

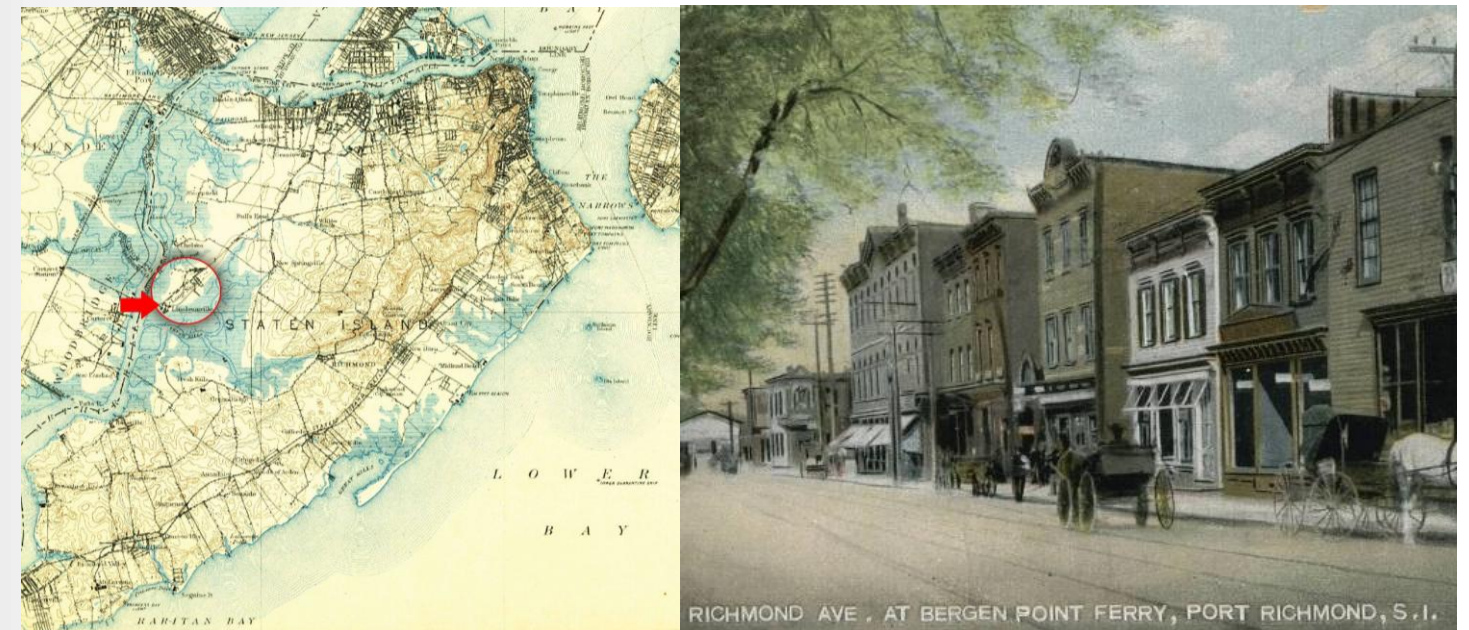
The Story of Charles S Kolodgy



Charles was born in his home in Travis (Linoleumville), Staten Island, NY to parents Franciscus Kolodzey, age 34 and Maria Erma Pekar, age 32. According to records, his father died around 12:30 – three hours before Charles was born at 3:30pm. Meaning that father Franciscus never laid eyes on his son Charles.

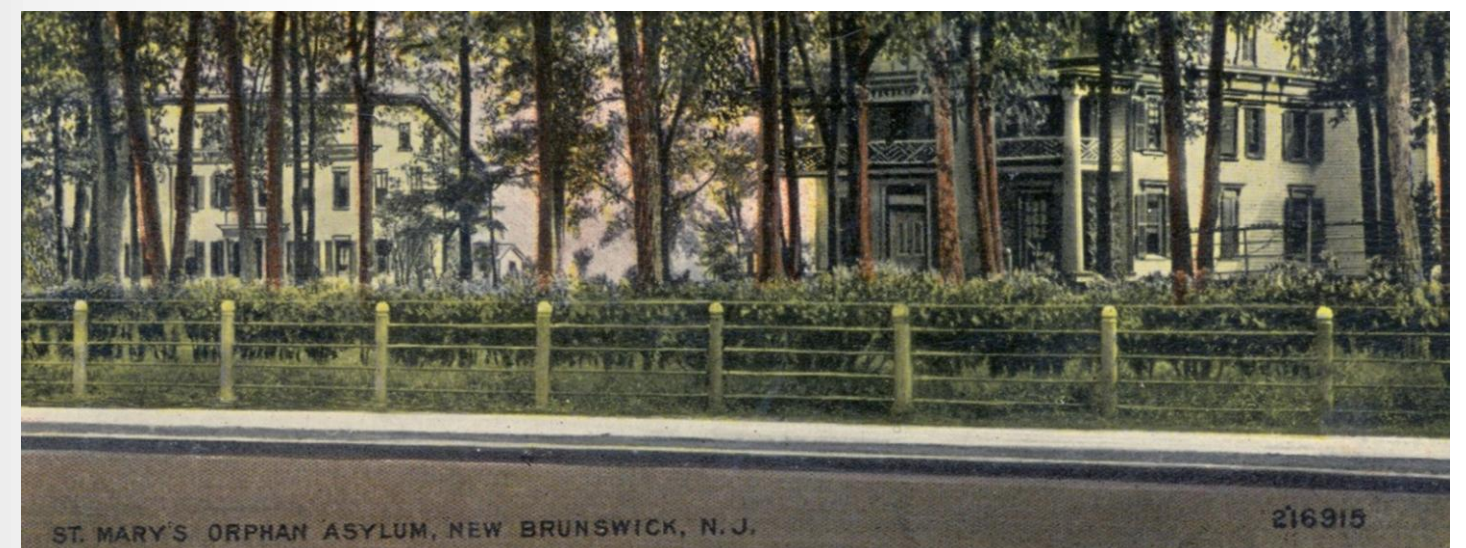
If this story was not tragic enough, two years later his mother Erma died from Typhoid. Though he saw his mother, it is unlikely that the young toddler Charles could have remembered his mother's face. By age 2, Charles and his three older brothers were orphans.

Orphaned



After his mother's death, family members took the 4 brothers in and cared for them. It is said that because Charles was ill or sickly, the youngest of four brothers, was put into an orphanage.

He was listed on the 1910 Census as living in [Saint Mary's Orphan Home in New Brunswick, New Jersey](#). In 1910, he was only 4 years old (1910 US Census). Two years later, he was admitted to St. Michael's Orphanage on September 12, 1912. In 1915, the New Jersey Census showed him living at St Michael's orphanage on Princeton Avenue in Hopewell, NJ.



Family Taking Care of Family

By 1920, the 14-year-old Charles was out of the orphanage and lived with his grand-aunt Mary Kolodzey, who was the widowed wife of Charles Linske (Dlugolinszky) at 207 Fifth St in Elizabeth, NJ. Charles' relationship to the Linske family is highlighted in Teal in the picture below.

By 1920, the 14-year-old Charles was out of the orphanage and lived with his grand-aunt Mary Kolodzey, who was the widowed wife of Charles Linske (Dlugolinszky) at 207 Fifth St in Elizabeth. Charles' relationship to the Linske family is highlighted in Teal in the picture below.

Evidence that Charles' older brothers kept tabs and checked in on him during his years in orphanages is the photo to the left. This photo was taken at the same studio as several other photos of young Frank, John, and Joseph - known due to several key visual indicators found on the photos. Specifically, the pedestal shown on this photo was also on another photo of Joseph.

Kolodzeys of Slovakia Rodina



1920 US Census

326	Linske	Charles	Head	2R	W	14	53	10/1	1881	Ma	1888	German	Upper Hungary	German	Upper Hungary	German	None	29
		Charles	Son		M	14	36	8				German	Upper Hungary	German	Upper Hungary	German	None	30
		William	Son		M	14	19	8				German	Upper Hungary	German	Upper Hungary	German	None	31
		Kolodzey, Charles	Nephew		M	14	14	8				German	Upper Hungary	German	Upper Hungary	German	None	32
227	Muller, Michael	Head	3R		M	14	44	7	1900	Pa		German	Upper Hungary	German	Upper Hungary	German	None	33
		Michael	Head		M	14	44	7	1900	Pa		German	Upper Hungary	German	Upper Hungary	German	None	34

Sailing for Freedom

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

158

Required under Act of Congress of February 5, 1917, to be delivered to the United States immigration officer by the representatives of any vessel having such aliens on board upon arrival at a port of the United States.

