**The Polish Legend about three brothers**

A thousand years ago, or maybe even more, there lived **three brothers, Lech, Czech, and Rus**. For many years they had been living in their villages, but the families grew larger and they needed more room to live.

The brothers decided to travel in different directions to search for new homes. Lech, Czech, and Rus were travelling with their troops for many days. They were riding their horses over mountains and rivers, through forests and wilds countries. There were no people to be found anywhere, not a town or tiny village. On the crest of a mountain top, they separated, each going in a different direction. Czech went to the left, Rus went to the right and Lech rode straight ahead, down the mountain and across vast plains.

One day Lech saw a beautiful sight. He and his troops came to a place where a meadow surrounded a small lake. They stopped at the edge of the meadow as a great eagle flew over their heads. It was flying around in great swooping circles, then perched on its nest, high on a craggy rock. Lech stared at the wonderful sight. He leapt from his horse and climbed towards the nest. Then Lech sat down at the foot of the hill and looked at the scene before as far as his eye could reach stretched the fair lands of Poland, his country that he loved with all his heart. As the eagle spread its wings and soared into the heavens again, **a ray of sunshine from the red setting sun fell on the eagle's wings, so they appeared tipped with gold, the rest of the bird was pure white**.

**"Here is where we will stay!"** declared Lech. **"Here is our new home, and we will call this place** **GNIEZNO ... (the eagle's nest)**. So a castle was built, and then a city, which, in in the Polish of those days, meant "nest”.

He and his people built many houses and it became the center of his territory. **They called themselves Polonians, which means "People of the Field"**. They made a banner with a **white eagle** on a **red field** and flew it over the town of **Gniezno, which became the first historical capital of Poland.**

And, now you know how Poland began . . .