

# The Pazdera Times

December 2007

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the descendants of Joseph and Julia Pazdera! What a wonderful year it has been. Amid the sorrows of death and the joy of birth, the pains of illness and gladness of health, the hope of peace and the terror of war, life goes on. This year has been particularly memorable for Tom & LaDawn Kunz and Alicia Minden as they had the opportunity to travel to the Czech Republic and learn more about the family Joseph left behind. Carole Jo Chi had a similar experience as she traveled to Slovakia and met relatives from the other side of her family. Both of these stories are shared with this 2007 edition of the newsletter.

It is an amazing thing to see the bounteous blessings of the posterity of Joseph and Julia. Joseph, who made the sole decision in his family to leave everything that he knew, including his family to come to a new unknown place. Along with this newsletter we have included a picture of the Pazdera's visited while in Czech as well as Joseph's siblings and his step mother and two letters that Joseph wrote back to the family in 1913 and 1923. Both the picture of the siblings and the letters were treasures provided by the Pazdera's in the picture with Tom, LaDawn and Alicia. So as you read through the updates of members of this grand family, please do not forget the sacrifice that great grandfather Joseph Pazdera and his young 20 year bride Julia made for each of us.

## FRANK PAZDERA BRANCH:

### *Tom Kunz* Magnolia, TX

The Texas Kunz's are well and grateful for the bounties and blessings of living in a free country amid a world of strife, war and discord. Here is a quick rundown on our family.

Our oldest daughter Mauren is now working for Vollmer Communications here in Houston after graduating from BYU a year ago.

Tyson and his wife Chelsea (and our two granddaughters Payton and Hailey) live in Rio Rancho outside of Albuquerque where Tyson works for Pulte Homes.

Kira and her husband Brian Conley are still at BYU. Kira finishes her degree this month and Brian will finish in April. Brian is in the process of selecting a

medical school for the fall with Podiatry as his goal.

Weston is serving as a missionary in Mexico City and has been out now for 14 months. He will return in October of next year and return to BYU for his education.

Garen is a senior. Plays varsity basketball as a point guard and recently earned his eagle scout award. He is looking forward to graduation in the spring, BYU in the summer and then off for his mission in the fall when he turns 19.

Chase is in 8th grade, an all around athlete who runs cross country and track and plays basketball.

MiCayla is our baby who is growing too fast. She is in the 7th grade, plays basketball, runs cross country and track and plays the piano and some violin.

Most of the family enjoyed our first cruise this summer to Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Cozumel. Very relaxing. However, our highlight this year was the trip LaDawn and I took to the Czech Republic to visit the homeland, the homestead and living relatives. What a marvelous adventure. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas! To see pictures of our cruise and our trip to the Czech republic, visit our website at <http://homepage.mac.com/tomkunz>

Tom & LaDawn Kunz family

### *Ellen Kunz Hickernell* Louisville, CO

Just a few notes from the Hickernell family: Randy and Ellen continue as usual, Randy works for Hachette Book Group USA, a French publisher who bought the Time Warner book group last year. Ellen is still keeping the books for a small business in downtown Louisville.

Elspeth bought a condo and works at Crocs, yes, Crocs, the funny looking plastic seeming shoes. Check them out at Crocs.com and see how some of them aren't so funny looking anymore. She loves working there.

Raleigh is a senior at UNC Northern Colorado) and will finish a degree in communications next fall. He loves Ultimate Frisbee and snowboarding more than studying.

Rebekah is amazing: head girl of her high school (head girl and boy are co-presidents of the student body) and therefore leads student council. She is in National Honor Society, she sings in choir and acts up as a Thespian in school and community theater. She works at Build-a-Bear and volunteers at a non-profit children's play place. And she plays Ultimate Frisbee, too.

Merry Christmas to everyone, and best wishes to you for next year.

*Teresa Pazdera Harris* Salisbury, NC

Another blessed year is coming to a close.

The kids (they will always be kids, no matter how old) are doing fine. Val and Andy Smith continue to live in Cary, NC while Andy is attending seminary and Val continues her career as a Biostatistician in Research Triangle Park. In another year, they may be in a totally different place while Andy pursues his PhD in Theology.

Jen and Bobby Evans moved to North Carolina last May due to Jen's job change. They lived with us for two months until their home in Florida was rented and have since moved to Charlotte, NC. It is wonderful having them live about 15-20 minutes away.

Mike and I are doing fine except for a couple of health issues. It's tough getting older with things going wrong with the body. But we are still staying busy with our church's motorcycle ministry and try to ride our Goldwing as often as possible. We took a trip to Anaheim, CA last June for one of my business trips and got to visit Disney Land for the first time for both of us.

Again this Labor Day weekend, this branch of the Pazdera family gathered together at Mike Pazdera's place in Dunlap, Tennessee. It was great getting together and having several new attendees - Mike Pazdera, Jr. from Colorado, Danny Leath from Conway, AR and Jen & Bobby Evans, now from NC. It's a great tradition and just great, fun family time.

*Mary Pazdera Leath* Conway, AR

I start as the Deputy Director for Administration at the Arkansas Department of Health on Monday, December 10.

*Katrina Johnston Vigil* Ozark, AR

Geno and Cecelia Johnston celebrated their 60th. wedding anniversary on Dec. 11, 2007. Their children took them out to eat at the Olive Garden in Fort Smith and sent them on a trip to Branson.

