FAMILY TREE

BY JOHN W SAPANSKI, SR 2011

HISTORY OF SZCZEPANSKI NAME

I have been able to find the Szczepanski Coat of Arms, which is the cover page to this booklet. It dates back to 1345 and some think it dates back to 1102 when it was used in battle with the Prussians. The Szczepanki family, as well as other family member of nobility, fought under this Coat of Arms , Interestingly, Marie Curie was a bearer of this Coat of Arms. The Coat of Arms is called “Dolega” which served as a rallying point in times of conflict. See Exhibit1-1 for a more detailed explanation.

As Exhibit 1-2 and 1-3 explain, the derivation of the name Szczepanski is Saint Stephen. The “ski” means “son of”; therefore, “ Son of Saint Stephen”. Stefan was an early Catholic deacon who was the first to receive the dubious honor of becoming a martyr. He was stoned to death and then declared a saint (not by the same people obviously).

Upon our trip to Poland, we were able to visit “Szczepanski Plaza” in Krakow . SeeExhibit 1-4 for pictures of the signage .

For anyone interested in a brief commentary of the history of Poland, I included a dozen pages of Polish history as Exhibit 1-5.

Dolega **coat of arms**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Dolega (pronunciation: **[d:::>'w'fga])** is a Polish Coat of Arms. It was used by several szlachta families in the times of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth .

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Blazon

Azure a downward opened horse-shoe argent with a cross former of the same charged on the edge of its arch. Inside the horse-shoe an argent arrow whose downward point protrudes. Helmet with mantling azure, lined argent. Crowned. Crest: a vulture's wing with an argent arrow shot through.

Polish Nobility Crowns

Count (Hrabia) - In Russia and Poland, where the title of count was not introduced until Peter The Great's (1672-1725) time, it came to be given usually to officials of a certain rank in the government service. In Poland there were no Counts before the partitions of the late 18th century, when the title was introduced by the Russians, Austrians, and Prussians. The early Komes title was developed in medieval Poland. A Count's crown usually has nine points above its shield.

Baron - Nobility title that is lower than the Count, but is higher than a nobleman. The Baron's crown have usually seven points on the crown. (while noblemen only three, Dukes and Princes are decorated with Mitre) ..

Nobleman - The lowest title has three points on his crown.

History OF COAT OF ARMS

This coat-of-arms appears in 1345, as the seal of Mysliborz, a Judge of Dobrzyn (Dobrzyn and Wisl(\).

In a 1373 manuscript of Jan, the Bishop of Plock, the village of **Leg** is first mentioned as a **Dolrga** Clan possession.

It is surrounded by villages once owned by **Dolfga** Clan families. These are: Dabrowa, Dziedzice, Grabow, Gzino, Koskowo, luzniewo, Mlice, Osiek, Ossowa, Zakrzewo, Zalesie, and others, owned respectively by the Dabrowski, Dziedzicki, Grabowski, Gzinski, Koskowski, luzniewski, Mlicki, Osiecki, Ossowski, Zakrzewski, and Zaleski families etc. These villages and **Plock** are in the Masovian region of east Poland.

A court record of 1373 describes the war cry as "Do Langa". In records after 1400 the two words merge as "Dolanga," then more recently as **Dolfga.** "Do l ga" means "To Leg!" and perhaps served as a rallying point in times of conflict, or for the local clan celebrations.

Others say **Dolfga** means "To Bows" a cry to arms as the enemy approached. Another source says the word **Dolfga** in old Polish, meant potent - having great physical strength, forcefullness.

Some state that the origin of the coat of arms originated in the war of the King Boleslaw Krzywousty (1102-1139) against **Prussia.** A knight **Dolfga** of the coat of arms Pobog shot an arrow that killed the Prussian leader. This led to the people of Poland to rise up to attack. As a reward **Dolfga** received the arrow to its coat of arms **Pobog,** and the new coat of arms was called after him.

There is a village named **Prosy** which ostensibly for purposes of inheritance, was divided up among **Dolfga** C:lan m_embers. The name of this village may have gtven nse to the 'myth', that at one time, **Dolfga** clansmen might have defeated and captured Prussian (Baltic-speaking) enemies, and reduced them to serfs on their various properties.

Notable bearers

Notable bearers of this Coat of Arms include:-

- Maria Sklodowska-Curie .
- Zorian Dol ga-Chodakowsk..
- Erazm J6zefDol ga-Jerzmanowski
- General Mikolaj Boltuc family
- Tadeusz Dol ga-Mostowicz. Przydomek ' latach dwudziestych
- Dol ga-Ossowski family
- Dol ga-Mycielski family
- Dol ga-Zaleski family
- Tadeusz Mazowiecki
- Pawel Wlodkowic
- Paulus Vladimiri Dol ga
- Jan Dol ga-Zakrzewski
- Stefan Kubaska, Frieherr

