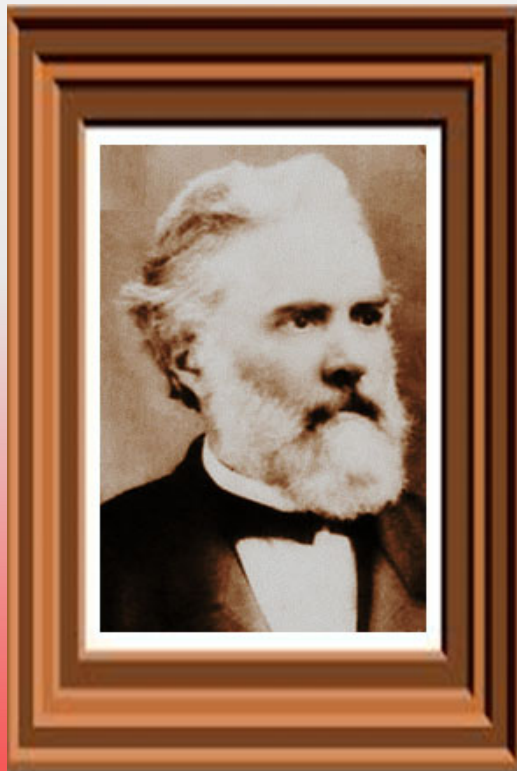


Polish California: 

**From Pioneers
to Silicon Valley**

Celebrating 150 Years

THE POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA 1863 - 2013



**Polish Society Founders: Captains
Kazimierz Bielawski & Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski**

“California Here I Come”



Early California...

San Francisco in the 1840s



1846

Annexation of California

Vallejo

facilitated the transition
of California to a State



1849 San Francisco





California 49ers

Polish California Pioneers

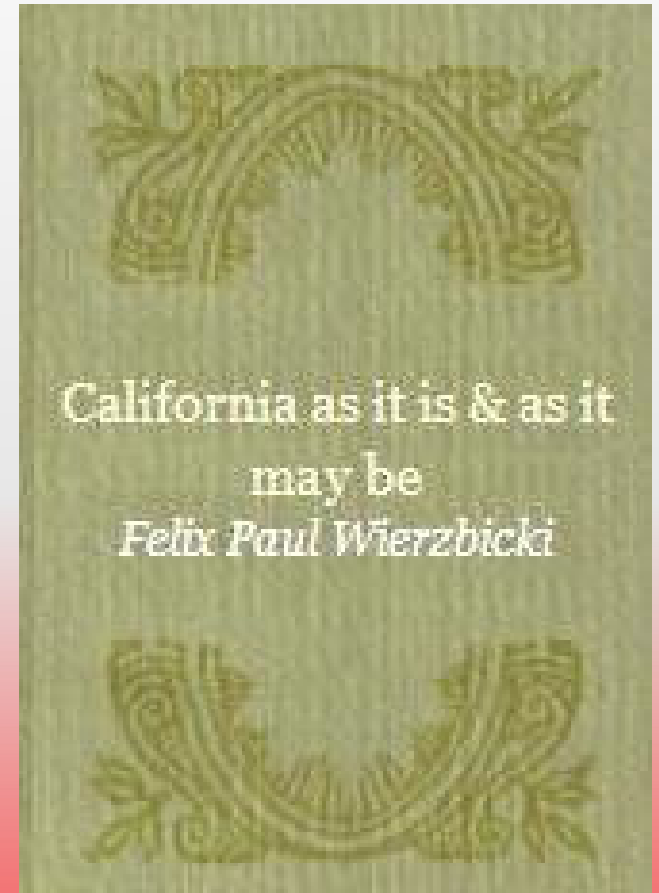
Feliks Paweł Wierzbicki, M.D.

(1815-1860)

Veteran, Poland's
1830 November Uprising

Prominent member of the
California Medical Society

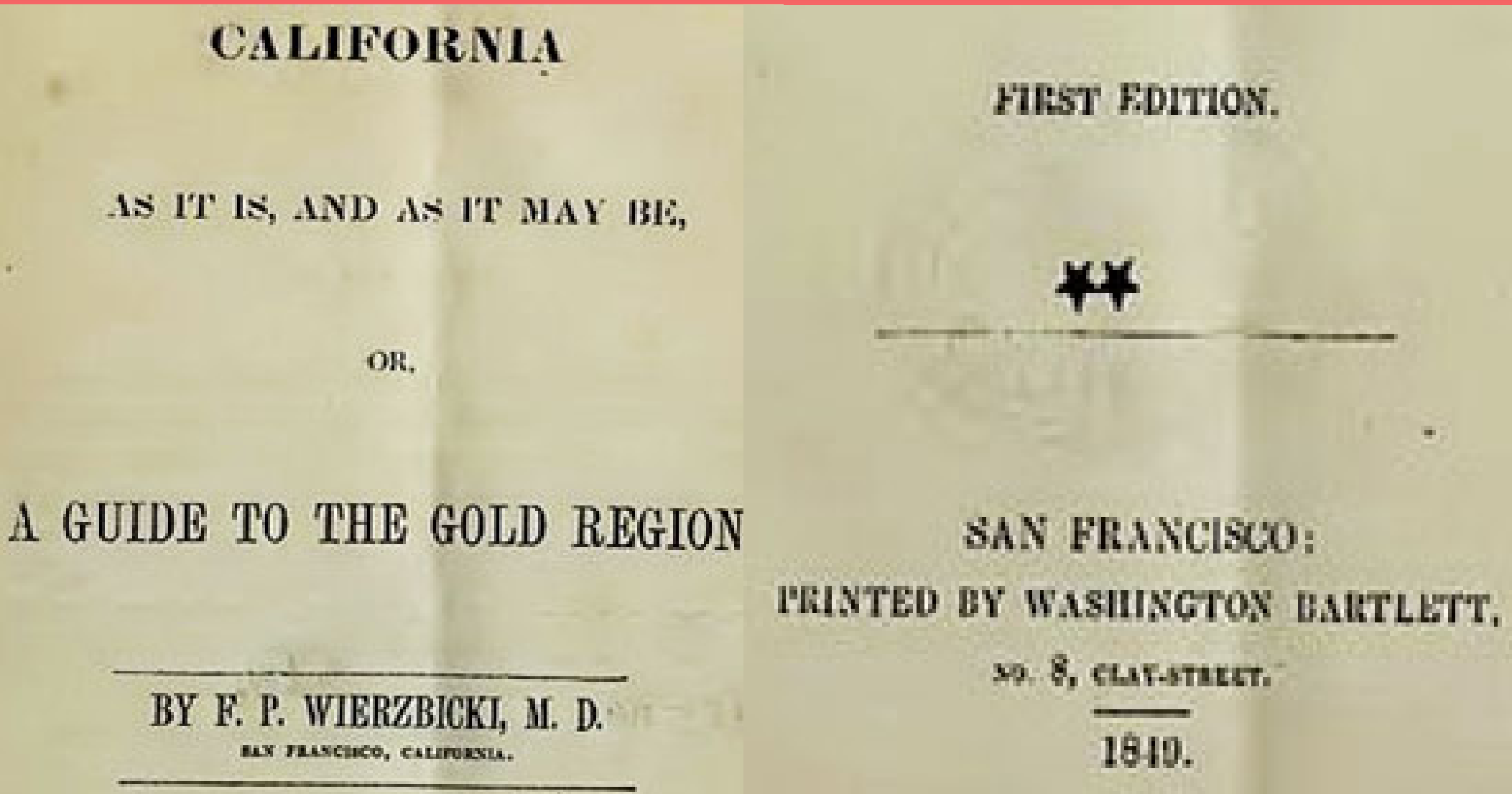
Author: ***California as It is
and as It May Be***
(1849)



Grabhorn Press
Reprinted 1933

First book printed in English in the State

**“Probably the most important book that
was ever printed in California” (Wagner)**



CALIFORNIA

AS IT IS, AND AS IT MAY BE,

OR,

A GUIDE TO THE GOLD REGION

BY F. P. WIERZBICKI, M. D.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

FIRST EDITION.



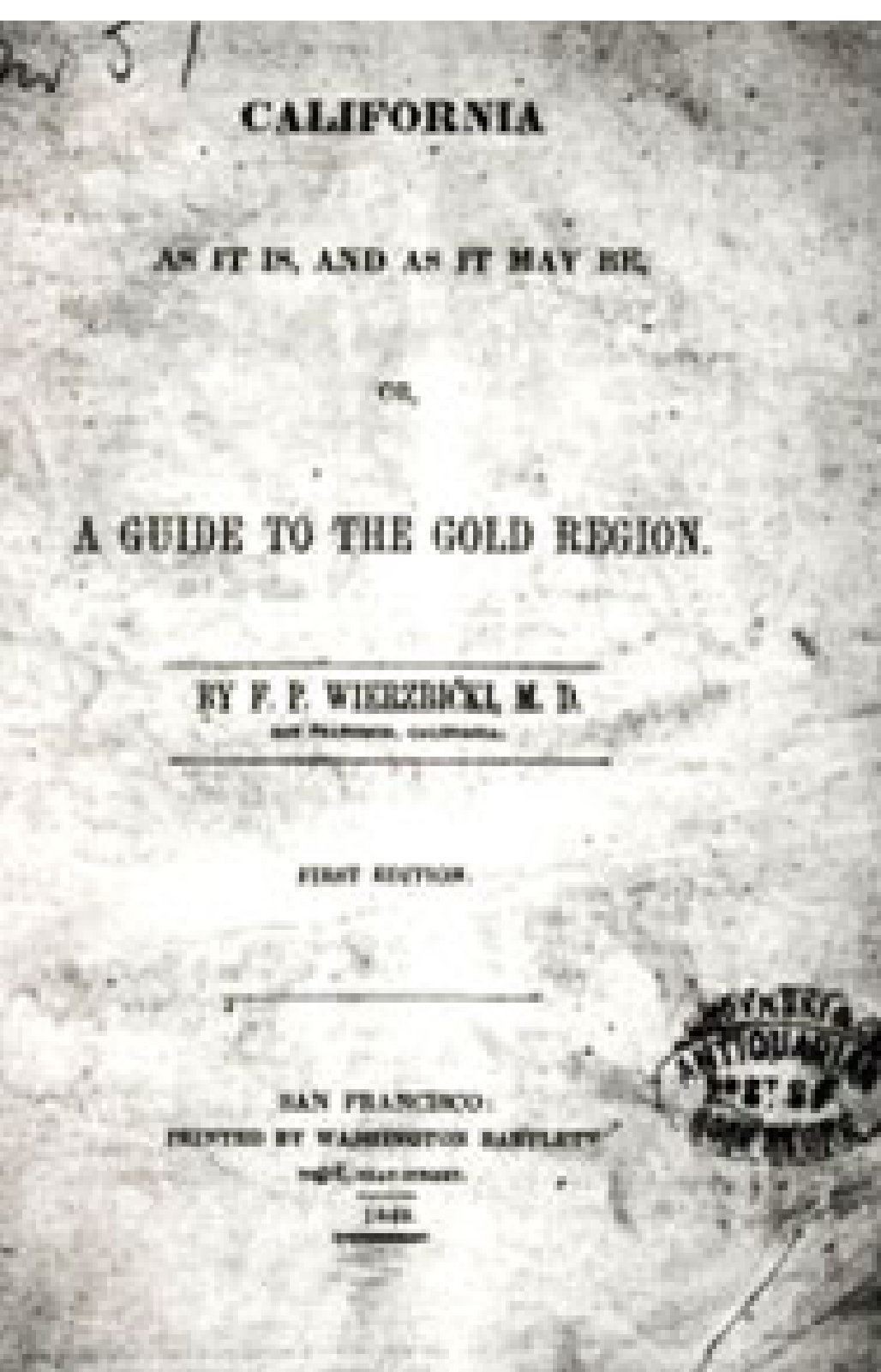
SAN FRANCISCO:

PRINTED BY WASHINGTON BARTLETT,

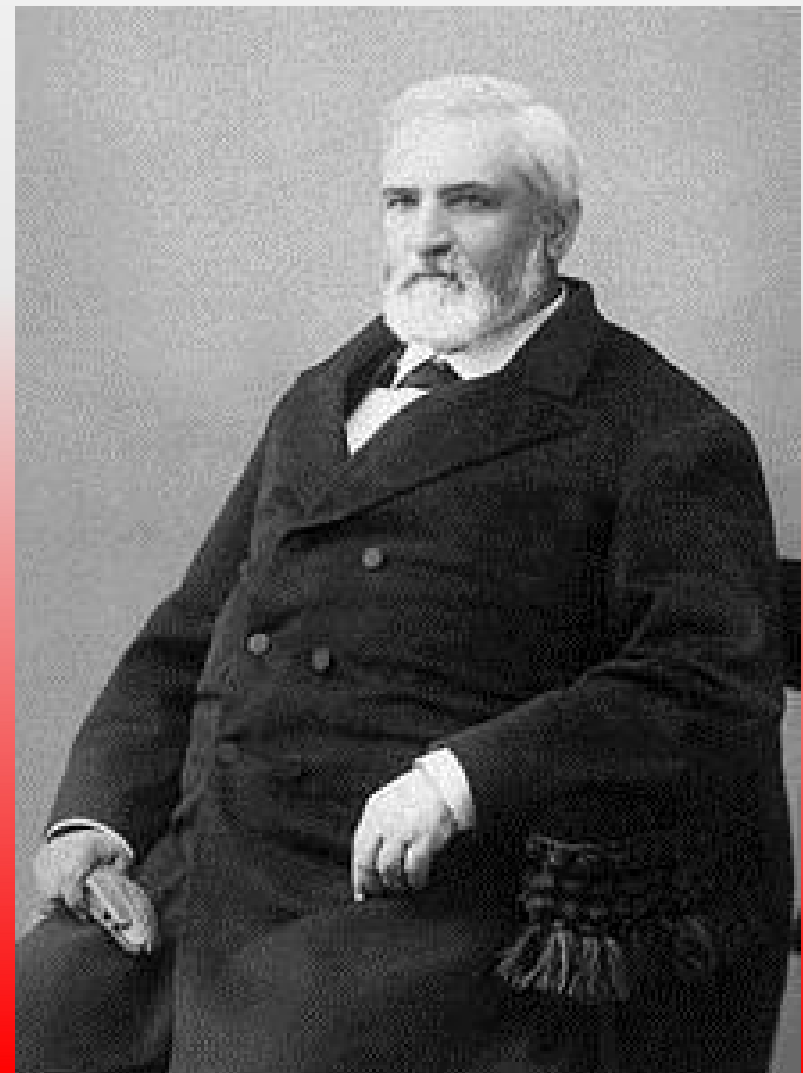
NO. 8, CLAY-STREET.

1849.

San Francisco, 1849



Published by Washington
Bartlett, 20th Mayor of
San Francisco and 16th
Governor of California





Dr. Wierzbicki, penning
his book *California*

Note his Polish tie

UCSF Medical Center
Toland Hall Mural
(now in storage for
remodelling)

Artist: **Bernard Zakheim**

Polish Jewish Artist

Aleksander Zakrzewski

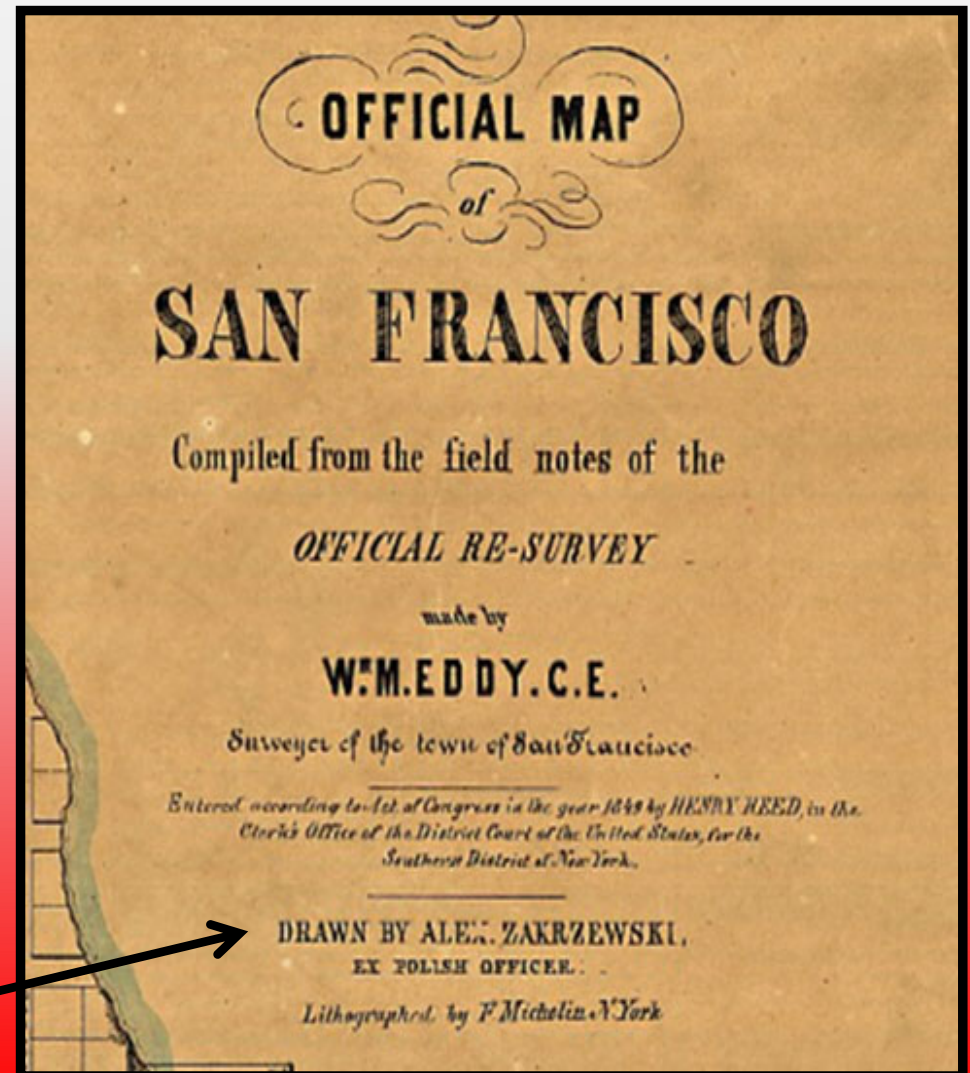
(1799-1863)

Lithographer, Cartographer, Draughtsman

Veteran, 1830 November
Uprising

Came to San Francisco
as a political exile

**Drew one of the
first maps of
San Francisco -- 1849**



Deposited in the Office of the Surveyor General for California, at San Francisco, this 1st day of May, 1874.

OFFICIAL MAP

SAN FRANCISCO

Compiled from the Gold notes of the

OFFICIAL RE-SURVEY

made by

WM. EDDY, C.E.

Engineer of the Town of San Francisco

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1874 by WM. EDDY, in the
District Office of the District Court of the United States for the
Southern District of California.

Drawn by A.C. ZARETSKY,
of the Surveyor General's Office.

Engraved by F. M. M. & Co.



Scale of the English Feet to the Inch
Scale of the Metric Meters to the Inch

145 X 204 M.C.

Captain Zakrzewski published

“View of the Procession”

Admission of California, **31st state**

Oct. 29th, 1850



Illustration by

the artist by

the artist by

VIEW OF THE PROCESSION

1860s San Francisco



April 1863 – Polish organized association

The natives of Poland, in this city, have an organized association, of which the following are officers: President, Kazmier Bielawski; Vice Presidents, Francis Wojcieehowski, Leon Czajkowski and Rev. Max Wolf; Secretary, J. W. Andrzejowski; Acting Agent on Communications, Rudolf Corvin. Piotrowski

Bielawski:	Civil Engineer and Surveyor
Wojciechowski:	Merchant and Farmer
Czajkowski:	Cigars and Tobacco
Wolff:	Rabbi, Congregation Beth Israel
Andrzejowski:	Agent for Poland, Retail Liquor
Piotrowski:	Agent for Poland, Immigration Officer

The Polish Society

Organized May 1, 1863

70 members

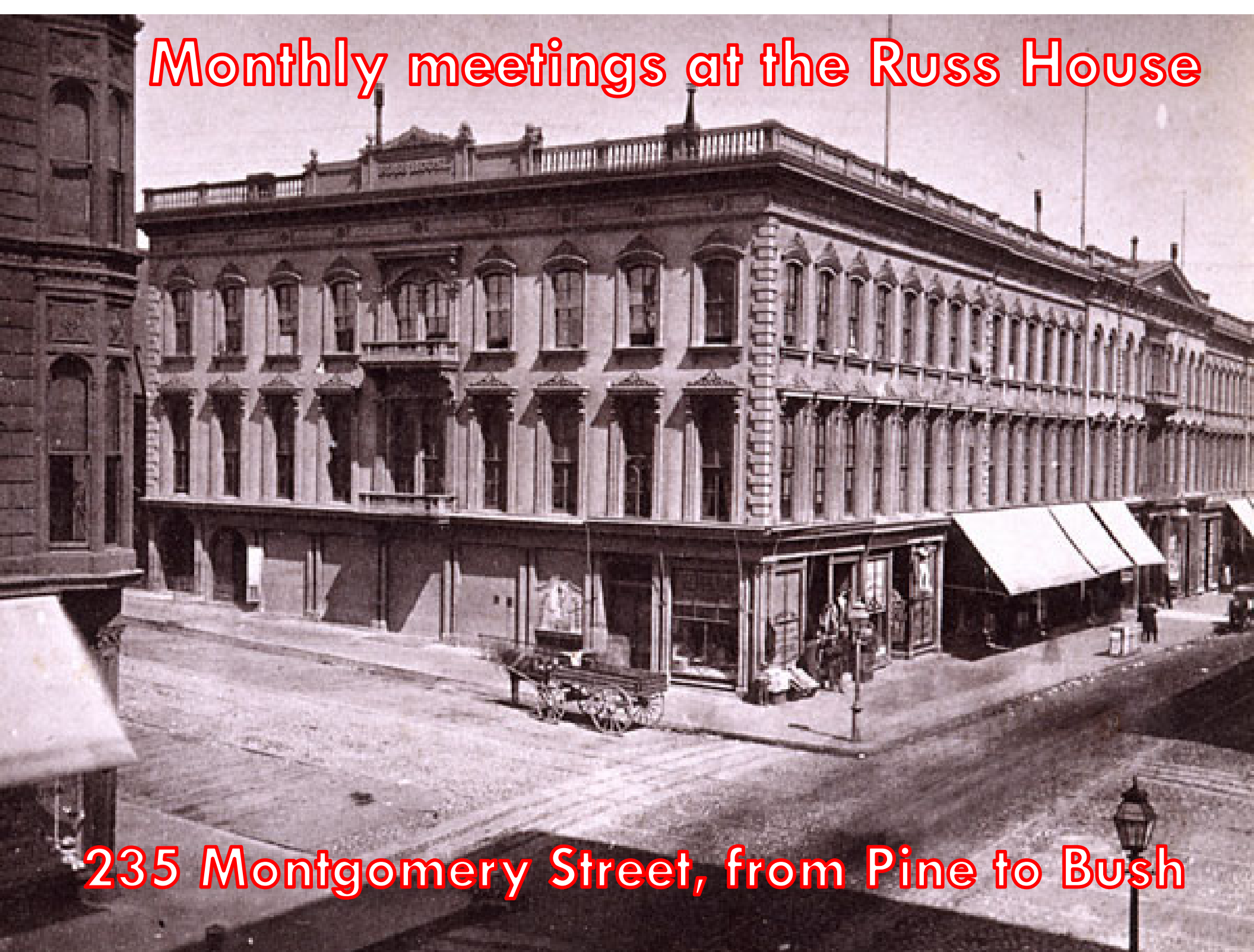
CENTRAL POLISH SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC COAST.—Organized May 1st, 1863. Meetings held monthly in the Russ House. Number of members 70. *Officers*—President: C. Bielawski; Vice Presidents: C. Meyer, C. Piotrowski, and Dr. L. J. Czapkay; Treasurer: Martin Prag; Secretaries: J. W. Andrzejowski and C. H. Berlin, Trustees: Woyeiscihowski, L. Czaykowski, I. Palecki, C. L. Luniewski, and M. Greenberg; Representative for the Interior: C. Piotrowski.

