Polish soldier-immigrants to South Africa in the period of French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars (1789-1815)

Immigrants from Poland settled in the Cape from the early days of the establishment of the Colony. Mostly they were single men, soldiers or mariners, in the service of the Dutch East India Company (DEIC), and once their contracts expired they were allowed to settle. Many of them established families and their descendants became members of the Boer community.1

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The end of an era

THE ENORMOUS political breakthrough, which affected the European civilisation at the turn of the nineteenth century, brought about by the epoch of Enlightenment, and associated with the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars, constituted an important divide in history of both South Africa and Poland. It resulted, in particular, in the downfall of the Dutch rule in South Africa and in the end to the Polish Noblemen’s Commonwealth in Europe. In the face of external threats the majority of Poles and the inhabitants of the Cape chose to side with Napoleonic France. The defeat of Napoleon meant being left at the mercy of foreign forces. In the case of South Africa this meant Great Britain, whereas in the case of Poland – Russia, Austria and Prussia.

The first Polish freedom-oriented effort, aimed at preventing the Russian intervention in Polish affairs, called Bar Confederation, took place already in 1768. It effectively provoked the military intervention of Russia, Prussia and Austria that ended with Poland losing several of its territories in 1772. The successive attempts of changing the existing political system intensified in the years 1788-1792, coinciding with the French Revolution. The consecutive interventions of the neighbouring powers brought about the ultimate liquidation of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (in 1795) and the ultimate division of its territory among the reactionary monarchies of Prussia, Austria and Russia. Young men, inhabiting
the former territories of Poland were incorporated into foreign armies. After the outbreak of the French Revolution (1789) many of them were sent to fight against the French revolutionary army. Some of them deserted or were taken prisoner by the French. Political events also forced many Poles to emigrate. During that period single Poles turned up at the Cape. Some of them settled for good and established families.

**The first immigrants**

Perhaps the very first immigrant from Poland, who was directed to South Africa by the events associated with the developing revolutionary atmosphere, was Christian TROTSKY (Krystian Trocki).² Like many earlier immigrants from Poland to the Cape, he originated from Gdańsk (Danzig).³ In 1772 Prussia annexed the areas surrounding the city, cutting it off from the remaining part of Poland and putting it in a difficult political and economic situation. Young men living on the occupied territories were incorporated into the Prussian army. In 1787 many of them were forced to participate in putting down the revolutionary movement in the Netherlands. This might have had some connection with the decision of Krystian (born on 21 December 1760) of enrolling in the DEIC. In 1787, as a bombardier, he was sent to the Dutch Indies, but having heard of malaria, which raged there, defected as the ship stood at anchor in Cape Town. He found a job on a farm in the vicinity of Murraysburg. In December 1792 he married in Paarl Aletta Louise ENSLIN (born 1767). The couple had two sons and three daughters.⁴ In this manner the history of the South African family of TROSKIE started.⁵

More or less at the same time another immigrant from Gdańsk arrived at the Cape, Christian (Krystian) SCHONRAT. He had dealt with boats in Poland; but he had to leave his home country, because he was threatened with prosecution for participating in a duel, in which his opponent was killed. He probably came to the Cape as a soldier in the service of the DEIC. In 1796 he married Dirkje BRITS, with whom he had four daughters and four sons. He died in 1825 in Cape Town. Today his descendants bear the family name of SCHOONRAAD.⁶
Two further immigrants from Poland were almost certainly involved in the political events that occurred in Europe after the outbreak of the French Revolution. Johann Michael SOWIETSKY (Jan Michał Sowiecki) likely from Tarnów, a medium-sized town located in the southern part of Poland. In 1772 this area was incorporated into the Habsburg’s Austria. It can be assumed that Sowiecki, just like other Poles, was enlisted in the Austrian army and had to fight against the army of the revolutionary France or against the Belgian revolutionaries. He might have deserted in Belgium and made his way to the Netherlands. Probably, along with other deserters from the intervening armies, including a Pole, Ignatius Weretycki, he entered the service of the DEIC. This group boarded the ship *Enkhuizer Maagd* that left Texel on 15 January 1793 and arrived at the Cape on 16 April 1793. Sowiecki was allowed ashore on 2 May to continue his service with the DEIC as a soldier.

