

## Chapter Fifteen

Revised  
January 2021

## THE CZUBERA - GUBERA FAMILY

### *Austria-Hungary ~ Romania ~ America*

**T**HE GERRISH FAMILY married into the Czuber Family in the 1930s in America. The Czuber Family can be traced back to the town of Solca, located in that section of northern Romania, which, prior to the Great War of 1914–1918, formed part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Romanians later spelt the name as *Ciubera* on the passport of family members migrating to America around 1920. However, properly spelt the name reads *Czuber* and this is the form we will use while discussing their affairs in Europe.

Maximilian Niemcow c.1871–	1903 =	(1) Franziska <sup>3</sup> Czuber (2) 1885–1943	1908 =	Herman Gerdes 1882–1912
		3 children		

On arrival in America the name became *Gubera*, probably the result of immigration officials anglicising the spelling. Whatever the reason, the change was permanent and all future generations in America are called and referred to here as Gubera. The European Czuber Family were German-speaking Roman Catholics. Family records indicate that they lived in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the 1800s. The province of Bukovina was acquired by the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1715. From that time on, immigration to populate this area was actively encouraged by various incentives. Catholic families came from the German enclaves of the Bohemian Forest in the Sudetenland of the Czech Republic.



*The Austro-Hungarian Empire as it was in 1914 before the outbreak of the Great War.  
The town of Solca at this time was in the province of Bukovina*

Prior to 1861



The map at left shows the two principalities of Moldavia and Walachia as they were prior to 1861 with the town of Solca located in the former. The Turks ruled these lands for over 300 years.

The map below on the left shows Romania when it became a nation after the principalities of Walachia and Moldavia were united in 1861.

After World War I Romania's size almost doubled when it absorbed the provinces of Banat, Transylvania and Bukovina where Solca is located. The map below on the right shows Romania before the outbreak of World War II in

1939. The boundaries of present-day Romania are shown in red. The little town of Solca, once part of the principality of Moldavia was absorbed into the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1861 and after WWI found itself under Romanian control. The province of Bukovina itself was split in half after WWII, with the northern portion being absorbed into Russia, but now part of Ukraine.

1861



1939



In 1975 Conrad Gubera (1903–1989) wrote a family history which he titled: *My family's past, as best as I recall*. Much of the following information on the Gubera family is taken from his anecdotal recollections.

Additional, and perhaps more accurate, information has been supplied by Gertrud Siewi, née Rankel, whose family lived in Solca until the 1930s. She now resides in Germany and has done considerable research into her ancestry in Bukovina which included the Czubera, Fosticz and Bimmer families. Some of her documented information conflicts with that provided by Conrad Gubera's recollections.

**Stefan<sup>1</sup> Czubera**, the earliest Czubera found, was a Roman Catholic, probably from Slovakia. He was a forester by profession and worked for the Austro-Hungarian government. On Karl Gubera's death certificate issued January 1922 in Kansas City, Missouri, his father's name was listed as 'Stravr'. However, Gertrud Siewi confirms his name was Stefan.

Conrad<sup>3</sup> Gubera, Stephan's grandson, says he married an Austrian-German called Eva von Grün who was supposedly 'blue-blood' and that she was also Roman Catholic. Gertrud Siewi's records show Stefan Czubera's wife's name as Eva Prah.

After Stefan<sup>1</sup> and Eva's marriage he was transferred to the little state of Bucovina where they lived in a government house in the forest close to the town of Solca. This would have been when Bucovina was part of the principality of Moldavia before it united with Walachia in 1861 to form Romania. Prior to 1848 Bukovina was administered from Lemberg, Galacia, by mostly Polish officials.

28 March 1853

**The Crimean War** began, lasting until 1 April 1856. It was fought between Imperial Russia on the one side and an alliance of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the second French Empire, the kingdom of Sardinia and to some extent the Ottoman Empire on the other. The majority of the conflict took place on the Crimean Peninsula in the Black Sea.

The *Charge of the Light Brigade* was an ill-advised cavalry charge led by Lord Cardigan on October 25, 1854.



**Stefan<sup>1</sup> Czubera** was born c.1835. He married **Eva Prah**. She was born c.1835. They produced eighteen children, some of whom died in early childhood. The following list of children was provided by Gertrud Siewi. Such large Catholic families accounted for the eventual land shortage and emigration in Bukovina.

1. **Adolf<sup>2</sup> Czubera** was born 1858. He married Otilia Mayer on 9 January 1881 in Solca. She was born 7 March 1862 in Solca and was the daughter of Maria Mayer. There is a record of one child:
  - A. Josefa<sup>3</sup> Czubera, born 17 March 1882 in Solca.
2. **Ludwig<sup>2</sup> Czubera** was born 1858 and died 12 October 1915. He married Viktoria Helt on 29 January 1884 in Solca. She was born 1 December in Solca. Ludwig died 12 October 1915 in Solca. Ludwig and Viktoria had six children, all born in Solca:
  - A. Johann<sup>3</sup> Czubera, born 20 November 1884 in Solca. He married Carolina Fritz on 18 February 1912 in Solca. She was born 4 November 1888 in Solca and was the daughter of Karl Fritz and Elisabeth Filip. Johann died 14 January 1939 in Solca. Johann and Carolina had six children, all born in Solca:
    - i. Josef<sup>4</sup> Czubera, born 12 January 1914.
    - ii. Franz<sup>4</sup> Czubera, born 24 December 1918.
    - iii. Rosalia<sup>4</sup> Czubera, born 17 July 1921.
    - iv. Rudolf<sup>4</sup> Czubera, born 1 March 1924.
    - v. Helena<sup>4</sup> Czubera, born 2 December 1926.
    - vi. Stefania<sup>4</sup> Czubera, born 14 April 1930.
  - B. Ferdinand<sup>3</sup> Czubera, born 5 January 1890.
  - C. Maria<sup>3</sup> Czubera, born 13 March 1892.
  - D. Theresia<sup>3</sup> Czubera, born 9 October 1896.
  - E. Emilia<sup>3</sup> Czubera, born 20 May 1899.

- F. **Olga<sup>3</sup> Maria Czubera**, born 13 September 1902. She married Elias Clasnici on 21 October 1920. They had six children, all born in Solca:
- i. **Paulina<sup>4</sup> Clasnici**, born 29 June 1924.
  - ii. **N<sup>4</sup>. N. Clasnica**, born 16 October 1925.
  - iii. **Emil<sup>4</sup> Clasnici**, born 25 October 1926.
  - iv. **Mathias<sup>4</sup> Clasnici**, born 10 March 1934.
  - v. **Gertrude<sup>4</sup> Clasnici**, born 24 March 1940.
  - iv. **Anton<sup>4</sup> Branko**, born 8 August 1941.

3. **Karl<sup>2</sup> Czubera**, born about 1860 in Solca, Bukovina, Romania and died 19 January 1922 in Kansas City, Missouri. He married Elisabeth Bimmer on 4 June 1884. She was born 15 December 1862 in Radanz and died 31 March 1906. She was the daughter of Johann Bimmer and Katharina Sab.

→ Karl and his family and subsequent migration to America is discussed further on. In America Karl and the other members of his family who migrated to America adopted the family name GUBERA.

4. **Wilhelm<sup>2</sup> Czubera** died 22 January 1863 in Solca, Bukovina.
5. **Maria<sup>2</sup> Czubera**, born 5 January 1862 in Solca, Bukovina. She married Georg Kowal on 24 January 1892 in Solca. He was born 1866 and was the son of Georg Kowal Sr. and Alezandra Koturbasz. Maria died 8 March 1910 in Solca.
6. **Carolina<sup>2</sup> Czubera**, born 3 December 1864 in Solca.
7. **Helena<sup>2</sup> Czubera**, born 16 December 1866 in Solca. She married Adam Fosticz on 24 January 1891 in Solca. He was born 22 September 1868 in Solca and was the son of Karl Fosticz (1839–1920) and Maria Joachimsthaler (1843–1926).

*[Note: Adam Fosticz's younger brother Johann (1881–?) married Sabina Rankel (1887–?) in 1908. Her brother Ludwig Rankel (1871–1943) and his wife Rosalia Scheinost (1875–1941) were the grandparents of Gertrud Siewi.]*

Helena<sup>2</sup> Czubera and Adam Fosticz had one child:

- A. **Maria<sup>3</sup> Fosticz**, born 1885 in Solca. She married Peter Duciewicz on 10 November 1905 in Solca. He was born 1874 in Solca and was the son of Stefan Duciewicz and Julia Jazlowiec.

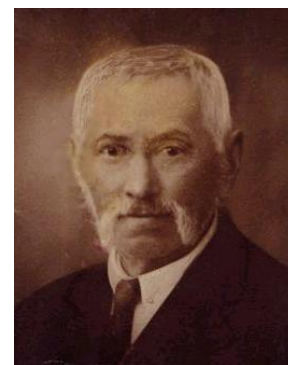
Helena<sup>2</sup> Czubera Fosticz was to play a very significant role in the life of Franzisca<sup>3</sup> Czubera as we shall see later on.

8. **Leon<sup>2</sup> Czubera**, born 26 July 1868 in Solca.
9. **Philomena<sup>2</sup> Czubera**, died 6 October 1874 in Solca.
10. **Eduard<sup>2</sup> Czubera**, born 17 February 1873 in Solca.
11. **Johann<sup>2</sup> Czubera**, died 19 August 1877 in Solca.
12. **Leopoldina<sup>2</sup> 'Tina' Czubera**, born 17 August 1875 in Solca.
13. **Josef<sup>2</sup> Czubera**, born 15 November 1878 in Solca.

**K**ARL<sup>2</sup> CZUBERA was born in Solca in 1858. In Romania his name was Carol; in America he became Carl or Karl Gubera. He was a tanner by profession and on 4 June 1884 he married Elizabeth Bimmer from the nearby town of Radautz who brought into the marriage a considerable dowry. She was born 15 December 1862 and was the daughter of Johann Bimmer and his wife Katharina Sab.

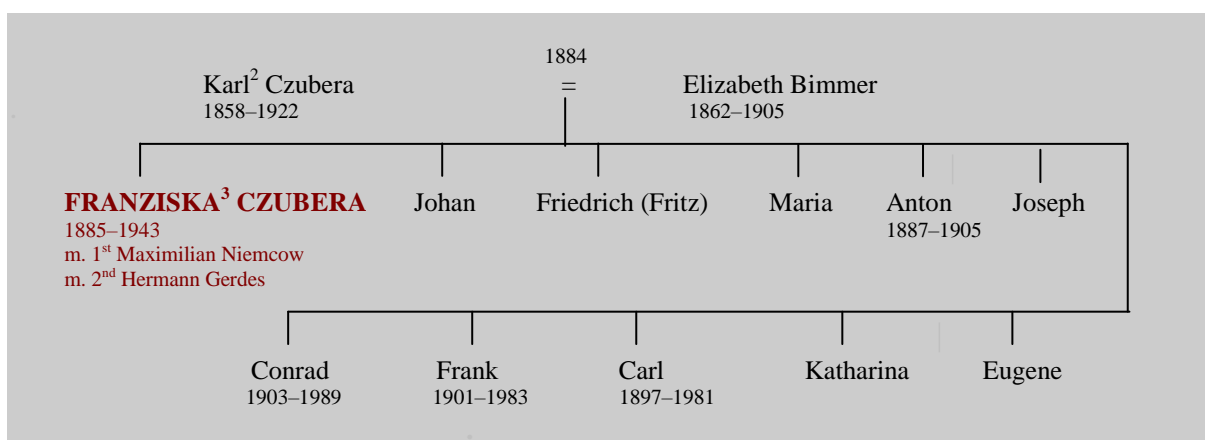
Maria Bimmer (1860–1924), Elizabeth's older sister, married Ferdinand Armbrüster in 1883 in Radautz, Bukovina. He was born in 1857 and was the son of Jakob Armbrüster and Elisabeth Gerhardt. Initially Karl and his wife Elizabeth moved to a town about 100 miles from Solca where Karl commenced his own tanning business by the river. After a few years there was a serious flood and he lost everything, so the family moved back to Solca where Elizabeth's dowry bought them a nice farm. By now it was about 1890.

