

# ***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 38 No. 2**

**April 30, 2023**

## **2023 BULLITSCHEK FAMILY REUNION**

**Only 55 days away!!!!**

Our virtual reunion is on June 24 from 3:00 to 4:30 Eastern time (2 central, 1 mountain, 12 pacific). Your Executive Committee has been working hard to plan this event, with a get acquainted time, several historical presentations, annual business meeting, Bullitschek trivia contest and more.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to connect with your family and learn more about your family history! Register today by submitting your name, email address, and phone number to Mark at [mwbolerjack@gmail.com](mailto:mwbolerjack@gmail.com) so we can send you the Zoom link and ensure a secure event. We can't wait to see you there!

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### **Special Presentations**

We are excited to announce three outstanding speakers who will be sharing their knowledge and expertise on The Bullitschek Family history at the virtual family reunion.

Our main presenter, Aaron Bolerjack, is a historian who enjoys digging into our family history. He will be sharing invaluable insights into the Bolerjack/Bolejack family's lineage and heritage, and their involvement in the Civil War. Click [here](#) for more information about Aaron.



Aaron, Brit, and Shiloh

In addition, we will also have two other speakers, Marilyn Bolerjack Blackburn, and Barbara Frazier, who will be sharing their extensive knowledge of our family's history in White County, IL. Their presentations will provide a fascinating glimpse into the lives and experiences of our ancestors and help us better understand our place in the family's rich history.

We can't wait to learn from these three experts and deepen our appreciation for our family's legacy. Be sure to join us for this exciting opportunity to connect with your family and learn more about the Bolerjack/Bolejack history!

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### **We Want YOU!**

Attention family members! Marilyn is stepping down as President due to health reasons, and we are in need of dedicated individuals to step up and take on leadership roles within the Bullitschek Family Association. We can't stress enough how important it is for us to have committed officers to ensure the success and longevity of our family organization. Other positions may be available as well.

As an officer, you will have the opportunity to make a positive impact on our family, build relationships with other family members, and help preserve our family history and traditions for generations to come. You will also gain

valuable leadership skills and experience that can benefit you in your personal and professional life.

We understand that taking on a leadership role can be a big commitment, but we assure you that it's a rewarding one. We have a great team in place and are here to support and guide you every step of the way. So if you're passionate about the Bolerjack/Bolejack family and want to play a key role in shaping our future, we encourage you to step up and become an officer.

Please reach out to us to express your interest or ask any questions. We can't wait to welcome new members to our leadership team!

Current Officers:

Marilyn Blackburn – President & Historian

Ginny Bryant – Vice President

Karen Ingersol – Secretary

Mark Bolerjack – Treasurer

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A Little Bit of History from Marilyn

After doing family research for several years, I had a determination to travel to the first known locations of our ancestor, Joseph F. Bullitschek. In 1995 at the conclusion of my husband's orchestra tour, we rented a car and traveled to East Germany (at that time) in order to see Herrnhut. Since that initial visit I have subsequently been there two other times—2004 and 2019. We were blessed to have been hosted by Brother Sam and Sister Julia Reichel and Brother Theodore Gill. In another newsletter I'll feature Herrnhut but in this newsletter I would like to highlight my trip to Niesky and Berthelsdorf.

In 2004 I visited Niesky and was hosted by an American and pastor of the Niesky Moravian Church, Brother Peter Vogt. Niesky was founded in 1742 by Moravian immigrants and was the first documented location of our ancestor. Our ancestor arrived in Niesky on Nov. 21, 1745. There is one building that exists that was standing when he was brought as an orphan from Bohemia.



Raschke's House – Oldest building in Niesky



Moravian Church on Zinzendorf Square - Niesky

This is the only document preserved from the church's archives  
(translated of course).