After four years he was already so well established in the Colony that on 29 July 1798 he married Joanna Catharina HEIST. This couple had five children – four sons and one daughter. In 1809 he married again – Elisabeth DE BUYS. The son of Johann Michael, also Johann Michael (born 1800) married in Cradock, on 31 January 1836, Hilletje Magdalena Margaretha DE BEER (born 1811). His brother, Matthias Burgers died in 1856. The given names of Johann Michael reappear frequently in subsequent generations.

The successive Johann Michael Zowietsky (probably a grandson of Sowiecki) was married with Wilhelmine WICHMANN (died 1918). Their son, also Johann Michael Zowietsky (or Zowytsche) (1860-1937), lived in King Williamstown with his wife Auguste BRÜSSOW (1870-1949). Their son was Alfred Albert Zowitsky (or Zowytsche) (died 1956) married Doris Muriel BAINES. Nowadays the name appears in South Africa most often as ZOWITSKY (Zovitsky, Zovitskey, Zowytsche).

The comrade-in-arms of Sowiecki, Ignatius Werreditsky (Ignacy Weretycki), was probably born in 1759 in the part of Poland that belonged to the Kingdom of Prussia since 1772. In the DEIC registers his native locality was written down as Tama — conceivably the present-day locality of Tama Brodzka, situated near Brodnica. Weretycki took part in the fighting between the
“patriots” and the supporters of the Oranje party in the Netherlands. These events were associated with the general European tendencies of the struggle between the conservative and the revolutionary forces. It can be supposed that Weretycki wandered there as a soldier of the Prussian army, incorporated into it like many Poles from the areas taken by Prussia. The Prussian army entered the Netherlands in 1787, tipping the scales of war to the advantage of the Oranje party. The garrison of four thousand Prussian soldiers remained in the Netherlands. Weretycki probably did not like the role of being a Prussian soldier and an occupant. He might have defected and enlisted in the DEIC.

We know for sure that he came to South Africa aboard the ship Enkhuizer Maagd in 1793, with Jan Michał Sowiecki and other soldiers, originating from various European countries. He went ashore on 30 April and started his service in the Cape as a soldier in the DEIC.16

The subsequent mention of Weretycki concerns his marriage with the forty-eight year old widow Johanna Wilhelmina BEUKES (on 5 April 1807). Ignacy lived with his second wife, Maryna Jakubina CORDIER (Cortje) in the area of Potberg Mountains (they were married in Swellendam on 17 November 1823). In 1825 they visited the spa of Caledon Bath. According to MD Teenstra (1943), who met them there, the Weretycki couple was friendly and very pious. In the last years of his life Weretycki appeared in documents as Werdetskij or Werditsche.17 He died in 1848. Any possible descendants might have been born from his marriages from 1792 to 1807.

**French detachments**

After the final partition of Poland in 1795, Polish legions were formed, affiliated with the French army, in 1797. These legions were composed of emigrants from the Polish territories, Poles who deserted from the Prussian, Austrian or Russian armies, and Polish prisoners of war from the Austrian and Russian armies. That is why Poles were also part of the French detachments that came to the Cape in 1803 after the Republic of Batavia had been established. They served mainly in the 9th battalion of Fusiliers. Many of them died
while on service on African soil and some were put to death for
desertion.\textsuperscript{18} Five Polish deserters from the 9th battalion of the
Fusiliers were never caught, and traces of their presence were
encountered in the farthest corners of South Africa.\textsuperscript{19} Two nameless
Poles, having served until the battle of Bloubergstrand in the artillery
of the Cape Town garrison, after the British had captured the Cape,
settled in the vicinity of Swellendam.\textsuperscript{20}

