

# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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Diocese of Columbus

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## POLISH HEROES

The Polish-born Catholic hero arrived in late summer in the second-largest city of the United States of America. He was welcomed by a Federal Salute and the people "hailed his arrival with unaffected pleasure." This month, Pope John Paul II, visiting Los Angeles, will travel in the so-called Pope-mobile. That month, one hundred ninety years and a month ago, August of 1797, Thaddeus Kosciuszko climbed into a carriage and was pulled to his lodgings by the citizens of Philadelphia. Pope John Paul II has been a hero in the fight for life and dignity for each human being and has been instrumental in the struggle of his own people against oppression. Kosciuszko also was a hero in the service of the God-given, inalienable rights to life and liberty proclaimed in this country's Declaration of Independence as well as in the cause of the dignity of self-determination for his own native land.

Kosciuszko's origin was obscure; his date of birth and ancestry have been the subject of much disagreement. The date now generally accepted is February 12, 1746 and the place is described as near Brest in the present Belorussian U.S.S.R. (In earlier works this is more precisely described as Mereczow in the palatinate of Nowogrodek, Lithuania.) He was educated in the corps of cadets at Warsaw and completed his training as a military engineer at Paris. He returned from France to his native land as captain of engineers, but his career there was cut short by a tragic "affair of the heart," thus described by Ohioan William J. Armstrong:

Louisa Sosnowski, daughter of the Marshal of Lithuania, had given the young officer [Kosciuszko] her affections. Her haughty parents rejected the proposals of a suitor with rank and fortune inferior to her own. An elopement was the consequence. The lovers were pursued and overtaken by the Marshal and his armed retainers. Kosciuszko, though defending himself with courage, preferred defeat to taking the life of the father of his betrothed. He was left wounded and senseless on the scene of the encounter. Awakening to consciousness, he found on his bosom a handkerchief dropped by his sweetheart and stained with his blood. An episode so serious did not permit his longer stay in Poland. He returned to Paris, the latest scene of his military studies.

From Paris he came to America in August of 1776, nearly penniless and without any letters of recommendation, offering his services as a volunteer in the American cause.

He was appointed Colonel in the American forces and as such was in charge of selecting and fortifying the lines of the army which opposed and defeated the British General Burgoyne at the battle of Saratoga, the turning point of the Revolutionary War. He served with the American armies in both the north and the south until the end of the war.

In 1784 he returned to Poland, where democracy was making rapid advances. In 1791 the Polish nation received the first codified constitution in Europe since antiquity, the second in the world after that of the United States. It embodied a "people's sovereignty," (though the "people" did not include the common man of the countryside), separation of powers, and the responsibility of the cabinet to the parliament. Empress Catherine II of Russia viewed this reform as a threat to her autocratic rule and ordered her troops into unfortunate Poland in 1792. Kosciuszko, who had returned to his country's military service in 1789, held a position at Dubjenka with 4,000 men against 16,000 Russians for five days, even though he had had only twenty-four hours to fortify it. He finally withdrew with little loss.

The King of Poland soon submitted his country to Russia. At this, Kosciuszko retired to Leipsic, but in March of 1794 he gathered five thousand peasants, with whom he took an oath in the market-place in Cracow to fight 'For Faith and Country' against the enemies of his religion and his country. He took the same oath in the ancient and famous Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the same city. The peasants were undeterred by their lack of arms - they had their scythes. The movement spread and grew and soon Kosciuszko was resisting a Russian Imperial army of 150,000 with 20,000 regulars and 40,000 peasants. On October 10, 1794 the Poles, despite the most heroic resistance, were overpowered at the battle of Maciejowice. Kosciuszko, covered with wounds and exhausted with loss of blood, was captured and spent the next two years in a Russian prison, from which he was freed after the accession of Emperor Paul at the end of 1796.