Chris and Katrina Johnston Vigil still live in Ozark, Arkansas. Chris teaches and coaches the Senior High Girls Basketball team at Waldron, Arkansas. Katrina teaches special education at County Line School. We have 4 children, Hailey, who is in the 9th grade and plays basketball for County Line. Madison, who just had a birthday on Nov. 28. She turned 11. She is in the 5th grade and plays basketball on the Elementary County Line team. Luke is in the 2nd grade. He loves baseball. Nicole is 3. She goes to Keystone Montessori School at Ratcliff. She enjoys going to all the games and playing with her siblings.

*Dorothy Pazdera Weisenfels* Greenwood, AR

Dorothy's greatest and best news for 2007 included: getting married, retiring and selling her house. May 5th was a happy and exciting day, the day I married Ed

Weisenfels! Every day is a honeymoon day with him!

Life is great, am happy and enjoying having TIME! We enjoy the camper and his grandchildren, camping, fishing and relaxing! We love to go to Tunica too - trying our luck, not winning big, but having fun trying! We took a 13 day trip to Alaska the first two weeks of September, spending four days on land, seeing Fairbanks, Denali and Anchorage, cruising south and stopping at Juneau, Skagway and Ketchikan, spending an extra day in Vancouver. The trip was awesome, scenery beautiful, food and people wonderful! Great vacation!

I DID retire from Farmers Bank on Aug. 30th - was an enjoyable 5 years and 3 months. I sold my house before the Alaskan trip, had closing the Monday after we got home! So it has been a blessed and happy 2007!

Am enjoying retirement, cooking, working in and outside the house, yard, taking care of Ed and going with him and being with him as much as possible! It is a great life!

*Mildred Pazdera Barnes*

Most of you don't know that I bought a 1998 National Sea Breeze RV this past year, thanks to my brother George, and am on the road in it - yes by myself. It's 30 foot long and I don't tow any vehicle. Starting out in April I went to Arkansas to see my sisters, Dorothy and Cecelia, and returned to Denver in June. Then I left for the Northwest July 3rd and went through Wyoming, seeing both Grand Teton and Yellowstone Parks, then on to Montana to see Glacier National Park which I had not seen previously. I loved western Montana the best so far! Back on the road I went through northern Idaho to Washington stopping at Rainier Nat. Park - and went all the way to the Pacific where Lewis and Clark were - near Long Beach and Ilwaco. Had my brakes replaced there - thanks to the mountainous curvy roads. After that I went on to Oregon, but lost my ID there (it was found) but having cancelled my credit cards I wasn't in much mood to see the rest of that state. So I came home again through southern Idaho, Utah and western Colorado. I only stayed home several weeks when I wanted to come south where it's WARMER. I have just arrived in Arizona today (Nov. 29th) and plan to stay near Tucson for Christmas as my stepdaughter, Linda Barnes is coming down for a week or so. After that I'll tour around this state and not sure where else before going back to Denver in warmer weather there. It has been very interesting, fun and adventurous as I expected. Have met some really nice people who give me rides to visit old Mexico and other places around Deming where I "sat" for this last month. I miss the driving but can't afford to do it every day now, but will be around the west for the next several years, I hope. Take care and I hope all of you have a chance to fulfill some of your

dreams and that you'll have the greatest Holiday season ever.

P.S. My daughter Valerie has a new position as chef and manages a 10-person team in the kitchen at a local exclusive retirement/assisted living center. So far she loves this new job.

## ANNIE PAZDERA PIGEON BRANCH:

### *Donna Pigeon Tyer Kansas, OK*

A few things to report from our side of the family (Annie Pazdera-Pigeon, Antone Pigeon family). Maria's daughter, Jennifer Fleig is engaged to be married September 6, 2008. Beth and husband Steve spent Thanksgiving with daughter Stephanie Woodruff and husband Whitney in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Their son Justin Buck Tisdale graduated fire fighting school. Lillian has become a foster parent to emergency case children, quite a responsible job. My daughter Kasey Kiker and her husband Jake have become parents of a 6 lb. 15 oz. little girl - Riley Paige Kiker, born November 15. Beautiful little thing, God gave us a miracle. Mother is doing about as well as can be expected, age, and arthritis. It will get us all some day!!

Tom is still in Mississippi, coming this way for Christmas. He has had his health issues this past year also, knee replacements, pace maker, and arthritis problems.

Best wishes to you and your family for the holidays.

### *Frances Pigeon Burge Benton, AR*

The biggest thing that happened here—we moved on the hottest days this summer. So we have a new home now. We were looking for a house. This is not for old people to do. Katelin and Marian really helped us. They had already moved earlier in the spring. We now live close together.

The next best thing that happened--Our grand daughter Katelin, graduated, summa cum laude from University Central Arkansas on May 5, 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in interior design. She now has a great job, that she wanted. We are very proud of her.

As for our daughter, Barbara we never see them. Just talk on the phone. They're going all over Tennessee to see their grand kids ballgames.

In July we were in Fort Smith, at a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Rosia Minden. We had a great time. Glad we were invited.

My husband, Quenton, will be 88 years old, Dec. 24. After working for Pulaski Technical College for 44 years, he's still working.

We also visited my Brother (Clem,) several times during the year, in the Dardanelle nursing home. He's doing very well, just gets pretty lonesome.

Hope all cousins and their families are doing well.

Love and prayers from this family.

## MARY PAZDERA NOVY BRANCH:

### *Rosia Novy Minden Fort Smith, AR*

Thanks to all that sent in cards and wishes for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a great weekend! May each of you have a wonderful 2008. Pictures on the website.

