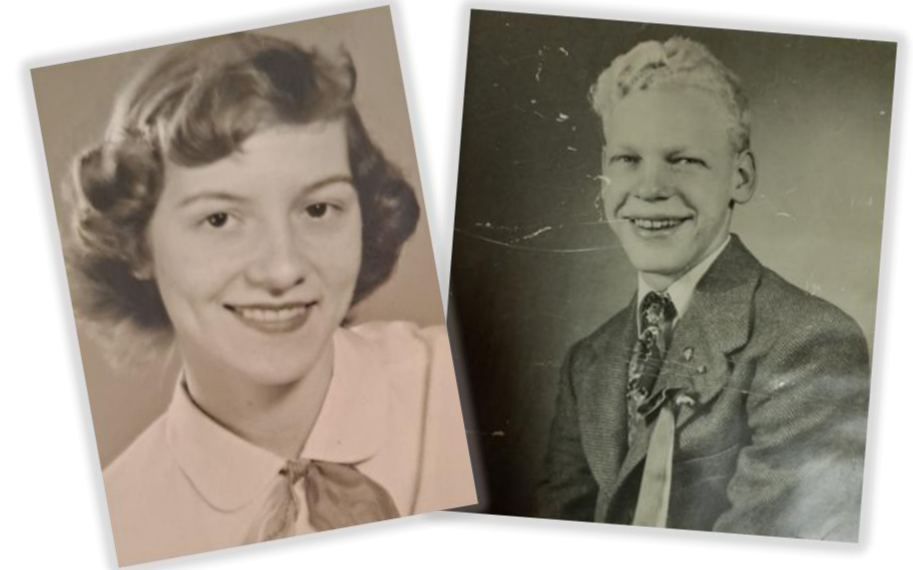


Exploring Your Roots



Marlene and Ed met in high school in Hammond, Indiana and married on Jul 11, 1953.



Marlene Mroz was born on January 2, 1935, in East Chicago, Indiana, to Alex Mroz and Michaelene (Mazurkiewicz) Mroz.

Edwin Smithers was born on April 2, 1934, in Hammond, Indiana, to Roy Smithers and Mildred (Wolff) Smithers.

When Marlene was in middle school, her family moved to Hammond, where she would eventually meet Edwin—known to many by his nickname, “**Whitey**.” Their love story began in a truly memorable way. At age 15, Edwin was riding his bicycle through Marlene’s neighborhood with a friend when they spotted a girl and asked if she knew any “cute girls.” That girl happened to be Marlene’s younger sister, **Jacqueline**. Without answering, Jacqueline simply walked up the steps to her porch, opened the front door, and called out, “*Marlene, there’s someone out here looking for you.*” And just like that, a relationship that would last more than 40 years was born.

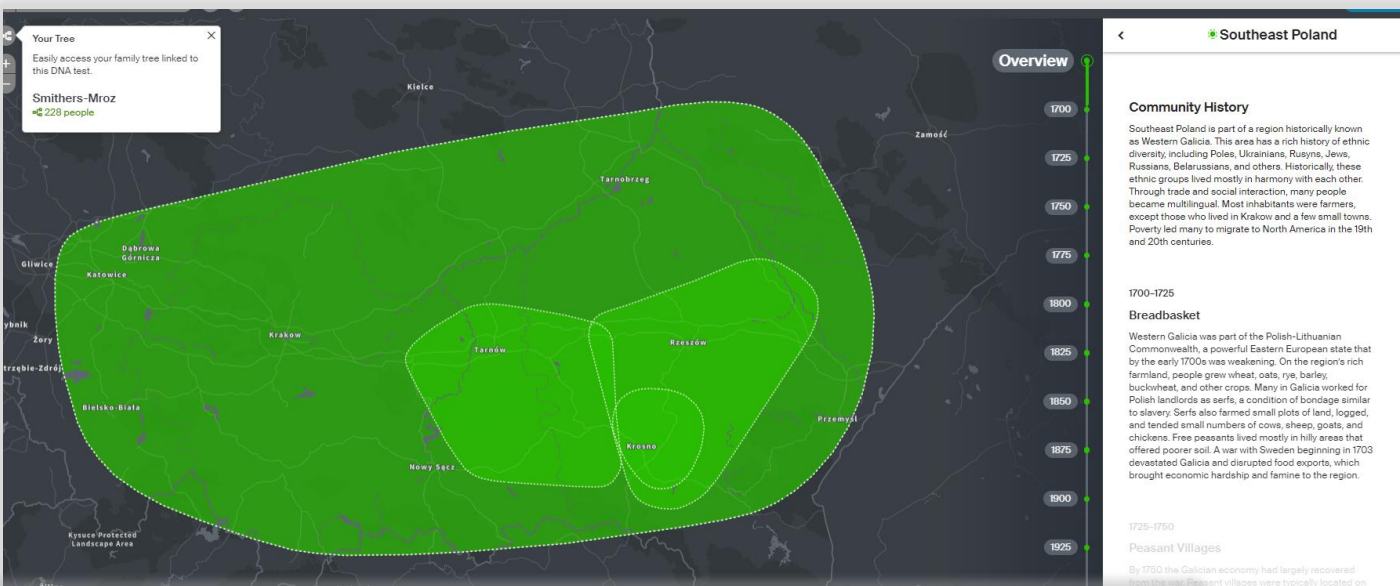
Marlene and Edwin married and had **six children—four daughters and two sons**. They raised their family in **Hammond** before relocating to **Wisconsin** in **1976**. Edwin was a **hardworking rock lather**, a trade now largely replaced by drywall installation. He also served as a **Union Steward**, advocating for workers' rights throughout his career. He passed away in **1987**.

Marlene continues to share her love and creativity with her family and friends through her **quilting and painting**—a living legacy of care, warmth, and artistry.

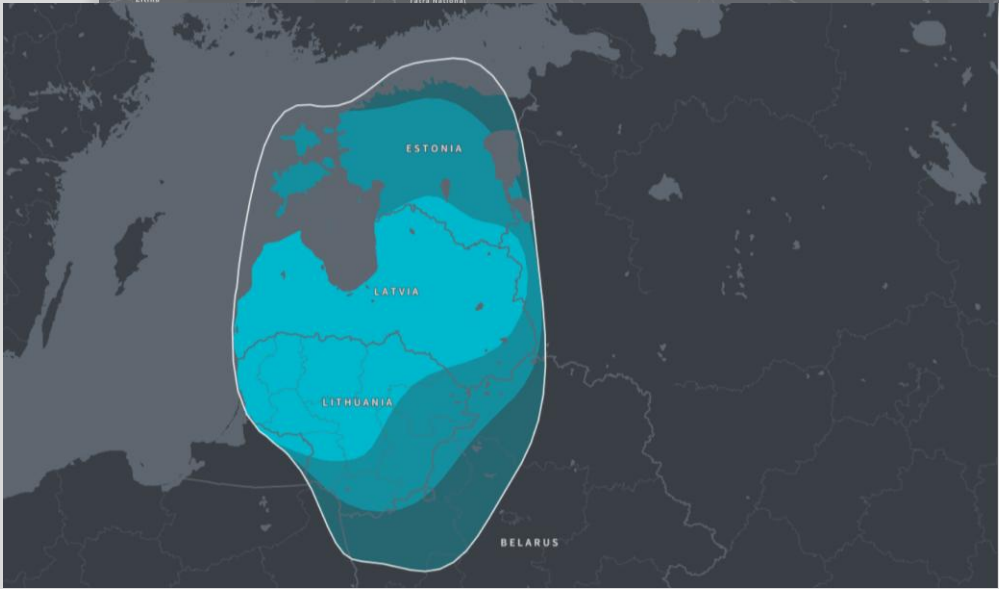
Now, let’s dig into a few of their family stories . . .

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Marlene Mroz Born on January 2, 1935. Her family immigrated from Southern Poland and the Baltics.



Marlene Mroz, 1937 and 1952.

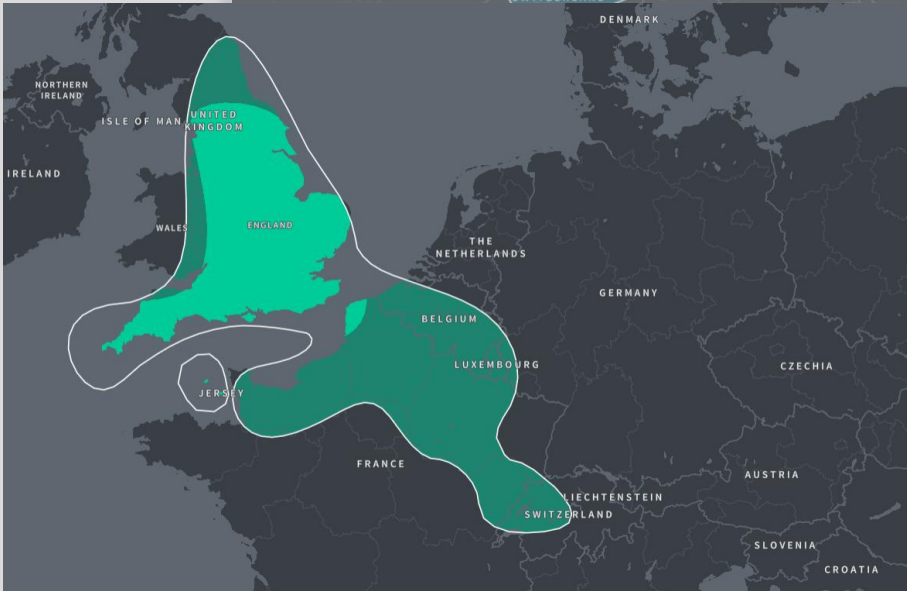


Edwin Smithers Born on April 6, 1934. His family immigrated from England, Scotland and Germany.

