

Stiglitz/Budna Research

from trustygenealogist.com

I am certain this is the record for **Jacob Stiglitz** immigration. He is listed on the ship Grosser Kurfurst manifest as a miner, final destination listed as Diamondville (WY):

https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYT715_179-0104?pid=4012057766&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv%3D1%26dbid%3D7488%26h%3D4012057766%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DeJa1153%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=eJa1153&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true

He is also listed as being from Krain, in Austria. This region no longer is identified by that name, but here is an old map of it:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/77/Das_Herzogthum_Krain_1791.jpg

Here is the marriage of **Jacob Stiglitz** and **Mary Budna**, from the Western States Marriage Record Index, found at:

<http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/westernStatesRecordDetail.cfm?recordID=232792>

Details For Marriage ID#232792

Groom Last Name: STIGLITZ

Groom First Name: Jacob

Groom Residence:

Bride Last Name: BUDNA

Bride First Name: Mary

Bride Residence:

Place: Kemmerer

Date: 18 Oct 1913

County of Record: Lincoln

State: Wyoming

Volume: 1

Page: 94

The issuance of **Jacob Stiglitz** and **Mary Budna's** marriage license is listed in the Kemmerer Camera newspaper on October 22, 1913. Search Budna at the link below; then on the left under "Newspaper Name" choose "Kemmerer Camera":

<http://newspapers.wyo.gov/>

This is **Jacob Stiglitz** grave. He died in 1914:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44296232/jack-stiglic>

This is **Stephania (Budna) Podlesnik's** grave:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44211104>

The marriage of **Stefania Budna** to Konstantin Podlesnik:

<http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/westernStatesRecordDetail.cfm?recordID=181425>

Groom Last Name:	POTLESNICK
Groom First Name:	Kostantin (28)
Groom Residence:	Sublet, Uinta, Wyoming
Bride Last Name:	BODNA
Bride First Name:	Stepanja (22)
Bride Residence:	Sublet, Uinta, Wyoming
Place:	Kemmerer
Date:	19 Jun 1910
County of Record:	Uinta
State:	Wyoming
Volume:	30
Page:	496
Notes:	

For more information, see FHL microfilm #0973809.

I was unable to locate a grave in this area for **Mary Budna Stiglitz**, which puzzled me, so I kept digging. I had found that her husband died before the birth of their son (see findagrave above). Though we know that **Jack Stiglitz**, the son of Jacob Stiglitz and Mary Budna (proof that Jack is their son is below), was eventually adopted by the Podlesniks, he doesn't appear on the Census with Stephania and family in

1920 or 1930, although in 1920 he is nearby, living with another person, **John Wiltz**. There is a **John Podlesnik**, son of Konstantine, on the 1920 census, and later records show he was born 11 JAN 1914, within months of Jack, born 31 AUG 1914 (see draft registration and Social Security information below to confirm this birth date for Jack):

1920 United States Federal Census

Name: John Podlesnik
Age: 6
Birth Year: abt 1914
Birthplace: Wyoming
Home in 1920: Election District 3, Lincoln, Wyoming
Residence Date: 1920
Race: White
Gender: Male
Relation to Head of House: Son
Marital Status: Single
Father's name: Kanst Podlesnik
Father's Birthplace: Austria
Mother's name: Stefania Podlesnik
Mother's Birthplace: Austria
Attended School: Yes
Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Kanst Podlesnik	31
	Stefania Podlesnik	30
	Steve Podlesnik	8
	John Podlesnik	6

1930 United States Federal Census

Name: Steffonia Podlesnik

Birth Year: abt 1890

Gender: Female

Race: White

Birthplace: Yugoslavia

Marital Status: Married

Relation to Head of House: Wife

Homemaker?: Yes

Home in 1930: Kemmerer, Lincoln, Wyoming, USA

Map of Home: [View Map](#)

Street address: Beech Ave

Ward of City: 2

House Number: (1)

