

Kresha Family Roots in Moravia and Branches in America 2018

by Raymond Kresha
and
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Moravian hills outside Nová Hradečná



House # 163, Nová Hradečná, CZ

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By Raymond Kresha and Lillian Kresha Witulski



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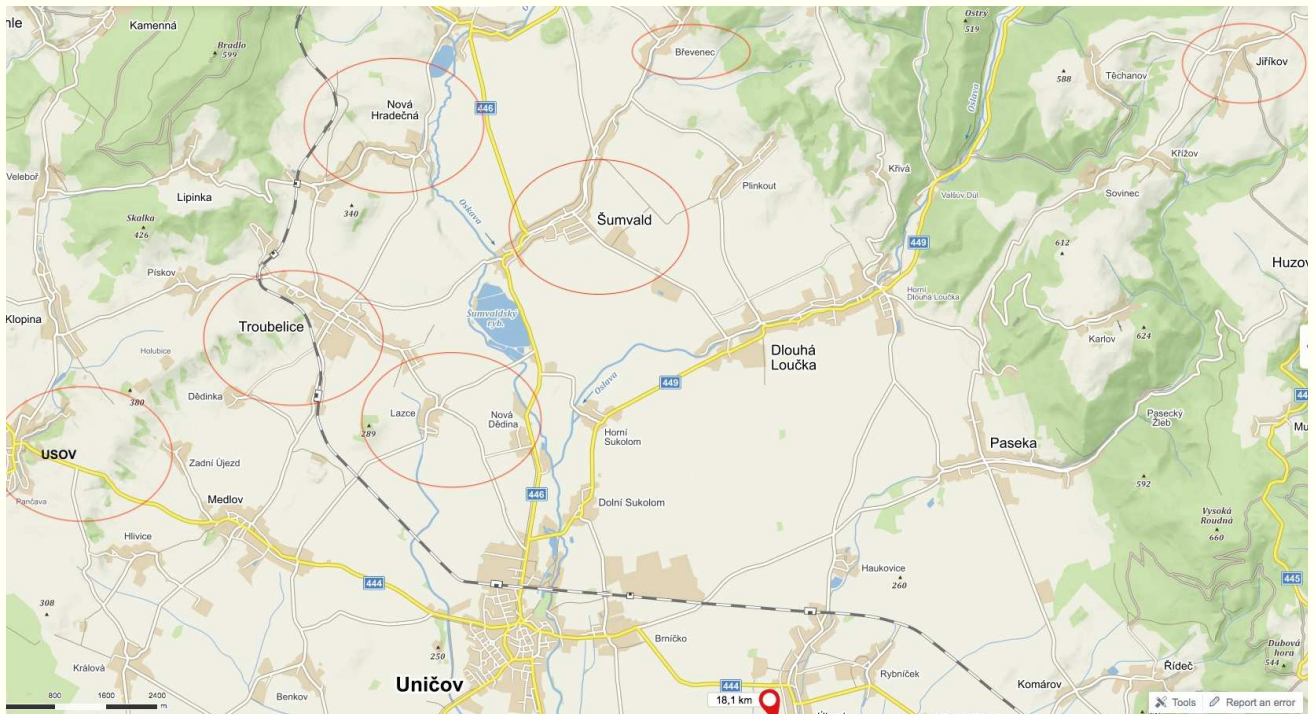


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Forward

This is the book about the five Kressa family members who emigrated to the United States in the later part of the 1800's. They were the children of Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) and his wife, Cecilia Perikovsky (1836-1892) of what is now Nová Hradečná, Moravia, Czechia. There were ten children all together, seven of whom survived childhood. Two elected to stay in the "old country." The five who came to America changed the spelling of their name to "Kresha," eventually.

This is hopefully the definitive history of family origins, building on "The Kresha Families in America 1888-1988" by Lillian V Kresha Witulski and printed by Anthony Kresha. A large part of that book is included in this one, but it also updates the history portion to help you reach an understanding of the drama and trauma our ancestors endured to give us, their descendants, a better life.

The Quest to answer and document fundamental questions about the Kresha family

To start with, my name is Raymond Glenn Kresha, Jr, and I am a great-great grandson of Theodor Kressa and Cecilia Perikovsky, about whom this book is about. It tells their history and presents the documentation of their ancestors and about their children and their children's children. I grew up in the heart of the area of Nebraska that the five Kressas settled in, Polk County, Nebraska. We lived on a small rented farm about 9 miles north of Osceola in Valley Precinct, down in the Platte River Valley. It was only a mile or so away from the Platte and the famous Mormon Trail and the mainline of the transcontinental Union Pacific Railroad. We seldom, if ever, traveled more than 20 miles from the farm, usually restricting it to Columbus, Osceola, and Silver Creek. Most of the family, church, and shopping was within those boundaries. I was the oldest of 6 children and my curiosity about the world "outside" grew as I did.

When I was young, in the 1950's and 1960's, I began to wonder about family history. I was aware that my mother was from Chicago and spoke Polish. I never met my Polish grandparents, but understood they emigrated from Poland and settled in Chicago, where Grandfather Stanislaus was a tailor.

I did not know as much about the Kresha side, though. Grandpa Leo Kresha always said they were from "Austria." I knew there were a lot of Czech, Polish, and

some German families that had emigrated to this part of Nebraska, which is about 100 miles west of Omaha. I never got straight answers about the Kresha side. My dad, R. Glenn Kresha didn't know much about it and Grandpa Leo Kresha was very evasive and mentioned Austria, but that's about it. My impression is that he didn't know much either. My great-grandfather Adolf Franz Kresha died months before I was born, February 1, 1950. He had 19 surviving children in two families, so most of the talk was about "current events" in the family, not where we came from. I was aware that Grandpa Leo knew a few German swear words, but otherwise spoke only English. I am guessing he learned them (the cuss words) from his father, Adolf Franz.

I left home to become a priest when I was 16 after being accepted in the Precious Blood High School Seminary in Liberty, Missouri. My mother wanted to be the mother of a priest like her mom and was fully supportive. Our house had only three bedrooms: one for my parents downstairs, two upstairs, one for the boys and one for the girls. There were four boys and two girls, so you know the boys' room was full. For a year or so, I got a bed in the basement in what was the coal bin for the furnace. It gave me privacy, but not comfort. I was ready to move on, especially since I was overweight and was teased and harassed mercilessly by many family members and others. So, I moved away. I pretty much made my own way, graduating from Precious Blood HS and eventually the University of Nebraska. I met Mary Dionicia Hernandez at the University and we soon married and eventually started our own family. My interest in family history never waned, but I was busy making a life, eventually settling in Texas.

Then in 1988, my younger brother Tony and my grandfather Leo's half-sister Lillian Kresha collaborated in writing and publishing "The Kresha Families in America, 1888-1988." It was great and talked about many family members whom I had never heard of. This book builds on that seminal book but seeks to add something to the understanding of family history.

This book contains a lot of new information from the little village in what is now Czechia, Nová Hradečná. They have a history of the town going back to pre-history. I translated and interpreted it as a timeline, inserting records of Kresha family ancestors. This history gives a historical context to our family story. Photos and maps are included, as Mary and I visited Nová Hradečná and the area along with our researcher, Martin Pytr. A lot of this information was put into Ancestry.com and even more information was collected. All of this information is presented in this book from the Village history, Martin's research into church online records, a personal visit, and information from others on Ancestry. All together this is a keepsake family history that you and your descendants will treasure.

Part One: Moravia – A Brief History of Wars, Oppression, and Farming

A Concise History of the Nová Hradečná Area

(Based on the Official History of the village, interpreted from original Czech)

Where is Nová Hradečná?

Nová Hradečná is in Moravia, an area that has belonged to many countries over the centuries. It is in present-day Czechia. This one-time principality has belonged to the Czech Republic, Czechoslovakia, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. There were other names, but these cover the last 200 years.



Above is present-day Czechia up until recently, the Czech Republic. Nova Hradecna is a small village located in the the northeastern section of Czechia, in the illustration to the right.



Pre-history

For most of pre-historical times, the Nová Hradečná area was virgin forest and mountainous. Evidence of human activity (Cro-Magnon) goes back 600,000 years at an excavation site near Brno, about 50 miles south. Further south there are caves used by mammoth hunters. There were no villages and towns found. Throughout North Moravia was a dense, shady forest with bears, wolves, deer, elk, and wild pigs as well as other smaller animals.

In these early times, the rock caves were often used for shelter. Where there were no caves, people dug a pit in the ground for shelter, which they then covered with brush. Later, people dug wooden poles into the ground and intertwined them with branches, so that walls were created, which they then covered with leaves and the bark of the trees. In the marshy regions, people built their huts on poles. Tree trunks were hollowed out and made into boats.

People fed themselves with both wild berries and meat. They caught large and small animals and fish. When the people learned how to breed cattle, they needed pasture, for which they sought out natural meadows. Some figured out they could make their own meadows, but it required chopping down the trees to create the field or pasture. They later learned how to cultivate land and grow crops, thereby becoming settled farmers. However, it was a lot of work with the primitive tools they had. The nomadic tribes were more shepherds, with herds that could move from place to place for a better pasture. Tents are easy to move. When there were more people and fewer game animals, they began to cultivate food in fields. That meant they had to settle near the field, as crops take a long time to grow, so they began to build more single-family huts from wood or from stone and clay. Oats and barley were grown.

The first inhabitants of Moravia, about whom there are historical reports, were the Celts and the Boii. These Celtic tribesmen were tall, blond and blue-eyed. They already lived in solid wooden houses. They could produce bronze, an alloy of copper and tin. Their weapons were swords, daggers, and war axes. They also had jewelry - rings, earrings, metal necklaces and amber pearls. They lived in larger or smaller settlements near rivers or at the foot of the hills. The Celts were pagans and sacrificed to their gods on the summits of mountains and hills. Archaeological evidence of such sacrifices is still being found today and many Celtic burial grounds have been discovered. In addition to the remains of people, we have also found weapons, jewelry and other tools there.

390 BC

Wikipedia says the Boii were a Gallic tribe who lived in or roamed a large part of central Europe as early as 390 BC, including Nová Hradečná.

In the 1st century BC, the Celts had to retreat following battles after being defeated by Julius Caesar when his Roman armies came through around 60 BC. After the Boii withdrew from the Nová Hradečná area, they were succeeded by the **Germanic Quadi** and the nearby **Marcomanni**. The Marcomanni occupied Bohemia. They, along with their allies, the Quadi, were also very tall, blue-eyed and blond, and their children had white hair. Roman historians describe Germanic tribes as follows: "They are very brave, they love their tribe and their home, they love hunting, they are hospitable, their wives are chaste, marital infidelity is severely punished by both sexes, and there is strict unity. The women wear long linen garments and fur in the winter, caring for themselves, the house and children and they do field work. Their biggest adornment is their long hair. Men also wear long hair; only the hair of slaves and serfs was kept short. Men and women married at about the age of 20.

"The Romans, accustomed to very loose morals and despair, were astonished by the chastity of Germanic women. One unfavorable characteristic of Germanic men they noted was their passion for dice games. They were prone to losing not only their property but also their freedom and their families. They tended to drink a lot. Even in the first centuries AD, Germans did not build cities, but lived in small rural settlements in wooden houses. They were a pagan religion. Their main god was Odin, also called Wodan. Thor - Donnar was the god of thunder and rain, riding in the sky with a goat. Fraya was the goddess of spring and fertility. The Germans believe in the afterlife, where the souls of fallen warriors would go to a special place called Walhalla."

162 AD

It should be noted that the **Quadi** and **Marcomanni** population grew large enough that they started attacking Roman outposts to the south of the Nová Hradečná area. After three wars, the Romans withdrew to the south, partly because the Roman Empire was crumbling all over.

Nevertheless, the Romans never managed to penetrate very deep into Moravia or Bohemia. The allied Quadi and Marcomanni, under King Marbod, had put together an army with 7,000 men and 4,000 riders. Their weapons were swords, wide knives, shrubs, bow and arrow. The Quadi were already familiar with the production of iron.

Their shields were knitted of willow wicker and covered with skins. Their jewelry, buckles, needles, bracelets and rings were made of gold, silver and bronze.

Roman historians have left other interesting information about the Germanic tribes. The *Teutons* had their own Rune script with an alphabet that has 24 letters. But the script served primarily for divination and was not widely known, except for the priests and the wise women of the Orthodox religions. The letters were carved onto beechwood cubes or dice. The runes are thrown down and, depending on how they fell, the prophecies would be read. Early literature or period records did not use these runic symbols. Reports of the heroic acts of the tribe and of the individual generations were passed on to future generations by oral submission and in songs. It is worth mentioning that Italian monks translated the bible into Gothic for German Bishop Ulfilas of the West Goths in the 4th century AD and used a Rune-like font. This Bible, the *Codex Argenteus*, was written on parchment with gold and silver ink with a purple background. It was taken as war booty from a monastery in Prague during the Thirty Years' War by the invading Swedish Army. It was taken to Sweden, and today it is one of the most precious Swedish literary jewels in the National Library in Uppsala, Sweden.

They were already growing wheat, rye, oats, barley and millet. For clothing and textile purposes, they grew flax and hemp. Many weapons and jewels have been found on the rivers in the former Quadi housing villages. The Marcomanni and Quadi were in Bohemia and Moravia for about 5 centuries. It is worth mentioning that historical sources such as St. Ambrose's "*De Vitas Ambosi*" - *Migne: The Patrologia of Latin*" confirm that Christianity had already been proclaimed to the Marcomanni and Quadi, as noted by the *Codex Argenteus*. There is no indication as to how many of the two tribes embraced Christianity, however, it is certain that the arrival of the pagan Slavs in Moravia and Bohemia interrupted Christianity for a long time.

440 AD

The Germanic peoples were drive out by **Attila the Hun**, a Eurasian strongman. He conquered many eastern European tribes, including the Goths. The Quadi and Marcomanni, however brave they were, had to accept the sovereignty of the Asian Huns, which meant paying the Huns taxes, fighting with them against other tribes, and being taken with them further west.

453 AD

Attila died in Hungary in 453 AD, some say he was killed by his wife. The Hun Empire collapsed shortly thereafter. With the Roman Empire also collapsing, there were a lot of migrating tribes crossing Moravia until the 6th century AD when the Slavs began establishing themselves.

The Rise of the Slavs

Little is known of how the Slavs came to southern Moravia, whether there was a struggle between the Slavs and Quadi, or whether the Quadi fled to Germany. The Roman historians are silent about it, although there are legends. The early Slavs are believed to originate in the Ukraine/Belarus area of the Asian/Russian steppes. They settled in many areas, including Bohemia and southern Moravia, mainly in the already cultivated lowlands. It is thought they did not like the forested hills and mountains of the Nová Hradečná area, preferring flatter areas where the forests had already been cleared. Others believe that many of the Quadi, on the arrival of the Slavs, retreated with the Marcomanni to Bavaria, where they mingled with other Germanic tribes and became one tribe, the Bavarians. Some Quadi retreated to the most mountainous areas to avoid being killed or enslaved by the new majority Slavs.

568 AD

Another Asian nomadic group, the **Avars**, invaded Moravia from the Eurasian Steppes this year, where they remained for 220 years. The Slavs were forced to pay tribute to the Avar Khaganate and to participate in their plundering raids against the Byzantine Empire, the Franks (Bavaria) and the Lombards (France). Despite this, the area grew in size and influence.

790 AD

The Avars were defeated by **Charlemagne**, King of the Franks (Germans) in 790. He came in from the west and enabled Moravians to return to their land.

833 AD

Moravia became its own country, Great Moravia. The first Slavic king was Mojmir I (830-846), but he did not reign very long.

846 AD

Louis the German, the grandson of Charlemagne, invaded Moravia again from the west and replaced Mojmir I with his son, Rastiz. Great Moravia reached its greatest territorial extent in the 890's, including most of what today is Czechia, Slovakia, and parts of Poland. Svatopluk was king at that time. However, Svatopluk I died in 895 and things fell apart, with Bohemian princes defecting and siding with another king. Svatopluk I had held his empire together by force, and when he died, the force dissipated.

907 AD

The Moravian State ceased to exist after it was overrun by invading Magyars from present-day Hungary. The Magyars invaded with 216,000 men bearing arms (arrows, lances, clubs, swords, and all on horseback). The Magyars are credited with demonstrating that castles could be defeated by a successful siege, that is, surrounding the castle and waiting until the castle inhabitants starved and gave up. The Magyars continued attacking other tribes and city-states.

935 AD

The Duke of Bohemia, Wenceslaus I, was killed by his brother, **Boleslaus I**, who then took the throne in Prague. He was a member of the Přemyslid dynasty, which began as a tiny territory around Prague in 870, with the first Duke Borivoi I. It controlled several important trade routes and grew from there.

955 AD

The invading **Magyars** were defeated in Bavaria by the German Emperor Otto I and his allies, that included **Duke Boleslaus I The Cruel**, Duke of Bohemia. Otto I gave Moravia to Czech Duke Boleslaus I in return for his help in defeating the Magyars.

999 AD

More fighting occurred with **Boleslaw I Chrobry of Poland**, who annexed Moravia. The Poles ruled Moravia for 20 years.

1019

Duke **Bretislaus** attacked Poland, looted Krakow and recaptured Moravia and returned it to Bohemian control. Bretislaus became the ruler of Bohemia in 1034 when his father died.

Germanic Settlers invited into Slavic Moravia

The virgin forests around Nová Hradečná and northern Moravia were gradually settled around the turn of the millennium. The Slavic people generally did not populate the widespread mountainous regions and they remained mostly unpopulated. On the other hand, the Přemyslid Dukes wanted to benefit from these little-inhabited still forest-covered mountainous regions. The Slavs had settled mostly in southern Bohemia and Moravia and not many of them were craftsmen. The Czech Dukes and later Kings therefore called for neighboring Germans, especially craftsmen, miners and settlers, and asked them to settle in these border regions. The settlers were mainly German speakers from Saxony, Bavaria, Franken, Rhineland and Thuringia.

Their job was to clear space in the forests for fields and build homes, but first they had to laboriously dig up the roots of the huge trees to create fields for their new livelihood. These people came legally at the desire of the Czech sovereigns. Nobody was hurt, nobody lost anything, the Germans just cultivated the land that was unused by anyone. They also developed mines where gold and silver and other non-ferrous metals were extracted. Experienced German miners soon discovered the veins of these metals, and the Czech kings were now richer with the addition of iron and gold. The Czech Royalty often took German and Hungarian princesses for their wives. Even the nearby Olomouc bishops also called upon German priests and religious to serve the population and many of the monasteries and churches were built by German craftsmen, builders, weavers, bricklayers, sculptors and painters. These "German Bohemians" built their own villages and towns. They did not take anything away from the Czech population, nor were they intruders. The invited Germans got along well with the rest of the Slavic/Czech population.

In the 900's, all the land was divided among the educated nobility. In order of social rank, it was the King first, second the princes, dukes, and others of noble rank, then the church and monasteries, and finally to cities. The owners mostly did not work the land themselves but gave it to other nobility or to settlers who wanted to work. Then they started taxing and controlling them. As the mostly noblemen who were given large estates got money from the mines and agricultural efforts, they started to build castles. There are ruins of perhaps five or six castles built in that time near Nová Hradečná.

Here is one story about an area castle that dates back to this time:

Around the village of Hradečná you can find several castle sites. Northeast of Mt Bradlo is the Brníčko castle ruin. Mikulas Tunkl ruled there; he was very popular with his subjects. However, Tunkl built many



ponds on his lands and the people were relentlessly burdened by their forced labor in building them. Legend has it that the last Tunkl must always be at the pond at midnight, stuck pulling a plow, digging up the stones that hold the pond's water. The two devils drive him with a whip and tell him, "Faster, Tunkl, make the water sparkle!" When Tunkl's widow saw his terrible situation, she asked what could be done to help him. The devils told her he would not be delivered before all of the pond stones were put back into their original location.

There is an old story from Hradečná about the castle ruins of Rabštejn. According to the legend, Thuringian knight Jindrich Gneisberg - the bishop of Bruno, built this castle, but later it fell into the hands of rogue robber knights. In 1350 Margrave Jan Jindrich conquered and destroyed this castle.



Photo left:

East of Hradec, is Sovinec Castle. It is one of the largest castles in Moravia. It has 7 courtyards and 4 drawbridges. Already in 1025, one can find a record of this castle, which includes an underground corridor. The castle is the birthplace of the famous Moravian family of Sovinecs. In 1545 the castle was transferred to the property of Chrystof of Boskovice and in 1623 it passed to the Order of the German Knights.

To the south-west of Hradec, we see the beautiful Bouzov Castle. It originated around the year 1000. It has had many owners, who alternated until the castle was purchased by the Grandmaster of the Order of the German Knights at Worms for 100,000 golden florins. The Order owns this castle to this day.



Nová Hradečná has belonged to royal estates from ancient times.

1055

Duke Bretislaus decrees that Bohemia and Moravia would henceforth be ruled by the reigning King and its governance would pass on the first-born son of the Ruler. Throughout the Přemyslid era, junior princes often ruled all or part of Moravia from Olomouc, with varying degrees of autonomy from the ruler in Prague. Dukes of Olomouc often acted as the “right hand” of Prague dukes and kings. They were given the title of “Margrave,” meaning that Moravia was no longer a country or a province, it was a “margraviate.”

The Beginning of the Hradec and Hradečná Villages

Written records do not survive of the earliest beginnings of Hradec or Hradečná. It usually went this way: the castle owner, usually someone of noble birth, could not cultivate the area himself, so he would hire an experienced agent to establish the village. The agent was assigned an area of clear ground and forested land. Because there was almost always a variation in the quality of the type of land, the agent had to divide it so that settlers got some of both. There was an intention to give settlers as much land as possible and of relatively equal value, even if the parcels were not together and were scattered around the area.

Knights, with their horses, got parcels of land that were closer together and included grassy meadows for their Flemish horses to graze. The German settlers were put in the foothills and mountains. This was a disadvantage for German settlers who had to first cut down many trees to clear enough land so that they had enough to raise a family. This very hard work often took many years.

Markersdorf is first mentioned around 1100. Its Latin name was listed as: "Marchioni Villa." The name Markersdorf means the village of the margrave. The manor house nearby was originally owned by a Moravian margrave. The other village that was close by was called Grätz. The name changed several times over the centuries. Markersdorf became Hradečná which is Czech for castle; Grätz became Hradec, also a variation of the Czech word for castle. [The combined village today is known as Nová Hradečná or translates to "new castle."]



Around 1250, the area was already populated. In the Mount Bradlo area, there were several major manors. Olomouc and the castle next to the Hradisko monastery near Úsov, above, were the largest. The smaller manors, yeoman yards, were at Senica, Žerotín, and Šumvald. According to legend, Olomouc Duke Vratislav built Úsov castle around 1000. Around the year 1064, this same Vratislav built a castle in Uničov and became Bohemian **King Vratislav II** in 1061-1092.

In any case, Hradec and Hradečná were owned by the lord of the manor at Castle Úsov. The Úsov Castle estate owned the following villages: Hradečná, the town of Úsov, Bezděkov, Mladoňov, Lazce, Dědinka, Nemrlov, Hradec, Hlivice, Klopina, Kralova, Lipinka, Moravska Libina, Medlov, Mirotínek, Mostkov, Oskava, Zadní Ujezd, Troubelice, Břevenec, Tremesek, Velebor, Václavov, Plinkout y, Pískov, Šumvald, Stavenice, Římice, possibly also Polnice and Meierink, parts of Litovel and the isolated villages of Nové Dvory, Nové Mlýny and Nové Zámky.

Úsov Castle was surrounded by a fortified defensive wall, with two strong towers about 20 to 30 yards apart. Part of this fortification still stands today - there were 5 other semi-circular towers and some of them served as dwellings. Úsov Castle was originally a royal hunting lodge and apartments in towers apparently served hunting guests. The most important towers were the Royal Tower of Duke Vlašim and the tower with the dungeon in it.

These castles were listed in the years 1315 and 1345 and also in 1371 in the will of Margrave Jan [Jindrich] as part of the Úsov dominion. The Margrave landowner of Úsov Manor owned all its villages until 1440. The Margrave had *sovereign rights*, the same as belonged to a king or emperor. The landowner or his appointees were entitled to exercise rights such as establishing mines and mining rock, coining money, establishing and maintaining markets, building bridges and roads, and building fortifications. The land lord could identify forests which could not be felled because they were a defense against natural disasters or enemies. Other rights were included – building mills, dams, licenses, collecting customs duties, selling salt, etc. In addition, the Margrave had the right of escheat, that is he had the right to inherit the property of people who died without heirs.

This was a major problem for the settlers. Often, when the landlords were in financial distress, they would sell or mortgage their properties. Then the “screws” would be put to the settlers in order to make money to pay off other debts. This is an example: in 1330, King Jan Lucemburský (who was broke financially) mortgaged the entire Úsov estate with all the villages to financially back his brothers, Jaroslav and Albert of Šternberk. Later, the estates were paid off.

Feudal Times: The Invited Settlers become Peasants

1330

In 1330 Hradečná had 88 houses that formed one street and 332 male and 351 female inhabitants. It had more people then than today. Later wars and epidemics reduced the population.

1335

One historian of the times (Volnyě) wrote that the inhabitants of Hradečná mainly grew flax. They also produced linen sieves or screens that some residents would transport and sell at the Turkish border. The village nickname "screener" was retained until modern times – so says the town history.

At first, everyone was needed in the mining and agricultural endeavors, from the Margrave to the settlers. There were only a few approved craftsmen, including goldsmiths, weavers, tailors, shoemakers and blacksmiths. The population became divided into two main classes – knights and yeoman who owned all the land and serfs who belonged body and soul to the nobility. The peasants did not own any land and were assigned land to work. These subjects had no rights and were not allowed to move without the permission of the landlords. There were actually only masters and serfs. The lords had all political rights, and only they had access to the highest local church officials and dominated the judiciary. From early on the peasants were mostly Catholic and the nobility were descendants of Slavs; their attitudes about religion were very different.

The earliest mention of the St. Lawrence Catholic church is in 1350. A report to Pope Clement VI, noted that there was a new Deanery, [Catholic administrative office] which including the Litomyšl Benedictine monastery, Klášterec, Šumvald, **Hradečná**, Cokytl, Temenice, Habartice, Brannou, Staré Město, Rapotín, Losiny, Sobotin, and some other municipalities.

Serfdom started in western Europe in the 900's and 1000's. The hereditary servitude part had its origins in feudalism, which was the dominant social system in medieval Europe in which the nobility held lands from the king in exchange for military service and regular people, peasants, were in turn tenants of the nobles.

When the Czech Nobility started inviting Germans and others into their Moravian forest lands, they started building their estates, one of which was Úsov and it included Nová Hradečná. It should be noted that during this time there were 9

crusades by the Catholic Church to try to capture and keep the Holy Land. The last one was in 1272. There were a lot of soldiers coming back from these adventures.

While some owned their own land and could pass it on, others were induced to work for the landlord with the offer of enough land to build a small home and grow enough crops to feed their family and maybe a bit more, but the trade-off was they had to submit to the rules of the landlord. They could not leave and eventually were forced to work not only their little piece of ground, but also that of the landlord. The aristocrats started exercising more and more control over the lives of the peasants, increasing the mandatory work requirements and micromanaging people's lives. There was no recourse as the lord controlled all local politics and courts: they were just like the king.

Most people who worked the land are what we would call farmers. They did everything from growing their own food and the fibers for their clothes. They cleared the land, took care of animals, and tried to have a little fun once in a while. It's important to note that Kressas were probably here from early on (around 1000 AD?) and never left. They could not, even if they wanted to. Record-keeping did not start until the 1600's in this area, after the Thirty-Years War.

How the land was divided and farmed.

The basic measure of land in Moravia and much of Czechia was the "hide," (lán in Czech). A farmer's *hide* was usually about 18 hectares, or 25 acres. A farmer who had one hide or more of land was among the bigger farmers at the time.

Most people tilled the land, but there were numerous divisions among this class-conscious community. One "hide" was thought to be enough land for a farmer with two oxen to make a living for a medium sized family. Over time, the land got split for a number of reasons, including death, inheritances, marriage, etc. Sometimes the landlord got it back and re-leased it. To help keep it straight, remember:

1 hide = 45 acres $\frac{3}{4}$ hide = 30 acres $\frac{1}{2}$ hide = 22.5 acres $\frac{1}{4}$ hide = 10 acres

The “top” class of farmers in the village and vicinity were those who had ½ to 1 hide of farmland. They were called sedlaks, celoláníky or čtvrtláníky. Sedlaks were farmers who owned their own land and paid property taxes to the crown.

The “middle” class, called gardeners or chalupníky, had small farms of 15-18 acres. These included craftsmen, such as blacksmiths, wood workers, stone masons, etc.

The “bottom” group were called cottagers, as they had only enough space for their cottage and a yard or small garden. It was usually much less than ¼ hide. Some cottagers were also tradesmen.

Then there were the people who had no property at all. They were called Podrug or Inwohner and were forced to work for low wages on the land of other farmers. They lived somewhere in a farmer’s house, in a barn, or a shed.

Some of the original farmers, who were descendants of knights or soldiers, owned their land outright and had to pay a property tax. The other farmers, who were really just tenants, had very little rights. They didn’t pay property taxes per se, but they could pass their home on to their children. There were exceptions to these rights if the farmer had no heirs or acted badly. The peasant could be evicted. If you didn’t work, you didn’t eat. If you went along with the system, at least you had a way to grow food and some shelter. The nobility also expected mandatory labor, fees, produce, and anything else they could think of. They had the power of the king behind them, soldiers, and a prison where people often died.

All non-noble persons had to perform forced free labor for the manor, according to their age, assets, and abilities. Consequently, many landlords had a low opinion of the peasants, taking their labor for granted. The English word “robot” comes from the Czech word for forced labor, “robota,” which was required of all peasants. That word was used a lot in those times. To do their “robot” was often to perform 2-3 days a week labor on the lord’s land or estate.

What it Was Like To be a Peasant Farmer

Kresha ancestors were small farmers, probably chalupniks, meaning they lived on a farm with attached land of around 15-18 acres. They worked sunrise to sunset just to make sure they had food and shelter. They 'leased' their land and paid taxes to the lord of the manor and the king. They had to work their own land and that of the manor; the manor's 2-3 days a



week "robot" requirement had priority at planting and harvest time. They were not free to leave the land or do hardly anything out of the ordinary without permission and that must be sought and paid for. This included permission to get married or to sue someone who wronged you. In addition to the forced labor and money paid to the manor, they also often required to provide food stuffs and other items from time to time, out of what you grew for your own family.

Peasants lived off the food they grew on their land. It consisted of bread, soup, vegetables and occasional meat. The main food crops they raised were wheat, corn, and beans, but they also grew flax for spinning into cloth for clothing. Summers were good because there were fresh vegetables, fruit, and nuts from the garden. If the weather was bad and there wasn't enough food, you didn't eat.

Poor peasants usually had rough wool or linen clothing. The women wove the fabrics from raw materials they grew and generally had one set of clothing and it was almost never washed. Some people had linen underwear, which was washed "regularly." In cold weather, there were cloaks made of sheepskin or wool as well as wool hats or mittens.

The houses were usually made of stone or branches covered with mud and straw. They were usually two room affairs with thatched roofs and dirt floors. The first room was the common room with very little furniture and an open fireplace, while the second room had all the beds for the family. There were small glass-less windows for ventilation, so



candles had to be used to light up the inside of the house.

Marriages were arranged by the parents and usually to someone in their own village. Religion was very important to the Kressas, as they were dyed-in-the-wool Roman Catholic, as were most German-speaking peasants in Nová Hradečná and other areas. They generally went to church on Sunday and celebrated holidays. The man was the head of the household and generally old-school – his wife was his property and could be treated any way he wanted. Divorce was not common and women were not allowed to divorce their husband, no matter what. [– Thanks to Northeastern ETV of Ohio for a great summary.]

The Hussite Wars Changes Everything

1402

Catholic priest and theologian Jan Hus started criticizing the Catholic Church and demanding a reformation of it. This is what happened. It's important, as the effects on Nová Hradečná were dramatic:

It was originally a religious movement, starting with Jan Hus, a priest and Prague university professor and confessor of the Queen. Hus's teachings were based on the teachings of English theologian John Wycliffe, who denied papal sovereignty, the consecration of the Eucharist, refused confession, refused the celibacy of priests, and asked to receive communion with bread and wine. [Starting in about 1402, Hus also began denouncing the corruption of the Church and the "antipope" John XXIII, who lead a crusade against King Ladislaus of Naples, the protector of rival Pope Gregory XII. To raise money for this, the pope proclaimed and sold indulgences in Bohemia. Hus bitterly denounced this and explicitly quoted Wycliffe against it, provoking further complaints of heresy, but winning support in Bohemia.]

Up until this time in Bohemia and Moravia, the Czechs and Germans tolerated each other well. The Přemyslid monarch treasured their skills and hard work; in addition, they were loyal against the often-rebellious Czech nobility. Learning that Hus was in conflict with the Catholic Church and because Hus refused to withdraw his teachings, complaints were made to church enforcers. Hus's teaching started to affect the relationship between the Czech and German nationalities at the University of Prague, where the rights of the Germans were being violated [because they were staunch Catholics].

1414

In this year Hus was summoned to the Council of Constance at Lake Constance [between Switzerland and Germany], after German King Sigmund promised him safety. At the council, however, Hus was arrested, tried, and convicted because he refused to withdraw his teachings. *On July 6, 1415, he was burned at the stake.* [The knights and nobles of Bohemia and [Moravia](#), who were in favor of church reform, sent the “Protestatio Bohemorum” to the Council of Constance on 2 September 1415, which condemned the execution of Hus in the strongest language.

This angered Sigmund, who was "[King of the Romans](#)" (head of the [Holy Roman Empire](#), though not yet Emperor), and brother of King [Wenceslaus of Bohemia](#). He had been persuaded by the Council that Hus was a heretic. He sent threatening letters to Bohemia declaring that he would soon drown all Wycliffites and Hussites, greatly incensing the people.]

Of course, this problem did not disappear. The Czech countryside was even more inclined to support Jan Hus. When newly crowned Emperor Sigmund publicly spoke against the new doctrine and forbade it, the devastating Hussite wars broke out.

1422

The Czech Hussites eventually appeared in Nová Hradečná. *The whole village was burned by the Hussites, the German population robbed and beaten. Many people fled into the woods in horror.* In the same year, Hussites conquered Uničov, but Olomouc and Litovel gathered together 2,000 Catholic peasants to go to Uničov to freed it.

1424

The Czech Hussites returned to conquer Olomouc, but they failed, so they went to the town of Mohelnice, which belonged to the Olomouc Bishop. It's about 6 miles west of Nová Hradečná. The inhabitants of the surrounding area sought protection from them behind the Mohelnice city walls. Although Mohelnice resisted bravely, it eventually succumbed to the Hussites, who then burned the city to the ground, including the women and children who had sought refuge in the church. The Hussite troops attacked mercilessly. It took several decades before the city was inhabited again.

1430

The Czech Hussites appeared again to Nová Hradečná and destroyed everything, burning new houses to the ground.

1431

The Hussites appeared again to Nová Hradečná and destroyed everything, burning houses to the ground.

1436

The Hussite wars officially ended, but the devastation and destruction it caused would last for decades.

1440

Control of the **Úsov Castle** estate and all the towns [including Hradec and Hradečná] were mortgaged and given as collateral by Margrave Etem to the **Lords of Vlašim**, a Czech noble family from Kourim - southeast of Cologne, Germany. In their coat of arms are two vulture heads. This coat of arms is the one we see today at the parish church in Medlov and the castle in Úsov. The castle and its many business interests were administered by Charles Vlašim in **1464**, then George Vlašim in **1492**, later Vaclav Vlašim in **1497**. During this half century, while the Vlašim's had control, the original Margrave Etem could have regained possession by paying off his mortgage, but he did not.

1472

Karel of Vlašim richly endowed the Dominican monastery in Olomouc. In the cloister of the church of St. Michael the Archangel in Olomouc is the tomb of George of Vlašim in red marble. On the pedestal with the coat of arms of Vlašim, there is a knight in armor, in the right hand a sword, to the left is another coat of arms with a vulture, a boy figure holding a leaf wreath over this coat of arms. In 1507, the monastery was given 200 gold ducats in exchange for a promise to celebrate two Masses daily for a week for their benefactor.

1494

Bohemian King Vladislav II Jagiellon, passed by the Vlašim village of Medlov and Troubelice and loved it. After the king's death, his sister Barbara took control of Medlov, his brother John took Troubelice and his sister Catherine took a portion of Hradec, Hradečná, Veleboře and Stavenice. During this time, the Doubrava forest and its vegetation was cleared. George [Vlašim] also ordered the landowners in Medlov

and Újezd to open mines in search for iron ore and precious metals.

1495

Half of Hradečná burns down. Strong winds fanned the flames and the wooden houses and their thatched roofs burned quickly. George and the Vlašims brought in rebuilding materials, food, and straw and divided them amongst the residents who had fled into the forest because of the fire.

1499

At night, around the turn of the 15th century, many people cried to heaven, expecting to see the end the world because of the sins of the wicked [during the Hussite war]. Many went to the Church on their knees in prayer, fasting and repenting to avert this disaster.

1513

King Vladislav II pays off the mortgage to the Vlašim family for the main castle of Úsov, along with the town of Litovel, giving it to Ladislav Boskovic and his progeny. [He was the High Lord Chamberlain for King Vladislav II. His uncle was the Bishop of Olomouc, Tas Boskovic. He was a very educated man, having studied art and classical literature in Italy. He also studied for the priesthood, but after his brother Jaroslav died violently, was dismissed from the priesthood and assumed management of the family property.]

1517

Martin Luther posted on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany, his 95 theses and this was the impetus for a schism in the Church. [Luther specifically did not like the church ordering them to sell indulgences to pay for the rebuilding of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.] The Pope wanted to solve the problem amicably. However, since Luther continued to preach, he was excommunicated by the pope; Luther publicly burned the papal bull that excommunicated him. His new teachings expanded rapidly. Paul Speratus had much success in North Moravia, when he expanded and preached Luther's ideas.

1530

The ruling Lord Vlašim died in battle, leaving one daughter Karla, who was married to Christopher Černohorský Boskovic. In his will, the King gave the rest of the Úsov castle's possessions to Boskovic for his loyal service.

The Boskovic family thus received effective ownership of the Úsov manor and its property from the Margrave, including the right to inherit. Boskovic paid off all mortgaged villages or parts of them and bought more. From 1565 to 1848, the family owned 34 villages and two manor estates. The Boskovics had become one of the richest noble families in the country. It was a very old family, already mentioned in the records in 1062. Their coat of arms - a silver crest on a red field.

1565

Albrecht Boskovic takes over the Úsov estate. Albrecht, a philanthropic gentleman, is the one who, that same year, donated expanded use of the Bradelský forest to the village of Hradečná. The lord of the manor for centuries had restricted anyone from entering the forest. It was teeming with game, wood, and food, such as nuts and berries...and the lord wanted to keep that to himself for his own hunts.

The Donation Agreement was written in Czech, for the Boskovics were Czech. The contract was written on parchment by Abbot Rena, with the massive well-preserved seal of the Boskovics.

Abridged text of contract:

*"I, Albrecht Černožský Boskovic and Montenegro, with my heirs and future successors, declare this agreement after careful consideration and after pleas by venerable men and their mayor, as well as the entire community of Hradečná, my faithful and beloved subjects, that I am aware of their affection, loyalty, obedience, which they have shown my ancestors and me and therefore I will hear them and will show them mercy, and I will give them, and their future successors, the forest called Bradelský that starts at my woods above Lipinka and extends to the border road that divides the Újezd and Zábřežské forests and extends to the edge of the German forest at Libina (Upper Libina). I will give them this forest, so that they and their future offspring could use this forest to meet their various needs to cut trees, use the fruit of the oaks and beech trees to feed swine and cattle, and gather berries there. I tell them that I and my future descendants will not interfere. They may take these things, **but not hunting.** The right to hunting is reserved for me and my future descendants. **But my subjects and their future descendants will pay to me** and my descendants now and in the future, to our authorized administrators, a mandatory oats duty, according to a new rate as determined by Moravian Registers valid in the Moravian Margraviate. Every settler is also obliged to **take off 1 whole day and collect manure** from our yards in (Klopina and Úsov) **and spread it on***

our fields, as it will be shown. So have I decided, Albrecht of Boskovic, and so I want the local magistrate, the whole village Hradečná, my subjects and their future descendants to enjoy, as I have established. I, Albrecht of Boskovic, have attached to this document my seal and signature on the Monday after the feast of the apostle Saint James, 1563.”

