

Chapter 3. History of the Kadlec family in the Czech Lands

THE FIRST RECORD OF OUR KADLECOVI (KADLECS)

The above account of the Thirty Years War is provided to set the stage for understanding the social and economic conditions that impacted the lives of the earliest known members of our Kadlec family, in the central Moravian Highlands of the 17th Century, starting with Jira (Vítek) Kadlec.

Following the 1654 Berni Rula tax survey of Bohemia, the first complete tax survey in Moravia, which was made between 1655 and 1657 and was called the “Lansky rejstrik - Lahnregister”, later known as the “First Lahn visitatio” (source: <http://zlimpkk.tripod.com>).

Any village and subject towns contain the list of all homesteads - farms, houses, cottages, the names of inhabitants, the appearance of trades and crafts, the quality of fields and their distribution. The basic tax unit was a Lahn. This term had a broader sense than a piece of land as it represented so much agricultural soil that can be cultivated by a couple of oxen and can offer a sufficient living for a medium sized family. Very roughly we may say that one Lahn was 18 hectares (180,000 square meters) or about 30 to 45 acres.



Figure 3-1, Regional Map of Czech Republic, Noting the Location of the Kadlec Home Village.

The surname ‘Kadlec’ is derived from the ancient form of the family name, ‘Tkadlec’, which translates as ‘weaver’, as in the occupation of weaving to create fabric. It the word ‘kat’ is the verb for ‘weave’ in Czech. Interestingly enough, the Slavic words for weaver are ‘tkač’ or ‘tkalac’; in Serbo-Croatian ‘tkati’ means ‘to weave’; in Russian ‘tkat’ means ‘weave’; and in Slovak ‘tkáč’ is the term for ‘weaver’.

Still today, in the Czech Republic, the surname Kadlec is not uncommon. On the author’s trip to Prague in 2000, when submitting my USA passport to my hotel desk clerk at check-in, she was tickled that an American would have the last name Kadlec; when I asked her if Kadlec was a common name in the Czech Republic, she replied with a smile and a nod, “Yes, very common, like ‘Smith’ in America”.

Generation 1: Jira (Vítek) Kadlec

Indeed, the name Kadlec is first documented in the small village of Malé Tresné in 1655, where Jira Kadlec (also referred to as Vítek Tkadlec) lived in House number 3.



Figure 3-2, Local Map of the Moravian Villages of Velké Tresné and Malé Tresné, which are located approximately 1 KM (0.6 mile) apart.

The Czech name Jira is equivalent to George; the name Vítek comes from the personal name *Vít*, from Latin *Vitus*, a derivative of *vita* 'life', comparable to the Italian name Vito.

Although the wife of Jira (Vítek) is unknown, he is believed to have had at least one son named Matej, who was married to a Zuzana; both of whom are ancestors to the author (note: all direct ancestors of the author in this document are indicated with a bold underline). Unconfirmed research obtained from a possible Kadlec relative has yielded a Matej and Zuzana along with several other Kadlec cohorts, presumably related, with an association to the nearby village of Spělkov, which is located 16 miles Northwest of Malé Tresné (see map).

These Kadlec cohorts:

- 1) **Matej (B. @1670 in Spělkov), in @1701 married Zuzana (B. @1674)**
- 2) Simon (B. @1670 in Spělkov), in @1701 married Marie (B. @1674); they had one child, information unknown.
- 3) Matyas (B. @1674 in Spělkov), in @1705 married Rozina/Borina (B. @1678)
- 4) Martin (B. @1679 in Spělkov), in @1710 married Zuzana (B. @1683)
- 5) Simon (B. @1680 in Spělkov), in @1705 married Marina (B. @1684); they had seven children, information unknown.
(Source:familysearch.org)

Based on the above information, it is surmised that Matej may have been one of five Kadlec brothers from the village of Spělkov, who were possibly the sons of Vítek Kadlec, some of whom eventually settled with their father in house number 3 in the small village of Malé Tresné, about 16 miles to the Southeast (a long distance to walk, but the Thirty Years war commonly dislocated and scattered families in such a way as they ran to hide from the invading armies).