The Polish Society of 1863
welcomed all
supporters of liberty
for Poland

**1863: “Polish residents of
San Francisco assembled at
the Russ House... fighting to
free their land from the
tyranny of Russian
despotism”**

**(Poland’s 1863 January Uprising was concurrent
with the American Civil War)**

Monthly meetings at the Russ House



235 Montgomery Street, from Pine to Bush

RUSS HOUSE.

Montgomery Street, extending from Pine to Bush, SAN FRANCISCO.

S. H. SEYMOUR & CO.....Proprietors.

HOURS FOR MEALS.

BREAKFAST.....from 7 to 11	DINNER.....from 5 to 7	BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY...8 to 11
LUNCH.....from 12½ to 2	SUPPER.....from 9 to 10	DINNER ON SUNDAY.....5 to 6½



“Nine months after the
Russ (Riensi) family
arrived in San Francisco,
gold was discovered in California.

Russ became **the city's most
respected assayer**”

“Society of Polanders”



POLANDERS.

43 In this Hour of Your Country's Trial to throw off the shackles of oppression, we cordially invite you to coöperate with us in a cause which enlists the tenderest sympathies of every lover of freedom. All those who have seen the light of the world in Poland, and who feel for their suffering countrymen will have an opportunity for joining the Society of Polanders by applying to the undersigned Committee:

C. MEYER, No. 314 Davis street.

L. CZAYKOWSKI, 659 Clay St., Cigar Store.

J. W. ANDRZEJOWSKI, Military Headquarters (Russ House.)

ABR. ROTTENBERG, 118 Kearny street.

“All those who have seen the light
of the world in Poland... have
an opportunity for joining the
Society of Polanders...”

Czajkowski

Clay St.

Andrzejowski

Russ House

Rottenberg

Kearny St.

Meyer

Davis St.

C. Meyer, Esq.,
Agent of the National Polish Government,

May 22, 1863

**“Grand Mass
Meeting
In Favor of
Polish Freedom
and Nationality”**

Platt's Music Hall, San Francisco

GRAND MASS MEETING
IN FAVOR OF
Polish Freedom and Nationality
WILL BE HELD AT
PLATT'S NEW MUSIC HALL,
ON
FRIDAY EVENING,.....MAY 23, 1863,

At Eight o'clock.

The following gentlemen have consented to address the meeting:

CAPT. CORVIN PIOTROWSKI,

W. HAMILL, ESQ.,

HON. NATHAN PORTER,

COL. J. C. ZABRISKIE,

REV. T. STARR KING,

HON. J. M. McSHAFFER,

PROF. J. D. WHITNEY.

The Galleries will be reserved exclusively for the Ladies.

**CAPT. CASIMIR BIELAWSKI,
CAPT. CORVIN PIOTROWSKI,
C. MEYER,
L. J. CZAPKAY, M. D.,
MARTIN PRAG,**

Committee of Arrangements appointed by the Central Polish Society of the Pacific Coast. my29-3

The “Grand Mass Meeting” at Platt’s Music Hall in San Francisco won the sympathy & support of Americans for the January 1863 Uprising in Poland



Platt's Music Hall (now the Mills Building)
220 Montgomery Street at Bush Street

“...Poles have again resolved to be free... Shall Americans fail to appreciate the sacredness of the cause, and the imperative obligations of freemen in an emergency like this?”

**The list of speakers &
guests at the
“Grand Mass Meeting”
is a
Who’s Who of 1863
California**

**“3 future mayors, 2 future governors,
2 future U.S. senators, the publishers
and editors of 4 daily newspapers, the
president *pro tem* of the state senate
and 3 other legislators, 2 associate
justices of the California Supreme Court
and 3 future justices, the U.S. Attorney,
the superintendent of the U.S. Mint, &...**



Ludlow and Mroczek Morris. *The Tossplot and the Diva*, 2015

**“California’s secretary of state and
its controller, the state’s leading
scientist (geologist J.D. Whitney),
3 generals of the militia, and a
platoon of industrialists, bankers,
judges, shippers, importers,
merchants, lawyers, manufacturers,
and the owner of
Woodward’s Gardens.”**



**“Giving their blessings were
leading rabbis and pastors,
including the celebrated
oratorical pulpiteer, the
Rev. T. Starr-King”**



Ludlow and Mroczek Morris. *The Tossplot and the Diva*, 2015

PARIS, August 10, 1862.

Mr. President: The Polish Committee has received through the hands of Lazard Freres, the sum of six thousand dollars, the amount of subscriptions collected in favor of the Polish cause by the exertions of the Committee at San Francisco.

The Committee desire you, Mr. President, to be the interpreter to your honorable colleagues of their sentiments of profound gratitude for the generous initiative that the San Francisco Committee has taken in favor of the affranchisement of Poland. The sympathies of American citizens are precious to our cause, and the wishes that all free nations give to Poland are the best proof of our most powerful and imprescriptible rights.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of our sentiments and high consideration.

S. GALENZOWSKI, President.

ELIE LAZARD, President of the Polish Committee, San Francisco.

TO: Elie Lazard (Freres Lazard Banking)
President, Polish Committee, San Francisco

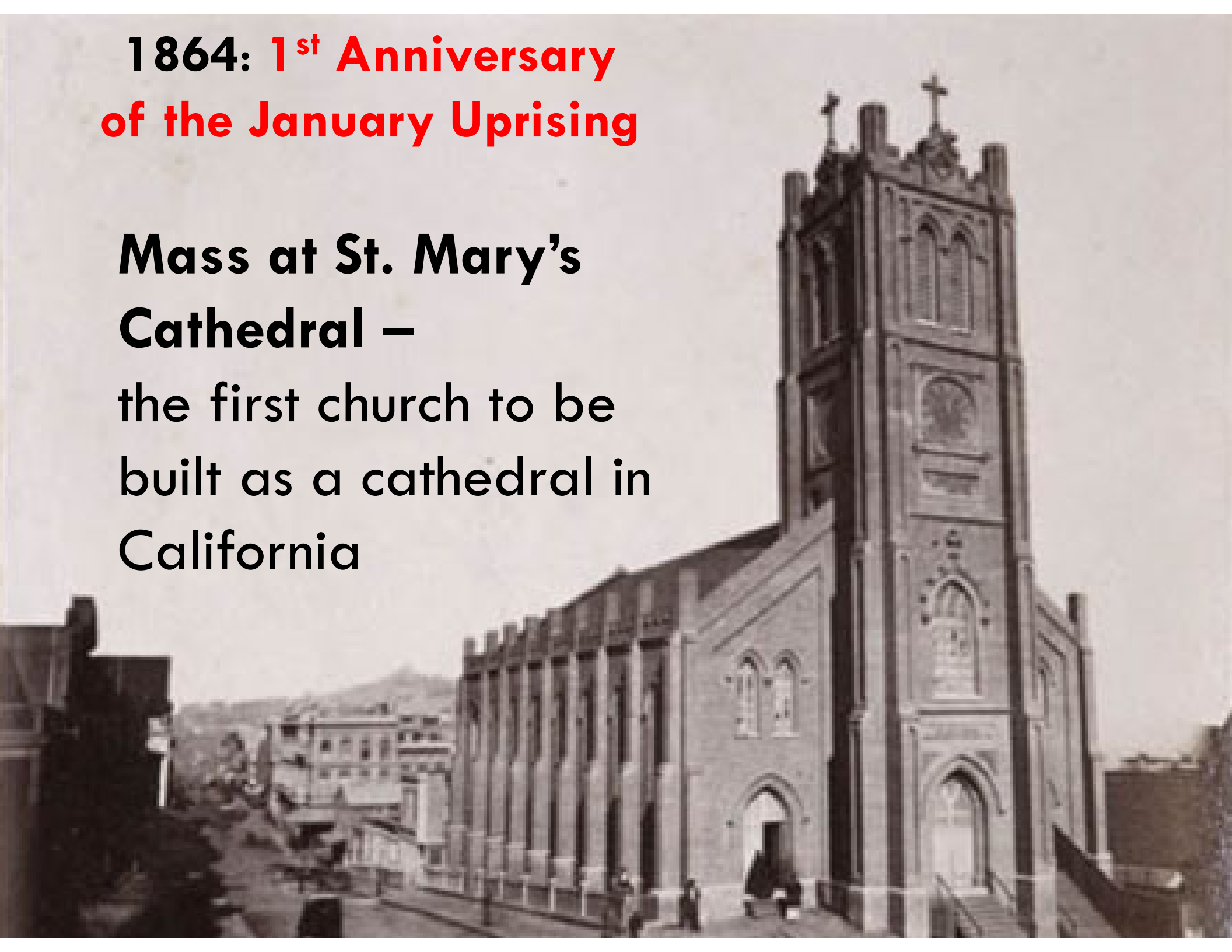
FROM: Seweryn Gałęzowski
President, Polish Committee, Paris

