

The Prusík Lineage 1515-1970

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1

Introduction

After many years of work I present you with a brief overview of the origins and development of the Prusík family and ask you to accept this short history book with kindness.

According to the documented historical evidence, the Prusík family has its origins in the westernmost part of the Bohemian Principality – in a small yet ancient village of Sedlec near Plasy in the Pilsen region. The locals sometimes call it Sedlice and it is mentioned in documents as old as 1193 when it was under the reign of Humpold of Potvorov. Our name, Prusík, however suggests that perhaps our earliest origin could be found somewhere between the Baltic Sea, the Vistula River, and the region of Mazovia, in the general area where pagan, Slavic Prussia used to lie. Perhaps our ancestors lived there already in the year 997, when the Czech Bishop Adalbert of the Slavník dynasty was assassinated in the pagan holy forest of Romowa, found near today's Kaliningrad. There is definitely a connection, further supported by the fact that there is a large number of people named Prusík in today's northern Poland, even though all of them are verifiable descendants of a Czech who emigrated after the Battle of White Mountain in the 17th century. All this is now almost a thousand year old mystery and it cannot be resolved with certainty – it would all be just legends and fables. This is why we shall stick to the historical truth and start at the cradle of our family in Sedlec, in today's region of Pilsen–North.

Our undisputable rarity is the fact that today we know all persons with the name Prusík around the whole world, and that all of them have been proved to be connected to our most ancient, historically verified ancestor Vojtěch Prusík, who lived in Sedlec from 1515 to 1580, towards the end of the reign of the before-last Czech king, Vladislaus of the Jagiellon dynasty. However, it is also true that our name is relatively rare and is found infrequently, and it is only thanks to this fact that we have the luck to enjoy this particularity.

This overview features our ancestors, where and how they lived, at what

age they died all those centuries ago, where they moved and founded family branches and lines whose descendants belong to the 16th generation at the time of writing this text. I have processed information on the female line of the Prusík family from the Napoleonic wars, with the exception of descendants of the Polish members of our family in the female line since it is impossible to find all those thousands of people born over the course of 170 years, with hundreds of different names. And that is especially true in a country that has suffered so greatly during wars and other disasters and whose archives and documents have often been destroyed during those times.

People who inherited our blood from the female family line, again, have about 700 other names and their numbers go up to 4000 of both living and dead persons. Almost all of them are described in the finished book “*Dějiny rodu Prusíků od roku 1515*” (“The History of the Prusík family from the year 1515”) but due to technical difficulties it was not possible to have it printed at the time of writing this piece. This is why I have written the booklet that you are now reading – it contains information on your ancestry from the Prusík side of your family and on other ancestors, stopping at the 12th generation. The following generations will be easy to add because the family members not mentioned here were either known in person by the current generation or at least by their parents and grandparents. I will gladly help those of you who find themselves stuck during their inquiry. However, I have to underline that the history of the Prusík family here is written only with biology in mind – it is not a usual family history as it only concerns people with Prusík blood in their veins.

The family first divided into branches on the male side in 1626, from what we know, when Bartoloměj Prusík from Sedlec married into Dřevce near Kralovice. Then later Matouš and Václav Prusík moved to Bílov but had no male children. It was in 1700 that Václav Prusík from Sedlec moved to Plasy, which resulted in three more family branches. Gradually, more family branches and lines were created and today our family is scattered on all the continents, perhaps with the exception of Asia. We speak different languages, we have hundreds of different names, yet we also have a common ancestor known as Vojtěch Prusík and a common place of origin called Sedlec, located near Plasy. It was never a shame to be proud of our family in the past, hopefully it will stay that way in the future as well.

Let us remember our ancestors, let us learn from their experience and past. It is an immense treasure to have in life. Human acts long forgotten, unfulfilled dreams, human suffering, and love are all things that give our world a new perspective.

2

Earliest findings

2.1 The family's forefather

was VOJTĚCH Prusík. He was born in 1515 in Sedlec, a village equally far from Plasy as from Kralovice. He worked a farm estate of about 2 lány, which is equal to about 36 ha, making him a so-called “kulak”. There were 8 settlers in the village, owning 10 lány in total – this means that our ancestor had the most lands. He had to pay 4 kopy¹, 28 groše, 8 hens, and 40 eggs each year to his liege lords, the Gryspeks of Gryspach. Half of the payment to Kaceřov was due on St George's Day, the other half on St Havel's Day. In those times it was not a huge price to pay. However, later in the 17th century, and especially in the 18th century, the economic pressure from the Plasy Monastery was much worse. Majestic buildings, such as the convent in Plasy or the famous Mariánská Týnice were built, but the rural population's living conditions only continued to worsen. Vojtěch Prusík was the local rychtář².

Over the course of centuries, our name was also spelled Brusyk or Prusyk, but the only correct spelling is the one used today. That same version is recorded in an old document from the 16th century, known as Urbář Kaceřovský, written in 1558. Vojtěch Prusík's wife was Voršila Rajská but we do not know where she was born or when she died. Our first known ancestor's home was located near the end of the village in the direction of Potvorov. The house bore the number 9 until 1805 and around the year 1680 it was renovated. The old log barn, built after the Thirty Years' War, survived until 1962 when it burnt down. The place is empty today, with nothing reminiscing of our family. Yet it is still called “U Prusíků”, even though the last Prusík died there in 1846, when corvée was still legal. In 1867, Marie Prusíková married into Chrašřovice and our name was lost to

¹1 kopa = 60 pcs., groš was the historical currency

²A function similar to a mayor

her forever. It had been in the area for at least 352 years – our family had possibly lived there even before, during the reign of George of Poděbrady or maybe the Hussite Wars. However, there are no records to prove that so we shall stick to the facts. Our forefather, Vojtěch Prusík, died in 1580 during the reign of Emperor Rudolf II.

Then we know the heir of the family estate, Vojtěch's son MIKULÁŠ. He was born in 1550. He was baptized with a name to which a Romanesque church in Potvorov is dedicated, where for centuries our ancestors from Sedlec had been baptized and buried. Mikuláš died five years after the Battle of White Mountain, in 1625. Afterwards it was his son Václav who took over the estate. He was born in 1580, that is, the same year that his grandfather Vojtěch Prusík died. We do not know the wives of either Václav or Mikuláš. It is known, however, that Václav Prusík had two sons, Jakub and Bartoloměj. Václav Prusík died in 1640, before the Thirty Years' War ended. Even though the region and local villages witnessed both allies' and enemies' armies marching through, the Prusík estate was preserved. Back then whole villages often disappeared.

The son JAKUB was born in 1601. His wife was Anna. We only know that she was born around 1605 but we do not know where. She died in 1673. Jakub Prusík died in 1672. He had four children – three sons and one daughter. Anna was born in 1647 and married into the Kymel family in Bílov where she died in 1738. The sons were Matouš, Václav, and Martin. I will discuss them in more detail later. Jakub's brother, born a year after him, was Bartoloměj Prusík. He was born in 1602 in Sedlec to Václav Prusík and his life was not an easy one.

BARTOLOMĚJ founded the strong Polish branch of the Prusík family. He married the widow Anna Radimová at the age of 24 and moved to Dřevce near Kralovice. Their home was a beautiful farm estate of two láný. He was a devout protestant. When Emperor Ferdinand II issued a declaration stating that all his subjects are only allowed to be Catholic, Bartoloměj decided one autumn day to leave his home with his wife and thus he became our first emigrant. For 340 years we knew nothing of his fate. Only by coincidence, following a complicated investigation, we found his descendants in the state of New Jersey. They were emigrants from Poland and after following traces in Poland we found out that Bartoloměj Prusík ended up settling north-east of Warsaw, in Ostrówa Mazowiecka, where he founded a family and died in 1670 – the same year that Jan Amos Komenský died. It is truly strange that he should live so far from his home and not, let's say, in Saxony. Perhaps he had some knowledge about the Prusík name in those lands. Perhaps. No one can say for sure now.

It is certain that the roots of the Polish Prusík family branch originated from this place in northern Poland. Our Polish relatives had many occupa-

tions. They were farmers, manufacturers, manual workers, or office clerks, one of them was even a Graeco-Roman wrestler. None of them, however, has ever become as famous as some of our Czech or Austrian family members. Jakub Prusík's oldest son was Matouš Prusík, born in 1628. He married into the Rejček family in Bílov where he died in 1696, with no male offspring. He ended up with the nickname "Rejček", as it sometimes happens.

Jakub's second son was VÁCLAV Prusík, born in 1630. He became a blacksmith in Bílov. His wife Barbora died in Mladotice. They had no children. History, however, has recorded a brave act of his – even though it proved to be a fatal one. He was a defender of the rights of lesser people, unafraid of his superiors. This, however, was an unfortunate view to hold. During an argument with the holder of the Krašov castle, Norbert Miseroni, he was shot to death on the 11th of April 1673. If any member of our family wishes to see the face of the murderer, they can go see his childhood portrait by Karel Škréta from 1653 named "Portrait of the Gem Cutter Miseroni and his Family" exhibited in the National Gallery in Hradčany, Prague.³

Jakub Prusík's third son was, as I have already mentioned, MARTIN Prusík. He was born in 1633 in Sedlec in the midst of the turmoil of the Thirty Years' War. His wife was Ludmila Burdová from Potvorov where she was born in 1656. She died in 1721 in Sedlec. Her husband Martin Prusík then died in 1723 at the age of ninety. Martin and Ludmila had one daughter and three sons. He took over the family estate at the age of forty, on the 23rd of February 1673.

I would like to bring my dear readers' attention to the fact that during my twelve-year long research I have only documented those members of our family who reached the age of ten. Had I included those who died younger than that the extent of this document would have been infinitely longer due to the high child mortality rate of those times and no one would learn anything useful from it.

The daughter of Martin and Ludmila, Kateřina, was born in 1664 and married into the Kymel family in Bílov. The eldest son was JAN Prusík. He was born in 1674 and died in 1732. His wife was Barbora Vlková from Bílov. Later he bought an estate called "Burdovský grunt" in Potvorov. There he had, among others, a son named Martin and a daughter named Dorota. MARTIN, married to Magdalena, died after being struck by a lightning in a field. His son JAN then took over the farm estate but died young, even though he was married. There were then no more male descendants and it was the youngest daughter Dorota, who inherited the property. She married

³More can be found here: http://db.skreta.cz/w/index.php?title=Podobizna_řezáče_drahokamů_Dionysia_Miseroniho_a_jeho_rodiny

Jakub Palát in 1748, and so the Prusík name was only present in that place for about 50 years.

Martin Prusík's second son was VÁCLAV Prusík, born in Sedlec in 1678. Around the year 1700 he left home and worked at a restaurant in Plasy. This was the first Prusík who lived in the resident municipality of the powerful Cistercian monastery. He was also the first Prusík to marry a German, Sabina Kirschgangová, born in 1678, who was the daughter of the monastery blacksmith. She died in 1752, many years after her husband Václav who passed away in the nearby Nebřeziny in 1728, at the age of 50. This is then the origin of some of the so-called German Prusík family members.

