

The  
Lithuanian  
Booster

THOMAS SHAMIS, Editor.

Five Cents the Copy

February, 1918



**THADDEUS KOSCIUSKO**

Born February 12, 1746

Died October 15, 1817



# THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER

ABOUT LITHUANIA AND LITHUANIANS

Thomas Shamis, Editor

Entered at Kingston, Pa., P. O. as Second Class Mail Matter.

---



---

Vol. 2

February, 1918

No. 9

---



---

## ARISE

**T**HY valor O Son of Aryan  
 Turned the tide—America found  
 Liberty.

What of your Mother?

Lithuania calls

Kosciusko, KOSCIUSKO.

---

## KOSCIUSKO

**T**HADDEUS Andrew Bonaventure Kosciusko, son of Ludwig Kosciusko, sword-bearer of the palatine of Breskos, and Teklios Ratomskaites, was born in the village of Merecovscynoj, in Slonimskio County, (at the present Province of Vilna,) Lithuania, on the twelfth day of February, 1746. He was descended from a noble but poor Lithuanian family. After he finished his studies, in France in the corps of cadets, he returned to Poland and entered its service, and was promoted to the rank of captain. Here his courtship began (See Kosciusko's Courtship in this issue) and ended, and he left for France. There he met Benjamin Franklin, who told him of America and its struggle for independence. He came to America in 1776, and was appointed colonel of engineers, and was assigned under General Gates and rendered marked services at the battles of Saratoga, Siege of Ninety-six, New York and Yorktown. In 1783 he received the

---

thanks of Congress and was appointed Brevet Major General. In further recognition of his service he was made a member of the Society of Cincinnati. He returned to his fatherland. In 1789 at the reorganizing of the Polish-Lithuanian Army he was appointed a major general, fighting for the Constitution of May 3, 1791. In 1792, one year after the declaration of the constitution, Russia had invaded the borders of the Polish-Lithuanian Republic, now he was a brigadier general, under the brother of the Polish King, Prince Poniatowski. During this campaign Kosciusko showed wonderful skill and ability. When the king agreed on the second partition of Polish-Lithuanian Republic, Kosciusko from heartsore left the army, later arriving at Liepsic, Germany. About this time France made him a citizen. When in 1794 the Poles and Lithuanians once again made a stand for restoration, and they invited him to take full charge of the second reorganization. He made a stand at Raclavicais here he defeated an army twice as strong

---

as his, retiring to Warsaw where he compelled the Prussians and Russians to raise a siege which lasted from July 15, 1794 to September, 1794, Austria joined the forces of Prussia and Russia and outnumbering his army routed him at Maciejowicis, October 10, 1794. Kosciusko fell wounded, in falling from his horse he is said to have exclaimed: "Finis Poloniae!" (Polish propagandists say this is fiction. To-day it is not, for it meant the separating of Poland and Lithuania forever. Poland's ambition was (and still is) to be a predominating power to crush Lithuania and Lithuanians and all else in the world and make Poland: "Rex Poloniae!" The Lithuanians aims were (and still are) that, "all men are born free and equal." Hence two opposite forces can never unite. Upon the past fabulous tales of freedom that the sons of the godmother of Warsaw had promised, the Lithuanians will have nothing to do with these fake promise makers. And the Poles have not one great man in all their lines of Kings or Dukes. All Poland's genius was

---

made possible by Lithuanian brains. It is time for Poland's propagandists to pay up or shut up, i.e. Give credit where credit is due. This talk of Freedom of serfs etc. If Kosciusko could release all of his slaves, why didn't his co-partners follow his example and do likewise? But when they came to the two roads, Poland's propagandists stuck to the autocracy and never heard the Lithuanian or Ukrainian people. But it is dawn, and the Light is seen. Ed.) He was taken prisoner to St. Petersburg and after two years he was given liberty by the Russian Czar who gave him a commission. He returned the commission and left for London stopping at Stockholm where King Gustavus greeted him royally. Arriving at London he sailed for New York. In 1797 upon his arrival he was greeted by General Warhington, then president Thomas Jefferson, and others. Receiving a grant of land and a pension he took residence at Philadelphia. But in 1798 Congress sent him to France with important papers, here he came in contact with Napoleon I

