

STEPHEN GACIOCH

1916 – 1944

Son of Szczepan Gacioch & Antonia

Resided on Mechanic Street in Hope Valley

Enlisted: 12-3-1943

Private in the US Army, 28th Infantry Regiment, Killed in action in France on September 3, 1944

Buried: St. Sebastian's Cemetery in Westerly

ALEKSANDER BARSZCZ

1919 – 1994

Son of Stanley Barszcz & Marianna Zukowski

Resided on Arcadia Road in Hope Valley

Enlisted: 6-26-1941

Living relative: Thomas Koczkodan, Arcadia Road, Hope Valley (nephew)

(From an article in the Chariho Times, Kelly Sullivan) Aleksander lived his whole life in the house which he had grown up in, on Arcadia Road. He resided there with his brother Stanley and his sister Stasha, all until the end of their lives. The large white house still stands on an island between three streets. All their lives he and his siblings raised food from their garden, used the outhouse out back, pulled water up from the well and hung their clothes out on the line. They were often up, working outside by sunrise, even into their elderly years. They kept a shaggy white dog named Brownie who loved to eat ice cream and each evening, they would call, "Brownie, come get your ice cream!"

Their father, Stanley Kagimier Barszcz, was born in Gawrychi, Poland on November 3, 1889 and immigrated to America with his parents, arriving in New York on December 26, 1908. They rented a house on Main Street in Burrillville and Stanley obtained a job as a weaver at a worsted mill. He married Marianna Zukowski, who was born in Poland on October 28, 1897 and came to America in 1913. She worked as a spinner in the mill.

Stanley and Marianna had several children; Stanley Jr., who was born on December 18, 1916; Aleksander, who was born on February 2, 1919; Stasha, who was born on October 28, 1920; Helen, who was born on December 25, 1926; and Irene, who was born on December 17, 1931.

When Stanley relocated his family to the big white farmhouse in Hope Valley, his parents, Mikolaj and Katarzyna (Bandzyl), moved in with him. Katarzyna had been born in Poland in 1867 and Mikolaj in 1861. He and his father were both employed by Roniteau Mills in Ashaway, as weavers, and Marianne worked as a weaver in an elastic mill. She passed away in 1936, and Stanley continued raising his children alone, the youngest being nine years old. His oldest son, who was his namesake, helped out by toiling at a local saw mill and his son Alexander wove in the woolen mill until he enlisted in the military on June 26, 1941 and became a sergeant in the US Army during World War II.

CZESLAW BEDNARCZYK/ (? Possibly CHESTER JOHN BEDNARCZK)

1924 – 1995

Son of Stanley Bednarczyk & Helen Frigielska

Enlisted: 4-6-1941

ADAM JOHNIE CEKALA

1916 – 2000

Son of John Cekala & Marcianna Zisk
Resided on Mechanic Street in Hope Valley
Enlisted: 1-22-1941

JOHN PAUL CEKALA

1914 – 2002

Son of John Cekala & Marcianna Zisk
Resided on Mechanic Street in Hope Valley
Enlisted: 12-3-1943

JOZEF JOHN CEKALA

1922 – 2001

Son of John Cekala & Marcianna Zisk
Resided on Mechanic Street in Hope Valley
Enlisted: 12-27-1941

(?can't read stone but the following person from Hope Valley served in WWI)

PAULIN CEKALA?/ PAUL P. CEKALA

1906 - 1987

Son of John Cekala & Marcianna Zisk

(?ROMAN DOBROWOLSKI?)