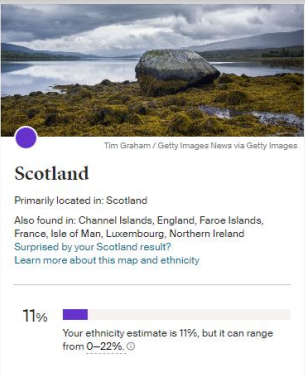
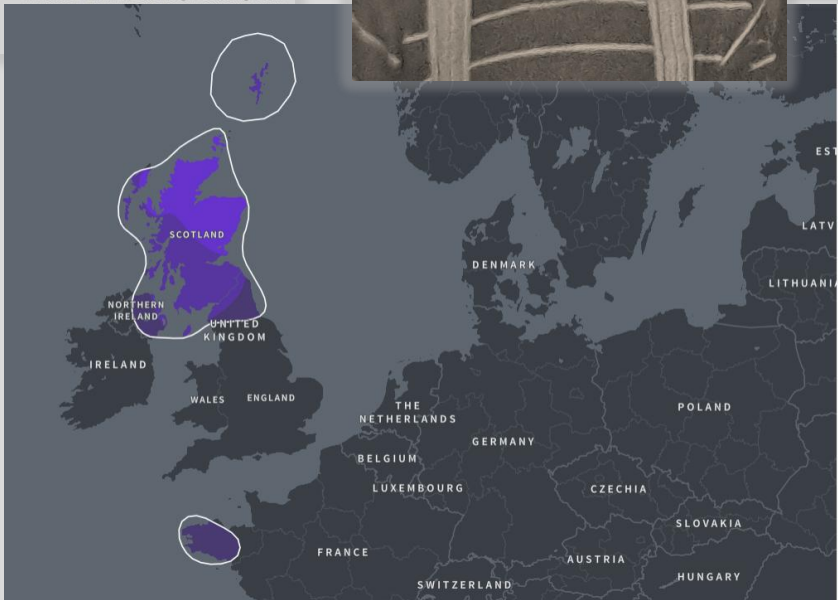
Edwin Smithers, 1941 and 1949.



About this Region
The dramatic landscape of our Germanic Europe region rises from Dutch and German lowlands along the North Sea through forested uplands to Austria's Alps in the south. The German people were united by language and culture before Germany became a united country in 1871. Known as *Das Land der Dichter und Denker* ("the land of poets and thinkers"), Germany is home to some of the oldest universities in the world, and this region has a long tradition



About this Region
The history of Britain, the heart of our England & Northwestern Europe region, is often presented as one group of invaders after another displacing the native population. The Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, and Normans all left their mark on Britain both politically and culturally. However, the story of Britain is far more complex. In fact, modern studies suggest the earliest populations weren't wiped out, but adapted and absorbed the new arrivals.
[Read Full History](#)



About this Region
With its center in the northern third of the island of Great Britain but stretching down to Brittany in France, our Scotland ethnicity region is known for its geographical beauty, medieval architecture, and folklore. Gaelic and Scots have influenced regional English dialects and are both still spoken in some areas. National symbols, including the Lion Rampant, clan tartans, and bagpipes, are often recognized internationally alongside symbols of traditional cuisine, like whisky and haggis.

Alexander Mroz & Michaelene Mazurkiewicz

Marlene's parents

Alex Walter Mroz, Marlene's father, was the second eldest son of John and Mary Mroz. He was born on February 26, 1909, in East Chicago, Indiana.

In November 1932, Alex married Michaelene (Mickey) Mazurkiewicz, the daughter of Michael and Aurelia Mazurkiewicz, also of East Chicago. The couple had two daughters, Marlene and Jacqueline.

Alex was often referred to by his middle name, Walter, and some official documents list him as Walter Mroz—a detail that occasionally required correction. Similarly, Michaelene's name appears in various spellings across historical records.

During their marriage, the family lived in two homes in East Chicago: one on Todd Street and another on Magoun Avenue. As of 2022, both locations are vacant lots.

While they were together, Alex worked at Inland Steel and also made a living delivering furniture.

The birth certificate of Jacqueline with numerous errors. Note, another spelling of Michaelene's name, Alex was referred to by his middle name and Jacqi was identified as Aurelia (her middle name).

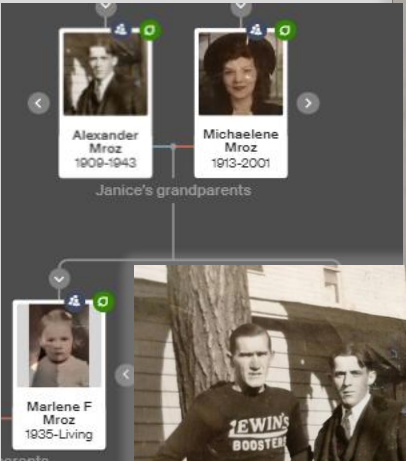


CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH
STATE OF INDIANA
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
Local No. 594
Registered No. 26122

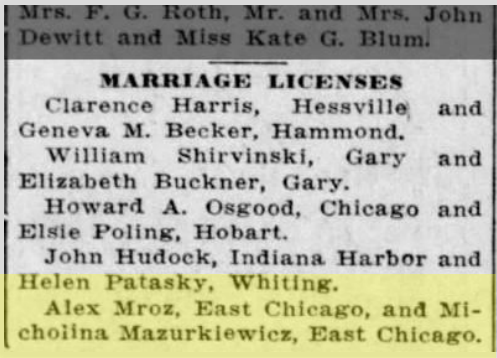
1. County of Lake
2. Township of North
3. City of East Chicago
4. Full Name of Child: Jacqueline Mroz
5. Date of Birth: May 8, 1936
6. Sex: Female
7. Color: White
8. Place of Birth: East Chicago, Ind.
9. Occupation: Furniture
10. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as housekeeper, teacher, nurse, clerk, etc.: Housework
11. Industry or business in which work was done, as iron foundry, lawyer's office, silk mill, etc.: None
12. Were generations taken against applicant's consent? Yes

13. Signature of Physician or Midwife: [Signature]
14. Address: East Chicago, Ind.

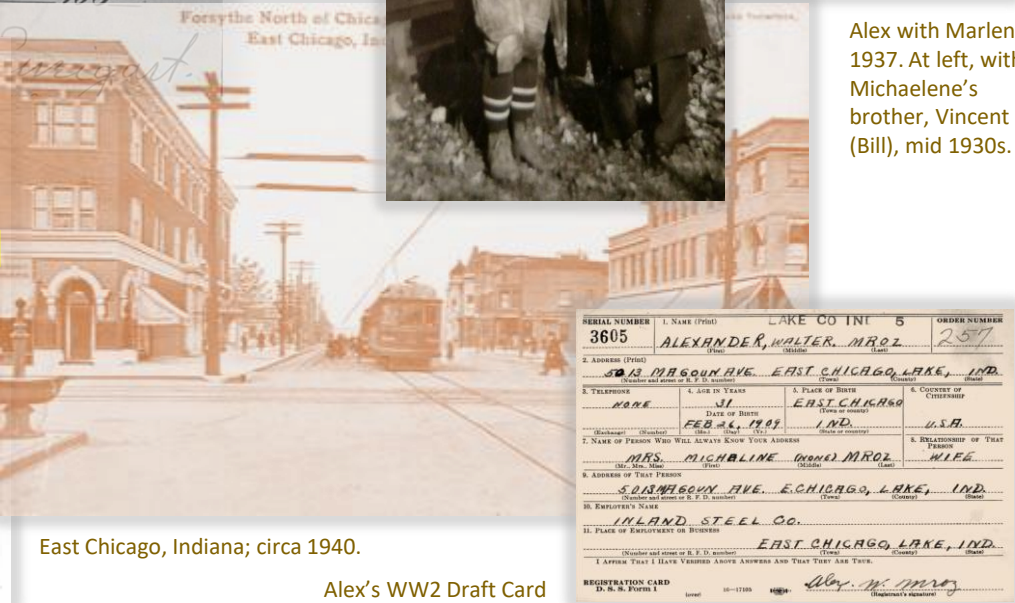
Marriage license of Alex and Michaelene.



Alex with Marlene; 1937. At left, with Michaelene's brother, Vincent (Bill), mid 1930s.



Note the alternative spelling of Michaelene's name in the marriage announcement.



East Chicago, Indiana; circa 1940.

Alex's WW2 Draft Card

Alexander Mroz

Marlene's Father

Unfortunately, the marriage of **Alex Mroz** and **Michaelene (Mickey) Mazurkiewicz** came to an end in 1941 when Alex left his family and moved to Michigan. For a brief time, he lived with Michaelene's sister before his life was cut short by tuberculosis.

