

## ANTHONY FAMILY GENEALOGY

The following information was extracted from an audio-taped discussion between Ted Anthony and Mary Anthony Julian on May 18, 1968, at Mary's home in Zion, Illinois. It covers their memories of things told to them by their fathers, Anton and Constantine (Antoszewski) Anthony.

by

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Part one of the story tells the location in Poland and describes the family and how they lived.

Part two tells about the kind of work the boys did as they grew up . . . and some of their experiences.

In Part three each son is described, including moving one-by-one to the United States.

## PART ONE

Poland is surrounded by the countries of Austria, Russia, and Germany. The family lived in the Russian zone in the 1860's. The Russian government was very strict and everyone had to speak Russian. However, the Polish people kept their language alive. The location of their home was somewhere between LODZ (51.46 N, 19.30 E on any map or globe) and PABJANICE (51.40 N, 19.23 E). These towns are about 8 miles apart and are 76 miles SW of WARSAW.

They were brought up in the Roman Catholic faith and the children had to be named after Catholic saints. All the sons had to carry their father's name as their second name. The three sons names were Joseph Luke, Anton Luke, and Constantine Luke. ANTOSZEWSKI was their last name. Anton was called "Antosh" and Constantine was called "Costus." Though the family had 10 children, all but the three boys died from the plague or cholera.

The parents, Luke and Mary, were peasant people. Families had to live in 2-room houses--one family in one room, another family in the other room. The children were brought up in this type of home. Everything went on in this one room. The man of the house made his living there occupying one corner of the room. In this family the father was a shoemaker and he worked on this all the time. The mother had a spinning wheel and loom in another corner of the room.

She grew flax in the garden, treated it, dried it, and spun it into thread. She wove her thread into cloth and made clothes for the family. The boys loved the job of taking the flax to the river to wash it and put it out in the sun to bleach. This gave them a chance to play in the water.

Their mother also had a garden where she raised cabbage and potatoes. This is mainly what they lived on along with coarse black bread and goat's milk. Their mother baked the bread and milked the goats. They ate meat only about once a month. Every day their mother got up early to make the breakfast. For light she had one candle in the middle of the table. In order to cook, the boys had to go out and bring in the wood. They gathered little sticks to start the fire with. At Christmas time their mother made a coffee cake for a great treat. For this she used a lot of poppy seeds. One of Constantine's jobs was to crush the poppy seeds with a mortar and pestle.

Constantine had to tend the goats. He had to keep them out of other people's yards. The goats were not kept in the room with the family. They were outside in separate sheds. The goats were always climbing on top of the sheds. They also had some geese and chickens. They used to take the geese out into the fields and graze them along with the goats in the spring when there was a lot of green grass. They did this on a community basis and families would take turns grazing the geese and goats and the 3 village cows. They would do this at night in the summertime--and they would stay

YERVA  
OLIVE  
VAREVA

out all night with them. They had to be with them because there were no fences and the animals would get into people's gardens. There were only certain places where they could graze. Sometimes when relatives or friends at some distance away would have patches of grass the animals could graze on, they would be gone over night.

Their mother used to make thick sour milk by putting the goat's milk in big flat pans under the bed. When Costus would come in from the fields from tending the goats he was very hungry and thirsty. He was in the habit of crawling under the bed to eat some of it. One time when he did this it was not sour milk, but lime, and he almost burned his insides out. This lime was used to make white wash. The houses were white washed both inside and outside. That was the only decoration they had.

One day Costus had been out working very hard with the goats and in the garden and he was very hungry. He came up to the door of the house and looked in the window and saw that his mother had put a big kettle of stewing meat on the fire. At first he went in and took a little taste of it and said to himself, "Oh, this is good. It's been cooked for father and I shouldn't eat much of it--oh, it's so good"--and he took another piece of it and since he was still hungry he ate more and more until finally he had cleared up everything that was in the pan except some brown gravy. He wondered what in the world his father would do now. So he went into the corner of the room where his father had some shoe leather about

$\frac{1}{4}$ " thick and he cut it up into nice little pieces to resemble the round steak that had been in the pan, covered it over with the brown gravy, and ran out of the house. Later he looked in the window and his father was home. He saw what a rage he was in so he stayed out of the house for a long, long time. Aunt Mary said she remembered her father telling that story. It was one of her favorite stories. It was very seldom that they had meat to eat.

## PART TWO

Joseph, the oldest of the boys, had a barber shop. The barber shop was a center for all the town gossip. As a barber, he was also the first-aid man. He took care of people who had accidents. One of the things he did was to put leeches on patients to bleed them. He also pulled teeth and occasionally had to perform autopsies.

Antosh apprenticed under his father and became a shoemaker.

Costus, the youngest son, began working in a textile factory at age 12. He picked up threads or whatever was dropped on the floor by the weavers. He also swept the floors. He worked there all night and came home with terrible backaches. He eventually learned to weave and became a weaver. (Mary and Ted remembered him showing them how to tie an intricate weaver's knot.)

