

# The Bullitschek Bulletin

A newsletter for the Bolejack, Bolerjack families, and all descendants of Joseph Ferdinand Bullitschek, a Moravian immigrant, born in 1729 in Bohemia, who came to America in 1754 and lived in Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

*Volume 29 No. 2*

*August (Fall) 2013*

## The Cedar Rapids Reunion Group



**First Row:** Bob Jenkins, Dorothy Lindquist, Rosemary Bolerjack, Anya Frazier, Marilyn Blackburn. **Second Row:** Ginny Bryant, Margie Jamerson, Barbara Frazier, Elvina Haney, Virginia Logan, Joe Logan, Joan Bland, David Bland. **Third Row:** Ray Lindquist, Nancy Heron, Judy Jenkins, Bonnie Bolerjack, Phyllis Bagby, Mary Anne Templeton, Maxine Jones, Myrna Garner, Janice Estell, Priscilla Miller. **Forth Row:** James Bolerjack, Jim Bolerjack, Roger Blackburn, Bob Jones, Ruble Garner, Troy Estell, Rodney Miller

**Don't miss the 2014 Reunion in Nashville, TN  
June 26-29, 2014**

# The 2013 Bullitschek Family Reunion Activities

The annual reunion of the Joseph Ferdinand Bullitschek descendants was held June 20-23, 2013 at the Fairfield Inn Hotel in Cedar Rapids, IA. Family members were welcomed Thursday afternoon by the coordinators, Roger and Marilyn Blackburn. For dinner, we went to the Pizza Ranch Buffet restaurant. We then returned to the hotel for a time of fellowship in the lobby.

On Friday morning, after breakfast at the hotel, we met at 9:30 to go to the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library. What a wonderful museum. There were exhibits of intricately embroidered traditional clothing from Czech and Slovak countries and other cultural exhibits. One permanent exhibit was "Faces of Freedom: The Czech and Slovak Journey This exhibit gave us an idea of what it would have felt like in a living room in Europe during World War Two or experience being in steam ship on the way to America.

A fascinating temporary exhibit was "Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection" of more than 280 pins. As Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright often wore specific pins while negotiating to signify high hopes, protest the absence of progress or show pride in representing the United States. The exhibits include the gold snake pin she wore to meet Saddam Hussein after the government-controlled Iraqi press called her an "unparalleled serpent."

Remember when our planned 2008 Bullitschek Reunion had to be cancelled in 2008? At that time the only part of the Museum above water was the roof. When the flood waters receded, the people of Cedar Rapids decided to move and elevate the flood-damaged museum building. In June 2011, Cedar Rapids was the site of the largest museum move in U.S. history. It involved moving 1,500 tons of brick and mortuary 480 feet and raising it 11 feet to fit on the new foundation. The move took nearly two months plus 45-60 days of preparation. Watching the movie showing this was a very moving experience (pun intended).

Although during our time in the museum, there was a downpour of rain, it stopped just as we were ready to leave for lunch at the Blue Toad, a restaurant serving both American and Czech food. After lunch, we were free to return to the museum, see the flood museum in the Czech Village, or see other attractions in the area. (A few might have gone back to the hotel for some rest time.) Friday evening we gathered in the hotel "breakfast" room for refreshments and a time to get to know each other a little better.

Saturday morning we drove to the Amana Colonies, had time to explore on our own, and then went in small groups on guided tour of the colonies. This was the site of one of America's longest-lived communal society. The community started in Germany in 1714 and: due to persecution and economic depression in Germany, came to America in 1843-44. They came to Iowa in 1855, where they chose the name of Amana meaning "to remain true." The six Amana colonies remained communal until 1932. At this time, the great depression and seeing the communal way of life as a barrier to individual goals caused them to change. They then established the Amana Society, a profit-sharing corporation to maintain farmland and enterprises. Private enterprise was encouraged. The Amana Church was maintained. The Amana Colonies are now a thriving community where history is valued.

After the tours, we gathered for lunch at the Colony Inn in Amana. Following the meal we had a business meeting and our annual Auction. The Auction raised \$307 dollars. The afternoon was free to continue exploring the Amana Colonies or other sites. Many people left for home Saturday afternoon or early Sunday morning, but some stayed to attend church on Sunday morning at Stonebridge Church in Cedar Rapids. We had a wonderful time and hope to see even more of you at the reunion in Nashville, TN next year on June 23 to 26.

