Polish family spotlight: Walkosz / Dorula family

Stanley (Stanisław) Walkosz and Mary (Marysia) Dorula were married in Sacred Heart Church on 46th and Wolcott Avenue on Jan. 17, 1915. Both Walkosz and Dorula came from the town of Szaflary, in a region called Podhale, in the Tatra Mountains of southern Poland. After visiting his brother in Back of the Yards in 1905, Walkosz initially settled in Pennsylvania, where he worked as a coal miner. Mary Dorula came directly to the Back of the Yards neighborhood in 1913. They met while Stanley visited his brother, who worked in Packingtown. The couple had seven children over a twenty-year period and lived their lives in the neighborhood. The photos shown below are outside their home on 44th Street and Marshfield Avenue.

Stanley worked in various positions in Packingtown, mainly for Hately Brothers meatpackers as a meat inspector and later as a janitor for Peer Foods. He died on June 17, 1948 at about the age of 62 after being hurt in an accident at the Peer Foods plant. Mary lived until 1966, passing away at the age of 70. Their children and grandchildren were all born in Back of the Yards. The paystub below shows Stanley Walkosz's weekly pay from Peer Foods in 1947.



Wedding photograph of Stanley and Mary Walkosz.



Pictured here are Mary and Stanley Walkosz with their first grandchild, Hyacinth "Heidi" Stefaniak, outside of Sacred Heart church. This is probably on the occasion of their 30th wedding anniversary.

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Mary Walkosz holding her first granddaughter, Hyacinth Stefaniak, outside the family apartment at 44th and Marshfield in 1939.



Stanley Walkosz and his youngest child, Mary Ann "Mania" Walkosz circa 1941, outside the family apartment at 1858 W. 47th Street. (View from Wolcott Street.)



Stanley Walkosz holding his first grandchild in front of their apartment on 44th and Marshfield Ave., 1939.

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One of Stanley Walkosz's pay stubs from Peer Foods, dated Dec. 20, 1947.

Images courtesy of Dominic Pacyga.

Cisowski / Franczek Family

In 1907, Mikolaj Cisowski immigrated from Piotrowicz, Poland and Aniela Franczek immigrated from Austria, both settling in Back of the Yards. Mikolaj was a laborer in the Swift lard refinery, and the family lived at 4739 S. Throop Street and 5042 S. Laflin Street.



Wedding photograph of Aniela and Mikolaj Cisowski, 1910.



Mikolaj Cisowski with dogs Teddy and Tuffy at 5042 S. Laflin St., May 1941.



Ann Christine Cisowski and her mother, Aniela Cisowski.



Adeline M. Cisowski Schilke (1917-1993), Aniela Franczek, Joseph Cisowski (1920-1963), Nicholas Peter Cisowski (1915-1985), Jenny Cisowski (spouse of Nicholas), and Ann Christine Cisowski (1925-1987) at Resurrection Cemetery in Aug. 1943, on the first anniversary of Mikolaj's death.

Images courtesy of Janice A. Schaller.

Filipczak Family

Around 1900, Andrzej Filipczak emigrated from Poland to the United States, arriving at Ellis Island and then heading straight to the South Side of Chicago via a sponsorship. He and his wife had six children between 1901-1914 and resided in a two-bedroom apartment at 56th Street and Marshfield Avenue.

Their oldest child, Stanley Filipczak, married Elizabeth Dzurny, who came from a Slovakian Catholic family. They rented their first house in the late 1920s on Talman Avenue in the Brighton Park neighborhood, but during the Great Depression, they moved into the second floor unit of Andrzej's house, where they would reside until Elizabeth passed away in 1973.

Andrzej worked in the Union Stock Yards as far as his records go back. Stanley also worked at the Union Stock Yards, as did his son, Stanley, Jr., though all of Stanley's siblings found work elsewhere as electricians and office clerks.



Stanley Filipczak's identification card.



Images courtesy of George Pits.

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List of neighbors from the block of Marshfield Avenue at 56th Street who joined the armed forces during World War II.