\textbf{British forces}
A subsequent group of Poles appeared at the Cape with the British
forces.\textsuperscript{21} The first of them might have been in the detachments that
took the Colony in January 1806. More certain information concerns
Poles, who were the soldiers of the 4th Battalion of the 60th
Regiment of Foot.\textsuperscript{22} This unit was stationed at the Cape between July
1806 and March 1808.\textsuperscript{23} They came there from the Caribbean
(Jamaica). Poles who served in this unit were taken prisoner by the
British on Haiti.\textsuperscript{24} The second and bigger group of Poles arrived at
the Cape in September 1811 aboard the British man-of-war \textit{Lion}.
These were the soldiers
serving in the 1st Battalion of the 60th
Regiment of Foot. This
unit had been stationed in
the Caribbean before
coming to the Cape and
was supplemented by
Polish prisoners of war
from Haiti.\textsuperscript{25} Yet, a
couple of months before
coming to Africa the
battalion stayed for a
short time in England.
During this stay new
soldiers were enlisted,
including Poles, taken
prisoners of war in
Europe. This battalion
stationed at the Cape until 1818. Smaller groups of Poles, who served in other British units, were stationed in the Cape Colony at the beginning of the nineteenth century – like the Royal Garrison Company. There were, after the arrival of the 1st Battalion of 60th Regiment of Foot in 1811, at least two hundred Polish soldiers serving the British in the Cape Colony. They made up about five percent of the British soldiers there, and about twenty percent of the 1st Battalion 60th Regiment of Foot.

Poles who served in the ranks of the British army did not do this entirely out of their free will. Many of them had previously been soldiers in the armies of the Napoleonic coalition, fighting in various parts of Europe and the world. Some of them were soldiers of the Polish Legions that had fought in the years 1797 to 802 along with the French army against the Austrian and Russian forces in Italy and in Germany. About five thousand Polish legionnaires were then transferred to Haiti in the Caribbean, where they fought against the anti-French revolutionaries. Around eighty percent of them died in action or of yellow fever. Most of those, who survived, surrendered to the British and were transported to Jamaica. At the end of 1803, after two months of imprisonment, almost all of the privates and a large proportion of the non-commissioned officers were incorporated into the British detachments, mainly the 60th Regiment of Foot.

Later, in Europe, other Poles who fought on the side of Napoleon were taken prisoner by the British. In Spain these were the soldiers of the Vistulian Legion that was active there in the years 1808 to 1812. Others were captured primarily in the Netherlands and in Italy. The Polish soldiers enlisted to the 1st Battalion of the 60th Regiment of Foot in 1810 in England were taken into British captivity mainly on the Dutch island Walcheren in August 1809.

According to an agreement concluded in 1814 between the rulers of England and Poland, Polish soldiers were to be released from service in the British army. The British, however, were slow in implementing the agreement. The encouragement to their release came only with the end of war (1815) and the difficult financial situation of the British army. Polish soldiers, serving at the Cape, were released towards the end of 1816. This might have been stimulated by the visit of the Polish captain Karol Fryderyk
Piątkowski who stopped for a while in Cape Town at the end of 1816, on his way back from St Helen’s. Around forty Polish soldiers (one fifth), primarily the former soldiers of the 60th Regiment of Foot, obtained the right to settle in the Colony after having left the service. Some of them integrated for good with the local community, and their descendants are still to be found in South Africa.

