

housing estates. It documents Poles of German ancestry, particularly architects, members of the armed forces, scientists, academics, artists, industrialists and craftsmen, as well as Lutheran clergy connected with, for example, the beginnings of Holy Trinity Church, which is honoured to be able to host the exhibition in the *Lutheraneum* Centre for Culture and Dialogue.

We encourage you to visit the exhibition, and converse and reflect on it. We at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church feel responsible for cultivating the multi-cultural and multi-national heritage inscribed in the history of the Reformation in Warsaw, dating back to the twenties of the sixteenth century. The exhibition is also our modest, though not final, contribution to the coming 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The Luther decade, preparing Lutherans as well as Christians of other confessions for this event, is, along with the anniversaries associated with Bishop Juliusz Bursche, a perfect excuse to share our city's historical heritage with you. Enjoy it!

The exhibition will run until the end of September, Tuesdays to Fridays from noon to 4 pm and on Sundays from noon to 1 pm. We also encourage you to purchase the album **"Poles by Choice. Families of German Extraction in Warsaw in the 19th and 20th Centuries"** prepared jointly by the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation and the History Meeting House.



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POLES by CHOICE

150 years ago Bishop Juliusz Bursche was born – the former minister of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and head of that confession in Poland, who died a martyr's death at the hands of the Nazis 70 years ago. The bishop's life, like that of many other

Poles of German extraction, is a perfect example of cultural assimilation, reflecting an absorbing journey through the twists and turns of history – one in which diverse aspects of identity are constantly recreated: in national, cultural and religious

terms. Poles of German ancestry who settled in our city became passionately involved in ensuring their new homeland's prosperity, comprehended broadly. They did not forget their heritage, but in extreme situations they demonstrated their generosity and loyalty towards Poland. Could this be otherwise, since they felt themselves to be - and were - Poles just like others, except that their Polishness was largely a question of choice or simply of falling in love with Poland?

Many of them shed their blood in the struggle for a free Poland – and the life of Bishop Juliusz Bursche



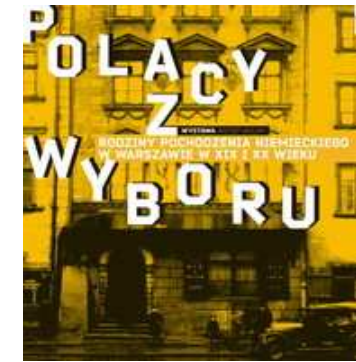
to a certain extent reflects the fortunes of the Republic from the time of regaining independence to Nazi Germany's brutal attack on Poland. In the midst of all these events, Bishop Bursche – and thousands of Poles of German origin – fought for the survival of the Republic by various means, sometimes paying the highest price. The war turned the beautiful monuments of multi-cultural Warsaw, impressive industrial and cultural achievements, into ashes, but those ruins did not



destroy the memory of Warsaw's residents, including those for whom the city had been their chosen homeland in miniature.

For decades the memory of the Warsaw of former days remained concealed within the hearts of Warsaw families as well as enthusiasts who collected, stored and subsequently made available their knowledge of the multi-national heritage.

That is why the initiative taken by Varsavianists Tadeusz Świątek, Krzysztof Wittels and Tomasz Markiewicz of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation (FPGC), but also by a number of



other persons, to create an exhibition documenting the most important – though not all – Warsaw families of German extraction, is so significant. The exhibition is a place to encounter the living history of families whose descendants are still with us, and their achievements are inscribed in familiar and unfamiliar corners of our capital.

To mark the anniversary celebrations connected with Bishop Juliusz Bursche, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church decided, in cooperation with the FPGC, to again focus on the history of Warsaw families of German ancestry. After the inauguration of the exhibition in Warsaw, Berlin and Dresden, this living history returns to the city in which it began.

The exhibition presents not only particular family lines known to both Varsovians and other inhabitants of Poland (such as the Wedel, Linde and Kolberg families), but also representatives of various professional groups, whose surnames are known, for instance, from names of Warsaw streets and