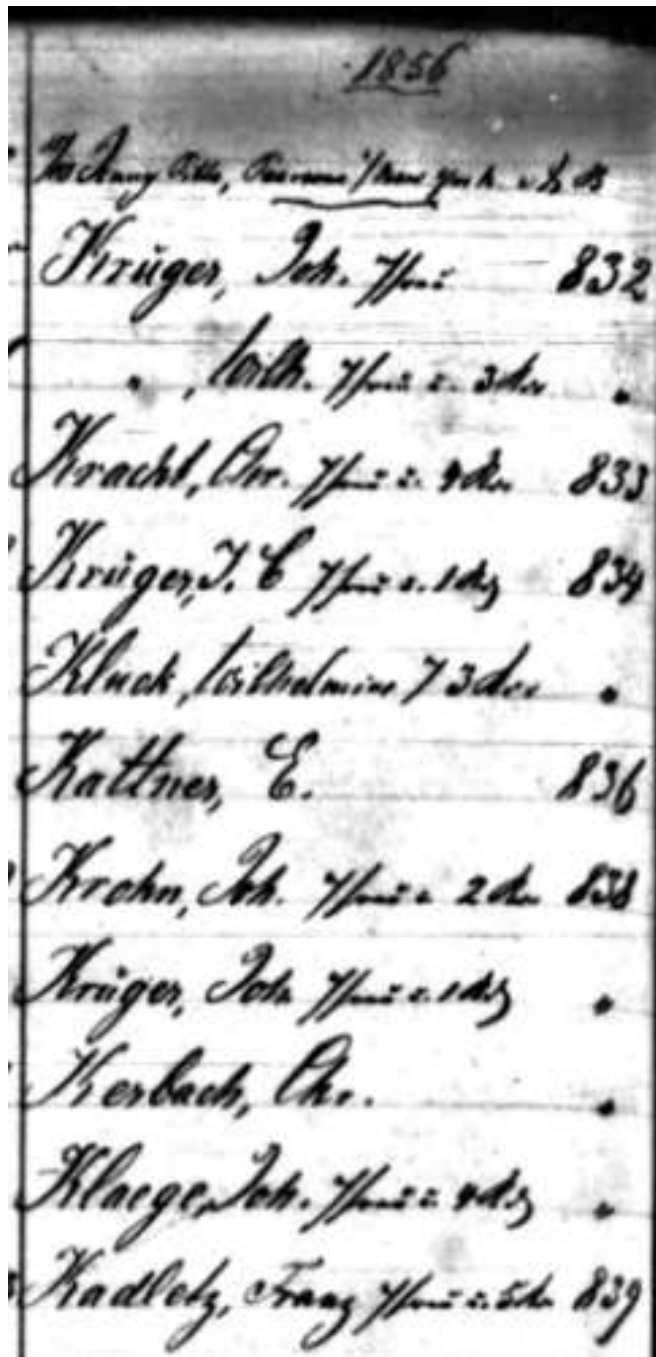


Chapter 5. The František Kadlec Family Arrives in America

The František Kadlec Family Voyage to America

On Wednesday, October 15th, 1856 the František Kadlec family, which included parents František (age 56) and Anna (53), and five (Franziska (29), Josepha (21), Josef (19), Antonia (13), Vinzenzia (9)) of their eight living children boarded the American Bark, “Jenny Pitts” in the port of Hamburg, Germany. This ship was bound directly to America across the Atlantic Ocean with no stops planned in between.



The Port of Hamburg, Germany ship log, pictured to the left, was organized alphabetically according to family surname, year, and ship name. The Germanic spelling of the Czech name of “Kadlec” was recorded as “Kadletz”, along with the other surnames starting with “K” in the log book for year 1856.

The top line shows the date of departure “15/10” (for October 15) followed by the ship name “Jenny Pitts”, which was bound for New York. Lower in the entry, “Kadletz, Franz, his wife and five children” are denoted in the record.

On this page of the Hamburg log book, the Jenny Pitts was one of at least four different ships that were directly bound to New York on the very day of 15 October 1856.

On this voyage the “Jenny Pitts” was captained by Master Henry Pearson with a berth of 54 & 8/75 tons and included 213 passengers; 102 females and 111 males. The ship’s log indicated that five of these passengers did not survive the voyage to America and they were:

- Frederika Mueller, 23 female
- Adolph Krohn, 9 months, male
- Minnie Broose, 25, female
- Sophie Bringer, 16, female
- John Bringer, 14 male

According to the prevailing custom of the time, these people would have been buried at sea. May their souls rest in peace.

Figure 5-1 “Kadletz” Family Record, Port of Hamburg Emigration Log, 1856, Source: Ancestry.com.



Figure 5-2. The American Barque (Bark) Jenny Pitts, the Ship Upon Which the Kadlec Family Sailed to America; 1865 Oil on Canvas Painting by Dutch Painter, John Frederick Loos.

In 1838 trans-Atlantic travel by steamship had already become commercially available and was widely practiced by 1856; however, this added certainty to the expected time of travel added more cost to the price of a ticket. Perhaps for economic reasons, the seven members of the Franz Kadlec family chose to purchase tickets for the American barque (bark), Jenny Pitts.

The term, 'bark' came to refer to "any vessel with a particular type of sail plan...comprised of three (or more) masts, fore and -aft sails on the aftermost mast and square sails on all other masts. Barks were the workhorses of the 'Golden Age of Sail' in the mid 19th century as they attained passages that nearly matched full-rigged ships, but could operate with smaller crews" (Wikipedia).

Those who traveled on sailing ships such as the Jenny Pitts would literally "cast their fate to the wind", not knowing how long their voyage might actually take and whether or not their food and water supplies would hold out. The expected one month trans-Atlantic trip might double to two months if the prevailing winds ceased to blow and the ship found herself dead in the water.

With the price of the ticket, passengers were entitled to a meager ration of one meal per day, usually soup and possibly some bread that became less fresh by the day. Without refrigeration, these ships would bring large numbers of livestock in order to maintain a supply of fresh milk, eggs, and meat to slaughter at some later point at sea, when the food

was needed, based upon the scarcity of the remaining supplies. Therefore it was up to the passengers to bring a supplemental supply of their own food to survive the journey,



Figure 5-3. Travel Chest that the Franz Kadlec Family Brought Aboard the Jenny Pitts to America in 1856. In 2008, a similar but larger-sized chest with the same color, construction, and hardware was found in the attic of the old Kadlec house number 13 in the ancestral village of Velké Tresné, CZ.

Forced into close quarters, "life happened" on the ship, both above and below deck. Passengers who perished on the journey were buried at sea, never to realize their dream of reaching America. Indeed five passengers who boarded the Jenny Pitt with the František Kadlec family would not survive the voyage and were most likely buried at sea. Any babies born during the passage to America were granted immediate American citizenship; however, their families were required to pay for an additional ticket.

Any stories surrounding the Franz Kadlec family's voyage to America unfortunately did not survive in retelling or on paper; perhaps it was a relatively uneventful trip for them? Perhaps 'uneventful' was the best that could be expected? This tale must be left to our own imagination. However, we do know the journey took a total of thirty-three days from the port of Hamburg, Germany to the port of Castle Garden, New York City, New York, USA. Traveling from Europe to America by sail, thirty-three days was a normally-expected span of time of travel; the same trip by steam power would have taken less than half that time.

Leaving the Austrian Empire, the "Franz Kadletz" family would revert to the "František Kadlec", that is, the spelling of the name as it would appear in Czech and subsequently in the English language as we have come to know it some one hundred and fifty years later.

District of New York—Port of New York.

I, *Henry Harrison* Master of the *North Jenny Pitts* do solemnly, sincerely and truly swear that the following List or Manifest, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the Collection District of New York, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board the said *North Jenny Pitts* at *Amsterdam* from which port said *North Jenny Pitts* has now arrived; and that on said list is truly designated the age, the sex, and the occupation of each of said passengers, the part of the vessel occupied by each during the passage, the country to which each belongs, and also the country of which it is intended by each to become an inhabitant; and that said List or Manifest truly set forth the number of said passengers who have died on said voyage, and the names and ages of those who died.

So help me God.
Henry Harrison
whereof *My* *Harrison*

Subscribed to this *18/11/1856*
Before me *William*
List or Manifest Of ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the *North Jenny Pitts*
is Master, from *Amsterdam* burthen *54 V 8 35* tons.

No.	NAMES	Age	Sex	OCCUPATION	The country to which they are usually subject	The country to which they intend to become inhabitants	Died on the voyage	Part of the vessel occupied by each passenger during the voyage
124	<i>Frany Hatleby</i>	36	<i>male</i>	<i>carman</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Denmark</i>		
125	<i>Anna</i>	33	<i>female</i>	<i>his wife</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Denmark</i>		
126	<i>Frangiska</i>	29	<i>female</i>	<i>ditto</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Denmark</i>		
127	<i>Joseph</i>	21	<i>male</i>					
128	<i>Jan</i>	19	<i>male</i>					
129	<i>Antonia</i>	17	<i>female</i>					
130	<i>Thengonia</i>	9	<i>female</i>					

Figure 5-4. Arrival Record of the Jenny Pitts, Castle Garden Port of New York, Tuesday 18 November 1856.

This spelling variation of “Kadletz” would add countless days and hours of the author’s life in tracking the actual port of entry of the Kadlec family.

In subsequent legal documents, the family name would be recorded as “Kadlitz” (on Josef (1838)’s marriage certificate recorded in 1864), as “Garletz” on the 1870 marriage certificate of Antonia Kadlec, and accidentally recorded as “Radlez” on the real estate abstract of the Kadlec farm in 1866, possibly due to the scripted loop at the “K” used by Josef when signed his name.

Joseph Kadlec

Figure 5-5. Signature of Josef Kadlec from his Citizenship Naturalization Papers, Signed 23 November 1881. Note how the “J” resembles the treble clef in music notation.

It all goes to show that there is a long history of Americans demonstrating trouble with handling a relatively short and seemingly simple surname such as Kadlec!

The following pages present the written history of Castle Garden and a vivid example of what the František Kadlec family would have experienced when being processed through this port and into life in America.

The History of Castle Garden

More than a dozen forts were built to defend New York Harbor at the time of the War of 1812. The Southwest Battery was constructed on the rocks off the tip of Manhattan Island between 1808 and 1811. Although fully armed, the fort never had occasion to fire upon an enemy. In 1817, the fort was renamed Castle Clinton in honor of DeWitt Clinton, Mayor and later Governor of New York. The army vacated the fort in 1821 and the structure was deeded to New York City in 1823.

In the summer of 1824, a new restaurant and entertainment center opened at the site, then called Castle Garden. A roof was added in the 1840s and Castle Garden served as an opera house and theater until 1854. Many new inventions were demonstrated there to amazed audiences including the telegraph, Colts revolving rifles, steam powdered fire engines and underwater electronic explosives.

The "Swedish Nightengale" Jenny Lind made her American debut here in 1850, brought to America by no other then P.T. Barnum.

On August 3, 1855, Castle Garden, now leased to New York State, opened as an immigrant landing depot. During the next 34 years, over 8 million people entered the United States through Castle Garden, until it was closed on April 18, 1890. The building was altered once again and reopened as the New York City Aquarium on December 10, 1896. It was one of the city's most popular attractions until it closed in 1941.

