# The History of the Prusík Family

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1515–1968

# Chapter 1

# Prologue

## 1.1 Motto

### Life

Be absolute for death; either death or life
Shall thereby be the sweeter. Reason thus with life:
If I do lose thee, I do lose a thing
That none but fools would keep: a breath thou art,
Servile to all the skyey influences,
That dost this habitation, where thou keep'st,
Hourly afflict: merely, thou art death's fool;
For him thou labour'st by thy flight to shun
And yet runn'st toward him still.

William Shakespeare

### Homeland

Above all else I cherish true human happiness,
which one must grant to all alike.
I cherish the stones and the fresh young branches,
above all else I love my native land.
Above all else I love my little village.
Every man has one, wherever he may be from.
To let it be torn from you by someone hurts terribly.
To live without a homeland is to live worse than a dog.

Small nations, the smallest and the great,
we all have the same duties and the same rights,
written by the stern finger of the wind upon the waters,
upon the banners of the states that mankind waves:
the right to decide, in the name of the majority,
in our native tongue and in our native land,
on what is loved alike by all,

on the happiness and the destinies of our fatherland.

Vítězslav Nezval

## 1.2 The Cradle of the Family

It is the beginning of the sixteenth century; the year is 1515. In France, King Francis I, who will later invite Leonardo da Vinci to his court, is ascending the throne. In England the great despot Henry VIII is king. In Spain, in the days of the great Inquisition, Emperor Charles I rules. And in Russia the father of Ivan the Terrible, Vasili III, is tightening his sovereign hold. In Bohemia the reign of Vladislaus Jagiellon is slowly drawing to its close.

In a small West Bohemian village that the country people call Sedlice, our first known ancestor, Vojtěch Prusík, is born. The village of Sedlec, as it is officially called, lies north of Plzeň, close to ancient Plasy. It is first mentioned in history in 1193. At that time it was the property of the lesser nobleman Humpolt of Potvorov, who bequeathed it to the monastery at Plasy. Sedlec did not remain long in the hands of the Plasy Cistercians, however, for in 1250 it no longer appears in the inventory of the Plasy monastery's property; instead the village is held by the lords of the Hrabišic family, some of whom were in the direct service of the dukes.

During the regency of Otto of Brandenburg, in 1281, Kojata and Všebor of the Hrabišic family gave this little village to the monastery of the Canons of the Holy Sepulchre at Zderaz in Prague. For about 120 years the village of Sedlec belonged to this monastery, which was destroyed in the Hussite upheavals. From 1421 the owner of Sedlec was Hanuš Kolovrat of Krašov, and after him, until 1485, a Kolovrat whose Christian name was Albrecht. After 1485, and until 1529, the village was owned by Jetřich Bezdružický of Kolovraty. From that year the owner was Mikuláš Sviták of Landštejn, then his brother Vilém, and after him Kateřina Svitáková of Solopysk.

From 1546 the ancestral seat of our family was held by the Gryspeks. It is under this family that we learn most about our ancestors. The first owner was Florián Gryspek of Gryspach, secretary to Emperor Ferdinand I. Florián built a magnificent Renaissance chateau at Kaceřov and, when he was not in Prague at court or abroad on an official mission, he liked best to live at Kaceřov. Gryspek, a German from the Tyrol by origin, was not well liked among the Czech nobility, but the common people were fond of him. According to historical testimony, the subjects fared relatively well under the Gryspeks. The urbarium that he drew up in 1558 to keep his estate in order mentions our ancestor Vojtěch Prusík.

After the Battle of White Mountain, in 1623, all the Gryspek property was confiscated and handed over to the monastery at Plasy. Sedlec remained in the possession of this powerful monastery until its dissolution by Emperor Joseph II in 1785.

In 1826 Prince Klemens von Metternich bought the Plasy estate, and with it the subjects of Sedlec, from the Religious Fund.

In the western part of the village, which belongs to the parish of Potvorov, there is a homestead that until 1805 bore the number 9. From that year to this day it has been No. 4. Our family lived on this holding from time immemorial, and demonstrably from 1515.

Holding No. 4 in Sedlec originally had 2 lány of land, that is, about 40 hectares in today's measure. The garden did not adjoin the farm but lay opposite it, across the road. Our family died out in the male line on this ancestral seat on 14 June 1846, yet even today, after so many years, the place is still called "U Prusíků", "at the Prusíks'". Tradition truly has deep roots. The Prusík family lives on in other villages, regions and countries.

Sedlec lies amid fields and meadows; there are no woods near the village. That is probably why the place has been settled since the earliest times, for its land was brought under cultivation long



Figure 1.1: Vladislaus Jagiellon, King of Bohemia, in whose reign (1471 – 1516) our first known ancestor, Vojtěch Prusík, lived in Sedlec

ago. When the Prusíks first came to this village is not known. There are only legends about the origin of our name, handed down by word of mouth in the family from generation to generation.

In 1039, amid the turmoil that followed the death of Bolesław the Brave in Poland, the Czech Duke Bretislaus I invaded that country. He took many towns, among them the fortified town of Gdecz. From Gniezno he brought the relics of St Adalbert back to Bohemia. Besides great booty he also brought home a considerable number of captives, to whom, however, he later gave full rights, settling them in various parts of West Bohemia, especially in the Kralovice area.

Here lie the villages of Hedčany and Hedečko, the remnants of the former great Hedčany district. Under King Wenceslaus I the district broke up, and the free descendants of the Poles and the Prussians dispersed across the region. Perhaps our ancestor was one of them. Another origin of our name and family is also possible, but we do have some connection with the former Prussians of the Baltic. Since people began to be called by fixed surnames about 80 years before Vojtěch Prusík was born, that is, in the middle of the 15th century, it is also possible that one of our ancestors went campaigning in Poland and pagan Prussia and on his return was given the name Prusík. There were many such Czech military expeditions in history. St Adalbert was already at work in Prussia in the 10th century; later Czechs were in Prussia under King Ottokar II and John of Luxembourg, and again in the 15th century, in the Hussite era. After all, Jan Čapek of Sány, whose retinue included the captain Jan of Kralovice, stepped right into the waters of the Baltic in 1433, and from there he and his companions brought sea water home as a keepsake. As to how we came by our name, this explanation too may be plausible. Closest to the truth, however, will probably be that our ancestors, even before the 16th century, 1000 years ago, lived near Prussia, in what is today northern Poland. But more of that later. Our first ancestor's name is written just as we write ours today, but over the centuries our forebears were often written as Prusyk and Prussik as well. Today everyone in our country writes it Prusík, with the acute accent, and abroad with a plain dotted i. Only one member of the family in our history changed his name, to Prusek. He lives in the USA.

In the first half of the 16th century there were 8 "settled" householders in Sedlec. Their names were Havel Levý, Vaněk Bureš, Mika Jakeš, Jan Polívka, Blažej Jánský, Šimon Brož, Jan Bavor and the biggest farmer, Vojtěch Prusík. Altogether these homesteaders then held 10 lány of land. Each lán owed dues of two hens and ten eggs, one kopa and eight groschen on St George's Day, and one kopa and six groschen on St Gall's Day. Šimon Bureš had a large garden and therefore paid twenty groschen more for it each half-year. In all, the homesteaders of Sedlec paid the Gryspeks at Kaceřov Chateau eleven kopy and forty groschen of St George's Day rent, 11 kopy and twenty groschen of St Gall's Day rent, twenty rent hens, and one threescore and forty eggs at Easter.

The Prusík homestead was relatively large, and as late as 1962 an ancient wooden barn still stood by the farm, built not long after the Thirty Years' War. No. 4 in Sedlec near Potvorov is the oldest known cradle of our family. A great many members of the family no longer know anything at all of this ancestral seat of theirs, nor of their distant forebears who were born here, went out from here into the world and founded the branches of the family, and whose descendants then lived, and still live, in other corners of our homeland, and far away abroad and overseas. In this account we shall shed light on those distant times and on the people to whom we belong by blood as their descendants.

Bad times and good have passed over our land, generation has followed generation, and our family has lived through a great many different fortunes. We therefore begin the history of the Prusíks with our first historically established ancestor, the farmer Vojtěch Prusík of Sedlec.

The common ancestor of us all, Vojtěch Prusík, was born in 1515, a year before the death of King Vladislaus Jagiellon. Of his father nothing is known to us. Vojtěch farmed mostly under the Gryspeks, and as reeve he often had to appear at Kaceřov Chateau. There he delivered the dues for the tenure of all the homesteads in the village, but at that time no one performed corvée. The obligations consisted only of payments and were precisely laid down in the Kaceřov urbarium, which was written in June and completed on the Sunday after Trinity in 1558. Vojtěch's wife




Figure 1.2: Anne of Bohemia and Hungary, wife of the first Habsburg on the Bohemian throne; in her reign our distant ancestor Vojtěch Prusík (1515 – 1580) farmed in Sedlec



Figure 1.3: View of the remains of holding No. 4 in Sedlec, where the first cradle of the family stood. The barn, which stood until 1962, was built after the Thirty Years' War

was Voršila Rajská, but where she came from and when she died could not be established. Of his children only his son Mikuláš, the heir to the holding, is known. Vojtěch Prusík, something of a legendary figure in our family, died in Sedlec in 1580.

Vojtěch's son, Mikuláš Prusík, was born in 1550. He was probably named after the patron of the church of St Nicholas (in Czech, Mikuláš) in Potvorov, where he was baptised, like all our ancestors before and after him who lived in Sedlec. Mikuláš died at the beginning of the Thirty Years' War, in 1625. He farmed the holding in the time of Emperor Rudolf II.

Mikuláš's son was Václav Prusík. He was born in 1580 and, according to the urbarium of the monastery at Plasy, he was farming the ancestral seat of our family in 1623, in the hard times that followed White Mountain. In old documents he is written as Prusyk, although his grandfather Vojtěch, the first Prusík, is written correctly, as are most of the later members of the family. Václav died in 1640, before the end of the Thirty Years' War. Of his children, two sons are known. The elder was Jakub; Bartoloměj was a year younger.

Jakub Prusík received the family holding. He was born in 1601, and his wife was Anna, born in 1603, who outlived her husband by one year. According to the Register of Subjects by Faith of 1651, Sedlec had 32 inhabitants. Some of the holdings left deserted by the Thirty Years' War had been resettled, but the Prusík holding, it seems, had not been badly damaged. Jakub had three sons and one daughter. The eldest was Matouš, who was born in 1628. In 1650 he married into the Rejček family in Bílov, and he lived until 1696. He left no descendants bearing the name Prusík. Jakub Prusík died in 1672. Jakub Prusík's wife Anna, born in 1605, was née Hynková, from Bílov near Kralovice.

Jakub's second son was Václav Prusík. He was born two years later, in 1630, became a blacksmith and settled in Bílov. According to history he was a very strong man who often defended the interests of the common people in various clashes with the lords, and one such confrontation finally proved fatal to him. For several years the inhabitants of Lednice had been in dispute over meadows with the nobleman Norbert Miseroni, who owned Krašov Castle. When these disputes



Figure 1.4: The little chapel on the village green in Sedlec

came to a head, the people of Lednice called on the blacksmith Václav Prusík for help, and in the fray Václav was shot dead by this tyrannical nobleman on 11 April 1673. A few years later, in 1680, a general peasant revolt broke out, led by Jiří Radim from Dřevec. Václav's wife was Barbora, who outlived him by many years and died in Mladotice. He left no descendants bearing our name. Barbora was née Juhová, from Bílov.

Jakub's third son was Martin Prusík, who stayed on the family holding. He was the common ancestor of all the Prusíks living in the world today, except for those who live in Poland.

The sister of these three brothers was Anna Prusíková, who was born in 1647 and married into the Kyml, that is the Koukl, family in Bílov. She died there in 1738.

The father of these four children, Jakub Prusík, died in Sedlec in 1672, and his wife Anna a year later.

Jakub's brother Bartoloměj Prusík was destined by fate for an eventful life. He was born in Sedlec in 1602 and, at the age of 24, in 1626, he married the young widow of Pavel Radim, who had been killed while felling trees, and came to live on her holding in Dřevec. It was a fine holding, with two lány and a decent farmhouse. Fifty years later this homestead was the home of Jiří Chlupsa, called Radim, the leader of the peasant revolt. But Bartoloměj and his wife did not live long in Dřevec. When in 1627, under Emperor Ferdinand II, it was proclaimed that everyone must become a Catholic, many Protestants and Bohemian Brethren left Bohemia. In Dřevec too, one autumn day of that fateful year, the Radim holding was left deserted, and for long centuries nobody heard anything more of Bartoloměj Prusík and his wife. After 340 years, by winding paths across the world, his trace was found in Poland. When I was searching for all the Prusíks in the world, I found one Matěj Prusík, who worked as a biologist at the university in New Brunswick in the state of New Jersey, near New York. He is of Polish origin, and when his ancestors were traced in Poland, a great surprise came to light. His distant ancestor, like that of the other Prusíks in Poland, is the exile Bartoloměj Prusík. After an arduous journey through Saxony, Bartoloměj made his way as far as Ostrów Mazowiecka, north-east of Warsaw, and died there in 1670, the year in which John Amos Comenius ended his life's pilgrimage in exile.




Figure 1.5: The child in the bottom right-hand corner is the later owner of Krašov Castle, Norbert Miseroni, the murderer of the blacksmith Václav Prusík of Bílov

In the first half of the 17th century Prusíks lived only in Sedlec, and the exile Bartoloměj Prusík with his descendants in Poland. Nowhere else did this family exist at that time. It then spread further in Poland and in Bohemia, multiplied in Sedlec and from there moved on to other places. Later it also went abroad, to countries other than Poland.

Bartoloměj's nephew and Jakub Prusík's son, Martin Prusík, who remained on the holding in Sedlec, was born in the middle of the Thirty Years' War, in 1633. Hard times came to this village as they did everywhere, and four farms were burned here at that time. But our family holding, the original cradle of the family, fell victim neither to fire nor to the destructive forces of war.

Martin Prusík took over the farm after the death of his mother Anna, who died at the beginning of 1673. The handover took place on 23 February 1673 at Plasy. Martin took as his wife Ludmila Burdová from Potvorov, who was born there in 1656. Martin lived through not only the turbulent times of the Thirty Years' War but also the peasant revolt in the Kralovice area in 1680. Only three of his children reached adulthood, a daughter and two sons. Kateřina was born in 1664, so that Jakub and Anna were still able to enjoy their grandchild for several years. She later married Bernard Kymel (Koukl) in nearby Bílov. She died there on 2 June 1744, at the age of 80. Martin and Ludmila's sons were born only after the death of their grandfather Jakub and grandmother Anna. The elder was Václav, born in 1678, and the younger was Martin, named after his father, born in 1680. Martin Prusík lived in retirement on the farm for 10 years. His wife preceded him to the grave by two years; she died on 7 January 1721. Martin died at the patriarchal age of 90, on 13 August 1723.

Martin's eldest son, Václav Prusík, was destined for an occupation other than farming. He was born in 1678 and, at the age of 22, went to Plasy, where he later became an innkeeper. In 1713 he became the first Prusík to marry a German woman, Sabina Kirchgangová, the daughter of the monastery blacksmith. Many of his later descendants distinguished themselves in various ways and became the founders of several branches of the family. Václav Prusík died in Nebřežiny near Plasy on 28 November 1728.

The younger son, Martin Prusík, was born in Sedlec in 1680. On 17 October 1702 he married Anna Slachová from Bílov, who was eight years older than he. On 14 March 1713 he took over the holding. When his wife died on 27 April 1722, he married a second time, on 4 August of the same year, taking the daughter of the Sedlec blacksmith, Anna Janečková. The children of his who reached adulthood were all from his first marriage; those born of the second marriage died early. Martin had three daughters and one son. Anna was born on 3 April 1704 and later married into the Masopust family in the nearby village of Bukovina. Another daughter, Eva, was born on 7 March 1718 and married into the Hrdík family in Potvorov. The third, Veronika, born in 1720, married among her mother's relatives, into the Slach family in Bílov. Martin Prusík was the village reeve. He had several other sons, Vít, Kašpar and Matěj, but the boys died young. Only Adam survived. Martin Prusík died in Sedlec in 1737, towards the end of the harvest, on 19 August. He thus fell far short of his father's age. Like his forebears, he was buried in the little churchyard of the ancient Romanesque church of St Nicholas in Potvorov.

Adam Prusík, Martin's only son, was born in Sedlec on 14 February 1715. This was in the reign of Emperor Charles VI, the father of Empress Maria Theresa. He took over the family holding only 10 years after his father's death, on 21 March 1747. Adam farmed his native holding for only 12 years. He took as his wife Barbora Benešová, who was born in the same year as he, in Trojany. Trojany was then still a young village, recently founded by the Plasy abbot Ondřej Trojer. Adam and Barbora had many children together, but few of them grew up, as was usual in those days. Klára was born to them on 29 July 1747 and was later married into the Valenta family in Výrov. Almost 200 years later another woman of the Prusík family married there, namely Veronika, born in 1861 in Výrov near Kralovice. The second, Kateřina, was born on 1 October 1753 and later lived in Bílov under her married name, Bušková. Barbora was born on 6 May 1756 and while still young married into the Janeček family in Hodyně. Years later Matěj Prusík from Výrov settled in the house where she had lived. Adam had two sons. Martin Prusík was the younger, but he

did not stay at home.

Martin Prusík was born on 9 January 1745 and was trained as a mason. Because he had an uncle in Plasy, Václav Prusík the innkeeper, he succeeded in establishing a good livelihood for himself in the seat of the famous monastery. He became a prominent builder and a respected "pantáta", a paterfamilias, of Plasy. His wife was Kateřina Kaplánková from Radnice, and he had three sons and two daughters with her. All three sons became the founders of family branches, one of which has by now died out completely. The builder Martin Prusík died at Plasy on 30 October 1822.

The second son was Blažej Prusík, who stayed on the holding. His father Adam died younger than any other of our ancestors. He was only 44 when he took leave of life on 20 February 1759. His wife Barbora then married, in 1762, Josef Babor, who acquired the nickname "Prusík" and was even entered under it in the land registers. Barbora outlived her first husband Adam by 37 years; she died on 14 June 1796. Blažej was born in Sedlec on 1 February 1742. When he was 34, the family holding was handed over to him. This happened towards the end of the reign of Empress Maria Theresa, on 12 March 1776. Blažej found his bride in the Sinkul family at Babina near Plasy. His Kateřina was born there in 1743. Like his father Adam, Blažej was the reeve in Sedlec. He farmed the same acreage as his forebears, and the Prusík holding was still the largest in the village. Blažej and Kateřina had a number of children, but most of them died: Jan and Jiří, Anna and Kateřina. Only their daughter Barbora reached adulthood. She was born on 27 March 1769 and married into the Kouba family in Bílov. Then two sons were born to them. These two later founded the two strongest branches of the family. The eldest son was Vojtěch, the second Václav. The reeve Blažej Prusík farmed until 6 July 1808, when he handed the holding over to his son Václav. His brother Vojtěch married into Výrov. The brothers saw a great deal of each other, and so at that time there was the closest of friendships between Výrov and Sedlec. Blažej lived on in retirement on the farm for more than 15 years and outlived his wife Kateřina by 11 years. Kateřina died on 21 August 1812, and Blažej went to his eternal rest on 27 March 1823. He died, as the parish register records, of convulsions, but he reached what was for those times the fine age of 81.

The penultimate holder of the holding in Sedlec was Blažej's younger son, Václav Prusík. He was born on 19 September 1786, in the reign of Emperor Joseph II. He married young, on 8 October 1803, taking Rosálie Fenclová from Výrov, on the same day as his brother Vojtěch married Rosálie's elder sister, Anna. When he married he was a little over 17, and his bride was younger still. She was born in 1788, so she was only 15. Both bride and groom needed their parents' permission to marry. When Václav was 22, the holding was handed over to him. This took place on 6 July 1808. Václav was the reeve in Sedlec and became the founder of the family branch known as "Sedlec". The marriage produced six children who reached adulthood or at least lived to the age of 10. His little son Jan died at the age of seven. Václav Prusík died on 7 February 1845, and his wife Rosálie long outlived him, for she ended her life's journey only on 26 December 1871. Václav's eldest son was Vojtěch Prusík. He was born on 30 March 1810, but his youngest brother František was chosen to succeed to the holding. Vojtěch therefore sought to settle elsewhere. He married Barbora Kozová of Potvorov No. 19, who had been born there in 1812. He lived there for several years until, with the help of his own parents and his wife's, he finally managed to buy a fine farm in Chrašťovice, at the place known as "U Šliků". Vojtěch Prusík is the founder of the "Chrašťovice" sub-branch of the Sedlec branch. His wife Barbora died in Chrašťovice, at No. 18, shortly before Christmas, on 18 December 1876, and six years after her Vojtěch died on his homestead, on 27 January 1882.

Václav's second son was Tomáš Prusík. He was born on 1 December 1822. He found his life's companion in Potvorov. Her name was Rosálie Šimandlová, and she was born there on 20 May 1829. For some time they lived together in Potvorov; later they found their home in Šípy near Čistá. There they bought homestead No. 5. Tomáš is the founder of the sub-branch of the Sedlec branch known as "Šípy". Tomáš died at the age of 40, on 14 June 1862, in Šípy, and his wife, who had remarried, to Vojtěch Loos, died on 21 October 1884.

The third son was František Prusík. He was born in Sedlec on 6 July 1825. He married Barbora Fromková from Chrašťovice, who was born there on 17 June 1827. When the family holding was being handed over to him on 15 July 1845, he surely had no idea that he would be the last Prusík farmer on the ancestral seat of his family. On 8 December 1845 a little daughter, Marie, was born to them, but she was also their first and last child. The young couple's happiness did not last long, for František Prusík died of pneumonia at the young age of 21, on 14 June 1846. František is the founder of the "Sedlec" sub-branch of the Sedlec branch.

František Prusík's orphaned daughter Marie went on living with her mother on the farm, and half of the holding was entered in her name in the registers. She was to have two stepfathers. Her mother, the young widow Barbora Prusíková, married a second time three years later, in 1849, taking František Pittner, and in 1857 a third time, taking Antonín Urban, whose family then lived on the "U Prusíků" holding for almost 100 years. In 1952 the last Urban was banished to the border region as a "kulak". Barbora Urbanová died of tuberculosis in Kralovice on 9 August 1898.

Marie Prusíková is the last member of the family bearing this name on the holding in Sedlec. On 22 April 1867 she married Vojtěch Čech and went to live in Chrašťovice. On that occasion she was paid out 3,000 gulden, and our name was struck from the registers of the village of Sedlec, where it had stood for so many centuries. Nowhere else have the Prusíks remained in one house as long as in Sedlec. Our name was on this holding, demonstrably, for 352 years. In all probability, however, Prusíks lived here much longer.

Besides the three sons of whom we have told, Václav Prusík had three daughters as well. Kateřina was born on 5 October 1812 and married František Koukl in Bílov No. 8, where two women of our family had already married before her. Kateřina died in Bílov on 18 May 1871 and is the founder of the "Bílov" sub-branch of the Sedlec branch.

The second daughter, Barbora, was born on 28 September 1816 and on 17 November 1840 married Vojtěch Levý of Sedlec No. 11. The marriage remained childless. So that the house should not pass into strangers' hands, she took in her nephew Martin Koukl from Bílov as a foster son. He later took over the Levý holding. Barbora died in Sedlec on 11 November 1887.

The third daughter was Marie, who was born in 1836 and died a year after her father Václav, in the same year as the last farmer on the holding, her brother František, in 1846. The year 1846 was thus a fateful one for our family.

The village of Sedlec and holding No. 4 are the cornerstone of our family. The village chronicle does not reach back to the old days, but even so it has been possible to record a great deal about our ancestors, and as much as possible about the history of the village, so as to preserve the most vivid memorial of that ancient cradle of ours and of the little village in which our ancestors lived. From now on we shall tell only of those who moved away from here and of those who were born elsewhere, many of whom had, or still have, no idea of this village. Yet this little village in West Bohemia is the most important place for our whole family.

## 1.3 The Prusíks Born in Sedlec

## 1.4 Plasy and Our Family

Plasy lies in the charming valley of the little river Střela. In 1144 Duke Vladislaus II summoned nine monks of the Cistercian order here from Langheim Abbey in Bavaria and gave them the Plasy manor, inherited from his father, with all its appurtenances. Over the centuries both the monastery and the village prospered, so that before the Hussite era the Plasy monastery was among the largest in Bohemia. At the beginning of the 18th century it held extensive property throughout the region. The monastery employed a great number of craftsmen and artists. For builders, masons, joiners, woodcarvers, painters and sculptors in particular, life there was a bed of roses.



Figure 1.6: Kaceřov Chateau, former seat of the Gryspeks of Gryspach Seats of the lords to whom our ancestors were subject



Figure 1.7: Plasy, seat of the famous monastery and of Prince Metternich

Before 1700 only a single Prusík left Sedlice, namely Bartoloměj, for Dřevec. He, however, left that little village as early as 1627 and fled abroad. Until the end of the 17th century, as the Register of Subjects by Faith compiled after the Thirty Years' War shows, people bearing our name lived only in Sedlec. And then, around 1700 or shortly after, the first Prusík appears elsewhere. In Plasy. It was Václav Prusík, born in Sedlec in 1678.

After some time Václav Prusík acquired an innkeeping business, and on 1 October 1713 he married Sabina Kirchgangová. Her father was a German, Šimon Kirchgang, the blacksmith at the monastery. Sabina was born, like her husband, in 1678. This Václav Prusík was the first member of our family to take a German wife. From 1713, therefore, German elements also entered our family, which had originally been entirely Slavic. Václav died on 28 November 1728 in nearby Nebřežiny, so he was only 50 years old. His wife Sabina outlived him by 24 years and died at Plasy in 1752.

Václav had two sons and also daughters, but of them all only one son survived, Eugenius Prusík. He was named after the then famous abbot of the monastery, Eugenius Tittl, who completed the magnificent convent building. Eugenius was born on 18 February 1714. He took as his wife a Czech woman, Markéta Beránková, born at Plasy in 1720. Eugenius Prusík was a very skilful painter and also a good builder. In 1780 he rebuilt the church of St Lawrence in Kožlany. He had several children. His daughter Luitgarda and his son Evžen died young; his daughter Anna lived to the age of 14. Only his son Adam grew to adulthood. Eugenius Prusík died at Plasy soon after the dissolution of the monastery by Emperor Joseph II, on 7 December 1786. He had witnessed the monastery's greatest flowering. His wife Markéta outlived him and died at Plasy at the age of 78, on 26 October 1802.

Adam Prusík, Eugenius's only descendant, was born on 30 July 1765. When he was 20, the glory of the monastery came to an end, and so, as a trained mason, he could no longer offer his services to the monastery.



Figure 1.8: Mariánská Týnice near Kralovice, which Eugenius Prusík of Plasy helped to build

On 25 May 1789 he married Rosalie Lohwasserová, the daughter of a German, a gamekeeper from Velká Černá Hať. The newly-weds settled in the nearby, small, romantically situated village of Stražiště above the little river Střela. Rosalie was born in 1764, but it is not known when and where she died. It was not in Stražiště; she ended her life somewhere with her children. As a master mason, Adam was very active in the neighbouring villages, and traces of his building work can still be seen in the surroundings today. In Chrašťovice there stands a former granary, now a dwelling house, with his name and a date carved above the door. Adam Prusík also used to keep a small inn in Stražiště. He died there on 2 September 1835.

Adam Prusík, settled in Stražiště, had four sons who reached adulthood. The eldest of them was Vojtěch Prusík. He was born on 22 April 1790 and was also a master mason. With his wife Anna Sieberová from nearby Kalec, a German woman, he had a number of children. Vojtěch died of marasmus on 24 July 1867. He is the founder of the branch known as "Stražiště", and we shall tell of him at length, and of all his descendants, later.

Adam's second son was Josef Prusík. He trained in the brewing trade and later settled in Jihlava. He was born in Stražiště on 11 September 1792 and died, having lived longer than any of his brothers, on 12 June 1881. His wife was Anna, née Frühaufová, from Jihlava, then a German town. Josef founded the branch known as "Jihlava". Its members became completely Germanised, and we devote a separate chapter to them.

The third son was Jan Prusík. He was born in Stražiště on 11 November 1794 and, through the intercession of his grandfather Lohwasser, eventually became a forester. He lived in eastern Bohemia and in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, and there a poacher violently cut the thread of his life on 21 March 1859. It happened in the vast forests near Svratka. His wife was Anna, née Anderlová, from Košumberk. Jan is the founder of the branch known as "Kuchyně u Herálce". We shall describe his life and those of his descendants later.

Adam's fourth son was Václav Prusík. He was born in Stražiště on 24 February 1797. He too became a gamekeeper, but he died young and unmarried, on 28 January 1827, in his native village.

The son of the Sedlec farmer Adam Prusík, Martin Prusík, already had relatives in Plasy when he was born on 9 January 1745. For that time and that region, Plasy was then something like Prague or Vienna in later times, with their great opportunities for work. Martin was not put to farming but to masonry. He was a very clever boy and soon became a master mason at Plasy. He learned under his uncle Eugenius Prusík and worked not only there but in more distant regions as well.



Figure 1.9: The church of St Lawrence in Kožlany, rebuilt in 1770 by Eug. Prusík of Plasy



Figure 1.10: The church of St Clement in Chlumčany near Louny, built in 1776 by Martin Prusík of Plasy

He is known to have built a number of churches, but unfortunately documentary evidence survives only for the building of the church of St Clement in Chlumčany near Louny in 1771. When people were once trying to find out what Krašov Castle had really looked like in its full glory, a drawing of this once mighty castle signed by Martin Prusík of Plasy was found by chance. Other drawings of his have survived too, of the Hubenov manor farm and of Kaceřov Chateau.

When Martin's brother Blažej was taking over the family holding in Sedlec, Martin Prusík married. This was on 10 October 1776, and his bride, Kateřina Kaplánková, did not come from the immediate neighbourhood, where bridegrooms of that time usually sought their wives, but from as far away as Radnice. This too shows that Martin, as a builder, travelled widely in Bohemia, and that, especially in his younger years, Plasy was far from being his only place of work. Kateřina was born in 1748, and the couple had their children relatively late. The eldest was their daughter Alžběta, who was born in 1780 and married Kabát, the estate blacksmith at Plasy. Their next daughter, Barbora, was born in 1792 and died unmarried at Plasy on 15 August 1865. The register of deaths records that she was a beggar. Strange are the fates of men! Her parents were respected citizens of Plasy, and their daughter dies alone and in want! Martin Prusík had a number of other children who died young, but also three sons who reached adulthood. He himself died on 30 October 1822, at the age of 82. His wife Kateřina died on 20 July 1835.

The eldest of Martin's sons to reach adulthood was Josef Prusík; he was born in 1781 but died young and unmarried.

The next son was František Prusík, who was born at Plasy on 22 August 1789. He learned the mason's trade from his father and later settled in Nebřežiny. His wife was Josefa Gütterová of Nebřežiny. There two children were born to them, but soon they all moved to Červená Řečice near Pelhřimov, where František had obtained a good position as master mason at the archbishop's chateau. František also died in Červená Řečice, on 28 August 1838. The branch descended from him, today completely extinct, is called "Červená Řečice". We shall yet describe its fortunes.

The third son was again a Josef Prusík. He was born on 20 March 1796 and did not want to become a mason like his father. Early on he married Jana Říhová, a shoemaker's daughter, and moved to her home in Nebřežiny; there he also learned that trade, and there he remained until his death. They had ten children together, and we shall tell of them. Josef died at the age of 79 on 9 January 1875 in Nebřežiny near Plasy. He is the founder of the branch known as "Nebřežiny".

The last son was Antonín Prusík. He was born at Plasy on 21 January 1799. He too became a mason, like his father Martin, but then spent a long time in the army. His wife was Josefa Dürschmiedová, the daughter of the first Czech teacher in Plasy. He is the founder of the branch known as "Plasy". We shall mention all his descendants in later chapters.

The first members of the family who came from Sedlec to Plasy, Václav at the beginning of the 18th century and then Martin in the second half of the 18th century, became through their descendants the builders of further branches of the family. That is why, next to Sedlec, Plasy is an important historical place for us.

## 1.5 From Sedlec to Výrov

Not counting Bartoloměj, who left home as early as the first half of the 17th century and settled for a short time in Dřevec, the third Prusík to leave home was Vojtěch, the first son of the reeve Blažej Prusík. His younger brother Václav remained on the holding in Sedlec. Vojtěch Prusík was born on 31 March 1777, under Maria Theresa. The two brothers came to know their future wives, sisters from Výrov No. 18. They celebrated their weddings together on 8 October 1803. This was in the days of Napoleon's glory. Vojtěch Prusík, who became the reeve in Výrov near Kralovice, is the builder of our strongest family branch, the one known as "Výrov". We shall tell of it at length.

## 1.6 The Family Branches

In the preceding chapters on Sedlec and Plasy we have already briefly described the lives of the founders of eight family branches. The ninth branch, the "Polish" one, forms an entirely separate chapter, for it comprises a great number of descendants of the Czech exile Bartoloměj Prusík of the post-White Mountain era. These people today live not only in Poland but also far away overseas. And it seems that in Poland it is not merely a branch of the family!

To give a complete picture of the family as it appears today, after so many centuries, we record for everlasting memory all their descendants, provided they lived to at least ten years of age. So we are concerned not only with the "sword" side but also with the "distaff" side. The founders of our family branches were born in the turbulent times of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. All eight Prusík founders were born in the years 1777 – 1799. It may at times seem tiresome to read through all the names and lives of several thousand descendants, but without this the profile of our family would not be complete. Among the descendants in the female line, and so not only in the male line, there are many notable people, often with colourful lives, who no longer bear the name Prusík but nonetheless have our blood. To date they bear over 670 other surnames.

**The Founders**

## 1.7 A Few Characteristics

The area in which our ancestors lived had belonged since time immemorial to the Rakovník Region. The Register of Subjects by Faith, completed in April 1651, also belongs to this region, although, as subjects of an estate, our ancestors belonged to Plasy and later to other lords as well. And these lords did not always reside in the Rakovník Region. Only on 21 August 1788, not long before the death of Empress Maria Theresa, was the whole Plasy area incorporated into the Plzeň Region. From that day all cadastral entries and tax obligations have been kept in this region, to which Sedlec, ethnographically, had surely always belonged more closely. When we speak of the obligations of the subjects, we cannot fail to be struck by the fact that in the time of the Gryspeks, in the 16th century, there was practically no corvée, and the lords were in fact paid only either in kind or in money. Even in much later centuries, rent for the farmers took the form of various kinds of tax obligations. Life was at times relatively easy, and at other times very cruel.

By the 18th and 19th centuries corvée had become a thoroughly familiar notion. A farmer owed corvée with a team, namely three days a week all year round with two head of draught animals; but since he never gave a whole day, he also had to send three days of manual corvée. When there were two holy days in a week, corvée was only two days. At Christmas and at Easter there was a week without corvée. At harvest the person doing corvée received a small loaf of bread and a meal twice a day. For the whole harvest the subjects of a village then received a whole brewing of beer, eighteen four-vědro barrels. Cottagers did manual corvée for three days, some of them only two.

Grain for sale used to be carted from all over the Plasy area to Mantina, as Manětín was called, and sometimes also to Mlác, as Mladotice was called. There the innkeeper bought the grain. Sometimes the carters themselves also came for the grain. The carters seldom went to Bílov, because they complained that there was often "brome" in the grain. In Sedlice the grain was usually of good quality.

In the smaller villages there were not always many craftsmen in olden times. Thus in Sedlec there was a blacksmith, but a tailor only in nearby Žebnice; there were tavern keepers in Plasy, Mladotice, Dřevec, Hrádecko or Kralovice, shoemakers likewise elsewhere, a shingle maker in Kopidlo, a stonemason in Potvorov, a weaver in Černíkovice and at Hadačka, and a master shepherd only in Plasy, Sechutice and Kralovice. Millers, however, there were in plenty.

In the reign of Emperor Rudolf II, around 1600, the Prusíks lived in only one place, in Sedlec. So it was in Bohemia after the Thirty Years' War too, except that by then one member of the family was already living in Poland. In the time of the Turkish wars, after 1700, the Prusíks in Bohemia were already living in two places, Sedlec and Plasy. In Napoleon's time, around 1800, they were living in Stražiště as well. After the revolutionary year of 1848, members of our family were to be found in thirteen places in Bohemia. And in 1968, as we write this history of our family, its members live in at least four hundred different places in our homeland and around the world.

It is claimed nowadays that people live longer than in the past. It is true that child mortality was once enormous. In families with ten to fifteen children, often only two grew up. It is true that many deadly diseases, such as smallpox and diphtheria, have been eradicated, as has the death rate of women in childbirth. But when we look at the ages of our distant ancestors, all of this appears in a somewhat different light. There were wars, hard times, corvée, but on the whole life had a slower and calmer pace; there was less noise, less risk and less of all the bad things that the new age and civilisation have in turn brought us. This different character of our ancestors' lives probably also contributed to the fact that the average age of the eighteen Prusíks born in Sedlec from 1515 to 1825 is 65 years.

It is remarkable how numerous some of the later family branches are and how small others, and also how the nationality of their members has changed. It is true that in all the branches there are members recorded who lived, or live today, abroad. Many of them, however, lost their nationality only by emigrating overseas, to Vienna and elsewhere, but some did so in Bohemia itself.

Our strongest family branch is the one known as "Výrov". The search for its descendants and members was difficult, but the most successful. Its size can also be explained by the fact that its founder, Vojtěch Prusík, had eight children, of whom only his son Blažej was a priest. The other three sons and four daughters had numerous descendants. This is not the case in the other branches.

The "Sedlec" branch is fairly strong compared with the others, but it is still two-thirds smaller than the Výrov branch. Its founder, Václav Prusík, Vojtěch's brother, had six children who lived to at least ten years of age, but his daughter Barbora, married name Levá, remained childless, another, Marie, died as a girl of ten, and only Kateřina, married name Kouklová, had numerous descendants. His son František died at 21 and had only one little daughter, Tomáš lived only to forty, and only Vojtěch had more numerous descendants.

The "Červená Řečice" branch, whose founder was František Prusík, is the weakest of all, and today this branch has withered away completely.

In the "Nebřežiny" branch, whose founder was Josef Prusík, there is a gap among the descendants of his daughter Josefa, married name Křížová, in Nebřežiny. It is a branch of average strength.

The "Plasy" branch was founded by Antonín Prusík, and it is a small branch.

A fairly large number of descendants of the "Stražiště" branch have become Germanised or have otherwise lost their Czech nationality. Its founder is Vojtěch Prusík.

The branch known as "Jihlava", whose founder was Josef Prusík, is completely Germanised. It was once not the smallest, but today very few of its members are still living, and those only in Austria and Germany.

The branch known as "Kuchyně u Herálce", where its founder Jan Prusík worked at the forester's lodge and died, is of average strength. Some of its members, too, have lost their Czech nationality.

It may perhaps happen in years to come that another of our branches will die out, but its extinction will certainly not mean the disappearance of our family. After all, there are hundreds of us living in the male line, and in the female line there are thousands. We shall now describe in detail the fortunes of all the family branches. We shall begin in 1805, when the first child was born in Výrov




Figure 1.11: Farm No. 18 in Výrov, "U Boudů", into which Vojtěch Prusík from Sedlice married in 1803, and where he founded an extensive branch of the family. Photograph from 1908

to Vojtěch Prusík, the eldest of the branch founders, and continue to our own times, to 1968, when we are writing this history of our family.



Figure 1.12: View of Výrov after the fire of 1911

# Chapter 2

# The Výrov Branch

## 2.1 The Founder, Vojtěch Prusík, 1777 – 1841

The village of Výrov lies west of the town of Kralovice and, at the time we are writing this history of the family, has about 500 inhabitants. Sedlec, from which our whole family originally sprang, may have only about 130 inhabitants today, but it is much older. It came into being in the 12th century, whereas the village of Výrov was founded in 1300, by the monastery at Plasy, out of part of the Sechutice manor. This manor, however, has a much older history, for it is mentioned as early as 1144, when Duke Vladislaus II founded the monastery at Plasy. There were two Sechutices, Horní and Dolní, that is, Upper and Lower. It was thus on the lands of Dolní Sechutice, where the manor stood, that the village of Výrov was later founded.

In the middle of the village stands farm No. 18, which since time immemorial has been called "U Boudů". In the year of Our Lord 1610, on the Monday after St Bartholomew's Day, as the record of the Veyrov reeve's office has it, "a whole and perfect contract and a voluntary sale was concluded between the well-born lord Václav Kohout of Lichtenfeld, official of the Kaceřov estate, on the one part, and Pavel Bouda, reeve in the village of Veyrov, subject of His Grace the lord, on the other part, and to this effect: His Grace the lord was pleased to bestow upon the same lord Václav Kohout a holding called k ř í ž o v s k ý in the same village. This holding the same lord Václav Kohout has sold to him, Pavel Bouda, for fifteen kopy of Meissen groschen".

Anna Fenclová, who was born on this holding on 30 January 1785, was a descendant by blood of this first owner, Pavel Bouda. It was she whom Vojtěch Prusík, the founder of the "Výrov" branch, took as his wife on 8 October 1803. That his brother, too, married Anna's sister Rosálie on the same day, at the young age of 17, and settled in Sedlec as an independent farmer is explained by the grave times. The Napoleonic Wars were in full swing, and independent farmers were usually spared military service.

The "U Boudů" farm in Výrov, by virtue of its position and the acreage of its fields and meadows, was one of the more important farms in the village, and it was from it that the reeves used to be appointed and, later, the mayors of the village elected. In front of the entrance stood mighty, spreading poplars, whose tops, although the trees stood in a valley, could be seen from as far away as St John's or from the footpath from Kralovice. The farm probably came into being as soon as the village was founded. It had about 35 hectares. When Vojtěch Prusík married into Výrov, he became reeve, as was the custom. He held the office for some 35 years. Beer from the estate brewery at Plasy was tapped at the reeve's house, and by this arrangement the lords secured a market for it. The reeve Vojtěch Prusík was well liked in the village, and although he came to Výrov in the days of corvée, there was no discord between him and the villagers. The holding also owed compulsory corvée with a two-horse team for 156 days and manual corvée for 26 days. There

were, of course, further compulsory payments: the lord's levies, the tithe to the parish priest of Kralovice, to whose parish the village belonged, and other obligations. Out beyond the barns, towards Kopidlo, there still stands today an iron cross, which Vojtěch Prusík erected in 1831.

As reeve, Vojtěch used to ride on horseback to Plasy almost every Saturday to receive instructions from the estate director. There he met the other reeves from the surrounding villages, and in this way he made many acquaintances and, by all accounts, was well liked everywhere. He was a big, strong man, and very devout. He, like all our ancestors from 1650 onwards, and all who came after him in turn, was a Catholic. Only until the Counter-Reformation were our ancestors of another faith. In the Kralovice area the only Catholic parish was at Žebnice, and all the others were held by Lutheran pastors. In Kralovice, Potvorov and Všesulov, too, communion was given "in both kinds". Since Sedlec belonged to the parish of Potvorov, our ancestors at that time were not Catholics either, beginning with our first known ancestor, Vojtěch Prusík.

When Vojtěch married into Výrov, his father-in-law, Matěj Fencl, was still alive, and so was Matěj's wife Kateřina. Matěj was born in 1746 and died in retirement on the holding on 3 February 1820. Kateřina was née Hubková, from Kočín, where she was born in 1753. She lived to the venerable age of 98 and was a very sprightly old woman to the very last. She especially loved her grandson Václav Prusík, who took over the holding from his father, and it was in his arms, too, that she fell into her eternal sleep, on 3 March 1851. That very morning she had still been baking bread.

Vojtěch and Anna had eight children together. The eldest of them all was Anna. She was born on 4 January 1805. At the reeves' meetings in Plasy her father made the acquaintance of a young widower, the reeve Jakub Štěpánek of Horní Bříza, where his homestead was known as "U Kubíků". When Anna was 17, she married Štěpánek, on 10 September 1822. She lived there to the age of 78 and died on 11 March 1883. She is the founder of the sub-branch that we shall call "Horní Bříza I".

The second child was Rosalie. She was born on 3 September 1807. Probably through the influence of her sister, already settled in Horní Bříza, she too married there. On 6 June 1826 she married the farmer Vojtěch Karez of No. 3. She died there at the young age of 44, on the day of the parish fair, 9 May 1851. She is the founder of the sub-branch known as "Horní Bříza II".

The next daughter was Marie. Her fate was a sad one. She was born on 20 May 1815 and, at the age of 18, on 26 November 1833, married a farmer from Výrov No. 6, Josef Štefl. Her descendants still live on this homestead today. Marie Šteflová died shortly after the birth of her third child, on 27 December 1844. She was only 29. She founded the sub-branch known as "Výrov I".

The fourth and last daughter of Vojtěch and Anna was Veronika. She was their youngest child. She was born on 20 January 1826 and married into Kostelec nad Mží, a small village lying beyond the river Mže. On 20 January 1846 she married the farmer Jan Hořejš, and after early widowhood in 1854 she married Jan Folk. She died young, on 7 November 1865. She is the founder of the sub-branch known as "Kostelec nad Mží".

The eldest son was Blažej Prusík. He was born on 1 February 1810 and at his baptism in Kralovice was given the name of his grandfather Blažej, who was by then living in retirement on the farm in Sedlec. Blažej Prusík occupies a special chapter in the history of our family. He became a priest and a true benefactor of the family. We shall tell of his life in detail later. He died in Prague on 22 August 1888.

The next son was Tomáš. He was born on 19 November 1812 and on 24 February 1835 married into Horní Bříza, where his two sisters were already living. His wife was Kateřina Beránková from holding No. 26, known as the Fakanovský holding. Tomáš Prusík died there on 19 April 1897 and is the founder of the sub-branch known as "Horní Bříza III".

The third son was Matěj, born on 22 February 1818. He took Anna Fakanová as his wife and settled on holding No. 17 in Hodyně, known as the Lajbovský holding. He died there on 17 October 1900 and is the founder of the sub-branch known as "Hodyně".



Figure 2.1: Tomáš Prusík with his son Tomáš, a priest. He was born in Výrov in 1812 and married into Horní Bříza in 1835. Founder of a sub-branch; 1812 – 1897

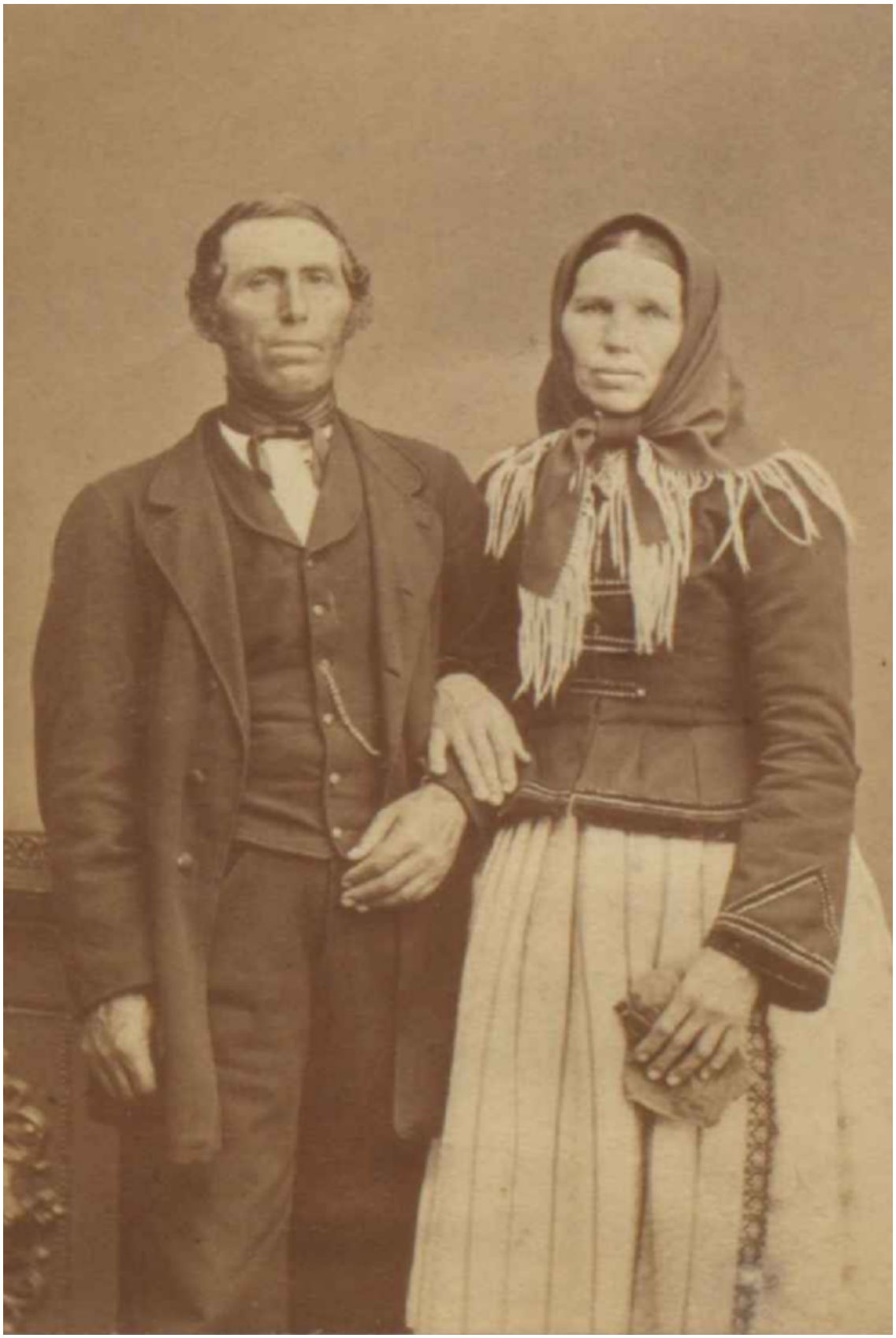


Figure 2.2: Václav Prusík with his wife Josefa, née Kotasová, from Kozojedy. He was born in Výrov in 1822, took over the holding there and became the founder of a strong sub-branch. 1822 – 1892



Figure 2.3: Matěj Prusík, born in Výrov in 1818, married into Hodyně in 1843, where he founded a sub-branch of the family. 1818 – 1900



Figure 2.4: Farm No. 26 in Horní Bříza, into which Tomáš Prusík from Výrov married in 1835

The fourth son, and the youngest, was Václav. He was born on 7 September 1822 and later became the heir to the "U Boudů" holding. His wife was Josefa Kotasová from Kozojedy. Their wedding was on 30 January 1843. Václav Prusík died in Výrov on 11 February 1892. He is the founder of the sub-branch known as "Výrov II".

The reeve Vojtěch Prusík did not live to a great age. He died of consumption (tuberculosis) on 14 March 1841. He was 64. His wife Anna outlived him by 18 years, and his mother-in-law by 10. Anna died on 6 January 1859. She lived contentedly in retirement on the farm with her youngest son Václav until her death.

The village of Výrov, together with Sedlec, Plasy and Stražiště, thus became a further point of departure for a numerous branch of the family, and that is why it matters so much to us. We shall now acquaint you with all the descendants and members of this branch, and with their fortunes, down to the present day.

## 2.2 The Horní Bříza I Sub-branch of the Výrov Branch

The descendants of Anna Prusíková from Výrov, married name Štěpánková.

1805 – 1883

The first child of Vojtěch Prusík and Anna, née Fenclová, of Výrov was Anna. As we have already mentioned, she was born at the height of Napoleon's glory, on 4 January 1805, in Výrov. Her father found her a bridegroom in the reeve Jakub Štěpánek of Horní Bříza No. 8, a house that had been called "U Kubíků" since time immemorial. After the Battle of White Mountain, the property of the lord of Manětín, Kryštof Karel of Roupov, who had died in the very midst of the Estates' upheavals, was confiscated. It was bought by Estera Mitrovská, née Lažanská, a fervent Catholic. Her husband, Jiří Mitrovský of Nemyšl, a strict Catholic lord, marched into Manětín at once with an armed force to carry out the Counter-Reformation. The Utraquist priest was removed from Manětín, and the Jesuit Jan Nerovius was summoned in his place. The Utraquists of Manětín put up a stubborn resistance in their devastated town. They gathered at the town hall



Figure 2.5: The Prusík farm in Hodyně, seat of one sub-branch of the family since 1843

and bound themselves by oath not to forsake the faith of the Chalice, but under a stern threat from Mitrovský eight members of the council pledged in writing to become Catholics. The others, however, persuaded by the councillor Štěpánek, who was the miller at the Růžkovský mill, refused to convert.

This Štěpánek is an ancestor of the Jakub Štěpánek whom Anna Prusíková from Výrov took as her husband in the 19th century. His forebear, as the chief rebel, was summoned to the chateau, where he was to be put in irons. From there he leapt out of an open window, meaning to escape. But he was injured and caught, and sent to Plzeň in chains. When the townspeople of Manětín learned of this, they took up arms and besieged the chateau. Troops hastily summoned from Plzeň, however, soon put down the revolt. It was in the homestead of this rebel's descendant, then, that Anna came to live. She married into it on 10 September 1822. Her husband Jakub was born in 1797, held the holding until 1849 and died in Horní Bříza on 10 July 1869. The reeve's office used to be on their holding. Anna died on 11 March 1883.

Anna and Jakub had six children who reached adulthood. The first was Marie, who was born on 24 June 1824. In 1843 she married the farmer Václav Dobrý and went to live at No. 2 in Lhotka near Všeruby, in the Plzeň area. She died there on 20 October 1903. The next was Antonín Štěpánek, born on 17 November 1831, who died on 23 March 1841. The third child, Josef, became heir to the holding in 1849. He was one of twins; his brother Vojtěch died early. He was born on 11 March 1828 and died on 9 January 1902. Their little daughter Anna was born on 16 September 1834 and died young, on 21 February 1845. The fifth child to reach adulthood was Barbora. She was born on 3 February 1838, married Vojtěch Kabát in nearby Žilov and died there on 18 January 1910. The last, Antonín, the second boy of that name, was born on 28 November 1844. He remained a bachelor all his life and died in his native village on 20 January 1916.

Marie Dobrá, née Štěpánková, who settled in Lhotka, was, according to those who remembered her, an uncommonly brave woman. She was not only a good farmer's wife but was not afraid to



Figure 2.6: Kostelec nad Mží, into which Veronika Prusíková from Výrov married in 1846



Figure 2.7: The Koukl (Kyml) farm in Bílov, into which Kateřina Prusíková from Sedlec was married, founder of a sub-branch of the Sedlec branch

seize a gun at night and drive off robbers with her shots. She had three children who reached adulthood. There was Matěj, born on 18 December 1855. He died unmarried, not yet twenty, on 10 April 1875. He had been destined to be heir to the holding. The next, Marie, was born on 24 August 1848 and, again in Lhotka, married Jan Dobrý; she died there on 21 April 1893. The second son, Václav, was born on 1 October 1860 and was sent to study in Plzeň. But when his elder brother Matěj died so young, he returned home and took over the holding; he died at his daughter's in Příšov on 19 August 1944.

Marie Dobrá, married to Jan Dobrý at No. 3 in Lhotka, had five children. She was a good mother and housewife, but her life ended early. She died after a miscarriage, at the age of 45. Her eldest son was Matěj, born on 31 October 1873, who died in Plzeň on 13 August 1949. Matěj studied medicine and, when interest in medical care for children was beginning to grow in our country in his day, he settled in Plzeň with this specialisation, and he is regarded as the first specialist children's doctor in West Bohemia. He had a large practice drawn from every walk of life, including the former nobility. The doctor Matěj Dobrý had four daughters. The eldest, Sylva, born on 7 February 1903, first had the married name Fryčková. Her second husband was Dr Jiří Havelka, a minister in Hácha's government under the Protectorate, in the hardest times of our republic. Her husband was a great patriot and was arrested by the Germans, together with the Prime Minister, General Eliáš, during the Heydrich terror. He did live to see the liberation, and Sylva with him, but they had to endure great injustices. They had to move out of Prague to Hostomice pod Brdy. Of their marriage a son, Jan, was born on 23 March 1943.

Matěj's second daughter is Zdeňka, married name Šperlová, of Plzeň, Škrétova 23. She was born on 7 February 1908. She has two daughters: Zdeňka, a doctor, married name Klapálková, born on 15 September 1931, and Helena, born on 10 February 1944.

The third daughter is Milada, a commercial engineer, married to the doctor Dr Semotán, of Prague-Bohnice No. 138. She was born on 10 June 1914. She has no children.

The fourth is Květa, still unmarried, a clerk, living at Prague-Strašnice, Na Hroudě 8. She was born on 19 August 1919.

Marie Dobrá's next child was Anna. She was born on 11 November 1882 and likewise married a farmer named Dobrý, in Nevřeň. She died at the age of 81, on 11 March 1963, at her daughter's

in Radčice near Plzeň. Her son Václav Dobrý, born on 17 May 1903, later took over the farm at Nevřeň No. 11. He has a daughter, Jiřina, married name Jindráková, born on 5 November 1928. She has three little daughters: Jiřina, born on 25 May 1952, Milada, born on 9 January 1954, and Soňa, born on 2 August 1963. The second daughter is Zdeňka, married name Sedláčková, born on 28 June 1930, who lives on the state farm at Kunějovice near Všeruby. She has two boys, Vladimír, born on 8 June 1954, and Miroslav, born on 31 December 1956.

The brother of Václav of Nevřeň is Ladislav Dobrý, born on 19 July 1911. He lives in Stod near Plzeň, Na Jízdárně 429. He has a son, Václav, born on 15 December 1937, and a daughter, Anna, married name Černá, of Mariánské Lázně-Úšovice, Polní 484-5b. She was born on 14 October 1944 and has a little daughter, Kamila, born on 19 January 1967. The sister of Václav and Ladislav, Anna, is married to the teacher Randa. She was born on 1 March 1909 and lived in Radčice. She now lives in Plzeň-Doubravka, Družby 7. She has a daughter, Jaroslava, married name Bezděková, born on 31 August 1933, in Plzeň-Čechurov, Ke dráze 10. She has Pavel, born on 14 October 1956, and Jana, born on 27 September 1961. The son Ladislav Randa, born on 20 October 1935, in his turn already has a son, Ladislav, born on 18 May 1964. The sons Václav, born on 16 December 1943, and Bořek, born on 25 June 1946, are still unmarried.

After his mother Marie's untimely death in Lhotka, the holding was taken over by her son Václav. He was born on 18 October 1877 and died there on 4 February 1928. He had four children. His son Václav, born on 3 October 1905, took over the farm from him; today, like most farmers, he is a member of the collective farm (JZD). He lives at Lhotka No. 3. His daughter Jarmila, married name Pivoňková, born on 13 September 1933, has two children, Anna, born on 27 July 1957, and Luboš, born on 5 February 1959. Václav's other daughter is Anna, married name Kalousová, living in Plzeň-Slovany, Mládežnická 29. She has a little daughter, Jana, born on 14 May 1961. She herself was born in Lhotka on 18 March 1937. Václav's brother, Karel Dobrý, became a lawyer, but like many in the era of the personality cult and its various abuses he often had to change his place of work, taking posts out of keeping with his education. He was born on 19 February 1907. He lives in České Budějovice, Komenského 65. His son Karel is a doctor in Plzeň, Koperníkova 25, born on 25 October 1938. His daughter Jitka was born on 22 October 1945. Karel is at present working in Karlovy Vary. Marie Dobrá's son Josef was born on 17 January 1904. He was a clerk at the Agricultural Cooperative in Plzeň and died in Třemošná on 27 April 1957. He had a son, Josef, born on 29 August 1928, who lives in Plzeň, náměstí J. Krautvurma 33. He has two children: Eva, born on 16 October 1951, and Josef, born on 10 June 1958. The last was a daughter, Anna, born on 28 April 1908. Her husband was Calta, a gamekeeper in Horní Bříza. Her son Milan became a forester and lives at Špindlerův Mlýn No. 247, in the Krkonoše mountains. He was born on 9 July 1927. He has a little son, Mirek, born on 12 September 1953. Her daughter Zdeňka, married name Ondráčková, born on 25 August 1929, is married to an airman. She lives in Prague-Smíchov, K vodojemu 210-11. She has twins, Pavel and Luboš, born on 20 August 1955.

Marie Dobrá of Lhotka had another son, Emanuel. He was born on 14 January 1885 and worked in the railway workshops in Plzeň. He died relatively early, on 29 May 1940. He had three daughters, all of them teachers. Jiřina, married name Kacerovská, was born on 10 April 1914 and lives in Prague IV, Pankrác I, Milevská 1088. Zdeňka, unmarried, born on 28 December 1915, lives in Mariánské Lázně, Jiráskova 490, and Bohumila, also unmarried, born on 6 July 1917, lives in Plzeň, Božkovská 55. Emanuel Dobrý has left no grandchildren.

Marie Dobrá also had a daughter who was given her name. She was born on 15 July 1888 in Lhotka and even in her youth longed to become a nun. And indeed she entered the order of the Grey Sisters and was a most devoted nursing sister in hospital. When the Spanish flu was raging, she caught it and died on 21 September 1916. You will find her grave, under the name Marie Libora, at Vyšehrad, in the special section for the nuns of this order.

Václav Dobrý, born on 1 October 1860 at Lhotka No. 2, became the next holder of the holding. Because he had already tasted the pleasures of the town while studying in Plzeň, and had then had to return home after the early death of his brother Matěj, he never had much love for farming.

As those who remember him tell, what he liked best was hunting and company. His eldest child was Marie, born on 13 March 1884. She is married to the baker Henžlík in Kaznějov. He was a widower when she married him. She had two daughters with him. The elder, Helena, married name Reinvartová, of Kaznějov No. 90, was born on 8 April 1915. She has three children: Alena, who kept her own surname after her marriage. She was born on 19 June 1940. She has a little son, Miroslav, born on 10 November 1963. Petr Reinvart was born on 25 September 1949 and Pavel on 1 December 1950. Marie Henžlíková's second daughter is Zdeňka, married name Hanzová, of Kaznějov No. 304. She was born on 14 June 1920. She has four children. Jaroslav, born on 9 December 1940, already has a son, Radek, born on 12 September 1963. Zdeněk Hanza, born on 27 February 1943, has a son, Dušan, born on 10 February 1966. Jana, married name Linhartová, born on 9 November 1944, has a little son, Jiří, born on 10 December 1966; Irena Hanzová, born on 22 April 1949, is still unmarried. Alena Reinvartová also has a little daughter, Monika, born on 13 January 1968.

Marie's brother, Emanuel Dobrý, was born in Lhotka on 3 June 1886. At seventeen he fell ill with severe articular rheumatism and suffered for many years before his weakened body gave way. He died in his native village on 23 February 1927.

Václav Dobrý, born in Lhotka on 3 February 1889, became a teacher. He taught in the Roudnice area, in Bolevec near Plzeň and in Ledce. He now lives as a widower at Brníkov No. 108, post office Ředhošť near Libochovice. The teacher Václav Dobrý is perhaps the only one who knows the history of the Dobrý family well, and so the lives and fortunes of all the descendants of Marie Dobrá, née Štěpánková, from Horní Bříza. She was his grandmother. Of his two sons, Miloslav, born on 16 August 1922, ended his life unhappily on 8 November 1936: he poisoned himself. The second, Václav, was born on 16 August 1922. His daughter Jitka, born on 9 May 1952, lives with her grandfather in Brníkov. Now, under her married name Větrová, she lives in Plzeň, Máchova 15.

Jan Dobrý, born on 24 June 1891, was a teacher in Brozany in the Roudnice area, but soon died of typhoid fever, unmarried. He ended his life in his native village on 8 August 1913.

Another son of Václav Dobrý was Bohumil, born on 14 January 1894. He was one of twins, but his little sister Bohumila died early. He took over the family holding at Lhotka No. 2, but his marriage was childless. He died on 2 July 1962.

Oldřich Dobrý was born on 17 March 1897 at Lhotka No. 2. He was apprenticed in brewing at Nekmíř and then worked until his retirement as a malthouse worker at the Burghers' Brewery in Plzeň. He lives at Záluží No. 118 near Plzeň. He has two daughters. Zdeňka, born on 8 December 1926, married name Folková, lives in Senec near Zruč, in the Plzeň area. Her husband is a member of the Prusík family by blood. They have two children, Miloslav, born on 18 November 1949, and Jiří, born on 28 May 1951. Oldřich's other daughter, Helena, married name Kubíková, lives with her parents in Záluží. She was born on 1 December 1929. She has a daughter, Zdeňka, born on 23 September 1959.

The youngest child of Václav Dobrý of Lhotka was Helena. She was born on 8 April 1903. She married the farmer and miller Alois Neužil in Příšov. Her daughter Marie, married name Vodičková, lives in Nýřany. She was born on 1 May 1930. She has a little daughter, Hana, born on 26 March 1962. Her son Václav Neužil, born on 6 January 1934, lives in Ledce and is so far the father of one son, Václav, born on 5 March 1968. The old farmer Václav Dobrý of Lhotka later lived in retirement with the Neužils, together with his wife, and there he died.

The teacher Václav Dobrý of Brníkov remembers his grandmother Marie Dobrá, née Štěpánková, well. As a schoolgirl she went to the school in Ledce, to which Horní Bříza belonged for schooling in earlier times. If she used to sing the song "When I'm grown up, I'll be a farmer's wife", she lived to see it come true, but hers was no bed of roses, for there was more work than she could manage, and she still knew the days of corvée. Lhotka belonged to the Nekmíř estate. Flax was grown and was worked at home on the spinning wheel. Marie went on working into old age, in

retirement on the farm, and, as her grandson the teacher Václav Dobrý remembers, at harvest time she would wake his father and mother as early as four o'clock with the words: "Up you get, folks, it's time, or you'll never get the work done!" And so they toiled from sunrise to sunset.

This, then, is a brief account of one of the children of Anna Prusíková, married name Štěpánková, namely of Marie Dobrá, who married onto holding No. 2 in Lhotka. Her descendants still live there.

The son of Anna Prusíková, married name Štěpánková, in Horní Bříza was Josef. He was born on 11 March 1828, and when he was 21 he took over his native holding, No. 8, from his father Jakub. That was in 1849, a year after the abolition of corvée. Soon afterwards he married Marie Plevková from Kostelec nad Mží. He was a good farmer, and their farm was among the largest in the village. He had a number of children, whose fortunes we shall now relate. Josef Štěpánek died on 9 January 1902.

He had seven children who reached adulthood. They were: Kateřina, married name Manclová, in Horní Bříza. She was born on 25 November 1852 and died on 7 March 1938. The next daughter was Marie, married name Urbanová, likewise in Horní Bříza. She was born in 1854 and died on 19 May 1894. The third, Anna, also married name Manclová, but in Česká Bříza, was born on 30 August 1855 and died on 23 March 1892. The son Josef was born on 6 January 1858 and died on 3 May 1936 in Horní Bříza. Antonín was born on 7 July 1865 and died on 20 October 1927 in Roudnice nad Labem. Jan, who later took over the holding from his father, was born on 11 May 1868 and died on 27 July 1916. The last child was Josefa, who suffered from a nervous illness and remained unmarried. She was born on 28 January 1871 and, after an unhappy life, died in her native village on 23 May 1918.

Kateřina Štěpánková, born on 25 November 1852, married the farmer Mancl in Horní Bříza and had five children with him. She died at the great age of 86, on 7 March 1938. Her eldest daughter was Anna. She was born on 20 June 1873. She died as early as 19 November 1913. Her daughter Josefa Sládková, Sládková being her mother's married name, married J. Ševčík from Plasy. She was born in 1893 and died a year before her mother, in 1912. That year a little daughter, Miloslava, was born to her; she died unmarried in 1932 of consumption (tuberculosis), like her mother. Vojtěch Sládek was born on 4 March 1897 and lives at Horní Bříza No. 19. He has four daughters. Jarmila, married name Tylová, of Ledce No. 45, was born on 19 January 1920. She has a little daughter, Jaroslava, born on 24 December 1946. The next, Marie, married name Hyčková, born on 29 March 1922, lives in Plzeň, Karlova 29. She has a son, Jiří, born on 7 August 1949, and Magdalena, born on 13 July 1953. Květuše, married name Frundlová, lives at Trnová No. 22. She was born on 8 September 1923. Her two children are Pavel, born on 9 February 1946, and Květa, born on 24 July 1948. The fourth is Vojtěška, married name Patáková, of Nýřany No. 292. She was born on 28 May 1929, and her twins, Václav and Ludmila, were born on 7 October 1952.

Anna Sládková's next daughter was Anežka. She was born on 18 March 1895, married the innkeeper Kabát, on the village green in Horní Bříza, No. 47, and died on 5 August 1953. She had an only son, Jaroslav, who was born on 4 March 1920. He took as his wife Miloslava Kabátová, who is also a member of our family by blood, as a descendant of Marie, the daughter of the farmer Tomáš Prusík of Horní Bříza. Jaroslav Kabát lives at No. 90 and has three boys: Václav, born on 7 July 1950, Jaroslav, born on 31 August 1953, and Miloš, born on 2 February 1958. The second son is Václav Sládek, born on 30 March 1899. He lives at Horní Bříza No. 324 and has an only son, Zdeněk, born on 19 October 1927, who in his turn already has a daughter, Zdeňka, born on 3 July 1952. Václav Sládek died on 4 June 1966.

Anna Sládková's fifth child was Marie. She was born on 5 June 1901; her married name was Brandtlíková, and she lived at Trnová No. 161. Her son Ladislav, born on 24 May 1923, died as early as 7 February 1944. Her daughter Božena, born on 22 December 1921, has two children born out of wedlock. Her little son Ladislav, born on 4 December 1948, died when he was only 14, on 5 June 1962. Only her little daughter Helena, born on 3 March 1954, brings her joy in life. Božena Brandtlíková's mother also died relatively young, on 14 October 1949. Truly, some

families have tragic fates. Božena Brandtlíková died on 14 February 1969. The daughter Josefa was born on 8 April 1876. She married Václav Krofta in Horní Bříza, where she died on 9 March 1954. Her son Václav was born on 31 July 1895. He took as his wife Anna, née Karezová, who is also a member of the Prusík family. Václav Krofta died on 23 June 1939. Four children were born of this marriage. The eldest, Dr Vladimír Krofta, was born on 20 January 1920 and lives in Prague-Dejvice, Vilémovská 19. He works at the Ministry of Health. He has three children, Vladimír, born on 10 October 1946, Martina, born on 16 December 1948, and Tomáš, born on 13 January 1953. The daughter Jaroslava, married name Kokošková, lives at Horní Bříza No. 125. She was born on 31 October 1921 and has three children: Vladimír, born on 12 August 1948, Jaroslava, born on 15 January 1950, and Zdeňka, born on 11 August 1954. Zdeněk Krofta, born on 29 July 1925, is childless and lives at Kupka near Teplice, No. 358. Libuše, married name Šimicová, of Horní Bříza No. 18, has three little daughters: Václavka, born on 28 September 1950, Miloslava, born on 1 July 1952, and Libuše, born on 15 September 1953. Josefa Kroftová also had a daughter, Barbora, born on 12 November 1902. She married Šesták, a clerk at the Ceramic Works, and has a daughter, Jiřina, married name Šafaříková, born on 20 June 1923. She lives in Prague-Žižkov, Křížkovského 5.

The daughter Barbora was born on 18 October 1882 (she died on 18 May 1969) and married the innkeeper Meister at Horní Bříza No. 105. She has two sons. Josef Meister was born on 17 February 1913 and is a technical officer. He lives in Prague-Vršovice, Tolstého 4. His two children are Zdeněk, born on 11 May 1944, and Věra, born on 29 November 1948. Barbora's second son, Adolf Meister, was born on 17 June 1921. He is a clerk at the Burghers' Brewery in Plzeň. He lives with his mother in Horní Bříza. His daughter Zdeňka was born on 17 May 1947 and his little son Adolf on 23 May 1951, but on 20 August 1964 the boy accidentally shot himself with his father's gun. Kateřina's only son, Václav Mancl, was born in 1885. He was unmarried. He fell in the World War, on the Russian front, in 1917. Kateřina's last child was Marie. She was born on 4 July 1887 and married the teacher Smolák in Horní Bříza, where she still lives today, at No. 4. She has two sons. Miroslav, born on 28 September 1920, is a teacher in Kadaň. He lives there at No. 1219, Chomutovská Street. He has four children: Miroslava, born on 19 February 1950, Pavel, born on 16 January 1952, Petr, born on 9 August 1953, and Marcela, born on 24 July 1957. Vlastimil Smolák was born on 12 February 1922 and became a priest. Today he serves in the parish of Železná near Beroun, No. 7. It is interesting that the priest Smolák studied and lived in the seminary together with another priest, Josef Koukl, who today serves in Kladruby near Stříbro, but at the time neither of them knew for certain that they shared Prusík blood.

The second daughter of Josef Štěpánek, holder of holding No. 8 in Horní Bříza, was Marie, married name Urbanová, also in Horní Bříza, at No. 22. As we have already said, she died young, at the age of 40, on 19 May 1894. She had three daughters. Two of them did not live long either. Anna was born on 6 May 1883 and was killed while trees were being felled in the forest. It happened on 16 December 1898. A small votive picture at the spot still recalls the accident today. Her second daughter, Marie, had the married name Kryčová, in Horní Bříza. She was born on 11 January 1886 and died on 23 April 1956 in the homestead where she had been born and had lived. She had two daughters: Marie, married name Frundlová, born on 11 April 1905, who died on 24 July 1925. She had an only son, Josef, born on 11 November 1923, who has settled in Tlucná. He has a little daughter, Jaroslava, born in December 1948. Marie Kryčová's second daughter is Anna, born on 17 February 1907. She lives at Horní Bříza No. 81. She has three children. Hana, married name Marková, was born on 21 December 1927. She too lives in Horní Bříza, at No. 361. She has three children, Hana, born on 23 May 1953, Václav, born on 29 December 1948, and Miroslav, born on 5 August 1954. The son Josef Sopr, born on 24 January 1933, lives with his mother. He has two children, Jiří, born on 5 October 1958, and Jana, born on 25 July 1961. The daughter Anna, married name Dobrá, lives at Horní Bříza No. 236. She was born on 12 January 1936 and has twins, Eva and Helena, who were born on 22 December 1956. The third daughter of Marie Urbanová was Božena. She was born in 1889 and later had the married name Dlouhá, in Kaznějov, but she died there childless as early as 1910.

The third child of Josef Štěpánek was Anna. She was born on 3 August 1856 and married into Česká Bříza, taking the name Manclová. This family has been settled on its holding for several centuries. She died there on 23 March 1892, when she was only 36. She had three children, two of whom are still living. Her son Václav Mancl was born on 1 March 1880 and lives in retirement on his ancestors' holding, at Česká Bříza No. 1. He has three children. His son Jaroslav was born on 9 February 1913 and was an official of the Land Survey Office in Prague. He died early, on 14 February 1958. His three children live in Plzeň, Zbrojnická 2. Marie, born on 11 April 1940, married name Pavelcová, has a little son, Jaroslav, born on 9 September 1961. Her brother is Jaroslav, born on 9 October 1945, and her sister Hana Manclová, born on 17 March 1951. Václav Mancl's second son is Rudolf. He was born on 17 April 1914 and lives on his native holding, where for a long time he resisted the lure of collective farming. He has two children, Václav, born on 14 October 1947, and Jitka, born on 7 February 1950, who, however, died in August 1964. The sister of Jaroslav and Rudolf was Marie, who was born on 13 April 1917 but died unmarried as early as 14 August 1935.

Anna Manclová's second child was Anna. She was born on 11 January 1882 and later married into the Klimeš family in Horní Bříza. She died there on 21 November 1953. She had two daughters. Anna, married name Rajšlová, born on 13 January 1913, lives at Horní Bříza No. 354. She has a daughter, Alena, married name Dienstbierová, born on 23 July 1937, who already has a boy, Alois, born on 16 March 1961. Anna Klimešová's second daughter is Marie. She was born on 1 January 1917 and married into the Dolejš family at Horní Bříza No. 27. She has two children: Václav, born on 20 June 1943, and Helena, born on 2 November 1946.

Anna Manclová's third child was Marie. She was born on 4 September 1886; her married name is Suchá, and she lives at Zruč No. 15 near Plzeň. The holding has been the property of the Suchý family since 1756. She has an only son, Jaroslav, born on 26 August 1912. He went to the grammar school in Plzeň, but after his studies he returned home, where he is still a private farmer. He has four children. Anna, married name Honomichlová, was born on 26 March 1945 and already has a little daughter, Hana, born on 29 November 1966. Jaroslav Suchý's other daughters are Helena, born on 5 September 1948, Marie, born on 3 November 1951, and Jitka, born on 24 July 1955.

The fourth child of Josef Štěpánek was Josef. He was born on 6 January 1858. He was sent to study in Plzeň, since it had been decided that the holding would go to his younger brother Jan. He later became a tax official, but sitting about in an office was not to his liking. He returned to his native village fairly soon, settled there at No. 2 and farmed. He had four children. His daughter Barbora, born on 10 November 1885, married name Honomichlová, lives in Plzeň, Slovanská třída 67. She had no children. His second child was Anežka. She was born on 31 October 1893. She later married the widower Václav Šír, a clerk at the Kaolinka kaolin works, who has a son from his first marriage, a secondary-school teacher in Choceň. Anežka herself had no children of her own. She lives at Horní Bříza No. 219. Josef Štěpánek also had two sons. Václav was born on 8 January 1896 and later farmed at No. 2, as his father had. He died on 16 February 1962. His children are Václav, born on 21 February 1922, who is still unmarried. For a long time he was chairman of the local collective farm. His sister Marie, married name Zíková, was born on 19 June 1924 and lives in Dolany near Třemošná. She has two children, Václav, born on 18 May 1950, and Eva, born on 2 August 1957. The second son is Josef Štěpánek, born on 25 March 1898. He is a worker at the Ceramic Works and lives in the little house No. 219, as does his sister Eliška. He has three children. Zdeněk, born on 22 March 1941, lives at Třemošná No. 322. He has twin daughters, Jana and Zdenka, born on 23 January 1964. Marta, married name Sýkorová, lives in Senec near Plzeň. She was born on 28 August 1943 and has a little son, Miloslav, born on 1 December 1963. Finally there is Pavel Štěpánek, born on 9 June 1947.

The fifth child of Josef Štěpánek was Antonín. He was born on 7 July 1865. He too went away to study. In 1885 he graduated from the Agricultural Academy in Tábor, and then also from the Distilling School in Prague. He became an estate manager and worked on many large estates, and also for a long time at the brewery in Prague-Braník. He spent the longest time at Mlázovy near Kolinec, but he was also on Count Harrach's large estate at Sadová in the Hradec Králové area,

at Žinkovy near Plzeň and elsewhere. He married late in life and settled in the Roudnice area, where he died on 20 October 1927. He had an only son, Jiří, who was born on 1 January 1916. He is an electrical technician and lives at Straškov No. 127, in the Podřipsko area. He has two daughters. Anna, married name Nováková, was born on 22 June 1946; her permanent address is Prague-Žižkov, Bořivojova 90. She has a son, Jiří, born on 30 November 1967. Her sister Jitka, born on 23 November 1947, married name Králová, lives in Černuc near Velvary.

The sixth child of Josef Štěpánek was Jan, born on 11 May 1868. He took over perhaps the finest holding in Horní Bříza, but his farming was not especially fortunate. He had eight children. The eldest was Anna, married to the clerk Kabát in Otrokovice near Zlín. She was born on 13 November 1897. She died in Moravia on 25 February 1958. She had two daughters. The elder is Anna, born on 28 June 1920. She is married to the doctor Dr Jasek, and in the turbulent times of recent years fate carried her as far as Australia. They have lived there in various places, in the state of Victoria, in the capital, Canberra, and now in Melbourne. Their little daughter Marie was born in January 1964 and their son Michal on 21 November 1964. The second daughter is Vlasta, married name Sokolová, who lives in Otrokovice, Ivana Olbrachta 1193. She was born on 11 November 1921. She has two children, Alena, born on 21 March 1942, married name Kedrová, living at Otrokovice No. 599. She has two little sons, Petr, born on 29 June 1963, and Jiří, born on 9 May 1965. Milan Sokola, born on 28 April 1944, has a son, Bronislav, born on 19 June 1966. After Jan, Václav Štěpánek became holder of the holding. He was born on 3 December 1898. When he took over the farm, it was already heavily in debt. He wanted to keep the whole holding, which had about 30 hectares, and borrowed money at high interest. Then came bad harvests and illness, and everything went downhill. The farm was sold at auction on 20 May 1933. Václav and his family were moved out to the village green, by the little chapel, and he began working in the forest. Václav died on 21 March 1958 in Žilov, where the stricken family finally settled. Václav Štěpánek was thus the last farmer at No. 8 in Horní Bříza, into which Anna Prusíková from Výrov had married more than 110 years before. Václav Štěpánek's children are: Václav, born on 7 February 1927, who instead of farming is today employed by the Construction Works in Plzeň, and perhaps he is better off there. He lives in Plzeň, Dukelská 12. He has two children, Hana, born on 9 March 1958, and Václav, born on 26 June 1960.

