

wife of their neighbors named Ormsby was a sister of the woman who took Lila, and the cowboy in question used to take care of the Ormsby cattle. The woman was visiting her sister at the time. The parents conjectured that for some reason she needed a child she could represent as her own and when she had it, made use of it in her performance.

Cheyenne County - 1885

The colony in this county settled in the vicinity of Lodge Pole, Colton and Sidney, and was founded by V. F. Kučera, a locator, who advertised in the *Pokrok Západu*. When the nucleus was formed, others followed their friends and relatives.

1885—The Following Came:

Václav Verner was the first to come. Born in Ruda, Nové Strašecí. Václav Libraajt, second; V. F. Kučera, third, born 1859 in Jarov, County Plzeň.

1886—The Following Came:

A. J. Křikač, being the fourth. Born in Lužany, Přeštice, now living in Butte, Boyd County.

This colony, like others in the western part of the state, suffered from drouth and most of the settlers moved away in the early nineties. About that time, before the exodus, the following were living there:

P. O. Lodge Pole:

Václav Kutíš, Chvalsovice, Hluboká; Václav Mika, Hluboká; John Pavlat, Doudleby, Kostelec nad Orlicí; Joseph Běl, Lužany, Přeštice; John Jenk, Tisová, Vysoké Mýto; Frank Vinkler, Radnice, Rokycany; Anton Henžl, Syré, Zbívov; Anton Kříž, Sudislav, Kostelec; Frank Zálenský, Horky, Litomyšle; Joseph Oliverius, Jarov, Kralovice; Matěj Strejc, Tachlovice; Anton Gottstein, Jilemnice; Karel (Charles) Žabokrtský, Slemeno, Rychnov; Leopold Mach, Borovnik, Velká Byteš; Joseph Kulyk, Katov; Joseph and Frank Lapis, Dolní Vilémovice, Třebíč; Václav Vacík, Stryčkovice, Klatovy; Joseph Ledvina, Karlík, Zbraslav; John Studlar Sr., Kralovice, Prachatice; Catherine Klein, Frantoly, Prachatice; Henry Strejc, Tachlovice, Smíchov; Felix Poláček, Radomyšl, Strakonice; Václav Poláček, same; Joseph Večera, Zvoleč, Náměst; John Pochop, Dlouhé, Nové Město; Frank and Václav Vosika, Klenov, Veselí.

P. O. Colton:

Joseph Procházka, Bystřice, Nové Město; Joseph Homolka, Bystřice, Nové Město; Anton Krupička, Tachlovice, Smíchov; Joseph Lukáš, Ostrov Ždár; Václav, John, Frank and George Šeda, Újezd, Vysoké Mýto; Anton Chlouba, Třtice, Nové Strašecí.

P. O. Sidney:

Joseph Henžl, Syrý, Zbirov; Leo Řezanina, unknown; Frank Šašek, Jehnědlo, Písek; Adam Šimka, Křečovice, Týn nad Rovenskem; Matěj



Jim Wausheeka

V. F. Kučera

Lawrence Wausheeka

Mertl, Koryta, Kralovice; Luke Študlar, Kralovice; Peter and John Sukovaty, Štěchov, H. Týn.

P. O. Potter:

Frank Sláma Sr., and Joseph Sláma, Slovan, Příbram; Anton Beneš, Kopiclno, Kralovice; John and Frank Lundák, Obory, Příbram.

P. O. Redington:

Peter Hynek, Kellnersville, Wisconsin; Frank Vopat, Nebřežiny, Kralovice.

Mr. Andrew J. Křikač, now living in Butte, Boyd County, one of the early settlers, writes:

“I arrived in Valley County in 1881 from Bohemia, where I was born in Lužany, Přeštice, coming to my cousin Charles Česák, who that spring had settled near Sedlov, in the northwestern part of Valley County. This postoffice was established by John Beran, who was postmaster and who had named it for a town in Bohemia. The following spring I settled on a homestead seven miles west of Česák, in Custer County. During the summer I worked in Howard County, on farms or at my carpentering trade, and spent the winters on my homestead. In 1885 I sold my claim to Joseph Klanecký and lived near Sedlov with my parents, who had come in 1883. During that time I began to dig wells, some as deep as 250 feet. I read V. F. Kučera’s advertisements in the *Pokrok Západu* about Cheyenne County and with a party set out to investigate. I was the only one to settle. Some of the others took claims but did not move there until the following spring. Most of those shown on the list were early settlers. There being no other employment to be had, I dug wells, but it was hard work, for I had to dig through several layers of gravel and rock. It was not only difficult but dangerous work and no one but I could handle it. Once I was obliged to dig eighty feet deep to get the body of a digger who had perished at his work, the well having caved in. About two hundred people had gathered, among them several well-diggers, but none cared to risk his life. I worked all day and all night, before I reached the unfortunate man’s head and found he was dead. It required three nights’ and two day’s work to get the corpse out (Doc. Mann) and to this day I have not received pay for it.

In the spring of 1887 I married Miss Šeda and began farming, but one dry year followed another and so in July, 1890, I put my wife and two little girls in an old covered wagon and started east. Five miles east of Chappell our horses became frightened, for the wind had blown out the cover on our wagon. The shaft fell out of the neckyoke, broke in half, our wagon raised up and flew over. I unharnessed and went to the nearest house, asking the loan of a wagon to get to Julesburg, Colorado, where I wanted

to get mine repaired. Imagine my surprise when the man spoke Czech to his wife. I then addressed them also in Czech and they in turn were surprised, for none of our countrymen lived in that vicinity. My wagon was repaired, and we proceeded, but how painfully, for we did not dare to put the cover on again, and for eleven days following we had to bear the hot, blazing sun. Both children became ill, as a result. At last, on August 1st, we reached my parents in Geranium, Valley County, where I rented a farm for three years. In 1893 I moved to Boyd County, where for a year I was in the saloon business with my cousin Charles Česák. The next spring I moved to Butte, where I now live."

Hayes County - 1885

Another western county, where the number of Czechs has dwindled.

Frank Brož, now living in Tampa, Kansas, writes: "We suffered real pioneer hardships. Eggs sold at 3 cents per dozen, wheat 35 cents per bushel, a young milch cow \$10.00, a calf \$1.00, hogs \$1.00 apiece. The nearest town was Culbertson, twenty miles distant, where we took our hogs. The agent selected the best, the rest he would not take even for a dollar apiece. The owners did not care to bring them home, so waited until dark and then set them loose in the vicinity of the town. Such hogs were not even fit for food, for all they were fed was water slightly tinged with milk. There was no grain for them. Chewing such meat was like chewing gum."—Mr. Brož stayed there, however, until 1908, when he sold 720 acres for \$5,800.00 and moved to Tampa, Kansas. Those who braved it out and stayed are now well-to-do.

Anton Friml with his father-in-law set out in 1885 with a mule team. After reaching Holdrege, they then traversed 250 miles of waste lands. When they arrived at their destination and the mules saw no hay nor any prospects of corn, one lay down and died and the other followed suit within a few days. The situation was desperate,—three