

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JOCZ FAMILY



The Patriarch: Johanan Don c. 1885

This history of the Jocz family begins in the late 1800s near Vilnius (Wilno) in Lithuania. The family of Johanan and Sarah Don lived in the Jewish village of Zelse where Johanan was the milkman. When their 14 year old daughter, Anna, was injured in a fall Johanan took her to the Lutheran Clinic in Vilnius. The encounter with a doctor there was to change the course of their lives forever. The doctor was a Jew who believed that Yeshua was Messiah and when Johanan showed interest in a Hebrew New Testament in the waiting room, the doctor gave him the copy to take home. Johanan studied the text secretly and eventually he came to believe in Yeshua. When the family moved to Vilnius to escape the threat of pogroms in the rural areas, Johanan found a Christian congregation nearby and was subsequently baptized. This did not sit well with Sarah but Anna was increasingly drawn to Yeshua.

After Johanan's premature death, Sarah needed extra income and took in a lodger, Bazyli Jocz, a young rabbinical student who was studying at the yeshiva. One day Bazyli asked his teacher to explain a passage in Isaiah 53 and he was surprised by the vehemence of the response: "Study, and don't ask foolish questions!" He decided to do more research and sought out the same doctor who had previously spoken to Johanan. So Bazyli began to question his beliefs and eventually, he too came to believe in Yeshua.

It was common at the time for rabbinical students to learn a trade and Bazyli became a cabinet maker. He completed his studies at the yeshiva without telling anyone of his growing faith in Yeshua and when Bazyli and Anna became close they confided in each other, discovering a shared faith. They married and in 1906 their son Jakob was born. Another boy, Jerzy (George)¹ followed in 1909, then Pawel (Paul) in 1911.

These were difficult years in Eastern Europe. Even after the First World War ended, fighting continued between Poland, Russia and Lithuania. Uprisings, brutal repression and famine were common features of life until war finally ended with the Treaty of Riga in 1921. During that period the family was briefly separated. Bazyli had been drafted to serve in Polish army barracks in Warsaw and Jakob went with him leaving Anna, George and Paul in Vilnius.

It is not clear exactly when or how his army service ended but by 1920 Bazyli was employed in Warsaw as a missionary to the Jewish people for the English based

¹ Rendering names in different languages creates inconsistencies. The English versions of names are used throughout the document.

Church Missions to Jews (CMJ). Bazyli brought Anna and Paul with him and settled in Wolomin about 10 miles from Warsaw but Jakob and George stayed with other family members in Vilnius for some time before rejoining the family. It was in Wolomin that Jan (John) was born in 1923.

There are not many details known about this period but we do have a few stories. Jakob went off to Europe and ended up in France. For a time he was tramcar driver and he liked to tell the story of how that job ended - he took a wrong turn and ended up in a cemetery. Not knowing how to reverse, he just ran off, leaving his furious passengers to fend for themselves.

Returning to Poland, Jakob was drafted into the army stationed in Warsaw and by the time of his discharge he held the rank of sergeant. Military service completed, he decided to enrol as a student in the CMJ Bible School in 1926. What followed for Jakob was seven years of schooling, first at the CMJ Mission in Warsaw, then at Evangelisches Predigerseminar in Frankfurt and finally at St. Aiden's College in Birkenhead, UK. He was ordained an Anglican Priest in 1935 and returned to Warsaw the same year to take up duties for CMJ.

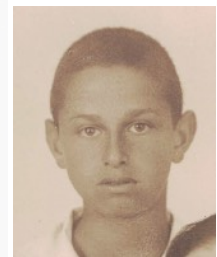


Jakob



George

Around this time it seems likely that George found employment with the Polish Government because he later became a Senior Inspector and Department Head for the State Department of Agriculture. We know that Paul graduated from secondary school in 1930 and went on to study at the Faculty of Theology at Warsaw University. He was ordained by the Polish Reformed Church. John, of course, stayed with his parents first at Wolomin and then in Lwow when they moved there in 1935.



John



Paul

During this time, Jakob and Paul came to know Victor Buksbazen, someone who was to play a critical role later on. Victor was born and educated in Warsaw. Like Jakob, he mastered many languages as well as the classics - Latin, Greek and Hebrew. After graduating with a bachelor of divinity degree in 1926 he became professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at the University of Warsaw. Sometime later on he became involved in Jewish mission work based in Cracow.