Other Polish families
One of them was Jan MAZUREK and on whose experiences an adventure novel could be based. He enrolled in the 2nd Polish Legion in Italy in unknown circumstances. His detachment was transported at the beginning of 1803 to Haiti, where he took part in operations against the anti-French uprising. He was taken prisoner of war by the British on 12 October 1803 after Cayes had capitulated. He was transported to Jamaica, where he was enlisted on 28 October 1803 to the 60th Regiment of Foot. Until 1810 his unit served in the Caribbean and then, after a short stay in England, was transported to the Cape on the man-of-war Lion (September 1811). After his service had ended, Mazurek submitted an application to settle in the Colony. There are reasons to believe that he established a family and had children. In 1835 a Johanna Margaretha MAZUREK (who died in 1852), probably his daughter, married Johannes Godfried BRUWER. In 1857 a Jan MAZUREK passed away, either the founder of the family or his son. Another person named Mazurek (Masureik), Karol Ludwik, married Maria Elisabeth BRUWER (who died in 1891). His second wife was Filliasthie Petra SWANEPOEL. It can be assumed that Karol Ludwik was the son or grandson of Jan MAZUREK from Poland. Since the second half of the nineteenth century, people bearing the names of Masureik, Masureik, Masurik, Masureth or Masuret are encountered in South Africa. It is highly probable that all these persons are descendants of Jan MAZUREK.

On 5 January 1818, another soldier of the 60th Regiment of Foot acquired the right to settle in the Colony – Jan BARINSKI (or Barenski). He was probably taken prisoner of war by the British after the capitulation of the Polish detachments on Haiti and enlisted into the British army. For a period he served there as a corporal.
In 1818 the register of the inhabitants of the Cape Town noted J BARENSKI, butcher. 41 In the years 1827, 1829 and 1830 the same register noted John (Johan) BARENSKI, shoemaker. 42 And a Johann van BARENSKI,43 born in 1778, died on April 2nd, 1850.44 In all these cases we undoubtedly deal with the same person. Jan’s son was probably Josef Wilhelm BARENSKI (1820-1887), listed in the years 1849 and 1854 as a mason.45 In 1849 he married Katharina Joanna LACOCK or LE COR.46 Jan Joseph Barend BARENSCHE (1864-1908), who married Christina Johanna PRIEM (1869-1914), was their son.47 The descendants of BARENSKI today bear the name of BARENSCHE. 48

Another soldier, fighting on Haiti, and then serving in the 60th Regiment of Foot, was Thomas CHINTZAK (Tomasz Czynczak). Like Mazurek, he was taken prisoner of war after the capitulation of Cayes (on 12 October 1803), and was enlisted in the British army on 20 December of the same year.49 On 24 January 1814, Tomasz married in Simon’s Town a widow, Anna ALTER.50 Then, on 12 January 1818, he acquired the right to settle in the Cape Colony.51 In the years 1821 and 1822 he managed a shoemaking workshop in Cape Town.52 In 1823 he married again – Clara Christina JANSEN.53 We know nothing, though, of his fate or that of his family.

Yet another soldier of the 60th Regiment of Foot, who remained on the Cape, was Jan KOLISKI (or Koleski). He was born in Warsaw, the capital of Poland, around 1791.54 He must have been taken prisoner by the British somewhere in Europe, around the year 1810, since it is known that he served Great Britain over seven years, and applied to remain in the Colony on 7 January 1817.55 He was on the list of soldiers of the 60th Regiment of Foot already in the year 1810.56 He appeared in the Cape in September 1811, along with other soldiers of the Regiment. One of the family legends claims that his real name was DE LA REY, that he originated from Lyon57 and was a Napoleon spy. It can, however, hardly be supposed that during the long service on the Cape his Polish comrades in arms could not tell that he was not a Pole. After having settled in South Africa, KOLESKI married Magdalena Josina Catharina VOSLOO on 22 March 1818 in George. His second wife was Johanna Magdalena Salomina (Anna) STRYDOM, whom he married on 2 July 1827 in
Uitenhage. His two wives bore him seven children, two daughters and five sons. In all probability all persons having family names written as Kolesky, Colesky or Coleske, living in South Africa, are descendants of Jan Koleski from Warsaw.

