
Mothers for Sophie (Kanetski) Howe of Scranton, Pennsylvania

By Melissa A. Johnson, CG

*Record access restrictions often complicate kinship determination.
Nevertheless, a case can be built using other sources.*

Sophie (Kanetski) Howe claimed she was born 9 June 1909 in Scranton, Pennsylvania.¹ If her birth date and place are accurate and a birth certificate exists, researchers would not have had access to it before 2015.² Obvious alternatives, like her baptismal record, are not known to exist.³

During her lifetime Sophie named two women as her mother. In 1927, when marrying Edward Howe, she named her parents Roman Kanetski and Sophia

© Melissa A. Johnson, CG; Post Office Box 4312; Middletown, NJ 07748; mjohanson@johnsongenealogyservices.com. Ms. Johnson, a professional genealogist, specializes in New Jersey, New York City, Pennsylvania, and British research. She thanks family members Sophie (Golembiewski) Jimcosky, Stanley Grevera, and Joanne (Loiko) Hutchins for sharing their knowledge about this family. Websites were viewed on 27 May 2015.

1. Sophie Howe, SS no. 161-26-2124, 26 March 1949, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration (SSA), Baltimore, Md.

2. "Act of Dec. 15, 2011, P. L. 445, No. 110, Cl. 35 - Vital Statistics Law of 1953 - Disclosure of Public Records After Birth or Death," *Pennsylvania General Assembly* (www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/HTM/2011/0/0110.htm). Birth records become public "when one hundred five (105) years have elapsed after the date of birth." See "Public Records," *Pennsylvania Department of Health* (www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1086145&mode=2). Although Pennsylvania birth records are open after 105 years, birth indexes for 1909, arranged alphabetically for the entire year, were closed until 2015. The author searched Pennsylvania birth indexes for 1906–9, at *Pennsylvania Department of Health* for a female child named Konoski, Kanoski, Konosky, Kanosky, Kanoska, Konoska, Kanetski, Kanetsky, Kanetska, Konaiacki, Konaiacka, Konaiacky, Kunojacka, Kunojacki, Konijacki, Konijacka, Koniecki, and Koniecka. The 1909 Pennsylvania birth indexes include "Pclogc Koncjckci," born 9 June 1909 in Scranton, with a mother's maiden name of "A Rujavskas"; however, Pennsylvania State Archives staff could not locate the birth certificate.

3. For Sophie's baptism in 1909–15, record custodians searched parish registers from Sophie's neighborhood churches and churches attended by her extended family. See Holy Rosary Church, search by staff of Mary Mother of God Church (Scranton). Also, Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church, search by staff of St. Paul of the Cross Church (Scranton). Also, St. Stanislaus Polish National Catholic Cathedral, search by Father Janusz Lucarz.

Alyda.⁴ Twenty-two years later Sophie again identified her father as Roman Kanetski but her mother as Anna Stasiewicz.⁵ Sophie died on 17 February 1985. Her death certificate and obituary name her parents as Roman Kanetski and Sophie Dyda.⁶ Who gave birth to Sophie?

KANETSKI FAMILY

In 1916 Roman Kanetski and his wife Sophia purchased a home in Scranton at 918 Acker Avenue.⁷ The Polish-born coal miner and his family lived there for decades.⁸ In 1927 Sophie called that address home.⁹

Roman's widow "Zofia" died there on 1 August 1960.¹⁰ Her three sons and six daughters included "Mrs. Sophie Howe."¹¹ Four of Roman Kanetski's children named their mother as Sophie or Sophia "Dyda."¹² Sophie Howe identified numerous Kanetski relatives in her will.¹³

Roman and Sophia were married three years before purchasing their home. On 11 November 1913—four years after Sophie's birth—Roman Kanetski and Sophia Dyda married at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church in Scranton.¹⁴

This was probably not a religious ceremony recognizing an earlier civil ceremony:

4. Lackawanna Co., Pa., Marriage Licenses, no. 223, Howe-Kanetski, 1927; Orphans Court, Scranton. Sophie likely provided her parents' names.