Saved from demolition in 1946, the Castle was restored to its original look as a fortification and serves not only as a museum, but the ticket office for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry. The fort built to keep out the British now serves to welcome all to America. (source: <http://www.nps.gov/cacl/historyculture/index.htm>)

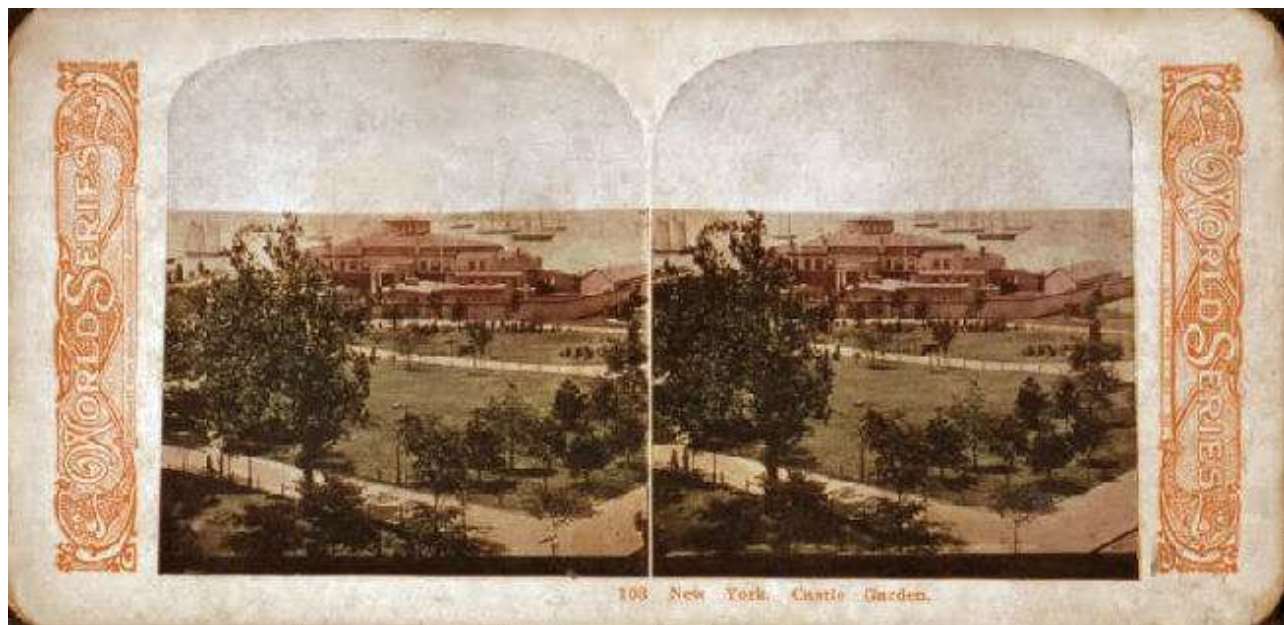


Figure 5-6. Castle Garden Immigrant Processing Center, New York, NY



Figure 5-7. Photo of Castle Garden, New York Immigrant Processing Center

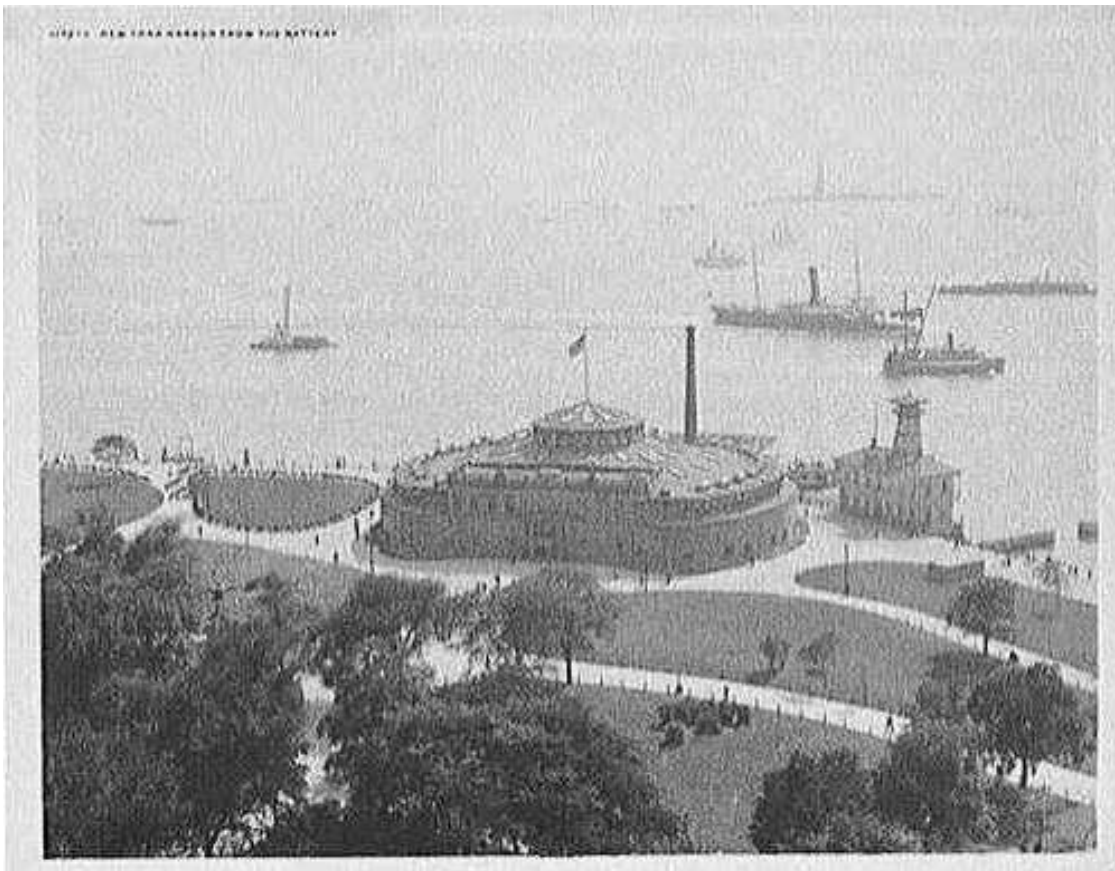


Figure 5-8. Castle Garden Immigrant Processing Center, New York, NY, ca 1906

New York *Daily Times*, August 4, 1855, Page 1, an article reporting on activities at Castle Garden, newly opened as an immigrant depot by the New York Board of Emigration Commissioners. The writer commends Castle Garden for barring "runners" and others who would prey upon and exploit new arrivals. But the writer also suggests the potential for corruption within Castle Garden, and names several points that would soon become notorious for fleecing poor immigrants of their savings--the weighing and transfer of baggage, sales of transportation inland, vendors selling snacks, etc. *(The etchings shown here are not original to the Daily Times item, but have been included to illustrate the article.)*

CASTLE GARDEN

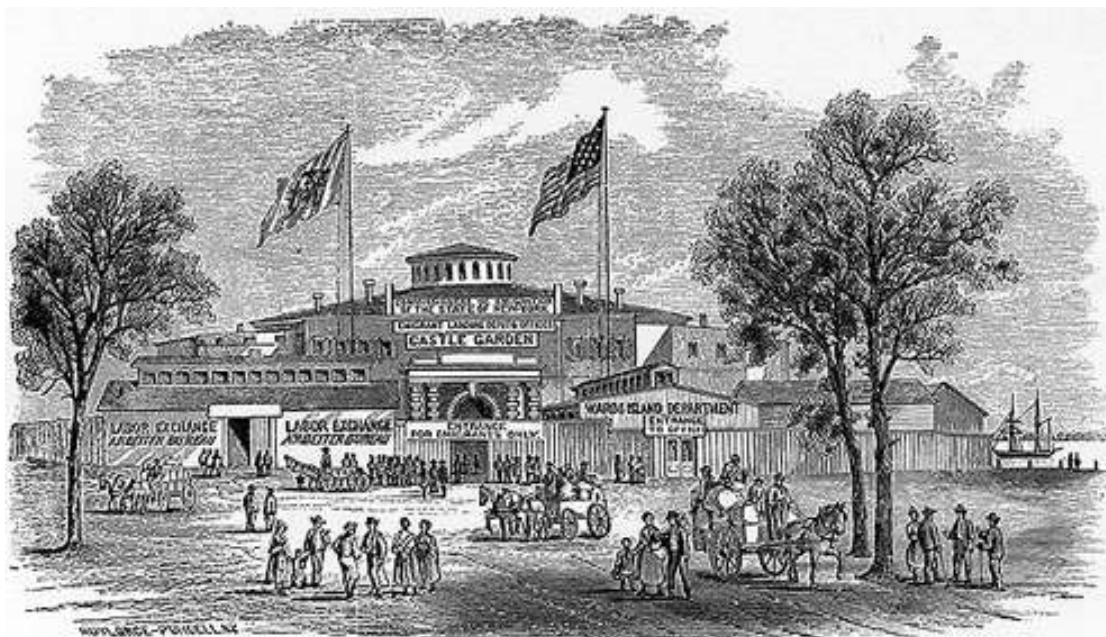


Figure 5-9. Illustration of Castle Garden Immigrant Processing Center, New York, NY,

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New Emigrants are Treated on Landing

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Honored is that house which for generation after generation has served as an ornament, and in its old age commences a new corner of practical usefulness. And our venerable Castle Garden is very highly considered that, after half a century of service as a military rallying place and a fashionable resort for the peddlers of amusement, now when its walls are cracked and crumbling and all its early glory deserted, it is vouchsafed the privilege of granting a home to all humanity, as well as to the City, of which it is the gateway. In the old time, New York received LaFayette in Castle Garden with its most profuse hospitality; to-day hundreds of the countrymen of LaFayette come over from vine-clad France, and in Castle Garden receive the first welcome to America. So, after all, the change is not so very great. Instead of one ovation a year to some distinguished foreigner, henceforth there will be a perpetual ovation to thousands of foreigners and, whereas only straggling couples have heretofore promenaded the balcony and pledged their eternal troth, henceforth it is utterly

given up to young and old, lads and lasses, old men and crusty maids to wander at will throughout it, talking about good old times and plotting for future revenue on Western prairies, or arranging for the service of the clergyman, and the quiet cottage and the babies that are to be born.

The new order of things is fairly inaugurated. We went down yesterday to see how it works. Three ships loaded with emigrants arrived up from Quarantine, and it was a busy time all round. Compose yourself, reader, while we tell about it:

A high board fence, through which the eye cannot peer, nor over which the most curious boy can climb—for it is thirteen feet high—shuts in the proper inmates and shuts out intruders; among the “cuts” are all emigrant runners. On Thursday several of these hopeful gentlemen dressed themselves in emigrants’ clothes and tried to gain admittance under the pretense of having been landed in company with those just arrived. But the dodge did not work. Others pleaded earnestly to get in to see a father or a brother, a sister or other relative, who was among the passengers. But they were too well known to palm themselves off on that pretense.

Yesterday’s few did not scruple to manifest their dislike by open demonstrations of hostility. Besides continually hooting at the employees of the Commission, as they passed in and out, they attacked one or two of them with stones. They went at Commissioner Garrigou so fiercely that he called the Police to his aid. Commissioner Kennedy drew a revolver upon them, which had the effect of cooling them somewhat. It is feared, however, the end is not yet. The Commissioners, and those under them, will go armed for the present, and will be ready for any emergency. These runners have sucked the life-blood of emigrants for so long that they think they have a right to it. And now, when upon a sudden “their occupation’s gone,” they feel as melancholy and dissatisfied with the world as do the liquor dealers where a Maine Law is honestly observed.

A policeman waved the leeches aside, and we presented our face at the raised opening of a narrow door. A word assured the porter, and we entered, registering our names where some score had preceded us, as is the rule for all visitors to do. Now passing the heavy door of old Castle Clinton—that was its name until 1823—let us push straight through to the opposite side and out upon the wharf. Here is a busy time. A heavily-loaded emigrant ship has just anchored in the stream, and the barge *Pilgrim*, towed by a steamer, is now just fastened to the pier with all her company and their luggage. The ship is the *Mary*, of Havre, and her passengers are of the better class,—stout, clean looking Hollanders, hopeful and hearty peasants from France—men who have a trade in their hands, skill in their brawny arms, and money in their pockets, and women who promise to be helps meet for industrious and intelligent men. As they leave the barge, they are examined with reference to their health, and to discover if any of them should be conveyed to the Hospital. They then enter the Garden and present themselves immediately at the desk in the centre of the room. There the names are registered, and the names and number of their family, the ship they come in, their point of destination, the route they prefer taking to reach it, the amount of money that they bring, etc.

The following is the number of emigrants arrived these last three days, and the amount of money that they brought with them,

By the <i>Albert</i>	240 passengers	\$15,000
By the <i>Bridgewater</i>	450 passengers	\$1,753
By the <i>Lelia</i>	12 families	\$238
By the <i>Mary</i>	200 passengers	\$14,434

Figure 5-10. Survey of Money Brought by Immigrants at Castle Garden, NY.

If any are ignorant of the routes West an officer points out the peculiarities of each, shows the nearest cut to distant places, and informs them of the prices of tickets. Maps of the States and of the routes are hung about the room, and if the officer does his duty, no intelligent man need decide until he knows the general features of the land that lies between the promised land and Castle Garden. This information is what almost every emigrant needs, and the officer charged with the duty should be one of the best of men. The moment that he recommends one route above another he urges to the selection of this one or the other, he has violated a rule of the establishment and is worthy to be kicked out.



Figure 5-11. Illustration of Immigrants at Castle Garden, New York, NY,

Next, the emigrant is shown to the baths. We join the crowd of males that flock in to the right. Here we find a large room, in the centre of which hang several coarse roller towels, and along the side is a deep trough of running Croton. This is the wash-room. Soap abounds—we hope no motives of niggardly economy will ever make it lose plenty. Behind a screen that reaches across the room is the basin for bathing. A dozen or two can be accommodated in it at the same time. Indeed, every facility is granted the new comer, whatever may be his condition on entering it, to leave Castle Garden personally clean. The female bath and wash-room were the counterpart of the male, but as it was in use at the time, we consented to take the statement of our conductor and forgo a personal investigation.

Back now to the Weighmaster on the wharf each head of a family must go, point out his luggage, and receive a certificate of its aggregate weight. Now, if the emigrant desires to stop in the City, he may leave his luggage, to be called for when wanted, and issuing out at the narrow front gate, saunter up Broadway, and squat, or tent, or buy and build as suits his own sweet will,—he is already a prospective American citizen and has the freedom of the City or the land. But few by this arrival elect to stop here—for they are wise enough to push on where they will be welcomed—to the West. All such are directed to the Clerk in an office at the front part of the building, where they exhibit their tickets, if they purchased them in the old country, or purchase new ones if unsupplied.

