



Count Casimir Pulaski

Compiled by Clement A. Pulaski

"Count" Casimir Pulaski was born in Winiary, Poland, on March 4, 1748, just two hundred years ago, the first son of Count Joseph Pulaski, a nobleman and magistrate. The time, fortunes, and lives of the Pulaski family were pledged and spent for the redemption of Poland.

Pulaski's military career started at an early age, for before he reached the age of twenty, he served in the guard of Duke Charles of Courland. In 1769 he organized and raised a revolt in Poland, finally forcing the Russian withdrawal from the fortified monastery of Czestochowa. His exploits in Poland are many, everlastingly spreading terror among the invaders, with barely a handful of horsemen armed with lances. But subsequent unfortunate events forced him into exile in Turkey. The Pulaski estates were confiscated; his father died in prison; one brother was killed fighting for Polish independence, while another brother was made captive.

When the Sultan of Turkey hesitated to aid Pulaski in 1775, he left for France. His unquenchable desire to continue his battle for human freedom brought him into contact in Paris with Benjamin Franklin, to whom he expressed a desire to enter the American service. This time it was a strange country and a new foe, and as Henry Williams said, "It stirred the heart of Pulaski like the voice of a battle trumpet. It was a struggle for liberty. It was his cause, whoever the people and wherever the scene of conflict."

On June 10, 1777 Pulaski sailed for America, and landed from the state brigantine "Massachusetts" at Marblehead on July 23, a forty-four day voyage from Nantes, France. His letter



C. Pulaski

Count Casimir Pulaski

of introduction to General Washington from Benjamin Franklin dated May 29, 1777 read as follows:

"Count Pulaski of Poland, an officer famous throughout Europe for his bravery and conduct in defense of liberties of his country against the three great invading powers of Russia, Austria and Prussia, will have the honor of delivering this into Your Excellency's hands. The Court here have encouraged and promoted his voyage from an opinion that he may be highly useful to our service. Mr. Deane has written so fully concerning him that I need not enlarge, and I add my wish—

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es, that he may find in our armies under your Excellency occasions of distinguishing himself." Within a month after his arrival, General Washington accepted him without reserve and added his personal recommendation in a letter dated at his camp, August 21, 1777 to George Clymer, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, which read: "I have the honor to introduce to you Count Pulaski of Poland, who will visit Philadelphia to solicit of Congress a command in our Army. I sometime ago had a letter from our mutual friend, Mr. Deane, speaking in terms equally favorable to the character and military abilities of this gentleman thus doubly recommended to your notice. You will be pleased, I am sure, to show him all courtesy and promote his views to the extent of your power."

Four days later Pulaski conferred with John Hancock, President of Congress, and presented his plan for a corps of mounted men. But Congress was slow in acting, and on September 11, 1777 Pulaski received his first baptism of fire at the Battle of Brandywine, without command, rank, or position of any character. Yet he distinguished himself so brilliantly, particularly during a critical point of the battle when given command of Washington's own bodyguard, that the armies of Howe and Cornwallis were completely frustrated in their objective. Pulaski's valor smoothed the path for Congressional action, as four days after the battle, Congress elected him "Commander of the horse, with the rank of Brigadier." Historian Ramsey says that "at the Brandywine, Pulaski was thunderbolt of war, and always sought the post danger as the post of honor." It can accurately be said that Pulaski won his American commission on the field of battle, thus becoming the first and highest ranking cavalry officer in the Colonial army.