299 names altogether: Babicki, Babillo, Baczewski, Bajrulewicz, Barsoba, Bartnicki, Bielski, Bogaszewski, Bogaszycki, Boguszycki, Bo:l:tuc, Borejka, Borejko, Borejko, Boreyka, Borsa, Borsza, Brudzewski, Bruszewski, Burczak, Burnak Bvchawski, Bykowski, Bywalkiewicz, Cebrys ewski, Cebrzyszewski, Cegielski, Chludziflski, Chodacki, Chodakowski, Chodykin, Cieszkowski, Cioluchowski, Cyganski, Cymdacki, Czochallski, Czygcu1ski, Czyndacki, Dargilowicz, Dqbrowski, Diakiewicz, DluZniewski, Dmmski, Dninski, Doblinowicz, Dobrzykowski, Dol ga, Dol gowski, Dolobowski, Dolumbowski, Dombrowicz, Domniewski, Dratnillski, Dulowski, Dusinkiewicz, Dymiflski, Dziedzicki, Dziedzielewicz, Dzi gielewski, Dzimiilski, Dziubillski, Dziublewski, Eminowicz, Fechner, Fedorowicz, Felden, Fudakowski, Gajewnicki, Galemski, Gikont, Giryn, Gizillski, Gl bski, Gl6wczynski, Gorecki, Gotgin, Gorecki, Grabowski, Grabski, Grunwalt, Guzowski, Gzowski, Horodelski, Jadkiewicz, Janczewski, Jarmult, Jasienski, Jasinski, Jas bski, Jemnanowski, Jurgielewski, Kadowski, Kalicki, Katnienski, Katnillski, Kawiecki, Kliczewski, Kniainin, Kobiernicki, Kolankowski, Komorowski, Kossowski, Kostkowski, Koszka, szko Koszkowski, Kosztownia,

Kosztowny, Kowalewski, Kowalewski, Kozarewicz, Kozarowicz, Kozierowski,
Koziorowski, Koziroski, Kozirowski,
Kretkowski, Kretowicz, Krosnia,
Krusienski, Krusinski, Krymuski, Krzyzanowski, Kubalski, Kubaska, Kuberski,
Kurklanski, Kuszewicz, Kutklanski, Lach, Lamparski, Lasecki, Laszany, Leski,
Lewandowski, Liberacki, Liberadzki, Lipniewicz, Luberacki, Luberadzki, Luboradzki,
Lusczkowski, Lusillski,
Lll.Czyllski, 4ski, Lukoski, Lukowski, Lukowski, Lukowski na Lukoszynie, Mackowicz,
Mackun, Makmviecki, Mazowiecki, Mqstowicz, Mchowski, Mdzewski, Mellitz, Milcz,
Mlicki, Mohylowski, Mohylowski, Monstowicz, Monstwild, Mostowski, Mostowt,
Mycielski, Mysliborski, Nalepillski, Narzymski, Nestorowicz, Nieglosowski, Niesulowski,
Niesultowski, Nietoslawski, Niewiadomski, Niewiadowski, Niewiardowski, Niski,
Nitoslawski, Nitostawski, Nosarzewski, Olsiejko, Osiecki, Osowski, Ossowski,
Ostrowicki, Otocki, Owicki, Owidzki, Peldowicz, Peldowicz, Pietraszewicz, Piskorek,
Piskorski, Podkowicz, Podymillski, Polichnowski, Proniewicz, Prysiewicz, Pryssewicz,
Przyalgowski, Przyjalgowski, Putrament, Radz:imin, Radzimowski,
1 Radziwillowicz, Radziwilo-wicz, Rodlino""icz, Rogoszewski, Roskowski, Roszkowski,
Rosciecki, Ruchladko, Rurawski, Rusienski, Rychalski, Rycharski, Rykacki,
Rykaczewski, Rykaszewski, RzqSnicki, Rzqinicki, Rzepiszewski, Rzepiszowski, Saim,
Sapieszko, Szczepanski, Sierakowski, Skmdkowsid, Skladowski, Sklodowski,
Sklotowski, Skonieczny, Skoszewski, Slucki, Sluszkiewicz, SluZowiecki, Smarzykowski,
Snowski, Sobiejuski, Sobierajski,
Sobillski, Srebrowski, Srzenski, Staroz bski, Starozrz bski, Staroirebski. Stawillski,
Stroinski,
Stronski, StrYjowski, Strzensld,
Suszewski, Sutocki, Sutowicz, Szarszewski, Szczepankowski,Szczepanski*****
Szczerbillski, Szczutowski, Szczytowski, Szemel, Szomel, Szrenski, Szyrma, Szyszka,
Szyszkowicz, Szyszlo,
Swi tochowski, Tochma:n, Tocki, Topiczewski, Truchelski, Trupelski, Trzcinski,
Turowski, Turski, Uciilski, Ulillski, Uscienski, Uscillski, Usillski, Wermillski, Weyden,
Witkowicki,

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Family Name History

Szczepanski

The Polish surname Szczepanski is of patronymic origin, belonging to that category of names based on the first name of a father. In this instance, the family name originated from "Szczepan", a Polish form of the personal name "Stephen", which was in turn derived from the Greek word "stephanos", meaning "crown" or "wreath". This personal name was popularized in medieval Europe through the veneration of Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr, who was stoned to death before the gates of Jerusalem. Saint Stephen of Hungary was the founder of that kingdom and led his people to adopt Christianity in the late tenth century. As the "-ski" suffix is here patronymic, the original bearer of the family name Szczepanski would have been "the son of Szczepan".

One of the earliest references to this name is a record of one Jedrzej Szczepanski, a soldier who participated in Polish campaigns against Sweden in the late seventeenth century. Colonel Jakob Szczepanski was allied with the Bar Confederacy, a group of officers and nobles who battled against the Russians to preserve Poland's independence over a period from 1768 to 1772. Antoni Szczepanski, who held the rank of captain in the Italian Legion under the Dabrowski command, distinguished himself in gallantry during the famous battle near Trebia in 1799. Notable bearers of this surname include the author Ludwik Szczepanski (1872-1954) and his son, Jan, a theater and film critic and mountain climber, who was born in 1902. The artist Stanislaw Szczepanski lived from 1895 to 1973, while the boxer Jan Szczpanski, who won a medal at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, was born in 1939.