Hradečná originally received the entire Bradelský forest; however, two years later, there was a new redistribution. The municipalities of Hradec and Troubelice wanted and were given a share of the forest. Back then, in 1565, the Bradelský spruce forest was not like it is today; then it was mostly oaks and beeches. Acorns and beechnuts were eaten by grazing pigs. Boskovic kept for himself the right to hunting. Hradečná subjects were also prohibited from fishing.

Hradečná subjects had to be very popular among the nobility, as evidenced by the praise for their loyalty, affection and obedience from Albrecht Boskovic. In essence, the Bradelský forest is still the same size as it was in the days of the Boskovics. In return, Hradečná was obliged to remove manure from the manor courts and hand over a prescribed quantity of oats. But, besides that, the locals had another obligation:

I, Albrecht Černohorský Boskovic and Montenegro, know well the condition of my subjects in the village Hradečná, so I graciously hear their prayers and I grant them the grace to decide: Every year on Easter, they may deliver three sheep instead of one ox to me or my future descendants. Or, they may pay, in place of the sheep, 2 gold coins (1 gold = 30 Groschen and 1 penny = Pfenigů 7), as is customary in the Moravian country.

Furthermore, on the Feast of St. Lawrence, [August 10] they will deliver one calf and at Christmas, three baskets with walnuts and nuts. My subjects in Hradečná will help me and my offspring during the import and transport of beverages. Anyone interested in drinking must pay 36 kicks and 16.5 kick raps, 1 Pfennig (1 kopa = 60 raps and 1 penny = 7 white Pfennigs). They also have to pay as before - taxes on their houses and land, the escheat, and other payments. Also, they have to pay tithing for the church. If any of them have enlarged their property, they will be ordered to pay more, like everyone else. Attached to this document my seal and signature on Wednesday before the feast of St. George in the year of our Lord 1556.”

We can only marvel at the high rate of duties and taxes that the Hradečná landlords made the people pay.

1569

Albrecht Boskovic died childless. His successor was his brother John Šembera Boskovic. He was a reckless patron and many legends arose around his person.

He announced his parties in Úsov and Litovel as well as his nightly orgies. It is said of him that he reserved the right to be the first to spend a night with all new brides. Every bride, at the time, had to come personally to the castle in Úsov and ask the nobility for permission for the wedding. Šembera spent the night with each bride-to-be, cutting off a lock of hair from each, from which he had a wig made that he wore during his feasts as proof of his sexual adventures. He had no son, only a daughter.

Later in life, as proof of penance for his sins, Boskovic donated his assets for life to the Minor monastery in Brno. It wasn't long before he became angry with himself for making this gift; so, he later went to Brno to the Minor monastery, who had prepared for him a feast. Šembera lured the drunken monks to the storeroom where the deed of gift was kept...grabbed it and tore it up!

1580

By this time there were few church rectories that were not Protestant in the northern German regions of Moravia. Nová Hradečná also had a Protestant pastor.

1591

On the 22nd of June Nová Hradečná suffered a terrible wind and rain storm. The gale tore off most of the thatched rooftops. A cloudburst over the Bradelský forest resulted in a flood that caused major damage to both Hradec and Hradečná. It washed away several horse-drawn wagons. House #22, which belonged to Wendelin Kunz, was flooded up to the depth of two and a half fathoms. [about 15 feet]

1597

John Šembera Boskovic died in April of 1597 and as he was the last male descendant of the Boskovic family, which had for decades ruled over Hradečná, the Úsov estate went to his daughter Anna Maria, who, in 1590, had married Charles of Liechtenstein. Other Boskovic family estates, Buškovice, Novygrad, Montenegro, and Vranov went to Šembera's second daughter Catherine, who married Charles of Liechtenstein's brother, Maximilian of Liechtenstein in 1597. Eventually the two brothers decided that the eldest son would always be the head of the House of Liechtenstein. Charles became known as **Karl I** of the Liechtenstein Dynasty. So, we see the growth of the Liechtenstein family.



Vlašim Crest



Boskovic Crest



Lichtenstein Crest

Hradečná after the Reformation

While the donation agreement regarding Bradelský forest was written in Czech, we do not have to wonder why. First, the Boskovics were a Czech noble family and secondly, Hussite. Although the Hussite movement was in the beginning a religious movement, it soon changed and became also a nationalist one and anti-German. Many German villages were burnt to ashes during the Hussite wars and the residents were either murdered or fled (when there were enough German villages). After the Hussite Wars, it came a nationalist revolt, supported by Czech King George of Podebrady. This King was brave, ambitious, clever, the personification of the Czech spirit of sword and chalice. [sic]

The king favored the Czech elements in the towns and rural areas. Therefore, until 1650, the official language might be only Czech and in the border areas it might be German. Next Czech became the official language throughout the country, though German was a common second language. Since the time of the killing of Jan Hus (in 1415) by the Catholic church, there were many who were still very angry. Many things continued to be bad in the Catholic Church and Martin Luther criticized these shortcomings. This time the criticism found many adherents, even among the imperial princes.

1616

On May 4 at midnight, there was an earthquake in our village and surrounding

villages, but thank the Lord God it did not cause any damage.

1618

The Thirty-Years War Starts. The Bohemian King Matthias died in 1617 without an heir, so his lands went to his nearest male relative, Archduke Ferdinand II of Austria. Ferdinand was a staunch Catholic and was Jesuit trained...and he wanted to impose uniform Catholicism on the Czech people. This led to the Defenestration of Prague, where Ferdinand's representatives were thrown out a window over a cliff, killing them. A second defenestration kicked off the Bohemian revolt, kicking off the war. Wikipedia says it was one of the longest and most destructive conflicts in human history, with over 8-million fatalities. It was the deadliest religious war and the war remains traumatic in the German collective memory.

- From November 11th to Christmas, there was a bloody red bouncing sun.
[Smoke from fires started during wartime?]

The 30 Years War brought Germany, Bohemia, and Moravia immense suffering and misery. It did not matter whether the soldiers were their own or enemies. The mercenaries on both sides fed themselves by whatever they could steal from the local population.

The Thirty Years' War also brought Nová Hradečná many evils. German mercenary soldiers enslaved the area around Uničov.

1620

– **Birth of Jyra George Kressa (1620-). Estimated, details unknown.**

1625

Uničov citizens defeated these soldiers and expelled them from the town. The defeated troops then roamed the surrounding villages, stealing the cattle from farmer's barns. Nová Hradečná was one of those towns.

1642

As if things could not get worse. The Swedes took advantage of the religious war to come from the north and conquer the area. The peak of poverty occurred when Sweden, a global "superpower" at the time, invaded the area and captured Uničov on June 17th. They held Uničov for eight years, until July 8, 1650. The Swedish army under Torstenson was a mercenary group of soldiers from all corners of the world.

*They burned villages, looted cattle and grain and raped the women. After all this, the **plague** broke out in our village. No wonder that people hid in the woods to avoid getting sick or becoming enslaved by the soldiers.*

From that time comes the saying: "The Swedes came and everything was eaten." Also, during this time, many residents ceased to be able to pay any taxes to the nobles..

Before the 30 years of war, in 1618, Hradečná had: 39 farmers and Pololáníks, 119 horses, 186 head of cattle and 240 sheep.

1645

– Birth of Bartholomeus Barton Kressa (1645-). His father was Jyra George Kressa in Troubelice, CZ Exact date unknown.

- Birth of Catharina Kacza Jakub (1645-). Estimated, details unknown.

1648

The Thirty-Years war wound down, with the Peace of Westphalia. In Nová Hradečná, only 15 houses were inhabited; the others had been knocked down or burned. The remaining farmers lacked seeds, agricultural implements, wagons, horses and cattle. Only two things were in every house: a rifle and bayonet. Considering that people did not have work during the wars, they were severely depressed. The youth did not actually know peaceful times, yet it is astonishing how these people again became a well-run peasant people, but it did take ten long years.

1664

– Marriage of Bartholomeus Barton Kressa (1645-) and Catharina (1645-)Kacza Jakubecz on January 28th. Barton's father is Jyra Kressa and Kacza father was Jakub Jakubecz.

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1652-1689			
Book Page	Date	Groom and Bride	Witnesses Priest
U IV 1 97 Czech	28 Jan 1664	<i>In Markersdorf were married:</i> Barton son of the deceased Jyra Kressa and Kacza of the deceased Jakub Jakubecz	Martin Kadlec Jan son of Rissonek Maryna wife of Ondra Spiczka Marina daughter of Matej Tomeczek from Troubelice

- Birth of Vitus Kressa on May 11th. His parents were Bartholomaeus Barton Kressa (1645-) and Catharina Kacza Jakubecz (1645-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1652-1689						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 1 13 Czech	11 May 1664	Troubelice	<i>Vitus</i>	Barton Kressa from Troubelice	Kacza	Jakub Polassek Maryana wife of Jyra Krssacz

1666

- Birth of Maryna Kressa on March 24th. Her parents were Bartholomeus Barton Kressa (1645-) and Catharina Kacza Jakubecz (1645-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1652-1689						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 1 15 Czech	24 Mar 1666	Troubelice	<i>Maryna</i>	Barton Kressa from Troubelice	Katerzina	Jakub Polassek from Troubelice Dorota of Pawel Wanek

1668

- Birth of Andreas Wondra Kressa on October 24th. His parents are Bartholomeus Barton Kressa (1645-) and Catharina Kacza Jakubecz (1645-). (online record missing)

1670

Sorcery investigations began in our regions, which lasted until 1720. The worst were people in Šumperk, Losiny and Mohelnice. Bigotry and a greedy inquisitorial judge brought again a lot of suffering among people who had barely started working again after the 30-Years war. It was known in Nová Hradečná that Jakub Partisch, the forerunner of the later teacher with that name, was accused as being a sorcerer on the edge of town in Uničov. How many people were reporting their fellow citizens just because they wanted to sort out a personal disagreement?

1671

-Birth of Sophia Kressa (1671-) on April 6th. Her parents were Bartholomeus Barton Kressa (1645-) and Catharina Kacza Jakubecz (1645-).

1673

– Birth of Catharina Kressa on October 28th. Her parents were Bartholomeus Barton Kressa (1645-) and Catharina Kacza Jakubecz (1645-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1652-1689						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 1 21 Latin	28 Oct 1673	Troubelice	<i>Catharina</i>	Bartholomäus Kressa	Catharina	Jacobus Polassek Catharina wife of Paulus Talaczek

1675

– Birth of Susanna Kressa on August 14th. Her parents were Bartholomeus Barton Kressa (1645-) and Catharina Kacza Jakubecz (1645-).

, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1652-1689						
Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife	
14 Aug 1675	Troubelice	<i>Susanna</i>	Barton Kressa	<u>Katerzina</u>	Pawel Polassek Catharina Polassek	

1678

It took another 30 years after the war ended before all the lands in Nová Hradečná were inhabited again, except for 4 empty old houses. Empty houses were cheaply sold to refugees hiding in the mountains. By this time, [1678] Nová Hradečná was once again purely German, with another German village next door [Hradec]. Ethnic Czech had been expelled from the area.

According to the Úsov census taken this year, the following people from Hradec were accused of being witches:

Hans Biyhl, 22, Cottager. Farmers: Simon Waygel, 38; Georg Weigel, 80; Anton Halmi, 37; George Dvorák, 54; George Mayer, 44. Gardeners: Tobias Rohrich, 3; Jakub Mauler, 10; Jakub Partel, 27; Petr Cerny, 7; Andre Axmann, 58; Johann Kreuzinger, 31; Mathias Reymer, 11; Petr Straka, 29; Valenti Nischak, 29; Adam Peyl, 9; Wenzel Blahak, 9; Jakub Kunfer, 13; Valentin Swatschka, 48; Karel Schlemmer, 24, and Andres Bubutzka, 14.

1690

Hradečná got its own municipal seal. It is a circle with a perimeter inscription: the municipality of Markersdorf (village of Hradečná). In the middle is the heart from which a branch with 11 stars grows. The whole seal is made of brass and shows excellent craftsmanship.

At this time, for each quarter [hide] they farmed, farmers were taxed 8 measures of rye and 9 1/2 measures of wheat, to be used by the estate to make beer.

When Karl Liechtenstein married the daughter of John Šembera of Buškovice in 1597, they inherited a fortress estate, and they accepted the seven-peaked ridge of Buškovice into their coats of arms. This coat of arms is above the entrance to our St. Lawrence Catholic church. The Liechtensteins paid for some limited remodeling and rebuilding of the church.

1700

– Birth of Anton Kressa (1700-1772), son of Andreas (1668-) and Elizabeth Kressa.

1704

– Birth of Marina Kressa (1704-) on December 8th. She is the daughter of Andreas (1668-) and Elizabeth Kressa.

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 21 German	8 Dec 1704	Grätz	<i>Marina</i>	Wondra Kressa	Elisabeth	Mikulass Straka from Markersdorf Marina Polaczek from Schönwald

1716

– Birth of Judith Kressa (1716-). She is the daughter of Andreas Kressa (1668-) and Elizabeth Kressa (record is missing).

1726

– Marriage of Anton Kressa (1700-1772) and Marina Schmid (1703-) on January 27th.

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759			
Book Page	Date	Groom and Bride	Witnesses Priest
U IV 3 342 <i>Latin</i>	27 Jan 1726	Antonius (b. 1700) son of Andreas Kressa from Grätz Marina (b. 21 Jun 1703), daughter of the deceased Tobias Schmid from Markersdorf	Wenceslaus Bachl from Markersdorf Franciscus Richter from Graez <i>Joannes Georgius Bruner cooperator</i>

1727

- Birth of Franciscus Kressa (1727-) on January 15th. His parents are Anton Kressa (1700-1772) and Marina Schmid (1703-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 153 <i>Latin</i>	15 Jan 1727	<i>Grözio</i>	<i>Franciscus</i>	Antonius Kressa	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna Fuchs <i>Joannes Bruner cooperator</i>

1728

- Birth of Andreas Kressa (1728-) on October 11th. His parents are Anton Kressa (1700-1772) and Marina Schmid (1703-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 161 <i>Latin</i>	11 Oct 1728	<i>Grözio</i>	<i>Andreas</i>	Antonius <i>Kresa</i>	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna Fuchs <i>Joannes Bruner cooperator</i>

1730

Tomas Anton Kvapil, chief executive officer Franz Anton Finsk, Karel František Stehlík, Castle Bookkeeper Jan Rissy, and Treasurer Phillips Muller, were fired because they had embezzled from the landlord.

- Birth of Johanna Kressa (1730-) on August 29th. Her parents are Anton Kressa (1700-1772) and Marina Schmid (1703-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 170 Latin	29 Aug 1730	Graezio	<i>Johanna</i>	Antonius Kresa	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna Fuchs <i>Joannes Bruner cooperator</i>

1732

- Birth of Anna Maria Kressa (1732-) on August 16th. Her parents are Anton Kressa and Marina Schmid.

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 180 Latin	16 Aug 1732	Graezio	<i>Anna Maria</i>	Antonius Greser	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna daughter of Laurentius Fuchs <i>Joannes Bruner cooperator</i>

1735

- Birth of Magdalena Kressa (1735-1795) on April 22nd. Her parents are Anton Kressa (1700-1772) and Marina Schmid (1703-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 189 Latin	22 Apr 1735 <i>marr. 1765 d. 5 Oct 1795</i>	Graezio	<i>Magdalena</i>	Antonius Kreiza	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna daughter of Laurentius Fuchs <i>cooperator</i>

1738

- Birth of Adolphus Kressa (1738-) on June 3rd. His parents are Anton Kressa (1700-1772) and Marina Schmid (1703-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 200 Latin	3 Jun 1738	Graezio	<i>Adolphus</i>	Antonius Kreza <i>Marr. 27 Jan 1736</i>	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna Fuchs <i>Unger</i>

More About Peasant Life

The forced labor was hard on the peasants, the gardeners and the villagers who were subject to it. Wives, gentlemen, sick and old were released from the robot requirement. The landlord required workers in manor household, fields, and forests. He required labor or money for the import of wood, wine, for the construction of roads and field work. The required labor requirements were still increasing, as the estate grew by clearing and farming more and more land. With more land, the need for more and more forced labor days also increased. The kinds of labor were distinguished among the peasants and the skills they had and with approval, households did some sharing of the labor requirement.

There were measured and unmeasured requirements. Measured labor might include the cultivation of certain fields, the harvesting of a certain amount of grain, etc. An unmeasured robot could only be required in very urgent cases and not more than three days a week. But under the pretext of urgency, the governor often forced peasants to work for the manor for weeks.

The landlord-appointed magistrate would determine how many workers were needed and where they were supposed to appear. He also had to inform the subjects of their assignments. His job was to secure the interests of the lord and it had certain advantages.

Boys (if they were unable to do military service) and girls were forced to work for the landlord too. The lord kept any orphans on a Registry, where all enrolled children of their subjects were registered. Every year on the first Sunday of Advent, the magistrate required all young people to attend and register. If anyone was unable to attend, a parent or close relative was required to take their place. Officials then decided which children will be left with their parents to work and which must do service for the landlord or his officers. Objections by fathers that their son or daughter was needed at home to work were not often heeded. The lord or his official would choose stable hands and maids, who worked for food and a small wage. But there were frequent complaints that their wages were not often paid on time. Those chosen had to serve mandatorily for 3-7 years. Orphans had to serve even longer and did not receive a salary, only food and clothing. It was possible to avoid these mandatory services by paying 3 -12 gold florins a year.

The lordship could force anyone to work for normal wages. Those who did not find work at the manor had to accept work at a farm. Whoever wanted to work at Úsov

Manor had to buy a permit from the Chief of Staff, which cost 30 dimes for stable work; maid permits cost 20 dimes.

The children had to take over the profession of their parents. Those who wanted to learn a craft or go to study elsewhere needed the approval of the lord. If he wanted to travel to get training, he had to have permission again; permissions only were granted for a fee.

Whoever wishes to marry had to get a permit.

Subjects were not allowed to move freely, for that would deprive the nobility of their labor. Those found guilty of helping a serf to escape by providing shelter and food were fined the equivalent of 100 dollars.

Those who wanted an emigration permit had to pay a high severance fee, usually 5% of their property interest. The fees were paid by selling that interest in the land he farmed. The father was allowed to give his long-term homestead to his wife or son only with the permission of the lord. The regional court also collected taxes from the subjects, and some money always got stuck in the pockets of their officials. The lordship also needed a few coins. [bribes?]

The serfs could not testify in court or file a lawsuit, that was something only the nobility could do for them. According to new law in 1717, all complaints by peasants had to be referred to the nobility; after 6 months, if there was no response, they could turn to a regional court in Uničov, but it had practically no importance and bullying by the landlord against the complainer only increased.

Peasants did have some rights: In a time of emergency, they could ask for support, cereal for food or seed for sowing, at a 20-25% rate of interest. Their manor was required to maintain the buildings and pay for any damage caused by fire.

It wasn't until the reign of Maria Theresa that efforts started to be made to protect the peasants from cruel exploitation. It was not just about love for a neighbor, but because the state began to depend on the stable maintenance of the peasant farm land, as they were also taxpayers. Every fugitive serf meant the loss of a taxpayer for the state.

Rural farm lands were no longer allowed to join the manorial lands to avoid paying property taxes.

At the behest of Maria Theresa, all land was accurately measured and detailed cadastral maps were established. Even some of the German place names were changed due to Czech officials in charge of this project.

Empress Maria Theresa's Land Reform:

The important points:

- 1) Taxes should be determined on the basis of the soil's fertility and ability to raise crops.
- 2) Soil quality and fertility ratings were determined as of the year 1775.
- 3) Craftsmen, as well as weavers, if they made enough money to pay their taxes, more than 8.75 gold in the current year, will be allowed to continue to do their required craftwork. Family members who should pay higher taxes of as much as 8.75 gold, may continue to do their required cloth work.
- 4) Craftworkers should be required to provide labor to the Landlord as follows:
Tenant men or women may be required to work 13 days at most, each year.
*Tenants with a yearly tax of 52 ½ Kr per year with one person will do 26 days forced labor.
*Those who pay annual taxes more than 52 ½ Kr, but not more than 2 gold florins, 37 ½ Kr, that person will work 1 ½ weeks. [9 days]
*Those who pay more than 4 gold, 33 ¾ Kr, up to 8.45 golden coins, will work with one person 2½ days.
*Those who pay more than 8 gold, 45 krejcars will work with one person a week for 3 days.
- 5) Weavers:
*Those who pay from 8.45 gold florins to 13 gold florins, 7½ Kr will provide one pulling animal a week for 3 days.
*Those who pay 13 gold florins, 7½ Kr will provide 2 animals 3 days a week and also, from June 23 to Sept. 28 provide one person to do required manual labor for one day a week.
*Those who pay 26 gold florins, 15 Kr to 39 gold florins, 22½ Kr should provide 4 pulling animals 3 days a week and also, from June 23 to Sept. 28 provide one person to do required manual labor for three days a week. [Weavers usually worked during the cold weather and were idle during the summer.]

6) This concerns the subjects who have been obliged to spin flax for the Minister only: The weavers will be obliged to spin 1 piece of yarn, the seamstresses 2 pieces of yarn.

7) When doing their summer forced labor, from June to September, every worker is entitled to 1½ loafs of bread from the manor. If a holiday day falls on a scheduled work day, they must work the next day.

8) Full-day craftsmen or weavers required work hours:

*8 hours from October 1 to March 31, and

*12 hours from April 1 to September 30, two hours of which are allowed for meal and feeding livestock. At the time of harvesting, the Landlord may require an extension of the working time by 1-2 hours.

9) If there is a thunderstorm on the required work day and work cannot continue and the worker leaves for home, this time must be made up the next week.

10) Workers who are late to work or leave early must make up the missed hours the next day. For each missed day, unless a worker has a credible apology, he will work two days.

11) Workers must be notified of required hours by Sunday, unless the weather requires a change, in which case it must be reported early in the morning.

12) Mandatory labor must be done by healthy capable people, animals and tools. Peasants are not allowed to use sick animals or faulty tools. Too bad if this is the case.

13) The obligatory robot should be done well and conscientiously. No more sloppy forced because you think it is unnecessary or you don't want to work that day.

14) Outside of the required forced labor for the landlord, subjects are required to take patrols in the village by the church, maintain the roads to neighboring communities, and assist in putting out fires and abating floods.

15) Peasants who wrongly complain about the nobility, run out of money to pay taxes and are flat broke, are to be punished in prison wards, with the loss of their property interest, in addition to other punishments.

Strict adherence to these paragraphs was a real burden to serfs. If the rains had

been falling for several days, and the farmers had their grain cut down ready to gather up, waiting for better weather, and then, when the weather did improve, the soldier came and called them for the forced labor for the Landlord, it might mean the loss of their own personal crop.

If a storm came in the afternoon, they could go home, but they had to make up any time missed, even if it was a storm. So, it was that only old sick people and children stayed at home.

In the evenings, workers came home tired from the long hours of forced labor, but they had to go back to the manor again in the morning before sunrise. Sundays and holidays had to be celebrated. On Monday, the mandatory forced labor was called again. The able-bodied sons had to enlist in the army at age 14, the little children ran as messengers around the village, and the old ladies and grandmothers spun flax.

Young girls often had to serve for several years at the manor, and more than one pretty maiden had to buy her brother's freedom with her own innocence because the poverty in the house required it.

So, it happened that often the whole village rebelled against the government, but these village rebels were always brutally punished and the leaders ended up in prison starving to death.

The lord of the manor was very strict with the forced labor, as evidenced by the following writings: *"The magistrate, Lorenzo Mauler of Hradec, wrote in the estate records: "It is proven that Martins Greihs, quartermaster, missed some of his mandatory assignment and worked on Monday only. By our will and power, we order Lorenzo Mauler to be diligent to find out why Martin Greihs missed the assignment, and if he was drunk, he is to be sent to the dungeon for further punishment today."* The chains used then are still preserved at the municipal office in Nová Hradečná and their wear and tear shows that they were often used.

The landlord was not satisfied with just the "robot." The peasants also had to pay the Landlord tithes for the church, poultry, eggs, yarn, honey, and feathers. Although the subjects had the right to pay cash instead of their own food, peasants seldom had much money.

Since the Thirty Years' War, peasants have been prohibited from bearing weapons. In the Bradelský Forest's Gift Agreement, the subjects received the forest,

but they were not allowed to hunt in it. The chronicler noticed that the Bradelský forest is full of wild animals where deer, roe deer, lynx, wild cats, and wild boars make it their home. These beasts often caused great damage to field crops, yet requests and claims from the farmers were largely ignored.

From the 1600's, the estate at Úsov had its own brewery and distillery. In the local taverns, only beer brewed there could be served. In fact, for baptisms, weddings and funerals, the family serving beer had to buy a minimum amount of beer and spirits. For feasts and other local celebrations, the entire village also had to buy a certain amount. If guest came from out-of-town, the host had to pay up to 21 Kr each as a "foreign beer or spirits" fee.

In exchange for paying taxes, the landlord often allowed the villagers to use meadows, gardens and orchards. There was a mayor in every village owned by the Úsov Manor. The magistrate's office has also been bought for 300 gold coins payment. This office was not inherited at first. Previously, after the death of the mayor, the lord of the manor would appoint a new mayor, who appointed a new magistrate.

1741

- Birth of Marina Kressa (174-) on July 3rd. Her parents are Anton Kressa (1700-1772) and Marina Schmid (1703-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 212 Latin	3 Jul 1741	Graezio	Marina	Antonius Kreza	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna Fuchs Martinus Engel cooperator

1744

- Birth of Maria Eleonora Kressa (1744-) on February 13th. Her parents are Anton Kressa (1700-1772) and Marina Schmid (1703-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 221 Latin	13 Feb 1744	Graezio	Maria Eleonora	Antonius Kresa	Marina	Josephus Brachtl Susanna Frieb Unger

1763

- Marriage of Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-) of February 3rd.

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784			
Book Page	Date	Groom and Bride	Witnesses Priest
U IV 4 176 <i>Latin</i>	6 Feb 1763	Adolphus (b. 3 Jun 1738) son of Antonius Kressa farmer Magdalena (b. 23 Sep 1741) a daughter of Jacobus Hlawatey farmer at Grätz	Joannes Miller, miller Antonius Prachtl, tailor Both are from Graetz <i>Andreas Novak cooperator</i>

1764

- Birth of Johanna Kressa (1764-) on January 19th. Her parents are Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradecna (Markersdorf), 1760-1784						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 4 16 <i>Latin</i>	19 Jan 1764	Grötzio	<i>Johanna</i>	Adolphus Gressa farmer	Magdalena	Josephus Blahack, bricklayer Elisabetha wife of <i>hortulanus</i> Josephus Blahack Both are from Grötz <i>Andreas Novack cooperator</i>

1766

- Birth of Magdalena Kressa (1766-) on August 4th. Her parents are Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 4 29 <i>Latin</i>	4 Aug 1766	Graecio	<i>Magdalena</i>	Adolphus Gressa farmer	Magdalena	Josephus Blahack <i>hortulanus</i> Johanna wife of <i>hortulanus</i> Georgius Blahack Both are from Graetz <i>Andreas Miklick parson</i>

1769

- Birth of Josephus Kressa (1769-) on January 22nd. His parents are Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 4 44 German	22 Jan 1769	Graetzio	Josephus	Adolphus Gressa farmer	Magdalena	Georgius Blahack bricklayer Elisabetha wife of hortulanus Josephus Blahack Both are from Graetz Andreas Novack cooperator

1770

The mayor Lorenzo Mauler was awarded the hereditary position of magistrate, for which he had to pay 150 gold coins. He was freed from having to do forced labor for the Manor, for which he had to pay once and for all time 75 gold coins to the treasury in Úsov. He was also obliged to open a beer taproom in his house. If he wanted to sell the house, he had to pay a tax of 10% of the purchase price to the feudal coffers. The actual purchase contract relating to the mayor's home in Hradečná is still very well preserved and is written in gold lettering on parchment in German. It was issued by Prince Josef Wenzel Liechtenstein in 1770.

On September 9, King Friedrich II of Prussia proceeded through the village on the way to Uničov, where he met Austrian Emperor Josef II. For Uničov it was a rare sight to see two monarchs meet with their large entourages. It prompted the mayor of Hradec, Lorenz Mauler, to declare: *"By the orders of the Austrian government, all subjects are notified that in Uničov there is a rare meeting of our most merciful Emperor with the Prussian king. The city of Uničov is overcrowded and curious subjects are not allowed to go sightseeing; those who do will be thrown out. "Signed by Lorenz Mauler, mayor."*

Hradečná, like other villages in the estate, had to send watchmen to the castle in Úsov on certain days. Whoever did not obey was taken to the 'Chateau' in chains and imprisoned without food.

Under the reign of Maria Theresa, the land was measured, divided into tax classes and houses got numbers. Normally, the numbering began at the edge of the

village, which was close to the manor house or the church. The numbers ran consecutively to the small side down and the big ones back. The numbers are not consecutive today, as there was later either a division of the homestead and a second home built, or there was added a third house between two homes.

Such were the non-consecutive numbers 98 and 54, 82 and 44 on certain homesteads. If the owner or tenant died without blood heirs or as a result of the punishment [a lien] of his property, the Landlord was entitled to this property [escheat] and it was called a house of death. In such cases, the other villagers liked escheat because they could pay the “death tax” and claim the property. In Hradečná, the redemption of the death tax was only 1.52 fl, 4 hens, and 20 measures of oats.

1771

- Birth of Paulina Kressa (1771-) on September 2nd. Her parents are Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 4 57 German	2 Sep 1771 <i>marr. 24 Nov 1778</i>	Grötzio 24	<i>Paulina</i>	Kraesa Adolphus farmer <i>marr. 6 Feb 1765</i>	Magdalena	Blahack Georgius bricklayer <i>Elisabetha wife of hortulanus</i> Josephus Blahack Both are from Grötz <i>Carolus Wollmann chaplain</i>

1772

- Death of Anton Kressa (1700-1772) on July 22nd. He was the son of Andreas & Elizabeth Kressa

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
U IV 4 271 Latin	22 Jul 1772	Grötzio 33	Gressa Antonius <i>inquilinus</i>	72 years	--- <i>Andreas Novak cooperater</i> <i>Andreas Novak cooperater</i>

1774

- Birth of Magdalena Kressa (1774-) on July 4th. Her parents are Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 4 69 German	4 Jul 1774	Grötzio	Magdalena	Kraesa Adolphus farmer	Magdalena	Blahack Josephus <i>hortulanus</i> Elisabetha his wife Both are from Grötz Andreas Miklik parson

1775

It was Empress Maria Theresa, who on May 1, published “Edikt for Moravia and Silesia,” in which she forbade the superstition in *witchcraft*. She was a woman who was more enlightened than men and acted effectively against this terrible superstition.

1776

- Birth of Marianna Kressa (1776-) on August 16th. Her parents are Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 4 81 German	16 Aug 1776	Grötzio 34	Marianna	Kraesa Adolphus farmer	Magdalena	Blahack Josephus <i>hortulanus</i> Elisabetha his wife Both are from Grötz Carolus Wollmann cooperator

1778

- Birth of Theodorus Kressa (1778-1840) on October 25th. His parents are Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečna (Markersdorf), 1760-1784						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 4 93 German	25 Oct 1778	Grötzio 33	Theodorus	Adolphus Graessa farmer	Magdalena	Blahack Josephus <i>hortulanus</i> Elisabetha his wife Both are from Grötz Josephus Mük cooperator

Abolition of serfdom begins

1778

It was Emperor **Joseph II** (1780-1790), the son of Maria Theresa, who first tried to abolish serfdom. He was strongly impressed when he received a petitioner's question: "I am forced to work for the Emperor 4 days a week, I have to fish for him on the 5th day and on the 6th day I have to chase the game while the nobles hunt. The 7th day belongs to God. Consider, most merciful emperor, when do I work to pay taxes and tithes?"

On November 1, **Joseph II** published a renowned edict in which he dictated the end of serfdom; a sharp wind shook the feudal order of the Moravian nobility, who did not want to give up their unfair rights. In its place is the moderate submissiveness that prevailed in the hereditary Austrian lands. Many considered the heavy and oppressive serfdom in the Czech, Moravian and Silesian countries to be the worst in Europe.

Although the people were still to be subject to the landlords to a certain degree, they could, without permission of the Landlord, carry out crafts and artistic activities. They could move freely; the landlord had to issue a release sheet free of charge. A marriage permit was now free of charge. Mandatory services of young people at the castle was abolished. Only orphans who have lost both parents had to serve for a maximum of three years, but now earned normal wages.

A number of new decrees were issued that year including a regulation under which the High Court may impose punishments only if it has been reviewed by the Appellate Court. Prison sentences longer than 8 days may be imposed only by the District Court. Hradečná was subject to the District Court in Uničov. The distribution of farms must be authorized by the district court only if the divided farm is used by two families. The peasants may move to the city arbitrarily and the state was not allowed to evict them.

A small number of forced labor requirements was preserved. It was a necessity otherwise the large manors would have no labor at all.

After the abolition of serfdom, the Hradečná magistrate also signed a contract abolishing most forced labor from the residents. It also allowed them to pay to get out of any remaining work requirement:

Celoláník [*larger hereditary farmers who owned 1 hide or more*]: They will pay a tax on land, wine and a tax on spinning flax threads. Instead, of forced labor, the farmer can choose to pay 9 gold florins in quarterly installments. In addition, he will supply 5 logs of green hardwood and softwood timber free of charge, straightening them for free. In addition, he will supply 2 cart-loads of building wood and 1 tub of wine. In the autumn hunts, the farmer will send 1 beater. If the manor doesn't need this work, the farmer will pay: 24 Kr in lieu of each log of forest wood not needed; 30 Kr in lieu of each cart-load of building material not needed, and 4 florin in lieu of the wine.

Pololáník [*hereditary farmer who owned ½ hide*]: pay taxes of 3.2 fl - 2 denarii instead of the forced labor in 4 installments; they will also pay 1 honec for each of the 2 days, if they are not needed.

Čtvrtláník [*hereditary farmers who owned ¼ hide*]: pay taxes of 2,3 florins - 1 denarius, instead of the forced labor in 4 installments. They will also provide cloth, chop 8 cart-loads of hard and soft wood from the forest, 1 honec for each day.

Zahradní [*"Gardeners" who owned less than 10 acres*]: pay taxes of 1 florins, 36kr - 3 denarius. Instead of the forced labor, they may pay 4,3 fl. They will also trim 5 logs of woods, 1 honec for each day. Quarters and gardeners: if the ruler does not need the new wood, will pay 1 honec for each day.

Chalupník: [*"Cottagers" owned house and only a small yard or garden*]: pay taxes 12 kr - 2 denarii, instead of the forced labor: 2,10 florins.

The village of Hradečná paid a total of 324.37 gold florins in taxes; of that amount, 219.28 florins, 2½ denars, were in lieu of 1,275 weaving days and 4,632 days of craftsman days. Since few people had money, the fees were very cumbersome. [The village had to charge taxes in order to pay the manor.]

Joseph II also issued an Edict of Tolerance in 1781, in which he granted the Protestants and Jews religious freedom.

Joseph II also declared German as an additional state language. Non-German nations saw that as an attempt at Germanization, however, it must be recalled that 16 different languages were spoken in the Austrian monarchy: German was to be the common language. Representatives of the individual nations, living in Austria where the monarchy was located, spoke German to each other in the Viennese Parliament. [Moravia was a "province" or Margraviate of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.]

At this time, more French and Latin were spoken in the royal courts of Europe than the national language. Even in the court of Maria Theresa there was more French, and Joseph II himself, writing to his siblings, would write in French, because he could express himself better than in German or Latin.

Today, statues of this monarch [Josef II] are scattered everywhere. **Many of his regulations and decrees were eventually canceled because they did not work**, but one cannot deny that Joseph II brought considerable relief from the oppressive serfdom to the peasants in Bohemia and Moravia, as well as in the countryside. And it is in these countries that his statues, which grateful peasants, our ancestors built, are now being cut down [around 1920].

1782

- Birth of Barbara Kressa (1782-) on April 6th. Her parents are Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-).

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 4 114 German	6 Apr 1782	Grötzio 33	<i>Barbara</i>	Adolphus Kraesa farmer	Magdalena	Wollmann Josephus <i>hortulanus</i> Elisabetha wife of <i>hortulanus</i> Josephus Blahak Both are from Graetz Andreas Miklik parson

1785

Emperor Joseph II issued a new tax law that abolished the difference between taxation on rural and manorial/village land. [Manorial/villages land did not pay taxes to the crown previously] The tax was no longer taken by the prince himself, but by the local collector, who then gives it to the district collector. Josef II's scheme added large additional amounts of [manorial/village] land to the tax rolls, collecting additional funds. Josef II's system became a model for the whole of Europe. All plots, fields, meadows, forests, and orchards were individually measured and each plot numbered, so we have it today in the cadastral maps.

1786

Potatoes came to our region in 1786 when, on order of the landlord, seed potatoes were rationed out to the peasants for planting. Since then, potatoes have prevented the terrible famines that had occurred in many prior years. The King of Prussia, Friedrich II, had gotten the first potatoes in Germany in 1772.

1787

- Birth of Maria Eleonora Kressa on October 31st. Her parents are Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-).

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1785-1806						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 5 137 German	31 Oct 1787	Grätz 33	<i>Maria Eleonora</i>	Adolf Grässa farmer	Magdalena	Joseph Wollmann <i>Gertner</i> Eleonora his wife Carolus Wollmann <i>cooperator</i>

1789

The French Revolution of 1789 did not come to our village.

1790 AD – a record				
City	Meadows	Pastures	Horses	Cows
Úsov Manor	201	-	-	402
Úsov City	84	81	115	151
Bezděkov	10	40	13	16
Lazce	47	21	60	69
Dedinka	7	70	15	21
Hlivice	47	15	54	76
Králová	11	-	23	38
Hradečná	60	29	23	119
Medlov	100	91	237	200
Plinkouty	21	124	78	69
Šumvald	336	41	136	343
Zadní Újezd	8	39	24	27
Troubelice	100	75	132	108

1801

– Marriage of Theodorus Kressa (1778-1840) and Marianna Rysavy (1781-1842) on February 9th.

ZA Opava, filial at Olomouc, wedding registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1785-1806							
Book Page Tongue	Date	Number of house	Groom	Age Born	Bride	Age Born	Witnesses, Priest
U IV 11 54 German	9 Feb 1801	Grätz 33	Kressa Theodor farmer <i>b. 25 Oct 1778 at Grätz</i>	19 years cathol. single	Rissawy Marianna daughter of deceased farmer Johann Rissawy <i>b. 7 Dec 1781 at Grätz</i>	20 years cathol. single	Petrzik Joseph <i>Richter</i> at Lepinka 7 Kressa Jakob farmer from house nr. 13 <i>Antonius Weiser cooperator</i>

1803

– Birth of Mariana Kressa (1803-) on July 10. Her parents were Theodorus Kressa (1778-1840) and Marianna Rysavy (1781-1842).

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1785-1806						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 5 158 German	10 Jul 1803	Grätz 33	<i>Marianna marr. 1825</i>	Kresa Theodor farmer <i>marr. 9 Feb 1801 at Grätz</i>	Rissawy Marianna	Hanal Jakob farmer in Grätz 34 Blahak Barbara wife of Joseph Blahak farmer in Grätz 32 <i>Anton Weiser cooperator Stoss Johanna from Schönwald</i>

1805

However, the later Revolutionary [Napoleonic] Wars of Europe did come to Hradečná. In 1805, the desire for change flared up in Moravia. There was the “Battle of the 3 Emperors” at Austerlitz. [Napoleon defeated Prussian and Austrian troops southwest of Olomouc, near Brno]. Prussian military troops marched through our region. Hradečná was forced to supply food, war taxes, and local men, who were conscripted into the Prussian army.

In addition, this year, a heavy cloudburst stormed over Mount Bradlo and in Hradečná and neighboring Hradec there was such a flood that the water rolled through the windows of the homes.

On September 16, the village had to supply food to Olomouc for the troops 124 q hay. Then, on the 18th of November, the village was ordered to supply 38 measures of oats, 250 bread pies, 4 q of meat and 3 buckets of brandies for the Russian guards in Prostějov [a few miles sw of Olomouc].

On December 11, 20 men were drafted to work in Olomouc, fortifying the city.