1935 at the CMJ Mission at 3 Sewerynow in Warsaw was an active time. Martin Parsons was installed as the Head of the Mission and the return of Jakob as a newly ordained priest was a big help. Some details are provided from the Memoir of Martin Parsons:

"Sewerinow 3 was a large house on a corner site in a quiet road just away from the busy thoroughfare of Nowy Swiat and Krakowskie Przedmiejskie (near the University). It had been built (only about seven years) as a mission centre and training home for Jewish work. The street level was built as offices for letting, but in the event was all needed to house the large English classes. On the first floor was the Church, seating about 120, a small hall which could be made into an annexe of the Church, a reading room, and a vestry-cum-office. The second floor had a four-roomed flat for the Head of the Mission, and a quite tiny two-roomed flat. On the top floor, the original Training Home, was a six-roomed flat, large and spacious which was originally intended as a Training College to be shared in by other missions. . . . After the holiday things in Warsaw changed a good deal. Jakob Jocz arrived from England, a newly ordained Deacon and engaged to an English girl, Joan. He was about my own age, very gifted as a theologian, and the sort of person that everybody loves . . ."



One of Jakob's first official acts there was to officiate at Martin and Emily Parsons' wedding. They forged a life-long friendship. A year later in August 1936 Jakob and Joan were married and they established their first home on the top floor of the Mission. Joan found plenty to do teaching nightly English classes. They expected to spend their lives there and settled into life in Warsaw. Again from Martin Parson's Memoir:

"Jakob and Joan were back in Warsaw before us, and settled into the top flat. Joan took part in the daily prayers, the Sunday Bible Class, and the English Classes. We were all very happy together and the work was blessed. Jakob and I were real friends and his counsel was invaluable. . . ."

In 1937 Victor Buksbazen emigrated to England. It was there that he met and later married Lydia and from there he was able to



Victor Buksbazen

continue his work for the British Jews Society and reach out to those who were fleeing the increasing persecution of Jews in Germany. Around the same time a group of Christian pastors and businessmen in Philadelphia were growing increasingly concerned about what was happening but it was the events of November 9-10 1938 (Kristallnacht – the night of broken glass) that finally spurred them to action. They decided that urgent help was required for refugees and on Dec. 1 1938 established The Friends of Israel Refugee Relief Committee.²



Despite what was going on in Germany, the mission work in Poland continued and by this time Paul was also involved. He was sent to England for further training and then to Glasgow at the Bible Training Institute. By then Bazyli had moved to Lwow with Anna and John to expand the Mission's work in that region. Martin Parsons describes a visit there:

Bazyli "In the short break after Easter I visited our work in Lwow, where Mr Ajzeman and his family entertained me, and I met Mr and Mrs Jocz, a dear couple . . . what an influence that simple man of God has had when one recalls the subsequent career of Jakob and Paul, two of his sons. I went on to Cracow to visit Victor Buksbazen who worked with the British Jews Society there. He became a world figure in Jewish Missions, and his wife's book, *They Looked for a City*, about her family, has been a best seller. Victor was then a bachelor, living at the Cracow Y. M. C. A."



Anna

"For the journey back we met up with Elizabeth Singer who was to be our new worker. . . . She was German, with a Hebrew Christian father, and spoke good English. She was young and attractive, and was to prove a great asset in the work. She made good strides in Polish and was able to develop women's and children's work, besides taking a full share in the English classes. She lived in the little flat which had been empty since the Brinkers had moved to Lwow. She met Paul Jocz before he went away to England, and to the B. T. I. in Glasgow but I had no idea that they would one day marry. . . ."

² In 1943 this organization made arrangements to bring Victor and Lydia Buksbazen to Philadelphia where Victor became the General Secretary with responsibility for day to day operations.

In the spring of 1939 Jakob and Joan returned to England whereupon Joan discovered she was pregnant. It was decided that she would stay in England with her parents until the baby was born after which time she would return to Poland. Jakob went back to work in Warsaw but in July he was suddenly asked to journey to a conference in London to replace a speaker who had taken ill. He jumped at the chance and expecting to return soon after he brought only a small suitcase with him. In August when he started the return journey he discovered the borders were closed. There was no way back. Everything else they owned was left behind in Warsaw. Joan remembers:



Jakob & Joan

"I cannot begin to tell you how good people were to us and how our needs were supplied. We stayed with my parents till after our daughter was born and Jakob travelled all over England³ preaching on behalf of CMJ. We were