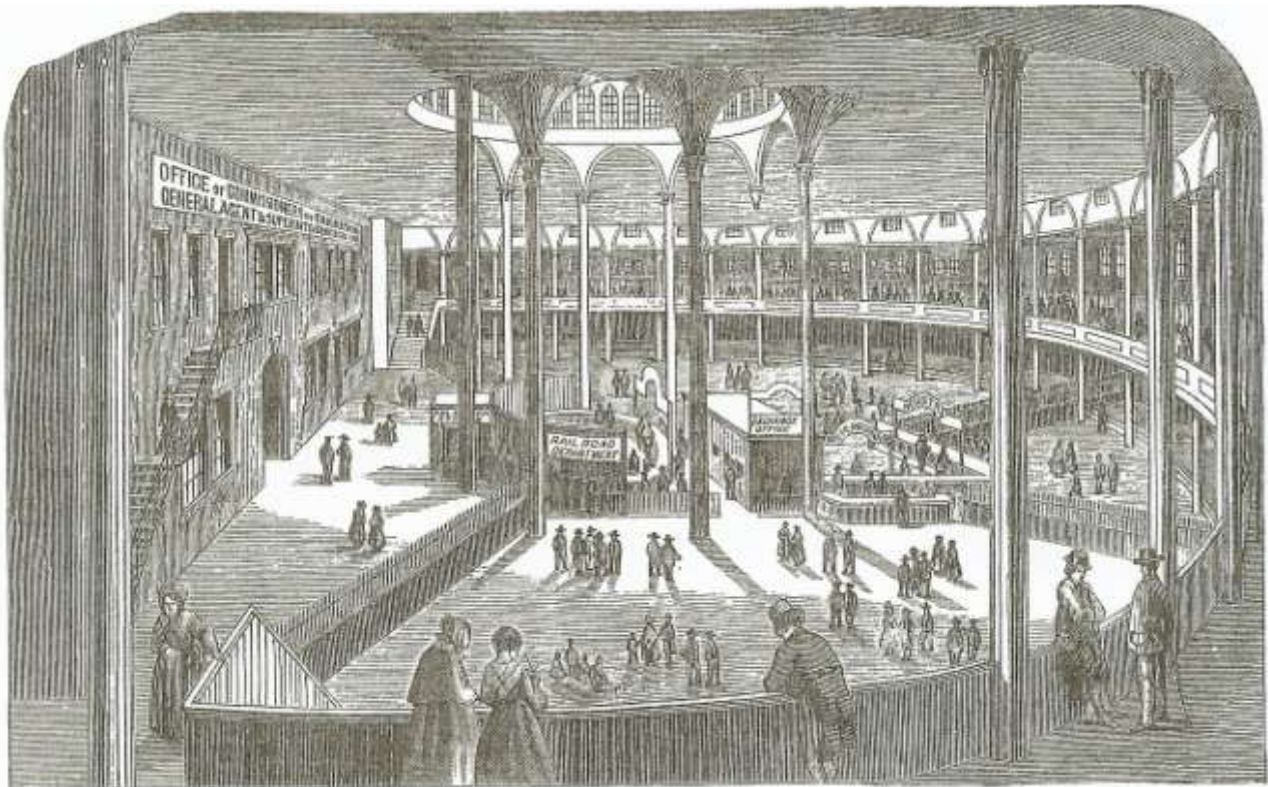


Figure 5-12. Interior View of Castle Garden (Annual Report of the Commissioners of Emigration of the State of New York, for the Year Ending December 31, 1868).

If the party elects to stay a day in the City, seeing its sights and getting a sense of its sounds, he is at liberty to do so, but there are no beds in the Castle, and he must take his chance with the hospitable or craven, the honest or the sharky of the metropolis, for the night. Most prefer to go on at once. And such need not wait long. The barge is soon reloaded with the baggage, and the steamer again fastening and they are borne in the several depots they are to go by without cost, and deposited just in time to take the next train onward. So does the honored old Castle enable the Commissioners of Emigration at least to fulfill their intention of dispatching the business of the Board promptly, protecting the City from the annoyance of an immense horde of strangers utterly ignorant of the name of a street, and entirely at the mercy of heartless runners and landlords. We cannot judge, of course, how soon corruption may squeeze in the narrow entrance to the Castle, and villainous tyranny begin its abuses, but it will make the eyes of the lover of his kind water with gratitude to see the improvement already effected in behalf of the poor emigrant by the removal into Castle Garden.

The large hall of the Garden is a capital place for young Europe to enjoy itself in, during the brief bouts of his tarry in our City, on his route westward. A tall fountain feeds a noble basin of water near the spot where the old stage was, and cools the air even at the noon of the heated term. The children were rollicking about it--sailing their paper boats, and full of unrestrained glee. The women eat in groups, talking in some of those crooked old country languages that make us wonder how any talking can be done there until the people come of age,—some knitting, some cutting and eating slices of rye German bread and cheese, some patching and fixing up the wardrobes of their family. They would not have cut a very fine figure in the hall room of the Yacht Club last night, but in view of their healthy forms and faces, we would like to see them matched in the dairy, the kitchen or the field with so many of our pale New York beauties. The prevalent head dress resembled such cushions as the ladies construct of drugget and stuff with hay, set upon the crown of the head, fastened by a broad belt over the head and under the chin. They wore abundant woolen skirts, and some were of no meaner breadth about the hips than our Newport queens when girded with a couple of the “corded”—but for a different reason. It was a strapping dame, we saw, who having eaten no more than the mere nubbin of a long German loaf, proceeded to pocket the big balance. She lifted up her frock, and into a sack sowed fast to her petticoat—that more than half a city bushel might be stowed in—dropped it as one might drop her thimble. As the pocket is only entered from within we—who never bet—will wager our inkstand that no pickpocket ever lightens her of the load.

The whole castle is theirs to ramble in, and none hinder any, wherever they choose to stop in it. The best seats are free, and numbers that at Jenny Lind’s concerts sold at fabulous prices, were open to the poorest.

In a corner, a lad sells bread and cheese, and milk at what seems a high price, but is really cheap when it is remembered that a franc is always taken there for a shilling. Sorry are we to add that there is a shadow of danger that the Commissioners may not be able to retain possession of the Garden for its present excellent use. But there is a little could—in the Councilmen’s Chamber.

(source: <http://www.theshipslist.com/pictures/castlegarden1855.htm>)

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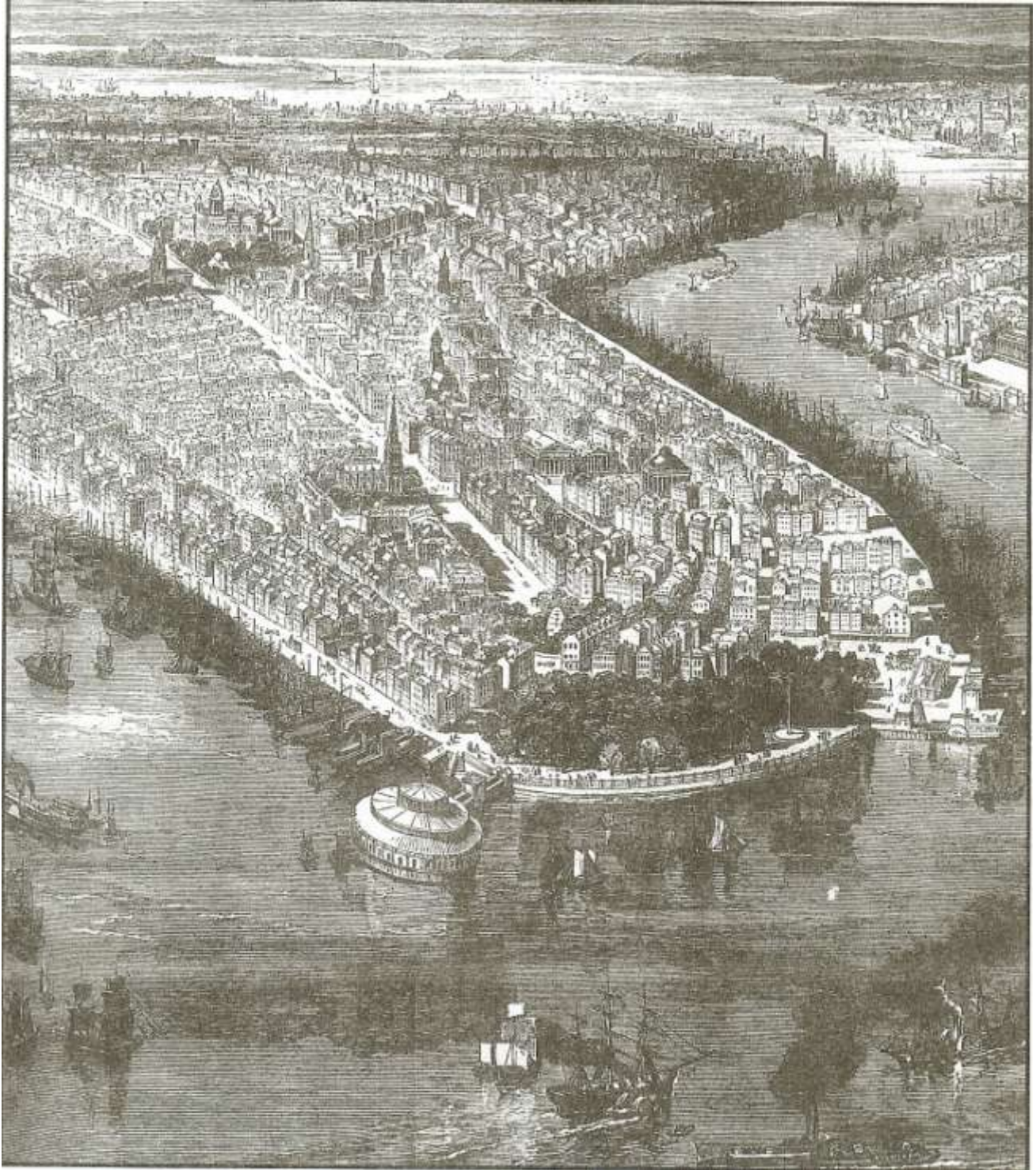


Figure 5-13, Castle Garden and Manhattan (Illustrated by London News, November 24, 1855)

Although it is not known exactly how long the Kadlec family stayed in New York, according to the above account, within a day or so they would likely have moved West to the farm country of the Midwest, following the path and pattern of travel that was common to many Czech immigrants of that time.

Life in the Village of Caledonia, in Racine County, Wisconsin

Wisconsin was perhaps, the most important destination of the Czech rural immigration to America. In Wisconsin we can find the first Czech farming town Caledonia, which was later called Tabor, named for a Gypsy word meaning "gathering place". Czechs preferred Wisconsin for many reasons. There were many German settlements in the middle of the 19th century, Czechs could speak German and it was easier for them to start somewhere where they could understand the local people. The land was cheap here and the wooded landscape of Wisconsin also reminded them their homeland. They used timber as instant building material and a source of income to buy farming equipment.

The weather was as damp and cool as in the Czech lands; however, the extremes between summer and winter were something Czechs had not experienced in their homeland. Czechs in Wisconsin grew the same crops as back home and the grain production led them to establish several breweries. So Czechs in Wisconsin were not only farmers but also entrepreneurs thanks to the traditional Czech great consumption of beer.

In the 1850s most of the Czech immigrants congregated in Wisconsin; however, after the introduction of the Homestead Act in 1862, not only the newly-arrived Czechs but also the Czechs who had already settled in Wisconsin moved farther west in search for better opportunities and better climate. But the weather in the prairie states was definitely not less extreme, so they did not help themselves too much in this respect. Czechs looked for better land in Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. They found less severe weather only in western parts of Illinois (Polišenský, 1996; Saxon-Ford, 1998).

A wonderful historical account of the Czech immigrant settlement of Caledonia, Wisconsin is recorded in the 1910 book, History of Czechs in America by Dr. Jan Habenicht:

Located eight miles north of Racine, on the west shore of Lake Michigan is the rich Czech colony of CALEDONIA. About 300 Bohemian and Moravian families live there.

The strongest wave of immigrants began in 1856 and lasted until 1866. At the turn of the 1860's and into the 1870's, an exodus from Caledonia took place, especially to McLeod County, Minnesota, to Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. But they did not leave Caledonia because of poverty, on the contrary, they did very well; the reason was that there was no more land to buy for sons and daughters in the town of Caledonia.

Many of the emigrants now have hundreds of acres of land in the other states, while in Caledonia just a few compatriots who managed to carry out purchases lot by lot have over 100 acres. Anyway, many of our people have 20, 40, 80 and even 100 acres there. (An average cost is now \$125 per acre, but there was even a purchase of an acre of the best land for \$200, i.e. 1000 crowns!)