Dwelling Number: 129

Family Number: 130

Age at First Marriage: 20

Attended School: No

Able to Read and Write: Yes

Father's Birthplace: Yugoslavia

Mother's Birthplace: Yugoslavia

Language Spoken: Slovenian

Immigration Year: 1910
Naturalization: Naturalized
Able to Speak English: Yes

Household Members: Name	Age	
Konst Podlesnik	47	
Steffonia Podlesnik	40	
Steve Podlesnik	18	
John Podlesnik	16	
Constance Podlesnik	12	
Anna Podlesnik	4	
John Valte	72	(More about this man below)

Then I found evidence that **Mary Stiglitz was alive as late as 1916**. The first mention of her is in the Kemmerer Republican newspaper on Friday, July 2, 1915. Search at this link (search Stig-litz; the dash is important):

<http://newspapers.wyo.gov/>

From this article we learn that Mary's husband was killed in a mining accident in Sublet in March of 1914. She is applying for a widow's pension, for the support of herself and a small child.

The document at the link below, Wyoming Mining Accidents 1869-1973, lists **Frank Stiliz**, killed March 9, 1914. I have no idea why the first name is incorrect, but this is almost certainly **Jacob Stiglitz**, Mary's husband:

<http://pluto.state.wy.us/awweb/pdfopener?md=1&did=11180586>

Here is another reference to the death, found in Annual Report of the State Inspector of Mines of Wyoming (reading the accounts in this book is sad; most accidents were somehow blamed on the miner who died, not the deplorable conditions they worked in):

<https://books.google.com/books?id=y2A4QAAMAAJ&pg=RA2-PA14&lpg=RA2-PA14&dq=Frank+Stegliz+1914&source=bl&ots=mQLgyAXGkf&sig=4qLoNdqenBfggldljUllhte8DrI&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi5-r6MgclYAhXky4MKHfvdBZUQ6AEIKzAA#v=onepage&q=Frank%20Stegliz%201914&f=false>

There is no findagrave listing in Wyoming for a **Frank Stiglitz** in 1914. The accident was reported in the paper in Kemmerer, and in several other papers. One states that Stegliz was “married last summer.” The March 13, 2014 article in the Kemmerer Republican has many details. One detail is that his body was transported to Kemmerer for the funeral and burial. Remember, there is a gravesite there for **Jacob Stiglic**. (Search Stegliz at this link for the newspaper articles):

<http://newspapers.wyo.gov/>

All evidence points to “Frank Stegliz” actually being **Jacob Stiglitz**. I think it is possible that when the company hired him, they “Americanized” his name.

Access the newspaper pages about **Mary Stiglitz** below at this link (search Stiglitz):

<http://newspapers.wyo.gov/>

On September 17, 1915 the Kemmerer Republican newspaper lists “Meri Stiglitz” of Kemmerer as receiving a “mother’s pension” of \$20.

She receives \$20 again on November 5, 1915.

In this newspaper dated January 12, 1916, Meri was listed by the Kemmerer Camera newspaper as receiving \$10.

On February 9, 1916, she received \$10.

On February 11, 1916, she is again listed as receiving mother’s pension.

These two February dates are from two different newspapers, but appear to reflect the same payments.

On April 12, 1916, “Meri” is listed as receiving \$10 as a mother’s pension. Also, at the very bottom of the same column, Mrs. Mary Stiglitz is allowed \$5 additional from the poor and pauper’s fund for two months only:

For a history lesson on what a mother’s pension was, see:

<https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/programs/mothers-aid/>

After that date, I found no further mention of Mary receiving any money for support. And then, eureka! I found this marriage record:

<http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/westernStatesRecordDetail.cfm?recordID=234506>

Groom Last Name: **BROVICH**

Groom First Name: **John**
Groom Residence:
Bride Last Name: **SREGLITZ**
Bride First Name: **Mary**
Bride Residence:
Place: Kemmerer
Date: 28 May 1916
County of Record: Lincoln
State: Wyoming
Volume: 1
Page: 344

