



POLISH NOBLES AND PEASANTS: THEIR MANNERS AND CUSTOMS  
AN EYEWITNESS SNAPSHOT OF POLISH SOCIETY – 1823

© Wieslaw George, Marquis de Helon GCEG, RML, PNA, JP (Qual.): Australia, 2015



*Polish Magnates and Nobles (1698-1795), by Jan Matejko. Source Wikimedia Commons.*

Captivated and spurred on by the advent and promulgation of documentary reality television programs such as ‘Who Do You Think You Are’ and ‘Finding Your Roots’ some people have become obsessed with the science of genealogy – the study of families and the tracing of one’s lineage and history –

in the hope that they might descend from some royal or noble personage.

Similarly, viewers enthralled with television shows like Downton Abby have been mesmerised and drawn into a world which depicts a family’s endeavours

*(Continued on Page 8)*

---

**POLISH NOBILITY ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDATION, INC.**

Website: PNAF.US  
email VillaAnneslie@verizon.net  
mail: 529 Dunkirk Rd., Baltimore, MD 21212

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES,\* REGIONAL  
REPRESENTATIVES**

\*Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski, Chairman, MD

\*Dr. Felix W. v.L. Holewinski, President  
Emeritus, WI

\*Thomas Czerwnia-Hollowak, Archivist, MD  
Dame Barbara Bromont-Slawinska, Poland  
Wieslaw George, Marquis de Helon, J.P., Australia  
David P.J. Sas-Tyssowski, Canada  
Aleksander, Prince Giedroyce, Ukraine  
Stanislas M. A. Yassukovitch, France

**COLLEGE OF HERALDRY RESEARCH**

Thomas Czerwnia-Hollowak, Archivist  
Robert Strybel, Onomastic Specialist

**EDITORIAL BOARD AND CONTRIBUTORS**

Aleksander Liston, Associate Editor, CA  
Jan Prince Polubinski, Historical Picture Archivist,  
Robert Strybel, Poland  
George W. Helon, Australia  
Keith Jones, Layout and Design, Webmaster, MD

The White Eagle is the official semi-annual  
Journal of the Polish Nobility Association  
Foundation, Inc. All material submitted for  
publication is subject to editing of content,  
size, photos etc. Sent to more than 30 countries  
for reference material.

---

**“PAJ’S POREMSKI SERVED AT PNA CONVENTION”**

Pictured right is Richard P. Poremski of the Polish American Journal’s Washington, D.C. Bureau. Richard is also a long time member of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation. He also serves as Vice President of Council 21 and a Lodge 238 officer of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) in Baltimore, MD. As an elected delegate to the PNA’s 47th Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, OH on Aug. 23-26, 2015 he served on the Alliance Publications and Communications Committee (APCC).

Previously, Poremski had attended the pre-convention APCC meeting in Chicago, IL. There the committee examined various reports and held pertinent managerial interviews concerning the PNA owned Polish language newspaper “Dziennik Zwiazkowy” (“Polish Daily News”), and radio station WPNA - 1490 AM. PNA’s “Zgoda” membership publication was not in the purview of this committee. The APCC’s report was presented on the convention floor and fully approved of by all the delegates, absent any dissent.



***Richard Poremski at PNA Convention***

Richard P. Poremski

---

---

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN

*Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski*

---

---



**B**est wishes to PNAF members and friends Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Good Health, Wealth and Happiness in 2016. Thank you for your continued financial support for the PNAF activities.

As I sit and reflect on this past year which went by particularly fast I am reminded of our PNAF members. Some have had life changing situations with health issues, death, retirement, births and birthdays. The world never changes, war, (some say crusades continue into the 21st century) economy, education, health benefits, guns, politicians overly influenced by an oligarchy of wealth and political corruption around the world.

### EMAIL JOURNAL MAILING LIST

Well now for the good news! If you are not already on the Journal email list please send your email address to [VillaAnneslie@verizon.net](mailto:VillaAnneslie@verizon.net). The White Eagle Journal (email) allows the reader to hit links which will take you to additional information regarding articles.

The response to our request to send in materials related to Heraldry, Nobility, Genealogy, and History of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth had a good response. Please remember the PNA Foundation holds a 501(c)3 status as a not for profit, incorporated, tax exempt organization which prohibits us from taking

positions on current day U.S. politics. Unfortunately not all of the material will be able to be used in this upcoming issue and that which is selected will be held for future issues. We are now exploring the possibility of expanding the 12-page printed Journal to more than 12 pages on the email version. Also we are reviewing the idea of a "Supplement" version for email and archiving on the PNAF.US web in JOURNAL file.

I want to thank everyone and was asked to share the following "News and Notes".