To date, no familial connection has been confirmed between the Kadlecovi of Spělkov and Velké Tresné, however, there was a Josef Kadlec born in Spělkov on 29 April 1847, who immigrated to central Minnesota, where he died on 18 April 1936 in Mora, MN. He married Josefa Filipi of Telecí, born 14 June 1849, who died 6 October 1926 (Source Allen Kadlec, Mora, Minnesota).

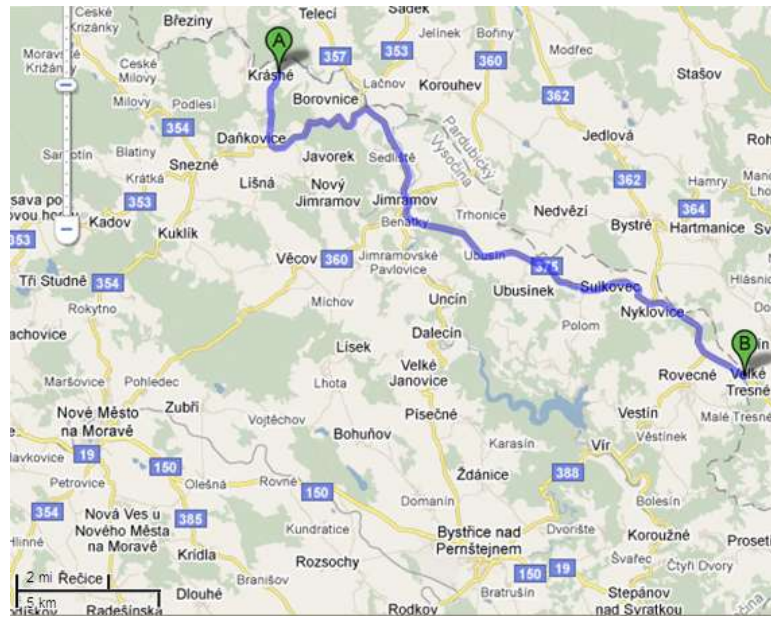


Figure 3-3. Map Showing the Route from the Villages of Spělkov/Dankovice to Velké Tresné, which is a distance of 25.4 Kilometers or 15.8 Miles.



Figure 3-4. Village Community (Obec) of Spělkov, Czech Republic, where many other possibly related Kadlecs had lived. Kadlecovi from Spělkov migrated to the area of Mora, Kanabec County, Minnesota.

Generation 2: Matej Kadlec

From house number 3 in the village of Malé Tresné, emerged the family of Matej and his wife Zuzana Kadlec, who came to village of Velké Tresné in the year 1700, establishing the Kadlec name in this village for the first time. Unconfirmed records indicate Matej was born in 1670 and Zuzana in 1674; the dates of their marriage and respective deaths are presently unknown, however, they are documented in the local village records to have had six children.

The children of Matej and Zuzana:

1. Kateřina (B. 1700),
2. Anna (B. 1704),
3. Václav (B. 1706),
4. Kateřina (B. 1709) was married to Jan Mistr (20 November 1734),
5. Martin (B. 9 Oct 1712) married Kateřina Burešová on 26 May 1744 and they lived in house number 1 in the village of Velké Tresné until 1768; and,
6. **Jira** (unknown date of birth).

Generation 3: Jíra Kadlec

(B. Unknown, D. 31 July 1788)

Jíra Kadlec, date of birth unknown, is thought to be the last born son of Matěj and Zuzana Kadlec, who became owner of house number 13 in the village of Velké Tresné.



Figure 3-5. Aerial View of House Numbers in Village of Velké Tresné, Czech Republic. The Ancestral Home of the Kadlec Family is House #13.



Figure 3-6. Ancestral Kadlec Home, House number 13, Velké Tresné, Czech Republic, circa 1950-1960.



