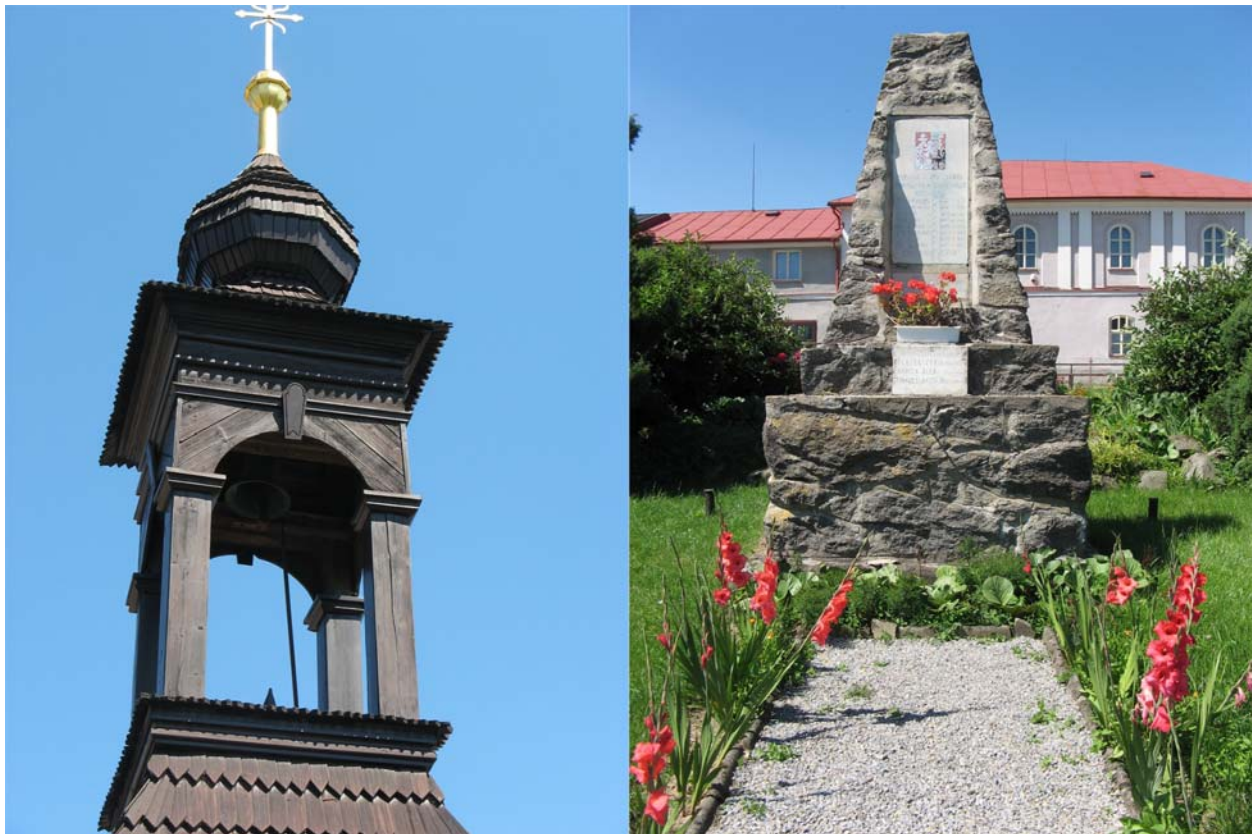


Pavučina Corner – By Tony Kadlec

NENÍ SNADNÉ BÝT ZELENÝM (IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN)

If you research hard enough, you are likely to find a Zeleny or two in your Czech family tree. Perched high in the branches of my family's tree is my g-g-g-g- grandmother, Frances Zeleny, who was born 21 August 1810 in Křídla, Nové Město na Moravě and who died in 1869. In 1837 Frances was married to Jan Čačka (b. 30 July 1810, d. 1867); together they had eight sons and produced a great line of Čačka descendants that are still very numerous in McLeod County, Minnesota, the states of Oregon and Washington and in the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.



