

LAUGH AND LEARN

WISCONSIN

BOHEMIAN

NEIGHBORS



At Miss Czech Slovak Wisconsin State Queen pageant

I'm writing to you from Wisconsin in the USA, and am learning more about the history of Bohemian and Moravian immigrants to this state. Maybe that is why Wisconsin is the leader in providing English Camp Teams to the Czech Republic. Nancy and I will return in June to attend weddings of friends and to prepare for your English Camp, 24-31 July. <http://www.eclitomysl.cz/>

All of Wisconsin's major Czech settlements were made in the 1850's. The Czechs settled primarily along the eastern lakeshore, from Racine to Manitowoc, and in the Mississippi River bluff [hills] region of LaCrosse, Vernon, Grant, and Crawford counties. Their communities were founded for farming, as most had been peasant farmers in Bohemia and Moravia before immigrating to America.

The Czechs were attracted to Wisconsin by low taxes, inexpensive land, similarities to their homeland in nature and land, political and religious freedom, and liberal residence requirements (males could become voters after six months if they swore an intent to become a citizen). They were, at the same time, being pushed out of their provinces in the Austrian Empire by the absence of these opportunities and freedoms. These Czechs maintained their cultural traditions which may be seen in June each year during Hillsboro's "Cesky Den" celebration, which features Czech foods, music and dancing.

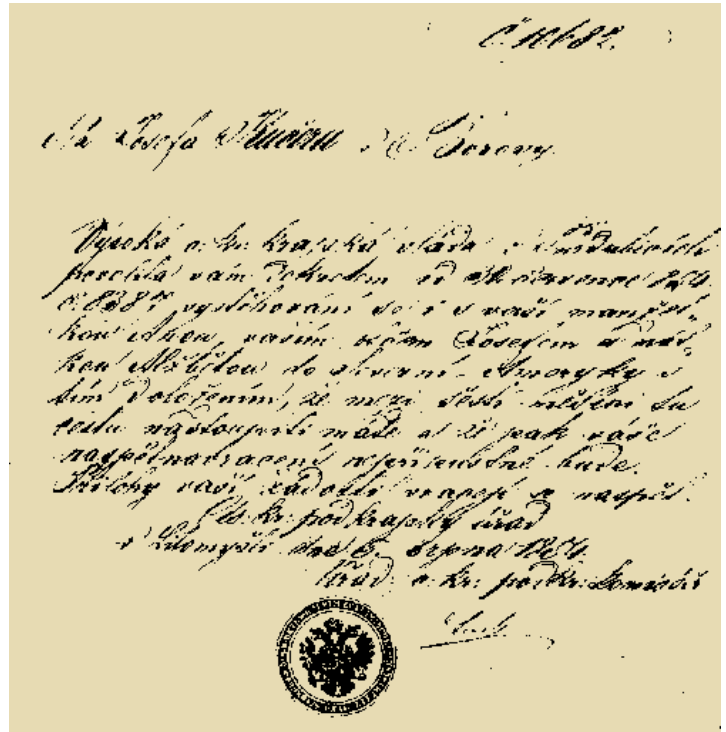


The most important areas of emigration from Eastern Bohemia were the districts of Litomyšl, (until 1855 the judicial district of Policka was incorporated in the district of Litomyšl), Vysoke Myto and Lanskrout.

According to available records a total of 210 emigrant-families left Austria from the whole region of Pardubice at the beginning of 1852, most of them from these three districts. In 1852, according to the report of the regional administration in Pardubice to the Prague Governor's Office, out of 979 emigrants, 341 were from Lanskrout, 233 from Vysoke Myto and 203 from Litomyšl.

The East Bohemian immigrants aimed mainly to the state of Wisconsin. This was influenced by the early immigrants, Josef Ernest Bergmann and Josef Lesikar from Dolni Cermna. In 1860 there were about 7000 Czech immigrants in Wisconsin.

Right: District Office in Litomyšl announces (1854, August 5) to Josef Kucera in Borova, that he was granted the official consent with emigration. The journey must begin within the next 6 months and return is not allowed.



WISCONSIN STATE CZECH-SLOVAK QUEEN PAGEANT



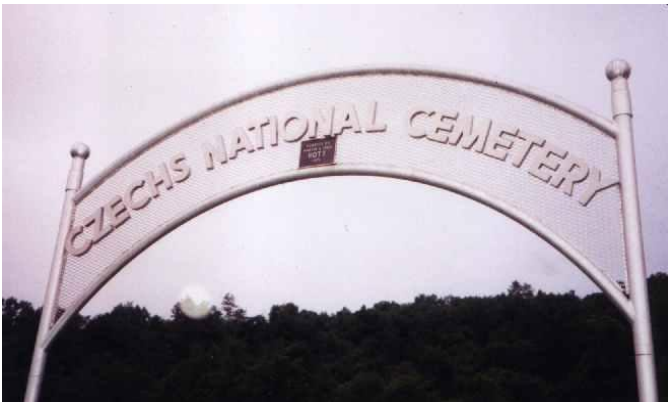
The stage in the Phillips High School auditorium will be filled with dozens of young women who exhibit interest in their heritage through participation in the annual Miss Czech Slovak Wisconsin State Queen Pageant. Hosted by the Phillips Czech Slovak Community Festival, and in its 11th year, the event draws interest throughout the State of Wisconsin. The winner of the Wisconsin pageant advances to the national pageant held in Wilber, Nebraska in August of the following year.

