

The Story of Charles S Kolodgy

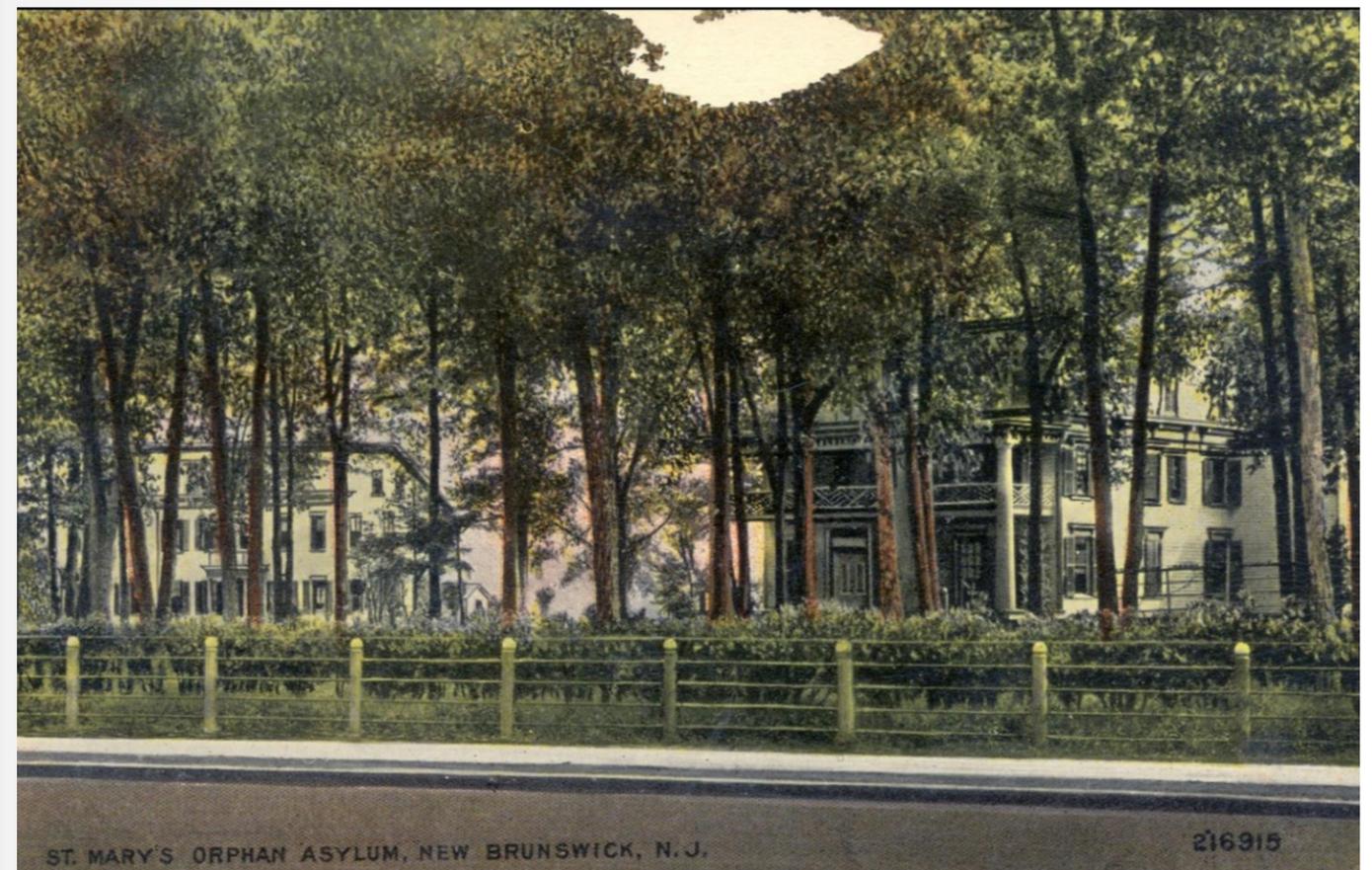


Charles was born in his home in Travis (Linoleumville), Staten Island, NY on the same day that his father Franciscus died, 28 July 1905. His parents were Maria Erma Pekar, age 32, and Franciscus Kolodzey, age 34. Two years later, his mother Irma died from Typhoid. By age 2, Charles and his brothers were orphans.