1805 was a bad year for the crops. First there were the heavy rains, and a lot of grain was spoiled in the fields. The weather and the war cost the area dearly. One measure of rye now cost 20 florins. The unfortunate wars that Austria waged in the Napoleonic times drained the state budget. More and more paper money was printed and eventually the state economy collapsed.

1807

– **Birth of Eleonora Kressa (1807-) on September 17th. Her parents were Theodorus Kressa (1778-1840) and Marianna Rysavy (1781-1842).**

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1807-1833						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 7 106 German	17 Sep 1807	Grätz 33	<i>Eleonora</i>	Kressa Theodor farmer	Marianna Rischawy	Blahak Joseph farmer in Grätz 32 Johanna wife of Joseph Hannal farmer in Grätz 34 <i>Karl Wollmann parson</i> <i>Magdalena Gabriel from Markersdorf 7</i>

1811

- According to the Financial Edict on March 15th, the value of paper money was reduced to one fifth of its previous value. The gold florin used to be worth 30 Kr now, only 12 Kr. The price of food grew immensely: 1 wheat bushel is now 30 fl; 1 bushel of rice and rye now 27 florins; 1 bag of sugar 5 1/2 fl. People whose savings consisted of paper-based banknotes became beggars overnight. The situation improved only after the issue of a conventional coin-based currency, instead of the Vienna paper currency. The new 1-euro coin from Vienna now equals 24 conventional paper currencies.

- Birth of Theodor Kressa (1811-1841) on March 2nd. His parents were Theodorus Kressa (1778-1840) and Marianna Rysavy (1781-1842).

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradecna (Markersdorf), 1807-1833						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 7 112 German	2 Mar 1811	Grätz 33	<i>Theodor</i>	Kressa Theodor farmer	Marianna Rischawy	Blahak Joseph farmer in Grätz 32 Johanna widow of Joseph Hannal farmer in Grätz 34 <i>Johann Gabriel cooperater</i> <i>Barbara Dobess from Treibnitz</i>

1813

- Birth of Franz Kressa (1813-) on July 26th. His parents were Theodorus Kressa (1778-1840) and Marianna Rysavy (1781-1842).

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradecna (Markersdorf), 1807-1833						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 7 115 German	26 Jul 1813	Grätz 33	<i>Franz</i>	Kressa Theodor farmer	Rischawy Marianna	Joseph Blahak farmer in Grätz 32 Hannal Johanna widow and Ausgedingerin in Grätz 20 <i>Karl Wollmann parson</i> <i>Johanna Mauler from Markersdorf</i>

1815

There were 20,000 Russian foot soldiers and donkeys camped in Uničov. Farmers in Hradečná had to provide blankets to the ones in Moravská Třebová [west of Hradečná]. Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo this year.

1818

A hail storm caused great damage to Hradec.

1820

Calmer times came again.

1832

Hradec suffered its first cholera epidemic in 1832-33. This disease originated in the Orient; it was previously unknown in Europe.

- Marriage of Theodor Kressa (1811-1841) and Theresia Kleker (1814-1898) on February 28

ZA Opava, wedding registers of catholic parish Mohelnice (Müglitz), 1800-1833							
Book Page Tongue	Date	Number of house	Groom	Age Born	Bride	Age Born	Witnesses, Priest
Mh I 28 135 German	28 Feb 1832	Grätz 33 Liebein 36	Kressa Theodor farmer in Grätz son of Theodor Kressa, farmer from Grätz and of Marianna a daughter of Thomas Rischawi, farmer from Grätz	21 years cathol. single	Theresia daughter of Johann Klecker farmer at Liebein and of + Veronika daughter of + Mathias Domess a daughter of Gärtler from Schützendorf	24 years cathol. single	Isidor Schubert farmer at Liebein Franz Mennel Gärtler at Schützendorf Antonius Weiser cooperator
+++ I Theodor Kressa father of the minor groom, give him my permission for the marriage							

1834

- Birth of Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) on August 31, son of Theodor Kressa (1811-1841) and Theresia Kleker (1814-1898)

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1834-1865						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 8 175 German	31 Aug 1834 1 Sep 1834	Grätz 33	Theodor	Theodor Kressa farmer b. 2 Mar 1811 at Grätz	Theresia daughter of Johann Kleker retired farmer from Liebein	Franz Kressa shoemaker Anna wife of tanner Franz Kappel Franz Kral cooperator Johanna Mauler from Markersdorf

1837

There was again a hail in our village that caused great damage.

1838

-Birth of Theresia Kressa (1838-) on June 26, daughter of Theodor Kressa (1811-1841) and Theresia Kleker (1814-1898)

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1834-1865						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 8 179 German	26 Jun 1838 26 Jun 1838 <i>marr. 24 Nov 1859 at Grätz</i>	Grätz 33	<i>Theresia</i>	Theodor Kressa farmer <i>b. 2 Mar 1811 at Grätz</i>	Theresia daughter of Johann Kleker farmer from <u>Liebein</u> and of Veronika a daughter of Franz Klein from <u>Schüzendorf</u>	Franz Kappel tanner here Magdalena wife of Franz Kressa shoemaker here <i>Franz Kral cooperater Johanna Mauler from Markersdorf 14</i>

1840

- Death of Theodorus Kressa (1778-1840) on March 28. His parents were Adolf Kressa (1738-) and Magdalena Hlavaty (1763-).

ZA Opava, death registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1807-1859					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
U IV 15 123 German	28 Mar 1840 30 Mar 1840	Grätz 33	Theodor <u>Grössa, Ausgedinger</u>	70 years	Lung tuberculosis <i>Czernoch Franz cooperater Czernoch Franz cooperater</i>

1841

- Death of Theodor Kressa (1811-1841) on January 27

ZA Opava, death registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1807-1859					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
U IV 15 123 German	27 Jan 1841 29 Jan 1841	Grätz 33	<u>Grössa Theodor, farmer at Grätz</u>	30 years	Nasal <u>polyp</u> <i>Czernoch Franz cooperater Hübl Franz parson</i>

- Marriage of widow, Theresia Kleker Kressa (1814-1898) to Laurenz Blahak (1819-1886) on July 5

ZA Opava, wedding registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1841-1883							
Book Page Tongue	Date	Number of house	Groom	Age Born	Bride	Age Born	Witnesses, Priest
U IV 13 96 German	5 Jul 1841	Markersdorf 46 Grätz 33	Laurenz, son of Johann Blahak farmer from Markersdorf, and of mother Juditha a daughter of Weigel Johann farmer from Markersdorf	22 years cathol. single	Theresia a widow of + Theodor Grössa farmer from Grätz	27 years cathol. widow	Kappel Franz tanner Langer Johann farmer Both are from Grätz <i>Hakl Franz parson</i>
<i>I, father of the minor groom give him my permission to marry, proved by signature of me and signatures of 2 witnesses Johann Blahak father of the groom Kappel Franz tanner here Langer Johann farmer here</i>							

- Death of Marianna Rysavy Kressa (1781-1842) on November 15th. Her husband was Theodorus Kressa (1778-1840).

ZA Opava, death registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1807-1859					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
U IV 15 124 German	15 Nov 1842 17 Nov 1842	Grätz 33	Marianna widow of Grössa Theodor <i>Ausgedinger</i> here	64 years	Lung tuberculosis <i>Czernoch Franz cooperato</i> <i>Hübl Franz parson</i>

1843

An outbreak of potato blight occurred in Hradečná and the surrounding area, ruining the crop.

1845

Our peasants were asking permission to convert part of the pastures into fields.

1846

The price of wheat was 12 fl., Rye 10 fl., Barley 8 fl. and potatoes 4 fl. Vienna currencies.

1848

The village was excited by the events in Vienna. In particular was the March Revolution and the escape of the State Chancellor, Prince Metternich, to England.

On July 22nd, Archbishop Jan will start the Roman Union.

On Sept. 7th Hans Kudlich, an activist and politician, lead the movement to end the feudal policies which required farmers to provide labor without compensation to the noble landowners.

Kudlich was himself a farmer's son from Opava who brought freedom to the peasants. As a leading fighter for freedom and law, he participated as a legionnaire in the street wars in Vienna. He was arrested and sentenced to death, but managed to escape to Switzerland, where he studied medicine with great difficulty. He then moved to the United States and died of old age, [New Jersey, 1917, age 94]. After World War I, his remains were transferred and buried in his birthplace [Opava]. Grateful peasants built a memorial there.

The parliamentary commissions specified the compensation to be paid to the heads of state. 1/3 of the farmers income is kept by the subjects, 1/3 is paid to village and state government, and 1/3 to the crown. Amounts up to 50 fl. is paid in cash. Higher amounts will be paid with interest in 20 annual installments. The Rijski Assembly, which approved these laws, was dissolved. Freedom was suppressed again.

But on October 5, the Revolution broke out again and on 15 November the Strasbourg Assembly was transferred to Kroměříž.

On December 2, Emperor Ferdinand abdicated.

1849

On March 27, the Constitutional Act was issued.

1850

The new government in Vienna created a number of District governments. Hradečná is under the rule of the office in Litovel. Prussian military units moved again.

1852

Cholera broke out in our village and surrounding villages.

1854

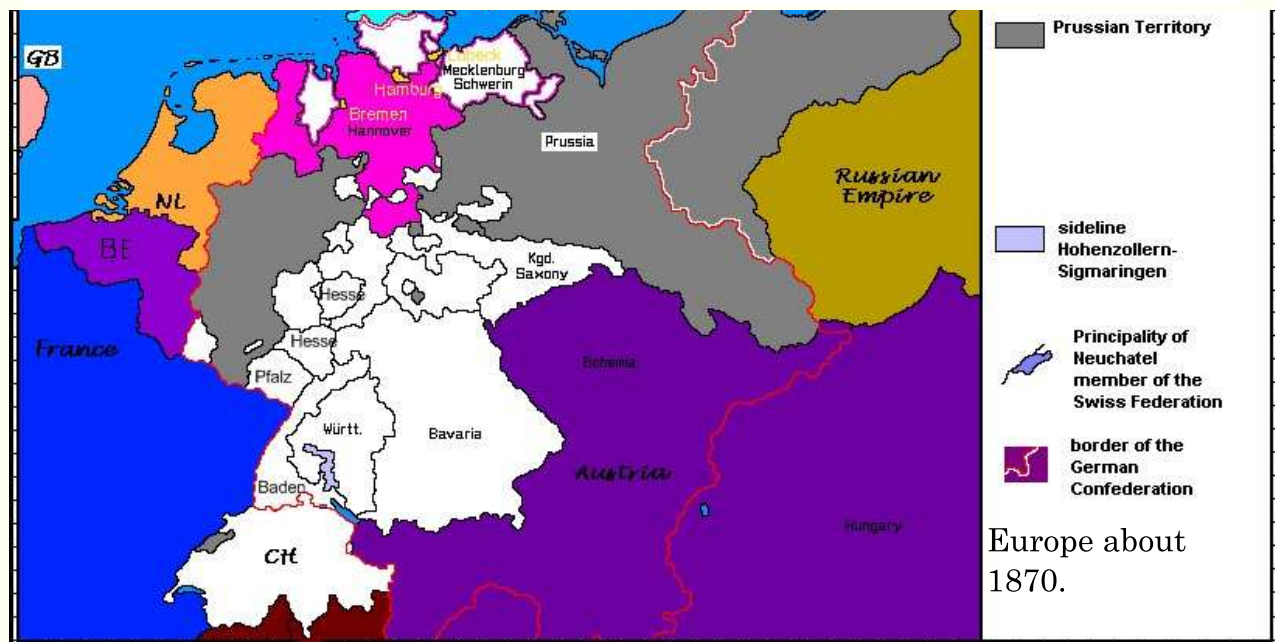
Emperor Franz Joseph I married Bavarian princess Elizabeth. In the parish church the port was celebrated and the Hymn of Praise was attended by the municipal council.

1855

On January 3rd, 4th and 5th, a strange heavenly phenomenon could be seen here. Before sunset, a large number of equally large spheres formed around the sun, bouncing around the sun.

- Theodore Kressa (1834-1915) and Cecilia Perikovsky (1836-1892) are married on May 7, 1855.

May 7 th ,							
Book Page Tongue	Date	Number of house	Groom	Age Born	Bride	Age Born	Witnesses, Priest
U I 27 33 <i>German</i>	7 May 1855	Grätz 33 Schröffelsdorf 1	Kressa Theodor farmer in Grätz son of Theodor Kressa, farmer from Grätz and of Theresia a daughter of Joh. Klecker, farmer at Libein	21 <u>years</u> cathol. single	Zázilia daughter of Johann Perikofsky, oversee in Schröffelsdorf and of Theresia a daughter of Franz Klement farmer at Storzendorf	18 <u>years</u> cathol. single	Franz Kotschi farmer at Grätz Karl Brauner farmer at Salbnuss <i>Hubert Heidenreich</i>
+++ I father of the minor bride, give her my permission for the marriage <i>Johann Perikofsky, father</i> <i>Lorenz Blhak, witness</i> <i>Franz Kressa, witness</i>							



1856-58

Theodor and Cecilia Kressa's first three children were born - and died - not long after their birth. They were Theodor, Anna, and Amalia. These names were later "recycled" with the births of their next 7 children.

1859

On February 25, houses No. 29, 30, 31 were burned here.

1860

- Birth of Cecilia Kressa (1860-), on 7 July 1860 at Hradec 33 Her parents were Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) and Cecilia Perikovsky (1836-1892).

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1834-1865						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 8 211 <i>German</i>	7 Jul 1860 8 Jul 1860	Grätz 33	<u>Cäcilia</u>	Theodor Grössa farmer in Grätz	Cäcilia daughter of Johann Girikowsky, farmer in Schröffelsdorf and of Theresia a daughter of Franz Klement farmer at Storzendorf	Johann Polaschek farmer in Ribnik Marina wife of Franz Hamal farmer in Grätz 44 <i>Franz Schott priest at M. Neustadt Barb. Schön from Grätz 41</i>

1862

- Birth of Theodor Kressa (1862-1935) on 22 June 1862 at Hradec 33. His parents were Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) and Cecilia Perikovsky (1836-1892). He took his brother Theodor's name (1864-1856) who died in infancy.

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1834-1865						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 8 214 <i>German</i>	22 Jun 1862 23 Jun 1862	Grätz 33	<u>Teodor</u>	Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz	Caecilia daughter of Johann Girikowsky, farmer in Schröffelsdorf and of Theresia a daughter of Franz Klement farmer at Storzendorf	Franz Hamal farmer in Grätz Anna wife of Johann Polaschek farmer in Ribnik <i>Johann Partsch parson Barbara Schön from Grätz 41</i>

1865

On July 16, there was a terrible fire in the village. Houses no. 34, 37, 38, 69, 83, 88 had burnt to the ground by 10 o'clock. It is noted here that the Kressas lived in house #33. In a space of six years five houses in their immediate vicinity burned down, including one next door!

1866

On February 20, house No. 6 was burned down.

- Birth of Amalia Kressa (1866-1932) on 10 July at Hradec 33. Her parents were Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) and Cecilia Perikovsky (1836-1892). She took the name of her sister Amalia (1858-1858), who died in infancy.

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1866-1894						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 10 172 <i>German</i>	10 Jul 1866 12 Jul 1866	Grätz 33	Amalia	Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz, son of Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz and of Theresia a daughter of Johann Kleker from Libein	Cäcilia daughter of Johann Girikowsky, farmer in Schröffelsdorf and of Theresia a daughter of Franz Klement farmer at Storzendorf	Johann Polaschek farmer in Rybnik Franziska Perikowsky single daughter of Johann Girikowsky farmer at Schröffelsdorf Ant. Bitt parson Barbara Schön from Markersdorf 13

Another war broke out between Austria and Prussia this year. As a result of the Austrian defeat at Hradec Králové, [almost 55,000 casualties, 80% of them Austrian] Austria retreats from the German countries. Hradečná had to supply straw and hay to Bohemia. It also had to give the soldiers clothing. The Austrians got as far as Olomouc when the Prussians caught up with them and punished them. After the armistice, many Prussian soldiers camped out in Hradečná in the fields. They had a whole field battery with cannons. The Hradečná residents generally praised Prussia. The soldiers helped the peasants diligently in harvesting and other field work. But they brought with them something bad too...cholera. On August 22 to October 20, Hradec and Hradečná once again had another cholera outbreak, causing many sacrifices.

1867

On July 27th A storm over Mount Bradlo caused a great flood and the accompanying hail again destroyed the crop.

1868

- Birth of Aloisia Kressa on 10 July at Hradec 33. Her parents were Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) and Cecilia Perikovsky (1836-1892).

ZA Opava, death registers of Catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1886-1913						
U IV 10 175 <i>German</i>	10 Jul 1868 12 Jul 1868	Grätz 33	Aloisia	Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz, son of Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz and of Theresia a daughter of Johann Kleker from <u>Libein</u> <i>b. 31 Aug 1834 Gr.</i>	<u>Cäcilia</u> daughter of Johann <u>Girikowsky</u> , farmer in Schröffelsdorf and of Theresia a daughter of Franz <u>Klement</u> farmer at <u>Storzendorf</u>	Josef Schenk trader from <u>Schönwald</u> Anna Polaschek, wife of <u>Johann Polaschek</u> farmer in <u>Ribnik</u> <i>Ant. Bitt parson</i> <i>Barbara Schön from Markersdorf 13</i>

1870

At the beginning of the 1870's, a lot of excitement broke out in Hradečná when it was announced that a railroad would be built from Olomouc to Šumperk, and that the tracks would be built near our village.

1871

- Birth of Anna Kressa on March 14 at Hradec 33. Her parents were Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) and Cecilia Perikovsky (1836-1892). She took the name of her sister Anna (1857-1857), who died in infancy.

ZA Opava, death registers of Catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1886-1913						
U IV 10 180 <i>German</i>	14 Mar 1871 15 Mar 1871	Grätz 33	Anna	Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz, son of Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz and of Theresia a daughter of Johann Kleker from <u>Libein</u>	<u>Cäcilia</u> daughter of Johann <u>Girikofsky</u> , farmer in Schröffelsdorf 1 and of Theresia a daughter of Franz <u>Klement</u> farmer at <u>Storzendorf</u>	Josef Schenk trader from <u>Schönwald</u> Anna Polaschek, wife of <u>Johann Polaschek</u> farmer in <u>Ribnik</u> <i>Ant. Bitt parson</i> <i>Barbara Schön from Markersdorf 13</i>

1872

In August of 1872, the necessary land was purchased for a railroad and in September 1872 the construction was commenced by Italian workers and completed in 1873. The most difficult work was in Rumpelloch, where the rock had to be blasted. There was also a bridge that had to be replaced by a larger bridge.

1873

– Birth of Adolf Franz Kressa on April 4 at Hradec 33. His parents were Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) and Cecilia Perikovsky (1836-1892).

†

ZA Opava, death registers of Catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1886-1913						
U IV 10 184 <i>German</i>	4 Apr 1873 5 Apr 1873	Grätz 33	Adolf	Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz, son of Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz and of Theresia a daughter of Johann Kleker from <u>Libein</u>	<u>Cäcilia</u> daughter of Johann <u>Girikowsky</u> , farmer in Schröffelsdorf and of Theresia a daughter of Franz <u>Klement</u> from <u>Storzendorf</u>	Johann <u>Polaschek</u> farmer in Rybnik Franziska wife of Josef Schenk trader at <u>Schönwald</u> <i>Johann Schramm cooperador Barbara Schön from Markersdorf 13</i>

On Monday, August 18th, on the birthday of Emperor Franz Joseph I, the Emperor rode through Hradečná on the first train. People stared openly at this technical miracle, and the old women prophesied the end of the world.

On October 14th the rail line from Olomouc to Šumperk and Hanušovice was opened to public use.

1876

– Birth of Josef Ferdinand Kressa on February 13 at Hradec 33 His parents were Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) and Cecilia Perikovsky (1836-1892).

ZA Opava, death registers of Catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1886-1913						
U IV 10 191 <i>German</i>	13 Feb 1876 15 Feb 1876	Grätz 33	Josef Ferdinand	Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz, son of Theodor Kressa farmer in Grätz and of Theresia a daughter of Johann Kleker from <u>Libein</u>	<u>Cäcilia</u> daughter of Johann <u>Girikowsky</u> , farmer in Schröffelsdorf 1 and of Theresia a daughter of Franz <u>Klement</u> from <u>Storzendorf</u>	Josef <u>Senk Gärtler</u> and trader from <u>Schönwald</u> <i>Anna Polaschek, wife of Johann Polaschek farmer in Ribnik Johann Schramm cooperador Barbara Schön from Markersdorf 13</i>

1884

- Kressa family moves to Girsig, aka Jirikov.

1885

- First Kressa son, Theodore Kressa (1862-1938), emigrates to the United States:

1888

- Three more Kressas emigrate from Girsig, Moravia, Austro-Hungarian Empire to the United States: Amalia Kressa (1866-1932); Anna Kressa (1871-1957); and Adolf Franz Kressa (1873-1950). All the names changed to Kresha after arrival in the United States.

1890

- Theodor and Cecilia Kressa accompany youngest son Joseph Ferdinand Kressa to the United States. They do not stay and return. They also take Amalia's baby Louis (Kuhnel) to be reunited with his parents. Joseph Ferdinand finds work.

1892

- Death of Cecilia Perikovsky(1836-1892) on July 3, in Jirikov, Moravia, now Czechia.

Magistrate of Rymarov, death registers of catholic parish Girsig (Jirikov) 1869-1911					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
--- 74 <i>German</i>	3 Jul 1892 5 Jul 1892 <i>Married for 27 years</i>	Girsig 36	Cecilia Krössa wife of Theodor Krössa, retired farmer in Girsig, a daughter of Johann Perikowsky, farmer in Schröffelsdorf, and of his wife Theresia, a daughter of Franz Klement, farmer at Storzendorf	55 years 8 months 11 days	Stomachic cancer <i>Franz Nitsch parson</i> <i>Franz Nitsch parson</i>

1895

- Theodor Kressa (1834-1915), a widow, remarries at Saint Lawrence Catholic Church to Rosalia on May 14th. (see death record on next page)

1898

- Theodor Kressa's Grandmother, Theresia Kleker Blahak dies on May 16 at Hradec 33

ZA Opava, death registers of Catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1886-1913					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
U IV 20 56 <i>German</i>	16 May 1898 18 May 1898	Grätz 33	Blahak Theresia widow of Laurenz Blahak <i>Ausgedinger</i> in Grätz, daughter of Johann Kleker farmer in Libein nearby Müglitz and of his wife Veronika nee Klein	84 years	Cerebral hemorrhage <i>Thomas Sokele parson</i> <i>Theophil Balcarek cooperador</i>

1915

- Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) died on November 13 at Hradec 33

OU Troubelice, death registers of Catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1914-1949					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
U IV 31 7 <i>German</i>	13 Nov 1915 15 Nov 1915 Markersdorf	Grätz 33	Kressa Theodor married <i>Ausgedinger</i> in Grätz, son of Theodor Kressa, farmer in Grätz and of his wife Theresia a daughter of Johann Kleker b. 31 Aug 1833 in Grätz marr. 14 May 1895	82 years 2 months 13 days	Marasmus <i>senilis</i> [progressive <i>atrophy</i> oft he aged] <i>Franz Kopecky parson</i> <i>Cyrrill Novak cooperador</i>

This completes the first section outlining the history of the Kresha family before they came to the United States in the late 1880's-1890. The "tables" are translations from the original Church Records online at the Zemsky Archiv in Opava, Czechia. (ZA Opava). The Church, the year range, the book volume, page number, and the language are noted to enable you to find it yourself. They are handwritten and not easy. The 2018 online link is <http://vademezum.archives.cz>.

The next section focuses on the main couple, Theodor Kressa and Cecilia Perikovsky and their story.

Part Two:

The Parents of the Kresha's

All American Kresha's descend from this couple:



Theodor Kressa



Cecilia Perikovsky

Theodor Kressa was born in Grätz, Moravia in House #33 on August 31, 1834. Finding that house today, it is now House #163 in Nová Hradečná, Czechia. His father was Theodor Kressa, one of only two children. He had a sister, Theresia, born in 1838. Trouble found the family, as Theodor's father, also named Theodor, died of tuberculosis when he was only 7 years old. His dad was only 30. His grandfather, Theodorus Kressa, had died the year earlier at age 70.

Theresia, his mother and just 27, was left with two small children and no way to make a living, so she did the next best thing. Five months later, she married Laurenz Blahak, from a family they had known for generations. So 7-year-old Theodor was raised by a step-father. His mother then had 5 more children with her new husband, three girls and two boys. Theodor was the oldest of the seven children in the home.

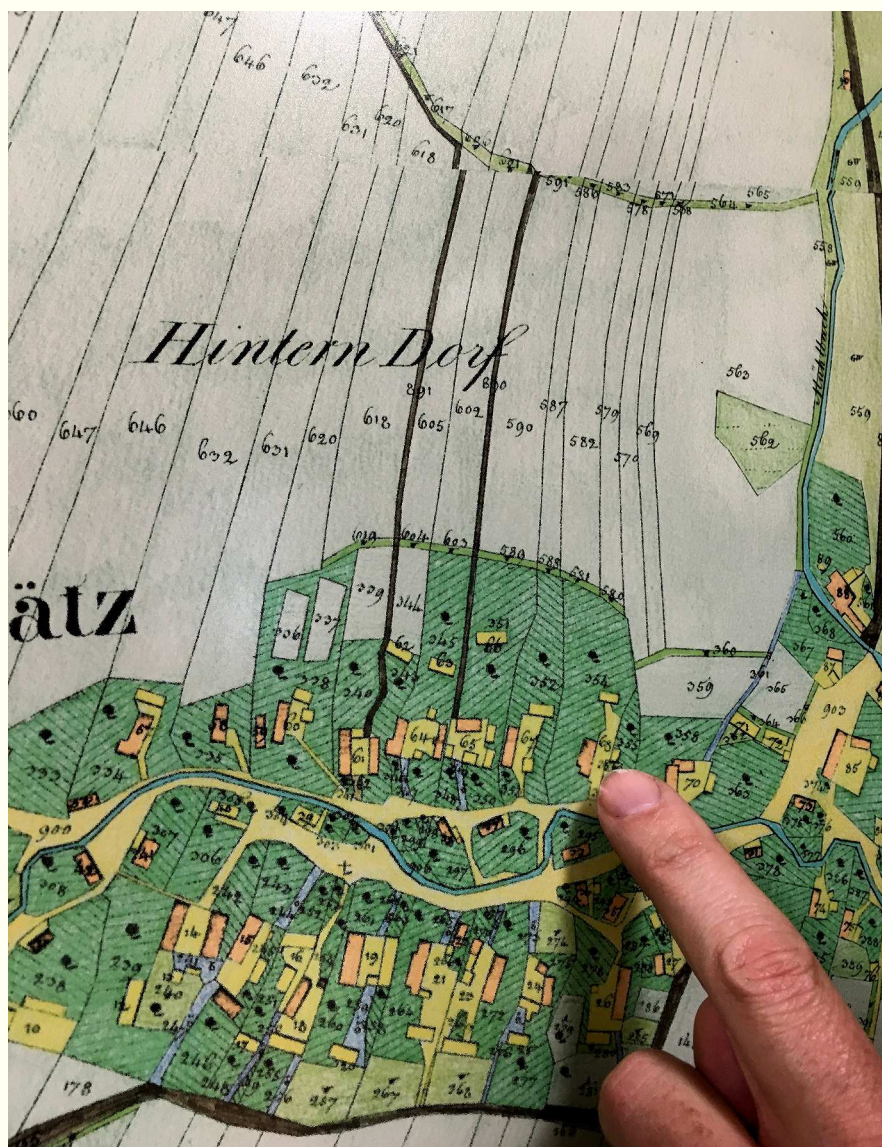
Theodor got married to Cecilia Perikovsky, from nearby Nova Dedina, around 1855. Theodor was about 21 and Cecilia about 19. They started their family but had a string of bad luck, as their first three children died not long after birth. They were named Theodor, Anna, and Amalia. They kept trying and had seven more children, all of whom lived during the next 17 years. As was common in those days, the names were "recycled" and the seven children who survived childhood were Cecilia, Theodor, Amalia, Aloisia, Anna, Adolf, and Josef.

Theodor came from a long line of farmers, back at least 500 years. The earliest records of Kressas are from the 1600's but the German Bohemians started coming a long time before that. The Kressas were peasants for centuries, farming the same

plot of land for the Lord of Úsov Manor in Úsov. At the time of the immigration of the Kressa children to the United States, the land was owned by the Liechtenstein Family, the same ones who consolidated their wealth into what is now the small German-speaking country of 62 square miles between Austria and Switzerland. The country is technically a principality and a constitutional monarchy headed by a Prince.

A variety of crops were grown on the small farm. The status of the Kressas is thought to be that of *Čtvrtláník* or *Zahradni*, or someone who had a farm house, barn, and about 15-18 acres of land.

This class of farmers often had long skinny plots of land about 30 yards wide and very long. The crops varied, but included beans, flax and wheat. Theodor might also have grown potatoes and corn. He would have had chickens, cows, and a couple of horses to help with plowing or taking food or material other places. His oldest son, Theodore Kressa, was a blacksmith and shoemaker by trade, so it seems likely that he learned it from his Dad. In the summer time, they would have had fresh vegetables and in the fall some apples or nut from trees in the front yard.



This way, the Kressas would have been able to grow enough food to live and pay their taxes, which were quite heavy. You've read about the forced labor (robots) that peasants had to perform for the landlords or go to jail...and starve. Serfdom had been abolished just recently, in 1848, yet the Kressas still had to pay 2/3 of what they produced to the local authorities and the Austrian Emperor, Franz Joseph. Note that it was common to name children after the emperor or others in authority as a way to ensure good luck later in life.

The Kressa family and later Blahak family again had a couple of cows for milk and cheese, chickens for eggs and occasional soup, hogs for meat. After doing their own butchering, they would store the meat in 5-gallon crocks, covered with hot lard. When a larger animal was butchered, the fresh meat was shared with neighbors, relatives, and friends, who later returned the favor when they butchered. Some of the meat was also made into sausage, which they made with the casings from the butchering and later smoked at the community smokehouse.

In the fall, the root crops (such as potatoes, beets, turnips and carrots) were dug up and stored in a pit near the foundation of the house, where the warmth from the fireplace inside would prevent the pit from frost and freezing weather. Cabbage was turned into sauerkraut, which would keep all year. There was a good-sized cabbage patch, with the children providing the garden labor. In later years, the villagers were allowed to go into the Bradelský forest and pick fruits and nuts; they just weren't allowed to hunt.

The trauma of losing his father early on in life, being raised by a step-father and mother who needed his help to take care of six younger children in the family, getting married and losing his first THREE children must have been tough. That might have been some of what is behind this story from one of Theodor's grandchildren:

“Farming with horses, Theodor had a violent temper. One time the horses refused to pull the plow in the field and Theodor became so frustrated that he left the horses in the middle of the field, with the plow still in the furrow, and walked home, “taking to bed” to cool off. His wife, Cecilia, had to walk out to the field, calm down the horses, and finish plowing the field.”

***Note: A detailed description of life without electricity, etc. is found in the Section Story of Adolf Franz Kresha, page 178.



The above is House #163, which is the same lot that was #33 in Theodor's time and centuries before that. After the drastic changes to the country during World War I and World War II, the German-speaking peoples who had sympathized with Germany were expelled and their homes given to Czech nationals. The homes have also been remodeled to maintain and modernize them. The barn in the back may be original to Theodor's time. (next page)

Theodor's first child Theodore emigrated in 1885 (according to the 1920 US census) at about the age of 19. In 1888, the Kressas sent three more to the US, in part to avoid the universal drafting of teens as young as 15. Franz Joseph I started a war against Prussia, but lost; it included a battle not far from Nová Hradečná that had 44,313 casualties in one day, many of them teenagers at the frontlines. She vowed not



to let that happen to her son, Adolf. The railroad came through Nova Hradečná in 1873, which allowed Cecilia take the train to a factory in Uničov each day to earn money for the family and to send 14-year-old Adolf Franz to the United States to join his brother Theodore and avoid the draft. Amalia and her sister Anna joined Adolf on the long journey that involved a train ride to Hamburg, Germany, a transatlantic voyage, and another long train ride from New York to Nebraska. Now there were four siblings and one grandson in the United States.



The backyard had many trees in 2015 and appeared to have been cut off from any farmland. Electrical transmission towers were behind it, along with newer constructed homes.

1881 Josef Blahak
 1892 Wilhelm Ficker
 1895 Wilhelm a Marie Ficker

1849 Josef Blahak
 1883 Josef a Theresia Ficker
 1893 Wilhelm a Sophia Ficker

 Dům č. 33, selská usedlost

?	Johann Nemluvil	1678	Wenzel Nemluvil
1692	Wenzel Polach ze Šumvaldu	1701	Bart Plach
1720	Georg Scheibappel	1737	Hans Achsmann
1742	Anton Krsser-Grötzer	1763	Adolf Kressa
1799	Theodor Krsser- Krägser	1829	Theodor Kressa
1855	Theodor Kressa a Cäcilie	1884	Johann a Emerentia Meitner
1911	Johann a Walburga -dcera, Maitner		
1911	Emil a Walburga /ROZ. Maitner/ Spurny		

A number of things happened, but sometime during the 1880's, around 1884, they moved to a house in Jirikov (Girsig), CZ. The Kressas were at House 33/163 in Hradec since 1742, according to the above record in the village office. Note that there is a new tenant in House #33 in 1884, Johann & Emerentia Meitner.

As to Girsig, the records show that Amalia gave birth to Alois Theodor Kressa on June 19, 1887 at House #34 in Girsig. The place for father was vacant. It is believed that this was Alfred Kuhnel and that the family eventually united in the United States.

Amalia Kressa (b. 10 Jul 1866) had one son born out of wedlock. He was born on 19 June 1887 at Jirikov 34

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Jirikov (Girsig), 1860-1887

Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
R VII 6 101 German	19 Jun 1887 20 Jun 1887	Girsig 34	Alois Theodor	vacant	Amalia Kressa, single daughter of Theodor Kressa, farmer in Girsig and of his wife Caecilia daughter of Johann Pirsikovsky (sic!) from Schröffelsdorf	Johann Thiel farmer in Braunseifen Theresia Schmidt <u>wife of Josef Schmidt Ausgedinger</u> in Unter Langendorf <u>Gottfried Mudrak parson</u> <u>Amalia Stanzel from Braunseifen 47</u>

Given that they did not live at House #33 in Nová Hradečná anymore, and had indeed moved to Girsig, now Jirikov which is about 45 miles east of Nová Hradečná, we can assume that Theodor was there too.

The key photo that was made just before Adolf and his sisters traveled in the summer of 1888, there was a family portrait taken because the family had been split up already. Son Theodore was there for a visit from the US, Cecilia had married, widowed, and remarried to Johan Thiel, and now three children were leaving for the United States.

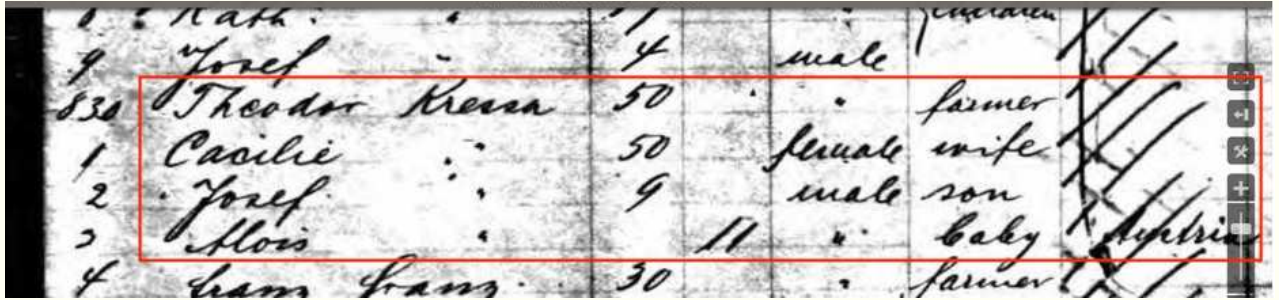


Family Picture taken in 1888. (L-R Back) Amelia Kresha Kuhnel, Adolf Kresha, John Thiele, (Cecelia's husband), Josef Kresha, Anna Kresha Karges. (L-R Front) Ceccila Kresha Thiele and baby, Aloisia Kresha Weixler Badstieber, Theodor Kresha (father), Cecilia Kresha (mother) holding grandson Louis (Amelia's), Anna Kresha Karges.

An expanded explanation of the photo:

L-R Back Standing: Amelia Kresha Kuhnel, Adolf Kresha, John Thiel, (Cecilia's husband), Josef Ferdinand Kresha, and Anna Kresha Karges. L-R Front Seated: Cecilia Kressa Thiel, holding her son Franz Joseph Thiel, Aloisia Kressa (Weixler), father Theodor Kressa, mother Cecilia Perikovsky Kressa holding her grandson Alois Theodore (Louis Walter Kuhnel). Names are birth names; eventual names are in parenthesis.

Two years later, in 1890, Theodor must have been talked into visiting the United States to accompany his youngest child, Joseph Ferdinand, who was now about 15 (he was born in 1876) and check it out. They took the train to Hamburg, Germany, and got on board the “Augusta Victoria” headed for New York. The date was May 15, 1890. With him was Cecilia, Josef Franz, and baby Alois. Presumably baby Alois went along to be delivered to his mother, Amelia.



The Kressas arrived in New York on May 24th from Hamburg that had a stop in Southampton, England. It was a total of 9 days at sea. They took a train from New York to Nebraska after passing quarantine. A story told by Dolores Smagacz Nyffler was that it was a hot and humid summer in Nebraska that year and every day Theodor and Cecilia would go into the potato cellar where it was cool. They would close the door and sit there all day long. When it was time to return to the “Old Country,” there was no way they could be convinced to stay and live in America!

Theodor and Cecilia went back to Girsig, where they had two daughters. Daughter Cecilia was having a hard time, as her first child had died (the one in the picture) and she was pregnant with her second who took the same name Joseph Franz Thiel, born March 26, 1891.

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Ryžoviště (Braunseifen), 1885-1901						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
R X 19 60 German	13 Jan 1888 15 Jan 1888 + 23 Oct 1889	Braunseifen 47	Franz Joseph	Thiel Johann, farmer at Braunseifen, son of Joseph Thiel, farmer in Lobnig, and of his wife Klara, a daughter of Johann Siersch, farmer in Dittersdorf	Cäzilia, daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig and of his wife Cäcilia a nee Birikovski (sic!), farmer in Schröffelsdorf	Engelbert Thiel farmer in Lobnig Aloisia single daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig Otto Thiel cooperater Amalia Stanzel from Braunseifen 47
R X 19 100 German	16 Mar 1891 17 Mar 1891 married on 9 Sep 1919 with Florentine Fink	Braunseifen 47	Joseph Franz	Thiel Johann, farmer at Braunseifen, son of Joseph Thiel, farmer in Lobnig, and of his wife Klara, a daughter of Johann Siersch, farmer in Dittersdorf	Cäzilia, daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig and of his wife Cäcilia a nee Berikowski (sic!), farmer in Schröffelsdorf	Engelbert Thiel farmer in Lobnig Aloisia single daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig Josef Spitaler cooperater Amalia Stanzel from Braunseifen 47

Meanwhile, Aloisia, left to her own devices, also found love and got pregnant:

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Jirikov (Girsig), 1888-1893						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
R VII 7 13 German	29 Jun 1891 1 Jul 1891	Girsig 34	<i>Emilie Paulina</i>	<i>vacant</i>	Aloisia Kressa, single daughter of Theodor Kressa, <i>Inwohner</i> and <i>Ausgedinger</i> in Girsig and of his wife Cecilia daughter of <u>Johann Pirsikovsky</u> (sic!) from Schröffelsdorf	Johann Thiel farmer in Braunseifen Emilia Hofmann single daughter of farmer from Braunseifen <i>Franz Nitsch parson</i> <i>Amalia Stanzel from Braunseifen 47</i>

Aloisia did marry several years late to Josef Weixler in 1896. Of note here is that Theodor and Cecilia returned to their home in Girsig 34, where granddaughter Emilie Paulina was born. Theodor is listed as “Inwohner” and “Ausgedinger.” Inwohner means he was a tenant and Ausgedinger means that he was retired, no longer working. In 1891 Theodor was 57.

