinois Avenue (Now Baker Avenue) in the Bush community. Carl died in July of 1973. He was buried 20 Jul 1973 in the Kamraczewski family plot at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois, Grave 5, Lot 20, Block A, St. Wenceslaus Section. At the time of his death he resided at 3039 East 91<sup>st</sup> Street in Chicago, the South Chicago YMCA.

### **Leon Kamraczewski**

Leon led an unfortunately short life of only one month and seven days. He was born 3 Apr 1915 and died 10 May 1915. Leon was born and died at the family residence, 8402 Illinois Avenue (Now Baker Avenue) in the Bush community. He was buried 13 May 1915 in the Kamraczewski family plot at Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois, Lot 20, Block A, St. Wenceslaus Section.

There is a conflicting birth certificate for a "Julian Albert Kamraczewski", the sixth child of Joanna Tejkowski and Anton Kamraczewski, born on 17 Apr 1915. The birth certificate is somewhat suspect, as it was executed by the midwife 18 May 1915, quite some time after the birth of the child. Nevertheless, this was clearly the child identified as Leon. The 3 Apr 1915 date of birth shown for Leon is based on his death certificate. Clearly one of the birth dates is in error. There is no known explanation for the differences in given name.

### **Child of Wincenty Tejkowski and Helen Warzynski**

#### **Sylvia Tejkowski**

Sylvia was born about 1913 and was the adopted daughter of Wincenty and Helen. In 1920 she resided with her parents at 8339 Burley Avenue in Chicago. She married Casimir J. Lipinski about October 1940. Sylvia died in June of 1982, and was buried 21

Jun 1982 at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, Illinois. Her funeral was held from St. Louise DeMarillac Church in LaGrange Park, Illinois.

---

<sup>1</sup> Diocese of Torun [Poland], Internetowy Serwis Informacyjny [Internet Information Service], [http://www.diecezja.torun.pl/par\\_pokaz.php?idpar=37](http://www.diecezja.torun.pl/par_pokaz.php?idpar=37)

<sup>2</sup> Reference for Plowez church.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.jablonowo.scholaris.pl/foto/plokos1f.jpg>

<sup>4</sup> William F. Hoffman, *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings, Second Edition, Revised* (Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America), 27.

<sup>5</sup> Ref to Plowez records.

<sup>6</sup> Olimpia Szychowska, Letter to Wincenty Tejkowski, 22 Dec 1929 (Polish, English translation by Krystyna K. Matusiak).

<sup>7</sup> Michael J. Anuta, *Ships of Our Ancestors* (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc.), 70.

<sup>8</sup> Archdiocese of Chicago, "A History of the Parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago", 1980, at <http://www.pgsa.org/ArchChiPolPar/StMichaelChi.htm>.

<sup>9</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Supreme Court, *Kelly v. Owen*, 74 U.S. 7 Wall. 496 496 (1868), at <http://supreme.justia.com/us/74/496/>

<sup>11</sup> Marian L. Smith, "Any woman who is now or may hereafter be married . . .", *Prologue Magazine*, Summer 1998, Vol. 30, No. 2 at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/summer/women-and-naturalization-1.html>

<sup>12</sup> The name of the steel mill in the Bush community changed several times over the years. The Illinois Steel and U. S. Steel, South Works names were used interchangeably, but imprecisely for a number of years.

<sup>13</sup> The Inflation Calculator, <http://www.westegg.com/inflation/infl.cgi>

<sup>14</sup> World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, M1509, the National Archives, <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/military/ww1/draft-registration/>

<sup>15</sup> Cook County Assessor's Office,

[http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/Property\\_Search/property\\_details.aspx?pin=21321030020000](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/Property_Search/property_details.aspx?pin=21321030020000)

<sup>16</sup> Cook County Assessor's Office,

[http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/Property\\_Search/property\\_details.aspx?pin=21313140260000](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/Property_Search/property_details.aspx?pin=21313140260000)

The Cook County Assessor's Office lists the property as 8422 Manistee Avenue; the property has always been commonly known as 8420.

<sup>17</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>18</sup> Personal knowledge of the author.

<sup>19</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>20</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>21</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>22</sup> *Dedication of the new St. Mary Magdalene Church, Sunday, May 2, 1954*

<sup>23</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection

<sup>24</sup> Cook County Assessor's Office,

[http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/Property\\_Search/property\\_details.aspx?pin=20364050310000](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/Property_Search/property_details.aspx?pin=20364050310000)

<sup>25</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection

<sup>26</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection

<sup>27</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.neiu.edu/~reseller/scbowpho.html>

<sup>29</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>30</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection

---

<sup>31</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection

<sup>32</sup>

[http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://2.bp.blogspot.com/\\_zJpnTu57Koc/Sm8tkBg4m4I/AAAAA  
AAAKNk/uwyp871iDdo/s400/LI-sculp-LP-546b.jpg&imgrefurl=http://chicago-outdoor-  
sculptures.blogspot.com/2009/07/dream-lady-eugene-field-  
memorail.html&usg=\\_\\_M92vyfUADN70Pp7r0uMbDdUA\\_D0=&h=267&w=400&sz=30&hl=en&start=12  
&um=1&itbs=1&tbnid=Lql2LBMkFz1dnM:&tbnh=83&tbnw=124&prev=/images%3Fq%3D%2522eugen  
e%2Bfield%2522%2B%2522lincoln%2Bpark%2Bzoo%2522%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DN%2  
6rls%3Dcom.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox%26rlz%3D117SUNA\\_en%26tbs%3Disch:l](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_zJpnTu57Koc/Sm8tkBg4m4I/AAAAA<br/>AAAKNk/uwyp871iDdo/s400/LI-sculp-LP-546b.jpg&imgrefurl=http://chicago-outdoor-<br/>sculptures.blogspot.com/2009/07/dream-lady-eugene-field-<br/>memorail.html&usg=__M92vyfUADN70Pp7r0uMbDdUA_D0=&h=267&w=400&sz=30&hl=en&start=12<br/>&um=1&itbs=1&tbnid=Lql2LBMkFz1dnM:&tbnh=83&tbnw=124&prev=/images%3Fq%3D%2522eugen<br/>e%2Bfield%2522%2B%2522lincoln%2Bpark%2Bzoo%2522%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DN%2<br/>6rls%3Dcom.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox%26rlz%3D117SUNA_en%26tbs%3Disch:l)

<sup>33</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection

<sup>34</sup> Special acknowledgement is due my sister, the late Joan Yovich for her assistance in identifying several members of the wedding party.

<sup>35</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>36</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>37</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>38</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St. Michael's in Chicago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Michael's_in_Chicago)

<sup>39</sup> <http://chuckmanplaces.wordpress.com/2010/02/03/south-chicago-st-michaels-church-sepia-c1910/>

<sup>40</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>41</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>42</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>43</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>44</sup> *The Bowenite*, June 1930. Annotated copy in possession of Emil J. Tejkowski.

<sup>45</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.

<sup>46</sup> Stella Tejkowski Collection.