The daughter Marie, married name Weberová, lives in Žilov, at No. 9. She was born on 8 December 1930 and, after a difficult youth, is doing well again. She has two little daughters, Alena, born on 1 June 1956, and Irena, born on 21 August 1961.

Jan Štěpánek's next child was Marie. She was born on 7 December 1900. She lives, under her married name Marková, at Záluží No. 29 near Plzeň. Her daughter Jaroslava, born on 13 January 1924, married name Bláhová, lives in Plzeň, U tržiště 1. The second, Olga, was born on 2 October 1927; her married name is Polcarová, and she lives with her mother in Třemošná. Her son František Marek was born on 15 July 1930, and when he was 25 he ended his life tragically. He hanged himself on 13 February 1955. He left a little son, Jaroslav, born on 27 April 1949. The daughter Růžena, born on 22 February 1903, married the clerk Vyskočil, and they have a small villa in Plzeň-Slovany, Květná 37. She remained childless. Her sister Božena was born on 13 October 1904 and married the teacher Honomichl. She lives at Třemošná No. 98. She has an only daughter, Božena, married name Knákalová. She was born on 14 May 1925 and is a secondary-school teacher. She lives in Plzeň, Víta Nejedlého 18. She has a son, Petr, born on 1 August 1955. The son Jaroslav, born on 12 June 1906, remained unmarried. He works at the Ceramic Works in Třemošná and lives there with his sister Božena. His brother Josef, born on 2 February 1909, is headmaster in Litice nad Orlicí and is childless. His brother Jan, born on 28 February 1912, is a specialist teacher in Osek near Duchcov, Tyršova 421. He has a little son, Kamil, born on 8 April 1948.

Barbora was the second daughter of Anna Prusíková, married name Štěpánková, to reach adulthood. She was born at Horní Bříza No. 8 on 3 February 1838, still in the days of corvée. She married into the farm called "U Kardátů", in Žilov. Her husband was a farmer, V. Kabát. Homestead No. 2 stands on the village green and is among the finest-built in the village. Her grandchildren long

remembered Barbora Kabátová, née Štěpánková, as a kind-hearted and generous grandmother. She had four children who reached adulthood. The eldest was Matěj Kabát, born on 21 February 1862, who later carried on farming on the family farm. He died on 6 November 1914. The second child was Jan, born on 25 June 1868. He was an inspector of the Czechoslovak railways and died in Plzeň on 28 April 1944. The daughter Marie was born on 23 January 1871 and married into the Švígler family in Lhotka. She died there on 14 September 1938. The youngest was Anna, born on 22 December 1877. She married Josef Ebrle, on the "U Kolečků" farm in Třemošná. She died there on 28 November 1957. Barbora Kabátová died at the age of 72, on 18 January 1910, in Žilov.

Barbora Kabátová's eldest son, Matěj, born on 21 February 1862, took over the holding at Žilov No. 2 from his parents, and six children were born of his marriage. The eldest, Vojtěch, born on 5 October 1886, worked at home on the farm and remained unmarried, but his life ended unhappily. He hanged himself at home in Žilov on 28 March 1958. The second child is Marie, married name Čechová, living at Žilov No. 21. She was born on 25 March 1888 and has two sons. The elder, Ladislav Čech, stayed on the farm. He was born on 21 March 1915 and has children: Marie, born on 26 January 1947, Ladislav, born on 2 June 1948, Milada, born on 25 August 1951, Anna, born on 19 April 1954, and Helena, born on 18 March 1961. His brother Karel, born on 7 February 1917, was an officer but now works in another field. He lives in Prague-Žižkov, Sudoměřská 5. He has a daughter, Olga, born on 17 December 1946. The third is a daughter, Helena, born on 17 April 1897, who married the farmer J. Dolejš from Hubenov near Plasy. It was this daughter who received the family holding. She has two sons.

Josef, born on 18 April 1933, lives at Žilov No. 23. He has one child, Josef, born on 16 July 1958. His brother Václav Dolejš was born on 19 April 1931 and lives with his parents. He has two children, Václav, born on 8 January 1956, and Drahuše, born on 11 December 1958. The daughter Božena, born on 29 January 1896, married the turner Hořejš and went to live in Křimice near Plzeň. She has two children. Her daughter Svatava was born on 1 December 1936 and, under her married name Kučerová, lives in Plzeň-Škvrňany, U dráhy 7. She has a little daughter, Svatava, born on 20 March 1959. Her brother Vratislav Hořejš, born on 25 August 1941, is unmarried. Barbora, who was named after her grandmother, née Štěpánková, was born on 31 March 1894. She married the innkeeper at Nekmíř No. 9. Her son Jaroslav Hyrát was born on 8 April 1926 and also lives in Nekmíř. He works at the Škoda Works in Plzeň. He has two boys, Jaroslav, born on 18 April 1957, and Jan, born on 13 March 1958. Jaroslav's brother is Miloslav, who was born in Nekmíř on 18 September 1928. He is an agricultural engineer.

Matěj Kabát's next daughter was Anna. She was born on 21 June 1899; her first married name was Týmrová, and her second Mošnová. She lives in Plzeň-Koterov, Na Hradčanech 100. Her daughter Jindřiška Mošnová, born on 1 April 1940, is still unmarried.

Thirteen years before the death of his father, Matěj Kabát, one more child was born: Václav, on 11 September 1901. He has remained unmarried, works in agriculture and lives with his sister Helena Dolejšová, at Žilov No. 2.

Barbora Kabátová's second son was Jan, born in Žilov on 25 June 1868. He originally wanted to study medicine but soon gave it up and entered the service of the Czechoslovak railways. For a long time he worked at Zliv near České Budějovice; later he was at the railway directorate in Plzeň, where he died on 28 April 1944. He was his mother's darling. Three sons and one daughter were born of his marriage. František, born on 28 November 1896, was an electrical mechanic and settled in Brno. On 16 October 1942 a son, Jan, was born to him, who is still unmarried. František Kabát was killed in an air raid on Brno during the Second World War, on 12 April 1945. The second son, Jan, was born on 2 February 1902. He was a clerk in Plzeň, but the well-known conditions after the Second World War, when politics often counted for more than ability at work, forced him to change his job. Jan Kabát died of a stroke in Plzeň on 14 December 1967. His son Jan was born on 15 August 1937 and lives in Plzeň, U Radbuzy 18. He has a son, Jan, born on 9 October 1961, and a daughter, Zdenka, born on 31 October 1964. His daughter Ludmila, married name

Cibulková, lives in Plzeň. She was born on 13 April 1942 and lives in Plzeň-Bolevec, Čechova 71a. She has a little daughter, Markéta, born on 20 March 1965. The daughter Ludmila was born on 9 November 1903 in Zliv, like the other children, and became a Master of Pharmacy. Her married name was Klímová, but she was soon widowed. She is childless. She lives in Prague 7, Veletržní 15. Jan Kabát's fourth child is Ladislav, born on 7 December 1904. He lives in Plzeň, Lochotínská 57. He has three children. His daughter Jiřina, married name Veselá, was born on 22 July 1929. She lives in Litvínov, Žižkova 658/2, and has a little son, Václav, born on 7 March 1948. His son Stanislav Kabát, born on 23 October 1936, lives with his father in Plzeň, is married and has two little sons, Stanislav, born on 2 July 1955, and Jiří, born on 7 December 1956. His daughter Anna was born on 21 July 1931. Her married name was Červencová, but she died tragically on 31 July 1961. Truly, the family of Jan Kabát from Žilov was often dogged by misfortune, as sometimes happens in life.

The eldest daughter of Barbora Kabátová of Žilov was Marie. She was born there on 23 January 1871. In 1899 she married Václav Švígler, a farmer at Lhotka No. 1. She already had relatives on her mother's side there, namely the descendants of her aunt Marie Dobrá. The aunt was still alive when Marie married there, and was surely a good adviser to her niece. Marie Švíglerová died in Lhotka shortly before the Protectorate was established, when the border with the Reich ran almost out beyond the barns of the village. She died on 14 September 1938. She had six children. The eldest was Anežka. She was born on 8 June 1894 in Lhotka and married the farmer Vojtěch Beránek, going to live at Vladměřice No. 5 near Manětín. She died there on 29 December 1956. She left uncommonly numerous descendants. She had eight children. The eldest, Vojtěch Beránek, was born on 29 January 1920 and lives today in his native village. He has

two children, Václav, born on 22 June 1946, and Jaruška, born on 31 December 1954. Marie, born on 3 July 1922, married name Wollrábová, lives at Plasy No. 53. She has a large family, three daughters and two sons. Her daughter Marie, married name Soutnerová, also lives in Plasy, at No. 74. She was born on 17 February 1941. Her son Josef was born on 24 October 1960 and František on 7 September 1962. František Wollráb was born on 29 April 1942, Růžena on 30 May 1947, Hanna on 14 December 1951 and Vojtěch Wollráb on 2 December 1955. Anežka's next child is Helena. She was born on 13 August 1924 and lives today, under her married name Bláhová, at Manětín No. 63. She has two sons and a daughter. Jaroslav was born on 22 August 1949, Zdeněk on 8 October 1951 and Helena Bláhová on 29 September 1958.

Václav Beránek was born on 10 January 1928 and lives in Vladměřice. He is still unmarried. His brother František is one of twins. He was born on 29 August 1930 and lives today at Manětín No. 1. He has a little son, Jiří, born on 6 April 1958, and a daughter, Ludmila, born on 16 August 1959. His twin, his sister Anna, married name Pokorná, lives in Kolešov near Žlutice. She has a daughter, Alena, born on 18 June 1955, and a daughter, Jaroslava, born on 7 January 1954. Another daughter is Anežka, born on 16 November 1932. Her married name is Šedivá, and today she lives at Krásné Údolí No. 68 near Toužim. She has two little daughters, Miluše, born on 16 December 1955, and Hana, born on 2 September 1958. Anežka Beránková's last child is Zdeňka. She was born on 8 January 1938. She lives in her native village, where she takes delight in her little daughter Bohuslava, born out of wedlock on 11 June 1957.

Marie Švíglerová's second child is Václav, born on 17 May 1900. He took over the farm at Lhotka No. 1 from his parents; today it is part of the collective farm. He has two children. Milada, born on 12 January 1938, married name Čečilová, lives at Nevřeň No. 46. She has a little son, Milan, born on 16 October 1962. Her brother Václav Švígler, born on 6 February 1939, stayed in Lhotka. He has two children, Lenka, born on 1 March 1964, and Václav, born on 23 June 1965.

The third was a daughter, Marie. She was born in Lhotka on 24 June 1903 and married the farmer Nový at Horní Bělá No. 18. She has two daughters. Miloslava, born on 19 January 1929, married name Dobrá, has two children: Miloslava, born on 18 August 1953, and Oldřich, born on 27 February 1957. Her sister Marie, born on 21 March 1932, married name Janouškovcová, has two daughters, Helena, born on 7 January 1956, and Marie, born on 27 December 1957.

The next daughter was Barbora. She was born on 13 May 1908. Her first married name was Frundlová, and she has two daughters from that marriage. Libuše was born on 26 May 1933 and, under her married name Loukotová, lives in Ledce. She has a little daughter, Anna, born on 4 June 1959. The second daughter, Anna, is still unmarried. She was born on 27 October 1935. She died on 10 October 1951. Barbora later married again, taking the name Janouškovcová, and lives in Trnová. From this second marriage she has a son, Václav, born on 10 February 1949.

The son Josef Švígler, born on 27 February 1913, has remained unmarried and works in Plzeň. He lives there at Husovo náměstí 4. The last child of Marie Švíglerová of Lhotka is Anna. She was born on 28 October 1915. She married into Plzeň, to a clerk at the Škoda Works. She lives in Plzeň, Dobrovského 7. She has two sons: Jiří Klíma, born on 5 November 1940, and Jan, born on 2 February 1947.

The youngest child of Barbora Kabátová, née Štěpánková, was her daughter Anna. She was born on 22 December 1877. In 1902 she married the farmer Josef Ebrle in Třemošná. She died there on 28 November 1957. She had six children. The eldest was Josef Ebrle. He was born on 29 June 1904 and lives on his farm at Třemošná No. 84 as a member of the collective farm. He has three children. The eldest, Jindra, was born on 26 July 1929 and, under her married name Honomichlová, lives in Třemošná. She has two sons, Stanislav, born on 1 July 1951, and Jindřich, born on 19 May 1959. The second daughter is Miroslava, married name Pašková, likewise in Třemošná. She was born on 25 January 1932 and has two children: Otto, born on 9 March 1957, and a daughter, Miroslava, born on 27 June 1962. Anna Ebrlová's second child is Anna, born on 8 July 1906, married to the merchant Pospíšil in Plzeň. She lives there at Tylova 47. She has a son, Jiří, born on 18 April 1941, who already has a little daughter, Ivetta, born on 26 January 1965.

The third was a son, Rudolf, born on 4 April 1909. He is childless and works as stationmaster of the Czechoslovak State Railways (ČSD) at Beroun. Another son is Václav Ebrle, born in Třemošná on 2 July 1912. He settled at Záluží No. 141. He is the regional dispatcher of the West Bohemian Power Stations. He has two sons, Václav, born on 26 December 1943, and Vladimír, born on 3 October 1950.

Marie was born on 3 June 1914. She married the farmer Pešek, who is now a member of the collective farm in Záluží. She lives at No. 22. She has a daughter, Jana, born on 21 October 1945, and a son, Jan, born on 21 September 1952. The youngest child of Anna Ebrlová of Třemošná was Miloslava. She was born on 14 April 1918. She married Colonel Bayerle, a native of Žilov, who however changed his name to Borský. She lives in Prague 6, Na větrníku 1487. Miloslava Borská has three children. The eldest, Pavel, born on 8 May 1942, is an engineer. The daughter Jana, married name Zábranská, was born on 19 January 1945. She has a daughter, Tamara, born on 19 April 1964, and Ivana, born on 4 April 1966. The third, her daughter Miloslava Borská, was born on 6 April 1946 and is a teacher.

Here we end our brief account of the living and the dead descendants of the daughter of the reeve Vojtěch Prusík of Výrov, Anna, married name Štěpánková, in Horní Bříza, more than 165 years ago. It may perhaps be of interest to give the number of her descendants down to the present day. It is the respectable figure of 370 people, 58 of them dead. Of course, this picture changes very quickly, as changeable as our life is, but as of the day on which we end this account, the number of descendants is perhaps remarkable.

## 2.3 The Horní Bříza II Sub-branch of the Výrov Branch

The descendants of Rosalie Prusíková from Výrov, married name Karezová.

1807 – 1851

The second child of Vojtěch Prusík and Anna, née Fenclová, of Výrov was Rosalie. She was only



Figure 2.8: Dr Matěj Dobrý, the first children's doctor in West Bohemia (1873 – 1949); Descendant of Anna Štěpánková of Horní Bříza, née Prusíková, born in Výrov in 1805



Figure 2.9: Jindra Karezová, opera singer, descendant of Rosalie Karezová of Horní Bříza, née Prusíková, born in Výrov

two years younger than her sister Anna. She was born on 3 September 1807. Anna had been married in Horní Bříza, as Štěpánková, since 1822, and soon afterwards a marriage was arranged for Rosalie into the same village. On 6 June 1826 the nineteen-year-old Rosalie was married from Výrov to the farmer Vojtěch Karez. The Karez family had been settled in Horní Bříza long before that. On Vojtěch Karez's baptismal certificate his surname is written with an "s", and many of his descendants still spell it so today. Vojtěch Karez had holding No. 3 on the old village green. He was born on 22 April 1805. He died on 28 September 1864. By then his wife Rosalie had been dead for thirteen years. She died suddenly of a stroke. It was when nature was in full blossom, on 9 May 1851. Their holding No. 3 was then divided, on 14 December 1850, between their sons Josef and Antonín. Josef farmed at No. 3, and his brother Antonín Karez in the new homestead, which was given the number 71. The family of Vojtěch and Rosalie Karez always remained on the friendliest of terms with Výrov. When Rosalie's brother Václav Prusík lost his father in 1841, his brother-in-law Vojtěch Karez became his guardian for almost two years. Relatives still live in both homesteads today, it is true, but no longer under the name Karez.

Rosalie and Vojtěch had four children who reached adulthood. The eldest was their son Antonín, who was born on 29 January 1830 and died in Horní Bříza, at No. 71, on 31 July 1908. The second was Josef, born on 22 January 1833; he farmed at No. 3 from 1852 and died there on 29 December 1904. The third son, Jan, was born on 6 August 1838. For him there was nothing left at home, and so he married into Nynice near Plzeň. He later died at his daughter's in Plzeň, on 17 May 1918. The fourth child was Marie; she was born on 12 February 1843, married Vojtěch Mašek, a farmer in Třemošná, and died there on 16 June 1924.

Antonín Karez, the first-born son, was born on 29 January 1830. He farmed at Horní Bříza No. 71. He had three sons. The first was Josef, born on 11 October 1852. He lived in Ledce, in Horní Bříza and for a long time in Plzeň, where he died on 17 July 1938. The second was Václav Karez, born on 8 August 1859; he farmed at No. 71 and died there on 21 January 1935. The last son, Antonín Karez, was born on 20 February 1862. He farmed at No. 3 and died on 15 September 1927. Their father, Antonín, lived in retirement on the farm at No. 71 and died at the age of 78, on 31 July 1908.

Antonín's son Josef Karez was born in Horní Bříza on 11 October 1852. He was not, like his two brothers, destined for farming. Even as a boy he did very well at school and longed to study in Prague. This dream, however, was never fulfilled. When he married, he and his wife, who came from Nepomuk, bought a cottage in Ledce, near Horní Bříza, where they had a small shop. But there was strong Jewish competition there, and so the shop did badly. They moved to Horní Bříza, and in 1892 on to Plzeň, to Na Zavadilce. In Plzeň Josef Karez was then a worker at the Burghers' Brewery, and in later life he was employed by the town of Plzeň. He died there in the almshouse (today an old people's home) on 17 July 1938. Josef Karez had seven children. The eldest was Antonie, born on 8 April 1882; she married Lokajíček, a foreman of the Czechoslovak State Railways (ČSD) in Plzeň, and died on 21 December 1925. She had a daughter, Jiřina, born on 4 August 1903, married name Suchá, of Chomutov, Čelakovského 24, and five other children. Jiřina Suchá has two sons: Josef, born on 15 June 1927, who also lives in Chomutov, Karoliny Světlé 36. He has two little sons, Josef, born on 3 January 1953, and Jan, born on 17 November 1960. Her other son, Jiří Suchý, born on 27 March 1933, lives in Litvínov VI, No. 1617. He has a little son, Jiří, born on 6 August 1957, and a daughter, Martina, born on 26 September 1964. Antonie Lokajíčková's second child is František. He was born on 18 May 1905 and lives today at Planá near Mariánské Lázně, No. 186. He has three sons: František, born on 3 May 1933, and Zdeněk, born on 16 October 1937, who is an officer, lives in Výškov near Tachov and has a daughter, Jarmila, born on 23 September 1961. The third son is Bohuslav Lokajíček, born on 7 April 1943. Antonie's third child is her daughter Antonie. She was born on 17 October 1906, married Zahradník, an officer of the Czechoslovak army, and lives in Prague 6, Národní obrany 35. She has three children. Her son Zbyněk Zahradník, born on 1 June 1929, was a chemist in Teplice, and in this occupation he brought on his own early death, on 9 May 1960. He left a son, Zbyněk, born on 18 May 1952, who lives with his mother in Teplice, Prokopa Holého 3.

Her daughter Blanka, married name Vávrová, was born on 16 December 1930 and lives with her mother in Prague 6. She has a daughter, Blanka, born on 3 June 1952. The third is Antonie, married name Lábová, born on 15 July 1942, who lives in Prague-Braník, Ke Krči 43. She has a daughter, Jana, born on 6 May 1963. Antonie Lokajíčková's third daughter is Marie, married name Volfová, of Plzeň, Lobezská 3. She was born on 9 April 1913. (She died on 19 May 1968.) She has a son, Vladimír, born on 12 June 1940, and he has a little daughter, Daniela, born in November 1967. Antonie's second son is Bohuslav Lokajíček, born on 29 September 1916, who lives in Plzeň, Guldenerova 41. His daughter Milada, married name Němečková, is a doctor. She was born on 14 January 1943 and lives in Plzeň, Koterovská 20. She has a daughter, Martina, born on 11 March 1965. Bohuslav Lokajíček's second daughter is Jindřiška, born on 13 January 1947. Antonie's youngest son is Stanislav Lokajíček. He was born on 26 November 1923 and lives in Plzeň, Lukavická 26. His daughter Eva was born on 5 August 1950.

Josef Karez's second daughter was Josefa. She was born in Ledce on 21 June 1883, married the mason Rubáš and died in Plzeň on 2 September 1957. She had three children, all sons. Karel Rubáš, born on 19 October 1907, lives in Karlovy Vary, nábřeží A. Zápotockého 26. For four years he was a member of the local national committee (MNV), and he was a professional fire-brigade commander. His daughter Jana was killed as a small child in an air raid on Plzeň. His daughter Zdeňka, born on 13 October 1934, married to the architect Kučera, acted for quite a long time at the Paravan theatre. She lives in Prague 1, Pařížská 19. She has a little daughter, Kristina, born on 20 August 1961. Jindřiška Rubášová was born on 3 October 1948. Karel's brother, Josef Rubáš, was born on 25 October 1905 and died unmarried in Broumov on 6 June 1949. The third son is František Rubáš, born on 10 April 1910. He lives today in Povrly near Ústí nad Labem, Labská 10. In 1929 he started as a dancer at the Plzeň theatre under the director Veverka, and then worked as an actor under the director Drašar at the theatre in Bratislava and Košice, and then in Prague, at the Tyl Theatre, until 1948. (Today the theatre Na Fidlovačce in Nusle.) He has a daughter, Daniela, born on 18 January 1933. She lives in Plzeň, sady 5. května 26. Her married name is Franková. Her little son Zdeněk Rubáš, born out of wedlock on 18 July 1952, lives in Bečov nad Teplou. Her little daughter Daniela Franková was born on 27 September 1964.

Josef Karez's third daughter was Barbora, born on 21 February 1885. (She died on 11 June 1949.) She married the brickmaker Majer. She had six children. Her eldest daughter, Josefa, was born in Bolevec on 17 March 1902. She had a "colourful" life, and for that reason the family did not want to acknowledge her. She died in Prague on 4 August 1962. Her daughter Jiřina, married name Jermanová, born on 21 December 1924, lives in Plzeň, třída 1. máje 16. She is Josefa's child born out of wedlock; in later life Josefa's married name was Adamová. Jiřina Jermanová has four boys: Jiří, born on 23 April 1947, Ladislav, born on 7 August 1948, Zdeněk, born on 23 August 1950, and Petr, born on 2 September 1954. Josefa Majerová's second daughter born out of wedlock was Věra, married name Plevniová, born on 25 August 1927. She lived in Karvinná near Ostrava and died there young, on 20 September 1967. Barbora Majerová's eldest son, Josef, was born on 19 March 1906; he is childless and lives in Plzeň-Roudná, Lipová 10. His brother Karel, born on 24 April 1911, is also childless and lives in Plzeň, U trati 11. Barbora's daughter Julie, married name Voříšková, born on 17 May 1914, lives in Plzeň, Denisovo nábřeží 8. She has two children. Her son Václav, born on 15 December 1932, works for the forest administration in the Beskydy mountains. He lives in the village of Bartošky, No. 572, near Frenštát pod Radhoštěm. He has a little son, Václav, born on 6 May 1958, and a daughter, Zdeňka, born on 4 February 1962. Her daughter Olga, married name Draská, born on 11 July 1940, lives in Plzeň, Pařížská 3. She has a son, Bohumil, born on 6 January 1957, and a daughter, Dana, born on 6 August 1960. Barbora Majerová's third son is Bohuslav. He was born on 17 January 1916 and lives in Plzeň, Prešovská 8. He has three children. Bohuslav Majer, born on 4 April 1942, lives in Mariánské Lázně-Úšovice, Dobrovského 164. He has two little sons, Pavel, born on 9 February 1964, and Zdeněk, born on 23 February 1965. Ladislav Majer was born on 21 January 1945 and Jindřiška on 4 February 1959. Barbora Majerová's last son is Ladislav. He was born on 13 January 1918. He is a restaurant manager in Strakonice I-28. He has two sons, Pavel, born on 11 June 1946, and Milan, born on 5 September 1955.

Josef Karez's next daughter was Marie, married name Kellerová. She was born in Horní Bříza on 29 January 1888. Her husband is a worker at the Škoda Works. Marie married him when he was a widower with children. Of her marriage a daughter, Marie, was then born, on 16 April 1921. Her married name is Jiráčková. Marie Kellerová lives at Kněžmost No. 175 near Mnichovo Hradiště. Her daughter lives in the same village, at No. 154. Marie Jiráčková has a daughter, Ivana, married name Prokorátová, born on 10 July 1941. She is a teacher and lives nearby, in the village of Branžež. She has a little son, Jiří, born on 3 March 1964. Marie Jiráčková's next daughter is Marta, married name Liebischová, born on 7 December 1944. She has two sons, Václav, born on 14 February 1964, and Jan, born on 8 December 1966. Marie Jiráčková also has a daughter, Jana Lejsková, born on 22 February 1949, and a little son, Jiří Jiráček, born on 13 March 1956.

Josef Karez's youngest daughter is Kateřina, married name Nerudová. She was born in Horní Bříza on 28 August 1890. Her husband is an official of the ČSD. She lives in Písek, Na spravedlnosti 1481. She has only one son, Oldřich, born on 15 December 1915. He is a lieutenant colonel and lives in Hradec Králové, Orlická Kotlina 1068. He has a daughter, Anna, born on 28 August 1953.

Josef Karez's eldest son was Josef, born in Plzeň on 16 September 1895. He served in the First World War, came back as a legionary of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia and then remained a professional soldier. He was childless, and as an officer he took his own life in Lysá nad Labem in 1934.

Josef Karez's last child was Rudolf, born on 17 April 1897. He was apprenticed as a joiner and at eighteen volunteered for the army. He had various jobs. Among other things he also went through a special school for masseurs and was for a time the personal masseur of President T. G. Masaryk. After the Second World War he came to Karlovy Vary, where he entered the service of the state spa. For several years he was chairman of the local national committee. He had two children. Irena, married name Hájková, born on 1 August 1923, lives in Prague-Nusle, V Horkách 13. She has a daughter, Jana, born on 5 May 1944, and Pavel, born on 5 January 1950. His son Dušan Karez was born on 1 April 1930. He died after a heart attack, at the age of 32, on 11 November 1962. He had three children, who live in Plzeň, třída 1. máje 87. They are Milada, born on 21 March 1962, Dušana, born on 11 August 1955, and Kateřina, born on 28 April 1954. Despite his political successes, Rudolf Karez's private life was not a happy one. On Christmas Eve, 24 December 1949, he shot his wife, wrote a farewell letter and cut his throat with a razor. His life was thus a very turbulent one.

Antonín Karez's second son was Václav Karez. He was born in Horní Bříza on 8 August 1859. He then farmed all his life on homestead No. 71, and died there too, on 21 January 1935. He had seven children, five daughters and two sons.

The eldest daughter was Marie, born on 7 June 1881, who married the brickmaker Majer, whose brother was the husband of her cousin Barbora. Marie Majerová lived in Bolevec. She died there on 17 February 1942. She had five children. The eldest, Josef Majer, born on 26 January 1906, remained unmarried and lives in Plzeň-Bolevec, Náves 34-5. His sister Albína, born on 29 November 1909, was married to the butcher Salcman. She is childless and lives in Bolevec, like her brother Josef. The second son is Václav Majer, born on 2 January 1920. He lives in Nejdek, Osvětimská 727. He has three children from two marriages. His daughter Pavla, married name Peroutová, born on 28 February 1946, has a little daughter, Marcela, born on 21 March 1964, who bears her father's surname, Kozlíková. Václav Majer was born on 23 July 1947, and Jaroslav, who lives with his father in Nejdek, on 15 September 1948. Marie Majerová's third son, Bedřich, was born on 19 October 1922 and lives today at Malá Šitboř No. 27 near Mariánské Lázně. He has four children: Alena, born on 13 May 1950, Karel, born on 26 October 1952, Bedřich, born on 18 May 1957, and Anna, born on 14 July 1963. Marie Majerová's last child is Jaroslav, born on 29 July 1924; he is childless and also lives in Bolevec with his brother and sister.

Václav Karez's second daughter is Anna. She was born on 26 August 1885; her married name is Kotková, and she lives at Horní Bříza No. 161. Her daughter Milada, married name Winkelhöferová, was born on 22 May 1909. Her daughter Věra, first married name Poppová and now Žižková,

was born on 2 August 1940. Anna Kotková died on 20 May 1968.

Václav Karez's eldest son was Josef. He was born on 19 May 1887 and farmed at Horní Bříza No. 43. He died on 3 June 1948. He had two children: Josef Karez, born on 5 May 1924, is unmarried, and his daughter Stanislava, born on 20 May 1929, married name Kahounová, lives in her native village. Her son Přemysl Kahoun was born on 25 May 1956.

The daughter Kristina Karezová, born on 24 July 1889, died unmarried at her father Václav's on 30 September 1906.

The second son, Václav Karez, was born on 31 October 1892 and fell in the First World War, in Serbia, on 11 January 1915.

Václav Karez's fourth daughter is Josefa. She was born on 9 August 1894, married V. Brťek and received holding No. 71 from her father. Josefa Brťková is one of those who best remember the history of the Karez family in Horní Bříza. She knows family details not only from the present day but also from times long past, and she will tell you from memory a countless number of exact dates, of the births and deaths of the members of the large Karez family. She is a veritable encyclopaedia. In the difficult search for all the descendants of Rosalie Karezová, she gave this historical work uncommon help with her memory. Josefa Brťková has two sons. Václav, born on 9 February 1924, has two children, Jarmila, born on 28 October 1949, and Václav, born on 20 June 1951. Her second son, Josef, was born on 29 July 1926 and lives at Horní Bříza No. 364. He has a little son, Josef, born on 11 July 1952.

Václav Karez's last child is Albína, married name Burešová. She was born on 3 February 1899 and lives in Plzeň, Chotíkovská 40. She has an only son, the teacher Oldřich Bureš, born on 16 April 1927. He has two little sons, Petr, born on 8 December 1953, and Oldřich, born on 11 January 1956.

Antonín Karez's last son was Antonín Karez. He was born in Horní Bříza on 20 February 1862 and farmed at No. 3. He died there on 15 September 1927 and had an only son.

Antonín Karez's only child was Jaroslav Karez. He was born on 24 April 1899 and farmed the farm No. 3 after his father. He died on 27 June 1966. He had a daughter, Jaroslava, married name Caltová, of Ledce No. 53. She was born on 14 April 1922. She has two children, Jaroslava, born on 18 September 1943, and Josef, born on 31 December 1948. Jaroslava, whose first married name was Kovandová, has a little son, Jaroslav, born on 25 May 1965, and, under her second married name, Neužilová, a little son, Václav, born on 5 March 1968. Josef Calta has a daughter, Věra, born on 30 October 1967.

The second son of Vojtěch Karez and Rosalie, née Prusíková, was Josef Karez. He was born on 22 January 1833. From 1852 he farmed independently on holding No. 3, from which half had been divided off two years earlier for his brother Antonín. Josef Karez had seven children, two daughters and five sons. Josef Karez died at the age of 71, on 29 December 1904, in his home in Horní Bříza, in the same house in which his mother Rosalie, née Prusíková, had died 53 years before.

The eldest child of Josef Karez of Horní Bříza No. 3 was Josefa, married name Švábová. She was born on 29 February 1852 and died in Horní Bříza on 19 October 1917. The second was a son, Josef Karez, born on 14 March 1861, who settled at No. 32 and died there on 6 June 1923. The third was Barbora. She was born on 18 December 1962 [sic, probably 1862] and remained unmarried. She was a cook. She died on 29 January 1910. The next was Antonín, who was born on 10 February 1865. He became a teacher and died in Vraňany near Mělník on 26 May 1930. The son Jakub was born on 13 March 1867; he was an official of the ČSD and died tragically young in 1905. His brother Václav, born on 14 November 1870, had an inn at Horní Bříza No. 17 and died there on 27 September 1934. The last child was František Karez, born on 29 August 1876. Like his brother, he too was an official on the railway. He died in Jindřichův Hradec on 29 January 1946.

Josef Karez's first child was Josefa. She was born on 29 February 1852 and married the worker Šváb. She lived in Horní Bříza and was a very hard-working and tenacious woman. Since transport connections were poor in those days, she herself carried the goods from her bakery in a basket on her back all the way to Plzeň. On one such journey she was attacked in the Bolevec woods; she fought her attacker off, but afterwards succumbed to the shock she had suffered in the attack and died on 19 October 1917. She had six children. Her sons, except for Josef, were bakers. The eldest was her daughter Anna. She was born in Horní Bříza on 25 May 1874 and married Čejka, the gamekeeper of the Hubenov forest district near Kralovice. She had two children, and at her third confinement her child was stillborn and she too ended her young life. That was on 13 February 1905. Her husband fell in the World War. Her first son is Alois Čejka, born on 9 March 1900. He is a smallholder living at Vysoká Libyně No. 19, where he is a road-mender. He has an only son, Karel, born on 23 November 1927, who lives at Čistá No. 184 near Rakovník. He has three children: Karel, born on 19 May 1956, Milan, born on 11 July 1957, and Květa, born on 17 August 1958. Her second son is Václav Čejka, born on 13 September 1903. He lives in Modřany near Prague, Cholupická 320. There he had a fine butcher's shop. He has three sons. The eldest, Jaroslav Čejka, was born on 7 January 1928; he is a trained asphalt worker and has two sons, Miroslav, born on 25 November 1953, and Jaroslav, born on 14 July 1949. The second son, Václav Čejka, is a chemist; he was born on 17 February 1931. He has two little daughters, Marie, born on 3 September 1959, and Markéta, born on 22 August 1965. The third, Jiří Čejka, was born on 19 April 1936. He is a driver and still unmarried. All three live with their parents in Modřany. Josefa Švábová's second child, a son, was Josef. He was born on 18 July 1876 and lived in Horní Bříza, where he worked as a postman. He died there on 13 June 1926. He had two children. Josef Šváb was born on 23 February 1921, trained as a photographer and then had various occupations. At the beginning of the occupation he fled from the Protectorate through Switzerland to France, where he later joined the American army of occupation, with which he then came home at the liberation. He now works for the Military Construction enterprise. He lives in Prague 1, Loretánská 3. From his first marriage, which ended in divorce, he has a daughter, Vanda, born on 4 June 1952, who lives with her mother in Příbram, No. 194. Josef Šváb's second child is his daughter Marie. She was born in Horní Bříza on 28 March 1924 and is married to the gardener Šašek. She lives in Nová Role near Karlovy Vary, Sídliště 194. She has three daughters. Jana, married name Pastorová, was born on 6 December 1945. She has a son, Luboš, born on 10 February 1968.

The second daughter of Marie Šašková, née Švábová, is Dagmar, married name Herzlová, born on 23 November 1947, and the third is Marie, born on 7 September 1955. Josefa Švábová's third child was Jakub. He was born in Horní Bříza on 19 November 1879. He had an inn and a bakery in Plzeň-Bolevec, Na Zavadilce. After the early death of his son František he sold the inn. Jakub Šváb had three children. The eldest is Anna, born on 29 June 1908, married name Jandová, who lives in Plzeň, Krymská 15. She has an only son, Miroslav, born on 21 January 1932. His children are Miroslav, born on 15 June 1954, and a daughter, Pavla, born on 15 September 1955. The next is Růžena, married name Vápeníková. She was born on 14 April 1916 and is childless. She lives in Plzeň, Pallova 18. The son František Šváb was born on 1 October 1910 and died of consumption at the age of 22, on 1 October 1932. Jakub died on 20 November 1936.

Josefa Švábová's fourth child was František. He was born in Horní Bříza on 21 August 1881 and died in Plzeň on 8 March 1936. Like his brother Jakub, he too had an inn. He had three children, two daughters and a son. The eldest, Helena, married name Pintová, was born on 4 July 1910 and died at the age of 39 in Plzeň-Bolevec, on 1 May 1949. She had two children. František Pinta, born on 5 June 1935, lives in Bolevec, Plasská 21. His sister Eva, married name Krištofová, born on 10 July 1937, also lives there. She has a daughter, Helena, born on 14 August 1959, and a son, Miloš, born on 30 December 1964. František Šváb's second daughter is Růžena, married name Kutzendörferová. She was born on 5 June 1912 and also lives in Bolevec, Plasská 21. She has two sons. Stanislav, born on 29 March 1937, has two little daughters, Marie, born on 15 April 1956, and Stanislava, born on 12 February 1962. The second son, Zdeněk, born on 23 October 1941, has a little daughter, Alena, born on 7 July 1960. František Šváb's third child is his son František.

He was born on 14 January 1920. He is a chemist and also lives in Bolevec, in Plasská Street. He has four children: František, born on 22 January 1942, Jaroslav, born on 27 December 1947, Olga, born on 11 January 1951, and Josef, born on 29 May 1953.

Josefa Švábová's last son, Václav, stayed at home. He was born on 15 April 1892, was a baker at Horní Bříza No. 69 and died there on 3 March 1965. He had two sons. Jiří Šváb, born on 7 February 1924, married into Obora No. 181 near Kaznějov. He is a clerk in Plzeň. He has a daughter, Drahoslava, born on 8 March 1953. The second son, Václav, born on 23 August 1932, has a little son, Václav, born on 14 April 1960, and Luděk, born on 10 May 1963. Josefa Švábová's youngest daughter was Barbora. She was born on 7 May 1889. She married the workshop foreman Pašek. She lived for a long time in Plzeň, Na Roudné 13. She died there on 2 August 1965. Two of her children live there. Helena, married name Kašparová, born on 29 May 1919, has a daughter, Jana, born on 22 April 1958. Then there is her son, the engineer Miloslav Pašek, born on 13 January 1922. He has two children, Jaroslava, born on 19 June 1951, and Vladimír, born on 15 December 1953. Václav Šváb now lives in Plzeň-Doubravka, Hrádecká 12.

Josef Karez's second child was his son Josef. He was born at Horní Bříza No. 3 on 14 March 1861. He later married into No. 32 in Horní Bříza, where he had a butcher's shop and an inn. He was very well liked and for twenty years was mayor of the village. He died in his home on 6 June 1923. He had three children. His first child was his son František Karez. He was born on 20 August 1895 and went through the higher modern secondary school in Plzeň and a commercial school. He was then a clerk at the Kaolinka kaolin works in Horní Bříza, and for a time also at the head office in Prague. Because his second wife was a Jewish woman, he was interned in Postoloprty in 1944. He escaped from there and lived to see the liberation.

In his last years František Karez lived at Mýto near Rokycany, No. 5, and died there on 12 April 1964. From his first marriage he had a daughter, Ludmila, born on 9 June 1919. She is married to the doctor Duchek, in Kozolupy-Touškov near Plzeň. She has two children, Karel Duchek, born on 18 November 1946, and Ludmila, born on 14 December 1954. His daughter from his second marriage is Asta, married name Langerová, of Prague 6, Na Hubalce 8. She was born on 30 January 1925. From her own first marriage she has a daughter, Jiřina Mezerová, born on 5 August 1950.

Josef Karez's second child was Anna. She was born on 16 September 1897. She was a needlework teacher and married the revenue official Pospíšil. For a long time she lived with him in Slovakia. There her son Ladislav Pospíšil was born, on 5 March 1925. He is a technical officer at Tesla and lives in Prague-Hloubětín, Poděbradská 142. He has two sons, Ladislav, born on 22 November 1952, and Zdeněk, born on 18 June 1957. Anna Pospíšilová died shortly after her seventieth birthday, on 3 October 1967, in Prague, where she lived with her son.

The last child of Josef Karez, the former mayor of Horní Bříza, was Václav. He was born on 31 May 1900 and lived with his father at Horní Bříza No. 32. He died on 15 September 1963. He left an only son, Pavel Karez, born on 29 January 1946.

Josef Karez's third child was Antonín. He was born at Horní Bříza No. 3 on 10 February 1865. Because he did very well at the elementary school, his parents sent him to study in Plzeň. There he studied at the grammar school up to the fifth form and then went on to further studies at the newly founded grammar school in Roudnice nad Labem. Its headmaster was his close relative František Xaver Prusík, who, like his grandmother Rosalie, had been born at Výrov No. 18. After his school-leaving examination Antonín Karez was, at his parents' wish, to go to the seminary in Prague to become a priest. But he had no inclination for it whatsoever. In his further fortunes he was helped by his grandmother's brother, the vicar Blažej Prusík, then serving at St Vitus's in Hradčany. Being an enlightened priest, he talked the parents out of their intention. Antonín Karez then became a teacher, and his first post was the school in Zálezlice, in the Mělník area. Later he also taught in Vrbno and in Vraňany near Mělník, and it was there, too, that he died, on 26 May 1930. The teacher Antonín Karez had two daughters. Anna, born on 14 June 1902, married Julius Kettner, a librarian at the Presidium of the Government. She lives in Prague 6,

Nad Šárkou 12. She has two daughters. Anna, married name Němcová, born on 14 December 1923, lives in Zahrádka near Náměšť nad Oslavou, in Moravia. She has two children, Petr, born on 16 October 1945, and Anna, born on 4 December 1952. Anna Kettnerová's second daughter is the engineer Jiřina Tomanová, born on 16 September 1925. She lives with her parents in Prague and is childless. Antonín Karez's second child is Marie, born on 12 June 1907. She married J. Němec, an official of the Agricultural Cooperative in Mělník, and lives there, at Sídliště 438. She has a daughter, Jarmila, married name Rezková, who was born on 24 February 1931, works as a teacher and also lives in Vraňany. Petr Němec from Náměšť nad Oslavou married into Velká Bíteš.

Josef Karez's next child was Jakub Karez. He was born on 13 March 1867. He too studied in Plzeň and later became a station dispatcher on the railway at Klobuky near Slaný. He was a great musician.

Once, when the orchestra of which he was bandmaster was giving a concert in Prague, he fell from the stage, suffered severe internal injuries and died soon after an operation. That was in 1905. Not only he but his whole family met a tragic fate. His son Miloš Karez, born in Klobuky on 10 May 1900, died as a student in Prague on 19 May 1916. His second son, František, born on 5 April 1903, also died while still a student, in Prague on 31 March 1917. Their sister, Julie Karezová, born on 20 April 1901, died as a young clerk in Prague on 15 November 1920. The youngest was Václav, who was born on 12 September 1904. He was a worker and lived as a recluse in Prague. Towards the end of his short life he went deaf. He died in Prague on 31 March 1939, just at the beginning of the Protectorate.

Josef Karez's next son was Václav. He was born at Horní Bříza No. 3 on 14 November 1870 and later farmed at No. 17, where he also had an inn. He died on 27 September 1934. He had two daughters. Anna, married name Kroftová, was born on 15 November 1896 and died on 5 August 1966. She had four children, and we have already told of them briefly as descendants of their father, Václav Krofta, who was in his turn a descendant of Anna Prusíková, married name Štěpánková, in Horní Bříza.

The second daughter was Albína, married name Kuglerová. She was born on 22 February 1907 but died as early as 8 September 1948, in Prague. She had two sons. Milan Kugler was born on 7 October 1928; he is a doctor and lives in Plzeň, Slovanská alej 8. He has a son, Milan, born on 17 September 1957. The second son is Jaroslav Kugler, born on 3 December 1931; he is a clerk at Centrotex in Prague and lives in Prague-Hloubětín, Zelenečská 52. He has a daughter, Irena, born on 5 May 1960, and a little son, Jaroslav, born on 5 May 1963.

Josef Karez's youngest child was his son František, born on 29 August 1876. He too was sent to study. He went to South Bohemia, where he worked for the railway as an official in Veselí nad Lužnicí and in Ševětín, and finally was stationmaster at Jarošov nad Nežárkou near Jindřichův Hradec. He died in Jindřichův Hradec on 29 January 1946 and is buried in Třeboň. František Karez had five children. The eldest was František. He was born in Veselí nad Lužnicí on 6 December 1900. He too was employed by the railway. For a long time he worked in Pelhřimov. He died there on 28 June 1967. František Karez is also one of those who, with their excellent memory of old times, helped this work to succeed. He was married twice. Of his first marriage a son, Roman, was born on 13 February 1931. He is a mechanical engineer and today lectures at the Technical University in Prague. He lives in Prague 6, Farní 11. He is childless. His brother Otomar, born of František Karez's second marriage, was born on 16 October 1933 and is a technician at the Škoda Works in Plzeň. He lives in Plzeň-Slovany, Mládežníků 22. He has two children, Roman, born on 7 May 1962, and a daughter, Radka, born on 9 August 1966. František Karez's second son is Miloslav. He was born on 15 December 1901, also worked for the railways all his life and lives by the station in Třeboň. He has two sons. Zbyněk Karez, born on 12 June 1925, works at the ČSD directorate in Prague. He lives in Prague-

Spořilov, Jihovýchodní 894. He has a son, Michal, born on 24 January 1958. The second son is Miroslav Karez, born on 15 August 1929. He is a forestry official in Třeboň and lives there too.

He has two children: his daughter Miroslava, born on 8 March 1958, and his second daughter, Jarmila, born on 11 March 1960.

František Karez's third son was Bohuslav. He was born in Veselí nad Lužnicí on 12 December 1903. He was an official of the Accident Insurance Company and was married three times, but he did not have a happy life. He died in Prague on 4 February 1958. He had two sons. Bohuslav, born on 13 August 1932, fled abroad as a student, and his last known place of residence was a small place called Glencoe, in the state of New South Wales in Australia. According to enquiries, however, he no longer lives there today, and it is not known where fate has carried him since. Bohuslav's second son is Milan Karez, born on 7 December 1949, who lives with his mother in Prague-Strašnice, Na Hroudě 23.

František Karez's fourth son was Jindřich. He was born in Ševětín on 3 July 1905. He was a teacher and lives in retirement in Děčín, Máchovo náměstí 2. He has two children. Jaroslav is a specialist teacher and lives in Děčín, Sídliště, Kamenická. He was born on 17 April 1938 and has one little son, Tomáš, born on 4 August 1963. Jindřich's second child is his daughter Jindřiška. She was born on 4 June 1939 and studied at the conservatory in Prague; her married name is Soukupová, but as an opera singer she has kept her maiden name, Karezová. She is now engaged at the opera in České Budějovice. The specialist periodical Divadelní noviny, in one of its latest reviews of the performances in České Budějovice, writes of her: "Among the soloists, J. Karezová catches the eye with her natural acting, and she also has no small vocal gifts in her pleasantly coloured, agreeable-sounding voice." Iša Karezová, as she calls herself, has a little son, Jan, born on 1 July 1966. František Karez's last child was his daughter Květoslava. She was born on 30 April 1910. She married the chemical engineer Vladimír Emmer, and for a long time they lived together in Slovakia. She lives in Prague 6, U zeměpisného ústavu 2. She has two children. Her son Vladimír was born on 1 July 1929 and is an eye doctor in Kladno. He lives, however, in Prague 6, Na Babě, Na ostrohu 3. He has three children: Jarmila, born on 1 June 1954, Jan, born on 26 June 1960, and Halka Emmerová, born on 19 December 1962. Květoslava's second child is Naděžda, born on 16 February 1931, who is married to the engineer Michal, who works at the Ore Research Institute. She lives with her parents in Prague 6. She has a little daughter, Naděžda, born on 21 December 1953.

The third son of Vojtěch Karez and Rosalie, née Prusíková, of Výrov was Jan. He was born in Horní Bříza on 6 August 1838. Since his brothers Antonín and Josef had received the home holding, divided in half, he left home and married into Nynice, in the Plzeň area, where he farmed. Later he lived with his son in Starý Plzenec and then with his daughter in Plzeň, Na Roudné, where he died on 17 May 1918. By all accounts he was a cheerful man. He had five children. Vojtěch Kares, as his great-grandfather had once spelt the name, was born at Nynice No. 12 on 15 November 1881; he later married into Starý Plzenec No. 15, where he farmed, and died on 17 May 1961. The second son was Josef Kares, born in Nynice on 14 November 1869. He was a post-office official in various places and died in Prague on 30 December 1927. The third was František Kares, born on 14 May 1872. He went off to the World War unmarried and fell there in 1915. The fourth son was Václav Kares. He was born on 14 January 1879, also in Nynice, and was an official of the Academy of Fine Arts and of the School of Applied Arts in Prague. He died in retirement in Krupka near Teplice on 16 April 1957. Jan Kares's last child was his daughter Marie. She was born on 13 September 1876, later married Beringer, a burgher of Plzeň, and died in Plzeň on 13 March 1952.

Jan Kares's eldest son, Vojtěch, born in Nynice on 15 November 1881, settled as a farmer in Starý Plzenec. He died there on 17 May 1961. He had three children. The eldest, Josef Kares, was born on 10 February 1909; he took over the farm from his father and is today a member of the collective farm (JZD). He lives at Starý Plzenec No. 15. He has three children: his son Josef Kares, born on 29 May 1945, Eva, born on 9 December 1946, and Ladislav, born on 10 June 1954. The second son, Jaroslav Kares, born on 5 April 1914, is a worker at the Škoda Works. He too lives in Starý Plzenec, Bezručova 547. He has two children, a son, Jaroslav, born on 11 January 1943, and a daughter, Jana, born on 27 February 1945. Vojtěch Kares's last child is Anna, married name

Herejková. She was born on 11 June 1920. Like both her brothers, she too lives in Starý Plzenec, in Smetanova Street, No. 114. She has a son, Oldřich, born on 26 April 1947.

Jan Kares's second child was Josef. He was born in Nynice on 14 November 1869, went through the grammar school and then became an official at the post office. He worked in various places, in particular for a long time in Liberec and in Prague. He died there on 30 December 1927. He was married twice. He left an only son, Jaroslav, who was born in Liberec on 25 August 1901. He was an engineer and was employed at the Ministry of Transport; to this day he still teaches aeronautics at the University of Transport in Žilina. That has always been his great love. He lives in Prague 7, Kamenická 7, and is childless. Jan Kares's next son, Václav, was born in Nynice on 14 January 1879. He went through the classical grammar school in Plzeň but did not complete his law studies at Charles University in Prague. For many years he was employed at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, at Letná, as secretary under the rectors, Professors Švabinský and Myslbek. Later he moved to the School of Applied Arts in Prague, where he stayed until he retired on a pension in 1939. Towards the end of his life he settled in Krupka near Teplice, where he died on 16 April 1957. He had an only daughter, Helena, born on 16 December 1914. Her married name is Slováková; she is childless and lives in Krupka near Teplice, Libušín No. 237. Jan Kares's last child was his daughter Marie. She was born in Nynice on 13 September 1876 and later married Beringer, an enterprising burgher of Plzeň. Marie died on 13 March 1952 in Plzeň, Na Roudné. Her father, too, had died at her home, in 1918. She had an only son, Bohuslav Beringer. He was born in Plzeň on 30 March 1896 and died there on 30 March 1954. He has two sons. Miroslav Beringer was born on 22 May 1919 and lives in Plzeň, Pod záhorskem 9. He has two sons, Jiří, born on 7 December 1945, and Jaromír, born on 15 July 1953. Marie Beringerová's second son is Jaroslav, born on 26 September 1928. He lives in the same house as his brother. He too has two sons, Miloš Beringer, born on 19 May 1956, and Jiří, born on 14 July 1958.

The last child of Vojtěch Karez and Rosalie, née Prusíková, of Výrov was their daughter Marie. She was born still in the days of corvée, on 12 February 1843. She was the only daughter to reach adulthood. Her sister Barbora died while still small. In 1865 she married the farmer Vojtěch Mašek and went to live at No. 17 in nearby Třemošná. She had very numerous descendants; nine of her children reached adulthood. The eldest was her son Josef, born on 11 February 1866, who later took over his native farm but remained childless. So that the homestead should not pass into strangers' hands, as the saying went, he handed the holding over during his lifetime to the daughter of his sister Marie Kimmelová, who had died young: Anna, whose married name was later Andrlíková. Josef Mašek died in Třemošná on 8 May 1933. The second child was František; he was born on 20 December 1869, was a baker in Plzeň-Bolevec and died on 2 August 1946. The third was Václav Mašek, who was born on 6 May 1873, stayed in Třemošná and died on 14 January 1933. The fourth son was Antonín Mašek, born on 26 March 1875; he lived in Plzeň and died on 30 March 1941. The fifth child was a daughter, Marie, born in Třemošná on 18 September 1879; she married the farmer Kimmel in Ondřejov near Plasy. She died there young, on 13 April 1916. Next was Jakub Mašek, born in Třemošná on 26 June 1881, later settled as a baker in Plzeň-Škvrňany, where he died on 22 March 1958. Then there was a daughter, Anna. She was born in Třemošná on 19 September 1883 and had the married name Ehegartnerová, in Plzeň, Na Roudné. She lived to the greatest age of all her brothers and sisters; she died in the hospital in Rokycany on 27 March 1963. The third daughter was Josefa Mašková. She was born on 31 March 1889; her married name was Harmáčková, in Plzeň, where she died on 23 July 1952. The last was Martin Mašek, born in Třemošná on 3 February 1891. He later lived in Horní Bříza, where his marriage was childless. He died there on 27 September 1957. Although Marie Mašková was the mother of so many children, she died at the age of 84, on 16 June 1924.

We have already mentioned the first son of Vojtěch and Marie Mašek of Třemošná, Josef. He had no descendants.

His brother František Mašek was born on 20 December 1869. He had a bakery business in Plzeň-Bolevec and was the type of the old Czech countryman, honest, jovial and shrewd. His particular hobby was playing the bagpipes. He learnt it from his uncle in Třemošná, who as a young boy had

lost his sight playing "tip-cat". František Mašek became so accomplished at playing the bagpipes that he attracted the attention of music experts, for whom he sang and played on the bagpipes many old and little-known songs. They have been preserved on gramophone records. František Mašek had five children. He died in Plzeň on 2 August 1946. The eldest was his daughter Eliška. She was born on 20 December 1903; her married name was Vavříková, in Plzeň, where she died in July 1954. Her son, the engineer František Vavřík, born on 20 July 1922, lives in Plzeň, Mánesova 32. He has two sons, Roman, born on 27 August 1952, and Jiří, born on 23 March 1954. Her sister Františka was born on 28 June 1902 and lives in Plzeň-Bolevec, Frunzeho 3. She has a daughter, Emilie, married name Seberová, born on 3 May 1924. She has a son, Karel, born on 24 September 1949. The son Vojtěch Mašek, born on 21 March 1904, died unmarried as early as 28 March 1925. The daughter Emilie, born on 4 January 1906, had the married name Bernášková and died on 28 March 1964. She had an only son, Václav Bernášek, born on 5 August 1934. He lives in Plzeň-Bolevec, Frunzeho 3. He has a daughter, Jindřiška, born on 22 December 1958.

František Mašek's last child is Cecilie. She was born on 15 October 1911 and is married to the merchant Kunzman. Their fine shop is no longer their property. She lives in Plzeň-Bolevec, Lidická 42. Her daughter Jindřiška, born on 20 May 1934, is married to the doctor Machovský. She has a little son, Josef, born on 2 February 1955.

The next child of Vojtěch and Marie Mašek in Třemošná was Václav. He was born on 6 May 1873. When he married, his parents gave him part of the fields and built a new dwelling house in the same farmyard. Václav Mašek had four children. He died in Třemošná on 14 January 1933. His first child, his daughter Marie, was born on 29 January 1902. Her married name is Roubalová, and she lives at Česká Bříza No. 69. She has one daughter, Vlasta, born on 21 July 1925, married name Pešková, of Plzeň-Letná, Revoluční 57. She has two sons, Jiří, born on 20 September 1949, and Zdeněk Pešek, born on 6 May 1954. The second daughter is Františka, married name Denková, who lives at Třemošná No. 62. She was born on 9 December 1906. She has two children. Her daughter Zdeňka, married name Jílková, was born on 29 August 1935 and lives in Plzeň-Zátiší, Línská 5. She has two sons: Karel, born on 21 August 1957, and Zdeněk, born on 21 June 1964. Václav Denk, born on 13 March 1942, lives in Třemošná. The son Václav Mašek, born on 15 September 1910, lives at Třemošná No. 129. He is a mason. When the fortunes of the uncommonly far-branching family of Marie Mašková, née Karezová, who is a member of our Prusík family, were being traced, Václav Mašek was the first to put us on the trail, and so laid the ground for finding all of Marie Mašková's descendants. Václav Mašek has one daughter, Miluše, married name Dobrá, of Třemošná No. 733. She was born on 11 August 1934 and has a little son, Václav, born on 23 September 1955, and Irena, born on 8 February 1959. Václav Mašek's last child is Zdeňka. She was born on 22 July 1913; her married name is Pašková, and she lives at Trnová No. 10. Her daughter Miluše, married name Zelenková, lives in Trnová. She was born on 9 July 1940 and has a daughter, Pavla, born on 3 April 1965. Jiří Pašek, born on 6 December 1942, married into Kaceřov No. 7. He has a little son, Jiří, born on 29 August 1966. Then there are Anna Pašková, born on 13 July 1948, and Zdeňka, born on 20 June 1953.

Antonín Mašek, the next child of Vojtěch and Marie Mašek of Třemošná, was born there on 26 March 1875. He lived in Plzeň and died there on 30 March 1941. His only son, Antonín, was born on 21 October 1901, was a clerk in Plzeň and died without descendants in the old people's home at Liblín, on 30 July 1961.

The first daughter of Marie Mašková, née Karezová, was Marie. She was born in Třemošná on 18 September 1879. She married early, to the farmer Kimmel, and went to live in Ondřejov near Plasy. This family, however, had an unhappy fate. Her husband fell at the beginning of the First World War, in Serbia, and she too died very young, as early as 13 April 1916. She had six children, and so all of them were orphaned early. Their grandmother and grandfather in Třemošná then looked after them. The eldest was Anežka. She was born on 28 February 1904 and, under her married name Hauznerová, stayed in her home at Ondřejov No. 4. She has a daughter, Božena, born on 27 January 1923. Her married name is Sinkulová, and she lives at nearby Křečov No. 13. Her daughter Pavla, married name Sachrová, was born on 8 January 1946. She has a little daughter,

Petruška, born on 13 January 1965. Božena's other daughter is Valentina, born on 20 September 1950.

Bohuslav Hauzner, born on 6 January 1927 and living at Ondřejov No. 4, is childless. The next was Marie. She was born on 18 March 1905 and is married to Kubelík, an employee of the ČSD. She lives in Mladotice, at the railway halt, No. 99. She has a daughter, Věra, born on 14 December 1932. Her married name is Hofraitrová, and she lives in Plzeň-Slovany, U Lomu 13. She has a daughter, Eva, born on 8 September 1953. Ludmila was born in Ondřejov on 8 September 1906 and, under her married name Kriegrová, lives at Borek near Žlutice, No. 6. She has three children. Ladislav Kriegr, born on 6 June 1927, also lives in Borek. He has two sons, Miloslav, born on 2 May 1961, and Jiří, born on 16 August 1962. Václav Kriegr was born on 23 November 1932. He too is settled in Borek. He has three sons: Václav, born on 1 October 1957, Ladislav, born on 26 June 1961, and Petr, born on 23 June 1964. Her daughter Marie, married name Soukupová, was born on 26 October 1928 and lives in Stod near Plzeň, No. 595. She has a daughter, Jana, born on 6 July 1956. The next is Anna. She was born in Ondřejov on 25 March 1908, but while the First World War was still on, her grandfather and grandmother took her, an orphan, to Třemošná. When her uncle Josef Mašek remained childless, he later handed the farm over to her, when she married the farmer Andrlík. Anna Andrlíková has lived on this holding, Třemošná No. 17, to this day. She has one daughter, Anděla, born on 29 July 1929. Her married name is Hájková, and she lives in Třemošná, Ke staré cihelně 285. She has two children, Pavel, born on 5 July 1949, and Alena, born on 7 March 1956. On 24 April 1909 the first son, Jaroslav Kimmel, was born in Ondřejov. He lives in Plzeň-Bolevec, Pod Mihulkou 273. His daughter Jaroslava, married name Bělíková, was born on 17 September 1933 and has a daughter, Olga, born on 17 March 1953. His son Václav Kimmel, born on 8 July 1942, has a little son, Jaroslav, born on 11 June 1965. Marie Kimmelová's second son, Václav, was employed by the ČSD. He was born in Ondřejov on 29 November 1911, was married but remained childless, and died relatively young, on 10 June 1959, in Prague, where he is buried. Jaroslava Bělíková lives in Prague 6, Leninova 676.

The next son of Vojtěch and Marie Mašek of Třemošná was Jakub. He was born on 26 June 1881 and was a baker. He was settled in Plzeň-Škvrňany, Hornická 66, where his son František still lives. Jakub had four children. He died in Plzeň on 22 March 1958. The first was Anna, born on 26 July 1906; her married name is Vildmanová, and she lives in Plzeň, třída 1. máje 133. She has two daughters. Irena was born on 20 April 1933; her married name is Bernatová, and she lives in Plzeň-Slovany, Slovanská 81. She has a little son, Ivo, born on 5 January 1960. The second daughter, Eva, married name Votípková, was born on 11 April 1943. She has a son, Karel, born on 5 November 1965. The son František was born on 6 February 1908. He learnt the baker's trade from his father Jakub and lives in Plzeň-Škvrňany, Hornická 66. He has two daughters. Jiřina, married name Němcová, was born on 21 April 1930 and lives in Plzeň, Koperníkova 32. She has a son, Jiří, born on 18 September 1951, and a daughter, Václava, born on 13 June 1954. František Mašek's second daughter is Zdeňka, born on 16 November 1928. Under her married name Reiserová she lives in České Budějovice, Plzeňská 19. She has two sons, Alois, born on 28 August 1952, and Petr, born on 5 November 1964. Jakub's second son, Josef Mašek, born on 22 February 1912, died childless in Plzeň on 9 June 1958. The fourth is Ladislav Mašek, born on 10 May 1914, who is an official of the ČSD. He lives in Prague-Vinohrady, Bělehradská 22.

Marie Mašková also had a daughter, Anna. She was born in Třemošná on 19 September 1883, and her married name was Ehegartnerová. She lived to the greatest age of all her brothers and sisters. She died, almost eighty years old, in the Rokycany hospital on 27 March 1963. She had two sons, who changed their name to Zahradník. Josef Zahradník, born on 17 February 1906, trained as a joiner. He lived in Plzeň-Bolevec, Lidická 58. He died on 30 December 1965. He had a son, Miloš, born on 17 December 1940, and a daughter, Marie, whose married name is Tvrdíková. She was born on 23 March 1946 and lives in Plzeň, as does her widowed mother. She has a little daughter, Lenka, born on 30 June 1966. The second son, Václav Zahradník, was born on 24 June 1914 and is a firefighter with the ČSD. He lives in Plzeň, Pittnerova 11. He has a son, Václav, born on 24 January 1940, who lives in Plzeň, Nepomucká 2. He has two little daughters, Irena,

born on 29 March 1960, and Dana, born on 9 April 1962. The second child, a daughter, is Božena Zahradníková, born on 18 July 1945. She lives with her parents.

Marie Mašková's last daughter was Josefa. She was born in Třemošná on 31 March 1889 and married the house painter Harmáček. She died in Plzeň on 23 July 1952. She had two children. Her daughter Marie was born on 25 December 1905 and lives, under her married name Kovaříková, but childless, in Plzeň, Tylova 17. Her brother Rudolf Harmáček was born on 20 February 1910. He has two children. His son Rudolf was born on 27 November 1942, and his daughter Vlasta, married name Biberlová, on 17 February 1937. She lives in Plzeň-Škvrňany, Emingerova 18. She has a daughter, Marta, born on 3 March 1962, and a son, Vlastimil, born on 10 May 1964. The last son of the Mašek family of Třemošná No. 17 was Martin. He was born on 3 February 1891, married and moved to Horní Bříza. He had no children, however. He died there on 27 September 1957.

With this we have ended our brief account of the lives and fortunes of the descendants of Rosalie Karezová of Horní Bříza, who was born in 1807 in Výrov near Kralovice. Her father, Vojtěch Prusík, was the reeve there. Like her elder sister Anna, married name Štěpánková, also in Horní Bříza, she too had numerous descendants. At the beginning of 1968, when we finished this account, the number of descendants is truly considerable. It comes to 378 people, 70 of whom have already died.

## 2.4 The Benefactor of the Family, the Priest Blažej Prusík

The first son of Vojtěch Prusík and his wife Anna, née Fenclová, was born in Výrov on 1 February 1810, as their third child. At his baptism in Kralovice he was given the name of his grandfather Blažej, who was by then living in retirement on the farm in Sedlec, at the age of sixty-eight. This Blažej Prusík, who later became a priest, holds a special place in the history of our family. His father, the Výrov reeve Vojtěch Prusík, sent his first-born son away to study. It was his parents' wish that he should become a priest. In those days priests, together with teachers, were the vanguard of the intelligentsia in the nation, and thanks to many nationally minded Czech priests not only national consciousness but also economic progress, especially in agriculture, found its way among our people. Blažej Prusík played a similar part in the history of the Výrov branch of the Prusík family. In our family he is called, with every justification, "the benefactor".

After his studies in Prague, Blažej was ordained a priest on 6 August 1837. This was in the reign of Emperor Ferdinand the Good. On 1 December 1837 Blažej went to Dobříš as curate, and he served there until 15 July 1841. Those were still the days of corvée. From there he came to Prague, and his next place of service was the church of St Nicholas in Malá Strana. This post was very often a stepping stone to further, higher office. And indeed Blažej Prusík, too, left it in 1850 for St Vitus's in Hradčany. Over the years he became vicar there, archiepiscopal notary, master of ceremonies of the liturgy and, later, also confessor to what was then the Theresian Institution of Noble Ladies in Hradčany. Until he became confessor he had 800 gulden a year. Even afterwards, when he had improved his material position by 400 gulden a year, it cannot be said of him that he was a rich priest. He could surely have spent 100 gulden a month easily on himself and his housekeeper alone. Blažej lived right beside St Vitus Cathedral, next to the present-day Vikárka restaurant, which the poet Svatopluk Čech so unforgettably immortalised in his "Mr Brouček's Excursion to the 14th Century" [sic, properly the 15th]. The house where Blažej lived for years and did his good works is No. 8, and any member of our family who passes it on a visit to the Castle may remember this noble man with affection.

Over the years numerous Prusíks lived with the vicar Blažej and studied in Prague. Although their fathers brought the barest necessities in food for their children by cart once a year, they could spend nothing more on their children's education. At home they had large families, and so their brother, the priest Blažej, was a true salvation to them when they wanted their children to get an education.

Every year, then, Tomáš Prusík of Horní Bříza, Matěj of Hodyně and Václav of Výrov would travel to Prague and bring the barest necessities to their children at their brother's. In those days the road led through great forests. They were often unsafe. It was only from

1861 that great progress came, when people began to travel by stagecoach. Then the vicar Blažej's nephews, too, as students, could use this means of transport. The first to study in Prague while living with his uncle was Jan Prusík of Horní Bříza. Later his brother Tomáš, who became a priest, was there. From Hodyně came the vicar's nephews František and Jan, who did not, it is true, study at the university, but whose lower studies nevertheless helped them to a better livelihood later. From the Výrov homestead no fewer than four of his nephews came to Blažej over the years. First there was Blažej, who later became a secondary-school teacher, then his brother František, later a well-known Slavist, Václav, who was a municipal official in Prague, and the youngest, Josef, who likewise, thanks to his uncle's support, went on to attain a decent livelihood.

The vicar Blažej Prusík served in Hradčany for 35 years under Archbishop Friedrich von Schwarzenberg, and then for a further three years under Archbishop Franziskus von Schönborn. He was the only Czech among the vicars.

That the task Blažej Prusík had taken upon himself was not an easy one we can see, too, from a frank admission in a letter that he wrote to his nephew Blažej, a young secondary-school teacher, in Klatovy. It was 28 October 1871. Among other things he writes: "So I have set everything out for you in detail, and from it you can see how great a burden I bear this year. With Jan there are 9 of us; Tomáš in the seminary also needs this and that, and from home they can give him almost nothing, so to whom is he to turn, if not to me, when he needs something? It is surely a wonder that I manage at all. When you wrote about how very cheap things are in Klatovy, we all marvelled at it and said that all those things cost at least as much again here in Prague. Firewood, too, is relatively cheap there where you are; buy yourself birch or hornbeam for the winter, and a good deal of it, for this year we shall have a very hard winter again. Keep well, and commending you to God's protection I remain ever your sincere uncle, Blažej Prusík."

Blažej's eight nephews, then, owe him thanks for much good. Indirectly, however, so do their further descendants. In a little book of reminiscences about his Výrov family, one of the nephews who studied while living with the vicar Blažej, Josef, quite rightly reminds all later generations of Prusíks of this. He wrote: "All of you who read this have been, and are, partakers of his benefactions, directly and indirectly. And never forget it. Had it not been for him, there would have been no studies for the sons, the daughters would not have married so well; instead, the family farm would have fallen apart into many small plots. The sons would have become cottagers and small craftsmen, and their name and their work would scarcely have become known to the wider world." That is why Blažej Prusík, the vicar in Hradčany, has the lion's share in the better livelihood of the whole Prusík family that sprang, in one branch, from Výrov.

Yet the vicar Blažej did not support only his nephews, the students. With his learning and his grasp of economic progress in the world, to which he had good access in Prague, he helped, with valuable advice and materially too, in the more modern farming

of his brothers, the farmers. That his brother Václav in Výrov was the first to begin using scythes at harvest, or that new machines came into use there, in Hodyně and in Horní Bříza, is indirectly to his credit. He also had fruit trees sent home to Výrov and elsewhere, and so helped to beautify his native region. He himself lived uncommonly modestly. Only on holy days did a single litre of beer come to the table, and under his cassock he wore, for a great many years, leather breeches that he mended himself. He was very cross when, once, they bought him new leather breeches for his name day. Everything he had he spent on those in his care, and whenever he could, he gave his brothers something too, when they visited Prague.

Towards the end of his life Blažej was preparing to move with his housekeeper to Staré Město, near the flat where his nephew, the secondary-school teacher F. X. Prusík, had settled. But before that could happen, he died. Pneumonia ended his meritorious life on 22 August 1888. He was

buried in the cemetery of St Margaret's in Břevnov. Ever since then the fees for his grave have been paid and the grave kept up, in his everlasting memory. It lies near the common grave of the Břevnov monks, and the members of our family ought to stop at his grave and remember what he really did for them, too.

The grateful nephew of the noble priest Blažej, Josef Prusík, wrote this elegy for his collection of poems:

> Here, then, you lie: here your coffin moulders,
> where the sad willow bends above the grave,
> where a quiet breeze drives musings onward,
> and a musing: a leaf which, withered, covers your grave?
>
> Only your soul, perhaps, looks down on us,
> as we, your nephews, here lament for you
> and keep calling you from the darkness of the grave,
> but the blue lip knows no word of comfort.
>
> Sleep, our benefactor, in the shadow of the grave;
> for your life we wish you eternal bliss,
> for by it you gave us an example of love for the fatherland
> and awakened new sons for the homeland.
>
> Here you lie, uncle; so it is here you slumber,
> where the sad willow rustles in long musing:
> O sleep now, sleep; my spirit will understand you
> and will fulfil what you last whispered to me.

Written on 13 December 1890.

## 2.5 The Horní Bříza III Sub-branch of the Výrov Branch

The descendants of Tomáš Prusík, a native of Výrov.

1812 – 1897

The fourth child of the reeve Vojtěch Prusík and his wife Anna was their son Tomáš, who was born on 19 November 1812. That was in the time after Napoleon's defeat at Leipzig [sic; the battle of Leipzig was in October 1813, so either the birth date or this remark is wrong]. When in later years it was settled that the family holding in Výrov would go to the youngest son, Václav, a bride began to be sought for the growing Tomáš. For a long time Tomáš had no wish to marry, and he was perfectly content at home. But since there were many children, he could not escape leaving home. His two sisters, Anna and Rosalie, were already married in Horní Bříza, and it was there that they found a bride for their brother too. She was Kateřina Beránková from holding No. 26. She was born in 1816 on the farm that was called, by its old name, "Fakanovský". The first entry about this homestead in the land register dates from 14 March 1662, when its owner was the blacksmith Kabát. By 1790 the owner was Antonín Beránek. It was into this farm that Tomáš Prusík from Výrov married, on 24 February 1835. His life's companion, Kateřina Beránková, preceded him in death by 18 years; she died in Horní Bříza on 20 May 1879. Tomáš Prusík died there, in retirement on the farm, at the age of 87 [sic, probably 84], on 19 April 1897.

Tomáš was a very prudent farmer, of a rather conservative stamp, and not always quick to accept some of the modern trends. For many years he was homesick in Horní Bříza, and often, not only for parish fairs and other important occasions, he would set off and walk to Výrov. He used to attract particular attention by wearing a straw sheaf-band round his waist instead of a belt. Tomáš and Kateřina had nine children who reached adulthood.



Figure 2.10: Blažej Prusík, secondary-school teacher, a native of Výrov (1844 – 1912), who taught J. Thomayer and J. Vrchlický at the Klatovy grammar school

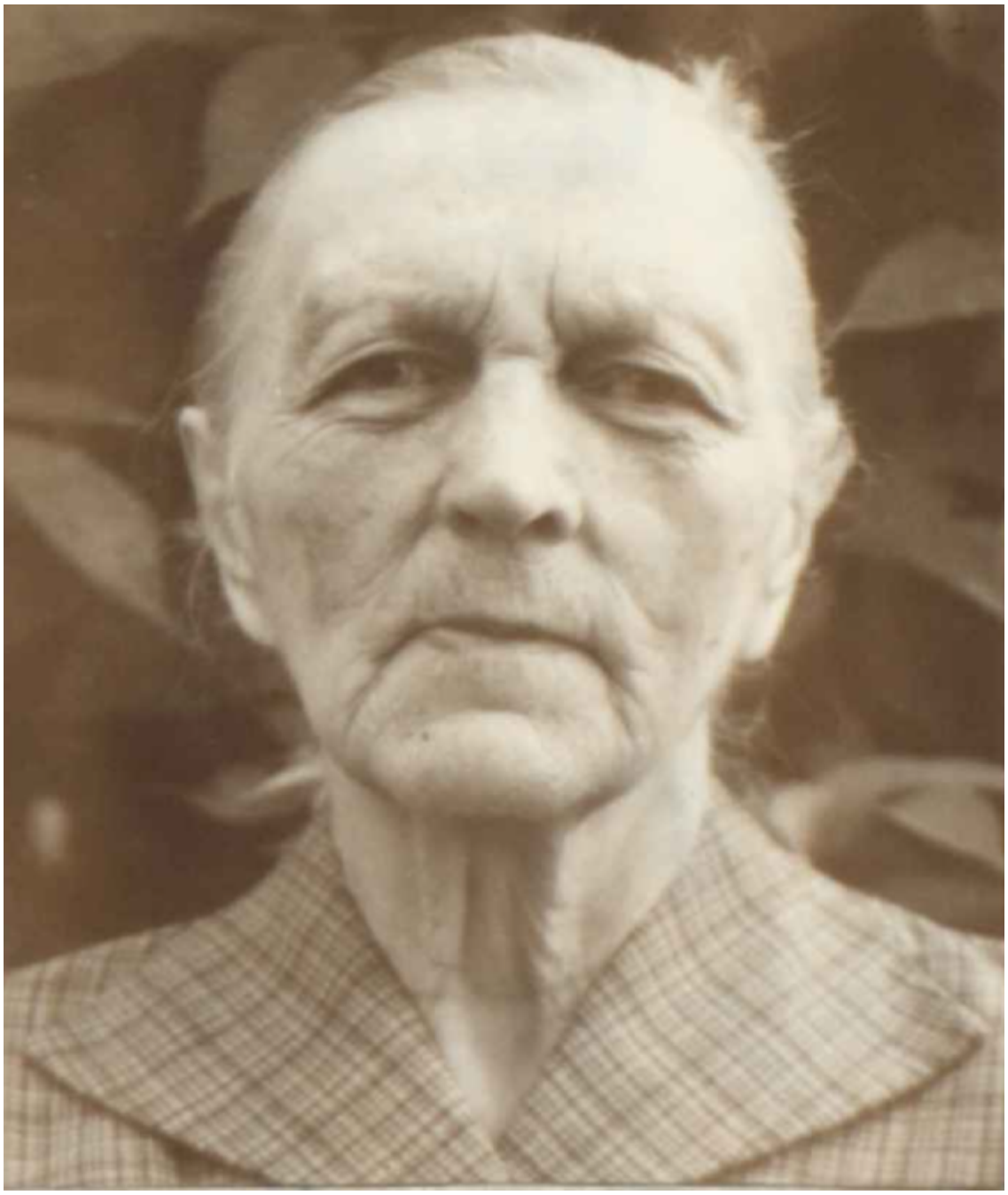


Figure 2.11: Anna Meixnerová, née Prusíková, from Výrov (1886 – 1967). After the founder of the branch, Vojtěch Prusík, who died in Výrov in 1841, she is the last member of the family born at "U Boudů" to have gone to her eternal rest

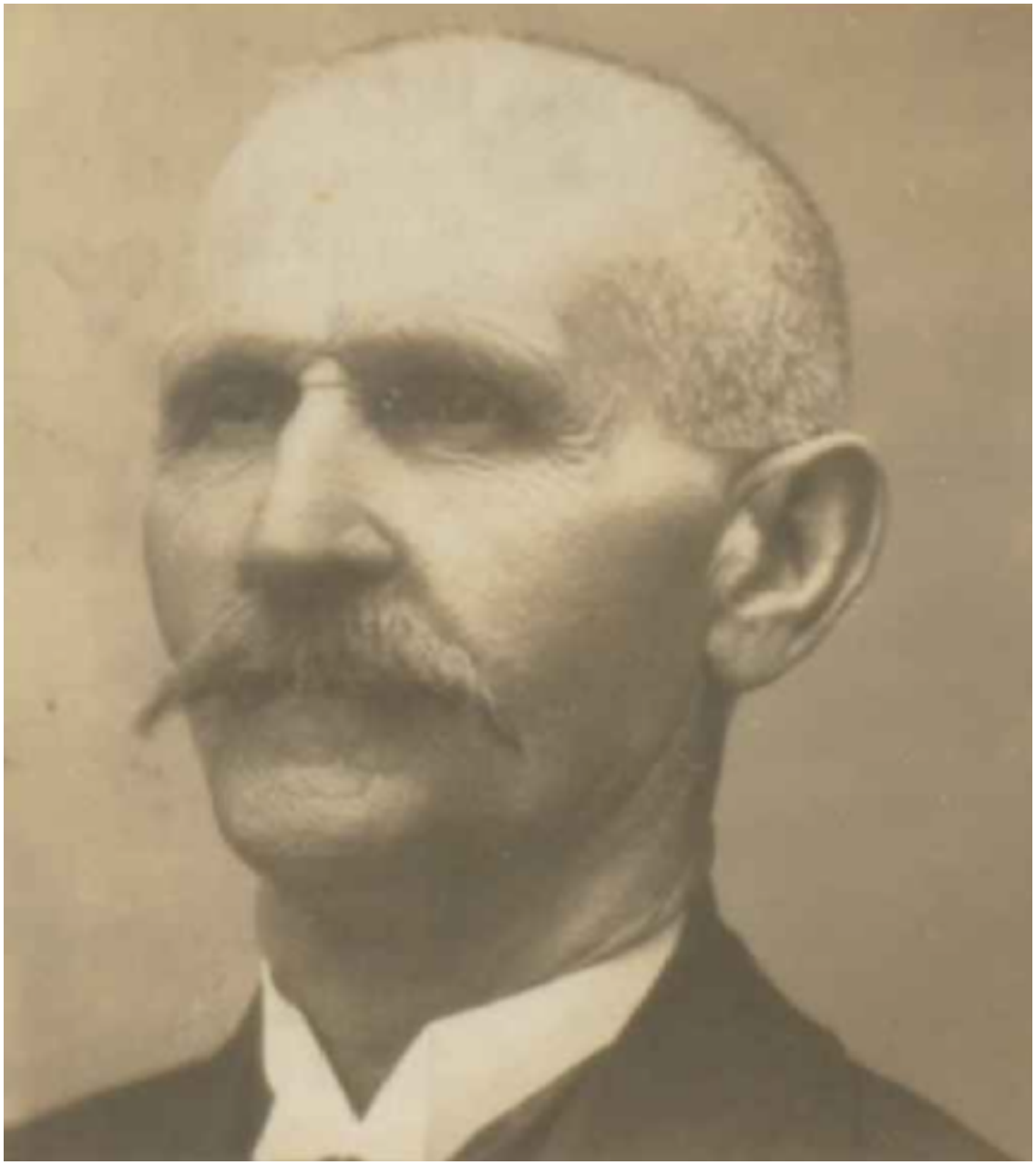


Figure 2.12: Vojtěch Prusík, a native of Hodyně (1847 – 1924), for many years mayor, and a pioneer of modern agriculture



Figure 2.13: The engineer Ladislav Prusík of Horní Bříza is the last Prusík living in the seat of the three founders of sub-branches of the Výrov branch



Figure 2.14: Robert Prusík, a native of Luže (1878 – 1937), travelled over a larger part of the world than any other Prusík

The eldest child was their son Jan. He was born in Horní Bříza on 17 May 1840 and was a secondary-school teacher of philology; among other places he worked in Russia, where he drowned in 1875. The second was their daughter Marie, married name Krausová, of No. 48 in the nearby village of Nevřeň. She was born in Horní Bříza on 19 March 1844 and died in Nevřeň on 23 April 1904. The third child was Anna, born on 22 January 1847. She too had the married name Krausová, at Nevřeň No. 7, but she died there at the age of forty, on 14 March 1887. The second son was Tomáš, born in Horní Bříza on 5 August 1849; he became a priest and died in Dolní Břežany near Zbraslav on 16 July 1903. Then came their daughter Kateřina, married name Schneibergová, of Plzeň. She was born in Horní Bříza on 3 August 1856 and died in Plzeň on 30 June 1942. She lived to a greater age than any of her brothers and sisters. Tomáš Prusík's fourth daughter was Josefa. She was born in Horní Bříza on 27 July 1857, never married, and died in her native village in a hard winter, on 24 January 1929. The son Václav, born on 8 March 1858, died unmarried in Horní Bříza on 1 June 1940. His brother Blažej, born on 7 January 1861, was the first holder of the holding after their father. He died at the age of only 42, on 27 March 1903, in Horní Bříza. After him his brother Josef, born on 11 March 1863, became the second holder. He died two days after his brother Václav, on 3 June 1940.

