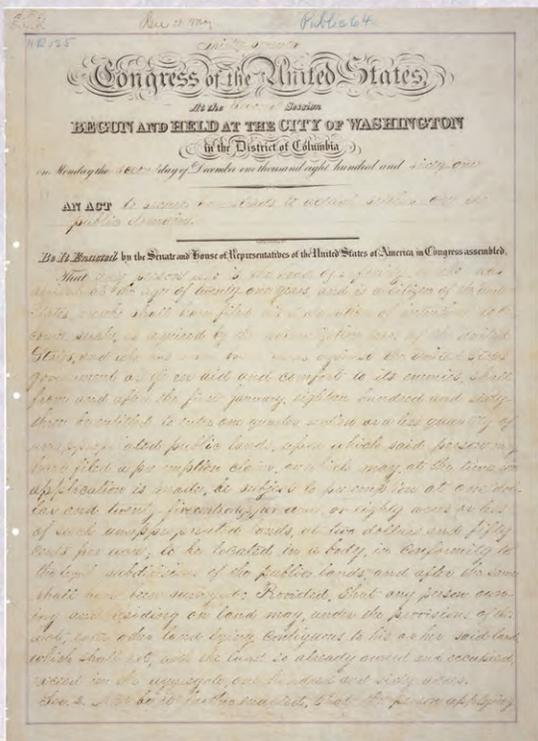


BRIDGING

THE GAP



ISSUE 36: APRIL - MAY 2013



CZECH IMMIGRATION TO NEBRASKA (HOMESTEAD ACT)



DIVER-CIPE: CUSTARD



JAMES MADISON





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THE NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT VALUES DIVERSITY

*The purpose of the SEP Group
is to work with leadership
and management in carrying
out their joint responsibility
to identify barriers to the
recruitment and advancement
of special emphasis groups,
devise solutions, and draft plans
to implement the solutions.*

*In addition, the SEP Group
provides opportunities for
positive exchange among diverse
groups through community
outreach, education and
cultural diversity awareness.*

APRIL & MAY – REASONS TO CELEBRATE

By LaVonne Rosenthal

*Spring has sprung,
The grass has riz.
I wonder where
The flowers iz.*

This ungrammatical, yet poetic rhyme was one my mother shared with me as a young girl. In Nebraska we look beyond the grass to the flowers, which represent hope for consistent spring temperatures. We're tired of the dreariness of winter and we long for sunshine and warmth. We are also ready for April, dubbed (among many other things) "Lawn and Garden Month."

Other recognitions of note in April are Celebrate Diversity Month, National Multiple Birth Awareness Month, National Poetry Month and Month of the Military Child. May follows with Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Awareness of Medical Orphans Month, Better Hearing and Speech Month and Brain Tumor Awareness Month. These are just a few examples of the long list of what is celebrated and recognized.

May 5 is designated as Cinco de Mayo to honor May 5, 1862, when the Mexican army defeated the French army at the Battle of Puebla. This single military battle signified defeat of a European colonial power and a victory for the Mexican people, and is considered the roots of Cinco de Mayo.

Along with Mother's Day (the second Sunday in May) special recognition is given to Military Spouses on the Friday before Mother's Day to recognize the contributions made by military spouses to the spirit and well being of Soldiers and military communities. Military Spouses Day was created by President Ronald Reagan in 1984, and Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger is credited with selecting the Friday before Mother's Day to celebrate military spouses.

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PERCEPTIONS OF DIVERSITY

*By COL Barbra Buls
Maintenance Group Commander
155th Air Refueling Wing*

A basic role of leadership, formal or informal, is to help organizations (people) achieve more together than they would individually. We generally accept that diverse organizations are stronger organizations and are more likely to achieve and maintain success over time. It naturally follows that a leader, who accepts this assumption, will seek out and foster organizational diversity. In reality the best-intentioned leader may fail at this task. To avoid unintentional inhibiting of diversity, leaders should employ a high level of self-awareness and self-monitoring of their perceptions and challenge others to do the same.

Years ago, in the early 1990s, I attended a women's business luncheon where the guest speaker, an executive business-woman, shared her story. The executive, a corporate lawyer in a successful Fortune 500 company, had recently been selected to be a member of the corporate Board of Directors. When she spoke with her mother to share the news of her appointment and promotion to Board Secretary, her mom replied, "...but Jane, honey, you don't know how to type."

I share this story, not because it is an example of how high the glass ceiling has risen for women in the past 20 years, but because it illustrates how our perceptions of ourselves, the world around us, and of other people can get in the way of creating diversity in our teams and organizations.

It can be easy to lament a lack of diversity in our workplace and assign blame to other people who don't understand the positive impact diversity has on process improvement, performance and morale. In my experience our time would be better spent looking inward, questioning

our own perceptions. Unexplored these perceptions may be limiting the people around us and even ourselves.

Have you ever advised another person not to apply for a team or job because it doesn't look like a good fit or because you can't see the person in that role?

It may be sound advice. Or, you may have unintentionally just become one of those other people. Our perceptions of fit typically reflect what we've experienced and seen. So, like the business executive's mom, her perception of a typist fits when she hears the word *secretary* – or, for many people, a female fits when we hear the word *nurse*. Without awareness and proper monitoring, we can allow our perceptions to limit opportunities for diversity – limiting the opportunities of our family members, friends, teammates or even ourselves.

The leader's primary objective – to ensure organizational success – includes many tasks. One of these tasks is risk management. The simple fact is that different feels like more of a risk. Through self-awareness and self-monitoring a leader can balance their innate sense of risk aversion with their desire to foster diversity.

Managing and challenging your own and others' perceptions of fit and risk will create an environment that allows diversity to happen. The next leadership task is to inspire a team and organizational culture that supports



Col Barbra (Bobby) Buls is the traditional Maintenance Group Commander of the 155th Air Refueling Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard. She recently returned from in-residence Senior Developmental Education followed by a statutory tour with assignments in the Pentagon and at the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Andrews Air Force Base. Following her three-year tour in the Washington, D.C. area, she returned to her civilian employer, BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska, as a Human Resource Director responsible for Organizational Development.

diversity, taking action to ensure the successful integration of diverse team members and acceptance of diverse thinking.

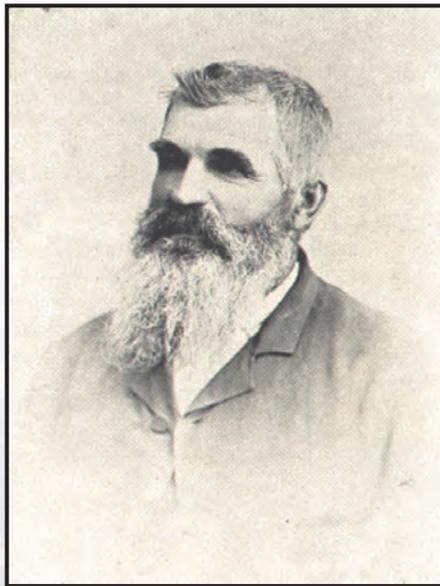


*Bridging the Gap is proud to continue our series focusing on
Naturalized Citizenship in the United States.*

CZECH IMMIGRATION TO NEBRASKA

By Pam Makovicka

I enjoy learning about my Czech heritage and jumped at the chance to research Czech immigration to Nebraska. I went to the Nebraska State Historical Society and found numerous books and articles on file. One of the books was titled *The Czech Immigration to Nebraska* by George Svejda, published in 1966. It was so interesting to see the research this author did on immigration. Here is a summary of what I learned.



Frank Krten

Nebraska is truly the melting pot of the Nation with many ancestors of its present citizens coming from other countries to live in harmony. In 1860 the population of Nebraska was less than 30,000, and by 1870 the population swelled to 122,993. Although Germans make up the largest ethnic population in Nebraska, the Czechs easily come in second. The first Czech immigrants arrived in the new Nebraska Territory in 1854, and numbers increased rapidly with the 1862 Homestead Act, particularly as railroads began actively soliciting and promoting immigration as

a way to sell land.

