



CONNIE LENZEN
Certified GenealogistSM

10411 SW 41st Avenue
Portland, OR 97219-6984
connielenzen@comcast.net

8 May 2016

TO: Stariha file

GOAL: Compare, contrast, and discuss information from the 1920 and 1930 censuses about the Joseph Stariha family of Washington and Oregon.

BACKGROUND SUMMARY: Joseph Stariha was born in 1857 in Slovenia and died in 1930 in Portland, Oregon. Frances Cvar, his wife, was born in 1878 in Slovenia and died on 21 February 1956 in Portland, Oregon. They had six children who lived to adulthood. Joseph was a naturalized citizen.

RESTRICTIONS/LIMITATIONS

Ten hours research and reporting

REPOSITORIES VISITED

No repositories were visited. The research was done online.

ONLINE RESOURCES USED

Ancestry.com

Google.com

ProQuest Sanborn Maps Google maps

Prologue

CIA.gov

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

The project was to be completed in ten hours, but unexpected findings took the research down paths not planned. Since the project is a personal one and since there was time to expend on the research, the clock went seriously overtime.

Frances Stariha was enumerated in the 1930 census as an inmate at the Oregon State Hospital for the Insane. In the 1920 census, she was living amidst people who did not speak her language.

Time was spent on events surrounding the censuses to see if there was anything besides isolation that could have contributed to her institutionalization. At this point, that's all that can be found.

The Joseph Stariha family was enumerated in the 1920 Seattle, Washington, census. They were living in a poor part of town where immigrants from twenty-eight different countries were living in rental housing. These immigrants were working in shipyards, logging camps, canneries, restaurants and hotels.

Joseph and Frances were born in “Libach,” and their native language was Slovene. Agnes, the six-year-old child, spoke Slovene, suggesting Slovene was the language spoken in the home. Even though it was indicated that Joseph and Frances could read and write English, it could be that Frances, as a stay-at-home mother had limited knowledge of English. Only one other family in their neighborhood spoke this language. The lack of a community where she could speak her language could have given Frances a sense of isolation.

Joseph, a shipyard worker, was a naturalized citizen, and Frances would have had derivative citizenship. Joseph most likely participated in the 1919 Seattle Strike that shut down the city for a week as 25,000 shipyard workers sought a pay hike.

The Joseph Stariha family was enumerated in the 1930 Portland, Oregon, census. A son was born about 1921, indicating they did not stay long in Seattle.

The family was living in a house they owned. The dwelling had no house number, suggesting it was away from the rest of the population. At \$600, the house was valued at considerably less than the other houses in the neighborhood. They were valued at from \$4,000 to \$17,500. The neighbors were employed in mainly white-collar jobs. This was in great contrast to Joseph’s stated occupation as laborer for the city water works. The children were growing up, and one girl was employed as a stenographer in a typewriter company. Another girl had been working as a bookkeeper for a furniture store, but she had not worked on the last working day. Joseph also had not worked on the last working day.

Frances Stariha was enumerated in the household, and she was also enumerated as a patient at the Oregon State Hospital [for the insane] in Salem, Oregon.

Note: a full discussion with source citations is found in the Itemized Research Findings section.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Obtain death certificates for Joseph Stariha and Frances Stariha. Their deaths were more than 50 years ago, and the certificates are at the Oregon State Archives. Send an email request to reference.archives.state.or.us.

The children’s ages provide a migration path; about 1909 through 1912 in Idaho, about 1914 in Canada, about 1915 to 1920 in Washington. Look for the family in the 1910 Idaho census index.

Determine how long the family lived in Seattle before the 1920 census. Locate Seattle city directories. A collection is at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library.

Research the Portland city directories to track the family. The directories are at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library.

ITEMIZED RESEARCH FINDINGS

Joseph Stariha household, 1920 King County, Washington, census¹

On Tuesday, 6 January 1920,² the census enumerator stopped at the Joseph Stariha household. The person who answered the enumerator questions is not known. Assuming Joseph was working, that would leave Frances, his wife, or Mary, the eldest daughter, as the informant. Mary, since it was indicated she had attended school, might have been at school. It was probably Frances who provided the information because her birthplace and her husband's birthplace were given as Libach. The Slovenian capital was known as Laibach, and Mary who was born in Idaho may not have known that.

