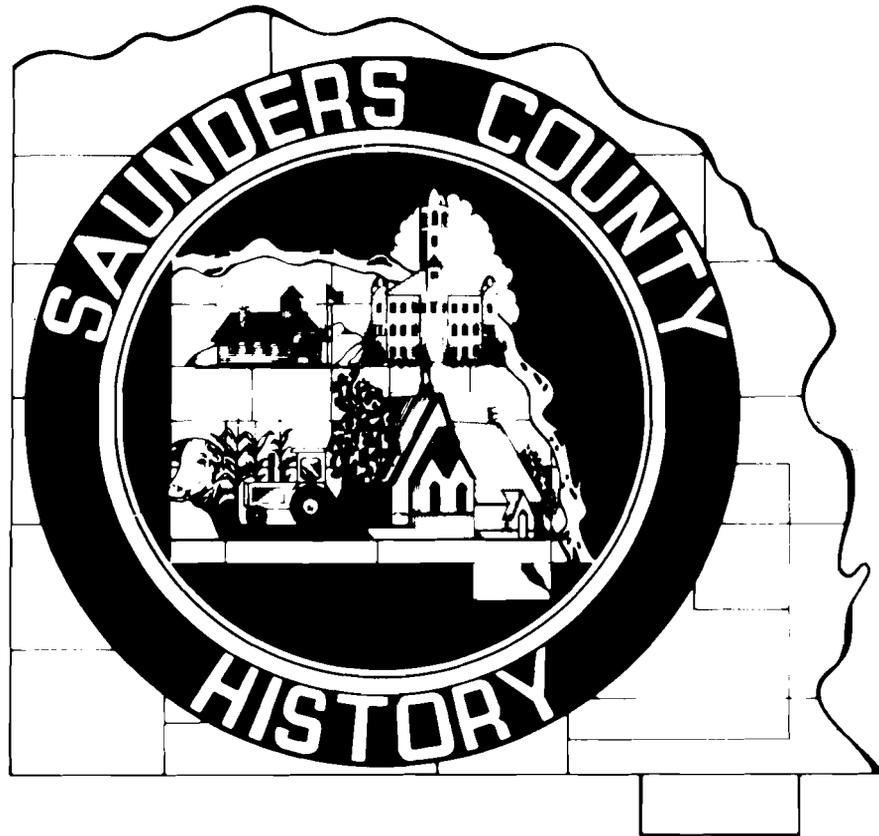


Saunders County

Nebraska



1983

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Harkins from Raynham, Massachusetts. They were married Aug. 8, 1964. They have two sons, David, born Jan. 11, 1968, and Michael, born Mar. 25, 1970. They are making their home in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Marla was born March 30, 1945. She also graduated from Wahoo High School and the University of Nebraska. She taught school for several years in Colorado and Illinois. She was married Oct. 11, 1969 to Robert Weise of Peoria, Illinois. They have one son, Christopher, born July 22, 1977. They are presently making their home in Dallas, Texas.

Bonnie was born Nov. 16, 1951. She graduated from Wahoo High School and from nurse's training in Omaha. She has spent several years working in hospitals as a Registered Nurse, and also worked in a doctors' clinic. She was married to Craig Scott of Grand Junction, Colorado on Aug. 3, 1974. They have two sons, Cory, born Feb. 13, 1978, and Nicholas, born July 25, 1981. They are living in Denver, Colorado.

After spending 35 years on the farm, Dwain and Sylvia retired to a home in Wahoo. *Submitted by Sylvia Benson*

CHARLES BERANEK SR. FAMILY

Vaclav Beranek, son of Vaclav Beranek, immigrated to Cobb, Wisconsin from Bratice, Bohemia in 1862 with his youngest children, Jan, Josef, Barbara and Mary. He died in 1890 in Nebraska.



Charles and Fannie Beranek 60th Wedding Anniversary

Jan Beranek, born April 16, 1844, married Albina Vopalensky April 19, 1868, in Wisconsin. They bought 80 acres of wooded land to clear. Two years later they sold it for \$1,000 and moved to Nebraska by train, taking baby son, Frank, and their belongings. They planned to join other Czech families at Dodge, but flooded lowlands near North Bend caused Jan to cross the Platte by ferry. They located 80 acres southwest of Morse Bluff to homestead, patent granted by U.S. Grant, August 13, 1876. Jan received citizenship in April, 1876. They erected a log house, using logs from a wooded tract he purchased near Scott's Lake. Their twelve children were born there. Ten survived to adulthood. They divorced after 35 years of marriage. Albina and some of the children moved to Ravenna, Nebraska. Charles, then 18, stayed with his father to farm. Jan died at his son, Charles', home on December 16, 1939 at the age of 95. Charles inherited the farm.

Charles Beranek was born May 21, 1885. During his childhood, the boys slept outdoors in buildings, on hayracks or at neighbors, as the house was crowded. There wasn't room at the table so the children sat on the floor, eating from one large bowl. His sister, Anna, taught him reading and writing. He entered school at age 8. He attended 9th and 10th grades after harvest, dropping out during 10th grade. His friends called him "Professor" because of his studious nature. Some boys had him write a

romantic note to another boy because he could imitate girls' handwriting.

On January 12, 1910, Charles married Fanny Pallas at the Wahoo courthouse by Judge Slama. Deep snow made travel difficult to the Morse Bluff farm with horse and buggy. Their honeymoon night was spent at a farm north of Wahoo.

Fanny was born in Trebic, Moravia, August 30, 1892. In 1902, she immigrated to Omaha with her parents, Alois and Katerina Pallas, and brother, John. She attended school until the 6th grade. She worked in a fur factory and for Carpenter Paper, folding envelopes. She told stories about the difficulty of earning money. Alois was a cabinet maker for Brandeis. Katerina took in immigrants as boarders.

When Fanny came to the farm she had to learn to cook, sew, and care for poultry. Her neighbors taught her the needed skills.

