

"I see Kosciuszko often. He is the purest son of liberty among you all that I have ever known, the kind of liberty which extends to all, not only to the rich." On January 23, 1798, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to issue to Kosciuszko a certificate of indebtedness of \$12,-260.54 with interest at six per cent, from January 7, 1793, to December 31, 1797. The final settlement of the account was made by a payment amounting to \$15,227.87.

Some time in March, 1798, a packet of letters from Europe was handed to Kosciuszko. His emotion on reading the contents was so strong that, despite his crippled condition, he sprang from his couch and stepped without a helping hand to the middle of the room. "I must return at once to Europe," he said with no explanation. Jefferson procured his passport to France under the name of Thomas Kanberg and, with only Jefferson's knowledge, with no word either to Niemcewicz or to his servant, Stanislaus, for both of whom he left a roll of money in his cupboard, he sailed for France. Before embarking at Baltimore he gave Jefferson his power of attorney and wrote out the will in which, more than half a century before the Civil War, the Polish patriot advanced the cause of emancipation:

KOSCIUSZKO'S WILL

"I, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, being just in my departure from America, do hereby declare and direct that should I make no other testamentary disposition of my property in the United States thereby authorize my friend Thomas Jefferson to employ the whole thereof in purchasing negroes from among his own as any others and giving them liberty in my name in giving them an education in trades and otherwise, and in having them instructed for their new condition in the duties of morality which may make them good neighbors, good fathers or mothers, husbands or wives and in their duties as citizens, teaching them to be defenders of their liberty and country and of the good order of society and in whatsoever may make them happy and useful, and make the said Thomas Jefferson my executor of this."

"T. Kosciuszko,

"5th day of May, 1798."

There was difficulty in putting this testament into effect as Jefferson was of advanced age at the time of Kosciuszko's death. It was never carried out; but in 1826 the legacy went to found the Colored School at Newark, the first educational institute for negroes in the United States, and which bore Kosciuszko's name.

BACK IN EUROPE

By the end of June or early in July, 1798, Kosciuszko reached Paris. His arrival centered upon him the gaze of the whole world. Sympathy with himself and the Polish cause he heard expressed upon all sides. At the news of his return the Polish Legions awakened to renewed life. He negotiated at length with the Government of France for France's help in the restoration of Polish independence. This was promised him many times, but his cautious request for guarantees was never complied with. When Napoleon was proclaimed First Consul, Kosciuszko, mistrusting him, commenced to withdraw from relations with him or his officials. After the disastrous expedition of the Polish Legions to San Domingo, Kosciuszko severed all relations with him.

Napoleon, in 1806, from Berlin, now summoned Kosciuszko to assume the leadership of the revolting Poles. But the former Polish Commander-in-Chief had little faith in the fortune of the Emperor and none in his promises. He declined to obey the call, and remained in Paris.

In May, 1815, Russia, Austria and Prussia signed an agreement for a new partition of Poland. An autonomous Kingdom of Poland was, it is true, to be formed, with the Tsar as King, but it would be but a small part of the true Poland. Kosciuszko refused all offers of office and honor in the newly partitioned Poland. He felt that his very presence even, would lend sanction to the New Partition. He chose therefore a voluntary exile. Not desiring to live in a Bourbon France, he settled in Switzerland with his devoted friends the Zeltner in Soleure.

LAST DAYS AND RESTING PLACE

Here, in serene communion with nature, among eternal mountains, in unceasing meditation upon the future of Poland, he spent the two last years

of his life. And here, on the sad autumn evening of October 15, 1817, far from his Motherland, though close in spirit, among strangers, with not a Polish face nor a Polish word to gladden his heart, Kosciuszko died. Even in his loneliness he was faithful to Poland—her purest soul and the greatest of Poles. And his greatness was greatest in that it was not his own personal greatness merely; it was the greatness of Poland.

Kosciuszko's body now rests in the Wawel Cathedral in Krakow, where lie Poland's kings and her most honored dead; but his heart is in the Polish conquerors. To his memory, three years after his death, the nation raised a monument perhaps unique of its kind. Outside of Krakow towers the Kosciuszko Hill, fashioned by the hands of Polish men, women and children, bringing earth from the battle-fields where Kosciuszko had fought. The act is typical. To this day the name of Thaddeus Kosciuszko lives in the hearts of the Polish people, not only as the object of their profound and passionate love, but as the symbol of their dearest national aspirations. His pictures, his relics, are venerated as with the devotion paid to a patron saint. Legend and music have gathered about his name.