Václav Prusík and Sabina had many children in Plasy but only EUGENIUS Prusík reached adulthood. He was born in Plasy in 1714. He later became a successful builder and painter. It is known that he rebuilt the church of St Lawrence in Kožlany. His wife was Markéta Beránková, who was born in Plasy in 1720 and died in 1802. Eugenius, who was baptized with the name of the monastery's Bishop Evžen Tyl, the builder of the convent, died after a successful life in 1786 in Plasy. This was the time when the Plasy monastery was abolished by Emperor Josef II. His daughter Anna was born in 1749 and died at the age of fourteen. Only his son ADAM Prusík reached adulthood. Born in Plasy in 1765, he became a master mason like his father and settled in a village called Strážiště in 1788, near Mladotice. His wife was a German named Rosalie Lohwasserová from Velká Černá Hů, born in 1764.

Adam Prusík and Rosalie had four sons in Strážiště. Their other children died prematurely. They were Vojtěch, the founder of the Strážiště branch, Josef, who founded the Jihlava branch, and Jan, the founder of the branch of Kuchyně u Svatky. You will be able to read more about these branches later in the text. Václav, born in 1797, was a gamekeeper, never married and died at the age of thirty, in 1827. Adam died in 1835.

Besides Jan in Potvorov and Václav in Plasy, there was MARTIN Prusík, named after his father from whom he eventually inherited his property in Sedlec in 1713. He was born in 1680 and worked at the same estate where so many generations before him had seen both happiness and sorrow. Martin Prusík in Sedlec married Anna Slachová from Bílov, born in 1672. She died already in 1722. She and Martin had children, but his second wife, Anna Janečková from Sedlec, was childless. Three daughters and one son reached adulthood. Anna, born in 1704, married into the Masopust family in Bukovina, the second daughter Eva, born in 1718, married into the Hrdík family in Potvorov. The third one, Veronika, was born in 1720 and married into the Slach family in Bílov. The only son was named Adam. Martin Prusík died in 1737.

ADAM Prusík was born in Sedlec in 1715. He chose Barbora Benešová as his wife, born in 1715 in Trojany, back then a new village founded by the Plasy Bishop Trojer. Adam Prusík took over the family farm estate 10 years after his father's death, in 1747. Until that moment it had been his second mother Anna maintaining the estate. Adam died relatively young, at the age of 44. It might seem like an exaggeration but the average age of eleven generations of my ancestors was 69 for men and 60 for women. That is why Adam Prusík's death in 1759 seems rather untimely with regard to our family. Today it is women who live longer than men. In the past women often died as a result of giving birth to so many children and not receiving any care during birth. Adam and Barbora had five children.

Adam Prusík's daughter Klára, born in 1747, married into the Valenta family in Výrov, which is where Vojtěch Prusík later moved to and founded the strongest family branch. Then it was Kateřina, born in 1753 and married into the Bušek family in Bílov, and at last there was Barbora, born in 1756 and married into the family of Janeček in Hodyně. The oldest son was Blažej Prusík. Barbora married again after her husband Adam's rather premature death and she lived in Sedlec as Baborová until 1796. She maintained the family estate until 1776, which is when it was handed over to the first-born BLAŽEJ. He was born during the reign of Maria Theresa in 1742. He became the *rychtář* in the village. His estate was still the largest in Sedlec. His wife was Kateřina Sinkulová, born in 1743 in Babiná near Plasy. She died 11 years before her husband, in 1812. Blažej lived to the ripe age of 81 and died in 1823. They had three children who reached adulthood. Barbora was born in 1769 and married into the Kouba family in Bílov. Then there were Vojtěch, the founder of the Výrov branch, and Václav, who founded the Sedlec branch and took over the family property. I will mention more details about them in later chapters dedicated to the development of the family branches.

Adam Prusík's second son was MARTIN Prusík. Born in 1745, he left home relatively early. Since he already had relatives in Plasy, he studied to become a builder like Eugenius Prusík. He became a successful one, and also a talented painter and graphic artist. His specialty were churches, one of his works was the church of St Clement in Chlumčany near Louny. His engraving work can be seen in the district museum in Mariánský Týnec and the painting depicting Plasy from 1802 is stored at a museum in Pilsen. He also built a part of Plasy.

Martin Prusík's wife was Kateřina Kapláňková, born in 1748 in Radnice. She died in Plasy as a respected housewife in 1835. Her husband, a renowned builder and respected citizen of Plasy, had already been gone for 13 years – he died in 1822. Martin and Kateřina had five adult children. Alžběta, born in 1780, married a coachman named Kabát in Plasy. Barbora died

unmarried as a beggar in 1865. What a strange fate. The oldest son was František who later founded the Nebřeziny family branch, and Antonín, the founder of the Plasy branch.

The following chapters will focus on each of the family branches. Besides the largest, Polish branch, they include: Výrov, Sedlec, Červená Řečice, Nebřeziny, Plasy, Stražiště, Jihlava and Kuchyně u Svatky. This means there are eight branches in total, nine if we count the Polish one.

At the time of writing this text there were 128 people with the name of Prusík, or Prusíková, these include girls and unmarried women with the name Prusíková, or wives and widows of men named Prusík.

In 1515, when the village of Sedlec was owned by Jetřich Bezdrůžický from Kolovraty, our members only lived in Bohemia. Later in 1651, according to a registry of subjects by faith⁴, which I went through in each of our regions, our name was still only in Sedlec – it was Jakub Prusík at the time. However, by that time Prusík family members already lived in Poland – specifically, Bartoloměj Prusík and his children. Today there are Prusík descendants in around 400 places around the world. Our name, however, is not very frequent. At the time of writing this text, in 1970, there were only 55 in our republic and the rest was abroad. In total there are around 150 people named Prusík around the world.

This means that only a minority lives in our country, with a significant number in Poland. This is also evidenced by the purely Slavic origin of our family. Today descendants of both male and female lines live not only in these two countries, but also in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, countries of former Yugoslavia, Sweden, and elsewhere, especially in former Soviet countries, Asia and maybe even other places – but these only include people with different names. In the east, wars and other history-changing events, forced emigration etc. caused people to blend in with others, and their fates have not always been easy.

Each family branch here is named after the place where its founder lived the longest and where they died. Only two branch founders, Vojtěch and Václav Prusík were born in our original home in Sedlec. The other six were already born in Plasy and Stražiště near Plasy. This overview still mentions their descendants in the third generation, therefore twelve generations in total are covered. To be able to introduce you to all descendants in other branches, going all the way to the sixteenth generation and further, it will be necessary to republish the whole, very extensive book. At the time of

⁴A. PAZDEROVÁ (ed.): *Soupis poddaných podle víry z roku 1651*. Rakovnícko, Praha: SÚA, 1996.

writing this text that was not possible due to the printing situation. The book “The History of the Prusík Family from the year 1515” is, however, ready to be printed, including numerous valuable pictures.

In Poland there were about 50 Prusík family members when this text was being written, but their children, again, already often live in countries even further away like the USA. They mostly inhabit northern Poland, areas near the town of Ostrówa Maziwickiego where Bartoloměj Prusík settled in 1630. However, people of Prusík heritage also live in Katowice, Wrocław, Szczecin, Kołobrzeg, or even Łódź and other places. The highest number of people named Prusík living in one place can be found in Żelazna, in the Warsaw voivodship. Details about the Polish Prusík family would require a book twice as thick as this one, we shall therefore only focus on our eight family branches derived from Sedlice, omitting the one whose numbers today almost form a separate division of our family despite being of the same origin as the other branches.

3

The branches of our family

3.1 “VÝROV” Branch

The strongest branch was founded by VOJTĚCH Prusík. He was born in 1777 in Sedlec and as the eldest son of Blažej Prusík he married into a family in Výrov u Kralovic. His wife was Anna, née Fenclová, living in house no. 18. Opposite the house, next to a creek, stands a small chapel dedicated to St Adalbert, bearing the name of our ancestor, and if it is properly maintained it will continue to remind future generations of our family. It was built thanks to Prusík brothers in 1902. Anna Fenclová was a descendent of the Bouda family, as they were called for more than 300 years. The Bouda family settled in the area in 1610. Anna was born in 1785 and died in 1859. Her husband Vojtěch died in 1841. He was the rychtář, and a popular citizen among the inhabitants – so it is not always true that during the times of corvée the rychtář was always unpopular and demanding. On Saturdays he would however have to ride his horse to Plasy to receive instructions from “Mr. Director”. Just like his ancestors from Sedlec who worked as rychtáři, he would have to meet his superiors, either the Gryspek family at the Kaceřov castle or he would go to the Cistercian monastery in Plasy. It was not always a pleasant experience, whether he was meeting with the Abbot or Prince Metternich.

Behind the village of Výrov, a small iron cross can be found. It was installed there by a Prusík and perhaps this piece will remind future generations of our family, whether in good or bad times.

To illustrate the extent of the family, the branches, lines, and in general of how quickly a nation and mankind can grow I will state that the Výrov branch resulted in 1600 both alive and dead descendants in just 165 years of existence from 1805 to 1970 – all descended from a single person. And this does not even include children who died before reaching the age of 10, which would significantly increase this number. These descendants came from both

male and female lines. It is understandable then that this overview will not be able to include more than twelve generations, starting from the year 1515.

This publication mentions about 500 people, out of whom about 60 were still alive at the time of writing this text. If we take into account the sixteenth generation alive at the time, the number would rise to 4000 people, which means there were 3500 family members missing from this publication. Information about these members, however, will be easy to find since they are people from the present or the not so distant past. In any case, those who are small children today will certainly be eager to learn something about their ancestors and the family that one of their parents came from. Even in this age and time, learning is valuable. And the past is still the best teacher there is.

Let us return to the strongest family branch of Výrov. Its founder Vojtěch Prusík had eight children with his wife Anna. The daughters were Anna, Rosalie, Marie, and Veronika; the sons were Blažej, Tomáš, Matěj, and Václav. All children were born between 1805 and 1826. Only BLAŽEJ Prusík did not found a family line of his own for he became a priest. He has, however, contributed greatly to the well-being of the whole branch, and since long he has been called the good heart of the family. Blažej was born in 1810 and was appointed a priest in 1837, his first town to serve in was Dobříš.¹ From there he moved on to the St Nicholas Church in Malá Strana, Prague, and later he settled in the St Vitus chapter in the Castle District in Prague. He spent many years living in the Vikářská Street. He became a vicar, a master of ceremonies, and the confessor of the Institute of Noblewomen. Out of the eight vicars at St Vitus at the time he was the only Czech. He was a humble person. He accommodated eight of his nephews who either just lived there, studied there, or simply looked for a better life. He also advised his siblings on ways to maintain their farms more effectively. He would send them fruit trees or new, modern farming equipment – he was simply one of the kindest and most altruistic people of the whole family branch. He had a better perspective on progress from Prague than his siblings had from a small Czech village. He died in 1888 and is buried at the St Margaret cemetery in Břevnov. He deserves to be remembered with gratitude and fondness.

Now I shall describe the development of the branch, how the sons and daughters married, moved away from their homes, and founded family lines of their own.

¹Here he worked from 1837 to 1841.

3.1.1 Horní Bříza I Line

Anna Prusíková founded this line. Born in 1805, she married a young widower named Jakub Štěpánek in Horní Bříza in 1822. They lived in a house called “U Kubíků”, one of the largest estates in the village. Anna Štěpánková had six children and died in 1883. One of Jakub Štěpánek’s ancestors was the miller Štěpánek in Manětín who became known as a great supporter of the Protestant faith and a rebel during the times after the Battle of the White Mountain. Anna’s son Antonín and daughter Anna died young. The second son, named Antonín as well, never married. Marie married as Dobrá in 1843 into Lhotka u Ledců. There she had three children. Her son and heir Matěj Dobrý died unmarried while the daughter Marie married a farmer named J. Dobrý who lived in a different house in the same village. One of her descendants, Matěj, later became the first Czech specialized doctor in Pilsen, western Bohemia. It was the third child, Václav Dobrý, who inherited the estate. He abandoned his studies to take care of the family estate after his brother’s untimely death.