**“Proves the generous
sympathy of the citizens of
San Francisco for the
Polish cause”**

1863

**1864: 1st Anniversary
of the January Uprising**

**Mass at St. Mary's
Cathedral –
the first church to be
built as a cathedral in
California**

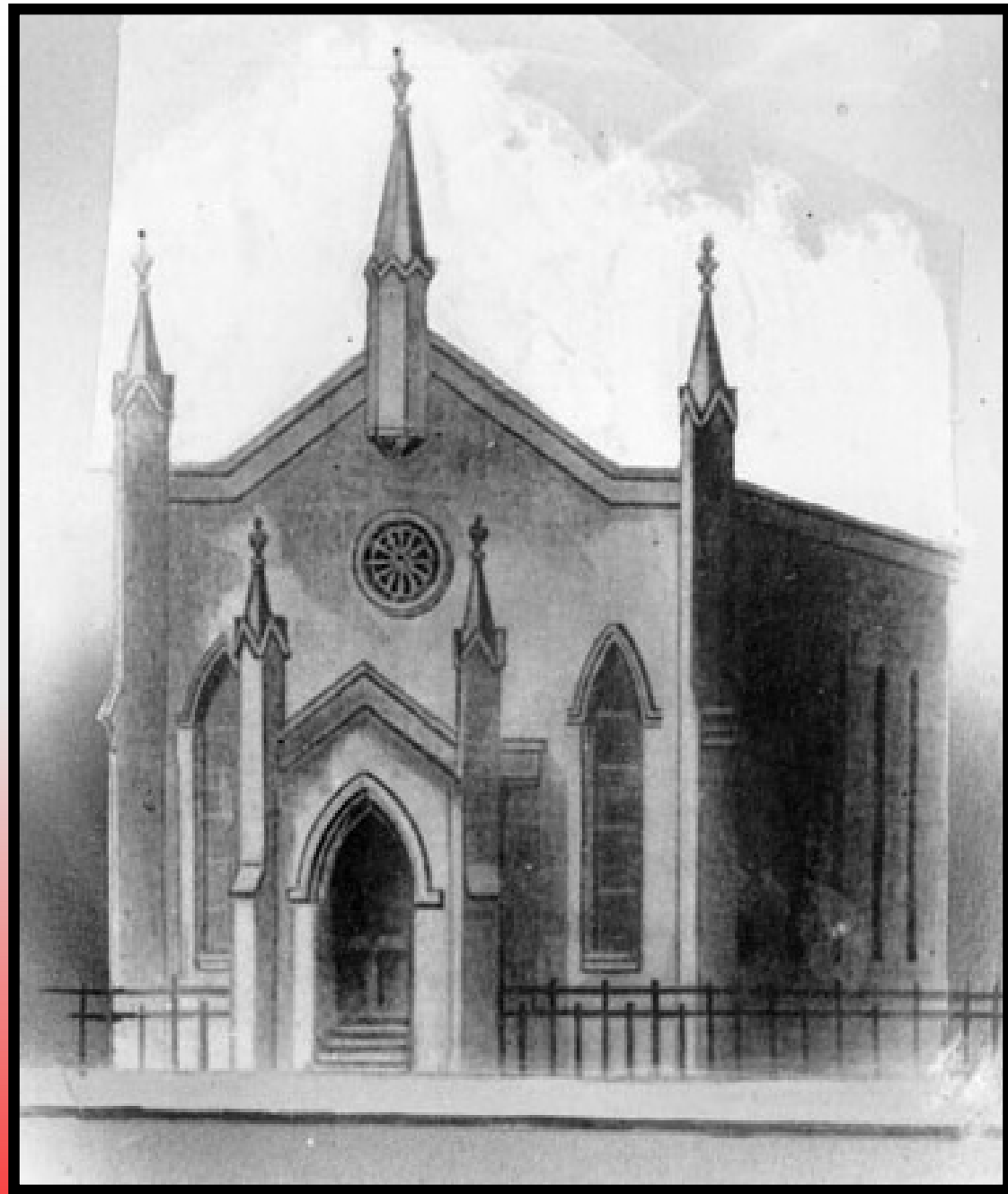


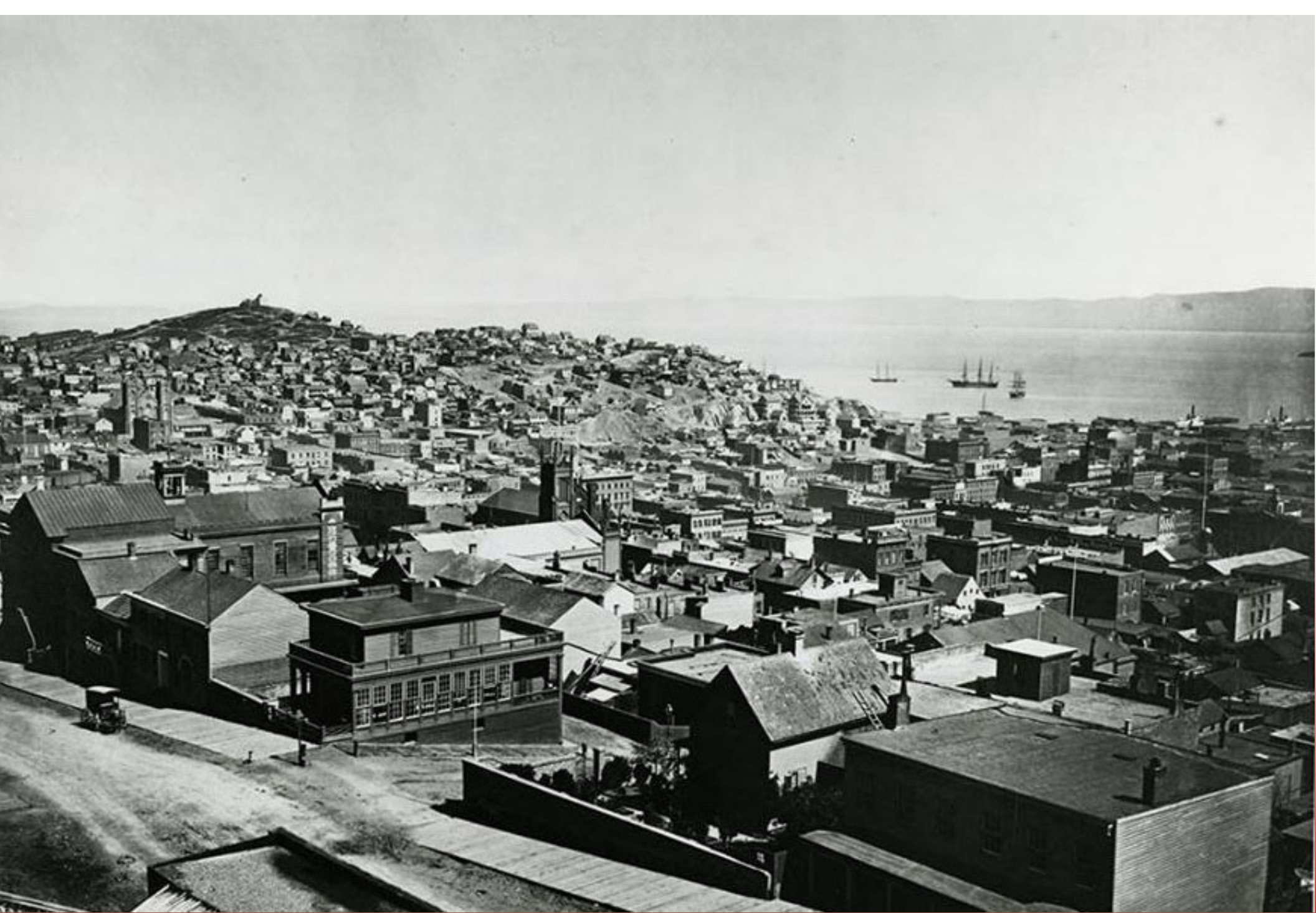
“Prayers at
Synagogue
Sherith Israel”
Stockton Street

The first two Jewish
Congregations in
San Francisco were
established in 1851

Sherith Israel (Polish)
and

Emanu-El (Bavarian & Alsatian)





June 1865

“Polanders resident in
California are amongst
the most loyal of our
adopted citizens”

1865 San Francisco Street Names

Kosciusko, fm Cortland
av S to Crescent av. B H.

PULASKI AV—From County
Line south of Olney av
northwest to San Bruno av

Revolutionary-war heroes

Tadeusz Kościuszko

(helped design the garrisons at West Point) &

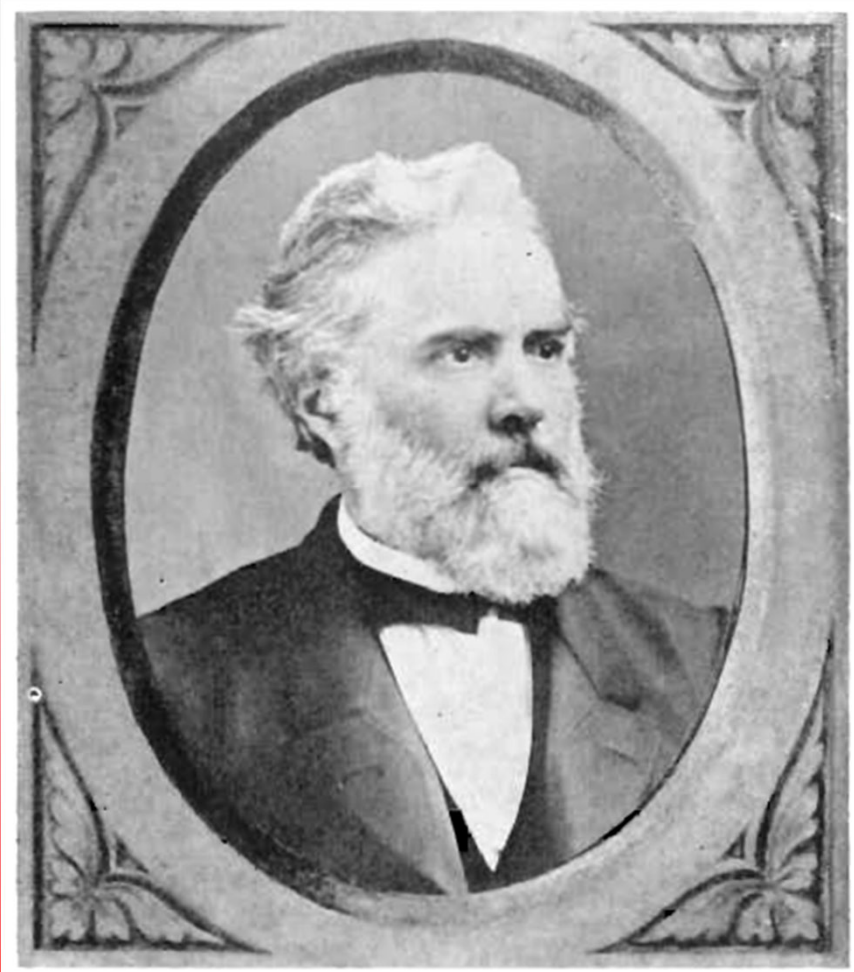
Kazimierz Pułaski

Captain Kazimierz Bielawski



(1815-1905) Civil Engineer & Surveyor

First President of The Polish Society of California



“What made Bielawski’s
knowledge and experience
...valuable... was his
absolute *honesty*”

--Actress Helena Modjeska

California’s Polish-born tragedienne

Society Co-founder

Captain of Engineers in the army of
Austrian-occupied Poland

Came to California in 1853

For 45 years he was connected with the
U.S. Land Office in San Francisco

In 1865 he published a...
"Topographical and Railroad Map"

RAILROAD MAP

of the Central Part of

California,

and Part of

Nevada.

Compiled

1885

Published by

C. BIELAWSKI, J. D. HOFFMANN & A. POETT

SCALE 4 MILES TO ONE INCH

Red Roads Constructed



Bielski designated a summit on
Mt. Hamilton in **Santa Clara** County as
"**Copernicus Peak**" for
Polish astronomer Nicholas Copernicus

Near Los Gatos, "**Mt. Bielski**" is the
highest point in **Santa Cruz** County



Mount Bielawski

Image © 2006 TerraMetrics



Inter 37°13'23.46" N 122°05'33.42" W elev 3199 ft

Streaming ||||| 100%

Eye alt

San Francisco, Nov. 29, 1894

Mr John Muir
Dear Sir.

Receive my best thanks for
your book published about "The Mountains
of California" presented to me.

The deeply thought observations about their
formation, and the masterly description of
the beauties of nature contained therein, form
a fit and very interesting sequel to the series
of "Picturesque California" published pre-
viously under your Editorship.

