

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

FAIL 2018

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 3

TCHCC Heritage Festival & Muziky, WWI Centennial Recognition, and Annual TCHCC Gala







L-R: The Enzian Baum Band performed (photo courtesy of Gary McKee), Jerry Haisler and the Melody 5 added to the musical festivities (photo courtesy of Janis Hrncir), and the Vrazels' Polka Band were honored at the Muziky Evening Performance (photo courtesy of Alfred Vrazel).



SPJST Kolače Eating Contest Winners

L-R: front: Aubri Bernsen (Girls up to 12) and William Bernsen (Boys Up to 12). Back row: Joan Vanicek (SPJST), Kathleen Cernosek (Women's Division), William Bernson (Men's Division), Brian Vanicek (SPJST). Photo courtesy of Jennifer Klanika.



A Fireworks Display sponsored by H-E-B capped off the evening's Muziky, Muziky: Legacy of the Vrazels' Polka Band performance.

Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of Texans of Czech ethnicity.

Náš Český Život

"Our Czech Life"

TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

250 W. Fairgrounds Road/P. O. Box 6 La Grange, Texas 78945-0006 (979) 968-9399 Toll Free (888) 785-4500 FAX (979) 968-9249 Web Page:www.czechtexas.org

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Newsletter Policy: The purpose of Náš Český Život is to disseminate news of the development and activities of the center, as well as to publish material on the history, culture, and accomplishments of Texas Czechs. Náš Český Život does not involve itself in matters of a political nature.

Newsletter Address: All articles, photographs, advertising and correspondence should be directed to Retta Chandler or Janis Hrncir, co-editors, P. O. Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945 (979) 968-9399.

Articles: Anyone may submit articles, which will be accepted for inclusion as space permits and subject to review and editing as necessary. All articles must be typewritten. The publication is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material not submitted with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Ads: Contact the co-editors regarding advertising. Advertising Rates: We will accept limited advertising-only standard business card size (3 1/2" X 2") - \$20.00 per issue; Send camera-ready business cards to co-editors.

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc. does not endorse or guarantee the products or services that are advertised in this publication.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. is to provide a central facility for the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of individuals of Czech ethnicity who can trace their ancestry to the Czechs who immigrated from the present day Czech Republic or former Austria-Hungary (including Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Silesia), to honor those immigrants, and to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes.

The goals of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. are:

To educate the public about the past and present contributions and status of persons of Czech descent

To encourage the study and preservation of the Czech language, fine arts, music and dance

To provide for the preservation and exhibition of artifacts that are historically significant to the Czech people of Texas

To provide a library and archives for the collection and preservation of books, newspapers, periodicals, family histories, research material, photographs and all printed data of historical significance to the Czech people of Texas

To provide adequate space for gatherings, meetings and educational activities for the benefit of the Czech people of Texas

To encourage and promote a cultural exchange program between the Czech people of Texas and the citizens of the Czech Republic

To provide the public with updated information regarding Czech-related activities and historical sites in Texas, the United States and abroad.

You are invited to continue receiving the newsletter Náš Český Život and an annual calendar by sending in your ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBER-SHIP. This journal will only be sent to members. Support your Center — JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.

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We are currently taking 2019 memberships
and donations online.



FLAG SPONSOR: James and Agnes Darilek

US Flag: In Honor of All Who Served as Military Chaplains from 1791 to present. Texas Flag: In Honor of Military Chaplains who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. 9 were awarded: 4 Protestant Pre Civil War, 5 Catholic Post Civil War. Czech Flag: In Honor of Fr. Emil Joseph Kaupan, US Army Captain. Born April 20, 1916 Pilsen, Kansas/Died May 23, 1951 North Korea POW. He was the last chaplain to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor and has been recognized as a "Servant of God"- the first step toward sainthood.

President's Letter

December 2018

The Melnar Endowment Challenge was met!

Thank you for answering the call and supporting this important challenge. William and Betty Melnar matched these donations with \$50,000.00. Thank you to them and all of you. Donors are gratefully listed in this issue of Náš Český Život.

A big thank you to all of you for making 2018 a great year. Thank you to all who are supporting TCHCC with sustaining memberships, memorials, donations, support for our programs, special events and in-kind support. Attendance is increasing as well as the scheduled tour groups. The WWI Exhibit was well attended. Presently the Dance Preservation Exhibit is on display, which will be followed by an exhibit of "All Things Czech". Thank you for renting the Hanslik Hall for your special events, for supporting the Kopecky Gift Shop, and for choosing the Melnar Library for genealogical resources. The inclement weather did not keep us from having a great TCHCC Heritage Festival & Muziky. The Friday evening and Saturday events were held in the Pavilion. Then the skies cleared for us to honor the Vrazels' Polka Band in evening in the Amphitheater with a spectacular fireworks display that followed the performance. Thank you to Alfred, Anton and all who played in the band since 1953. Thank you to Bernice, Albina and all the wives who supported them. During our 9th annual TCHCC Gala, we honored David Czarnek & the Texas Dutchmen, Gene Lichnovsky, and the Czech Heritage Singers of Galveston. Original members of the Czech Heritage Singers present were W.K. & Rosalie Leonard, Georgia Gavranovic and Father Paul Chovanec. Thank you for your dedication and contributions for many years to preserving our Czech music.



TCHCC President Retta Slavik Chandler

I hope you take a moment to read the letter from the Czech Ambassador on the following page. His words reveal his awareness of Czech and US relations and, in particular, that of Texans of Czech ancestry. He remains committed to supporting us in our mission of preserving and celebrating our heritage and culture in our daily lives and in our celebrations at scheduled events.

We invite you to our 2019 events. the Czech Newspaper Museum will be dedicated on March 16, 2019, and the Shiner Brethren Church is coming (date to be announced). We also plan to have our regular annual events, Slavnost, TCHCC Heritage Fest & Muziky, and the 10th Annual Gala.

Thank you again and we wish you a very Happy New Year.



