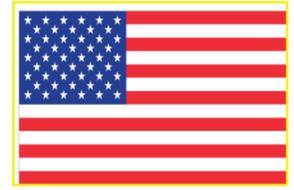




A Brief Outline of Polish and Polish American History - Part 1



120,000 B.C. - First records of Protoslavic cultures in the Ojcow region of Poland.

1300 B.C. - First evidence of Lusatian culture, the progenitor of modern Polish and Slavic cultures.

700 B.C. - Biskupin Settlement is built in central Poland in what is now the voivodeship of Torun. It is now a museum in Poland featuring the oldest settlement.

100 A.D. - Contact with Roman Danubian provinces made by Slavic peoples, although Rome never expands into their territories.

500 - West Slavic tribal federations begin to form.

850 - Polanie and Wislanie tribal groups appear, eventually merging together into the first state of Poland.

966 - Duke Mieszko accepts Christianity for himself and for Poland and the documented history of Poland begins.

1000 - The foundations of the Catholic religion are laid with the establishment of the Archbishopric of Gniezno and three suffragan sees.

1025 - Boleslaw the Brave becomes the first Polish King.

1138 - Boleslaw Wrymouth's order of succession starts the dynastic division of Poland.

1253 - Poland's patron, St. Stanislaw Bishop of Cracow, is canonized.

1364 - The University of Cracow is founded under the direction of the Roman Catholic Church.

1410 - Polish-Lithuanian forces defeat the Teutonic Knights at Grunwald. This collaboration between the two nations would lay the seeds for the creation of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

1473 - The "Father of Modern Astronomy," Mikolaj Kopernik (Nicolas Copernicus), is born.

1543 - Copernicus' revolutionary work "The Revolution of Heavenly Spheres" is published shortly before his death, the first strike against the theory that the sun revolved around the Earth.

1569 - The merger of Poland and Lithuania into the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth takes place. (Lublin Union).

1596 - The Union of Brzesc unites most of the Orthodox Bishops of Poland-Lithuania with Rome - the largest, most successful reunion movement in the history of the Catholic Church.

1608 - The first Polish settlers arrive in Jamestown, Virginia, on the English ship Mary and Margaret. They were craftsmen invited by Captain John Smith to establish a glass industry in the Jamestown Colony. They opened a glassblowing shop, which became the first American industry. After fulfilling the needs of the new Jamestown colony, the Polish settlers produced glass, pitch and tar for export to England. These products became the first commercial items to be exported from America to Europe.

1619 - After being denied participation in the new Virginia Assembly, the Polish settlers staged the first labor strike in America. The strike was not for wages or working conditions but for the right to participate in the newly-formed House of Burgesses. Recognized for their vital role in the Jamestown settlement, the Poles were granted the same voting privileges as those enjoyed by the English.

1683 - John Sobieski defeats the Turks at Vienna.

1745 - Casimir Pulaski is born in Poland.

1746 - Thaddeus Kosciuszko is born in Poland. He attended school in Lubieszow and later the Cadet Academy in Warsaw and then undertook engineering studies in Paris.

1776 - Thaddeus Kosciuszko came to America to offer his services to General George Washington. He was appointed engineer of the Continental Army with the rank of Colonel. He distinguished himself throughout the American Revolutionary War. His engineering and fortification skills along the Delaware River and at Saratoga, N.Y., helped win battles for the Continental Army. Kosciuszko is well known for his fortification at West Point, which is the site of West Point Military Academy. The name General Thaddeus Kosciuszko is listed on organizations, bridges, schools, and other local and national landmarks.

1777 - Count Casimir Pulaski arrives in the United States and is welcomed by General George Washington to serve in the Continental Army. Using his own money, Pulaski formed the first cavalry unit in the Continental Army. He became the Father of the American Calvary. For his service the U.S. Congress appointed him Brigadier General in charge of Four Horse Brigades. General Pulaski, distinguished himself in several key battles during the American Revolutionary War.

1779 - In October, General Casimir Pulaski was killed during the Battle of Savannah. The British, amazed by his courage, tended to his wounds before he died. Across America many organizations, bridges, streets, schools, and other landmarks are named after General Casimir Pulaski.

1791 - The Constitution of May 3rd, the first democratic constitution in Europe and the second in the world, after the United States Constitution, is adopted. This event is commemorated annually as "Polish Constitution Day."

1794 - The Kosciuszko Insurrection occurs in Poland to protest Russia's interference in Polish politics. Kosciuszko, after successfully assisting the United States in its fight for freedom, attempted to help his homeland restore its independence.

1795 - The Third Partition of Poland by Russia, Prussia and Austria eliminated Poland from the political map of Europe. Despite the efforts of the partitioning powers, the Polish language and customs continued to flourish throughout the years of partition.

1797 - Kosciuszko returns to Philadelphia greeted by a hero's welcome. He resided at 3rd and Pine Streets, which today is called Kosciuszko House, a national monument to Tadeusz Kosciuszko, operated by the U.S. National Park Service.

1830 - The November Insurrection occurs - the first of several unsuccessful Polish attempts in the 19th century to regain independence.

1863 - The January Insurrection against Russian rule in Poland takes place.

1867 - Marie Sklodowska Curie, the first scientist in history to win a Nobel Prize in both chemistry and physics, is born in Warsaw.

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