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Remembering My Grandfather, Maciej Sienkiewicz

The Family and Descendants of Maciej Sienkiewicz (Brechun)

Adolf Sienkiewicz

The Family and Descendants of Adolph Sienkiewicz (Brechun)

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Work photo of Maciej Sienkiewicz c. 1940

Remembering My Grandfather, Maciej Sienkiewicz

Recollections of Thomas J. Sienkewicz

My paternal grandfather, Maciej Sienkiewicz, died in 1957, when I was six, so I only have the vaguest memories of him. He was in declining health in those last years, in part because he had suffered a horrible accident at work and one of his arms was completely shattered. No worker's comp then! He was a factory worker all his life. He had tools in the house for tailoring and shoe repair. Apparently when the accident occurred he was working at some sort of large equipment with a large spinning belt which snapped and broke. My grandfather raised his arm to protect

his head. That is how his arm was shattered. If he hadn't raised his arm he probably would have been killed by a head injury.

He spoke only enough English to tease me and one of the things I remember most about him was the big smile he had on is face when he did.

My grandparents had a dog in the home for many years. In the 1940's they had a little white dog named Smoochy who died before I was born. The dog I remember was a black German shepherd my father

had shipped back from Germany after the



Edmund Sienkewicz, Rose Celatko Sienkewicz and Rose Sienkewicz, c.1942. Their dog Smoochie is also pictured.

war and left with his parents when he got married. My grandfather was very fond of "Blackie"



Maciej Sienkiewicz at 35 Cottage St. in Jersey City c. 1954, shortly before his accident

who was so gentle that he actually let me take food out of his mouth.

My grandparents lived in downtown Jersey City near City Hall most of their married lives, but in the early 1950's, when I was very small, they were living in a basement apartment on a street near Journal Square, near St. John's Church. This street no longer exists. It was swept away when the St. John's Apartment highrises were built. My grandparents had to move then, about 1954, to 35 Cottage St., where my grandmother became the custodian of a synagogue and my grandparents lived in a house behind the synagogue. I remember visiting the synagogue itself as well as the yeshiva and being intrigued by the Hebrew writing on the blackboard. The building complex in which this synagogue and my grandparents' home were located no longer exists. A new synagogue called Congregation Sons of Israel Nusach has replaced it.

The house was two story. On the ground floor was a large kitchen with a black wood-burning stove and a separate dining room. A door in the dining room led into the synagogue complex, first the schule and then the synagogue itself. There was indoor plumbing with a bathroom on ground floor. On the second floor there was a sitting room where my grandparents watched television. I especially remember lots of Lawrence Welk (Polkas!). I also remember watching Shirley Temple films on that little television. There were two bedrooms off the sitting room. One was my grandfather's, the other my grandmother's.



Saint Anthony Padewskiego Roman Catholic Church 457 Monmouth St Jersey City, Hudson County Saint Anthony's church was built in 1892 to serve the growing Polish population of the city, which already had more than a dozen Irish and German Catholic churches.

My grandparents were parishioners of St. Antony's of Padua Church in downtown Jersey City, New Jersey's oldest Polish parish. They were both buried from that church. I remember a priest from that parish coming to visit them in the house on Cottage St. The priest would come at least twice a year, once at Epiphany to bless the house and write K+M+B on the door, in honor of the three kings' visit (Kasper, Melchior and Balthazar). I saw the same writing on many doors in Belarus during my visit there. The priest also came on Holy

Saturday to bless the food my grandmother had laid out for the Easter Sunday meal: colored eggs, ham, salt, kielbasy, cheese, horseradish, a lamb-shaped cake and many other things I don't remember. All I do remember vividly is that the dining room

table was filled with food. On at least one occasion, a priest from St. Antony's came to bless my grandmother's apartment on the top floor of our house at 1202 Garden Street in Hoboken, where she moved after my grandfather's death.

One Easter, in 1955 or 1956, I was given a baby bunny. Since we were living in a fourth floor walk-up at the time, the bunny wound up living with my grandparents. He was there several months until he started eating book covers. After that the bunny disappeared. I was told he went to a farmer, but I suspect his fate led him to a dinner table.

I also remember my grandparents' Christmas trees, which were always decorated with bubble lights. These lights so fascinated me that I made sure that were on my own family tree as well. There was also a small nativity set under the tree which I remember playing with.

There were only a few books in my grandparents' house, but I know that they both could read and write. I remember my grandfather reading newspapers both in Polish and in English. The only book I especially remember was a copy of one of Henryk Sienkiewciz' novels. We knew that we were not related to the author but were still pleased to share his name.

There is a story about our last name. I know this story from my grandmother, not my grandfather. She said that the name was changed from the Polish surname "Sienkiewicz" to the Russian "Brechun" when the Czar's forces were coming into the village looking for Polish conscripts. She said that the priest changed all the Polish names in the parish registry to Brechun to spare everyone from the Czar. So my grandfather grew up in the old country as a Brechun, but changed his name back to Sienkiewicz when he arrived in America. The spelling of the name varied depending upon the document. The name is spelled "Senkewick" on my grandparents' marriage certificate, "Senkewicz" in his naturalization papers, and "Sienkewicz" in his obituary. On my grandparents' tombstone in Holy Name Cemetery in Jersey City the name is spelled Sienkiewicz. Even his first name varied. "Maciej" ("Matthias" in English) was his official, birth name, but this sometimes became, in English, "Macey," "Macy," or, even, "Mike" or "Michael".



Maciej Sienkiewicz with his son Edmund (aged 3?) c. 1928

Then, when my father Edmund started school, he somehow settled on the spelling "Sienkewicz" and left it that way. Although Polish was spoken in the home, neither my father nor his older sister Rose (whom he always called "Baby") ever wanted to speak Polish or know much about their heritage. My father could understand when his parents spoke to him in Polish, but refused to answer in the same language. He didn't want an accent. He wanted to be fully American.



My grandfather's US records state that he was born on February 24, 1890. He came to the United States just before the Great War. His brother Adolf also emigrated. I am not sure whether they traveled together or separately but they both wound up in the New York area. Despite all efforts, I have not been able to find any record of my grandfather's or his brother's arrival in the United States, although they almost surely landed at Ellis Island. Part of the problem here is the name. In the ship manifest and on arrival, did he use the name Brechun or some variant

Maria Liguori and Edmund R. Sienkewicz on their wedding day, June 18, 1949 with Edmund's parends, Rose and Maciej Sienkiewicz

of the name Sienkewicz? And how did the recording official spell that very exotic name? Both brothers, however, listed 1911 as their year of arrival in the United States in US Census documents.



Maciej Sienkiewicz with son Edmund (aged 5?) and daughter Rose (aged 11?), c.1930

Their witnesses were Adolf Sienkiewicz and Mary Celatko, my grandmother's mother. This event had unfortunate consequences for my grandmother because of the Expatriation Act passed by Congress in 1905, which decreed that any woman who married a non-US citizen automatically lost her citizenship. So my grandmother, who was born in Peekskill, New York, and, therefore a native-born U.S. citizen according to the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, had to reapply for citizenship.

I also remember a visit made to my grandparents' house on Cottage St. by cousins from Montreal around 1955. Justin Brechun, my grandfather's nephew, came to visit with his wife Helen. Justin was born in Udelo in 1908 and emigrated to Canada. After World War II he married Helena Poworznik. By then they had a young son, Donald, but I do not remember Donald coming for that visit. Perhaps he was left with other friends or relatives. Justin worked for the Canadian railroad for most of his life. I later visited the Brechuns in Montreal in 1968, when Donald served as my guide to the Montreal Expo.

I do not know the circumstances but my grandfather probably met my grandmother, Rose Celatko, in Richmond, (Staten Island), New York, where her father ran a tavern (according to the census of 1910). Their daughter Rose was born in 1919 but they were not actually married until two years later, when my grandfather was 34 and my grandmother was 17. They were married in Sacred Heart Church in Staten Island on January 28, 1921.

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Marriage Certificate for Maciej Sienkewick and Rose Celatko The original was mended with tape.