Left: Opening ceremonies for the Heritage Festival began in the Pavilion with a welcome by President Chandler followed by a prayer by Rev. Martha Langford, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in LaGrange. A letter of greetings written by Czech Ambassador Hynek Kmonicek was read by Honorary Czech Consul Brian Vanicek.

SHINER BRETHREN CHURCH CAMPAIGN

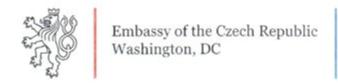
TCHCC's historic village includes a sawmill, cypress barn, farm houses, print shop and more; however, it does not yet have a church. The Shiner Brethren Church building has been made available and a campaign has begun to prepare it for moving and then incorporating the church into the village.

The brethren community was established in 1891 and held services in the Michna School until they could organize. They joined the Evangelical Unity of Brethren in North America in 1894 and the church was built in 1905. The congregation became independent in 1967.

Early pastors performing services in this building include the Reverends Josef Hegar, Josef Barton, Frank H. Horak and Henry Beseda. Descendants of these church leaders are current members of TCHCC.

Please consider a donation that will bring this historic church to TCHCC soon.







Hynek Kmoníček Ambassador

October 8, 2018

Statement Marking the 100th Anniversary of Czech Independence

The year 2018 is a very special year as Czech people mark 100 years of independence and sovereignty. Our anniversary represents a great opportunity not only to celebrate but also to explore where we are heading. It is a time for reflection on a centennial of struggle for freedom and democracy as well as celebration of the transatlantic inspiration and support, which helped us get to where we are today.

In 1918, our founding father Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and US President Woodrow Wilson shared a friendship and vision that forever changed the map of Europe, culminating with the creation of a sovereign, democratic state on October 28. Yet, our flame dimmed with WWII and again with the communist coup d'état in 1948. Picking up the torch in the effort to restore democracy, President Václav Havel carried our message after the 1989 Velvet Revolution to the US Congress, where his bust and words are now replicated in stone, a powerful message of mutual respect and belief in human rights and justice.

Czech-US relations are now stronger than ever before. The Czech Republic, both a member of NATO and the EU, and the United States collaborate on security around the world and their economies mutually prosper. In fact, the US is the Czech Republic's largest market outside of Europe and, viceversa, the US ranks among the biggest investors in the Czech Republic.

As transatlantic relations have continued to strive, so has the bond to our friends in the "Lone Star State." I have had the distinct pleasure to travel to Texas and witness firsthand the extraordinarily big hearts and hospitality of Texans. Our fore fathers came to Texas to build their dreams. From the names of towns, to festivals, food, culture and business, Texans should be proud of the Czech traditions and innovations they have instilled into the very breath of the state.

Even in the most difficult times, Texans and the people of the Czech Republic have come together to rebuild and stand united. To this day, Texans remain resilient, loving, giving, and one of the greatest allies of the Czech Republic. I look forward to our transatlantic family sprouting roots for generations to come.

As I reflect on this centennial, I remain humbled by the last century's trials, tribulations, and triumphs and ask you to join me in raising a glass to the next one hundred years of independence, freedom, and friendship.



Czech Republic Hidden Secrets Tour 2019

14 Days in the Czech Republic - Monday July 15 to Sunday, July 28, 2019
ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES: Airfare, bus transfers, entry fees of excursions on the tour, and 24/7 tour guides. 12 overnight hotel accommodations, 12 breakfasts and dinners or evening meals, 11 lunches, free selection of a drink with each meal, all entrances fees for excursions in the itinerary.
COST: \$3,990.00 all-inclusive double occupancy OR \$4,380.00 all-inclusive single occupancy
CONTACT: Patsy Robertson at probert420@aol.com

Highlights: New experience when revealing hidden secrets and mysterious places, homeland, history, genealogy, excursions, beer, wine, good food, relax, a lot of fun.

The tour will begin and end in Prague where you will be able to tour the majestic and fairy tale city of antiquity. Walk the cobble-stone streets of Old Town Square (Wenceslaus Square), observe the Astrological Clock as it performs on the hour and shop along your way to the Charles Bridge.

1. Begin your excursions in Bohemia where there will be visits to

Panenský Týnec and the Gothic Church of the Virgin Mary, known to have healing energy from the core of the earth. Luková by Manětín with a visit to St. George's Church containing its life-size ghost sculptures created by Jakub Hadrava. Bečov nad Teplou to see the Medieval castle with it's unique treasury of relics containing the reliquary of St. Maurus. Kadaň and walk through the medieval city and the historic pearl of Northwestern Bohemia.

Krušovice visit to the Royal Brewery of Krušovice and Žatec museum - the city of hops.

2. Then its off to Eastern Bohemia to visit the Kuks hospital, church and spa with its Pharmaceutical Museum. A place whose architectural value amazes visitors and holds the second oldest pharmacy in Central Europe. Walk through the gallery of statues by the "Czech Michelangelo" and view the Nativity Scene hewn directly from the rocks and the only one of its kind in the world.

A tour of Vamberk, the town that has been producing lace since the 17th century using the new technique of bobbin lace making.

3. Depart for Moravia where there will be visits to the

Rožnov with its Unipar Candle Manufacturing Company, the World of Stones, the Open Air Wallachian Museum and Pustevny. Velké Losiny and the handmade paper mill.

Frenštát Museum highlighting Moravian culture, crafts and traditions.

Trojanovice's Knebl Museum and it's curator Mr. Drahomir Strnadel.

Lichnov Museum of Czech Emigrations to Texas and meet Dr. Josef Šimíček. There will be a little time to do some genealogy. Tour Koprivnice's Tatra Car Museum.

Take a walking tour of Štramberk and the local dungeon, exhibition of scary creatures and a room full of traditional Czech crafts. Visit and shop in the Crystal Glass Factory in Karolinka. See the unique collection of 21 traditional historical cottages owned by the Orság family in Karolinka Rat'kov and lunch at the Rat'kov Pub.

