The Velké Tresné Kadlec Family History

Ancestral Kadlec Home, House Number 13, Velké Tresné, Czech Republic

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**Generation 7: Josef Kadlec**  
(B. 8-Jul-1838, M. 18_October 1864, D. 4-Aug-1902)

Given what we know of Frantisek Kadlec, more is known of Frantisek's second-born son, and sixth-born of ten children, Josef Kadlec. The following picture of Josef hangs in the Komensky schoolhouse near Silver Lake, Minnesota.

![Image of Josef Kadlec](image)

**The Caption Reads:**  
Josef Kadlec  
Narozeny 8, Cervence 1838 ve velke tresny okr. Boskovice kraj Brnensky Na Morave  
Jako Zaklădajici clen ku spolku pristoupil 1876 zemrel dne I srpna R 1900

**Czech: English Translation Key:**  
Narozeny = born  
Cervence = July  
Velké = large  
Tresny = Tresné = village name  
OKR. = nearby/outskirts of  
Kraj = area/region  
Brněský = Brno  
Na = in  
Morave = Moravia

Jako = as/like  
zaklădajici člen = founding member  
spolku = fellowship  
přistoupil= ascended 1876  
zemřel = died  
dne = of the day  
Srpna = August

Figure 7-1. Photo of Josef Kadlec taken in Komensky Schoolhouse, August 2004.

The above caption reads, “Josef Kadlec Born 8 July 1838 from Velké Tresné near Boskovice from the region of Brno Moravia. Founding member of this fellowship in 1876. Died August 1900 (sic.-he died 4-Aug-1902).”
The identity of the home village of origin of the Kadlec family was a mystery; unrecorded by any family member and not passed down through hand-written or oral history. This information was re-discovered in 2006, through the above caption on the photograph of Josef Kadlec, more than one hundred years after his death. The photograph was taken in August 2004 at an open house celebration held at the Komensky Schoolhouse, which is located approximately 2 miles due west of the Jerome Kadlec farm.

Figure 7-2. Kaminsky (Komensky) School, intersection of County Road 4 and County Road 79 between Silver Lake and Hutchinson, McLeod County, Photographer: Jack Renshaw, Photograph Collection 1972, Location no. MM1.5 p3, Negative no. 0534-10a.
It's a little known fact…Jan Amos Comenius (Komensky)
Jan Amos Komensky: A Pioneer of Education Remembered

Jan Amos Komensky, also known as Comenius was a great Czech thinker, philosopher and writer, though he is best known as a pioneer of education. On March 28th, the anniversary of Komensky's birth in 1592, Czech school children traditionally honor their teachers.

Jan Amos Komensky lived most of his life in exile. He was a devout Christian and a member of the Unity of Czech Brethren. The defeat of the Protestant nobility at the Battle of White Mountain on the outskirts of Prague in 1620 forced Komensky, like many other non-Catholics, to leave the Czech lands. He was never to come back to his homeland and died in exile. Komensky's greatest contribution to the humanities was his conception of education and he strongly believed that the basis of society should be an educated citizenry.

To the present education system not all because there have been so many changes since, but to the idea of the education system very definitely. The modern European idea of education is very much what he had projected and in his day, his textbook Janua Lintuarum Reserata—The Gate of Languages Unlocked—became to be used in both Protestant and Catholic countries. His idea was that education should be in the first place a liberal education, basically an education for the citizen that is the basis of modern European education.
The very first historical reference to the village of Velké Tresné, Moravia, Czech Republic was in the year 1351. The term ‘trest’ refers to a native reed-like plant that once grew in the villages of Velké Tresné and Malé Tresné, but survives no longer there.

Now let us take a few moments to stop, look, and reflect upon the lovely countryside of Velké Tresné, Czech Republic, where several generations of the Kadlec family once worked the land and raised their families for hundreds of years before heading to the New World.

Figure 7-5. Velké Tresné Countryside. Photo courtesy of Jiří Petr.
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Figure 7-8, Velké Tresné Countryside.

Figure 7-9, Velké Tresné Countryside.
Figure 7-10. Velké Tresné Countryside.

Figure 7-11. Velké Tresné in Summertime.
It was from the village of Velké Tresné that Josef Kadlec emmigrated to the United States on 18 November 1856 at the age of 19, eventually arriving in the village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, with his parents and four sisters, 1) Vincenzie/Winnie (Kadlec) Schwoboda of Troy, Wisconsin) and 2) Josepha/Josephine (Kadlec) Schissler, 3) Antonia Spurny, and 4) Franziska/Frantiska Cizek.

Josef met his wife Francis (Kutina) Kadlec in the Caledonia-Racine, Wisconsin area. Frances, also known as 'Fannie' was born in Chocen, Bohemia on 26 February 1848 and at nearly the age of three, she arrived in Racine County, Wisconsin with her parents. According to the 1900 census record, Frances had immigrated to the USA in 1852.