There was actually a child, Mary, born of this marriage, but she died October 2, 1917. (Search Brovich, see Oct. 3 edition; the other two are about John receiving citizenship):

<http://newspapers.wyo.gov/>

This marriage record led me to **Mary Budna Stiglitz Brovich's** gravesite. She died January 10, 1918. Her infant daughter is also listed on her tombstone:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/76939333/mary-brovich>

Her obituary was on page one of the Kemmerer Camera (search "Diamondville Woman Dead" – quotation marks are important)

<http://newspapers.wyo.gov/>

John Brovich lived until 1951:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/76939489/john-brovich>

I could not find another later marriage for him.

This is where it gets a bit strange. I contacted the Catholic Church in Kemmerer. One of the newspaper articles about **Jacob Stiglitz'** death mentioned that his funeral was at the Catholic Church. They had some records, including Jacob and Mary's marriage, and the baptism date for **Jack** (December 6, 1914). They also confirmed his birth date of August 31, 1914. Also of interest, they had a record which stated

that **Konstantine Podlesnik legally adopted Jack Stiglitz in 1919**. This reinforced my belief that the man listed in the below census is the **same man as listed living with the Podlesniks in 1930**.

This is **Jack Stiglitz**, age 5-6, on the 1920 Census. He is living in the house **next door** to **Stefania** and family, with a man named **John Wilts**:

Name: Jack Stlight
Age: 5
Birth Year: abt 1915
Birthplace: Wyoming
Home in 1920: Election District 3, Lincoln, Wyoming
Residence Date: 1920
Race: White
Gender: Male
Relation to Head of House: Nephew
Marital Status: Single
Father's Birthplace: Austria
Mother's Birthplace: Austria
Attended School: Yes
Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members: Name Age

[John Wilts](#) 61

[Jack Stlight](#) 5

John Wilts, shown in the above Census, lists his birthplace as Austria, and his immigration year as 1893. He is a miner. He has to be the same man as **John Valte**, listed in the Census in 1930 with the Podlesniks. Strangely, he is designated in that Census as the father of the Head of Household, Konstantine Podlesnik. He is listed as widowed in 1920, and as divorced in 1930. Maybe the family just “adopted” him, or he may have been a relative. It could be that he was Mary and Stephania’s uncle (their mother’s brother, if her last name was Valte). He would be Jack’s great-uncle, and might have considered himself to be a “father” to Stephania’s husband, Konstantine.

John Valte/Wiltz came from Austria to America in 1893:

Name:	Johann Valte
Arrival Date:	25 Apr 1893
Birth Date:	abt 1858
Age:	35
Gender:	Male
Ethnicity/ Nationality:	Austrian
Place of Origin:	Austria
Port of Departure:	Bremen
Port of Arrival:	New York, New York
Ship Name:	Fulda

The name changes/misspellings are confusing, I know. However, especially with censuses, I have learned to take the spellings with a grain of salt! More important are birth dates, place names, arrival dates, etc., and all of these match up in this case.

Despite extensive searching, I have been unable to locate Jack Stiglitz anywhere in 1930. It is possible he was still in the Kemmerer area, and was missed. It is also possible that he was elsewhere. But I can't locate him on any census in the US in 1930. I searched for every person named Jack (any last name), born in Wyoming between 1909 and 1919, on any census in the United States. He just isn't there. This was at the height of the Great Depression, so he could have been anywhere, looking for work, or riding the rails. According to his Social Security Administration record (shown later in this report), he may have changed his name to Podlesnik in 1936. He is shown in the 1940 census as having lived in the same house in 1935, so that may have been when he moved in with the family. It is also notable that he graduated from high school.

