SUMMARY

Serbs in America, at the beginning of 1909 started to accept the idea of Sokolism as a way of gathering and workout for spiritual and body strengthening of their nation. In the middle of that year started also founding of first Serbian Sokol Societies and by the end of 1909 there were two of them, in Cincinnati (Ohio) and Detroit (Michigan). In the following 1910 five more societies were formed, and among them was also Serbian Sokol Society in Chicago (Illinois). Subject of this paper is Sokolism in America and goal to research who were initiators, when the Society was founded and what were its main activities from founding until end of June 1914, as also its contribution to development of Sokolism in America.

During writing authors used historical method. Numerous primary and secondary historical sources originated in time of Society’s existence, as also the ones originated after, were reviewed and critically analyzed.

Key words: Society, sokols, founding, activities.

INTRODUCTION

Sokol movement, as one of ways for spiritual and body workout started in Czech lands in 1862 when a group of young Czechs, led by Miroslav Tyrsh, formed “Gymnastic society of Prague”. Two years later, on suggestion of Emanuel Toner, the Society renamed to “Sokol”. He got the idea by reading Serbian epic poetry where bird Sokol (Hawk) represents: heroism, justice, courage, speed, purity, freedom, etc., so he wanted to pass all those characteristics to members of the Society from Prague. After that Sokolism spread to all Slavic countries, as also to
those inhabited with Slavic people. In that way Sokolism came among Serbs who lived in America.¹

They started to accept that way of physical workout and Sokol ideology at the beginning of 1909, when also started first initiatives for forming of first Serbian Sokol Societies (s.s.s.) in America. By the end of 1909 two societies were formed, first one in Cincinnati (Ohio) and second one in Detroit (Michigan). In years to follow forming of s.s.s. in other places of America continued. During 1910 five societies were formed, among which Society in Chicago. Besides Chicago, societies were also formed in: Gary (Indiana), Barberton (Ohio), Akron (Ohio) and Indiana Harbor (Indiana).

**SUBJECT AND GOAL**

Subject of this paper is development of Sokolism in America. Goal is to research and illuminate occurrence of Serbian Sokol society in Chicago, its activities from forming until end of June 1914, as also its contribution to development of Sokolism in America.

**METHOD**

Historical method was used during writing.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Founding of Serbian Sokol Society and its work until end of 1911**

Serbian Sokol Society in Chicago was founded during 1910, but in reviewed sources we could not find the exact date of its formation or the names of the initiators and other details about its work until establishment of Serbian Sokol Union in America (SSUA) in 1911.²

At the end of 1910 seven s.s.s. existed and worked in America. At that time appeared the need for representatives of those societies to meet and agree about further work on fulfillment of Sokol goals. The initiative was taken by sokols from

---

¹ Term America refers to territory of USA.
Cincinnati and Gary, and the others accepted it. Their meeting was organized on October 1st and 2nd 1911 in Gary.

Among others, the meeting also attended the representative from s.s.s. from Chicago, Dusan Celovic. During dinner on October 1st 1911 prepared by Senior of s.s.s. from Gary for: Sokol representatives, Serbs and other Slavs, Dusan Celovic from Chicago also addressed to attendees.

During next day, Monday October 2nd the same year, was decided to form Serbian Sokol Union in America with seven s.s.s. as members. Among them was also society from Chicago. During accession to Union the society counted 62 members, 32 regular\(^3\) and 30 helpers.\(^4\) After that was elected Board for preparation of rules for Serbian Sokols with four members, among who was also Dusan Celovic from Chicago. Amongst the Rules determined that all s.s.s. which join the Union bare the same name “Serbian Sokol”. At the end of the meeting the Administration of SSUA was also elected. From Chicago were elected sokols: Petar Sekulovic as a SSUA Senior's deputy; Ilija Milojevic and Dusan Celovic as Councilors.\(^5\)

At the same meeting was also decided that First Serbian Sokol Slet (gathering) in America will be held on Vidovdan in June 1912 in Chicago. On that occasion, during SSUA's first session on October 15th 1911 in Gary, a Board for finding places to hold the Slet was elected. Four Sokols were elected as members of this Board, two of whom were from Chicago, Petar Sekulovic and Dusan Celovic.\(^6\)

All s.s.s., other Serbian societies as also individuals congratulated the start of joint work of all sokols through telegrams and letters.