The Frantisek and Frantiska Kutina family was originally from the village of Chocen near Vysoke Myto, Moravia, CZ and came to the USA in @1845 (familysearch.org). They lived in Racine, Wisconsin, where young Frances worked in a hostel, where people could buy meals and lodging. In 1863 when she was only fifteen years old, her father was killed in a wagon accident. A year later her mother Frantiska (B. 7-Jun-1816, D. 20-Dec-1896) married a Mr. Shilling (McLeod County History book 1978).
Figure 7-13. Frantiska Kutina Schilling Gravesite, Bohemian National Cemetery, McLeod County, Minnesota. Frantiska is the mother of Francis Kutina Kadlec and the great great great grandmother of the author.
Figure 7-14 Young Josef Kadlec? with unnamed woman, possibly his sister or mother?
On the 18th day of October 1864, the twenty-six year old Joseph ‘Kadlitz’ and sixteen-year old ‘Franceska Kutin’ were united in marriage by Mr. Geoff Wright, in a nonreligious, civil ceremony in the Racine County Courthouse, in Racine County, Wisconsin.

Figures 7-15 and 7-16, Josef and Frances Kadlec marriage record, registered at the first Racine County courthouse, which was built in 1839 in the public square of the City of Racine, Wisconsin. This courthouse no longer exists; it was replaced in 1877 by the second courthouse.

From the marriage record, Josef listed his occupation as ‘store keeper’ and his place of residence in the nearby village of Caledonia, Wisconsin. They lived there for about two years and it was here where their first child was born, son Josef Jr. on 1 January 1866.
Sometime thereafter the young Josef Kadlec family moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, where they lived for a short time. With son Josef they came to Carver, Minnesota by steamship in 1866. They lived there until after their daughter Frances was born in Carver County on 18 September 1867.

Figure 7-17. Migration Path of the Josef Kadlec Family from Caledonia, WI to Silver Lake, MN.

From Caledonia, Wisconsin to Silver Lake, Minnesota

The Arrival into Carver Village, Minnesota
From the above account, the Josef Kadlec family arrived by steamship in the village of Carver, Carver County, Minnesota and lived there for a number of months before making the trip to their eventual home in McLeod County, the latter of which is the next County to the West.

Carver village is still situated near the first rapids on the Minnesota River. This location gave it importance in its early days because the rapids could not be crossed by steamboat except during periods of high water; this point below the rapids was the head of navigation on the Minnesota-Mississippi River system. Much of the old town is built on the lowland flood plain. On the northwest the bluffs rise gradually to a height that provides a magnificent view of the valley and the river. The river makes a horseshoe
bend just above the town, which can be seen in its entirety from the top of the bluff (The Carver Story, Lucie K. Hartley, p. 2).

Figure 7-20. View of Carver Boat Landing in Winter, Carver, Minnesota, December 2005.

Figure 7-21. View of Downtown Carver, MN; Main Street at Broadway Street, December 2005.
The next February (of 1868) Anton Nuwash drove to Carver with oxen to help the Kadlec family move. “Grandma” Anna Kasper went along to help care for the small children, who were wrapped in large featherbeds, and made the trip safely. (McLeod County History 1979)

At this point in the story, one might wonder what the relationship was, between the Kadlec, Nuwash, and Kasper families and why they would have assisted in the process of relocating the young Josef Kadlec family from Wisconsin to the Silver Lake, Minnesota area.

Anton Nuwash and Josef Kadlec were contemporaries, Anton being some six years Josef’s senior. Both men resided in the Caledonia, Wisconsin area for at least three years and must have struck some sort of friendship there. This is not surprising, given the fact that Josef was a local storekeeper in the small tight-knit Czech community of Caledonia, where their paths certainly must have crossed numerous times.

Anton Nuwash and his wife Anna had arrived in Rich Valley Township near Silver Lake in 1859, approximately eight years before the Josef Kadlec family would locate to the same area, in the spring of 1867. Apparently these two families kept in contact during this span of time, to coordinate the Kadlec family’s move to the Silver Lake area.

The attributed quotes for “Grandma” Anna Kasper in this tale are indicated in the McLeod County history book, which was contributed by Virginia Mikkelson, a descendent.