Vessel S.S. Bethore, arriving at New York, February 29, 1924, from the port of Cruz Grande, Chile

(1) No. in list	(2) NAME IN FULL		(3) No. of seaman's identification card	(4) Length of service in army	(5) Position in ship's com- pany	(6) SHIPPED OR ENGAGED		(7) Whether to be paid off or discharged at port of arrival	(8) Whether able to read	(9) Age	(10) Sex	(11) Race*	(12) Nationality	(13) Height	(14) Weight	(15) Physical marks, scars, or diseases
	Family name	Given name				When	Where									
31	Perry	Joseph	✓		Oiler	Jan 17	New York	Yes	Yes	19	Male	W.S.	W.S.	5'6"		
32	Vaiga	Joseph	✓		Stoker					38		Spain	Spain	5'9"		
33	Suarez	Jose	✓		Fireman					42				5'6"		
34	Cabral	Jose	✓							27				5'6"		
35	Hernandez	Enrique	✓							27				5'6"		
36	Lopez	Manuel	✓		Wiper					38				5'4"		
37	Monroe	James	✓							18		W.S.	W.S.	5'6"		
38	Serman	Charles	✓							26				5'6"		
39	Long	Richard J.	✓		Steward					30		Irish	British	5'6"		
40	Castellano	Thomas	✓		Ch. Cook					28		Portugal	Portugal	5'6"		
41	Cleminson	William	✓		and					36		Irish	British	5'9"		
42	Kolodgy	Charles	✓		Fireman					18		W.S.	W.S.	5'7"		

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

159

Required under Act of Congress of February 5, 1917, to be delivered to the United States immigration officer by the representatives of any vessel having such aliens on board upon arrival at a port of the United States.

Vessel S.V. HARKNESS, arriving at New Orleans, May 18, 1924, from the port of Tampico, Mex.

(1) No. in list	(2) NAME IN FULL		(3) No. of seaman's identification card	(4) Length of service in army	(5) Position in ship's com- pany	(6) SHIPPED OR ENGAGED		(7) Whether to be paid off or discharged at port of arrival	(8) Whether able to read	(9) Age	(10) Sex	(11) Race*	(12) Nationality	(13) Height	(14) Weight	(15) Physical marks, scars, or diseases
	Family name	Given name				When	Where									
1	Stewart	James			Master	May 5	Balti- more	Yes	Yes	35	Male	Scottish	USA	5'9"	160	None
2	Magnison	Joseph			Ch. Mate					31		Russian	USA	5'6"	170	
3	Nilsen	Karl			2nd "					37		Scand'Nav	USA	5'10"	155	
4	Schulter	Paul			3rd "					34		Prussian	USA	5'9"	155	
5	Parker	Jack			O.S.					32		Anglo-Sax	USA	5'6"	155	
6	Boyd	Alfred			Ch. Engr					30			USA	5'6"	155	
7	Roberts	Alex			1st Asst					27			USA	6'2"	175	
8	Sinclair	Horace			2nd "					31			USA	5'4"	150	
9	Irwin	Malcolm			3rd "					23			USA	5'11"	165	
10	Watts	George			Oiler					19			USA	5'6"	155	
11	Sorrells	Thomas			Wiper					22			USA	5'6"	160	
12	Hack	Daniel								27			USA	5'2"	160	
13	Mora	Jose			Messman					36		Sp. Amer.	USA	5'0"	145	
14	Kolodgy	Charles								18		Hebrew	USA	5'8"	155	

SEAMEN SIGNED ON AT THIS PORT.

Name	Age	Nationality	Name	Age	Nationality
K. Uksela	28	Finland			
K. Lindros	27	U.S.A.			
H. Sperry	19	"			
J. Mc Kabe	39	Ireland			
P. Gubert	32	Spain			
M. Freudenberger	24	German			
E. Utson	32	Denmark			
J. Fairfield	23	U.S.A.			
C. Kolodgy	19	"			

RECEIVED
JUN 23 1924
IMMIGRATION DIVISION

STATEMENT OF MASTER OF VESSEL REGARDING CHANGES IN CREW
PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

F 182

Port of New York

I, master of the American S. S. Santa Veronica,
from port of New York, hereby certify that the following is a complete record of all
changes in the personnel of the crew of said vessel since arrival at this port:
Total crew at time of arrival 32 Number of seamen deserted 2
Number of seamen discharged 2 Seamen left in hospital (or died) 0
Number of seamen signed on at this port 2 Total crew this date 32
The above-named vessel arrived at this port June 12th, 1924, consigned to
American and Cuban Line, is now lying at 63 W.R., and is
expected to sail June 21st, 1924, for Havana
via United States port of New York. First port of call in United States
this voyage was New York.
Following is a detailed and accurate statement of all changes in crew:
DESERTING SEAMEN.

At 19 years of age, Charles Stephen Kolodgy set sail on his first recorded voyage aboard the the SS Bethore (a steamship consigned to the Ore Steamship Corp), which left port in New York on 18 January 1924 and sailed to Cruz Grande, Chile. According to ship logs, the crew started with 48 persons, but three deserted in Balboa on 27 January 1924. On 7 February, he left port and enroute to the US with the crew of 45 on 29 February 1924. On the voyage he served as a 'messman' in the galley, a station typical of new sailors cutting their teeth in sailing.

A few months later, on 5 May 1924, Charles once again set sail, leaving Maryland aboard the S.V. Harkness (a Standard Oil ship) from Baltimore, MD to Tampico, Mexico. Again, he was a messman for the voyage. The ship arrived at New Orleans on 18 May after 4 days at sea. According to the ship's log, he was 5'8" tall and weighed 155 lbs and was described as "Hebrew".

On 12 September 1924, Charles signed on for a third voyage. This time, it was the SS Santa Veronica (consigned to the American and Cuban Line) which set sail on 29 November for Havana. Of a total crew of 31 men, Charles was one of only seven Americans which included the Captain. Charles was no longer a 'messman', he was now an 'Ordinary Seaman' as recorded with an 'o.s.' for his position on the ship's log. The ordinary seaman is a position on deck that serves as an apprenticeship for becoming an 'able seaman'.

Kolodzy of Slovakia Rodina

On 31 October 1927, Charles filled out an application for another voyage while in Houston, Texas.

Cat. No. 1436

No. 240

Date: 10/31, 1927

Name: C. Kolodgy

Age: 22

Stature: 5-7

Hair: Brown

Complexion: Fair

Eyes: Brown

Nativity: N. J.



Kolodzy of Slovakia Rodina

Maebelle Chandler



Maebelle was born to Thomas L Chandler and Susan E McCart in an old farmhouse about 2 miles outside of Grayson in north Georgia, an area that the Chandler family had lived since the 1780s. Also in the home was her grandmother, Susan Brown Chandler, who always wore a white dust cap with lace and ruffles. It was Grandma Chandler who taught Maebelle to walk.

In 1915, at the age of 2, her family moved to south Georgia for work as a manager of a turpentine crew. In 1918, they moved to Pitts, Georgia. In 1921, they moved to Ben Hill County, Georgia. They lived in a bungalow with front and back porches and a cabbage field in the back.

In 1922, the family moved to Palatka, FL. Thomas was familiar with the area because he had worked in a lumber yard there in 1904. He found work in a nearby Wilson Cypress Mill and also worked for Selton Sash and Door Company. They lived at 617 Kirby Street.

Before 1930, Maebelle's family moved to Miami. One fine day in 1930 Maebelle was walking in downtown Miami with a friend and they ran into some young chaps also walking on the same road. After a short conversation, it was love at first sight between Maebelle and the young man - named Charles Kolodgy. Three weeks later, Charles and Maebelle were married. That marriage would last the rest of their lives.

Marriage of Charles and Maebelle

Marriage License 13982
C. J. No. 3804 CENTRAL BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
State of Florida, Dade County
 To any Minister of the Gospel, or any Officer Legally Authorized to Solemnize the Rite of Matrimony:
 Whereas, Application having been made to the County Judge of DADE County, of the State of Florida, for a license for marriage, and it appearing to the satisfaction of said County Judge that no legal impediments exist to the marriage now sought to be solemnized, These are, therefore, To authorize you to unite in the
Holy Estate of Matrimony
Charles Steven Kolodgy (white) and Mae Belle Chandler
 and that you make return of the same, duly certified under your hand, to the County Judge aforesaid.
 Witness, my name as County Judge, and the seal of said Court, at the Courthouse in Miami this 10th day of November, A. D. 19 30
 By W. F. BLANTON, County Judge.
CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE
 I Certify, that the within named persons were by me, the undersigned, duly united in the Holy Estate of Matrimony, by the authority of the within License. Done this 10th day of November, A. D. 19 30 at Miami, Florida.
 Witness Harry Friedman
 Witness W. F. Blanton
 Notary Public, State of Florida, My Commission expires 12-12-33
 Returned this 13th day of Nov, A. D. 19 30, and recorded in Marriage Book 24 Page 57.
W. F. Blanton, County Judge.

