

July, 1951

The Picket Post

A Record of Patriotism



CASIMIR PULASKI



Issued quarterly by

VALLEY FORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania



THE PICKET POST

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VALLEY FORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July, 1951



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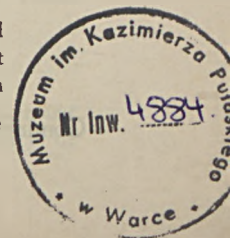


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In This Issue

POST FEATURES
JULY, 1951

Editorial	3
Count Pulaski in America	4
<i>From American Military Biography of 1825</i>	
Count Pulaski's Banner	10
<i>From Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the Revolution</i>	
Hymn of the Moravian Nuns of Bethlehem	12
<i>by HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW</i>	
Kosciuszko	13
Historical American Recitals	16
The Revolutionary Heritage of Poland	17
<i>by DR. ROGER SHAW</i>	
The Polish American Congress	22
Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence	24 & 25
Dedication of the Pulaski Bay	28
Memo from the Curator's Note Book	29
Book News	30
<i>by LLOYD EASTWOOD-SEIBOLD</i>	
Museum Renovations	31
<i>by FRANCES HAMMOND LIGGET</i>	
Henry Clay	32
<i>by JOHN F. DURISHIN</i>	
<i>(Continued from last issue)</i>	
Commercial News	41-48



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And here, in this place of sacrifice,
in this vale of humiliation,
in this valley of the shadow of death,
out of which the life of America rose,
regenerate and free, let us believe
with an abiding faith, that to them
union will seem as dear and liberty
as sweet and progress as glorious as
they were to our fathers and are to you
and me, and that the institutions which
have made us happy, preserved by the
virtue of our children, shall bless
the remotest generations of the time
to come.

HENRY ARMITT BROWN
at Valley Forge, June 19, 1878

31ST YEAR

JULY, 1951

No. 33

EDITORIAL

The Polish American Congress has revived one of the Washington Memorial's early traditions.

Our founder, Dr. W. Herbert Burk, whose memory we have just honored in June, had from the earliest days the thought of paying deference to General Washington's allies from abroad. Accordingly, in the construction of the Chapel, the one Cloister was called the Porch of the Allies and contains a bay for LaFayette, Pulaski, von Steuben, DeKalb and Rochambeau. The French, Polish and German Americans have expressed their gratitude in many ways for this consideration and have helped us at the National Shrine to keep fresh this spirit of international unity in the cause of freedom.

After forty-eight years of work under the thoughtful, energetic and courageous leadership of Herbert Burk we now come to a new high mark in this international affiliation. On the Fourth of July in this year of nineteen fifty-one the Polish-American people will assemble on these historic grounds and pour out in thought and feeling their devotion to Count Casimir Pulaski, Brigadier General in Washington's Army, and to the other people of Polish extraction associated with him. The Pulaski Bay in the Porch of the Allies to be dedicated bears the inscription:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

AND

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF
COUNT CASIMIR PULASKI
BRIGADIER GENERAL

1748 - 1779

WHO ASSISTED GENERAL WASHINGTON
AND GAVE HIS LIFE FOR AMERICAN LIBERTY

THIS BAY IS ERECTED

BY

THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS
DEDICATION, JULY 4, 1951

Every American, whatever may be his lineage and background, must be stirred anew on this, the one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of
(Continued on page 40)

COUNT PULASKI IN AMERICA

From American Military Biography of 1825.

Containing the lives, characters and anecdotes of the officers of the Revolution who were most distinguished in achieving our national independence.

When war broke out between the American colonies and the parent country this struggle of an infant people with their powerful oppressors, excited the sympathies of the friends of liberty throughout Europe, and invited many patriots to our shores, who volunteered their services in the glorious cause. Pulaski and Kosciuszko were among the number: they arrived it is believed, early in the year 1777. Pulaski, who had been an experienced cavalry officer at home, had a command given him in the light-horse. He was first engaged in the battle of the Brandywine, in which the young Marquis de la Fayette, and many other foreigners were employed. Count Pulaski who commanded a party of horses, sustained his high reputation for courage; his activity and exertions were conspicuous throughout the engagement, and he was particularly noticed by the Commander-in-Chief, as having distinguished himself. And congress was so much gratified with his conduct and promise of usefulness—that they, a few days afterwards, appointed him a brigadier-general and commander of the horse. He continued with the army in Pennsylvania during the remainder of the campaign in 1777.¹

Early the next year, when Baron Steuben was appointed inspector-general, and great exertions were made by Washington to improve the discipline, and effect a radical reform in the army, Count Pulaski was empowered to raise an independent legion; which he afterwards accomplished,

¹ Count Pulaski, the late commander of the Polish patriot army, soon discovered that cavalry was one of the weakest branches of the American army. He saw Howe's maneuver at Chad's Ford succeed because of American inability to understand the proper use of cavalry. Pulaski was surprised that Washington and other American leaders were unaware of the significance of cavalry. He found it hard to understand that they had gained their knowledge of war in the forests in combat with Indians where a horse was a handicap.

Pulaski's first step was to bring the four regiments together and drill them. They came from different States and their commanders were jealous. Also they looked with distrust on foreign officers and soldiers, who naturally clustered about Pulaski. His effort to bring order out of chaos was further complicated by the American habit of calling for details of cavalry for every conceivable purpose, often keeping them for weeks at a time. Pulaski said the cavalry should be subject to orders from the Commander-in-Chief alone.

General Pulaski had to purchase supplies but money was not available. The cavalry was poorly mounted and Congress refused to pay for first class mounts. So Pulaski requisitioned horses and supplies from farmers, who in turn appealed to Congress. Washington, although sympathetic, sought to show Pulaski that supplies had to come from Congress and the States, that the Revolution should be won with the civil authorities in control.

Pulaski sent a series of memoranda to Washington on the needs of the cavalry and methods of training, suggesting that mounted militia take over the less important duties of cavalry. He urged that the cavalry be increased by adding 180 privates to each of the four regiments and a corresponding number of officers. When it became apparent that no emphasis would be laid on cavalry development and that the regiments would serve in the same old way, Pulaski, wearied by administrative duties and desiring to see more active and useful service, resigned as Commander of the Horse, but retained his commission.

Reference: *Soldier of Liberty*, Clarence A. Manning, Philosophical Library, New York.

and organized and disciplined his men in excellent manner.² In the fall of this year, he was unfortunately surprised by a party of the enemy, and sustained considerable loss. Captain Ferguson, having returned to Egg Harbor (N. J.) from a predatory incursion, there obtained information from some deserters from Pulaski's legion, of the situation of that corps, which induced him to attempt to surprise and attack it. Accordingly Ferguson, with about 250 men, embarked in the night and landed near where a part of Pulaski's legion was quartered, who, being asleep and wholly unprepared and unsuspecting of danger, were fallen upon, and about fifty of them massacred including several officers of distinction. Pulaski, having rallied his men as soon as he could, made an attempt to cut off this party, which immediately retreated but without success.³

In January, 1779, General Lincoln having been appointed to the command of the southern department, Count Pulaski's light-horse were ordered to the south.⁴ After the shameful flight of General Ashe, the British under General Prevost obtained possession of the whole state of Georgia. The appointment about this time of John Rutledge, governor of South Carolina, clothed with ample powers, produced a favorable effect, and soon changed the gloomy aspect of affairs. Lincoln, finding himself at the head of 5000 men, again resolved to act on the offensive. He once more crossed the Savannah River, and took such a position as would enable him to intercept the supplies of the enemy, from the back parts of Georgia; leaving General Moultrie with 1000 men at the Black Swamp. Count Pulaski's legion of light-horse formed a part of the force under Lincoln. The American general had no sooner made this movement, than the British commander determined to penetrate into South Carolina. Having collected a force of 3000 men, he crossed the river in several places, and traversing swamps that had been deemed impassable, appeared so unexpectedly, that the militia under General Moultrie made very little resistance and retreated towards Charleston. The British general, who at first probably intended his movement only as a feint, to draw Lincoln back from his expedition, emboldened by this success, resolved to push unto the capital of South Carolina. He, accordingly, marched

² Congress appropriated \$50,000 for outfitting the legion. Supplies were available in small quantities, which necessitated innumerable purchases and bills, which had to be presented to Congress in order to secure payment. Pulaski could lose no time and frequently paid from his own purse, often failing to keep the receipted bill. Congress demanded accurate accounts and took him to task. Excerpt from Pulaski's last letter to Congress: "Is there any act of mine ever since the battle of Brandywine down to the present period . . . that has not demonstrated the most disinterested zeal for the public cause? . . . Whence comes it then, that I have so little credit among you gentlemen, that no one thing wherein I am concerned is done to my satisfaction? Since the fatal instant that I undertook to raise my Corps which I clothed, recruited and exercised in the space of three months time, I have been, and still am persecuted . . . You can not be ignorant that I have spent considerably more than the sum in question, of my own, for the pleasure of advancing your cause . . ."

I have lately received letter from my family advising, that they dispatched 100,000 Livres in hard money to me. Should it fortunately come safe, the pleasure to me will be truly great to repay you to the utmost farthing, the whole charge of my Legion."

³ Previous to the Egg Harbor encounter, in the early part of the year, Pulaski had seen service in New Jersey. His cavalry had combined with General Wayne's infantry to drive the British out of New Jersey at Cooper's Ferry on the Delaware.

⁴ Pulaski felt more at home in the southern atmosphere and enjoyed life on the plantations. "He found himself among gentlemen of the world, men able to enjoy those sports and pastimes which were so dear to his heart. He loved hard fighting, hard riding, and he found it in the south." (C. A. Manning).



From Plate VIII of the Maps engraved for the "Life of George Washington" by John Marshall, 1807.



BRIGADIER GENERAL CASIMIR PULASKI

Bronze Statue at 13th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C.

in pursuit of the retreating militia, and coming up with Colonel Laurens, who had been left with a party to defend a bridge, after a sharp conflict for some time, in which Laurens was wounded, compelled the Americans to retire, and continued his march. General Lincoln, judging that the movement of Prevost was only a feint to draw him back, despatched Colonel Harris with 300 continentals to reinforce General Moultrie, and continued his march towards the capital of Georgia but three days after, being convinced that the British general mediated a serious attack upon Charleston, Lincoln turned about and retraced his steps. Count Pulaski's legion of light troops, were immediately ordered to join General Moultrie, who moved with such rapidity, that they came up with him before he reached Charleston, and, in conjunction with parties of militia, made repeated stands on the retreat, and skirmished with the advance guard of the enemy, which seemed to check their march. General Moultrie and Colonel Harris reached Charleston on the 9th of May; and Governor Rutledge, with a body of militia, which had been stationed at Orangeburgh as a reserve, on the 10th; Pulaski arrived with his legion on the 11th; and on the same day, near one

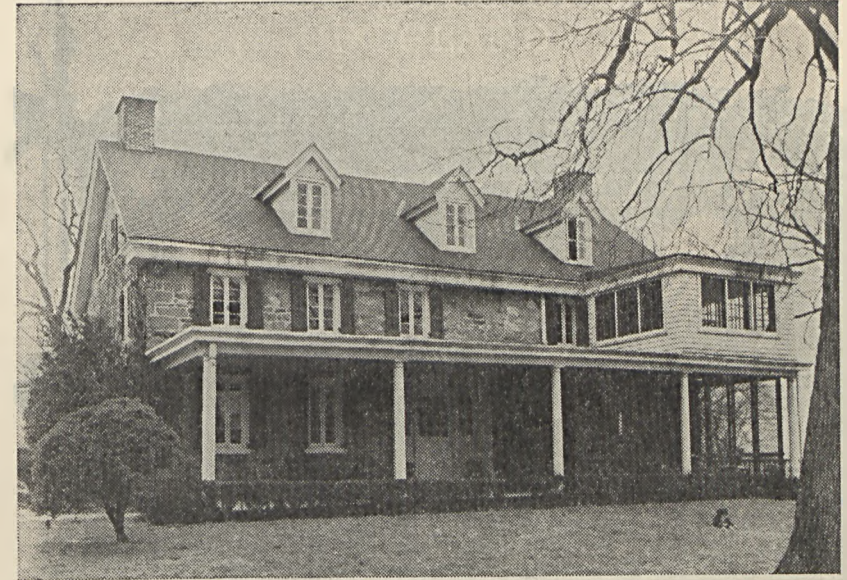
thousand of the enemy came up, crossed the ferry of Ashley River, and advanced towards the town.