Sadly, Cecilia’s health was deteriorating and she died the summer following:

Magistrate of Rymarov, death registers of catholic parish Girsig (Jirikov) 1869-1911						
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried	
--- 74 German	3 Jul 1892 5 Jul 1892 <i>Married for 27 years</i>	Girsig 36	<u>Cecilia Kröss</u> a wife of Theodor <u>Kröss</u> a, retired farmer in Girsig, a daughter of <u>Johann Perikowsky</u> , farmer in Schröffelsdorf, and of his wife <u>Theresia</u> , a daughter of <u>Franz Klement</u> , farmer at <u>Storzendorf</u>	55 years 8 months 11 days	<u>Stomach cancer</u> <u>Franz Nitsch parson</u> <u>Franz Nitsch parson</u>	

Family records indicate that three years later, on May 14, 1895, Theodor married a widow with small children. Her name was “Rosalia” – not sure if that was a first name or last name, but no records can be found connecting her with Theodor, who lived another 10 years. Unless there is a mistake, Theodor wound up again in Nová Hradečná House #33. It indicates he was married but doesn’t say to whom on his death record - see next page.

Theodor Kressa died on 13 Nov 1915 at Hradec 33

OU Troubelice, death registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1914-1949					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
U IV 31 7 German	13 Nov 1915 15 Nov 1915 Markersdorf	Grätz 33	Kressa Theodor (married, <i>Ausgedinger</i>) in Grätz, son of Theodor Kressa, farmer in Grätz and of his wife Theresia a daughter of Johann Kleker b. 31 Aug 1833 in Grätz marr. 14 May 1895	82 years 2 months 13 days	Marasmus senilis <i>Franz Kopecky parson</i> <i>Cyrrill Novak cooperato</i>

rag. 7 vom Jahre 1915

Reihen-zahl	Tomus et Pag.	Zeit		Haus-Nr.	Des Verstorbenen Familien- und Vorname, Stand, Charakter und Wohnort, Name, Charakter und Wohnort seines Vaters und Abstammung der Mutter	Relig. Geschlecht				Alter			Krankheit oder Todesart laut Todes- beschein- gung mit fort- laufender Nummer	Hat versehen	Hat beerdigt	Anmerkung	
		des Todes	der Beerdig- ung Beerdig- ungs- ort			katholisch	akatholisch	männlich	weiblich	Jahre	Monate	Tage					Tot geboren
9.	VIII.	1915. November	13. 15. 33	33	Kressa Theodor, verheirateter Ausge- dinger, in Grätz, Sohn des Theodor Kressa Bauers in Grätz und dessen Gattin Theresia, geborenen Johann Kleker, g. 31/8 1833 in Grätz, geb. 14/5 1895.	1				82	2	13	Marasmus senilis laut 78- beschein- gung No 14/10 1915. 36/75.			Cyrrill Novak Kopecky parson Stooper verbor	
					Fürtrag												Franz Kopecky Pfarrer

Above is the translation of the record of Theodor Kressa's death as provided by Martin Pytr. The one below it is a photocopy of that record from the Nová Hradečná office. It gives you an idea of the value of the work Martin Pytr has done to accumulate the information in this book. On the next several pages are copies of records Lillian Kresha Witulski accumulated to document Theodor and Cecilia's family 29 years earlier. It was the basis of subsequent research and a great starting point.

Workcenter, Olomouc, Wurm Street 11, phone 25023

No.Sar 429/43-87
771 11 Olomouc
35,359/87

May 29, 1987

Mrs. Marcie Etter
1964 Stonehenge Dr.
Lafayette, CO 80026
USA

Genealogical information

Upon your request we are enclosing birth registration copies of Adolf Kressa and his parents in the town of Hradec (Gratz in German). At the same time we have looked for the brothers and sisters of Adolf Kressa, born in Hradec. We cannot document the marriage of the parents of the above named as the marriage register is now in the personnel division of the City National Committee at Unicov. Your stated name of Krehssa appears in the registers as Kressa, sometime Gressa. Adolf Kressa's mother is listed in the register of his birth by her family name Jirikovska (Girikovska). Her correct name at birth sounds like Perikovska (Perzikovska). See listing of her birth in 1836. In case you are interested further, we can, upon your request, continue the research of your family tree.

Enclosures:2

For State regional archives:

Dr. (Signature illegible)

STÁTNÍ OBLASTNÍ ARCHIV V OPAVĚ

pracoviště Olomouc, Wurmova 11, tel. 25023

Č. j.: Sar 429/43-87

Dne 29. května 1987

771 11 Olomouc

Rodové schéma :

Kressa	Adolf	x 1873, 4. 4.	Hradec
Kressa	Theodor	x 1834, 31. 8. + ?	Hradec
Cecilia	roz. Peřikovská	oo ? (před r. 1856) x 1836, 22. 10. + ?	Nová Dědina Nová Dědina
Kressa	Theodor		
Theresia	roz. Kleker		

- x - s - x -

Potomci Theodora Kressy a Cecílie roz. Peřikovské v Hradci
na domovním čísle 33 :

Theodor	x 1856, 2. 7.	+ 1856, 10. 8.
Anna	1857, 18. 9.	1857, 8. 10.
Amalia	1858, 30. 10.	1858, 13. 11.
Cecilia	1860, 7. 7.	
Theodor	1862, 22. 6.	
Amalia	1866, 10. 7.	
Aloisia	1868, 10. 7.	
Anna	1871, 14. 3.	
<u>Adolf</u>	1873, 4. 4.	
Josef Ferdinand	1876, 13. 2.	

Vyhotovil St. Lapčík

STATE REGIONAL ARCHIVE IN OPAVA, SILESIA

Workcenter, Olomouc, Wurm Street 11, phone 25023

No.Sar 429/43-87
771 11 Olomouc

May 29, 1987

Birth Date: April 4, 1873

Date of Baptism: April 5, 1873

Name: Adolf Kressa

Birthplace: Hradec No. 33 (Gratz in German)

Parents: Married

Religion: Roman Catholic

Father: Theodor Kressa, living in Hradec, son of Theodor Kressa, living in Hradec, and his wife Theresia, daughter of Jan Kleker of Libiva (Libein in German)

Mother: Cecilia, daughter of Jan Girikovsky, living in Nova Dedina (Schroffelsdorf in German) and his wife Theresia, daughter of Franz Klement of Zadni Ujezd (Storzendorf in German)

Godparents: Joseph Pollaschek, living in Rybnicek (Ribnik in German)
Franziska, wife of Josef Schenk, storekeeper in Sumvald (Schonwald in German)

Birth register of Roman Catholic parish at Hradecna (Markersdorf in German)
sign.U-IV-10, page 371.

Birth date: August 31, 1834

Date of baptism: September 1, 1834

Name: Theodor Kressa

Place of birth: Hradec No. 33

Parents: Married

Religion: Roman Catholic

Father: Theodor Kressa, farmer

Mother: Theresia, daughter of Jan Kleker, pensioner in Libiva

Godparents: Franz Kressa, apprentice shoemaker
Anna, wife of Franz Kappel, gardner



Theodor Kressa

BIRTH 31 AUG 1834 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 11 NOV 1915 • Nova Hradecna, Moravia, CZ

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

31 Aug 1834 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic
Records show he was born in House #33. However, after the WWII and the expelling of most German-speakers including the Kresha's the house has been renumbered to House #163, as determined by Martin Pytr (czechkin.com) and a visit to the town in Hall in 2015

Age 20 — Marriage

07 May 1855
 **Cecilia Perikovsky**
(1836–1892)

Age 55 — Departure

15 May 1890 • Hamburg

Age 55 — Arrival

24 May 1890 • New York, New York

Age 55 — Arrival

24 May 1890 • New York

Age 56 — Residence

1890 • Jirsig, Österreich

Age 56 — Destination

1890 • United States of America

Age 56 — Departure

1890 • Hamburg, Germany and Southampton, England

Age 56 — Arrival

1890 • New York

Age 60 — Marriage

14 May 1895 • Nova Hradecna, Moravia, CZ


 **Rosalia Kressa**
(1860–1920)

Age 81 — Death

11 Nov 1915 • Nova Hradecna, Moravia, CZ

Family


Parents


 **Theodor Kressa**
1811–1841

 **Theresia Kleker**
1814–1898

Spouse & Children


 **Cecilia Perikovsky**
1836–1892

 **Theodor Kressa**
1856–1856

 **Anna Kressa**
1857–1857

 **Amalia Kressa**
1858–1858

 **Cecilia Kressa**
1860–


 **Theodor (Kressa) Kresha III**
1862–1935

 **Amalia Kresha**
1866–1932

 **Aloisia Kressa**
1868–

 **Anna Kressa Kresha**
1871–1957

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873–1950

 **Joseph Ferdinand Kresha**
1876–1945

Spouse


 **Rosalia Kressa**
1860–1920

Sources

Ancestry Sources

-  Ancestry Family Trees
-  Hamburger Passagierlisten, 1850-1934
-  Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908
-  New York City Immigrants (Austria, Galicia, Poland), 1890
-  New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957
-  U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007
-  U.S.: Immigrants arriving at New York from Poland, Austria, and Galicia, 1890-1891

Other Sources

-  Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)



Cecilia Perikovsky

BIRTH 22 OCT 1836 • Nova Dedina, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 03 JUL 1892 • Jirikov, (Girsig) North Moravia, CZ

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

22 Oct 1836 • Nova Dedina, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 18 — Marriage

07 May 1855



Theodor Kressa
(1834–1915)

Age 53 — Departure

15 May 1890 • Hamburg

Age 53 — Arrival

24 May 1890 • New York, New York

Age: 50

Age 54 — Residence

1890 • Jirsig, Österreich Jirikov (Girsig), CZ
Relation to Head of House: Frau

Age 55 — Death

03 Jul 1892 • Jirikov, (Girsig) North Moravia, CZ
Died of stomach cancer

Family

Parents



Johann Jan Perikovsky
1811–



Theresia Klement
1816–1841

Spouse & Children



Theodor Kressa
1834–1915



Theodor Kressa
1856–1856



Anna Kressa
1857–1857



Amalia Kressa
1858–1858



Cecilia Kressa
1860–



Theodor (Kressa) Kresha III
1862–1935



Amalia Kresha
1866–1932



Aloisia Kressa
1868–



Anna Kressa Kresha
1871–1957



Adolf Franz Kresha
1873–1950



Joseph Ferdinand Kresha
1876–1945

Sources

Ancestry Sources



Ancestry Family Trees



Hamburger Passagierlisten, 1850-1934



Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908



New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957



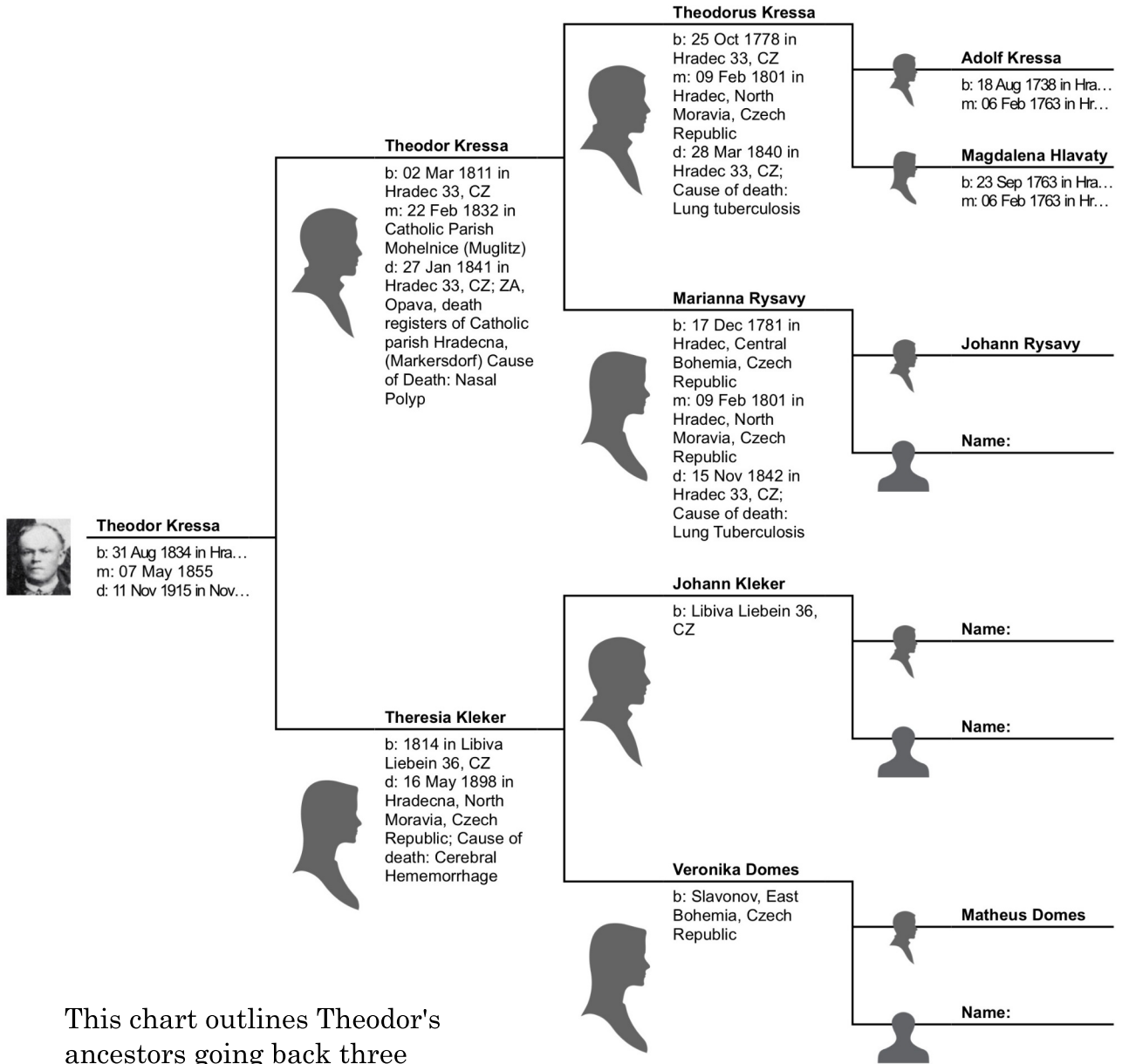
U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

Other Sources



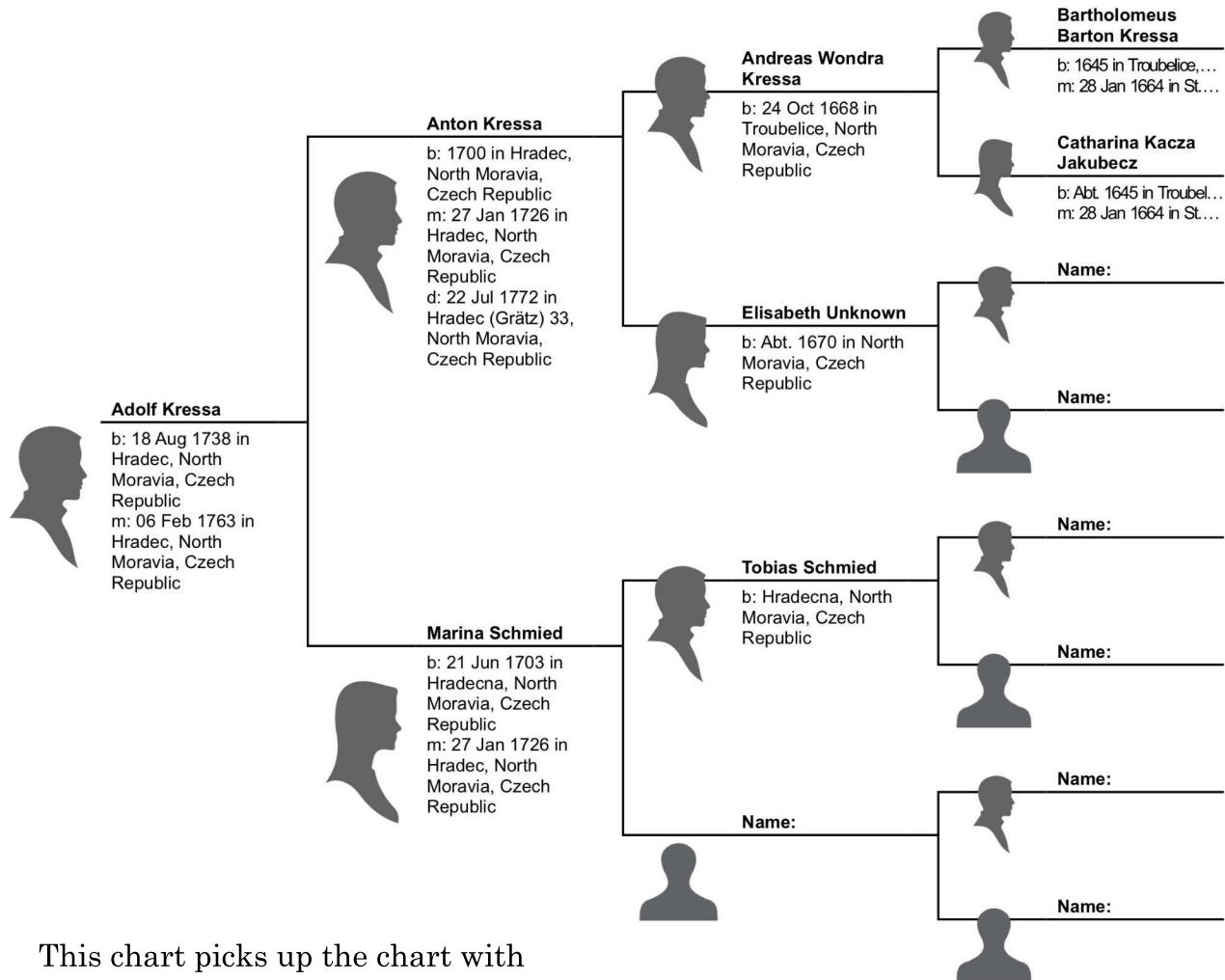
Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

Pedigree Chart for Theodor Kressa



This chart outlines Theodor's ancestors going back three generations. On the next page, you will find a chart going back three more generations.

Pedigree Chart for Adolf Kressa



This chart picks up the chart with Adolf Kressa (1736) going back to Bartholomeus Kressa(1645). His father is mentioned, Jyra (George) Kressa, but there were no records, probably because the village was attacked, sacked and burnt during the Thirty-Years War.

Part Three: Documenting Our Ancestors, starting in about 1620

This section presents documentation for the seven generations before Theodor Kressa, beginning with the oldest. Each great-grandparent has a page.

Jyra George Kressa and his son, Bartholomeus Kressa's Page. These are the oldest documented Kressas.

Birth of Jyra George Kressa (1620-). Estimated, details unknown. He is mentioned in the marriage record of his son, Barton Bartholomeus Kressa. That is the documentation.

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1652-1689			
Book Page	Date	Groom and Bride	Witnesses Priest
U IV 1 97 Czech	28 Jan 1664	<i>In Markersdorf were married:</i> Barton son of the deceased Jyra Kressa and Kacza of the deceased Jakub Jakubecz	Martin Kadlec Jan son of Rissonek Maryna wife of Ondra Spiczka Marina daughter of Matej Tomeczek from Troubelice

ancestry




Bartholomeus Barton Kressa

BIRTH 1645 • Troubelice, North Moravia, Czech Republic
DEATH Unknown

Facts

Age 0 — **Birth**
1645 • Troubelice, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 19 — **Marriage**
28 Jan 1664 • St. Lawrence Church, Hradečna, (Markersdorf), North Moravia, CZ

 **Catharina Kacza Jakubecz**
(1645-)

Family

Parents

 **Jyra Georg Kressa**
1620-

Spouse & Children

 **Catharina Kacza Jakubecz**
1645-

 **Vitus Kressa**
1664-

 **Maryna Kressa**
1666-

 **Andreas Wondra Kressa**
1668-


 **Sophia Kressa**
1671-


 **Catharina Kressa**
1673-

 **Susanna Kressa**
1675-

Sources

Other Sources

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

Andreas Wondra Kressa's Page.

We descend from Bartholomeus Barton's middle child, Andreas Wondra Kressa, born in 1668.

Andreas' record is missing, but his birthdate is October 24, 1668 in Troubelice. It appears that during the Thirty-Years War, which pitted Catholics against protestants, when the Czech protestants attacked Nová Hradečná, most residents went elsewhere because their homes were burnt down. Barton married a Czech woman, Cacza Catherine Jakubecz and lived and had his children in Troubelice. That makes Andreas Wondra Kressa ½ Czech. Here is the report from Martin Pytr:

Anton Kressa was born most probably in 1700, as a son of **Andreas Kressa** and **Elisabeth**. Unfortunately, birth records for year 1700 are missed. Our sources tells also about birth of **Judith Kressa** in 1716. Nevertheless, I have found only one child of the couple – **Marina Kressa**, born in 1704.

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 21 German	8 Dec 1704	Grätz	Marina	Wondra Kressa	Elisabeth	Mikulass Straka from Markersdorf Marina Polaczek from Schönwald



Andreas Wondra Kressa

BIRTH 24 OCT 1668 • Troubelice, North Moravia, Czech Republic
DEATH Unknown

Facts

Age 0 — **Birth**
24 Oct 1668 • Troubelice, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Family

Parents

Bartholomeus Barton Kressa
1645–

Catharina Kacza Jakubecz
1645–

Spouse & Children

Elisabeth Unknown
1670–

Anton Kressa
1700–1772

Marina Kressa
1704–

Sources

Other Sources

Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

Anton Kressa's Pages (1700-1772). As noted, Anton's birth record could not be found, but his death record was. Also found was his marriage record:

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1701-1759			
Book Page	Date	Groom and Bride	Witnesses Priest
U IV 3 342 <i>Latin</i>	27 Jan 1726	Antonius (b. 1700) son of Andreas Kressa from Graez Marina (b. 21 Jun 1703), daughter of the deceased Tobias Schmid from Markersdorf	Wenceslaus Bachl from Markersdorf Franciscus Richter from Graez <i>Joannes Georgius Bruner cooperator</i>

Anton Kressa died on 22 July 1772 at Hradec 33

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
U IV 4 271 <i>Latin</i>	22 Jul 1772	Grötzio 33	Gressa Antonius <i>inquilinus</i>	72 years	--- <i>Andreas Novak cooperator</i> <i>Andreas Novak cooperator</i>

These are Anton & Marina's children's records:

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradecna (Markersdorf), 1701-1759						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 153 <i>Latin</i>	15 Jan 1727	Grözio	Franciscus	Antonius Kresa	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna Fuchs <i>Joannes Bruner cooperator</i>
U IV 3 161 <i>Latin</i>	11 Oct 1728	Grözio	Andreas	Antonius Kresa	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna Fuchs <i>Joannes Bruner cooperator</i>
U IV 3 170 <i>Latin</i>	29 Aug 1730	Graezio	Johanna	Antonius Kresa	Marina	Andreas Frib Johanna Fuchs <i>Joannes Bruner cooperator</i>
U IV 3 180 <i>Latin</i>	16 Aug 1732	Graezio	Anna Maria	Antonius Greser	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna daughter of Laurentius Fuchs <i>Joannes Bruner cooperator</i>

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradecna (Markersdorf), 1701-1759

Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 3 189 Latin	22 Apr 1735 <i>marr. 1765</i> <i>d. 5 Oct 1795</i>	Graezio	Magdalena	Antonius Kreiza	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna daughter of Laurentius Fuchs <i>cooperator</i>
U IV 3 200 Latin	3 Jun 1738	Graezio	Adolphus	Antonius Kreza <i>Marr. 27 Jan 1736</i>	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna Fuchs <i>Unger</i>
U IV 3 212 Latin	3 Jul 1741	Graezio	Marina	Antonius Kreza	Marina	Andreas Frieb Johanna Fuchs <i>Martinus Engel cooperator</i>
U IV 3 221 Latin	13 Feb 1744	Graezio	Maria Eleonora	Antonius Kresa	Marina	Josephus Brachtl Susanna Frieb <i>Unger</i>



Anton Kressa

BIRTH 1700 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 22 JUL 1772 • Hradec (Grätz) 33, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

1700 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 26 — Marriage

27 Jan 1726 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic



Marina Schmied

(1703-)

Age 72 — Death

22 Jul 1772 • Hradec (Grätz) 33, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Family

Parents



Andreas Wondra Kressa

1668-



Elisabeth Unknown

1670-

Spouse & Children



Marina Schmied

1703-



Franciscus Kressa

1727-



Andreas Kressa

1728-



Johanna Kressa

1730-



Anna Maria Kressa

1732-



Magdalena Kressa

1735-1795



Adolf Kressa

1738-



Marina Kressa

1741-



Maria Eleonora Kressa

1744-

Sources

Other Sources



Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)



Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)



Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

Adolf Kressa's Pages (1735-)

His marriage record:

Adolf was married on 6 February 1763

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784			
Book Page	Date	Groom and Bride	Witnesses Priest
U IV 4 176 Latin	6 Feb 1763	Adolphus (b. 3 Jun 1738) son of Antonius Kressa farmer Magdalena (b. 23 Sep 1741) a daughter of Jacobus Hlawatey farmer at Grötz	Joannes Miller miller Antonius Prachtl tailor Both are from Graez <i>Andreas Novak cooperator</i>

They had nine children:

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784					
Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
19 Jan 1764	Grötzio	Johanna	Adolphus Gressa farmer	Magdalena	Josephus Blahack bricklayer Elisabetha wife of hortulanus Josephus Blahack Both are from Grötz <i>Andreas Novack cooperator</i>
4 Aug 1766	Graecio	Magdalena	Adolphus Gressa farmer	Magdalena	Josephus Blahack hortulanus Johanna wife of hortulanus Georgius Blahack Both are from Graetz <i>Andreas Miklick parson</i>
22 Jan 1769	Graetzio	Josephus	Adolphus Gressa farmer	Magdalena	Georgius Blahack bricklayer Elisabetha wife of hortulanus Josephus Blahack Both are from Graetz <i>Andreas Novack cooperator</i>
2 Sep 1771 <i>marr. 24 Nov</i>	Grötzio 24	Paulina	Kraesa Adolphus farmer <i>marr. 6 Feb 1765</i>	Magdalena	Blahack Georgius bricklayer Elisabetha wife of hortulanus Josephus Blahack

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784

Book Page	Date	Groom and Bride	Witnesses Priest
U IV 4 176 Latin	6 Feb 1763	Adolphus (b. 3 Jun 1738) son of Antonius Kressa farmer Magdalena (b. 23 Sep 1741) a daughter of Jacobus Hlawatey farmer at Grötz	Joannes Miller miller Antonius Prachtl tailor Both are from Graez <i>Andreas Novak cooperator</i>

They had nine children:

+

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784

Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
19 Jan 1764	Grötzio	Johanna	Adolphus Gressa farmer	Magdalena	Josephus Blahack bricklayer Elisabetha wife of hortulanus Josephus Blahack Both are from Grötz <i>Andreas Novack cooperator</i>
4 Aug 1766	Graecio	Magdalena	Adolphus Gressa farmer	Magdalena	Josephus Blahack hortulanus Johanna wife of hortulanus Georgius Blahack Both are from Graetz <i>Andreas Miklick parson</i>
22 Jan 1769	Graetzio	Josephus	Adolphus Gressa farmer	Magdalena	Georgius Blahack bricklayer Elisabetha wife of hortulanus Josephus Blahack Both are from Graetz <i>Andreas Novack cooperator</i>

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1760-1784

Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
2 Sep 1771 <i>marr. 24 Nov 1778</i>	Grötzio 24	Paulina	Kraesa Adolphus farmer <i>marr. 6 Feb 1765</i>	Magdalena	Blahack Georgius bricklayer Elisabetha wife of <i>hortulanus</i> Josephus Blahack Both are from Grötz <i>Carolus Wollmann chaplain</i>
4 Jul 1774	Grötzio	Magdalena	Kraesa Adolphus farmer	Magdalena	Blahack Josephus <i>hortulanus</i> Elisabetha his wife Both are from Grötz <i>Andreas Miklik parson</i>
16 Aug 1776	Grötzio 34	Marianna	Kraesa Adolphus farmer	Magdalena	Blahack Josephus <i>hortulanus</i> Elisabetha his wife Both are from Grötz <i>Carolus Wollmann cooperator</i>
25 Oct 1778	Grötzio 33	Theodorus	Adolphus Graessa farmer	Magdalena	Blahack Josephus <i>hortulanus</i> Elisabetha his wife Both are from Grötz <i>Josephus Mük cooperator</i>
6 Apr 1782	Grötzio 33	Barbara	Adolphus Kraesa farmer	Magdalena	Wollmann Josephus <i>hortulanus</i> Elisabetha wife of <i>hortulanus</i> Josephus Blahak Both are from Graetz <i>Andreas Miklik parson</i>

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1785-1806

Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 5 137 <i>German</i>	31 Oct 1787	Grätz 33	Maria Eleonora	Adolf <i>Grässa</i> farmer	Magdalena	Joseph Wollmann <i>Gertner</i> Eleonora his wife <i>Carolus</i> <i>Wollmann</i> <i>cooperator</i>



Adolf Kressa

BIRTH 18 AUG 1738 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH Unknown

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

18 Aug 1738 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 24 — Marriage


06 Feb 1763 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

 **Magdalena Hlavaty**
(1763-)

Family

Parents

 **Anton Kressa**
1700-1772

 **Marina Schmied**
1703-

Spouse & Children

 **Magdalena Hlavaty**
1763-

 **Johanna Kressa**
1765-

 **Magdalena Kressa**
1766-

 **Joseph Kressa**
1769-

 **Paulina Kressa**
1771-

 **Magdalena Kressa**
1774-

 **Marianna Kressa**
1776-


 **Theodorus Kressa**
1778-1840

 **Barbara Kressa**
1782-


 **Maria Eleonora Kressa**
1787-

Sources

Other Sources

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

Theodorus Kressa (1778-1840) Pages

Theodorus married Marianna Rysavy in 1801.

ZA Opava, filial at Olomouc, wedding registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1785-1806							
Book Page Tongue	Date	Number of house	Groom	Age Born	Bride	Age Born	Witnesses, Priest
U IV 11 54 German	9 Feb 1801	Grätz 33	Kressa Theodor farmer <i>b. 25 Oct 1778 at Grätz</i>	19 years cathol. single	Rissawi Marianna daughter of deceased farmer Johann Rissawy <i>b. 7 Dec 1781 at Grätz</i>	20 years cathol. single	Petrzik Joseph <i>Richter at Lepinka 7</i> Kressa Jakob farmer from house nr. 13 <i>Antonius Weiser</i> <i>cooperator</i>

Their children were:

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1807-1833						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 7 106 German	17 Sep 1807	Grätz 33	Eleonora	Kressa Theodor farmer	Marianna Rischawy	Blahak Joseph farmer in Grätz 32 Johanna wife of Joseph Hannal farmer in Grätz 34 <i>Karl Wollmann parson</i> <i>Magdalena Gabriel from</i> <i>Markersdorf 7</i>
U IV 7 112 German	2 Mar 1811	Grätz 33	Theodor	Kressa Theodor farmer	Marianna Rischawy	Blahak Joseph farmer in Grätz 32 Johanna widow of Joseph Hannal farmer in Grätz 34 <i>Johann Gabriel cooperator</i> <i>Barbara Dobess from Treibnitz</i>
U IV 7 115 German	26 Jul 1813	Grätz 33	Franz	Kressa Theodor farmer	Rischawy Marianna	Joseph Blahak farmer in Grätz 32 Hannal Johanna widow and Ausgedingerin in Grätz 20 <i>Karl Wollmann parson</i> <i>Johanna Mauler from</i> <i>Markersdorf</i>

Opava, death registers of catholic parish Hradecna (Markersdorf), 1807-1859

Book page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
√ 15 } rman	28 Mar 1840 30 Mar 1840	Grätz 33	Grössa Theodor <i>Ausgedinger</i>	70 years	Lung tuberculosis <i>Czernoch Franz cooperato</i> <i>Czernoch Franz cooperato</i>
√ 15 † rman	15 Nov 1842 17 Nov 1842	Grätz 33	Marianna widow of Grössa Theodor <i>Ausgedinger</i> here	64 years	Lung tuberculosis <i>Czernoch Franz cooperato</i> <i>Hübl Franz parson</i>



Theodorus Kressa

BIRTH 25 OCT 1778 • Hradec 33, CZ
DEATH 28 MAR 1840 • Hradec 33, CZ

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

25 Oct 1778 • Hradec 33, CZ

Age 22 — Marriage

09 Feb 1801 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic



Marianna Rysavy
(1781-1842)

Age 61 — Death

28 Mar 1840 • Hradec 33, CZ

Cause of death: Lung tuberculosis

Family

Parents



Adolf Kressa
1738-



Magdalena Hlavaty
1763-

Spouse & Children



Marianna Rysavy
1781-1842



Marianna Kressa
1803-



Eleonora Kressa
1807-



Theodor Kressa
1811-1841



Franz Kressa
1813-

Sources

Other Sources



Czech Regional Archive
in Opava (Zemskeho
Archivu v Opava)

Theodor Kressa's (1811-1841) Pages

He was married on 28 February 1832

ZA Opava, wedding registers of catholic parish Mohelnice (Müglitz), 1800-1833							
Book Page Tongue	Date	Number of house	Groom	Age Born	Bride	Age Born	Witnesses, Priest
Mh I 28 135 German	28 Feb 1832	Grätz 33 Liebein 36	Kressa Theodor farmer in Grätz son of Theodor Kressa, farmer from Grätz and of Marianna a daughter of Thomas Rischawj, farmer from Grätz	21 years cathol. single	Theresia daughter of Johann Klecker farmer at Liebein and of + Veronika daughter of + Mathias Domess a daughter of Gärtler from Schützendorf	24 years cathol. single	Isidor Schubert farmer at Liebein Franz Mennel Gärtler at Schützendorf Antonius Weiser cooperator
+++ I Theodor Kressa father of the minor groom, give him my permission for the marriage							

Theodore had two children, including Theodor Kressa

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1834-1865						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U IV 8 175 German	31 Aug 1834 1 Sep 1834	Grätz 33	Theodor	Theodor Kressa farmer b. 2 Mar 1811 at Grätz	Theresia daughter of Johann Kleker retired farmer from Liebein	Franz Kressa shoemaker Anna wife of tanner Franz Kappel Franz Kral cooperator Johanna Mauler from Markersdorf
U IV 8 179 German	26 Jun 1838 26 Jun 1838 marr. 24 Nov 1859 at Grätz	Grätz 33	Theresia	Theodor Kressa farmer b. 2 Mar 1811 at Grätz	Theresia daughter of Johann Kleker farmer from Liebein and of Veronika a daughter of Franz Klein from Schützendorf	Franz Kappel tanner here Magdalena wife of Franz Kressa shoemaker here Franz Kral cooperator Johanna Mauler from Markersdorf 14

He died young from cancer, a nasal polyp.

Theodor Kressa died on 27 January 1841 at Hradec 33

ZA Opava, death registers of catholic parish Hradečná (Markersdorf), 1807-1859					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
U IV 15 123 German	27 Jan 1841 29 Jan 1841	Grätz 33	Grössa Theodor farmer at Grätz	30 years	Nasal polyp Czernoch Franz cooperator Hübl Franz parson



Theodor Kressa

BIRTH 02 MAR 1811 • Hradec 33, CZ

DEATH 27 JAN 1841 • Hradec 33, CZ

3rd great-grandfather

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

02 Mar 1811 • Hradec 33, CZ

Age 20 — Marriage

22 Feb 1832 • Catholic Parish Mohelnice (Muglitz)

 **Theresia Kleker**
(1814–1898)

Age 29 — Death

27 Jan 1841 • Hradec 33, CZ

ZA, Opava, death registers of Catholic parish Hradecna, (Markersdorf) Cause of Death: Nasal Polyp

Family

Parents

 **Theodorus Kressa**
1778–1840

 **Marianna Rysavy**
1781–1842

Spouse & Children


 **Theresia Kleker**
1814–1898


 **Theodor Kressa**
1834–1915

 **Theresia Kressa**
1838–1878

Sources

Other Sources

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

This brings us up to date, as this Theodor Kressa (1811-1841) is the father of our starting family, Theodor Kressa (1834-1915). Our next section will document the family information of our core couple, Theodor Kressa (1834-1915) and Cecilia Perikovsky (1836-1892).

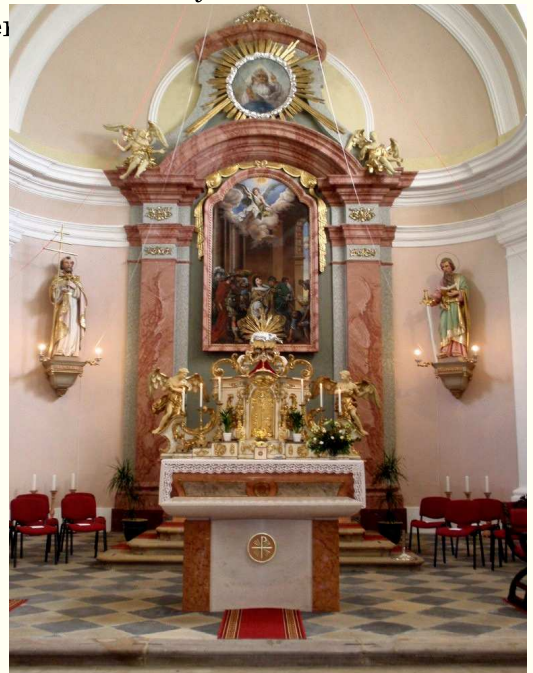
Part Four:

Theodor & Cecilia's Children: Their Stories

Cecilia Perikovsky and Theodor Kressa were married in St. Lawrence Church in Nová Hradečná on the 7th of May, 1855. Cecilia was 19 and Theodor was 21.

1. Their first child was born 14 months later and named Theodor Kressa. Theodor was born on July 2, 1856 but died just over a month later on August 10, 1856.
2. Their second child, Anna, was born on September 18, 1857. She died a couple of weeks later on October 8, 1857.
3. The third child, Amalia, was born a year later on October 30, 1858. She died two weeks later on the 13th of November.

Let's take a look at the one place where almost all of the Kressha ancestors spent a lot of time, and that is Saint Lawrence Catholic church in Nová Hradečná. It first started for these German Catholics in the 1100's and where they went to church





This is the pastoral view from the hilltop on which the church sits.



The church is surrounded by the cemetery with its family plots. The Kressas were there for maybe 700 years, but were expelled in 1948 after WWII. There was no one to pay the family plot rent and family members were removed and relocated.

Cecilia Kressa Thiel's story:

4. The fourth child, Cecilia, was born in Nová Hradečná on July 7th 1860. Named after her mother, she survived childhood. She was her mother's helper with the next six children, born every 2-3 years.

At age 19, Cecilia married a much older farmer, Robert Scholz, of Braunseifen, (today known as Ryžoviště). He was a widower, aged 30, and lived a long way away. It is near Girsig and may be why the Kressas eventually moved there.

ZA Opava, filial at Olomouc, wedding registers of catholic parish <u>Hradecna (Markersdorf)</u> , 1841-1883							
Book Page Tongue	Date	Number of house	Groom	Age Born	Bride	Age Born	Witnesses, Priest
U IV 13 124 German	21 Oct 1879	Braunseifen 47 Grätz 33	Scholz Robert widower and farmer in Braunseifen, legitimate son of Franz Scholz, farmer in Braunseifen and of Klara a daughter of Johann Kühnel from Braunseifen	30 years cathol. widower	Caecilia daughter of Theodor Kressa, farmer in Grätz and of his wife Cázilia a daughter of Johann Perikovsky, from Schröffelsdorf	19 years cathol. single	Gustav <u>Wolferd</u> farmer in Braunseifen Josef <u>Prikofsky</u> farmer at Schröffelsdorf <u>Josef Janicek</u> cooperator
<p><i>Banns were published on 18th, 19th and 20th Sunday and after Pentecost, i.e. on 5, 12, and 19 October 1879</i> <i>I, father of the minor bride, give her my permission to marry.</i> <i>Theodor Kressa father</i> <i>Gustav <u>Wolferd</u> witness</i> <i>Josef <u>Prikofsky</u> witness</i></p>							

They did not have any children together and Robert contracted tuberculosis six years later.

Robert Scholz died on 15 February 1885.