The daring exploits of Pulaski are no doubt known to the reader, but even this condensation would not be complete without briefly mentioning the highlights of his brilliant military career. At Warren Tavern Pulaski saved the Army of Washington from sudden surprise that might have proven fatal. At Germantown on October 4, 1777 General Pulaski with his horsemen engaged Cornwallis in skirmishes for five miles, finally causing Cornwallis to abandon the fight. Then came Valley Forge, and on December 31,

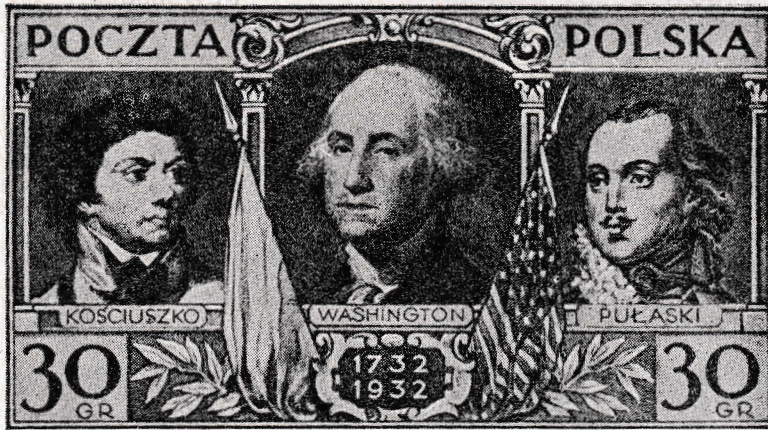
1777 the march to Trenton. In February 1778 Pulaski joined General Anthony Wayne with the object of thwarting an attack upon Philadelphia. The opposing forces met at Haddonfield, New Jersey, March 3, 1778 where Pulaski with his little troop of cavalry, to which was added 250 New Jersey militia men, charged the enemy most effectively. Though his own horse was shot from under him, he alone took seven prisoners.

In March 1778 Pulaski resigned his command, and petitioned Congress to permit the organization of an independent corps. His request was granted by Continental Congress on March 28, 1778 and he retained the rank of General. Shortly after that the celebrated "Pulaski Legion" came into being, as in April 1778 a recruiting office was opened in Baltimore, where he organized three companies of cavalry armed with lances, and three companies of infantry, a total of 330 men. General Pulaski had a distinctive banner made for his Legion by the Moravian nuns in Bethlehem, Pa. While the colonists were sadly pressed for funds, he advanced \$50,000 of his personal fortune for equipment of his horse warriors.

On February 2, 1779, the Pulaski Legion was ordered to move south to join General Lincoln, and reached Charleston, South Carolina, on May 8.

After participating in a series of battles in the South, there came the fateful day of October 9, 1779 when it was decided to attack the city of Savannah by storm. In the course of the battle one Count d'Estaine was caught in deadly cross-fire and havoc was wrought among his men. When Pulaski saw the desperate position of a fellow officer, he dashed madly into a withering flame of shot and shell, was struck in the groin, and fell from his horse, mortally wounded. He was carried away and placed aboard the American brig Wasp, where skilled surgeons endeavored vainly to remove the bullet. A fatal gangrenous infection set in, and he died. He was only 31 years old. He was buried at sea on October 11, 1779.

Thus ended the career of a gallant and illustrious officer. No finer tribute could have been paid than the remark of the King of Poland who said: "Pulaski died as he lived, a hero but an enemy of Kings." Honorable Brick, who sponsored the erection of a monument in Washington, said: "Pulaski



Design of stamp issued by Poland in 1932 on George Washington's bicentennial, to mark the close friendship between the United States and Poland. It was later used as a subject for a Polish postal card for unemployment relief. The Polonus Philatelic Society is using this design on its souvenir sheet for Polpex 1948 to honor Pulaski on his bicentennial.

died as he had lived, a noble and undaunted warrior, fighting the battles of Liberty and the Republic. He sacrificed himself, all the years of his young life, his fortune, his ancestral dignity, his lofty spirit, his splendid genius, and all his earthly hopes for Liberty, Justice, and Humanity. For these things he gave all he had—his martyred life." In the American Military Biography the author says that "perhaps a braver man than Pulaski never drew a sword."

To honor the Polish hero and patriot, a 2-cent commemorative stamp (Scott #690) was issued by the United States Post Office Department, and was first placed on sale January 16, 1931 at the following cities: Savannah, Ga.; Chicago, Ill.; Gary, Ind.; South Bend, Ind.; Detroit, Mich.; Brooklyn, N. Y.; Buffalo, N. Y.; New York, N. Y.; Cleveland, Ohio; Toledo, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Milwaukee, Wis.

