

## EVENT CALENDAR (1836 – 1950)

### 1836 – The establishment of the British colony in South Australia

**A group of settlers, mainly Prussian Lutherans, arrive in the colony. Among them are individuals with Polish-sounding surnames.**

**1839** – *Galasz* and *Wotka* are the first two Polish surnames recorded this year.

**1844** – A group of 31 Poles from Dąbrówka in Greater Poland arrives in Barossa Valley, near the town of Tanunda.

**1848** – Another group of Polish emigrants arrives. Among them are Dr. Antoni Sokołowski and two Austrian Jesuits.

**1851** – Austrian Jesuits and Dr. Sokołowski settle in Sevenhill.

**1853** – Dr. Sokołowski becomes a member of the first District Council in Clare.

**1856** – Another wave of Polish immigrants arrives. 131 people come from Dąbrówka Wielkopolska and Zbąszyń. Many of them settle in Hill River, Sevenhill, and Penwortham.

**1857** – The first purchase of land in Hill River by a Pole with the surname *Niemiec*. *Polish River* soon changes its name to *Polish Hill River*. The first Polish baptism is of *Szymon Młodystach*.

**1864** – The first Corpus Christi procession takes place in Sevenhill.

**1867** – Jesuit brothers *Danielewicz* and *Matuszewski* begin educational work among the Poles.

**1869** – A Church Construction Committee is established in Sevenhill. *Jan Nykiel* donates land for this purpose and appoints his sons *Jan* and *Jakob* as well as *Lukas Malych* and *Paul Polomka* as trustees. *Jan Nykiel* is appointed by the District Council in Stanley as a "special constable" in Hill River.

**1870** – The first Polish priest, *Leon Rogalski*, arrives in Sevenhill. He begins pastoral work first among the Poles in Hill River and the surrounding areas, and later also in Barossa Valley and areas north of Peterborough.

**1871** – Bishop *Laurence Bonaventure Shiel* (1815 – 1872) visits Polish Hill River for the first time and consecrates the church of St. Stanislaus Kostka. Fr. Rogalski publishes an article in the Catholic press stating that Poles in Sevenhill and Hill River have their own school offering classes in both Polish and English.

**1872** – The first mention of a Polish school in Hill River appears in *Sands and McDougall's Directory of South Australia*.

**1873** – *Michael Rucioch* is elected to the District Council in Clare and becomes its chairman in 1877.

**1874** – Sisters of St. Joseph arrive in Hill River and begin work at the school.

**1875** – *Jan Nykiel* is elected to the District Council in Stanley.

**1876** – *Carl Kozlowski* is elected to the District Council in Clare. Bishop *Reynolds* consecrates the main altar and installs the relics of St. Stanislaus Kostka. After the ceremony, *Jan Nykiel Sr.* hosts a reception for guests and the local community.

**1882** – Polish settlers hire Irish teacher *James Crowe*.

**1886** – The St. Stanislaus Kostka School is taken over by the Government of South Australia and renamed *Sevenhill East School*.

**1890** – Fr. Rogalski conducts a parish census, recording 322 people living in 62 Polish families in Hill River, Sevenhill, and Penwortham.

**1893** – Poles transfer the title to the land on which the church and school stand to the Archbishop of Adelaide.

**1906** – On June 6th, Fr. *Leon Rogalski* passes away.

**1924** – The school in Hill River is closed.

**1950** – The Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka is deconsecrated. The church and school fall into ruin. The church building is used as a storage facility by local farmers.

*Based on: [australia.chrystusowcy.org](http://australia.chrystusowcy.org)*