Kolodzys of Slovakia Rodina

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



Sailing for Freedom

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIENS EMPLOYED ON THE VESSEL AS MEMBERS OF CREW 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. on list	(2) NAME IN FULL Family name Given name	(3) No. of seaman's identification card	(4) Length of service on ship	(5) Position in ship's company	(6) SHIPPED OR ENGAGED When Where	(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 disfigurements
31	Perry Joseph	✓		Oiler	Jan 17 New York	yes	yes	19	male	W8	W8	5-6		
32	Veiga Joseph	✓		Stoker	r r	r	r	38	r	Spain	Spain	5-9		
33	Suarez Jose	✓		Fireman	r r	r	r	42	r	r	r	5-6		
34	Cabezal Jose	✓		r	r r	r	r	27	r	r	r	5-6		
35	Hernandez Enrique	✓		r	r r	r	r	27	r	r	r	5-6		
36	Lopez Manuel	✓		Wiper	r r	r	r	38	r	r	r	5-4		
37	Monroe James	✓		r	r r	r	r	18	r	W8	W8	5-6		
38	Serman Charles	✓		r	r r	r	r	26	r	r	r	5-6		
39	Long Richard J.	✓		Steward	r r	r	r	30	r	Irish	British	5-6		
40	Castellino Thomas	✓		Ch. Cook	r r	r	r	28	r	Portugal	Portugal	5-6		
41	Clemson William	✓		2nd r	r r	r	r	36	r	Irish	British	5-9		
42	Kolodgy Charles	✓		messman	r r	r	r	18	r	W8	W8	5-7		
43	Fearon Alexander	✓		Truancy	r r	r	r	24	r	Coloid	W8	5-9		
44	Williams John	✓		r	r r	r	r	19	r	English	British	5-3		

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIENS EMPLOYED ON THE VESSEL AS MEMBERS OF CREW 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. on list	(2) NAME IN FULL Family name Given name	(3) No. of seaman's identification card	(4) Length of service on ship	(5) Position in ship's company	(6) SHIPPED OR ENGAGED When Where	(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 disfigurements
1	Stewart James			Master	May 5 Baltimore	paid off	Yes	35	male	Scottish	USA	5-9	160	None
2	Magnien Joseph			Ch. Mate	" "	"	"	31	"	Russian	USA	5-6	170	"
3	Nilsen Karl			2nd "	" "	"	"	37	"	Norw'nav	USA	5-10	165	"
4	Schluter Paul			3rd "	" "	"	"	34	"	Teutonic	USA	5-9	165	"
5	Parker Jack			O.S.	" "	"	"	32	"	Angl-Sax	USA	5-6	155	"
6	Boyd Alfred			Os. Engr	" "	"	"	30	"	"	USA	5-6	155	"
7	Roberts Alex			1st Seat	" "	"	"	27	"	"	USA	6-2	175	"
8	Sineth Horace			2nd "	" "	"	"	31	"	"	USA	5-4	150	"
9	Irwin Malcolm			3rd "	" "	"	"	23	"	"	USA	5-11	165	"
10	Watts George			Oiler	" "	"	"	19	"	"	USA	5-0	155	"
11	Sorrells Thomas			Wiper	" "	"	"	22	"	"	USA	5-6	160	"
12	Hack Daniel			"	" "	"	"	27	"	"	USA	5-2	160	"
13	Hare Jose			Messman	" "	"	"	36	"	Sp. Amer.	USA	5-0	145	"
14	Kolodgy Charles			"	" "	"	"	19	"	Polish	USA	5-8	155	"
15	Woodworth Charles			Messboy	" "	"	"	19	"	Angl-Sax	USA	5-3	150	"

SEAMEN SIGNED ON AT THIS PORT.