<http://comp.uark.edu/~aminden/>

### *Cindy Locknar Savage Charleston, AR*

The only thing I can think of to add to the Pazdera Times is that Philip and I celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary on 11-27-07, and that our children, Sabrina and Stefan hosted a party for us on 11-24-07 to celebrate the occasion. Check the website for a picture.

<http://comp.uark.edu/~aminden/>

### *Anna Minden Morrow Olathe, Kansas Christmas Blessings To You!*

Our family year has been good in 2007; we have much to be thankful for, first and foremost for our family and secondly that we live in the USA.

My mother, who lives in Arkansas, turned 90 in July so there was a huge family party for 2 days. All the kids and grandchildren attended and the two older grand daughters never dreamed my extended family was so numerically large. (And not everybody came because the older ones are in failing health.) In fact, they learned the new term of "extended" family this summer. Lindsay and Sarah, now 24 and 20, work and go to school at Juco. Lindsay is at Granite City Pub & Restaurant and Sarah at the Ward Parkway Sprint-Nextel store. Don spent some time away at deer camp in November but did not bring me any venison this time. His excuse is that he took some good buddies with him for a first time experience and they brought back the deer.

No sooner was deer camp over when my oldest niece and her husband celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary over the Thanksgiving weekend in Arkansas. It was a great time for fun and family.

Steve, Diane, Scott and Rachel are enjoying their new home in Overland Park and spent a lot of time this summer putting their own touches in the lawn and garden area. Scott, 14, enters high school next year while Rachel, 5, started full time Kindergarten this year. They both like their new schools. Scott loves soccer and he and Steve have attended several out of state tournaments this spring and summer. His team record was far from stellar but he emerged with some rather stellar soccer skills. He can hardly wait until next year when he'll be eligible to begin varsity play.

Rick is with YRC Logistics department and puts in some really long days. He says he feels like the mailman – freight has to keep being delivered and he has

to see it reaches its destination.

I did have a hospital stay in May and this time didn't bounce back so am facing more challenges this time as the disease wants a bigger chunk of me. Thanks to all of you for your thoughts and prayers. I couldn't do it without my supportive family and friends.

God bless all of you and Best Wishes for a great 2008!

#### *Alicia Minden Fayetteville, AR*

##### *Trip to Czech Republic*

In September I joined a group which included Tom and LaDawn Kunz on a trip to the Czech Republic. The highlight of it was meeting Karel and Jirina Pazdera, a great grandson of Karel Pazdera who was a half brother to Joseph Pazdera, my great grandfather. They live in the family home from 1890's, redone in 1930's. We also met their son Charles, daughter-in-law Martina, and grandson Andrew. (See attached picture.) All of this in the village of Kozly, the ancestral home of the Pazdera's. We were treated to a stroll around the village in which we were shown the original land, still in the family. A nice crop of carrots and potatoes. Do not think I would have gotten through Customs with that in the luggage.

We also met Liberuse Samberova, grand daughter of Vaclav, a brother to Joseph. The houses that Bozena, half sister to Joseph and Antonin, another half brother to Joseph, lived in were pointed out to us. We also visited the Catholic church in Vsetety (thanks to the cleaning lady), where the relatives were baptized and were allowed to take pictures. Walked through the cemeteries at Vsetey and Kozly snapping pictures of any monument that had a name we thought might be in the family. Talk about huge!

You will find pictures on family website as well as Tom's website. <http://comp.ualr.edu/~aminden/>

I spent nearly two weeks in the country. The first few days we stayed in the city of Vsetin and traveled from there to various other villages. It was cloudy, wet and/or rainy, temps in 40's all those days. Was quite interesting to see a country, now 20 years removed from Communism. Did see some ole time artisans, i.e. pottery, at work. Weather prevented us from seeing others. For some meals we ate in family restaurants. Very delicious and filling. Almost all of them consisted of soup (either sauerkraut or noodle), cabbage, onions, carrots, red peppers, cucumbers, potatoes and meat. If there was any room left over, there were plum dumplings or a chess cake (it looked like a pizza). And at the Hrcirik family reunion we attended, there was plum brandy (Slivovice) to be had.

Spent almost a week in Prague. So much to see—most of it on foot. Oh the cobblestone streets! The clouds went away, blue skies appeared, sun came out and temps warmed up. We witnessed the changing of the guard at Prague Castle, a colorful procession for a local event, a

concert in a church dating to year 900, the astronomical clock, climbed to the tower to view city from above, concert in town square, Charles Bridge.

Also found out that grocery store shelves could be empty. Hearing that such exists is one thing, seeing it-is reality.

I came back through Detroit; my luggage came through Memphis, even with all the chocolate.

#### *Angela Minden Cyr Stillwater, OK*

I started the year in Arizona, temps were in the high 60's. I'm not the 'rookie' anymore when it comes to scrapbooking, attended a convention this summer. Went to mom's 90th birthday this summer with family. Jennifer got a promotion at Littlefield's - is looking for a new apartment/condo/ duplex/house. Justin and Juli have moved, work at the same location, hoping to 'settle' somewhere this coming year.

#### *Joanne Geurian Stark Pottsville, AR*

Not much going on with the Stark Family. We did have a new addition this year with the birth of a new granddaughter, her name is Katelynn Rose Stark. She was born August 1, at St. Edward's in Fort Smith. She weighed 9 lbs. and was 20 1/2 in. long. Her Dad is Scott, my youngest son, and his wife is Kerry Lynn and her sister is Abbigail.

My mom is fine, quilting and doing some reading this month with the cold weather, but I am sure, she will be back outside racking leaves as soon as a pretty day gets here.

