**Janet**: This is Janet Levine for the National Park Service and I am here today with Edmund Stachurski who came from Poland in 1905 when he was 16years old. Today is April the 18th 1994 and Mr. Stachurski is now 101 about to be 102 years old on June 22nd.

Mr. Stachurski’s daughter Jean Cash is here with him from North Carolina where they live. We are at the Oral history studio here at Ellis Island. I am very happy to have the chance to talk with you. I am so glad that I was contacted that you were visiting the museum and we can have as much as you can remember about your coming to this country.

So let’s start you were born on June 22nd 1892. Where were you born?

**Edmund**: I was born in Ratashin.

**Janet**: Do you know how to spell that?

**Edmund**: Can you shut off for a minute. Not exactly, I was raised really in Boyby I was born elsewhere. But I don’t know.

**Janet**: Where were you raised?

**Edmund**: I was born in Ratashin like I say and then I was raised in Boyby. Boyby.

**Janet**: And you lived most of the time in Boyby? Before you came to America?

**Edmund**: Before I came to America well, I was all alone left in Poland. My family was [inaudible 00:02:36] and second mother was over here. So I came to them.

**Janet**: What was your father's name?

**Edmund**: Ignacio Stachurski.

**Janet**: And your mother's name?

**Edmund**: My father was the second marriage so my mother was Mary. Maria

**Janet**: Maria. Did you know her maiden name?

**Edmund**: When she- she bring three people with her and my father has three of us.

**Janet**: Do you remember your own mother at all?

**Edmund**: My own mother I remember from tales only. That she was in Pauline place from home Pauline place and she died when I was very small child. I can’t remember her picture or nothing I just remember when she was buried someone picked me up and told me that I will-you will have no more mama, that’s all.

**Janet**: Did you have brothers and sisters?

**Edmund**: I have one brother was the oldest and the sister was the second and I am the third.

**Janet**: And what were your brothers and sisters names?

**Edmund**: My brother was Emil Stachurski, and my sister was Victoria Stachurski. My sister is not here no more but my brother is still living.

**Janet**: And what was your sisters-

**Edmund**: Oh I am mistaken.

**Janet**: That’s alright. Your sister married then, what was her married name?

**Edmund**: My sister was married to Malkeridge. Stanley Malkeridge.

**Janet**: Now what do you remember about Boyby. What was the town like?

**Edmund**: Why do I come here?

**Janet**: No, when you lived in Boyby? You lived in Boyby in Poland, the town you lived in the town where you grew up.

**Edmund**: I was with dad and mother for a little while there is think I was I was still very young. Many giving away to the other people asking for me to maybe watch their chickens or something.

From then it was either-don’t know the details but-my dad left for a good many years after marriage, he left for this country. He came win this country. I don’t remember what day he came he I know to live in- I was left with this second mother, and then my second mother was left and I was all by myself left in the country living with some other learning the trade or something. That was still in Poland.

**Janet**: Did you have grandparents. Did you know your grandmother and grandfather?

**Edmund**: Neither one I know but I see my grandpa once when I was all that time I was still in Poland and too young and the young one all by myself we had. I was thinking of my grandpa, I know some place so I looked at him.

I see him once a year. He asked me to ride his horse a little exercise. Give him a little exercise. [Laughter] that’s all I know about my grandpa. I don’t know. He didn’t speak much just like I did. Didn’t find out much that’s the only one time I see my grandpa and don’t know much of his family.

The only that he has grandpa six children, five sons and one daughter.so I knew all five my uncles but I never see my aunt, I never see her.

**Janet**: Did you go to school at all?

**Edmund**: I go in school in it was sort of a -it was in Poland but it was a [unclear 00:09:45] and there wasn’t much allowed to learn in polish only Russian.

I learned very good through the very short time I attended the school. Good arithmetic and read and write in polish only but polish was only allowed alphabet like ABC and so on.

**Janet**: So you learned in Russian.

**Edmund**: I used to write very good reading and writing and arithmetic in Russian.

**Janet**: And were you a religious family? Was your family religious?

**Edmund**: All, at that time when I was attending school I was at home with my dad yet.

**Janet**: Was your family a religious family? Did you observe-?

**Edmund**: Yes my father was quite religious, Catholic. Also the new mother that was catholic. I am from Catholic this one is Christian and all of that.

**Janet**: Do you remember any holidays? Any religious occasions in Poland

**Edmund**: Well, the big holiday was these two big holidays are well known I suppose all over through the world, the Christmas and just like we had what it called, Easter.

**Janet**: Do you remember how those occasions were observed when you were a boy in Poland. What did people do?

**Edmund**: The polish people was all-the name come from Poland because Poland there was all working living from the land and work. It was houses what we call, farmers of here, Agriculture.

**Janet**: Do you remember Christmas when you were a little boy?

**Edmund**: Oh yes.

**Janet**: What was it like?

**Edmund**: It was very happy. Father before he marriage I remember some, he invited the neighbor always to help little decorate the Christmas tree and do some good things and help along father wasn’t very much handy just like I am in the kitchen [laughter].

**Janet**: Would you have a big feast? Would you have a big dinner? For Christmas?

**Edmund**: Oh yes, it was especially always made. It was before Christmas we had always as a religious it was a fast for quite no meat eating or nothing just very [unclear 00:12:46] for especially the last week before Christmas.

**Janet**: And then what did you eat on Christmas? What would you have?

**Edmund**: Oh they-we just mostly gathered whatever there was. All of us we sing the song-Christmas songs. Oh the food was very good.

**Janet**: What was it?

**Edmund**: Was pierogi, of any kind from cheese or plums or nuts some kind of even in sour crab. All good and the cakes, and pastry was extra good.

**Janet**: Was your mother a good cook?

**Edmund**: There was no mother those Christmas days. My first mother wasn’t there anymore and the second mother I had I don’t remember her at the Christmas. My dad married very much later. I perhaps wasn’t much at home many time, being with some relatives they come and ask for me to come and stay a little during the busy time summer spring or whatever it is.

**Janet**: What kinds of chores did you have to do? What did you do for your relatives? What kinds of duties did you have?

**Edmund**: Mostly watching because always while I was young it was your duty to watch either geese or chicken or cattle. Something like this, remember wherever I was they be doing linen threads you know in the winter there was peeling the feathers you know geese feathers for [unclear 00:15:35] yes. After when my-never mind maybe you want ask- I am talking too much.

**Janet**: Go ahead whatever you want to say.

**Edmund**: When I was little before my second mother left, I told you already that the father left for this country?

**Janet**: Yes.

**Edmund**: She was at home and I was with her and the other children and then when the father bring the family one by one. Whatever he make he send ticket for them. He bring them all and I was the very last one. Well I was quite a boy at the time. I was ready to come-