The son Josef Štěpánek, another farmer in Horní Bříza, had the following children: Kateřina, married as Manclová in her home village, Marie, married as Urbanová in the same place, Anna, married as Manclová in what was back then called Německá Bříza, and Josefa, who never married. The son Josef maintained a different farm estate, located at no. 2, Antonín was an estate manager and died in Roudnice, and finally it was Jan who inherited the family property, even though it was taken from his son. One of Jan’s granddaughters lives in Melbourne, Australia.

The daughter Barbora was married as Kabátová in Žílov and had four children. Her son Matěj took over the farm estate at home, her second son became a railroad office worker in southern Bohemia and then in the central in Pilsen. His children had unfortunate fates. His daughter Marie married into the Švígler family in Lhotka, where her aunt Marie Dobrá had already been living. The youngest Anna married J. Ebrle in Třemošná u Plzně.

3.1.2 Horní Bříza II. Line

This line was founded by Rosalie Prusíková, born in Výrov in 1807. In 1826 she married a farm estate owner named Vojtěch Kareza in Horní Bříza. It was an immense estate back then and today the buildings bear numbers 3 and 71.² Rosalie Karezová died at the young age of 44 in 1851. She had 4 children who reached adulthood.

²The exact former or current location of the buildings can be looked up in the historical registry here: http://archivnimapy.cuzk.cz/cio/data/main/cio_query_01.html?mapno_cm=c2021-1

Antonín Karez himself had three sons. The eldest, Josef, was a very good pupil with a talent for studying but his plans unfortunately failed. He did not inherit the estate and later he became a brewery and Pilsen municipality employee. He had many children. The second son was Václav, and the third one Antonín, who both took care of their farming estates in Horní Bříza. The name has since disappeared from houses no. 3 and 71.

Next there was Josef Karez. He worked at no. 3, the original farm estate into which his mother moved from Výrov. He had seven children. Josefa, an energetic woman, was married as Švábová in the village. Josef married into the family living in house no. 32 and was the mayor for a long time. Václav maintained the estate at no. 17, and Antonín became a teacher in the Mělník area where he eventually died. Jakub worked for the railroad in the Slaný area but both he and his family died at a young age. Barbora never married. The youngest, František Karez, was a railway office clerk in southern Bohemia where he also died. One of his granddaughters became a successful opera singer in the South Bohemian Theatre in České Budějovice³ and his grandson was an excellent ophthalmologist.

The third child was Jan Karez. He married into the village of Nynice where he managed a farm estate. He spent his final years in Starý Plzenec and in Pilsen. He had the following children: Vojtěch Kares (as his name ended up being spelled) owned a farm estate in Starý Plzenec. František died during World War I, Josef Kares was a post office worker and his descendant was a professor at the Faculty of Transport in Žilina. Václav was an office worker at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, and Marie was married as Beringerová in Pilsen.

Rosalie's last child was Marie. She married a farm estate owner named Vojtěch Mašek in Třemošná. Nine of her children reached adulthood. Her son Josef Mašek took over the family farm. Václav also lived in Třemošná. František was a baker and a renowned bagpipe player. Marie, married as Kimmelová in Ondřejov u Plas, died young. Antonín was an office clerk in Pilsen. Jakub was an excellent baker in Pilsen. Josefa was married as Harmáčková in Pilsen. Martin settled in Horní Bříza and Anna, married as Ehegartnerová (Zahradníková) lived in Pilsen.

Just like Anna Štěpánková, Rosalie Karezová has left us with an extraordinary number of descendants – more than 700 both living and dead.

³Jindra Karezová had over 25 roles as a solo singer of the opera of Southern Bohemia from 1962 to 1972.

3.1.3 Horní Bříza III Line

Tomáš Prusík is the creator of this line. He was born in 1812 in Výrov and in 1835 he married and moved to Horní Bříza, where two of his sisters had already been living. His wife was Kateřina Beránková. He was the longest living of his siblings since he died in 1897. At the time of writing this text, his house no. 26 was still occupied by his descendant, the last of his name in this family line. Tomáš Prusík had nine children.

The oldest was Jan. He was a professor of philology in Česká Lípa, Třeboň, and even Suczawa in Bukovina, but eventually he left for Russia. Unfortunately that is where he drowned at the age of 35 in the river Volga. His son Josef lived in poverty in Pilsen.

The second child was Marie, married as Krausová in Nevřeň, in house no. 48. Her children were: Anna Majerová in Kokořov, Václav, Jan, and Josef Kraus who were all unmarried. It was the daughter Marie who inherited the family estate, a great source of memories of her ancestors and the old times.

Next there was Anna, who also married into the Kraus family in Nevřeň. She, however, died at the age of 40. She had the following children: Jan who took over the family estate, Anna, married as Zetková in Pilsen, Eva, married as Martínková in Příšov, and Marie, married as Täglová in Pilsen. One of her descendants became an excellent doctor and represented our republic in the World Health Organisation in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Tomáš Prusík was the second one in the Výrov branch to become a priest. He worked in Úžice, near Uhlířské Janovice, then in Vrcholtovice, near Votice, and ended up in Dolní Břežany, in the archbishop seat near Zbraslav, where he was the confessor of the Prague Archbishop and Cardinal Lev Skrbenský.

The daughter Kateřina was married as Scheibergová in Pilsen. She had four children – daughter Anna, who was married as Slavíková, son Matěj, who became a successful architect in Prague, daughter Alžběta who was married as Waidlichová and Fahnerová in Pilsen, and son Bohumil who worked for the railroad in Pilsen where he also lived.

Josefa never married but had a son named Václav who was a carpenter in Prague.

Václav Prusík, Josefa's brother, never married either.

Blažej Prusík inherited the family estate but too soon both he and his wife died. He was survived by five daughters – orphans. Marie, later married as Sinkulová in Výrov, Anna Šefčíková who lived in Pilsen, Výrov, and finally in Liberec, Josefa married as Lomíčková and later as Benešová in Kopidlo u

Kralovic. Eliška, who later in life married a Prague Ursuline church manager named Souček, and the youngest, Božena, who never married.

The last child of Tomáš Prusík and Kateřina in Horní Bříza was Josef. After his brother Blažej died he took over the family farm estate even though he already had a smaller estate to care for in Horní Bříza. He had two children. His son Ladislav later took over the family estate and Alžběta was married as Mádrová in Bučí where her husband had a farm and a restaurant.

3.1.4 Výrov I Line

Marie Prusíková founded this line. Born in 1815, she married a farm owner named Josef Štefl in 1833 and moved to house no. 6 in her birth village. She had two children who reached adulthood. Her son Josef Štefl inherited the farm estate and had four children of his own. The first one was František who never married, then there was Josefa who married into the Urban family in Výrov whose home was called “U Půtů”. She had the most children out of her siblings and died shortly before the country gained freedom in 1918. Marie also married into Výrov as Slámová.

The second child of Marie Štefllová, née Prusíková, was Marie. She was married as Soukupová in Potvorov and had three children. Josef stayed at the family estate but there are no more traces of it in Potvorov nowadays and the descendants live in Trojany, Hrádeček, and elsewhere. Josefa was married as Romová in Chraštovice. The third child was František who settled at a restaurant in Žilov and after losing everything he spent his final years in Pilsen.

The relationship with the Štefl family has always been very friendly, perhaps also because of the fact that their grandmother lived in Výrov where she was born.

3.1.5 Hodyně Line

The third son of rychtář Vojtěch Prusík was Matěj, who was born in 1818 and became the founder of this line. In 1843 he settled in Hodyně u Kralovic in no. 17. His wife was Anna Fakanová who died very early. Matěj died in 1900 as the last of his siblings. Their house used to be called “U Laibů”. Five of his children reached adulthood.

The oldest one was Vojtěch who took over the family farm. He also was the mayor of the village. He had seven children – Františka, married as Hanzlíčková in her home village, Václav who became a train operator and lived most of his life in Pilsen. One of his grandsons is one of our newer emigrants and lived in New York. Anežka married as Kasalová and lived

in Pilsen, Krušovice, and died in Prague at a young age. Josef worked at the railroad in Klatovy where he was arrested during World War II and never came back from the prison in Golnow, near Štětín.⁴ František Prusík owned a drug store and also worked for many years for the self-government in Smíchov, Prague. Next there was Vojtěch who worked at a new, larger farm estate in Hodyně. The youngest, Marie, married as Vodáková, lived in Čivice and Kožlany, and later married as Bílková and lived in Prague.

Matěj’s second son was Josef. He was born at his family’s house but in 1869, at the young age of 20, he left for the USA and worked as a farmer. He had three children. His son Adolf worked in a paper mill and died at the age of 88, his daughter Emma was married as Boehlerová in Milwaukee, and his second daughter Kateřina married as Radtkeová in Wisconsin. There are about 70 descendants of Josef.

Matěj’s third son was Václav Prusík. He moved to Kozojedy, house no. 35, in 1889 where he maintained a farm estate and lived to the age of 90. He had three children. Marie was married as Šustová in Prague, Václav took over the family estate and was the mayor, and Jaroslav married and moved to Bujesily, near Liblín.

František Prusík was the fourth child and became a warehouse worker at a sugar factory in Louny. His son Josef then worked at a savings bank and was also a hunting enthusiasts.

The last child, Jan Prusík, was a customs officer and spent most of his life at the border in Královec, near Žacléř. He only had one son, Karel, who was a technical clerk in Pilsen and later in Prague.

3.1.6 Výrov II Line

Václav Prusík became the founder of the best-known family line. This line features the largest number of famous members of the whole Prusík family. Václav Prusík was born in 1822 and married Josefa Kotasová from Kozojedy. Josefa’s sister Kateřina, married as Plačková, moved to the USA where one of her sons, Emil, became an exceptional businessman and politician in Nebraska.⁵ Václav Prusík took over the family farm estate in Výrov in 1843. He became the first elected mayor in the village. He maintained the family chronicle, which his son and heir of the estate Vojtěch later continued writing. Václav was a member of the local district committee in Kralovice and died in 1892. He was also the first one to mow wheat using a scythe

⁴Remembered by a commemoration plaque in the Kralovice train station building.

⁵The following publication about the career of Emil Plaček can be purchased online here: <http://www.amazon.com/Corporation-Petitioner-Nebraska-Supporting-Pleadings/dp/1270380168>, more about him at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nesaunde/1983hist/saco83-p482.html>

following the advice of his brother Blažej, a vicar. He had eleven children and not a whole lot of free time. Despite that and the estate being the largest in the village, their garden was still the only beautiful one.

The oldest son of his was Blažej. He became a philology professor and spent most of his years in Klatovy where he was also publicly active. During his years at the gymnázium³ in Klatovy he raised several students who went on to become great figures of their time like the poet Jaroslav Vrchlický or the famous Czech doctor, prof. Thomayer, and others. He had two children. His son Bohumil was perhaps the best known doctor of our entire family.⁶ He later became a professor at the Charles University, the Head of a clinic, and was considered by the professional sphere to be the last classic representative of Czech internal medicine. He undoubtedly helped the field of medicine advance by an entire generation. Blažej brought the first electrocardiograph to our country and for a long time was the first and only doctor to work with it. He even was able to recognize myocardial infarction in a live patient, which might seem quite unbelievable to today's doctors. He was the founder of Czech angiology and one of the co-founders of Czech cardiology. His many discoveries led to an invitation from Stockholm to become a Nobel Prize candidate. The war however put an end to any further action. He became a member of the Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences but perhaps his reputation in his field of expertise was even greater abroad. The main building in Konstantinovy Lázně is named after him to honour his memory⁷.