The Anton Nuwash Story

Anton and Anna (Barto) Nunvář were Czech immigrants; their name was later changed to Nuwash. Anton was born in 1832 in Bukovina near Prague, Bohemia, now Czech Republic. He came to Racine, Wisconsin in 1863, a single man with no relatives and little money. He worked at chopping hemlock cord-wood there for fifty cents a cord without board. In 1857 he married Anna Barto who was born in 1832 in Bukovina, Bohemia. In the spring of 1859 they moved to Minnesota with all their worldly possessions in a covered wagon drawn by an ox team. Included were some household goods and tools, a few chickens, a cow and young mare tied on behind. It took nearly two months to make the trip. They waded through streams and crossed rivers on a hand-made ferry-boat. When the wagon got stuck it had to be unloaded, pulled out and reloaded before moving on.

They located in Rich Valley Township on 165 acres of wild land two miles west of Silver Lake. They filed homestead as the right of American citizens. The Bohemian National Cemetery is now on the northwest corner of the farm. In the summer of 1859 they built a log house and began to clear the land. For food they had wild animals (deer, bear, wolves, raccoon), plenty of wild geese, ducks, prairie chickens, partridge and quail—and good fish in the lakes. To get money to buy other food and clothing they would dig wild ginseng for which they received about 25 cents per pound. It helped until they had something to sell from the farm. Anton claimed to have killed the last bear in the county.

They were on the homestead during the Indian outbreak of 1862, the day the Indians were burning the village of Hutchinson. When they learned of this they started for the fort at Watertown about 25 miles East. They were obliged to spend one day and night in a deserted log cabin half way to Watertown. They decided to return to their home without going on to the fort and found it had not been molested by the Indians. For several years the Indians came to the house to get something to eat in exchange for what they had to trade.

History of McLeod County 1978, p. 473
of Josef Kadlec’s daughter Emma. “Grandma” Anna Kasper is believed to have been Ms. Anthony Kasper, nee Danek (B. 1861); at the time of the story she was aged six years old and the daughter of Anna (Kutina) Danek, the latter of whom was the sister of Frances (Kutina) Kadlec. In other words, young Anna Danek accompanied family friend Anton Nuwash on the cold winter day’s journey to the Village of Carver to retrieve her aunt (her mother’s sister) Frances, her uncle Josef, and young cousins Josef and infant Frances.

The young Josef Kadlec family lived with the John Kasper family in a one-room log house (Map Item B), just North and West of the (present day) Bohemian National Cemetery (see map on next page, item A). The Kaspers had come to the area earlier and obtained the land on a grant, but Josef Kadlec paid $500 for 160 acres adjoining it to the North in Hale Township (see map items D and G).

The North half of the original Josef Kadlec farm (item G) remains in the Kadlec family today; it is currently the East half of the farm, which was purchased by Jerome and Judy Kadlec from Rose Kadlec in 1978.
Map Legend

A. Bohemian National Cemetery, Est. 1873

B. John Kasper Farm, home to Kadlec family in Winter 1868. To be acquired by Anna Kutina Danek.

C. Acquired by Josef Kadlec.

D. Southern Half of Original Josef Kadlec farm purchased in 1866. To be acquired by Amos Kadlec and sold in 1969 to H. Barton.

E. Stagecoach site/John Doubek/Wencel Pessek farm owned by Albin Kadlec 1907-1908.

F. Original Albin Kadlec farm, now West half of Jerome) Kadlec farm (80 acres) purchased from John Lorence

G. Northern half of Original Josef Kadlec farm, now East half of Jerome Kadlec farm; (80 acres) purchased from Frances Kadlec

H. Former location of Albin Kadlec farmhouse

I. Present day Jerome Kadlec farmhouse, built by Albin Kadlec in 1917

Figure 7-22. Map of Kadlec Farm, Hale Township, McLeod County, MN. Source google.com)

Figures 7-23 and 7-24. Map of Kadlec Farm, 1898 (left) and @1912 (right)
The following photos show the log structure home that Josef built, along with some of the farm buildings that survived up until the 1960’s.

Figure 7-25. Original Josef Kadlec Farmhouse, Silver Lake, MN viewed from State Highway 7.
Figure 7-26. Original Josef Kadlec Farmhouse (the larger structure), Silver Lake, MN
Each morning Josef walked to his claim with only a couple slices of bread for his dinner and worked all day clearing the land and making logs for his house. By the end of April 1868 the house was built, and his family moved (McLeod County History 1978, p. 331).

According to Marilyn (Kadlec) Noga, who as the daughter of Amos Kadlec, grew up in the original Josef Kadlec farmhouse and confirmed by Herald Barton, the property just to the west of the Kadlec farm was a log structure that was used as
a stage coach stop and barbershop in the mid 19th century, as evidenced in the roadway that arched up from Highway 7. The original Josef Kadlec farm would remain in the Kadlec family until 1969, when Amos Kadlec sold it to Herald Barton, who subsequently razed the farmhouse along with many of the farm buildings.

