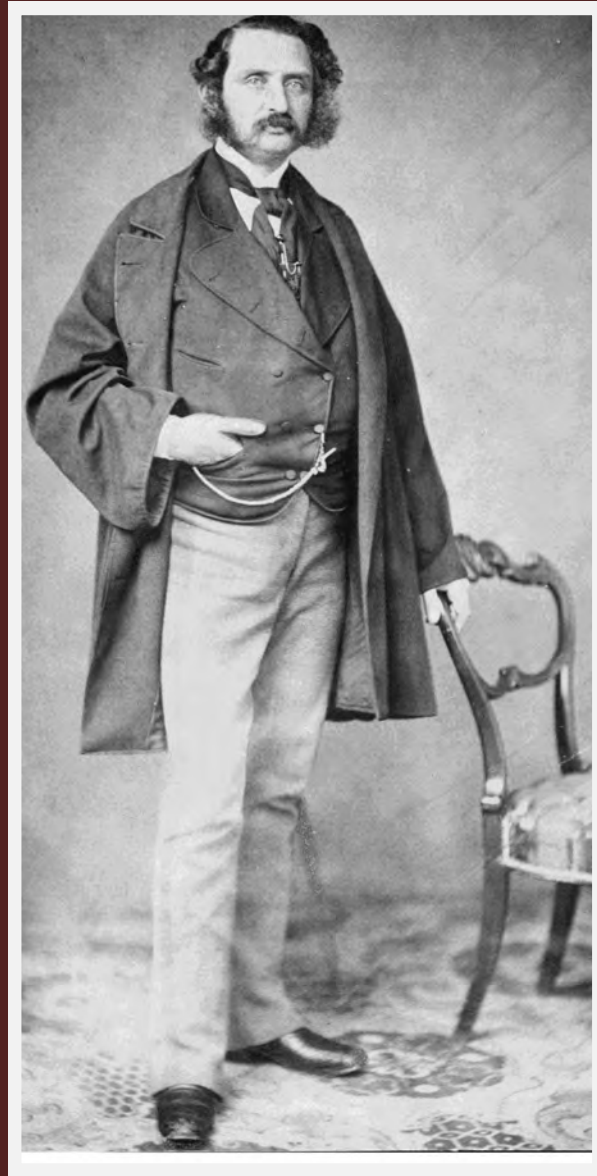


Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski



Member of Parliament for Saint-Hyacinthe (1867-1870)

The first Polish-Canadian Member of the House of Commons in the first Parliament, at the birth of the Dominion of Canada in 1867. He was also a Polish patriot, a civil engineer, a military man and an advocate of a new land credit system.



Selected Highlights

- Involved in the November Uprising of 1831 in Poland. Served as officer in the Polish Army.
- Graduated with a Certificate in Construction.
- Civil Engineer with the Department of Public Works, Lower Canada.
- Director of Lower Canada Agricultural Society, author of: *The question of the Seigniorial Tenure of Lower Canada reduced to a question of Landed Credit* and *La question de la tenure seigneuriale du Bas-Canada ramenée à une question de crédit foncier*
- Vice President of the Institute of Mechanics.
- Justice of the Peace.
- Lieutenant-Colonel of the Richilieu District Militia.
- Assistant Quartermaster-General of the Fifth Military District of Canada East.
- Member of Parliament for the Riding of Saint-Hyacinthe.

Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski was born in the village of Raczyce, in the Duchy of Poznań (Posen) on 21 November, 1816. The Grand Duchy held limited autonomy within the Kingdom of Prussia, in partitioned Poland. His parents were Major Filip Jakub Kierzkowski and Maryanna Ludwika Lieberman. Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski was later baptized in nearby Odolanów on 4 August, 1817.



Odolanów Municipality, Village of Raczyce, Poland, with the official flag and Coat of Arms. Photographs courtesy of Wikipedia. [http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odolan_C3%B3w_\(gmina\)](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odolan_C3%B3w_(gmina)).



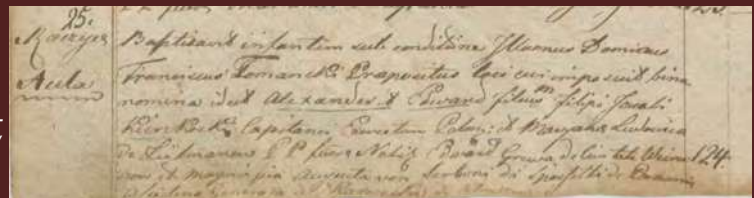
The Odolanów 600th Anniversary Gate. Photograph courtesy of Alexander Liebert. http://www.galeriawielkopolska.info/zdjecia/odolanow/nowe_odolan_ow3.htm.