Pulaski immediately conceived a plan to draw the enemy into an ambush; as soon as they approached, he marched at the head of a single company of infantry, and posted them behind a small breast-work which had previously been thrown up in a valley, with orders to remain concealed: he then returned, and, placing himself at the head of a small party of horse, sallied out and advanced a mile beyond the concealed infantry, with a view to draw the enemy's cavalry into action, intending after a slight skirmish to retreat, and thus draw the enemy's cavalry within the reach of the concealed infantry. But the object was defeated by the ardor of the infantry; disregarding their orders, they rushed out from behind the breast-work, to join in the attack, in consequence of which, being inferior in numbers to the British, Pulaski was obliged to retreat. The enemy pressed hard upon them, but they were met and resisted in the most intrepid manner by Pulaski, whose example animated his men to deeds of heroism, worthy of their brave leader. After this, several skirmishes during the day and succeeding night occurred between the cavalry of the two hostile parties, in all of which Pulaski's legion led on by their intrepid chief, displayed a coolness and bravery which has seldom been surpassed, and which reflected great honor on their gallant commander, whose exertions and example stimulated his men to noble deeds. Perhaps a braver man than Pulaski never drew sword: during these various encounters, he was repeatedly engaged in single combat with individuals of the enemy, and sometimes with fearful odds. In the meantime, the troops within the town, and the inhabitants of all ages and both sexes, were actively employed in strengthening their defenses.

On the next day, the 12th, the town was summoned to surrender, and although the conditions offered were considered favorable, they were not accepted, and the negotiation was protracted through the day, by which means further time was obtained for improving the means of defending the city. On the 13th a most extraordinary proposition was submitted to the British commander, which was that the whole state would remain neutral during the war, and its ultimate destiny to depend on the peace. If anything could exceed the pusillanimity and folly of this proposition, it was the conduct of General Prevost in refusing to accept it, and immediately breaking up his camp and retreating, without farther negotiation, or making any attempt upon the town.

General Lincoln pursued the enemy to Stone-Ferry, where on the 20th of June, he attacked a part of Prevost's force, under Colonel Maitland, and sustained a sharp conflict for an hour and a half with great advantage when the enemy, receiving a reinforcement, the Americans were forced to retire, and being hard pressed with fresh troops, considerable confusion ensued, at which juncture Pulaski's horse charged the enemy with such gallantry and spirit as checked their advance, and enabled Mason's Virginia brigade to move up and cover the retreat.

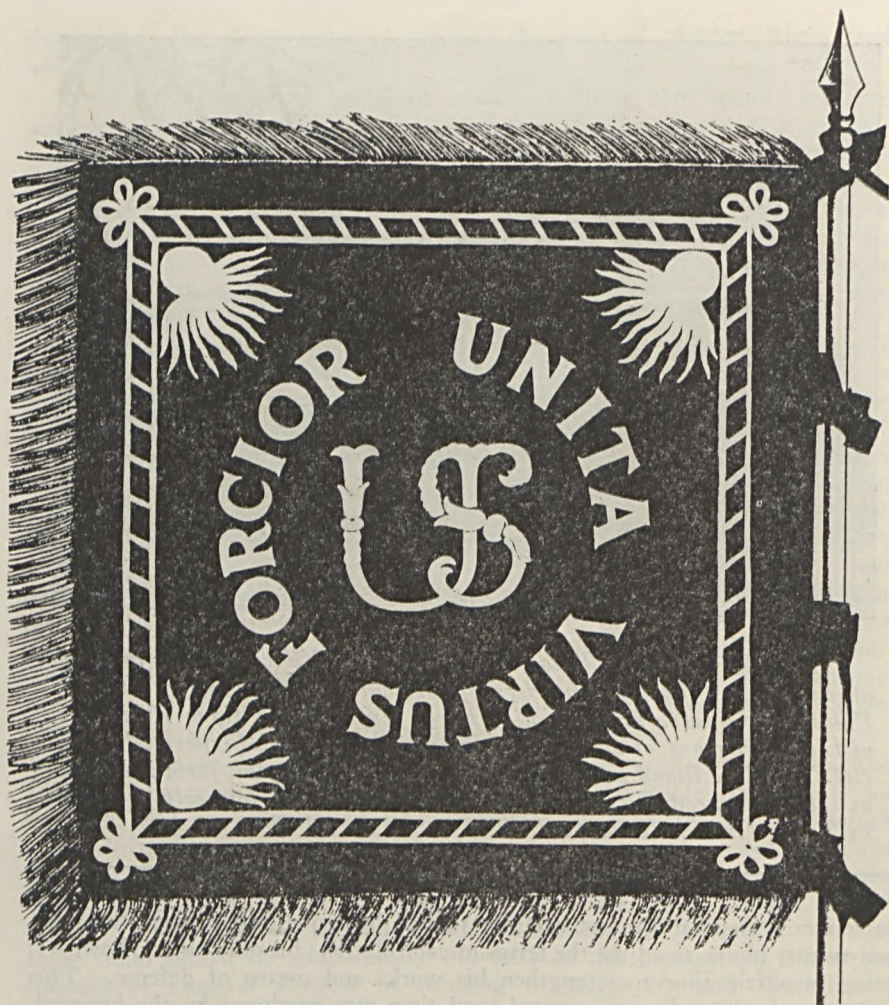
In the unfortunate siege of Savannah, Count Pulaski was engaged with his legion, and displayed his accustomed activity and valor, which however proved fatal, and terminated his military and earthly career. The unexpected appearance of the French fleet on the American coast, alarmed the British forces in Georgia. On the 13th of September, 1779, the Count D'Estaing landed 3000 men at Beaulieu, who on the 15th were joined by Pulaski with his legion; but the rest of the troops under General Lincoln, from the difficulties of the route, did not arrive until the 16th, when the allied armies united in front of the town of Savannah. Previously to this, Count D'Estaing had appeared with his fleet before the town, and summoned the garrison to



Brigadier General Pulaski's Quarters at Valley Forge, as they appear today (also the Quarters of Brigadier General Poor). Under Pulaski there were at the Valley Forge Encampment three Regiments of Light Dragoons, of which the Commanders were Col. Stephen Moylan, Col. Theodore Bland and Col. George Baylor. Today this farm is known as the Brookmead Farm, the home of Edward Law, formerly occupied by Frank Graham Thompson.

surrender. General Prevost artfully replied by requesting a truce for four-and-twenty hours, to adjust the terms of capitulation; his only object, however, being to obtain time to strengthen his works and means of defense. This request unfortunately was granted, and time was employed by the besieged, in the most active exertions; and within the time, General Prevost was reinforced by the arrival of his outposts, which increased his force one third. At the close of the truce, Prevost informed the Count that he should defend himself to the last extremity. On the 23rd, the allied armies broke ground for the siege, and proceeded in their work with great activity. In ten days, more than fifty pieces of battering cannon and fourteen mortars were mounted; which were opposed by nearly one hundred of different sizes, and on the 4th of October, a tremendous fire was commenced upon the town. After the batteries had played on the town for several days without much effect, Count D'Estaing being anxious about the safety of his fleet if the siege should be prolonged, proposed to change the plan of operations, and make an attempt on the town by storm. This Lincoln was obliged to agree to, as otherwise the Count threatened to abandon the siege altogether. Unfortunately information of the intended assault was conveyed to Prevost, by an officer who deserted from the Charleston volunteers, which enabled him to prepare for it. Savannah was protected from an attack by land by the river on one side, and a deep morass on the other, extending parallel with the river in the rear of the town. The assault was made on the morning of

(Continued on page 26)



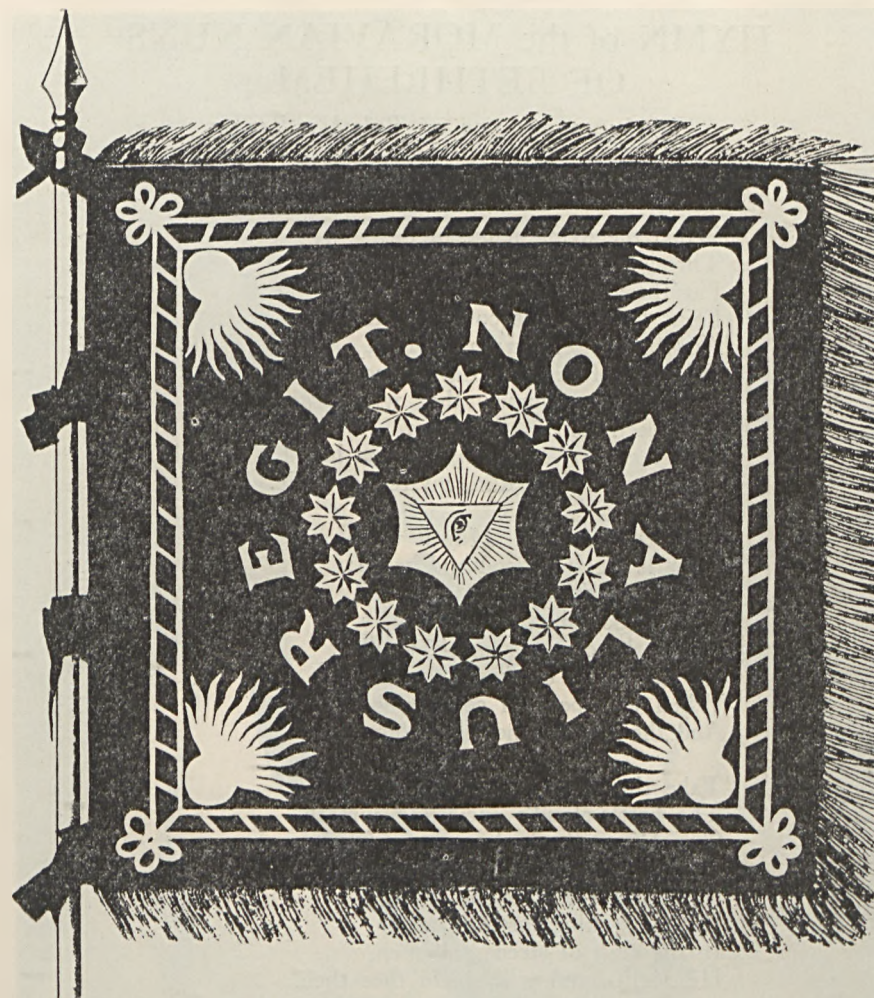
PULASKI'S BANNER (reverse)

COUNT PULASKI'S BANNER

From The Standards, Flags and Banners of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution — Published by the Society.

A cavalry guidon of double crimson silk with designs on each side handsomely embroidered in yellow silk, and the letters shaded with green. On the obverse side of the banner appears the "all-seeing Eye" within a circle of thirteen stars surrounded by the motto, "Non alius regit" (No other governs). On the reverse are the letters "U.S." encircled with the motto, "Unita virtus forcior" (Union makes valor stronger).

This banner was made for and presented to the brave Count Pulaski by the Moravian sisters at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania after he had raised and organized an independent corps of sixty-eight horse and two hundred foot at Baltimore, Maryland in 1778. Pulaski received the banner gratefully and bore it gallantly through many battles until he fell at Savannah, Georgia, in the autumn of 1779. The banner was saved by his lieutenant—though him-



PULASKI'S BANNER (obverse)

self sorely wounded—and it eventually reached Baltimore after the close of the war, where it was used in the procession that welcomed La Fayette to that city, during his visit to this country in 1824, and it was then deposited, first in Peale's Museum and afterwards with the Maryland Historical Society (in 1844), in whose rooms it is still carefully preserved.

But little of its former beauty remains, the crimson silk being now faded to a dull brownish red. A deep green bullion fringe ornamented the edges of the banner which was attached to a lance when borne in the field. The size of the original flag was only twenty inches square.

The presentation of the flag to Pulaski and the soldier's glorious death are commemorated by the poet Longfellow in his stirring "Hymn of the Moravian Nuns", at the consecration of the banner.*

*The word nun as applied to the Moravian sect has a different significance from that indicated in speaking of the female recluses of the Roman Catholic Church. In
(Continued on page 23)

HYMN of the MORAVIAN NUNS OF BETHLEHEM

At the consecration of Pulaski's Banner

by HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

When the dying flame of day
Through the chancel shot its ray,
Far the glimmering tapers shed
Faint light on the cowed head;
And the censer burning swung,
Where, before the altar, hung
The crimson banner, that with prayer
Had been consecrated there.
And the nuns' sweet hymn was heard the while
Sung low, in the dim, mysterious aisle.