KONSULAT GENERALNY R.P. w LONDYNIE.
KONSULARNA KOMISJA POBOROWA.
Nr. arkusza poborowego 2582
ZAŚWIADCZENIE.
P. Jakob Jocz urodz. w r. 1906
w Witowie stanął w dn. 26. 5. 194 3
przed Konsularną Komisją Poborową w Londynie i został ~~z wyjątkiem~~
zaliczony do służby pomocniczej bez broni bez poddawania przeglądowi
lekarstwu na podstawie art. 50 ustawy o powszechnym obowiązku
wojskowym.
Londyn, dn. 26. 5. 194 3
Przewodniczący Kons. Komisji Pob.: [Signature]

offered the use of a rectory in North London and a friend sent us a truck load of furniture and necessities to put in it. It wasn't an easy time as the

³ Polish nationals presumably could not just "travel all over England" during the war. The Polish Government in Exile based in London after June 1940 would have required military service for Jakob. This document above is his exemption: He was "classified as auxiliary service for non-medical reasons under Article 50 of the Act on General Military Service."

bombing of London began and we were very vulnerable as we were next to a large power station. After some months we were able to rent a small house in Surrey which was a little better, though we were in the path of the doodlebugs and other horrors Hitler sent against London."



Paul and Elizabeth were married in Warsaw on Aug. 27 1939. They had planned to go to Lwow with Roger Allison who was to head up the mission there. On Sep. 1 1939 Germany invaded Poland followed by the Soviet Red Army on September 17. We have Roger Allison's memoirs to fill in some of the details:

Paul & Elizabeth's Marriage Certificate

"None of us knew how few were to be the weeks of uneasy peace before the storm of war would break over us. I had had no proper holiday that year and gratefully, therefore, accepted an invitation to join two of our younger workers, Paul Jocz, brother of Jacob, and his German wife, Elizabeth, on their Summer break. We were to spend a few weeks in the cottage home of Paul's parents in a small village called Brzuchowice, only a few miles from Lwow (Lemberg), where a new Mission Centre was hopefully to be established. As far as my two friends and I were concerned, we were not at that time cognisant of God's 'ways and thoughts'. Our plan was to settle into our new home in Lemberg in rented premises.

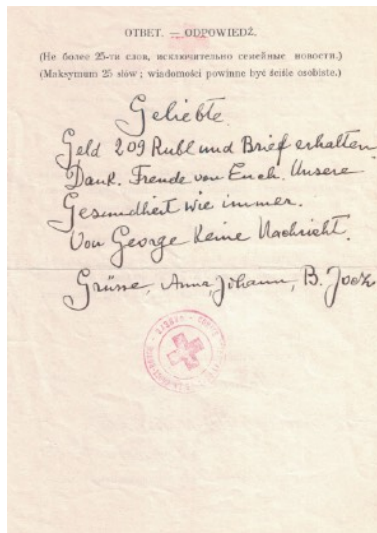
For those whom I was leaving behind in Poland life was to be very different. Paul and Elizabeth settled down as I learnt later, to a new way of life. With no continuing financial support from the Mission they began to earn their living as costermongers, selling fruit and vegetables from their barrow on the streets. Or was it Elizabeth only who did this later, after the arrival of the Germans? For it was then that Paul whose father was Jewish but his mother Polish Gentile wheedled his way as cook into the mess of a Nazi military unit in the town. He looked Polish and spoke the language perfectly.

In that employment, listening to the conversation of the soldiers, he received 'intelligence' information about forth-coming operations to round-up Jews in specific areas which he was able to pass on and thus, at least temporarily, save the lives of many of his Jewish compatriots.

There never came further news from our fellow-workers in Warsaw. Most of them would have been shut up within the walls of the Ghetto, where without doubt they would have been 'faithful unto death' giving encouragement to their perhaps more fearful and suffering Jewish brethren. They left behind the tenderest, kindest memories."

Paul takes up the story:

". . . soon after the entry of the Soviet troops into the city of Lwow (Lemberg) Poland in 1939, the mission in which my father (Bazyli Jocz) was working, was closed by the Soviet Russian authorities and my father exposed to retributions due to the religious work he was engaged in. The situation was still more aggravated by the fact that I, his son, was the minister of the only Evangelical Church in the city."