Office of the Town of Odolanów. Photograph courtesy of Wikipedia. [http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odolan%C3%B3w_\(gmina\)](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odolan%C3%B3w_(gmina)).



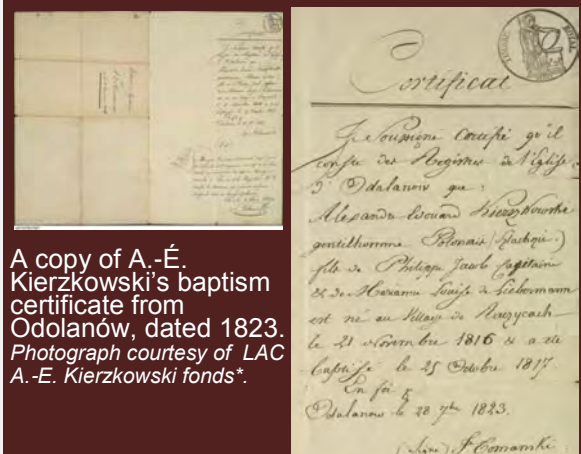
St. Marcin Monument in Odolanów. Photograph courtesy of Wikipedia. [http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odolan%C3%B3w_\(gmina\)](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odolan%C3%B3w_(gmina)).



A.-É. Kierzkowski's baptism note from St. Marcin Church Register Book in Odolanów, dated 25.10.1817, Poland. Reference Number AAPoz_ZR_018_2015_Metryka_Aleksander_Edward_Kierzkowski. Photograph courtesy Polish Ursuline Sisters AHJ.



St. Marcin Church in Odolanów. A.-É. Kierzkowski was baptised in this Church on 25.10.1817. Photograph courtesy of Alexander Liebert. <http://www.galeriawielkopolska.info/zdjecia/odolanow/nowe/odolanow3.htm>.



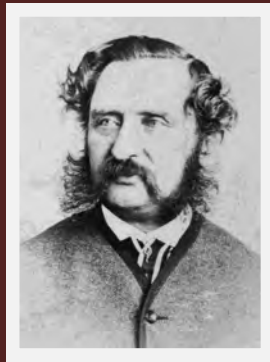
A copy of A.-É. Kierzkowski's baptism certificate from Odolanów, dated 1823. Photograph courtesy of LAC A.-E. Kierzkowski fonds*.



A.-É. Kierzkowski came from an accomplished military family. His father, Jakub Filip Kierzkowski, was a Captain (1809) in the French Army and was awarded the French Legion Cross (1811) and the St. Helena Medal (1857); he also was a Major (1831) in the Polish Army. His brother, Ferdynand Kierzkowski, was a Colonel in the British Army and his brother Leon Kierzkowski was a Lieutenant in the Polish Army, awarded the Virtuti Militari (1831).



Leon Kierzkowski.
 Photograph courtesy of i-10940.1
 P. T. Kierzkowski, painting, copied
 1864 ©McCord
 Museum.



Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski.
 Photograph courtesy of I-7193.1 |
 Mr. Kierzkowski, Montreal, QC,
 1863 | William Notman (1826-1891)
 © McCord Museum.



Caroline-Virginie de Ours.
 Photograph courtesy of i-10941.1
 Mrs. Kierzkowski, painting, copied
 1864 © McCord Museum.



Caroline-Virginie de Ours
 (1835-1894), A.-E.
 Kierzkowski's wife, portrait.
 Photograph courtesy of Library and
 Archives Canada, PA-126854.



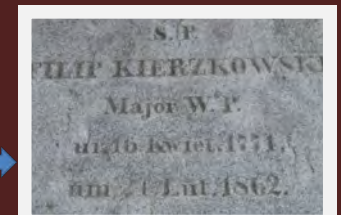
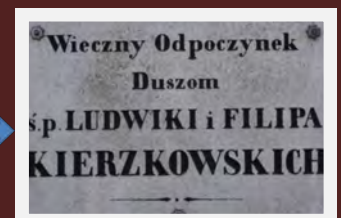
Jakub Filip Kierzkowski
 Memories-1931.
 Photograph courtesy of Online
 link: openlibrary.org.



Ludwika and Filip Kierzkowski
 Cemetery Map Wzgorze Sw.
 Wojciecha, Poznań, Poland.
 Photograph courtesy of [http://
 pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cmentarz_Zas%
 C5%82u%C5%BConych_Wielkopolan](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cmentarz_Zas%C5%82u%C5%BConych_Wielkopolan).