The property had all the different outbuildings, so one could keep horses and perhaps a cow or two. With all the other farm animals it made what was called a *Wirtschaft*. Karl was to work the horses on different projects and help with other chores about the place. Karl's heart was not in this type of work and it is said he started to drink quite regularly.



Karl Czuberka  
1858–1922

Karl<sup>2</sup> Czuberka and Elizabeth Bimmer had eleven children: **Franziska 'Francis'**, Johan, Friedrich 'Fritz', Maria, Anton, Joseph, Eugene, Carl or Karl, Katharina (Catherine), Franz (Frank) and lastly Conrad who was born 6 November 1903.



### A. Franziska Vera Czuberka

**F**RANZISKA<sup>3</sup> VERA CZUBERA (hereafter called Francis – she spelt her name *Francis* not the usual *Frances* because of the name being shortened from Franziska) was born 9 March 1885 in a town in Rădăuți County near Solca where her father had his tanning business.

By the time she was seventeen her mother Elizabeth was already arranging a husband for her. At that time there was a very eligible bachelor in his early thirties who her mother thought would make a wonderful match. Francis's father had a sister—Helen Fosticz—who was a midwife. She got around a lot and knew everyone. As was the custom there were frequent social activities in the town and Francis and this bachelor became acquainted.



*Franziska Niemcow (née Czubera)*  
1885–1943




*Francis Gerdes and her daughter*  
1940

This prospective husband for Francis was Maximilian Niemcow who was born in Storjineț County, North Bucovina Province (today in Ukraine) about 1871. He was the town Casanova but from a good family which meant a lot to Francis's mother. His family was said to be of Russian/Ukrainian nobility, a speculation that has yet to be explored. Maximilian was the son of Onufri Niemcow and his wife Emilia-Lucia Romanowicz. They supposedly owned a substantial estate in Solca which was lost during the political upheaval following World War I when that part of Austro-Hungary became part of the expanded country of Romania.

**Francis<sup>3</sup> and Maximilian were married 5 July 1903** when Francis was eighteen years old. After their marriage the couple lived in the home of Maximilian's father who had a big house divided for two families. Unlike his son, who appears to be something of a playboy, Onufri is reported to have been a kindly gentleman who later took charge of his granddaughter for a few years when Francis migrated to America with her younger daughter Elizabeth.

Mr Ioan Buhu and his son Cosmin who manage the *Hotel Continental Arcasul* in Suceava, Romania, a town close to Solca, very kindly offered to conduct some research in Solca. They successfully located the official records of Frances and Maximilian's marriage and the birth certificates of their two surviving daughters.

DIRECȚIA JUDEȚEANĂ SUCEAVA a  
 MINISTERUL DE INTERNE ARHIVELOR NAȚIONALE  
 DIRECȚIA GENERALĂ A ARHIVELOR STATULUI  
 Nr. 251 din 18.04.2002  
 Dosar nr. 21



### EXTRAS DE CĂSĂTORIE

numai pentru uzul organelor de stat

Numele de familie al soțului NIEMCOW prenumele soțului MAXIMILIANUS  
 (litere mari de tipar)

Numele de familie al tatălui NIEMCOW prenumele tatălui ONUFRI  
 (litere mari de tipar)

Numele de familie al mamei NIEMCOW prenumele mamei EMILIA-LUCIA  
 (litere mari de tipar)

LOCUL ȘI DATA Localitatea Storojineț județul \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAȘTERII SOȚULUI Anul 32 ani luna \_\_\_\_\_ ziua \_\_\_\_\_

Numele de familie al soției CZUBERA prenumele soției FRANCISCA  
 (litere mari de tipar)

Numele de familie al tatălui CZUBERA prenumele tatălui CAROL  
 (litere mari de tipar)

Numele de familie al mamei CZUBERA prenumele mamei ELISABETHA  
 (litere mari de tipar)

LOCUL ȘI DATA Localitatea Rădăuți județul \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAȘTERII SOȚIEI Anul 18 ani luna \_\_\_\_\_ ziua \_\_\_\_\_

LOCUL ȘI DATA INCHEIERII CĂSĂTORIEI

Localitatea Solca județul Suceava anul 1903 (unamie nouăsutetref)  
 luna fulie ziua 5 (cifre și litere)

Paroția romano-catolică Solca

Căsătoria a fost înregistrată la Comitetul executiv al Consiliului popular al \_\_\_\_\_  
 județul Suceava în registrul stării civile la nr. 15 din anul 1903  
 luna fulie ziua 5

NUMELE DE FAMILIE DUPĂ CĂSĂTORIE

SOȚIA NIEMCOW

SOȚUL NIEMCOW



M E N Ț I U N I :


\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Se certifica de noi exactitatea prezentului extras, întocmit astăzi 29.04.2002

 DIRECTOR,  


ARHIVAR,  
  
 M. Albu

Conc: IS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dactilo: PL \_\_\_\_\_

L. S.

nr.ex.2

Cd. 441/1983 - V 28

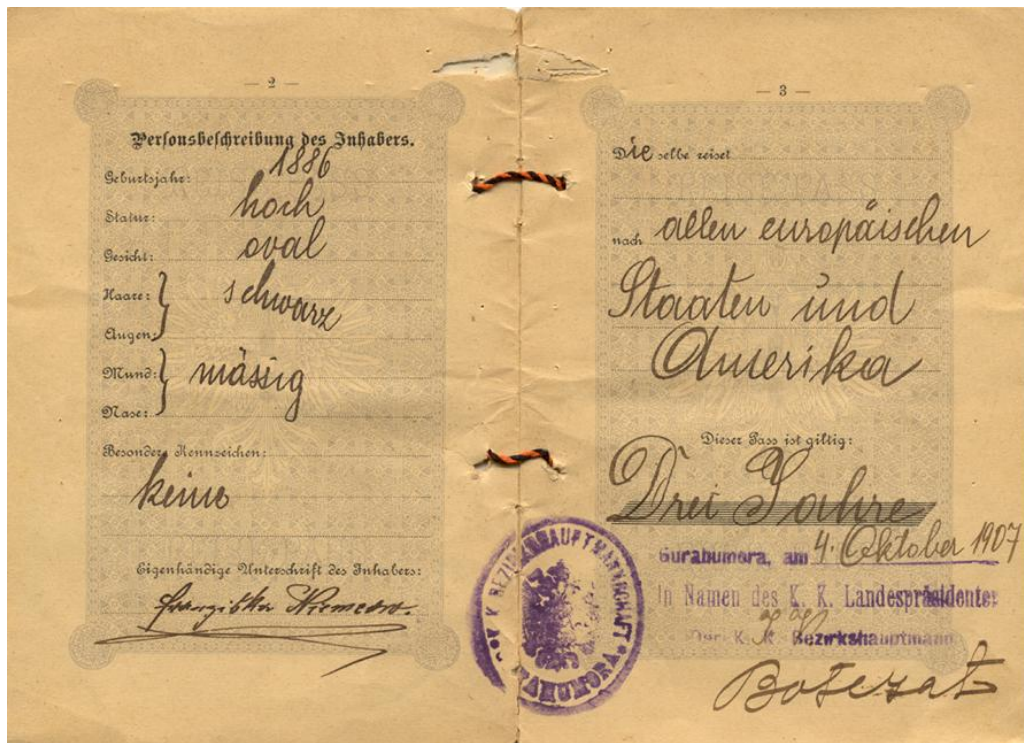
3

*Official excerpt of registration of Francisca Czubera's  
 marriage to Maximilian Niemcow on 5 July 1903*

**1907—Francis<sup>3</sup>, with her youngest daughter and sister Marie<sup>3</sup>, migrate to America.**

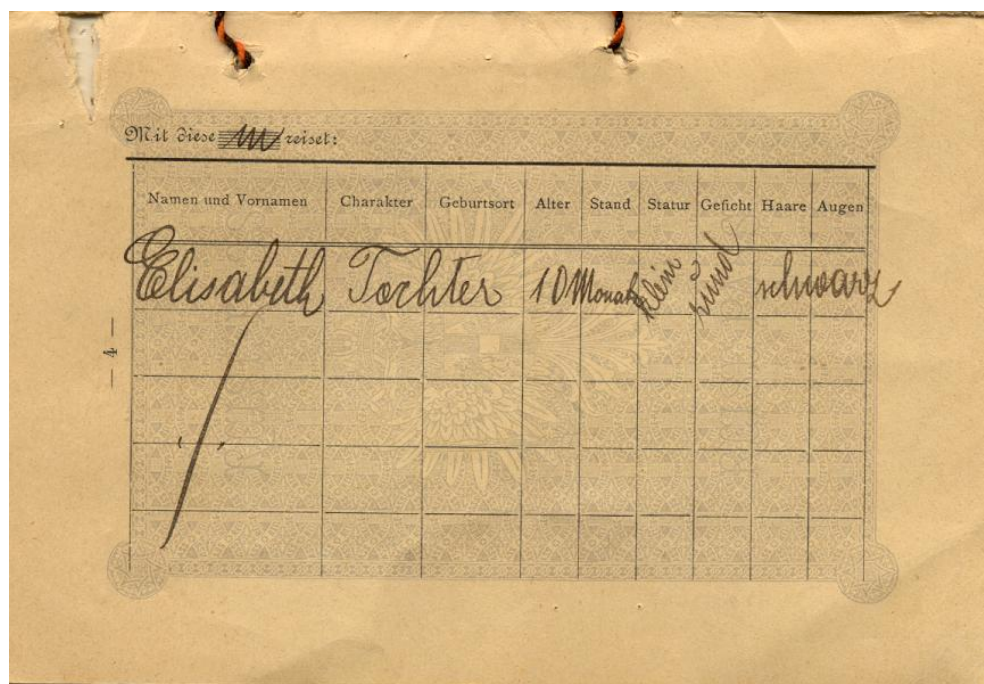
Francis wanted to leave her husband and migrate to America. Persuading her sister Marie<sup>3</sup> (later Mrs Robert Moser) to join her, and with the money she received from her mother's dowry, she took her youngest daughter, then about ten months old, and departed for the United States in the late Fall of 1907, leaving her older child with her Ukrainian father-in-law, whom everyone called *Czarzu*. Francis was now 22 years old.

They arrived in Leeds, a small town close to Kansas City, Missouri where they joined relatives of their mother's family who had migrated some years earlier.



