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## THE POLISH INFLUENCE ON MANITOWOC COUNTY HISTORY

by Marcie Baer, Manitowoc, WI  
L. A. Murray, Woodruff, WI  
Badger History, Howard W. Kanetzke, editor

About the authors: *Marcie Baer is a well known author in our Society. She is a native of St. Nazianz who is employed at Lakeside Packing Company and lives on "Polish Hill."*

*Editor Howard W. Kanetzke of Badger History, a publication of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, very kindly gave his consent to publish the articles entitled: Poland, a Divided Land; Polish Immigrants Come to America, and another article written by L. A. Murray. The picture shown in connection with the latter article is from the collection of Herb Koepke.*

### PEOPLE AND PLACES PROMINENT IN THE HISTORY OF MANITOWOC'S PEOPLE OF POLISH DECENT

By Marcie M. Baer

When one thinks of the Polish of Manitowoc County, the well known Polish Hill of Manitowoc automatically comes to mind. And while this article will deal mainly with the Poles on the Hill, it should be mentioned they were only among the first.

In an article in the September 1971 issue of the Historical Society Newsletter, "Manitowoc County Poles" written by the late Leonora Kadow, herself a member of the well known Polish family, she wrote: "The Poles began to arrive here in 1866. They settled in the southwest part of Manitowoc, the village of Two Rivers and in the town of Newton."

Perhaps the least known is that the Polish Salvatorian priest born in German occupied Silesia, Poland, who came to the United States in 1896 with Father Francis Jordon, Rev. Herman Rogier. He was instrumental in the beginnings of the Salvatorian Seminary, St. Nazianz, and also served as pastor at St. Gregory Church, as did another Silesia born priest, Father Eustace Goerlich who came a few years later.

According to Falge's history, on "May 10, 1889, the Polish inhabitants of Two Rivers who had formerly formed a part of the congregation of St. Luke withdrew and established a church of their own known as Sacred Heart." A small brick church was erected and in 1899 a larger church was built and the

former church was used as a school. The school has since been discontinued.

St. Casimir Parish, Northeim, was founded in 1868. Its history is included in an article, "The history of Northeim" written in November 1973 by Edward Ehlert.

A history of St. Boniface Parish states: "During the late 1860's a considerable segment of the parish membership consisted of people whose mother tongue was Polish. The minutes of the Board meetings during those years mention an arrangement by which the pastor of St. Casimir's at Nordheim (sic) was engaged to come to St. Boniface once a month to conduct services and preach in Polish. When their numbers increased the people of Polish parentage in 1870 organized St. Mary's, a parish of their own."

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, popularly known as St. Mary, was organized Feb. 24, 1870. A frame church was constructed and soon proved too small.

Falge's history states: "The frame structure formerly used by the German Lutherans of the city was purchased three years later and moved to 'the Hill', being dedicated September 6, 1874."

In 1888, again according to Falge's history, "it was decided to begin the construction of a new and costly church but after the foundation was laid funds grew scarce and it was ten years before

the edifice was completed, the church being dedicated October 1, 1899." It is this church with its twin steeples which has become a familiar landmark on the Hill.

The second church was purchased and moved to its present address at 1223 S. 20th St. by Leo Revolinsky and later remodeled into an apartment building.

The 1896 directory of the Catholic Church in Wisconsin lists Catholic societies represented at St. Mary Parish: Arch fraternity of the Most Holy Rosary; St. Joseph Benevolent Society, Mr. V. Ziarnik, president and Mr. L. Budysz, secretary; St. Adelbert's Benevolent Society, Mr. M. Bonk, president and Mr. Stanislaus Dembski, secretary; and Kosciuszko's Band, Mr. M. Wnuk, director.

The exact beginning of St. Mary School has not been ascertained. A translation from the Polish of an earlier history stated that for 17 years children attended the public school. But according to the Felician Sisters "50 Years of Mother of Good Counsel Province", history, "Father Krzywonos assumed jurisdiction of the parish on October 1, 1896. During his pastorate, a parish school was organized and placed in 1896 in charge of the School Sisters of St. Francis from Milwaukee, WI. The sisters were withdrawn in June, 1900, and the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity took custody of the school." They were there for only one year.

Again, according to Province history, Father Krzywonos petitioned the Felician Sisters to teach at the school. However, Father Krzywonos was transferred in 1903 and according to the Province history, the sisters "In



1905 . . . with Sister Mary Regina as principal and superior began their apostolate of teaching at St. Mary . . ." This (1905) was also the year St. Mary Parish became part of the Green Bay diocese. Formerly it had been part of the Milwaukee diocese.