BLAZON OF ARMS:	Azure a horseshoe argent surrounding an arrow of the same, feathered or, in chief a cross patte or.
Translation:	Azure (blue), denotes Loyalty and Truth. Or (gold), denotes Generosity and Elevation of Mind.
CREST:	An arrow argent, bendwise, flighted or.
ORIGIN:	POLAND

EXHIBIT 1-2

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The Great Szczepanski Surname Mystery

The following may be treated as a general guide to many other Polish surnames ending with *-ski,* not just this particular one.

Side Note: As you can see I'm striving to finally include some relevant content on my home website, so please bear with me. Thank you.

Meaning

First: the proper spelling

- **Szczepanski** is a Polish surname and is properly written with an acute accent over *n* (like here: **n).**
- Various disfigured versions exist, like *Szczepanski* or even *Schepansky,* but this is the only correct spelling.

Second: it's an adjective

- The *-ski* ending denotes an adjective in Polish (and in some other Slavonic languages too, thanks to the Polish influences).
- Adjectives in Polish are inflected, so if you want a female surname, replace *-ski* with *-ska.* Otherwise, it sounds bizarre.
- By the way, the same applies to *-cki* and *-dzki,* which emerge when *-ski* meets a stem ending in-tor *-d* respectively (from *«tski»* and *«dski»*).
- *Szczepa/1scy* is Polish for «the Szczepailskis» but one wonders what you would need this word for. Anyway, I've already written it so it stays.

An intermission

- Not all people in Poland are .S..· Other popular surname endings include *-icz* (ofLithuanian etymology) and *-ak I -ek I -ik I -yk.*

EXHIBIT 1-3

- In fact the most popular Polish surname, *Nowak* is of Czech origin (from *Novak* meaning

'new').

Origin

Meet Szczepan

- **Szczepanski** is a possesive adjective formed from the given name *Szczepan.*

- **Szczepan** itself is a Polish cognate of the name Stephen. However, the translation of Stephen rendered in contemporary Polish is *Stefan. Szczepan* is an older and a little outdated version that originated in the early middle ages, when there was no f-sound in Polish (yet).

- Some other names had «forked» in Polish too. One example is *J drzej* and *Andrzej* (for Andrew).

- Anyway, back to Szczepan/Stefan (or Stephen if you prefer), the name was popularized by an early Catholic deacon who was the first to receive the dubious honour of becoming a martyr -he was stoned to death and then named a saint (not by the same people obviously).

A biblical name? Not so fast!

- The story does not end here though-the name is much older than its Christian propagator and comes from Greek**TE(j)avo,** meaning «a crown».

Etymology

The possesive adjective sub-mystery

- The question I cannot answer you though is how did it *exactly* happen that the name was turned into a surname. There are at least two equally founded competing hypotheses for this:

  - The surname could have been created from a father's name.
  - A person could have been called directly after the saint.

- Although we can probably agree that it doesn't really make that much of a difference after a thousand years or so have passed anyway.

Now for the self-aggrandizing part

- **Szczepanski** is a nobility surname and has its own coat of anns, called *Dol ga* (pictured on cover)

- The word *dol ga,* meaning «potent», did not make it to modem Polish. Its word root is preserved only in the antonym *niedol ga* (meaning «impotent», as you may have already guessed).

Sub-factlets

- There is a *Szczepanski* Square in Krakow, named after a church (which was then moved to another location). See exhibit 1-4

EXHIBIT 1-4

MAJOR **DATES IN POLISH HISTORY**

550 B.C Biskupin settlement-is built.
100 A.D. Contacts with Roman Danubian provinces made.
500 A.D. West Slavic tribal federations formed.
850 A.D.Polanie and Wislanie tribal groups appear.
966 A.D.Mieszko accepts Christianity for himself and for Poland.
1000- Foundations of Catholic . hierarchy are laid with the establishment of the Archbishopric of Gniezno and three suffragan sees.
1025- Boleslaw the Brave becomes the first Polish. king.
1138-Boleslaw Wrymouth's order of succession starts the dynastic division of Poland instead of circumventing it.
1253- Poland's patron saint, Stanislaw, Bishop of Cracow, is canonized.
1364--- The University of Cracow is founded with papal approval.
1410-The great victory of Polish-uthuanian forces over the Teutonic Knights at Grunwald.
1473- Movable type printing press is used in Cracow.
1569-Poland and Uthuania merge into a Commonwealth (Lublin Union).
1596- Union of Brese unites most of the Orthodox Bishops of Poland/Uthuania with Rome to become the largest, most successful reunion movement in the history of the Catholic Church.
1683..,.- Victory of Jan Sobieski over the Turks at Vienna.
1772---- First partition of Poland by Russia, Prussia and Austria.
1791- The Constitution of May 3rd adopted to become the first written constitution on the European continent.
1794-The Kosciuszko Insurrection.
1795-Third partition of Poland by Russia, Prussia and Austria eliminated Poland from the political map of Europe.
1830-November Insurrection, the first of several unsuccessful Polish attempts in the 19th century to regain independence.
1863- January Insurrection.
1918- Poland regains its independence after 123 years of political partition and servitude.
1939- Nazi Germany attacks Poland and Soviet troops invade eastern Poland.
1947- Elections completely dominated by Soviet controlled communists and Poland becomes a •captive nation". Large estates are abolished, industry is nation-alized, schools secularized and Roman Catholic prelates jailed.
1956- Harsh working conditions ·cause a riot in Poznan.
1966-- Poland observes the 1,000 anniversary of its Christianity and statehood.
1970----" Workers in port cities riot because of price increases and unfair work rules.
1980-- After 2 months _of labor turmoil, the government grants the striking workers the right to form an independent trade union and the "solidarity" movement gains strength.
198M1 artial Law imposed.
1989-. Accord reached between government and opposition factions granting broad political and economic reforms including free elections.
199Q--• Solidarity leaders sweep parliamentary elections a11d Lech Walesa ·becomes President.