All is as well as possible with me. My health is not great, but I am not going to complain very much. Was great to see all of you at Aunt Rosia's 90th birthday in July. Better to see each other there, than funerals.

My son Jason and his wife Kathleen are busy working and trying to keep up with their 7 yr. old daughter, Sadie Ann. She's into dancing, soccer, basketball, Star of Tomorrow, and Karate. Of course her horse Beau, comes in there somewhere. Anyway, they are fine and very busy.

That is about all for the Stark's so hope that helps a little. Love you.

#### **ELIZABETH PAZDERA DOUBNICH BRANCH:**

##### *Carole Chi Detroit, MI*

I always wanted to go to Slovakia to see what the country and people were like where my ancestors were from, but never found the opportunity, the way or the money to do so. My dad, his brother and sister were always so lively and excited about the idea too. Finally, about a year ago I Googled Slovakia and up popped Slovakia Treasure Tours 2007 out of Rochester NY with

tour guides Helene Cincebeaux and Jozef Kaufman. I emailed her and got a quick pleasant response. Suddenly I was hooked; finally my dream could become a reality. It was also to be a reward for finishing my Masters Degree this spring (May 12<sup>th</sup> from Marygrove College, Detroit—Masters in the Art of Teaching) after several years of work. I planned the trip with my husband over several months, even finding a genealogist/guide/driver/interpreter to help me to try to find/contact relatives and my grandparents' home towns.

July 1<sup>st</sup> my husband Mark and I flew to Vienna to overnight and take the hydrofoil boat trip down the Danube the following day to Bratislava with another family (the Smiths or Smetankas) on our tour. Jozef picked us up at the dock and drove us to the welcome dinner at the top of the TV tower restaurant 20 stories up for a beautiful view of Bratislava countryside and the Danube and to meet our fellow travelers, most of Slovak heritage (like me), from 13 different American states. We ate with Bob & Betty Barnack from Schenectady. For the next 3 nights we stayed at the Hotel Baronka in Bratislava. The next day we had a bus tour of Bratislava, then a guided walking tour of "old town." That night our bus drove us out to a local winery where we enjoyed a great meal and singing by a very good Slovak tenor Jozef Ivaska; and a few fireworks were displayed for us for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Thursday we visited Devin castle outside Bratislava where the Danube and Morava Rivers join, then on to Vienna for a bus & walking tour. We had a fabulous guide named Jozef with a rich, thick Austrian accent. What a beautiful city-buildings that looked like huge decorated wedding cakes & fabulous St. Stephen's cathedral! Friday our bus tour took us all over Slovakian countryside—wide rolling hills of gold & green, tree covered tall hills, streams & rivers, then into the mountains! Everyone in every village in Slovakia has a garden—that's where my family gets that gardening habit from! We ended up in Banska Bystrica then we were taken on an old open car train ride into the very tall treed scenic mountains for a wonderful chicken BBQ meal & music by a one-man-band dressed in Goral type clothing. We drank some local spirits: Berkovice; and a lady on our trip taught us the Chardash dance. Saturday we shopped at a ribbon and craft store, and then enjoyed a folk festival in Detva—the President of Slovakia attended that day also. Here we first tried the national drink of plum brandy, or Slivovice, as it's called, along with local dishes. That evening we had a sumptuous dinner at St. Christopher's restaurant near Banska Bystrica where a three piece strolling gypsy band entertained us.

We started our 2<sup>nd</sup> week by driving on to the High Tatra Mountains by way of the Kezmarok UNICEF festival/craft fair. We drove to the Polish border—to Pieniny Gorge for a 1.5 mile gentle river raft ride (where

we saw a rare black stork), ending with a Goral meal & music; and crossed into Poland on foot for a minute and a picture in front of the border crossing sign of Poland—just to say we were there. From there we drove through Poprad where we saw a huge white stork nest on a light post filled with 4 gigantic babies & a parent stork coming in for a landing! We saw old wooden homes like log cabins, beautiful mountains & big valley country-side. The valleys are absolutely huge! We overnighted in the High Tatra Mts. Monday we were driven to Tatranska Lomnica, a beautifully gardened, quaint little shopping village with a great folk-art store called "Uliv." From there we were taken to Lendak to visit the last sheep-skin coat-maker in Slovakia, Mr. Fudaly & his wife & extended family in their 3 room house where they raised 10 children & several grandchildren (without indoor plumbing!). They served us sandwiches, homemade poppyseed roll, and a variety of liquors, including homemade Slivovice—they were very hospitable, generous, and friendly—like most of Slovakia & Slovaks. About 24 years ago they were pictured in National Geographic for one of their daughter's traditional Slovak wedding. The youngest 2 in our group were allowed to try on traditional colorful wedding outfits & we photo-graphed them, too. We also visited the church in Lendak built in 1331. During WWII Nazis tried to remove their priest, but the villagers fought back with pitchforks! From there we drove through a Roma (gypsy) area and on to Spis castle high on a hill where we had to walk up a 45 degree incline, but the views were worth it. Next we descended on the Rusyn village of Torysky to hear folk songs, see dances & a mock Rusyn wedding in full costume. (My mother's dad—Dovbnich—was from the Rusyn ethnic group). The last woman to marry that way was there & did so in 1963. They served us soup w/sausage & zuprushka, then parsleyed potatoes, sauerkraut & stuffed cabbage, poppyseed roll, nut roll, & lekvar roll! Mmmm! They also kept the Slivovice & water coming constantly—what a joyous time! Then two girls offered to sell their old costumes (authentic Rusyn folk dresses)—full of embroidery, needlepoint, crochet & batik—I jumped at the chance and bought one for just under \$200. It's a schoolteacher in Torysky (a friend of Helene Cincebeaux) that continues to encourage the youngsters to keep doing Slovak folk dances and songs and portraying mock weddings to keep the traditions alive—keep them from being totally forgotten. What a wonderfully warm, generous, hospitable people! From there we drove to Stara Lubovna, an outdoor museum of an old Rusyn village's various buildings, a museum and the castle above on a hill. Then on to the town of Bardejov in NE Slovakia to overnight—our trip quickly coming to a close in this magical country. This trip has been much more than just your standard tour—it's been