The history continues, "On their arrival the sisters resided in one of the classrooms of the four-room school. In 1908, the rectory was relinquished for the sister's quarters."

A new brick school was built in 1906. It was enlarged in 1925 and in 1959, the present school was constructed for \$533,000.

According to a life-long area resident, the old school was moved to the west facing 22nd Street. It was used as a rectory until the 1930's when the present rectory on 21st St. was built. Then it was used as a residence for the sisters until the new convent was built in 1949. It was then sold to Erwin Musial and moved to its present address at 2115 Madison St.

The first hospital in the city, St. Mary Hospital, operated by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity (see article by Sister Richarda in previous Historical Society newsletter) after November 27, 1882 when land was granted for hospital purposes by the county board . . . a deed to eight blocks in Block

300 (23rd and Marshall Sts.) . . . to its reported closing in a lengthy article in the April 12, 1888 Manitowoc, Pilot.

In an earlier article by Sister Teresita in the Holy Family Convent newsletter, she said, "First I found through Mr. Joseph Zahorik, who had been Register of Deeds for years, that Mother Pancratia and Theresa Oyen had purchased two lots on South 23rd Street between Hamilton and Marshall in May, 1883 . . . It was sold to Mr. Paul Pospengy for \$125.00 in 1888... We know from research by Sister Miriam, Felician, at St. Mary School, that the building on 23rd St. was once a hospital, then a printing office, then a grocery store and now a dwelling."

This hospital was then followed by another at what is now St. Mary Home. According to a translation of the book "The Felicians in America" published in 1953, "The first idea of an Institution to bring shelter to the needy came in the year 1887. This first Institution under the title of Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, although modest was leading to other charitable work. In it was held an orphanage for boys, a hospital for the elderly, infirmary for the sick sisters, and in 1914, another wing was added as a sanatorium for the sisters ill with tuberculosis. The

sisters did most of the work and in the year of 1889, it became the property of the Felician Sisters.

"The hospital with the above institution the Sisters managed over ten years and over 147 patients passed through its doors. However, because of insufficient help and enough room for the constantly applying sick the hospital was liquidated, and the work was limited to caring for the orphans and the elderly."

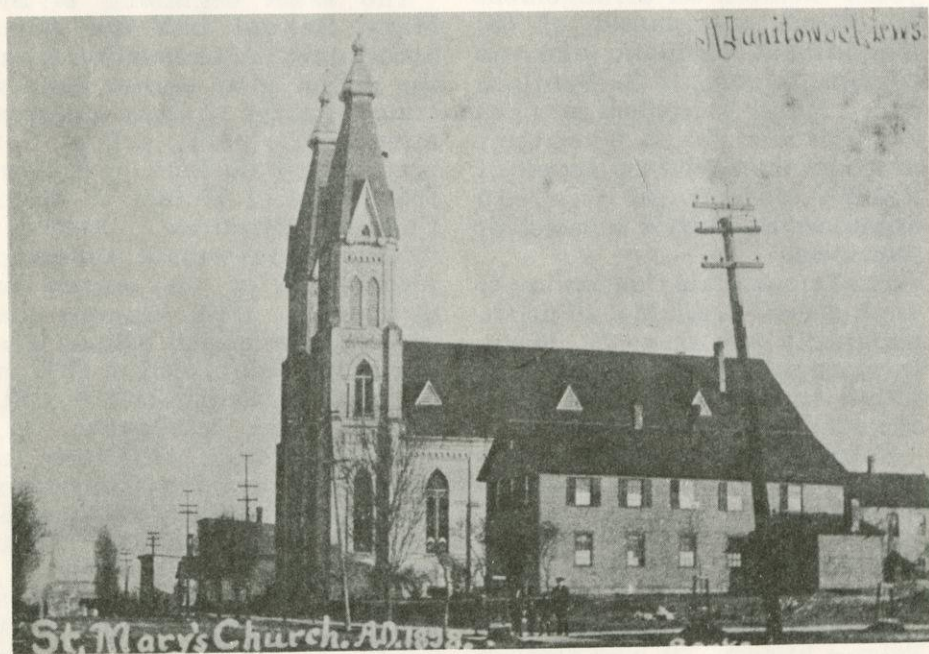
It is believed that the closing of the hospital was also made possible by the opening of Holy Family Hospital September 28, 1899.

About 60 orphan boys a year were taken care of until 1934 when at the request of State and diocesan authorities the children were separated from the elderly and the boys were then sent to other institutions and the St. Mary Home was given over to the care of the elderly, which it still continues to do today.

