

Born on March 6, 1745 in Poland, Casimir Pulaski was the middle of the three sons of Count Joseph Pulaski. The Pulaskis took part in the victorious wars by King John III Sobieski against the Turks in the 17th century. After brief service in the guard of Duke Charles of Courland (now a part of Latvia), Pulaski returned home to Poland where he proved to be a true military talent, fighting in battles across the European continent. In 1768, he joined forces with the Confederation of Bar in a revolt against Russian domination of Poland. The confederation, however, proved to be too small to be victorious and was decisively defeated and he fled to Turkey. Here he remained for several years in a vain attempt to provoke the Turks into an attack on Russia. Finally, penniless and destitute, he left for Paris to seek other employment.

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Casimir Pulaski
1745 - 1779



**Discover The
History Of
Pulaski County**

On September 15, 1777, the American congress promoted Pulaski to the rank of Brigadier General in command of cavalry and became known as the "Father of the American Cavalry." During the winter of 1777, he and his men served at Trenton, at Flemington, and at Valley Forge, where Pulaski shared responsibility with General Anthony Wayne for the provisioning of the starving Americans.

In May, 1778, Pulaski began to form an independent cavalry unit that would be known as the Pulaski Legion.

Comprised of Americans, German, Frenchmen, Irishmen, and Poles, the legion would see immediate action in October along the New Jersey coast. The Pulaski legion would later guard the northern border of Pennsylvania before heading south.

In the spring of 1775, as the American Revolution was beginning, the American commissioners to France gave Pulaski money to make the voyage to Boston. He arrived there armed with a letter of introduction to General George Washington. Shortly after a meeting with Washington in August of that same year, Pulaski became a volunteer member of the general's staff. Distinguishing himself at the Battle of the Brandywine in September,

he was consequently given command of a newly created cavalry troop in Washington's army. Pulaski would serve next to George Washington who appreciated Pulaski's vast military experience and who saved Washington's life. He became known as the "Father of the American Cavalry."

As a result, later that same month the Continental Congress, on the advice of Washington, authorized Pulaski to raise an independent cavalry corp in the Baltimore, Maryland area. Anxious for an active command, he was sent to Egg Harbor, N.J., to protect supplies there but was badly mauled by a surprise British attack on Oct. 15, 1778

In May 1779, the Pulaski Legion helped defend Charleston, South Carolina against the British. The following months the legion engaged in reconnaissance and guerrilla warfare in South Carolina.

In the attack on October 9, 1779, American and French forces fell short of retaking the city of Savannah. Pulaski was also mortally wounded by grapeshot and would die two days later aboard the American ship Wasp on route to Charleston. Pulaski was then reported to have been buried at sea near the place where the Savannah River flows into the Atlantic.



On November 7, 2009 President Barack Obama signed a joint resolution of the House and the Senate that made Pulaski an honorary citizen. Pulaski is one of only seven people to be awarded honorary United States citizenship. Americans have honored him throughout the last two centuries.

A number of counties, cities, and streets are named for him. This county was organized in 1833 and named for Casimir Pulaski. Numerous cities, towns, parks, roadways, bridges, schools, and even a Masonic Lodge in Chicago are named after Pulaski in recognition of his devotion to the cause of freedom. Monuments and statues in Georgia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Ohio, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Rhode Island, Michigan, and Washington D.C. pay tribute to him. In addition to Pulaski County, Missouri he is also namesake to Pulaski County in Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Virginia.