The beginnings for the Czech farmers who had settled in Caledonia in the early years were severe. Nobody could begin a journey without an axe, because even the route to Racine had not been cut through the forest. Ditches were bridged with beams, logs and branches so that they could drive wagons over them. This was the method used to cover bogs and marshes. First they laid out long beams, over them logs next to one another and then branches and brushwood. At that time there was nothing but dark virgin forest, full of marshes and bogs, and it was easy to lose one's way. Here and there near the muddy road there was a shabby dwelling. Later when the residents did better, they converted the original dwelling into a cowshed. At first,

everyone cut and burned trees—in the cold, in the heat, in the rain. During spring they hoed the soil between the stumps and planted potatoes and sweet corn.

In the early spring, while light frosts still appeared, everybody cooked “molasses” from maples for sweetening “coffee”, made of roasted endive mixed with some roasted corn.

They preserved deer meat in hollow stumps because they had no barrels. Those who were lucky to have a team, from time to time loaded a wagon with wood and carried it to Racine, and when they received a dollar or a half a bag of flour, they happily sat on the wagon and drove home, loudly singing folk songs.

Harmony and sincere love prevailed among the first colonists. They would share the very last piece of bread and nobody had the slightest idea of cheating the others. When they met by a river or lake, they reminisced about the times in the old homeland when their work was not so difficult. They were happy to see and love another like brothers.

It certainly took a very long time to turn the wild forest to green meadows and fertile fields! In locations where only the bells of grazing cattle could be heard and wild birds seen, where no one could cross the marshes in winter, now you can find nice buildings surrounded with barns, cowsheds, stables, granaries, gardens and fields that bring more and more crops every year and amply reward a good farmer's work.

This interesting colony where the history of the Czech country people in America established its roots has never been a purely Czech village or town. It is one of the towns in Racine County where Czechs once made a majority of the population, but today they do not. Many of them died, a large number of the others migrated to other states and so Czechs lost their former majority in the town of Caledonia. Czech farms are no longer even neighbors of one another they are mixed with Americans, Irishmen, Germans, etc. as they are in most other parts of the Country.

There are no more Czech colonies in Racine County . . . All that once was, is no more. These Czech colonies died out.” (History of Czechs in America, English Edition, pages 303-306, Habenicht,)

To a twenty-first century genealogist seeking to imagine and to mentally recreate the nineteenth century circumstances of the František Kadlec family's first years in America, specifically in Caledonia, Wisconsin, Habenicht's words are very insightful.

Firstly, the farming neighborhoods of Caledonia such as “Tabor” (literally: “gathering place”) were indeed an initial place of gathering for these Czech immigrants to get their first foothold in their newly adopted country, before moving along to the next place where they could perhaps establish themselves more upon the terms of their own choosing.

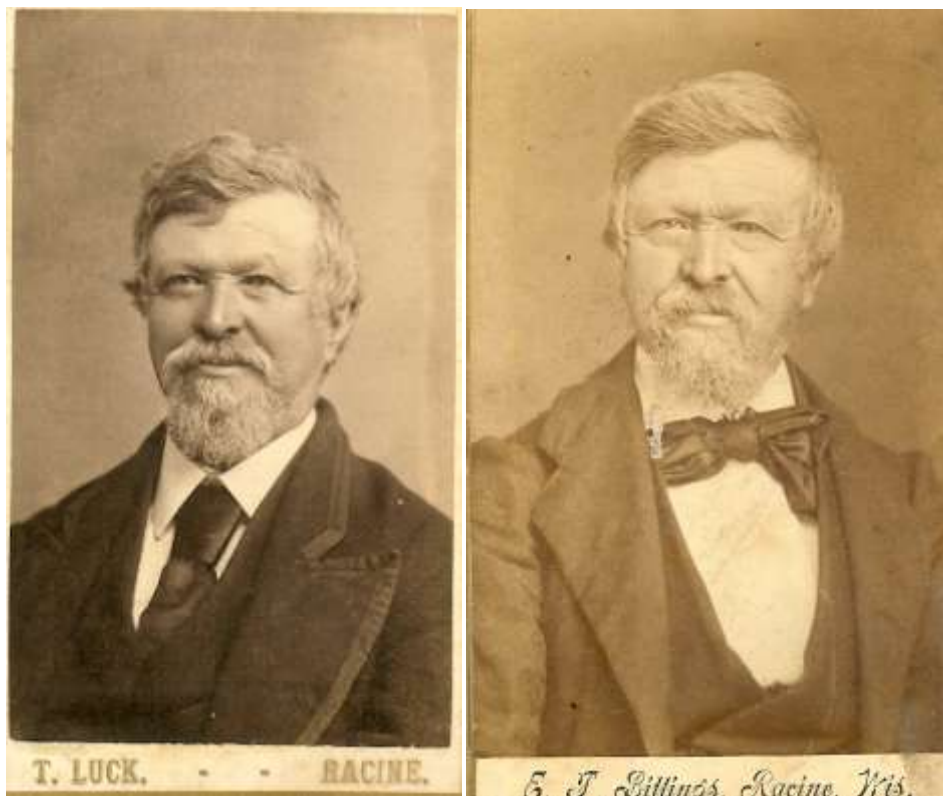
Secondly, the travails and work that these early immigrants faced was undoubtedly hard and full of existential threat and heartache. Despite these trials and tribulations, these immigrants banded together in the spirit of their culture for survival, to live day by day.

And thirdly, by the turn of the twentieth century, the outward signs of the thriving Czech colony of Caledonia were no longer visible to the writer Habenicht; this observation was certainly confirmed one hundred years later, on the author's first trip to Caledonia. Despite the presence of the Bohemian National Cemetery and old Czech schoolhouse which still

exist, there is apparently no remaining critical mass of Czech descendants to sustain the cultural legacy of this once vibrant Czech settlement.

So how do you proceed to write the biography of your ancestors whose lives were not noted in history books, but who happened to live in a historically notable time and place? You take any clues you can find and look for any sort of association to those who were documented as notable individuals, infer as much as possible and hope for a lucky break in your research.

After spending years pouring over dozens of unlabeled photos retained by the Kadlec family from their time in Caledonia, Wisconsin, a lucky break did occur. While reading through the Habenict book, History of Czechs in America, a familiar face appeared on page 296, his name was Anton Kroupa (Kraupa), a man claimed to be the first Czech settler in the City of Racine.



Figures 5-14 and 5-15. Photos of Czech settler Anton Kraupa from the personal collection of Josef Kadlec. Left photo was the same photo published in History of Czechs in America by Jan Habenicht.

Wrote Habenict about Anton Kroupa:

“The first Czech to arrive in “Czech Bethlehem”, as Racine was called by the first Czechs, was Antonin Kroupa (Kraupa) in 1848. He was born in Vlašim in 1816. He arrived in America shortly after the 1848 Prague uprising, and he for a short time ran a draper’s business in Cleveland for twelve dollars a month. After sixteen weeks, poor and desolate, he left Cleveland for Racine. Thanks to his perseverance and honesty, he achieved fair wealth and the respect of his fellow Racine citizens.

After his arrival in Racine, Kroupa worked at many jobs as a day laborer. He then received a job in J. Conroe’s hardware store where he worked for sixteen years, first as a hand, and

later, as an assistant. After Mr. Conroe's death in 1865 he ran the store himself. He died in Racine on October 30, 1900."

Other local history books took note of Mr. Kraupa:

A. KRAUPA, hardware merchant; was born in Bohemia, Feb. 4, 1817; left Hamburg for America in 1848; had a rough voyage on board the sailing ship "Lilenetz;" made the trip in eight weeks; landed at New York City in November; he remained there a few days; had no money, but went to Cleveland, Ohio; worked at the butcher business for his board one month; received, for the second month's labor, \$4; in the spring he left Cleveland for Racine by boat; arrived May 1, 1849; in 1850 he married a Bohemian girl; have had eight children, five sons and three daughters; two have died; the oldest daughter is married, and has three children, two sons and a daughter; the first year, Mr. K. worked about this place, sawing wood, loading and unloading vessels, etc., after which he commenced work at the store of J. W. Conroe, in the hardware business; was with him for sixteen years; after Mr. Conroe's death, Mr. Kraupa bought the widow out, agreeing to pay her \$1,800; at the time, all the money he possessed was \$6; he cleared \$3,000 the first year; Mr. Kraupa is advancing in years, but attends to his every-day business, and appears to be good for years to come.

Digitized by Google

Figure 5-16. Source: The History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin, p. 596, Western Historical Co, 1879, (Google Books).

So having had two personal photos of him, the Kadlec family knew Anton Kraupa, who worked at the Conroe Hardware store. But who was Mr. Conroe and where was his store located?

G. C. CONROE, hardware merchant; born at Manitowoc, Wis., 1838; came to Racine at the age of 2 years. His early education was received at the public schools; in 1868, he married Miss Helen Jones, daughter of Elias Jones; they have had one child—Mary H. Commenced business under the firm name of Kraupa & Co., and when the war broke out, he enlisted in the 20th Wis. Regt., June, 1862; was mustered in as Sergeant, serving three years and a half; was in eleven engagements—Prairie Grove, Ark., Vicksburg, Port Hudson, Galveston, Mobile, Brownsville, Blakesley, Spanish Fort, Fort Morgan, Bonsecure, and Van Buren; acted as Orderly Sergeant eighteen months; in the winter of 1863 and 1864, was sent home on recruiting service, and remained six months, when he returned to his regiment, at Brownsville, Tex., where he embarked for Fort Morgan, July 5; his last battle was the taking of Mobile, Ala.; what remained of his regiment was ordered to Galveston, and was mustered out of service, July, 1865; he then returned to Racine, and resumed his business, on Main street, till 1873, when he removed to Sixth street, his present location.

Figure 5-17. Source: The History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin, p. 575, Western Historical Co, 1879, (Google Books).

From the above account, his business was located "on Main street, till 1873, when he removed to Sixth street, his present location". This was confirmed in 1875-1876 directory of businesses from the City of Racine:

*HARDWARE, STOVES AND TINWARE-
Conroe, G.C., 26 Sixth
Kraupa, Anthony, 92 Main*

Figure 5-18. Source: 1875-6 Racine Classified Business Directory, published by Murphy & Co., City, State and Railroad Directory and Gazetteer Publishers, 105 Wisconsin St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Located near the mouth of the Root River in the central business district of Racine (and seven miles South of Caledonia), the distance between these locations of the Conroe Hardware store was approximately six-tenths of a mile. Although both of these locations can be mapped today, the historical buildings of the Conroe Hardware stores no longer exist.



Figure 5-19. 137 Main Street, Racine, Wisconsin. Circa 1860, Near the Conroe Hardware Store, Wisconsin Historical Society, Image ID: WHi-40122.



Figure 5-20, 112 Main Street, Racine, Wisconsin, Circa 1860, Near the Conroe Hardware Store, Wisconsin Historical Society, Image ID: WHi-40116.

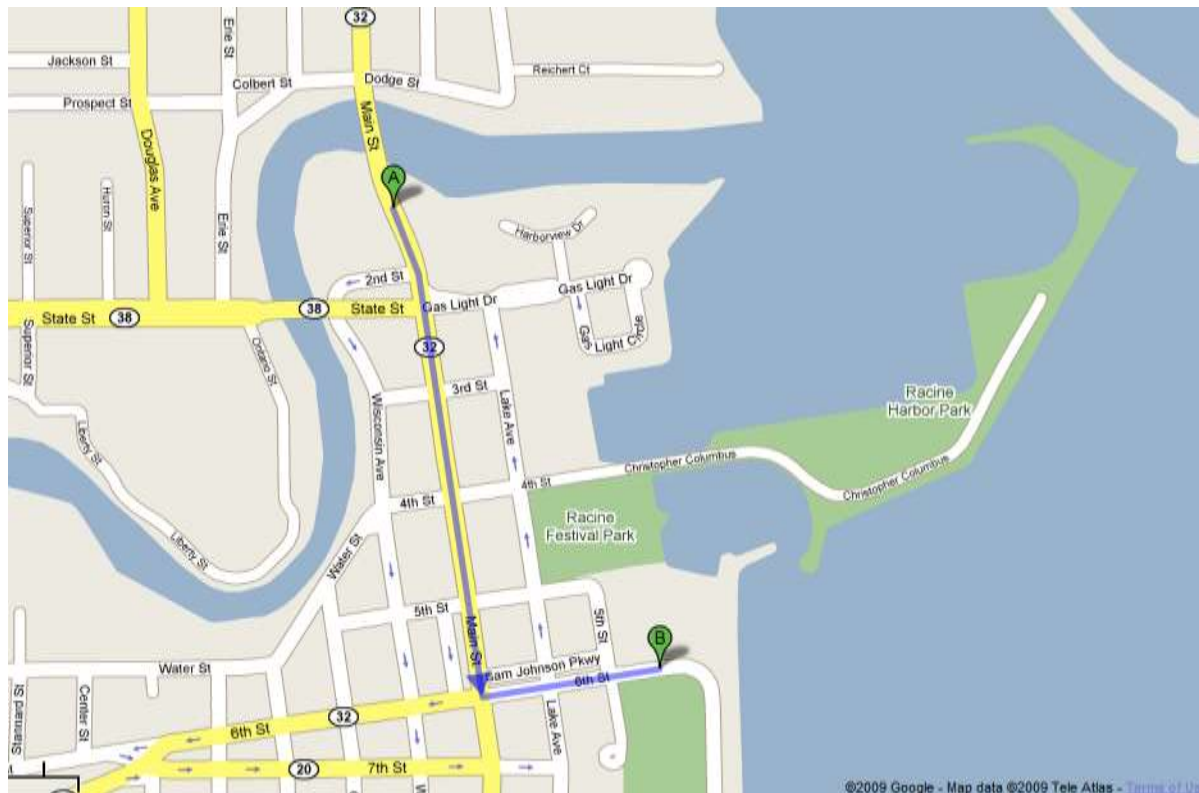


Figure 5-21. Locations of the Conroe Hardware Store from 92 Main Street to 26 6th Street, Racine Wisconsin, where Anton Kraupa worked, possibly with Josef Kadlec.