The central design of the stamp bears a likeness of General Pulaski modeled from a portrait in Jones' History of Georgia. The dates "1748" and "1779" represent the dates of birth and death of a great Polish-American whose memory shall live on and on, and who shall stand out as a shining example of genuine devotion to democracy.

(Author's Note: To friends who supplied information about the "Count," grateful acknowledgement is made.)

TID BITS

We regret to advise our members that our president, Chester Mikucki, was taken ill not very long after he was elected president. He has been confined to the St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital here in Chicago and will soon be removed to Vaughan Veterans Hospital. You boys and gals could write to Chester at his home address, 1844 N. Winchester Avenue, Chicago 22, Illinois, and we are certain that Anne will see to it that your letters are delivered to Chester at the hospital. How about it?

* * *

Incidentally, that picture post card you received of Pulaski at Savannah, with the Pulaski stamp, postmarked Savannah, Ga., February 13, 1948, was sent to you by the society. Only members of Polonus received these cards. So, you can be certain that too many of them do not exist. Something for free!

* * *

Ben Reeves appeared before the Lithuania Philatelic Society on February 26, 1946, and gave his interesting talk on "Forgeries" and on March 3rd he appeared before the Evanston New Trier Stamp Club with a brand new talk entitled "Don't be a Chump, Specialize!" He will repeat this talk before the Highland Park Stamp Club on April 20th. Your editor will be there—his talk "On my kitchen table" is also a repeater.

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POLONUS ELECTS

The following officers have been elected to guide the destinies of Polonus for 1948-9.

President—C. J. Mikucki

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All of the newly elected officers have ably demonstrated their administrative ability in various offices which they have held in the past. One of the main objectives for the new official family will be the formulation of plans for the celebration of Polonus's tenth anniversary which will occur next February, and on which the planning has already begun.

President Mikucki announces that notice of the appointment of the various committee chairmen, will be given at a later date as soon as the numerous appointments are confirmed.



Mayme Julia Linn, beloved wife of George W. Linn, publisher of Linn's Weekly Stamp News, passed away Thursday, March 11, 1948.

Polonus Philatelic Society extends to the family of the deceased, and especially to its friend, George W. Linn, its deepest and sincerest condolences.
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NEW ISSUES

by Jack Domar

We have recently seen a "Presentation booklet," size 6¼x5½ inch cover in simulated red leatherette. Upon the cover is printed in three lines in gold, Polska Poczta Telegraf i Telefon/1947 /SWIAT PRACY." It contains four pages, upon which each page a single stamp of the "Workers Set" is printed. The stamps are centered in an embossed border 1¼x1 15/16 inch and are imperforated. They are printed in the same color as the originals. The lower right corner of each page bears the notation "Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres"—Poste, PARIS. Also in the lower center of the page there is a perforated 1/8 inch diamond, then a half moon facing upward and another diamond.



Two new Airmails have appeared, a 50 zl. green and a 100 zl. orange. Size is 33mmx26mm. They are roto-gravured. The design shows an image of a bearded Centaur facing right and holding an outstretched bow and arrow. In the upper left corner is the value and below this is an airplane in flight, across the bottom is the inscription "POLSKA-POCZTA LOTNICZA." The First Day of issue is not known.

We have been informed that stamps Scotts' 347 to 356, the overprinted Scotts' #344 are being counterfeited. We suggest that extreme caution be exercised before purchasing. Not only this issue but any issue or stamp where the value of the overprinted or surcharged stamp exceeds the value of the original.

Ben Reeves will be one of the judges at the Exhibition of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on May 22-23, 1948. Ben gets around.

NEWS, VIEWS AND COMMENTS

(Editor's note: Harry L. Lindquist wrote this article about "Polonus" in the issue of STAMPS devoted to articles on the stamps of Poland, which were prepared by members of Polonus and were edited by Myron E. Steczynski. We would not dare write about the activities of our society using the laudatory phrases Mr. Lindquist used, but we are so proud of what he said about us that we are repeating his article.)