whose army presented him with a sword of John Sobieski and he promised him to restore Lithuania and Poland. But Kosciusko could not believe Napoleon's promises, and did not have faith in him. On April 9, 1814 he sent a request to the Russian Czar praying the granting of freedom for serfs in Lithuania and Poland and the adoption of a constitution for Lithuania and Poland, along the lines of the American Republic. On May 3, he received a note promising all. But Russian Government turned a deaf ear and permitted the oppression. This Kosciusko's plea was fruitless. His last public act was the freeing of all serfs on his estate. On October 15, 1817 far from his fatherland, far from his nation, in free Switzerland, Kosciusko, the great man of two worlds—America and Europe, talented soldier in a peasant sermaga [dress], Son of Aryan, closed his bright eyes to the world, and his heart stopped beating in his breast which was so kind, yet suffered much. He died in body, but his spirit will shine for ages. In 1818 the Russian Czar in-

1817

---

tered him besides John Sobieski.

And so passed the life of a great Lithuanian—  
KOSCIUSKO.

---

To further one's study into the life of the great and benevolent General Kosciusko, which will end in the satisfaction that he was as he himself said: "I am a Lithuanian." See "Kronika Rodzinna, Pravda," No. 17, 1883. "Archiv Vilienskavo General-Gubernaterstva" t.v.c.I, Vilna 1870, p. 143, 144, 145, 146, 147. "Leben Kosciusko" by Falkenstein.

---

**KOSCIUSKO TO GENERAL NIESIOLOVSKI.**

1784.

SIR:

I pray your Excellency respecting all which is dear to humankind, that your Excellency will discharge me from a place that is uncomfortable, costly and to this time has produced nought. Lord knows words fail me, for I have no one to whom I may speak, very well, because I can never talk to animals. These Gaskoni! † Now I am free to write about the people of the land. I will say, the country is beautiful and should be given to the Lithuanians who are active and industrious. But not for the lazy and fools. Allow me to return to Lithuania. Perhaps you will forsake me when you see that I cannot serve you? Who then am I? I can only say, that I am none other than a Lithuanian, a friend of yours. You have elected me, to whom should I be thankful? To no one but you. Whom should I defend? If not

---

you and myself. Permit me to ask you to ease your hard feeling at heart by bringing my request before the Convention, so that I could return to Lithuania. If you will not heed my prayer I will do harm to myself. Lord knows anger seizes me, when I think that I, being a Lithuanian, must serve the Poles, when I know you haven't three generals, and your power is suspended as by a tiny thread. Soon you will know and begin to realize. In conclusion I rely upon your friendship, with which I was honored. Of your Excellency, I pray you to be my liberator. I am with true, neverchanging and perfect respect, your most humble servant.

T. KOSCIUSKO.

† Gaskoni — term used by General Kosciusko meaning the Poles. See "Veversis" August, 1883.

---

## KOSCIUSKOS COURTSHIP

**L**ITTLE has been written about Kosciusko's courtship. Little can be gleaned from the life of a warrior as to his gentle feelings. Warriors riding in company with might, and when their love is immune they seldom reveal a gentle heart. Not so with Kosciusko. He kept his gentle heart open at all times. After his most disastrous courtship he still insisted on keeping away the "Vacated" sign, being deprived of his heart love he turned his feelings to the love for those in lowly circumstances. And this was his motto: "All men are equal."

While at Sosnaviciuose he fell in love with General Saskauskas' daughter. But according to the saying of General Saskauskas: "Can a duck and a sparrow mate?" In this case: a general's daughter and a *bajoraitis* [a class distinction, of the time, above a peasant]. For this reason her father and his circle of friends forbid the marriage, and a result of this the

---

daughter became unbalanced. We hear no more. Ten years later, when rich Saskauskas was dead, she met him in Warsaw, his former love fell upon his breast and was going to kiss him, but he gently held her aloof saying: "You have a husband." "I will poison him," she answered. "Serpent," he exclaimed, then taking his sabre from the sheath he added: "Take heed, pray the Lord that your husband live not less than ten years, if he should die before that time, I will cause you to be tried for his poisoning." She began to weep, telling him that men are not true in love, that their honor word is broken, and love becomes cold. He then told her that if she were a maiden or a widow he would take her to the nearest church and ask the priest to unite them forever, he would love her and be true to her. Now she had broken her promise she must be true to her husband. And as it is known to all Thaddeus Kosciusko lived never marrying.

**LECTURES****HISTORIC LITHUANIA.****THE LITHUANIAN QUESTION.**

These talks are designed for churches, lodges, literary and historical societies, and trade and commercial bodies. They are an attempt to make people think to some purpose about the Lithuanian.