"Take thy banner! May it wave
Proudly o'er the good and brave;
When the battle's distant wail
Breaks the sabbath of our vale.
When the clarion's music thrills
To the hearts of these lone hills,
When the spear in conflict shakes,
And the strong lance shivering breaks.

"Take thy banner! and, beneath
The battle-cloud's encircling wreath
Guard it; till our homes are free!
Guard it! God will prosper thee!
In the dark and trying hour,
In the breaking forth of power,
In the rush of steeds and men,
His right hand will shield thee then.

"Take thy banner! But when night
Closes round the ghastly fight,
If the vanquished warrior bow,
Spare him! By our holy vow,
By our prayers and many tears,
By the mercy that endears,
Spare him! he our love hath shared!
Spare him! as thou wouldst be spared!

"Take thy banner! and if e'er
Thou shouldst press the soldier's bier,
And the muffled drum should beat
To the tread of mournful feet,
Then this crimson flag shall be
Martial cloak and shroud for thee."

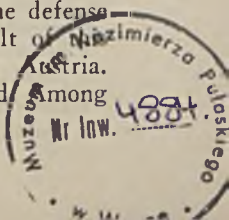
The warrior took that banner proud,
And it was his martial cloak and shroud!



KOSCIUSZKO

KOSCIUSZKO

The American revolutionary contest is memorable for having rallied to its service the aid of distinguished foreigners, volunteers in the cause of an oppressed people struggling to defend their liberties. Tadeusz Andrzej Bonawentura Kosciuszko (1746-1817), distinguished Polish soldier and statesman was one of these volunteers. Kosciuszko belonged to the confederates or anti-Russian party and had taken an active part in the defense of his country against invading neighbors. The unfortunate result of this war was the dismemberment of Poland by Russia, Prussia and Austria. This humiliation caused many distinguished patriots to leave Poland. Among these was Kosciuszko.



In Germany, Italy and France he studied diligently, completing his course at Brest where he learned fortification and naval tactics, and returned to Poland in 1774 with the rank of captain of artillery.

War between Great Britain and the colonies opened a field for military adventurers from Europe, it being supposed that America was destitute of men of military science and experience. The first events and successes of the contest and the dignified attitude assumed by the solemn Declaration of Independence produced a most favorable impression abroad. Kosciuszko was among those who arrived in 1776 to help in the fight for Freedom. Kosciuszko was motivated wholly by patriotic motives and an ardent attachment to liberty. He had no reason to seek military fame and he possessed a soul which raised him infinitely above becoming a mercenary soldier. He wanted neither rank nor emolument; his object was to serve the cause, not himself.

On August 30, 1776, "a memorial from Mr. Kosciuszko was read (in Congress) and referred to the Board of War." On October 18, 1776, the Board of War "Resolved that Thaddeus Kosciuszko be appointed an Engineer in the service of the United States with the pay of 60 dollars a month and the rank of Colonel."¹

America had no fleet and the British were masters of the sea. The Hudson River was of vital importance. So it was that the engineer Kosciuszko was assigned to this area. The purpose of the British was to cut off New England by holding the Lake Champlain—Hudson River line. General Burgoyne became master of a line of forts including Fort Ticonderoga. "Although Kosciuszko, General Gates and other officers had pointed out the importance of fortifying Sugar-Loaf Hill (which commanded Fort Ticonderoga), nothing had been done to render it inaccessible to the enemy."²

Congress then reinstated Gates as General of the Northern army, and Burgoyne's triumphs ended at Saratoga on October 17, 1777. "The praise of the engineer of the Northern army must have reached Washington with the news of Burgoyne's surrender. He probably knew the part of Kosciuszko in this decisive moment of the war, who had selected the spot for the American army and fortified it."³ The first letter of Washington's mentioning the name of Kosciuszko was written from Whitemarsh, November 10, 1777, and addressed to the President of Congress: "While I am on this subject" (the want of good engineers) "I would take the liberty to mention that I have been well informed that the engineer in the northern army (Kosciuszko, I think his name is) is a gentleman of science and merit. From the character I have had of him he is deserving of notice, too."⁴

On April 6, 1778, Washington wrote to McDougall that he would like to have Kosciuszko join his army if it were at all possible. However, a few days earlier Kosciuszko had left for West Point, to which post he had been appointed by the Board of War. On April 18, 1778, Troop wrote to General Gates regarding the works at West Point: "It is said they are in great forwardness. Kosciuszko has made many alterations which are universally approved of and I am happy to find he is esteemed as an able Engineer."³ On June 2, 1779, Washington wrote McDougall, "It gives me pleasure that the forts at this critical time are in hands where they may be safely trusted."³

West Point became the center of military operations. The gigantic chain which was thrown across the Hudson River to keep ships from coming up is now in the West Point Museum. Kosciuszko remained at the Point,

¹ Force I, C., II, 1406

² John C. Miller, *Triumph of Freedom*.

³ Ladislaus M. Kozlowski, *Washington and Kosciuszko*.

⁴ Sparks, *Washington's Writings*, V 142

securing the river against future invasion of the enemy until August, 1780.

When General Gates was appointed to command in the South in June, 1780, his first thought was to engage Kosciuszko as engineer. Accompanied by his servant, Kosciuszko left to join Gates.³ Unfortunately, assured by his northern successes, Gates rushed into battle without properly estimating his force, and Camden fell to Lord Cornwallis in a complete defeat. Thereupon Gates was relieved of his command and Major General Greene was assigned command of the Southern army.

Kosciuszko was employed by Greene in the southern campaign in '81. In the attack on Ninety-Six, a very strong post of the enemy in South Carolina, he was entrusted with the important duty of preparing and constructing the works of the siege and continued in the service until after the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown, which terminated all important operations of the war.

Kosciuszko's humanity and charm of manner made him one of the most popular officers of the Revolution. In 1783 he was rewarded for his services and his devotion to the cause of American independence with the thanks of Congress, the privilege of American citizenship, a considerable annual pension with landed estates and the rank of Brigadier General, which he retained in the Polish service.

On leaving America, Kosciuszko returned to his beloved country where he exerted himself for the improvement of the political condition of his countrymen and promoting general prosperity. In the war following the proclamation of the constitution in 1791, he distinguished himself as division commander against the Russian invaders.

In 1794 he took command of the national armies. His arms were consecrated according to ancient custom at the Church of the Capuchins. He took an oath to wage war against the enemies of his country and to fight only for the independence and territorial integrity of Poland.

Although Kosciuszko took pains not to provoke Austria and Prussia, nevertheless Prussian troops joined with Russian. Cracow was taken by the Prussians. Kosciuszko conducted the defense of Warsaw with brilliance but elsewhere his generals were outmaneuvered and defeated. The Polish army was almost annihilated at Maciejowice. Kosciuszko was seriously wounded, made prisoner and conveyed to Petersburg, where he remained until 1796.

On his accession, Paul I showed great liberality to persecuted Poles and set most of them at liberty. Kosciuszko was permitted either to remain in Russia or to emigrate to America. He preferred to retire to the country of freedom, and lived in Philadelphia until May, 1798, when he went to Paris, where the First Consul earnestly invited his cooperation against the Allies. But he refused offers, even of high command, unless Napoleon undertook to give the restoration of Poland a leading place in his plans. So he lived in retirement at Berville, near Paris, where the Emperor Alexander visited him in 1814.

In 1815 Kosciuszko was sought out in Paris by Polish soldiers, who regarded him as the great patriot of their country. Remembering his exertions and sacrifices in defense of Poland, they could not sufficiently express their gratitude and veneration for him, then weighed down with years and sufferings yet illustrious in his misfortunes. He died soon after in 1817 and his remains were deposited in the Cathedral at Cracow. A monument of Carpathian marble was erected to his memory on the summit of Mount St. Bronislaway.

³ Ladislaus M. Kozlowski, *Washington and Kosciuszko*.

Kosciuszko was essentially a democrat of the school of Jefferson and Lafayette. He thought the republic could only be reborn on the basis of liberty and equality before the law. In this respect he was far in advance of his age, and the aristocratic prejudices of his countrymen compelled him to resort to half measures.

Americans have expressed their great gratitude to this "Noble Son of Poland" by erecting a monument in his memory on Bemis Heights, Saratoga, New York, a site which Kosciuszko had selected and successfully fortified before the Victory of Saratoga. A statue also pays tribute to this illustrious engineer in the nation's capital.

References—American Military Biography (1825).

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Triumph of Freedom by John C. Miller.



HISTORICAL AMERICAN RECITALS

The newest and one of the most enjoyable features recently introduced as a further advancement in the wonder working plans in our museum and chapel life has been the inauguration of a series of Historical American Music Recitals, the first of which was presented in the afternoon as a Memorial Day observance—May 30th at 2:30 o'clock.

Arranged by Miss Marion G. Spangler, the gifted leader of our own chapel choir, who serves with Mrs. John Robbins Hart as program chairmen of the Woman's Auxiliary for Museum Activities and Current Events. This was a most delightful program. Instrumental as well as vocal numbers grouped according to periods and schools of composition provided types of music by representative Pennsylvania composers of the XIXth Century.

These featured selections by: Stephen Collins Foster, 1826-1864; Ethelbert Woodbridge Nevin, 1862-1901; Charles Wakefield Cadman, 1881-1946.

The artists included: Flute—Diana Butler, Patricia Jones, Elizabeth Baker, Charlotte Krasley; Piano—William Fairweather; Vocal—Barbara Parker Vesco; Helen Paugh, James Fryer.

In the Foster group it was interesting to note the presentation of his first composition, "Tioga Waltz," written at the age of fourteen, also "Beautiful Dreamer", the last of this prolific writer's compositions. In the Nevin group there were included the universally popular selections—"Narcissus" for the piano and that song of songs, "The Rosary".

Again we heard the oft sung melodies in the Cadman group—such as "At Dawning" and "From the Land of the Sky Blue Water". However, the climax of the program was undoubtedly the most heartily enjoyed. As a finale the dearly beloved "My Old Kentucky Home" was rendered. In this, the audience joined in singing with fine spirit the old familiar strains so sweet to the ears of young and old, white man—black man—those from all walks of life.

So with the playing of this Foster classic by the flute quartette was brought to a close a very pleasant afternoon and the appreciative folk were unanimous in their approval and desire for the continuance of the series to further bring the spirit of American Freedom to those visiting Valley Forge, through this effective medium of song and instrumental performance.

(Continued on page 28)

THE REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE OF POLAND

by DR. ROGER SHAW

Governor of Connecticut Mayflower Society, SAR, etc.

Professor of International Relations, Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.

They say, today, that Poland is a country whose *capital* is in Moscow, whose *territory* is in Germany, and whose *people* are in Siberia! Alas, there are elements of truth in this, but Poland was once a Great Power — a country which went through liberty-loving revolutions shortly before, and a decade following, our own great struggle for Freedom, which was waged between 1775 and 1783. And so closely linked, in a sense, were the eighteenth-century struggles of Poles and Americans, that great-hearted Polish patriots—Pulaski and Kosciuszko—came to our shores and rendered signal aid, leading to the death of one and the immortality of both men. Peculiar Polish greatness came in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, while the eighteenth century spelled disaster: "the paths of glory lead but to the grave"; nor are the perils of Poland yet abated. Let us look back, then, as we look forward.

At the end of the sixteenth century that tempestuous country—a veritable knight among nations—inaugurated a regime, or series of regimes, under elected Kings. These Kings were chosen by the two chambers of the Polish Diet, the Senate of big nobles and the House of Representatives of lesser nobles. The Diet sat for only six weeks at a time, and all of its decisions were required to be completely unanimous. Under this crazy system of aristocratic anarchy, any *one* member could veto a piece of legislation by his *solitary* vote. This prerogative was widely utilized by recalcitrant nobles, and the net result was national stalemate, reminding one of 1951! Further, nobles were endowed with the express right to band together against the common weal by force of arms. This right of military rebellion was held sacred. In short, Poland was the very heaven of feuds and feudalists.

So jealous were the Polish nobles of one another that their Kings were generally chosen from abroad. The first three elected monarchs were a Frenchman, a Hungarian, and a Swede. In the middle of the seventeenth century the Polish Cossacks rose, to add to the general chaos, placed themselves under the protection of Russia, and were forevermore the harshest enemies of the Polish state. Almost constantly, the Poles were at war with Brandenburg, Sweden, and Russia, when they were not at war with one another. It will be remembered that the Electors of Brandenburg were also Dukes of East Prussia, and that as Dukes of East Prussia they had been feudal vassals of the Polish Kings.