Francis's passport issued 4 October 1907 by the Austria-Hungary government. Her year of birth is listed as 1886 which conflicts with records provided by Gertrud Siewi





*Frances's passport listing her accompanying daughter aged ten months*

Eigenhändige Unterschrift des Inhabers:  
*Franziska Niemcow*

*Franziska Niemcow's signature on her 1907 passport*

**1910—Karl's sister, Helen<sup>2</sup> Czuberá Fosticz and her husband Adam, bring Francis's oldest daughter to America.**

In 1910 Francis's aunt Helen<sup>2</sup> (the midwife) and her husband Adam Fosticz were making plans to also immigrate to America. Learning of this, Francis immediately arranged for her daughter, now seven years old and still living with Francis's father-in-law in Solca, to come with them.

By 1910 this daughter grown very attached to her kindly grandfather, Onufri Niemcow, and the rift of leaving him and the only home she knew and arriving in a strange, new, bustling country with no English skills was quite a traumatic experience and left its mark on this high-spirited and strong-willed little girl.

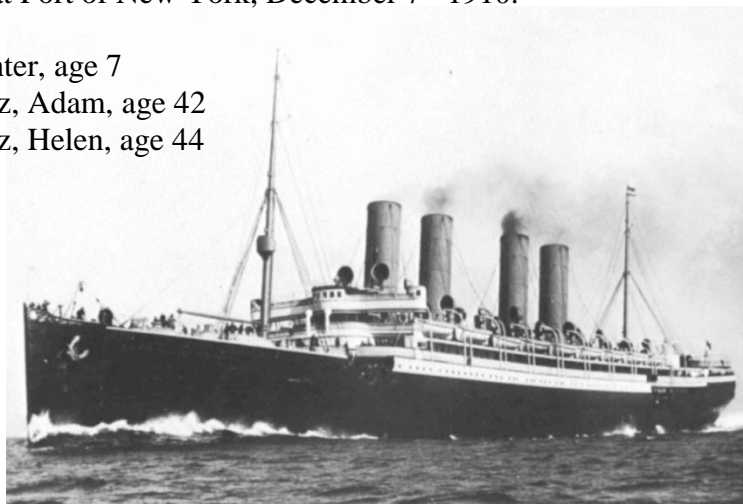
Her adolescent years were not happy ones and she ran away from home a number of times, finally leaving for good when she was sixteen or seventeen years old.

Records of *New York Passenger Lists, 1820–1957* show the following:

**List or manifest of Alien Passengers for the United States  
Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival**

*S.S. Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* sailing from Bremen, 29<sup>th</sup> November 1910  
Arriving at Port of New York, December 7<sup>th</sup> 1910.

Daughter, age 7  
Fosticz, Adam, age 42  
Fosticz, Helen, age 44



*S.S. Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*

Very soon after Francis<sup>3</sup> arrived in America she obtained a divorce from her husband back in Solca. She consulted a lawyer who wrote a notarised letter to Maximilian asking him for a divorce. He wrote back and requested \$1,000 for him to release her from the marriage. In those times the laws in America were very different from those in Solca, still part of Austria-Hungary. On the strength of his letter Francis was granted a divorce in America.



*Francis Gerdes, c.1935*

Following her divorce from Maximilian **Francis<sup>3</sup> married Hermann Gerdes on 26 May 1908.** Festus D. Miller, a Justice of the Peace, performed the marriage. Hermann was a German engineer who had arrived in America in 1906. Hermann was born 21 October 1882. There were no children from her second marriage. A few years later Hermann is said to have formally adopted Frances's two daughters, Emilia, now called Lucille, and Elizabeth.

*Signature on 1908 marriage License*



*Hermann Gerdes  
1882–1912  
as a student at  
Heidelberg University*

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Application No. 40737 for License to Marry.

[AFFIDAVIT OF MALE.]  
 STATE OF MISSOURI, I, Roman Gerdes  
 COUNTY OF JACKSON, do hereby solemnly swear that I am the age of \_\_\_\_\_  
 of Jackson and State of Missouri County of \_\_\_\_\_  
 desiring to procure a license to marry Miss Francis Czubara  
 of Jackson County of Jackson  
 and State of Mo do hereby solemnly swear that I am the age of 25  
 years, and that the said Miss Francis Czubara is of  
 the age of 22 years, and that we are both single and unmarried, and not first cousins, and may  
 lawfully contract and be joined in MARRIAGE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26 day of May 1908  
Roman Gerdes Recorder.  
Francis J. Ross Deputy.  
 By McDonnell

[AFFIDAVIT OF FEMALE.]  
 STATE OF MISSOURI, I, Miss Francis Czubara  
 COUNTY OF JACKSON, do hereby solemnly swear that I am the person named in the above application for a marriage license, and that I am the  
 age of 22 years, and that I am single and unmarried, and may lawfully contract and be  
 joined in MARRIAGE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26 day of May 1908  
Franciska Czubara  
Jake Morris Recorder.  
308 West 17th Deputy.  
K-6, Mo. By McDonnell

STATE OF MISSOURI,  
 COUNTY OF JACKSON.

On the above Application for a Licence to Marry, dated 26 May 1908, Francis's family name has been spelt with an "A" – CZUBARA.

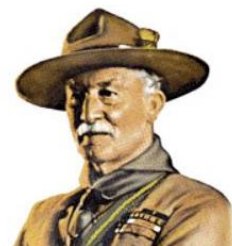
Her signature on the Application, while not that legible, also bears out this spelling.

*Franciska Czubara*

Franciska Czübara

24 January 1908

**Lieutenant General Robert Baden-Powell** published *Scouting for Boys* as a manual for self-instruction in outdoor skills and self-improvement. The book becomes the inspiration for the Scout Movement. Baden-Powell was a British general who became a national hero during the Boer War, He was born 2 February 1857 in London and died 8 January 1941.



Robert Baden-Powell  
1857–1941

Hermann, who had emigrated from Germany aged 24 in 1906, had been an engineer or mechanical draftsman as stated on the 1910 Census, at the plant where one of Francis's uncles worked. This uncle was on her mother's side of the family and had been in America for some years. Hermann was, by all accounts, a warm and kind-hearted man who provided Francis with a degree of security and affection she lacked in her first marriage. Unfortunately, this newfound comfort was not to last as Hermann succumbed to *tuberculosis* and died 5 December 1912. He was buried at Mount St. Mary's Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri. Frances and Hermann had no children.

Hermann's older sister Freeda migrated to America about 1900. She married Abraham Beebe. In 1908 Hermann's widowed mother Elizabeth Gerdes arrived in America with her daughter Mary (or Maria) and the 1910 census shows them living with the Beebe family in Jackson County, Missouri.

Sometime between 1910 and 1920 the widow Elizabeth Gerdes married John Krahenbuhl. He was born 31 March 1859 in Bern, Switzerland and died 9 December 1944 in Missouri. John was first married to Elsie Finkluse and they had six children. He is reported to have arrived in America in 1890. The 1920 census shows their youngest son Otto, aged 15, living with him and his second wife Elizabeth Gerdes.

Elizabeth Gerdes Krahenbuhl was born 5 January 1857 and died 19 November 1945 aged 88. She was buried with her son at Mount St. Mary's Cemetery.



6 May 1937

**The German airship *Hindenburg*** burst into flames 200 feet over its intended landing spot at New Jersey's Lakehurst Naval Air Station. Thirty-five people on board the flight were killed (13 passengers and 22 crewmen), along with one crewman on the ground.



Francis's Aunt Helen<sup>2</sup>, returned to Solca a year or so after they arrived. It seems her husband did not like it in America because all he could do was manual labour and going to work every day did not appeal to him.

ORIGINAL  
TO BE GIVEN TO  
THE PERSON NATURALIZED

No. 4895464

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
NATURALIZATION

Petition No. 8762

Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization: Age 55 years, sex Female, color White, complexion Light, color of eyes Brown, color of hair Grey, height 5 feet 4 1/2 inches, weight 160 pounds, visible distinctive marks Cut scar on left wrist

Marital status Single former nationality Roumania

I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.

*Francis Vera Gerdes.*  
(Complete and true signature of holder)

United States of America  
West. Div. West. Dist. of Mo, ss: Frances Vera Gerdes

Best known that Frances Vera Gerdes then residing at 3216 Holmes St., Kansas City, Missouri having petitioned to be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and at a term of the District Court of The United States of America held pursuant to law at Kansas City, Missouri on June 2nd, 1941 the court having found that the petitioner intends to reside permanently in the United States and in all respects complied with the naturalization laws of the United States in such case applicable and was entitled to be so admitted, the court thereupon ordered that the petitioner be admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

In testimony whereof the seal of the court is hereunto affixed this 2nd day of June in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and Forty-one and of our Independence the one hundred and Sixty-fifth.

A. L. Arnold  
Clerk of the U. S. District Court

By *John S. Hatzinger*  
Deputy Clerk  
JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

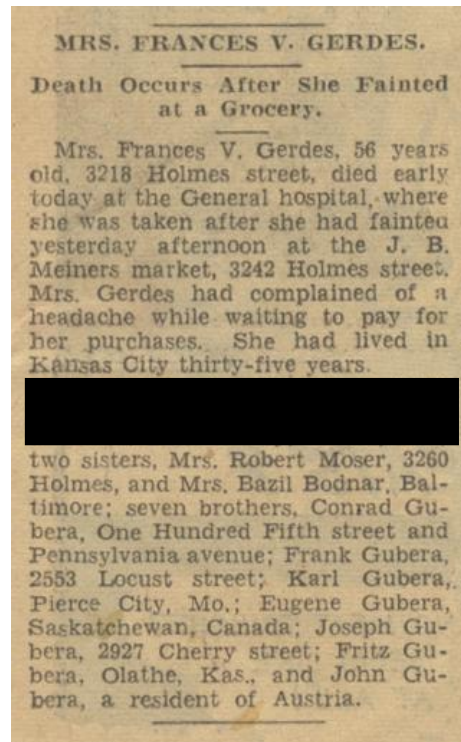
Francis Vera Gerdes became a naturalised citizen of the United States of America on 2 June 1941. This document indicates her age as 55 which gives 1886 as her year of birth. This date conforms with her 1907 passport. She died two years later.

Francis<sup>3</sup> Vera Gerdes (formerly Franziska Czuberka) died Wednesday, 15 September 1943 in Kansas City, Missouri and was buried at Mount St. Mary's Cemetery on Saturday, 18 September.



Francis Vera Gerdes - 1939

She had died in the early hours of the morning and her death was reported in the local paper the same day:



The next day her funeral arrangements were announced:

**Mrs Frances V. Gerdes Rites**

Services for Mrs. Frances V. Gerdes, 56, of 3218 Holmes, who died Wednesday, will be held at 9 o'clock Saturday at the Redemptorist church. Burial will be in St. Mary's cemetery. The rosary will be recited at 9 o'clock this Friday night at the Wagner chapel.

**Charles H. Haughton Rites**

The death certificate issued by the State of Missouri Department of Health stated her age at death to be 55 years, 6 months and 6 days. However, this is inconsistent with the birth record provided by Gertrud Siewi which states that Frances was born 9 March 1885, giving her age at death to be 58 years. The months and days are correct.