5. Sophie Howe, SS no. 161-26-2124, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), SSA.

6. Pa., death certificate no. 015092 (1985), Sophie Howe; Pa. Dept. of Health, New Castle. Also, obituary of Sophie Howe, *Scranton Times*, Scranton, Pa., 18 February 1985, page 4, col. 3.

7. Lackawanna Co., Deed Book 272:549, James et al. to Konasky, 15 April 1916; digital image, Info Quick Solutions, *Lackawanna County, PA* (www.searchiqs.com/palac).

8. 1920 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., population schedule, Scranton, enumeration district (ED) 131, sheet 10B, dwelling 212, family 221, Roman Kenetski household; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm publication T625, roll 1579. Also, 1930 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 35-29, sheet 6A, dwell. 71, fam. 76, "Herman" Kanetsky household; NARA microfilm T626, roll 2052. Also, 1940 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 71-40, sheets 15B and 16A, household 295, Roman Kanetsky household; NARA microfilm T627, roll 3683.

9. Lackawanna Co., Marriage Licenses, no. 223, Howe-Kanetski, 1927.

10. Pa., death certificate no. 75729 (1960), Zofia (Koniecki) Kanetski; Pennsylvania State Archives (PSA), Harrisburg.

11. "Sophie Kanetski Dies in Hospital," *Scranton Times*, 2 August 1960, page 21, col. 7.

12. Lackawanna Co., Marriage Licenses, no. 707, Cofka-Kanetski, 1929; no. 2291, Gach-Kanetski, 1939; no. 1961, Gach-Kanetski, 1943; and no. 255, Kanetski-Jezlorski, 1950.

13. Lackawanna Co., estate file no. 243, Sophie Howe (1985), will of Sophie Howe, 20 September 1982; Co. Register of Wills, Scranton.

14. Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church, Scranton; marriage record, Konajewski-Dyda, 11 November 1913; photocopy from unidentified register, St. Paul of the Cross Church, Scranton, the register's custodian.

- No earlier marriage for Roman and Sophia appears in Lackawanna County.¹⁵
- In 1930 forty-nine-year-old Roman reported he had married first at age thirty-five, thus in 1915–16. His thirty-eight-year-old wife “Sofia” married first at age twenty-three, thus in 1914–15.¹⁶
- Eighteen-year-old “Sophia Dyda” was accidentally shot on Easter Sunday in 1911 at her home, 338 Meridian Avenue in Scranton.¹⁷ No death certificate was issued and newspapers reported that she survived.¹⁸ No other women named Sophia Dyda were enumerated in Lackawanna County in 1910.¹⁹ Sophia (Dyda) Kanetski and the victim were the same age.²⁰ Use of her maiden surname, Dyda, indicates she was unmarried in 1911.
- Helen Kanetski was born on 22 October and baptized on 29 October 1911 as “Helena Dyda.” Her parents were “Roman Koniejacki (Koniecki)” and Zofia Dyda, suggesting they were unmarried when Helena was born.²¹

Helen’s out-of-wedlock birth suggests a similar status for Sophie. Sophia Dyda’s timeline, however, implies another woman bore Sophie in 1909. Eighteen-year old “Zofia” Dyda had never been in the United States before when she arrived in New York on 21 August 1910. She gave birth to Helen in 1911, and married Roman in 1913.

ROMAN’S FIRST MARRIAGE

Kanetski-Kanoski Connection

In 1910 Roman Kanoski, age twenty-eight, lived in Scranton with his wife Annie, nineteen, and daughter Sophia, ten months.²² Roman Kanoski and Roman Kanetski were one man:

15. “Marriage License 1885/to Present,” *Lackawanna County, PA* (http://www.lpa-homes.org/LPA_Public_Inquiries/Views/CAXMLW_Views/MRG460DW.aspx), image-by-image search for the Kanetski-Dyda marriage.