Blažej's daughter Blažena never married, became an office clerk and lived in Prague.

The second son of Václav Prusík was František Xaver⁸. He also became a philology professor in Příbram, Roudnice, and Prague. Like his brother Blažej, he started in Pilsen. He founded the Roudnice gymnázium and was successful at the Akademické gymnasium in Prague. He also founded the first girls' school in Central Europe along with Eliška Krásnohorská called Minerva and was its first principal. F. X. Prusík was one of our best Slavists, he defended the Manuscripts of Dvůr Králové and of Zelená Hora, and became the founder and first president of the Unity of Czech Philologists. His achievements led to being nominated for membership in the Royal Bohemian

⁶His commemoration plaque is located at the town square in Klatovy. More about him here: <http://abicko.avcr.cz/archiv/2006/5/07/>

⁷Namely the spa house Prusík. More about him on the spa website here: http://www.spa.cz/konstantinovy-lazne/lazensky-dum-prusik/?gclid=CMSq9_S4zMkCFYWfGwodFWMEew

⁸More on this family member can be found at the National Museum library website: <http://opac.nm.cz/authorities/33315;jsessionid=5A725044C68C6A1F2F5D10907C0F4A87>

Society of Sciences and he also received several awards from abroad. He had three children. His son Bořivoj Prusík got a PhD in philosophy, became a library manager, and in 1919 he became the vice-director of the University Library in Prague⁹. He was a teacher in the newly founded Vinohrady theatre and even worked as its literary manager for a short time. František Xaver also organized our diplomacy service in the USA after World War I. His main achievements, though, lie in translation. He introduced many excellent foreign authors and masterpieces to our country, such as *The Pickwick Club* by Dickens, *The Philistines* by Gorky, *The Peasants* by Reymont, *Buddenbrooks* by Mann, or *Anna Karenina* by Tolstoy. Special recognition should be given for the fact that with the help of Vendelín Budil and Jaroslav Kvapil he helped introduce the main works of A. P. Chekhov to Czech theatre stages. A great friend of his, he was the first to translate his theatre plays. They included *Three Sisters*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Seagull*, and *Uncle Vanya*. A portrait of Bořivoj Prusík is hung up at the A. P. Chekhov museum in Yalta, Crimea.

F. X. Prusík's first daughter was Ludmila. She was married as Schmatová and then Prokopová, living at Špičák in Šumava. His second daughter Olga was married as Schlindenbuchová and spent most of her life in Jičín. Descendants of these two daughters now live not only in our country but also in Germany or even the far-away Perth, Australia, on the coast of the Indian Ocean.

The first daughter of Václav Prusík was Josefa. She married at the age of 17 and moved to the Urbánek family in Lednice. She had seven children who reached adulthood. Marie was married as Řezáčová in her birth village, Anna married into the Soukup family in Řemešín, František Urbánek took care of the family estate and was the mayor for many years. He lived to the age of 90. His brother Josef settled in Kožlany, Kristina was married as Zikmundová in Mladotice. Josefa was married as Soprová in Vroutek and the youngest child, Anežka, married into the Krýsl family in Kočín. Out of Václav Prusík's children it was Josefa who had the most children and subsequently descendants.

The son Václav never married. He worked in the offices of the Prague municipality.

Vojtěch Prusík, another son, took over the family farm. He was a Výrov mayor and the governor of the Kralovice district as well. He was the founder of the local branch of the agrarian party and a pioneer in the use of modern farming technologies. He was the first local to own several modern farming

⁹More on this family member and library manager of the university library can be found here: <http://www.databazeknih.cz/autori/borivoj-prusik-19193>

machines. He had four children. His son Blažej became a doctor and worked for 40 years in Dobříš. Anna married a German farmer named A. Meixner in Kolečovice. The third child was Václav who worked a farm in Přehořov after the family estate in Výrov was sold in 1912, later he maintained farms in Milostín and in Bitozeves, near Postoloprty. He too recognized the importance of mechanization of agriculture. The daughter Josefa died at a young age. Next there was Anna, married as Švarcová, and the youngest was Růžena Hergetová in Pilsen.

Veronika married as Valentová in Výrov, the village where her husband's family has been farming for centuries. She had many children but only three of them reached adulthood. The oldest was Vojtěch who married into the Bláha family in the village. Josef stayed at home to take care of the estate and Božena married the farmer Ladislav Prusík, a member of the Horní Bříza line.

Josef Prusík was a successful customs officer. He translated the complicated German customs code into Czech and was the first to hold lectures on customs at the new business university in Prague. Later he worked an office job for the statistics office. He wrote a booklet on the Výrov family branch in 1938. He had two sons – Vladimír became a clerk of the municipal savings bank in Prague and dedicated much of his time to gardening associations, especially in the Prague West region and Dobřichovice, his other place of residency. Jaromír Prusík was a journalist in both specialized and daily papers of the Republican Party in Prague, and later became an office clerk and eventually a manual worker for the ČKD (Českomoravská Kolben-Daněk company).

Barbora married as Walterová in Klatovy and the youngest child, Antonín Prusík, worked as a financial security guard and after a bitter love affair he became a master chimney sweeper in Příbram. Out of the siblings he was the first to die and left no children.

3.1.7 Kostelec nad Mží Line

The founder of the smallest line of the Výrov branch was Veronika, the daughter and last child of rychtář Vojtěch Prusík. Born in 1826, she married the farmer Josef Hořejš in 1846 and lived in Kostelec nad Mží in no. 7. After her husband's early death she got married again, to Jan Folk. Veronika Folková died in 1865, shortly before she reached the age of 40. She had a daughter named Josefa, married as Výšková in Nadryby. There she had her only child, a son named Josef. He spent his life in Nadryby maintaining his parents' farm. He lived the longest life of all family members named in this book, dying at the age of almost 95 years. Veronika's second marriage brought her a son named Jan. He then took over the family estate and had

seven children. František settled in the nearby village of Nadryby, Antonín inherited the family farm and was the mayor for some time, Marie married a blacksmith named Jankovský in the village but died early, Josefa was married as Kroftová in Pilsen with her son Bohumil Folk living there as well, Václav lived in Dýšina, Josef in Nadryby and the youngest child Jan died along with his family during a bombing of Prague in February 1945. Veronika's second son was Josef. He married and moved to Bušovice near Rokycany where he had a farm estate and three children. Vojtěch Folk, his oldest son, stayed at the farm, Marie was married as Jílková but died soon after her son was born, and Josef shot himself because of an unhappy romance.

This line has kept silent for many years, partially perhaps because of the fact that its founder Veronika died so young and so long ago. Nowadays however it is alive again with descendants claiming their family heritage. Indeed, there are many members of our family who despite having had a different name for six or more generations still consider themselves to be a part of the Prusík family both by right and by blood.

3.2 "SEDLEC" Branch

Václav Prusík was the founder of the second strongest family branch. Born in 1786 under the reign of Emperor Joseph II, he married Rosalie Fenclová from Výrov at the young age of seventeen. His brother Vojtěch's wife also came from Výrov – they were sisters. Rosalie was born in 1788 and she was fifteen at the time of marrying Václav, making them both very young spouses. The reason for such an early wedding were the serious times of Napoleonic wars and fear of military draft. However, Václav only took over the family property in 1808. Rosalie Prusíková died in Sedlec in 1871. Her husband Václav had already died in 1845. Václav Prusík was the rychtář of the village. He had six children and the most important facts about their lives will now follow. They were Vojtěch, Tomáš, František, Kateřina, Barbora, and Marie. Two of them had no descendants. Marie died at the age of ten and Barbora, married as Levá in Sedlec, remained childless. She handed her property over to her nephew Martin Koukl, so that it would not fall into the hands of someone outside the family. But now let us return to the children, who themselves gave birth to family lines both strong and weak.

3.2.1 Chrašťovice Line

It was the eldest son of Václav Prusík, Vojtěch, who founded this family line. He was born in 1810. In 1839 he bought the estate called "U Šliků" in

Chrašřovice and started working it with his wife Barbora, née Kozová, from Potvorov. He had four children and died in 1882.

The first child was Vojřech. He would have been the heir to the property had he not died young and unmarried. The next was Václav, a successful farm owner with five children. His first one was another Václav but died young. His oldest son settled in Florida after a wild life. The second son Josef, although belonging to the thirteenth generation, generally omitted in this text, was enjoying his retirement in Kralovice at the time of writing this text and was the oldest Prusík in our republic. Next, Václav Prusík, the founder's son, had František who also owned a farm in the village and was a great expert on horses. The daughter Barbora was married as Šmidlová to a restaurant owner in Mladotice. A selfless woman, she also took in her young orphaned nephews. Josef moved to the USA before World War I and became a successful merchant in Chicago. The last one was Jan Prusík, who never married and lived in Prague.

The third child of Vojřech Prusík and Barbora in Chrašřovice was Jan. He managed a farm estate in Újezd u Manětína and worked with horses, which was a great passion of the Chrašřovice family line. He lost his wealth, however, and the estate wasted away. He had six children whose lives were greatly influenced by this misfortune. There was Anna, married as Pešířková, who lived most of her life in Pilsen. The sons Václav and František died unmarried and Josefa was married as Pešířřková in Kopisty but died soon afterwards.

The last daughter of Vojřech Prusík was Marie. In 1861, she married Václav Koza, a farm owner in Potvorov. She died quite young. She had seven children, all of whom reached adulthood. Her son Josef continued managing the farm at home. Václav, a former mayor of the village (as well as one of his sons), and František Koza also had their own farming estate, as well as a restaurant in Potvorov. Jan emigrated to the USA in 1907 and became very wealthy in Iowa City. One of his descendants was a successful doctor at a university clinic in Minneapolis. Barbova Kozová had an illegitimate daughter from whom there were many descendants. Her sister Marie was married as Rozmarová in Potvorov, and Františka followed her brother Jan to the USA following an unhappy romance, and was married as Vitoušřová.

3.2.2 Bílov Line

This line was founded by Kateřina Prusířřková, married as Kouřřlová. Born in 1812, she was the second child of ryřřhtář Václav Prusík and Rosalie from Sedlec. In 1832 she married a farmer named František Kouřřl and moved to Bílov. This estate had already seen two women from the Prusík family from Sedlec. Kateřina died in 1871. The Kouřřl family was known for its

religiousness and several of its members became priests. Kateřina Kouklová had four children. The oldest, Josef, inherited the estate. His wife was Marie Prusíková from Výrov with whom he had four sons. Mikuláš was a priest in Stříbro and in Prague. František managed the family farm estate. Blažej became a philology professor in Moravia and after a long career he died in Brno. He compiled a long genealogy of the Koukl family and also wrote down the history of his home village. The last one, Josef, was an agriculture engineer and spent several years working on large farm estates in Russia. After the World War he worked in Prague and ended up managing the family farm in Bílov. Blažej was the only one to have children, one of whom became a priest as well.

The second child of Kateřina was Václav¹⁰. He became a priest and for a long time worked as a dean in Spálené Poříčí. He served the God for 62 years and lived to a very old age. His former chaplain and later a famous writer from the region called Chodsko, Jindřich Šimon Baar, was known to say about Václav that he was a gem among Czech priests.