Their son Edmund was born on February 28, 1925. The next year, on May 27, 1926, Maciej (identified here as Macey Senkewicz) became a naturalized citizen of the United States. At the time he and his family were living at 171 Bay St. in Jersey City. (This dwelling no longer exists.) By the time of the 1930 census they were living at 204 York St. (now a vacant lot). In that census his first name is Michael and his occupation is listed as tailor. His year of immigration is recorded as 1911. His American-born wife, Rose, did not regain her American citizenship until February 19, 1941, when she submitted an "Application to Take Oath of Allegiance to the United States Under the Act of June 25, 1936." By then they were living at 252 York St. in Jersey City.

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Certificate of Naturalization for Macey Senkewicz

Copy ree FORM 2254 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

91 (2194) REP. \$ 700 DUPLICATE (To be sent to the Immigration and Naturalization Service)

APPLICATION TO TAKE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE ACT OF JUNE 25, 1936, AS AMENDED, AND FORM OF SUCH OATH

OF JUNE 25, 1936, AS AMENDED, AND FURM OF SUCH UAIH This form is for use under the Act of June 25, 1936, as amended by the Act of July 2, 1940 (Public No. 704-76th Congress), by a woman residing within or under the jurisdiction of the United States, who was a native-born citizen of the United States and who has, or is believed to have, lost United States citizenship solely by reason of marriage prior to September 22, 1922, to an alien, and whose marital status with such alien has terminated, or who has resided continuously in the United States since the date of such marriage. A woman, residing claswhere, who is otherwise qualified should take up her case with an embassy, legation, or a consular officer of the United States. The onth of allegiance prescribed herein may be administered by any naturalization court in the United States. The onth of allegiance made. This form, which constitutes the court record of the transaction, should be executed in triplicate. The original should be retained as the record of the court. The duplicate, duly certified by the clerk of court, should be forwarded to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, Washington, D. C., through the proper District Director or Divisional Director of Immigration and Naturalization on the first day of the succeeding month. The clerk of court shall furnish to the applicant, upon her demand, at a cost not exceeding \$1, a certified copy of the proceedings, under the seal of the court, including a copy of the oath administered. The triplicate copy of this form, which should be dup certified by the clerk, may be furnished to the applicant who makes such demand. If no such demand be made, the triplicate, uncertimed, shall be forwarded with the duplicate as provided above.

In the Connon Pleas	Court at Jersey City, New Jersey.
Before Lewis 3. astnead	, J., presiding.
I, Mrs. Rose Senhawlos (Give full mane)	, was born at Peakelill, New York.
	was married on
Macey Sonkewics then an alier	a citizen or subject of Poland
alien has not been terminated, Control States efficiently	solely by reason of such marriage. My marital status with such
I have resided continuously in the United States since	the date of my birth and my marriage.
Civil record of my birth: Church r	regoing facts are herewith exhibited by me:
by my husband on Feb. 19, 1941 rel	ative to my continuous residence in the
I hereby apply to take the oath of allegiance as p U. S. C., t. B, sec. 106), to become repatriated and obta	received in graties 4 states to the transformer of the second
Ers. Rose Senkewicz 252 York St	- Pose Senkewicz
Jersey City H.J. Subscribed and sworn to before me this	
	Justan Hack
[SEAL]	By Carrow Deputy
Upon consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby that the applicant named therein be repatriated as a cit the United States; and that the clerk of this court enter	ORDERED and DECREED that the above application be granted; izer of the United States, upon taking the oath of allegiance to these proceedings of record.
Dated Feb 19th 1941	wie & castineoof
OATH O	FALLEGIANCE
I hereby declare on oath, that I absolutely and enti- prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom (whice that I will support and defend the Constitution and lay and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance mental reservation or purpose of evasion; SO HELP 1 my signature.	representation of the second s
	(Signature of applicant)
The foregoing oath was administered to the applicat	it in open court this 19th day of Nob. 19.41
[SEAL]	By Low Merily, Dently,
D. S. EQUIDING PRINTING OFFICE $10{-}10669$	By and here, Deputy.
Application to Take Oath of	Allegiance for Rose Celatko Senkewicz



252 York St., Jersey City., where Maciej Sienkiewicz and his family were living c.1936.

On his draft registration card for World War II Macey Sienkewicz is listed as a worker at the Bakey's Castor Oil Factory at 90 Morgan St. in Jersey City. On this card, and nowhere else, his middle name is listed as Adolf. It also lists Rusaky as his place of birth.

In March 1957 Maciej suffered a cerebral stroke which caused him to fall and fracture his skull. He was admitted to the Jersey City Medical Center where he died on March 8.

In his obituary in the Jersey Journal he is called Macy Sienkewicz and his age is listed as 66, putting his birth in 1890. He was described as a 35-year resident of Jersey City and a member of the Polish-American Democratic Club.

EGISTRATION CARD-(Men	born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or	ORDER NUMBER
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PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)	YORK STREET J.C	Hudson. n.J.
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For many years, that was about all I knew about my grandfather and his family.

Not many photos of Maciej survive. They are all printed in this memory.



Maciej Sienkiewicz with his son Edmund at his grandson Thomas' birthday party. The girl is a classmate of Thomas. In this photo the permanent cast on Maciej's right arm is clearly visible.



Maciej and Rose Sienkiewicz at 6th birthday party for their grandson Thomas at 1235 Park Ave. in Hoboken. Also pictured is Doris Sienkewicz (aged 4). Saturday, April 28, 1956

The Family and Descendants of Maciej Sienkiewicz (Brechun)

Maciej Brechun was baptized on February 21, 1887 in Rusaki.

He emigrated to America, c.1911-12 and settled in New York / New Jersey, where he took the surname Sienkiewicz.

His daughter Rose was born on September 16, 1919,, on Staten Island.

He married Rose Celatko in Sacred Heart Church in Staten Island on January 28, 1921.

His son Edmund Raymond Sienkewicz was born on February 28, 1925 in Jersey City.

Rose Sienkewicz married John Melsopp in 1950. They had two sons: Brian, b. 12-19-1953 in Hoboken, NJ, (d. 1-28-1998) and Gary, b. c. 1955 in Hoboken, NJ.

In or about 1958, Rose and her family moved to San Bernadino, California, where she died on June 1, 2000.

Edmund Sienkewicz married Maria Frances Liguori on June 18, 1949, in St. Peter and Paul Church in Hoboken, NJ. He died on March 3, 1987, in New York City.

Their son **Thomas Jerome Sienkewicz** was born in Hoboken on April 29, 1950. He married Anne Frances Waterman on June 10, 1972, in Rockport, ME.

Their daughter Marie Kathleen was born in Washington, D.C. on July 19, 1977. Marie married Kyle Bond on May 20, 2005 in Urbana, Illinois. Their daughter Sylvia Marie was born on November 27, 2010, in McHenry, Illinois. Their daughter Phoebe Cecilia was born on June 19, 2015, in McHenry, Illinois.

Their daughter Julia Alice was born in Washington, D.C. on March 21, 1980. She married Victor M. Martinez on August 19, 2006, in Thomaston, ME. Their daughter Dorothy Ophelia was born on March 30, 2015, in Davenport, Iowa.

Their son Richard Oscar was born in Washington, D.C. on August 13, 1982. He married Jessica Zaiken on May 21, 2015, in St. Paul, MN.

Their daughter **Doris Marie** was born in Hoboken on December 22, 1951. She was a school teacher in the Hoboken Public Schools until her death on November 5, 1994.

Their daughter **Mary Beth** was born in Hoboken on October 5, 1955. She married William San Filipo on May 23, 1983 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Their daughter Tracy Halley was born on March 15, 1986, in Karatha, Western Australia.

Their son Roy Anthony was born on January 15, 1988, in Belleville, New Jersey. He married Michael Christatos on June 9, 2018 in New York City.

On September 9, 1957 they were the parents of twins, Antonia and Edmund Raymond, Jr. Edmund works at Bally's Casino in Atlantic City, NJ.

Antonia (Toni) married Steven Gallo on August 19, 1979 in Weehawken, NJ.

Their daughter Christina Marie was born on December 23, 1981, in Belleville, NJ.

