

Sophia experienced a harsh childhood. Her mother died when she was fifteen months old, and her father remarried when she was four.. Her memories of cruel treatment and unkind expectations are not pleasant.

In her youth, Sophia liked to read. She enjoyed school, and was a good student. She had to quit school in the 8th grade and go to work. It was difficult to find employment and she was able to get a job with the help of the Kirklands who observed how desperate she was when she babysat for them. (Mr. Kirkland was a manager in Endicott Johnson) Sophia was employed by Endicott Johnson Shoe Company in Johnson City where speed and production were necessary to earn a decent wage. It was called piecework. She counted and turned in coupons for her finished work to get paid. She worked in EJ, as it was called, for many years and quit when she was 47. She also worked for IBM during WW II, and National Carbon till the war ended. She also worked for Wilson Hospital and Automation.

Sophia enjoyed the activities with other young people in St. John's Ukrainian Church. She sang in their choir, danced and even embroidered her own blouses and made her costume for the very active folk dancing group they had at that time. She took parts in their plays on the church stage.

Sophia studied hair dressing and was licensed to practice. She also studied for and passed the high school equivalency test and earned the degree she had missed in her youth.

In her retirement years, Sophia has traveled to Europe a number of times: to the Holy Land several times, to Poland to visit relatives several times, to Italy, England and Ireland. She also visited Hawaii and Florida.

Sophia enjoys a reputation as a good baker and cook and seamstress. And she still gets pleasure from reading. She studies her Bible, and also reads for entertainment. Her daughters have truly benefited from her example.

Notes for WALTER A. MALOWICKY:

Walter was baptized Vladimirus Malewiacki in Ulucz, Poland. He was born in Hroszowka, near Sanok, Poland. Hroszowka was a tiny village of about 400 houses and was destroyed in WWII. He attended school there and studied in Polish. Life was not easy: He remembered finding an egg one day in the woods and was so pleased to cook and eat it all by himself without turning it in for sale. Their diet was mostly cabbage and potatoes.

He immigrated through Ellis Island in July 1926, when he was 12 years of age. The Russian ship, "Smolenka" took him and his parents from Hamburg to South Hampton, England. Then they sailed, steerage class, on the "Barangaria", and Walter recalled that he was comforted on the long voyage by eating some dark rye bread that his aunt had sent along. He and his parents moved into their own home at 25 Morton Street in Johnson City. He attended public school, finishing the 8th grade.

Walter trained as a barber in New York City and owned a barber shop in the Sokolovna on Clinton Street, Binghamton, NY. Later, he worked in Gigi's Shop on Court Street in Binghamton. He used his barbering skills throughout his life for friends and relatives, giving free hair-cuts to all.

Later, he worked briefly for Endicott Johnson as a carpenter. After taking night classes in blue print reading, Walter was hired by IBM and worked as a model maker for 33 years. He was well respected for his skills and integrity.

Walter loved his Ukrainian heritage, especially its music, and was a member of the choir in St. John's Church. He enjoyed listening to opera on the radio, and attended local productions. He also had a great love of horses.

The Malewiacki name evolved through several changes: Malewiacki to Maliwiecki to