

William H. Sandusky

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Paraphrased from the following reference:

<https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1904&context=ethj>

Early in May 1839, Edwin Walker, commissioner, appointed by President Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar of the Republic of Texas to layoff the new capital city of Austin, departed from Houston for the scene of his duties accompanied by William Harrison Sandusky as surveyor. William H. Sandusky was a descendant of Antoni Sadowski, who came from Poland to the British colonies in North America during the reign of Queen Anne. William H. Sandusky followed in the tradition of his ancestors in Poland in entering public service in Texas, The Sadowski family seems to have had its seat at Sadowia and used the herbu, or coat of arms, of Nalecz. Thomas Sadowski was assigned to the church at Miechow near Krakow in 1452 by Zbigniew Cardinal Olesnicki. Daniel Sadowski became Archbishop of Gniezno. There is heated controversy whether Stanislaus Sadowski came to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1608. He may have returned to England with Captain John Smith in 1609 and it is thought he was back in Jamestown in 1619.

Marcin Sadowski, Texan William H. Sandusky's direct ancestor, was a chamberlain of Gostyne "in the time of King Władysław IV." Marcin Sadowski was also a member of the Polish Parliament or Sejm in 1643; was inspector of the royal estate~ in the Ukraine; and was then castellan of Gostyne. In 1650 he erected a church and convent for the Sisters of Saint Clare in Lowiezu. According to Edward Pinkowski, Marcin Sadowski was said to have served three Polish kings. Tradition holds that Marcin Sadowski was with John Sobieski or King John III at the successful defense of Vienna.

Marcin Sadowski's son, Antoni Sadowski, born in 1669, received in 1709 his birthright to Nalecz from Father Jana Kiwinski, Priest at Staresielskigo. Antoni Sadowski is thought to have followed his father in the royal service and is said to have served two Polish kings. According to his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Robert Shanklin, "He was no hand to labor, but was a great scholar. He was said to be able to speak seven different languages, and to have given the name to Sandusky Bay, being the first trader that ever went there to trade, with those Indians. Antoni Sadowski came to New York colony during the reign of Queen Anne. He moved to New Jersey before 1709, where he married Marya Bard (anglicized Mary Bird), a native of Long Island. Later Sadowski moved to a farm of 400 acres on the Schuylkill River in Pennsylvania above Philadelphia. He purchased the farm on January 21, 1712, and fanned it with slaves and indentured servants while he operated Indian trading posts on the frontier and served on occasion as agent to the Indians for the proprietary government. Antoni Sadowski died on April 22, 1736, and was buried in Saint Gabriel's churchyard at Douglassville, Amity Township, Pennsylvania.

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Antoni Sądowski's descendants, taking the anglicized form of Sandusky, continued westward with the frontier until some of them arrived in Texas. William Harrison Sandusky was born in Columbus, Ohio, on 1813 January 29, the son of John and Elizabeth Clarno Sandusky. Among his ancestors was the namesake of Sandusky, Ohio. William came to Texas in 1838 and settled in Austin. An artist, surveyor, and draftsman in the General Land Office, he helped survey and map the new capital of the Republic of Texas and later served as registrar of the agency. In 1840, Sandusky was chosen to be President Mirabeau B. Lamar's personal secretary, a position from which he resigned the following year due to ill health. Per his request, Sandusky was then appointed draftsman for a survey of the coast and harbors of Texas. He married Pennsylvania native Jane McKnight (b. 1816) on 1842 July 21. The couple had three children and resided in Galveston, where Sandusky worked making maps, charts, landscapes, and plans of cities and towns. In 1845 January, he was appointed to the position of Import Inspector in and for the District and Port of Galveston.

William Sandusky died of illness on 1847 January 18 at the age of 33; his wife married E. Walbridge in 1850.

William Sandusky was of Polish descent and is important to Texas and Austin Polonia history. He came to Texas in 1838