

## JOSEPH AND FRANCES GOLLA

Joseph and Frances Golla came to America from Essen, Germany sometime during the early 1880's. Frances was born in Gdansk, near Dansiz, Poland. Joseph was born somewhere in Gillnetz, Prussia, Germany, in the same province. I don't know how they met or where they were married.

Joseph worked in a brewery at the time he decided to come to America. He specifically wanted to escape compulsory military service. A friend of his who already had made plans to come to America decided against making the trip. He gave his papers to Joseph. Authorities were hot on Joseph's trail even so far as aboard the ship Utopia. Somehow Grandpa must have convinced the authorities that he wasn't the man they were seeking.

Grandfather and Grandma had been married for some time before he decided to come to America. They had one daughter Rosa who was near to her first birthday. Before Grandfather left he sold whatever assets they had. He gave Grandma half and she went to stay with her father and stepmother until Grandpa got established in America. He would then send for Frances and baby Rosa. Her fathers name was Peter Gdance (or Gdinetz). Stepmothers first name I don't ever remember having heard.

Time went by after Grandfather left Germany. Frances waited anxiously and patiently for word of his arrival in America. No word came. Stepmother gave Grandma a bad time. She said that Grandfather had no doubt found a new wife in America and that Frances would never hear from him again.

Grandma Frances took her worries to the local Catholic Priest. He encouraged her to take whatever assets she had and go to America. He said he would pray for her. John or Jacob Golla and his wife (Grandpas brother) were about to leave for America. Grandma decided to leave with them.

Their boat came into Baltimore, Maryland. John or Jacob Golla and his wife were programmed to leave Baltimore immediately by train to go to Alpena, Michigan. They left Grandma and baby sitting in the railroad station.

Now at that time many Europeans who were established firmly in America would go to the railroad stations or to the docks to hire persons to work for them. A German woman approached Grandma. Grandma told her her plight. The woman took her and baby home to somewhere near Woodstock, Maryland.

The woman and her husband were very kind to Grandma and Rosa. I don't know how much time elapsed before this next part of the story took place.

The ship Utopia on which Grandfather sailed caught fire at sea. The survivors were brought to Baltimore. That was the ship's original destination. Grandfather got work on a farm in the vicinity.

Grandfather had his farmer employer write a letter to Grandma in Germany. Together they took the letter to a small postoffice. The Postmaster said to them, "Just a few days ago another letter went to that very town. It was sent by a lady with this same name." The Postmaster directed Grandpa and his farmer employer to the farm where Grandma (his wife) and baby Rosa were staying. They arrived at night and dogs prevented their going to the house. They returned next day. Grandma and the lady were on the porch. Grandma didn't see the two men. The lady said, "Frances, could that be your husband that I see?" Grandma could hardly believe her eyes - there was Grandpa.

Grandma hated to leave her kind benefactress but Grandpa took her to live and work at his farmers place. It wasn't nearly as nice as the place she left.

I don't know how long they stayed near Woodstock but while they were there Grandma's father Peter Gdance, his wife and 2 daughters and 1 boy came to Woodstock. The daughters Pauline and Helen were half sisters to my Grandmother. The boy was her half brother too.

Grandfather knew he didn't want to work on farms the rest of his life and by then he had saved a little money so he took his family to Oil City, Pennsylvania. The petroleum industry was in its infancy. From Oil City they moved to Dents Run, PA, where Grandpa became a foreman of a railroad track crew. He was good at handling men. He didn't talk much but he spoke with authority. He was tall and of good build.

By then besides Rosa, there was Joseph, Peter, and Frank. My Mother Helen was born in Dents Run. That made four children. My mother's name was Helen and her brothers and sisters called her Elena so when she went to school

teachers thought her name was Ella and that is what she was called by everyone. Years later my mother got a copy of her baptismal certificate and found her true name.

Their next move was to Penfield. There Grandpa was section foreman to another crew of railroad track maintenance men. They bought a house (which is still standing). It was near the railroad, on a hillside. From there one had a good view of the village of Penfield. A sizeable piece of land went with the house so there was space for cows, chickens and a huge garden.

Four more children were born in Penfield. They were Catherine and Veronica (twins), John Patrick and August Leo.

While the family lived in Penfield Grandma's father died and was buried in Woodstock, MD. I couldn't have been much over a year old but I remember their talking or wondering if he were really dead when he was buried.

The stepmother and girls, Helen and Pauline came to stay with Grandma and Grandpa for a while. Pauline married John Sadowski. They moved to Tyler where John worked in the coal mines. The stepmother spent her life with Pauline. Helen married someone named Brown and moved to McKeesport, PA. I remember that my grandmother and years later my mother and Aunt Veronica going to McKeesport to visit Mrs. Brown. I never did see any of that family.

