

Kościuszko at West Point from 1

Kościuszko had fought for the United States enabling the creation of the United States Constitution. When in Europe the Constitution of May 3, 1791 was overturned by Russia principally, Kościuszko led a revolution to reestablish freedom. His rebellion failed. Poland and Lithuania did not become free until just over a century following Kościuszko's death in 1817. Though militarily defeated and imprisoned in Russia from 1794 to 1796... after his release he never stopped working for freedom and education and the restoration of the Commonwealth of Two Nations as Poland and Lithuania had been deemed to be for the earlier three centuries. Above all, he knew there was no true freedom without education as witnessed by his American estate which he left for Thomas Jefferson to administer for the purpose of freeing and educating African American slaves in his (Kościuszko's) name.

The members and friends of the AAFKWP followed his example, and this year as their Association has pursued from its origins a conference of scholarly Research presentation. This year's conference dealt with the histories of Poland, Lithuania and the life and legacy of Kościuszko. Retired Northeastern University Associate Dean and Senior Lecturer in History and the President of the AAFKWP, Anthony J. Bajdek, elucidated the complex early joint histories of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth; Purdue University Professor of History and author of an important biography of Kościuszko, James S. Pula, gave a highly-detailed presentation of the Battle of Grunwald/Zalgris/Tannenberg; Polish Embassy First Counselor and Head of the Consular Division, Włodzimierz Sulgostowski, spoke of the joint efforts of Poland and Lithuania, not only in the past, but today as important partners in NATO, other alliances, and the European Union; Millersville University Professor of History Saulius Suziedelis commented on the joint histories of Poland and Lithuania and the life of Kościuszko from a Lithuanian perspective; and Piedmont College Professor of Mass Communications (ret.) Betsy Blakeslee gave a presentation on the unique Garden at West Point that had been originally constructed by Kościuszko while he served as Fortifications Engineer there in 1778-1779. The question-and-answer period was lively and one ten-year-old young man (There were students of all ages attending) was heard to say that he had received inspiration for more than one class project.

Saturday, the day of Commemoration began with a Mass at the Catholic Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity celebrated by Rev. Carl Urban, a Polish American priest, with Father Vytas Volertas, a Lithuanian American priest, and Monsignor and U.S. Army Major Brian Donahue, the pastor of the Chapel as concelebrants. The Polish American Honor Guard, the Liga Morska (i.e., Sea League) and Lithuanian American Honor Guard from the American Legion Lithuanian Post 154 of Baltimore, MD led entry to the Church and remained at full attention throughout the service. The Polish choir Aria #303 of the Polish Singers Alliance of America from Wallington, NJ, directed by Alicja Rusewicz Pagorek, and the New York Lithuanian Choir, directed by Gintare Bukauskas, sang hymns and anthems in Polish, Lithuanian and English both in the Chapel and at the Kościuszko Monument. The service ended with choirs and participants singing *America the Beautiful*.

The always-spectacular and amazing Cadet Review on the Plain followed under a cloudless sky on a very warm day in the Highlands, a truly memorable spectator event. The crack Parachute Team sailed to earth afterwards as though cradled in

God's hands and landed right on target, eliciting oohs and aahs from the viewers.

Under the command of the Academy's Officer in Charge, Colonel and Professor Donna Koryciński, the Acting Deputy Department Head of Systems Engineering at West Point, the Observance at the Kościuszko Monument was led by United States Military Academy Color Guard, along with the Polish and the Lithuanian Honor Guards.

Lithuanian Ambassador Audrius Bruzga gave an inspiring speech stressing the cooperation between Lithuania and Poland at the Battle of Zalgris and today as joint allies with NATO, the EU, and the United States. The Ambassador eloquently stressed that all those who believe in freedom must work together as Kościuszko had believed and demonstrated throughout his life: "For your freedom and ours." Polish Embassy First Counselor and Head of the Consular Division Włodzimierz Sulgostowski viewed the life and contributions of Kościuszko in his many struggles for the freedom of others.

A number of wreaths were laid at the base of the Kościuszko Monument by the AAFKWP, Polish American and Lithuanian American groups, including a wreath whose banner displayed the hope portrayed by those in attendance at the foot of the Kościuszko's Monument: "Friendship with honor."

The formal ceremony ended with the poignant playing of *Taps* by SSG. Sarah Botez followed by the retiring of the colors. All participants joined the two choruses in singing *God Bless America*.

At the luncheon which followed at the Thayer Hotel, Ambassador Bruzga spoke again of the past and present ties of the Polish and Lithuanian nations. The Aria chorus presented a short program including *Rota*, a poem by Maria Konopnicka set to music by Feliks Nowowiejski in 1910, the 600th Anniversary year of the victory at Grunwald.

