

The Curious Life of Edourd Bruno Czaska

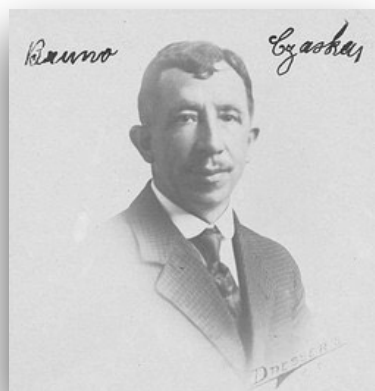
Plus, the Unexpected Life of Elizabeth Czaska-Schnackerz

Edourd (Edward) Bruno Czaska lived a rather short yet adventurous life. In his 44 years he, along his wife Elizabeth, traveled from the heartland of Germany to Baltimore, MD and then westward to San Francisco, CA. Here, we will explore these travels, meet their respective and supporting families, reveal enduring mysteries, and find that, in the end, it was Bruno's wife Elizabeth who lived long and prospered.

Principals

Edourd Bruno Czaska

(uncle of husband of maternal aunt of the author)



BIRTH 10 MAY 1875 • Chemnitz, Saxony, Germany
DEATH 24 MAR 1920 • Los Gatos, Santa Clara, California

married; between about 1904 (1st in Germany, then USA)

Elizabeth Schnackertz

BIRTH 25 NOV 1880 • Muelheim An Der Ruhr, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany
DEATH 3 MAR 1969 • Pasco County, Florida

married; Dec. 1924

Franz Peter Kissel

BIRTH 8 DEC 1888 • Freudenberg, Main-Tauber-Kreis, Baden-Württemberg, Germany
DEATH 11 DEC 1956 • Pasco County, Florida

Sisters of Elizabeth Schnackertz

Mary C Schnackertz

BIRTH 10 SEP 1873 • Mulheim an der Ruhr, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany
DEATH 14 OCT 1968 • Culver City, Los Angeles, California

Anna Elizabeth Schnackertz

BIRTH 29 JUN 1889 • Deutz, Cologne, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

DEATH 23 JAN 1961 • New Port Richey, Pasco, Florida

Introduction

Let's begin with an intriguing mystery. In early 1906, at San Remo on the Italian coast, perhaps at the Hotel Continental, a certain "Count" Czaska and his French actress companion defrauded the hotel proprietor of about \$1600 (~\$3500 in modern value), then fled by motorcar to Monte Carlo, where, apparently, the pair were arrested. The story was a minor sensation through the summer of 1906, being carried in various forms in numerous international newspapers.

three years imprisonment.

An adventurer, who described himself as Count de Czaska, a Polish nobleman, has been arrested by the French police on the Riviera. He is claimed by the Italian judicial officials of San Remo, where he is stated to have obtained 8,000 lire from one of the leading hotelkeepers under false pretences. With this money it is said that the pseudo-count bought an autocar and swiftly motored into France. While at San Remo Czaska went about with a French actress, and seemed to spend a good deal of money. To the hotel-keeper he said that he owned a gold and diamond mine in Australia, and he left a big box in the establishment to be kept carefully for him. It contained, he said, much valuable stuff from his mines, but when it was opened yesterday there was seen inside of it only a choice collection of shells and shingle from the seashore. While at San Remo the so-called count put his name down for 5,000f as a subscription towards the organisation of golf links, but he only paid in a small part of this sum.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, LONDON
TUE, 17 APR 1906 ·PAGE 9

* * *

THEY WERE NOT EMERALDS.

At the beginning of the season a Polish gentleman arrived at San Remo to put up at the Hotel Continental. He gave his name as Count de Czaska, and stated that he owned emerald mines in Australia.

The count deposited with the proprietor a heavy valise which he said was full of precious stones. He also subscribed £200 to the Golf Club. The doors of San Remo were forthwith opened to the generous count.

One day he borrowed 8,000 f. (£320) from the proprietor, hired a motor-car, and sped away to la belle France across the border.

The valise was opened in his absence, and it was found to contain a heavy stone (a count cannot tell a lie), but the stone was such as you might pick up any day in the road. Moreover, there were four photographs of the count in Turkish uniform and a certificate delivered by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs to Rechedi Bey Pasha at Constantinople.

So the count, who was arrested at Monte Carlo on the demand of the Italian police, has evidently had an adventurous career.

* * *

FINDS MONTE CARLO "EASY"

**Swindler Defrauds Hotel Proprietors
on Pretense of Large Emerald
Mines in Australia**

Special Cable to The Herald.

MONTE CARLO, May 20.—A man calling himself Count Czaska has been arrested here for defrauding hotel proprietors.

He pretended to be a Polish nobleman and owner of emerald mines in Australia. He had, among other luggage, a small trunk, doubly padlocked, of which he was careful, and which he said contained uncut precious stones.

He was received in good society and offered a subscription of \$1000 to the golf club, but never made any attempt to pay the money.

Two days ago he borrowed \$1600 from the proprietor of the hotel where he was staying, and, having hired a motor car, went off to Toulon.

When the police examined his trunk of precious stones they found it contained several bricks wrapped up in comic newspapers.