Deceased: Count Andrew Stanislas Ciechanowiecki, soldier, academic, patriot, holder of many honours; Bailif CG of H&D Order of Malta, etc., etc: died in London November 2nd, 2015. Follow Link to Wikipedia background and credentials. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrzej\\_Ciechanowlecki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrzej_Ciechanowlecki)  
Dr. Jean Glidden Cheger's husband passed January 2015

Birthdays: Leo A. Lucas turned 100, NC; Richard Poremski 70, MD; Alexander Liston 90, CA; Roger Chylinski-Polubinski 70, MD; and W. George, Marquis de Helon 50, MD.

---

---

### - SPECIAL BOOK OFFER -

## *Nobility of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth*

SEND \$11.95 FOR EACH COPY(IES) x \_\_\_\_\_ COPIES, TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail request to: PNAF, Villa Anneslie, 529 Dunkirk Road, Baltimore, MD 21212*

*-or-*

*Email to request to: [villaanneslie@verizon.net](mailto:villaanneslie@verizon.net) and use Pay Pal to send payment*

---

---

## 'A PRINCE AMONG THE POLES'

By Thomas L. Hollowak



*Cattle at Longreen, Baltimore County, Maryland – 2015*

On January 29, 1885, the Baltimore American and Commercial Advertiser reported a story on a former cattle-tender who left the farm of Dr. E.W. Patterson three weeks before to take a better position in Athens, Georgia. Young men, leaving their employment for another in 1885, was certainly not worthy of a newspaper article. However, this young man gave his name as Thaddeus Louis Poniatowski and made no claims to “any ancestry worth speaking of.” Dr. Patterson, whose farm was located in Mount Hope, Baltimore County, opposite the Mount Hope Asylum, hired the tall, bronzed and distinguished-looking stranger two years before when he applied for work. At the time, Poniatowski told Patterson he was destitute and willing to perform any task assigned. Dr. Patterson was impressed with his forthright manner and decided to give him a chance and placed him in charge of some valuable cattle. He proved both industrious and sober and quickly became invaluable to his employer.

As Patterson’s admiration grew so did his suspicion that Poniatowski’s ancestry was more than he admitted, since he spoke “six languages,” [was] thoroughly refined, amiable, kind and handsome, [and] fit to grace any court.” Patterson began making inquiries and he soon was convinced his cattleman was a grandson of Poland’s last King, Stanislaw Augustus. After several denials, the cattle-tender finally admitted to his employer he was a descendant of Stanislaw Augustus Poniatowski, and then produced papers and records to prove “his real rank and position.” Once his employer and friends learned of his ancestry, they were given a stirring account of his life before his arrival at Mount Hope.

His father, who is not named in the article, was sent to Siberia for his involvement in a Polish conspiracy. His mother joined his father in exile, as did Thaddeus, being only an infant at the time. The hardships the

*(Continued on Page 5)*

On January 29, 1885, the Baltimore American and Commercial Advertiser reported a story on a former cattle-tender who left the farm of Dr. E.W. Patterson three weeks before to take a better position in Athens, Georgia. Young men leaving their employment for another in 1885 was certainly not worthy of a newspaper article. However, this young man gave his name as Thaddeus Louis Poniatowski and made no claims to “any ancestry worth speaking of.” Dr. Patterson, whose farm was located in Mount Hope, Baltimore County, opposite the Mount Hope Asylum, hired the tall, bronzed and distinguished-looking stranger two years before when he applied for work. At the time, Poniatowski told Patterson he was destitute and willing to perform any task assigned. Dr. Patterson was impressed with his forthright manner and decided to give him a chance and placed him in charge of some valuable cattle. He proved both industrious and sober and quickly became invaluable to his employer.

As Patterson’s admiration grew so did his suspicion that Poniatowski’s ancestry was more than he admitted, since he spoke “six languages, [was] thoroughly refined, amiable, kind and handsome, [and] fit to grace any court.” Patterson began making inquiries and he soon was convinced his cattleman was a grandson of Poland’s last King, Stanislaw Augustus. After several denials, the cattle-tender finally admitted to his employer he was a descendant of Stanislaw Augustus Poniatowski and then produced papers and records to prove “his real rank and position.” Once his employer and friends learned of his ancestry they were given a stirring account of his life before his arrival at Mount Hope.

His father, who is not named in the article, was sent to Siberia for his involvement in a Polish conspiracy. His mother joined his father in exile, as did Thaddeus being only an infant at the time. The hardships the family endured led to his mother’s death and his father, forced to work in the mines where he was often treated cruelly. After the son grew older, he and his father made their escape traveling through the snow stopping only to take food where they could obtain a small morsel that scarcely prevented starvation. Their greatest threat came from the wolves, but atlas, they made it to a Russian port and boarded a ship as sailors where they sailed for Germany. After their arrival, the father died and Thaddeus, orphaned and alone, wandered around Europe

for a few years before immigrating to America six years later. He arrived at New York and remained there for four years before arrived in Baltimore. Unable to find work in Baltimore, he made his way to the Patterson farm where he remained until he informed Dr. Patterson that he was planning to take a new position in Georgia. Patterson was unable to persuade Poniatowski to remain and he left the following day.