At Křtiny discover the beauty of the baroque church of the Holy Name of Mary and see the gothic statue of the Virgin Mary of Křtiny, the carillon, and the ossuary.

DEADLINE: February 15. Contact TCHCC for a detailed list of the events and places on the tour.

Addition and Repairs at TCHCC: The Hluchanek-Salas House received a new paint job on the outside, an old bathroom was remodeled, and a washroom was re-created. Below are pictures of the washroom that is now totally finished and ready for tours. A great big thank you to Carolyn Heinsohn and Mark Hermes for all their hard work and dedication to the completion of this project. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Heinsohn.





Enjoy a concert performance by Pianist John Dujka

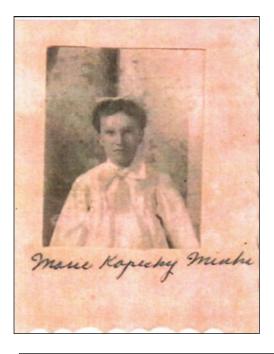
Donation of \$75 per person Advance tickets by February 4th ~ Formal Evening Attire Requested

February 9, 2019 Valentine Dinner and Concert - Hanslik Hall

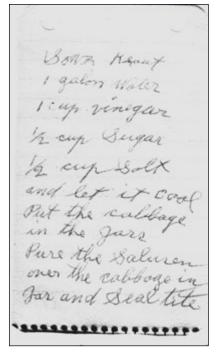
4-6 PM - Social featuring Texas wines and delicious appetizers 6-7 PM - Dinner served by Celebrations Events & Catering 7 PM - Grand Piano Concert by Prof. John Dujka

CONTACT: TCHCC to purchase remaining tickets and for more information

<u>2019 CALENDAR CORRECTION</u>: Carolyn King submitted two recipes/remedies for the 2018 Calendar that were written by her grandmother Marie Catherine Kopecky Minks. They were missed and did not get published with the rest of the recipes submitted. We do apologize for the omission and felt that they should be shared with our readers. We know you will enjoy and share them!



Dis husenki
zeru jak ur sau
Akafki Ma Zeli
Pasipat 911 ou Ku
a lebo dat ocet da
vodi a Partrikat
A lebo I Malou Botu
Soda do 2 galoni
vodi a Postrikat
a lebo Posipat
Solfear



Carolyn commented that her "grandparents always had a very large garden and it was very bountiful. She made a lot of sauerkraut because, I believe, she made sure the worms did not eat her cabbage!

Large crocks of sauerkraut were stored in the tank house next to the windmill, where the temperature was always cool."

Translation from Czech to English for the Remedy for killing worms on cabbage heads.

When the worms start eating on the cabbage heads, sprinkle them with flour, or else mix vinegar with water and spray them, or else spray them with a mixture of one small box of soda with 2 gallons of water, or else sprinkle them with sulfur.

HERITAGE FEST 2018 was held on October 19 & 20. Due to the rain, The Dujka Brothers performed in the Pavilion Hall on Friday Night and on Saturday, music was provided by Jerry Haisler & the Melody 5 and Enzian Buam Band. There was an SPJST Kolače Eating Contest, farm equipment displays, demonstrations, displays, food and fun. By Saturday night the rain had cleared and we were able to enjoy the Muziky Muziky Performance in the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater that highlighted "The Legacy of the Vrazels' Polka Band". The evening's finale was an awesome fireworks show sponsored by H-E-B.



Photos courtesy of Gary McKee





Photos courtesy of Gary McKee



We Thank our demonstrators, and sponsors: Top Left: Chalk..... Hospice of Brazos Valley, Monument Hill Kreische Brewery State Historic Site. Center left: Terra Goodwin, center: Lee Charlton, the Felting Farmer Lady, and right: Bobbie Nash of the Fayette County Historical Commission. Bottom left: Sherry Gibson and Karen Musgrove.

Sponsors: ABCATS Travel, Colorado Valley Communications, Inc., James & Agnes Darilek, Farmers Lumber Company, Inc., Fayette County Country Fair, Fayette Electric Cooperative, Inc., Fayette Savings Bank, Fayetteville Bank, Dr. Larry Hatfield, H-E-B Grocery Company, Ideal Poultry, KJT, KJZT - Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas, La-Grange Ford Lincoln, Patek's Shiner Smokehouse, Polkabeat.com, Prosperity Bank, La Grange, RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Company, Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce, South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters Club, SPJST, The Fayette County Record, The Nitsche Group, Tommie Vaughn Polaris, Alfred & Bernice Vrazel, Georgia Vyvial.

THE LEGACY OF THE VRAZELS' POLKA BAND 1955-2008

Vrazels' Polka Band was organized in 1953. Anton & Alfred's interest in music started early in their life. At the age of 10, Alfred talked his parents into buying him his first accordion, a two row Hohner button accordion for \$32.00, a short time later, Anton began playing the piano accordion and Alfred switched to playing Tenor & Alto saxophones and guitar. The band was originally known as the "Vrazels' Playboys" with their three cousins, Leo, Louis and Ladis Vrazel. They began playing at small venues around the Cameron area. Shortly after this, Anton & Alfred changed the name of the band to the "Vrazels' Polka Band", with a third brother, Lawrence Vrazel, Jr. joining them playing the drums for the next 12 years.

As their popularity grew, they found themselves playing for larger crowds at picnics, weddings, polka dances and festivals. In the early years they performed over 100 per year and still finding time to take care of their farming and ranching interest.

In 1955, radio station KMIL in Cameron, Texas came on the air and Vrazels' Polka band was engaged for a Sunday afternoon program. In those years, since the band had no recordings, they gathered at the radio station to play on the radio show live. The radio program was initially only 30 minutes long, but due to its popularity, it kept increasing and it is now heard every Sunday from 12-2:30 PM and is in its 63rd year of continuous broadcasting with Alfred Vrazel as host. It is believed to be the longest running Sunday weekly radio polka show with the same host in the nation.