DAILY NEWS ADVERTISER, VANCOUVER
SUN, 06 MAY 1906 ·PAGE 17

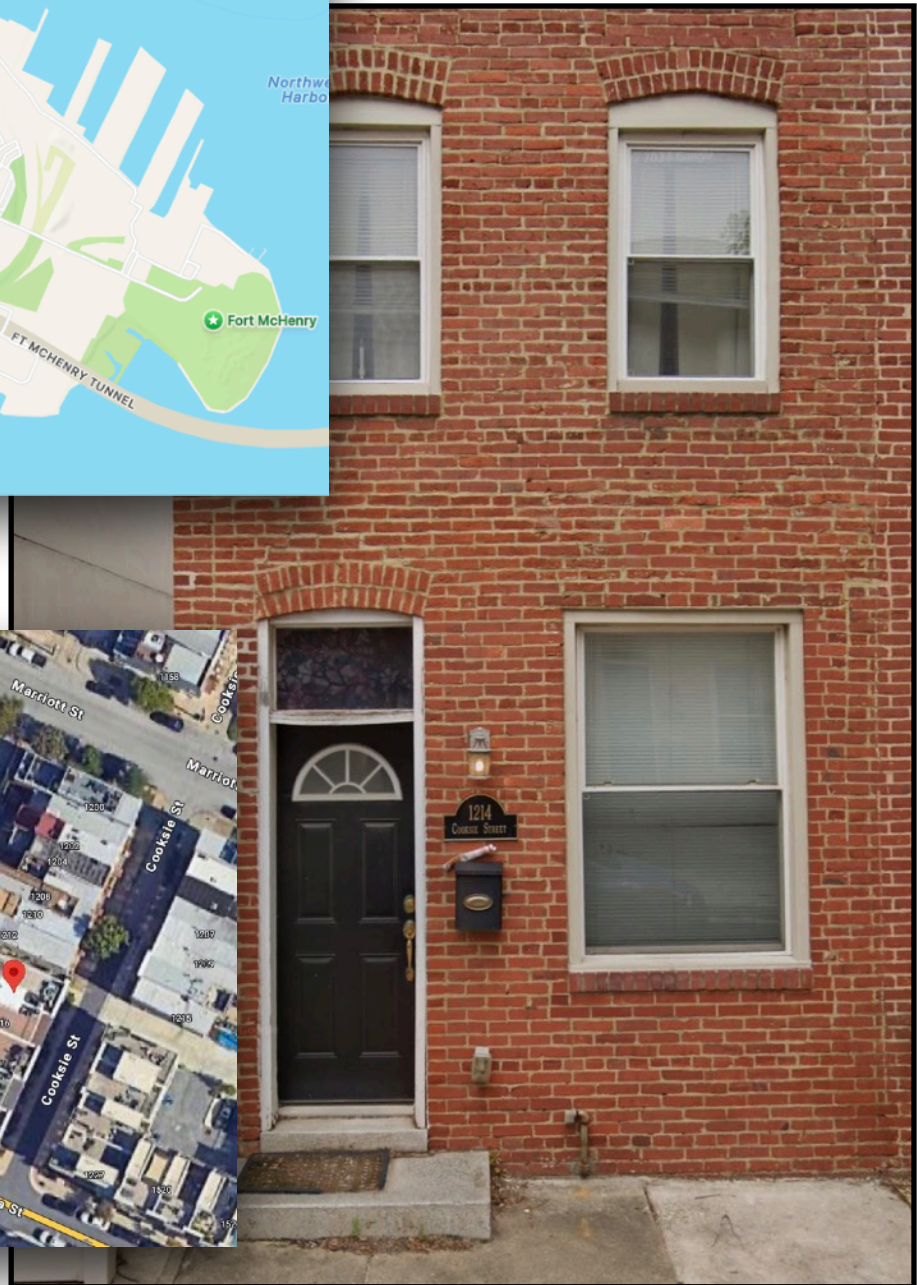
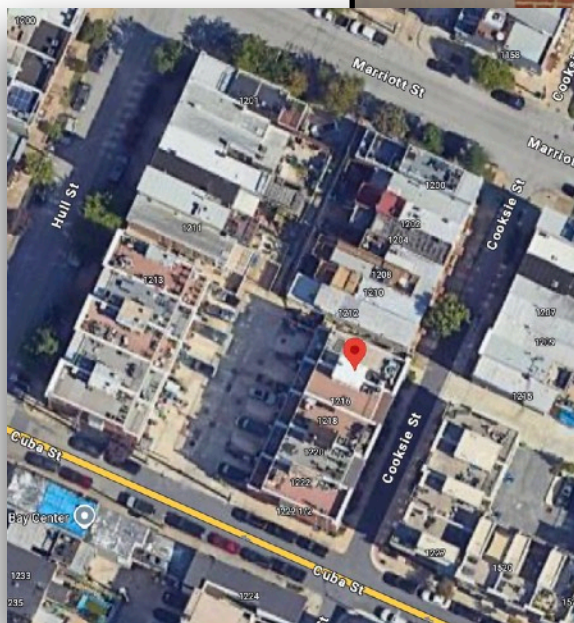
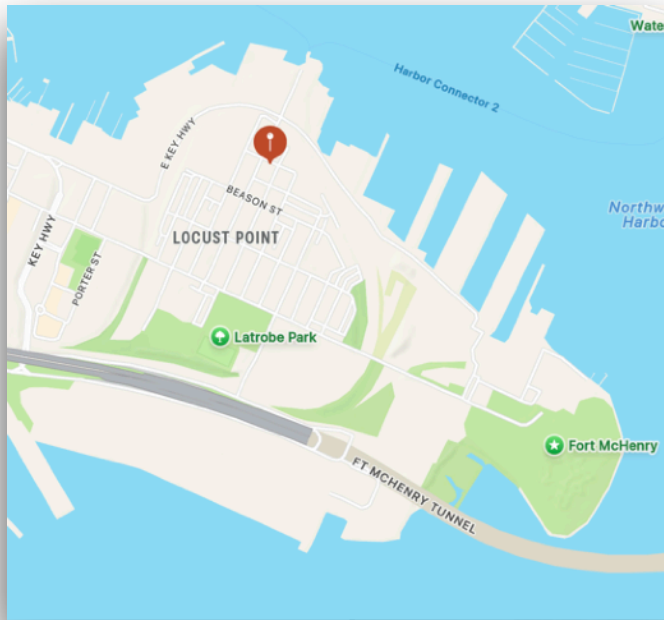
LOS ANGELES HERALD
MON, 21 MAY 1906 ·PAGE 7

How this incident finally resolved is unknown. Curiously, Edourd "Edward" Bruno Czaska and his wife, Elizabeth arrived in New York on Oct. 30, 1906 onboard the ship, Zeeland, sailing from Antwerp, Belgium. He declared carrying \$150 (~\$5500 in modern dollars) on the ship's manifest. His listed occupation was Baker and their declared Last Residence was Muhlheim, Germany. Their destination was Baltimore, MD where Edward intended to meet up with his brother, Hermann Bernhardt "Bernard" Czaska.