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish <u>Ryzoviste (Braunseifen)</u> , 1877-1906					
Book Page	Date of death Burial date	Place and # of house	Name	Age	Case of death Priest who confessed Priest who buried
R X 22 36 German	15 Feb 1885 17 Feb 1885	Braunseifen 47	Scholz Robert, farmer in Braunseifen, son of Franz Scholz farmer in Braunseifen, and of his wife Clara a daughter of Johann Kühnel, farmer in Braunseifen	35 years 3 months 8 days	Tuberculosis <u>Franz Peschke parson</u> <u>Augustin Scholz parson of</u> <u>Seifersdorf</u>

Cecilia then found another husband and married him four months later! Johann Thiel was also from Braunseifen and also was more her own age. They married in Ryžoviště.

Widow **Cecilia Scholz nee Kressa** married **Johann Thiel** on 15 June 1885.

ZA Opava, filial at Olomouc, wedding registers of catholic parish Ryžoviště (Braunseifen), 1855-1889							
Book Page Tongue	Date	Number of house	Groom	Age Born	Bride	Age Born	Witnesses, Priest
R X 15 124 German	15 Jun 1885	Braunseifen 81 Braunseifen 47	Thiel Johann, single son of Joseph Thiel, farmer in Lobnig, and of his wife Klara, a daughter of Johann Siersch, farmer in Dietersdorf	26 years 5 months cathol. single	Scholz Cázilia, widow of Robert Scholz, farmer in Baunseifen, daughter of Theodor Kressa, farmer in Grätz and of his wife Cázilia a daughter of Johann Perikovsky, farmer in Schröffelsdorf b. 7 Jul 1860	24 years 11 months cathol. widow	Alois Hadwiger farmer at Braunseifen Joseph Thiel farmer at Lobnig Caelestin Tobias cooperator
<i>Banns were published on Corpus Christi Day, on 2nd and after Pentecost, i.e. on 4, 7 and 14 June 1885</i>							

This marriage was fruitful, but her first child, Franz Joseph and her fourth child died in infancy. Her 2nd and 3rd children, Joseph Franz and Rudolf Cecilia made it and eventually married.

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Ryžoviště (Braunseifen), 1885-1901						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
R X 19 60 German	13 Jan 1888 15 Jan 1888 + 23 Oct 1888	Braunseifen 47	Franz Joseph	Thiel Johann, farmer at Braunseifen, son of Joseph Thiel, farmer in Lobnig, and of his wife Klara, a daughter of Johann Siersch, farmer in Dittersdorf	Cázilia, daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig and of his wife Cécilia a nee Birikovski (sic!), farmer in Schröffelsdorf	Engelbert Thiel farmer in Lobnig Aloisia single daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig Otto Thiel cooperator Amalia Stanzel from Braunseifen 47

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Ryžoviště (Braunseifen), 1885-1901						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
R X 19 100 German	16 Mar 1891 17 Mar 1891 <i>married on 9 Sep 1919 with Florentine Fink</i>	Braunseifen 47	Joseph Franz	Thiel Johann, farmer at Braunseifen, son of Joseph Thiel, farmer in Lobnig, and of his wife Klara, a daughter of Johann Siersch, farmer in Dittersdorf	Cäzilia, daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig and of his wife Cäcilia a nee Berikowski (sic!), farmer in Schröffelsdorf	Engelbert Thiel farmer in Lobnig Aloisia single daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig <i>Josef Spitaler cooperater Amalia Stanzel from Braunseifen 47</i>
R X 19 180 German	29 Jul 1894 2 Aug 1894 <i>married on 8 Nov 1923 with Rudolf Zips</i>	Braunseifen 47	Rudolfa Caecilia	Thiel Johann, farmer at Braunseifen, son of Josef Thiel, farmer in Lobnig, and of his wife Klara, a daughter of Johann Siersch, farmer in Dittersdorf	Caecilia, daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig and of his wife Caecilia a nee Berikowsky (sic!), farmer in Schröffelsdorf	Engelbert Thiel farmer in Lobnig Aloisia single daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig <i>Bernard Messner cooperater Amalia Stanzel from Braunseifen 113</i>
R X 19 314 German	1 Aug 1901 3 Aug 1901 <i>died on 13 September 1901</i>	Braunseifen 116	Camilla Aloisia	Thiel Johann, farmer at Braunseifen, son of Josef Thiel, farmer in Lobnig, and of his wife Klara, a daughter of Johann Siersch, farmer in Dittersdorf	Caecilia, daughter of Theodor Gressa, farmer in Girsig and of his wife Caecilia a nee Birikovsky (sic!), farmer in Schröffelsdorf	Engelbert Thiel farmer in Lobnig Aloisia Weixler farmer's wife at Trübenz <i>Ernst Wiener cooperater Theresia Pohlner from Braunseifen 59</i>

Further information about Cecilia is not known.

Cecilia, her husband Johann Thiel, and first son, Franz Joseph were in the Kressa family photo from 1888.



Cecilia Kressa

BIRTH 07 JUL 1860 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH Unknown

2nd great-aunt


Facts

Age 0 — Birth

07 Jul 1860 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic
House 33

Age 19 — Marriage

21 Oct 1879 • Hradecna, North Moravia, Czech Republic
St. Lawrence Catholic Church

 **Robert Scholz**
(1849–1885)


Age 24 — Marriage

15 Jun 1885 • Ryzoviste, North Moravia, Czech Republic
St. John the Baptist Church

 **Johann Thiel**
(1859–)

Family

Parents

 **Theodor Kressa**
1834–1915

 **Cecilia Perikovsky**
1836–1892

Spouse

 **Robert Scholz**
1849–1885

Spouse & Children

 **Johann Thiel**
1859–

 **Franz Joseph Thiel**
1888–1889

 **Joseph Franz Thiel**
1891–

 **Rudolfa Caecilia Thiel**
1894–


 **Camilla Aloisia Thiel**
1901–1901


Sources


Ancestry Sources


 Ancestry Family Trees


Other Sources

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)



Johann Thiel

BIRTH JAN 1859 • Lobnig

DEATH Unknown

husband of 2nd great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — **Birth**

Jan 1859 • Lobnig

Age 26 — **Marriage**

15 Jun 1885 • Ryzoviste, North Moravia, Czech Republic

St. John the Baptist Church



Cecilia Kressa

(1860-)

Family

Parents



Joseph Thiel



Klara Siersch

1840-

Spouse & Children



Cecilia Kressa

1860-



Franz Joseph Thiel

1888-1889



Joseph Franz Thiel

1891-



Rudolfa Caecilia Thiel

1894-



Camilla Aloisia Thiel

1901-1901

Sources

Other Sources



Czech Regional Archive
in Opava (Zemskeho
Archivu v Opava)



Czech Regional Archive
in Opava (Zemskeho
Archivu v Opava)



Rudolfa Caecilia Thiel

BIRTH 29 JUL 1894 • Ryzoviste, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH Unknown

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

29 Jul 1894 • Ryzoviste, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 29 — Marriage

08 Nov 1923 • Ryzoviste, North Moravia, Czech Republic



Rudolf Zips

Family

Parents



Johann Thiel

1859-



Cecilia Kressa

1860-

Spouse



Rudolf Zips

Sources

Ancestry Sources



Ancestry Family Trees

Other Sources



Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)



Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)



Joseph Franz Thiel

BIRTH 16 MAR 1891 • Ryzoviste, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH Unknown

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

16 Mar 1891 • Ryzoviste, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 28 — Marriage

09 Sep 1919 • Ryzoviste, Czech Republic



Hilda Florentine Fink

(1895-)

Family

Parents



Johann Thiel

1859-



Cecilia Kressa

1860-

Spouse



Hilda Florentine Fink

1895-

Sources

Ancestry Sources



Ancestry Family Trees

Other Sources



Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)



Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

Theodore Kresha's Story

4. The fifth child born to Theodor and Cecilia Kressa was Theodore Kressa, born on June 22, 1862 in Nová Hradečná. He inherited the name of the first child, who did not survive. He was born two years after Cecilia and not much is known about his early years.

Theodore grew up and went to school at least until he was almost 15. He came to the United States and settled in the Platte County, Nebraska area, where he had employment. It was thought he came around 1877 when he was almost 15 so that he could avoid the draft, but the only documentation is the 1920 US census that indicates that he arrived in the US in 1885. He worked for farmers in Merrick County and is listed as a blacksmith by trade.

It appears that Theodore was never married and had considerable trouble adjusting to life in the United States in early pioneer times in Nebraska.

Platte county authorities have sent one Theodore Kresha, insane, to the Norfolk asylum, and have decided that Merrick county is chargeable with his support there. As no one at the court house seems to have ever heard of Mr. Kresha, the case will undoubtedly be looked into before the county assumes any responsibilities in the matter.—[Central City Courier.

Theodore Kresha was examined this afternoon by the insanity board and declared insane. He will be taken to the Lincoln asylum as soon as the authorities there can be heard from. This is the third time Kresha has been declared insane, having been sent to Norfolk twice. Kresha has been extremely irrational for some time and of late has been a source of annoyance on the streets, causing the police considerable trouble.
Grocers in the city say they have

Theodore and his younger brother were very close and Theodore wrote him fairly often. It appears that Theodore spent some time in “insane asylums,” as the second article in the Columbus Journal indicates that he had been declared insane three times. The asylum Theodore eventually wound up in, in Binghamton, New York, was well known as being on the cutting edge of treating people with alcoholism. Back in the day, if you acted weird, or were drunk all the time, you were insane. Theodor was a patient there for at least 15 year, died, and was buried there.

Osceola 26/12 1915 REC'D DEC 30 1915

Lieber Theodor

Deinen Brief vom 27/11 empfangen
und besuche dich im
Krankenhaus. Ich hoffe
du bist nicht mehr in dem
Krankenhaus. Besuche
mich wenn du kannst.

Dein Onkel
Komm in die nächsten
Tage zu uns in Osceola
Besuche uns.

Am 11. Nov. ist unser Vater
gestorben. Ich will alle
Angelegenheiten mit dir
besprechen. Ich hoffe dich
zu sehen und zu sprechen.

Adolf Kresha
Osceola Neb

This is a translation of Adolf's Letter to Theodore on December 26, 1915.

Dear Brother,

We received your letter on November 27, 1915 and learned you are in the hospital. Now we know that you are still among the living. Write us about the money... Your naturalization papers can be supplied... I will take care of this. Did you leave them in Osceola? On the 11th of November, our father died.

We are all well and things are going well for us. Many greetings from your brother and family,

Adolf Kresha
Osceola, Nebraska

Binghamton 1/3 . 1916 //

Lieber Adolf!

Hilf mir bei deinem Brief zu helfen,
 ich möchte dich auf wissen,
 warum du den Brief, beson-
 ners die. Bürgerbriefe.
 Im Jahr 1886 6. April
 habe ich die ersten Bürger-
 "bürgerliche" bewirkt zu sein,
 ich war in Omaha in
 City Hotel ich gab dem
 Hotel Mann den Check vom
 dem Trunk ~~den~~ ich ihm
 den Brief für die im meine
 Check. ~~Wird~~ er nicht mehr
 ich nicht mehr finden den Check
 den Konte ich meine Trunk
 nicht wieder bekommen. Meine
 Bürgerbriefe ~~waren~~ in
 dem Trunk.

Binghamton, January 3, 1916.

Dear Adolf,

I have received your letter. I would like to have you see if you can do something about my naturalization papers.

In the year of 1886, on April 6th, I took out my first naturalization papers. When I was in Omaha, I stayed at the City Hotel. I gave the man my check tab for the safekeeping/storage of my trunk. Later when I asked for the check tab, the man said that he could not find it. Therefore, I could not claim my trunk. The citizenship papers were in the trunk.

Form 23 No. 606. 9-12-32-75,000 (17-1006)
 N. Y.—WRITE LEGIBLY WITH DURABLE BLACK INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

1 PLACE OF DEATH District No. 310 FOR GENEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ONLY
 (To be inserted by Registrar) New York State Department of Health
 DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS 40365
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 County Brown
 Town _____
 Village _____
 City Binghamton (No. Binghamton State Hospital St.; 12 Ward) Registered No. 137
 (If death occurred in a hospital or incineration, give its NAME instead of street and number)
 2 FULL NAME Theodore Krehsa
 3 Residence No. Binghamton St., _____ Ward. _____
 (Usual place of abode) Years _____ Months _____ Days _____ (If nonresident, give city or town and state)
 4 Length of residence in district where death occurred Years _____ Months _____ Days _____ 5 How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? Years _____ Months _____ Days _____

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

6 SEX M 7 COLOR OR RACE W 8 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (Write the word) Single
 8a IF MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED Husband of (or) Wife of _____
 9 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year) 1858
 10 AGE Years 77 Months _____ Days _____ If LESS than 1 day, _____ hrs. or _____ min.
 OCCUPATION * 11 Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, Sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. Shoemaker
 12 Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. _____
 13 Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) unknown 14 Total time (years) spent in this occupation unknown
 15 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) (State or Country) Russia

FATHER 16 NAME Theodore Krehsa
 17 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) (State or Country) W. Ireland?
 MOTHER 18 MAIDEN NAME unknown
 19 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) (State or Country) unknown
 20 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Signature of Informant) Records of Binghamton State Hospital for Binghamton, NY
 (Address) Binghamton, NY
 21 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL Binghamton State DATE OF BURIAL July 25 1935
 22 UNDERTAKER (License No.) Thorp. ADDRESS Binghamton NY
 (Signature) John Wiley
 23 July 28 1935 Levinstein Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

24 DATE OF DEATH (month, day and year) July 19 1935
 25 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Aug 23 1924 to July 19 1935
 I last saw him alive on July 17 1935
 To the best of my knowledge, death occurred on the date stated above, at 9:40 P m
 CAUSE OF DEATH* Chronic Gastritis
 CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES
 (a) Ray Arteriosclerosis
 (b) Chronic Intestinal Definites
 (c) _____
 (d) 12 1 15
 26 Where was disease contracted, or injury sustained? unknown
 27 Name of operation, if any _____ Date _____
 Condition for which performed _____
 Organ or part affected _____
 28 What laboratory test assisted diagnosis? antibiotic
 29 Was there an autopsy? yes
 (Signed) Charles R. ... M.D.
July 23 1935 (Address) Binghamton, NY
 *See reverse side for instructions

DURATION OF CONDITION		
Yrs.	Mo.	Dys.
	<u>6</u>	

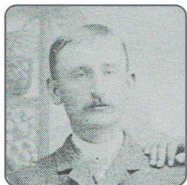
Permit or _____ Date of Issue July 22 1935
 Transmitted by William ...
THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE FILED WITH THE LOCAL REGISTRAR WITHIN 72 HOURS AFTER DEATH

The last time Adolf heard from Theodore was on December 20, 1926. He was in Tunnell, New York, and stated that he had a new job with a farmer named Henry Stahl. When he visited his “friends,” in Binghamton, they told him that a letter had come from Osceola, which they forwarded and that he never received. The New York State Census indicates that he was, in fact, a permanent patient at the State Hospital. The family never heard from him again.

The Kresha family sent a letter along with a fee to the New York Department of Health and Vital Statistics with a request for a search of a death certificate on Theodore. This is that death certificate. Intriguingly, it lists him as a shoemaker.



Left: Theodore Kressa with brother Adolf Franz Kressa. They later changed the spelling of their last name to Kresha.



Theodor (Kressa) Kresha III

BIRTH 22 JUN 1862 • Nova Hradecna, Czech Republic

DEATH 19 JUL 1935 • Binghamton, Broome, New York, USA

2nd great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

22 Jun 1862 • Nova Hradecna, Czech Republic

Age 23 — Arrival

1885

Age: 23, and settled in Platte County, where he found work for farmers in Merrick County. He was a blacksmith.

Age 58 — Residence

1920 • Binghamton Ward 10, Broome, New York, USA

Age: 53; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Boarder

Age 62 — Residence

01 Jun 1925 • Binghamton State Hospital, Ward 12, Broome, New York, United States

Age: 63

Age 68 — Residence

1930 • Binghamton State Hospital, Broome, New York, USA

Age: 67; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Inmate The New York State Inebriate Asylum, later known as Binghamton State Hospital, was the first institution designed and constructed to treat alcoholism as a mental disorder. It was built in

Age 73 — Death

19 Jul 1935 • Binghamton, Broome, New York, USA

Burial

25 Jul 1935 • Binghamton State Hospital, Broome, New York, USA

Death Certificate indicates burial on Hospital grounds. All known burials were relocated in 1961 to make way for an interstate highway, but no record of Theodore exists. His grave may have been unmarked.

Family

Parents



Theodor Kressa

1834–1915



Cecilia Perikovsky

1836–1892

Spouse

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



New York, Death Index, 1880-1956



New York, State Census, 1925

Other Sources



Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

Amalia Kresha Kuhnel's Story

6. The sixth child born to Cecilia and Theodor Kressa was Amalia, born in Nová Hradečná on July 10th 1866. Her name has been spelled with an 'a', an 'e' and an 'o'. We will use the 'a' as that is how she was known in the United States even though her headstone in Shelby, NE spells it "Amalea."



Amalia was a middle child and did go to school for some years. Later, she helped out with the farming and was hired out to do housework in Nová Hradečná and later Girsig in 1884. The whole story is not known, but in 1886, age 20, she got pregnant and delivered a son, Alois Theodor, on June 19, 1887.

Amalia Kressa (b. 10 Jul 1866) had one son born out of wedlock. He was born on 19 June 1887 at Jirikov 34

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Jirikov (Girsig), 1860-1887

Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
R VII 6 101 German	19 Jun 1887 20 Jun 1887	Girsig 34	<i>Alois Theodor</i>	<i>vacant</i>	Amalia Kressa, single daughter of Theodor Kressa, farmer in Girsig and of his wife <u>Caecilia</u> daughter of <u>Johann Pirsikovsky</u> (sic!) from Schröffelsdorf	Johann Thiel farmer in Braunseifen Theresia Schmidt <u>wife of Josef Schmidt Ausgedinger</u> in Unter Langendorf <u>Gottfried Mudrak parson</u> <u>Amalia Stanzel from Braunseifen 47</u>

There is some speculation that the father was Adolf Kuhnel, a farmer her age. Being good Catholics, this was not something to be proud of. Mr. Kuhnel was also from Girsig. Amalia joined her sister Anna and younger brother Adolf Kressa and emigrated to the United States, arriving in New York on September 8, 1888. The baby stayed with Grandma Cecilia for the time being. Amalia had a job waiting for her. Immigration records show that Adolf Kuhnel emigrated to the United States the next spring, arriving in Polk County, NE, in May of 1889. Adolf and Amalia got married on December 31st, 1889 in Schuyler, NE. Further records indicate that their son, Alois Theodor came over in May of 1890, along with Theodor, Cecilia, and Josef Ferdinand. The record on the next page shows that baby Alois came over at that time. By the middle of 1890, the whole family was joined together and life went on.

New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 for Theodor Kressa

Roll > M237, 1820-1897 > Roll 548

✓ Saved

830	Theodor Kressa	50	male	farmer
1	Cecilie	50	female	wife
2	Josef	9	male	son
3	Alois	11	male	baby
4	Sam Franz	30	male	farmer

The above is an excerpt from the New York Passenger List from the arrival of Theodor and Cecilia Kressa, Joseph Franz Kressa...and 11-month old Alois, a baby. The story was that Alois, later renamed Louis Walter Kuhnel, came over earlier to cover up the fact that he was born out of wedlock.

Amalia, her husband Adolf, and her re-named son "Louis Walter" made their home in Richland, Nebraska, east of Columbus, NE. Adolf had gotten work with the railroad and Amalia did laundry for railroad laborers. Adolf soon purchased a team of horses in Columbus so he could earn more money in his work with the Union Pacific railroad.

Adolf Kuhnel, Jr was born around 1890 in Richland, Nebraska. As a toddler, he was critically burned when he pulled a hot pot of coffee down on himself. He is buried at Richland, NE.

After earning enough money on the railroad, Adolf and Amalia moved to near Silver Creek, Nebraska where they bought a farm. Children Adolf Edmond, Mollie and Frank Kuhnel were born while they were on that farm. In 1905 they moved to a farm northwest of Gresham, NE, where sons Alfred and Emery Kuhnel were born. In 1918, the family moved to a farm near Shelby, NE, when they lived for many years.

Amalia's health started to fail because of high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries. The doctor put her on a strict diet, but she said, "If I can't eat all the foods I like, such as sauerkraut, liverwurst and sweets, why go on living?" When she was bed ridden, Ann Kresha, a daughter of brother Adolf, was sent to the Kuhnel home to help Amalia with the housekeeping. She died of a stroke in Shelby on August 7, 1932 and is buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Shelby at age 66. Her husband, Adolf, lived another 24 years and died on July 23, 1956 at age 90.



Amalia Kresha

BIRTH 10 JUL 1866 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 07 AUG 1932 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, USA

2nd great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

10 Jul 1866 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 20 — Residence

Jun 1887 • Jirikov, North Moravia, Czech Republic


Also known as Girsig 34, where Amalia gave birth to her first child, Alois Theodor, later to be renamed Louis Walter Kuhnel after arrival in the United States and later marriage. The father was not documented.

Age 21 — Arrival

24 May 1888 • New York, New York, USA

Age 23 — Marriage

31 Dec 1889 • Schuyler, Colfax, Nebraska, USA

 **Adolf Kuhnel**
(1866–1956)

Age 34 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska
Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Wife

Age 44 — Residence

1910 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 54 — Residence


1920 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 64 — Residence

1930 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 66 — Death

07 Aug 1932 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, USA
Died of a stroke

 **Burial**
Sacred Heart Cemetery, Shelby, Polk, Nebraska


Family


Parents

 **Theodor Kressa**
1834–1915


 **Cecilia Perikovsky**
1836–1892

Spouse & Children

 **Adolf Kuhnel**
1866–1956

 **Louis Walter (Alois Theodor) Kuhnel**
1887–1971


 **Adolf Kuhnel Jr**
1890–1891

 **Adolf Edmund Kuhnel**
1892–1971

 **Mollie A Kuhnel**
1895–1965

 **Frank J Kuhnel**
1901–1964


 **Alfred Herman Kuhnel**
1906–1981


 **Emery Theodore Kuhnel**
1911–1972


Sources


Ancestry Sources

 1900 United States Federal Census

 1900 United States Federal Census


 1910 United States Federal Census

 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011

Other Sources

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)



Adolf Kuhnel

BIRTH 24 FEB 1866 • Girsig, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 23 JUL 1956 • Shelby, NE

husband of 2nd great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

24 Feb 1866 • Girsig, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 23 — Departure

9 May 1889 • Hamburg

Age 23 — Arrival

10 May 1889 • Silver Creek, Merrick Co. Nebraska

Age 23 — Marriage

31 Dec 1889 • Schuyler, Colfax, Nebraska, USA



Amalia Kresha
(1866–1932)

Age 34 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska
Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 44 — Residence

1910 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 54 — Residence

1920 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 64 — Residence

1930 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 74 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, United States
Marital Status: Widowed; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 90 — Death

23 Jul 1956 • Shelby, NE

Age at Death: 90



Burial

Shelby, Polk County, Nebraska, USA
Sacred Heart Cemetery

Family

Parents



Frank J Kunnel
1846–



Mary Schwarzer
1846–

Spouse & Children



Amalia Kresha
1866–1932



Louis Walter (Alois Theodor) Kuhnel
1887–1971



Adolf Kuhnel Jr
1890–1891



Adolf Edmund Kuhnel
1892–1971



Mollie A Kuhnel
1895–1965



Frank J Kuhnel
1901–1964



Alfred Herman Kuhnel
1906–1981



Emery Theodore Kuhnel
1911–1972

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1900 United States Federal Census



1910 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Hamburger Passagierlisten, 1850-1934



U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Louis Walter (Alois Theodor) Kuhnel

BIRTH 10 JUN 1887 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 24 SEP 1971 • Tulare, Tulare, California, United States

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

10 Jun 1887 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 2 — Departure

15 May 1890 • Hamburg

Age 13 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska
Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 21 — Marriage

28 Dec 1908

 **Florence Cook**
(1890–1928)

Age 23 — Residence

1910 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 33 — Residence


1920 • Cottonwood, Sioux, Nebraska

Age 43 — Residence

1930 • Cottonwood, Sioux, Nebraska

Age 50 — Marriage

24 Jul 1937 • Pima, Arizona, USA

 **Theresa Lucile Barnett**
(1907–1979)

Age 52 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Soledad, Los Angeles, California, United States

Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head


Age 84 — Death

24 Sep 1971 • Tulare, Tulare, California, United States

 **Burial**
Dinuba, Tulare County, California
Smith Mountain Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Adolf Kuhnel**
1866–1956


 **Amalia Kresha**
1866–1932

Spouse & Children

 **Florence Cook**
1890–1928

 **Earl Henry Kuhnel**
1910–1988

 **Orville Glenn Kuhnel**
1912–1991

 **Louis Neal Kuhnel**
1913–1995


 **Raymond Boyd Kuhnel**
1915–1995

 **Charles Adolph Kuhnel**
1918–1984

 **Merna Marie Kuhnel**
1921–2006


 **Louis Walter Kuknel II**
1927–2007


Spouse


 **Theresa Lucile Barnett**
1907–1979


Sources


Ancestry Sources

 1900 United States Federal Census


 1910 United States Federal Census


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census

 1940 United States Federal Census

 Ancestry Family Trees


 Arizona, County Marriage Records, 1865-1972

 Arizona, County Marriage Records, 1865-1972

 California Death Index, 1940-1997

 California Death Index, 1940-1997

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)

 U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942



Adolf Edmund Kuhnel

BIRTH 18 JUL 1892 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 28 JAN 1971 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, United States

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

18 Jul 1892 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

Age 8 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 18 — Residence

1910 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 27 — Marriage

23 Sep 1919 • David City, Butler, Nebraska, USA



Petronella "Nellie" Caroline Lanspa
(1894–1990)

Age 28 — Residence

1920 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 43 — Residence

1935 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 47 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age: 48; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 50 — Residence

1942 • Shelby, Nebraska, USA

Age 78 — Death

28 Jan 1971 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age: 78



Burial

Shelby, Polk County, Nebraska, USA
Sacred Heart Cemetery

Family

Parents



Adolf Kuhnel
1866–1956



Amalia Kresha
1866–1932

Spouse & Children



Petronella "Nellie" Caroline Lanspa
1894–1990



Robert Joseph Kuhnel
1921–2009



Paul Jerome Kuhnel
1924–



Paul Jerome Kuhnel
1924–2009



Rita Mae Kuhnel
1925–1997

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1900 United States Federal Census



1910 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Social Security Death Index



U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current



U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918



Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Mollie A Kuhnel

BIRTH 06 FEB 1895 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska
DEATH 17 FEB 1965 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, United States
 1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — **Birth**
 06 Feb 1895 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 5 — **Residence**
 1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska
 Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter

Age 15 — **Residence**
 1910 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 25 — **Residence**
 1920 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 35 — **Residence**
 1930 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 70 — **Death**
 17 Feb 1965 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, United States

 **Burial**
 Shelby, Polk County, Nebraska, USA
 Sacred Heart Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Adolf Kuhnel**
 1866–1956

 **Amalia Kresha**
 1866–1932

Spouse & Children

 **George Hasselbalch**
 1889–1976

 **Lester George Hasselbalch**
 1917–1992


 **Elaine Marie Hasselbalch**
 1924–1990


 **Virginia Ann Hasselbalch**
 1930–


Sources


Ancestry Sources

 1900 United States Federal Census

 1910 United States Federal Census


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1920 United States Federal Census

 1930 United States Federal Census

 Ancestry Family Trees

 Ancestry Family Trees

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s–Current

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854–2011



Frank J Kuhnel

BIRTH 23 JUL 1901 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States

DEATH 31 MAR 1964 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, United States

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

23 Jul 1901 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States

Age 9 — Residence

1910 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 9 — Residence

1910 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 19 — Residence

1920 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 25 — Marriage

1926

 **Margaret Kaminski**
(1904–1978)

Age 29 — Residence

1930 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 34 — Residence

1935 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 38 — Residence

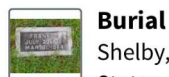
01 Apr 1940 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska, USA
Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 41 — Residence

1942 • Gresham, Polk, Nebraska, USA
Relation to Head: Self

Age 62 — Death

31 Mar 1964 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, United States



Burial

Shelby, Polk County, Nebraska, United States of America
Sacred Heart Cemetery

Family


Parents

 **Adolf Kuhnel**
1866–1956

 **Amalia Kresha**
1866–1932

Spouse & Children

 **Margaret Kaminski**
1904–1978


 **Eugene F Kuhnel**
1927–1991


 **V Jean Kuhnel**
1928–


 **Dorothy Jane Kuhnel**
1931–


Sources

Ancestry Sources

 1910 United States Federal Census


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census

 1940 United States Federal Census

 Ancestry Family Trees

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current



Alfred Herman Kuhnel

BIRTH 9 OCT 1906 • Gresham, York, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 03 APR 1981 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska, United States

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

9 Oct 1906 • Gresham, York, Nebraska, USA

Age 4 — Residence

1910 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska

Age 14 — Residence

1920 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 19 — Marriage

14 May 1926 • Fullerton, Nance, Nebraska



Esther J Gabriel

(1906–1997)

Age 24 — Residence

1930 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska

Age 29 — Residence

1935 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska

Age 33 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 74 — Death

03 Apr 1981 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska, United States



Burial

Osceola, Polk County, Nebraska, USA
Osceola Cemetery

Family

Parents



Adolf Kuhnel

1866–1956



Amalia Kresha

1866–1932

Spouse & Children



Esther J Gabriel

1906–1997



Janelle Ann Kuhnel

1930–



Marilyn Amelia Kuhnel

1930–



Eldon J Kuhnel

1930–



Vernon A Kuhnel

1939–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1910 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Social Security Death Index



U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current



Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Emery Theodore Kuhnel

BIRTH 04 JAN 1911 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 04 JUL 1972 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, United States

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

04 Jan 1911 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, USA

Age 9 — Residence

1920 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 19 — Residence

1930 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 21 — Marriage

11 Dec 1932 • Fullerton, Nance, Nebraska, USA

 **Margaret Ann Gabriel**
(1912–2003)

Age 24 — Residence

1935 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska

Age 29 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Canada, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head


Age 61 — Death

04 Jul 1972 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, United States

 **Burial**
Shelby, Polk County, Nebraska, USA
Sacred Heart Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Adolf Kuhnel**
1866–1956


 **Amalia Kresha**
1866–1932

Spouse & Children

 **Margaret Ann Gabriel**
1912–2003

 **Kathleen Ann Kuhnel**
1934–

 **Janet Marie Kuhnel**
1939–


 **Kenneth Emery Kuhnel**
1941–2015


 **LaVerne David Kuhnel**
1946–2000


 **Michael Lee Mick Kuhnel**
1947–2003


Sources

Ancestry Sources


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census

 Ancestry Family Trees

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011

Aloisia Kressa Weixler's Story

7. The seventh child was Aloisia Kressa, born July 10, 1868 in Nová Hradečná, to Cecilia and Theodor Kressa. It was not easy piecing together what happened to Aloisia as the other books had nothing on her. She is the other surviving Kressa who stayed in the “Old Country.”

She probably grew up like her siblings, going to school in Nova Hradečná until the family moved to Girsig in 1884 when she was 16.

The first time she hits the record book is in 1891 in Girsig when she delivers an unwed child on June 29th. There is no father listed for baby Emilie Paulina Kressa. Aloisia stayed home while her parents went to the US accompanying her brother Joseph Ferdinand to a new job there as well as delivering her nephew Alois Theodor to her sister Amalia who was now married to the father in the United States.

Aloisia Kressa (b. 10 Jul 1868) had one daughter born out of wedlock. She was born on 29 June 1891 at Jirikov 34.

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Jirikov (Girsig), 1888-1893						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
R VII 7 13 German	29 Jun 1891 1 Jul 1891	Girsig 34	Emilie Paulina	vacant	Aloisia Kressa, single daughter of Theodor Kressa, <i>Inwohner</i> and <i>Ausgedinger</i> in Girsig and of his wife Cecilia daughter of Johann Pirsikovsky (sic!) from Schróffelsdorf	Johann Thiel farmer in Braunseifen Emilia Hofmann single daughter of farmer from Braunseifen <i>Franz Nitsch parson</i> <i>Amalia Stanzel from Braunseifen 47</i>

Aloisia later married **Josef Weixler** on 9 November 1896. Their wedding record was not found. They were married most probably in Jirikov, but wedding data after 1872 for that area is not available online.

They had a daughter named **Anna**, born on 26 February 1897 at Dolni Dlouha Loucka 130. The family later moved to Brevenec.

ZA Opava, church registers of catholic parish Dolni Dlouha Loucka (Unter Langendorf), 1865-1900						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U II 6 157 <i>German</i>	26 Feb 1897 28 Feb 1897	Unter Langendorf 130	Anna	Weixler Josef, farmer-renter in Unterlangendorf, son of Josef Weixler, cottager in Zechan and of his wife Theresia a daughter of Johann Melzer, farmer in Zechan <i>b. 10 Mar 1868</i>	Aloisia, daughter of Theodor Kressa, farmer in Grätz and of his wife Cäcilia nee Girikovsky (sic!) from Schröffelsdorf <i>b. 10 Jul 1868 marr. 9 Nov 1896</i>	Konrad Löhner farmer in Unterlangendorf Cezilia Thiel farmer's wife at Braunseifen <i>Ernest Wiener cooperater Amalia Pfeler from Unter Langendorf 99</i>

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Brevenec (Trübenz), 1892-1920						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U X 15 44 <i>German</i>	19 Jan 1901 23 Jan 1901 <i>married with Adolf Seuchter on 5 Feb 1923 at Olomouc, St. Maurice church</i>	Trübenz 72	Aloisia	Weixler Josef, farmer in Trübenz, son of Josef Weixler, cottager in Zechan and of his wife Theresia a daughter of Johann Melzer, farmer in Zechan <i>b. 10 Mar 1868</i>	Aloisia, daughter of Theodor Kressa, farmer in Graetz and of his wife Caecilia nee Girikovsky (sic!) from Schröffelsdorf <i>b. 10 Jul 1868 marr. 16 Nov 1896</i>	Johann Thiel farmer in Braunseifen Aloisia Weixler single daughter of Josef Weixler carpenter in Zechan <i>Josef Konecny cooperater Johanna Beil from Schönwald 20</i>

ZA Opava, birth registers of catholic parish Brevenec (Trübenz), 1892-1920						
Book Page Tongue	Date of birth Baptismal date	Birthplace and # of house	Name	Father	Mother	Godparents Priest Midwife
U X 15 54 <i>German</i>	13 Jan 1903 17 Jan 1903 <i>married with Vinzenz Schaffar on 29 Nov 1933 at Otmütz, St. Maurice church</i>	Trübenz 72	Sofie	Weixler Josef, farmer in Trübenz, son of Josef Weixler, cottager in Zechan and of his wife Theresia a daughter of Johann Melzer, farmer in Zechan <i>b. 10 Mar 1868</i>	Aloisia, daughter of Theodor Kressa, farmer in Grätz and of his wife Caecilia nee Girikovsky (sic!) from Schröffelsdorf <i>b. 10 Jul 1868 marr. 16 Nov 1896</i>	Johann Thiel farmer in Braunseifen Aloisia Weixler single daughter of Josef Weixler carpenter in Zechan <i>Johann Krecan cooperater Johanna Bail from Schönwald 20</i>
U X 15 63 <i>German</i>	31 Jan 1905 6 Feb 1905	Trübenz 72	Josef	Weixler Josef born on 10 March 1868, farmer in Trübenz, son of Josef Weixler, cottager in Zechan and of his wife Theresia a daughter of Johann Melzer	Aloisia born on 10 July 1868, daughter of Theodor <u>Kressa</u> , farmer in Graetz and of his wife Caecilia nee Girikovsky (sic!) from Schröffelsdorf <i>marr. 16 Nov 1896</i>	Johann Thiel farmer in Braunseifen Rosalia Kressa wife of Theodor Kressa <i>Ausgedinger</i> in Grätz <i>Johann Pluhacek cooperater Johanna Bail from Schönwald 20</i>
U X 15 69 <i>German</i>	23 Mar 1906 29 Mar 1906	Trübenz 72	Marie <i>+ 8 May 1906</i>	Weixler Josef born on 10 March 1868, farmer in Trübenz, son of Josef Weixler, cottager in Zechan and of his wife Theresia a daughter of Johann Melzer	Aloisia born on 10 July 1868, daughter of Theodor <u>Kressa</u> , farmer in Graetz and of his wife Caecilia nee Girikovsky (sic!) from Schröffelsdorf <i>marr. 16 Nov 1896</i>	Johann Thiel farmer in Braunseifen Rosalia Kressa wife of Theodor Kressa <i>Ausgedinger</i> in Grätz <i>Johann Pluhacek cooperater Johanna Bail from Schönwald 20</i>

There are no further records of Aloisia Weixler so, we are not sure when she died. Little is known of Aloisia's stepmother, Rosalia, but there is now documentary evidence of her, Rosalia Kressa, wife of Aloisia's dad Theodor (1834-1915). It is in the Godparents section of the birth records for Josef (1905) and Marie Weixler (1906), found on the previous page. No other records have been found, though it says they were living in Nová Hradečná.

One of Aloisia's children, Anna Weixler, married Karl Riedl in 1921. He was a butcher in Trubenz. A child of Anna and Karl's eventually married an American serviceman after World War II and emigrated to the United States. The family had been expelled from Czechoslovakia and were "resettled" in Germany. The following pages document that line of Aloisia's descendants:

Anna Weixler married Karl Riedl on 6 October 1921, there.

ZA Opava, filial at Olomouc, wedding registers of catholic parish Sumvald (Schönwald), 1892-1928							
Book Page Tongue	Date	Number of house	Groom	Age Born	Bride	Age Born	Witnesses, Priest
U X 16 241 <i>German</i>	6 Oct 1921 <i>in chapel at Trübenz</i>	Trübenz 82 Trübenz 25	Riedl Karl, butcher in Trübenz, born on 11 October 1894 at Trübenz, political district Sternberg, single son of + Karl Riedl, farmer at Trübenz and of his wife Agnes nee Kacel	27 years cathol. single	Weixler Anna, born on 26 February 1897 in Unterlangendorf, political district Sternberg, single daughter of + Josef Weixler, farmer in Trübenz and of his wife Aloisia nee Kressa	24 years 7 months cathol. single	Johann Haay <i>Feilhauer</i> at Römerstadt Johann Badstieber farmer at Trübenz <i>Alois Strasak chaplain</i>
<i>Banns were published at parish church of Schönwald on 18th, 19th and 20th Sunday after Pentecost, i.e. on 28 and 25 September and on 2 October 1921</i>							



The photo, from the left, is Anna, daughters, Martl, Helga, and Emma, with Karl on the right.

One family story is that Karl Riedl was a volunteer soldier for Germany in World War I and when Germany lost the war, was sent as a prisoner of war to Siberia in eastern Russia. Security was lax because of the vast distances and severe winters. Karl took advantage of that and walked all the way back to Eastern Europe to find and marry Anna Weixler. They had a nice life until World War II. Karl enlisted again in the German Army. This time he died trying to get home. History tells us that German prisoners were not treated kindly and many died of abuse, disease, and starvation.

The end World War II was not good for the Riedl family at home in Czechoslovakia. All German-speaking "sympathizers" living outside Germany were expelled in 1948 from their home countries and sent to Germany. They were sent with only with what they could carry in boxcars and trucks to recently vacated concentration camps. Conditions were terrible and the American soldiers, who had just defeated the German Army, were now in charge. The Americans had neither the resources or the skills on how to run a refugee or resettlement camp. Photos below show typical conditions:



The above is typical of the German camp at Dachau, near Munich, Germany. Conditions were primitive and many were moved in the wintertime without heat or running water.



The above is a photo of "expellees" taking their meager belongings to the train. If there wasn't room on the train, they had to leave it behind.

Anna, whose husband was in the Germany Army, was probably among the first group expelled from Sudetenland areas of Moravia. Also expelled was Anna's sister, Sophia Weixler Schaffar (she had married Vinvenz Schaffar November 29, 1933, at Saint Maurice Church in Olomouc).

Aloisia's brother Adolf received some letters after the expulsion, presumably from Dachau, Bavaria, Germany. The infamous concentration camp there was where many prisoners were held and 32,000 Jews were killed there. It was liberated by US Forces in 1945 and after 1948, it was empty and used to hold ethnic Germans who had been expelled and were awaiting "resettlement." It was also used as a US military base. Dachau is located about 10 miles northwest of Munich.

The original letters are gone, but translations were among those held in a "Black Box" kept by Aloisia's brother, Adolf Franz, who lived in Polk County, Nebraska.