It must have been very difficult for Jakob and Joan to be cut off from news of the family. Still they managed to send some money to them through the Red Cross. The document dated 14 May 1940 shows a very brief note was returned (subject to a maximum of 25 words!) written in German in an unknown hand: "My dear, received money 209 Rubles and your letter, thank you. A joy to hear from you. Our health is as always. No word from George. Regards, Anna, Johann, B. Jocz."

With the arrival of the Nazis in 1941 the real persecution of Jews began. Bazyli looked Jewish and was forced into hiding. Anna although Jewish, did not look it (Roger Allison described her as a *Polish Gentile* in his memoir). Jakob described the situation:

"German soldiers were billeted in our home and mother performed menial tasks for them so as to be allowed to occupy a corner in the kitchen. After the soldiers were sent to the front, one who had an administrative job stayed on. At this point my father quietly rejoined mother, keeping indoors and out of sight."

Anna somehow was able to shelter a young Jewish girl at the same time. Roma Piotrowska survived the war and there are pictures of her wedding in 1960. Anna and Bazyli managed to continue this existence almost to the end of the war but it was not to be. Jakob continues the story:



"I think it was early in 1945 [ed. Note: it could not have been later than mid 1944 – the Soviet Army re-took Lwow in July 1944] a prostitute who regularly visited the German soldier, discovered my father's presence and denounced him to the Gestapo. She did it for gain. The Germans burst into the house, found father's hide-out and began to drag him away. Mother, who was an unusually courageous woman, began to shout: 'I am also Jewish, take me with him.' She was hit in the face, knocked to the ground and left unconscious. When she came to everyone had left. My father was never seen again. Later rumours reached us that he had been shot in prison. As a result of shock and injury mother remained paralysed from the hip down for the rest of her life."

The rest of the family managed to survive in Lwow. Paul resumes:

"After the second entry of the Soviet Russian army in 1944 into Lwow (Lemberg) the old investigations and retributions as to the whereabouts of her (Mrs. Anna Jocz') husband and children as well as her religious and democratic views were concerned, were resumed by the communist authorities with great vehemence. Seeing no other way out, we decided to flee this part of the country. By bribing some Soviet army men who hid us (Mrs. Anna Jocz included) in their covered military truck, we were deposited in Bytom (Beuten), in the western part of the annexed territory by Poland. However, the Communist secret police soon discovered us again and subjected us to even severer discrimination and harassments. For fear of further retributions and possible deportation to Syberia we all had to flee the country."

Paul does not provide details of their escape but somehow they eventually managed to make their way to Belgium. One can only imagine what parts of that journey must have been like as Germany was over-run by armies. Following the trail of Paul's documents, one can trace their movements:

- A certificate dated July 30 1944 from the Board of the Polish Evangelical Church in Lwow attests to his service as pastor there for the years 1940-1941.

- An evacuation certificate dated July 17 1945 issued by the government representative for Ukraine SSR confirmed their arrival in Bytom.
- 4 passes dated from Sep. 16–Nov. 27 1946 issued by the 1st Polish Armoured

TYMCZASOWA LEGITYMACJA OSOBISTA
TEMPORARY IDENTITY CARD
WYSTAWIONA PRZEZ SZTAB SPECJALNY I. MYWIZJI PANC.
ISSUED BY I. POLISH ARMED DIV., DP PWX BRANCH

P.te.

Stopień
Rank

Nazwisko i imiona
Name and christian names
JOCZ Elzbieta

Zatrudniony
Employed
Gł. DP/PWX Branch
I. Pol. Arm. Div.

Data wystawienia legiti.
Date of issue
2.XI.1946

Ważność do
Date of expiry
30.IV.1947

Odcisk kciuka
Thumb print

Podpis wydawcy
Signature

Okazicieli niniejszej legitymacji upoważniony jest do korzystania ze służbowych środków lokomocji
Bearer of this pass is entitled to use WD transport

SZEF SZTABU SPECJALNEGO
GSO DP PWX

TEMPORARY IDENTITY CARD No. 2713/46
(Tymczasowy dowód osobisty)

SURNAME JOCZ
(nazwisko)

CHR. NAMES Paweł
(imiona)

RANK
(stopień)
2-nd Lieut.