Polonus Philatelic Society's Annual Polpex Exhibition, February 13-14-15, 1948

We have said it before, and we say it again, that the various specialized philatelic groups that have been formed in recent years are of great importance to this field. They make combined study possible to begin with, and then they are able to give to other collectors the results of those studies.

Among these specialized societies there is none more effective than the Polonus Philatelic Society, a national group, with headquarters in Chicago, devoted to the interests of collectors of Polish philatelic material. They have made immeasurable contributions to the philatelic record, both through their own regularly published club paper and through the writings of their members in the general philatelic press. Among their members are some very well known names in collecting circles, and who give cheerfully of their time and knowledge in order that other collectors might become better acquainted with some of the fascinating aspects, as well as highly technical details, of Polish philately.

They were one of the first groups in this country to cooperate with Scott Publications with the view to revising Polish listings in the catalog for greater accuracy in pricing, captions, and general information. They also instituted an expert committee which has done much valuable work in expertizing doubtful Polish issues, chief of which are the very much forged overprints on the Krakow issues. Literally hundreds of dollars have been saved collectors on the expertization of these issues alone. It was probably the first stamp club in this country to hold a large exhibit of a sectional nature in a museum—a new highlight in dramatizing a stamp exhibit. While men-



Larking Memorial Trophy

tioning their "firsts," we should also include the probability that they were the first club in this country to institute memorial awards in honor of their members who had made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Second World War.

The Polonus Philatelic Society have cooperated 100 per cent with other societies for the betterment of the entire hobby. They are members of the National Federation of Stamp Clubs, are a branch of the Society of Philatelic Americans, a member of the Central Federation of Stamp Clubs, and contributing to general Polish culture in America, they are members of the Kosciuszko Foundation and are a life member of the Polish Roman Catholic Union Archives and Museum. They have helped the Polish cause in other ways too, maintaining the publica-

tion of their Bulletin without interruption throughout the war, bringing the voice of Poland to collectors even tho Poland itself was ravaged and all publications of a philatelic nature there had ceased to exist. Poland's philatelic war record thus was preserved for posterity with the aid of this progressive group.

They have also brought the message of philately to Polish newspapers in this country, pointing out the advantages of stamp collecting. This campaign has resulted in many stamp columns being instituted as a regular feature in Polish newspapers.

They successfully campaigned for a first day sale of the Polish Flag stamp at the Chicago Post Office, and this was the only one of the Flag stamp series that was given a first day sale at two cities. An example of what united effort and combined interest can accomplish.

A distinguishing quality of the Polish collectors which we cannot refrain from mentioning is their appreciative attitude for any cooperation they receive from others. So generous in their own cooperation they are always sincerely grateful for any courtesies extended to them.

In February each year the Polonus group has an exhibition, and a special issue of STAMPS is reserved by them several months in advance, at which time they determine from us just how much space they can have for the articles which their members will prepare. Everything is planned in an orderly manner, and their material is always in our hands complete with scripts and illustrative matter several weeks in advance. Their articles are always of interest to collectors generally, very little of the material being of a publicity nature.

This issue of STAMPS is devoted to the Polonus Philatelic Society, with articles on Polish philately written by their members in special remembrance of their annual exhibition. We know that readers will find these articles up to the usual high standards of this fine group, and no doubt there will be many among our readers who will want to know more about the society with a view to joining it.

In their nine years of existence the Polonus club has reached a membership today of 300. Membership is on an international basis, some forty foreign members being included. They are active in the conventions of the big

national societies, where their famous "Beeba" parties have been a featured event. Anyone wishing to join the society or to secure more information with the thought of considering membership can write to Jack Domar, 3715 Clinton Ave., Berwyn, Ill. The annual dues are only \$1.50.