Their daughter Theresa Beth was born on November 14, 1983 in Belleville, NJ. Theresa married Christopher Sevilis on May 20, 2011 in Napa Valley, California. Their son Aiden was born on

Their daughter Emma Frances was born on

Adolf Sienkiewicz

Adolf was certainly in the United States during World War I because he had a draft card on which Adolf Konstancy Sienkiewicz is listed as a bartender married to Wladyslawa and living at 371 Henderson St. in Jersey City. By the time of the 1920 census they had three daughters. According to the 1930 US Census they lived on 179 Bay St. in Jersey City, not far from my grandparents who were living then at 204 York St. According to this census they had five children, including four girls Helen, Yadwiga (Agnes), Jenny, and Mellie (actually Nellie) and a son named Igasho who died as a young child. Another son, Czelaw (Chester) son was born later that year on Sept. 18, 1920.



1920 US Census: Adolf Sienkewicz Details provided in appendix.

I never met my grandfather's brother Adolf, who died before I was born, but I did meet his wife, Wladyslawa, and many of his children. Oddly, my grandmother always referred to Wladyslawa as Mrs. Sienkiewicz, and that is how I knew her. She always dressed in black. One time I visited her apartment in Jersey City with my grandmother and especially remember the picture she had on the wall depicting the triple division of Poland.

Apparently Adolf was not a very good husband or father and eventually lived apart from his family. According to the 1940 census, they were divorced. I was told, by my grandmother, I think, that he was a skilled accordionist. Adolf was a hotel

worker on the New Jersey shore for about fifteen years before his death on April 17, 1946 in Lakewood, NJ, where he was recorded living at the time of the 1940 census. His obituary in the April 18, 1946 issue of the Asbury Park Press says that he was an employee of the Hotel Grossman who survived injuries in a crossing accident in Belmar the year before. He died at Jack's Bar and Grill while his unnamed daughter was visiting from New York.

When I was about twelve I attended the wedding reception for one of his grandchildren in Jersey City and several years ago I visited, with my sister Toni, his son Chester and his wife Theresa in their retirement home in Central Jersey. On that visit I also met their children, Richard and Theresa. Chester and Theresa were married for 71 years. For most of their lives they lived at 122 Prospect St. in Jersey City. They were life-long members of Our Lady of

Czestochowa Parish. He was employed for many years as warehouse superintendent for ACME Supermarkets. Chester died on May 20, 2017 and she followed on December 17, 2017. They had four grandchildren, Patricia, Lori, Judi and Kris and five great grandchildren. Chester's obituary lists his middle initial as J. (John).

The Family and Descendants of Adolph Sienkiewicz (Brechun)

Adolf Konstancy Sienkiewicz and his wife Wladyslawa (Lottie) had five children: Helen, Yadwiga (Agnes), Jenny, Igasho, Nellie and Czelaw (Chester).

Chester John Sienkiewicz was born on Septembr 18, 1920 in Jersey City NJ. He married Theresa D. Sienkiewicz (nee Szczepanski) in 1943. They had two children Richard John and Theresa. He died on May 20th, 2017.

Searching My Grandfather's Past

While growing up I knew very little about my grandfather's childhood and family in the old county. All I remember being told by my grandmother was that he came from "Vilnya," which I eventually figured out did not mean the city of Vilnius in what is now Lithuania but the region around Vilnius.

On a variety of US documents my grandfather's birthdate is listed as February 24, 1890. Both he and his brother Adolf listed 1911 as their year of arrival in the United States in US Census documents. He was definitely in the United States by 1919, when my aunt Rose was born, but I knew nothing about his life before that. How did he earn a living as a young man in Vilnya? Why did he decide to emigrate? Where did he get the money for his passage? From what port did he leave? When and where did he arrive in the United States? Whom did my grandfather list as his contact in the United States when he arrived? All of these questions may never be answered.

I have only two things which belonged to my grandfather, his pocket watch (which I was given when I was in high school) and the prayer book which he brought from the Old Country. My son Richard now has the pocket watch. The front of the prayer book is inscribed with this notice written in Polish and translated here into English by my Canadian cousin Donald Brechun:

Ksogara Maleza d Ljamacieja

This book Belongs to Maciej Sinkowicz, please do not in any case Please give it back, I will thank you, and I will thank that person, and give it back to the Udelo parish

Signed by priest Marsal Jancewicz

Particularly significant about this inscription is the fact that the surname Sinkowicz is used because it shows that my grandfather used this name before he came to the United States. Does this mean that my grandfather used the Polish surname even in Russia or did Fr. Jancewicz write that name knowing that my grandfather would revert to that name when he left Russia? The inscription in the prayer book is also important because it mentions that my grandfather belonged to the Udelo parish.

In my grandfather's youth, Udelo was in Czarist Russia. After World War I the area surrounding Udelo became part of the new state of Poland. In 1939, when Poland was invaded by Germany from the west and the Soviet Union from the east, Udelo came under Soviet control. It remained part of the Soviet Union until the collapse of Communism when Byelorussia or Belorussia (i.e. "White Russia"), as the country was once known, broke away from the Soviet Union in 1991 and became the independent nation known today as Belarus.





Parish life in Udelo has long centered around the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, a monument of late Baroque and Neo-classici architecture. Here in 1642 Yazep Korsak founded a Franciscan monastery. At first the buildings were wooden, but by the end of the 18th century a stone church was built. After a fire in the early 19th century, the church was significantly rebuilt in the style of late classicism. As is common in this area, the bell-tower is not attached to the church building but was built in front of the church. During the Communist period, the church was used for grain storage. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the building was reconsecrated. The inside of the church is actually very plain. There are only a few religious statues. The Franciscans

still serve this church, although the priests come as missionaries from Poland. In modern Belarus, Orthodoxy is the state religion and the Orthodox church is supported with state funds. Catholic churches receive no such public support and rely on the generosity of the parishioners. (So church collections in the United States designated for the Church in Eastern Europe fill a great need.)





The nave of the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary Udelo, Belarus, during Soviet times.

Having a paper accepted for a conference in Vilnius scheduled for May 2018 prompted me to contact my cousin Donald in Canada and we began to talk about our families and compare notes. He was uncertain exactly how we were related but I was pretty sure, based upon what I remembered, that we shared the same paternal great-grandparents and were second cousins.

The first problem was our surnames. How could a Brechun and a Sienkewicz be related through male lines? Donald, too, had heard the story of a name change in the family, but his version was different from mine. According to his family tradition, the local priest changed the name to Brechun (meaning "liar") because he was angry with one of our ancestors. Exactly how did the names get changed and why do members of the same family now have different surnames?

There were other questions. Donald has several times visited the town of Udelo, where his father Justin had been born and returned to live at the end of his life. Justin died and was buried there in 1976. On his visits to Udelo Donald had met many members of his father's family who lived in the village all their lives and none of them knew anything about other relatives in the United States. Nor did the family in Udelo remember anything about a name change until they heard it from North America. There were only Brechuns in Udelo, no Sienkiewicz living in Udelo or buried in the local cemeteries. All the relatives in Udelo were descendants of Donald's grandfather, Bronislaw Brechun.

The Meaning of the Name "Brechun"

Brechun is apparently of Russian or Ukranian origin. According to Svetlana Romanchuk, there are two versions of the name Brechun. Both have similar negative connotations:

- The nickname Brechun goes back to the verb "brechacj" "to bark, bark as a dog", "to lie, lie", "to brag", "slander", "to shout, rustle", "to swear, quarrel". Brechunom (or Brechom) in old times quite often called the shouter and also the person who speaks much, likes to embellish the story, to invent.
- 2. From 'brechacj' to tell empty.

In Czarist Russia authorities apparently referred to called a kramolnik, the rebel as a brechom.

Despite its negative meaning, Brech was a very widespread personal name given to children. At the same time Brekh could, at the discretion the individual, become his official or documentary surname.

The Meaning of the Name "Sienkiewicz"

Sienkiewicz is of Polish origin and means "son of Sienko (or little Simon)". Its patronymic form suggests that it is related to the nobility. Several variant spellings of this name are used in family records, including Sienkiewicz, Sienkewicz, Ziemkiewicz, and Zemkevich.

The Family of Bronislaw Brechun

Donald knew that his paternal grandfather Bronislaw Brechun (1875/8-1966) lived in Udelo and had four children. In addition to Justin, the oldest who emigrated to Canada, there were two other sons, Antonio and Josef, and one daughter, Anell, all of whom stayed in Udelo. Antonio married a woman named Jadwiga and they had a daughter named Donusia. During or shortly after World War II Antonio fled to Gdansk, Poland, where he married again and had a son named Ian. Donusia stayed in Udelo, married Ivan Romanchuk and had four daughters, Tanya, Valentine, Olga and Nicola. Donusia, now widowed and still in Udelo, is severely crippled by a stroke. Ian lives in Poland and has three daughters, Malgorzata, Agnieszka, and Natalia.