From the translation:

"Letter #5 is missing the first page and date is not available but seems to be an appeal for help. They spoke of the situation and financial condition until the war

and now it was necessary to ask for help of any kind. Funds which had been set aside for the youthful members of the family to use for education had to be used for daily livelihood. A prompt answer was requested, and good wishes were sent. Signed by Anna Riedl...residing in the USA zone of Germany."

"Letter #6 is dated February 23, 1947. It is a request for aid. Also, the address of an ADOLF Pansmal...This family had no heating appliance for three months but conditions were improving for which they thanked God. Greetings were added by Alfred, Maria, and Mitzi, with the hope that they would soon receive a reply."

"Letter #7A is dated November 27, 1947. It is written by Anna Riedl, who begs for a response to correspondence. She begs for a care packet as conditions have been distressful. Her husband, Karl, had just died just as the European war ended. Since she was writing so near Christmas, she wished the family in America a blessed holiday. A post script is added to the letter stating that Anna Riedl's daughter was writing the letter because Anna was unable to use her fingers for writing." [could have been Helga Riedl (1926-2005)]

"Letter 7B is dated February 23, 1948. This letter is written by Sophie, [Weixler] wife of Vinzenz Schaffar (unsure of spelling). They seem to be in dire distress and also are appealing for assistance. They are niece and nephew of Adolf. They speak of the "present great need," etc. The war destroyed their entire lifestyles and the sad state of affairs forced them to seek whatever help was possible. Other nieces in the family also wrote in this letter and appealed for aid."

"Letter #8 dated February 17, 1948. Sending greetings and a wish for a joyous Easter. Also, very needy. They had written but received no reply. Acknowledged that perhaps the Kresha family was not prospering."

"Letter #9 dated March 15, 1948 is from a daughter of Aloisia Kressa, sister to Adolf. She also describes their former days as having been happy ones, but the war had changed everything. They lost most of their clothing when the bombing of their area began. They had had been compelled to move to Germany and were living in the USA zone. Her name was Aloisia." [Aloisia Kressa did have a daughter named Aloisia (1901-) and is a sister of Sophie (1903-)]

"Letter #12 written June 13, 1948 is postmarked Heimershausen. Sofie Schaffarsch writes her needs. There was nothing to buy in the stores. She writes in the hope that she may receive an answer and hoped that Adolf might find it possible to visit Germany and come to their aid. Her handwriting was clear and

easy to read.”

The good news is that the family eventually resettled and made a new life. At this stage of research (2018) little is known except that Anna Weixler is buried near Munich. One of her daughters, Helga Riedl, worked hard, eventually meeting and marrying an American GI in Salzburg, Austria. They subsequently moved to his hometown in Florida. The next few pages present information to document this story to help with future research.



Aloisia Kressa

BIRTH 10 JUL 1868 • Nova Hradecna, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 30 AUG 1965 • dorn, wein stadt, Vienna, Wien, Vienna, Austria

2nd great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

10 Jul 1868 • Nova Hradecna, North Moravia, Czech Republic
House 33

Age 20 — Residence


1888 • Jirsig, Österreich
Relation to Head of House: Säugling

Age 22 — Arrival

1890 • New York
Traveled to the US with brother Joseph and parents. Joseph stayed, but Aloisia returned to Moravia with parents who thought Nebraska was too hot.

Age 28 — Marriage

09 Nov 1896 • North Moravia, Czech Republic

 **Josef Weixler**
(1868-)

Age 97 — Death

30 Aug 1965 • dorn, wein stadt, Vienna, Wien, Vienna, Austria
Friedhof Dornbach - tentative listing

Family

Parents


 **Theodor Kressa**
1834-1915

 **Cecilia Perikovskiy**
1836-1892

Spouse & Children

 **Josef Weixler**
1868-

 **Anna Weixler**
1897-1971

 **Aloisia Weixler**
1901-

 **Sofie Weixler**
1903-

 **Josef Weixler**
1905-

 **Marie Weixler**
1906-1906

Spouse & Children


 **Emilie Paulina Weixler**
1891-

Sources

Ancestry Sources

 Ancestry Family Trees

Other Sources

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)



Josef Weixler

BIRTH 10 MAR 1868 • Techanov, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH Unknown

husband of 2nd great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

10 Mar 1868 • Techanov, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Near Sumvald, just east of Nova Hradecna today.

Age 28 — Marriage

09 Nov 1896 • North Moravia, Czech Republic



Aloisia Kressa
(1868–1965)

Age 28 — Occupation

26 Feb 1897 • Dolni Dlouha Loucka, North Moravia, Czech Republic
Listed as Farmer-renter

Family

Parents



Josef Weixler



Theresia Melzer

Spouse & Children



Aloisia Kressa
1868–1965



Anna Weixler
1897–1971



Aloisia Weixler
1901–



Sofie Weixler
1903–



Josef Weixler
1905–



Marie Weixler
1906–1906

Sources

Ancestry Sources



Ancestry Family Trees



Anna Weixler

BIRTH 26 FEB 1897 • Brevenec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 01 APR 1971 • Dachau, Bavaria (Bayern), Germany

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

26 Feb 1897 • Brevenec, North Moravia, Czech Republic
House 130

Baptism

28 Feb 1897 • Unter-Langendorf, Czech Republic
Godparent was her Aunt Cecilia (Kressa) Thiel from Braunseifen. Info from Martin Pytr, Czechkin.com researcher, May, 2014.

Age 3 — Residence

Abt. 1900 • Brevenec, North Moravia, Czech Republic
Family later moved to Brevenec, CZ sometime after Anna's birth. Brevenec is a few miles east of Nova Hradecna and Lipinka.


Age 24 — Marriage

06 Oct 1921 • Šumvald, Moravia, Czech Republic
Witnesses were Johann Haay Feilhaur of Romerstadt and Johann Badstieber of Trubenz

 **Karl Andreas Riedl**
(1894–1947)

Age 74 — Death

01 Apr 1971 • Dachau, Bavaria (Bayern), Germany
Age: 72

 **Burial**
5 Apr 1971 • Dachau, Bavaria (Bayern), Germany

Family

Parents

 **Josef Weixler**
1868–

 **Aloisia Kressa**
1868–1965

Spouse & Children

 **Karl Andreas Riedl**
1894–1947

 **Emma Riedl**
1925–2007

 **Helga Riedl**
1926–2005


 **Martl Riedl**
1928–


 **Martl RIEDL**
1928–


Sources

Ancestry Sources

 Ancestry Family Trees

 Germany, Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

 Web: International, Find A Grave Index



Karl Andreas Riedl

BIRTH 11 OCT 1894 • Trubenz, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 1947 • Czechoslovakia

husband of 1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

11 Oct 1894 • Trubenz, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Trubenz is close to Sternberg, southeast of Uničov, CZ. Family may have moved to Griesbach, Aichach-Friedberg, Bavaria, Germany. Above location from Martin Pyter, researcher in Czech Republic, 2014

Age 20 — Residence

1914 • Bayern, Germany

Age: 20

Age 26 — Marriage

06 Oct 1921 • Šumvald, Moravia, Czech Republic

Witnesses were Johann Haay Feilhaur of Romerstadt and Johann Badstieber of Trubenz



Anna Weixler

(1897–1971)

Age 26 — Occupation

06 Oct 1921 • Sumvald, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Karl is listed as a butcher in wedding documentation, at ZA Opava, filed at Olomouc, wedding registers of the Catholic Parish at Sumvald, (Schonwald) 1892-1928

Age 53 — Death

1947 • Czechoslovakia

Died shortly after the war as a prisoner. Burial site unknown.

Family

Parents



Karl Riedl

1857–1914



Agnes Kacel

1865–

Spouse & Children



Anna Weixler

1897–1971



Emma Riedl

1925–2007



Helga Riedl

1926–2005



Martl Riedl

1928–



Martl RIEDL

1928–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



Ancestry Family Trees



Bavaria, Germany, WWI Personnel Rosters, 1914-1918



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Helga Riedl

BIRTH 03 MAR 1926 • Rymarov, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 19 NOV 2005 • Panama City, Bay, Florida

2nd cousin 1x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

03 Mar 1926 • Rymarov, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 26 — Marriage

22 Jan 1953 • Salzburg, Austria



Grady Oddis Johnson

(1928–2012)

Age 28 — Residence

1954 • Pensacola, Florida, USA

Age 79 — Death

19 Nov 2005 • Panama City, Bay, Florida

Age at Death: 79

Family

Parents



Karl Andreas Riedl

1894–1947



Anna Weixler

1897–1971

Spouse & Children



Grady Oddis Johnson

1928–2012



Dr Ingrid Diane Johnson

1956–



Sonia Helga Johnson

1959–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



Ancestry Family Trees



Social Security Death Index



U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989



U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 2



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Sofie Weixler

BIRTH 13 JAN 1903 • Brevenec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH Unknown

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

13 Jan 1903 • Brevenec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 30 — Marriage

29 Nov 1933 • Olomouc, North Moravia, Czech Republic
St. Maurice Church

 **Vinzenz Schaffar**
(1889–1953)

Age 44 — Residence

13 Jun 1947 • Heimertshausen, Vogelsbergkreis, Hesse, Germany
Sent letter to USA to uncle Adolf Kresha from this address.

Family

Parents

 **Josef Weixler**
1868–

 **Aloisia Kressa**
1868–1965

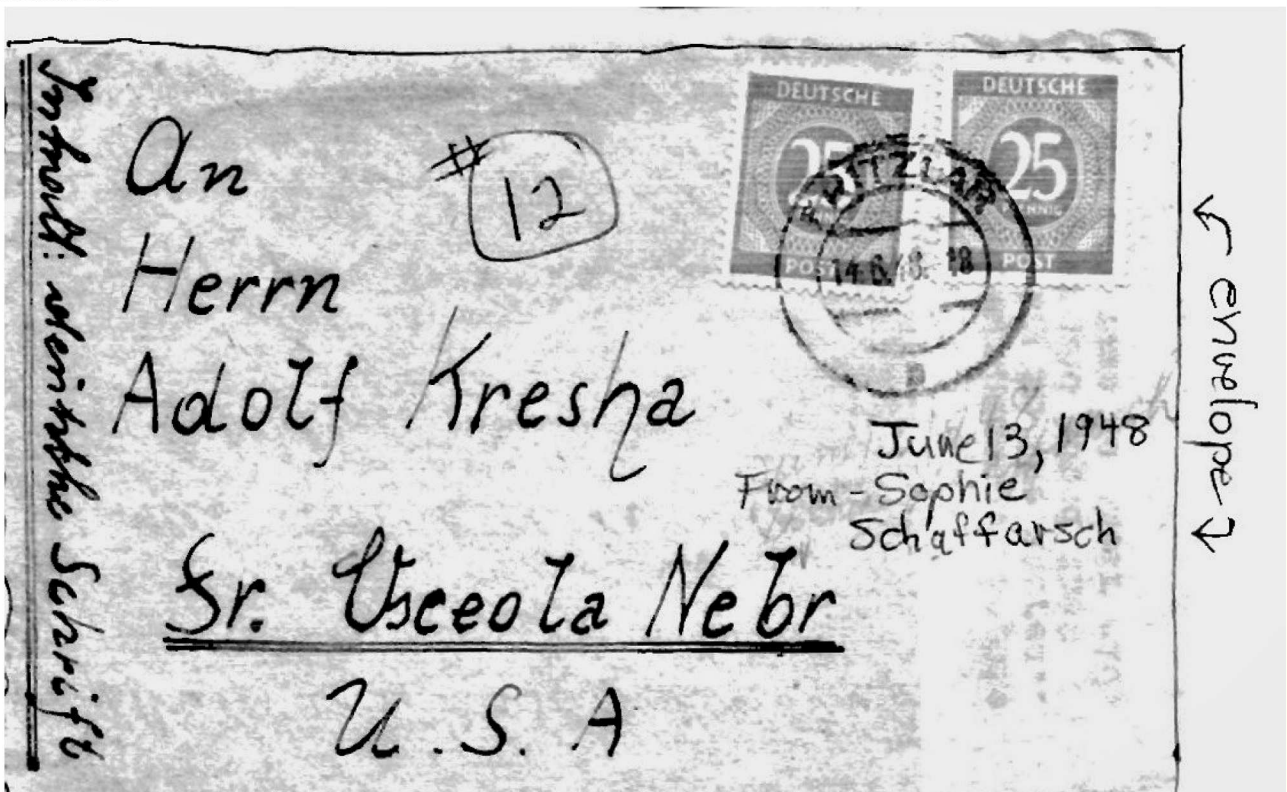
Spouse

 **Vinzenz Schaffar**
1889–1953

Sources

Ancestry Sources

 Ancestry Family Trees



#12 Heimarshausen, den 13.6.48
Lieber Onkel Tante u. alle Ver.
warmen!

Wir haben Euch am 24.2.1948
eine Mitteilung aus Deutschland über
eure Ergehen zu kommen lassen und
erhielten bis heute noch immer keine Nach-
richt, ob Ihr überhaupt unsere Schreiben
erhalten habt. Vereint senden wir Euch
Allen viele schöne und herzliche Grüsse
und erinnern an feierliche Anfnahme.

Wir befinden uns in Europa
während dem Kriege ist ein sehr blühliches,
deswegen wenden wir uns immer an Euch
mit der Bitte, unsere gegenwärtige Lage
etwas erträglicher zu machen.

In der alten Formet haben wir
 alles verloren und in Deutschland gibt
 es nichts zum Schreiben, damit man wie,
 der alte Mensch öffentlich auf treten kann.

Schluss unseres heutigen Schreiben
 in der Hoffnung, von ^{Ihrer} eine baldige Nach-
 richt zu erlangen. Mit nochmals vielen
 Grüßen auf ein baldiges Wiedersehen

Grüß

Familie

Sophie Schaffarsch

geb.

Weister

Anna Kresha Karges's Story

8. The eighth child born to Cecilia and Theodor Kressa was Anna Kressa, born March 14th, 1871 in Nová Hradečná. She followed the well-worn path of her brothers and sisters, going to school until she was about 15, as prescribed by law. Then she found work as a domestic helper with neighboring families, saving her money for her trip to America.

At age 17, she joined her younger brother Adolf and older sister Amalia in emigrating to the America to join their older brother Theodore in Columbus, NE. They all got their passports, took the train to Hamburg, and took a transatlantic immigrant ship ride of about 8-9 days to New York. Anna's daughter, Ann Karges, says they passed through a big storm on the Atlantic and everyone onboard got seasick. After they arrived at the immigrant facility at Castle Clinton in Manhattan and had fulfilled their two weeks of quarantine, they went to the train station, and took the train to Columbus, probably through Chicago on the way.

To receive her passport, Anna had to have a job waiting for her. It was with the Anton Bitt family in Columbus. She wasn't very happy with them, as she felt she was "treated like a slave." About a year later, she met Martin Karges when he came to visit his sister, who was a neighbor of the Bitts.

On April 15, 1890, Anna Kressa and Martin Karges were married in Saint Bonaventure Catholic Church in Columbus. Martin was 45 years old and Anna just 19 – a 26-year difference. The best man was her brother Adolf, 17 at the time, with whom she had immigrated. Martin made a home for them in Columbus for a while, then they moved to a farm in Merrick County between Silver Creek and Clarks, Nebraska.

Thus begins one of the stranger tales in this whole history of the Kresha family, when her brother Adolf later married her grand-niece.

A bit of a digression here. Anna's husband, Martin Karges, was born in 1844, in Hornau, Germany. He arrived in the United States in 1868, single, and 24 years old. Coming at the same time were six members of his family: His parents, Johann Kargus and Catherine (Bender) Kargus, three sisters, Eva, 27, Catherine, 21, and Elizabeth, 17...and a baby named Martin Karges, less than a year old. The baby apparently belonged to Eva, as she took him with her throughout her life, even when

marrying William E Mason and having five other children. The father of the baby Martin Karges is not named nor is there any explanation as to why he was named the same as his uncle. In any case, the baby Martin is still the nephew of the older Martin, as his sister Eva is the mother. The younger Martin Karges got married and had a child, Eva France Karges. She is the older Martin Karges' grand-niece.

In a twist of fate in 1918, when Adolf Kresha, widower, went to see his sister Anna Karges in Silver Creek, he noticed her grand-niece, Eva Frances Karges. Eva F, 26, was single and without prospects; she soon married Adolf Kresha in June of 1919, the brother of her Great-Aunt Anna.

Anna apparently had a good life on the farm and had seven children, five boys and two girls. They all survived into adulthood.

Anna's husband, Martin Karges (1844-1927), died at age 82 in Clarks, Nebraska. Anna, 56 at the time, continued to live on the farm, with her sons help, for many years until she was offered a housekeeping job with her brother-in-law, Adolf Kuhnel. Anna's sister Amalia, aka "Mollie," had died the year previous and he was all alone. She lived and worked for Adolf near Shelby, NE, for many years until her health failed. She died on December 27, 1957 and was buried in the Saint Peters Catholic Cemetery in Clarks, next to her husband, Martin Karges.

Martin Karges (1844-1927) and Anna Kressa for their wedding in Columbus, NE April 15, 1890.





Anna Kressa Kresha

BIRTH 14 MAR 1871 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 20 DEC 1957 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, USA

2nd great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

14 Mar 1871 • Hradec, North Moravia, Czech Republic

Age 17 — Arrival

1888

Age 19 — Marriage

15 Apr 1890 • Columbus, Platte Co, Nebraska
Home wedding

 **Martin Karges Sr**
(1844–1927)

Age 29 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 49 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 59 — Residence


1930 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska
Marital Status: Widowed; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 69 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, United States


Age 86 — Death

20 Dec 1957 • Shelby, Polk, Nebraska, USA

 **Burial**
Dec 1957 • St. Peters Catholic Cemetery, Clarks, Merrick, NE
Calvary Cemetery

Family

Parents


 **Theodor Kressa**
1834–1915

 **Cecilia Perikovsky**
1836–1892


Spouse & Children


 **Martin Karges Sr**
1844–1927

 **Martin Wiliam Karges**
1891–1979

 **John Adam Karges**
1893–1975

 **Joseph Adam Karges**
1895–1984

 **Frank Theodore Karges**
1897–1954


 **Ann Rose Karges**
1900–1994

 **George Leo Karges**
1905–1972


 **Marie Theresa Karges**
1911–1997


Sources


Ancestry Sources

 1900 United States Federal Census


 1900 United States Federal Census

 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees

 Iowa, Marriage Records, 1923-1937


 Iowa, Select Marriages, 1809-1992

 Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

Other Sources

 Czech Regional Archive in Opava (Zemskeho Archivu v Opava)



Martin Karges Sr

BIRTH 04 JUL 1844 • Nassau, Deggendorf, Bayern, Germany

DEATH 27 MAY 1927 • St. Peters, Clarks, NE

husband of 2nd great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

04 Jul 1844 • Nassau, Deggendorf, Bayern, Germany

Age 23 — Arrival

02 May 1868 • New York

Age 26 — Residence

1870 • Butler, Platte, Nebraska, United States

Age 28 — Marriage

1872 • Nebraska, USA



Anna Sohm
(1843–1888)

Age 36 — Residence

1880 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States

Age 45 — Marriage

15 Apr 1890 • Columbus, Platte Co, Nebraska Home wedding



Anna Kressa Kresha
(1871–1957)

Age 56 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 66 — Arrival

Aug 1910 • Sweet Grass, Montana

Age 76 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 82 — Death

27 May 1927 • St. Peters, Clarks, NE



Burial

May 1927 • St. Peters Catholic Cemetery, Clarks, Merrick, NE
Calvary Cemetery

Family

Parents



Johann (John) Kargus
1813–



Catherine Bender
1808–

Spouse



Anna Sohm
1843–1888

Spouse & Children



Anna Kressa Kresha
1871–1957



Martin Wiliam Karges
1891–1979



John Adam Karges
1893–1975



Joseph Adam Karges
1895–1984



Frank Theodore Karges
1897–1954



Ann Rose Karges
1900–1994



George Leo Karges
1905–1972



Marie Theresa Karges
1911–1997

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1870 United States Federal Census



1880 United States Federal Census



1900 United States Federal Census



1900 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Border Crossings: From Canada to U.S., 1895-1956



Iowa, Marriage Records, 1923-1937



Iowa, Select Marriages, 1809-1992



Mainz, Germany, Emigration Register, 1856-1877



Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908



Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908



New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957



Martin Wiliam Karges

BIRTH 20 FEB 1891 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 20 DEC 1979 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

20 Feb 1891 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

Age 9 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 26 — Military

05 Oct 1917

Age 26 — Residence

1917 • Merrick, Nebraska

Age 29 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 39 — Residence

1930 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 44 — Residence

1935 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 49 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 51 — Residence

1942 • Silver Creek, Nebraska, USA

Age 88 — Death

20 Dec 1979 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA



Burial

Clarks, Merrick, Nebraska, USA
Calvary Cemetery

Family

Parents



Martin Karges Sr

1844-1927



Anna Kressa Kresha

1871-1957

Spouse



Never Married

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1900 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Social Security Death Index



U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942



U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current



World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918



John Adam Karges

BIRTH 15 MAR 1893 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

DEATH AUG 1975 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States of America

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

15 Mar 1893 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

Age 7 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 27 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 27 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 31 — Marriage

30 Jun 1924 • Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie, Iowa

ref: Iowa Marriages, 1809-1992


 **Alice M White**
(1906–1965)

Age 47 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States

Age 82 — Death

Aug 1975 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States of America

 **Burial**
Silver Creek, Merrick County, Nebraska
Silver Creek Cemeterly

Family

Parents

 **Martin Karges Sr**
1844–1927

 **Anna Kressa Kresha**
1871–1957

Spouse & Children


 **Alice M White**
1906–1965


 **Eugene M Karges**
1925–1991


 **Keith L Karges**
1927–1997

Sources


Ancestry Sources


 1900 United States Federal Census


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census

 Ancestry Family Trees


 Iowa, Marriage Records, 1923-1937


 Iowa, Marriage Records, 1923-1937


 Iowa, Select Marriages, 1809-1992

 Iowa, Select Marriages, 1809-1992

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011

 World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918



Joseph Adam Karges

BIRTH 21 MAR 1895 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 16 SEP 1984 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska, United States of America

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

21 Mar 1895 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

Age 5 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 22 — Residence

1917 • Merrick, Nebraska

Age 23 — Military

05 Sep 1918

Age 24 — Marriage

11 Feb 1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska files. usgwarchives.net/ne/ marriage/marbookh.txt Pge 2, # 3172

 **Clara Rose Meyer**
(1898–1968)

Age 25 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 35 — Residence

1930 • Platte, Polk, Nebraska

Age 45 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Platte, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 47 — Residence

1942 • Platte, Nebraska, USA

Age 89 — Death

16 Sep 1984 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska, United States of America

 **Burial**
Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska
Saint Bonaventure Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Martin Karges Sr**
1844–1927

 **Anna Kressa Kresha**
1871–1957

Spouse & Children

 **Clara Rose Meyer**
1898–1968

 **Eileen Karges**
1924–2016


 **Alnetta Karges**
1929–1995


 **Doris R Karges**
1930–


Sources

Ancestry Sources

 1900 United States Federal Census

 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census

 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees


 Social Security Death Index

 U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942

 U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011

 World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918



Frank Theodore Karges

BIRTH 01 DEC 1897 • Merrick, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 05 JUL 1954 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

01 Dec 1897 • Merrick, Nebraska, USA

Age 3 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 20 — Residence

1917 • Merrick, Nebraska

Age 23 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 23 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 33 — Residence

1930 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 33 — Residence

1930 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 38 — Residence

1935 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 42 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States

Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Brother

Age 45 — Residence

1942 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

Relation to Head: Self

Age 56 — Death

05 Jul 1954 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska



Burial

Clarks, Merrick County, Nebraska, United States of America
Calvary Cemetery

Family

Parents



Martin Karges Sr

1844–1927



Anna Kressa Kresha

1871–1957

Spouse

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1900 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current



World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918



Ann Rose Karges

BIRTH 08 FEB 1900 • Platte County, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 18 MAR 1994 • Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States of America

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

08 Feb 1900 • Platte County, Nebraska, USA

Age 20 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 28 — Marriage

1928 • Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, USA



Leonard B Serio

(1906–1979)

Age 30 — Residence

1930 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter

Age 35 — Residence

1935 • Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Age 37 — Residence

1937 • Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Age 40 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States

Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Wife

Age 82 — Residence

1982 • Milwaukee, WI

Age 94 — Death

18 Mar 1994 • Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States of America

Burial

Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, United States of America
Holy Cross Cemetery and Mausoleums

Family

Parents



Martin Karges Sr

1844–1927



Anna Kressa Kresha

1871–1957

Spouse & Children



Leonard B Serio

1906–1979



Mary Ann Serio

1935–2002

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Ancestry Family Trees



Social Security Death Index



U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)



U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)



U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Wisconsin Death Index, 1959-1997



George Leo Karges

BIRTH 07 AUG 1905 • Silver Creek, Merrick County, Nebraska, United States of America

DEATH 22 JUN 1972 • Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, United States of America

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

07 Aug 1905 • Silver Creek, Merrick County, Nebraska, United States of America

Age 15 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 15 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 25 — Residence

1930 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska

Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 29 — Marriage

10 Jun 1935 • St. Bonaventure, Columbus, Platte, Nebraska

 **Catherine M Sellar**
(1906–2000)

Age 34 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska, United States

Age 40 — Divorce

1945

 **Catherine M Sellar**
(1906–2000)

Age 40 — Marriage

19 Jul 1946

 **Maxine Liberty Brewer**
(1917–2000)

Age 50 — Residence

1955 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Age 66 — Death

22 Jun 1972 • Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, United States of America

Burial

 Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska, USA
Roselawn Memorial Park

Family

Parents

 **Martin Karges Sr**
1844–1927

 **Anna Kressa Kresha**
1871–1957

Spouse

 **Catherine M Sellar**
1906–2000

Spouse & Children

 **Maxine Liberty Brewer**
1917–2000


 **George Leo Karges Jr.**
1947–1947


 **Daniel G Karges**
1949–1978


 **Marsha Kay Karges**
1959–


Sources

Ancestry Sources

 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census

 Ancestry Family Trees

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Marie Theresa Karges

BIRTH 14 AUG 1911 • Silver Creek, Nebraska

DEATH 17 MAY 1997 • Saint Francis, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

14 Aug 1911 • Silver Creek, Nebraska

Age 9 — Residence

1920 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 19 — Residence

1930 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter

Age 24 — Residence

Bet. 1935-1993 • Pensacola, FL

Age 28 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Washington, District of Columbia, District of Columbia, United States

Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Wife

House: Wife

Age 30 — Marriage

13 May 1942

 **Clarence S Geiger**

(1904-1960)

Age 67 — Marriage

1 Aug 1979 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin

 **Everett Baars**

(1911-)

Age 85 — Death

17 May 1997 • Saint Francis, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Burial

Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, United States of America

Family

Parents

 **Martin Karges Sr**

1844-1927

 **Anna Kressa Kresha**

1871-1957

Spouse & Children

 **Clarence S Geiger**

1904-1960

 **Robert E Geiger**

1938-

 **Sandra Geiger**

1944-

 **Marilyn Jean Geiger**

1944-2005

 **Elizabeth Betty Geiger**

1951-2006


Spouse


 **Everett Baars**

1911-


Sources


Ancestry Sources


 1920 United States Federal Census

 1930 United States Federal Census

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

 Wisconsin Death Index, 1959-1997

Adolf Franz Kresha's Story - The First Family

9. The ninth child born to Cecilia and Theodor Kressa was Adolf Kressa, born the 4th of April in 1873.

Adolf attended the public school there until about 14, when his mother, Cecilia, decided that he needed to be sent to the United States, as at 15, he would be eligible to be drafted into the Austro-Hungarian Army. Emperor Franz Joseph had a habit of putting the youngest recruits at the front of the line to charge with bayonets and were frequently mowed down by canon. There was a battle not far away in Hradec Kralove, a battle that had over 44,000 casualties in one day (July 3, 1866). The Prussian Army chased the Austrians back toward Vienna, a route that went through Hradečná. (see the historical section).

Adolf tells the story about a time he got sick when he was 12 years old. He was told there was a virulent strain of flu going around and it was killing all the children who had it, especially if they ate very much food. He caught the flu. He was sick in bed for a week and Mama Cecilia cooked a chicken and made a big kettle of soup. She gave Adolf a small bowl full before going to work. She then put the kettle with the soup in it on top of the cabinet, out of his reach. As it happened, he became hungry again, so he dragged over a chair to the cabinet, climbed up and carefully lifted down the big kettle of soup, and ate some of it. Then he went back to bed as his mother had ordered him to. However, he became hungry several more times that day and went to the table for more soup. By the end of the day, all of the soup was gone. When his Mama returned home from work, she sat by the table with the pile of chicken bones and cried, "Adolf, Adolf, you are surely going to die!" But he assured her that he was feeling good now and said, "See, I'm still living. You were starving me!"

So, when the money had been earned by his mother working, in the summer of 1888, there was one last photograph taken of all family members. As has been described, Adolf and his two older sisters got on the train around the end of August, and headed for Hamburg, Germany, a port where most central Europeans caught the emigration ships to the US. The ship sailed to Southampton, England, and then New York. After an 8-9-day journey over the Atlantic, during which there was a bad storm, causing many to become seasick, they arrived at Castle Clinton in Manhattan, New York, after passing the newly built Statue of Liberty.

The young people were placed in quarantine for two weeks and then headed out

for the train ride to Nebraska. They all had jobs waiting for them. Anna went to the Anton Bitts and Adolf went to work for the Johann Schram family farm near Columbus. After the harvest was over at the Schrams, he went to Polk County to work for the John Scholze family during the winter. It was near rural School District #39, a one-room school house. After the chores were finished, he attended school to learn reading and writing in English and to take citizenship lessons. He attended the same school as all of his 19 children did, in the Valley Precinct, in Polk County, north of Osceola, Nebraska.

The spelling of the Kressa name had become an issue for some family members, as it apparently had gotten misspelled. Some tried Kresse, Krehsa, but the winner was Kresha. It was not uncommon for folks to change the spelling of their name so that it sounded more “American.” It drives genealogists crazy.

Adolf was 15 years old and pretty much on his own. About a mile away from the Scholze home there was a Czech family from Moravia, the nearby village of Troubelice/Lazce. They were John (Johann) Kropatsch and Anna Kral. In the old country, their name was spelled Kropač; the pronunciation is Kropatsch. The Kropačs and the Kressas all went to the same church, Saint Lawrence in Hradečná. At this time, most families were bilingual and could get along in either Czech or German.

When Adolf was about 20, he began courting Sophie Kropač. He knew her well, as they went to the same school. The Kropatschs had arrived in the United States in 1874 and she was the fifth child of John and Anna. It appears that Sophie was conceived in Lazce, Moravia, CZ but was not born until they arrived in Polk County, Nebraska in 1875. One must remember that Nebraska was pretty much open prairie, undeveloped, and homesteaders were flooding in to stake their claim to the free land that was being offered. You had to live on it for five years and then you got to keep it. It was a rough time to get started, as Nebraska can be very hot in the summer and very cold and windy in the winter. Twenty degrees below zero and huge snow drifts are not uncommon. The Kropačs had homesteading for 15 years and were pretty well established, along with their 10 children. Adolf would have been attracted to them because their families went to church together in the old country.

By way of background, Troubelice and Lazce were a Czech-dominant community (1039 Czech and only 7 German speakers in 1890) while Hradec and Hradečná were definitely German (982 German speakers and only 40 Czech speakers in 1890). The three villages are only about three miles apart! Incidentally, there are many Kropač family members still there in 2018 (when this book was updated and put together).

There are no Kressas because they were expelled in 1948 after World War II because they were considered German sympathizers. There were many times in Moravian history when the Protestant Czechs hated the Catholic Germans.

In this country, both families were Catholic and went to church at Saint Andrews Catholic Church, a couple of miles away. Meanwhile, Adolf began courting Sophie at some point, and on January 14, 1894 they got married at Saint Andrews. Adolf had to wait to get married until he had gotten enough experience farming (not too difficult since he came from long line of farmers) and enough money/experience to rent out a place with a house. They found one near Silver Creek and that is where Adolf and Sophie first lived together.

Adolf and Sophie's wedding picture.



Adolf and Sophie gave birth to their first born on April 26, 1895, a boy they named Frank. However, Frank was a sick baby and Adolf immediately baptized him. He had a heart condition and lived a little over a week, dying on May 6, 1895. He was buried in the Saint Andrews Catholic Cemetery #1. One of Adolf's daughters, Lillian Kresha, once asked about Frank, and Adolf told this story: "When Frank died, I went out into the middle of the yard, knelt down, looked up into the heavens and asked God why He given us such a beautiful son, only to take him away in such a short time. Right then, I promised God that I'd have as many babies as He saw fit to send us."

Adolf and Sophie had a difficult time getting established. A severe drought had occurred in 1894 and again in 1897. In 1897, Adolf and Sophie had to move into a red brick house with Sophie's brother Frank Kropatsch. The Kreshas bought 160 acres of farmland just south of Sophie's parent's home and had a new house built on it.

Also in 1897, their next child was born, Sophia Cecilia Kresha on June 13th. As luck would have it, Adolf started out on foot across the pasture to tell his brother-in-law Oswald Kropatsch the good news, when he met Oswald coming towards him in the pasture. Adolf told him, "We have a new baby girl and we named her Sophie Cecilia!" Oswald looked at him, then told him "We have a baby girl, too, and we named her Eva." From then on, the two girls called themselves "twin cousins."

The new home was finished and Adolf, and his small family moved into it, just in time for Leo, the first boy on April 11, 1899. Sophie and Adolf had nine children before she died of sepsis or "blood poisoning" at age 41 on July 13, 1916. The first Saint Andrews Church had burned down in a lightning storm in 1908 and a new one was built a mile or two away...and Sophie Kropatsch Kresha was the first one to be buried in the new Cemetery. Their oldest daughter, Sophie Cecilia, was 19 and she kept house for her Papa and mothered her brothers and sisters.

On the next several pages are the Ancestry pages for Sophia Kropatsch and her children.





Frank Kresha

BIRTH 26 APR 1896 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska
DEATH 06 MAY 1896 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska
 great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

26 Apr 1896 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Death

06 May 1896 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Burial



10 May 1896 • Polk County Nebraska
 Saint Andrews Cemetery #1 On the south side of 138th Road between Road Q and Road R. Rural, Located Northeast of Osceola. NW Osceola Polk County Nebraska USA

Family

Parents

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
 1873–1950

 **Sophia C Kropatsch**
 1875–1916

Spouse

Sources

Ancestry Sources



Ancestry Family Trees



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s–Current





Sophia C Kresha

BIRTH 13 JUN 1897 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 24 FEB 1992 • Mitchell, Nebraska, USA

great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

13 Jun 1897 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 3 — Residence

1900 • Valley Precinct, Polk, Nebraska

Age 13 — Residence

1910 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 20 — Occupation

1917 • Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, USA
 Attended Van Sant Business School in Omaha, despite only an 8th grade education. She worked in various Polk County, NE offices until 1942, when she passed the civil service examination. She worked for the Farmers Home Administration for the next 25 years.

Age 22 — Occupation

1919 • Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, USA
 Started her business career as secretary to Fr. Flanagan, founder of Boys Town. She was also a charter member of the Boys Town support organization.

Age 23 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 33 — Residence

1930 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska

Age 94 — Death

24 Feb 1992 • Mitchell, Nebraska, USA



Burial

St. Andrews Cemetery #3, Polk County, Nebraska

Family

Parents



Adolf Franz Kresha

1873-1950



Sophia C Kropatsch

1875-1916

Spouse

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1900 United States Federal Census



1910 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Social Security Death Index



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Sophia C Kropatsch

BIRTH 03 MAR 1875 • Clear Creek Pct, Polk, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 13 JUL 1916 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

great-grandmother

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

03 Mar 1875 • Clear Creek Pct, Polk, Nebraska, USA

Arrival

11 Apr 1874 • Baltimore, Maryland

It appears that Sophia was conceived in Troubelice, CZ, but was born in Nebraska.