Was Edourd Bruno Czaska the real life personage of "Count" Czaska. Likely, we will never know. But, the circumstantial evidence suggesting he was that gentleman stimulates speculation. Regardless, let's continue our journey with Edward and Elizabeth Czaska and see what happened after they landed in Baltimore, MD.

In 1906, Edward's brother, Bernard Czaska, lived at 1214 Cooksie St, in the Locust Point neighbourhood of Baltimore. Locust Point, according to Wikipedia, "...once served as a center of Baltimore's Polish-American, Irish-American and Italian-American communities". "Locust Point has been called 'Baltimore's Ellis Island' because the neighborhood was once the third largest point of entry for immigrants to the United States after Ellis Island and the Port of Philadelphia."

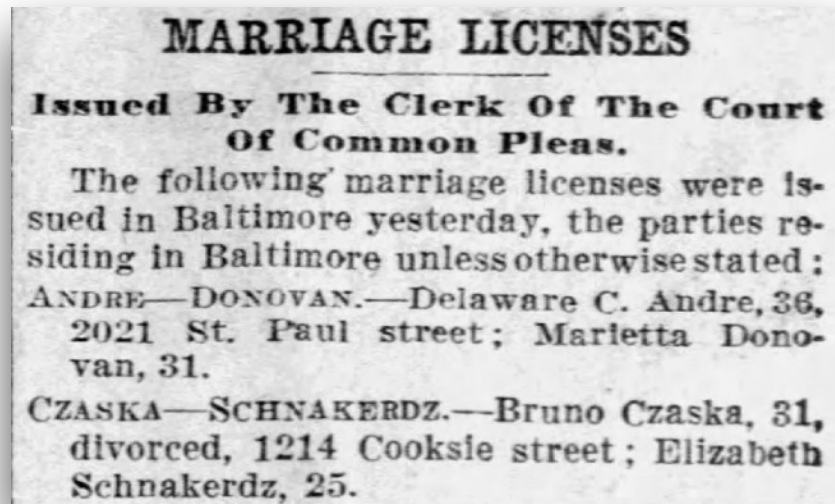
1214 Cooksie Street, Locust Point, Baltimore MD, 1906



As can be seen above, 1214 Cooksie Street is still there and being used as a residence. At the time, in 1906, Bernard Czaska was a machinist and worked in an automobile repair shop. He married in 1907 to the former Cora Gerstle. Together, they

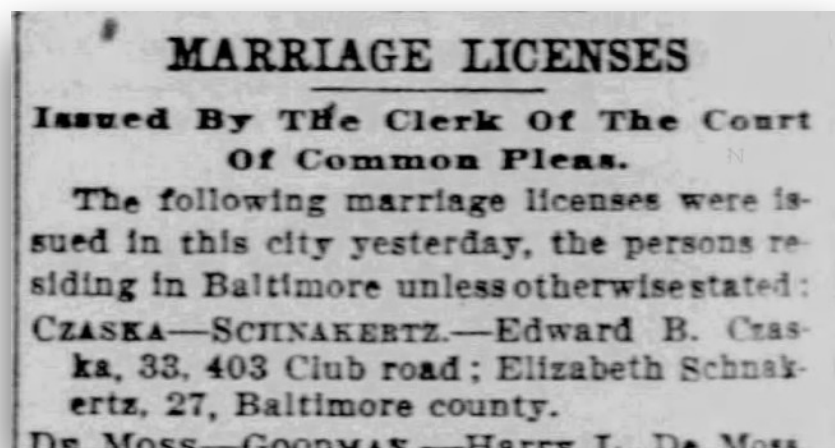
raised three children, Calvin, Margaret, and Thelma. Calvin married the author's aunt, Elizabeth Toeneboehn.

Returning to Edward Bruno and Elizabeth Czaska, we find that on Nov. 17, 1906 Edward and Elizabeth, a mere two weeks after arrival in the US, were issued a marriage license. This action was likely taken so as to legitimise their marriage in the US. Edward stated that he was divorced. Likely this was done with regard to his earlier immigration statement that he was married, so as to avoid any accusations of bigamy.