Kateřina Kouklová's third son in Bílov was Martin. From his aunt Barbora Levá in Sedlec, née Prusíková, he inherited a farm estate that he managed. He had eleven children but only six reached adulthood. The oldest was Josef who became a merchant in Potvorov and had many children of his own. Then there was Marie, married as Julusová in Sedlec, no.14 – the building located directly across from the house from which our family originated. Anna was married as Hánová in Babina but died soon afterwards, and Josefa was married as Jánská in Potvorov. She had numerous children and out of her siblings was the last one to die. František Koukl then took over his father's farm estate in Sedlec, called "U Statků", and the last one was Augustin Koukl. He spend a long time in Russia and upon returning he worked in Kožlany.

Kateřina Kouklová from Bílov, née Prusíková and born in Sedlec, had also a daughter named Rosalie besides her sons Josef, Václav, and Martin. Rosalie was born in 1854 in Bílov. She married Josef Koza in 1872 in Potvorov. She was a very religious woman with extraordinary memory. She was in fact the true family historian, remembering all the events that happened in Potvorov. She died in 1931. She had five sons and two daughters, many of whom became very wealthy and some of whom became very poor or even died, as the war era came and went. And so fortune alternated with misfortune in this family in a quick succession. The oldest was Marie, married into the Urban family in her birth village. The son Josef gathered wealth quickly, only to lose it all. He owned a large estate named Pohvizdy near Žihle. Then there was František Koza who married into the family

¹⁰Václav Koukl served in Spálené Poříčí from 1893 to 1928.

living at no.1 in Bukovina. The house was called “U Masopustů” and in the first half of the 18th century Anna Prusíková from Sedlec had already joined the household by marriage. Rosalie’s next son was Václav Koza who later managed the family farm estate. The sons Antonín and Pavel died in World War I. The second daughter, named Rosalie after her mother, married into the Vopat family in Řemešín.

3.2.3 Šípy Line

The founder of this Sedlec family line was Tomáš Prusík, born in Sedlec in 1822. In 1852 he and his wife from Potvorov, née Šimandlová, a household in Šípy u Čisté. He died there at the young age of forty. He had four daughters. Their descendants live not only in our republic but around all the continents, with the exception of Asia. None of the other family lines features such diversity.

The oldest daughter was Barbora. She was married as Slabá in her family household. She had six children. Antonie was married as Herinková in Zavidov, Anna was married as Koutecká in Žatec. Marie Makovská and Františka Makovská moved to the USA – to the states of Montana and Washington. Nowadays their descendants live in California and elsewhere. Then there was Anežka, married as Koudelová in Vsesulov. The only son, Antonín, maintained a farm estate in his home village of Šípy, and also was the mayor there.

The second child, Marie, was married as Zikmundová in Pavlíkov u Rakovníka. She had four children. Marie remained unmarried, Josef died after being captured in Serbia during World War I. František Zikmund worked at the family estate and Žofie was married as Ryvolová in Senomaty, near Rakovník.

The next daughter was Anna. She was married as Fryčová and lived in Bělbožice and later in Břežany. She had two children. Her son Josef Fryč managed the family farm estate but died during World War I. Her daughter Anna married into the Korba family in Čistá.

Josefa had the most interesting life of them. After her father Tomáš Prusík’s untimely death in 1862 she would not have the luxury to stay at home in Šípy for long. She was assigned to work in the Most region where her son Edwin was born. He inherited the name Prusík from her and lived in Žatec for a time. After the 1946 expulsion of Germans he lived in Köthen in the German Anhalt region, and later in Nürnberg, in the USA, and elsewhere. Josefa then married a miner named Karel Guba in the Most area and had six children. They were Emilie Villayniová in Budapest, whose descendants live in the US and Sweden, Marie Mailonová in the Most area

and later in Germany, Irena Körnerová in Chomutov whose descendants live in Germany, Australia, and even Africa, Anna Salzerová in the Most area, Karel Guba whose descendants can be also found in Germany, and at last, Emma Enzmannová in the German town of Bamberg.

The descendants of Josefa Prusíková, married as Gubová, have become completely denationalized, even though she herself had never learned another language besides Czech. All her descendants are however aware of their Czech heritage.

3.2.4 Sedlec Line

František Prusík founded this line. Born in 1825 in Sedlec, he took over his father's farm estate. His wife was Barbora Fronková from Chrašovice. They only had one child, Marie. František Prusík was the last person to work at the farm estate in our home village, Sedlec. He died of pneumonia in 1846, at a young age. His wife then married two more times, the first time it was F. Pittner and then A. Urban. The Urban family managed the estate until 1952 which is when they were evicted for being "kulaks". It is a good thing that our ancestors avoided witnessing this humiliation.

František's daughter Marie lived in Sedlec until she married Vojtěch Čech in 1867. He was a mayor of Chrašovice, and so our name disappeared from our place of origin. Just like our first ancestor Vojtěch Prusík, Marie has also become an important historical figure by ending our Sedlec era after 352 years. Nevertheless, there are still other family members with different names living in the village.

Marie Čechová, née Prusíková, then moved from Chrašovice to Rokycany and spent her final years with her daughter Anna in Vinohrady, Prague. She had eight children. Her son Josef Čech was a restaurant and hotel businessman and his descendants live not only in our country but also in countries of former Yugoslavia, Germany, and the USA. Then there was Terezie, married as Kašpárková in Prague. Bohumil Čech was a finance clerk, Stanislav died during World War I, and Vojtěch died at a young age.

This concludes a short chapter regarding the second strongest family branch, with 600 members both living and dead. That is a significant number that unfortunately cannot be fully described in this booklet.

3.3 “ČERVENÁ ŘEČICE” branch

František Prusík was the founder of this branch, now extinct¹¹. He was born in 1789 in Plasy to a builder named Martin Prusík. His wife was Josefa Gütterová, born in 1796 in Nebřeziny. She died in 1837. František Prusík was a master bricklayer. He was the first to discover coal in Kaznějov in 1819, which led to the boom of the local industrial development. The discoverer himself however had no profit from his finding. He later worked as a builder in the archbishop seat in Červená Řečice u Pelhřimova where he died soon afterwards, in 1838. He had two children.

The daughter, Klára, was born in Nebřeziny in 1821 and died already in 1832.

The son, Emanuel Prusík, was born in Nebřeziny in 1824 and spent many years working as tailor in the Malá Strana (Lesser Town) and Hradčany (Castle District) in Prague. He was the main clothing supplier for the consistory. His wife was Františka Pošmourná from Olešná, near Rakovníka. Emanuel Prusík died in 1895. Only one child survived him, his daughter Anna, married as Fraňková. She lived in Prague, died childless in 1897, and so the weakest branch of our family died with her.

3.4 “NEBŘEZINY” branch

This family branch was founded by Josef Prusík. He was born in 1796, like his brothers František and Antonín. He was the son of builder Martin Prusík. In 1816 he married into a family in Nebřeziny and worked there as a shoemaker. His wife was Jana Říhová, born in 1795. She died in 1871. Josef Prusík was a frail old man when he witnessed the terrible flood of 26th May 1872 and just barely escaped death. Many buildings disappeared from Nebřeziny and 68 people from the village drowned. This disaster was one of the worst of its kind of that century. Josef Prusík died in 1875. He had ten children but only six of them reached adulthood.

The oldest was Marie, married as Žaloudková, born in 1818. She and her whole family drowned during the flood. Another daughter was Josefa, born in 1820, married name Křížová, but after she moved away from Nebřeziny no more traces of her could be found.

The son František, born in 1823, hiked across Europe and became a shoemaker in Plasy. He was married thrice. First to Marie Beránková,

¹¹A brief mention can be found here: <http://www.zdarbuh.cz/reviry/zud-reviry/uhelny-revir-v-tremosne-a-kaznejove/> Otherwise, relevant mining or national history museum can be recommended.

then to Marie Bradáčová, and last to Josefa Sillabová. He was a diligent chronicler. He had four children and died in Plasy in 1902.

František Prusík's first marriage did not produce any children that would reach adulthood. During his second marriage he had a daughter, Marie, married as Řeháková in Prague and childless, and Anna. Anna married a German, B. Huttner, in Vroutek, and had a daughter also named Anna who married a Richter in Ústí nad Labem and a son, Arnošt Hutter, who lived in Žatec. The descendants of both of them lived in Germany at the time of writing this text.

Karel Prusík became a basket maker and a respected citizen in Plasy. He had five children. The oldest was Marie, married name Šábllová at home, then there was Božena Nová, also in Plasy, the son Karel was a basket maker and later an office clerk and eventually a manual worker in the Most region. Ludmila was married and became Čumpelíková in Prague and the youngest Helena became Vendrová, also in Prague. Karel and Ludmila were theatre enthusiasts. The youngest male Prusík was called Karel IV.

The daughter Josefa married a baker named Ulvr. She is buried in Prague-Bohnice. She had four children. Her son Jindřich was a butcher in Prague-Jinonice, her second son Václav lived in Zákupy. Vilém was a baker and Marie married as Syrovátková lived in Velenice u Zákup. Some of Josefa Ulvrová's descendants became very successful Graeco-Roman wrestlers.

The fourth child of shoe-maker Josef Prusík in Nebřeziny was Josef. He was born in 1826. He left home at an early age, learned foreign languages, and became an office clerk in the famous Prague company called Bří Wimmerové. He participated in the pre-March beginnings of the national uprising of 1848 in Prague. He knew the old-school actors in the National Theater, as well as Bedřich Smetana. His wife was Františka Šuláková from Prague. He died in 1895. He had three children – Marie, married as Hrnčířová in Prague, Josef Prusík, who worked as an office clerk in Prague. He had two daughters. Františka died young and unmarried, and Adéla married as Zunová in Prague. The youngest daughter of Josef was Františka, who became Kovářová in her first marriage and Lamačová in her second. From her first marriage she had a daughter Františka, married as Bezděchová, from her second one her son Karel Lamač was born¹². He became a pioneer of the Czech film, he was a successful actor and perhaps an even better director. Karel Lamač introduced the sound film into our lands. He traveled around the world and eventually found his peace in Hamburg. Even when he was active abroad, his name was always spelled with a “č”

¹²Famous pioneer of Czech film, creator and producer Karel Lamač (1897 Prague - 1952 Hamburg)

at his request. His grave features the same spelling. Karel Lamač's name is written in gold letters in the history of Czech cinematography.

Josef Prusík's fifth child in Nebřeziny was his daughter Alžběta. She was born in 1829, never married, and in 1872 died tragically in the river Střela during floods.

The last one was Emanuel Prusík, born in 1832. His wife was Barbora Šrédlová from Obora. Emanuel Prusík worked as a founder in an ironworks in Plasy, later he worked in Kaznějov. He died in 1894 in Nebřeziny. His son František became a manual worker in Kaznějov. He was known and liked for being honest and courageous and had several children. The oldest one was Jan who worked as a blacksmith in Kaznějov and Dnešice. One of his descendants became the family's chronicler. Another one was Marie who became Skočilová by marriage in Plasy, then Anna Janouškovcová in Litím. František Prusík became a mason and lived in Dnešice. Jaroslav was a blacksmith and married into a family in Babiná, his marriage however did not last. Josefa became Bendová by marriage in her home village of Nebřeziny, and the youngest child was Antonín. He was a manual worker in Kaznějov and lived in Rybnice.