The story of the newly discovered Prince Poniatowski and his thrilling tale captivated newspapers in America and France, The Richmond Dispatch reprinted the entire article the following day. In February, abstracts appeared in The Leavenworth Times and in the French-language newspaper, Le Meridional, published in Abbeville, Louisiana, under the heading – “Un Berger De Sang Royal.” As a result, it was reprinted in the Journal du Loiret published in north-central France. The Atlanta Constitution also carried the story under a headline – “Georgia Gossip” informing its readers: “The grandson of a Polish king is now among the attractions of Athens,” then reprinted the entire Baltimore American article.

The following March, several newspapers reprinted a brief Chicago Tribune news item that Poniatowski had gone west to become a cowboy. The Tribune reporter sarcastically wrote “the first thing his festive companions of the plains will do will be to abbreviate that name into something less jaw-breaking.”

The Pittsburgh Daily Post contained a one paragraph article in its December 31, 1885 issue stating that a Polish Prince, M. Poniatowski (sic) lives on a farm near Athens, Georgia. According to the article, Poniatowski, after his arrival in New York, went to Syracuse where he found work on a dairy farm. It was there that he learned the “mysteries of milking and butter making,” before he arrived at the “celebrated dairy farm of Shoemaker (sic) at Baltimore.” The brief article concludes that at Athens he “took charge of a stock farm one mile from the city limits.”

That the tale had created a kind of celebrity was attested by its inclusion in several newspaper chronologies of “Important Events of 1885.” The Weekly Breeze, published in Monroeville, Indiana, was among these listed under January – “Thaddeus Louis Poniatowski,

*(Continued on Page 6)*

a grandson of King Stanislaus of Poland, found working as a cattle tender near Baltimore.”

Newspaper coverage of this alleged scion of the last Polish King evaporates just as quickly as it appeared. Then, at the beginning of April 1891, several Georgia newspapers provide new insight into the life of this noble cattle-tender. These latest press reports portray Poniatowski, not as a romantic figure, but as a swindler. One newspaper claimed he was a Polish Jew with a checkered career. The various articles, collectively, provide an account of his life after leaving the Mount Hope farm in Baltimore County. He first went to Atlanta working on the farm of Judge John L. Hopkins, “but was discharged on account of some shady business.” Poniatowski then went to Athens to work on a farm and lost that job because of the same unnamed cause. After losing his job in Athens, he first went to Tennessee and then traveled west to Kansas. The newspaper reports from 1885, in large part, verify this timeline with the exception that Poniatowski first went to Athens, then Atlanta.

In Kansas, among the cowboys of the plains, he apparently was induced to change his name, just as the Chicago Tribune reporter suggested. An Act of the Kansas legislature resulted in his becoming L.C.P. Goodell. At Kansas, he continued to work with cattle and supposedly induced his employer to exhibit the cattle at an exhibit in Piedmont. After being awarded the prize money at the exhibit, the farmer sent word to the committee to withhold it from Goodell. It wasn't known if the farmer received the money from his cattle-tender or not, although, the article implied he had taken the money and absconded.

Sometime in 1890, he came to Columbia, Georgia, to attend an exposition being held there and decided to remain, eventually becoming a trusted night clerk at the Central Hotel. On the evening of March 12, 1891, a guest, B. F. Miller, who owned a steam cracker factory at Birmingham, Alabama, had been doing some business in the area and collected \$125 in cash, but since he was planning on making a couple of stops in Georgia before returning to his home, reportedly asked Goodell to deposit the money the next day in a local bank and write a check for the same amount, instructing the night clerk to deposit the money and mail the check to

Miller's home in Alabama. Goodell agreed and wrote a receipt, “Received, of Mr. B.F. Miller \$125.00, per Goodell.” According to The Columbia Enquirer-Sun, B.F. Miller did not pay attention to the discrepancy between the amounts and left the next morning. When Miller arrived at Selma, he inquired at his home if the check had arrived. Upon discovering that it had not, he telegraphed Goodell at the hotel to find out the name of the bank where the money was deposited, only to learn that the night clerk had left the city two-days before. Miller at once contacted his cousins who were attorneys in Columbus to find Goodell, but they apparently were aware the night clerk had left the city and went to the hotel and presented their claim for payment. The hotel refused, stating it was a personal transaction between B.F. Miller and Goodell. The Enquirer-Sun's report further stated that Goodell had left Columbia on Sunday and was to meet up with Miller in Atlanta where they were to transact some business together. Goodsell failed to turn up and only remained in that city for two days and it was then that Miller suspected that he had been swindled. The Atlanta Constitution reported on April 2 that Goodell had visited his former employer, Judge John L. Hopkins, where he reportedly told the Judge he was practicing law in Columbia, but supposedly hadn't informed Hopkins that he had changed his name from Poniatowski to Goodell. Where he went after leaving Atlanta was unknown and the newspaper further reported that the Columbus “police had been put on the lookout for the gay and festive prince.”

