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SUCH JOY THERE IS IN FILLING EACH DAY'S PAGE, SUCH LEARNING IN EACH CHAPTER'S END. SUCH CELEBRATION WE LIFT UP WITH ALL WHO SHARED IN OUR BRIEF WHISPER IN THE WIND.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2013

[Our Family Cemetery Receives a Texas Historical Marker](#)



Over 100 guests attended the unveiling and dedication ceremony of the Machu Cemetery Texas Historical Marker on April 17 in Granger, Texas.



Before there was a **Lake Granger!**
This photo shows the completed Laneport Dam
on the San Gabriel River.
The original Machu homestead and cemetery
lay at the top of this photo,
an area now under the waters of Lake Granger.

When I was in middle school I had my interest in history piqued for the first time when something unusual happened in my local community that directly impacted me - that being the relocation of my maternal family's cemetery necessitated by the construction of a dam on the San Gabriel River that would create today's Lake Granger (see right photo).

On multiple occasions I accompanied my grandfather out to the site where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was supervising the transition - grave after grave being lifted out of the ground, carefully identified (where possible, as there remain over 100 Unknowns in the cemetery), and then reburied at the new site. A few of the things that really struck me - and I would often share with my students when telling this story in the classroom - included the large number of infant graves (such a high infant mortality rate in those days); the little Czech Bibles and small baby rattles with Czech inscriptions that had been bagged during the process; and the enormous attention my grandfather paid to this entire process to ensure that all went smoothly and, more importantly, with dignity.



My mother has today on her wall the plaque my grandfather so proudly displayed on his wall for years before his passing - the plaque given to him for his efforts. He would be so proud and excited about the research work done by his nephew Darwin and wife Nancy toward acquiring this historical marker for the family cemetery and grateful to all of the Machu children for their continued care and devotion to our family's final resting place. Here is the official press release and historical narrative:

The descendants of Pavel and Rozina (Trlica) Machu are excited that their family cemetery was [approved to receive a Texas Historical Marker](#) (*photo at left*) and will be celebrating with an unveiling ceremony at the site this month. The one-hour ceremony will include portions in the family's native Czech language and will be followed by light refreshments (of course, *kolaches!*) served under the cemetery's gazebo area. Local dignitaries from the **City of Granger** and the [Williamson County Historical Commission](#) will take part in the ceremony.



Vsetin Coat of Arms

Pavel Machu's hometown of Usti was a few miles south of **Vsetin**. The overall area, called Vsetínsko, is spread out on the foothills of the Vsetín, Hostýn and Vizovice Highlands around the Bečva River. This area features the remains of log houses and cultural monuments of significant importance mainly in Vsetín itself. The folk culture has been kept alive by song and dance groups for many decades who sing of the areas important role in Czech history. Originally a small town, Vsetín has become an important center of industrial, economic, and Czech cultural life during the last century.

The Machu Family originated in **Seninka, Moravia**, a short distance south of **Vsetin**. The oldest member whom the family has information on is Jan Machu, who was born in 1756 at house #32 and died there in 1816. Jan was a quarter farmer and he married Rozina Cedidlo in 1795. Eight children were born to this couple and one of them was Pavel's father, Josef Machu, born on **31 July 1798** at #23 Seninka. Josef's first marriage to Tereza Reznicek produced a son, Pavel Martin, born **13 August 1857**. Josef was married secondly to Anna Zrník in February 1826. This marriage produced two sons: Joseph Machu, born 1829 and Pavel Machu, born **8 February, 1834**, both born at house #23 in Seninka. Anna Zrník Machu died on **July 10, 1836**, leaving Josef with seven year old Joseph and two year old son Pavel.



