

NEBRASKA, KANSAS CZECH SETTLERS

1891 - 1895

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Nineteen Hundred and Eighty

FOREWARD

This book about Czech immigrant settlers in Nebraska and Kansas is unique in text as it is not a history, nor a biography, but simply a list of Czech settlers names, occupations, where they lived at the time, land they owned or rented, and their place of birth.

When I first started the initial translating and transcribing of the names, I thought perhaps I was only repeating what was already recorded in the book, 'History of Czechs in Nebraska', by Rose Rosicky. But as I compared the newspaper articles and the book, there were many in the newspaper that were not in the book and vice versa. So the two books would be compatible to work with rather than having two books repeating the same information.

This information was printed in the first three volumes of the Czech newspaper, 'Hospodar' (the Farmer) which was an agricultural paper for Czech people. The articles appeared from March 1891 to May 1894 and then several months passed, and they appeared again from March 1895 to Sept. 1895. The 'Hospodar' came into existence March 1891 at Omaha, Nebraska, under the 'Pokrok Zapadu' (Progress of the West) Publishing Co. They later changed the name to 'National Printing Co.' Both publications in 1891 were published under the direction of John Rosicky.

The articles were compiled and written by Frank Mares who also wrote about the counties in paragraphs preceding the list of names giving descriptions of that particular county. At times his descriptions left the translator in doubt as to his meaning and it was hard to visualize just what he meant, so some of the passages were translated word for word. When translating a foreign language into English, there are times when a true meaning is lost, so if the paragraphs sound odd the 'word for word' translation is the reason. If there are errors in either the translation or the transcribing, I apologize at this time. The original text can be found on microfilm at the Nebraska State Historical Society.

In several instances, Frank Mares would mention C.S.P.S. Lodges. The letters stood for 'Gesko-Slovensky Podporujici Spolek' (Czech-Slovak Protective Society). These lodges were the forerunner of the Z.C.B.J. 'Zapadni Gesko-Bratraska Jednota', (Western Bohemian Fraternal Association). Both Associations offered a type of insurance for the Czech people. In recent years, the association is known as the W.F.L.A. which stands for 'Western Fraternal Life Association'. The individual lodge name and number in most instances, remained the same even though the brotherhood title had changed.

The description of land from article to article varied, so abbreviations were used at times to save space. Section - Township - Range - and Acres, were headed by the letters S. T. R. A.

Where the actual number of acres was shown, apparently this referred to those who owned the land. Otherwise the words 'rent' and 'exch' were used for other than ownership. 'Exch' was for the word 'exchange'. This translation from the Czech word could mean several things. It could refer to a partnership (i.e. two brothers working together or a man and wife ownership), a barter (i.e. "I will work for you in exchange for work for me" or "I'll work for you for room and board"), or it could be leasing land on shares instead of cash rent.

A word was used meaning 'inherited'. This is assumed to be that the person received the land by inheritance or estate, and perhaps didn't live on that particular piece of land.

I was pleased to be able to include the maps along with the name list, as I felt they were as important as the text. In some cases, it shows the name of the person on the map, that isn't included in the typed list. The maps will have to be read with a magnifying glass, I am sure, but I think they are well worth the effort to research.

Since Frank Mares wasn't consistent in his format, presentation, or recording form, from county to county, it was typed and transcribed as it was printed in the newspaper. Abbreviations of the first names were used in the original printing, and that too, was typed as printed. However, a list of the abbreviated names and their possible meanings is on a separate page index for referral. Also it was noted of the possibility of spelling of names was in error, so this was typed as printed rather than making an assumption on correction of that name.

I enjoyed doing this project immensely, and just doing the transcribing and translations etc., has given me an insight to these people who were some of our earlier settlers and of the times in which they lived.

I do hope it proves very helpful to whoever uses the book, and that it will be helpful for the future generations as well.

* * * * *

TRIBUTE

This book is dedicated to a man by the name of Frank Mares who in the 1890's, had the foresight to record information about the Czech settlers in Nebraska and in Kansas. He not only recorded the land they owned or rented, and their occupations, but took the trouble to record their place of birth as well. This particular sequence was then published in the Czech agricultural newspaper, 'Hospodar', in a series of articles spanning several years.

