

Abstract

Czartoryscy from Pełkinie. Family history

The research topic taken in the work presents the fate of Witold Czartoryski and Jadwiga of the Dzieduszycki coat of arms family founded in Pełkinia at the turn of the 19th and 20th century. It constituted a part of the Viennese Czartoryski family, derived from the Klewań line. The branch owes its origin to Konstanty Adam – younger of the sons of Izabela and Adam Kazimierz, and its name to the capital of the Habsburg Monarchy which he joined his fate with after 1931. The Paris branch was parallel to it, founded by the elder of the Czartoryski brothers – Adam Jerzy – Hotel Lambert leader.

Out of his family fortune, Konstanty was granted with Klewań, Międzyrzecz and Jarosław with nearby Pełkinie. The last of these estates was inherited by his son Jerzy who turned it into his second residence, after the Viennese palace Weinhaus, in 1866.

In Galicia at the time, he developed wide public activity focused on the development of the country. On the social level, he acted mainly within the villages of Pełkinie estate by funding of, among others, schools and children's nurseries. He was very actively involved in politics – he was a member of the National Parliament in Lviv and a member of the Viennese House of Lords (Herrenhaus).

Jerzy's son, Witold Leon (1864-1945), continued his work with great success. He focused mainly on economic development, firstly in Galicia and then in the Second Polish Republic. He became involved with twenty agricultural and economic organizations, gaining the opinion of an outstanding activist and organizer of landowners. In politics, which he treated as a service and obligation to his country, he was, above all, a Catholic and a landowner. Throughout the entire period of his activity, i.e. galician, wartime and independence period, he invariably occupied the place on the right side of the political scene, representing conservative landowners with a strong Christian-national tinge. His social work appeared to be active as well, carried out jointly with his wife and children.

Witold and Jadwiga had eleven children, and the characteristic feature of their family was their deep faith and attachment to the Catholic Church. This brought four of their offspring to the priesthood. Jerzy and Stanisław became priests, Anna became a nun (Sr. Weronika), and Jan became a monk (Fr. Michał). The last of them, dying a martyr's death during the Warsaw Uprising, found himself among the 108 martyrs of the Second World War who were raised to the altars.

Seven of the Pełkinie Czartoryski family branch founded their own families, out of which thirty four grandchildren of Witold and Jadwiga originated. There were ten men among them, six of whom extended their family name. As the third generation of descendants of Prince Konstanty Adam, they were representatives of the eighteenth generation of the Czartoryski family. Today, their descendants constitute the most numerous part of the Czartoryski family in Poland.