St. Mary Home for the aged and orphans was begun by the Rev. Zdislaus Luczycki, a pastor at St. Mary Parish, when he rented two homes. He raised funds, 20 acres of land was purchased and later (1888) a large home was built. After the Felician Sisters arrived, they took care of their charges by tilling the land, raising horses, cattle, pigs and chickens and also through begging door to door, not an easy task by any means.

Father Luczycki, who became known as the "Apostle of the Poor" was sentenced to exile in Siberia but managed to escape in a haywagon through the help of one John Goryczka. According to the Golden Anniversary History of the Home, it states: "It was not long before the Russian government became informed of Mr. J. Goryczka as an accomplice in the plot and summoned him to appear before the court. Anticipating the results of the government call, Mr. Goryczka with the charitable aid of friends fled to America. He settled in Manitowoc and . . . became one of the Institutions most faithful friends."

The history of the Hill would not be complete without listing some of the oldest businesses and their longest occupants which still exist today.



This photo is a copy of a Benke post card owned by Valeria Kattner who was born in 1893 and has lived in the area all her life. (She gave permission to use this picture) Pictured is St. Mary Church and school which was later used as a rectory, sisters house and was then purchased by Erwin Musial and moved to 2115 Madison St. where it is now a home, since 1949.



Marshall St.: Team Electronics, was the Empire Theater owned by Theodore Goryczka (He and his brother, Sylvester were sons of the Goryczka mentioned earlier). Dentist building, S. W. corner 20th St. was Kattner Meat Market, later Kattner Bros. Meat Market. Ken's Welcome Inn, S.E. corner 21st was Knipps Grocery Store and Tavern. Basement was used as Kuchera's Barber shop and later as a shoe repair shop. The Cellar Bar-Tavern, N.E. corner 21st was Naidy's Bar and Dance Hall (the hall was on third floor). Dentist office, N.W. corner 21st was Schypper's Candy and School Supply Store, Gauthier's Grocery and Strupp's Grocery. Tina's Bar, S.W. corner 22nd was Joe Borucki's Barber Shop, Carl Musial's Tavern, Katsy's Bar, etc. Three T's Bowling Lanes and Tavern (Mrotek) N.W. corner 22nd was Zboralski's Tavern and Dance Hall. Captain's Chair, S.W. corner 25th was Revolinski's Grocery Store, Sepneski's Grocery Store and Nellie Pekulik's Groceries. Weilers Bakery and Margie's Beauty Shops between 22nd and 23rd was John Korlesky's Grocery Store and Butcher Shop. Fire destroyed part of it in 1922 and it was rebuilt. It was later sold to Arthur Spahn, who had a bakery shop and the City Dairy.

## POLAND, A DIVIDED LAND

from *Badger History*, January 1979

Poland is more than one thousand years old. But during the 1800's it was ruled by three other countries. The three countries were Russia, Austria and Prussia. Beginning in 1772, they each took part of Poland. By 1795, they had taken all of it. Poland was no longer shown on maps. Polish people did not get their freedom until 1918. After 1918, Poland was much smaller than in 1772. Then, in World War II, Poland was defeated by Germany. In 1945, a new Polish state was formed. This is the Poland that we see on maps today.

### POLISH SYMBOLS

The Polish national symbol is a white eagle. This eagle on a red background is the coat of arms. It

Washington St.: Dr. Shoshinski, dentist, N.E. corner 24th, was Joe Dembski's Grocery and later Elmer Pech's IGA Store. Our World, S.E. corner 24th was Pekarski's Grocery Store, Cabbage Mike's Tavern (Mike Stryzewski) and Woody's Bar.

Calumet Ave.: Calumet Bar (Joe Sieracki), was Max Woellert.

Hamilton St.: Kersten Paint Co., N.E. corner 20th St. was Alex Ziarnik's Grocery, Fuka's Drug Store (he later rebuilt on 20th and Marshall, now Rohrer's Pharmacy). Jack's Beer Garden, S.W. corner 20th, formerly owned by John Piaskowski, was once John Becker and Sons Grocery Store and Tavern. Tony's Bar, N.W. corner 21st was shoe repair shop, Tadych's Bar and Pa Pa Joe's Bar.

Madison St.: (1801) Jack's Mini Mart (John Wadzinski) was Mike Kaminski's Butcher Shop.

I am especially grateful to Sister Mary Angelora, CSSF, of St. Mary Home for supplying and translating copies of published information and to Felix and Frances Frozena and their family for their help with listing businesses. Mrs. Frozena's family owned the Becker Store on Hamilton St. and both she and her husband are life long residents of the Hill.

is the official symbol of Poland. The colors, red and white, are also used in the Polish flag.

