

WHAT A TOMBSTONE MAY NOT TELL YOU

This beautiful stone has lots of fine genealogical information - the surname of the three individuals, Ambrusko, and the given names of each, Sara, Phyllis, and John Stephen MD as well as their birth and death date years. It is located in the Elm Lawn cemetery in Kenmore, Erie County, New York where I took the picture several years ago.



What it does not tell you is Sara was married to Fred W. Tokars who was a prominent judge and a lawyer in Atlanta, Georgia. That they had 2 sons Mike and Rick aged four and six. That she had several sisters and that the other two people on the grave stone are her parents, or even a hint that Tokars had her shot to death in their car in which she and her sons had been abducted.

Fred was afraid Sara would reveal his other life which connected him to the Atlanta drug lords. He is now in prison for life having spent time in the Florence, Colorado facility as well as in Wisconsin and now who knows where. From

jail he is still practicing his law profession and has helped bring several other criminal and two murderers to justice. He says he wants his sons “to one day learn he was capable of good.”

I had no idea about any of this when I put the picture of the Ambrusko family on the Find a Grave site (<http://www.findagrave.com/>). A lady in Australia wrote and said she had added a picture of Sara Tokars and her two sons to the Find a grave site for the family and added the URL where she had found the picture. I checked it out and did not see any connection so wrote the Australian lady back, told her it did not fit the site and removed it. Understand please this tombstone is in Erie County, New York, it is for the Ambrusko family, the picture and article were from an Atlanta, Georgia newspaper for a Tokars family and the correspondent was in Australia. After several emails we were on the “same page” and I knew Sara was the Tokars the newspaper article was speaking about. I still did not feel safe in having the picture from AJC.com (The Atlanta Journal) and the URL to the article on my Find a Grave site. I wrote the paper for permission and decided not to spend the several thousand dollars for a license etc to have the picture and article available either on Find a Grave or here on the FhGS web site.

Gravestones are wonderful memorials to the deceased and in this case maybe all that needed to be engraved was the names and dates – but do not forget to look behind the obvious.

For more information about the family, pictures and happenings see the following web sites:

<http://murderpedia.org/male.T/t/tokars-fred.htm>

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/we-survived-thanks-to-six-amazing-aunts-and-one-st/nTFMF/>

<http://www.myfoxtlanta.com/story/20181399/sara-tokars-murder-20-years-later>