31 October 1941

**Mount Rushmore National Memorial** is a sculpture carved into the granite face of Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. Carved by Danish-American Gutzon Borglum and his son it features 60-foot sculptures of four United States Presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. Construction began in 1927 and the memorial was completed 31 October 1941.





The headstone for Francisca Vera Gerdes at Mount St. Mary's Cemetery, Kansa Citys, Missouri

Signature in 1928

Francis<sup>3</sup> (Francisca) Czubera and Maximilian Niemcow had three children, all born in Solca, Austria-Hungary, now part of Romania.

oOo

### Meanwhile back in Europe ...

Around 1905–1906 a typhoid epidemic broke out which everyone caught except Karl<sup>2</sup> and his wife Elizabeth, who had to nurse all the sick members of the family. She became so worn out she caught *pneumonia* and died on Palm Sunday, 31 March 1905. Her son Anton took his mother's death very hard and died of grief a week later on Easter Sunday. Both were cremated and the ashes interred at Cimitrul Cemetery in Solca. During a typhoid epidemic public health considerations made it mandatory for corpses to be incinerated.



Here rest  
 Mother & Son  
 ELIZABETH & ANTON  
 CZUBERA  
 43 & 18 years old  
 Died in the Year 1905  
 Peace be to their Ashes

Karl immediately put the *Wirtschaft*, house and all, on the market. After the property was sold, Karl rented a small house. The money from the sale of the *Wirtschaft* was divided equally among amongst Karl and his children who were of age—Francis<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>3</sup> and Marie<sup>3</sup>.

### 1910—Joseph<sup>3</sup> and Eugene<sup>3</sup> Czubera migrate to America

Several months before the Fosticz's left for America, two of Francis's younger brothers, Joseph and Eugene, then 17 and 15 years old respectively, decided to emigrate and arrived in New York on 19 March 1910.

Because they were considered too young to work, it was a requirement of the US government that they be sponsored. This was done by the German family who owned the grocery store in Kansas City where their sister Marie worked.

In Europe the political situation was growing very tense. In the late 1800s and early 1900s Slavs and other minority groups in Austria-Hungary demanded the right to govern themselves. Serbia, a Slavic country south of Hungary, led the Slavic nationalist movement.

28 June 1914

**World War I** is triggered by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, and his wife Sophie Chotek, in Sarajevo, the capital of the Austrian province of Bosnia. The assassin was Gavrilo Princip, 1894–1918, a Bosnian student who had lived in Serbia.



*Franz Ferdinand  
1863–1914*

When Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot dead, it was suspected that Serbia was behind the assassination plot and Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, marking the start of World War I. Germany and other countries joined Austria-Hungary in fighting the Allies which included Britain, Australia, New Zealand, France, Russia and eventually the United States.

This was a dramatic turn of events for the Czubera family. All the men who were fit had to enlist. Some of Karl's younger brothers were inducted, also uncle Joe<sup>2</sup> who was killed in the first battle with the Russians. Also inducted were a number of Karl's older sons. John<sup>3</sup> and Fritz<sup>3</sup> who were in the artillery were captured and sent to separate Russian prison camps. After the war Karl's son John stayed on in Russia. Czarist Russia had instituted a law that any prisoner who married a freeborn Russian woman became a Russian citizen. Fritz went to a camp close to Riga in Latvia. There he married and was set free to be with his wife. Prisoners who were on good behaviour were allowed to go to Riga on Sundays and it was there he met his wife Olga Schemanes, who was of Latvian and German heritage.

Before long the Russian army occupied the town of Solca. The first to arrive were the Cossacks who were a fierce group on horseback. They were especially hard on the Jews and took whatever they wanted from the locals. People, such as the Czubera family, who lived in the business district, were not



*Karl Gubera with sons Frank and Conrad  
c.1900*



harassed nearly as much as other people. After a couple of weeks things settled down and the Russian authority took over.

After about eighteen months the Russians pulled out and then Solca once more belonged to Austria-Hungary. Then within a year the Russians were back and the town was once more over-run by the enemy. This time the front line formed right through the town – the Russians on one side and the Austro-Hungarian army on the other.

### Conrad's adventures during WWI

About this time, Conrad<sup>3</sup>, Francis's youngest brother, now thirteen years old, wandered a little too far from home—against his father's instructions—and was captured by the Russians. They marched him to a town about ten miles distant and put him with other prisoners in a schoolhouse they had made their headquarters. The plan was for them to be taken away by truck as soon as there were enough. By good fortune a local lady who came with food each day took pity on Conrad and arranged for him to be spirited away in a cartload of hay to a village nearby. There he spent about six weeks on a farm performing jobs for the lady who lived there. Conrad then left the farm and headed for a town about 25 kilometres away on the Russian side where he had relations. Also he knew the local priest who used to visit Solca to read High Mass and Conrad had often served him as an altar boy.

It was now 1917. Conrad's relations, the Schmidt family, who were quite wealthy and very religious, took him in and treated him as one of their own. Conrad helped build underground shelters as the cannon-fire was terrible and many people were killed or injured. By the time the shelters were finished the cannon shooting has eased and then it stopped altogether. The Russians were having a revolution and their soldiers were deserting.

Conrad was anxious to find out if his father was still alive. It was decided he should try to get to his aunt Leopoldine's home about 200 kilometres to the north. He left the Schmidts with a group of others who were going across the line. Once safely across, he made contact with the priest he knew who told him that after he was abducted by the Russians the whole town of Solca was evacuated and that his family now lived with his Aunt Tina in Storozenetz which today is in Ukraine, but in 1917 was part of Austria-Hungary. After WWI it became part of Romania and later, at the end of WWII, taken over by the Russians. When Conrad finally arrived unannounced at Aunt Tina's home there was naturally a very emotional welcome, as they all thought the boy had perished.

8 March 1917

**The Russian Revolution.** 'Russian Revolution' is the collective term for a pair of



*Tsar Nicholas II*  
1868–1918

revolutions in Russia in 1917, which dismantled the Tsarist autocracy and led to the eventual rise of the Soviet Union.

During the revolution Tsar Nicholas II and his family, who were being held captive, were executed in the early morning hours of 17 July 1918.



*Vladimir Lenin*  
1870–1924

### 1920—Karl<sup>2</sup> and Conrad<sup>3</sup> Czuber migrate to America

Here in Storozenetz the family lived and worked for the next couple of years. They had been receiving news from family members in America and this stimulated Conrad and his father Karl to commence emigration procedures. By now the state they were from—Bukovina—

belonged to Romania and this did not suit them as they were being treated like second-class citizens.

After receiving their joint passport and papers Karl and Conrad left Storoznetz and travelled to Bucharest where they would get their visas. Leaving Bucharest, they went by train through Yugoslavia, Italy, Austria and LeHavre, France, to board the steamship that would take them to America. Seven days later they arrived in Quebec, Canada. Here they spent the night before boarding the train which would take them via Detroit to Kansas City, Missouri where they would be reunited with those family members who had preceded them to America, including Conrad's sister Francis<sup>3</sup> (Niemcow) Gerdes. They arrived 1 July 1920.

### 1920 – Catherine<sup>3</sup> and Basil Bodnar migrate to America

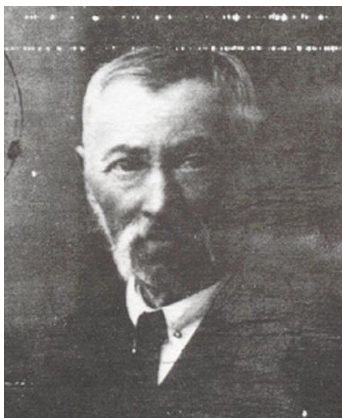
That same year Conrad's sister Katharina (later Catherine) and her husband Basil Bodnar also emigrated to America. Basil Bodnar was a State police officer in Storoznetz and was a friend of Aunt Tina. He also had a job smuggling tobacco into what is now Poland. He soon left the police and was full time at his lucrative smuggling operation which for a while included young Conrad. Aunt Tina's (Leopoldina<sup>2</sup>) household included Katherina<sup>3</sup> Czuberka and it was not long before Basil was seriously courting her. They were married about 1919—first at the Greek Orthodox Church and then at the Roman Catholic Church.



*Basil & Katharina Bodnar with  
William and Marie, c.1923*

Not long after Conrad and Carl left for America Basil was caught smuggling and was advised to get out of Romania as soon as he could. As the couple had put up all their belongings for bond, Katharina's relations who lived in America provided money for their tickets. By now Katharina was pregnant and getting close to her time. They arrived in Quebec on December 18, 1920 and William, their first child, was born two days after.

In the winter of 1921 Carl's health began to fail and he went to live with his son Joseph and his wife. After a period in hospital, he lived with his daughter Katherine and her husband Basil Bodnar



*Karl (Carol) Czuberka  
Passport photograph*

**Karl<sup>2</sup> Gubera** died **19 January 1922** of *chronic fibroid phthisis (tuberculosis)* and was buried at Mount St. Mary's Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri. He was 64 years old.



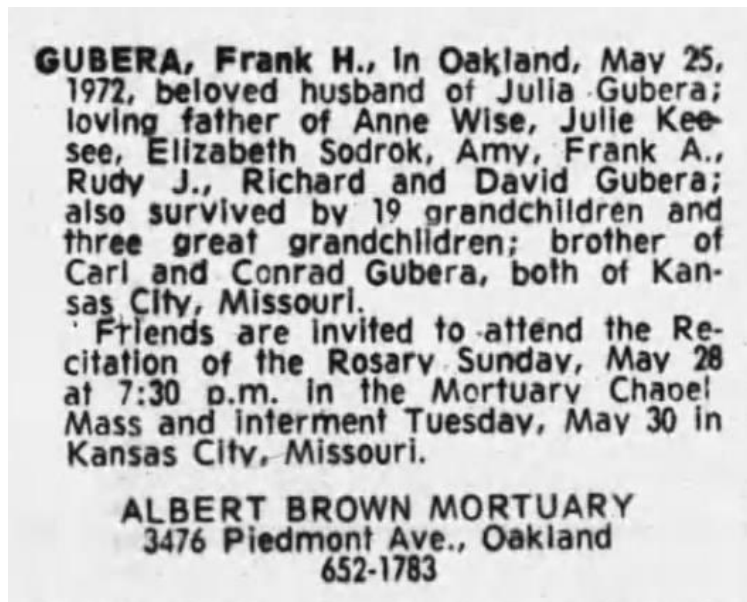
Two pages of Karl Gubera's passport. Note that the Romanian authorities have written Karl's name as Carol Ciubera.

Over the next few years several more of Karl's children immigrated to America and most settled in the Kansas City area. Here they went to school and learnt English, married and raised their children to be good Americans. The following outlines the lives of some of the ones we know about:

- B. Franz<sup>3</sup> (Frank) Henry Czubera** was born 24 May 1901 in Storozenetz, Austria-Hungary, now Ukraine. He migrated to America in December 1920, joined other members of his family in Kansas City, Missouri and like them changed his name to Gubera.

Frank, who was a master chef by profession, married **Julia Gröschl** in Kansas City on 13 January 1922. She was born 6 February 1898 in Bohemia. Frank moved to California with his family in the mid 1950s. He died on 25 May 1972 in San Francisco. His wife Julia passed away 6 September 1983.