10 November 1930, Charles and MaeBelle were married in a civil union; Florida records – VOL 124, Number 13982. Their matrimonial wedding ceremony would be held 13 years later.

Insight: Dorá's father Thomas Chandler was the son of a Baptist Preacher in Georgia. Charles must have made quite an impression for a southern man of strong Baptist upbringing to give the hand of his daughter to some Yankee Catholic orphaned sailor some 8 years older than her.

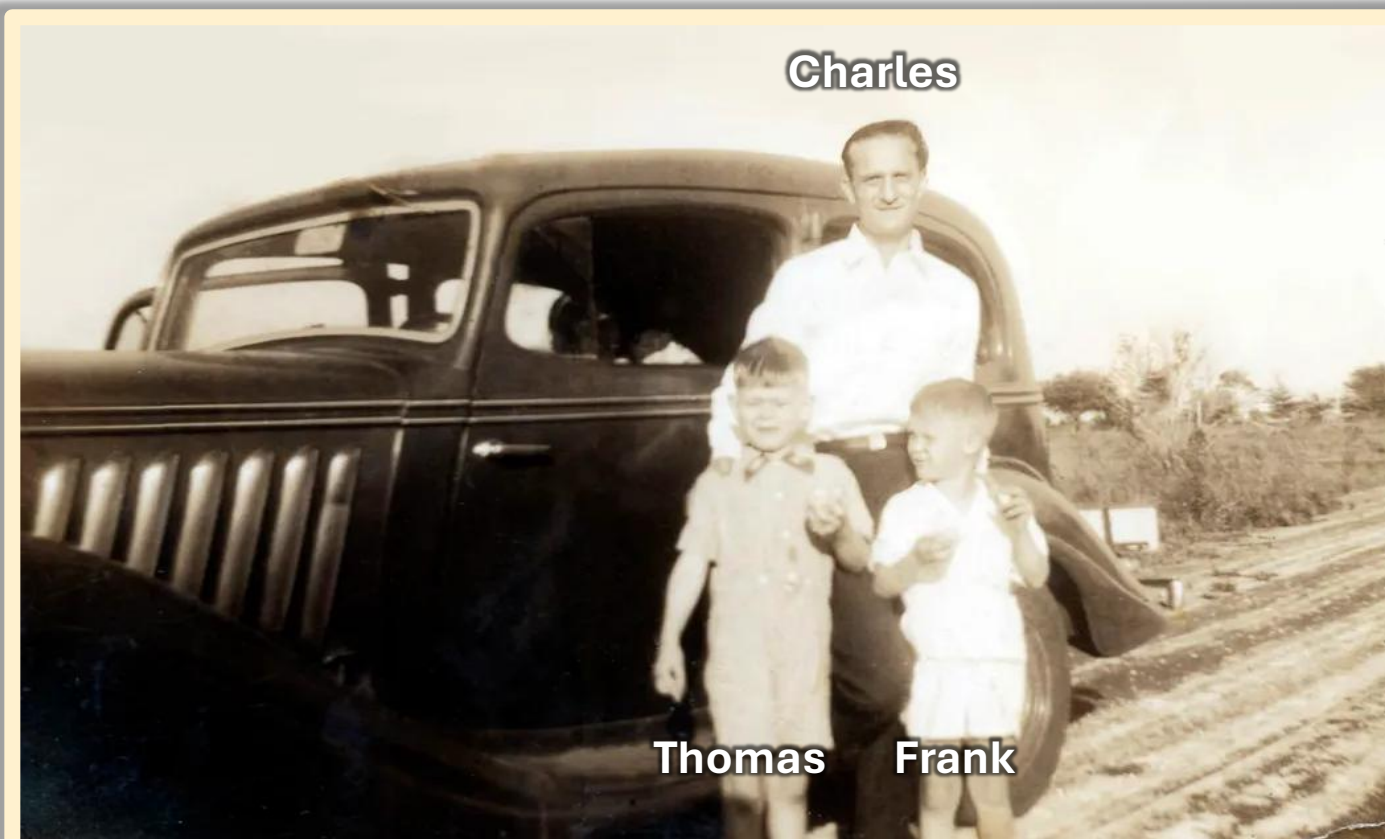


Settlers in Depression Era Miami

In 1931, on September 20th, Charles and Mae Belle's oldest son **Thomas Charles** was born in Miami. In 1932, Charles was listed as a 'painter' (pntr) on the Miami Directory and his home address was r636 Northwest 9th Street.

On 20 August 1933, they welcomed their second-born, **Frank Joseph** to the family. That year's directory listed Charles as a 'marker' living at n433 NW 3d Av, but the following year 1934 had him back at 636 NW 9th St. In 1936, the Miami Directory listed Charles' occupation as a clerk at Miramar Laundry.

Pictured below is Charles, Thomas, and Frank on a dirt road with no visible buildings in the small town of Miami. The Chandlers and the young Kolodgy family were settlers in town well before it was a city.



On 23 February 1936, their third-born child, Phyllis Marie was born in Miami. However, a little more than 2 years later, Phyllis died after a two-week battle with illness.



In 1940, their fourth-born, John Stephen, was born in Miami on 9th St.

Pre-War Years

The 1940 US Census recorded that Charles and his family lived together with his Father-in-law, Thomas Chandler. Charles worked as a laundry marker.

17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										

In October of 1940, Charles completed his registration for the draft – more than a year before the attack on Pearl Harbor would bring the US into World War II.

SERIAL NUMBER 3154 1. NAME (Print) Charles Stephen Kolodgy 995 ORDER NUMBER

2. ADDRESS (Print) 3180 N.W. 66th St (mail) Miami, Dade, Fla

3. TELEPHONE 3180 7-10 66th St

4. AGE IN YEARS 35 DATE OF BIRTH July 28, 1905

5. PLACE OF BIRTH Travis, Staten Is. N.Y.

6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.

7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Maybelle Doris Kolodgy wife

8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON

9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 3180 N.W. 66th St Miami, Dade, Fla

10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Mr. Bill Rumbaugh - City Laundry

11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 2134-60 NW 1st Ct Miami Dade Fla

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. FORM 1 (over) 16-17105 Charles S Kolodgy (Registrant's signature)

Charles was living at 3180 NW 66th St, but received mail at his father-in-law's house. He listed his employer as Mr. Bill Rumbaugh at "City Laundry".

In 1941, Charles was employed aboard the United States Engineer supply ship "Comstock" operating in the Trinidad district working out of the Port of Spain. He was employed as a seaman from March 27th to April 9th and as quartermaster from 10 April to 28 September 1941.

In April of 1942, Charles went to New York with a copy of his parents' marriage certificate, his baptism, and a letter from St. Michael's Orphanage to obtain a birth certificate. The most likely purpose for the trip to get a copy of his birth certificate prior to military service. The State of New York produced a "Delayed Registration" Certificate of Birth.

Certificate of Birth (DELAYED REGISTRATION) Special Certificate No. 632

1. Full name of child CHARLES STEPHEN KOLODZej

2. Sex Male 3. Color or race White 4. Number of children born of this pregnancy 0110 5. If more than one, number of this child in order of birth

6. Date of child's birth JULY 28, 1905 7a. Hour 3:30 P.M.

7. PLACE OF BIRTH (a) NEW YORK CITY: (b) Borough Richmond (c) Name of Hospital Mildred Avenue (d) Name of Institution (if not in hospital or institution, give street and number)

8. USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER: (a) State New York (b) City or Town Richmond (c) Town or City Linoaleunvill (d) No. Mildred Avenue

9. Full name FATHER Frank Kolodzej 10. Color or race White 11. Age at time of this birth 34 (years)

12. Birthplace (city or place and State, or country) Austria 13. Trade or Occupation Tailor

14. Full maiden name MOTHER Irma Pekarik 15. Color or race White 16. Age at time of this birth 31 (years)

17. Birthplace (city or place and State, or country) Austria 18. Trade or Occupation Housewife

19a. Total number of children BORN ALIVE PREVIOUS to this pregnancy 3 19b. Number of children born PREVIOUS to this pregnancy and NOW LIVING 3

I hereby certify that this child was born alive at the hour and on the date stated above, and that all the facts stated in this certificate and report are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

(Signed) Charles Stephen Kolodzej Applicant Date April 3, 1942 (Signed)

ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION (To be completed by the Health Department)

Parents marriage certificate (October 28, 1893) issued by the Pastor of St. Peter's Church, Newark, N.J.