THE BALTIMORE SUN, NOV 17, 1906

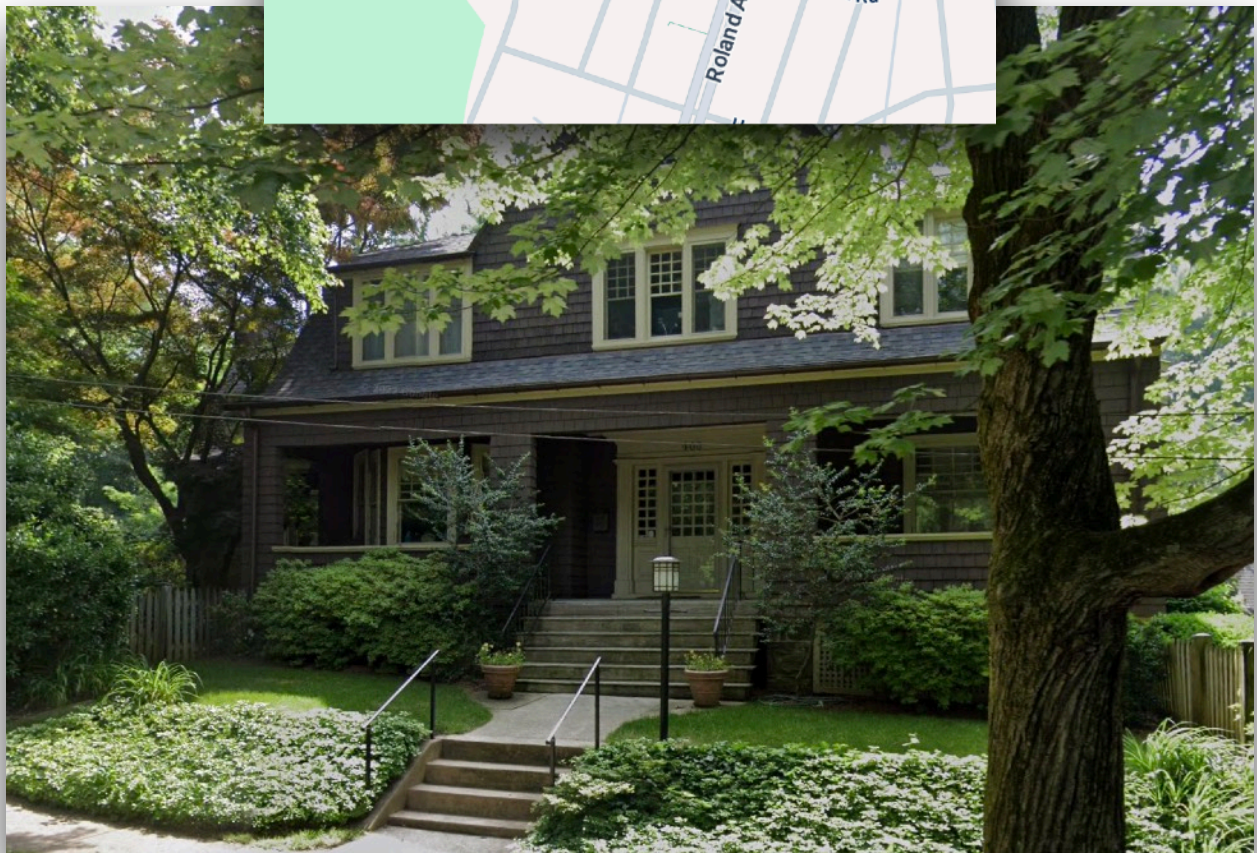
Oddly, on May 10, 1908, yet another marriage license was issued. Why Edward and Elizabeth needed a second license is unknown. But, I do have a theory.



THE BALTIMORE SUN, MAY 10, 1908

On this second marriage license, issued by the City of Baltimore, Edward and Elizabeth report living at 403 Club Road. This home was in the Roland Park neighbourhood, north of Baltimore proper. Then as now, this was an exclusive neighbourhood on the campus of the Baltimore Country Club, founded in 1898. The club has hosted numerous golf tournaments over the years.

403 Club Road, Roland Park Neighbourhood, Baltimore, MD, 1908

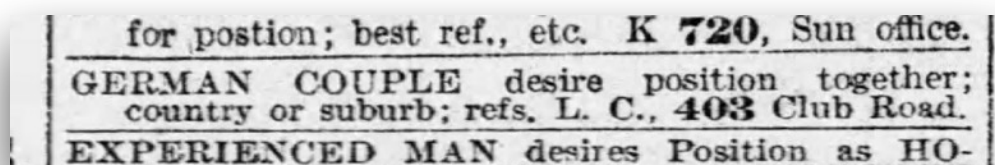


403 Club Road was built in 1906. It has 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, and 4,180 sqft of living space. It last sold for \$865,000. Who was in residence at 403 Club Road in 1908? That would be the Imperial German Consul for the State of Maryland, Mr. Carl A Luederitz. Mr. Luederitz has his own story, not told here. However, one key fact is that he was a senior officer with a shipping firm in Baltimore that transported goods between Bremen, Germany and Baltimore. On return trips from Bremen, the shipping company would transport immigrants to Baltimore.

How did recent immigrants, Edward Bruno and Elizabeth Czaska, find themselves living in such an elegant home of the Imperial German Consul? Well, there are no direct clues. What we do know is that Edward and Elizabeth were employed as gardener, maid, cook, houseman, and butler with numerous families - as we will see. It could be that the Luederitz family required Edward and Elizabeth to provide them with proof of marriage to be employed (Butler and Cook?) at their 403 Club Road home.

Here's a sample advertisement placed in Baltimore Sun newspaper in Oct. 1909:

With an address of 403 Club Road, this has to be Edward and Elizabeth Czaska seeking a new position in late 1909.



for postion; best ref., etc. K 720, Sun office.
GERMAN COUPLE desire position together;
country or suburb; refs. L. C., 403 Club Road.
EXPERIENCED MAN desires Position as HO-

San Francisco, CA, Pacific Heights Neighborhood, 1911

We lose track of Edward and Elizabeth after the 1909 advertisement was published (see above) until Oct. 1911. Then, we find the following advertisement in the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper:



POSITION by German man and wife as butler
and houseman; wife good cook or upstairs
work; drst-class references. CZASKA, 2038
Divisadero st.
RANCH

The address, 2038 Divisadero, was and is an apartment complex in the Pacific Heights neighbourhood of San Francisco, CA. Why were Edward and Elizabeth in San Francisco? Elizabeth Schnackertz had two sisters, Mary and Anna. Both had

immigrated to Baltimore; Anna in 1909 and Mary in 1910. We will get to know both of these ladies in a coming section.

For now, we know, through her naturalisation documents, that Mary Schnackertz was a Catholic nurse living and working in San Francisco in the 1911 to 1920 timeframe. Thus, it's likely that Edward and Elizabeth Czaska relocated to San Francisco because of Elizabeth's sister, Mary.

Chemnitz, Germany, 1912-1913

Edward and Elizabeth did not remain long in San Francisco. We know this because of a passenger manifest which showed that Edward and Elizabeth traveled from Bremen, Germany to Baltimore, MD, arriving Oct.10, 1913. We additionally know that they reported being in residence at Chemnitz, Germany - original home of Edward Czaska. Thus, it's reasonable to assume they were in Germany approximately two years: 1912 - 1913. It's also interesting to note that Edward declared \$100 in his possession on the ship's manifest (~\$3300 in modern dollars).

How did they get to Germany from San Francisco? Knowing the Panama Canal did not open to shipping with an easy traverse to the Atlantic Ocean until 1914, Edward and Elizabeth must have traveled to Germany via either New York or, more likely, Baltimore. Their stated destination on the ship's manifest this time was San Francisco, CA.