For dates and terms address,

**Thomas Shamis,**

**27 Short Street,**

**Kingston, Pa.**

---

**YOU BOOST  
THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER**

**By getting your friends to subscribe**

---

**The Lithuanian Booster**

**27 Short St., Kingston, Pa.**

Send me **THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER** for one year  
(\$5.00 enclosed) to

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

---

# THE LITHUANIAN BOOSTER

ABOUT LITHUANIA AND LITHUANIANS

MAGAZINE FOR BOOSTERS

Edited by        **THOMAS SHAMIS**

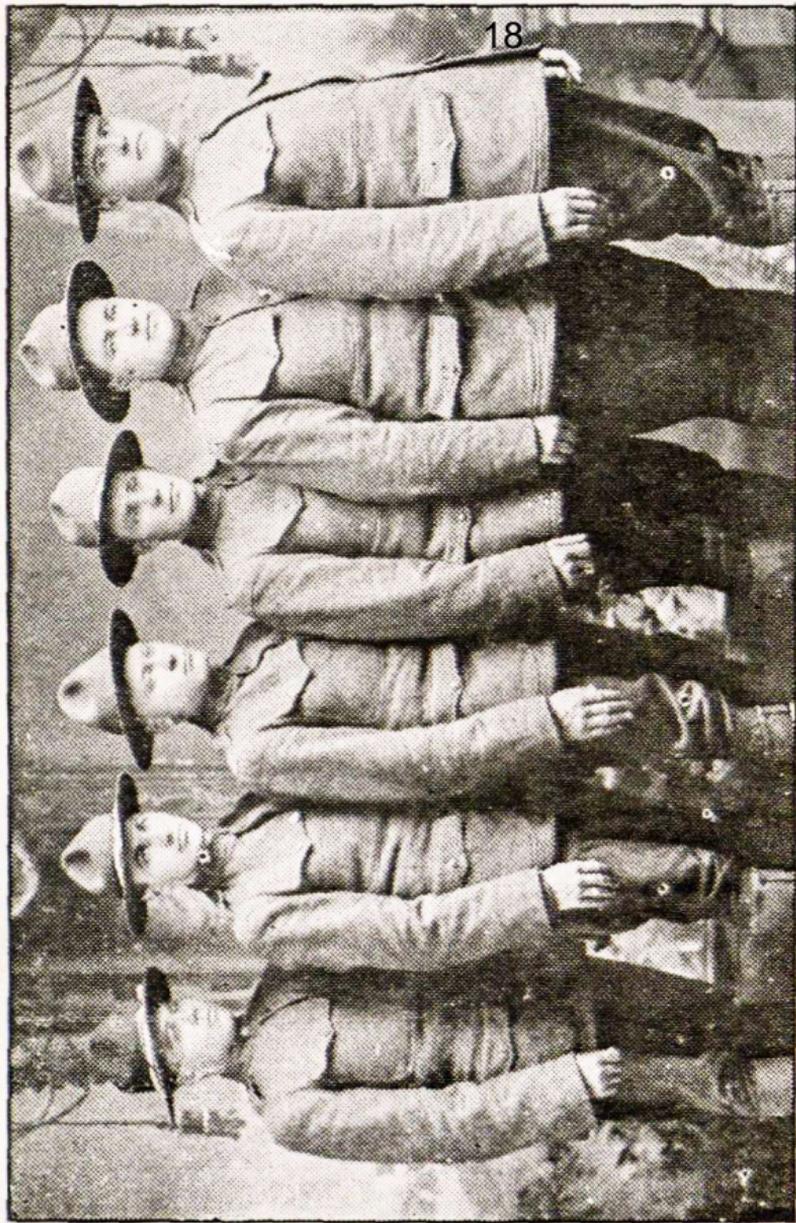
Five Cents the Copy    -    Fifty Cents the Year

---

Published Monthly by **THOMAS SHAMIS**

**27 Short Street**

**Kingston, Pa.**



**A FEW LITHUANIANS AT CAMP DEVENS**

Left to right—V. Ivanauskas, D. Antanavicius, J. L. Petrauskas,  
J. Jakubauskas, St. Viskauskas and S. Sarkus.

BLp(LKA)1453

1918,Nr.9

**F**REEDOM  
shrieked as  
Kosciuśko fell.