Frank's death was announced in the *Oakland Tribune* on 28 May 1972:



*Frank H. Gubera*  
 WWII  
 Draft Registration Card

6 January 1919

**Theodore Roosevelt** died at his Long Island estate at Sagamore Hill, New York after suffering a coronary embolism. He was 60 years old. He was an American statesman, author, explorer, soldier, naturalist and reformer who served as the 26th President of the United States from 1901 to 1909. Following the assassination of President McKinley in September 1901, Roosevelt, at age 42, succeeded to the office, becoming the youngest United States President in history.



*Theodore Roosevelt*  
 1858–1919



*Frank and Julia's Wedding Day - 30 January 1922*

*Standing from left:  
Conrad Gubera, Genevieve Heiman and Frank Gubera (Groom)*

*Seated from left:  
Marie Schneider and Julia Gröschl (Bride)*

Frank Gubera and Julia Gröschl were married at *Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church* in Kansas City, Missouri. When they died, their funerals were held in this church and they were both buried at nearby Mount St. Mary's Cemetery, where many of the Gubera family members are interred.

oOo

In 1972 Conrad<sup>3</sup> Gubera together with his wife Florence made a trip back to his hometown of Solca in Romania. On his return to America he wrote a report of his travels. The following is a transcript of Conrad's account in his broken English:

This is from our trip from last year 1972. About Sept of last year we decided to go on a short tour of some of the European countrys, I decided that if we go I must go to my birthplace if only a overnight stay. We went with a tour with American Express.

The tour took a Route thru Schwitzerland Italy Austria Germany of course we did not see all of these countrys just the high lights you mite say and I mist part of this even Because while Florence was touring Schwitzerland and Italy I went direct from New York with Pan Am Air flight to Bukarest the Capital of Romania the land thath the place we where born belong to now In Bukarest I stayd over night next morning 7 am I took off and at 9 am I landed in Suceava Bukovina wich is aproxementle 50 kilometers from Solca A friend that I know has a Sister that leave about ½ way between Suceava and Solca and insisted that they would be thrilled to meet me at the airport in Suceava wich of course they dit and took me to there place and had a dilightfull visit with them next morning we went by bus to Solca and they went back home after they saw to et that I found some people that I remembered in matter of fact there is several that I remember and vice versa on Girl or shal I say grasios old lady that I went to school with and of course every one could not believe et was me because I do have a hairpiece and no one ever tought that my hair was falce I took it off in order to convince them that I reale was not quite as well preserved as I look.

That was about 9 am I said that I could not posible stay more then 24 hr because I had to met my wife in Wiena and could not aford to mis because the tour was going to be there and leave the next day and my desire most important was to find my mother grave and perhaps jave a Service in the church where I was Oltar boy over 50 years ago So et was arranged that by 6 pm we had a Requium mas read the few people that where there few of the people that I still remember some that I remember their parents then after the service we had a get togheter and had some laughs and reminis et old times et was reale beautiful. Next morning I went to the cementary with the people I stayd over night with I used to know their parents wich one in the hir after and tretet some of the old streets and ways I used to some has naturale change a lot is still the same it is unbelievable Found my mother grave the cast iron fence is gone but the Iron cross is still in good condition the fence was removed for the iron during the war your Grandfathers house wich was next to the church was demolished during the 2<sup>nd</sup> war after all this about 4 pm I went back to where I stayd the first night and next morning I was off to Bukarest spent rest of that day there beautifull city took a 4 hr tour wich was very injovble and then next morning bout 8 am I left Bucarest and about 10 am I joint Florence and the tour went true Oberamergau where they have the Pasion play and wer so many more place of interest One of them special is Salzburg wher the sound of musik was produced

Very interesting . wel it looks to I am running out of paper. Please copy or forward I don't think I could write this over

Your Unkle Connie

2 May 1972

**J. Edgar Hoover died.** Born 1 January 1895 in Washington DC, he was the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from 1924 until his death. Later in life and after his death he became a controversial figure as evidence of his secretive abuses of power surfaced indicating he used the FBI to harass political dissenters and activists and amass secret files on political leaders.



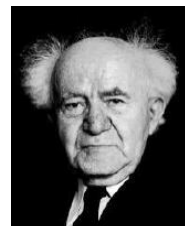
J. Edgar Hoove  
1895–1972



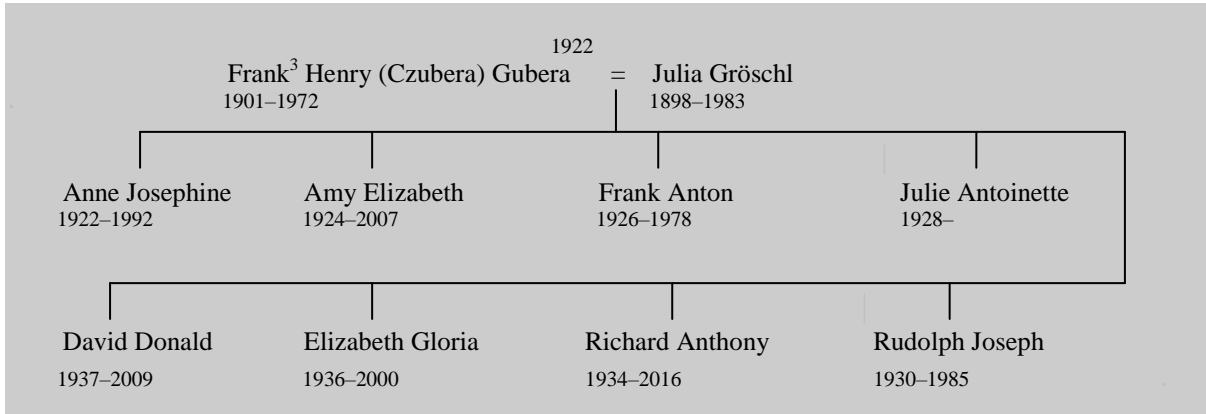
*The Marriage Certificate for Frank and Julia Gubera  
Someone has nominated the bride as Elizabeth Armbruster instead of Julia Gröschl.  
The former was a relation who would have been present at the wedding.  
The error was probably due to the broken English of the newly arrived immigrants.  
At that time there would have been a significant language barrier  
which undoubtedly led to misunderstandings.*

14 May 1948

**David Ben-Gurion** declared the Independence of the state of Israel on the last day of the British Mandate. After leading Israel during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Ben-Gurion was elected Prime Minister of Israel when his Mapai (Labour) Party won the largest number of Knesset seats. He briefly retired in 1953 but returned to positions of power in 1955 and led the Israeli government until 1963 when he suddenly retired citing personal reasons. Born in Poland on 16 October 1886 Ben-Gurion died in on 1 December 1973 aged 87.



*David Ben-Gurion  
1886–1973*



Frank<sup>3</sup> and Julia Gubera produced eight children. All were born in Kansas City and all were baptised at *Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church*.

- i. Anne<sup>4</sup> Josephine Gubera was born 9 August 1922. She married Ralph Veto Wise on 16 June 1943 in California. Born 11 May 1924 in West Virginia, he was a chef by training but later built up a successful Cadillac dealership. She and her husband had moved to California in the early 1940s and settled in San Francisco. Anne was the first of the Guberas to move west. After the war she and her husband elected to stay in California and settled in the Bay area.



Ralph V. Wise  
1924–1994

Anne J. Wise  
née Gubera  
1922–1992



When Anne was about 60 she developed a sunspot on her head. The doctors tested her and confirmed she had contracted *lupus*. However, Anne was never sick with the disease which seemed to go into remission. She eventually died of stomach cancer on 12 March 1992 at the age of 69 in Vallejo, California and was buried in Elcerito.

Ralph died 31 December 1995 of *latent diabetes and lung cancer* at the age of 70. He and Anne were buried at Sunset View Cemetery in El Cerrito, California.





Anne<sup>4</sup> and Ralph had two children.

- ii. Amy<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Gubera was born 5 April 1924. Amy married William Z. Stanley on 21 November 1970 at the age of 46. The marriage did not work out and they were divorced a year later. She never married again and reverted to her maiden name of Gubera.

She lived in Alameda, a suburb of San Francisco and died 26 September 2007 aged 83. She was buried at the Chapel of the Chimes Memorial Park in Alameda, County, California.



*Amy E. Gubera  
1924–2007*

- iii. Frank<sup>4</sup> Anton Gubera was born 15 September 1926. Known as Buddy, he was very tall measuring six foot four and a half inches. On leaving school Buddy joined the Navy. This was about 1942 or 1943 and WWII was in full swing. After basic training he was shipped out of San Francisco to the Pacific as a paramedic. His sisters Anne and Julie were already in San Francisco and Buddy had been living with Anne. Anne's husband Ralph was also in the Navy and was away serving elsewhere.

After his discharge from the Navy in 1946 Buddy returned to Kansas City and went to Cleveland Chiropractic School. While there he married a beautiful model called Phyllis Lanelle. However, the marriage did not work out and they subsequently divorced in 1952.

Buddy moved to Memphis and went to work for a pharmaceutical wholesale supply company where he thought he would build up a good list of doctors as customers, thinking it would be useful for when he started his chiropractic practice. However, his success as a salesman led him to becoming a partner of the supply company.

Ever the entrepreneur, he later left the company to commence his own pharmaceutical supply business. Along the way he met and married Helen Alexander who came from a very large family of 13. She was born 13 July 1933. Buddy was very successful and provided a comfortable life for his family.

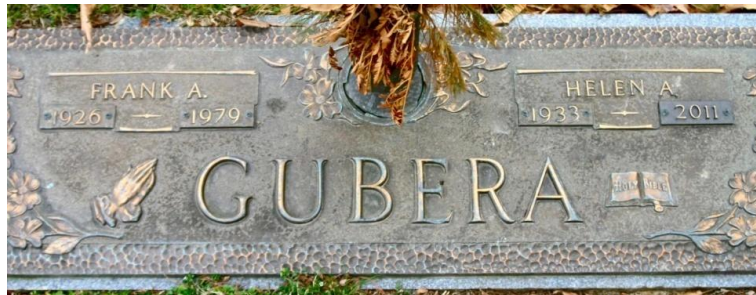


*Frank Anton Gubera  
1926–1979*

*Helen Gubera  
née Alexander  
1933–2011*



Buddy developed *stomach cancer* and died 20 January 1979 at the age of 52. His wife Helen died 2 December 2011. They are both buried at Memorial Park Cemetery, Memphis, Tennessee.



Buddy<sup>4</sup> Gubera and Helen Alexander had three sons.

- iv. Julie<sup>4</sup> Antoinette Gubera was born 26 February 1928. Julia married Irvin Fitzhugh Keesee on 23 September 1946. Irvin was born 27 December 1925. He was also in the Navy and a friend of Anne's husband, Ralph Wise. They knew each other from their youth in West Virginia where they grew up. The two met when Julie was in San Francisco with her sister Anne.



*Irwin F. Keesee*  
1925–1990



*Julie A. Keesee*  
*née Gubera*  
1928–

Irvin developed *diabetes* when he was in his 50s. It started as a sore on his foot. As the disease spread he had to undergo several amputations. First they amputated his foot below the ankle, then above the ankle, then below the knee, then above the knee and finally from the hip. This all took place over a period of 8 years. He died of the disease 18 December 1990 aged 65.