\(^3\) Regular members were those ones accepted by Government and those ones who regularly pay monthly fee determined by the society’s assembly, and their rights were: “1. after they get 18 (eighteen) they can elect and be elected as members of Government when they get 21 (twenty one); and 2. to wear society’s uniform and badges.” (Права и дужности чланова, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. јануар 1912, p. 8.)

\(^4\) Helping members (helpers) “[…] are those members who pay yearly fee according to local situation, all at once or in monthly payment. They have all rights as regular members.” (Ibid)

\(^5\) Први састанак Српских Сокола у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 1, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. новембар 1911, pp. 7 – 11, и Српска Соколска Жупа у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 1, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. новембар 1911, pp. 11.

\(^6\) Прва сједница Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 1, бр. 1, Њујорк, 1. новембар 1911, pp. 11 – 12.
In telegram received from Serbian sokols from Chicago was written: “To Serbian Sokol meeting in Gary, Ind. we wish a happy start, and hope that the same will bring a lot of good to Serbian Sokolism. Goodbye – Serbian Sokol.”  

In telegram from „United Serbianism” from Chicago was written: “To Serbian Sokol meeting in Gary, Ind. we most kindly welcome First Serbian Sokol Convention wishing them good work. Goodbye – ‘United Serbianism’.”

In telegram of Marko Jokanovic, sokol from Chicago, was written: „To Serbian Sokol meeting. Good luck with your start with wish that you have a fruitful work in American Sokol fields. Goodbye.”

Photo: First Serbian Sokol meeting in America

3rd in a first row, from left to right, is Dusan Celovic, representative of Serbian Sokol Society from Chicago and member of Administrative Board of SSUA.
On November 1911 in Serbian Sokol in Chicago were 58 members (40 regular and 18 helpers), 4 less than in the time of acceptance to Union.


At the time, the address of the society was: Serbian Soko, 2435 Clybourn Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Work of the Society from the beginning of 1912 to the end of June 1914

During 1912 until the period mentioned in the title, Serbian sokols continued their successful work on fulfillment of Sokol goals for the prosperity of not only their members, but whole Serbian people in America. The sessions and annual assemblies were held regularly, they participated in work of SSUA, prepared public classes, exercises, picnics, shows and parties, organized common manifestations with other societies and participated in not only Serbian, but also manifestations of other nationalities, mostly Slavic, wrote for journal of Serbian sokols in America and for other Serbian and Slavic journals, etc. In text to follow, based on the available sources, we will try to make a reconstruction of those activities.

At the beginning of January 1912 in “Serbian Sokol” were accepted four new members: Blagoje Ivanovic, Krsto Kulić, Risto Lugonja and Jovo Ćuk. Luka Bubalo left the Society. Administration of the Society informed the SSUA about this at Union’s session on January 15th 1912. During that session, amongst, was

12 Српски Соко у Чикагу, Ил., Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 1, бр. 2, Њујорк, 1. децембар 1911, р. 31.
decided that for purpose of forming of “Serbian Sokol” in Chicago, Serbian sokols from Chicago and Gary should stage a public exercise together in So. Chicago.\textsuperscript{13}

On session of “Serbian Sokol” held at beginning of March the same year Uros R. Ducic was elected as representative at Main Serbian Sokol Assembly planned for June 1912 in Chicago. They informed the SSUA about this during session held on March 15\textsuperscript{th} 1912.\textsuperscript{14}

During first main assembly on March 17\textsuperscript{th} 1912 “Serbian Sokol” in Chicago elected its new Administration. Petar Sekulovic was elected as Senior, and Jefto Govedarica as his deputy; as Secretary general, Milovan Milanovic; treasurer, Milos Jokanovic; accountant, Vlado Savovic. For Supervising Board: Jovo Osilic, Dusan Popovic and Dusan Celovic. As a Leader was elected Vukan Lugonja, and his deputy Jovan Papic; treasurer Vaso Sarenac; flag-keeper Spasoje Govedarica and his deputy Djordjo Vujovic. Uros R. Ducic was confirmed as a representative for SSUA's assembly on June 1912 in Chicago.\textsuperscript{15}

On SSUA's session held on April 15\textsuperscript{th} 1912 in Gary, amongst was elected board for Slet consisting of three members, two of which were from Chicago, Petar Sekulovic and Dusan Celovic, and Special administration of Slet with eight members, six of which from Chicago: Marko Galeb, Jefto Govedarica, Jovo Osilic, Dusan Popovic, Ilija Tarailo and Mitar Sulic.\textsuperscript{16}