He died in 1943 at the young age of **34**. Many questions remain about what led Alex to leave, and we will likely never know the full truth. Some believe he may have been trying to avoid being drafted into World War II, as records show the draft board was actively searching for him. Others speculate that he may have known he was seriously ill and chose to leave in order to spare his family the pain of watching him decline. And of course, it's also possible that he simply walked away from a marriage that was no longer working. The reasons remain unclear.

What we do know is that **Michaelene** and her daughters, **Marlene** and **Jacqueline**, did not learn of his death until well after he had passed. Still, there appears to have been some level of communication between Alex and Michaelene after his departure, as a few letters from Alex were preserved.

Marlene retained only two memories of her father: that he enjoyed eating **liver and onions**, and that he once appeared in the window of their home at Easter—**either holding a bunny or wearing bunny ears**.

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.
If veteran, name war

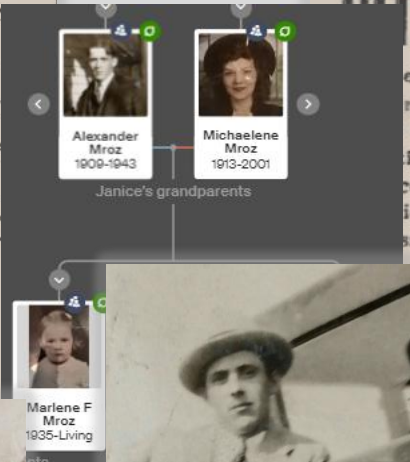
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Bureau of Records and Statistics

State File No. **340481**
Local File No. **10529**

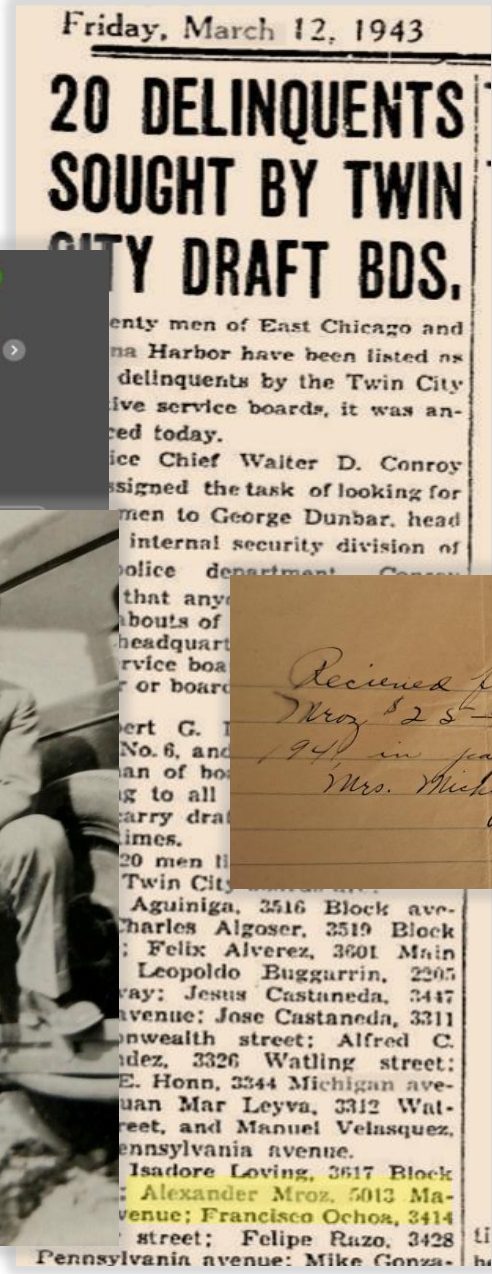
FULL NAME *Mroz, Alex*
PLACE OF DEATH *Wayne*
County: *Wayne*
Township: *Detroit*
City or Village: *Detroit*
Name of hospital: *Herman Kiefer*
Length of stay: In hospital *1 mo.* In this community *2 yrs*
Sex: *M.* Color or Race: *W.* Single, Married, Widowed, Divorced: *Divorced*
NAME OF HUSBAND or WIFE
Name: *John Mroz* Age, if alive: *34*
Birth date of deceased: *2/26* *1909*
Age: Years *34* Months *3* Days *22* If less than one day: hrs. min.
Birthplace: *Indiana*
Usual occupation: *Bar tender*
Industry or business: *John Mroz*
Name: *John Mroz* Birthplace: *Poland*
Maiden Name: *Mary Baran* Birthplace: *Poland*
Informant: *Hospital Records*
Address: *Amador St 10 #3*
Burial, cremation or removal: Circle the word which applies: *Amador St 10 #3*
Place: *Amador St 10 #3*
Cemetery: *St. Mary's*
Funeral director's signature: *P. J. Shaw*
Address: *Detroit*
Filed: *19* Local Registrar

USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
State: *Michigan* County: *Wayne*
City or Village: *Detroit*
Street No.: *2235 Third St*
If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.?

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
Date of death: *6/18* 19*43*
I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from *7/22* 19*43* to *6/18* 19*43*. I last saw him alive *6/18* 19*43*. Death is said to have occurred on *6/18* 19*43*.
Date stated above at *9:30* P. M. "Durant"
Immediate cause of death: *Tuberculous effusion*
caused by
Miliary TBC.
Other contributory causes of importance



Alex Mroz, 1937.



The article from the Hammond Times in 1943, indicated that the draft board was looking for Alex. He had already moved to Detroit by that time, according to hospital records for almost two years prior to the date of the article being published.

Above is a record of Alex making payment of \$25 to Michaelene after he left family in 1941.

Michael & Aurelia Mazurkiewicz

Marlene's Maternal Grandparents

Michaelene's parents, Michael Mazurkiewicz and Aurelia Stankiewicz, were both born in Poland and married in April 1896.

After 13 years of marriage, they made the life-changing decision to immigrate to America, seeking greater opportunity and a safer future for their growing family.

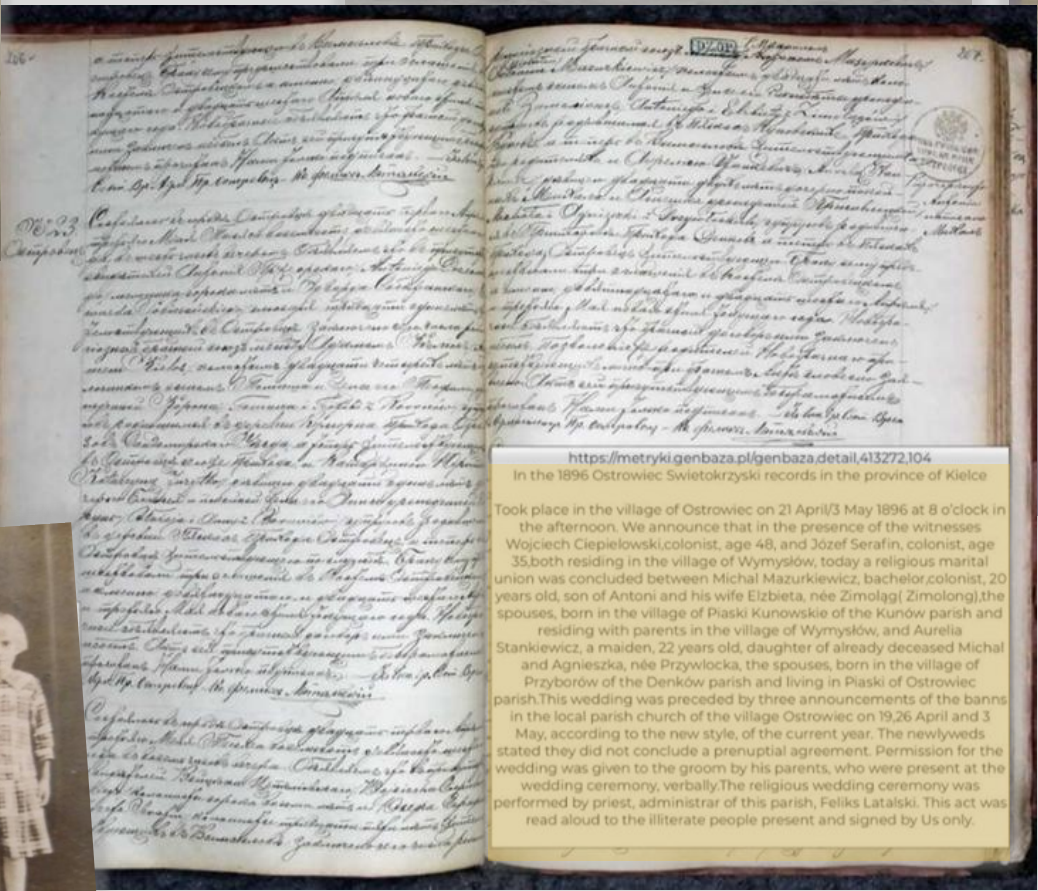
Michael arrived first in 1909, landing at Ellis Island before continuing on to Chicago, where he was met by family members. Aurelia followed a year later in 1910, bravely making the journey with their five young children in tow.

Once reunited, the family settled in East Chicago, Indiana, where they would build a new life and eventually welcome three more children.