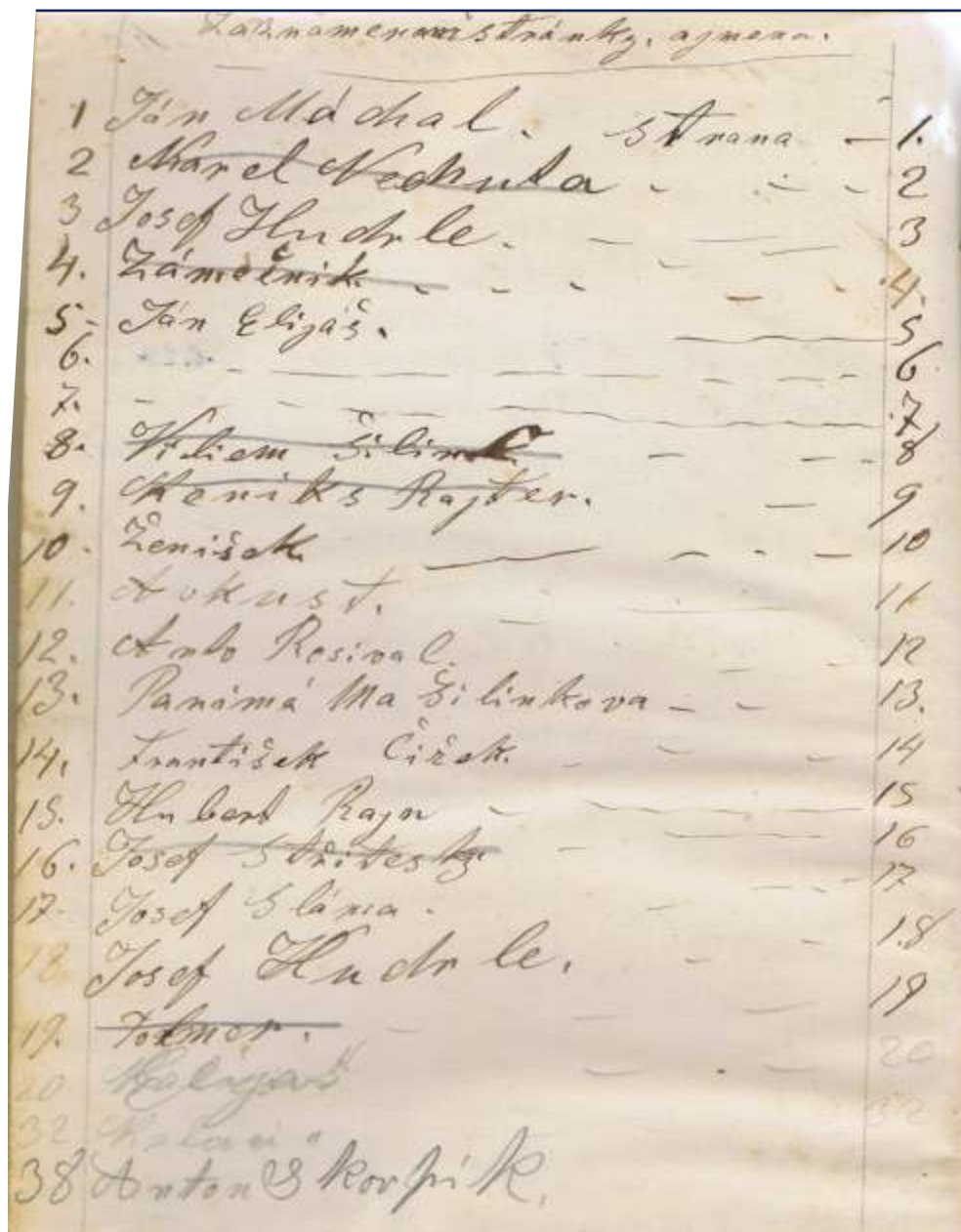
By October 1864, the twenty-six year old store keeper Josef was married to the sixteen year old Francis Kutina and living in Caledonia, seven miles North of Racine, where Francis had lived with her family. Perhaps Josef had worked with Anton Kraupa at the Conroe hardware store? Or perhaps his connection to Anton Kroupa was purely avocational and related to the social activities of the "Slovanska Lipa" Bohemian Society of Racine?

The Bohemian Society of Racine was founded on the 3d day of March, 1861, under the name of "Slovanska Lipa," which means, literally translated, "The Slavonian Lime Tree," that tree having been held sacred among the ancient Slavonians whose public meetings and religious gatherings used to be held under its widespread branches. The Society organized by the election of the following officers: Hanus B. Letowsky, President; Hanus A. Hubachek, Vice President; Joseph Nowotny, Secretary; Anthony Kraupa, Treasurer; Frank Korizek, Librarian; Anthony Kraynik and Frank Tribyl, Trustees.

In the year 1871, a Bohemian Gymnastic Association was formed, called "Sokol," which, however, in the fall of 1871, united with the "Slovanska Lipa," and the name of the consolidated society was changed to "Narodni Jednota" (National Union). The new articles of incorporation were recorded June 3, 1876. The objects of the Society are mental advancement, social intercourse and mutual support in case of need and sickness. The Society maintains a Bohemian Sunday school, with secular instruction; has a well-assorted Bohemian library of 400 volumes, besides a collection of maps and pictures, and meets once a month at the Dania Hall on State street. Present membership in good standing, forty. Present officers: President, Joseph Velf; Vice President, Anthony Kraynik; Secretary, Frank Stenicka; Treasurer, Ignace Bures; Janitor, John Nesetril; Trustees, Joseph Kristerius, M. M. Secor, Frank Nehoda. Receipts of the Society during the year ending May 1, 1879, a little over \$600. The property of the Narodni Jednota exceeds \$2,000 in value.

Figure 5-22. Source: *The History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin*, p. 431, Western Historical Co, 1879, (Google Books).

To date, no published information has been found to document the involvement of Josef Kadlec in the early founding of the Bohemian Society of Racine. However, an old notebook of Josef's dating back to 1865 suggests that he may have been an early organizer of a group of Caledonia Czechs for some unknown purpose.



Zazname stranky jmena
(log page names)

1. Jan Máhal strana (party)
2. Karel Neruda (Vechusa?)
3. Josef Hudrle
4. Zámečník
5. Jan Eliáš
6. ---
7. ---
8. Vilem Šilink
9. Keniks Rajter
10. Ženíšek
11. Avkust
12. Anto Rosival
13. Panima Ma Šilinková
14. František Čížek
15. Hubert Rajn
16. Josef Stritesky
17. Josef Slama
18. Josef Hudrle
19. Tolmer
20. Eliáš
32. Kalcovi (plural for Kalc)
38. Anton Skorpik

Figure 5-23. "Log Page Names" page from Josef Kadlec's notebook, circa 1875

Is this list of names some sort of membership roster for a Bohemian cultural society of Caledonia, Wisconsin? Since Josef would go on to organize and co-found a similar organization in the Silver Lake, Minnesota community some fifteen years later, it is a definite possibility. Of the names the list, at least two are familiar; František Čížek, who was Josef's brother in law, married to his sister Františka, and Jan Eliáš, a Czech from Sloupnice, who was a successful business man in Caledonia, in the area known as Tabor.

Tabor came into existence with the establishment of a train station, when the Chicago Northwestern railroad constructed a line between Chicago and Milwaukee. Some say Tabor is named after a Bohemian fortress, others say it is a Gypsy name meaning gathering place, and other say it was named after the Tabor brothers who first settled in the Town of Dover. Tabor consisted of one building run by John Elias (Jan Eliáš), which contained a general store, tavern, implement shop and post office, located at what is now 6633 Douglas Avenue. The building served as a meeting place for residents, many of whom were Bohemian settlers. One remnant of the early neighborhood is Tabor Road, which today connects Highways 31 and 32. (Source <http://www.caledoniawi.com>)

This proof of association between Josef Kadlec and Jan Eliáš might be evidence that Josef worked for Jan Eliáš, as Josef's 1864 marriage certificate indicated his profession as "store keeper". The author Jan Habenicht wrote this about Jan Eliáš and Caledonia, Wisconsin:

"There is only one Czech grocery, combined with a bar, in Caledonia. It is owned by Jan Eliáš and located on an ordinary farm. Czech theater performances took place in this bar, as well as parties and meetings. Behind the bar is a nice little forest, an occasional site of trips of the associations from Chicago, Milwaukee and Racine." (History of Czechs in America, English Edition, page 305, Habenicht)

We may never know specifically where Josef had worked or which social circles he belonged to, but looking at old maps of Caledonia Township, we can see that his in-laws, the Kutina family farmed in the southeast portion of Section 13 of Racine County; a location right in the heart of the Czech community of Caledonia, near the Jan Eliáš store:



Figure 5-24 1858 Plat Map, Location of the 50 acre František Kutina Family Farm, Section 13, Racine County, Wisconsin (yellow rectangle) near the Jan Eliáš store (red circle) and Kadlec farm (blue rectangles).

On Friday, April 3, 1857, a mere four months after arriving in the United States of America, František Kadlec entered the old Racine County courthouse and officially renounced his allegiance to Francis Joseph, king of Austria. By doing so, he took his first step towards becoming a citizen of the United States.

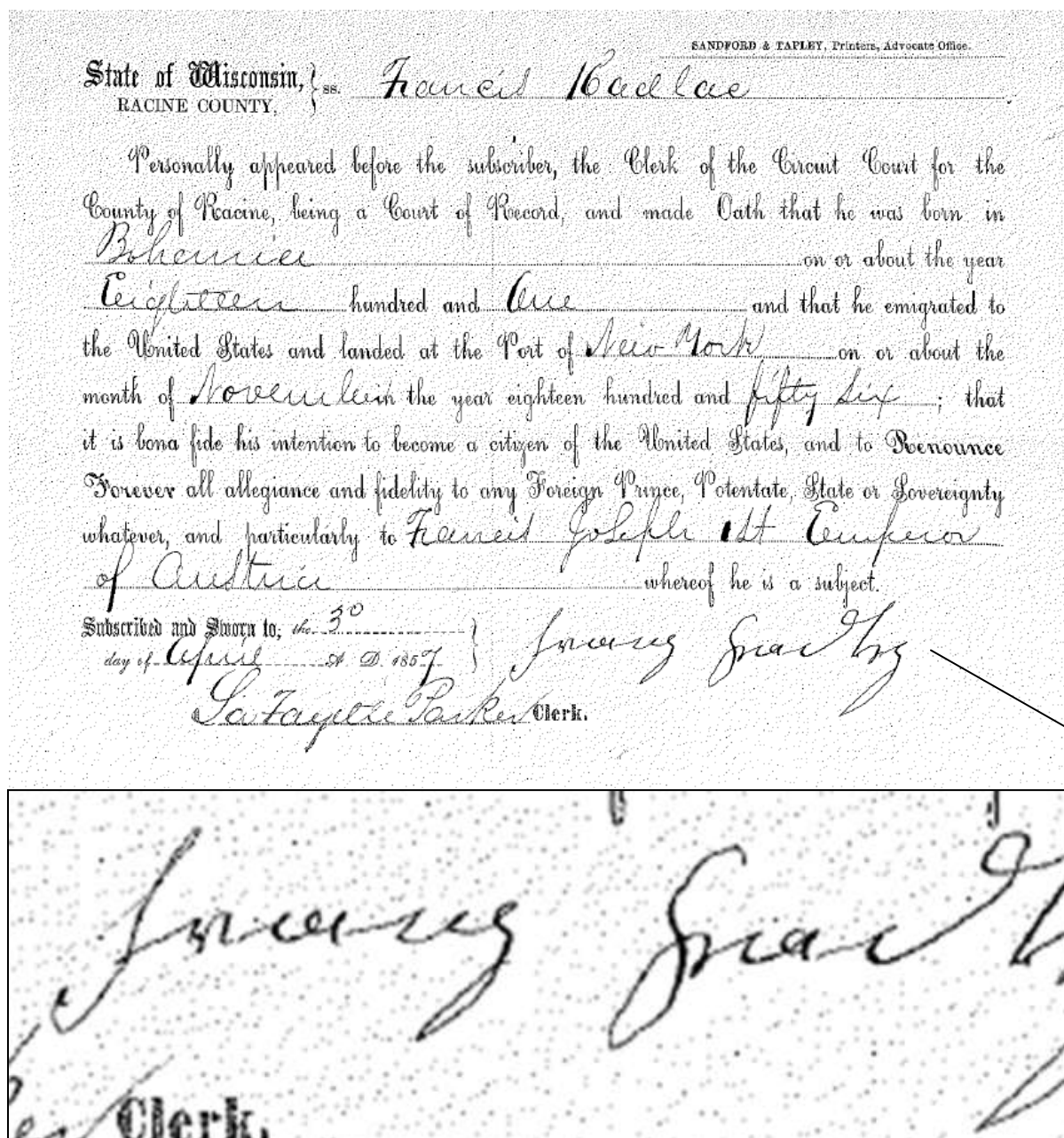


Figure 5-25 Naturalization Paper of František Kadlec, including a blow-up of his signature

Overview of Naturalization

Naturalization is the legal procedure by which an alien becomes a citizen of the United States. Naturalization records may provide a vital link for tracing an ancestor to his or her country of origin and can be a rich source of information about the immigrant and his or her family. This is particularly true for records created after 1906.