The Macon Telegraph, in reporting the supposed theft of Miller's money, described Poniatowski as “a man of pleasing address, who made many friends among the young men of the city during his stay....” The newspaper coverage ceases after these few articles, but the 1894 Columbus, Georgia City Directory list among the town's notary public's L.C.P. Goodell. All attempts to locate him after this date from sources available online proved futile. However, that he is last heard from in Columbus makes all of the allegations of his “checkered career” seem dubious or, at least motivated, from some personal animosity, probably on the part of B. F. Miller. A closer reading of the newspaper accounts makes the alleged swindle sound more like a scam that Miller concocted to cheat the hotel, but they refused to pay since Miller had planned to meet Goodell in Atlanta, but the latter failed to rendezvous with the former. The cousin's

law firm appeared to be the source of information on Poniatowski and attributes this to a friend of the Polish Prince in Athens, Georgia. Since several of the articles articulated his sociability, it is doubtful any of his friends would provide spurious information about their friend. Although, he is reported to have been dismissed by his employers, the Miller Cousin's only insinuated but offer no proof that Poniatowski was fired for impropriety. Most telling that Poniatowski had not left any of his employers under suspicious circumstances is the visit to Judge Hopkins while supposedly on the run from the law. Judge John Livingston Hopkins was considered at the time of his death, in 1912, the nester of the Georgia Bar and had served as the Judge of the Superior Courts of the Atlanta circuit. Surely, a man held in high esteem by the members of his profession would not have allowed Poniatowski to escape justice if he had thought him involved in swindling an honest businessman. It is also telling that Judge Hopkins was born in Tennessee and that Poniatowski, when he left the Judge's employ goes to Tennessee, suggesting that the Judge may have arranged a position for Poniatowski in his home state. Hopkins sold his farm at Edgewood and his Jersey cattle only few years afterwards. Of course, the final verdict on the "crooked" career of Poniatowski/Goodell is that, three years after the events in 1891, he is listed as a notary public in the city where he was sought by the law. The only crime he may have been guilty of is his claim to being a Prince among the Poles. A look at the Poniatowski family of Stanislaw Augustus fails to find a son who was exiled to Siberia and dies after escaping with his son to Germany. That his surname was Poniatowski may have been true, but then, again, it was not unusual for peasants to take the name of their masters and Poles involved in uprising against the Russians were forced into exile in Siberia where some

did escape or freed. The accusation of being a Polish Jew in the context of the other accusations sounds more like an anti-Semitic slur. The efforts to make him into a Prince, if we recall the first article in the Baltimore American, had Poniatowski declaring himself without any significant ancestry and it was Dr. Patterson and the young cattle-tender's friends who make the first claim of his noble ancestry. Could it be that he soon realized an heir to the Polish throne was an asset in this supposedly democratic country? Finally, in regard to his name change didn't the Chicago Tribune predict that when he arrived in the American plains, his fellow cowboys would force him to adopt an American name? Although, it is not known why he chose the name Goodell, I suggest it might relate to his chosen occupation - the dictionary defines a dell as a secluded hollow or small valley usually covered with trees or turf, and would this not be a good place to a tender of cattle?

"A Prince Among the Poles: Recently a Cattle-tender on a County Farm – A Romantic Story," Baltimore American and Commercial Advisor, January 29, 1885, p. 4. Ibid, The Richmond Dispatch, Richmond, Virginia, January 30, 1885, p. 2. The Leavenworth Times, Leavenworth, Kansas, February 3, 1885, p. 2. "Georgia Gossip," The Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia, February 4, 1885, p. "Un Berger De Sang Royal," Le Meridional, Abbeville, Louisiana, February 28, 1885, p. 1. "Faits divers," Journal du Loiret, February 1885. Hagerstown Exponent, Hagerstown, Indiana, March 25, 1885, p. 1. "Personal and General," Pittsburgh Daily Post, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, December 31, 1885, p. 2. "A Year's History," The Weekly Breeze, Monroeville, Indiana, January 1, 1886, p. 1. "Inspections in Maryland," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Second Annual Report of the Bureau of Animal Industry for The Year 1885, Washington, D.C., 1886, p. 644: December 29, 1885, E. W. Patterson, M.D., Mount Hope, Baltimore County, Md – Number of Cattle, 16; Number with lung plague – 4. The Southern Cultivator, Atlanta, Georgia, March 1888. "Goodell Was A Swindler," The Columbus Enquirer-Sun, Columbus, Georgia, April 1, 1891, p. 4. "His Is A Slick Rascal," The Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia, April 1, 1891, p. 3. "A Polish Prince: Who Was Nevertheless a Very Slick Individual," The Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2, 1891, p. 5. "Miller Left To Mourn: The Clerk in a Columbus Hotel Departs With Trust Money," Macon Telegraph, Macon, Georgia, p. 3. "Columbus Hotel Clerk," The Columbus Enquirer-Sun, Columbus, Georgia, April 3, 1891, p. 1. Columbus City Directory, Columbus, Georgia, 1894, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1989 [database-on-line] Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah, 2011. "Memorial of John Livingston Hopkins," Report of the Thirtieth Annual Session of the Georgia Bar Association, Macon, Georgia, 1913, pp. 212-213.



