

lies the large Czech colony, the town of Ravenna being its center. Settlers came slowly at first, in spite of the fact that Fiala continually published communications in the *Pokrok Západu* regarding the opportunity. At that time the Otoe Indian Reservation in Gage County had been opened and Czechs turned their steps there. However, within five years the colony about Ravenna had grown to a goodly size.

1879—The Following Came:

John Horák, born in Hořelice; Paul Miller, born in Mutějovice near Rakovnick; John Helebrant, born in Radnice near Rokycany; Joseph Březina, born in Pacov, county of Tábor; B. Bugno.

1880—The Following Came:

Frank, Václav and Čeněk Kutička, brothers, born in Štěchovice, near Strakonice.

These came to Buffalo County: Václav Hervert; Frank Vokoun, born in Slatina near Kralovice; Václav Skala, born in Selčany near Tábor; Václav Polka, born in Litohlavy near Rokycany; Fr. and Joseph Kříha, born in Vičiny, near Tábor.

While this settlement has never grown a great deal larger, it has always held its own and Ravenna has a goodly percentage of progressive businessmen among the Czech nationality.

Czechs live and used to live in the vicinity of the following towns or postoffices: Ravenna, Rockville, Pleasanton, Nantasket (first named Trocnov, in honor of the birthplace of the famous Hussite warrior Žižka), Gibbon, Luce and St. Michael.



A. V. Hlava

Madison County—1878

This also is a county of smaller settlements.

1878—The Following Came:

John Ducháček, being the first, born in Jehnědí, Litomyšl; John Dvořák, Mláka, Třeboň; Václav Vaněk, Čijevice, Kralovice; Václav

Skala, Poříčany, Český Brod; Joseph Daněk; Václav Beneš, Březnice, Písek; Joseph Dudek, Marovec, Nová Kdyně; Václav Skala settled in Madison, where he plied his trade of tailor. John Skala took a homestead near Battle Creek.

In the early eighties, through the efforts of V. L. Vodička, a larger settlement was effected, one of the first to come, in 1881, being Joseph Štorek, born in Malé Přítočno, Unhošť.

Czechs live in and around Madison, Newman Grove, Norfolk, Hale and Chloe (the two latter have been discontinued as postoffices).

Custer County - 1878

The first Czechs here settled in the Elm Creek valley, south of Ansley. Among them were:

1878—The Following Came:

Joseph Jelfnek, born in Šamikovice, Moravia. He came to Saunders County with his parents in 1871.

1879—The Following Came:

John Kulhánek.

1880—The Following Came:

Anton Dobeš, born in January 13, 1861, in Rouchanovy, Moravia. He came with his parents to Butler County in 1871. In 1879 he selected a homestead in Custer County, making several trips by wagon to and from there. His nearest neighbor was four miles away, Kearney the nearest town. He became well-to-do and prominent and is living in Ansley.

1881—The Following Came:

Frank Kobl, born in Kolnice, Moravia, in 1837, living on homestead; Frank Dobeš, brother of Anton, living in Ansley.

1884—The Following Came:

Anton Fortin.

1885—The Following Came:

Joseph Bubák and Joseph Hromas.

1889—The Following Came:

Frank Tomšfček, Frank Diviš and Mr. Petřík; Mr. Vincent J. Štědrý, who came with his parents to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1854, from Horní Cerekev, Pelhřimov, and to Watertown, Wisconsin, in