a total cultural immersion! We have done so much, experienced so much; people have opened their homes to us—mostly due to Helene's 20 years of experience at hosting these 4 trips a year to Eastern Europe, and due to the generosity and hospitality of the Slovakian people. My husband Mark, who is Chinese, fit right in and was named an honorary Slovak in our travel group! He called himself a Chino-Slovensko! ☺ What a wonderful time we all had—a life-changing experience!

The next morning Mark & I set out with Juraj Cisarik, the interpreter/genealogist/driver and guide that I'd hired over the internet and with Helene's knowledge, too. Juraj is a very pleasant, soft-spoken, low key guide, and knowledgeable—he knew just how to talk to our prospective new relatives—what to say, how to say it and what to ask. He drove us southward to Sariš County, near the large town of Sabinov, then on to Ostrovany, a small village. That's the one town we have documented on my great uncle's baptism certificate. We stopped and gained entry into the church by the cleaning woman and took many photos. Then on our way back to the car we stopped to ask an old couple, two doors from the church, whether they knew if there were any Serdinak's (my grand-mother's maiden name on my dad's side) left in the village. They said: "THIS is the SERDINAK HOUSE!"—pointing to a small ancient concrete house they were cleaning up around. I was simply astounded! What were the chances? But it happened! They invited us inside the 3 room, over 200 year old cottage, with huge wooden ceiling beams. They had been picking currants and shared them. I looked at the man—Frantisek—and realized that he looked much like my grandmother, my Baba, and had some of her mannerisms. He's probably a great nephew of hers. Frantisek was in an accident 10 years earlier and had trouble remembering things, but his wife sent us on to his sister Irina a few kilometers away who could answer more of our questions. We went to visit her and her husband in a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Communist building type apartment and she related the story of how at the age of 10 she helped her parents care for an old woman who was Mary Serdinak's (my Baba's) mother! I showed her a picture of my great-grandmother and she said: "yeah that's her"—just like that! Incredible! Then they brought out the homemade potato pancakes & Slivovice and we took more pictures of our new found relatives. From there we went to the local cemetery and found my great-grandmother's grave—Anna Kacala Serdinakova—and took photos for my aunt back home, at her request. Then we drove to Sarisske Sokolovce, the village where my dad's dad grew up. We stopped and photographed the church, then went to the two cemeteries to photograph many, many older gravestones with Durkac on them (a very common name in that village)—my maiden name (minus the 's'). We also

visited Frantisek Durkac, his sister and his mother in Slivnia nearby. We entered his mother's 200 year old, wooden beamed ceiling home where they fed us sandwiches & cookies, pop & wine and questioned our inter-preter. After Juraj Cisarik gave him satisfactory answers then Frantisek drove us to his grander home where he also showed us his separate 'party house' and gave us a bottle of Slivovice and opened another bottle to share. What an absolutely in-credible, amazing day! We found relatives—dead and alive! Then Juraj drove us to Kosice for our farewell group meal and last night in Slovakia. The next day we flew with a few others from our group to Prague for 2 more days & nights of glorious sightseeing and cultural immersion! What another beautiful, old glorious city!

## JOSEPH PAZDERA JR. BRANCH:

### *Clint Pazdera* Berkeley Heights NJ

Well the twins have arrived! Two beautiful girls. Twin A, Kenna Locke Dwyer, Locke being Liam's mom's maiden name. Born 7/14/2007 @ 7:14 am weighing in @ 5 lbs. 3 oz., 19 1/2 inches long. Twin B, Rylan Paulson Dwyer, Paulson of course being Nancy's maiden name. Born 7:16 am, weighing in @ 5 lbs. 4 oz., 19 inches long. Kristen and the girls are doing very well. They hope to be home on Tuesday. That makes 3 females in the household for Liam. Even the cat, Annie, is a female. Poooooor Liam!

Our son, Charles, had shoulder surgery and is now undergoing chemo. We thank those that have sent along thoughts and prayers for his treatment and recovery. We ask you to continue them.

## ROSA PAZDERA FRIGA BRANCH:

### *Tony Friga family* Willow Springs, MO

Merry Christmas! Hope all is well with everyone. We are doing fine here. Had a very busy year. Seems like the years keep passing faster and faster. Never enough time for everything we want to do.

Tony has been busy with his restoration projects. Finished a 1923 model T and now working on a couple of old tractors.

This was the year for weddings. Four of our grand daughters took the big step.

Amber Henry and Wayne Wollesen were married on May 12, 2007 in Overland Park, KS at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Amber is the daughter of Pam and Earl Henry.

Laura Beth Friga and Brian Jens were married on June 2, 2007 at First United Methodist Church in West Plains, Mo. Laura is the daughter of Rodney Friga.

Kate Henry and Golam Maruf were wed on September

1, 2007 at St. Joseph Church, White Church, Mo. Kate is the daughter of Pam and Earl Henry.