With kindest regards to all my friends
in Alhambra valley I remain respectfully
Yours
C. Bielawski



1894 letter
to naturalist
John Muir
from
**Captain
Kazimierz
Bielawski**

Captain Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski

(1813-1883)

Co-Founder of the Polish Society of California

Holder of the *Virtuti Militari*
cross for bravery
(1830 November Uprising)



California State Commissioner of Immigration

Political Agent for Poland; raised money for the
1863 January Uprising

**Order of the
Virtuti Militari,**
Poland's highest
military decoration for
gallantry in the field



Agent for the Poles.—At a meeting of the Executive Committee in San Francisco, the following resolution, appointing a General Agent, was adopted :

Resolved, That Captain CORWIN PIOTROWSKIE be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to act as the Agent of the Executive Committee appointed to solicit contributions in aid of Poland; and, as such Agent, to collect, throughout the State of California and Nevada Territory, all funds that the citizens thereof may think proper to contribute for that purpose; and after deducting from the amount thus collected his necessary expenses and disbursements, to remit the same to the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

E. LAZARD, Ch'n of the Committee.

C. BIELAWSKI,

C. MEYER,

D. J. OLIVER,

F. MAC CRELLISH,

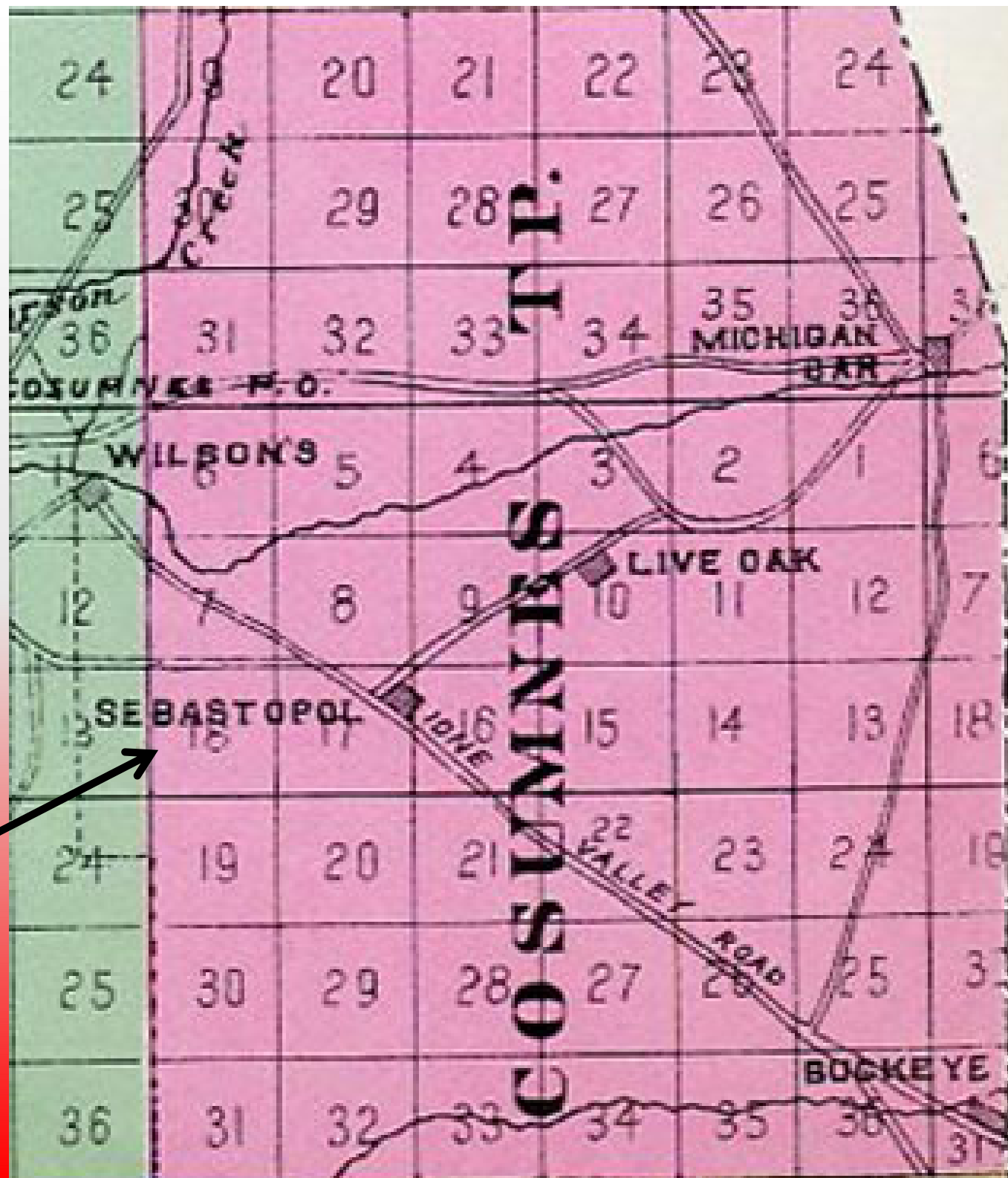
L. J. CZAPKAY, M. D.,

E. F. BEALE,

J. C. ZABRISKIE Se'cy,

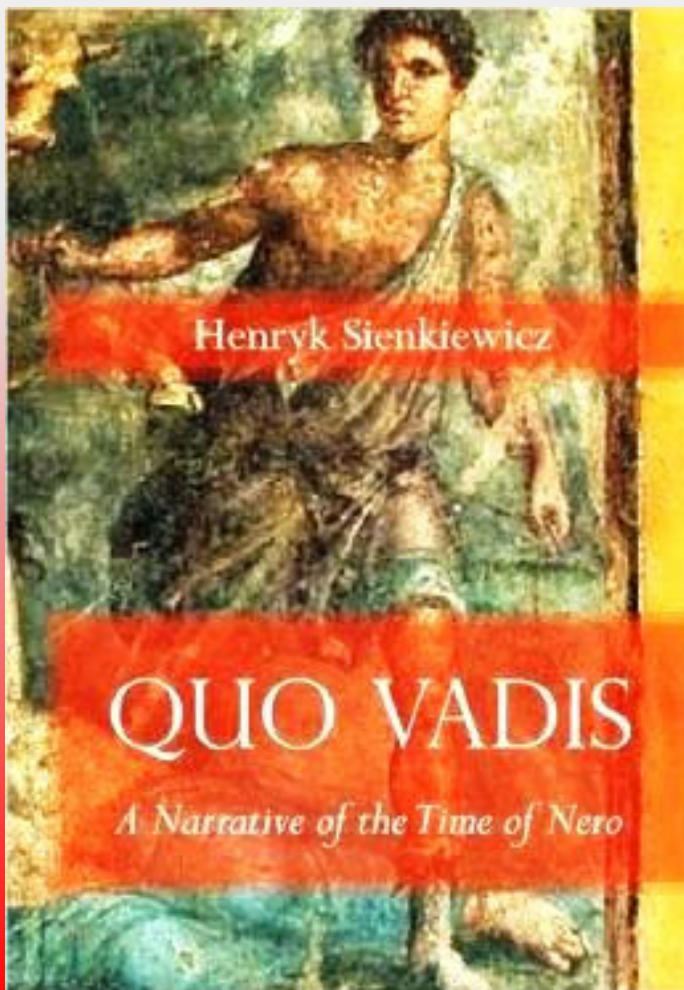
N. LARCO. jy18 2w

Piotrowski
named
the **former**
mining town,
“**Sebastopol,**” in
Sacramento
County



Henryk Sienkiewicz

(1846-1916) **Nobel prize winner** Author of *Quo Vadis*, ***The Trilogy***, etc. Immortalized California in many of his writings



The Trilogy expressed Polish patriotism
in a Poland that was
partitioned and deprived of
independence.

With Fire and Sword

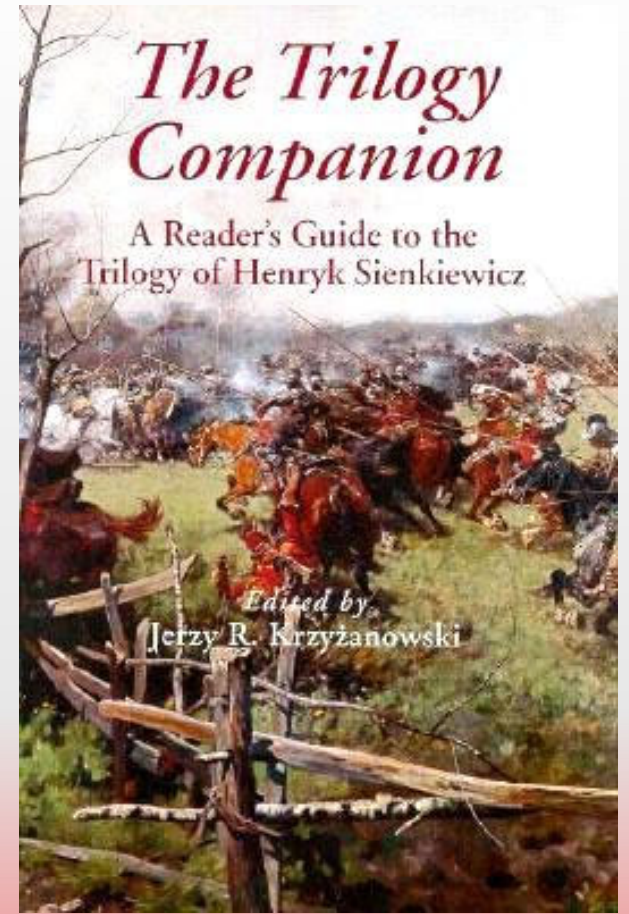
The Deluge

Fire in the Steppe

By Henryk Sienkiewicz

“The *Trilogy*... remains more popular in Poland than Henryk’s biggest hit everywhere else, *Quo Vadis*”

Ludlow and Mroczek Morris.
The Tossplot and the Diva, 2015



Sienkiewicz fashioned his
Trilogy literary character,
Zagłoba, after his friend
Captain Piotrowski, co-
founder of the Polish Society
of California

Sketch of Polish Society co-founder, Captain Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski

by Henryk Sienkiewicz



Sienkiewicz's fictional character, *Zagłoba*



AUTHOR MET "ZAGLOBA" IN SAN FRANCISCO

Gayley Says Sienkiewicz
Found Inspiration for
Novels While Here

Sienkiewicz's Zagloba a Californian

Captain Piotrowski lived in
Sebastopol &
San Francisco for 33 years.

He died in Paris in 1883.

He is buried in
an unmarked grave.

Captain Franciszek Michał Wojciechowski

(Francis Michel or “Captain Francis”)

Veteran

1830 November Uprising

**Captains Piotrowski & Wojciechowski
ran a general store in the
mining town, Sebastopol**

Sienkiewicz based his *Trilogy* literary character, ***Podbięta***, on California pioneer, Captain Wojciechowski

Wojciechowski is buried in Sacramento
in the Old City Cemetery
in an unmarked grave



Podbipięta



Zagłoba

Actors portraying
Sienkiewicz's
Trilogy characters,
Podbipięta & Zagłoba

Piotrowski helped world-renowned
stage actress
Helena Modjeska
start her American career

HOW MADAME MODJESKA'S CAREER WAS SAVED
BY ZAGLOBA

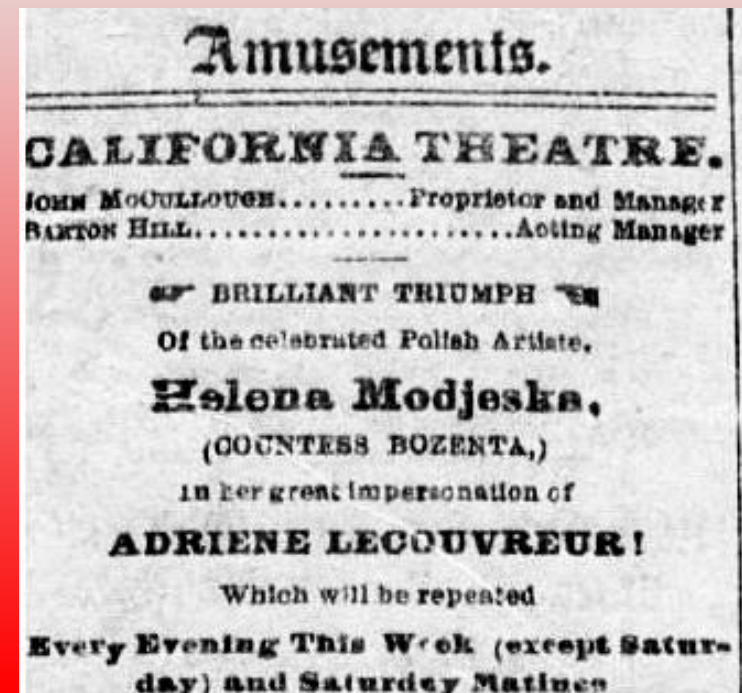
Current Literature, June 1, 1909

Read the story in *The Tossplot and the Diva* by Ludlow & Mroczek Morris

Modjeska wrote: “Capt. Piotrowski,
Capt. Bielawski, Dr. Pawlicki, &
General Krzyżanowski...

of the Polish Society were...
connected with my début on the
American stage in
San Francisco”

HELENA MODJESKA: *Adrienne Lecouvreur*, 1876



Władysław Pawlicki, M.D.