I do remember stopping by in Tyler to see Aunt Pauline and her mother. When I was very small I named Pauline's mother 'Grandmother Goose.' We younger folks couldn't communicate with Pauline's family as they grew up talking Polish. The Sadowski family lived in a rented house that belonged to the Cascade Coal and Coke Company. The sons in that family all were miners. Children whose names I remember were Vida, Walter John, Anthon, Helen and Rachel.

Around 1895 Grandpa was transferred to Caledonia. There he was also a foreman to a crew of railroad men. The railroad for which he worked was a branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The branch ran from Pittsburgh to Driftwood and beyond.

In Caledonia (a lumber town) the Golla family lived in a large red house provided by the railroad company especially for the foreman. The railroad station was just below the house. Near the station was a tunnel. The date on the keystone of the tunnel was 1874. The town of Caledonia was about a half mile from the station.

At this house there was plenty of land included. There were apple trees, grazing area for cows, space to raise pigs and chickens. There was another red company house behind the foremans house. Here Uncle Frank and Aunt Emma lived after they married. Frank also worked for the railroad.

Beyond this house there was a very large house, housing a large family of Doyles. The Golla children and Doyles (maybe Doyel) children made lifetime friendships.

In addition to caring for her family, my Grandmother also boarded perhaps six newly arrived Europeans who also worked on the railroad.

The Golla family were devout Catholics. The nearest Catholic Churches were at Byrndale and Force. Byrndale was closer but the railroad did not go to Byrndale so the family went to Force by train. Grandma and Grandpa had free passes so the whole family rode free. There was a return train early in the afternoon. Sometimes the children chose to walk back home.

By the time I was born in Caledonia, February 5, 1905, Rosa had married Joseph Shivie and moved to Sabula; Frank married Emma Widenberner and lived nearby; Joseph married Elizabeth Regulski and lived in Force. Helen, my mother had married my father when she was 15 years old. That left only Catherine, whom we called Katie; Veronica whom we called Verona or Veronie; John and August at home.

Until our family moved to Norwich in 1912 we always lived either in Caledonia where I started school and before that in the woods above Medix Run, or in Weedville; during that time we visited at our Grandparents home quite often.

My father changed work often. Usually when we were about to move to a new place I remember our Aunts and Uncles coming to the station to see us off. We were always sent off with a generous supply of food - lots of fried chicken!

In addition to keeping boarders my Grandmother often served meals to transients who didn't want to go to the small hotel in Caledonia. When the Arabian peddler woman ate she paid for her meals with merchandise.

A boarder made for my Grandma a good wardrobe. In those days homes had no clothes closets built in as they do now, so a wardrobe was a handsome and worthwhile piece of furniture. Grace Hawk Bullers now has the wardrobe at Portland Mills, PA.

At the Golla's there was always plenty of good wholesome fresh food. Aside from flour, rice, sugar, salt, coffee and tea there was very little purchased at grocery stores. In winter the cellar was filled with canned food from the garden and canned berries from nearby woods. There was plenty of pork from pigs raised at home. In the corner of the kitchen there was a barrel filled with sourkraut.

One of my favorite foods at Grandma's was the pierogi. I've seen them in delicatessens since filled with meat, but never have I seen them like my grandmother made them.

These were made of rolled out dough. They were filled with a mixture of very dry cottage cheese, chopped boiled eggs and lots of chives. Filling was put on precut dough pieces, then pinched together so filling wouldn't get out. I don't know if these were boiled first then fried in deep fat like doughnuts or fried only. When they came out golden brown they were sprinkled with sugar.

Of Grandmas daughters only Rosa and Veronica ever made pierogi in their own households.

When I was around two years old my mother had to go to the hospital in Ridgway for a mastoid operation. My younger sister Frances and I stayed at our grandparents house in Caledonia. My grandfather was recovering from a bout with pneumonia at the time. The last meal he ate before the pneumonia hit him included dumplings. Grandpa never ate dumplings again. He insisted that the dumplings did it!

As Grandpa recuperated he spent much time reading. One day I was especially noisy. He reminded me several times to 'be kwite.' I paid no attention. Grandfather lifted himself out of his chair and with his right hand reached for his house slipper. I was frightened and I yelled "Read your book, Read your book, Read your book."

Perhaps if I could have looked into the future I would have found that I'd be repeating the same words year after year to my pupils.

Grandpa and Grandma spoke Polish and German fluently. When they arrived in America there were more Polish people than German so Polish was the language that was spoken in their home. There were German friends who came to visit, then they spoke German.

