

Frank Sieracki

Frank Sieracki, my great-grandfather's brother, arrived in New York in 1881 on the ship Wesser, along with his wife Josephine and their two children, his sister, Julianna Sieracki Repinski, her husband and their son, and his mother, my great-great grandmother, Marianna Sieracki. My great-grandfather had arrived in America many years before. Frank was not able to join his brother because he still had to complete his military service. Prussia drafted him at the age of 13 and did not release him from service until 15 years later. Frank's service record was translated and reported to Frank's grandson, Paul Libera by Prof. Leo Ochrymowicz, a copy of which is provided below.

Frank and Josephine had eight children: Mary (Bruski), Anna (Szuminski), John, Frank, Stella (Szuminski), Elizabeth (Libera), Frances (Gates), and Dominick. Frank worked at Youmans Bros. & Hodgins Lumber Co. and also worked as a flagman for the Chicago, St. Paul, and Milwaukee Railroad.

Here is an interesting footnote that hints at how our ancestors "recreated" in Winona the community that they had left behind in Kashubia. Frank Sieracki's godparents at his 1847 baptism in Wiele were John and Marianna Milanowski. Joseph Milanowski, who was born in Wiele in 1840 - the same year as my great-grandfather – immigrated to Winona and ran a grocery on 2nd Street one block down from my grandfather's house at 507 E. 2nd St. Vince Breza, the owner of the grocery when I was a child, always answered the phone with the greeting, "Milanowski's." Joseph Milanowski's daughter, Frances Milanowski, had a long career as an elementary teacher at Washington-Kościuszko Elementary School. Miss Milanowski taught me in second grade at St. Stan's when my teacher became ill.

Dear Paul:

May 18, 1966

The following translation is mm a page-by page translation of pertinent data regarding Dragoon Frank Syratzky (Sieracki)

- p.7 Military register of Dragoon Frank Sieracki, born 2.29.1847 in Dombrofke (in Polish Dombrowka), District Conitz. Height: 3z/Cubits/ (One cubit from 18-20 inches). Religion: Catholic. Occupation: Knecht, i.e. Hired man, is crossed out and the word Arbeiter or worker is added. Permanent address: Dombrowka, District Conitz. Enlisted in active duty on November 4, 1860 as "Kantonist" which means the same as private. (Actually the word "Kantonist" means "irresponsible" or also "without responsibility"). Issued in Conitz on.....
Assigned to the 5th escadron (squadron) of Kammer Dragoons, 11th Regiment
- pp.8 and 9 Transferred on April 18, 1872 to Infantry Squadron
On August 26, 1872, having completed his service time, transferred to the reserve in Conitz as 1st class gunner.
- p.10 Combat information: Campaign against France, battle at Gravelotte 8.18.70, engagement at Pontarrier 2.1.1871
engagement at Mirebell 2.4.1871
siege of Metz Aug.19 to Oct.27, 1870
siege of Paris Nov.16.70 to Jan.1.1871
Issued at Suneville on April 10, 1872 by Commando of the Kammer Dragoons, 11th Regiment, signed Colonel.....?
- p.13 Transferred to National Guard Oct.1, 1875 due to completed liability to service. Assigned to the 4th Kammeranian Infantry Regiment, 1st National Guard Company in Konitz
- p.14. Records ~~namng~~ of service in the Reserve and National Guard
Issued on June 30, 1875
"Dragoon Frank Sieracki was called to military training for N. Guard
He served with the 5th Squadron from May 15 to June 30, 1875 and was honorably discharged on July 1st, 1875 to Dombrowka, Konitz.
registered in Konitz on 11.15, 1875
- p.18 the page contains police registrations. Whenever a Polak was leaving the community or returning from his being away, he had to go to the police station and register.
- Paul, your uncle, or whoever he was to you, must have been a good boy. Not a single unfavorable remark on his behavior. I am glad for being able to this translation for you.

z Panem Bogiem, do widzenia,

Leonek

Winona, Minn. July 31, 1981

Charles Sieracki

Charlie,

This is a translation of Frank Sieracki's German Army Service Record. The record shows that he was about five feet tall and thirteen years old when he was drafted. Ten years later, still in the German Army, he has combat service during the Franco-Prussian War. Five more years later, he is discharged. At discharge he was 28 years old and had 15 years army service.

Frank Sieracki was my grandfather.

This translation was done by Dr. Leo Ochrymowicz.

Paul
Paul Libera