Upon his release, the now-famous hero made his way west via Sweden and England and arrived in Philadelphia in August of 1797, where the members of Congress, his old compatriots in arms, his friends and acquaintances, and the general populace surrounded him as one of their favorites who had suffered much in their cause and in the cause of liberty in general. While he was in this country, Congress authorized the issuance of a certificate of indebtedness to him for his service in the Revolutionary War, along with a grant of 500 acres of land in Ohio.

In 1798 Kosciuszko returned to France to promote the cause of his homeland. He eventually settled in Solothurn, Switzerland, where, although he received an ample income from pensions and estates, he made himself poor through sharing with the peasants of the vicinity. The son of his host recorded the memory, long cherished in that region, of the venerable old man on horseback slowly moving through the mountain valleys, frequently halting to distribute small sums of money to needy peasants who made it their business to meet him. "In two weeks after he bought it, the horse became accustomed to standing still whenever a poor person approached. Kosciuszko, letting the reins fall upon its neck, would draw his purse and the intelligent animal would not continue his walk until the present had been given. It happened once to me that, being on an errand of mercy for Kosciuszko, I took his horse, and, on my return to the town, some poor people recognized the animal

and ran to receive alms. The little horse stood like a wall, nor could I go on until I had opened my purse and distributed some coins. Again and again it happened until I reached home, which I did at last after emptying my purse of its last piece, much to the amusement of the General, who took care when he sent me out again on his horse to give me his purse also."

The old hero went to his Maker on October 15, 1817, the result of a fall of his horse over a precipice (or, as some say, a victim of typhus). In his clothing was found the costly, blood-stained handkerchief, the pledge of love which had been left with him by Louisa Sosnowski over forty years earlier. He had died as he had lived, constant in love, in the service of life, liberty, and dignity.

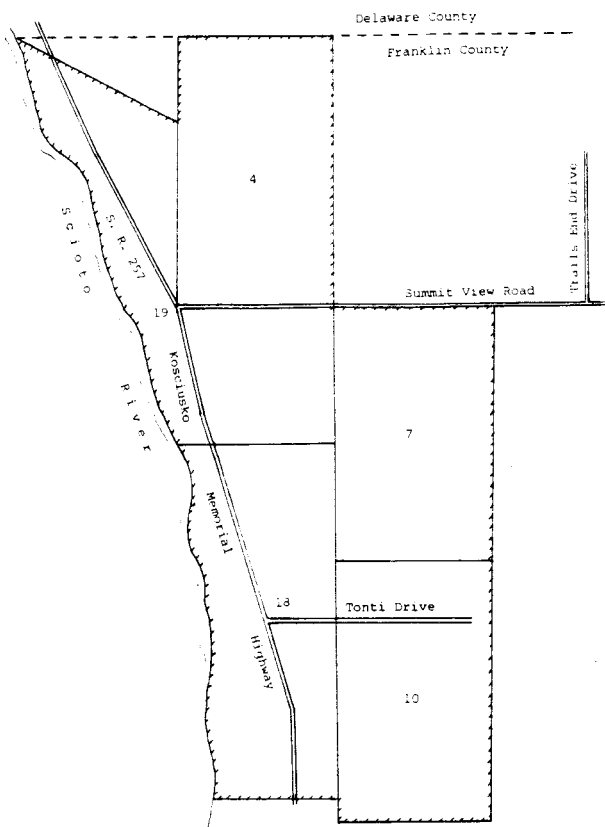


THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO: 1817.