Around 1810 the British captured Jan KITSCHUCK (Kiczuk), somewhere in Europe, and conscripted him into the 60th Regiment of Foot. He was born in 1781, probably in the part of Poland that was incorporated by the Prussians. Perhaps this was the area of the town of Czarnków (region of Wielkopolska), where the name of Kicza has been and still is quite common; or the area of Sokółka (region of Podlasie), where the family name of Kiczuk still exists today. Along with other soldiers of the 60th Regiment of Foot, he arrived at the Cape in September 1811. In 1817, at the end of his service, he was allowed to settle in the Colony and was awarded a settler’s start-up allowance. He married on 8 September 1820, Johanna Jacoba Elisabeth ACKERMAN in Swartland. He died on 11 August 1854 on the farm Schaapplaats in the Hopefield district. His children were four sons and two daughters. He was the founder of the South African family of KITSHOFF.

Jan LATSKY (Lacki) might have found himself in the ranks of the 60th Regiment of Foot at the same time as KOLESKI and Kiczuk (roughly 1810) and like other soldiers of this regiment, came to the Cape in September 1811. He originated from Lithuania, which for centuries had been associated through a union with Poland, and had been inhabited by many Poles. He was born in 1792, as a son to Michael (Michał) and Anna. The legend, repeated in the family, says that he participated in 1812 in the Russian campaign of Napoleon and that he saw Moscow burning. He supposedly fought against Napoleon’s army in the Cossack detachment (Żukowski, 1994). Later on he was to fight under Waterloo, as a soldier of the Prussian army, commanded by general Blücher. The family tale probably exaggerates the Napoleonic episode of his life, since in 1810 he was a soldier of the 60th Regiment of Foot, and in September 1811 he was already in South Africa. On 13 January 1817 he obtained the right to settle in the Colony. Initially he did not fare well – in 1821 he was in Cape Town without any means but he fortunately found work in Paarl as a groom with a local physician. On 2 June 1826 he
married in Worcester Lucya Gloudina BUYS, who was recorded as being a citizen of the town of Beaufort. The couple had three daughters and two sons. In 1827 LATSKY bought 14 000 acres of land in the Karoo and established the farm Celeryfontein in the vicinity of today’s Carnavon, becoming one of the pioneers of the European settling in Great Karoo. He died on 18 December 1866 on his farm. Many of Jan’s descendants live in South Africa, bearing the family name of LATSKY.

Also serving in the 60th Regiment of Foot – although only during its stay in England – was Martin Stanislaus Jewaskiewitz (Marcin Stanisław Iwaszkiewicz). He was born on 11 March 1780 in Poznań, to a noble family according to the South African family tradition. During the years 1793 to 1806 Poznań was under Prussian rule. It can be presumed that Marcin was incorporated into the Prussian army. He must have defected (or captured by the French) in unknown circumstances, since he was enlisted in the same unit (Irish Legion or 1st Regiment of Foot called “the Prussian”), formed by the French of the former soldiers of the Prussian army. In the summer of 1809 this unit defended the stronghold of Vlissingen against the British invasion in the Netherlands (Walcheren Island), at the mouth of river Schelde. After Vlissingen capitulated on 15 August 1809, Iwaszkiewicz became British prisoner of war. With other soldiers, including Poles, he was transported to England and imprisoned in Portsmouth. In 1810 he was enlisted with the 60th Regiment of Foot, but after a short time was sent to Army Depot Hospital. Between December 1811 and March 1812 he served at unloading the POW’s from the HMS Vestal.

Until the spring of 1813, he served in various British units: 13th Regiment of Foot, September to October 1812, and Foreign Corps Army Depot, December 1812 to March 1813. Then, he was transferred to the Cape Colony, where, as a soldier of the Royal Garrison Company, he was stationed in Wynberg, Algoa Bay and Uitenhage. Released from service on 25 October 1817, he remained in South Africa, and on 27 January 1820, obtained the right to settle. On 9 December 1817 he married Catherina BRITS in Uitenhage. They had three sons and three daughters. In 1825 Marcin owned in Riet Rivier one riding horse, one pulling horse, 49 heads of
cattle, 75 sheep and one carriage. He died in 1840. His descendants in South Africa used various forms of the family name. The most popular was, and still is, JEWASKIEWITZ, but one also encounters others like Jewatschewitz, Jewaskowitz, Jenaskewitz, and Sewasschewitz.