Wisconsin naturalization records can be found in municipal, county, circuit, supreme, and United State territorial and district courts. Most naturalization records have been transferred from the Wisconsin court system to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Records from various jurisdictions have been brought together and are available for research at the Society's Area Research Centers.

The Process

Congress has the power to "establish a uniform rule of naturalization" under Section 8, Article 1 of the United States Constitution. Federal laws governing the admission of aliens to citizenship, adopted in 1790, replaced the earlier legislation of individual states.

These statutes were revised in 1795 and again in 1798, but it was the Naturalization Act of 1802 which established the three-part naturalization process which remains in effect today. The alien must declare his or her intention to become a citizen, must serve a required residency period, and then must petition an authorized court for admission to citizenship. In character, this process is both judicial, occurring before and by order of a court, and administrative, being under the supervision of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice.

The process begins with the alien filing a Declaration of Intention with an authorized court, indicating his or her intention to become a citizen, to renounce all allegiance to any foreign state, and to renounce any foreign title or order of nobility.

At least two years after making the declaration (after 1906, no more than seven years later), an alien who has been a resident of the United States for at least five years could petition the court for admission to citizenship. (Since 1941, the requirement to file a Declaration of Intention has been abolished and the residency period shortened for the spouses of citizens.)

The Petition includes both the applicant's oath and the affidavits of two witnesses who attest to the residency and good character of the petitioner. Finally, if the petition is accepted, the court issues an order admitting the individual to citizenship.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/natlzn/>

To date, this "Declaration of Intention" is the earliest written record that we have to confirm that František was a resident of Racine County, Wisconsin. The Federal Census of 1860 would provide the next opportunity to document the status of the Kadlec family in Racine County, but here is where it gets interesting.

After several hours of searching the 1860 census records of Racine County, Wisconsin, the František Kadlec family could not be found through the online records of Ancestry.com. Perhaps the family's census record was omitted from the online index? To verify this, the author looked through hundreds of pages of census records for Racine County and thousands of names, but to no avail. Perhaps the family may have lived elsewhere in the United States or Canada or were recorded under a different spelling or variant of the family name? Then a query to search for all 60 year old men by the name of "Franz" in Racine County yielded an intriguing result:

Page No. 6

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Caledonia **in the County of** Racine **State**
of Wisconsin **enumerated by me, on the** 5th **day of** June **1860.** George Huston **Asst Marshal.**
Post Office Racine

Dwelling-house, in order of valuation.	Family numbered in the order of valuation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
			Age.	Sex.	White, black, or mulatto.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	43	Franz Galezk	60	m		Farmer	700	1400	Bohemia				
26		Anna	54	f									
27		Franz	38	m		Farmer							
28		Joseph	24	m									
29		Anton	15	m									
40		Margaret Galezk	21	m		Taylor							
No. white males, <u>26</u> No. colored males, _____ No. foreign born, _____ No. blind, _____ No. white females, <u>14</u> No. colored females, _____ No. deaf and dumb, _____ No. insane, _____ <u>9180</u> <u>2004</u>													

Page No. 7

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Caledonia **in the County of** Racine **State**
of Wisconsin **enumerated by me, on the** 6th **day of** June **1860.** George Huston **Asst Marshal.**
Post Office Racine

Dwelling-house, in order of valuation.	Family numbered in the order of valuation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
			Age.	Sex.	White, black, or mulatto.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1		Vincenz	15	m					Bohemia				
2		Joseph	22	m									
3		Anna	3	f					Wis.				
4		Rosina	1	f									

Figures 5-26 and 5-27. 1860 Federal Census Results, Caledonia Township, Racine County, Wisconsin, documenting the Franz "Galezk" Family.

Interestingly enough, in enumeration of Caledonia Township in Racine County, Wisconsin there was a sixty year old farmer by the name of "Franz Galezek", born in "Bohemia" who was the owner of real estate valued at \$700 and property valued at \$1,400. Could this

person be our František Kadlec? The listing of the members of his household seems to yield our answer.

This Franz had a wife named Anna aged 54, who was also born in Bohemia. Together they headed a household of family members with the first names of Franz, Joseph, “Anton” (Antonia), and “Vincenz” (Vincenzia), among others (Wenzel Kozel, a 23 year old tailor); Anna age 3, and Rosina-age 1.

From 1860 Census Name, Age, Gender	Birth Year as per census	Actual Birth Year	From Known Family Records Name, Age, Gender
Franz Galezk, 60, m	1800	1800	Frantisek, 60, m
Anna, 54, f	1806	1804	Anna, 56, f
Franz, 30, m	1830	1830	Frantisek Jr., 30, m
Joseph, 24, m	1836	1835	Josepha, 25, f
Anton, 15, m	1845	1843	Antonie, 16, f
Wenzel Kozel, 21, m	1839	?	Not a family member, perhaps a boarder?
Joseph, 22, m	1838	1838	Josef, 21, m
Vincenz, 13, m	1847	1845	Vincenza, 14, f
Anna, 3, f	1857	1857	Anna (1857-1871) interred with elder Anna in the Caledonia Memorial Park Cemetery
Rosina, 1, f	1859	?	No record of a Rosina Kadlec, however, the family had a daughter Rosalie (1832-1837)

Figure 5-28. 1860 federal census results of the Franz “Galezk” Family vs. known Kadlec family information.

The combination of first names and ages is unmistakable -this is certainly must be our Kadlec family, despite the transcription error with regard to the family surname and gender description of some individuals. It does not take too much imagination to understand how the family name of Kadlec, correctly pronounced as ‘KUD-letz’, could be heard as ‘GAL-zek’ and transcribed as such on this census record. Here is a possible explanation.

Imagine yourself at the doorstep of the Kadlec family log home, in the rural Wisconsin countryside on the 5th day of June, 1860, when the government census taker came to visit. Perhaps most members of the Kadlec household were out and about, working in the fields or tending to other business? It may have been up to mother Anna Kadlec or whoever else was at home at the time, to communicate the list of names and ages of the household members to the census taker, perhaps in a combination of German or broken English language. And under these circumstances, it is not difficult to understand how such errors might have occurred and came to be part of the historical record of this census.

In these days it was common for multiple unrelated families to share the same living quarters—so Wenzel Kozel (‘kozel’ is the Czech word for ‘male goat’) may have just been a boarder in the Kadlec household, working as a “taylor”, in a house full of farmers and farm laborers.

And so the this 1860 census record stands as strong evidence that the František Kadlec was living in Racine County within three years of arriving in America. It also generated a new series of questions:

Who were the biological parents of young Anna and Rosina?

Were these young children enumerated in the 1860 census, the offspring of the mother Anna, who would have been more than fifty years old at the time? Biologically that seems unlikely, however one should never underestimate the determination and fertility of a pioneer settler woman. Or perhaps Anna and Rosina were the children of one of František and Anna's daughters, perhaps even fathered by Wenzel Kozel, who was living in their household at the time?

Did thirty year old František Jr. Kadlec come to America and return to the Czech lands?

It is a common perception that European immigrants only took a one-way, West-bound trip to America, never to return back to their homeland. However, each immigrant ship that arrived to the ports of America found herself reloaded with shipments of goods and supplies and also with passengers who traveled back to the ports of Europe.



Figures 5-29 and 5-30. Inset photo taken at 309 W. Madison Street, Chicago. Could the man seated and in the inset photo at lower right be František Kadlec Jr.?

The discovery of František Jr.'s presence in Caledonia, Wisconsin might help to explain the identity of the "man with the dark curly hair", who has been found in unlabeled photographs from the Kadlec family album that dates back to their days in Racine County, Wisconsin.

From the Kadlec family's passenger record we know that František Jr. did not travel on the ship with his parents and five siblings to America in 1856. Records obtained from Velké Tresné, Czech Republic, show that he was indeed married to Terezie Metelová in 1852 and had his first (and short-lived son) Jan in 1853, second child František in 1856, third child also named Jan in October 1858, fourth child Vincencie in October 1861, fifth child Josef in 1864, sixth child Terezie in 1867, and last child Karel in 1870.

Note the three-year gap between the birth of František Jr. and Terezie's fourth and fifth children, between October 1858 and October 1861—apparently František Jr. took the opportunity to leave his wife and children behind in Velké Tresné, to arrive in America to help his family establish themselves economically and then to return to his native village to resume his family life and to live the remainder of his days in the Czech lands.

1864 Caledonia Township, Racine County Tax Records

According to 1864 tax records, Josef Kadlec owned the Southernmost 20 acres of the North half of the Southeast Quarter of section #18 and the 3 ½ acres in the middle of the West edge of the SE quarter section. This land was valued at \$350 and \$70 respectively. The record shows that Josef had paid in full, town taxes of \$4.38 and \$0.88 and state taxes of \$3.6 and \$0.72 for these properties, respectively.

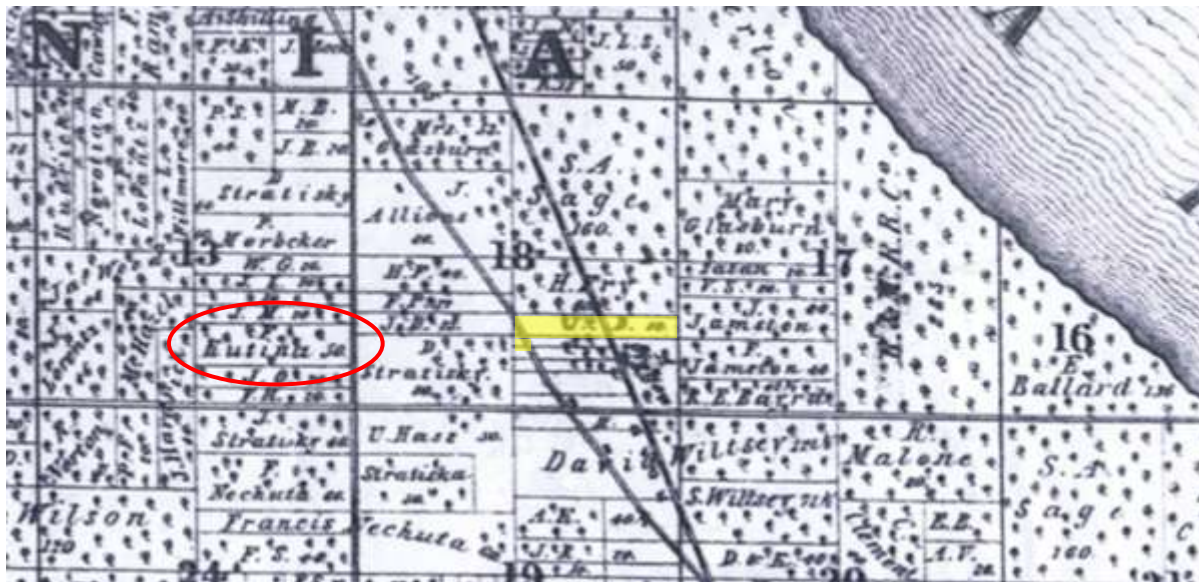
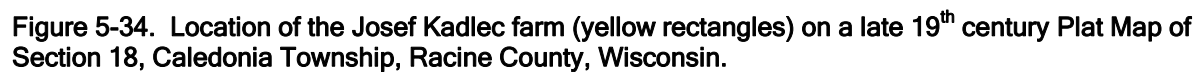


Figure 5-31. Location of the Josef Kadlec farm (yellow rectangles) on 1858 Plat Map of Section 18, Caledonia Township, Racine County, Wisconsin.

