

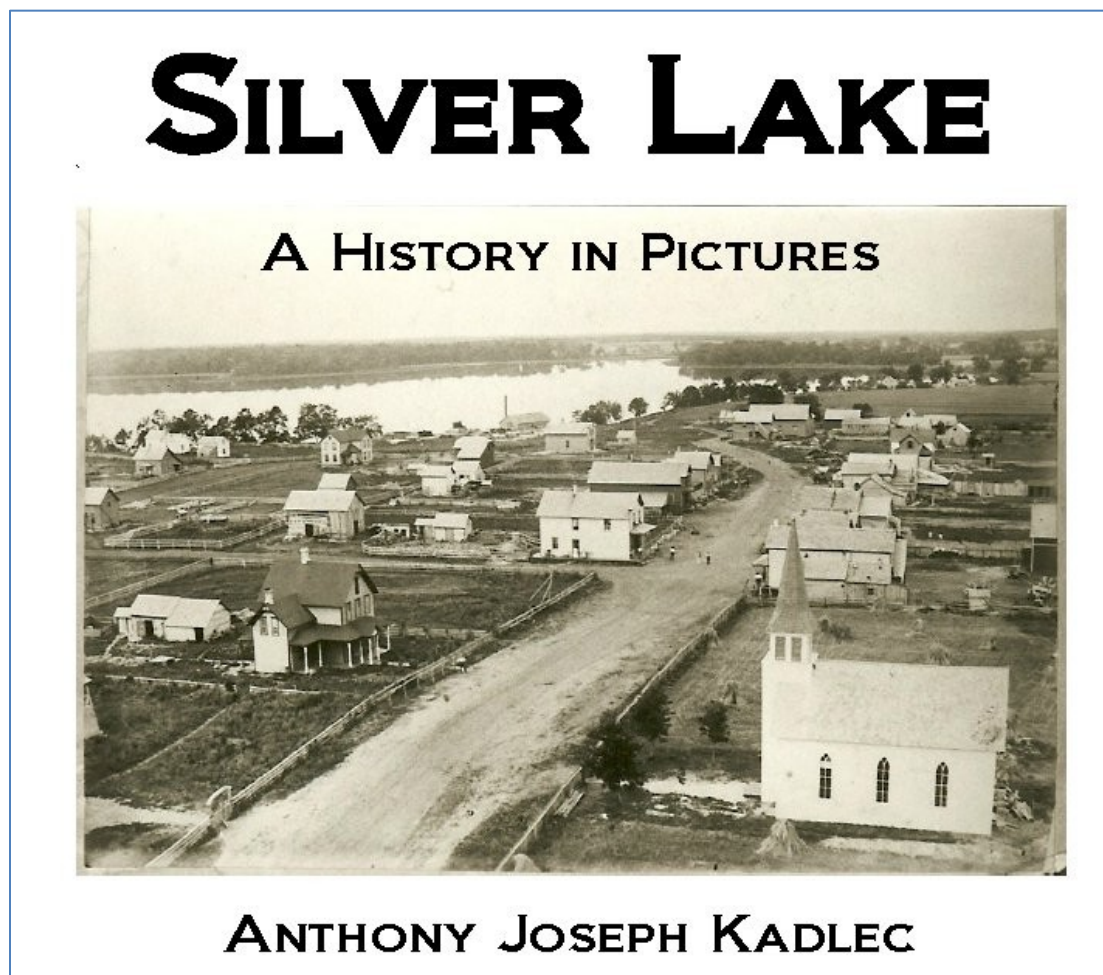
2ND ANNUAL SILVER LAKE HISTORY ROUNDTABLE EVENT THIS SATURDAY

The 2nd Annual Silver Lake History Roundtable Event will be held this Saturday August 4th afternoon (1 – 4 pm) of this year's Pola-Czesky Days celebration, at the American Legion Post #141, 241 Main St W, *Silver Lake, MN* 55381. This event is free of charge and cold drinks (pivo) will be available for purchase.

There will be volunteers on hand with a printer/scanner for making a digital copy of your historical Silver Lake photographs, so that you can share them with the community, along with your stories about the 'good old days'. This will be a great opportunity to network with other local historians to try to help label the people, places, and things in your old photographs.

SILVER LAKE, A HISTORY IN PICTURES

This event will also feature a presentation of rare Silver Lake historical photos, which are the subject of newly published book, entitled 'Silver Lake, A History in Pictures', by yours truly.



The above photo of Silver Lake Main Street, 1890 looking west from Lake Avenue (Photo by John H. Gravenslund) is the cover photo of the book and has the following caption:

"Main Street as it appeared in 1890. This photograph of Silver Lake was taken in 1890, soon after the new Polish Catholic church was built, the picture being taken from the bell tower of the new church, looking west. The camera included all of Silver Lake, practically, and also shows a pretty view of the lake in the distance. The block in which Danek's hardware store stands, on the left side of the street is occupied only by Pawlak's residence and the old Polish church, the bell tower of which can be seen in the extreme left. What is now the bank building, was then a saloon run by Stephen Pawlak. The large building farther west was a blacksmith shop conducted by Dvorak & Jerabek. The house in which F.J. Mikesch now lives was then owned by Frank Stingle. Mr. Dvorak lived in the house now owned by V.J. Halva. The two houses back of this place were occupied by J.J. Jerabek and J.B. Jerabek. The saw mill, J.J. Dubisar's furniture and cabinet shop, F.A. Stibal's and J.J. Jerabek's store can be easily seen, as well as F.D. Fiman's building, Mikesch's store and Chalupsky's saloon. The cheapness of lumber in those days is very apparent. Everybody had a fence built around his property." (Source: *Silver Lake Leader*, Saturday December 31, 1910)

The above photo is just one of hundreds historical photos that I have gathered (i.e. digitally scanned) over the past several years of doing genealogy/history research on my family and writing this column.

This book features a collection of rare historical photographs and images that have been gathered and preserved over the course of some 125 years by a group of people who have shared a common interest in the history of their community, one that surrounds a village of primarily Czech and Polish settlers, by the name of Silver Lake, McLeod County, Minnesota.

The old photographs contained herein are true survivors. The most notable among these have found their way into state historical collections. However, the images of lesser known subjects have been obtained for this book through the generosity of local history enthusiasts--from treasured family albums, picture frames, and shoe boxes, tucked away in attics and closets.

As is typically the case, old photos are rarely labeled with names or any descriptions of their subjects. This is understandable when one considers their own photo collection (non-digital or digital)—how many are identified with the people, places, and dates involved?

Thankfully, given the relatively small size of the Village of Silver Lake, it is possible (with considerable effort) to infer information regarding dates, names, and places of old photos and to piece together a modest description of what is pictured. This is what I have attempted to accomplish with this collection and I am certain that as more eyes see these photos that at least one photo or caption will be in need of a correction. This is what we'll be attempting to do (hopefully over cold beers!) at the roundtable history discussion.

I hope to see you there!

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Děkuji! Tony Kadlec