Lea Ann Friga and Jacob Heuser were wed on October 27, 2007 at St. Mary's Church, West Plains, Mo. Lea is the daughter of Kem and Debbie Friga.

We also gained 3 great grand children during the year. Lillian Rose was born to Heather and Isaac Mann on June 8, 2007. She has a 1/2 brother, Matthew Mann. Heather is the daughter of Brenda and Bill Jackson.

Jackson Joaquin Langford was born to Nikki and Brian Langford, Eagle River, Alaska, on Sept. 4, 2007. (On great grandma's birthday!!!) Nikki is the daughter of Kem and Debbie Friga.

Eli Liam Jackson was born on November 5, 2007 to Jessica and Bill Jackson, Springfield, Mo. He spent his first month in the hospital as he arrived over 7 weeks early. Last report from his Mom and Dad was "doing fine". Eli has 2 half brothers, Nolan Young and Kaevin Jackson. Bill is the son of Brenda and Bill Jackson.

Besides attending all the weddings, we were able to make a trip to California to visit daughter Anita and Chuck Todd and daughters Sienna and Sheridan, for Sienna's First Communion in May. We traveled this time by train. Took AmTrak from Omaha. Was a nice experience. Plan to do it again.

Wishing all good health and much happiness and many blessings in the coming year.

Anita Friga Todd, Concord, California

My husband, Chuck Todd, (son-in-law of Tony Friga) had his second illustrated book published this year with writer Gary Bogue. The book, "There's an Opossum in My Backyard," is an illustrated children's book published by Heyday Books. Thanks.

*Randy Friga Brookline, MO*

Ralph and Leona Friga's son, Randy, has made his 4th trip to Haiti this year to oversee the construction of an HIV/AIDS clinic in Pignon. In February, he is planning on going to another small town and install some solar panels at the Catholic School with the support of a Knights of Columbus council in Springfield, MO. He is wanting to put together a group to go down and do some work on the clinic. It is doing some concrete, block laying, electrical, painting, and some wood carpentry. If you are interested in being a part of it, let him know at 417.882.8773. It costs about \$1,000 to cover your airfare and room and board, but the experience is more than you can imagine.

**CECELIA PAZDERA O'BOSKY  
BRANCH:**

**ANTON PAZDERA BRANCH:**

## MARTIN PAZDERA BRANCH:

*Joe Pazdera Jr. Texas City, TX*

Well this has been a pretty uneventful year for us. No big news to report, no new babies or anybody getting married or the like. My Performance shop has taken off quite well, enough so that I have practically closed down the cabinet shop. Other than that nothing new here. Wishing you a great holiday season,

*Mary Ann Pazdera Nelson Dickinson, TX*

Merry Christmas to all. We hope that all your prayers are answered in the coming year. My husband, Don and I drove out west this year on vacation and had an awesome time. We even drove into a snow storm in Utah and Colorado in June. You have to understand that we don't normally see snow where we live in Texas, so it was exciting for us.

We stay busy with work and grandkids and we help at our church. Our daughter being the principal at our school, usually keeps us busy with projects there too. Parochial schools depend on everyone's support to survive.

We had to do some remodeling thanks to termites in our living room and Don fell off the step ladder when trying to reach the highest point of the ceiling. That was in Sept and he was incapacitated for a few weeks.

Chipped a bone in upper femur and he is still complaining about hurting, but he is back to work. The rest of our family is all fine. We are trying to get them all together for a family picture, if it happens we will forward to you. Love your cousin Mary Ann Nelson (daughter of Martin and Josephine Pazdera).

*Lisa Nelson Burnam Santa Fe, TX*

The Burnam Family (daughter of Mary Ann Nelson (Pazdera) granddaughter of Martin and Josephine Pazdera) have had a new arrival. Miss Kyndal Ann Burnam was born January 25, 2007 and is just getting ready to walk. Her brother Bryce just loves first grade and is growing bigger and bigger. Her sister Aubrea is loving Kindergarten too. They both love having their mom as their principal of their school at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Hitchcock Texas. Their daddy (James "Kelly" Burnam) has been out hunting on his new deer lease in Ozona Texas, waiting to kill the big one. That is all the news from our end. Thanks.

## RAHON FAMILY

### BITS AND PIECES

Bohemian/Czech Reunion for Dardanelle is set for July 20, 2008. More information to come.

To receive the news electronically, please give me your e-mail address. E-mails get changed, so get bounced back; others have come back as bad, overquota, etc. Will appreciate being updated.

Below is the family website:

<http://comp.uark.edu/~aminden/>

My e-mail is: aminden@uark.edu

Coming soon will be the day when there is no money in the kitty for mailing a hard copy of the newsletter. If no funds available, no newsletter.

We are missing mailing addresses for:

Mauren Kunz, Tyson & Chelsea Kunz, Kira & Brian Conley, Aaron & Heather Kunz, Michael S. Pazdera, Mike Pazdera, Tom & Libby Pazdera, Mildred Barnes, Maria & Mark Fleig, Carol Jean Pigeon Livesay, C. Lane & Kayla Price, Mary Jo Jindra, Peggy Titsworth, Brian Friga, Nikki & Brian Langford, Kelli Friga, Diane & John Stir, Tanya Pazdera, Steve Mekonis, Tara & Casey Wilkins, Richard & Robbie Nelson, Randy & Cyndi Nelson

