

Cipkowski Family Photographs
1900s-1950s [bulk 1920s-1955]
The Hudson Area Library History Room

Hudson Area Library
Hudson, New York

Contact Information:

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Collection Title: Cipkowski Family Photographs

Collection ID: A2023-002

Creator: Cipkowski Family

Extent: 1.25 linear feet, 3 boxes

Dates: 1900s-1950s [bulk 1920s-1955]

Scope and Content Note: These black and white photographs – created within the date range of 1900s-1950s [bulk 1920s-1955] – mainly document family life and familiar and vanished streetscapes that tell a story of South Front Street life in Hudson, NY in the early-mid 20th century. The South Front Street neighborhood of Hudson was mostly demolished by Urban Renewal in the 1970s, and many of these photographs provide a view of a neighborhood that no longer exists. Most of the photos were taken by various relatives and friends of the Cipkowski family. A large portion of the photos document the childhood and teenage years of Patricia Cipkowski, who attended St Mary's Academy in Hudson, N.Y. in the 1950s. There are also a few studio portraits made in Hudson, N.Y. and in New Jersey.

Biography Note: The collection was donated by Peter Cipkowski, the grandson of Joseph (1900-1977) and Anna (1906-1984) Cipkowski, whom he visited regularly in Hudson while he was growing up in the Hudson Valley. He attended Roeliff Jansen Central School for middle school, graduating from Taconic Hills, and earning a Bachelor's degree at Bard College. He has Master's degrees in both history and education and is the author of two books published by Wiley & Sons. He served as the Hillsdale Town Historian and a Town Board Member and was the Town Supervisor from 2015-2020. He has also served on the Board of Trustees of the Columbia County Historical Society and as president of the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society. He currently lives in Los Angeles.

Joseph Cipkowski (sometimes spelled Jozef) emigrated from Poland and settled in Hudson in 1925. Anna and Joseph operated Chipp's Market, located at 39 South Front Street, from 1925, the year of their marriage, until 1970, the year urban renewal began removing buildings in Hudson. The couple lived the remainder of their lives with their son Joseph Anthony Cipkowski and his family in Copake Falls. Before owning Chipp's Market, Joseph worked at the Atlas cement plant in Hudson. Throughout his life he was an avid photographer and he amassed a large collection of photographs and home movies of family and friends.

Anna Cipkowski was born Anna Piasta. Her mother was Marcianna Piasta (1879-1969), and she appears as Mary in some clippings. Marcianna and her husband Jan Piasta were separated after coming to Hudson in the late nineteenth century. Marcianna owned and operated a boarding house at 29 Allen Street and a home on Cross Street where she raised two daughters, Anna and Sophia. They were active members of the Polish-speaking Sacred Heart Parish.

Patricia Cipkowski (1939-2011), Peter's aunt, was raised in Chipp's Market by her parents, Anna and Joseph, with her older brothers Joseph and Edward. She attended St. Mary's Academy in the 1950s. She and her husband Alvin Middlebrook had one daughter, Marciann, who was born in 1971.

Language: English

Repository: The Hudson Area Library History Room

Restrictions to Access: The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation: Cipkowski Family Photographs, Hudson Area Library History Room, Hudson NY.

Acquisition information: Donated by Peter Cipkowski in 2019.

Related Materials: The Hudson Area Library recommends that interested parties view the video of Peter Cipkowski's talk, "[A Brief History of Hudson's Experience with Urban Renewal](#)," from November 02, 2017.

Processing Information: Processed by Nina Boutsikaris in April 2023.

Arrangement: Arranged into three series by type, in the order that they were donated.

Series 1 - Loose Albums, 1920s-1950s – Three loose albums, about 113 pages, and about 600 photographs documenting the Cipkowski family in Hudson, N.Y. Many of these photographs were taken by Patricia Cipkowski and document her childhood and teenage years with school friends and family in Hudson, NY.

Series 2 - Loose Photographs, 1920s-1950s – About 162 black and white photographs documenting the life of the Cipkowski family and their friends in Hudson, N.Y.

Series 3 - Studio Portraits, approx 1920-1940s – 3 studio portraits, including portrait postcards and some wedding photos of Cipkowski family members, taken in Hudson, N.Y. and New Jersey.

Subject Headings:

Hudson River Valley (N.Y. and N.J.)--History

Hudson (N.Y.)

Cipkowski Family

Urban Renewal--United States

Photographs

Collection Inventory

Loose Albums			
Cipkowski Family Loose Photo Album, approx 1923-1940s	approx 1923-1940s	Box @2	About 69 loose pages of construction paper (12" x10") containing about 400 photographs. Variety of black and white, blue, and brown processes. Photographs depict snapshots of the Cipkowksi family friends, children, teenagers, bridge construction workers, houses and buildings, the 1939 New York World's Fair, and landscapes, in both Hudson, NY and in Newark, N.J. Mix of decades, 1920s -1950s.
Cipkowski Family Loose Album Pages, circa 1940s	circa 1940s	Box @1; Folder@1	7 pages of a photo album containing about 60 black and white photographs and a couple of news clippings. One page identifies photos as 1940. Mostly family photos, casual snapshots. There are photos of the 1848 flood in Hudson, where the water has reached the first story of houses. Includes newspaper clippings, among them a wedding announcement for Anna Pastor and Joseph Cipkowski, from April 25, 1925, and a 15th anniversary announcement for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cipkowski, from April 25th, 1940. One photo identifies Joe Chipp.
Loose Photos			
House, 1920s	1920s	Box @3; Folder@2	2 photographs. Inscribed on the front of the images: "House where Baba, mom + A. Sophie Lived. Joe + Ann Chipp [unintelligible] married House Cross St." / "Baba's House Cross St. Hudson, N.Y. 1920's"
Store, 1940s-1950s	1940s-1950s	Box @3; Folder@3	15 photographs. Images of store front and interior of store. A few of the images identify the store as Arrowhead Store.
Family - Friends, 1940s-1950s	1940s-1950s	Box @3; Folder@5	About 30 photographs. Images of friends and family related to the Cipkowski family.
Family - Friends II, 1920s-1950s	1920s-1950s	Box @3; Folder@6	About 80 photographs. Images of friends and family related to the Cipkowski family.
Family - Friends III, 1920s-1950s	1920s-1950s	Box @3; Folder	About 35 Photographs. Images of friends and family related to the Cipkowski family.

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Studio Portraits			
Left to Right -- Helen Doty Stevenson, Carol + 'Beb' Walter Doty (wedding)'	probably 1930s or 40s	Box @1	1 wedding portrait, labeled "Hudson Photo Studio"
Joseph Cipkowski Sr and Ed Warchol - Son of Marge + Yash'	undated	Box @1	1 portrait in a cardboard sleeve
Aunt Gloria + Uncle Eddie Cipkowski of Jersey City - Uncle Ed Cipkowski Dad's (Joe Cipkowski) baby brother'	undated	Box @1; Fold er@ 8	1 wedding photograph in a cardboard sleeve, labeled as "Bochnak Studio 773 Newark Ave, Jersey City, NJ"