The band made its first recording in 1960 and since has recorded 20 45 RPM records, 13 LP albums, 9 8 track tapes, 6 cassettes, 10 Cd's, and 3 videos. In addition to their many performances in Texas, the band was invited by the Smithsonian Institution in 1976 to perform at the American Folklife Bi-Centennial celebration in Washington, D.C. Also, in 1991, they were invited to perform at the Texas Festival held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. And in the following years performing at polka festivals in Kansas, Arizona, Virginia, and Las Vegas and on several polka cruises.

On April 27, 2008, Anton & Alfred Vrazel released a statement announcing the following: "After 55 years, thousands of performances and who knows how many miles traveled, we have decided to retire the band. Over the years, we have met many wonderful people who have touched our hearts and we sincerely hope that in some small way we may have touched their hearts as well. We would like to take this time to thank first and foremost, our families for their support, patience, and understanding, we would also like to thank our current band members: Thomas Strmiska, Albert Heselmeyer, David Trojacek and Patrick Strmiska for their talent, dedication, loyalty and commitment. We would also like to thank all of the former musicians who have contributed to the Vrazel sound. Lastly, to our many dedicated fans who have supported us throughout the years – we could have not done it without you. You have given us wonderful memories to last a lifetime, thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Vrazels' Polka Band final performance was held on Saturday, January 24, 2009 at the Mayborn Civic and Convention Center in Temple, Texas with over 1500 fans in attendance.



Ninth Annual 2018 TCHCC GALA

The Gala is held annually to honor Texas-Czech Musicians, Bands and Singers. This year's event was held on December 1, 2018 at the Pavilion Hall. The 2018 Honorees were **Harry Czarnek & the Texas Dutchmen, Gene Lichnovsky, Pianist, and the Czech Heritage Singers of Galveston.** Mark Hermes emceed and the music was provided by the Czechaholics Band with honoree recordings by Brian Svetlik, John Dujka, and Mark Hermes. Mark and Ashley Hermes and Kim Jobb decorated the hall. After a meal provided by Celebrations Events & Catering and the recognition program, a silent auction and raffle drawing took place.



Harry Czarnek & The Texas Dutchmen were recognized. L-R: TCHCC Manager Mark Hermes, David Czarnek, Elizabeth Patalik, TCHCC President Retta Chandler.



Gene Lichnovsky, Pianist was recognized. L-R: TCHCC Manager Mark Hermes, Gene Lichnovsy, TCHCC President Retta Chandler.



The Czech Heritage Singers of Galveston were recognized. L-R: TCHCC Manager Mark Hermes, Georgia Vyvial, Rev. Paul Chovanec, Georgia Gavranovic, Rosalie and W. K. Leonard, TCHCC



Betty Danner and Marilyn Kothmann



Barbara Hruby and Hattie Poole





Ninth Annual 2018 TCHCC



Top Left: David Czarnek & the Texas Dutchmen. Right: Czech Heritage Singers of Galveston. Center left: Gene Lichnovsky & Family

Right: RVOS Representatives. Below left: Silent Auctioneers.

Below right: Attendees enjoy the food, music, and

entertainment.









WWI and 100 Years of Czech Sovereignty Recognition Ceremony

The World War I Exhibit came to a close on November 4th when a recognition ceremony was held that recognized soldiers of WWI and their descendants who contributed information for the museum display. The program was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by USAF Lt. Col. Glen Cernik and the singing of the national anthems. TCHCC President Retta Chandler led all in prayer. After introductions, certificates were presented to those in attendance. Many descendants shared remembances of their military ancestor. The program closed with the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Lt. Col. John McCrae and read by Irene Polansky Szwarc, President of Hudgeons Unit 230 of Hallettsville.



Air Force Lt. Col. Glen Cernik led the Pledge of Allegiance and spoke of his father and grandfather's service to the country.



Pvt. August Cernik Descendants Clinton Cernik, Air Force Lt. Col. Glen Cernik



Czech Legionnaire Karel Fishar Descendant Frank Fishar



Pvt. Frank Patalik, Pvt. Joseph Kocich Descendants Elizabeth Patalik and Karen Patalik Vrana



Adolph Valenta Descendant Theresa V. Pesek



Pvt. Robert Minarcik Descendant Robert Svrcek



Pvt. Rudolph Kupka, Pvt. Rudolph Polansky, Corp. Louis Pivoda, Cyril Kupka Descendant Irene Polansky Szwarc, President Hudgeons Unit 230, Hallettsville



Pvt. Joseph Tylich, Pvt. Joseph Kocich Descendant Eileen Vanek Nelson

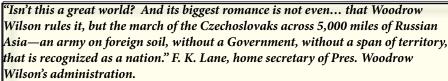


Musician Frank Slavik Descendants Retta Slavik Chandler and Susan Chandler

WWI and 100 Years of Czech Sovereignty Exhibit









"It is a great thing when a small country among great ones does not get left behind but takes its share in the work of bettering humanity." Tomas G. Masaryk

WWI Veterans Honored

PRIVATE JOSEPH TOM BRAVENEC (Descendant: Jan Hruska Couch)

Joseph was born on September 23, 1899 to parents Jiri and Marie Drabek Bravenec in Zadverice, Moravia. He and his parents immigrated in 1906 to Texas. He registered for the draft on September 12, 1918. He was in Company G, 64th Infantry Regiment and left for France on November 14, 1918 from New York on the US Army Transport Ship, *Manchuria*. On June 9, 1919 he returned from Brest, France to Hoboken, New Jersey, on the ship *America*. In December of 1934 he married Lillie Schiller and died on December 17, 1935 in Temple and is buried in Woodland Cemetery, Rosebud, Falls County, Texas.

