

TIMELINE (#8C)
HECHLIK / NIEDZIELSKI GENEALOGY

INTRODUCTION

1. This timeline is an abbreviated genealogy of 3 generations of the Hechlik / Niedzielski Family, beginning with matriarch Vincenta Lejmel Hechlik Niedzielska Niedzielska [8/5/1885 - 9/24/1937].
 2. Vincenta had a total of 8 children by three husbands; 6 by John F. Hechlik and one each by brothers John and Ignatz Niedzielski. All 8 children were born at 8 Ketchum St (in an area known as "Blackman's Patch") in Wilkes-Barre Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.
 3. The majority of information herein was taken from Barbara Boyer's genealogy files. It was verified using the family tree information published by Theresa Sunday on September 2, 1968.
 4. Nicknames are enclosed in parenthesis (xxxx) and dates are enclosed in square brackets [yyyy].
-

GENEALOGY

A. Vincenta married [5/19/1902] John F. Hechlik [circa 1865 - 5/11/1913]

1. Joseph Hechlik [9/31/1903 - 2/19/1905]
Married: No
Children: None
2. John ("Heck") Hechlik [1/2/1906 - 10/22/1939]
Married: No
Children: None
3. Mary Hechlik [9/8/1908 - 10/3/2000]
Married: [6/11/1927] Victor Gordynec [8/31/1899 - 11/14/1976]
Children: Robert Victor [Born 1/15/1933]
4. Stanley ("Slim") Hechlik [12/27/1909 - 9/3/1984]
Married: [6/29/1935] Jennie Nowasinski [6/8/1914 - 5/29/1998]
Children: John Edward [Born 8/7/1939], James [Born 4/8/1942]

5. Edward ("Chumpa") Edmund Hechlik [5/15/1911 - 1/15/1988]
Married: [4/27/1940] Bronislawa ("Blanche") Jedrzykiewicz [Born 4/22/1919] Children:
Edward Clements [Born 7/19/1941], Walter Stanley [Born 11/5/1944]
6. Josephine Hechlik [12/21/1912 - 11/21/1991]
Married: [8/19/1933] Isadore ("Izzy") John Bojnarowicz [5/11/1909 - 6/5/1990] Children:
Thomas John [Born 2/9/1936]
Names legally changed to Josephine, John Anthony, and Thomas John Boyer on 09/26/1945

B. Vincenta married [8/5/1914] John Niedzielski [1867 - 7/15/1919]

7. Teofila ("Tillie") Niedzielska [5/2/1915 - 10/3/2004]
Married: [1/21/1933] John Kowalski [5/21/1903 - 12/21/1973]
Children: Lawrence Edward (12/28/1935 - 4/19/1936), Ilene ("Cookie") Joann [Born 2/23/1937],
Fred Walter [10/29/1941 - 3/30/2009]
Step Children: born to John Kowalski and first wife Helen Szklarski (10/30/06 - 7/10/1929):
Eugene John [3/29/1926 - 5/15/2007], Robert [Born 7/6/1927]

C. Vincenta married [5/25/1923] Ignatz Niedzielski [1/2/1882 - 9/25/1938]

8. Clemens ("Clem") Niedzielski {Frank Sunday} [10/9/1923 - 2/19/1996]
Married: [7/3/1944] Theresa Francis Mikol [8/8/1924 - 7/14/2012]
Children: Cynthia [Born 7/24/1945]
-

WHERE IS BLACKMAN'S PATCH?

1. The Hechlik and later the Niedzielski Families resided at 8 Ketchum St. in a 5-short-block community known as "Blackman's Patch" in Wilkes-Barre Township. Family members sometimes called it simply "The Patch." It is located just south of the heart of town. At the time, it was surrounded by railroad tracks.
2. The name "Blackman" does not derive from a black man or a white man covered in coal dust. Rather, the area was named after someone in the Blackman Family. They lived in Wilkes-Barre for many generations. The earliest reference to them is Elisa Blackman who lived in Wilkes-Barre from 1772 - 1791.
3. According to the April 15, 1910, U.S. Dept. of Commerce Census for Wilkes-Barre, PA, the exact spelling of the residents living at 8 Ketchum St was "John **Hallick** (not Hechlik) and Family."
4. On 8/20/1914, just 15 days after Vincenta married her second husband, John Niedzielski, a tornado struck Blackman's Patch about one mile from their home. 5 people were killed, 7 were seriously injured, 25 more were hurt, 30-40 houses became uninhabitable, and hundreds were left homeless. Fortunately nobody in our family was injured. See the following link:
<http://www3.gendisasters.com/pennsylvania/11197/wilkes-barre-pa-tornado-damage-aug-1914>

5. At the present time, Ketchum St. is only 2 blocks long, and it dead-ends 1 block on either side of Charles St. It runs northwest-southeast and is parallel and 1 block south of Blackman St., which is a major thoroughfare in Wilkes-Barre. It is in a sparsely-populated area.

6. Blackman's Patch can be found on the "Luzerne County Place Names." See the following link. It is #40 on the list, its classification is "Section," its location is "Wilkes-Barre Township," and its quad is "E-11."

http://www.pagenweb.org/~luzerne/towns/luz_plc.htm

7. Clicking on "Luzerne County Coordinate Finder" on the previous link (or on the link below) yields a map of Wilkes-Barre and environs. Blackman's Patch is located in Quad "E-11."

http://www.pagenweb.org/~luzerne/towns/luz_map1.htm

8. Currently, the house at 8 Ketchum St (ZIP Code 18702) has a Zillow Zestimate of \$43,000. It is a single-family, 2-story (with basement); 1,052 square foot house on a 4,486 square foot lot. Homes.com estimates its value at \$56,700, down from \$71,100 in the last year.

9. The distance between Wilkes-Barre, PA, and Hamtramck, MI, is 512 miles.

HOW DID FRANK SUNDAY GET HIS NAME?

While I was rummaging around in Barbara Boyer's genealogy files recently, I came across a 4-page handwritten letter from Mary Gordynec, dated May 24, 1971. It contains good family history as well as several interesting paragraphs about the origin of Frank Sunday's name. I have copied Aunt Mary's letter below, almost verbatim, making only minor changes to punctuation and grammar to clarify it and make it more readable.

"After Tillie's father John Niedzielski died, my mother was a widow for a few years. She married Ignatz, brother of Tillie's father, in 1923. He died in 1938. Their child was Clem or Frank Sunday who was born in 1923.

When Clem was born, they weren't so fussy about names. I remember when he was born, the doctor asked my mother, 'What are you going to name the child?' She didn't know. The doctor said any name will do, so she said 'Frank.' But when he was getting baptized, she changed his name to 'Clements.' And in English Niedziela means Sunday, so that's where his name comes from.

When it was time to get Clem a birth certificate, they said they had no record of a name like Clements Niedziela, As it happened, I was visiting my Aunt Regina in Penn. We talked and she said the doctor lived up the main street. So we went to see him and he got his record book from the basement. I had to tell him the mother's maiden name (Lejmel) and the year Clem was born. That's how we found out he was named Frank Sunday. So when I got home, I told him. He send again for the birth certificate for Frank Sunday and, without any trouble, he got it. But since his name was Frank Sunday, he changed all his papers. That was before he married Theresa. What a story!"