Michael Mazurkiewicz, circa 1937

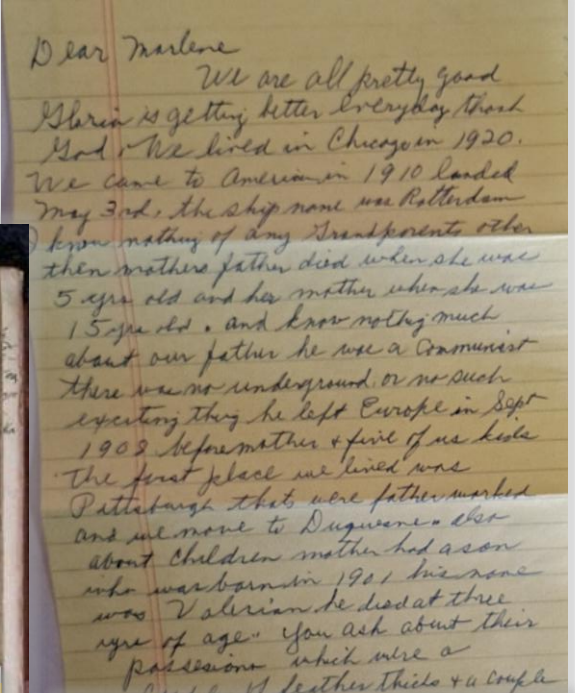


The photo to the right is of the ship "Rotterdam" that Aurelia and the children travelled on. The ship manifest is shown at the bottom right of the screen.



Transcription from Polish church records detailing the 1896 wedding ceremony of Michael and Aurelia (Stankiewicz) Mazurkiewicz.

Below is a copy of a letter from 1995 from one of Michael and Aurelia's eldest daughters (Violet) to her niece Marlene, daughter of Michaelene. Her letter validates the records we located while contradicting several of the more interesting stories shared by Michaelene.



Below is a copy of a letter from 1995 from one of Michael and Aurelia's eldest daughters (Violet) to her niece Marlene, daughter of Michaelene. Her letter validates the records we located while contradicting several of the more interesting stories shared by Michaelene.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES									
As required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered to the collector of Customs at the port of arrival.									
No.	Name	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation	Port of Origin	Port of Destination	Remarks	Signature
1	Michael Mazurkiewicz	48	M	Poland	Colonist	Ostrowiec	Chicago		
2	Aurelia Stankiewicz	48	F	Poland	Colonist	Ostrowiec	Chicago		
3	Wojciech Ciepielski	48	M	Poland	Colonist	Ostrowiec	Chicago		
4	Jozef Serafin	35	M	Poland	Colonist	Ostrowiec	Chicago		
5	Antoni Mazurkiewicz	20	M	Poland	Colonist	Ostrowiec	Chicago		
6	Elzbieta Mazurkiewicz	20	F	Poland	Colonist	Ostrowiec	Chicago		
7	Michal Mazurkiewicz	20	M	Poland	Colonist	Ostrowiec	Chicago		
8	Agnieszka Mazurkiewicz	20	F	Poland	Colonist	Ostrowiec	Chicago		
9	Przyborow Mazurkiewicz	20	M	Poland	Colonist	Ostrowiec	Chicago		
10	Feliks Latajski	20	M	Poland	Colonist	Ostrowiec	Chicago		
11



Aurelia with six of her children



Michael & Aurelia Mazurkiewicz

Married 1896 to 1936

Michael Mazurkiewicz was born on **August 30, 1875**, to **Elzbieta (Zimalong)** and **Antoni Mazurkiewicz**. His life was cut short at the age of **59** when he tragically fell down a flight of stairs in his home. He passed away on **March 11, 1936**.
At the time of his death,

Michael was employed by the **W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration)**—a New Deal agency that provided jobs to millions of Americans during the Great Depression through public works projects. Before joining the W.P.A., Michael worked as a machinist at **American Steel**. Notably, his WWII draft card recorded that he was missing the small finger on his left hand—likely the result of a work-related accident.

Aurelia Mazurkiewicz (née **Stankiewicz**) was born on **April 5, 1874**, the daughter of **Agnieszka (Przylowka)** and **Michal Stankiewicz**.
Michael and Aurelia were married for **40 years** and had **eight children**—one son and seven daughters. **Michaelene** was the second youngest of the siblings.

Following Michael’s death, Aurelia moved to **Hamtramck, Michigan** to be closer to three of her daughters. She died there on **March 25, 1941**, at the age of **66**, from **rheumatic fever and cardiac failure**.



Michael with two of his grandchildren in 1926, notice the missing finger on his left-hand.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
MICHAEL MAZURKIEWICZ (Mazur)
Place of birth: **Wayne**
City of birth: **Detroit**
Place of death: **St. Francis hospital**
Date of death: **March 11, 1936**
Cause of death: **Heart failure**
Age at death: **60**
Sex: **Male**
Race: **Polish**
Religion: **Catholic**
Marital status: **Married**
Spouse: **Aurelia Mazurkiewicz**
Address: **20015 Stotter**
Date of birth: **August 30, 1875**
Place of birth: **Wayne, Michigan**
Cause of death: **Heart failure**
Date of death: **March 11, 1936**
Place of death: **St. Francis hospital**
Signature: **Joseph Miller**
Date: **March 26, 1941**

REGISTRATION CARD
SERIAL NUMBER: **2763**
NAME: **Michael Mazurkiewicz**
DATE OF BIRTH: **August 30th 1875**
PLACE OF BIRTH: **Wayne, Michigan**
RACE: **White**
CITIZENSHIP: **U.S. Citizen**
OCCUPATION: **Machinist American Steel Foundries**
RESIDENCE: **20015 Stotter**
NEAREST RELATIVE: **Aurelia Mazurkiewicz**
Signature: **Michael Mazurkiewicz**

FALL FATAL TO EAST CHICAGO MAN
Injuries received when he fell down a flight of steps in his home at 4726 Olcott avenue caused the death last night of Michael Mazurkiewicz, 59, resident of East Chicago for the last 25 years. Mazurkiewicz, employed by the W. P. A., suffered a skull fracture. The accident happened at 9 o'clock and he succumbed at 11:45 o'clock. Surviving him are his wife, Aurelia; seven daughters, Michaelene Mroz and Elizabeth, Marjorie of East Chicago, Lora Krycki, Violet Rogers and Estelle Mazurkiewicz of Detroit; Bernice of Rockford, Ill., and Harriet of Chicago; also by one Vincent, of East Chicago, and grandchildren. Funeral services will be held at residence Saturday afternoon 2 o'clock, with burial at Elm-cemetery.

Shown below in both photos is Aurelia Mazurkiewicz and her second youngest child, Michealene. The story goes that the baby photo of Michaelene was taken in 1913 because she was very ill, and they wanted to make sure they had a photo of her. The photo on the right was taken in early 1940s.



News report of Michael’s fall in his home leading to his death.

Michael and Aurelia’s death certificates.

John (Jan) Mroz

Marlene's Paternal Grandfather

John Mroz was born on February 15, 1879, in Piotrkówka, Podkarpacie, Poland. His father was Casimirus Mroz, son of Mathias Mroz and Agnes Sanocki. His mother was Catherine Pikula, daughter of Sebastian Pikula and Marianna Gierlicki.

The surname “**Mroz**” means “frost” in Polish.

John immigrated to the United States in 1899, arriving at Ellis Island and joining relatives in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. He later moved to East Chicago, Indiana, where he built a new life.

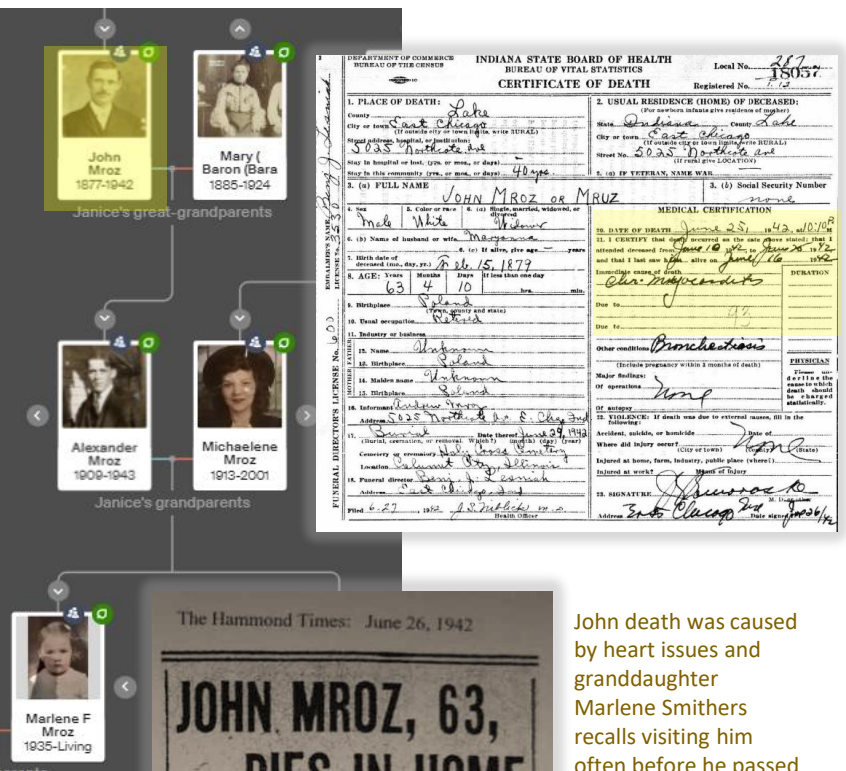
On October 11, 1904, John married **Mary (Marianna) Baron (Baran)** in Lake County, Indiana. Mary had immigrated from Poland in 1902. The couple made their home at **525 Northcote Avenue** in East Chicago and went on to have seven children. Their second eldest was **Alex**, father of Michaelene.