PRIVATE AUGUST L. CERNIK (Descendant: Glen and Clinton Cernik)

August was born December 8, 1895 in Fayette County, Texas to parents John and Cecilia Provazek Cernik. He served in the Army from August 5, 1917 to June 17, 1919. He was in the U. S. Army, 36th Division, Company L, 142 Infantry. He married Pauline Jurena and settled in Moravia, Lavaca County, Texas. He died April 5, 1980 and is buried in Schulenburg City Cemetery, Fayette County, Texas. His son Marvin Cernik and his grandson Glenn Cernik also served in the military.

PRIVATE 1ST CLASS CLADIMAR (LAD) FALDYN (Descendant Patsy Fuller Robertson)

Lad was born on May 10, 1895 in Svetlo, Colorado County, Texas to parents Joseph and Frances Jurajda Faldyn who had immigrated from Trojanovice, Moravia in 1895. He was drafted on June 5, 1917 along with his two brothers Josef Faldyn, Jr. and William Faldyn. He trained with the Texas National Guard at Camp Bowie, Tarrant County, Texas and served in Company M 143rd Infantry Regiment 72nd Brigade. He left the US on July 18, 1918 as part of the American Expeditionary Force and arrived in France and fought in the Battles of Blanc Mont Ridge, Champagne. The regiment remained in France until April 26, 1919 when it embarked at the port of Brest to return to the U.S. He married Agnes Kubesh in June of 1928. He died on June 10, 1976 and is buried in Fayetteville Catholic Cemetery.

LEGIONNAIRE CHARLES (KAREL) FISHAR (Descendant Frank Fishar)

Karel was born on July 21, 1896 in Borova, Pribyslav, Bohemia to parents Frank and Mary Fishar and immigrated to Galveston, Texas on November 25, 1913 on the ship *Breslau*. On November 6, 1918 he joined the Czechoslovak Legions, a Volunteer Army, in New York. He was enlisted at Cognac, France on December 1, 1918 and discharged at Prague, Czechoslovakia on September 1, 1919. He departed for France and returned on the same ship, the *USS Niagara*. After the war he first married Albina Tobola and later Alice Chupik settling in Wharton County, Texas. He became a US Citizen on November 29, 1937 and died on November 17, 1980. He is buried in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, East Bernard, Wharton County, Texas.

PRIVATE FRANK GEORGE PATALIK (Descendants: Eugene A. & Elizabeth Cerny Patalik, Sr.; Michael & Karen Patalik Vrana; Eugene A. & Carolyn Finney Patalik, Jr.)

Frank was born on April 20, 1897in Velke Karlovice to parents Antonin and Magdalena Muzik Patalik. He immigrated to Texas in 1900 with his brother and widowed mother and settled in Moravia, Lavaca County, Texas with her sister and brother-in-law Anna Muzik and Frantisek Kocich. He enlisted on September 6, 1918 and was stationed at Fort Bayard, New Mexico. He was preparing to be deployed when the war ended and he was discharged on January 28, 1919. He married Anastasia Firasek in November of 1919 and settled near Praha, Texas. He died March 19, 1975 in Fayette County, Texas and is buried in Praha Cemetery, Praha, Fayette County, Texas.

PRIVATE JOSEPH FRANK KOCICH (Descendants: Eugene A. and Elizabeth Cerny Patalik, Sr.; Michael and Karen Patalik Vrana; Eugene A. and Carolyn Finney Patalik, Jr.; Eilene Vanek Nelson)

Joseph was born on March 17, 1896 in Velehrad, Lavaca County to parents Frank and Anna Muzik Kocich. He was in Division 82, Company G. 327th Infantry. He departed for France on April 25, 1918 aboard the ship *Baltic*, departing from New York. Joseph was severely wounded by shell fire on October 10, 1918. He returned home arriving in Brooklyn, New York on March 30, 1919 on the ship *Santa Olivia*. He married Emma Sramek in November 1919 in St. John, Texas and took up farming. He died December 5, 1959 in Houston, Harris County, Texas and is buried in St. Rose Cemetery, Schulenburg, Texas.

PRIVATE JOSEPH THEO TYLICH, JR. (Descendant: Eileen Vanek Nelson)

Joseph was born on March 19, 1896 in Hluk, Moravia to Joseph and Katherine Doubrava Tylich, Sr. He enlisted on July 21, 1917 and was in Company M, 143rd Infantry Regiment, 36th Division of the US Army. He was stricken with the Spanish flu acquired while he was stationed at Camp Bowie in Fort Worth, Texas. He died on April 17, 1918 and was buried in Moravia Cemetery, Moravia, Texas.

PRIVATE RUDOLPH FRANK KUPKA (Descendant: Irene Polansky Szwarc)

Rudolph was born October 12, 1892 at Koerth, Texas, the son of Vincenc and Frantiska Jakel Kupka. Rudolph was inducted into the army on June 25, 1918 and served as a Pvt., with the 6th Company 2nd Convalescent Center at Camp Travis Base Hospital during WWI. He was released from service March 24, 1919 and married Clara Auer in May of 1919 at Koerth, Texas. He was a well-known clock and sewing machine repairman in the Yoakum community. Rudolph died July 13, 1964 in Yoakum, Texas and is buried at Koerth in St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery.

PRIVATE RUDOLPH ALOIS "LOUIS" POLANSKY (Descendant: Irene Polansky Szwarc)

Alois was born on April 14, 1894 in Lavaca County near Worthing, Texas the son of Frantisek and Frantiska Pivoda Polansky. Louis was inducted into the army on May 25, 1918. He took part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive in France from October 6 to 29, 1918. He was honorably discharged from service July 5, 1919 as a Pvt. in Company D, 141st Infantry, 36th Division. Polansky was awarded the Victory Medal with one bronze star for active service in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Louis married Frances Smirak in October of 1922 in Hallettsville, Texas and died on December 24, 1966 and is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, west of Hallettsville.