King John Sobieski of Poland saved Vienna from the Turks in 1683, and he was perhaps the ablest of the elected monarchs. He was succeeded by a Frenchman who resigned. There followed the invasion of a Saxon army under Augustus the Strong, and this Elector of Saxony ruled as elected King of Poland from 1697 till 1733. To secure the Polish throne, Augustus turned from a Protestant to a Catholic, and paid out 10 million florins in bribes. His most distinguished offspring was the famous Marshal Saxe, later leader of French armies. From that day to 1918, the royal house of Protestant Saxony was Catholic.

After 1700, as Russia gained strength, Poland gradually declined. The Polish nobility was more numerous than ever, and on one occasion an *entire* Polish army was ennobled on the battlefield. But the feudal dissensions of

the Poles were no match for the centralized might of the "new" Russia which was forged by Peter the Great. Augustus the Strong was succeeded by his son, also Augustus, under the pressure of Russian soldiers and Austrian diplomacy. The French had put up a rival candidate, but the younger Augustus, like his august father, bribed his way into office.

Toward the end of his anarchic reign, a movement was promoted by some of the Poles to inaugurate a more stable hereditary monarchy, but the Russians opposed this as they stood to gain by the existing chaos across the border. Catherine of Russia became increasingly anxious to annex all or at least a part of Poland, in order to push westward, and a former lover of the Czarina was urged on the Poles as King. Augustus had just died, and the Seven Years War was over.

Frederick the Great, his hands free, joined with Catherine in urging the claims of the ex-lover, Poniatowski. Those Poles in favor of a stabilized hereditary monarchy rallied around Czartoryski for King, and they abolished the one-man Veto power in the Diet. But Catholic Poland had been persecuting its Orthodox and Protestant religious minorities, and Catherine posed as champion of the former, while Frederick sponsored the latter. In 1764, Russian troops invaded Poland and set Poniatowski on the throne. The Turks rushed in to assist the Poles, and a general war threatened Europe, already exhausted by the Seven Years War.

The Prussians and Austrians, recently enemies to the death, now saw alike. Russia must not get all of Poland. There was a conference at Baltic Petersburg, and then came the first partition of Poland. An important preliminary was lavish bribery of the noble members of the Polish Diet, as was usual in Polish politics. Kaunitz was beside himself with activity, and Old Fritz was not idle. As for the saintly Maria Theresa, "she wept, but she took." Catherine the Great of Russia, elated by the turn of events and untroubled by Marian scruples, did not stop to weep. Instead, she carved. This was in 1772.

Russia received Lithuania, with 2 million inhabitants. Prussia got the Polish province of West Prussia, lying between East Prussia and Brandenburg, with half a million new subjects. Austria took over Galicia, with nearly 3 million population, many of them Jews. Poland lost 80,000 square miles by the deal, but her religious minorities were to get better treatment, and her nobility had more money to spend on hunting, wining, breeding, and feuding. Within what was left of the Polish state, the anarchic one-man Veto power was restored.

One young Pole who did not like this state of affairs was Casimir Pulaski, who fought against the Russian invasion and the Russian love-puppet, Poniatowski. Pulaski became commander-in-chief of the patriot forces, was accused of an attempt to kidnap the loathed favorite of Catherine, and fled to Turkey in the face of the triple partition of his country. Benjamin Franklin persuaded Pulaski to come to the aid of the Americans, which he did in 1777. He became a Yankee cavalry chief, and was killed—a great hero—at Savannah two years later.

Another Polish hero-patriot to arrive in the Americas at this time was the renowned Kosciuszko, who left his country in 1776 and served throughout the Transatlantic revolution. He did excellent work at Saratoga, and acted as chief engineer in building the fortifications at West Point. He was Washington's adjutant, but returned to Poland in 1786. After a stormy political and military career through the Napoleonic period, he died in Swiss exile in 1817. He was then 71, but it took a fall from a horse to kill him. Like the founder of "modern" Poland, Pilsudski (1918), Kosciuszko was of Lithuanian stock.

Actually, the fate of Poland had been decided two years before partition, in 1770. It was then that the Austrian diplomat Kaunitz and Frederick the Great met for the first time.

"The Austrian minister had never met his arch-enemy, the Prussian King, and he went forth to the diplomatic battle to slay the Potsdam Goliath with a portfolio packed full of advice. Kaunitz carefully drew up what he called a Political Catechism, to teach the innocent Frederick some elementary politics. Button-holing the witty and cynical King of Prussia in a casement, the humorless minister bade the King to listen tranquilly and without interruption to what he had to say. Despite his keen sense of humor, the absolute master of Prussia was startled; no one, since his father's unlamented death, had ever dared lecture him. But Kaunitz was imperturbable. So Frederick, with a sigh and a wry smile, resigned himself to listening to a long dissertation on international politics. Frederick was so grateful when Kaunitz finally ended that he jumped up hastily and smothered him in an embrace." West Prussia, or the promise of it, was what made Frederick so grateful.

He had met Joseph of Austria the year before. "The young Emperor, hook-nosed, blue-eyed, and thirsty for fame, gazed with unconcealed admiration at the little Prussian King, hero of innumerable battles, lean, gnarled, sharp-tongued, and disillusioned. The foremost German monarchs of the epoch looked at each other with alert suspicions and keen curiosity. Frederick was unusually cordial; Joseph was honored and delighted, but not duped."

As for Poland, stretching then from the Baltic to the Black Sea, vast and utterly disorganized as ever, with her million nobles to plague her internally, her wings were effectively clipped. "The majority of her nobles, forbidden to engage in any livelihood except that of knights, were but a privileged proletariat; they were the lackeys, flunkeys, and henchmen of the sixteen or seventeen great families who owned and ruled the country. These great families maintained splendid courts, kept up standing armies, and carried on their own foreign policies."

But what was left of Poland reasserted itself during the two decades following the first partition. By 1791 the Poles, learning a little wisdom a little too late, produced a new constitution. This document granted political rights to the Polish cities, civil rights to the serf-ridden peasantry, and finally made the Polish Kingship hereditary instead of elective. This was all very fine, but the Russians were enraged by it. It might have made Poland stronger. So Catherine the Great bribed some of the dissenting nobles, and at their "invitation" invaded their country once more. This was in 1792, when Europe was distracted by the French revolution.

Kosciuszko, back from America, defeated the Russians at Dubienka; but ex-lover King Poniatowski sided with Catherine against his own country. Then the Prussians also invaded Poland, and the game was up. Frederick the Great, Joseph, and Maria Theresa all were dead, and Prussia by this time was under the fat and vulgar nephew of Old Fritz. Austria was under another Franz, nephew of Joseph, and the last after a thousand years of the Holy Roman Emperors. Austria in this selfsame year, 1792, went to war with the French revolution, and it was the French revolution that killed the Holy Roman Empire.

So came about the second partition of Poland, in 1793. In Paris it was the year of the red terror, but all was not quiet on the eastern front. The Russians took more of Lithuania, much of the Ukraine, and other districts, with 3 million inhabitants. The Prussians annexed the westernmost part of Poland, with a million people. Poland lost 120,000 square miles this

time, and the Polish Diet was bribed once more into taking the loss and liking it.

But the Polish people did not like it. Kosciuszko became dictator and headed a mass revolt which drove the Russians out of Warsaw in a campaign of scythes against muskets. The Prussian army came to the rescue—Frederick the Great's invincible Veterans—and the Poles as usual disagreed among themselves. Kosciuszko was defeated and captured by the Russians, and Suvarov recaptured Warsaw. This ended the war, in which Poland's peasants, by their patriotism, had put to shame Poland's corrupt feudal chivalry.

The third partition of Poland came in 1795, as the moderate Directory came to power in France. This partition wiped the Polish anomaly off the map, in toto. Russia received another million of population; Prussia, a million; and Austria, a million as well. Some 85,000 square miles—what remained of the original Poland—was subdivided among the victors. King Poniatowski thenceforth lived in luxury on a Russian pension. He died three years later.

Not only were the Prussians and Austrians, the Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs, partners in the Polish crime. Concurrently, they joined hands in the west against the "Bolsheviks" of Paris. The royal Internationale must unite against the radical Internationale of freemasons. Nephews Franz and Fritz placed their armies under command of the brave old Duke of Brunswick, who issued a bloodthirsty anti-revolutionary pronouncement.

The result was the battle of Valmy, thirty-six miles from Rheims. Here the *sansculottes* of Dumouriez and Kellermann, plus artillerymen from the old French regular army, defeated the whitecoats of Vienna and the bluecoats of Berlin. Revolutionary commissars whipped up the ragged French force, and watched its officers for any signs of treachery. The mobsmen sang "Ca Ira" with its hideous refrain. The Austrians and Prussians and Holy troops were suffering from dysentery. They had been eating too many green grapes. Worn out by marching, mud, and illness, they withdrew before the red liberty caps. Valmy field, with its historic Mill, has been called the birthplace of the French republic. In the last analysis, the Mill of Valmy outwhirled the traditional Mill of Potsdam, which was saying a great deal. The revolution of '89 was saved for posterity. But then, despite its three partitions, so was Poland.

"The raw artisans and tradesmen, the clumsy burghers, the base mechanics and low peasant churls, as it had been the fashion to term the middle and lower classes in France, found that they could face cannon-balls, pull triggers, and cross bayonets without having been drilled into military machines, and without being officered by scions of noble houses. They awoke to the consciousness of their own instinctive soldiership . . . From the cannonade of Valmy may be dated the commencement of that career of victory which carried French armies to Vienna and the Kremlin."

Thirteen years later—a significant number—the plebeian French triumph of Austerlitz (in 1805) destroyed all the Imperial groundwork of Charlemagne.

The poet Goethe was present as an observer at Valmy. Instinctively he felt in his bones that something big would come out of it. "I had heard so much of the cannon fever that I wanted to know what kind of thing it was." But behind the cannon fever there was a world-evolutionary message. The writing on the wall spelled out the universal victory of the Benevolent Bourgeoisie. Feudalism, at its worst in Poland and France in different ways, was on the wane. And Prussia and Austria, the Monster and Frankenstein,

had joined hands in the one country to efface it, and in the other to rally to its support.

Goethe Becomes War Minister

J. W. Goethe spent six weeks in the Valmy operations, and wrote about it in his "Campaign in France". He had gone with his Enlightened lord and master, Duke Karl Augustus of little Saxe-Weimar in Central Germany. Although, like the "Red" Kaiser Joseph of Austria, Karl Augustus opposed the French revolution, he was one of the leading liberals of his time.

When he came to the Ducal throne, he was 18; and immediately he called Goethe, eight years his senior, to share his court. Besides Goethe, Karl Augustus collected Schiller, Herder, and Wieland; and Weimar became the capital city of German literature. In this Teutonic Athens, Goethe managed the Court Theater and the War Department, superintended roads and bridges, and inspected Harz mountain mines, "bringing back impressions that were of use for his Faust." His initial interest in the French revolution continued, and he saw a good deal of Bonaparte at Erfurt in 1808. The Corsican Ogre admired the Ducal poet, and said he was a real man. And when all Germany was seething with enthusiasm in the War of Liberation, five years after, the cosmopolitan Goethe devoted himself to the academic study of Oriental languages, with a little Homer on the side as a chaser. He said, indifferently, that his Fatherland was the World.

His extraordinary patron, Karl Augustus, eventually made friends with Bonaparte, but joined in the War of Liberation. The victorious Allies raised him to Grand Duke, and enlarged his territory to 1,394 square miles in three detached districts. "His liberality in political opinions was the despair of Europe," and to the horror of the triumphant reactionaries he granted Saxe-Weimar a constitution the very year after Waterloo. He died two years before the July revolution of 1830, which the eternal Goethe survived by two years.

Goethe lived in a "summerhouse" at Weimar. The army he commanded, as War Minister, totalled 600 men. A neighboring princely war-machine consisted of seven officers, and two privates. "We are somewhat mad here," wrote the poet, "and play the devil's game."

"At the age of 6, Goethe rebelled against God. At 7, he expressed his doubts about the justice of men. At 8, he composed a Latin essay in which he compared the wisdom of the pagans with that of the Christians. At 11, he wrote a cosmopolitan novel in seven languages. At 12, he fought a duel. At 14, he fell violently in love for the first time. At 74, he fell violently in love for the last time. At 82, he completed his greatest poem, the second part of Faust." And he had been born, like Voltaire before him, half-dead!