Tragically, Mary died young in 1924 at just 39 years old, after 20 years of marriage. At some point in his later life, John became blind. Although the cause is unknown, it may have been due to a work-related injury. According to the 1920 census, he worked as a “**chipper**,” a job likely involving wood or metalwork.

John Mroz passed away at home on **June 25, 1942**, at the age of 63.



Mroz family photo. John and Mary with John's sister's family.



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH: Lake
County: East Chicago
City or town: East Chicago
State: INDIANA
Street No.: 525 N. Northcote Ave
Map to this community (year, or name, or date): 48 yrs

2. USUAL RESIDENCE (HOME) OF DECEASED:
Name: John Mroz Cause: Heart
City or town: East Chicago
State: INDIANA
Street No.: 525 N. Northcote Ave
Map to this community (year, or name, or date): 48 yrs

3. (a) FULL NAME: JOHN MROZ or MROZ
3. (b) Social Security Number: 2-20-6

4. Sex: Male 5. Color or race: White 6. (a) Marital status, widowed, or divorced: Widowed
6. (b) Name of husband or wife: Mary

7. Birth date: Feb 15, 1879 8. (a) If alive, give age: 63 8. (b) If dead, give age: 63
9. AGE: 63 10. Date of death: June 25, 1942

11. Medical certification: Chronic heart disease

12. Cause of death: Heart

13. Name: John Mroz 14. Address: 525 Northcote Ave East Chicago Ind

15. Signature: John Mroz

16. Signature: John Mroz

The Hammond Times: June 26, 1942

JOHN MROZ, 63, DIES IN HOME

John Mroz, 63, a resident of East Chicago for 40 years, died last night at his home, 5025 Northcote avenue, following a lengthy illness. He has been retired for several years and held a membership in St. Michael's society of St. Stanislaus church.

Survivors include four sons, Joseph of East Chicago; Andrew of Hammond; Alex of Detroit, Mich., and Private Stanley of the U. S. army in Hawaii; four daughters, Peggy Mroz, Mrs. Margaret Dragus and Mrs. Caroline Rotz, all of East Chicago, and Mrs. Estelle Harrigan of Crown Point; a brother, Peter of Chicago; a sister, Mrs. Catherine Machota of East Chicago, and six grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Monday at 8:30 a. m. in the home and 9 a. m. in St. Stanislaus church.

John death was caused by heart issues and granddaughter Marlene Smithers recalls visiting him often before he passed away when she was seven.

“He raised polish chickens and made pickles that he stored in the basement. And, he had a beautiful vineyard.

I also remember that he kept a very clean house. Which I thought was interesting because he was blind. He would run his finger across the table and be able to tell if it was dusty.”

STATE: Indiana

COUNTY: Lake

TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY: North Township

NAME OF INSTITUTION ☒ East Chicago

NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE East Chicago

ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 21 DAY OF January, 1920. Mrs. Fred Tarkenton

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS L.77 (20-476)

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 10

ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 44

WARD OF CITY & PLACE East Chicago

PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATION	AGE	SEX	RACE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	RELIGION	PLACE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF DEATH	PLACE OF INTERMENT	DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH	DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Kate	daughter	11	F	White	11	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	12	M	White	12	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	Joseph	son	13	M	White	13	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	Stanley	son	14	M	White	14	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	Michaelene	daughter	15	F	White	15	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	Marlene	daughter	16	F	White	16	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	17	M	White	17	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	Mary	daughter	18	F	White	18	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	Robert	son	19	M	White	19	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	20	M	White	20	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	21	M	White	21	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	22	M	White	22	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	23	M	White	23	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	24	M	White	24	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	25	M	White	25	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	26	M	White	26	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	27	M	White	27	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	28	M	White	28	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	29	M	White	29	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	30	M	White	30	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	31	M	White	31	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	32	M	White	32	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	33	M	White	33	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	34	M	White	34	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	35	M	White	35	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	36	M	White	36	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	37	M	White	37	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	38	M	White	38	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	39	M	White	39	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	40	M	White	40	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	41	M	White	41	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	42	M	White	42	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	43	M	White	43	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	44	M	White	44	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	45	M	White	45	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	46	M	White	46	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	47	M	White	47	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	48	M	White	48	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	49	M	White	49	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	50	M	White	50	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	51	M	White	51	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	52	M	White	52	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	53	M	White	53	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	54	M	White	54	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	55	M	White	55	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	56	M	White	56	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	57	M	White	57	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	58	M	White	58	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	59	M	White	59	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	60	M	White	60	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	61	M	White	61	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	62	M	White	62	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	63	M	White	63	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	64	M	White	64	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	65	M	White	65	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	66	M	White	66	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	67	M	White	67	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	68	M	White	68	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	69	M	White	69	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	70	M	White	70	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	71	M	White	71	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	72	M	White	72	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	73	M	White	73	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	74	M	White	74	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	75	M	White	75	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	76	M	White	76	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	77	M	White	77	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	78	M	White	78	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	79	M	White	79	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	80	M	White	80	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	81	M	White	81	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	82	M	White	82	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	83	M	White	83	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	84	M	White	84	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	85	M	White	85	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	86	M	White	86	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	87	M	White	87	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	88	M	White	88	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	89	M	White	89	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	90	M	White	90	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	91	M	White	91	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	92	M	White	92	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	93	M	White	93	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	94	M	White	94	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	95	M	White	95	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	96	M	White	96	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	97	M	White	97	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	98	M	White	98	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	99	M	White	99	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	
	John	son	100	M	White	100	None	Catholic	Indiana	Indiana	Indiana	June 25, 1942	Heart	June 25, 1942	St. Stanislaus	St. Stanislaus	

Charles & Emma Wolff

Charles F. Wolff was born on September 23, 1880, in Germany, the son of Elizabeth (Ardnt) and William. He married Emma Augusta Hoge on August 15, 1908, in Lansing, Illinois.

Emma Augusta Hoge was born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 21, 1886, the daughter of Herman and Emily (Krapel). Herman and Emily immigrated from Taden, Germany.

Charles and Emma had 11 children during their marriage, losing three of them as children.

Charles was a barkeeper early in his career and then became a bricklayer. He died on July 26, 1953, at the age of 71.

Emma died on August 20, 1968, in Lansing, Illinois, at the age of 81.



To the left is Charles and Emma Wolff wedding photo; 1908, Chicago, Illinois. Below is a photo of Charles and Emma taken in 1939.

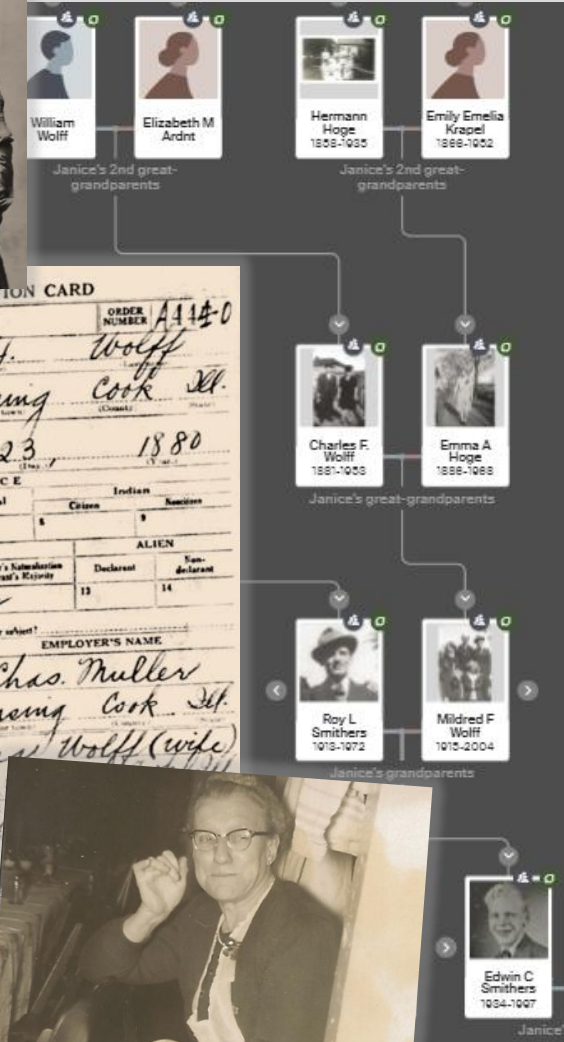


Emma's parents, Herman and Emily Hoge.
Photo taken at the turn-of century (1900).



REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER 141		ORDER NUMBER A1416	
Name Chas F. H. Wolff		Last name Wolff	
PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS		Cook St.	
Date of Birth 23 Sept. 1880		Place of Birth	
RACE			
White	Negro	Oriental	Caucasian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
U. S. CITIZEN		ALIEN	
Native Born	Naturalized	Entered by Father's Naturalization	Declared
10	11	12	13
Is a citizen of the U. S. of what nation are you a citizen or subject?			
PRESENT OCCUPATION		EMPLOYER'S NAME	
Barkeeper		Chas. Muller	
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENCE		Sausage Cook	
Address at N. Y. City		Name	
29		Emma Wolff (wife)	
NEAREST RELATIVE		Address	
29		29 M. St. N. Y. City	
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE KEPT ABOVE			
39 M. St. N. Y. City			

[illegible]

Emma Wolff, taken in the late 1950s..