This year the POLPEX was held in the Polish Falcon Hall, Chicago, Ill., February 13-15. The grand award was the Larking Memorial Trophy, established in memory of Col. R. N. W. Larking, C.B.E., whose studies and researches on the stamps of Poland did so much to enrich the hobby. The winner retains possession of the cup for one year up to the night of the setting up of the following POLPEX, when it is again offered for competition. Each year, after the award is made, the winner's name is inscribed on the plaque at the base of the trophy. Should there be a third time winner, he will retain it permanently. The first holder of the cup is Frank E. Wolosewick, of Chicago, whose fine presentation of the Krakow overprints at POLPEX 1947 won the honor.

Collectors are reminded that Col. Larking, who died in England in May 1943, left an historic and scientific record which cannot be duplicated. His huge seventy-two volume specialized collection of Poland has been added recently to Myron E. Steczynski's extensive holdings, so that members of the Polonus Philatelic Society have access to its wealth of material and information. Its pages are a mute record of the labor of love of a prominent Englishman who placed Poland among philately's great countries. It is, therefore, only natural that Mr. Steczynski, as the present owner of the Larking Collection, should have presented the trophy to perpetuate the Colonel's name with a suitable memorial and, at the same time, relinquish his own eligibility to compete for it.

POLPEX 1948 WINNERS

The 1948 exhibition of the Polonus Philatelic Society proved to be the most outstanding which this active group has yet held! The three day show attracted hundreds of visitors from the whole of Chicagoland, and many clubs in the area sent entire delegations to pay their respects. Probably, the most interested spectators were not the stamp collectors as might naturally be assumed, but the elderly Polish folk who had read about the event

in the Polish press, for the event received very wide publicity in that field. Time and again, these old folks would stand before the different Polish exhibits and remark to a neighbor, "see the cancellation on that stamp? That is my home town! I just wonder what it looks like now?"

To attempt to describe the 200 frame show in complete detail would entail an almost endless task. "Colorfully historical"—would possibly be the best means of describing the varied exhibits, for many of them were laid out with that particular object in view. The Polish collector is always eager to present some phase of Poland's glorious though tragic history and does not hesitate to employ contemporary material to add interest to the exhibit he is portraying.

A historical exhibit built around Pulaski emissions attracted wide attention because the exhibit was dedicated to the great hero's bicentennial of birth, which occurs this year. The internationally famous Rachmanov collection of 18th century Polish stampless covers contained many items which normally would be found only in great Polish Museums. This collection contained much historical material such as royal franks, historical addresses and other similar and equally important covers. One interesting cover in this collection was addressed to General Kosciuszko and only the past can tell us just what historical message it might have contained! Another exhibit which won the acclaim of the on-lookers, was that composed of the Polish prisoner of war camp issues. The history of their production under the most difficult of conditions, is only just now beginning to come to light. An exhibit composed of stamps issued by various governments to honor Poles in various fields of endeavor was commented upon, by many.

From the purely technical study viewpoint, there were two really great exhibits of the much discussed Krakow overprints, which have been forged and sold so extensively to the uninitiated. The diagrammatic layouts and charts in these exhibits probably attracted more attention than some of the extremely rare stamps which these two fine exhibits contained!

Some Polonus members are interested in other foreign field and collections of early Italy, Tibet, Heligoland and Ireland were all exhibition winners, which testifies to the versa-

tility of Polonus in philatelic fields.

A highlight of the three day show was another regional gathering of the Chicago Chapter of the U. S. XXth Century Postal Cancellation Society. A very interesting meeting was held at which Bert Powell gave a talk on "Some phases of Collecting XXth Century U. S."

There is still a very limited supply of the colorful and historical souvenir sheets and Pulaski Bicentennial opening day covers left from the event. The cover is franked with a Pulaski stamp. Either one of the souvenirs may be obtained from A. Kloskowski, 2528 Drake Ave., Chicago 47, Illinois, at a small cost of only 20c each.

The cover will undoubtedly rank as one of Polish Philately's most historical souvenirs for it commemorates a Polish hero who fought for our independence and died in its cause.