### About the Author

Thomas L. Hollowak has recently retired from the University of Baltimore as the associate director for special collections, where he worked for over twenty years. He has researched and written about the Polish community of Maryland for over thirty years. Hollowak's articles have been published in Polish American Studies, Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, the PNAF "White Eagle Journal" and the Maryland Historical Press among others. Tom, as most people call him is the former editor/layout and design coordinator for the PNAF White Eagle Journal and continues to serve on the PNAF Board of Directors.

## POLISH NOBLES AND PEASANTS: THEIR MANNERS AND CUSTOMS: AN EYEWITNESS SNAPSHOT OF POLISH SOCIETY – 1823

*(Continued from page 1)*

“to retain their nobility and genteel life.”<sup>(1)</sup> It is a wonderful fictitious story of a “noble family’s struggle to cling to their last vestiges of feudal ‘entitlements’ and the unique social and personal responsibilities prompted by their ‘position’ and ‘social class’ (which) conflicts with rapid changes in their contemporary society”<sup>(2)</sup> – nobiliary tradition, manners and customs.

### **Poland’s Rigid Class System Could Not be Partitioned**

From the annals of world history come fragments of eye witness testimony that can help us piece together a picture of Polish society as it existed almost 200 years ago.

“After the failure of the (1794) Insurrection, the third ... partition of Poland took place under treaties signed between Russia and Austria in January (1795), and between Russia and Prussia in October, 1795.”<sup>(3)</sup>

Although deprived of “her statehood for the next hundred and twenty years,” Poland “embarked on a long period of revolutionary struggles and fights for independence, remaining as devoted to the ideal of freedom as ever,”<sup>(4)</sup> whilst maintaining her sense of rigid class distinction that was both “evident and obligatory.”<sup>(5)</sup>

### **Poles Apart: The Manners and Customs of Polish Society - 1823**

“The Poles ... seem a lively people, and use much action in their ordinary conversation. Their common mode of salute it (sic) to incline their heads, and to strike their breast with one hand, while they stretch the other towards the ground; but when a common person meets a superior, he bows his head almost to the earth, waving at the same time his hand, with which he touches the bottom of the leg near the heel of the person to whom he pays his obeisance.

“The nobles are the owners of the land. Their appearance is dignified, their deportment stately and ceremonious, and their dress splendid; though often vain and credulous, they are not destitute of generous qualities. They treat each other as brethren, considering no title as more illustrious than that of a Polish nobleman.

“When the nobles sit at dinner or supper, they have their trumpets and other music playing, and a number of gentlemen to wait on them at table, all serving with the most profound respect: for the nobles who are poor, frequently find themselves under the necessity of serving those who are rich; but their patron usually treats them with civility, and permits the eldest to eat with him at his table, and every one of them has his peasant boy to wait on him, supported by the master of the family. At an entertainment the Poles lay neither knives, forks, nor spoons, but every guest brings them with him. It is usual for a nobleman to give his servant a part of his meat, which he eats as he stands behind him, and to let him drink out of the same cup with himself.

“To form a conception of the grandeur and equipages of the Polish nobility, the reader may figure to himself an idea of all that is fastidious, ceremonious, expensive, and showy in life. They carry the pomp of their attendance, when they appear abroad, to a ridiculous extreme; for it is not unusual to see the lady of a Polish grandee in a coach and six with a great number of servants, attended also by an old gentleman-usher, an old gentlewoman for her *gouvernante* (Governess), and a dwarf of each sex to hold up her train: and in the night her carriage is surrounded with a great number of flambeaux (flaming torches).

“The peasants, as in all countries where the feudal system prevails, are serfs or slaves. The value of an estate is not estimated so much from its extent, as from the number of its peasants, who are transferred from one master to another, like so many head of cattle.

*(Continued on Page 9)*



They have little security for property or life. Before 1768, a fine only was exacted of a lord who killed his slave. The peasants live in cabins built of logs, the chinks and crevices of which are filled up with the rudest materials, such as moss, bark, or straw.