Constantine's parents wanted him to be an altar boy for the Catholic priests. He had to attend the services and

he would listen to the priests talking in Latin. He had to trim the little incense burners and hand them to the priests. At a certain point in the service he lit the candles. When he was doing these things he was thinking that if there is a God, he didn't believe God would be satisfied with all this form. You don't know what the priest is saying because he's talking in Latin and when he says certain things I do my little duties. The congregation does not understand what the priests say. We go through a lot of ritual here today. Then tomorrow we go out and get drunk and play cards and even sometimes have good fights. He thought, if there is anything better than this--any light anywhere--I wish I could find it. This is just darkness, this way of living in this religion.

Constantine wished he could have an education. He would look toward LODZ about 4 miles from home and wish he could go to school there. If I could only learn something. There must be something different from this way of living. But, of course, there was no way he could go to school in LODZ.

One day Antosh and Costus went to Joseph's barber shop and a man was there distributing some literature. It was the Gospel of St. John and the three boys took this home and read it and studied it amongst themselves sitting on the steps of their parent's home. They said, "This is wonderful. This is light." (They must have read John 12:46, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.") Then they said they wondered what



up all the eligible men and depending upon how many they needed, that's how many they took. When they lined them up they would say that they needed every third man. They would go down the line and count off 1-2-3 and the third man went to service. Then they were in the Russian Army. Several months would pass before they had to report for duty. Aunt Mary said that when it was time for the three brothers to be counted, Constantine was chosen to be inducted into the army. The rule was that the oldest son would never be taken so Joseph was to stay at home. Anton had a physical defect-- 2 thumbs on one hand--so he was excused. Constantine reported to the army headquarters. They had numbers in a box and each man had to draw a number. They only wanted to fulfill their quota so if a man drew a number that was higher than the total number of men needed, he didn't have to go. Constantine didn't want to go to war so he prayed for a high number and got a high number and he didn't have to go.

Ted said that some parts of the life there in Poland we hesitate to talk about--like the fact that our grandfather Luke was a drunk. This ought to be talked about because it is one of the reasons the boys came to America. They could not live at home under these conditions. People that drink this way are not dependable. You can't trust them. Whether it's your own family or not, it's the same story. Ted's dad, Antosh, told him time and time again how his father, Luke, would come to LODZ and beg him for leather to make a pair of shoes which were already paid for. He had



spent the shoe money on drink and didn't have any leather for making the shoes. Antosh would give Luke the leather. Sometimes Luke would make the shoes and sometimes he would go out and sell the leather he had borrowed from his son. He would use this money for buying more drinks. So it was just a merry-go-round.

The boys had several reasons for wanting to emigrate from Poland to the United States. They wanted to give up the Catholic religion and be free to study the Bible. They wanted to continue to avoid service in the Russian Army. They wanted to get away from their alcoholic father.

### PART THREE

They finally decided to come to this country. Joseph came first and after he was here about six months, he got Anton to come here. Anton got settled in his shoe business and the last one to come, about six months later, was Constantine. Aunt Mary thought it was sad that none of them ever returned to Poland and they never saw their parents again.

Joseph was married in the old country and he and his wife had a son, Joseph--they called him Joe--and two daughters, Cornelia and Lydia. Joe studied for the ministry. He graduated. He gave his first sermon called, "Jesus Wept." One week later he died. When Joseph's first wife died (her name is not known), Ted's father, Anton, took care of the two girls. This was in Buffalo, New York. Later Joseph was

remarried to Augusta and they had three children, Olga, Charlie, and Ruth. Joseph was said to be the first Polish ordained minister. Later Joseph and his family moved to California. Mary and Ted didn't know where in California. (I think Aunt Becky Anthony once told me she thought they moved to either Oakland or Berkeley). At the time of the taping Joseph, Cornelia, and Lydia had already died. Nothing more was said about Augusta, Olga, Charlie, or Ruth. Cornelia had been married to Frank Lang and their 2 children, Ruth and Benjamin were still alive in 1968.

Anton was married the first time in Poland to Josephine. He was only 19 and his wife was 20 years older. She was blind the last 2 years of her life and when she was very ill and dying, her friend (another Josephine) took care of her. She told her friend, "When I die, I want you to marry Antosh and take care of him." She promised and she did marry Anton. This second Josephine was the mother of Ted and his sister, Rose.

When Constantine came to America it is thought that he went to Buffalo first. He spent some time in Detroit. He met Jessie Russell in Cleveland. They were married February 10, 1890, in Detroit. Aunt Mary, the oldest child, was born in Chicago on January 7, 1891. Robert was born in the first little house that Constantine built with a David Enkel on the corner of Bluff Street and Park Avenue in Glencoe, Illinois, on March 14, 1893. This house was sold and the proceeds given to the American Colony organization. Then the family

went to Jerusalem to become part of the American Colony. Rebecca was born in Jerusalem on August 4, 1896. The family returned to the United States in 1900. Florence was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, July 18, 1901. The family moved back to Glencoe, Illinois, and Jessie was born on September 20, 1904.

Both Ted and Mary said that their fathers had often told them stories about their early lives. They regretted that they had paid so little attention and hadn't asked more questions.

Surely we all feel the same way. By the time it seems important, we're too old. Anyway, they did better than most do by tape recording their memories. Ted should have the most credit because he made the effort by taking his tape recorder to Zion and engaging Mary in an hour-long conversation about the past. It's very meaningful to all of us who want to find out all we can about the olden days.