Herman Wolff

Edwin's Uncle – Died at 13

As previously mentioned, Charles and Emma Wolff lost three children at a young age. While the circumstances surrounding two of those deaths remain unknown, we know a great deal about how their son Herman's short life came to a tragic and heartbreaking end at the age of 13.

Herman was shot and killed by another 13-year-old boy with a reputation as a troublemaker. The story reads like something out of a movie—shocking, senseless, and deeply sad. Some in the community believed it was cold-blooded murder; others saw it as a tragic accident.

The boy who shot Herman was Walter Schultz, a known delinquent who had reportedly been involved in a grocery store robbery shortly before the shooting. The reporting at the time painted a bleak picture of Walter's life. There was no mention of a mother, and his father—described as a drinker—was widely blamed for Walter's behavior.

For the Wolff family, the loss was devastating. Yet even in their grief, they remained committed to seeking justice for their son. In an extraordinary move, they petitioned the court to force Schultz to view Herman's body, perhaps in the hope that it would impress upon him the magnitude of what he had done.

JUVENILE LANSING MURDER STIRS LITTLE VILLAGE

THE WEATHER

Rain tonight, probably turning to snow Tuesday; colder; moderate to fresh winds, shifting to northwest Tuesday.

East Chicago THE TIMES Ind. Harbor

VOL. XVI. NO. 141. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1922. First Daily Published in East Chicago.

KILLS BOY WITH NEW SHOT GUN

Lansing Tragedy Shocks Little Town to the South of Hammond.

Ten minutes after Herman Wolff, aged 13 years, oldest of a family of eight children, had skipped from his home in Lansing yesterday, to join a group of comrades, his mother received a telephone call that Herman, mortally wounded by a gun shot, was being rushed to St. Margaret's hospital, Hammond. His stomach ripped from side to side by the close range discharge of a shot gun shell fired by a boy companion, Herman languished a few hours at the hospital and died, surrounded by his parents and seven brothers and sisters.

Walter Schultz, aged 13 years, fired the shot. After the shooting, Schultz fled. He scurried home, left his gun, and terrorized by the act he had committed, ran all the way to the home of his grandmother at Munster. Police officers, tracing him, arrived at the Munster hiding place. They were met at the door by the aged grandmother. She stopped them at the threshold.

"He is not here," she said in reply to their queries.

There was an interchange of compliments. A window in the rear banged. Officers heard it and ran to the back of the house. Young Schutz was fleeing across the fields. They caught him in the woods, a short distance away.

According to Herman Hoff, uncle

HUSBAND IDENTIFIES SWAMP VICTIM AS HIS WIFE

CLARA PHILLIPS ESCAPES

105 INJURED IN WRECK ON WABASH

(INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE) SHENANDOAH, Ia., Dec. 5.—One hundred and five passengers, many of whom are from Missouri points, today are recovering from injuries.

Wabash officials today were able to explain the cause of wreck. According to passengers, train, consisting of a baggage car, coach and two Pullmans, ran about bridge on gine side. Officials used the five plus pulling car with.

CORONER SAYS KILLING WAS ACCIDENT

Wallie Schultz, 14-year-old Lansing village "bad boy" and slayer of Herman Wolff, this morning was remanded to the Chicago and Cook County School for Boys at Riverside for an indeterminate period. He will go back to the school in which he served fifty-three days early this year for the robbery of a Lansing grocery store.

Coroner H. J. White, at the inquest held this morning in the Superior Court building at Hammond, found that Herman Wolff came to his death accidentally but through the "ignorance and carelessness of Walter Schultz."

Wolff's parents stoutly maintained that the punishment meted out to young Schultz was not sufficient. Mrs. Wolff, mother of Herman, who was killed by Schultz last Sunday afternoon when the lad passed a dare to Schultz to pull the trigger of the new shotgun he held in his hands, repeated over and over again the dying words of her son that, "Walter should be hanged."

Clyde Cleveland, counsel for the Wolff family, in winding up his case before the coroner, stated that no matter what disposal the authorities made of the boy, one thing was certain, and that was that Schultz should not be allowed to return to Lansing. The village was rid of him and didn't want to see him again with a possible repetition of the scene that robbed Wolff of his life.

Three boy companions of young

YOUNG SLAYER TO VIEW VICTIMS BODY

At noon today Walter Schultz, 13-year old Lansing slayer of 13 year old Herman Wolff, was sobbing in his cell of the village jail, unknowing the terrible ordeal that was to be his in the afternoon and, if it has been carried out, now consummated.

Wallie (some of the people in the town have softened enough to call him Wallie) was to be taken to the home of his victim and there was to be made to view the lifeless body of young Herman Wolff.

"It will teach him a lesson. It will burn into his brain a picture that he will never forget and that will be a constant warning to him throughout life."

That is what the family of the slain boy is reputed to have told police chief Eckstein.

INQUEST IS SET FOR SATURDAY

Father of Boy Slayer Goes to Work Without Seeing Him

Did Walter Schultz, aged 13, kill Herman Wolff, aged 13 of Lansing, in cold blood?

About the flower backed boy of Herman Wolff in the darkest part of his home in Lake street, Lansing, the sobbing of a bereaved family is punctuated with muttered malicious directed at Walter Schultz, the slayer of young Wolff.

The resentment of the family to school in the streets of Lansing where a popular demand is heard for the prosecution of Schultz.

Wolff's body, ripped open when a shotgun shell fired by Schultz plowed through his stomach, was removed this morning from Hammerling's undertaking parlor, Hammond, following a postmortem examination by Deputy Coroner H. J. White. The inquest to be held at Hammond Saturday will determine the fate of the youthful killer.

Schultz, in a cell in the Lansing police station, is bewildered, crushed, terror stricken.

His own father, Walter Schultz, has refused to see him. Unconcerned about the fate of the son whom he provided with the shotgun used by the boy in the shooting of Wolff, the father both yesterday and today went to his work at South

DOCTORS' PUNCE

PLACE OF DEATH
County of Lake
Township of North
City of Hammond
St. Margaret's Hospital
Wolff
Herman F. Wolff
Single
Sept. 24 1910
12 5 9
School Student
Lansing, Illinois
Charles Wolff
Emma Dyer
Chicago, Ill.
12 5 1922
St. Margaret's Hospital
Hammond, Ind.

Indiana State Board of Health
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
35730
Dec 3 1922
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Dec. 7 to Dec. 7 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 79 M. P. M. Cause of death: Gunshot wound of abdomen.

Signature of Physician: Dr. Hammerling
Signature of Coroner: H. J. White
Signature of Registrar: Dr. Hammerling
Signature of Burial: Dr. Hammerling
Date of Burial: Dec. 5 1922
Place of Burial: St. Margaret's Hospital

James W. Smithers

Edwin's Paternal Great Grandfather

James W. Smithers, great-great grandfather of Edwin Smithers, was born in Frankfort, KY, in 1851 to James L Smithers and Elizabet Tutt.

In 1955 the family moved to Rantoul, IL where the railroad expansion was providing opportunities.

James married Mary Lake in 1878 in Rantoul. Later, they moved to Streator, IL, where he was employed as a locomotive engineer for NYC Railroad and they raised five children.

James retired in 1919 on pension from the New York Railroad after being a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for more than forty-two years. He was honored by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in 1926 as *"of the oldest railroaders and suffered many hardships to help better the working conditions and bring them up to what they are today."*

James died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ed Teifke, in Kankakee, IL, in 1926. His body laid in state in Kankakee before the body was taken by automobile to Rantoul for burial.



James Smithers family – Parents James and Mary (Lake), sons Edwin (front) and Harold (back); and daughters.

1900 United States Federal Census for Mary Smithers											
Illinois > LaSalle > Streator Ward 04 > District 0037											
23	Barachman, Ed	Head	W	M	1873	27	1	1	1	1	1
24	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1874	26	0	0	0	0	0
25	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1875	25	0	0	0	0	0
26	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1876	24	0	0	0	0	0
27	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1877	23	0	0	0	0	0
28	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1878	22	0	0	0	0	0
29	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1879	21	0	0	0	0	0
30	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1880	20	0	0	0	0	0
31	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1881	19	0	0	0	0	0
32	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1882	18	0	0	0	0	0
33	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1883	17	0	0	0	0	0
34	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1884	16	0	0	0	0	0
35	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1885	15	0	0	0	0	0
36	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1886	14	0	0	0	0	0
37	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1887	13	0	0	0	0	0
38	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1888	12	0	0	0	0	0
39	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1889	11	0	0	0	0	0
40	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1890	10	0	0	0	0	0
41	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1891	9	0	0	0	0	0
42	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1892	8	0	0	0	0	0
43	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1893	7	0	0	0	0	0
44	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1894	6	0	0	0	0	0
45	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1895	5	0	0	0	0	0
46	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1896	4	0	0	0	0	0
47	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1897	3	0	0	0	0	0
48	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1898	2	0	0	0	0	0
49	Barachman, John	Head	W	M	1899	1	0	0	0	0	0
50	Barachman, Mary	Wife	W	F	1900	0	0	0	0	0	0

THE BROTHERHOOD

Honor Roll

Member Division 354

The members of Division 354 B. of L. E. and Division 316 G. I. A., and a number of invited guests, assembled at a banquet Monday evening, January 21st to honor one of the oldest members of the B. of L. E., Brother James Smithers. Just before the banquet Reverend G. H. McClung gave a very pleasing talk.

