

# Remnants from the past



Over the past few years, I have been quizzing my family about a lot of stories and items related to our history. They have ranged from one extreme to another. Where did our parents marry? What were Daddy's experiences in the Navy? Where was the pearl necklace Mom had when we were growing up? (Seen in the picture above.) Where was the lace that was supposed to have come from Poland when our grandmother immigrated?

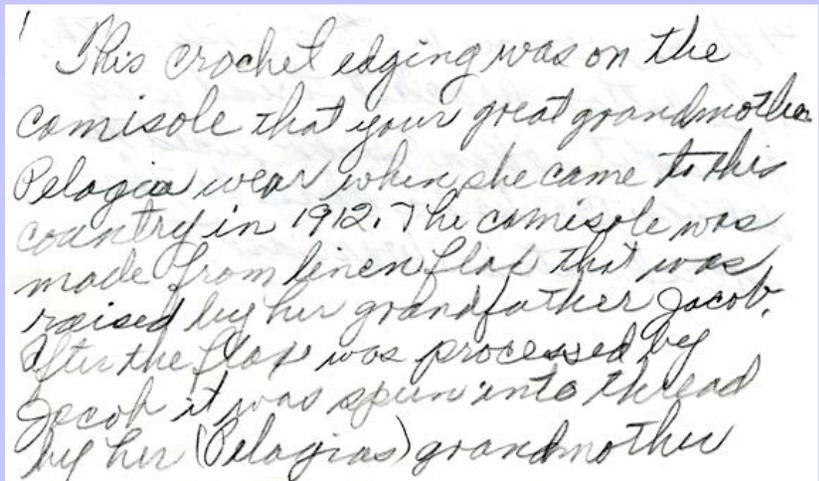
**Fortunately, many of these questions are actually being answered. But many are lost in time and can never, ever be answered. Sadly, we will never know what happened to the pearls or what our grandparents experienced during their trips across the ocean to New York.**



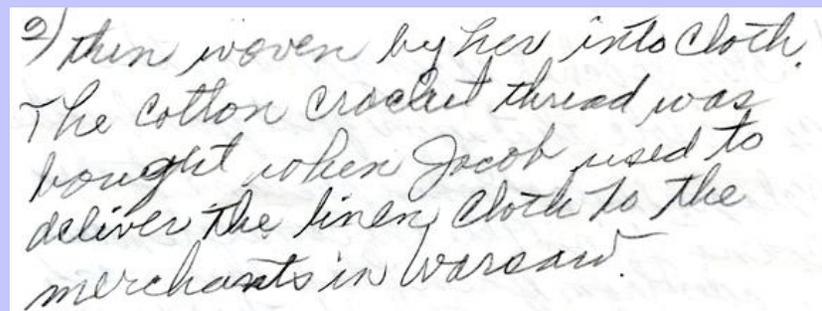
**It has come to light that Mom told different stories to her daughters. Consequently, we have been talking and I have been making notes about them all. Several of us remember Mom talking about a piece of lace that was from an article of clothing belonging to Bachie when she came from Poland in 1913 at the age of 15. I remember hearing about it and Terry remembered seeing it. Terry even knew where Mom kept it in her sewing cabinet.**

**Since beginning my blogging four years ago, I have asked about this lace as I thought it would be something to document and share. No one I asked knew what had happened to it. A few weeks ago, I got an email from Cynthia Cross Schmidt (Reggie's daughter). In the message she said while going through some things she has saved she had found a small metal box. Within in was the lace along with a note Mom had written about it.**

Imagine my joy to finally hear that this lace still existed and was in safe keeping! Thanks Cindy! With the help of John's photos, I can now preserve the image and story of this lace. Below is a scan of Mom's note and a transcription in case you cannot read her writing. Reminder: Pelagia is Pauline, also known as Bachie to her grandchildren. Cindy would be her great granddaughter. My two corrections are in brackets.



' This crochet edging was on the camisole that your great grandmother Pelagia wear when she came to this country in 1912. The camisole was made from linen flax that was raised by her grandfather Jacob. After the flax was processed by Jacob it was spun into thread by her (Pelagia's) grandmother



then woven by her into cloth. The cotton crochet thread was bought when Jacob used to deliver the linen cloth to the merchants in Warsaw.

**“This crochet edging was on the camisole that your great grandmother Pelagia wear [wore] when she came to this country in 1912 [1913]. The camisole was made from linen flax that was raised by her grandfather Jacob. After the flax was processed by Jacob it was spun into thread by her ( Pelagia’s) grandmother then woven by her into cloth. The cotton crochet thread was bought when Jacob used to deliver the linen cloth to the merchants in Warsaw.”**

**Inside diameter is 13 inches which would make the circumference in the waist area 41 inches. Plenty of room to fit around a very small person.**

**The lace is two inches wide.**

**Notice the small amount of fabric still attached and visible at the top of the photo.**



**Close up of the lace trim.**



## **Close up of the small remnant of the linen**



**This view of the lace shows the small amount of woven material to which the lace was attached. After comparing these fibers under a microscope to those in another piece of cloth identified as linen, it was easy to see that this crocheted lace was indeed attached to linen cloth. The fact that it was attached to linen helps validate Mom's story.**



Because the lace was relatively small, the question that begs an answer is “Could this lace be big enough to fit on a teenager’s camisole?” This leads one to wonder about the actual size of our grandmother.

According to the Ellis Island immigration records, Bachie was about 4’10”. According to average height/weight charts, she would have weighted about 80 pounds!

In the photo on the right, Bachie is seated on the right with her older sister Eva. The Ellis Island records gave Eva’s height as 5’2”. Look carefully at Bachie. It is interesting to note that she is sitting in a chair and her feet are not touching the floor!

**In 1913, Stanislaw Piekarski married Bachie's sister, Eva. I suspect Bachie left Poland when she did in order to attend her sister's wedding. Bachie arrived September 29, 1913 and her sister married six weeks later on November 9, 1913.**

**Eva and Stanislaw's wedding picture shows Bachie centered in the row behind the wedding couple. She would have been 15 years old and most likely had on the camisole from Poland.**



**On Stanislaw Piekarski's Ellis Island record, his height was given as 4'8". Looking at the couple, Eva at 5'2" is definitely taller than the man she was marrying.**

**When Mom's parents married in 1920, grandpa's second cousin, Jan Sadowski, was a witness. On his Ellis Island record, his height is given as 4'6"! Polish people are often short!**

## What we know:

1. **Bachie's mother, Antonina Cybulska Jaroszewska, left for America in 1907. Her father, Jan Jaroszewski, had emigrated several years before and she was going to look for him. Bachie lived with her mother's parents (Jakub Cybulski and his wife Franciszka Jabłonska) from 1907 until 1913. While living with them, she helped on the farm where their main crop was flax. This flax was harvested, spun into linen, and eventually woven into cloth by Franciszka. This cloth was taken by Jakub to Warsaw (about 25 miles away) and sold.**
2. **According to Wanda's note, the cotton yarn for the lace trim was purchased on one of the trips to Warsaw. The linen it was attached to was woven by Franciszka. She most likely crocheted the lace too.**
3. **Due to the self-sufficiency of people in rural areas of Poland in the early 1900s, clothing worn by the family would most likely have been made locally. Since we know Bachie's grandparents grew flax and spun linen, it is logical the cloth was woven by Franciszka and made into garments for her family.**
4. **We do know this piece of lace has been in the family for over 100 years. Since flax is an organic material, maybe one day there will be cheap carbon 14 tests and someone in the family will want to know the year the flax was grown!**