Grandpa, although he spoke Polish did not want to be called a 'Polander.' He was very vocal about that. He was quite proud of his German heritage. I recall hearing him sing some German songs - One song was about the 'Vaterland.'

Grandpa always had a keg of beer in the cellar. In the summer a pitcher of cool beer was brought up from the cellar to be shared with whomever happened to be present. Even children (relatives children). I don't remember that Grandma ever took beer.

Grandpa had a quart of whiskey brought to the house weekly. I remember as his boys grew older the responsibility of delivering 'Pa's quart' fell to them.

Grandpa was very fond of horseradish to eat with the pork that was plentiful throughout the winter. Horseradish root grew in the garden. It had to be ground and mixed with vinegar for table use. The task of grinding fell to Grandpa. The grinding had to be done outside preferably in a breeze, as the odor was so very strong. It produced tears in the eyes of anyone near. We children marveled at Grandpa's fortitude.

Grandpa suffered most of his life with varicose veins in his legs. In those days there were no supp-hose to ease that condition. Every morning he wrapped rubber bandages spirally around his legs. After work when he was ready to relax he unwound those bandages and put on his house slippers.

Grandpa always wore a beard. Grandma said once he had it shaved off and she encouraged him to let it grow back. Her idea was that because Gramps was a big man his face looked too small without the beard.

Evening prayer around the kitchen table was an established ritual at the Golla home. Grandpa sat at the head of the table. Grandma knelt to his right at the side. Others filled in spaces around the table. If table space was filled others knelt on the floor beside chairs. Grandpa read the Litany - there were parts my Grandmother repeated. At the conclusion we all joined in with the Lords Prayer orally, correction, all who could say the Lords Prayer in Polish joined in.

In both the Caledonia and Penfield houses the kitchen floors were bare. Each Saturday the boards were scrubbed with a brush and water, aided by lye. Lye was very hard on the hands even used sparingly. Around 1915 or '16, Grandma and Grandpa bought linoleum for the kitchen floor. Grandma liked it very much but she felt that such luxury was sinful. She said it was 'walking on money.'

Bedrooms at both homes were covered with rag carpeting. In early days, old clothes and other fabrics were recycled after their original use was terminated. Cloth was cut into strips then sewed together and rolled into huge balls. When enough balls were accumulated they were taken to a local weaver. For a price he wove the long strips of cloth into rag carpet. Rag carpets were nailed to the floor with carpet tacks. The usual padding underneath the carpet was either building paper or newspapers.

In the Caledonia house there were many hooked rugs with pretty designs also made from rags, preferably old stockings. These no doubt were made by my young aunts Katie and Veronica.

Years ago there weren't any casual clothes as we now have, People had 'good' clothes and everyday clothes.

My Grandmothers 'good' clothes were always black. When I was very young I recall her taffeta skirts rustling as she walked. Later I recall her in black shirtwaists with long sleeves and woolen skirts and a black coat. She wore a gold watch on a chain. So it wouldn't dangle she tucked it inside the waistband of the skirt. She wore a black straw hat covered with black ostrich plumes. Her shoes were black oxford type.

At home she wore a two piece gingham or calico blouse and skirt that she had made herself. For working she had gingham aprons - but she loved white ones for when the work was done.

Grandma, from my earliest memory, wore dentures. When she was sixty some years old a wisdom tooth put in an appearance. She had it pulled.

Grandma did not read nor write but she had a computer brain when it came to figures in running a household and for saving money.

Grandma was rather a shy person around strangers, especially English speaking people. Yet among relatives and close friends she was very outgoing.

It rather amused her when some loud mouth, unpolished American put on superior airs around the foreign born. She said that those people who think themselves so 'toney' just like to make a big noise to puff themselves up! She then said that they had never been anywhere nor seen anything of the world! They hadn't seen great cathedrals and other age old marvels of the 'Old Country.'

We grandchildren could visit easily with Grandma. We liked to hear stories of the 'Old Country.' She said that when she was a child they lived on an estate belonging to a rich nobleman. They worked hard in the fields. They lived in their own cabin which had a dirt floor. On Sunday they were free to do as they liked. They always went to a church which was some distance from their home. They walked the distance in their bare feet, then just before entering the town they put on their shoes and stockings.

Grandpa was kind to us but he wasn't easy to visit with. He always kissed us when we came to visit. Perhaps we were a little in awe of him. He did have a sense of humor but also a no nonsense look. When he spoke, he didn't want to have to repeat. In admonishing us, when we were too noisy, he just had to reach toward his house slipper - that was enough to cool our racket!



