

Mazurek Dąbrowskiego

Poland is not yet lost
while we still live
what the foreign powers had taken from us
with swords we'll take back.

Refrain: March, march Dąbrowski
from Italy to Poland
Under your command
we will reunite with the nation.

We will cross the Vistula and Warta Rivers,
we will be Poles, Bonaparte showed us how to
win.

Refrain: March, march...

Like Czarniecki to Poznan, after Swedish
annexation,

We will come back across the sea to save our
motherland

Refrain: March, march...

Father, in tears, says to his Basia: "Just listen,
it seems that our people are beating the drums."

Refrain: March, march...



Elizabeth Caroline (Masters) Ascher
1869-1941

Elizabeth (Masters) Ascher 1869-1941

Elizabeth was the daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Keith) Masters and grew up in Niagara on the Lake. The entire Masters family was actively engaged in the work and worship of St. Mark's. In 1891 she married Frank Ascher and a daughter was born in 1893 who lived only a few months. Frank was an American who chose to return to the United States and join the army. He was killed in the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba on 1 July 1898. Out of necessity Elizabeth became the correspondent for the *St. Catharines Standard*, the *Buffalo News*, the *Mail and Empire* and the *Niagara Advance* contributing to these newspapers for many years.

Among her other interests she was active in the work of the local Library, the Niagara Historical Society, co-founder and Regent for 12 years of the Newark Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire and started the local branch of the Red Cross Society. Mrs. Ascher was also a director of the Niagara Agricultural Society, a board member of the local High School Alumni, a board member of local Boy Scouts and was a founder of Hospital's Auxiliary in 1920. She was also instrumental in establishing the Polish Military Cemetery on the grounds of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Niagara.

Like other local citizens she was concerned about the welfare of the many Polish immigrants who had come in 1917 to Niagara from all across the continent to join the army in order to fight in France and later for the liberation of Poland. In 1918 along with other women of the town she took care of the young Polish volunteer soldiers who became ill with the Spanish Influenza. Elizabeth became the *Angel of Mercy and Godmother of the Polish Soldiers*.

Her deep involvement with these young soldiers and her acquaintance with Helena Paderewska led to her gathering and packing relief supplies for the suffering citizens of Poland. There was an overwhelming response from the people of the tiny town of Niagara exceeded in Canada only by the people of Montreal.

In 1930 she became a life honorary vice-president of the Polish Army Veterans' Association in America. She was also a life member of the Polish White Cross and of the 35th Battalion, CEF.

For her efforts Elizabeth was awarded, among other distinctions, the *Polish Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta*, the highest civilian honour to a foreigner. (For further information see St. Mark's Archives publication *Searching for Dorothy*).