When Charles played cornet or alto in the band, Fanny kept a hatpin in her mattress for protection. Charles teased that she didn't waken when he came home.

When Charles was middle-aged, a boyhood friend, who was a judge, visited him saying, "When I have a difficult case to judge, I ask myself, 'What would Charlie Beranek decide?' I've always respected your judgment."

They belonged to the ZCJB lodge. He was a member of the Woodmen of the World. Fanny was a charter member of the Just Neighbors Extension Club. He was president of the Farmers Bank at Morse Bluff, and, later, mayor of Morse.

They raised three children. Ella (Travnicek) and Charles L. were born in the log house in 1910 and 1915. Matilda (Soukup) was born in 1919 in the new house built on the homestead after World War One.

Charles, Sr. died July 12, 1979. He passed the farm on to his son, Charles L. After retiring, Charles L. passed it on to his son, John C., who currently lives on the homestead, which has been in the family over 100 years. *Submitted by Fanny Beranek*

C.L. AND VIRGINIA BERANEK

Charles L. Beranek and Virginia Rousar married July 31, 1943 before he was sent overseas in World War Two. He served in the Infantry 30th Division as a communications sergeant. He participated in the invasion at Omaha Beach.

They have farmed the family acres after Charles Sr. retired. They have one son, John, who lives on the farm homesteaded by his great-grandfather, Jan Beranek, since John's parents retired to Morse Bluff. John served in the Air Force as a mechanic in Viet Nam and later attended Milford Tech, graduating as an auto mechanic.

Charlie and Virginia enjoy various Czech club activities, and like to take summer trips to Nebraska points of interest. Charlie has been the rural mail carrier since his retirement from the farm.

Virginia enjoys music, collecting many Czech songs which she records. She sings with the Saunders County Czech Club at many festivals. *Submitted by Charles L. Beranek*

KENNETH AND LORI BERANEK

Kenneth L. Beranek, Cedar Bluffs, was born July 15, 1962 in Schuyler, Nebr. to Amiel Lou and Mary Ann (Degmitech) Beranek. He was the third oldest of five children: David, born 10/3/60; Rodney, born 8/22/61; a younger brother, Roger born 6/27/65; and a sister, Diane, born 9/28/63. He attended grade school at District #54 south of Morse Bluff through the sixth grade. He attended North Bend Central Jr.-Sr. High School and graduated in 1980. During this time he was active in 4-H, FFA, wrestling and football. He received numerous awards in sports, which included Class C-1 All State tackle, 1st team, and placed 2nd in state wrestling at 185# in the 1979-1980 school year. He began employment at Land O' Lakes in Schuyler in September of 1980 where he is currently employed. His hobbies include hunting and fishing. On September 18, 1982, he married a neighbor girl, Lori Lynn Hines, at the United Presbyterian Church in North Bend.



Kenneth and Lori Beranek

Lori, the daughter of Marvin and Karen (Rohren) Hines, was born February 26, 1962 at Fremont, Nebr. She is the oldest of three children. She has a brother, Jeffrey Marvin Hines, born October 14, 1963 and a sister, Cheryl Kay Hines, born January 3, 1965. Lori attended grade school at District #14 in Morse Bluff, and attended North Bend Central Jr.-Sr. High School, graduating in 1980. In high school she was active in 4-H, FHA, Pep Club, basketball, track, chorus, National Honor Society and attended Girls' State. She graduated from Southeast Community College, Lincoln campus, with a dental assisting major in 1982. She is a certified dental assistant employed in Fremont.

Lori and Ken purchased an acreage in September 1981, three miles west of Cedar Bluffs, formerly owned by Harry Jones. They are completely remodeling the nine-room house, with most of the work being done by themselves. *Submitted by Mrs. Kenneth Beranek*

THOMAS OTTO BERG

Thomas Otto Berg, 23, and Helga Christine Karlson, 25, both lived and worked in Oslo, Norway. They had agreed to get married, but first, they would go to America. Helga's sister, Frieda, 18, was to go with them. Thomas was a sailor and had been on American shores. Helga and Frieda already had two brothers and a sister in America. In 1903, Conrad Karlson, then 14, and Hilda Karlson, 16, had come here, their passage being furnished by an uncle, Frank Edvall, who lived in Nebraska. In 1907, Conrad sent money to 16-year-old Oscar so that he could join him here.



Front, L. to R.: Helga and Thomas Berg; Back, L. to R.: Elsie, Violet, Eleanor, Genevieve.

On September 30, 1921, Thomas, Helga, and Frieda sailed away from the shores of their homeland, not knowing if they would ever set foot on it again. They docked in New York on October 10, were processed through Ellis Island (in their words — an awful place —), and that night they boarded a train headed for — Nebraska?? That was still a four-day journey. They began to realize how vast America was.

Products in Wahoo. He retired on July 30, 1982 after 34 years, including 4 years at Mason City, Iowa with Armco Inc., Midwest Division.

They moved into their present home in July 1961. The neighborhood holds many happy memories, since two sons were born at the old hospital on 8th and Elm Sts., delivered by Dr. Mason Lathrop. Ermin and Agnes both were active leaders in Cub and Boy Scouts, Brownies and Girl Scouting as their children joined these groups. The house often overflowed with scouts, working on craft projects or girls baking goodies.

Ermin is a member of Knights of Columbus, American Legion, and Lector at St. Wenceslaus Church. His main hobby is hunting.

Son Ermin John, born in 1948, is the first grandson of the John L. Hajeks. He started kindergarten in the old West Ward School, graduated from St. Wenceslaus Grade School, Neumann High School and John F. Kennedy College. Married to Sarah Taylor in 1967, he has 2 daughters and 1 son. Now he is living in Thornton, Colorado and is employed by Sheffield Steel.

Tim, born in 1949, attended kindergarten at West Ward, graduated from St. Wenceslaus Grade School, Neumann High School and Nebraska University. He married Donna Finke of Deshler, November 28, 1970. Tim is Assistant Park Superintendent of Fort Hartsuff near Ord. He has one daughter.