Grandpa had a good physique. He was a large man but not fat. He smoked a pipe. He did not wear dentures. In winter he wore a fleece lined coat when he went to work. In summer he wore bib overalls and a blue shirt. His 'good clothes' were a black suit.

Grandpa had two brothers and a sister who came to America. His sister Frances married a Mr. Bonikowski. He was a tailor. They lived in Michigan, either Bay City or Alpena. They had a large family. One, perhaps two girls became nuns.

Brother Jacob settled in Omaha, Nebraska. There are descendants listed in the Omaha telephone directory.

Brother John lived in Bay City or Alpena, Michigan.

Several times during their lifetime in America the brothers and sister saw each other. Some of the sons and daughters of Gran and Grandpa visited in Omaha.

In about 1910 or 1911 our family moved to Norwich, PA in McKean County. Goodyear Lumber Company was in its hey day. There was plenty of work for all comers. WE stayed there until our father Joseph Orsie died August 9, 1913. Then my mother with us four girls moved back to live with our grandparents.

While we were in Norwich our Aunt Katie married Martin Lesneski. That left only John, August and Veronica at home.

The Golla's had moved to Penfield to their own home. Here again Grandpa was a section foreman.

By that time his sons Frank and Joseph were section foremen. Frank succeeded his father to the position his father vacated in Caledonia. Frank moved into the foremans house, in Caledonia. Sometime later when Frank died, Joe got that foremanship (Caledonia) and moved into the house vacated by Frank's family. So the Golla family had contact with that house and Caledonia for many years.

At Penfield John was assistant foreman to his father. John did all of the paper work too.

When they lived in Caledonia, Grandma painted all of her kitchen chairs red. I assume she used left over paint from the railroad switches.

In Penfield she painted the kitchen chairs yellow. She used left over paint from the house painting job.

There was constant contact among all members of the Golla family as they all lived along the same railroad branch. At that time there were two trains (passenger trains) each direction at seven in the morning. Two at midday and two evening trains.

New Bethlehem - After serving as foreman in Penfield and Weedville, John Golla became foreman here. Stayed here until death.

Reynoldsville - After serving as foreman in Caledonia and Benezette Joseph Golla became foreman here. They lived at 138 Broadway.

Falls Creek - Change trains for Ridgway.

DuBois - This small city was the shopping center for all the places listed here. It was a busy place with four hotels and electric street cars. As there was such good train service and low fares we went to DuBois often. After her marriage to George Stajek, Veronica Golla lived here.

Sabula - Rosa Golla Shivia and her husband lived here. He worked on the railroad. They farmed quite a piece of ground. This town no longer exists. Freeway covers spot where house stood.

Winterburn

Penfield - This is where Grandma & Grandpa Golla lived the rest of their life after moving from Caledonia. This house still stands.

4 miles

Tyler - Polish Catholic Church here. Katie Golla lived here after she married Martin Lesneski. This town had many coke ovens and coal mines. Zadowskis lived here.

Force - The priests in this church were usually Italian.

Weedville - This was quite a mining town. Company houses were painted red. Many of those houses still stand. The Golla's attended St. Joseph's Church here. They donated a window to the church. John's wife Victoria and Joe's wife Elizabeth were born here.

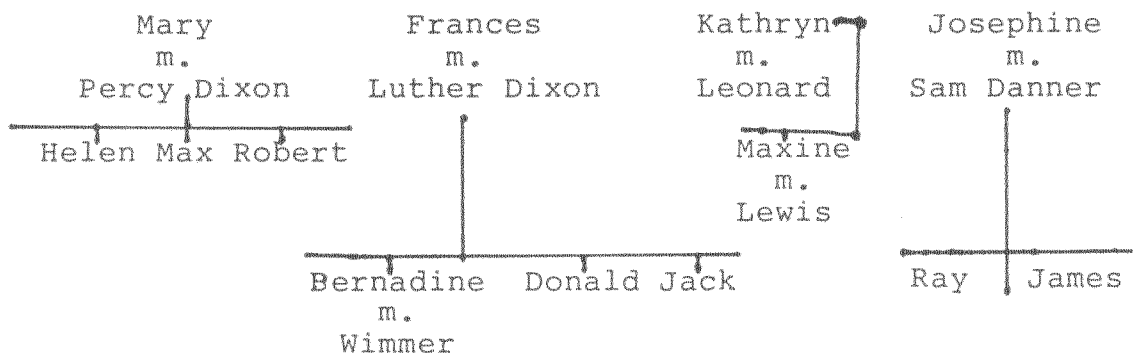
Caledonia - This is where most of the Golla sons and daughters lived when Grandpa was foreman, before going back to Penfield. The railroad tunnel dated 1874. The section foremans house is gone. Doyle or Reasinger house still stands nearby.