And dead or alive, in sickness or in health, Goethe was ever an admirer of George Washington, the American revolution, and the tradition of Valley Forge. He passed away five years after the Monroe Doctrine, which he favored, and a short two years before *the great Polish rising of 1830*, which he would have supported.

"And Freedom shrieked when Kosciuszko fell." Men like Kosciuszko and Pulaski rank with Steuben and Lafayette; and their fierce libertarian struggles in Europe pre- and ante-dated our own (and their) fights for Freedom in the Americas.

THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

The Polish American Congress was founded in 1944 in Buffalo, New York, by American leaders of Polish descent who were disturbed by Allied wartime accessions to Soviet Russian imperialism.

The Polish American Congress was the first American organization to speak out against Russian aggrandizement and warn of the folly of any attempt to appease Russia on the grounds of wartime expediency. Since 1944, its leaders have carried this warning to the public, to this Country's leaders and to the governments represented at the United Nations. Events of history, which now reveal the true menace of Communism to civilization, have proved the validity of these warnings.

The Polish American Congress has made strong protests against the Yalta Agreement, which sacrificed Poland to Soviet domination, and against the rigged elections which were staged in Poland to form the present government. It has emphasized the importance of restoring a free, independent and integral Poland as the cornerstone of European stability and as the true foundation of world peace and American security.

Purposes and Objectives

1. To support our United States Government in its efforts to win a just and lasting peace in accord with the principles of the Atlantic Charter.
2. To inform the American public of Poland's historic role; her needs; and the true, democratic aims of her people as distinguished from those of the Communistic regime imposed on her by Russia.
3. To organize the 6,000,000 Americans of Polish ancestry for unity in the support of American democratic principles.
4. To combat the growth of Communism at home and abroad.
5. To work for the restoration of a free, democratic and integral Poland.
6. To work for an adequate and just solution of the problem of displaced persons.

How These Activities Have Been Carried On

1. Numerous and comprehensive memoranda, statements, resolutions, letters, wires and booklets have been directed to Presidents Roosevelt and Truman; Secretaries of State Hull, Stettinius, Byrnes and Marshall; members of the United States Congress; delegates to the United Nations; the press; the clergy; educators, and the public. In all, the Polish American Congress has called for adherence to the Atlantic Charter and respect for the "right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live."

2. Headed by Charles Rozmarek, president, delegations have met with Presidents Roosevelt and Truman to plead the case of a free and democratic Poland and oppose the terms of the Yalta Agreement; presented the cause for an independent and integral Poland to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco; attended the Paris Conference, and made a tour of Polish displaced persons camps in Western Europe.

3. A delegation of the Polish American Congress led by Mr. Rozmarek, presented the viewpoint of Americans of Polish origin to numerous leaders and diplomats of democratic countries in personal conferences in Europe.

4. Mr. Rozmarek, speaking in behalf of the Polish American Congress, has testified before Congressional committees considering legislation to admit displaced persons into this country. The Polish American Congress has established a committee on displaced persons, the American Committee for Resettlement of Polish D.P.'s.

5. It has established commissions on American affairs, culture and education, civic affairs, economics and management and information and publications to improve the welfare of Americans of Polish descent through support of their schools, parishes, press and vocational activities.

6. The Congress has through several of its state districts, offered scholarships to young Americans of Polish origin to encourage study in fields such as social work, arts and journalism.

7. It has supported the distinguished Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, Inc.

8. It has published a Polish-English newspaper. *The Delegates News-Letter*, and a digest-size, *The Bulletin*, containing informative articles on American foreign policy, the Polish situation and related subjects.

9. Shipments of individual relief packages to needy families in Poland have been made by its state districts.

Cooperating with the national headquarters at 1520 West Division Street, Chicago, Illinois, are 33 state divisions in 26 states. Membership in the Congress includes more than 20 fraternal organizations and their local lodges; about 1000 parishes; several Polish language newspapers; outstanding members of the arts, sciences and professions, and business, industrial and civic leaders—also thousands of local church, civic, charitable, cultural, business, ideological, political, professional and other associations, clubs and societies, in cities and towns from coast to coast.



COUNT PULASKI'S BANNER

(Continued from page 11)

the former case it virtually meant only the single women or sisters of the Moravian colonists. The poem of Longfellow unfortunately contains several historical inaccuracies—possibly pardonable from the view of a poetical license.

* * *

In "A History of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania" Mr. J. M. Levering recounts as follows:

On the afternoon of Maundy Thursday, April 16, 1778, Count Pulaski came into the Church at Bethlehem when the congregation was assembled to hear the Second Lesson for the day. He was accompanied by Col. Kobatsch . . .

On May 15th Pulaski is again mentioned as coming to the church with some of his staff in stately procession to attend the preaching. He is said to have previously visited La Fayette while the latter was lying wounded at Bethlehem. Several times when there appeared to be danger of unruly troops disturbing the Sisters' House, this chivalrous son of Poland detailed members of his staff to guard its doors.

The Banner was embroidered in the Sisters' House, where at that time needlework was at its highest point of excellence and officers frequently arranged to have banners made. Pulaski probably knew of the old heroic history of Unitas Fratrum associated with former struggles of his fatherland, and was aware of the historic connection of the Brethren at Bethlehem with that ancient Church. Tradition has it that the Banner was tendered him by the Sisters in grateful recognition of his gallant concern for their protection.

COUNT PULASKI IN AMERICA

(Continued from page 9)

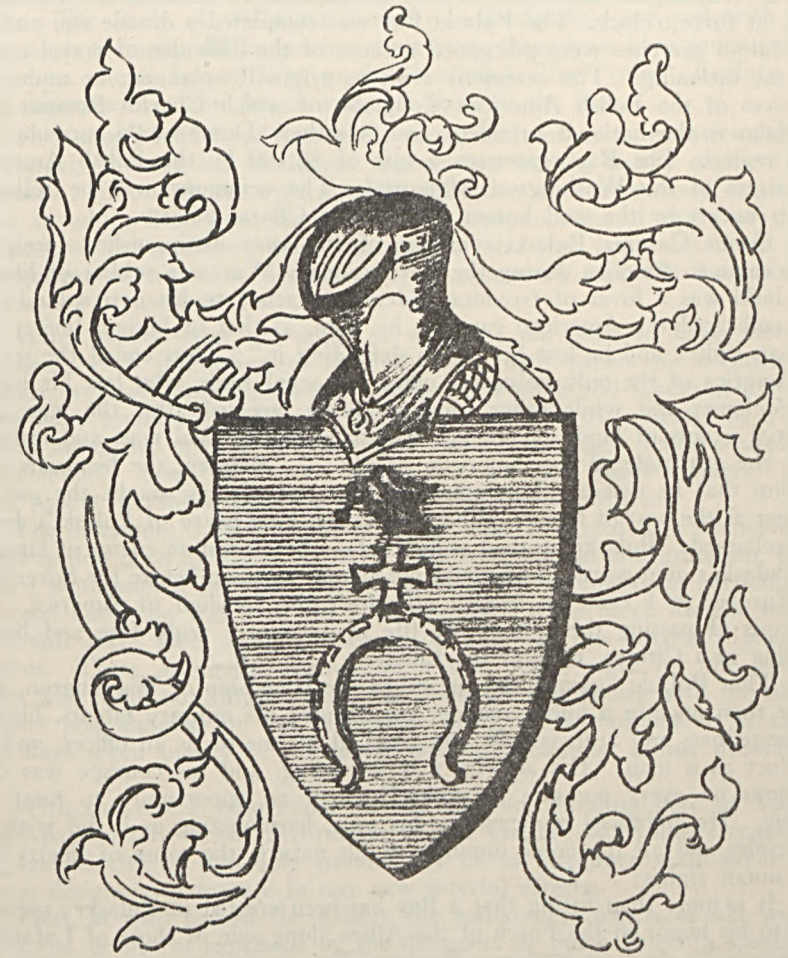
the 9th, before daylight, by two columns, on the enemy's right; one commanded by the Count D'Estaing and General Lincoln in concert, and the other by Count Dillon. The former moved along the margin of the morass, covered by the darkness, to within a short distance of the enemy's line, when their concealed batteries being unmasked, a destructive fire was opened on them, which made great havoc. Undismayed by this slaughter, the column continued to advance, and Count D'Estaing and Lincoln forced the abbatiss, and placed their standards on the parapet: at this time had the other column come up, the assault would have succeeded, and the possession of the enemy's works been certain; but Count Dillon unfortunately lost his way in the darkness, and failed in affording the expected cooperation. At this crisis, Colonel Maitland made a vigorous attack on the brave soldiers who had planted their standards on the parapet, who were forced into the ditch, the flags torn down, and the whole column compelled to retire through the abbatiss. This disastrous result of the attack, would probably have been avoided but for the fatal termination of the gallant career of the brave Pulaski. At the moment Colonel Maitland with his own corps, united with the marines and grenadiers under Lieutenant-Colonel Glazier, pushed forward to attack the assailants, Pulaski perceiving the danger in which the allied column was placed, made a bold effort at the head of two hundred horse, to force his way through the enemy's works and gain the rear of Maitland, which would have placed that brave and skilful officer in a critical situation, and in all probability have changed the fate of the day; but while advancing at the head of his men, exposed to the most tremendous fire, the intrepid Pulaski received a mortal wound, and fell from his horse. The fall of their heroic leader stopped the progress of the squadron, and they immediately retreated.

He lived two days and expired on the 11th of October, 1779 (at the age of thirty-two.) Thus fell in a most bold and daring achievement, the distinguished Polish patriot and hero, in the cause of American liberty: his memory is entitled to our veneration, as his life forms an item in the price of our independence. Soon after congress resolved that a monument be erected to his memory; but this paper statue, and the heroic deeds of a bold and adventurous life, constitute the only monument that has been erected to his memory, or which serves to perpetuate his fame. (1825)

* * *

The finest physicians of the French fleet were called in but they could not extract the bullet. It was decided to place Pulaski on the American ship, the Wasp, and carry him to Charleston in the hope some relief might be found, but he breathed his last as the Wasp left the river for the ocean. The dead General was buried at sea off the Georgia coast and the Wasp came into Charleston harbor with her flag at half mast. (Soldier of Liberty by Charles A. Manning).

"The intelligence of Pulaski's death was regarded as a national calamity and testimony to his skill and bravery were publicly rendered by the Governor and Council of South Carolina and the municipal authorities of Charleston." (John F. Lewis, Sr.)



Pulaski

COAT OF ARMS

DEDICATION OF THE PULASKI BAY

The dedication ceremony of the Pulaski Bay in the Porch of the Allies at the Washington Memorial, Valley Forge, will be held on the Fourth of July at three o'clock. The Pulaski Bay was completed a decade ago and the dedication exercises were postponed because of the difficulty of travel caused by gas rationing. The ceremony will, as originally planned, be under the auspices of the Polish American Congress, of which Charles Rozmarek of Chicago is the national president and Matthew Dombrowski, president of this region. The Bay represents a gift of \$6,100 by the Polish American Congress to the Washington Memorial. The ceremony will be followed by a concert by the well known Paderewski Choral Society.

Count Casimir Pulaski was one of the most distinguished foreigners who came to America during the Revolutionary War as a soldier of liberty. "Pulaski was a lover of freedom, ardently attached to his native land . . . He embraced the American cause as his own, as that of human liberty and human rights, and he lost his life in defending it." "Thus ended the service to America of the only volunteer officer of equal rank, who lost his life in her defense, and while other foreign officers received after the war, substantial grants of land and money, Pulaski's only reward was, and must be now the gratitude of the American people . . . Ramsey, the historian, says of him that he was a "thunderbolt of war and always sought the post of danger as the post of honor." When the Polish king heard of Pulaski's death, he exclaimed: "Pulaski has died as he lived—a hero—but an enemy of kings."¹ In Pulaski's own words "as I could not submit to stoop before the Sovereigns of Europe, so I came to hazard all (for) the freedom of America, and desirous of passing the rest of my life in a country truly free and before settling as a Citizen, to fight for Liberty . . ."