16. 1930 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 35-29, sheet 6A, dwell. 71, fam. 76, Herman Kanetsky household.

17. “Brevities,” *Scranton Republican*, 25 April 1911, page 5, col. 2.

18. “Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906–1963,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5164>), search for Sophie, Zofia, or Sophia Dyda in Scranton 1911–13. Also, “People You Know,” *Scranton Republican*, 26 April 1911, page 8, col. 7.

19. “1910 United States Federal Census,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7884>), search for women ages 14–20 with first-names Sophia, Zofia, and Sophie and surnames similar to Dyda.

20. *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, NY, 1897–1957*, roll 1537, S.S. *Nieuw Amsterdam*, p. 175, Zofia Dyda. Also, 1920 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 131, sheet 10B, dwell. 212, fam. 221, Sophie Kenetski.

21. 1920 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 131, sheet 10B, dwell. 212, fam. 221, Roman Kanetski household. Also, St. Stanislaus (Polish National Catholic) Cathedral, Scranton, baptismal certificate, Helena Dyda, 29 October 1911; author’s files.

22. 1910 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 80, sheet 12B, dwell. 248, fam. 254, Roman, Annie, and Sophia Kanoski; NARA microfilm T624, roll 1359.

- Roman Kanoski appears in no post-1910 census with wife Annie.²³
- No 1910–20 death record for Roman Kanoski has been found.²⁴
- Roman Kanoski and his wife Annie lived at 25 Back Street in Scranton.²⁵ Their home was close to Roman Kanetski's longtime residence at 918 Acker Avenue.²⁶
- In 1916, when Roman and Sophia purchased their 918 Acker Avenue home, their surname was "Konasky."²⁷
- Roman Kanoski was twenty-eight in 1910.²⁸ Roman Kanetski was thirty-seven in 1920, forty-seven in 1930, and sixty-one in 1940.²⁹
- Roman Kanoski and Roman Kanetski were coal miners.³⁰
- Roman was an uncommon forename in the early 1900s. In 1910 of twenty-seven men named Roman in Scranton, fifteen were born outside the United States. Of those, only Roman Kanoski had a daughter Sophie.³¹
- In 1920 Roman Kanetski's Sophie was ten, suggesting birth in 1909–10.³² This date range is consistent with the implied birth date range for ten-month-old Sophia in Roman Kanoski's 1910 household.³³ Further, Sophie (Kanetski) Howe's given 9 June 1909 birth date falls within this period.³⁴

23. "U.S. Federal Census Collection," index, *Ancestry.com* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen>), search of 1920, 1930, and 1940 for "Roman" with wife Ann, Anne, Anna, or Annie.

24. "Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906–1963," database, *Ancestry.com*, search for first-name "Roman" in 1910–20.

25. 1910 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 80, sheet 12B, dwell. 248, fam. 254, Roman Kanoski household.

26. Lackawanna Co., Deed Book 272:549, James et al. to Konasky, 15 April 1916. Also, Pa., death certificate no. 23910 (1946), Roman Kanetski; PSA. Also, *Insurance Maps of Scranton Including the Borough of Dunmore, Pennsylvania*, 3 vols. (New York: Sanborn Company, 1920), 2:185 and 187; digital images, *Pennsylvania State University Libraries Digital Map Drawer* (<http://collection1.libraries.psu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/maps1/id/24691/rec/6>).

27. Lackawanna Co., Deed Book 272:549, James et al. to Konasky, 15 April 1916.

28. 1910 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 80, sheet 12B, dwell. 248, fam. 254, Roman Kanoski.

29. 1920 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 131, sheet 10B, dwell. 212, fam. 221, Roman Kanetski. Also, 1930 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 35-29, sheet 6A, dwell. 71, fam. 76, Herman Kanetsky. Also, 1940 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 71-40, sheets 15B and 16A, household 295, Roman Kanetsky.