Assessment Roll for Town of <i>Caledonia</i>						
NAMES	DESCRIPTION OF LANDS	Sec.	Town	Range	Acres	Value Each [in]
<i>Vincent Nelson</i>	<i>N.E. Corner 1/4 Sec. 1 T. 18 N. R. 23 E.</i>	18	4	23	1/4	80
<i>Joseph Codletz</i>	<i>20 A. N. 1/2 S. 6 1/4</i>	"	"	"	20	350
"	<i>Corner W Side S. 6 1/4</i>	"	"	"	3 1/2	70
<i>Joseph Zitta</i>	<i>N Side S. 1/2 S. 6 1/4</i>	"	"	"	10	175
<i>Mrs. Schmoll</i>	<i>In S. 1/4 S. 6 1/4 1/4 E. by Mill Rd</i>	"	"	"	9 1/4	162
<i>Francis Anduly</i>	<i>In S. 1/4 S. 6 1/4 1/4 E. by Mill Road</i>	"	"	"	4	70
<i>Joseph Dick</i>	<i>N Side S. 1/2 N. 1/2 S. 18 1/4</i>	"	"	"	16 1/2	280
<i>Anton Cregor</i>	<i>S. E. Corner S. 6 1/4</i>	"	"	"	38 1/4	675
<i>Conrad Andrus</i>	<i>N. E. 1/4 1/4</i>	"	"	"	154 1/4	3080
<i>Henry Fry</i>	<i>N. E. 1/4 S. 6 1/4 same sold to Mill Road</i>	"	"	"	5 1/2	1200
<i>Carl Stephens</i>	<i>In E. End N. 1/2 S. 18 1/4 Joseph Dick</i>	"	"	"	1/4	20
"	<i>In S. 1/4 S. 18 1/4 S. 6 1/4</i>	"	"	"	1	18

Range 23, for the year 1864.								
ASSED VALUE OF PROPERTY.	TOWN TAX.	COUNTY TAX.	STATE TAX.	SCHOOL TAX.	ROAD TAX.	FRES.	TOTAL TAX.	REMARKS.
80	1 00		82		16	10	2 08	<i>Paid</i>
350	4 38		3 61					<i>Paid</i>
70	88		72					<i>Paid</i>
175	2 19		1 80					<i>Paid</i>
162	2 03		1 67			18	3 88	<i>Paid</i>
70	88		72		14	9	1 83	<i>Paid</i>
280	3 50		2 88	28		33	6 99	<i>Paid</i>
675	8 44		6 95					<i>Paid</i>
3080	38 50		31 72		6 91	3 86	80 99	<i>Paid</i>
1200	15 00		12 36		2 40	1 49	31 25	<i>Paid</i>
20	25		21		9 4	03	53	<i>Paid</i>
18	23		19		04	02	48	<i>Paid</i>
6180	77 28		63 65	28	9 69			

Figures 5-32, 5-33. 1864 Property Tax Record, Caledonia Township, Racine County, Wisconsin for taxes paid in full by "Josef Codletz".



1870 Federal Census

The next US Federal Census of 1870, provides us with the next snapshot in time, indicating the status of the Josef Kadlec family: in the summer of 1870, Josef and Francis Kutina had three children and his father František Kadlec, aged 65 was living and working on the farm in Hale Township, near Silver Lake, McLeod County, Minnesota.

30	30	22	Kadlec Joseph	30	46 W	Farmer	960	350	Bohemia	1	1
31			— Francis	22	34 W	Keeping house			Bohemia	1	1
32			— Joseph	14	46 W				Wisconsin	1	1
33			— Francis	2	34 W				Minnesota	1	1
34			— Frank	1	46 W				Minnesota	1	1
35			— Frank	65	46 W	Works on farm			Bohemia	1	1

Figure 5-36. 1870 US Census of McLeod County, Minnesota, Joseph Kadlec Family. The indicated age of 65 for František Sr. is in conflict with his official death record (born in 1800, he would have been 70 years old).

In 1876, some six years after this census, just two days after his 76th birthday, František would die of cancer on 12 August 1876. The patriarch of the Kadlec family would be the first adult to be laid to rest in the family plot, which is prominently situated at the very center of the Bohemian National Cemetery in McLeod County, Minnesota. The cemetery was located just across the road (now state highway 7) from his son Josef's farm, the northern half of which still remains in the Kadlec family.

The official McLeod County death record indicates that František Kadlec (1800) was born in 'Bohemia' (no city specified) and died as a 'widower', with cause of death indicated as "cancer".

Interestingly enough, his death record indicates that he "entered Minnesota" on 6 October 1876, two months *after* the date of his recorded death. Could this be true? Did František leave Minnesota, perhaps to visit one of his four daughters in Wisconsin and then pass away on his trip? Or is it possible that there was some sort of transcription error in the McLeod County death record for František Kadlec?

One would expect the McLeod County registrar responsible for entering a county death record would be meticulous in his or her work and not liable to make a transcription error such as transposing two pieces of information such as the 'date of death' (12 August 1876) and the 'date of entry' of František into the state of Minnesota (6 October 1876).

It is certainly possible that František re-entered Minnesota (he was already living there according to the 1870 census) and then passed away two months later, i.e., that the registrar made a transposition error with the date of entry into Minnesota and date of death. It is noted that his 'Date Entered Minnesota' entry is the only such entry on the page of death records for other individuals in the record book, indicating that this was a relatively unique piece of information to be documented in the death records of McLeod County.

Another notable piece of information recorded in František's McLeod County death certificate is the actual date that his death record was recorded. The McLeod County

registrar signed the death record on 7 November 1876, which is approximately one month after the indicated date of František's entry to Minnesota, which is later than his indicated date of death. In other words, from the date of František's death, it took approximately three months for this information to be recorded in the McLeod County death records; presumably the first two months were to transport the remains of František to Silver Lake with an additional month elapsing before the information was entered into the record.



Figure 5-37. Gravestone of František Kadlec, Bohemian National Cemetery, Silver Lake MN.

When recalling the memory of the life of František Kadlec today, it is done with a great deal of gratitude in consideration of the courage it must have taken to relocate his family to the other side of the world; a move that did provide greater economic opportunity for his descendants, this author included.

From a young boy until the age of twelve, František would have witnessed his grandfather Jakub Kadlec serve as village mayor; at age fourteen when he lost his father, he would face a degree of economic uncertainty that is difficult to imagine. Ultimately he would rise to the status of village mayor in his own right and at the advanced age of 56, he would make the choice to leave the only way of life that he knew, with his wife Anna and the younger five of his children, for a new set of possibilities in the United States of America. He rests in peace less than one mile from the land where he toiled in his final years and where new

generations of living Kadlec descendants still enjoy the benefits of the fine life that František Kadlec had led.

Anna Hudcová Kadlec

Anna Hudcová Kadlec, the wife of František Kadlec (1800) was born 18 Sept 1803 (or 1804, as inscribed on her tombstone) and came from house no. 7 from the village of Nyklovce, which was only 3 miles Northwest of the village of Velké Tresné.



Figure 5-38. The Village of Nyklovce is 5.5 km or 3.4 miles Northwest of Velké Tresné, CZ.

Anne lived approximately 59 years and died on 15 June 1863 in the Czech settlement of Caledonia, Wisconsin, some 13 years before the eventual death of her husband František.

The search and rediscovery of the grave of Anna Kadlec became a story in and of itself. As mentioned previously, the remains of František were interred in the Bohemian National Cemetery near Silver Lake, Minnesota in 1876. However, no grave marker for Anna was found to be present in the Kadlec plot or anywhere else in the cemetery nor indicated in cemetery records; her absence became conspicuously apparent to the family some 140 years later. "Where is Anna?", was the intriguing discussion between Marata, Judy, and Tony Kadlec on repeated occasions.

Members of our family began to speculate why František and Anna were not buried together. Perhaps she was buried in the State of Wisconsin near one of her four daughters who settled there, with their son Josef electing to have their father buried in his newly chosen homeland of Silver Lake, Minnesota? Or perhaps she was not well suited to life in the United States and she decided to return to the Czech lands and rejoin the three of her eight living children? Although such a scenario may seem implausible to us, such trips back to Europe did in fact occur. However, the family records uncovered in the Czech Republic *did not*

indicate a death record for Anna, so it was presumed that she died somewhere in the United States, in one of the communities that she had lived in, along the way.

Finally and nearly to the day that Anna died in mid-June, the author performed another online search and finally found her on www.findagrave.com, along with a younger Anna buried alongside her. The elder Anna's gravestone, covered with 146 years' growth of lichens, was inscribed, 'Narozen V Niklovicich V Morave 1804, Zemerel 15 Cerven 1863 V Kaledonia' or "Born in Nyklovce in Moravia 1804, Died 15 June 1863 in Kaledonia".



Figure 5-39. Gravestone of Anna Hudcová Kadlec (1804 -1863), Caledonia Memorial Park Cemetery, Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, July 2010.



Figure 5-40. Gravestone of the younger Anna Kadlec (1857-1871), Caledonia Memorial Park Cemetery, Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, July 2010.

Reflecting upon the story of rediscovering Anna, it calls upon the mystery and power of the matriarch and the sacrifices borne of mother who was forced to forever part with her children and to find hold of the acceptance of a new life in a new land full of uncertainty. One can hardly imagine the forces that pushed and pulled at her from within, nor the many visits to her grave that would have been made to this stone, by her grieving husband, son(s?), daughters and grandchildren in the years after her passing.

At a certain point in time, these visits would cease, as new generations of descendants moved away and passed away on their own. With no one to carry her memory and tell her story or to tend to her grave, a quiet solitude of the passing seasons and the encroachment of lichens spanning two centuries would ensue. Most certainly this will happen to your grave someday as the memory of your life finally fades away.

Anna might be pleased to know that her memory has been re-sparked and that her final resting place became the site of a mid-summer family picnic held by three generations of her family, visited with the noisy footsteps of her great-great-great-grandsons armed with spray bottles of mild bleach solution and soft-bristled scrub brushes and was left with a pair of beautiful roses until the next time we have the opportunity to make a visit.



Figure 5-41. Theodore (age 6) and Anton (age 4) Kadlec scrubbing the lichens off the headstone of their great-great-great-great grandmother, Anna Kadlec. Caledonia Memorial Park Cemetery, Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin. July 2010.



Figure 5-42. Theodore (age 6) and Anton Kadlec (age 4) with flowers for their great-great-great-great grandmother, Anna Kadlec and her granddaughter Anna Kadlec. Caledonia Memorial Park Cemetery, Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin. July 2010.

The Four Daughters of František and Anna Kadlec (Sisters of Josef)

Since there was essentially no written documentation on the four sisters of Josef Kadlec (1838), it took considerable research effort to determine who they married, where they lived, where they died, etc.

At some point after their 18 November 1856 arrival into the United States, the family settled on a farm in the village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin. From there, these four Kadlec sisters would each meet their husbands and start families of their own, remaining in the state of Wisconsin, while their brother Josef settled in the area of Silver Lake, Minnesota.

The married names of these four sisters:

- 1) Franziska/Františka, Mrs. Frank Cizek of Caledonia, Racine County Wisconsin;
- 2) Josefa/Josephine, Mrs. Prokop Schissler of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin;
- 3) Antonie/Antonia, Mrs. Joseph Spurny of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin; and,
- 4) Vincenzie/Winnie, Mrs. Joseph Franz Swoboda of East Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin;

Francis Kadlec Cizek

Francis Kadlecová was the second-born daughter and second-born child born to František and Anna Kadlec in Velké Tresné, on March 1st, 1827. She immigrated to the United States on November 18th, 1856 at the age of twenty-six.

Her brother Josef Kadlec was acquainted with a Frank Cizek as early as 1865 and some fifteen years later, in 1880, Francis was married to Frank Cizek and lived on a farm in the village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin with six children under the age of fifteen:

11	11	Chezak Frank	44	M	56	1	1	Farming	✓
		Francis	44	F	52	Wife	1	Keeps House	
		Wensel	44	M	26	Son	1	Asst on Farm	✓
		Henry	44	M	14	Son	1	Asst on Farm	✓
		Francis	44	F	15	Daughter	1	At Home	
		Wenea	44	F	11	Daughter	1	At Home	
		Rosie	44	F	9	Daughter	1		
		Amelia	44	F	7	Daughter	1		
		Carry	44	F	2	Daughter	1		

Figure 5-43. 1880 US Federal Census, the Frank and Francis Chezak (Cizek) Family of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin (Page No. 2, Supervisor's District No. 1, Enumeration District No. 155)

Frank and Francis had the following children:

1. Wensel Cizek (B. @1854)-based on this date of birth, a stepson to Francis.
2. Francis Cizek (B. @1865)
3. Henry Cizek (B. @1866)
4. Wenea Cizek (B. @1869)
5. Rosie Cizek (B. @1871)
6. Amelia Cizek (B. @1873)
7. Carry Cizek (B. @1878)

Josephine Kadlec Schissler

Josefa Kadlecová was the fourth-born daughter and fifth-born child born to František and Anna Kadlec in Velké Tresné, on May 25th, 1835. She immigrated to the United States on November 18th, 1856 at the age of twenty-one.

She became married to a tailor named Prokop Schissler and they lived in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. According to the 1880 US Federal Census, Prokop was nineteen years older than Josephine and of their four children, three were born in "Bohemia" (presumably of a different mother, as Josephine arrived in the USA as a single woman) and their fourth child, a daughter named Josephine, was born in Wisconsin. It is probably safe to assume that young Josephine was the namesake of her biological mother Josephine.