Queen candidates must be between the ages of 16-26, single, of Czech, Slovak, Moravian or Silesian ancestry. There are 4 categories in which they are judged, including a Personal Interview, On-Stage interview, Kroj (National Folk Dress) modeling (American Kroj or Nationality Kroj,) and Talent (American or Nationality).

Stephanie Krubsack of Kakauna, Wisconsin, was crowned Miss Czech Slovak Wisconsin State Queen, 2009-2010 on Sunday, June 21st, 2009. Jessica Chepp, of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, is the new Miss Czech Slovak Wisconsin State Princess.



National Czech Cemetery Gate in Richland Center, Wisconsin



Deer are everywhere in Wisconsin

THE LINKS:

Emigration to the USA from the Policka region in 1850 - 1890

<http://www.fortunecity.com/victorian/durer/23/emigration/emigration.htm>

Wisconsin's "Little Bohemia" Lodge and John Dillinger Gun Battle Story

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OI7RUGPcQo>

Wisconsin State Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant

<http://czech-slovak.tripod.com/Queen/wis%20state%20Queen.htm>

Tabor: A Little Czech Town on the American Prairie

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vm_yhEUtJ8

THE LAUGH:



DO YOU LIVE IN WISCONSIN?

If you consider it a sport to gather your food by drilling through a meter of ice and sitting there all day hoping that the food will swim by, you might live in Wisconsin. [Ice fishing]

If you're proud that your region makes the national news 96 nights each year because Park Falls is the coldest spot in the nation, you might live in Wisconsin.

If someone in a store offers you assistance, and they don't work there, you might live in Wisconsin .

If you have worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you might live in Wisconsin.

If your town has an equal number of bars and churches, you might live in Wisconsin.

If you have had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you might live in Wisconsin.

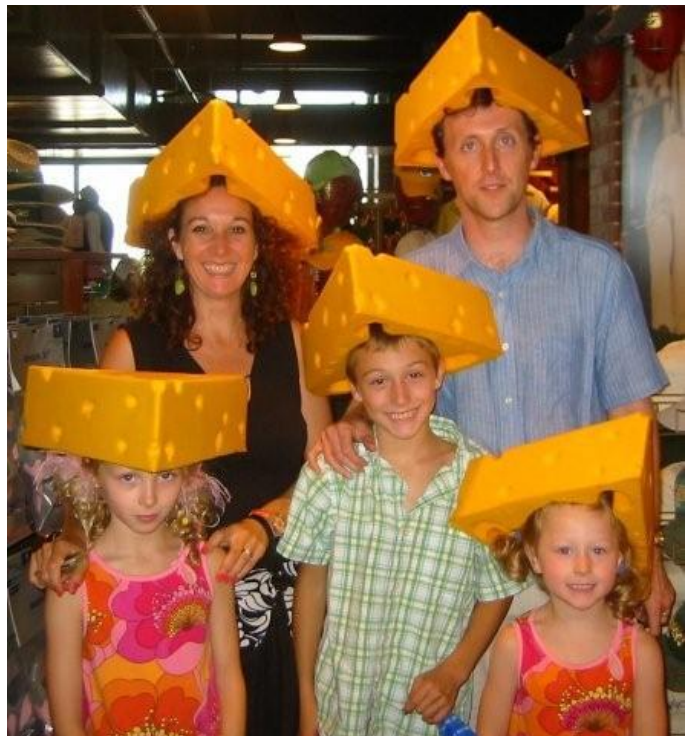
If you know how to say Oconomowoc, Waukesha , Menomonie & Manitowoc, you might live in Wisconsin.

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A TRUE WISCONSINITE WHEN:

Your idea of a traffic jam is ten cars waiting to pass a tractor on the highway.

You know several people who have hit deer more than once.

Your whole family wears Packer Green [football] to church on Sunday.



Wisconsin is the dairy state. Wisconsin people are called Cheeseheads

You can drive 100 kph through 70 cm of snow during a blizzard, without flinching.

You install security lights on your house and garage and leave both unlocked.

You design your child's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit.

Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow.

You know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction.

You know how to polka.

A brat is something you eat.

Your neighbor throws a party to celebrate his new storage shed.

You go out to a fish fry every Friday.

Your 4th of July picnic was moved indoors due to frost.



Wisconsin Ice Fishing on a frozen lake

