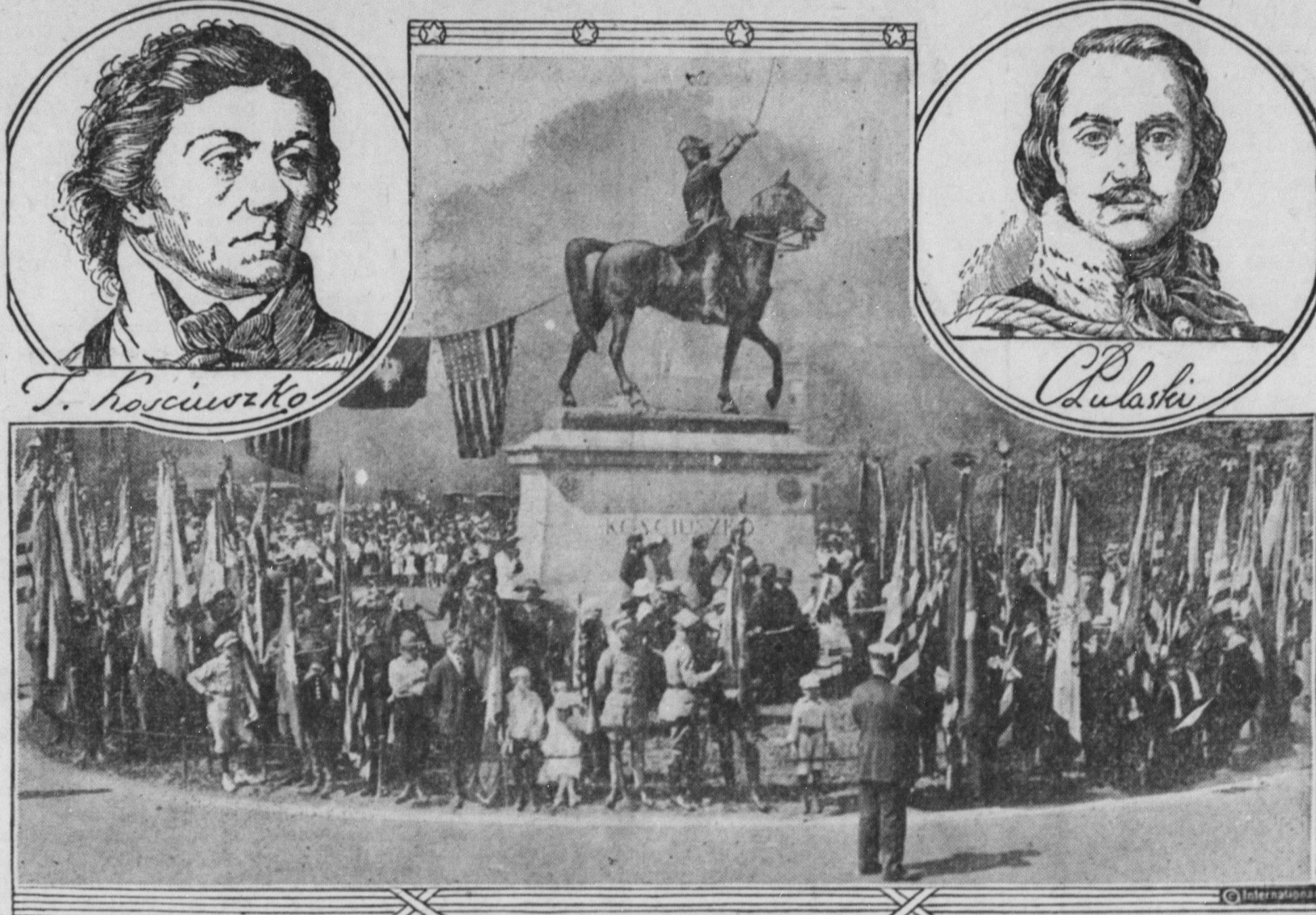


Two Polish Champions of American Liberty



Polish-Americans at the Kosciuszko Monument in Humboldt Park, Chicago

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

THE issuance by the post office department of a special five-cent stamp which will be placed on sale in Chicago, Detroit and Boston on October 18 and at other post offices on October 19 serves to recall the name of a distinguished foreigner who, in the words of Postmaster General Farley, "will be forever perpetuated in the hearts of the American people."