30. 1910 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 80, sheet 12B, dwell. 248, fam. 254, Roman Kanoski. Also, 1920 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 131, sheet 10B, dwell. 212, fam. 221, Roman Kanetski. Also, 1930 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 35-29, sheet 6A, dwell. 71, fam. 76, Herman Kanetsky. Also, 1940 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 35-29, sheets 15B and 16A, household 295, Roman Kanetsky.

31. "1910 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry.com*, search for first-name "Roman" in Lackawanna Co.

32. 1920 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 131, sheet 10B, dwell. 212, fam. 221, Roman Kanetski household.

33. 1910 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 80, sheet 12B, dwell. 248, fam. 254, Roman Kanoski household.

34. Sophie Howe, SS no. 161-26-2124, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), SSA.

The foregoing suggests that Roman Kanoski, living with Annie and Sophia in 1910, was the man who would marry Sophia Dyda in 1913.

Konaiacky Connection

On 1 September 1908 in Scranton, twenty-eight-year-old Romano Konaiacky married eighteen-year-old Anna Kujafska.³⁵ The surnames Kanetski and Kanoski are not obviously Americanized versions of Konaiacky. A close look, however, shows that “Romano Konaiacky” was Roman the coal-miner with first wife “Annie” and second wife Sophia:

- Roman and Annie Kanoski had been married for two years by 1910, coinciding with the Konaiacky couple’s 1908 marriage date.³⁶
- Romano Konaiacky lived at 29 Back Street in Scranton in 1908, when he married Anna Kujafska. In 1910 Roman and Annie Kanoski lived on Back Street.³⁷
- Romano Konaiacky and Anna Kujafska were married by the Reverend Franciszek Hodur, organizer of the Polish National Catholic Church’s first parish, St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton.³⁸ Roman Kanetski and his wife Sophia were parishioners of St. Stanislaus Cathedral and were buried in the parish cemetery.³⁹
- In 1911 Roman’s name appears as “Roman Koniejacki (Koniecki),” resembling “Konaiacky.”⁴⁰
- Roman’s wife was called “Zofia (Koniecki) Kanetski.”⁴¹
- “Zofii Konijacki” was beneficiary of a two-hundred-dollar insurance policy on Marcin Błasusiak, who died on 7 August 1925 in Scranton.⁴² In 1920 “Martin Blastic” was a boarder in Roman and Sophia Kanetski’s home.⁴³

Polish and English Linguistics

Polish and English phonetics also connect surname variants in the family records. Polish vowel and consonant pronunciations differ from English:

35. Lackawanna Co., Marriage Licenses, no. 1566, Konaiacky-Kujafska, 1908.
36. 1910 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 80, sheet 12B, dwell. 248, fam. 254, Roman Kanoski household.
37. Ibid.
38. Lackawanna Co., Marriage Licenses, no. 1566, Konaiacky-Kujafska, 1908. Also, James S. Pula, *Polish American Encyclopedia* (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2011), 172.
39. At least two of Roman and Zofia’s children were baptized at St. Stanislaus. See St. Stanislaus Cathedral, baptismal certificates, Helena Dyda, 29 October 1911, and Artur Koniecki, 14 October 1916; author’s files. Also, Pa., death certificates no. 23910 (1946), Roman Kanetski; and no. 75729 (1960), Zofia (Koniecki) Kanetski.
40. St. Stanislaus Cathedral baptismal certificate, 5 May 2014, for Helena Dyda, 29 October 1911.
41. Pa. death certificate no. 75729 (1960), Zofia (Koniecki) Kanetski.
42. “Posmiertne Wyplacono [Death benefits paid],” *Straz* [The guard], Scranton, Pa., 17 Grundia [December] 1925, page 5, col. 8.
43. 1920 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 131, sheet 10B, dwell. 212, fam. 221, Roman Kanetski household.

