

Michael Kushlyk's – Story of Last Name

I belong to Ancestry.com and received a “hint” about Uncle Mike Kushlyk that made me check the census records for him. Which at first was very confusing but with sufficient searching it is an interesting story that I wanted to share with you...

Initially I was able to find records from the 1930, 1940, and 1950 census. But not earlier....

- 1930 Census
 - A record exists that matches Uncle Mike's birth date of July 23rd 1913, The members of the family are living on 3047 Tiemann Ave, Bronx, NY are:
 - Father: Joseph Peterson – Age 46 – Born in Poland
 - Mother: Rose Peterson – Age 45 – Born in Austria
 - Son: **Michael Peterson** (born 7/23/13) Age 16 Born in Poland<-- this is uncle Mike
 - Son: Joseph Peterson Jr. - Age 15 Born in Poland
 - Note that Uncle Mike's name is “Michael Peterson” not Kushlyk.
- 1940 Census
 - A record exists that matches Uncle Mike's birth date of July 23rd 1913, The members of the family are living on 3047 Tiemann Ave, Bronx, NY are:
 - Father: Joseph Peterson – Age 56 – Born in Poland
 - Mother: Rose Peterson – Age 55 – Born in Austria
 - Son: **Michael Cushtock** (born 7/23/13) Age 26 Born in New York<-- this is uncle Mike
 - Son: Joseph Peterson Jr. - Age 25 Born in New York
 - Note that Uncle Mike's name is “Michael Cushtock” not Kushlyk or Peterson.
- 1950 Census
 - A record exists that matches Uncle Mike's birth date of July 23rd 1913, The members of the family are living on 3047 Tiemann Ave, Bronx, NY are:
 - Head: **Michael Kushlyk** (born 7/23/13) Age 37 Born in New York<-- this is uncle Mike
 - Wife: Anna Kushlyk – Age 32 Born in New Jersey <-- this is aunt Ann
 - Mother: Rose Peterson – Age 58 – Born in Austria <-- we knew as Mrs. Peterson

Upstairs

 - Brother: Joseph N Peterson - Age 34 Born in New York
 - Wife: Fanny Peterson – Age 27 Born in New York
 - Note that Uncle Mike's name is “Michael Kushlyk”, not Peterson or Cushtock!

So why did Uncle Mike's last name change over the years? KEEP READING....

At first I couldn't find anything before 1930 but I realized that Kushlyk is typically spelled as Kushlik in Poland so I started searching for this name.. Using this information I kept searching for records before 1930 census and here's what I found.....

- 1925 NY State Census
 - A record exists that matches Uncle Mike's family living at 3047 Tiemann Ave, Bronx, NY:
 - Father: Joseph Peterson – Age 36
 - Mother: Rose Peterson – Age 46
 - Son: **Michael Peterson** - Age 12 <-- this is uncle Mike
 - Son: Joseph Peterson Jr. - Age 8
 - Note that Uncle Mike's name is still "Michael Peterson" not Kushlyk.
- 1920 Census -- NOW IT BECOMES INTERESTING....
 - A record exists that matches Uncle Mike living on 2436 Eastchester Rd, Bronx, NY which is a large apartment building with many apartments....
 - Mother: Rose Kushlik – Age 38 – Born in Austria speaks Polish listed as a "servant"
 - Son: **Michael Kusklik** (born 7/23/13) Age 6 Born in USA<-- this is uncle Mike
 - Note that Uncle Mike's name is "Michael Kushlik" which is Polish spelling of Kushlyk and is the same last name as his mother.
 - But a record exists at the same address and apartment for
 - Boarder: Joseph Peterson Sr. – Age 30 – Born in Russia speaks Polish listed as "dairy farm helper"
 - Son: Joseph Peterson Jr. - Age 4 ½ Born in Russia speaks English/Polish
- So sometime between 1920 and 1925 Rose Kushlik married Joseph Peterson and took his name. Now Michael Kushlik becomes Michael Peterson.
- Joseph Peterson is NOT Uncle Mike's father but his "step-father" but Rose is his mother.

Somewhere before the 1940 census Uncle Mike changes his name to "Kushlyk" matching his original last name in the 1920 census with the Polish spelling! Note that "Kushlyk" is his last name on his 1941 marriage certificate (see below). Maybe that was on his birth certificate, and he probably needed to start using this because of registering for the draft, or his upcoming marriage and because the military required him to use the "birth" last name.

OTHER Uncle Michael information on Ancestry.com

- Michael Kushlyk married Margaret O'Donnell on April 17, 1941 and divorced on May 17, 1946
- Michael Kushlyk entered the army on May 14, 1943; Discharged on Oct 13, 1945
- Returning from the war, Michael found that his wife had deserted him, and so he got a divorce.
- Michael Kushlyk married Anna Nardi on June 1949