The Homestead Act of 1862 provided for the transfer of 160 acres of unoccupied public land to each homesteader for payment of a nominal fee of \$1.25 per acre after six months of residence. This act expired in all states in 1976 except Alaska where the act ended in 1986.

The Czechs played an important role in the history of

Nebraska, contributing to the economic and agricultural life of the state. They also brought a rich social and cultural tradition with them. Education was very important to the Czech population. Even the farmers and tenants had a long history of boarding their children in towns or cities for secondary schools and universities. The first university of Central Europe (Charles University) was established in Prague, in 1348. It is one of the oldest and largest universities in the Czech Republic. Throughout generations of wars and oppression in Czechoslovakia, the Czech people kept language, music,

arts and customs alive, then brought them here to the new world.

For Czechs coming to America in the 1830s, the voyage across the ocean was a long and difficult trip. Only the robust in body and spirit could survive the inhumane conditions. The trip lasted one to three months, depending on the weather, with many Czechs being dropped off at the Port of New York. The Czech immigrants were impacted by lawlessness on the ships. In 1840 these terrible conditions became the object of sharp criticism and public discontent. In 1847 the Board of Emigration regulated immigration. In 1855, with the opening of Castle Garden (America's first immigration station) a permanent immigration department was formed guaranteeing a decent reception into the United States. In 1890, Castle Garden's station closed. Beginning in 1892, immigrants were processed through Ellis Island.

Czechs immigrated to southeastern Nebraska, particularly the counties of Saline, Richardson, Colfax, Butler, Saunders and Dodge. Everywhere they came they changed the barren plains into a paradise. They came to Nebraska for either political and religious freedom or to escape the Austrian Military Service. The Czechs were seeking economic betterment.

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NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP

SERIES PART 6



Czech Immigration continued from Page 4

Saline County was the first area in Nebraska settled by Frank Krten, the first Czech to come to this country. Saunders County had 1,200 Czechs settle in their area. The city of Plasi, in Saunders County, has the oldest Czech Catholic Parish. It is estimated that 75% of all Czechs coming to America immigrated to Nebraska. In the beginning Czech settlers found life in Nebraska very difficult. Their dwelling places were sod or log cabins or dugouts chiseled out of the side of a ravine. The hard conditions of the merciless frontier life are well described in the Willa Cather classic *My Antonia*, a novel based on the actual life of a Czech immigrant girl.

Czechs were known as builders, not only in the physical sense but primarily in the spiritual and cultural sense. They had language difficulties but they quickly adjusted to the new situation thanks to their general intelligence and ability. They quickly founded newspapers to explain Czech ideas and their heritage. Most were farmers and they took great pride in raising crops. The Nebraska Czechs aided in making Nebraska the garden state.

Community festivals such as polka celebrations and mushroom hunting contests played a prominent role in Czech American culture. Most Americans are familiar with the polka, which originated in Prague in 1837. Polka is derived from the Czech word for "half;" it is danced with a half step to music written in two-quarter time, with the accent on the first three eighth notes. A typical rustic band included a clarinet, violins and the dudy - a shepherd's bagpipe that had a goat's



head on top. Another traditional Czech instrument was the accordion.

Traditions celebrated in the early days of immigration was centered on the church. At box-supper church fundraisers, women baked their fanciest dinners and put them into boxes decorated with crepe paper,

hearts and ribbons to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Czech American traditional costumes were worn on ceremonial occasions. Women's billowy skirts, multicolored or solid, were topped by a gold-trimmed black vest and blouses with full puffed sleeves that might be trimmed in

gold or lace and embroidered with the floral motif. Women's bright caps were worn flat on the head and had flaps on either side. Men's trousers were a solid color and decorated to the individual's taste. Men wore a black vest over a full embroidered shirt.

Czech American cooking boasts a range of savory meat dishes and rich flavorful desserts that can be prepared with simple ingredients. Potatoes, mushrooms and cabbage are the staples of Czech cooking. To make a potato strudel, flour was added to mashed potatoes to form stiff dough, which was then sprinkled with cinnamon

and melted goat's milk butter and baked in the oven. Mushrooms picked during autumn field trips were brought home in bushels and set out in neat rows to dry. They were turned into sour mushroom soup which contained sauerkraut juice and fried onions. Sauerkraut, made from boiled cabbage, could also be mixed with pork and rice to make a cabbage roll.

The best known Czech dessert is the kolace: sweet square-shaped dough bread filled with cheese, stewed prunes, apricots or other fruits. Sometimes a mixture of poppy seed, custard pudding and honey was used for the filling. Traditional at Christmas time was Vanocka, a Christmas twist loaf flavored with mace, anise and lemon; then sprinkled with almonds and seedless raisins.

The Nebraska Czech population is proud of their heritage and founded Nebraska Czechs Incorporated in 1963 to organize chapters, plan programs and coordinate statewide Czech activities. A Nebraska Czech seal was adopted by the state organization. It was designed by Walter A. Baer as an emblem for the Czechs of Nebraska. The seal depicts a prairie scene with a plow and sheaf of wheat with the slogan *Pioneer of the Prairie*. The prairie is the land where the Czechs settled and conquered. The plow depicts the soil which they broke to make productive and the sheaf of golden wheat indicates the wealth which they helped produce in our great state.

If you would like to learn more about Czech history, tradition and immigration visit the friendly citizens of Wilber, Nebraska for the Czech Days festival the first weekend in August or check out the Nebraska State Historical Society's extensive research library.



MY CZECH GREAT-GREAT GRANDMOTHER KATARINA KOZA'S IMMIGRATION STORY

By Pam Makovicka

Growing up in Bruno, Nebraska, my Grandfather Ludvik Koza told me stories of our family history. I will share with you what I remember. I am unable to find the immigration information for Katarina, but did find some for other relatives who settled in Skull Creek Township. I do have the original homestead papers Katarina Koza kept for the property that is still in our family.

My Great-Great Grandmother Katarina Koza emigrated from the Bohemia/Prague region of Austria-Hungary (current day Czech Republic) in 1879 at the age of 28. She had three sons and was widowed due to war. She did not want her sons to fight the wars of Europe, so she bravely decided to join relatives who had already immigrated to Nebraska. She had \$2,000 with her, a huge amount at that time, to pay for the trip and her plans for homesteading in Skull Creek Township, Nebraska.



Katarina was able to book a steam powered ship for her voyage. She was a frugal woman and spent only \$30 a person for third class fees. This meant they were crowded below deck for the two-week trip, but Katarina and her sons were fed stew and biscuits and stayed safe. (I still have the trunk that she used when she traveled on the ship.) They were taken to Castle Garden (America's first immigration station) on Manhattan Island and had to pass a series of examinations. Their luggage was examined by

a customs officer, and then they were registered. They were asked questions about birthplace, age, point of departure from Europe, occupation and destination. They were given shelter and drink for the night. They were not provided beds or meals.

When released from Castle Garden, Katarina and her sons boarded a train that took them to Butler County in Nebraska. Family members were already living in Skull Creek Township in Butler County, which was later called Bruno, Nebraska. The next step in her plan was to acquire a homestead. Since Katarina was an immigrant she needed either a citizenship paper or a declaration of intent to apply for a homestead. A declaration of intention (known as "first papers") affirmed the person's intent to become a United States citizen. In the boom years of homesteading in Nebraska, only the head-of-household was required to become a naturalized citizen, since the remainder of the family automatically became naturalized when the head-of-household received the final papers.