Ray, born in 1951, was adopted into the family in 1963 after the death of his natural mother who was a sister of Agnes. He graduated from St. Wenceslaus Grade School and Wahoo High School. He joined the Army in 1970, trained in Radar in Arizona, and served in Germany before discharge in 1973. Ray married Katharine Kadavy of Weston Oct. 27, 1973. He has one daughter and one son, works at Valmont, and lives near Fremont.

Mary Jo was born in 1958 at Mason City, Iowa. She attended North Ward and St. Wenceslaus grade schools. She graduated from the old Wahoo High School in the bicentennial year 1976. Employed by the Trust Dept. of National Bank of Commerce, she prefers to live at home in Wahoo.

Chris was born in 1960 in Mason City, graduated from St. Wenceslaus Grade School, Wahoo High School, and Southeast Community College at Milford. He is a draftsman at Valmont and lives at home.

Michelle was born at Saunders County Community Hospital in 1969. She is in the eighth grade at St. Wenceslaus School, and is the youngest grandchild of the John L. Hajeks.

Agnes is Treasurer of Catholic Daughters Court Our Lady of Peace and secretary of St. Wenceslaus Parish Council of Catholic Women. We are glad we chose Wahoo. *Submitted by Agnes Hajek*

FRANCES S. HAJEK

Frances S. Hajek, present day Matriarch of the Hajek family, is a lifelong resident of Saunders County, Nebraska. At age 89 she keeps her own house and is an active member of St. Wenceslaus Church, St. Ludmilla's Guild, and the Rosary and Altar Society of that Parish.

Born February 17, 1894 on the family farm near Morse Bluff, she was the daughter of Karolina Vyhldal and Martin Hobza. Her maternal grandparents were pioneers Jan Vyhldal and Frantiska Coufal, who emigrated from Slavetice, Moravia in April, 1870 with their nine children. They spent the first winter in a dugout, homesteading in Bohemia Township. In spring they built a sod house, and later constructed a permanent home of adobe and wood in which they spent the remainder of their years. Her paternal grandparents were Frank Hobza and Antonia Rambousek who emigrated from Roketnice, Moravia in 1883 and settled on a farm near Colon known as Sand Creek location, later moving to a farm near Morse Bluff. They were all members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church at Cedar Hill. Jan and Frantiska Vyhldal, Karolina and Martin Hobza are buried at Cedar Hill. Frank and Antonia Hobza are buried at St. Francis Cemetery, east of Wahoo.



Frances S. Hajek

When she was 17, Frances married John L. Hajek of Linwood, son of Jan Hajek and Marie Pribyl, who homesteaded there after emigrating from Czechoslovakia in 1881. Their marriage was solemnized at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cedar Hill on November 25, 1912. Most of their married life was spent farming in Saunders County. They moved to Wahoo in 1951. Frances worked at Fairview Cafe several years, and as cook in the Saunders County Community Hospital before retiring.

John died November 6, 1971 and is buried at Cedar Hill. Their 5 children are: Marie (Mrs. Ernest) Hines of Linwood; Leander J. of Columbus; Ermin M. of Wahoo; Marcellin of Wahoo; and Gertrude (Mrs. Bruce) Harkner of Millston, Wisconsin.

She has 28 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. Most of them have cherished handmade keepsakes, since Frances still crochets doilies, caps, and baby-quilts for special gifts. *Submitted by Agnes Hajek*

THE MAX HAKEL FAMILY

Joe Hakel, the father of Max, came to this country from Bavaria, Europe, with his parents, Joe and Anna Kadavy Hakel in 1882. They made their home in a log cabin southeast of Valparaiso. He married Anna Jansa, daughter of Jim and Josephine Stuchlik Jansa, who lived in the Weston vicinity.



Max Hakel Family

I was the daughter of Charles and Anna Kavan Kubik. The parents of Charles were Wenc and Josephine Kafaur Kubik who came from Czechoslovakia to Draidwood, Wisconsin. Wenc was a coal miner and later moved to a farm east and north of Plasi. John and Anna Vopalensky Kavan were parents of Anna, who came from Wisconsin and made their home near Morse Bluff on a farm.

Max's brothers were Rudy and Clarence, and sisters were Ethel and Lucille. My brothers were William and Raymond, and sister, Irene.

We were married in May, 1941 in Prague, Nebraska at St. John's Catholic Church and the

following year started farming on the home place of Max's parents. Times were not easy as money was short after the dry years. Farming was done with horses. Later, we purchased a Farmall tractor. We raised chickens, pigs, and mostly dairy cows. As time went on, we increased the number of the dairy herd and it became a major chore.

I recall, before electricity came to the rural community, we milked in the wee hours of the morning by lantern light hanging on the side of the barn. We also put the milk can in a cart and wheeled it to the barn to empty the buckets of milk. Then, after milking, which was done by hand, the can of milk was put into a barrel and fresh water was pumped on it by the windmill. Now the milk is cooled by electricity in a large refrigerated stainless steel tank.

I think the biggest enjoyment in our days were the free shows sponsored by the village merchants on Wednesday at Valparaiso, and Saturday nights at Ceresco. Each town had a certain place with seats made up of planks and Ceresco even had backs on their benches. Shopping or trading was done before or after the show.

Our children: Trina married Tony Kroenke. Trina graduated from U.N.L., taught elementary school at Dist. 70, Wahoo, and Millard. Jerome married Jean Janecek, graduated from U.N.L. and is presently a C.P.A. He served with the Army in Germany. Ron, who farms now, served in the Navy on the USS St. Louis Amphibious Assault Ship. Both boys were in the service during the Vietnam War. Charles is graduating from U.N.L. in 1983, majoring in agronomy.

A fatal car accident took the life of Max in 1975.

