Captain Teofil (Theofilus/Theophilus) Franciszek (Francis) [or F. T.] Lessen (1827 - 1896)

Surname “Lessen” is found in Łódź

Fought in 1848 under Kossuth in the Hungarian revolution (signed up with a legion organized by Wysocki)

In January 1849 he served as a non-commissioned volunteer in the ulan division/troop organized by cavalry captain Poninski whose volunteers earlier belonged to a Polish battalion; ordered to help troops which mobbed Arad. He fought throughout all of the Spring campaign. On the 26th of May general Wysocki nominated Lessen for a promotion to second lieutenant in the first ulan regiment. On the 16th of May he became second lieutenant (officially confirmed on the 13th of June). In Orszowa he was awarded the Order of Merit (Grade III) by Kossuth. Kossuth wrote that Lessen served with bravery and self-sacrifice, was hurt many times, and that he was a role model. His most important battles were: Solnok, Komarom and Segedyn – where he was injured again. After the Hungarian Uprising he went to the Ottoman Empire. In Camp Szumlam he was promoted to lieutenant. In the Spring of 1850 (17th of March) Lessen was with the first Polish group commanded by Zamoyski that went through Constantinople and Malta to England. On the 5th of June after travel in stormy weather he arrived in Southampton, and from there on the 20th of June he left for the United States. –Source: Professor István Kovács from Hungary

1850 Constantinople, Turkey to Southamptom, England

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Theophil Lessen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Port of Arrival</td>
<td>Southampton, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival Date</td>
<td>5 Jun 1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Departure</td>
<td>Constantinople, Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship</td>
<td>Pottinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country of Origin/Native of</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left for the USA on June 20th, 1850; arrived July 22, 1850
London to New York, 1850 (departed 20 June; arrived 22 July)

On the 15th of August 1853 he joined Towarzystwo Wygnańców Polskich w Ameryce (Society of Polish Exiles in America). In 1854 he lived in New York. He belonged to the Pacific Club in San Francisco (The Pacific-Union Club was a consolidation of the Pacific Club and the Union Club, two pioneer social organizations in San Francisco. The Pacific Club was established in 1852 and the Union Club in 1854. They are among the oldest clubs in seniority in the United States).

He *may* have lived in Australia for a time. He was reportedly a captain in the US army (??). In September of 1863 he is reported to have enlisted to join Poland’s January Uprising (from Melbourne to Europe), but this is unconfirmed and may be another person. –Source: Professor István Kovács from Hungary

1861
*New York, Registers of Officers and Enlisted Men Mustered into Federal Service, 1861-1865* for Francis Lessen
Per the record: *Born 1838 in New York; POSSIBLY A DIFFERENT PERSON*

1867 naturalized in California (24 May 1867) or 25 May 1867 according to some records

651 Bush Street, San Francisco

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 24, 1867</td>
<td>Theophilus Lessen, Theophilus Francis, 35 Russia</td>
<td>Bookkeeper</td>
<td>351 Bush</td>
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**NATURALIZED IN SAN FRANCISCO 24 MAY 1867**
“None/no trace as of…” ____ Aug. 2, 1880….  **May 24, 1867** (or May 25 on some records)

Witness (with CL Łuniewski) for Franciszek Czarnecki

1868  (626 California)

Lessen Francis, inspector Custom House, dwl 626 California

1872

Assistant Special Agents.

Assistant Agent Francis Lessen, a copy of whose instructions is here-with transmitted to you, will report to you to assist in the performance of these duties.

CHARLES BRYANT,
Treasury Agent in charge Seal-Islands.
1873  General Krzyzanowski and FT Lessen were in Alaska

Name: Francis Lessen
Residence Date: 30 Sep 1873
Station or Residence Place: Alaska
Title: Register of Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval in the Service of the United States
Volume: Volume 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Offices</th>
<th>Where employed</th>
<th>Where born</th>
<th>Whence appointed</th>
<th>Compensation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Falconer</td>
<td>Assistant agent</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>p. d. 88 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. W. Elliott</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>p. d. 6 00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Lessen</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>p. d. 5 00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assistant Treasury agent in charge of St. Paul Island

Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski wrote: “There is here a certain Capt. Lessen, who is an agent of the government on the islands, of furs on the Bering Sea [sic]. He could also write you interesting enough descriptions of those islands and inhabitants[,] wildlife and commerce. So give the word and we shall be of service, and maybe, though from our work you will make but a single little brick, you will add it to your undying monument to posterity. I close with an expression of heartfelt friendship and deep respect.

In 1876 Lessen hosted Helena Modrzejewska. He belonged to her circle.

