

A Historical Chronology of the Town of Krzepice*

1364 – King Kazimierz [III] the Great founded the town of Krzepice, by the Liswarta River, and built a defensive rampart against attacks from the Czechs.

1370 – King Ludwik [Louis I the Great] of Hungary, after taking over the Polish Crown, bequeathed the town, with its surrounding area, to his sister's son, Władysław [II] Duke of Opole. But, due to Duke Władysław's mismanagement of this property, King Władysław Jagiello seized it from him, bringing it back within Poland's territory.

1407 – In order to improve the town and enlarge it, the King allowed the groves, by the town, to be tilled and to have gardens and orchards planted on that land.

1450 – After the town went up in flames, King Kazimierz [IV] Jagiellończyk appointed market days, in order to re-establish the town, and he renewed the granting of the various rights which had previously existed.

1493 – King Jan [I] Olbracht confirmed the previous town privileges, and King August I [sic Zygmunt I Stary] did the same in 1506, 1523 and 1527.

1552 – King Zygmunt [II] August confirmed the previous rights and ordered that the lands between the rivers Liswarta and Bieszczka be included within its territory. He also freed the residents from paying all border customs taxes.

1552 - Izabela Jagiellonka, the widow of King Jan Zápolya of Hungary, when she and her son Jan Zygmunt [Zápolya] were forced to seek a dwelling-place in her own homeland, was given the municipal palace as a residence by her brother, King Zygmunt [II] August. Shocked by what had happened to his sister's family, he visited her and spent several days at the palace.

1556 – Here, Marcin Zborowski, the *wojewoda* of Kalisz, detained the children's schoolmistress [viz. Bona Sforza, the Queen Mother], who was about to abscond to Italy with great treasures.

1565 – Zygmunt [II] August instituted a border-market and granted certain privileges to the participants.

1597, 1615 [and] 1629 – King Zygmunt III [Waza] in Warsaw granted concessions in the town's favour, as did also, after him, Władysław IV in Kraków in 1633, August III in 1763 and finally Stanisław August [Poniatowski] in 1783. Thanks to these concessions, the city was one of the most densely populated in the region until the Swedish War [of 1655].

1616 – [King] Zygmunt III spent several days here with Queen Konstancja [Constance of Austria], accompanying [their son] Prince Karol [Ferdynand Waza], Bishop of Wrocław, on his way home from Częstochowa, who had been sent by [the Holy Roman Emperor] Ferdinand II with the request of rallying to his aid in arms and capital against the Hungarians and Czechs among whom the spirit of rebellion was brewing. This same king gave the palace, for life, to Mikołaj Wolski, the *starost* of

* [TN: See the entry "Krzepice" in the book "Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich, Tom IV."]

Krzepice, who expanded the palace, built a fortified wall around it and planted a fruit garden next to it.

1656 – The Swedes burned down the palace and the town, but it was quickly rebuilt and, by 1660, it was already in a defensive position. In their second war in Poland, the Swedes, once more, caused damage and, since then, it deteriorated into ruin. By the time Stanisław August [Poniatowski] ascended the throne [in 1764], it was no longer fit to live in.

1746 – The town's forges gained renown throughout the land. [Beginning] in the early days of the 17th century, cannons, cannonballs and machinery were produced in them. There was also a large wire factory in town.

1765 – The Jewish synagogue was built in the Kuźniczka area.

1795 – A separate quarter named "New Krzepice" [Nowokrzepice] was built for the Jews who lived in town.

1823 [or 1828]-1862 – The Russian Government prohibited the inland Jews from living in Krzepice, which was within the [designated] area of 21 *verst* from the Prussian border.

1847 – According to the census, the town comprised 2,206 souls, of whom 1,054 were Jews.

1856 – 1,109 Christians, and 1,057 Jews.

1860 – The town numbered 2,163 residents, of whom 1,069 were Jews.

1864 – The population reached 3,163 - 2,094 Christians [and] 1,069 Jews, who were employed partly in agriculture, crafts and commerce. There were 14 brick houses in town [and] 228 wooden [ones].

1880 – The population numbered 1,741 Christians and 1,456 Jews.

1881 – A large part of the town was destroyed in the fire.

1884 – 3,513 residents, of whom 1,590 were Jews.

1897 – 3,220 residents, of whom 1,395 were Jews.

1942 – On 22nd June, the entire Jewish population of Krzepice and the vicinity was deported by the German rulers and annihilated in the Oświęcim death camp.