Grave of Ludwika and Filip Kierzkowski
 in the Cemetery,
 at Wzgorze Sw. Wojciecha, in Poznań, Poland.
 Photograph courtesy Polish Ursuline Sisters AHJ.





Early Years in Poland and Involvement in the November Uprising of 1830-1831 as an officer in the Polish Army

In 1831, Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski participated in the November Uprising, also known as the Polish-Russian War, from 1830 to 1831. He was a fifteen-year-old officer. He was following family tradition, as his father had been in the military. The Polish patriots were unsuccessful. Kierzkowski, like many other patriots, fled the country.



November Uprising of 1830-1831 and Polish Congress Kingdom Military flag.
Photograph courtesy of Wikipedia Commons.

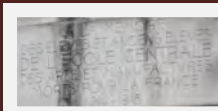


A.-É. Kierzkowski's Military Service Records in the Polish Army during November Uprising in 1831.
Photograph courtesy of LAC A.-E. Kierzkowski fonds*.



Graduated in Construction in 1838, Paris, France

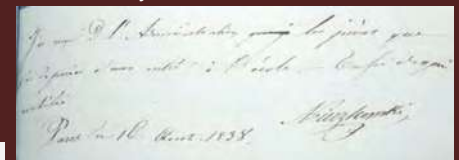
Kierzkowski found refuge in Paris. He enrolled at the École Centrale des Arts et Manufactures, graduating in 1838 with a Certificate in Construction. He was twenty-one.



Present view of the École Centrale des Arts et Manufactures in Paris.
Photograph courtesy of Wikipedia Commons.
[#mediaviewer/File:ECP2.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89cole_Centrale_Paris)



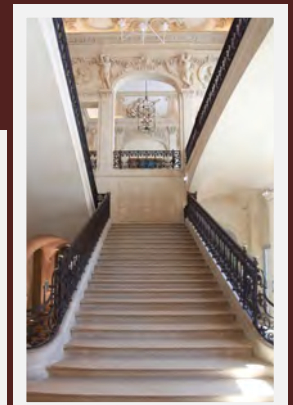
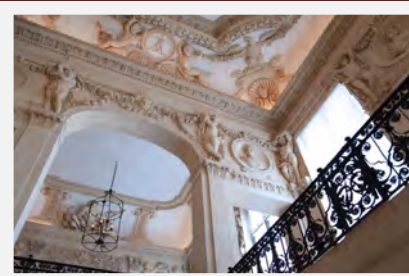
Registration of Kierzkowski's completion of the Certificate in Construction.
Photograph courtesy of <http://fichiers.ecp.fr/get?k=BkwFKP6Xry8eti9cnHK>.



Acknowledgement of receipt of the Certificate in Construction by Kierzkowski.
Photograph courtesy of <http://fichiers.ecp.fr/get?k=BkwFKP6Xry8eti9cnHK>.



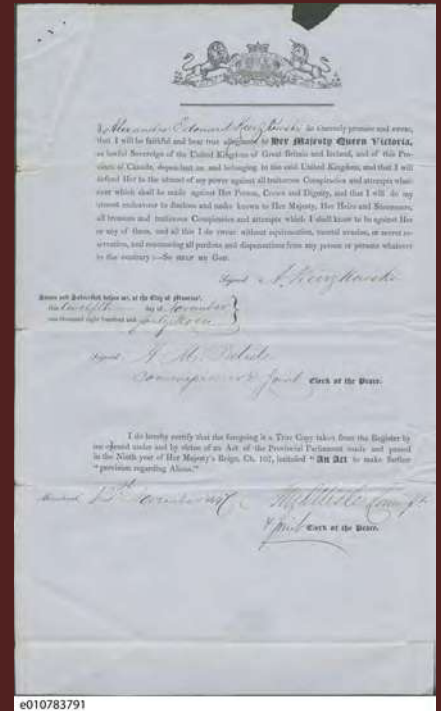
Interior view of the École Centrale des Arts et Manufactures in Paris.
Photograph courtesy of Anna Marchlewska





New Life in Canada

In 1841 Kierzkowski emigrated to the USA. The following year, 1842, he emigrated yet again to Canada East (now the Province of Québec), in the United Provinces of Canada. Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski was employed from 1842 to 1844 by the Department of Public Works as a Civil Engineer. He was engaged in the construction of the Beauharnais Canal. On 15 May, 1845, Kierzkowski married Louise-Amélie Debartzch, daughter of the Honourable Pierre-Dominique Debartzch. Debartzch was descended from Dominicus Bartzch, who emigrated to North America from Gdansk, Poland. His first documented presence, in what is now Canada, was in 1752. Kierzkowski's marriage to Louise-Amélie was short-lived, as she died in 1850.