Grandchildren are Candyce, Randall, and Kristine Kroenke, and Stephanie and Stacie Hakel. *Submitted by Helen Hakel*

GEORGE HALDEMAN (1849-1915)

In 1872, my grandfather, George Haldeman, left Scranton, Pa., by train and came to Saunders County. He crossed the Missouri River by ferry and landed at Plattsmouth. From there he took a train to Ashland. He was 23 years old. Here he met Edward Pancoast who had bought land in Green Precinct in Saunders County. He went home with him, worked for him a short while, and then bought 80 acres in Section 29 at \$8 per acre, from the U.P. Railroad.

His first years were full of hardships as he lived in a dugout, and then lost his land due to the panic of 1873, the grasshoppers and crop failure. He returned to Pa. to earn more money, working as a coal miner. (In the 1880 Nebraska Census, George's address was listed as Veda, Ne.). By 1886, George had 160 acres; in March he married Minnie Meyers. They moved into a two-room house. Times were still hard. Two children died in infancy and Mary died at the age of two in the diphtheria epidemic. In 1891, he built a larger house. The surviving children were: Pearl, (Mrs. Wm. F. Breyer), Sam, Lewis, William, Frank, John, and Violet (Mrs. Leroy Pearson).

George was the son of Samuel and Mary Haldeman, who came to this country from Switzerland to avoid religious persecution, and for the greater opportunities this country offered.

George lived on the farm until September 25, 1915, when he died suddenly. Services were held at the Pleasant Hill Methodist church with the Rev. Jos. Throckmorton. Pallbearers were his neighbors; Frank Basel, George Wollen, John Smith, Wm. Breyer, Henry Nash and A.P. Anderson. He was born in New York State, but as a young child, the family moved to Scranton. His father was a molder who had his own shop where the younger brothers worked.

Minnie moved to Ceresco with the three younger children, and Lewis and his wife, Anna, farmed the home place. The farm remained in the Haldeman family for 86 years as Lewis purchased it in 1943. It was sold by his heirs in 1972.

My father was William George Haldeman, (1898-1964), who married Gladys Charling, (1904), daughter of Carl and Myrtle Auten Charling of Ithaca. My parents farmed in the Ithaca area, where three sons were born, Harold (1922), Rolland

The Burlington Northern Railroad Train, which passed near the yard twice a week on its way to Prague, made its last run in late 1982. The old whistle of the train is to be heard no more.

Arnold and Wilma have four children, namely: Linda Jo McMullen, born 9/2/1955; Kaye Marie Morrison, born 3/17/1957; Mark Charles, born 5/23/1960; and John Scott, born 1/16/1969. One granddaughter, Linsey Michelle Kaspar, was born 1/1/1980.

Their children attended Prague High School District 104 which was the same school their parents had graduated from in 1947-48. Linda went on to become a registered nurse and Kaye went to secretarial school. Mark is engaged in the dairy and farm operation. John is still in school, also hoping to be involved in the farming business.

Arnold was a Korean veteran, serving from 1951-53.

CHARLES KASPAR FAMILY

Charles was born to Vaclav K. and Magdalena (Sedlacek) Kaspar on August 13, 1898 on the farm one mile south of Prague. I was born on Mar. 14, 1901 on the Joe Karpisek farm near Prague where Emil Polacek now lives. My parents were Anton and Frances (Karpisek) Kriz.



Chas. Kaspar Family: Taken on Jeff's Wedding. **Front Row, L to R:** Nadine, Clara, Charles, Marcella; **Back Row, L to R:** June, Arnold, Elaine, Zdenka.

Charles had 6 brothers: James, Leonard, George, Frank, Victor, and Thomas; and 1 sister, Zdenka, who died from blood poisoning at the age of 8½ on December 24, 1913. Frank died suddenly on February 4, 1975. The boys all went to Prague Public School and helped their father with the farm work.

I went to the Linwood Public School, and later worked for Dr. and Mrs. Proskovec in Schuyler, and for the Walla Brothers Store in Morse Bluff.

We met at a dance in Linwood, dated for 2 years, and on April 29, 1924 we got married in Wahoo. We rented some land from Charles's father and began our life together. We lived on this place 11 years and when Charles' folks retired from the farm, we took over.

Seven children were born to us: Zdenka, Elaine, Marcella, Arnold, Nadine, Clara Jean, and June. All went to the Prague Public School and helped with all the work on the farm.

Charles served several years on the school board and on the Farmers Cooperative Elevator board. I was a member of the Merry Matrons Extension Club for over 25 years and am a member of the Presbyterian Ladies Guild.

We all worked hard and went through 7 years of drought and the depression. Besides grain crops, we raised cattle, pigs, chickens, ducks, and geese. We milked cows by hand and later installed milking machines.

All our children are married now. Zdenka married Joe Urban on January 27, 1948 and has 3 children, Dwayne, Debbie, and Donald who all live in or near Prague.

Elaine married Allen Kaspar on May 11, 1948 and they have 5 children, Michael, Kenneth, Karen, Ronald, and Timothy. They live in Omaha.

Marcella married Adolph Sloup on January 30, 1950 and they have 5 children, David, Cathy,

Elizabeth, Jeane and Jeff, twins. They live in Prague.

Two years after Arnold graduated, he enlisted into service and served 2 years in the Korean War. He married Wilma Egr on March 1, 1954 and has 4 children, Linda, Kaye, Mark, and John. They live on the farm we lived on. The farm has been in the Kaspar family almost 100 years.

Nadine married David Bratcher and lives in Lincoln.

Clara was born on April 7, 1937, and died on December 26, 1951.

June married Al Madigan on September 24, 1960 and has 5 children, Sherri, Annette, Todd, Megan, and Mathew. They live in Lake Elmo, Minnesota.

We built a home in Prague where Charles was an insurance agent for Farmers Mutual Insurance Company and has since retired.