## Minutes of Business Meeting, June 22, 2013

After a delicious meal served family style at the Colony Inn Restaurant in the Amana Colonies, President Janice Estell opened the 2013 Bullitschek Family Association Annual Business Meeting. The question was asked “who came the farthest distance?” Cousins attended from Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, New York (the farthest away) Oklahoma and Virginia. Self-introductions were made around the room.

The Minutes of the 2012 Annual Business Meeting were read by Secretary Virginia (Ginny) Bryant. Bob Jones moved to approve the Minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Elvina Haney. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

The Treasure’s report was given by Mary Anne Templeton. Hard copies were handed out. Mary Anne asked if anyone had questions. Barbara Frazier asked if the newsletter was being mailed to those who weren’t paying dues. Mary Anne responded most bulletins were being sent via email, but of those going via snail mail, they were only being sent to those paying dues. Marilyn Blackburn moved to approve the Treasurer’s report, seconded by James Bolerjack, motion carried.

Marilyn Blackburn reported on the winter get-together in Florida. Three couples attended; Roger and Marilyn Blackburn, James & Rosemary Bolerjack, and Jack & Ginny Lykins. They plan to meet again next year in February of 2014.

Richard Soash has been putting all newsletters and bulletins on the web site. He has all but 3 newsletters. Virginia Logan said she has copies of all of them and would send copies of the missing bulletins to Richard. Richard will add the remaining bulletins upon receipt.

President Janice proposed a \$200 check be given to Roger and Marilyn Blackburn for the expenses they incurred planning for the 2013 reunion. Phyllis Bagby moved the check be written. Barbara Frazier seconded the motion. All present in favor, motion carried.

Janice then presented a slate of officers for 2014:  
President Virginia Bryant  
Vice President Bob Jones  
Secretary Nancy Heron  
Treasurer Mary Ann Templeton  
Newsletter Mary Anne Templeton  
Coordinators: Marilyn Blackburn & Bob Jones  
No further nominators were made from the floor. Elvina Haney moved to accept the slate via proclamation. Everyone was in agreement, the slate was elected unanimously.

Everyone talked about what a great job Gerald and Susan Bolerjack have done with the newsletters.

The 2014 Bullitschek Reunion will be June 26-29 and will be held in Nashville, Tennessee. Marilyn Blackburn and Bob Jones have agreed to serve as coordinators. If anyone has recommendations on what you would like to do in Nashville, please contact Bob or Marilyn.

President Janice opened the floor for any parting comments. Marilyn Blackburn talked about the Bullitschek Family Association Standing Rules. These rules were previously discussed by the officers. The rules state our Dues year runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>. It was proposed that this be changed to run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. The rules further state prizes for the youngest, oldest and the one traveling the farthest be awarded each year. It is proposed that this be changed to let the presiding president decided if these awards should be given each year. It was also proposed that cards for those not attending because of sickness or whatever reason should be provided by the presiding president. Newsletters shall be produced in January, May (to include details of the upcoming reunion) and August. Nancy Heron moved to accept the proposed changes to the Standing Rules as presented. Motion seconded by Elvina Haney. Motion carried – changes adopted. Copies of the rules will be available on the web site and on FaceBook.

Ruble Garner asked how much money was raised from the 2012 auction and whether it went for

mowing of the family cemetery. Mary Anne Templeton replied that a little over \$280.00 had been raised at the 2012 auction and the cost for the mowing of the cemetery was \$300.00 Joan Bland asked who is in charge of the mowing. It was thought that Ruby Boles was in charge, and Mary Anne said she would contact Ruby to find out if she was the one in charge.

Barbara Frazier reported Spencer Bolerjack (son of Smith Bolerjack) has a show on the Discovery and History channels called HillBilly Blood.

Secretary Ginny Bryant asked for everyone to convey to her what they considered the highlight of the reunion was for them.

Marilyn Blackburn thanked everyone for coming and announced everyone should be prepared to leave at 8:30 am Sunday morning to attend the Stonebridge Church service.

Moments of remembrance were held for:

Arlene Bolerjack  
Audie Bolerjack  
Joyce Lameaux  
Wilma Shepherd &  
Uncle Beryl's oldest son from Harrison,  
Arkansas

No further business, we sang Faith of our Mothers and Faith of Our Fathers before adjourning.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Bryant  
Secretary

**Highlights:** As you might guess, different people thought different things were the highlights of the reunion. The thing most often mentioned was the fellowship. Other things: learning about family history, larger attendance this year, the Amana Colonies, Czech Museum, the film about moving the museum, good food, and a special mention of the home-made cream puffs from the Czech bakery.

## Moravian Star Symbolizes

.....

