



# Pustków Żurawski

Pustkowo siue Pustkow (1352), Puschkow, Buskow (1353), Puschkowa (1630), Pisthol (1666), Hubertushof (1937), Pustków (1945), Pustków Żurowski (1947), Pustków Żurawski (2000)



Postcard sent in 1932

1. Palace, view from the park; the building was rebuilt in 1897.
2. Buildings from the beginning of the 20th century for sugar factory workers; there were as many as 150 apartments (Kolejowa Street)
3. Building of an Evangelical school (12 Kolejowa Street)
4. Sugar factory was established around 1847 (no longer exists, demolished at the beginning of the 21st century)





5. The only remnants of the former sugar factory are chimneys and the former gatehouse, on the left - the palace tower
6. The Nährichs received the noble title in 1897, in the crest of their coat of arms there is a naked woman with a sash standing on a sphere, personification of Fortune
7. The palace, view from the park
8. Filial Church of the Holy Savior and the Virgin Mary of Mercy was built with the parishioners' contributions at the beginning of the 21st century

The village probably bears a topographic name derived from the word "pusty" (empty), "pustkowie" (emptiness), perhaps because it is located on the side of main communication routes.

The village was established in the 14th century and until 1810 it belonged to the chapter of Wrocław Cathedral. Fast development of the village in the 19th century is connected with the von Nährich family. Lieutenant Carl von Nährich built the first sugar factory in Pustków around 1847. His son Paul Nährich, sent to Halle and Bonn to get an agricultural education, upon his return took over the management of the family business and in a short time expanded and modernized the factory. This resulted in a need for workers and a very rapid increase in population; in 1845 there were only 106 inhabitants in Pustków, and fifty years later, in 1896, there were already 379 people.

The Ordynacja pustkowska Estate, established in 1897, systematically increased the area of fields for sugar beet cultivation and in 1926 had over 3000 hectares in several villages, a developed network of narrow-gauge railroad, which connected individual farms with Pustków, as well as three distilleries and a drying house. Paul Nährich, the owner of the estate, had great merits for the development of sugar industry in Lower Silesia. For many years he was chairman of the Association of German Sugar Industry.

During World War II, forced laborers were employed at the sugar factory; in the first postwar years, the knowledge of the German inhabitants of the village was used to start up production. The sugar factory was closed down in 2004 and the factory buildings were demolished.

The palace from the years 1869-70 stands in the center of the village. It was rebuilt at the end of the 19th century in Neo-Baroque and Neo-Renaissance style. The interior preserved an ornamental wooden staircase, wooden paneling and Art Nouveau stained glass windows. The palace is adjacent to a well-kept landscape park with old trees.

In 1884 Pustków received a railroad connection with Wrocław, and a year later with Strzeblów. Additionally, villages belonging to the Pustków entail were connected with the sugar factory in Pustków by a dense network of narrow-gauge railroad.

In the village there is a school and kindergarten complex, a library, a village community room, a health center, filial church of Wierzbice parish, voluntary fire brigade and a railroad station. There are 813 people living in Pustków (as of 15.08.2021).

## **Pustków Żurawski**

On strong character and determination, or how to make a fortune on sugar

The rapid development of Pustków Żurawski in the 19th century and in the first half of the 20th century is connected with the sugar factory, which was established in 1847, and two remarkable personalities: father Carl and son Paul von Nährich.

We do not know much about the founder of the initially small sugar factory, Carl Nährich. Certainly, he must have been a brave and enterprising man, since he invested in the newly developing branch of processing industry, which was production of sugar from sugar beets. Only a few dozen years earlier, in Konary near Wołów, the first sugar beet plantation in the world was established as well as the first sugar factory which was to produce sugar from sugar beets on an industrial scale.

Carl put all his wealth on the line, took a risk and succeeded. He decided to educate his son Paul so that he could develop the family business. Paul graduated from the Zwinger gymnasium in Wrocław (one of the best gymnasiums in the city at that time), apprenticed with his father in the factory, and then was sent to study in Bonn and Halle. After graduation he traveled the world to make useful acquaintances, learn how to run the family business, and establish contacts. He was in Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, and even took a long trip to the United States. When he returned, he took over the running of the factory from his father.

The beginnings were not easy. In 1877, one day before the start of the sugar campaign, a boiler exploded in the boiler house, damaging the plant and the factory building. The situation seemed hopeless. Within three weeks of non-stop work, however, thanks to Nährich's determination, they managed to repair the damage and start production.

(zdjęcie pałacu i herbu)

Paul was still buying land for sugar beet cultivation, he connected the manors with a network of narrow-gauge railroad and expanded the factory. The year 1897 was important in the history of the family and Pustków itself - then the Ordynat-estate of Pustków was established, the palace was rebuilt into a more representative seat and Paul Nährich received nobility and could add the word "von" before his surname. The owner of the sugar factory in Pustków was a pioneer of the sugar industry in Lower Silesia and his merits were quickly appreciated; he became the president of the Association of the German Sugar Industry, vice president of the German Agricultural Society of Silesia, and he was awarded many national decorations, including the Order of the Red Eagle, the Iron Cross of the Second Class, the Cross of Merit for War Aid.

(zdjęcie budynków dla pracowników cukrowni)

Due to the demand for workers in the quickly developing factory, at the beginning of the 20th century an employee housing estate was built for people employed in the sugar factory. Pustków evolved from a small settlement at the beginning of the 19th century into one of the largest villages a hundred years later (in 1910 four hundred and ninety-five people lived here), it had a railroad connection with Wrocław and Świdnica, a railroad station, a post office, an inn and multi-branch stores. In 1937, when Paul Nährich died, the Pustków Żurawski property included fourteen estates and almost 3000 hectares of land.