



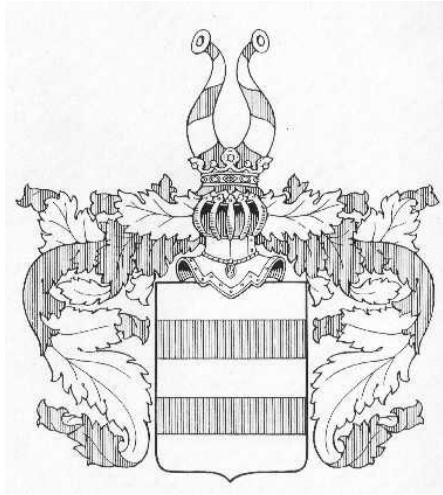
The Michael S. Anuta Family

Esther
Catherine Anuta
Snyder
Applegate
Bond

[Born on January 14,
1906]

A Family of Nineteenth Century Immigrants

Esther Catherine Anuta's mother, Charlotte Czudnochowski was born on December 9, 1877 in Russia (?), and her father, Michael S. Anuta was born in Goroschki, a Ukrainian Village near Zhitomir, on February 22, 1871. He immigrated in 1890, and his bride came to America in 1893. They were married on May 5, 1894 in the United States. In a photograph taken around 1912, with her



parents and seven siblings [Gustave, Michael, Albert, Mae, Augusta, *Esther*, Edward and Helen], Esther looks like a very determined little girl, ready to take on life by the horns, with her feet firmly set on the ground and a stubborn, determined and defiant look in her eyes. Born on January 14, 1906 in Pound,



Wisconsin, she was about six years old when the picture was taken. Her youngest sister, Inez, who is missing from the photograph, was not yet born. On her mother's side there are letters of nobility and a heraldry emblem was issued on November 7, 1786 to Michael Colestin Biegon v[on] Czudnochowski. Since there are several families with the name of Czudnochowski, and several ways of spelling the name, it is not quite clear whether the title of nobility is on the side of Esther's family, but on her wedding day, Charlotte Czudnochowski, Esther's mother wore a very fine dress that made her look very dignified, like a true von Czudnochowski.



A 1930 photograph shows her mother Charlotte Czudnochowski Anuta [about 53 years old], still youthful, with a broad smile and looking happy. Esther must have inherited her father's looks and her mother's outgoing and sunny disposition. Esther's embrace of life, her ability to make the best of it, her love of people, her respect for human beings, and her curiosity to know them are probably more in harmony with her mother's character who survived her husband by twenty-seven years. Esther makes friends easily and she is truly one of the beautiful people Czudnochowski. Her mother's name is very Polish and its root of *czud* or *cud* in Polish [or Russian] means miracle and *cudny* or *cudowny* means miraculous or wonderful in Polish.

An American Family in the 20th Century

On October 14, 1925, Esther married Ralph Daniel Snyder born on April 27, 1903 in Fairbury, Nebraska. They had two children. Her son Bruce [born on January 5, 1927] married June Carol Carlson, and Joyce [born on March 1, 1929] married Lyle Chotena. They both grew up on a farm in Nebraska and have many stories to tell about their childhood. During World War II wool brought a good price, so Esther and her husband raised sheep for many years until one day their hired hand decided to quit because he disliked sheep. Today, Esther no longer owns a farm. Instead she takes pride in her six grandchildren [Diane Carol Snyder, Devon Daniel Snyder; Julie Ann Chotena Sheppard, Thomas Lyle Chotena, Michael Turner Chotena and Laurie Joyce Chotena], and her five great grandchildren. When her first husband died on July 20, 1970, she remarried on November 23, 1971 Dr. Harold Byron Applegate, a chiropractor by profession. By this marriage she inherited Mylene Applegate, the daughter of her second husband.

Mylene once sung in the renowned opera La Scala, in Italy. She and Esther have always been and still remain the best of friends.

Having become a widow for the second time, Esther remarried on August 29, 1975 a Retired Rear Admiral of the United States Navy, and a World War II veteran, Keener Bond Sr. His daughter Phyllis Bond Jeacock was the best and oldest American friend of Aleksandra, the “Poor Polish Princess” as Phyllis used to call her. Aleksandra, on the other hand preferred to be called the “Poor Polish Peasant” because of the energy, stamina, vigor, hard work, stubbornness and endurance that we associate with peasantry. Shortly after Aleksandra arrived penniless and parentless in Lackawanna, New York, a Bethlehem Steel town with rugged winters in upper New York State, Phyllis and her husband Harvey invited their new friend to spend Christmas at her father’s home in Canada, near Toronto. That Christmas Aleksandra met the Admiral, and through him she eventually met Esther, shortly before she and the Admiral were married and Esther became Mrs. Keener Bond.

The Joys of Widowhood

For several years, the Bonds lived in Mesa, Arizona, before moving to Sun City, and when the admiral died and Esther became a widow for the third time, she moved to Sierra Winds, a beautiful retirement community located at 17300 N. 88th Street, in Peoria, AZ (85382). On January 14, 2006 she celebrated at Sierra Winds her 100th anniversary hosting a dinner party for twelve guests, and then again at Easter she hosted a dinner for some ten People. Although she has been confined for several years to a wheel chair, and relies on others for everyday living, her vision and hearing impaired and her voice softer every year, she still remains very interested in world affairs, politics and her extended family and friends. As part of her philosophy of life, she often says, “I love you” and she proves it with great generosity. In Esther’s case, “I love you” is not just a phrase. Before becoming

confined to a wheelchair, she traveled with her husbands around the world, from the Orient and the West to the East and Russia. Today, however, she mostly lives in the immediate present. Her mind may be a little slower but it has hardly lost any of its sharpness. In one of her recent photographs, she appears all decked out in red and looks serene.