CORPORAL LOUIS PIVODA (Descendant: Irene Polansky Szwarc)

Louis was born on October 22, 1894 in Lavaca County to parents Frank and Josephine Johns Pivoda. He enlisted in the Army and was sent to Camp Bowie where he was assigned to the Co A 327 Infantry US Army on May 29, 1919; a Rifleman with the American Expeditionary Force from April 25, 1918 to May 18, 1919; Toul Sector May 28, 1918 to August 9, 1918; Marbache Sector August 17, 1918 to September 11, 1918; St. Mihiel Offensive September 12 to September 16, 1918 and Meuse-Argonne Offensive September 29, 1918. He was wounded in the left leg and shoulder on October 10, 1918. He married Martha Koehler in 1920. He died on December 25, 1972 and is buried in St. Ann's Cemetery, Yoakum, Texas.

CYRIL KUPKA - CZECH LEGIONNAIRE (Descendant: Irene Polansky Szwarc)

Cyril was born on June 5, 1889 in house #110 in Cermna, District of Lanskroun, Bohemia to parents Josef and Marie Ptacek Kupka. He originally served in the 98th infantry regiment of the Austro-Hungarian Army with the rank of Corporal in the Czechoslav Army as a rifleman fusilier machine gunner. He was taken captive by Russian forces on April 16, 1915 at Gorlice and held in a Russian prison camp. He joined other Czech soldiers as part of the Russian Legion in Kezan Tambov on March 2, 1918 as part of the fifth infantry regiment "Prazsky T. G. Mararyka" with the rank of Private. He went missing in action on August 20, 1918 at the struggle at Antonovka.

PRIVATE ANTON MALATEK, SR. (Descendant: Mike Fehner, Patsy Malatek Darilek)

Anton Malatek was born on September 4, 1883 in Horni Ujezd, Prerov, Moravia to parents Frantisek and Frantiska Ondrousek Malatek. He immigrated on August 24, 1907 to Gonzales. On August 5, 1917 he enlisted and was one of the original Company L men of the Rainbow Division. He was wounded during one of the final engagements and returned home on April 5, 1919. He first married Agnes Jakubec who died in March of 1916 during childbirth. When he returned from the war he married Julia Polasek on August 1919 and farmed in Gonzales. He died on June 18, 1974 and is buried in St. James Cemetery, Gonzales, Texas.

PRIVATE ROBERT W. MINARCIK (Descendants: Robert Svrcek, Terry Svrcek Brooks)

Robert was born on August 3, 1895 in the Willow Springs Community of Fayette County to parents John and Carolyn Martis Minarcik. He was inducted on October 9, 1917 and trained at Camp Bowie. In July 1918 he was sent overseas with Battery B of the 133rd Field Artillery Regiment. He returned home on the *Rijndam* on March 9, 1919 from St. Nazaire, France. He married Frances Roesler in October of 1920. He was gassed during the war and suffered from poor health the rest of his life. He died of leukemia at the VA Hospital in McKinney on March 27, 1948 and is buried in the Fayetteville Catholic Cemetery.

PRIVATE ALFRED PROSKE (Descendant: Jeff Proske)

Alfred Proske was born on October 9, 1893 in Bexar County, Texas to parents John and Katie Ball Proske. He enlisted in the Army on June 26, 1918 and left for Europe on August 6, 1918 on the *Zeelandia* from Newport News, Virginia. Proske served in Company B 154the Infantry, 39th Division served until June 21, 1919 when he returned home on the *Graf Waldersee* from Brest, France to Hoboken, New Jersey. He married Elsie Agnes Schoenfeld in October of 1932 in Fayette County. He died on January 22, 1974 in Harris County and was buried in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, Moulton, Texas.

MUSICIAN 3RD CLASS STANISLAV OTTO PERTL (Descendants: Trina Pertl Bunyan, The Pertl Family)

Stanley was born on May 1, 1894 to parents Vincent and Emilie Hejl Pertl. He served as a National Guard Musician 3rd Class of Headquarters C of the 5th Infantry Regiment at Camp Bowie and in Champagne, France. He served from July 17, 1917 to May 22, 1919 in the Music Corp of the American Expeditionary Force and returned home on the *Dante Alighieri* on July 18, 1919. He married Annie Rose Sebesta in November of 1922. He died on February 6, 1983 and is buried in San Antonio Prairie Cemetery, Deanville, Burleson County, Texas.

PVT. JULIUS REPKA (Descendant: Eugene J. Repka)

Julius was born on December 4, 1896 to Joe and Mary Blaha Repka. Private Julius spent much of his time in the kitchen as a cook in Company F 55th Infantry, 7th Division. When in France, Private Repka said it rained the whole time and every time they moved from one location to another they had to walk and not ride on the cook wagon. He was part of the battle to occupy the Purvenelle Sector West of Maselle, France from October 10-November 11, 1918. He married Angelina Koutney and settled in Inez, Texas. He died on May 25, 1967 in Victoria County, Texas and is buried in Resurrection Cemetery, Victoria, Texas.

MUSICIAN FRANK SLAVIK (Descendants: Retta Slavik Chandler, Susan Chandler)

Frank Slavik was born on February 9, 1895 in Kromeriz, Moravia to parents Alois and Mariana Medek Slavik. He and his family immigrated in 1904 and settled in Marak, Milam County, Texas. He served in the National Guard in 1915 and enlisted on April 16, 1918. Slavik sailed with the Expeditionary Force on June 28, 1918 as a Musician, 2nd Class 90th Division, 343 Regiment. He served in France and was honorably discharged on June 16, 1919. He married Henrietta Zavodny in September of 1935 and had three children: Retta Frank and Thomas. He died on January 31, 1973 and is buried in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Cemetery, Marak, Milam County, Texas.

ADOLPH EDWARD VALENTA (Descendant: Theresa Valenta Pesek)

Adolph was born on January 21, 1895 to parents Joseph and Mary Vecera Valenta. The family immigrated in 1892 from Svebohov, Morvia and settled in Corn Hill, Williamson County, Texas. He served in the army with his brother, John Valenta. John enlisted on May 28, 1918 and was part of Mechanic of Battery D, 132nd Field Artillery Brigade and saw action in France. He was honorably discharged on April 10, 1919. He returned to the US on the USS Kroonland and was part of a massive Welcome Home Parade in Time Square. He married Louise Knapek in November of 1920 and settled in Corn Hill, Williamson County and farmed on the family farm. He died on September 11, 1988 and is buried in Holy Trinity Catholic Cemetery, Corn Hill. Adolph had three brothers who became priests: Joseph, Ignac and Timothy.