Josef Brechun (1912-1971) married Maria Kushnervich and had two daughters, Maria and Nina. Maria's husband is named Stanislaw. They had two children, Andrey and Valentina. Nina married Anton Brechun and they also had two children, Nicolai and Natalia.

Justin's sister, Anell, was born in 1911 and it was to Anell that Justin Brechun went from Canada to live at the end of his life. She married Justin Romanchuk and had four children, Leonid, Frank, Antonio and Elena. She died in 1984.

Anell's children all lived or still live in Udelo. Her son Leonid died in 1985 and left a wife named Sofia and two children, Anton and Valentina. Her son Frank died in 2017 and left a wife named Helena and two children, Tamara and Sasha. A third son, Anton, is still alive. His wife is named Ada and they have one daughter, Svetlana. Anell's daughter Alina married Ivan Sliski. They have one daughter, Tanya, whose husband is named Andrei. I stayed with Anton and Ada when I visited Udelo.



How Were Bronislaw Brechun and the Sienkiewicz brothers related?

The big question was how my grandfather Maciej and his brother Adolf fit or did not fit into this family.

I did have two photos which Justin sent to my grandfather. (The originals are now in the possession of his son Donald.) On one photo, dated, July 9, 1931, he wrote in Latin script a mix of Polish and Russian phonetic words translated as "I am sending my photograph for your keepsake to my beloved grandpa. J.Brechun" On the second photo he wrote "I am sending you my photograph in remembrance. Justyna Brechun." The word used for Grandpa could really mean uncle, so this was yet another suggestion that my grandfather was the uncle of Donald's father Justin, and therefore the brother of Bronislaw Brechun of Udelo.



The post card in the interest of the second of the second

Translation of inscription

July 9, 1931. I am sending my photograph for your keepsake to my beloved grandpa.

J.Brechun

Justin Brechun (I) and Boleslaw Los (r.), who also came from Belarus, from a village near the town of Vitebsk. They were good lifelong friends in Canada.

Posytan swoju Fatografiju na d'Eugu pamiec Justyn. Brechun



Justyna Brechun

I also had an important piece of information in my possession: my grandparents' marriage certificate which included the names of my grandfather's parents, Joseph Sienkiewicz and Appelone Simko. This information proved to be the missing link we needed. Donalt send those names to Svetlana Romanchuck in Belarus who checked records in Minsk, where reference to the marriage of Joseph to Appelone was recorded. At the time of his marriage in 1870, Joseph's surname was recorded as Ziemkiewicz but four years later, when the birth of their daughter Jadviga was recorded, it was Brechun. Their son Maciej (my grandfather) was born on February 21, 1887, in the little village of Rusaki, a few kilometers from Udelo, where the Catholic Church is located. The record lists his surname as Brechun, not Sienkewicz.

So we finally had not only firm proof of the name change, but we now knew that it occurred between 1870 and 1874. However, we may never know exactly why the change occurred or why the two brothers who emigrated, born as Brechun, changed their names to Sienkiewicz after they arrived in the United States.

Furthermore, records were also found recording the death of Joseph in 1908 and then the death of Appelone in 1912, with three sons listed Bronislaw, Maciej and Adolf, plus a daughter, Jadviga. In other documents we were able to trace Joseph's birth back to c.1850 and learned that his father's name was Felix, born on February 1, 1823.

One puzzling feature of these documents is that my grandfather's baptismal date is listed as February 21, 1887 while his birthdate is recorded in U.S. documents as February 24, 1890.

February 24th is the feast day of St. Maciej (Matthias in English), so my grandfather may have preferred to celebrate his name day instead of his birthday. The discrepancy in the year is more mysterious. Could the difference in dates be due in part to the fact that the Julian calendar was still used in Russia at that time? But there is also a three year difference between these records.

Apparently Adolf and Maciej emigrated to the United State in 1911, three years after the death of their father and a year before their mother died. Why did they emigrate? Perhaps their elder brother Bronislaw inherited the family house in Rusaki. With no future in the village and the area under the harsh rule of Czarist Russia, the two brothers emigrated. It is unclear whether they left together or separately but the two brothers definitely lived in close proximity when they arrived in New York.

Although my grandfather fortunately stayed in touch with his nephew Justin Brechun in Montreal, no one in Maciej's or Adolf's families ever talked about contacts in the Old Country. Similarly, while the family of Bronislaw stayed in contact with Justin, Bronislaw's son, no one in Udelo had any memory of Bronislaw's two brothers who emigrated to the United States. The turmoil caused by two World Wars and many political changes would certainly have discouraged such contact. Whatever the reasons for this break in communication during the 20th century, it is rewarding to have restored that broken contact a century later. I am very grateful to my Canadian cousin Donald Brechun for his help in restoring all these family connections.

The Bre(c)hun / Ziemkiewicz / Brechun Family of Rusaki

Here is a summary of family records preserved in Minsk, Belarus (provided in appendix). Thanks to Svetlana Romanchuk for researching this information.

Note: Since the dates below come from documents recorded in Czarist Russia, they are probably based upon the Julian calendar. To determine the date according to the Gregorian calendar, add 11 days, so February 5, 1806 would be February 16, 1806.

Josef Brehun

On February 5, 1806, **Josef Brehun**, a young man, and **Elisabeta Brekhunovna**, peasants from the village of Rusaki were married. Their daughter, Ursula, was baptized on November 3, 1806. She died on August 16, 1807. Their daughter Margaret was baptised on August 18, 1808 (and probably died in 1815-16). A daughter named Josaphat was born on March 4, 1811. A son named Stanislav was baptised on November 6, 1813. A son named Alexander was baptized on April 10, 1815.

On June 16, 1818 their daughter named Antonia was baptized. But now the parents bear the surname Zemkevich instead of Brehun. So a change of surname from Brehun to Zemkevich occurred sometime between 1815 and 1818.

Felix Ziemkiewicz (or Zemkevich)

On February 1, 1823 Felix, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ziemkiewicz, was baptized.

On November 9, 1841 The peasant Felix Zemkevich, a young man of 20 years old from the village of Rusakov and Iozofata Zemkevich, a girl of 19 years old from the village of Shoti, were married.

Their son Joseph Ziemkiewicz (later Brechun) was born c.1850.

Joseph Ziemkiewicz (or Zenkevich, later Brechun)

On October 25, 1870, the peasants Iosif Zenkevich, a young man of 20 years old from the village of Rusakov, married Apolion Shimkovna (Appolone Siemko), a girl of 18 years. Parents of the groom: peasants Felix and Iozefat from Zenkevichi Zenkevichi, lawful spouses.

Four years later, on December 27, 1874, when their child Ludwig a(Yadviga), was baptized, the parents are referred to as Joseph and Apolonia from Shimkov Brekhunov, lawful spouses born in the village of Rusak.

So a second name change (from Ziemkiewicz/Zenkevich to Brekhun) occurred sometime between 1870 and 1874.

Their son **Bronislaw** was baptized on January 7, 1878 in Rusaki (died in Udelo in 1966) Their daughter Frantishka was baptized on October 7 1880 in Rusaki (died January 2, 1882) Their son **Adolph** was baptized on January 1, 1883 in Rusaki (emigrated to America, c.1911-12. died April 17, 1946, in Lakewood, NJ)

Their son Dioniziy was baptized on June 24, 1885 in Rusaki (died January 23, 1886) Their son **Maciej** was baptized on February 21, 1887 in Rusaki. (emigrated to America, c.1911-12; died March 8, 1957 in Jersey City, NJ)

Their son Zenon was baptized on December 7, 1889 in Rusaki (died March 15, 1890) Their daughter Emilia, was baptized on October 17, 1891 in Rusaki (died December 2, 1892) Their daughter Marianna was baptized on April 30, 1894 in Rusaki (probably dead by 1908) Their son Yctin was baptized on August 25, 1896 in Rusaki (probably dead by 1908) Joseph died on March 31, 1908. His survivors included his wife Appolone, three sons, Bronislaw, Adolf, and Maciej and his daughter Jadviga. Since no mention of Marianna and Yctin are mentioned in the death notice, they must have died earlier although their deaths are not included in the Minsk records.