### DARK DAYS

The 1800's were dark years for Polish people. Poles were proud of their history. They loved the rich, rolling farmland in the middle of their country. They admired the beauty of the lakes and the seashore to the north. In the south, high mountains rose against the sky. The people were sad that they were no longer a single nation. People in the divided areas suffered hardships.

The Polish people longed to be free. Groups of freedom fighters planned to drive out the enemy. In 1846, however, they were defeated. Later, in 1863, another try for freedom failed.

## RUSSIAN POLAND

The largest part of Poland was ruled by Russia. Almost eight million people lived in this area. After 1863, Russian leaders were angry with Poles because of the freedom fighters. These rulers tried to wipe out any memory of Poland. Russian was made the language of the land. Many schools were closed. Russian Poland became known as the Land of the Vistula.

Seven out of ten Poles lived in small villages. Most people could not read nor write. Families were large and jobs were few.

Most farmland was operated by rich landlords. Crops were planted and harvested by peasants. Peasants were given small fields where they were allowed to plant crops. They raised potatoes, wheat, rye, barley and peas.

Factories were built in Russian Poland. By 1870, Vistula had more factories than any part of Russia. Shoe factories used leather made in Vistula. Railroads were built to haul products. But there were never enough jobs for the people who wanted them.

About 900,000 Poles left Russian Poland. Half of these people were peasants. They had never owned land; they had never held jobs in factories. The rest of the emigrants had owned small plots of land or came from cities.

## AUSTRIAN POLAND

The area of Poland called Galicia (*Găh li'shăh*) was ruled by Austria. It had not been a large part of Poland. But one out of every three Poles lived there. Krakow (*Kră'kōōf*) an important Polish city, was in Galicia. The city was and is a center of Polish learning.

Most Galicians lived in small farm villages. Families were large. Fathers divided their fields among their sons. Through the years, farms were divided again and again. Soon, the farms were too small to feed a family. Large fields were controlled by rich landlords.

The Austrian government treated Poles in Galicia well. Poles were allowed to vote and hold office. The Polish language was taught in schools. The university of Krakow remained



open. But times were not good in Galicia. Food was scarce. Jobs were few. Taxes were high. Even though the government was fair, people were forced to leave the country. Almost 700,000 Poles left Galicia.

### PRUSSIAN POLAND

After 1795, West Prussia, South Prussia and New East Prussia became the Kingdom of Prussia. Three out of four people in Prussia were Poles. They owned more land than Poles in Vistula or Galicia. The flat land of Prussia was good for farming. These fields produced better crops than land in Vistula or Galicia. Prussian farmers learned how to improve fields. They used fertilizers. Different crops were planted in fields each year. The land stayed rich. Prussia sold grain, pigs, sugar and timber to other countries.

Upper Silesia (*Sĩ lē'zhe*) was another part of Poland ruled by Prussia. It was important because of its mines. Edmund Grutzik came to Wisconsin from this area. In 1891, he wrote about his old home:

"Two coal mines were nearby. One on one side of town, the other on the edge of the other side. Mills and furnaces sent smoke and gases into the air. The furnaces had low chimneys. The gas and smoke stayed near the ground. They killed all the trees and plants in town."

### MOVING TO CITIES

The sons of Polish landowners sometimes moved to cities and towns. They became lawyers, teachers and shopkeepers. They earned wages. Most Poles in Prussia had more schooling than countrymen in Galicia and Vistula. They also earned more money.

### DARK YEARS

Bad times also came to Poles in Prussia. Otto von Bismarck became the Chancellor in 1871. That year Prussia and other German states united. They became known as the German Empire. Bismarck wanted Polish lands to become completely German. He urged Germans to buy land and settle in what had been Poland. The Polish language was no longer allowed in schools. Instead, German was taught. Bismarck said that no one could sing the Polish

national anthem. Life became difficult for Poles. Thousands of them left the country.

### EMIGRANTS

Most Poles did not want to leave their homeland. Many, however, decided to move to another country. A number moved to France. They said, "When times are better, we'll go back home." Others decided to move to the United States. "We'll earn money and send for you," they promised relatives as they

## POLISH IMMIGRANTS COME TO AMERICA

*from Badger History, January 1979*

Between 1820 and 1920, nearly 28 million people moved to the United States. Most of these people came from Europe. Many of these men, women and children were Poles. Polish people came at different times and for different reasons.

