

10-2015

Zofia A. Drzewieniecki Curriculum Vitae

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Recommended Citation

Drzewieniecki, Joanna, "Zofia A. Drzewieniecki Curriculum Vitae" (2015). *Drzewieniecki Family Curriculum Vitaes*. Paper 2.
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ZOFIA ANNA DRZEWIENIECKI

(nee Zofia Anna Wiśniewska; name from first marriage: Zofia Anna Krzyżanowska)

CURRICULUM VITAE

Prepared by: Joanna Drzewieniecki, Ph.D. Revised March 2016

Born: Warsaw, Poland, March 1, 1910, died: Buffalo, New York, November 8, 1990.

Family

Maternal Grandfather: Tomasz Popławski, Polish landowner in Kazan, Russia. Maintained an apartment in Warsaw and a summer “villa” in Brwinów, near Warsaw. The Popławski family was identified as “szlachta” or nobility (see D279, 276).

Parents:

Father: Piotr Stanisław Wiśniewski, lawyer. Died in 1930.

Mother: Maria (nee Popławska) Wiśniewski (born: October 3, 1885 in Kazań, Russia. Died in 1963 in Buffalo, NY). Finished high school in a private Catholic school in Kazan, Russia, and attended the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, for a year or two before she married. Maria Wiśniewski’s sister Zofia (Tana) was married to Waclaw Gawroński, a Polish pre-WWII diplomat who was the Polish Consul-General in Chicago immediately before the war. Gawroński was instrumental in Zofia’s entrance into the diplomatic service when her father died before the war. Maria Wiśniewska emigrated to the U.S., traveling on the Polish passenger ship “Batory” in late August 1939 and settled in Chicago with her family. Her Alien Registration number was 4353754 and she retained her Polish citizenship to the end of her life.

Siblings:

Elder brother: Dr. Tadeusz Wiśniewski, botanist, University of Warsaw, and known in Europe before WWII. He was executed by the Nazis in Warsaw during WWII for hiding Home Army (Armia Krajowa) documents in the Warsaw Botanical Gardens. Tadeusz was interested in botany from the time he was a small boy.

Younger brother: Stanisław Maciej Wiśniewski (Stanley M. Wiśniewski). Born in Poland on October 9, 1918, died in Toledo, Ohio on October 27, 1960. Buried in Calvary Cemetery in Toledo. Served in the U.S. Army in WWII, honorably discharged as Technician 5th Grade. In the Army, he was probably was a translator and/or did intelligence work. In Toledo, he worked in a factory.

First husband: Wojciech Stanisław Krzyżanowski (born in Lwów, Poland). Profession: diplomat (married in a civil ceremony on December 23, 1935 in Berlin, where both worked with the Polish diplomatic corps; marriage annulled in June 7, 1945 in Bologna, Italy.

Second husband (1945 to death): Walter Marian Drzewieniecki. Professions: military officer, college professor, Polish-American community activist. Married on June 10, 1945, at the San Petronio Church, Bologna, Italy.

Daughter: Joanna Elisabeth Drzewieniecki, born: Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, February 12, 1948. Professions: librarian, human rights activist, political scientist, translator.

Education

Gimnazjum im. Marii Konopnickiej, Warsaw [high school]

Master of Law, University of Warsaw, 1934.

Note: according to the recollections of Zofia's daughter, Joanna, Zofia's goal was to become a family court judge.

Master of Science (Library Science), Syracuse University, 1963

Employment

Staff member, Polish Consulate, Berlin. 1931-1936.

Staff member, Polish Consulate, Bratislava, 1937?-1939

Staff member, Polish Red Cross, Lebanon, 1940(?) -1942.

Officer, Polish YMCA, September 1942-1946.

Officer, Polish YMCA attached to the Polish Armed Forces, Middle East.

Director, Polish YMCA Branch in Palestine and Egypt attached to the Polish Army in the East.

Deputy Director, Polish YMCA attached to the Polish 2nd Corps, Italy, 1944-1946. (By the end of 1945, the Polish YMCA had a staff of 116).

Staff Member, Polish YMCA attached to the Polish 2nd Corps, London, 1946?

Editorial staff member, Gwiazda Polarna (Polish-language weekly), Stevens Point, Wisconsin, 1956-1959.

Postmistress, University of Chicago Post Office, 1958?-1959.

Employee, Oswego State College Library, 1959?-1963?

Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Curator of the Polish Room Collection, Lockwood Library, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1963-1969. Assistant Librarian and then Associate Librarian.

Cataloger, Butler Library, Buffalo State College, 1969-1971.

Awards

Silver Cross of Merit with Swords, Government of Poland.

British war medals.

Golden Cross of Merit, Polish Government in Exile, London.

Memberships

American Association of University Professors, January 1, 1964-?

American Library Association

Friends of Lockwood Memorial Library, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1972-1973.

Kenmore Junior-Senior High School P.T.A. 1963-1964.

Polish Cultural Foundation, 1965-1990. Board member: 1974-1988.

Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Polish Women's Alliance, 1950s-1990.