Like the preceding immigrants, Gabriel VALENSKY (Waleński) was also a soldier of the 60th Regiment of Foot. He was incorporated into the British army in Europe, at around the year 1810. He was allowed to settle at the Cape on 15 April 1817. He probably married and had descendants, since in the middle of the nineteenth century Lodewyk Frans Stephanus GRESSE (1824-1890) and his wife Elizabeth Eliza Zacharya CORNER adopted Marghareta VALENSKY, apparently a granddaughter of Gabriel. She subsequently married Peter James PIENAAR.

In later years one encounters in the South African documents mention of other soldiers of the 60th Regiment. Lukas SCHISKOSKY (Łukasz Szyszkowski), in the British army since 1810, who obtained the right to settle in the Colony on 24 April 1817 and who died in 1861. His wife, Rozetta, passed away six years later. The author has found no information about their children. Stanisław BAJERSKI, in the British army since 1810, who was allowed to remain at the Cape on 10 March 1817 died in 1836. No information about his family has been found.

Likewise, the founder of the South African family of BEIROWSKI (Berowsky) could also have been a soldier from Poland. Just before 1843 a Johann Carel Beirowsky, living at Boesmansrivier, married Eva Johanna Catharina VAN DER SCHAFF. In view of the sound of his name, he could have been a son of a Polish soldier, having come to the Cape with the British army. During the fighting in Spain a soldier of the Polish Vistulian Legion, Piotr Bariowski (this name appears to be deformed), was taken prisoner of war. He was transported to Porchester Castle in England on 9 July 1810, and on 14 October 1810, he enlisted with the British army. The son of Johann Carel BEIROWSKY, Pieter (born 1843), could have been named after his grandfather.

Many more British soldiers, originating from Poland, were allowed to settle at the Cape between the years 1816 and 1818. Some
of them were recruited in 1803 in the Caribbean, the remaining ones in 1810 in Europe. P Philip (1979) lists the following persons, not mentioned here before: Jacob Bankofsky, Carl Bericky, Ignatius Grodeck, Joseph Jablonsky, Ignatz Jakuloff, Joseph Jasheck, Jacob Jourisky, Christian Kinski, Matts Krobka, John Kusma, John Laskosky, Paul Lenezk, Jacob Lietsoek, Jno Lucovitz, Stephan Mollack, F Nevosattic, Matthew Procuskey, Joseph Rodrilingsky, Joseph Roscheck, Anthony Roshneck, John Schewerisky, John Schoevensky, Ignatz Schuska, John Schastack, Thomas Sorofsko, John Stepinsky, John Trabash, Joseph Washinaski, J Wingolofsky, Vincent Zewasinsky, and Michael Zitzack. The author has not found traces of their later stay in South Africa.

At the turn of the nineteenth century some other inhabitants of the Cape Colony were mentioned, bearing Polish sounding names like Lasaki, Sivensky and Konitzky.

The descendants of the Polish soldiers at the turn of the nineteenth century became an integral part of the South African society. The largest numbers of these descendants today bear the names of Troskie, Schoonraad, Kitshoff, Kolesky and Latsky. There are a few less of those named Jewaskiewitz, Masureik, Zowitsky, Beirowsky, Barensche or Valensky.

The inflow of Poles during the last years of the rule of the East Indies Company can be seen as the continuation of the earlier tradition of individual Polish immigrants who settled in the Cape Colony. Gradually, though, other conditions appeared, associated with the intensification of the revolutionary atmosphere in Europe, occupation of Polish territories by the neighbouring powers, and the outbreak of the Napoleonic wars. At the same time, this was linked with the downfall of the Dutch rule at the Cape and the annexation of the area by the British. Soldiers from Poland, belonging to the British army, were the subsequent wave of immigrants, drawn away from their home country by the revolutionary and military turmoil that engulfed flooded Europe. This group gave rise to a much larger number of settlers of Polish origin than in any preceding periods.