The family was living in a rented house located at 1122 10th Avenue South, in Seattle, Washington. Joseph was working in the shipyards as a "bumper."

Census image

1122	129	Stariha, Joseph	Head	R	M	W	60	M	1854	La	1886	Yes	Yes
		Frances	wife		F	W	40	M	1903	La	1906	Yes	Yes
		Mary	daughter		F	W	11	S				Yes	Yes
		Josephine	daughter		F	W	8	S				Yes	
		Agnes	daughter		F	W	6	S	Can	La	x	Yes	
		Joseph	son		M	W	4 1/2	S					
		Helena	daughter		F	W	1/2	S					
Libach	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	Yes	Bumper	Shipyard			
Libach	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	Yes	None				
Idaho	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	Yes	None				
Idaho	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	None					
Canada	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	None					
Washington		Libach	Am	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	None					
Washington		Libach	Am	Slovene	Libach	Am	Slovene	None					

Census summary

Stariha, Joseph, head, 60, born Libach [Aus pencilled in], to U.S. in 1884, naturalized in 1886, bumper in ship yard

“ Frances, wife, 40, to U.S. in 1903, naturalized in 1906, born Libach [Aus pencilled in]

“ Mary, daughter, 11, born Idaho, attended school within the year

“ Josephine, 8, born Idaho

“ Agnes, 6, born Canada, Un[known] immigration date, naturalized in “x”

“ Joseph, 4 1/12, born Washington

“ Helena, 6/12, born Washington

¹ 1920 US Census, King County, Washington, population schedule, Seattle, ED 280, sheet 5 (penned), 259 (stamped), dwelling 100, family 129, Joseph Stariha household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 May 2016), citing NARA publication T725, roll 1929.

² The census enumeration date was given as 6 January 1920. The *timeanddate.com* website was used to determine the day of the week.

It was indicated that Joseph and Frances could read and write English. Frances was naturalized in 1906. Married women could not become naturalized in their own right until 1922. Prior to 1922, they took on the citizenship of their husband. This was called derivative citizenship.³ Agnes, the Canadian-born daughter, was an American citizen based upon the citizenship of her father.

The 1906 naturalization year provides a hint for the couple's marriage year. This would fit because Mary, the oldest daughter, was eleven-years-old (born about 1908).

The pencilled "Aus" is most likely an abbreviation for Austria. Slovenia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918.⁴ When Joseph and Frances were born, their country was Austria.

Other Stariha families in the enumeration district

There were no other Stariha families in the enumeration district.

The neighbors

A total of twenty pages were reviewed to see if there were other families who would have spoken Slovene.

Joseph Rachael and his family were living at 1016 11th Avenue South. Thirty-one-year-old Joseph's birthplace was given as Trieste, Italy, but his native language was Slovene. Josie, his 24-year-old wife had the same birthplace and native language.⁵ While his occupation and birth is not a match the Rachael's were people in the neighborhood who knew Frances' language.

The majority of the neighbors were living in single rental dwellings. They were working as laborers in shipyards, logging camps, and canneries. There were a few restaurant workers, housekeepers, and hotel porters.

Very few of the heads of household were born in the United States. Rather, the neighbors were born in twenty-eight different countries; Bavaria, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Dalmatia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Greece, Hawaii, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, and Wales. Most of the neighbors were recent immigrants, and they were listed as aliens, meaning they had not started the naturalization process. Joseph was one of the few who were naturalized.

Given the range of birthplaces, it might be expected that the literacy rate would be low. However, many of the adults could apparently read and write English because "yes" was given as the answer for "Whether able to read" and "Whether able to write." This referred to English.

The neighborhood appears to be urban and poor, a place where immigrants could find cheap lodging and insulation from the native-born population. It could also be a place where immigrants

³ Marian L. Smith, "Any woman who is now or may hereafter be married... Women and Naturalization, ca. 1802-1940," *Prologue*. Summer 1998, Vol. 30, No. 2. *National Archives* (<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/summer/women-and-naturalization-1.html>) : accessed 20 June 2015).

⁴ "Slovenia," *The World FactBook*; online *CIA.gov* (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/si.html>) : accessed 8 May 2016).

⁵ 1920 US Census, King County, Washington, population schedule, Seattle, ED 280, sheet 1B (penned), dwelling 18 family 22, Joseph Rachael household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 8 May 2016), citing NARA microfilm publication T725, roll 1929.

engaged in the manufacture of alcoholic beverages during the Prohibition era that ran through the 1920s. Slovenes had a tradition of making Slivovitz, a plum brandy.