The eldest son of Tomáš Prusík and his wife Kateřina was called Jan, and he was born at Horní Bříza No. 26 on 17 May 1840. He was the first to benefit from the kindness of his uncle, the vicar Blažej Prusík, in Prague, in Hradčany, and he came to Prague to study at the grammar school in Staré Město. He then studied classical philology at the university. Besides Czech and German, he taught Latin, Greek and history. Jan Prusík first became a supply teacher at the grammar school in Plzeň; from 1863 he taught in Suceava, which lay in what was then Bukovina, in Austria-Hungary. From 1865 to 1866 he taught in Česká Lípa. In the autumn of 1868, a hundred years ago now, he became a permanent secondary-school teacher at the newly founded lower grammar school in Třeboň. Jan Prusík, the secondary-school teacher, was something of a rebel: he was not satisfied with his salary, and he made too much of a show of his Slavophilism. This, of course, did not please the Imperial-Royal Ministry of Education, and it placed Jan Prusík in what was known as "příkaznost". Today one would say that he had been temporarily relieved of his post. That happened on 23 September 1870. Before that, on 29 February 1870 [sic; 1870 had no 29 February], Jan Prusík had married Marie Magdalena Ottová, the daughter of a miller from Třemošná near Plzeň. This marriage, however, was not a very happy one. His wife was born in 1843 in the mill at Třemošná No. 48; she gave her husband one little son, but died of consumption in Třemošná as early as 12 April 1873. By that time Jan Prusík was already in Russia. In those days many Czechs went there, as craftsmen, entrepreneurs, musicians, teachers and others. They were very welcome there.

In Russia, too, Jan Prusík taught philology, in some town on the Volga. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to establish exactly where he worked. He stayed there about four years and never came home again. His wife did not want to go to Russia with him and remained with the child at her parents'. According to old people who remembered him, Jan Prusík drowned in the Volga in 1875. He was seized by cramp while bathing. It happened in Kazan. In the description of his person, which is preserved in the archives of the former Governor's Office, Jan is portrayed in the "cadre report" as zealous and of upright character in his conduct, but a little "left-wing". Above all, however, his political conduct was not beyond reproach.

The only son of Jan Prusík and his wife, née Ottová, was Josef Prusík. He was born in Třemošná on 19 March 1871. At the age of two he lost his mother, and at four his father too. He was brought up by his mother's parents in the mill at Třemošná. Thus both his beginnings and the rest of his life were unhappily marked. He became a shop assistant, then a clerk in the office of the lawyer Dr Jindra in Plzeň, then worked as a junior official at the district authority, and towards the end of his life he was a worker at the Škoda Works. He also took to drink; often he had nothing even to wear, and then he would turn up in Horní Bříza, in his father's home, where he was always given a helping hand for a while. He was a passionate angler. He took as his wife Vilemína Pelíšková, the daughter of travelling players, who was born in Horšovský Týn on 18 February 1878. She

preceded him in death, dying in Plzeň on 10 June 1914. They had no children together. Josef Prusík, the descendant of Jan Prusík, the secondary-school teacher from Horní Bříza, also died while the First World War was still on. He had been in Plzeň for twenty years in all, and there he died, forsaken, on 10 October 1916.

The second child of Tomáš Prusík and his wife Kateřina in Horní Bříza was their daughter Marie. She was born on 19 March 1844 and married Josef Kraus in Nevřeň. Homestead No. 48 was known as "U Seflů". Her husband, Josef Kraus, was 10 years older than she; he was born in 1834, but he outlived his wife by 13 years. He died on 10 April 1917. Marie Krausová, née Prusíková, was an excellent farmer's wife and the kindest of mothers, as her daughter Marie, married name Kabátová, who then went on living on this farm, told us. Marie Krausová had five children. The first was Václav, born in 1873, but he died in Nevřeň as a boy of fourteen, in 1887. The second son was Jan Kraus. He was born on 11 March 1878, and it was thought that he would be the heir to the holding. He never married, however, and died unmarried in Nevřeň as early as 8 February 1909. Then a daughter, Anna, was born, on 8 January 1881. She was married in the small village of Kokořov, close by, and had three children. Misfortune dogged Anna Majerová, for both her promising sons died early. Everyone remembers Anna Majerová as a great kind soul. She died on 8 October 1949. Her daughter Marie, born on 23 September 1908, has the married name Randová and lives at Stýskaly No. 18. She has a daughter, Marie, married name Němcová, at Tatiná No. 9. She in turn has three children: Věra, born on 20 February 1952, a son, Ladislav, born on 10 February 1956, and a little daughter, Jaroslava, born on 17 April 1957. The son Josef Randa, born on 21 December 1936, lives in Plzeň-Doubravka, Družby 5. He has a daughter, Lenka, born on 2 March 1964. His brother Jaroslav, born on 27 July 1944, stayed in Stýskaly and has a little son, Petr Randa, born on 16 June 1966. Anna Majerová's son Josef, born on 5 March 1911, died unmarried on 5 July 1944, and his brother Jan Majer, born on 14 June 1913, lost his life tragically as early as 26 May 1926.

The third son of Marie Krausová, née Prusíková, was Josef Kraus. He was born on 2 February 1883, and he too never had any wish to marry. He helped on the farm at home, and sometimes with other relatives too, and he died on 21 June 1950 at the home of Eliška Mádrová, née Prusíková, in Bučí. Josef Kraus had once been a master brewer.

Marie Krausová's last child was her daughter Marie. She was born on 22 December 1886, and everyone called her Marienka. She was distinguished by an uncommon memory and by her knowledge of the whole far-branching family. Relatives of every kind used to gather at her home on all sorts of occasions, and every one of them was given a friendly welcome. Marie married the stonemason Kabát, a native of Bolevec, who nevertheless took excellently to the work of farming. Marie Kabátová had five children with him. She died of leukaemia on 8 October 1963. Her eldest child was Eliška. She was born on 18 November 1911 and married the farmer Bayerle in Žilov. She lives there at No. 22. She has three children. Her daughter Eliška, born on 16 November 1931, married name Kohoutová, lives in Bolevec, in Ledecká Street. She has two sons, Pavel, born on 17 February 1953, and Václav, born on 20 October 1950. Vojtěch Bayerle, born on 3 April 1933, stayed with his mother in Žilov. His father, a pioneer of the collective farm (JZD), ended his own life by suicide. The second son, Jan Bayerle, born on 15 May 1937, lives in Teplice-Řetenice, Sídliště 17. He has a little daughter, Hana, born on 17 September 1961. Marie Kabátová's second daughter is Anna. She married Rajšl, a mason and smallholder and a very bright man. He was also mayor of Nevřeň. She lives at No. 29. Anna was born on 20 July 1914 and has three children [sic; only two are named below]. Her son Václav Rajšl, born on 18 January 1940, works at the Škoda Works and lives at Čemíny No. 18. He has a little daughter, Jana, born on 11 July 1964. Her daughter Anna, born on 12 November 1941, has the married name Lerchová. She now lives in Klatovy, Leninova 484/2. She has

two little daughters. They are Vladimíra Lerchová, born on 11 April 1965, and Lenka Lerchová, born on 2 December 1967. Marie Kabátová's next child is Marie, born on 2 February 1919. She married the farmer Beneda, at Tymákov No. 44. She has twins, little daughters, Marie and Anna, born on 5 March 1959. Marie Kabátová's only son is Martin. He was born on 5 January 1923 and

stayed on the holding at Nevřeň No. 48. He has a little son, Martin, born on 8 July 1963, and two stepsons, whom his wife brought with her from her first marriage. Marienka Kabátová's last child is Miloslava. She was born on 26 September 1925, and her married name is again Kabátová, at Horní Bříza No. 90. She has three boys, and they have already been written about among the descendants of Anna Štěpánková, née Prusíková, from Výrov. For her husband, Jaroslav Kabát, belongs to that sub-branch of the Prusík family.

Marie Krausová, née Prusíková, from Horní Bříza, settled on the "U Seflů" farm, died there of pneumonia at the age of sixty, on 23 April 1904. Old people in Nevřeň who remember her still think of her gratefully today.

The second daughter of Tomáš Prusík and Kateřina in Horní Bříza was Anna. She was born on 22 January 1847. Like her sister Marie before her, she too married into Nevřeň. Her husband was Václav Kraus, the brother of Josef Kraus, her sister's husband. And so two sisters had two brothers for husbands. Václav Kraus was born in 1842; for a long time he was mayor of Nevřeň, and he outlived his wife by 36 years. He died on 22 February 1923. Anna Krausová, née Prusíková, died suddenly of a stroke in Nevřeň on 14 March 1887. She was only 40. Anna Krausová had four children who reached adulthood. The eldest was Anna, named after her mother. She was born on 25 April 1869 and married the shoemaker Zetek from Hedčany. She then lived in Plzeň, where she died on 19 March 1943. Anna Zetková had four children, all daughters. The eldest was Růžena, born on 19 April 1894, married name Motlová, at Chotíkov No. 45. She died there on 9 December 1937. She had three children. Her daughter Růžena, born on 5 June 1920, is unmarried and is a clerk in Ústí-Krásné Březno, Svádovská 6. The second daughter, Květa, was born on 28 February 1923 and died at the age of ten, on 22 February 1933. The son Jaroslav Motl, born on 7 August 1925, lives at Chotíkov No. 45. He has a little daughter, Věra, born on 1 May 1951. Anna Zetková's second daughter is Anežka; she was born on 29 December 1896 and never married. She was a cook at the Škoda Works' company hotel. She now lives with her niece Miluše in Plzeň-Košutka, Karlovarská 160. Anna Zetková's third child was Kateřina. She was born on 20 April 1902, had as her husband a worker at the Škoda Works, and died on 11 January 1948. She had two children. Miluše, born on 15 July 1920, has the married name Feilová. She lives in Plzeň, Karlovarská 160. She has a daughter, Jana, born on 9 April 1943, married name Brabcová. She already has a little daughter, also Jana, born, again, on 9 April, but in 1965. Miluše Feilová was born on 20 November 1948. The son of Kateřina Urbánková, née Zetková, is Stanislav. He was born on 14 August 1926. He is an aeronautical engineer and lives in Prague 5, Kvapilova 11. He has three children: Ludmila Urbánková, born on 4 August 1954, Olga, born on 15 June 1956, and Stanislav, born on 18 October 1957.

The last daughter of Anna Zetková, née Krausová, was Barbora. She was born on 31 January 1908. She married the farmer Pešíček at Dražeň No. 11. She still lives there. She has five children. Her daughter Alžběta, born on 14 October 1934, is married to the miller Joudal. She lives in Plzeň, Jablonského 43. Her daughter Dana, born on 7 June 1959, died of leukaemia on 13 October 1962. After this misfortune of hers, a little daughter, Jana, was born to her on 3 February 1963, and Jindřiška on 3 March 1965. The son Alois Pešíček, born on 6 January 1936, is unmarried. Then there is the son Ladislav, born on 6 April 1937, who lives at Horní Bělá No. 108. He has two children, Ladislav Pešíček, born on 19 January 1959, and a little daughter, Ludmila, born on 28 September 1963. The fourth is Václav Pešíček, born on 12 June 1940, and then Helena, born on 14 October 1948. Václav is married at Hrádek near Manětín.

The second child of Anna Krausová, née Prusíková, of the "U Martinů" farm at Nevřeň No. 7, was her son Jan. He was born on 27 December 1872. He became the heir to the holding. He married Terezie Malecová, and they had three children. The eldest was Vojtěch Kraus, born on 1 February 1896. He went off to the First World War, caught typhoid fever there and died on 17 March 1917 in Lutsk, in Russia, where he is buried. His father Jan bore the death of his son Vojtěch very heavily to the end of his life. Jan Kraus's next son was František, born on 6 February 1899. With his wife Cecilie, née Benešová, he had two children. His daughter Květoslava, born on 26 September 1931, is a clerk at the Škoda Works and is unmarried; his son František Kraus,

born on 10 July 1936, is also still unmarried. Their father, František Kraus, died in Nevřeň on 15 January 1948. And so it is rather sad at "U Martinů" in Nevřeň. Jan Kraus's third child is his daughter Anna. She was born on 5 August 1902, and her married name is Duchková, at Křimice No. 159, near Plzeň. She has two sons, both still unmarried: Vladimír Duchek, born on 29 October 1933, and Jan, born on 18 October 1935.

The third child of Anna Krausová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Eva. She was born on 5 July 1874 and later married the farmer Martínek in Příšov. Two children were born to her there. Her son Václav Martínek, born on 20 January 1908, is headmaster of the nine-year school in Třemošná, where he lives at No. 488. He has two sons. Jiří was born on 26 June 1938 and Zdeněk on 30 September 1943. Václav's sister Marie was born in Příšov on 2 February 1918. She married Bureš, a worker at the Škoda Works, and had two children with him. Vladimír Bureš, born on 3 March 1939, lives in Plzeň, Pod záhorskem 26, and has a little daughter, Helena, born on 10 July 1964. The second son, Jan Bureš, was born on 18 March 1942 and lives in Plzeň, Žižkova 61. Marie Burešová, their mother, met a tragic end. During the Second World War she took an active part in relief work for persecuted and stricken Czech families; she was arrested by the Gestapo and died in Terezín on 14 November 1944.

The last child of Anna Krausová and her husband Václav, of Nevřeň No. 7, was their daughter Marie. She was born on 2 September 1876. On 7 February 1898 she married Antonín Tägl, a native of Krašovice. He was a brewery worker and later worked at the Škoda Works in Plzeň. Marie Täglová died in Plzeň on 31 March 1959. Their last home was in Škvrňany, in Křimická Street. Four children were born of her marriage. Her son Antonín Tägl, born on 14 August 1897, was a metal turner at the Škoda Works. He was a prominent gymnast and trade-union official. He had three children. Anna Täglová, born on 3 February 1927, has the married name Jílková and is childless. She lives in Plzeň, Prokopova 19. Her sister Libuše, born on 16 August 1928, married name Weinfurterová, lives in the same house. She has a son, Josef, born on 11 November 1947. The son Antonín Tägl, born on 11 June 1931, is a clerk at the Škoda Works and lives in Plzeň, Žižkova 61. He has a daughter, Helena, born on 27 April 1961. The second son of Marie Täglová, née Krausová, is Václav. He was born on 9 April 1900. He died on 16 April 1969. He was a worker at the Škoda Works and later an official of the Ministry of National Defence. He lives in Prague 6, Bělohorská 96. He has an only daughter, Dana, born on 11 May 1931. She is a Doctor of Law and works at the office of state control. She lives in Prague 6, Červený vrch, Sudanská 598. She has a daughter, Irena Melionová, Melionová being her mother's married name, born on 29 October 1956. Marie Täglová's next child is her daughter Marie. She was born on 12 May 1902, has the married name Píšová and lives in Plzeň, Lukavická 14. Her husband, Píša, was a member of the Plzeň town council in the days of the First Republic. They have an only son, Zbyněk, born on 3 February 1924. He became a doctor. For quite a long time he worked at the Research Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases in Prague-Krč, and he already has a number of scientific works to his credit. He is a Candidate of Medical Sciences. For his excellent scientific abilities he was sent to England for a longer period of practical training, and he now works at the European branch of the World Health Organization in Copenhagen, in Denmark. Dr Zbyněk Píša has his flat in Prague-Podolí, Na svahu 17. He is the father of two children: Pavel Píša, born on 20 November 1955, and Irena, born on 15 July 1961.

Marie Täglová's last child was Anna. She was born in Plzeň on 3 November 1904. Her married name was Dvořáková. She died early, on 21 December 1945. Her husband is a designer at the Škoda Works. She had an only daughter, Olga, born on 11 May 1930, who became a secondary-school teacher of philology. Her married name is Příhodová, and she lives in Rosice near Brno, Fučíkova 1088. She has a little daughter, Alena, born on 13 April 1967.

The fourth child of the farmer Tomáš Prusík and Kateřina was a son, baptised Tomáš after his father. He was born in Horní Bříza on 5 August 1849. Thanks to his uncle Blažej Prusík, vicar at St Vitus's in Prague, he studied theology. He was the first Prusík priest since his uncle, the benefactor of our family. He was ordained on 13 July 1873. He first became curate at Lounovice pod Blaníkem. From 1887 to 1892 he was parish priest at Úžice near Uhlířské Janovice. For a

shorter time he also served at Vrcholtovice near Votice. His health was not good. He moved, already retired, to Vysoké Mýto, where he stayed for several years. In this East Bohemian town his unmarried sister Josefa lived with him, with her son Václav, born out of wedlock, and there, with the help of his uncle the priest, Václav began to study at the local grammar school. During his stay in Vysoké Mýto the priest Tomáš Prusík compiled prayers for the whole diocese of Hradec Králové, which were then used at services everywhere in that region. From Vysoké Mýto, already ailing, he went to Dolní Břežany near Zbraslav, where he was appointed archiepiscopal chaplain. That was under Cardinal Lev Skrbenský. Tomáš was a very democratic priest, of progressive views. Old people who were still living not long ago in Dolní Břežany remembered him very well and told how Tomáš Prusík liked to go among the people and took part in amateur theatricals and other events in the village. Here too the priest Tomáš Prusík had with him his sister Josefa and his nephew Václav, who also trained there as a joiner. Besides them, Tomáš Prusík also had in his care for several years two daughters of his brother Blažej of Horní Bříza, who had died before his time. Anna, later married name Šefčíková, and Božena, who remained unmarried, lived with him. Tomáš Prusík liked to collect little-known songs and folk sayings from the Plasy area for his cousin F. X. Prusík, the secondary-school teacher, and these were then reproduced in print. Tomáš Prusík, however, was not granted a long life in Dolní Břežany. He died there on 9 July 1903 [sic; the account of his father's children above gives 16 July 1903, so one of the two dates is wrong] and was buried in the cemetery at Zlatníky near Jílové. His grave existed there until 1958.

Another daughter of Tomáš Prusík was his daughter Kateřina. She was born in Horní Bříza on 3 August 1856. In 1882 she married Matěj Schneiberg of Plzeň, a railway employee. They had four children together. Kateřina Schneibergová reached the great age of 86. She died in Plzeň on 30 June 1942. The eldest was their daughter Anna. She was born on 21 March 1883; her married name was Slavíková, and for a time she lived in Hungary. She remained childless and died in Plzeň on 6 December 1918. The second child was a son, Matěj. He was born on 11 July 1884, studied architecture and became a successful builder and architect. His work includes, for example, part of the design of the Prague villa quarter of Hanspaulka, the Hotel Slovan by the Main Station in Prague and many other buildings. When he was already older, he also took part in the great competition for new buildings by the National Theatre and was awarded a prize. Matěj Schneiberg, or Hora, as he sometimes added to his name to make it more Czech, was married twice but remained childless. He lives in Prague-Žižkov, Bořivojova 114.

The third child of Kateřina Schneibergová, née Prusíková, from Horní Bříza, was Alžběta. She was born in Plzeň on 15 November 1886. She was married twice: her first married name was Weidlichová and her second Fahnerová. From her first marriage she had one daughter. She is Marie, married name Šímová, born on 17 April 1916. She lives in Plzeň, Bendova 32. She has a daughter, Eva, married name Dienstbierová, born on 13 May 1946, and she in turn has a little son, Petr, born on 17 January 1965. Kateřina's second son and last child was Bohumil Schneiberg. He was born in Plzeň on 16 August 1890. For many years he was employed in the railway workshops and lived in Plzeň, Slovanská 25. He died there on 4 January 1961. He had an only son, Bohumil, born on 11 May 1921, who is an employee of the Czechoslovak State Railways (ČSD). He has a son, Zbyněk, born on 21 May 1956.

The daughter Josefa was the next child of Tomáš Prusík in Horní Bříza. An earlier little daughter had been called Josefa, but she died soon. Josefa Prusíková was born in Horní Bříza on 27 July 1857. Her life was not a very happy one. She fell in love with Antonín Hora, a native of Bujesily, and had a child with him born out of wedlock, a little son, Václav. This event caused a great stir in the family, and her angry father, Tomáš Prusík, assigned her the barn as a dwelling for herself and the child. Only when his son Tomáš, the priest, talked him round could she live decently with the child in her parents' house. The child's father is said to have asked Josefa's parents to sell him some small plot of land on which the young couple could build themselves a little house. So that not a scrap of land should be lost from the holding, Tomáš Prusík refused his daughter Josefa this. What narrow-mindedness there was in those days! Josefa Prusíková's embittered seducer, Hora, soon afterwards went off to America, never came home again and died in Chicago, in the USA.

All this left its mark on the rest of the life of Josefa Prusíková and her little son Václav. Josefa lived by turns on the Prusík farm in Výrov, with her brother Tomáš, the priest, with her son in Prague and elsewhere, and finally she kept house for her brother Josef Prusík, by then a widower, in Horní Bříza. It was there, too, that she died, on 24 January 1929.

Josefa Prusíková's only child was her son Václav, born out of wedlock. He was born at Horní Bříza No. 26 on 12 December 1879. He went to elementary school at Úžice near Uhlířské Janovice, where his uncle Tomáš was parish priest. From 1892 he attended the grammar school in Vysoké Mýto, but he did not much enjoy his studies, and after only two years he left the grammar school. When his uncle Tomáš then moved from Vysoké Mýto to Dolní Břežany near Zbraslav, he took Václav with him too, and there Václav learnt the joiner's trade. In some houses there, people still have some of his fine furniture in their homes today. On 18 January 1913 Václav Prusík married Karolina, née Suchanová, from Prague-Smíchov. She was born on 10 November 1892. When the World War broke out, Václav went off to it, leaving a little daughter at home. He did not come home until 1920, as a legionary of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia. In that time his wife had been unfaithful to him, and so he divorced her. She married again, taking the name Hampejzová, and died in 1948. After his return from the war Václav Prusík worked as a joiner, not only in his own independent business but later also in several factories. He died on 17 March 1941 and was buried in the Malvazinky cemetery in Prague. He did not like to remember his childhood.

His only child was his daughter Emilie. She was born in Prague on 14 March 1914 and came to know her daddy only six years later, when he returned from the war. She later married the teacher Bohuslav Kracík of Kunratice near Prague. She lived there with him until his untimely death in 1966. Emilie Kracíková, née Prusíková, lives at Kunratice No. 474. She has an only daughter, Růžena, born on 24 September 1940. She is a teacher. She now lives in Hradec Králové, Labská 5, and her married name is Havrdová. She has two little sons: Zbyněk, born on 10 October 1962, and Robert, born on 7 September 1966.

The third son of Tomáš Prusík and his wife Kateřina of Horní Bříza was Blažej Prusík. He was born on 7 January 1861. At home it was decided that he would take over the farm from his father. He married Markéta Hnátová, born in Žilov on 11 July 1866. After their wedding Blažej and Markéta began to farm independently on homestead No. 26 in Horní Bříza. That was in 1887. Blažej Prusík and Markéta had five children together, all of them daughters. The eldest was Marie, married name Sinkulová, in Výrov. She was born on 21 October 1888. Her husband, Antonín Sinkule, was a mason. The marriage was childless. Marie Sinkulová died of cancer relatively early, on 15 August 1945.

The second daughter was Anna, born on 6 May 1891. Her married name is Šefčíková. The third is Josefa, born on 21 December 1893, who was married twice: her first married name was Lomičková, her second Benešová. The fourth child was Eliška, born on 16 July 1896. After the early death of her parents she was brought up in the family of her relatives, the Koukl family near Kralovice, in the village of Bílov. When she was older, she was housekeeper to the priest Mikuláš Koukl in Prague, and after his death in 1926 she worked in many other households. She worked in the family of the former general director of the Škoda Works, Dr Löwenstein, and also in the parish house of St Wenceslas in Smíchov, for the prelate Pauly. In the end she married Josef Souček, who is the custodian of the church of St Ursula in Prague. Eliška Součková, née Prusíková, from Horní Bříza, still lives in Prague, Voršilská 5. She has no children.

Blažej Prusík's last daughter is Božena. She was born on 3 October 1899, and after the rather hard life she had as an orphan who had lost both parents, she lives today, unmarried, at Výrov No. 40, in the little house where her sister Marie Sinkulová, now dead, used to live.

Blažej Prusík and his wife Markéta both died before their time. Markéta Prusíková died as early as 4 November 1901, and her husband Blažej, after an attack of pneumonia, succumbed to a heart attack on 26 March 1903 [sic; the account of his father's children above gives 27 March 1903, so one of the two dates is wrong]. The suddenly orphaned farm was then taken over by Blažej's

brother Josef, of whom we shall tell. Of the children of Blažej Prusík and Markéta, only their daughters Anna and Josefa had descendants.

Anna, born on 6 May 1891, married Václav Šefčík, a railway guard, after a sad childhood. They lived in Výrov and in Plzeň and had only one son. Their son Rudolf Šefčík was born on 30 August 1912. He was a clerk and finally settled in Liberec. He lived there with his mother and his whole family, and he died on 24 February 1964. Anna Šefčíková, née Prusíková, still lives in Liberec, náměstí sovětské armády 6. Her son Rudolf had four children. The eldest is Jiří Šefčík, born on 30 May 1939, who works for the Electricity Distribution Works. He is married. The second son, Václav, is a civil engineer. He was born on 11 August 1941 and lives in Liberec I, Purkyňova 588. He has two sons, Jan, born on 3 June 1964, and Václav, born on 20 October 1966. The third is Jan Šefčík, who lives in Chrastava near Liberec, Nádražní 47. He was born on 9 March 1944 and has a little son, Jan, born on 30 July 1966. Jan Šefčík, a graduate of an industrial school, is employed in engineering in Chrastava. The last is Milan Šefčík, born on 24 January 1950.

The second daughter of Blažej Prusík of Horní Bříza who left descendants is Josefa. She was born on 21 December 1893, and after being orphaned of both parents early she was brought up by various relatives, among them the Prusíks in Výrov. Her first husband was František Lomička from Kopidlo near Výrov. He, however, fell in the First World War. With him she had a daughter, Eliška, born on 19 November 1913. Eliška's first husband was the forester Jindra, and she lived in Krašovice. She is now married again; her husband is Petřík, a retired teacher. They live together at Horní Bříza No. 104. From her first marriage a son, František Jindra, was born to her, on 5 November 1940. He is a mechanical engineer, married, and has a son, Pavel, born on 6 March 1968. He lives in Slaný, Palackého 205. From her second marriage Josefa Benešová, née Prusíková, had a daughter, Marie. She was born on 13 November 1922, and her married name is Hrnčířová. She lives in Plzeň-Slovany, Rychtaříkova 38. Her husband works in the timber industry, as a clerk. She has two daughters, Olga, born on 3 October 1947, and Hana, born on 7 April 1951. Josefa Benešová, widowed for the second time, lives at Kopidlo No. 46, near Kralovice.

The next son of Tomáš Prusík of Horní Bříza was his son Václav. He was born on 8 March 1858 [sic; his sister Josefa, above, was born on 27 July 1857, only seven and a half months earlier, so one of the two dates is wrong] and remained unmarried. He helped on the farm, both his brother Blažej and, later, Josef. He was a cheerful man, but at the age of twenty a misfortune befell him that embittered his life until his death. After a dance on the day of a parish fair, he was walking home from the inn when he caught thieves at one of the houses. To get rid of an unwelcome witness, they wounded him badly, and Václav Prusík recovered from this injury only with great difficulty. But it left a lasting mark on him for the rest of his life: he went completely deaf. He fell ill almost at the same time as his brother Josef and died two days before him, on 1 June 1940, on the family holding in Horní Bříza. A few days before his death Václav was still chopping wood. As unassumingly as he had lived, so he departed.

The last child of Tomáš Prusík and Kateřina in Horní Bříza was their son Josef. He was born on 11 March 1863. He was not destined to be heir to the holding and received a smaller homestead below what is today the railway halt in Horní Bříza. On 4 March 1889 he married Anna Petříková, born in Hodyně on 27 July 1861. She lived only to fifty and died in Horní Bříza on 7 August 1911. Josef Prusík lived in his first home until 1903; after the death of his brother Blažej he took over the family holding, and it was his home until his death. Josef Prusík and his wife Anna had two children. Their daughter Alžběta, born on 27 November 1889, married Jan Mádr at Bučí No. 4, where she died on 20 January 1963. Their son Ladislav Prusík, born on 2 February 1891, later married Božena, née Valentová, from Výrov, who was herself already a member of our family. Ladislav Prusík then farmed after his father Josef on homestead No. 26 in Horní Bříza, and he died young, on 20 May 1943.

The first child of Josef Prusík and Anna of Horní Bříza was their daughter Alžběta. She was born on 27 November 1889 and lived at home until 1923. By then her brother Ladislav was farming the homestead with his wife Božena. In that year Alžběta married Jan Mádr, an innkeeper and

farmer of Bučí No. 4. She had four children. She was one of those with the best memory of our family's history, and from her recollections we were therefore able to draw a good deal of knowledge that was new to us. Of all the people still living until recently, she alone remembered exactly the life and fortunes of her uncle, Jan Prusík, the secondary-school teacher, who drowned in Russia. Alžběta Mádrová, née Prusíková, died in Bučí, a picturesque little village near Horní Bříza, on 20 January 1963. Her eldest daughter is Božena. She was born on 15 January 1924 and married the farmer Kalous. She lives at Bučí No. 18.

She has a very fine homestead. Her children are Josef, born on 9 December 1944, Marie, born on 6 August 1946, and Jan, born on 6 June 1948. Her sister Květa was born on 14 April 1925. Her married name is Kočová; her husband is a clerk in Kaznějov. With her two children she lives at Rybnice No. 61. They have a son, Jan, born on 24 March 1950, and Květoslava, born on 21 January 1957. The third daughter is Eliška, born on 5 May 1927, who farmed in Bučí with her mother until her mother's death. Then she married the farmer Karásek, at Dražeň No. 2. The family homestead in Bučí was left empty. Eliška Karásková has two children, Marie, born on 8 April 1965, and Josef, born on 3 July 1967. She too, like her mother, was always an uncommonly willing helper in this historical work on the Prusík family. The fourth child of Alžběta Mádrová, née Prusíková, is her son Jan. He was born on 1 March 1932, but he did not stay at home. He works for the forest administration and married into Dolní Lukavice near Přeštice, No. 132. He has a daughter, Šárka Mádrová, born on 3 February 1961. Marie Kalousová is now married, under the name Bischofová, at Kaznějov No. 401.

Josef Prusík's son Ladislav was born on 2 February 1891. He was a big, strong man, but in the pace of his farming he was surely a match for his father. His decisions were often truly far-sighted. He took as his wife Božena Valentová from Výrov. She was born there on 19 July 1897, and her mother too had been née Prusíková. Their wedding, held in February 1921, was a very grand one, and it is still remembered in Výrov today. Ladislav Prusík, the last but one holder of holding No. 26 in Horní Bříza, died on 20 May 1943. Few could believe, given his health and his stalwart build, that he could leave this life so prematurely. He left two children. His daughter Eliška, born on 1 January 1922, married Karel Nosek. He later became a mechanical engineer and today teaches at the industrial secondary school in Plzeň. For quite a long time they were settled in Planá near Mariánské Lázně, and they now live in Plzeň, Rychtaříkova 13, in their own little house. They have two sons. Jiří Nosek, born on 27 February 1945, is a resident tutor at the boarding school where his father teaches, and then there is his brother Karel Nosek, born on 16 January 1955. The second child of Ladislav Prusík and his wife Božena is Ladislav Prusík. He was born in Horní Bříza on 16 February 1925. He first went through the Higher Agricultural School in Plzeň; after the Second World War he became a member of the collective farm, and at the same time he studied by correspondence at the University of Agriculture, graduating in 1958. The engineer Ladislav Prusík is still unmarried and now works in Plzeň.

Tomáš Prusík, a native of Výrov who settled in Horní Bříza, left 157 descendants, 38 of whom have already died.

This concludes our account of the life and fortunes of the descendants of Tomáš Prusík, who was born in Výrov in 1812 and in 1835 settled at Horní Bříza No. 26. Before the new numbering of 1805 this holding had a different number, No. 7. The Prusík family has thus been settled on this holding for 133 years, but the family's time on the Horní Bříza holding is probably now drawing to a close. Not only because the last farmer, who is Ladislav Prusík, being unmarried, has no further descendants to follow him; it is also borne out by the fact that, with this last member, the Prusík family will probably no longer even have its home here. Even so, members of our family live in 25 houses in Horní Bříza today.

## 2.6 The Výrov I Sub-branch of the Výrov Branch

The descendants of Marie Šteflová of Výrov, born there a Prusíková.



Figure 2.15: The consecration of the chapel of St Adalbert in Výrov on 27 April 1902, built at the instigation of the Prusík family



Figure 2.16: Václav Štefl, grandson of Marie Prusíková, married name Šteflová, of Výrov. After Vojtěch Prusík, he was mayor of the village from 1912 (1878 – 1918)

1815 – 1844

The fifth child of Vojtěch Prusík, the reeve of Výrov, and his wife Anna, née Fenclová, was their daughter Marie. She was born in Výrov, at No. 18, in the house called "U Boudů", on 20 May 1815. In that very year the Emperor Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo. The Fates were probably not kind to Marie at her birth. Her life was a short one. On 26 November 1833, at the age of 18, she married the farmer Josef Štefl of Výrov No. 6. The Štefl family was already farming in Výrov in the first half of the 18th century, and a descendant bearing the name is on that holding to this day. It is therefore one of the oldest families settled in Výrov. Josef Štefl, Marie's husband, was born on 24 December 1809. That was at No. 6, although before the new numbering this house in Výrov had been No. 12. Two children who reached adulthood were born of this marriage: a son, Josef Štefl, born on 3 February 1838, and a daughter, Marie, born on 22 August 1840. Josef Štefl later became heir to the holding and died in Výrov on 12 April 1891. Marie married into the Soukup family in Potvorov and died there on 4 June 1918. In 1841 a son, Vojtěch, was born to Marie Šteflová, née Prusíková, who soon died, and on 7 December 1844 a little daughter, Barbora, was born to her. This child too soon died, but she was fatal to her mother, for as a result of this birth Marie died as early as 27 December 1844 [sic; the section on the founder, Vojtěch Prusík, above has her die after the birth of her third child, here after the fourth, so one of the two accounts is wrong]. She was only 29. So she lived on the Štefl holding for only 11 years. Her husband Josef then married a second time, in April 1845, taking Marie Škubalová from Hodyně. With her he had a number of further children. Josef Štefl died on 21 July 1879 and outlived his first wife, Marie, née Prusíková, by 43 years [sic, probably 34].

The first child of Marie Šteflová, née Prusíková, was her son Josef. He was born at Výrov No. 6 on 3 February 1838. At the age of thirty he married Anna Vlková, the only daughter of a farmer in Hrádecko. She then proved herself an excellent farmer's wife, and in running the whole farm she surely surpassed her husband, Josef. Josef Štefl died in Výrov on 12 April 1891. He had four children. His son František Štefl was born on 2 March 1873. As the first-born he might perhaps have received the farm from his father, but because he did not show proper diligence and initiative, the holding was not given to him. František Štefl, perhaps because of this bitterness, remained unmarried until his death and helped out at home with whatever was needed. He died on 13 March 1947.

The second child of Josef and Anna Štefl was their daughter Josefa. She was born in Výrov on 11 March 1875 and married into the Urban family in Výrov, at the house formerly called "U Půtů". The Urbans had come to Výrov from Kopidlo. Josefa Urbanová, née Šteflová, had eight children who reached adulthood. The eldest was Václav. He was born on 6 November 1896 and lives at Výrov No. 26. He has four children from two marriages. The eldest, Václav Urban, born on 31 October 1914, is an employee of the Czechoslovak State Railways (ČSD) and lives in Podbořany, Strejcova 187. He has two children: Jaroslav Urban, born on 17 April 1941, and Eva, born on 27 February 1944. The second son, Josef Urban, was born on 17 September 1921. He is an employee of the state farm at Manětín, where he lives at No. 157. He has a little son, Jiří Urban, born on 22 March 1962. The next is Jaroslav Urban, born on 5 December 1924, who is deputy director of RaJ (Restaurants and Canteens) in the Sokolov district. He lives in Karlovy Vary-Tuhnice, Krymská 19. He has a little daughter, Alena, born on 1 February 1953, and a son, Václav, born on 31 January 1964. Václav Urban's fourth child is his daughter Jarmila, born on 29 January 1927. Her husband is Vašek, a member of the collective farm (JZD), and they live at Borek No. 4, near Kozojedy. They have three children: Jarmila, born on 3 November 1950, Miloslav, born on 21 February 1953, and Vladislav, born on 23 September 1957.

The second child of Josefa Šteflová, married name Urbanová, is her daughter Božena. She was born on 30 November 1898; her married name is Sládková, and she lives at Kopidlo No. 8. She is a member of the collective farm. She has three children. Her son Václav Sládek, born on 27 September 1921, adopted a child not his own. It is a little son, Václav. Her daughter Miluše, born on 23 October 1923, has the married name Juhová, at Kopidlo No. 23, and she and her husband still work as private owners. She has two daughters: Miluška Juhová, born on 13 February 1947,

and Jitka Juhová, born on 10 September 1950. Božena Sládková's third child is her daughter Božena. She was born on 26 August 1926 and married the joiner Kovařík, and they live in Teplice I, Čapkova 1854. They have two children: Jaroslav, born on 11 August 1950, and a daughter, Jana, born on 7 July 1958.

Josefa Urbanová's next child is her daughter Marie. She was born in Výrov on 20 January 1901. Later she married Vojtěch Vopat, a native of Výrov. He was a railway employee, and they then lived together for a long time in Ústí nad Labem. Now, as pensioners, they live in Prague 6, Ruzyně, K mohyle 456. They have two children. Their son Josef Vopat, born on 12 December 1927, is a designer and lives in Prague-Malešice, Černokostelecká 2016. He has two children: Květa, born on 12 May 1959, and Blanka, born on 24 May 1965. The second child of Marie and Vojtěch Vopat is their daughter Libuše. She is a dietetic nurse, and her husband, Štolba, is the manager of the "Rudá hvězda" spa house in Mariánské Lázně. Libuše was born on 17 December 1936 and has a little son, Marek, born on 14 August 1964.

Josefa Urbanová's fourth child is her son Josef. He was born in Výrov on 9 March 1903. Later he bought a farm homestead at Kožlany No. 325, and there he is today a member of the collective farm. Josef Urban has four children. The eldest is his daughter Marie, married name Krocová, of Buček No. 1. She was born in Výrov on 23 June 1928. The Krocs used to have an inn in Buček, and today they work in the collective farm. They have three children. The eldest, Eva, born on 24 December 1948, has the married name Černá and lives in Prague 9, Čakovice, Sokolská 357. She works in television. The second is Bohunka, born on 13 December 1950, and then Miloš Kroc, born on 15 January 1954. His son Josef Urban, born on 19 April 1930, is unmarried and works in the collective farm in Kožlany. His daughter Božena has the married name Klausová, in Kožlany. She was born on 3 November 1931, also in Výrov, like all her brothers and sisters. She has two children, Vladimír, born on 24 January 1960, and a daughter, Jaruška, born on 18 June 1955. Josef Urban's fourth child is his daughter Vlasta. She was born on 13 October 1934 and today has the married name Knotová, at Buček No. 19. She has four children: Pavel, born on 27 July 1954, Jindřiška, born on 1 September 1955, Drahuše, born on 27 July 1959, and Ivana Knotová, born on 17 May 1966. The Knots work in the collective farm. Josef Urban died on 9 February 1968.

Josefa Urbanová's third son was Vojtěch. He was born on 3 May 1905, trained as a locksmith, and died young and unmarried, as early as 26 June 1927.

Another child of Josefa Urbanová, née Šteflová, is her daughter Anna. She was born on 8 October 1908 and married the gamekeeper Antoš, who worked for a long time in Trojany. Now they both live as pensioners in their own little house at Sedlec No. 20. Both their sons became foresters. The engineer Jaromír Antoš, born on 8 November 1930, lives at Manětín No. 7. He works for the forest administration. He has a daughter, Jaromíra Antošová, born on 3 January 1959. The second son, the engineer Jaroslav Antoš, was born on 20 December 1931. He works for the forest administration at Trhanov in the Domažlice area. He lives at Trhanov No. 98. He has two little sons: Jaroslav, born on 6 August 1957, and Kamil, born on 20 March 1959. His wife is the daughter of the farmer Růžička of Výrov, whose father bought the "U Boudů" homestead in 1912. It was there that the reeve Vojtěch Prusík served from 1803.

Another child of Josefa Urbanová was her son Jaroslav. He was born on 12 January 1911, was a railway employee, and died unmarried on 10 November 1958.

Josefa Urbanová's last child was her daughter Jarmila. She was born in Výrov on 23 January 1913. She married Antoš, an employee of the forest administration, at Kopidlo No. 47. For many years she had weak nerves, and these also caused her untimely death. She drowned in the pond at Kopidlo on 15 June 1964. Jarmila Antošová had four children. The eldest, Jarmila, born on 24 May 1934, married name Novotná, lives today at Rovinka, No. 78, near Habartov in the Sokolov district. She has two sons: Josef Novotný, born on 26 March 1963, and Václav Novotný, born on 16 March 1965. The second is Zdeňka, married to the worker Nový; she was born on 11 April 1936 and lives at Kopidlo No. 47. Her sons are Jaroslav, born on 17 October 1957, and Miroslav, born

on 4 February 1961. The third is a son, Václav Antoš. He was born on 29 May 1943 and works at the tractor station in Kralovice. He lives at Lomany No. 18, near Plasy. He has a daughter, Ivana, born on 16 May 1964, and a little son, Václav Antoš, born on 21 August 1965. The last is Jana, born on 8 May 1945, married name Rýdlová. She has a little son, Václav, born on 6 January 1967. She lives in Kaznějov. She also has a little daughter, Jana, born on 2 October 1968.

The third child of Josef Štefl, the farmer at Výrov No. 6, was his son Václav. He was born on 18 September 1878. Unlike his brother František, he soon showed himself to be a good farmer. That was why he became heir to the holding. For his abilities he was also mayor of Výrov for six years. He took up this office after Vojtěch Prusík, who had been mayor of Výrov for several decades. In the summer of 1918 Václav Štefl caught typhoid fever, which was then raging there, and succumbed to it on 27 August 1918. So he did not live to see the proclamation of Czechoslovak independence. Václav Štefl had five children who reached adulthood. The eldest is Marie Čihová, born on 5 March 1903, who lives at Hadačka No. 55. She had three children. Her son Rudolf Čihák was born on 28 December 1924 and died, a boy of twelve, on 15 December 1936. Her son Josef Čihák, born on 6 March 1926, lives with his mother at Výrov-Hadačka No. 55 and has two children: Helena, born on 15 December 1951, and Josef, born on 22 September 1954. The third child is Marie, married name Aksamitová, of Výrov No. 35. She was born on 4 January 1940 and has two children: Pavla, born on 18 March 1963, and Luboš, born on 11 June 1966. The Čihas and the Aksamits both work in the collective farm.

The second daughter of the farmer Václav Štefl of Výrov No. 6 was Anežka; she married Hoch, the owner of the ancient Dyškánka inn, at Hadačka No. 12. She was born on 3 September 1904. She has two children. Her daughter Marie, born on 8 December 1930, lives in Prague 9, Nad Kolčavkou 1438. Her husband is the designer Glückselig; she herself is a clerk. They have two children. Their daughter Iva was born on 25 April 1956 and their son Pavel on 21 December 1958. Anežka Hochová's second child is her son Alois. He was born on 20 October 1934, also lives at the Dyškánka, at Výrov-Hadačka No. 12, and works in the collective farm. He has a daughter, Jiřina, born on 3 November 1957, and a little son, Jiří, born on 9 July 1962. The Hoch family has long been settled in Výrov. The Dyškánka inn was built by the Plasy monastery in the 18th century, and after the monastery's dissolution the Religious Fund sold the estate inn "Duškánka" in 1788 to Václav Hoch, a German from Minice. The price paid for the inn was 602 Rhenish gulden. So Anežka Šteflová came into a family that has lived in the same place in Výrov for 180 years now.

Václav Štefl's next child was his son Josef. He was born at Výrov No. 6 on 17 March 1906. He became heir to the holding after his father, and he was an excellent farmer. In the search for all the descendants of Marie Šteflová, née Prusíková, he contributed uncommonly to the success of this inquiry. He died relatively early, on 1 December 1964. He had three children. His daughter Marie, born on 18 July 1932, married the clerk Skuhrovec of Rokycany, where she lives at No. 799. She has a daughter, Dana, born on 13 April 1958. Josef Štefl's second daughter, Zdeňka, was born on 21 April 1934. She married the headmaster of an agricultural school and lives at Mýto No. 13, near Rokycany. She has a daughter, Zdeňka, born on 31 October 1954. On the native holding, Výrov No. 6, there lives today his son Josef Štefl. He is already the fifth generation of the Štefl family whose ancestress was Marie Prusíková of Výrov No. 18. Josef Štefl was born on 7 July 1941, and his little daughter Jana, the sixth generation of the family, was born on 3 October 1962. Josef Štefl works in the collective farm.

The third [sic, properly the fourth] child of Václav Štefl is his son Václav. He was born on 25 July 1913 and was a farmer at Kočín No. 19, near Kralovice. He has three children: Václav, born on 29 January 1946, a daughter, Zdeňka, born on 4 May 1948, and Jitka, born on 25 June 1957. Václav died on 23 April 1968.

The last is Božena Šteflová, born on 26 May 1915. She married the farmer Koča, of Žebnice No. 9. They both still farm there privately and, in spite of that, have excellent results. Božena Kočová has two children. Marie, born on 30 December 1938, has the married name Bulínová and lives in Plzeň-Slovany, Motýlí 28. She has two daughters: Jana, born on 23 June 1962, and Hana

Bulínová, born on 10 August 1964. Her son Václav Koča, born on 8 December 1941, works on his farm with his parents. He has a little son, Václav, born on 6 May 1966.

Josef Štefl's last child was his daughter Marie. She was born at Výrov No. 6 on 1 January 1881 and later married the farmer Sláma in her native village, at No. 14. Marie Slámová died on 29 September 1960. Long before Marie married into the Sláma family, two of its members had left for America. Marie Slámová had five children. The eldest was Marie. She was born on 15 May 1903 and married the farmer Mancl, of Kralovice No. 134. She died on 18 July 1967. She had two children. Her son Václav Mancl, born on 25 September 1924, lives in Kralovice and works in the collective farm. Her daughter Marie, born on 4 April 1942, has the married name Horáková, of Zábřeh na Moravě. She has a little son, Ladislav, born on 13 December 1966.

The second daughter of Marie Slámová, née Šteflová, is Božena. She was born on 27 June 1905 and is married to Polívka, a railway employee. She lives at Kralovice No. 515. She has two children. Her son Jaroslav Polívka, born on 31 May 1933, lives at Kralovice No. 550. He has a son, Jaroslav, born on 5 February 1958, and a second, Pavel, born on 24 January 1963. Her daughter Věra has the married name Bulínová and lives at Hadačka, No. 50. She was born on 19 June 1935 and has a little son, Vladimír, born on 9 November 1959.

Marie Slámová's third child is Anna. She was born in Výrov on 19 October 1907 and lives under her married name, Králová, at Hadačka, No. 13. She works in the collective farm. Her daughter Anna, married name Urbanová, of Trojany No. 3, was born on 12 November 1940. She has a little son, Roman Urban, born on 17 July 1964. Her second daughter, Božena, married name Horynová, of Hadačka, was born on 9 November 1945.

Marie Slámová's fourth daughter is Blažena. She was born at Výrov No. 14 on 25 March 1913 and still lives on this homestead; her husband is the farmer Slach, today a member of the collective farm. Blažena Slachová has two sons. Her son František, born on 27 June 1937, is an instructor at the agricultural training school in Nečtiny. He lives there, at the place called Hrad Nečtiny, No. 4. He has a little daughter, Hana Slachová, born on 1 July 1962. Blažena's second son is Jaroslav Slach, born on 4 February 1940. He has two children: Jaroslav, born on 1 November 1963, and Dana Slachová, born on 10 January 1965.

The last child of Marie Slámová, née Šteflová, was at last a son, baptised Vojtěch. He was born on 19 December 1916 and married into Dolní Hradiště No. 7, near Kozojedy. He has three sons. The first son, Vojtěch, born on 2 September 1944, lives at home and works in the collective farm. He has a little daughter, Jana, born on 4 November 1966. The second son, Jiří Sláma, born on 14 November 1945, works at the tractor station in Kralovice and lives there too. He has a son, Petr, born on 10 August 1967. The third is Václav Sláma, born on 9 November 1947.

The second and last child of Marie Šteflová, née Prusíková, in Výrov was her daughter Marie. She was born on 22 August 1840. She married the farmer František Soukup of Potvorov. She had three children who reached adulthood. The first was her son Josef Soukup, born on 11 April 1966 [sic, probably 1866; the next paragraph gives his birth as 1 April 1866], who later took over the homestead from his parents. He died on 13 January 1951. The second was her daughter Josefa, born on 10 August 1872, married name Romová, of Chrašťovice. She died there on 30 January 1936. The third was her son František Soukup, born in Potvorov on 12 March 1875. He was an innkeeper in Žilov. He died on 17 December 1957 at his daughter's in Plzeň. Marie Šteflová, married name Soukupová, of Potvorov, often thought back to her home in Výrov, and although her mother, Marie, née Prusíková, had died when she was four, so that she did not remember her, she was always glad to own her kinship with every member of the Prusík family. Whether they lived in Potvorov, or in Bílov, Sedlec and the nearby neighbourhood, she visited these relatives and they visited her. She died half-blind in Potvorov on 4 June 1918.

Her first son, Josef, was born on 1 April 1866. For many years he farmed his native homestead, but later the farm fell into decay, and today there is no longer any trace of this house of theirs in Potvorov. Josef Soukup died in Potvorov on 13 January 1951.

Josef Soukup of Potvorov had four children who reached adulthood. The eldest is his daughter Marie Soukupová, born on 22 September 1897. She never married and lives today in Horní Hradiště, near Plasy, with her sister Ludmila Krejčová.

The next was his son Bohuslav Soukup. He was born in Potvorov on 23 May 1900 and married into Trojany No. 1. There he used to keep an inn with a farm attached. He has two daughters. Bohuslava, born on 2 December 1925, has the married name Šmídlová and lives at Lom near Most, No. 458. She has three children. Her daughter Bohuslava was born on 29 September 1947, her son Jiří Šmídl on 23 January 1950 and her daughter Jana on 10 October 1958. The second daughter of Bohuslav Soukup of Trojany is Marie, born on 4 February 1931. She is married to Josef Kroupa, who married into the village from Bukovina. They work in the collective farm. They too have three children: Jaroslava Kroupová, born on 9 December 1953, Václav, born on 1 November 1956, and Jiří, born on 23 August 1963. Bohuslava Šmídlová now has the married name Hynková, at Kralovice No. 52.

The third child of Josef Soukup of Potvorov is Václav. He was born there on 28 October 1905 and married into Hrádecko, near Kralovice. He lives there at No. 3 and is a member of the collective farm. He has three children. The eldest is Olga, born on 3 February 1932, married name Prýmasová, of Kozlovice No. 53, near Nepomuk. She has a daughter, Olga, born on 7 November 1956. His son Václav Soukup was born on 14 October 1938 and lives in Hrádecko with his parents. Václav Soukup's second daughter is Vlasta, born on 14 April 1941. She married Pekárek, a technician with the Spoje, the post and telecommunications service, and lives in Prague-Kobylisy, Sedlecká 31/808. They have two children: Pavel, born on 10 May 1963, and Ivana, born on 30 April 1965.

The last was his daughter Ludmila, born in Potvorov on 9 February 1908. She married the farmer Krejča, of Horní Hradiště No. 18, near Plasy. Her son Jaroslav Krejča, born on 16 December 1944, died of a tragic leukaemia, a boy of twelve, on 24 August 1956. One small child of Ludmila's drowned in a little pond, and so her only consolation is her daughter Jarmila, born on 7 January 1947.

The second child of Marie Soukupová, née Šteflová, was her daughter Josefa. She was born in Potvorov on 10 August 1872 and later had the married name Romová, in Chrašťovice. They had a fine homestead there. She died on 30 January 1936. Josefa Romová had only one daughter. She was Marie, born in Chrašťovice on 2 July 1898; she stayed on her native homestead and later had the married name Hlousová. She died childless on 17 July 1952.

The last child of Marie Soukupová of Potvorov, who had been born a Šteflová in Výrov, was her son František. He was born on 12 March 1875. He settled in Žilov, where he kept an inn until 1945. There his immediate neighbour was the Bayerle homestead, into which Eliška, née Kabátová, from Nevřeň, had married, also a member of our family, of whom we have already told as a descendant of Tomáš Prusík of Horní Bříza. When František Soukup could no longer carry on his business, as thousands of others too were prevented from doing in the post-revolutionary times of that day, he moved to his daughter's in Plzeň and died there on 17 December 1957. He was married three times, and of all these marriages two children were born to him, from the first and from the third. His first child was his daughter Marie, born on 2 February 1903. Her mother, who came from Nevřeň, died after the birth. Marie married Josef Škoula, a technical officer at the Škoda Works, and lived with him in a pretty little house in Plzeň-Škvrňany.

Her father, František Soukup, lived with her until his death. She did not outlive him for long: she died of cancer on 30 August 1963. Marie Škoulová had an only son, Stanislav. He was born on 27 May 1929, is a technical officer at the Škoda Works and lives in Plzeň-Slovany, Náměstí 16. They sold their little house in Škvrňany. Stanislav Škoula has a little son, Pavel, born on 10 August 1963.

František Soukup's second child, from his third marriage, is his son František. He was born in Žilov on 7 April 1923 and was thus 20 years younger than his sister Marie. He is an engineer at

the Škoda Works, and for his professional abilities he is often sent abroad, among other things as an instructor of our fitters. He spent a particularly long time in Egypt. He lives in Plzeň, Čechova 33. The engineer František Soukup has two children: a little son, František, born on 4 August 1946, and Svatopluk, born on 28 July 1949.

There was always a close bond with the Štefl family. Probably also because the ancestress of this family, Marie Prusíková, married onto a homestead in her native village. Not only her own children, and then in turn their descendants, kept up their ties with the Prusík family, but also her stepchildren, who came from Josef Štefl's second marriage, after she had died so prematurely, so young. In particular, František Štefl, a son of Josef Štefl's second marriage, had the friendliest of relationships with the Prusík family. When his father died in 1879, he was fifteen. Václav Prusík, Marie Šteflová's brother, became his guardian. František then studied with the support of Blažej Prusík, a secondary-school teacher in Klatovy, who was 20 years older than he. His great friend from his youth to the end of his life was another of Blažej's brothers, Josef Prusík. They studied together in Klatovy and later saw each other in Prague too, where both of them lived. František Štefl wrote short memoirs of his homestead in Výrov and of his family, which throw a very interesting light on life in this village in the last century. In his recollections he also mentions the brief history of the school in Výrov. He writes: "At the beginning of 1869 the teacher Fišer moved to Výrov. They nicknamed him 'šlapant', the tramper. He had already been in several villages before, often got drunk, made himself impossible there and had to 'tramp' on again to another village. The village rented a larger room from Vopat at the lower end of the village; the teacher had a few school benches, a blackboard, and the multiplication table written in large figures on a big sheet, hung on the wall. Then there was a black cross there, and the schoolroom was also adorned by his bed. His teaching consisted chiefly in dealing out the birch rod generously across the hands if a pupil did not answer him quickly enough. The multiplication table was learned every day, together and aloud. Writing was taught first in the German Gothic script, as the official regulations of the day required, and only later in the Latin script. The teacher received 'sobotáles', a Saturday fee, for each pupil. For his midday meal he went to the houses that had children at school. Each child always meant one meal, until his turn came round again, the whole village taking it in rotation. On St Gregory's Day in March he taught each pupil a little verse about the spring work in the fields and led them from farm to farm, so that they might recite their verses everywhere.

In some places the teacher Fišer got a four-kreuzer piece from the farmer and from the farmer's wife an egg, or a bit of butter, a bun or a cake, which an old woman engaged for the purpose carried to the school for him. These were the ancient customs of the old non-compulsory school and of teachers of every sort. After 1870 this came to an end with the new school laws. The first and last teacher in Výrov, Fišer, then moved away with his school to Petrovice. The school in Výrov ceased to exist, so that it had lasted there only two years. In 1871, on the basis of the new school laws, there were also official negotiations about establishing and building a school in Výrov, at least a one-class school with two divisions, as was then the custom. At least for the youngest children. Because of the strong opposition of two farmers, old Háža, who already had three grown-up sons, and Jirka Kozel from the lower end of the village, who also already had a daughter past school age, the school in Výrov was never established. People often used to say that the little children of Výrov would always have to curse those two farmers whenever they dragged themselves through frost, snowstorm or downpour to school in distant Kralovice."

František Štefl goes on to recall the farming of the fields in his birthplace, Výrov: "Until the years of my childhood (around 1864 – 1867) a third of all the fields of Výrov lay idle every year. They lay fallow, unworked, so that, it was said, they might gather new strength for yielding a crop the following year. Until those days, too, all the grain here was reaped with sickles. Only at that time did Uncle Václav Prusík, who had an elder brother who was vicar in Prague, at St Vitus's, begin on his advice to introduce new methods in farming. He was against leaving fields fallow, he began to lime them and he introduced the cutting of wheat and rye with the scythe. Many neighbours, not only here but in the wide neighbourhood too, shook their heads gravely at the

novelties that Uncle Prusík was introducing. In the second year they were already joining in this novelty, and in the third year everyone here was already cutting the grain with scythes, and in the wider neighbourhood too. My father, Josef Štefl, also took advantage of this and began to make at home not only rakes, as before, but also scythe snaths, that is, handles for scythes, with small and large grips. His products sold very well; he supplied them to friends and strangers alike, but I do not remember that we grew rich from this new trade."

"In 1870 [sic; the metric weights and measures were introduced by a law of 23 July 1871 and became compulsory on 1 January 1876]," František Štefl writes in his memoirs, "new metric measures and weights were introduced throughout Austria, and so in Bohemia too. Ells and fathoms, žejdlíky and věrtele, the old measures for liquids and for grain, came to an end, at least officially. It goes without saying that it took a long time before metres, kilometres, kilograms and quintals, hectolitres and litres took root. At the beginning of the harvest in 1871 I was out in the field with my sister. In the afternoon we suddenly saw a great column of smoke above Výrov. That was when Chalupák, Vopat at the upper end of the village and Vojtík were burnt out, up on the hill in Výrov. A cow then cost 60 to 80 gulden. A horse, up to 200 gulden. A holba of beer (a little more than half a litre) cost a four-kreuzer piece (4 kreuzer = 8 heller). The baker sold rolls for one or two kreuzer, according to their size. We bought sugar and salt for the house by the loaf. Our farm, at the Štefls', was once divided into two equal parts, half-lány. The whole lán survived only at 'U Boudů' (the Prusíks'). But the division of our holding took place long ago, in the 18th century. It seems, however, that the place called 'U Šteflíků' was the second, new half of the divided holding. And that not only from the name, but also from the style and the state of preservation of the buildings of both homesteads."

František Štefl recalls further: "As a boy I used to run with a jug for drinking water, when our well had turned muddy after heavy rain, across the stream to the Slachs', to the Házas' or to the Maršes at the lower end of the village. The shale formation which, they say, stretches from White Mountain near Prague across the Kladno and Rakovník areas ends just in the hill above our farm. It does not give good drinking water, and the other side of Výrov, across the stream, always had better drinking water. I remember that in 1872 or 1873 a rumour spread everywhere that one day, at noon precisely, a great comet would strike our earth and destroy it entirely. I waited by the stream that day, so that the comet would not burn me, but nothing happened. Only in Vienna, at that time, there was a great crash on the stock exchange, and it struck many of the 'ouly' being set up in the countryside too, that is, grocers' shops, especially in Potvorov, Kralovice and elsewhere. The only larger garden in the village was at 'U Boudů', where my one-time guardian, Václav Prusík, farmed. I also remember vividly the day of 25 May 1872. As children we were going to school in Kralovice in the morning. Just before noon the sky clouded over with black clouds, there was lightning and terrible thunder, and soon a downpour broke. Water was pouring terribly everywhere; the meadows below the parish house and the footpath running through them were flooded deep by the torrent. Only just before evening, when the rain had stopped, did the Hochs' light carriage come for us from the Dyškánka and take us back to Výrov. Our whole farmyard was flooded, the wall of the little garden facing the village green was torn down, and elsewhere in Výrov too there was a great deal of damage. The water even carried off the little shack in the meadows of the court usher Šiml in Kralovice, and later a fine new little brick house was built for him by the road at the edge of the town. Only on the third day did we learn what destruction of property and of lives this cloudburst, and then the flood on the river Střela, had caused at Plasy, Nebřežiny and elsewhere."

This concludes our account of the fortunes and life of Marie Prusíková, married name Šteflová, of Výrov, and we have added to it a few recollections of the young years of her stepson, František Štefl. Although Marie Šteflová, born at "U Boudů" in Výrov, died so young and had only two children who reached adulthood, she has left behind her, down to the present day, a fairly large number of descendants. They number 157 people with Prusík blood, 20 of whom have already died.

## 2.7 The Hodyně Sub-branch of the Výrov Branch

The descendants of Matěj Prusík, a native of Výrov, who settled in Hodyně.

1818 – 1900

The sixth child of Vojtěch Prusík, the reeve of Výrov, and his wife Anna was their son Matěj. He was born at the "U Boudů" farm on 22 February 1818. From childhood he was a very devout man, and he was content in his home, where he helped until he was 25. Only when his brother Václav married, on 30 January 1843, did the family begin to consider that he too should not stay single, and might settle, say, in some other village nearby. When word reached Výrov that homestead No. 17 in Hodyně, then farmed by Jan Tischer, was for sale, this farm was bought. Matěj Prusík bought it with his parents' help, together with his future companion in life, Anna Fakanová of Hodyně. This was on 3 November 1843. Until 1805 this homestead had been No. 10. Until 1830 its owners were the Janeček family. It is interesting that in 1782 the farmer here was Adam Janeček, whose wife was Barbora Prusíková, born in Sedlec on 6 May 1756. And so, at the beginning of November 1843, by a play of fate, a member of our family came here once again: Matěj Prusík of Výrov. The homestead was bought for 2,800 gulden.

Today about 140 people live in Hodyně. Of course, 125 years ago there were fewer. This village, which lies near the Kralovice brook, belonged at first to the royal chamber, but around 1220 it passed to the Plasy monastery in exchange for Všehrdy. Over many centuries the village was owned by various noblemen, such as Hanuš Kolovrat of Krašov or Jan of Gutštejn at Nečtiny, and in part the renowned Florián Gryspek of Kaceřov was also an owner here. There used to be a privileged reeve's holding in the village, and at the time when the Plasy monastery was the owner, and it held Hodyně longest, every farmer apart from the reeve owed corvée. In this small, charming village near Kralovice a daughter, Anna, was born on 11 July 1820 to Prokop Fakan and Anna Jindříšková of Kočín. It was she, then, whom Matěj Prusík took as his wife. That was on 28 November 1843. From that day, then, the Prusík family was settled in Hodyně. Anna Prusíková, née Fakanová, died of convulsions at the age of 47, on 21 November 1867.

Matěj Prusík and his wife Anna had many children, but only five sons reached adulthood. All their daughters, Barbora, Marie, Anna and Josefa, died early, in childhood. Matěj Prusík was a more conservative farmer than his brother Václav, and this showed in his own life too. A mirror, for instance, meant vanity to him, and in all his life he never looked into one. He was a very kind-hearted man, and everyone was always sincerely welcome at his farm. He was the last to die of the four Prusík brothers born at "U Boudů" in Výrov. He lived to 82. He lived contentedly in retirement on the farm for over thirty years, while his first-born son Vojtěch already farmed the homestead on his own. Matěj Prusík died of marasmus on 17 October 1900.

The eldest son of Matěj and Anna was Vojtěch Prusík, born on 11 April 1847. He died in Hodyně on 31 December 1924. He became heir to the holding. The next was Josef, born on 20 March 1849. At the age of twenty he emigrated to America, founded a large family there and died on 4 August 1927. He ended his days on his farm near Shawano, in the state of Wisconsin, in the USA. He never returned to his homeland.

The third son was Václav. He was born on 13 August 1853, settled in nearby Kozojedy and died there at the fine age of 90, on 28 July 1943. The fourth child of Matěj and Anna was František Prusík. He was born on 14 March 1857 and in the end settled in Louny, where he was a storekeeper at the sugar refinery, and died there on 1 August 1941. The last was Jan Prusík, born on 25 May 1859. He served in the revenue guard and was stationed for a long time in Hrádek nad Nisou and above all in Königshahn (Královec), near Žacléř. He died at his son's in Prague on 26 October 1937.

The first son, as we have already said, was Vojtěch Prusík. He was born at the farm at Hodyně No. 17 on 11 April 1847. He completed six forms of the grammar school in Plzeň, but when his mother, Anna, née Fakanová, died so early, he did not finish his studies and returned home, where

he took over the homestead from his father. His father Matěj never remarried. Vojtěch Prusík was a very intelligent farmer. For a long time he was mayor of Hodyně, and for a time he was also a member of the District Committee in Kralovice. After a great natural disaster in the 1890s, which also all but destroyed the whole harvest in Hodyně, he was sent with other delegates from the surrounding villages to the emperor in Vienna, to plead for help. Because he could speak German, he became the spokesman of the deputation there. He liked to quote the words of Emperor Franz Joseph I, who said to him in Czech as he left the audience: "Ti s Pohem a já Ti pudu napomocen", that is, "Go with God, and I shall be of help to you". Vojtěch Prusík gladly supported everything new that was introduced in farming, whether fertilising, new implements or machines. Just as his uncle Václav Prusík in Výrov had earlier begun to cut the grain with the scythe instead of the sickle, he too led the way in Hodyně. Just as people in Výrov were mistrustful at first, so in Hodyně the other farmers followed Vojtěch's example only a year after him.

Vojtěch Prusík chose as his companion in life Anna Jánská of Dřevec. She was born there on 28 January 1851, but like Vojtěch's mother Anna, his wife Anna also died relatively young. She was 41 when she died of peritonitis in Hodyně on 24 January 1892. Vojtěch and his wife had twelve children. Seven of them reached adulthood. They had three little daughters named Marie, who died in childhood, and only the fourth to be christened with this name grew up. Their twins, Cyril and Anna, also died when they were a year old. At the beginning of the 20th century Vojtěch Prusík married again, Marie Štěpánová of Dřevec. This marriage was childless. Marie Prusíková, Vojtěch's second wife, died in Hodyně on 4 December 1939. Homestead No. 13, which belonged to the Fakan family and from which Matěj Prusík's wife came, was sold in 1871 to the blacksmith Jan Kožíšek for 1,170 gulden, but with only part of its land. The remaining fields and meadows passed to Vojtěch Prusík, who thereby enlarged his acreage. After his mother's death Vojtěch Prusík paid out to each of his brothers, or guaranteed them, a share of 200 gulden. The first share was drawn in cash by his brother Josef, who emigrated to America. Vojtěch Prusík was respected and well liked in Hodyně, not only because he had been mayor, but also for his kind-hearted and hospitable nature. He died of pneumonia, in retirement on the farm, on 31 December 1924.

Vojtěch Prusík and his wife Anna had these seven children. The eldest was their daughter Františka, born on 7 April 1870. She became heir to homestead No. 17, which had been called "U Laibů" since time immemorial, and in 1912, with her husband František Hanzlíček, a native of Obora near Kaznějov, she bought the fine Machek farm, which she also later handed on to her brother Vojtěch. The marriage of Františka Hanzlíčková, née Prusíková, was childless. Her husband was, it is true, a sharp and well-read man, but he was not an outstanding farmer. The main burden was borne by his wife. Františka Hanzlíčková died on 27 January 1938. The second child to reach adulthood was their son Václav. He was born on 6 December 1873, became an engine driver on the railway, was settled in Plzeň for many years and died in Třemošná on 3 March 1938. The third was Anežka, married name Kasalová. She was born on 1 March 1878 and died in Prague on 24 July 1928. The second son of Vojtěch Prusík of Hodyně was Josef. He was born on 30 October 1879, worked as an official on the railway and died tragically in May 1945 near Wałcz, in present-day Poland, when the prison in Gollnow, where he had been held, had already been liberated. The next was František Prusík, born in Hodyně on 23 August 1881; he owned a druggist's shop and died in Hodyně [sic; his own paragraph below has him die in hospital in Plzeň], where he had settled towards the end of his life, on 31 December 1959. The sixth child of Vojtěch Prusík of Hodyně was his son Vojtěch. He was born on 21 March 1888, farmed in Hodyně after his sister Františka Hanzlíčková and died on 18 August 1948. The last is his daughter Marie, born on 22 September 1890. Her first husband was the teacher Ladislav Vodák. She married him in 1914, but after ten years the marriage was dissolved.

She lived with him in Čivice and Kožlany. In 1930 she married again, the railway official František Bílek, and now, as a widow, she lives in Prague 7, Na Maninách 32. For a long time she also lived with her sister Anežka, married name Kasalová, whom she also nursed until her untimely death.

Marie Bílková, née Prusíková, who remained childless, is often turned to in trust by her many nephews and nieces and by their descendants too, as the last member of the family of Vojtěch

Prusík of Hodyně. She died on 31 December 1974.

The first son of Vojtěch Prusík and Anna, née Jánská, in Hodyně to reach adulthood was Václav. He was born on 6 December 1873. He studied briefly at the grammar school in Klatovy. There, however, he got up to all sorts of mischief. As a student, although he suffered no want, he sold an eiderdown. And when it became clear that steady study and sitting in school were not to his liking, he was apprenticed as a locksmith. He grew very fond of this trade, and later he became a very capable engine driver on the railways. His first posting was Karlovy Vary. Then he was transferred to Rakovník, and he spent the greater part of his life in Plzeň. He took as his wife Marie Němcová, born in Plzeň on 25 March 1882. They had five children. Václav Prusík died in his little villa in Třemošná, where he lived on his pension, on 3 March 1938, and was buried in Plzeň. His wife Marie survived him by only a year; she died in Třemošná on 21 June 1939.

The eldest child of Václav Prusík and Marie was their daughter Milada. She was born in Karlovy Vary on 19 July 1900. For some years she also lived in Prague; later she married the merchant Václav Lang, and today she lives in Plzeň, Divadelní 4. Milada Langová, née Prusíková, has four children. Her son Václav Lang was born on 16 October 1926. He is a building technician and lives in Plzeň, Škrétova 43. He has two children: a daughter, Libuše, born on 19 December 1952, and a little son, Václav, born on 24 May 1961. The second was her daughter Marie, born on 22 September 1927. Marie's daughter Alena Langová was born out of wedlock. She was born on 19 December 1949.

Marie Langová then married, becoming Bobková, and had two more little daughters. Jindřiška Bobková was born on 21 November 1954, and Marie Bobková on 22 February 1956. Their mother, Marie Bobková, died young, of cancer, on 1 July 1956. Their grandmother and grandfather devotedly took the orphans in and brought them up. The next is her daughter Milada, married name Martinková. She was born on 28 October 1934, is a nurse and is childless. She lives in Plzeň, Tomanova 5, and it is she above all who devotedly looks after the children of her sister Marie, who died before her time. The last child of Milada Langová is her daughter Josefa. She was born on 5 March 1939. She lives in Plzeň, Kollárova 5. She has a little son, Václav Zuna, Zuna being her married name. He was born on 8 February 1959.

The next son of the engine driver Václav Prusík, a native of Hodyně, was Václav. He was born in Plzeň on 1 April 1902 and was a driver for the post office in Prague, but he soon fell ill and died of consumption at the young age of 24, on 1 April 1926. He is buried in Plzeň. The next was his son Ervín Prusík. He was born on 20 August 1904 in Rakovník. He trained as a druggist with his uncle František Prusík, then had his own druggist's shop in Chudenice near Klatovy and in Plzeň, but this business did not go very well for him. Finally he was co-owner of a soap factory in Prague-Libeň, under the firm name Prusík & Co., but he did not succeed there either. His wife was Marie Jirásková, born on 18 May 1903. Ervín Prusík died at the young age of 38, on 5 July 1942, and is buried in Plzeň. His widow, Marie Prusíková, lives in Prague-Košíře, Holečkova 52. Ervín and his wife Marie had an only son, Ervín. He was born on 11 May 1934 in Plzeň. He had a gift for foreign languages, but he could never establish himself in a place where he could use his abilities. For a time he worked as a mechanic, but that did not appeal to him. He longed to see the world. One day in 1953 he crossed the border illegally into Austria, together with several friends, and from there, after an arduous journey, he finally reached the USA. His beginnings there were hard, as perhaps everyone's are, but now he has done very well for himself there, as a clerk in an insurance company and at the same time as a data-processing technician in an industrial firm. He lives near New York, at 11 Midlesex Court, Newfoundland, New Jersey. His wife is a Frenchwoman, Monika, née Guiffantová, born on 21 August 1931 in Brest, in Brittany. Ervín and Monika have no children as yet. Monika also works as a clerk. She and Ervín have built themselves a fine little house north of New York, in wooded lake country near Wanda-lake. Of the friends who once left their homeland with Ervín, only one still lives in the USA, as Ervín does. The others are scattered elsewhere around the world.

The next child of Václav Prusík, a native of Hodyně, is his son Karel. He was born on 8 September

1907 in Plzeň. He trained in a grocer's shop, at one time also with the well-known large Prague delicatessen firm of Dřevo. For a short time he also had his own business in this line. Finally he was an inspector of the Regional Administration of Restaurants and Canteens in Plzeň. He took as his wife Herma Echtnerová, who was born on 27 March 1911 in Nýřany near Plzeň. Karel Prusík and his wife Herma have two children. They live in Plzeň, Zámečnická 32. Their son Václav Prusík was born on 28 September 1933, trained as a photographer and is still employed in that line in Plzeň. His wife is Jitka Hoblová, born on 12 October 1936 in Starý Plzenec. The couple live there too, at Nerudova 766. They have two children: a son, Václav Prusík, born on 27 December 1960, and a little daughter, Jitka, born on 8 May 1964. Václav Prusík is one of those young people, by no means the rule among them, who take an exceptional interest in the history of the family to which they belong. He is always a most willing helper in this historical work of ours. Karel Prusík's daughter Jana, married name Kudrová, was born on 25 January 1940 in Plzeň; her husband is the technician Josef Kudra. They live in Plzeň, Čermákova 62. They have a son, Pavel, born on 22 May 1964.

The last child of the engine driver Václav Prusík is his daughter Jarmila. She was born in Plzeň on 7 March 1910 and married the railway official Jaromír Fiala. They live in Plzeň-Čechurov, Zelenohorská 71. She has two daughters. Jarmila, born on 21 September 1936, is married to the officer Pytlík in Plzeň, where they live in Slovany, Šeříkova 30. She has a daughter, Ivana, born on 25 June 1959. The second daughter of Jarmila Prusíková, married name Fialová, is Vlasta. She was born on 21 December 1939 and married Kokoška, a technician at the Škoda Works. They live in Plzeň-Letná, Partyzánská 2. Vlasta Kokošková has two little sons: Karel, born on 9 November 1963, and Petr, born on 20 December 1964.

The second daughter of Vojtěch Prusík and Anna in Hodyně was Anežka. She was born on 1 March 1878. She married the post-office employee Josef Kasal, who was born in 1864 in Skořice, in the Rokycany area. They settled in Plzeň, and so Anežka was not too far from her birthplace, Hodyně. Her father, after all, still lived there for many years. When her sister Františka, married name Hanzlíčková, bought a new and better homestead in Hodyně, Anežka Kasalová saved her birthplace, homestead No. 17 in Hodyně, from falling into strangers' hands. The farm on which Matěj Prusík of Výrov had settled in 1843 was bought in 1912 by the Kasals. Anežka Kasalová and her husband Josef had an only son, Jaromír. He was born on 9 February 1899 and studied at the modern secondary school in Plzeň and at the technical university in Prague, electrical engineering. For a short time he worked at the Škoda Works, but then, until his retirement, he was employed in the technical department of the Prague municipality. He left no descendants.

With his wife Julie, the daughter of the sculptor Piccardt, he long lived in his own house in Smíchov, U Nikolajky, and now, after its sale, they live in Smíchov, Nádražní 50. Jaromír Kasal was always attached to his mother's birthplace, Hodyně, and to the whole Prusík family. His mother, Anežka Kasalová, née Prusíková, lived with her husband for several years in Krušovice near Rakovník, where the father of the engineer Jaromír Kasal was postmaster. Anežka died in Prague at the age of fifty. That was on 24 July 1928, and she is buried in the Malvazinky cemetery. Her husband survived her by two years.

Another child of Vojtěch Prusík of Hodyně was his son Josef. He was born on 30 October 1879 in Hodyně. He joined the railway early, and his first post, in 1904, was Klatovy. Then he went to Brod nad Lesy, where he was at the station until 1930. Later he built himself a fine little villa in Klatovy, Pod Hůrkou, and retired there on his pension. His wife was Barbora, née Rádlová, born on 23 October 1883, from Štěnovice near Plzeň. She died in Klatovy on 17 April 1952. Josef Prusík, whom the family called "signál", the signal, was arrested in 1944, sentenced to a year and a half for seditious talk against Hitler and imprisoned in Gollnow near Stettin, in Germany. There he did live to see liberation in 1945, but on his way home in May of that year his trail mysteriously vanishes. According to witnesses he was last seen near the small town of Deutsch Krone, in former East Prussia [sic; Deutsch Krone was never in East Prussia; in 1945 it belonged to Pomerania], today near Wałcz in Poland. So he never came home. He was 66. Josef Prusík and his wife Barbora had an only daughter, Libuše. She was born on 4 November 1922 in Prague.