Bennezette - Uncle Joe and Aunt Lizzie lived here before he moved to the position and house vacated by his Brother Frank at Caledonia.

Medix Run - Helen Golla Orsie and Joseph Orsie lived six miles above this town. Joseph was dismantling a saw mill. We lived in a tarpaper shack.

Grant - Grandma and Grandpa Golla had very good friends here, Mr. & Mrs. Adam Stemkoski. They visited back and forth. Adam was a foreman. August Golla married Ann Kilzenski, a daughter of Mrs. Stemkoski.

ROSA GOLLA m. JOSEPH SHIVIE



Aunt Rosie and Uncle Joe Shivie lived in Sabula. They owned their own home and quite a sizable piece of land which they farmed. Uncle Joe worked for the PA Railroad. Their children, except Kathryn graduated from Sandy Township High School located across town in DuBois. They had to go by train, then street car to get to school.

Mary taught school from September to March, then married Percy. In those days only single teachers could teach. Frances taught 2 or 3 terms at Tyler.

Mary and Percy still live in DuBois. Frances lives in what used to be Sabula now DuBois R.F.D. After Luther, her husband died, Frances worked at the DuBois Meter Works until she retired.

Just before World War II war work opened up in Emporium, PA. The Sabula house was sold to the highway so Aunt Rosa, Kathryn and Josephine moved there. There Kathryn and Josephine worked and married. Josephine still lives in Emporium. Kathryn and her husband didn't stay together very long. Kathryn continued working for Sylvania until she died of cancer. Her daughter Maxine died of cancer in 1978 or 79. Maxine was 57 years old. Uncle Joe had died of cancer in 1922. Aunt Rosa and Uncle Joe are buried in St. Catherines Cemetery in DuBois, PA.

Mary and Frances Shivie were the first grandchildren of Frances and Joseph Golla. Grandma was very proud of them. They were beautiful girls.

Grandma Golla was a strict Catholic and as such looked with disfavor on mixed marriages. When Mary quit her teaching job to marry Percy Dixon (a protestant) there was never any more communication between them. Grandma never saw her first great grandchildren, Helen, Max and Robert. All other relatives still had a good relationship with Mary and Percy.

Frances Shivie married Percy's cousin Luther. They visited the Grandparents before the marriage. Then they were married by a priest in St. Catherine's Church in DuBois. Grandma didn't object to that marriage.

Frank Golla married Emma Widenburner. Their only child was a son, Francis. He was a victim of Spinal Meningitis at around one year of age. He survived the disease but suffered its effects forever after. He grew normally but had poor muscular control. He couldn't talk but seemed to be aware of what went on around him. He died in the flu epidemic of 1918.

Emma was a vivacious person. She gave music lessons. She spoke German fluently.

Frank left his parents home to join the Army. This was much against his father's wishes. After all it was to get away from forced conscription that Joseph Golla came to America. Well, Frank served his enlisted time. When he returned home his father didn't welcome him back into the family circle. Frank's mother toned down her husband's anger and Frank settled back into family routine. This happened before he met and married Emma.

Frank was assistant foreman and lived in a railroad company house directly behind the foremans house.

When Grandpa was transferred back to Penfield from Caledonia, Frank became foreman of that Section.

Frank died of diabetes years before insulin was discovered.

Emma moved to St. Mary's, PA where she continued to give piano lessons. Here Francis died. Later Emma was housekeeper for an elderly man. Some time in the 30's Emma lost her life when leaking gas caused an explosion at the house where she worked.

This family of three are buried in St. Catherine's Cemetery in DuBois. When I last saw the graves their names were just about weathered off.