Indianapolis and Muncie, IN, 1914-1916

They did not arrive in San Francisco until Summer, 1916. Along the way, they stopped for a few years in Indianapolis, IN and Muncie, IN. How do we know this? In Sep., 1918 Edward submitted an Alien Enemy Registration Affidavit in San Francisco. On it, he listed all employment since Jan. 1, 1914.

Name of place.	Date.	Occupation.	Name of employer.
Indianapolis Ind.	April 1914	Butler	Mrs. W. Rockwood.
Muncie Ind.	Oct. 1914	Gardener	Mr. Frank Ball
Monter Park Berkeley Cal.	July 1916	Gardener	Mr. L. J. Wells.
Redwood City	Nov. 1916	Gardener	Mr. C. Pringle.

Edward Bruno Card

Why Indiana? Here's where we meet Elizabeth Schnackertz-Czaska's other sister, Anna Schnackertz-Thiel. Anna married a gentleman named Paul Thiel in 1911. Paul Thiel was a foreman for the General Concrete Construction Company in Muncie, IN. Paul and Anna lived at 206 North Macedonia, Ave., Muncie.

Edward and Elizabeth Czaska must have been residing first in Indianapolis and then Muncie (about 50 miles NE of Indianapolis) because of Anna and Paul Thiel. It could be, due to Paul's business connections, that Edward was able to secure, or at least recommend, Edward for the listed butler and gardener positions.

I was not able to find much about the butler position with Mrs W Rackov in Indianapolis. There was a playwright named N. Rackov in Indianapolis at that time. But, it's unknown if they were related.

Frank Ball in Muncie was a famous person. Frank Clayton Ball (1857 – 1943) was a cofounder (with his brother Edmund) of the Ball Manufacturing Corporation - most notably known for Ball canning jars. Edward was his gardener for almost two years. It's assumed that Elizabeth was the cook/maid in the home of Frank Ball.

San Francisco, CA, 1916-1920

Finally reaching San Francisco, CA in the summer of 1916, Edward was the gardener for Louis D Mills. Mr Mills was the Mining Engineer for the city of San Francisco.

Edward was the gardener for E. C Pringle in 1917. Mr Pringle was a wealthy and influential San Francisco real estate investor.

There's a pattern here with Edward and Elizabeth seeking and finding wealthy individuals to be their employers. By my count, between 1908 and 1917, Edward and Elizabeth were butler/houseman/gardener/cook partners for at least five wealthy and influential individuals in at least three states.

We turn our attention now to Sep. 1918. This is when Edward and Elizabeth Czaska filed their Alien Enemy Registration Affidavits. These documents, required of non-naturalized German immigrants during WW1, offer more insights to their lives at that time.

This document reveals that Edward was living at the Swartz Hotel at 62 Turk Street in San Francisco. Before that, he stated he was living at the Fillmore Hotel at 1030 Fillmore Street. Checking, the Fillmore Hotel was actually located at 1037 Fillmore Street. You could rent a room there for \$25 per month.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Department of Justice
REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT OF ALIEN ENEMY

The registration affidavit must be filled in and sworn to in triplicate and accompanied by four unmounted photographs of the registrant, not larger than 3 by 3 inches in size, on thin paper with light background. All four photographs should be signed by registrant across the face of the photograph so as not to obscure the face, if registrant is able to write. If registrant is unable to write, he must make his mark in the signature space and affix his left thumb print in the space indicated for the same opposite the signature space.

The affidavit need not be filled out before, but must be signed and sworn to before, a registration officer, who will fill in the description and take the finger prints of the registrant. All registration officers are authorized to administer the oath hereto to persons registering as alien enemies.

I, Edward Bruno Czaska, hereby register as an alien enemy
(Here insert name of registrant.)
at POLICE DISTRICT No. 1 SAN FRANCISCO, CA and make the following statements
(Place where affidavit signed and oath administered.)

and answers under oath:

1. Name Edward Bruno Czaska. All other names at any time used None
(Here insert any other names used by registrant.)

2. Present residence 62 Turk St. San Francisco Hotel Schwartz
(Street and number, city, town, county, State, and, if apartment house or tenement, the number of apartment or tenement.)

3. Length of residence at the foregoing place Jan. 25th 1918
(Here give date on which applicant began living at his present residence.)

4. All other places of residence since January 1, 1914 Fillmore Hotel 1030 Fillmore St
(Here give particulars as to each of such places of residence.)

5. Born in Chernivitz, Galicia on May 10th. 1875
(Give city or town, province, and country of birth.) (Give date of birth.)

Signature Czaska
Given names and last name by registrant

As for Elizabeth Czaska, her Female Alien Enemy Registration Affidavit stated she was living at 2264 Franklin Street in San Francisco. Why she was living separate from Edward is a good question. Were they maritally separated or divorced?

United States of America
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

REGISTRATION OF ALIEN FEMALES
(Under President's proclamation dated April 19, 1918.)
(Four copies of form must be filed out.)

CHANGE OF RESIDENCE FROM ONE REGISTRATION DISTRICT TO ANOTHER

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT
(To be made by applicant. See Regulations, Art. XIII, par. 2.)

TO THE REGISTRATION OFFICER:

City or town of San Francisco County of San Francisco
State of California

SIR: I hereby respectfully request permission to change my permanent place of residence, on
Sept. 14, 1918, from 2264 Franklin St. S.F.
(Give date.) (Give apartment number, street number, town, city, county, State.)

to Upper Lake Lake Co. Cal.
(Give apartment number, street number, town, city, county, State.)

My desire to change my residence is due to the following facts:
to get position as house keeper.

Respectfully,
Dated Sept. 13th. 1918 Mrs. Elizabeth Czaska
(Name or names of applicant.)

Czaska Elizabeth

It would not seem so in that on both sets of affidavits, Edward and Elizabeth stated separately they were requesting permission to relocate together to Upper Lake, Lake County, CA. Both stated they were seeking positions at Upper Lake.