HEIGHT
(Wzrost)
medium

EYES
(oczy)
blue

HAIR
(włosy)
brown

DATE OF BIRTH 17 Aug 1911
(data urodzenia)

Signature of issuing officer

POLISH MILITARY MISSION
to HQ British Army of the Rhine

Signature of bearer

Date 18 May 46

Division authorizing travel between Meppen (Germany) and Frankfurt, Dusseldorf and Brussels to consult with Belgian Liaison Officers. Presumably to arrange transfer to Brussels.

- Certificate dated Oct. 11 1946 from the Ministry of Justice permitting entrance to and residence in Belgium.

Paul does not explain how both he and Elizabeth joined the 1st Polish Armoured Division attached to the British Army of the Rhine (B.A.O.R.). We only have their identity cards dated May 16 1946 and Apr. 30 1947 respectively. Paul was identified as Protestant Chaplain, rank 2nd Lieutenant and Elizabeth, Private. There was a displaced persons camp in Meppen and so it could be assumed that they found their way there first.

It is at this point that Victor Buksbaze enters the picture. He became General Secretary of The Friends of Israel in 1943, a position he was to occupy for the next 33 years. In that capacity in September 1946 he wrote to Paul at "B.A.O.R Camp Meppen Rose" with an offer of employment in Belgium "as soon as you can take up your duties." It was there with help from the British Embassy that Paul was able to make contact with Jakob and in 1947 they completed arrangements for Anna to travel to England. Paul says:

"Through a miracle which we until this day cannot understand, Mrs. Anna Jocz, who at that time was 66 years old and broken in body, was able to secure a passport, and join her son, Dr. Jacob Jocz, then residing in London, England."

Very little information about George remains other than that he was a man of some considerable importance in the Polish Government. There are a few photographs of him and his wife Lucia. He wrote a letter to his mother dated Oct. 11 1949 telling



Lucia in 1946

her not to worry about his illness but he died on Oct. 31 1949 at the age of 40. The funeral was held on November 4. We don't know if Paul was able to attend but he did have pictures of the service and burial. A letter to Jakob written on Jan. 13 1950 indicates that Lucia died soon after George in January 1950.



As for John, who was only 16 when war broke out, there is no record of how he survived. He never spoke about his experiences which must have been traumatic in the extreme and affected him for the rest of his life.

Paul and Elizabeth remained in Belgium from 1946 to the end of 1949 where Paul was associated with the Reformed Free Churches of Holland and Belgium. He continued his work on behalf of The Friends of Israel ministering to the Jewish people but in June 1949 he received another letter from Victor Buksbazen:

"... yesterday our board of directors met in session and upon my recommendation, decided to invite you to the United States as our missionary and representative. The city in which you will work will be decided upon later.

I am so happy for your sake, and for Elizabeth's and especially for her mother. Last night I called up Mrs. Singer to tell her the good news. She was so excited and thrilled she could hardly talk."

Paul and Elizabeth left Belgium for good in December 1949. There must have been a brief stop-over in England to see Anna, Jakob and the rest of the family because on Jan. 8 1950 Paul was (re)ordained by the Polish Reformed church in Great Britain at the Crown Court Church in London. On Jan. 18 1950 they arrived in New York on the S.S. Mauretania and stayed in Brooklyn until February 23. They probably took the train to their final destination, Oakland CA because it took 3 days to get there, arriving on February 26. It was on the petition for naturalization that Paul requested a change of name from Jocz to Yates because "the name 'Jocz' was too difficult to pronounce for English speaking people".



Paul & Elizabeth at their home in Oakland

In 1956 Paul was admitted to the United Presbyterian Church in Oakland where he served as a protestant minister while continuing his work for The Friends of Israel reaching out to Jews in the Bay Area.

Meanwhile back in England

During the war Jakob travelled extensively for CMJ and at the same

time he started work on his PhD at Edinburgh University. He completed his thesis in 1945 and it became the basis of his first major work (The Jewish People and Jesus Christ) which was published in 1949. The family moved several times finally settling in Hampstead (London) after the war ended when Jakob was appointed priest in charge at St. John's, Downshire Hill. St John's was run down both physically and congregationally when Jakob arrived. But despite the challenges, he was able to rebuild the congregation and the structure was gradually restored.

After Anna was reunited with the family, John was able to make his way to London. Only 24 years old in 1947, he had managed to survive the war in Europe and its aftermath. He gradually adapted to life in England, staying with his brother's family in Hampstead and pursuing a course of study leading to a pharmacy degree. It was there he met Doris Hawkins, a former teacher who was completing her medical degree.