1831 Russian-occupied Poland – 1923 San Francisco

Veteran, Crimean War
(1853-1856)

Arrived in San Francisco
in 1862

Socially-prominent surgeon

**President of the Polish Society of California for
many years**

KEY TO LONG LIFE

*Content, Says Dr. Pawlicki,
Must Have Heart in Work.*

Patriarch, 90, Talks



General Krzyżanowski & Captain Piotrowski “Prominent Speakers” at the Polish Society

The following gentlemen were prominent as speakers: Capt. Korwin Piotrowski and General Krzyzanowski, of the Grand Army; Mr. Engelman, Secretary of the Polish Society; Mr. Redlich, Mr. J. Uszynski and Capt. F. T. Lessen.

Perfect harmony prevailed throughout the meeting, and about ten o'clock the party separated in high spirits.

Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski

(1824-1887) Distinguished Civil War General
in the Union Army

Lived in San Francisco
from 1875 to 1878

His wife, Pelagia,
spent her final years
in San Francisco



A few more Polish California pioneers...

Jan Teofil Strencel, M.D. (John Strentzel)



Born 29 November 1813,
Lublin, Poland

Veteran, 1830 November
Uprising

Died: 31 October 1890,
Alhambra (Martinez),
Contra Costa County

Pioneer fruit grower and horticulturalist

1863: Dr. Jan Strencel, of the Polish Society, was a generous donor to the "Cause of Poland"

THE CAUSE OF POLAND.—The following letter was recently addressed to the Polish Committee in San Francisco :

ALHAMBRA (near Martinez), Nov. 7, 1863.

To the Polish Committee—Gentlemen: From notices in the papers, I perceive that you are again busy in collecting contributions for our suffering brethren. The rigors of a northern Winter are already upon them; every day's delay freezes the heart's blood of many a patriot; let each hundred dollars collected be immediately dispatched on the wings of lightning to the Central Committee. Each hundred dollars will procure fifty kozachs (sheep skin coats)—each kozuch a ransom for a life. Inclosed please find an order for one hundred dollars, on Gale & Co., for the Polish Committee.

Yours, very truly,

DR. STRENTZEL.

Prominent member of many scientific and beneficial associations

Founded United Fruit & Vegetable Co.

Credited with planting the first pear orchard in Central California

Said to have grown the first muscat grapes in California

Father-in-law to naturalist, **John Muir**

Martin Prag

Born in Warsaw, Poland about 1821

Came to San Francisco in 1850

Wealthy dealer in stove- and tinware in
San Francisco and Vancouver

Treasurer of the Polish Society
of California in 1863

Died in San Francisco in 1891

*In the Company of Gentiles: Exploring the History of
Integrated Jews in British Columbia, 1858-1971*

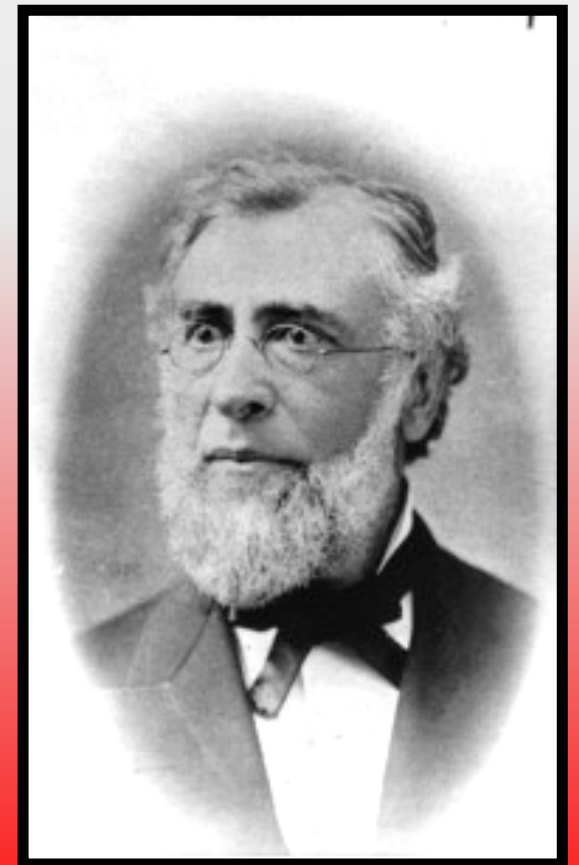
“Old and highly-esteemed merchant...
acquired a fortune”

Martin Prag, for many years engaged in the tin and hardware business in this city, died at his residence, No. 818 Filbert street, on Thursday afternoon. Deceased was a native of Warsaw, Poland, and was aged sixty-eight years and six months. He leaves three surviving daughters to mourn his loss. Three sons died several years ago. Mr. Prag was a Mason and his remains will be buried to-day under the auspices of that fraternity, from Masonic Temple, at half past 10 o'clock, whence they will be taken to the cemetery in San Mateo county.

Charles Meyer, Merchant; President of the First Hebrew Benevolent Society; member of the Polish Society of California; Political Agent for Poland; raised money for the 1863 January Uprising

**Rabbi Elkan Cohn,
Congregation Emanu-El
Elected in 1860**

Born in Prussian-occupied Poland.
Served Congregation Emanau-El for
29 years. **Trustee of the Polish
Society of California in 1863**



Colonel J.C. Zabriskie

(1804-1883) First Sacramento City Attorney.
Prominent in San Francisco & Sacramento. **Raised
money for the 1863 January Uprising**



**“Col. Zabriskie expressed
his pride at having Polish
blood in his veins... he
thanked Heaven the
Polish predominated.”**

**His daughter, Mary, married J. Neely Johnson,
Governor of California, 1856-1857**

**The Polish Society *of the Pacific Coast*
was renamed the
“Polish Society of California” in 1873**

POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA (Towarzystwo **Polskie** W. Kalifornii).—Organized January 23, 1873. Objects: Social, literary and benevolent. Meets every Saturday at their rooms, 1032 Market street.
Officers.—Dr. L. Pawlicki, President; Corwin Piotrowski and F. T. Lessen, Vice-Presidents ; A. Elgass, Secretary and Librarian ; A. Heilman, Treasurer.



1873: Governor Booth appointed Captain Piotrowski Commissioner of Immigration

Governor Booth has appointed R. K. Pietrowski Commissioner of Immigration



1880: “The Polish Society was organized many years ago in San Francisco...

Its members are among our most industrious citizens”

In 1880 the Polish Society joined the Polish National Alliance as Branch 7



Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America

"CHARTER"

Grupa No. 7
Lodge

NINIEJSZYM ZAWIADOCZA się, że

BE IT KNOWN BY THESE PRESENTS, that

Jan Banachowski, Kazimierz Bielawski, Wladyslaw Borejko, Antoni Czarnecki, Konstanty Engelman, Maks Engelman, Teodor Ferenz, Antoni Fijalkowski, Gustaw Hejzman, Antoni Hirschfelder, Pawel Jachowski, Wladyslaw Januszkiewicz, Jozef Jerczynski, Ignacy Jocz, Ignacy Kolasa, Andrzej Kopankiewicz, Leon Bronislaw Laski, Aleksander Maliszewski, Kazimierz Nowak, Jan Nowak, Ignacy Olbinski, Ludwik Opio, Wladyslaw Pawlicki,

Indywidualnym wyznaczeniem Konstytucji, Praw, Regul i Przepisów

have accepted and do hereby accept and promise to do the Constitution,

ZWIĄZEK
NYCH
związków
polożenie
NARODOWY
AMERYKI
Zarząd
grup
należy

AL ALLIANCE
Federal benefit
the laws of the
publicly qualifica-
ANCE OF THE
role of the am-
resolution of its
and its supreme
members and their

Officers.—W. Pawlicki, President; R. K. Piotrowski and F. T. Lessen, Vice-Presidents; A. Elgass, Secretary and Librarian; G. Hejzman, Treasurer.

ZWIĄZKU NARODOWEGO POLSKIEGO W STANACH ZJEDNOCZONYCH POŁNOOCNEJ AMERYKI pod imieniem Towarzystwa

polish members and members, as Lodge No. 7
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA, to be known as

Tow. Polakow w Kalifornii
San Francisco *State of California*
i wyżej wymienione Grupa od dnia dotychczasowego, a do czasu dotychczasowy do warunków podobnej organizacyjnej, niniejszym upoważniamy ją do przez siebie odpowiedzialnych i kwalifikowanych wyznaczenia do wykonania wszystkich czynności należących i potrzebnych do prowadzenia naszego interesu i interesu Związku Narodowego Polskiego w Stanach Zjednoczonych Państwa Ameryki, wszystkie zgodnie z wyznaczeniami Konstytucji, Praw, Regul i Przepisów, uchwałami Sejmu i rozporządzeniami Rady Nadzorczej lub Zarządu Centralnego Związku Narodowego

Pols in California Society
San Francisco *State of California*
and the Lodge aforesaid from hereafter on during the indefinite term hereinafter set forth is hereby authorized to its duly elected and qualified officers, to perform all acts, necessary and proper to the conduct of its business and the business of the Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America, all at all times in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, the enactments of the Conventions, the regulations of the Supervisory Council and of the Board of Directors of the Polish National Alliance of the United States of North America, now in force or which may

1882: The Polish Society unanimously adopted a resolution decrying all religious persecutions

THE JEWISH PERSECUTION.

The Polish Society of California, at a meeting held to consider the question of the recent riots in Moscow, unanimously adopted a resolution deprecating, in the strongest terms, all religious persecutions, tendering sympathy to the sufferers by these outrages, and offering to cheerfully labor with their compatriots all over the world to relieve the distress of these outraged people.

By many friends and acquaintances will be sadly felt the news of the death of the well known and generally respected California pioneer, Captain R. K. Piotrowski, at the age of nearly 70 years. He was born in Poland in 1814. He fought bravely for the independence of his country in the memorable struggle of Poland against Russia in 1831. Notwithstanding his youth he was promoted to the rank of Sub-Lieutenant on the field and decorated with the golden cross "Virtuti Militari," the highest distinction then in the Polish army. He came to California at about 1844 and at first engaged in mining. Soon afterwards he bought a large tract of land on the Sacramento river, where, in company with one of his fellow-soldiers, he founded a colony called Sebastopol, a small, thriving place at the present day. At the time of the civil war he warmly espoused the cause of the Union.

CAPTAIN PIOTROWSKI

"Death of a
**Polish Patriot
and California
Pioneer**" 1883

"He was one of
the founders of
the Polish Society
of California & an
active member...
to the very last."

BUILDER OF AUSTRIAN FORTRESSES IS DEAD.

Captain Casimir Bielawski Dies at
His Home on California
Street.

Captain Casimir Bielawski, who as an Austrian military engineer, won fame by building noted forts more than half a century ago, died yesterday morning at his home, at 1307 1/2 California street. He had passed his ninetieth birthday. Gastritis was the cause of death.

Bielawski superintended the construction of a famous fort at Venice in 1844, when that portion of Italy was under Austrian rule. He also directed the building of the Mantua fortress, as well as several other Austrian strongholds. He witnessed the massacre at Galicia in 1846, and as a result of the relentless slaying was turned against those at the head of his native land. He secured leave of absence, visited France and England, and when the Austrian Government began to press him to return into service he came to the United States.

Captain Bielawski arrived in California in 1853. He secured a position in the Government Land Surveying Office here, and because of his expert knowledge in surveying held his position through various administrations covering forty-five years. He finally resigned because of old age. Mrs. Bielawski died about four years ago and from that time on the aged military Captain's health failed rapidly.

"Bielawski Dead at His
Home on California St."
1905

"...**Captain Bielawski**
arrived in California in
1853. He secured a
position in the ...
Surveying Office..., and
because of his expert
knowledge... held his
position for 45 years."