Upper Lake, CA was and is a sparsely populated unincorporated place north of San Francisco. Travelers could take a train from San Francisco into the Sacramento Valley and then take a stage into Lake County via Bartlett Springs and Upper Lake.

Bartlett Springs Resort, was a popular destination. So, my theory is that Bartlett Springs Resort was their intended destination and employer. It's not known if they actually relocated.



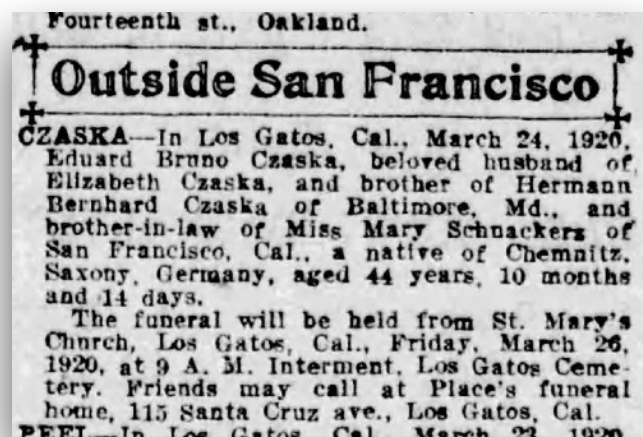
In 1919, Edward and Elizabeth Czaska filed the paperwork in California to be naturalised as US citizens. In the Jan. 1920 census, Edward and Elizabeth were living in Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, CA - southwest of San Jose. Edward reported being

unemployed and Elizabeth reported being employed as a maid a private residence. This would be the last public record for Edward.

Edward Bruno Czaska died Mar. 24, 1920 in Los Gatos. He was 44 years old. I searched unsuccessfully for any information to indicate cause of death. Since the flu epidemic was still raging at that time, that's a possible cause of death.

Find a Grave:

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/269971533/eduard_bruno-czaska

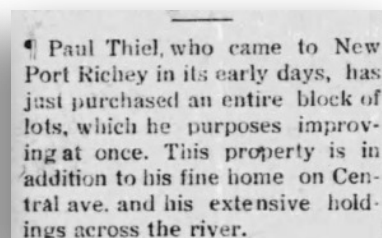
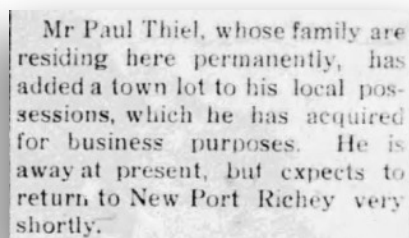
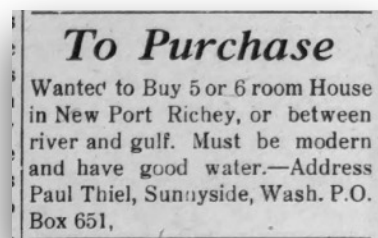


So ends the curious life of Edward Bruno Czaska. They had no known children. I think the only reason we know Edward and Bernard Czaska were brothers is because of Elizabeth's carefully worded obituary. I do think Edward and Elizabeth were very much in love. Throughout the rest of her life Elizabeth used Czaska as her middle name.

It was the end for Edward but not for Elizabeth. She lived another 50 years, 50 interesting years. Here's part two of our story.

The unexpected life of Elizabeth Czaska-Schnackerz

We first turn our attention to Elizabeth Czaska's sister Anna and her husband Paul Thiel. The Thiel's moved from Muncie, IN to New Port Richey, FL with their children in 1919. Several local newspaper articles show he was actively purchasing real estate.



New Port Richey Press, Aug. 1919

Apr. 1920

Jan. 1921

Why New Port Richey? The Thiel's may have seen great financial and lifestyle opportunities in this small town north of Tampa. According to Pasco County, FL history "... it seemed possible that New Port Richey, Florida, might become another Hollywood, or at least a winter residence for Hollywood stars."

The Thiel's quickly settled into their new residence and became active socialites and prominent citizens. And, when Edward Czaska died in Mar. 1920, Elizabeth Czaska was convinced that she too should relocate to New Port Richey - which, she did in Sep. 1920. She moved into the Thiel household.

Ninth. I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of five years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since the 15 day of Oct., anno Domini 1902, and in the State of Florida continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since the 20 day of Sept., anno Domini 1920, being a residence within this State of at least one year next preceding the date of this petition.

ELIZABETH KISSEL, PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION, 1929

Elizabeth wasted no time getting involved in New Port Richey. In Jan. 1921 she and a partner opened a bakery in New Port Richey.

In Feb. 1922 she opened a laundry.

Hand Laundry
 * Mrs E. Czaska, Proprietress
 —:0:—
Family's Washing
Carefully Handled
Tourists Requirements Specially
Clothes Wet Washed 50c Dozen
 —:0:—
Central Avenue
New Port Richey

Even Better Attention Than Before
Don't Forget
Kiln Dried Lumber, Beaver Board
and Brick

New Port Richey
Bakery, Delicatessen and
Lunch
 Mrs Bennett and Mrs Czaska, Proprietors
Snell Block, New Port Richey
Our Speciality---Brown Bread

PROFESSIONAL CARDS The Inn New Port Richey, Fla. European and American plan —:0:—	PROFESSIONAL CARDS CHAS. BOSHAW Manufacturer of Cement Building Blocks BRICKLAYING
---	--

In Jan. 1923, Elizabeth and Anna hosted a Farewell Party for their sister, Mary. Mary was relocating to Los Angeles.

N BODY

FAREWELL PARTY

A delightful farewell party was given the first of the week by Mrs. Paul Thiel and Miss Czaska, honoring their sister, Miss Mary Schnackerz, who left Monday morning for Tampa, from which place she will go north and thence to California where she expects to make her future home.

Those present were Miss Romer, Mrs. F. Gray, Mrs. F. Sampson, Mrs. Guy Wells, Mrs. J. W. Clark, Jr. Mrs. W. A. Casey, Mrs. Fred Rowan, Mrs. Van Pouche and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Herms, Mr. and Mrs. Sargent and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. R. Beach and son, Howard.