PRIVATE ANTON ZELLA, JR. (Descendants: Cathy Zella Halata, Janis Hrncir)

Anton Zella was born on April 21, 1896 in Horni Ujezd, Moravia to parents Anton and Marie Matiscek Zela (name was changed to Zella in the US. He and his family immigrated on April 20, 1897 and settled in Gonzales, Texas. He enlisted and was assigned to Company L. Anton was wounded seven times in France. He married Augustine Lesak in August of 1919 in Praha, Texas and they moved to Ganado, Texas. He died on January 1, 1977 in Taiton, Texas.

NOTE: A WWI Binder has been prepared including documentation and pictures of soldiers recognized during the ceremony. A few others have recently submitted their information and you are invited to submit your ancestor's information so that it can be included in the binder in the Melnar Library and will be included in the next newsletter.

Headline: The Newspaper Museum to Open on March 16, 2019.

An opening ceremony will begin at 2 PM and include a presentation and demonstration of the printing press. A reception will follow in the Hanslik Hall. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.





MUSEUM EXHIBIT: ALL THINGS CZECH

TCHCC Museum will feature an exhibit of items made in Czechoslovakia from the early years to 1993. Most items were donated to the museum by our loyal patrons and will feature wooden, fabric, and glass items along with items that were brought recently from the Czech Republic. The exhibit will open on February 18 and continue until November 15. The display will change into Christmas items of the same time period and be open from November 22 to December 31.

Two schools toured TCHCC in the fall of 2018. St. Michael's Elementary School in Weimar (top) and Sacred Heart Elementary School in Hallettsville (bottom) enjoyed Czech language and cultural activites, were treated to a chicken noodle soup and sandwich lunch, visited the Czech Village buildings, and watched a demonstration of the saw mill at work.









DONATIONS

August 1 - December 31, 2018

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Bill & Betty Melnar

SILVER BENEFACTOR

Bybee Foundation

BRONZE BENEFACTOR

Rita Janak RVOS **DONOR**

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In Memory of Joseph Vanek & Frantiska Kocich by

Elizabeth C Patalik

Memorial from Ann Jurecka (memorial name TBA)

PAVING BRICK

In Memory of Van Haley by Bud & Sherie Alldredge

In Memory of Edwin & Esther Dusek

by Jason Bartos

ROSE GARDEN STONE

To honor Dennis & Brenda Jetter Polak Family by Dennis & Brenda Jetter Polak \$50,000 ENDOWMENT MATCHING

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Hruby, Barbara Stratton

Janak, Rita Jasek, Vaclav J.

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In Memory of Josephine Veronica Noska

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Lodge #9 Novy Tabor-Caldwell

Yanta, Bishop John W., Emeritus

Lodge #13 Marak-Cameron

Lodge #23 Nada Lodge #33 Amarillo Lodge #51 Ennis Lodge #57 Skidmore Lodge #66 Hobson Lodge #68 Palo Pinto Lodge #71 Bremond Lodge #72Fayetteville Lodge #73 Cameron

Lodge #79 Nova Morava-Bryan Lodge #81 Olomouc-Bryan Lodge #83 Holland Lodge #108 Houston Lodge #109 Waco

Lodge #127 Rozkvet-Jourdanton

Lodge #133 Temple

Lodge #141 Alamo-San Antonio Lodge #146 Galveston County Lodge #147 Sonoma-Ennis Lodge #149 Rockdale Lodge #153 Southeast Dallas Lodge #154 Lake Brownwood

Lodge #157 Bronte Lodge #169 Odessa Lodge #178 Tyler Lodge #190 Percilla Lodge #196 Bexar San Antonio

Lodge #202 Stephenville Lodge #207 Paris Lodge #210 Wilson County

Lodge #211 Lone Star, Montgomery Cty

Lodge #217 Bandera County Lodge #222 Waskom **2019 CALENDAR ADS** James Corporon

CHS - Ft. Bend County
Czech Heritage Society of Texas
Daniel Cernoch Plumbing

Catholic Life Insurance Branch #95, El Campo

Cistern Country Store Henrietta Filip/Moravia Store

Hostyn Parish KJT

KJZT - Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas

National Polka Festival of Ennis

Bill & Betty Melnar RVOS Insurance Company Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce Clarice Marik Snokhous for NACC Stanzel Family Foundation, Inc. & Aircaft

Museum

Hon. Czech Consul Brian & Joan Vanicek

CALENDAR DONATION

Terry Svrcek Brooks

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Kallus, Margaret M.
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Michka, Joe Migl, John J. Mikes, James D. Milliken, Jo Anne Korenek

Willikell, Jo Allile Rofeller

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SPJST

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Tenberg, Lillie Texas Polka News

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February 27, 1948/September 12, 2018

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SPECIAL HONORS

In Honor of Leslie Kovar on his 90th Birthday

Kenneth & Cathleen Noska

In Honor of Rudy Patek on his 80th Birthday

J.G. & Janis Hrncir

LIBRARY MUSEUM DONATIONS

Lisa Adamcik - 1880-1900 wedding dress of Annie Gerik Jurica

Duane Barrett - book/personal memories *War Over Half A Century Ago*

Mr and Mrs. Ivan Becka - Czech Tea Set belonging to Alois Rasin, Finance Minister in 1918 under Tomas Masaryk Beatrice Butschek - Male and femal korje made in Texas Peter Cajthaml - 4 handpainted ceramic plates

Ron and Faith Darilek - Darilek Family History Tim

Haase - 1918 photo of signing of Common Aims Declaration in Pennsylvania

Woody Hiebert - 2 embroidered cloths, family history **Judge Ed Janecka** - books, photos, diploma, pen related to George Bush and signing of TCHCC Resolution that established the organization

Robert Janak - Hardbound copy of the *Making of a State* by Tomas G. Masaryk

Family of Joseph and Geraldine Kutchka Jurica - 103 year old cradle handmade by Grandfather Florian Peter. 1940s doll belonging to Geraldine Kutchka Jurica with handmade clothing. Feather pillow made by Annie Peter Jurica.