My hobbies are my housework and crocheting for all our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We have 22 lovely grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Charles and I celebrated our 50th anniversary on April 29, 1974 and will be married 59 years on April 29, 1983. *Written by Clara Kaspar*

VENNIE AND MARY ANN KAVAN

Vennie A. Kavan and Mary Ann Chapek were married in Wahoo on Feb. 16, 1957. Vennie was the son of Frank J. Kavan and Rose (Pelan) Kavan. He was born on October 26, 1932 on the farm near Wahoo, where he now resides with his family. After high school graduation, he served four years in the United States Navy, receiving his discharge in 1956. At the present time he is farming, and in hog production.

Mary Ann was the oldest child of Bernard B. Chapek and Anna (Machovec) Chapek of Weston, born on February 18, 1935. She graduated from Wahoo High School and worked in the courthouse for five years.

Nine children were born to this couple. John, in 1958, is an agricultural engineer in Columbus, married to Linda Ricketts in Nov., 1980, and they have a son, Ryan. Carol, born in 1959, has a degree in Business Administration and is employed by the Omaha Bank of Cooperatives. Jacqueline, a registered nurse, was born in 1960. She works in the Burn Unit of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Lincoln. Mark, born in 1961, is farming near Cedar Bluffs and married Rita Pleskac in November, 1982.

Dale attended the University, and at present, is farming. He was born in 1962. The twins, David and Douglas, were born in 1963. David is attending school at Platte college in Columbus and studying architectural drafting. Douglas is farming. Harold, born in 1964, is a senior at Bishop Neumann High School. Janet is a sophomore at Bishop Neumann High School. Her birthday is April, 1967. All the children attended St. Wenceslaus School, Wahoo and have graduated from Bishop Neumann High School.

All members of the family are active in church activities, Pork Producers and Porkettes; and the American Legion Post and Auxiliary. *By Vennie Kavan*

THE JOIE KAVAN FAMILY

John Kavan, my grandfather, came to America at the age of 23, from Chudenice, Czechoslovakia in 1872. He then homesteaded the farm I now live on, three miles south and one mile west of Morse Bluff, in 1873. John married Anna Voplansky in 1873 and they had 13 children. My father, Joseph Kavan, was the twelfth child. He married Tillie Mach on March 23, 1920 at Wahoo, Nebraska. In 1922, my dad built a new home on the same farm with his parents. In 1926, John died, and a short time later, Anna moved to another home at Linwood, Nebraska, leaving the homestead to my father. Here they raised nine children, myself, George, Helen, Richard, Ruben, Maxine, Lester, Joan and Marcella.

I joined the Army in 1944. My basic training was in Camp Hood, Texas with the tank destroyers division. From there I went to France and was an engineer. My job was to pump gas through a pipe line which ran to the front line. When the fighting was over there, I then went to the Philippines, then finally home in 1946.

In 1947, I married Alice Ostry at St. John Catholic Church in Prague, Nebraska. We farmed my aunt's farm near Wahoo for 19 years. Here we had three children, Marvin, Joe, and Connie. They attended Mead Public School and also belonged to different 4-H clubs in the area. In 1966, my parents retired and moved off their farm to Schuyler, Nebraska. I then bought his farm in Morse Bluff and lived in the same house my father built in 1922. Here my daughter attended the same school my father and I went to in our earlier years, District #54. She went there for 2 years; then attended North Bend High School where all our children graduated.

Marvin joined the Navy in January, 1968. In June, 1971, he married Susan Livingston of Collinsville, Mississippi. He was discharged in 1972. They now live in Mississippi and have one son, Brad.

Our other son, Joe, joined the Coast Guard in November, 1968. He was discharged in 1973. He married Barbara Schmit of Haddon Heights, New Jersey in 1973. They now live in New Jersey and have a daughter, April.

Our youngest child, Connie, married Elmer Ruppert of Scribner, Nebraska in 1973. They live in North Bend and have four children, Jonathan, Daniel, Kyle and Sarah.

We received the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award on June 15, 1976 from the KNIGHTS of AK-SARBEN. In that year our farm was in the Kavan family name for more than 100 years.

I am a current member of the VFW Post 8223 in North Bend and my sons and myself are all members of the American Legion Post 340. My wife, daughter, and my two granddaughters are all members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 340. My wife is also a member of the Sacred Heart Altar Society at the Cedar Hill Catholic Church. *Submitted by Joie Kavan*

KAVAN-PLACEK

My great-grandparents were John Placek, born Jan. 23, 1815 at Cerni Huri, Karluv, Czechoslovakia, and Barbara Placek, born June 22, 1822, also in Czechoslovakia. They came to Prague, Nebraska in 1868. John died Nov. 27, 1899 and is buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery near Prague. Barbara died



Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Kavan Sr., Morse Bluff, married, Nov. 2, 1903

Nov. 8, 1905. They had 2 sons and 3 daughters; Frank, Anna, Katherine, Barbara, and Mike.

Great-grandpa John Placek bought 40 acres and a public school at a sale. He moved the school to the 40 acres and it was used by the Presbyterian Church.

Frank Placek married Frances Jambor. Anna married John Chleboun. Katherine married Anton Cuhel, Barbara married Charles Kaspar, and Mike married Barbara Wesely. Frank was the oldest, followed by Anna, Barbara, Katherine, and Mike. Mike was 8 years old when they came to Prague.

John and Barbara Placek lived one mile north and one and one-half miles west of Prague. Great-grandpa was a mason. They arrived on a steamship in the District of New York, Port of New York.

My grandparents, Mike Placek, born Jan. 28, 1859 in Czechoslovakia, and Barbara Wesely Placek, born in 1869 in Czechoslovakia, were married in 1879. Mike died Apr. 29, 1929 and Barbara died Jan. 12, 1944. Both are buried at National Cemetery at Prague, Nebraska. They had 6 children: Mike, John, Vincent, Emma, Mary, and Anna. Mike and John farmed the place that their parents and grandparents had farmed.

Vincent married Vlasta Prochaska and they had one son, Adolf who married Leona Odvody. They also had one son, Joe.