#### The Kosciuszko Lands and Benoit Klimkiewicz

The five hundred acres of land received by Kosciuszko from the United States government for his service in the Revolutionary War lay in the present Diocese of Columbus, in the newly established St. Joan of Arc Parish, on the east bank of the Scioto River at the northern edge of Franklin County. The irregular shape of the five 100-acre lots can best be seen on the accompanying map, on which today's roads have been indicated. The lots were numbers 4, 7, 10, 18, and 19 in Fractional Section 2, Township 2, Range 19, U. S. Military Lands. The land was surveyed and Kosciuszko's lots were located in the spring of 1800; the surveyor found the land to be good for grass and grain and timbered in beech, sugartree, ash, and oak. Before leaving this country in 1798, Kosciuszko signed and left with Thomas Jefferson a will in which he directed that any property he owned in the United States at his death was to be used to purchase negro slaves and to give them liberty in his name, and to give them an education and instruction "in the duties of morality which may make them good neighbors, good fathers or mothers, husbands or wives, and in their duties as citizens, teaching them to be defenders of their liberty and Country"... The land was not used for that purpose, however, for while in Paris in 1802 Kosciuszko sold it to a Frenchwoman. She in turn sold the property to a Baltimore merchant who let the taxes lapse and lost the property in a public auction.

The Kosciuszko lands (as they were known at least into the early years of this century) were purchased in the 1830's by a man who put forth a strong claim to be General Kosciuszko's grand-nephew and only heir. This was Benoit Henry Lubicz Klimkiewicz, whose story, based on the record he and his supporters created in the Franklin County courts, is as follows. He was a native of the Kingdom of Poland, a son of John Lubicz and Jeanette (Pinniski) Klimkiewicz and grandson of John and Josephine (Kosciuszko) Pinniski. His



grandmother was a daughter of Casimir Kosciuszko and his wife, whose maiden name was Ladowski (or perhaps Sadowski; the court recorder's hand was not clear). This grandmother Josephine had two brothers, the elder named (Joseph) Stanislaus Kosciuszko and the younger named Thadeus, the famous General. The home of Klimkiewicz was at Ratwo\_Horodniczka, in the province of Volkinia, where he held property and often returned from his army service on furlough. He had lost his mother soon after his birth and his father re-married, and as a very young man he left home to become aide-de-camp to Napoleon's Marshal Alexandre Macdonald. During Napoleon's campaign against Russia in 1812 he served in the Polish Legion. It was in this same campaign that his mother's only cousin, Thadeus Kosciuszko, son of Stanislaus, died in the battle of Meozoysky (or Mosaisk) in Russia. In 1826 he was active in the patriotic White Eagle Society in Poland, for which he subsequently was outlawed and imprisoned. He served as Lieutenant-Colonel during the November Insurrection (1830-31)

against Russia, which resulted in exile for about six thousand of its leaders, most of whom went to France. At the battle of Ostrolenka during this insurrection Colonel Klimkiewicz' own half-brother, General Antoin Klimkiewicz, was taken prisoner; he was sent to Siberia. (Another half-brother was Captain Panteleon Klimkiewicz of the Grenadiers.)

Colonel Klimkiewicz first came to this country in November of 1837 to assert his claims to his great-uncle's property and pension fund. In his claims he was supported by Martin Rosienkiewicz of West Troy, New York, who was "President of the Polish committee in the United States and recognized as such by the Government of the United States," along with other Polish veterans who had migrated to this country. Among these was Felix Gwinzewski of Wilmington, Delaware, who had known Klimkiewicz from his own youth, since about 1820, for his father and Klimkiewicz had been friends in Volhynia. The Federal court case which ensued over the pension fund was ultimately determined by the Russian courts, which issued decrees stating that General Kosciuszko's only heirs were the descendants of his sisters Anna Estko and Catherine Zolkowski. Klimkiewicz and his supporters in this country claimed that the Estko and Zolkowski (or Chutkowski) families were no closer than fourth- or fifth-cousins of the General, if that, but the court decrees prevailed and as a result Klimkiewicz not only lost the pension fund but has been branded by some as an imposter.

Those who so brand Colonel Klimkiewicz ignore on the one hand the quality of his witnesses and the popularity of the subject and, on the other, the quality of the Russian government which then ruled Poland. Klimkiewicz



With regard to the Kosciuszko lands in Franklin County, the U.S. Court decision had no impact, for Col. Klimkiewicz had not claimed them as heir; he had purchased them from their previous owners but had also carefully presented his case as heir at every turn on the chance that that might prove the stronger claim, for the sale of the land by Kosciuszko in Paris in 1802 had never been recorded in this country. Klimkiewicz mortgaged the lands to his Columbus attorneys, who later foreclosed on the property and disposed of it to others.