For this stamp commemorates the 150th anniversary of the admission to American citizenship of Gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the Polish soldier who is known as "the great champion of liberty," and this stamp is another tribute to his memory by the nation whose liberty he helped to establish. Monuments have been erected to him in Chicago, Boston and Washington, and at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y.; a county in Indiana and streets in several of our cities bear his name; but the everyday use of the commemorative stamp during October by thousands of Americans will recall his name and fame to more of our citizens than any of these other memorials have ever done.

October is a month which is peculiarly associated with the history of Kosciuszko. It was on October 18, 1776, that he came to Washington's camp near New York, bearing a letter of introduction from Benjamin Franklin to the commander-in-chief; it was during October of that year that he was made a colonel of engineers in the Continental army, became a member of Washington's military family and began the association with the great American which enabled Kosciuszko in later years to call himself proudly "a friend of Washington"; and it was on October 15, 1817, that the Polish champion met his death by a fall from his horse, an event which the poet Campbell has made historic with his

"Hope for a season bade the world farewell
And Freedom shriek'd as Kosciuszko fell!"

Also significant in the relationship of Washington and Kosciuszko is the fact that they were born in the same month, Washington on February 11 (old style), 1732, and Kosciuszko on February 12, 1746. He grew up on his father's estate, a remote spot in Lithuania. Though of noble birth, the elder Kosciuszko was a man of property, and his children lived like other children of their class. Thaddeus seems to have been a diligent, conscientious boy, with a keen sense of responsibility. He attended the Jesuit college in his home town, and in 1764 entered the corps of cadets in the Royal School of Warsaw.

Later he went to France, where he studied military engineering, especially French fortifications. Sketches made by Kosciuszko while he was studying architecture in Brest and Paris are to be seen in Poland's national museums. At the age of twenty-eight he returned home, to find the family fortunes sadly depleted.

Just why at this time Kosciuszko made up his mind to go to America is not entirely clear. Some attribute it to an unhappy love affair; others assert he was stirred by the story of a young country fighting for its independence. At all events, he sailed for the New world and landed at Philadelphia in the summer of 1776, having mortgaged his patrimony and borrowed 450 ducats to get there.

He seems to have made the acquaintance of Franklin either in France or in Philadelphia. For we next hear of him presenting the letter of introduction from Franklin, previously referred to, to Washington in October, 1776. "What can you do?" asked Washington, according to the familiar story. "Try me and we shall see" was the Pole's modest reply. So Washington made him a colonel of engineers and he soon proved what he could do.

From October, 1776, to April, 1777, he was busy fortifying Philadelphia, continuing the work which he had undertaken upon his arrival there before his services had been accepted by Washington. Then he joined Gates' army in the North and it was Kosciuszko who selected and planned the fortification of Bemis Heights, near Saratoga, and his contribution was a material one to the success of the operations which led to the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga.

Shortly afterwards, Kosciuszko planned the fortifications on the Hudson at West Point, generally rated as his greatest achievement in the War for American Independence. Kosciuszko ar-



Kosciuszko Statue at West Point

rived at West Point in March, 1778, and laid out additional forts to protect West Point, which then controlled the principal line of communication from New England to the central and the southern colonies, in case the British should send an expeditionary force from New York. He also strengthened the existing defenses. So much general satisfaction was there with Kosciuszko's work, that Washington in a dispatch says, "To his care and sedulous appreciation the American people are indebted for the defenses of West Point." It was this Polish soldier who urged that West Point be chosen when it was later decided to found a training school for American youth. He spent two of the six years he was in this country at West Point, where a monument was erected in his memory in 1828.