A.É. Kierzkowski's passport documents 1841.
 Photograph courtesy of LAC A.-E. Kierzkowski fonds*.

Letters of naturalization of A.É. Kierzkowski as a British subject 1847.
 Photograph courtesy of LAC A.-E. Kierzkowski fonds*.



A.-É. Kierzkowski.
 Photograph courtesy of Library and Archives Canada, Reference Number PA-165451.

The Kierzkowski family crest.
 Photograph courtesy of Library and Archives of Canada, C128855 in Makowski, The Polish People in Canada, 41.

Dominique Debartzch first father-in-law to A.-É. Kierzkowski.
 Photograph courtesy of http://www.biographi.ca/fr/biokierzkowski_alexandre_edouard_9F.html.

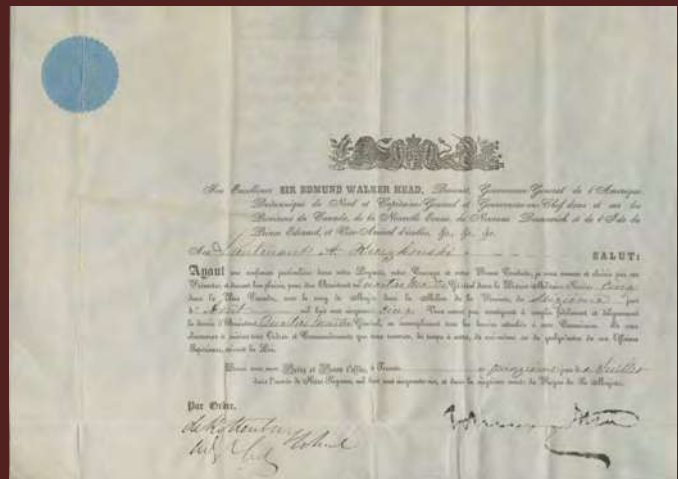
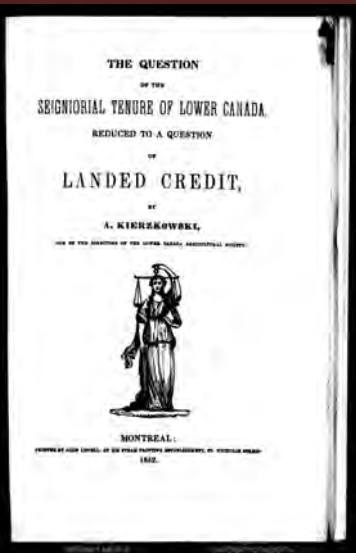
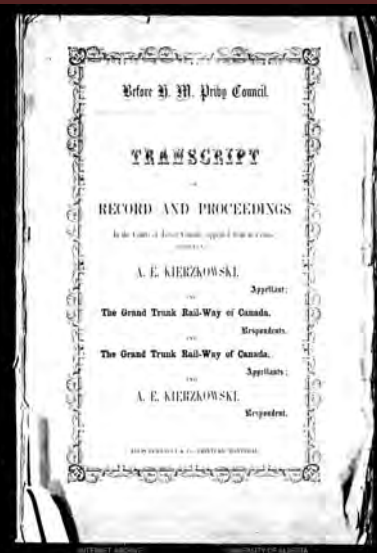
Civil Engineer, Agricultural Society, Institute of Mechanics, Justice of Peace and Military Service

Kierzkowski gained through his marriage the seigneuries (estates) of Saint-François-leNeuf, Cournoyer, Debartzch and L'Assomption. He championed land banks to improve agricultural practice and pressed for reforms in the mortgage system. As a Director of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society, he wrote and published in English and French a booklet, titled *The question of the Seigniorial Tenure of Lower Canada Reduced to a Question of Landed Credit* and *La question de la tenure seigneuriale du Bas-Canada ramenée à une question de credit foncier*. Kierzkowski was Vice-President of the Institute of Mechanics and a Justice of the Peace.



The Beauharnois Canal: a plan, construction, waterway and present view.
 Photographs courtesy of <https://www.google.ca/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=vieux+canal+de+eauharnois>.

In 1855, he was commissioned as Major in the Richelieu District Militia and in 1862 was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He commanded the Second Militia Battalion of Saint-Hyacinthe and in 1858 was named Assistant Quartermaster-General for the Fifth Military District of Canada East.