On session of Main administrative board of Slet held on April 20\textsuperscript{th} 1912 in offices of Serbian reading room in Chicago eight sokols from Chicago were present: Uros R. Ducic, Jovo Osilic, Dusan B. Popovic, Vlado Savovic, Petar Sekulovic, Ilija Tarailo, Dusan Celovic and Mitar Sulic. Dusan B. Popovic, soko from Chicago, was unanimously elected as a Director of Slet.\textsuperscript{17} In Journal “Soko” no. 5 from May 1\textsuperscript{st} 1912 was announced that Serbian sokols from Chicago, on Sunday May 5\textsuperscript{th} the same year, in “Social Turn Hall”, Belmont and Paulina St., will host their second public exercise with Serbian, Czech and Slovakian sokols and also Tamburitza, Singing and Charity Associations participating. In that occasion they
will unfold their new flag. They recommended "[…] to all Serbian men and women as also other Slavs from the region to participate" 18 this "[…] great and rear celebration, where they will have a chance to meet and celebrate together with their brothers." 19

Public exercise, as announced, was held on Sunday May 5th 1912. The exercise attended Serbian and other Slavic societies from Chicago, as also from other places. Twelve societies were present:

"'Serbian Sokol' from Gary, Ind., 'Serbian Unity', Serbian Tamburitza Society 'Srbadija', Serbian Singing Society 'Branko Radicevic', s.d.d. 'Oblilic', 'Serbian American Society', Sokol 'Slavia' (Slovak), Sokol 'Oak Park' (Czech), 'Croatian Sokol', 'Sokol Havlicek Tyrsh' (Czech), 'Croatian Sokol' (from south side) and Romanian Gymnastic Society 'La Speranta' from Chicago." 20

After the ceremony in "Social Turn Hall" the exercises were performed by: "[…] youth from 'Serbian Sokol' from Chicago, women choir 'Sokol Havlicek Tyrsh', 'Serbian Sokol' from Gary Ind., and 'Serbian Sokol' from Chicago." 21 Public exercise was very successful and left "[…] deep feeling of gratitude and pride in memory of many friends and members who attended the show." 22

At the beginning of May 1912 the two new members accessed the Society, I. Bajat – regular member and Djordjo Pejanovic – helper, and the Society left Rade Biberdzic and Nikola Sorajic because they left Chicago. The Administration of SSUA was informed about those changes during Union's assembly on May 20th 1912. 23

18 Друга јавна вјежба и развиће барјака Српског Сокола у Чикагу, Ип., Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 5, Њујорк, 1. мај 1912, р. 77.
19 Ibid.
20 Српски Соко у Чикагу, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 6, Њујорк, 1. јуни 1912, р. 93.
21 Ibid.
22 Ibid.
23 Записник сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 6, Њујорк, 1. јуни 1912, рр. 90 – 92.
As a part of preparations for First Serbian Sokol Slet in Chicago during first half of May 1912, Serbian sokols from Chicago received 114 slet pins and instructions from Administration of SSUA.

At First Serbian Sokol Slet, on June 22nd and 23rd 1912 in Chicago, 27 sokols from Chicago participated in performing exercises, 18 members and 9 from youth. Members were divided in three departments with six participants per department. In first department were: Vukan Lugonja, Milovan Milanovic, Milovan Miljanovic, Blagoje Savic, Ilija Sorajic and Jovan Pantic; in second: V. Basic, B. Borkovic, Jefto Govedarica, Spasoje Govedarica, Simo Tolj and Vaso Sarenac; in third: Nikola Anteljevic, Dusan Dangubic, Milos (or Marko) Jokanovic, Novica Kovac, Aleksa Radovanovic and Vlado Savovic.

For youth performed: Vasilj Bulajic, Ilija Djordjevic, Vuko Jovicic, Vlagko Lugonja, Djordjo Medic, Petar Spanacevic, Djokica Srdanov, Zarko Ciric and Simo Cizmic.

Besides already mentioned, slet also attended: Petar Sekulovic, Senior of “Serbian Sokol” from Chicago and deputy of Senior of SSUA; members of Administrative board of slet: Marko Galeb, Jefto Govedarica, Jovo Osilic, Dusan Popovic, Ilija Tarailo and Mitar Sulic.