Appolone Brechun died January 16, 1912. The same children are listed as her survivors.

Since there is no memory of Jadviga within the family in Udelo, she may have died during the Great War (1914-1918) or its aftermath (which must have been a difficult time in the area around Udelo), and no written record of her death was made. But some relatives with a different surname lived in Luck-Mosarski. Bronislaw's sister may have married and changed her name to either Girstun or Dulinec. Further research needs to be done in that regard.

Bronislaw stayed in Rusaki/Udelo and kept the name Brechun.

Adolf and Maciej took the name Sienkiewicz when they emigrated to the United States, c.1911.

The Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth

The Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, a federation of the Polish Kingdoms and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, resulted from the Lublin union in 1569 and included territories of modern Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania as well as parts of modern Russia, Latvia and Moldova. This map of the Commonwealth of the year 1650, shows that it at that time it was the largest empire in Europe. The Commonwealth was liquidated in 1795 with the partition of the state between Russia, Prussia and Austria. Wilno province where Rusaki is located became part of Czarist Russia. When Justin Brechun would fill out forms in Canada, he would always say he was born in Wilno province, Poland. Maciej Sienkiewicz also said he was from Vilnya.





This map shows the Grans Duchy of Lithuania, which was part of the Commonwealth. Rusaki was part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, The yellow color indicates the Kingdom of Poland part of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth also included all of today's Western Ukraine. During one of his visits to Belarus, Donald Brechun visited a woman who mentioned that there were many people by the name Brechun in western Ukraine! Svetlana Romanchuk has also spoken to this woman who suggested that the name Brekhuna appeared (extended) in our area after the revolt of Bogdana Chmelnickogo in 1651-1654. This revolt (called in the Soviet and modern Russian historiography the National liberation war of Bogdan Khmelntsky and Liberating war of Ukrainian and Belorusskogonarod was a large-scale armed revolt of Cossacks of Army Zaporizhia, supported by peasants and citizens, against the government of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. These forces captured lands of the Kiev, Chernihiv, Bratslavsky and Podolsk voivodeships of Corona Polskaya and also the Smolensk, Minsk, Beresteysky and Mstislavsky voivodeships of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. It was conducted under the slogans of release from social, national and religious oppression. This revolt is the subject of *With Fire and Sword* (*Ogniem i mieczem*, 1884), the first book in Henryk Sienkiewicz' famous historical trilogy. In Sienkiewicz' novel Khmelnytsky is called Hmyelnitzki and received a somewhat negative portrayal as a rebel fighting against the Commonwealth and Sienkiewicz' Polish and Lithuanian heroes. Svetlana Romanchuk notes that the uprising affected the province of Wilno and hypothesizes that some of Bogdan Khmelnytsky's Cossacks could have settled in the village and given the name Brechun to our ancestors. For example, a Cossack may have fallen in love with and married a local peasant woman.

After the Partition of 1795

The years following the partition of 1795 were difficult ones.

It is possible that the ancestral Brechuns started in western Ukraine, somewhere around Lwow (Lviv). The history of Lwow (Lviv) shows there was much poverty for the peasants, and that there was a great migration by the peasants to other parts of Europe in the 1800s. So, our ancestors could have started in western Ukraine and migrated to Wilno (Belarus).

The earliest known record of a Brehun in Russaki is when Josef Brehun, a young man, and Elisabeta Brekhunovna, peasants from the village of Rusaki were married on February 5, 1806. By June 16, 1818, when their daughter named Antonia was baptized, their surname has changed to Zemkevich instead of Brehun. This period was a tumultuous one. Napoleon led his disastrous March to Moscow through the area in 1812 and was received enthusiastically as a liberator.

It is also known that the village of Rusaki at some point became the property of the church under the jurisdiction of a bishop named Zenkiewicz. So the name change from Josef Brehun to Josef Zenkevich around 1818 may be religious in origin. Information from the Lithuanian archives shows that the name change probably occured occurred during the tenure of the village monastery in Rusaki Udzel. If the name Brechun (Liar) is a result of the uprising of Bohdan Khmelnytsky, the Cossacks were mostly Orthodox. Orthodoxy was and is still the dominant religion in a large part of modern Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. Perhaps the change of name to Senkevich was made in order to bring the peasants to the Catholic Church, because Senkevich is a more Polish name.

The second name change (from Ziemkiewicz/Zenkevich to Brekhun) occurred sometime between 1870 and 1874 and is more difficult to explain. It may be connected with events following Tsar Alexander 's decree of 1865 freeing serfs from the landowners. This liberation did not happen right away, as news travelled slowly. In many localities the peasants refused to believe that the Tsar's manifesto was genuine. There were often troubles, and troops had to be called in to disperse the angry crowds. Although the free peasants could obtain a grant of land, they had to pay tax on this land. So all the grain and crops went to pay the tax, leaving the peasants almost starving. In many localities there were revolts of the peasants against the tax and against the authorities. (See *Pushkarev, Sergei G (April 1968). "The Russian Peasants' Reaction to the Emancipation of 1861". Russian Review*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell. 27 (2): 199–214.) Many peasants were imprisoned for as agitators and troublemakers – and this is, perhaps, where Justin Brechun's story of a name change makes sense, that the name was changed to Brechun to indicate that it was a family of troublemakers.

The other family version, remembered by the family of Maciej Sienkiewicz, can also make some sense in this context. During these tumultuous times there may have been a fear among the local peasants of conscription by the Czarist government and the local priest may have forged name changes from Polish to Russian to protect the villages from such forced labor.

But why were the Sienkiewicz brothers known by this Polish name in the United States when they were baptized as Brechun in Rusaki? The answer may lie in religious and ethnic loyalty. Although the Russian authorities in the Belarusian lands wanted to strangle and destroy everything Polish, for their own safety and to establish power on the conquered land they were afraid of uprisings. Even in Orthodox Russia the authorities simply could not take away the Polish name Senkevich and replace with a Russian name like Brehun.

So, in whatever way and for whatever reason the name was changed from Senkevich to Brechun officially in 1870-1874. the Church in Udzelo remained Catholic and the priests and the people remembered the name Senkevich. This explains the inscription on the page of Maciej Sienkiewicz's prayer book. Only by adherence to the Catholic faith can the assumption of the name Sienkiewicz by Adolf and Macej Brechun make sense as they left Rusaki for the United States.

But their brother Bronislaw remained in Czarist Rusaki, had to obey the authorities, and could not retake the name Senkevich. He had to put up with the name, which was imposed by the authorities.

So it seems that our family name started as Brechun, was changed to Zenkiewicz, and then changed back to Brechun. The Brechuns who emigrated to the United States changed their names to Sienkiewicz even though they had been baptized as Brechun while the Brechuns who remained in Rusaki/Udello kept that name.

Donald Brechun created this genealogy before more detailed family research in 2018 traced family records back to Bronislaw's parents and confirmed the connection between the Brechuns and the Sienkewicz branches.



United States Census, 1920

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United States Census, 1930

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	Yadwiga Szinkewicz Daughter Женс	ский 13 New Jersey			
	Jennie Szinkewicz Daughter Женс	ский 10 New Jersey			
	Igasho Szinkewicz Son Мужс	ской 8 New Jersey			
	Mellie Szinkewicz Daughter Женс	ский 7 New Jersey			
	Anton Romanczuk Boarder Мужс	ской 35 Poland			
	Stefanie Romanczuk Boarder Женс	ский 23 Poland			

United States Census, 1940





Дэпартамент па архівах і справаводству Міністэрства юстыцыі Рэспублікі Беларусь

Дзяржаўная ўстанова «Нацыянальны гістарычны архіў Беларусі»

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Департамент по архивам и делопроизводству Министерства юстиции Республики Беларусь

Государственное учреждение «Национальный

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Романчуку А.У.

ул. Молодежная, 29 д. Удело Глубокского р-на Витебской обл.