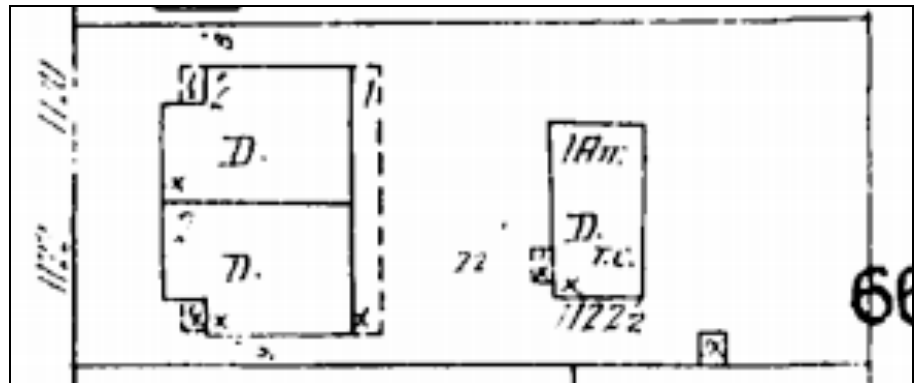
Joseph, as a shipyard worker, most likely participated in the “Seattle General Strike of February 1919.” Shipyard workers expected a pay hike to make up for two years of wage-controls. The pay hike was not forthcoming, and the Metal Trades Council declared a strike, closing the shipyards. The Central Labor Council called for a sympathy strike, and more than 35,000 workers joined the 25,000 shipyard workers who were on strike. Media coverage suggested radicals and Bolsheviks were promoting the event, and fear was prevalent. The strike lasted a week, and it marked the beginning of labor strikes throughout the United States during the 1920s.⁶

Location of the house

The 1920 census showed Judkins as the nearest cross street. The location of the intersection can be located on a Google map. It is now part of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail, east of Highway I-5, and south of Highway I-90.⁷

The 1904-1905 Seattle Sanborn Insurance Company map provides an outline sketch of the house.⁸

It was half of a one-story wood framed duplex. The address of the other half was 1120. A smaller house with the address of 1122 ½ was in the rear of the lot. A small out building, perhaps a shared outhouse, was in the back of that house.



The census page showed a family living in the rear lot house, but there was no entry for 1122. It could be that no one was home on the day the census enumerator was on the street.

Memo: future research suggestions

The children's ages provide a migration path; about 1909 through 1912 in Idaho, about 1914 in Canada, about 1915 to 1920 in Washington. Look for the family on the 1910 Idaho census.

Locate Seattle city directories.

⁶ “Strike” Pacific Northwest Labor & Civil Rights Projects, *University of Washington* (<http://depts.washington.edu/labhist/strike/> : accessed 8 May 2016).

⁷ Google search for Judkins Street, Seattle; digital image, *GoogleMaps* (<http://www.google.com> : accessed 8 May 2016).

⁸ Digital Sanborn Map, Seattle, Washington, Vol. 1, 1904-05; digital image, *ProQuest Sanborn Maps* (access through participating libraries : accessed 8 May 2016); citing map 50.

Joseph Stariha household, 1930 Multnomah County, Oregon, census⁹

In 1930, the Joseph Stariha family was enumerated in the Multnomah County, Oregon, census. The dwelling information was "Council Crest and Chesapeake." There was no dwelling or house number for the Stariha family, but the other dwellings had numbers.

Joseph Stariha was not working; he may have provided the census information.

Census image

Council Crest Chesapeake	Stariha, Joseph	head	600	V	F	W	2	S	no	yes	no
	Francis	wife		V	F	W	51	M	24	no	yes
	Mary	daughter		V	F	W	22	S	no	yes	
	Josephine S.	daughter		V	F	W	18	S	no	yes	
	Agnes	daughter		V	F	W	16	S	no	yes	
	Joe	son		V	M	W	14	S	no	yes	
	Helen	daughter		V	F	W	10	S	no	yes	
Charles	son		V	M	W	7	S	no	yes		

