

Together with Ireland, parts of Germany, and Sicily, Poland produced a disproportionate share of European emigrants.

Today Poland's population totals 39 million people.

The Polish emigrants could always be categorised in two groups: political and economic.

The political emigration began in the 1730s and has continued at regular intervals until the end of the 1980s. Countless Poles have been driven out of their homeland by adverse political fortunes. Many thousands of Polish rebel-patriots and their families retired to Paris after their defeat in 1772, in 1795, 1831, 1846-48, 1864, 1905, and 1945, when the failure of successive uprisings and wars forced generation after generation to the west.

After the upheavals and forcible deportations of 1939-1945, Polish emigrants could be counted in millions.

Political emigrants included a high proportion of educated, principled people, who often had been educated in the west, and were affluent in Poland.

One such political emigrant was the prince Konstanty Alojzy Drucki-Lubecki, the first known settler to New South Wales who arrived in Sydney on 17 Oct. 1838 on board the *Eden*. He was a descendant of the famous Norman Prince Ruric, a reputed founder of the Russian Empire and a dynasty that ruled Russia until 1598. With his troops of Vikings, Prince Ruric was invited to govern Russia during the second part of the 9th century.

Prince Alojzy Drucki-Lubecki's forefathers became princes and later, after the union of Poland and Lithuania in 1385, were completely polonised.

In Australia Alojzy Lubecki was known as Alois Constantine. He was a cousin with Prince Franciszek Ksawery known as Xavier Drucki-Lubecki, a budget advisor and the finance minister to the Polish government in 1821-1830. He was also responsible for a long-term industrialisation of Kingdom Poland, a supporter of the devolvement of agriculture, improvement of the banking systems, intensification of trade, and initiator of large mines and foundries.

What is most interesting, and makes the noble Lubecki cousins intriguing is that Prince Xavier Drucki-Lubecki, a cousin to the Prince Alois, was a pragmatist, a supporter, and member of the pro - Russian faction. He was a personal friend of the Russian tsar Alexander I. He envisioned building new Poland in collaboration with the tsarist government which would have been seen by many in Poland as unacceptable undertaking or even treason.

Contrary to his cousin, Prince Alois Drucki-Lubecki, the first known Polish settler to New South Wales, was an anti-Russian nationalist. He became a general in the Polish National Army that took part in the Polish insurrection against Russia in 1831. This insurrection is known in Poland as the November Uprising. One of the many uprisings directed against tsarist Russia, for Poland it was the most important one of the 19th century.

The outbreak of the November Uprising on 29 November 1830 was ignited by the Belgium revolt in 1830 and the French July revolt of that same year. The Polish November Uprising lasted till October 1831. It spread out into the Polish Kingdom, Lithuania and part of Belarus and Ukraine. The main causes for the November Uprising outbreak were: violation of the 1815 constitution and political repressions against underground patriotic organisations. The fall of the Uprising brought on the limitation of the Polish Kingdom's autonomy and increase of severe national repressions.

After the Uprising's defeat Prince Alois Lubecki went into exile, first, to Dresden, in German Saxony, and later to France and to England. His impoverished estates in Poland were confiscated. He was a part of the largest emigration group that took part in 19th c. Poland called the Great Emigration.

After the Uprising 11 thousand Poles settled in France, Turkey, England, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and in the USA. Around 20 thousand civilians and 30 thousand soldiers were exiled to the Caucasus and Siberia as a form of punishment for taking part in the November Uprising. A large part of The Great Emigration consisted of the noblemen, artists, writers and politicians.

Six years later, in London, Prince Alois Lubecki married Laura Duffus, a woman born in Sydenham, England, who was descended from an ancient Scottish family.

She was a sister of the Rev. John Duffus who was later to become rector of Liverpool parish and incumbent of St. Luke's church - the oldest existing Anglican Church in Australia.

Alois and Laura Lubeckis immigrated to Australia in 1838. They left England together with Laura's brother the Reverend John Duffus accompanied by his young family.

On 4 October 1863, after having spent 25 years in Australia, Prince Lubecki, his wife and daughter sailed from Melbourne on board the *City of Hobart* to Port Chalmers and the family settled in Dunedin where later their son Alois Duffus Lubecki joined them.

Almost one year after the Lubeckis arrival in Port Chalmers, Prince Alois Lubecki died on 7 October 1864 at the age of 63, his grave, in a very dilapidated state, can be still visited at the Southern Cemetery. Prince Lubecki is buried with one of his sons Jean Constantine Lubecki who died at the age of 27 in Greymouth in 1865.

The Dunedin electoral roll of 1865 gives us an address where madame Laura Lubecki lived with her daughter after her husband's death, as Gough Cottage, corner of George and Union Streets. It is most probable that this was the address where Alois Lubecki lived before his death.

While Alois Lubecki was still alive, on the gate of his family home in Dunedin there was a sign with the word "*Klodno*", deriving from the name of a place of the battle he fought and won against the tsarist army.

In 1865 his son Alois Duffus Lubecki became an officer in charge of the Dunedin telegraph office. He held this position until 1896 when he retired on pension with his mother in Nelson.



Prince Lubecki and his son Jean Konstantin's gravestone at the Southern Cemetery, Dunedin