### FIRST ARRIVALS 1608-1776

Some Poles arrived in Jamestown in 1608. This was long before the United States became a nation. The Polish immigrants were skilled workers. Some of them made pitch. Others made tar, soap or glass. These products were sent to England. Captain John Smith wrote that his ship hauled "Pitch, tarre and glasse" to London. Within a few years, about fifty Poles were living at Jamestown. Some Polish settlers also lived in the other colonies. Like the Poles at Jamestown, most of them knew how to do special jobs.

### THE SECOND WAVE 1776-1865

Next came Polish adventurers. In 1776, Americans were fighting for freedom. Some Polish soldiers came to help General Washington. Casimir Pulaski (*Cā sīh'meer Pu lā'ske*) and Tadeusz Kosciuszko (*Kōs ē use'kō*) are two of the best known soldiers.

Kosciuszko was less than thirty years old. However, he was one of Washington's best soldiers. After the war, Congress made him an American citizen.

As a young man, Pulaski fought to save Poland from Russian control. His father and mother lost their lives. In 1772, Pulaski's men were defeated. Pulaski was forced to leave Poland. Hearing of the war in America, he offered to help. He became one of the best generals in the American army. Pulaski

left.

### HOW MANY?

Thousands of Polish people came to Wisconsin. Most came between 1870 and 1910. During this time, there was no land called Poland. Polish people were listed as Prussian, Russian or Austrian. In 1900, half of Wisconsin's citizens claimed to be born in Europe. Large numbers of these children, women and men were really Polish Americans.

was wounded in battle at Savannah, Georgia. He died several days later. In 1929 a statue of General Pulaski was placed in a Milwaukee park. A town was named for him in northern Wisconsin (Manitowish). It has a Pulaski Park on Division Street.)

While Americans won their freedom, Polish citizens did not. After 1795, all of Poland was ruled by her neighbors. Poles, however, longed to be free. In the 1830's and 1860's, freedom fighters tried to free their land. They failed. They had to flee for their lives. Other people, as well as soldiers, also left Poland. They were teachers, merchants, poets, musicians and noblemen. Some came to the United States. Many hoped to return home someday.

### AFTER 1865

Poles were sad to see the freedom fighters lose their battle. Many Poles lost hope that Poland would ever be a free nation. Polish people lived under Russian, Prussian and Austrian rulers. Times were bad. There was little work. At first, only a few men left the country. Then more and more men and women packed and left Poland. Some found jobs in the United States. "Come to America," they said.

Each year more immigrants arrived.

1870-1880	35,000 people
1880-1890	99,000 people
1890-1900	236,000 people

Often young men left for America with friends from their village. They traveled to a place where friends or relatives lived. They lived in boarding houses run by Polish families. They found jobs in cities or worked as farmhands or lumberjacks. They



wrote letters home. These messages were read and reread. Poles talked about making the difficult trip to America. Those that came also stayed with friends and relatives. This process became known as chain migration. Because of chain migration, Poles settled together in America. They often called a Polish neighborhood *Polonia* or *Little Poland*.

Life in *Polonia* was a mixture of Polish and American ways. It took some people a long time to learn English. Until immigrants learned English, it was difficult for them to find jobs that paid good wages. So new arrivals found work that paid poor wages. But this pay was better than in Europe. And there was always the promise of a better tomorrow.

were gone, Polish immigrants began to farm. Few continued working as loggers. Life on the hill was not easy. But it was better than in Poland.

Soon, relatives arrived and joined the settlement. The Mroteks, Demskis, Zarnicks, Ruguskis, and Vnuks were some of the first settlers. None of them spoke English. They were not trained for jobs. It was difficult to find work. So they remained farmers.

## EARLY POLISH SETTLEMENT AT MANITOWOC

By L. A. Murray, from *Badger History*, January 1979

In the early 1920's, almost 18,000 people lived in Manitowoc. Like some other Wisconsin cities, Manitowoc had a number of Polish citizens. One out of every six was Polish. Most Polish people lived in the southwest corner of the city. This area was called Polish "hill."

Manitowoc was started in the early 1840's. The first citizens came from New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. They expected the town to grow quickly. The Manitowoc River formed a safe harbor for ships.

### POLISH ARRIVE

The first Polish settlers came

here directly from Poland. The harbor and river were of little interest to them. They had lived on the plains of central Europe. Most of them were farmers. They came to Wisconsin in search of land.

John Mrotek arrived in 1858. At that time the hill area was forested. Straight, thickly-growing pine trees stood sixty feet high.

"We chopped down trees," said John. "This whole area where our homes stand was covered with pine trees."