Emma married Louis Stranik. Their children were Louis, Raymond, Leona, and Mabel.

Mary married Joe Valse and they had one daughter.

Anna Placek married Frank Kavan. They were my parents. Their children were Sylvia (Ignac Odvody), Frank (Clara Haba), Agnes (Art Sickmier), Emma (George Simanek), and Anna (William Simanek). I, Evelyn, the sixth child, married R.W. Figge of Effingham, Kansas. We were married in Dec., 1949 and have lived here ever since. We have 2 daughters and one son.

My grandparents are John Kavan, born Nov. 25, 1849 in Czechoslovakia, and Anna Vopalensky, born July 26, 1854, also in Czechoslovakia. They were married in 1873. John died July 7, 1926, and Anna on Feb. 15, 1937. Both are buried at the Killian Cemetery, Morse Bluff.

In May, 1869, John Kavan, my grandpa, accompanied his parents to America, settling in Iowa. He was a laborer in Omaha for 2 years. In 1873, he settled in Saunders County near Morse Bluff. They had 9 children: Frank (my dad), Edward, John, Joe, Albin, Mary (Mrs. John Hoffman), Agnes (Mrs. Alois Prochaska), Anna (Mrs. Charles Kubik), and Millie (Mrs. Rudolf Kouma). *Submitted by Evelyn Kavan Figge*

JAMES LAWRENCE KEARNEY

My family and I reside in Lincoln, Nebraska, where I am a geologist with the USDA, Soil Conservation Service. I married Irene Elizabeth Lorenz of Crete, Nebraska on October 7, 1967. We have four children: Michelle Marie, 13, Patricia Lynn, 11, Michael James, 7, and Ryan Joseph, 3. Irene's parents, Joseph and Idella Lorenz, and her brothers farm west of Crete. Our children have many opportunities to enjoy the country life.

My roots are deep in Saunders County. James Michael Kearney and Marie Esther Schmidt, my parents, were born and raised in Wahoo. They were married in 1930. In the early years, my father was a mortician for Daily and Hult. I remember him as the Standard Oil Agent, delivering fuel to Saunders County farmers. Many happy hours were spent riding with him on the tank truck. He was a volunteer fireman and active member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church.

As a young woman before she was married, my mother worked in the First National Bank and then again after the death of my father in 1954. Mother still resides in Wahoo and enjoys the many activities retirement brings.

James Kearney I and Honora Kearney, my great-grandparents, came to Nebraska via Ireland and Galesburg, Illinois. They settled with their family on a farm near Harvard, Nebraska in the mid-1870's. At 16, James Kearney II, my grandfather,



Left to Right: James Kearney II and Frederick Adolph Schmidt, grandfathers.

and his younger brother, Lawrence, nearly lost their lives in the blizzard of 1888. Around 1905, grandfather came to Wahoo and lived in the hotel where he occasionally baby-sat for the owners whose name was Zanuck. Their baby, Daryl, later became the famous movie producer. James Kearney II married Josephine Ryan in 1906; they had four children, Jim, my dad, Larry, Kathleen, and Maribeth Kearney Mauck. Aunt Maribeth's recollections helped me greatly in writing this story.

Grandfather managed the Farmers Coop Elevator for thirty years and owned the McCormick-Deering Farm Implement Agency (International Harvester) before his retirement. He was mayor of Wahoo between 1913 and 1914. During this time, downtown got its first electric street lights.

Marcus Schmidt, my great-grandfather on Mother's side, came from Germany. He homesteaded in the early 1870's northeast of Ceresco, Nebraska, where he and his bride, Carolina Wilhelmina Lusch, lived in a dugout. About 1876, he moved to Wahoo and began a brickyard across the road north of Sunrise Cemetery. There are buildings in Wahoo built with Schmidt brick. One of his sons, Frederick Adolph Schmidt, my grandfather, married Ada Mae Bennet in 1902. Their children are Marie Kearney, my mother, and Donald F. Schmidt. Grandfather was bookkeeper for the brickyard, and farmed. He also was a business partner in the Austin-Schmidt Machine Shop. In later years, he worked in the Erickson Furniture Store.

Both the Kearney and Schmidt families had a rich influence on the community. I have fond memories of school days and growing up in Wahoo, and I'm glad my children can grow up close to their heritage. *Submitted by James L. Kearney*

THE AMIEL KELLER FAMILY

The legal description of the Keller farm is NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and S $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 28, Township 17, N. Range 6E., Saunders County, Nebraska. The farm

is located three and one-half miles southeast of Morse Bluff.

Frederick Keller bought the farm from Paul Bosen on Feb. 20, 1880. Bosen had homesteaded property in 1875. Frederick sold the farm to his son Paul Keller, on September 5, 1885.

Paul Keller and his wife, Veronica, built the home and moved to this farm in 1889. They had four sons and two daughters: Rosa, Otto, J. Paul, Herman Amiel, and Luella. They lived on the farm until 1913 when they moved to Cedar Bluffs.

Otto and his wife, Anna Brockman, lived on the farm from 1913-1918. Herman and Amiel farmed the land together from 1918 to 1924. Herman and his wife, Burnley, lived on the farm until 1924 when they moved to Washington, D.C.

Amiel and his wife, Eva LeGrand, were married in February in 1924 and moved to the farm later that year. Amiel and Eva had two sons, Dale E. and Lloyd E. They lived on the farm until 1967 when they moved to Fremont.

Dale and Lloyd were active in Saunders County 4-H clubs for eight years. Eva has been a member of Saunders County Extension clubs since 1931. Dale has been active in the "Just Neighbors Club" for many years.

Amiel and Eva were active in St. George's Church, Morse Bluff. Amiel was Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 3736. Amiel died in 1972.

Dale Keller married J. Irene Kelly in 1949. They had one daughter and four sons: Barbara, James Mark, Dennis, and Steven. They lived near Wahoo for several years. Dale worked at the Saunders County Treasurer's Office and also at the Saunders County Hospital.

