

The Szymoniaks

By Ruth Rogers Szymoniak

As I begin this story of the Szymoniak family,
I'll try to make it as accurate as it was told to me.

It all begins in Poland where both Dad and Mom were born.
Dad in Eighteen Eighty-Six, Mom, Eighteen Ninety- One.

Both spent their early childhood there, each with their families,
But in their teenage years they'd heard of the "Land of Opportunity."

Dad was only eighteen years old, just beginning to be a man.
He must have been a brave soul to leave his family and motherland.

But he had his sights on America, and he wasn't looking back,
America was just waiting for Casimer Szymoniak.

He settled in Lowell, Massachusetts, he liked the rolling hills,
Found himself a job there working in the textile mills.

It was a few years later, a most exciting day,
When a young girl, Barbara Lisowski landed in the U.S.A.

She had also come to America, "The land of opportunity."
Made Lowell, Massachusetts her home with her sister and family.

She started looking for a job to support herself and pay her bills,
And at that time in Lowell, everyone worked in the textile mills.

Both of them were working at the mills when she met Dad.
I'm sure it was "love at first sight." He was such a handsome lad.

They were both enjoying this new land and their new life,
He had finally found the girl he loved, and asked her to be his wife.

In the year of Nineteen Seven on February twent-nine,
Barbara married Casimer, the wedding was so fine.

It was such a happy time for them, their lives were fresh and new,
They'd both made such new changes, and their troubles seemed so few.

A new wife to be a "helpmate," a new husband to "take care,"
A new family to be started, a new life they would share.

The first year seemed to pass so fast, "Time was flying," so it seemed,
For shortly they were expecting their first daughter, called Irene.

They were both so very proud of this new baby girl,
God had surely blessed them and their hearts were in a "whirl."

America had been good for them, she was treating them just fine,
Three years later, another daughter they called her Caroline. (Cary)

Two little girls they had, to laugh and play together,
To share this happy home with them, now and forever.

But Mom was getting lonesome for her parents, Dad could see
So Dad sent Mom and the two little girls back to Poland for Grandma to see.

While visiting in Poland three months, or maybe four,
They thought they best "scoot" for home; there were rumors of the first World War.

So back they came, back home to Dad, who had a big surprise.
He had lined up a new job in Chicago, Illinois.

He had taken an apprentice course, in paper hanging and painting,
Now days I guess you'd call it interior decorating.

Lowell was just too small a town for the work Cash could do
His friends in Chicago let him know there's lots of work for you.

They packed up their belongings, to Chicago they would go,
To start a new job, find a home, before the fall of snow.

Settled down again in Chicago at home they were beginning to feel,
When along came another daughter, this one they called Lucille. (Lou)

A couple of years went by again, expecting this time a "fella"
But it was another daughter, Julia, but we all call her Stella.

Once again Mom was expecting and Dad was getting braggy,
But he got another daughter, Agnes, and we all call her Aggie.

Now it's five little girls they have, to laugh and play together,
To share this happy home with them, now and forever.

We all know Cash was not a city boy, it was starting to bother him.
He'd heard of work in Detroit, in the state of Michigan.

So to Detroit they all came, their family of five little girls.
But only for a couple of years before Mom became quite ill.

The doctor said, "Cash Szymoniak, your wife is sick, I see,
I think the best we can do for her is a move to the North Country."

So sight unseen he bought afar, a farm was his desire.
But before they even got here they lost the house by fire.
Now luckily for the Szymoniaks a neighbor was their old friend,
They could move in with the Frank Muellers until their house could be built again.

From May until September it took to build their home.
Although it was only two rooms, once again they were on their own.

To them it seemed like heaven, the apples, plums and pears.
Roses, Sweet Williams, and wild berries everywhere.

They had t have a garden, some chickens and some cows,
A pig or two, some turkeys, they have hard winters here, and how.

When winter came they were nestled in, the older girls' in school.
Mom home with the little girls while Dad worked with his tools.

His work took him away from home, but his farm was his pride and joy.
They were having another baby, it just had to be a boy.

If it wasn't a boy this time they were coming to a halt.
Finally they got a boy, Walter, we all call him Walt.

Back to the baby business again, much to Mom's dismay,
Four more boys they had, Ed, Dick, Eugene, and Ray.

Now it was five little girls, and five little boys,
To laugh and play together, to share this happy home with them, now and forever.

The farm that raised their family has seen many hours and days of fun.
But they had their share of sorrow too for they had lost one son.

But all the rest are here today and happy to be back,
For the first annual family reunion of Barbara and Casimer Szymoniak.

They didn't realize it at the time when they started this family tree,
In the year Nineteen Eighty the Szymoniak "offsprings" there would be.

Casimir Szymoniak was born November 22, 1880 in Poland and married Barbara Lisowski in Lowell, Massachusetts November 25, 1907. She was born May 29, 1887 in Poland. They moved to Millersburg in 1920 after first spending time in Chicago and Detroit

Irene married Paul Tredway, Cary married William Kowalski, Lucille married Raymond Keesee, Agnes married Edward Huyck and Stella married Herman Wright.

Walter married Mary Ann Moran, Edward married Virginia Donald, Eugene married Luella Walter, Dick married Patricia Wright, and Raymond married Ruth Rogers.

The Szymoniaks celebrated their golden wedding anniversary by repeating their marriage vows at St. Luke's Episcopal church in Rogers City. Eugene was killed June 20, 1969 when an earth-mover which he was operating turned over on him while working in Tawas. Agnes died recently.

Casimir died August 15, 1964 and Barbara died December 21, 1978. They have indeed left a legacy to the area with all their children, grandchildren, and future generations of Szymoniaks.