**Joseph Ferdinand Bullitscheck**

[besides the additional name variations: Bullic'ek, Bulitschek, Bulitscheck]

**Communal Diaries von Niesky**

[Time period from 1746-1755]

July 1746

[10] ... On the 1st a messenger came very early with a letter; he had lost his way and should have appeared earlier but didn't because of an affiliation. (?) At the same time, Perstein with his wife, my mother a widow, Mereken an unwed man and Bullic'ek a boy went to Herrnhuth.

May 1748

[22] ... On the 26th we remembered the birthday of our (theuren?) father. We thanked the Lord (lamb) in all stillness for the angel of the Philadelphia church and sent him some heartfelt wishes, that the Lamb would save and continually preserve him. Our opportunities to meet were Sundays as usual. Brother Kremser went... (etlichen) unwed brothers und older boys to the festival in Herrnhuth, it was celebrated again. Johannes Prokesch, Bulitschek and Johannes Prokoff were admitted into the choir.

June 1748

[24] ... On the 3rd the occasions were like most Sundays. In the German hour, many enemies were in attendance. After this same thing was the „choir quarter hour“ (?). Brother Thomas came today from Herrnhuth – he will go again from here to Berlin. Also Wiskotschill's biological brother a big „Musicus“ (?) came to visit from Böhmen - also a few men, to pick up our Bulitschek.

December 1748

[52] ... On the 4th the „Feast of Our Man“ was commemorated. Two unwed brothers went from Nisky (Johannes Arndt and Joseph Bulitscheck), 1 older boy Christian Stock, and one unwed sister Catharina Brachatschkin. Joseph Bulitscheck was confirmed as he was in Neusalz and in Herrnhuth was confirmed from Nisky by the unwed Brother Capplan.

[53] On the 5th our brothers and sisters came home blessed and satisfied. They had a short and enjoyable hour of singing this evening and so it was also in the choir's evening blessing.

[57] ... In this year 4 children were born in Nisky. These people went to the Lord's Supper: Marxen siblings, W. Swoboda, unwed brothers J. Giesel, W. Barthel, P. Lineck, Rehatscheck, Woch, Prokesch, Arndt, Bulitscheck, and Stock an older boy and the unwed sister Catharina Brachatschkin.

[In the communal diary of Hermbut nothing was written/mentioned about this person from the time period of 1744 to 1755.]

The other town I would like to feature is Berthelsdorf, the location of Count Ludwig Zinzendorf's castle. Berthelsdorf is only a few miles from Herrnhut and was incorporated into Herrnhut in 2013. Count Zinzendorf was a German religious and social reformer, founder of the Herrnhuter Brudergemeine (a voluntary discipline of Christian community), and Bishop of the Moravian Church. He worshipped at a Lutheran Church near Berthelsdorf and even had his own private box above the congregation.

Zinzendorf would have been responsible for our ancestor traveling to America in 1754.

These are pictures of the Lutheran church.





I hope this will give you an appreciation of the journey Joseph Ferdinand Bullitschek took in order to survive and to make the heroic trip to America.

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## **NEWS AND NOTES**

We like to keep you up to date on any changes to member families such as births, deaths, marriages, or adoptions. Please send this information to Mark Bolerjack [mwbolerjack@gmail.com](mailto:mwbolerjack@gmail.com) for inclusion in future editions of this newsletter. Pictures welcome!

### **Remembering Our Loved Ones**

#### **Joan Paul Toomey Bland**

Tuesday, February 4th, 1936 – Thursday, March 30th, 2023



See Joan's obituary [here](#).

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If you have not paid association membership dues, please consider doing so.  
(Only 3 members have paid this year!) This fund helps us cover association  
and reunion expenses and maintain our patriarch, Joseph's grave.

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## **2022-3 ANNUAL DUES FORM**

Duplicate or amounts received over the dues amount will be put in the cemetery fund  
where Joseph Bullitschek is buried in North Carolina.

Select One:  \$100.00 Lifetime Membership  \$10.00 Annual Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Descendent Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks payable to: BULLITSCHEK FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

**Mail to: BULLITSCHEK FAMILY ASSOCIATION**  
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