Figure 7-28. Buildings on Amos Kadlec Family (and Original Josef Kadlec) Farm, 1963.
Figure 7-29. Buildings on Amos Kadlec Family (and Original Josef Kadlec) Farm, 1963.
The fifteen children of JOSEF and FRANCIS were:

1. JOSEF KADLEC, b. 1 Jan 1866, Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, USA, m. ANNA TUPA, d. 25 Apr 1889.
2. FRANCES KADLEC, b. 18 Sep 1867, Carver Village, Carver County, Minnesota, USA, m. to JOHN DANNEK d. 14 Sep 1947.
3. FRANTISEK JOSEPH KADLEC, b. 9 Jul 1869, m1. ANNA FLYNN, m2. ANNA MCLAUGHLIN, d. 16 Aug 1949, Glencoe, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA.
4. ANNA KADLEC, b. 4 Feb 1872, m. BURT MORELAND, d. 8 Jul 1933.
5. ROSE KADLEC, b. 12 Apr 1873, m. BOHUMIL TMEY, d. Aug 1950.
6. JULIA KADLEC, b. 22 Aug 1874, m. PHILLIP S. PENDERGAST d. 13 May 1954.
7. EMILIE KADLEC, b. 12 Mar 1876, d. 5 July 1877, in Silver Lake, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA and is interred at Bohemian National Cemetery, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA.
8. EMMA KADLEC, b. 6 Mar 1879, on 29 Jun 1906 m. CHARLES HAWLISH, d. 14 Aug 1969, in Silver Lake, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA and is interred at Presbyterian Cemetery, Silver Lake, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA.
9. ALBIN THEODORE KADLEC b. 2 Apr 1881. On 1 May 1907 m. JOSEPHINE MICKA, d. 28-Oct-1949 in Silver Lake, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA. Both are interred at Bohemian National Cemetery, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA.
10. JOHN KADLEC, b. 2 Feb 1883, m. RETTA MITCHELL, d. 10 Mar 1954.
11. WILLIAM KADLEC, b. 8 Dec 1886, d. 29 Jan 1887 in Silver Lake, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA and is interred at Bohemian National Cemetery, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA.
12. HENRY KADLEC, b. 4 Feb 1888, m. Mary Marsh, d. 29 Jul 1963.
13. SYNACEK (SON) KADLEC, b. 4 Feb 1888, d. 4 Feb 1888 and is interred at Bohemian National Cemetery, McLeod County, Minnesota, USA.
14. ETHEL KADLEC, b. 20 Mar 1891, m. Howard Bailey, d. 13 Jan 1931 and is interred at Bohemian National Cemetery, McLeod County, Minnesota USA.
15. SYNACEK (SON) KADLEC, date of birth and death unknown.
In addition to the eleven children who lived to adulthood, Josef and Frances had four other children who did not survive past their infant years. All four of these children are buried in the Kadlec plot at the Bohemian National Cemetery just West of Silver Lake, Minnesota and their tombstones are shown in the following figures:

Figure 7-30. Tombstones of the Josef and Francis Kadlec Children Who Died in Infancy.

Emilie (B. 12 March 1876, D. 5 July 1877 (age 1y 3m 23d)
William (B. 8 Dec 1886, D. 29 January 1887 (age 1m 21d)
Synáček (Son), born as Henry’s twin on 4 February 1888.
Synáček (Son) birth and death date unknown.
Joseph Kadlec Jr.  
(B. 1-Jan-1866, D. 25-Apr-1889)
Figure 7-32. Joseph Kadlec Jr. as a baby.
Figure 7-33. Frances Kutina Kadlec (right), probably Josef Kadlec Jr. (center), unnamed woman (left) possibly Frantiska Kutina Shilling (Frances’ mother) or Anna Kutina Danek (Frances’ sister)?
Figure 7-34. Is this the picture of the mystery woman in the previous photo?
Frantisek Joseph Kadlec
(B. 9-Jul-1869, D. 16-Aug-1949)

Figure 7-35. Frantisek Joseph Kadlec as a baby.
Figures 7-36 and 7-37. Frantisek Joseph Kadlec as a Young Man
Figure 7-38. Frantisek Joseph Kadlec, taking a leak.
Figure 7-39. The six Kadlec sisters; front row L-R: Emma, Julia, Francis, Anna, Rose; Ethel in front center.
Figure 7-40. The Youngest Three Kadlec brothers, from left: Henry, Albin, and John.
Figure 7-41. Back row: John Kadlec, Albin Kadlec, middle row ladies unknown, front row, Emma Kadlec.
John Kadlec
(B. 2-Feb-1883, D. 10-Mar-1954)

Figure 7-42. John (Jack) Kadlec as a young man.
Henry O. Kadlec
(4-Feb-1888, D. 29-Jul-1963)

Figure 7-43. Henry O. Kadlec as a young man.