That Pulaski "gained and preserved the friendship of Washington, who more than once in a public manner commended his military talents, his disinterestedness and zeal, is sufficient proof of his merits as an officer, and his conduct as a man. His activity was unceasing, and his courage was conspicuous on every occasion in which he had an opportunity to meet the enemy. He embraced our cause as his own, harmonizing as it did with his principles and all the noble impulses of his nature, the cause of liberty and of human rights; . . ."²

It is more than fitting that a Bay has been erected in Pulaski's memory and to his honor in the Porch of the Allies along side of those of Lafayette, Rochambeau, de Kalb and von Steuben. Let us pay special tribute to this Son of Poland who freely gave his life for our independence.

1. Address by John F. Lewis, L.L.D., in Independence Square, Philadelphia, October 12, 1929.

2. Library of American Biography, p. 445.



HISTORICAL AMERICAN RECITALS

(Continued from page 16)

The outdoor Summer Concerts will begin Wednesday evening, June 27th, at 8 o'clock with a program rendered by the Valley Forge Songmen under the direction of Jenó Donath, and will continue as usual every Wednesday evening.

MEMO from the CURATOR'S NOTE BOOK

The history of wallpaper is a most honorable one, though its origins are not as early as many of its companion mediums for other decorative arts or crafts. The study of wallpaper design is a fascinating one and with the restorations of many old houses in recent years there have been innumerable discoveries. Some houses have produced virtual "layer-cake" findings of early papers with a pine board wall, oft times at the base.

To Nancy McClelland, nationally recognized authority, we are indebted very largely through her intelligent appreciation for the beauty of these old specimens. She, with her ever growing collection of documentary originals, added to which have been her noteworthy reproductions of many of these old designs, has probably been the guiding star for home lovers in the development of taste for decorative wall treatments and the increasingly popular use of wallpaper.

Many papers today are done, as were the old ones, in hand blocked processes. It is interesting to note, the first wall papers to be made in America, were of Philadelphia manufacture at Fourth and Chestnut Streets. These were produced by Plunket Fleeson, it is believed, as early as 1747. Fleeson advertised in 1769—"American Paper Hangings, manufactured in Philadelphia". Soon there were others too who as "paper stainers" produced papers in Philadelphia for the American Colony Market.

The invention, if such it may be called, may be traced to a Frenchman, Jean Papillon born in Rouen in 1639. He with his son and grandson, each in turn were known for their skillful development as engravers particularly for wood cuts. So was born the hand engraved wood block designs which today still leave their stamp of beauty on many of our currently popular patterns. These originally, strange as it may seem, were for the poorer classes who could not afford to deck the walls of their homes with the silken brocades and damasks or the sumptuous tapestries so fashionable in those early days when luxury in the home was fast becoming a fine decorative art.

With the recent renovations in our museum building here at Valley Forge, particularly in the decorations of the Gallery of Home Decorative Arts and Crafts, it was only natural for us to introduce wall papers of historic designs as a feature in our new interior effects.

Thus, at each end of the gallery the walls carry papers of old world charm and beauty as expressed by the designers of the Eighteenth Century. Upon the North wall as a setting for our fireside group surrounding a fine early American pine mantelpiece is a frequently referred to paper under the name of the "Pope Mansion Paper". This due to its original associations with the home of Colonel Pope in Farmington, Connecticut, is known today in its reproduction as the "Marseille" pattern.

At the opposite end of the gallery in the Washington Alcove we have used in its original colorings the replica of an old paper now seen also in reproduction in General Washington's own bedroom at Mount Vernon. Traditions are, that the original of this was used by Mme. Washington in the renovations to his bed chamber in preparations for his return after the Revolutionary War.

Among the very earliest papers, appeared those known as "flock papers" or "Tontisse" as the French called them. Thus today these are faithfully reproduced both in flocked surface effect and authentic period designs. So have we in our renovations represented this early type too, illustrating still another distinctive process dating from the earliest periods of wallpaper manufacture.

Two flocked papers have been used as background in the exhibit cases in the Museum Lobby-Office; one a bold stripe of the early Nineteenth Century vogue, also a magnificent French Empire design on a very grand scale providing the perfect setting for the display of gowns worn by Lucy Monroe at the Court of Napoleon. So do these four fine examples of wallpaper contribute to our museum displays where History accordingly repeats itself.

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BOOK NEWS

By LLOYD EASTWOOD-SEIBOLD

"Books worth reading are books worth owning."

THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON—Vol. III—\$10.00.

With the advent this year of the 175th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, we are reminded once again of all those who contributed in a very direct way to those momentous days, those formative years of our young nation. In addition to Washington there was no more monumental a figure, no greater single mind as an influence, no more illustrious a personage than that great intellectual, Thomas Jefferson. So do we bring to your attention at the top of this issue's book list the recently published third volume of that masterful undertaking by Princeton University, the publishing of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson.

Edited by Julian P. Boyd, Lyman H. Butterfield and Mina R. Bryan, this group of historic papers covers a shorter period, 1779-1780, than those two previously published, but evidence the same meticulous editorial care in its comprehensive coverage. No representative American home library, but should have these invaluable volumes upon its shelves.

JOHN ADAMS AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION—by Catherine Drinker Bowen—\$5.00.

Those of us who know Mrs. Bowen as a local celebrity in the Literary World and more intimately as a neighbor and resident of suburban Philadelphia, are proud of her attainments in the field of Biography.

However, it has been said by the critics, she is more convincing as an historian than a novelist. For when she resorts, as she does in this recent work, to "fictionalized biography", (a term she objects to) her style and expressions seem more her own than representative of the period as portrayed in her work. Nevertheless, one can't help but be impressed with the infinite amount of study she has given to the evidence at hand, thus giving credit where credit is due.

JANE MECOM—by Carl van Doren—\$4.00.

This, it is interesting to note, is Mr. Van Doren's first biography of a woman, she being the favorite sister of Benjamin Franklin and dearer to him than close family members or intimate friends.

THE PEOPLE'S GENERAL—by David Loth—\$3.50.

A very lively and personal portrait of Lafayette—a many sided character whose true self is here presented unhampered by the regal robes of historic sanctity.

APPEAL TO ARMS—by Willard M. Wallace—\$4.50.

This new military history of the American Revolution deserves the careful attention of all serious students of this period. Mr. Wallace, following an outstanding record of service in the last World War, being awarded the Legion of Merit in 1945, returned to Wesleyan University where he had received both his B.A. and M.A. degrees. Here he

became first an assistant professor and now associate professor of history at that institution.

AMERICA'S COLONIAL EXPERIMENT—by Julius W. Pratt—\$6.00.

Mr. Pratt is well equipped to have written so timely a piece of work in this day when our country's foreign relations are so uppermost in the daily picture of battle front and far flung global contacts. He has taught history at the United States Naval Academy, Rutgers University and the University of Buffalo, in addition to lecturing at the Universities of Chicago, Maryland, Rochester, Texas, Duke and Harvard.

THE NEW NATION—by Merrill Jensen—\$5.00.

Here is a definite account of the first years of the United States, during the confederation period—1781-1789. Since 1944 Mr. Jensen has been professor of history at the University of Wisconsin.

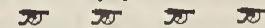
THE EYES OF DISCOVERY—by John Bakeless—\$5.00.

Here is spread before us as a vastly conceived pageant, the wonders of the newly discovered continent with the impressions of those first explorers of the new land. Mr. Bakeless has a great gift for the creation of scenes, the life and the marvels of nature's resources as they were revealed with the discovery of North America.

THE FLORIDA OF THE INCA—by Garcilaso de la Vega—\$7.50.

This truly is a fabulous story of De Soto's explorations based largely on verbal recollections passed on to the author by his old friend Gonzalo Sylvestre, who in his youth was a member of De Soto's exploration party to the New World.

Translated by John and Jeannette Varner who have shown through their combined efforts a devotion and appreciation that are noticeably reflected in this very scholarly piece of work.



MUSEUM RENOVATIONS

by FRANCES HAMMOND LIGGET

It was just about a year ago today that the carpenters started actual work on renovation at the Valley Forge Historical Society Museum and a brief resume is in order.

The three main galleries are now completed, in some instances on a temporary basis. Special emphasis should be placed on the Washington Marquee Case, the proper display and preserving of valuable documents, and the alcoves in the Home Decorative Arts gallery. Through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph B. Howland, the documents and orderly books have been microfilmed, including a number of General Washington's letters. With the generous cooperation of Mr. Robert R. Titus, the famous Marquee has been placed in an appropriate habitat setting and looks very realistic.

The Auxiliary, once an outline on paper, is now active with capable chairmen. The Hostess Committee has over 40 volunteer guides, many in colonial costume. These women are from far and near, some have come as individuals and others in groups. Chambers of Commerce have been most helpful.

The Auxiliary has sponsored teas, lectures and meetings. Their objective is to promote Americanization, American History and Antiques. Among the lectures held in the Spring was one on Early Silver and Silversmiths by Mrs. Alfred Coxe Prime.

Plans for the Membership lecture in the Fall and Open House on October 6th, Chester County Day, are under way.

The Board of Directors and many friends have cooperated in making the past year's work possible.

HENRY CLAY

by JOHN F. DURISHIN

(Continued from last issue)

Clay was a candidate for the presidency at the election of 1824. Jackson was popular but Clay thought he had as good right to be president as Jackson or Crawford or Adams. However, each of them received a larger vote than Clay. As none of them received a majority of the electoral vote, the election devolved upon the House of Representatives. Clay, being fourth, was excluded from the choice, and he used his influence for John Quincy Adams, securing his election and becoming his Secretary of State. This acceptance of an office he had coveted in 1816, was later regarded by Clay as the critical error of his career. The cry of "bargain-and-corruption" went up from Jackson's camp. This charge, constantly repeated, pursued Clay during the rest of his public life, although it was disproved by the well established fact that Clay, immediately after the result of the election of 1824 became known, declared his intention to use his influence in the House for Adams.

The services of Clay as Secretary of State were not distinguished. The administration followed the foreign policy of its predecessors—conservative and prudent, and free from entangling alliances. However, it was the time for America to interfere in behalf of the South American Republics in their struggle for independence. America was invited to send ministers to an international Congress in Panama to discuss common interests. Clay appointed several commissioners but the Congress adjourned before they got there. John Randolph brought this subject up in a debate in Congress, denounced the administration, charging that Clay and Adams had made a "coalition of Blifil and Black George—the combination unheard of 'til then, of the Puritan and the blackleg". Clay challenged Randolph to a duel which was fought on April 8, 1826, without bloodshed, but with damaging effects to his political reputation. As Secretary of State he made a number of satisfactory treaties with foreign powers. He was out of place as an executive officer. He was constantly embroiled in quarrels and disputes and found his duties irksome. He detested office labor and was sensitive to hostile criticism. Therefore, the office which he coveted as a stepping stone really proved to be his stumbling block.

When General Jackson was elected president, Clay retired to his farm in Ashland. There he devoted himself to raising fine horses, cattle and straightening out his embarrassed finances. He was 52 years old and the recognized leader of the National Republican Party. During his retirement he took more interest in politics than in agriculture. He toured the South and several places in the North (New York and Ohio). He was a great favorite and whenever he arrived in a place a holiday was declared. He made several speeches attacking Jackson's administration on account of the latter's "spoils system", and also denouncing the nullification movement of South Carolina.

In the autumn of 1831 Clay arrived in Washington as the elected senator of Kentucky. In December of that year the National Republican Convention meeting in Baltimore, nominated Henry Clay for President and John Sargent for Vice President.

The tariff question was the main issue before the first session of the 22nd Congress. This subject was the cause of much discontent in the South, and Clay's system of "Protective Tariff" was threatened. Once again this brilliant compromiser came to the fore in his familiar role of the "great

pacificator" and introduced a resolution "to reduce duties on unprotected articles, but keeping them on protected articles."⁷ His resolutions were finally passed as the Tariff of 1832 — the revenue was greatly reduced but the protective system inaugurated by the tariff measure remained unchanged. This law irritated the South because the South wanted no protective duties. The South wanted absolute free trade so that planters might obtain the articles they needed at the smallest possible cost, and on the other hand sell as much cotton and tobacco with the least possible delay.

The "nullifiers" in South Carolina promptly carried a resolution in the State legislature for a state convention to consider the momentous question of nullification. The convention in session passed an ordinance nullifying the tariff laws of 1828 and 1832, prohibiting the collection of customs duties within the state after the 1st of February, 1833, and threatening secession if the national government used force. The state legislature passed or ratified the convention ordinance, and passed laws for the organization of a militia and the purchase of munitions.

