

An Old Glassblower Family

Strobl



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Introduction

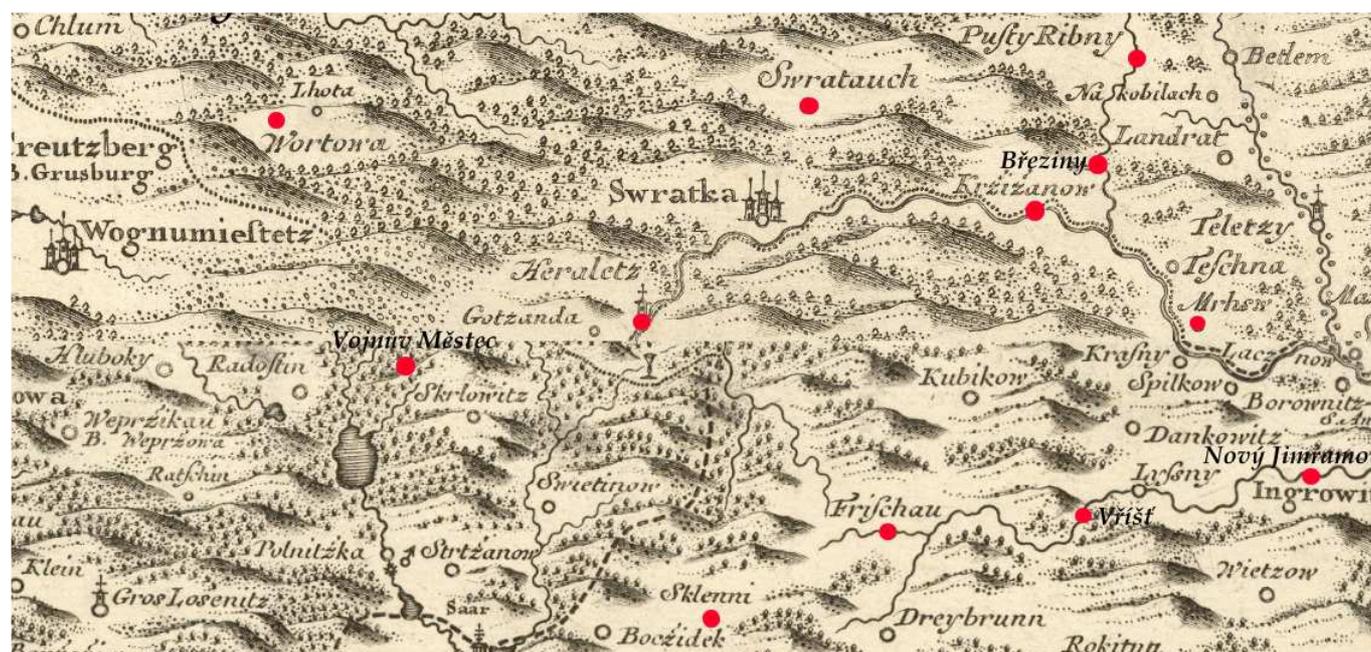
Glass factories began appearing in the Czech lands during the Middle Ages, especially in places with an abundance of raw materials - streams with silica, sand and wood. The origins of glassmaking go back to the Gothic period (13th and 14th century). Perhaps only Venice can boast such a long and continuous tradition. The first glass factories were established in the frontier forests of the Bohemian Kingdom. There were plenty of firewood and materials necessary for making of glass. The first type of glass produced was sheet glass for windows. The Roman Emperor and Czech King Charles IV boosted the glass making industry when he commissioned the local factories to supply stained glass for the Prague castle. Many glassmakers spent their free time by experimenting with glass. They learned how to produce many important household items. The factory owners soon learned to take advantage of these newly acquired skills. The lovely greenish glasses, which decorate many museums, came from this period of time.

The name and importance of Czech glass grew steadily during the Middle Ages. There were at least 34 glass factories in the Czech lands in the 16th century. Artists came from all over Europe. The Emperor Rudolf II gave two families of Czech glass masters the status of nobility. Czech crystal glass became famous around the world and even surpassed the very popular Venetian glass.

The first glass factories were located in places with a lot of timber, Šumava, Bohemian Forest, Czech-Moravian Highlands, North Bohemia, the Sázava basin and Karlovy Vary highlands. Many of these original factories in time totally disappeared. Railroad and coal made the moving of glass factories from forests to industrial areas possible.

Glassmakers burned wood to heat the first glass furnaces. They used ashes from burned wood for making potash, a key ingredient in making glass. Glass masters acquired rights for operating glass-making factories from landlords. They also bought rights for harvesting timber from the local woods. After they harvested the trees in the vicinity of a factory, the factory would move to a new place. Understandably, operating a large glass-making factory had a devastating effect on nearby forests. This started changing during the 19th century when coal was introduced as a new source of heat. About 80 glass factories were in operation in Bohemia (Czech lands) during the first half of the 19th century. In the same time there were about ten more factories operating in Moravia.

The art of glass making was handed down from generation to generation. Glass factories moved relatively often due to their dependency on wood. Families of glassmakers soon learned not to get attached to one place. Their frequent moving makes tracking their family histories and genealogical research quite challenging. On the other hand, we know where to look for them. It was very unusual for someone from a glass making family to choose a different profession. Some of the oldest glass factories were built in the region of the Bohemian-Moravian Highland, Horacko.



Glass factories in the Horacko region during 16–18 centuries



Horacko is the northern part of Bohemian-Moravian Highland. It is a very mountainous country full of deep forests with silica rich ores – the basic ingredients for glass making. The landlords did not really have any use for these lands. They usually rented the land to some businessmen or built some type of an operation as steel mills, which would use the plentiful provisions of wood, smelting operations, glass factories, etc. The deforested land was changed to fields and people started moving in to work the land. Such is the case with the large forest, which formed a border between Moravia and Bohemia. There are no written records of glass making operations in this area, but there is no doubt that glass factories had to be there. Two local villages founded in the 13th century bear names Sklene (sklo = glass in Czech language).

The oldest historically documented glass factories were in Vrist (1559), Frysava (1560) and Svatouch (1574). Two other well-known glass factories were established before the Thirty Years War in Herálec (1604) and Pusta Rybna (1618). The Thirty Years War slowed down the glass industry but it was revived soon after the war when five more factories were built in this region. Soon after glass making gained its largest momentum in the Posazavi region with the first glass factory near Nesperice (1677). Eighteen new glass factories were built in Posazavi between 1705 and 1752, though some of them did not last very long. During this expansion of the Posazavi region, many glass factories in Horacko were closed - Moravian Krizanky about 1697, Svatouch about 1711, Novy Jimramov about 1712, Prosecc-Zabori about 1727, Frysava about 1729, Vrist about 1738, Pusta Rybna about 1738. Still, two new glass factories were built in Horacko at that time – Breziny and Vortova, but neither of them lasted very long.

Jan Strobl About 1705-1790

The oldest written records of the Strobl family come from village **Vortova** and its local part Stare Hute (Old Glass factory). A glass factory was in operation there as early as the 16th century. It can be found on the map of J.A. Comenius dated 1627. The original owner of the factory is not known. The exact dates of its operation is not known. But we have a record from 1668, which states “to Michael, a master at Vortova”.

Josef Sewald, the master of the Vejvanovice estate, built a glass factory at Vortova in 1732. He remained there until 1762 when he moved back to Austria from where his ancestors came. The oldest record of the Strobl family comes from Vortova in **1748**. It is a marriage certificate of Vaclav, the son of Jan Pokorny from the Vortova glass factory. Vaclav married Poxlina Melchiorova, a widow from the Heralec. Their witnesses were Karel Sevald, a glass master from the Vortova glass factory, Jan Strobl from Vortova and Jan Pavel Raigherberger from the Heralec glass factory.



The last name Strobl is of German or Austrian origin and means “shaggy”, as in “shaggy hair”. The closest Czech equivalent of Strobl is “Kucera” (even though “Kucera” is closer to “Curly”). Vortova lies in the heart of Bohemia, too far from German border to be an original name from this area. Glassmakers must have come originally from German/Austrian lands, because most terminology used in the process of making glass was German and remained so for a very long time. Bavarian glass masters

came to Heralec in 1745. It is possible that Jan Strobl was among them. Glass factories were independent economic units. Land opened by harvesting wood was used for growing food and livestock and was present at every larger glass operation. Despite these factors glassmakers came into contact with the local population, and in time the Czech people adopted the art of glassmaking as their own. Until the first half of 19th century, the name Strobl was written the German way in all official records, with an S at the beginning. Later the Czech version with Š (Štrobl) became prevalent.