When one stops to think of the era, it was quite an achievement that he managed to accomplish the recording of 45 of the Nebraska counties and 11 of the Kansas counties. Outside of trains and local transportation with buggies etc., much of the time must have been spent by walking, especially to the remote areas of Nebr. He drew maps, wrote a county article, and recorded the names and birthplaces, of which was printed in the newspaper.

He apparently wasn't recognized for his work as it is obvious in the articles he wrote, saying this very thing. He had hoped to research and record all of the counties in Nebraska, but apparently this wasn't to be.

All efforts to locate more information of Frank Mares were to no avail. According to his articles, he at one time lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but since he seemed to go from place to place seeking information, he probably was a 'vagabond' type of man, only asking to be accepted and recognized.

He spoke of having cancer, so it is assumed he died of this ailment soon after the articles were printed, and up to the time of this printing, no information or picture has been found of this man.

I thank this man, Frank Mares, for his work of the 1890's, and that almost a century later, his information is proving very valuable to the historian and the genealogist.

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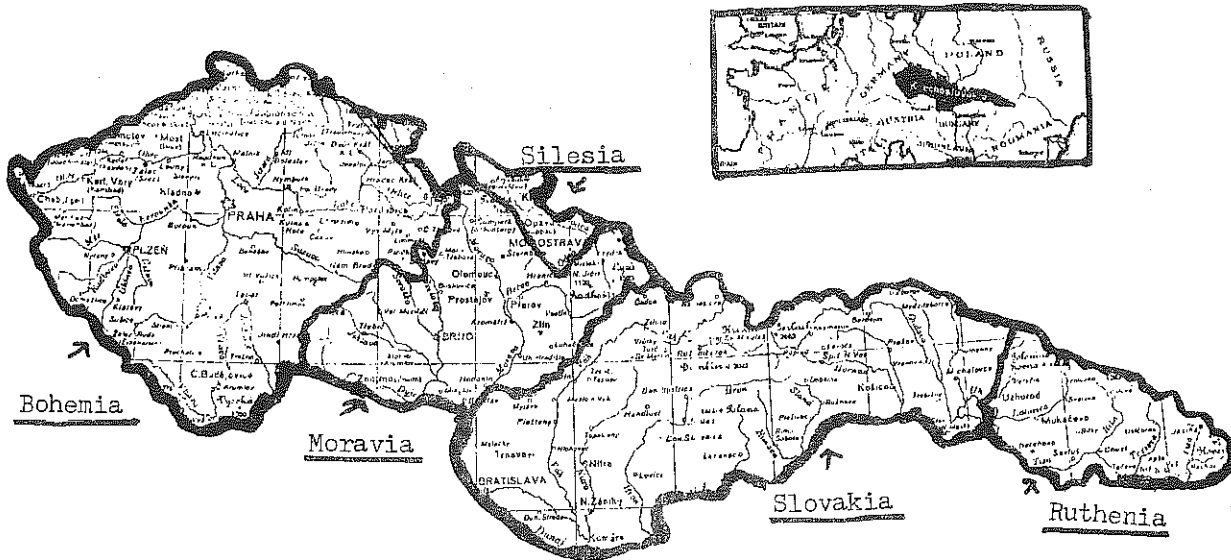
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CZECHOSLOVAKIA



The boundaries of Czechoslovakia as we know it today, were set after World War I. The accompanying map shows the divisions of Czechoslovakia, and the countries which make the present day Czechoslovakia. The divisions are: Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, part of Silesia, and Carpathia in Ruthenia. The majority of Czechs in Nebraska and Kansas, as you will notice from the following pages, came from Bohemia and Moravia with a very small percentage from Slovakia. In order to help determine the location of the counties etc., the following list has been compiled showing the locations of the counties in the specific divisions.