The next, and equally numerous, group of immigrants from Poland appeared only in the second half of the nineteenth century. This next group, though, had a different character, and the share of former
soldiers in this group, the ones having taken part in the Crimean war, was already much smaller. This, however, is the subject for another story.

Footnotes
1 Heese, 1971; Żukowski, 1994; Kowalski, 2006
2 Just before him there appeared at the Cape other men as well, linked with Poland, who established families and considered by Pama and de Villiers (1981) to belong to the Old Cape Families: Jan Jakub Kube (1775), Antoni Biłężewski/Blesefschi (before 1782), and Jan Henryk Jankowicz/Jankowitz (1782)
3 The census, carried out in 1772 in the part of Poland, incorporated by Prussia, registered the name of Droske in the vicinity of Wejherowo (Góra), and Christ Drosky in the Delta of Vistula (Żuławy), in Nowa Cerkiew, The West Prussian... Krystian Trocki might have been a relative of theirs. Nowadays, the family name of Trocki is particularly frequent in the surroundings of Wejherowo, not far from Gdańsk; www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/
4 Höge, 1946; Pama and de Villiers, 1981; Pama, 1983; Żukowski, 1996; SAG vol 13
5 In 1747 Gottfried Drosky arrived at the Cape, having come from Królewiec (Königsberg), of a similarly sounding name and origin – also of Polish extraction. He became the founder of the South African family bearing a similar name, Pama and de Villiers, 1981, Pama 1983; SAG vol 2
6 Höge, 1946; Pama and de Villiers, 1981; Pama, 1983; SAG vol 11
7 Höge, 1946; Pama and de Villiers, 1981; Uitgevaren...
8 Uitgevaren...; De VOC...
9 Höge, 1946; Pama and de Villiers, 1966
10 MOOC 6/9/75 3978
11 Boje, 1986; MOOC 6/9/1112.1695; MOOC 6/9/23903.304/56
12 Höge, 1946
13 Uitgevaren...
14 In the vicinity of this town people of the same name lived at that time, and today this area constitutes the biggest concentration in Poland of people, bearing the name Weretycki or Weredycki, www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/. Teenstra (1943) suggests that Weretycki was born in Poznań (German: Posen), although this appears improbable since Poznań was incorporated into Prussia only in 1793. The only alternative is the small locality in West Prussia, of a similar name –
Postolino (German: Posselin), where the census of 1772 mentions a person bearing a similar family name, *The West Prussian*... 

15 Teenstra, 1943 
16 *Uitgevaren*...; De VOC... 
17 MOOC 7/1/192 64; MOOC 6/9/45 9400 
18 Lichtenstein, 1928; Żukowski, 1994 
19 Lichtenstein, 1928; Żukowski, 1994 
20 Leibbrandt, 1902 
21 Żukowski 1994 
22 The lists of soldiers of the 4th Battalion of the 60th Infantry Regiment, stationing in the Cape Colony, contain also such Polish-sounding names as Joseph Popelka, Martin Linkowitz, Martin Dousky, John Shubaneck, Anton Salesky, Casimir Kufšar, Stanislaus Jasiba, John Schowacke, John Slowoda, WO 12/7040 
23 Philip, 1979 
24 Kirkor, 1981; Pachonski and Wilson, 1987 
25 WO 12/6875 
26 Philip, 1979 
27 WO 12/6878 
28 WO 12/6878; Philip, 1979 
29 There were also Germans, Dutch, Flemings, Italians, British and others; Philip, 1979; WO 12/6878 
30 Kirkor, 1981; Pachonski and Wilson, 1987; WO 12/6875 
31 Kirkor, 1981; WO 12/6878 
32 Kirkor, 1981 
33 Kirkor, 1981; WO 12/6875 
34 CO 3905/290 
35 MOOC 7/1/210/96; MOOC 13/1/150/32 
36 MOOC 6/9/79/4628 
37 Masureik, 2001 
38 Philip, 1979 
39 Kirkor, 1981; WO 12/6875 
40 WO 12/6878 
41 1818 African Court Calendar Book 
42 1827 African Court Calendar, 1829 Almanac Directory Cape Town, 1830 Cape Almanac 
43 The prefix van (von) before the family name was often used by Poles abroad for emphasising noble extraction. The nobility in Poland were exceptionally numerous, and many of the representatives of this class had a low wealth status 
44 Government Gazette – 11 April 1850
1849 Almanac Directory Cape Town, 1854 Cape Almanac
SAG vol 1
John Joseph Barensche, alias Barenskie (1864-1908) – Gravestone, Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery, Main Road, Observatory, Cape Town, Genealogical Society of SA, Peter Holden, www.national.archives.gov.za (NAAIRS)