It is difficult to say where Strobles were originally from. The Mormon database lists Bystra (in the Havlickuv Brod county) as the birthplace of Jan Strobl. Perhaps it was the settlement Bystra in village Recice, close to Lipnice and Sazavou. Jan's estimated year of birth is 1705. Many glassmakers came to Posazavi and Horacko from Austria through Sumava and Zelezne Rudy. But the last name Strobl was already widespread in the middle of 17th century. We find it in the village Hamry in the Zelezna Ruda region, in south Bohemia at the Nove Hrad estate, and in many other places in Cesky Krumlov, Lisov, Kralovsky Hvozd, Jindrichuv Hradec, but also in northern Bohemia in the Sokolov and Duchcova region. We find it even outside of borders with Germany, for example at the Dobris estate. At the Rozmberk estate we already find the Czech version of the name, Štrobl. We must conclude that this surname sprang up simultaneously at several different places. Interestingly, in many instances Strobles were farmers or craftsmen other than glassmakers. It is even possible that Strobles from Horacko and Posazavi were the only Strobles who chose glassmaking as their profession. But possible is also different origin of Strobles.

In **1718**, the north of **Liebenau**, today the district Freistadt in Upper Austria there was established a new glass factory "Salburgstalhütte". Since 24 October 1718 glass factory was then three years for rent 198 Gold rented by glass master Tobias Strobl. This relatively fresh track has not been yet explored. It cannot therefore not be excluded that Strobl just came to Bohemia from Upper Austria. Liebenau parish was founded in the mid 18th century. Until then, perhaps the area fell under the parish in Unterweissenbach.



Between **1753** and **1756** we find Jan Strobl working at the **Kocanda** glass factory in **Heralec** (Gotheida). There, his wife Magdalena gave birth to their son Jan and daughter Katerina Agata. We can assume that Jan 26th of June 1753 was the firstborn of Jan Strobl. Magdalena died in Lipnice #103 on the 16th of February 1783. She was 52 years and 8 months old. That would give her birthdate at about June 1730. She was 23 years old when Jan was born. The estimated year of their marriage with Jan Strobl would be about 1752. We don't know Magdalena's maiden name, but she probably also came from a glassmaking family. Glassmakers preferred to marry their daughters to sons of glassmakers. There were two reasons for this. Most importantly in this way the inherited and acquired skills of glassmaking were not lost. Secondly, glassmaking was a difficult job and required living in forests, often far away from villages and civilization. People who were not used to this and from early childhood had great difficulties with getting used to the harsh conditions. Glassmakers had to learn to do everything with their own hands. They had to harvest wood and the different raw materials necessary to prepare the glass mixture. They learned how to build houses where they lived and large buildings where they worked. They built furnaces, glass pans and molds. They lived a lonely life from birth to the time they died. They depended on each other not only in their craft but in their personal lives as well. Older women collected herbs in the forests and served as doctors and midwives. The more people who were connected to each other by hard work and living conditions, the more they depended on their interpersonal and family relationships. They developed their own customs and traditions, which were handed down from generation to



A glass made in the Herálec factory

generation. Life at a traditional wood burning glass factory did not change for centuries.

The glass factory in Kocanda was one of five factories built near Heraléc in the middle of the 18th century. It produced glass between 1748 and 1773 under the direction of glass masters Petr Hilgert and Karel Klima. It is possible that Jan Strobl's family lived here at this time even though we have no register records to confirm it. There are no records of Jan Strobl at Heraléc before 1753 and after 1756. We meet him again in 1775 in



Lipnice and in Heraléc (a different Heraléc in the Horacko region) in 1776. It is possible that between 1756 and 1775 Jan Strobl worked at one of the many glass factories in this region. More research is needed regarding the Hoglova factory in Dobre Vody and Svetelske hute in Benetice. The glass making business in Bohemia was in deep crisis after 1750 and the number of operating glass factories decreased. If Strobls remained in Kocanda to its closure, then they must have moved to the factories in the Lipnice region and lived there during **1775 - 1790**. Jan Strobl died on the 31 st of August 1790, and his wife Magdalena died seven years later.

Descendants of Jan Strobl:

- **Jan** 26th of June 1753 in Kocanda near Heraléc, a glass apprentice, married Terezie Morova in Lipnice on the 17 th of May 1779. They had at least 8 children in Lipnice between 1780 and 1801. Jan either died in Lipnice or moved with his children to Nesperice between 1806 and 1811. Strobls lived in the nearby Cestin as late as the beginning of the 20 th century. Jan's descendants made their way to western Bohemia (glass factory Nova Sazava and Plzen Dubravka) at the end of the 19 th and beginning of 20 th century.
- **Josef about** 1735 about 1807 – see further text
- **Karel about** 1754 about 16th of March 1824, glass apprentice. Karel loved his older brother Jan. Karel married Barbora Morova from Kejzlice in about 1785. Barbora was probably the sister of Terezie, the wife of Karel's brother Jan. They had seven children in Lipnice between 1787 and 1803. Karel moved with Jan and his children) to Stara Hut in Nesperice. He died there of tuberculosis at age 70.
- **Katerina Agata** * 23rd of January 1756 in Kocanda near Heraléc.
- **Tereza about** 1758, married Vaclav Janak in Lipnice on the 19 th of April 1780.
- **Frantisek** about 1769, married Terezie Kavalirova, daughter of glass worker Jan Kavalir from Lipnice and Heraléc glass factories. Before Frantisek and Terezie moved to **Slavetin** in 1808, they had at least four children - Apolonie (about 5.5.1796, about 15.6.1799 Lipnice), Antonin (about 1799 Lipnice), Josefa (about 24.7.1804 Lipnice) and Josef (about 21.8. 1806 Lipnice). While in Slavetin they had another four children between 1808 and 1816. Then they moved to a glass factory in Techobuzi where Karel was born on the 21 st of March 1821. Frantisek did not stay in **Techobuzi** for long and moved his family to **Palcice** where he died on the 2 nd of September 1827. We find the widowed Terezie Stroblova again in the records of factory Kajetanciny in Lubne in 1846 where she is listed as a midwife. Judging by the way Frantisek moved from one glass factory to another most of his life, we could assume that he was probably hard headed and had a difficult time with subordination. Such glassworkers were called "*rajsgetnici*". They moved a lot and were a major source of news from outside world. They always brought with them many interesting stories and experiences from other glass factories, but also news about innovations, which were often incorporated to enhance and freshen the life at a traditional glass factory. Such "living news" was highly valued. Several of Frantisek's descendants also moved often. We find Antonin's children (Antonin *abt. 1799-1877, Frantisek's son) at the Josefinska factory in Ostrovec, in Janstyn as well as in Plzen.

Josef Strobl About 1751 – 1807

Josef Strobl was born in about 1751. The exact place of his birth is unknown. We meet him first in Lipnice, where he married Anna Neumayerova (about 1751) on the 4th of February 1775. The record does not specify in which of the two glass factories in Lipnice Josef worked. There was a factory in **Loukov** an in **Kejzlice**. Ignaz Eisner from Eisenstein, a well-known and experienced director of the Loukov factory, directed the Kejzlice factory from 1777. We don't know who directed the Kejzlice factory before Eisner,

but perhaps it was glass master Vaclav Capek. Eisner was known for destroying his competition. Tracing the destiny of Vaclav Capek became useful for tracking down the history of the Strobl family. It appears that Josef Strobl moved with Vaclav Capek when leaving Loukov.

Vaclav Capek married one of Tobias and Alzbeta Adler's daughters. Vaclav directed the operation of the Loukov factory between 1759 and 1771. After the death of Simon Hanibal Adler, Johann Ignac Eisner acquired the Loukov factory in 1771, and it was perhaps then that Vaclav Capek moved with his faithful glassworkers to Kejzlice. In 1775 we find Vaclav Capek at the Marianska factory near Heralec. He worked there together with ten other fellow glass workers. They had three apprentices and three helpers. Vaclav paid a rent of 120 golden pieces for the Heralec factory in 1782. This factory had been producing cast sheet glass, which was sold in Bohemia as well as in Austria and Hungary. Simultaneously, in 1779-1791, Vaclav Capek was also the glass master at the Ostrov glass factory near Zbraslavice in the Kutna Hora region. His son Antonin took over the Ostrov factory until 1801. A different Vaclav Capek acquired the Kejzlice factory from Johann Ignac Eisner in 1794. Perhaps it was a son of Vaclav Capek.



Josef Strobl moved to **Heralec** with Vaclav Capek. The noblemen who owned the factories only very seldom directed the factories themselves. They rented them out to glass masters, in this case Vaclav Capek. Josef's daughter Katerina was born at the Heralec factory in 1776. Josef Strobl's family stayed at the Heralec factory for a long 17 years between **1775 and 1792**. A total of nine children were born to Josef's family in Heralec. The factory was abruptly closed down in 1792 and Vaclav Capek and his fellow glassworkers left.