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 Enumeration Dist. No. 99

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1870, and ends May 31, 1880.
 Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
 Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Milwaukee, in the County of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin
 enumerated by me on the 11th day of June, 1880. W. Schissler Enumerator.

THIS COPY is substituted for ORIGINAL SCHEDULES received in bad condition, and deemed unfit for preservation. It will be accepted as the OFFICIAL RETURN from this district.

La. Citien	Sex	Age	Relationship	Profession, Occupation or Trade of each person, male or female.	Birth	Education	Religion	Place of Birth of this person, naming the State or Territory of United States, or the County, if of foreign birth.	Place of Birth of the Father of this person, naming the State or Territory of United States, or the County, if of foreign birth.	Place of Birth of the Mother of this person, naming the State or Territory of United States, or the County, if of foreign birth.
Prokop Schissler	M	43	Head	Tailor	Bohemia			Bohemia	Bohemia	Bohemia
Josephine Schissler	F	44	Wife	Keep house	Bohemia			Bohemia	Bohemia	Bohemia
Gasofla Schissler	F	16	Daughter	Day goods clerk	Bohemia			Bohemia	Bohemia	Bohemia
Oldrich Schissler	M	13	Son	At home	Bohemia			Bohemia	Bohemia	Bohemia
Josephine Schissler	F	10	Daughter		Wisconsin			Wisconsin	Bohemia	Bohemia

Figure 5-44. 1880 US Federal Census, the Prokop and Josephine Schissler Family of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Schissler children listed above are

- 1) ?, (male age 18, born in Bohemia @1862)
- 2) "Gasofla" (female, age 16, born in Bohemia@1864)
- 3) Oldrich (male age 13, born in Bohemia @1867)
- 4) Josephine (female age 10, born in Wisconsin @1870)

According to his death certificate, a tailor by occupation, Prokop Schissler, was born on 4 July 1817 in Bohemia and died on 12 April 1894, in Milwaukee, at the age of 77, cause of death was cystitis (bladder infection).

To date, we have found only one labeled picture of Josephine Schissler and one unlabeled photo of her in her later years:



Figures 5-45 and 5-46. Photos of Josephine Kadlec Schissler. Inset is the caption from the back of the photo at left, which reads, "Matka (mother), Born 25 May 1836, Died 9 August 1893, her sons and daughters, Šisler (Schissler)."

On the back of her photo was the label 'matka' or 'mother' and was signed by 'her sons and daughters'.

From Josephine's death record we learned that Josephine died of asthma at the relatively young age of 57, in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

1. Full name of deceased.....	Miss Josephine Schissler
2. Surname.....	in
3. Sex.....	f
4. Age.....	57 y.
5. Name of the father of deceased.....	Frank Kadlec
6. Name of the mother of deceased.....	Anna
7. Occupation.....	Housew.
8. Place of birth.....	Przem. Austria
9. Name of the wife of deceased.....	-
10. Name of the husband of deceased.....	Anton Schissler
11. Date of birth and death.....	May 25 '36 Aug. 9 '93
12. Cause of death.....	Asthma
13. Name of the place, town or township and county in which the person died.....	Mil. Wis.
14. Name and location of burial ground in which interred.....	A. Home
15. Name of person returning certificate.....	Wm. John M. D.
16. In witness of which person.....	Geo. J. J. J. J.
17. Date of certificate.....	10 Aug. '93
18. Date of registration.....	18 Sep.

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Figure 5-47. 1893 Milwaukee County Death Record of Josephine Kadlec Schissler

Of the four Schissler children, perhaps the most notorious was Oldrich L. Schissler, who was convicted of second degree murder, for shooting the 22 year old Frederick Reul, on the 25th of November, 1902.

The plaintiff in error was convicted of the crime of murder in the second degree. Frederick W. Reul was shot by plaintiff in error on November 25, 1902, while occupying a carriage in company with three others, namely, William H. Crandall, Miss Anna Benson, and Mrs. Schissler, the wife of plaintiff in error. The immediate circumstances of the homicide, as disclosed by the evidence, show that this party of four had spent the previous evening at the Davidson Theater, in the city of Milwaukee, and after the performance had participated in an after-theater luncheon until about the hour of 12 o'clock, when they took a carriage, and drove to the house of plaintiff in error. On arriving at his home, about 20 minutes after 12, plaintiff in error appeared on the street, approached the carriage door, projected himself partly into the open window of the door, placed one of his hands on that of the deceased, which was resting on the casing of the open window. He had a revolver in his other hand. He looked at the deceased, who sat on the front seat beside Mrs. Schissler, saying, "Who are you?" and, before a reply could be given, fired a shot from the revolver, and said, "Take that." The bullet from this shot pierced Mr. Reul's

breast, inflicting a mortal injury, from which he died within an hour. The deceased was a young man, about 22 years of age, engaged as a clerk in the banking business at Watertown, Wis. For about a month before his death he had spent a part of each week in Milwaukee, receiving private instruction at a school of acting. He had met the wife of plaintiff in error at this school, which she attended as a pupil, some days before November 25th. So far as the proof discloses, he had no knowledge of her marriage to any person, and knew her as Miss Desmond, by which name she was registered at the school, and so known by those attending it. At the time of the homicide plaintiff in error was 37 years of age. He had lived in Milwaukee all of his life. After leaving school, he had been employed by others until 1891, when he engaged in and conducted a saloon business until within five years of the time in question. During the five years last preceding the homicide he was engaged in partnership with a Mr. Morgenroth in the business of selling pools and betting money on horse races which were being run in various parts of the country. He had been married about nine years. He, with his wife and daughter, occupied a residence on Cedar street, in the city of Milwaukee.

Figure 5-48. The Northwestern Reporter. All the Decisions of the Supreme Courts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Permanent Edition. Volume 99, April 26-June 28, 1904. West Publishing Co, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1904.

Since census records indicate that Oldrich Schissler was born in "Bohemia" and we know that Josephine (Kadlec) Schissler arrived in America as a single woman without children, it follows that Oldrich Schissler was indeed a stepchild of Josephine and therefore not the product of Kadlec DNA.

Of the dark cloud of shame this dastardly murder must have cast over the Schissler family, there was, perhaps, a silver lining. Since Oldrich had committed this murder in November 1902, at this point in time neither his father Prokop, his stepmother Josephine, or his uncle Josef Kadlec were living and therefore did not have to experience the event or its aftermath.

Antonie Spurny

Antonie Kadlecová was the sixth-born daughter and the ninth-born child of František and Anna Kadlec in Velké Tresné, on November 23rd, 1843. She immigrated to the United States on November 18th, 1856 at the age of twelve.

On November 23, 1870 she became married to Joseph Spurny, a saloon keeper and they lived in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

(TO BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE OF RECORDS OF THE VARIOUS OFFICIALS.)

1. The color, White 02814 153

2. Full name of husband, Joseph Spurny

3. Full name of the wife previous to marriage, Antonie Garletz

4. Occupation of said husband, Saloonkeeper

5. Residence of said husband, Milwaukee

6. Birthplace of said husband, Bohemia

7. The place, town or township, and county where the marriage was contracted, Milwaukee

8. Time when marriage was contracted, November 23. 1870

9. By what ceremony contracted, Religious

10. Date of certificate of marriage, November 26. 1870

11. Name of the father of said husband, Wenzel Spurny

12. Name of the mother of said husband, Frantiska Spurny

13. Name of the father of said wife, Frany Garletz

14. Name of the mother of said wife, Anna Garletz

15. Names of subscribing witnesses, Wenzel Spurny Joseph

Recorded: November 26. 1870 Schorboda

I hereby certify, That the foregoing marriage was consummated by me
on the _____ day of _____ A. D. 18__

Dated at _____, on the _____ day of _____
A. D. 18__

Name, W. Damschann

Title of Officer, _____

Residence, Milwaukee Wis.

HERE
U. S. Revenue
Stamp
Five Cents

State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Microforms Room
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706
Pre-1907 Wisconsin Marriage Record
County MILWAUKEE
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Figure 5-49. Marriage certificate for Joseph Spurny and Antonie (Kadlec) Spurny. Note the incorrect recording of the name Kadlec as "Garletz".

Vincencie Swoboda

Vincentia (Winnie) Kadlecová was the seventh-born daughter and the tenth-born, youngest child of František and Anna Kadlec in Velké Tresné, on November 28th, 1845. She immigrated to the United States on November 28th, 1856 at the age of ten. On the 25th of August, 1870, at the age of twenty-five, she married a farmer by the name of Joseph Franz Swoboda (B. October 1846, D. 1916) from Franklin Township, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.

02973 313

1. The color, *white persons*
2. Full name of husband, *Joseph Franz Schwoboda*
3. Full name of the wife previous to marriage, *Vincentia Kadlec*
4. Occupation of said husband, *Farmer*
5. Residence of said husband, *Town Franklin Milw. Co. Wisc.*
6. Birthplace of said husband, *Pohmien*
7. The place, town or township; and county where the marriage was contracted, *Town Franklin Milwaukee Co. Wisc.*
8. Time when marriage was contracted, *the 25th day of August 1870*
9. By what ceremony contracted, *religious*
10. Date of certificate of marriage, *the 6th day of October 1870*
11. Name of the father of said husband, *Joseph Schwoboda*
12. Name of the mother of said husband, *Rosalie Tausch*
13. Name of the father of said wife, *Frédéric Kadlec*
14. Name of the mother of said wife, *Anna Kadlec*
15. Names of subscribing witnesses, *Joseph Spormir, and Anton Schwoboda*

Recorded October 26th 1870

I hereby certify, That the foregoing marriage was consummated by me
on the _____ day of _____ A. D. 18____

Dated at _____ on the _____ day of _____
A. D. 18____

Name, *Paul Lucas*

Title of Officer, _____

Residence, *P. O. Milwaukee Wisc.*

HERE
U. S. Revenue
Stamp
Five Cents
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Figure 5-50, Marriage certificate of Joseph and Vincentia Swoboda, recorded October 26, 1870, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.



Figure 5-51. Joseph, Winnie, and grandson Ralph Swoboda, photo taken circa 1913-14, Antigo, Wisconsin, courtesy of Kathryn Stockland, great granddaughter of Joseph and Winnie Swoboda.



Figure 5-52. Joseph, Winnie, Anthony, and baby Luella Swoboda, photo taken 1875, Racine, Wi.

Joseph and Winnie had the following children:

1. Anthony Gustav Swoboda (B. 14 Jul 1873, M. Martha J. Ebert on 8 Nov 1905, D. 9 Dec 1937 in Troy Township, Walworth County, Wisconsin);
2. Ludmilla (Luella) M. Swoboda (B. 24 Apr 1875, M. Frederick William Huth (B. 28 Sept 1874 in Allsommerdorf, Germany, D. 31 January 1945) on 15 January 1896 at Troy Evangelical Lutheran Church, D. 6 Jun 1914, Seymore, Outgamie County, Wisconsin);
3. Frank G. Swoboda (B. @January 1880; 5 months old in US Federal Census, 18 June 1880);
4. Addie Swoboda (B. 20 Sept 1881, M. Paul William Kneiske on 25 Apr 1906 in Evangelical Lutheran Church, East Troy, Walworth County Wisconsin);
5. Adela Marie Swoboda (B. 20 Sept 1881, D. 1882); and,
6. Ella Josephine Swoboda (B. 21 Feb 1884, D. 17 Aug 1962)
7. Alla Josephine Swoboda (B. 14 Apr 1884?, D. 1885 in infancy in East Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin).

Source: Pamela Rossmiller Peters, Lake Geneva, Walworth County, Wisconsin.

The final resting place of Joseph and Winnie Swoboda is in the Oak Ridge Cemetery near East Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin.



Figures 5-53, 5-54, and 5-55, Grave of Winnie and Joseph Swoboda, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Near East Troy, Walworth County, Wisconsin. Courtesy of Pamela Rossmiller Peters.



Figure 5-56 and 5-57. Lady believed to be one of the sisters (either Frantiska Cizek or Antonie Spurny) of Josef Kadlec and daughter to František (1800) inset.

The above photo, found in the old Kadlec family album, is believed to be another one of Josef Kadlec's sisters, however, this photo is unlabeled. The woman in this photo bears a striking resemblance to the elderly man believed to be František Kadlec (see photo inset) with the pictures presumably being taken in the same photo session, on the same day.



Figure 5-58. Albin Kadlec, Josef Kadlec? and the Mystery Ladies.

This photo might be one of the few surviving photos of Josef Kadlec (fourth from the left), would picture him standing next to his slightly taller son, Albin. Also pictured are three unidentified ladies, perhaps some of whom may be one or more of Josef's four sister(s) or Albin's aunt(s) who raised their families in the state of Wisconsin.



Figure 5-59. Could this be František and Anna Kadlec?

Here is another mystery photo from the Kadlec family album from the mid 1800's. Could it be the only surviving photo of František and Anna Kadlec pictured together?