Transcript, Record and Proceedings, A.-É. Kierzkowski vs the Grand Trunk Rail-Way of Canada. Photograph courtesy of <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Search/Home?lookfor=kierzkowski&searchtype=all&ft=&setff=false>.

The Question of the Seigniorial Tenure of Lower Canada, A.-É. Kierzkowski. Photograph courtesy of <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Search/Home?lookfor=kierzkowski&searchtype=all&ft=&setff=false>.

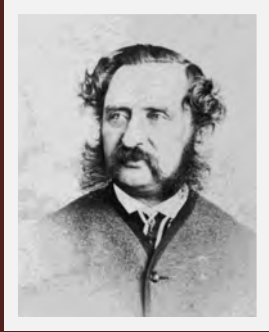
A.-É. Kierzkowski's Certificate of Appointment as Lieutenant and Assistant Quarter-Master General for No. 5 Military District, Lower Canada, July 15, 1856. Photograph courtesy of LAC A.-E. Kierzkowski fonds*.

Early Adventure in Ballooning

Kierzkowski and Alfred Xerxes Rambau are credited as being the first Canadians to fly, which they did by balloon with Eugene Godard on 8 September, 1856.



Eugene Godard Professional balloonist and parachutist. Photographs courtesy of <http://www.ballooninghistory.com/whoswho/who%27swho-g.html>.



Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski. Photograph courtesy of I-7193.1 | Mr. Kierzkowski, Montreal, QC, 1863 | William Notman (1826-1891) © McCord Museum.



1884 Eugene Godard balloon ad. Photograph courtesy of <http://www.carnavotraders.com/balloon.shtml>.



Exposition du ballon d'Eugene Godard 1870. Photograph courtesy Wikipedia Commons.

Involvement in Politics

In 1858 Kierzkowski ran for election as representative in the Legislative Council for the Riding of Montarville. He held the majority of the votes, but after a year-long investigation was disqualified for lacking the necessary property qualifications. He also lost a later by-election. In 1861, he ran to represent the riding of Verchères and won by a narrow margin, only to be disqualified again. The Legislature was dissolved not long afterwards.

Nomination of candidates for Montarville in the Legislative Council of Canada, October 18, 1858. Photograph courtesy of Library and Archives Canada, Reference Number PA-149346.

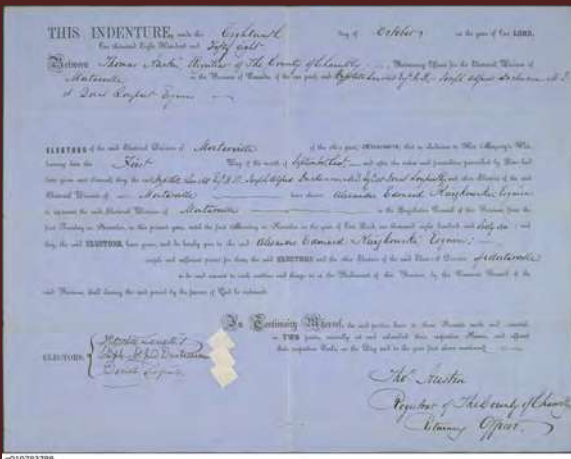


Candidate Wins Seat, Then Loses It

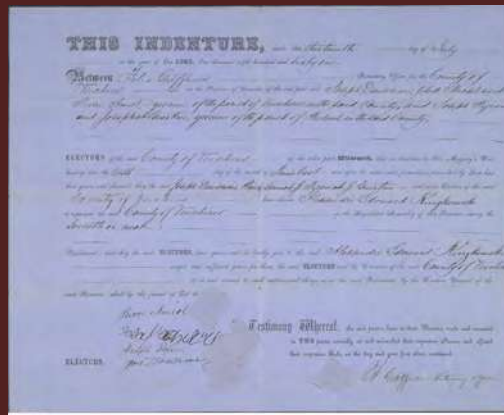
Forced to flee his Polish homeland after opposing Russian rule in the 1831 rebellion, Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski (1816–1870) reached Canada in 1842, becoming a naturalized British subject in 1847. Kierzkowski, right, was elected to the Province of Canada's legislative council on September 15, 1858, but opponents claimed that his property value was insufficient to qualify him for office. After a three-year investigation, a legislative committee declared the election void (not unusual in tumultuous nineteenth-century politics). His challenger at the ensuing by-election (proclamation, above) was Louis Lacoste (1798–1878), a political activist in Lower Canada. Lacoste defeated Kierzkowski, 2,042 votes to 2,013.