## True Spirit of Christmas

By Marilyn Bolerjack Blackburn

How and where did the beautiful "Moravian Star", displayed at so many Bethlehem, Lititz and Winston-Salem homes during the Christmas season, begin?

The first Moravian star was made of paper by a group of boarding school boys working on a geometry project in Niesky, Germany, sometime during the middle 1800's. Niesky happens to be the first documented residence of our Joseph Ferdinand Bullitschek. He came to Niesky along with other boys as orphans in November, 1745. The first star was red and white signifying the blood and purity of Christ. By the early 1990's, paper stars were being made in yellow, red, white, and combinations of these three colors. Although Lititz Moravians prefer the white stars, many European members of the church favor the yellow or red. At Herrnhut, Germany, the mother of all Moravian congregations worldwide, there hangs a yellow Moravian star with 110 points.

At one time only Lititz Moravian families displayed the stars during the Advent Season. Passing through town, you could determine houses occupied by Moravian families. However, as more and more people became aware of the beauty of the stars, non-Moravians began using them as part of their holiday decorations.

Hung the first Sunday in Advent and taken down the first Sunday in Epiphany, the Advent Star has become a popular tradition of Moravians worldwide. They rejoice in the birth of the Savior, whose coming pierced the darkness of early sin like a long-awaited star

.....

*Ed. Note: I would like to include one article each newsletter about the family culture/history we share. This month's short piece is about the Moravian Star which fascinates so many of us. If you have articles you would like to have in future newsletters, please send them to me. See contact information on the back page.*

## Deaths

**Areline Shroff Bolerjack** was born on April 27, 1926, in Alva, Oklahoma, to Scottie and Anna (Knabe) Shroff and died Sunday, September 9, 2012. Areline married John Thomas Bolerjack on August 13, 1947. They were married for 57 years when John died in 2005. She is survived by two sons, John Jr. of Midwest City, and James and his wife, Bonnie, of Blackwell; two granddaughters, Lydia Cook and her husband Tim, of Granite City, Illinois, and Elisabeth Shelton, of Midwest City and four great grandchildren, Chloe and Alyssa Shelton and Caedmon and Iain Cook. She was preceded in death by her husband, John, both parents, one brother, Scottie Shroff, and four sisters, Ella Robinet Shroff, Bucilla Blair, Ila May Dooley, and Anna Marie Gore.

Both Areline and John attended the Family Reunions for many years. Arlene coordinated a family reunion, cooked for us at several of them (who can forget her delicious cinnamon buns) and always had a letter from Joseph Ferdinand Bullitschek to read at the reunions. Many of us have well-used copies of the two cookbooks she wrote entitled, "Something Special Cookbook." She also published a novel, Anna's Song in 2011.

**Robert Francis**, age 93, Louisville, KY, died May 12, 2013. He was born on January 21, 1920 in Mohamet, Illinois to the late Bennett Porter and Lessie Bishop Francis. Two sisters and two brothers have preceded him in death. Left to carry on his memory are his wife of 56 years, Katherine Mae Strait Francis; sons, Robert A. Francis Jr. and Richard A. Francis (Beth); grandchildren, Cole and Rachel Francis; along with a host of family and friends.

**Claudia Bolerjack**, age 99, passed away on June 5, 2013. She was born on July 4, 1913 to Clarence and Mary Zirkle in Enid, Oklahoma. She married Rufus A. Bolerjack on September 8, 1935 in Perryton, Texas. Survivors include two daughters, Sandra Foster of San Diego and Penny Scribner of Perryton, a son, Buddy Bolerjack of Perryton, and six grandchildren.

**Harold Bolejack**, 78, of Arma, KS died on August 7, 2012. He was born on July 31, 1934 to Clarence and Zena Pearl Reed Bolejack. He married Phyllis Taylor on March 10, 1956. Survivors include his wife, Phyllis, a daughter, Tonya Moss of Arma, two sons, Mark Bolejack of Granola, Kansas and Todd Bolejack of Arma, a brother, Lloyd Bolejack of Colorado Springs, Colorado, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Albert Bolejack, and a sister, Ethel Moon.

**Phyllis Ann Bolejack**, 76, of Arma, KS died on January 15, 2013. She was the daughter of Herman E. and Mildred Vista Steele Taylor. Mr. Bolejack preceded her in death on August 7, 2012. Survivors include a daughter, Tonya Moss of Arma; two sons, Mark Bolejack of Granola, Kan., and Todd Bolejack of Arma; a sister, Marlene Merchant of Parsons, KS.; a brother, David Taylor of Dallas, Texas; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and two brothers, Paul and John W. Taylor.

