

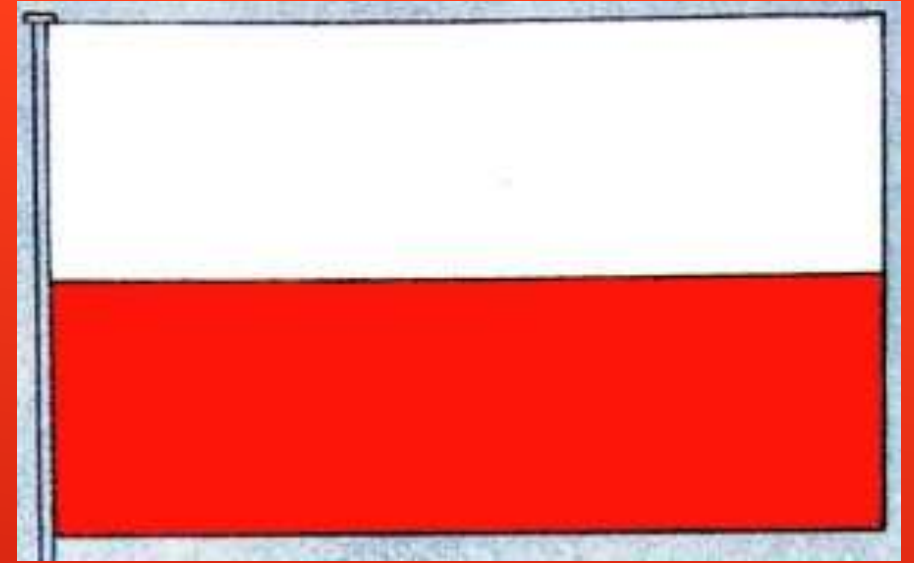
# CZECH REPUBLIC AND ITS INFLUENCE ON WILSON

The image features a solid red background. In the lower right quadrant, there are several thin, white, parallel lines that originate from the bottom edge and extend diagonally towards the top right corner, creating a sense of movement and modern design.

The first major **immigration** of **Czechs** occurred in 1848 when the **Czech** "Forty Eighters" fled to the United States to escape the political persecution by the Austrian Habsburgs. ... Unlike previous **immigration**, new **immigrants** were predominantly Catholic. Forty-Eighters favored unification of the German people, a more democratic government, and guarantees of human rights



Czech royal emblem overtopped by the St. Wenceslas' crown in the meeting hall of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic from 1860s.



From the revolution of 1848, the Czech country symbols were considered Czech national symbols. The original country flag consisted of two equally sized stripes – an upper white one and a lower red one. These were derived from the silver double-tailed lion on a red field

By the 1850s there were an estimated 10,000 Czechs living in the United States. Chicago, tied to the West by rail and more readily accessible to the immigrants, became the most populous Czech settlement. By 1870, other cities with Czech concentrations included St. Louis, Cleveland, New York, and Milwaukee.



At the turn of the century, Czech immigrants were more likely to make the journey to the United States with their families. Moreover, it was not uncommon in large families for the head of the household to make more than one trip to the United States, bringing along one or more children each time. In addition, many of those who immigrated in the late nineteenth century were of Moravian ancestry. One important characteristic of this group was their staunch adherence to the Catholic faith at a time when membership among Czech Americans was declining and a distinct anti-Catholic spirit prevailed.





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FRANCIS SWEHLA

By the turn of the century, a widening gap between the first and second generations was already in evidence. In 1900 there were 199,939 American-born Czechs as opposed to 156,640 Czechs who had been born in Europe. The number of Czechs entering the country was further reduced by the temporary Emergency Quota Act, legislated by Congress in 1921, and the National Origins Act of 1924. Settlement patterns were also changing. Perhaps as a reflection of the growing trend toward urbanization in the United States, two-thirds of Czech Americans now lived in urban areas.







- ▶ Czech American traditional costumes were worn as everyday apparel in some parts of the country until the twentieth century, when they were worn only on ceremonial occasions. Women's billowy skirts, multicolored or solid, were topped by a gold-trimmed black vests and blouses with full puffed sleeves that might be trimmed in gold or lace and embroidered with a floral geometric motif. Women's bright caps were worn flat on the head and had flaps on either side. Men's trousers were of a solid hue but often were decorated according to individual taste. Men wore a black vest over a full embroidered shirt.