A.-É. Kierzkowski wins seat, then loses it. Photograph courtesy of <http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=his&document=chap1&lang=e>.



A.-É. Kierzkowski's Certificate of Election as Legislative Counsellor for the Division of Montarville, October 18, 1858. Photograph courtesy of LAC A.-E. Kierzkowski fonds*.



A.-É. Kierzkowski's Certificate of Election as a Member of Parliament for the Verchères Constituency, July 13, 1861. Photograph courtesy of LAC A.-E. Kierzkowski fonds*.

The First Polish-Canadian Member of Parliament, at the Birth of the Dominion of Canada

1st Parliament of Canada	
Majority parliament	
September 24, 1867 – July 8, 1872	
Parliament leaders	
Prime Minister	Rt. Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald (1st Canadian Ministry) July 1, 1867 – November 5, 1873
Party standings in the House	
Government	Conservative Party
Opposition	Liberal Party
Third Party	Liberal-Conservative
Fourth Party	Independent Conservative
Fifth Party	Nationalist Liberal
House of Commons	
Seating arrangements of the House of Commons	

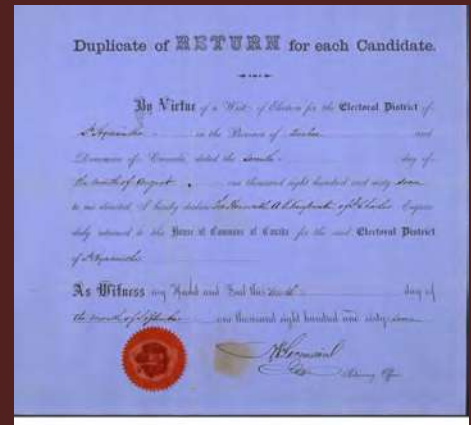
On 1 July, 1867, Canada became a Dominion of four provinces - Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia – through the confederation of three former British colonies, as proclaimed in the Constitution Act. Later that year, Kierzkowski was elected to the newly formed House of Commons as a Liberal Member of Parliament for Saint-Hyacinthe.

The 1st Parliament of Canada: seating arrangements of the House of Commons.

Photograph courtesy of http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Canadian_Parliament.



Our forefathers, Members of the 1st Parliament of Canada in Ottawa. Photograph of painting courtesy of John Liviero.



Parliament buildings.

Photograph courtesy of MP-0000.268.12 | Photograph | Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, ON, about 1865 © McCord Museum and vestibule-49796.1 | Photograph | Vestibule, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, ON, 1870 © McCord Museum.

A.-É. Kierzkowski's picture and the Certificate of Election as a Member of the House of Commons of Canada, September 10, 1867. Photograph courtesy of LAC A.-E. Kierzkowski fonds*.

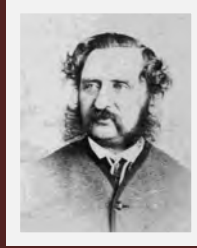
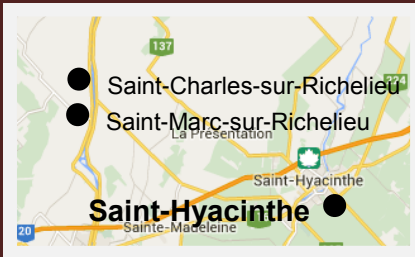


Present view of the Parliament buildings and the main corridor, 2012. Photographs courtesy of Jerry Barycki.

Saint-Hyacinthe and Saint-Charles-sur-Richelieu (Québec), the Final Resting Place of A.-É. Kierzkowski



In 1868, Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski married Caroline-Virginie de Saint-Ours. He was a Member of Parliament until his death at Saint-Ours on 4 August, 1870. He was buried in the Saint-Charles Church, Saint Charles-sur-Richelieu, Québec.



Caroline-Virginie de Ours (1835-1894), A.-É. Kierzkowski's wife, portrait.

Photograph courtesy of Library and Archives Canada, PA-126854.

A.-É. Kierzkowski.

Photograph courtesy of I-7193.1 | Mr. Kierzkowski, Montreal, QC, 1863 | William Notman (1826-1891) © McCord Museum.

Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec-Places related to A.-É. Kierzkowski's life.

Photograph courtesy of <https://www.google.ca/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=saint-hyacinthe+area+map>.

A.-É. Kierzkowski's home was located in Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu.

Photograph courtesy of <https://www.google.ca/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=saint-marc-sur-richelieu%20pictures>.