## Genealogy

In 1789 Tomas Pazdera returned from 12 years in the Bohemian army to his home village of Kozly, Bohemia about 20 miles northeast of Prague. When Tomas got home he received some land from the local board because his parents land was too small to subdivide further and because of his military service. It was on this property in Lower Kozly next to the River Labe that Tomas built a home in 1790. Tomas was both a peasant farmer and a musician and led a village band for many years. In 1797, Tomas married Magdelena Wenserova and a year later on the 24<sup>th</sup> of Oct in 1798, their first son named Joseph was born. They went on to have 7 other children. Joseph followed in his father's footsteps and was also in the military. When Tomas died, Joseph inherited the home, the land, and the village band. At the age of 30, (1828) he married Terezie nee Pejrilova and 13 years later, on Oct 2, 1841, Vaclav, the youngest of 6 children was born. Vaclav also grew up in Kozly, learned to play the contra bass and later inherited the house near the river and his grandfather's and his father's village band. Vaclav married Marie Kopecka in 1864. A year later, their first son, a namesake of Vaclav's father Joseph was born. Over the next 10 years, 4 more children were born and around 1876, Vaclav's wife Marie Kopecka died. In 1879 Vaclav married his second wife Marie Paulosova and they had four more children between 1879 and 1885. In 1888, Vaclav's oldest son Joseph married Julia Rahon – exactly where they were married is not yet clear, but probably in Julia's village. In that same year there was a big fire that destroyed a number of homes in Lower Kozly, including the Pazdera family home. Rather than

rebuild the house on the same land near the river, Vaclav and his family built a new house on land purchased by the local parish of the Catholic Church. Two years later in 1890, and shortly after the birth of their first-born son Frantisek (Frank), Joseph decided to come to America with the brother (John) of his young wife. And thus, the journey of the Pazdera's from Bohemia to America.

Sympathy goes to the O'Bosky family--

Josephine C. O'Bosky, 76, of Canonsburg, died Sunday, May 20, 2007, in Canonsburg General Hospital. She was born Thursday, September 18, 1930, in Canonsburg, a daughter of Joseph and Cecilia Pazdera O'Bosky.

She was a member of St. Patrick Church and its Catholic Daughters.

She previously worked as a cashier at A&P supermarket and Continental Can Co.

Surviving are a sister, Carmella Mekonis of Bridgeville; three nephews, Michael, Joseph and Stephen Mekonis; and three nieces, Theresa Homnick, Cynthia Moore and Sandra Mekonis.

Deceased are a sister, Catherine L. O'Bosky.

Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday in Sollon Funeral Home Ltd., 30 East College Street, Canonsburg, J. David Sollon, supervisor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, May 23, in St. Patrick Church, Canonsburg. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery. For additional information and to leave condolences, please visit [www.sollon.com](http://www.sollon.com)

James E. O'Bosky, 73, of Canonsburg, died of complications after three year battle with cancer Saturday, October 20, 2007 in Humbert Lane Health Care Center with his family at his side.

He was born December 6, 1933 in Canonsburg, a son of Joseph and Cecilia Pazdera O'Bosky.

Mr. O'Bosky was a lifelong Canonsburg resident and member of Saint Patrick Church. Prior to retirement, he was employed by Diesel Heating as a sheet metal fabricator. He had served with the United States Army. Surviving are his wife, Ruth Kline O'Bosky; one son, James E. O'Bosky, II of Cecil Township; one granddaughter, Hannah O'Bosky.

Deceased are two sisters, Catherine L. O'Bosky and Josephine O'Bosky.

Visitation Monday from 2 to 9 pm at Sollon Funeral Home, Ltd., 30 East College Street, Canonsburg, J. David Sollon, Supervisor, where blessing services will be held at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, October 23. Burial will follow in Oak Spring Cemetery, Canonsburg. Visit [www.sollon.com](http://www.sollon.com) to leave online condolences.



**Figure 1** Kozly, Czech Republic, September 2007

L-R La Dawn Kunz, Tom Kunz, Karel Pazdera, Jirina Pazdera, Martina holding Andrew Pazdera, Charles (Karel) Pazdera, Alicia Minden



Here is the listing of Joseph's siblings: Joseph, Anna, Vaclav Jr and Antonin were children from our gggrandmother, and the other 4 from the second wife, Marie.  
This picture was possibly taken @1920.

- 1/ **Anna**, female, born on 30th December 1867 in Kozly # 25 (the parents as above)
- 2/ **Vaclav**, male, born on 11th May 1870 in Kozly # 25 (the parents as above)  
later note of the vicar: died on 27th February 1951 in Kozly
- 3/ **Antonin**, male, born on 12th December 1874 in Kozly # 25 (the parents as above)  
later note of the vicar: married on 5th October 1925 in Lobkovice with Veronika Bauerova

Beginning 1880 had Vaclav Pazdera, the widower, other children with his second wife Marie Palousova. As follows – all were born in Kozly # 25 too:

- 4/ **Aloisie**, female, born on 8th July 1880
- 5/ **Frantisek**, male, born on 2nd October 1881
- 6/ **Karel**, male, born on 8th October 1883  
later note of the vicar: married on 27th April 1911 in Kozly with Anna Vesela of Tisice
- 7/ **Bozena**, female, born on 1st May 1885  
later note of the vicar: married in Kozly on 21st February 1911 with Josef Sara  
- no other younger siblings -

Letters written by Joseph Pazdera to the family back in Czech (translated in 2007)

25, June 1913

Dearest family, we all miss you and we send greetings and kisses. We hope that these few lines will catch you in good health.. Regarding our health we'll doing great, except me. I'm ill for already 5 weeks, and can't do anything. I have cough and I can't breath well. Nights are the worst because I can't sleep, because I need to sit. It might be a breathlessness or asthma. This year it is worse then the year before. The thing is that the days are really hot and freezing cold at night. It seems that this year harvest will be small; because everything is delayed (meaning weather) cotton needs warm nights and not such cold.