Age 5 — Residence

1880 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 10 — Residence

1885 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age: 8

Age 18 — Marriage

14 Jan 1894 • Polk County, Nebraska, USA



Adolf Franz Kresha
(1873–1950)

Age 25 — Residence

1900 • Valley Precinct, Polk, Nebraska

Age 35 — Residence

1910 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 41 — Death

13 Jul 1916 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska



Burial

St. Andrews, Polk County, Nebraska, USA

Family

Parents



John (Kropáč) Kropatsch
1834–1906



Anna Král
1845–1927

Spouse & Children



Adolf Franz Kresha
1873–1950



Frank Kresha
1896–1896



Sophia C Kresha
1897–1992



Leo Adolph Kresha
1899–1984



Cecelia M Kresha
1902–1970



John M Kresha
1904–1983



Adolf Matthew Kresha
1906–1993



Anna Kresha
1908–2000



George Albert Kresha
1911–1992



Rose Angela Kresha
1912–1989



Gerhart Alfred "Mike" Kresha
1914–1991

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1880 United States Federal Census



1900 United States Federal Census



1910 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Baltimore, Passenger Lists, 1820-1948 and 1954-1957



Nebraska State Census Collection, 1860-1885



Nebraska State Census, 1885



Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908



Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Leo Adolph Kresha

BIRTH 11 APR 1899 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 23 AUG 1984 • Osceola, Polk, NE

paternal grandfather

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

11 Apr 1899 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska, USA

Age 1 — Residence

1900 • Valley Precinct, Polk, Nebraska

Age 11 — Residence

1910 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 21 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 23 — Marriage

22 Nov 1922 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, USA

Married by John Kunkle. Witnesses: Martin Liss & Cecilia Kresha



Pauline Liss

(1902–1988)

Age 31 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 40 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 85 — Death

23 Aug 1984 • Osceola, Polk, NE



Burial

Polk County, Nebraska
St. Andrews Cemetery #2,

Family

Parents



Adolf Franz Kresha

1873–1950



Sophia C Kropatsch

1875–1916

Spouse & Children



Pauline Liss

1902–1988



Raymond 'Glenn' Kresha Sr

1923–2017



Paul Lucian Kresha

1924–2016



Allan Louis Kresha

1926–2005



Phyllis Kresha

1932–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1900 United States Federal Census



1910 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Social Security Death Index



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918



Cecelia M Kresha

BIRTH 19 MAR 1902 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 09 JAN 1970 • Columbus, Nebraska, USA

great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

19 Mar 1902 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 8 — Residence

1910 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 18 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 28 — Residence

1930 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska

Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Wife

Age 38 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska, United States

Age 67 — Death

09 Jan 1970 • Columbus, Nebraska, USA

Age: 67



Burial

Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska, USA

St. Bonaventure Catholic Cemetery

Family

Parents



Adolf Franz Kresha

1873–1950



Sophia C Kropatsch

1875–1916

Spouse & Children



John Joseph "Jack" Smagacz

1900–1960



Sylvia Smagacz

1926–1926



Dolores Smagacz

1927–2006



Janice Rose 'Sister Dolores' Smagacz

1935–



James Smagacz

1936–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1910 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



John M Kresha

BIRTH 11 MAY 1904 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 30 OCT 1983 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska

great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

11 May 1904 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 6 — Residence

1910 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 16 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 21 — Residence

1925 • South Dakota, USA


Marital Status: Single

Age 26 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 27 — Marriage

8 September 1931

 **Caroline S Stavas**
(1911–1981)

Age 35 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 38 — Residence

1942 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska, USA

Relation to Head: Self; Relative Relation to Head: Wife

Age 79 — Death

30 Oct 1983 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska



Burial

Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska
St. Bonaventure Cemetery


Family


Parents

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873–1950

 **Sophia C Kropatsch**
1875–1916

Spouse & Children

 **Caroline S Stavas**
1911–1981

 **Dorothy Kresha**
1933–

 **Florence Elaine Kresha**
1934–2006


 **Clarence J Kresha**
1938–


 **Edwin J Kresha**
1943–1975


 **Dennis Kresha**
1944–


Sources

Ancestry Sources

 1910 United States Federal Census


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees

 Social Security Death Index

 South Dakota, State Census, 1925

 U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Adolf Matthew Kresha

BIRTH 19 SEP 1906 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 21 JUL 1993 • Osceola, Nebraska, USA

great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

19 Sep 1906 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 4 — Residence

1910 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 14 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 24 — Residence

1930 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska

Age 33 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Hackberry, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Relation to Head: Self; Relative Relation to Head: Wife

Age 86 — Death

21 Jul 1993 • Osceola, Nebraska, USA



Burial

24 Jul 1993 • Sacred Heart Cemetery, Shelby, Polk, Nebraska
Sacred Heart Cemetery

Family

Parents



Adolf Franz Kresha

1873–1950



Sophia C Kropatsch

1875–1916

Spouse & Children



Rose Marie Kielian

1915–1992



Andrew Kresha

1936–1937



Rosalie Valerie Kresha

1938–



Raymond Larry Kresha

1939–2001



Ramona Kresha

1942–



Kathleen Sophia Kresha

1945–2017



Mary Lou Kresha

1948–



Joseph Adolf Kresha

1951–



Bettiann Marie Kresha

1954–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1910 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Social Security Death Index



U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



United States Obituary Collection



Anna Kresha

BIRTH 12 JUL 1908 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 23 MAY 2000 • Reseda, California, USA

great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

12 Jul 1908 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 2 — Residence

1910 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 12 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 22 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 42 — Marriage

28 Nov 1950 • Reseda, California, USA



Norman J Hensel

(1910-1972)

Age 60 — Residence

1968 • Reseda, California, USA

Age 91 — Death

23 May 2000 • Reseda, California, USA

Burial

Bakersfield, Kern County, California
Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery

Family

Parents



Adolf Franz Kresha

1873-1950



Sophia C Kropatsch

1875-1916

Spouse



Norman J Hensel

1910-1972

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1910 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



U.S. Public Records Index



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



Web: California, Find A Grave Index, 1775-2011



Web: Obituary Daily Times Index, 1995-2011



George Albert Kresha

BIRTH 31 JAN 1911 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 13 OCT 1992 • Bakersfield, Kern, California, USA

great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

31 Jan 1911 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 9 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 9 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 19 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 19 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 31 — Military

23 Feb 1942

Age 34 — Marriage

1945

 **Margaret Susan Trausch**
(1917–2006)

Age 45 — Residence

1956 • Bakersfield, California, USA

Age 47 — Residence

1958 • Bakersfield, California, USA

Age 81 — Death

13 Oct 1992 • Bakersfield, Kern, California, USA

Burial



Bakersfield, Kern County, California
Greenlawn Southwest Memorial
Cemetery

Family

Parents



Adolf Franz Kresha
1873–1950



Sophia C Kropatsch
1875–1916

Spouse & Children



Margaret Susan Trausch
1917–2006



Diane M Kresha
1949–



George Alfred Kresha
1951–1951



Jerome Gerard Kresha
1954–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



California Death Index, 1940-1997



Social Security Death Index



U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)



U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)



U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946



U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Web: California, Find A Grave Index, 1775-2011



Rose Angela Kresha

BIRTH 21 SEP 1912 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 05 APR 1989 • David City, Butler, Nebraska, United States of America

great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

21 Sep 1912 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 8 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 18 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 24 — Marriage

08 Jun 1937 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska

 **Bernard Victor 'Bud' Hilger**
(1912–1977)


Age 27 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Olive, Butler, Nebraska, United States

Age 76 — Death

05 Apr 1989 • David City, Butler, Nebraska, United States of America

Age: 76

 **Burial**
David City, Butler County, Nebraska, USA
St. Mary's Cemetery


Family

Parents


 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873–1950

 **Sophia C Kropatsch**
1875–1916

Spouse & Children

 **Bernard Victor 'Bud' Hilger**
1912–1977


 **Janice 'Bonnie' Hilger**
1940–


 **Robert Hilger**
1945–


 **Daniel Hilger**
1946–

Sources

Ancestry Sources


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census

 1940 United States Federal Census

 Ancestry Family Trees

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Gerhart Alfred "Mike" Kresha

BIRTH 27 MAY 1914 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

DEATH 04 JAN 1991 • Bakersfield, California, USA

great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

27 May 1914 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 6 — Residence


1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 16 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 21 — Marriage

abt 1935

 **Lavoda Aleen Bates**
(1917–1976)

Age 25 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Bakersfield, Kern, California, United States

Age 40 — Residence

1954 • Bakersfield, California, USA

Age 65 — Residence

1979 • Bakersfield, Kern, California, USA

Age 76 — Death

04 Jan 1991 • Bakersfield, California, USA

Burial

29 May 1991 • Greenlawn Memorial Park, Bakersfield, CA

Greenlawn Memorial Park Plot: EVERGREEN
SPC#4 LOT-D BLOCK-77

Family

Parents


 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873–1950

 **Sophia C Kropatsch**
1875–1916

Spouse & Children


 **Lavoda Aleen Bates**
1917–1976


 **Michael Raymond Kresha**
1941–2012


 **Richard Thomas Kresha**
1943–

Sources


Ancestry Sources

 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees


 California Death Index, 1940-1997

 Social Security Death Index


 U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)

 U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

Other Sources

 Web: California, Find A Grave Index, 1775-2011

Adolf Franz Kresha's "Second Family"

As has been noted, Adolf remarried three years later. He went to visit his sister Anna and her husband Martin Karges (1844-1925). Visiting that day was their grand-niece, Eva Frances Karges, aged 26. They courted for a short time and got married on June 24th, 1919 at Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church in Duncan. There was no honeymoon and she got "right to work" keeping house, taking care of children, and having her own children.

Eva Frances Karges was the daughter of that little boy who came over with Anna's husband Martin Karges, also named Martin Karges. The younger Martin Karges married Amelia Scholz, on a farm west of Duncan. That Martin and Amelia had one stillborn child in 1891 and then Eva Frances Dec. 12, 1892. Sadly, Eva's mother died of breast cancer when she was four years old 1896. While Dad was out farming, Grandma Scholz took care of her in town, but Eva liked to run away from the house – to the neighbors – where there were some playmates.

Eva's father, the younger Martin Karges remarried a widow with a child and soon she had many "playmates" as the new couple had seven children by the time Eva was 20. As a teenager, Eva had a fork blind her in one eye during a rowdy time at the supper table. At one time Eva thought of becoming a nun but couldn't pass the physical. She did find work in Duncan as a switchboard operator.

Eva was 26 in 1919 and in the next 16 years had 11 children, only one of whom died in childhood. Adolf had a total of 20 children, making good on his promise to God after the death of his first child.

At around age 64, in about 1938, Adolf had a heart attack and was hospitalized in Osceola for several weeks, with Eva at this side. He did recover but was never able to do manual labor again. At home, Martin Oswald, his 17-year-old son took over outside. Eleven years later, in the winter of 1949, there was one huge snow storm with drifts 15 to 20 feet high, and Adolf's health began to fail. In January he was hospitalized and he died on February 1st, 1950. He is buried in the Saint Andrews Cemetery #2 beside his first wife, Sophie.

Eva, twenty years younger than Adolf, lived another 40 years. After the family was grown, Eva took a job as the housekeeper for the parish priest, Fr. John Howe in Holdrege, NE. She had this job for 19 years for several priests. Her skills in housekeeping and cooking were well appreciated. After a hip replacement, she

resigned and went to California to stay with youngest daughter, Rita, a nurse anesthetist. After recovering, she had an apartment at Heritage House in Columbus and later stayed at Mory's Haven nursing home until her death on April 14, 1990. She out-lived nine of her children and step-children.



Eva Frances Karges

BIRTH 12 DEC 1892 • Duncan, Platte, Nebraska, United States

DEATH 14 APR 1990 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska, USA

wife of great-grandfather

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

12 Dec 1892 • Duncan, Platte, Nebraska, United States

Age 8 — Residence

1900 • Silver Creek village, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 18 — Residence

1910 • Butler, Platte, Nebraska

Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of

House: Daughter

Age 26 — Marriage

24 Jun 1919 • St. Stanislaus, Duncan, PLatte, NE

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
(1873–1950)

Age 28 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 38 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 47 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 97 — Death

14 Apr 1990 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska, USA

Burial

 Osceola, Polk County, Nebraska, USA
St. Andrews Catholic Cemetery #2

Family

Parents

 **Martin Karges Jr.**
1866–1941

 **Amelia Scholz**
1867–1896

Spouse & Children

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873–1950

 **Amelia Cecilia Kresha**
1920–1984

 **Martin Oswald Kresha**
1922–2001

 **Lillian Veronica Kresha**
1923–2002

 **Arthur Joseph Kresha**
1925–1995

 **Walter T Kresha**
1925–1927

 **Charles Raphael Kresha**
1926–2009

 **Wilfred Francis 'Bill' Kresha**
1928–2011

 **Patricia Louise Kresha**
1929–1977


 **Frances Mary Kresha**
1930–


 **Adrian Frederick Kresha**
1931–1977


 **Rita Agnes Kresha**
1934–


Sources


Ancestry Sources

 1900 United States Federal Census


 1910 United States Federal Census


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees


 Social Security Death Index


 U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Amelia Cecilia Kresha

BIRTH 09 JUL 1920 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 22 DEC 1984 • Canon City, Fremont, Colorado, USA

great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

09 Jul 1920 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 10 — Residence


1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 24 — Military

23 Apr 1945


Age 26 — Marriage

26 Nov 1946 • St. Andrews Catholic Church, Polk County, NE

 **Dale Frederick Lukassen**
(1924–2010)

Age 64 — Death

22 Dec 1984 • Canon City, Fremont, Colorado, USA

 **Burial**
Canon City, Fremont County, Colorado
Lakeside Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873–1950

 **Eva Frances Karges**
1892–1990

Spouse & Children

 **Dale Frederick Lukassen**
1924–2010

 **Cynthia Marie Lukassen**
1947–

 **Steven Arnold Lukassen**
1949–

 **Constance Ann Lukassen**
1950–

 **Vaughn J Lukassen**
1951–

 **Callen Frederick Lukassen**
1952–

 **Timothy Dale Lukassen**
1953–


 **Bartley Kent Lukassen**
1956–


 **Curtis John Lukassen**
1959–

 **Evan Michael Lukassen**
1964–

Sources


Ancestry Sources


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census

 Ancestry Family Trees

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Martin Oswald Kresha

BIRTH 09 APR 1922 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 25 JUN 2001 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska, United States of America
great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

09 Apr 1922 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 8 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 8 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 17 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 20 — Residence

1942 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska, USA
Relation to Head: Self

Age 38 — Marriage

14 Jun 1960 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska

 **Elaine Frances Kneifel**
(1936–2017)

Age 38 — Occupation

1960
Martin was an experienced veterinarian tech, and was known as "Doc"

Age 79 — Death

25 Jun 2001 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska, United States of America
Age: 79

Burial

 Duncan, Platte County, Nebraska, USA
St. Stanislaus Catholic Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873–1950

 **Eva Frances Karges**
1892–1990

Spouse & Children

 **Elaine Frances Kneifel**
1936–2017

 **Patrick Kresha**
1962–

 **Kenneth Kresha**
1963–

 **Bernard Kresha**
1964–


 **Jolene Kresha**
1966–


 **Colene Kresha**
1966–

 **Lois Kresha**
1968–


Sources


Ancestry Sources


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees


 Social Security Death Index

 U.S. Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection

 U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Lillian Veronica Kresha

BIRTH 12 APR 1923 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 20 SEP 2002 • Beatrice, Gage, Nebraska, USA

great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

12 Apr 1923 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 7 — Residence


1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 16 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 20 — Marriage

04 Jan 1944 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska


 **Leo J Kosch**
(1913–1959)

Age 37 — Residence

1960 • Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Age 41 — Marriage

26 Dec 1964 • Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln, NE


 **Harold W Witulski**
(1930–)

Age 69 — Residence

1992 • Beatrice, NE

Age 79 — Death

20 Sep 2002 • Beatrice, Gage, Nebraska, USA

 **Burial**
Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska
St. Joseph Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873–1950

 **Eva Frances Karges**
1892–1990

Spouse & Children

 **Leo J Kosch**
1913–1959

 **Marcia Lee Kosch**
1944–

 **Mary Louise Kosch**
1946–

 **Leon Joseph Kosch**
1948–


 **Larry James Kosch**
1953–


Spouse

 **Harold W Witulski**
1930–

Sources


Ancestry Sources


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)

 U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Arthur Joseph Kresha

BIRTH 01 APR 1925 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 09 AUG 1995 • Columbus, Nebraska, USA

great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

01 Apr 1925 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 5 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 15 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 18 — Residence

1943 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska, USA
Relation to Head: Self; Relative Relation to Head: Father

Age 19 — Military

21 Dec 1944 • Ft. Leavenworth, KS
enlisted in the Army

Age 22 — Marriage

04 Nov 1947 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska, USA

 **Irene M Danielski**
(1926-)

Age 61 — Residence

1986 • Columbus, NE

Age 70 — Death

09 Aug 1995 • Columbus, Nebraska, USA


Burial

 Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska
St. Bonaventure Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873-1950


 **Eva Frances Karges**
1892-1990

Spouse & Children

 **Irene M Danielski**
1926-

 **Dian Kresha**
1948-

 **Linda Kresha**
1950-


 **Donna Louise Kresha MD**
1951-

 **Roberta 'Bobbi' Kresha**
1954-


Sources


Ancestry Sources


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Social Security Death Index


 U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1

 U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946

 U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

 U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Walter T Kresha

BIRTH 01 APR 1925 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 30 JUL 1927 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska
great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

01 Apr 1925 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 2 — Death

30 Jul 1927 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska



Burial

Osceola, Polk County, Nebraska, USA
St. Andrews Catholic Cemetery

Family

Parents



Adolf Franz Kresha
1873–1950



Eva Frances Karges
1892–1990

Spouse

Sources

Ancestry Sources



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current



Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Charles Raphael Kresha

BIRTH 04 NOV 1926 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 25 APR 2009 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska

great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

04 Nov 1926 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 4 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 4 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 13 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 18 — Military

04 Aug 1945
enlisted in the Air Force

Age 24 — Marriage

14 May 1951 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska, USA

 **Lucille Elaine Danielski**
(1932-)

Age 69 — Residence

1995 • Columbus, NE

Age 82 — Death

25 Apr 2009 • Columbus, Platte, Nebraska
Age: 82

Burial



Humphrey, Platte County, Nebraska
St. Francis Cemetery

Family

Parents



Adolf Franz Kresha
1873-1950



Eva Frances Karges
1892-1990

Spouse & Children



Lucille Elaine Danielski
1932-



Kathryn Kresha
1952-



Jacquelyn Ann Kresha
1953-1970



Edward C Kresha
1955-



Andrea M Kresha
1957-



Nancy Kresha
1959-



Julia Kresha
1962-



Kristina Kresha
1963-

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1930 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Social Security Death Index



U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1



U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



United States Obituary Collection



Wilfred Francis 'Bill' Kresha

BIRTH 27 MAR 1928 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 30 JUN 2011 • Columbus, Nebraska, USA

great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

27 Mar 1928 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 2 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 12 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 18 — Residence

1946 • Osceola, Polk, Nebraska, USA
Relation to Head: Self; Relative Relation to Head: Mother

Age 21 — Marriage

04 Jul 1949 • Duncan, Platte, Nebraska, United States

 **Ursula Constance Micek**
(1927–2003)

Age 65 — Residence

1993 • Columbus, NE

Age 83 — Death

30 Jun 2011 • Columbus, Nebraska, USA



Burial

Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska
St. Bonaventures Catholic Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873–1950


 **Eva Frances Karges**
1892–1990

Spouse & Children

 **Ursula Constance Micek**
1927–2003

 **Debrah Kresha**
1950–

 **James W Kresha**
1952–


 **Joyce Kresha**
1953–


 **Michael Kresha**
1957–

 **Constance Kresha**
1958–


Sources


Ancestry Sources


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S. Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection


 U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1

 U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 United States Obituary Collection

 United States Obituary Collection

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Patricia Louise Kresha

BIRTH 31 AUG 1929 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 17 MAR 1977 • Lakewood, Jefferson, Colorado, USA
great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

31 Aug 1929 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 1 — Residence


1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 10 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 26 — Marriage

21 May 1956 • Mesa, Colorado, USA

 **Hubert Eugene 'Gene' Thomas**
(1931-)

Age 27 — Residence

1956 • Grand Junction, Colorado, USA

Age 47 — Death

17 Mar 1977 • Lakewood, Jefferson, Colorado, USA

Died as a result of breast cancer

Burial

 Polk County, Nebraska
St. Andrews Catholic Cemetery #2


Family

Parents

 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873-1950

 **Eva Frances Karges**
1892-1990

Spouse & Children

 **Hubert Eugene 'Gene' Thomas**
1931-

 **Joseph Kresha Thomas**
1958-


 **Teresa Rose Thomas**
1959-


 **Karen Marie Thomas**
1961-

 **Gloria Jean Thomas**
1964-


Sources


Ancestry Sources

 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees


 Mesa County, Colorado, Marriage Index, 1883-2010


 Mesa County, Colorado, Marriage Index, 1883-2010


 Social Security Death Index

 U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

 Web: Cass County, Missouri, Obituary Index, 1870-2011

 Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Frances Mary Kresha

BIRTH 24 SEP 1930 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH Living
great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

24 Sep 1930 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 9 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 17 — Residence

1947 • Osceola, Nebraska, USA

Age 20 — Marriage

26 May 1951 • St. Joseph's Church, Kimball, NE



Howard James Lukassen
(1928–1974)

Age 63 — Residence

1993 • Kimball, NE

Age 88 — Residence

2018 • Kimball, Banner, Nebraska, USA
Vist to her home.

Family

Parents



Adolf Franz Kresha
1873–1950



Eva Frances Karges
1892–1990

Spouse & Children



Howard James Lukassen
1928–1974



Wanda Lukassen
1952–



Nadine Lukassen
1953–



David Lukassen
1954–



Patsy Lukassen
1958–



Christine Lukassen
1961–



Martin 'Marty' Lukassen
1966–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1940 United States Federal Census



U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1



U.S. School Yearbooks



Adrian Frederick Kresha

BIRTH 01 OCT 1931 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH 27 FEB 1977 • Brighton, Adams Co, Colorado, USA

great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

01 Oct 1931 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 8 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 17 — Residence

1948 • Osceola, Nebraska, USA

Age 31 — Marriage

25 May 1963 • St. Joseph's Church, Kimball, NE

 **Patricia A Hoffman**
(1934-)

Age 45 — Death

27 Feb 1977 • Brighton, Adams Co, Colorado, USA

brain aneurysm

Family

Parents


 **Adolf Franz Kresha**
1873-1950


 **Eva Frances Karges**
1892-1990

Spouse & Children

 **Patricia A Hoffman**
1934-

 **Pamela Ann Kresha**
1964-


 **Andrae Frederick Kresha**
1965-

 **Thomas Anthony Kresha**
1966-2015


 **Daniel Mark Kresha**
1973-


Sources


Ancestry Sources

 1940 United States Federal Census

 Social Security Death Index

 U.S. School Yearbooks

 U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Rita Agnes Kresha

BIRTH 07 MAR 1934 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

DEATH Living
great-aunt

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

07 Mar 1934 • Valley Precinct, Polk County, Nebraska

Age 6 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 30 — Residence

1964 • Sacramento, Sacramento, California, USA

Age 46 — Residence

1980 • San Diego, CA

Age 56 — Residence

1990 • Mesa, AZ

Age 79 — Marriage

27 Aug 2013 • Oakland, Alameda, California

 **Susan Vanderburgh**
(1944-)

Age 80 — Residence

2014 • Oakland, Alameda, California, USA
72 Glen Eden Ave.

Occupation

Nurse Anesthetist

Family

Parents



Adolf Franz Kresha
1873-1950



Eva Frances Karges
1892-1990

Spouse



Susan Vanderburgh
1944-

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1940 United States Federal Census



U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989



U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1



U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1



U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 2



U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 2



Adolf Franz Kresha

BIRTH 04 APR 1873 • Hradec (Grätz) 33, North Moravia, Czech Republic

DEATH 01 FEB 1950 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

great-grandfather

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

04 Apr 1873 • Hradec (Grätz) 33, North Moravia, Czech Republic
House 33

Age 12 — Address

1885 • Nova Hradecna, Czech Republic
This is the present-day location of where Theodor Kressa, et al lived. Historically House #33; Now it is House #163

Age 15 — Arrival

1888

Age 20 — Marriage

14 Jan 1894 • Polk County, Nebraska, USA

 **Sophia C Kropatsch**
(1875–1916)

Age 27 — Residence

1900 • Valley Precinct, Polk, Nebraska

Age 37 — Residence

1910 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 46 — Marriage

24 Jun 1919 • St. Stanislaus, Duncan, PLaatte, NE

 **Eva Frances Karges**
(1892–1990)

Age 47 — Residence

1920 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 57 — Residence

1930 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Age 66 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, United States

Age 76 — Death

01 Feb 1950 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska

Burial

 Valley, Polk County, Nebraska, USA
Saint Andrews Catholic Cemetery #2

Family

Parents

 **Theodor Kressa**
1834–1915

 **Cecilia Perikovsky**
1836–1892

Spouse & Children

 **Sophia C Kropatsch**
1875–1916

 **Frank Kresha**
1896–1896

 **Sophia C Kresha**
1897–1992

 **Leo Adolph Kresha**
1899–1984

 **Cecelia M Kresha**
1902–1970

 **John M Kresha**
1904–1983

 **Adolf Matthew Kresha**
1906–1993

 **Anna Kresha**
1908–2000

 **George Albert Kresha**
1911–1992

 **Rose Angela Kresha**
1912–1989

 **Gerhart Alfred "Mike" Kresha**
1914–1991


Spouse & Children


 **Eva Frances Karges**
1892–1990


 **Amelia Cecilia Kresha**
1920–1984


Sources


Ancestry Sources


 1900 United States Federal Census

 1910 United States Federal Census


 1910 United States Federal Census


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees


 Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908

 Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908

 U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Martin Oswald Kresha

1922–2001



Lillian Veronica Kresha

1923–2002



Arthur Joseph Kresha

1925–1995



Walter T Kresha

1925–1927



**Charles Raphael
Kresha**

1926–2009



**Wilfred Francis 'Bill'
Kresha**

1928–2011



Patricia Louise Kresha

1929–1977



Frances Mary Kresha

1930–



**Adrian Frederick
Kresha**

1931–1977



Rita Agnes Kresha

1934–



U.S., Social Security Ap-
plications and Claims
Index, 1936-2007



U.S., Social Security Ap-
plications and Claims
Index, 1936-2007



U.S., Social Security Ap-
plications and Claims
Index, 1936-2007



U.S., Social Security Ap-
plications and Claims
Index, 1936-2007



U.S., Social Security Ap-
plications and Claims
Index, 1936-2007



U.S., Social Security Ap-
plications and Claims
Index, 1936-2007



U.S., Social Security Ap-
plications and Claims
Index, 1936-2007



Web: Nebraska, Find A
Grave Index, 1854-2011



World War I Draft Regis-
tration Cards, 1917-1918

Other Sources



Czech Regional Archive
in Opava (Zemskeho
Archivu v Opava)

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR A. KRESHA SR. SATURDAY

Funeral services were held Saturday, February 4 at 10:00 a. m. with High Mass of Requiem offered by the Rev. John H. Howe, pastor, as celebrant. The Rev. John A. Kean, Shelby, the Rev. Edw. Jaworowski, St. Mary's Pilsno, were present in the sanctuary. The Rev. Anthony Trausch of Cedar Bluffs, ably directed the parish choir, of which four daughters are members, with Miss Sophia Kresha as organist, rendered the funeral music during the Mass.

Active pall bearers were sons of the deceased, Leo, John, George, Martin, Wilfred and Adrian. Honorary pall bearers were members of St. Andrews' Holy Name Society. Burial was made at St. Andrews' cemetery.

During his last years he expressed the wish that his sons be pall bearers at his funeral, that his daughters sing the Requiem Mass at the last rites and this wish was fulfilled. Another fond hope was also realized when he lived to see the present St. Andrews' church dedicated last June replacing two former church buildings destroyed by fire.

A pioneer of St. Andrews' community, he always took an active interest in its churches and civic projects.

The church was filled to capacity for the funeral Mass attesting to high esteem held by relatives and friends who came to pay last respects to their loved one. His friendly greeting and cherry smile will be missed by all who knew him.

Relatives and friends from a distance attending the funeral were from Bakersfield, Calif., Newcastle, Wyo, Edgemont, S. D., Roseland, Mitchell, Arnold,

Kimball, David City, Omaha. Columbus, Osceola, Shelby, Clarks, Duncan, Silver Creek and Monroe.

Adolf Kresha, Sr. was born on April 3, 1873 at Neustadt, Moravia in Austria, the son of Theodore and Cecelia Kresha and was one of a family of seven: three brothers and four sisters. As a lad of fourteen, he accompanied his sisters, Amallia and Anna, to the United States, coming directly to Columbus, arriving Aug 8, 1888. He worked as a farm hand in Butler, Polk and Merrick counties for some years.

January 14, 1895 he was married to Miss Sophie Kropatsch of St. Andrew's parish. They lived one year in Merrick county, then established their home in Polk county which was then still prairie residing in the same home for 52 years. To this union ten children were born: Frank, dying in infancy, Sophia of Mitchell, Mrs. Cecelia Smagacz, Columbus, Ann of Los Angeles, Calif., Mrs. Rose Hilger, David City, Leo, John, Adolph Jr., Osceola, George and Gerhart of Bakersfield, Calif. His first wife passed away on July 13, 1916.

On June 24, 1919, he was married to Miss Eva Karges of Duncan. To this union were born five daughters and six sons: Mrs. Amelia Lukassen, Mrs. Lillian Kosch and Mary*all of Kimball, Patricia and Adrian of Omaha, Rita and Martin at home, Walter, dying in infancy, Arthur, Charles and Wilfred of Columbus.

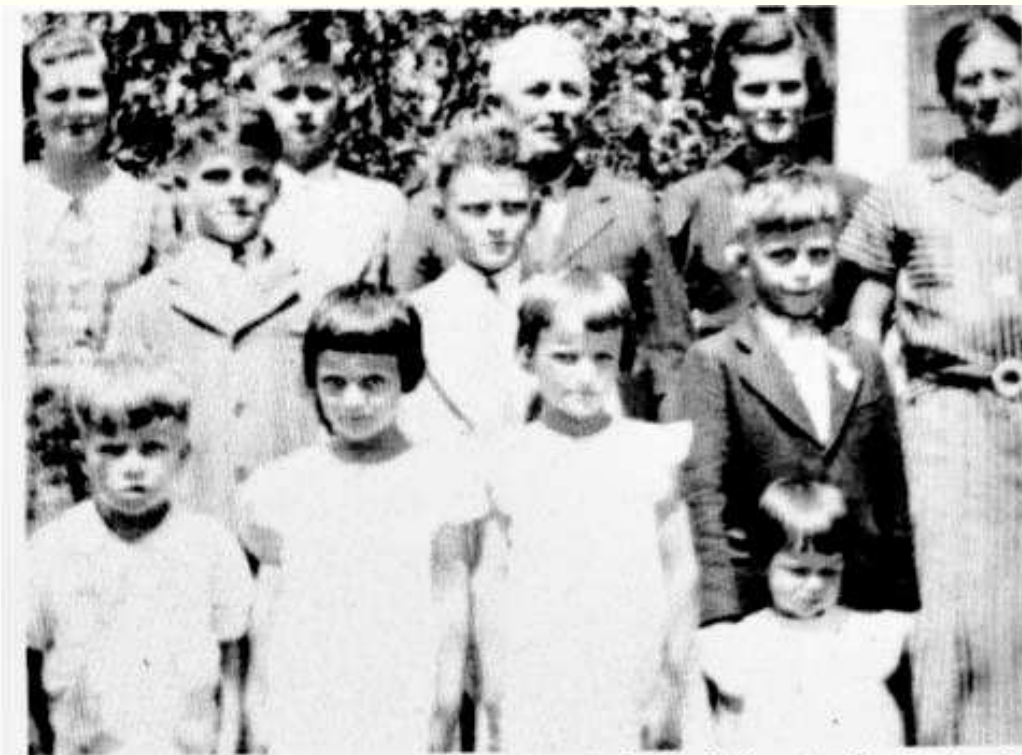
Surviving are his widow, nine daughters, ten sons, 28 grandchildren, who mourn the loss of a loving husband, father and grandfather. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. Anna Karges of Shelby. His parents, three sisters, two brothers and two sons preceded him in death.

*Lukassen



Adolf and Eva in 1919 at their wedding in Duncan. The lower one is about 1949 after 30 years of marriage.





Adolf's second family taken in August of 1936, shortly before Amelia left for the convent. (L-R, Front) Adrian, Mary, Patricia and Rita. (L-R, Middle) Arthur, Charles, and Wilfred. (L-R, Back) Lillian, Martin, Adolph, Amelia, and Eva.



Adolf Kresha's first family (L-R, Front) Ann, George, Rose and Gayhart. (L-R Back) Adolph, Cecelia, John, Sophia and Leo.

Remembering Papa Adolf

by Lillian Kresha Witulski

(first published in "The Kresha Families in America 1888-1988)

In the first few years when Papa Adolf and Sophie were newly married and she was sick in bed, Papa had to milk the cow in the evening. The cow took one look at him and kicked, so he went into the house to tell Sophie that the cow would not let him near her. So she told him to put on her old dress and sunbonnet and then try again. This time when the cow looked, she thought it was Sophie and let Papa milk her. The children never tired of hearing Papa tell about the time he had to wear a lady's dress.

Papa loved to tell his children stories. Daughter Mary Lukassen remembers that he would hold Adrian and Rita on his lap and tell the whole family a story or two. They'd put out the lights and only the flicker of the wood fire through the isinglass window [a thin sheet of transparent mica] in the stove door would light up the room. Sometimes he would tell a story he had read in his German newspaper, *The Daily Tribune*. If they didn't like the way a story ended, he'd tell it again and with a happier ending. They loved to hear the sound of their Papa's voice. He worked all day and they didn't have a chance to talk to him. Story time was great!

Papa's Gardens

Papa knew how to grow just about everything. He'd plow the garden spot in the fall, which was about 1 block south of the windmill. [The family farm was in Valley Precinct in the Platte River Valley in north Polk County, Nebraska.] All the vegetables that weren't canned were stored in the potato cave just south east of the house. It was a well-ventilated cave with a pipe coming out the top of it. The door faced south and sometimes in the winter, he would open the door for several hours to refresh the air in it. Cabbages with their roots intact, pumpkins, Hubbard squash, beets and a couple of wagonloads of Irish Cobbler potatoes would fill the cave for our winter supplies. Papa ate every vegetable except for turnips. He had eaten too many of them in the "Old Country."

When it was kraut-making time, Papa would hitch up the horses to the wagon and drive to the garden. Cabbage heads would be cut off, trimmed, and put into the wagon. When the wagon was full, it was driven up to the front gate of the house. Papa would cut a head open and slice out the heart. Mama Eva would shred the cabbage

with the kraut cutter, take it to the kitchen by the cook stove, put it into a clean 50-gallon wooden barrel, sprinkle in a handful of coarse salt, then with the kraut stomper that Papa had made from the ash tree by the shanty (wash house), she would pack the cabbage down tightly. That process would continue until all the cabbage was used. Then Mama Eva would cover the cabbage with a clean cloth, lay on the kraut boards (made of fruit wood), and then weigh down the boards with a large kraut rock (saved for only this purpose). The warmth of the cook stove would help the kraut to ferment and cure. That odor could be smelled all over the house and into the front yard, if the window was open. When daughter Amelia and Dale Lukassen were married on November 26, 1945, Mama ordered that kraut barrel taken to the basement before the wedding day! In order to move all that kraut, Mama Eva would fill every dish pan and roasting pan with kraut, until the barrel was empty enough to carry down to the basement. Then she refilled it and covered the whole thing with a clean cloth. Kraut was our only source of Vitamin C and it was delicious served for breakfast with liver wurst.

Papa took his best vegetables to the Polk County Fair and won many ribbons and prize money. In 1925, he had the largest pumpkin, which was then taken to the Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln.

Papa raised watermelons and cantaloupe to sell. Every summer he'd plant a big patch west of the house in a low place, where the soil was rich. He'd advertise in the Osceola Record that he was having a FREE Watermelon Festival with all the melon a person could eat. Then he'd sell them some to take home, too. The Festival would be held on a Saturday. He'd start by scrubbing the cattle tank, then the windmill pumped it full of fresh cold water. Several wagonloads of watermelons and cantaloupe were picked and place in the tank to cool. On Saturday afternoon the crowd would start coming. Ladies ate their melon on a plate, with a fork. Men ate their melon in their hand, spitting out the seeds. Daughter Lillian remembers one lady saving seeds in her handkerchief from the sweet Black Diamond melon. Papa had striped ones, too. He like the Rockford Cantaloupe the best.

Here is a story about Papa's melon patch. Young boys, out for a night of fun, would raid Papa's melon patch before the festival and trample the vines, breaking open ripe melons and just eat out the heart, and breaking open and leaving the green ones. So, on the nights before, he'd take out his shotgun, a pocket full of shells and go out to the patch to watch, around midnight. Soon he'd hear a car stop on the other side of the hill. When he heard the fence squeak, he pulled the trigger and fired a warning shot. If he didn't guard the patch, the next morning he'd find pocket knives,

ball caps, and once even a pair of socks full of sandburs abandoned in the patch. The children never fell asleep until they heard the sound of the screen door and knew that Papa had come home safely to bed. The older boys decided to put a stop to Papa's shooting the gun, so they made up a story that a neighbor boy had to have buckshot taken out of the back of his legs the next morning. Papa believed them and he never took the shotgun out to the patch again.

Daughter Mary remembers Papa taking melons to town to sell, when he went to buy groceries. Everyone knew that his melons were the sweetest. His secret was the manure tea that he fed to the plants.

When Papa planted potatoes, he'd purchase a 100-pound sack of seed potatoes at first. He'd cut out the eyes in the morning and after school, we children would plant them. He used a walking plow and would cover the seed potatoes with two passes, then we'd plant another row. The potatoes were so big that there was always part of them (after the eyes were cut out) left to cook for supper. Papa planted Early Ohio potatoes because they matured faster--before the summer drought arrived. It was the children's job to go on "bug patrol." When all the potato beetles were shaken into the old buckets, Papa would use a bit of kerosene to exterminate them.

Papa Adolf loved to plant trees. We had crab apple, cherry, mulberry, back walnut, 14 peach trees, and grape vines. But the time he purchased the 100 catalpa trees that we were supposed to grow into fence posts in just a few years proved to be a fiasco. They were planted in a low place west of the house. The blossoms were lovely and so fragrant. The big leaves provided a cool place for the children to play in the summertime. But in 20 years, those trees still weren't big enough for fence posts. Cedar trees and box elder trees came up volunteer. During the dry Thirties, the big box elder trees that shaded the front of the house died. Papa replaced them with hardy elm trees. In 1987, the elm trees were no longer hardy. In 2018, most of the trees were long gone, many to make way for farm land and center pivot irrigation systems.

The Thirties

In the winter of 1934, when the roads were clogged with snow, Papa would take the children to school with a team of horses and wagon. He shot a wash tub-full of jackrabbits on one trip. That night, for supper, the family had rabbit-burgers.

During the Thirties there was a terrible drought. If a few clouds were seen in the sky, Mama Eva would have all her children kneel down around the dining room table and pray the Rosary. In 1937, the summer temperature rose to over 100° for 37 days in a row. In the morning Papa would look south out of the kitchen window and remark that today, he would start chopping the corn stalks on top of the hills for the cattle to eat. It was still green and it had some nutrition remaining in it. The children went with him to the field. With a machete, he chopped off each stalk. The children carried the stalks to the corral and tossed them over the fence for the hungry cattle. Sometimes the cows were herded along the road because in the bottom of the borrow ditch grew little green weeds. The pastures were brown and the supply of hay was gone.

On hot days the cows were milked before breakfast and the milk used immediately, as the winter supply of ice was exhausted. At 4 pm, the cows were milked again. This time the milk was cooled by setting the milk containers into a large dishpan of cool well water. For supper Papa liked a bowl of cool milk with homemade bread broken into it, then a spoonful of sugar sprinkled on top. Mama Eva would grind a quart jar of home-canned beef, add some onion and dill pickle, and make beef sandwiches to eat with our fresh milk. However, it was too hot to eat much food.

Working For the County

When the crops failed, Papa Adolf found a job as a road overseer in the Valley Township. It was an elective office, so, in October he started to electioneer. He planned to personally call on the voters to solicit their votes. The first afternoon, when he came home, he was asked how many people he had seen. His answer: only one. Apparently the family he had called on had come from the "Old Country" too and they had talked over old times, with a bottle of home brew, of course! The older sons admonished him and said if he drank beer and people smelled it on his breath, they would think that he might drink on the job, too, and not vote for him. He agreed with them and promised that he would refuse any liquor he was offered. He ran on the Democratic Party ticket and won. John Lees was one of the County Commissioners at that time and was Papa's boss. Papa Adolf could build wooden bridges, smooth out the roads by grading them, repair wash-outs, replace deteriorating bridge planks and more.

The road grader was pulled by 3 or 4 horses. Papa always parked the grader on the west edge of the yard and the children loved to play on it. Large round hand wheel cranks were used to raise and lower the big blade. Every Monday, when Papa

was ready to go to work, the grader blade was resting on the ground! He was heard to grumble, "Those miserable kids were playing with my grader again" and set about cranking the wheels to raise the heavy blades enough to get it out of the yard.

When supplies were needed, Papa would drive a team of horses and a wagon to Osceola get them. He'd bring back long planks and kegs of nails. One day sons Arthur and Charles decide to play with the 5" spikes. They pounded them into the sandy soil under the big cottonwood tree where they made neat railroad tracks. The very next day Papa noticed that his spikes were gone and began asking the children where they were. Lillian spoke up and said she knew where they were. Papa subsequently made his sons pull every spike out of the ground and put them back into the keg. The soil was moist and in one day the spikes were beginning to rust.

When the two-year term of office was over, Papa ran for road overseer again, but was defeated. He was devastated, as his family needed the income. One of his sons told him that Nebraska voted Republican that year, so two year later, Papa ran on the Republican ticket and won. His sons George and Gayhart sometimes worked with him on the road, but they never kept their paychecks, as they knew that Papa needed the money.

Once when the men were smoothing dirt beside a bridge with a fresno, [a type of large trowel] the handle came back suddenly and hit Papa in the chin, but most importantly, it broke Papa's new pipe, which he always carried in his mouth. When he came home, he took out the old pipe and cleaned it with his pocket knife, so he could have a good smoke. Papa smoked Prince Albert. Sometimes he purchased a hickory blend, which he used once in a while. He smoked all his life after he started in his late teens. The only time he smoked cigars was when his son-in-law Jack Smagacz gave him Cuban Havanas at Christmas time.

For Fun

For recreation Papa loved to play horseshoes. The stakes were pounded into the ground under the big cottonwood tree. Sometimes Papa would challenge his visitors. If he was walking across the yard, he'd throw the horseshoes to the opposite stake-just to keep in practice. Papa also enjoyed the baseball games that had been held in John Gabriel's pasture, just 1/2 mile east of the house. There was a natural shaped baseball diamond in the pasture and people in cars would park up on the hills to get a good view. The games were on Sunday afternoon and the boys would leave for the game right after dinner. The girls washed the dishes and then walked to the game. Sons George and Gayhart were on the team.

water was added for the correct temperature. More water was heated again, so that it could be added later. Papa would soak for about an hour. The barrel was placed in the laundry room. He needed a chair to climb into the barrel.

Papa Adolf and his sons built an ice house in the trees, where it would be shaded from the sun. The hole was dug about 8 to 10 feet deep, and filled with thick chunks of ice in the winter, cut from the creek or pond. Then it was covered with straw for insulation. If the family was lucky, the ice lasted until the 4th of July, when the traditional homemade ice cream was made. After the ice was all melted, butchered chickens had to be dressed early in the morning and the meat cooled in fresh well water. Later, ice was delivered by truck from Osceola. When we were wired for rural electricity, 'refrigeration' became much easier.

With the newly acquired electricity, Papa could listen to the radio more often and not have to worry about batteries becoming discharged. He liked "Amos and Andy," "George and Gracie Allen," and "Fibber McGee and Molly." Dennis Kresha remembered his father (John Kresha) telling him that if company stayed too late, Papa used to say, "Mama, let's go to bed, so these people can go home." Wonder which program he lifted that expression from?

Papa was 5' 3" tall. If it was October, Papa would put on his winter underwear. When Mama Eva washed his underwear in the winter, she'd hang it outdoors on the clothesline to "freeze dry." then it would finish drying inside the house. Papa wore his winter underwear until May 1st.