During first day of slet, sokols-performers from Chicago performed: simple exercises, exercises with spears and exercises with equipment. They won first prize for simple exercises and second for exercises with spears. On second day youth and members performed simple exercises. The youth took third place. Prizes, nettles with golden writings, were handed out by Luka R. Grkovic, Senior of SSUA and Petar Sekulovic, his deputy.

Besides competition in exercises, there was also a competition in some track-and-field disciplines: base jump, throwing rock from shoulder and 300 feet running (most probably 300 steps, authors comment). All three disciplines won Sokol from Chicago Djordjo Vujovic, and received prize of 20 dollars per discipline.\footnote{Први српски соколски слет у Чикагу, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 7 и 8, Њујорк, 1. август 1912, pp. 105 – 110.}

On session of Main assembly of Serbian sokols in America, June 24th and 25th 1912 in Chicago, a new Administration of SSUA was elected. As a members of Administration from Chicago were elected: Dusan B. Popovic as a Senior of SSUA and Jovo Osilic as his deputy; Milos Jokanovic as a secretary; Ilija Tarailo as treasurer; Uros R. Ducic as alderman and Ilija Milojevic for member of Supervising
Union’s headquarters were moved to Chicago: 2360 Clybourn ave, Chicago, Ill.  

Aleksa Radovanovic, Sokol-competitor from Chicago, had his watch broken during performing of exercise, and therefore he addressed a letter to Union asking them to make amends regarding this. The letter was read during SSUA’s assembly on July 21st 1912, when they decided to send 10 dollars in name of compensation.  

At the beginning of August 1912 ten new members enrolled “Serbian Sokol” in Chicago: Milos Brandic, Vas Jezdic, Ljubi Jezdic, Acim Lolimic, Stevo Maricic, Blagoje Medic, Stojan Milanovic, Gajo Pokrajac, Dusan Radisic and Mile Staponja. They informed the Union’s Administration about this matter with letter that was read on Union’s session held on August 16th current year.  

On SSUA’s session on September 1st 1912 board with two members was elected, Uros R. Ducic and Jovo Osilic from “Serbian Sokol” from Chicago. Their task was to ask around about getting some rifles for practicing archery.  

Administration of Serbian Sokol from Chicago announced in journal “Soko” no. 9 from September 1st 1912 that on Sunday September 22nd 1912 in “Social Turner Hall” on Belmont Avenue and Paulina Street will hold their third public exercise. The announcement ended with hope that in that “[...] occasion Serbs and Slavs in Chicago will show the same as before towards this noble institution that deserves all attention, and we give this to their own harts, so they don’t forget that day.”

---

25 Нова управа С.С. Жупе у Америци, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 7 и 8, Њујорк, 1. август 1912., р. 114. 
26 Сједиште и адреса Српске Соколске Жупе, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 7 и 8, Њујорк, 1. август 1912., р. 114. 
30 Српски Соко у Чикагу, Соко, лист Српских Сокола у Америци, год. 2, бр. 9, Њујорк, 1. септембар 1912., р. 130.
Announced exercise, as written, was performed on Sunday September 22nd 1912 in stated hall, with a lot of Serbs, Slavs, not only from Chicago, but also from other places of America. Participated s.s.s. from: Gary, Chicago (members, female and male youth), So. Chicago and other Sokol societies: Slovak Sokol “Slavija” from Chicago, Croatian Sokol from So, Chicago and Czech Sokol “Havlick Tyrsh”, Serbian singing society “Branko Radicevic” from Chicago, as also numerous other guests, among which father Danilo Bukorovic, priest of Serbian Orthodox church and Dusan Trbuhovic, secretary of “National Defense” from Gary.

Performing started at 7 p.m. with full hall. It was written that “The hall was completely full by Slavic people” 31; “[...] and it was a pleasure to see that.” 32 Seven performers participated the exercise. The program was performed in the following order: „1. Women youth of Serbian Sokol from Chicago; 2. Men youth of Serbian Sokol from Chicago; 3. Czech female sokols ‘Havlick Tyrsh’; 4. Croatian Sokol from So. Chicago, Il.; 5. Serbian Sokol from Chicago, Il.; 6. Slovakian Sokol ‘Slavija’; and 7. Czech Sokol ‘Havlick Tyrsh’.” 33

After exercises guests Dusan Trbuhovic and father Danilo Bukorovic addressed the attendees. First one spoke about Serbian fatherland and Slavs, emphasizing the great role of Sokolism in unity of all Slavic nations, and father Bukorovic about fatherland, Serbs and Sokolism, and at the end he greeted Serbian and Slavic Sokolism with words: “Strengthen your muscles so they can fight the enemy; strengthen your chest to meet the enemy’s; spread your mind with knowledge so we can became free and finally meet better future.” 34 Same as the other exercise, this was a complete success too, and the audience was thrilled and rewarded all performers and spokesmen with tumultuous applause.

On September 1912 the Society enrolled 4 new members: Milan Bajovic, Spasoje Dutina, Kojo Medic and Novica B. Dzelatovic. Janko Abramovic and Spasoje Govedarica left the Society because they went back to fatherland, and Nikola Brcic was released for not paying the fee. They informed the Union about these activities on October 4th the same year. 35 Two-member commission with Uros R. Ducic and Jovo Osilic formed on Union’s session on September 1st 1912...

32 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
34 Ibid.
with task to ask around about rifles for archery, did not fulfill its duty by October 4th 1912. 36

Amongst, sokols organized shows and parties for helping other societies. One of those was announced with journal “Soko” from December 1st 1912. They announced that on Sunday, December 29th, they will stage a party in “National Hall”, corner of 18th and Centre Avenue, and in favor of Red Cross. They invited all Serbs and other Slavs to join them. 37

In reviewed sources we did not find data about party actually being held, but taken the fact that all previously announced activities were regularly held, we can assume it was the same in this case.

Some members of “Serbian Sokol” from Chicago were cooperated with journal of Serbian sokols in America. Some of them, who published texts in almost every edition, in 1911 and 1912 were: Uros R. Ducic, Milos J Okanovic and Dusan B. Popovic. 38

During following 1913 sokols from Chicago continue their work. On January 26th 1913, one day before St. Sava, they prepared a celebration in his honor in Sokol Hall in Chicago. Huge number of Serbs attended the celebration. First performed youth of “Serbian Sokol” from Chicago “[...] with beautiful declamations and songs.” 39 After that Serbian singing society “Branko Radicevic” performed their part of program with two songs. At the end was performed a comedy entitled “Cestitam” (“Congratulations”).

At the beginning of February the same year, Milan Mrvicin was elected as honorable members of s.s.s. in Chicago because “[...] of his agile and tireless work in favor of Society.” 40

In journal “Soko” from May 1913 was announced that Serbian sokols from Chicago on May 25th will perform their first picnic for that year, some Sokol

36 Ibid.
38 Сарадници Сокола у 1911. и 1912. години, Соко, орган српских сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвећивање, год. 3, бр. 1 и 2, Њујорк, 1. фебруар 1913, p. 32.
39 Српски соко у Чикагу, Ип., Соко, орган српских сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвећивање, год. 3, бр. 1 и 2, Њујорк, 1. фебруар 1913, p. 28.
40 Душан Поповић и Милош Јокањовић: Записник 9. сједнице Српске Соколске Жупе у Америци, одржате 28 фебруара 1913. год. у Чикагу, Ип., Соко, орган српских сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвећивање, год. 3, бр. 3 и 4, Њујорк, 1. март-април 1913, p. 56.
exercises and competitions in some sports disciplines. The announcement ended with invitation "[...] to all Serbian and Slavic institutions to attend the picnic and bear in mind not to make their own picnic the same day." 41

Among other activities sokols wrote articles about Sokolism that were published in journal "Soko".

Announced picnic in journal "Soko" from May 1913 was held on May 25th in "Hoserd Grove" park. Exercises were performed by female sokols of Slovak Sokol "Slavija"; and male and female sokols of "Serbian Sokol" from Chicago. First performed Slovakian female sokols with exercises with rods, after them male members of "Serbian Sokol" from Chicago performed simple exercises, and at the end female sokols from same society performed exercises with flags. After that was held competition in: throwing rocks from shoulders, running in 100 steps distance, height and long jump and rope-pulling. Competitors' names as also their results were not recorded. 42

In Administration of "National Defense" from Gary, formed during meeting on May 29th 1913, as accountant and member of financial section was elected Sokol from Chicago, Uros R. Ducic. 43

In annual report of SSUA for period June 25th 1912 to June 25th 1913 is listed that "Serbian Soko" from Chicago on day June 25th 1912 had 65 members, and on June 25th 1913 had 12 members more, respectively 77 members. 44

Through journal "Soko" from August 1913 Serbian sokols from Chicago announced that on Saturday, September 27th in "National Hall" on corner of 18th and Center Street will host a party when, among other things, they will perform a play "Military Refugee" and therefore they addressed "[...] the attention of other Serbian and Slavic organizations not to host their own parties that day, but to bear in mind this party." 45

---

41 Излет Српског Сокола у Чикугу, Ил., Соко, орган српских сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвећивање, год. 3, бр. 5, Њујорк, 1. мај 1913, р. 92.
42 Српски Соко у Чикугу, Ил., Соко, орган српских сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвећивање, год. 3, бр. 6, Њујорк, јуни 1913, р. 122.
45 Српски Соко у Чикугу, Ил., Соко, орган српских сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвећивање, год. 3, бр. 8, Њујорк, август 1913, р. 183.
On SSUA's session on August 24th 1913 in Chicago, among other things, was elected a Board with task to design exercises for Serbian Sokol set in Cleveland planned for June 1914. Two out of six members elected for the Board were from Chicago, Jovan Papic and Petar Sekulovic.46

On SSUA's session from December 1st 1913 some new members of Union's Administration were elected. Petar Sekulovic, Senior of Society from Chicago was elected as a new member of Supervising Board. He replaced Stevo Savic, member from Cleveland. 47

On session of SSUA from December 28th 1913 in Chicago one more member from Chicago was elected in Union's Administration. Jovan Papic, Leader of Serbian sokols from Chicago, was elected as a Leader of SSUA instead of previous Leader, Petar Kumanovac.48

During next session on January 24th 1914 in Chicago, amongst, was read a letter of Jovan Papic, in which he stated "[...] that he is not able to accept role of Union's Leader" 49, without written reason. Nevertheless, he performed duties of Leader until May next year.

During annual assembly on January 14th 1914, Serbian sokols from Chicago, amongst, elected new Administration for year 1914. In Administrative Board were elected: Petar Sekulovic, Senior; Mihajlo Stoponja, Senior's deputy; Krsto Tomovic, secretary; Blagoje Borkovic, accountant and Milan Milanovic. Milos Jokanovic was elected as president of Supervising Board, with members: Novica Kovac, Dusan Macavara and Vaso Sarenac. Members of Technical board: Jovan Papic, leader; Vaso Sarenac, leader's deputy and Risto Mazlum, member. Stevan Mandic was elected as flag-keeper and Spasoje Dutina for his deputy. Ilija Sorajic was elected...
as treasurer and Milan Mrvicin as a representative for Sokol assembly in June 1914 in Cleveland (Ohio).  

Administration of Serbian sokols from Chicago, during religious celebrations and holidays, sent congratulation cards to prominent Serbian families. Regarding that, they sent cards to certain number of families for Christmas 1914 with invitation to join them at celebration hosted by sokols from Chicago.

On evening of January 7th 1914, they prepared a celebration in name of Christ birth – Christmas.

“At 7.30 p.m. sharp the Hall was full of Sokols, as also invited Serbian people, especially families who received congratulation cards for Christmas from Sokols and invitation to come and spend this holiday together in joy and brotherly love. In that occasion everyone felt grateful and cheerful when they saw that everything is joyful and happy, and most of all sober.”

In 8 p.m. they lighted a candle and Milan Mrvicin, with orison and four other sokols broke Christmas cake. After that Mrvicin welcomed everybody and with few words about significance of breaking Christmas cake, thanked them for coming. After that started a party that lasted long in the night and “[…] everybody went their homes happy and full of kind pleasant ardor.” Throughout this party, sokols, among other things, also fulfilled their task of dissemination of Serbian parties and old traditions.

Serbian sokols from Chicago, on January 27th 1914, for St. Sava day, in his honor organized celebration in Sokol hall in Chicago and invited “[…] Serbian people to celebrate together in brotherly union and by Serbian tradition the day of

50 Главна годишња скупштина Српског Сокола у Чикагу, Ип., Соко, орган српских сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвјећивање, год. 4, бр. 1, Њујорк, јануар 1914, р. 23.

51 Петар Секуловић: Српски Соколи и прослава Божића у Чикагу, Соко, орган српских сокола у Америци и лист за народно просвјећивање, год. 4, бр. 1, Њујорк, јануар 1914, рр. 21 – 22.

52 Ibid, р. 22.