Lloyd Keller married Janet C. Haun in 1949. They had one daughter and two sons: Nancy Daniel, and Gregory. Lloyd graduated from the University of Nebraska and is a registered professional engineer. *Submitted by Mrs. Amiel Keller*

PAUL AND VERONICA KELLER

Veronica Cersovsky was born in Austria on December 10, 1869. She was one of fifteen children. She came to this country at the age of twelve. She worked for the Magher family where she met Paul who was born in Germany on Jan. 3, 1859. They were married on Mar. 8, 1886 at the Court House. To this union ten children were born; four passed away in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Keller lived on the farm seven miles west of Cedar Bluffs until about 1913, when they moved into Cedar Bluffs and built a new home. At the time it was built, it was one of the finest in town. Their son was one of the first to graduate from the new high school in 1915. They were faithful members of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1935, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with an open house. Ten years later they had a sixtieth anniversary that was attended by their children and their families: Otto and Anna (Brockman) Keller of Wisner, Rosa and Ed Beckman, Paul and Mary (Hull) Keller, all of Cedar Bluffs, Amiel and Eva (LeGrande) Keller of Morse Bluff, who lived on the Paul Keller home place, Herman and Bernley Keller, and Luella and William Brahm.

Herman Keller served in the Navy during World War I. Mrs. Keller was active in the Red Cross work. During World War II, three grandsons were in the service: Raymond Keller of Wisner; Wayne Keller who spent 20 years in the Navy; and Kenneth Keller who spent 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ years in the Navy. They were the sons of Paul and Mary Keller.

During the Korean conflict, David Keller, son of Herman Keller, and Lynn Keller, son of Paul and Mary Keller, served for 4 years.

At the present time in Saunders County, there are only two families of Kellers left. The first is Kenneth and Harriette (Smith) Keller and their children, Russell and Mary (Divis) Keller, Sheryl (Keller) and Mark Jonas, and Gene Keller. The second family is Lynn and Sharon (Dvorak) Keller. Their children are Carmen (Keller) and Gerry Walker, Robert, Kate and Megan Lynne; Tracy and Paul (Doden) Keller and Jenne; June Keller Western

JOSEPHINE VOLF

Josephine Krejca, born in Lukovo, Moravia, Czechoslovakia. They had two children, settled on 40 acres at Cedar Hill and lived in 1878. A son, Frank, was baptized by a traveling priest in the public square on February 2, 1879.



Created, L to R: Frank and Frances Vojtech Vyhldah.

the memory of watching the church move the lotware from Killian place north of the for him with the wish for the grave.

married Mary Bauer at were born six children: Marie, and Ernest.

affairs, Frank with the ary helping at Pout and make the noodles as thin man's skill by how thin to Fremont in 1943, Cedar Hill, to renew 50th anniversary. Mary Frank, on August 11, Cedar Hill cemetery.

JOHN WOLF

In 1838 to Joseph Wolf in a small village in . In 1868, Jan married . This is near Lucice, e were almost 30 years professional soldier for ad already fought in 2 1868. "My Aunt Bess t great-grandpa Wolf ight in 3 wars before with his family. By this th so tired of all these ted their children to be try. The women had to the family and farm by nds were away."

ught his wife and their rs County. Marie's 3 the United States and ging the Volf family to igration dates for the 7; Joseph, 1868; and ed 160 acres and lived address. They settled ; members of the SS. Plasi. The Simanek her in a circle in Elk had the same names. o the George Simanek ttle ways west. Henry imanek, daughter of , farmed just north of

the Wolf farm. Ignac Simanek, a son of Joseph and Elizabeth Simanek, farmed west of the Wolf farm near the town of Plasi.

Marie Simanek was born in 1844 to George (Jiri) Simanek and Barbara Kasperek Simanek in Lucice near Chudenice, Czechoslovakia. Children born to Jan and Marie Volf near Chudenice are listed here. Maria Volf was born in and died in 1868. Magdaline, 1869-Jan. 5, 1939, was married in 1888 to Anton Kremlacek at Plasi. Their children were Mary, Alois, Phoebe, Anton Jr., Bessie, Edward, Luddy, August, Agnes and Helen. (See Frank Kremlacek Jr. for more information on these children.)

Third child of Jan and Marie was a girl who was born in, and died in 1870. Anna Volf, b. and d., 1871, was the fourth child. The fifth child, Barbara, born in 1873, died the same year.

Jan Volf, the sixth child, born in 1876 in Chudenice, died in 1885 in Saunders County.

James (Warclav), the seventh child, born in 1878 near Chudenice, was married in 1904 to Emma Walla at Wahoo, and died at Wahoo in 1868 at 90. James owned a grocery store for many years in Wahoo. James and Emma Wolf had three children. Bill was born in 1905 and resides at the Haven House, Wahoo. Emil Wolf, born 1908, is deceased. Irene Wolf Miller was born in 1909 at Wahoo.

The last child of Jan and Marie Volf was Barbara, born in 1881 in Elk Precinct. She married Frank Fujan in 1899. He died. Barbara then married Anton Novak in 1905. She died in 1916 at Farwell, Nebraska.

Jan Volf lived to the ripe old age of 69 years; then died in 1907 while visiting his 2 daughters, Magdaline Kremlacek and Barbara Novak who had moved with their families to several farms they purchased near Farwell in 1904. Submitted by *Jacqueline Bryant*

FRED VOLIN FAMILY

Fred Volin and Grayce Schultz were united in marriage on Febr. 17, 1937 at Fremont, Nebraska.

Fred is the son of Stanley Volin and Marie Slein Volin of Prague. Stanley and Marie emigrated from Czechoslovakia. Fred attended grade school at Dist. 85 and Prague High School. Fred is one of four children: Jerry, Fred, Ted, and Helen.