EXHIBIT 1-5

THE RISE TO POWER

Slav Origins:

Most Scholars agree that the original Slav homeland lay within the boundaries of modern Poland in the Odra (Oder) and Wisla (Vistula) basins. The Slavs subsequently expanded into territories to the east, south and west and became increasingly differentiated until, by AD 800, three main geographical and linguistic divisions had arisen; the East Slavs inhabiting a large part of European Russia, the South Slavs who settled in the Balkan Peninsula, and the West Slavs who settled in what is now Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany.

The West Slavs suffered different fates; the Lithuanians and Veleti were absorbed by German expansion, the Czechs and Moravians merged to form the nucleus of the Czech Kingdom, whilst the Slovaks became part of the kingdom of Hungary. The remaining tribes, including the Polanie, Wislanie, Pomorzanie and the Mazovians, joined together (in time) to form the Polish State.

Foundation: 966-1138.

The Polish Baptism of 966 came about as a result of the concerns of Mieszko, or Mieczyslaw I, chief of the Polanie, raised by the establishment of the German Empire of Otto I (962). He decided to marry Dobrava, the daughter of Boleslav I of Bohemia, and accepted Christianity for himself and his people, thus preserving their independence. In 1000, at the Congress of Gniezno an independent Polish Church organisation was set up with the agreement of Otto III, but formed according to the Czech, rather than German, system. Thus the Polish Church could turn directly to Rome, and the Pope, for protection and would not fall under the influence of the Germans.

The Coronation of Boleslaw Chrobry (the Brave) As the first king of Poland, in 1024, established Poland's right as an independent kingdom.

Disintegration and Reunification: 1138 - 1370.

In 1138 the Testament of Boleslaw III shattered the precarious unity of Poland by dividing the realm among Boleslaw's sons. This was the start of 150 years of dynastic struggle, in which the Church played a vital role in maintaining some semblance of national unity.

In 1226, Duke Konrad of Mazovia invited the Teutonic Order to combat pagan Prussian tribes from the base a Chelmno, thereby introducing a much more formidable enemy on the crucial Baltic coast. In time the Order turned on the Poles

the Sejm (elected representatives). In 1505 the Statute of "Nihil Novi" enacted that nothing new could be decided without Parliament's consent.

This "Golden Age" saw many foreign scholars, writers, artists and architects attracted to Poland, especially from Renaissance Italy. It was also the age of Copernicus and of the first great figures in Polish literature; Mikolaj Rey (the first to write exclusively in Polish) and Jan Kochanowski (the "father" of Polish poetry).

This was also, in Europe, a time of religious diversion and persecution. When pressed to take sides in the dispute between Catholics and Protestants, the king, Zygmunt August. said: "I am the King of the people-not the judge of their consciences." This spirit of tolerance attracted many refugees from religious persecution throughout the history of Poland' before the partitions; Jews in the 13th century, Hussites in the 15th, and Catholics from England and Scotland in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The Union of Lublin was a formal union of Poland and Lithuania; the "Rzeczpospolita Polska" (the Polish Commonwealth). This was formed in 1569.

The Elected Monarchy.

With the death of Zygmunt, the last of the Jagiellonians in 1574, there was nobody who could legally convene the Sejm. An "interrex" (Regent), the Archbishop of Gniezno, was appointed by the Senate and a special "Convocational Sejm" was called which decided to let the "szlachta" (nobility) the elect a king in a free election. Prior *to* his coronation the king-elect had to swear to uphold the Constitution and all "szlachta" privileges.

The first elected monarch was Henri d'Anjou, but he resigned half-way through the year in the hope of succeeding to the French throne instead. The second election winner was the Transylvanian Voivod (Prince), Stefan Batory, who became one of Poland's most celebrated rulers, great in both war and peace.

Batory carried out important reforms, encouraged further overseas trade and created the first regular Polish infantry by conscripting peasants from the Royal estates. In 1579 he created the University at Wilno (the eastern most outpost of Western European culture).

Between 1579 and 1582-Batory came to the aid of Inflanty (Livonia: modern day Estonia and Latvia) which has been attacked by the Muscovite Tsar, Ivan the Terrible. After a successful campaign and a brilliant victory at Pskov Batory accepted the Muscovite plea for peace; Livonia joined the Commonwealth and Poland was now recognised as the greatest power in Central Europe and only the Turkish Sultan ruled over more extensive territories.

After the unexpected death of Batory in 1586, the third election brought the Swedish crown prince, Zygmunt Vasa, to the throne. There would eventually be three Vasa Kings and the period would see long rivalry and wars between Poland and Sweden for the control of the Baltic. Under his reign the Polish magnates (great lords) rose to a position of power and would eventually destroy Poland through their greed.

In 1595 and 1596 the Synods of Brzesc (Brest) Utewski saw the Ruthenian (now Byelorussian and Ukrainian) Orthodox clergy recognise the supremacy of the Pope whilst retaining their distinctive religious rites and liturgy. King Zygmunt III Vasa decided to move the capital from Krakow to Warsaw, the junction Of all major routes crisscrossing the Commonwealth. This was done in 1596.

From 1609 Poland became involved in a series of wars and was invaded by Swedes, Turks and Muscovites in such numbers that the country was almost submerged by enemy forces; this period became known as the "Deluge". The devastation and loss of life were tremendous and Poland was only saved by a number of outstanding military commanders (Jan Zamoyski, Stanislaw Zolkiewski, Jan Karol Chodkiewicz and Stanislaw Koniecpolski) who archived some great victories (Kiuszyn, 1610; Kircholm, 1605; Chocim, 1612).