- o is pronounced *ō*.
- i is pronounced *ē*.
- j is pronounced *yē*, and the Polish letters *ej* are pronounced *ā*.
- c is pronounced *ts*.⁴⁴

Thus, Polish surnames Koniejacki and Konijacki are pronounced as *Kō-nē-āts-kē* or *Kō-nē-yēts-kē* in English. American spelling of a surname likely followed English pronunciation, resulting in the name *Kanetski*.⁴⁵ Likewise, the surname *Konaiacky*, appearing on Roman and Anna's civil marriage record, is a close phonetic spelling for the English pronunciation of *Koniejacki*.

Dissolution of Roman and Anna's Marriage

"Romano Konaiacky" and "Anna Kujafska" were the "Kanoski" couple living on Back Street in Scranton in 1910, but by early 1913 Roman married Sophia. "Roman Konoracky" initiated divorce proceedings against Anna on 10 May 1912.⁴⁶ He claimed Anna had abandoned him on 8 July 1910 and had been living "in the old country" since November 1910. Roman stated that since abandoning him Anna had visited her father in Scranton's Providence area.⁴⁷ His sister said Anna "left her child only eleven months old" with Roman.⁴⁸ The divorce was granted on 19 February 1913.⁴⁹

KUJAWSKI FAMILY

In 1908, as an eighteen-year-old minor, Anna married Roman with the consent of her father, Jozef Kujafska.⁵⁰ In 1910 Joseph lived in Scranton's Providence area with his wife, Teofila, and daughters Leonarda and Stanislaw. ⁵¹ Leonarda "Lenore" married Joseph Golembieski and had eleven children.⁵² Stanislaw "Stella" married Stanley Grevera and had five children.⁵³

44. William F. Hoffman, *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, 2nd ed. (Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1997), 10.

45. *Ibid.*, 12.

46. Lackawanna Co. Court of Common Pleas, file no. 204 (May 1912), Konoracky vs. Konoracky, libel in divorce, 10 May 1912; Clerk of Judicial Records, Scranton.

47. *Ibid.*, testimony of Roman Konoracky, 13 February 1913.

48. *Ibid.*, testimony of Josephine Oblitzki, 13 February 1913.

49. *Ibid.*, divorce decree, 19 February 1913.

50. Lackawanna Co., Marriage Licenses, no. 1566, Konaiacky-Kujafska, 1908.

51. 1910 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 67, sheet 23A, dwell. 326, fam. 374, Joseph Kugawski household; NARA microfilm T624, roll 1358.

52. "Z Miasta i Okolicy" [The city and neighborhood], marriage notice for Józef Gołębiewski and Leokadya Kujawska, *Straż*, 6 Czerwiec [June] 1913, page 12, col. 1. Leokadya was the daughter of Józef Kujawski. See Sophie (Golembiewski) Jimcosky, daughter of Lenore (Kujawski) Golembiewski, interview by author, May 2013; transcript in author's files.

53. Lackawanna Co., Marriage Licenses, no. 2913, Grevera-Kujawski, 1915. Stella was the daughter of Joseph Kujawski and "Ofelia Brizinska." Also, "Stella Grevera," obituary, *Times Leader*, Nanticoke, Pa., 28 November 1992, page 12, col. 6.

Lenore's daughter shared her knowledge of Anna:

- Anna was Lenore's half sister, the daughter of Joseph Kujawski and his first wife. Lenore and Stella were Joseph and Teofila's daughters.
- Anna's married name was Stasiewicz. She had several children and lived in Detroit, Michigan.⁵⁴

Stella's son knew vague details about Anna:

- Anna lived in either New York or New Jersey.⁵⁵ She received the largest part of Joseph Kujawski's estate, leaving little for Lenore and Stella.⁵⁶
- Stella never mentioned Anna to Stanley until Teofila died.⁵⁷

ANNA'S SECRETS

Anna Kujavska married Edward Stasevich on 24 July 1910 at Saints Peter and Paul Russian Greek Catholic Orthodox Church in South River, New Jersey. Both claimed the marriage was their first.⁵⁸ They later lived in Detroit and had four children: Walter, Mary, Joseph, and Stella.⁵⁹