Josef and his family had gone to glass factory in **Košetice** where we can find him in the years **1794-1796**, when the glass factory was closed. The glass factory with ten basins there was in operation since 1788. The founder was a journeyman from Světlá glass factory Jan Jiří Seidl, who made a contract with the nobility. Soon, however, he was replaced in office by glass master Jakub Antonín Zieggrosser (1790-1791), and finally by the original local journeyman Josef Nachtman (1794-1796). Although the contract was signed for 6 years, the glass factory operated up to the year 1796. In December 31, 1795 working there were a glass master, 7 glass journeymen (originally 8), 2 apprentices, 4 stokers, one melter, 10 takers away, glass cutter 1, 1 grinder, breaker 1 and 2 binders - women, in a total of 30 persons. Hollow glass and "various art glass" for the former industry were producing usual types. In 1794 also purchased was a brass roller "machine" to tabular glass tried with various stains. Josef Strobl from Herálec factory had the experience this production. Whether the production of tabular glass or otherwise colored glass caught on it is not known. After the abolition of the glass factory in Košetice, part of the glassblowers went into the glass factory in Palčice. It is possible that shortly thereafter Josef Strobl joined them before his move to the nearby glass factory in Slavětín.



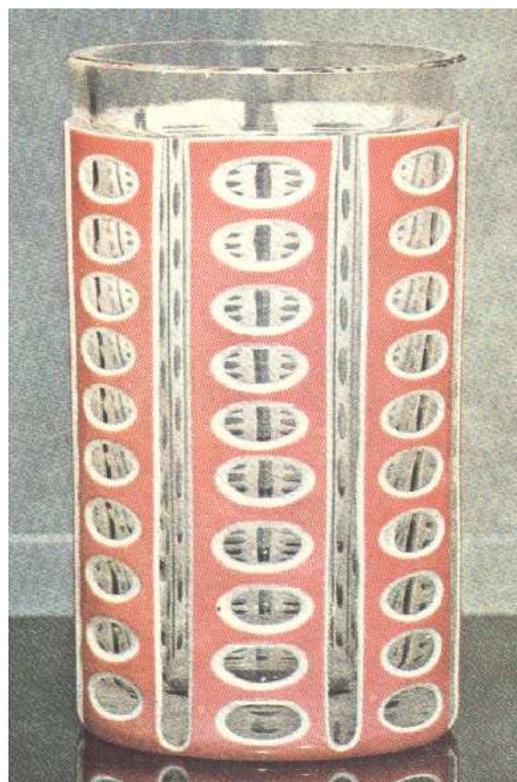
Between 1798 and 1807 we find Josef Strobl's family at the restored glass factory in **Slavětín**. Glass production started at the Slavětín factory at the beginning of 18th century. Later it was closed down because all wood in the nearby forests was harvested. Josef Eisner built a new factory two kilometers south of the old one at the same place where a lodge stands today. Josef Eisner inherited from his father Ignac Eisner the glass factory in Krasonovice, which was rented for fifteen years in 1785. He left the Krasonovice factory in 1798 and moved to Slavětín where glass master J. Hofmann directed the operation. The factory supplied the Naceradec brewery with glass bottles and had a contract for thirty more years.

Josef Strobl's family had a tough start in Slavětín. During one month at the beginning of 1798, Josef and Anna lost two of their children, Jan (5) and Josef (3). Josef Strobl himself died in Slavětín on the 20th of May 1807 at the age of 72. His wife Anna lived for another 24 years and died of tuberculosis on the 16th of July 1831 in Techobuzi. We find Anna listed as a midwife in different registry records between 1812 and 1817.

Josef Strobl lived to see the glass making business bloom and flourish in 1770-1800. The economy quickly recovered after the end of the 7 Year's War in 1765 and new and old glass factories were opening and reopening in the whole Posazavi region. Glass making was spreading into new locations with untouched forests. At one time there were eighteen operating glass factories in Posazavi region in 1800.

This is what we know about Josef and Anna's children:

- **Katerina** was born about the 30th of October 1776 in Heralc glass factory #5, married on February 7th 1804 to Josef Smrcek. (Jozef's job at the factory was to keep the temperature in the glass furnace at the correct value.) They had at least six children.
- **Marie** was born about the 11th of December 1778 in Heralc glass factory # 5. She married a glass worker Jan Hubert and, as her sister Katerina, they had at least six children while they lived and worked at the Slavetin factory.
- **Kašpar** was born about the 31st of December 1780. He worked at the Heralc glass factory #5, and married on the 29th of April 1806 in Slavetin to Petronila Eisner. They had at least ten children; we meet them later in the text.
- **Rozárie** was born about the 6th of August 1784. He also worked at the Heralc glass factory #5, and he married Jakub Kalhotka. We do not know much about them other than that in 1813 Rozarie gave birth to their daughter, Apolena.
- **Anna** was born about the 1st of February 1787. He too worked at the Heralc glass factory #5. He died on the 5th of September 1801 at the age of fourteen at the Slavetin glass factory.
- **Václav** was born about the 14th of September 1789 at the Heralc glass factory #5. He married on the 25 th of March 1813 in Slavetin to Marie Muhlbauer. She was a daughter of a glass worker Jan Muhlbauer. Vaclav and Marie had at least eleven children. Most of them did not live into their adulthood. For example, they lost three of their children to rubella (German measles) infection in a single month at the beginning of 1824. Vaclav worked at different factories. In 1813 – 1817 he worked at the **Techobuz** factory, in 1821 in **Cejkov**, in 1823-1833 at the glass factory **Jakub in Tasice**. He was very skilled. Perhaps because most of his children died, he was able to save enough money to eventually try to become a glass master. In 1833, on St Havel's day, he was one of three cosigners of a contract to rent the glass factory in **Ostrov**. The other two glass masters were Jan Bock and Jan Moravec. Their fellowship did not last long and in the next rent period the record shows Jan Bock as the only glass master of the Ostrov factory. There are no further records of Vaclav. His daughter Karolina married a glass worker Frantisek Pugler from the Jozef glass factory in Jilem. Another daughter of Vaclav, Alzbeta, married a glass worker Karel Pufler from the glass factory Jakub in Tasice. They lived in Tasice and had 5 children.
- **Jan** June 12th 1792 in Heralc glass factory #5, died of abscess on March 14 th 1798 at the age of 5.
- **Jozef** was born about October 3, 1794 at Košetice glass factory. He died on the 9th of February 1798 at the Slavetin glass factory.
- **Jozefa** (a girl) was born about 1798. She died on the 23rd of July 1801 at the Slavetin glass factory.



Cylindrical clear glass laminated with bone and white and pink glass. Grinder Franz Strobl, Milovy, around 1880.

Kašpar Strobl **About 1780 – before 1853**

Kaspar Strobl was born on New Year's Eve, 31 st of December 1780, at the **Heralc** glass factory. He was a son of Josef Strobl and Anna Neumayer. He spent twelve years of his childhood at the factory from **1780 until 1792**. Kaspar's family moved to the St Francis glass factory in **Loukov** when Kaspar was twelve. They lived there for the next six years, **1792-1798**. In 1797 the glass factory in **Slavetin** reopened, and Kaspar's parents moved the whole family to Slavetin in 1798. In Slavetin Kaspar learned the skills of glass working. Every apprentice, before learning how to work with the glass itself, had to first learn how to run the glass furnace. This was hard work and included the making of and changing of the

pans in which glass was mixed. The pans were made of clay and young men had to first prepare the clay from scratch with their hands and feet. They also learned how to build and repair a glass furnace and of course they helped with cleaning. Only then an apprentice was allowed to learn the skills of mixing and fabricating glass. It took three years to learn the necessary skills from a glass master. Each apprentice paid one half of his wage to his glass master. An apprentice could not switch to a different glass factory or to get married. He could not sit next to the glass masters at a pub and each time he got into trouble his time of apprenticeship would become longer. A ranking system was observed very strictly, a helper, an apprentice, a master. The best master in the factory was referred to as the *obrgzel*. He represented all of the glass masters during negotiations. For example, as the last step of graduation from apprenticeship, each apprentice had to receive a *freisprech* (liberation) from the nobility who owned the glass factory. An *obrgzel* accompanied each apprentice on his way to this meeting. He introduced the apprentice (who wore a flower on his jacket) and praised his skills and accomplishments. He would then present the master with the young man's finest piece of work as a demonstration of what he can do. The master would then speak and counsel the young man. A slapping with fingers on the face of the new glass master closed the ceremony. This was followed by a celebration and dance in a pub. After receiving his diploma, a letter of mastership, a new glass master could finally get married, move from place to place and those that ranked below him had to show him proper respect. Kaspar reached adulthood in 1801 but tough times awaited him.