Photos from Křídla, Czech Republic, the home village of the Čačka and Zeleny families , taken in August 2008.

Since the word “Zeleny” means ‘green’ in Czech language, it is quite a common Czech surname, a situation which is the bane of any genealogical researcher, since it means there are considerably more ‘haystacks’ for one to search through before finding one’s desired ‘needle’ of information. However, if you have a Zeleny in your Silver Lake family tree, then there’s a good chance they were from the village of Křídla (which means ‘wings’ in Czech), as the Antonin Zeleny family was—here is their story:

ANTONIN H. ZELENY FAMILY

"This story shows ways one dedicated immigrant family its desired goals in America. It began with the marriage of Antonin Herbert Zeleny (1841-1909) a tailor, and Josephine Pitka (1839-1905) in the village of Křídla, Nove Mesto Moravia, Austria, June 15, 1863. The couple had been married six years when they decided to emigrate. With their first-born son, Joseph (1864), they left Křídla for Racine, Wisconsin where Antonin supported his growing family including Anthony (1870) and John (1872) until 1873 when all moved to the Hutchinson area.

Here Antonin purchased a 60-acre farm four miles east of town. For 15 years he alternately farmed and tailored in town. In 1884 he added a small merchandise store. During these years Josephine delivered two more boys, Frank (1876) and Charles (1878). The boys helped all they could while they continued their schooling. In 1887 and 1888 Anthony and John graduated from Hutchinson High School.

Now came the time for an important decision in the family; in respect to the college education of the boys. Anthony and John were well-qualified to enter because they had been superior students and they were eager to go, especially Anthony. However, Josephine did not want the family to be separated — so the whole family, except Joseph, moved to Minneapolis where Antonin established the "University Tailors" near the campus. Joseph remained in Hutchinson to continue the development of the merchandising business, Anthony and John completed their undergraduate studies with honors in 1892 and Frank and Charles did the same in 1898.

Mission accomplished! In 1900, shortly after Frank and Charles graduated, Antonin and Josephine retired to Hutchinson to live in quiet and peace in the home they had built. There Josephine died in 1905 and Antonin in 1909. The *Hutchinson Leader* indicated in both instances that the Zelenys had lived for their children; that Josephine was a "noble woman" and Antonin a "well-known and honored citizen"

Inspired by the high expectations and devotion of their parents, the five sons were motivated to profit from the opportunities the new land provided.

Joseph was in business in Hutchinson from 1884 to 1933 when he died. First he worked for Juergens and A. Zeleny, then A. Zeleny and Co., later it was Zeleny and Stuke. In 1887 Joseph spent a few months in Washington State, leaving Mr. Stoke in business. Soon after Joseph returned in 1888, Stoke left and Joseph acquired the business and the building -- the same one that is used now. His business, general merchandise later developed into a variety store under the name of Zeleny's Cash Store until 1928 when Joseph joined with two other stores to become a Ben Franklin Store. Joseph had two sons Otto and George, by his wife Augusta Chernausek whom he married in 1891. After Joseph's death, Otto, with the aid of his wife, Helen, conducted the store until it was sold in 1966. George, the second son, lives in the old family home in Hutchinson. (Two children, Mamie and Joseph died in infancy.) There had been a Zeleny Store in Hutchinson operated by three generations for a total of 82 years.

Dr. Anthony Zeleny (1870-1947) was graduated from Hutchinson in 1887. Following this he conducted the rural school outside of town, the same one where he had been an elementary school student. In 1888 he enrolled at the University of Minnesota where he remained as student, teacher and researcher (with the exception of leaves for study in Goettingen, Germany and Princeton, New Jersey) until he retired as Emeritus Professor of Physics in 1938, During his career Anthony received recognition for his work. election to Sigma Zi; mention in "American Men of Science" and in "Who's Who in America"; election to the vice-presidency of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1914 and numerous other honors, He was co-author of "Manual of Physical Measurement" with Henry A. Erickson. Anthony invented an electrical device for measuring temperatures in inaccessible places such as grain tanks in commercial elevators and another device for measuring the moisture content of grain, dried fruit, lumber etc. Because of his knowledge of electrical currents, Anthony often speculated that thought waves were like radio waves —indestructible; hence, one should consider one's thoughts. In 1897 Anthony married Mattie L. Day, a high school classmate and organist at the Congregational Church in -Hutchinson. His first son, Dr. Leslie Day Zeleny (Ph.D. Minnesota 1931) retired as Emeritus Professor of Sociology from what is now the University of Northern Colorado and, subsequently, became a visiting lecturer. Another son, Dr. Lawrence Zeleny retired as Chief of Standardization, Research and Testing, Grain Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Since then he has attained widespread recognition for his efforts in developing a program for the preservation of an endangered species -- the bluebird.