Emanuel Prusík's second child was Jana, married name Telínová. She had one daughter who died unmarried.

3.5 “PLASY” Branch

Antonín Prusík was the founder of this branch. He was born in 1799 as the third son of builder Martin Prusík. His wife was Josefa Dürschmiedová, daughter of the first Czech teacher in Plasy. Antonín was a mason. His wife was born in 1801 and died very early, in 1833. She was survived by two children. Her husband died in 1867 in Plasy.

The oldest child was a boy, named Antonín after his father. Born in 1828, he became a carpenter and settled in Třemošná. His wife was Marie Havlíková from Nebřeziny. Antonín Prusík spend the end of his life in Pilsen, where he died in 1895. He had six children. The oldest one, another Antonín, was a tailor and died unmarried. Josef left for Bosna after it was occupied but left no male offspring. Karel Prusík became a carpenter like his father and settled in Velvary. He participated in extinguishing the fire at the National Theatre in 1881 as a young man and received a medal for his bravery. He had four children. The oldest one was Růžena, who became Benešová by marriage in the Slaný region and was a mother to seven children. Then there was Oldřich Prusík, a trained bookbinder who lived in Bakov nad Jizerou. The daughter Božena married a trader named Krejsa in Prague,

Antonie died young and unmarried in Velvary. Antonín Prusík’s daughters Marie, Magdalena, and Anna all got married and left for Bosna.

The second child of mason Antonín Prusík was Josefa. She was born in 1830 and married a teacher named Lašek in Plasy. Later they moved to Příbram to help their three sons pursue education that was not possible in Plasy at the time. She died there in 1906. The oldest son was Jan, who later adopted the artistic pseudonym Hanuš Lašek. He was also a teacher but dedicated his time to singing as well. In 1892 he lived in Vienna. The National Theatre director F. A. Šubrt travelled there to participate in an international exhibition with the opera “The Bartered Bride”. It was the first performance of our national opera piece abroad. And Hanuš Lašek sang the role of Jeník with such a success that he was immediately recruited for the National Theatre¹³. Later he performed as a tenor singer in Danzig, Dresden, Edinburgh, and elsewhere. Without doubt, Hanuš Lašek was a part of the old-school ensemble at the National Theatre. He had two daughters. The older Jana became Riegelová by marriage in Lomnice nad Popelkou and later lived in Prague. The younger daughter Hana adopted the artistic name Vítová¹⁴ and became a well-known film actress and singer. Some of her films, especially “Noční motýl” (“The Nocturnal Butterfly”) are still remembered. Josefa Prusíková, married as Lašková, had two other sons, who both became officers but had no children of their own.

3.6 “STRAŽIŠTĚ” Branch

Vojtěch Prusík, son of Adam Prusík from Plasy, founded this branch. Vojtěch was born in 1790, the same year that Emperor Joseph II died. He lived until his death in a beautiful small village called Stražiště, located above the river Střela. He worked as a mason. His wife, a German, was Anna Sieberová, born in 1794 in the nearby Kalec. She died in 1876. Vojtěch died in 1867. He had five sons and one daughter.

The oldest one was František Prusík. He was born in 1824. He became a baker and worked in Rabštejn, Trnová, Plasy, and Stražiště, which is where he died in 1887. His wife was a German as well, Josefa Neumannová from Toužim. And this is how only one of his children, Antonín, kept his Czech heritage after his father. The oldest was Barbora, married as Pailová and Bělohávková, in Vienna. She had daughters Marie Pailová, Josefa Schwägerová, and Aloisie Braneisová. Next was the son František who worked as a carpenter in Vienna and remained childless. The son Antonín worked for the railroad in Plasy and spent the longest part of his career

¹³Portraits from the famous Prague atelier Langhans from the time at the National Theatre are attached.

¹⁴Famous actress Hana Vítová (1914 Prague - 1987 Prague). Her portrait is attached.

in the watch house in Mladotice. He had five sons, four of whom were also railroad employees. Heřman lived in Přehorov and Pilsen, Rudolf spent a long time in Mladotice where he also hunted, and Josef worked in several places, last one being the train station in Kralovice where he was arrested during World War Two. He died in the Terezín concentration camp. The youngest son, Jaroslav, worked for the railroad in Pňovany u Stříbra but was the first one of the brothers to die. Only Vincenc had a different job – he was a shoemaker, a roadman and then a farmer in Chrašťovice.

Then there was Rudolf who was a manual worker in the Teplice area. His grandson, despite being a member of the Sokol movement, died as a German soldier in the Stalingrad battle while the granddaughter moved to Canada with her family and lived at the border of Lake Huron. These children's father, Rudolf Prusík, had a varnishing business in Teplice. Matylda married as Zechnerová in Vienna. She had two daughters, Františka Schaumayerová and Amalie, married as Brimová. They both lived in Vienna.

Františka married Václav Barth in Žatec. She died at her daughter's home in Vienna after the expulsion of Germans from Czechoslovakia and the severe problems related to it. She had six children – Irena Pöschmannová in Vienna, Rudolf, who worked for the town of Žatec, Karel who died as an innocent victim in 1945 in Postoloprty¹⁵, Augusta Grünerová who lived in Žatec and had a daughter who married a Czech man, then there was Václav, a gardener in Žatec, and the youngest, daughter named Růžena, married as Hübnerová, who lived in Linz, Austria.

The last of František Prusík's children was Josef. He worked as a glass-maker in Řetenice and had no children.

The second son of Vojtěch Prusík from Stražiště was Antonín, who was born in 1826 and died in 1900 in his hometown. He was the last Prusík in this town. The family had been in Stražiště since 1788, for 112 years. Antonín was a shoemaker and also worked as a messenger for the town. He was married twice. Anna Soukupová died childless, while his second wife, Anna Fryčková, was survived by five children. Out of all his siblings, Antonín had the hardest life, and so did his children.

His oldest son Bedřich moved to Canada in 1901. He was the first Prusík in this transatlantic country. He had four children – Marie, married as Nicholsonová in Sydney Mines, a town on the Atlantic coast. Bedřich was a miner like his father. Anna married as Sampsonová in Scarborough, near

¹⁵Event known as the Massacre of Postoloprty. In June 1945 a part of the Czechoslovakian army murdered hundreds to thousands innocent civilians of German nationality. It is one of the worst mass murders during the so-called wild expulsions.

Toronto. The youngest, Jaroslav (a.k.a. Jerry) also lived in Sydney Mines (Nova Scotia), and was employed in the local fishing industry. Almost none of them spoke Czech anymore, despite both their parents being of Czech ancestry. Another child of Antonín Prusík from Stražiště was Valentina, married as Grünová in Manětín. She had a daughter Albína and a son Adolf who lived in Žatec, and another daughter Marie, married as Došková in Radonice, near Kadaň. The third daughter, Marie, married as Pleinerová in Manětín as well. Her daughter, also Marie, married as Kučerová in Prague. Antonín’s last son was František. His life in Bohemia was not going well and his brother convinced him to move to Canada in 1907. He continued working as a miner and died with no wife or children a long way from home. His love for his homeland never faded and he never forgot his mother tongue either. He is buried in Pincher Creek, a town in the cold province of Alberta.

Vojtěch Prusík’s third son was Josef Prusík, born in 1828 in Stražiště. He moved to Vienna in the middle of the 19th century. His wife was Eleonora Petrů from Nové Benátky. Josef was a tailor and died quite young, in 1872 in Vienna. His son Karel worked as a saddle maker and was a hard-working member in associations helping the youth. Josef Prusík from Stražiště had a grandson, Karel Prusík, who became a professor at the Vienna Conservatoire and had a doctorate degree from this field. Karel Prusík however became even better known as a rock climber and inventor of a safety knot used by climbers and Scouts all around the world, known to this day as “Prusik” (“prusík” in Czech). He was also the President of the Alpine Clubs, which in Austria represented an organization with several hundred thousand members. Karel Prusík wrote poems and novels, “Faust and the Mountain” being the most valuable piece. He received a state decoration before he died and is one of the prominent members of our family¹⁶. Thanks to him, our name became a notion, like the words mansard (named after the architect Mansart), or shrapnel (named after General Schrapnel). A mountain in the Rocky Mountains, located near the Pacific side, also bears our rock climbing ancestor’s name – the Prusik Peak. And so does a route on the steep Northern side of the Slovenian Triglav Mountain.

Besides the Czech doctor Bohumil Prusík, the Austrian rock climber Karel Prusík is one of the most famous members of our family.

The fourth child was Anna. She married a gamekeeper named Monsé, the son of a Frenchman who escaped the country after the revolution of 1789. She was born in 1830 in Stražiště. She had seven children, four of whom died aged 10-18 of diphtheria. Her daughter Albína, married as Matoušková in Rakolusky, had a daughter named Anna, married as Vonásková, while Matylda married a gamekeeper named Ševčík with whom she had eight

¹⁶More information can be found at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Prusik

children. She lived in Mladotice most of her life. Her children were: Marie, married as Kodymová in Pilsen, František who died in World War I, and Jaroslav who became rich in Canada and is buried in Halifax. His brother Rudolf was a gardener in Charlottetown in Prince Edward Island, Canada. Matylda remained unmarried and lived with her brother Bohumil in Plasy. Adolf also lived in the same house in Plasy. The daughter Božena was married as Smolíková in Příbram. The third daughter was Žofie, married as Fenclová in Radnice. She died relatively young. She had three children, a son František who lived in Radnice, a daughter Marie who was married as Karlová in Radnice as well, and a son Jan, living in Cheb.

The fifth child of Vojtěch Prusík and Anna in Stražiště was Václav Prusík. He was born in 1835 and became a cooper and carpenter. He worked in Pilsen but spent the most time in Dobřany. His wife was Magdalena Kokošková from Snopouše. Václav Prusík died in 1879 in Dobřany u Plzně at the age of 44. He had three children. His son Václav Prusík became a blacksmith but died at a young age, unmarried. His daughter Barbora married as Kratochvílová in Brno but had a daughter before her marriage named Barbora Prusíková. At the time of writing this text she lived in Dobřany under the name Betty Czorná and had always been proud of her family heritage. The second daughter was Matylda, married as Váňová. She had a daughter named Anna, married as Lukášová, who ended up living in Kamenný Újezdec in the Posázaví area, and a son named Jan Váňa who lived in Sušice but died prematurely after being wrongfully imprisoned.

The last son of Vojtěch Prusík from Stražiště was Jan Prusík. He was born in 1837 and worked as a locksmith. He witnessed the war between Prussia and Austria. His wife was Jana Legová.

3.6.1 “JIHLAVA” Branch

Josef Prusík from Stražiště, near Mladotice was the founder of this entirely German branch. He was born in 1792, became a brewer and settled in Jihlava in 1820 where he married Anna Frühafová. She was born in 1809 in Jihlava where she also died in 1874. Josef Prusík became a wealthy and respected citizen of this almost purely German town located in the middle of Czech lands. He encouraged his two sons to study, as he did with his two nephews Jan and Bedřich who were the sons of his brother Jan, a gamekeeper in the Vysočina region. He died in 1881 in Jihlava. He had four children – one daughter and three sons. The eldest, daughter Alžběta was born in 1826 and married as Siberová in Jihlava where she died in 1902. She had three daughters. Marie was married as Reitterová in Austria where she had three children – Elsa who remained unmarried, Karl, and Alfréd Reitter. The second daughter was Karolina Opalková who had two children – Hermína,

married to the Czech journalist and a Sokol enthusiast, and Robert. They all lived in Prague. The last daughter was Emma, married as Wittenbergová in Vienna. She remained childless.