АРХИВНАЯ СПРАВКА

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В архивных фондах «Минская римско-католическая консистория», «Могилевская римско-католическая консистория» выявлены следующие сведения, относящиеся к генеалогии лиц по фамилии Брехун (Зенкевич, Земкевич), проживавших в д. Русаки Дисненского уезда Виленской губернии (в настоящее время - д. Русаки Уделовского с/с Глубокского района Витебской области Республики Беларусь), за 1806-1847, 1870-1928 гг.:

Записи в метрических книгах о родившихся, бракосочетавшихся и умерших по Удельскому костелу Дисненского уезда Виленской губернии за 1806-1847, 1870-1928 гг., где указано:

5 февраля 1806 г. бракосочетались крестьяне из д. Русаки Иозеф (Josephus) Брехун (Brechun) юноша и Елисабета (Elisabetha) Брехуновна (Brechunowna) девица. Свидетели: Симон Ярковец и Казимир Брехун. Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 15. Л. 16. Перевод с латинского.

3 ноября 1806 г. крещен ребенок по имени Урсула (Ursula), дочь крестьян из д. Русаки Иосифа (Josephi) и Елисабеты (Elisabetha) Брехунов (Brechunow). Восприемники: Игнатиус Брехун и Анна Суховейкова. Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 14. Л. 60. Перевод с латинского.

16 августа 1807 г. умерла в д. Русаках крестьянка в возрасте 1 года Урсула Брехуновна. Похоронена на Удзяльском приходском кладбище. Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 16. Л. 22. Перевод с латинского.

18 октября 1808 г. крещен ребенок по имени Маргарита (Margaritha), дочь крестьян из д. Русаки Иосифа (Josephi) и Елисабеты (Elisabetha)

Брехунов (Brechunow). Восприемники: Иосиф Романчук и София Лукианова.

Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 14. Л. 66. Перевод с латинского.

* 8 февраля 1815 г. умерла в д. Русаках крестьянская девочка в возрасте 9 лет Маргарита Брехуновна. Похоронена на Удзяльском приходском кладбище. Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 16. Л. 32 об. Перевод с латинского; 10 октября 1816 г. умерла в д. Русаках крестьянская девочка в возрасте 9 лет Маргарита Брехуновна. Похоронена на Удзяльском приходском кладбище. Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 16. Л. 35. Перевод с латинского.

4 марта 1811 г. крещен ребенок по имени Иосафата (Josaphata), дочь крестьян из д. Русаки Иосифа (Josephi) и Елисабеты (Elisabetha) Брехунов (Brechunow). Восприемники: Тадеус Суховейко и Анна Брехунова. Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 14. Л. 77. Перевод с латинского.

6 ноября 1813 г. крещен ребенок по имени Станислав (Stanislaus), сын крестьян из д. Русаки Иосифа (Josephi) и Елисабеты (Elisabetha) Брехунов (Brechunow). Восприемники: Антониус Романовский и Марианна Дзиванова.

Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 14. Л. 88. Перевод с латинского.

10 апреля 1815 г. крещен ребенок по имени Александр (Alexander), сын крестьян из д. Русаки Иосифа (Josephi) и Елисабеты (Elisabetha) Брехунов (Brechunow). Восприемники: Федор Крывионек и Марианна Брехунова.

Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 14. Л. 94 об. Перевод с латинского.

16 июня 1818 г. крещен ребенок по имени Антонина (Antonina), дочь крестьян из д. Русаки Иосифа (Josephi) и Елисабеты (Elisabetha) Земкевичов (Ziemkiewiczow). Восприемники: Теодор Крывионек и Марианна Земкевичова.

Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 14. Л. 107 об. Перевод с латинского.

1 февраля 1823 г. крещен ребенок по имени Феликс (Felix), сын крестьян из д. Русаки Иосифа (Josephi) и Елисабеты (Elisabeth) Земкевичов (Ziemkiewiczow). Восприемники: Тадеус Суховейко и Ангела Земкевичовна.

Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 14. Л. 136. Перевод с латинского.

№ 13. 9 ноября 1841 г. бракосочетались крестьянин Феликс Земкевич юноша лет 20 из деревни Русаков и Иозафата Земкевичовна девица лет 19, из деревни Шоти, оба Удзяльскаго прихода. Свидетели: Павел Романчук, Стефан Земкевич, Винцент Земкевич и многие другие. Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 15. Л. 99 об. Перевод с польского.
№ 3. 1847 г. 20 января родился в Русаках, 25 января крещен ребенок по имени Аполония, дочь крестьян Феликса и Иозафаты Земкевичов. Восприемники: Иозеф Земкевич с Иозафатой Романчуковой. Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 14. Л. 282. Перевод с польского.

№ 3. 1847 г. 20 января родился в Русаках, 25 января крещен ребенок по имени Аполония, дочь крестьян Феликса и Иозафаты Земкевичов. Восприемники: Иозеф Земкевич с Иозафатой Романчуковой. Ф. 937. Оп. 6. Д. 14. Л. 282. Перевод с польского.

№ 14. 25 октября 1870 г. бракосочетались крестьяне Иосиф Зенкевич, юноша 20 лет, из деревни Русаков с Аполиониею Шимковною, девицею 18 лет, из деревни Сапелина, обое сего [Удзяльскаго] прихода. Родители: жениха – крестьяне Феликс и Иозефата из Зенкевичей Зенкевичи, законные супруги; невесты – крестьяне Иосиф и Петронеля из Суховейков Шимки законные супруги. Свидетели: Фома Лось, Климент Шимко, Стефан Юстын, Юстын Романчуков и другие. Ф. 1781. Оп. 37. Д. 12. Л. 508 об.

№ 1. 27 декабря 1874 г. родился в деревне Русаках, 1 января 1875 г., крещен ребенок по имени Людвига, дочь кре[стьян] Иосифа и Аполонии из Шимков Брехунов законных супругов. Восприемники: кре[стьяне] Иосиф Лось и Аполиония Фомы Лося супруга. Ф. 1781. Оп. 37. Д. 21. Л. 534 об. – 535.

№ 13. 7 января 1878 г. родился в деревне Русаках, 19 января крещен ребенок по имени Бронислав, сын крестьян Осипа и Аполонии урожденной Шимковны Брехунов законных супругов. Восприемники: Осип Лось с Кристиною Андрея Романчука супругою.

Дописано: Zawarł związek małż. z Marją Sokółko w Mosarzu d. 28/XII 1932 r.

Ф. 1781. Оп. 37. Д. 27. Л. 473 об. – 474.

№ 16. 12 ноября 1878 г. бракосочетались крестьяне Антон Земкевич юноша 23 лет из деревни Шоцев с Михалиною Лосевною девицею лет 20, из деревни Русаков, оба Удзяльскаго прихода. Родители: жениха крестьяне Иосиф и Анна урожденная Суховейковна Земкевичи законные супруги; невесты - крестьяне Мартин и Цецылия урожденная Шимковна Лоси законные супруги. Свидетели: Осип Земкевич, Фома Петраго, Каетан Солодкий, Бернард Ярковец, Исидор Лось и другие. Ф. 1781. Оп. 37. Д. 27. Л. 498.

№ 13. 4 ноября 1879 г. бракосочетались временно отпускной младший ветеринарный фельдшер Станислав Земкевич по билету Брехун юноша 32 лет из деревни Русаков с крестьянкою Розалиею Шимковною девицею лет 20, из деревни Сапелина, оба Удзяльскаго прихода. Родители: жениха – крестьяне Алексей и Мария урожденная Ярковцовна Земкевичи или Брехуны законные супруги; невесты - крестьяне Станислав и Петронеля урожденная Лосевна Шимки законные супруги. Свидетели: Клементий Шимка, Осип Земкевич или Брехун, Франц Романчук, Андрей Шимка, Игнатий Лось и другие.

Ф. 1781. Оп. 37. Д. 30. Л. 289 об.

№ 101. 7 октября 1880 г. родился в деревне Русаках, 9 октября крещен ребенок по имени Францишка, дочь крестьян Удзяльскаго общества Осипа и Аполонии урожденной Шимковны Брехунов законных супругов. Восприемники: Осип Лось с Францишкою Осипа Солодкаго супругою.

Ф. 1781. Оп. 37. Д. 32. Л. 570 об. – 571.

№ 1. 1 января 1882 г. умерла от чирея в д. Русаках Францишка, дочь крестьян Осипа и Аполонии урожденной Шимковны Брехунов в возрасте 1 года. Похоронена 3 января 1882 г. на Удзяльском приходском кладбище. Ф. 1781. Оп. 37. Д. 36. Л. 747 об.