Dr. John Zeleny (Ph.D. Minnesota 1906) graduated as the only member of Hutchinson's class of 1888. He entered the University of Minnesota where he remained as student, teacher and researcher (with the exception of leaves to study at the University of Berlin and Trinity College, Cambridge, England) until 1915 when he left as a full professor. After a year's study in the Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge, England he went to Yale University as Professor of Physics and Director of Graduate Studies until his retirement in 1940. John was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Zi; the American Association for the Advancement of Science (General Secretary 1911); President of the American Physical Society (1940). He was voted the most prominent Alumnus of the University of Minnesota in 1917. John's scientific publications, about 60, dealt with Roentgen rays, the velocity of ions, electron diffusion, the instability of electrified liquid surfaces etc. John married Carolyn S. Rogers of Monroe City, Missouri in 1905. Their two daughters are Elizabeth who now lives in Denver. Colorado and Dr. Carolyn Zeleny (Ph.D. Yale) who is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Carolyn Rogers died in 1936 and in 1938 John married Clara R. Dunn of San Antonio, Texas who died in 1979.

Frank Zeleny (1876-1971) graduated from Minneapolis East High School in 1894 and at the University of Minnesota he was the top student in Mechanical Engineering in the class of 1898 and he was elected to Sigma Xi. As an undergraduate Frank belonged to the Northwest Railway Club and the Engineers' Society and on numerous occasions rode as an observer on

steam locomotives. It was not surprising then, when he accepted a position with the office of the Burlington Railroad in Aurora, Illinois. In 1912 he became Engineer for Tests for the Burlington (Chicago, Burlington and Quincy) in Aurora, a position he held until his retirement in 1947. In 1904 Frank married Sophia Janecky of Hutchinson. A son, Frank Jr. lives in Sun City, Arizona; and his daughter, Mary Ann, an intelligence officer with the U.S. Armed Forces in Austria during World War II is now Mrs. Newton C. Brisky, also of Sun City.

Dr. Charles Zeleny (PhD. Chicago. 1905) began his teaching career immediately after graduation at the University of Indiana- In 1909 he moved to the University where he retired as Professor of Zoology and Head of that Department and Chairman of the Division of Biological Sciences. Among his honors are Sigma Xi; Phi Beta Kappa, Nu Sigma Nu and he was elected President of the American Society of Zoologists and Vice-president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Much of his biological research was done during leaves at the Tortugas Laboratory in the Florida Keys; Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island; Woods Hole, Massachusetts and Stazione Zoologica, 'Naples, Italy. He was well-known for his numerous studies of rates of regeneration and mutations in drosophila flies. His premature death in 1939 was considered a great loss to the University and the Secretary of the Board of Trustees wrote that he was one of our great scientists, a teacher, and a man who was respected and loved by all who knew him". In 1911 Charles married Ida B. Ellingston of Mt. Morris, Wisconsin who bore him one son, Charles (1917-1978) who was well-known for his work as a research psychologist in the military in World War II and after. At the time of his death in 1939 he was research psychologist with ACTION." (Source: McLeod County History Book, 1978, p. 633)

If you have any contributions or suggestions for topics for future columns, please contact me by email: tkadlec@gmail.com or call me: (651) 271-0422 or send your letters to my attention: 1408 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105. Děkuji! Tony Kadlec