"HIS DUST IN POLAND RESTS—
HIS URNED HEART A SHRINE!
POLAND! HE IS THY SON!
COLUMBIA! ALSO THINE!"

—William Palmer

KOSCIUSZKO'S OATH

On the old square at Krakow, Poland, on March 22, 1794, Kosciuszko took the following oath, which was the signal for the Kosciuszko Insurrection.

"I, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, swear to the Polish nation, in the presence of God, that I will never employ the power which has been entrusted to me against any citizen; but I will exert it only to defend the integrity of my country, to recover the nation's independence, and so strengthen the general liberty of our country. So help me, God!"

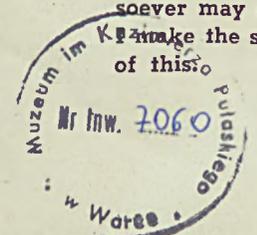
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A Short Biography of Thaddeus Kosciuszko

February 12, 1946, marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Poland's great patriot and national leader and America's Revolutionary War general and aide to Washington.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko was born February 12, 1746, at Siechnowice, Poland. He passed his early childhood on his father's estate, then attended the school of the Piarist Fathers, in Lubieszow, from where he went to the Warsaw Cadet School, to graduate with highest honors.



The king of Poland, impressed with Kosciuszko's natural ability for engineering and proven brilliance, sent him to France to pursue further studies.

After seven years in the leading French military schools, he was commissioned a captain in charge of Krakow's fortifications. But under the conditions prevailing in Poland shortly after the First Partition, 1772, there was little opportunity for his talents; a commission in the reduced army was to be had only by purchase, and Kosciuszko was without funds.

Observing no chance to serve his country, Kosciuszko again left Poland, pledging his share of the parental estate, as security for the loan which enabled him to journey to Paris. Here the news of the outbreak of hostilities in America kindled his imagination, and he determined to go to the aid of America—a Polish knight in the cause of liberty.

KOSCIUSZKO IN AMERICA

In the summer of 1776, Kosciuszko arrived in America at his own initiative and at his own expense. Pending the decision of the Board of War upon his application, he found employment at Philadelphia, in the construction of fortifications against the expected attack by the Delaware. This gained him his commission from Congress, October 18, 1776, as an engineer in the Continental service with pay of sixty dollars a month, and the rank of colonel. In the spring of 1777, he joined the Northern Army, where his ability as an engineer was of invaluable use in the campaign against Burgoyne. His fortification at Van Schaick and elsewhere, his able judgment in the choice of battlegrounds, contributed much to the skillful retreats and the firm stands of the Continental Army before Burgoyne's rash advance. He was ordered by General Gates to erect the fortification in the defense of Saratoga, and his task was accomplished with great brilliancy and speed.

With justified pride Poles regard the role played by their national hero in the victory at Saratoga, a victory which won for America not only a campaign but France's recognition of her independence.

FORTIFIED WEST POINT

For long the question of the defense of the Hudson had been of paramount importance; the brief respite gained by the defeat of Burgoyne rendered this a favorable moment to render it impregnable. West Point was chosen for its commanding position, and its fortification was finally conferred, over the head of the French engineer, Radiere, upon the Pole. "Mr. Kosciuszko," wrote McDougall now in command of the Northern Army, to Washington, "is esteemed to have more practice than Colonel Radiere, and his manner of treating the people is more acceptable than that of the latter." Little is now left of the fortifications, but the monument erected to his memory at West Point by American Youth will remain a grateful tribute forever. That America today can regard West Point with pride is, in large measure, due to Kosciuszko who first suggested for a national military school the spot where it now stands.

THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN

In the summer of 1780, General Gates requested Washington to transfer Kosciuszko to the South, where the army was now under his command. But before the Pole was able to reach him, his old friend had been defeated at Camden—deprived of his command, and General Nathaniel Greene—after Washington the finest general in the Continental service—had been appointed his successor. While awaiting Greene's arrival, Kosciuszko spent some time in Virginia among the planters. He saw there the negroes at close quarters and was brought face to face with the negroes in slavery. It was then that, with his keen susceptibility to every form of human suffering, he acquired that profound sympathy for the American negro, which seventeen years later, was to dictate his parting testament to the New World.