№ 7. 1 января 1883 г. родился в деревне Русаках, 3 января крещен ребенок по имени Адольф, сын крестьян Удзяльскаго общества Осипа и Аполонии урожденной Шимковны Брехунов законных супругов. Восприемники: Осип Лось с Аполониею Фомы Лося супругою. Ф. 1781. Оп. 37. Д. 37. Л. 492 об. – 493.

№ 68. 24 июня 1885 г. родился в деревне Русаках, 27 июня крещен ребенок по имени Дионизий, сын крестьян Удзяльскаго общества Осипа и Аполонии урожденной Шимковны Брехунов законных супругов. Восприемники: Иван Брехун с Аполониею Фомы Лося супругою. Ф. 1781. Оп. 37. Д. 41. Л. 112 об. – 113.

№ 4. 23 января 1886 г. умер от оспы в д. Русаках Дионизий, сын крестьян Иосифа и Аполонии урожденной Шимковны Брехунов в возрасте 2 лет. Похоронен 2 января 1886 г. на Удзяльском приходском кладбище.

Ф. 1781. Оп. 37. Д. 44. Л. 403 об.

№ 29. 21 февраля 1887 г. родился в деревне Русаках, 28 февраля крещен ребенок по имени Мацей, сын крестьян Верхнянской волости

- и су Ф. 1781. Оп. 52. Д. 10. Л. 365 об. – 366.
- Φ Φ

Алфавитный список метрик о родившихся по Удельскому римскокатолическому приходскому костелу за 1908 г.*, где указано:

№ 67. Брехун Юстын, сын Бронислава.

кр же бул врежун гостын, сын вропненави. * Метрическая книга о родившихся по Удельскому костелу за 1908 г. сохранилась фрагментарно. Запись о рождении Юстына Брехуна не сохранилась.

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Ф. 1781. Оп. 52. Д. 22. Л. 802 об.

№ 16. 31 марта 1908 г. скончался от чахотки в дер. Русаках Осип феликсов Брехун в возрасте 58 лет. Оставил вдову Аполонию ур. Шимко, детей Бронислава, Адольфа, Матвея и Ядвигу. Похоронен 2 апреля на удзяльском приходском кладбище.

Ф. Ф. 1781. Оп. 52. Д. 22. Л. 812 об. "

№ 71. 30 июля 1910 г. родился в деревне Русаках, 2 августа крещен ребенок по имени Анеля, дочь крестьян Верхнянской волости Бронислава и Каролины ур. Гуменник Брехунов законных супругов. Восприемники: крестьяне Адольф Гуменник и Людвика Лавринович ж. Осипа.

же * Дописано: Zawarła związek małżeński z Justynem Romanczukiem w Udziale 29/V 1934 г.; ПЩ Ф. 513287 2/II-55 г.

Ф. 1781. Оп. 52. Д. 24. Л. 823 об. – 824.

№ 4. 16 января 1912 г. скончалась от старости в д. Русаках крестьянка Верхнянской волости вдова Аполлония ур. Шимко Брехун, в возрасте 61 года. Оставила детей: Бронислава, Адольфа, Мальвину и Ядвигу. Похоронена 18 января на Удельском приходском кладбище.
Ф. 1781. Оп. 52. Д. 26. Л. 829 об.

кр

Ос № 68. 20 июня 1912 г. родился в деревне Русаках, 30 июня крещен зан ребенок по имени Осип, сын крестьян Верхнянской волости Бронислава и Лс Каролины ур. Гуменник Брехунов законных супругов. Восприемники: *7 Антон Шимко и Констанция Лось.

- Ф. * Дописано: Zawarł związek małżeński z Marją Kusznierewicz w Mosarzu 25 d. II 1936 г.; Выслано повт. свид. о рождении IV ПЯ№544859 в Глубокское р/б ЗАГС 8/IV 1971 г.
 Ф. 1781. Оп. 52. Д. 26. Л. 811 об. – 812.
- кр

Ос № 67. 15 октября 1916 г. родился в деревне Русаках, 22 октября суг крещен ребенок по имени Антон, сын крестьян Верхнянской волости Бронислава и Каролины из Гуменников Брахунов законных супругов. Восприемники: Игнатий Лось и Ядвига Лавринович жена Иосифа. Ф. 1781. Оп. 52. Д. 36. Л. 213 об. – 214.

№ 11. 25 марта 1928 г. умерла от туберкулеза легких и язвы желудка в д. Русаки Каролина Брехун, дочь Иосифа и Каролины Гуменников в возрасте 48 лет. Оставила после себя мужа Бронислава 49 лет, сыновей: Юстина 19, Иосифа 15, Антония 11 и дочь Анелю 16 лет. Похоронена 26 марта 1928 г. на Удзяльском приходском кладбище. Ф. 1781. Оп. 52. Д. 73. Л. 17.

Одновременно сообщаем, что при просмотре выборочно сохранившихся метрических книг о родившихся, бракосочетавшихся и умерших за 1797-1848, 1865-1931 гг. по Удельскому костелу Вилейского уезда Виленской губернии других сведений о запрашиваемых лицах не выявлено.

Метрических книг о родившихся, бракосочетавшихся и умерших по Удельскому костелу за 1849-1864 гг. в архиве на хранении не имеется.

Рекомендуем обращаться в Литовский государственный исторический архив (Mindaugo g. 8, LT-03107, Vilnius), по месту хранения основного комплекса документов по территории Виленской губернии.

Дире

Д.В.Яцевич

Рассказова 286 76 92 04-06/109, Романчук А.У.

Sent from Svetlana Romanchuk in Minsk, Belarus

05.02.1806г. поженились крестьяне из деревни Русаки Иозеф Брехун юноша и Елисабета Брехуновна девица.

05.02.1806 The peasants from the village of Rusaki, Josef Brehun, a young man, and Elisabeta Brekhunovna, were married.

03.11.1806 крещен ребенок по имени Урсула, дочь крестьян из деревни Русаки Иосифа и Елисабеты Брехунов. Свидетели Игнатиус Брехун и Анна Суховейкова. (умерла 16.08.1807).

03/11/1806 A child was baptized named Ursula, the daughter of a peasant from the village of Rusaki Joseph and Elizabeth Brekhunov. Witnesses Ignatius Brehun and Anna Sukhoveykova. (died 08.16.1807).

18.10.1808 крещен ребенок по имени Маргарита, дочь крестьян из деревни Русаки Иосифа и Елисабеты Брехунов. Свидетели Иосиф Романчук и София Лукианова. (предположительно умерла в 1815-1816 годах).

18/10/1808 a child was baptized named Margaret, daughter of peasants from the village of Rusaki Joseph and Elizabeth Brekhunov. Witnesses Joseph Romanchuk and Sophia Lukianova. (presumably died in the years 1815-1816).

04.03.1811 крещен ребенок по имени Иосафата, дочь крестьян из деревни Русаки Иосифа и Елисабеты Брехунов. Свидетели **Тадеус Суховейко и Анна Брехунова**.

04/03/1811 A child was baptized by the name of Josaphat, a daughter of peasants from the village of Rusaki Joseph and Elizabeth Brekhunov. Witnesses Tadeus Sukhoveyko and Anna Brekhunova

06.11.1813 крещен ребенок по имени Станислав, дочь крестьян из деревни Русаки Иосифа и Елисабеты Брехунов. Свидетели Антониус Романовский и Марианна Дзиванова.

06/11/1813 a child was baptized named Stanislav, the daughter of peasants from the village of Rusaki Joseph and Elizabeth Brekhunov. Witnesses Antonius Romanovsky and Marianna Dzivanova.

10.04.1815 крещен ребенок по имени Александр, дочь крестьян из деревни Русаки Иосифа и Елисабеты **Брехунов**. Свидетели **Федор Крывионек и Марианна Брехунова**.

10/04/1815 a child was baptized named Alexander, the daughter of a peasant from the village of Rusaki Joseph and Elizabeth Brekhunov. Witnesses Fedor Kryvionek and Marianna Brehunova.

16.06.1818 крещен ребенок по имени Антонина, дочь крестьян из деревни Русаки Иосифа и Елисабеты Земкевичов. Свидетели Теодор Крывионек и Марианна Земкевичова.