Baptismal record issued by the Pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Bayonne, N.J., shows Charles Stephen Kolodzej, child of Frank Kolodzej and Irma Pekarik, born July 28, 1905 was baptized July 30th, 1905.

Letter from St. Michael's Orphanage reports Charles Kolodzy was admitted to that institution on September 12, 1912, date of birth then given as July 20, 1905.

Application No. 632 to record a birth not registered at the time of its occurrence, and the supporting affidavit together with the documentary evidence summarized above, comply substantially with the Rules of the Board of Health adopted pursuant to the provisions of Section 567 of the New York City Charter. The filing of this certificate of birth is, therefore, APPROVED.

Date Registrar of Records BUREAU OF VITAL RECORDS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CITY OF NEW YORK

Torpedoed in World War II

Little more than a month later, Charles Stephen Kolodgy, served aboard the merchant vessel SS Franklin K. Lane as an Able Seaman hauling fuel from oil refineries in Venezuela across the Caribbean to be used by the Americans and allies in the European Theater.

After leaving Trinidad and sailing to a point about 35 miles northeast of Venezuela, on 8 June 1942, a German underwater boat (U-boat) U-502 attacked convoy TO-5 and sinking two merchant ships, one was the Belgian ship *Bruxells* and the other was the *SS Franklin K Lane*, which Charles was serving aboard.

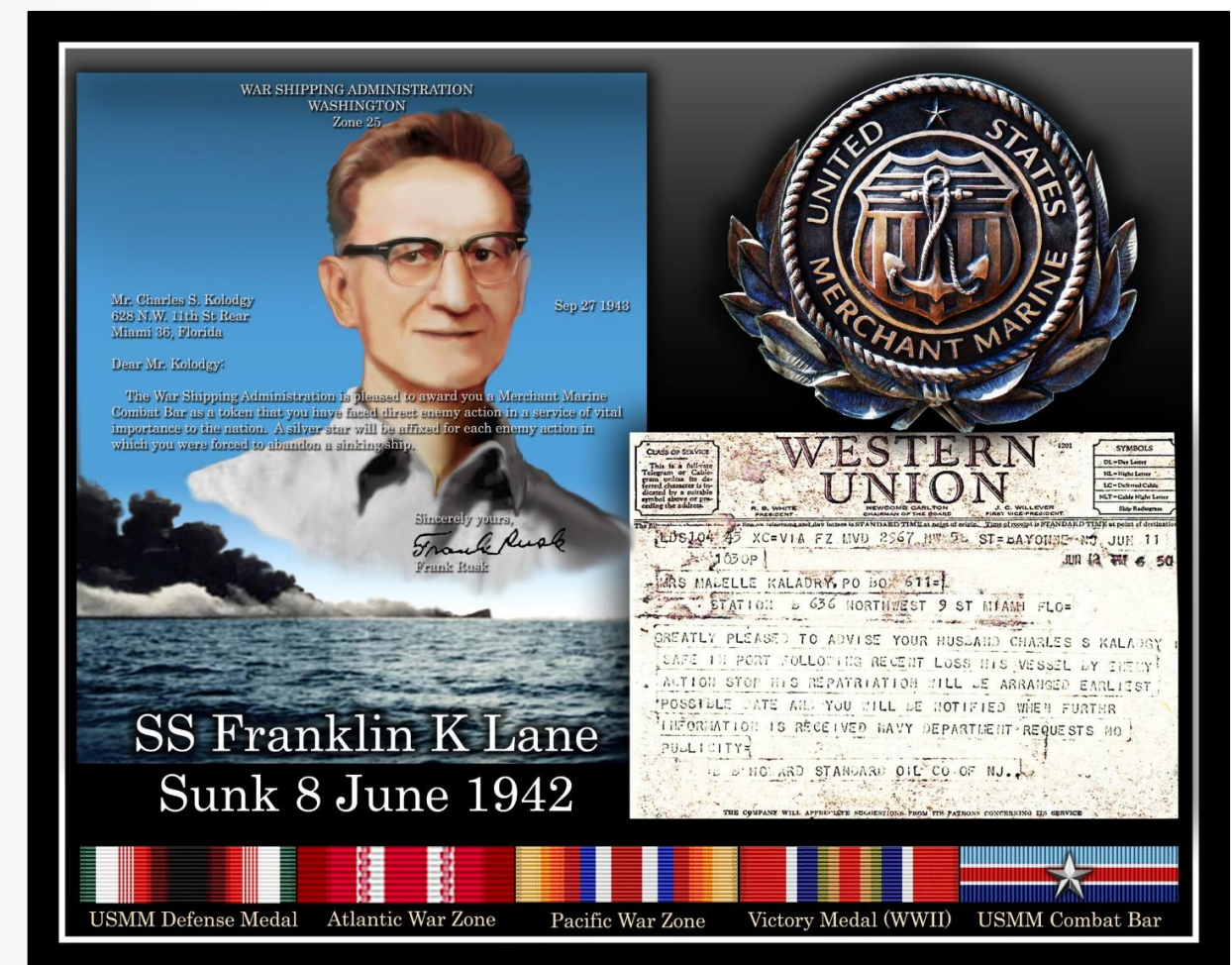


Kolodzy of Slovakia Rodina

Rescued

A Dutch Naval Vessel serving as escort for the convoy, the HNLMS Jan van Brakel (an escaped ship from the Nazi invasion in 1940) searched for survivors of the attack. The Dutch crewmen rescued as many crew members as was possible and took a photograph of the sinking ship. Of the 41 sailors, they rescued 37, Charles being one of them!

Charles' family surely owes a debt of gratitude to the crew that orchestrated the escape of the HNLMS Jan van Brakel from the Nazis just a few years earlier.



Recovery and Return to Sea

The ship took the survivors to nearby Curacao where they awaited recovery. Meanwhile, the Standard Oil Company sent a telegram about the ordeal, but the telegram went to wrong address!

It was a dark stormy night back in Miami, when a mysterious person in a Naval uniform visited the Kolodgy home to tell them that Charlie was OK.

Charlie's son Frank overheard the event and said that his mother, Maebelle, who was pregnant with Dwight, was yelling at the visitor and telling him to go away!

Although they thought the visitor was Father Maring from the Church of the Gesu, they found out later that he was actually overseas on active duty as a Chaplain. Nonetheless, the visitor had given the message to Maebelle and her young sons that Charles was safe!

Within two months, Mae Belle gave birth to their fifth-born child, Dwight Allen, on 7 August 1942 there in Miami.

Returning to America afterwards, he set sail from Port of Spain in nearby Trinidad on 28 September 1942 aboard the US Army Troop Ship "Oriente" (formerly an ocean liner) and later renamed the USAT Thomas H. Barry, with a destination of Brooklyn, NY on 5 October.

Being torpedoed and facing death the year prior did not keep Charles from continuing his service during time of war. In December of 1943, Charles's ship, the Military Vessel (M.V.) 'Point Sur' left port from New Orleans, LA and sailed through the Port of Balboa at the Pacific side of the Panama Canal bound for service at Kwajalein in the Pacific.

Historians may note that the Battle of Kwajalein happened at the same time that Charles was there (see History's website at: <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-kwajalein>). We do not know what part he played in the battle, but he was present.

Form 1-160 (Old Form 200)
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

233

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIENS EMPLOYED ON THE VESSEL AS MEMBERS OF CREW

Required under Act of Congress of February 5, 1917, to be delivered to the United States immigration officer by the representatives of any vessel having such aliens
port of the United States

Vessel M/V Point Sur arriving at Honolulu, T. H. March 25, 1944 from the port of Kwajalein, I.