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

RECEIVED JUN 28 1924

6-12 Santa Veronica
Form 50

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

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

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 0
Number of seamen discharged 0 Seamen left in hospital (or died) 0
Number of seamen signed on at this port 0 Total crew this date 32

The above-named vessel arrived at this port June 18th, 1924, consigned to American and Cuban Line is now lying at 65 N.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'.

Kolodgy's 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.



Kolodzys of Slovakia Rodina

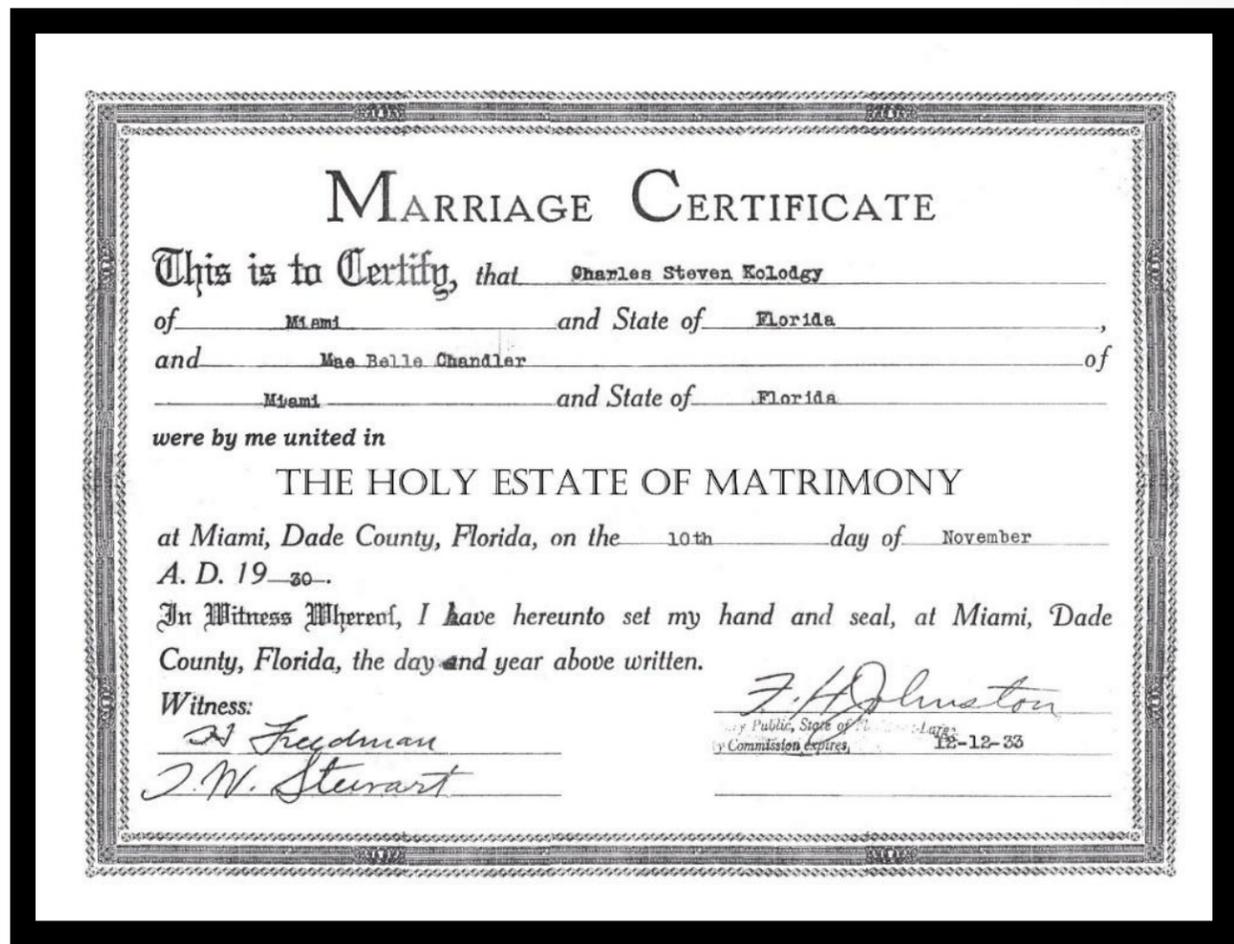
Maebelle Chandler

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, the year her sister Estelle was born, they moved to Pitts, Georgia. In 1921, the year her brother Ellis was born, they moved to Ben Hill County, Georgia. They lived in a bungalow type house with front and back porches and a cabbage field in the back. They made a real farm of the homestead with farm animals, a garden, cotton, corn, wheat, sweet potatoes, and sugar cane.

In 1922, her sister Rose was born, and shortly afterward 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 in Palatka.

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.



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: Dora'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.

Kolodzy's of Slovakia Rodina



SERIAL NUMBER 3154	1. NAME (Print) Charles Stephen Kolodgy	ORDER NUMBER 995
2. ADDRESS (Print) 3180 N.W. 66th St. Miami, Dade, Fla		
3. TELEPHONE	4. AGE IN YEARS 35	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
8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON wife		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)

Kolodzy's of Slovakia Rodina

In 1942, Charles Stephen Kolodgy 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 his birth certificate prior to military service.

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 one		5. If more than one, number of this child in order of birth		6. Date of child's birth JULY 28, 1905 3:30 P.M.	
7. PLACE OF BIRTH Richmond		8. USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER New York		9. Full name of FATHER Frank Kolodzej		10. Color or race White		11. Age at time of this birth 34		12. Birthplace of MOTHER Austria	
13. Trade or Occupation Tailor		14. Full maiden name of MOTHER Irma Pekarik		15. Color or race White		16. Age at time of this birth 31		17. Birthplace of FATHER 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.							
Date April 3, 1942		(Signed) Charles Stephen Kolodzej		(Relationship) Applicant							

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. **2665** 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