16/06/1818 a child was baptized named Antonina, the daughter of peasants from the village of Rusaki Joseph and Elizabeth Zemkevich. Witnesses Theodore Kryvionek and Marianna Zemkevichova.

01.02.1823 крещен ребенок по имени Феликс, дочь крестьян из деревни Русаки Иосифа и Елисабеты Земкевичов. Свидетели Тадеус Суховейко и Ангела Земкевичовна.

01/02/1823 a child was baptized named Felix, the daughter of a peasant from the village of Rusaki Joseph and Elizabeth Zemkevich. Witnesses Tadeus Sukhoveyko and Angela Zemkevichna.

09.11.1841 поженились крестьянин **Феликс Земкевич юноша 20 лет** из деревни Русаков и Иозофата Земкевичовна девица 19 лет из деревни Шоти. Свидетели Павел Романчук, Стефак Земкевич, Винцент Земкевич и многие другие.

09/11/1841 The peasant Felix Zemkevich was married. A young man of 20 years old from the village of Rusakov and Iozofata Zemkevich. A girl of 19 years old from the village of Shoti. Witnesses Pavel Romanchuk, Stefak Zemkevich, Vincent Zemkevich and many others.

25.10.1870 поженились крестьяне **Иосиф Зенкевич** юноша 20 лет из деревни Русаков с Аполиониею Шимковною, девицею 18 лет. **Родители жениха**: крестьяне Феликс и Иозефата из Зенкевичей **Зенкевичи**, законные супруги.

On 25.10.1870, the peasants losif Zenkevich were married. A young man of 20 years old from the village of Rusakov with Apolion Shimkovna, a girl of 18 years. Parents of the groom: peasants Felix and lozefat from Zenkevichi Zenkevichi, lawful spouses.

27.12.1874 родился в деревне Русаках ребенок по имени Людвига (Ядвига), дочь крестьян Иосифа и Аполонии из Шимков **Брехунов**, законных супругов.

27/12/1874 a child named Ludwig (Yadviga), the daughter of the peasants Joseph and Apolonia from Shimkov Brekhunov, lawful spouses was born in the village of Rusak.

March 8, 1957











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2. PLACE OF REGIDENCE (Print) <u>143</u> (1dg-Ave (Number and street) THE PLACE OF RESIDEN	(Middle)	(Last) DCedn AV.J. (County) (State)
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4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH
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(Exchange) (Number) 7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO Hollywood Hotel	1 12	(State or country)
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(Number and street or R. F. D.	number) (Town)	(County) (State)
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US Census Records

			1	
	place of the event	wife	sons	daughter
		1920 год	•	
	Jersey City Ward 1,			Helen (6 years),
Adolph Cinkewich	Hudson, New Jersey,	Wladescal Cinkewich 28 years		Estelle (4 years),
	United States			Jennie (0 years)
		1930		
Adolf Szinkewicz	Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey, United States	Wladyslawa Szinkewicz 35 years	Igasho (8 yars)	Hellen (15 years) Yadwiga (13 years) Jennie (10 years) Mellie (7 years)
Michael Sienkewicz	Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey, United States	Rose Sienkewicz (26 years)	Edmund (5 years) was born in New Jersey	Roze (10 years) was born in New York
	•	1940		
Adolph Sienkiewicz	Lakewood, Lakewood Township, Ocean, New Jersey, United States Resident lodger			
Macy Sienkewicz	Ward 4, Jersey City, Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey, United States	Rose Sienkewicz (35 years)	Edmund (15 years) was born in New Jersey	Roze (20 years) was born in New Jersey
	Ward 1, Jersey City, Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey, United States	Lottie Sienkiewiez <mark>(</mark> 43 years)	Chester <mark>(</mark> 19 years)	Geniva (20 years) Nellie (17 years)
	Ward 8, Newark, Newark City, Essex, New Jersey, United States			Estelle Cinkewitz (25 years)

Information provided by Richard J. Sienkiewicz, son of Chester. December 8, 2019

One thing I can tell you for sure, my father was never named Igasho or Ignacio. I have attached a copy of his birth certificate that shows his birth name as Ceslaw. They spelled it incorrectly on the birth certificate. It should have been Czeslaw. My father would have had a brother along with his four sisters but unfortunately he died either at birth or soon after. I will see if I can get his name from the cemetery office or maybe off the monument. Maybe his brother had that other name?

My father and I share the middle name of John.

His four sisters were , Agnes, Helen, Nellie and Jenny.



Birth Certificate CESLAW (CHESTER) SIENKIEWICZ

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Reg-12 May 57 TRENTON, N. J. FEBRUARY 23, 1971 (Date) TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOLLOWING IS A TRUE COPY OF A RECORD FILED IN THIS DEPARTMENT a 10 State Registrar of Vital Statistics State missioner of Health WARNING: DO NOT ACCEPT THIS COPY UNLESS THE RAISED SEAL OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS AFFIXED HEREON. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. udean BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS STATE OF NEW JERSEY Vill uy Cite Henderson the. No. 37 Ward) St.: Ceilaw inhuwer Legit-Date of Like NAME Wadiel 11111CA 71 Denders au Bartender Hausekli OF CERTIFICATE ATTENDING 5 am attended the hirth of this child. ite after hir ntal report Leftao Registror

Obituary. CHESTER J. SIENKIEWICZ

Chester J. Sienkiewicz, 96, formally of Jersey City passed away on Saturday May 20th, 2017. Born in Jersey City, Chester lived there for most of his life. He is survived by his loving wife Theresa for 73 years. He is also survived by his devoted children Richard (Patricia) Sienkiewicz and Theresa (Alan) Tunkavige and his cherished grandchildren Patricia, Lori, Judi, and Kris, great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends. Chester was a World War II veteran, proudly serving in the Navy as a radar operator and instructor aboard the USS Winslow. He was in the Civilian Conservation Corp prior to joining the Navy. He was a warehouse superintendent for ACME Supermarkets. He volunteered at OLC Bingo for many years. He enjoyed spending time with family and trips to Atlantic City. He was a Past Grand Knight in Paulus Hook Council #475 of Knights of Columbus. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Polish Children's Heartline, 177 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066. Viewing Tuesday May 23rd from 4-7pm. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, May 24th at 11am at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Jersey City. BROMIRSKI FUNERAL HOME 221 WARREN ST JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302 (201) 434-4883

Published in The Jersey Journal on May 22, 2017

THERESA D. SIENKIEWICZ

Theresa D. Sienkiewicz (nee Szczepanski), 93, formerly of Jersey City, passed away surrounded by family on Sunday, December 17th, 2017. Born in Jersey City in 1924, Theresa was the daughter of the late Stanley and Victoria Szczepanski. She was predeceased by her brothers Edward and Henry. Theresa married Chester Sienkiewicz and they lived in Jersey City for most of their lives. Together they shared 73 years of marriage until his passing in May 2017. Theresa was the cherished mother of Richard and his wife Patricia, and Theresa Tunkavige and her husband Alan. She is survived by grandchildren Patricia, Lori, Judi and Kris; five great-grandchildren, all of whom she adored, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Theresa was employed by The Division of Employment and also by Hudson Milestones and the Respite Program. She was a lifelong member and former president of the Polish Woman's Alliance Group 591 and a member of the OLC Seniors. Theresa's first love was her Polish heritage, having spent many vacations in Poland. An avid homemaker, seamstress, cook and baker, Theresa was happiest hosting family gatherings at her home. She was a beautiful woman, both inside and out, and she will be remembered for her glowing smile, her generous and loving heart, and her strength and devotion to her family. The family of Theresa will be forever grateful for the loving care and kindness given to her from Bella Terra, Meridian at Home and Hospice. Relatives & friends are invited to attend the Visiting at the funeral home on Tuesday, 12/19, from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. On Wednesday, 12/20, we shall assemble at Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church, Jersey City for the Mass of Christian burial at 11:00 am. Interment to follow at Holy Name Cemetery, Jersey City. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to The Polish Children's Heartline, 177 Broadway, Clark, NJ 07066 (envelopes will be available at the funeral home). EVERGREEN FUNERAL HOME 159 GARRISON AVE JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306 (201) 333-7171

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