One historic episode during the "Deluge" was the defence of Czestochowa, Poland's most sacred shrine containing the picture of the Virgin Mary (the "Black Madonna"), by a small force led by the Prior and his monks against a besieging army of 9,000 Swedes. This defence actually changed the course of the war.

A particular danger came from within as the Cossacks (a Turkish word meaning "freebooter"), a

people of mixed origin but mainly Ruthenian and Pole, constantly changed sides, breaking their oath of allegiance to the Polish King. In 1648 the Cossack Hetman, Chmielnicki, led a great uprising which was put down. Chmielnicki now used the Ukraine as a pawn between the powers of Poland, Muscovy and Turkey which resulted in further wars. In 1658, at Hadziacz, an agreement between the King and the new Cossack Hetman, Wyhowski, was to enable Ruthenia to join the Commonwealth on equal terms with Poland and Lithuania but a further Cossack rebellion, in 1659, instigated by Muscovy (herself attempting to annex the Ukraine) and Polish involvement in war with Sweden, meant that the agreement bore no fruit and in 1667, by the treaty of Andruszowo, the Ukraine was divided evenly along the Dnieper between the Commonwealth and Muscovy. For the Polish Commonwealth this was a disaster since it weakened an important frontier area and left a discontented people open to manipulation by Poland's enemies.

Following a stormy election, Michal Korybut Wisniowiecki, called "Piast" (referring to Poland's earliest dynasty) was elected in 1669. He proved to be largely ineffective and became a tool of the magnates.

Later, in 1672. the Turks invaded the Commonwealth and imposed the treaty of Buczacz on the Poles by which Turkey occupied Podolia and the southern part of the Kiev region. In 1673, Hetman Jan Sobieski scored a splendid victory over the Turks at Chocim which, though not changing the provisions of the treaty, enabled Sobieski's election to the throne.

1674-1696 heralded the reign of Jan III Sobieski, a great military leader who had virtually annihilated the Turkish forces at Chocim and had been given by them the nickname of the "Fearful Lion of the North." Unable to break into Europe through Poland, the Turks invaded Hungary and Austria in 1683 and swept all before them. 130,000 Turks besieged Vienna and threatened to overpower Europe. Sobieski, at the request of the Pope, marched on Vienna, sent the "Hussaria" into their last great charge and took the Turks unawares. It was a turning point in history.

Main Index] Guide to Krakow) Polish History

DECLINE AND PARTITION

The Reign of Anarchy:

The wars of the 17th. Century had left Poland ruined; her population had decreased by a third and the victory at Vienna was the Commonwealth's last military success. The need for reform had become obvious even during the reign of Zygmunt III Vasa and the Jesuit preacher, Piotr Skarga, had blamed social injustice as the main cause of evil. The general decline was especially noticed in the Sejm; the parliamentary system grew awkward and ineffective as deputies used the notorious "Liberum Veto", which allowed any deputy to prevent legislation since all resolutions had to be carried unanimously.

The idea of consensus rule was, in principle, a good one but the "liberum Veto" was first used in 1652 by a deputy in the pay or power of a magnate. It soon became obvious to Poland's neighbours that the veto could be used to their own political ends and they soon clubbed together to "defend Polish freedoms". The "szlachta" themselves, becoming less influential as they lost their military valour and, in many cases, impoverished, saw the veto as the last symbol of their ability to play a role in the running of the Commonwealth.

The Decline of Poland:

In 1697 the Elector of Saxony, Augustus, was elected King. From 1700- 1721, Augustus II allied himself with Russia and became involved in war with Sweden for control of the Baltic (the Great Northern War). Poland became a battlefield and the Polish throne the prize. In 1704 Sweden won, Augustus was removed and the Voivode of Poznan, Stanislaw Leszczynski, was elected in his place. In 1709 the Russians defeated the Swedes at Poltava and Augustus was returned to the throne.

Conflict between Augustus and the Sejm almost ended in civil war in 1717, only prevented by a Russian offer of mediation; 18,000 Russian troops surrounded the chamber where the deputies met, they were denied the right to speak whilst the Russian "mediator" dictated the Russian " solution". This Sejm became known as the "Dumb Sejm" and the Republic became little more than a Russian client state; this was the start of the Russian "Protectorate" in which Poland was forced to reduce her standing army. On Augustus' death, in 1733, Leszczynski was again elected King but the Russians interfered by sending in an army and rerunning the election; Augustus' son, Frederick Augustus, was elected.

The Partitions of Poland: 1772 -1795.

Taking advantage of a now weakened Poland, Prussia, Russia and Austria agreed to annex parts of the country in 1772. The Commonwealth lost 733,000 sq.km (23%) of her former territory and 4,500,000 of her population; Prussia took the smallest, but economically best, area; Austria took the most heavily populated areas, whilst Russia took the largest, but least important. To give the crime some legality the Sejm was forced to ratify the partition in 1773, despite the resistance of some Deputies, led by Tadeusz Rejtan.

Despite the disaster of this first partition, Poland underwent a national revival in 1773, thanks to the efforts of Poniatowski. The first step was the creation of the "Komisija Edukacji Narodowej" ("Committee of National Education"), the first Ministry of Education in Europe. Hundreds of schools were founded and the standard of education was raised. Writers, poets, artists and scholars were encouraged by the King and the ideas of the Enlightenment were taking hold. This was the period of Adam Naruszewicz, the historian, Ignacy Krasicki, satirist and poet, Wojciech Boguslawski, "father" of the Polish theatre, and Franciszek Karpinski, whose hymns are still sung in Poland to this day.