THE AWARD WINNERS

GRAND AWARD. Possession of the Larking Trophy for 1 year and medal. V. Rachmanov—Polish stampless covers of the 18th century.

FIRST BEST. The C. A. Pulaski Trophy. M. E. Steczynski—The Krakow overprints.

SECOND BEST. The Stephen G. Rich Trophy. Dr. M. E. Uznanski—Alenstein.

THIRD BEST. The Polonus Memorial Award. Stephen G. Rich—Italy 1860-1863.

POLISH RESEARCH AWARD. The Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz Trophy. M. E. Steczynski—The Krakow Overprints.

POLISH HISTORICAL AWARD—Certificate of award. A. S. Rybarski—Specialized Pulaski Collection.

S. P. A. RESEARCH AWARD—Certificate of Award. C. J. Mikucki—Specialized study on liberated cities.

FIRST AWARDS

S. F. Kunicki—Polish Prisoner of War camp issues.

B. Reeves—Heligoland postal history study.

Dr. W. Eisen—Lithuanian Airmails.

Col. O. H. Schrader USA Ret.—Tibet.

SECOND AWARDS

C. A. Schafer—Central Lithuania.

J. J. Domar—Warsaw Locals.

C. J. Mikucki—Polish Liberated Cities

Dr. W. Eisen—Lithuanian Airmails.

THIRD AWARDS

A. S. Rybarski—Pulaski Collection.

L. Jankowski—Pilsudski Collection.

B. Powell—World Tribute to Poles Col.

J. Wendt—Ireland.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

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Filey, Yorkshire, England
Joseph J. Czarnik
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Chicago 39, Ill.
William F. Gorkiewicz
9333 Gallagher
Hamtramck 12, Mich.
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145 Wood Ave.
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Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Alexander Brusnicki
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Springfield, Mass.
Andrzej G. Lipski
Lubomiskiego 25/6
Krakow 1, Poland
Joseph Przastek
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Schenectady 8, N. Y.
M. Lisiewicz
32 Ashburton Ave.
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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NEW MEMBER

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EPP, entires, & cancels

REINSTATEMENT

Thaddeus F. Dombek #41
618 N. Drake Ave.,
Chicago 24, Ill.

Col. Schrader recently spoke at the North Shore Philatelic Society meeting on "U. S. Locals," but most important of all was elected a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, England. Congratulations.

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POLONUS AUCTION

As was announced previously, an auction of the Stamps of Poland will be held in conjunction with the meeting of April 23, 1948. The Auction list accompanies this issue of the BULLETIN. Sometime ago we commented that this auction can only be as good as our members make it. Either all of the members in Polonus are buyers of the stamps of Poland only, and have nothing to sell, or the membership is not interested in these auction sales.

There is no other conclusion to be drawn from the poor response of the membership to this and other auctions held in the past. It seems that our members just will not offer their material for sale. Now, if the number of bids received through the mail is very small, in all probability this will be the last of our club auctions. Only your participation in club activities can keep them alive. The effort in every one of these undertakings is too great unless the membership by its actions indicates it desires a continuation of these activities.

Chester Schafer reports that he visited the exhibit of the Pulaski Philatelic Society in Detroit last month. The Grand Award winner was Mr. John Poznanski with a display of Krakow Overprints. Chester took some photos of the exhibit which were viewed by some of our members at February 27th meeting. Chester's visit was in the nature of a reciprocation, for Ray Bartz of Pulaski visited Polpex.

MEMBERS MART

Wanted, Stamps, Covers, Locals of Poland. Have some very nice items to exchange, buy or sell.

Send your want list.

Am desirous of exchanging with collectors in Poland and all foreign countries.

John Skotnicki, 2543 West Superior St., Chicago, Illinois.

Mint	POLAND	Used
Prewar	Postwar	
Want Lists solicited		
RAY BARTZ		
"Stamps of Quality"		

3637 E. Kirby Ave., Detroit, Mich.

Members please note: This column is for your benefit. Cost is two cents per word. Send copy to J. J. Domar, 3715 Clinton Ave., Berwyn, Illinois.