Despite Jakob's considerable success over time at St John's, there were some in the parish who could just not accept the exotic "foreigner" as their spiritual leader and Jakob was plagued by complaints to the bishop. It must have been very discouraging and so by 1952 he began to seek a placement where he could find a better fit and where there was an opportunity to reach out to a Jewish community. Clearly Hampstead was not the place and several letters kept by Jakob show that such a placement was not going to be found in England.

There is evidence that once again Victor Buksbazen had a hand in what happened next. A connection was made to the Nathanael Institute, an Anglican mission to the Jews based in Toronto. Morris Kaminsky, the Director, was seeking a return to his native Chicago and a replacement had to be found. In a letter dated Feb 22, 1955,

he invited Jakob to visit Toronto in September after the international conference of the Hebrew Christian Alliance which was to be held in Chicago. On September 8, Jakob and Joan left the children with friends and made their first visit to North America. It was a dual opportunity, to visit with Paul and Elizabeth and the Buksbazens, and to check out Toronto as a possible placement.

After attending the conference, Jakob and Joan travelled by train to Toronto and obviously found it satisfactory. September in Toronto can be very pleasant. Had they visited in January, there might have been a different result! A formal offer of employment (including the cost of transportation) was made in May 1956 and in October, Jakob, Joan and the four children embarked on the Cunard ship, Ivernia, for passage to Canada. This time all their belongings



Jakob & Joan in Chicago with Paul & Elizabeth and Victor & Lydia Buksbazen



John & Doris

followed them packed in large wooden crates previously used for shipping tea. Anna remained in England with John until the family got settled. In December, accompanied by John, she moved permanently to Canada. Her landed immigrant entry stamp is dated Dec. 5 1956 at Montreal Airport.

John returned to England and pursued his career as a chemist. He also pursued Doris Hawkins - Jakob and Joan were invited to attend their wedding on Aug. 15 1958. The wedding took place at St. John's, Downshire Hill in Hampstead, probably a bitter-sweet return for Jakob and Joan.

John's work prospered and in the same year, with support from his father-in-law, he invested in a chemist shop in Worthing.

The Chemist and Druggist Newsletter dated Jan. 10 1959 recorded the start of the new company:



Joan, Doris & John at his shop

S. DAVIES DISPENSING CHEMISTS, LTD. (PC.)

Capital £250.

To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, opticians, etc.

Directors: John Jocz-Yates and Charles A. G. Hawkins R.O.

3 The Broadway, Brighton Road, Worthing

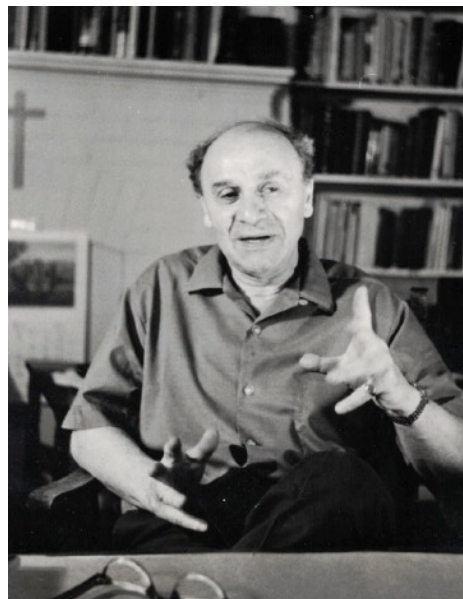
In Toronto, while the rest of the family was adjusting to life in Canada, Jakob assumed the duties of Director at Nathanael Institute. The facility had a chapel,



The Director at Camp Nathanael

meeting rooms and kitchen on the main floor plus a large gymnasium. The basement contained more meeting rooms and on the second and third floors enough living space for the entire family plus Anna. In the summer, a property owned by the Diocese on Sparrow Lake was used as a summer camp.

For the first couple of years in Canada the work amongst Hebrew Christians continued but it was becoming apparent that membership was dropping and that the neighbourhood was changing. Jewish immigrants were becoming more prosperous and moving away from the centre of the city and they were being replaced by new immigrants from Italy and Portugal. At the same time,



Dr. Jocz at Wycliffe College

Jakob's scholarship and teaching was increasingly valued by the Anglican Communion in Ontario. He was in constant demand as a guest preacher and speaker. In 1959, he was invited to join the staff of Wycliffe College as a guest lecturer teaching Systematic Theology. It was a part-time position teaching two courses but it was a turning point. The following year, Principal Leslie Hunt offered him a full professorship which he was pleased to accept. It was a position in which he would thrive for the next 16 years.