Taking advantage of Russia's involvement in a war against Turkey, the King launched a reform programme (1788-1792) and the task was carried out by the "Four-Year" or "Great Sejm" which established a new Constitution; the Constitution of the Third of May. Established in 1791, under this Constitution the "liberum Veto" was abolished and a majority rule introduced, and personal freedoms guaranteed to all the people. The Constitution was hailed in the United States, England and France, but was seen as a threat to the absolute rulers of Prussia, Austria and, especially, Russia. So, in 1792, at Russia's instigation a handful of magnates led by Ksawery Branicki, Szczesny Potocki and Seweryn Rzewuski betrayed the Commonwealth and formed the Confederation of Targowica against the new Constitution and then "asked" for help. Russian troops crossed the borders and war broke out. The King's nephew, Joseph Poniatowski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko, a veteran of the American War of Independence, put up heroic resistance but all hope faded away when the Prussians joined in, attacking the Polish armies in the rear. Many patriots were forced to flee.

In 1793 Russia and Prussia signed the Second Partition Treaty, seizing more than half the

country and about four million more of the population. The last Sejm of the Commonwealth, which met at Grodno, was forced to legalise the partition and abolish most of the reforms of the "Great Sejm".

Popular discontent led to Insurrection, proclaimed by Kosciuszko (as Supreme Commander) in Krakow's Market Place on March 24th, 1794. Thousands of Poles rallied to the standard followed by a victory at Raclawice in which peasant scythbearers played an important role. The people of Warsaw, led by the cobbler Jan Kilinski, rose against and defeated the strongest Russian regiment in Poland. Berek Joselewicz commanded the first Jewish military formation since Biblical times. In May 7th, Kosciuszko issued the Polaniec Manifesto which abolished serfdom.

Eventually, in October, the combined strength of Russia and Prussia defeated Kosciuszko's forces at Maciejowice (where he was captured) and, in November, Warsaw was taken by the Russians who slaughtered the population of the suburb, Praga, including women and children.

Then, in 1795, the third partition wiped what was left of Poland off the map. The King was forced to abdicate and taken to St. Petersburg (where he died in 1798). Many captured Poles were sent to Siberia but thousands more escaped to Italy where, in 1797, they formed a Polish Legion, led by General Henryk Dabrowski, fighting for Napoleon Bonaparte against Austria. The Poles hoped that by fighting on the French side against the Powers that had partitioned Poland they could free their country. Dabrowski's Legion wore traditional uniforms which bore the motto: "All free men are Brothers!" They marched to a song written by Jozef Wybicki:

"Jeszcze Polska nie zginiela bugy my zyjemy,
Co nam obca przemoc wziela, szabla odbierzemy. Marsz
marsz, Dabrowski, z ziemi Wloskiej do Polski! Za twoim
przewodem zlaczym sie z narodem."

"Poland is not dead whilst we live,
What others took by force, with the sword will be taken back. March
march, Dabrowski, from Italy's soil to Poland!
Through your leadership we will reunite the nation."

When, in the twentieth century, Poland became and independent nation once more this marching song became the National Anthem.

THE POLISH ARMY

Polish armies had to operate in all types of terrain and climates (baking plains in the south to freezing bogs and forests in the north, wilderness or city). The enemy varied from slow-moving pikemen and musketeers to nimble, swift-attacking horsemen and invariably the fighting was far from home and lacking in ancillary services. Polish military thinking was therefore based on the ideas of mobility, adaptability and self-sufficiency.

The old Hussite idea of forming a gigantic square, a mobile fortress quickly formed if caught out in the open, became standard practice in all operations against Tartars and Turks. The Poles also devised the idea of operating in divisions since this gave them all-important mobility and ability to live off the land (this was at a time when most European armies marched in a great mass). Another tradition was that of the deep cavalry raid sweeping ahead of the main army, sometimes covering a thousand miles in a great arc behind enemy lines. The crux of any battle was the cavalry charge, not a massed attack by heavy armour, but light cavalry supported by artillery, probing for weak points to be exploited by the heavy cavalry deployed in a chequerboard pattern so that the bringing down of one rank or section did not affect the others.

The Poles set great store by artillery and were years in advance of their enemies until the eighteenth century, using light cannon with accurate bombardment and mobility being the crucial factors. They also used rocketry to great effect (Siemienowicz published a treatise on multi-stage rocketry in 1650).

The infantry was lightly dressed without helmets or armour and armed with musket, short sword and hatchet. Only one man in eight carried a pike. In the 1550's a Polish regiment of 200 men could fire 150 shots in five minutes (contemporary Spanish brigades of 10,000 men could only deliver 750 in the same time). Polish infantry possessed ten times greater firepower on a man-to-man basis than standard European infantries.

The cavalry was the backbone of the Commonwealth's military power, outnumbering the infantry by three to one. The crossed Turkish and European breeds to produce horses with speed and endurance, and rode on eastern saddles in order to place less strain on the horse. Because of these factors they could cover tremendous distances (up to 120 kilometres a day) without killing their mounts. Their curved sabres were the finest cutting weapon ever in use in a European army and accounted for their endurance in battle.

The pride and glory of the cavalry, its mailed first, was the Husaria, the winged cavalrv. Operatina in reagiments of about 300. the front rank carried an astonishing victory at Klushino (1610) 6,000 Poles (of only 200 were infantry) defeated 30,000 Muscovite and 5,000 German and Scottish mercenaries, at Gniew (1656) 5,500 Polish cavalry defeated 13,000 Swedes and outside Vienna (1683) the Husaria saved Europe from the, until then, unstoppable might of the Ottoman Empire.