Rediscovering the Pleasures of Painting

It is in 1972, when Esther and Dr. Harold Byron Applegate moved to Mesa, Arizona, that she began to paint, mainly for her family, friends and relatives to whom she generously gifted her artwork. She and her husband lived near a store that sold canvases and she learned to paint with a palette knife and never painted with a brush. "I must have painted about a thousand pictures for all relatives have my paintings," she once confided. Several Women in her Mesa neighborhood took up golf and others took painting lessons. Dr. Vannerson was their instructor. He saw in Esther a talent for painting and mixing colors and wielding with great skill a palette knife. Encouraged by Dr. Vannerson, Esther took private lessons with him. Being able to express herself through painting gave her such great satisfaction and pleasure that she stayed up at night in her garage painting cacti and the desert, flowers and bushes, sometimes using photographs as an *aide-mémoire* to remember what she had seen during a walk, an outing, an excursion, or a neighborhood corner. Most of her paintings are desert scenes signed *Esther*. In a note to Aleksandra, she explained how she became an avid painter:

"You asked me when I started painting. It all began in Mesa when I bought the 3 bedroom 3 baths house for 25,000 dollars and OD said 'I want you to put that in your name' and I said 'No, we will put it in both our names because you are going to live to enjoy it.' I figured that would give him an incentive to live."

“I started painting under Doctor Vannerson, a chiropractor. I took lessons from him in a small group of 6 or 7 people. We only paid a couple of dollars for a lesson and they were invaluable because he was so nice to us and I earned a friend for life from him. I became so engrossed in my painting that I could not keep the palette knife out of my hand. I was painting day and night. I was Dr. Vannerson’s star pupil. He gave me extra time and I became good friends with him and his wife. I could not wait to mix my paint. To think that I could paint with a palette knife was beyond belief. And I painted. And I painted for over twenty years. After I married the Admiral, after he fell asleep at night I would hurry to the garage to paint. He would wake up and look in my bedroom and if I wasn’t there he knew where I was, in the garage painting”

*“I never sold one painting, although I could have. I figured that if God gave me the talent, I should use it to make everyone else happy. So I must have painted hundreds of paintings that I gave away. I painted as long as the Admiral was alive.” **Esther**, July 18, 2006; Sierra Winds, Peoria, AZ*



When in 1979 Aleksandra . . . moved to Dobson Ranch in Mesa, Arizona, the bare walls of her first home proudly showcased three paintings by **Esther**: A Sedona scene, famous for its

red rocks; a scene near Flagstaff with its pine trees, and Picaccio Peak, situated near Tucson, Arizona, and the sight of a historical Civil War battle. Whenever she gave away the pictures, Esther would always include a beautiful frame that made the painting look its best. Her very special oil paintings of some thirty years ago continue spreading joy today. They add a special touch to the homes of her family, relatives and friends making them attractive and elegant.

Bibliography

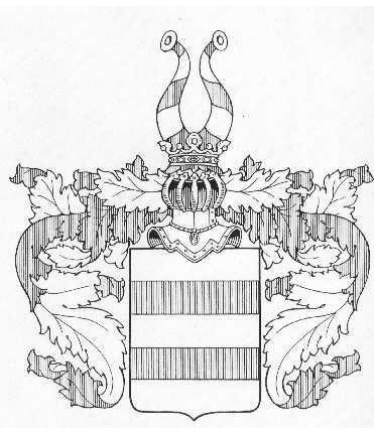
Esther's family tree is included in the following work:

Michael J. Anuta. *The Beautiful People Czudnochowski*. Produced by Anuta-Carlson Register, Inc. Editor Margaret J. Carlson. Waukesha, WI.: Sunset Printing, Inc., 2000: 30-50.

The book features the heraldry emblem granted to Biegon V. Czudnochowski. The information is taken from the Berlin Dahlem Secret Archives pl. CDXVII. It is accompanied by the German text and an English translation as follows:

“Acknowledged and confirmed Nobility. Diploma 7 November 1786 granted Michael Colestin Biegon V. Czudnochowski (gest. 1791), Royal Prussian, Assistant counselor for Insterburg under the name of Biegon V. Czudnochowski with other family members from 22 April and 29 September 1800 and from 17 March 1821 for Samuel [Friedrich] Biegon, Royal Prussian Lieutenant. –The family obtained several lands and also the Seebad Kranz, Fischhausen. –A more recent branch was Royal Prussian administration Advisor at Marienwerder. W Heraldry, Silver with two red bands equally spaced.” [no pagination]

The name of Czudnochowski, was sometimes spelled Cudnochowski. In fact, it had about a dozen different spellings, influenced perhaps by German, Polish and Russian cultures at a time when the borders of European nations were less secure and were subject to fluctuate.



http://www.szlachta.org/baj1_13.htm

Pic. 13. Arms of Czudnochowski-Biegon
ennobled in Prussia on 7 November 1786, (matriculation 22 April 1804).

<http://www.szlachta.org/heraldry.htm>

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