



Polacy w Ameryce (Polish Edition)

Miroslawa Kruszewska

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"Polacy w Ameryce" ("Poles in America"). All of them are heroes of America. An American – a man of Polish heritage. They came to Jamestown not as adventurers or mercenaries, but as craftsmen and experienced soldiers, desperately needed by the Colony. They were recruited by the Virginia Company, with the assistance of Captain John Smith. The history of Poles in the United States dates back over 400 years all the way to 1608. There are over 10 million Americans of Polish descent in the U.S. today, making it the largest diaspora of Poles in the world. Many of them are people of great passions and dedication. They served as professional military officers, fighting for American freedom. The Polish contribution of blood in this matter was enormous, but never has it been duly recognized or rewarded. After the Civil War (1861–65) the image turned more negative and Poles appeared as crude and uneducated people who were unfit for America socially and culturally. Since the beginning, until of the mid-20th century, Poles have been victims of anti-Polish racism among American society, which was partially based on the ethnic prejudice against Poles, as well as because of their non-Protestant, Roman Catholic religion. At the time, ethnic Poles in America were viewed as a non-white racial group. They did not deserve this, as they loved American soil as much as the 'natives' and their contributions to the nation were numerous. Polish-Americans are a fascinating people and their accomplishments are very impressive. Many started as farmers, and many found manual labor jobs in the coal mines of Pennsylvania and the heavy industries (steel mills, iron foundries, slaughterhouses, oil and sugar refineries) of the Great Lakes cities of Chicago, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Buffalo, Milwaukee and Cleveland. This book is their story.



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