Because women and children automatically became United States citizens when the husband or father acquired citizenship, relatively few naturalization records exist for women immigrants. My Grandmother was an exception since she only had sons ten years old and younger along with her. I know she made a declaration of intention but do not know how long it took to gain citizenship. I do know she was able to make the trip from



NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP

SERIES PART 6



Katarina Koza continued from Page 6



Lincoln, Nebraska (by horse and buggy) to homestead the 160 acre property near Bruno, Nebraska.

Katarina paid \$10 for the homestead with the following stipulations. She had to improve the land by putting it to use as a family plot. She had to erect a dwelling and farm the soil for a period of five years. If she did so for the allotted period, she would then gain ownership of their land free of charge. Katarina was required to file proof papers. These documents asked questions about what improvements had been made and when you established residency. She also reported what crops were planted, the number of acres and the worth of these products in dollar value. There were fees to be paid: a fee to apply for a homestead, fees for the land office officials to perform their tasks and fees for translators. Even though the land was free, Katarina certainly had to come up with money to pay the filing fees. She also needed money to purchase work animals, milk cows, farm tools, materials to build the house and living expenses. This was not a free endeavor.

Katarina and her sons cleared the land. It had many rocks and trees that had to be removed in order to farm the property. They built a sod house on the property. They had to travel 30 miles to get the sod which was cut with a plow. They used wood for the door and window frames. The house was built so sturdy that it held up for 70 years.

The little town of Bruno was five miles from the Koza homestead with a population of 150 and was often referred to as the Bohemian Alps. These immigrants and my family were people of deep faith and walked or traveled by team and wagon to attend Holy Mass. The citizens of the Bruno area worked hard but did little complaining. They had found the American dream. 

U.S. CITIZENSHIP QUESTIONS

On October 1, 2008, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) replaced the set of questions formerly used as part of the citizenship test with the questions listed here. All applicants who filed for naturalization on or after October 1, 2008, are required to take the new test.

In the citizenship test, the applicant for citizenship is asked up to 10 of the 100 questions. The interviewer reads the questions in English and the applicant must answer in English. In order to pass, at least six of the ten questions must be answered correctly.

This test is broken down into different categories as shown below.

Principles of American Democracy

1. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
2. What is freedom of religion?
3. What is the "rule of law"?

System of Government

4. Who makes federal laws?
5. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
6. Who vetoes bills?
7. What are two Cabinet-level positions?

Rights and Responsibilities

8. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?

American History

Colonial Period and Independence

9. Why did the colonists fight the British?
10. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.
11. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?

1800s

12. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

13. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
14. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

Integrated Civics - Geography

15. Name one U.S. territory.



NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP SERIES PART 6

ARNG AND USCIS PARTNER FOR WAY AHEAD ON CITIZENSHIP EFFORTS

By *Amanda Koons, ARNG G1 STRATCOMM*

Originally published on the ARNG G1 Gateway: <https://g1arng.army.pentagon.mil/>

The Army National Guard (ARNG) and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) met to discuss current and potential future immigration policies for Soldiers and their Families.

On 10 January 2013, Ms. Rebecca Sheehy from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) met with key members of the ARNG Diversity Team at the National Guard Bureau (NGB). The briefing reviewed existing ARNG immigration policies and discussed the way ahead to make sure “every effort and efficiency will be examined to streamline the process to citizenship.” The ARNG G1’s priorities to improve Personnel Readiness in support of the Director’s Strategic Imperative include a “Focus on Soldier and Family Resiliency.”

“Our partnership with the USCIS will help the ARNG at the state level,” said LTC Alfranda Durr, ARNG Diversity Coordinator. The ARNG Diversity Team implemented a pilot program and determined that there are 4,435 Soldiers who are Lawful Permanent Residents living within the 54 States and Territories. In the District of Columbia ARNG, there are 28 Soldiers who are not U.S. citizens.

LTC Durr wants to help Soldiers, if interested, to be “taken through the threshold of citizenship” and identify any barriers or delays associated with doing so. The meeting also included representatives from ARNG-GSS, Strength Maintenance, to begin thinking about citizenship assistance, where

desired, from the time the Soldier is recruited. The meeting questioned: “Is the ARNG doing well or falling short in assisting interested Soldiers with the citizenship process?” Attendees brainstormed additional “touchpoints” with ARNG Soldiers and their Families where they may be interested in receiving more information from a USCIS office.

As ARNG Soldiers go through the naturalization process, they may need additional assistance for themselves or their Family members. Existing Outreach Immigration Services provided on Military Installations include Immigration 101 Seminars, Adjustment of Status and Naturalization interviews, Biometrics (Fingerprint) Capture and Oath Ceremonies. Distance in proximity to military installations may be a challenge for ARNG members, hence the need to analyze the ARNG’s availability of assistance. After testing an ARNG pilot program, the goal is a Tiger Team with the 54 States, Territories and the District to assist interested Soldiers in becoming citizens.

The USCIS has over 80 field offices and four service centers CONUS and 28 field offices OCONUS. The USCIS Nebraska Service Center processes all completed naturalization packets for Soldiers. Since 11 September 2001, USCIS has naturalized over 74,977 members of the military including 10,000 overseas naturalizations. The USCIS “oversees lawful immigration to the U.S. and secures America’s promise as a nation of immigrants by:



LTC Alfranda Durr

- “Granting immigration and citizenship benefits;
- “Promoting an awareness and understanding of citizenship; and
- “Ensuring the integrity of our immigration systems.”

The USCIS extends several benefits to military members interested in naturalization. For example, there is no fee for military Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, or filing on behalf of themselves if the applicant is otherwise eligible for naturalization through military service. Special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) authorize USCIS to expedite the application and naturalization process for current members of the U.S. Armed Forces and recently discharged members. In addition, spouses of members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are or will be deployed may be eligible for expedited naturalization. Other provisions of the law also allow certain spouses to complete the naturalization process abroad.

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NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP SERIES PART 6



JOURNEY STORIES AT THE NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL

By TSgt Lindsay Bustamante

On Saturday, January 12, 2013, I took my two sons to the State Capitol to listen to music and view an exhibit developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. This event was presented by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the theme of the event was Journey Stories.



Beattie Elementary first grader, Lillias McKillip, shares her polka dancing skills while dancing to the music of Chris Sayre.

When we arrived at the Capitol, we saw displays featuring subjects such as the impact of railroad, automobile and airplane transportation (which showed how mobility has shaped America), stories of immigration to America and the view during the journey across America. While looking at the interesting displays, we could hear live music. So we joined a gathering of people seated to watch musician Chris Sayre perform a

variety of music from the different ethnic groups who settled in Nebraska.

Mr. Sayre played a variety of instruments including the accordion, concertina, dulcimer, guitar, mandolin, a musical saw and zithers. The first song played on the accordion was called *In the Land of the Buffalo*, a song written to draw people to Nebraska. Next Mr. Sayre played a Swedish song which was sung

by Swedes who spent 90 days on the water before reaching America, called *Love Song for America*. It helped ease the journey's hardship. Mr. Sayre shared facts throughout his performance and explained that most European settlers came to America between 1860 and 1912. He played three polka songs on a button accordion, also called a diatonic. There were even some dancers who danced the polka while he played. Mr.

2009 to give noncitizen enlistees the opportunity to naturalize when they graduate from basic training. Some ARNG Soldiers are able to take advantage of this benefit immediately after basic training as well and need not have active duty service in order to qualify.

USCIS has established a toll-free military help line, 1-877-CIS-4MIL (1-877-247-4645), exclusively for members of the military and their Families. USCIS customer service specialists are available to answer calls Monday through Friday

Sayre used the dulcimer to share a few German songs with us.