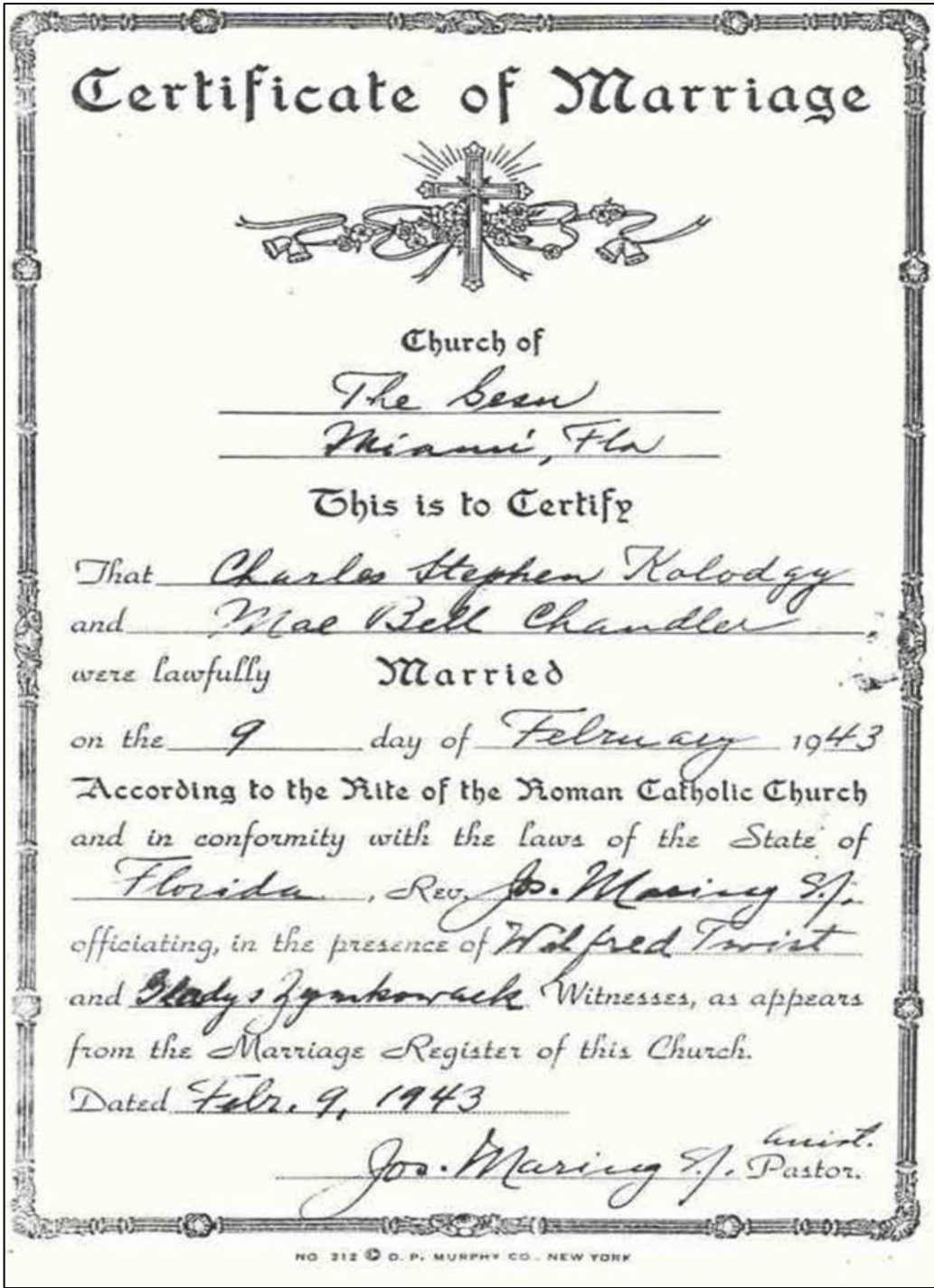
(1) No. on list	(2) Whether member of crew on last voyage to U.S.	(3) NAME IN FULL		(4) Length of service at sea	(5) Position in ship's company	(6) SHIPPED OR ENGAGED		(7) Whether to be dis- charged at port of arrival	(8) Whether able to read	(9) Age	(10) Sex	(11) Race*	(12) Nationality	(13) Height	(14) Weight	(15) Physical marks, peculiarities, or disease
		Family name	Given name			When	Where									
1	No	Wilkinson	Michael J.	40 years	Master	12-1-43	New Orleans	No	Yes	64	M	Irish	American	6'1"	126	
2	No	Whitlow	William F.	5 years	Chief Officer	12-1-43	N. O. La.	Yes	Yes	48	M	Irish	American	5'10 1/2"	150	
3	No	Konegan	John H.	7 years	2nd Mate	12-24-43	Tampa,	Yes	Yes	24	M	Irish	American	5'9"	145	
4	No	Wilson	John E.	6 years	3rd Mate	12-2-43	N. O. La.	Yes	Yes	27	M	Irish	American	5'8"	160	
5	No	Volke	William J.	4 years	Radio Operator	12-1-43	N. O. La.	Yes	Yes	27	M	Magyar	American	6'-	150	
6	No	Dee,	Michael J.	1 year	Purser-Rmr.	12-1-43	N. O. La.	Yes	Yes	23	M	Irish	American	5'9"	150	
7	No	Kolodgy	Charles S.	2 years	Bos'n	12-1-43	N. O. La.	Yes	Yes	38	M	Magyar	American	5'7"	145	

Manifest for the M/V Point Sur on 25 March 1944 – See line 7.

By March 25, 1944, they arrived in Honolulu, HI after leaving port at Kwajalein Island. He was listed as having been at sea since December 1943, having left port at New Orleans with 2 years of experience under his belt. The ship's manifest listed him as a 38 year old, ethnicity of 'Magyar' (a Hungarian origin), standing 5'7" and weighing 145lbs. He had attained the position of Boatswain (Bos'n) which is the senior crewman in charge of the ship's deck. The Boatswain is responsible for the ship's hull and all its components, including its rigging, anchors, cables, sails, deck maintenance and small boat operations. In the US Navy, the boatswain is designated as position for a warrant officer. Charles was in charge!

Wedding after the Marriage

The mystery guest that visited the Kolodgy house on that stormy night back in June of 1942 which was recognized as Father [Joseph] Maring would later marry Charles and Maebelle during their wedding at Church of the Gesu on 9 February 1943.



The 1945 Florida Census shows Tom, Frank, John, and toddler Dwight, their fifth child.

Philip			15		W. Y.	8-1	Decider
Kolodgy, Charles	1381 N. W. 59-187	"	39		W. Y.	8-1	Howard
Maebelle		"		32	W. Y.	6-1	School
Thomas		"	13		W. Y.	5-1	
Frank		"	11		W. Y.		
John		"	5		W. Y.		
Dwight		"	2		W. Y.		
		"	67		W. Y.		Retired

On 17 March 1945, Charles’ picture graced the Miami Herald in a story about a Merchant Mariner hotel opening in Miami.



Miami Radio Interview

At the official opening and dedication of the first private hotel in the United States to be operated exclusively for American Merchant Seamen, the MARINER HOTEL, WQAM conducted a radio broadcasted interview that included officials from the War Shipping Administration and the commander of the US Coast Guard and included personal stories of three Merchant Seaman. One of those seamen was Charles. The transcript of the interview on 17 March 1945 is as follows:

Announcer: And now I'd like you to hear one more story from a Miami Able Seaman in the US Merchant Marine. His story's not a pretty one, and we can be thankful that our Navy and Air Force have made the oceans much safer than they were at the beginning of the war. Here's Mr Charles S Kolodgy, 39 years old from 1381 NW 54th Street, where his wife and four children live. He's spent his last 15 years at sea.

CSK: *I haven't got much of a story to tell. I was an Able Seaman on the SS Franklin Lane, and American Tanker, bringing crude oil back from the West Indies to be refined in this country. I remember one day particularly well. It was June 7, 1942 in the Caribbean. I was talking to the master, and he said we were in the worst submarine nest in the world. The next night, June 8, as we were walking out of the crew's mess after finishing supper a torpedo punched into us with a terrific explosion. One seaman on the stern saw the torpedo coming and shouted, and then jumped over the side directly into the path of the torpedo. We still don't know whether he lost his head or might have been trying to deflect the torpedo. He's gone now. I happened to look up and saw the radio operator move his foot from the catwalk to the shelter deck when the torpedo hit. He was in the middle of the explosion and that's the last we saw of him.*

Announcer: What about the captain, Mr Kolodgy, what happened to him?

CSK: *We could see him on the shelter deck, rolling around a mass of flames, but we couldn't get him for he was surrounded in blazing oil and bent and twisted steel frames. In all we lost four men, we managed to launch two lifeboats and a raft since the ship didn't sink but burned all night long. And to think we had traveled 8,000 miles alone and without any protection before being torpedoed. It is still a miracle that any of us escaped.*

Announcer: In what way was it a miracle?

CSK: *Well, for two hours our life boats and life raft floated around in that blazing inferno of oil. We couldn't seem to get out of it. We lost no men although the men on the life raft were horribly burned. A Dutch corvette picked up all of us a few hours later and took us to Curacao.*

Announcer: Did you continue to go to sea after that?