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When word began to spread this year that His Excellency, Bishop Griffin, intended to erect a new parish at Powell, some thought that he might name as its patron the recently canonized Pole, Rev. Maximilian Kolbe. This would have fit well with the presence of the Kosciuszko lands within its boundaries. His Excellency chose not to play that melody, but in naming as the patroness St. Joan of Arc he chanced instead to strike a most harmonious chord. The Maid of Orleans and the heroic Kosciuszko had in common the leadership of armies in opposition to conquering foreign powers; each was the greatest national hero of his compatriots; both were remembered for their goodness and generosity to the poor. All of these turned upon their love for their countrymen and their countries' right to self-determination. The new parish at Powell can lay claim to not only a patron saint whose intercession to ask but also a Catholic hero to emulate.

#### MAJOR SOURCES

For Kosciuszko:

The American Catholic Historical Researches, Vol. VI (New Series), No. 2 (April, 1910).

Armstrong William Jackson, The Heroes of Defeat; Cincinnati: The Robert Clarke Company, 1905.

For Klimkiewicz:

Franklin County Chancery Court, Records IV/411 ff; V/290 ff; IX/9 ff.

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#### ACQUISITIONS AND GIFTS TO OUR LIBRARY

The following six items are gifts from the estate of Elizabeth M. Schlegel:

-The Catholic's Guide, A Manual of Devotions; Turnhout (Belgium): Henri Proost & Co., 1924.

-The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary; St. Louis: B. Herder Book Co., 1954.

-Catholic Ceremonies and Explanation of the Ecclesiastical Year, from the French of Abbe Durand; New York: Benziger Bros., 1896.

-Sullivan, John J., The Visible Church (Title page missing).

-Missale Romanum: Ex Decreto Sacrosancti Concilii Tridentini restitum S. Pii V Pontificis Maximi...Editio VIII; Ratisbone: Friderici Pustet (S. Sedis Apostolicae et S. Rituum Congregationis Typographi), 1923. This is a large, beautiful missal which was discarded by St. Aloysius Parish during the pastorate of Father Eyerman.

-Schwartz, Mrs. Frank S., and Harry D. Bowman, The Flautt Family in America; Hagerstown: privately printed, 1971

The following two items are gifts from Rev. Robert Harwick:

-Hays, Ben, Columbus Mayors, a Bicentennial Presentation; Columbus: Columbus Citizen-Journal, 1975.

-A small book of devotions, title page missing, published by the Sisters of Notre Dame ca. 1886.

Rev. George Schlegel has donated the following collection of booklets and pamphlets, none of which duplicate those previously in our files:

- Programs from the installations of Bishops Carberry, Issenmann, and Elwell.
- Program from the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Fulcher.
- New Albany Resurrection Parish, dedication of church, 1985
- Columbus Our Lady of Victory, dedication of church, 1957
- Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes, dedication of church, 1955
- Circleville St. Joseph, directory, 1981
- Dover St. Joseph, Centennial, 1949
- Glenmont Sts. Peter and Paul, typed history, ca. 1957
- Newark St. Francis, directory, 1983-84
- Dennison Immaculate Conception, Centennial, 1971
- LaRue St. Joseph, directory, 1975
- Pickerington Mother Seton Parish, directory, 1983
- Westerville St. Paul School, directories, 1985-85 and 1985-86
- Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, directory, 1980
- Emmaus of Columbus, Priests' Pictorial Directory, 1981-1982
- Directory of Dominican Preachers of the Province of St. Joseph, 1986
- Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor, St. Rose of Lima Convent, Columbus, Golden Jubilee, 1962
- Columbus, Our Lady of Bethlehem Convent, Dedication, 1959 (Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus)
- Columbus Bishop Ready High School, dedication and blessing, 1961
- Zanesville, Catholic Youth Center and Rogge Gymnasium, dedication and blessing, 1965
- Pontifical College Josephinum, brochure and history, not dated (ca 1955)
- Pontifical College Josephinum, dedication of new college building and new recreation center, 1958
- Vision: A Decade of Progress in Education, 1945-1955, being the Annual Report of the Diocesan Superintendent of Education (1955-1956)

