

**The sculpture of Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Agrippa Hull
by sculptor Tracy H. Sugg is a gift from Kosciuszko Heritage Inc.
to the Polish Embassy in Canberra**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
BETWEEN POLAND AND AUSTRALIA.**



On public view for the first time in Australia, the sculpture shows the two freedom fighters working together at a moment in time during a key point in the history of human liberty.

Two years ago, an identical statue was unveiled at the prestigious U.S. Military Academy at West Point. West Point is well known as a highly-important fortress in the American War of Independence. Polish-born Thaddeus Kosciuszko was the military engineer who spent 28 months building the West Point Fortress. Agrippa Hull was his military aide who later became a close friend.



American Commander in Chief, George Washington, selected Kosciuszko as the best person to build the fortress at this strategic location on the Hudson River. Its where American independence and freedom was fought for and won from the British Navy who sought control of the Hudson River as they already had control of the eastern coast. West Point was positioned so that the British sailing ships could be fired on as they tried to negotiate a 90-degree bend in the Hudson River. Strategic control achieved at West Point was the key to winning Liberty.



Tracy's work depicts Agrippa Hull in Kosciuszko's Garden delivering an important letter from George Washington. The garden was built by Kosciuszko with his own hands and it has survived intact as one of the oldest gardens in America. Agrippa was a free-born African-American who was awarded the Badge of Distinction for his fight for freedom. For five of his six-year service, he was Kosciuszko's military aide in all theatres of the War. His veteran's pension was personally signed by George Washington.

After the war, Kościuszko invited Hull to return to Poland with him, but Hull wanted to go home to Stockbridge.

The fact that Tracy's statue shows the two men working together at West Point is poignant. Kosciuszko was described by Thomas Jefferson as *"the purest son of liberty among you all that I have ever known, the kind of liberty which extends to all."* Kosciuszko considered slavery to be immoral. He bequeathed his American estate "to buy out as many negroes as possible". His friend Thomas Jefferson became the Executor of his American Will.

His Last Will



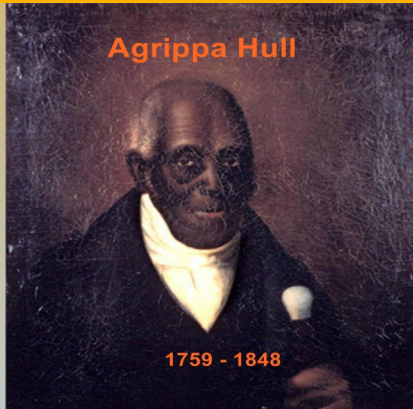
“...that my friend Thomas Jefferson
should buy out of my money
so many Negroes
and free them...”

Tracy's statue helps us to appreciate why many of the early 19th Century British poets such as Keats, Coleridge and Byron portrayed Kosciuszko as a symbol of Liberty. The Polish explorer, Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki, explained why he named Australia's mainland highest mountain after Kosciuszko, stating that: *although in a foreign country on foreign ground, but among free people who appreciate freedom and its votaries, I could not refrain from giving it the name of MOUNT KOSCIUSKO.*

THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO



1746 - 1817



Recommending a book by Gary B. Nash and Graham Russell Gao Hodges *“Friends of Liberty: A Tale of Three Patriots, Two Revolutions, and the Betrayal that Divided a Nation: Thomas Jefferson, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and Agrippa Hull”*, April 2008

Recommending a book by Myong Cables published just in 2021 *“Agrippa Hull: The Black Revolutionary War Hero Who Helped Fight For America’s Independence”*.

Recommending a short video about the sculpture
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMG0la2n_dU

Kosciuszko Heritage Inc. 25th of March 2022
www.kosciuszkoheritage.com