Julie<sup>4</sup> and Irvin had four children.

- v. Rudolph<sup>4</sup> 'Rudy' Joseph Gubera was born 2 October 1930 in Missouri. Rudolph was a six-foot tall, handsome man. After finishing high school he went into the Navy for 4 years. On discharge he enrolled at *Rockhurst College*, a Jesuit institution in Kansas City, where he studied for a business degree. To put himself through college he made very good money as a cocktail waiter at the Continental Hotel where his sister Amy worked as a cashier. During this time his family moved to California, so Rudolph lived with Amy.



*Rudolph J. Gubera*  
1930–1985

Over the years Rudolph was constantly in and out of hospital. He would be good for a few months then would suffer a relapse. All this was a tremendous strain and mental stress on his parents who were now in their old age. When his mother died he went to live permanently with Amy. He died at her home on 20 October 1985 aged 55 in Alameda, California.

- vi. Richard<sup>4</sup> Anthony Gubera was born 25 September 1934 and died 27 November 2016 aged 82. Richard, a tall man of six foot four and a quarter inches, joined the Marines at age 17 and was sent to Korea where he received a meritorious promotion to sergeant at age 20. After being discharged from the Marines in 1955, Richard, now 21, and his younger brother David, 18, spent a week driving across the United States from Kansas City to San Francisco heading for their sister Julie's house. They arrived the day before Thanksgiving.



*Richard A. Gubera  
1934–2016*



*Elaine Gubera  
née Miller  
1937–*

Richard married Elaine M. Miller, a native of California, on 12 April 1958. She was born about 1937. They had six children.

- vii. Elizabeth<sup>4</sup> Gloria Gubera was born 11 February 1936. Elizabeth was the same height as her sister Julie at 5' 6". The story of her adult life is one on-going tragedy. At age 21 she became engaged to Benedict M. Sodrok 'Shad' from San Antonio, Texas. When she had a blood test for the marriage licence, she was diagnosed with *lupus*.



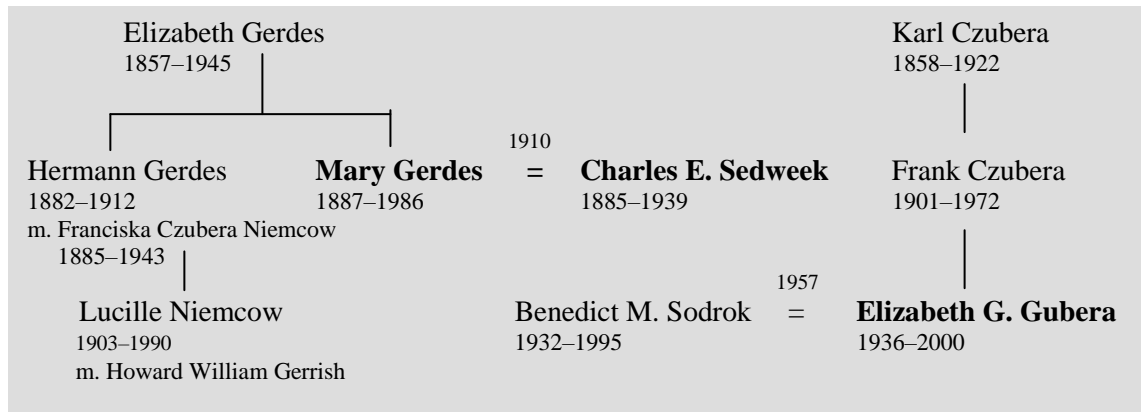
*Benedict M. Sodrok  
1932–1995*



*Elizabeth G. Sodrock  
née Gubera  
1936–2000*

She married Shad at her family home in Piedmont, California on 14 September 1957. His family owned 1000 acres just outside San Antonio where they grew peanuts. It was known as *The Sand Dunes*. Shad had five sisters and three brothers, the oldest of whom was killed during WWII.

Shad was also in the Navy and the newly married couple lived in the San Francisco area for a period until they moved to Los Angeles to live with Aunt Mary Sedweek, who was Hermann Gerdes's sister.



Hermann Gerdes had married Elizabeth's aunt, Franciska<sup>3</sup> (Francis) Niemcow (née Czubera). His sister Mary (or Maria) Elizabeth had married Charles Edwin Sedweek in 1910 in Jackson, Missouri. Elizabeth died in 1887 in California. Charles also died in California on 28 March 1939 and was buried at the Los Angeles National Cemetery.



Mary E. Sedweek  
née Gerdes  
1887–1986

Charles Edwin Sedweek      Mary Elizabeth Sedweek  
1920 Passport Application

Shad was a jet mechanic by profession and worked for the Air Force. He was a very capable man with a bubbly, energetic personality. He was never still and forever busy doing several things at once.

When Shad's father died the couple moved to Texas and lived in San Antonio. The family farm was divided equally amongst the children. Shad wanted the lot but could only manage to buy out some of his sisters' holdings, ending up with 200 acres and decided to discontinue peanut farming and raise cattle instead. He then built a large home on the ranch with a huge fireplace in the living room.

Liz and Shad's efforts to have children only resulted in five miscarriages, so they decided to adopt a baby boy whom they called Eric. Adopted at birth, they brought him home from the hospital when he was three days old. However, she fell pregnant again soon after the adoption and to their complete surprise went to full term and produced a daughter whom they named Elisa<sup>6</sup>. She was born 16 March 1969.

In the meantime Liz was on medication for her *lupus* and while not unduly suffering from the disease, experienced the occasional seizure. In 1972 or 1973, sometime after they had moved into their new ranch house, Liz was drying her hair in front of the large, open fireplace when she had a sudden seizure, falling head first into the fire. She sustained massive burns and her face was totally disfigured losing her nose, ears and eyelids and being very

lucky not to be blinded. The doctors did not expect her to live. For the next few years she underwent extensive restorative surgery. Interestingly, her *lupus* disappeared after all this medical treatment and it was thought to be due to the many blood transfusions she had.

For poor Liz her troubles were far from over. Her daughter Elisa<sup>6</sup> had won a basketball scholarship to a College in Atkins near San Antonio. On 25 September 1991, just six months before her graduation at the age of 21 she was killed in a motor vehicle accident. The College gave her a Diploma posthumously. From the contributions received at her daughter's death Elizabeth established a Scholarship Fund at the College which still exists today.

When Anne<sup>4</sup> Wise was dying of *cancer* in 1992, her sister Liz<sup>4</sup> Sodrock went out to California to take care of her. After about four months she returned to Texas as Shad said he wanted her back home. Three weeks after arriving back in San Antonio Anne died. Then she discovered that Shad was playing around and had been having an affair with a childhood sweetheart. After some 30 years of marriage he now wanted a divorce. This was all very out of character behaviour for the likable and reliable Shad. They were divorced on 17 December 1992.

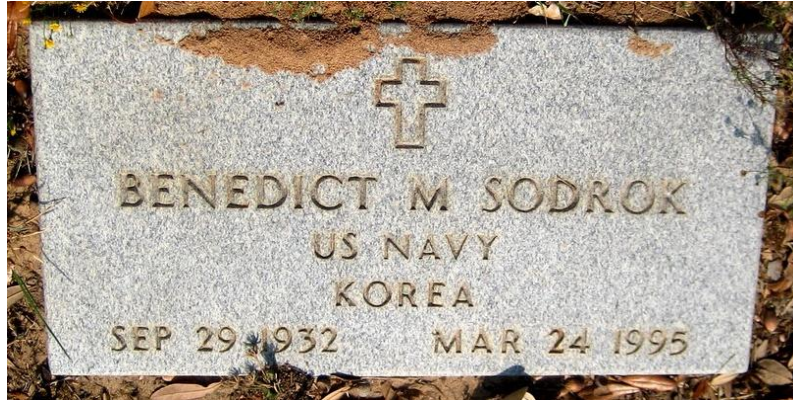
They sold the house and five acres to a family and financed their purchase. The proceeds were supposed to go to Elizabeth but the family was always late with payments. Liz also received 50 acres of the ranch. Shad sold another 50 acres to finance his marriage to his new love and the balance was left to their adopted son Eric who never cared for ranch life. Ironically, Liz's dead daughter loved riding horses and farm life generally.

Shad died of a *brain tumour* on 24 March 1995 several months after he married his childhood sweetheart. Liz maintained that her husband's erratic and uncharacteristic behaviour was due to his brain cancer.

After Anne died and Liz divorced she left Texas and went to live with her sister Julie in San Francisco for several years. Then not wanting to disrupt Julie's family overly, she moved into a shared rental apartment nearby before relocating to Padre Island, Texas where she died 30 August 2000 of a *stroke* or *heart attack* just two weeks before a planned month's vacation in California.

Elizabeth, Shad and their daughter Eliza are all buried at Kicaster Cemetery, La Vernia, Texas.





viii David<sup>4</sup> Donald Gubera was born 2 October 1937 in Kansas City, Missouri. David is shorter than his brothers at five foot ten inches. He was educated at the *De La Salle Military College*, a Christian Brothers institution in Kansas City. He graduated in 1954 aged 16. Believing he had a religious vocation, he entered a seminary called *Our Lady of the Ozartes Preparatory College* to become an Oblates of Mary Immaculate priest. However, the following year, 1955, his father sustained his first heart attack and the family decide to move to California.



David D. Gubera  
1937–2009

This decision culminated in David leaving the seminary and driving to California with his brother Richard. Their father Frank<sup>3</sup> had preceded them in San Francisco while mother Julia remained in Kansas City to settle the house and sort out other details.

On December 6 1955, just a few weeks after arriving in San Francisco, David started work with the Pacific Gas and Electronic Company (PGE). He was just 18 years old. Except for a couple of years in National Service, David remained with PGE all his working life, taking voluntary early retirement in 1993 at the age of 55.

In 1960 David was drafted for Military Service and was posted to La Rochelle, France for two years. His experience at *De La Salle Military College* enabled him to quickly rise to the rank of Sergeant.

David married Gail A. Hall on 28 December 1968. They were divorced in May 1976. However, the union produced a daughter.

David<sup>4</sup> Gubera passed away in his sleep on Friday, 13 November 2009 in Ashland, Oregon of *cirrhosis of the liver* and *kidney disease*.

1 November 1955

**The Vietnam War** which started in 1955 was a long and very costly conflict that pitted the communist regime of North Vietnam and its southern allies, known as the Viet Cong, against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. This divisive war, increasingly unpopular with continuous violent protests in America and Australia, ended with the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 1973 and the unification of Vietnam under Communist control two years later on 30 April 1975. More than 3 million people, including 58,000 Americans, were killed in the war.



*Frank and Julia Gubera and their children:*

*Standing: Rudolph, Amy, Anne, Frank Anton, Julie, Richard*

*Seated: Elizabeth, Frank Sr and his wife Julia, David*

*Photo taken 1968*

### Continuing with Carl's children ...

- C. **Frederick<sup>3</sup> (Fritz) S. Gubera** was born 17 August 1890 in Solca, Romania and died April 1969 in Kansas. He married Olga Schemanes about 1917. She was born 7 September 1894 in Russia and died 1960 in Kansas.