“The men of all ranks generally wear whiskers, and shave their heads, leaving only a circle of hair upon the crown. The summer dress of the peasants consists of nothing but a shirt and drawers of coarse linen, without shoes or stockings, with round caps or hats. The women of the lower class wear upon their heads a wrapper of white linen under which their hair is braided, and hangs down in two plaits.

The dress of the higher orders, both of men and women, is uncommonly elegant. That of the gentlemen is a waistcoat with sleeves, over which they wear an upper robe of a different colour, which reaches down below the knee, and is fastened round the waist with a sash or girdle; the sleeves of this upper garment are in warm weather tied behind the shoulders. A sabre is a necessary part of their dress, as a mark of nobility. In summer the robe is of silk; in winter of cloth, velvet, or stuff, edged with fur. They wear fur caps or bonnets, and buskins of yellow leather, the heels of which are plated with iron or steel. The dress of the ladies is a simple polonaise, or long robe, edged with fur.

“Men, women, children, hogs, cows and poultry, all live under the same roof; and the traveller is frequently obliged to share the only apartment in the house with these crowded inmates. Every estate has its still; spirits

are found every where (sic), are used at every meal, and habits of intoxication prevail to an extraordinary degree.

“The diversions of the Poles are warlike and manly; vaulting, dancing, riding the great horse, hunting, skating, bull and bear baiting. They usually journey on horseback; a Polish gentleman will not travel a hundred yards without his horse. The Poles are so hardy that they will sleep upon the ground in frost and snow without bed or covering. They never lie above stairs. Their apartments are not united; the kitchen is on one side, the stable on another, the dwelling house on the third, and the gate in front.”

Of the condition of the people before partition it was observed that “the most dreadful oppression, the most execrable tyranny, (and) the most wanton cruelties were daily exercised by the nobles upon their unfortunate peasants.

“A Polish peasant’s life was held of the same value as one of his horned cattle; if his lord slew him, he was fined 100 Polish florins, or £2 16s. sterling (sic). If, on the other hand, a man of ignoble birth dared to raise his hand against a nobleman, death was the inevitable punishment. If any one (sic) presumed to question the nobility of a magnate, he was forced to prove his assertion or suffer death; nay, if a powerful man chose to take a fancy to the field of his humbler neighbour, and to erect a landmark upon it, and if that landmark remained for three days, the poor man lost his possession.”<sup>(6)</sup>

---

## Notes

1. Sovereigns, Dynasties & Nobility: A Modern Guide to Noble and Royal Titles. Italian Heritage Press: Raleigh, USA; 2014; p. xi.
2. *ibid.*
3. Golawski, M. Poland Through The Ages: An Outline of Polish History for Young Readers. Orbis Limited: London; 1971; p. 122.
4. *ibid.*, p. 123.
5. Helon, Wieslaw George. Collars and Chains of Livery. White Eagle: Journal of the Polish Nobility Association Foundation – Winter 2015: Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America; p. 9.
6. Worcester, Joseph Emerson. Sketches of the Earth and its Inhabitants; Comprising a Description of the Grand Features of Nature; the Principal Mountains, Rivers, Cataracts and Other Interesting Objects and Natural Curiosities: also of the Chief Cities and Remarkable Edifices and Ruins; together with a view of the Manners and Customs of Different Nations: Illustrated by One Hundred Engravings. Cummings, Hilliard & Co.: Boston, USA; Vol. 1; 1823; pp.271-274.