CSK: *Sure, it was the best way I could get back at the Germans and help get this war over.*

Announcer: What do you think of the Mariner Hotel?

CSK: *It's a wonderful place, better than anything I've seen in all my travels. Certainly shows that Miami must think a lot of Merchant Officers and Seamen.*

Announcer: After hearing these stories this evening, Mr. Kolodgy, I can assure you all Miamians will hold the Merchant Officers and Seamen high in their praise for a job well done.

Post War Years

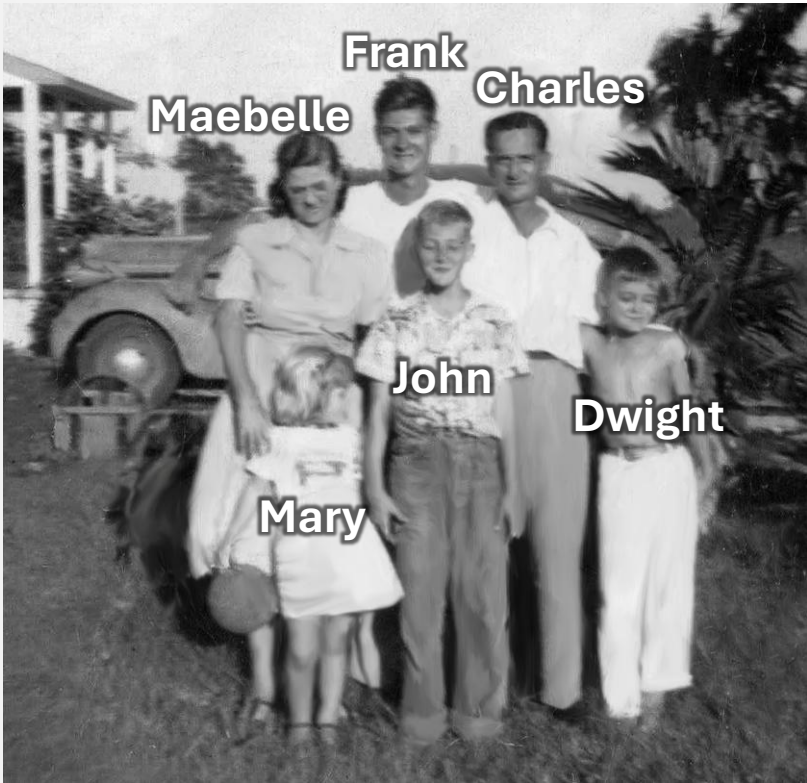
On 22 June 1945, Charles arrived in New York after a voyage on the SS George Washington to Bridgetown on the island of Barbados.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIENS EMPLOYED ON THE VESSEL AS MEMBERS OF CREW															
Required under Act of Congress of February 5, 1917, to be delivered to the United States immigration officer by the representatives of any vessel having such aliens on board at port of the United States															
Vessel George Washington, arriving at New York, June 22, 1945, from the port of Bridgetown, Barbados, B.W.I.															
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
No. on list	Whether member of crew on last voyage to U.S.	NAME IN FULL	Length of service at sea	Position in ship's company	SHIPPED OR ENGAGED	Whether to be discharged at port of arrival	Whether able to read	Age	Sex	Race	Nationality	Height	Weight	Physical marks, peculiarities, or disease	REMARKS
		Family name	Given name		When	Where									
1	Yes	Park	Thomas H.	Master	5/15/45	Savannah	No	Yes	58	M	White	USA	6-0		
2	No	Zeitlinger	John J.	Ch. Off.	6/9/45	Miami			36				5-10		
3	Yes	McMahon	Joseph C.	2nd Off.	5/24/45	Miami			26				5-9		
4		Ogley	Edward M.	3rd Off.	5/15/45	Savannah			21				6-0		
5	No	Ely	Doyle I.	Jr. 3rd "	6/10/45	Miami			22				5-11		
6	Yes	Cosgrove	Paul	Ch. Purser	5/15/45	Savannah			32				5-8		
7		Vervueren	John A.	Sr. A/ "					32				5-9		
8		Beenh	Alfred A.	Jr. A/ "					28				6-0		
9		Collins	Flammer F.	Pur. Clk.					50				5-8		
10		Hermann	James A.	Sh. Clerk					27				6-1		
11		Evans	Logan I.	Surgeon					57				5-7		
12		Lopez	John M.	Boatwain					49				5-7		
13		Augensen	Valentin	Carpenter					50	White Scandinavian	Norweg'n.		5-8		
14		Blanchard	James H.	Qtrstr.					17	White	USA		5-8		
15	No	Young	Thomas F.	-do-					47				5-6		
16	Yes	Lomax	Clarence W.	-do-					35				5-7		
17		Varela	Ramon P.	A. B.					44				5-5		
18		Carter	Harney W.	-do-					30				5-8		
19		Tocani	Biagio	-do-					24				5-6		
20		Kolodny	Charles S.	-do-					39				5-8		

Kolodny of Slovakia Rodina

A Full House

In 1946, their sixth-born entered the world and the family was living in Miami.



The 1950 US Census showed Charles working with the US Army Corps of Engineers. His oldest son, Tom, was out of the house and Frank was already employed as a plant helper at a dairy. You can see from the photo above left that Miami was not overly populated at the time.

7	602	147	no	no	Christine	Daughter	W	F	1	New Alabama	063							6
8					Kolodny Charles	Head	W	M	44	Mar New York	021	WK			48	Civil Engineer U S Army	5/9/16/5	7
9					Mabel	Wife	W	F	36	Mar Georgia	058	#	no	no	no			8
10					Frank	Son	W	M	16	Mar Florida		WK			40	Plant Helper Dairy Co	6/10/63/1	9
11					John	Son	W	M	10	Mar Florida								10
12					Dwight	Son	W	M	7	Mar Florida								11
13					Mary	Daughter	W	F	3	Mar Florida								12
18	4721	148	no	no	Turner A D	Head	W	M	62	Mar Georgia	058	WK			40	Plant Helper		13

The Fifties

In February of 1952, Charles flew from Caracas, Venezuela to New York aboard the now defunct PanAm Airlines. His address showed that the family was living at 10330 NW 28th Ct. in Miami.

OWNER OR OPERATOR
Propietario o administrador

PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS, INC.

AIRCRAFT
Aeronave

H.90922

(REGISTRATION MARKS AND NATIONALITY)
(Matrícula, marcas y nacionalidad)

FLIGHT NO.
Vuelo No.

:PA 451/19

DATE
Fecha

Feb 19, 1952

CARACAS, VENEZUELA

IDLEWILD, NEW YORK US

POINT OF EMBARKATION
Punto de embarque

(PLACE AND COUNTRY)
(Lugar y País)

POINT OF DISEMBARKATION
Punto de Desembarque

(PLACE AND COUNTRY)
(Lugar y País)

SURNAME AND INITIALS
Apellido e iniciales

FOR USE BY OWNER
OR OPERATOR ONLY
Solo para uso del propietario
o administrador

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Para uso oficial solamente

KNOLL, GELOTTE	VENEZUELA	V 1757023	
1 ALDRIDGE, GATHA	DF 28589	29/M	4/38
2 Grantabor, O., H.C.	USA	North Carolina	
THROCKMORTON, CLARKE	525863	49/M	10/174A
3 101 3rd St., Brigantine, NJ	USA	Virginia	
BRISTOW, HARRY SHERMAN	548364	58/M	- - A
4 2311 Pine Ave., Wilmington, Del.	USA	Delaware	
BALDWIN, ALVIN	525319	70/M	- - A
5 507 Benson Pl., Westfield, NJ	USA	Iowa	
DOLANYI, EDWIGE	215658	52/M	1/17
6 KOLIDGE, CHARLES STEPHEN	VENEZUELA	V 1755183	
10330NW 28Ct., Miami, Fla.	DF 54721	34/M	5/58
PRICE, WILLIAM	USA	New York	
25 Cloverdale Ave., Great Kill, NJ	545275	46/M	- - A
WALTERS, LARRY H.	USA	North Carolina	
9 1527 Columbia St., Hood River, Ore.	554560	43/M	- - A
KRISTOFFERSEN, OLE KARL	USA	Oregon	
Box 126 Riverview, Fla.	556846	35/M	- - A
GREYNER, THOMAS	USA	Norway	
11 6937 Harrow St., Forest Hills, NY	539414	60/M	- - A
SINKINS, LOUISE-MARIE	USA	Austria	
LABORDE, JUAN	496107	32/M	1/15
CONKLIN, GEORGE WILLIAM	FRANCE	1-419 NOV	COLL. 5-33-26
	13224	29/F	46.08 Wire Sent
	SPAIN	1-419 NOV	
	58-52	45/M	1/30
	USA	New Jersey	
	553441	42/M	- - A

