

Before you read this, sit down and get a drink of some kind.

I wanted to post some old photos that I "re-discovered", but it requires some information and a story. The story may be necessary because I'm unable to travel and I'm going nuts, so I have a lot of time on my hands.

First some background. As you may remember Frank Černík's dad (Bessie's hubby) was **Matěj "Mike" Černík**. Mike's parents Jan and Rosalia came over in 1875 through Baltimore with their eight children (one was only 3 months old) and they would have two more children in Colon Nebraska.

One of the children who came over was a daughter by the name of **Josefa "Joshepine"** who was 13 at the time. **Matěj (Mathias) "Mike"** was only three years old at the time. One of the two children born in Colon was the youngest **Černík** of the 10 by the name of **Peter Paul Černík**.

Back in 2007 I had an old version of my Family History website. Some person reached out of the blue and said that she had some family memorabilia from a **Rosie Mary Maivold**, whose mother was **Josefa Černík**. I was clearly intrigued. But as we talked it became quite a sad story.

I started to research Josefa and discovered that, according to the 1900 US Census, she was living with her parents at the age of **33** but was listed as **Divorced**. Unusual for the times, being Catholic and all. I have searched high and low and cannot find a marriage record for Josefa but clearly, she had married in the US after she came of age. Who she married, I do not know.

So, she moved back in with her parents on their farm outside of Colon NE, which is still in the Černík family after four generations. I can only imagine that she had a chance to bond with her two younger brothers Charles and Peter Paul who were 16 and 21 years younger respectively. She hardly knew them when she left the first time.

In 1902 she remarried to a gentleman in **Fremont, NE** by the name of Josef Maivold. He was 18 years older than her and was a widower. His last name seems to indicate a German ancestry which leads me to believe he was not Catholic. Interestingly the witnesses seemed to have not been related to her. One of them was the wife of the Reverend who married them. He was not a Priest. There may have been family there, but both of her older sisters had been married in Wahoo. Divorced Catholic women remarrying at that time was a challenge socially. I get the sense that this second marriage was not looked upon favorably by the family. How Josef Maivold came to be in Wahoo at that time, is unknown.

She quickly moved to Washington where her 2nd husband was from. They had one child, who was the **Rosie Mary** mentioned above. Doing more research, Rosie seems to have married twice but quickly had them annulled or divorced as it is unclear. She lived with her mom Josefa until Josefa died in 1951 at the age of 88. Rosie either inherited or bought some land with a male friend and lived there until she died in 1992 without marrying again.

This all comes back to the message I received out of the blue in 2007. This woman and her mom had befriended Rosie Maivold when she was older and had rented part of Rosie's barn/land to pasture a horse. **Rosie Mary died (1992)** and it wasn't until 15 years later, when a garage was

being cleared out that some of her belongings were discovered.

Rosie Mary had never had any children. And though she had at least two half-sisters (her dad was a widower) none could be located and her stuff simply collected dust in a garage.

I offered to pay for them to be sent to me (it was a medium size box) and they contained many items.

- A bible in Czech from 1882 that **Josefa Černík** wrote her name in
- A ton of legal documents about land Rosie had bought over the years
- A will from the estate of Josef Maivold's mother, Fanny
- The marriage certificate for Josef and Josefa
- A bunch of photos that they believed were of Rosie and her dad's family.
- A couple of letters

I looked them over and then put them away for 13 years.

In June of 2024, I thought about them and decided to look them over again. Part of it was out of curiosity and part was that I sincerely felt sad that this part of the Černík line had just died off with no one to pass her family belongings on too.

It wasn't until I looked at the photo album, a professionally bound book, that I was hit with a surprise.

In the book there was a little card that said

"Remember Me, Pete L. Chernik"

I thought, whoa, Josefa's youngest brother was **Peter Černík**. Maybe these photos were NOT of the Maivold clan as we thought. So, I took all the photos out of their pockets. They are called "**Cabinet Photos**" which are high quality photos mounted on stiff pieces of cardboard. The names of the photographers are usually embossed at the bottom. The photos had the names of the following photographers.

- Nels J. Anderson and his son Arthur, who were considered the leading photographers in Wahoo, Nebraska between 1879 - 1937
- Ephraim Clements, who had a gallery in Lincoln between 1893 - 1912 and for a couple of years shared some space with the Andersons in Wahoo
- Arnold Kurz in Brainard, Nebraska
- Benjamin Hughes & Alvord in Omaha, Nebraska (Alvord was only a partner in 1889)
- Bruce W. Burnett in Tyndall, South Dakota
- One unknown photographer and location

None of these were anywhere near Washington where the Maivolds originated from. That along with the "**Remember Me**" card made it clear that these were most likely ALL **Černíks**. There were most likely several duplicate albums floating around.

Peter had married **Mary Tesina** and they moved to Grafton, North Dakota around 1925. My best guess is that at some point he sent the photo album of the Černík clan to his older and beloved sister, the outcast, Josefa.

The only thing that pisses me off is that people DID NOT write any names on the back of any of these photos. So, we are left to guess which Černíks they are, and there were a LOT of them.

But one photo DID have a writing on the back. It was a later photo with two older people and 4 kids. On the back it said, "**Peter Paul & Mary and their grandchildren.**" That is Peter Paul Černík and his wife Mary. Though the reference to the 1960s American Folk music duo made me laugh.

I did locate our North Dakota Černíks. They were able to identify the photo taken in the summer of 1947 and filled in some gaps. But no help with the older photos.

But the moral of the story for me is, once we leave this earth, all that is left are memories in people's heads. And as the generations pass, those memories die out.

Photos. Stories. Objects we collected, even goofy shit like Tea Pots and spoons. Letters. Legal documents. Videos. Old farmsteads and/or homes.

Just make sure you pass it ALL on. Don't let it sit in some garage for 15 years with no one the wiser. Where it gets tossed out during some move or sold at some garage sale because people have forgotten who they were.

And PLEASE, write the names on the back of the photos or tag them online for future generations.