The next Jihlava child of Josef Prusík was his son Edmund. He was born in 1836, became a prominent office clerk working for the city, and was awarded honorary Jihlava citizenship for his contributions. He also wrote down the history of Jihlava. He died in 1906 in Mödling, near Vienna, but was buried in Jihlava. His son Edmund died as a student, while Arnošt studied law and became the Executive Director of the main Austrian tobacco organization in Vienna. His only child, daughter Elfrida Lindenbnerová got married in Vienna and committed suicide at the beginning of World War II.

In 1840, twins were born to Josef in Jihlava – Karel and Emanuel. Karel¹⁷ played a big role in improving the city’s status but also in maintaining its German character. He had six children and died in 1920. The oldest was his daughter Jana who married an officer of Hungarian ancestry named Fazekaš. She had no children. The second daughter Helena was married as Richterová, lived in Liberec and Prague, and died of starvation in the internment camp of Prosečnice in 1946¹⁸. She had three children. Her son Otto was an office clerk in Prague. Her daughter Helena died along with her mother, and the second daughter Ilsa Richterová lived in Erfurt in Germany at the time of writing this text. The third child of Helena was Karel. He became a government counselor, lived in Austria, and died unmarried in Ischl. The daughter Emilie was married as Schrammová and lived in Žatec and Brno. She had two daughters – Edith, married as Kahlerová in Vienna, and Hildegarda who died unmarried in Schweinfurt in Germany like her mother. The son Richard Prusík was a finance clerk in Brno and Opava and his first marriage brought him a son named Gerhard. He poisoned himself in 1945 in Jihlava. His son became a chemistry engineer and at the time of writing this text he was the executive director of a large company in Munich. He was always proud of our family’s heritage.

The other twin, Emanuel Prusík, became a merchant in Jihlava and had two children. He died in 1909. His daughter Marie was married as Wondraková and had a son named Walter. The second time she was married as Shlöglová. She died in Klosterneuburg near Vienna. Her brother Ludvík Prusík worked as a clerk in Jihlava and perished in an internment camp in 1945, unmarried.

¹⁷More information including a portrait can be found at: <http://www.jihlava.cz/prusik-karl-judr/d-498750>

¹⁸A former training camp of SS grenadiers. After the war it served as an internment camp for Germans. These were notorious for the mediocre, even neglectful interest that the authorities took in interned citizens.

Some members of the Jihlava family branch reached a high status. Many of them, however, had an unfortunate fate awaiting them in the troubled times of World War II and the era that followed.

3.7 “KUCHYNĚ” Branch

The last of Prusík family branches has a strange name, meaning “kitchen” in Czech. It is named after a small settlement and a gamekeeping house near Český Herálec, in the area around Svatka in the Českomoravská Vysočina region. The founder of this branch Jan Prusík lived and died there. He was born in 1794 in Stražiště. His mother’s father was a gamekeeper and helped him get a gamekeeping position under Prince Thurn-Taxis in Eastern Bohemia. His was first assigned to Štěpánov near Skutče where he moved in 1826. His wife was Anna, née Anderlová, born in 1803 in Zdislav-Luže where she also died as a widow in 1896. Jan Prusík also worked in Domanice near Vysoké Mýto but he spent most of his career in Kuchyně near Svatka. Today the gamekeeper’s lodge is all but gone. In 1859 Jan Prusík was killed by a poacher in the deep local woods. He and his wife had six children, many of them with very troubled lives.

The oldest was Vilemína. She had four illegitimate children with a police officer Jan Vrbický. She was born in the gamekeeper’s lodge in Štěpánov in 1829 and died in Luže in 1896. Her life was a difficult one. The father of her children father died in the battle of Solferino in Italy in 1859 and so Vilemína and her children had a hard time surviving. The oldest daughter Aloisie was born in Kuchyně and gave birth to two illegitimate children, Robert Prusík and Františka, married as Rösslová. Robert lived an adventurous life and travelled around the world. He was a merchant, other times he accompanied Russian aristocrats or Indian Maharajas and he made a living in many other ways. At times he gathered many riches – he had his own elephants, camels, a yacht, and large amounts of gold. But he ended up dying poor and half-blind in Prague. Formerly a tailor, he used his natural wits to achieve great success in life that was unfortunately followed by significant failure. He was married twice. One of his grandsons lived in Switzerland. His second daughter became a nun. His sister Františka had a daughter and before her an illegitimate son. This makes her another family member who passed the Prusík name on. She lived and died in Luže. Vilemína’s second child was Jan. He became a woodcarver and lived in Vienna where he co-founded some of Sokol units. He died unmarried. His siblings Josef and Anna were twins. Josef Prusík was a saddler and tailor, working in Eastern Bohemia. His marriages brought him five children. They were Magdalena, married as Čížková in Luže, Eliška who remained unmarried, Miroslav Prusík, a bookbinder who died unmarried in Františkovy Lázně and was buried in Prague, and from his second marriage came two daughters – Bohuslava,

married as Křížová in Toužim in the Karlovy Vary area, and Josefa, married as Seidlová in the same area. Anna never married but had two daughters, Anna and Ida. Anna married her cousin Robert.

The gamekeeper Jan Prusík's second child was Anna Prusíková. She was born in Luže near Košumberk in 1832. She met Prince Thurn-Taxis' deputy, J. Pösl, and lived with him at a small castle called Karlštejn, near Svratka, and later in Vienna where she died in 1877. She had three children. Eleonora never married, Bohumil Pösl was a proofreader at a printing office in Vienna, and the youngest was Jindřich, the only one to have children. He became a brewer, lived in Vienna as a restaurateur, and ended up shooting himself. His two marriages brought him four children, all sons – Rudolf, a café owner in Vienna, Jindřich, a Vienna city office clerk, Erich, a factory owner in Pardubice and Rosice nad Labem, and Richard, a mechanical engineer in Vienna.

Jan Prusík's first son was Bedřich, born in Domanice in 1834. He studied to become a civil engineer and lived in Vienna. He successfully built alpine rails in Austria and Switzerland. In 1867 he joined a military crusade into Mexico under the leadership of Emperor Maximilian. Following its failure he escaped to Cuba and spent the rest of his life there, unmarried. He was an active member of the Havana music and culture scene. He died there in 1882 and was buried a long way from his home.

His brother, Jan Prusík, was born in 1836 in Domanice, as well. He was a financier in Halič, near the borders, but later settled as a post office clerk in Vienna. He married at the age of 58 and had two children. He died in 1908. His wife, 24 years younger, was Valpurga Matauschková, originally from Šebestov near Boskovice, Moravia. His son, Karel Prusík, was a specialized teacher in Vienna, and his daughter, Emilie, remained unmarried. They both remembered their ancestor's homeland very fondly. Jindřich Prusík was an adopted son and owner of bakeries in Vienna.

Klementina was born in 1842 in Kuchyně. She married a miller named A. Salášek in Luže. She had four children and died in 1884 following an unhappy marriage.

The first child of Klementina Salášková, née Prusíková, was Emilie. She never married. The second child was Marie, married as Lánská. She lived in Skutče, later in Luže, a village next to the Košumberk castle. She had a daughter, Jiřina, who died young and unmarried. Jaroslava was married as Hovorková, her marriage was not a very happy one. Her daughter Marie died unmarried while her other daughter Klementina, married as Fuxová, had no children. The son František Salášek settled in Polná and was a successful businessman in agriculture. He was married twice. His first wife gave him a

daughter named Jiřina who married an officer named Melzer, and from his second marriage came his daughter Svatava Garayová.

The last child of gamekeeper Jan Prusík was Marie. She was born in 1843 in her father's gamekeeping lodge in the middle of the same forest where her father met his unfortunate death. She became a cook and never married. She died the same year as her sister Klementina, in 1884.

4

The testimony of three centuries

The *gruntovní kniha* (“land book”) of Sedlec, the village located by the monastery Plasy, features the first entry regarding land belonging to the Prusík family, dated 23rd February 1673. The registry then continues to the year 1808¹, when it was replaced by the new *pozemková kniha* (“estate book”), written in Latin alphabet. There are, however, much older records about our family, even written ones, such as the entries in *Urbář Kaceřovský* (1558)², and other documents that prove the existence of our family in Sedlec as far as 1515. Let us examine this one entry, almost three centuries old as of 1970.

Shortly before February 1673, Anna Prusíková died. At the time she managed the household and lands of her husband who had been dead since 1672. It was Bartoloměj, the brother of Jakub Prusík (born in 1601 in Sedlec), who exiled to Poland in 1627. By the end of February the estate was transferred to the youngest son, Martin Prusík, 40 years old at the time. He died in Sedlec at the age of 90. He had two brothers and a sister. The oldest one, Matouš, married into the Rejček family in the nearby village of Bílov. The second son, Václav, was also settled there as a blacksmith. He became an audacious advocate of peasant rights. During a quarrel with the remorseless lord of the castle Krašov, Norbert Miseroni, Matouš was shot to death on the 11th of April 1673. The *gruntovní kniha* implies this fact as well. Therefore it is a valuable historical source, and not just for its estate information. Until April 1674, Martin paid his share to his brother Václav and later to his widow, Barbora. The sister Anna married into the Kymel (Koukl) family in Bílov. Here is an approximate translation of the

¹More likely later.

²Kaceřovský urbář from 1558, ed. J. Vorel. Mariánská Týnice: Okresní vlastivědné muzeum Plzeň-sever, 1972.

first records from February 1673 concerning the Prusík property in Sedlec, the cradle of our family.

The brotherly settlement of Prusík brothers in the village of Sedlec

Annum dominae, 23rd Day of February, by the judgement and with certified knowledge and permission of our dignified reverend Lord Prelate Priest Benedikt, the Abbot of the Monastery of Plasy. A settlement has been made between the Prusík brothers with regards to the Prusík land in the village of Sedlec as follows: Martin Prusík who, after their mother dearest Anna left this world through her untimely death, has become the rightful ruler over the Prusík land and property, has the duty to hand over a part equal to his own to his brothers, which is namely 40 kopy.

To Matouš in the Rejček family in Bílov ... 40 kopy

To Václav, blacksmith now also living in Bílov ... 40 kopy

To Anna, sister living under the name of Kimlová in Bílov, in addition to the compensation she had already received, having been compensated properly in the form of money, ... 10 kopy

In total... 130 kopy

Yearly fulfillment of 4 kopy. One church cow to the fabrica ecclesiae of Potvorov with the property. Decided during the reign of his Grace Abbot and Prelate Benedikt and in the presence of Priest Matyáš Tyllingar and Jiří Borovský, the church scribe of the monastery of Plasy, in the village of Sedlec. Ad supra

Annum Dominae 1674, 16th Day of February Martin Prusík [spelled Prusyk at the time] gave Barbora, the widow of the late Václav, blacksmith, 4 kopy.

Martin Prusík is the common ancestor not only of the Polish branch of our family but of all male and female lines of Prusík family branches. To introduce this era I will state several facts – at the time, Benedikt Engelken was the Abbot at the Plasy monastery, the country was ruled by Emperor Leopold I and Europe was in the midst of Turkish wars where the Polish king Jan Sobieski excelled. A year before that, in 1672, the future Russian emperor Peter the Great was born, and the “Sun King” Louis XIV ruled France.

