

## History of Pułaski School (1905-1945)

by Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, great grandson of Lorenz Mazurkiewicz

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My great grandparents, Lorenz (Lawrence) and Anna Mazurkiewicz purchased their first farm in Washington County on April 29, 1902, executed by F.W. Wood and recorded in Volume 48, Page 237, Deed Records of Washington County, Texas. (Re: 131 acres of which 1.75 acres lies in the Brenham and Chappell Hill Road which leaves 129.25 acres). Lorenz and Anna bought a second farm in 1913 where my parents live today just a few miles from the farm mentioned above.

At the turn of the 20th century, there were several hundred Polish families that lived between Brenham and Chappell. My great grandfather Lorenz Mazurkiewicz was approached by the Trustees of Pułaski School District No. 32, Martin Marshal, Martin Rozwadowski and Wallace Kaminski to sell two acres of land along the road to build a school for the Polish children in this region of Washington County. The Trustees approached several landowners and my grandfather

Lorenz Mazurkiewicz stepped forward and agreed to sell two acres of land on the highway frontage of his property. Lorenz and Anna sold the two acres for \$100 in 1905 to be paid by 1906 with 8% interest.

Lorenz spoke three languages, Polish, German and learned English when he came to America from Węglewo, Poland.

At the time of Lorenz and Anna's immigration from Poland, this part of Poland was Prussia a part of the German Empire. Poland had been divided by three empires Prussia, Austria, and Russia so the country of Poland did not exist from 1792 to 1918. Lorenz was an educated man that understood the need to educate the young Polish American children, so he



*Photo taken in 1929. Washington County, Texas  
Pułaski School District No. 32*

eagerly agreed to sell two acres of land to the Trustees. I know that my grandfather Stefan Mazurkiewicz (youngest son of Lorenz and Anna) and my father Peter, my uncle Henry Mazurkiewicz, my dad's older brother and Alois Mazurkiewicz, my dad's younger brother attended Pułaski School.

The deed dated October 19, 1909, executed by Lorenz and Anna Mazurkiewicz, to the Trustees of Pułaski School District No. 32. Recorded in Volume 54, Page 222, Deed Records of Washington County, Texas two acres of land. (Partial) Release dated October 28, 1909, executed by Martin Ogradowicz to Lorenz and Anna Mazurkiewicz, recorded in Volume 58, Page 581-582, Deed Records of Washington County, Texas. Martin Ogradowicz was the owner and holder of the notes (Martin Ogradowicz was responsible for the lien on the land) and Mr. Ogradowicz conveyed the deed to the Trustees of Pułaski School District No. 32 on October 28, 1909 for the sum of one dollar. The note on Pułaski School was paid on August 9, 1915.

The Warranty Deed executed by the Trustees of Pułaski School was recorded in Volume 69, Page 14-15. Deed Records of Washington County, Texas. The Trustees of the Pułaski School on August 9, 1915 were John Gorka, Mike Kaminczak and Antoni Hildebrandt.

In 1929, the Pułaski School District was consolidated with Stone School, District 1 and therefore known as Stone School District 1 of Washington County, Texas. On October 15, 1948 at a regular meeting of the Stone School District 1, authorized the sale of Stone School District 1 (Pułaski School) including the two acres and the improvements on the property. The Trustees at this time were Charlie Kopycinski, John Ogradowicz and Erwin W. Stern. The amount of the sale was \$500.00 from Sam Fink and Gus Fink of which they owned the adjacent farm. The school closed in 1945 and thus, the sale of the property.

At this time, this is all the information I have about the school coupled with the information I have listed below about why the name of Pułaski was chosen for the school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

The school was named after U.S. Brigadier General Kazimierz Pułaski , a Polish Nobleman and a revolutionary war officer under the command of General George Washington. He is praised for his contributions to the U.S. military in the American Revolution and known as "the father of the American cavalry". General Pułaski was born in Warsaw, Poland March 6, 1745 and died in the battle of Savannah on October 11, 1779 in Savannah, Georgia and is buried in Savannah.