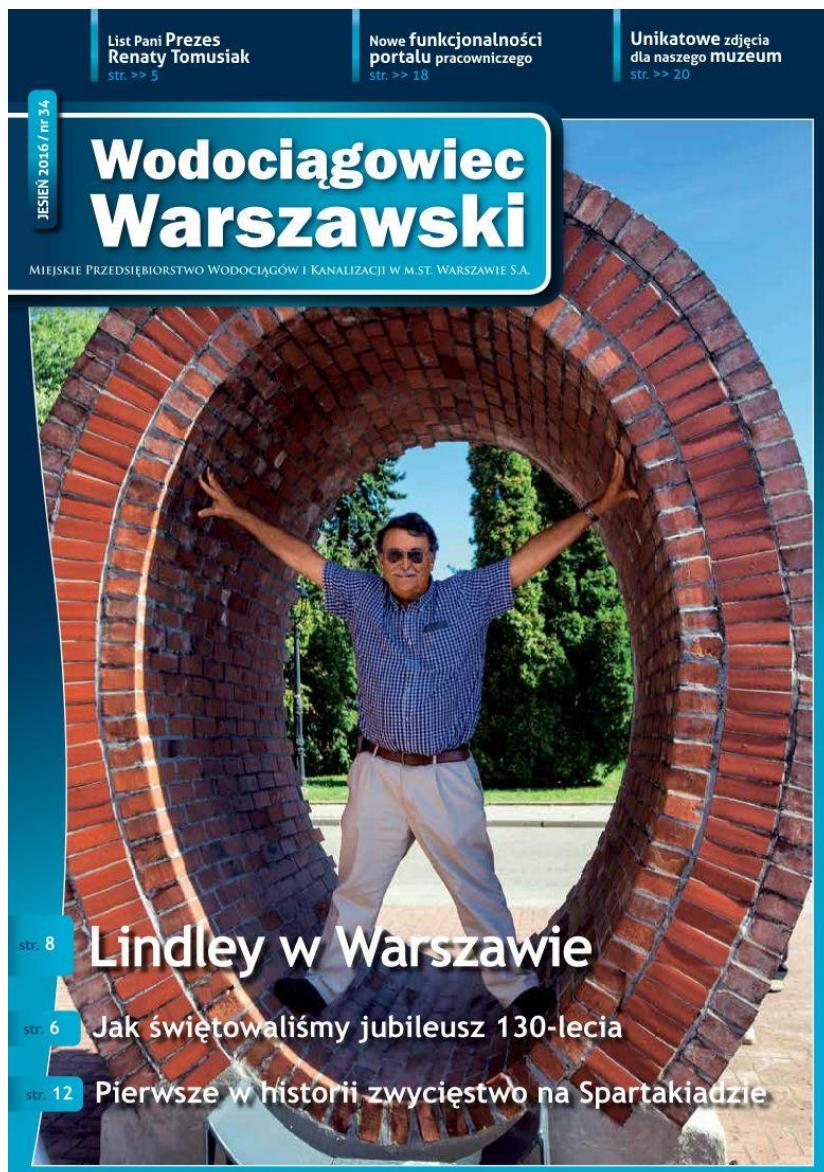


## **Speech by Bill (William) Lindley, Warsaw, the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016**

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to the Warsaw Water Supply Company Ltd - for inviting me (and my wife Pippa) to your splendid country for this special occasion – your 130 anniversary - and for the generous hospitality - we greatly appreciate this.

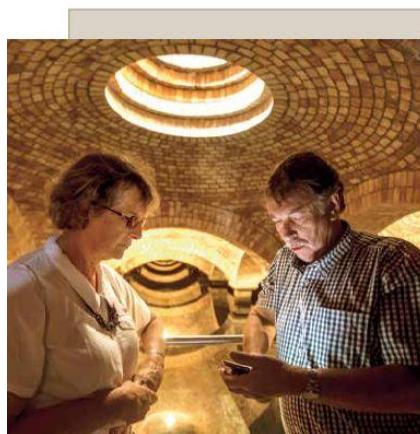


William Lindley who was my Great Great Grandfather designed the water supply and sewerage system for Warsaw. This is one of his many

European commitments/projects. It was supposed to be the most modern and most effective at responding to the expectation of the Warsaw inhabitants, which he developed and brought into practice in German towns – Hamburg, Elberfeld, Frankfurt on Maine. And it was.

When he signed the contract with Warsaw authorities in 1881 he was 73 and decided to retire and to pass all the duties on his eldest son, William Heerlein.

## JUBILEUSZ



### Lindley w Warszawie

Ważnym akcentem obchodów naszego jubileuszu była trzydniowa wizyta w Warszawie Francisza Williama Lindleya, potomka Williama Lindleya, projektanta sieci wodociągowej i kanalizacyjnej w naszym mieście.

Francis William Lindley z małżonką Philippą (na zdjęciu powyżej) przybył z Wielkiej Brytanii na zaproszenie Spółki, aby poznac dzieło swych przodków i odebrać Honorową Odznakę Zasłużonego dla MPWiK w m.st. Warszawie S.A. Kontakt z Panem Lindleym nawiązaliśmy dzięki uprzejmości Pana Profesora Ryszarda Żelichowskiego, Prezesa Zarządu Stowarzyszenia Societas Lindleiana, autora monografii „Lindleyowie. Dzieje inżynierskiego rodu”.