Kosciuszko's next service was in the Carolinas campaign with General Greene and it is said that Greene's escape from Cornwallis during his memorable retreat was due largely to the work of the Polish officer in constructing pontoon bridges which allowed Greene's army to cross rivers before the British could overtake it.

The close of the Revolution found Kosciuszko a brigadier-general and a member of the Society of the Cincinnati. By vote of congress American citizenship was conferred upon him in October, 1783, and he was granted 500 acres of land on the Scioto river in Perry county, Ohio, which he later sold.

American liberty having been won Kosciuszko decided to return to his own land and fight again for its freedom. To follow the activities of the Polish patriot after his return to his native land is to follow the stormy days of a Poland fighting for freedom against heavy odds. In 1791 Poland, under a new constitution, became a limited monarchy with ministerial responsibility. Invidious class distinctions were done away with.

But the new constitution could not stand against the old confederation. Polish territory was a desirable corridor for surrounding powers. The little Polish army under Kosciuszko and Prince Joseph Poniatowski did what it could. For three months it kept back all invaders. But King Stanislaus II of Poland, doubtful of success, acceded to the demands of the confederation. Poland was again parceled out to her neighbors and reduced to one-third her original dimensions.

Undismayed, Kosciuszko and his followers withdrew to Leipzig. There they laid their plans for another battle. In this encounter they were partly victorious, recovering considerable lost territory. But the game of war against an enemy

whose numbers far exceeded their own proved disastrous. Kosciuszko, seriously wounded, was taken prisoner on the battlefield.

For two years he was confined in the famous Russian fortress of St. Peter and Paul. He was released upon his request that he be allowed once more to visit America.

After his second visit to America he settled down in a house near Paris. There he received many distinguished guests and worked for a fatherland he was never to see again. The last few years of his life were spent with friends in Solothurn, Switzerland, where he died in 1817.

Closely connected with the month of October is the story of another Polish champion of liberty, a comrade in arms of Kosciuszko, and a man whom Americans delight to honor along with him—Count Casimir Pulaski.

Pulaski was born in Podolia, Poland, March 4, 1748. As a mere boy he threw himself into the struggle for Polish liberty. At twenty-one he stirred up a revolt in Lithuania against the tyrannical Russians, who were gradually crushing out Poland's national life.

Though elected commander-in-chief of the Polish army of Independence in 1770, when but twenty-two years old, he was defeated in battle and scored failure after failure. He is said to have made an unsuccessful attempt the next year to kidnap King Stanislas of Poland from the latter's Warsaw palace. As a result of various mishaps Pulaski was outlawed, his estates confiscated and a price set on his head.

Pulaski fled for his life to Turkey, finding his way thence to France, a patriot without a country. In Paris he met Benjamin Franklin, and heard from him the story of America's struggle for liberty. Here at last was a chance for the fugitive to strike another blow for freedom. Armed with letters of introduction from Franklin, he sailed for Philadelphia in March, 1777, and joined Washington's army as a volunteer. Washington appointed the Pole to a place on the general staff. Pulaski's first American battle was at the Brandywine. There he rallied companies of retreating Americans, and so deployed them as to protect the retreat of our main army. For this service congress made him a brigadier general.

He persuaded Washington to raise a body of light infantry and cavalry and enlist for it all classes of men, including prisoners and deserters. The count was made leader of this corps of 350 troops, which was known as the Pulaski Legion. With his odd following he harried the British and won new fame. But he grew tired of holding so small a command. There was strife and discontent among the men. Pulaski gave up his office, and decided to go back to Europe.

Washington persuaded him to stay in the army, and sent him South to find new scope for his energies. The southern summer's unbearable heat and the steaming, unwholesome marshes where he was often forced to camp told upon the Pole's health. He fell seriously ill with malaria fever. But as fast as he recovered from one attack he continued his campaign against the British until another illness laid him low. His health wrecked, he fought on.