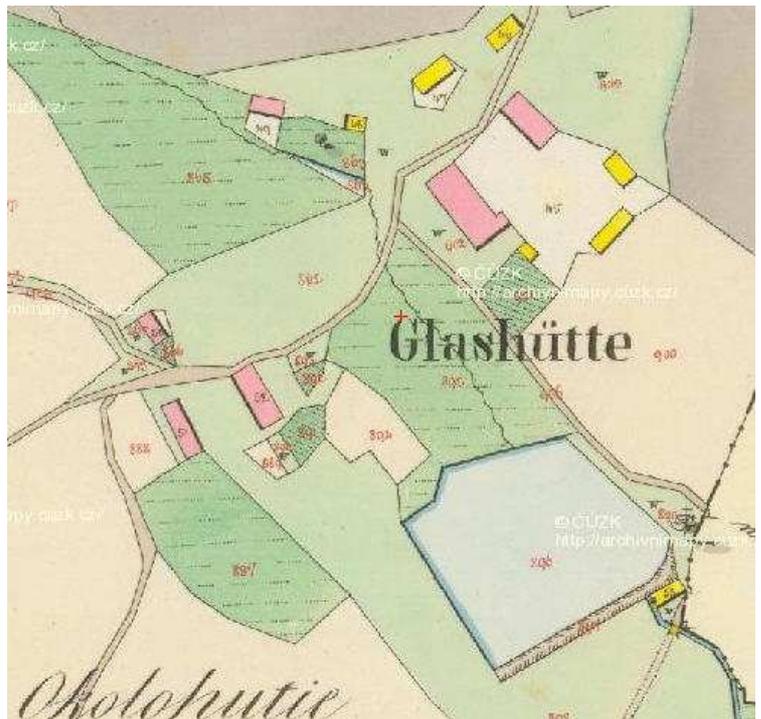
The owner of the Lukava estate, Knight Briffaut, died in 1804. After his death, it was found that during the last few years before his death he incurred substantial debt. Now there was a need to put an official price tag on everything that the Knight owned. The official notary records dated from May 22nd 1805 included, among many other documents, a description and a price estimate of all buildings of the Slavetin glass factory. It also contained a complaint of the new owners that the factory had used too much wood during its seven years of production. Briffaut's descendants who were the heirs of the Lukava estate wrote the complaint. They needed to pay off the debts and were concerned about the contract with Slavetin glass factory, which gave the factory rights to buy wood from Briffaut at a low price. Briffaut's family looked for the best way to shut down the factory. The dispute lasted for many years.

Kaspar Strobl married Petronilla Eisner on April 29, 1806. Petronilla was born on December 6, 1785 in Lipnice and Sazavou in the family of a glass worker Josef Eisner who worked at the Kejzlice glass factory. Petronilla's mother was Anna Eisner, born Plesinger.

Starting in 1805, Europe was devastated by Napoleonic wars. When Napoleon could not defeat Britain militarily he decided to destroy Britain economically. In November 1806, Napoleon put into action the so-called continental system. It was a complete blockade of Great Britain from trade with continental Europe. All major ports were shut down including the ports in Bremen and Lubeck, which were used by Czech glass factories for exporting their glass overseas. The resulting crisis fell hard on Czech glass workers and their families.

Kaspar's father Jozef died on May 20th, 1870. On March 19th, 1808, the Slavetin glass master received a note from the provincial court's office that announced an immediate closure of the Slavetin glass factory. In 1808, the employees of the factory demanded the province to pay back money that they had invested into the factory's operation. Province refused to pay, saying that the glass workers could find work at glass factories in the Tabor region. Even though the highest court ruled against the glass factory, the case was also taken to the regional court. The regional court ruled to institute an administrator over the Lukava forests. It also permitted Eisner to harvest 1,028 and 2/5 fathoms of wood annually. The glass factory renewed its production but the amount of wood permitted by the court's rule did not suffice for a full factory operation. The average factory use of wood between 1798 and 1806 was 2,587 fathoms. The renter of the glass factory, Eisner, tried to supply the factory with wood from other nearby forests, for example from Pacov. The regional office in Tabor forbid Eisner to use such wood for the factory's operation even though the wood was delivered and the glass master paid for it. The high court's decree dated August 12th 1810, forbid Eisner to supply the factory with wood from Pacov and Mlade Vozice. The *suzerain* from Viklantice requested at the Caslav regional office, in the name of Lukava subjects, Pacov townsfolk and all nearby estates, that the Slavetin glass factory would be closed. The glass workers from Slavetin, Palcice, Loukov and from the Melech glass factory sent a plea to the emperor to allow the glass factories in the Caslav region to continue their operation. In 1810, the emperor ruled in favor of the glass factories but this did not stop the problems.

Economic crises of the Austrian state peaked on February 11th, 1811, when Austria declared bankruptcy. The bankruptcy hit the whole monarchy hard including the glass making factories. Economic problems were probably one of the factors that contributed to Josef Eisner's abrupt death in Slavetin on October 11th 1811. Josef was the renter of the Slavetin glass factory. He was 47 years old when he died of a stroke. After his death, his son Josef Eisner II ran the factory. Josef was the only child of the deceased Eisner who continued in the family tradition of glass making. Frantisek Kopp became the executive glass master of the factory. In 1813, Frantisek Kopp married Katerina Anna, sister of Petronilla (*sister of Josef Eisner II*). Frantisek Kopp and Josef Eisner became partners and worked together for the next 45 years until Josef's death in 1856.



Slavetin glass factory

1815 became a year of renewed hope for a better life. Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo on the 18th of June 1815. Many believed that this would end problems created by the blockade and by the state's bankruptcy.

Unfortunately for Josef Eisner, the disputes regarding wood supplies continued until 1816. On the 2nd of May 1816 the provincial decision #17,922 ruled that the former contract of Josef Eisner Senior with Lukava suzerain was still in effect. This entitled the Slavetin glass factory to harvest and buy from the nearby forests 1,800 fathoms of wood annually until 1830. Frantisek Briffaut immediately appealed to the court. On July 30th 1816, he sued Josef Eisner for using a wrong unit of measurement for measuring harvested wood (instead of using the south Austrian, cubit Eisner supposedly used the Vienna cubit) and asked the court that Eisner should pay back 21,919 golden coins and 34 1/4 krejcar (*an old Czech currency*). The transcript dated Oct 24th 1816, states that Josef Eisner II refused to pay the charged amount saying that he felt no need to change the unit of measurement since he was using the same unit as his father did; nevertheless, he also proposed to pay Frantisek Briffaut 1,000 coins in gold. Briffaut accepted the money and the dispute was finally over.

The year 1819 was marked by catastrophic crop failures. This only escalated the economic crises. Czech glass making industry suffered again. Partially caused by its high price, the demand for Czech glass in foreign countries plummeted. A glass master had to pay the glass workers who worked for him immediately in cash, whereas merchants paid a glass master two to four years after they took goods from the factory. Sometimes the money would not be paid back at all. Josef Eisner lost two thirds of his savings and he was facing bankruptcy. He tried to negotiate temporary pay cuts with his fellow glass workers who worked for him but without success. Eisner's employees, including the Strobbs, did not agree with the terms repeatedly presented to them by their employer. Finally Eisner had to stop glass production on June 30th 1820. He wasn't the only one having problems paying wages. Other glass factories had similar problems including Caslav and Tabor regions. The situation continued until 1821 when the newly established trade on the River Elbe lowered the price of Czech glass exported through ports in northern Germany.

The last know problems of the Slavetin glass factory in 1826 were caused by rival glass factories. They complained that the Slavetin glass factory, having no permission to do so, employed one glass worker without *freispreich* as well as two apprentices. These problems were quickly settled.

The Slavetin glass factory then successfully operated until the end of the renting contract in 1830. Josef Eisner was able to make up for his previous losses. According to some records, his wealth reached 100,000 golden coins. This gave him a chance to become independent of nobility on whom a glass master depended for rent of the factory as well as for wood supplies. He decided to act. He bought two estates, Filipov and Kluky. His main interest though was the Vrbice estate located nine kilometers north of Svetla and Sazavou and seven kilometers west of Habry. This estate not only had a rich supply of timbre in its woods but also had a fully operational glass factory named **Nova Chranboze** (a direct translation from Czech means *God protect us*). Kaspar Altman operated the factory. Josef Eisner bought

the Vrbice estate in March 1831 and began immediate production at the Chranboze factory. The Slavetin glass factory was returned to the hands of its owners, the Lukava *suzerain*. In hopes of easy profit, they decided to continue with production but did not have success. Soon enough they rented the factory out to glass master Josef Kopp. Josef was the older brother of glass master Frantisek Kopp who was renting a small glass factory, Wostrow (also known as *Cyranuv Ostrov u Zbraslavic*). Josef Kopp continued to work at the Slavetin glass factory until his death on Jan 31st, 1852. His son Frantisek Kopp inherited the right to lead the factory after him and did so until 1877 when the factory's fires went out for good.