The presence of Cadet Members of the Kościuszko Squadron reminded all present that Thaddeus Kościuszko was significant to the history of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point and was the reason for the conference and the 182nd commemoration on the Hudson. □

Jacqueline E. Ahlen, Ph.D., E.A.**Consultant**

Management, Seminars,
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Tel: (626) 794-0729 (626) 914-1622

1148 E. Route 66

Glendora, CA 91740

P.O. Box 40579

Pasadena, CA 91114 - 7579

e-mail: Jackie Ahlen@yahoo.com

e-mail: gjahlen@aol.com

Danuta Delnitz, M.D., Ph.D.

Diplomate of American Board
Of Family Practice

Family Medical Center, Inc.
34052 La Plaza – Suite 102
Dana Point, CA 92629

Tel (949) 240-8555

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Chodakiewicz lectures from 9

"South Korean" commitment in return for Poland's support for the American led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Chodakiewicz explained that a "South Korean" commitment refers to the long-term stationing of American soldiers on South Korean territory (1953 - to the present) in order to deter invasion of that country by North Korea supported by China, or perhaps, Russia. What little momentum there was for stationing American troops on Polish territory to deter an attack against Poland from the East is now gone.

The Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC, Mr. Witold Dzielski, remonstrated with Professor Chodakiewicz during the Q&A. Dzielski began by stating that even though his family background is anti-Communist, he was offended by some of the things that Chodakiewicz said. The Second Secretary thought that those in the audience who know little about Poland will conclude, after listening to Chodakiewicz, that Poland is a country ruled by now wealthy former Communists who manipulate the political system and who have no interest in defending Poland's Eastern borders from attack.

Dzielski did not cite facts to refute Chodakiewicz. Instead, Dzielski described the way that he would like Americans to see Poland. He emphasized that Poland is a stalwart ally of America, and Poland has supported with money and blood American military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. Moreover, Dzielski noted that the Kremlin sees Poland as very anti-Russian. The Kremlin designed the October 2009 war games to intimidate Lithuania and Poland.

Chodakiewicz replied that Poland has received no recompense for her support of America in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Next time we will read more about the questions and answers session with attention to why Poland has no solid defenses of her Eastern borders.

It is clear that Professor Chodakiewicz is a historian of high integrity and moral courage who does not hesitate to refute with facts the "propaganda of success" which successive Polish Governments have been trumpeting. The former Communists who run our kin country Poland are anything but fans of Professor Chodakiewicz. Unless next month's Polish presidential elections miraculously result in the victory of a patriotic, Christian, and truly democratic candidate, the Polish Government is most unlikely to contribute money to establish the Kościuszko Chair in Polish Studies at IWP. This is why we patriotic Polish Americans, who see the present clearly thanks to Professor Chodakiewicz and therefore who are not duped by the "propaganda of success", must help to keep Professor Chodakiewicz at IWP. Please visit IWP's web site and learn more about how you can help. □

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My father from 10

my family lives, this sent a chill through my bones not only because of the huge scale of the place and organized killing that took place in the camp but also because it was so close to my fathers home in Katowice.

As I said we managed to trace our family and found out my father's sister is still alive, she is 82years old this year and been through an awful lot, her story is probably one that I will never know. She was a very beautiful young girl suffering first, invasion by Germany then supposed "liberation" by Russia.

I returned to Poland again this year and I had much more contact with my family, I managed to spend a whole week with them and was very lucky to have the services of a translator most days.

I am still trying to find out more about what my dad went through and to find out the circumstance in which he was awarded The Cross of Valour.

I think I will try and find out more about his German army history next. For the short term, I intend going over to Italy next May for the 60th anniversary of the fall of Monte Cassino, when there, I intend to visit also the place where my father was captured, probably a place most important to the family here in Scotland, if he had not deserted it is most likely we would not be here.

I feel I am on a journey started on the outbreak of WW2 that maybe I will not complete but may only be finished by the Grand children and Great Grand children of Jerzy Kempik.

This is my fathers still uncompleted story.

It got me thinking about a poem one of my school teachers told me was the memories of a soldier lying close to death in the trenches during WW1. Is anyone able to confirm this, here it is.

I Remember, I Remember

(By Thomas Hood)

I remember, I remember,

The house where I was born,

The little window where the sun

Came peeping in at morn;

He never came a wink too soon,

Nor brought too long a day,

But now, I often wish the night

Had borne my breath away!

I remember, I remember,

The roses, red and white,

The vi'lets, and the lily-cups,

Those flowers made of light!

The lilacs where the robin built,

And where my brother set

The laburnum on his birthday,

The tree is living yet!

I remember, I remember,

Where I was used to swing,

And thought the air must rush as fresh

To swallows on the wing;

My spirit flew in feathers then,

That is so heavy now,

And summer pools could hardly cool

The fever on my brow!

I remember, I remember,

The fir trees dark and high;

I used to think their slender tops

Were close against the sky:

It was a childish ignorance,

But now 'tis little joy

To know I'm farther off from heav'n

Than when I was a boy. □

Joseph L. Drociak,
Attorney

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7627 S. Western Ave. (323) 971-3981
12400 Wilshire Blvd. (213) 384-7900

Los Angeles