Andrzej (André) Poniatowski

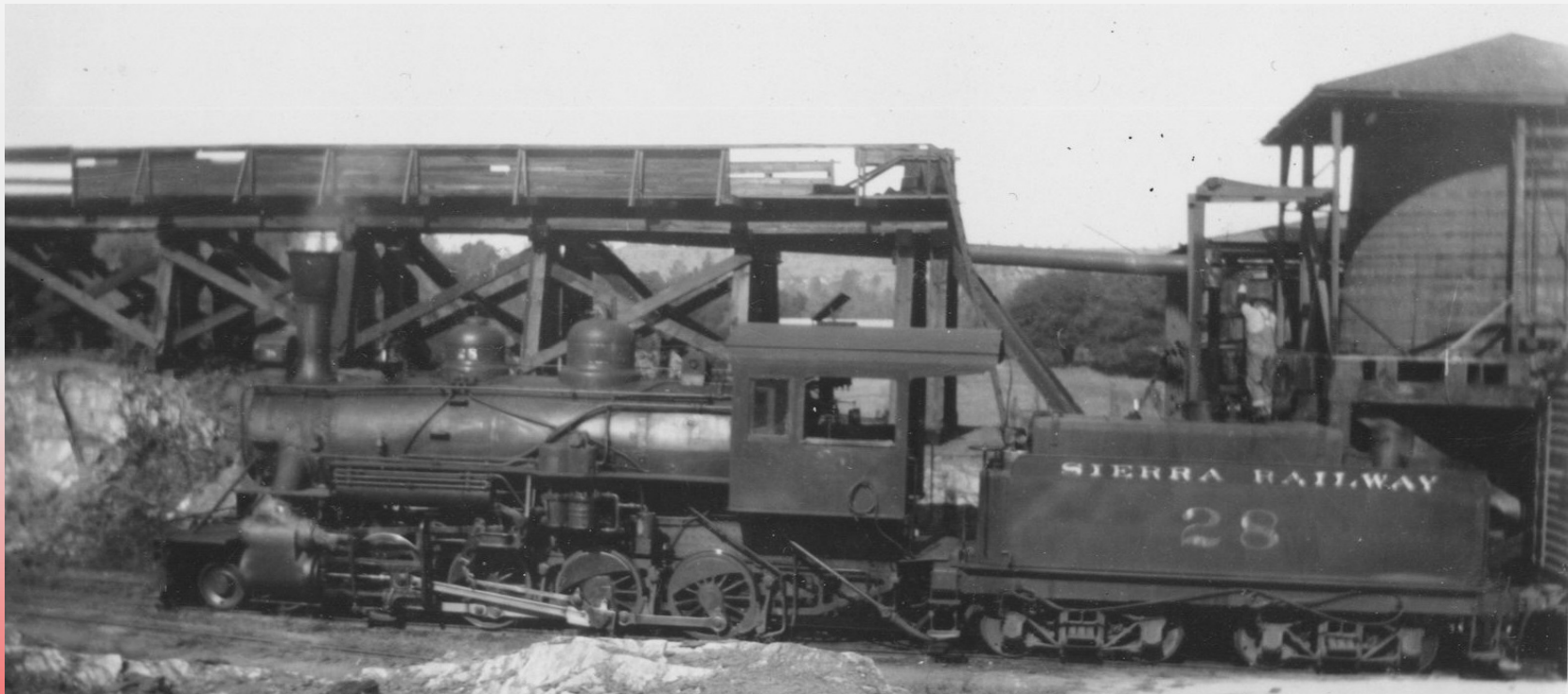
(1864-1954)

Great-grandson of the brother of Poland's
last King, Stanisław August Poniatowski



Brought the first hydroelectric power lines
to the Bay Area

Established the Sierra Railroad Company



Formed the Standard Electric Co.,
now **Pacific Gas & Electric**

Other Polish California Pioneers:

PolishClub**SF**.org

“Though perhaps a small group when compared with other national contingents which left their record in the annals of California, the Poles were nevertheless a HIGHLY CONSTRUCTIVE ELEMENT IN THE EARLY LIFE OF THE STATE”

--Mieczislaus Haiman

Poland did not exist as an independent state during **World War I**

Terrific human losses occurred on Polish lands between 1914 and 1918

The Polish diaspora in San Francisco agitated for Polish freedom

In **1918**, after **123 years of occupation**,
the Polish State regained its independence

**November 11th – Poland's National
Independence Day**



San Franciscan Tells Story of Polish Freedom

SAN FRANCISCAN TELLS STORY OF POLISH FREEDOM

John Zachert Describes Restoration Ceremonies at Baltic Seaport

WHITE EAGLE IS HOISTED

General Haller and Military Forces Participate in Celebration

San Francisco residents of Polish nationality have been celebrating the revival of their nation and the news that has just reached them of the ceremonies that attended the return of Poland, as a nation, to her ancient sea at Dantzig on the shores of the Baltic.

“San Francisco residents of Polish nationality have been celebrating the revival of their nation...”

1918



21 years later...

1939 World War II

Germany & the Soviet Union divided and annexed the whole of Poland



**Between 1939-1941 about
one million Poles were
deported to Siberia.**

**Other Poles were taken forcibly
to Germany as slave labor.**

**Over 6 million
Polish citizens died,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of whom were Jews.**

Warsaw Uprising 1944

63-day anti-Nazi rebellion

**About 16,000 members of the
Warsaw Uprising were killed**

**In Nazi-occupied Poland,
helping Jews was punishable
by death *and* family/group retribution**

**Of all the Nazi-occupied countries,
only in Poland was this
law routinely *enforced***

The Polish State was beheaded

**The German-Nazis denied Poles
access to higher education**

**The music of Fryderyk Chopin
was forbidden**

**Poles are the most numerous
of the Righteous Among the Nations**

**Poland's underground was the ONLY
resistance force in occupied Europe
given the full status of a US allied army**

For the West, WWII ended in 1945
Due to a secret pact by Churchill,
Roosevelt, and Stalin,
Poland became a client state
of the Soviet Union





Yalta Conference 1945

Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco

1945

**Representatives of the
Polish government in exile
were not allowed to participate in
the founding conference of the
United Nations**

Vacant Chair

One notable omission appears in the list of 44 nations invited to take part in the United Nations conference at San Francisco. No invitation was extended to Poland.

The Polish government in exile has been fighting alongside the United Nations and as one of them for the duration of the war.

The affairs of Poland now are in such shape that the Polish problem may come before the conference for consideration. The Polish settlement is yet to be worked out.

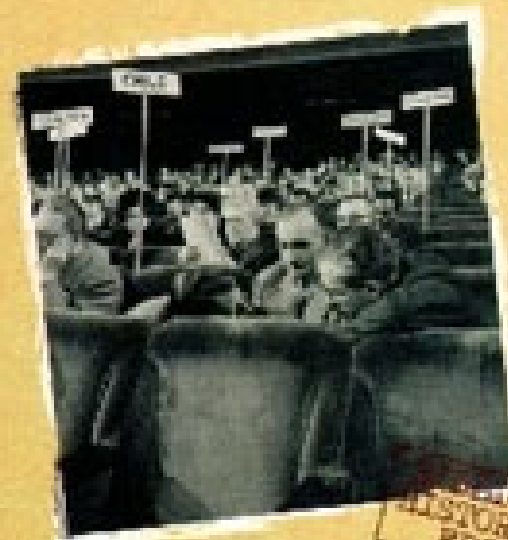
That may be one reason why Poland was not invited to sit in the conference. It is more satisfying to think so than to conclude that the managers of the conference, having decided to ignore the problem, would find the presence of a Polish delegation embarrassing.

History of the Empty Chair: A Conference in San Francisco and the Polish (1945-1946)

ALEKSANDER BREGMAN

DZIEJE PUSTEGO FOTEŁA

KONFERENCJA W SAN FRANCISCO I SPRAWA POLSKA
(1945-1946)



BIBLIOTEKA
HISTORYCZNA
PRONNY

Artur Rubinstein
in San Francisco for the
1945 opening of the United Nations

**“In this hall where the great nations gather to
make a better world, I miss the flag of
Poland, for which this cruel war was fought.
And now -- I shouted -- I shall play the
Polish anthem.”**

18 years later...

CENTENNIAL PROGRAM
OF THE
POLISH SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

CELEBRATED ON JULY 6, 1963

MARK HOPKINS HOTEL
CALIFORNIA & MASON
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

26 years later...

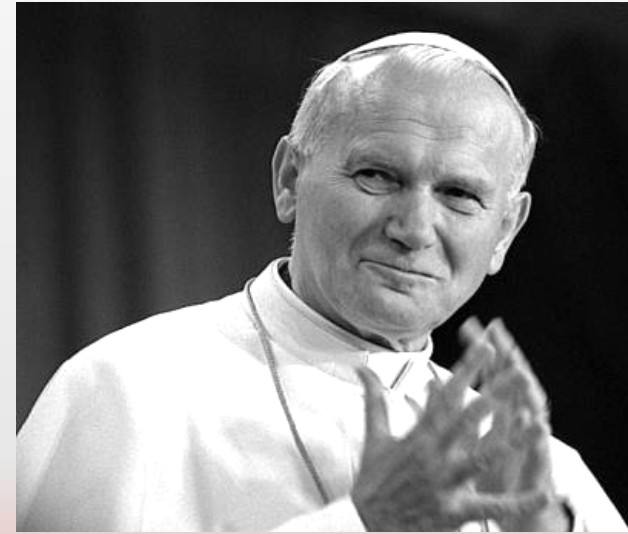
“Your voice for
Solidarity is a step
towards freedom”

twój głos dla Solidarności
krokiem ku wolności

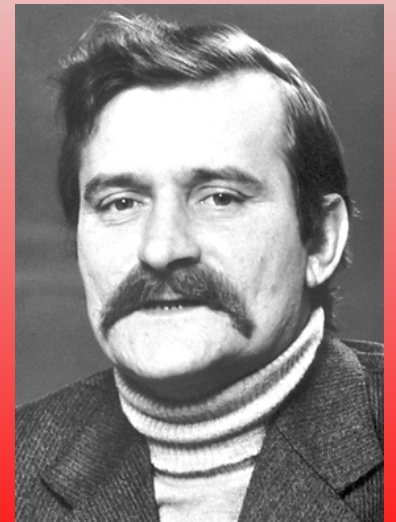
MAŁOPOLSKI
KOMITET
OBYWATELSKI

SOLIDARNOŚĆ

SOLIDARNOŚĆ



4 June
1989



**LIBERTY FOR
POLAND!**

Today a Sovereign Nation!

Historical partitions of Poland: 1772, 1793, 1795



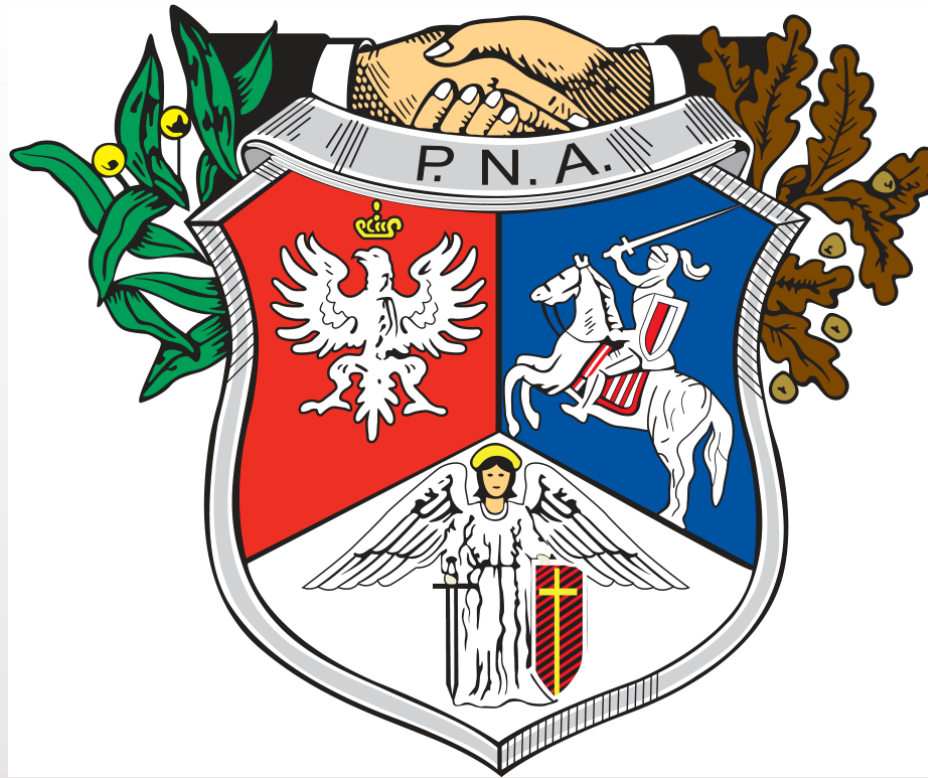
Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła

**Poland shall not perish...
so long as we shall live**

24 years later...