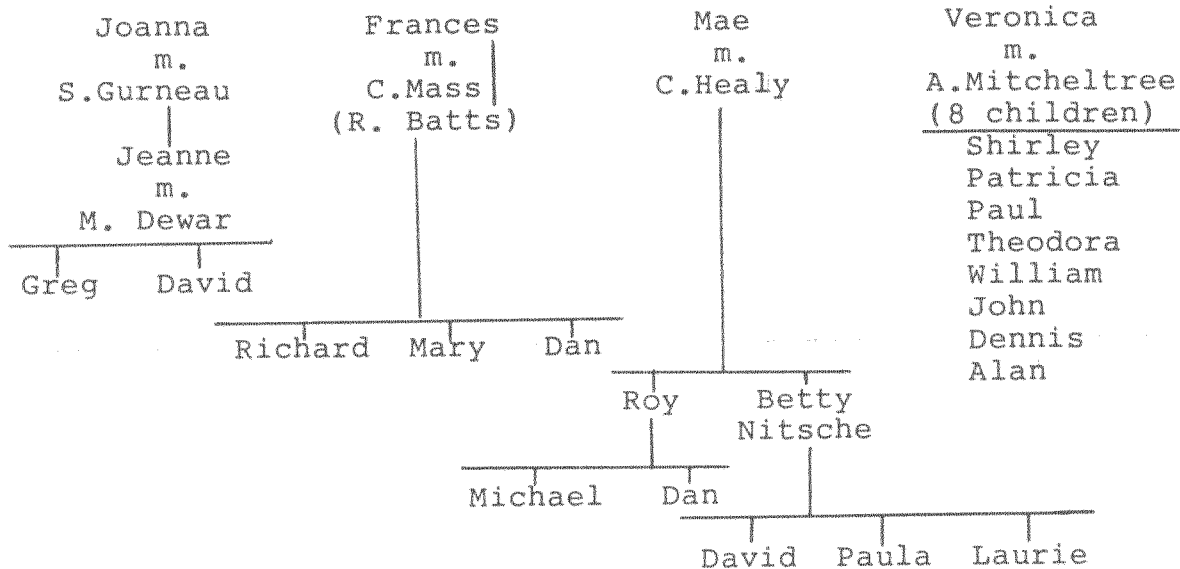
JOSEPH PETER GOLLA m. ELIZABETH REGULSKI  
(7 children)

Leona	Mary	Helen	Teresa	Joseph	Paul	Ann
Shallenberger	Mancuso	Cuba	died in	Jr.		Margaret
			early			Mémé
Son			teens			

These first four cousins we knew well as they came to Grandma and Grandpa Golla's often. Their families are now into great grandchildren Leona, Joseph, Paul and live in Allentown, PA. Mary, Helen and Anna Margaret live in Reynoldsville.

After being foreman in Caledonia where he took on the job after his brother Frank died he spent a short term in Benezette. He was transferred to Reynoldsville where he was foreman until he retired. Uncle Joe died at quite an advanced age (ninety or more).

HELEN FRANCES GOLLA m. JOSEPH ORSIE  
(4 children)



When Joseph Orsie died in 1913 at Norwich, PA, the family moved to Penfield to live with the Grandparents. We stayed there about 4 years intermittently then moved into a rented house in Penfield. Helen(mother) worked for a time in a meat market, then as a clerk in the company store at Tyler.

Around 1920 Helen married John Ross Hawk. He came to Penfield to live.

There were three children born to this union. They are Paul William, Helen Amanda and Grace Elizabeth. By that time this family needed more space. Our Grandmother had died. Grandpa asked the Hawk family to move into his larger house. Veronica (Nonie) was the only Orsie who moved with them. The three older Orsies, Joanna, Frances and May each moved away as soon as they graduated from Penfield High School.

Paul married Helen Glossner. He has worked for Piper Cub at LackHaven, PA where he raised seven children and always a huge garden. They live at Avis, PA.

Helen married Bert Metz. They raised six children. They live at Emporium, PA.

Grace married Chester Bullers. They live at Portland Mills. They raised 5 or 6 children.

Catherine Golla married Martin Lesneski. Their children were Martin, Dorothy, Joseph, Frank, David, John and Anna Rose. Anna Rose died of Cancer.

Uncle Martin worked in the coal mines in Tyler. During the time there they lived in three different houses. The one I recall most vividly is a red, 4 room house behind the coke ovens.

Uncle Martin had been in the U.S. Army in the Philippines before he married. When World War I came he wanted to go and he did! He did get to France. Aunt Katie and the four older children stayed at home.

All of us cousins loved to go to Aunt Katies. Life there was easy going and Aunt Katie made delicious fudge, lots of it!

After the war (WWI) work in Tyler began to decline. The Lesneski family moved to Nanty Glo, PA. Little Martin married and died quite young.

Uncle Martin was injured in a mine accident. He died some weeks later. Frank went to New York. Dorothy became a nurse. She married a Hottendorf. They lived on Long Island, NY. Dorothy was a R.N. graduate of Bellview Hospital and died of a stroke in 1980.

Joe never left the Army after World War II. He now lives in Grants Pass, OR. David served time in WWII. He lives in Huntington Beach, CA. John lives in Cleveland. He does iron work. One year his company sent him and his family to Brazil, SA. Anna Rose married someone whose last name was Tiffany. She died of Cancer.

