

• Ervan E. Zouzalik  
P.O. Box 328  
Flatonia, Texas 78941  
(512) 865-3890

EARLY FLATONIA SETTLERS  
Family of Frank Zouzalik Sr.

Frank Zouzalik Sr., was born in Vienna, Austria, on July 29, 1877. He served in the Austrian/Hungarian armed forces for three years and was a brick-layer by trade. His ability to work with brick and rock in the construction of homes, businesses, fireplaces and other structures, was indeed a skill that make him quite famous when he immigrated to the United States in 1902.

Many homes and buildings in the Flatonia, Schulenburg, Moulton and Shiner area have brick-work that was carefully layed by the hands of Frank Zouzalik. In 1927, he traveled by horse and buggy to live with the Pastor of Hostyn Catholic Church for six weeks at a time -- where he completed the now famous grottos that grace the grounds of the church and attract many tourists to the village of Hostyn. His most famous fireplace is the "McKay" home in Flatonia, which is made from rock that came from every state in the Nation.

Frank Zouzalik Sr., came to this country quite by accident. His older sister, Antonia (Zouzalik) Petru had immigrated to the United States and settled in Praha, Texas. Antonia had a close friend in Cecelia and Rudolph Bacak -- a family that was living in Praha but who had purchased a farm about four miles northwest of Flatonia and was planning a move. Rudolph Bacak died from pneumonia in 1898, leaving his wife Cecelia with a one-year-old child and expecting another. Antonia (Zouzalik) Petru later introduced Cecelia to her brother Frank Zouzalik by mail. He immigrated to the United States and they were married in 1902.

Cecelia (Kocian) Bacak was born in Lipnik, Moravia, on July 2, 1874. She immigrated to this country at age 18 with her parents, Joseph and Barbara Kocian. Barbara Kocian was born January 1, 1842, in Lipnik, Moravia, and died May 2, 1920. Joseph Kocian was born May 15, 1842, in Lipnik, Moravia, and died May 28, 1920 -- both are buried in the Flatonia Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Cecelia (Kocian) Bacak gave birth to Julius Bacak on December 6, 1896. Lillie (Bacak) Syrinek was born on June 20, 1898, after her father had passed away. Following the marriage of Cecelia and Frank Zouzalik, the family moved to their new farm northwest of Flatonia and to this union seven additional children were born. One son, Emil, died at a very young age and was buried in Praha, Texas. The remaining eight children grew up on the farm and attended Albrecht School, also located northwest of Flatonia.

As the children grew, they began clearing the land and planting a crop. Frank Zouzalik was known for his ability to handle the plowing with mules. But, his first love continued to be brick-laying, and he often left the farm to work at his trade in nearby villages -- leaving much of the farm work to the children. A brief history of the eight children follows below.

Julius Bacak married Vlasta Baca and they were blessed with one child, Nieta, prior to her untimely death on December 10, 1932. On June 22, 1936, Julius Bacak married Lena Metocha of Cistern, Texas. They had seven additional children: James; Raymond; Cathleen; Alice; Glenn; Lee Jay; and, Doris. Julius worked in various grocery stores and later owned and operated the "Red & White Grocery Store" in Flatonia for many years. He died on February 21, 1978, and is buried in the Flatonia Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery. Lena (Metocha) Bacak still resides in Flatonia.

Lillie Bacak was born on June 20, 1898, and married Albin Syrinek. To this union were born three sons: Alfred; Raymond; and, Adolph. The family farmed approximately three miles northwest of Flatonia. Albin Syrinek died on March 20, 1958, and Lillie (Bacak) Syrinek died on January 18, 1980. Both are buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Flatonia.

The first son of Cecelia and Frank Zouzalik was Edward (Eddie) Zouzalik, who was born on December 15, 1903. He married Julia Zurovec of Cistern on November 8, 1927, and they had two children; Victor; and, Ervan. Over a 60-year period, Eddie Zouzalik worked at Lee's Garage, Flatonia Post Office, Flatonia State Bank, and the last 16 years as Fayette County Commissioner. He also served as a City Councilman and as Mayor of the City of Flatonia for 8 years. Julia (Zurovec) Zouzalik died on February 13, 1971, and is buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Flatonia. Eddie Zouzalik married his current wife, Laura Johnson, on December 27, 1971, and they currently reside in Flatonia.

Frank J. Zouzalik Jr. was born on July 1, 1906. He married Agnes Florus of Cistern on October 8, 1929. They had three children: Daniel, Larry; and, Eugene. Frank Zouzalik Jr. spent his entire life as a motor grader operator for Fayette County and several large highway construction firms. In addition, he raised cattle as a hobby on a small ranch located across the road from the Zouzalik homestead northwest of Flatonia. Flatonia is still their home.

Albert W. Zouzalik (nickname "Sleepy") was born on June 5, 1908. He married Emma Hrncir of Moulton, Texas, on November 29, 1942. He first worked at the Arnim & Lane Merchantile store and later owned and operated a pressing shop until he was drafted into the CB's in World War II. He fought on many of the Pacific islands. They later made their home in San Antonio, where he worked in construction and spent most of his life working for the Federal Government on military bases. Albert Zouzalik died on May 29, 1978, and is buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Flatonia. Emma (Hrncir) Zouzalik lives in La Grange, Texas.

Annie Zouzalik was born on April 28, 1905, and married Rudy Albrecht in 1922. They had no children. They lived in San Antonio, where Rudy worked at a sash and door manufacturing plant. Upon retirement, they moved to Shiner, Texas. Annie died on December 13, 1968, and Rudy died on July 30, 1983. Both are buried on the Flatonia City Cemetery.

Agnes Zouzalik was born on February 2, 1915, and married Roy Bunton of Gonzales on November 29, 1942. They also lived in San Antonio, where Roy Bunton was employed as a salesman for several different firms. They had two children: Barbara and Kenneth. They still reside in San Antonio.

Millie Zouzalik was born on March 7, 1912. She married her first husband, Lonnie Ling, and they lived in Edna, Texas, where he was employed by the County. He died and was buried in Edna. Millie (Zouzalik) Ling married Byron Elder on September 11, 1951, and they live in Portland, Texas. They have four children: Douglas; Wayne; Terry; and, Kenneth.

Frank Zouzalik Sr. moved his family from the farm into the City of Flatonia in 1925. He continued his brick-laying profession for many years -- living to a ripe old age of 95. He died on December 29, 1972, and is buried next to his wife, Cecelia (Kocian) Zouzalik, in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Flatona.