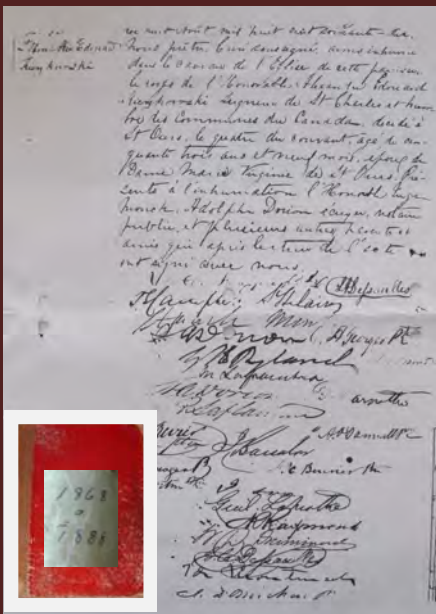
A.-É. Kierzkowski's Constituency Riding Saint-Hyacinthe with the Coat of Arms, Québec.

Photograph courtesy of http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint-Hyacinthe,_Qu%C3%A9bec#/media/File:St-Hyacinthe_-_Hiver_2006_-_Parc_Casimir-Dessaules.jpg.



The Saint-Charles Church in Saint Charles-sur-Richelieu, Québec.

Photograph courtesy of Stanislaw Stolarczyk.



A church register document from the book dated 1868-1888 p.13 with description of the burial ceremony and signatures of dignitaries including Hon. Judge Monck.

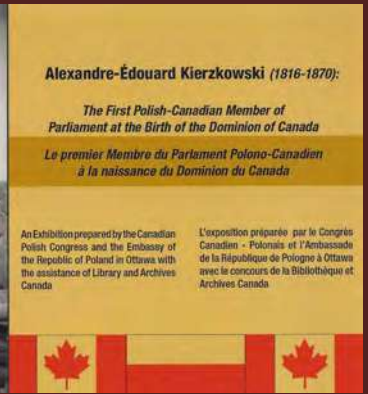
Photograph courtesy of the Saint-Charles Church Saint Charles-sur-Richelieu, Québec.



A.-É. Kierzkowski Promotion: Displays and Portraits for Polonia



#1



The letter from H.E. Piotr Ogradziński, Ambassador of Poland to Canada, indicating the 140th Anniversary of A.-É. Kierzkowski's election as the Member of Parliament - display at Parliament Hill in 2007 and the first panel from the A.E. Kierzkowski display in 2009.

#1 K. Tomczak (front), Commandant, Polish Army Veterans Assoc., Toronto Post, also present Minister of Polish Veteran Affairs from Poland, Jan Ciechanowski (L), presentation by K. Sroczyńska, 2010.



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



#7



#8

- #2 A. Szuba, President Polish Alliance of Canada, presentation by J. Barycki, 2010.
- #3 W. Dzięgiel, Consul, Consulate General in Toronto, presentation by J. Barycki, 2010.
- #4 H. Teresiński, President Polish Engineers Association of Canada, presentation by J. Barycki, 2010.
- #5 E. Śliz, President, Canadian Polish Congress, Montreal Br., presentation by J. Barycki, 2010.
- #6 A. Jedliński, President, Polish Canadian Club Chatham, presentation by J. Barycki, 2010
- #7 J. Flis, Chair BOD Copernicus Lodge (2ndR) and Library Staff, Toronto, presentation by J. Barycki, 2011.
- #8 T. Fajarczuk, President JP2 Club, presentation by J. Flis (L), 2011.
- #9 Z. Kośniak-Kamysz, Ambassador of Poland to Canada (L) and T. Berezowska, President Canadian Polish Congress by J. Barycki (R) and A. Jedliński, 2011 (2ndR) and T. Berezowska, President Canadian Polish Congress, Presentation by J. Barycki (R) and A. Jedliński, 2011 (2ndR).

