

## Kazimara KULIKOWSKA's courage

© 2014 Jenny Little

*My grandmother Kazimara Kulikowska was a Polish-born Catholic, the daughter of Yan Kulikowski. The only thing I know about him is that he was a talented violinist and my mother was to become his favourite grandchild*

Kazimara married Yan ANDRZEJEWSKI in about 1905 and they lived on a property with an orchard in Lida near Grodno (Hrodna). These are now both cities in Belarus.

Political history is a major factor in Kazimara's story as Grodno is located on the River Nieman close to the borders of old Germany, Poland and Lithuania.

Originally part of Poland it was occupied by Germany in WWI (1915) then ceded by Bolshevist Russia in 1918. By 1919 it was back in the hands of the Polish Army but by

the end of the Polish-Soviet War in 1922 was under Soviet Communist rule.

From 1906 my grandparents were raising their family. Kazimara had borne 8 children, losing two by the time my mother Maria arrived in May 1918 during a period of much fighting in this border area.

The farming communities were very badly off as Russian soldiers always destroyed everything in their wake and there was no food for those caught behind Russian lines.



*The ANDRZEJEWSKI family in 1915 on the family farm near Lida, Belarus (was Poland) before my mother was born  
L-R: Stanislava, Kazimara with baby Sophie, Janina, Helena, Jan and Zenon, the only surviving son*

Grandfather refused to leave the farm so Kazimara left her children, including newborn Maria, in the care of her 12 year old daughter Helena. Taking one of the horses she crossed onto the German side to try and get some provisions from other family members.

However she was unable to return for many weeks as the Front Line kept changing. When finally making it back to the farm she found her new baby Maria was nearly dead of pellagra, a form of malnutrition.

Maria pulled through and life eventually became easier for Kazimara and her family during the years before WWII. She had two more children in 1920 and 1921 but lost the last, a son, in the same year.

Kazimara and Yan ANDRZEJEWSKI's children were:

- Helena born 1906
- Stanislava 1908–1973
- Zenon born 1910
- Janina born 1912
- Sophie born early 1914
- Vanda born late 1914
- Maria 1918–2012
- Sabina born 1920

Three other children died as infants:

- Joseph in 1916
- unknown girl in 1917
- Aloise in 1921

1939 again brought heartbreak. Germany invaded Poland in the first week of September and two weeks later on the 17th the Russians marched in! There was heavy fighting in the Grodno area.

The Russians deported thousands of the city's Polish inhabitants to remote areas of the Soviet Union and many thousands more Polish patriots were imprisoned, interrogated and sent to Labour Camps.

Twenty-year-old Maria and her new husband Antoni, were first sent to German Interrogation Camps, then, because they were patriots, transported to Soviet Labour Camps at opposite ends of the Russian continent. Antoni was sent to Kampchuptka near Japan and Maria to Potma (Pocma) in Siberia.

Maria survived the labour camp, lost her young husband, joined the Polish Division of the British Army (Anders Army), nursed in Persia and India, married again in Bombay then went on to become my mother, Rita DUNBAR who migrated to Australia in 1947.

Kazimara was never to see her daughter again as she died just months before my birth in Sydney.

*Mrs J Little  
11 The Point  
Bundabah NSW 2324  
Australia  
jenanloz@live.com*

## GET FAST RESULTS

Subscribe TODAY and have your FREE entries published NEXT month!

Individual subscribers are given FREE entries when they subscribe (see p59), plus their magazine arrives in their letterbox every month!

Get AFTC magazine working to expand your family tree TODAY!

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Free publicity is available for new genealogy publications, especially those published by Australian and New Zealand Family History, Genealogy and Historical Societies.

To have a recent publication featured on our Resources pages we need to receive a review copy plus details of where it is available and the cost (including postage and handling).

Our contact details are on page 4



### Are you researching ancestors who settled in or near Thames, New Zealand?

*The Treasury has resources galore such as the following:*

- School and cemetery records
- Mining and hotel records
- BDM microfiche
- Wises Directories
- Newspaper records
- Government Gazettes

Open 11am-3pm Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
Research service: \$30 per hour

**THE COROMANDEL HERITAGE TRUST**  
705 Queen Street, Thames 3540, New Zealand  
(PO Box 75, Thames 3540, New Zealand)

Tel (07) 868 8827 (+64 7 868 8827)

*info.thetresury@gmail.com  
www.thetresury.org.nz*