1. Brno - South Moravia
2. Budejovice - South Bohemia
3. Caslav - Central Bohemia
4. Chrudim - Central Bohemia
5. Jicin - East Bohemia
6. Jihlava - South Moravia
7. Jindrichuv Hradec - East Bohemia
8. Kralove Hradec - East Bohemia
9. Kutna Hora - Central Bohemia
10. Litomerice - North Bohemia
11. Litomysle - Central Bohemia
12. Mlada Boleslav - Central Bohemia
13. Olomouc - North Moravia
14. Opava - North Moravia
15. Pisek - South Bohemia
16. Plzen - West Bohemia
17. Praha - Central Bohemia
18. Tabor - South Bohemia
19. Uhersky Brod - South Moravia
20. Znojmo - South Moravia

Translation of the Abbreviations of the First Names
of Czech Settlers

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Czech Name</u>	<u>Translation</u>
Ad.	Adolf	Adolph
Al.	Alois (m)	Louis
	Aloisie (f)	Louise
Alz. or Alzb.	Alzbeta	Elizabeth
Ant.	Antonin (m)	Anton
	Antonia (f)	Antonia
Apol.	Apolina (f)	Pauline
Arn.	Arnost	Ernest
Aug.	Augustin	August
Barb.	Barbora	Barbara
Bart.	Bartolomej	Bartholomew
Bed. or Bedr.	Bedrich	Frederick
Ben.	Benes	Benedict
Blaz.	Blazek	-----
Boh. or Bohum.	Bohumil	-----
Gcn.	Genek	Vincent
Dom.	Dominik	Dominick
Ed.	Eduard	Edward
Eleon.	Eleonora	Eleanor
Em.	Eman - Emaus	Emanuel
En.	Enos	Enos
Ferd.	Ferdinand	Ferdinand
Fil.	Filip	Philip
Flor.	Florian	Florian
F. or Fr. or Frant.	Franta (m)	Frank
	Frantisek (m)	Francis
	Frantiska (f)	Frances
Hav.	Havel	-----
Ig. or Ign.	Ignac - Ignatius	-----
Jak.	Jakub	Jacob
Jan	Jan	John
Jar.	Jaro or Jaroslav	Jerry
Jer.	Jerolim	Jerry
Jind.	Jindrich	Henry
Jiri	Jiri	George
Joh.	Johanna	Johanna
Jos.	Josef (m)	Joseph
	(F)Josefa or Josefina	Josephine
Kar.	Karel	Charles
Kaj.	Kajetin	Guy
Kasp.	Kasper	Casper
Kater.	Katerina	Caroline
		Catherine

Translation of Names - cont'd

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Czech Name</u>	<u>Translation</u>
Lad.	Ladislav	Lad
Lamb.	Lambert	Lambert
Leo.	Leopold	Leopold
Long.	Longin	-----
Lor.	Lorenc	Lawrence
Lud.	Ludvik	Louis
Luk.	Lukas	Lucas
Mar.	Marije (f)	Marie - Mary
Mart.	Martinec	Martin
Mat.	Matej - Matous	Matt
	Matyas	Matthew
Max.	Maxmilian	Maxmilian
Met.	Metedej	Matthew
Mich.	Michal	Michael
Mik.	Mikulas	Nicholas
Mir.	Miroslav	-----
Mor.	Moric	Maurice - Morris
Od.	Odvarka	-----
Ond.	Ondrej	Andrew
Pank.	Pankrak	-----
Pav.	Pavel	Paul
Petr.	Petr	Peter
Pr. or Prok.	Prokes - Prokop	-----
Raj. or Rajm.	Rajmon	Raymond
Rom.	Roman	Roman
Rozal.	?	?
Rud.	Rudolf	Rudolph
Sev.	Severin	-----
Sim.	Simacek	-----
Stan.	Stanislav	Stanley
Step.	Stepan	Stephen
Teod.	Teodor	Theodore
Tom.	Tomas	Thomas
Vac. or Vacl.	Vaclav	James
Val.	Valentin	Valentine
Vavr.	Vavrinec	Lawrence
Vil. or Vilm.	Vilem	William
Vinc. or Vin.	Vincenc	Vincent
Voj. or Vojt.	Vojtech	Albert
Vrat.	Vratislav	-----
Vik.	Viktorin	Victor
Zd.	Zdenek	-----