The Americans were planning to march against the English forces that held Savannah, Ga. Pulaski, acting as advance guard, fell upon the unprepared enemy, captured some of their outer fortifications and opened the road for communication between the patriots and the reinforcing French fleet.

The Americans then laid regular siege to Savannah. Pulaski was made leader of both the American and the French cavalry and led an assault on the British lines on October 9, 1779, during which he was mortally wounded. He died two days later on the United States brig, the Wasp, and was buried at sea.

The sesquicentennial of Pulaski's death was the occasion for a nation-wide observance on October 11, 1929, when commemorative services were held in many places throughout the country and a tall shaft, honoring the Polish hero, was unveiled in Savannah. There was also a special stamp issue in honor of the event. The next year a resolution was introduced into congress to make October 11 of each year "Pulaski Memorial day" and in 1931 this resolution was passed and President Hoover issued a proclamation calling for its observance.

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CAP AND BELLS



COWARDLY SUBTERFUGE
"Your parrot uses some of the worst language I ever listened to."
"Yes. I had a quarrel with a man and there are a few things I think ought to be said to him. When the parrot learns a little more I'm going to send the bird around to him as an anonymous gift."

His Status
Pretty Patient—Guess who I met yesterday, doctor.
Doctor—I'm afraid I'm not a good guesser.
Patient—Oh, you're too modest. I heard another doctor say you were the best guesser in the profession.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Still More Improvement
"Gassoway's speeches have improved a lot since he got somebody else to write them for him."
"Yes, and they'd be improved a lot more if he could get somebody else to deliver them for him."

She Could Testify
Neighbor—Your husband strikes me as being a man of rare gifts.
Wife—You've said it—"rare gifts"! He hasn't made me three presents since we were married.

Would Suit Her
Car Salesman—Yes, sir, this car is absolutely the very last word.
Customer—Good! I'll take it. My wife loves the last word.

STARTED TROUBLE
"So you and those neighbors are not on speaking terms any longer?"
"No. All diplomatic relations have been suspended."
"How did that come about?"
"He sent me a box of axle grease and told me to use some of it on my lawn-mower when I started it at six in the morning."
"Well? What then?"
"Then I sent it back and told him to use some of it on his daughter's voice when she sings at 11 o'clock at night."

Lucky to Get Six
Said the Teacher: "I give you 16 chocolates to share equally with your little brother. How many will he get?"
"Six," said Bobby.
"Nonsense! You can't count."
"Yes, I can, teacher, but my brother can't."

NO DEPRESSION FOR HIM

First Mosquito—Well, Bill, did you have a good season?
Second Mosquito—I'll say I did. With those low cut gowns and sun-bath bathing suits I had a full meal every day.

Convention Ground
She—This is an ideal spot for a picnic.
He—You've said it—"rare gifts"! He hasn't made me three presents since we were married.

Matter of Fact
Boob—Everything that's bought goes to the buyer, doesn't it?
Simp—No. Some things, such as coal, go to the cellar.

WE'RE CARRYING OUR END!
WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT
THE PERFECT GUM

NRA WE DO OUR PART

Catching Up With Nature
Teacher—Why did Joshua command the sun to stand still?
Tommy—I guess it didn't agree with his watch.—Boston Transcript.

This Civilized Time
The popular color scheme is henna hair, orange painted cheeks, red painted lips and vermilion finger nails.—Florida Times-Union.

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GENUINE BAYER ASPIRIN DOES NOT HARM THE HEART

Because of a unique process in manufacture, Genuine Bayer Aspirin Tablets are made to disintegrate—or dissolve—INSTANTLY you take them. Thus they start to work instantly. Start "taking hold" of even a severe headache; neuralgia, neuritis or rheumatic pain a few minutes after taking.
And they provide SAFE relief—for Genuine BAYER ASPIRIN does not harm the heart. So if you want QUICK and SAFE relief see that you get the real Bayer article. Always look for the Bayer cross on every tablet as illustrated, above, and for the words GENUINE BAYER ASPIRIN on every bottle or package.

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FEMALE WEAKNESS

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