Grayce is the daughter of John C. Schultz and Mary Petersen Schultz of Malmo. Two daughters were born to this family, Mildred and Grayce. Grayce attended school Dist. 75 and Malmo Public School and was a graduate of Wahoo High School. She also attended Luther College at Wahoo.

Fred and Grayce are the parents of two children, JoAnn, and Jimmy. JoAnn married Roland Pospisil, son of Emil and Lydia Pospisil of Malmo. Jimmy was killed in a gun accident on Oct. 29, 1960 at the age of 12.

Fred and Grayce have 4 grandchildren, Vicki, Larry, and Kari Pospisil, and Lori Reeves, and a great-granddaughter, Melissa Lynn Reeves.

Fred and Grayce moved to a farm west of Wahoo after their marriage where they farmed until 1944. In 1945, Fred and his brother, Jerry, purchased the Hardware and Garage from C.B. Mantle at Malmo, where they were in business for 28 years. They retired in 1973. By *Grayce Volin*

FRANK AND ANNA VOPALENSKY

In 1861, Frank and Anna Pech Vopalensky, with their children, Mary, Albina, Anna, Frank and Christina, said farewell to Novy Rychof, Bohemia to their son John and family, to their friends and other relatives, and to a mill which was a family possession for over two hundred years.

After a stormy three month voyage, they embarked at Baltimore, Maryland and proceeded on to a Czech settlement in the Blue River Valley in Grant County, Wisconsin in 1862. Their daughters, Mary and Albina, were married here. Their youngest son, Edward, was born near Blue River Station in 1867.



Frank and Anna Vopalensky

1870 saw the family migrating to Saunders County, Nebraska leaving Mary, her husband, Frank Schoenberger and family in Wisconsin. The Vopalenskys settled on Sand Creek in Bohemia Precinct. Here they observed their golden anniversary, June 15, 1891. The Wahoo New Era states that guests began arriving at eight o'clock in the morning until over five hundred were present. After a "sumptuous" meal, dancing began. Later in the afternoon, the honored couple was presented a gold ornamented chair and a gold-headed cane. Dancing resumed and did not cease until morning.

This cane became a family tradition, being presented to the oldest son on his fiftieth birthday. Frank presented it to his oldest son living in the United States in May, 1908 to his son Frank, with the cane being presented to John Vopalensky in March, 1933. The cane is now in the possession of Irwin Vopalensky.

The descendants of Frank and Anna Vopalensky are numerous in Saunders County. They had thirteen children. Seven reached adulthood. Four of these lived most of their adult life in Saunders County in the Morse Bluff, Bohemia, and Douglas Precincts. These four provided the Vopalenskys with forty grandchildren. Grandchildren still living in the Morse Bluff community are Albin Kavan, Anna Kubik, James Vopalensky and William Vopalensky. Helen Allen, David City, and Sylvia DeFord, Lincoln are also among the living grandchildren in Nebraska in 1982.

Albina Vopalensky, having married Jan Beranek in Wisconsin, came to Nebraska in 1870 shortly before her parents. After thirty-five years, eleven children, and a divorce, she moved with the younger children to Ravenna, Nebraska. Charles Beranek was the only son to remain in the area. Anna, a daughter, married Anton Wesely and continues to live in Saunders County.

Anna Vopalensky married John Kavan in 1873. Most of their thirteen children considered Saunders County home. They have the greatest number of Vopalensky descendants in the county.

Frank and Edward Vopalensky married the Shavlik sisters, Mary and Margaret. Of Frank's nine children, three continued to call Morse Bluff home. Edward had five children remaining in the area.

In 1889, Frank and Anna deeded their land to Edward Vopalensky for the sum of \$100 a year and board for the rest of their lives. Frank lived to the age of 87, dying April 30, 1906, while Anna was 92 when she died January 30, 1914. Their descendants, numerous in Saunders County, can be located in several areas of the United States. *Bernice Vopalensky Robertson Great-granddaughter of Frank and Anna Vopalensky*

THOMAS AND MARY VRANA

Thomas Vrana, son of John and Marie (Dvorak) Vrana, and Alice Ruzicka, daughter of Jerry and Mary (Pallas) Ruzicka of Valparaiso, were married on Sept. 6, 1933 in the Weston Presbyterian Church by Rev. B. Marek. Thomas was baptized and confirmed in the church and is a lifelong member and has served as elder in the church. They lived on a farm northeast of Prague until their move in 1957 to Wahoo where they now reside. Alice is a member of the Ladies Guild and both are active members of the Faithful Mariners.

They had four children: Peter, Mrs. Bob (Ruth) Lin and Mrs. Ed. (Mary) Maryland. Submitted by

EMIL VYBIRAL

Emily Vybiral, (Krupica) Vybiral of June 7, 1915. He lived before moving to Wahoo his parents and sister



Back Row: Lauren Postma, Joy, and Arline Vybiral. Front Row: Matthew and Michael Postma.

Emil graduated from 1931. He attended Lut and Still College of Oste before locating on his f of Wahoo. His interests resources and livestock the farm was ended accident.

Emil met Arline (W married in 1937. The children, Richard John ard was graduated from received his Bachelor University of Nebraska worked as an assistant College of Music, rece Music in 1966. Richa Minden, Nebraska an chased the White's Gr production is bedding ping. Richard was marri town, Iowa in 1968. Th thew Earl, age 13; and

Elizabeth graduated and received her Bachelor and her Master's Deg Nebraska at Lincoln in Postma of Brewster, teaching in the Worthin is contractor and build ta. Their family consi years old, and Michael

Arline returned to sc M.A. Degrees at the Lincoln. After compl teaching at the Waho retired in May, 1983. children and grandch Submitted by *Arline V*

FRANK AND

Frank Vybiral was born 1910, the son of Frank and His father, Frank Sr., and member of the W er, Marie, passed away months short of her 10 Frank spent his child St. Wenceslaus School. High School in 1928. A the University of Nebr ing career during the farm east of Cedar Bl Colon.