Next, we all migrated down the hall to a room where we were entertained and educated by Jeff Kappeler, who was telling stories of immigrants who settled in Nebraska. His method of storytelling was very unique. As he told the story of Northern European migration to the Midwest, he did so by packing a chest with essential items needed for a nineteenth century ocean voyage and a new life on the Nebraska prairie. Mr. Kappeler shared the three parts of the difficult journey to America:

1. The decision
2. The journey
3. The adjustment

This presentation was a wonderful way of illustrating to children the planning, preparation, sacrifice and courage it took to survive the journey to America.

This event was enjoyable for both my children and me, and it took place in the historical Nebraska State Capitol. The echoing of music and stories through its hallways was educational and memorable.

Citizenship Efforts continued from Page 8

Under special provisions in Section 329 of the INA, the president signed an executive order on 3 July 2002, authorizing all noncitizens that have served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces on or after 11 September 2001, to immediately file for citizenship. Section 392 governs for "service during periods of hostilities," which continues to the present, and will remain in effect until a date designated by a future presidential executive order. The USCIS and the Army established the Naturalization at Basic Training Initiative in August

from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (CST), excluding federal holidays. The help line can assist with tracking applications, making address or duty station changes, checking the status of applications, identifying applications for expedited processing and assisting military Families with obtaining posthumous citizenship and related benefits. It is vital for all applicants to keep USCIS informed of their current address, duty station, phone number, email or other preferred method of contact.



CAPTAIN ERIC P. BAPTISTE – CITIZENSHIP

Interviewed by MAJ Dale Burrage

CPT Eric Baptiste has been a naturalized citizen of the United States for the past 11 years. He was born in the Caribbean Country of Trinidad and Tobago. When work and a better way of life moved him and his family to the U.S. Virgin Islands, he quickly adjusted to the American way of life. Now serving in our Armed Forces and with a family of his own, he cannot imagine being a citizen of anywhere else.

Where were you born?

Trinidad and Tobago (Caribbean).

What brought you to America?

My father worked in a refinery as a pipe fitter. When he lost work the family moved to the United States for better opportunities for work.

When did you become a naturalized citizen?

27 April 2001.

Why did you want to become a naturalized citizen?

At age ten my family moved to the U.S. Virgin Islands and lived there for two years. Shortly following, we moved to Louisiana for job opportunities. I joined the Army after high school and was active duty for nine years. When I enlisted, it was not a requirement to be a naturalized citizen but that changed when I joined the Nebraska Army National Guard in 2001. Without hesitation, I began the process.

What challenges did you have getting through the naturalization process?

It was very easy due to the help provided by the National Guard. It took approximately six months. The final step in becoming a citizen is that I had to answer several questions that all U.S. citizens should know, and for me it was easy because of my military background and knowledge of American history.

What obstacles have you overcome in day-to-day activities related to being a naturalized citizen?

I have very few obstacles due to my long history of living in the United States (since a child). However, being naturalized does un-complicate things such as job and college applications. When asked, “are you an American citizen,” I can proudly answer “YES.” And I don’t have to worry about showing my green card or my documents to prove that I’m legally in the U.S.



What’s something about the American culture in comparison to your country of birth?

I left Trinidad at a very young age so this question is difficult for me to answer. But the culture is so different.

What was the first thing you did as a naturalized citizen?

I went to lunch with my wife, son, and in-laws to celebrate. I was very fortunate since prior to becoming naturalized I had been afforded many of the luxuries of citizenship due to my status with the U.S. Army. I was able to attend college, secure student loans, get married, etc.; therefore life changed very little for me after gaining naturalization.

At what moment did you feel you were truly a naturalized-citizen of the U.S.?

I have always felt that I was an American citizen, but one thing that I never really thought about until I became a citizen is the fact that I have never been able to vote in any election. Now I have a voice in the country that I’ve always called home.

“Every good citizen makes his country’s honor his own, and cherishes it not only as precious but as sacred. He is willing to risk his life in its defence and is conscious that he gains protection while he gives it.”

~Andrew Jackson



NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP

SERIES PART 6



MOSES FRANCIS – CITIZENSHIP

Interviewed by MAJ Dale Burrage

High school student Moses Francis is a native of Cairo, Egypt. He came to the United States early in his childhood because his parents wanted a better life for the family and a better education for their children. He really can't recall life in Egypt, but is glad to be a citizen of the United States.

Where were you born?

Cairo, Egypt.

What brought you to America?

I came to America when I was two years old. My parents brought their children here for a better education. I have three brothers and three sisters.

When did you become a naturalized citizen?

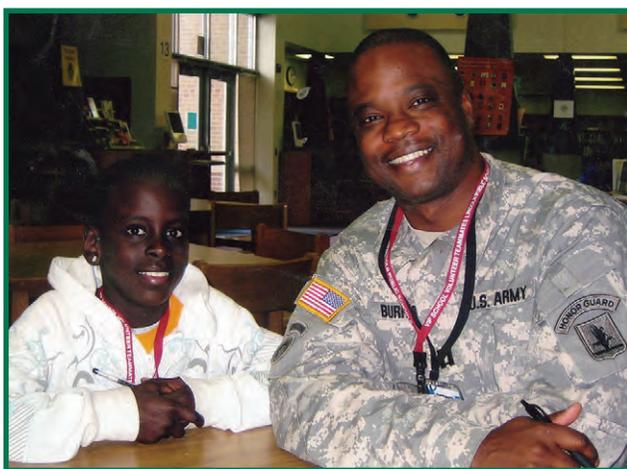
October 1, 2008.

Why did you want to become a naturalized citizen?

Since my family moved here when I was very young, I knew this as home and not Egypt. It was a no-brainer.

What challenges did you have getting through the naturalization process?

Because I was so young I really don't recall any issues. My mother really took care of everything and I just did what she said. I do remember being a little afraid when I was fingerprinted and photographed.



Moses Francis and MAJ Dale Burrage

What obstacles have you overcome in day-to-day activities related to being a naturalized citizen?

None. Very few of my friends even realized I was not a natural born citizen of the U.S. I can't imagine not being a citizen of the United States. It's really all that I've known.

What's something about the American culture in comparison to your country of birth?

I recall that there were no urban areas in Egypt.

What was the first thing you did as a naturalized citizen?

I went back to school and told all my friends. Later that evening we had family members and friends over to our home for a celebration.

At what moment did you feel you were truly a naturalized-citizen of the U.S.?

I've always felt like America was my home and that I was an American citizen. 

WEBSITE REVIEW: RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRATION

Review by LaVonne Rosenthal

[HTTP://WWW.IMMIHELP®.COM/](http://www.immihelp.com/)

The home page for [Immihelp.com](http://www.immihelp.com) is visually bright, almost too much so. It feels somewhat cold and sterile. However, there is a picture of the Statue of Liberty that counteracts the harshness with a welcoming impression. The home page describes the purpose and intent of [immihelp.com](http://www.immihelp.com) as "a premier resource of comprehensive information about U.S. legal immigration. It provides detailed information for visitor's visas, student visas ... and many others. It also provides information about all types of green card (employment or family based or other), including various processes at various steps, in the U.S. and abroad."

After taking a second look at the web page, there are numerous informative links to take an individual to categories such as

Greencard, Visas, Forum (for interaction with other immigrants), Tracker (to track non-immigrant visas, etc.), USA (what to know before coming to the US) and Tools (links to sponsorship databases).