Today she is a clerk at the railway station in Klatovy. She lives in the little villa her parents built in Klatovy, čs. tankistů 364. Libuše, who has always acknowledged the family too, is still unmarried.

The fifth child of Vojtěch Prusík of Hodyně was his son František. He was born on 23 August 1881. He studied briefly at the grammar school in Klatovy, but it soon became clear that he had little appetite for study. He then trained in a druggist's shop, and by his great diligence and his pleasant manner he rose to a fine position. He had his own, fairly large druggist's shop in Prague-Radlice. For a time he also had a branch shop in Radotín. Over many years he trained many druggists in his business, who remembered him fondly and did well in life with the Prusík schooling. For many years František Prusík was a member of the board of directors of the Citizens' Savings and Loan Society in Smíchov. From 1913 he was also a member of the Smíchov municipal council, for the former National Democratic Party. At the Smíchov town hall he devoted himself above all to social questions and poor relief, and in this respect too he did a great deal for the neediest. It was also on his initiative that the footbridge over Smíchov railway station was built. His wife was Anna Grünwaldová, born on 18 February 1876 in Jesenice near Prague. This marriage, however, remained childless. In later life František Prusík built himself a little villa in his birthplace, Hodyně, on the land of the farm No. 17, by then no longer in existence, where he had been born. He always liked to return to his home, and so it was always his wish to spend the end of his life there.

The end of his life was not a happy one, for, like hundreds of thousands of tradesmen, he was left without money after the Second World War, and he lived very modestly. His wife Anna died in Hodyně on 12 November 1950. As fate would have it, František Prusík died exactly a quarter of a century [sic, properly 35 years] after his father, also on New Year's Eve, on 31 December 1959, in hospital in Plzeň.

The last son of Vojtěch Prusík and Anna, née Jánská, was Vojtěch. He was born on 21 March 1888 in Hodyně. Vojtěch Prusík had more than his fill of soldiering. He lived through the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908, and then in the First World War he was on the Italian front. There he suffered considerable wounds, especially to his hands. In 1921 he married Leontýna Konopásková of Hodyně, born on 12 October 1892. Soon afterwards his sister Františka Hanzlíčková handed the farm over to him, and Vojtěch Prusík farmed it well. He sold it, though, while he was still alive. Two daughters were born of this marriage. Vlasta, born on 5 February 1922, married Jan Fiala, an official of the town of Plzeň. They live in Plzeň-Čechurov, Lomená 20. They have two children. Their son Jan Fiala, born on 4 February 1943, has a little daughter, Jana, born on 3 September 1967; their daughter Vlasta, married name Herinková, born on 27 March 1946, has a daughter, Eva, born on 28 September 1967. All of them live in the same little villa, except Jana. The second daughter is Miluška, who was born on 11 March 1925 in Hodyně and married into Výrov No. 1, to the farmer Václav Vopat. They have two children. Their daughter Miroslava, born on 5 November 1946, has the married name Rodová and lives today in the little villa of her great-uncle František Prusík in Hodyně. She has a little daughter, Miroslava, born on 12 April 1967. Their son Václav Vopat was born on 16 February 1955. Vojtěch Prusík, by then living in retirement, which he did not enjoy for long, died on 18 August 1948. He was buried in the Kralovice cemetery. His widow, Leontýna Prusíková, died on 10 March 1965.

### 2.7.1 The First Prusík to Settle in the New World

The second son of Matěj Prusík and Anna, née Fakanová, in Hodyně was Josef. He was born on 20 March 1849. Until he was twenty he helped at home on the farm, and when it had been decided that the first-born, Vojtěch, would become heir to the holding, the family considered what to do with Josef. His mother was dead by then, the holding was not meant for him, and after the Austro-Prussian War of 1866 the times were still unsettled. In those days many Czechs, from the Kralovice area too, were leaving for America. And so Josef Prusík decided that he too would seek his fortune overseas. At the beginning of 1869 he took leave of his loved ones and his native

village and left his homeland for ever. At the beginning of February 1869 he reached New York, and from there he later made his way to the port of Green Bay, in the state of Wisconsin. He lived there for several years and earned his living in all sorts of ways. There he also met his future wife, Kateřina. She was born a Janková on 17 September 1858, also in Bohemia. Her mother was a midwife, and she too learnt the craft, which was a great help to her when she later lived in the American countryside with her husband and the doctor was endlessly far away. Some years later Josef Prusík and his wife Kateřina moved to the neighbourhood of the small town of Shawano, in the same state. There they finally settled on their own farm and farmed it for over fifty years. Josef Prusík always liked to reminisce, as indeed all our countrymen in America do, and he and his brothers wrote to one another until the end of his life. He was a staunch Catholic, and when after the First World War his elder brother Vojtěch went over to the Czechoslovak Church, he reproached him sharply for it. None of his three children who grew up wanted to farm, however. When the work was already becoming far too much for Josef and Kateřina, Josef sold his farm near Shawano and lived in retirement for only about two years. He died on 4 August 1927. His wife Kateřina survived him by 20 years; she died at the home of one of her daughters on 16 November 1947.

Josef Prusík and Kateřina, née Janková, had six children. Čeněk and Otylie died very young, and Arnošt Prusík died when he was four. His only son to reach adulthood was Adolf. He was born on 5 December 1881, worked in paper mills and lives today in retirement in Shawano, as the oldest Prusík living in the world today. His daughter Emma was born on 25 October 1892, married the machinist Jiří Boehler and lives in the city of Milwaukee, in the state of Wisconsin. Josef Prusík's second daughter, Kateřina, born on 25 November 1895, married the electrical technician Karel Radtke. As a widow she lives today in Shawano. We shall now tell more of the fortunes of this whole family.

Josef Prusík's son Adolf, although he was born on a farm and had to work in the fields from his youth, had no wish to anchor himself in farming for good. The state of Wisconsin is heavily wooded, and so the paper mills there offered plenty of work, and Adolf took advantage of it. He became a worker in one such paper mill, and he worked there as a worker all his life. He was born on 5 December 1881 and is today among the oldest people in the world with this name. No other Prusík older than he is known anywhere else in the world so far. His wife was a woman of Czech origin, Otylie, née Tatovská. She was born in Bohemia on 14 December 1883. Adolf Prusík and Otylie had one daughter and four sons. All the sons have descendants with the name Prusík, so that across the "big pond", too, numerous members of our family live today, in the male line and in the female line. They have multiplied the name Prusík in the Hodyně sub-branch of the Výrov branch as abundantly as could be. Adolf Prusík and his wife Otylie live in retirement in Shawano, Maurer Street, in the state of Wisconsin in the north of the USA. Adolf Prusík died on 4 July 1969.

The eldest child of Adolf Prusík in the USA is his daughter Evelyn. She was born on 29 September 1908 and was married twice, but not happily. Each time her marriage ended in divorce through her husband's fault. Today Evelyn is employed in a hotel in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and she lives there with her daughter Georgette at 328 Main Street. Evelyn Prusíková's first married name was Schenková. Four sons were born to her of this marriage. All of them work as skilled workers in the "black trade", as it is called, that is, metalworking, in various factories in the state of Wisconsin. The eldest is Elmer Schenk. He was born on 27 April 1926 and lives in Green Bay, at 2744 Whipponwill Drive. He has two children. They are Reyne Anna Schenková, born on 12 March 1951, and a son, Robert, born on 1 April 1949. The second son of Evelyn, née Prusíková, is Lyle Schenk, born on 7 December 1927. He lives in the city of Milwaukee, at 17345 65th Street. Like

his brother Elmer, he too has two children. They are boys, Alan, born on 15 April 1960, and Glenn Schenk, born on 10 July 1956. The third is Dale Schenk. He was born on 30 March 1930 and has only one little son. That is Michal, born in March 1955. The last child of Evelyn Prusíková's first marriage is her son Eduard Schenk. He was born on 5 July 1936, and he above all proudly

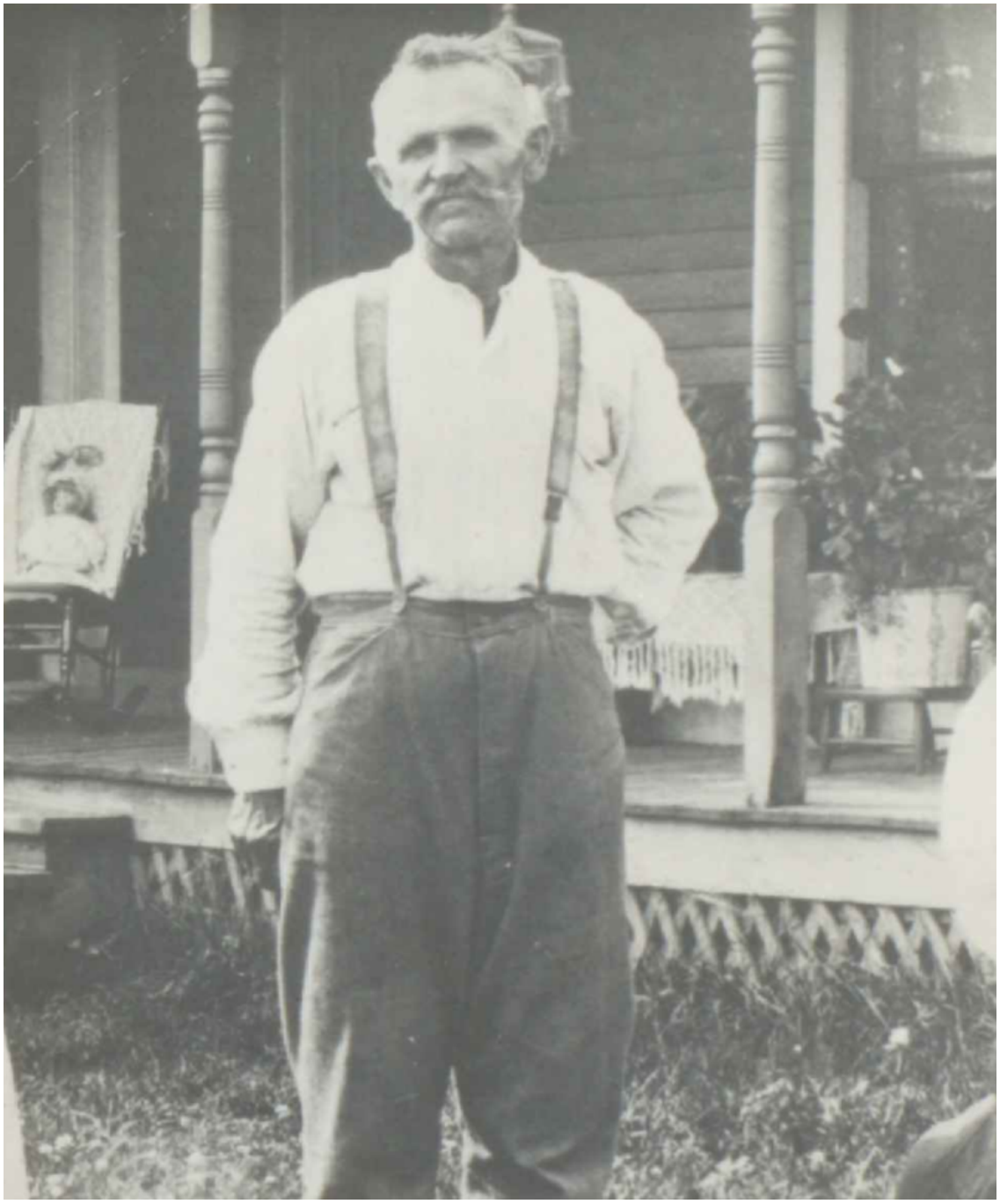


Figure 2.17: Josef Prusík of Hodyně (1849 – 1927), who settled in the USA in 1869, the first Prusík to do so



Figure 2.18: The town of Shawano, in the state of Wisconsin, USA, where the descendants of Josef Prusík, a native of Hodyně, live

acknowledges his mother's Czech origin. Eduard has three children. They are his sons Daniel Schenk, born on 17 September 1962, and Štěpán, born on 5 October 1960, and his daughter Stacy Sue Schenková, born on 10 April 1964. The children live with their parents in a fine little house of their own in Green Bay 54301, at 2634 Oakwood Drive. Green Bay is a port city, and his mother lives there, as do his brother Elmer and his sister Georgette. His brothers Lyle and Dale Schenk live in the city of Milwaukee. Dale Schenk's address is 6101 West Plainfield, Milwaukee.

Evelyn Prusíková's second married name was Schefdorová. This marriage did not turn out well either: the father did not look after the family and drank instead. So the marriage was dissolved. A daughter was born of it, Georgette, on 1 November 1944; she lives with her mother in Green Bay, in the place where their grandfather and great-grandfather, Josef Prusík, first worked when he came to America almost a hundred years ago.

The second child of Adolf Prusík was his son Josef. He was born on 11 May 1911. He remembers how as a boy, until he was fifteen, he always helped on his grandfather's farm in his free time. He picked stones off the fields there. He loved his grandfather. Sometimes, he says, they could hardly understand each other: his grandfather never learnt to speak English well, and he in turn no longer understood well the native tongue of his forebears, Czech. Josef Prusík became a wood turner and a skilled worker in the manufacture of refrigeration equipment. His hobby is mink breeding, and with a partner he keeps quite a large farm of these precious fur-bearing animals. He married Lucie, née Olssonová, who was born in Norway on 19 January 1912. They had two children. After a few years, however, the marriage ended in divorce, and Lucie, divorced once more after that, kept the name Prusíková and lives today with her daughter Glorian. Josef Prusík lives in Shawano, at 918 East Lieg Avenue.

Glorian was born on 3 June 1935 and married the mechanic Meyer. They live in Shawano, at 922 South River Street. They have a little son, Michal, born on 3 August 1956. The second child was a son, Ronald Prusík. Was, sadly. He was born on 19 April 1942, studied pharmacy at the university in Madison and was truly a most promising member of our family. His father bought him a Jaguar car, and driving it he was soon killed, near Shawano, on 3 September 1961. So he was only 19. He died unmarried. Josef Prusík, who lives today as a recluse, takes the loss of his

only son hard.

Adolf Prusík's next son in the USA is Bernard. He was born on 30 November 1912, studied economics and became a successful official. He lives in Shawano, as his parents do, at 305 Arlington Street. His wife is of Scottish-German origin. She is Jana, née Kupská. She was born on 30 September 1919. Bernard Prusík helped most of all, by gathering all the names and dates he could of the descendants of Josef Prusík, the Hodyně native who emigrated to the USA. He and his wife have two sons. The first son is Bernard. He is an electric welder and lives today in the town of Appleton, Wisconsin, where he has his own little house. His address there is Route 5, Box 234 A. Bernard Prusík junior served as a soldier in Korea and elsewhere. His wife is of Dutch origin, Mary van Hoof, born on 17 September 1943. Bernard was born on 22 April 1940. They have two children: a little daughter, Lisa Prusíková, born on 3 March 1965, and a little son, Daniel, born on 9 March 1966. Bernard Prusík junior is a keen and very successful basketball player, and Bernard senior, for his part, a passionate Nimrod. The second son of Bernard senior is Dennis. He was born on 22 August 1949 and is a student.

Adolf Prusík's third son is Norman. He was born on 17 June 1916. He married Genevieve, née Peebles, born on 3 January 1921, who is of Irish-Scottish origin. They live in Shawano, at 29 East Highway. Norman Prusík and his wife long had a restaurant in Shawano, a town of about 7,000 inhabitants. Now, since selling the business, he works for a dairy. His great love is painting. He has several times held exhibitions of his pictures, with success. Norman has three children. The eldest is his daughter Judita, born on 29 December 1940, married name Guetschowová, in Shawano. She lives there in West Richmond Street. She has two children: a daughter, Julie Lynn Guetschowová, born on 1 February 1961, and a son, Wayne Kenneth, born on 28 October 1963. Norman's second child is his son Kenneth Prusík. He was born on 28 March 1943 and studied at the university in Madison, but he soon decided to enter a Catholic order in the town of De Soto on the Mississippi. He stayed there several years. Now he works in a hotel in the city of Green Bay. He is unmarried and seems to have no intention of marrying at all. The third is his daughter Linda Prusíková. She was born on 9 July 1952.

The last son of Adolf Prusík and his wife Otylie is Elmo Prusík. He was born on 30 September 1923. He is a turner and lives in the town of Hartford near Milwaukee, at 742 Wheelock Avenue. His wife is Geraldina Acettová, born on 5 April 1929 in Italy. They have two children. The first is a little daughter, Kateřina, born on 23 April 1952; the second is a little son, Alan Prusík, born on 17 March 1958. That, then, is the list of all the descendants of Adolf Prusík, the oldest living Prusík in the world. So the name Prusík lives on after him in quite considerable numbers, even though one of them, Ronald, ended his life tragically at so young an age.

The second child of Josef and Kateřina Prusík to reach adulthood on the Waukechon farm, not far from the small town of Shawano, was their daughter Emma. She was born there on 25 October 1892 and married the machinist Jiří Boehler, of German-Polish origin. Emma often remembers her parents with love. At first they lived in a little sod house; school, doctor: far away, nowhere. Later, though, when the American countryside had become civilised and settlers were growing in number, she could go to school after all. Her parents never stinted on her education. She even learnt to play the piano and to sing, and she used to sing at services in church. Emma Boehlerová, née Prusíková, lives with her husband, a pensioner, in the city of Milwaukee, in the state of Wisconsin, at 4481 44th Street. Emma has three children. They are: her son Jiří Boehler, born on 8 July 1922. He is an official in a shipping company. He too lives in Milwaukee, at 3871 56th Street. The suburb of Milwaukee where he lives is Greenfield. He has two children, a son, Ronald, born on 7 June 1949, and Rusel, born on 22 April 1955. The second child of Emma Boehlerová, née Prusíková, is her daughter Dorota. She was born on 11 October 1925 and married the metalworker Walter Bomber. They too live in Milwaukee, a city of three-quarters of a million in the north of the USA. The address is 3314 91st Street. They have two children. Their daughter Marie was born on 3 October 1950, and the second, Diana Louisa, on 26 December 1961. The third child of Emma Boehlerová, the daughter of the Hodyně native Josef Prusík, is her daughter Bernice. She married first the official Frank and, after his early death, the worker Edenhofer.

She was born on 9 March 1927. From her first marriage she has two children. Her son James (Jakub) Frank was born on 16 December 1950, and her second son, Jan Frank, in 1953. From her second marriage a little daughter, Zuzana Edenhoferová, was born on 7 February 1963. They live in Milwaukee, at 3127 80th Street. Bernice works in an office.

The third child of Josef and Kateřina Prusík was their daughter Kateřina. She was born on her parents' farm near Shawano on 25 November 1895. In 1918 she married the electrical technician Karel Radtke, who had lived in California in his youth. Later Karel Radtke built up a fine electrical business of his own in Shawano. He was a respected and well-liked, very pious man. Kateřina, his widow, lives in Shawano, at 201 Richmond Street, in her fine little house with a garden. She too likes to remember her Czech origin and her parents with gratitude. Unfortunately neither she nor her sister and brother has much command of Czech any more, and their descendants still less. Kateřina Radtkeová, née Prusíková, had, like her sister Emma [sic; Emma had three children], four children too.

Kateřina's eldest son, Karel Radtke, was born on 20 June 1918 and inherited the business from his father. He has eight children. The eldest is Kenneth Radtke, born on 9 June 1941; the second is his daughter Kateřina, born on 17 April 1943. She has the married name Zaddacková, in the small town of New London in the state of Wisconsin, at 319 Wisconsin Avenue. She has a little son, Scott, born on 8 April 1963. Karel Radtke's other children are his sons Billy, born on 18 January 1945, Tommy, born on 16 February 1948, and Donny, born on 25 March 1949, his daughter Marie, born on 23 August 1950, Petr, born on 23 June 1959, and the last, a little daughter, Karolina Radtkeová, born on 17 February 1961. The second son of Kateřina Radtkeová, née Prusíková, is Milton. He was born in Shawano on 21 December 1926, lives there too and has two children: a little son, Richard, born on 3 November 1959, and a little daughter, Eliška, born on 7 February 1962. A little son, Michal, died at the age of three. Kateřina Radtkeová's daughter Beatrice, born on 20 March 1933, married the machinist Bane. She lives with him in the city of Minneapolis on the Mississippi, at 5601 12th Avenue. They have six children. They are a son, Pavel, born on 17 June 1955, a daughter, Juliana, born on 22 May 1956, and Marie, born on 17 June 1957, then another son, Josef Bane, born on 17 September 1958, a daughter, Anna, born on 22 April 1963, and finally another son, Tommy, born on 23 October 1964.

As can be seen from the account so far, a great many children are born in the USA. The last child of Kateřina Radtkeová, née Prusíková, is her daughter Marie, born on 10 February 1938. She is married to the veterinary surgeon Fischer. They have two little daughters: Laura, born on 16 January 1963, and Marie, born on 4 September 1965.

These, then, are the descendants of Josef Prusík of Hodyně, who emigrated from there to America almost a hundred years ago. They are not few, whether they bear the name Prusík or one of many others. There are 70 people in all. None of them knows the language of their Czech forebears any more. But they all proudly acknowledge their distant Czech origins.

Josef Prusík of Hodyně was not, it is true, the first Prusík to cross the ocean, but he was the first member of our family to settle there for good and to leave numerous descendants in the New World.

The third son of Matěj Prusík and Anna, née Fakanová, in Hodyně was Václav. He was born on 13 August 1853. Until 1889 he helped at home on the farm his brother Vojtěch, who had taken over the family holding after their mother's early death in 1867. He found his wife in nearby Kozojedy. She was Josefa Smolíková, born on 28 February 1854 in Holovousy. Later she moved with her parents from that village to Kozojedy No. 35.

Holding No. 18, after the renumbering No. 35, in Kozojedy was once called "Adamovský". As early as 1686 Jan Kotas farmed here. The Kotas family were here until 1873. The last farmer, Martin Kotas, embarked in the first half of the 19th century on a risky industrial venture. At that time the beginnings of industry were being built in the Radnice area, and above all in Břasy, and that tempted many farmers too. The rich Jew Starck, however, had far more money, push

and ruthlessness, so that the money the farmers had put into the new venture was soon lost. At that time the Kotas family also ran their holding into debt, so that in 1838 Martin Kotas's son Jan already had liabilities of 2,500 gulden and was placed under guardianship. He and his three siblings emigrated to the USA. In homestead No. 35 in Kozojedy, in 1826, was born Josefa Kotasová, who in 1843 married the farmer Václav Prusík in Výrov. Her sister Kateřina, born in 1837, then lived in straitened circumstances as a result of her father's adventurous venture. So when she married Jan Plaček of Rakolusky, she chose to emigrate with him to the USA. There they had a large family, and one of their sons in particular, Emil Plaček, became a prominent and successful citizen and businessman in the state of Nebraska, in the United States of America. Another sister, Marie Kotasová, had the married name Kosová, in Buček. When the Kotas farm had declined so far, it was bought by Václav Prusík of Výrov, the husband of Josefa Kotasová. This happened on 29 January 1873, and in the autumn of that same year, on 12 November 1873, Václav Prusík of Výrov granted the Smolíks the entry of their title in the land register. It was here, then, that Václav Prusík of Hodyně married into the farm in 1889. Václav was an excellent farmer, and for a long time he was chairman of the Kampelička, the village savings and loan bank, and of the fire brigade. His wife Josefa, née Smolíková, was also very industrious. Václav Prusík and Josefa had three children. The eldest is their daughter Marie, born on 24 February 1890. She was married first, briefly, as Šourová, and later as Šustová. The second is their son Václav Prusík. He was born on 26 July 1893, took over the holding in Kozojedy and died on 7 November 1961. The third child of Václav Prusík of Kozojedy is Jaroslav. He was born on 11 April 1897 and married into Bujesily No. 18. Josefa Prusíková, née Smolíková, died on 19 May 1921. Her husband Václav Prusík reached a great age, and when he was 15 days short of ninety, he died in Kozojedy on 28 July 1943. He was buried there, with a great attendance of the townspeople and of the whole wide neighbourhood.

The first child of Václav Prusík, a native of Hodyně settled in Kozojedy, was his daughter Marie. She was born on 24 February 1890. She first married the butcher Šoura of Planá. This marriage was short, as her husband died tragically. In 1927 she married a second time, the railway official František Šusta, by then a widower. Šusta had a son from his first marriage. A son, Václav, was born to Marie Šustová on 13 February 1928. Marie Šustová was widowed while her son was studying, but even so, with great sacrifices, she managed to see Václav through his law degree. He lives in Prague 7, Kostelní 24. He has a little son, Petr, born on 5 March 1954. His mother Marie lived with him. She died on 29 March 1968.

The second child of Václav Prusík of Kozojedy was his son Václav. He was born on 26 July 1893 and took over the family holding, No. 35, from his father. He took as his wife a very industrious woman, a native of Kozojedy, Božena Volínová, born on 19 June 1901. Václav was an excellent farmer and well liked in the village. For seven years he was mayor of Kozojedy, from 1922 to 1928. In his time a higher primary school was built in the village, a medical district was set up, a brickworks was built and a memorial was put up to the fallen of the First World War. Towards the end of his life he grew brooding, and on 7 November 1961 he hanged himself at home. He was the last in the whole village to bring his farm into the collective farm (JZD). Václav Prusík and his wife Božena in Kozojedy had two children. The first is their daughter Zdeňka, born on 12 October 1922. She married a native of Kozojedy, Rudolf Špirk. His parents had an inn in Kozojedy. Rudolf Špirk is today the manager of the brewery in Litoměřice, and he lives there with his wife Zdeňka, at Lidická 15. The Špirks have two children: Milan was born on 2 September 1947, and their little daughter Zdeňka Špirková on 24 March 1954. The second is their son Václav Prusík. He was born at Kozojedy No. 35 on 29 January 1928. He took over the holding from his father and is a member of the collective farm. His wife is Alena, née Helebrantová, of Hlince near Kralovice, born on 8 January 1931. Václav Prusík and Alena have three children: a little daughter, Alena, born on 19 April 1958, a son, Václav, born on 16 September 1960, and the youngest, Libor, born on 25 June 1964. The Prusíks in Kozojedy are very industrious people; they have built themselves a fine new house to live in, and they are as well liked in the village as their grandfather and father were.

The third child of Václav Prusík of Kozojedy is his son Jaroslav Prusík, born on 11 April 1897.

Jaroslav stayed at home for quite a long time. In 1929 he married into Bujesily. There he took as his wife Marie Mudrová, born on 24 April 1895. The Mudras had an inn there and a very respectable farm. A son and two daughters were born to them. The eldest is Marie, born on 16 June 1930. She is married to Václav Maleček, today a member of the collective farm, at Bujesily No. 27. They have three boys: Vladimír Maleček was born on 14 October 1952, and the twins Jaroslav and Václav on 23 August 1958. The second daughter is Zdeňka. She was born on 9 April 1932 and married Josef Volín at Kostelec nad Mží No. 6. They have two little daughters, Zdeňka, born on 1 September 1958, and Alena, born on 17 November 1959. They too are members of the collective farm. The youngest child of Jaroslav Prusík of Bujesily No. 18 is his son Václav. He was born on 3 April 1935. He married Věra Šubrtová, born on 14 June 1942 in Hlince. They have a little daughter, Vendulka, born on 10 March 1964. Václav Prusík was for a long time a team leader in the collective farm. He also has a daughter, Dana, born on 22 April 1968. Jaroslav Prusík, settled in Bujesily, a native of Kozojedy, is a very kind-hearted man. For a long time he was chief instructor of the Sokol gymnastic society and a member of the local national committee. Even now he is not idle at home.

The fourth son of Matěj Prusík of Hodyně was František. He was born there on 14 March 1857. With the support of his uncle, Blažej Prusík, vicar at St Vitus's in Prague, he completed a two-year commercial school. Then he did his military service with the dragoons in Klatovy. He took part in the occupation of Bosnia in 1878 and liked to tell how, in bitter winter weather at Candlemas, he rode on horseback from Klatovy all the way to Bosnia. Later fate carried him to Louny, where he found employment in Walter's sugar refinery, and there he became head storekeeper. His wife was Marie, née Fricová. She was born on 16 November 1873 in Úlovice near Louny. Her father, the farmer Josef Fric, gave up farming in later life and built a little house with one upper floor in Louny, at Prokopova 490, where he then lived until his death, together with his married daughter. František Prusík had an only son, Josef. He was born on 18 June 1895 in Louny and was an official of the savings bank there. He took as his wife Marie Pišoftová, the daughter of a farmer from Lenešice, born on 17 April 1907. František Prusík, however, and, surprisingly, his son Josef too, kept up no close contact with the Prusík family or with his birthplace, Hodyně. František Prusík died in Louny on 1 August 1941, at the age of 84. His wife Marie, despite her frail constitution and frequent ailments, lived to eighty. She died on 6 May 1953.

Josef Prusík and his wife Marie in Louny had two children. His son Jiří Prusík was born on 27 August 1935 and became a forestry engineer. He inherited his love of the forests and of game from his father, for his father was a passionate Nimrod and for many years a member of hunting associations. The engineer Jiří Prusík took as his wife Helena Fišerová, born on 16 December 1942 in Senkov near Louny. They live together in Louny, at Prokopova 490, but have no children as yet. The second child of Josef Prusík and his wife Marie is their daughter Jana. She was born on 14 March 1939 and is married to the building technician Josef Dragoun, a native of Vrbičany. This couple too live in the house of their parents, the Prusíks. Jana Dragounová, née Prusíková, has two boys: Josef Dragoun, born on 28 August 1961, and Jiří, born on 11 July 1964. Jana Dragounová is a clerk at the Elektroporcelán enterprise in Louny. Josef Prusík died suddenly in Louny on 12 January 1960. He was well liked everywhere.

The last son of Matěj Prusík of Hodyně was Jan. He was born on 25 May 1859. He too was helped on his way to a better livelihood by his uncle, the vicar Blažej Prusík. But when school did not go well for him, he was apprenticed at a printing works. He learnt the trade, but it did not agree with his health. Then he joined the revenue guard and served in Hrádek nad Nisou, in Zittau and in Oldřichov, and longest at the border customs office of Königshahn (Královec), near Žacléř. He was there for over 22 years. There he also married a German woman, Berta, née Pietschová, born on 16 May 1873 in Hrádek nad Nisou. Jan Prusík was uncommonly kind-hearted. Anyone could call on him at any time and would be received as a friend and given hospitality. His wife Berta was also a good woman, but she never properly learnt Czech. Even so, their son Karel was kept for the Czech nation. That is not always so when the mother is a German woman. Unlike his brother František, who lived in Louny, Jan liked to see his brothers and other members of the Prusík

family, and saw them often, and he always liked to travel to Hodyně, his birthplace. He retired on his pension to Chrastava; in illness he then often stayed in Prague with his son, where he died on 26 October 1937, and he is buried in the Malvazinky cemetery in Prague. His wife Berta died the same year, also in Prague, on 31 August 1937. Jan Prusík and his wife Berta had a son, Karel. He was born on 12 August 1898 in Zittau. A little daughter, Marta, was born to them in Königshahn; she was a charming little girl, but she died at the age of only five. Karel Prusík first trained as a locksmith. In the World War he served in the navy. After the First World War he studied at the municipal technical school in Děčín, and he was employed by various firms. For a long time he was at the Škoda Works, also with the Walter firm in Jinonice, at Telegrafia in Prague, longest at Jednotný čas in Prague and finally with the firm Navika. He was granted the company title of engineer. His first wife was a German woman, Marie Dörreová, born on 11 July 1901 in Děčín. He divorced her. His second wife was Anastazie Sejkorová, born on 25 August 1896 in Újezd near Nový Bydžov. She died of cancer on 19 August 1949 in Prague-Smíchov, U Nikolajky, where the engineer Karel Prusík lived until his death. His third wife was Marie Laksarová, born on 7 August 1904 in Litětiny near Pardubice. She lives today as a widow in Prague-Smíchov, Černý vrch, Františka Šrámka 14. Karel Prusík had no children from any of his marriages. He died in Prague on 11 August 1961.

That has been the brief history of the lives and fortunes of all the descendants of Matěj Prusík, who was born in Výrov in 1818, in the days of corvée, and settled in Hodyně in 1843. He left 147 descendants, of whom 19 are dead today. Of the whole Výrov branch, the Hodyně sub-branch also has the largest number of members of the family bearing the name Prusík. Many of them, of course, live in America today; there, it is true, they acknowledge their distant origins, but none of them knows Czech any more. In Hodyně itself only one member of our family still lives today, and under another name at that.

It is interesting that in the places where the founders, men and women, of the various sub-branches of the Výrov branch lived, we still meet many of their members. Only rarely, of course, are there still people with the name Prusík there. The places in question are Horní Bříza, Výrov and Kostelec nad Mží.

Of all the twenty Prusíks living today as descendants of the Hodyně sub-branch, 11 are in the USA. Only one of them, Ervín Prusík, who got there only after the Second World War, has a command of Czech.

## 2.8 The Výrov II Sub-branch of the Výrov Branch

The descendants of Václav Prusík, a farmer of Výrov.

1822 – 1892

The seventh child of Vojtěch Prusík, the reeve of Výrov, who had come here from Sedlec in 1803, was his son Václav. He was born still in the days of corvée, on 7 September 1822, at Výrov No. 18. The homestead where he was born had been called “U Boudů” since time immemorial, and his mother, Anna, née Fenclová, was likewise a descendant of the first Bouda, who took over the farming of this farm in 1610.

Although Václav Prusík had no opportunity to attend higher schools, he nevertheless acquired a fairly considerable education. He read farming journals, specialist books and much else that was instructive, which his brother, the vicar Blažej, sent him from Prague. When his father Vojtěch died in 1841, his brother-in-law Vojtěch Karez of Horní Bříza became his guardian. Soon, however, he married. He found his bride in the little town of Kozojedy. She was Josefa Kotasová, from homestead No. 35 there, born on 20 September 1826. Her father, Martin Kotas, was born on 18 October 1795 and died in retirement at his daughter’s in Výrov on 12 July 1879. By that time, you see, the farm in Kozojedy no longer belonged to the Kotases. Before then it had been heavily in debt and was sold to a married couple, the Smolíks, but in 1889 a member of our family came

there again, Václav Prusík of Hodyně. Josefa's mother, Marie Kotasová, also died in Výrov. She was born a Píplová in Kozojedy on 29 January 1802 and died on 22 February 1882. The marriage contract of 28 January 1843 between Václav Prusík and Josefa Kotasová contains this opening sentence, whose spirit was then truly fulfilled in full in the life of the newly-weds: "The intended spouses Václav Prusík and Jozefa Kottas promise each other faithful and sincere love until death." Two days after this marriage contract, concluded on the Metternich estate at Plasy, Václav Prusík married Josefa Kotasová. That was on 30 January 1843.

Even before 1848, when corvée was abolished and a new political order came into being in the villages and the district, Václav Prusík was reeve in Výrov. Just as his father Vojtěch Prusík and his predecessors had been before him. There had been a reeve's office at the "U Boudů" farm since time immemorial, as we have already described on page 20. From 1850, when the Kralovice district was formed and the mayors of the villages were elected, and no longer appointed as the reeves had been before, Václav Prusík became the first elected mayor of Výrov. He remained mayor until his death, and after him so did his son Vojtěch, until 1912, when he sold the farm.

Václav Prusík and his wife Josefa had eleven children. They were these. The eldest was their son Blažej, born on 1 January 1844. He became a secondary-school teacher of philology; his chief place of work was Klatovy, and he died in Prague on 15 October 1912. The second was their son František, born on 24 November 1845. He too became a secondary-school teacher of philology, a field in which he won particular distinction, and he died at Stupčice near Tábor on 7 June 1905. The third child was their daughter Josefa. She was born on 28 February 1848 and married the farmer Matěj Urbánek in Lednice, where she died on 28 April 1924. The second daughter was Marie, born on 29 July 1851. She married the farmer Josef Koukl in Bílov, where she died on 6 February 1908. The third son was Václav Prusík, born on 2 January 1854. He became a municipal official in Prague, where he died on 16 September 1915. The sixth child was their son Vojtěch, born on 3 April 1856; he took over the family holding from his father, but sold it in 1912, and he died at his daughter's in the Germanised village of Kolešovice on 15 March 1920. The third daughter was Anna. She was born on 15 December 1858 and married Josef Koura, a farmer in Bílov, where she died on 14 December 1935. After her a daughter, Veronika, was born, on 24 November 1861. She was married to the farmer Josef Valenta in Výrov and died there on 5 November 1936. Then a son, Josef, was born, on 27 February 1863. He was a customs official and died in Prague on 8 August 1940. The last daughter was Barbora, born on 27 November 1865, married to the tradesman Walter in Klatovy, where she died on 29 May 1958, having lived longer than any of her brothers and sisters. The last was their son Antonín, born on 19 February 1869. He was the youngest, and the first to die. At first he served in the revenue guard; for a short time, as a married man, he had a business in Příbram, where he died on 16 April 1899.

It was, then, an uncommonly large family, with cares more than enough. It would surely have led to the breaking up of the farm, had a rescuer not appeared in the eldest of Václav's brothers and sisters. This was Blažej Prusík. At the time when the boys were being sent away to study, he was already vicar of the metropolitan cathedral of St Vitus in Prague. This priest agreed to take some of the boys, his nephews, into his care during their studies. And so four sons left home and completed their studies in Prague. They were Blažej, František, Václav and Josef. The last, Antonín, studied at least for a time in Klatovy, and the farm remained to their son Vojtěch.

For his time, Václav Prusík was a very progressive farmer. It was not only the specialist writings, which he read diligently, that helped him to this, but also the valuable advice of his brother Blažej in Prague. Václav Prusík was the first farmer in Výrov and the wide neighbourhood to begin cutting the grain with the scythe instead of the sickle. Already in his lifetime many fruit trees were planted in Výrov, and new farm machines were brought into use. This farmer's good influence, however, did not stop at the village; it reached the district too, for he was also for a fairly long time a member of the District Committee in Kralovice. Many of his good ideas were carried out.

A great misfortune struck Václav Prusík when his wife Josefa died at the age of fifty-one. That was

on 25 May 1877. At that time his son Vojtěch was away on military service, and the whole burden of caring for the family and the farm lay on him alone. His letters, which have survived, bear witness to his love for his parents and his whole family, and also for the whole wide neighbourhood.

A fine example is his letter about the death of his mother, Anna Prusíková, née Fenclová. She was born still in the reign of Emperor Joseph II, in 1785, and died on 6 January 1859. She was seriously ill for only two days. The letter of 16 January 1859, addressed to his brother, the vicar Blažej, in Prague, begins as follows:

"My dearest brother!

I informed you previously, in brief, of news that was surely unexpected, namely the time of the death of our dear mother, and I then promised you that I would write to you about it more fully in future, since I had no more time for it then, as I wished by that short letter only to make known when and on which day we should accompany our dear mother to her burial; and therefore I must now describe it to you fully, for my somehow uncommonly mournful and sad heart urges me continually to give you news of it as quickly as I can; perhaps it hopes to find relief in you, as the most faithful and most sincere friend, after God, in this world; and therefore hear:

It was precisely on the morning of 5 January, when I had led our dear mother from the little room into our living room, as was usual, and seated her, and, neither I nor she nor anyone else thinking of anything out of the ordinary, I went off again, as usual, about my work, and she herself told me that I should just go about my work, that she would pray for a while yet. Upon that I went off. Then, after a while, I come back into the living room, and she was sitting by the stove. My wife set breakfast before her, and she had breakfast with that youngest boy of ours, Vojtěch, and played with him, for he was her greatest darling. And so she did not let the least thing amiss be seen in her."

In the letter Václav Prusík goes on to describe the short course of his mother's illness and her death, which came on the following day. He writes further about the funeral and describes his melancholy when, after his brothers and sisters and friends had left, he remained alone, and he remembers his dead mother in these words: "And so, having gone back again to the town, and having there duly entertained all our friends, acquaintances and neighbours according to the usual custom, and having at last gone home with my brothers and sisters, while they stayed with us two nights more and at last went home, and being thus left alone again, I was very melancholy and mournful at home. At every glance at the place where our dear mother used to sit, it was always as if something stabbed me in the heart and said, 'Ah, my dear mother, if only you were still here...' And so, whenever I went into the cowshed or into the barn, or went out into the fields, she stood beside me everywhere, as she used to rejoice in the harvest and took the best care of everything. If only I could speak with you, brother, and tell you here all this pain of mine. With this I close and end my letter; I send you my heartfelt and respectful greetings from all who live here and from our friends, and I kiss you and wish you good health."

Václav Prusík, the father of eleven children, saw all his other daughters well married while he was still alive, except his youngest daughter, Barbora. He also took great care that his sons should complete their studies well and find a decent livelihood. He died in retirement on the farm, of what is known as a twisted bowel, in Výrov on 11 February 1892. In his young days he still knew corvée and the more backward farming of the countryside; at the end of his life he already saw the rapid rise of our nation and new, more modern farming. By his life and his work he contributed substantially to all of it.

The first child of Václav Prusík and his wife Josefa, née Kotasová, in Výrov was their son Blažej. He was born on 1 January 1844. He was the second nephew of the vicar Blažej Prusík to come to him in Prague, and with his help he completed his studies. Blažej Prusík studied at the Academic Grammar School in Staré Město in Prague from 1855 to 1863. Then he studied at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, and he had just finished these studies at the time of the Austro-Prussian War in 1866. Travelling from the Kralovice area to Prague was not easy in those days,

and Blažej Prusík recalls very aptly what it was like.

### 2.8.1 How the Students Travelled

"Before people began to travel by the railway from Rynholec to Bruska in Prague, and that was only from 1861, we travelled from home to Prague and from there home again with carters, or else we went on foot. Before we could get out through the Strahov Gate, or back in through it, we had to have a pass. We got home only once a year, and that was after the school reports, at the beginning of August. At other times we could not go home, for the holiday between Christmas and the New Year was short. We burned with longing for home precisely because we did not get home all year. We saw our parents on St John's Day, when they used to come to Prague. Because we lived in Hradčany, at the Vikárka, as soon as we had brought away our reports we went straight to Pohořelec to look among the many coaching inns there for some cart going in the direction of Rakovník. For there used to stand wagons there that had brought grain or something else to Prague. Our bundles were small, just some of the most necessary food. Often we were soaked to the skin in the Rakovník forest, and when it would not work with a cart we went on foot. Very often we came home with grazes and blisters on our feet. Here and there a merciful innkeeper's wife, when we were soaked through, lent us some dry clothes and dried ours on the big stove in the taproom. It sometimes took a good long while before they were dry and the sky cleared and we could set off on the next stage of the journey home. Such travelling had one advantage, though. It was cheap.

Travelling by stagecoach was a merrier affair. Outside the town the horses broke into a gentle trot, but that did not last long. After all, one pair of horses had to last the whole journey. So when the road began to climb, the coachman got down from the box and soon called into the coach: 'If you please, the gentlemen will get out, it's uphill here!' And so we not only got out but also pushed, each according to his strength, so that the coach could go on. Sometimes there was good company in the stagecoach; at other times the fellow travellers were not pleasant.

An immensely important event for us came in 1861, when the horse-drawn railway from the station at Bruska began to carry passengers as well. It had been built in 1836, as far as Lány, and from there it carried nothing but timber from the Křivoklát forests to Prague. Only in 1861 was the happy idea born of carrying people too, in special carriages like omnibuses, with seats on the roof as well. The last station was Rynholec. In the direction from Prague two horses, one behind the other, used to be harnessed to the carriage; towards Prague one was enough. In the end our railway managed even without that one horse. For when we reached the station 'U černého koníčka', which was beyond Jeneč, 15 km from Strahov, the horse was unharnessed there and the carriage ran down the natural slope towards Prague. Whenever we approached a station, the conductor put on the brake, the carriage stopped, the passengers changed, whereupon the attendants gave the carriage a push and it sped merrily on, until it came to a stop at the last station, at Bruska."

That is how Jan and Tomáš Prusík travelled to Horní Bříza in their student years, and Blažej and František Prusík to Výrov. Later it was already easier for the others.

After completing his studies at the university, Blažej Prusík became a supply teacher in the Czech parallel classes at the German Premonstratensian grammar school in Plzeň, in the years 1866 to 1871. On 1 October 1871 he became a secondary-school teacher at the grammar school in Klatovy, and he worked there for 34 years. He did not confine himself to teaching but was active in public life too. At one time he was even chairman of five societies, and he himself recalls that he would much rather have sat in each society as an ordinary member. He presided over the Literary Union, the Šumavan Choral Society, the fire brigade, the brewery of the burghers with brewing rights and the Skating Club. In later years the SK Klatovy sports club grew out of this club. For a time Blažej Prusík was also chairman of the Beautification Society. He was also a member of the municipal and district councils in Klatovy.

Blažej Prusík was one of those teachers who were just but very strict. Among his pupils were the

later famous physician Thomayer and the poet Jaroslav Vrchlický too. The writer Hais-Týnecký recalls his work in his novel "Osení" ("Young Crops"). In this work the writer depicts life in Klatovy in the last century, and also the Klatovy schooldays of Jaroslav Vrchlický (Emil Frída). He writes: "For Latin, Greek and German they got, after Hylman, Blažej Prusík as their teacher. He came to Klatovy from Plzeň and became their form master, who was to take them right through to the school-leaving examination. He was an exceedingly handsome man, tall, slim, with a full black beard. He never lost his temper, but he was very strict. He came in, sat down at his desk and did not stir from it again. And like him, they (the pupils) too sat in their benches and answered when he called on them, and read Plato, Sophocles and Horace. This method of Prusík's did not greatly amuse Vrchlický's restless spirit."

When Šmilovský, who in those days was also a secondary-school teacher at the grammar school in Klatovy, wrote his "Krupař Kleofáš" ("Kleofáš the Groats Dealer"), taking as his model a citizen called Jung, a collector of antiquities in Klatovy, the students studied this work for the first time in Prusík's class. There are many recollections of Blažej Prusík's years as a teacher in Klatovy.

Already in Plzeň, where Blažej was a supply teacher, he met his future companion in life, Emilie, née Holá, from Štěpánovice near Klatovy. She was the daughter of the tenant of the Černín manor farm there, where she was born on 10 April 1859. Blažej and Emilie were married on 11 May 1881. Of this marriage a son, Bohumil, and a daughter, Blažena, were born, who reached adulthood. A daughter, Marie, died of scarlet fever in 1893, at the age of five.

For a time Blažej Prusík was also editor of "Klatovské listy", at whose founding he had stood godfather. With his wife's help, however, he also had to see to the dispatch of the paper for a time, and this whole editorial activity cost him a hundred gulden. Blažej also collected a great number of songs which he used to hear in the fields, and at hop-picking and harvest-home too. They came from the regions of Plzeň, Klatovy and Domažlice, but also from those of Písek, Tábor and České Budějovice. He also had a large collection of folk names of plots of land, that is, what particular plots of fields and meadows were popularly called. Thus, for example, at the Prusík holding in Sedlice some of the fields and meadows were called: na vršíčku, skalice, jezera, za humny, baba, zahrádka, na velkým, za luhem, u jámy, pruchlavice, kamenej, paseka, or u luk, na psinách, hranice, za luhem, za poustkou, palouk, mezi jamama, předeství, and so on.

In the summer of 1905 Blažej Prusík retired on a pension, and because his son entered the university that year, where he began to study medicine, he moved with his whole family to Prague. There he taught for some time more at the Higher Girls' Grammar School in Vinohrady. In his free time he went to the Land Archives and gathered very valuable material about our ancestors, especially as regards the Výrov branch. Blažej Prusík died in Prague-Vinohrady on 15 October 1912, and his wife on the same day of the same month, 15 October 1939.

### 2.8.2 A Cardiologist of World Renown

Blažej Prusík's son, Bohumil, was born in Klatovy on 26 May 1886. He went successfully through the Klatovy grammar school. His schoolfellows remembered him kindly, for although he was top of the class, he did not forget in lessons those who found it harder. He willingly prompted them and let them copy. He had a gift for music. At that time the students formed a band, in which Bohumil was the conductor. His friend Václav Talich, who was then also a pupil at the Klatovy grammar school, was only an ordinary player. Later they exchanged roles. Talich became our most famous conductor, and Prusík, for his part, a famous conductor of medicine. Bohumil studied in Klatovy together with his cousins Blažej Prusík of Výrov and Blažej Koukl of Bílov. His step-cousin Vojtěch Walter, the son of his aunt Barbora, who had married in Klatovy, also studied with him. Bohumil Prusík took his degree as a Doctor of Medicine in 1910, together with his cousin Blažej Prusík. Already as a student he set foot on the first rung of a university career, as a demonstrator under the famous founder of Czech pathological anatomy, Professor Jaroslav Hlava. After graduating he worked at several clinics, and before the beginning of the First World War he had risen through further academic ranks under Professor Thomayer.

As early as 1912, as a young doctor of twenty-six, he went to England. There he came to know famous researchers in the field of heart disease, above all J. Mackenzie and Thomas Lewis, with whom he worked in London. It was from there, too, that in 1912 he brought the first electrocardiograph to Bohemia, and with it he then began to work at the clinic. Young doctors today can hardly imagine what that meant at the time.

In 1920 he obtained his habilitation in the pathology and therapy of internal diseases, and in 1928 he became an extraordinary professor of Charles University. Five years later, in 1933, he became head of the propaedeutic clinic. In 1935 he was appointed full professor of Charles University.

The English way of scientific medical work found in Bohumil Prusík an enthusiastic adherent and champion. A great many of the scientific papers he published concern heart disease. His scientific work, however, covered the whole of internal medicine. Bohumil Prusík made so many discoveries that were world firsts that he was proposed for the Nobel Prize. The coming of the Second World War, however, put an end to any further proceedings on it.

Bohumil Prusík was the first in our country to recognise a myocardial infarction in a living patient from the curve of the electrocardiograph. Today it is hardly credible that until then we did not know this diagnosis clinically in our country. Bohumil Prusík was not only one of the first of our doctors who began to travel abroad further than just to neighbouring Germany; he was also one of the first of ours to whom scientists began to come from France, Belgium, Holland, the United States and England. His younger colleague, the academician Professor Dr Josef Charvát, said this of him: "I wish to point out that more than thirty years ago (this was said in 1964) he sensed where medicine would go. In those days people fell ill and died chiefly of infections. And Prusík suddenly began to study the blood vessels intensively and with concentration. He worked his way up to become the world's leading angiologist (angiology being the study of the blood vessels). Today developments have proved him right. People no longer die of typhoid fever or diphtheria, nor so much of tuberculosis, but of the blood vessels. The same holds for another of Prusík's interests, namely gerontology. When he began to occupy himself with it, some thought it an eccentricity. Today it is one of the main concerns of civilised mankind. Professor Prusík was an ornament of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. He left a body of work that substantially directed our medical development over the last forty years and that reached far beyond our borders. It will remain immortal."

In September 1961 the scientific work of Professor Bohumil Prusík's life reached its peak with the Fourth International Congress of Angiology in Prague. He became president of this congress and for several years was also president of the International Union of Angiology, with its seat in Paris. Professor Bohumil Prusík was, of course, also an honorary member of a great number of societies and associations at home and abroad. His scientific achievements were recognised throughout the world, and when in 1967 the famous American scientist Professor White of Harvard University spoke of him in Prague, he declared openly, in a lecture at the Purkyně Society, that Prusík was one of the most famous cardiologists in the world.

It was with Professor White, who was personal physician to the American President Eisenhower, that Bohumil Prusík had begun his scientific career in England as a young man, and White was also the best witness of his later rise. That is why his words carry such weight.

Bohumil Prusík had countless friends, in the world of the arts too. Among his closest friends were artists with resounding names, such as Talich, the painter and sculptor Obrovský, the painter Otakar Nejedlý and others besides. After the Second World War Professor Bohumil Prusík went to Mariánské Lázně almost every year and spent an active holiday there, always seeing patients there as a guest physician in the summer. During the First World War Bohumil Prusík married Anna Kotlandová, born on 1 January 1891 in Prague. A son, Bohumil, was born of this marriage. It was not, however, of the happiest, and it was dissolved before the Second World War. His sister Blažena then kept house for him in Prague-Vinohrady, Na Valdeku.

Bohumil Prusík devoted a great part of his life to diseases of the heart and blood vessels, and it is

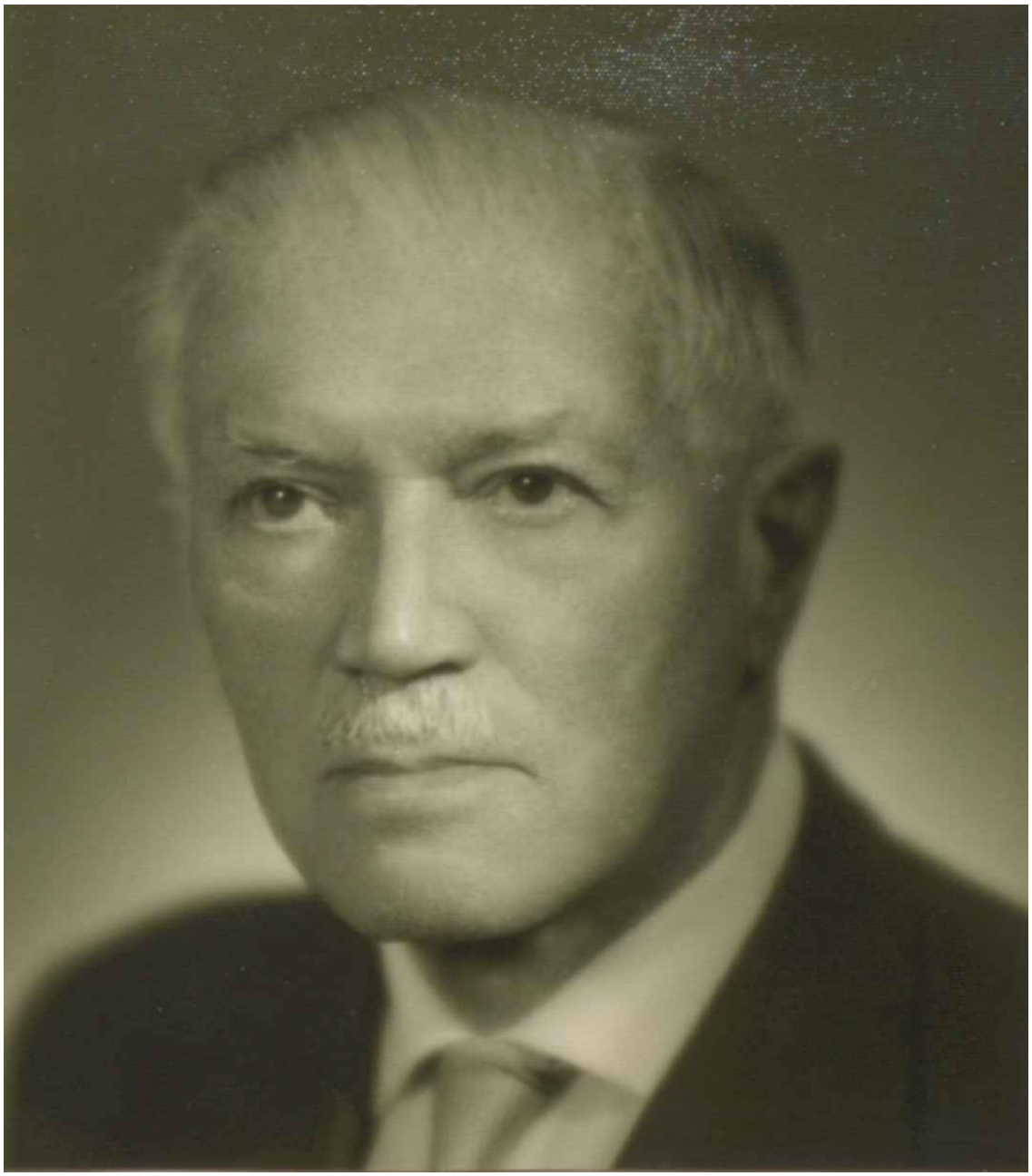


Figure 2.19: Prof. Dr Bohumil Prusík, a cardiologist of world renown (1886 – 1964)




Figure 2.20: The Prusík Institute in Konstantinovy Lázně

an irony of fate that it was this very disease that ended his life too. He was staying once again, in the summer, in his beloved Mariánské Lázně and was preparing for a journey to Paris, where he was to act as president of the International Union of Angiology. But he never got there; he died of a stroke on 6 September 1964. That was his last journey to Prague, to which he had so often returned in his life from the world, where he lectured and studied and from which he brought our medicine so much valuable knowledge. His ashes are laid in the Vinohrady cemetery, in his parents' grave.

It is surely no exaggeration to say that Professor Bohumil Prusík was one of the greatest ornaments of our ancient family. He himself was always attached to it, too, and proudly acknowledged it. We claim that Professor Bohumil Prusík was an ornament of the family, and so it truly is. Why? Whenever any one of us Prusíks introduced himself, or introduces himself, he will perhaps always meet the question whether he is related to the famous doctor Prusík. That is how well known he was everywhere among our public. And abroad it is the same, at least in the medical circles there. And it seems that until his death he was not fully appreciated in our country. He did become a member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, and he was awarded the Order of Labour for his 70th birthday, but surely, if only for the way he made the name of our country famous in the world, he deserved greater recognition, and precisely in the very highest places.

Professor Prusík was head of the Fourth Clinic of Internal Medicine of Charles University in Prague; he was called to medical consultations for the highest representatives of the state, such as, in former days, the Prime Minister A. Švehla, President Dr Beneš, President Dr Hácha and others. That, however, is not the most important thing. The main thing is that it is rightly said of him that he moved our internal medicine a whole generation forward, and that he modernised it between the two wars as no one did before him or after him. Yes, Bohumil Prusík, a native of Klatovy and a member of our old family, which sprang from the Plasy area, was a shining star of the first magnitude in it. The main building in Konstantinovy Lázně is named after him, in his memory and honour.

His only child was his son Bohumil. He was born on 19 January 1922 in Prague. He went through

grammar school and then devoted himself to the study of chemistry at the technical university in Prague. He became an engineer. For over 10 years he was at the Canning Research Institute, and now for over 12 years he has been working as a physical chemist for the ČKD Dukla enterprise in Prague. The engineer Bohumil Prusík married Jana Vyštejnová, born on 20 May 1931 in Prague. She is a doctor. She worked for six years in the Kladno hospital and now works as a specialist radiologist at the polyclinic in Břevnov. They have two children together: Jitka Prusíková, born on 19 December 1956, and Jana, born on 22 September 1963. In the family, though, they call her Zuzka. The engineer Bohumil Prusík lives in Prague 6, Jaselská 3. Since September 1968 he has worked at the Hydrometeorological Institute in Prague.

The second child of Blažej Prusík and Emilie, née Holá, to reach adulthood was their daughter Blažena. She was born on 31 August 1896 in Klatovy. When her parents moved to Prague in 1905, she went through the Higher Girls' School there. For almost 27 years she was a clerk of the Agricultural Council, and later of the Union of Farmers, in Prague. She remained unmarried. When her brother, Professor Bohumil Prusík, was divorced from his wife, she ran his household for a number of years. She now lives in Prague 6, Na Dionýsce 14. Countless patients from her brother's consulting room remember her, and so do a great many friends of Professor Prusík, with whom she too was in contact during his lifetime. The written papers she inherited from her father, which she always looked after with great reverence, were a valuable source for much of what is contained in this history of the Prusík family.

### 2.8.3 On a Czech Slavist and Defender of the Manuscripts

At homestead No. 18 in Výrov, or, as it was called, "U Boudů", which until 1805 had been No. 4, František Prusík was born on 24 November 1845. In later life he always added Xaver to his Christian name, and so he also appears as F. X. Prusík in his scholarly work. Like his brother Blažej, almost two years older, he too went to Prague to study. He lived in Hradčany with his uncle Blažej. In 1857 he began to study at the Academic Grammar School in Prague; in 1865 he then entered the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, where, besides the classical languages, he devoted himself with particular zeal to the study of the Czech language and literature and of Slavonic philology in general. Already in his grammar-school days he used to read the outstanding works of Slavonic literature with special love, and this youthful fondness of his later gave direction to his career and to his writing too.

F. X. Prusík was a man of great initiative from his youth. While he was still completing his university studies, he and several of his companions worked for the founding of the Union of Czech Philologists. On his initiative the founding congress of the Union was held on 8 February 1868, and F. X. Prusík became its first chairman. At a time when lectures at the university were still given in German, the founding of a professional society of Czech students of philology was surely a very meritorious act. From the autumn of 1868 he became a supply teacher in the Czech parallel classes at the state German grammar school in Plzeň. His brother Blažej was already working there at that time, and a great friend of both brothers was Karel Klostermann, who was also teaching in Plzeň then.

In Plzeň F. X. Prusík met his future wife. She was Ludmila Šteffelová, born on 25 August 1852. Ludmila was a very go-ahead woman and helped her husband substantially in his work; she learned several languages, translated from them and left remarkable memoirs of her frequent journeys abroad. She outlived her husband by 20 years and died at the home of her daughter Olga in Jičín on 1 November 1925. They were married on 8 January 1872 in Plzeň.

From Plzeň F. X. Prusík went to Příbram, where he taught until 1877. Then the town of Roudnice elected him headmaster of the Realgymnasium newly founded there. He saw to the flourishing of the young institution in Roudnice nad Labem until 1885, when he gave up the headmaster's post and went to Prague as a secondary-school teacher at the Academic Grammar School. In those years he was at his most active, and his life was then at its most fruitful from the scholarly point of view.



Figure 2.21: The Czech Slavist F. X. Prusík (1845 – 1905)



Figure 2.22: The translator Dr Bořivoj Prusík (1872 – 1928)

F. X. Prusík took part in the battles over the authenticity of the Manuscripts. Although the Dvůr Králové and Zelená Hora Manuscripts were later declared forgeries, they nevertheless meant a great deal for our nation. The Manuscripts inspired great works by Smetana, Mánes and Myslbek. With what fury this battle was waged in the nation is shown by an anecdote that Ludmila Prusíková recorded in her memoirs. She writes: "The other day F. Náprstek (of the well-known Náprstek Museum) had himself driven to Masaryk's wine bar in Pasířská Street and asked: 'Are you a relative of that scoundrel Masaryk too?' The wine-bar keeper replied that he was his brother and that the professor himself was sitting at the table. Náprstek let fly at the professor: 'So it's you, the rogue who brings such shame on the Czech nation, what do you get out of it?' 'I get a hundred thousand out of it,' Masaryk answers flippantly. To that Náprstek: 'No one will give you a hundred thousand for your knavery, but you and the nation get more than a million's worth of shame out of it!'"

F. X. Prusík was an ardent defender of these old Manuscripts, about whose authenticity a debate is being held once again even in 1968, and which are being subjected to a new chemical examination, of the kind that once proved their indisputable authenticity. The finest edition of the Dvůr Králové Manuscript, with illustrations by Mánes and a historical and philological commentary by F. X. Prusík, is a fine memorial to him.

F. X. Prusík once found an unknown manuscript of Hus's Postil in the Plzeň museum. He then edited it and published it in 1887 in the Proceedings of the Royal Bohemian Society of Sciences. The Chronicle of Alexander the Great was one of the finest Old Czech poems. The first translation of the Alexandreis was made centuries ago by Ulrich von Eschenbach. To make the reading of this magnificent monument of Old Czech romance easier for the Czech nation too, F. X. Prusík edited it and provided it with a commentary in 1896. This work received an award from the Imperial Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg. For his exceptional merits in linguistics F. X. Prusík was appointed a member of the Royal Bohemian Society of Sciences in 1891.

When Eliška Krásnohorská and a number of other nationally conscious Czech women had won the right for Czech girls too to have their own secondary school, F. X. Prusík was asked by the Minerva society to contribute to the carrying out of this difficult work. He already had much experience in this direction; he willingly complied with Eliška Krásnohorská's request, drew up the curriculum for Minerva and directed the young institution, the very first of its kind in Central Europe, from 1890, with the exception of 1892, until 1895. F. X. Prusík therefore rightly ranks among the founders of secondary schooling for girls in our country.

F. X. Prusík travelled widely about the world with his wife and often with his children too. Besides Czech and German he knew Russian, French and English excellently. From his journeys in Russia, Austria-Hungary, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Belgium or England he always brought back a great deal of valuable material. Thus, for example, he writes this of a visit to Naarden, to the grave of Comenius: "It is impossible to describe our feelings at the simple mound, formed of boulders, in memory of our great man. We felt strange at heart when we beheld the places where the hunted scholar ended his noble life. In the infantry barracks they showed us the little cellar where his bones were found. The officers keep their beer there now. What a profanation! In Holland they speak of Comenius in general with great respect, and in the university library in Amsterdam, when they heard that we were from Prague, they welcomed us very warmly and brought everything that concerned Comenius into the archive, to which no outsider otherwise has access." F. X. Prusík then discovered in Holland much that was interesting and hitherto unknown about John Amos Comenius. Until then it was not known, for example, that in 1662 Comenius had his own bookshop in Amsterdam.

From 1887 to 1899 he published the philological journal "Krok". The first journal of this name was founded in 1818. Its editor was Jan Svatopluk Presl, one of the founders of the National Museum. The third journal of similar standing to bear the name Krok in its heading was Prusík's journal. In the twelve years of its existence many valuable studies were published in it, which can still be a source of new knowledge for philologists and historians today.

F. X. Prusík was not, of course, only a scholar; he was a lively man, he liked to swim, and he went in for cycling and high-mountain walking too. His contacts with scholars and men of letters were extensive.

His correspondence is kept in the literary archive of the Museum of Czech Literature in Prague, and names appear in it that were the backbone of our culture in their day. There are, for example, letters from Julius Zeyer, Jaroslav Vrchlický, Svatopluk Čech, J. V. Sládek, Václav Vlček, Soběslav Pinkas, Adolf Heyduk, T. G. Masaryk and Ignát Herrman; there are also 80 letters from Eliška Krásnohorská from the time when Minerva was being founded, and letters from Gabriela Preisová, Zikmund Winter, Alois Jirásek and many others too.

F. X. Prusík also devoted himself diligently to etymology and to the analysis of place names and of old Czech inscriptions. That the urbarium of the Gryspeks of Kaceřov, who were once lords over our ancestors in the Kralovice area, was made accessible to Czech readers is his work. It would be too much if we were also to mention the valuable correspondence that F. X. Prusík conducted in the last century with the most famous Slavists of the day, Jagić and Miklosich, and with many other scholars around the world. F. X. Prusík undoubtedly ranked among the eminent Czech philologists. In the last years of his life F. X. Prusík, the native of Výrov, was rather often ill, and he was not yet 60 when he died of cancer at Stupčice near Tábor on 7 June 1905. F. X. Prusík had six children, three of whom reached adulthood. The eldest was his son Bořivoj, who was born on 31 October 1872 in Příbram. He was chief librarian of the University Library in Prague, a translator and a diplomatic official, and he died in Prague on 1 April 1928. The second was his daughter Ludmila, born on 21 May 1876 in Příbram. Her first husband was the Governor's Office councillor Schmatt, her second the hotelier Prokop at Špičák in the Šumava. She too died relatively young, on 8 March 1928. The third was his daughter Olga, married name Schlindenbuchová. She was born on 2 November 1877 and lived with her husband in Vlašim, Opočno and, longest, in Jičín, where she is buried. She died in Prague on 30 August 1953.

We have described at what may seem great length, but in fact as briefly as we could, the meritorious life and work of F. X. Prusík, a member of our old family. We owe him an uncommon debt for much that we did not know about our family before and that is known to us about our ancestors today only thanks to his research. F. X. Prusík is buried in the Olšany Cemeteries in Prague, and the rather neglected state of his grave arouses great surprise, since he of all people is also included in the list of famous people buried in this cemetery that is posted at the cemetery entrance. His memory surely deserves greater respect.

### 2.8.4 Bořivoj Prusík, a Pioneer of Slavonic Writers in Our Country

The first child of F. X. Prusík, his son Bořivoj, was born on 31 October 1872 in Příbram. Bořivoj was the first grandson of the Výrov farmer Václav Prusík. He began grammar school in Roudnice nad Labem, and when his father became a secondary-school teacher at the Academic Grammar School in Prague, he finished his studies there. Then he studied at the Faculty of Arts of the Prague university, and in Munich too. For his doctoral dissertation he took as his subject the work of the famous German dramatist Lessing. He took his doctorate in May 1895. In 1896 he became a volunteer at the University Library in Prague, where he rose quickly. From 1913 to 1919 he was senior librarian. At the change of regime in 1918 he was one of the deputy directors of this celebrated institution. Bořivoj Prusík was the first in Bohemia to promote new library methods, that is, decimal classification, and as early as 1900 he translated the foreign book Decimal Classification. Today this method has been introduced in all large libraries.

From his young days he devoted himself to the study of foreign languages and began to follow the development of foreign literature. He was particularly interested in the Russian and Polish literatures, but also in English, French and German. Later he became a renowned translator.

Bořivoj Prusík and both his sisters, Ludmila and Olga, learned foreign languages from their youth. Their father, F. X. Prusík, took very great care over this, and in his family a different language

was spoken every day. German, Russian, French and English were cultivated. So from childhood Bořivoj too acquired a very good knowledge of foreign languages. Later he also learned Polish, and all this was of uncommon benefit to him later in his life.

At the University Library, where he worked, he had an excellent overview of all the world's new literary works, and he began to translate many of them. He supplemented the University Library very thoroughly with the Slavonic literatures, which was surely not without significance under the Germanising regime of the day. In his lifetime he translated over 150 novels and over 300 plays and wrote over 500 articles for various periodicals, such as Světozor, Zlatá Praha, Česká revue, Květy and others. This abundance was sometimes to the detriment of perfection and precision of expression. Yet it remains his immortal merit that with his first translations, and sometimes with improved second translations, he introduced to our country for the first time the works of many writers who later proved to be among the pillars of world literature. Among his first translations are Dickens's The Pickwick Papers, Thomas Mann's Buddenbrooks, Grunwald by Bolesław Prus, W. Reymont's The Peasants, the Napoleon trilogy by Gasiorowski and many others from English, German, French and Polish.

Russian literature forms a chapter of its own in his work as a translator. Bořivoj Prusík translated Gogol's The Marriage and The Government Inspector, Gorky's The Philistines and The Lower Depths, Dostoevsky's Raskolnikov, Tolstoy's Anna Karenina, Pushkin's The Captain's Daughter and, above all, all the most important plays of the famous Anton Pavlovich Chekhov.

He was bound to Chekhov, this great figure of Russian and world drama, by a sincere friendship. His famous works, such as The Seagull, Ivanov, Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters or The Cherry Orchard, are first translations by Bořivoj Prusík, through which Chekhov was introduced to the Czech stage for the first time. The entire literary estate of Bořivoj Prusík is kept in the Museum of Czech Literature at Strahov, as his father's work had been before. In the Lenin Library in Moscow some forty letters from Prusík to A. P. Chekhov are preserved, from the years 1896 to 1904, when the famous Russian dramatist dies before his time.

Bořivoj Prusík tells Chekhov what success his plays had in Prague or in Plzeň. From this correspondence one can see well how it was not always easy, sixty years ago, to place the plays of an author so celebrated today on the Czech stage. Thus, for example, in 1898 Bořivoj tells Chekhov that he has at last succeeded in placing The Seagull on the stage of the Švanda Theatre. Elsewhere he tells him with what uncommon success Uncle Vanya was received in Prague.

Bořivoj Prusík corresponded with Chekhov not only when Chekhov was staying in Russia, but also when he was taking a cure in Nice, in France. At one time Chekhov asked Prusík to send him a few photographs of Czech people, so that he might come to know their physiognomy. At another time Prusík turns to Chekhov for advice on how a tour of Russia by the famous actress Hanna Kvapilová might be arranged.

At the turn of the century Bořivoj Prusík was regarded in our country as the best expert on conditions in the Polish and Russian theatre. At that time Jaroslav Kvapil, Vendelín Budil, the director of the Plzeň theatre, Laudová-Hořicová and many others often turned to him. When the Vinohrady Theatre was founded in 1907, Dr Bořivoj Prusík became its first reader. From 1910 his successor was K. H. Hilar. In 1910 Bořivoj Prusík was also dramaturge of this theatre, and after him Hilar and Dr Karel Čapek. With his translations Bořivoj opened to the Czech society of the day, which was poorly informed, a new view of burning social conditions. It will remain his immortal merit that he was the first to bring to Bohemia the most important works of Chekhov and of Maxim Gorky.

Bořivoj Prusík also wrote several books of his own. They are mainly stories of a social character.

When the Czechoslovak Republic came into being in 1918, Bořivoj left his post at the University Library and entered the diplomatic service of the new state; he served throughout in the United States of America, where he was consul in Omaha and St Louis, and lastly he was appointed consul general in New York. Bořivoj was married twice. His first wife was a Polish woman, Anna,

née Greszynská, born on 20 September 1874 in Nisko, in former Galicia. She too was active in literature, under the name Dolores Prusíková. This marriage was dissolved in 1919, and Bořivoj's first wife died on 25 February 1931 in Sadská. For his second wife he again took a woman of another nationality. She was a German woman, Anna Ecklebenová, née Winklerová. She too came from Galicia, from Záblatí, where she was born on 23 May 1885. In the family she was called Melly. Bořivoj, as he always said, was happy with her, but her poor knowledge of Czech caused him great difficulties in his diplomatic office. After several years in the USA, Bořivoj Prusík returned to Prague and worked for a time at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but he soon died. The cause of his death was cancer, as with his father František. He died on 1 April 1928. His second wife married again, and under the name Sládková she took her own life four years after him, on 20 March 1932. Both are buried at Olšany. Bořivoj Prusík left no descendants, but he left good work behind him.

The second child of F. X. Prusík was his daughter Ludmila. She was born on 21 May 1876 in Příbram. From there she soon moved with her parents to Roudnice, where her father founded the new grammar school. Ludmila was a very beautiful and intelligent girl. The noble traits of her character did not leave her all her life. While still young she learned German and French very well. Her first husband was the Governor's Office councillor Emanuel Schmatt, with whom she lived for a time in Vienna and then in Prague. She had a little daughter by him, but she died in childhood. Soon afterwards her husband died too, and after some time she married again, without her mother's knowledge, Jan Prokop. He was the owner of the well-known Hotel Špičák in the Šumava. The marriage was contracted in Cairo, in Egypt. Ludmila Prokopová was the soul of the whole business at Špičák, and many famous people who spent their holidays in the lap of the Šumava forests remembered her gratefully, often in literary works too. Ludmila died tragically, of poisoning after having a tooth pulled, relatively young, on 8 March 1928 at Špičák. She is buried in Železná Ruda. She had three children. The eldest is Ludmila, born on 30 September 1912. She became a Master of Pharmacy, and her husband, Just, was also a pharmacist. The marriage, however, ended in divorce. She lives in Prague-Vršovice, třída SNB 99. She has an only daughter, Jarmila Justová, born on 7 May 1941. She studied history and prehistory and works today at the Archaeological Institute in Prague. She can already point to some archaeological discoveries in the Poděbrady area, too.

The second daughter is Anna. She was born on 22 October 1914, and her married name is Ludikarová. In May 1949 she left the republic, and in September 1950 she reached Australia. She has two daughters. Danica was born on 14 January 1942, and Michaela Ludikarová on 1 January 1948. Today they all have Australian citizenship. She lives in the city of Perth, on the west coast of Australia; her address is 66 Flinders Street, Tuart Hill. The city where Anna Ludikarová lives today with her family is flat, there are no mountains, palms, oranges and lemons grow there, but she misses the beautiful Šumava forests around Špičák, where she was born.

The last child of Ludmila Prokopová, née Prusíková, is her son Jan. He was born on 1 November 1915 at Špičák, from where he had to flee with his father after the occupation of the Sudetenland. After the Second World War he took over the management of the hotel again, but when it was nationalised he worked in Prague, Dobříš and, longest of all, in Mariánské Lázně. There he was regarded, for his linguistic and organisational abilities, as an excellent hotel specialist, but his work was constantly made difficult for him because of his background. Today he lives in Munich. He has no children. His address is: München 8/61, Denninger Strasse 216.

The last child of F. X. Prusík and his wife Ludmila was their daughter Olga. She was born on 2 November 1877 in Roudnice nad Labem. In 1899 she married Hugo Schlindenbuch, who was an administrative official and in the end vice-president of the court in Jičín. They lived together in Vlašim, Opočno and, longest, in Jičín. Ludmila Prusíková, the widow of the Slavist F. X. Prusík, also died at their home. She too, of course, stayed at times with her elder daughter, married name Prokopová, at Špičák. Olga Schlindenbuchová had two sons. The elder, Vladimír, was born on 11 May 1901 in Vlašim. He became a commercial engineer and worked for many years at the National Bank, and later at the State Bank. He lives in Prague 5, Košíře, Na Výšině 20.



Figure 2.23: In the city of Perth, in Western Australia, lives a descendant of František X. Prusík, Anna Ludikarová



Figure 2.24: In Iowa City, in the USA, live descendants of Marie Prusíková, married name Kozová, of Potvorov

He has three children. Jiřina, married name Kolavíková, born on 7 April 1928, lives in Prague-Malešice, Malešická 397. She has a little daughter, Eva, born on 12 May 1955. His son Vladimír Schlindenbuch was born on 19 December 1931; he is a designer and lives in Prague-Hradčany, Bašta sv. Ludmily 3. He has two little sons: Petr, born on 9 October 1959, and Michal, born on 13 April 1965.

The second son of Vladimír Schlindenbuch is Svatopluk. He was born on 12 February 1946; he worked in precision mechanics and is now studying at the technical university. He lives with his parents in Košíře. Olga Schlindenbuchová, née Prusíková, had a second son, who was given his father's name, Hugo. He was born on 11 June 1907 in Opočno. He went through the technical university, and after finishing his studies he took up a post as a surveying official in Nové Město nad Metují. In 1935 he was transferred to Frýdlant, but after the occupation of the Sudetenland he was in Nový Bydžov and Jičín by turns. In 1945 he returned to Frýdlant as one of the first Czechs. There he was head of the resettlement commission of the Ministry of Agriculture. He lived to be only 45 and died of stomach cancer on 17 November 1952. He had three children. His son Jan Schlindenbuch, born on 16 May 1943, is today a miner and lives at Rtyně v Podkrkonoší No. 616. He has a little son, Martin, born on 4 June 1966. The second child of Hugo Schlindenbuch is his daughter Zuzana, born on 8 September 1946. Her married name is Bangiová, and she now lives in Liberec, Leninova 44. The youngest son, Pavel Schlindenbuch, born on 23 June 1949, is a trained mechanic at the Škoda Works and lives in Hradec Králové. These three children also lost their mother early, and so their life in their youngest years was not always the easiest. Hugo's untimely death grieved his mother, Olga Schlindenbuchová, uncommonly. She died less than a year after him, in a Prague hospital, on 30 August 1953.

The first daughter of Václav Prusík and Josefa, née Kotasová, in Výrov was Josefa. She was born on 28 February 1848, that is, a few months before the abolition of corvée. At the age of seventeen she was married to the farmer Matěj Urbánek in Lednice, at No. 12. The homestead where she then lived had been called "U Martinců" since time immemorial. Josefa Urbánková, née Prusíková, was very homesick, especially at first, and she was uncommonly happy afterwards when Václav Prusík of Hodyně settled in Kozojedy. Apart from the manor farm, the Urbánek farm was the largest in the village. Josefa's husband was already mayor of the village, and then in turn her son František and her grandson Josef. Twelve children came of the marriage, but only seven of them reached adulthood. Josefa Urbánková has the most numerous descendants of all the children of Václav Prusík of Výrov.

The children who reached adulthood were these: Marie, born on 24 September 1871, married name Řezáčová, at the homestead "U Hlušíků" in Lednice, where she died on 10 April 1924. The second was Anna, born on 19 April 1874, married to Soukup, an innkeeper and farmer in Řemešín, where she died on 18 March 1953. The third child to reach adulthood is František Urbánek, born on 20 October 1876. He took over the family holding from his parents and lives with his son and grandson at Lednice No. 12. The fourth is Kristina, born on 20 September 1879; she married Václav Zikmund in Mladotice and today lives with her granddaughter Tůmovcová in Česká Doubravice. The fifth child to reach adulthood was their son Josef. He was born on 26 February 1882. For a relatively long time he was at home in Lednice, helping on the farm, and he was a passionate musician. Later he married into a smaller homestead in Kožlany, where he died without descendants of his own on 23 May 1946. Their daughter Josefa, born on 5 October 1888, married František Sopr, a railwayman in Vroutek, where she lives today as a widow. The last is Anežka, born on 9 April 1891. She married the farmer Václav Krýsl in Kočín. She still lives there.