On June 17 Captain Francis Lessen of San Francisco wrote to Secretary of the Treasury John Sherman to complain that Krzyzanowski had failed to make good on a debt to the captain which now stood overdue by thirteen months.
Committee of Resolutions

A Committee of five, consisting of Capt. C. Bielawski, General Krzyżanowski, Mr. Choynski, Captain Lessen and Professor Al. Elgass, were appointed to draw up resolutions for a meeting two weeks hence, to be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, with a request that they be delivered to the President of the United States, and to the Chairman in the Senate and House on Foreign Relations. Mr. Choynski delivered a spirited address on the grievances of Poland. He was confident, however, that our Government would follow the example of Great Britain and protest against those wanton murders. Professor Elgass read extracts from Polish and German papers, and courteously translated their telling points for the benefit of the reporters present, after which the meeting adjourned.

Bielawski, Krzyżanowski, Choynski, Lessen, Elgass

...to draw up resolutions...to be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, with a request that they be delivered to the President of the United States...

1879

President, Captain Piotrowski, was the first speaker, giving a short and very interesting history of the Revolution, in which he himself participated. He was followed by Professor A. Elgass, Secretary of the Polish Society, who read several letters of prominent Poles from different parts of the State, and added to them a eulogy of the prominent participants in the Revolution. Speeches were also made by Captain C. Bielawski, Dr. W. Pawlicki, Captain F. Lessen, Mr. T. Horain, La Borne, and others. Mr. Joseph Pandler, the poet of the evening, read an exquisite poem composed by him for the occasion, describing the battles and the heroes of the Revolution. One of the features of the evening was the speech of Gov. E. S. Salomon, one of the invited guests, in which some of the most interesting events of that memorable Revolution were vividly described, and the speaker showed himself, to the delight of the many Poles present, thoroughly conversant with the history of their country. The Polish Revolution of 1830, although Poland did not succeed in freeing her people from Russian oppression, was a series of brilliant victories and glorious deeds of Bielawski, Pawlicki, Lessen, Horain, Paudler, Salomon

1879
Delegates to the Republican convention

1880 Franciszek Teofil Lessen and Aleksander Elgass, living on 1032 Market Street (Polish Society rooms); In 1880 Lesson was a cigar manufacturer; Aleksander Elgass was a teacher and Konstanty Viktor Engleman, a cigar manufacturer: also Russian chemist, Dmitry Mendelhoff*

Polish Society Vice President

Polish Society Librarian, 1032 Market

1881: 1032 Market Street

*Hon. Sc.D. 1894. The great Russian chemist, whose name is famous as the enunciator of the Periodic Law of the chemical elements. S. of Ivan Pavlovitch, Director of the Gymnasium at Tobolsk, Siberia (the youngest of 17 children). B. at Tobolsk. Foreign member, Royal Soc., 1892; Davy Medal, 1882; Copley medal, 1905. Professor of Chemistry at the Technological Institute, St Petersburg, 1861-6, and in the University, 1866-1907. Author, Principles of Chemistry; Investigation of Solutions from their Specific Gravity. Died Feb. 2, 1907, in St Petersburg, aged 73. (Scott, MSS.; The Times, Feb. 4, 1907.) Dmitri Ivanovitch Mendeleeff; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dmitri_Mendeleev
Witness for Edmund Zbigniew Brodowski with Edward S. Salomon

1882 “Inspector” from “Russia” i.e., Russian-occupied Poland

1883 The widow of J.W. Andrzejowski and T.F. Lessen were both living on 702 Bush Street

1884

Lessen Theophilus F., office 331 Montgomery, rooms 4-5, r. 1235 Market

1885

Lessen Theophilus F., janitor Washington Grammar School, r. 1225 Market

1886

Lessen, Theophilus Francis, 58, Poland, Teacher, 1008 Washington
Lessen Theophilus F., r. 1008 Washington
Lessen, Theophilus F., teacher, r. 1008 Washington

1887 Teacher, and Vice President of the Polish Society of California
1888

Name: Theophilus F. Lessen
Location 2: 1112 Powell
Occupation: teacher
Year: 1889
City: San Francisco
State: CA

1890 (address of the Polish Society rooms: 1241-1/2 Market Street)

St. Joseph's Home was located on the corner of Buena Vista and Park Hill, San Francisco
Buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, California

Graves 5 and 6 (Grave 6 is empty)

F. Lessen is interred by himself. He died of “marasmus” (severe chronic malnutrition). The mortuary, McAvoy and Gallagher (now McAvoy and O'Hara), purchased the grave for Lessen.
In memory of Francis Lessen, Native of Poland, Died, January 29, 1896, Aged 69 years
Poles in Australia and Oceania, 1790-1940 - Page 343

Polish Political Emigrés in the United States of America, ... - P...

Együtth a szabadságért, 1848-1849: - Page 211

California as it is, and as it may be: or, A guide to the ... - Volu...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theophilus Francis</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>702 Bush, San Francisco,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lessen</td>
<td></td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1882</td>
<td>States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thophilus Francis</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>403 Stevenson, San</td>
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<tr>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Francisco, California,</td>
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<td>1867</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theophilus Francis</td>
<td>1828</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1112 Powell, San</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lessen</td>
<td></td>
<td>October</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where Lessen was a **janitor in 1885**

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via San Francisco Public Library