Aunt Katie, when most of her family was still at home, had been canning pears. Early in the evening word came to the house about a car accident. "Whose car" asked Katie. The newscarrrier said "I think it belonged to your boy." Katie ran to the scene and collapsed. Her sons weren't involved.

VERONICA GOLLA

We called her Aunt Verona or Aunt Veronie. She was the last of the Golla daughters to marry. After the family moved to Penfield Aunt Veronie worked for the Catholic priest in Tyler. She was his housekeeper and church organist. When Father Edward was transferred to the Polish church in DuBois she went too. I don't recall how long she was there but I do know she left before the flu epidemic in 1918. Her mother needed her. By then all eight except Veronica were away from home. August was unmarried but his work as Railroad ticket agent and telegraph operator kept him away.

Aunt Veronie took care of our family when we all had the flu. In DuBois Veronica had met George Stojek, pronounced Stoyek. He came to Penfield quite often. We children didn't visit with him as he talked Polish and we had never learned the language. (I could understand it.)

Veronica and George were married on May 7, 1919. By then World War I was over and Uncle Martin came to the wedding in his uniform.

George and Veronica moved to DuBois. They bought a home at 911 West Washington Avenue. It was not far from the Polish Catholic Church. Most of the folks around there were Polish.

The Stoyek Children are:

1. Frances - married William Kovach. They now have a shoe store in Phoenix (Maryvale Shopping Center). Frances & Bill had 4 children, Valerie, Michael, William, Dennis. All four are college graduates.
2. Joseph - married Regina Madison. They had a son and a daughter. Joe was a navigator in the U.S. Air Force in WWII. When he returned he wanted to be a farmer. So he bought land at Rockville. He worked at the B & O car shops. Farming lost out to the wild creatures that gobbled up plants as soon as seeds popped above ground. Then Joe had a heart attack. He moved into town and became a mail carrier. He died at about age 50.



3. Albert - married Frances ?. They had two or three children. Albert was in World War II. He worked at DuBois Iron Works when he returned from service. Albert had a long siege with cancer. He is buried in Polish cemetery in DuBois.
4. Edward - was in WWII also. When he returned he started a Grand Auto Store in Curwensville, PA. He is still there. I don't know when he married. There were no children.

Veronica's husband George died of cancer when the children were quite young. He is buried in the Polish cemetery in DuBois, near Grandpa and Grandma Golla. Aunt V. died around 1971 or '72 in Phoenix. She is buried in DuBois.

#### JOHN PATRICK GOLLA

John was our favorite uncle. When I was only four years old and we lived 'in the woods' above Medix, John and August often came in the caboose of the log train to see us. I remember their making small boats and letting them sail into the log pond and over the spillway.

There was a huge saw dust pile near the mill. Once our father arrived upon the scene just in time to save John and August from smothering when the cave they had dug into the sawdust pile collapsed.

We had chickens at that place. Once Johnny picked up a chicken. He exposed his teeth to the chicken and the chicken picked at them. After the boys were gone I tried that stunt. All I got was a badly picked lip. My Mom said I was lucky not to have a picked eye.

John and Victoria's first son, Edward, married Catherine Welch and were parents of two sons, David and Edward. David was killed in a car accident. Edward became a teacher after graduating from Clarion State Teachers College. He received a grant of money which enabled him to get his Masters and Doctors degree in Texas. He is married and has one daughter, Judy. He lives in Round Rock, Texas.

After our father died and our family went to live at Grandma's John and August were still at home. John by then was working so he had money of his own. He always had treats for us. He told us funny stories.

Uncle John and Aunt Veronica had to wear eye glasses from quite an early age.

John was plagued with kidney trouble most of his life. Eventually he had one kidney removed. He died from kidney complications. He is buried in Reynoldsville.

John married Victoria Maychrzah(pronounced Michalh). Their children are:

1. Edward - married Catherine Welsh. They had two children, David and Edward
2. Lillian - married Tom Neal. Tom is a super market manager. they live in Hollywood, Florida. Their children are Tom, Patricia and ? Lillian and Toms daughter married John Mayhew. She has her Masters degree in nursing. Currently (1980) she is teaching at the University of Texas. Later she received her Doctorate degree.
3. Leo - married ? and lives in Cleveland. No children.
4. Gerald - lives in Oakmont or Verona, PA. He is married. They have twins.
5. Lois - married ? Kemp. There are two children, Joann and ? They live in New Bethелеhem in the house owned by Uncle John. Aunt Victoria made her home with the Kemps until her death in 1978.
6. Donna - married Gene Hetrick. They live in Hollywood, Florida. Donna has two daughters, Renee and Rhonda Black. I had never met Donna until 1975. She is a delightful person. Almost all of the older aunts and uncles were gone by then. Donna had never seen Grandpa and Grandma Golla so I appeared to her as an honored ancestor. She was so very appreciative and grateful for the family tree I had made for her.