Frederick arrived in Canada on 18 December 1921 with his wife and son Alfred<sup>4</sup>, then two years old – see Passport picture below. From there they crossed the border into the United States.



Both Frederick<sup>3</sup> and Olga are buried at Olathe Memorial Cemetery, Olathe, Kansas.



GUBER	
<b>FREDERICK S.</b> 1890 – 1969	<b>OLGA S.</b> 1894 – 1960

Fritz<sup>3</sup> Gubera and Olga Schamenes had four children. There are details on two:

- i. Alfred<sup>4</sup> Martin Gubera was born 30 May 1919 in Austria and died 28 April 2003 in Kansas. He married Iris Pauline Marrs on 9 November 1944 in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was born 27 December 1920 in Kansas and died 22 January 2010. They are both buried at Cherry Mound Cemetery, Westphalia, Kansas.



*Iris Pauline Gubera  
née Marrs  
1920–2010*



GUBER		
<b>ALFRED M.</b> MAY 30 1919 APR 28 2003	<b>MARRIED</b> NOV. 9 1944	<b>IRIS P.</b> DEC 27 1920 JAN 22 2010



30 December 2006

**Saddam Hussein executed.** Born 28 April 1937, he was the President of Iraq from 1979 to 2003 and was widely condemned for the brutality of his dictatorship. The total number of Iraqis killed by and his government in purges and genocides is conservatively estimated to be 250,000. Saddam's invasions of Iran and Kuwait also resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths. He acquired the title 'Butcher of Baghdad'. Following an invasion by US and coalition forces his Ba'ath party was disbanded and he was captured in December 2003. Saddam Hussein was executed for his crimes against humanity.



*Saddam Hussein  
1937–2006*

- ii. Harvey<sup>4</sup> Conrad Gubera was born 5 May 1931 in Kansas and died 28 December 2006 in Salem, Oregon. He married Amelia Ann Jordan on 1 May 1952 in Los Angeles, California and they were divorced in 1959. Harvey then married Joyce Louise Williams in 1961. He married a third time in December 1964 to Dian Marie Carlisle.

**D. Marie<sup>3</sup> M. Gubera** was born 8 December 1892 in Austria and died 19 June 1946 in Missouri. She married Robert R. Moser in November 1910. He was born 20 April 1886 in Illinois and died 22 April 1949.



*The Moser Family  
Marie, Dorothy, Robert & Francis*

Marie and Robert Moser had two children:

- i. Francis<sup>4</sup> Harold Moser was born 18 July 1911 in Missouri and died 19 February 1977. He married Genevieve Preuitt in 1933. She was born 16 April 1913 and died 14 February 2009 in Kansas. After Francis died Genevieve married John J. Curran in 1978.



*Francis Harold Moser*  
1911–1977  
Westport High School 1928



*Genevieve Preuitt*  
1913–2009



*Francis Harold Moser and Genevieve Moser*

*Francis H. Moser*  
US WWII Draft Card

Francis<sup>4</sup> Harold Moser and Genevieve Preuitt had three children:

- a. Barbara<sup>5</sup> Deane Moser was born 6 August 1934 and died 29 May 2012. She married Max Adair Schaible in Jackson County, Missouri on 17 June 1960. He was born 2 March 1934 and died 15 January 1990.
- b. John<sup>5</sup> Ronald Moser.
- c. Judith<sup>5</sup> Ann Moser.

*Barbara Dean Moser*  
1934–2012



- ii. Dorothy<sup>4</sup> E. Moser was born 6 February 1913 in Missouri and died 10 March 1989. She married Sam Russel Balfour on 25 September 1939. He was born 10 June 1913 and died 18 March 1997. No issue.

*Dorothy Moser and Sam Russel Balfour*  
1939 Marriage Licence

- E. Carl<sup>3</sup> (or Karl) Gubera was born 16 April 1897 Solca, Romania and died 18 March 1981 in Missouri. He married Freda E. Boehmer. She was born 1 January 1899 in Missouri and died 17 August 1983.



*Saint Agnes Catholic Cemetery  
Newton County, Missouri*



*Carl Gubera  
1920 Passport Photo*

Carl<sup>3</sup> Gubera and Freda Boehmer had two children:

1. Conrad<sup>4</sup> Gubera who married Pat and lived in Joplin, Missouri.
2. Elanore<sup>4</sup> Frances Gubera was born 2 November 1931 and died 23 September 2001. She married James Robert Swope IV on 5 March 1957. He was born 30 January 1927 and died 26 October 1996. They lived in Kansas City, Missouri.

**F. Joseph<sup>3</sup> Frank Gubera** ‘Guiseppe Czuberá’ was born 8 October 1893 and died 30 April 1952. He immigrated to America with his brother Eugene in March 1910 on board the *S.S. Saxonia* arriving New York on 19 March of that year. He married Anna Augusta Mandl on 18 October 1915. She was born 24 January 1893 in Missouri and died October 1971.



*Anna A. Mandl  
1893–1971*

In 1924 Guiseppe Czuberá became a naturalized American Citizen.

*Guiseppe Czuberá  
1924 Naturalization Form*

As a US citizen he would have been required to submit a Draft Registration card for WWII

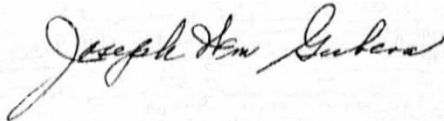
*Joseph Frank Gubera  
WWII Draft Registration Card*

Joseph<sup>3</sup> Frank Gubera died 30 April 1952. His death was reported in the *Kansas City Times* on the 1st of May:

GUBERA—Joseph F., 58 years, died at his home, 2927 Cherry, April 30. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Anna Gubera, of the home; 3 sons, Joseph W. Gubera, 3812 East 67th terr.; Ralph Gubera, 923 West 32nd; John A. Gubera, United States coast guard, Alameda, Calif.; 5 brothers, Fritz Gubera, Olathe, Kas.; Frank Gubera, Oakland, Calif.; Carl Gubera, Pierce City, Mo.; Conrad Gubera, 105th-Penn; Eugene Gubera, Saskatchewan, Canada; 5 grandchildren. Funeral announcement later.  
 QUIRK & TOBIN.  
 WE. 1777.

Joseph<sup>3</sup> Frank Gubera and Anna Mandl had three sons:

- i. Joseph<sup>4</sup> W. Gubera Jr was born 1916 and died 8 May 1966. He first married Winifred C. Wall on 31 May 1940. She was born 1919 In Missouri and died 1971. Joseph and Winifred must have been divorced as he married second to Shirley Lou Rock Jr on 12 January 1963. She was born 24 March 1941 making her 25 years younger than Joseph.

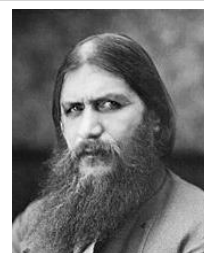
 *Joseph W. Gubera*  
 1940 marriage Licence

The *Kansas City Times*, Missouri published an obituary for Joseph W. Gubera on the 10th of May 1966.

**JOSEPH W. GUBERA**  
 Joseph W. (Joe Heinie) Gubera, 50, of 3812 East Sixty-seventh, died Sunday at St. Luke's hospital. He was a lifelong resident of Kansas City. He owned and operated the Heinie Soda Fountain company and was a member of the Druggist association. He was a member of St. Louis's Catholic church. He leaves his wife, Mrs. Winifred C. Gubera of the home; two sons, Joseph W. Gubera, jr., 1803 West Forty-first, and James F. Gubera of the home; a daughter, Miss Carolyn Gubera of the home; his mother, Mrs. Anna Gubera, 2927 Cherry; two brothers, Ralph Gubera, 2927 Cherry, and John A. Gubera, Cleveland and a grandchild. Services will be at 9:30 o'clock Wednesday at the church; burial in Mount Olivet cemetery. The rosary will be said at 7:30 o'clock tonight at the Muehlebach chapel.

30 December 1916

**Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin** assassinated. Born 1869, he was a Russian mystic and self-proclaimed holy man who befriended the family of Tsar Nicholas II, the last monarch of Russia, and gained considerable influence in late imperial Russia. In the early morning of 30 December 1916 Rasputin was assassinated by a group of conservative noblemen who opposed his influence over Alexandra and the Tsar.



Grigori Rasputin  
1869–1916

- ii. Ralph<sup>4</sup> Charles Gubera was born 7 August 1919 in Jackson, Missouri and died October 1979. He married Margaret Helen O'Gara on 16 October 1944. She was born 27 April 1923 and died 21 June 1993. Ralph and Margaret were divorced in 1966. Ralph married second to Esther B. Reynolds on 5 April 1967. She was born 30 August 1920 and died 24 November 2007.

Ralph C. Gubera  
1944 Marriage Licence Application

- iii. John<sup>4</sup> Anthony Gubera was born 25 October 1931 in Missouri and died 15 August 1992 in Houston, Texas. He married Patricia A. Kennedy on 14 February 1953 in Missouri. She was born 29 October 1932 and died 23 July 2010. They produced six children and resided in Houston, Texas.



John Gubera  
1931–1992

- G. **Katharina<sup>3</sup> (Catherine) Gubera** was born 29 July 1901 in Romania. She married Basil Bodnar on 19 September 1919 in Storozenetz, Romania and immigrated to America in December 1920. Basil was born 1 September 1887 and died 12 July 1963. He was buried at Meadowbank Memorial Park, Elkridge, Maryland.

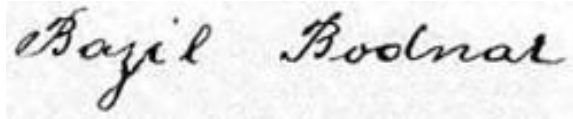


Catherine died 5 July 1951. Her death was reported in *The Baltimore Sun, Maryland* on 8 July:



Katharina and Basil Bodnar

**BODNAR.**—On July 5, 1951. CATHERINE A., of 603 Annabel avenue, beloved wife of Basil Bodnar. [Fairmount (W.Va.) and Kansas City (Mo.) papers please copy.]  
Funeral will be at the William Cook Mansion, St. Paul and Preston streets, on Monday at 8 A. M. Requiem Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church, Brooklyn, at 9 A. M. Interment in Meadowridge Memorial Park 8



*Basil Bodnar*  
1926 Petition for Naturalization  
Note spelling of name



*Basil and Catherine Bodnar with five of their children c.1940*  
*Edward, Florence, William, Marie and Rose seated between her parents*

Katharina<sup>3</sup> Gubera and Basil Bodnar had six children:

- i. William<sup>4</sup> Thomas Bodnar was born 22 December 1920 in Kansas City, Missouri and died 11 February 1999 in Indiana. He married Bertha Hopkins. She was born 10 February 1913 in West Virginia and died 23 December 1995. He resided in Baltimore, Maryland.

William served in the Parachute Infantry in WWII in Sicily in the North African theatre. He was captured by the Germans and interned at Stalag 2B, Hammerstein, West Prussia.

- ii. **Marie<sup>4</sup> Leopoldine Bodnar was born 14 March 1922** in Kansas City, Missouri. She married Wilford Anderson Hall Council Jr. on 28 June 1949. He was born 19 May 1919 in Baltimore, Maryland. ‘Buzzy’, as he was called, came from a family which has been in America since 1632, initially settling in the Isle of Wight County, Virginia.