It is likely that Kaspar Strobl and his family followed Josef Eisner to Nova Chranboze. If so, Kaspar would have worked at the **Slavetin** factory for 32 years between **1798-1830**. There isn't enough information in the records to conclude with certainty where he went afterwards. Register records of his children list Kaspar as a glass engraver in Nova Chranboze but also as a glass worker in Ostredek, where his son Frantisek worked from 1837 until 1839. The death records of his grandson Anton (about 1891) list Kaspar as a glasscutter in Janstyn. But this is unlikely. He probably died in the Stramberk glass factory in the Benesov region. Stramberk estate was located only seven kilometers from the Slavetin glass factory, and the land belonged to the same landlord as the land on which the Slavetin glass factory was situated. Kaspar must have died before 1853. When his wife Petronila died on the 4th of Dec 1853, she was already listed as a widow.

Kaspar was born at the peak of glass making business but he spent most of his adult life fighting for economical survival in turbulent times, working under the direction of a 10 years younger glass master Josef Eisner.

These are the known children of Kaspar and Petronila:

- **Mariana** was born 25th of June 1807 at the Slavetin factory #8; married Karel Kraucher on the 28th of January 1828 at the Slavetin glass factory. Karel was a miller from the Podkamber mill #82 which belonged to Vozice.
- **Josefa** was born 17th of January 1809 at the Slavetin glass factory #10; she died of a sickness when 8 months old on the 8th of September 1809.
- **Terezie** was born 14th of October 1810 at the Slavetin glass factory #10; when she was 18 years old she married a glass worker Ignac Pritzel on the 17th of November 1829.
- **František** was born 6th of December 1812 at the Slavetin glass factory #10; married Alzbeta Vikiskova; their son Frantisek was born on 16 Dec 1837 at the Ostredek glass factory that was at the time headed by Frantisek Kavalir. An interesting story followed of which the records are not clear. On 30 May 1839 Marie Puclova, who lived in Ostredek, gave birth to a girl Jana. Marie was not married at the time. Frantisek Strobl claimed little Jana as his child. Kaspar Strobl, his father, was his whiteness. It is not clear whether Frantisek's wife Alzbeta died by then (I wasn't able to find out the date or the place of her death). If not then they must have divorced because Marie Puclova and Frantisek Strobl had their second daughter Marie born on 16 Jan 1841 at the glass factory Jakub at Tasice, this time they were listed as a husband and a wife. I don't know more of Frantisek's life story except for the fact that he died on 16 July 1886 at age 73 at the glass factory in Novy Hrozenkov. At that time he was already a widower.
- **Josefa** was born 27th of December 1814 at the Slavetin glass factory #10. Josefa had at least two children out of wedlock – Karel and Anton. Later she married a glass engraver Josef Maly. They had at least 9 children (see later text).
- **Josef** was born 4th of December 1816 at the Slavetin factory #10.
- **Antonie** was born 15th of February 1819 at the Slavetin factory #10. She grew up at the glass factories in Slavětín and Nová Chraňbože. In 1839 she moved to her sister Anna to Čejkov's glass factory. There on 15 August 1842 in Čejkov 26 she married glass engraver, Jan Nachmüller. They had than in Čejkov glass factory eight children. Glass factory Čejkov had from 1839 a renter, Antonín Kopp (see below), a cousin of Antonie. In 1849, Antonín Kopp bought a glass factory in Janštýn about thirteen kilometers away and the following year in March 1850 Janštýn moved there. The operational management of the glass factory in Čejkov transferred from Antonín to Jan Nachmüller. The family of Jan and Antonia Nachmüller then moved into the glass master house No. 26. left them by Antonín Kopp. In 1868, Antonín Kopp bought from Johann Hermann Adam at Duchcov a coal-fired glass factory Nr. 244. At the same time he also bought 50% of the shareholding in the nearby coal mine "*Šachta Povýšení sv. Kříže u Duchcova*" from which the glass factory which use coal for fuel. Antonín Kopp lost interest and so the Čejkov glass factory finally ended operation on November 11, 1868. Already in 1866 we find children of Antonie and Jan Nachmüllera in the glass factory Janštejn where

even after the extinction of the glass factory in Čejkov the family of Antonia and John moved. Antonie died there of dropsy in August 29, 1878 at 58 years of age. At that time, there Jan Nachmüller was cited as glass engraver.

- **Anna** was born 22nd of July 1821 at the Slavetin factory #10. Till the age of nine she lived with her parents at the Slavětín glass factory. After Joseph Eisner ended his lease there and began to implement his glass business in New Chraňbože glass factory, the Strobbs moved from the Slavětín to Chraňbože. In 1839 Uncle Frantisek Kopp, a glass master in Chraňbože, looked for a suitable glass factory to rent for her son Antonín. He found a factory in the Čejkov close Pelhřimov, where the estate was a prematurely terminated contract with Johann Moravec. Frantisek's brother, Josef Kopp worked there in the years 1814-1819 as the "Obergesell", or the front journeyman. He signed a contract with Franz Kopp to rent the factory in Čejkov in August 30, 1839 in effect until November 1, 1839. On November 1st, 1839 Franz Kopp sent his eldest son Antonin and his daughter Josefa to Čejkov. Accompanying them was their direct cousin Anna Strobl and groom Matej Charvat. In 1841 the brother of Antonín František Kopp, the sister of Anna Strobl and Kopp's cousin Antonie moved to the glass factory. Anna married Jan Hansl and while living in the glass factory Janštýn had five children. However, it is possible that she had already met Hansl in Čejkov.
- **Václav** was born 28th of September 1823 at the Slavetin factory #10. Václav married Marie Neumayer, the daughter of Krystof Neumayer, a glass worker from Milov. A record from 21 July 1852 lists Vaclav at the glass factory Kajetanka in Lubne.
- **Karolína Kateřina** was born 26th of August 1826 at the Slavetin factory #10.

Josefa Strobl, married name Malá About 1814

Josefa was the fifth child of Kaspar Strobl and Petronila Eisner. She was born on Dec 27 1814, during the hard times of Napoleonic wars. Kaspar and Josefa had a child named Jozefa before in 1809, but the little girl died when she was eight months old. Josefa spent the first sixteen years of her life, **1814 – 1830**, with her parents at the **Slavetin** glass factory. In 1831 they all moved to the **Nova Chranboze** glass factory at Dobrnice.

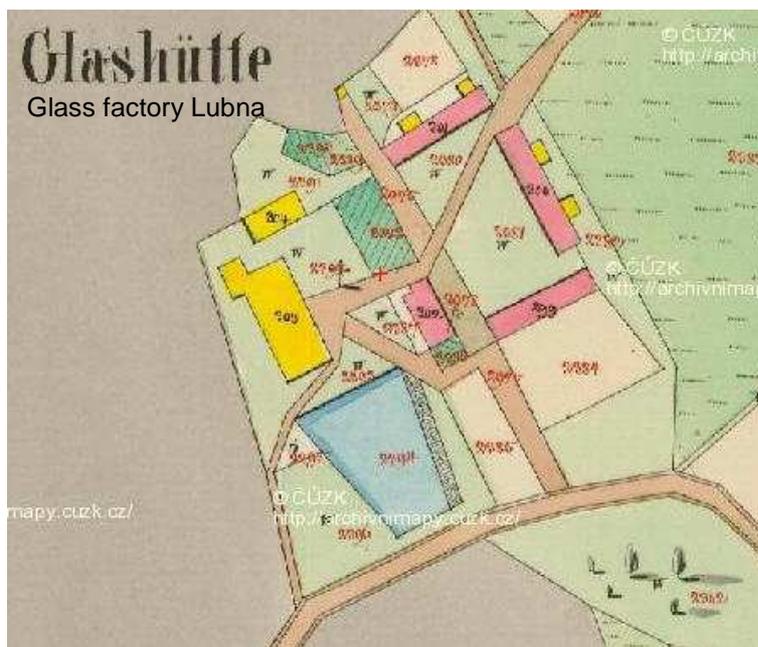
Josef Eisner from Eisenstein bought the whole Vrbsice estate in 1830. Before, he rented the Slavetin glass factory near Lukavec. Eisner brought with him to Nova Chranboze many skilled glass workers. Among them were glass master Frantisek Kopp *1788, and many other reliable glass workers and craftsmen including the Strobl family. Upon his arrival at Nova Chranboze, Eisner immediately started production of glass at the small factory at an unprecedented rate. The land registry map dated 1839, shows that even though the factory itself had a wooden building with a brick annex, the glass master's house was a fine brick building. Four other new houses were built for the glass workers. Eisner became an important competitor and rival for other glass factories in the region. Eisner's factory did very well and his fellow glassworkers prospered together with him.

