

Kosciusko, Texas

Compiled by Elaine Mazurek Stephens, November 7, 2020

Kosciusko was established in 1890 by Polish and German settlers as a supply point for Polish and German settlers. It was named after Polish General Thaddeus Kosciusko. The Kosciusko Post Office was established in 1906. It was discontinued in 1920 when the mail was rerouted through Stockdale.

Source: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/kosciusko-tx>



Image source: 1900-1915 UTSA Library photograph w congregation in front of church St Ann Church Kosciusko Tx

St. Ann Catholic Church, Texas Historical Marker Text:

“In 1880, about sixty families of Polish descent (Silesian Poles) bought the land in this sparsely settled area. After their arrival, the town became known as Kosciusko, named after the noted Polish American hero, General Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

In 1892 the Polish settlers built their first Polish Catholic school, St. Anne's. It was a small one-room

school, run by the sisters of charity of the incarnate word. The sisters lived in a room attached to the school. In 1898, under the direction of the Reverend Stanislaus Przyborowski, then pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Czestochowa, the people of Kosciusko gathered together and built their first Catholic Church for \$2,000 plus donations. The small wooden structure measured 80 feet by 40 feet and was one of the largest churches in Wilson County at that time. Also named St. Ann, the church was dedicated on October 27, 1898. It was a mission of Czestochowa for three years. In 1901 a rectory and cemetery were established.

The first convent for the Sisters of Charity was built in 1918. By 1933 there were 146 families in the parish and the small wooden church was enlarged by 25 feet. The congregation continued to grow. A Polish choir and various societies were organized in the



church over the years. In 1951 a new church building was erected. It had a modified Gothic design and included two sacristies, a baptistery and a large sanctuary. On October 25, 1998, St. Ann's Catholic Church celebrated its centennial. At that time, the parish consisted of 224 families. Parishioners continue to practice the traditions of their ancestors. St. Ann's Catholic Church remains the center of this small Polish community.”



On June 7, 2012, a group from Poland visited Kosciusko, Texas, guided by Father Franciszek Kurzaj. These photos were taken by Elaine Mazurek Stephens.

*St. Ann Catholic Church,
Kosciusko, Texas.*



*Father Kurzaj with visitors from Poland
inside St. Ann Catholic Church in Kosciusko,
Texas. June 7, 2012. Photo by Elaine
Mazurek Stephens.*



Travelers from Poland visiting the cemetery at Kosciusko, Texas. June 7, 2012. Photo by Elaine Mazurek Stephens.

Information below from:

<http://www.texasescapes.com/SouthTexasTowns/KosciuscoTx/KosciuscoTexas.htm>

The town came into being around in the 1890s when Polish immigration began to move away from the Panna Maria - Cestohowa communities. The town was named after the Polish General who added the Colonies in the American Revolution.

The post office only operated from 1906 to 1920 when Stockdale took over the responsibility. There were only 10 people reported in Kosciusko for the 1930 census and only 50 in 1965.



Dworaczyk's Meat Market (next door to the church).
The majority of Kosciusko residents use the meat market as their local butcher" - David Scheffler, 11-26-05. TE photo