Andrew Jackson was reelected for a second term. In his annual message to Congress he congratulated the nation upon the extinction of the public debt. Jackson issued another message on December 10. This message was his proclamation against the nullifiers announcing his determination to enforce the recent tariff measure. The governor of the state called upon the people to be prepared to sustain the state against the arbitrary measures of the President.

Henry Clay now came forth with his famous Compromise of 1833, which provided for a gradual reduction of customs duties for the next ten years until they reached a 20 percent ad valorem. The South opposed this bill because it provided for a home valuation. Congress enacted a Force Bill, authorizing the President to use the army and navy to collect the duties. The introduction of such a bill by the champion of the "American System" came as a great surprise to many, for some years previously this same "old prince" violently denounced Albert Gallatin as an "alien at heart" for having suggested a reduction of duties to about 25 percent. Clay in this latest measure called for a reduction to 20 percent and called it a protective measure. However, the motives seem to justify the actions. These were troublesome times. Calhoun was fearful of Civil war. It was Clay's intention to restore harmony and preserve the union, and he was rigidly opposed to the idea of giving Jackson unlimited military powers such as would be necessary to quell a southern rebellion.

The hatred of Clay and Jackson for each other was inexorable. Clay regarded Jackson as an ignorant, despotic, unscrupulous military chieftain who had climbed the ladder of political success on his military record. Jackson regarded Clay as an intriguing politician without industry, honesty, or consistency, gifted only in speech making. Their quarrels and mutual political abuse formed no small part of the political history of the era. Fate seemed to tantalize the green-eyed dragons of these warriors. Jackson's annual message was another occasion for a battle between them. In his message of December, 1832, Jackson made a bitter attack upon the United States Banks. Clay was powerful enough to have the charter continued until 1836. However, Jackson vetoed the measure, and resolved that the bank must be destroyed. Jackson, following the plan outlined by the "Kitchen Cabinet", ordered McLane, Secretary of the Treasury, to remove the deposits. He refused. Jackson replaced him with a Mr. Duane who

⁷ Homer Carey Hockett, *Political and Social Growth of the American People* 1492-1865. (The Macmillan Company, New York, 1944.) — pp 550-552.

also refused. Finally Mr. Taney of the Supreme Court ordered the removal of the public deposits from the United States Bank where they were placed by law and scattered among "pet" banks controlled by friends of Jackson. This transaction took place in the Autumn of 1833. When Jackson announced this bit of news to the new Congress, Clay immediately introduced a resolution censuring the President for having taken "upon himself powers and authority not conferred by the constitution and laws." The passage of the above resolutions drew from Jackson the celebrated protests which the Senate received April 17, 1834, and which were later stricken from the records. The action of the President alarmed the more conservative element of the governing body. They saw in Jackson, who claimed all powers to delegate orders to his secretaries, an absolute monarch.

In the winter of 1835-36 the slavery question was introduced into Congress as a consequence of the agitation carried on by the abolitionists. Clay declared himself in favor of the reception by the Senate of anti-slavery petitions, and also as against the exclusion of anti-slavery literature from the mails. Calhoun, an aspirant for the presidency, brought in pro-slavery resolutions, and asked for a test vote. Calhoun did not want anyone to say that slavery was "wicked and sinful". Clay grasped the point immediately. In a letter to George Tucker he stated, "Their professed object is slavery: their real aim is to advance the political interests of the mover and to affect mine." Clay was either inconsistent or a poor politician. His aim in serving the public was "the preservation of the union". Yet, on many occasions, as the present one above, he regarded the public question as being smaller than the personal one.

Henry Clay was in Washington while the Whig National Convention was meeting in Harrisburg, Pa., December 4, 1839. Dame Chance apparently forgot Henry Clay on this occasion, because Benjamin Harrison and John Tyler were the men selected to carry the Whig banner to the White House. When Clay received the result of the Convention he went into a rage, shouting, "My friends are not worth the powder and shot it would take to kill them . . . It is a diabolical intrigue, I know now which has betrayed me. I am the most unfortunate man in the history of parties—always run by my friends when sure to be defeated—and now betrayed for a nomination when I, or anyone, would be sure of an election." Clay soon forgot the bitterness of that experience, and took to the platform in support of Harrison. He made many famous speeches during this "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too" campaign. The sudden burst of political enthusiasm in the campaign, which featured a display of coonskin caps, cider barrels and log cabins, was the people's reaction against the misrule of Jackson and Van Buren, a sad experience which had plunged the country into a depression.

The Whigs had an easy victory. Clay declined the office of Secretary of State. Within five weeks of his inauguration Harrison was dead and John Tyler, a "States' Rights" Virginian, became President.

The Whig convention adopted no platform. As soon as the new Congress assembled for its special session in 1841, Clay proposed a series of resolutions comprising Whig principles. The proposals were: repeal of the Independent Treasury Act, and the charter of the new bank of the United States; Clay drove both measures through Congress. Tyler vetoed them. Clay denounced Tyler for what he called "his faithlessness to Whig principles". This was tantamount to a declaration of war between the President and Clay's faction. On the evening of the day Tyler vetoed Clay's proposals, members of the President's cabinet, except Webster, met with Clay at the house of the Secretary of the Navy. It was planned that

they would resign their posts on Saturday, September 11, Congress having been adjourned until Monday the thirteenth. This was to embarrass the President by obliging him to find a new Cabinet by Monday morning, September 13th. The President was determined to destroy Clay, he planned to build up a third party of dissatisfied Whigs and Democrats. However, Clay succeeded in isolating Tyler from the bulk of the Whig party.

Clay made his famous farewell speech to the Senate on March 31, 1842. This was another dramatic incident in his life. He played his part to the final line. At the conclusion of his speech absolute silence reigned throughout the Senate chamber. After a few minutes had elapsed a Senator from South Carolina arose and moved the Senate adjourn.

During his temporary retirement he visited the Southern, Eastern, and Western parts of the country. Everywhere he was received with great enthusiasm. He was honored with feasts and balls, and bands and parades. He was the people's choice. In Raleigh, N.C., he delivered a speech on the subject of tariff, wherein he stated that he was in favor of "not a high tariff", but of a revenue tariff with incidental protection. He continued by saying that the protective system had been originally designed as a temporary arrangement to be maintained only until the infant industries gained sufficient strength to be able to compete with foreign manufacturers.

The passing years brought another presidential election, and another attempt of the "old prince" to capture his prize. The Whig National Convention met in Baltimore May 1, 1844, and unanimously picked Henry Clay as their Presidential candidate. Theodore Frelinghousen of New Jersey was chosen as his running mate. This particular convention had all the ballyhoo of our present day conventions. It was the biggest political convention display the country had experienced to date. There were cheering delegates from every state, including 11 ex-governors. Baltimore was turned into a virtual carnival of enthusiastic politicians marching in endless procession carrying the banners and pictures of their favorite son.

Henry Clay did not attend the convention. He was in Washington at the time. When he received the news that he had been chosen to carry the Whig colors into battle he addressed a simple statement of gratitude to the convening body which was read by Hon. John M. Clayton, of Delaware, in which he said, "Confidently believing that the nomination is in conformity with the desire of a majority of the people of the United States, I accept it, from a high sense of duty, and with feeling of profound gratitude."

During the heated campaign all the old slanders against Clay were revived and a few new ones contrived. However, the real issue was the annexation of Texas. Clay expected Van Buren to be the choice of the Democratic Convention; so, when the latter paid a visit to Clay, they discussed the pressing question and agreed to disregard it. Clay, a southerner with northern principles, disfavored annexation because it meant the propagation of slavery and consequent danger to the Union. Van Buren, a Northerner with southern views disliked it because it was unpopular in the North and threatened to bring on war. However, Van Buren was not the choice of the Democratic National Convention. Instead they nominated James T. Polk and George M. Dallas and adopted a resolution recommending the annexation of Texas.

The Democratic National Convention forced the issue, and the Texas question became the main issue in the Presidential election campaign. This action put Clay "on the spot", because in an elaborate letter written on April 17, 1844, while he was visiting the governor of North Carolina, he declared himself against the annexation of Texas. "I consider the annexa-

tion of Texas, without the assent of Mexico, as a measure compromising the national character, involving us certainly in war against Mexico, probably with foreign powers, dangerous to the integrity of the union, inexpedient in the present financial condition of the country, and not called for by any general expression of public opinion."

This letter was disastrous for the Whigs. The Southern group was up in arms. Henry Clay tried to pacify them by writing another letter. This is known as the "Alabama Letter", having been addressed to two men from Alabama. Clay stated that he had no personal objections to the annexation of Texas and would be glad to see it annexed "without dishonor". He continued by saying that "national dishonor, foreign wars, distraction and division at home were sacrifices too great to pay for the acquisition of Texas." This turned the anti-slavery men of the North against him. They met in convention under the name of the Liberty Party in Buffalo, August 30, 1843, and nominated James Birney for President and Thomas Morris for Vice President. The major party leaders sneered at these upstarts. Nevertheless, post mortem sages all agreed that the votes cast for Birney were sufficient to place Clay in the White House. It is further believed that election frauds hurt Clay's chances.

In Pennsylvania a number of counties polled more votes than the 1840 census count. The story is the same for Louisiana and Georgia. Stuffing the ballot box or voting many times, or voting non-residents was a common practice in New York City. A poor woman confessed that she had loaned the naturalization papers of her dead husband to seventeen different persons, receiving a dollar each time.

The Gallup poll would have, nevertheless, picked Clay by a landslide. Polk, although leader of the House was, by comparison obscure, standing along side the great American Statesman. But as Mr. Gallup of 1948 fame realized the day after the elections . . . "presidential elections are sui generis, a wise politician makes no bets before the race-favorite son, dark horse, or outsider."

The results of the election cast a gloomy shadow over the Whig Camp. The "Old Prince" was defeated again; Polk was elected.

The Election Results—For Clay, 1,297,912; for Polk, 1,336,196; Polk's majority, 38,284; for Birney, 62,127.

In defeat Henry Clay, 67, was not a lonely man. Shortly after his arrival in Ashland he received thousands of letters from his followers all over the country. These letters of affection from his unseen admirers helped to bolster the fading spirits of the old politician. He remained at Ashland during the winter of 1844-45.

In January of 1845 he went to Washington. He was scheduled to speak in the House of Representatives. A newspaper reporter detailed to cover the speech reported that all seats were taken hours before the event, and that Clay "could get more men to run after him to hear him speak, and fewer to vote for him than any man in America".

In the meantime grave events were taking shape in Congress. President Tyler in his annual message to Congress in December recommended the annexation of Texas. In March, 1845, a joint resolution for the annexation of Texas was passed and approved. Governor Huston accepted the proposal and the project of annexation was completed. But before the politicians were settled in their chairs there was trouble South of the border. It was the question of the disputed boundary. Mexico refused to receive our ambassador. The administration ordered General Taylor to take up his position on the West bank of the Rio Grande—a territory claimed by Texas

and Mexico. This move, according to the laws of nations, was an act of open hostility and war.

Polk did not communicate his actions to Congress. Rumors finally reached Washington and Congress realized we were at war. Henry Clay's warning of 1844 was at their door step—this was war. One of Clay's sons was lost in the battle of Buena Vista.

In the Autumn of 1847 when the Mexican army was on the run Clay spoke at a meeting in Lexington. He warned the people in solemn tones of the dangers in store for America over the slavery question. He also warned his fellow countrymen of the dangers inherent in imperialism and instructed them to be generous in the peace conference.

The 1848 Whig National Convention met on June 7 in Philadelphia. Prior to the Convention Clay, although "out of politics", as he put it, made a tour of the country. His speeches on the Mexican War were received by enthusiastic crowds everywhere. These demonstrations gave his supporters high hopes. The people were ready to nominate him, but the politicians were tired. They were afraid of his luck if he lost, and his temper if he won. On the fourth ballot General Zachary Taylor was the Convention's Presidential choice. Many delegates were dissatisfied. Clay was mortified—the fatal blow had come from his own state. His friends had deceived him; his party, which he had built into a powerful organization, had abandoned him for someone who at the eleventh hour called himself a Whig. Taylor neither professed nor knew the Whig principles. Clay's disappointment, once again, led him to his Ashland retreat where, during the campaign, he remained silent.