"I only Loved...", Symposium in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of the Good Shepherd by St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier; Philadelphia: 1985. -gift of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Rosemont School

The Calendar, Vol. XV, No. 2 (June 1915), St. Joseph's Cathedral, Columbus (purchased)

MacGahan, J[anuarius] A[loysius], Campaigning on the Oxus, and the Fall of Khiva; New York: Harper & Brothers, 1874. (Purchased; MacGahan was a native of Perry County.)

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SACRED HEART CHURCH  
GENEVA, RUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP, FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
CORRECTED BAPTISMAL RECORDS, 1863-1894  
(Concluded from Vol. XII, Number 6)

The reader is again referred to the Bulletin of August and September, 1982 (Vol. VIII, Nos. 8 and 9), where the combined baptismal register of the three churches of Geneva Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Good Hope, and St. Joseph near Sugar Grove was published. This concludes the correction of that listing based on the 1915 transcription by Rev. James Nevin.

1890

Dec. 14 Walter, born Dec. 7, 1890, of Joseph BOCH and Susan Kessler; spons. David Schmelzer and Catherine Schmelzer. J. Ritter

1891

May 25 Robert, born May 22, 1891, of Anton SCHMELZER and Margaret Boch; spons. Joseph and Margeret Judy. J. Ritter

Aug. 30 Philip, born Aug. 23, 1891, of Nicholas KUNKLER and Mary Kost; spons. John and Catherine Schmelzer. J. Ritter

Mar. 18 Proclitus, born Mar. 17, 1891, of Louis BASH and Rosa Schmelzer; spons. John and Catherine Schmelzer. J. Ritter

Feb. 22 Laurence, born Feb. 19, 1891, of Louis SCHMELZER and Elizabeth Ritter; spons. John Schmelzer and Anna Schorr. J. Ritter

Mar. 3 Sylvester, born Feb. 24, 1891, of Joseph KELLENBERGER and Margaret Funk; spons. George and Elizabeth Kellenberger. J. Ritter

Jan. 25 Simon Peter, born Jan. 18, 1891, of Anton SCHMELZER and Magdalene Bash; spons. Peter and Susan Bash. J. Ritter

Dec. 8 Walter, born Nov. 25, 1891, of Michael QUIRK and Helen Noll; spons. Aloysius and Elizabeth Noll. J. Ritter

Aug. 20 John Ambrose, born Aug. 13, 1891, of Peter SCHMELZER and Mary Bash; spons. Louis Guin and Anna Schorr. J. Ritter

1892

Feb. 20 Edward Walter, born Feb. 16, 1892, of Joseph BOCH and Susan Kessler; spons. Joseph Noll and Catherine Schorr. J. Ritter

1894

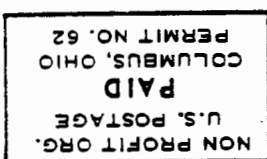
Feb. 15 Henry Vincent, born Feb. 15, 1894, of Philip SCHMELZER and Catheine Noll; spons. Joseph and Mary Schorr. J. Ritter

Feb. 24 Alphonse, born Feb. 18, 1894, of Peter SCHMELZER and Mary Bash; spons. Joseph Kellenberger and Sarah Bash. J. Ritter

May 10 Mary Helen, born Apr. 30, 1894, of Joseph BOCH and Susan Kessler; spons. Philip Schmelzer and Helen Schmelzer. J. Ritter

"The Records of Baptisms from the above date to the year 1918 Jan. all in the Records of St. Joseph's Parish Sugar Grove Ohio as during those years the Parishes were united and tended as one charge."

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