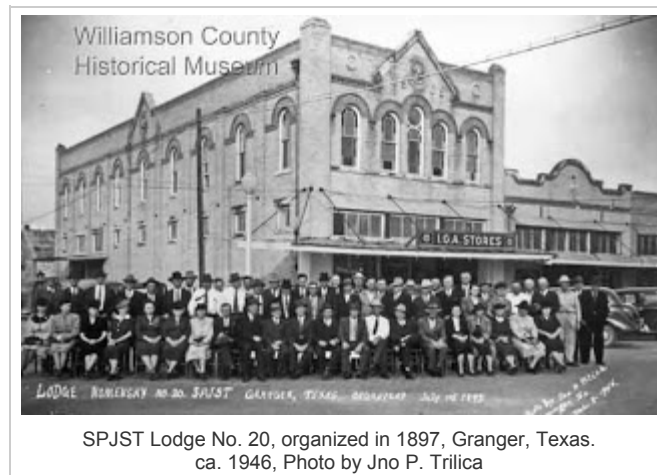
Imagine – at the age of 2, his mother dies. At 13, Pavel’s father dies. Such circumstances certainly contributed to his early maturity and self-reliant character and when the time arrived, Pavel dutifully served his mandatory service in the Austrian army. Afterward, he went to Usti where he met and married Rozina Trlica in 1864. The couple lived in house #62 – one that still stands and is occupied today. Pavel applied for permission to emigrate on March 1, 1870.

The family set sail from the port of Bremen, Germany on April 7 and arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 2. The three children who came to the United States States of **America** with them were: Anna, who later married Joseph Friedrich Cervenka, Jan T., who married Veronika Pokorny, and Pavel H., who married Rozie Wentrcek. During the voyage, it is said that Pavel became so sick that Rozina was afraid that he was going to die. He survived, thankfully, and proceeded to accomplish many things during the years he lived in **Texas**.

The family first settled in **Austin County** where they lived for eight years. Because of Pavel's health issues, they moved to Polanka, south of Taylor where they lived for a year, then to the community of Circleville on the banks of the San Gabriel River and finally to land Pavel purchased about five miles southeast of **Granger**. The

“Machu” homestead was commonly recognized as its own community east of Granger and is reflected as such on early **Williamson County** maps.

Pavel's brother, Josef, married Rozina Mazac. This couple and their daughter, Veronika arrived in **Texas** in May, 1871, settling in the Lavaca / Austin County area. Their daughter, Veronika Machu, married Paul Trlica. They were the parents of **John P. Trlica**, the well known Granger photographer.



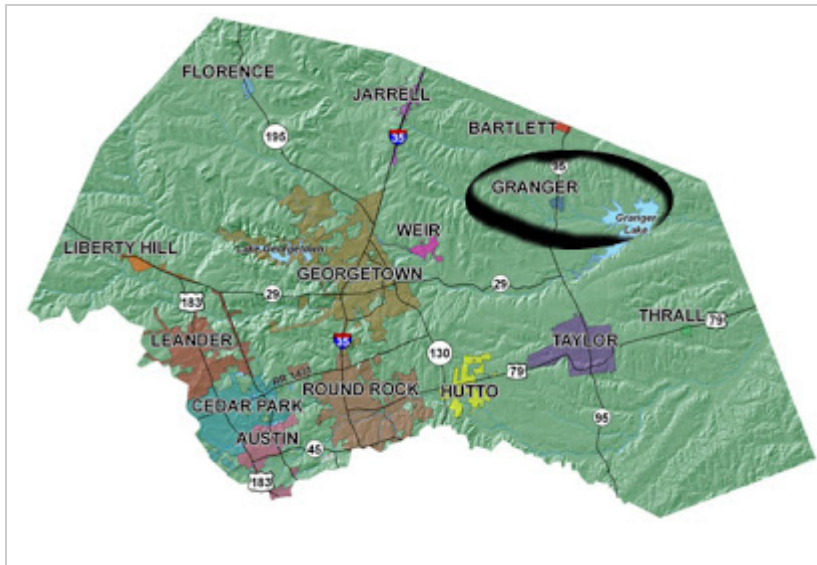
Imagine - an immigrant with no education and limited English language skills managed to provide a school in central Texas for the children of his fellow countrymen from **Moravia**. Pavel committed himself to getting the **Moravia School** built, aided by the other farmers living nearby. Pavel donated a portion of his farm for the school, and he traveled to surrounding towns on horseback, soliciting funds for the construction costs. It was at this school that the newly organized **SPJST** Fraternal Lodge #20 held their first meetings. Pavel and Rozina were charter members of this benevolent organization's local chapter. After Pavel died in 1907, the SPJST purchased from Rozina the property on **West Davilla Street** in Granger where the new lodge found its permanent second-story home. The Machu name can still be found on one of the front door thresholds of this city block.