Lumbering was one way to make money. But when the trees

### NEW ARRIVALS

Between 1867 and 1875, many Milwaukee Poles moved to Manitowoc. Some of them spoke English. They knew American ways. A number of them found jobs in business. Not all of these families settled on the hill. Instead they found homes in town.

### SHIPBUILDING

Shipbuilding was Manitowoc's earliest industry. At first, boats were made of wood. Later, they were made of steel. Polish workers found jobs at the boatyards.



Manitowoc in about the 1900's, shown is the shipyards of Burger Boat Shipbuilding Company.



# A HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE POLITICAL AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLISH SETTLEMENT OF MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN 1867-1928

Editor's Note: *The manuscript of which L. A. (Bob) Murray is the author was written as a term paper to satisfy a history course requirement at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1928.*

*Thelma Murray Hansen, now living in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, submitted the following information about the author. "He is the son of the late Mary Murray Georgenson and step-son to the former Manitowoc Mayor Martin Georgenson. Bob and his wife now reside at Woodruff, Wisconsin in the summer, and live in Arizona during the winter months."*

By L. A. Murray, Woodruff, WI

Before presenting the substance proper of this subject it may be well to indicate the purpose and the significant idea that this treatment will attempt to bring out.

The present population of the city of Manitowoc is approximately 18,000 inhabitants. The Polish element comprises very nearly one sixth of that number and are settled in a separate community lying in the southwestern corner of the city; it is commonly referred to as "Polish Hill." Since the people of this section represented a type of society distinct from that of the rest of the village in the early years of Manitowoc, it is the purpose of this undertaking to observe and trace the manner in which a weaker, backward people will cling to their frontier characteristics, and at the same time, generation by generation, gradually acquire the customs and political convictions of the adjacent, influencing community.

Manitowoc fell prey to the adventurous ambitions of the pioneer chiefly because of two reasons; namely, the excellent harbor with ideal shipbuilding facilities, and second, the abundant growth of pine forests. The harbor and river, of course, was the first element that decoyed the attention of the western migrator but he, upon turning up stream was compelled to resort to the second factor — nature. The harbor as it stood offered no ready means for a livelihood but by clearing the land and cultivating the soil a demand for the harbor and river facilities was soon developed.

These first-comers were mainly Yankees of Scandinavian and Teutonic descent who had gone westward from New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. By virtue of their instinctive commercial and aggressive inclinations, they

soon abandoned their up-river settlement at Manitowoc Rapids and founded the village of Manitowoc at the mouth of the Manitowoc River during the 1840's.<sup>1</sup>

Although this is not designed to be a history of Manitowoc, it is, however, quite essential that it be shown that the founders and the nucleus of the city's population which was to follow were not foreign-born immigrants but Americans who were seeking new enterprises and had undergone enough contact and acquired sufficient experience to have dulled the edges of their foreign ancestry. With this point in mind we can now turn to our major interest, the Poles.

Unlike the above group, the original Polish pioneers that settled in Manitowoc came directly from Poland.<sup>2</sup> The harbor and river did not mean anything in particular to them. To be sure the small village already rooted there attracted their attention, but it did not tax the visions of these people nor did it suggest the production of their garlic soup and rye bread. The tall, stately evergreens that covered the entire regions did, however, mean something to them. They did not wish to penetrate to the interior; they were entirely in a new environment and desired to stick together close to the shore whence they came. Coming from the plains of Central Europe, they were an agricultural people, peasants, and knew very little about any occupation save farming, and it was farms that they were seeking. Farms, as such, were not available, however, and it was probably just as well that they were not for the pine forests offered a more ready income. A sharp ax and a strong back were a man's early necessary capital to make a living.<sup>3</sup>

An interview with the oldest

living Polish pioneer, John Mrotek, who came to Manitowoc when he as a lad of 18, very interestingly portrays the condition of the "hill" when he arrived in the year 1858. He describes the tall, straight, thickly-growing pine trees which towered sixty to seventy feet in height. "We chop," was his response to a question as to what he did when he first came. "Yes, all these homes here, they were covered with pine." Lumbering, however, was not their motive, neither their fashion, and, as soon as the plot was depleted of its timber, they turned to agriculture.

Poverty and general economic chaos reigned supreme in Poland, and it took little persuasion and coaxing to induce relatives to come over and join the colony — to share in the greater freedom and comfort that these new conditions offered.

The Mroteks, Demskis, Zarnicks, Ruguskis, and the Vnuks were among the early comers and from these families a goodly share of the present population grew.<sup>4</sup> A recent candidate for alderman to the city council was credited with having over two hundred relatives and that this potentiality of support should give him the election. It did!