### AUGUST LEO GOLLA

August was the youngest of the Golla children. He was at home with his parents much of the time while we lived with them in Penfield. He is the last surviving son of Grandpa and Grandma Golla.

He didn't play with us as his brother John did. In fact he was quite severe with us. He made us practice our Catechism and repeat the answers to him.

At the Golla home the kindling wood supply came from old railroad ties. August and my mother Helen sawed the ties into blocks. Then August split the blocks into stove sized pieces. It was the childrens job to carry the pieces into the shed and stack them.

Augusts life work was being a ticket and freight agent and also telegrapher for the Pennsylvania Railroad. In that work he was moved from place to place. He worked in Weedville, Tyler, Buba, NY, Franklin, PA, Brockway, PA finishing up in Olean, NY.

Grandma Golla sincerely hoped and no doubt prayed that one of her sons might become a Catholic Priest. August was enrolled in a school in Philadelphia. I don't know how long he attended but he did not become a priest.

Grandma and Grandpa Golla had two very good friends who lived at Grant. They were Mr. & Mrs. Adam Stempkowski. Adam was a section foreman. Mrs. Adam had been married previously and had a son Ralph and a daughter Ann. Ann was also a telegraph operator for the railroad. It was Ann whom August married.

They had two children, Ralph and Louise. Ralph, after leaving the Army became an insurance adjustor for Aetna. He married and had three children, two girls and a boy. The son was named August.

August, the young son, was in college. He had been studying very hard and was tired. He told his room mate that he was going to take a warm tub bath to relax. After some time had elapsed the room mate thought it was very quiet in the bathroom. He looked in and August had drowned.

Just a few months later, Ralph, August Jr's father, died at the age of 58.

Uncle August's daughter Louise married a Mr. Hickey. They live in Olean.

Uncle August all his life has been a handyman about the house. He remodeled most of the homes they lived in. When the picture tube on his TV gave out August bought a new one, read the directions and installed it himself.

He has refinished manypieces of furniture. He always had a neat garden.

All of the Golla sons and daughters except Katie and Uncle Martin always had a good sized vegetable garden. If space permitted, there were chickens and perhaps a pig at the back of the lot. None except the Shivies kept cows.

All of the Gollas were good people. All were Catholics. All were gainfully employed. None of them swore or used cuss words. There was a good relationship among the whole extended family.

#### ODDS & ENDS I RECALL ABOUT OUR GRANDPARENTS

Until our Aunt Veronica married and moved to DuBois we had no relatives there. Since that was the closest shopping place for clothes we went quite often. After shopping, there was no place to put in time until the train took us home at 7:00 p.m., my Grandparents often stopped at the Alpine Hotel. It was run by Swiss people whom they knew. I don't ever recall eating there.

Since stores closed at 5 or 5:30 p.m., Grandma usually bought buns and lunch meat at a store. We ate these at the railway station.

Grandma used to get large bottles of medicine through the mail. These were sent to her by a lady in Buffalo, NY. This lady claimed that she could diagnose an illness through clairvoyance. She said that when a patient wrote to her for help she went into a quiet room and concentrated on that patients complaints. She then decided upon what tonic to send to that person.

The word clairvoyant was printed on the return address on the package. Grandma said the medicine helped her.

### EASTER AT GRANDMA GOLLA'S

As I remember Easter was a bigger holiday than Christmas. It seems to have been a Catholic ritual to have homes blessed by the Priest during Easter Week. In preparation the house and surroundings were thoroughly cleaned. Food of all kinds were prepared and put out on the dining table in the 'other room.' Eggs were colored and put there too.

The Priest from Tyler came to do the blessing.

I must clarify what was meant by the 'other room.' At no time in my growing up days did our grandparents (nor any of the other relatives have dining rooms, parlors, or living rooms. Most activities, living and eating, took place in the big kitchen. The 'other room' housed the heating stove, a desk, bookcase, the organ, a couch and a recliner. This room was used only on special occasions. To kids this room was off limits. The big dining table was purchased after my grandparents moved to Penfield. The only times I can remember its use was when the Priest came for a meal; at Easter when the feast was laid out for blessing; and when Aunt Veronica and George Stojek were married, the wedding dinner was served there.

Among the rest of the relatives their 'other room' hadn't much furniture but it was used as we use a living room or family room today. It wasn't off limits to kids.