

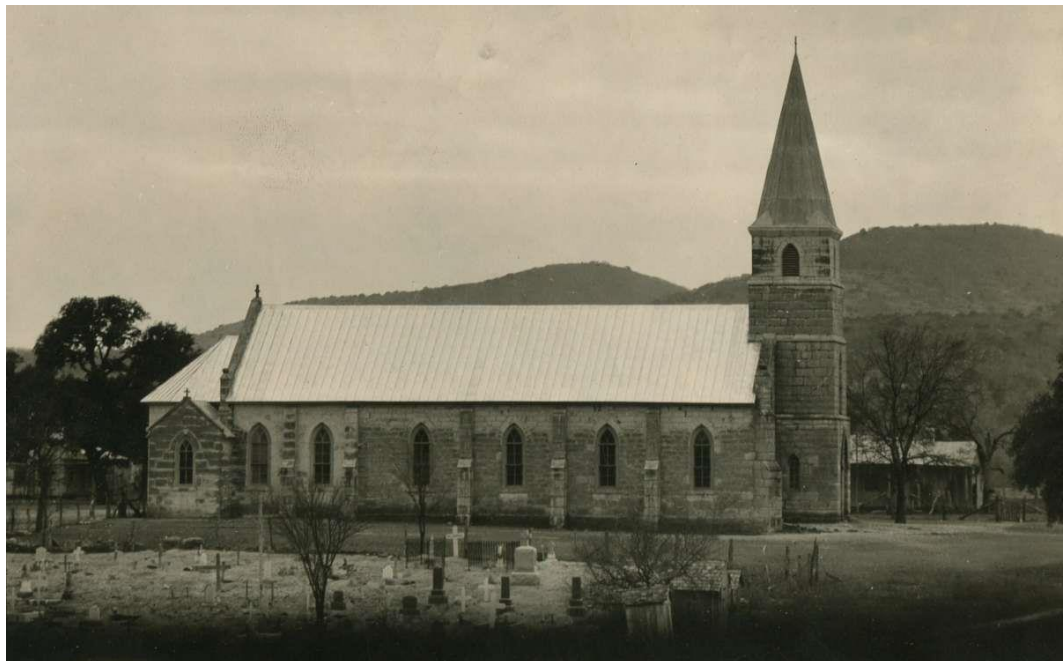
Bandera Polish Settlers

*Information compiled by Elaine Mazurek Stephens
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Bandera's first Polish settlers arrived in Bandera in 1855, six weeks after the first Polish church was founded in Panna Maria, and organized St. Stanislaus parish, the second oldest Polish parish in the United States-with Panna Maria holding the distinction of being the oldest. The names of these Polish settlers continue to be represented in Bandera's present history and progress: Anderwald, Kindla, Mazurek, Dugosh, Kalka, Jureczki, Adamietz. Leopold Moczgamba, who led the Polish settlers from Panna Maria to Bandera.

Most of the Polish settlers found employment with de Montel, James and John H. Herndon cutting cypress roofing shingles for sale in San Antonio. Some were shingle-makers, barrel makers, and skilled carpenters. Each family was given one town lot on which to build a home along with an option to purchase farmland near Bandera. John Adamietz served as a county commissioner and deputy sheriff. Albert Adamietz held the office of county treasurer. Kaspar Dugosh became Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace. The 1956 petition to separate Bandera from Bexar County was signed by John Pyka, Joseph Knappik and Albert Haiduk. (Source: <http://www.banderatex.com/bandera-history>)

Haiduk, remembered as a fine fiddler, survived an attack by Indians. Haiduk's wife-fearful that a light would attract another attack-cut the arrow out in the dark. Theodore Kindla, a 25-year-old shepherd, was killed by Indians in the summer of 1862.



Many of the Polish immigrants who settled Bandera are buried in this cemetery at the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church.