Ed Klecka - Budejovice Beer advertisement tin box and toy

bus, WWI memorial newspaper article **Jan Kovarik** - 30 Czech related books

Marietta Stavinoha McCain - items from Fiser relatives

Darrell Matula - Manual drill press

Irene Mazoch - Valach shoes and wool socks, Bexar County CHS information binders, Cesky hlas in binders

Henry Naizer - Revised Johann & Anna Neusser ancestry, newspaper article on Granger priests

Arnold Pechal - 15 copies of Katholik Kalendar 1920/30s Helena Polaskova - 2 Czech Republic crocheted doilies Patsy Robertson - WWI booklet on D-Day, set of TCHCC

Calendars and Cesky Stopy

Geraldine Socha - Rev. Jose Vrana personal items

Frank P. Sablatura - picture of Sablatura Band and Picture of Sablatura brothers as county commissioners

Louann Salathiel Stager - 2 piece wedding dress

of Anna Turek - Mrs. Jan Hradecny

Kathy Svoboda - in memory of Robert Svoboda - 2 Naval History books

Darrell Vyvjala/Schulenburg Sticker - 2 wooden printing press, boxes with lids and rollers, 2 ink cans

Thanks for all the work you do to preserve our Czech heritage in the state of Texas. May the good Lord Bless all your hard work.

Bob G. Liska, Dallas, Texas

TCHCC Memorials can be made to your deceased loved ones or to honor a family member that is still active in promoting Czech culture and tradition.

IMMIGRANTS' WALL

A stone wall with engravings on plaques that include the name(s) of the immiggrant(s), village of origin and date that he/she/they arrived in the United States. Plaques are available for \$2500. Contact us for details.

ENTRY PAVING STONES & 20TH ANNIVERSARY STONES

A 12"x12" pink granite stone will be engraved with your choice of wording up to 40 letters for \$1000. These stones are in the entryway of the Czech Center. Contact us for details. **ONLY 1 ANNIVERSARY STONE LEFT.**

ROSE GARDEN MEMORIAL

For \$250 a brick will be placed along the Rose Garden path that lines the entry sidewalk to the Czech Center. The brick will be inscribed with your choice of wording. Contact us for details.

MEMORIAL BRICK PAVERS

A brick paver will be engraved with your choice of wording for \$100. The bricks will be placed in the sidewalk leading from the flagpoles to the steps that enter the Czech Center. Contact us for details.

BELL & BELFRY

For donations of \$50 or more, inscriptions are painted on the memorial sign. For donations under \$50, a record of the donation is made on a parchment list.

AMPHITHEATER SUPPORTERS

A designated amphitheater seat will be reserved with your name plate. Participant can reserve this seat whenever there is an event at the Amphitheater by calling ahead. Seats range: \$1,000, \$750 and \$500.

FLAG SPONSORS

Sponsorship can be made in Memory of or in Honor of an individual or group. \$250.00/newsletter.

		Membership from					
BECOME A FRIEND OF THE		January 1—December 31					
CENTER.		\$2000 Lifetime Membership NEW!					
Donation amounts are recognized by		\$500 Corporate					
levels:		\$200 Non-Profit Organization					
		\$ 75 Family					
Permanent Endowment Fund		\$ 50 Individual					
Maintenance and Operations		ANNUAL SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP (yearly)					
Other:		Benefits: Preserving YOUR Heritage, Annual Calendar					
		and <i>Nas Cesky Zivot</i> newsletters					
200,000	Five Star						
100,000	Platinum Benefactor	MEMORIALS can be made to honor someone living, on their					
50,000	Gold Benefactor	birthday or anniversary etc., or the memory of a deceased friend					
25,000	Silver Benefactor	or family member.					
10,000	Bronze Benefactor	FOR					
5,000	Benefactor	Send Acknowledgement to:					
2,500	President's Circle	Address					
2,000	Pioneer	City/State/Zip:					
1,500	Heritage Friend	Donor: Name					
1,000	Founder	Address					
750	Steward	City/State/Zip: Phone					
500	Patron	Message:					
250	Donor						
150	Special Friend	MAIL TO:					
100	Friend	TCHCC, P.O. Box 6, LaGrange, TX 78945-0006					



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

Fe	bruary	9 1	/a	lentine	D	inner and	(Concert -	Hanslik	Ha	11
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4-6 PM - Social featuring Texas wines and delicious appetizers 6-7 PM - Dinner served by Celebrations Events & Catering

7 PM - Grand Piano Concert by Prof. John Dujka Roses given to attendees. Tickets \$75/person

Feb 18-Nov 15 "All Things Czech" Czech-Made Crafts Museum Exhibit

Featuring patron-donated wooden, fabric and glass items

March 16 Czech Newspapers Museum Dedication - Czech Village
May 18 SPJST Lodge #19 Velehrad Dedication - Czech Village
May 19 Annual Slavnost "MayFest" and Tribute to the Immigrants

10:30 AM - recognition of immigrants for any year.

11 AM - recognition of Immigrant Wall Stones placed 2018-19,

11:30 AM - noon meal, raffle, May Pole Dance, Czech Village Houses,

& more.

Music by the Texas Dutchmen 12:30 - 5 PM

June 22 TCHCC/CHS Youth and Family Day

October 18-19 Heritage Fest & Muziky

Nov 22 - Dec 31 "All Things Czech" Czech-Made Crafts Museum Exhibit

Featuring patron-donated Christmas items