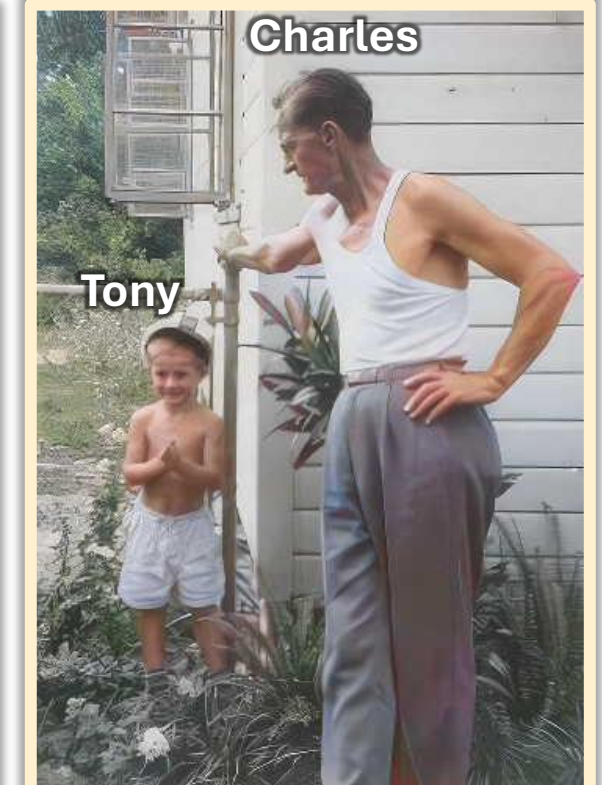
(Trade Co)
Kolodgy Chas S (D Mabelle) drag tndr US
 Gov h10330 NW 28th ct
 " D Mabelle Mrs smstrs Peters Quality Clean-
 ing h10330 NW 28th ct

Kolodgy Chas S (Mae B; A & M Cleaners) h10330 NW
28th ct

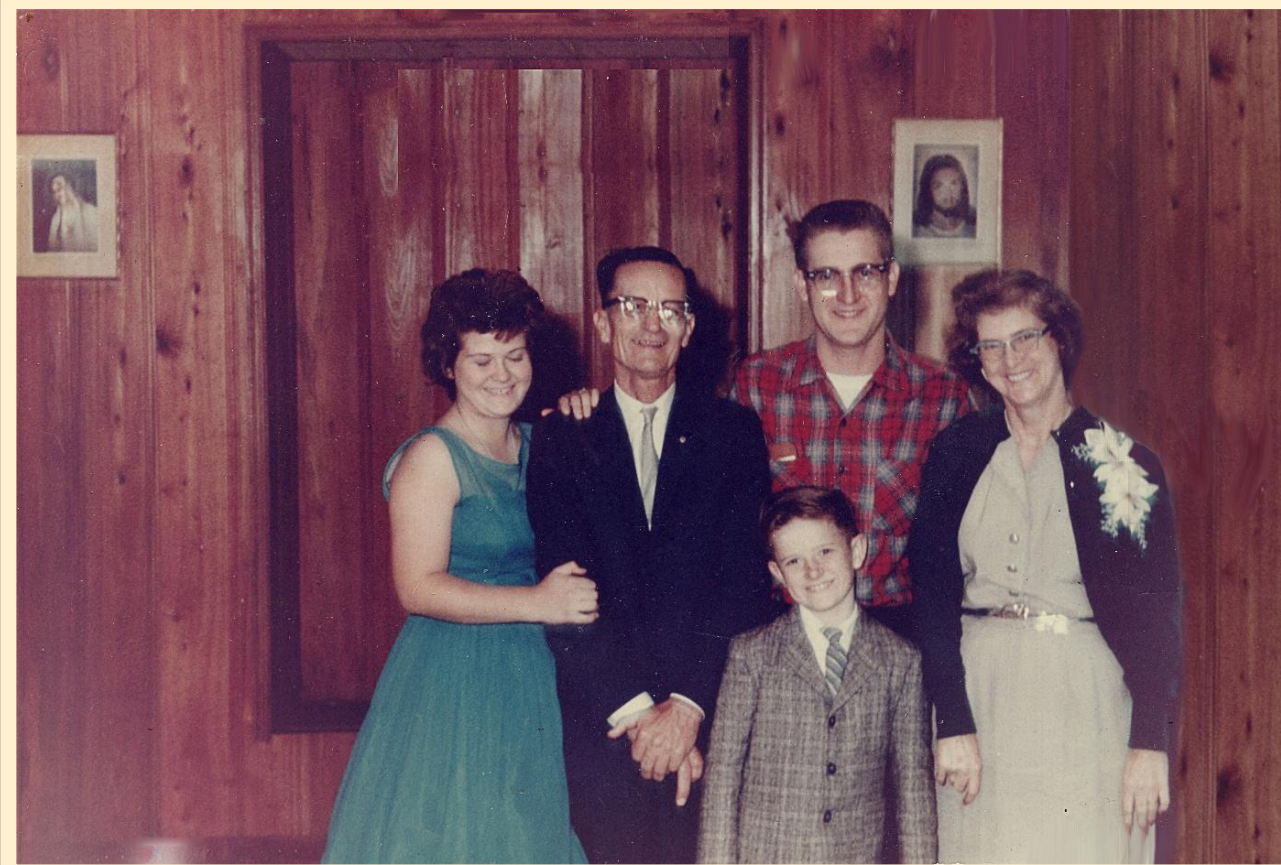
" **Kolodgy Chas S (D Mabelle)** drag tndr US
Gov h10330 NW 28th ct
" **D Mabelle Mrs smstrs Peters** Quality Clean-
ing h10330 NW 28th ct
" **Frank J slsmn Pedor's Sis** r10330 NW 28th
ct
" **Thos C** r10330 NW 28th ct

Dry Cleaners

In 1953, their seventh and last child was born in Miami. Around that same time, phone books showed MaeBelle was working at Peters Dry Cleaning.



The Sixties



In preparation for retirement, Charles and Maebelle planned to retire to north Florida. Maebelle had lived in Palatka as a child and was familiar with the town. Charles and Maebelle bought numerous acres of land the forest north of Ocala, west of Palatka in a small town called 'Interlachen' [meaning between the lakes]. The property was about 200 yards south of Lake Hasenjaeger [meaning Rabbit Hunter] at the end of a dirt road. During the time, it was very popular for elderly persons to buy a motor home and to live in Florida after retirement due to the pleasantly warm weather.

Retirement in Interlachen

In 1971, Charles and Maebelle moved from Miami, where they had lived for 40 years, to Interlachen for retirement. On their land at [106 Lake Shore Rd](#) in Interlachen, they had a garden, a pond, blueberry bushes, and lots of pine trees. Their youngest grandsons loved playing in the sand pile located on the property! Charles and Maebelle portioned off the land they purchased for each of their children. Within the next 10 years, their son, John Stephen Kolodgy and their daughter Mary Elizabeth Kolodgy would also move from Miami up to Interlachen.



Seventies and Eighties

What an amazing time for family gatherings it was! Charles and Maebelle were truly blessed with family and friends constantly visiting them. Their grandchildren, 13 in all, spent countless hours playing near the pond and exploring the nearby woods. Easters, Christmases, Independence Days, and various other holidays served as pilgrimage times for the family to gather at their Interlachen home. One year, as all of the family had gathered, the older grandchildren put on a memorable talent show for the family set to the tune of Glenn Campbell's "Rhinestone Cowboy". The grandkids loved [swimming and fireworks displays at nearby Lake LaGonda](#) during Independence Day celebrations.



Kolodzeys of Slovakia Rodina

Golden Anniversary

A popular activity during Saturdays was visiting the Waldo Flea Market or swimming at nearby Salt Springs. But, On Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, Charles could be found in church services held at [Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church](#). Charles was a faithful Catholic that attended mass regularly.

In 1981, Charles and Maebelle celebrated their 50th (Gold) Anniversary at nearby Golden Head Branch State Park. Family members rented cabins at the park and had a great time celebrating Charles and Maebelle's 50th anniversary.