The first child of Josefa Urbánková, née Prusíková, of Výrov was her daughter Marie. She was born on 24 September 1871. She married the farmer Řezáč in Lednice. She was an uncommonly kind-hearted woman, but unfortunately her life was relatively short. She died a few days before her mother, on 10 April 1924. She had four daughters: Anežka, Marie, Anna and Blažena. The eldest, Anežka, born on 20 May 1898, had the married name Fenclová and stayed at home. This is the homestead known as "U Hlušíků", No. 28. Her sisters Marie and Blažena also married Fencls, who are likewise all brothers. The Fencl family has two peculiarities: they were always

great musicians, and a remarkable number of twins were born in their families. All these Fencls are distinguished by great intelligence and a love of history.

Anežka Fenclová had three children. Her daughter Jaroslava, born on 14 April 1928, has the married name Beránková, in Rakovník, Píseckého 768. She always devoted every free moment to her parents and helped substantially in her home in Lednice. She has three children: Josef Beránek, born on 25 October 1957, Hana, born on 3 May 1961, and Pavel, born on 25 June 1963. Then twins were born to Anežka Fenclová on 24 May 1930, Miroslav and Miroslava. Miroslava has the married name Lüftnerová, at Kralovice No. 80, and she has three children: Jarmila, born on 4 February 1955, Miroslava, born on 12 May 1959, and František, born on 24 August 1961. The Lüftners work in the collective farm (JZD). Miroslav Fencl stayed at home in Lednice. He too is a member of the collective farm. He has a son, Miroslav, born on 27 June 1965, then Vendulka, born on 12 October 1966, and Jaroslav, born on 1 May 1968. Another daughter of Marie Řezáčová, Marie, was born on 28 March 1901. Her married name is Fenclová, at Kobčice No. 2, and she has two children. Her daughter Jiřina was born on 7 March 1929, and her son Jiří Fencl on the same day. Twins again in the Fencl family. Jiří is employed in the forest administration in Petrohrad and has three children: Věra was born on 28 September 1957, Jiřina on 8 August 1959 and Jiří on 26 December 1960.

The third daughter is Anna, born on 21 March 1904 in Lednice, at "U Hlušíků"; she married the farmer Václav Škubal in Dřevec, at No. 21. She has two daughters. Miluše was born on 24 August 1934; her married name is, once again, Fenclová, and she lives with her mother in Dřevec. She has two children: Marie, born on 6 April 1961, and Václav, born on the same day. The third pair of twins already. The second daughter of Anna Škubalová is Blažena, born on 18 September 1937. Her married name is Folková, at Jarov No. 54, near Plasy. They too work in the collective farm there. She has two little daughters, Jiřina, born on 24 February 1961, and Eva Folková, born on 15 March 1964.

The youngest daughter of Marie Řezáčová was Blažena. She was born on 2 February 1911 in Lednice, and her married name is Fenclová, at Borek No. 2. Her husband, like all the Fencls, was also a great musician, and he was killed in an accident near Liblín on his way home from a dance by motorcycle. Blažena has two children. Her son Josef, born on 9 January 1939, married into Žichlice, at No. 43. He has a little daughter, Jana Fenclová, born on 27 February 1966, and a little son, Miloš, born on 26 December 1967. Her daughter Blažena has the married name Tauberová and lives with her mother in Borek. She was born on 31 December 1941 and has a little son, Zdeněk Tauber, born on 26 October 1966. Anežka Fenclová died on 4 August 1966. Blažena Tauberová also has a little daughter, Laděnka, born on 7 February 1968.

The second child of Josefa Prusíková, married name Urbánková, in Lednice was her daughter Anna. She was born on 19 April 1874. She married into the Soukup family in Řemešín near Mladotice. They had an inn and a farm there. She had four daughters, Marie, Milada, Růžena and Anna, and a son, Josef. Anna Soukupová died in Řemešín on 18 March 1953.

Her eldest daughter, Marie, was born on 3 October 1903 and married the worker Tureček in Chrašťovice, at No. 36. She died relatively early, at the age of fifty-seven, on 9 July 1960. Marie Turečková had four children. Stanislav, born on 3 January 1932, lives in Chrašťovice and has a son, Stanislav, born on 30 October 1961. Ladislav Tureček, born on 23 May 1936, lives at Dobrá No. 69, near Kladno. He works in industry in Kladno. He has a little son, Martin, born on 30 July 1967. Her daughter Marie has the married name Kočková, in Kalec, near Chrašťovice. She was born on 16 July 1943 and has a little son, Jaromír, born on 29 July 1967. The last child of Marie Turečková is her daughter Dana, born on 10 September 1953.

The second child of Anna Soukupová was her son Josef. He was born on 5 August 1905 at Řemešín No. 27 and stayed on his native homestead. He is today a member of the collective farm. He has two children. His daughter Květoslava has the married name Hajšmanová and lives in Olšany near Sedlec, where her husband is the manager of a farm of the state farm. Květoslava, born on 10 October 1935, has a daughter, again of this name, born on 14 November 1958. Her second child

is Václav Hajšman, born on 19 January 1961. The son of Josef Soukup in Řemešín is also Josef. He was born on 31 August 1941 and likewise works in the collective farm. He has two children: Ludmila, born on 23 September 1964, and Vlastimil, born on 30 March 1967.

Another child of Anna Soukupová was her daughter Milada. She was born on 31 August 1907 and married the farmer Beránek, at Borek No. 9. She has an only daughter, Milada, born on 20 October 1940. Her married name is Tragenreifová, and she lives in Plzeň, Zámečnická 36. She has two children. Her little daughter Taťána was born on 17 June 1963 and her son Radek on 20 June 1967.

The third daughter of Anna Soukupová in Řemešín was Růžena. She was born on 26 January 1910, and her married name is Lišková, at Řemešín No. 40. She has three children. Her son Jaroslav Liška, born on 11 April 1930, lives in Mirošov near Rokycany. He has two sons, Jaroslav, born on 10 September 1956, and Miroslav, born on 4 April 1960. The second son is Miroslav Liška. He was born on 19 July 1931 in Řemešín and today works in the Karlovy Vary area. He lives there in Nové Sedlo, Revoluční 194. He has a little daughter, Miroslava, born on 28 June 1961. The last is Josef Liška, born on 24 October 1950, who lives with his mother in Řemešín.

The last child of Anna Soukupová was her daughter Anna. She was born on 22 May 1912 and, under her married name Jánská, lives at Řemešín No. 31. She has two children. Her son Ladislav Jánský, born on 17 April 1940, has a little son, Ladislav, born on 10 September 1964. Her daughter Stanislava married the forester Dlouhý. She was born on 11 August 1941 in Řemešín. Her husband worked for a time in the Manětín forest district, and there he succeeded in shooting a white stag, which is surely a rare occurrence. They lived in Nové Městečko near Nečtiny. Today they live at Bukovina No. 25. They have a little son, Milan, born on 7 June 1963. Then a little daughter, Stanislava, was born to them on 12 June 1968.

The first son of Josefa Prusíková, married name Urbánková, in Lednice was František. He was born on 20 October 1876 and took over the holding at home from his parents, known as "U Martinců". Today he is among the oldest members of our family. He is still mentally alert. He still remembers well his grandfather Václav Prusík in Výrov, whom he helped with small jobs on the farm where his mother was born. He was an excellent farmer, and as a horse breeder Urbánek was renowned not only in the Kralovice area but throughout the republic. At the horse show at the agricultural exhibition in Prague in 1929, František Urbánek of Lednice won first prize for the mare he exhibited. The Urbáneks were never horse dealers, as some farmers were, but true lovers of horse breeding. František Urbánek was mayor of Lednice for many years and often represented the municipality in Prague too, together with other delegations from the district. His farm is today incorporated into the collective farm as well, though as a larger farmer he too had to suffer his share in the turbulent post-revolutionary times. František Urbánek had two sons. His wife was Františka, née Šourová, of Kozojedy. His elder son is Josef Urbánek, born on 22 November 1904 at Lednice No. 12. He always followed well in his father's footsteps, and when his father gave up the office of mayor, he too, for his popularity among his fellow citizens, was elected mayor. He has two sons. Josef Urbánek, born on 9 December 1936, lives at home and works in the collective farm. He has two boys, Luboš, born on 27 May 1963, and Václav, born on 24 May 1965. His brother Václav Urbánek was born on 30 December 1939. A graduate of the industrial secondary school, he works as a technician in Kaznějov. He has his own little house there. His son Pavel was born on 20 March 1968.

The second son of František Urbánek is František. He was born on 25 February 1911 and married into a farm in Lednice, at No. 34, known as "U Paterů". He has a son, Vladimír, born on 5 June 1945, who is an agricultural engineer. At "U Paterů" they have always had excellent results in rearing pigs. František Urbánek the elder died on 15 July 1968 at the age of 91 and a half.

The third daughter of Josefa Urbánková was Kristina. She was born on 20 September 1879 and married the farmer Zikmund in Mladotice. She had two daughters. Marie, born on 22 August 1905, stayed at home in Mladotice and married a farmer of the old Mix family of Koryta. She died of cancer at fifty-one, on 11 February 1956. She had an only daughter, Irena, born on 14

August 1929. Irena is married to a very astute farmer, Tůmovec, at Česká Doubravice No. 2, near Manětín. She has a little daughter, Irena, born on 17 July 1954. Kristina now lives with this granddaughter of hers in Česká Doubravice. Her second daughter is Anna, born on 23 April 1907. She married the farmer Jaroš, at Chockov No. 1, near Radnice. She has a son, Václav, born on 16 June 1935. He is an agricultural engineer. He has a little son, Milan, born on 22 November 1963.

Another daughter of Josefa Urbánková was Josefa. She was born on 5 October 1888 and married Sopr, a railway employee, in Vroutek. During the occupation she lived in Mladotice. She now lives with her daughter in Vroutek, Nádražní 426. Josefa Soprová has two children. Her daughter Anna, born on 23 July 1919, has the married name Baláková, in Vroutek. She has four children. Her daughter Ludmila, born on 29 April 1943, lives in Podbořany, Dělnická 328. She has a little son, Zdeněk Takáč, born on 31 January 1966. The second daughter of Anna Baláková is Jaroslava, born on 14 November 1946. Under her married name Koderová she lives in Vroutek, Vidhostická 426. Then there are two boys, Josef Balák, born on 15 January 1949, and Jiří Balák, born on 21 November 1951.

Josefa Soprová's son Václav, born on 13 June 1922, works and lives at Mladotice No. 94. He has three children: Věra Soprová, born on 23 March 1950, Václav, born on 4 September 1951, and Hana, born on 24 April 1955.

The last child of Josefa Urbánková of Lednice was her daughter Anežka. She was born on 9 April 1891 and married the farmer Krýsl, at Kočín No. 17. It is not far from Lednice, and she does not forget her birthplace either: of all her brothers and sisters she was always the one who visited the family there most often. She has an only son, Jaroslav. He was born on 29 November 1920, works in the collective farm and lives in Kočín with his mother and his family. He has two children. Anna Krýslová was born on 13 November 1949 and Jaroslav on 28 November 1953. Anežka Krýslová also has two daughters. Zdeňka was born on 29 September 1922; her married name is Baborová, at Bílov No. 16. She has three children: Josef, born on 6 September 1944, her daughter Zdeňka, born on 23 November 1945, and Jaroslava, born on 25 October 1951. Zdeňka has the married name Houdková, in Kralovice. The second daughter of Anežka Krýslová is Blažena. She was born on 7 October 1925, and her married name is Valentová, at Výrov No. 17. She has a son, Jiří, and a daughter, Marie, but we shall give them in more detail under the descendants of Veronika Prusíková, married name Valentová, who also belongs to the Výrov II sub-branch.

Another child of Václav Prusík of Výrov was his daughter Marie. She was born on 29 July 1851 at Výrov No. 18 and on 16 September 1873 married the farmer Josef Koukl in Bílov. Since time immemorial this holding has been called "U Kymlů". Marie Kouklová had four sons: Mikuláš, František, Blažej and Josef. We shall, however, tell of them in more detail under the Sedlec branch, in the sub-branch known as Bílov, whose founder was Kateřina Prusíková of Sedlec, married name Kouklová, in Bílov. Marie died relatively young, on 6 February 1908.

The third son born to the Prusík couple at "U Boudů" in Výrov was Václav. He was born on 2 January 1854 and, like his two brothers Blažej and František before him, he too went to Prague to study. In Prague he too was cared for by the benefactor of our family, the vicar Blažej Prusík. Václav studied law in Prague but did not obtain the doctorate. He became a municipal official and was last head of the trades department of the Prague municipality. He remained unmarried and lived in Vikářská Street in Hradčany until the death of his uncle Blažej, and only then moved down into the city. After that he lived in various places, last of all at Vyšehrad. There he died of pneumonia at the age of 61, on 16 September 1915. As an old bachelor he had many friends, above all the dramaturge František Stroupežnický. He inherited all the fine mementoes of his uncle, and after him they vanished for ever into the possession of his last housekeeper.

The fourth son of Václav Prusík in Výrov was Vojtěch. He was named after his grandfather, the reeve of Výrov, who had come here from Sedlec in 1803. Vojtěch Prusík was born on 3 April 1856 in Výrov. He studied briefly at the grammar school in Klatovy, but soon returned home from these studies, and it was decided that he would become the heir to the holding. He married Josefa Julusová of Sedlec, born there on 24 March 1861. The farm she came from stands opposite the

Prusík holding, where the cradle of our family stood as early as the 16th century. Vojtěch Prusík took over his native farm in Výrov on 22 February 1884. He was a big, strong and healthy man, and at the same time good-hearted to the core. Until the day he sold the homestead in Výrov, he was mayor of the village. From 1901 to 1905 he was also district chairman for the Kralovice area. After that he served as a member of the District Committee until 1914. When he was district chairman in Kralovice, the members of the District Committee were the following citizens of the Kralovice area: Josef Holeček of Plasy, Antonín Jelínek of Buček, František Juha of Bílov, Josef Kožíšek of Jarov, František Slach of Kralovice and František Vodák of Dřevec.

As district chairman, Vojtěch Prusík showed great initiative. In his time the road Sedlec–Bílov–Potvorov was built, then Čistá–Zdeslav, then Chříč–Studená–Hlince, then Slatina–Lhota and the road Mladotice–Křečov. Schools were built in Žebnice and in Hedčany, and major river works were carried out on the Střela and the Mže. On Vojtěch Prusík's initiative a collection was launched for the building of the National Theatre in Brno, and public support was expressed for the declaration of the city of Prague concerning the founding of Slavonic universities in Brno, Lviv and Ljubljana.

On the feast day of Master Jan Hus in 1903, Vojtěch Prusík led a delegation from Kralovice to the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Hus monument in the Old Town Square. Vojtěch Prusík was among the outstanding farmers. He was the first in the district to introduce the new fertilisers, which considerably raised the fertility of the fields in the whole region; he planted fruit trees, and he was also the first in the whole district to have a threshing machine and some other machines. He was also among the founders of the Agrarian Party, which, alone of all the parties, best defended the interests of farmers. Vojtěch Prusík and his wife Josefa had four children: a son, Blažej, daughters Anna and Josefa, and the youngest, Václav, who was to become the holder of the holding after him. As a soldier, Vojtěch Prusík took part in the campaign of the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1878. He often and gladly told how he had escaped death there only by a miracle. His hospitable homestead was open to everyone. And to this day the old people of Výrov who remember him think of him with respect.

He himself, but especially his son Václav, longed, however, for an even larger and more modern farm. To the regret of the other members of the family, the native farm in Výrov was sold on 7 April 1912, and Vojtěch settled at the nearby Černín manor farm in Přehořov. They also had a fine brickworks there, but when his son Václav married, Vojtěch Prusík moved with his wife to his married daughter in Kolešovice. There, however, he lived only two years, and he died of pneumonia at the age of 64, on 15 March 1920. His wife soon followed him: she died on 17 July 1920.

With the farmer Vojtěch Prusík and his departure from Výrov in 1912, our family in Výrov comes to an end in the male line. It was there, then, for 109 years, which is not really a long time, but the Prusíks certainly left a good mark there by their deeds, and they are still remembered there. The inscription on their grave in Kolešovice is surely right in what it says: "Their love, honesty and life full of work and self-sacrifice are the brightest memorial they have left." Prusíks from other branches of the family live in Výrov today.

The eldest child of Vojtěch Prusík and his wife, née Julusová, in Výrov was their son Blažej. He was born on 30 November 1884 at Výrov No. 18. He studied at the grammar school in Klatovy, where his uncle Blažej already taught and his cousin Bohumil studied. They took the school-leaving examination there together in 1905, and together they went on to study medicine at the university in Prague. They also graduated together, on the same day, in 1910. The young doctor Blažej Prusík then went to gain experience at the hospital in Olomouc. Already there he excelled not only in internal medicine but also in surgery. When the Balkan War broke out in 1912, he willingly answered the call for volunteer doctors to be sent to help our Slav brothers. In Moravia he also met his future wife. She was Bedřiška Vocílková, the daughter of a head forester, born on 26 February 1890 in Hulín. With her he then settled in 1913 as a doctor in Dobříš. He came there on the recommendation of Princess Coloredo-Mansfeld, or rather of Professor Kukula. Then he set up his own practice, and for 40 years Dr Blažej Prusík worked in the Dobříš district. He treated

everything, and with great success. Later he also gained practice in dentistry, so that people from the town and the whole region found help with him for every ache of their bodies. Blažej Prusík was one of those people who are open, perhaps at times a little rough, but uncommonly sincere and selfless. When he saw that he had a poor person before him, he never took anything from him. For a time he was also the representative of the Czechoslovak National Socialist Party at the Dobříš town hall. His death on 9 February 1953 called forth genuine sorrow at his irrevocable passing, which all the people of the region showed. People there still remember his "miraculous powders" and how excellently he mended teeth. His wife Bedřiška died on 14 May 1957. Both are buried in the Dobříš cemetery.

Blažej Prusík had an only son, Karel. He was born during the First World War, on 3 November 1915. He studied at a grammar school in Prague and, following in his father's footsteps, he too took up medicine. He did not complete his studies, however, until after the Second World War, because the Germans closed our university less than a year before he would have finished his medical studies. During the Second World War he worked as a laboratory assistant in the Dobříš sanatorium. Like his father, he was also in contact with the partisans who were then active in the extensive Dobříš forests.

The writer Eduard Valenta recalls this finely in his novel "Jdi za zeleným světlem" ("Follow the Green Light"). After the Second World War Karel Prusík completed his medical studies and went to practise in Hradec Králové, where he worked in particular under Professor Dr Lukl. At that time he married Eva Uhrová, who was born on 25 April 1926 in Berehovo, where her father was then serving as an army veterinary surgeon. From Hradec Králové Dr Karel Prusík went to the psychiatric hospital in Dobřany, where he stayed for a number of years as an internist and had excellent results. Together with his wife Eva he introduced new nursing and recreational methods for the patients there. His desire, however, was to return to his birthplace, Dobříš. There, too, he now works as a doctor. He lives at Dobříš No. 892. The house with a beautiful garden that his father had built fell victim to clearance and to new building in Dobříš. Dr Karel Prusík has two children. Blanka was born on 20 April 1950 in Hradec Králové and Pavel on 17 August 1952 in Plzeň.

The second child of Vojtěch Prusík in Výrov was his daughter Anna. She was born on 8 June 1886 and in 1908 married a German farmer, Arnošt Meixner of Kolešovice. At the time this marriage aroused considerable displeasure in the whole Prusík family, and her fate afterwards was indeed not a happy one. At her mother's express wish she did marry a man of property, but a very ardent German. Anna Meixnerová then lived in Kolešovice, and her parents died at her home, but after 1918 they bought an even larger farm in Německé Hořovice. After a time they sold the farm and became people of private means in Prague, but even before the Second World War they again had their own farming business. They farmed at Choteč near Radotín. A son, Arnošt, was born of this marriage. Even though Anna's husband was a convinced German, he was nevertheless fair to the Czechs, and he and Anna did not deserve the fate that the May upheaval of 1945 prepared for them. It is interesting that for some time they hid on their farm a man whose deed caused a great sensation in the Protectorate. It was Jan Smudek, who shot a German policeman in Kladno. Later Jan Smudek was brought to safety abroad. That certainly did not testify to a hateful attitude on Arnošt Meixner's part towards the Czech nation. In the May days of 1945 an unhealthy trait of the Czech character once again showed itself in a bad light. The Meixners were driven from their homestead and detained, and all their property was looted. Anna's husband hanged himself, and she became an utter beggar. She then lived by turns with her brother in Dobříš and in Prague as a maid, and finally settled with her son in Šluknov. She died on 13 November 1967 in an old people's home in Krásná Lípa, after a short, severe illness. She was the last person born at the "U Boudů" holding in Výrov, and she has now gone to her eternal rest.

Her son Arnošt was born on 18 May 1909 in Kolešovice. It was always thought that he would take over the farm there from his parents, but fate played otherwise. He has had various jobs and is now a storekeeper in Šluknov, where he lives at Gottwaldova 301. After a short and childless marriage that ended in divorce, he now lives there alone, with his memories of the turbulent past of his

parents and above all of his beloved mother. It will always be to the credit of Anna Meixnerová, née Prusíková, that her son did not forsake his nation and is a Czech.

The third child of Vojtěch was his little daughter Josefa. She was born on 17 March 1888. She was an uncommonly pretty little girl and an excellent pupil. Unfortunately diphtheria, which was so deadly in the last century, cut short her life at the age of ten, on 26 May 1898.

After Pepička a son, Václav, was born. That was on 2 March 1890, and he was destined to be the future farmer. From his youth he loved machines. He was particularly interested in everything that could ease the hard work of agriculture. He trained as a machinist, and with the threshing machine, which they had in Výrov as the first in the district, he then helped with the threshing in numerous neighbouring villages. His spirit was very restless and always aimed only at higher goals. It was Václav Prusík who convinced his father that the holding in Výrov was by now too small for them, that the fields were not consolidated into large plots and that mechanisation could therefore not be put to such good use there. He therefore welcomed the decision of his father Vojtěch that they should move to the larger manor farm in Přehořov. After the upheaval of 1918 Václav married Marie Řepíková of Milostín. She was born there on a fine farm on 1 January 1895, and she still lives there today as a widow. After the death of his parents in 1920 Václav moved to Milostín. Přehořov now seemed small to him, as Výrov had before, and then he was not very content even in Milostín, which lies in a rich hop-growing region. He succeeded in acquiring a large farm in the German village of Bitozeves near Postoloprty. There are extensive hop gardens there too. Václav Prusík modernised his farm in Bitozeves to an uncommon degree and was very popular among the German farmers. He never betrayed his nationality, however. When, for example, the German army marched into Bitozeves in October 1938, his farm was the only one where no swastika flew. And it was interesting how his German fellow citizens stood up in his defence when the commander of the German troops sharply criticised this conduct to the mayor.

As a great lover of mechanisation, Václav Prusík acquired, at considerable sacrifice, sprinkler irrigation for his hop gardens, and in one critical dry year it won him everything. Almost everywhere in the area the hop harvest was poor that year; he alone showed an abundant crop. The high price then paid for hops paid him back for the costly investment in artificial irrigation. He did not stay long in Bitozeves during the occupation, however, for his farm was in the end taken over by the Reich authorities. He moved back to Milostín, where he lived as a man of private means, since he had meanwhile leased out his farm there. At that time he wrote there an interesting chronicle of his family and especially of his own life. After May 1945 he was employed at the state tractor station, and he died relatively early, on 14 August 1952 in Prague. The cause was blood poisoning following a purulent tonsillitis.

Václav Prusík had two sons, Václav and Bořivoj.

The first son of Václav Prusík was born on 27 August 1919 in Přehořov. He was given his father's name, Václav. His father, as a supporter of everything modern and enterprising, sent him to study at the Tomáš Baťa schools in Zlín. After returning from Zlín he farmed with his father, but all the plans that he and his father had had came to nothing after May 1945. He then no longer worked in agriculture, for he feared, and rightly so, that as the son of a kulak he would always be blamed, even for his best and most honest work, if something should ever go wrong. In Karlovy Vary he drove an ambulance, then he became an employee of the Jáchymov mines and settled in Horní Slavkov near Karlovy Vary. He lives there at ČSSP 3. He married Blanka, née Mouková, of Tišnov in Moravia, born on 11 February 1925. They have two little sons together. Václav was born on 25 August 1954 and Bohdan, whom they call Dan, on 26 October 1956. Since the closure of the Jáchymov mines Václav Prusík has worked in local industry in Horní Slavkov. Instead of a large estate, then, his place is at a lathe. But the Baťa school gave him the best there is for life. He is successful here too. He and his brother Bořivoj proudly acknowledge our family and helped, in everything within their power, towards the success of this historical work. The whole family settled in August 1968 in Dietlingen (Östliche 44), near Pforzheim in Baden, in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The second son of Václav Prusík and Marie is Bořivoj. He was born on 8 August 1925 in Milostín. He studied at the agricultural school in Roudnice, then worked for some time as an agronomist. He too, as the son of a kulak, for obvious reasons preferred to leave this job, and he became an employee of the coal mines at Hrdlovka near Duchcov. There he married Lucie Borjanová, who was born on 30 July 1921 in Hrdlovka. They live there at Duchcovská 63. Bořivoj Prusík has a little daughter, Hana, born on 18 September 1952. She is studying health care.

The third daughter of Václav Prusík in Výrov was Anna. She was born on 15 December 1858. At the age of 26 she married Josef Koura at Bílov No. 13. That was on 13 February 1884. The Kouras have demonstrably lived on this holding since as early as 1558. By the farm there is a beautiful garden such as is found in few other places, and after the devastating fire that destroyed almost half the village in the thirties, the Kouras today also have fine buildings. At the Kouras', not only in Anna's lifetime but also throughout the time her son Josef farmed there, everyone was always sincerely welcome, and members of our family especially. Anna Kourová had four children: her daughters Marie, Anna and Růžena, and her son Josef. Anna Kourová, née Prusíková, died in Bílov on 14 December 1935. She was the prettiest of the daughters of Václav Prusík of Výrov.

The first daughter of Anna Kourová, née Prusíková, was Marie. She was born on 16 June 1885. In 1911 she married into the Slach family at Bílov No. 29. From this homestead, as early as the beginning of the 18th century, Anna Slachová married Martin Prusík in Sedlec, and at another time in that century a woman of the Prusíks from Sedlice married into it in turn. The Slach family always claimed kinship with the Prusíks. Marie Slachová had three children. The eldest, Marie, was born on 22 January 1912, the second, Anna, on 17 July 1913, and her son František on 27 June 1916.

The Slach house, too, fell victim to fire in 1930. Marie Slachová died of cancer on 20 September 1943. The eldest child of Marie Slachová, Marie, born on 22 January 1912, has the married name Vopatová, at Žebnice No. 42. She works in the collective farm there. She has four children. Her daughter Marie, born on 19 January 1936, has the married name Kočová and lives in a pretty little house at Loza No. 21. She has two children: Josef Koča, born on 19 January 1959, and Hana, born on 11 June 1963. Her son Václav Vopat was born on 31 January 1938, and he works and lives at Hrádek No. 105, near Rokycany. He has a little daughter, Soňa, born on 4 June 1964. The third child of Marie Vopatová, Anna, was born on 8 July 1945 and has the married name Zemanová. The last, Božena, born on 17 March 1948, is unmarried and lives in Žebnice. Anna Zemanová has a little son, Pavel, born on 26 October 1968. The second child of Marie Slachová is Anna. She was born on 17 July 1913 and married Vojtěch Kůsa, a railway employee, who until his retirement was stationmaster in Mladotice. Anna Kůsová has a son, Pavel, born on 15 January 1943, who, as a graduate of an industrial school, is employed at the Ceramic Works in Horní Bříza. At the home of Anička Kůsová, as she is called, the door was always open in friendship to all who came.

The last child of Marie Slachová was her son František. He was born on 27 June 1916 and took over the homestead in Bílov from his parents. His wife Marie, née Kozová, of Bukovina, is also a blood member of our family. She is a descendant of Kateřina Prusíková of Sedlice, married name Kouklová, in Bílov. The Slach family is very large. Their eldest daughter, Marie, born on 26 March 1941, always looked after her brothers and sisters with great devotion. She was truly their second mother. Under her married name Vlková she lives today at Kozojedy No. 49. She has a little son, Josef, born on 20 July 1966. She works in the collective farm. The second is Václav Slach, born on 31 May 1942, who married into Odlezly, at No. 11. He has a daughter there, Pavla, born on 30 October 1966. The third, Jiří Slach, born on 25 July 1943, works in the engineering works in Dobříš and lives in Dlouhá Lhota near Dobříš. He has a little son, Jiří, born on 30 June 1965. Then follow: a daughter, Jaroslava, now Jánská, born on 20 March 1947, then František Slach, born on 15 February 1949, then Anna, born on 21 September 1950, and Pavel, born on 16 March 1955.

The second child of Anna Kourová was her son Josef. He was born on 6 February 1888 in Bílov. Josef Koura was mayor of Bílov for a great many years. He was an uncommonly popular man,

not only in the village but far and wide around it. After May 1945 he was also chairman of the People's Party in the Kralovice area. Josef Koura always belonged among those members of our family who liked to keep in touch with one another and to support one another where it was needed. He married Marie Valentová of Borek and had two children with her: a son, Vladimír, and a daughter, Marie. Josef Koura died in Bílov on 23 April 1964. His funeral at the little churchyard in Potvorov was a true manifestation by all the people of the region.

Josef Koura's son Vladimír was born on 30 October 1921. He graduated from an agricultural school and became a truly excellent farmer. He, and the whole collective farm in Bílov with him, achieved particular success in seed growing and plant breeding. He excels in the same kindness as his father. He has two children: Vladimír, born on 24 July 1963, and Marie, born on 28 May 1965.

The second child of Josef Koura of Bílov was his daughter Marie. She was born on 9 October 1928, married the clerk Jílek and now lives in her little villa at Žíhle No. 253. She has a little son, Václav, born on 14 November 1953.

The second daughter of Anna Kourová, née Prusíková, was Anna. She was born on 24 June 1891 at Bílov No. 13 and later had the married name Švarcová, at Hrádecko No. 37. Her husband was a road-mender there, and they had a smaller farm. Anna Švarcová died in Hrádecko on 25 February 1952. She had an only son. He is Jaroslav Švarc, born on 20 May 1920. He is settled in Hrádecko and is a member of the collective farm; he married a widow with one child, and from his own marriage he has one son, Vladimír Švarc, born on 11 February 1948.

The last child of Anna Kourová of Bílov was Růžena. She was born on 11 February 1894 and married Herget, a railway employee, in Plzeň. They lived there for a long time in Koterov, and two children were born of their marriage. The first was a daughter, Anna, born on 2 November 1921. She has two sons, Petr, born on 13 March 1943, and Pavel Švik, born on 9 February 1946. She lives in Plzeň, Plzenecká 23.

The second child of Růžena Hergetová was her son František. He was born on 21 October 1923, is an accounts clerk and lives in Plzeň, Sušická 38. He has two children: Hana, born on 3 December 1953, and a son, Jan, born on 5 July 1957. Růžena Hergetová died suddenly on 20 May 1958 in Žebnice, at the Vopats'.

The eighth child of Václav Prusík in Výrov was his daughter Veronika. She was named after her aunt, who was then living in Kostelec nad Mží. Veronika Prusíková was born at "U Boudů" in Výrov on 24 November 1861. Of all the children of Václav Prusík and his wife, née Kotasová, only Veronika stayed in Výrov. Since no Prusík descended from Václav lives in Výrov any longer, the descendants of Veronika Valentová, as she was called after her marriage on 24 November 1885, are the only representatives in the female line of this family, which settled in Výrov in 1803. Since 1912, when the "U Boudů" homestead was sold, the steps of members of our family have turned to No. 20, to the Valentas in Výrov. Everyone was always warmly received there. And this tradition continues to this day. Veronika Valentová, always a most careful housewife, bent almost to the ground at the end of her life, died in Výrov on 5 November 1936 and was buried in Kralovice, as all the citizens of Výrov always were. Veronika Valentová had many children, but only three of them grew up. They were her sons Vojtěch and Josef and her daughter Božena.

The first son of Veronika Valentová, née Prusíková, was her son Vojtěch. He was born on 26 May 1884, that is, half a year before his mother married Josef Valenta [sic; her wedding is given above as 24 November 1885, a year and a half after this birth, so either one of the two dates or this remark is wrong]. It was decided that he would not stay at home and that the holding would go to his younger brother. Vojtěch Valenta married into the "U Bláhů" homestead in Výrov and had three children. He died on 28 August 1945. His eldest child is his son Vojtěch. He was born on 22 May 1916 at Výrov No. 17, "U Bláhů". He was married twice, but only from his second marriage does he have children. By coincidence his second wife, Blažena, is also a blood member of our family. Both work in the collective farm in Výrov. They have a son, Jiří Valenta, born on

11 May 1948, and a daughter, Marie, born on 26 October 1953. With them too, as with most farmers, their renovated house is today unrecognisable from what it was before. The second child of Vojtěch Valenta was his daughter Blažena. She was born on 25 December 1918 in Výrov and married Šebek, the owner of an inn in Kralovice. This inn is in the house known as "V zámku", "in the castle". This house, now of course altered, was built in the 16th century by Florián of Gryspach. Blažena Šebková, whose marriage had a troubled fate, has two daughters. Václavka was born on 23 March 1945; her married name is Jánská, and she lives at Kralovice No. 184. She has a little son, Milan, born on 13 February 1964. The second daughter, Anna Šebková, was born on 22 July 1948 and lives with her mother at Kralovice No. 74.

The second daughter of Vojtěch Valenta in Výrov is Marie. She was born on 9 May 1920, and her married name is Chlupová, at Výrov-Hadačka No. 5. She has two children: Pavel, born on 3 January 1945, and Marie Chlupová, born on 25 December 1948. The family works in the collective farm. Pavel Chlup has a daughter, Jana, born on 20 July 1968.

The second son of Veronika Valentová, née Prusíková, was Josef Valenta, born on 18 February 1891 in Výrov. He became the heir to holding No. 20. The Valenta family has been settled there for a very long time, since long before the first Prusík came to this village from Sedlec. Josef Valenta, like his father before him, was an excellent farmer. He worked until the last moments of his life and, like many country people, was never to be seen sitting idle. Josef Valenta achieved particular success in breeding pigs and horses. He married Anna Pirnerová of Černá Hať and had two sons with her, Josef and Vojtěch. Josef Valenta died in the hospital in Písek on 9 June 1965 and was buried in his parents' grave in Kralovice.

The first son, Josef Valenta, was born on 1 March 1923. He lives today in his parents' homestead, which with its modern equipment bears no resemblance to how the house looked before the fire of 1911, nor even to the relatively recent past. Josef Valenta works with his family in the collective farm. Out beyond the barns, not far from his house, there stands in the field a cross that the reeve Vojtěch Prusík put up in 1831. Josef Valenta, a descendant of this family, has promised that he, until his death, and then his descendants too will always take care of this family memorial. Josef Valenta has two little sons. Josef was born on 11 January 1951 and works at the Škoda Works in Plzeň; Milan Valenta was born on 12 July 1952.

The second son of Josef Valenta and Anna Pirnerová is Vojtěch. He was born on 28 June 1928. After studying at an agricultural school he graduated from the University of Agriculture in Brno, and today he works as an agricultural engineer, as deputy director of the state farm in Kralovice. He lives there at B. Smetany 448. He has two daughters: Marie Valentová, born on 23 March 1952, and Stanislava, born on 11 October 1958.

The last child of Veronika Valentová, née Prusíková, in Výrov was her daughter Božena. She was born on 19 July 1897 and in February 1921 married a member of our family, a descendant of Tomáš Prusík, a native of Výrov: the farmer Ladislav Prusík, at Horní Bříza No. 26. Božena Prusíková, who lives there, had two children: Eliška, married name Nosková, and Ladislav Prusík, who is an agricultural engineer. We have already told of them in the chapter on the Horní Bříza III sub-branch, whose founder was Tomáš, the second son of the reeve of Výrov, Vojtěch Prusík.

Another child of Václav Prusík and Josefa, née Kotasová, in Výrov was their son Josef. He was born on 27 February 1863. When he was 14, his mother died. For a time he stayed with his brother František Xaver Prusík, who, already married, was a secondary-school teacher in Příbram. When Josef Prusík then went to study in Klatovy, he was again in the care of his brother Blažej, who was by then a secondary-school teacher at the grammar school there. After four years of study in Klatovy Josef Prusík went to Prague, and here he again came into the care of his uncle, Blažej Prusík, the vicar in Hradčany. In 1882 he took the school-leaving examination at what was known as the municipal secondary school in Prague (a grammar school). After difficult beginnings he was then taken into the revenue guard; he served for a shorter time in Český Brod, then in Benešov nad Ploučnicí and for quite a long time in Varnsdorf. From there he moved to the customs service in Prague. In the customs service he then greatly distinguished himself. At the

beginning of this century he and his colleague Čermák translated the customs tariff, which until then had existed only in German. It was very difficult work, but it eased the official business of many later generations of customs officials. In 1913, because of his especially zealous patriotism, he was transferred further from Prague, to Kolín. There he became head of the customs office. Immediately after the end of the First World War he was called to Prague by the government of the republic, and here he organised an important section of our foreign trade. He also worked in the Chamber of Commerce and Trade, lectured on customs, as the first Czech to do so, at the Higher School of Commerce in Prague, and was finally a senior official of the State Statistical Office. In this capacity he also travelled abroad as an expert.

Josef Prusík had a literary spirit from his youth: he wrote poems and many newspaper articles, especially about the life of the Czechs in the border region, which he came to know well during his time there, and in 1938 he published a little book on the Prusík family, in which he deals especially with his birthplace, Výrov, and the people who came from there. Josef Prusík married for the first time on 4 June 1901, to Marie Šálová. She was the daughter of a progressive farmer who was district chairman for Kouřim and mayor of the town of Zásmuky. She was born in Zásmuky on 30 October 1878. Her life, however, was not a long one. She died of consumption during the First World War, on 24 August 1916. Josef Prusík married for the second time, to Františka Basařová, née Barochovská, born on 15 April 1887. Their wedding took place in Prague on 21 November 1922, but this marriage was childless. Two sons were born of the first marriage: Vladimír and Jaromír. Josef Prusík died of a liver disease on 8 August 1940 in Prague.

The first son of Josef Prusík and Marie Šálová is Vladimír. He was born in Prague on 29 May 1902. He studied at the grammar school in Kolín and took the school-leaving examination in Prague, and soon afterwards he became a clerk of the Prague Municipal Savings Bank. He worked there for 40 years. He particularly distinguished himself in the organisation department of this large Prague financial institution. His great hobby is gardening, and that not only on the practical side but also in its societies. He devoted and still devotes all his free moments to improving his garden at Dobřichovice No. 426, where he lives. Vladimír Prusík is also active in public life, in the Sokol gymnastic society and on the local national committee (MNV) in Dobřichovice. He married Věnceslava Landová, born on 5 September 1910 in Kosoř near Radotín. Her father was the tenant there of the manor farm of the Vyšehrad chapter. Twins were born of this marriage, Alena and Jiří, on 8 December 1932 in Prague. Vladimír Prusík died suddenly on 9 June 1973 and his wife Věnceslava on 28 August 1972.

Alena Prusíková, born in Prague, was for a time a clerk in Prague and now works in Radotín. Her married name is Pechanová; her husband is the manager of the druggist's shop in Dobřichovice. They live with her parents in this village. They have two children. Vítězslav Pechan was born on 13 July 1953 and Markéta on 26 March 1960. Alena Pechanová died of cancer on 11 February 1974.

The other twin, Jiří Prusík, trained in precision mechanics. Now he works as a technician at Czechoslovak Short Film in Prague. He also lives in Dobřichovice. He married first Božena Bojarská, born on 17 July 1932 in Prague. This marriage, however, ended in divorce, and Božena Prusíková, who has not remarried, lives in Prague 10, Nad vodovodem 487. Of this marriage a son, Radovan Prusík, was born on 15 November 1955 in Prague. Jiří Prusík is married for the second time, to Dagmar Svobodová, born on 5 October 1936 in Prague. Radovan Prusík lives with his mother in Prague, but his father takes a large part in his upbringing, and Radovan very often stays with him in Dobřichovice. Of the second marriage a daughter, Regina, was born on 12 July 1971.

The second son of Josef Prusík and Marie, née Šálová, is Jaromír Prusík. He was born in Prague, in Žižkov, on 13 January 1905. He attended the grammar schools in Kolín and in Prague up to the fourth form and then studied at the Commercial Academy in Prague-Karlín, where he took the school-leaving examination in 1924. After his studies he spent quite a long time abroad, especially in England and France. In 1925 he became a specialist editor, and at the specialist periodicals

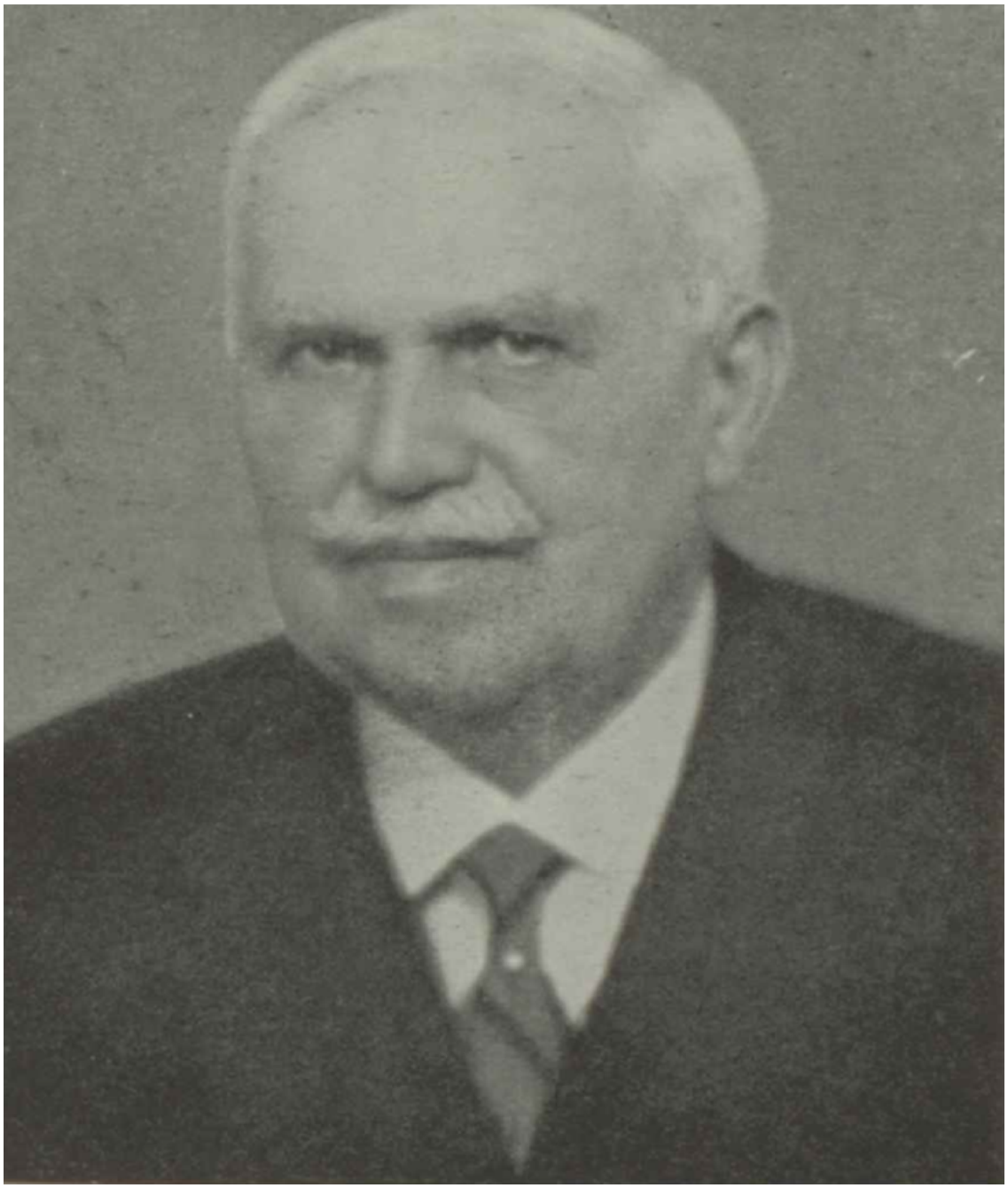


Figure 2.25: Josef Prusík, author of the first little book on the history of the Prusík family, especially on the Výrov branch (1863 – 1940)



Figure 2.26: Jaromír Prusík, author of The History of the Prusík Family throughout the World

publishing house of J. Hložek in Prague he was instrumental in founding the modern agricultural weekly Hospodářský Obzor. At that time it was the periodical that did most to promote the mechanisation of agriculture in our country. In 1937 he joined Novina, the Republican Party's publishing enterprise, and until May 1945 he worked there as an editor, especially of Lidový deník. This paper was demonstrably among the most popular papers in the countryside. After the May events, which changed his life considerably, he then worked as a planner in the Livestock Union, for a year he was in the Inspectorate of State Farms for the Prague Region, and from 1951 to 1965 he "rose" to be an auxiliary labourer in the ČKD steel foundry in Prague-Vysočany. In 1930 Jaromír Prusík wrote a small economic work, "Konjunktura, krise a budoucnost evropského zemědělství" ("Boom, Crisis and the Future of European Agriculture").

By the unanimous judgement of the reviewers, nothing similar had been written and published in our country until then. When fate brought him from the pen to the wheelbarrow, he began, so as not to wither in mind, to devote himself to researching the fortunes not only of his own ancestors but of the whole Prusík family. The History of this family is his work. He thus follows in the footsteps of his father Josef Prusík and of other members of the family long dead. Jaromír Prusík lives in Prague 6-Břevnov, Anhaltova 23. The little house where he lives, at Bílá Hora in Prague, is today called "the world centre of the Prusík family".

Jaromír Prusík married Jiřina Eliášová on 4 June 1932; she was the daughter of an employee of the Electricity Works and was born in Prague on 12 April 1909. For a long time she was a clerk at the trading company Řempo. A single child was born of this marriage, a son, Zdeněk.

Zdeněk Prusík was born on 11 June 1933 in Prague, attended the grammar school in Prague 7, and then studied at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in Prague. He graduated in July 1957 and immediately began work as a research student at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (ČSAV) in Prague-Dejvice. Here he has had considerable success, and he is head of a department to which biochemists and physical chemists from many foreign countries come to learn. He is a Doctor of Natural Sciences (RNDr.), and in 1962 he was awarded the degree of Candidate of Chemical Sciences. In his official capacity he has already been abroad a number of times, where he not only studied but also lectured. On 26 April 1958 he married Miluška Ortová, born on 1 April 1934 in Prague. Her father is a Doctor of Law and worked in the Office of the President of the Republic in Prague. Zdeněk and his wife met as students at the university, where their common interest was chemistry. His wife too works as a chemist in research in this field, at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry in Prague 6. She is also a Doctor of Natural Sciences. They live together in Prague 6-Petřiny, Nad Alejí 1766. Two little daughters were born of this marriage: Hana, born on 24 June 1959, and Ivana, born on 25 February 1964.

Františka Prusíková, the second wife of Josef Prusík, a native of Lštění near Čerčany in the Sázava area, deserves a further special mention. She became an excellent second mother to Vladimír and Jaromír Prusík, who had been orphaned so early. But she is known in our family in other ways too. When she was widowed in 1940, the love and interest that Josef Prusík had devoted to his family passed to her as his legacy. She was always an uncommonly devoted helper to all who asked her for it, and that not only in the close family but wherever she was needed. Many times she helped out in the places where Josef Prusík's brothers and sisters live or lived, whether it was Výrov, Bílov or Lednice. Often, too, when she was called, she helped to run the household of the physician Professor Prusík. She had no children of her own, and so she surrounded with motherly love not only her husband's children but also his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The last daughter of Václav Prusík in Výrov was Barbora. She was born on 27 November 1865. At the age of twelve she lost her mother, and her life was not always so easy. Until she married, she helped out in various places. For a long time she was with her brother Blažej in Klatovy, and for several years she also kept house for her relative, the dean Václav Koukl, in Spálené Poříčí near Plzeň. Her sisters and brothers, and especially her father, took care that their Baruška should suffer neither want nor hardship. In 1902 she married Rudolf Walter, the owner of a gunsmith's

workshop in Klatovy. At that time her husband was already a widower and had a son, Vojtěch, who also studied in the same class at the grammar school in Klatovy as the cousins Bohumil and Blažej Prusík and Blažej Koukl. Vojtěch Walter later became a director at the State School Publishing House in Prague. He died childless in Prague. Although he was not a blood member of our family, he always counted himself as one of it, and he also took part in the first gathering of the Prusík family, which was held on Jaromír Prusík's initiative on 26 October 1958 in Prague, in the Municipal House.

Barbora Walterová, née Prusíková, or Betty, as she was called in the family, and her home in Klatovy all became the centre of our whole family, especially from the time when Blažej Prusík, the secondary-school teacher, went to Prague. From 1905 until 1958 people travelled to Klatovy to Betty Waltrová. It was not only for the well-known Klatovy parish fair; the daughters of her brothers and sisters, and others, also used to stay with her. Klatovy and Aunt Betty, in short, became the refuge of our family. Her husband died in 1928, so Betty Walterová outlived him by 30 years. She died on 29 May 1958 in Klatovy, and of all the members of the family named Prusík or Prusíková she has so far lived to the greatest age, almost 93 years. She was an exceedingly kind woman.

The last child born at "U Boudů" in Výrov into the family of Václav Prusík was his son Antonín. He was born on 19 February 1869. When he was eight years old, his mother died. He studied for several years at the grammar school in Klatovy, but he did not much like it there. He then entered state service, in the revenue guard. Even before that, as a soldier on manoeuvres in 1888, he had met Leopoldina Adamcová in Příbram. Of this great love of his and of the further fortunes of Antonín Prusík and Leopoldina, let Antonín's stepdaughter, Leopolda Pospíšilová, who lives in Žamberk, tell. It reads like a novel:

"When Mother was 17, there were manoeuvres in and around Příbram, and with them Antonín Prusík came there as a soldier. The house where my mother lived bordered on a garden where there was an inn and a skittle alley. There Antonín Prusík met my mother. They were terribly fond of each other, but Grandfather did not favour this acquaintance. He forbade him to see Mother, and she, crushed by her lost love, went away to Vienna. On parting Prusík said to her: 'When I am somebody, Miss Poldi, I shall come for you!' The years went by, and Antonín Prusík did not get in touch. Meanwhile Mother married my father, the master chimney sweep Karel Pleticha. He was a widower and had four small children. He died after a nine-month marriage, and I was born ten days after his death. Mother was then 25 years old, a widow and the mother of five children. When her year of widowhood was coming to an end, Antonín Prusík unexpectedly visited Grandmother. He was a respicient in the revenue guard and asked for the hand of Miss Poldi. As Grandmother used to tell it, she was positively stunned. She told him that he had come too late, that Poldi was already a widow. After the first surprise he declared that it did not matter and that he would take her as a widow. Grandmother pointed out that it would not do, that she had five children. Even that did not put him off, and he added that he would provide for those children too. What love and what character that was! But even then Grandmother told him that it was not possible, because Mother had a profitable, splendidly prospering chimney-sweeping business, which she could not give up for the children's sake. That brought him up short; he was silent for a while and thought, and in the end he asked whether he could not run the business with her.

While Antonín Prusík and Grandmother were still negotiating in this way, the door opened and Mother came in. With the cry 'Toníčku' she fainted. All I know today is that Prusík learned the chimney sweep's trade in six weeks in Hořovice and married my mother. He never swept chimneys himself, though; he had five journeymen and several apprentices for that. Of this happy marriage a daughter, Anna, was born, who died in the same week as her father. Six months after his death a little boy, Otoušek, was born, but he too died within a year. After these terrible blows Mother broke down mentally and physically, and then two Prusík sisters invited her to stay with them in the country, in the Kralovice area. But when Mother married for the third time, these contacts ceased. My mother then had a hard life still ahead of her. The third time she married

an adventurous actor, who robbed her of all her property; the house in Příbram was put up for auction, Grandfather and Grandmother and the other brothers and sisters parted from Mother, and she went out into the world. So she was with the theatre, and when her husband Kabátník died five years later, she was by then so at home in theatrical life that she applied for a licence and then had her own theatre company in Moravia, under the name Jará. I was brought up by Grandmother. For the fourth time Mother married, to the actor Harrer, who was her director. She had two children with him; the little son died, and Mother then died at the home of my half-sister Růžena in Luh near Příbram, on 15 January 1951. She was born on 5 April 1871 and lived to almost 80, despite such a dramatic life. When I used to hear all this told as a young girl, my stepfather Prusík was for me the ideal of a man, and I honoured him, if only in memory, for his pure character. My aunt, who died in an old people's home in Žatec, knew him personally, and she always told me what a handsome man he was and what a good person, and how immensely he loved Mother."

Thus Lea Pospíšilová, a native of Příbram who lives today below the Orlické Mountains in Žamberk, remembers her mother and her stepfather Antonín Prusík. Antonín Prusík was the youngest of the eleven children born at "U Boudů" in Výrov, and the first to die. It was on 13 April 1899 [sic; the account of Václav Prusík's children earlier in this sub-branch gives 16 April 1899, so one of the two dates is wrong]. The cause was pneumonia. He was only thirty years old, and he left no descendants.

We have told you relatively fully about the descendants of Václav Prusík of Výrov. There are several reasons for this. For one thing, the fortunes of the members of this sub-branch, called Výrov II, are the best known, and a further reason is that in the history of our family this sub-branch has perhaps had the most people who made a name for themselves by their work and rose above the average. Václav Prusík, farmer and mayor of Výrov, did not leave behind as many descendants as, say, both his sisters, Anna and Rosalie, who married in Horní Bříza, but the number is nevertheless respectable. If we do not include in the total the descendants of his daughter, married name Kouklová, in Bílov, who belongs to the branch known as Sedlec, Václav Prusík and his wife Josefa left 225 descendants, 33 of whom are already dead.

This sub-branch, and indeed the whole Výrov branch and the village itself, will always mean something special to our family, even though Sedlec is the foundation stone. From Výrov, however, came the strongest branch of the family, which also made the Prusík family famous.

The Výrov sub-branch of the Výrov branch is clear evidence that the development of children depends to the greatest extent on their parents. That the most outstanding people came from this sub-branch of the Výrov branch was also because the head of the family was a man who looked ahead. Václav Prusík was not only a diligent reader but also a village scribe. Nowhere, perhaps, in the whole Prusík family was a family chronicle kept for so long and so carefully. The farmer Václav Prusík wrote it himself for over 50 years. Today it gives us an excellent overview of everything that happened in the 19th century, in public life and in the family, of what the weather was like and of the disasters. It is, in short, a rich well of knowledge about bygone times, from which later descendants in turn draw faith and strength for the future. His son Vojtěch continued it.

Whoever of you, members of the great Výrov branch, visits the village of Výrov one day will surely not forget to visit the chapel of St Adalbert, which was consecrated here on 27 April 1902. It stands by the garden of farm No. 18, where the founder of the branch, the reeve Vojtěch Prusík, a native of Sedlice, lived, and after him his descendants. Blažej Prusík, a native of Výrov and later a secondary-school teacher at the grammar school in Klatovy, can be regarded as the chief initiator. Besides Prince Metternich, he and his brothers also bore the largest share of the cost of building this shrine. The little chapel of St Adalbert in Výrov is a beautiful memorial of our family. May it be preserved in good condition for ages to come!

## 2.9 The Kostelec nad Mží Sub-branch of the Výrov Branch

The descendants of Veronika Prusíková of Výrov, married name Hořejšová, and by her second marriage Folková.

1826 – 1865

The eighth and last child of Vojtěch Prusík, the reeve of Výrov, was his daughter Veronika. She was born at "U Boudů", the reeve's house, at Výrov No. 18, on 20 January 1826. When she was fifteen, her father died. At the age of twenty she married into a village fairly far from Výrov. It was Kostelec nad Mží, and so to reach her new home she had to go all the way across the river Mže. On her birthday, 20 January 1846, Veronika married the farmer Jan Hořejš. She had only a daughter by him, Josefa, and soon afterwards she was widowed. In 1854 she married Jan Folk, a native of Chotiná, who married into Kostelec nad Mží. Together they had two sons, Jan and Josef Folk. Veronika's daughter by her first marriage, Josefa Hořejšová, was born on 17 February 1851 and married the farmer Výška in Nadryby. She died there on 16 February 1936. Of the second marriage of Veronika, née Prusíková, of Výrov, her first son, Jan Folk, was born to her in Kostelec on 4 June 1856. He died there on 2 November 1938. The second son, Josef Folk, born on 18 March 1862, married into Bušovice near Rokycany, where he died on 27 February 1927. Kostelec nad Mží is a pretty but truly very small village. It has barely fifty inhabitants. For its parish it belongs to the village of Planá, and it is there, too, in the churchyard, that all the inhabitants of Kostelec nad Mží meet again after death. Veronika, the Výrov native, did not live long in Kostelec, for she died as early as 7 November 1865, and so she was not even 40. That was perhaps the reason why contact with this sub-branch of the family used to be relatively slight, and later almost none at all, and only now have all the ties of kinship been renewed and friendly family relations taken up.

The first child of Veronika Hořejšová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Josefa. She was, however, also the only child of this marriage, because Jan Hořejš died early. She was born on 17 February 1851 and married the farmer J. Výška, of Nadryby No. 11. Many members of our family now live in this village. Josefa Výšková had an only son, Josef. She died in Nadryby on 16 February 1936.

Josefa Výšková's son Josef was born on 24 March 1874. He is over 94 and is today the oldest member of our family in the male line and in the female line. As we write this, he is healthy and lively. Josef Výška had four children: his sons Josef, Jaromír and Václav and his daughter Anna. Just before we closed this account, Josef Výška died, on 24 June 1968. The eldest child of Josef Výška of Nadryby is his son Josef. He was born on 7 August 1901, stayed on his native farm, No. 11, and died on 30 December 1966. He had an only son. He is Vlastislav Výška, born on 18 December 1928, an agronomist at the collective farm (JZD) there. His grandfather Josef, the senior member of our family, lives with him. Vlastislav Výška has three children. His daughter Milena was born on 8 March 1953, his second daughter, Vlastislava, on 3 April 1954, and his son Jiří Výška on 6 December 1955.

Josef Výška's second son is Jaromír, born on 23 July 1904; he lives at Nadryby No. 46, where he is a member of the collective farm. Jaromír Výška has an only daughter, Anna, born on 3 April 1942. Her married name is Lojdová, and she has a little daughter, Ivana, born on 7 May 1967. They live in Kladruby near Stříbro, Gottwaldova 238.

The third child of Josef Výška in Nadryby is his daughter Anna. She was born on 1 June 1909; her married name is Hořejšová, and she lives at Nadryby No. 8. She is childless.

The last child of Josef Výška is his son Václav. He was born on 10 March 1911 in Nadryby and lives at Kostelec nad Mží No. 2. He is a member of the collective farm there. He has an only daughter, Anna, married name Malátová. She was born on 6 January 1942. She has a little daughter, Jitka, born on 14 March 1963, and lives at Týnec No. 40, near Klatovy. Václav Výška of Kostelec also has a son, Václav, born on 27 March 1938. He is a clerk at the Škoda Works and married into Trnová, at No. 188.

When the first husband of Veronika, née Prusíková, Jan Hořejš, died at the age of 33, Jan Folk

from Chotiná married onto her homestead at Kostelec nad Mží No. 7, in 1854. The farm had about 25 hectares of fields, meadows and woods. The first son of Veronika Folková [sic, properly of her son Jan Folk] was František. Then came Antonín, Bohumil, Václav, Josef and Jan Folk, and the daughters Marie and Josefa. So there were eight children in all.

The eldest, František Folk, was born on 29 January 1885. He married into Nadryby, where he had a farm. He died there on 12 July 1962. He had an only child, his son Miloš Folk. Miloš was born on 18 August 1922 in Nadryby. He is a motor mechanic, and in this work he often travels abroad. He lives in Senec near Zruč, in the Plzeň area. His wife, too, is a member of our family, a descendant of Anna Štěpánková, née Prusíková, of Výrov. Miloš Folk has two children. His son Miloš [sic; in the Horní Bříza I sub-branch above he is called Miloslav, with the same date of birth] was born on 18 November 1949 and Jiří on 28 May 1951.

The second child of Jan Folk was his son Antonín. He was born on 7 March 1887 in Kostelec, and it was he who later took over the farm there from his father. He has three children. His son Vratislav Folk, born on 30 November 1916, is an agricultural expert at the district national committee (ONV) in Cheb. He lives there, at Šlikova 12. He had an only daughter, Věra, born on 5 January 1944. She is a teacher. Now, under her married name Trojková, she lives in Kladno, sídliště 9. okrsek, Blok 205/2268. The second child of Antonín Folk of Kostelec is his daughter Anna. She was born on 23 February 1921, and her married name is Staňková. Her husband is a design engineer with the Kancelářské stroje enterprise. They live in Prague-Malešice, Tuchorazská 423. She has two children. Her daughter Jarmila Staňková was born on 25 May 1947 and her son Milan on 16 March 1952. Antonín Folk's second daughter is Slávka. She was born on 18 May 1922; her married name is Šedivcová, of Chrást near Plzeň, No. 31. Her son Vojtěch Šedivec, born on 1 November 1946, lives at Zruč-Senec No. 233. Her daughter Miloslava, today married name Kaňková, was born on 18 September 1944 and lives with her parents at Chrást No. 31. Věra Trojková has a son, Josef, born on 15 September 1968.

The third child of Jan Folk of Kostelec was his daughter Marie. She was born on 6 August 1889 and married the blacksmith Janovský in Kostelec, but she died early. She was 36 when she ended her days, on 22 May 1925. She had four children. The eldest was Anna, born on 26 July 1908, today married name Svejkovská, of Týček No. 26, near Zbiroh. She has two children. Jiří Svejkovský was born on 5 February 1949 and Květa Svejkovská on 13 November 1943.

The second daughter of Marie Folková, married name Janovská, is her daughter Marie. She was born on 5 December 1909 in Kostelec and lives today in Plzeň-Bukovec, Horova 5. Because her husband's name, Antoušek, did not appeal, he took his wife's name after the wedding. She has two children. Her son Stanislav Janovský, born on 6 August 1934, lives in Plzeň-Slovany, Blatenská 12. He has a daughter, Jana, born on 29 July 1959, and a son, Stanislav, born on 5 October 1962. Marie Janovská's second child is Vlasta, married name Schinabková, born on 3 September 1944; she lives in Plzeň, with her parents. The third child of Marie Janovská in Kostelec was her son Jaroslav. He was born there on 12 June 1912 and settled at Suchomasty No. 71, near Beroun. He died there at the age of only 36 [sic, probably 39], on 7 February 1952. He left two children there: a son, Jaroslav, born on 23 January 1946, and a daughter, Marcela Janovská, born on 12 September 1951.

The last child of Marie Janovská, née Folková, was her son Václav Janovský. He was born on 12 November 1914 in Kostelec nad Mží; after the Second World War he settled in Záluží near Most, but there he lost his life tragically on 15 May 1948. His only daughter, Miroslava, born on 4 July 1943, is a teacher; her married name is Svobodová, and she lives in Most, Vítězslava Nezvala, blok 220-46. She has a little daughter, Renata Svobodová, born on 16 September 1967.

Another daughter of Jan Folk was Josefa. She was born on 23 October 1891; her married name is Kroftová, of Plzeň-Letná, Dlouhá 29. Her daughter Jarmila, born on 23 September 1922, is married to Lieutenant Colonel Mužík and lives in Cheb, Rooseveltova 28. Her daughters are Jarmila, born on 20 October 1944, and Hana, born on 16 October 1946. The second child of Josefa Kroftová is her son Václav. He was born on 26 February 1925 and works at the Škoda

Works in Plzeň. Věra (Hrdinová) has a little son, Petr, born on 8 January 1968. The fifth child of Jan Folk was his son Bohumil. He was born in Kostelec on 4 February 1894 and was employed for many years in the judicial service in Plzeň and in Rokycany. He came back from the First World War as a legionary of the Czechoslovak Legion in Italy. For a shorter time he was also on the French front. He lives in Plzeň, třída 1. máje 2. Of all his brothers and sisters, Bohumil Folk perhaps has the best knowledge of his widely branching family, and this quality of his also helped substantially in the search for the descendants of Veronika Prusíková, married name Folková, in Kostelec nad Mží. Bohumil Folk has two children. His daughter Věra, born on 8 August 1922, has the married name Nolčová and lives in Plzeň, Korandova 13. Her daughter Věra, married name Hrdinová, was born on 14 April 1946. Her son Karel Nolč was born on 24 September 1948. The second child of Bohumil Folk is his son, the engineer Jaromír Folk. He was born on 19 August 1926. He works at the Škoda Works, is unmarried and lives with his parents in Plzeň.

The sixth child of Jan Folk was Václav. He was born on 22 May 1897 in Kostelec and was employed for a long time at the Plzeň brewery and then at the Škoda Works. He lives in his own little villa at Dýšina No. 117, near Plzeň. He has an only child, his daughter Věra, born on 6 January 1928. Her husband is an officer. They have two daughters, Věra Dovínová, born on 5 May 1954, and Jana, born on 30 July 1957.

Another son of Jan Folk was Josef; he was born on 7 February 1901 in Kostelec and settled at Nadryby No. 28. He is a member of the collective farm there. Josef Folk has two daughters. Stanislava, born on 4 September 1927, has

the married name Brůjová and lives in Prague 10, Strašnice, Útulná 507, blok 44. Her husband is an official of the State Planning Commission in Prague. They have three children. Čestmír was born on 9 March 1950, Jaroslav on 20 March 1952, and then their daughter Hana on 16 June 1954. Josef Folk's second daughter is Jarmila. She was born on 20 June 1931, and her married name is Lipertová. Her husband is a doctor. They live in Tábor, třída čsl. armády 2242-IV. They used to live in Nýrsko. They have two daughters, Jana, born on 26 July 1956, and Eva, born on 25 December 1957.

The last child of Jan Folk was his son Jan. He was born on 26 July 1904 in Kostelec. He was employed by the Prague Waterworks and lived in Prague, at Karlov. He had a daughter, Alena Folková, born on 19 January 1933. In the air raid on Prague on 14 February 1945 the house took a direct hit from a bomb just where Jan Folk had his flat. His wife and daughter were killed on the spot, and he, out in the yard, was flung by the powerful blast of further exploding bombs against a stack of water pipes and was killed too. All three members of this family were buried in the churchyard at Planá nad Mží.

The second son of Veronika, by her second marriage Folková, at Kostelec No. 7, was Josef. He was born there on 18 March 1862. Like his brother Jan, he too was a farmer. He married into Bušovice near Rokycany, at No. 2. Even in his lifetime it was a very progressive village, and later, in the Republic, the farmers of Bušovice were among the most progressive members of cooperatives. Although they all farmed, as the saying goes, on their own, they had many cooperative enterprises of their own in common in the village. In this respect Bušovice near Rokycany was simply a model. Josef Folk had three children, his sons Vojtěch and Josef and his daughter Marie. He died in Bušovice on 27 February 1927, and he too was among the excellent farmers.

His eldest son, Vojtěch Folk, was born on 8 May 1890 in Bušovice. He had a model farm, which he improved a great deal further after inheriting it from his parents. He had two daughters. His daughter Marie, born on 11 July 1920, has the married name Fajfrová, and her husband works at the Škoda Works. They live in Chrást near Plzeň, No. 316. Her son Josef Fajfr, born on 1 May 1943, has a little son, Josef, born on 23 December 1965. Marie Fajfrová then had twins, Vojtěch and Anna, born on 14 June 1946. Of these twins, Vojtěch Fajfr is married and has a daughter, Monika, born on 16 October 1967.

Vojtěch Folk's second daughter is Daniela, married name Hrůzová. She was born on 3 September

1928 and has three children. František Hrůza was born on 27 December 1949, Jiří on 14 March 1953 and Dana on 22 July 1960. The family lives and works in the collective farm in Bušovice. Vojtěch Folk died in Bušovice on 9 November 1961, and he was one of the few Folks who knew well that they belonged to the Prusík family and also claimed kinship with it.

The second child of Josef Folk of Kostelec nad Mží, who settled in Bušovice, was his daughter Marie. She was born on 5 March 1893 and married the farmer Jílek in Bušovice. Of her marriage a son, Josef Jílek, was born on 19 May 1914. A month after the birth Marie Jílková died, at the age of 21, on

19 June 1914, just before the First World War. Josef Jílek has three children. His son Josef, born on 24 August 1940, already has two children of his own in turn, a little son, Josef, born on 7 January 1965, and a son, Pavel, born on 5 April 1968. His daughter Anna, born on 17 February 1944 in Bušovice, has the married name Korelusová. Her sister Pavla Jílková was born on 4 December 1949, and her married name is Rejčková. For a number of years Josef Jílek was chairman of the collective farm in Bušovice, which is once again as much of a model as the private farmers of Bušovice once were, when numerous journalists came there for their reports. There were not very many such model villages in the Republic at that time.

The second son of Josef Folk, the native of Kostelec nad Mží, was Josef. He came home from the First World War as a legionary of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia. He was employed as a railway official in České Velenice. Josef Folk was born in Bušovice on 8 September 1895. He was unhappily in love, and that was the cause of his tragic end. He shot himself in the Hotel Slovan (formerly the Valdek) in Plzeň on 14 November 1921. He was only 26. Life had lost its meaning for him.

This concludes the account of the life of Veronika Prusíková, married name Hořejšová and by her second marriage Folková, in the small village of Kostelec nad Mží, where she married in 1846. You have read in brief of the fortunes of all her descendants, the dead and the living. Today this sub-branch of the Výrov branch is called "Kostelec nad Mží". It is perhaps the most distant village that any descendant of the reeve Vojtěch Prusík of Výrov reached. This sub-branch is the weakest of all those that make up the Výrov branch as a whole.

One reason for this is also that Veronika died relatively young, before she was 40, and had only three children. That is not the real reason, however; the cause lies rather, perhaps, in the fact that her daughter Josefa, married name Výšková, in Nadryby, had only one child, her son Josef, who, as it happens, lived to the greatest age of all the members of the Prusík family, in the male line and in the female line: 94 and a half years. After all, Veronika's sister Marie, married name Šteflová, in Výrov, died at the age of only 29 and had only two children [sic; the Výrov I sub-branch above names four, of whom two grew up], and yet her descendants down to the present day number almost 50 more.

Veronika Prusíková, married name Hořejšová and then Folková, of Kostelec nad Mží, has left behind her, down to the present day, 89 descendants, 14 of whom have already died.



Figure 2.27: Kralovice was a district town for more than 100 years, and numerous members of our family lived here, still live here and lie buried here



Figure 2.28: Josef Prusík, born in 1893 in Chrašťovice and living in Kralovice, is today the oldest living Prusík in Czechoslovakia; the youngest living Prusík is Vladimír Prusík, born at the end of May 1968 in Černotín near Přeštice



Figure 2.29: Vojtěch Prusík, born in 1856 in Výrov near Kralovice, was the founder of the Agrarian Party in this region. For many years he was mayor of Výrov, and also a successful district chairman for Kralovice at the beginning of the 20th century (1856 – 1920)

# Chapter 3

# The Sedlec Branch

Founder: Václav Prusík, 1786 – 1845

We now come to another branch of the family, which we shall call Sedlec. Perhaps this will seem a little strange to the reader, given that Sedlec is the foundation of the whole family. On holding No. 4 in Sedlec, where our family has its foundation, Václav Prusík was born on 19 September 1786, and on 6 July 1808 he took over the farm. His elder brother Vojtěch left for Výrov in 1803 and founded a branch there. Before him, as early as the 18th century, other members of the family had left Sedlec for Plasy; most of them dispersed elsewhere in turn and became the founders of various branches. Václav Prusík, born in Sedlec in the reign of Emperor Joseph II, is therefore the founder of a further branch, named after the village in which the root of our many-branched tree lies.

Václav Prusík had six children, three sons and three daughters. We have already mentioned two of his daughters, Barbora and Marie, when we told of Sedlec, the first cradle of our family. Barbora, married name Levá, of Sedlec, had no descendants. Her sister Marie Prusíková died at the age of only ten. We wrote about them on page 10. The third daughter, Kateřina, was married to František Koukl, a farmer in Bílov, and so she is the founder of the sub-branch of the Sedlec branch known as Bílov. She had numerous descendants.

The son Vojtěch Prusík settled in Chrašťovice and is the founder of the sub-branch known as Chrašťovice. Another son, Tomáš, lived and died in Šípy near Čistá, and we shall call his sub-branch Šípy. The last son, František Prusík, was the last farmer of that name in Sedlec; he had one child, Marie. She married and had descendants, but she never knew her father at all, because he died at the age of only 21. František Prusík is the founder of the Sedlec sub-branch of the Sedlec branch.

Of all the founders of the family's branches, only two Prusíks were born and died in the same village. One was Antonín Prusík, born in 1799 in Plasy, where he died in 1867, and the other was this very Václav Prusík, who was born in 1786 in Sedlec and died there too, in 1845. Václav Prusík was reeve in Sedlec, like his predecessors of our family, and you can read more about him on page 8, in the chapter on the foundation stone of our family in Sedlec. We shall now tell of the fortunes of those four of his children who founded sub-branches of the family, and whose many descendants live around us, or even far away in the world.

## 3.1 The Chrašťovice Sub-branch of the Sedlec Branch

The descendants of Vojtěch Prusík, a native of Sedlec, who settled in Chrašťovice.

1810 – 1882



Figure 3.1: The holding in Chrašťovice, cradle of the family branch, from 1839

The village of Chrašťovice lies between Žíhle and Mladotice, in today's Plzeň-sever district. In 1250 it belonged to the Plasy monastery. In the course of history this village was owned by many lords, but in the end Chrašťovice remained permanently attached to Rabštejn Castle. In 1654 there were 12 farms here. After the Thirty Years' War their owner was the lord Jáchym Libštejnský of Kolovraty at Rabštejn. It was in this village, which today has about 140 inhabitants, that Vojtěch Prusík of Sedlec settled.

Vojtěch Prusík was born on 30 March 1810 at Sedlec No. 4. When his father Václav decided at home that the family holding would be taken over by Vojtěch's youngest brother František, a homestead and a place were sought for Vojtěch. One was found in Chrašťovice, at No. 18. Since time immemorial it had been called "U Šliků". When Vojtěch Prusík acquired this homestead from Bernard Šlik on 23 July 1839, he had already been married for several years. On 26 November 1832 he had married Barbora Kozová from Potvorov. She was born there in 1812, and at first the couple lived together in Potvorov. It was there, too, that their first son, Vojtěch, and their second, Václav, were born. Only Jan and Marie were born in Chrašťovice. The name Prusík has thus been in Chrašťovice since 1839, and the last member of this branch and sub-branch left Chrašťovice in 1960. This was František Prusík's daughter Marie, married name Pastorová, who today lives in her husband's birthplace, Kněževes near Rakovník. Another Prusík lives in Chrašťovice again today, but he belongs to the branch called Stražiště.

Vojtěch Prusík was a very good farmer, and horses were his particular passion. Not only as a breeder, of course, but also as a dealer. This fondness of his for dealing, which brought in a good deal of money but at times was ruinous, was inherited by his descendants too. Vojtěch Prusík had three sons and a daughter, besides the children who died young. His wife Barbora preceded him to the grave; she died on 18 December 1876, in Chrašťovice. Vojtěch died on 27 January 1882.

His first son was Vojtěch, born in 1835 in Potvorov, who was to have had the farm. But he died young and unmarried, on 9 April 1856, in Chrašťovice. The cause of death was purulent tonsillitis. The second son was Václav. He was born on 6 August 1838, and it was he who was then destined to be heir to the holding. His wife was Marie Kočová, born on 28 June 1837, in Bílov. She lived to the venerable age of 90 and died on 9 December 1927 in Chrašťovice. Václav



Figure 3.2: Marie Prusíková, married name Kozová, of Potvorov (1845 – 1893)

Prusík greatly improved the "U Šliků" homestead. He was helped in this above all by his successes in horse dealing. In that line he was a great expert, and he travelled as far as Hungary, as his son Václav did later. Václav Prusík had five children. His eldest child was born on 18 October 1862 in Bílov. It was a son, Václav, still born out of wedlock, but after marrying his mother, Marie, née Kočová, his father gave him his name. He later inherited the holding but died relatively early, on 9 October 1899, in Chrašťovice. The second was a son, František, born on 2 April 1870, who died in Chrašťovice on 11 January 1934. The third child was a daughter, Barbora, born on 5 November 1871 in Chrašťovice, married name Šmídlová, of Mladotice. She died there relatively young, on 12 September 1923. The fourth child was Josef Prusík. He was born on 14 March 1876, trained as a butcher and at the age of eighteen left for the United States. After a hard beginning, the lot of most Czech emigrants, he settled in Chicago. There he became a commission agent at the great stockyards and grew rich, but he never married. He was a respected member of many Czech compatriot societies. In the first decade of this century he was followed by Václav Prusík, also a native of Chrašťovice. Josef Prusík died in Chicago in March 1948. On his death many laudatory obituaries were written in the compatriot papers there. The last child of Václav Prusík in Chrašťovice was a son, Jan. He was born at the "U Šliků" homestead, No. 18, on 26 May 1879. He went through commercial school and became a clerk with an insurance company in Prague. He never married. For a long time he lived with his niece Věnceslava Řeháková in Prague-Vinohrady, where he died on 5 February 1954. At his own wish he was buried in the churchyard at Stražiště, as his father and grandfather had been before him. Václav Prusík of Chrašťovice died on 1 February 1884 in Chrašťovice. He was only 46; the cause of death was pneumonia.

Let us now say something about the three children of Václav Prusík of Chrašťovice who left descendants. His sons Josef and Jan left none.

The heir to the holding after Václav Prusík was his son, who was also named Václav. He was born on 18 October 1862 and took as his wife Aloisie Scherbaumová, who was born in Odlezly on 30 October 1870. Besides his farm, Václav Prusík, like his father and grandfather, took the greatest delight in horses, and above all in dealing in them. In this he was anything but idle, and he travelled even to distant parts for the purpose. On his return from one such journey, on which he was soaked through, he caught galloping pneumonia and died on 9 October 1899. He was only 36. His wife, widowed so early, married a second time, her second married name being Turečková, and died in Chrašťovice on 31 August 1937. Václav and Aloisie had three children, all sons. When they lost their father so early, and their mother's care for them was not so ample, they were also looked after by their grandmother Marie, née Kočová, and by their aunt Barbora, married name Šmídlová, of Mladotice. The eldest son of Václav Prusík of Chrašťovice was again a Václav. He was born on 10 September 1890. He trained in a grocer's shop in Kralovice, but he was a very restless spirit. His desire was to see the world. As early as 1905, when he was thus only 15, he left to join his uncle in Chicago in America, but he did not stay with him very long. As was the way in America, in the years that followed he made his way as best he could. Sometimes he did splendidly, at other times less well. At that time in America he passed himself off as a descendant of the old noble family of the Šliks, after the name by which their farm was known. For this little deception he was even punished.

In the course of the many years that Václav Prusík then spent in the USA, he became a sailor, an actor and a merchant, and towards the end of his life he settled in Florida, where he lives in the city of St Petersburg, at 5060 46th Street. His wife is Terezie Quimová, born in the town of Aurora in the American state of Nebraska, on 7 December 1900. This Václav Prusík is the only one of our whole family who has altered his name: to Prusek. Instead of Václav he prefers to be called, and to sign himself, James. By what he has said in recent years, he regrets this deed of his, for no Prusík living abroad, not even in the USA, and there are not a few of them, has done anything of the kind with his name. Václav Prusík has an only son, Daniel, thus already a Prusek, who was born on 23 August 1928 in Chicago. Both his father and he, however, today proudly acknowledge the name Prusík, although they bear it slightly altered. Daniel Prusek is a sales representative of a large American construction firm and lives in Millington, in the state of Illinois, not very far



Figure 3.3: Ervín Prusík, a member of the Hodyně sub-branch of the Výrov branch, lives in New York; the tallest building in the world, in New York



Figure 3.4: A view of the city of St Petersburg in Florida, in the USA. Václav Prusík, a native of Chrašťovice, lives here

from Chicago. His wife is Phyllis Drury, born on 7 December 1927 in the USA. They have two children. Their little daughter Anna was born on 14 July 1959, and their son James (Jakub) on 4 April 1965. Václav Prusík (Prusek), who today lives in retirement in a charming city on the shore of the Caribbean Sea, is married for the second time. His present wife Terezie is German by origin. His first wife was very rich. Her name was Ruth; she was born a Taylorová in 1893 in Philadelphia and died in October 1927 in Pittsburgh, in the USA. Václav Prusek, spending his last years today so far from home, likes to remember it, although since leaving his homeland in 1905 he has never once been back.