In September 1960, Jakob submitted his resignation from Nathanael Institute and it was agreed that he would vacate the premises by February 1961. The use of property was about to change from a mission to the Jews to community outreach run by Church Army Captain Don Patterson. Nathanael Institute became St. Stephen's Community House.⁴



Jakob and Joan found suitable housing in the Annex area of Toronto. It was a spacious three storey residence within easy walking distance of the University and the children's schools.

Anna occupied a large room on the second floor with a balcony overlooking the back yard. It had everything she needed but sadly she lived there only a few months. In November 1961 she had to move to a nursing home where she died on December 11.

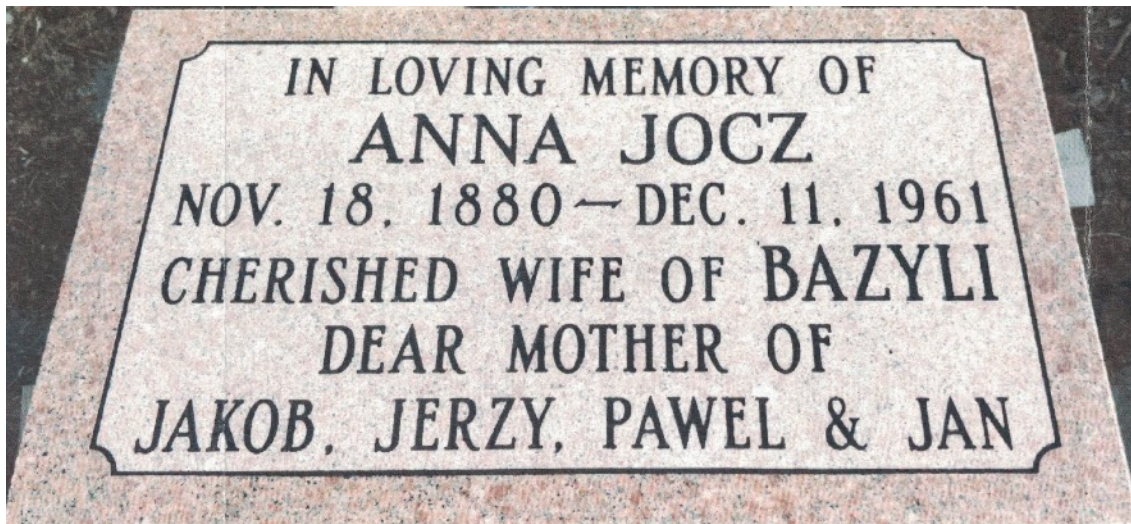
What a journey brought her to this place. She grew up in horse and buggy days and she lived to travel on jet aircraft. She survived two world wars, pogroms, physical infirmity and many other deprivations. Seeing her in later life one would never have guessed that she faced down the Nazis and risked her own life to shelter others. A woman of indomitable courage and unwavering faith.

⁴ St. Stephen's Community House was sold by the Anglican Diocese in 1974. It continues today as a non-profit, non-denominational charitable organization running programs for the benefit of the local community.

Anna Jocz
Nov. 18 1880 - Dec. 11 1961⁵



⁵ Anna was buried in an unmarked grave in York Cemetery, Toronto. The location was discovered during the research for this document. In 2019 the family placed a memorial headstone to honour the life of this extraordinary woman.



Post Script

In 1957 Jakob started a process on Anna's behalf to obtain compensation from the German Government for the harm she had suffered at the hands of the Nazis. It took several years but the Reparations Commission finally approved the amount of 33,821 DM plus 4% interest on Nov. 24 1961. The offer was immediately rescinded when she died on Dec. 11 leading Jakob to suspect that they purposely delayed knowing the precarious state of Anna's health. He appealed for costs incurred and won two times in German courts but the Commission appealed to the High Court and won and then billed **him** for costs. His response is contained in a letter to the High Court dated Nov 18 1971:

"I categorically refuse to pay one single pfenning of the enclosed bill. . . I suggest that you institute legal proceedings against me. I will be glad to take the consequences."

They called his bluff and followed up with a suit in a Canadian court forcing him to incur the costs of defence.

Sources

Memoir of Joan Jocz (unpublished)

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Documents from the Jocz Family archives.