After the banquet those present retired to the B. of L. E. Hall where Brother Smithers

After firing on this road for two years, he was promoted to engineer and ran the engine for one and a half years that he had helped to set up. In 1893 he changed to the I. I. & I. railroad, which was later brought by the New York Central lines, and worked there continuously until he was pensioned in 1919.

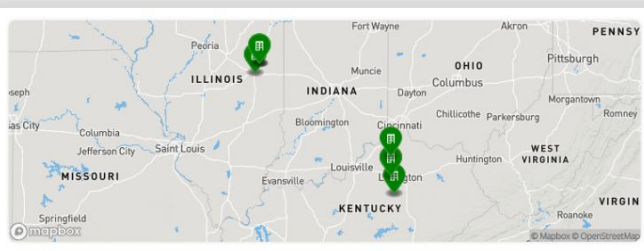
Brother Smithers first joined Division 143 at Urbana, later transferring to Division 124 at Centralia and when he came to Streator, 30 years ago, he transferred to Division 354 in which he still retains his membership.

After Brother Smithers had been presented with the gifts, the evening was very pleasantly spent with music, singing, cards, games, and dancing.

Brother Smithers is one of the oldest railroaders and suffered many hardships to help better the working conditions and bring them up to what they are today. All his friends, as well as the members of Division 354, wish him many more years of happiness and pleasure in wearing his Honorary Badge.

Veteran of Division 604

On January 3rd, Division 604 killed two birds with one stone, or in other words, it being their desire to furnish a banquet for the ladies of G. I. A. Division 396 at their annual installation of officers, as well as



Note that the name on the gravesite is Smithers without an "s". Both versions of the name were used for generations so we can not confirm which is correct, "Smither" is an occupational surname referring to someone who is as metalworker.



Benjamin Head

Edwin's 4x Paternal Great Grandfather

Benjamin Head was born in 1756 in Spotsylvania, Virginia, to his father, Alexander Spence Head and mother, Sarah Pinson.

The Head family immigrated from England in the 1600s. In addition to Head being a common surname, the same first names were used frequently, making research of direct descendants a challenge. There is much more work to be done in researching this branch of the family, but this slide includes information collected about Benjamin from various sources.

We know that Benjamin was a distinguished patriot, enlisted in the Continental Army in 1777, joining the 5th Regiment. He also served with the 1st Regiment Light Dragoons, Cavalry.

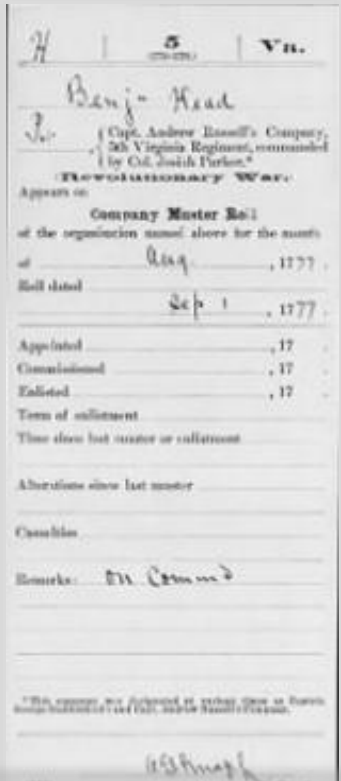
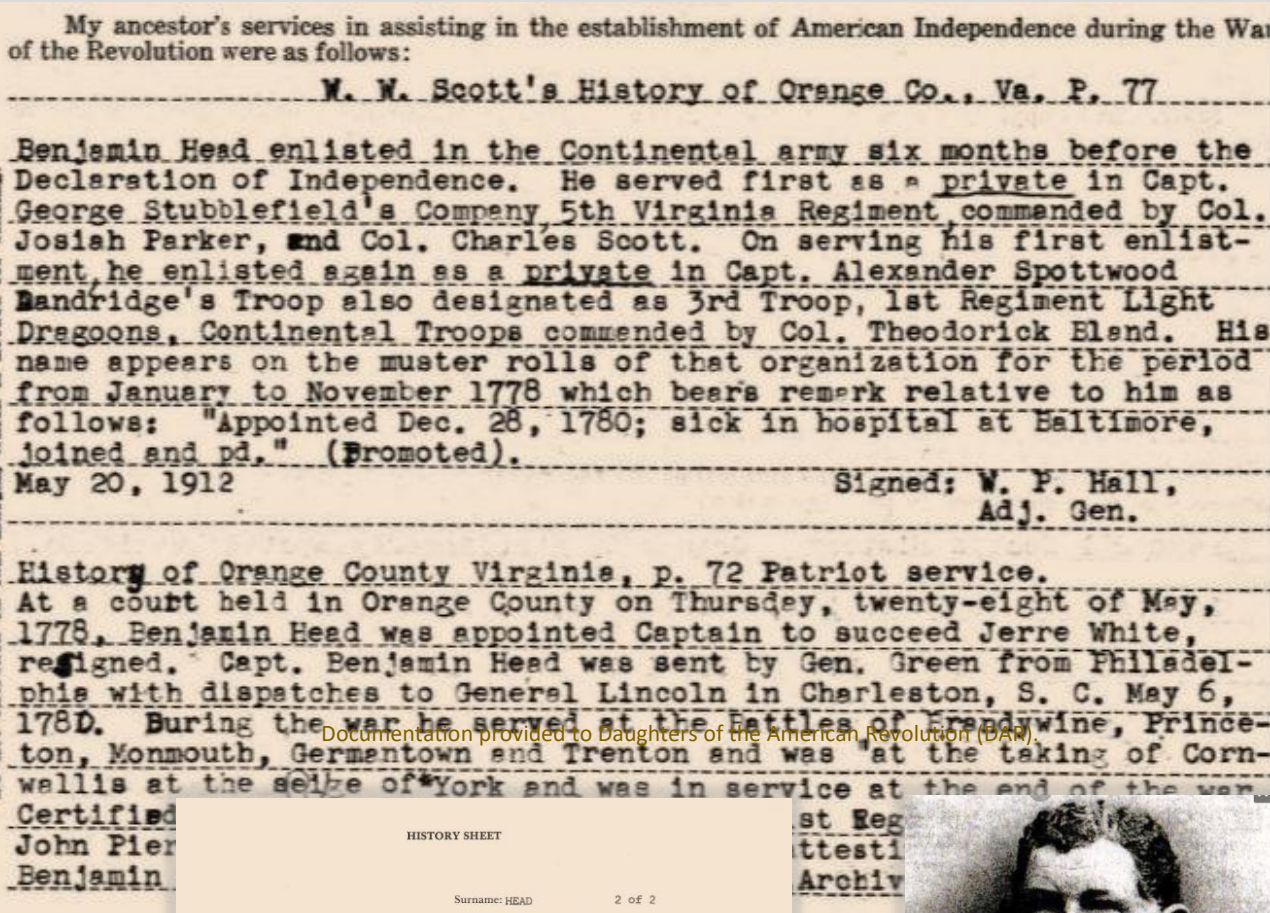
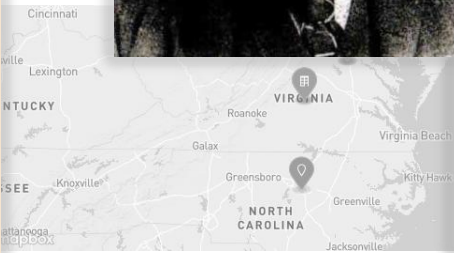
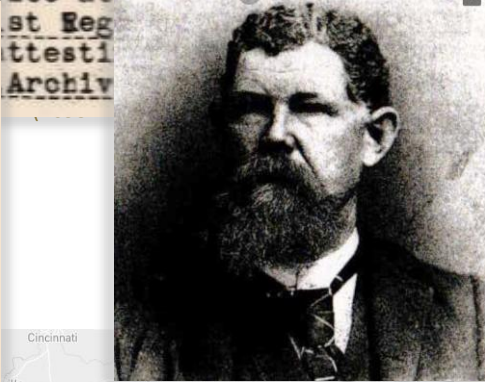
He married Mary Mildred "Milly" Long on July 19, 1785, in Culpeper, Virginia and they migrated to Kentucky in 1792 and died in 1809.

Benjamin Head was reared in Spotsylvania county, Virginia, and was a soldier in the Revolution, enlisting in 1777. He served in Col. Theoderick Bland's Regiment of Dragoons, was promoted to Captain in 1780 for bravery and good conduct, testimonials being given as to his character and bravery, and the high regard Col. Bland had for him. He was taken prisoner at Lanier's Ferry in 1780, and exchanged as prisoner of war May 6, 1781.

On October 2, 1789, his father, Alexander S. Head, and wife, Sarah, deeded him 331 acres of land in Berkeley Parish, Spotsylvania county. Joseph Head and David Head were witnesses. Benjamin sold a part of this January 7, 1791, to Edward Herndon, and purchased from Herndon part of another tract. Benjamin Head and wife, Mary, also sold land to Joseph Herndon.