*From the **Kosciusko Texas Forum:***

Kosciusko, Texas

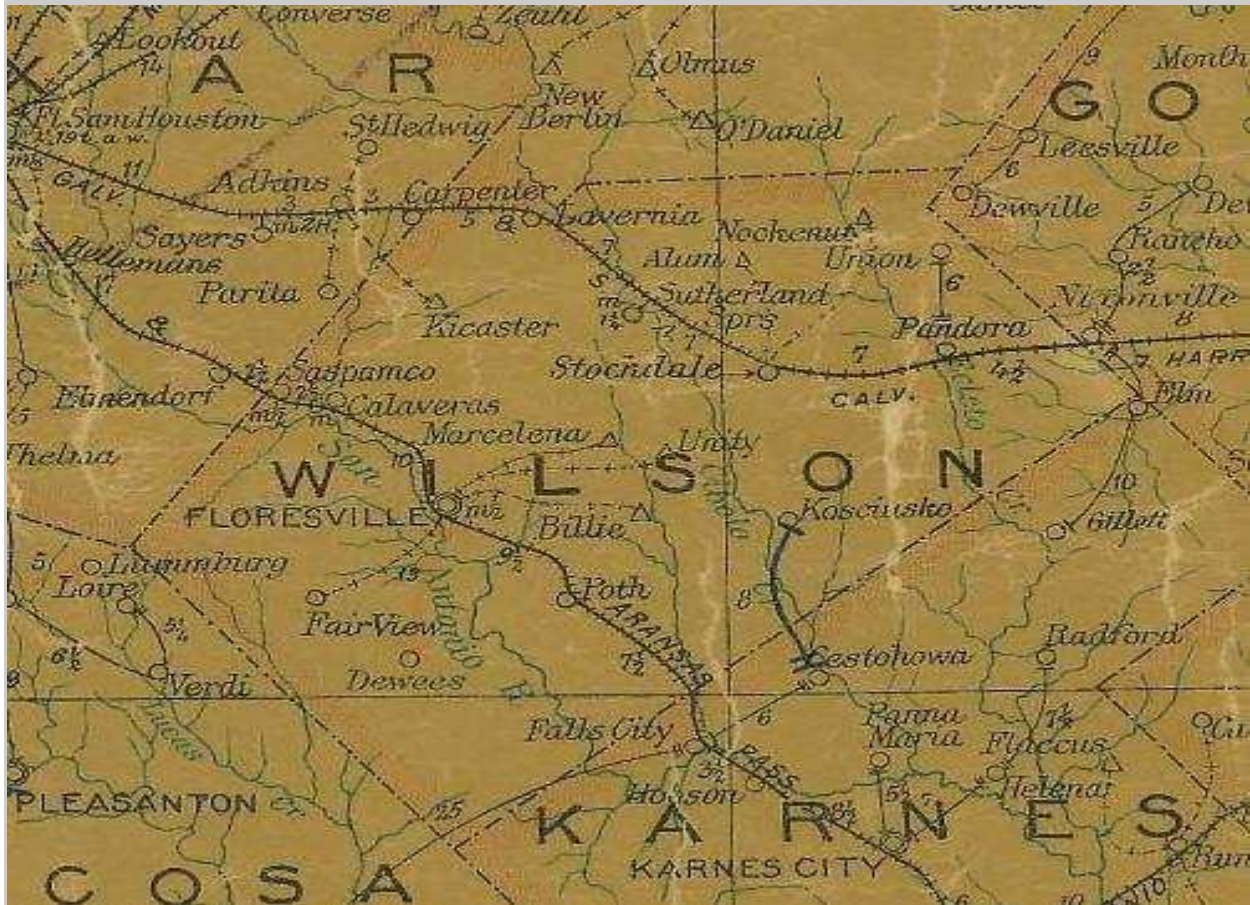
There are two towns in the US named after this Polish hero of the American Revolution. One is in Mississippi; one is in Texas. In Mississippi it's pronounced **Kah-zee-OOS-ko**. In Texas it's pronounced **KuhSHUskuh**, which is apparently close to the correct Polish pronunciation. I've been told if you pronounce it and someone says either 'Gesundheit' or 'God bless you,' you pronounced it correctly.

By C. F. Eckhardt, May 28, 2006

Kosciusko, Texas

I remember seeing a photograph of my grandparents wedding day. I believe it is in Kosciusko or that is where they lived at that time. My father, the oldest of ten children, was born in 1932 so my grandparents must have been born around 1910 more or less. But I read the population of Kosciusko was only 10 in 1930. They built their home in Cestohowa. My grandparents were Frances Moy and Edmund Olinick (Olenick (Olejnik?)). My great grandfather may have been Francizek Olejnik. He and his wife are buried in the Cemetery in Cestohowa, Texas. There are only three of my father's siblings still alive. Carolyn Olinick who lives in a nursing home in Floresville, Texas, Mary Moczygamba and Eugene Olenick who live in San Antonio, Tx. Right now, I am working at a drilling rig site which is overlooking the town of Kosciusko and I can see St. Ann's Church steeple and hall as I type this on my phone. I would like to learn more about the history of my ancestors and their connection with Kosciusko if any. I was told that it is difficult or impossible to trace our families back to Poland because the Germans had destroyed all the records in that part of Poland. Thank You,

By Daniel Olinick, May 28, 2013



1907 Wilson County Postal Map showing Kosciusko
near Karnes County line

Courtesy Texas General Land Office

Location of Kosciusko, Texas, Wilson County, Texas:

FM 541 and FM 1347

6 miles S of Stockdale

12 miles E of Floresville the county seat

45 miles SE of San Antonio via US 181

Population: Est. 390 (2010)

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