



Steven M. Chwastiak
Private U.S. Army Medical Service
11 December 1944 – 7 October 1946

Steve was born on 30 September 1926, in Frackville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. He was the third of five children born to **Iwan John Chwastiak II** (11 December 1894 – 10 December 1954), an immigrant from Kulaszne, Podkarpackie, Poland, and **Mary Andruch Andrews** (5 August 1896 – 5 October 1987), an immigrant from Ropenka, Austria-Hungary. They emigrated in 1913. Steve's father then initially worked as a miner in Lower Macungie Township. In 1930



Iwan & Mary



Chwastiak Farmhouse and Barn - ca. 1950

Steve's parents purchased the Vellas farm at what is now 3454 Indian Creek Road in Lower Macungie Township. Steve grew up on the farm and helped his father farm and huckster vegetables. He also earned some money by caddying at the Brookside Country during his high school years. Steve graduated from Emmaus High School in 1944, after which he enlisted in the Army as a Private on 11 December 1944. He was inducted at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and underwent training as a dental specialist in the Medical Service. He was later assigned to the 1st Infantry Regiment and left for overseas on 15 August 1945 to serve as a dental assistant in the Philippines with the Post-WWII Philippines Occupation Forces, and later in Korea with the Japan Occupation Forces. He returned to the States on 27 September 1946, and was discharged at Fort George G. Meade in Maryland on 7 October 1946. He was awarded the Army of Occupation Medal. After returning home, Steve began working as a dental assistant. On 2 September 1950, he married **Pearl Koziar** (born 7 April 1929) of Allentown, Pennsylvania, in Macungie. They made their home in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, settling at 330 North 6th Street. At the time of Steve's death, he had been employed for 36 years as a dental assistant by Sandler Dental Lab at 134 South Franklin Street in Allentown. He died in Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown on 14 March 2006. He is buried in the Solomon's United Church of Christ cemetery in Macungie. Steve and Pearl raised three children: a daughter **Stephanie**, and two sons, **Mark** and **Stephen**. At the time of his death, Steve had also been blessed with five grandchildren. Steve's brother, **Michael Chwastiak**, served as a Corporal in the Army during World War II with the 101st Airborne Division and was wounded during the D-Day invasion of France.



Steve