A topic that caught my attention under Miscellaneous was Dinner Invitation. When I clicked on that link it took me to the USA page, where it states that "when traveling abroad, an interesting way to experience the culture of a new country is by visiting people in their homes. It is there, in the exchange of conversation and ideas, that cultural similarities and differences can be appreciated in a personal way, as guests and hosts open

Continued on Page 19



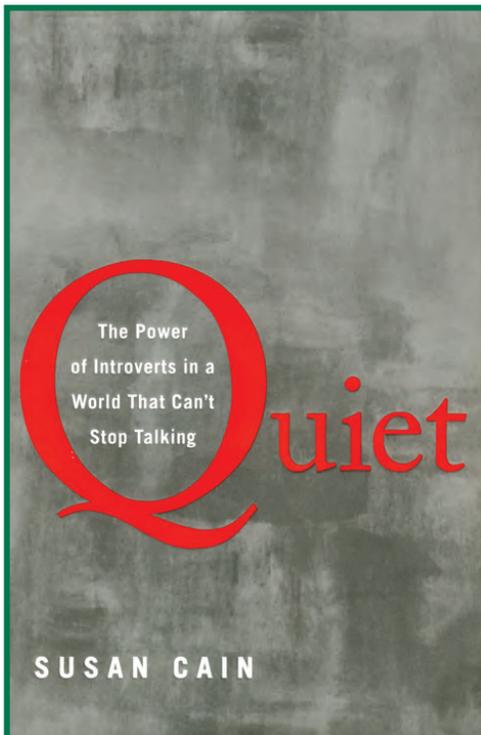
BOOK REVIEW: QUIET

THE POWER OF INTROVERTS IN A WORLD THAT CAN'T STOP TALKING

Written by Susan Cain

Crown Publishers (a division of Random House); copyright 2012

Review by LaVonne Rosenthal



When she saw one of her cabin-mates chastised by peers as being unsociable when reading a book it caused Cain to stifle her own book-worm desires. This is the beginning of a lifelong attempt to go along with the crowd of extroverts who prize sociability and external enthusiasm.

Before I go any further, let me give you Cain's definitions of extroverts and introverts, the two main characters of her book. Cain chooses to simply quote psychiatrist Carl Jung's description of these two personality characteristics. "Introverts focus on the meaning they make of the events swirling around them; extroverts plunge into the events themselves. Introverts recharge their batteries by being alone; extroverts need to recharge when they don't socialize enough." There are many more descriptive details about these two personality types provided throughout the book. Cain almost goes to the point of ad nauseum with descriptors and differences. There are times when I felt as though she leaned negatively toward extroverts.

The chapter titled, *The Myth of Charismatic Leadership* focuses on Harvard Business School's curriculum design and student expectations. Extroverts thrive in this social environment, where active participation in clubs and study groups equate to scholastic success. Cain had

Stop the madness of constant group work. Both children and adults need more freedom and autonomy. We need to learn how to work on our own.

a difficult time locating a student who admittedly chose to honor his introverted self. A few were clustered in a corner of the college library, working quietly and individually. According to Cain, "we perceive talkers as smarter than quiet types – even though grade-point averages and SAT and intelligence test scores reveal the perception to be inaccurate." The important nugget here is that our perceptions of intelligence based on outward appearances are often inaccurate.

Chapter 7 is titled, *Why Did Wall Street Crash and Warren Buffett Prosper? How Introverts and Extroverts Think (and process Dopamine) Differently*. I was excited to read about Nebraska's own financial guru, but was disappointed that out of 23 pages in this chapter, only the last two

pages referred to the skills and abilities of Warren Buffett. For me personally, the majority of this chapter tediously evaluated and compared the differences between

There needs to be both types of people in this world: Both introverts and extroverts.

extroverted and introverted financial advisors.

While at a training conference in Denver, I serendipitously met a woman who recommended the book *QUIET*. In the brief time we knew each other, we openly shared our Myers-Briggs personality types, as both of us had the introvert characteristic. Before leaving Denver, I made a trip to the bookstore and purchased the book. It didn't matter that it was only available in costly hardback (I am happy to report that it is now available in paperback) - I had to have this Holy-Grail-type book to understand myself more.

The author of the book, Susan Cain, begins by telling of a personal experience she had as a young child at summer camp. She had packed a number of books to read while away from home.



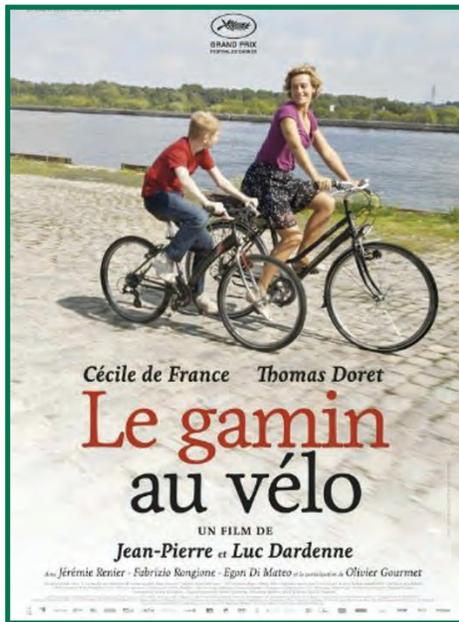
The Kid With a Bike opens with Cyril (an 11-year old living at a boys' home) trying to telephone his father. The number is disconnected, but Cyril won't believe it; his father must be there, he has to be there. In his desperation, Cyril clings to the phone with all his might, as though letting go would mean losing forever what he needs most – his father's love.

It is a captivating scene full of tension and pathos. Cyril explodes from the room in an attempt to escape the boys' home and to find his father. The film launches forward, following this boy's search for someone to hold onto in a world where nobody seems to notice him. Nobody, that is, until he meets Samantha, a stranger who shows him an unexpected act of kindness. From that single act grows a relationship with the potential to transform not only Cyril's world, but Cyril himself.

Cyril is played by Thomas Doret, who gives one of the strongest performances by a child actor that I've seen in some time.

Doret's Cyril is a tightly wound ball of energy and emotion ready to unfurl at any moment. His raw emotions find physical expression: Cyril almost never walks. If he doesn't have his bike, then he runs everywhere. He is filled with urgency, as though he knows how desperate his situation is. If he doesn't find a refuge of love within the world soon, then the world will crush him.

Cecile de France plays Samantha, a local hairdresser who agrees to keep Cyril on the weekends. She is the lone source of grace in Cyril's life, the only person both willing and able to love him without demanding something in return. It is a wonderful performance - simple, honest, strong and tender. De France simply embodies the character and never draws



MOVIE REVIEW: THE KID WITH A BIKE

2011

Written and Directed by Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne

Starring Cecile De France and Thomas Doret

In French, with English subtitles

Available on Blu-Ray, DVD and Netflix Instant

Review by TSgt Kevin Krausnick

attention to herself. It is as though she's too focused on Cyril to worry about the audience noticing her.

The Kid With a Bike is a rare treat in that it is almost pure storytelling. The film never tells us the story; it simply shows us the story. The direction is simple, but not simplistic – it is a pleasure to look at

– and the directors (Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne) trust the story to speak for itself. They never slip into melodrama. There's not a trace of sentimentality or attempts to manipulate our emotions. There are no dramatic speeches telling us what the characters are feeling or musical cues telling us how we should respond. Instead, we simply get to watch characters behaving, and the result is powerful and honest. Hollywood could learn many lessons from a film like this.

The developing relationship between Cyril and Samantha is fascinating to watch, and full of truth. Cyril needs Samantha, and she, for some reason, responds to the need in front of her. It is a kind of love that he has never experienced, and he seems drawn to it while at the same time resisting it,

as though this love she offers is too easy. "Why did you agree to keep me?" Cyril asks at one point. "I don't know," Samantha shrugs, and seems to mean it. Cyril is naturally loyal, yet he directs his loyalty to people who reject or use him, while pushing away the only person in his life willing to accept him unconditionally.

One of the striking things about Samantha's love is its level of sacrifice; this love she gives is costly. It costs her money, time and effort. Fed up with Cyril's behavior, Samantha's boyfriend forces her to choose between them; she chooses Cyril. She even sheds blood for him. In one of the best scenes of the film, Samantha stands, out of breath, bleeding from a wound inflicted by Cyril, devastated at his rejection. She has tried to protect him from those who are cruel, and from the worst parts of himself, and he has fled from her. Reason would say to let the boy go; common sense would say to mind your own business, it's not worth it. But Samantha's love is not common, and goes beyond reason. And because it does, it has the power to redeem.