Golden Head Branch State Park during their 50th Anniversary

Sunset on the Pines

Less than a year after their 50th Anniversary, on his favorite holiday, 4th of July 1982 Charles laid down for a nap and passed away in his sleep.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH										82-063972	
FLORIDA										STATE FILE NO.	
1. DECEDENT—NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST Charles S. Kolodgy										2. SEX Male	
3. DATE OF DEATH (Mo., Day, Yr.) July 4, 1982											
4. RACE—e.g., White, Black, Am. Indian, etc. (Specify) White										5a. AGE—Last Birthday (Yr.) 76	
6. DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.) July 28, 1905										7a. COUNTY OF DEATH Putnam	
7b. INTERLACHEN										7c. Putnam Community Hospital	
8. STATE OF BIRTH (If not in U.S.A., name country) New York										9. U.S.A.	
10. Married										11. Maebelle Chandler	
12. 265-01-5406										13a. Retired Civil Service	
14a. Florida										14b. Putnam	
15. Frank Kolodgy										16. Erma Pekarik	
17a. Mrs. Maebelle Kolodgy										17b. Rt. # 3 Box 67, Interlachen, Fla. 32048	
18a. Burial										18b. Pineview Cemetery	
19a. <i>[Signature]</i>										19b. Masters Funeral Home 3015 Crill Ave., Palatka, Fla.	
20a. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) stated.										21a. On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) stated.	
20b. 7-5-1982										20c. 12:10 P.	
20d. NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (Type or print) Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad 520 Zeagler Dr., Palatka, Fla. 32077										21b. PRONOUNCED DEAD (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
21c. ON										21d. AT	
22. REGISTRAR <i>[Signature]</i>										23. DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTRAR (Mo., Day, Yr.) July 6, 1982	
24. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b), AND (c).)										Interval between onset and death	
PART (a) CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE										YEARS	
DUE TO, OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:										Interval between onset and death	
PART (b) / / /										Interval between onset and death	
PART (c) OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS—Conditions contributing to death but not related to cause given in PART I (a)										Interval between onset and death	
25. AUTOPSY (Specify yes or no) NO										26. WAS CASE REFERRED TO MEDICAL EXAMINER (Specify Yes or No) NO	
27a. INJURY AT WORK (Specify Yes or No)										27b. PLACE OF INJURY—At home, farm, street, factory, office building, etc. (Specify)	
27c. LOCATION										27d. STREET OR R.F.D. No.	
27e. CITY OR TOWN										27f. STATE	

Kolodzy of Slovakia Rodina

The widowed Maebelle remained in Interlachen until her health declined in August of 1997. She passed away at the age of 86 from pneumonia and heart complications on 9 December 1997, at the Vencor Hospital in Green Cove Springs, Florida at about 5:10 p.m.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH										82-063972	
FLORIDA										STATE FILE NO.	
1. DECEDENT'S NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAE BELLE KOLODGY										2. SEX Female	
3. DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) December 9, 1997										4. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 265-49-7451	
5a. AGE—Last Birthday (years) 84										5b. UNDER 1 YEAR Months Days Hours Mins	
6. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) July 2, 1913										7. BIRTHPLACE (City and State or Foreign Country) Gwinnette County, Georgia	
8. WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes or No) No										9a. PLACE OF DEATH (Check only one—see instructions on other side) ☒ HOSPITAL ☐ Inpatient ☐ Outpatient ☐ D.O.A. ☐ OTHER ☐ Nursing Home ☐ Residence ☐ Other (Specify)	
9b. INSIDE CITY LIMITS? (Yes or No) Yes										9c. FACILITY NAME (If not institution, give street and number) Vencor Hospital—North Florida	
9d. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF DEATH Green Cove Springs										9e. COUNTY OF DEATH Clay	
10a. DECEDENT'S USUAL OCCUPATION Owner/Operator										10b. KIND OF BUSINESS/INDUSTRY Dry Cleaning	
11. MARITAL STATUS—Married, Never Married, Widowed, Divorced (Specify) Widowed										12. SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give maiden name)	
13a. RESIDENCE—STATE Florida										13b. COUNTY Putnam	
13c. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION Interlachen										13d. STREET AND NUMBER 110 Lakeshore Road	
13e. INSIDE CITY LIMITS? (Yes or No) No										13f. ZIP CODE 32148	
14. WAS DECEDENT OF HISPANIC OR HAITIAN ORIGIN? (Specify No or Yes—If yes, specify Haitian, Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc.) No										15. RACE—American Indian, Black, White, etc. (Specify) White	
16. DECEDENT'S EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed) 7										17. MOTHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Maiden Surname) Susan E. McCart	
18. FATHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Last) Thomas L. Chandler										19. MAILING ADDRESS (Street and Number or Rural Route Number, City or Town, State, Zip Code) 106 Lakeshore Road Interlachen, Florida 32148	
20a. METHOD OF DISPOSITION ☒ Burial ☐ Cremation ☐ Removal from State ☐ Donation ☐ Other (Specify)										20b. PLACE OF DISPOSITION (Name of cemetery, crematory, or other place) Pine View Cemetery	
20c. LOCATION—City or Town, State Interlachen, Florida										21a. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE OR PERSON ACTING AS SUCH <i>[Signature]</i>	
21b. LICENSE NUMBER (of Licensee) 2991										21c. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY Johnson-Overturf Funeral Home, Inc. Hwy 20 West Interlachen, FL 32148	
22a. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) as stated.										23a. On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) as stated.	
22b. DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Yr.) 12/16/97										22c. HOUR OF DEATH 8:37 P. M.	
22d. NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (Type or Print)										23b. DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
23c. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CASE #										23d. HOUR OF DEATH	
24. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER (PHYSICIAN, MEDICAL EXAMINER) (Type or Print)										25a. SUBREGISTRAR—SIGNATURE AND DATE <i>[Signature]</i>	
25b. LOCAL REGISTRAR—SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>										25c. DATE REGISTERED DEC. 26, 1997	
26. PART I. Enter the diseases, injuries, or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock, or heart failure. List only one cause on each line.										Approximate Interval Between Onset and Death	
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death) → RESPIRATORY FAILURE										Interval between onset and death	
DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF) CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE										Interval between onset and death	
DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF) CARDIOMYOPATHY										Interval between onset and death	
Sequentially list conditions, if any, leading to immediate cause. Enter UNDERLYING CAUSE (Disease or injury that initiated events resulting in death) LAST.										Interval between onset and death	
PART II. Other significant conditions contributing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in Part I. PNEUMONIA										27a. WAS AN AUTOPSY PERFORMED? (Yes or No) No	
27b. WERE AUTOPSY FINDINGS USED TO COMPLETE CAUSE OF DEATH? (Yes or No) No										28. CASE REPORT TO MEDICAL EXAMINER? (Yes or No) No	

By 2005, the family had sold and moved away from the property at 106 Lake Shore in Interlachen – some of their grandchildren still think of Interlachen as the center of the Kolodgy family.

Charles' Voyages

Date	Depart	Ship	Arrive	Date	Position	Line
18 Jan 1924	New York	SS Bethore	Cruz Grande, Chile	24 Feb 1924	Messman	42
7 Feb 1924	Cruz Grande, Chile	SS Bethore	New York	24 Feb 1924	Messman	42
10 Apr 1924	Tampico, Mexico	SV Harkness	Baystown, TX	12 Apr 1924		
	Tampico, Mexico	SV Harkness	New Orleans, LA	18 May 1924	Messman	14
30 May 1924	Havana, Cuba	SV Harkness	Texas City, TX	2 Jun 1924		
21 Jun 1924	New York	SS Santa Veronica	Havana, Cuba		O.S.	12
21 Aug 1924	Matanzas, Cuba	SS Santa Veronica	New York	1 Sep 1924	O.S.	12
18 Nov 1924	Porta Tarafa, Cuba	SS Santa Veronica	New York	25 Nov 1924	O.S.	12
16 Aug 1927	Houston	SS Endicott	La Havre, France			9
24 Sep 1927	Antwerp, Belgium	SS Endicott	Galveston, TX	16 Oct 1927	O.S.	14
31 Oct 1927	Houston	SS Endicott	Le Havre, France	2 Nov 1927		
28 Sep 1941	Port of Spain, Trinidad	USAT Oriente	New York	5 Oct 1941		
6 June 1942	Caripito, Venezuela	SS Franklin K. Lane	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad	7 June 1942	Able Seaman	
8 June 1942	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad	SS Franklin K. Lane	TORPEDOED		Able Seaman	
9 June 1942	Sunken SS Franklin Lane	HNLMS Jan van Brakel	Curacao	10 Jun 1042	Survivor/ Passenger	
	Kwajalein	MV Point Sur	Honolulu	25 Mar 1944	Bosn	7
	Bridgetown, Barbados	Geo Washington	New York	22 Jun 1945	-do-	20
		Idlewild	New York	18 Feb 1952		