**We continue in the
tradition of our
forebears, supporting
liberty & promoting
Polish culture &
free enterprise in
San Francisco & beyond**

Since 1880, the Polish Society of California
has been known as **Lodge 7 of the
Polish National Alliance** -- the **largest
of all ethnically-based fraternal
societies in this country**



Emblem of the Polish National Alliance

--a reminder of the January 1863 uprising
of Poland against Russia



The Polish Society of California is a member-
organization of the Polish Club in San Francisco

PolishClub**SF**.org 3040 22nd Street, San Francisco

**The Polish National Alliance and the
Polish Club in San Francisco have supported, since 1975,
Łowiczanie Polish Folk Ensemble (Founder: Krystyna Chciuk)**



The Polish American Congress



A federation of Polish-American organizations,
clubs, and veterans' groups

One million members nationally

pac1944.org/state/ca_no_div.htm



PolAm Federal Credit Union

A Polish-American Financial Institution

polamFCU.com

San Francisco – Kraków Sister Cities Association

San Francisco-Kraków Sister Cities Association

A Signing on July 2, 2009...

Kraków, Poland - Mayor Jacek Majchrowski signed a Sister Cities Agreement with Honorary Consuls of Poland in San Francisco, Chris Kerosky and Tad Taube signing on behalf of Mayor Gavin Newsom on July 2, 2009.

Upcoming events



[The Future of Jewish Music in Poland](#)

27 Jan 2013 • East Bay



sfKrakow.org

University of California, Berkeley – Jagiellonian University, Kraków

IELE Certificate Program in American Law

law.berkeley.edu/15017.htm

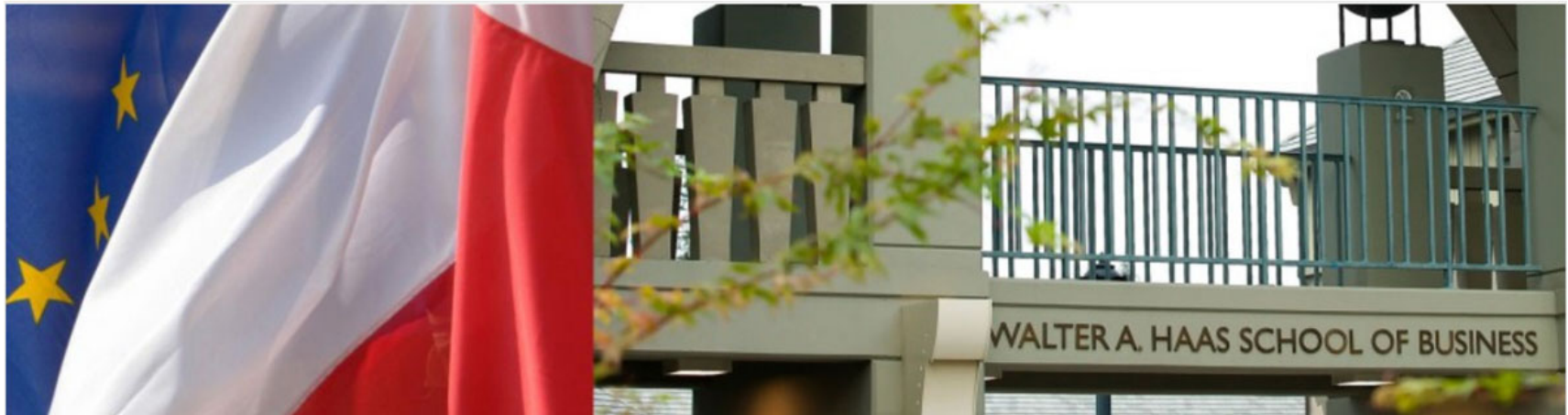
“Top 500 Innovators” Program

--Polish delegates at Stanford & UCB

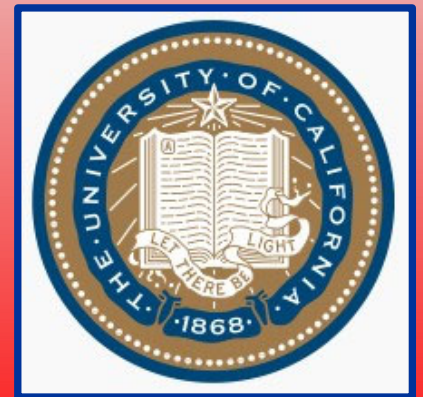
Top 500 Innovators, Stanford



Top 500 Innovators, Berkeley



Top500innovators.org



Polish Arts & Culture Foundation

Since 1966

Introducing Americans to the Wealth of
Polish Historical and Cultural Achievements

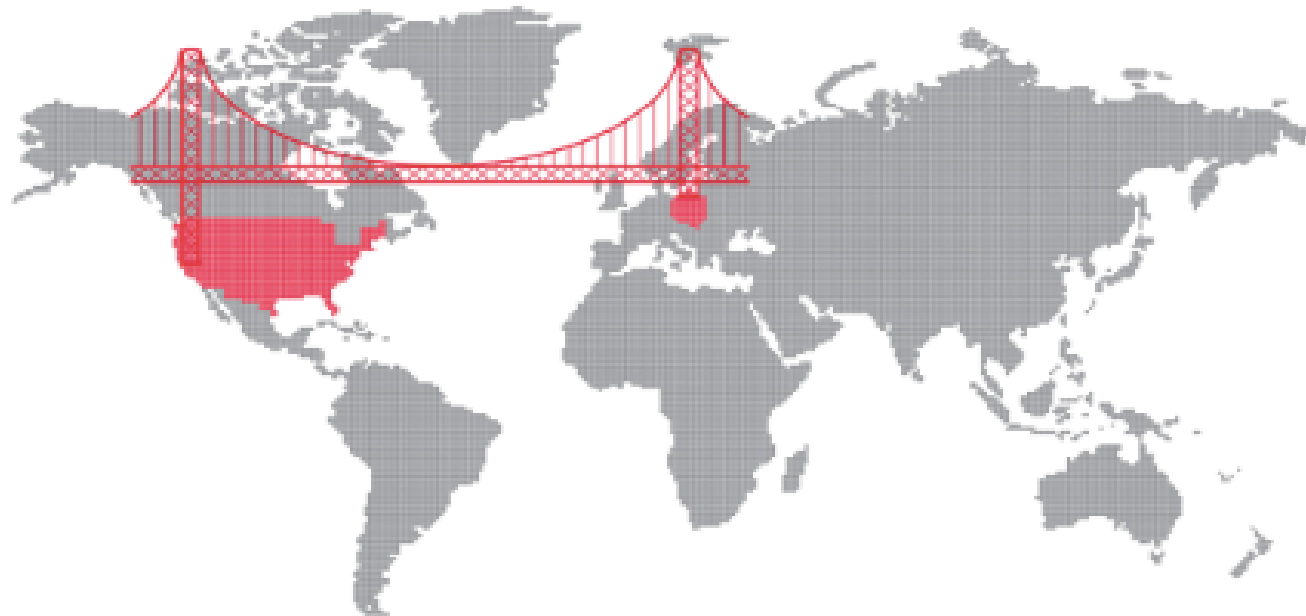


From Pioneers to *Silicon Valley*

Building Bridges Between
Poland and Silicon Valley

Polska

Silicon Valley
Acceleration Center



Building bridges between Poland and the Silicon Valley.

Global Technology Symposium

Silicon Valley, California

[Home](#)[Event Info](#)[Speakers](#)[Sponsors](#)[Registration](#)[Travel](#)[Sign Up for Updates](#)

MARCH 27-29, 2013 | SILICON VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, USA



globalTechSymposium.com

“Poland Day” at the Global Technology Symposium



US-Polish Trade Council



Information technology &
bio-technology bridge
between the United States & Poland

usptc.org

POLAND-SILICON VALLEY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2013



November 7-8

San Francisco

LIFE SCIENCES

Fairmont Hotel
San Francisco



psvts.org



HAPPY 150TH ANNIVERSARY!



Polish Society of California, *since 1863*

PNA LODGE 7 (since 1880)

3040 22nd Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

501(c)8 Fraternal Benefit Society

www.PolishClubSF.org/PolishSocietyofCalifornia.htm

150 Years in 2013!

Major Sources

California Digital Newspaper Collection

ChronicleAmerica.loc.gov

Mieczyslaw Haiman

Polish Arts & Culture Foundation

Muzeum Henryka Sienkiewicza, Wola Okrzejska, Poland

Krystyna Chciuk

Research and slide show by
Maureen Mroczek Morris

Contributing Editor
CosmopolitanReview.com

A TransAtlantic Review of “Things Polish”
(in English)

Cosmopolitan Review

A Transatlantic Review of Things Polish, in English

<http://cosmopolitanreview.com>



Learn more about other Polish California Pioneers:

PolishClub**SF**.org

Photo of Captain Piotrowski

courtesy of the

Polish Museum of America in Chicago

Dziękuję bardzo!

Read more about
Captain **Piotrowski**,
Henryk **Sienkiewicz** &
Helena **Modjeska** in the new
book by L. Ludlow and
M. Mroczek Morris



The Tossplot and the Diva

(2015)

Music

California Here I Come

San Francisco Open Your Golden Gate

Chopin, Étude in E major, Op. 10, no. 3

Chopin, Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 9, no. 2

Chopin Waltz in A minor

Chopin, Polonaise No 3 in A major, Op 40, No 1

Chopin, Étude in C minor, Revolutionary, Op 10, No 12

Chopin Polonaise, W. Kilar,

from the movie score of “Pan Tadeusz”

Boże coś Polskę (God Save Poland)

PATRONS



BENEFACTORS

Bay Laurel Group LLP

**Caroline Safian Krawiec Brownstone &
Louis Brownstone III**

Maja Kieturakis and Maciej Kieturakis, M.D.

Władysław Mroczek (Walter Morris) Family

Polish National Alliance, Chicago

Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust

The Tadeusz Ungar Foundation

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS

Anonymous

Barbara and Janusz Bryzek

Polish National Alliance, District 16

San Francisco-Kraków Sister Cities Association

Anthony Zukovsky

SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS

Helena Modjeska Art & Culture Club

Łowiczanie Polish Folk Ensemble of San Francisco

Caria Tomczykowska

Elżbieta Wierzbiańska

Zofia Zakrzewska

MAJOR BEVERAGE DONORS

The logo for Epoch Estate Wines is written in a flowing, black cursive script. The words "Epoch Estate Wines" are connected together. Below the text is a long, horizontal, wavy line that tapers at both ends, resembling a stylized signature or a decorative flourish.

Exclusive donor of banquet red wines:
Epoch Estate Blend 2010

MUIR'S LEGACY *Muir-Hanna*
VINEYARDS
The Official Wine of the Great Outdoors



**Polish Arts &
Culture Foundation**

Clos du Val

Ceja

Darioush

Enkidu

Joy Zamoyski Koch & David Koch: “J”

Wine Trading Company

Megawine Inc.

Koniec

THE END

Do NOT use or duplicate without permission