Figure 3-7. Ancestral Kadlec Home, House number 13, Velké Tresné, Czech Republic, August 2008.

Jíra married Dorota Hejmánková, who was born in 1701 and came from house number 5 in Velké Tresné.



Figure 3-8. House number 5, Velké Tresné, family home of Dorota Hejmankova (wife of Jíra Kadlec).

Jíra and Dorota Kadlec had five children:

1. Matěj (B. 13 Dec.1732) married on 9th Dec.1761 Marina Punčochářová (from no. 3, born 24 Oct 1737);
2. Václav (B. 20 Sept 1734)
3. Anna (B. 10 March 1737)
4. Marina (unknown date of birth) married Pavel Tomášek from Malé Tresné on 27 June 1756.
5. **Jakub** (B. 13 Feb 1739)

Generation 4: Jakub Kadlec

(B. 13 Feb 1739, M1. 22 Jan 1764, M2. 26 July 1772, D. 24 August 1812)

Jakub Kadlec was married twice; firstly on 22 Jan 1764 to Marina Trtilová. Through this union three children were born:

1. **František** (B. 27 Feb 1765) married another wife Marina Dostálová (from Rovečné) in 1799. No information is currently known of his first wife.
2. Rozálie (B. 14 March 1768)
3. Anna (B. 29 March 1770) married Josef Dostál (from Rovečné no. 2) on 22 Jan 1793

After eight and one half years of marriage, Jakub's wife and mother of three, Marina died 14 June 1772 at the age of 36. In a curious swiftness of events, Jakub (1739) then married Kateřina Kadlecová (from Malé Tresné house no. 3) approximately one month later on 26 July 1772. It is not clear exactly how Kateřina Kadlecová was previously related to Jakub, however, she did come from the same house that his line of the Kadlec family had left some three generations before. Through her union with Jakub, eight additional children were born:

4. Marina (B. 22 July 1774) married František Pokorný (from Rovečné no. 3) on 25 Jan 1797.
5. Jan (B. 6 November 1776) married Anna Štěrbová (from Velké Tresné no. 4, she came from Nyklovice, she was a widow of František Štěrba) on 28 Jan 1799.
6. Veronika (B. 29 June 1776) - single, died on 8 November 1846.
7. Jakub (B. 26 June 1781) married Veronika Srstková (from Rovečné no.18) on 16 Feb 1808, their father built for them a new house no. 24 next to the house no.13.
8. Josef (B. 26 Dec 1784) married Marina Justová (a widow of Josef Just, Rovečné no. 52) in 9 July 1811.
9. Tomáš (B. 23 Dec 1787, D. 15 August 1788)
10. Rozálie (B. 16 June 1793)
11. Jiří (B. 20 April 1795, he died the same day he was born)

In 1797, at the age of fifty-eight, Jakub (1739) served as mayor of the village Velké Tresné. He died 24 August 1812 at the age of seventy-three, just three months after the death of his second wife Kateřina, who died on 8 May 1812. Together they shared nearly forty years of marriage.

Generation 5: František Kadlec

(B. 27 Feb 1765, D. 11 May 1814)

František married Marina Dostálová from Rovečné, Moravia, CZ in 1799.

Children of František and Marina:

1. Josef (B. 20 Sept 1799, D. 27 Sept 1799)
2. **František** (B. 12 Aug 1800) married Anna Hudcová (from Nyklovice No.7, B. 18 Sept 1803) on 28 Jan 1823, D. 14 Aug 1876).
3. Josef (7 Sept 1804) married Anna Kadlecová (from Malé Tresné) on 2 March 1829.

On 2 March 1811, at the age of forty-six, František (1765) bought farmland from his seventy-two year old father, Jakub Kadlec for 700 gulden. Then just three years later, on 11 May 1814, František (1765) died, leaving his wife Marina with a fourteen year old son, František (1800) and ten year old son, Josef (1804). The widow Marina would die some twenty-six years later, on 13 Feb 1837.