- ▶ 1845 Born in Bohemia
- ▶ 1854 Left for America
- ▶ 4 weeks later arrived in NYC
- ▶ Took train to Pittsburg, PA
- ▶ Few stayed and rest left for Cleveland, Ohio
- ▶ Land was to be had in Iowa so left for Chicago
- ▶ Next went by wagon and walking to Mississippi
- ▶ Steam Ferry took them to Dubuque, Iowa
- ▶ Winneshiek county, Iowa to settle for winter
- ▶ Left for Wilson (Bosland) in search of more land
- ▶ 1874 Settled in Wilson

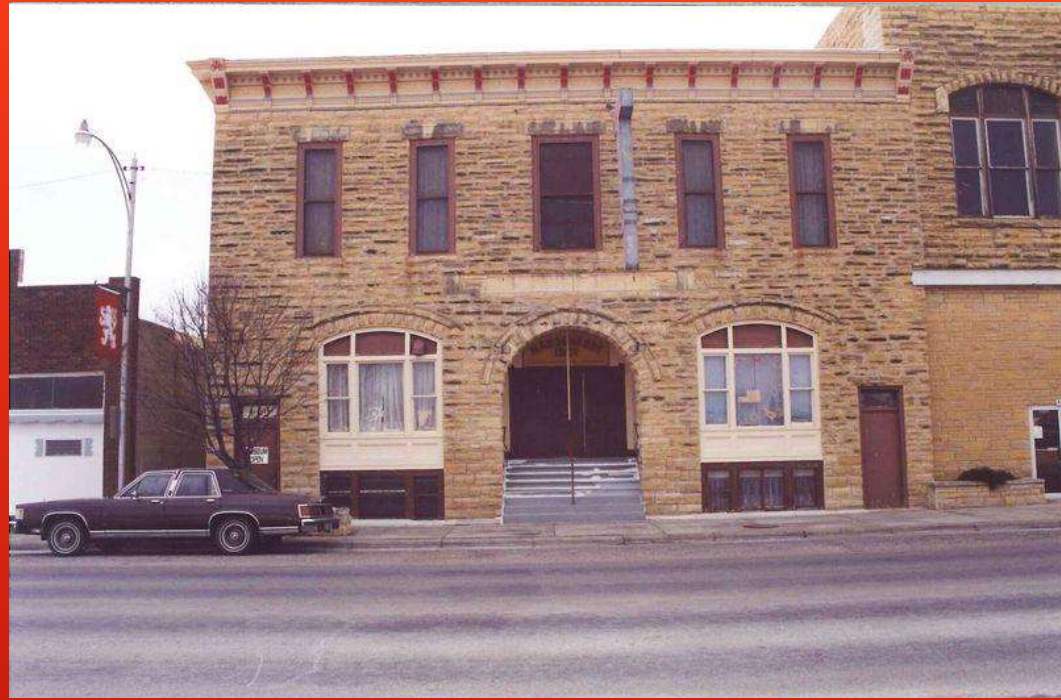
# FRANCIS SWEHLA

## Journey to Wilson





- ▶ **Bohemian Athletic Club, Wilson, Kansas**
- ▶ **Dates:** Between 1890 and 1919
- ▶ This photograph shows members of the Bohemian Athletic Club (Sokol) from Wilson, Kansas. The sokol was a Czechoslovakian organization that promoted physical and intellectual activities within the Slavic community of Wilson.



CZECH OPERA HOUSE





THE STRUCTURED BURNED AND WITH IT  
A MUSEUM

# AFTER HARVEST CZECH FESTIVAL





# TRADITIONAL CZECH INSTRUMENTS















# OKLAHOMA CZECH DANCERS



# Polka Bands





Polka celebrations and *houby* (mushroom) hunting contests continue to play a prominent role in Czech American culture.

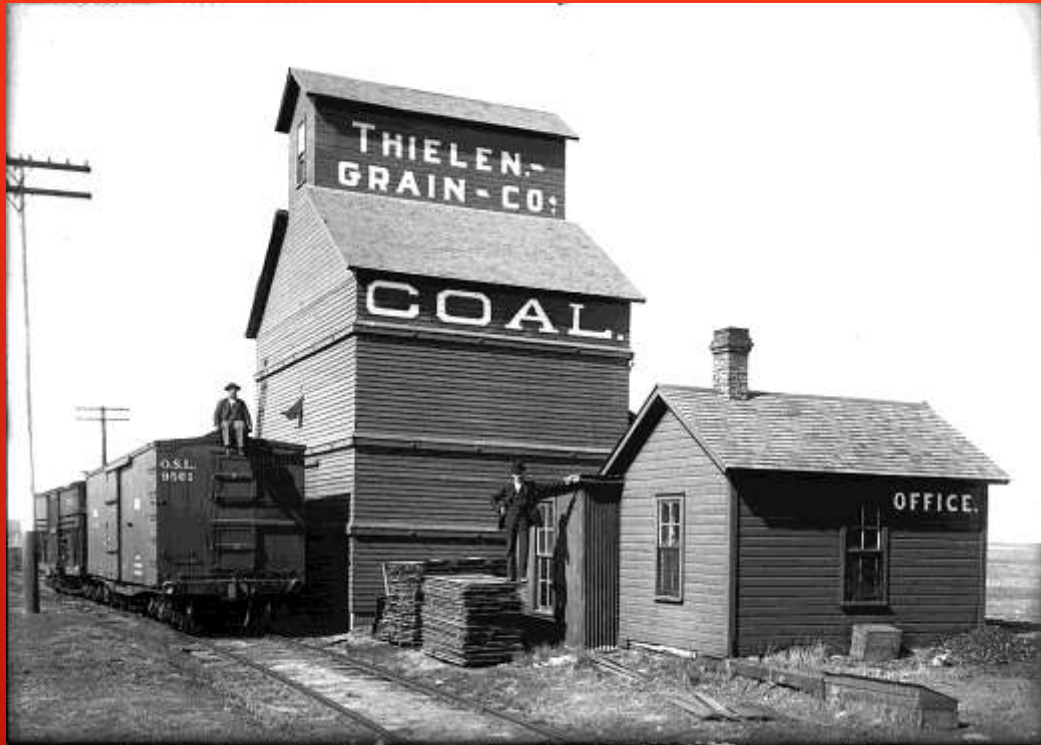
Customs frequently were derived from old pagan traditions. Palm Sunday, children created an effigy of *Smrt* ("death"), a lifesize straw doll that might be dressed in rags and have a necklace of eggs. The straw woman, symbolized the end of winter, cast into river as children sang a welcome to the beginning of spring.