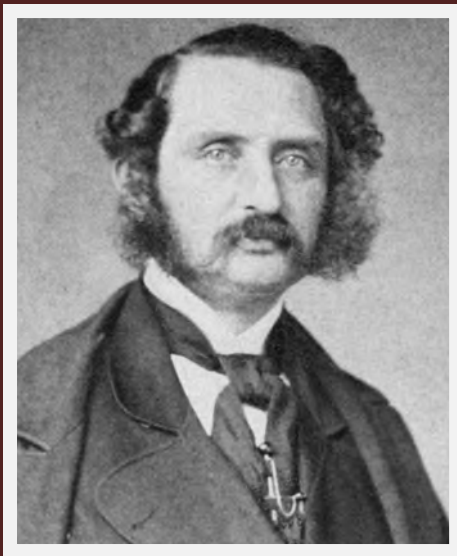


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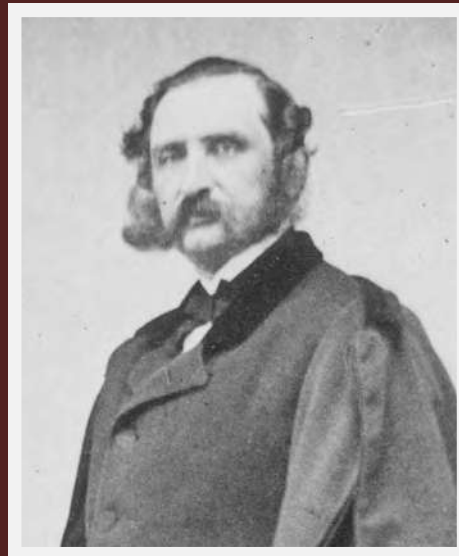
All photographs on this page courtesy of the Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor archives.



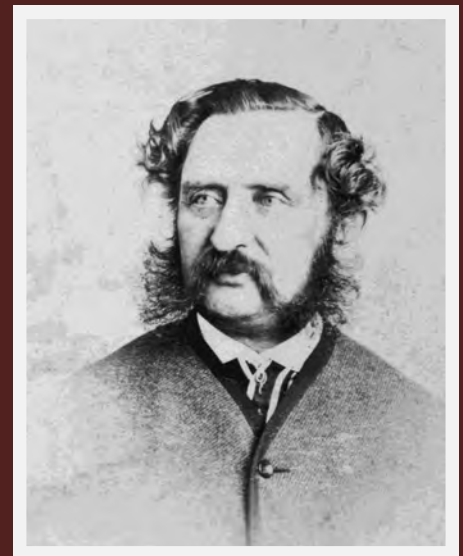
Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski in Canada from 1842-1870



A.-É. Kierzkowski.
Photograph courtesy of Library and
Archives Canada, Reference Number
PA-165451.



A.-É. Kierzkowski.
Photograph courtesy of Library and
Archives Canada, Reference Number C
-033457.



A.-É. Kierzkowski.
Photograph courtesy of I-7193.1 | Mr.
Kierzkowski, Montreal, QC, 1863 | William
Notman (1826-1891) © McCord Museum.

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Liviero, John, Canada

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Marchlewska, Anna, France

Stolarczyk, Stanislaw, Canada

The Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor Archives, Canada

The Saint-Charles Church, Saint Charles-sur-Richelieu, Canada

Internet

Ballooninghistory.com

Carnarvontrades.com

Election.ca

Openlibrary.org

Brian M. Owens

Acknowledgements

Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski will be remembered for his contribution when fighting for the freedom of Poland in the November Uprising 1831, as a 15 year-old officer. His military skills were helpful later when he was serving in the Militia to protect a young Canada. He was educated in Paris, France and used his knowledge to build a better Canada. He played an important role in politics for Canadians, Polonia and Poland. We are very proud that Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski was the first Polish-Canadian Member of Parliament, at the birth of the Dominion of Canada in 1867.

This exhibition is another important step to document and promote Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski in Canada and Poland. In 2016, we will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of his birthday and in 2017 the 150th Anniversary of Canada and the beginning of his work in the first House of Commons. This display is designed for everyone interested in the achievements of Alexandre-Édouard Kierzkowski.

We are very grateful to the Leddy Library of the University of Windsor and our Association team for production of this display: Dr. Brian Owens, Dr. Frank Simpson and Jerry Barycki under the patronage of Gwendolyn Ebbett, Dean of the Library. Many thanks to our financial supporters the Consulate General of Toronto and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Polonia Centre (Windsor) Inc., the Leddy Library of the University of Windsor. We direct special thanks to the Wanda Stachiewicz Polish Library at McGill University, Montréal, the Polish Ursuline Sisters of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus, Poland, Anna Marchlewska, France and our Association.

We thank all those, involved in the creation of this display and spreading the word about this project linking Poland, Polonia and Canada.

Jerry (Jerzy) Barycki
President
The Polish-Canadian Business and
Professional Association of Windsor.

Windsor, March 15, 2015.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors



Many thanks to our other contributors



Polish Ursuline Sisters of the Agonizing
Heart of Jesus



The Wanda Stachiewicz Polish Library at
McGill University, Montréal