Cyril's journey is the center of the film, and the directors make an interesting use of color to underscore this. In every scene but two, Cyril wears bright red. Everyone else in the film wears neutrals or cool blues. Film critic Jeffery Overstreet sees this as a reference to the classic 1956 French film *The Red Balloon* (a wonderful 34-minute short film worth seeking

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RESTAURANT REVIEW: GREEN GATEAU

1024 L Street, Lincoln, Nebraska; 402-477-0330

www.greengateau.com

Monday – Friday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sunday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Review by TSgt Lindsay Bustamante

Recently, I had a wonderful excuse to return to my first place of employment, The Green Gateau Restaurant located in downtown Lincoln, at 10th and L Streets. I arrived about ten minutes before they opened for lunch, and stood outside with a regular patron discussing their wonderful dishes while we waited. He was braving the cold for the Green Gateau's lobster bisque soup, which he said was "to die for." When they opened the doors at 11:00 am, I was greeted by a friendly and helpful staff team member and seated right away. The restaurant began to fill up quickly.

My waiter was very helpful in suggesting popular dishes, and there was a large variety to choose from. The daily menu, which includes soups, salads, sandwiches and more formal dinner dishes, also includes a soup, quiche and sandwich of the day. I chose to order the coconut shrimp lollipops as an appetizer. It was amazing! It was dressed with a mango salsa and a salad garnished with mandarin oranges. They were a bit spicy, which is what I enjoy.

For the main course I ordered macaroni and cheese, which is sautéed with cream, butter, sharp cheddar and gruyere cheese and is baked au gratin with sourdough



bread and parmesan cheese crumbs. You can choose up to two ingredients to add to your macaroni and cheese, including lobster sauce, bacon, chicken, duck sausage, mushrooms, roasted red peppers and jalapeños. I chose to add bacon and jalapeños to my macaroni and cheese and it was also "to die for."



The Green Gateau has a wide variety of menu items, from salads, burgers, sandwiches and quiches to



specialty items such as grilled crab cakes and the Jamaican chicken wrap. Prices are reasonable for the quality of food, ranging from \$7 - \$14. The selection of beverages includes Italian soda,

freshly squeezed orange juice and lemonade, sangria, specialty coffee drinks, mimosas and a variety of teas. To top it all off are the amazing desserts they have to choose from. After all, Green Gateau is French for "Green Cake." I would highly recommend The Green Gateau for a wonderful meal in a cozy English café atmosphere.

Book Review continued from Page 12

Cain also compares cultural characteristics of Asians and Westerners in the chapter titled, *Soft Power: Asian-Americans and the Extroverted Ideal*. She centers the chapter on a young Chinese-born high school student in California in 2006. This young man's view of school is different than his American-born classmates. "I'm a lot more interested in listening to what the teacher says and being the good student, rather than the class clown or interacting with other kids in the class." His culture also impacts his actions, as he prefers to stay home and study (introverted style) than go out with friends (extroversion tendency).

There are many encouraging anecdotes in Cain's book that gave me more appreciation for my introverted characteristics. I came to a better understanding of how I am more productive working alone than in large groups. My job doesn't allow me the luxury of working solo all the time, so I have begun to create "restorative niches" to help me regain energy lost when working outside my comfort zone. A "restorative niche" is "the place you go when you want to return to your true self." As an introvert, if I'm teaching a class (requiring extroverted skills), I need time to restore my depleted energy to get back to my true self. Everyone can use some restorative time to regain life balance.

A complement to her book is a video summary presented by Cain on TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design): Ideas Worth Spreading (http://www.ted.com/talks/susan_cain_the_power_of_introverts.html) – *Susan Cain: The Power of Introverts*. She tells the story of her inspiration – her grandfather – who as a Rabbi often looked downward when meeting parishioners, an introverted behavior that prevented him from having to expend energy conversing with them. Through this book and its validation of my personal experiences I've learned there are many other methods of self-preservation as an introvert (and extrovert). QUIET gives us permission to confidently be ourselves.





SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT:

STAFF SERGEANT

ERIN YOUNGBLOOD

**Unit Administration
Noncommissioned Officer**



Assistant and picked up supply duties as well. During that time, I was attending a community college and working three part-time jobs. My employment ranged from a temporary technician in human resources office (HRO), a Kohl's department store sales associate, and a 50/50 ticket seller at Eagle Raceway. My first full-time military job was working as a technician in HRO.

When I started in the Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) program as a Supply Sergeant for the 43rd Army Band in 2006, I experienced a lot of change in my personal life. I met my husband John and over a course of time we bought a house, married and then had two wonderful children. In 2009, I took a chance and was fortunate to move to the Automated Records Branch and learn the duties of a Standard Installation/Division Personnel System (SIDPERS) Data Analyst. My most current move has been accepting the Administrative Noncommissioned Officer position at Joint Forces Headquarters and recently settling our family into our new home outside of Lincoln.

Over the course of my life I have met people from all walks of life, and have always been inspired by those who value being part of a team, no matter how diverse the individuals may be. That is what drew me to become a Special Emphasis Program (SEP) Group member. Views and beliefs are personal opinions. It is when a person strives to see each individual for who they truly are, past the differences, down to the heart, that diversity is truly embraced.

Along with witnessing various adverse trials, my most giving nature is to understand that everyone is equal as well as human. We all have our own stories to live.



I was born early in the morning on June 5th. My mother was preparing to work her midnight to 8:00 am shift when I decided to enter this world. I was born and raised in Genoa, Nebraska, which is close to where the majority of my Polish and Canadian immigrant ancestors chose to settle. Growing up I learned quickly to adjust to solitude, because even though my parents had five children, I essentially grew up as an only child. There is a large gap in age between myself and my two older brothers and two older sisters. The sibling closest to me in age is 15 years older than me. To add to this, my eldest sibling had my nephew four years before I was thought of. Most assume that I was an accident. However, I've been told my existence was a miracle. By the time I had come along my parents were settled on a

small acreage and did a lot of traveling to pass the time.

During my school age years, I was fortunate to travel with my parents and see all the mainland states north, south and west of Nebraska. I saw many different cities, cultures and climates that made me appreciate where we lived and the ease of life in which I was raised.

By the time I was a sophomore in high school, I knew I wanted to follow my nephew's footsteps and join the Nebraska Army National Guard, which I did in January 2002. My first unit was the 111th Press Camp where I started out in an administrative position. I eventually transferred over to the 43rd Army Band and worked as an Administrative



2013 FREEDOM BREAKFAST HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING (MLK), JR.

By TSgt Lindsay Bustamante

The theme of this year's Freedom Breakfast was *A Day of Service, a Lifetime of Commitment to Unity*. The breakfast serving approximately 500 was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel on January 18, 2013.

Chris Buetler, the Mayor of Lincoln, began the breakfast by inviting attendees to join in singing *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, a song with lyrics written by James Weldon Johnson, and instrumentals composed by John Rosamond Johnson. This song, also known as the *Black National Anthem*, was a fitting way to begin the event.

The many wonderful speakers included the keynote speaker, The Honorable John Gerrard along with Dr. Juan N. Franco, the Reverend Dr. Jim Keck of First Plymouth Church in Lincoln and Mr. Thomas Christie, the Multicultural

School/Community Administrator for Lincoln Public Schools. The message given by Reverend Dr. Jim Keck was very inspirational, challenging us all to "aspire higher to still segregation." His message revealed that we need a "kick in the ASPIRATION" in our journey to work together

2013 marks the 50th Anniversary of the famous Civil Rights March on Capitol Hill and MLK's memorable "I Have a Dream" speech. (August 28, 1963)

More high school students across the country are graduating on time but dropouts continue to be a significant national problem, creating a drag on the economy, according to a report to be issued Monday by a nonprofit group headed by former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell. Researchers found that graduation rates vary by race, with 91.8 percent of Asian students, 82 percent of Whites, 65.9 percent of Hispanics and 63.5 percent of Blacks graduating on time. (From a Washington Post article dated March 19, 2012)

to end segregation. He left us with a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Ultimately, a great nation is a compassionate nation." Many in attendance were very moved by his unique approach

to the common goal of spreading the understanding that all humans are created and should be treated equally.