Anna told inconsistent stories. In 1940 she claimed she married once, at age twenty, and had borne three children.⁶⁰ Later that year Anna reported having five children living in the United States. When asked if she had been known by any other names she said nothing of having been Mrs. Roman Konaiacky.⁶¹

In 1944 Anna petitioned to naturalize. Asked to name her children she identified only her four Stasiewicz children. Anna gave the correct date of her marriage to Edward—24 July 1910—but listed her son Walter's birth date as 30 November 1912, although he was born in 1910:⁶²

54. Sophie (Golembiewski) Jimcosky, interview by author, May 2013. Sophie's knowledge about Anna was second-hand from conversations with her mother and overheard conversations among her mother, Aunt Stella, and grandparents.

55. Stanley Grevera, "Kujawski family," e-mail to author, 10 December 2013; author's files. Stanley's information came from his mother Stella.

56. *Ibid.*, "Some of your Questions," 13 May 2013.

57. *Ibid.*, "Greetings from Florida!," 31 December 2013.

58. New Jersey Bureau of Vital Statistics, marriage certificate no. 425 (1910), Stasevich-Kujavska; New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.

59. 1930 U.S. census, Wayne Co., Mich., pop. sch., Detroit, ED 82-405, sheet 5A, dwell. 74, fam. 11, Edward Stasiewicz household; NARA microfilm T626, roll 1048.

60. 1940 U.S. census, Wayne Co., Mich., pop. sch., Detroit City, ED 84-734, sheet 22B, household 12, Edward Stasiewicz household; NARA microfilm T627, roll 1872. Anna was subject to that census's "supplementary questions."

61. Anna Mary Stasiewicz alien registration form (1940), file no. A-3063563; United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington D.C.

62. Anna Mary Stasiewicz petition for naturalization (1944), naturalization file no. 207052, Eastern District of Michigan; Records of the District Courts of the United States, Record Group (RG) 21; National Archives (NA), Chicago. Also, New Jersey marriage certificate no. 425 (1910), Stasevich-Kujavska.

- Walter was baptized on 25 December 1910 at Saints Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church in Jersey City, New Jersey. His birth date appears as 30 October 1910.⁶³
- In adulthood Walter gave his birth date as 29 November 1910 and his birthplace as Jersey City.⁶⁴
- Anna and Edward returned from Hamburg on 3 June 1913 with American-born Walter, age three, consistent with birth in 1910.⁶⁵
- The party also included eleven-month-old Russian-born daughter Mary, suggesting she was born between 4 June and 3 July 1912.⁶⁶ Mary's daughter believed her mother's birth date was 27 July 1912.⁶⁷ She also said her mother was born during a visit to Poland, consistent with Roman's claim that Anna had been living "in the old country" and with the family's return from Hamburg several months after Mary's birth.⁶⁸ Roman's claim that Anna left in November 1910 was likely inaccurate, however, because her son Walter was baptized in Jersey City in December 1910. Anna and her family probably left for Poland shortly after Walter's baptism.
- Mary's birth in mid-1912 means Walter was not born in October or November 1912 and unlikely in October or November 1911.

In 1944 Anna may have intentionally provided an inaccurate birth date for Walter to hide the circumstances surrounding her two marriages. In April 1910 she lived in Scranton with Roman and baby Sophie.⁶⁹ Three months later, in

63. Saints Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church (Jersey City, N.J.), loose papers in folder labeled "Baptisms, 1910–1911," baptism of Vladimir Stasewich, 25 December 1910; translation by Michelle Tucker Chubenko, 14 May 2014; author's files.