The second son of Václav Prusík, who died so early in Chrašťovice, was Josef. He was born on 11 February 1893. As he had lost his father, he was long looked after by his aunt Barbora Šmídlová in Mladotice. Josef Prusík trained as a butcher and understood the cattle trade well, and hotel-keeping too. For a time he was in Prague; then he came back to Kralovice, near his birthplace, and there in 1927 he married Marie Výšková, who was born on 13 December 1891 in Nadryby. When Josef married her, she was the widow of Jánský, the owner of a fine inn in Kralovice. Josef Prusík and his wife then improved their business uncommonly, so that from an inn it became a real hotel, the best of its kind in Kralovice. Although Josef has long since ceased to be its owner, the hotel still bears his name. Marie Prusíková, née Výšková, died on 3 October 1965; the widower Josef Prusík now lives in retirement in his own house, Kralovice No. 51. In Kralovice he is one of the respected and well-liked citizens. Josef Prusík and Marie had three daughters and one son, while she already had a daughter from her first marriage.

The eldest child of Josef Prusík of Kralovice is his daughter Alena. She was born on 23 August 1928 and married the engineer Stanislav Klukovský, today an official of the State Bank. Alena Klukovská is also a clerk at this bank. They live in Prague 7, Schnirchova 28. They have a little daughter, Marcela, born on 2 April 1955.

Josef Prusík's second daughter is Jaroslava. She was born on 19 March 1930 and married Zbyněk Ruda, who works for the state farms. They have a little daughter, Jana Rudová, born on 24

July 1954. Of Josef's four children, she alone lives today with her father, a widower, at Kralovice No. 51. After these two daughters, a son, Václav, was born to Josef and Marie Prusík. That was on 28 January 1932. He trained at "U Beránků" in Prague and today works as an inspector for Restaurants and Canteens in Plzeň, for the Plzeň-sever district. His wife is Marta Pivoňková, born on 14 September 1936 in Nahošovice near Domažlice. Václav Prusík and his wife Marta live in Nýřany, No. 312, near Plzeň. They have two sons. Michal was born on 20 February 1960 and Vladimír on 11 February 1962. The last child of the former hotelier Josef Prusík of Kralovice is his daughter Dana. She was born on 18 July 1939. She is married today to the engineer Jan Kutý, who works for the state farms and is a native of Moravia. That is where they now live, too, at Pěnčín No. 68, in the Prostějov district. They have two children, Dana, born on 8 July 1962, and Jan Kutý, born on 7 January 1964.

The third son of Václav Prusík of Chrašťovice was František. He was born on 8 March 1897. He trained as a butcher and for a time also had his own inn in Mladotice, but then he settled for good at Výrov-Hadačka No. 47. His wife, Anna Soprová, came from Hodovíz, where she was born on 5 March 1897. She died in Výrov on 22 July 1956. Her husband František Prusík died in the hospital in Kralovice on 27 June 1964. František Prusík and Anna had four children, two sons and two daughters. The eldest is Božena, born on 2 February 1924. She married Karel Štégl, a clerk, and lives in Kralovice, No. 83. They have two children, Miloš, born on 19 January 1949, and Eva, born on 6 December 1952. The next is František Prusík, born on 1 November 1928. His father had him trained as a butcher too, and for some time he was employed at the Prague slaughterhouse. Today he is a driver for the Construction Enterprise in Krnov in Silesia, where he lives at náměstí Osvobození 8. His wife is a Moravian, Soňa Pochylová. She was born on 6 September 1931 in Koryčany near Kyjov. František and Soňa have two daughters. Soňa Prusíková was born on 1 September 1952, and the second, Iva, on 9 August 1954. Both these girls play the trumpet and other wind instruments well, and with orchestras they have already travelled a good part of Europe.

The second daughter of František Prusík of Výrov is Věra. She was born on 13 January 1931 and married a farmer, Jaroslav Ždánský. They live in her husband's birthplace, Sukorady No. 65, near Mladá Boleslav, where they work in the collective farm (JZD). They have four children. Jaroslav Ždánský was born on 30 April 1950, Věra on 6 June 1952, Miloš on 25 January 1958 and Jiří on 3 December 1962.

The last child of František Prusík of Hadačka and his wife Anna is their son Pavel. He was born on 23 July 1943. He lives in his parents' little house at Výrov-Hadačka. His wife is Dana, née Levá, born on 6 February 1946 in Výrov. Pavel Prusík completed the agricultural land-improvement school and today works as a machinery operator in the collective farm in Výrov.

The second son of Václav Prusík of Chrašťovice, who was born in 1838, was František Prusík. He was born on 2 April 1870. After the early death of his brother Václav he took over the farm, and later he lived on his wife's homestead, into which he married. He took her as his wife late in life. She was Marie Churavá, born on 2 April 1883 in Chrašťovice. And this Prusík too, like perhaps all the Prusíks of Chrašťovice, was very fond of horses. He travelled to buy them in Slovakia, in Hungary and all over the republic. He had an only daughter, Marie, who was born on 29 December 1920. Her father was thus already fifty. Marie married Josef Pastor, who during the occupation served as a revenue official on the Protectorate border, which ran not far from Chrašťovice. František Prusík, the last farmer of that name in the Chrašťovice sub-branch, died on 10 January 1934 [sic; the account of Václav Prusík's children above gives 11 January 1934, so one of the two dates is wrong] in Chrašťovice. His widow Marie went to her eternal rest on 26 May 1950.

Their daughter Marie, married name Pastorová, then farmed at home, but in 1960, at her husband's urging, she moved to his birthplace, Kněževes near Rakovník, which lies in a rich hop-growing region. There she lives at No. 332. Her son, Josef Pastor, was born on 30 May 1945.

Another child of Václav Prusík of Chrašťovice who left descendants was his daughter Barbora.

She was born on 5 November 1871 and married Josef Šmídl, the owner of an inn and a farm in Mladotice. She devotedly looked after her nephews when her brother Václav died so early. But she too did not live long. Influenza carried her off on 12 September 1923 in Mladotice. Barbora Šmídlová, née Prusíková, had three children. The eldest is her son Oldřich Šmídl, born on 14 March 1900. He stayed at home at the inn and to this day is a private farmer. He did not give way even to the greatest pressure of the times. He lives at Mladotice No. 47. He has four children. His son Jiří Šmídl was born on 25 December 1928. He lives at Lubenec No. 71, where he works in the TOS enterprise. He has two little daughters, Jarmila Šmídlová, born on 2 March 1959, and Iva, born on 10 June 1963. The second son, Oldřich Šmídl, born on 30 March 1930, is unmarried. He is an electrical technician. His daughter Jarmila, divorced, married name Holotová, was born on 17 August 1933 and has a little daughter, Marcela, born on 23 September 1961. Her sister Eliška Šmídlová, born on 28 May 1947, lives with her in Karlovy Vary, or more exactly at Nová Role No. 212. The second child of Barbora Šmídlová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Božena. She was born on 21 May 1901 in Mladotice and married Heidenreich, an employee of the judicial service in Prague and a native of Stvolny near Rabštejn. They live in a pretty little villa in Prague-Kunratice, Mašátova 441. The Heidenreichs have an only daughter, Dagmar, born on 10 August 1927. She is a doctor. For quite a long time she worked at the hospital in Duchcov, and now she is a specialist in internal diseases in Prague 7. Her married name is Kleinová, and her husband is a doctor too. They live in Prague-Vyšehrad, Vratislavova 30. Dr Dagmar Kleinová has two children, a little daughter, Dagmar, born on 14 June 1961, and a little son, Oto, born on 19 March 1963. Barbora's third child was her daughter Věnceslava. She was born on 28 September 1905 and, under her married name Řeháková, was killed by a car in the street in Prague on 16 October 1963. She had no children.

Such, then, in brief, were the fortunes of all the descendants of Václav Prusík of Chrašťovice, whose father Vojtěch was born in 1810 in Sedlec. The third son of Vojtěch Prusík, who settled in Chrašťovice in 1839, was Jan. He was born on 18 January 1841, but the family farm was not meant for him. So he looked for a place where he might gain a foothold. And then a purchase offered itself in Újezd near Manětín. This village has barely 70 inhabitants; it used to belong to various lords, among them the Šliks of Rabštejn, the Švamberks and the Plasy monastery, but in the end Újezd belonged to the estate of Count Lažanský in Manětín. Jan Prusík, the native of Chrašťovice, married Marie Šmídlová, born on 12 July 1843 in Rybnice. For a short time they lived together in Stražiště, and on 3 August 1871 they bought holding No. 10 in Újezd near Manětín. For the homestead they paid the previous owners, the Tobiášek couple, 6,250 gulden. The fate of this whole family was a very turbulent one. The Chrašťovice Prusíks' passion for horses did not pay here. Jan Prusík was not a particularly good farmer, and his chief passion was horses and dealing in them. Through unsuccessful deals he slowly ran his farm so far into debt that soon after his death his descendants had to give it up. Today in Újezd you will not find even a trace of the house where Jan Prusík, the native of Chrašťovice, lived with his family. Jan died on 22 February 1883, and his wife on 1 September 1910.

Jan Prusík had six children. His daughter Josefa was born on 1 June 1876 in Újezd. She married Jan Pešička from Hvozd. Josefa Pešičková, née Prusíková, had five children. The eldest was Václav, born on 20 July 1897. At the very beginning of the First World War he went to the front, and he served longest in the Alps, on the Italian front. When the war ended in the autumn of 1918 and the guns fell silent, he longed to get home as quickly as possible. As he could not get into the overcrowded carriages, he travelled with a few comrades on the roof of a railway carriage. That proved fatal to him. As the train passed through a tunnel in the Alps he was killed, as were his comrades who had chosen this way of travelling home. The second was Stanislav Pešička. He was born on 3 April 1909 in Újezd near Manětín. Today he works in the forest and lives at Lešovice No. 11, near Nečtiny. His mother lived with him until her death; she died there on 26 March 1956. Josefa Pešičková, née Prusíková, then had a daughter, Josefa. She was born on 28 February 1912. Her married name is Hlávková, and she lives in Kopisty near Most, Karla Havlíčka Borovského 406. Her first daughter, Anna, a child born out of wedlock, was born on 9 February 1930. Her married name is Šimicová, and she too lives in Kopisty. She has four children. They

are all daughters: Jitka, born on 5 June 1951, Jaruška on 12 August 1959, Eva on 24 December 1960 and Ivana Šimicová, born on 8 July 1963. From her marriage to Hlávka, a worker, Josefa, née Pešičková, has five children. Her son Josef Hlávka, born on 19 July 1944, is already married and has a little son, Roman, born on 6 December 1967. Then there are Václav Hlávka, born on 12 August 1946, Marie, born on 19 February 1949, Jaroslav, born on 7 November 1950, and Jitka Hlávková, born on 17 March 1952. They all live in Kopisty near Most. The next child of Josefa Pešičková, née Prusíková, is her son Jan Pešička. He was born on 9 August 1913; he is unmarried, works in the mines and lives in Kopisty, Marxova 357.

The last child of Josefa Pešičková was her daughter Marie. She was born on 6 December 1919. Her first daughter was born out of wedlock and was given the name Marie. She was born on 8 January 1936; her first married name was Charitunová, and her present one is Černá. She lives in Břežánky near Teplice, Hornická 98. She has a little son, Jan Charitun, born on 6 July 1954. Marie Pešičková then married a Yugoslav, Galjanič; she lived with him in the Teplice area, and later they moved to Křečov near Manětín. She was only 47 when she died there of cancer, on 30 March 1966. Two sons were born of her marriage: Václav Galjanič, on 13 September 1946, who today is in employment and lives in Hodonín, Havlíčkova 1. The second, Pavel Galjanič, lives with his widowed father. He was born on 6 June 1951.

Jan Prusík and his wife Marie, settled in Újezd near Manětín, had two sons, and he looked forward to one of them becoming heir to the holding. But these plans came entirely to nothing. For one thing, the farm fell into complete ruin, and for another, both sons died young and unmarried. Václav was born on 9 September 1870 in Stražiště. He was doing his military service, fell ill there and soon afterwards died at home in Újezd, unmarried, on 4 January 1896. His brother František Prusík, born on 19 July 1873 in Újezd, also went off to do his military service, and to him too it proved fatal. He fell seriously ill there; they sent him home from military service, and there he died at the age of 22, on 1 April 1895.

Jan Prusík's next daughter was Terezie. She was born on 25 September 1882. She never even knew her father, and her life was very hard. She trained as a seamstress, and often she did not even have enough work. Only when she married František Přibyl, a worker in the Most area, did things begin to go a little better for her. She lived in Kopisty. Her only child was her daughter Zdeňka. She was born on 18 May 1916; her married name is Háková, and she lives in Most, Gottwaldova 2817. She has two children. Her son Václav Hák, born on 1 July 1943, is a teacher; her daughter Jitka Háková, born on 18 October 1944, has a little daughter born out of wedlock, Šárka, born on 27 June 1967. Terezie Přibylová, née Prusíková, died in Kopisty, at her daughter's, on 9 December 1959.

Jan Prusík's next daughter was Anna. She was born on 6 August 1862 and married Ondřej Pešík. At first husband and wife both tried to save the farm in Újezd by better farming, but by then it could no longer be done. They moved to Plzeň, where Anna Pešíková's husband was a railway employee. They had three daughters. The eldest is Anna Pešíková, who never married. She was born on 16 July 1894 and lives in Plzeň, Fučíkova 34. She perhaps knows the fortunes of Jan Prusík's whole family best of all. Her sister Krista, married name Burgetová, was born on 8 September 1896 and died in Plzeň on 4 December 1962. Her husband was a railway official. The third daughter of Anna Pešíková, née Prusíková, is Anastazie, married name Niklfalterová. She was born on 14 April 1903 and lives with her sister Anna in Plzeň. None of them had any children.

Albína, the daughter of Jan Prusík of Újezd, also had a sad fate. She was born on 20 December 1879 in Újezd and married Václav Havlík, a miner, in Kopisty in the Most area. She had two daughters: Marie, born in 1907, whose married name was Novotná and who died childless in 1928 in Kopisty, and the second daughter, Emilie Havlíková, who was born in 1912 and died when she was 15, in 1927. Nor did Albína Havlíková, née Prusíková, live long. She died at the age of 44, of consumption, in 1923 in Kopisty.

So Jan Prusík, the native of Chrašťovice, left no male descendant through whom Prusíks might live on, and the fate of his daughters was not always of the best either. That is sometimes the

way of life.

The last child of Vojtěch Prusík, a native of Sedlice who settled in Chrašťovice, was his daughter Marie. She was born on 1 August 1845. Her mother was née Kozová, from Potvorov, and so it was agreed that the daughter would in turn marry into her mother's family. Since her marriage would create a kinship in the third degree, a special dispensation for the marriage had to be sought. Marie Prusíková then married, on 12 November 1861, Václav Koza at Potvorov No. 47, which had been called "U Kordů" since time immemorial. Václav Koza had a farm in Potvorov. He was born on 1 August 1839. Marie Prusíková was, as far as our history records, the second member of our family by blood to come to Potvorov. Before her, in the first half of the 18th century, Eva, the daughter of Martin Prusík of Sedlec, had married into the Hrdík family there.

Potvorov is an ancient village, and it is written of as early as the 12th century, when Humpolt was the lesser nobleman there. At the end of the 12th century there was a lesser nobleman's manor in Potvorov, surrounded by a ditch and a rampart like a fortress. In the courtyard stood a Romanesque church, which was likewise surrounded by a ditch, still to be seen in places. From the manor a covered gallery led to the church's choir loft. In times of danger the inhabitants of the village took refuge here. This ancient Romanesque church of St Nicholas in Potvorov, the oldest in all West Bohemia, is memorable to us because all our ancestors of old from Sedlec were baptised, married and buried here.

In the middle of the 17th century the name Koza is still nowhere mentioned in this village. This family evidently came to Potvorov much later.

Marie Kozová and her husband Václav had seven children who grew up. They were the sons Josef, Václav, František and Jan and the daughters Barbora, Marie and Františka. Marie Kozová, née Prusíková, was, as those who remember her attest, an excellent housewife, and she knew how to manage well, not only on her own farm but everywhere else too. But she did not live to a great age; she died of consumption on 22 June 1893 in Potvorov. Her husband Václav outlived her by 22 years. He died on 18 May 1915.

The eldest child of Marie Kozová, née Prusíková, was her son Josef. He was born on 20 January 1863 and farmed in Potvorov. He had six children. The first was František Koza. He was born on 31 October 1890 and died on 24 September 1922. He helped at home on the farm, and his misfortune was that he had been deaf and dumb from birth. It was the same with his brother Mikuláš. He was born on 22 February 1894 and, because of the same affliction, he too stayed at home with his parents; he died at the age of thirty, on 12 June 1924. Perhaps the unhappy effect of his grandmother's marriage between relatives showed itself here. The next child was Marie. She was born on 21 August 1897 and served as a housekeeper in various places away from home; then she married, under the married name Nováková, and today she lives as a widow in Most, Maxima Gorkého 986/6. She has no children, but, like few others, she knows her whole Koza family excellently. The fourth child of Josef Koza, who died on 21 September 1926, was his son Bohuslav Koza. He was born on 28 May 1900 in Potvorov, stayed unmarried and, like his brothers František and Mikuláš before him, he too helped out everywhere, and especially on his parents' farm. He too died young, on 27 May 1931. The fifth is Hedvika, born on 17 October 1902. She is married to a widower, Kouba, with whom, however, she had no children, and she lives at Potvorov No. 73.

The last was Josef Koza. He was born on 4 January 1907 and was to have the farm at home. And he did indeed farm on his native holding, but he too did not reach a great age, and he died of consumption on 17 January 1942 in Potvorov. He had two children. His son Josef, born on 6 February 1933, works in industry in Děčín and lives there too, at Foersterova 863-14. He is married for the second time, and from each of these two marriages he has one boy: Josef Koza, born on 20 November 1955, and Zdeněk Koza, born on 8 December 1957. The second child of Josef Koza of Potvorov was his daughter Marie. She was born on 28 April 1935; her married name is Jandová, and she is a teacher. She has two children, Jiří Janda, born on 24 June 1961, and Jana, born on 1 April 1964. They live in Plzeň, Mánesova 89.

The second child of Marie Kozová, née Prusíková, was her son Václav. He was born on 17 October 1864 and married within the village, into No. 16, which had been called "U Vicendů" ever since the Thirty Years' War. Václav Koza had a fine farm and was also mayor. He had three children. His daughter Marie, born on 8 April 1897, was married to Woldán, a railway foreman. They had their own little house in Rokycany, where she died on 12 May 1949. She had no children. Václav Koza's second child is his son Václav, born on 28 August 1899, who took over the farm from his father; today it is incorporated into the collective farm. This Václav Koza, too, was mayor of the village for a long time, and especially during the occupation he proved himself uncommonly well in this office. He has three children. His daughter Věra, born on 4 November 1924, has the married name Fryčková. She lives in Dobřany, at the station, where her husband is stationmaster. She works as a nurse in the psychiatric hospital in Dobřany. She has two daughters, Jaroslava Fryčková, born on 10 July 1951, and Věra, born on 25 August 1962. Then there is a son, Václav, born on 20 February 1930. He married and took his wife's name, Tichý. He lives in Plzeň-Doubravka, Smrková 20. He has a little son,

Pavel Tichý, born on 13 October 1964. Václav Koza's second son is Jaromír, born on 17 May 1932. He lives in Kralovice, třída Rudé armády 29. He is employed by the Czechoslovak State Motor Transport (ČSAD). He has two children, Marcela Kozová, born on 4 May 1959, and Milan Koza, born on 9 May 1961. The third child of Václav Koza, who married into the Vicenda family, was his son František. He was born on 31 March 1901 and was employed by the railway all his life. He worked especially long in the Ústí area, where his wife comes from. Their marriage is childless. František Koza now lives in retirement in Prague 6-Dolní Liboc, Litovická 9.

Václav Koza of Potvorov, the father of Marie, Václav and František, died at home, rather forsaken, on 13 June 1941. His son Václav died on 12 June 1968.

Another son of Marie Kozová, née Prusíková, was František. He was born on 14 August 1867. In Potvorov he had a farm, a butcher's shop and an inn. He was married twice; from his first marriage he had five children [sic; six are named below] and from his second two. František Koza, who was very well liked in the village, died in Potvorov on 2 August 1946.

The eldest child of František Koza was his son Bedřich. He was born on 4 February 1894, trained as a butcher and stayed unmarried. He died in Potvorov on 8 October 1957. The second, Josef Koza, born on 9 March 1895, trained as a waiter; on the outbreak of the First World War he was called up at once, and he fell on 30 December 1915 on the Russian front, near Stryi in Galicia. František Koza then had a daughter, Marie, born on 4 September 1899. She in turn took a Koza as her husband, though he did not, of course, belong among the descendants of Marie Prusíková. He was a permanent-way inspector in Příbram, and it was there, too, that Marie Kozová died, on 23 November 1951. They had an only son, Jan Koza, who was born on 29 June 1930 and is employed by the ČSAD as a dispatcher. He is unmarried and lives in Příbram IV, čsl. armády 154.

Another child of František Koza of Potvorov was his son František. He was born on 31 May 1897 and for many years was an official with the railway; he too worked especially long in the Ústí area, like his cousin František. Late in life František Koza married, but by then he had no children. Towards the end of his life he lived in Prague 7. Because of his uncompromising political stand after February 1948 he left the service of the Czechoslovak State Railways (ČSD) and then worked in various places, last as a clerk in the sanatorium in Dobříš. He too had a good knowledge of the wide Koza family, and he always claimed kinship with our Prusík family as well. He died suddenly on 4 January 1965 in Prague.

Another child of František Koza's first marriage was his son Vladimír. He was born on 2 August 1902 and farmed at Potvorov No. 43. But his health was not good, and he died on 26 July 1964. He too was very well liked in the village. Vladimír Koza had two daughters. Božena, born on 10 May 1929, has the married name Jandová and lives in Kralovice, Plzeňská 15. She has two children, Vladimír, born on 12 December 1953, and Dana, born on 9 August 1958. The second daughter, Drahuše, was born on 26 July 1931. Her married name is Cepková, and she lives at

Potvorov No. 60. She has three children, Libuše, born on 26 December 1953, Josef, born on 24 March 1955, and Pavel Cepek, born on 23 October 1956. The last child of František Koza's first marriage was his daughter Božena. She was born on 6 January 1905, and in her, too, the unhappy consequences of her grandmother's long-ago marriage between relatives showed themselves once more. They did send her away from home for special treatment, to Jilemnice, but Božena Kozová died there at the age of eleven, on 28 December 1915. From František Koza's second marriage two more sons were born. Václav Koza was born on 4 May 1911 and today works and lives in Kraslice, Komenského 1513. He has two children: a daughter, Eva, born on 26 August 1938, married name Farská. She is a clerk and has two sons, Milan, born on 25 November 1958, and Jiří Farský, born on 14 March 1960. Václav Koza's son Petr was born on 13 February 1944. He is a chemist, at the Amati enterprise.

František Koza's second son by his second marriage is Blažej. He was born on 26 January 1914 and lives at Potvorov No. 28. He had his own inn and also worked in the purchasing of farm produce. He has an only son, Bohuslav Koza, born on 17 March 1937. He is a building technician and lives in Kralovice-Sídliště, No. 559. He has two little daughters, Bohuslava Kozová, born on 6 September 1962, and Jarmila Kozová, born on 6 February 1967. Members of the family emigrated to the USA from Potvorov, too. The fourth son of Marie Kozová, née Prusíková, is her son Jan. He was born on 5 May 1875. He trained as a butcher and was a very enterprising man. At the beginning of the 19th century [sic, properly the 20th] he left, like many Czechs, for the USA and finally settled in the state of Iowa, in Iowa City. There he had his butcher's shop, and he also took part in other ventures, such as mining, and grew very rich. He married an American woman, but it seems that this marriage was not very happy. From time to time he used to travel to his homeland, and he would say that towards the end of his life he would come back to Bohemia and settle in his home for good. While he was getting ready for this in America and preparing to leave, he died suddenly, on 5 April 1947. Jan Koza had two children. His daughter Alice was born on 14 February 1905 and is married to a merchant, McCollister. She now lives in a wooded country of lakes in the state of Minnesota, in the small town of Cross Lake. Alice has three children. The eldest is her son Robert, born on 27 July 1928, who is a doctor. He works at the university clinic in Minneapolis and lives in the town of Edina, at 6704 Brittany Road. Dr Robert McCollister has two little sons, Karel, born on 5 January 1963, and Bruce, born on 8 September 1966. The second child of Alice, née Kozová, is her son Terry, born on 3 May 1934. He is an engineer and lives at Cape Elisabeth, near the city of Portland on the Atlantic Ocean, in the state of Maine. The engineer Terry McCollister has two sons, Jan, born on 7 July 1959, and Jakub, born on 17 December 1961.

The third is Zuzana, born on 9 September 1938, today married name Zielinová. She is a teacher. She has no children as yet. She lives in the smaller community of Minnetonka, at 5808 Scenic Drive, in the state of Minnesota. Jan Koza had a son, Jan, born on 27 May 1907. He lives in Iowa City and has a son, Jan, born on 15 July 1948. Their address is 340 Hutchinson Ave. The first daughter of Marie Kozová, née Prusíková, was Barbora. She was born on 31 May 1877. She had a child born out of wedlock, a little daughter, Marie, born on 29 December 1897. Barbora did not marry, and she died in Potvorov, the first of all Marie Kozová's children to die, before the First World War, on 2 July 1911. Her daughter Marie later had the married name Vavřičková and moved to her husband's birthplace, Zborovy No. 25, near Plánice. They had a farm there. Marie Vavřičková had seven children. Her first daughter, Vlasta Vavřičková, was born in 1918 and was blind from birth. She died unmarried at the age of twenty, in 1938. The second was Marie, born on 25 March 1921. She married Ibr, a worker at the Škoda Works, and lives in Plzeň, třída 1. máje 71. She has an only child, a son, Václav, born on 9 July 1946. The next is her daughter Alžběta, who was born on 3 November 1922. Her married name is Sladká, and she lives at Žíhle No. 201. She has three sons. Karel Sladký was born on 16 November 1943 and lives in Jaroměř, Lidická 1. The second, Jiří, born on 26 November 1947, and Milan Sladký, born on 12 December 1955, live at home with their parents. The fourth daughter of Marie Vavřičková, née Kozová, is Františka. She was born on 3 December 1924 in Zborovy and lives today in Plzeň, U Radbuzy 4. Her married name is Pohanková, and she has two daughters, Věra, born on 9 January 1951, and

Miluše, born on 8 February 1953. The next is Emilie, born on 19 December 1926, married name Šebestová. She too lives in Plzeň, U trati 3. She has an only child, a daughter, Vladimíra, born on 11 March 1956.

The last daughter of Marie Vavřičková is her daughter Jaroslava. She was born on 9 May 1929 and married Holý, a farmer. They both work in the collective farm at Zborovy, No. 25. Jaroslava Holá has a little daughter, Dana, born on 29 July 1953. Marie Vavřičková's only son was Karel. He was born on 21 October 1931 and is employed in Plzeň. He lives there in Křižíkovy sady. He has two children, Drahuše, born on 4 February 1960, and a little son, Karel Vavřička, born on 26 July 1961.

The second daughter of Marie Kozová, née Prusíková, of Chrašťovice, was Marie. She was born on 1 July 1881 in Potvorov and married A. Rozmara, a smallholder in Potvorov. After the Second World War they lived in Žíhle. Marie Rozmarová died on 26 April 1948. She had two children. Her son František Rozmara, born on 16 June 1903, was employed by the railway and stayed unmarried. After the Second World War he lived in Chomutov. While visiting his birthplace, Potvorov, he died suddenly on 2 October 1963. The second son was Josef Rozmara. He was born on 20 February 1910 in Potvorov, and after May 1945 he settled in Žíhle, where he was quite active in politics. He too was employed by the railway. During a shoot in the spring of 1949 he was hit by a stray shot, and he soon succumbed to the wound. He died in Žíhle on 26 March 1949. He had four children. His daughter Jana, born on 7 July 1934, had the married name Říčánková and died young, on 6 November 1958. Her little son Rudolf Říčánek, born on 9 May 1953, lives with his father at Pozořice No. 292, near Brno. Josef Rozmara's second child is his son Josef. He was born in Chabařovice in the Ústí area on 20 May 1936 and is today employed by the ČSAD. He lives in Prague-Žižkov, Kněžská luka 53. He has a little daughter, Hana Rozmarová, born on 26 January 1957. Josef Rozmara's third child is his daughter Věra. She was born on 9 October 1942. Her married name is Blaňarová, and with her husband she moved to Kurov No. 20, in the Bardějov district in Slovakia. She has two little sons, Jan, born on 30 April 1960, and Milan Blaňar, born on 8 November 1964. Just a year before his death, a son, Jiří, was born to the Rozmaras. He lives with his mother at Žíhle No. 182. That was on 14 April 1948.

The last child of Marie Kozová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Františka. She was born on 5 March 1887 in Potvorov. When she was 18, she fell in love, but her parents did not favour the attachment. When her brother Jan once came home from America on a visit, he persuaded her to go back there with him. She thought it over for a long time and did not want to leave home, but her bitterness over her disappointment in love decided her to go overseas. In 1907 she left for the USA and settled in Iowa City, where her brother lived. There she married a Czech, Vitouš, and had two daughters with him. But she did not do as well as her brother. Nor did she ever come home to Potvorov to visit. All her life, however, she corresponded with her relatives, and she did not forget her Czech. She died, the last of the children of Marie Kozová, née Prusíková, on 10 December 1966 in the USA.

Františka Vitoušová, née Kozová, had a daughter, Dorota. She was born on 4 April 1916; her married name is Miltnerová. She too lives in Iowa City, Rural Route 1. Husband and wife are both managers of an old people's home. They have four children. Her daughter Marie, born on 18 May 1941, has a large farm. They buy breeding cattle in various states of the USA, including on the farms of President Johnson. Marie Donovanová has three children: Michal, born on 19 August 1962, Robert, born on 22 August 1963, and Anna, born on 16 June 1966. Dorota Miltnerová's next child is her daughter Anna. She was born on 21 May 1944. The third is Barbora, born on 31 March 1948, who is a stewardess with an airline in Chicago. Dorota's fourth child is her son Vilém Miltner. He was born on 15 February 1952 and lives at home with his parents in Iowa City.

The second daughter of Františka Vitoušová, née Kozová, was Jenufa. She was born on 11 May 1919; her married name is Conklinová, and she lives in Iowa City, at 315 Governor North. Jenufa too has a fine farm. She has four children. Her little son Štěpán was born on 13 June 1948, her daughter Zuzana on 19 April 1950, then Sandra, born on 5 March 1952, and her son Sherrie

Conklin, born on 25 September 1955.

This, then, is a short account of the descendants of Vojtěch Prusík, who was born in 1810 at the ancestral seat of our family in Sedlec and settled in Chrašťovice at the age of 29. He thus became the founder of the sub-branch that we call "Chrašťovice". In Chrašťovice today no one at all from this sub-branch is living. The descendants of this Vojtěch Prusík are scattered in various corners of our homeland, and also far away across the sea, in America. Nine Prusíks of this sub-branch are living. In all, Vojtěch Prusík left some 191 descendants, of whom 45 are already dead.

## 3.2 The Bílov Sub-branch of the Sedlec Branch

The descendants of Kateřina Prusíková of Sedlec, married name Kouklová.

1812 – 1871

The second child of Václav Prusík, the reeve in Sedlice, and of his wife Rosálie, née Fenclová, from Výrov, was their daughter Kateřina. She was born on 5 October 1812. On 20 November 1832, in the church at Potvorov, she married František Koukl, a farmer of Bílov No. 8. With this, a member of our family once more came to this village. Even before Kateřina, some daughters of the Prusíks of Sedlice had married into Bílov, and even into the Koukl family, or "U Kymlů", as people there still say. The blacksmith Václav Prusík, a native of Sedlice, had also settled there, as early as the 17th century. We have already told his troubled story on page 5. But if any reader of this history of our family wishes to see the murderer of the blacksmith Prusík with his own eyes, let him visit the National Gallery in Prague, in Hradčany. A painting by Karel Škréta hangs there, showing the Miseroni family of gem-cutters, who worked at the court of Emperor Rudolf II. The smallest boy in the painting later became the owner of Krašov Castle, and in 1673, in a dispute with peasants, he shot Václav Prusík.

The village of Bílov lies at the highest altitude in the whole of the former Kralovice district. It was founded by the Plasy monastery around 1340. In the 15th century Bílov belonged to the lords of Kolovraty, who then held Krašov and Libštejn. In 1480 Hanuš Kolovrat ceded Bílov and other villages to the monastery at Plasy, and from that time until the dissolution of the monastery in 1785 the Plasy Cistercians were the lords of the subjects of Bílov.

Our countryside was always very devout. In the Koukl family, however, piety had from of old been set in the highest place. The little chapel built on the village green in Bílov was the work above all of the Koukl family's initiative, and on the right-hand side of the road to Potvorov there still stands a cross that František and Kateřina Koukl of Bílov put up together. On the cross there was always a beautiful picture of the Virgin Mary, which Kateřina always used to kiss fervently. František Koukl, her husband, was born on 1 August 1811. His family has been settled in Bílov since time immemorial, and in earlier times the Koukls were called the Kymls, and also the Kmíneks. According to the Plasy urbarium of 1558, when there were 12 villagers in the village, this holding, No. 12, had one lán of land. Today about 150 people live in Bílov. Kateřina Kouklová, née Prusíková, died in Bílov on 18 May 1871. Her husband František died six years after her, on 19 November 1877.

Kateřina Kouklová, née Prusíková, had four children who grew up. Her little son Martin and her little daughters Marie and Anna died in infancy. Her eldest son was Josef, who was born on 3 March 1836; he was heir to the holding and died on 28 July 1907. The second son, Václav Koukl, born on 1 September 1841, became a priest and died on 7 March 1929 in Spálené Poříčí. Kateřina's third son was Martin Koukl. He was born on 17 October 1844; his aunt Barbora Prusíková, married name Levá, of Sedlec, who remained childless, handed over her farm to Martin, and there he died on 12 November 1924. The fourth child of Kateřina Kouklová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Rosalie. She was born on 4 September 1854 in Bílov; her married name was Kozová, of Potvorov, where she died on 14 May 1931.

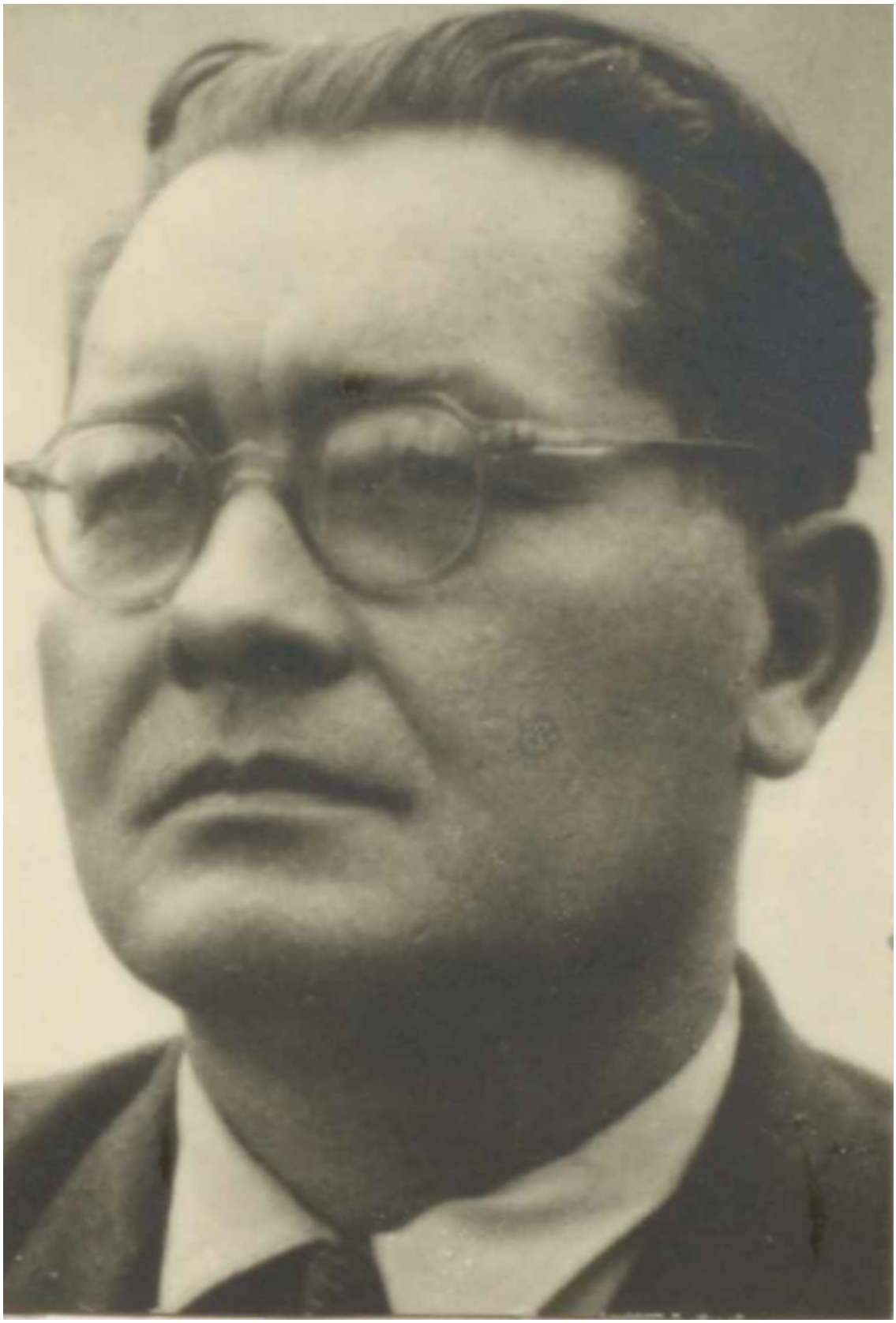


Figure 3.5: Jaroslav Prusík, engineer, of Chlumčany, a member of the Nebřežiny branch, part of which he recorded as a chronicler (1907 – 1959)



Figure 3.6: Josef Prusík, a native of Chrašťovice (1876 – 1948), honorary member of many Czech compatriot societies in Chicago



Figure 3.7: Karel Prusík, a native of Třemošná, a member of the Plasy branch (1861 – 1938). He was decorated for his part in fighting the fire at the National Theatre in 1881



Figure 3.8: Dr Blažej Prusík, a native of Výrov (1884 – 1953); for 40 years he was a well-liked doctor in Dobříš. His support for the partisans in the Second World War has been made into a novel



Figure 3.9: Josef Prusík, a native of Řemešín (1891 – 1944), was a railway official in Kralovice. He perished in the concentration camp at Terezín

Josef Koukl of Bílov No. 8 was the eldest child of František Koukl and Kateřina Prusíková of Sedlec. He was born on 3 March 1836, and in 1873 he married Marie Prusíková of Výrov. She is already the fourth woman of the Prusík family, as far as history tells us, to marry into the Koukl family. You can read briefly about her on page 110, under the Výrov branch. Her children we count, after their father, in the Sedlec branch and this Bílov sub-branch. Josef Koukl was a very religious man, but at the same time open to modern methods of farming. He died in Bílov on 28 July 1907, and his wife Marie, of the Prusík family, on 6 February 1908. And so, within half a year, the children in fact lost both their parents.

The eldest son of Josef Koukl and Marie, née Prusíková, was Mikuláš. He was born on 1 December 1877 and became a priest. First he was in Nýřany and then in various parishes in Prague; last he served and lived in Prague 7. His housekeeper was a relative, Eliška Prusíková of Horní Bříza. When his brother Josef, the agricultural engineer, came home from the First World War, he lived with Mikuláš in Prague 7, in Kostelní Street. Mikuláš was a very enlightened priest. He died relatively young, of influenza, on 2 September 1926. He is buried in the Olšany Cemeteries.

The second son was František Koukl. He was born on 9 March 1881 and took over the farm at home. Of all his three brothers, he was the strictest Catholic. His wife was Anna Žemličková from Štichovice, but the marriage remained childless. He died in the same year as his brother, the priest Mikuláš, on 19 December 1926 in Bílov. He is buried in Potvorov.

The third child of Josef Koukl and Marie, née Prusíková, was again a son, Blažej. He was born on 31 December 1883 in Bílov. He went through the grammar school in Klatovy, where his uncle Blažej Prusík was a secondary-school teacher. After the school-leaving examination he studied classical philology at the university in Prague, and later took his doctorate in that field. He was a secondary-school teacher in Hustopeče in Moravia, in Hodonín, also in Tábor, and longest of all in Brno. Blažej Koukl, too, was an ardent Catholic, and under the First Republic he was a member of the provincial assembly in Moravia for the People's Party. In 1925 he married Antonie Vykoupilová, a native of Hodonín. Dr Blažej Koukl loved his family and Bílov, where he was born, above all else. He also always honoured the Prusík family, for in the course of history their blood very often mingled with the blood of the Koukls. After all, both his grandmother and his mother were born Prusíková. Blažej wrote a comprehensive history of the village of Bílov, and also of his family. For religious reasons he made a number of journeys abroad, especially to Italy, to Rome, and to Lourdes in France. He died at the fine age of 83 in Brno, on 7 December 1966.

Blažej Koukl had four children. The eldest is Josef, born on 8 November 1926. He became a priest; for a short time he was in Prague and then in the parish of Stodůlky near Prague. Because of his progressive outlook he was uncommonly well liked by the people there. And perhaps for that very reason he had to change parish on orders from above. He became parish administrator in Kladruby near Stříbro, the seat of a once famous Benedictine monastery. He has been there since 1958, and his mother and his brothers and sisters very often go to see him. Blažej's second son was Václav. He was born on 15 April 1928 in Brno. He began to study law, but because of his too pronounced religious stand he did not stay long at the faculty. He therefore trained in another field and became a successful building technician with the state farm in Kralovice. He lives there too, at No. 82. He is married and has two children. His little son Jan Koukl was born on 4 August 1957 and his little daughter Michaela on 27 May 1963. Václav Koukl is an excellent musician; he plays the organ in church, as his father and his brothers and sisters once did. Blažej's third son was Jan Koukl. He was born on 23 March 1931 in Brno. He studied, but was soon stricken with diabetes. In the wartime shortage of medicines he died after an attack, on 15 August 1945, in Bílov, where he was on holiday, and he is buried in the churchyard at Potvorov. The last child of Blažej Koukl was his daughter Marie. She was born on 28 September 1941. Her piety, ingrained in all the Koukls, did not prevent her from being open to everything progressive. While she was single and worked as a building technician, she flew in aeroplanes, drove a car and so on. Her married name is now Pospíšilová, and she lives in Brno, Merhautova 13/2. Marie Pospíšilová has two children. Her little daughter Blanka was born on 9 April 1965 and her son Pavel on 3 July 1966.

Josef Koukl's fourth son was Josef. He was born on 13 January 1887 in Bílov, studied at the technical university in Prague, in its agricultural section, and then went to Russia, where as an agricultural engineer he served on several estates in the Moscow governorate. He had a great sense for progress in agriculture, and in Russia he surely did credit to the Czech nation. There the First World War overtook him, and he lived through the revolution and the civil war as well. With our army abroad he then returned home after the war and for some time was an official of the Land Office in Slovakia and in Prague, where he lived with his brother Mikuláš. When Mikuláš died, he stayed for a short time in his flat, but after the death of his brother František he went home to Bílov. He married Marie Žemličková from Štichovice and took over the holding. He remained childless. Of all the four sons of Josef Koukl and Marie, née Prusíková, it was he who was most attached to our Prusík family. His piety never turned into fanaticism. He lived out the end of his life in the worst economic conditions, such as prevailed in the Czech countryside especially after February 1948. He died in Bílov on 3 February 1955.

The second child of František Koukl and Kateřina, née Prusíková, was their son Václav. He was born on 1 September 1841 in Bílov. He studied at the German grammar school in Žatec, then entered the Prague seminary and was ordained a priest on 31 July 1867.

He celebrated his first Mass in Prague at St Joseph's, and he held a solemn Mass in Potvorov. Václav Koukl served as curate in Čížkov near Blovice, then from 1869 to 1881 in Spálené Poříčí; then for 12 years he was parish priest in Nové Mitrovice, and in 1893 he returned as dean to Spálené Poříčí, where he died on 7 March 1929, at the age of 88. He was a true servant of the Lord, and lively to the end of his life. In Nové Mitrovice and in Spálené Poříčí he bought an almshouse. The writer J. Š. Baar, formerly curate at Poříčí, said of him more than once: "His Reverence is a pearl among the clergy!" He always used a straw mattress that his mother had once woven for him. He knew his parishioners perfectly; after all, he had brought them all up himself. He was also a keen supporter of the second reading society in Bohemia, which arose after a similar society in Radnice. Dean Václav Koukl held the view that a priest should not go into retirement but should serve God and the faithful until death. And indeed, the candle of his priestly life burned for almost 62 years. His funeral was magnificent. People came from the whole region to pay their respects to his memory.

The third child of Kateřina Kouklová, née Prusíková, was her son Martin. He was born on 17 October 1844. He worked in Bílov on his parents' farm, and he married at the age of only 18, when his aunt Barbora Levá, née Prusíková, gave him her farm, Sedlec No. 11. She had no children and did not want her homestead, which since time immemorial has been called "U Statků", to pass into strangers' hands. Martin Koukl was a good farmer and an especially excellent judge of horses, in which he dealt. He had eleven children, but only six of them grew up. Martin Koukl died at the age of 80 in Sedlec, on 12 November 1924. His eldest child was his son Josef. He was born on 13 October 1863 in Sedlec, and his wife was Božena Zimmerhaklová from the Podhradský mill on the Střela. Josef Koukl had a shop in Potvorov and an agency of the Slavia insurance company. Towards the end of his life Josef Koukl sold his house and shop, and he then died in the old school, on 2 April 1936. Josef Koukl had nine children. Seven of them grew up. The eldest was his daughter Božena, born on 15 February 1890 in Potvorov. She was married to Handl, a gendarmerie sergeant, but Božena Handlová died at the age of only 25, on 8 July 1915. Her husband, too, lived to be only 41. They had an only son, Hugo Handl, born on 24 May 1914 in Mladotice. He was then brought up by his grandfather and grandmother in Potvorov. He went through the Higher Industrial School of Mechanical Engineering in Plzeň and today works at the Presidium of the Government in Prague. He lives in Prague-Vršovice, Gruzinská 14. He has two children. His daughter Jitřenka, born on 22 August 1941, has the married name Zapletalová. His son Ivan Handl was born on 2 July 1946.

Josef Koukl's second child was Alžběta, born on 9 November 1891. She too married a gendarme, Jan Bulva of Vysoké Mýto. She lives there too, at No. 388. Alžběta Bulvová has two children. Her daughter Božena, born on 5 July 1919, has the married name Smetanová and lives with her mother in Vysoké Mýto. She has a daughter, Jindřiška, born on 28 June 1942. She lives at Ohraženice

near Pardubice, No. 56a. Jitřenka Zapletalová has a little son, Robert, born on 25 April 1968.

The second child of Alžběta Bulvová, née Kouklová, is her son Drahoslav. He was born on 3 January 1927 in Rožňava and today lives at Zeleneč near Prague, No. 344. He is a technician in industry in Prague. He has two daughters, Hana, born on 4 July 1949, and Milena Bulvová, born on 26 December 1955.

Josef Koukl's little daughter Marie, born on 19 January 1895, died unmarried on 7 November 1912.

Then there was his son Josef Koukl. He was born on 11 December 1896. First he was an inspector of the Slavia insurance company in Kralovice, but later he built himself a villa with a large garden in Kralovice and devoted himself solely to fruit growing and nursery gardening. He became a renowned pomologist in the region. His garden is truly a model. He lives in Kralovice, U sokolovny 428. Josef Koukl has three children. His daughter Libuše, born on 21 November 1926, is married to Šídl, a pharmacist. They live in České Budějovice, Svatotrojická 13. They have two children. Zdeněk was born on 4 February 1953 and Michal Šídl on 30 April 1958. His son Josef Koukl, born on 7 November 1927, is manager of the electricity substation in Kralovice. He lives there with his father. He has two children, a son, Josef, born on 11 October 1950, and Petr, born on 30 July 1955. Josef Koukl's second son is Drahomír, and he is a motor mechanic. He was born on 14 January 1929 and also lives in his parents' villa in Kralovice. He has two daughters, Drahomíra, born on 22 June 1950, and Jana Kouklová, born on 17 March 1952. Another child of Josef of Potvorov was his daughter Ludmila. She was born on 11 February 1899, and she too, as two of her sisters had done before her, married a gendarmerie sergeant, Zalešák. They lived together in Slovakia, later in Vysoké Mýto, where Ludmila Zalešáková died on 19 September 1960. Ludmila had three children. Her daughter Miluše, born on 30 June 1925, has the married name Lumerdingová. She lives in Chrudim, Krocínova 511, and has two children, both daughters. Miluše was born on 1 May 1953 and Bedřiška on 20 March 1961. Her son Jaroslav Zalešák was born on 1 April 1927 and is a technical officer; he lives in Pardubice, Pichlova 2563. He has two little daughters, Dana, born on 14 February 1958, and Martina Zalešáková, born on 29 January 1965. The third child of Ludmila Zalešáková was her daughter Věra. She was born on 1 April 1927 and is married to Sigmund, a designer, in Vlašim. They live there at Velíšská 1171. They have a son, Tomáš, born on 21 June 1964.

Another child of Josef Koukl of Potvorov was his son Vladimír. He was born on 12 June 1900 and worked for a trading cooperative in Plzeň. He now lives in Žatec, where he is in retirement, at Lva Tolstého 975/31. He has two sons. Zdenko Koukl was born on 9 July 1926 and is a clerk with a building enterprise in Plzeň. He lives there at Rejskova 6. He has a little daughter, Lucie, born on 19 August 1965. Vladimír's second son, Dušan Koukl, is a mechanical engineer. He was born on 18 June 1933 in Plzeň and now lives in Ostrava-Poruba, Sokolovská 1248. He has two sons, Martin, born on 19 April 1961, and Jan Koukl, born on 24 April 1967. The last child of Josef Koukl of Potvorov was his daughter Otilie. She was born on 4 May 1904, and like all her three sisters, she too married a gendarmerie sergeant, František Komárek. At first they lived in Slovakia; now they live in Prague 7, U studánky 32. They have two daughters. Miluše, born on 4 October 1929 in Rožňava, married a doctor, Pavelka. At first they lived in Polička, and now they live in Rýmařov, Sokolovská 42. They have a daughter, Jana Pavelková, born on 18 June 1952. The second daughter, Jiřina, was born on 5 June 1932, also in Slovakia, and married the engineer Výlupek. She is now divorced and lives in Prague-Střešovice, Hládkov 13. She has a daughter, Nataša, born on 29 July 1953.

The second of Martin Koukl's children to grow up was his daughter Marie. She was born on 5 May 1866, at the time of the Austro-Prussian War, at Sedlec No. 11. She married Julus, a farmer at Sedlice No. 14. Their house stands just opposite the Prusík holding, where our first cradle stood. Their marriage remained childless, and even before her death Marie Julusová, née Kouklová, bequeathed the farm to her niece Alžběta Jánská, later married name Chmelířová. Marie Julusová died on 2 February 1942.

The next child of Martin Koukl of Sedlec was Anna. She was born on 13 January 1871. She married Hána, a farmer from Babina near Plasy. Three of their children survived. Marie, born on 1 February 1897, has the married name Bernášková and remained childless. She lives in Plzeň-Doubravka, Stará cesta 14. Her sister Alžběta, born on 7 September 1898, also has the married name Bernášková and lives in Plzeň, in the little house where her sister lives. Alžběta Bernášková has two daughters. Marie, born on 26 January 1926, is married to an engineer, Jaren, and lives in Hořovice, No. 680. They have two daughters, Ivana, born on 5 November 1949, and Marie, born on 3 March 1953. Alžběta Bernášková's second daughter is Miloslava, born on 1 February 1932; her married name is Weinigerová, and she too lives in Plzeň-Doubravka, with her mother. She has a daughter, Jindřiška, born on 6 August 1951. The third daughter of Anna Hánová, née Kouklová, is Božena. She was born on 30 October 1900 in Babina near Plasy and married Molcar, a chief guard on the railway. They now live in Vyklice, No. 176, near Ústí nad Labem. She has a daughter, Jarmila, born on 13 January 1928, married name Tomášová. She too lives in Vyklice. She has a little son, Zdeněk Tomáš, born on 3 December 1955. The son of Božena Molcarová, née Hánová, is Václav. He was born on 22 July 1929 and is a technical officer. He lives in Vyklice, No. 109. He has two children, Alena, born on 19 September 1955, and Václav Molcar, born on 14 April 1961. Anna Hánová, née Kouklová, died as early as 6 November 1906, and so she was only 35. Her husband married a second time.

The third daughter of Martin Koukl of Sedlice was Josefa. She was born on 12 August 1875. On her twentieth birthday she married Václav Jánský, a farmer at Potvorov No. 45. The farm there was known as "U Kuříčků". Josefa Jánská had a whole row of children, who always clung closely to one another. That is not always so in families, especially when there are nine brothers and sisters. Josefa Jánská, née Kouklová, died in Potvorov on 11 January 1949.

Her eldest daughter was Alžběta. She was born on 19 November 1896 in Potvorov, and it was to her that her childless aunt Marie Julusová bequeathed the farm at Sedlec No. 14. Alžběta Jánská married Tomáš Chmelíř, a farmer from Tatiná, and they farmed together in Sedlec. They had three children, but fate was not always kind to them. This applies above all to their son Jaromír Chmelíř. He was born on 4 April 1924, and after May 1945 he was hit hard by the new political conditions. Today he lives in Plzeň-Slovany, Schwarzova 50. He has twins, little daughters Michaela and Dagmar, born on Christmas Eve 1964. So they got a fine Christmas present. The second child of Alžběta Chmelířová is her daughter Jarmila. She was born on 27 December 1925; her married name is Václavíková, and she lives at Koryta No. 42 near Plasy. She has two children, Hana, born on 14 July 1956, and Václav Václavík, born on 16 March 1958.

The third child of Alžběta Chmelířová, née Jánská, is her son František. He was born on 2 December 1931 at Sedlec No. 14 and stayed at home. He has a little son, Petr, born on 5 September 1961. He works in the collective farm, and when he looks across at the abandoned Prusík farm opposite, he may well fall to philosophising. After all, for over 350 years the Prusík family, to which he too belongs, lived here; it stood first in the village, the reeve's office was here as well, and today all of that belongs only to memory. Another child of Josefa Jánská was her daughter Marie. She was born on 25 November 1898 and married František Nezbeda, a farmer at Potvorov No. 49. She had two children. Her son Josef Nezbeda, born on 12 May 1928, has two children, a little son, Josef, born on 22 June 1957, and a daughter, Libuše Nezbedová, born on 8 January 1961. The second child, her daughter Marie, born on 28 June 1929, married Havlík, a farmer in nearby Bukovina, No. 10. They have two children, Václav, born on 13 May 1954, and Marie, born on 26 June 1957. Another child of Josefa Jánská, née Kouklová, was her son Mikuláš. He was born on 1 July 1903 and took over his parents' farm in Potvorov, where he was born. He died on 24 November 1958. Mikuláš Jánský had two sons. Václav, born on 12 September 1933, stayed at home. He is chairman of the collective farm in Potvorov. He has two children, a little daughter, Zdenka Jánská, born on 20 August 1962, and a son, Pavel, born on 7 September 1965. The second son of Mikuláš Jánský, Jaroslav, was born on 20 February 1935. Today he works and lives in Ostrov nad Ohří, Zápotockého 1184/20. He has two children, Jitka Jánská, born on 25 November 1963, and Libor, born on 25 April 1967.

Another child of Josefa Jánská was her daughter Božena. She was born on 6 July 1905; her married name was Bestahovská, but the marriage did not turn out well. She is childless and lives at Potvorov No. 35. Josefa Jánská also had a son, Bohuslav. He was born on 15 April 1900. He trained as a locksmith and worked in Louny. Today he lives at Jimlín No. 168 near Louny. He had an only child, his son Bohuslav, born on 25 September 1928. Bohuslav Jánský is a colonel and lives in Sokolov, Březová 177. He has a little daughter, Hana, born on 7 March 1958.

Another daughter of Josefa Jánská, née Kouklová, was Anna. She was born on 6 January 1902 and married Durdík, a police inspector. They lived in Prague, and the widow Anna Durdíková lives at Petřiny in Prague 6, No. 1788. She has an only daughter, Marcela, married to Hach, a chemist. Marcela was born on 22 July 1931. She works in the health service. Anna Durdíková is one of those who have a special understanding of family ties and keep them up all the time. Another child of Josefa Jánská is Růžena. She was born on 25 February 1907 in Potvorov and married Slach, a farmer and an enthusiastic organist. They live at Potvorov No. 59. She has two children. Her son Blažej Slach, born on 26 January 1935, works and lives in Ostrov nad Ohří, Jáchymovská 1134. He has two children, Blažej, born on 2 February 1962, and a little daughter, Jana Slachová, born on 7 August 1965. Růžena Slachová's second child is her daughter Marie. She was born on 13 February 1940; her married name is Hoťková, and she lives in Plzeň. She has two little daughters, Václava, born on 6 October 1962, and Jaroslava, born on 30 June 1967. Another son of Josefa Jánská is Václav. He was born on 6 September 1908 in Potvorov. He works and lives in Chomutov, Šafaříkova 21. Václav Jánský has two children. His daughter Libuše, born on 19 December 1944, has the married name Moravcová and has a little son, Oldřich, born on 21 April 1964. Václav Jánský's other child is his son Václav. He was born on 31 May 1951. He lives with his parents in Chomutov. The last child of Josefa Jánská, née Kouklová, was her son Ladislav. He was born on 13 June 1916 and trained as a druggist. He now lives at Žíhle No. 68. He has an only child, a little son, Ladislav, born on 9 August 1950. He is studying forestry.

The next-to-last son of Martin Koukl was František. He was born on 4 July 1978 [sic, probably 1878] on the homestead "U Statků" in Sedlec. He became heir to the holding where he was born. He had an only daughter, Marie. She was born on 18 January 1909 and married Václav Kronďák from Trojany. Here the two of them farm in succession to František Koukl, though today within the collective farm. They have three children. Their daughter Jarmila has the married name Soukupová and lives at Potvorov No. 38. She was born on 28 August 1938 in Sedlec. She has three children, Jiří, born on 7 March 1958, Marie, born on 13 September 1959, and Ivana, born on 13 September 1964. The second daughter of the Kronďáks is Marie. She was born on 30 September 1939, and today, under the married name Vopatová, she lives at Žebnice No. 28. She has two daughters. Anna was born on 9 November 1960 and Marie on 21 October 1962. Their son Václav Kronďák, born on 13 May 1941, stayed at home in Sedlec. He has two children, a daughter, Václavka, born on 28 March 1964, and a son, Pavel, born on 6 June 1967.

The last child of Martin Koukl was his son Augustin. He was born on 18 August 1881 in Sedlec. He became a master brewer and then lived for 14 years in Russia. His wife was a Latvian, and for a long time they lived in the city of Grozny in the Caucasus. After the First World War they both returned to our republic, and Augustin Koukl was then manager of the brewery depot in Kožlany. The marriage was childless. When Augustin retired, he and his wife bought a little house in Kralovice, but later they took refuge in the old people's home in Liblín. There Augustin Koukl died on 27 July 1958. While he was in Russia, he used to send advice to his relative, the engineer Josef Koukl of Bílov, who then followed him to Russia too.

This ends the account of the lives of the descendants of Martin Koukl of Sedlec, who was likewise born still in the days of corvée, in Bílov. The last child of Kateřina Kouklová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Rosalie. She was born on 4 September 1854, and in 1872 she married Josef Koza, a farmer at Potvorov No. 41. Rosalie Kozová, née Kouklová, was an uncommonly hard-working, devout and clever woman. She was a veritable historiographer of Potvorov, and her notebook recorded all the events of the village and its people over more than fifty years.

Rosalie Kouklová, a native of Bílov, later married name Kozová, of Potvorov, was so devout that whenever she heard the clock strike she never failed to say: "Lord Jesus Christ, the hour has struck, and it has brought me nearer to my grave. I pray Thee, when my last hour strikes, grant me forgiveness of my sins!" Rosalie Kozová of Potvorov had seven children who grew up. Whenever we say "the children grew up" here, we mean, in citing them, children who reached at least the age of ten. There were times when parents had as many as fifteen children, but often only two or three of them reached the age of ten or more.

If we were to cite all the children born to members of our family that we have found in the parish registers, this work would probably be at least twice as long. Such a list, however, would tell nobody anything. After all, it is well known today how terribly high the mortality of children was in earlier times. Rosalie Kozová had two daughters and five sons. She died, a respected citizen of Potvorov, on 14 May 1931.

Her eldest child was Marie. She was born on 22 February 1875 in Potvorov. She married Václav Urban, and they farmed together on the homestead No. 61 in Potvorov, called "U Urbanů". Marie Urbanová, née Kozová, had a daughter, Marie, born on 15 September 1894, who died unmarried on 25 June 1949. Her son Josef Urban, born on 13 March 1896, farmed in Potvorov at No. 69. Josef Urban died in 1943. He had an only child, his son Václav, born on 26 August 1931. He works in the TOS factory in Lubenec. Another child of Marie Urbanová, née Kozová, was František. He was born on 9 December 1898 and stayed at home at No. 61. He has two children. His daughter Marie was born on 17 November 1933; her married name is Kloučková, and she lives at Potvorov No. 4. She has two boys, Jaroslav Klouček, born on 26 April 1957, and Milan, born on 4 September 1960. František Urban's son Václav, born on 9 September 1938, lives in Potvorov and is unmarried.

Marie Urbanová, née Kozová, was Rosalie's eldest child, and she was the last of her brothers and sisters to die, on 10 November 1963.

Rosalie Kozová, née Kouklová, also had a son, Josef. He was born on 24 February 1877. He trained as a butcher. He had large fields in Potvorov alongside his inn. Josef Koza grew considerably rich, from dealing in horses as well, and in 1923 he bought the large estate of Pohvizdy near Žíhle. He had two daughters. The elder, Božena, born on 28 December 1905, had the married name Řebíčková, and she and her husband then ran the Pohvizdy estate. They had an only son, Karel, born on 16 September 1928. Like all who had larger property, they fared badly after May 1945. They moved out of Pohvizdy, and Karel Řebíček's studies were made difficult for him. Today he is a building technician and lives in Prague-Spořilov II, Sídliště B 2, No. 2516. He has a daughter, Blanka, born on 5 May 1965. His mother, Božena Řebíčková, lived in Kralovice and in Stříbro, and for some time after she was widowed in Bukovina as well, and after endless wandering she now lives closer to her son, in Prague, at Spořilov.

The second daughter of Josef Koza was Marie, who was born on 7 April 1911 in Potvorov and married Koula, the owner of the large estate of Vysoká Libyně. They farmed together in that village, but during the occupation, when it was annexed, they moved to Obytce near Klatovy, where they had a leased farmstead. After the war they did return to Vysoká Libyně for a while, but then they too lost everything, and in the end they lived in a smaller house by the cemetery in Kralovice. Marie Koulová died suddenly on 15 January 1968. She had one daughter, Jaroslava, born on 6 August 1935. Her married name is Janková, and she lives in the little house in Kralovice, in Tyršova Street, where she lived with her mother. Jaroslava Janková has two children. František was born on 7 February 1956 and her daughter Jaroslava on 29 May 1958.

Another child of Rosalie Kozová was František. He was born on 14 March 1879 and married into Bukovina No. 1, where the farm was called "U Masopustů". It is interesting that in the first half of the 18th century Anna Prusíková of Sedlice married into this very house. František Koza died on 17 February 1955. His son František, born on 29 April 1914, is unmarried and lives at Bukovina No. 1 as a member of the collective farm. His sister Anna, married name Sebránková, was born on 16 May 1916 and also lives at Bukovina No. 1. She has two children, a son, Jaroslav,

born on 15 September 1952, and a daughter, Květoslava Sebránková, born on 6 February 1955. František Koza of Bukovina also had a son, Václav. He was born on 3 June 1918 and today lives at Málkovice No. 3 near Stříbro. He is an employee of a state farm. He has a son, Pavel Koza, born on 24 February 1949. František Koza's daughter Marie, born on 3 June 1920 in Bukovina, married František Slach of Bílov No. 29 and had seven children with him there. We have already written about them on page 116, under the Výrov II sub-branch.

Another son of Rosalie Kozová was Václav. He was born on 6 May 1881 and farmed at Potvorov No. 41, on the farm where he was born. He died there on 3 October 1951. His son Václav, born on 31 August 1911, lives on the same homestead in Potvorov and is unmarried. Another son, Blažej Koza, born on 7 January 1913, lives in Prague 3-Žižkov, Dalimilova 19. He is an official of the national committee. He too is unmarried. Václav Koza's third son, Bohuslav, was born on 31 August 1914. Today he is director of the state farm in Kralovice and lives there at třída Rudé armády 529. He has two children. His daughter Olga was born on 16 January 1947 and his son Václav on 6 July 1952. The last son of Václav Koza of Potvorov is František, born on 1 June 1917; he too is still unmarried and lives in Potvorov.

Another child of Rosalie Kozová was Antonín Koza. He was born on 3 June 1883 and fell in the World War in 1917.

Rosalie Kozová's daughter, again a Rosalie, was born on 11 August 1889. She married Vopat, a farmer from Řemešín. She had a daughter, Marie, who was born on 22 November 1924 and married Bušek, a farmer at Kopidlo No. 7. She has two sons, Jaroslav, born on 17 October 1958, and Josef, born on 1 May 1963. Rosalie Vopatová died on 19 July 1932.

Rosalie's last child was Pavel Koza. He was born on 5 June 1893 in Potvorov and fell early, at the very beginning of the World War, on the Russian front in Galicia, on 20 November 1914.

Rosalie Kozová, née Kouklová, had, as we have told you, seven children, but the lives of very many of them turned out badly. Her son Josef, who had grown so rich, and both his daughters, whose husbands owned large estates, became utterly impoverished as a result of the revolutionary changes. Two of her sons, Antonín and Pavel, fell in the World War, and of the four children of her son Václav Koza, three sons remained unmarried. And so today very few of Rosalie's descendants are living.

With this account we have lifted somewhat the veil from hitherto unknown events in the lives of the descendants of Kateřina Kouklová, née Prusíková, of Sedlec. Of the whole Prusík family, as far as history tells us, six members became priests. And it was precisely from Kateřina Kouklová's family that the largest number came, three in all. Piety always stood in the very first place in this family. Although Kateřina Kouklová, née Prusíková, had only four children, and one of those, moreover, became a priest, she left behind her 170 descendants, of whom 27 have already died.

## 3.3 The Šípy Sub-branch of the Sedlec Branch

The descendants of Tomáš Prusík, a native of Sedlec, who settled in Šípy near Čistá.

1822 – 1862

The reeve Václav Prusík and his wife Rosálie, in Sedlec, had a fourth child, their son Tomáš. Before him their daughter Barbora was born at the holding No. 4 in Sedlec, on 28 September 1816. In 1840 she married Vojtěch Levý, a farmer at Sedlec No. 11, and she died childless on 11 November 1887. Her farm, as we have already written, was taken over long before her death by her nephew Martin Koukl of Bílov.

Tomáš Prusík was born in Sedlec on 1 December 1822. He married Rosálie Šimandlová of Potvorov, who was born there on 20 May 1829. For some time they looked for a place to buy. And then, in 1852, a chance to buy came their way in the form of the homestead No. 5 in Šípy near Čistá.



Figure 3.10: Dr Blažej Koukl, secondary-school teacher (1883 – 1966), a native of Bílov, a member of the Sedlec branch. He wrote a detailed history of his family and of his native village, to which he was always attached with great love

Until then the Folda couple had farmed this homestead. It is not yet clear why, on 17 December 1857, Tomáš Prusík handed over his half to his wife Rosálie by a contract for 400 gulden. Perhaps because he was already ill at that time.

The village of Šípy, which lies near the historic castle of Krakovec, where Jan Hus stayed before he left for Constance, had belonged from of old to the royal castle of Křivoklát. At the time of Hus's stay at Krakovec, the village of Šípy was the property of Hus's host, Lord Jindřich Lefl of Lažany. Later the Kolovrat family were the lords here. In the end Šípy belonged to the Chříč estate. After the Thirty Years' War there were ten settlers in Šípy. Today about 250 people live there.

Tomáš Prusík and his wife Rosálie had four daughters. Their little son Josef, born in 1855, died in 1859 in Sedlec, Tomáš's birthplace. The eldest daughter was Barbora, born on 17 October 1853 in Potvorov, her mother's birthplace. Her married name was Slabá, and she later received the holding from her parents. She died relatively young, in Šípy, on 29 February 1892. The second, Marie, was born on 24 December 1857, also in Potvorov, although her parents were already farming in Šípy. It often used to be so that a woman about to give birth went to her mother before her difficult hour. Marie married Zikmund, a farmer, and moved to Pavlíkov near Rakovník, and there she died on 7 September 1910. Tomáš Prusík's third daughter was Anna, born on 5 May 1860 in Šípy; she was married first in Bělbožice and then in Březany, under the name Fryčová. She died there on 20 December 1938. The last was Josefa, born on 30 August 1861 in Šípy. Her married name was Gubová, and she died on 11 April 1943 in Chomutov.

Tomáš Prusík, however, did not have a long life. He died of dropsy, as the register has it, which by our present-day ideas was probably cancer, on 14 June 1862 in Šípy. His widow Rosálie was thus only 33, and a year later she married Vojtěch Loos of Hlince. From this second marriage she had a daughter, Juliana, later married name Spurná. Rosálie Loosová, formerly Prusíková, died on 21 October 1884 in Šípy.

The first daughter of Tomáš Prusík and his wife Rosálie was Barbora. She was born on 17 October 1853 in her mother's birthplace, Potvorov, and in 1878 she married Antonín Slabý of Miličov, who married into Šípy. They had six children together, but they did not live together for long. Barbora Slabá, née Prusíková, died after a miscarriage on 29 February 1892. Their children were the daughters Antonie, Anna, Marie, Františka and Anežka and a son, Antonín. The widower Antonín Slabý married again and had six more children. For many years Antonín Slabý was mayor of Šípy.

The first child of Barbora Slabá, née Prusíková, was her daughter Antonie. She was born on 2 December 1879 in Šípy. She married Herink, a farmer, and moved to Zavidov near Rakovník. She was a very resolute and hard-working woman, and it was chiefly she who saw to it that the holding in Šípy where she was born went to her brother Antonín, of her father's first marriage. Antonie Herinková, née Slabá, had an only daughter, Anna. Antonie Herinková died in Zavidov on 24 May 1956. Her daughter Anna was born on 11 April 1905 and is married to Beneš, a farmer, distantly related to the former President of the Republic, Dr E. Beneš. Anna Benešová had three children. None of them stayed at home, and she and her husband are members of the collective farm. Anna Benešová's eldest child is her son Květoslav. He was born on 28 August 1925, studied engineering, and today is a teacher at the industrial secondary school in Bratislava. He came to Slovakia because his wife is a Slovak, who moved there from Hungary after the Second World War. They live in Bratislava, Sídliště Strkovec, Haburská 7. They have three children, Petr, born on 28 September 1954, Květoslav, born on 3 June 1952, and a daughter, Darina Benešová, born on 16 August 1959. The second child is Libuše. She was born on 24 January 1927; her married name is Vrabíková. She lives in Podbořany, Husova 718, and she and her husband work in agriculture. They have a daughter, Jitka, born on 14 October 1948; the second daughter is Libuše, born on 27 January 1951.

The third child of Anna Benešová of Zavidov is her daughter Vědunka. She was born on 30 March 1929; she is married and lives in Rakovník, in Na sekyře Street. She has two children, sons, Milan,

born on 1 December 1952, and Karel Zika, born on 18 February 1956.

The second daughter of Barbora Slabá, née Prusíková, was Anna. She was born in Šípy on 24 April 1881. She married Koutecký, a shoemaker in Žatec. After the occupation of the border region she lived as a widow with her daughter in Prague-Hostivař. She died on 5 March 1950.

The daughter of Anna Koutecká, née Slabá, Elfrida, was born on 5 March 1907 in Žatec. Her married name is Hřavová, and she lives in Prague-Hostivař in her own little villa at Pod stanicí 680. Her husband was an employee of the ČSD. Elfrida Hřavová has five children. Her son Jaromír Hřava, born on 10 April 1929, is unmarried. He is a technical officer. The second, Jan, born on 24 December 1930, works at the AZKG car works. He has a little daughter, Jana Hřavová, born on 19 January 1960. Another son is Jaroslav Hřava. He was born on 27 April 1940 and is an engine driver. The fourth son, Jiří, born on 24 June 1942, works at the telecommunications institute in Prague-Strašnice. He has a little daughter, Renata, born on 4 February 1965. Elfrida's daughter Anna, born on 27 December 1947, has the married name Roubalová. She has a son, Daniel, born on 7 March 1967. She lives with her parents in Hostivař.

Another daughter of Barbora Prusíková, married name Slabá, of Šípy, was her daughter Marie. She was born in Šípy on 26 May 1884. She married Makovský, a shoemaker, and in 1908 she left for America with her sister Františka. There she lived mostly in the state of Montana, in the city of Great Falls. She had an only child, a little daughter, and died soon after the birth. She went across the sea in search of happiness, but she enjoyed precious little of it. She died as early as 26 March 1910. Her only daughter, Anna, was born on 5 March 1910 and three weeks later lost her mother. Today her married name is Willemsová, and she is a nurse in a sanatorium. She is childless. She lives in the town of Springville in California. She has her post office box there, known as PO Box 655.

The fourth daughter of Barbora Slabá, née Prusíková, was Františka. She was born on 6 April 1886. Like her sister Marie, she too saw her happy mirage in America. Her husband was Makovský, a shoemaker, whose brother was the husband of her sister Marie. Františka Makovská, too, lived for a long time in the state of Montana in the USA. This region is very mountainous and wooded, and there is also a US nature park here, with all its romantic charms. Františka Makovská had four daughters. She often remembers her home in Šípy, which she did not enjoy for long. Now she is already very ailing and lives in an old people's home in the city of Marysville, in the state of Washington. Although she is well looked after there, her daughters do not forget her and visit her very often.

The eldest daughter of Františka Makovská, née Slabá, is Eliška. She was born on 10 November 1910, and her first married name was Knoxová. From this first marriage of hers she has a son, Kenneth. He was born on 2 March 1930. He is an airman and today lives in a city with one of the largest air bases in the USA, Tacoma, on the Pacific Ocean, at 1317 116th Street. He has two little daughters, Zuzana, born on 10 June 1956, and Kateřina, born on 11 March 1961, and a little son, Kenneth, born on 12 May 1958. Eliška Knoxová's next child is Kateřina. She was born on 18 February 1931 and today lives, under the married name Greerová, in the small town of Simms in the state of Montana. She has four daughters and one little son. The daughters' names are Barbora, born on 6 February 1950, Sharon, born on 28 July 1952, Jayne, born on 21 October 1955, and Kateřina, born on 14 April 1957. The son is called James (Jakub). He was born on 31 May 1960. Eliška Makovská's second married name is Phillipsová. From this marriage she has a daughter, Marilyn, born on 21 August 1938. Today her married name is Wangsmová. Her husband is of Norwegian origin. They live in the state of Washington, in the city of Marysville, at 8220 53rd Drive. Marilyn Wangsmo has two children, a little daughter, Janis, born on 13 July 1960, and a little son, Jay, born on 21 February 1962. Eliška Phillipsová, née Makovská, lives in Marysville, at 9320 Pacific Highway.

The second daughter of Františka Makovská, née Slabá, is Libuše. She was born in the town of Coffee Creek in the state of Montana on 2 October 1912. She is married to Vance, a merchant. Libuše, or in the American way Libby, has two sons. Allen Vance, born on 19 April 1935, has two

boys, Allen, born on 17 November 1956, and Kevin Vance, born on 24 August 1959. He lives in Marysville, Route 2, Box 949, in the state of Washington. His brother Gary Vance was born on 24 July 1939 and also lives in the city of Marysville, at 1889 Liberty Lane. Gary has four children. His daughter Wendy was born on 17 December 1959, the second, Jerri, on 28 January 1961, then comes his son Guy Vance, born on 17 June 1962, and a third little daughter, Karen Vance, born on 14 September 1963. Libuše Vanceová, née Makovská, like her sons, also lives in Marysville, in the state of Washington, in the USA. When these members of the Prusík family, though they no longer bear the original name, were told that in their state, in the Cashmere Crags range, one steep summit is named Prusik Peak (Prusík's Mountain), they were surprised. Today they have also seen it at close quarters, on a trip they made into the mountains, and it pleases them that a mountain in the USA, and so near them at that, bears the name of a member of our ancient family, to which they too belong by blood.

The third daughter of Františka Makovská, née Slabá, of Šípy near Čistá in the Rakovník area, is Marie. She was born on 2 October 1916, also in the small town of Coffee Creek in Montana, in the USA, like her sisters. She married Blair, the owner of a large butcher's business. They live in Marysville, at 9524 48th Drive N.E. Of them all, Marie takes the most care of her old mother, and she too writes to her mother's homeland and has never forgotten her parents' Czech origin. Mary Blairová has three children. Her daughter Cheryl was born on 18 April 1949, the second, Linda, on 12 August 1952, and her son Jiří Blair on 3 December 1954. They are still unmarried at the time when we are writing the history of this family.

The fourth daughter of Františka Makovská is Růžena, or Rose. She was born on 3 September 1919; her first married name was Walboneová, and her second Maginnisová. She too lives in Marysville, at 9506 48th Drive N.E. Růžena has three children from her first marriage. They are Vicki Walboneová, born on 25 November 1956 in Everett in the state of Washington, as were all her other daughters after her. Růžena, however, no longer lives there. Her next daughter is Františka, born on 27 September 1958, and the third is Lori Walboneová, born on 23 October 1959. From her second marriage a daughter, too, was born to Růžena, Julie Maginnisová, on 21 February 1965.

Of all the members of our family, the descendants of Marie Makovská and her sister Františka live furthest west in the USA, in the states of California, Washington and Montana, and so mostly close to the Pacific Ocean. How far all this is from the little village of Sedlec near Kralovice in Bohemia, where our first cradle stood!

Barbora Slabá, née Prusíková, settled in Šípy, where her father Tomáš had come from Sedlice, had a fourth [sic, properly the fifth] daughter, Anežka. She was born on 10 May 1888 and married Koudela, a farmer in Všesulov. She died there on 30 January 1948. She had an only son, Antonín Koudela. He was born on 7 May 1913 and lives at Všesulov No. 43. He has an only child, his daughter Helena. She was born on 5 December 1943, and today her married name is Horáčková. She was an official of the district national committee (ONV) in Rakovník. She has a little son, Josef Horáček, born on 15 December 1964.

The last child of Barbora Prusíková, married name Slabá, was her son Antonín. He was born on 10 June 1890. He does not remember his mother, for she died when he was a little boy of only two. Antonín Slabý then received his father's holding, where he was born, although there were further children from his father's second marriage. It was his eldest sister Antonie, married name Herinková, of Zavidov, who did the most to bring this about. Antonín Slabý was a very diligent farmer; today he lives in retirement at Šípy No. 5 and takes a great interest in the Prusík family, to which he belongs through his mother. Antonín Slabý of Šípy had two children, Anežka and Josef. Anežka Slabá was born on 21 June 1913 and married Tomeš, a farmer at Slatina No. 34 near Chříč. She had an only daughter, Alena. She was born on 19 April 1939, was a clerk in Prague and then married Hubáček, a mechanical engineer. They live together in Nové Strašecí, 2. pětiletky 707. They have two sons, Vladimír, born on 12 June 1962, and Zdeněk Hubáček, born on 12 March 1965.