The Honorable John Gerrard spoke next, pointing out that we should be "uncomfortable about how many wrongs still need to be righted." He spoke about how we should use our freedom to help others, since freedom comes with responsibility. His message spoke of "cutting off the chains of hate" and helping one another achieve true freedom. The quote he shared from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. illustrates

well the path of thinking which could lead to such harmony: "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be..."

Next, Dr. Juan N. Franco brought the message that the future holds much promise. He pointed out that we should not dwell so often on the negative past, but rather assess



The number of hate groups in the United States has increased 54% since 2000 (Southern Poverty Law Center – www.splcenter.org/get-informed/news/hate-group-numbers-up).

The Southern Poverty Law Center's motto is Fighting Hate. Teaching Tolerance. Seeking Justice.

what is coming and use education as the great equalizer it can be. Recognizing that we have made progress will help pave the way for future progress. A quote attributed to Nelson Mandela also expresses the belief that "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

Statements such as the ones shared at the MLK breakfast ring true to me now more than ever because of a recent conversation I took part in. The topic was diversity, and an elder individual expressed that "there is something to be said for keeping one's ethnic background pure." I challenged this statement and



SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: TERRI KATTES

Legislative Liaison & Special Projects Coordinator - Command Division

I was born on December 11, long ago and not so very far away, in Hiawatha, Kansas. I am the eldest of four children with two sisters and one brother who often refer to me as "Mother Superior" because I tend to take my position as oldest a little too seriously. My Dad is deceased and Mom moved to Lincoln about a year ago. I've never married and share a home with my youngest sister. Technically neither of us has children. Realistically however, we have six nieces and nephews, now ages 20-37, who we helped raise. So far they have given us ten surrogate grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Our home is 'grand central' where they tend to gather or call for advice and help. There is never a dull (or quiet) moment and we love it (at least most of the time).

I hold an Associate of Arts degree (Secretarial Science) from Peru State College and a Bachelor of Arts (Human Relations) from Doane College in Lincoln. With the exception of an 18-month break in service, I have worked for the State of Nebraska in three different agencies (Health Department, Environmental Quality and Military) since 1974. I transferred to the Military Department in October 1986.

During the first four years of my life, my family was nomadic, following my Dad's job with the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He had grown up as an orphan and married later in life, so being part of a family and keeping us with him was very important. Extended family was equally important.



Aunt Terri with Taylor (7) and Austin (2)

including forming close relationships. We relied on each other and as a result my family is close.

During our many moves, my sister and I didn't know we lived an unusual lifestyle. All we knew is we were loved, we were safe and we didn't have a care in the world. Since we were on the road so much, the 1951 Chrysler Saratoga the family drove became our second home. It had a huge backseat. When a bench with a crib mattress on top was placed between the seats, my sister and I had the perfect spot to play or sleep on the move. To this day, I enjoy and prefer to travel by car. And I still have the 1951 Chrysler!

When I started school, we settled in Hiawatha next door to Grandma and Grandpa while Dad traveled without us for three more long years. During that time my younger brother and sister were born. Although Dad came home every weekend it was not the same. We were all extremely happy when the railroad assigned him a set territory which allowed us to settle down together. After one school year in Plattsmouth, we made our



Terri, Mom and Lindy

He actually promised my Grandmother that he would bring Mom home to see her at least once a month and he kept that promise until her death 18 years later!

Rather than buying a home and settling Mom in one place where he might get home one or two weekends a month like most of his co-workers, he and Mom bought a trailer house and followed his job for six years before I was born. One year they moved every week. My first move was to Marquette, Kansas, at three months of age. Sixteen months later my sister joined us. I went on to live in at least 35 different towns, some of them multiple times, across Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas. Moving from place to place offered a variety of challenges



NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP

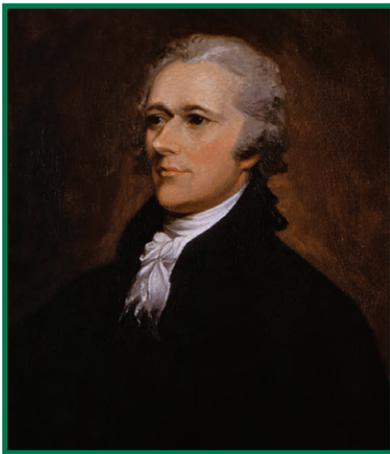
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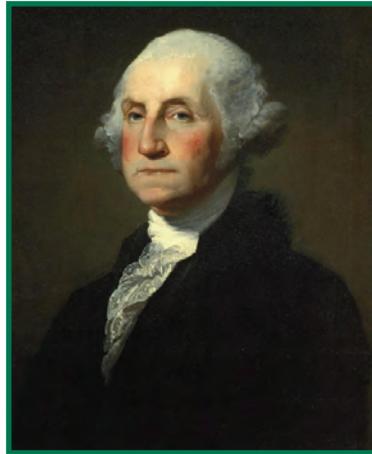
U.S. Citizenship continued from Page 7

U.S. CITIZENSHIP TEST ANSWERS

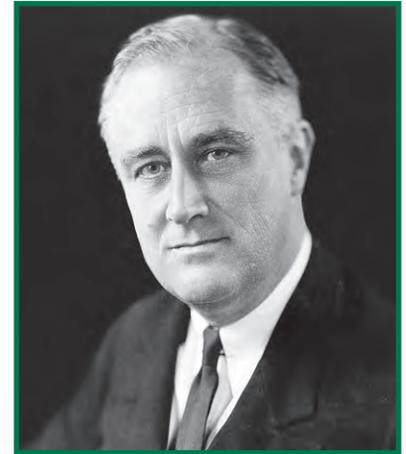
Some questions have more than one correct answer. In those cases, all acceptable answers are shown. All answers are shown exactly as worded by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.



Alexander Hamilton



George Washington



Franklin D. Roosevelt

1. We the People
2. You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.
3. Everyone must follow the law.
Leaders must obey the law.
Government must obey the law.
No one is above the law.
4. Congress
Senate and House (of Representatives)
(U.S. or national) legislature
5. The Speaker of the House
6. The President
7. Secretary of Agriculture
Secretary of Commerce
Secretary of Defense
Secretary of Education
Secretary of Energy
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Secretary of Homeland Security
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Secretary of Interior
Secretary of State
Secretary of Transportation
Secretary of Treasury
Secretary of Veterans' Affairs
Secretary of Labor
Attorney General
8. Freedom of expression
Freedom of speech
Freedom of assembly
Freedom to petition the government
Freedom of worship
The right to bear arms
9. Because of high taxes (taxation without representation)
Because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)
Because they didn't have self-government
10. (James) Madison
(Alexander) Hamilton
(John) Jay Publius
11. (George) Washington
12. Slavery
Economic reasons
States' rights
13. (Franklin) Roosevelt
14. Communism
15. Puerto Rico
U.S. Virgin Islands
American Samoa
Northern Mariana Islands
Guam





Website Review continued from Page 11

the door to a better understanding of each other. What follows is a 'cultural road map' to American hospitality." Subtopics in that section include home hospitality programs, why Americans offer home hospitality (because most Americans live in nuclear families rather than large families, we develop friendships outside the family rather than within our own family), other kinds of hospitality, spoken communication,

unspoken communication and even bringing the evening to a close.