Dainty refreshments were served and all departed wishing Miss Schnackerz happiness and prosperity in her new home.

On Dec. 31, 1924 Elizabeth Czaska married Franz Peter Kissel in New Port Richey. Peter Kissel was a stonemason, and horticulturalist. Peter and Elizabeth would remain in New Port Richey and married to each other for 32 years until Peter's death in 1956. And, as mentioned before, Elizabeth would refer to herself as Elizabeth Czaska Kissel.

Following the marriage to Peter, Elizabeth's life became more social than ever before. It doesn't appear that she ever held a paying job again. She had a seemingly non-stop schedule of hosting guests, planning and attending events, sitting on and officiating civic committees and traveling, with Peter and with her sister, Anna Thiel.

Here are a few representative New Port Richey newspaper articles between 1925 and 1940. There are several hundred of these types of news snippets. For the Kissel's, life was indeed quite grand.

Mrs. Paul Thiel and Mrs. P. Kissel, who have been visiting in Chicago for the past month, returned to their homes in this city yesterday. They report a pleasant trip but state that they are indeed delighted to be back in sunny Florida.

Altar Society Plans Bazaar for Nov. 22 To Be Held in Park

Plans for the bazaar to be held by the ladies of the Altar society of the Catholic church have progressed to the final stages, and the function is expected to be one of the most enjoyable of the year.

The bazaar is to be held in Sims Park on November 22, and will continue from afternoon until late in the evening. Refreshments will be served in the afternoon and a special auction sale will be a feature of the evening. Mrs. Peter Kissell, president of the society is in charge, assisted by the members.

MRS. KISSELL TO HAVE BUNCO PARTY FEB. 11

The ladies of the Altar Society of the Catholic church are to have a bunco party at the home of Mrs. Peter Kissel on Massachusetts avenue Friday, February 11th at 8 p. m. Refreshments will be served and a general good time is planned to everybody is invited.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Strader and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Veith of Lake Jovita spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kissell at their home on Massachusetts avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kissel and Miss Eleanor Thiel left Wednesday for New York City and other points in the north, where they will spend the summer, returning here early in the fall.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kissell left Wednesday for Massachusetts, where they will spend the summer.

MRS. KISSEL HOSTESS TO DEPRESSION BRIDGE CLUB

Mrs. Peter Kissel entertained the "Depression" bridge club at her home on Massachusetts avenue. Those enjoying the occasion were: Mesdames James W. Clark, Paul Thiel, John W. Parkes, Joe N. Weiskopf, Harry Rothera, Claire Davis, Marx Goodman and the hostess.

First prize for high score went to Mrs. Weiskopf, Mrs. Goodman second, Mrs. Clark third, and the consolation award went to Mrs. Thiel. Refreshments were served. The club voted to send a bouquet of flowers for the funeral of the late Mrs. Martha Cooper, a former member of the club.

* * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kissel and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thiel were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rothera last Sunday on a trip over the Gulf in the motor boat "Querida". They report a good string of fish and a pleasant time

* * * *

* * * *

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Moss and Mrs. A. V. Buxton, all of Ocean Grove, Mass., are spending the winter here, occupying the bungalow of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kissel on Massachusetts avenue.

In May, 1948 Mary Schnackertz was reported to be in New Port Richey visiting her sisters, Elizabeth and Anna.

Miss Mary Schnackerz, who has been visiting here with her sisters, Mrs. Peter Kissel and Mrs. Paul Thiel, and their families the past two months, left recently for Chicago and Cleveland for a visit with friends before going back to her duties in the Queen of Angels Hospital in Los Angeles, where she resides.


* * * *

Well, these social snippets go on and on into the 1950's. Again, there are hundreds of articles, spanning the 1920's to 1950's. You may be wondering, like me, how did Peter and Elizabeth Kissel become so wealthy? Reading these snippets you would never know there was a global financial collapse and depression in the 1930's.

In fact, Elizabeth played hostess to a "Depression" Bridge club on numerous occasions. "Depression" Bridge refers to the popularity of the card game Contract Bridge during the Great Depression, particularly in the 1930s, when it became a social activity that provided entertainment and a sense of community. Bridge became the most popular card game in "polite society" — a euphemism for upper class.

Peter Kissel was a gardener for the local church. It would not seem that this type of work would create such wealth. When Peter immigrated in 1913, he declared a mere \$25 in his possession. Did Elizabeth bring some amount of wealth from her marriage with Edward Czaska? We do know that Edward Czaska declared a total combination of \$250 on two ship's manifests (1906 and 1913, ~ \$8K in modern dollar equivalent). I checked available sources for any indication of improprieties, investigations, accusations, or criminal activities related to Edward Czaska, Elizabeth Czaska-Kissel, Peter Kissel through the years, and found nothing. So, we are left with a conundrum related to the prosperity of Peter and Elizabeth Kissel.

Peter Kissel died Dec. 11, 1956.



PETER F. KISSEL

Peter F. Kissel, 68, died Tuesday afternoon at his home, 320 Massachusetts Ave.

Mr. Kissel was a native of Germany and came to this country in 1913. He lived at St. Leo's Abbey, San Antonio, Florida until 1921, when he moved to this area. Here he worked 30 years as a horticulturist until his retirement. He was a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth; a nephew, George Thiel; three nieces, Mrs. Basil Gaines and Mrs. Henry Falany, both of this city, and Mrs. James E. Foote of Tampa; and three nephews and nieces in Germany.

Services will be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church on Thursday at 9 a.m. Burial will be in St. Leo's Abbey, San Antonio.

Pittman Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements.

Jo Vehko, Ph. 5794. 20p

CARD OF THANKS

My heartfelt thanks to all who extended comforting sympathy and help in my recent sorrow. To Dr. Sprankel for his kindness; to the members of the Altar Society for their beautiful service; to all the friends and neighbors for the use of their cars; for the beautiful floral offerings and many other kindnesses before and since my husband's death. I am deeply grateful.