In the year 1854 (Cape Almanac) we find information on the shoemaker Jan Edward Parenski. He could be the second son of Jan Barenski, who continued the profession of his father. His wife was Elisabeth Dorothea Bredenveld. They certainly had two daughters: Elisabeth Sophia (born in 1846) and Christina Maria Magdalena (born in 1847) SAG vol 7

Kirkor, 1981; WO 12/6875
Church Register Of Colonial Church Simon’s Town, Anglican Church Archives Wits University; www.ancestry24.co.za
Philip, 1979
1821 Cape Advertiser, 1822 African Court Calendar Book
SAG vol 1
A large portion of information on Jan Koleski/Kolesky comes from the family genealogist Rob Colesky
Philip, 1979
WO 12/6878
Lyon could refer to the man-of-war Lion on which Jan Kolesky arrived at the Cape Colony in 1811
SAG vol 1
WO 12/6878
www.moikrewni.pl/mapa
Philip, 1979
Pama and de Villiers, 1981; Pama 1983; Pansegrouw, 2008; SAG vol 4. Much of the information about Jan Kiczuk/Kitshoff comes from the genealogist of the family, Rene Pansegrouw, née Kitshoff
WO 12/6878
Van Rensburg, 1999; Van Rensburg, South African Stamouers
WO/2/6878
Philip, 1979
Pama, 1983; Van Rensburg, 1999
In the elaborate work of S Kirkor (1981) he appears as Marcin Kivastevich, whereas in other documents he is mentioned as Antoni Jan Sewaskowitz
SAG vol 4; Blair, 2001
Kirkor, 1981
WO 12/6878
Philip, 1979

His fortune must have been changing, for in the years 1821-22 he owned three horses and 35 head of cattle and in 1829, 23 head of cattle,

Blair, 2001

WO 12/6878

Philip, 1979

Descendant report for Peter James Pienaar (a9), www.ancestry24.co.za

WO 12/6878

Philip, 1979

MOOC 7/1/256.40

MOOC 13/1/244.69

WO 12/6878

Philip, 1979

MOOC 6/9/9.1702

There are today in the vicinity of Kartuzy, a country town near Gdańsk (Danzig), the only cluster of the Poles bearing the name of Beirowski;

www.moikrewni.pl/mapa

SAG vol 1

Kirkor, 1981

SAG vol 1

NCD 1/13.1092; MOOC 8/24.7

MOOC 8/33.57

1816 African Court Calendar Book; 1817 African Court Calendar Book.

There is in the Republic of South Africa a family of Jewish extraction, bearing the same name, whose founder was a later date emigrant;

www.ancestry24.co.za

These predecessors included, in particular, Magetsky, Drosky, Wotsky, Kroll, Kube, Blisefsky and Jankowitz Pama and de Villiers, 1981; Kowalski 2006

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