It seems that soon after the Strobbs arrived at the new glass factory, Josefa fell in love. Josefa and her secret love had at least two children – son Karel (probably 1832) and Anton (26 Oct 1834). Only then were Josefa's parents able to persuade Josefa to marry. On Sept 8 1835, Josefa married glass engraver, Josef Maly who came from Cestin at the Kacov estate. Josefa lived at Nova Chranboze from **1830 to 1836**. In 1836 Josefa and Josef moved to Lubné.

1836 was an opening year for a new glass factory named Kajetanciny at **Lubná** in the Litomysl estate. Two Jewish families, Lazar Pick and sons from Habry, made a proposal to the landlord, Count Antonin Valdstejn, to build a new glass factory on his land. The Pick family never had run a glass factory before. They weren't glass workers; they were businessmen who rented glass factories and hired glass workers to work for them. They started by making potash from wood and selling it to glass factories. A few years into their business, they devised a clever plan how to expand their area of influence. They understood the glass business very well and were able to



exploit the difficult economic situation of Czech glass masters to their advantage. Many glass masters were facing financial difficulties and for one reason or another were not able to continue their work. A common problem was that glass masters did not have enough cash to pay the annual rent to their landlord (the rent was always paid annually, in advance, in one payment, no matter how many weeks or months the glass factory actually produced glass) or to buy materials needed for glass production. The plan was simple. Picks would rent a glass factory from a landlord and sublet it to a glass master. The glass master had to pay rent weekly and only for the weeks when the glass factory was in operation. Picks would also pay for any materials that the glass master could not afford to pay for in advance. Such a proposition looked very



inviting on the outside, but the details of each contract always played into the hands of the Picks. Glass masters were required by contract to buy potash (potash formed up to 75% of material investments of a glass factory) from the Pick enterprise. Also, if a glass factory was in fact in operation during a whole year, the weekly small rent added up to double, sometime triple, of what a glass master would normally pay annually to a land lord. Using this plan during 1830 – 1860 made the Pick family a dominant power in the whole Posazavi region. For example, consider the small glass factory in Ostreděk. Glass master Frantisek Kavalir rented the glass factory from the Lazar Pick Company in 1831. He paid a weekly rent of only twenty golden coins. Normally the annual rent of the factory was 300 – 350 golden coins, but if in fact the factory stayed in operation for 40 weeks (it was the glass master's intention to keep the factory in production as much as possible), the annual rent that the Picks were collecting added up to 800 golden coins. The famous Memories of Grandmother Kavalir, who experienced business with the Picks first hand, vividly described on page 220 the situation with forced deliveries of potash and enforcement of payments.

Pick's had two subtenants in the glass factory at Lubne, Ignac Kopp until 1843, and then glass master Joseph Hayde. The factory manufactured mainly items made of hollow glass (pitchers, glasses, medical containers, cups, candlesticks, sugar bowls,) including elaborately cut folk figures and plant motifs. The factory workers designed a large chandelier made of pressed glass for the chapel at Lubne. Besides cutting, glass workers decorated glass using diverse techniques including engraving, matting and decorating with rubies. Most of what the factory manufactured was intended for export to Holland, Spain, Turkey and to different countries in the Americas. More than 500 thousands pieces of hollow glass were made annually. The factory did well. Josefa and Josef Maly lived at the glass factory from the time it opened in **1836** until its closure in **1851**.

Here is a description of the glass factory at Lubne: The glass factory was situated in a rather small area with six main buildings. The courtyard had a large gate with pillars situated on the side facing Lubne. The courtyard had a cross and a drinking fountain. Workers lived in two large houses right next to the factory hall. The first house had four living quarters, each with two apartments. One of the apartments was very small with only one room plus a pantry. The other apartment had a large room, a pantry, a kitchen, a bathroom and an attic. The two apartments had a common entrance hall and common cowshed in a barn next to the factory hall. The second house had only three living quarters with six apartments of the same layout as described above.

The rest of the four main buildings were the factory hall itself and three barns. One barn housed carriages, stables and cowsheds; one was a hay storage with hay for cattle and horses and the last one was used for packaging and storing glass. The factory hall housed also a small bakery and a smokehouse. Since the town was not within a walking distance for the glass worker's children, a school was situated in the second living house. It had a large hall, a classroom and a small room used as a cabinet. Water from a nearby pond was used to power the factory's large machinery. The glass master and his accountant lived and worked at a house near the pond. Each of them had a three-room apartment with a common kitchen and common entrance hall. They had two separate offices. A small clock tower was accessible through

attic and a corridor. The tower had two clock dials and a bell. The clocks measured time not only for the factory employees and their families, but also for guests and their wagoners. Merchants and employees waiting for the accountant usually gathered at the house courtyard. The accountant had a small chicken house and a pigsty. Cellars were situated throughout the whole factory. The glass master had a cellar right underneath his house. The accountant had a cellar in a small building next to the factory hall. The first living building facing Lubne had a small flower garden with a pavilion.

The factory hall was the largest building. It had one melting furnace, eight pans and one oven for slow cooling. A small building attached to the factory hall was used for creating ashes used in making of potash. The excess heat from burning wood was used for baking bread in the small bakery. A workshop for crushing of quartz was built in a nearby forest. It had a small living building next to it that housed the stone workers and their apprentices. The factory also had a small tavern. Pick was obliged to buy beer from the landlord's brewery in Litomysl. A villa, the so-called *letohrádek*, was built in the forest. This is where the factory's social life took place. An opened log house was built on pillars at the bank of the Zimky pond. Here the factory employees bathed and played in the summer. On Sundays, glassworkers attended popular church services at Sebranice.

Glassworkers worked very hard and suffered from many illnesses because of their working conditions. Their eyes burned from the intense heat of the furnace. Smoke and evaporating chemical had a bad effect on their lungs and respiratory system. Dying of tuberculosis was common. Still, glassmaking was more profitable than agricultural business. Glassworkers wage was about 120-150 golden pieces a year. A productive glassmaker made three or four times more than his helper or unskilled worker in a glass factory. In 1870, a glass worker at Heralec made eleven to thirteen golden pieces a week. His helper made three a week and a smelter working at a furnace made ten gold pieces a week. An unskilled worker at a factory made fifty krejcar a day. Glassworkers could afford to eat meat often. Because of working at a hot environment they drank a lot, usually beer. They drank coffee with their breakfast. These luxuries were unheard of among those that worked in agriculture. Clothing was another thing that set glassworkers apart from others. A glassworker in his best clothes looked very elegant. Narrow short pants called "*pantalony*" had big buttons on the outside of a knee. Glassworkers wore long white socks and leather shoes with a large shiny buckle. Their coat was always green and long, made from a good quality Czech fabric. Their head was covered with a fancy *vydrovka* type hat with flat slanted top. They walked with a dark wood walking stick with silver embellishments. Women of glassworkers on the other hand dressed themselves in simple but always clean and pressed neat clothes.

After the glass factory at Lubne was closed in 1851, Josefa's whole family moved to a glass factory **Janstyn** by Horni Dubenky. What happened to Josefa next is unknown. One thing is sure, her name is not found among the death records in Janstyn. She must have died somewhere else.



These are the known descendants of Josefa born Stroblova:

- **Karel Strobl** about 1832 at glass factory in Nova Chranboze. He married Marie Hradecka, the daughter of Jan Tkalec from Horni Cerkevce. Their daughter Antonie was born in 1865 in Janstyn. We don't find any further records of him until 1876 at glass factory Bratybar in Niwiska, in the Halic region (border with Poland). His son Vladislav was born here on February 5th 1876. We meet Vladislav again at the end of 19th century at glass factory in Novy Hrozenkov. There he married Anastazie Struzkova on 14th of November 1899. Their son Rudolf was born nine months later on the 9th of August 1900. Here we lose Vladislav again. The last record we have is of Rudolf's wedding to Marie Horalusova at Vienna, part Leopoldov, on the 23rd of May 1926.
- **Anton Strobl** about 26th of October 1834 at Nova Chranboze. On the 26th of August 1860 he married Marie Babicka in Janstyn. Maria's father was Anton Babicky, a master tailor from Holysov (not far away from the glass factory in Slavetin). They lived in Janstyn until 1866 when their whole family moved to glass factory in Novy Hrozenkov. Anton passed away in Novy Hrozenkov on the 4th of July 1891 – more information on Anton follows in the further text.
- **Veronika Mala** about 6th of August 1838 at Lubna, glass factory Kajetanka
- **Jozef Maly** about 6th of August 1840 at Lubna, glass factory Kajetanka
- **Alois Maly** about 22nd of January 1843 at Lubna, glass factory Kajetanka
- **Frantisek Maly** about 31st of December 1844 at Lubna, glass factory Kajetanka. Frantisek married

Anna Gubikova on the 14th of September 1868 at glass factory Janstyn. Anna's father was Antonin Gubik, a glass engraver from Janstyn# 53.