# PNAF MEMBER SEACHES WITH SUCCESS ANCESTRY

By Terry Bell

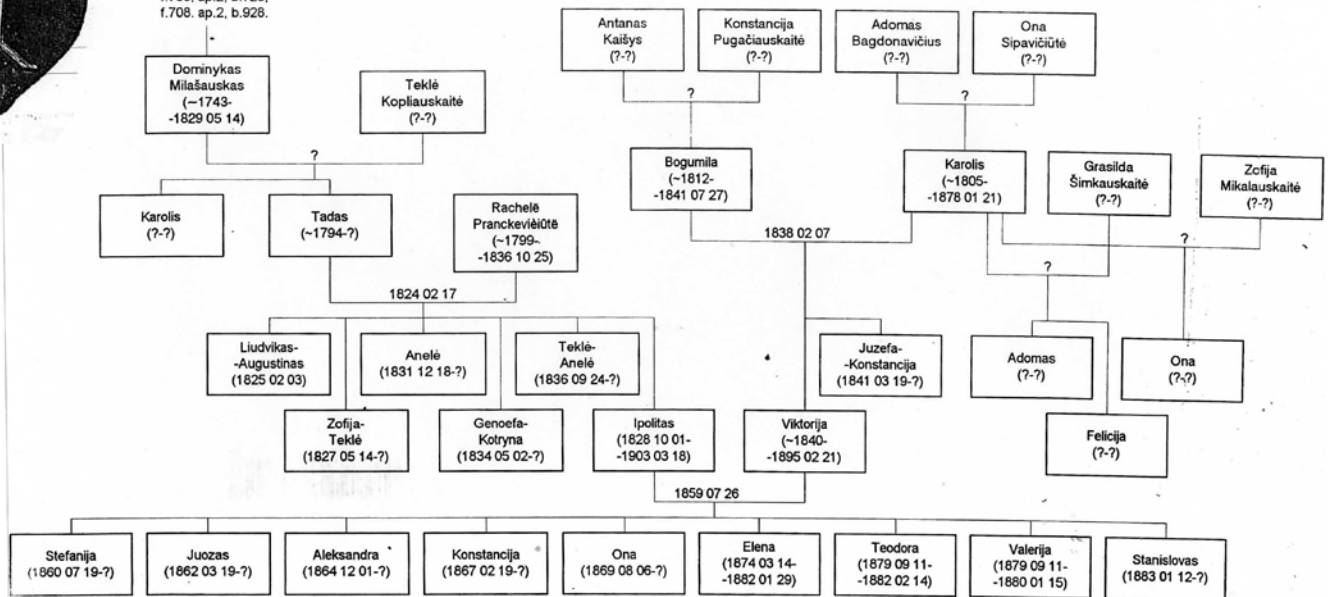
I have done extensive research on my family surname Milaszewski. My father's family lived in Lithuania and I have documents from the Vilnius Archives that go back to around 1690 with the coat of arms, Kosciesza. Around the year 1999 I started my genealogy research while my husband was going through a four-way bypass and I couldn't work. I had three grandparents from Lithuania and one from Poland, but they were all Polish speaking.

To make a very long story short, since that time I have acquired all documents from the Vilnius Archives for my grandfather Stanislaw Milaszewski who came to the USA in 1904 and all his family history, and will attach a few documents including the coat of arms sent by the archives. In 2004, I had the good fortune to go to Lithuania and meet my distant relatives who were kind enough to take me to the graveyard of my great-great-uncle, Josef Milaszewski, in Normainiai near Seta. In my next research I hope to connect a bit of interesting information from Paprocki that talks

about a Stanislaw Miloszewski who was given the job of handling land leasing for the king of Poland around 1548-1572 in Lithuania. So I would love to discover a link between the two families. Attached are a few photos and pdfs. I was fortunate to have some help on my quest, so far, from people I never met but befriended me online: Leonard Suligowski, in particular who set me on my research journey and did translations, Marcin Wiszowaty, Stanford U. Library translations. If you would like me to write up something or provide other info please let me know. Best regards, Terry Bell (nee, Theresa Miles, shortened from Milaszewski). I also have some photos from my trip to Lithuania, such as of the mansion I included above, that was going to be restored and was having a meeting by the Lithuanian Nobility Society. Unfortunately as I only speak English, I was unable to get a full picture of what was going on there. Anyway, let me know if you have any interest in any of it. Best, Terry Bell, Santa Rosa, CA



Look kopies: LVIA, f.391, ap.1, b.1690, f.391, ap.6, b.7, f.708, ap.2, b.4, f.708, ap.2, b.88, f.708, ap.2, b.404, f.708, ap.2, b.723, f.708, ap.2, b.928.



# DUES PAID IN SECOND HALF OF 2015-BEGINNING OF 2016

Thank you one and all – members and friends – who have sent in 2015-2016 Dues and Contributions. The 2016 Dues envelopes are included in this mailing.  
**Thank you for your continued support in 2016.**