Personal Choices

When it came to shoes, Papa never wore oxfords. His dress shoes were brown, size 8 and AAAA. They came up to above his ankles and were very expensive. He hated those brown shoes because the brown faded unevenly. His daughters polished his shoes every Saturday afternoon so they would be ready for Sunday church. When the brown shoes wore out, he purchased a black pair. His work shoes were made of natural leather.

Papa never wore short sleeved shirts. In the heat of the summer, he'd wear blue chambray [a heavy linen material] long-sleeved shirts and bib overalls. For dress wear, he liked only white shirts with his dark suit. On wash day, Mama Eva would have 7 or 8 shirts to iron.

In the summertime, Papa wore a straw hat to protect his face and ears from the

rays of the sun. He never had age spots on his skin.

Papa like his mustache, but once in the 1940's he shaved it off. When he went into town to do the marketing, no one knew him until they recognized his voice. That did it. He let his mustache grow back again. Papa was never bald, but he said that his hair started turning gray when he was 21 year old. He went to town for his haircut but had a clippers and special comb to cut his son's hair. As he grew older he had to wear his reading glasses on the end of his nose to see to cut the hair, but still didn't do an even job. Secretly Lillian would even out the edges of her brothers' hair cuts. When his sons started going to high school, they started getting haircuts from the barber shop. Mama Eva cut her daughter's hair.

During Prohibition, Papa made his own beer. He used 10 pounds of sugar, one quart of Blue Ribbon Malt (hops), and some yeast. Then the 20-gallon crock was filled three-fourths full of warm water, the ingredients put in, a clean cloth tied over the top and it would start to brew. In May, he made enough beer to last all summer. It needed warmth to brew. Then, after it was bottled, it needed to age. The quart bottles were washed by the windmill. If there was sediment in the bottom of the bottle, a few fine rocks were swirled in it to make it come clean.

One time, the County Commissioners were coming to see Papa Adolf and the two wash tubs of bottles had to be hidden. A rubber hose was used to siphon the beer into the bottles. A capping machine was used to crimp the bottle caps tight. Then all the beer was taken down to the basement. Papa used a hydrometer to test the beer for alcohol content. He enjoyed warm beer.

One hot summer day in 1931, Amelia, Martin, and Lillian decided to have a beer party. They went to the basement where the beer was aging and Amelia put a quart of it inside her bloomers. Then, holding her dress at the waistline, the three of them ran across the hot sandy yard to the orchard where an old abandoned car was parked. They played "Intermission at Eller's Dance Hall" (dancers weren't allowed to drink inside the hall). Martin couldn't get the cap off the bottle of beer, but he had a shingle nail in his pocket. With a rock, he hammered the nail into the top of the bottle cap, making several holes. They all three took turns shaking the bottle and letting the foamy beer shoot into their mouths. Soon Amelia had a headache, so the three went into the house. Amelia said, "Mama, I have a headache." Martin said, "I have a headache, too." Mama Eva said, "What have you kids been up to?" She didn't need to ask, as we all reeked of home brew.

One time a friend gave Papa a recipe for some good wine. It took 3 pounds of raisins. He mixed it in a crock, in the shanty house. When it began to ferment, it could be smelled all over the yard. One day a telephone call came from the County Commissioners, saying they were coming out to see Papa. Papa was working on the roads somewhere. So, his sons dumped all the wine out into the hog trough and the sows came over to drink it. Soon all those hogs began to stagger and fall over. The whole yard smelled just like the pig pen! Papa came home at 4 pm, as usual, and so did the County Commissioners. After their business was finished and the Commissioners had left the yard, George told Papa what he and Gayhart had done. Papa said, "Didn't you even save one cupful?" The next day, the sows recovered.

Travel

Papa Adolf went on a vacation once with Oswald Kropatsch, his brother-in-law, along with nephews Bill and Emery Kropatsch. They wanted to see some land that was advertised for sale in Newcastle, Wyoming. The highlight of the trip was going through the Badlands. Papa brought back some sandstone balls that he thought the Indians might have used playing baseball!

The other trip was to Lafayette, Indiana to be present for his daughter Amelia's (sister Mary Norberta) Novitiate in the Order of Saint Francis. She later left the convent and married. His son George had driven from Bakersfield, California to see his parents and he took them to the ceremony in 1937. Papa and Mama Eva had a nice trip to Kimball, Nebraska to see their daughters Amelia and Lillian and their families when Norman and Ann Hensel took them out west. Papa said that crossing the Atlantic Ocean was enough traveling for him.

Papa Loved Music

Papa loved to sing and he had a clear tenor voice. He sang to his children as he rocked them. "Pony Boy" was his favorite.

Daughter Rose remembers that Papa Adolf would sing as he walked across the yard sometimes, carrying feed to the livestock and chickens. He would whistle too and was never off key. He was happy in his career as a farmer.

Papa tried to teach his children to sing in German. Soon Lillian learned the beer drinking song "The Lauterbach." After she sang it to the German-speaking guests, Papa would say, "Now, Lillie, get your bank so they can put some money in it."

*In Lauterbach hab ich mein Strumpf verlor'n
Und ohn Strumpf geh ich nicht Heim...
So geh ich halt wieder nach Lauterbach hin
Und kauf mich ein Strumpf Fur mein Bein*

[translation:

In Lauterbach I lost my stocking
And without a stocking I can't go home ...
So I'll just go back to Lauterbach
And fetch my stocking for my leg!

(The tune is the same as "Oh Where has my little dog gone?")]

When his daughters were old enough to take piano lessons, Papa gave them a choice of going to high school or taking piano lessons. Sophia and Ann played the piano. That made Papa very happy because he had music in his home every day.

At 7 am weekday mornings, the farm market reports came on the radio, which was run with an AC Delco battery and later with a car battery. Papa Adolf would listen to WNAX-AM radio in Yankton, South Dakota a bit earlier because their theme was stirring Marching Band music. After the markets, the remainder of the Marching band music was played.

When a group of friends would come to our house on Sunday or a holiday, Papa would invite John and Amelia Kropatsch. He'd say, "John, bring along your squeeze box (button accordion)." John could play polkas, waltzes, and marches.

During Mass on Sunday, Papa would say that he couldn't pray in church because the choir sang so beautifully. When they sang "Mother Dear Oh Pray For Me," Papa would sing with them, even though it was not the custom for the congregation to sing with the choir. He loved to sing "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name."

When his daughters Patricia, Mary (Frances), and Lillian would wash the supper dishes, they'd sing in two-part harmony. Once Papa came out to the kitchen and said, "Don't make so much noise with the pots and pans! I can't hear your pretty music!" He liked to hear "Whispering Hope," "My Grandfather's Clock," and "I've Been Working On the Railroad."

When there was a wedding dance at Ellers Hall, which was about 4 miles west of

On Sunday evenings, Papa liked to play cards. The game that was popular in the German community was called Schafkopf. The nickname for this game was Sheepshead or Buck. The loser always got the "buck." By the time his children were 10 years old, they could play this game with Papa after the supper dishes were finished. Card parties were held on Sunday nights and as many as 32 people would be invited. When Papa played cards with his children, sometimes he'd cheat just to see if they were paying attention to which cards were played. Playing cards kept Papa's mind sharp and his memory good.

When the baseball World Series would be on the radio, the children would listen to see how many home runs Babe Ruth had made. If Dizzy Dean was pitching, they'd count how many "strike-outs" he threw. The radio ran on a car battery and one Saturday night the battery got so weak that the car wouldn't start in the morning to go to Sunday church. Son Leo and Pauline Kresha had to come by to give the rest of the family a ride to church and daughter Sophia Kresha came from Osceola to give the rest of the family a ride to church. Car batteries were recharged at the filling station (gas station) in Osceola.

Life Before Electricity

The big trees that Papa Adolf had planted in the yard and on the south side of the house died during the drought. On July 25, 1936 the temperature was 114 degrees. The dead trees were piled near the corncrib. In the fall the men in the neighborhood would come to help saw firewood. A buzz saw was powered by a tractor and all day the saw would sound, "zing, zing." When finished, the wood pile would be 2 stories high, though some of the wood for the kitchen cook stove still had to be split. If the supply of firewood didn't last all winter, Papa would drive a team and wagon to nearby Duncan, Nebraska to purchase some coal. He'd put on his bear skin coat, fur gloves, muffler, and a fur cap with ear flaps and leave for Duncan at 10 am. When he arrived home in the afternoon, it would be 4 pm and Papa would have icicles on his mustache. The horses would have frosty noses. Papa would always purchase a small bottle of whiskey to keep him warm on the way home. Coal was hard to ignite, but if there were live coals in the stove already, then the coal would burn easily. There were three wood stoves in the downstairs part of the house. Once, when corn was about 10 cents a bushel, Papa said that it was cheaper to burn ear corn than to purchase coal, so he put the ears of corn into the heating stove. Mama Eva said that it was a sin to burn good food (corn) when people were starving all over the world.

Sometimes, when Papa's bones were aching, he'd take a notion to soak a 50-gallon barrel of hot water. Water was heated on the stove and poured into the barrel. Cold

our home, Papa and Mama Eva would dance the polka. At the end of the song, Papa would give a yell and at times, step back and stomp his feet. This was typical of German dancers. Mama always worried that Papa would stomp on her toes!

Though Papa loved music, he never learned to play an instrument.

Papa slept in his own pipe framed bed. [beds were smaller then] Usually, the next to the youngest child slept with him. Mama Eva had a solid walnut-framed bed and the baby always slept with her, because she nursed all the babies. In the west bedroom slept Amelia, Martin, and Lillian. Lillian was a light sleeper and one night she was awakened by a squeaking noise. The noise just kept coming, so she called out into the night, "Who is squeaking the bed all the time?" The next day Lillian and her clothing were moved upstairs to her own little bedroom.

In late spring, Papa loved to eat fried chicken. In late winter, Mama Eva would light the incubator and set about 100 eggs. It was heated with kerosene. She'd turn the eggs over several times a day. Towards the end of the hatching period, the eggs were sprinkled with warm water to give the shells the needed moisture. After the chicks were all hatched, she would put them in the brooder house, which was heated with a kerosene stove. If we were lucky, there would be fried chicken for dinner on Mother's Day.

Papa's favorite Sunday morning breakfast was diced chicken livers, slowly fried in butter with a lid on the frying pan, then he'd count the number of his children that were in the kitchen for breakfast and then he'd add that many eggs into the livers, scrambling the whole meal. Mary Lukassen called it a "gourmet" dish. That wasn't the only thing that Papa liked to cook. He'd take cottage cheese and melt it, and then he'd let it ferment in the pantry. Soon, Mama Eva would say, "Get that stinky cheese out of my house!" Then Papa would put it on the porch until he had eaten all of it. No one else cared to even taste it, as it smelled like Limburger cheese.

Livestock

Papa raised beef cattle and milk cows. The male steer calves were sold at the Columbus Sales Pavilion. If he had a large herd to sell, he'd ship them to the Union Stockyards in Omaha. For this, Augustine Trucking would come down from Shelby to transport his cattle to the Stockyards. Rarely did Papa feed a steer for slaughter, because that took two years. He liked pork the best.

One spring, Papa Adolf butchered a steer, from which he made beef and pork

sausage, which he smoked in the 6' X 9' smokehouse. About six dozen hooks were hung from the rafters and a slow smoldering fire was started in the special smoker stove. He used fruit wood and sometimes hickory chips. One day, as the children walked home from school, they gathered all the dead wood they could find, and stoked the fire for Papa. Later, as he walked across the yard, he smelled cedar smoke. He grabbed a pail of water and ran into the smokehouse to put out the fire. He said, "Those miserable kids put cedar wood in my smoker stove!" He saved all the baloney and taught all his children a lesson.

Papa raised Poland China, Hampshires, Chester Whites, and Duroc hogs. He would grind the grain before feeding it to the swine, putting a few buckets of it in a barrel to ferment before letting them have it, though this wasn't possible in winter. Papa butchered hogs about three times a year.

When Papa butchered a hog, he'd shoot it first, then cut its throat to bleed it. Once he saved the blood and made barley blood sausage. No one liked it so he never made it again. After the blood was drained out, he would heat water over an open fire for scalding the dead hog in a metal barrel. With a hoist, he'd dip the carcass in the hot water. With sharp knives, the hair would be scraped off. The head was cooked in the wash boiler until the skin/meat was tender. This meat, along with the liver, were ground up for the liver wurst. On butchering day, the brains and the kidneys were always eaten at the noon meal. Five loaves of homemade bread were soaked in water, 2 cloves of garlic were crushed in 1/2 cup of coarse salt, 1/4 cups of black pepper, some nutmeg and other spices were used to make the filling for the natural casings. Mama Eva would tie the ends with with string, as Papa turned the crank on the sausage stuffer. The fresh liver sausage was gently lowered into the simmering broth of the wash boiler and when cooked, laid out on a table leaf to cool on the porch. The first person to get a gift of sausage was the Catholic Priest. Delores (Smagacz) Nyffeler remembers her Grandpa Adolf bringing them some of his liverwurst. First, he'd open a newspaper, lay on a pieced of waxed paper, then wrap the sausage, tying it with a string. This was in the days before brown bags and scotch tape.

Mama Eva would preserve meat in quart jars in the oven, doing 20 jars at a time. Some of the pork meat would be fried and placed into an open crock jar, covered with hot lard, covered with a lid and stored in a cool place for several months. We always had plenty of meat to eat.

One day when Papa was feeding the chickens, he noticed that Mama Eva's geese had made the chicken's drinking water dirty by washing themselves in it. The

chickens wouldn't drink the dirty water, causing them not to lay any eggs. Papa emptied the dirty water from the pan and threw it at the geese, who squawked and flew across the yard. Mama Eva heard the ruckus and came out the door. Papa said, "Your miserable geese dirtied the chicken's drinking water again." Mama retorted, "If you kill my geese, you won't have down for the feather pillows or a feather quilt for your bed!" Papa never cussed or swore in front of his children, but did use the word "miserable" many times. He liked roast goose at Christmas and New Years. The irony of it all was that Papa was allergic to the feathers and suffered from "night asthma."

Papa raised his own work horses. He had six or eight head, so when one team was tired, he could hitch up a fresh team. One night "Fannie" got loose in the barn and stuck her head into the oats bin and ate too much. She stumbled and went lame, never to work again. When Lillian asked George what was wrong with "Fannie," he said, "She has the HeeBee-JeeBees." This expression was used in the comic strip *The Katzenjammer Kids* in the 1930's.

Church

Saint Andrews Catholic Church was the country church where the family worshiped. Papa helped build and support 3 churches. The first church was struck by lightning and burned down in 1908. The second Saint Andrews Church was built in section 12, township 15 of Valley Precinct. Papa helped with the carpentry work as well as the finances. His late first wife Sophie (Kropatsch) was the first one buried in the new cemetery, Saint Andrews Cemetery #2.

Now the parishioners had the problem of two cemeteries. When Grandma Anna (Kral) Kropatsch died, she was buried in the new cemetery. Her husband John was buried in the old cemetery. In the late 1930's, at the insistence of Papa's daughter Sophia, her grandfather's grave was moved to the new cemetery and placed next to his wife Anna. Sophia paid for the \$10 permit. Oswald Kropatsch, brother-in-law to Papa Adolf, and son of John Kropatsch, in the presence of mortician Raymond Kepner, dug up the grave, placed the remains into another coffin for transferring to the new cemetery. On top of the remains was a shiny gold cross from Grandpa's rosary. Mr. Kepner handed it to Oswald and said, "Do you want to keep this cross as a remembrance?" Oswald hesitated, then said, "I guess so." Papa Adolf said, "Oswald, you gave your Papa that rosary when you buried him. Don't take it away now." So Oswald tenderly put the gold cross on top of the remains once again. This chore took all morning and at noon Papa came home. He was quite subdued, saying "I wouldn't be party to robbing a grave."

On February 19, 1946, the Saint Andrews parishioners lost their second church by fire. Services were held in the rural school district #69, across the intersection from the church, until Bishop Kucera was convinced that with the insurance money and a grant from the Extension Society Missions, they had enough money to rebuild their church. On Monday, June 13, 1948, just two years before Papa's death, Saint Andrew's third church was dedicated by the Bishop Louis Kucera, head of the Lincoln Diocese.

The Diocese of Lincoln had a contest to find the largest Catholic family in southeastern Nebraska. The Adolf Kreshas won the first prize, which was \$50 worth of clothing from Gold's Department Store in Lincoln. Daughter Ann was working in Lincoln at the time and she gave the store all the sizes of clothing that the children needed for school. Even Papa received some everyday chambray shirts. There were 19 living children in the family. Second prize went to a family with 17 children. This was during Bishop Kucera's tenure as bishop of Lincoln.

One Christmas Eve it was snowing and blowing. The family decided to drive to Midnight Mass at Saint Andrews, which was about four miles away. Lillian was appointed to babysit so the other eight family members left the house warmly dressed and with two snow scoops. It was about 10:30 pm, so they had plenty of time. The car got stuck on the corner of the driveway, so George and Gayhart scooped it out. A quarter of a mile further east, they got stuck again, in a snow drift. When they got the car backed out of that drift, Papa decided that the family was going to have to go home. The car got stuck in the driveway again, so they walked the rest of the way home. Lillian was sitting in the old rocker watching the three wood stoves when she heard a loud thump on the porch. She was too old to believe in Santa so her heart skipped a beat, as the clock only showed 12:15 am. When the family was back inside she asked, "Didn't Midnight Mass last very long?"

The family car was usually saved for good driving weather. In the snowy winter weather, Papa would fill the lumber wagon half full of fresh straw for the trip to school. The school kids would crawl into the wagon with their lunch pails. Papa would cover their heads with a buffalo robe to shield them against the wind and the cold. Daughter Mary Frances would say, "You have never lived until you have ridden to school in a horse-drawn wagon, with it pitching and bumping over every rut in the road." Papa saved gas and wear and tear on the car, too.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "No matter how much work there was, or how much grief there was, you should always try again." That was Papa Adolf's philosophy. He was a hard worker and never became discouraged.

Josef Ferdinand Kresha's Story

10. The tenth child born to Cecilia and Theodor Kressa was Josef Ferdinand Kressa, born February 23, 1876.

He followed the same pattern as his older brothers and sisters. He was born in Nová Hradečná in '76 and went with the family to Girsig in 1884 when he was 8 years old. He went to school there until he was 14 and plans were in made 1890 to take him to the United States and avoid the possibility of being drafted.

The Kressas took the train to Hamburg, Germany, and got on board the "Augusta Victoria" headed for New York. The date was May 15, 1890. Theodor, Cecilia, Josef Ferdinand and baby Alois were on board, as documented below. The Kressas arrived in New York on May 24th from Hamburg. It was a total of 9 days at sea. They took a train from New York to Nebraska.

Roll	M237, 1820-1897	Roll 548	Age	Sex	Occupation
1	Kath.		4	male	farmer
2	Josef		4	male	farmer
3	Theodor Kressa		50	male	farmer
4	Cecilia		50	female	wife
5	Josef		9	male	son
6	Alois		11	male	baby
7	Hans Franz		30	male	farmer

The whole family had planned to stay, but Theodor and Cecilia decided not to because it was too hot. They decided to go back to Girsig. Joseph was fortunate, as he was able to secure work through the references provided by his sister Anna and her husband Martin Karges and sister Amalia and her husband Alfred Kuhnel.

After working for 10 years on area farms, he met this cute 15-year-old, Laura Reed (born March 5, 1884). They were married Silver Creek, Merrick County, Nebraska on the 22nd of October, 1900.

Their first two children, Irene Lerinda Kresha, born March 31, 1903 and John Glen Kresha, born September 16, 1904, were born on the farm near Silver Creek. Sometime after 1905, Joseph and Laura Kresha moved to a farm in Gillan Township,

Before the County Judge of Polk County, Nebraska.

M. in Sara Reed

Oct 12 1903 189

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

✓

The State of Nebraska }
COUNTY.

The State of Nebraska to any Person Legally Authorized to Solemnize Marriages, GREETING:

YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED to join in the holy bonds of matrimony, and to celebrate within said County the rites and ceremonies of marriage between Mr. Joseph Hruska

and Miss Sara Reed

The father's name of the said, Joseph Hruska
is Norndon Hruska and the maiden
name of his mother is Celia Hruska

and the father's name of the said Sara Reed
is Tom Reed and the maiden
name of her mother is Lillian Emma

The said Joseph Hruska resides in the
County of McPherson and State of Nebraska
is aged 27 years, was born in Austria and is a white person.

The said Sara Reed resides in the
County of Polk and State of Nebraska
is aged 15 years, was born in Nebraska and is also a white person.

And these presents shall be your good and sufficient warrant, and you are required to return this license to me within three months from the celebration of such marriage, with a certificate of the same appended thereto, signed by you, under the penalty of five hundred dollars.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the County

(Seal) Court of said County of Polk this 12 day
of October A. D. 1903 F. H. Ball
County Judge.

north of Cozad, Nebraska. Laura got sick at the new farm and was hospitalized at Kearney, Nebraska, where she died of cancer on May 1, 2009 at the age of 25. She is buried in an unmarked grave in the Walnut Grove Cemetery in the countryside north of Cozad.

The distraught Joseph met a new woman, Ruth Patterson Eastman, a widow with two children of her own, Harlan V Eastman and Vera Mildred Eastman. They married in 1909, blending their four children together and adding three more. All six were on the farm in Gillan Township in the 1910 US Census. The name of Ruth's first husband is unknown.

In 1920, the family had moved to a new farm near Crawford, Nebraska. There were three more people there: Ruth's 84-year-old father, William A Patterson, and two new children of their own, Glen W. Kresha (November 5, 1910) and Ruth M Kresha (August 20, 1912) for a total of nine people.

In the 1930 Census, Joseph and Ruth had moved to a new farm in Conata, South Dakota and the household was down to the two youngest, Glen William and Ruth M.

In the 1940 Census, Joseph was on his own, aged 63, and working a farm in Washington, South Dakota. Apparently, he and Ruth had split, as Ruth was working as a housekeeper in Brevard, Florida. Whatever happened next, Ruth did live to age





Joseph Ferdinand Kresha

BIRTH 13 FEB 1876 • Nova Hradecna, Czech Republic

DEATH 30 APR 1945 • Martinez, Contra Costa, California

2nd great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth


13 Feb 1876 • Nova Hradecna, Czech Republic

Age 14 — Arrival

1890

Age 24 — Marriage

Dec 1900 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States

 **Laura E Reed**
(1884–1909)

Age 33 — Marriage

1909

 **Ruth Patterson**
(1882–1969)

Age 34 — Residence

1910 • Gillan, Dawson, Nebraska

Age: 33; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 44 — Residence

1920 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska

Age: 43; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 54 — Residence

1930 • Conata, Pennington, South Dakota


Age 64 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Washington, South Dakota, United States

Age: 63; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 69 — Death

30 Apr 1945 • Martinez, Contra Costa, California

 **Burial**
Martinez, Contra Costa County, California
Alhambra Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Theodor Kressa**
1834–1915

 **Cecilia Perikovsky**
1836–1892

Spouse & Children

 **Laura E Reed**
1884–1909

 **Irene Lerinda Kresha**
1903–1978

 **John Glen Kresha**
1904–1989

Spouse & Children

 **Ruth Patterson**
1882–1969


 **Glen William Kresha**
1910–1995


 **George William Kresha**
1913–1915


 **Ruth Kresha**
1917–1984


Sources

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 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Laura E Reed

BIRTH 05 MAR 1884 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States

DEATH 01 MAY 1909 • Kearney, Buffalo, Nebraska, USA

wife of 2nd great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

05 Mar 1884 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States

Age 16 — Marriage

Dec 1900 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska, United States



Joseph Ferdinand Kresha

(1876–1945)

Age 16 — Residence

1900 • Valley, Polk, Nebraska, USA

Age: 16; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter

Age 25 — Death

01 May 1909 • Kearney, Buffalo, Nebraska, USA

Age: 25 Died of Cancer



Burial

Cozad, Dawson County, Nebraska, USA

Walnut Grove Cemetery Grave is unmarked as of visit July, 2018

Family

Parents



John Louis Reed

1850–1922



Lillian Caroline Evans

1858–1937

Spouse & Children



Joseph Ferdinand Kresha

1876–1945



Irene Lerinda Kresha

1903–1978



John Glen Kresha

1904–1989

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1900 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Nebraska, Marriage Records, 1855-1908



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



Web: Nebraska, Find A Grave Index, 1854-2011



Irene Lerinda Kresha

BIRTH 31 MAR 1903 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

DEATH 26 NOV 1978 • Homedale, Owyhee, Idaho, USA

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

31 Mar 1903 • Silver Creek, Merrick, Nebraska

Age 7 — Residence

1910 • Gillan, Dawson, Nebraska, USA
Age: 7; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter

Age 17 — Residence

1920 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska, USA
Age: 16; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter

Age 19 — Marriage

25 Sep 1922 • Denver, Adams, Colorado, United States

 **Charles Hudson 'Jack' Frye**
(1899–1963)

Age 21 — Residence

1924 • Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA

Age 27 — Residence

1930 • Oakland, Alameda, California

Age 37 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Martinez, Contra Costa, California, United States

Age 75 — Death

26 Nov 1978 • Homedale, Owyhee, Idaho, USA

Burial



Wilder, Canyon County, Idaho
Wilder Cemetery

Family

Parents



Joseph Ferdinand Kresha
1876–1945



Laura E Reed
1884–1909

Spouse & Children



Charles Hudson 'Jack' Frye
1899–1963



Josephine Belle Frye
1922–1924



Sherrill Hudson Frye
1924–1991



Irene Lorraine Frye
1929–1995



Wilbur Charles Frye
1933–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1910 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



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Social Security Death Index



U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



Web: Idaho, Find A Grave Index, 1863-2011



John Glen Kresha

BIRTH 16 SEP 1904 • Nebraska, USA

DEATH 27 JAN 1989 • Shasta, Shasta, California, United States

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

16 Sep 1904 • Nebraska, USA

Age 6 — Residence

1910 • Gillan, Dawson, Nebraska, USA

Age in 1910: 5; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 16 — Residence

1920 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska, USA

Age: 15; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 29 — Marriage

18 Nov 1933 • Pennington, South Dakota

Age 29 — Marriage

18 Nov 1933 • Pennington, South Dakota

 **Inez Mary Newman**
(1908-1994)

Age 31 — Residence

1935 • Victor, Teller, Colorado

Age 35 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Martinez, Contra Costa, California, United States

Age: 34; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Age 37 — Military

31 Aug 1942 • Cal. Pittsburgh
enlisted in the Navy

Age 49 — Residence

1953 • Vallejo, Solano, California, USA

Age 84 — Death


27 Jan 1989 • Shasta, Shasta, California, United States

 **Burial**
Cottonwood, Shasta County,
California
Cottonwood Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Joseph Ferdinand Kresha**
1876-1945

 **Laura E Reed**
1884-1909


Spouse & Children


 **Inez Mary Newman**
1908-1994


 **Frank Joseph Kresha**
1934-


Sources

Ancestry Sources

 1910 United States Federal Census

 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census


 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees


 California Death Index, 1940-1997

 Social Security Death Index


 South Dakota Marriages, 1905-1949

 South Dakota Marriages, 1905-1949

 U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)

 U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010

 U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current

 U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



Ruth Patterson

BIRTH 14 JUL 1882 • Illinois, USA

DEATH 10 SEP 1969 • Worland, Washakie, Wyoming, USA

wife of 2nd great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

14 Jul 1882 • Illinois, USA

Age 18 — Residence

1900 • Lancaster, Lancaster, Nebraska, USA

Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter

Age 20 — Marriage

Abt. 1902

Unknown Eastman
(1880-)

Age 27 — Marriage

1909

Joseph Ferdinand Kresha
(1876-1945)

Age 28 — Residence

1910 • Gillan, Dawson, Nebraska

Age 38 — Residence

1920 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska

Age: 37; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Wife

Age 48 — Residence

1930 • Conata, Pennington, South Dakota

Age 53 — Residence

1935 • Conata, Pennington, South Dakota

Marital Status: Married

Age 57 — Residence

01 Apr 1940 • Brevard, Florida, USA

Marital Status: Widowed; Relation to Head of House: Housekeeper

Age 87 — Death

10 Sep 1969 • Worland, Washakie, Wyoming, USA

Burial
Ten Sleep, Washakie County,
Wyoming
Ten Sleep Cemetery

Family

Parents

William A Patterson
1833-

Sara Belle Emmerich
1850-

Spouse & Children

Unknown Eastman
1880-

Harlon V Eastman
1903-1983

Vera Mildred Eastman
1907-1992

Spouse & Children

Joseph Ferdinand Kresha
1876-1945

Glen William Kresha
1910-1995

George William Kresha
1913-1915

Ruth Kresha
1917-1984

Sources

Ancestry Sources

1900 United States Federal Census

1910 United States Federal Census

1920 United States Federal Census

1930 United States Federal Census

1940 United States Federal Census

Ancestry Family Trees

Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1950

Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1987

Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1993

Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1993

Social Security Death Index

South Dakota, State Census, 1935

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1700s-Current



Harlon Vernon Eastman

BIRTH 20 AUG 1903 • North Conway, New Hampshire, USA

DEATH 27 DEC 1983 • Murphys, Calaveras, California, USA
stepson of 2nd great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

20 Aug 1903 • North Conway, New Hampshire, USA

Harlan was born to "Unknown Eastman"
Joseph Franz Kresha was a stepfather.

Age 7 — Residence

1910 • Gillan, Dawson, Nebraska, USA
Age in 1910: 5; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 17 — Residence

1920 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska, USA
Age: 15; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 25 — Marriage

20 Aug 1928 • Alameda, California, USA



La Relda Thorpe
(1909–1991)

Age 32 — Residence

1935 • Oakland, Alameda, California

Age 37 — Residence

1940 • Oakland, Alameda, California, USA
Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head: Head

Age 80 — Death

27 Dec 1983 • Murphys, Calaveras, California, USA



Burial

Murphys, Calaveras, California, USA
Buena Vista Cemetery

Family

Parents



Unknown Eastman
1880–



Ruth Patterson
1882–1969

Spouse & Children



La Relda Thorpe
1909–1991



Robert Clayton Eastman
1931–2012



Nancy L Eastman
1934–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1910 United States Federal Census



1920 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



California Death Index, 1940-1997



California, Marriage Records from Select Counties, 1850-1941



Social Security Death Index



U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947



U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current



Vera Mildred Eastman

BIRTH 15 MAY 1907 • Lincoln County, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 25 DEC 1992 • Ten Sleep, Washakie County, Wyoming
stepdaughter of 2nd great-uncle

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

15 May 1907 • Lincoln County, Nebraska, USA

Age 3 — Residence

1910 • Gillan, Dawson, Nebraska, USA
Age in 1910: 3; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter

Age 13 — Residence

1920 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska, USA
Age: 12; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter

Age 17 — Residence

1924 • Spearfish, South Dakota, USA

Age 20 — Marriage

17 Jan 1928 • Huron, Beadle, South Dakota, USA

 **Jacob "Jack" Zimmerman**
(1891–1970)


Age 27 — Marriage

Bef. 1935 • South Dakota

 **Unknown Abshire**


Age 30 — Marriage

06 Aug 1937 • Red Lodge, Carbon, Montana
Ten Sleep Cemetery

 **Thomas L Jones**
(1897–1965)


Age 85 — Death


25 Dec 1992 • Ten Sleep, Washakie County, Wyoming

 **Burial**
1992 • Ten Sleep, Washakie County, Wyoming
Ten Sleep Cemetery

Family

Parents

 **Unknown Eastman**
1880–

 **Ruth Patterson**
1882–1969

Spouse

 **Jacob "Jack" Zimmerman**
1891–1970

Spouse


 **Unknown Abshire**


Spouse


 **Thomas L Jones**
1897–1965


Sources

Ancestry Sources


 1910 United States Federal Census


 1920 United States Federal Census


 1930 United States Federal Census

 1940 United States Federal Census


 Ancestry Family Trees


 Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1950


 Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1987


 Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1993

 Social Security Death Index

 South Dakota Marriages, 1905-1949

 South Dakota, State Census, 1925

 South Dakota, State Census, 1935

 U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)



Glen William Kresha

BIRTH 05 NOV 1910 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 13 DEC 1995 • Santa Rosa, Sonoma, California, United States of America

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

05 Nov 1910 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska, USA

Age 10 — Residence

1920 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska

Age: 9; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

Age 15 — Residence

1925 • South Dakota, USA

Marital Status: Single

Age 20 — Residence

1930 • Conata, Pennington, South Dakota

Age 25 — Residence

Bet. 1935-1993 • Santa Rosa, CA

Age 47 — Marriage

05 Apr 1958 • Contra Costa, California, USA

Hard to tell official last name of Ruth Georgia, as there is a double listing with both last names, everything else is the same.



Ruth Georgia Johnston

(1901-1966)

Age 71 — Marriage

10 Jul 1982 • Sonoma, California



Mildred E Stinson

(1929-1999)

Age 85 — Death

13 Dec 1995 • Santa Rosa, Sonoma, California, United States of America

Family

Parents



Joseph Ferdinand Kresha

1876-1945



Ruth Patterson

1882-1969

Spouse



Ruth Georgia Johnston

1901-1966

Spouse



Mildred E Stinson

1929-1999

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



California Death Index, 1940-1997



California Marriage Index, 1960-1985



California, Marriage Index, 1949-1959



Social Security Death Index



South Dakota, State Census, 1925



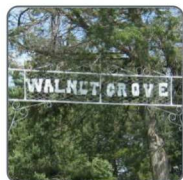
South Dakota, State Census, 1945



U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 2



U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007



George William Kresha

BIRTH 1913 • Cozad, Dawson, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 1915 • Cozad, Dawson, Nebraska

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

1913 • Cozad, Dawson, Nebraska, USA

Age 2 — Death

1915 • Cozad, Dawson, Nebraska



Burial

Cozad, Dawson, Nebraska, USA
Walnut Grove Cemetery

Family

Parents



Joseph Ferdinand Kresha

1876–1945



Ruth Patterson

1882–1969

Spouse

Sources

Ancestry Sources



U.S., Find A Grave Index,
1700s-Current



Ruth Kresha

BIRTH 30 APR 1917 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska, USA

DEATH 24 APR 1984 • Manderson, Big Horn, Wyoming, USA

1st cousin 2x removed

Facts

Age 0 — Birth

30 Apr 1917 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska, USA

Age 3 — Residence

1920 • Crawford, Dawes, Nebraska

Age: 2; Age: 2 8/12; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter

Age 8 — Residence

1925 • South Dakota, USA

Marital Status: Single

Age 13 — Residence

1930 • Conata, Pennington, South Dakota

Age 18 — Residence

1935 • Lansing, Ingham, Michigan

Marital Status: Single Pupil - School for the Blind

Age 19 — Marriage

31 Dec 1936 • Hot Springs, Fall River, SD
United Church



Johnny Robert Mitchell

(1915–1990)

Age 19 — Residence

1936 • Washington Township, SD

Age 23 — Residence

1940 • Lansing, Ingham, Michigan, USA

Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head: Pupil

Age 25 — Marriage

25 Dec 1942 • Yellowstone, Montana, USA



Charles Emory Yost

(1913–2001)

Age 66 — Death

24 Apr 1984 • Manderson, Big Horn, Wyoming, USA



Burial

Manderson, Big Horn, Wyoming, USA
Mount View Cemetery

Family

Parents



Joseph Ferdinand Kresha

1876–1945



Ruth Patterson

1882–1969

Spouse



Johnny Robert Mitchell

1915–1990

Spouse



Charles Emory Yost

1913–2001

Spouse & Children



Richard Emery Mullins

1902–1977



Cecil Richard Mullins

1953–

Sources

Ancestry Sources



1920 United States Federal Census



1930 United States Federal Census



1940 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1950



Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1987



Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1993



Montana, Marriage Records, 1943-1986



Social Security Death Index



South Dakota Marriages, 1905-1949



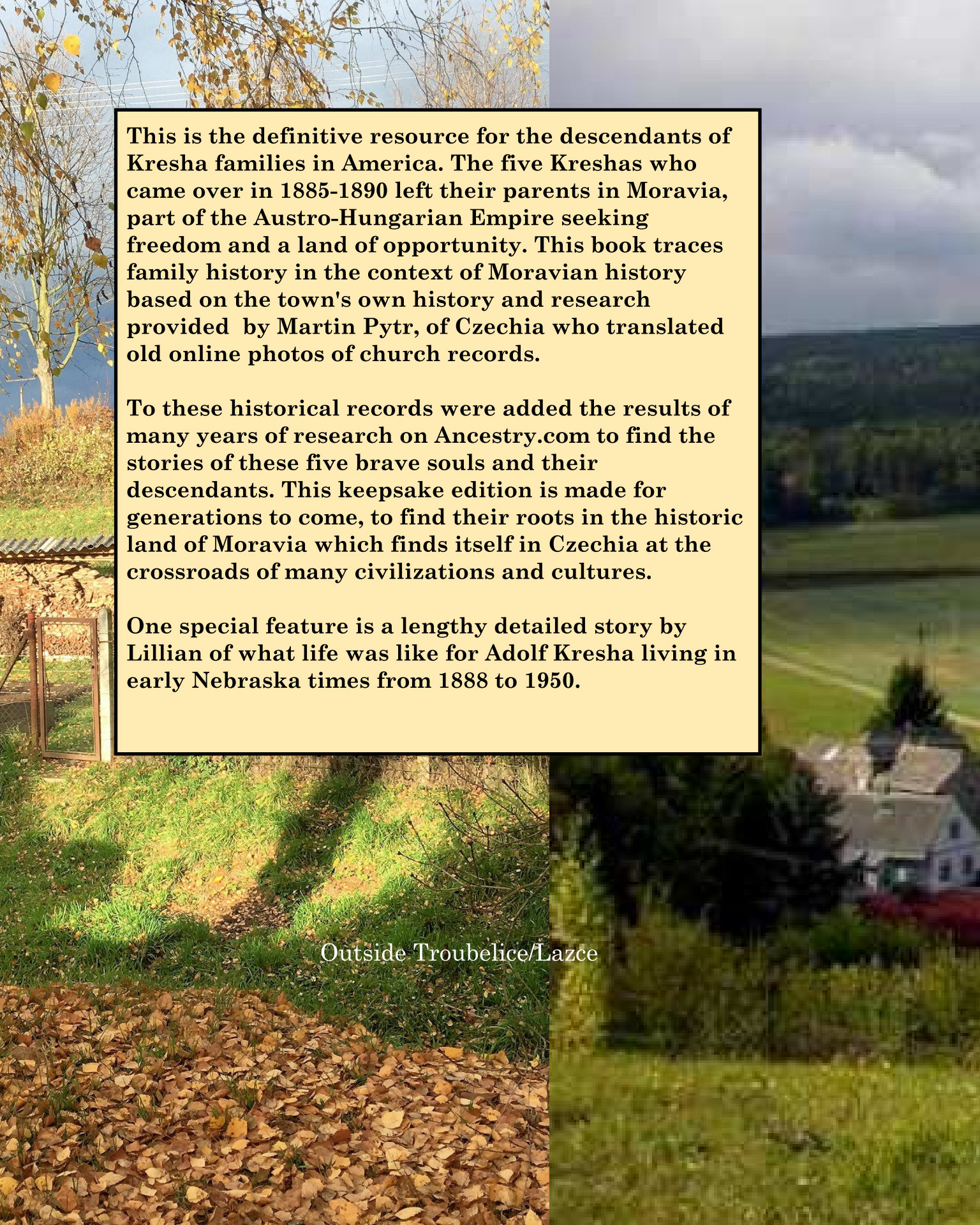
South Dakota Marriages, 1905-1949



South Dakota, State Census, 1925



South Dakota, State Census, 1935



This is the definitive resource for the descendants of Kresha families in America. The five Kreshas who came over in 1885-1890 left their parents in Moravia, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire seeking freedom and a land of opportunity. This book traces family history in the context of Moravian history based on the town's own history and research provided by Martin Pytr, of Czechia who translated old online photos of church records.

To these historical records were added the results of many years of research on Ancestry.com to find the stories of these five brave souls and their descendants. This keepsake edition is made for generations to come, to find their roots in the historic land of Moravia which finds itself in Czechia at the crossroads of many civilizations and cultures.

One special feature is a lengthy detailed story by Lillian of what life was like for Adolf Kresha living in early Nebraska times from 1888 to 1950.

Outside Troubelice/Lazce