- **Marie Mala about** 14th of December 1846 at Lubna, glass factory Kajetanka. Her midwife was Terezie Stroblova, perhaps the wife of Frantisek Strobl (if so, Terezia's maiden name was Kavalirova).
- **Frantiska Mala about** 8th of March 1849 at Lubna, glass factory Kajetanka
- **Veronika Mala about** 3rd of June 1851 at Lubna, glass factory Kajetanka
- **Antonie Mala about** 20th of November 1853 at Janstyn, she died of pneumonia when two an a half years old on the 19th of July 1856 at Janstyn
- **Josefa Mala** about 21st of January 1856 at Janstyn #14

Anton Strobl About 1834 – 1891

Anton was born out of wedlock on the 26th of October 1834 at the glass factory Nova Chranboze. His mother was Josefa Stroblova. Josefa married glass engraver Josef Maly when Anton was one year old. Josef never adopted Anton or his older brother Josef. The two boys carried their mother's last name, Strobl. Anton lived at the glass factory **Nova Chranboze** until **1836** when the whole family moved to the glass factory **Kajetanka** at **Lubna** at the Litomysl estate. They stayed there for the next 15 years until the factory was closed in **1851**. When Anton was 18 years old, he probably moved with his family to the glass factory Janstyn by Horni Dubenky. It is also possible that he separated from his family and worked at different glass factories.

The **Janstyn** glass factory belonged to Antonin Kopp. The factory complex was quite large. Next to the factory stood the so-called Master's house, a packaging building, *salajka* (where potash was prepared), a warehouse and eight houses with a total of 29 apartments. The building complex was surrounded by fields, which also belonged to the factory. According to the 1856 official statistics the factory worked with seven pans and was producing 5800 heaps of table glass and 8600 heaps of hollow glass. During 1858, the factory was producing only hollow glass, mostly for Vienna. After Antonin Kopp died, the factory was handed down to his son Frantisek and later to his grandson, also named Frantisek, who was the owner until nationalization in 1945. A large fire destroyed the main hall of the factory in 1871, but the factory returned to normal production in a short time after a speedy reconstruction.

As mentioned above, it is possible that Anton worked at different glass factories after reaching adulthood at the age of 18. One such glass factory was located in Slavetin. Anton married Marie Babicka (3rd of August 1834 at Holysov #16), a daughter of a tailor from the nearby Holysov. It is therefore



The Janstyn glass factory by Horni Dubenky

probable that Anton worked at Slavetin. Marie gave birth to a boy Karel, who was born out of wedlock on the 19th of June 1859 in Holysov. Anton announced Karel as his son, but it took him more than a year to marry Marie on the 26th of August 1860.

The records are somewhat confusing. They state that Anton worked as a glass worker at a factory in **Nový Hrozenkov** in 1860, but the Nový Hrozenkov factory was not officially opened until 1862. It is possible therefore that Anton worked at the nearby glass factory at Velke Karlovice. Perhaps it was there that his next two children were born – Frantiska (about 1863), and Marie (about 1865). Another confusing record is the birth of Anton’s son, Antonin, in 1865 in Janstyn. We can be sure that Anton worked at Janstyn between **1851** and **1860**. After 1860, Anton moved to glass factories in northern Moravia, namely Nový Hrozenkov and Velke Karlovice. Strobls remained in Janstyn after 1866 thanks to another Antonin Strobl, his wife Katerina (maiden name Kosova) and their daughters. Strobls left Janstyn in 1883 when the factory underwent a major reconstruction.

The Nový Hrozenkov factory was built by a wealthy Jew, Samuel Reich, and started production in 1862. It had two ovens, each having seven pans. At first the factory was producing only crystal glass and cylinders for oil lamps. Most



of the glass was sold to Vienna and the Halic region of the monarchy. Later, the factory produced a wide assortment of hollow glass. A third oven was built in 1872 as well as a gas generator which allowed the use of wood of lesser quality. The lack of railroad was the factory’s only problem. Everything that was brought in or went out had to be transported by wagons pulled by horses.



A drawing of Karolinina hut near Nový Hrozenkov, 1863

A sawmill was built on the right bank of the River Beca where a kindergarten stands today. The prospering factory was an impulse for growth of local commerce. Many new businesses were started and others moved in. New buildings and houses were built. The factory was driving the industrialization and living standards of the whole micro region. Nevertheless, the local people in Nový Hrozenkov region continued living from shepherding, agriculture and forestry. As with most glass factories, the glass

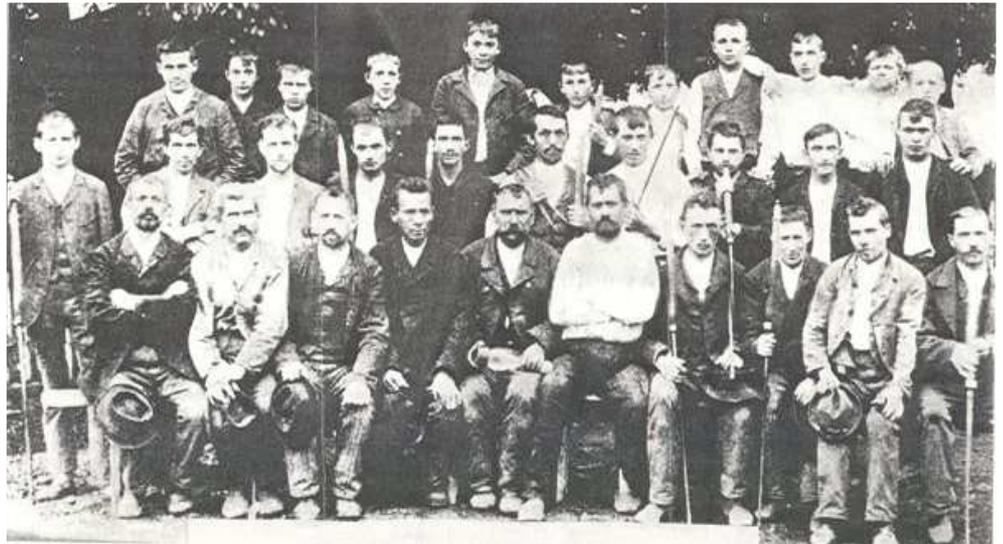
workers in in the Nový Hrozenkov factory were not newly trained local people. Most of the factory employees came from traditional glass making families that moved in.

Anton and Maria’s beginnings in Nový Hrozenkov were not easy. A plague of cholera broke out in 1866, perhaps as a result of the Prussian-Austrian war, which culminated in July and August 1866. The illness claimed the life of Anton’s daughter Marie. She died on the 27th of September



The glassblowers home in Nový Hrozenkov. House has been torn down. and is no longer there.

1866. Marie (the mother) was pregnant at that time and her new daughter, born on the 7th of April 1867 in Novy Hrozenkov, bore the same name, Marie. Anton and Marie had three more children, Frantisek, Josef and Rudolf, before their parents died in Novy Hrozenkov. Marie died of a kidney infection on the 5th of April 1888 at the age of 55 and Anton passed away on the 4th of July 1891 at the age of 59.



Glass workers of Karolinka, Nový Hrozenkov in 1884

These are the known descendants of Anton and Marie and their birth dates:

- **Karel** about 19th of June 1859 at Holysov #15
- **Frantiska** about 1863
- **Marie** about 1864, died of cholera in Novy Hrozenkov on the 27th of September 1866
- **Antonin** about 30th of August 1865 in Janstyn #53, married Marie Kyslingerova on the 26th of February 1889, they had 12 children. Antonin died in Litomerice on the 18th of September 1927 – read more in further text.
- **Marie** about 7th of April 1867 in Novy Hrozenkov #228. She gave birth to two out of wedlock children in Novy Hrozenkov between 1890 and 1893. Josef (1893-1917) probably died in the First World War
- **Frantisek** about 29th of September 1868 in Novy Hrozenkov # 228. After the death of his first wife, Rosalie Orszagova, he married her friend Karolina Jurickova. They had 10 children. Frantisek changed several glass factories. After Czechoslovakia was established in 1918 he settled down in Dubi u Teplic (today's Czech republic, right by the German border). Frantisek worked here at the glass factory Inwald. He had an accident at work and died on the 21st of June 1925 – see further text.
- **Josef** about 3rd of September 1872 in Novy Hrozenkov # 228
- **Rudolf** about 13th of September 1876 in Novy Hrozenkov 228. He died at birth.