None of these foreigners could speak English to any advantage and, being unaggressive, clannish, illiterate, and unskilled in any profitable type of work save their ability to extract a meager subsistence from the black, rich soil, they were severely handicapped to partake in the activities of the town and their social and industrial progress logged proportionally. This proportion was a relatively divergent one.

Shortly after the Civil War in the years 1867-1875, many Polanders from the Koskusko Colony in Milwaukee transferred themselves to Manitowoc to join the community of their native people. Some of these folk had already assimilated the customs and motives of their Yankee neighbors in Milwaukee, and many found their way into business. The Kadow family is the outstanding example of this group.<sup>6</sup> The living sons of that



generation are all successful merchants, one of whom, John Kadow, is the most prominent business man in the city. Many families of this later group quickly mingled with the citizens of the town-proper and became a homogenous part of them. A very significant fact to be observed here is that many of these families who came from west Milwaukee had acquired an aggressiveness and spark of Americanism that instead of marking time with the "hill" fell in with the stronger, progressive element and lost the conspicuousness of their nationality.

Shipbuilding was the industry that gave Manitowoc the impetus of its early development. The shipbuilder in those days was not a common laborer; he was a skilled workman, wiely with the adz, sledge and plane. It was not until the advent of the steel-plated vessel that the Polish workman found employment there, and from then on there was plenty. The remoteness of the Polish peasant's adaptability to the discharge of some industrial trade accounts to a great measure of his inability to acquire lost ground and attain the pace of social advance that the rest of the city and nation were setting.

Not until 1891 were the Poles residing in their separate section taken into the corporate bounds of the city. In that year, on April 4, the charter of the city was revised by the legislature and at the same time the city limits were extended westward to include the "hill" and the present Fifth Ward.<sup>7</sup> A month later the city council passed an ordinance to bisect this addition into two wards, calling the south half the Seventh Ward.<sup>8</sup> This section made up the territory that was and has ever since been occupied by the Poles, so further mention of the Seventh Ward in this discussion will be identical to what has heretofore been the "hill."

The population of the Seventh Ward in 1891 was approximately 1600. By that time many of the farms had disappeared and instead were to be found rather closely grouped dwellings; small, dingy homes, many sheltering families as large as ten and twelve. The industry of

the city had developed and cheap labor was in demand. Father and sons found employment in the grain elevators, docks, lake steamers, certain types of labor in the shipyards, and most of all, the railroads which by this time had extended their way east and north into the city. Thus there existed a semi-labor and agricultural class, but gradually turning from the plow to answer the increasing demands of industry and resorting to the

only avenue of escape from growing residential congestions.<sup>9</sup>

Since our prime interest is one of politics, let us ask how these people voted. An investigation of election returns will leave no doubt in the mind of anyone who consults the figures, as to what party maintains the predominant influence. In the city election of 1895 for mayor the following are the results by wards. Vilas was the Democratic candidate and Torrison the Republican.<sup>10</sup>

		W A R D S						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Torrison	(Rep)	214	170	204	188	83	69	29
Vilas	(Dem)	107	53	105	87	53	16	142

It is interesting to observe the vote of the Seventh Ward as compared with the other six. Each one of the six give the Republican candidate a decisive majority, but the seventh, on the other hand, shows an almost

solid Democratic vote.

Let us advance ten years and examine the records of the presidential election of 1904; Theodore Roosevelt, Republican, and Parker, Democrat.<sup>11</sup>

		W A R D S						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Roosevelt	(Rep)	238	206	309	286	138	113	55
Parker	(Dem)	135	66	181	100	123	44	202

Still solid democrat. Every one of the other wards as in 1894 went republican, while the Poles still loyally adhere to the democratic party. Strong and popular a candidate as Teddy was, he only polled 20 percent of all the votes in the ward.