*Marie L. Bodnar*  
1922–2001



*Wilford A. H. Council*  
1919–1996

In 1942 he gained a B.Sc. in electrical engineering at Davidson College, North Carolina. Making a radical career change, he enrolled at the University of Virginia and graduated in 1947 with a medical degree. Interned at the Brady Institute of the Johns Hopkins Hospital he went on to complete his residency in Urology at the University of Virginia. Wilford joined the Navy Reserve and saw service in World War II and Korea, ending up Captain, USNR after 36 years service.



Wilford A. H. Council  
1919–1996

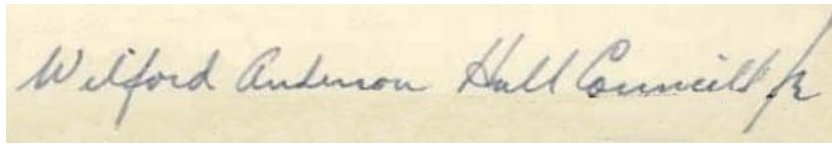
Wilford Council and Marie<sup>4</sup> Bodnar had three children.

**Wilford Council Jr. died 8 September 1996** and was buried at Green Mount Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland. His obituary was reported in *The Baltimore Sun, Maryland* on 9 September 1996:

**COUNCILL JR, Dr. W.A.H**

On Sunday, September 8, 1996 in Deltaville, Va. DR. WILFORD A. HALL COUNCILL. He is survived by his wife, Marie Badnar Council, a son, Wilford A. Hall Council III of Havre de Grace, MD, two daughters, Catherine Council Speece, Aberdeen, MD, Mary Council Wheeler and her husband, Charles Grafton Wheeler of Deltaville, two grandsons, Charles Grafton Wheeler, Jr, of Deltaville; Matthew Kincaid Speece, Aberdeen, MD; a granddaughter, Mitzi Susan Speece of Deltaville, VA; a sister, Jean Council Chase and her husband, Thomas Carl Chase, Jr. of Ocean City, MD, a sister-in-law Christine O. Council of Pasadena, MD. He was predeceased by his brother, George Cobb Council, Sr..

The family will receive friends at Andrews Funeral Home on Monday from 7 to 8:30 P.M. The family wishes any expressions of sympathy to take the form of contributions to the American Cancer Society, c/o Mrs. G. Edward Mowry, 7274 Joseph Lewis road, Hayes, VA 23072, or to the Riverside Walter Reed Hospice, P.O. Box 1130, Gloucester, VA 23061. A Graveside service will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 1996 at 2 P.M. in the Greenmount Cemetery, Baltimore, MD. Andrews Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



*Wilford Anderson Hall Council Jr.  
WWII Draft Registration Card*

**Marie<sup>4</sup> Bodnar Council** died **12 March 2001** and was buried at Green Mount Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland, alongside her husband. Her passing was announced in the *Daily Press* (*Newport News, VA*) on 13 March 2001

**Marie B. Council**  
**DELTAVILLE**  
Marie Bodnar Council, 78, widow of Dr. Wilford Anderson Hall Council Jr., died Monday, March 12, 2001. Arrangements by Andrews Funeral Home.

*The Baltimore Sun, Maryland* published an obituary for Marie on 14 March 2001:

**Marie Bodnar Council**  
**DELTAVILLE**

Marie Bodnar Council, 78, died on Monday, March 12, 2001, at her residence.

She was the widow of Dr. Wilford Anderson Hall Council Jr. She was a native of Missouri and of the Roman Catholic faith.

She is survived by her daughters, Catherine Council Speece of Baltimore, Md., and Mary Council Wheeler of Deltaville; two sisters, JoAnn Hillman of St. Louis and Rose Feilner of Pleasanton, Texas; a brother, William Bodnar of Baltimore; and loving nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son, Wilford Anderson Hall Council III, and a brother, Edward Bodnar.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 16, in Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore, Md. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Andrews Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Middlesex County Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc., P.O. Box 98, Deltaville, VA 23043.

Andrews Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Continuing with the children of Katharina<sup>3</sup> Gubera and Basil Bodnar:

- iii. Florence<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Bodnar was born 16 August 1924 in Missouri and died 5 February 2001. She married Ralph Tompkins. They had three sons: Ralph Jr.<sup>5</sup>, Gary<sup>5</sup> and Scott<sup>5</sup>.
- iv. Joanne<sup>4</sup> Pauline Bodnar was born 14 September 1929 in Bedford, Indiana. She married Kenneth Wayne Hillman on 2 August 1945 in Baltimore, Maryland when she was just seventeen. He was born 17 June 1925 and died 12 January 1992.
- v. Rose<sup>4</sup> Bodnar married Ray Ratliff and lived in Marshall, Missouri.
- vi. Louis<sup>4</sup> Edward Bodnar was born 27 December 1931 in Bedford, Indiana and died 26 March 1987. His death was reported in *The Evening Sun* (Baltimore, MD) on 30 March

**BODNAR**  
 Suddenly on March 26, 1987 LOUIS EDWARD of Brooklyn Park, dear brother of William T. Bodnar, Marie D. Council, Florence E. Tompkins, JoAnne Hillman and Rose Feilners  
 Graveside Services will be held in Loudon Park Cemetery on Tuesday at 1 P.M. Inurnment following. Arrangements thru the McCully Funeral Home of Brooklyn.

- H. Conrad<sup>3</sup> Stefan Gubera** was born 26 November 1903 in Solca, Bukovina, at that time Austria-Hungary and now Romania. He married Florence Blake on 30 June 1925. She was born 17 September 1907 and died 23 January 1989. Conrad immigrated to America with his father in 1920 and lived in Blue Springs, Missouri. He was naturalized on 29 September 1930 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Conrad died 24 March 1989 in Jackson, Missouri. He and his wife Florence are buried in Olathe Memorial Cemetery, Johnson County, Kansas.



Conrad Gubera and Florence Blake  
 on their wedding day  
 30 June 1925



Florence & Conrad Gubera  
 on their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
 c.1975



FATHER  
CONRAD STEPHEN  
1908 – 1989

MOTHER  
FLORENCE BLAKE  
1907 – 1989



Conrad Gubera, c.1921  
1903–1989

Conrad S. Gubera  
WWII Draft Registration Card

Conrad Gubera and Florence Blake had three children:

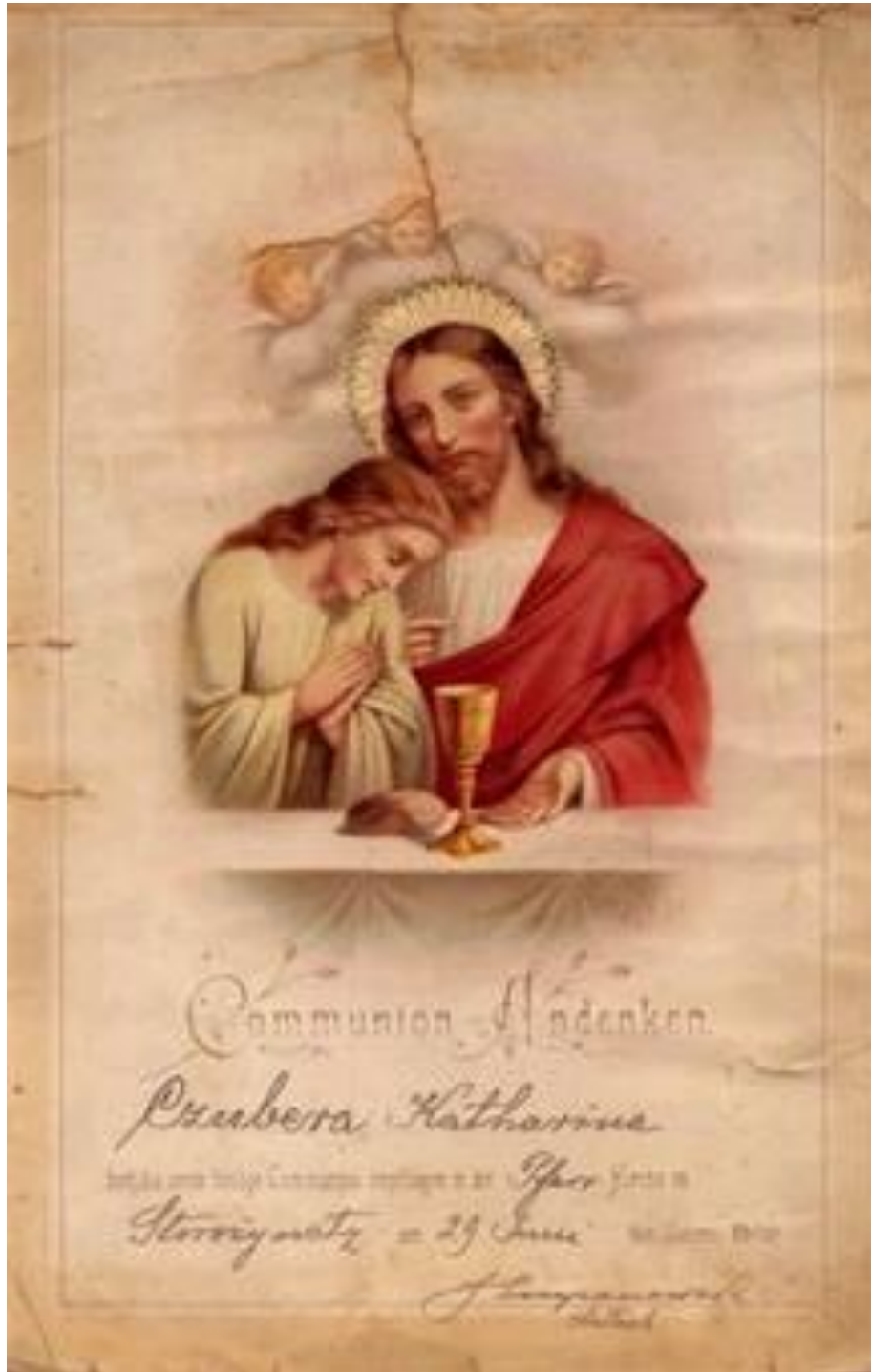
- i. Charles<sup>4</sup> Conrad Gubera was born 21 June 1926 in Kansas City Missouri and died 7 December 2009 in Omaha, Nebraska. Charles never married and resided in Los Angeles where he kept in close contact with his cousin Elizabeth Hoy, née Niemcow, aka Gerdes.



Charles Conrad Gubera  
1926–2009

- ii. Susanne<sup>4</sup> Gubera was born 24 June 1929 in Kansas City, Missouri and died 24 June 1929. She married Jerry Gordon. They resided Lenexa, Texas.
- iii. Eugene<sup>4</sup> Blake Gubera was born 10 May 1932. He married Isabelle Patricia Norling on 20 June 1953 in Missouri. Isabelle was born 16 June 1932 in Kansas City, Missouri and died 28 January 2013 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.. After their marriage they resided in Burnsville, Minnesota.

Eugene Blake Gubera  
Signature on 1953 Marriage Certificate



*First Holy Communion commemorative card for  
Katharina Czubera (who married Basil Bodnar)  
dated 29 June 1910  
in the town of Storoznetz.*