Pavel and others were instrumental in establishing the first Czech Protestant church in this area of central **Texas** under the guidance of Rev. Adolph Chlumsky – the **Czech Moravian Brethren Church** whose origins date back to the 15th century Hussites. The first church services for the Czech Protestants in the area were held at the **Moravia School**. He also provided assistance to those of the Catholic faith in building their new church in Granger – the church dedicated to the 9th century Christian missionaries to the Slavic peoples of Europe, **Sts. Cyril and Methodius**. His Catholic neighbors, in turn, offered assistance when the time came for the **Czech Brethren Church** building project. This was a noteworthy accomplishment in those days for first and second generation eastern European immigrants of Catholic and Protestant Christian faiths since the historic tension between the two groups following centuries of religious wars back in **Europe** was often transported here. Such tensions were not to be found in Granger as the two churches today continue to stand side-by-side on the west side of town.

When Pavel was approached by a lady with her deceased husband in her wagon who needed a place to bury him, Pavel's act of charity that day, providing a place on his farm for her need, launched what became the **Machu Family Cemetery**. Pavel was a well-respected member of his community. You can document this by reading his obituary - it reports the church could not hold all the people who came to the service in 1907.

Pavel Machu's contributions to his new homeland, Texas' [Williamson County](#) - including the Machu Family cemetery, the [Moravia Schools](#) site, as well as his collaboration toward the establishment of the [Granger Brethren Church](#) -



have today all been recognized by the State of Texas with historical markers. Rozina died on **May 28, 1920** with her children and 38 grandchildren present. Her son, Frank, had lived with her since Pavel's death. Both Pavel and Rozina are buried in the **Machu Cemetery**.

The cemetery was relocated in the early 1970's by the U.S. Corps of Engineers as "Machu"-land would soon be under the waters of new **Lake Granger** and today it is situated on the eastern edge of the city of **Granger along with other city and church cemeteries**. DIRECTIONS: From Highway 95 at the only traffic light in Granger, TX go East on FM 971 9/10 of a mile to County Road 348. Turn right (South) on CR 348 and the **Machu Cemetery** is located 1/10 of a mile on the left.

Sources: *Bratske Listy*, Pavel Machu Obituary authored by Rev. Adolf Chlumsky, April 1907; *Looking Back at the Cervenka and Machu Family 1773-1988*, by Joan Cervenka Cobb, 1988. Images: Photo of Pavel & Rozina (Trlica) Machu courtesy of Darwin and Nancy Machu.



Installing Historical Marker at cemetery:
Uncle Eugene, Albin, and I.

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I turned 50 in April. Quite fine with that, marveling at the fact actually. A fan of mostly geekish things - books, history and politics, Star Trek, and Game of Thrones. A miniature schnauzer and a very old boston terrier have commandeered the sofa and I have resigned myself to the fact there's no use continuing to resist change: a Nook has entered the house, classical MP3s have been stored on it, and I am currently enjoying one eBook after another on the darn contraption - at present, the new Dan Brown. But, fear not! Leather bound classics and favorite texts from all those many classes long gone, but not forgotten, will forever line my walls.

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WOOF!