During World War II, Charles Stephen Kolodgy, drew upon his experience as sailor and served as a Merchant Marine helping the allies war effort by hauling fuel from oil refineries in Venezuela across the Atlantic Ocean to be used by the allies in the European Theater.

A German underwater boat (U-boat) U-502 saw the merchant vessel, and launched a torpedo that hit the SS Franklin K Lane. Charles was atop the deck when the torpedo struck, and rigging fell on top of Charles, pinning him to the deck. While struggling to get free, he heard the clinking of something falling out of his pocket; it was his St Christopher medal that he had been carrying! Then, somehow, he managed to get free and was able to get off of the sinking ship.



A nearby Dutch Naval Vessel, the HNMS Jan van Brakel (an escaped ship from the Nazi invasion in 1940) responded to the distress call that the SS Franklin Lane had made. The Dutch crewmen rescued as many crew members as was possible and took a photograph of the sinking ship. They rescued 34 persons, Charles being one of them!

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

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.

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Form I-480 (Old Form No. 1)
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

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 upon arrival at a port of the United States

Vessel M/V Point Sur arriving at Honolulu, H.I. 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 discharged abroad	(8) Whether able to read	(9) Age	(10) Sex	(11) Race*	(12) Nationality	(13) Height	(14) Weight	(15) Physical marks, peculiarities, or disease	(16) REMARKS (Including statement of higher alien over 18 years of age, and if no, whether permission to re-apply has been obtained)	(17) Action of Immigration Inspector (This column for use of Government officials only)
		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	5'11"	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	Hungary	American	6'	150			
6	No	Dee,	Michael J.	1 year	Purser-Barm.	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!

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 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.

After the War

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

Certificate of Marriage



Church of
The Gesu
Miami, Fla

This is to Certify

That *Charles Stephen Kolodgy*
 and *Maebelle Chandler*
 were lawfully Married

on the *9* day of *February* 1943

According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church
 and in conformity with the laws of the State of
Florida, Rev. *Jo. Maring S.J.*
 officiating, in the presence of *Wolfgang Trist*
 and *Blady Jankowich* Witnesses, as appears
 from the Marriage Register of this Church.