Austria	Austria	Austria	Slovene	89	16	0			
Austria	Austria	Austria	Slovene	89	16	0			
Slovene	Austria	Austria		89	16	0			
Slovene	Austria	Austria	English	80	43	0			
Washington	Austria	Austria		96	16	0			
Washington	Austria	Austria		96	16	0			
Oregon	Austria	Austria		97	16	0			

laborer	city water works	no	no	no	36
none					37
laborer	typhoid institute	yes			38
laborer	city water works	no	no	no	39
none					40
none					41
none					42
none					43

Census narrative

Address: Council Crest and Chesapeake

Joseph Stariha, the head of the household, owned his home, valued at \$600. The family did not have a radio. Joseph was 73-years-old and was first married at age 48. He was not attending school during the year and could read and write English. He was born in Austria, his parents were born in Austria, and his native tongue was Slovene (crossed out and "Un" for "unknown" pencilled in). He arrived in the United States in 1884, was naturalized, and he could speak English. He was a laborer for the city water works. He received wages, but he was not employed. He was not a veteran.

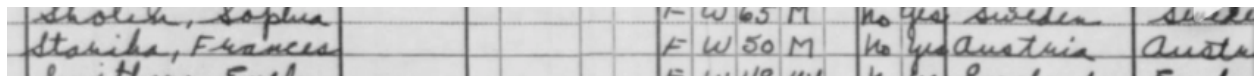
⁹ 1930 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, population schedule, Portland, Election Precinct 93, ED 26-100, sheet 3A (penned), dwelling not indicated, Council Crest and Chesapeake, Joseph Stariha (*indexed as Starika*); digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 May 2016), citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 1950.

Frances Stariha, his wife, was 51-years-old and was first married at age 24. She had not attended school during the year, but she could read and write English. She was born in Austria, her parents were born in Austria, and her native tongue was Slovene (crossed out and Un pencilled in). She arrived in the United States in 1904 (1903 in the 1920 census) and was naturalized. She had no occupation.

The Stariha children were enumerated as living at home.

- Mary was 22-years-old and born in Idaho. She was currently working as a stenographer for a typewriter company.
- Josephine (with “S” for a middle-name) was 18-years-old and born in Idaho. She had worked as a bookkeeper in a retail furniture store, but she was currently unemployed.
- Agnes was 16-years-old and born in Canada. She immigrated to the United States in 1914.
- Joe was 14-years-old and born in Washington, attended school within the year.
- Helen was 10-years-old and born in Washington, attended school within the year.
- Charles was 7-years old and born in Oregon, attended school within the year.

Even though the above census showed Frances at home, she was also enumerated as a patient in the Oregon State Hospital in Salem.¹⁰ This hospital was for the insane.



The neighborhood

The enumeration district consisted of just five pages. Native-born men who were working in mainly white-collar jobs headed the majority of the households. They all owned radios.

The occupations included brewer, teacher in the medical school, flour mill salesman, hotel steward, hardware salesman, machinery company salesman, telephone company building superintendent, manager of an exporting company, exporter for an exporting company, contractor, gas company rate supervisor, electrical engineer, physician, sales manager, orchestra musician, heating manufacturing company proprietor, bus manager, electric company clerk, proprietor of a baking supply company, District Attorney, insurance agent, life insurance salesman, U.S. radio inspector, dental supply salesman, chief clerk of the Tax Department, furniture store manager, amusement park policeman, railroad civil engineer, tailor shop owner, machinist, railroad inspector, real estate proprietor, attorney, grain company buyer, and security manger,

The working women were schoolteachers, milliners, dressmakers, cashiers, and saleswomen.

The houses were mainly owner occupied. The Stariha home was valued at \$600, but the neighbors' houses ranged from \$4,000 to \$17,500.

The Stariha family could be considered fish out of water. They did not belong to the socio-economic class of the neighborhood. No one in their neighborhood spoke their language. It would

¹⁰ 1930 U.S. census, Marion County, Oregon, populaton schedule, Salem City, Ward 6, ED 24-66, sheet 11A (penned), 205 (stamped), line 32; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 May 2016), citing National Archives microfilm publication T626, roll 1948.

be difficult for the children to play with neighbors who had so much more than they did. The culture shock of moving from a mainly poor, mixed-race, immigrant neighborhood to a clearly white, upper-class neighborhood may have been profound.

Memo to self - Future research suggestions

Contact the Oregon State Hospital to see if there is a hospital record for Frances Stariha. Access Portland city directories at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library and extract information about the family.