In the same election the Seventh Ward returns for governor were:

Peck	(Dem)	227
La Follette	(Rep)	43

Coming to the election of 1916 we discover the following results:

President:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wilson	(Dem)	189	153	284	195	197	99	243
Hughes	(Rep)	171	130	246	215	115	111	97

While the Seventh Ward still is decidedly democratic the other wards do not exhibit such a marked contrast, Wilson carrying the First, Second, Third, and Fifth Wards in spite of

the fact that Mr. Hughes delivered a campaign address in person at Manitowoc. The results for governor in the same polling are more in keeping with customary contrast.<sup>12</sup>

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Williams	(Dem)	176	124	279	215	161	80	257
Phillips	(Rep)	186	149	258	242	127	123	77

With the coming of the election of 1924 a complete political change has taken place in the Seventh Ward. We find that the heretofore impregnable wall of the democratic party has been shattered, and a new political

line has recruited the support of the Polish community. These people have become ardent supporters of a labor-progressive movement. The following return will reveal a new line-up:<sup>13</sup>

President:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Collidge (sic)		243	393	220	237	486	305	274
Coolidge) Davis		50	100	58	51	296	58	95
La Follette		419	237	396	435	104	311	598



<b>Governor:</b>	<b>7th</b>
Lueck (Dem)	326
Blaine (Rep)	616

The election of mayor in 1921 and 1925 show the same tendency toward labor support.<sup>14</sup>

			7th Ward
1921	{	(Georgenson (Labor)	534
		(O'Donnell (Dem)	353
1925	{	(Georgenson (Labor)	715
		(Diebert (Rep)	304

The above reports clearly indicate that the Polish people have outgrown their traditional leaning to the democratic party and have been converted into a majority of semi-socialistic believers. They have become laborers, a distinctly working class, and their votes during the last decade have been in sympathy with their own interests.

It was natural that in the frontier days of their establishment these Polish peasants should be staunch democrats. They came and lived as farmers and, like typical farming community, lent their support to the democratic party. They remained so, long after farming had passed out of prominence. Their clannish nature prevented them from absorbing the political viewpoints of the rest of the town, and consequently, the inertia of their former convictions passed on to succeeding generations.

Just within the last ten years has the English language been heard to any marked extent in this ward. What schooling the children received was in the parochial school where, of course, only Polish was spoken. As soon as the law permitted their withdrawal, they transferred their names from the class record to the factory pay roll.

A brief survey of the educational factor will reveal the increasing rapidity with which the "hill" is shedding its yoke of social and educational hibernation, and account in part for its recent conversion in politics.

The best index of progress in education can be obtained from an observation of the high school enrollment, bearing in mind that the population of the Seventh Ward in 1910 was about 3,700 and in 1920 was 4,500. The following data shows the number of Polish

students that graduated from high school:

Year	Polish Graduates	Total Graduates
1911	0	49
1912	1	58
1913	0	50
1914	1	58
1915	5	86
1916	4	72
1917	1	91
1918	5	98
1919	3	95
1920	3	96
1921	7	126
1922	2	136
1923	11	137
1924	8	156
1925	16	183

While the population has increased only about one-fifth in fifteen years, the above figures show a vastly greater advance in education. Schooling has always been regarded as the fulfillment of a legal requirement and, as soon as the age of fourteen was reached, a child (boy or girl) was put to work. Families were large; the father earned but a meager living and his children were regarded as prospective participants in the support of the family. But the present generation is sensing the

advantages of education and, aided by higher wages and better living conditions in general, children are being given more schooling. The valedictorian of the class of 1925 of Lincoln High School is a Polish girl, Anna Katowski.<sup>16</sup>

Wages ranging between ten and twenty dollars per day were paid at the shipyards during the war. This gave these people a taste of unknown prosperity and raised the standard of living in general very markedly. The removal of children from school while still in the grades or immediately upon their fourteenth birthday is not always as much a necessity as it is custom. A child who is not earning his subsistence is a parasite to the family, and the benefits to be derived from a school training are too remote for the average lay-foreigner to comprehend.

But the germ of social responsibility has taken root, and a few decades should see these people quite completely assimilated to the rest of the community.

<sup>1</sup>History of Manitowoc County, Ralph Plumb, et al

<sup>2</sup>Interview with John Mrotek, Frank Kadow, and A. Ruguski

<sup>3</sup>John Mrotek

<sup>4</sup>A. Ruguski

<sup>5</sup>Ralph Plumb

<sup>6</sup>A. Ruguski

<sup>7</sup>Session laws, Wisconsin legislature, Vol. II, 1891; Chap. 95 Sec. 2, 3, 4, 5.

<sup>8</sup>Council Proceedings 1891, May 4, ordinance No. 144

<sup>9</sup>Emil Baensch

<sup>10</sup>Files of Manitowoc Daily Tribune — University News Files

<sup>11</sup>Manitowoc Herald — University Files

<sup>12</sup>Manitowoc Herald — University Files

<sup>13</sup>Manitowoc Herald — University Files

<sup>14</sup>Ibid

<sup>15</sup>Submitted by Prof. C. G. Stangel — Prin. Lincoln H.S.

<sup>16</sup>Mr. C. G. Stangel

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