After Vienna every lancer must be a Pole or dress like one, and since there were not enough Poles to go round armies were compelled to raise their own lancers dressed and equipped on the Polish model. Napoleon had his Polish lancers who rendered him good service, especially at Somo Sierra in Spain (when a squadron of 125 men cleared 9,000 entrenched infantry and four batteries in the space of seven minutes) and once again the Poles were able to inspire the rest of Europe. There have been few more gorgeously dressed soldiers in all the history of armies than the lancers of the nineteenth century. The lance cap was modelled on the Polish style and even called the "chapka" (hat). The short, double-breasted jacket of scarlet or blue was similarly known as a "ulanka" and German and Austrian lancers were called "uhlans". To the glittering uniforms, waving plumes, and splendidly caparisoned saddle-cloths there was also added the colour and

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Napoleonic Poland: The Duchy of Warsaw

The Poles felt that one way of restoring independence was to fight for Napoleon Bonaparte. In 1791 Dabrowski organised two legions to fight the Austrians in Lombardy and, later, for the French in the Iberian Peninsula.

Kniaziewicz organised the Polish Danube Legion to fight against the Germans in 1799.

Napoleon used the Polish Legions in all his campaigns: against Russia, Austria and Prussia, in Egypt, in the West Indies (Santo Domingo), and in Spain (where they fought the British and inspired the formation of the English lancers equipped with Polish-style uniforms and weapons). Some of the Poles became very disillusioned with Bonaparte, realising that they were being manipulated.

Later, in 1806, the French armies defeated the Prussians at Jena and entered Posen (Poznan) led by the Poles under Dabrowski. A year later Napoleon and the Tzar, Alexander, met at Tilsit and agreed to set up a Polish State made up of the lands the Prussians had taken in the second partition. This was the Duchy of Warsaw. Napoleon used the Duchy as a pawn in his political game and in 1812 called upon the Lithuanians to rebel as an excuse to attack Russia. The Poles, flocking to his standard in the hope of resurrecting the Commonwealth, formed the largest non-French contingent, 98,000 men. Polish Lancers were the first to cross the Niemen into Russia, the first to enter Moscow, played a crucial part in the battle of Borodino and, under Poniatowski, covered the disastrous French retreat, being the last out of Russia- 72,000 never returned.

Despite the cynical way that Napoleon treated the Poles they remained loyal to him and, when he went into exile on Elba the only guards that Napoleon was allowed were Polish Lancers.

The "Congress Kingdom"

In 1815 at the Congress of Vienna the Duchy was partitioned and a large part went to Russia. In Austria and Prussia there was repression of all Polish attempts to maintain the national culture, but in Russia, fortunately, the Tzar, Alexander I, was a liberal ruler who agreed to the setting up of a semi-autonomous "Congress Kingdom" with its own parliament and constitution. This became a time of peace and economic recovery. In 1817 the University of Warsaw was founded. But the accession of Tzar Nicholas I to the throne in 1825 saw the establishment of a more repressive regime.

In the Prussian occupied zone the aim was to totally destroy the Polish language and cu ure. From 1872 German became compulsory in all schools and tl was a crime to be caught speaking in Polish. There was a systematic attempt to uproot Polish Peasants from their land. A special permit was needed to rebuild any farm buildings damaged or destroyed by fire or flood, but none were ever granted to Poles. One peasant, Wojciech Drzumala, challenged this law by living in a ccnverted wagon.

In Austrian Poland, Galicia, ccnditions were different. After 1868 the Poles had a degree of self-government, the Polish language was kept as the official language and the Universities of Krakow and Lwow were allowed to fun<:;tion. As a resut this area witnessed a splendid revival of Polish culture, including the works of the painter Jan Matejka, and the wrtlers Kraszewski, Prus and Sienkiewicz.

All three powers kept Poland economically weak in this period of technological progress. Despite this the Poles managed to make some progress: the textile industry began to flourish in Lodz (the "Polish Manchester} and coal-mining developed rapidly. In Prussian Poland, despite ruthless oppression, the Poles concentrated on light industry and agriculture (and before long Poznan became the chief source of food for the whole of Germany). In Silesia, under German rule since 1742, the development of mining and heavy industry made her a chief industrial centre and thus the Prussian attempt to exterminate all traces of Polish language and culture was at its most ruthless, yet they survived.

Despite tls abolition by Kosciuszko in 1794 the partitlioning powers restored serfdom. It was not abolished in Prussia until1823, in Austria until 1848 and in Russia until1861 (but not in her "Polish" territories).

In 1905 the Russo-Japanese War saw a series of humiliating defeats for the Russians and civil unrest in Russia. In Poland there was a wave of strikes and demonstrations demanding civil rights. Polish pupils went on strike, walking out of Russian schools and a private organisation, the "Polska Macierz Szkolna" ('Polish Education Society"), was set up under the patronage of the great novelist, Henryk Sienkiewicz.

Then, in 1906, Jozef Pilsudski, a founder-member of the Polish Socialist Party (PPS), began to set up a number of paramilitary organisations which attacked Tzarist officials and carried out raids on post offices, tax-offices and mail-trains. In Galicia the Austrian authorities turned a blind eye to the setting up *of* a number of "sporting" clubs, followed by a Riflemen's Union. In 1912, Pilsudski reorganised these on military lines and by 1914 had nearly 12,000 men under arms.

The First World War: 1914-1918

On the outbreak of war the Poles found themselves conscripted into the armies of Germany, Austria and Russia, and forced to fight each other in a war that was not theirs. Although many Poles sympathised with France and Brttain they found tt hard to fight wtth them on the Russian side. They also had little sympathy with the Germans. Pilsudski considered Russia as the greater enemy and formed Polish Legions to fight for Austria but independently. Other Galician Poles went to fight against the Italians when they entered the war in 1915, thus preventing any clash of conscience.