Dated *Febr. 9, 1943*

Jo. Maring S.J. ^{curist.} Pastor.

NO. 212 © O. P. MURPHY CO., NEW YORK

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

IT'S FIRST OF ITS KIND IN ENTIRE NATION

Hotel For Seamen Opens In Miami

The nation's first hotel to be operated by private citizens exclusively for American merchant seamen and officers was formally opened here Friday.

Dedicated by War Shipping Administration officials from Washington, New Orleans and Miami, the Mariner hotel, 220 Biscayne Blvd., will house 2,000 officers and men who pass through Miami monthly en route to ship assignments.

The hotel can accommodate 120 men a night. It is owned by Mrs. John McMichael and Mrs. J. A. Humphreys and operated by Mrs. McMichael's husband.

WSA officials were joined in the ceremonies, broadcast over Station WQAM, by district Coast Guard officers, Mayor Leonard K. Thomson and others.

IMPORTANT ADDITION

C. W. "Jerry" Sanders, regional director of WSA's Recruitment and Manning organization, New Orleans, described the hotel as Miami's most important contribution to merchant seamen.

First-hand accounts of how their ships were attacked and sunk by enemy action were given by William H. Burke, jr., first assistant engineer, 347 N. E. 33rd st., who survived three torpedoings in as many days; Delaney McDaniel, 1412 N. W. Ninth ave., chief cook, whose ship survived 23 days and nights of German torpedo plane and dive-bombing attacks during the invasion of southern Italy, and Able Seaman Charles S. Kolodgy, 1381 N. W. 54th st., whose tanker was torpedoed and set afire in the Caribbean after a seaman from his vessel jumped overboard in the path of the torpedo.

Other talks were given by Jack Crossland, president of Eastern Shipping Co., Miami; Christopher C. Daly, Miami Fort representative of Recruitment and Manning Organization; Andrew G. O'Rourke, president, and Fred Brunner, secretary, Greater Miami Hotel association; John Forney Rudy, WSA official from Washington, and Capt. Edwin Ackerman, Isthmian Steamship Company.

—Herald Staff Photo

MERCHANT MARINE HEROES take part in dedication of the Mariner hotel, operated for exclusive use by merchant officers and seamen. Left to right, Able Seaman Charles S. Kolodgy, Lt. William H. Burke, jr., and Chief Steward Delaney McDaniel, all of Miami.



In 1946, their sixth-born entered the world, followed 7 years later by their seventh-born



Kolodzyes of Slovakia Rodina

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.

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.



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.



Kolodzyes of Slovakia Rodina

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

On July 4, 1982 Charles laid down for a nap and passed away in his sleep.

Maebelle's health had declined by August of 1997 and she passed away from heart complications on December 9, 1997, at the Vencor Hospital in Green Cove Springs, Florida at about 5:10 p.m.

A note Jean Kersting wrote to MaeBelle Kolodgy on July 27, 1982, Charles S. Kolodgy (her uncle) passed away.

Dear Aunt MaeBelle & Family, How sad it was to hear that my Uncle Charlie has passed away. My prayers are with you and the family. It must have been quite a shock for you and the children. I do hope you are feeling alright and are holding up well. Uncle Charlie is now with God. Now you must take care of your health and keep your family together. You are fortunate to have a loving family and close knit kind and loyal children. May God bless you all in your time of sorrow. Thank you so much for your loving letter and all the clippings from the paper. I shall keep them and remember you and Uncle Charlie in my prayers. My love and God's blessing to you and the family. Lovingly, Jean

By 2005, the family had sold and moved away from the property at 106 Lake Shore, but Mary's family still owns a home in Interlachen today. Although the origins of the Kolodzey family is in Slovakia, later transplanted into New York/New Jersey, with Charles' family centered on Miami, some of the 4th Generation (Charles' grandkids) see the property in Interlachen as the center of the Kolodgy family.