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Summary

Wanda Grabowska (1883-1957). The educator, social and independence activist

Doctoral dissertation written in the Institute of History of the Jan Długosz University in Czestochowa under the academic supervision of Professor Tadeusz Dubicki

Key words: Wanda Grabowska, independence, Liga Kobiet Pogotowia Wojennego, Polish Military Organisation, Piotrkow Trybunalski.

The subject of the doctoral dissertation is life and activity of Wanda Grabowska, a person honored in the Second Polish Republic with a high national distinction - the Cross of Independence. Wanda Grabowska, born in 1883 in Kowel, was a teacher, social and independence activist, who spent most of her life fighting for independence of Poland and protecting Polish heritage. The aim that was her constant focus was the educational work for society.

In the dissertation, I focus on presenting the origin of Wanda Grabowska, because, as she emphasized, two attitudes clashed in her life, i.e. romantic and positivistic ideals. I pay attention to the fact that she was related to significant noble families: Psarski coat of arms Jastrzębiec and Grabowski coat of arms Topór. These families were involved in independence for many generations, passed down love for homeland from one generation to another. Her mother has brought up of Grabowska in an atmosphere of patriotism, love of tradition

and Polish language, and her father, a railway official, encouraged her to get involved in the socialist environment, believing that this was the best way to fight for independence.

Already in the first years of her teaching work, Wanda Grabowska was actively involved in the school strike in 1905, leading secret lessons of the Polish language and history. It should be remembered that such actions required Grabowska's enormous conspiracy, because the tsarist authorities did not allow such undertakings, and those who didn't apply to the prohibitions were arrested.

In 1909, Grabowska took up studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University and became involved with several independence organizations. She took part in the organization and work of the Female Division of The Polish Rifle Squads, which prepared Polish society for war.

At the outbreak of World War I she used the experience gained during her studies, joining the Liga Kobiet Pogotowia Wojennego and the Polish Military Organization in Piotrków. These were the organizations that helped the Polish Legions and their families. When Grabowska was at the head of the care section for interned soldiers and fugitives, she was particularly concerned about legionaries imprisoned in Łomża, Szczypiornia and Werl. As part of her work in the legalization cell, Wanda Grabowska worked on making false IDs for couriers, refugees and activists of secret organizations. She also gave them her flat and provided them with money. The end of the war and regaining independence by Poland didn't mean the end of Grabowska's activity to the state. In the first years of the reborn Poland, she cooperated with the milieu of the Polish Socialist Party, and during the Polish-Bolshevik war she was a nurse in a military hospital in Zwiahel, evacuated to Piotrków.

In my doctoral dissertation, I devote a lot of space to Wanda Grabowska's activities in helping women, especially in material matters, and made women realize their rights. In 1930, Grabowska organized in Piotrków a branch of the female organization - the Union for Female Civic Work, to educate women, help in finding a job, and in acquiring professional qualifications. In 1930 Grabowska organized in Piotrków a branch of the female organization - the Women Citizens' Work Association, to educate women, help in finding a job, and in acquiring professional qualifications. As the chairwoman of the organization, she was involved in raising Polish women in a pro-state attitude, as well as providing material help to socially excluded women.

Since Grabowska had been a teacher since 1907, and since 1932 the director of Junior High School and Humanistic College of the Female Association of High School Teachers

in Piotrków, she also helped her students, freeing them from tuition fees so that they could continue their studies.

The enormous trust that Grabowska enjoyed in society allowed her to get for the councilor's mandate on behalf of Nonpartisan Bloc of Cooperation with the Government in the local elections in 1934. The opinions of parents who willingly gave their daughters to the high school in Piotrkow were also very sympathetic to her.

During World War II, Grabowska conducted secret youth education and supported the Home Army. Her activity focused on the protection of young people against German propaganda.

The last of the aspects discussed in the doctoral thesis is Grabowska's attitude towards the communist authorities and the Stalinization of education, when the headmistress tried to defend the youth against a destructive ideologization.

The rich biography of Wanda Grabowska is an illustration of the social and patriotic involvement of women of the "generation of a breakthrough", for which the supreme idea was independent Poland, and the activity in various organizations was a way to implement this idea.

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