Antonín Slabý's son Josef was born on 8 March 1919. He stayed on the family farm at Šípy No. 5 and is today a member of the collective farm. He has two children, Josef, born on 2 October 1958, and Milada Slabá, born on 24 June 1960.

The second daughter of Tomáš Prusík of Šípy was Marie. She was born in the birthplace of her mother Rosálie, née Šimandlová, in Potvorov, on 24 December 1857. Then she lived with her parents in Šípy, and in 1882 she married a widower, František Zikmund, a farmer at Pavlíkov No. 3. He had a daughter, Rosalie, from his first marriage, who in 1904 married František Viktora. From her marriage Marie Zikmundová, née Prusíková, had four children. The first was her daughter Marie, born on 6 November 1882 in Pavlíkov. She died unmarried on 19 June 1909. The second child of Marie Zikmundová, née Prusíková, was her son Josef. Fate was no kinder to him. He was born on 26 February 1886 in Pavlíkov; soon after the outbreak of the First World War he was called up, and in March 1915 he died as a prisoner of war in Serbia. The second son of Marie Zikmundová, née Prusíková, was František. He was born on 13 February 1898, married, and then farmed on the holding at Pavlíkov No. 3 where he was born. The marriage, however, remained childless. He died on 15 March 1956. The last child of Marie Zikmundová was her daughter Žofie. She was born on 24 February 1892 [sic; František, above, was born in 1898, so either his year or the word "last" is wrong] and married Josef Ryvola, a worker from Šanov. She had one daughter, with whom she lived as a widow, and she died in Senomaty near Rakovník on 14 November 1964. Her daughter Marie was born on 10 October 1921. Her husband, Ladislav Liprt, was a carpenter. They had one daughter, Laduška, born on 28 August 1944. Her married name is Stará, and she lives at Sobíňov No. 97 near Havlíčkův Brod. She in turn has a daughter, Laduška, born on 14 May 1964. Marie Liprtová's son Pavel, born on 1 May 1947, lives in Senomaty with his mother. His father was killed by lightning in the fields in 1953. Marie Zikmundová, née Prusíková, died in Pavlíkov on 7 September 1910, and her husband in July 1920. Today nobody of her family remains on the holding in Pavlíkov where she lived.

The third daughter of Tomáš Prusík and Rosálie, née Šimandlová, was Anna. She was born on 5 May 1860 in Šípy. She married Josef Fryč, with whom she settled on a smaller farm in Bělbožice, not far from her birthplace. Anna Fryčová, née Prusíková, was a very enterprising and cheerful woman. She did not live in Bělbožice for very long, but soon bought a bigger farm in Březany. There she died, on 20 December 1938. Of the sisters of Barbora, married name Slabá, she was the only one who liked to come home and visit her relatives in Šípy. Anna Fryčová had two children, a son, Josef, and a daughter, Anna.

Josef Fryč, the son of Anna of Šípy, was born on 21 May 1881 in Bělbožice. Then he moved with his parents to Březany, where the farm they had bought was already registered in his name. He did not farm here for long, however. He went off to the First World War and fell in Russia as early as 5 February 1915. Josef Fryč left two children here, a son, Jindřich, and a daughter, Helena. Jindřich Fryč was born on 16 July 1907, lives at Březany No. 40 and is a member of the collective farm. He has three children. His son Vladimír Fryč, born on 1 January 1937, is employed in the railway workshops in Rakovník. He also lives there, in S. K. Neumanna Street, 954. He has a son, Vladimír, born on 12 December 1959. Jindřich Fryč's daughter is Marie. She was born on 22 May 1941, and today, under the married name Sýkorová, she lives at Panoší Újezd No. 54 near Rakovník. She has a little son, Miloš, born on 23 April 1963, and also Miroslava, born on 23 March 1967. Jindřich Fryč's last child is his son Jindřich, born on 27 July 1942, who lives at home in Březany.

The daughter of Josef Fryč, who left his children so early in the First World War, is Helena. She was born on 3 October 1905 and married Sigmond, a worker at the Škoda Works. They live in Plzeň, Tylova 14. She has two children. Her daughter Jarmila, born on 9 April 1929, has the married name Klauberová. She is childless. Her son Ladislav Sigmond, born on 14 November 1935, works at the Škoda Works. He lives in Plzeň-Doubravka, Mohylová 59. He has a daughter, Lenka, born on 13 July 1965.

The second child of Anna Prusíková, married name Fryčová, was her daughter Anna. She was born



Figure 3.11: Prusíks live in the city of Weissenfels near Leipzig, descendants of Josefa Prusíková, a native of Šípy

on 18 November 1883 in Bělbožice. She married Korb, an innkeeper in Čistá. She had two sons. Anna Korbová died in Čistá on 11 February 1948. Her son Jan Korb was born on 13 December 1905 and married into Nebřežiny near Plasy, No. 3. There he farmed, and today he is a member of the collective farm. He has two sons. Alois Korb was born on 24 December 1939; he works in industry in Kaznějov and also lives there, at No. 108. He has two children, Lenka Korbová, born on 21 June 1962, and Jindřich Korb, born in Kaznějov on 24 May 1965. Jan Korb's second son is Miloslav. He was born on 22 October 1944 and lives in Nebřežiny. He works there in the collective farm too. Anna Korbová's second son was Josef Korb. He was born on 19 February 1915 and lives at Čistá No. 173. He is chairman of the collective farm "Javorná", which is often held up in the republic as a model for others. Josef Korb has two daughters, Jaroslava, born on 11 September 1949, and Anna, born on 7 February 1951.

A remarkable fate befell the fourth daughter of Tomáš Prusík of Šípy, Josefa. And not only her, but all her descendants. Josefa Prusíková was born on 30 August 1861 in Šípy. She was not yet a year old when her father died. When she was 17, her sister Barbora married Antonín Slabý, and Josefa somehow became superfluous at home. They sent her into service in the Žatec area. And there her remarkable fate begins. She worked in Veletice near Žatec, and there she had a little son born out of wedlock, who was given the German name Edwin and her surname. Josefa soon abandoned this little son born out of wedlock and married a German, Karel Guba, in the Most area. With him she then had six children, the daughters Emilie, Marie, Irena, Anna and Emma and a son, Karel. Josefa Gubová died at the home of her daughter Irena, married name Körnerová, in Chomutov on 11 April 1943.

Josefa Gubová, née Prusíková, of Šípy, had the hardest life of all her sisters, and yet she lived to the greatest age of them all. The cause of her death was given as senile decay. Although she was a true Czech, all her children became Germanised, and many of her descendants are today of yet another nationality again. None of them lives in the republic.

Josefa Prusíková's first child was a little son born out of wedlock, who was christened Edwin. Had it not been for this little son of hers, born out of wedlock, who received the name Prusík from his unmarried mother, no descendants bearing this name would be living today after Tomáš Prusík of Šípy.



Figure 3.12: A view of the cathedral in Uppsala in Sweden, where a granddaughter of Josefa Prusíková of Šípy lives

Edwin Prusík was born to Josefa on 25 January 1887 in Veletice near Žatec, where she was in service. She did not want to marry the father of the child born out of wedlock, although she had his offer. She soon abandoned her child, however, and the little boy was brought up by strangers. For many years Edwin Prusík was a worker in the screw factory in Žatec. He lived in Veletice, for a time also in Nové Sedlo near Žatec, and later in Žatec, until 1946, when he was expelled as a German. Edwin Prusík married Josefa Březinová, née Horáková, born on 5 February 1889 in Zahrádka near Humpolec. With her Edwin had four children, two sons and two daughters. His first wife died on 28 March 1923 in Žatec. Edwin Prusík then married for the second time, to Marie Gänzelová, born in Žatec on 17 April 1883. Edwin Prusík was expelled to the German Democratic Republic (GDR), and he still lives today, one of the oldest Prusíks, in the city of Köthen (Anhalt), Geutzerstrasse 40. His second wife died there on 9 April 1959, and the widower Edwin Prusík lives there with his daughter Emma.

Edwin Prusík's eldest child is his son Edwin. He was born on 1 October 1908 in Nové Sedlo near Žatec. He trained as a locksmith, and after moving out of Czechoslovakia he lives today in the city of Weissenfels (Saale), Georg Stöberstrasse 36. He now works in mining. His wife is Irmgard Fritschová, born on 8 May 1910 in Einsiedel near Chemnitz in Saxony. Edwin Prusík and his wife Irma have three children. The eldest is Edwin, who was born on 3 March 1933 in Bohatice near Karlovy Vary. He is married; his wife is Gerda Schuhmannová, born on 22 June 1934 in the village of Tagewerben near the city of Weissenfels in the GDR. Their address there is Weissenfelsstrasse 13. Edwin Prusík, already the third of that name in this family, works in mining. He has two little daughters. Both have typically Spanish names. Carmen Prusíková was born on 4 September 1959 and Manuela on 13 October 1960. His brother Herbert Prusík was born on 28 July 1939 in Karlovy Vary. He now lives in the city of Weissenfels too, Katharinenstrasse 28. Herbert works there as a building foreman. His wife is Margrit (Markéta), née Hollsteinová, born on 13 January 1940 in Weissenfels. They have a little son, Eyk, born on 27 October 1967, and at the time when we are writing and completing the history of the Prusík family, Eyk Prusík is the youngest Prusík

in the world.

The third child of Edwin Prusík, born in 1928 [sic, probably 1908], is his daughter Gudrun. She was born on 9 August 1942, and today her married name is Henková. She lives in Mecklenburg in the GDR, in the small town of Langenhanshagen (Kreis Ribnitz). Before Gudrun married Klaus Henk, she had a little son born out of wedlock, who today is called Uwe Prusík. He was born on 17 January 1961. From her marriage she has a little daughter, Cornelia Henková, born on 11 August 1963. The next child of Edwin Prusík, born in 1887, was his daughter Marie. She was born on 25 August 1912 in Veletice near Žatec and married Václav Pöschl, moving to Jindřichovice near Kraslice. There they had an inn, and her husband was rather exposed politically. Marie Pöschlová, née Prusíková, now lives in Fürth near Nuremberg in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), Lessingstrase 7. She has three children. Her daughter Inge, born on 27 August 1939, has the married name Kuchová and also lives in Fürth. She has a son, Berndt, born in 1965. Her son Rudolf Pöschl, born in November 1943, is a clerk in Fürth. Her daughter Margit, born on 22 September 1947, married Dellbridge, an American soldier, and in 1966 a son, Michal, was born to her. They now live in the USA.

The third child of Edwin Prusík, the son born out of wedlock to Josefa, a native of Šípy, was his daughter Emma. She was born on 10 April 1914 in Veletice near Žatec. Soon afterwards her father went off to the First World War, and in fact all the children came to know him only after his return from the war. Emma's married name is Kreutzmannová, and she lives in a little house with her old father, a widower, in Köthen. She is childless.

Her second brother is Rudolf Prusík. He was born on 6 December 1917 in Veletice in the Žatec area, trained in a grocery business in Prague, and is perhaps the only one in the whole family who still speaks good Czech. He is manager of a large food business, Supermarkt, in Nuremberg. Rudolf Prusík lives in Fürth in Bavaria, in the FRG, Horuschuchpromenade 34. His wife is Herta Reimová, born on 12 August 1922 in Třeskovice near Žatec. Rudolf Prusík has a daughter, Karin, born on 2 April 1953 in Nuremberg. Rudolf Prusík is one of those members of our family who, although he is now of German nationality, like to acknowledge their origin; he visits members of the family in his original homeland and is always glad to welcome them at his home in Germany. Here we always write the name Prusík with an acute accent over the "i", although in Germany the members of the family write it with just the dot.

When Josefa Prusíková married Karel Guba, a miner, they lived first in Třebušice near Most and in Čachovice near Březno. Together they had five daughters and one son. The eldest daughter was Emilie. She was born on 8 December 1897 in Čachovice. In 1927 she married Ladislav Villányi, a mechanic of Hungarian origin. Until 1938 they lived together in Czechoslovakia. Then they moved to Budapest, where Emilie Gubová, married name Villányiová, died after the turbulent events in Hungary, on 21 November 1956, in Budapest. Emilie had two daughters. The elder was Emilie, who was born on 31 December 1929 in Rybáře near Karlovy Vary. She studied geology at the university in Budapest. While still in Hungary she married Jiří Fuchs, a chemist, and since 1956 they have lived in Sweden. They live in the ancient university city of Uppsala, Tunagaten 32-a. Her husband lectures at the college at Uptuna near Uppsala. Emilie Fuchsová continued her study of geology in Sweden too, but when her children were born, she stayed at home. She has a son, Robert Fuchs, born on 27 January 1961, and a daughter, Anna, born on 6 September 1963. Her sister Zelma was born on 29 January 1931 in Chomutov. She too then lived with her parents in Budapest, and with her husband Molnar she left Hungary in 1956. Today she is a doctor of pathology and works and lectures at the university in Chicago, in the USA. Her husband is an associate professor. They live in Chicago, at 5778 S. Everett, Illinois 60615. Dr Zelma Molnarová has two children, a son, Petr, born on 5 December 1962, and a little daughter, Reka, born on 7 March 1965.

The second daughter of Josefa Gubová, née Prusíková, was Marie. She was born on 10 June 1899 in Čachovice. Her married name was Malinová. Her husband was a miner. After the expulsion from the republic in 1946 she lived in the town of Güsen near Magdeburg in the GDR. Marie

Malinová died there suddenly on 10 December 1967. She had two sons. Antonín Malina, born on 24 December 1919, lives in Parey-Elbe, Neuer Weg 4, Kreis Genthin, in the GDR. He works there in industry. He has one little son, Klaus, born on 16 February 1954. Antonín's brother, Adolf Malina, was born on 5 March 1922. He lives and works in the Ruhr, in the FRG. He lives in the town of Hattingen, Berlinerstrasse 2. He has a little son, František Malina, born on 7 February 1961. Adolf Malina died of cancer on 18 November 1968.

Another daughter of Josefa Gubová was Irma. She was born on 19 June 1901 in Čachovice near Chomutov. She was married to Jindřich Körner, a native of Dubí. From 1920 they lived in Chomutov; her mother, née Prusíková, also lived with her, and to the end of her life, it is said, she never learned to speak German properly. Her children, unfortunately, lost their Czech nationality. Irma Körnerová had five children. Her daughter Herta, born on 8 August 1926, had the married name Hankeová but remained childless. She died in the town of Stephershausen, Meiningen district, in the GDR, in 1953. Irma's second child was Eduard Körner. He was born on 16 February 1928, and after various wanderings he got as far as Australia. Today he lives and works there in Sydney, Gremorne, 67 Wyongr Road.

Then twins were born to Irma Körnerová. One is Alma Körnerová, born on 23 July 1932; she is a nurse and has remained unmarried. She lives in the city of Karl Marx Stadt, Abeestrasse 1, GDR. The other twin is her sister Elfrieda. For a long time she was a ballet dancer. Today her married name is Süssengutová, and she lives in Greifswald, J. S. Bach Strasse 41, in the GDR, on the shore of the Baltic. Elfrieda has quite a brood of children. There are five of them. Her little daughter Andrea was born on 1 April 1952, Claudia on 11 January 1955, her son Thomas Süssengut on 8 February 1957, and then little daughters again, Gabriela, born on 23 July 1959, and Anna, on 9 November 1964.

Irma Körnerová's youngest child was her daughter Waltraud. She was born on 8 September 1942. She was a nursery-school teacher and married Mohamed Abdalla, who studied tropical agriculture at the university. He comes from the Sudan, in Africa. For the time being the couple live together in Leipzig, Karl Liebknechtstrasse 17. They will probably move to Africa together, however. Since 30 July 1967 they have had a little son named Usama. Irma Körnerová, née Gubová, died on 1 December 1963 in the town of Gössnitz in the GDR.

The son of Josefa Gubová, née Prusíková, Karel, was named after his father. He was born on 14 June 1900 in Čachovice near Chomutov. He was a miner like his father and died on 29 September 1954 in the town of Schlema in the Ore Mountains, in the GDR. He had four children. His son Antonín Guba, born on 25 February 1931 in Hořany near Most, also lives in Schlema. His fuller address is 9408 Schlema I (Erzgebirge), am Flossgraben 3, DDR. Antonín Guba also works in mining. He has two children. His daughter Waltraud was born on 19 December 1949 and his son Dietmar Guba on 19 February 1953. Karel Guba's next child is his daughter Ursula. She was born on 18 July 1939 in Most. Today she too lives in Schlema. She is unmarried. His son Karel Guba, born on 25 May 1942, died unmarried at the age of 18, on 11 January 1960. Karel Guba's last child was his son Gerhard. He was born on 4 February 1945 and lives with his mother, also in the town of Schlema in the GDR.

Another child of Josefa Gubová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Anna. She was born in 1903, and her married name was Salzerová, in Hořany near Most. She had two sons, Rudolf Salzer, born on 1 January 1925, and František, born on 21 December 1923. Both fell as soldiers of the German army on the Russian front.

Josefa Gubová's last child was Emma. She was born on 18 October 1906 in Slatinice near Most. She married Vilém Enzmann and was expelled from Chomutov in 1946. Now she lives as a widow in Bamberg, Marienplatz 2, in the FRG. She is childless and visits all her relatives in the GDR and the FRG a great deal. She also has the best picture of them all, wherever in the world they live.

With this we have described the life of Josefa Prusíková of Šípy and the fortunes of her descendants.

They are certainly colourful, and today her descendants are scattered over both German states, Sweden, the USA and Australia. There are not many such families in our clan.

Such, then, in brief, were the stories and the life of the whole family of Tomáš Prusík, who was born in the days of corvée in Sedlice, then settled in Šípy near Čistá and died there before he was even forty. Only daughters of his grew up, but even so, after the youngest of them, Josefa, people bearing the name Prusík are living again today, though no longer in our homeland but abroad. Tomáš Prusík left behind him 157 descendants, of whom 23 had already died by the time we are completing the history of our family.

## 3.4 The Sedlec Sub-branch of the Sedlec Branch

The descendants of František Prusík of Sedlec, who was the last farmer on this holding, where the first cradle of the family stood.

1825 – 1846

The last son of Václav Prusík, the reeve in Sedlice, was František. He was born at the holding No. 4, as it had been renumbered in 1805 from its previous number, 9. František Prusík was born on 6 July 1825. In 1844 he married Barbora Fromková, who was born on 17 June 1827 in Chrašťovice. In 1845 he took over the holding from his father. František Prusík and his wife Barbora had one daughter, Marie, born on 8 December 1845. She, however, never even knew her father, for he died of pneumonia at the age of 21, on 14 June 1846. He was the last Prusík in the male line on the holding where our family had already been farming in 1515, in the reign of King Vladislaus Jagiellon. The young widow, nineteen years old, married František Pittner of Vysoká Libyně on 12 February 1849. He, however, died seven years later, and in 1857 Barbora married for the third time, Antonín Urban.

As Václav Urban, who farmed the holding "U Prusíků" in Sedlec until 1952, told us, people here always called it "the old reeve's house". As late as 1962 an old barn stood by the farm, built some time after the Thirty Years' War. At that time the lodgers' rooms also still existed, though partly demolished. This wooden building, too, was some 250 years old.

František Prusík's orphan, Marie, then lived at home with her remarried mother, and when she came of age in 1867 she was paid out 3,000 gulden, and she married Vojtěch Čech, a farmer in Chrašťovice. That happened on 12 February 1867 [sic; the Prologue gives 22 April 1867, so one of the two dates is wrong]. The half of the homestead that until then had been registered in her name was written off, and from that day the name Prusík or Prusíková disappears for ever from the land registers and land books of this farm, where our family demonstrably lived for 352 years. Perhaps it was there even earlier, under King George of Poděbrady and before him, but there is no evidence of that. Marie Prusíková, married name Čechová, is thus as legendary a figure of the family as our first known ancestor, Vojtěch Prusík, born on the same homestead in 1515. Barbora Urbanová, once married name Prusíková, died of consumption in Kralovice, with her relatives from her later marriage, on 9 August 1898.

Marie Čechová, née Prusíková, the only child of František Prusík of Sedlec, had a whole row of children. Eight of them grew up, four sons and four daughters. All her children were born in Chrašťovice. Her husband, Vojtěch Čech, who was once mayor of Chrašťovice, was a great good soul; he lent a lot to people, and they often did not repay their debts to him. Their farm thus got into financial straits; they had to sell it, and with what was left a homestead in Rokycany was bought. Towards the end of her life Marie Čechová lived as a widow with her daughter Anna, married name Stupková, in Prague, and there, loved by all her children, she ended her life on 1 November 1925.

Marie Čechová, née Prusíková, of Sedlice, is buried in the Olšany Cemeteries in Prague.

The eldest child of Marie Čechová was her son Josef. He was born on 9 November 1874 in



Figure 3.13: Marie Prusíková (1845 – 1925), born at the holding in Sedlec No. 4. With her marriage to Vojtěch Čech of Chrašťovice in 1867 the Prusík name disappears from Sedlec. The family had demonstrably been there for 352 years

Chrašťovice. All his life he devoted himself to the restaurant business. He was also a trained cook and understood the hotel trade as well; he was at one time the lessee of the Variété in Prague-Karlín, he once had a large hotel in Grado in Italy, and in his field he achieved many successes, and of course many failures too, as the risks of business bring. Josef Čech died suddenly in Prague, just before Christmas Eve, on 23 December 1932. He had two children. His daughter Marie was born on 24 June 1900, studied at the Commercial Academy and the conservatory in Prague, and then married a doctor, Jan Pihlar, a Slovene from Maribor, who after the First World War studied in Prague and trained further in the clinics of Professor Pelnář and Professor Prusík. Marie then moved with him to Yugoslavia, where she lives in Maribor, Prešernova 2. Her husband, Dr Janko Pihlar, was head physician at the hospital there and still has a private practice today. Marie Pihlarová, née Čechová, has four children. Her son Dr Janko Pihlar, born on 31 January 1931 in Maribor, also became a doctor like his father and lives there at Kmetíjská 3a. Dr Janko Pihlar has a little daughter, Soňa, born on 25 January 1960. Another child of Marie Pihlarová is her daughter Markéta, whom the family call Lily. She was born on 6 January 1933 and is married to the engineer Hidassi, of Hungarian origin. They live in Butzbach, Pohlgönserstrasse 5. This town lies in Hesse, in the FRG. Lily Hidassiová has two children, a little daughter, Claudia, born on 23 June 1965, and a little son, Petr, born on 11 October 1966. Marie Pihlarová's second son is Josef. He was born in the same year as his sister Lily, though only at its very end, on 26 December 1933. He is a veterinary surgeon with a doctorate in that field. He looked for a better use for his knowledge and today lives in the USA, in the city of Omaha in Nebraska, at 4750 Lafayette Avenue, Apartment 20. Dr Josef Pihlar is unmarried. Marie Pihlarová's fourth child is her daughter Marieta. She was born on 17 October 1944 in Maribor and married Klis, a clerk, a native of Lopud near Dubrovnik. They have a little daughter, Irena, born on 12 April 1965.

Marie Pihlarová, née Čechová, is an uncommonly intelligent woman, and although she has lived in Yugoslavia for almost 45 years, she speaks and writes Czech excellently.

Josef Čech's second child was his son Bohumil. He was born on 22 December 1902, studied engineering in Germany so as to broaden his horizons there, and had his own electrical business, but for him too many great plans came to nothing after May 1945. He is married but childless, and until now he has lived in Sedlčany, Gottwaldova 43. Now he lives in Prague 10, U hranic 5.

The second child of Marie Čechová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Růžena. She was born on 12 May 1879 and married Trykar, a confectioner in Spálené Poříčí. Her marriage was childless. Růžena Trykarová died in Spálené Poříčí on 10 October 1938.

The third child of Marie Prusíková, married name Čechová, was Anna. She was born on 19 July 1881 and married Norbert Stupka, the owner of a butcher's and smoked-meat business, a native of the Rokycany area. They had a large production business in Prague, in Vinohrady, in Slezská Street. Anna Stupková died relatively young, on 11 August 1929 in Prague, only four years after her mother, whom she had looked after until her death. Anna Stupková had three sons and one daughter. The eldest was Oldřich, born on 18 February 1904, who stayed at home in his father's butcher's business in Prague-Vinohrady. He too fared badly in May 1945: they took not only his house and business from him but sent him to the Jáchymov mines as well. That, too, substantially shortened his life. He died on 7 January 1961 in Petrov near Davle, where the family had been forcibly moved out of Prague. Oldřich Stupka had two sons. His son Norbert was born on 9 June 1932 and works in the Geological Survey; he lives in Prague-Žižkov, Na vrcholu 2583. He has a little daughter, Ingrid Stupková, born on 18 September 1964. His second son, Pavel Stupka, was born on 9 April 1938 and, like his brother, also works in the Geological Survey. His wife is a doctor, but they have no children as yet. They live in Prague-Dejvice, Ždanovova 65.

Anna Stupková's second son is Vladimír. He was born on 30 March 1905 and was once an official at the State Bank. He had to leave this post because of his origin, and then he became a plumber. He now lives in retirement in Prague-Braník, Ke Krči 15-806. He is married but childless.

Another child of Anna Stupková is her daughter Božena. She was born on 22 December 1906. She was married first to the engineer Hošek, and secondly to Dr Chaloupka, a judge in Teplice. She



Figure 3.14: Maribor in Yugoslavia, where Marie Pihlarová has settled, a granddaughter of Marie Prusíková, married name Čechová, a native of Sedlec



Figure 3.15: A view of Banja Luka in Yugoslavia, where Otylie Jedličková lives, a descendant of Marie Čechová, née Prusíková

too paid for her "bad" origin. Nothing of her parents' property was left to her either. She lives in Prague-Žižkov, Žerotínova 42. She was a clerk at the foreign-trade company Motokov. From her first marriage she has a daughter, Zorka, married name Rysová, who is, however, divorced. She was born on 7 July 1932 and lives in Prague-Malešice, Počernická 512. She has no children. The second child of Božena Chaloupková, née Stupková, from her second marriage, is her son Karel. He was born on 4 September 1937 and lives in Prague-Žižkov, Žerotínova 39, near his mother. He works in agriculture; he is married but as yet childless. Anna Stupková's last child is her son Norbert. He was born on 4 August 1908 in Prague. He was originally meant to farm, but fate took a different turn with him too. He became a maintenance man. For quite a long time he lived in Plzeň, where he had a little villa; today he lives in Ostrava, Spanielova 925. Norbert Stupka has two sons. His son Jaroslav, born on 25 September 1937, is a chemist and lives in Plzeň, Koterovská 428. He has two daughters, Olga, born on 26 April 1968, and Renata, born on 9 July 1963. Norbert Stupka's second son, Miloslav, born on 10 August 1943, is an electrical technician and lives in Karlovy Vary-Tuhnice, Krymská 30-D. He has a little son, Martin Stupka, born on 24 December 1963.

To be quite accurate, the first child of Marie Prusíková, married name Čechová, was her daughter Terezie, and her third child was Marie. Terezie Čechová was born on 3 October 1872 in Chrašťovice. Later in life she married the engineer Kašpárek, but she was soon widowed. She then helped in the household of her sister Anna Stupková in Prague, and death overtook her in Rokycany, where she happened to be staying with her sister Marie. She died on 17 April 1945, and her funeral took place during an air raid.

Marie, the sister of Terezie, Anna and Růžena, was born on 13 March 1877 in Chrašťovice. She was married to Mejstřík, a butcher in Rokycany, a rather coarse man. She had two daughters: Marie, born on 7 July 1899, who remained unmarried and also helped in the household of her aunt Stupková in Prague. She died tragically in 1924. She was burned to death when she was lighting the stove with an inflammable liquid. The second daughter was Otylie, born on 9 June 1901. Like her cousin Marie Čechová, married name Pihlarová, in Yugoslavia, she too married a Yugoslav, the engineer Jedlička, and today she lives in Banja Luka, V. Masleše 21/II, in Bosnia. Otylie Jedličková is childless. The second son of Marie Prusíková, married name Čechová, was Vojtěch. He was born on 10 May 1883. It was thought that he would take over the family holding in Chrašťovice, which had 200 strych of land. Vojtěch Čech, however, died as early as 24 March 1893, and the holding was then sold in 1912.

Another son was Bohumil Čech. He was born on 15 June 1885. He was a revenue official and worked for quite a long time in Slovakia. His mother, as he always declared, was a saint to him. Before her death she was not ill at all, and although she lived to the fine age of 80, none of her children thought that her life was nearly at its end. The day before her death her son Bohumil Čech had a strange dream. He saw her alive and smiling, and then she suddenly lay down by herself in a coffin, beside which candles were burning. With a strange foreboding he went to Prague at once the next day and found his mother dead.

Bohumil Čech had two children. His son Bohumil was born on 2 January 1918 and today is a public prosecutor in Blansko. He lives in Boskovice near Brno, I-41. He has three children, a son, Bohumil, born on 8 April 1946, and daughters, Olga, born on 22 November 1950, and Dagmar, born on 10 November 1954. Bohumil Čech's second child is his daughter Milada. She was born on 18 July 1926, and her married name was Libichová. She is a clerk at Motokov. She is now divorced and lives in Prague-Dejvice, Náměstí Interbrigády 3. She has a little daughter, Milada, born on 9 April 1960. Bohumil Čech liked to travel to Prague to see his daughter Milada, and he was always remarkably lively, although he was already nearing eighty. From one such visit he returned home to Chrudim, where he had a little house and lived alone as a widower, and by an unfortunate accident he was poisoned by gas. That happened on 23 March 1965, and after cremation he was laid in his mother's grave at Olšany, as he had always wished.

The last child was his son Stanislav Čech. He was born on 28 November 1887, and when his brother

Vojtěch died as a boy and his brothers Josef and Bohumil left home for other employment, it was thought that he would take over the farm. It turned out otherwise, however. At the very outbreak of the First World War he went off to it, and in the spring of 1915 he fell in Russia.

You have read, then, about the life of Marie Prusíková, the last member of our family of that name in Sedlec, who in 1867 married Vojtěch Čech and moved to Chrašťovice. We have also briefly described the fortunes of her descendants. Since the founder of this Sedlec sub-branch, František Prusík, had only one child, he left few descendants. They number 40 people, of whom eleven have already died.

## 3.5 Afterword on the "Sedlec" Branch of the Family

The Sedlec branch is the second strongest part of our family. In kinship it is closest to the Výrov branch, for the founders of these two branches were brothers. The founder of the Sedlec branch, Václav Prusík, had, as we have already written, six children, but of these his daughter Barbora, married name Levá, died childless, his little daughter Marie died at the age of ten, and his son František died young and left only one little daughter.

Stronger sub-branches of the Sedlec branch were formed by only three members. One was Václav's son Vojtěch Prusík, who settled in Chrašťovice; but it is interesting that in this village, where his descendants lived from 1839 until 1960, none of them lives any longer.

In the Šípy sub-branch, founded by Tomáš Prusík, who settled there in 1852, his grandson Antonín Slabý still lives on his original holding.

Of the sub-branch known as Bílov, founded by Kateřina, married name Kouklová, only one of her descendants lives in Bílov, Marie Slachová, née Kozová. And after František Prusík, who founded his sub-branch, a very small one, in Sedlec, the original holding of our distant ancestors, nobody lives any longer in this village, so memorable for us.

The Sedlec branch, its Chrašťovice sub-branch and especially Šípy are marked by one rarity. A great many members of this family branch live abroad, but none of them has forgotten their origin. In this branch, too, there are again many other names borne by members of the family. There are more than 150 of them. The number of members of this branch is also considerable. To date it is 565 persons, of whom 113 have already died.

On the following pages, as for the Výrov branch, we shall list all the persons who were born with the name Prusík or Prusíková, with a reference to the relevant page. For interest we shall also add a survey of all the surnames borne by members of this Sedlec branch down to our times.

# Chapter 4

# The Červená Řečice Branch

Founder: František Prusík

1789 – 1838

This family branch is named after the small town of Červená Řečice near Pelhřimov, where its founder, František Prusík, worked for a short time and died. We have already mentioned him on page 14, in the short chapter "Plasy and Our Family". František Prusík was the son of the builder Martin Prusík, who was born in Sedlec in 1745. František was born on 22 August 1789 at Plasy, where his father had settled. That was, then, still in the reign of Emperor Joseph II. He learned the mason's trade from his father and later settled in Nebřežiny. It was there that his relative, the innkeeper Václav Prusík of Plasy, also a native of Sedlice, had died in 1728. František Prusík was a very enterprising man, but his life was not a long one. When he was young, coal was at that time beginning to be discovered in our country, as a new fuel. People searched not only in the Ostrava, Most and Kladno areas, but in the Plzeň area too. For this new, wondrous source of heat was the foundation on which great industries were built. And in 1819 František Prusík succeeded in discovering this black gold in the neighbourhood of his birthplace too, at Kaznějov. He was not, of course, entirely alone in this discovery; he was helped in particular by Gütter and Starck. From this precious discovery of coal František Prusík derived no material gain. Today only thanks are due to him for it, since all this gave rise, in later times, to the building of a great industry at Kaznějov. Almost all the fruits of this discovery were reaped by the enterprising Jew Starck. He later became the owner not only of industry at Kaznějov and in the Radnice area, but also near Falknov (Sokolov) and elsewhere.

František Prusík continued to devote himself to his mason's trade and became a very skilful builder. The mining right that he received on 22 September 1819, as the sole lawful owner of the discovered coal deposits, was in fact of no use to him at all.

In 1816 František Prusík married Josefa Gütterová, who was born in Nebřežiny on 14 February 1796. She was the daughter of the rent-master of the Plasy estate. Two children were born to them in Nebřežiny: in 1821 a daughter, Klára, and three years later a son, Emanuel. Klára Prusíková died young, in 1832. František Prusík and his wife Josefa then moved to Červená Řečice near Pelhřimov, which is in fact quite far from their native region, the Plasy area.

In Červená Řečice František Prusík was master mason to the lord of the chateau, which was the Archbishopric of Prague. They moved away from Nebřežiny around 1825, but they did not live very long in Červená Řečice. Josefa Prusíková, née Gütterová, died there on 29 June 1837, and František Prusík a year after his wife, on 28 August 1838. He was only 49.

František Prusík had only one child who grew to adulthood. That was his son Emanuel. He was born on 21 April 1824. For a long time we searched for what had become of him. It had indeed

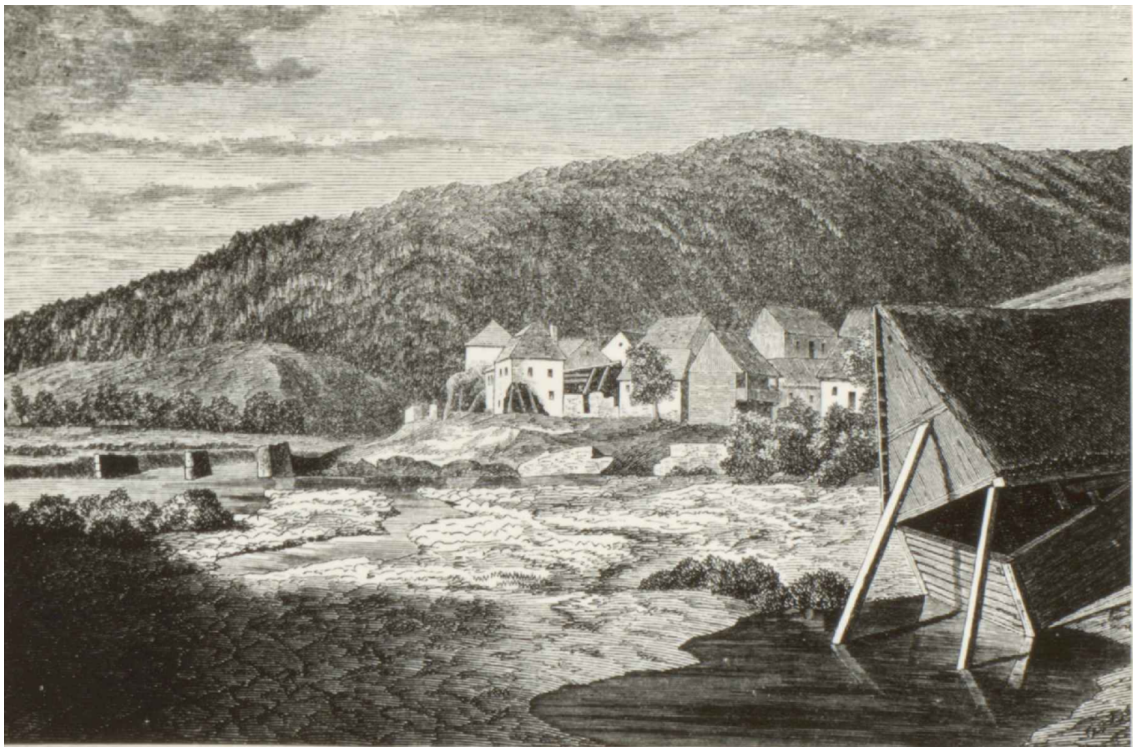


Figure 4.1: This is how Nebřežiny looked after the flood of 1872

been established beyond doubt that no person bearing the name Prusík and descended from him is alive anywhere today, but he might also have had daughters. And then, by a strange chance, his trace was found in old lists of the inhabitants of Prague. Emanuel Prusík trained as a tailor and lived in Červená Řečice until his parents' death. Then he went to Prague, where his cousin Josef Prusík, also a native of Nebřežiny, was already working at that time. He was an accountant with the well-known Prague firm of Wimmer.

Emanuel Prusík married Františka Pošmurná. She was born in 1824 in Olešná near Rakovník. They had an only daughter together. This was Anna, born in the Prague maternity hospital on 26 July 1855. Emanuel Prusík, with his wife Františka, ran his tailoring business in Malá Strana and later at Loretánská 1, in Hradčany. He had numerous customers among the officials and clergy of Malá Strana and Hradčany. At the same time his wife had a fashion shop in Staré Město, in what was then Ovocná Street, today 28. října Street. Františka Prusíková, née Pošmurná, died on 20 December 1892, and her husband Emanuel Prusík not quite three years after her, on 10 September 1895.

Anna Prusíková, Emanuel's daughter, married Ludvík Franěk, a clerk paid by the day at the Provincial Office. His father was sexton at St Vitus's and came from Spálené Poříčí. Anna Fraňková, however, left no descendants who lived beyond the age of ten. She died prematurely, at the age of 42, on 26 February 1897, in Prague, in Hradčany, at Loretánská 1.

František Prusík, a native of Plasy, was thus the founder of one of the branches of our family, but it died out completely with the death of Anna Fraňková, née Prusíková, in 1897. This branch, called "Červená Řečice", is today the only withered branch of our family.



Figure 4.2: Nebřežiny, seat of the family branch

# Chapter 5

# The Nebřežiny Branch

Founder: Josef Prusík

1796 – 1875

It is now time to tell of the members of our family who settled in the village of Nebřežiny near Plasy, and of their descendants.

The builder Martin Prusík of Plasy, who came there from Sedlec in the second half of the 18th century, had a second son, who was baptised Josef. He was born on 20 March 1796 in Plasy. He did not, however, learn the mason's trade from his father, but became a shoemaker. In the nearby, romantically situated little village of Nebřežiny on the Střela, a man named Říha had a shoemaking business. He had a little house there on the right bank of the Střela, and in 1816 Josef Prusík married into it. At that time his brother František, who was a mason, was already living here too. Josef's wife was Jana Říhová, born on 24 May 1795 in Nebřežiny. They had ten children together, but only six of them grew up. These were the daughters Josefa, Marie and Alžběta and the sons František, Josef and Emanuel.

When the monastery at Plasy was founded in 1144, Duke Vladislaus II gave it, among other villages, Nebřežiny too. In the 13th century the monastery founded a demesne farm here, and in 1412 Abbot Gottfried settled the village of Nebřežiny under emphyteutic law. Since time immemorial a land route had run through Nebřežiny, linking the whole of the north with Plzeň. That is why the monastery built a bridge here over the river Střela, already in ancient times. From 1601 a toll was levied on the bridge in Nebřežiny, and it brought the monastery a good deal of money, for many people travelled across the bridge on business. In the time of Emperor Rudolf II everyone who drove over the bridge with a heavy cart or with a sledge paid a Bohemian groschen; for a lighter cart, seven small pennies; for every horse, harnessed or unharnessed, two white pennies; for oxen and cows, three pennies each; for three calves, goats or pigs, two pennies; and for smaller livestock, one penny. Even everyone on foot crossing the bridge had to pay one penny. During the Thirty Years' War bands of soldiers often swarmed through here, and it was then, too, that the village was burnt down completely. After this ruinous war only two villagers eked out a living here. In this village was born, in 1820, Václav Levý, later a famous Czech sculptor and a forerunner of Myslbek. The members of our family therefore knew him from childhood.

Josef Prusík sold his goods not only in the village but over a wide area round about, and in Plasy especially. His brother Antonín lived there.

The eldest child of Josef Prusík was his daughter Josefa. She was born on 19 December 1820, and in 1844 she married Josef Kříž, a worker in the parquet factory in Nebřežiny. They had about six children, and three of them reached the age of at least ten: Josef, born in 1846, František in 1851 and a daughter, Jana, in 1853. According to our research, a baptismal certificate was issued

to Josef in 1872. That was probably for the purpose of his marriage. Even before the disastrous flood, the family of Josefa Křížová, née Prusíková, moved away from Nebřežiny, and despite the most strenuous efforts we have not succeeded in finding where they lived afterwards. It is, however, probable that her descendants are living somewhere, in later generations.

Before Josefa, to be exact, a daughter, Marie, was born, who in 1840 married Josef Žaloudek, a miller's assistant and later a groats maker in Nebřežiny. Marie Prusíková was born on 21 November 1818. She had five children, but her whole family perished in the catastrophic flood of 1872. That was on 25 May. With her perished her sister Alžběta too, who lived in another house in Nebřežiny, together with her father Josef Prusík, who was by then a widower. His wife Jana, née Říhová, had died a year before the flood, on 13 April 1871.

The flood of May 1872 was a real catastrophe, not only in Nebřežiny but to a considerable extent also in the basin of the Berounka and in Prague. How did it happen?

## 5.1 On the Flood in Nebřežiny

On 25 May 1872 a great cloudburst came down on the whole Plasy region. It was worst on the Potvorov hill, where a whole hillside slid down together with part of the railway that had been built there, and it was then, too, that a little lake was formed, at the bottom of which the rails of the new railway lie buried. This was the newly built railway from Plzeň to Duchcov, and between Mladotice station and Přehořov you can see this quiet little lake, with the pensive woods around it, which is a witness of the catastrophe. In the Mladotice pond, of which no trace remains today from those days, so much water accumulated that its dam burst and the water rushed down on Plasy.

Below the dam of this pond there was a mill. It is remarkable that the dwelling was spared; only some of the buildings were destroyed. It is said that a great many things were washed up into the miller's yard, beds, chairs, cupboards, tables, and that in one cupboard 4,000 gulden were found.

The water carried away with it everything that was in its path. At the sawmill in Plasy it took the stocks of planks and logs, and then it tore down the bridge over the Střela and two little houses. All this blocked the swift fall and the free outflow of the river, which runs on into the hills, as they are called, towards Nebřežiny. In a moment the ground floor of the convent building was under water, and there the rent-master Siebert and one woman were drowned.

The great flood had still more terrible consequences in Nebřežiny. It reached the village only at night and carried away eight little houses together with their inhabitants, and a mill; it tore down the bridge and washed up two little houses and a little barn from Plasy. At that time workers who were building the new railway were living in Nebřežiny. Eighteen of them were drowned. Of the other inhabitants of Nebřežiny fifty were drowned, so there were sixty-eight victims in all.

How fast the water rose then could be seen from the observations at the Old Town mills in Prague. On 25 May at five o'clock in the afternoon the water level was five and a half inches above normal. At one o'clock at night it was already fifty inches above normal, and on 26 May at two o'clock in the afternoon as much as 2 fathoms, that is, well over 100 inches.

This misfortune struck our family heavily. Marie Žaloudková, née Prusíková, was drowned with her whole family, and of the destruction of their little house the "Světozor" of that time, published by Dr Skrejšovský, wrote this: "Horror seized us when we saw how the floating little house was beginning to disappear; it was smashed to pieces by the waves and the floating logs. Only one man, clinging to a beam, was cast up alive on the bank after about an hour and a half. Žaloudek's wife was found dead below Nebřežiny, holding with one hand to a forest tree, which she had caught hold of in her death struggle, and in her other hand her child." Alžběta Prusíková, born on 7 July 1829 in Nebřežiny, remained unmarried, and when that destruction came upon Nebřežiny in 1872 she was nursing her old father. He too would almost have perished; he was already up to his waist

in water, but his daughter still managed to carry him out of the cottage. Then she went back into the cottage for the featherbeds; at that moment the water lifted the cottage and spun it round, and no one ever saw Alžběta Prusíková again. So two daughters of Josef Prusík perished in 1872, and with them the children of one of them, married name Žaloudková.

Josef Prusík, the shoemaker of Nebřežiny, died not quite three years after that, on 9 January 1875. He lived to the age of 79.

The first son of Josef Prusík who grew up was František. He was born in Nebřežiny on 18 January 1823. He learned shoemaking from his father and then set out into the world. He worked as a journeyman in Plzeň and Prague; in 1840 he set off on his journeyman's travels to Vienna, and then on as far as Styria, Carinthia and the Tyrol, where he also visited Brixen, where Karel Havlíček Borovský was held prisoner. František Prusík then tramped on through Merano and Trento to Vorarlberg, and worked there in Feldkirch. Then he crossed the border into Switzerland, and he also took a look at Constance, where Master Jan Hus was burnt at the stake. In Switzerland he worked for four whole years, but there he pricked his hand with an awl, and at that time there was not yet any provision for a sick man when he was unable to work. That is why he returned home in 1846, and on 12 October 1847 he married for the first time. He settled in Plasy and took as his wife the sexton's daughter Marie Bradáčová, born on 16 July 1826. From this marriage he had four children, three sons and a little daughter, but all of them died in childhood. František Prusík's first wife, Marie, also died early, on 4 December 1855. Half a year later František Prusík married for the second time. This was Marie, née Beránková, from Lednice, born on 18 January 1826. With her František had three daughters, of whom two grew up, Anna and Marie. Marie Prusíková, born on 10 May 1862 in Plasy, married the shopkeeper Řehák in Prague at the age of twenty, but she died after giving birth, as early as 15 November 1882. The child did not survive either. The second daughter of this marriage of František Prusík was Anna, and her descendants are living. She was born on 21 November 1857 in Plasy. She married the shoemaker Blažej Hutter, a German in Vroutek. With him she had several children, of whom only two grew up. Anna Hutterová, née Prusíková, however, died relatively young, on 17 December 1892. Her descendants are now Germans. Her daughter Anna was born on 30 May 1881 and lived, under her married name Richterová, in Ústí nad Labem. She died during the World War, on 25 May 1917, in Zálezly near Ústí nad Labem. Anna Richterová, née Hutterová, of Vroutek, had a daughter and a son. Her daughter Marie was born on 1 April 1910 in Ústí nad Labem; her married name today is Goldaová, and she is childless. Since the expulsion from the republic she has lived in the picturesque little town of Waiblingen near Stuttgart, Schlesierweg 2. Before that she lived in Nuremberg. Her brother Rudolf Richter was born on 15 October 1912 and lived in the town of Geisingen near Constance. He came out of the Second World War badly disabled, and he died on 22 March 1967. He has a son, Rudolf Richter, born on 6 August 1940. He lives in Stuttgart, Engelboldstrasse 102. His wife is a Spanish woman from Valencia. They have a daughter, Michaela, born on 29 December 1966.

The second child of Anna Hutterová, née Prusíková, was her son Arnošt. He was born on 20 July 1890 and settled in Žatec, where he was a municipal official. He had a son and a daughter. According to witnesses, Czechs who knew him, he never acted aggressively against the Czech nation, to which he belonged through his mother. After the war he was expelled, and he died in Halle in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) on 7 June 1963. His son Arnošt Hutter studied medicine in Prague. He was born on 24 September 1914 in Žatec and today lives in the town of Moosburg in Bavaria, Statzenbachstrasse 1. He has a fine villa there and his own practice. His little daughter Birgit Hutterová was born on 14 February 1959. The second child of Arnošt Hutter, a native of Vroutek, is his daughter Hilda. She was born on 8 September 1924; she was musically gifted, but the war thwarted these studies. Today her married name is Lebiodaová, and she lives in Halle an der Saale, C 2, Vogelherd 25. She has two sons, Petr, born on 31 August 1950, and Harald Lebioda, born on 1 November 1952.

Marie, née Beránková, the second wife of František Prusík, the shoemaker of Plasy, also died relatively young, on 15 July 1872. And so František married for the third time. On 14 January 1873



Figure 5.1: Nuremberg, where Rudolf Prusík, a native of Veletice near Žatec, works. Tomáš Prusík, a native of Sedlice, was his great-grandfather

František married Josefa Sillabová, born on 26 February 1840. Her birthplace was Dammerschlag near Tachov. Into the marriage with František she brought her little daughter Anna, born out of wedlock in 1869 in Černošín near Stříbro. Anna later had the married name Soprová, in Dobrá Voda near České Budějovice. She had four sons and one daughter, Anna, married name Komárková. We mention these children, even though they do not belong to our family by blood, because they were all on the friendliest of terms with the Prusík family.

František Prusík then had several children with Josefa Sillabová, but only two grew up. His four-year-old little son Josef was run over by a cart loaded with earth and was killed outright. The shoemaker František Prusík was a village scribe. He kept a family chronicle, but he also recorded in it all the events of the locality, the region and the land. The year 1868, that is, a hundred years before we came to write this history, he describes briefly as follows: "On 30 March 1868 there was such a hailstorm that hailstones fell as big as eggs; both the grain and the trees were smashed. After that it did not rain the whole summer, throughout the Czech land." And of the following years František writes this: "In 1869 there was again such a drought that people went hungry, and in 1870 there was a long-lasting winter, so that on 25 March so much snow fell that no one could remember the like." And so the readers of this history will see whether that weather repeats itself after a hundred years.

František Prusík was a very sprightly old man right to the end of his life. When his third wife died in Plasy on 26 January 1889, he was left alone, for his son Karel was just then away on his journeyman's travels. He might perhaps have married for a fourth time, but his son came back from the world and married, and the old man lived out his days contentedly in the midst of his son's family. He died on 19 June 1902 in Plasy.

František's son by his third marriage was Karel, born on 22 October 1873. Karel Prusík trained as a basket maker with Antonín Rott in Plasy. He too then set out into the world as a journeyman,



Figure 5.2: The picturesque little town of Waiblingen near Stuttgart. The granddaughter of Anna Hutterová, née Prusíková, of Plasy lives here

as his father once had. First he worked in Děčín; later he went by way of Plzeň into Bavaria and got as far as Salzburg, where again he worked; then he was in Innsbruck, later in Switzerland, and then in Munich, where again he worked as a basket maker. From there he had to come back to do two years' military service, and in 1896 he went back to Munich once more, where Ludmila Bradáčová, born on 25 July 1872 in Plasy, was then working as a cook. She later became his wife. At his father's urging Karel Prusík returned to Plasy and there set up his basket-making business, in which he later excelled so greatly. Karel Prusík too wrote his memoirs, as his father had before him, and they are a most valuable lesson even today. Karel Prusík had five children, four daughters and one son. The eldest child of Karel Prusík and Ludmila, née Bradáčová, was their daughter Marie. She was born on 11 February 1899 in Plasy and married František Šnábl, a worker at the Škoda Works. Marie Šnáblová lives today as a widow at Plasy No. 33. She had three children. Her son Jan, born on 10 January 1932, died young, on 8 August 1948. Her daughter Marie, born on 9 July 1925, has the married name Šmídlová. She has a little daughter, Marie, born on 14 March 1947. The third child of Marie Šnáblová, née Prusíková, is her daughter Ludmila, born on 22 July 1937. Her married name is Třísková, and she is childless. She lives in Plasy.

The second daughter of Karel Prusík, the basket maker in Plasy, is Božena. She was born on 5 August 1900, married Václav Nový and lives at Plasy No. 318. She has two children. Her son Karel Nový, born on 29 July 1926, works at the power station and lives in Most, třída Budovatelů 2365. He has a little daughter, Hana, born on 1 June 1960. The second child of Božena Nová, née Prusíková, is her daughter Josefa, born on 27 January 1927 [sic; her brother Karel, above, was born on 29 July 1926, only six months earlier, so one of the two dates is wrong]. Her married name is Šandorová, and she lives in Plasy. Her daughter Marie, born on 5 October 1946, now has the married name Korbelíková. She has a little son, Petr, born on 4 August 1966. Pavel Šandor was born on 28 April 1949 and lives with his parents in Plasy.

The only son of Karel Prusík of Plasy was his son Karel. He was born on 11 August 1905. He too learned the basket maker's trade from his father, but for a long time he was also a clerk at financial institutions, the Kampelička, the village savings and loan bank, and the savings bank. For over thirty years he was chief instructor of the Sokol gymnastic society in Plasy, and for a time also chairman of the Provincial Union of Basket Makers. His special hobby was acting. He appeared in various roles as an amateur actor in the villages of his native region. He now lives in Most, třída Budovatelů 2324, where he withdrew after 1948. He worked there at the power station until he retired. His wife is Anežka Manová, born in Kožlany on 7 November 1900. Three children were born of this marriage. His son Karel Prusík was born on 27 October 1930 and would also have taken over the basket-making business, but the course of events thwarted his plan. He now works at the sawmill in Plasy, is an active sportsman and chief instructor of the Sokol there. He lives at Plasy No. 113. His wife is Marie Chimincová, born on 23 November 1932 in Záryš, in what was formerly Subcarpathian Ruthenia. They have two children. Their little daughter Hana was born on 6 April 1955 and their little son Karel on 25 July 1956. This boy is the fourth generation in the family to bear the name Karel, and so he is sometimes called Karel IV, like the Emperor Charles IV.

The second son of Karel Prusík is Jan. He was born on 31 December 1931. He studied textiles in Brno and today works as a textile foreman at the Seba enterprise in Dolní Smržovka. He lives there at No. 1255. His wife is a native of Smržovka, Marie Endlerová, born on 19 November 1940. Jan Prusík has two boys. Pavel was born on 14 May 1960 and Jan on 2 July 1964. The last child born in wedlock to Karel Prusík of Plasy is his daughter Ludmila. She was born on 17 June 1934; she also trained in textiles, and today she works as a forewoman at the Benar enterprise in Litvínov. She lives there at U zámecké zahrady 828.

Karel Prusík also has two children born out of wedlock, with Věra Majznerová of Nová Paka. They are Milan Majzner, born on 21 April 1948, and Věra Majznerová, born on 9 October 1951. These children of Karel Prusík do not bear his name, but they have the blood of the family. They now live at Lány No. 40, near Nová Paka.

Another child of Karel Prusík, born in 1873 in Plasy, the founder of the basket-making business, is his daughter Ludmila. She was born on 25 April 1907 in Plasy. She had the same love of the theatre as her brother Karel, and she too often acted with the amateurs. She married František Čumpelík and moved to Prague, but this marriage later ended in divorce. She lives in Prague-Nusle, U družstva Ideál 6. Ludmila Čumpelíková, née Prusíková, had three children. Her daughter Eva, born on 22 September 1940, has the married name Volínová. She lives in Prague-Malešice, Blok 9, No. 362. She has two children, Eva, born on 29 March 1960, and Jan, born on 25 March 1962. Ludmila Čumpelíková's son Jiří, born on 26 March 1944, probably inherited his love of art from his mother. He became a dancer at the ABC Theatre, and in this profession of his he often travels abroad too. The third child of Ludmila, née Prusíková, is her little daughter Jana, born on 27 December 1947. Sadly, she is incurably ill and is in the sanatorium at Černíkovice near Rychnov nad Kněžnou.

The last child of the basket maker Karel Prusík of Plasy was his daughter Helena. She was born on 29 January 1915 and early in her youth came to Prague to be brought up by Anna, married name Komárková, whose mother was her father's half-sister. Helena Prusíková then married the clerk Karel Vendr. She lives today in Prague-Vinohrady, Vinohradská 44. She has two children. Her daughter Věra is a clerk at the Prague savings bank; she was born on 15 June 1940, and her married name is Křenková. She lives in Prague 1, Klimentská 11. She has a little daughter, Michaela, born on 15 November 1965, and also Jarmila, born on 11 June 1968. The second child of Helena Vendrová is her son Karel. He was born on 19 January 1943 and lives with his parents in Prague, in Vinohrady. He has a little son, Roman, born on 2 October 1967.

Karel Prusík, the founder of the Plasy basket-making firm, became a respected citizen of Plasy and an officer of various societies, and he took his business, in which he greatly excelled, a long way. During the Second World War he employed 40 people, and another 60 for appearances' sake,

and so saved them from forced labour in the Reich. Unfortunately, after the war he fared badly, like all tradesmen. Had it not been for his children, he would have been left without means. The awareness of this dependence embittered the end of his life. He died in Plasy on 8 December 1952. His wife, always so careful a housewife and mother, died soon after him, on 5 May 1954.

František Prusík, the shoemaker in Plasy, also had a daughter, Josefa, from his third marriage. She was born on 14 December 1875. When she was 19 she met Jindřich Ulvr, who worked as a baker in Plasy. She married him after a little son, Jindřich, had been born to her on 28 November 1894. The young couple then moved to Dolní Bělá, where they had a bakery, and from there they moved again to Kaznějov. Then Josefa Prusíková, married name Ulvrová, moved with her husband to Prague, where he worked as a bakery worker. After returning from the First World War, Ulvr and his wife leased the chateau bakery in Prague-Troja. They lived, however, in Prague 7, in the former Štítného Street. The family had this bakery until 1949. Then the widow Josefa Ulvrová, née Prusíková, moved with her family to Zákupy near Česká Lípa. She died on 5 February 1955 and is buried in Prague-Bohnice.

Josefa Ulvrová, née Prusíková, had three sons and a daughter. We have already mentioned her first son, Jindřich. He trained as a butcher and latterly had his own business in Prague-Jinonice. He was very popular there, as was shown especially by the large attendance of the townspeople at his funeral. Jindřich Ulvr died on 16 October 1965. He had two sons. His son Miroslav, born on 29 January 1924, also trained as a butcher; while he was married he lived in Stodůlky near Prague. Since his divorce he has lived in Jinonice. His two children live with their mother in Stodůlky. They are his little daughter Miroslava, born on 29 February 1957 [sic; 1957 had no 29 February], and his little son Libor, born on 10 July 1959. Jindřich Ulvr's second son was given his father's name, Jindřich. He was born on 8 June 1932 and is a technical officer. He lives in Prague-Jinonice, Karlštejnská 28, where his father used to have his business. He has two children, a son, Michal, born on 16 October 1957, and a little daughter, Zuzana, born on 1 September 1961. Miroslav Ulvr died on 2 February 1969.

The second child of Josefa Ulvrová, née Prusíková, is Václav. He was born on 17 August 1898 in Dolní Bělá near Plasy. Today he lives in Zákupy, Kamenická 76. He had a son born out of wedlock, Břetislav, who bears his mother's name, Košťál. He was born on 15 September 1929 and lives in Prague 7, Poupětova 11. He works at the Vihorlat enterprise and is an enthusiastic singer. From his marriage Václav Ulvr also has a son, Jindřich, who was born on 21 November 1941. He works in the building industry and lives in Prague 4-Braník, Novodvorské sídliště, No. 1165. He has a little daughter, Jana Ulvrová, born on 16 June 1963. The third son of Josefa Ulvrová was Vilém. He was born on 26 January 1900; he was a baker and carried on this business of his until 1949, when he moved to Zákupy. He was childless and died on 27 October 1959.

Josefa Ulvrová, née Prusíková, had a daughter, Marie. She was born on 3 July 1902 in Dolní Bělá. Then she moved with her parents to Kaznějov and to Prague, and she married Josef Syrovátka. He had the first production of children's prams in Prague-Holešovice. As a result of the economic crisis he was forced to close the business, and after that he was a worker. Marie Syrovátková had two sons who grew up. Her son Alois was born on 21 July 1921 and trained as a butcher. His passion was Greco-Roman wrestling, in which he excelled. Alois Syrovátka, and later his brother Jindřich too, wrestled for the Košíře club A. K. Hellas. In 1946 he turned professional and won the title of champion of Czechoslovakia and of Prague. Before that, as an amateur, he was champion of Bohemia and Moravia. Alois Syrovátka lives at Velenice No. 80, near Zákupy. He has two children: Olga, born on 8 September 1943, whose married name is Součková. She is a trained weaver. She has a little son, Miroslav, born on 25 November 1963. The second daughter of Alois Syrovátka is Miroslava, born on 7 August 1946. The second son of Marie Syrovátková is Jindřich. He was born on 2 June 1923 in Prague. He trained as a baker, but now, like his brother Alois, he is a driver at the dairy in Zákupy. Jindřich is married but has no children of his own. He lives in Zákupy, Kamenická 88. Their mother, Marie Syrovátková, née Ulvrová, lives at Velenice No. 56, near Zákupy.

That, then, was the account of the lives of all the descendants of František Prusík, the shoemaker of Plasy, who was born in 1823 in Nebřežiny. Although he was a simple shoemaker, he was a very intelligent man and a witness of many stirring events in his birthplace, Nebřežiny, and in Plasy, where he died.

The second son of Josef Prusík, the shoemaker in Nebřežiny, was Josef. He was born on 8 October 1826 and soon left for Prague. By great diligence he attained a fine position there. At first he was a minor clerk, but thanks to his effort and knowledge he rose quickly. In the evenings, besides German, which was usual at that time, he also learned French and Italian, and he soon became an accountant and later the authorised signatory of the then very well-known firm of Wimmer. This family was one of the leading patrician families in Prague. Their forebear had grown rich on state military contracts; he built fine houses, and the Wimmer family also laid out parks and fountains, and in their salons on what was then Ferdinandova třída (today's Národní) they entertained the Russian general Suvorov.

When Josef Prusík came from Nebřežiny to Prague, the city had already awakened as a nation. Societies with a national aim were being formed, new trades and manufactories were being founded which began to prosper well, and indeed the whole national and economic life of Prague was gathering pace swiftly. It was not long before the revolutionary year of 1848. Although Josef Prusík worked for a firm of German orientation, he remained a loyal Czech, and he got to know many outstanding people, especially actors and musicians from the Provisional Theatre. Of the Prusíks of that time, Josef Prusík was, besides the priest Blažej Prusík, the only one who lived in this city in its national ferment. The authorised signatory Josef Prusík knew Bedřich Smetana, the conductor Čech of the National Theatre and many actors belonging to what was known as the Old Guard of the National Theatre. He took part in the Whitsun riots of 1848, and twenty years later in the famous laying of the foundation stone of the National Theatre.

Josef Prusík married a burgher's daughter, Františka Šuláková, born in Prague on 9 April 1832. They lived in Prague 1, Rytířská 402. They held their wedding in 1851. Three children were born to them in this marriage. The first was a daughter, Marie, born in 1852, who later married the engineer Hrnčíř. They had one boy, Zdeněk, born in 1876, who, however, died at the age of only twelve, on 17 February 1888. Marie Hrnčířová bore this loss very hard; she had no more children and died on 1 February 1900 in Prague.

Josef Prusík died on 31 August 1895, and his wife outlived him by twenty years; she died on 7 July 1915. They are buried at Olšany, near the grave of the painter Čermák.

The second child was a son, Josef. He was born on 21 April 1855 and became a clerk. He worked for various firms as an accountant and then for a long time in the business where his father had already been, the firm of Wimmer. He lived in the same flat in Rytířská Street as his father before him, and it is remarkable that even in the spring months of 1968 his widow is living there. There are surely few such cases in Prague, where a tenant and his descendants have lived in the same flat and house for 120 years without a break. Josef Prusík was married twice. His first wife was Barbora Svobodová, born on 31 January 1857 in Prague. She died on 11 August 1919. With his second wife, Anna, née Hemalová, of Brno, where she was born on 10 June 1892, he did not, however, live long.

Josef Prusík had many different hobbies besides his employment. He painted excellently, he could make himself shoes, and he even built himself a gramophone. Electricity was a special hobby of his, but he did not, in fact, live to see the radio. He died suddenly on 18 June 1924 in Prague and was buried at Olšany. Josef Prusík had only two daughters from his first marriage; from his second marriage he had no children. Josef Prusík's first daughter, Františka, was born in Úvaly, where her parents lived for a time, on 24 January 1880. She died of pneumonia, unmarried, at the age of 22, on 9 November 1902 in Prague.

The second daughter was Adéla. She was born on 9 October 1884 and married Josef Zuna, the tenant of a farm in Hrdlořezy. Her husband later worked as a commission agent at the Prague

slaughterhouse. Adéla Zunová, née Prusíková, had a son and a daughter. She died in Prague on 5 December 1952. She is buried in her parents' tomb, at Olšany.

The son of Adéla Prusíková, married name Zunová, is Vilém. He was born on 11 April 1910; he too was for a long time a commission agent at the Prague slaughterhouse, but since 1945 he has worked in a shop. He lives in Prague-Podolí, Na dolinách 7. He has a daughter, Monika, born on 22 October 1946.

The second child of Adéla Zunová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Valerie. She was born on 28 August 1912 in Prague; her married name is Borůvková, and she lives in Prague-Podolí, Na dolinách 23. She is childless. She works as a clerk in the ROH, the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement, in its department of occupational safety. Both Vilém and Valerie never forget that through their mother they belong to the Prusík family, and they always count themselves as part of it.

The third child of Josef Prusík, who came from Nebřežiny to Prague in the first half of the 19th century, was his daughter Františka. She was born on 17 August 1860 and first married the wholesale merchant Josef Kovář. The marriage lasted 17 years. From this marriage a daughter, Františka, was born on 6 May 1880. She married the official Bozděch, who was later a ministerial councillor in Vienna and, after the upheaval of 1918, at the Ministry of Public Works in Prague. Františka Bozděchová lives today in Prague-Košíře, Plzeňská 47. Singing used to be her great passion; she even had offers from theatres while she was still living in Vienna. There she sang in the choir of St Stephen's Cathedral. She reverently keeps mementoes of her mother and of her grandfather Josef Prusík, whose painted portrait hangs in her flat. She has an only son, Alexandr Bozděch. He was born on 5 April 1902 in Vienna, studied law, had his own well-known law office in Prague, and now still works in a legal advice centre. Dr Alexandr Bozděch is unmarried. In his work, with his excellent knowledge of foreign languages, he often travelled abroad. He lives with his mother in Prague-Košíře.

Františka Kovářová, née Prusíková, married the pharmacist Lamač soon after she was widowed. With him she had an only son, Karel, who was born on 28 January 1897 in Prague-Košíře. He died on 2 August 1952 in Hamburg, where he is buried. His mother, Františka Lamačová, née Prusíková, died at the great age of 89 on 3 September 1949 and is buried in the little churchyard in Košíře (Kotlářka). Let us now say something about Karel Lamač, who through his mother plainly belongs to our Prusík family.

## 5.2 Karel Lamač, a Pioneer of Czech Film

When Karel Lamač was born on 28 January 1897, the parish priest was entering him in the register at his baptism in the church in Košíře, and his father, the pharmacist Lamač, saw that there was no háček over the final letter c. He protested in a timid voice: "Forgive me, Father! A mistake! Please, there at the end of the name there must be a háček: Lamač, not Lamac!" As soon as the newborn child stood on his own feet, which was at the age of about 25, he became a film actor and then, in the course of time, a well-known Czech and later also international film director: there always had to be a háček in it! (In Czech the word also means a catch.) And not only at home, but abroad too. Abroad, of course, there was a catch in it when there was supposed to be a háček in it, for abroad they did not care much for háčeks. But Karel Lamač was consistent, and whole stories go round of how everywhere, in Germany, Austria, England, Holland, France, America, wherever the director Karel Lamač worked, he insisted on the háček on the c with a tenacity and firmness incomprehensible to foreigners. Lamač often threatened to forbid the screening if the credit was not correctly redone. The first time was in Berlin, before the screening of the comedy "Polní maršálek" ("The Field Marshal") at the Atrium cinema. Lamač did not give way, and the háček at the end of the name had to be there. The handful of Czechs who had come from Prague for the screening were glad and gratified. Something similar happened afterwards with his name in Mexico, Paris and elsewhere. But the name Karel Lamač always shone on the white screen



Figure 5.3: František Prusík, born in 1823 in Nebřežiny, settled in Plasy (1823 – 1902)



Figure 5.4: Josef Prusík, František's brother, born in 1826 in Nebřežiny and settled in Prague (1826 – 1895)



Figure 5.5: Josef Prusík's grandson Karel Lamač, a pioneer of Czech film (1897 – 1952)




Figure 5.6: In the flood of 25 May 1872 numerous members of the Prusík family were among the 62 people [sic; the text gives sixty-eight victims] who perished in Nebřežiny near Plasy; and Marie Prusíková, born in 1870, later married name Paclová, of Plzeň, where she died at the age of 80 in 1950, was miraculously saved, floating on the river in a cradle

correctly and in full glory.

In his relatively short life Karel Lamač made over 200 films as a director. His films "Kantor Ideál" ("Schoolmaster Ideal"), "Polní maršálek", "Bílý ráj" ("The White Paradise"), "Chyťte ho!" ("Catch Him!"), "Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka" ("The Good Soldier Švejk") and others are still well remembered.

Karel Lamač originally studied pharmacy and chemistry, but then film drew him away from his studies and made him famous. As a technician, chemist, optical expert and researcher in the field of film he made a number of discoveries that helped the development of world cinematography. As an inventor he will one day be remembered in the fields of photography, the gramophone and sound technology, and as a designer in the fields of the camera, the telephone and lighting technology. His friends say of Karel Lamač that he was a man who never grieved anyone. In the capitals of Europe he was known in the studios and cafés of artists, and in the offices of patent and legal experts too. He would order a suit from a Berlin tailor; in Prague he pays a debt to another; in Vienna a suit is delivered to his hotel that he ordered last year and forgot to collect, and now it is too small for him. Everywhere he has friends and everywhere creditors. Nowhere does he have peace. He does not know what concentration is. He finishes one film and falls asleep in the sleeping car over a libretto which, under his contract, he is to start filming at the terminus, and which he has not yet had time even to read the title of.

Martin Frič remembers Karel Lamač like this: "For me the Červená sedma and Eduard Bass were gods. I used to go there, and I even became a member of the cabaret. At that time cabaret was something new, a break from the café-chantant, a new wind, rather like the avant-garde theatres today. Two years later film arrived; those were two novelties at the time. At first film always attracted swindlers, the kind who promised a shopkeeper that his little daughter would be in a film if he lent them money. Thanks to them, film had a terrible reputation. I was lucky to team up

from the start with Karel Lamač, the first of the honest film-makers. That I had a real attachment to him is perhaps shown by this fact: when sound came, I gave up shooting, spent a year learning from Lamač in Paris how to cut sound film and work with the sound equipment, and only then did I go back behind the camera and begin shooting Švejk."

So Karel Lamač is the first in our country to have introduced sound film, and he understood its technology. In the corner room of his flat in Košíře, with a view of the cemetery, Karel Lamač had a bed. On it there were heaps of books, thick dictionaries, wires, frames, pictures, unrolled films, drawings and light bulbs, and so, of course, there was little room on the couch for a broad-shouldered man with a classical profile. Lying down, Karel Lamač rested like the ancient Romans; he thought, wrote, telephoned all over Europe; lying down he settled complicated finances, ate and slept, and he always said that only lying down can a film-maker calmly endure the injustices of producers, businessmen and other rogues, with money and without.

Karel Lamač, who switched from studying pharmacy and chemistry to optics and light-current electrical engineering, was then a writer, actor, researcher, director, inventor, conjuror and magician, pianist, but above all a film-maker. He never had time to marry. Karlíček, as his companions called him, was always inventing something, but against Death he could invent nothing. He was happy with his mother, who belonged to the Prusík family. From his room above the old pharmacy he used to gaze out of the window into the "green garden" of the trees of the old Košíře churchyard, in blossom and filled with birdsong. And down below in the pharmacy his father, once an excellent singer and formerly first tenor of the National Theatre, one of the first Jeníks in The Bartered Bride, mixed potions and powders, counted out drops and weighed out doses.

Karel Lamač was returning from America to his homeland when his faithful collaborator from his youth, Anna Ondráková, called him to say that she was undertaking a film and wanted to entrust its direction to him. He was sitting at his typewriter over a half-written film comedy set in the music halls of Paris when death took him by surprise. That was on 2 August 1952 in Hamburg, and he was buried there.

His Czech name on the gravestone, with the háček on the last letter, proclaims that for everyone in this world the words hold good for ever: "By thy command thou turnest man to dust, and sayest: Return, ye children of men!"

Of the children of Josef Prusík, the shoemaker in Nebřežiny, it was thus Josef Prusík, who lived in Prague, who alone became a "gentleman". His daughter Josefa had a worker for a husband, and so did Marie; Alžběta remained unmarried and did not live in any abundance at home; and František was a shoemaker. And the last son, Emanuel, became a foundry worker.

Emanuel Prusík, the last child of Josef Prusík in Nebřežiny, who had come there from Plasy in 1816, was born on 5 January 1832. Prince Metternich established an ironworks on his Plasy estate, and the place where it stood is still called "na verku", at the works, today. The ironworks employed a fairly large number of people, and Emanuel Prusík became a worker there too. The products of this foundry can still be seen in the region today, especially in the churchyards. Emanuel Prusík married Barbora Šrédlová, who came from Obora near Liblín and was born there in 1825. She was thus seven years older than her husband. Emanuel and Barbora had several children, but many of them died in childhood. Only their son František and their daughter Josefa grew up. Emanuel Prusík did not have an easy life; he died on 28 March 1894 in Plasy. Although he was the youngest of the brothers, he died first. He lived all his life in Nebřežiny and lived through the disastrous flood there, from which, however, he saved himself. His wife died on 8 December 1907 in Nebřežiny.

Emanuel Prusík's son was František. He was born on 22 December 1852 in Nebřežiny and was what was called a mill hand in the chemical factory of J. D. Starck in Kaznějov. His wife was Viktorie Šístková, born in 1860 in Nebřežiny, where she died on 11 November 1932. František Prusík built himself a little house in Nebřežiny, and when there was once a strike among his workforce, the factory owner Starck pointed out how well his employees were doing, that even

with a large number of children they could build themselves a fine little house. František Prusík told everyone everything frankly to their face, but at the same time he was much liked in the neighbourhood for his honesty. He died in Nebřežiny on 24 February 1923. He held his wedding in 1897, before his last child was born. Until then he had lived with his wife unwed, but very happily.

The first son of František Prusík was Jan. He was born on 26 February 1878 in Nebřežiny, at No. 35. He was a blacksmith, for a time in Kaznějov and then in Dnešice near Přeštice. His wife was Marie Mertlová, born on 3 May 1880 in Koryta near Plasy. The blacksmith Jan Prusík died in Dnešice on 8 August 1958, and his wife followed him to the grave less than a year later, on 8 July 1959. They had three children together, two sons and a daughter.

The eldest was Jaroslav, born on 14 November 1907 in Kaznějov. He was a technical officer, latterly at the Kaolin Works in Chlumčany near Dobřany. For his abilities he was given the company title of engineer. Music was a special passion of his. He was the bandmaster of an ensemble, and he also liked to follow historical and archaeological monuments. He was also well versed in the lives of all the descendants of his great-grandfather Emanuel Prusík. Sadly, he died young, at the age of 52, on 10 July 1959 in the hospital in Klatovy. The cause was lung cancer and other ailments, especially a weak heart. The wife of Jaroslav Prusík, the engineer, was Marie Červenková, born on 10 August 1912 in Dolní Lukavice. She lives in Chlumčany near Dobřany, No. 320. Jaroslav Prusík and his wife Marie had three daughters and a son. The eldest is Jaroslava, born on 18 April 1932; her married name is Veinfurtová, and she lives at Chlumčany No. 218. She is a clerk. Her husband is Veinfurt, a technical officer at the Škoda Works. They have a little son, Jaroslav, born on 29 January 1958. The second is Libuše, born on 1 July 1937. She works as a clerk at the Restaurants and Canteens enterprise. Her husband is the clerk Ladislav Kumpa. They live in Staňkov, Nádražní 90. They have a little daughter, Libuše, born on 27 February 1954. The third daughter is Miloslava, born on 2 June 1940. She married the cook Eduard Hebeda. She herself is a clerk. They live in Plzeň, Sladkovského 67. They have two children, a little son, Eduard, born on 9 June 1961, and a little daughter, Martina, born on 19 May 1966. The last child of Jaroslav Prusík, the engineer, of Chlumčany is his son Jaroslav, born on 6 April 1951. He lives with his mother in Chlumčany.

The second child of Jan Prusík was his daughter Amalie. She was born in Dnešice on 18 June 1910, married Antonín Žemlička and moved to Chlumčany; she had two children. Her son Miroslav Žemlička is a druggist and lives at Chotěšov No. 475. He was born on 1 June 1931. He has a daughter, Věra, born on 24 February 1959, and Miroslava, born on 23 May 1964. Then Amalie also had a daughter, Iva Žemličková, born on 18 April 1948. She lives at Chlumčany No. 147. Sadly, after this child Amalie's mind began to darken, and since 1950 she has been in the care of the psychiatric hospital in Dobřany.

The last child of Jan Prusík is his son František, Vladislav Prusík. He was born on 31 January 1914 and lives in Dnešice, No. 145. He is a turner. His wife Marie is née Kadlecová, of Dnešice, born on 17 January 1919. They have two sons. Vladimír Prusík was born on 30 December 1946; he is a worker and, being married, lives at Černotín No. 36, near Dnešice. His wife is Jindřiška Kůsová, born on 8 January 1951. At the time when we are compiling this history of the family, she is the youngest wife of a Prusík in the world. František's second son is Vladislav. He was born on 17 March 1953 and lives in Dnešice with his parents. Vladimír Prusík has a little son, Vladimír, born on 29 May 1968. He is the youngest Prusík. The second child of František Prusík of Nebřežiny was his daughter Magdalena. She was born on 27 April 1880. She was a seamstress and died unmarried on 12 November 1917 in Nebřežiny.

Another child of František was Marie. She was born on 13 April 1883, and her husband was the worker Josef Skočil of Plasy. She too had a short life. She died on 14 February 1921. She left behind a son, Josef, and his fate too was a bad one. Marie Skočilová's other children died in childhood. Josef Skočil was born on 16 February 1906 in Plasy. During the Second World War he had to go to the Reich, and he died there, in Regensburg, on 24 April 1943. He left a little

daughter, Květa, born on 7 March 1931. Today her married name is Soukupová, and she lives at Mladotice No. 103. She has two children, Vladimír Soukup, born on 21 December 1954, and a little daughter, Hana, born on 18 August 1959.

František Prusík's second son was František. He was born on 20 December 1885 and was a mason. He came back from the First World War as a legionary of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia. He lived in Dnešice near Přeštice.

František Prusík was married twice. His first wife was Barbora Urbánková, born on 24 May 1889 in Nebřežiny. With her František had a little daughter, Marie, born on 7 September 1913. Her mother died only a week after the birth, on 14 September 1913. Her father went off to the war, and so her grandfather and grandmother on her father's side took her in. She came to know her daddy only after the war. Marie married Josef Kott and moved to Horní Lukavice, No. 90. They have a little daughter, Eva, born on 4 December 1946. Before he left for the war, František Prusík married for the second time. His wife was Antonie Bendová, born on 10 May 1884 in Dnešice. From this marriage a son, František, was born on 2 October 1914. He is a plumber and lives in Dnešice, No. 54. His wife is Anežka Kulišánová, born on 28 September 1915 in Lhovice near Švihov. They have three children. Their son František was born on 31 January 1946, their daughter Marie on 30 September 1950 and Anna on 4 July 1952.

The mason František Prusík was very popular in Dnešice and was truly an upright man. He died on 24 July 1959, and his wife on the same day. They ended their life's journey at their daughter's in Horní Lukavice.

Another child of František Prusík, born in 1852 in Nebřežiny, was his daughter Anna. She was born on 12 July 1888 and married a worker, the widower Václav Janouškovec, in Líté near Dolní Bělá. Her marriage was childless. She died on 28 July 1934.

