

NOVEL BY IOWA NATIVE DEPICTS 19th-CENTURY BOHEMIANS SEEKING FREEDOM IN EASTERN IOWA

Author Randall Reyman's new historical fiction novel FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS offers a fresh take on early Czech immigration, depicting the journey of two desperate families seeking a better life as they settle near Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

A book launch event for FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS will take place on Saturday, May 10th at 1:00 p.m. in the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, 1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Reyman says, "*From the Bohemian Hills is a saga not unlike the story of many 19th-century Czech immigrants who defied the dangers of traveling across the ocean from their old country to a new one. My novel will bring you closer to your forbears who took those risks and will help you understand and even take pride in your own family's story.*"

Book Synopsis: It's 1859 in Bohemia, and Josef's family suffers amidst poverty, wars, and religious persecution under the heavy hand of the Habsburgs. Finally, in 1866, they escape to America and settle in eastern Iowa, where they meet Francis Kun, an ambitious Moravian preacher who dreams of building a Bohemian Reformed Brethren church. Josef's anti-religious ideas at once conflict with Kun's devout faith, but as their lives intertwine, an unlikely friendship is borne of their common goal of survival. Their friendship is soon tested as Josef becomes a suspect in the murder of a local thug.

Praise for FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS:

"FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS with its compelling plot made it hard to put down. The novel's storyline takes the reader on the emigrant-immigrant's journey as imagined from the perspective to two main-character families and an additional cast of both real and imagined characters that together, present a variety of contemporary viewpoints and thus a more greatly nuanced story. Thus, Reyman's approach gives us a primer in Czech history that further puts his fictional story into a larger historic context. The reader of Bohemian Hills will not soon forget its history lessons through Reyman's unforgettable characters." D.J.B., Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

About the author: Randall Reyman is a musician, composer, and writer living in central Illinois. A native-born Iowan, he was born and raised in the Cedar Rapids area and is a proud descendant of Czech ancestry.

FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS will be released for purchase on March 1st and be available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other retailers including your local bookstore.

The book launch event for FROM THE BOHEMIAN HILLS will offer an opportunity to meet the author and hear him speak about his book. A book signing opportunity will follow. This will all take place on Saturday, May 10th at 1:00 p.m. in the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, 1400 Inspiration Place SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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