STANISLAW DUDA

1909 –

Son of Theophie Duda & Anna Sadlowski

ALEKSANDER JOSEPH DUDA

1914 – 1981

Son of Theophie Duda & Anna Sadlowski

ADAM J. GACIOCH

1924 – 2013

Son of Szczepan Gacioch & Antonia
Resided on Nichols Lane in Hope Valley
Enlisted: 2-10-1943
Living relative: Carla Garafola Cole, of Rogersville, TN

EUGENE J. HABEREK

1918 – 2002

Son of Antoni Haberek & Veronica Kulongkowski
Resided on Mechanic Street in Hope Valley.
Living relative: Kelly Sullivan of Hope Valley (brother's great-grand-daughter)

EDWARD JOHN HOINISKI

1923 – 2002

Son of Paul Hoiniski & Josephine Chmelefska

Enlisted: 2-10-1943

Private, First Class, US Army

EUGENE S. JACOINSKI

1919 – 1990

Son of Steve Jacoinski & Mary

Resided on High Street in Hope Valley

Enlisted: 10-23-1942

Buried Exeter Veterans Cemetery

VINCENTY ALBERT KOCZKODAN

1923 – 2005

Son of Alexander Koczkodan & Helen Barszcz

Resided on Mechanic Street in Hope Valley

Living relative: Thomas Koczkodan, Arcadia Road, Hope Valley (son)

(?BRONISLAW KOZLOWSKI?)

ALEKSANDER J. NADOLNY JR.

1922 –

Son of Alexander Nadolny Sr. & Mary Cekala

Enlisted: 12-27-1941

Currently resides at Coventry Health Center

Living relative: John Nadolny of Richmond (son)

(from an article in the Chariho Times, Kelly Sullivan) He recalls that his parents didn't have much of a reaction when he enlisted. "They said 'Where are you going?' I said 'Italy'. They said 'Okay'." His parents had come to America from Poland and settled in Richmond. His mother and siblings worked as weavers and spinners in a local woolen mill while his father was employed as a loom fixer. Nadolny served as a bobbin boy. "It was a big brick building about four miles from home. I was on the third floor. I used to stick bobbins for them. I liked it. I'd sit at the window and wave to everybody." But Nadolny soon left behind the mills and farms to do his patriotic duties overseas. "I wanted to travel and see the world. They sent me to Barrie, Italy." About six months in, the excitement of travel dissolved into the reality of war. "I laid down to take a short nap around noontime one day" when all the sudden planes came over. "They used some kind of bomb. I don't know what it was but they knocked me out of my bunk. They bombed the daylight out of us and put me in the hospital. There were a lot of glass windows in the building I was in. I was full of glass. I was full of shrapnel. We couldn't go after them because they outnumbered us. We didn't have planes enough to stop them. Some of us didn't make it. I'm fortunate that I made it."

In the hospital, he underwent surgery. "I had glass in my face and still have scars on my lip," he said. "I still got a scar on my left leg. There's glass still in it. That last piece was close to the bone and they said 'You wanna leave it there?' I said 'I'm leaving that as a souvenir'." And then, just as quickly as his new adventure had started, he was informed that it was over. "They told me

at the hospital that now I could be discharged from the service because of the disability. I looked at her and said 'What do you mean, discharged?' Damn it, I just got in and now you want me to get out?! She said 'You're wounded'. I told her I wanted to serve at least my four years." Despite the urging of medical professionals for him to leave the war behind and return to Richmond, he was adamant about remaining an active member of the US Air Force. "I asked myself what am I gonna do home? All my buddies are in the service. They're out there fighting and I'm just gonna sit around? Back home I had nothing but a bunch of woods and dirt roads." The powers that be relented. "They gave me a desk job," he said. "I couldn't go out with the boys because I couldn't walk hardly. I had a cane. My left leg was full of glass. They said 'Alex, this is your job now'. I said 'Oh, brother'."

Aside from doing military paperwork, part of his new job was to dole out clothing and uniforms. "Those coats were so big it was like a tent," he laughed. His comrades were surprised to see him there in the office. "I'm a big shot here," he joked with them, pointing out the placard with his name on it. "This is my desk." They'd then ask, "How'd you get that?" Nadolny would explain that he had been injured. "You're lucky. Some of the boys didn't come back. We thought you were dead," they'd respond. Occasionally he was good-naturedly teased about the comfortable new position but, with his rifle strapped to his back, he took the job seriously. "I got to like it," he said. "I learned how to type. But I always had my rifle right side of me."