By the treaty of peace with Mexico, the United States acquired New Mexico, California, and Utah. The discovery of gold in California in 1849 increased the population a thousandfold. The inhabitants of California held a Convention, framed a Constitution prohibiting slavery, and applied to Congress for admission to the Union. The questions of the admission of California as a free state, and the admission or exclusion of slavery in New Mexico and Utah created a furor in Congress and among the people. When this anti-slavery agitation reached its height and threatened to destroy the Union, Henry Clay appeared once again as a great peacemaker. Now at 72, a man grown old and gray as a public servant, his sentiments on slavery were the same as they had been 50 years ago when he introduced a resolution in the Kentucky Convention for the gradual emancipation of slaves. He was still of the opinion that emancipation should be gradual. Because of this opinion many writers think that Clay did not appreciate the seriousness of the impending crisis.

The California Question was discussed in a meeting held in Jackson, Mississippi. At that time the delegates of the meeting decided to hold a "popular Convention" in Nashville the first Monday in June, 1850, to consider the "threatened rights and interests of the South." The cry of disunion was raised at the Nashville meeting. Many intended it as a threat to frighten the North into concession. But there were others who maintained that the dissolution of the union was necessary to the salvation of slavery. In Congress every Southern legislature save one denounced the exclusion of slavery as a violation of Southern rights and every Northern legislature, save one passed resolutions in favor of the "Wilmot Proviso."

Clay's appearance in the Senate in December, 1849, was to the selfish-minded politicians the return of the Prodigal. Jefferson Davis wrote to Crittendon, then Governor of Kentucky, "I regret exceedingly to see that Mr. Clay is to return to the Senate . . . because of the evil influence he will have upon General Taylor's friends in both Houses."

Clay was at heart in favor of the Wilmot Proviso. In a letter written to James Harvey in August, 1848, he stated that the North, in his opinion, was over apprehensive, because whether admitted or excluded, slaves could not be kept in the new territories. He stated further that even if the South were right in its demands, it ought to yield because the South had had the executive government in its hands during most of the time since the Constitution was adopted and that its public policy had generally prevailed. He pointed out that the annexation of Texas, the consequent war with Mexico, and the earlier acquisition of the slave states of Louisiana, Florida and Texas had all augmented the political power of the South. The North felt that their manufacturing interests had been sacrificed by Southern domination. Therefore Clay thought that the South ought "magnanimously to assent to the exclusion of slavery from the New Territories."

Clay upon his arrival in Washington found the feeling for disunion among the Southern politicians stronger than he had expected, but he thought the masses were still sound. He therefore urged his friends in Kentucky to "get up large powerful meetings of both parties to demonstrate their determination to stand by the union." When the conflict had grown hot and fierce, in January, 1850, Clay unfolded his "Comprehensive Scheme of Adjustment." His object was to save the union. As to the disputed question of slavery in the new territory, he would pacify the North by admitting California as a free state and abolish slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia; the South was to be placated by leaving Utah and New Mexico unrestricted as to slavery, and by a more efficient law for the pursuit and capture of fugitive slaves. His speech lasted two days—an appeal to the North for concession and to the South for peace. He was old and feeble but his voice had not lost its charm. It is said that when he finished, a great throng gathered to kiss and embrace him. However, his proposals were attacked both by Southern advocates of slavery and by the more extreme anti-slavery element of the North. Jefferson Davis thought that the scheme conceded nothing to the South and demanded as a minimum the extension of the Missouri Compromise to the Pacific Ocean, with a provision establishing slavery to the south of the line. Clay answered, "Coming as I do from a Slave state, I owe it to myself, I owe it to truth, I owe it to the subject, to say that no earthly power could induce me to vote for a specific measure for the introduction of slavery where it had not before existed either south or north of that line." In spite of this brilliant declaration one of the provisions in his scheme was "to leave Utah and New Mexico unrestricted as to slavery." He did not believe slavery would ever go there, but by providing for territorial government without the exclusion of slavery, he gave it a chance in order to get a compromise from the South. (The chance he gave to that territory led to an act of the territorial legislature in 1859 sanctioning slavery.)

Calhoun's speech was read by Mason of Virginia. Calhoun saw that slavery could not be saved within the union; that the union could not endure without a perfect balance between the free and the slave states; that this equilibrium had been destroyed by the growth of the free states due to legislation favorable to the North, including the Anti-slavery Ordinance of 1787, the Missouri Compromise, the revenue laws and the impending admission of California as a free state, together with the exclusion of slavery from the newly acquired territories would destroy the balance for all time, that the admission of California was a test as to whether the South ever could expect justice and that unless the South received justice the union would fall to pieces. Calhoun's speech against Clay's plan was his last great utterance—he died four weeks later.

If Calhoun's speech was the cloud before the storm, Webster's speech was the lightning and thunder of political fury unleashed. The effect of his speech upon the anti-slavery men was painful in the extreme. Webster had always condemned slavery; now he planned an array of excuses for its continuance. He had opposed the annexation of Texas because of slavery; now he stressed the right of Texas to form out of its territory four new slave states. He claimed the Wilmot Proviso as his creation; now he opposed its application to New Mexico and Utah, because he thought slavery was excluded from them by the laws of nature. He denounced the abolitionists because they had done nothing good, but had only aggravated the evils of slavery. The anti-slavery men saw in Webster's speech the abandonment of principle and the filing of a bid for the presidency. After weeks of heated debate the whole matter was referred to a committee of thirteen, from which committee, Clay, the chairman, reported three bills. On account of its comprehensiveness the first was called an "Omnibus Bill." It provided for the debt and boundary line of Texas, for granting statehood to California with its anti-slavery Constitution, and the territorial organization of New Mexico and Utah, with slavery permitted. The second provided for a modified fugitive slave law, and the third for the abolition of slave trading in the District of Columbia. After a long struggle the Omnibus Bill was defeated; however, its different parts which essentially contained Clay's original proposal were then taken up singly and passed. This was the Compromise of 1850. In all of Clay's speeches he advocated in strongest terms the preservation of the Union. Through this debate on the Compromise of 1850 Clay grew in genuine statesmanship. After he abandoned the hope of being president he became a great American. Although the Compromise of 1850 was followed by peace, it satisfied neither the North or the South. While the fugitive slave law was distasteful to the North, its statesmen thought it better to submit for a while than drive the South out of the Union. The South was exasperated and marked time until the great rebellion.

In the meantime the health of Henry Clay began to decline, and when Congress adjourned March 4, 1851, he went to Cuba for a while and then retired to Ashland. His friends tempted him to run for President. He declined this as well as many invitations to appear in public. When he arrived at Washington in December, 1851, he was too ill to go to the Senate. He received Kossuth of Hungary in his sick chamber at the National Hotel. He was on his death bed when the Whig Convention nominated Scott on June 10th. Both parties adopted his platform and he saw himself the moulder of the promises of the politicians. He was indeed a truly great political prophet and there was universal satisfaction among his followers that he did not live to see all compromises abandoned. Henry Clay died June 29, 1852 at the National Hotel in Washington in the 76th year of his life. His earthly remains were carried to the Senate Chamber. After funeral services, the funeral cortege started for Ashland. The multitudes that gathered to pay their last tribute could not be numbered. On July 10, with imposing ceremonies his body was entombed, and a great monument now marks its resting place.

Clay was one of America's greatest orators, perhaps not for the message that is now read in his speeches but certainly for the sincere manner in which they were delivered. His sincerity and democratic personality appealed to the hearts of the people. It is certain that no man in the country exercised so great an influence for a generation in shaping the policy of national legislation. It is unfortunate that each generation of every nation is not blessed with one whose unselfish sacrifices are a source of patriotic inspiration for lasting peace through compromise.

BIOGRAPHY

Life of Henry Clay—Epes Sargent edited and completed at Mr. Clay's death by Horace Greely.

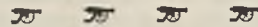
Henry Clay—Carl Schurz (2 Vols) Boston 1888.

Life and Times of Henry Clay—Rev. Calvin Colton renewed edition edited 1864.

Missouri Compromise and Compromise of 1850—Articles taken from the American series of looks issued by the Americanization Department of the V. F. W.

Henry Clay—Mayo.

Political and Social Growth of the American People 1492-1865—Homer Carey Hockett, Third Edition, The Macmillan Company, New York 1944.



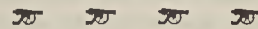
EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 3)

the signing of the Declaration of Independence as the fearless, heroic and truly sacrificial life of this son of Poland is reviewed and re-honored. General Pulaski's salient characteristic was to seek the center of the battle, to be where he was most needed, never to shrink or shirk, but to take the lead in the hour of danger. Following this incentive and conviction with high, contagious and triumphant spirit, he made the ultimate sacrifice one year after he shared the hardships of Valley Forge.

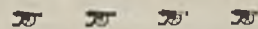
Casimir Pulaski came to his death as a young man but he had willingly responded to life's noblest call:

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."



FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT

Fort Pulaski, on Cockspur Island at the mouth of the Savannah River, was established as a national monument on October 15, 1924, by Presidential proclamation. The historic Georgia fortification is a well preserved brick fortress, a splendid example of military architecture, constructed in the first half of the 19th century as a coast defense. The monument embraces 427 acres of natural marsh and wooded area in which are found many varieties of birds and semitropical plants.



MOZART FUNERAL MARCH FOUND

A German publishing firm says that a previously unknown Mozart Funeral March has been discovered in Salzburg and published there. The publisher, Afamus-Verlag, said the march was written by the composer in March, 1784, and is only one page long. The title, the publisher said, is "The Little Funeral March."

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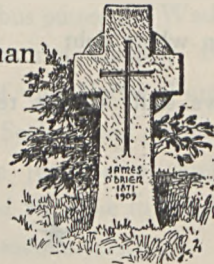
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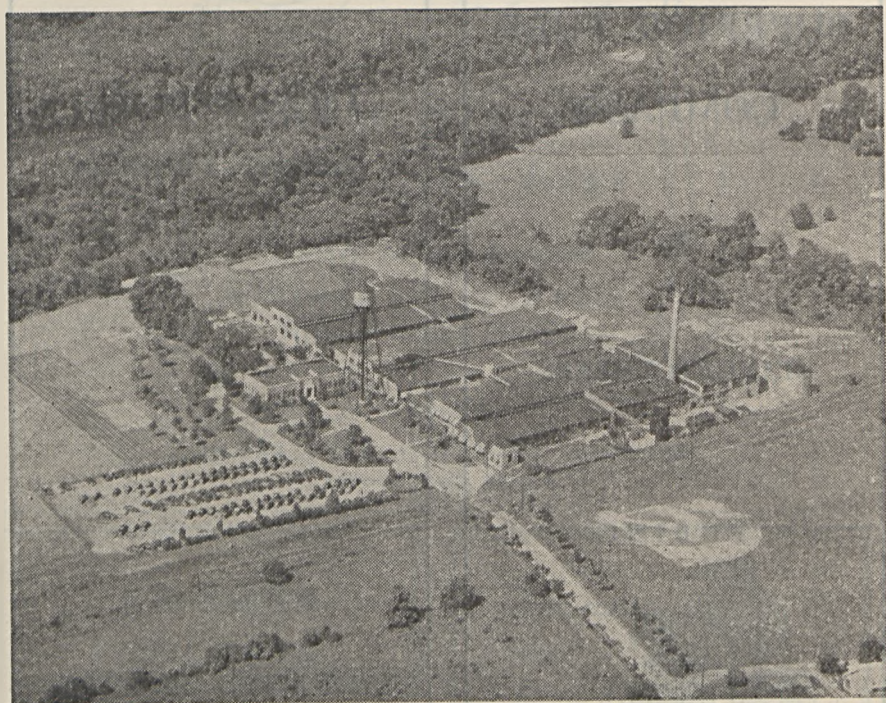
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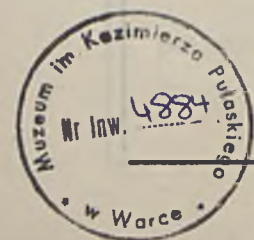
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Founded June 19, 1918

Incorporated June 4, 1923



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Through its by-laws contributors of \$200 or more are designated as Life Patrons. Life Members are elected on payment of \$50.00. Active Members pay \$5.00 per year. An Associate Membership costs \$2.00 per year. No initiation fee. The voting privilege belongs to all classes EXCEPT Associate Members. The annual meeting is held on the second Monday in January, a mid-year meeting in June, and stated meetings of the Board of Directors are scheduled bi-monthly.

Any patriotic citizen is eligible to membership. There are no racial or denominational requirements. If you are not a member of the Valley Forge Historical Society you are urged to join. Send in the application printed below with a check for annual dues or a Life Membership. If you are a member in good standing please pass on this copy of the application to a prospect.

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