Najważniejszymi punktami wizyty naszego gościa były: gala jubileuszowa w Teatrze Narodowym 6 września oraz zwiedzanie Stacji Filtrów (przed południem tego samego dnia) i komory polaczeniowej na kolektorze praskim w ul. Jagiellońskiej przy Ratuszowej (7 września). FW Lindley wziął też udział w specjalnym pokazie fontann dla pracowników Spółki.

Pan Lindley był bardzo zadowolony z wizyty. Oboję zamieszczamy tekst, który przygotował specjalnie dla czytelników „Wodociągowca Warszawskiego”, w którym przybliża postacie wielkich angielskich inżynierów ze swego rodu, ich związki z Warszawą i swoje wrażenia z pobytu w naszym mieście. **WB**

### Moi przodkowie **byliby** **dumni**



William Lindley, mój prapradziadek, zaprojektował system wodociągów i kanalizacji w Warszawie. Był to jedno z wielu jego przedsięwzięć w Europie. Wcześniej opracował i zrealizował podobne zadania m.in. w Hamburgu i Frankfurcie nad Menem. System warszawski miał być jak najnowocześniejszy i jak najlepiej odpowiadać oczekiwaniom mieszkańców miasta. I takim się stał.

FRANCIS WILLIAM LINDLEY  
Prezes angielskiej firmy  
informacyjnej First Response,  
praprawnuk Williama Lindleya

niono jego wieżę rozwoju miasta i wybrano go najmłodszym głównym inżynierem wodociągów w historii.

Zaakceptowanie projektu warszawskich wodociągów i kanalizacji zajęło rosyjskim władzom trochę czasu. Prezydent Warszawy Sokrates Starynkiewicz był jego zdecydowanym zwolennikiem. Po przewyciężeniu różnych trudności i uzyskaniu zgody cara Aleksandra III można było rozpocząć prace zakrojone na szeroką skalę. Wreszcie, w 1886 roku, 130 lat temu, filtrowana woda została udostępniona mieszkańcom

William Heerlein was 28 and had gained high professional reputation as a talented and experienced engineer. Frankfurt on Maine appreciated his vision of development of that city and made him the youngest Chief-engineer of water works in history of that great town.

It took some time for the Russian authorities to accept the project of the Warsaw water supply and sewerage. The President of Warsaw, Sokrat Starynkevitch was his strong supporter. They overcame all the opposition and with the blessing of tsar Alexander the third, the enormous works could begin.

In 1886, 130 years ago, filtered water became available to the citizens of Warsaw. It is this Jubilee I celebrate with you now.

It was only the beginning.

When William Heerlein Lindley took his position of chief-engineer of water supply and sewerage in Warsaw he would not have known that it would be the longest assignments in his professional life. It took 34 years of his life (1881-1915). He loved Warsaw, had many friends here and was proud of his achievements in this great city.

But it is not all. Warsaw is the only European city where two generations of Lindleys worked together. His younger brother Robert Searles lived and worked in Warsaw for eight years (1881-1888), and their youngest brother Joseph worked in Warsaw most of his professional life (1888-1905). He died when he was only 48. Some my ancestors were born here.

The water supply and sewerage system in Warsaw was designed and built by four Lindleys, and it was the first such complex design in Russian Empire.

Incredibly, these waterworks have served the citizens of Warsaw ever since. I am sure he would be fascinated if any of them could see the works now, with their state-of-the-art updates, like Ozone Treatment and Carbon Filtrating Station, making them one of the most modern systems in use in Europe today. William Lindley would have been very proud and impressed how the works have been so well maintained and enhanced by the previous and present people involved today.

I was told that in 2012 the Polish President issued a decree which listed Warsaw water supply system on the list of the Polish Historical Monuments which is the first step to put them on the UNESCO list.

The engineering gene lived on down the generations, with my Aunt, Marie (Pen) Lindley becoming the first female member of the Institute of Civil Engineers in 1953. Upon one of her visits to Warsaw she gave an interview to the “Życie Warszawy” daily. I quote: “I am impressed by the quality of materials and human work of the past centuries. I am very

pleased to see that the facilities built in those years still serve well the Capitol of Poland". I could not agree more.

Myself I am involved in the modern technologies. I have designed and implemented computer systems in many companies based in the UK, and now concentrate on Cyber Security and digital forensics, by nature a Global affair.

It is worthy of note that the partnership and cooperation that resulted in a British engineer working in close co-operation with authorities in Poland and of course other countries throughout Europe in those days took place without any of the structures of the European Union, and I am confident that such cooperations will continue between our Countries well after Britain's exit (Brexit) has been implemented. The many Polish people living in Britain today contribute a vital part of our economy and society, and that is permanent and they are welcome.



At the end of this visit, I confidently hope I will know a great deal more about this great city of Warsaw and indeed some of the work of my ancestors. Thank you again for inviting me.

**Warszawskim wodociągom i jego pracownikom – 200 lat! (to Warsaw water supply company and its Staff – two hundred years!).**