Almost all the fighting on the Eastern Front took place on Polish soil.

On the collapse of the Tzarist regime in Russia in 1917, the main purpose for fighting alongside the Central Powers,Germany and Austria, disappeared. They had made many promises of setting up an independent Poland but had proved to be very slow in carrying these promises out. When Pilsudski's Legions were required to swear allegiance to Germany they refused and Pilsudski was imprisoned. In 1918 when, at Brest Lttovsk, the Central Powers signed a peace treaty with Russia, which was detrimental to Poland, the Second Brigade under General Halter revolted and marched into the Ukraine where they joined other Polish forces already formed there and fought against the Germans, eventually being surrounded and defeated.

At the outbreak of the revolution in Russia Polish army units had joined together to form the First Polish Corps under General Jozef Dowbor Munsnicki and tried to reach Poland but were disarmed by the Germans. Escapees and volunteers reorganised themselves into a new army at Murmansk in the Arctic and fought alongside the British on the shores of the Whits Sea and beside the French at Odessa, as well as in the Far East at Siberia. Later they managed to reach Poland.

Roman Dmowski, founder of the right-wing Nationalist League, had foreseen that Germany was the real enemy and gone to France where the "Bayonne Legion" was already fighting alongside the French *Army.* He and Paderewski formed a Polish Army which consisted of volunteers from the United States, Canada and Brazil together with Poles who had been conscripted into the German and Austrian armies and had become POWs. This Army became known as "Hailer's Army" after its commander who had escaped from Russia to France.

Rebirth: 1918-1922

All sides, from Tzar Nicholas of Russia to President Wilson (in his Fourteen points) had promised the restoration of Poland .Yet, in the end the Poles regained independence through the1r own act1ons when, first Russia, and then the Central Powers collapsed as a result of the War.

In 1918, on the 11th November, Pilsudski, having been released by the Germans proclaimed Polish independence and became Head of State and Commander-in-Chief, with Paderewski as Prime Minister. An upnsmg liberated Poznan and, shortly after the Pomerania (which gave access to the Baltic).

In the chaos that followed the collapse of the Powers new states had arisen: Lithuania, Czechoslovakia and the Ukrainian Republic. All these states laid claims on territory occupied by Poles.

The Poles liberated Wilno from the Lithuanians in 1919, reoccupied the area around Ciesz and annexed the Western Ukraine when the Ukrainian Republic, which had been supported by Poland collapsed under attack from Soviet forces.

The Red Army, having crushed all counter-revolutionary forces inside Russia, now turned its attention on Poland. By August 1920 they were at the gates of Warsaw. On August 15th the Polish Army under Pilsudski, Haller and Sikorski fought the Battle of Warsaw (the "Miracle on the Vistula"), routed the Red Army and saved a weakened Europe from Soviet conquest. An Armistice was signed at Riga in October, followed by a Peace Treaty in March 1921 which determined and secured Poland's eastern frontiers.

In 1922 part of Upper Silesia was awarded to Poland by a Geneva Convention following three uprisings by the Polish population who had been handed over to Germany at the Peace Treaty of Versailles.

The Second Republic: 1921-1939

On March 17th, 1921, a modem, democratic constitution was voted in. The task that lay ahead was difficult. The country was ruined economically and, after a hundred and twenty years of foreign rule, there was no tradition of civil service.

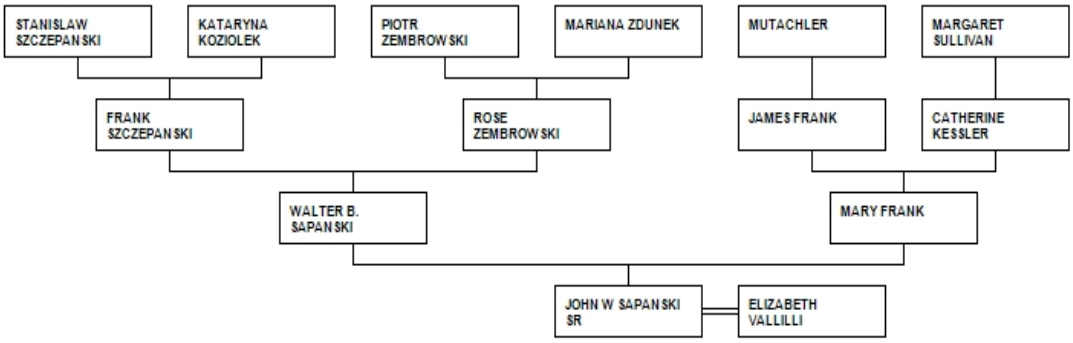
Marshal Pilsudski resigned from office in 1922, and the newly-elected President, Gabriel Narutowicz, took office only to be assassinated a week later.

Seeing that the government lacked power because of party strife, Pilsudski took controlby a coup d'etat in 1926 and established the Sanacja regime intended to clean-up (''sanitise") political life. By 1930 this had become a virtual dictatorship.

Despite all her problems Poland was able to rebuild her economy. By 1939 she was the 8th largest steel producer in the world and had developed her mining, textiles and chemical industries. Poland had been awarded limited access to the sea by the Peace of Versailles {the "Polish Corridor") but her chief port, Gdansk (Danzig) was made a free city (put under Polish protection) and so, in 1924, a new port, Gdynia, was buitt which, by 1938, became the busiest port in the Battic.

There were continual disputes with the Germans because access to the sea had split Germany into two and because they wanted Danzig under their control. There problems increased when Adolf Hitler took power in Germany.

In 1939, under constant threat from Germany, Poland entered into a full military alliance with Britain and France

In August, Germany and Russia signed a secret agreement concerning the future of Poland.

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