64. Walter Stasiewicz, SS no. 362-10-0690, 1 December 1936, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), SSA.

65. *Manifests of Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, VT, District through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports, 1895–1954*, microfilm publication M1464, 640 rolls (Washington, D.C.: National Archives, n.d.), roll 216, 21 June 1913, S.S. *Pisa*, p. 454, Stepaniuk party. The family travelled from Hamburg to Quebec. See Anna Mary Stasiewicz certificate of arrival no. 8 288544 (issued 1944), naturalization file no. 207052, Eastern District of Michigan; RG 21, NA–Chicago. The Stepaniuk family was the Stasiewicz family. Anna's petition includes a certificate of arrival for Anna Stepaniuk documenting her travel to Port Huron, Mich., via the Grand Trunk Railroad on 28 June 1913, likely a continuation of her voyage from Hamburg.

66. *Manifests of Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, VT, District . . . 1895--1954*, NARA microfilm M1464, roll 216, 21 June 1913, S.S. *Pisa*, p. 454, lines 3–7, Stepaniuk party.

67. Joanne (Loiko) Hutchins, "Stasiewicz/Kujawski Family-Update," e-mail to author, 28 April 2014; author's files. Hutchins is the daughter of Mary (Stasiewicz) Loiko and the granddaughter of Anna (Kujawski) Stasiewicz.

68. Joanne (Loiko) Hutchins, interview by author, 24 April 2014; transcript in author's files. Joanne's information about her mother's birth came from her mother and grandmother.

69. 1910 U.S. census, Lackawanna Co., Pa., pop. sch., Scranton, ED 80, sheet 12B, dwell. 248, fam. 254, Roman Kanoski household.

July, she married Edward Stasiewicz.⁷⁰ In October or November she gave birth to Walter Stasiewicz.⁷¹

Anna may have spent much of her life trying to conceal her past, but at some point, she revealed details about Roman and Sophie:

Anna and my mother, Mary, were very close but they did not share their secrets with any of us. It wasn't until shortly before my mother became ill did she tell me that Anna was married before and had a child who lived in Pennsylvania. . . . I never heard Anna talk about her family nor did my mother, Mary, ever [mention] having a half sister in Pennsylvania.⁷²

JOSEPH AND TEOFILA

Joseph Kujawski died in Scranton on 5 October 1934.⁷³ His will directs that after Teofila died, half his real estate should go to his daughter, Anna Stasiewicz, and the other half should be divided between daughters Leokadya Golembiewski and Stanislaw Grewera. His personal property should go equally to his "daughters, Anna Stasiewicz, Leokadya Golembiewski and Stanislaw Grewera" and "Grand-daughter Zofia Kunojacka."⁷⁴

Although Sophie had married Edward Howe in 1927, her grandfather used her maiden name in 1928. Seventeen-year-old Sophie claimed to be twenty-one, marrying without a guardian's consent. Sophie also falsely claimed her parents, Roman Kanetski and "Sophia Alyda," were deceased.⁷⁵ When making his will Sophie's grandfather Joseph clearly identified her as a granddaughter, perhaps not knowing she was married.

CONCLUSION

Sophie (Kanetski) Howe was born to Roman and Anna (Kujawski) Kanetski. Anna left her husband and infant daughter to marry Edward Stasiewicz. Roman and his second wife, Sophia (Dyda) Kanetski, reared Sophie. At different times in her life Sophie identified each woman as her mother, Anna with her second husband's surname and Sophia with her parental surname.

Thorough research, numerous sources, careful analysis, and well-documented explanations overcame inaccurate records, family secrets, and other barriers to determining Sophie's parentage. Closed birth records did not prevent that identification.

70. New Jersey marriage certificate no. 425 (1910), Stasevich-Kujavska.

71. Saints Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church, baptism of Vladimir Stasewich (1910). Also, Walter Stasiewicz, SS no. 362-10-0690, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), SSA.

72. Hutchins, "Stasiewicz/Kujawski Family," e-mail to author, 1 March 2011.

73. Pa. Dept. of Health, death certificate no. 93016 (1934), Joseph J. Kujawski.

74. Lackawanna Co., estate file no. 905, Joseph J. Kujawski (1934), will, 17 December 1928.

75. Lackawanna Co., Pa., Marriage Licenses, no. 223, Howe-Kanetski, 1927.