František's son Jaroslav Prusík was born in Nebřežiny on 30 April 1893. He trained as a blacksmith. He married into Babina near Plasy. His wife was Anežka Smetáková, born there on 24 January 1895. Two children were born of the marriage, a son and a daughter. This marriage later failed, for various reasons. In the end Jaroslav Prusík moved away and no longer looked after the children. Alcohol, too, was a bad companion of his. He married for the second time and settled in Kynšperk nad Ohří. From there, when he had sold his little house, he moved to Pňovany near Plzeň. He died on 4 August 1966. His second wife, with whom, however, he had no more children, was Antonie Hejná, born on 27 August 1894 in Dobev near Písek. She lives at Pňovany No. 3, near Plzeň. There is a daughter from the first marriage. In his first, unhappy marriage Jaroslav Prusík had a son, Ladislav. He was born on 10 February 1920. He was a metalworker and worked at first at the Škoda Works in Plzeň. Later he married into Výrov-Hadačka, where he took as his wife a native of the place, Božena Opatová, who was born on 13 July 1922. Ladislav Prusík became a member of the collective farm (JZD) in Výrov and did up his little house nicely. He now works in Kaznějov. He has four children. He lives at Hadačka No. 38. The eldest is his daughter Jana. She was born on 16 August 1943 and today lives, under her married name Svobodová, at Horní Bříza No. 117. She has two children: a little son, Jaromír, born on 15 May 1961, and a daughter, Jana, born on 11 June 1962. The second daughter of Ladislav Prusík of Výrov, a native of Babina, is Jaroslava. Her husband is Oldřich Klinkovský, a technician with the Spoje, the post and telecommunications service. They have a little daughter, Ivetta. Jaroslava Prusíková, married name Klinkovská, was born on 14 November 1945 and her daughter on 25 December 1964. They live in Prague 10, Na Hroudě 2121. Ladislav's elder son is named Ladislav after his father. He was born on 28 May 1948 and is a worker. The second, Josef Prusík, born on 8 January 1953, lives in Výrov with his parents. Both are singers and have often performed with various ensembles.

The second child of Jaroslav Prusík of Babina near Plasy was his daughter Blažena. She was born on 7 March 1922. Her husband was Jaroslav Beneš, a worker at the Škoda Works. They live at Babina No. 34. Blažena Prusíková, married name Benešová, has a daughter, Hana, born on 19 August 1946. Hana now has the married name Spěváková and has a little son, Pavel, born on 6 August 1967.

The last daughter of František Prusík of Nebřežiny was Josefa. She was born on 19 September 1895 and stayed on in the little house her father had built in Nebřežiny. She married a bright and good-hearted man, the miner Emanuel Benda. They had several children together, of whom three grew up. After her husband's death Josefa Bendová, née Prusíková, lived with her daughter in Bochov. She was a cheerful and very hard-working woman. She died on 21 February 1968.

Her eldest child is her daughter Emilie. She was born on 22 February 1920 and married the worker Václav Rambousek. This marriage had its disharmonies at times; it ended in divorce, and then, for the children's sake, the divorced couple married each other again. Their son Václav, born on 25 March 1940, works in the mining industry and lives in Nýřany near Plzeň, Nové sídliště, No. 392. He has two little sons, Milan, born on 22 June 1959, and Ivo Rambousek, born on 9 June 1962. Emilie Rambousková's second son is Miloslav. He was born on 19 August 1943. He lives with his mother at Bochov No. 181. Emilie Rambousková grew up in poor circumstances, but she has considerable intelligence. She likes to write poems, and writes them well.

The second daughter of Josefa Bendová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Viktorie. She was born on 31 December 1921 and married the worker Antonín Krist of Kaznějov. They live there at No. 221. Her husband works in the industry there and is a very active trade-union official. They have two children. Jiří was born on 2 October 1945 and Naděžda on 12 August 1947. Jiří works and lives in Mladá Boleslav. The third child is Josef Benda. He was born on 16 March 1925. He works and lives in Cheb, Palackého 19. He has two children, a son, Milan, born on 25 January 1948, and a daughter, Jitka, born on 3 February 1955.

The last child of František Prusík of Nebřežiny was his son Antonín. At the time when we are writing this history of the family, he is also the last of František's children still living. None of his brothers and sisters is alive any more. Antonín Prusík was born on 1 June 1898. He worked in Kaznějov and in Horní Bříza, and from 1946 to 1956 he was at the district national committee (ONV) in Sokolov. His wife is Anežka Vopatová, born on 8 June 1898 in Rybnice. There, at No. 92, the couple now live in retirement. Antonín Prusík had two daughters. Vlasta was born on 22 March 1922 and married Jaroslav Šebek. They live in Sokolov, Karla Marxe 1610/11. Vlasta Šebková, née Prusíková, has a daughter, Jarmila, born on 24 November 1944. Jarmila now has the married name Lechnerová and lives in Chodov near Karlovy Vary, Říjnová 632. She has a little daughter, Jarmila, born on 9 February 1964. Vlasta also has a son, Jiří Šebek, born on 3 May 1948.

The second daughter of Antonín Prusík is Irena. She was born on 8 October 1932 and today lives in Sokolov, Jednoty 1494. Her husband was Jaroslav Červený, who has since died. With him she had two children, Eva, born on 26 September 1951, and Jiří, born on 22 June 1953. With her partner Červíček she also has twins, Irena and Jana, born on 16 February 1965. These children bear their father's name.

Besides his son František, the foundry worker Emanuel Prusík also had a daughter, Jana [sic; the account of Emanuel above names his surviving daughter Josefa, so one of the two names is wrong], who grew up. She was born in Nebřežiny in 1864 and married the miner Josef Telín. They lived in Nebřežiny, but in other places too; both of them, however, died in Nebřežiny. Jana Telínová, née Prusíková, died in Nebřežiny at the very beginning of the First World War, on 29 September 1914. They had an only daughter, born in 1893 in Most. Anna Telínová died unmarried in 1937 in Nebřežiny.

This completes the account of the life and fortunes of all the descendants of Emanuel Prusík of Nebřežiny, whose father was a native of Plasy and later a settler in Nebřežiny, the shoemaker Josef Prusík. These descendants are mostly members of the working class.

## 5.3 A Few Last Words on the Nebřežiny Branch

You have now read about the people of our blood who belong to the branch called Nebřežiny. This village itself had long been a home of poorer people. There were few farms here, and not many smaller farmers either. The Plasy monastery had a house here, and in it, in 1813, died Celestýn Werner, the last abbot of the dissolved monastery. The Prusík family settled here only a very few years after his death. At first Josef Prusík lived in the little house No. 3; later his descendants lived in several other little houses in Nebřežiny as well. All but one were carried away by the flood of 1872.

Several members of the family from this branch also live abroad, in Germany. The livelihood of the first members was relatively meagre, but nevertheless some of them rose above the average. These were, for example, the basket maker Karel Prusík in Plasy, the engineer Jaroslav Prusík in Chlumčany, and also Karel Lamač, the grandson of Josef Prusík who settled in Prague, a film actor and director of world renown.

This branch does not have very many members. Up to the present day it numbers 164 people, and of these 38 are no longer living. There are 46 people in this branch today with names other than Prusík and Prusíková.

On the next page we attach, as usual, a list of all those who were born in this branch with the name Prusík or Prusíková, and where you can read more about them, and also, for interest's sake, the names of all those who no longer bear the family's basic name but belong to it by blood.



Figure 5.7: Hanuš Lašek (1860 – 1937)



Figure 5.8: Distinguished descendants of Josefa Prusíková, married name Lašková, of Plasy, were her son Hanuš Lašek, the famous opera singer, and his daughter, the film actress Hana Vítová-Lašková

# Chapter 6

# The Plasy Branch

Founder: Antonín Prusík, 1799 – 1867

The first Prusík came from Sedlec to historic Plasy around 1700. Since in our family's native region Plasy was, besides Kralovice, the only larger place, some member of the family has lived in Plasy ever since those days, right up to the present. In the second half of the 18th century another Prusík came there from Sedlec, namely Martin. He was already related to those who had lived there before him. We have written that Martin Prusík, born in 1745 in Sedlec and later settled in Plasy, had three sons besides daughters. We have already told of his son František, the founder of the Červená Řečice branch, and of Josef, the founder of the Nebřežiny branch, and of their descendants. Martin's youngest son was Antonín. He was born when his father was 54, in Plasy, on 21 January 1799. It was the time when in France Napoleon Bonaparte is slowly taking power, and Europe was then very unsettled. The Napoleonic Wars were slowly drawing near.

Antonín Prusík learned the mason's trade from his father, but at a relatively young age he had to put on a soldier's uniform, and it was quite a long time before he came home again. His wife was the daughter of Dürschmied, the first Czech teacher in Plasy. This was Josefa, born in 1801. They had several children, but only two grew up and had descendants. These were Antonín Prusík and Josefa, whose married name was later Lašková. Antonín Prusík the mason died in Plasy on 19 August 1867. His wife died soon after the birth of their little daughter Františka, on 30 January 1833. The child died too.

The first child of Antonín Prusík, the mason of Plasy, was his son Antonín. He was born on 13 February 1828. He trained as a joiner. Since there were no conditions in Plasy at that time for setting up a new business, Antonín Prusík settled nearer Plzeň, in Třemošná. There he gained customers from nearby Plzeň too, and he began to do well. His wife was Marie Havlíková, born in 1830 in Nebřežiny. For a short time Antonín Prusík was also in Kaznějov, and when he grew old he settled in Plzeň, and there too he died, on 5 May 1895. His wife preceded him to the grave and went to her eternal rest on 3 October 1894. Both were buried in the little churchyard of All Saints in Plzeň.

Antonín Prusík and his wife Marie had three sons and three daughters. Unfortunately the fates of some of them will now probably remain veiled in mystery for ever.

The eldest child of Antonín Prusík, the joiner, was his son Antonín. He was born on 7 June 1859, trained as a tailor and remained unmarried. He died at only thirty, in 1889.

The second son was Karel Prusík. He was born on 24 January 1861 in Třemošná. He learned joinery from his father, and when he got to know Marie Moudříková, who was born in Velvary on 16 September 1856, he married her and settled in her birthplace and set up his own business there. Karel Prusík was a very strong and good-hearted man; in his young years, in the army, he was a

lifeguard, and when he lived in Prague he was a firefighter. He also took part in fighting the fire at the National Theatre in August 1881. In later years, when this event was commemorated and those who had saved our Golden Chapel above the Vltava, as the National Theatre is called, were rewarded, recognition and a medal came to Karel Prusík of Velvary too. To the end he kept this keepsake of his with reverence. When Karel Prusík's wife Marie died on 26 May 1916, he married again, namely Antonie Kristlová, born on 7 June 1879 in Rychnov nad Kněžnou. Towards the end of his life his trade began to tire him, and then, remembering his young years by the water, he bought a piece of meadow at Litol near Lysá nad Labem and set up a swimming bath there. Karel Prusík did not, however, live there long; he died on 10 September 1938 in Litol, and his second wife already on 16 February 1936. With her he had no children.

Karel Prusík had one son and three daughters. His youngest daughter, Antonie, born on 14 November 1898 in Velvary, died unmarried on 4 June 1916. At home they called her Marie. The other children left descendants.

The eldest child of Karel Prusík in Velvary was his daughter Růžena. She was born on 14 February 1888. In 1908 she married the barber Adolf Beneš, who had his business in Pozdeň near Slaný. Then the couple moved to Plchov, where they stayed until 1946, and from there they moved away to Litvínov. The widow Růžena Benešová lives in Litvínov, Wolkerova 7. The Benešes had 13 children, and seven of them grew up. The eldest son was given his father's name, Adolf. He was born on 24 December 1909 and trained as a mason. For a short time he was also with the railway and in the collective farm (JZD). Then he went back to the building trade, where he still works. He is childless. He lives in Prague 6, Břevnov, Pod Královkou 1943.

The second child of Růžena Benešová is her son Karel. He was born on 4 April 1914; he works for the railway and lives in Radčice near Duchcov. He has four children. His daughter Hana, born on 11 June 1941, has the married name Altmanová. She has a little daughter, Marcela, born on 1 May 1964. His second daughter is Eva, born on 21 July 1945, whose married name today is Havelková. She has a little daughter, Eva, born on 21 August 1965, and Zuzana, born on 21 December 1966. Karel Beneš also has two sons, Karel, born on 22 January 1955, and Josef, born on 19 March 1947.

The eldest daughter of Růžena Benešová, née Prusíková, is her daughter Růžena. She was born on 3 March 1921, and her husband is a baker, Čech. She lives in Karlovy Vary, třída čsl. armády 18. She has three daughters. The eldest, Stanislava, born on 9 May 1946, has the married name Píšová. She has a little son, Kamil, born on 4 February 1966. The second, Miroslava Čechová, was born on 19 April 1948. The next daughter, Marie, was born on 12 December 1952.

Her son Květoslav Beneš, born on 15 September 1923, works at the Zbrojovka arms works in Týnec nad Sázavou and lives at Racek No. 24, near Benešov. He has two daughters, Jaroslava, born on 6 November 1949, and Dana, born on 26 March 1951. Another daughter of Růžena Benešová, née Prusíková, is Kristýna. She was born on 16 November 1925, and her husband is Luňák, an engineer at the Chemical Works in Záluží. She lives in Litvínov, Wolkerova 7. Hana Altmanová also has a little son, Zdeněk, born on 25 February 1968.

The Luňáks have seven children. They are: Stanislav, born on 20 December 1946, Jitka, born on 6 March 1948, Miloslava, born on 16 September 1950, Jana, born on 13 January 1952, Evžen, born on 8 November 1954, Miroslav, born on 18 July 1956, and Michaela Luňáková, born on 1 February 1967. Another son of Růžena Benešová is Zdeněk. He was born on 22 August 1929. He worked in a spinning mill, was an agronomist on a state farm, and today he is in the mines. He lives in Lom near Most, Gottwaldova 121. He has two children, Vlasta, born on 7 October 1951, and Zdeněk Beneš, born on 18 October 1953.

The last child of Růžena Benešová is Evžen. He was born on 2 March 1931 and lives in Litvínov, Smetanova 8. He works for the drilling company Ingstav. He has a little daughter, Anna, born on 20 April 1956. The family of Růžena Benešová, née Prusíková, is thus truly numerous, and if her descendants reach such an age as she has and stay as lively all the while, they may congratulate

themselves.

Karel Prusík, the joiner of Velvary, had a son, Oldřich. He was born on 23 February 1893 and trained as a bookbinder. In 1920 he married Jana Zikmundová, who was five years older than he; she was born on 16 May 1888 in Bakov nad Jizerou. Oldřich Prusík then settled there. The marriage, however, broke up in 1930, and Oldřich moved to his sister Růžena in Prague. In the end he lived in Most, but he was beset by numerous ailments, of the gall bladder and the heart, and asthma, and all this drove him to suicide; he hanged himself on 5 September 1959. He is buried in Most. Oldřich Prusík had two children. His son Jiří was born on 27 July 1921. He studied at the Commercial Academy in Mladá Boleslav, then worked for the North Bohemian Paper Mills in Bělá, Česká Kamenice and Teplice, at Stavostroj in Bělá pod Bezdězem, and then at the State Savings Bank in Doksy. He is now a clerk at the Paper Mills in Štětí nad Labem, where he lives at U stadionu 479. His wife is Blahomila Čirková, born on 15 January 1930 in Bítouchov near Bakov. They have a daughter, Blahomila, born on 23 May 1953. For quite a long time Jiří Prusík knew almost nothing of the family to which his name says he belongs. Today, on the contrary, he takes an unusual interest in the whole family, its origins and its members.

The second child of Oldřich Prusík was his daughter Blanka. She was born on 11 September 1925. She married Vladimír Nový, a clerk at the sugar refinery. She is a teacher in Dolní Slivno near Mladá Boleslav, where she lives at No. 76. Blanka Nová, née Prusíková, has two sons, Vladimír, born on 21 October 1954, and Aleš, born on 21 March 1957.

The third [sic, properly the second] daughter of Karel Prusík, the native of Třemošná who settled in Velvary, was Božena. She was born on 11 January 1897 and married the merchant Ladislav Krejsa. When private businesses and shops were being abolished, they moved to Horní Počernice, Heydukova 1215, where they bought a little house. Růžena [sic, probably Božena, as above] Krejsová, née Prusíková, died early; the cause was cancer. She went to her eternal rest on 5 March 1955. She had three sons. Oldřich, born on 12 February 1925, became a clerk, but being sent to work in production proved fatal to him and was the cause of his premature death on 30 October 1959. He left a little son, Vladimír, born on 9 March 1953. Vladimír Krejsa, the orphan Oldřich left, lives in Prague-Hostivař, Strašnická 6.

The second son of Růžena Krejsová, née Prusíková, is Ladislav. He was born on 8 June 1927; he was a druggist and now works as a regional inspector in this field. He lives in Říčany, Smiřických 321. He has two children, a son, Jan, born on 23 June 1952, and Ludmila, born on 6 June 1955.

The third son of Růžena Krejsová is Zdeněk, born on 1 March 1934. He trained as a bookbinder and is unmarried. He lives with his widowed father in Horní Počernice.

We shall now mention the four children of Antonín Prusík, the joiner of Třemošná, whose later fortunes have remained unexplained to us. They were three daughters and one son, and all of them once went away to Bosnia. Certainly no person bearing the name Prusík is living in the whole of Yugoslavia today. If there were, they could only be descendants of Josef Prusík, who was born on 18 July 1866 in Třemošná and in 1877 [sic; the remarks at the end of this chapter place their departure after the occupation of Bosnia, which was in 1878, so either this year or that account is wrong] left with his sisters for Vareš near Sarajevo. His three sisters were Marie Prusíková, born on 11 February 1862, and Magdalena, born on 29 July 1864, both in Třemošná, and the last, Anna, born on 20 August 1870 in Kaznějov. All that is known today is that one of them married a gendarmerie sergeant and another a head forester. Of the third, Anna, who followed her sisters later, it is not known whether she married too. Quite simply, there are no traces left today that one could take hold of. The names of their husbands are not known, nor the places where they settled. These are the only gaps in the history of this family, apart from Josefa Křížová, née Prusíková, of Nebřežiny, whom we have already mentioned.

The second child of Antonín Prusík, the mason of Plasy, was his daughter Josefa. She was born there on 3 September 1830. She married Lašek, a teacher in Plasy. The teacher Lašek, and his father before him, were tutors in the family of Prince Metternich at Plasy. Three sons were

born to Josefa Lašková, née Prusíková, in Plasy. One of them was Jan, born on 9 May 1860, who later became very famous as the actor "Hanuš" Lašek. At first he was a teacher, and on the recommendation of the conductor Čech, which his relative Josef Prusík in Prague arranged, Hanuš Lašek was invited in January 1885 by the director of the National Theatre to an audition. Hanuš Lašek first appeared as a guest at the National Theatre on 18 November 1886, in the part of Max in the opera Der Freischütz. In September 1887 he was engaged as a lyric tenor at the German municipal theatre in Opava. From there he went to the Court Opera in Vienna. His name is then interestingly linked with the memorable participation of the National Theatre in the theatre exhibition in Vienna in 1892. This marked the first decisive triumph of Smetana's The Bartered Bride on foreign soil. After the first successful performance the tenor Karel Veselý, who sang the part of Jeník, suddenly fell ill. At the critical moment, when the next performance was in serious danger, Hanuš Lašek, who happened to be in Vienna, stepped in with great success. In this way he not only saved the performance but, by his singing and his acting, then won himself membership of the opera company of the National Theatre.

For financial reasons, however, as was often the way with artists, he left after only five years, as a heroic tenor, for the Royal Court Opera in Dresden. Hanuš Lašek then also worked in Gdańsk, Bremen and Aberdeen in Scotland, where he remained until 1908. In 1908 he settled permanently in Prague, where he founded his own school of operatic singing. His first and second parts number 110 in all. Among Lašek's most popular roles may be counted, in particular, Manrico in Il trovatore, Jeník in The Bartered Bride, Lohengrin, Barinkay in The Gypsy Baron, and others. Hanuš Lašek was also active as a writer. He wrote a treatise, "Kriteria starovlašských pěveckých škol v XVII. a XVIII. století" ("Criteria of the Old Italian Schools of Singing in the 17th and 18th Centuries").

Had Hanuš Lašek worked longer at our National Theatre, he would probably be remembered today with still greater glory. Beyond dispute, however, he belonged among the famous members of the Old Guard of the National Theatre. H. Lašek died in Prague on 21 August 1937. Hanuš Lašek married late in life. Before that, with his constant travelling and his work abroad, he had had no time for it. Two daughters were born of his marriage.

The first was Jana. She was born on 6 March 1911. She married the engineer Riegel, a textile specialist and the owner of a fine business in Lomnice nad Popelkou. Jana Riegelová now lives as a widow, a teacher, in Prague-Střešovice, Lomená 40. She has a son, Karel Riegel, born on 23 January 1942.

The second daughter of Hanuš Lašek was Hana. She was born on 24 January 1914 and early began to show a gift for music and acting. She was won over to this field by film people. She did not, however, want to profit from the fame of her father's name, and so Werich renamed her Vítová, after the poet Vítězslav Nezval, and this stage name stayed with her. She became very famous in Czech film. Her "Noční motýl" ("Night Butterfly") in particular is still unforgettable. Hana Vítová married first the singer Jára Pospíšil and, after May 1945, which, however, brought her little joy, the lawyer Dr Rádl. With him she had a daughter, Bedřiška Rádlová, born on 8 December 1946. She was a student, but she ended her life early and unhappily. She took her own life on 13 May 1966. Hana Vítová, who knows well that through her father she belongs to our old Prusík family, lives in Prague, Gottwaldovo nábřeží 16. In our family there are not many who have devoted themselves to art. They are the singer Jindra Karezová in České Budějovice, the film actor Karel Lamač, Dr Karel Prusík, a professor at the Vienna conservatory, the opera singer Hanuš Lašek and his daughter Hana Vítová. Those are the best known.

Josefa Lašková, née Prusíková, also had a son, Václav. He was born on 25 February 1867 in Plasy. He became an officer in the Austrian army. He remained unmarried. During a military ride on horseback he fell from his horse and was killed. This happened on 21 August 1893 at Hradisko near Olomouc. Her other son, too, took up the soldier's trade. This was Jaroslav Lašek. He was born in Plasy on 15 August 1874. He became a lieutenant colonel; he was married, it is true, but he remained childless. His wife was a German woman. He died in Germany, forgotten, on 25

October 1941, at a place called Scheibe in the Kłodzko region, not far from our border. Josefa Lašková, née Prusíková, died in Příbram on 3 September 1906; she had moved there from Plasy to make her sons' studies easier.

## 6.1 Remarks on the Plasy Branch

You have just read about those people of our blood who belong to the family branch called "Plasy" after its founder, Antonín Prusík. There is not nearly as much of it as with the Výrov, Sedlec or Nebřežiny branches. This is partly because Antonín Prusík had only two children who grew up, and then chiefly for the reason that the fates of four of his grandchildren have remained veiled in mystery. After the occupation of Bosnia, in the 1880s, the Austrian government urged its subjects, and so those in Bohemia too, to move there. This concerned state employees in particular, but craftsmen, technicians and tradesmen too. Vienna wanted to have its own reliable people there. That call was heeded at the time, and it was then too that one son and three daughters of Antonín Prusík, the joiner in Třemošná, left their homeland. He was the son of the master mason Antonín Prusík of Plasy. What became of them afterwards (that the daughters were married is known) we shall probably never learn now. Their descendants, however, though not bearing the name Prusík, are probably living somewhere there in Yugoslavia. It is precisely they who are missing from the list of the members of the family belonging to the Plasy branch.

After the withered Červená Řečice branch and the completely Germanised "Jihlava" branch, the Plasy branch is the weakest. Only one person in it still bears the name Prusík, namely Jiří Prusík, who lives in Štětí nad Labem, and he has only one daughter. So in this branch our family will die out in the male line, though of course many will remain in the female line, people in whose veins runs Prusík blood, even though they no longer bear the original family name. Although the branch is very small, two people have made it well known to the Czech public. They were the famous opera singer Hanuš Lašek, whose name is linked in particular with the first performance of Smetana's The Bartered Bride on foreign soil, in Vienna, and then his daughter Hana, under the pseudonym Vítová, who through her film performances and her appearances on television, on the radio and elsewhere is well enough known to our people.

In the little town of Plasy, which lies north of Plzeň, you will again find people with the name Prusík or Prusíková, and many others belonging by blood to our ancient family, but no one any longer from the branch just described. Antonín Prusík has left 63 descendants up to the present day, and of these 18 are no longer living. There were surely many more of them, however, and there still are. They are probably living in the Slavonic south, somewhere in Yugoslavia. There are 12 other names. Perhaps one day in the future, after years, they will themselves claim kinship with our family, or some chance will help to discover them.

On the next page you will find, as for every branch, a list of those members of the family who were born with the name Prusík or Prusíková, with a reference to the page where you can read more about them, and the other names that occur among the other members of the family, or, as the saying goes, "on the distaff side".



Figure 6.1: Stražiště near Mladotice, seat of the family branch



Figure 6.2: The Romanesque church of St Nicholas in Potvorov. Here our distant forebears were baptised and buried

# Chapter 7

# The Stražiště Branch

Founder: Vojtěch Prusík, 1790 – 1867

High above the little river Střela, surrounded on many sides by forests, lies the little village of Stražiště. Already in the dim and distant past there was a settlement here and the frontier of the Czech state of the Přemyslids. When an enemy incursion threatened, fires were lit here, and since those times the place has been called Stražiště, from "stráž", a watch. There are many such places in Bohemia. In the 12th century Stražiště belonged to the lesser noblemen of Potvorov. For a long time afterwards it was the property of the monastery at Plasy, and also of Mr Hrobčícký of Všesulov. From 1672 its owner was Count Karel Maxmilián Lažanský of Manětín, who bought Stražiště and a number of other villages from Václav Karel of Hoslany. This little village was always small: after the Thirty Years' War only four settlers lived here, and today there are close on a hundred of them. The parish church of St Martin, from whose two towers there is a view far over the charming countryside, its forests and the romantic valleys of the Střela, is mentioned as early as 1250. Into this village, around 1788, that is, under Emperor Joseph II, there moved a member of our family, Adam Prusík. We have already mentioned him on page 12, in the short chapter on Plasy and its importance for the Prusík family.

Adam Prusík was the grandson of Václav Prusík, born in Sedlec. Adam was a trained mason and had four sons. His little daughters died in childhood. He learned the mason's trade from his father Eugenius Prusík, who was builder and painter to the monastery at Plasy in the time of its greatest glory, in the 18th century. Eugenius Prusík, Adam's father, did not work only at Plasy, but also took part in the building and rebuilding of many churches. Any member of the family who visits Kožlany will see the church of St Lawrence there. Whoever travels from Plasy to Kralovice will see, already from the statue of St John, in the midst of the gently rolling countryside, the memorable Mariánská Týnice, set like a jewel among striped emerald fields edged by a band of the blue Hubenov forests. In the magnificent Czech Baroque building of Mariánská Týnice in the 18th century, one of the most famous places of pilgrimage in Bohemia, Eugenius Prusík of Plasy had a share, just as at Kožlany.

Adam Prusík too, the son of Eugenius, was very active in building, but he worked more on civil buildings, especially because, with the dissolution of the monastery at Plasy when he was 20, the enormous growth of church building and church art also came to a halt. Adam's eldest son, who settled in Stražiště, was Vojtěch. He was born on 22 April 1790 and learned the mason's trade from his father. For a time he also kept a small inn in Stražiště. His mother had already been a German woman, and he too took a German woman as his wife, Anna Sieberová, born in 1794 in Kalec. Her father was the farm steward there. The consequence of this Czech-German marriage was that many of the descendants became Germanised or again married German women, and so their loss of Czech nationality was sealed. Vojtěch Prusík of Stražiště had six children.

They were his sons František, Antonín, Josef, Václav and Jan and his daughter Anna. Their other children, who did not complete at least ten years of life, we do not name. Vojtěch Prusík died of marasmus on 24 July 1867 in Stražiště. He became the founder of the "Stražiště" branch, just as his brother Josef is the founder of the "Jihlava" branch and his brother Jan the founder of the "Kuchyně u Herálce" branch. It is interesting that it never even occurred to the members of the other, strongest branches of the family that they and the members of these branches, although these were quite numerous in their time, might all be related to one another. The reason for these doubts was probably always that many Prusíks belonging to the Stražiště, Jihlava or Kuchyně branches became Germans and lived abroad, and for a long time it was not believed that they belonged to a family whose root stock was purely Slavic and came from the Czech village of Sedlec near Plasy.

Vojtěch Prusík's wife died in Stražiště on 26 December 1876, and at that time only her son Antonín was living with her.

The eldest son of Vojtěch Prusík, the master mason from Stražiště, was František. He was born on 8 August 1824. He trained as a baker. He too had a German wife, who, although she lived with her husband mostly in Czech villages, never learned Czech properly. This was Josefa Neumannová, born in Toužim on 21 January 1823. František Prusík the baker married on 22 October 1850 and, as far as is known, worked and lived in these places: Borek near Žlutice, Rabštejn, Nový Dvůr near Rabštejn, Trnová, Plasy and Stražiště. František Prusík and his wife Josefa had seven children: three daughters and four sons. In 1887 František Prusík fell ill with appendicitis and within a few days died in his birthplace, Stražiště. He worked right up to his last moments. His widow then lived with her son in Teplice and died there during the First World War, on 11 February 1915.

The eldest child of František Prusík was his daughter Barbora. She was born on 4 March 1850 in Borek near Žlutice. Since she probably spoke German better than Czech, she went in search of a better livelihood to Vienna, where so many people from Bohemia and Moravia moved in the 19th century. After all, it was the alluring seat of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, the opportunity to earn was certainly great, and so many a one could not resist the temptation to go there. Barbora Prusíková married twice. Her first married name was Bailová. From this marriage a daughter, Marie, was born on 7 August 1878 in Vienna. She remained unmarried and died in November 1958 in the old people's home in Vienna XIII, Lainz. The second daughter was Julie, born on 24 January 1886. Her married name is Schwögerová, and she lives in Vienna II, Leopoldgasse 6. She has a son, Josef, born in 1914. From the second marriage, when she was married to the worker Bělohlávek, a daughter, Aloisie, was born on 14 October 1892. Her married name was Braunseisová. She lives in Vienna XII, Böckhgasse 4. She has one daughter, Luisa, born on 2 March 1922, married name Krenová. Luisa has two daughters: Gabriela, born on 23 April 1947, whose married name is Bednarová, in Vienna XVI, Brüsselgasse 43. She has a daughter, Andrea, born in July 1965. The second daughter of Luisa Krenová is Eva, born on 21 November 1954. Luisa is now in the care of a psychiatric hospital in Vienna. Barbora Bělohlávková died in Vienna on 18 November 1929. The next child of František Prusík the baker was his son František. He was born in Rabštejn in 1851. He trained as a joiner and lived in Vienna from his young years. He had a Czech wife, Marie Králová, born on 8 September 1854 in Martinice near Dolní Kralovice. In his later years, however, František Prusík did not lead a proper life; he fell heavily into drink, and his wife left for Bohemia, where she died in Prague-Žižkov on 31 January 1929. They had no children of their own. František Prusík the joiner died in Vienna, abandoned by his relatives, in the old people's home, on 13 March 1922.

The next son of František Prusík was Antonín. He was born on 7 October 1853 in Nový Dvůr near Žíhle, not far from Rabštejn. He is in fact the only one of all the descendants of František Prusík, born in 1824 in Stražiště, who remained wholly faithful to the Czech nation. Antonín Prusík trained as a carpenter, but relatively soon he was taken into the service of the railways. He worked at Plasy, and for a long time also in the railway watchman's house between Mladotice and Přehořov, in the cadastral area of the village of Řemešín. Towards the end of his life he lived with his son in Mladotice, in a little house of their own. His wife was Tekla Šmídová, born on



Figure 7.1: A view of Vienna, where members of the family have lived and still live

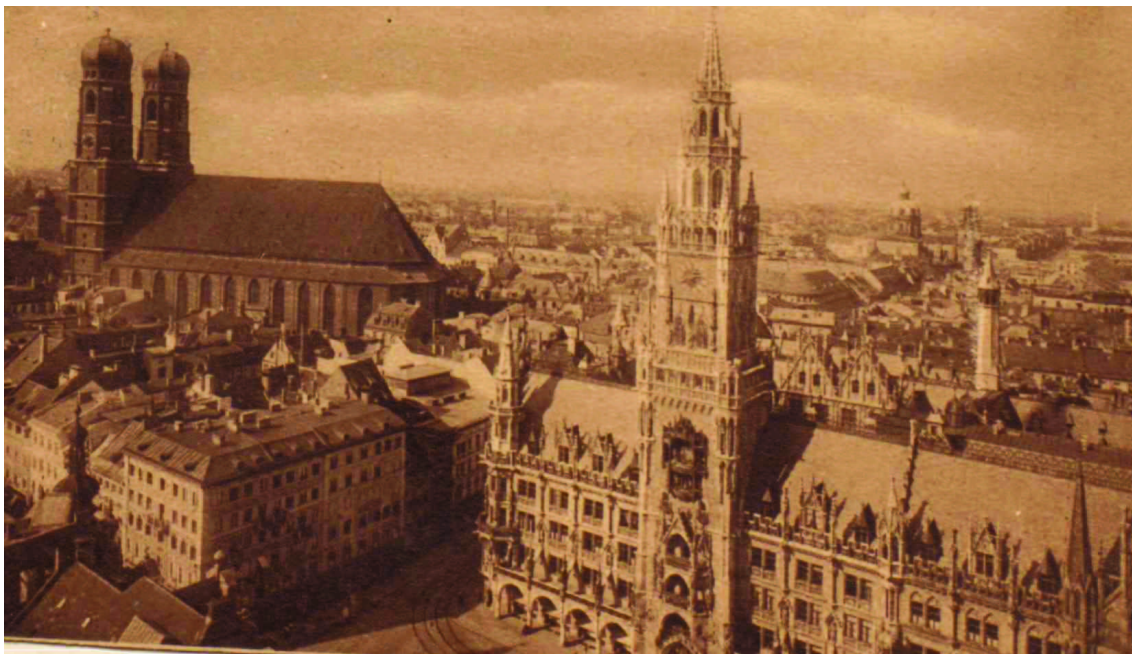


Figure 7.2: Munich, where members of the family live: the engineer Gerhard Prusik and Jan Prokop

23 September 1852 in Plasy. She died as early as the First World War, on 23 December 1916. Antonín and Tekla had five sons. After the death of his wife he did not marry again and was a widower for over a quarter of a century. In the end he grew weary of life, and on 7 October 1942, on his birthday, he threw himself under a train in Mladotice. Antonín Prusík was a cheerful man, very well liked; he had known German since childhood and liked to keep in touch with his brothers and sisters, even though they had parted ways in nationality.

The eldest son of Antonín Prusík was Heřman. He was born on 7 April 1879 in Plasy. Almost all his life he was employed by the railway. First he was at Plasy, then at Kokšín near Švihov. During the First World War he spent two years in Poland with a railway regiment. After the war he again served with the railway, in the watchman's house near the village of Přehořov, and from there he retired on a pension to Plzeň in 1933, where he bought a family house in Božkov. His wife was Anna Mikutová, born on 7 September 1878 in Chrašťovice. She died on 21 March 1949, and Heřman Prusík six years after her, on 25 June 1955. It is remarkable that the watchman's house where Heřman Prusík served stood behind the farm on which Václav Prusík farmed in Přehořov. They were good friends and often wondered that they had the same surname, but they never knew that they were related to each other, even if distantly. Heřman Prusík had a single son. This was Antonín Prusík, born on 31 July 1904 in Plasy. He trained in what is called the "black trade", that is, metalworking, and for a long time he was also garage foreman at the regional national committee (KNV) in Plzeň. Today he lives in retirement in his parents' little house in Plzeň-Božkov, Jiráskova 27. His wife is Marie Bezděková, born in Oelsnitz in Saxony on 10 November 1907. Soon after her birth, of course, her parents returned to Bohemia. Antonín Prusík has two children. His daughter Věra, born on 12 August 1930 in Plzeň, has the married name Šlaisová; she is now divorced. She is a clerk at the Burghers' Brewery in Plzeň. She has a little daughter, Ivana, born on 4 December 1957. Antonín Prusík's second child is his son Zdeněk. He was born on 3 July 1935 in Plzeň and is a designer at the Škoda Works. He lives in Plzeň-Doubravka, K špitálskému lesu 14. His wife is Růžena Vorlová, born on 2 December 1941 in Šťáhlavy near Plzeň. They have a little daughter, Jana Prusíková, born on 28 November 1963.

The second son of Antonín Prusík, who was born in Nový Dvůr near Žíhle, was Vincenc. He was born on 3 July 1881 in Plasy. He trained as a shoemaker and also worked in various places in Vienna. He came back from the First World War as a legionary of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia and married into Chrašťovice, where his future wife, Ludmila Churavá, born on 26 February 1890 (died 21 July 1968), had a four-hectare farm. In winter Vincenc Prusík plied his trade. Later he was employed by the road administration as a road-mender, but during the occupation he was not allowed to hold this post, as a former legionary, and so he only farmed. Vincenc Prusík had a son, Václav; his little daughter Božena died in childhood. In Chrašťovice Vincenc Prusík was very well liked, and of all his brothers he had by far the best knowledge of his forebears on his father's side. He died suddenly on 15 August 1959. He was buried in Stražiště. His son Václav, born on 15 September 1922, lived with his mother in Chrašťovice No. 12. He has remained unmarried and is employed by the railway in Mladotice.

Antonín's third son was called Rudolf Prusík. He was born on 24 March 1884 in Plasy. He too joined the railway, and in the end he worked in Mladotice, where he had a little house and lived there with his parents. His great passion was hunting. His wife was Marie Plevková, born on 24 December 1890. She came from the hamlet of Rouda near Žebnice. She died in Mladotice on 26 February 1953, and her husband Rudolf Prusík followed her into eternity on 5 August 1963. Rudolf Prusík and his wife Marie had two children. Their son Josef was born on 29 September 1912. He trained as a modeller in Horní Bříza. After May 1945 he was quite active in politics and also represented Mladotice and the neighbouring villages in local government. He too inherited his father's hobby, the pursuits of a Nimrod. His wife was Růžena Bulínová, born on 1 November 1912 in Výrov. The marriage, however, did not turn out well, and his wife died in 1958 in Výrov. Josef Prusík, a native of Mladotice, now works as a foreman at the Ceramic Works in Horní Bříza and lives there too, at No. 408. He is childless. He is proud to claim kinship with the family. Josef Prusík's sister is Božena. She was born on 13 January 1920, and her husband is František

Burián, a native of the Říčany area. Božena Buriánová, née Prusíková, is a clerk at the district national committee (ONV) in Cheb, where she now lives in Ztracená 12. She has two daughters. Her daughter Anna, born on 6 October 1940, has the married name Stinglová and has a little son, Petr, born on 22 November 1961. They live there in Písečná 12.

Her second daughter is Věra, born on 14 March 1943, who also lives in Cheb, Mánesova 9. Her married name is Blažková, and she has two children. Her little daughter Ivana was born on 10 June 1963 and her son Miroslav on 13 June 1965.

The fourth son of Antonín Prusík was Josef. He was born on 3 March 1891 in railway watchman's house No. 33 near Řemešín. He was employed in Žíhle, in Aš, Krýry, Svojetín and finally with the railway in Kralovice. His first wife was Marie Koldínská, born in 1892 in Přívětice near Radnice. Josef Prusík had no children with her, however. She died young, at the age of 33, in Plzeň on 26 September 1925. Josef Prusík then married again, to Aloisie Birková, born on 24 November 1907 in Kožlany, where her father had a sawmill. In Žíhle, where Josef Prusík was for a time also a station clerk, their son Jiří was born, and at another of his posts, in Svojetín, their daughter Dagmar.

During the occupation Josef Prusík worked at the station in Kralovice; he took part in resistance actions, was arrested in the autumn of 1944 and died as early as 29 December 1944 in Terezín. His son Jiří was born on 10 April 1930 in Žíhle. He is a site manager with the building enterprise Pozemní stavby in Liberec, where he lives in the district of V. Králův Háj, No. 384. His wife is Helena Neumannová, born on 29 March 1941 in Horka near Púchov in Slovakia. She is a clerk. Jiří Prusík's special passion is sport, especially toboggans and bobsleighs. He also helped the lively tobogganing section in Liberec to build a racing track. Jiří Prusík is childless.

The daughter of Josef Prusík, who met so tragic an end and whose name is recorded on the memorial plaques at the stations in Kralovice and Plzeň, is Dagmar. She was born on 5 July 1933 in Svojetín near Rakovník. She does not remember her father much. She works in the health service. Today she is married to Dufek, a doctor in Varnsdorf, and lives at No. 1862. Dagmar Dufková, née Prusíková, is childless, and her mother lives with her.

The fifth son of Antonín Prusík was Jaroslav. He too was born right by the rails, in the watchman's house at Řemešín, on 7 June 1894. He too was employed by the railway. Apart from Vincenc Prusík, then, the whole family of Antonín Prusík earned its living by the winged wheel, the emblem of the railway. Jaroslav Prusík, however, had a bad fate. His wife was Aloisie Procházková, born on 28 May 1899 in Olešná near Rakovník (died 2 February 1969). Jaroslav worked longest in Nový Dvůr near Stříbro, today's Pňovany. Suddenly Jaroslav was seized by a disease of the throat, and after an operation he died young, on 9 December 1927. He had a single son, Ladislav, who was born on 6 May 1925. When his father died, he moved with his mother to Žíhle, and from there, during the occupation, to Kaznějov. He is a trained machine fitter and today works for the railway in Ústí nad Labem. He lives there in a fine little villa in Střekov, Škrétova 3. His wife is Vlasta Benešová, born on 8 June 1923 in Třemošná. She is a clerk with the railway. Their son Ladislav, born on 25 June 1947, a graduate of an industrial school, is now also employed by the railway, so that this tradition should not leave the family. He is unmarried.

We have thus briefly described the lives of the descendants of Antonín Prusík, the only one of František Prusík's children who did not lose his Czech nationality.

The second daughter of František Prusík, a native of Stražiště, was Matylda. She was born on 14 March 1859 in Rabštejn. She too moved early to Vienna, where her sister Barbora already was. There she married the worker Josef Zechner and had two children with him. Her daughter Františka Schaumayerová was born on 9 February 1892. She lives in Vienna XV, Flachgasse 11. Her son František Schaumayer, born on 25 June 1917, is a conductor on the Vienna tramways. He is unmarried. The other daughter of Matylda Zechnerová, née Prusíková, was Amalie. She was born on 29 December 1890 and married the worker Brim. She died early, however, on 10 February 1927. She had a son, František, born in 1910 in Vienna. František Brim has no children. Matylda

Zechnerová, née Prusíková, died in Vienna on 9 October 1945. The next child of František Prusík the baker was his son Rudolf. He was born on 2 February 1862 in Trnová near Plasy. He took as his wife a woman almost twenty years older than himself, Terezie Rehwaldová. She was born on 27 July 1843 in Schallau. She died as early as 13 September 1907 in Cukmantl. Rudolf Prusík was an auxiliary labourer in various trades. He also lived in various places in what is today the border region. He stayed longest in Teplice, where death overtook him after an accident in the street, on 18 August 1946. His only son was Rudolf. He was born on 24 December 1885 in Liběšice near Kadaň. He trained in the painting and varnishing trade and had his own well-established business. For a long time he was settled in Teplice-Trnovany. His wife was Anna Frolíková, born on 2 April 1890. Rudolf Prusík had two children. Under the First Republic these children went to Czech schools and to the Sokol gymnastic society. After the annexation in 1938 the family opted for the Reich. Rudolf Prusík did not want to leave his business and his little house. His son Rudolf, born on 2 April 1922, was a technician, a graduate of Czech schools, and as late as the slet, the Sokol's great gymnastic festival, in Prague in 1938 he still took part in the exercises. By then the Sudeten German Party already had an overwhelming majority among the Germans in the border region. Because, however, the family decided in October 1938 to stay in Teplice, young Rudolf was called up into the army, fought on the German side, at Stalingrad too, and never came home from there. His sister Alžběta, born on 21 April 1931, is married to a Czech, Pošta. She has a little daughter, Krystýna, born on 19 March 1958. She lives in Teplice II, Stanova 1, with her parents and her grandmother. Rudolf Prusík the painter, who was well liked in his surroundings among Czechs and Germans alike, died in Teplice on 25 January 1960.

The last son of František Prusík was Josef. He was born on 14 September 1867 in Plasy, when his father was a baker there. Josef trained as a glassmaker. For a long time he lived in Řetenice near Teplice. He was married twice. First to Anna Püschelová, née Honolková, born on 8 November 1867 in Pozorka near Teplice. She died on 19 March 1921. Josef Prusík's second wife was Gabriela Sádlová, born on 24 April 1875 in Prague. She died in Řetenice on 12 April 1955. Josef Prusík the glassmaker also died there, on 28 December 1928, and had no children from either marriage.

The last daughter of František Prusík was Františka. She was born on 23 February 1865. Early on she went into service in Žatec, and there she met the gardener Václav Barth. He was later an employee of the town and an inspector of the state police.

Františka Prusíková, a native of Plasy, married Václav Barth of Žatec in 1890. They had six children together. These were the daughters Irena, Augusta and Růžena and the sons Rudolf, Karel and Václav. After 1945 Františka Barthová, née Prusíková, was expelled with her husband to Vienna, where she had a daughter, and she died there at the age of almost 90 on 26 December 1954.

Her daughter Irena was born before her parents' wedding, on 4 July 1888, in Stražiště. She was then legitimated on 2 November 1890. Irena Prusíková, as she was originally called, married Pöschmann, a commercial window dresser. Today she is a widow and lives in Vienna VIII, Lerchenfelderstrasse 46. Her parents, Františka and Václav Barth, died at her home.

The second child of Františka Barthová, née Prusíková, was Rudolf. He was born on 1 September 1895 in Žatec. He was employed by the police, and after the expulsion he lived in the town of Hilpoltstein in Bavaria. He died there on 9 April 1964. He had a single daughter, Irena, born on 19 February 1923. She married a Czech, Klíma. She lives in Žatec, M. Černobíla 1985. She has three children. Irena, born on 24 April 1946, has the married name Čečrlová and has a little son, Milan, born on 2 July 1965. She too lives in Žatec. Irena Klímová further has a son, Bohumil, born on 11 January 1950, and Jiřina, born on 12 November 1952.

The second son of Františka Barthová was Karel. He was born on 26 December 1896. He too was in the police, then he was in the war in Russia, and after his return he perished after the May revolution of 1945 in Postoloprty. He had a daughter, Růžena, born on 17 December 1922. Her married name is Feinová, and she lives in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), in BergaKyffhäuser, Bahnhofstrasse 3, Kreis Sangerhausen. She has a son, Gerhard Fein, born on 23 August




Figure 7.3: In the city of Zurich in Switzerland lives a grandson of Františka Barthová, née Prusíková

1949. Next came a daughter, Augusta, who was born on 16 March 1898 in Žatec. She married the merchant Grüner, and they lived for a long time in Rossbach near Aš and then in Žatec. Her husband, Jan Grüner, now dead, was punished in the era of Adolf Hitler for his anti-fascist views. Augusta Grünerová lives in Žatec, Lidická 6. She has one daughter, Gertruda, born on 10 January 1924. She is married to Václav Mašek, who works as a miner in the mines. They have two daughters, Anna, born on 26 January 1950, and Zdenka Mašková, born on 23 March 1951.

The last son of Františka Barthová, née Prusíková, was Václav. He was born on 27 September 1900. In Žatec he used to have a market garden, and later he was an official of the municipality. After the expulsion he lived in the town of Roth near Nuremberg. He died there of a stroke on 17 December 1960. He had a single son, Walter Barth, born on 13 November 1928 in Žatec. He lives today in Aidenbach in Bavaria, 347-8359, Kreis Vilshofen. He works there as a technician in the electrical engineering industry. He has two children, Irena, born on 3 April 1959, and Cornelie Barthová, born on 29 January 1961.

The last was a daughter, Růžena, born on 2 January 1907 in Žatec. Her married name is Hübnerová. Her husband is a doctor and professor of economics and lectures at a university in Linz, and for a certain time he also worked in Switzerland. Růžena Hübnerová lives in Linz in Austria, Stelzergasse 31. She has three children. Her son Kurt Hübner, born on 11 January 1938, is unmarried and works in the export trade. Her second son, Herbert, born on 2 January 1940, is also employed in the export trade and now lives in Zurich in Switzerland, Asylstrasse 57. Both are unmarried.

The third child of Růžena Barthová, married name Hübnerová, is her daughter Friederika, born on 26 June 1943. She was not yet two years old when she lived through the May revolution in Prague with her mother and her brothers. They do not have good memories of that time. Today Friederika's married name is Mascheková, and she lives in Linz. She has a daughter, Ulrika, born



Figure 7.4: In Linz in Austria lives a daughter of Františka Barthová of Žatec, born in Plasy

on 15 April 1968.

We have thus described the fortunes of all the descendants of František Prusík, born in 1824 in Stražiště. Especially for those who became Germanised, and they are the overwhelming majority, and who were still living in Bohemia before and during the Second World War, their fortunes have been very turbulent. The war and the phenomena that accompanied it brought all this with them. They struck hard not only the Czech nation but also many members of the German nationality, who were often guilty of nothing other than belonging to the German nationality.

The next child of the master mason Vojtěch Prusík of Stražiště, who was born there at the close of the reign of Emperor Joseph II, was his son Antonín. He was born on 12 January 1826. He became a shoemaker and had a relatively meagre life. When he grew old, he worked as a postal messenger and walked every day from Žíhle to Stražiště, which was truly a fine "stroll". Antonín Prusík married first Anna Soukupová, born in 1847 in Stražiště. She, however, died on 10 May 1873 after giving birth to a child. Antonín Prusík was thus already fairly old, 46, when he married for the first time. The baby died too. Antonín Prusík then married again, to Anna Fryčková, born on 20 February 1850 in Mladotice. Together they had two sons and three daughters. Their life was joyless; it was nothing but drudgery and little money. When the trade brought nothing in, they went into service with farmers, worked in the forest and the like. After the death of Antonín Prusík on 28 December 1900 in Stražiště, the widow moved to her married daughter Valentina in Manětín and died there on 28 July 1912.

## 7.1 The First Prusík in Canada

The eldest child of Antonín Prusík and Anna, née Fryčková, was their son Bedřich. He was born on 2 March 1876 in Stražiště. He went through the five-class school in Stražiště and from childhood had to help his parents, who had no bed of roses. He did, however, learn good German; after all, a little way beyond the village of Stražiště there were already German villages. Bedřich Prusík then went off towards Kadaň and Žatec and served there with farmers, which was, after all, a somewhat better life than at home. At the beginning of this century, and of course already before it, a great longing arose to seek one's fortune across the sea. Not even Bedřich Prusík resisted this lure. He spent all his small savings on the journey to Hamburg and across the sea to Canada. In

1901 he landed at a place called Glace Bay. It is a small port town on the Atlantic Ocean in the province of Nova Scotia in Canada. Near this place there were large mines, and the coal was in fact mined right out under the sea. Bedřich Prusík became a miner and hoped that here he would at last find his happiness in life. This dream, however, did not come true for him. Not everyone who went across the "big pond" grew rich. At first Bedřich Prusík worked in the town of Sydney Mines. That was near the port where he first set foot on Canadian soil. At first things went well for him; he even built himself a little house and then longed also for a family hearth of his own. In 1907 he returned to Bohemia and from there brought back a wife. This was Marie Čechová, born on 31 July 1880 in Chrašťovice. Bedřich had known her since they were young; after all, Stražiště and Chrašťovice are neighbouring villages. When Bedřich was returning to Canada with his wife, he also enticed his brother František to go with them. He then settled again in Sydney Mines and worked there in the mines. Here two children were born to them: Marie on 4 October 1908 and Bedřich on 29 January 1910.

Marie is married to the worker Vilém Nicholson and lives in Sydney Mines, PO Box 588. Marie, like her other three brothers and sisters, understands Czech, but they can no longer read and write in their parents' native tongue. Marie Nicholsonová, née Prusíková, has two sons. The elder is Hugo, born on 18 June 1928; he lives in the state of Ontario in Canada, in the little town of Hagersville. He is a worker. He has three children: a little daughter, Anna, born on 16 June 1951, a little son, Erich, born on 15 February 1953, and another daughter, Alžběta, born on 21 September 1956. The second son is Vilém Nicholson, born on 30 July 1929. He too is a worker. He lives in the city of Toronto, at 227 Symington Avenue. He has one little son, Vilém, born on 15 December 1958.

The second child born to the Prusík couple in Sydney Mines was their son Bedřich. He was born on 29 January 1910 and also lives in the place where he was born, at 225 Main Street. His wife is Berta Ramseyová, born in Canada on 14 March 1915. Bedřich Prusík too works in the mines, as his father once did. He is childless.

When the heavy work in the mines stopped suiting Bedřich Prusík, which was also beginning to show in his health, he moved with his two children in 1912 far to the west of Canada, to the state of Alberta, near the small town of Wetoskiwin. There Bedřich Prusík worked on a farm and later in a mill, and he stayed there four years. That too was a hard life, but at least in the open air and not underground. In this Canadian countryside, 4,000 km from the Atlantic Ocean, another child was born, Anna. That was on 29 April 1915. Today Anna lives, under her married name Sampsonová, in the city of Scarborough on the shore of a great Canadian lake in the state of Ontario. Her address is 63 Bertha Avenue. Anna Sampsonová, née Prusíková, is childless. In 1916 Bedřich Prusík moved with his three children and his wife to the city of Lethbridge in western Alberta. There his second son, Jaroslav, was born on 8 April 1919. In the English way he is called Jerry. Jerry Prusík is still unmarried, lives with his mother in Sydney Mines and works in the fish-canning industry. His mother, always so hard-working, is still looking for a bride for him in Bohemia, but so far no "match" has been found.

Bedřich Prusík returned to Sydney Mines in 1920 and worked there for a short while longer in the mines. Soon afterwards he fell ill with tuberculosis and died on 11 February 1921. Across the "big pond" he found no particular happiness, but on the contrary hard work and an early death.

The second child of Antonín Prusík of Stražiště was his daughter Valentina. She was born on 11 February 1878 and married into Manětín, to the smallholder Leopold Grün. Before her marriage she served for about three years with the farmer Vojtěch Prusík in Výrov. At that time they did not know that they were related to each other. That was in the years 1895 – 1898. Valentina Grünová, née Prusíková, had two children. One is her daughter Albína, born on 31 October 1909. She remained unmarried and is employed as a worker by the forest administration. She lives in Manětín No. 58. Her mother died at her home on 12 October 1960. The second was a son, Václav Grün, born on 13 September 1913. He works on the state farm in Nečtiny and lives in Leopoldov No. 16 near Nečtiny. His mother, now dead, lived there with him for several years. He

is unmarried.

The second son of Antonín Prusík was František. He was born on 11 May 1886 in Stražiště. He too had a hard life. He went to school in Stražiště and for three years served as an altar boy in the stately church of St Martin there. He still remembers today how he used to ring the three bells there, whose voice could be heard far across the countryside. The bells of this church proclaimed to the whole wide countryside, on 11 November 1918, the end of the World War.

Until 1907 František Prusík in fact worked as a landless farmhand. It was therefore no wonder that he let himself be persuaded by his brother, who had been living in Canada since 1901, and went with him across the sea. On 10 December 1907 he arrived, as he often wittily says, in that "promised" land. But he too found no particular happiness there. He spent a large part of his life underground in that frozen Canada, and often that morsel of daily bread was truly won by the sweat of his brow. František Prusík had a home wherever he could hang up his hat or cap and wherever he found work. At first he too was a miner in Sydney Mines, but he soon went far away to the state of Alberta, where the conditions were more attractive. He worked in the mines until 1935, when he was miraculously saved in an explosion of coal gas, but he still bears the marks of that disaster today. In the explosion 16 miners lost their lives at that time, 3 of them Czechs. František Prusík, a faithful Czech, never forgot his language, and although today he lives in an old people's home among people of other nationalities, quite alone, he writes good Czech and often repeats the words "Whoever is ashamed of his own tongue deserves the scorn of all people!"

When we at last found this Canadian Prusík and described to him the origin of our old family and its significance, he replied as follows: "I am glad that I belong to the Prusík family, of which no one need be ashamed. Not all of us, of course, have distinguished ourselves as some of this family have. Many would have had the talent, but money was lacking for better advancement in education. That wretched poverty did a great deal of harm, and many a man under the Austrian government was born poor and died poor. But were it not for those poor, foolish slaves, as the clever ones call them, those clever ones would starve. I have lived here for over 60 years now, but as I see it, the name Prusík will soon be everywhere here in America and Canada only as a name, and no longer by Czech language and nationality."

František Prusík lives today in the town of Pincher Creek, Crest View Lodge, in the state of Alberta in Canada. It is a pity that so few such faithful Czechs now live across the sea. František Prusík remained unmarried and likes to correspond with his relatives in his homeland. František Prusík died forsaken on 9 May 1968 and was buried in the little churchyard in Pincher Creek in the state of Alberta in Canada, on the very day of his 82nd birthday, 11 May 1968.

The second daughter of Antonín Prusík of Stražiště was Marie. She was born on 14 May 1880 in Stražiště. She was in service with the merchant Löbl in Kožlany, and there she met the weaver Oldřich Kratochvíl. She married him in 1909. Her son was Adolf, born on 30 September 1910, who today works in industry in Žatec. He lives in Boženy Němcové 29. Adolf Kratochvíl has two daughters. Milena, born on 28 September 1940, has the married name Ždychová and lives with her parents in Žatec. She has a son, Pavel, born on 6 April 1964. Milena Ždychová also has a little daughter, Ivetta, born on 23 November 1968. The second is Libuše, born on 6 March 1946, whose married name is Vávrová, in Klášterec nad Ohří, Sídliště Miřetice 406. She has a little son, Aleš, born on 2 June 1968.

The second child of Marie Kratochvílová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Marie. She was born on 25 September 1913 and lives today in Radonice No. 172 near Kadaň. She has a daughter, Alena, born on 8 June 1940. Her married name is Prchalová, and she lives in Jince No. 70 near Příbram. She has a little daughter, Alena, born on 6 March 1966. Then there is Miroslav Došek, after his mother's married name, who was born on 23 March 1948. Marie Kratochvílová, née Prusíková, died of pneumonia on 30 March 1917 in Plzeň.

The third daughter of Antonín Prusík was Albína. She was born on 19 June 1883 in Stražiště. She married into Manětín, to the tailor Jan Pleiner. Like her sister Marie, she too died young, at

the age of 34, on 10 September 1917. Albína Pleinerová, née Prusíková, had a single daughter, Marie. She was born on 14 March 1914 in Manětín. Today her married name is Kučerová, and she lives in Prague 1, Karlova 48. She has two sons, František, born on 1 August 1943, and Jiří, born on 30 January 1947. Marie Kučerová does not forget her birthplace and the whole native region, such as Manětín, Stražiště or Plasy.

Around 1788 the first Prusík came from Plasy to Stražiště, namely Adam. In 1900 the last Prusík died in Stražiště, namely Antonín, his grandson. Our family was therefore there for 112 years. Their descendants live today, with our name and with many others, at home and in foreign lands. They had most varied fortunes; some of them distinguished themselves, but many also had to win their crust of bread very hard. For many of them the last home is the idyllic little churchyard of Stražiště, but many laid their bones to rest far from their birthplace, across the sea, in Austria, Germany and elsewhere.

The third son of Vojtěch Prusík, the master mason of Stražiště, was Josef. He was born on 7 March 1828. He trained as a tailor in Kralovice and spoke German as well as Czech; after all, his father was a Czech and his mother a German. He soon went off to Vienna, where he had his own tailoring workshop, and at the time of the Austro-Prussian War he married Eleonora Petrův, who was born in 1831 in Nové Benátky nad Jizerou. They had met in Vienna, where a great number of Czechs were already living at that time. Josef Prusík the tailor did not live long, however; he died in Vienna on 23 March 1872. His wife died in 1891. They had a single son, Karel. He was already wholly a German. He was born in Vienna on 23 September 1867. He trained as a joiner and upholsterer. He won particular merit by being the founder of several societies for the protection of young people. In this work he showed great energy and saved many young people from a bad fate. His wife was Marie Weberová, born on 1 February 1868 in Mikulášovice in Silesia. Karel Prusík died in Vienna during the Second World War, on 23 April 1943. His wife Marie ended her life six years after him, on 23 March 1949. Both are buried in Vienna. They had a single son, Karel, who was born on 19 May 1896 in Vienna. This Karel Prusík later made our name famous throughout the world. We shall tell you how.

## 7.2 How the Name Prusík Became a Common Term

When someone lives in a mansard, he hardly knows why that room in the attic is so called. It was originally the French architect Mansarde who began to build in this way. When a nelson is used in Greco-Roman wrestling, hardly anyone thinks that it was the American Nelson who first began to wrestle in this way. In the same way, few people realise that the artillery shell called shrapnel is named after the English general Shrapnell, and few suspect that the word "brajgl", a mess or a commotion, is derived from the famous painter Breughel, whose pictures usually depict lively village fairs, popular brawls and similar turbulent events. Climbers all over the world know the rescue knot "prusík", and probably hardly know either that its inventor was a member of our family, Dr Karel Prusík of Vienna.

Karel Prusík studied philosophy at the university in Vienna, and later the history of music and music itself. In 1924 he obtained a doctorate in this field at the Vienna university, and soon afterwards he became a professor at the Vienna conservatory. Already as a boy of fifteen he made long, tiring marches into the mountains, and when he was 18 he had already climbed some difficult Alpine summits in the Gesäuse range and in the Dolomites. In the First World War he was on the Alpine front as a lieutenant; he was wounded there and suffered frostbite, and he was afterwards also treated for these in Prague, in the military hospital at Hradčany. According to his own words, this was his only visit to Bohemia, in 1916, although his family came from there.

After the First World War Dr Karel Prusík devoted himself with all his strength to his two loves: mountaineering and music. It is surely a beautiful symbiosis of these two activities. To be high in the mountains, alone and undisturbed, and at the same time to think of sublime music, which so uplifts a man! Because of this passion Karel Prusík did not marry for a long time. In his



Figure 7.5: Professor Dr Karel Prusík, mountaineer, professor at the Vienna conservatory, inventor of the world-famous mountaineering rescue knot (1896 – 1961)

life he made some 70 first ascents of various peaks in the Austrian Alps, but also in Yugoslavia, of the north face of Triglav, and in the High Tatras and in the Romanian Carpathians. Karel Prusík was one of the first climbers to teach how skis can be used in the high mountains. In the saddle between the Grossglockner and the Hochtor, where he also made some first ascents, a high-mountain gully is named after him.

His fame among climbers rose from 1931, when he invented the rescue knot later called by his name. In the early days the knot was called Prusík's knot. What is it? It is used chiefly for loops of cord which are fastened to a rope. If they are not loaded correctly, they slide easily along the rope. When we load them correctly, they do not move even by a millimetre. If we wind the loop round once, a single Prusík knot results; winding it twice gives a double prusík. The principle here is that the prusík holds the better, the greater the difference between the diameters of the rope and of the loop. We know the weaver's knot, the ship's loop, the farmer's loop, the dragon loop, which is known internationally as the "Bowline", the fisherman's bend, the flat bend, or what is known as the ambulance knot, and also, everywhere in the world, the "prusík". Thus our name became a generally established term.

For his merits Dr Karel Prusík received the highest decoration of the Austrian Republic in 1961, not long before his death. From 1950 he was president of the federated Austrian Alpine clubs, and he was also an honorary member of the Austrian Alpine Club, an honour that only a few individuals have received. His knot has saved the lives of thousands in the mountains.

As a musician and teacher at the Vienna conservatory and at the municipal music school in



Figure 7.6: Prusík's mountain, "Prusik Peak", in the Rocky Mountains in the state of Washington in the USA

Perchtolsdorf, where he lived, he devoted his greatest interest to playing the guitar. Some ten of his compositions are preserved on gramophone records and in printed music, especially songs celebrating the mountains and old folk customs. Karel Prusík taught not only the guitar but also the violin and other musical instruments. Besides many poems he also wrote a novel, "Faust a hora" ("Faust and the Mountain"). At his instigation a memorial cemetery for the victims of the mountains was established near the monastery of Admont in the romantic valley of the river Enns, below the Alpine giants.

When Dr Karel Prusík returned from the Second World War, he soon married Anna Rincková, born on 13 December 1900 in Heilbrunn near Stuttgart. They had no children together, however.

If we have a Prusík knot, we also have our own mountain. In 1948 the summit of a mountain in the Cashmere Crags range, which is part of the North American mountains in the state of Washington, near the Pacific Ocean in the USA, was climbed for the first time by two Americans. These climbers used the prusík knot and named this mountain Prusik Peak after its inventor. At the time they did not even know that the inventor, Dr Karel Prusík, was living in Austria. In Austria alone there are today some 250 thousand climbers, and in our country too, and in all countries that have mountains, the number of climbers is growing fast. This dangerous but beautiful sport has become the fashion of today. Through it our name penetrates still further into the world.

When the first gathering of our family was held in Prague in October 1958, Dr Karel Prusík had the serious intention of taking part in this family meeting. At that time, however, he was already somewhat ailing, and on 28 May 1961 he succumbed to insidious cancer of the prostate in Perchtolsdorf near Vienna, in the flat from whose windows he could see his beloved mountains. Dr Karel Prusík certainly belongs among the notable members of our family. His widow, Anna Prusíková, lives in Perchtolsdorf, Brunnergasse 1.

The next child of Vojtěch Prusík of Stražiště was his daughter Anna. She was born on 25 July 1830 in Stražiště. On 24 November 1857 she married the gamekeeper Jan Monsé. His grandfather had come to Bohemia after the French Revolution. Anna Prusíková's husband Monsé served at the Černá jáma gamekeeper's lodge near Kaznějov, which no longer exists today. He was also at Lomany, all of which belonged to Metternich's estate at Plasy. Anna Monséová, née Prusíková, had seven children, and of them four died tragically of diphtheria within a single month. They were Karel, born on 23 July 1859, who died on 16 January 1879. Then Rudolf, born on 27 March 1863, who died on 24 January 1879. Then there was Josef Monsé, born on 13 October 1864, who died on 10 January 1879, and their sister Anna, born in 1869, died first of them, on 2 January 1879. It was surely a terrible blow for the whole family.

Her daughter Albína was born on 24 October 1857, and her married name was Matoušková, in Rakolusky near Kozojedy. She died there on 17 November 1932. Her husband was a mason and had a small farm. Albína Matoušková had only one daughter, Anna. She was born on 26 October 1901, and her married name was Vonásková. Her daughter Anna, born on 10 January 1928, is married to Vopat, a shop manager. They live in Prague 9, Kyje, Kmochova 850. They have a single son, Bohuslav, born on 26 July 1951. Anna further had a son, František Vonásek, who was born on 10 July 1930; he is unmarried, works in the collective farm (JZD) and lives in Rakolusky with his mother, at No. 2.

The second daughter of Anna Prusíková, married name Monséová, who escaped the diphtheria, was Matylda. She was born on 8 March 1867 at the gamekeeper's lodge in Lomany. She too married a gamekeeper, namely Ševčík, and spent the greater part of her life with him at the gamekeeper's lodge in Mladotice. She had eight children: three daughters and five sons. Matylda Ševčíková died in Plasy on 25 November 1943. Her eldest child was her daughter Marie. She was born on 29 March 1890 and had two children. Her daughter Jarmila, born on 12 January 1927, has the married name Peroutková and lives in Plzeň-Slovany, třída Budovatelů 38. She has a son, Stanislav, born on 14 February 1954. Marie Kodymová, née Ševčíková, then had another daughter, Marie, born on 2 October 1928. Her married name is Jelínková, in Plzeň, Suvorova 3.

Marie Kodymová died on 18 September 1948 in Plzeň. Then there was a son, František Ševčík. He was born on 15 April 1892 and fell in the First World War on the Russian front on 3 September 1914. Next there was a son, Jaroslav. He was born on 13 April 1895. He knew well of his relative Bedřich Prusík, who had been living in Canada since 1901, and he too went there in 1921 to seek his fortune. At first he was in Sydney Mines, where he had a butcher's shop and his own house. Then he moved to the city of Charlottetown on Prince Edward Island. There too he opened a butcher's shop; he also had his own bakery there and even a fox farm. In 1945 he went to Europe and studied medicine and veterinary science. Then he returned to Canada again and lived in the port city of Halifax. There he successfully treated asthma and skin diseases. Because of his many-sided activities he did not even have time to marry, and when he was at last slowly preparing for it, he died suddenly of a stroke on 1 September 1955 in Halifax, on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean in Canada.

The next child of Matylda Ševčíková, née Monséová, was her daughter Matylda, born on 31 July 1896, who remained unmarried. She lives with her brother Bohumil in Plasy No. 31. Her brother Bohumil was born on 4 February 1898, worked at the sawmill in Plasy, also remained unmarried and lives there at No. 31. He is the best authority on the history of the whole Ševčík family. The next daughter was Božena. She was born on 15 May 1902; her married name was Smolíková, and in the end she was a nurse in the hospital for lung diseases at Svatá Hora in Příbram. She died there, childless, on 29 January 1962.

Next was a son, Rudolf. He was born on 25 August 1905 and, at the invitation of his brother Jaroslav, went to Canada in 1927 to help him there on the farm. When Jaroslav moved to Prince Edward Island, Rudolf went there with him and settled there for good. He had already trained as a gardener before that, at home in Plasy. He still works at it and helps to keep up the gardens of some of the rich in Charlottetown and its surroundings. He lives in this city at 34 Euston Street. He remained unmarried.

The last was Adolf Ševčík. He was born on 17 June 1907 in Mladotice, worked at the sawmill in Plasy and lives there, where his brother and sister also live, at No. 31. Adolf Ševčík has three children. His daughter Jarmila, born on 24 January 1938, is married to the forester Wollráb in Manětín. They have a little son, Stanislav, born on 5 June 1963. Adolf's second daughter is Věra, born on 1 June 1942. Her married name is Neumannová, and she lives in Plzeň, Švihovská 13. She has a son, Zdeněk, born on 28 February 1963. Adolf Ševčík also has a son, Miroslav, born on 14 December 1944. He is unmarried and lives in Plasy.

The last child of Anna Monséová, née Prusíková, was her daughter Žofie. She was born on 27 April 1872 in Lomany. In 1895 she married the carpenter Tomáš Fencl in Radnice. Her mother lived with her in old age and died there at the age of 79 on 18 January 1909. Soon after her, her daughter Žofie followed her to the grave, young, at the age of 37, on 3 May 1909. She left three children behind. The eldest was her son František Fencl, born on 1 May 1899 [sic; his sister Marie, below, was born on 18 February 1897, so either one of the two years or the word "eldest" is wrong]. He is a member of the collective farm and has remained unmarried. He lives in Radnice No. 44. Then there was a daughter, Marie, who married Karel, the owner of an inn. She was born on 18 February 1897. She had two sons; her son Josef, born on 22 February 1930, lives in Radnice near Rokycany with his uncle, at No. 44. He works as a foreman at the Škoda Works in Plzeň. Josef Karel has three children. His son Josef was born on 10 June 1953, Zdeněk on 13 January 1956 and his little daughter Marie on 12 January 1959. The second son, Antonín Karel, works at the Matylda mine as a maintenance man. He lives in Radnice No. 239. He has two little daughters, Hana, born on 9 January 1962, and Zdeňka, born on 3 July 1963. The mother of these two Karels, Marie, died after completing seventy years, on 20 August 1967 in Radnice.

The third child of Žofie Fenclová, née Monséová, is her son Jan. He was born on 4 August 1904, remained unmarried and lives in Cheb, Písečná 10.

The next child of Vojtěch Prusík, the mason of Stražiště, was Václav Prusík. He was born on 16 September 1835. He trained as a joiner and cooper. For a certain time he lived in Plzeň,



Figure 7.7: The city of Everett in the state of Washington in the USA. Here live the descendants of Barbora Prusíková, married name Slabá, in Šípy

after he had earlier seen a piece of the world on his journeyman's travels. He married Magdalena Kokošková, born on 6 November 1835 in Snopoušovy near Dobřany. Two daughters and a son were born of this marriage. In 1877 Václav Prusík left Plzeň and settled in Dobřany, but he died there as early as 7 January 1879. His widow then lived with the children in Dobřany and died there on 18 September 1892.

The eldest child was his son Václav. He was born on 11 December 1864, trained as a blacksmith, then lived in Dobřany, but died young, at the age of 21, on 1 November 1885. The second child was Barbora Prusíková, born on 28 September 1868 in her mother's birthplace, Snopoušovy. On 24 August 1889 a child was born to her out of wedlock, Barbora. When in 1893 she married Václav Kratochvíl of Brno and went there with him, her child was legitimated and received the name Kratochvílová instead of Prusíková. Barbora Kratochvílová, née Prusíková, died in Brno, young, at the age of 28, on 1 April 1896.

Her daughter Barbora had a harsh life from childhood. She later became a nurse in the institution for the mentally ill in Dobřany and then also in Prague-Bohnice. Already in her youth she showed a literary spirit, passionately loved books and wrote many stories and poems, especially with regard to life in the "madhouses" and to her own hard life in her youth. She married late in life and now lives as Barbora Czorná in Dobřany, Jungmannova 719. Her husband is of Ukrainian origin and served with a dragoon regiment in Klatovy.

Like her mother, Barbora Kratochvílová too had a child out of wedlock. This is František Kratochvíl, who was born on 26 January 1915. He is an official in the health service. He lives in Brno, Klusáčkova 5, where his mother also lived for quite a long time before she married and withdrew to her birthplace, Dobřany. František Kratochvíl has two children: his son Jiří, born on 25 December 1952, and his little daughter Ivona, born on 25 September 1957.

The third child of Václav Prusík the cooper was his daughter Matylda. She was born on 15 February 1871 in Plzeň. Later she lived in Dobřany; there she met the baker Josef Váňa and later



Figure 7.8: A view of the city of Charlottetown on Prince Edward Island in Canada, where a descendant of Anna Monséová, née Prusíková, from Stražiště lives

moved with him to his birthplace, Kamenný Újezdec in the Sázava area. Unlike her brother and sister, Matylda Váňová died at the fine age of 83, on 15 December 1954. She had two children, a daughter and a son. Her daughter Anna, born on 19 July 1893 (died 6 April 1969), married the soldier Lukáš, who also served in the garrison at Dobřany. The Lukášes had a single son, Josef, born on 13 August 1920. For a time he was an enterprising merchant, but now he is employed by the Czechoslovak Airlines. He lives in Prague 7, Schnirchova 26. His first wife died soon, and he is now married for the second time. Josef Lukáš has two children from his first marriage: his son Josef, born on 26 October 1946, and his daughter Jitka, born on 12 November 1948. Matylda Váňová, née Prusíková, then also had a son, Jan. He was born on 5 February 1900, was an official in industry and lived in Sušice. After February 1948 he helped some persecuted people when they were fleeing across our borders, and for this he was punished with quite a long imprisonment. This shortened his life. After his release he worked at the SOLO works in Sušice, and there sudden death overtook him on 11 September 1962. Jan Váňa is truly a victim of the times, for he himself had always been an ardent socialist from his youth, but he was never an advocate of violence. He left two children behind. His daughter Božena Váňová, born on 21 December 1938, is unmarried and is employed in a textile shop in Sušice, where she lives in Leninova 251. The other was his son Jan Váňa, born on 23 November 1934, who became a teacher. His special field is mathematics and natural science. He works and lives in Velhartice in the Šumava, No. 123. He has two children, his son Jan, born on 12 October 1961, and his little daughter Šárka, born on 21 April 1964.

The last child of Vojtěch Prusík of Stražiště was Jan. He was born on 8 December 1837 and trained as a locksmith. He served a number of years in the army and also fought in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866. On 24 February 1868 he married Jana Legová, the daughter of the teacher in Stražiště. She was born there in 1840. The hardships of war, however, left Jan with grave after-effects, and only two years later he died without descendants, in 1870.

## 7.3 Afterword on the Stražiště Branch of the Family

We have just described to you the fortunes of the descendants of Vojtěch Prusík, the master mason of Stražiště, who was born there in 1790. Some of his descendants had an eventful life and often also a very harsh one. A quite considerable number of them have lost their original Czech nationality in the course of 150 years and live today abroad, in Germany, in Austria or even across the sea in Canada. That is about a third. All of them, however, claim their ancient origin in a small Czech village.

Vojtěch Prusík, the master mason of Stražiště, who died there in 1867, has left 160 descendants up to the present day, 49 of whom are now dead. Only one member of the family from the Stražiště branch rose above the average, and today, among climbers all over the world, his name has even become, in the word "prusík", a generally used term. He is the inventor of the climbing knot, Professor Dr Karel Prusík of Vienna, whose grandfather Josef left his birthplace, Stražiště, about 120 years ago, in 1848. His beautiful musical compositions too are preserved in eternal memory on gramophone records and in print. After all, music was, beside the mountains, the greatest love of Dr Karel Prusík, and as a professor at the Vienna conservatory he trained several generations there.

Few are left today of those who by their origin belong to Stražiště and to the branch named after this little village and who know this village themselves. It would surely be beautiful if at least once in their lives they saw the places that had meaning for them, even though for the most part they themselves were born somewhere quite different. This also applies to the village of Sedlec near Plasy, where the ancient origin lies of all of us who by blood belong to the ancient Prusík family.

Now, on the next page, you can again read the names of those who were born with the name Prusík or Prusíková, and what other names have appeared in this branch in the course of time.



Figure 7.9: The family of Dr Karel Prusík, a distinguished citizen of the town of Jihlava (1840 – 1920)

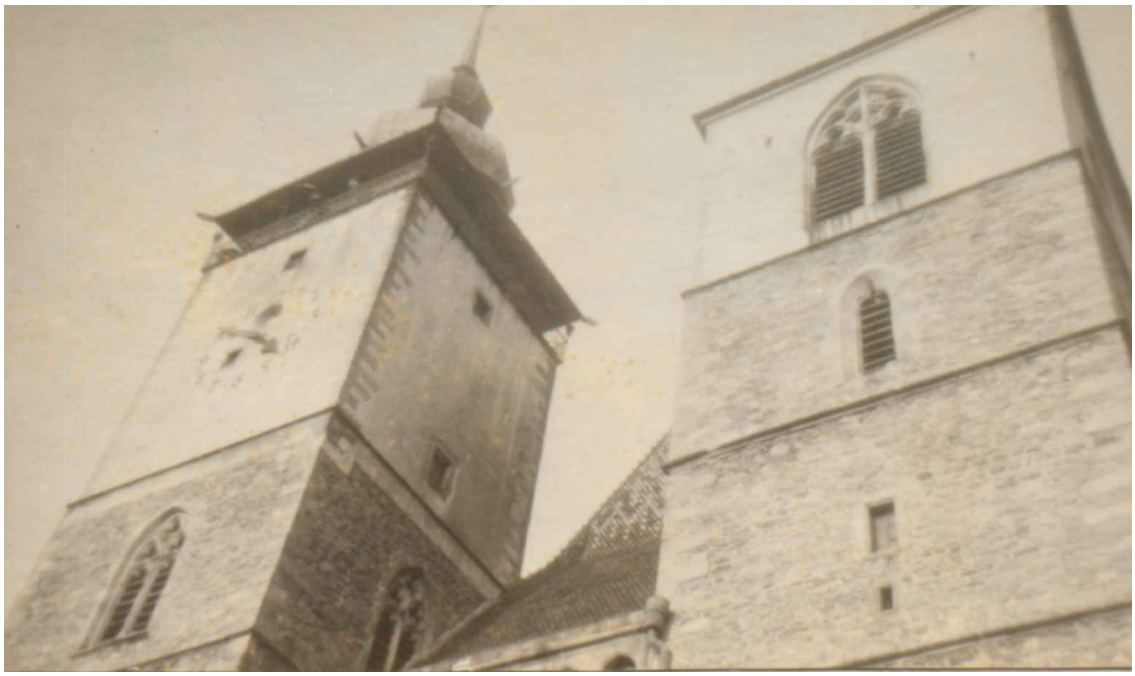


Figure 7.10: The church of St James in Jihlava

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# Appendix A

# Digital version

This chronicle was digitised through the joint effort of:

- Zdeněk and Míla Prusík - loan of the chronicle for digitisation
- Jan Štětina Sr. - correction of the machine-read text (OCR)
- Jan Štětina (zaantar@zaantar.eu) - OCR correction, transcription into LaTeX

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