Just as he was determined to do, Nadolny served his four years. "They said 'You have to get out now'. I said 'Why?' What the hell am I gonna do at home?" What he did was start a dairy farm in Hope Valley. "At that time the boys around Hope Valley were rough and tough," he recalled. He wasn't satisfied. "Other farmers told me there was no money in farming. I wanted to give up the farm. I said 'I'm gonna put on that rifle and go back in the service'. But they said I can't. I'd been discharged. I loved the service."

Nadolny went back in his mind several times to the day he was told his duties were changing due to his injuries. "My friends all shipped out," he trailed off before becoming choked up. "I'll be okay in a minute." I reminded him of all the bravery that had been in that sixteen-year-old boy who left the safety of a rural village to confront the dangers of war. "You're a hero," I told him. Nadolny wiped his eyes and looked at me. "I am? I never knew that."

ANTHONY J. NADOLNY

1925 – 1979

Son of Benedict Nadolny & Veronica
Resided on Main Street in Hope Valley

VINCENTY C. NADOLNY

1919 – 2011

Son of Alexander Nadolny Sr. & Mary Cekala
Resided on Pleasant Street in Hope Valley
Enlisted: 10-4-1944
Living relative: Carol Selvidio of Westerly (daughter)

WINCENTY JOSEPH NADOLNY

1922 – 1999

Son of Joseph Nadolny & Stefania Piascik
Resided on Mechanic Street in Hope Valley. Buried in Exeter Veterans Cemetery

BOLESŁAW NOWAK/ WILLIAM PETER NOVAK

1915 – 1995

Son of Michael Novak and Mary Kaczur

CZESŁAW NOWAK/ CHESTER NOVAK

1918 –

Son of Michael Novak & Mary Kaczur

Resided on Chase Hill Road in Hopkinton.

Enlisted: 1-14-1941

ANTONI JOSEPH OSOWSKI

1916 – 1983

Son of Joseph Osowski & Viola Piascik

Resided in Locust Mill Yard in Hope valley

Enlisted: 3-20-1941

VINCENTY A. PIONTEK

1917 – 1986

Son of Anthony Piontek & Bronislawa Zegarskeska

Enlisted: 9-5-1941

Buried: Exeter Veterans Cemetery

Served as a machine-gunner in the Infantry. Served in the Asian Pacific Theater and in the campaigns of Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands and Philippine Islands. Was awarded the Purple Heart.

JOHN T. PITAS

1926 – 1948

Son of Tadeusz & Stanisława Medrzychowski

Resided on High Street in Hope Valley

STANISŁAW V. PONIKTERA (PONICHTERA) JR.

1921 – 2010

Son of Stanislaw Poniktera Sr. & Francesca Ratynska

Enlisted: 12-26-1941

He enlisted in the Air Force and became a fighter pilot with the 316th Airborne Division, flying a P-51 in over 98 missions over Europe until the end of the war. Buried Exeter Veterans Cemetery
Living relative: Stanley Ponichtera of Hope Valley

WALTER JOSEPH PONIKTERA (PONICHTERA)

1919 – 1996

Son of Stanislaw Poniktera Sr. & Francesca Ratynska

Resided on High Street in Hope Valley

Enlisted: 3-22-1945

(?BRONISLAW POPIOLEK?)

ANTHONY PUKAS

1919 – 2006

Son of John Pukas & Marianna Pianowski

Resided on Mill Street in Hope Valley

Enlisted: 8-10-1944

(?BOLESLAW ?????? can't read)

(?JOSEF ZEYROWSKI?)

(?STANISLAW ZEGA?)

(can't read???ZEGARZEWSKI?)

STANISLAW ZEGARZEWSKI

(can't read?????ZEGARZEWSKI?)

(?STANISLAW ????????? can't read)

(?CZESLAW PAWELCYK?)

(???? PAWELCYK?)

(?WALLACE PIASCIK?)

(?JOZEF COSZROWSKI?)

(?WINCENTY NADOLNY?)