Kosciuszko was present through the whole campaign of the Carolinas and was regarded with strong affection and admiration by General Greene. True to his ideals, at the battle of Eutaw Springs, he restrained a carnage which outraged his feelings, and he is said personally to have saved the lives of fifty Englishmen. When the campaign changed to one of guerilla warfare, he fought as a soldier, not as an engineer. At length

Charleston fell. And on December 14th., 1782, the American army entered the town in a triumphal procession, in which Kosciuszko rode with his fellow-officers, greeted by the populace with flowers and cries of "Welcome."

Peace soon followed.

Kosciuszko had fought for six years in the American army. Nathaniel Greene best sums up what the Pole had done for America and what he had been to his brother-soldiers. "Colonel Kosciuszko belonged"—wrote Greene—"to the number of my most useful and dearest comrades in arms. I can liken to nothing his zeal in the public service, and in the solution of important problems, nothing could have been more helpful than his judgment, vigilance and diligence. He was fearless of every danger. He never manifested desires or claims to himself, and never let opportunity pass of calling attention to and recommending the merits of others." Congress, in 1783, belatedly conferred upon Kosciuszko the rank of Brigadier-General with an acknowledgment of its "high sense of his long, faithful, and meritorious service."

KOSCIUSZKO RETURNS TO POLAND

In the fall of 1784 Kosciuszko reached his native country. A great wave of effort—a nation's magnificent effort to save herself by internal reform, which culminated in the democratic Constitution of the 3rd of May, 1791—was sweeping at that time over Poland.

After the second partition, in 1792, a further wave of patriotic ardour swept over Poland. General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the hero of the American War of Independence, hastened to Krakow, summoned the people to arms, proclaiming new decrees in favor of the peasants. Hosts of peasants armed with scythes answered Kosciuszko's call. On April 29, 1794, Kosciuszko attacked the Russians at Raclawice. Ill disciplined and poorly equipped, the peasants took by assault batteries of Russian field guns and routed the enemy. After this battle Kosciuszko wore a "Sukmana," a coat of homespun cloth such as the peasants wore.

Infuriated, Catherine of Russia sent a large army to fight Kosciuszko, and at Maciejowice in the south of Poland the two forces met on the

10th of October. Kosciuszko dashed into the thickest of the fight. Three horses were killed under him, and bleeding from many wounds he was taken prisoner. With him fell the independence of Poland, and as the poet, Campbell, says "Freedom shrieked when Kosciuszko fell." Kosciuszko was cast into a dungeon in Peterburg, and only after Catherine's death her successor Paul I liberated the Polish hero.

KOSCIUSZKO REVISITS AMERICA

On the 19th of December, 1796, Kosciuszko left St. Petersburg with his friend and fellow-prisoner Juljan Ursyn Niemcewicz and a young officer, Libiszewski, who offered to serve the maimed Kosciuszko on his trip to America. By way of Stockholm, Gothenburg, London and finally Bristol, Kosciuszko and his party sailed for Philadelphia on June 18, 1797.

For two months the ship carrying Kosciuszko and his companions tossed on the Atlantic, on one occasion near shipwreck. They reached their destination on August 18, 1797.

Yellow fever prevailed at Philadelphia at this time, so Kosciuszko with his poet-friend Niemcewicz, journeyed on to New Brunswick, the home of General Anthony Walton White. Later he proceeded to New York, where he was the guest of General Gates at Rose Hill, where he remained until September 29, 1797. Before leaving New York, he received from Congress a grant of five hundred acres in recognition of his military services. This property was located on the extreme western border of the United States military lands, on the east side of the Scioto River, in Perry Township, Franklin County, Ohio, the site of the present City of Columbus.

After a short visit in Elizabethtown, he returned to the home of General White in New Brunswick where he remained until November 28. Kosciuszko, whose convalescence was slow, spent nearly all his time reclining on a sofa, sketching and painting in water color and India ink. From General White's home Kosciuszko repaired to Philadelphia and took residence on 2nd Street. Bevy of visitors and admirers again surrounded him, and Kosciuszko drew into great intimacy with Thomas Jefferson, at this time Secretary of State. Jefferson wrote to Gates:

