

# Ceske Stopy



*Czech War Memorials*

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are available at a cost of \$8.00 each, plus s/h and can be purchased by contacting Bill Hodon  
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## Table of Contents

TCGS Information	Page 2
Letter From Our President	Page 3
Urbanovsky Studio History	Page 4
War Memorials in the Czech Republic	Page 8
Meet Your New Vice-President, Frank Kalbac	Page 15
Unknown Photo With Back Photo Inscription	Page 15
Ceremonies Honor US Airmen	Page 16
Ultimate Sacrifice Plaques	Page 18
War Memorial, Hradove - Strimelice	Page 19
Pvt. Charlie J. Cepek	Page 19
The Bohemian - Patriotic Club	Page 20
Future Themes for the <i>Ceske Stopy</i>	Page 21
Old Newspapers	Page 22
And You Wrote To Say...	Page 24
1924 Red Hollow School	Page 25
Books TCGS To Publish in 2016	Page 25
Orphan Train Riders	Page 26
2016 First Quarter TCGS Angels	Page 27
TCGS Lifetime Members	Page 28
Texas Czech Genealogical Society to Publish...	Page 29
TCGS 15th Anniversary <i>Czech Gems and Treasures</i>	Page 30
TCGS Members Shine	Page 32
<i>Czech Family Research Building Blocks</i>	Page 33
Partially Unknown Photo Now Identified	Page 34
Books Added to Our Research Library	Page 35
Then and Now - An Essay	Page 36
<i>Pilgrims For Hope, Volume II</i>	Page 37
A Pinch of This and a Dash of That	Page 38
First Years Were Lonely For Czech Immigrants	Page 39
An Absolute Requirement in Factories Where...	Page 40
Newly Found Old Photos	Page 41
Members of TCGS Extend Our Deepest Sympathy	
Gladys Bravenec Howard	Page 42
Steven Mark Kosarek	Page 43
Emilie Frances Sralla	Page 43
Index	Page 44
Contact Information for TCGS Officers and Chairs	Page 47
TCGS 2016 Calendar	Back Cover

### *Ceske Stopy*

Four issues (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) are published by the Texas Czech Genealogical Society each year. Please direct your comments and questions to a member of the *Ceske Stopy* team. Advertising is open to any Czech organization, business, or individual. Rates per issue are as follows: Business Cards, \$15, 1/4 page, \$30, 1/2 page, \$75, full page, \$150. TCGS does not endorse the services, tour agencies, translators, and/or products advertised in our publications. Neither do we guarantee the quality of service provided by the advertisers.



*Texas Czech Genealogical Society*  
*Message From Our President,*  
*Charlene Hurta*  
*Spring 2016*



Thank you, thank you, thank you, for another fantastic year; and a 15-year history that has accomplished much towards our mission statement of: *A genealogical society founded by Texas Czech genealogists dedicated to helping you with your genealogy.* But, we are not stopping - better, brighter and greater things are planned for 2016 and beyond.

It is a privilege to be in my position, but please, do not take that statement wrong. It is one that I take very seriously. I revisit my reason numerous times a year - that of believing the Lord places each person on this earth to perform at least one mission; and to continue to perform it to the best of his/her ability until the Lord deems otherwise. Mine? TCGS. Why He has placed me here, I have no idea but I have seen His amazing grace and mighty hand numerous times over our past 15-year history; and look forward to seeing what He will do in the future.

Blessed, yes, indeed, I am; but so is TCGS. We have some wonderful and outstanding members who work so diligently hour after hour, day in and day out the entire year. But it is not only those you see listed on the inside of the front cover as "Team Members:" but it is others you will find throughout the pages of this issue of the *Ceske Stopy*. Page 32 shows a few pictures in a column we call "TCGS Members Shine". Pictured are Irene Marik, Dolores Skrabanek, James Hejl, Janet Kasner, Marjorie Kultgen, Inez Adair and Arnold Pechal and Merlene Bravenec. These Shining Stars are joined by members like: Dorothy Stiff (out-of-state), Miroslav Koudelka (out-of-country), Joyce Ehrenberger (out-of-state), Allen Martinets, Lee Colwell, Edwin Wallek, Jr., Cecil Wondrash, Richard Lesikar, Angelina Kretzschmar, Hank Naizer, Carolyn Heinsohn, Robert Janak, Arnold Pechal, Joan Balajka Painter and Dawn Orsak, who have each contributed to make this an interesting and informative issue.

A special thank you to each of you.

Be sure to Czech out the back cover to see what events and projects have been planned for 2016. Not only are we working on 2016, but 2017 is almost complete and we are looking two years down the road to 2018.

AWESOME, yes! THRILLING, yes! Is there room for you to be involved? DEFINITELY. Send me an email: [cmhurta@earthlink.net](mailto:cmhurta@earthlink.net).

S panem bohem,

*Charlene Hurta*  
President

P.S. I am not sure who to thank for the beautiful card and the Roadhouse gift card that TCGS Secretary, Gladys Valchar, handed me at the *Czech Gems and Treasures* event because she won't say; but I sincerely appreciate it and thank you for it. It is just signed TCGS members so if you were one of those "TCGS members," you definitely are on my wonderful list!!! (Leroy thanks you as well!!!)

# Urbanovsky Studio History

When Urbanovsky Studio officially closed its doors in 2012, the sun set on three generations of photographers who had captured over 100 years of community and family events in the surrounding areas of West. Their legacy was recorded on film and rooted in the hard work and dedication of two families united through marriage.

For many years, the extended family had five active photographers with studios in central and north Texas. Three of these photographers called West their home. This gallery of the museum tells their story.

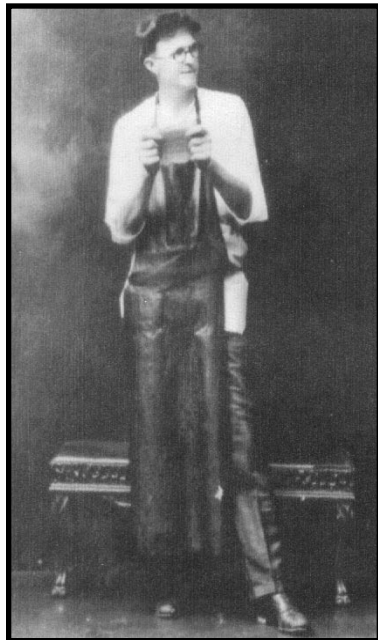
**It's also your story, the story of West and the surrounding area.**



## Extended Family Photographers:

- Danny Urbanovsky - studio in West
- Henry A. Maresh - studio in Terrell
- Henry Maresh - studio in West, then in Ennis
- Joseph J. Maresh - had studio in Caldwell, then Terrell
- Dan Urbanovsky - had studio in West

**1912 - 1916**



*Henry A. Maresh*

Henry A. Maresh opened "Maresh Studio" in West in 1912. He learned the photography trade from his brother, Joseph J. Maresh, who had opened and operated the first "Maresh Studio" prior to the 1900s in Caldwell, Texas.

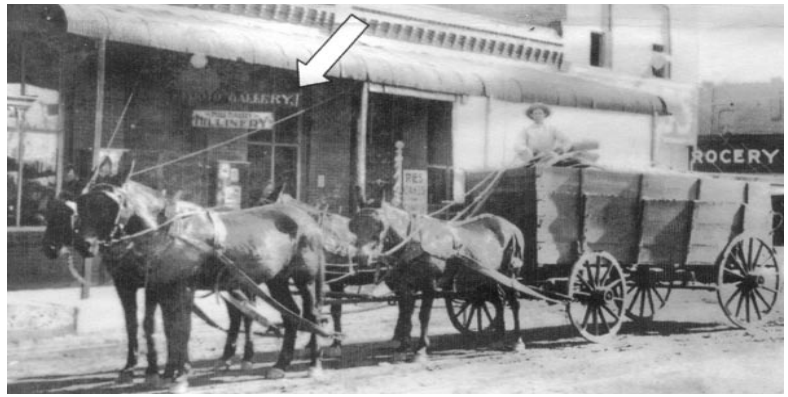
The Maresh Studio of West occupied the ground floor of a building on Main Street between Miss Massey Millinery and the Vana Barber Shop. He recalled rent in the building at the time to be \$12 per month.



*Front of Maresh Studio*



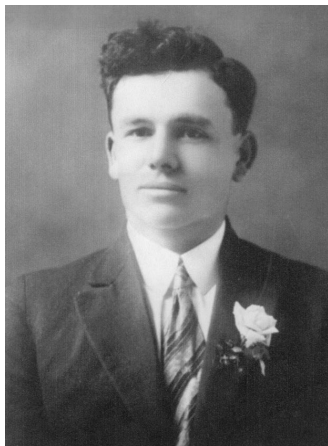
*Interior of the Maresh Studio*



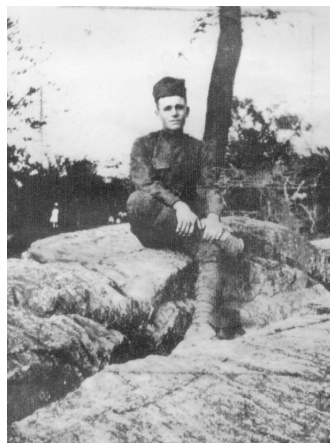
*"Studio Gallery" marks the entrance to the Maresh Studio*

### 1916 - 1918

Shortly after Henry opened his studio in West, Dan Urbanovsky found a glass negative and his curiosity drove him to learn about it. He took his questions to Henry Maresh, who taught Dan the photography business.

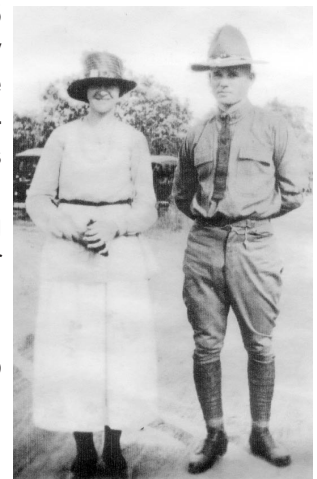


*Above, Dan Urbanovsky  
Right, Dan as a Rookie in  
World War I*



Henry gave Dan a 4x5 camera and on Sunday afternoons Dan would ride his bike around West taking family group pictures which he then developed and took back the following week, selling the prints for twenty-five cents apiece.

In 1916, Henry decided to move his family to Ennis, Texas, so he sold Maresh



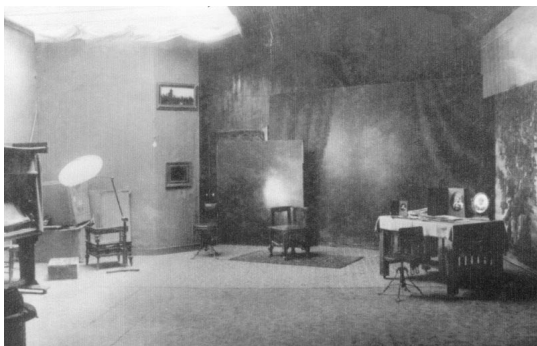
*Dan and his future wife,  
Lydia*

Studio to Dan who renamed it "Urbanovsky Studio". However, running his own business was short-lived since he was drafted in 1918 and left West to serve in France during World War I.

### 1918 - 1926

Dan did not dwell on his loss for long and re-opened Urbanovsky Studio in another location on Main Street above a drug store.

During this time, Dan courted and in 1922, married the love of his life, Henry's niece, Lydia Maresh, whom he met when she visited her Uncle Henry's studio in 1915. Lydia turned out to be the perfect mate for Dan. She was raised in the photography



*Interior of Dan Urbanovsky's Studio*



*Lydia and Dan's  
wedding photo*

business since her dad, Joseph J. Maresh, was the brother who taught the trade originally to Henry. She was equally passionate about their business and helped develop and print the photos at Dan's side.

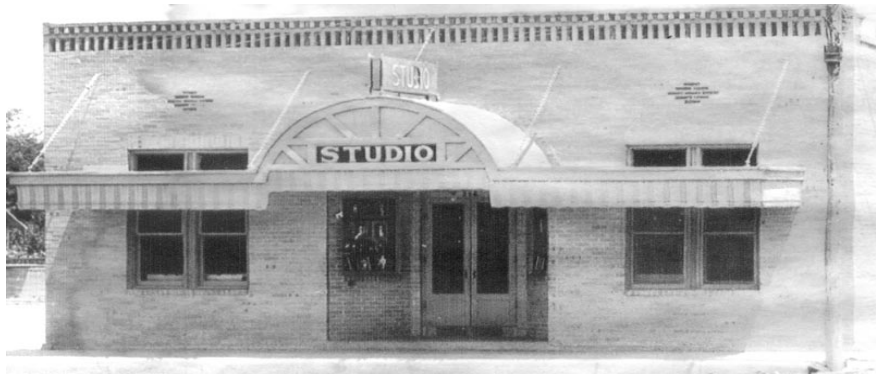
## 1926 - 1936

In February 1926, Dan and Lydia moved their business into a studio they had built on Oak Street. Five months later, their son, Danny (Dan, Jr.), was born, followed by their daughter, Doris, in 1928.

When the Great Depression hit in 1929, photos became a luxury and business slowed. Danny remembers hearing about them printing a dozen half-sized billfold pictures and selling them all for only 50 cents. To make ends meet, they decided to move their studio to their home and sell the one on Oak Street.



*Danny in 1926*



*Studio built on Oak Street*

Below is an excerpt from a letter Lydia wrote to her mom on October 19, 1932:

*"...We have collected only \$62.66 so far this month. We had two weddings this week. Both had only postcards of them together and five 8x10 of groups.*

*If the business continues like this, we will not have enough to continue to run it here. Our whole outfit, business, insurances, tax and all will be hitting on one cylinder by the first of the year. Dan is getting worried now. He is thinking of a new way to have our studio at home.*

*Dan said we will rent our studio building for \$15.00 a month. Then at home we will move our kitchen to the dining room and use our kitchen for the darkroom.*


*We can put our front room furniture (except piano) here in the dark room and use it for a posing room. We can cover the two windows from the road and only use arch-light (plenty of photographers only use that). He would have both fastened on high stands almost reaching the ceiling and put it on the wheels. I think it would work O.K.*

*We are afraid to build right away with such a big debt and such hard times... This would surely cut down our expense and get \$15.00 on top. I don't know what we will do."*

## 1936 - 2012

*Dan and Lydia did not convert their home into a studio like Lydia wrote in her letter. Instead, they decided to build the studio onto the front of their home, thus making their business and personal lives forever intertwined.*

Built on a Depression budget with mostly used and excess materials, it moved the practice of recycling light years ahead. Urbanovsky Studio at 300 W. Pine Street in West, Texas, became the final location of the studio in 1936.

Danny joined his parents in the business in 1946, and with his wife, Lillian (Bezdek) Urbanovsky, became the sole owners when Dan died in 1971. The studio remained open until Danny's death in 2012. 



*Building Urbanovsky Studio in front of their home in 1936*



*Photo at left:  
Studio located at  
300 W. Pine Street,  
West, Texas*



*Right:  
Danny in 1946*

*Photo at right: Danny and Lil in 2000*

*Submitted by TCGS Member, Dorothy Stiff. It was written by Dan and Lil Urbanovsky's daughter, Gail.*



# War Memorials in the Czech Republic

## As Viewed by a Genealogist

**Miroslav Koudelka**

As a true-born Czech I am proud to say that my country, the Czech Republic boasts with all kinds of historical sights. You can find ancient archeological excavations, mighty medieval castles, splendid chateaus, grand palaces, majestic cathedrals, impressive statues, lovely little towns, as well as picturesque country houses.

In addition to them we have monuments that are not generally known to tourists so much and yet they put the finishing touches to the beauty of the country. And not only the beauty, they can be found almost in every town and village and play an irreplaceable role in the community life. War memorials.

When the Great War broke out in 1914, the Czech Lands belonged to the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. Czech men were called to the Austrian army and driven to the fronts. The total number of Czech soldiers called to the war during those more than four years is estimated at approximately 1.4 million. More than 200,000 of them lost their lives and never returned home and hundreds of thousands of others became invalid. Most of Czechs were not willing to fight for the Hapsburg dynasty but they had no choice. Anyway, some of those who had been taken prisoners of war or had even deliberately deserted from the Austrian army, plus some Czech and Slovak emigrants living especially in the United States, Russia and France, formed Czechoslovak legions, joined the Triple Entente forces and fought against the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, for the independence of the newly born country. Their troops numbered about 90,000 men out of which over 5,500 fell in battlefields.

Members of our Society will know, I guess, that the most

important holiday in the Czech Republic is October 28. It is the day when we commemorate the creation of an independent country, the then Czechoslovak Republic in 1918. It was at the very end of the 1914-1918 Great War that was later on renamed to World War I. And that is why a vast majority of this kind of memorials commemorate both the country independence and the war casualties. Some of them were erected right in the first years after World War I; and most of the other towns and villages did so in 1928, to the tenth anniversary of Czechoslovakia.

We can say that the father of all these memorials is the Obelisk standing at the Prague Castle. President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk came up with the idea of a memorial commemorating Czechs and Slovaks fallen during World War I as early as 1921, but because of the difficulties of work with such a huge piece of rock and its transportation to Prague, the Obelisk was officially unveiled on the anniversary day, October 28, 1928.

You can find the Obelisk in the third castle courtyard, when passing by St. Vitus' Cathedral, standing next to the Old Provost Residence. It was designed by the Slovenian architect Josip Plečnik, then managing the reconstruction of the Castle. As a matter of fact, it is the third monolith what we can see there. The first one got broken during the transportation from the quarry in Mrákotín, Moravia to Prague, the quality of the second piece of rock turned out to be not good enough, and only the third attempt was successful. And yet, originally it was taller but the top got accidentally broken off during the construction. So, the Obelisk, made by one piece of granite, is a regular truncated pyramid 15.42 meters (50 ft 5 in) tall and weighing 96 tons (215,000 lb.). For almost seven decades it was actually unfinished, because of the missing pointed upper part. And only in 1996, on the initiative of President Václav Havel, a two-meter (6 ft 7 in) tall pyramid made of



*The Obelisk in Prague  
Photo by David Kohout*



gold-plated steel was added to its top. So we can say that the memorial was “under construction” for 75 years...

As I have mentioned above, monuments to the war casualties were raised in most of the cities, towns and villages all around the country in the 1920's and especially to the tenth anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic, in 1928. And their locations correspond with the importance that was and has been attached to the event they commemorated, the end of the World War and the creation of the independent country. The memorial can be usually found at one of the most prestigious places of the town, such as the middle of the square or village green, next to the church, in front of the town hall, by the main entrance to the cemetery and the like. It has really become a symbol of the community.

And because of the symbolic meaning, the stone memorial is often accompanied by another attribute – linden trees growing on both sides or even around. Linden is the Czech national tree. What is, for example, maple to Canadians, that is linden to Czechs, we can say. Linden branches even occur in the official flag of Czech presidents. And that is why linden trees are grown by the memorials. In the areas then inhabited by German speaking population that role was played by oak trees.

Many of the memorials were built to a similar shape like the Obelisk in Prague Castle, although much smaller, of course – a pyramid or a cone. Unlike the Obelisk free of any more symbols, a vast majority of the local memorials bear signs and inscriptions. The sign often is the coat of arms of the then Czechoslovak Republic, the lion as the heraldic symbol of Bohemia, the chalice as the symbol of Czech Protestantism (opposite to Catholicism then understood as the symbol of the Hapsburg Empire), or simply a Christian cross. Another frequent illustration – in the form of picture, relief or even statue – are figures mourning for the men killed in battlefields and angels. In some cases the then patriotic aiming is almost reaching the verge of nationalism. In Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, Nový Jičín County, for instance, the memorial has the form of a man fighting with a beast – in other words, the Slavic nation fighting with the Germanic beast. By the way, the author of this statue was a well-known Czech American sculptor born in Frenštát and then living in Chicago, Illinois, Albín Polášek.

The inscriptions vary from simple statements up to verses. Examples of the simple statements are:

“Obětem světové války” (“*To the casualties of the World War*”)



*The Memorial in Premyslovice  
Photo by Miroslav Koudelka*

“Pamatuj” (“*Remember*”)

Odpočívajte v pokoji” (“*Rest in peace*”)

or a bit more poetic would be:

“Položili životy, aby som my žili” (“*They laid down their lives for us to live*”).

And an example of war memorial verses comes from the village of Přebyslovice, Prostějov County where I was raised:

“Odpocívajte sladce tam v dáli / kteří jste za vlast bojovali / a naši milé svobody se nedočkali”.

Loosely translated it would mean:

“*Rest sweetly there in a distance / you who fought for the Homeland / and did not live to enjoy our dear liberty*”.

Added then is “Čest budiž zde Vaší památce. Svým rodákům věnují občané”. (“*Honor here your memory. To the fellow natives dedicated by the citizens*”).

And very important to us, Czech genealogists is the fact that many of the memorial inscriptions include the data of local men who lost their lives in the war years, particularly their names usually with the birth and death years. So the Přebyslovice memorial reads the names and birth/death years of 23 men fallen in battles, 10 men who died of their wounds and 11 more who remained missing. One of the shot dead, by the way, was my great uncle, a 22-year brother of my grandfather's, Alois Trajtner. And when talking about those who lost their lives during that war, we should add civil casualties, persons who died of hardship, epidemics, hunger and general breakdown of regular life reflecting the war in the rear. Military historians estimate that civil losses generally were even much higher than those on the fronts. And let me add another personal note that one of these was my aunt, my mother's infant twin, Marie Trajtnerová.



*Albin Polasek's Statue on the Memorial in Frenstat pod Radhoštěm  
Photo by Miroslav Kouselka*

The above mentioned memorial in Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, standing in front of the town museum, lists 169 World War I casualties. If we take into account that the town counted something over 800 houses before World War I,

we can make a rough estimate that about every fifth-sixth family of the town lost the father, a brother or a son. In this case there are just the men's names without any dates, possibly because the names were added to that Polásek's statue, thanks to the endeavor of the Museum and Local History Society, only in 2013, on the eve of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war's beginning.

The memorial in Ratiboř, Vsetín County stands in front of the local Protestant church and next to the school. It lists 44 men and the names of 21 of them are accompanied by their photographs. Twelve of the men are wearing uniforms, their pictures must have been taken close before they died.

The citizens of Fryšták, Zlín County, built their war memorial by the main intersection in the town. It lists 59 men and here even 52 of them were originally



*Memorial in Ratiboř  
Photo by Miroslav Koudelka*

provided by the men's pictures (just three of the photographs have fallen off in the meantime) out of which 37 are wearing uniforms.

Nový Hrozenkov, Vsetín County, has more war monuments and memorial plaques. The main one, standing by the main road just next to the church and listing 127 men's names,

is distinguished by another piece of data. The men listed there are not provided with dates or years, but instead, with house numbers. Well, those of you who have ancestors from that town know that it is very practical because some of the local family names are very frequent there. Let me give you a few examples. The memorial lists 20 men named Orság (five of which have the first name Jan and three more are Josefs), 5 men named Zapalač (three of them are Josefs), 5 more are Koňaríks, ... and for example, all 4 men named Leskovjan have the first name Josef (out of which two are from the same house, the then #686). We just have to



*Memorial in Frystak  
Photo by Miroslav Koudelka*



*The World War I Memorial in Novy Hrozenkov is located by the main road, next to the church.  
Photo by Miroslav Koudelka*

remember that houses in Nový Hrozenkov were renumbered in the 1960s.

Similar it is in Horní Čermná, Ústí nad Orlicí County – the names are accompanied by house numbers. And again, it is highly practical in the town where some of local family names repeat so very often. Besides, the men are listed by the years when they fell. And so we can read, for example, that 21 men from Čermná were killed just in 1915 and as many as eight of them were named Marek, three were named Hejl and three more Šilar. Out of the memorials I have seen so far the one in Horní Čermná seems to be most informative. In addition to the men's names, house numbers and year of death, it also provides the country or province where the man lost his life. And so we can read that most of them ended up on the Russian and Italian fronts, but some more in Serbia, Lower Austria, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia, Hungary and Carniola. And one more note to this memorial. Because it was unveiled as early as 1921, it refers both to the present Horní Čermná and Dolní Čermná (and the house numbers presented there correspond with the "old" house numbering of Čermná as a whole) because the split of the town to those two communities took place only fifteen years later on, in 1936.



*The Horní Čermná War Monument has two memorial plaques; the original one for World War I, and the additional one for World War II*  
 Photo by Miroslav Koudelka

The memorial plaque divided in two parts can be found on the monument in Horní Jasenka, today a section of the county town of Vsetín. At first it lists 18 names of men who "fell" (were killed in combat) and then 15 more names of those who "died as a result of war suffering". Because all these names belong to men too, we can guess that they refer to soldiers who were wounded in the battlefield and died later on; their death years cover the period of as much as eleven years, from 1917 up to 1927.



*The Horní Jasenka War Memorial bears two plaques.*  
 Photo by Miroslav Koudelka

Reading the names of all the men killed in the war is sad, especially if one is standing in a small village and reads how many men did not return from the war, how many families then lost their fathers, brothers or sons. However, a sinful idea has come to my mind in that consequence. Who will ever build a monument commemorating the women and children who were left lonely and destitute in their homes, missing the man's regular income or in their farms and missing the man's labor force; those who suffered from all the oppression and hardship coming as a result of the war, those who died of total poverty, starving and epidemics?



*World War I Memorial Plaque in Vizovice*  
 Photo by Miroslav Koudelka

Most of these monuments actually have another part as I have already mentioned. Originally they were built as memorials to the casualties of the World War but several years

later on, another World War broke out. And it brought further casualties. In some towns and villages they are commemorated by separate monuments established after WW II but most of others simply placed another memorial plaque on their monument.

In Vizovice, Zlín County, we can find three memorial plaques in the building of the town school. The first of them, unveiled in 1928, lists the names of 60 casualties of World War I. Another bears the years 1939-1945 and it is dedicated, without any names, “to the eternal memory of those who laid down their lives, paid the blood tax for the liberty and a better future of all the generations to come”. And the third one, unveiled only in 1994, bears the Star of David and it is dedicated “to our 31 citizens of Jewish origin and their 10 children martyred in concentration camps 1939-1945”.

World War II casualties in Ratiboř are commemorated by a special memorial plaque in the hallway of the local town hall. It lists two Russian and two Czech partisans (guerrilla troops fighting against Nazis in the mountainous neighborhood especially in 1944 and 1945) and eight local civilians.

Located just next to the church can be found the war monument in Halenkov, Vsetín County. It actually is a statue of Jesus on the pedestal of which



*Next to the church is the memorial in Halenkov commemorating the casualties of both wars  
Photo by Miroslav Koudelka*

there are three memorial plaques with the names of 112 casualties of WW I (93 fallen and 19 more missing) from the local parish (i.e. Halenkov and smaller parts of Hovězí and Nový Hrozenkov). And on both sides of the statue there are two more plaques. The one standing on the left lists the names of 10 soldiers who “fell in liberation fights”; because their names do not look like typical of the Halenkov area, let me guess that they belonged to

the members of the Czechoslovak corps fighting against Nazis on the eastern front. The other plaque, standing right of the statue, lists 22 names of “the victims to national and racial persecution”.



*Symbolic graves in the Hovězí Cemetery.  
Photo by Miroslav Koudelka*

The war memorial in Hovězí, Zlín County has a form of two symbolic graves placed next to one another in the local cemetery. One is “the memory of the fallen in the World War 1914-1918” with 102 names of men with their house numbers. The latter is “the memory of the victims to Nazi occupation in the years 1939-1945” with 25 names and their birth and death years. Here we have to add that the village of Huslenky got separated from Hovězí in the late 1940s.

And that is why the WW I memorial in Hovězí contains the men from the present Huslenky too, while on the other hand, 38 Huslenky casualties of World War



*World War II Memorial in Huslenky is surrounded by Linden trees.  
Photo by Miroslav Koudelka*

II (8 members of the liberating Czechoslovak troops, 22 victims to Nazi persecution and 8 victims to racial persecution) who “laid down their lives so we could live” are commemorated by a separate war monument in the territory of that village.

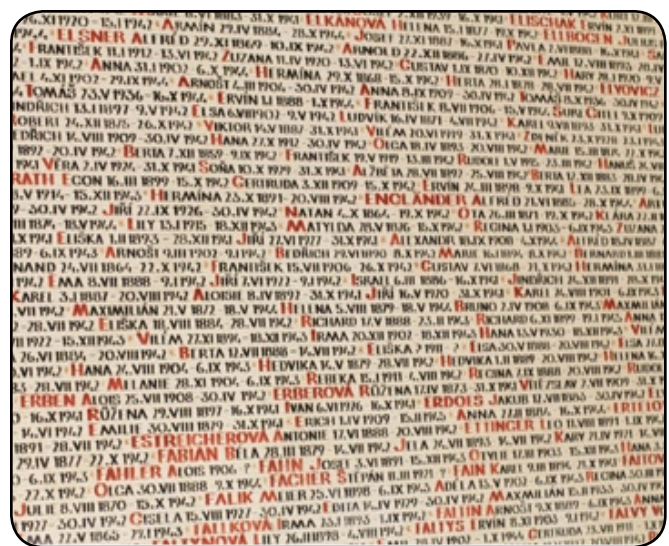
A grave of honor – and real, not just symbolic – can be found in the Nový Hrozenkov cemetery, too. The grave-stone memorial plaque commemorates partisans burnt to death by Nazis on October 27, 1944. It lists the names of six Czechs and then “four Soviet partisans” whose names most likely remained unknown. “You laid down your young lives for the homeland, the homeland will never forget you,” we can read below the names.



Ten partisans' Grave of Honor in Novy Hrozenkov  
Photo by Miroslav Koudelka

As I have mentioned above, most villages and towns added another memorial plaque to their monument after World War II. So it is, for example, in Pržno and Jablunka, Vsetín County, or on the above mentioned memorials in Horní Jasenka and Přemyslovice. The one in Hutisko-Solanec, Vsetín County, lists both civil persons who died in concentration camps or were shot when trying to escape, and 6 Red Army soldiers fallen during the liberation of the area on May 4 and 5, 1945.

A special chapter of our history is the Holocaust. The Jewish population in this country was exterminated almost absolutely during World War II, except of those who managed to escape in time, still before the Nazi occupation or in its first weeks. We have already seen that many of our towns list them on war monuments along with other victims of Nazism. Besides, let me draw your attention to two more forms of commemorating them.



Holocaust victims listed in Pinkas Synagogue in Prague  
Oyvind Holmstad-<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=32756447>

The interior of Pinkas Synagogue, the second oldest surviving synagogue in Prague has become a memorial to more than 80,000 Jewish victims of Nazism from the Czech Lands. The synagogue walls bear their names and dates. It can be considered, in addition to a respectable memorial, as a valuable source of genealogical information for those who have Jewish ancestors from this country.

Many cities and towns of the Czech Republic have recently joined an international project to commemorate Holocaust victims, generally known as Stolpersteine. It is a German word (because the project was invented by a German artist in the 1990s) meaning “stumbling stones”. A small concrete block (3.9x3.9x3.9 in) is placed in pavement in front of the house that was the last residence of a particular victim of the Holocaust. The block is covered with a



The “Stumbling Stone” for Henena Deuschova in the sidewalk pavement in front of House #8, 1. Maje Street, Olomouc, Czech Republic  
Photo by Hana Koudelkova

The “Stumbling Stone” for Henena Deuschova in the sidewalk pavement in front of House #8, 1. Maje Street, Olomouc, Czech Republic. A small concrete block (3.9x3.9x3.9 in) is placed in pavement in front of the house that was the last residence of a particular victim of the Holocaust. The block is covered with a



*Liberation Memorial in Olomouc  
Photo by Miroslav Koudelka*

sheet of brass into which the words “Here lived” and the person’s data (name, birth year or date and the dates and places of deportation and death, if known). Thus, the Czech Republic is one of about two dozens of countries where these commemorative cubes can be found. With more than 50,000 stones all around Europe the project has actually become the greatest memorial in the world.

Memorials to the 1945 liberators were in our country usually built separately. The first of them was unveiled very close after the liberation, as early as July 15, 1945 in Olomouc. The ceremony was attended by approximately 50,000 persons. The form of the monument was inspired by the shape of the Holiest Trinity Column (today a UNESCO sight) standing in the city main square – the main body is a hexagonal obelisk, but of course, instead of the Trinity a five-pointed red star was placed to its top. And in front of the monument’s main body there are the graves of four of the Red Army soldiers who gave their lives when liberating the city.

The memorial to World War II liberators that is in our country best known in recent years is the one standing at the top of American Avenue in Pilsen. This monument was built after the Velvet Revolution. Its foundation stone was laid in 1990 in the presence of President Václav Havel and the US ambassador Shirley Temple-Black. And unveiled it was on the city liberation anniversary day, May 6, 1995. Its main body consists of two granite pylons. The left one bears the emblem of the US Army 16<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and the inscription, “Thank you / America! / On May 6<sup>TH</sup> 1945 / the city of Plzeň / was liberated / by the U.S. Army”. The right pylon bears the Bohemian lion and the same words in Czech.

But let us return to the “smaller” local war memorials, namely those in your ancestral villages. In addition to their main goal, they can be a valuable source of genealogical information for us, too. Especially when I, as your researcher, look for your potential relatives living here in the Old Fatherland. If I know that your ancestors came over to America in the period before World War I and yet I find the ancestral family name of yours in the memorial plaque, I can make a conclusion that hopefully not all members of the ancestral family of yours left for America, that a male member of the family (closer or less related to the emigrating ancestor of yours) stayed here, and although he was killed in the war, there is a hope that he had children still before, and their descendants may be your distant cousins. Simply, I know that I am a step ahead, that my search is more promising.

Some of this research can today be done online. Most interesting for us from this point of view would be the website of the Association for Military Sacred Places, [www.vets.cz](http://www.vets.cz). If you know the location of your ancestral village, you can click on Česká republika (Czech Republic), then on the region and county/district and then you will see if the village is included in their database. Readers of this article will probably know that most of the ancestral villages for Texas Czechs are located to the Zlín Region (Zlín and Vsetín Counties), Moravian-Silesian Region (Nový Jičín and Frýdek-Místek Counties) and

Pardubice Region (Ústí nad Orlicí County). Another way is using the button Vyhledávání (Search) and then typing the name of the village or even of the person you are looking for.

The Association writes that their goal is to register all the casualties of all conflicts having anything to do with the inhabitants or the territory of our country; and as for the territory,



*Thank you, America - Pilsen  
Photo by David Kohout*

they mean not only the present-day Czech Republic but also its predecessors – Czechoslovakia, Czech Kingdom or even Austria-Hungary. It certainly is a big project and the Association admits that they have got to approximately a third of the estimated total number of the places, having about 41,000 of them in their database. And they encourage volunteers to join them. So, if you have pictures and data of a war memorial that has not yet been included, you can contribute them to the project.

These memorials are not just dead witnesses of the long gone past. They are integral to the village or town life. Representatives of town halls and local societies and clubs put bouquets on them on national holidays and the All Souls' Day (November 2 – our counterpart to your Memorial Day), and people light candles. And they play, for example, an important role in the traditions referring to military draft.

When I was of that age, I remember that on the draft day a whole group of us, new draftees returned from the county town to our village by bus. The local polka band was awaiting us at the bus stop. Led by the mayor and accompanied by the music we marched down the street. Our first steps led to the war memorial. There we laid a wreath and sang the national anthem to honor our predecessors who had made the ultimate sacrifice. And only after that ceremonial part of the important day celebration we went on, visiting our homes one by one, enjoying more singing, some klobásy and koláče, and of course, a few shots of slivovice, too.

So be sure, when you come to visit the Old Fatherland, to look up – in addition to the homes, churches and cemeteries of your ancestors and other sights – the local war memorials and remember those who “laid their lives down for us to live on”. 🇨🇪 🇺🇸

**Submitted by: Dr. Miroslav Koudelka, aka Mirek, working as a professional researcher and tour guide, is a TCGS lifetime member, a frequent speaker at our conferences and workshops, and the author of articles for our Ceske Stopy and books. More at his website, [www.czechfamily.com](http://www.czechfamily.com).**

### ***Meet Your New Vice-President, Frank Kalbac***

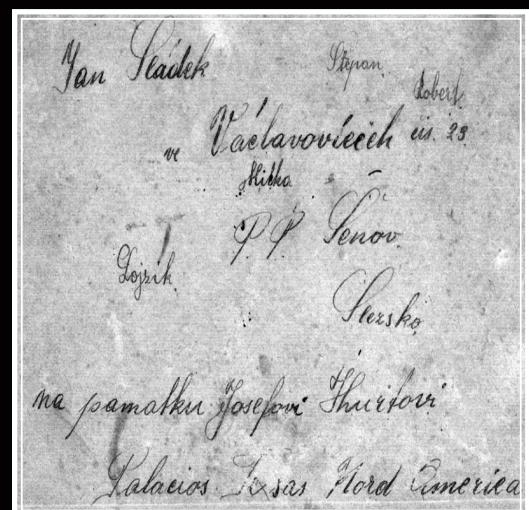
Frank has served TCGS in several capacities since joining in February of 2002. Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, his father was born in the southern Bohemian village of Jindrichovice and came to America as a young child in 1913. His mother's parents both came to America in the 1890s as children from the northeastern Bohemian village of Cermna.

Now retired, Frank and his wife, Carol, live in Plano. Frank has served as editor of the *Ceske Stopy*, chaired the first TCGS book publication, served on the By-Laws Committee and also currently serves as our photographer.



**Frank Kalbac**

### **Unknown Photo With Back of Photo Inscription**



# Ceremonies Honor US Airmen

## Memorial Erected in the Village of Sanou

- The left side of the memorial contains the names of Czech soldiers from the Sanou area who died in World War II.
- In the center of the memorial it is written that on August 29, 1944, nine American airmen, flying in B-17s, were shot down in the area.
- The right side lists the names of Czech soldiers from the Sanou area who died in World War I.

The nine American airmen were buried in a mass grave (as ordered by the Germans) and after the war, their bodies were exhumed and brought back to the U.S.



## Czech Republic Honors US Airmen

Riddled with German bullets and flames bellowing from two engines, the B-17 Flying Fortress known as Flight #118, is hurling toward the ground for the last time. With its crew jettisoned to an uncertain fate and nine additional bombers perishing, this is the worst loss of US Airmen in a single battle in American history. Today is August 29, 1944.

Seventy years later, the Czech people continue to pledge NEZAPORMINAME, translated “We Shall Never Forget.” To commemorate this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the local Czech communities held three days of ceremonies honoring America’s fallen airmen beginning on August 29, 2014. Lee Colwell, the Travis-Williamson Counties Chapter of the Czech Heritage Society of Texas, had the honor of attending a portion of these ceremonies in the Czech Republic. J. G. and Janice Hrnecir of the Lavaca County Chapter also attended.

The objective of Mission #263 was a bombing raid at Moravska Ostrava of the Privoser Oil Refinery and nearby railroad yard holding 1500 railcars used to transport fuel for the Germans. With a total of 893 aircraft comprised of 599 heavy bombers (B-17s and B-24s) supported by 294 fighter planes, the raid itself was a success with the release of 22 tons of bombs.

In a horrific turn of events, the 20<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron consisting of seven planes along with three bombers from other squadrons fell behind the group. With no supporting fighter planes, the bombers were easy game for 89 German fighter planes that intercepted the unprotected squadron.

A fierce air battle ensued resulting in the downing of nine of the bombers while the tenth crashed in Hungary. In all, 100 US airmen were shot out of the sky. With villagers throughout the area watching the battle, many rushed to the aid of the US airmen. German soldiers swarmed the area, eventually capturing 55 of the 59 survivors. Four airmen escaped while 41 lost their lives.

Having witnessed their heroic sacrifice, the Czech villagers erected memorials honoring each of the downed aircraft locations. Today, memorials are displayed in Metylovice, Kasava, Liptál, Rudice, Sanov, Krhov, Antonstal, Vyskovec, Nova Boaca, and Celadná.



In attendance for this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary are two surviving airmen, Loy Dickinson and Chuck Childs, numerous family members, the present Commander of the 20th Bomb Squadron from Barksdale Air Force Base, various US and Czech Republic liaisons and dignitaries, and Stanislav Tofel, author of “Last Flight of American Bomber #118”.

Near the town of Sanov, a convoy of Czech Republic Army servicemen in jeeps led the group to the memorial and crash site of #096. Located in the countryside, the memorial was comprised of a portion of the fallen aircraft with a large metal cross. Affixed to the aircraft part was a photograph of its crew with a listing of their names and ranks.

Three area museums honor the American heroes. The Sanov Museum is small but packed with artifacts. Hanging from the walls are large pieces of torn metal fuselage. Nuts, bolts and smaller aircraft pieces are displayed in glass cases. Pictures of German soldiers and villagers posing with piles of plane wreckage are hung throughout the facility.

The Bojkovice Museum has an exhibit room dedicated to nine of the fallen planes. The room is filled with eight-foot tall navy blue display panels with white print, one for each aircraft lost. Each panel tells the story of that particular aircraft and her crew.

The Slavičín Museum displays various parts of a B 17's plane wreckage and its engine and the engine of a German Messerschmitt Bf 109. Also on exhibit are blouses and shirts that the villagers made of the valued silk material of the airmen's parachutes.

On August 30, 2014, a new memorial was commemorated in the village of Rudice, with many community organizations involved in the ceremony. The memorial is located in the town's cemetery where two airmen from #159 were buried next to two Czech Army paratroopers. While the remains of the two US airmen were brought back to the US in 1946, the location still holds much significance for the Czech people.

The ceremony began with several songs from a local choir. Two priests blessed the memorial site with well over 100 people standing in and around the cemetery. A formal procession of police and fire officials delivered large wreaths along with flowers for both the US and Czech fallen heroes. The American flag, previously used to drape the casket of one of the US airmen during the moving of his remains in 1946, was used during this ceremony. With local officials holding up the large American flag, both US and Czech national anthems were sung.

The Czech people have kept the memories of these 100 US airmen alive for 70 years. Having personally witnessed their gallant fight and untimely demise, the eyewitnesses have passed down the stories to younger generations who now volunteer at the museums and maintain the memorials.

To learn more, a copy of Last Flight of American Bomber #118, which includes eyewitness battle accounts, can be obtained at CHS Genealogy & Family History Publications page of [www.czechheritage.org](http://www.czechheritage.org).



*Memorial in Celadna  
Lee Colwell with Stanislav Tofel, author of  
Last Flight of #118*

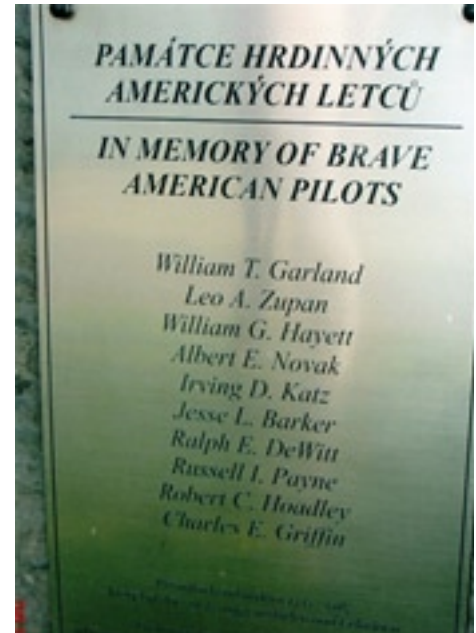


*Close up of Memorial in a forest outside of  
Sanou shows part of the B-17 that crashed.*

Starting on August 27, 2014, the Czech people in the south Moravia area held a Three-Day Commemoration Ceremony honoring the 100 US Airmen (flying B-17s), who were on a bombing raid over Ostrava on August 28, 1944 during World War II. They were attacked by 69 German fighter planes and all were shot down. Fifty-nine survived and 41 died. The Czech people built memorials honoring our US airmen and have kept up the maintenance of them over the years.



*Above is a group picture of some of the Americans attending. Two of the survivors are in the wheelchairs.*



*Left photo shows the latest memorial built in the cemetery in Rodice. It contains two pictures of US airmen killed and two Czech airmen. Lee Colwell was in attendance when two Catholic priests blessed the memorial while different organizations in the village brought large floral wreaths. The US National Anthem and the Czech National Anthem were both played and the American flag was displayed.*



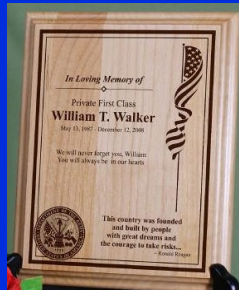
*August 28, 2014, marked the 70th anniversary of the bombing raid where these bombers were shot down. Lee was fortunate to attend the ceremonies and has many pictures, including pictures of the two airmen, both 91 years - old, who survived along with their families.*

*In the photo to the right, Lee Colwell proudly displays photos of a number of memorial ceremonies she has had the privilege of attending.*

*Submitted by TCGS member, Lee Colwell*



## Ultimate Sacrifice Plaques



**The TCGS Czech Veterans' Military Museum and Wall of Honor has a special alcove to honor those who paid the Ultimate Sacrifice. A personalized wooden plaque like the one shown on the left is available for purchase to honor your loved one or a friend. The price is \$40 and includes a donor name plate. Contact Charlene Hurta for more information.**

## War Memorial Hradove – Strimelice, Czech Republic


Hradove-Strimelice is a very small village about 15 miles south of Prague. It has no church or cemetery. The only store, even today, is a small grocery. The small walled cemetery is on the road to Ondrejov, seven miles away. In Ondrejov, is the church where all the Ehrenberger children born to Josef Ehrenberger and Frantiska Martinkova were baptized. The War Memorial sits in a small fenced park in the center of the main road through the village.

The memorial is divided into two sections. The taller one on the right, featuring a weeping woman, was erected after World War I. Later a shorter rectangular column was added to honor the men who lost their lives in the second World War. The first name listed is Jos. Ehrenberger, died in 1915 at the age of 31. It is not known where he died, the exact date of his death, nor where he is buried. We tried unsuccessfully to find both his and his father's military records. His father, Josef Ehrenberger, was also a veteran of the Austrian Army as he is listed on his marriage record as being on leave from the military at the time. He spent the rest of his life as a cottager, dying in 1930, at the age of 80 years.



*Josef, left, and  
William Ehrenberger*



The oldest son died in infancy, so at the time of the 1900 census, Josef was the oldest, so it follows as such that he would be the one required to serve in the Austrian Military. My husband, also a Josef Ehrenberger, had always been told he was named after this uncle who died fighting on the Austrian front. 

*Submitted by TCGS Lifetime member,  
Ardis Joyce Ehrenberger*



## Pvt. Charlie J. Cepak To Take Czech Course In Special Army School

Monterey, Calif. - Pvt. Charlie Joseph Cepak has been selected for an intensive year long course of instruction in Czech at the US Army Language School in Monterey, under the Army's stepped-up program for overcoming a critical shortage of skilled linguists.

Pvt. Cepak, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John V. Cepak, Star Route, Palacios, Texas, was graduated from Palacios High School in 1957. Upon completing his present course of study, Pvt. Cepak will be prepared to act as translator or interpreter, able to converse freely in Czech, as well as to read and write the language.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Palacios Beacon (Palacios, Texas) Volume 50, Number 38, Ed. 1, Thursday, September 19, 1957. Palacios, Texas to Texas History <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:67531/metaph/>. Accessed July 17, 2015.

**Visit our Czech Veterans' Military Museum and Wall of Honor  
Located downstairs in the SPJST Home Office at 520 N. Main, Temple, Texas  
Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 - 5:00**

## *The Bohemian - Patriotic Club*

Editor's Note: Allen Martinets is an expert in locating information on the Internet. The fascinating article he found in the 27 April 1915 issue of *The Houston Post* is very unique and a topic which is foreign to the majority of our readers. Along with his submission of this article, Allen explains:

Before the U.S. entered World War I (already ongoing in Europe), there was a prevalent suspicion among many native U.S. citizens about the true loyalties of the many immigrants from Eastern Europe, especially the "Bohemians". A group of Bell County "Bohemians" organized under the name "Bohemian-Patriotic Club," and signed and submitted for publication this open letter to President Woodrow Wilson declaring their devotion and patriotism to their adopted America.

Like me, I think many of our TCGS members will find ancestors, family members, and/or departed friends and neighbors among the signers. This was a truly remarkable gesture by some of our brave and patriotic Czech ancestors. - Allen Martinets

### **Texas Organization Has Sent Letter to President Wilson**

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### **Assures Him of the Confidence of the Bohemians in the Federal Government and Tenders Him Services**

To the *Post*:

Temple, Texas, April 24 - I am sending you herewith enclosed a resolution of confidence and patriotism, copy of which had been sent to the President of the United States. This resolution shows itself as to the position that the Bohemian-American people take in the matter. We would ask your paper to publish same because we know that the great body of Americans wish to know how we stand in the matter.

F. W. Chudej, Secretary of the Bohemian-Patriotic Club

#### **Resolution of Confidence and Patriotism**


To His Excellency, Woodrow Wilson  
President of the United States of America  
Washington, D.C.

Temple, Texas, April 24, 1916

Esteemed Sir:

Reporting on utmost confidence in your able judgment and competent statemanship in handling our foreign affairs, we, the undersigned Bohemian - American citizens, residing in the county of Bell, State of Texas, do hereby tender your excellency our heartfelt thanks for your patriotic and truly American stand in our national controversy with the imperial government of Germany. If your firm stand and action should result in war with said nation, we are ready to respond to America's call.

We herewith pledge our lives and our honor to the cause of humanity and justice and we are ready at all times to

defend the United States of America, the home of our adoption, against all its enemies, within or without. We are with you in your brave stand for humanity, regardless of consequences. If Germany chooses war by its action, let it come. We shall stand by you and with you to the last. We are at your service. 

Very respectfully,  
F. W. Chudej

F. W. Chudej	John Adamek	A. Hudec	A. Bravenec
Paul Malina	John Palla	R. Koctar	Frank Pope
Charles Kalenda	John Sumbera	J. R. Dukatnik	J. Lorenz
Jos. Sebestik	Ignac Valcik	R. Matinoc	R. Soslek
Joe Sikora	Joe Psencik	Joe Blazek	V. F. Hejl
J. J. Hejl	Will Schiller	J. H. Lucek	Frank Motl
J. H. Malina	Joe Trubelik	J. D. Dusek	Fr. Kututa
J. J. Mikeska	Anton Soclek	T. Kamas	W. R. Talas
J. H. Chupik	J. J. Motl	F. J. Martinec	Paul Olejnik
John Kelenda	A. H. Merchak	Jno. Maruna	Ig. Palla
Frank Lesikar	K. Krahulik	J. F. Mikulas	J. Bravenec
Joe Hunka	Ant. Pechal	Fr. Machalek	Jno. Grygar
J. F. Sofoik (Sofolk?)	George Zurek	J. W. Hejl	
Joe Simek	Joe Mikulas	J. H. Kamas	
W. A. Sodek	I. Pavelka	A. Krupka	

## ***Future Themes for the Ceske Stopy***

**Summer 2016 - *Czech Men and Their Cars, Tractors, Trucks and Tools***  
**Submission Deadline - May 1, 2016**

**Fall 2016 - *Czech Family Reunions***  
**Submission Deadline - July 15, 2016**  
***(Please note submission deadline date change)***

**Winter 2016 - *Open Topics***  
**Submission Deadline - October 1, 2016**

**Spring 2017 - *Texas Czech Cemeteries***  
**Submission Deadline - February 1, 2017**

**Summer 2017 - *Once Thriving Czech Communities***  
**Submission Deadline - May 1, 2017**

**Fall 2017 - *Cotton Farming - Picking, Pulling, Ginning***  
**Submission Deadline - August 1, 2017**

# Old Newspapers

It is very fascinating what can be found in old newspapers. I have researched our local papers in the Bee County Library when I was looking for something special or wanted to know the exact date of a happening. But the paper was on a microfilm. That was a chore. Maybe I'm spoiled by Google, but computers sure make finding things easier.

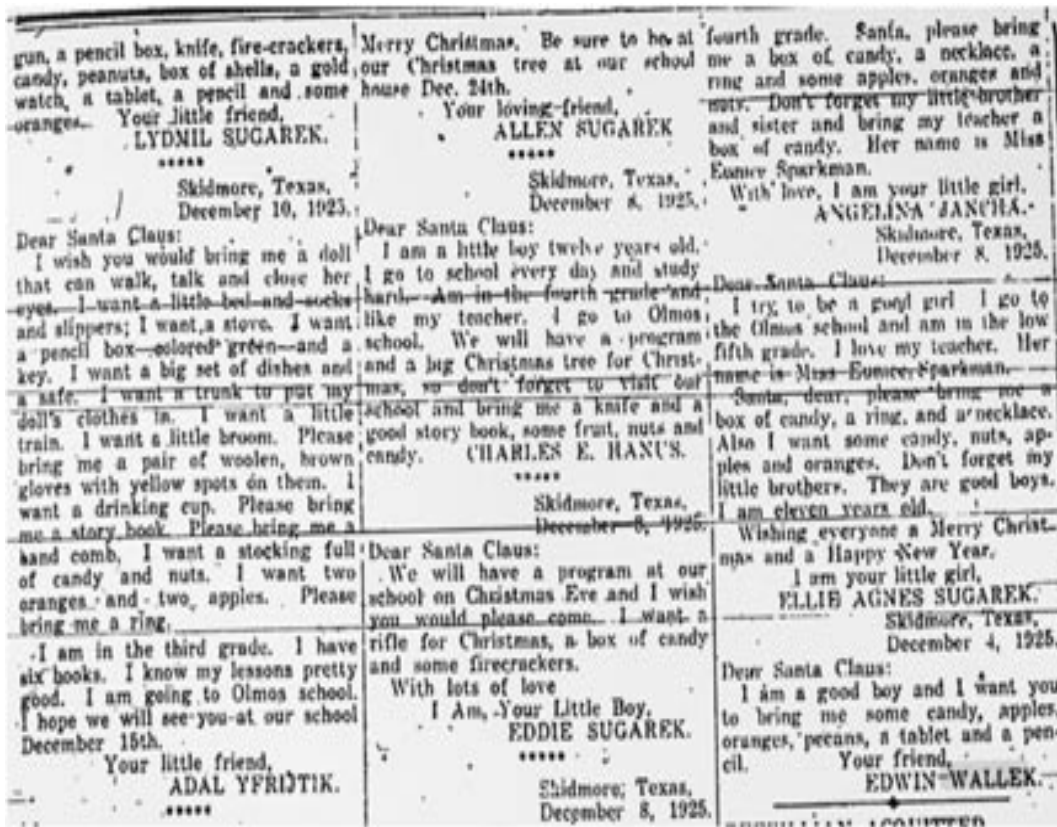
Recently I found out that the Bee County Library has scanned all the Beeville newspapers available up to 1979. And best of all have a site where anyone can access them right from home. My grandma's parents came to Bee County in the fall of 1890 and my grandpa's parents came in 1907. My Grandpa Wallek and Grandma Sugarek's parents were acquainted with each other in Colorado and Fayette Counties, each coming from the same area of Moravia. So I started looking in 1890.

The first find was in the *Beeville Bee*, the first newspaper in Beeville, September 2, 1892, about the dedication of the Catholic Church on the Olmos Ranch. Frank Skidmore, founder of the town of Skidmore had his dwelling on his Olmos Ranch but sold off the property in small acreage farms. The settlement was called that and Los Olmos and then shortened to Olmos.

Father Goebles was the Priest assigned to the church. Priests from Corpus Christi and Victoria were in attendance. There were speakers from Skidmore and Beeville. After the speeches all enjoyed a barbeque with all the trimmings and many deserts.

That was a most satisfying discovery and I found it by searching for Olmos. If I put only one name at a time it will highlight all the times that name appears on a page even if it is an advertisement. With family names, just enter the last name, because it will highlight every place a first name is, no matter the last name.

Another interesting find was Letters To Santa. The paper has elementary students write to Santa asking for presents. My father's letter to Santa was in the paper a few years ago along with the current letters. I did not know what year it was written and ran across them in a 1925 newspaper. It was a golden find when I found it by accident. Another accidental find was Charlene Hurta's father, Charlie Machacek's letter in the 1921 *Beeville Picayune*.



Mostly what I find is who visited whom. But even that is interesting because sometimes it tells the city someone lived in. My wife, Jessie May's, grandfather, Dan Sheive, and family moved often. One time three families played musical chairs with their houses. Grandpa Sheive found a better place and a friend move into the house he vacated

**ADAL YFRIJTIK.**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Skidmore, Texas,  
 December 5, 1925.

Dear Santa Claus:  
 I am a little girl nine years old. My lessons are pretty hard. My teacher is good. We will have a program. Come to visit our school. Please bring me a doll that says mamma. Bring me a cooking stove. I want a buggy and bed. Bring me a ring. I want a pencil box to lock it. Bring me a safe to put dishes in and some dishes and lots of pretty toys.

LYDIE J. HANUS.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Skidmore, Texas  
 December 8, 1925

Dear Santa Claus.  
 Please bring me a rifle, box of candy, some apples, oranges, popcorn, peanuts, pecans, and some candy. Don't forget the other boys and girls, and don't forget my teacher. Her name is Miss Eunice Sparkman.

Lovingly,  
 Your little boy,  
**CHARLIE DOUBRAVA.**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Skidmore, Texas  
 December 8, 1925

Dear Santa Claus:  
 Please bring me a two-wheel bicycle some candy, oranges, apples and pecans.  
 Be sure and come to our Christmas tree at the Olmos School on December 24th.

Your little friend,  
**EDDIE DOUBRAVA**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Skidmore, Texas,  
 December 8, 1925.

Dear Santa Claus:  
 Please bring me a rifle, a box of firecrackers, a pencil box with some pencils, a little fiddle, a knife with a chain on it. Santa, dear, do not forget the other boys and girls and my teacher. Her name is Eunice Sparkman. I am going to school and I try to be a good boy.

Your little friend,  
**EDWARD HOJTIK.**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Skidmore, Texas,  
 December 8, 1925.

Dear Santa Claus:  
 I am a little girl ten years old. I go to the Olmos school and am in the

**THE BEEVILLE BEE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1925**

to let you know what I want for Christmas.  
 I am nine years old and in the second grade. I want you to bring me a train and a bugle: lots of fruit, pie, nuts, oranges, an air gun, a pencil and tablet, a pencil box and some candy. Bring my teacher a box of candy; her name is Miss Berna Wilson. I also want a ball and bat. Be sure and come on Christmas eve night.

December 10, 1925.  
 My Dear Santa Claus:  
 I am in the second grade. I want some apples, a pencil and tablet, a pencil box and some candy. Bring my teacher a box of candy; her name is Miss Berna Wilson. I also want a ball and bat. Be sure and come on Christmas eve night.

Your little friend,  
**HUGH PEARCE**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Skidmore, Texas,  
 December 10, 1925.

Dear Santa:  
 Please bring me an air gun, wagon, bicycle, trunk and a little car.

Your friend,  
**GOLLIEF MACHACEK.**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Skidmore, Texas,  
 December 10, 1925.

Skidmore Tex. Dec 15, 1924

Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me a knife a ball and a top and fruits and nuts and candy I have been a good boy. Your friend

Charlie Machacek  
 \* \* \*


Skidmore, T-x., Dec. 15, 1924

Dear Santa, Please bring me a gun, ball, a wagon, a knife, and a bicycle. I love you lots.

Gollif Machacek.  
 \* \* \*

quarter mile away. The neighbor always called them in about sundown and penned them, so they always came back home.

Something else of interest is the price of groceries. In 1911 a 48 pound sack of flour or 17 pounds of sugar cost one dollar each. 100 pounds of Irish potatoes cost two dollars. Smoked bacon eighteen cents per pound and coal oil fifteen cents per gallon, and a 5 pound bucket of coffee one dollar.

Other County libraries might be doing the same thing with their county papers. Call them and ask. If you had someone who ever lived in Bee County, their name might be in the paper. If you want to investigate it, type into your search engine – [bc.lib.org](http://bc.lib.org) – when the site comes up click on digital then newspaper and start searching. 

Good Luck!

Submitted by TCGS member, Edwin Wallek, Jr.

## And You Wrote To Say...

As always, it was a great conference Saturday.  
Thanks, Ronnie Horcica

My mom and I want to thank all of you who reached out with sympathy when my beloved aunt, Emilie "Bips" Frances Drassa, died on December 8, 2015. Thank you for all your expressions of sympathy.  
Jan Ischy Prins

Thank you for your inspired reading again. My friend, Merlene Bravenec, is mentioned in the magazine several times.

Jan Dvorak,  
Czech Republic

I am enclosing a check for my years dues to the Ceske Stopy. I am enjoying each and every issue and read them from cover to end. They are so very enjoyable and pages of time are coming back of my mother's Czech genealogy. I can't wait for 2016.

Hope you and all TCGS friends have a "Blessed Christmas".

Edward and Dorothy Kaminski

My wife and I were again in Temple on Friday, October 16, 2015, to visit with James Hejl on some genealogy research matters. I had intended to drop off the enclosed envelope in the TCGS office but it was after 5:00 and we arrived and found the building closed. So I'm putting it in the mail.

Additionally, I am enclosing a photo I found recently among my mom's pictures while looking for some family photos (My mom, Mary Hosek, grew up in Temple and was close friends with James' sister, Esther). This is a photo of Albert Blaha, Sr., Edmond Hejl, Milady Blaha Hejl, and James Hejl, as young people in Temple (and in front of a classic car!). It struck me that I possessed a photo of some of the "legends" of Czech genealogical research in Texas long before they were ever to take on those roles. To me, it was like finding a nugget of gold and I thought the readers of the Ceske Stopy might find this an interesting photo.

Hope we see you again sometime soon. Thanks, David Hosek



Dear Charlene:

We are grateful to you and your colleagues in the Texas Czech Genealogical Society for the countless hours you have dedicated to genealogical research and to documenting the rich, personal histories of Czech Texans and the colorful, old world traditions that lie at the heart of our Czech cultural identity.

We congratulate you in the success of your splendid publication, *Ceske Stopy*, and marvel at the knowledge and skill required to produce such outstanding, letter perfect works, issue after issue, year after year. Each issue is a treasure, as beautiful to look at as it is enjoyable to read. We salute you, dear friend, for a job well done.

Yours sincerely,  
Margaret Klecka

As you are speaking right now on stage, I just wanted to say Thank You for recognizing Mom today with the Editor's Award. She was SO surprised and she absolutely loves recording the family history. Thank you again!  
Jan Ischy Prins

Dear Merlene -

Enclosed is my check for \$25.00 to renew my membership in the Texas Czech Genealogical Society. Although I do not make many of the meetings, I always enjoy receiving the great publications. TCGS is an outstanding organization. That is because there are so many capable people, like yourself, who work diligently to make it that way.

I am not actively pursuing any family names, although I have an interest in the Machalek and Holy names.

With Kind Regards,  
Michael A. Holy, M.D.



## And You Wrote To Say Can't...

Dear Nancy,  
Thank you again for sending the beautiful Christmas ornaments. I was thrilled with them and the legends... all ready for gift giving!  
Mignonne Chaison

Dear Charlene:  
The meeting was outstanding as always and I always learn new things. Also great to see old friends.  
Sara Barton

I am putting my name back as a member instead of my husband, John. He died of congestive heart failure on July 26, at the age of 86. He really enjoyed reading the quarterly. He would pick up the mail and read it from cover to cover before I even saw it.  
Ruby Dusek

## 1924 Red Hollow School



This could possibly be the 1924 Red Hollow School Class with Julia Bravenec, far right, as the teacher.

If you can identify any of the students, or have any further information, please contact a member of the *Ceske Stopy* team. Please see the enlarged inset below to help with facial recognition.

Submitted by TCGS member, Cecil Wondrash



BOOKS TCGS WILL PUBLISH IN 2016

*Emigration From Moravia to America 1850 - 1918*

*Novy Jicin*

*Frydek - Mistek*

*Czech Ancestral Homes*



# Orphan Train Riders

## Listing of Orphans Adopted By Czechs in Texas

**(Married names for females are in parenthesis)**

Anders, Ella	Juenger, Alphonse William
Bartos, Catherine (Syrinek)	Kainer, John
Bartosh, Lawrence	Kallus, Rudolph Joe
Bohacek, Edward J.	Konvicka, Cecilia (Wilson)
Budnik, Albert Schiller	Kopecky, Felix Anthony
Budnik, Lydia "Cookie" - never married	Kopecky, Fred Frank, Sr.
Christ, Mary (Jackson)	Kopecky, Rita T.
Drozd, Charlotta Marie "Lottie" (Krutilek)	Lidiak, Viola (Stavinoha)
Dusek, Joseph Frank	Matula, Alice Elizabeth "Ella" (Pangburg and Henderson)
Dusek, Julia Mary (Mican and Janik)	Matula, William John Martin
Gallia, Joe	Mazoch, Alma Christine (Janik)
Gallia, Mary	Mazoch, Georgia A. (Single)
Grygar, Clara (Mother was Hrachovy)	Mazoch, Raymond
Havel, Amelia	Mensik, Minnie Mary (Janda)
Havel, Edward	Mensik, Vaclav (Brother of Minnie Mensik per 1910 Census)
Havel, William	Moskal, Veronica (Krenek)
Hluchanek, Clotilda (Jalufka)	Munsch, Agnes Catherine (Sury)
Holesovsky, Christina (spouse ?)	Odlozlik, Josephine (Smith)
Holesovsky, William	Parma, Annie
Horak, Edward Clarence	Parma, Ludmilla/Lillian/Lillie (Struhall)
Hrbacek, Frances Ann (Bezdek)	Parma, Rita (Kallus)
Hrbacek, Philip F.	Pavlock, Alice (Sechelski)
Hruby, Elizabeth (Bettie) (Jeske)	Pavlock, Frank
Hruby, Henry J.	Petrash, Katharine (Cernosek) (Submitted by Dorothy Cernosek Allen, daughter)
Hudec, Helen Keifer	Polak, Beatrice (Fojtik) (Submitted by Janice Polak)
Jalufka, Lanie or Lana	Prazak, Hannah Frances (Noska)
Janda, John J.	Prazak, Mary Elizabeth (Maresh)
Janda, Theresia (Genzer)	Rohan, Emil William

Schenk, Agnes Josephine (David) (Mother, Kainer)	Urbanowski, Bernard/Ben/Bennie
Sciba, Francis Dorgan	Urbanowski, Marian "Mary Francis on tombstone" (Baranowski)
Slavik, Albina (Martin)	Vacek, Eudora/Dora/Dorothy (Sury)
Slavik, William C.	Vacek, Katherine (Cernoch)
Sliva, Genevieve Margaret McCabe (Sikora)	Vajdos, Joseph M. "Joe"
Tomek, Annie (Sister Annie Tomek)	Vrazel, Rita Josephine (Kavajecz)
Tomek, Rosa Teresa (Sister, Mary Augustine Tomek)	Zanek, Joe R.

*Submitted by TCGS Member and Orphan Train Riders Project Chair, Angelina Kretschmar. Listing is current as of 7 January 2016*



## 2016 First Quarter TCGS Angels

**Cecil Dobecka** - Czech Veterans' photo for TCGS Czech Veterans' Military Museum and Wall of Honor.

**Hana Dostalova** - Valentine Day seals for the *February OZ* (Note: Hana is a resident of the Czech Republic). Thank you sooo much. The Texas Czechs learned something new about our Fatherland because of you, Hana.

**Edwin Hlavaty** - Monetary donation, kolaches and office printer.

**Henry and Nancy Holubec** - Monetary donation, transporting supplies from College Station storage unit for our "All About Google"™ event.

**Ann Jurecka** - President Woodrow Wilson's *America We Love You* poster for TCGS Czech Veterans' Military Museum and Wall of Honor. The poster had previously hung in her parent's home (Henry and Anna Popelka) for many years.

**Phil and Debbie Konarik** - Installation of "Gift Shop" directional signs and a buzzer letting us know when we have visitors downstairs in our Temple office.

**Peggy and Jerry Krampota** - Monetary donation.

**Dan Mares** - Volunteering to assemble a model World War II Battleship for our Czech Veterans' Military Museum and Wall of Honor.

**Bob Morgenroth** - Monetary donation in memory of his late wife, Bernice Morkovsky Morgenroth.

**Czech Gems and Treasures Event Workers**- John and Mary Ann Gantt, Bob Kovar, Nancy and Darwin Machu, Gladys Valchar, Merlene Bravenec, Geraldine Lindeman, Carolyn and Henry Holub, John Stasny, Dotty Davis, TJ and Myrna Slansky, Leslie Gerik Nelson, Deane Hodon, Charlene Hurta.

# TCGS Lifetime Members

Leo Baca	Bill Hodon	Richard Lynn Lesikar	JoAnn Pospisil
Curtis Louis Bena	Carolyn Holub	George Ligocky	Ryan J. Pospisil
Mary Frances Bennett	Henry Holub	Willie Mae Lindsey	Ginger Pihoda
Mildred Dziadek Borden	Henry Holubec	Barbara Vlk Lingberg	Sandra Faye Puckett
Merlene Bravenec	Nancy Holubec	Pat Lyon	Patsy Fuller Robertson
Carroll Brincefield	Ronnie Horcica	Cheryl Mach	Donna Rychlik
Anezka Burge	Nancy Lynn Hosek	Darwin Machu	Joe Rychlik
Carnegie History Center	Tom Hrnccirik	Nancy Machu	John L. Sackett, III
Leland Chvatal	Charlene Hurta	Dorothy Maczali	Malcolm Shwadlenak
David Coufal	Leroy Hurta	Barbara Malek	Slovacek's Sausage Co.
Czech Catholic Home	Robert Janak	Clifford Malek	Del Smajstrla
Czech Center Houston	Dorothy Janca	Betty Marek	Kathy Horak Smith
Jan Danek	Steve Jares	Daniel Mares	Clarice Marik Snokhous
Ardis Joyce Ehrenberger	Evelyn Jez	Denis Masar	Ray Snokhous
Josef Ehrenberger	Ann Jurecka	Sandra Mathijetz	John Stasny
Carole Faraizl	Frank Kalbac	Ronald D. Merecka	Irene Szwarc
Ray Faraizl	Janet Dorskocil Kasner	Walt Merka	Tresa Tatyrek
Cecilia Forrest	Dorothy Kaspar	R. C. Joe Mikeska, Jr.	Gladys Valchar
Patricia Trojacek Fowler	Karen Kaspar	Barbara Miles	Calvin J. Voytek
Gladys Frank	Ted Kaspar	Edith Sohrt Molberg	Kenneth Voytek
Marion Freeman	Carol Kitchen	Bob Morgenroth	Sandra Abshier Voytek
John R. Gantt	Joe Klecka	Katherine Morris	Pamela M. Arnold Walker
David Gavenda	Margaret Klecka	Lydia Mousner	Carroll Warschak
James Gerick	La Verne Knezek	Ralph Mutchler	Eve Watson
Oralee F. Gerick	Robert Knezek	Barbara Neal	Sallie Wendt
Paula Musil Gilbert	Arthur Kocurek	Nancy Nerada	Wayne Wendt
Delores Haisler	Miroslav Koudelka	Helen Belicek Newman	West Public Library
Walter Haisler	Kay Lynn Kovar	Charles Opersteny	Betty Jen Wilson
Daryl Halencak	Robert Kovar	Arnold Pechal	George M. Wilson
Charles M. "Mike" Hejl	Jerry Krampota	Nancy Rab Pieper	Helen Wilson
James L. "Jim" Hejl	Cynthia Krenek	Laura Petter Pilgrim	Melanie Zavodny
John Hejl	Danny Leshikar	Dwain Pingenot	
Edwin L. Hlavaty	Howard Leshikar	Larry Plasek	
David Hlavenka	Phyllis Carnes Lesikar	Bertha Podhrasky	

*Thank you Lifetime members for your faith, trust, and support. You help us to be the premier Czech genealogical resource in Texas. **A special thank you** to each member who has informed us of your continued TCGS support by including us in your will or estate planning. We are indeed grateful.*

## Texas Czech Genealogical Society To Publish Czech Wedding Album



*John Machacek  
and  
Katerina (Braton) Machacek  
June 18, 1907*

At our *Czech Gems and Treasures* event, the announcement was officially made that, by popular request, the Texas Czech Genealogical Society would be publishing a Czech Wedding Album.

Czech wedding photos and accompanying articles for each are now being accepted. There is not a limit to the number of photos which can be submitted, nor is there a limit on the length of each article containing information on the couple's wedding. We would like to record not only the couple's names, including the bride's maiden name, the date of the wedding, location, parent's names, etc.

In the past, when the bride or bridal couple's photo appeared in a public newspaper, a large amount of information was given. If you have such information, please feel free to submit it. As with all books published by TCGS, we not only want to produce a beautiful wedding album; we also want it to become an excellent research tool, presently and for future generations.



*Theodore Zachek  
and  
Bozena (Sosolik) Zachek  
November 17, 1932  
Standing:  
Frank Sosolik and  
Bozena (Parolek) Sosolik,  
Parents of the bride*

You may have additional photos which accompany the wedding, such as: photos of the wedding party including parents, bridesmaids, groomsmen flower girl, ring bearer, photo of the bridal couple with members of their family and/or minister who married the couple; perhaps a wedding dance photo, the meal or wedding cake; and, do not forget the "Just Married" sign on the vehicle.

The possibility is almost endless!

If you have submitted articles and/or photos for a past issue of the *Ceske Stopy*, another book published by TCGS, or for the website, you **will need** to submit them again for this project. They can be submitted by CD, DVD, Flash Drive, or by emailing them to:

Charlene Hurta  
1231 CR 201A, Angleton, Texas 77515  
Email: cmhurta@earthlink.net  
979-849-0348

Please DO NOT send original photos. However, unless otherwise stated by you, copies of photos will be returned once the project is complete and the book has gone to the printer for publishing.

**Submission Deadline: January 28, 2017**

The Czech Wedding Album is scheduled to be published late 2017.

*TCGS*  
*15th Anniversary*  
*Czech Gems and Treasures*



*Thank you so very much for honoring me with the President's Award at the TCGS annual meeting in January. I was totally surprised and completely overwhelmed when my name was called. I don't feel that my work and contributions have been any greater than those of the others who put their hearts and souls into volunteering with our organization. In fact, without the help of several others who volunteer in the gift shop, who help with transporting sales items to and from our events, and who keep track of our inventory, my work would be much less deserving of an award.*

After my retirement from a 32 year career in the ceramic tile industry, I knew that, while I was looking forward to working on a stack of things that had been put "on the shelf" during my working years, and even though I had three grandchildren whom I would have more time for, I would need something more to keep me energized. My good friend, Bennie Stasny, suggested that Darwin and I attend a meeting of a new organization, The Texas Czech Genealogical Society, that would take place in the near future in Bryan, Texas. We decided to go, and I was very impressed with the people who were working together so cohesively to stage this event. I realized that only a very few people were carrying a great load to accomplish all that they did. I decided that I would make time to help them so I began helping at the sales table during our events. I loved this job because I got to know many of our members whom I now look forward to seeing and reconnecting with at every event, as well as meeting new "cousins". It was about the time that I began to realize that volunteering with TCGS was fun!

During work on Czech Family Histories, Volumes 1 and 2, I was asked to help with editing. The completion of this huge project, gave me a tremendous feeling of accomplishment because I felt that I had personally contributed something to getting the job done. That same feeling overcomes me now after each even or project that I work on. I truly gain much more than I give. I encourage all our members to experience this same satisfaction of accomplishment by volunteering in some capacity for the various jobs where help is sorely needed.

Charlene, to you and whomever chose me for the President's Award, **I Thank You So Much!** I am very proud of having been chosen and I will try to continue helping and representing our organization, to the best of my ability, as we move forward in the days and years ahead because I truly believe in TCGS and its goal of helping Czechs discover their Czech family history.

Sincerely, Nancy Machu



*Charlene Hurta with award winners L to R: President's Award, Nancy Machu; Member of the Year Award, Leslie Gerik Nelson; Editor's Award, Shirley Ischy; Outstanding Excellence Award, Edwin Hlavaty.*



Kovanda Band



Thank you for everything today. I am blessed to be part of such a great organization. I had so much fun at my first event.  
Thanks again, Leslie Gerik Nelson

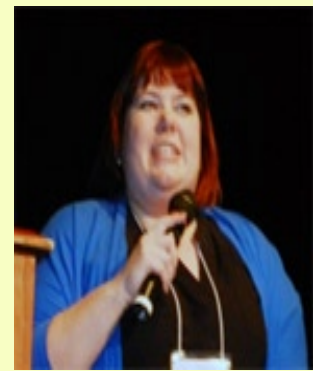


Silent Auction



Congratulations to the Texas Czech Genealogical Society for fifteen wonderful years! The anniversary meeting at Caldwell was fantastic. I want to thank Charlene Hurta and any others who were involved in blessing me with the Editor's Award at the meeting. I was shocked and greatly appreciate the honor.

Thank you again, Shirley Sralla Ischy



Speakers L to R: Frank Kalbac; Jana Vaculik Riley, Laura Duskocil; Leslie Gerik Nelson



Setting up for an event is a two-day process; but while it is a lot of work, we manage to have fun. For the Czech Gems and Treasures event, we were surprised and entertained by Henry Holub playing his accordion; and enjoyed delicious homemade chicken soup, and chicken salad sandwiches with all the trimmings prepared by Mary Ann Gantt.



Czech Gems and Treasures event photos by Frank Kalbac and Darwin Machu



# TCGS Members Shine



*Friends of the SPJST Library Team members continue to inventory books. A slow process but because of the faithfulness of a few, the inventory is now about three quarters complete. L to R: Irene Marek, Dolores Skrabanek, Janet Kasner and Jim Hejl. Merlene Bravenec not shown.*



*TCGS Stopy team member, Marjorie Kultgen (right), began a Czech Special Interest Group with the Central Texas Genealogical Society in Waco. Available to help Inez Adair, also a TCGS member, while they researched in the TCGS Library in Temple was Arnold Pechal (above).*



*On Sunday, January 24, 2015, the Temple Daily Telegram carried an indepth interview with our own 102-year-old Lifetime member, Jim Hejl. The newspaper actually carried two articles, one on page 1E, and the second on page 6E. Temple Daily Telegram writer, Patricia Benoit, focused on Mr. Hejl following his Czech heritage footprints through genealogy and also how, having celebrated his 102nd birthday, still volunteered to preserve every thing Czech. Above, Mr. Hejl, Merlene Bravenec in the background, and Irene Marek to the right, showed and told Ms. Benoit some of the wonders being preserved through books and recording family genealogy.*

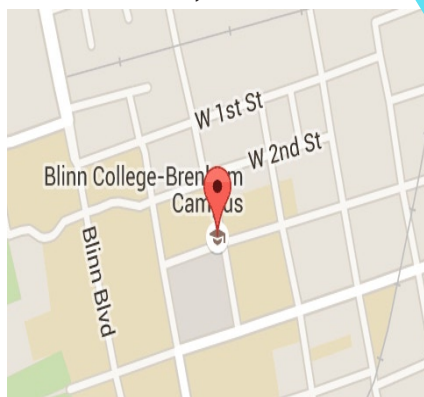




# Czech Family Research Building Blocks

**April 16, 2016**

Brenham Campus Student Center  
Blinn College  
Brenham, Texas



**100+  
Czech  
Pioneers  
Photo  
Display**

## Registration and AM Refreshments

**8:00 AM**

**Program**

**9:00 - 4:00**

### Menu

Chicken Fried Steak  
New Potatoes \* Green Beans  
Garden Salad  
Peach Cobbler  
Tea Coffee

## Czech Veterans' Military Display

### Registration Fees:

Before April 1, 2016:  
TCGS Members - \$35; Non-Members - \$40

After April 1, 2016:  
TCGS Members - \$40; Non-Members - \$45

At Door (All) - \$50



**Ken Breaux**  
Known Only To God



**Judge Ed Janecka**  
Dubina Czech  
Schools



**David Chroust**  
Where Can Genealogy Lead?  
Looking Outward and Onward  
From Our Lineages



**Karen Locher**  
Indianola, Mighty Port  
to Ghost Town



**Angelina Kretzschmar**  
Orphan Train Riders  
Adopted by Texas Czechs  
Update

Send Registration Form To:  
Patsy Robertson  
PO Box 1, Sheridan, TX 77475  
979.234.3697 - probert420@aol.com

**Sales  
Table**

**Silent  
Auction**

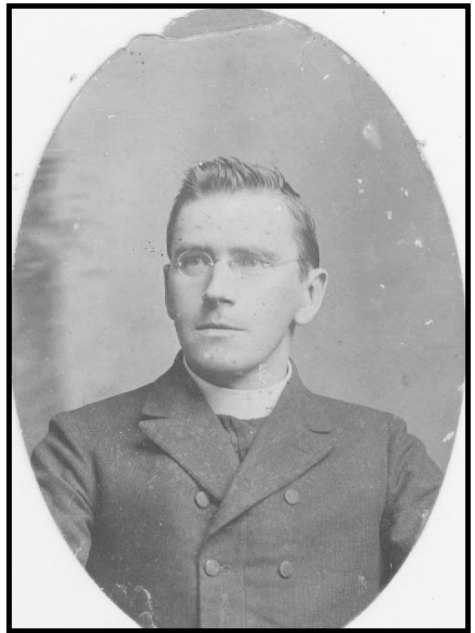


## Partially Unknown Photo Now Identified

In the winter 2015 issue of the *Ceske Stopy*, the photo to the right was listed as a “Partially Unknown Photo”. Almost immediately upon the issue reaching our membership, “Partially Unknown,” with only “Vanicek” listed on the back of the photo, full information became known.

**TCGS Member, Hank Naizer, writes:**

The following biography of Rt. Reverend Monsignor Jan Vaniček was translated from *Naši Dějiny* which was published in 1938 by Nasinec Publishing Co. in Granger, Texas. This book documents the historical founding of Catholic parishes throughout Texas through that year. Additional information was added from the centennial booklet - *A Century of Catholic Service 1891- 1991 of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Granger.*



§

Father Vanicek was born on April 24, 1874 in the village of Bystrice u Lanskrouma,. He attended the seminary at Hradci Karlove and was ordained a priest by Bishop Eduard Brynychem on July 25, 1897. Following his ordination he was assigned to these parishes - Klasterci, Karlove Dvore and Horicich. He then took leave to attend the university in Prague where he studied under Professors Masaryk, Drtin, Pekar, Hostinske and others.

In 1907 he immigrated to the U.S. to serve the Czech Catholic parish in Vesleyville, North Dakota. Because of his health and the severe climate condition in this state his physician recommended that he move to a more warmer climate. Father Vanicek contacted the bishop of Galveston and was accepted into the diocese and was assigned to the Catholic parish at Fayetteville on March 21, 1911 following the death of Father Chromcik. During his time at St. John the Baptist he guided the construction of a new church building to replace the initial 38 feet wide x 68 feet long x 18 feet high building that was originally blessed in 1872. The new Church was concentrated by the Bishop in the spring of 1912. A new school was built in 1915. He served the people of Fayetteville until April 1927 when he was assigned to Granger’s Sts. Cyril and Methodius parish.

The Granger parish grew both in number and facilities under Father Vanicek’s leadership. A new rectory was built. Then in 1947 a new brick school replaced the wooden structure. The school and students were very dear to him. He was a familiar figure as he made his daily rounds, often teaching the older children their Catechism in the Czech language. On the last day of school and on other special occasion, Father Vanicek would arrange for soda water, ice cream cups with the little wooden spoon or other treats for the children.

In 1942 he was named Dean of the Austin District of the Galveston Diocese. The following year he was elevated to rank of Papal Chamberlain with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. He served as Dean of the Granger Deanery for almost twenty years. In 1959 the parish had need for a facility to accommodate the parish population which resulted in the new Recreation Center being built. Up to this time the parish picnics were held in the pecan grove of the Cavanaugh family a couple miles from town. In 1961 under Monsignor Vanicek’s guidance the parishioners built a new brick Convent for the Sisters of the Divine Providence who had been serving the parish since 1901.

Monsignor died on October 26, 1962 and is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery in Granger.

Author’s note: I had the privilege to have been a student at Sts. Cyril and Methodius from 1941 to 1948 and served as altar boy for Monsignor at Holy Mass when I became old enough. During this time period his vehicle was a Hudson Terraplane in which we would ride to the cemetery for the burial rites of a parish member. He always spoke Czech and I still remember his long sermons, oh, how we kids would squirm in our pews. Our religion classes were taught by Monsignor from the Czech Katechismus.

He was a frequent Sunday dinner guest at many parishioners' homes including my grandparents John and Marcellina Naizer. I still remember the day it was announced that the Pope had bestowed the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. My classmates and I were at a Cub Scout meeting upstairs in the school when one of the Sisters came and told us of the news. Naturally at that age we asked "What does a Monsignor do?" He was a dedicated priest and guided our parish well.

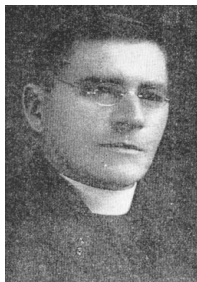
**TCGS Member, Carolyn Heinsohn, writes:**

The person in the partially unknown photo on p. 43 in the last *Ceske Stopy* is Rt. Rev. Monsignor John J. Vanicek, born in Bystrice near Lanskrone, Bohemia on March 24, 1874. He was ordained a priest on July 25, 1897 and served as an assistant and catechist at several places in Bohemia before doing post graduate courses in Prague. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1907 and was first appointed for a short while to a parish in Veseleyville, North Dakota. Due to health reasons and the extreme cold weather, he was re-appointed to assist Rev. Josef Chromcik with the parishes at Fayetteville and Hostyn Hill near Ellinger. His main effort was to get parishioners to become members of Catholic societies. Rev. Vanicek returned to visit his homeland in 1915 and 1926 (I have a postcard with a scene of Hostyn, Moravia sent by him in 1915 from Moravia to my great-grandfather, Wilhelm Hoelscher, who was a member of Hostyn Hill near Ellinger).


In 1927, Rev. Vanicek was appointed pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Granger. He was the State Chaplain of the KJZT from 1923 to 1941 and was also the director of the "Nasinec Publishing Co." in Granger, contributing religious columns. He never retired from parish work until his death on October 26, 1962. He's buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery in Granger.

**TCGS Lifetime Member, Robert Janak, writes:**

I believe the unidentified photo on page 43 of the *Ceske Stopy* is Father John Vanicek from Granger. His picture is on page 193 of the old book, *Nase Dejiny*.



**TCGS Lifetime Member, Arnold Pechal**

also confirmed the photo as being that of Father John Vanicek from Granger and submitted the photo to the left as well which was taken from the book, *Short Biographies of Czech and Other Priests in Texas*". 

*Thank you TCGS members. We send gold stars to each of you.*



**Books Added to Our Research Library**



freedigitalphotos.net *Klesel Bina Family*

Donated by Frankie Kubicek

*Memorial Book and Recipes  
Czech Catholic Home for the Aged, Inc.*  
Donated by Edith Molberg

*Unity of the Brethren in Texas (1855 - 1966)*  
Donated by Joyce Baletka

*Quo Vadis  
Roman Z Doby Neronovy*  
Donated by John Gantt

freedigitalphotos.net

*Kristofuv Sary Flasinet*  
Donated by John Gantt

*Saving Family Memories*  
Donated by John Stasny

2002 *Vestnik* Publications  
Donated by Robert and La Verne Knezek

Misc. Copies of *Ceske Stopy, Nase rodina, Morava  
Krasna, Cesky Hlas and Nas Cesky Zivot Publications*  
Donated by Mary Jane Heard

# Then and Now

## An Essay

My middle-aged son recently flew 18 hours for a first-time visit to the Czech Republic. While there, he called to say, "I am in the land of your grandfather and my great-grandfather!" We were able not only to converse with one another across the miles between "Cechy" and Texas, but also to *see* one another on the phone screens. What miracles of technology have taken place in a century of time!

Rewind back with me over that century to the year 1901, and to a scene in a railroad station in the small Czech town of Otrakovyce where a family of six has recently arrived by wagon from Bohuslavice, their hometown for several generations. Standing anxiously by trunks and bags, they wait to board first the train that will go through Prague to Bremen, Germany, a distance of over 500 miles, and then a steamship, the *Norderney*, which will go more than 6,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean to the Port of Galveston in America. The tearful grandmother who came along to see them off on their journey hugs each one in turn: her daughter, Antonie, and son-in-law, Josef Balajka, then her three grandsons, Frantisek, 17, Ignac, 11, and Alois, 2, and finally the baby, Josefa, not quite 6 months old.

Having hugged each one, she suddenly starts around the circle again, clinging tightly to each one, but too choked up to speak. No need for words, anyway; everything that must be said has already been said, many times over, in the months and weeks that led up to this pivotal day. Her son-in-law, Josef, has talked for years of this possibility and, finally, this is the moment when her young family will leave for America, and she will never see, or touch, or hear the voices of any of them again.

It had been an agonizing decision, yet there was no other choice. Austrian rule of their homeland was squeezing the life out of the Czech culture, forcing its citizens to speak German instead of Czech, denying them decent jobs or the right to purchase land and, most frightening of all, conscripting their young men into the Austrian army to fight Austrian wars in foreign lands. Young Frantisek, now 17, was in line for that conscription; they could delay no longer.

Josef's two oldest children were already in America. Anna, energetic, impetuous, and independent, had grown up hearing tales of friends and neighbors who had immigrated to America where land was available, and she

had often sung the popular song, "Beautiful America," which laughs about a place where "beer flows on the floor". When she was 15, the New York reporter, Nellie Bly, made headlines by sailing around the world in 72 days just to prove she could outdo the hero of Jules Verne's novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*. That example of bold adventure pushed Anna's decision to make her own journey, with or without the rest of the family. In 1892, when she turned 18, she sailed alone and settled in the Czech community of Moulton, Texas, where she worked as a mother's helper until she married Josef Vesselka, bore 10 children, and remained there the rest of her life. Her frequent letters home continually urged others in the family to make the same journey.

Josef's second daughter, Mary, not being as bold by nature as Anna, was contented to live at home. Eight years passed, during which time Anna and Josef's farm in America prospered and they had their first three children. When Mary married Alois Hlozek in 1900, Anna and Josef offered passage to America for the newlyweds and a place to stay and work with them on the farm for as long as needed. Mary was 6 months pregnant in September, 1900, when she and Alois sailed from Bremen on the ship, *Borkum*. After 32 days at sea, they landed in Galveston, Texas, which was in chaos from the hurricane that became known as the "Great Storm" of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It had utterly devastated the city just a month earlier, so their first view of their new country was not a pleasant one. Alois was immediately offered good pay for digging bodies out of the rubble, but they still had traveling to do: 160 miles by train to Flatonia, and another half-day by wagon to reach Anna's house near Moulton. They boarded the train as quickly as possible. In the end, there was a joyful reunion for the two sisters, and Mary and Alois soon settled nearby on a farm of their own, eventually raising six children.


It was the following July, 1901, that the rest of Josef Balajka's family was gathered in the train station for the journey that would unite them with Anna and Mary in America. They were excited about moving to a place that had provided a good life for the first two daughters. And they were ecstatic about the prospect of seeing for the first time the five grandchildren that had been born in America. But the primary emotion was one of relief at their escape from the Austrian rule. The oldest son, Frantisek, was now at the age when all young men were

drafted into military service, and that was the deciding fact above all others that caused them to go forward at this time. They were determined to protect Frantisek and his two younger brothers from that unnecessary danger.

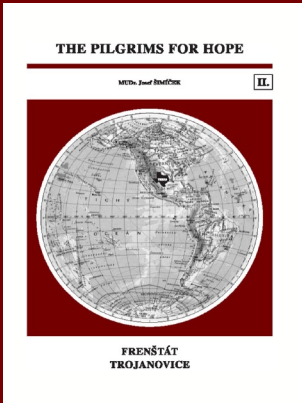
So, Grandmother Vyoral understood, and even agreed with their reasons for leaving, but it did not ease the parting. Some immigrants of that era were able to make return visits to the homeland, but she knew this would not happen with her family. They were only a modest farm family, after all, and would live in moderate comfort in the new land, but there would be no surplus for unnecessary overseas trips. This would be, she knew with certainty, her last time to see her daughter, her grandsons, and her precious grandbaby. In addition to being saddened by the separation, she was also fearful for their safety, and had voiced her concern that the baby might not survive the difficult sea voyage. During the weeks that passed until a letter could make its way back to her, she could only wait and wonder.

What a blessing today's technology would have been to all those early families who endured such separations. And how much easier an 18-hour flight would have been for the travelers than a difficult month by sea, followed by train and wagon journeys to their final destination. Today's "miracles" of communication and travel make our lives much simpler, and they also highlight the strength and courage of those who sought a better life for the rest of us in spite of the dangers and deprivations of their time.

As the years went by, that teenage Frantisek Balajka eventually married Mary Rose Knezek in Moulton, and had a family which continued over the following 100+ years into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The phone call from my son in Cechy this week brought into sharp focus the difficulties my grandfather's family endured in search of freedom and security. And it also elicited from me a deep gratitude for the sacrifices those early relatives made to provide the safe and comfortable life that is now mine to enjoy every day.

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:** The 17-year-old Frantisek in this story was my grandfather. People, places, dates and events are factually substantiated by genealogical research, and from memoirs and oral interviews with the children of Frantisek and his siblings. 

*Submitted by TCGS member, Joan Balajka Painter*



## *Pilgrims For Hope, Volume II*

### *Frenstat - Trojanovice*


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It is probably impossible to count the many Texas Czechs who have ancestral ties to the Czech Republic villages of Frenstat and Trojanovice. Within the pages of the latest Dr. Josef Simicek softbound book published by the Texas Czech Genealogical Society, an untold amount of family research questions can be answered.

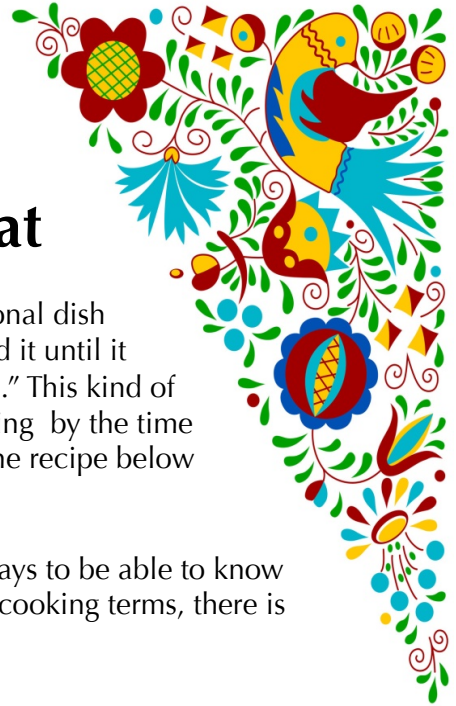
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# Všichni ke Stolu



## A Pinch of This and a Dash of That

Many times I've asked someone about the ingredients for a traditional dish and, after pressing them for exact amounts, gotten the answer "add it until it looks right" or "until the dough chases the spoon around the bowl." This kind of cook has had more experience making kolaches or bread or canning by the time their children left home than I will accumulate in a lifetime. See the recipe below with no measurements at all as an example.

For some recipes, experience, trial and error, really are the only ways to be able to know how much flour or water to use, for example. But for some vague cooking terms, there is guidance. Some common ones are below.

### How much is:

A smidgen – half of a pinch

A pinch – 1/16 teaspoon

A dash – 1/8 teaspoon

A dollop - About a tablespoon

A handful – the exact amount doesn't matter, your handful is as good as any

**How much is a pound** of different ingredients? I found the following information taped to the inside of a copy of a Better Homes and Gardens Cookbook I bought at a thrift store.

Butter – 2 cups

Sugar, confectioner's – 3 1/2 cups

Cornmeal – 3 cups

Sugar, brown – 2 1/2 cups

Raisins – 2 1/4 cups

Rice – 1 7/8 cups

Eggs – 9 large, 10 medium

Oats, rolled – 4 3/4 cups

Flour – 4 cups

Meat, chopped – 2 cups

Lard – 2 cups

### Mary Bolf's Bohemian Sauerkraut

Submitted by former TCGS member Martha Mary Cuba Olis, granddaughter

Use fresh, firm cabbage and pack as soon as prepared. Put finely cut cabbage in a large container such as a crock or a crock bowl. Do not use metal. Add salt to taste and dill seed. (Some use caraway seed or a mixture of both dill and caraway seeds.) Mix well and pack tight in sterilized jars leaving 1/2-inch clearance at the top of jar. Be sure to pack tight. Fill jar with boiling hot water. Seal tight and set aside. Will be ready in 4 or 5 weeks and will keep for years. Note: She said she never had a jar break or explode.

Do you know how to cook traditional Texas Czech dishes? Make it easy on younger cooks who'd like to try a recipe by estimating for them. Comments! Email me at [dawnorsak@gmail.com](mailto:dawnorsak@gmail.com) or call me at 512-825-2249. *Dobrou chut'!* - **Dawn Orsak**

# FIRST YEARS WERE LONELY FOR CZECH IMMIGRANTS

Unlike the unwilling immigrants to this country who fled terrorism and government changes, those who came willingly to the United States seldom regret the loss of their old lives.

Instead, they look at the changes forced on them by a new country and a new life as perhaps the best things that ever happened to them. Except for visits most have no desire to return to their fatherlands.

Two such gentlemen, among the last survivors of the many immigrants from what is not Czechoslovakia who came to Texas and the Corpus Christi area, are Charles Holasek, 78, and Leo Netek, 85. Both came to this country in the first decade of the century and neither has any regrets. They didn't find the golden land they had been led to expect, and the first years for both were hard and lonely.

When Holasek arrived in Fort Worth in 1909, at the age of 17, he had just completed a fine European education with emphasis on the classics for he had intended to enter a university. The grade cards from those years, showing the excellent marks he made, are still among his treasures.

But at age 17, the lure of the money his father was sending back to Moravia – “it seemed like such a lot of money” – was too great to be ignored. I thought I would come for a few years and add to the amount”. Although his father warned him against coming, and had left Texas for California before the youth arrived, Holasek came anyway.

Through a sister living in Texas, he was introduced to the Czech community here. At first he tried to find a way to put his education to full use, but soon discovered that there just was no way in the new land. So, he became a printer, working for Czech printing shops in Central Texas for seven years.

Eventually he turned to farming, an occupation he followed for 17 years in Hill County and 16 more in Corpus Christi.

Netek also turned to farming as the best way to make a living in the United States, although he had worked as a baker in Zabreh, Moravia. The first three years after his arrival in Williamson County, he “did any kind of work” to make money.

Those were lonely years, for the 18-year-old had no family or friends in this country except for an uncle. Fortunately he spoke fluent German and this led to his acceptance by the German community near Corn Hill.

In 1906 Netek took two important steps – he married one of the girls in the community and he began farming. Nine years later the couple and their six children moved to Corpus Christi.

It was a bad time for farmers in this area. The first year Netek was here he lost his cotton crop to a hurricane. The next year, 1917, was so dry nothing grew, and the young family man had to go to San Antonio to find work.

His 1918 crop was pretty good, but 1919 was a year of disaster for farmers as well as city residents. The entire year was too wet, Netek remembers, and what little crop he had was wiped out by the great hurricane.

The land Netek worked was in the Oso Creek area. Netek still remembers with gratitude the help he received during the bad years before he finally began making a real living from farming.



*Charles Holasek*

Both Netek and Holasek became leaders in Czech organizations in Corpus Christi. Netek belonged to Moravian Hall, which was built by the settlers as a place for church and social functions, and was among those who built the building. He was president of the organization many years and still attends meetings and socials.

Holasek joined Sokol, a Czech fraternal, physical and educational society, in Hallettsville only a month after arriving in this country and has been a member ever since. He was a state director of the Supreme Lodge Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas for 20 years and also served as state president of the Slavonic Mutual Fire Insurance Association.


Two years ago he went to Washington, D.C. for his national observance of Czech Day and to protest the Soviet 1968 intervention in Czechoslovakia.

Although the easy money they dreamed of was not forthcoming, the American offer of freedom of thought and action proved much more valuable to both men. They have visited Czechoslovakia since the communist takeover, and felt the oppressive rule under which their former countrymen now live.

As Netek said, "We all liked it when we came here. / There is so much more opportunity and so much more freedom".

Still they are pleased that their children and grandchildren and those of other immigrants are keeping many of the old traditions alive, that the country of national origin is still remembered.

"Customs and groups such as Sokol should be kept going," Holasek said. "All traditions brought something good to American life and made it what it is today".

(The above clipping is from the December 7 issue of *The Corpus Christi Caller-Times* and was sent in by Roy E. Hranicky.) 

Source: The *Vestnik*, Volume 58, Number 50, Wednesday, December 16, 1970, Pages 4 and 5.

## An Absolute Requirement in Factories Where Work is Done With Gold

**Editor's Note:** TCGS member, Allen Martinets, shares another article found while researching. It proves another occupational impediment for our early Czech immigrants who came to the U.S.

Light suits of clothes are not favored in factories where work is done on gold. In fact, in many such factories, a dark suit of clothes is absolutely required and even a light waistcoat may lose a man a job. The reason for this is that any stray grains of gold that may get on the clothing can easily be caught on a dark suit, while they might get away from the establishment if light clothes were worn.

That such a rule was enforced among gold workers one was when one man learned recently when a Bohemian gold beater applied to him for a helping hand. The Bohemian said that he had only recently come to this country; that he had had a chance to obtain a good job at his trade, but that the job had been refused him because he turned up with a light coat and waistcoat on, and they were the only clothes he had.

The man whom he approached was struck by the story and offered to help him out if it proved true. He went to a downtown factory with him and found out that the man could have the job if he presented himself within an hour with the proper clothes on. Two dollars enabled the man to rig himself out in the dark coat and waistcoat to go with his dark trousers, and sure enough, he got the job.

"You may think this strange," said the man at the factory, "but it means quite a little to us. Every man's clothing is carefully examined when he leaves here at night, and the gold brushed off whenever we see any on his clothing. It is impossible to hide even tiny grains on the dark background, but take a mixed or a light suit, and we might easily lose quite an amount of gold, and gold isn't anything you want to lose, even in small quantities".<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Texhoma Argus*. (Texhoma, Okla.), Volume 4, Number 20, Ed. 1, Thursday, May 18, 1911. Accessed December 24, 2015



**Are you on Facebook? If so, swing by the TCGS page ([www.facebook.com/TXCZGS](http://www.facebook.com/TXCZGS)) and "Czech" out some of our new features including Stopy Sundays, Music Mondays, Tip Tuesdays, and Food Fridays. We also will feature fun pictures and articles from years past on Throwback Thursdays. Invite your friends and family to join and interact with the page so that we can extend our reach to many more around the world!**



## Newly Found Old Photos

*Submitted by TCGS Lifetime member, Richard Lesikar*



**Divis Orchestra - 1940**

*Left to Right: Ed Reznicek, Emil J. Divis, Jr., Frank D. Mikeska, Jr., Jerry F. Divis, John J. Hruska, George Divis, Edward W. Schneider, John H. Divis*



*Jiri and Marie Bravenec  
1915*



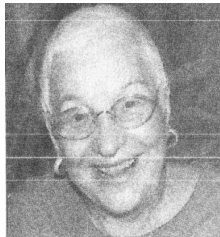
**Thompson Czech  
School - 1934  
Temple, Texas**

*Back Row: Lillian Pomykal,  
Vlasta Mikeska,  
Erma Marek, Bessie Jezek,  
Wilma Marek, Willie Marek,  
Willie Kohutek, Jerry Bartek,  
Edwin Vasek*

*Front Row: Evelyn Motl,  
Henrietta Matous ,  
Lydia Marek, Minnie Jezek,  
Lillian Motl, Adolf Marek,  
Walter Pomykal,  
William Matous,*

*Teacher: Charles W. Hutka*

*Members of TCGS Extend Our  
Deepest Sympathy to the  
Family and Friends of:*



**Gladys Bravenec Howard**

A service honoring the life of Gladys Bravenec Howard was held at the First Christian Church, Tyler, on Friday, October 9, 2015. Gladys passed away October 3, 2015 in Tyler following a four-year battle with cancer.

Gladys was born August 9, 1932, in Temple. She graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 1957 with a degree in home economics. She began a career as a clothes buyer for Foley's Department Store in Houston. On September 7, 1957, she married Anthony Edison Fox Howard. After the birth of a daughter, Susan, Anthony and Gladys settled in Tyler.

With a passion and devotion to cooking, she was one of the first 10 founding members of the Les Dames d'Escoffier International (Dallas Chapter). She was the recipe editor for the cookbook "Cook 'em Horns," done for the University of Texas Centennial, for which she won an Addy Award. She also wrote "Cookin' Little Cayman" and "Cookin' with the Chefs in Little Cayman". She studied at Le Cordon Bleu and La Varenne, and cooked with Julia Child, Jacques Pepin, James Beard and others.

Gladys operated an international cooking school and gourmet catering service in Tyler for 20 years and filmed cooking demonstrations for a local TV show. In 1986, she purchased Pirates Point Resort in Little Cayman. With hard work, she developed it into a world-class dive resort, now listed in the publication "1000 Places to See Before You Die".

With her passion for ecology, she traveled with five Earth Watch study groups to China, Bonaire, Fiji and South America; and shared her love of flowers in serving with Tyler's Azalea Garden Club. Gladys served as president of the American Association of University Women (Tyler Chapter), for which she was a Named Gift recipient. The Gladys B. Howard Endowment was established in her name, providing stipends for women to use for higher education for re-entering the job market.


Gladys was instrumental in building the National Trust Home on Little Cayman, a Ramsar Site 1995, which contains 400 acres of land, housing the largest colony of Red Footed Boobies in the Western Hemisphere; and was responsible for designing and raising the finance for the House. In observance of Queen Elizabeth's 76's birthday, Gladys was awarded the Certificate and Badge of Honor (Cert. Hon.) for services to conservation and tourism on Little Cayman. The investiture was conducted in 2003 by HRH Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex and the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth.

She was the recipient of The Yellow Rose of Texas, by then Governor Ann Richards, an award to native-born Texas women who have achieved their goal and contributed to society. She was honored with the Cayman Islands Stingray Tourism Award for Long Term Service in 2008 and in 2012 for Lifetime Achievement Award. In July 2015, the National Trust honored Gladys by naming the community center the "Gladys Bravenec Howard National Trust House," and was also inducted into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame on October 2, 2015.

Gladys is survived by her daughter, Susan Howard and her wife, Theresa McDonald; her granddaughter, Antonia; her brothers, Anton Bravenec and his wife Merlene, Edward Bravenec; sister, Nelda Roessler and her husband Buddy; along with nieces and nephews and friends who feel like family from all around the world.

Gladys' life was best summed up in Erma Bombeck's quote, "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would have not a single bit of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me".

She was truly – a World Traveler, Gourmet Chef, Award-Winning Author, Conservationist, Worldwide Scuba Diver, TRUE FRIEND and GENEROUS INDIVIDUAL HELPER to many – SHE WILL BE MISSED HERE, BUT WITH HER HEART OF “GOLD” SHE WILL BE AN ASSET TO HEAVEN!!!

In lieu of flowers, please make any donations to her beloved Little Cayman National Trust or the Tyler AAUW 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary American Fellowship Endowment, AAUW Tyler, PO Box 7171, Tyler 75711.<sup>1</sup> 

*Gladys was the sister of TCGS member Anton Bravenec, and sister-in-law of TCGS Lifetime member and Membership Chair, Merlene Bravenec, and sister of TCGS member, Nelda Roessler.*


<sup>1</sup> *Tyler Morning Telegraph, Thursday, October 8, 2015*

## Steven Mark Kosarek

Steven Mark Kosarek, 55, passed away Tuesday, October 6, 2015, following a stroke and massive heart attack. Memorial service of rosary was at 10 a.m. on Friday, October 16, 2015, with Mass following at 10:30 a.m. at the St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church with interment of ashes in the Cremains Garden. Steve was born on October 2, 1960, in Arlington, Texas, to Charles and Lillie Jean (Vrla) Kosarek, being the youngest of four brothers.



Steven graduated from Nolan Catholic High School and The University of Texas at Arlington with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Steve enjoyed gardening and sharing his harvest with family and friends. He enjoyed taking his nieces and nephews on long walks in the neighborhood and playing board games with them. He enjoyed fishing, reading and was an accomplished baker of kolaches and strudel. He will be missed by all. Steve was preceded in death by his father, Charles F. Kosarek, in 2001.

Survivors include his mother, Lillie J. Kosarek and brothers, Bill of North Richland Hills, Mike and wife Mari of Arlington, John David and wife Pam of Waco, eight nieces and nephews and two great-nieces. 

*Steve was the son of TCGS member Lillie Kosarek and the nephew of TCGS Lifetime member Libbie Vrla.*

## Emilie Frances Sralla



Emilie Frances Sralla of Granger, Texas was born on March 7, 1944 in Cameron, Texas. Emilie died peacefully on December 8, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas at the home of her niece, Jan Ischy Prins.

Emilie graduated from Georgetown High School in 1962. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from Southwestern University with a minor in art. Emilie served the Sundown I.S.D., the Marble Falls I.S.D., and the Granger I.S.D. before retiring in Granger after more than forty years of teaching, thirty of those with Granger I.S.D. Emilie was particularly interested in teaching reading.

Emilie was baptized a Christian in the Czech Moravian Brethren Church. She was a member of the Texas State Teachers' Association, the Delta Cappa Gamma teachers' sorority in Marble Falls, the Williamson County Retired Teachers' Association, and the Texas Czech Genealogical Society. Emilie especially enjoyed trips to the Texas Coast, including to the Galvez Hotel in Galveston, the Luther Hotel in Palacios, Corpus Christi, and to South Padre Island. Emilie also enjoyed the Johnson Ranch at Johnson City, Texas, and she had fond memories of attending the 1968 HemisFair World Fair in San Antonio. As a young woman, Emilie would bedazzle her niece with her ability to do a headstand. She was an artist and created her own cartoon strip. In her later years, Emilie loved sitting with her dog in her backyard.

Emilie was a strong, independent woman who courageously fought advanced breast cancer and pulmonary fibrosis. Emilie was first diagnosed with cancer over ten years ago when the ten year survival rate for Emilie's cancer alone was less than two percent.

Emilie was predeceased by her mother, Emilie Aloise "Millie" Machu Sralla, her father, Clifton Frank Sralla, Sr., and her brother, Clifton Frank Sralla, Jr. Survivors include Emilie's sister, Shirley Sralla Ischy, niece Jan Ischy Prins

and her husband, Colonel Richard E. Prins (USAF Ret.), three step-great nieces, one step-great nephew in-law and one great, great step-nephew.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Emilie's memory to the Granger Czech Moravian Brethren Church Steeple Fund, Central Texas Feline Rescue or San Antonio Meals on Wheels.

Funeral services were held in Taylor, Texas at Providence Funeral Home on Sunday, December 13, at 2:00 p.m. Burial followed at the Weir Cemetery with dinner at the Czech Moravian Brethren Church Fellowship Hall in Granger.

Emilie is deeply missed by her family. 

*Emilie was the sister of TCGS member Shirley Srala Ischy, the aunt of TCGS member Jan Ischy Prins; and first cousin, once removed, of TCGS Lifetime member Darwin Machu.*

## Index

### A

Abshier  
Sandra 28  
Adair  
Inez 3, 32  
Adamek  
John 21  
Allen  
Dorothy Cernosek 26  
Anders  
Ella 26  
Arnold  
Pamela M. 28

### B

Baca  
Leo 28  
Balajka  
Alois 36  
Anna 36  
Antonie 36  
Frantisek 36, 37  
Ignac 36  
Joan 3, 37  
Josef 36  
Josefa 36  
Mary 36  
Baletka  
Joyce 35  
Baranowski  
Mary Francis 27  
Bartek  
Jerry 41  
Barton  
Sara 25  
Bartos  
Catherine Syrinek 26  
Bartosh  
Lawrence 26  
Beard  
James 42  
Belicek  
Helen 28  
Bena  
Curtis Louis 28  
Bennett  
Mary Frances 28  
Benoit

Patricia 32  
Bezdek  
Frances Ann 26  
Lillian 7  
Bina  
Klesel 35  
Black  
Shirley Temple 14  
Blaha  
Milady 24  
Blaha, Sr.  
Albert 24  
Blazek  
Joe 21  
Bly  
Nellie 36  
Bohacek  
Edward J. 26  
Bombeck  
Erma 42  
Borden  
Mildred Dziadek 28  
Braton  
Katerina 29  
Bravenec  
A. 21  
Anton 42, 43  
Edward 42  
Gladys 2, 42  
J. 21  
Jiri 41  
Julia 25  
Marie 41  
Merlene 2, 3, 27, 28,  
32, 42, 43, 47  
Breaux  
Ken 33  
Brincefield  
Carroll 28  
Brynychem  
Bishop Eduard 34  
Budnik  
Albert Schiller 26  
Lydia "Cookie" 26  
Burge  
Anezka 28

### C

Carnes  
Phyllis 28  
Cepak  
Charlie Joseph 19

John V. 19  
Mrs. John V. 19  
Cepek  
Charlie J. 2  
Cernoch  
Katherine 27  
Cernosek  
Dorothy 26  
Katharine 26  
Chaison  
Mignonne 25  
Child  
Julia 42  
Childs  
Chuck 17  
Christ  
Mary Jackson 26  
Chromcik  
Father 34  
Rev. Josef 35  
Chroust  
David 33  
Chudej  
F. W. 20, 21  
Chupik  
J. H. 21  
Chvatal  
Leland 28  
Colwell  
Lee 3, 16, 17, 18  
Coufal  
David 28  
Cuba  
Martha Mary 38

### D

Danek  
Jan 28  
David  
Agnes Josephine 27  
Davis  
Dotty 27  
Deutschova  
Henena 13  
Dickinson  
Loy 17  
Divis 41  
Emil J., Jr. 41  
George 41  
Jerry F. 41  
John H. 41

Dobecka  
Cecil 27  
Dorgan  
Francis 27  
Dorskocil  
Janet 28  
Laura 31  
Dostalova  
Hana 27  
Droz  
Charlotta Marie "Lot-  
tie" Krutilek 26  
Drtin  
Professor 34  
Duge  
S. A. 23  
Dukatnik  
J. R. 21  
Dusek  
J. D. 21  
John 25  
Joseph Frank 26  
Julia Mary Mican  
Janik 26  
Ruby 25  
Dvorak  
Jan 24  
Dziadek  
Mildred 28

### E

Edward  
Prince 42  
Ehrenberger 19  
Ardis Joyce 19, 28  
Frantiska Martinkova  
19  
Jos. 19  
Josef 19, 28  
Joyce 3  
William 19  
Elizabeth  
Queen 42

### F

Faraizl  
Carole 28  
Ray 28  
Fojtik  
Beatrice 26  
Forrest  
Cecilia 28

Fowler  
Patricia Trojacek 28  
Frank  
Gladys 28  
Freeman  
Marion 28  
Fuller  
Patsy 28

### G

Gallia  
Joe 26  
Mary 26  
Gantt  
John 27, 35  
John R. 28  
Mary Ann 27, 31  
Rev. John 2, 47  
Gavenda  
David 28  
Genzer  
Theresia 26  
Gerick  
James 28  
Oralee F. 28  
Gerik  
Leslie 2, 27, 30, 31,  
47

Gilbert  
Paula Musil 28  
Goebles  
Father 22  
Grygar  
Clara 26  
Jno. 21

### H

Haisler  
Delores 28  
Walter 28  
Halencak  
Daryl 28  
Hanua  
Charles E. 22  
Havel  
Amelia 26  
Edward 26  
President Vaclav 8, 14  
William 26  
Heard  
Mary Jane 35  
Heinsohn

- Carolyn 3, 35  
 Hejl 11  
 Charles M. "Mike" 28  
 Edmond 24  
 Esther 24  
 James 3, 24  
 James L. "Jim" 28  
 Jim 32  
 J. J. 21  
 John 28  
 J. W. 21  
 Milady Blaha 24  
 Pat 2  
 V. F. 21  
 Henderson  
 Alice Elizabeth "Ella"  
 26  
 Hlavaty  
 Edwin 2, 27, 30, 47  
 Edwin L. 28  
 Hlavenka  
 David 28  
 Hlozek  
 Alois 36  
 Mary 36  
 Hluchanek  
 Clotilda Jalufka 26  
 Hodon  
 Bill 2, 28, 47  
 Deane 2, 27, 37, 47  
 Hoelscher  
 Wilhelm 35  
 Holasek 39, 40  
 Charles 39  
 Holesovsky  
 Christina 26  
 William 26  
 Hollas  
 James 2  
 Holub  
 Carolyn 27, 28  
 Henry 27, 28, 31  
 Holubec  
 Henry 27, 28  
 Nancy 27, 28  
 Ronnie 28  
 Holy, M.D.  
 Michael A. 24  
 Horak  
 Edward Clarence 26  
 Kathy 28  
 Horcica  
 Ronnie 24, 28  
 Hosek  
 David 24  
 Mary 24  
 Nancy Lynn 28  
 Hostinske  
 Professor 34  
 Howard  
 Anthony Edison Fox  
 42  
 Antonia 42  
 Gladys B. 42  
 Gladys Bravenec 2,  
 42  
 Susan 42  
 Hrachovy 26
- Hranicky  
 Roy E. 40  
 Hrbacek  
 Frances Ann Bezdek  
 26  
 Philip F. 26  
 Hrnecir  
 Janice 16  
 J. G. 16  
 Hrnecirik  
 Tom 28  
 Hruby  
 Elizabeth "Bettie"  
 Jeske 26  
 Henry J. 26  
 Hruska,  
 John J. 41  
 Hudec  
 A. 21  
 Helen Keifer 26  
 Hunka  
 Joe 21  
 Hurta  
 Charlene 2, 3, 18, 22,  
 27, 28, 29, 30,  
 31, 47  
 Leroy 2, 3, 28  
 Hutka  
 Charles W. 41
- I**  
 Ischy  
 Jan 24, 43, 44  
 Shirley 30  
 Shirley Sralla 31,  
 43, 44
- J**  
 Jackson  
 Mary 26  
 Jalufka  
 Clotilda 26  
 Lana 26  
 Lanie 26  
 Janak  
 Robert 3, 28, 35  
 Janca  
 Dorothy 28  
 Jancha  
 Angelina 22  
 Janecka  
 Judge Ed 33  
 Janda  
 John J. 26  
 Minnie Mary 26  
 Theresia Genzer 36  
 Vaclav 26  
 Janik  
 Alma Christine 26  
 Julia Mary 26  
 Jares  
 Steve 28  
 Jeske  
 Elizabeth "Bettie" 26  
 Jez  
 Evelyn 28  
 Jezek
- Bessie 41  
 Minnie 41  
 Juenger  
 Alphonse William 26  
 Jurecka  
 Ann 27, 28
- K**  
 Kainer 27  
 John 26  
 Kalbac  
 Carol 15  
 Frank 2, 15, 28, 31,  
 47  
 Kalenda  
 Charles 21  
 Kallus  
 Rita 26  
 Rudolph Joe 26  
 Kamas  
 J. H. 21  
 T. 21  
 Kaminski  
 Dorothy 24  
 Edward 24  
 Kasner  
 Janet 3, 32  
 Janet Duskocil 28  
 Kaspar  
 Dorothy 28  
 Karen 28  
 Ted 28  
 Kavajecz  
 Rita Josephine 27  
 Keifer  
 Helen 26  
 Kelenda  
 John 21  
 Kitchen  
 Carol 28  
 Klecka  
 Joe 28  
 Margaret 24, 28  
 Knezek  
 La Verne 2, 28, 35  
 Mary Rose 37  
 Robert 28, 35  
 Koctar  
 R. 21  
 Kocurek  
 Arthur 28  
 Ed 2  
 Kohout  
 David 8, 14  
 Kohutek  
 Willie 41  
 Konarik  
 Debbie 27  
 Phil 27  
 Kořarik  
 Josef 10  
 Konvicka  
 Cecilia Wilson 26  
 Kopecky  
 Felix Anthony 26  
 Rita T. 26  
 Kopecky, Sr.  
 Fred Frank 26
- Kosarek  
 Bill 43  
 Charles 43  
 Charles F. 43  
 John David 43  
 Lillie J. 43  
 Lillie Jean Vrla 43  
 Mari 43  
 Mike 43  
 Pam 43  
 Steven Mark 2, 43  
 Koudelka  
 Liba 32  
 Mirek 15  
 Miroslav 3, 8, 9, 10,  
 11, 12, 13, 14,  
 28, 32  
 Koudelka  
 Dr. Miroslav 15  
 Koudelkova  
 Hana 13  
 Kovanda 31  
 Kovar  
 Bob 27  
 Kay Lynn 28  
 Robert 28  
 Krahulik  
 K. 21  
 Krampota  
 Jerry 27, 28  
 Peggy 27  
 Krenek  
 Cynthia 28  
 Veronica 26  
 Kretzschmar  
 Angelina 2, 3, 27, 33  
 Krupka  
 A. 21  
 Krutilek  
 Charlotta Marie "Lot-  
 tie" 26  
 Kubicek  
 Frankie 35  
 Kultgen  
 Marjorie 2, 3, 32, 47  
 Kututa  
 Fr. 21
- L**  
 Leshikar  
 Danny 2, 28, 47  
 Howard 28  
 Lesikar  
 Frank 21  
 Phyllis Carnes 28  
 Richard 3, 41  
 Richard Lynn 28  
 Leskovjan  
 Josef 10  
 Lidiak  
 Viola Stavinoha 26  
 Ligoocky  
 George 28  
 Lindeman  
 Geraldine 27  
 Lindsey  
 Willie Mae 28  
 Lingberg
- Barbara Vlk 28  
 Locher  
 Karen 33  
 Lorenz  
 J. 21  
 Lucek  
 J. H. 21  
 Lyon  
 Pat 28
- M**  
 Mach  
 Cheryl 28  
 Machacek  
 Charlie 22  
 Gollief 23  
 Gotlif 23  
 John 29  
 Katerina Barton 29  
 Machalek  
 Fr. 21  
 Machu  
 Darwin 2, 27, 28,  
 44, 47  
 Emilie Aloise "Millie"  
 43  
 Machu 31  
 Nancy 2, 27, 28, 30,  
 47  
 Maczali  
 Dorothy 28  
 Malek  
 Barbara 28  
 Clifford 28  
 Malina  
 J. H. 21  
 Paul 21  
 Marek 11  
 Adolf 41  
 Betty 28  
 Ed 32  
 Erma 41  
 Irene 3, 32  
 Lydia 41  
 Willie 41  
 Wilma 41  
 Mares  
 Dan 27  
 Daniel 28  
 Mareš 4, 5  
 Henry 4, 5, 6  
 Henry A. 4  
 Joseph J. 4, 6  
 Lydia 5  
 Mary Elizabeth 26  
 Marik  
 Clarice 28  
 Ed 32  
 Martin  
 Albina 27  
 Martinec  
 F. J. 21  
 Martinets  
 Allen 3, 20, 40  
 Martinkova  
 Frantiska 19  
 Maruna  
 Jno. 21

- Masar  
Denis 28
- Masaryk  
President Tomas Garrigue 8  
Professor 34
- Massey  
Miss 4
- Mathijetz  
Sandra 28
- Matinoc  
R. 21
- Matous  
Henrietta 41  
William 41
- Matula  
Alice Elizabeth "Ella" Henderson 26  
Alice Elizabeth "Ella" Pangburg 26  
William John Martin 26
- Mazoch  
Alma Christine Janik 26  
Georgia A. 26  
Raymond 26
- McCabe  
Genevieve Margaret 27
- McDonald  
Theresa 42
- Mensik  
Minnie Mary Janda 26  
Vaclav 26
- Merchak  
A. H. 21
- Merecka  
Ronald D. 28
- Merka  
Walt 28
- Mican  
Julia Mary 26
- Mikeska  
Frank Dr. 41  
J. J. 21  
Vlasta 41
- Mikeska, Jr.  
R. C. Joe 28
- Mikulas  
J. F. 21  
Joe 21
- Miles  
Barbara 28
- Molberg  
Edith 35  
Edith Sohr 28
- Morgenroth  
Bernice Morkovsky 27  
Bob 27, 28
- Morkovsky  
Bernice 27
- Morris  
Katherine 28
- Moskal  
Veronica Krenek 26
- Motl  
Evelyn 41  
Frank 21  
J. J. 21  
Lillian 41
- Mousner  
Lydia 28
- Munsch  
Agnes Catherine Sury 26
- Musil  
Paula 28
- Mutchler  
Ralph 28
- N**
- Naizer  
Hank 3, 34  
John 35  
Marcellina 35
- Neal  
Barbara 28
- Nelson  
Leslie Gerik 2, 27, 30, 31, 47
- Nerada  
Nancy 28
- Netek 39, 40  
Leo 39
- Newman  
Helen Belicek 28
- Noska  
Hannah Frances 26
- O**
- Odlozlik  
Josephine Smith 26
- O'Donnel  
W. W. 48
- Olejniak  
Paul 21
- Olis  
Martha Mary Cuba 38
- Opersterny  
Charles 28
- Orság  
Jan 10  
Josef 10
- Orsak  
Dawn 2, 3, 38
- P**
- Painter  
Joan Balajka 3, 37
- Palla  
Ig. 21  
John 21
- Pangburg  
Alice Elizabeth "Ella" 26
- Parma  
Annie 26  
Ludmilla, "Lillian," "Lillie" Struhall 26  
Rita Kallus 26
- Parolek  
Bozena 29
- Pavelka  
I. 21
- Pavlock  
Alice Sechelski 26  
Frank 26
- Pechal  
Ant. 21  
Arnold 3, 28, 32, 35
- Pekar  
Professor 34
- Pepin  
Jacques 42
- Petrash  
Katharine Cernosek 26
- Petter  
Laura 28
- Pieper  
Nancy Rab 28
- Pilgrim  
Laura Petter 28
- Pingenot  
Dwain 28
- Plasek  
Larry 28
- Plečník  
Josip 8
- Podhrasky  
Bertha 28
- Polak  
Beatrice Fojtik 26  
Janice 26
- Polášek 10  
Albin 9
- Pomykal  
Lillian 41  
Walter 41
- Pope  
Frank 21
- Popelka  
Anna 27  
Henry 27
- Pospisil  
JoAnn 28  
Ryan J. 28
- Prazak  
Hannah Frances Noska 26  
Mary Elizabeth Maresh 26
- Prihoda  
Ginger 28
- Prins  
Colonel Richard E. 44  
Jan Ischy 24, 43, 44
- Psencik  
Joe 21
- Puckett  
Sandra Faye 28
- R**
- Rab  
Nancy 28
- Reznicek  
Ed 41
- Richards  
Governor Ann 42
- Riley  
Jana Vaculik 31
- Robertson  
Patsy 2, 33, 47  
Patsy Fuller 28
- Roessler  
Buddy 42  
Nelda 42, 43
- Rohan  
Emil William 26
- Rychlik  
Donna 28  
Joe 28
- S**
- Sackett, III  
John L. 28
- Schenk  
Agnes Josephine David 27
- Schiller  
Albert 26  
Will 21
- Schneider  
Edward W. 41
- Sciba  
Francis Dorgan 27
- Sebestik  
Jos. 21
- Sechelski  
Alice 26
- Sheive  
Dan 22
- Shwadlenak  
Malcolm 28
- Sikora  
Genevieve Margaret 27  
Joe 21
- Šilar 11
- Simek  
Joe 21
- Simicek  
Dr. Josef 37
- Skidmore  
Frank 22
- Skrabanek  
Dolores 3, 32
- Sladek  
Gail 2
- Slansky  
Myrna 27  
TJ 27
- Slavik  
Albina Martin 27  
William C. 27
- Sliva  
Genevieve Margaret McCabe Sikora 27
- Slovacek 28
- Smajstrla  
Del 28
- Smith  
Josephine 26  
Kathy Horak 28
- Snokhous  
Clarice 28  
Ray 28
- Soclek  
Anton 21
- Sodek  
W. A. 21
- Sofcik  
J. F. 21
- Sofolk  
J. F. 21
- Sohrt  
Edith 28
- Soslek  
R. 21
- Sosolik  
Bozena 29  
Bozena Parolek 29  
Frank 29
- Sralla  
Emilie Aloise "Millie" Machu 43  
Emilie "Bips" Frances 24  
Emilie Frances 2, 43  
Shirley 31, 43, 44
- Sralla, Jr.  
Clifton Frank 43
- Sralla, Sr.  
Clifton Frank 43
- Stasny  
Bennie 30  
John 2, 27, 28, 35
- Stavinoha  
Viola 26
- Stiff  
Dorothy 3, 7
- Struhall  
Ludmilla, "Lillian," "Lillie" 26
- Sugarek  
Allen 22  
Eddie 22  
Ellie Agnes 22  
Grandma 22  
Lydnil 22
- Sumbera  
John 21
- Sury  
Agnes Catherine 26  
Eurora/Dora/Dorothy 27
- Syrinek  
Catherine 26
- Szwarc  
Irene 28
- T**
- Talas  
W. R. 21
- Tatyrek  
Tresa 28
- Temple  
Shirley 14
- Tofel  
Stanislav 17
- Tomek  
Annie 27  
Mary Augustine 27  
Rosa Teresa 27

Sister 27  
 Trajtner  
 Alois 9  
 Trajtnerová  
 Marie 9  
 Trojacek  
 Patricia 28  
 Trubelik  
 Joe 21

**U**

Urbanovsky 2, 4, 5, 7  
 Dan 4, 5, 6, 7  
 Danny 4, 7  
 Danny (Dan, Jr.) 6  
 Doris 6  
 Gail 7  
 Lil 7  
 Lillian Bezdek 7  
 Lydia 5, 6, 7  
 Urbanowski  
 Bernard/Ben/Bennie 27  
 Marian "Mary Francis"  
 Baranowski 27

**V**

Vacek  
 Eudora/Dora/Dorothy  
 Sury 27  
 Katherine Cernoch 27  
 Vaculik  
 Jana 31  
 Vajdos  
 Joseph M. "Joe" 27

Valchar  
 Gladys 2, 3, 27, 28, 47  
 Valcik  
 Ignac 21  
 Vana 4  
 Vanicek 34  
 Father 34  
 Father John 35  
 Monsignor 34  
 Rev. 35  
 Rt. Rev. Monsign  
 John J. 35  
 Vaniček  
 Rt. Reverend Monsignor  
 Jan 34  
 Vasek  
 Edwin 41  
 Verne  
 Jules 36  
 Veselka  
 Anna 36  
 Josef 36  
 Vlk  
 Barbara 28  
 Voytek  
 Calvin J. 28  
 Kenneth 28  
 Sandra Abshier 28  
 Vrazil  
 Rita Josephine Kavajecz  
 27  
 Vrla  
 Libbie 43  
 Lillie Jean 43  
 Vyoral

Grandmother 37

**W**

Walker  
 Pamela M. Arnold 28  
 Wallek  
 Edwin 22  
 Grandpa 22, 23  
 Jessie May 22  
 Wallek, Jr.  
 Edwin 3, 23  
 Warchak  
 Carroll 28  
 Watson  
 Eve 28  
 President 20  
 Wendt  
 Sallie 28  
 Wayne 28  
 Wilson  
 Betty Jen 28  
 Cecilia 26  
 George M. 28  
 Helen 28  
 President Woodrow 20,  
 27  
 Wondrash  
 Cecil 3, 25

**Y**

Yfrijtik, Adal 22

**Z**

Zachek

Bozena Sosolik 29  
 Theodore 29  
 Zanek  
 Joe R. 27  
 Zapalač  
 Josef 10  
 Zavodny  
 Melanie 28  
 Zurek  
 George 21

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## **TCGS 2016 Calendar**

**April 16, 2016**

**Czech Family Research Building Blocks  
Brenham Campus Student Center, Blinn College,  
Brenham, Texas**

~ ~ ~

**May 1, 2016**

**Ceske Stopy Submission Deadline for Summer Issue  
Theme:  
Czech Men and Their Cars, Tractors, Trucks and Tools**

~ ~ ~

**May 7, 2016**

**SPJST Car Show  
Seaton Star Hall, Seaton, Texas**

~ ~ ~

**June 28 - 29, 2016**

**TCGS Research Library Workdays  
TCGS Office - Downstairs SPJST Home Office - Temple, Texas**

~ ~ ~

**July 15 - 16, 2016**

**Looking For My Czech Footprints  
"A Czech Genealogy Workshop"  
Caldwell Civic/Visitor Center, Caldwell, Texas**

~ ~ ~

**Note Date Change - July 15, 2016 - Note Date Change**

**Ceske Stopy Submission Deadline for Fall Issue  
Theme: Czech Family Reunions**

~ ~ ~

**September 24, 2016**

**Rounding Up Czech Ancestors  
Caldwell Civic/Visitor Center - Caldwell, Texas**

~ ~ ~

**October 1, 2016**

**Ceske Stopy Submission Deadline for Winter Issue  
Theme: Open Topics**

~ ~ ~

**December 5, 2016**

**TCGS Christmas Open House  
TCGS Office - Downstairs SPJST Home Office - Temple, Texas**

~ ~ ~

**January 28, 2017**

**Theme To Be Announced  
Caldwell Civic/Visitor Center - Caldwell, Texas**



# **Czech Family Research Building Blocks**

**Brenham Campus Student Center  
Blinn College - Brenham, Texas**

## **APRIL 16, 2016 REGISTRATION FORM**

### **Registration Fees**

#### **Postmarked on or before April 1, 2016**

<b>TCGS Members</b>	<b>\$35</b>	_____
<b>Non - Members</b>	<b>\$40</b>	_____

#### **Postmarked after April 1, 2016**

<b>TCGS Members</b>	<b>\$40</b>	_____
<b>Non - Members</b>	<b>\$45</b>	_____

#### **Registration at the Door - All Attendees**

**\$50 - Members and Non-Members**

**\*Refunds given only for death or hospitalization  
of an immediate family member.**

**Mail check, payable to TCGS, and send along with registration form to:**

**Patsy Robertson – PO Box 1, Sheridan, Texas 77475**

**979.234.3697 or Email: [probert420@aol.com](mailto:probert420@aol.com)**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_