**Audie Hanks Bolerjack**, 73, passed away on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, in Pensacola, FL She was very active in the nursery at the First Baptist Church of Bratt, where she attended, until illness prevented her from doing so. Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Jim Bolerjack of Bratt; one son, Danny (Shelia) Bolerjack of Mobile; one daughter, Robin (James) Sutton of Century; two brothers, Howard (Merle) Hanks of Bratt and Sylvester (Juliette) Hanks of Bratt; two sisters-in-law, Mary Anne (James) Templeton of Warrenton, VA and Phyllis Bagley of Centralia, IL; six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Johnnie and Sally Hanks, and three brothers, Arthur Hanks, Horace Hanks and Leonard Hanks.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **BULLITSCHEK FAMILY ASSOCIATION WEB PAGE [www.bullitschek.com](http://www.bullitschek.com)**

Do you want to know more about the Bullitschek Family History, early Moravian History, see where family reunions have been held or read past Bullitschek Bulletins? This is the webpage that has it all. Thanks to Richard Soash for all his work in compiling this.

## Officers 2013-2014

<b>President:</b>	Virginia (Ginny) Bryant 987 Co Rd 300 E Norris City, IL 62869 Email: <a href="mailto:glbryant@usi.edu">glbryant@usi.edu</a> Phone: (618) 378-2024
<b>Vice President:</b>	Bob Jones 2603 Aintree Way Louisville, KY 40220 Email: <a href="mailto:robert.jones02@twc.com">robert.jones02@twc.com</a> Phone: (502) 459-8718
<b>Secretary:</b>	Nancy Heron 23751 N. Cornerstone Rd Marietta, IL 62459 Email: <a href="mailto:nankeen@derbytech.net">nankeen@derbytech.net</a> Phone: (309) 772 -3376
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mary Anne Templeton 7194 Mill Run Dr Warrenton, VA 20187 Email: <a href="mailto:maryan21@comcast.net">maryan21@comcast.net</a> Phone: (540) 349-9623
<b>Coordinator</b>	Roger and Marilyn Blackburn And Bob and Maxine Jones
<b>Historian:</b>	Marilyn Blackburn 200 Addyston Parc St. Peters, MO 63376 Email: <a href="mailto:dodB@aol.com">dodB@aol.com</a> Phone: (636)-294-2412
<b>Archivist:</b>	Richard Soash 6827 Redbud Dr Manhattan, KS 66503 Email: <a href="mailto:rssoash@att.net">rssoash@att.net</a> Phone: (785) 293-5121
<b>Editor:</b>	Mary Anne Templeton 7194 Mill Run Dr Warrenton, VA 20187 Email: <a href="mailto:maryan21@comcast.net">maryan21@comcast.net</a> Phone: (540) 349-9623

<i>Bullitschek descendant's name</i>	
Your Name	
Address	
City State ZIP	
Phone	Spouse
Email	

## THE 2014 BULLITSCHEK REUNION IN NASHVILLE, TN JUNE 26-29.

Plan now for a fun weekend seeing local sights and a few surprises along the way. More details will follow in the Winter (January) Newsletter.

### FEBRUARY BULLITSCHEK GATHERING IN FLORIDA

If you're in Florida on Tuesday, Feb. 4th, join us for lunch at the Inn on the Lake restaurant in Sebring.

We had our first lunch last year and it was lots of fun with great food and fellowship. If you plan to attend, please email Marilyn Blackburn at [DodB@aol.com](mailto:DodB@aol.com). You could also leave me a note on Facebook or call me at 856-278-2922. Hope you can join us!!

### “BULLITSCHEK, BOLERJACK, BOLEJACK” FACEBOOK PAGE

If you are on FaceBook, please check this page. Those of us who are members can invite others to join. If you want to be a member, you can also contact Jack or Ginny Lykins, ([jrlykins@ptd.net](mailto:jrlykins@ptd.net)) who are the ones who set up the FaceBook page for us. Thanks, Jack and Ginny.

**If you have not paid the 2013 dues, please use the form at the left or send me the same information in a note. Please notify me of address or email changes if you want to continue getting the email.**

**Make Check to: BULLITSCHEK FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

Mail to:  
**Mary Anne Templeton**  
**7194 Mill Run Drive**  
**Warrenton, VA 20187-7227**  
**Email: [Maryan21@Comcast.net](mailto:Maryan21@Comcast.net)**  
**Phone: 540-349-9623**