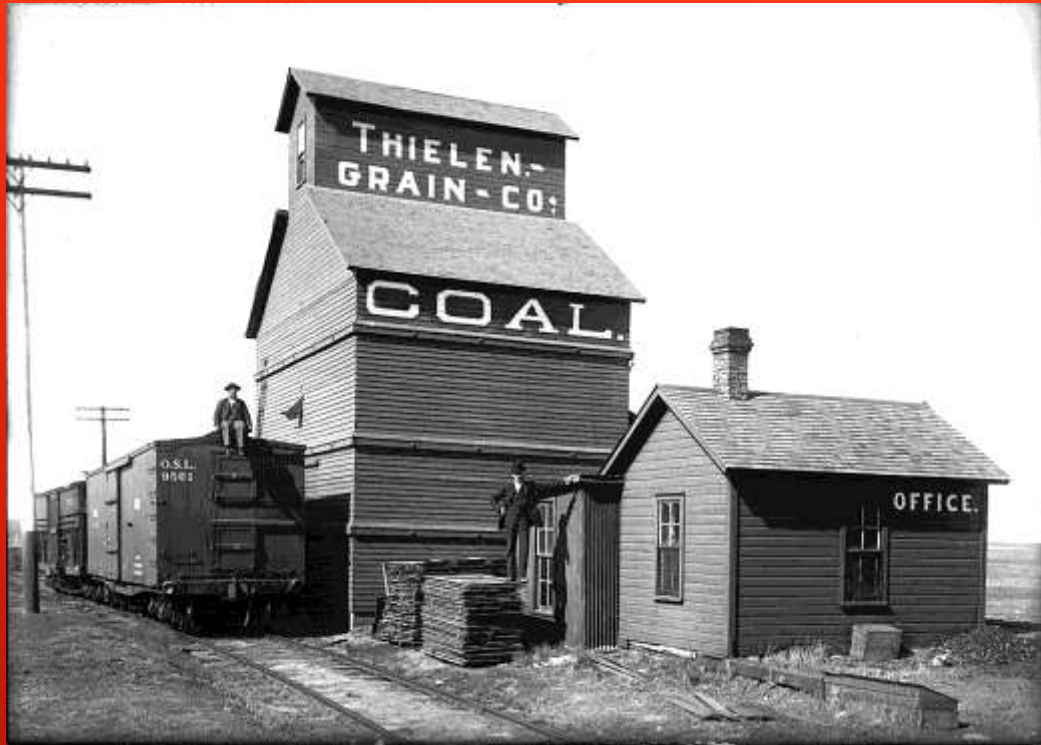
On New Year's Eve, young men would gather in circles and fire their rifles into the air three times, a practice known as "shooting the witches."

Czech superstitions include the belief that a bird that flies into a house is an omen of death. A dream about a body of water could also mean that a death would occur.

Pebbles were placed inside eggshell rattles made for children, to drive away evil spirits. A garnet that dimmed while worn on the body was thought be a sign of melancholy.









NOVAKS





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 10224  
APPLICATION 2385-9

Whereas There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Salina Kansas, whereby it appears that pursuant to the Act of Congress of March 3rd 1877 "To locate Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Matay Novak South East quarter of Section Twenty Two, in Township Twelve South of Range eleven West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, in Kansas, containing one hundred and sixty acres has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the

according to the Official Plat of the survey of the said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General.

Now know ye, That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Matay Novak the tract of Land above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Matay Novak and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, J. Benjamin Farris President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.



Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Twenty One, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and Seventeenth.

BY THE PRESIDENT: Benjamin Harrison  
By E. M. Marshall Secy. Secretary.  
D. C. Roberts, Recorder of the General Land Office.