Inventory of what Benjamin left behind when he died.

Benjamin Head dec ^d - inventory (extract record)					
15 Shoats	15.	1 waggon & 5 per gees	50.	65	
1 log chair	3.	5 axes	7.50	10	50
3 Sows & pigs	7.50	2 old plows	4.	11	50
6 hoes	5.	1 grubing hoe	75 cts	5	75
2 hoes	1.50	2 bells	50.	2	
1 cow & calf	10.	1 do do	10.	20	
2 Earling	7.50	Callars & 2 Scots geers	4.	11	50
1 large Iron Kettle	\$ 7.	one little oven	1.	8	
1 man saddle	\$ 4.	1 do do	\$ 4.	8	
1 Jack screw	3.	1 coopers adds	75 cts	3	75
1 Grind stone	2.	1 pr Sillards	\$ 2.	4	
1 flesh pork saddle	75 cts	3 waters Vessels	75 cts	1	50
1 pot oven & pot rack	\$ 6.	1 churn	50 cts	6	50
parcel of old pewter	\$ 4.	3 crocks	75 cts	4	75
1 whiskey barrel	75 cts				75
			Total amount	\$3438	78



Benjamin Head and Mary "Milly" Long 407

The National Society Colonial Dames of the XVII Century verified seventeenth century records for Henry Head and Frances Spence. The Society accepted the information on my papers and my sister's papers as follows:

I - Henry Head was born about 1695 and died May 5, 1765 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. He married Francis Spence, daughter of Alexander Spence. Their children were:
Henry (Harry) Head born ca 1716;
Alexander Spence Head born ca 1721;
Mildred Head born ca 1727; and
Benjamin Head born 1731.

II - Alexander Spence Head, the son of Henry Head and Francis Spence, was born ca 1721 and died after 1790 at St George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia. He married Sarah _____. Their children were:
Henry Head,
David Head,
Benjamin Head, born in 1756,
Issac Head,
James Head, and
they may have had a son, Joseph Head, and
another, Alexander Spence Head, Jr.

III - Benjamin Head, the son of Alexander Spence Head and Sarah was born in 1756 at Spotsylvania County, Virginia and died in 1808. He married, July 19, 1785 in King William County, Virginia, Mary "Milly" Long who was born in 1767 and died in 1794. She was the daughter of Bromfield Long and Sarah. Their children were:
Mary (Dolly) Head born April 14, 1787; and

Catherine King Leech

Edwin's 4x Paternal Great Grandmother

Catherine (Kate) Tedrow King was born on March 14, 1807, in Somerset, Pennsylvania, to Mary Catherine King, age 38, and Michael Tedrow, age 50.

Catherine's mother died when she was 3 days old. Her father remarried and she was mistreated by her step-mother. Fortunately, her Aunt Polly was allowed to adopt her and Catherine took the last name of King.

She lived with her Aunt Polly in Pennsylvania until 1821, when she was 14 and met Joseph Leech, who was 18. They married in 1823 and had nine children during their 22-year marriage, 6 boys and 3 girls.

Joseph died Feb 1843 at age 40, about 1 1/2 months before their youngest child was born and is buried at St. Joseph's Chapel near Little Mad River, Muskingum Co, Ohio. He was a shoemaker by trade as well as a church elder.

In 1849, single mother, Kate loaded her 9 children and belongings in a prairie wagon and headed for Illinois along with another pioneer family. After 6 weeks they arrived at Hennepin on September 15th, and she purchased 240 acres of land at \$12.00 an acre Northeast of Hennepin. She gave each of her 6 sons 40 acres.

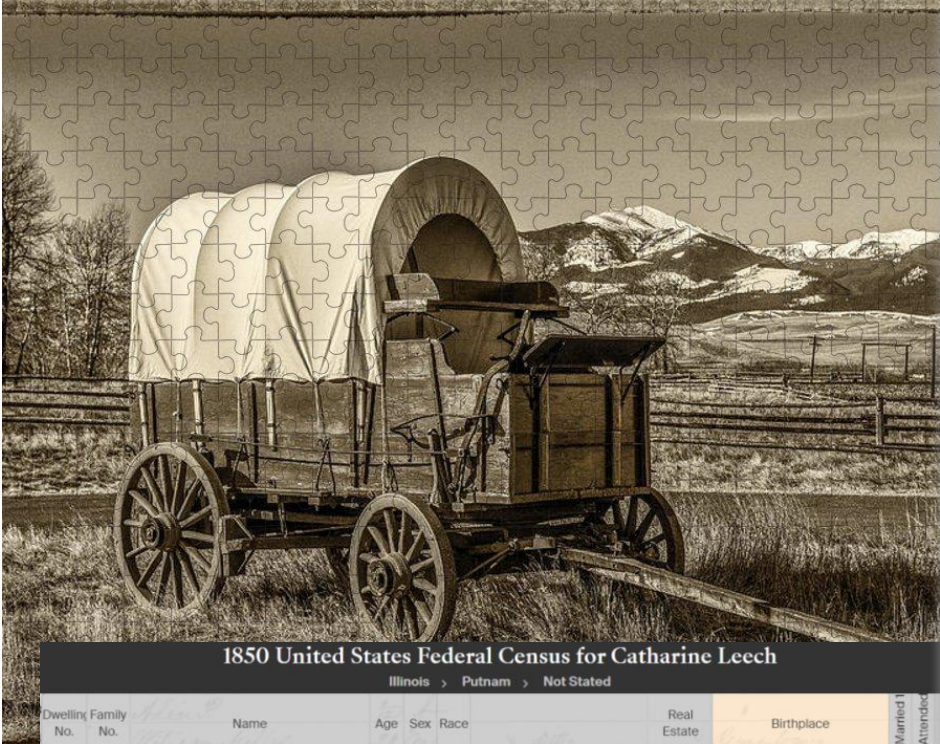
Kate died at 76 and is buried at Riverside Cemetery, Hennepin, IL.

Her son, Joseph, married Elizabeth Jerrow, and is the great-great grandfather of Edwin Smithers.

Mrs. Elizabeth Leech (nee Jerrow)
Putnam Record, October 19, 1899

Obituary- Mrs. Joseph Leech, who has been an invalid for several months, died October 12th at the age of 46. At times she suffered terribly, and many times it was thought she could not possibly survive another attack, but she lingered until October 12, when she passed peacefully to the beyond. Elizabeth Hunter Jerrow was born June 15, 1853, in County Antrim, Ireland.

At the age of 16 she came to America, locating in Putnam county, where she has since resided. She was united in marriage with Joseph Leech, March 15, 1876. To them were born three children, Katie, Thomas and Mamie.



1850 United States Federal Census for Catharine Leech									
Illinois > Putnam > Not Stated									
Dwelling No.	Family No.	Name	Age	Sex	Race	Real Estate	Birthplace	Married	Attended School
1105	1169	Catharine Leech	43	f		✓	"		
		David J.	21	m	✓ Little	✓			
		Leonard D.	19	m	✓ Little	✓	Ohio		
		Rebecca	17	f		✓	"		/
		Thomas	14	m		✓	"		/
		Frederick	11	m		✓	"		/
		Maria	9	f		✓	"		/
		John	7	m		✓	"		/
1126	1174	Alfred D. Leech	35	m	✓ Little	✓	Massachusetts		



Death certificate of Mayne (Mamie) Leech, Catherine's granddaughter, Ed's grandmother.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH Death No. 12348

1. PLACE OF BIRTH & COUNTY: LAKE HAMMOND, ILL. 2. CITY (If foreign, give name and country): HAMMOND, ILL. 3. LENGTH OF STAY: 53 YRS. 4. FULL NAME OF (If not on hospital or institution, give street address or house no.): 7451 MAGOUN AVE. 5. NAME OF DECEASED: MAYNE, FEMALE WHITE. 6. COLOR OR RACE: WHITE. 7. MARRIED: NEVER MARRIED. 8. DATE OF BIRTH: JULY 21, 1883. 9. AGE: 18 YRS. 10. USUAL OCCUPATION: HOUSEWIFE. 11. PLACE OF DEATH: HENNEPIN, ILL. 12. CITY (If foreign, give name and country): HENNEPIN, ILL. 13. FATHER'S NAME: JOSEPH H. LEECH. 14. MOTHER'S MARRIED NAME: ELIZABETH HUNTER JERROW. 15. WAS DECLARED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? NO. 16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.: 4222. 17. INFORMANT: Mary W. Winkley, Hammond, Ind. 18. CAUSE OF DEATH: Disease (Specify) - Rheumatoid arthritis. 19. DATE OF CREATION: APRIL 14, 1907. 20. PLACE OF BURIAL: ELWOOD, HAMMOND, ILL. 21. TIME (Month, Day, Year, Hour): APRIL 14, 1907, 4:00 PM. 22. ATTENDING PHYSICIAN: Dr. Winkley. 23. SIGNATURE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN: Dr. Winkley. 24. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED: (None). 25. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 26. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 27. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 28. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 29. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 30. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 31. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 32. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 33. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 34. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 35. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 36. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 37. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 38. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 39. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 40. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S NEAREST RELATIVE: (None). 41. 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Gravestones of Catherine (above) and her mother (right).