Testimonials from visitors to the website validate the great amount of information available. Comments include: "very easy to navigate and in depth information" and "this is one of the best web sites I have come across on immigration." However, the site's listing of available visa bulletins released by the U.S. Department of State is outdated, with the most recent bulletin dated October 2012. There are

also a number of apparent advertisements for insurance, which causes me concern over what might be offered behind the flashing link.

For people new to the U.S., this website provides information from A to Z, American Language to Work Culture, and everywhere in between. From my perspective, the general information appears accurate and impartial, providing a broad set of resources for newcomers.



Freedom Breakfast continued from Page 16

the origin of this way of thinking by simply asking, "Why?" I could not see the reason for such a statement in the culturally diverse world in which we live. I believe that challenging old beliefs such as this brings a better understanding and education of equality into our present day environment.

A recent Associated Press poll (27 October 2012) has shown a slight increase in racism sentiments towards Blacks and Hispanics since 2008. (<http://usnews.nbcnews.com/news/2012/10/27/14740413-ap-poll-majority-harbor-prejudice-against-blacks?lite>)

My two beautiful sons are a mixture of Mexican culture

on their father's side of the family, and Scottish, English, Irish, Dutch and Native American on my side of the family. While I am Caucasian on the surface, I have a diverse culture in my family history, as do my children.

Each year high school graduates are nominated to receive the Martin Luther King Scholarship. These scholarships are supported by gifts and donations, and six scholarships of \$1,000 each are awarded.

Mr. Thomas Christie announced and recognized the 2012 MLK scholarship awardees. The scholarships are given to graduates of diverse genders and backgrounds from Lincoln (Lancaster County) high schools who have a 2.5 or higher grade point average and will be attending a post-secondary school.

The event ended with the singing of the gospel children's song *This Little Light of Mine*, a song in which the lyrics talk about the importance of unity in the face of adversity. This song signifies many little lights finding a way through darkness, and that together, they shine more brightly than one single light.



Terri Kattes continued from Page 17

final family move to Nebraska City the summer before I started fourth grade. We bought a house (which seemed like a mansion after living in a trailer) and put down roots. Lincoln is the furthest away any of us have moved since.

I lost my younger sister 11 years ago following a four year battle with breast cancer. Her death left a hole that cannot be filled. My other sister and brother are so much younger that they don't share many of the same memories she and I did. I still miss being able to look at her and say, "Remember when . . ."

As a senior in high school I caught the genealogy bug after receiving a letter from an elderly aunt on my Dad's side with information about his family. I continue to research both sides of my family and have become very proud

of the contribution my ancestors have made through the years. Although none of them are famous, they are part of the multitude that formed and built this country. With only a couple of exceptions who arrived in the mid-1800s, nearly all of my ancestors arrived in America in the 1600s and early 1700s. They were among the first settlers in several of the northeastern states. Later they were early settlers in Virginia, Missouri and Nebraska, including an original founder of Hebron, Nebraska.

I am also very proud to say that my ancestors and extended family served in the militia as well as every branch of this Nation's military from the Revolutionary War until today, including: a grandfather who served aboard the USS Constitution during the War of 1812; grandfathers who served in the Union Army during the Civil War and other family members

who fought for the Confederacy; my Dad and all my uncles served during WWII, including one who was aboard the USS Nevada during the Pearl Harbor attack and two who went on to serve in Korea and complete twenty-year careers; cousins who served during peace time; and a cousin who is in his seventeenth year in the U.S. Army and has deployed twice during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

My pride in their service has been reinforced every day since I started working for this department. It has been a real privilege to work with the men and women of the Nebraska National Guard. To see first-hand the pride, professionalism and dedication they each demonstrate every day gives me comfort and belief that this great nation will continue to prosper in the future.

Thank you all for your service.



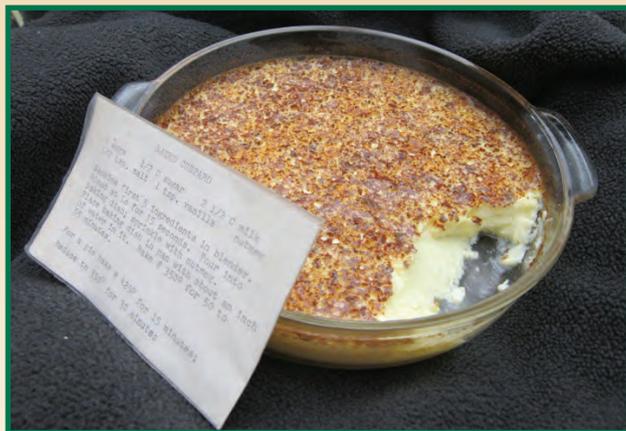


BTG
DIVER-CIPE
CORNER

Submitted by
LaVonne Rosenthal

Growing up in Syracuse, Nebraska, as the daughter of depression-era parents, the meals and desserts we had were very basic. One of the mainstays of family gatherings was custard. This isn't the "crème brulee" style. My Norwegian maternal grandparents simply used what ingredients were available from rations and what they raised on the farm.

If there was a church pot luck or a funeral luncheon, mom's custard was on the table. A rite of passage for individuals joining the Rosenthal family was to taste the custard. If you liked it, you were accepted into the family. If not, your saving grace was learning to MAKE the custard like mom/grandma. Our family reunions always include stories of how in-laws had to force the custard down and not let anyone know how much they didn't like it. My nephews love for it, however, requires the preparation of two custard dishes for holiday gatherings to ensure everyone has enough to eat. I hope you enjoy the simplicity of this Halvorsen-Rosenthal family tradition. The ingredients are reprinted from my mom's original recipe card.



Ingredients

4 eggs
½ Cup sugar
2-1/2 Cups milk
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
Nutmeg

Instructions

Combine first 5 ingredients in blender. Blend at low for 15 seconds. Pour into baking dish; sprinkle with nutmeg (enough to cover; more if you wish). Place baking dish [8-inch round works best] in pan with about an inch of water in it [I used a large rectangle baking pan]. Bake @ 350 degrees for 50 to 55 minutes.

[Tastes best after being cooled off, often overnight in the refrigerator.]

For a pie, pour liquid into unbaked 8" or 9" pie crust. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes; reduce to 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

CUSTARD,
SIMPLE AND EASY



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We often blame the card companies for drumming up business by creating all these special days and months so consumers will feel the need to purchase the perfect card. Beneath the superficiality of the celebratory title, we are reminded to pause to remember special people and special events in our lives. This year I'm taking time to celebrate Peanut Butter and Jelly Day on April 2nd with my grandchildren. Give yourself permission to celebrate something fun and unique – like National Chocolate Chip Day on May 15.



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out), and I think he's right. In that film, a bright red balloon befriends a young boy and follows him around the streets of Paris, even as those around them seek to destroy it. Overstreet writes, "*The Red Balloon* is about the fragility of childhood and the cruel world that threatens innocence. In *The Kid With a Bike*, there's a prolonged shot of Cyril riding so fast that his jacket fills up with wind—he becomes the balloon."*

But I think there's more. Throughout the film, Cyril dashes around the screen, running and climbing, fighting and biting, because he is desperate to be noticed. He is a child, alone and abandoned by those who should care for him most. He's the beating red heart of the film, yet despite his desperate need, despite his flaming red jacket, nobody takes any notice of him. Everything about him screams, "Help me," yet nobody does. Nobody cares. Nobody sees.

Nobody except Samantha. And herein lies the power of *The Kid With a Bike*. While Samantha's love for Cyril moves and inspires, it also challenges. It prompts us to examine ourselves, to ask the question, would I notice? In a world full of people like Cyril, people who need little more than love, but need it desperately, do I notice? Our silence in the face of such questions is its own indictment.

*<http://imagejournal.org/page/blog/emergency-boy>

