

Polish American Cultural Center



General Thaddeus Kosciuszko (1746-1817)

Freedom Fighter for Poland and American Revolutionary War Hero

Milestones in the Life of Kosciuszko

February 4, 1746 Andrzej Tadeusz Bonawentura Kosciuszko was born in Poland, the son of Ludwik Tadeusz Kosciuszko, and of Tekla, nee Ratomaska.

1755-1760 Attended the school in Lubieszow.

December 18, 1765 Entered the Corps of Cadets in Warsaw, where after a year he received an officer's brevet; became instructor taking part in engineering courses.

Fall, 1769 Left for France on a royal scholarship to pursue art and engineering studies.

1774 After a tour of England, Italy, Switzerland and Germany, returned to Poland.

1775 After an unsuccessful love affair with Ludwika Sosnowska, he left for France again.

August, 1776 Arrived in Marblehead (near Boston, Mass.) and went to Philadelphia to offer George Washington his services in the struggle for freedom of the United States. On October 18, was appointed an engineer with the rank of colonel in the American Army.

Oct., 1776-April, 1777 Fortified Philadelphia

August-Sept., 1777 Fortified hills near Saratoga, NY, before a battle which became a turning point in the War of Independence.

1778-1780 Fortified the fortress in West Point, NY.

1780-1782 As chief engineer in General Green's army, he took part in its campaigns in the south of the United States.

1783 After more than six years of service, he was appointed Brigadier-General in the American army and was awarded the Cincinnati Order.

July, 1784 After a stay of eight years he left the United States and returned to Poland.

1784-1789 Retired from public life, spending most of his time on the small family estate of Siechnowice (near Brest Litovsk in Polesie).

October 12, 1789 Appointed major-general of the Crown troops.

1792 Took part in the Polish-Russian war in defense of the May 3rd Constitution, commanding the Polish forces in the Battle of Dubienka (July 18); awarded the Virtuti Militari Order; after cessation of the hostilities he resigned (July 30) and then emigrated.

1793 In emigration (mainly in Leipzig and Dresden), maintaining contacts with the conspirators in Poland preparing the out-break of an insurrection.

March 24, 1794 Took command of the insurrection proclaiming in Cracow as Commander in Chief of the National Armed Forces; fought the first battles near Raclawice (April 4, with Russians), near Szczekociny (June 6, with Russians and Prussians); defended besieged Warsaw (July-September); suffered defeat near Maciejowice (October 10) where, seriously wounded, he was taken prisoner by the Russians.

1795-1796 In captivity in Petersburg and, on release, left Russia.

1797 Via Finland and Sweden he arrived in Great Britain from where he left for the United States.

1798 After a year's stay in the United States, he returned to Paris, France.

1800 In Paris, a political brochure came out entitled "Can the Poles Win Independence?", containing Tadeusz Kosciuszko's thoughts about the possibility of independence using the nation's own forces.

1806 Rejected Napoleon's proposal to form Polish units under his auspices.

1801-1815 Stayed at Berville, near Paris.

1815-1817 Spent the last years of his life in Soleure, Switzerland, where on October 15, 1817, after a brief illness, he died at the age of 72.

Visit us online at: PolishAmericanCenter.org

Everyone Is Invited To Attend a Day of Polish American Community Celebrations!

The celebration begins with the Annual Tribute Ceremony Honoring **General Thaddeus Kosciuszko** American Revolutionary War Hero and Freedom Fighter for Poland **Saturday, February 4, 2006 - 12 Noon** **Kosciuszko House** 3rd & Pine Streets in Historic Philadelphia Sponsored by the **Polish American Congress** Eastern Pennsylvania District

This year we will mark the 260th Anniversary of Kosciuszko's birth and mark the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the Kosciuszko House as a National Memorial.

Following the public ceremony a mini-parade will march down 3rd Street to the **Holiday Inn Hotel Ballroom** 4th & Arch Streets for a luncheon at 1:30 P.M.

For additional information or luncheon reservations call:

Polish American Congress at (215) 739-3408 or call the Polish American Cultural Center, Monday through Friday between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M. at (215) 922-1700.

In the event of inclement weather the Tribute Ceremony will take place in the Holiday Inn Ballroom, 4th and Arch Streets.

Kosciuszko Champion of Human Rights Kosciuszko's Will

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

Thaddeus Kosciuszko
5th day of May, 1798

Reprinted from the booklet "Thaddeus Kosciuszko Hero of Two Continents", published by the Polish National Alliance of the U.S. of N.A., Chicago, IL 1995

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