— Mrs. Peter Kissel

Elizabeth Czaska-Kissel died Mar. 3, 1969. She outlived her sisters, Anna and Mary.

Elizabeth C. Kissel

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Kissel, 88, 320 Massachusetts Av., died Mar. 3.

A native of Germany she had lived here 49 years coming from Flushing, N.Y. She was a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church and a charter member of The Rosary Altar Society. She was the housekeeper for the founder of Our Lady Queen of Peace

Catholic Church, Father Felix Ullrich, O.S.B.

Survivors include a nephew, George Theil of New Port Richey; three nieces, Mrs. Basil Gaines of Port Richey, Mrs. James Fotte of Tampa and Miss Elsa Schnackerz of Germany.

Rosary services were conducted Mar. 5 from the Chapel of Duval Funeral Home and Requiem Mass will be celebrated today (Thursday) morning from Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church by Rev. Fr. Michael Leap, O.S.B., the pastor.

Interment will follow in Garden of Memories Cemetery, San Antonio, Fla.

NEW PORT RICHEY PRESS

LEGAL NOTICE

TO ALL CREDITORS AND PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST SAID ESTATE:

You and each of you are hereby notified and required to present any claims and demands which you, or either of you, may have against the estate of ELIZABETH CZASKA KISSEL, also known as ELIZABETH KISSEL, deceased, late of said County to the County Judge of Pasco County, Florida, at his office in the court house of said County at Dade City, Florida, within six calendar months from the time of the first publication of this notice. Each claim or demand shall be in writing, and shall state the place of residence and post office address of the claimant, and shall be sworn to by the claimant, his agent, or his attorney, and any such claim or demand not so filed shall be void.

/s/ JAMES J. ALTMAN
As Executor of the Last Will and Testament of ELIZABETH CZASKA KISSEL, deceased
JAMES J. ALTMAN
Attorney at Law
200 West Main Street
New Port Richey, Florida
33552

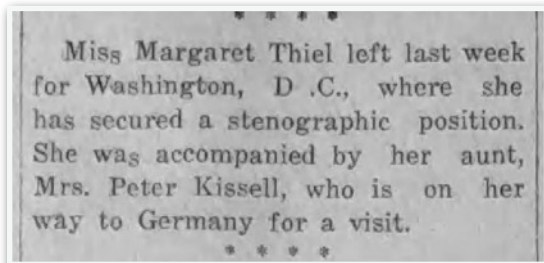
M13, 20, 27, A3

It's not known how her estate was divided up and distributed. Elizabeth had no known children with either Edward Czsaka or Peter Kissel. Towards the end of her life, Elizabeth lived with her nephew, George Thiel. So, it's possible her estate was divided with him and three other nieces (see Obit). And, it would seem likely that their beloved church, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in New Port Richey, would also have received a substantial distribution.

Epilogue

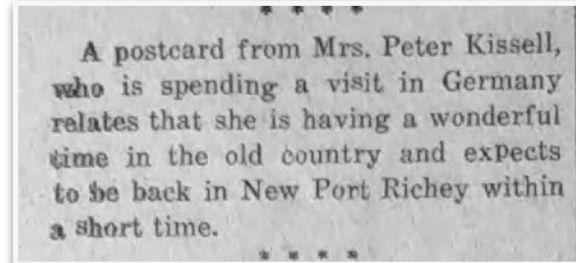
As always in research, there are questions raised that lead to further research. Here are a few questions yet to be answered:

- 1) Were Edward and Elizabeth Czaska independently wealthy when they immigrated in 1906? Their activities post immigration do not seem like that of typical immigrants.
- 2) What was the cause of death for Edward Czaska?
- 3) Was there a Probate record filed following Edward's death?
- 4) Was Edward Czaska "Count" Czaska and was Elizabeth the "French Actress" in the 1906 San Remo, Italy theft? Perhaps, Edward and Elizabeth Czaska were hiding all along in the US, in plain sight.
- 5) What was the source of the wealth for Peter and Elizabeth Kissel?
 - 1) One intriguing possible financial source was the German Government. Perhaps the Czaska's and Kissel's were in some type of long term service with the German Government. Recall, that Elizabeth and Edward Czaska were employed by the German Consul, Carl A Luederitz, in the 1909-1911 timeframe.
 - 2) Finally, in June 1937, Elizabeth Kissel traveled to Germany, returning in September, 1937.



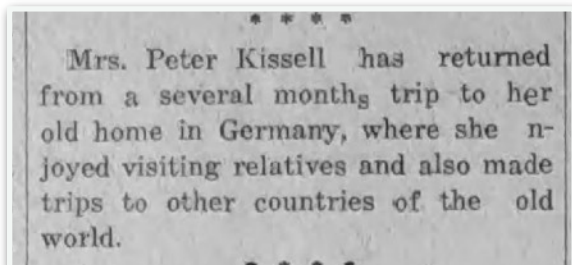
Miss Margaret Thiel left last week for Washington, D.C., where she has secured a stenographic position. She was accompanied by her aunt, Mrs. Peter Kissell, who is on her way to Germany for a visit.

NEW PORT RICHEY PRESS, JUNE 25, 1927



A postcard from Mrs. Peter Kissell, who is spending a visit in Germany relates that she is having a wonderful time in the old country and expects to be back in New Port Richey within a short time.

AUG. 27, 1937



Mrs. Peter Kissell has returned from a several months trip to her old home in Germany, where she enjoyed visiting relatives and also made trips to other countries of the old world.

SEP. 24, 1937

Miss Margaret Thiel was the daughter of Paul and Anna Thiel.

Elizabeth Kissel returned to the US on the SS Berlin of the North German Lloyd shipping company.

© John R Baldwin and AllKinConsidered.Blog. Unauthorized use and/or duplication of this material without express and written permission from this site's author and/or owner is strictly prohibited. Excerpts and links may be used, provided that full and clear credit is given to John R Baldwin and AllKinConsidered.Blog with appropriate and specific direction to the original content.