

TIMELINE (#8) GRUCA GENEALOGY

Editor's Note:

Using Barbara Boyer's genealogy files, I completed the original version of this brief genealogy on January 26, 2012. I submitted it to Elaine (Gruca) Marter, (who is now living in Boulder City, Nevada), for her review on March 4, 2014. After several e-mail iterations, we generated the expanded genealogy shown below.

GENEALOGY

1. **Sophia Mary Bojnarowicz** is my dad's older sister (making her my aunt). She was born on 3/1/1913 in Wilno, Poland (the same birthplace as my dad). Her father, **Anthony**, immigrated to the United States in 1912. Her mother, **Antonina** ("**Bushia**," age 28); my dad **Isadore** (age 4); and Sophia (age 5 months) arrived in New York on August 1, 1913.

2. Sophia married first husband **Leonard Albert Gruca** (born 2/18/1913 in Detroit, MI) on 11/26/1932 at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Detroit. Leonard was an inspector at Bundy Tubing Co. He died of complications from an operation on 12/18/1958 and is buried at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Anchorville, Michigan.

3. Sophia married second husband **Joseph Norbert Shinska** (born 1/22/1922; death date unknown) on 9/24/1966 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. They had no children together. Joseph was a grounds-keeper at Selfridge Air Force Base. He died of cancer and is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in New Baltimore, Michigan.

4. Sophia worked at St. Joseph's Hospital. She died of stomach cancer on 11/25/1976 (Thanksgiving Day) at Lighthouse Point, Florida (at the home of daughter Elaine Gruca Marter and her husband Marvin Marter). She is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in New Baltimore, Michigan.



Sophia, Leonard, Billy, Elaine, & Ronny Gruca
7315 Marcus St, Detroit, MI; circa 1944

5. Sophia and Leonard had 3 children (making them my first cousins):

a. **Ronald Leonard Gruca (Ronny)** was born in Detroit on 3/13/1933, making him 2 months younger than my cousin Bob Gordynec.

Ronny married **Marcy Ellen Prather** (born 8/27/1934 in Detroit), a secretary, on 12/14/1956 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. They had 3 children: Mark (born 12/30/1957), Paul (born 10/12/1960), and John (born 11/10/1965). Marcy, Mark, and Paul are all deceased. John lives in Warren, Michigan.

Ronny was the Credit Manager at Detroit Edison Co. He died of stomach cancer on 2/11/1993.

b. **William Theodore Gruca (Billy)** was born in Detroit on 8/27/1934, making him 1.5 years older than I.

Billy married first wife **Nancy Lori Harrington** (born 11/2/1940 in New Bartimore, MI), a secretary at Chrysler Missile Division, on 7/27/1957 at St. Louis Catholic Church in Utica, MI. They had two 2 children: Ted (born 12/29/1958) and Charisse (born 6/8/1965). Ted is single and lives in North Dakota. Charisse has 2 children (Nicholas and Samantha) and lives in Edmonds, Washington. Billy and Nancy divorced in 1978.

Billy married second wife **Lois**. They had no children together. Lois is now deceased.

Billy was an electrician in Anchorage, Alaska. He died in his sleep on 3/13/2008 (Ronny's birthday) in Boulder City, Nevada (while on vacation at the home of his sister Elaine). His body was cremated and shipped to Michigan. His cremains were scattered in Lake St. Clair, MI.

c. **Elaine Frances Gruca** was born in Detroit on 12/30/1935, making her 6 weeks older than I.

Elaine married first husband **William Terry** (born 4/22/1934 in Detroit), a tool and die maker, on 7/23/1954 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. They had no children and got divorced in May, 1964.

Elaine married second husband **Marvin Marter** (born 10/5/1934 in Detroit), a sales representative, on 11/14/1964 at the Methodist Church in Algonac, Michigan. They had no children. Marvin was a business owner. He died on 4/5/2004 of complications from a hospital infection. He is buried in Veteran's Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada.

Prior to her retirement in 2002, Elaine was an underwriter and the office manager for an insurance company as well as the president of her company. When she passes, Elaine will be buried in the same cemetery as Marvin.