



## Tadeusz Kosciuszko

[kosh-choosh-koh]

1746-1817

National Hero of the US and Poland  
and great man truly ahead of his times.

Called “the purest son of liberty” by T. Jefferson

- Has more monuments erected in the US than anyone except George Washington.
- Polish citizen; studied in Warsaw and Paris. Granted American citizenship by Congress; promoted to Brig. General by Washington.
- Brilliant strategist, soldier, and engineer who was key to American independence in 1776.
- His impregnable fortifications ensured an American victory at the Battle of Saratoga.
- Chosen by George Washington to design and build West Point in 1778 – the key defensive fortification in the American colonies.
- Leader of the 1794 Polish Uprising against Russia to regain freedom after Poland was partitioned by Austria, Germany, and Russia.
- The Polish Jewish cavalry he established during the 1794 Uprising, called him:  
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- Advocated for the rights of Polish peasants and Native Americans. Miami Chief Little Turtle traveled to Philadelphia and gave him a tomahawk as a sign of respect.
- Supported and fought for women's rights. His first beloved was his close advisor during the adoption of the Polish Constitution in 1791, the world's second after the US Constitution.
- In addition to his military talents, he composed music and was a gifted painter.
- In his extraordinary will, he left his property, a reward from the US Government for his service, to the freeing of American black slaves. The execution of his will, if carried out, could have changed American history.

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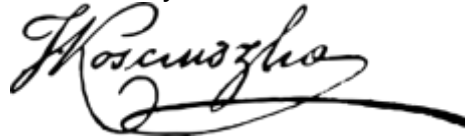
5th day of May 1798

*I, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, being just in my departure from America, do hereby declare and direct that should I make no other testamentary disposition of my property in the United States thereby authorize my friend Thomas Jefferson to **employ the whole thereof in purchasing negroes from among his own as any others and giving them liberty in my name in giving them an education in trades and otherwise,** and in having them instructed for their new condition in the duties of morality which may make them good neighbors, good fathers or mothers, husbands or wives and in their duties as citizens, teaching them to be defenders of their liberty and country and of the good order of society and in whatsoever may make them happy and useful, and I make the said Thomas Jefferson my executor of this.*



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