My dearest father, last time you wrote to me that you're having the same breathing problems as I'm experiencing now, and that something helped you last time. Can you please write what helped you? We have lots of medicines but nothing really works. Doctors were saying that they can not do anything about it, sometimes it fades off but sometimes it will lasts till old age.

I have changed a lot, you would not recognize me. All my facial hair is gone even eyebrows. It all started right after Easter holydays. My neighbors recognize me just by voice.

That's all news that I got. Just that kids are doing everything and I can just watch them from inside.

I just went for small walk, and want to tell you that we are already eating bread from our field. We have 2 tons of crops, so our neighbor lent us his harvester (self-binder used during harvest for putting crops together). And now we are putting cow crap on the field.

We experienced a big electric storm last Monday. It hasn't rained here for about a month. That's the end of my letter bye to all. God bless you and take care.

From Frantisek, Anna, Marie, Alzbeta, Josef, Katerina, Rosalie, Cecília, Karel, Anton and Martin

Delaware

Sunday, July 15, 1923

Dear Brother,

Accept from us the warm greetings for the whole family, all Brothers and Sisters with their families. I apology for not replying to your letter from April sooner. The reason was that I had little time as here it is time to plant corn /maize/ and then cotton. And this year it took a longer time as there was a long winter and then heavy rains. The field was heavily affected and I had to plant cotton for the second time. And on top of that I am not in a good health. Right at the time that I should plow the field - I was not able to do it.

Although the boys are still small they have to plow the fields and plant by themselves.

When it is wet it is hard for my breathing. I have three boys at home: 15/13/10 years /Karel, Anton, Martin/ and one girl.- Cecilia who is 17 /?/ and other girl Katerina (Catherine).

For you to imagine what soil we till, we have here 22 acres of corn, 25 acres of cotton and 5 acres of oats, 1 acre of rye, 1 acre of "melasa" (*sugar-beets*) and a garden with potatoes. It makes total about 50 acres, 1 acre is square of 70 steps. On top of that we have 20 acres of trees, but a lot of tree stumps and dead trees that we cannot almost go and work there.

Corn must be ploughed 3 times and cotton 5 times, and one time more when you plant it. So think how much one must walk and hoe up on the fields. Cotton does not like any grass/weed the same as for the corn.

This year all/plants/sprouted late as the winter lasted long and in May and June was raining heavily. And

when it was not raining one day the next day the rain came and took it all out /crops/ and hammered it back to soil. From May to July it was so cold here that I have to wear overcoat/winter coat when I went to the Church and now it is dry and hot, the temperature is about 100 shade air, the soil is as hard as a stone. Everything is a month behind. And on top of that calandra (*must be some kind of a bug*) started to sting into the flower of cotton so I do not know what harvest I will get for all our pains/efforts. Potatoes we already got in and the new ones planted. Tomorrow we are going to pickle the cabbage, that is fine this year. Caterpillars almost started to eat it. Cucumbers withered up.

Nobody wants to buy my livestock/cattle. They offer me 7 dollars for a cow, I need to sell 3. I gave free of charge one deacon/vealer to my neighbor as it is more work with her than benefits. I have 2 mules, 1 horse, 7 head of cattle, 4 pigs – so we have a lot of work with it. If you would like to sell them – you will get nothing and all we are buying is expensive. So if you are going to come to America – think about it twice before you leave Kozly.

I read in the newspaper that they build a lock /flood-gate/ on the river in Mlekojedy near Lobkowitz weir. I read too that your church was several times robbed in the past 4 years – you must have a “nice” band/bunch (meaning bad guys).

I would like to know how are other Brothers and Sisters. I am quite well but not so good. You know well that all I had was just two hands and now I am in bad form because all lend was before just woods – 200 acres about 70 acres we have cleaned up. The land must be fenced either by wire or by the fence of laths. You must cut the trees and then hack up each 8 feet and put together like this: XXXXX (picture drown). It is about 3 feet high and the work is done mainly during the wintertime. And sometimes the fire comes and burn all.

So I wrote to you a lot now I want to tell you that during that 25 years that I have been living here I worked really very hard. Where you raise 11 healthy kids there you must calculate everything well not to become bankrupted. When 13 people sit around the table the dish must have been the large one for enough dumplings and meat (except for Fridays). In a year we ate a lot. I would like to send you my calendar of expenses and earnings – you would not believe your eyes.

Now I will write to you about my children. Frantisek is 30, for 10 years he is married, having 3 kids. His wife is Czech name Celestyna Vesela from Dardanelle.

Anna is married to Vaclav Vlastovka from Dardanelle where they live and they have 2 kids and .... /?/ have died /other kids/. Mary also married Josef Novy also having kids. Alzbeta is married to Michael Dubnich a Slovak - they live in a rented place and have a girl. Rosa is married to Michal Friga a Slovak, they have 92 acres and own a house and have one daughter, Josef lives in a rented place, married to an American girl and they have one boy. Katerina works in the town, and makes 7 dollars a week which is good enough.

My best regards to my mother from all of us and I am sending regards to all Brothers and Sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and their kids, and uncle Kosnovy (?) and Kopecky and all friends.

If you would like to read American newspapers I could send you. The name is Catholic and I have been reading it from issue 5 and now it is 3134 – so it is 30 years.

I do not know what to write else so stay in good health and God bless you.

Josef Pazdera and Family  
Address: Joseph Pazdera  
Delaware Ark