The Rosenstiel Foundation, PA .....	\$500.00
Raymond A. Sosnowski, MD .....	\$150.00
Michael A. von Dembowski, WI .....	\$50.00
Allen County Public Lib., IN .....	\$15.00
Orest Nestorowicz, SC .....	\$25.00
Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski, MD .....	\$250.00
Steve Verchinski, NM .....	\$10.00
Marybeth Sulkowski, RI .....	\$10.00
Theresa Milaszewski-Bell, CA .....	\$25.00
Judith C. Wisniewski, SC .....	\$55.00
Stephen Klimczuk-Massion, NM .....	\$50.00
David B. Porteous, MI .....	\$25.00
Dr. Roger F. Krentz, WI .....	\$25.00
The Rev. Cannon K. L.W. Gunn-Walberg, Ph.D., DE .....	\$25.00
June Dooley, GA .....	\$25.00
Alexander A. Liston, CA .....	\$100.00
Andreas Wagner, Germany .....	\$50.00
Dr. Waldemar Bogacki, Australia .....	\$40.00
Theresa M. Bell, GA .....	\$25.00
Gary Dembowski-Douglas, CA .....	\$150.00
Stanley J. Klemanowicz, CA .....	\$25.00
Kunliga Biblioteket KB, Sweden .....	\$35.00
Zenis Zyma, Canada .....	\$10.00
David Zarnowski, FL .....	\$50.00
Roy Dutkiewicz, TX .....	\$100.00
Elwin Carl Penski, MD .....	\$100.00
Dr. Stanislaw R. Burzynski, MD, TX .....	\$250.00
Sheila Johnson, CT .....	\$60.00
Hugh G. Whitting Jr., MA .....	\$25.00
Orest Nestorowicz, SC .....	\$25.00
James & Beverly Rakowitz, TX .....	\$50.00
Irena Uderska, NY .....	\$50.00
Michael J. Gransky, CT .....	\$12.00
Michael A. von Dembowski, WI .....	\$50.00
Raymond A. Sosnowski, MD .....	\$150.00
Stanislas M. A. Yassukovich, France .....	\$250.00
Dr. Jean Cheger, FL .....	\$25.00
James L. Lawicki 11, NY .....	\$25.00

## DUES, DONATIONS AND FEES 2016

Frank Matyskiewicz, Canada .....	\$75.00
Lisa Labeledzki, PA .....	\$100.00
Edward Wieclaw, Canada .....	\$50.00
Ralph M. Kurzydlo, IL .....	\$100.00
Dr. Roger Chylinski-Polubinski .....	\$133.00
Steve A. Verchinski, NM .....	\$50.00

## RETRIEVING LOOTED POLISH WORKS OF ART

*Originally published by the Polish Cultural Institute New York*

Poland has faced economic and cultural destruction more than once in its history. In the 17th Century, Poland lost approximately one-third of its population, as well as its status as a great power. The Swedish Army plundered vast quantities of Poland's riches, most of which were never returned, and completely destroyed 188 cities and towns, 81 castles, and 136 churches in Poland.

During the Second World War, Poland once again suffered major losses to its tangible cultural heritage, with more than 70% of it being destroyed. The Nazis stole at least 516,000 individual works of art, and many were looted by the Soviet army as well. The loss of cultural property that expresses the ideas and history of the nation, is a sad and painful occurrence, involving not only the physical loss of cultural objects but also a loss of historical continuity and shared cultural experiences.

The restitution of cultural property stolen from Poland in 1939-1945 is a very important element of the policy pursued by the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Polish government maintains a database cataloging war losses, which currently lists more than 63,000 objects. The Ministries monitor international art markets, and often receive valuable tips about looted artworks from museum workers, conservators, collectors and enthusiasts who have come across looted art. Currently they are conducting 56 restitution procedures in eight countries, trying to return to Polish museums the works of the Polish artists Jan Matejko, Stanislaw Wyspianski, Jacek Malczewski, Aleksander Gierymski, Wojciech Gerson, Józef Pankiewicz, and Olga Boznanska as well as Rafael's famous Portrait of a Young Man and masterpieces by Brueghl, van Dyck, Cranach, Rubens, Picasso and others. In the last four years, 14 objects discovered abroad in different circumstances have been returned to Poland, including Oranges by Aleksander Gierymski, Black Woman by Anna Bilinska-Bohdanowiczow, Chats by Joseph Brandt and Julian Falat's works Before the Hunt in Rytwiany and Naganka hunting in Nesvizh. Poland is just as determined to find modest works worth thousands of dollars as it is masterpieces valued in the millions, and this approach is producing tangible results.

Polish museums will probably never look like they did before the war again, but progress is being made and the country has recovered many valuable objects. Directories of war losses are sent to museums, the world's largest auction houses, Polish diplomatic and consular institution, research organizations, the Ministry of Culture and Foreign Affairs and is being published in a series of books as well. But the recovery of most works so far was made possible by tips offered by museum curators, collectors and individual enthusiasts, so if you suspect that you have information about looted art, your help will be most appreciated.



***A list of the most sought-after works of art, as well as other information, is available at The Division for Looted Art***

### FEEDBACK

All Members and readers are encouraged and welcome to submit feedback on our articles. If there is something that you would like to see an article on, or an opinion you would like to contribute, please let us know.

From our last issue of the WHITE EAGLE (Summer 2015) we received the following in response to George Helon's article A Lost Family Treasure-Trove: 'Bah! Humbug!'

"Super article. Congratulations!!! There are many injustices that have been committed with Poland since partition at the end of the 18th century, the Congress of Vienna (1815), suffered neglect at the hands of the Soviets in 1945... A monarchy could regain the prestige of institutions for Poland and would serve the Polish people to return to meet its history. The love for the traditions, historical and modern nobility, would be of great help to the future. God bless Poland!!!" (DJGR: Spain).