This entry, as many others, provides a valuable insight into our past.

And so that is a brief summary of the development of each of our family branches and lines. It is but a short fraction of the four-and-half century

long history of the family, even though it describes the story of twelve generations. For this reason, in chapters regarding each of the branches, I have omitted several of my closest relatives, even my own son Zdeněk and his daughters Hanka and Ivana, or my only nephew Jiří and my only niece Alena and their children – because they already belong to the generations of the future. When a better occasion arises to publish a more detailed book about the whole family, including pictures, then the sixteenth and even further generations shall be included. From the twelfth generation onwards, however, everyone can easily add all the details by themselves. It has been a much more difficult task to unfold the secrets of our family from days long gone and these secrets I have uncovered for you here. Therefore, this publication might be of great genealogical value to all who have the Prusík blood running in their veins, even though they do not have our name anymore. My most sincere thanks belongs to all those who have helped me in any way during and after the long years of searching for our roots, and first and foremost to my wife Jiřina.

Epilogue

Reading this small booklet allows you to watch our family from the year 1515, with Bohemia under the rule of King Vladislaus II. Having the opportunity to look back in time, almost five hundred years, will hopefully be appreciated by the members of our family not only now, but mainly years into the future, even more decades and centuries away from the beginning as time will flow mercilessly. We and our ancestors have lived through both good and bad times, through two Czech kings, seventeen Habsburg emperors, and eight presidents. That is how it is here in Bohemia, at least. The Polish members of the Prusík family, documented from 1630 as descendants of a Czech emigrant, remember Polish kings, Russian tsars, and today's government officials. Let us, as mankind, remember what is perhaps best expressed in the following verse:

“From our first cry as a baby
Our life's full of coincidences
A handful of happy moments maybe
And a pinch of grief as time advances.”

We share our joy and sorrow but first and foremost we share a common ancestor, the blood that runs in our veins, and the beginnings of our family originating in Sedlec near Plasy in the Pilsen region at the dawn of the sixteenth century. Today we are dispersed all around the world, whether it is under the name of Prusík or another one. It might be interesting to anyone bearing our name, even though this publication is dedicated to all people sharing our blood regardless of the name, that at the time of writing this text the oldest Prusík in the world was František Prusík who was born in 1884 and lived in Łódź, Poland, and the youngest one was Roman Prusík, born in May 1969 in Havířov. It might not be true the following day but such is life. Not so long ago our family members would sometimes find themselves standing on the opposite sides of a war front, fighting against each other. Perhaps today, now that we know what we share and the love of our family prevails, our common lives will develop differently.

Let us pay homage to our ancestors of old and those deceased only recently, to their work and devotion, and let us wish that the future generations

of our family may live through the days to come in happiness.

Visual materials



Figure 4.1: Karel ŠKRÉTA: Family of gem cutter Miseroni, 1653, National Gallery in Prague



Figure 4.2: Martin PRUSÍK: Plasy monastery viewed from the south-east, 1809, Museum of West Bohemia in Pilsen



Figure 4.3: Source INTERNET: Commemorative plaque of Josef Prusík
Pamětní deska Josefa Prusíka.



Figure 4.4: Source INTERNET: Emil Plaček.

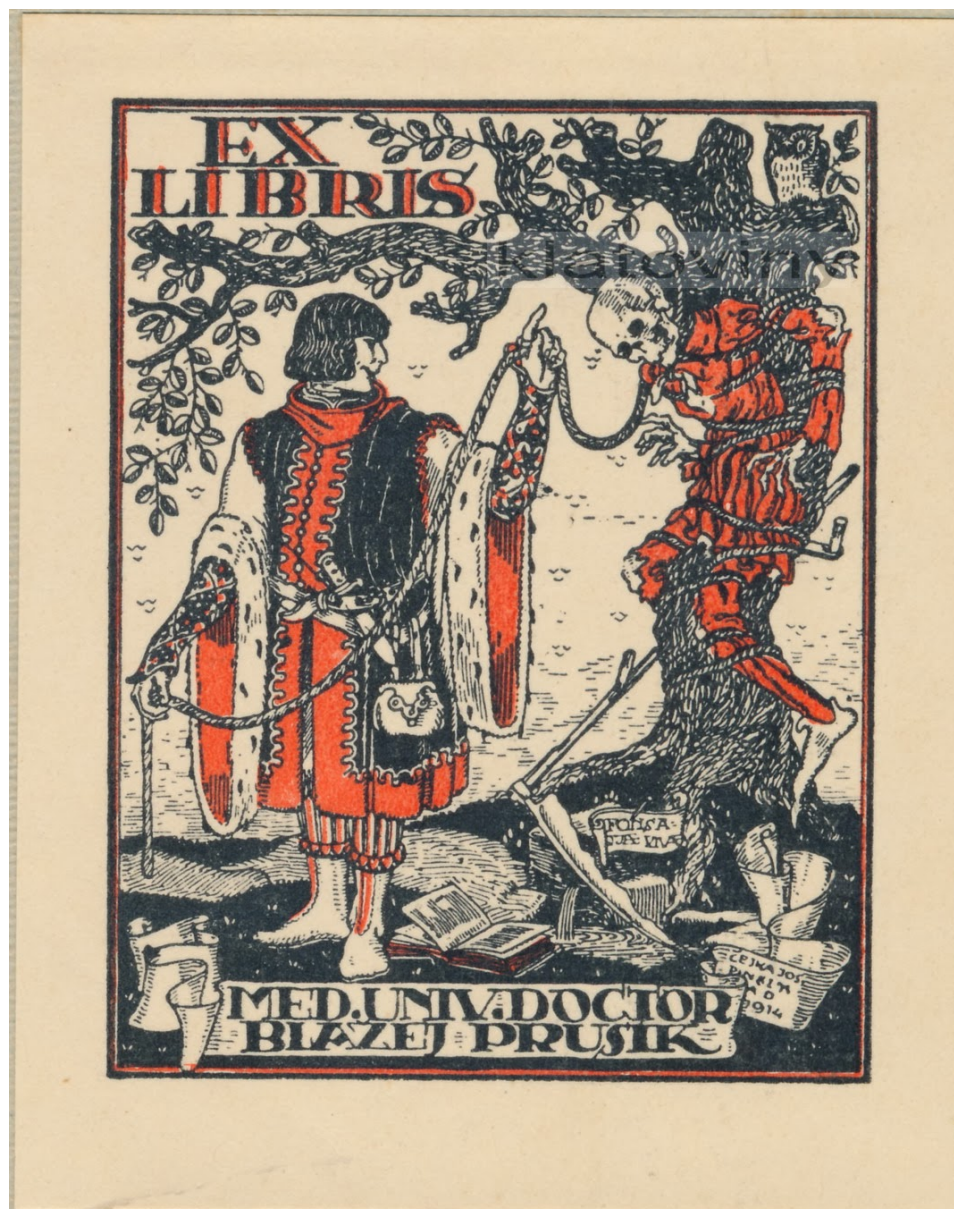


Figure 4.5: Josef ČEJKA: Ex Libris of Blažej Prusík, 1914



Figure 4.6: Source INTERNET: Commemorative plaque of Bohumil Prusík



Figure 4.7: LANGHANS Atelier Prague: Portrait of Bohumil Prusík, 1925, Langhans Gallery



Figure 4.8: LANGHANS Atelier Prague: Hanuš Lašek, undated.



Figure 4.9: LANGHANS Atelier Prague: Hanuš Lašek, undated.



Figure 4.10: LANGHANS Atelier Prague: Hanuš Lašek, undated.



Figure 4.11: Source INTERNET: Hanuš Lašek, undated.



Figure 4.12: Source INTERNET: Hana Vítová, undated.



Figure 4.13: Source INTERNET: Karl Prusik



Figure 4.14: Source INTERNET: Prusik knot



Figure 4.15: Source INTERNET: Prusik Peak, North America

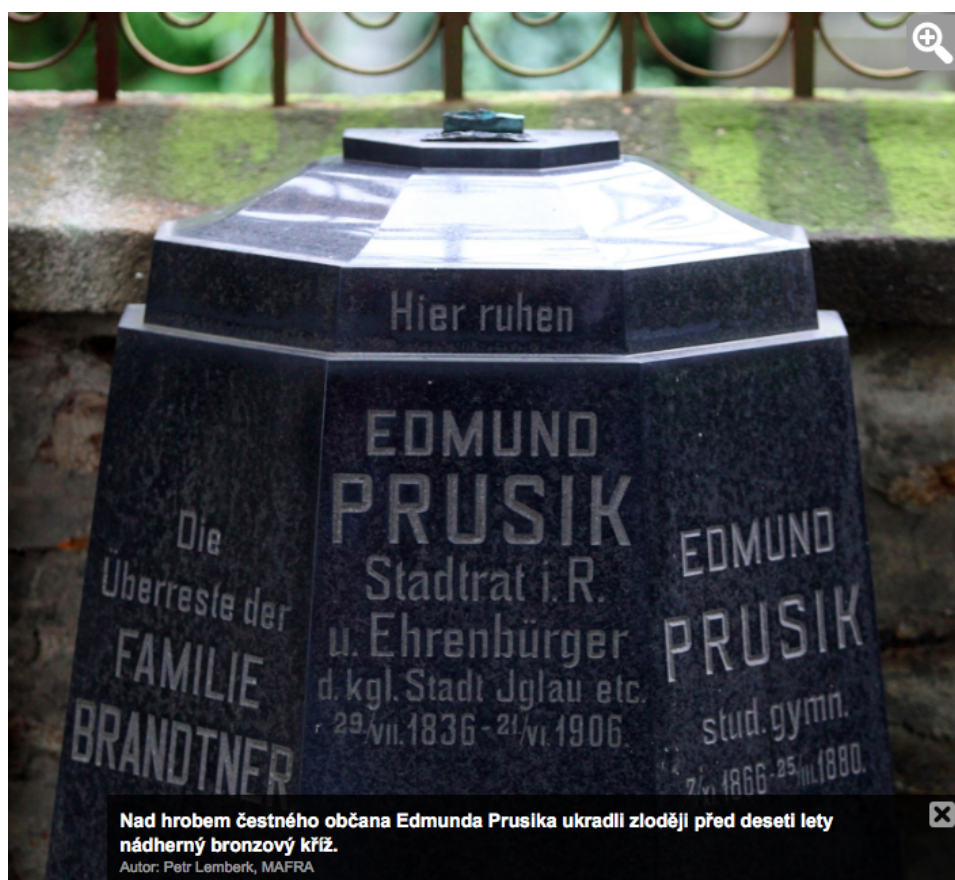


Figure 4.16: Source INTERNET: Grave of Jihlava citizen Edmund Prusík

Bibliography

Online resources

- [1] For a general view of Prusík family members during World War I you can visit the website of the following military history archive. Five of our relatives are mentioned.
<http://www.vuapraha.cz/fallensoldierdatabase>

Historical map sources

- [2] Sedlec, http://archivnimapy.cuzk.cz/skici/skici/PLZ/PLZ461018390/PLZ461018390_index.html
- [3] Výrov, http://archivnimapy.cuzk.cz/cio/data/main/cio_query_01.html?mapno_cm=c8930-1
- [4] Plasy, http://archivnimapy.cuzk.cz/cio/data/main/cio_query_01.html?mapno_cm=c5817-1
- [5] Horní Bříza, http://archivnimapy.cuzk.cz/cio/data/main/cio_query_01.html?mapno_cm=c2021-1

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