Here is the 1940 Census showing Jack, the son of Jacob Stiglitz and Mary Budna, living with Stephania and family. Note the name change:

1940 United States Federal Census

Name:	Jack Podlesnik
Age:	25
Estimated birth year:	abt 1915
Gender:	Male
Race:	White
Birthplace:	Wyoming
Marital Status:	Single
Relation to Head of House:	Son

Home in 1940: Kemmerer, Lincoln, Wyoming
Map of Home in 1940: [View Map](#)
Street: Beach
House Number: 1222
Inferred Residence in 1935: Kemmerer, Lincoln, Wyoming
Residence in 1935: Same House
Sheet Number: 18B
Occupation: Miner
Attended School or College: No
Highest Grade Completed: High School, 4th year
Hours Worked Week Prior to Census: 28
Class of Worker: Wage or salary worker in private work
Weeks Worked in 1939: 52
Income: 1357
Income Other Sources: No
Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members: Name	Age
Kanstointon Podlesnik	57
Stefanija Podlesnik	50
John Podlesnik	26
Jack Podlesnik	25
Annie Podlesnik	14

This is Jack's **WWII Draft Registration:**

Name: Jack Podlesnik

Race: White
Age: 26
Relationship to Draftee: Self (Head)
Birth Place: Sublet, Wyoming, USA
Birth Date: 31 Aug 1914
Residence Place: Kemmerer, Lincoln, Wyoming, USA
Registration Date: 1940
Occupation: Kemmerer Coal Company
Weight: 154
Complexion: Ruddy
Eye Color: Gray
Hair Color: Brown
Height: 5 10
Next of Kin: Konst Podlesnik

Household Members: Name Relationship

Jack Podlesnik Self (Head)

Konst Podlesnik Father

AND, from a record found at fold3.com, it appears Jack actually SERVED in WWII:

Full Name: Jack Podlesnik
Gender: Male
Social Security Number: ***-**-2525
Birth Date: 31 Aug 1914
Death Date: 18 Sep 1989
Cause Of Death: Unknown
Organization Code: ARMY
Organization: Army
Branch: Army
Enlistment Date: 18 Apr 1941
Release Date: 28 Jan 1946
Conflict Period: World War II
Views: 1

<https://www.fold3.com/record/628995496-jack-podlesnik-1914>

Apparently his cousin John Podlesnik also served in some capacity, as also found at fold3:

Full Name: John Podlesnik
Gender: Male
Social Security Number: ***-**-2530
Birth Date: 11 Jan 1914
Death Date: 23 Jul 2001
Cause Of Death: Other
Conflict Period: Other Service
Views: 2

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This is Jack's Social Security Applications and Claims listing, which proves his parents are Jacob Stiglitz and Mary Budna. It looks like his name **may have been changed** with the Social Security Administration in November of 1936:

Name: Jack Podlesnik

Gender: Male

Race: White

Birth Date: 31 Aug 1914

Birth Place: Sublet Linco, Wyoming

Death Date: 18 Sep 1989

Father: [Jack Steglitzc](#)

Mother: [Mary Budna](#)

SSN: 520032525

Notes: Nov 1936: Name listed as JACK PODLESNIK
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Jack married in 1949:

Details For Marriage ID#298747

Groom Last Name: PODLESNIK

Groom First Name: Jack

Groom Residence: Kemmerer

Bride Last Name: SPINNER

Bride First Name: Clara Louise

Bride Residence: Kemmerer

Place: Kemmerer

Date: 11 Jun 1949

County of Record: Lincoln

State: Wyoming

Volume: 4

Page: 258

And here is his Social Security Death Index listing:

Name	Jack Podlesnik
SSN	520-03-2525
Last Residence	Kemmerer, 83101, Lincoln, Wyoming, USA
Born	31 Aug 1914
Died	18 Sep 1989
State (Year) SSN issued	Wyoming – Before 1951

This is Jack Stiglitz Podlesnik's grave:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44211011>

Thanks for the opportunity to look into your family! My specialty up until now has been pre-Revolutionary America and England, so I have learned A LOT while researching the American West. There are always so many new sources to explore, and so much more to know.

I was so excited to find all of the information about Mary! Women get lost in history so often, but now her story is known. I think it is a sad story, as I have found many times while researching our history.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me. If you would like to have this document in an email, so you can use the links without typing them in, let me know.

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