Antonin Strobl About 1865 – 1927

Antonin was born as a child of Anton Strobl and Marie Babicka on the 30th of August 1865 in Janstyn #53. It is not clear why Antonin was born in Janstyn. His father Anton worked at a glass factory in Novy Hrozenkov at that time. We know for sure that Antonin grew up in Novy Hrozenkov. He married Marie Kyslingerova in the nearby Velke Karlovice on the 26th of February 1889. Marie was a daughter of Josef Kyslinger, a glass worker from Velke Karlovice. Her mother was Anna Orsagova.

Antonin was very close to his brother Frantisek. Later, they moved together to northern Bohemia (the Czech part of the republic). It is very plausible that they traveled together and changed different glass factories between 1905 and 1914. When Czechoslovakia was established in 1914, Antonin and Frantisek moved to northern Bohemia. Antonin



Antonín and Maria Strobl

quit the glass making industry and started his own business in Litomerice. He died in Litomerice on the 18th of September 1927. His children probably missed traveling with their father. (See further text)

These are the known descendants of Antonin and Marie:

- **Bedrich** about 17th of July 1889 in Velke Karlovice #74. He died of Diphtheria at the age of 6 in Novy Hrozenkov #228 on the 4th of October 1895.
- **Frantisek** about 15th of November 1890 in Novy Hrozenkov. He married Marta Bittner in Wiesswasser, **Germany**, on the 20th of October 1920. Frantisek moved to Weisswasser where his wife was from. They lived there together. Frantisek died on the 25th of September 1963. Marta died 25 days later.
- **Zofie** about 28th of March 1892 in Novy Hrozenkov. She immigrated to **USA** between 1921 and 1922. She married Rudolf Molic and started using first name Sofie. They had three children, Rudolf, Louise and Walter.
- **Anna Marie** about 3rd of July 1893 in Novy Hrozenkov. She immigrated to **USA**. Her first husband was Harry Grosse. Her second Husband was Henry Dieterlie.
- **Alois Leopold** about 15th of November 1894 in Novy Hrozenkov. He was born on the same day as his older brother Frantisek. Alois was very brave. He was drafted to army in 1914 after the breakout of First World War and served on the Russian front. He was a corporal in the 3rd field regiment. He was imprisoned at Cholm on the 3rd of July 1915 and spent the next two years in prison camps. After Czech soldiers fought on the Russian side at the battle at Zborov, the Russian Czar allowed Czech and Slovak POWs to fight in the ranks of the so-called Czechoslovak Legions. Alois joined the Legions on the 3rd of August 1917 at Borispol. He became a private in the 8th rifle regiment. After an unsuccessful Bolshevik attempt to dissolve the Czechoslovak Legions, they became an independent fighting unit, fighting mostly against German units at the eastern front. Thanks to the success of the Czechoslovak Legions, the Czechoslovak exile representatives were able to act on their goal of an independent Czechoslovak state before the international community. Antonin returned to Czechoslovakia on the 21st of April 1920 as a lieutenant in the Czechoslovak Legion. He converted from the Catholic Church to the Czechoslovak Church and remained with the army. He served with the 2nd infantry regiment in Litomerice. There he married Anna Cihlarova. From 1937, he served with the 44th infantry regiment in Liberec. He led the construction of a Liberec-Chrastava section of a defense fortification line. When Germans occupied the Czechoslovak borders, Alois became a member of a special German-Czech Border Commission. Working in this function he came to Semily. Here he was contacted in April by Frantisek Hyska, an army captain in reserve, now a clerk of the Industrial bank in Semily. Hyska wanted to start organized resistance immediately after Hitler established the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia in 1939. Hyska disclosed his thoughts to Alois in Semily. In May Alois went to Prague where he contacted colonel Miroslav Berka. The commanding HQ of National Defense called Alois a secret commander of podkrkonose regions of Semily and Jilemnice. Alois was called to organize an infantry battalion, which was going to be a part of regiment of the underground army of



Sophie and Rudolf Molic



Lieutenant Colonel Alois Štrobl

National Defense (ND) in Turnov under the command of Alois Verner. Alois Strobl called Hyska as his second-in-command, and Hyska's group became a part of Strobl's battalion. The structure of ND was almost completed during the winter of 1939; the infantry regiment in Semily had about 1600 volunteers. In January 1940, Alois became very ill with pneumonia and the commanding responsibilities were transferred to Hyska. ND was planning a quick uprising. At that time all resistance fighters had a vision of a quick end of war. They clearly underestimated their enemy and did not have a good idea about the true military and political situation in Europe in 1940. Under this wrong assumption, ND thought that Germany was going to be defeated and war was going to cease by the end of 1940. The early resistance fighters did not bother very much to keep their activities in strict secrecy. This was a reason why the resistance organization was soon discovered by German authorities. Arrests started as soon as the fall of 1939. The Semily region was struck by catastrophic arrests at the end of January 1940. The Gestapo arrested Alois Strobl on the 20th of May 1940. The leading officers of National Defense and To the Fight organizations had to wait for their military court until 1942. Lieutenant Colonels Alois Strobl, Josef Vanek and Ladislav Nebesky were sentenced to death, and the rest were sentenced to long-term imprisonment. Many of them died because of inhumane treatment and torture. Strobl and Vanek were sentenced to death on the 28th of October 1942 and executed on the 22nd of February 1943, together with other 677 Czech patriots at the Plotensee prison in Prussia. Alois had 4 children, Vladislav, born about 1922, Vera born about 1924, Zdenek (died at age of 3) and Jaromir who still lives in Prague today.

- **Bedrich**, born about 7th of February 1890 in Novy Hrozenkov. He immigrated between 1921 and 1922 to **USA**. Records state that on the 7th of October 1921 Bedrich converted, together with his brother Alois, from the Catholic Church to the Czechoslovak Church. Bedrich married Marie Horova from Novy Hrozenkov in 1922, but it is not clear whether their wedding was in Czechoslovakia or in USA. Bedrich died in Detroit on the 13th of May 1973. Marie died in Farmington Hills in Michigan on the 28th of March 1988.
- **Josef Alois**, born about 16th of April 1897 in Novy Hrozenkov. He attended school in Novy Hrozenkov until the age of 14. He did not want to become a glass blower and so his father sent him to Germany for the next 4 years to be trained as a tool and die maker. When the war started he was drafted. At the first of the war he worked as an engineer but was then sent to the front where he was captured and placed in a concentration camp in Italy. He remained in the camp for eight months and nearly starved to death three times. While there he learned to speak Italian. As a prisoner he decided when he got out he wanted to go to the United States. His sister, Sophie was already living in New York and had a very successful restaurant business. After the war he went to the Netherlands to try to get a visa to go to America. While he was there he worked in a tool and die company and met his future wife, Gysbertje Slieker, a daughter of a glass factory manager in Schiedam.. He sailed to South America and spent a year visiting the major cities of Brazil and Argentina and even worked on a coffee plantation for a few weeks. He finally got on the immigration quota to the United States, arriving in New York on Dec 22, 1921. Soon he sent for his love Gysbertje. They were married in New York on the 5th of June 1922. They were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in New York on Aug 31, 1924. He became the Stake Mission President for 15 years. He could teach the gospel to all of the immigrants in their own language. Josef Alois

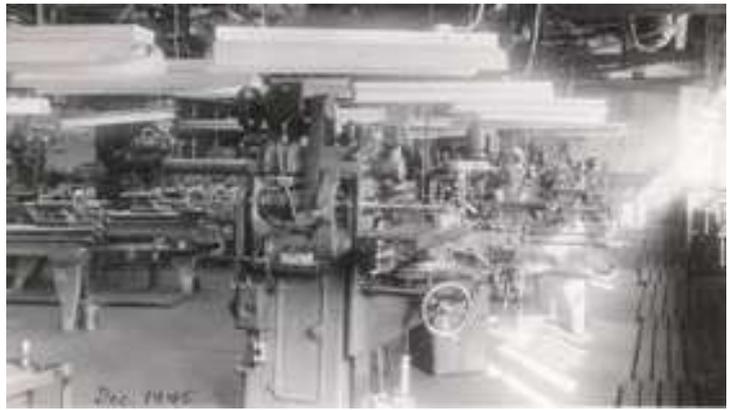


Bedřich (Frederic) Strobl



Joseph Alois Strobel

prospered. He was a consulting engineer for Westinghouse, Western Electric, General Electric and Kodak. He designed tools and machines for the Talon zipper factory and later he became involved with the development of the atomic bomb. Even though he never graduated from a university, he was fluent in 9 languages. Later he sold his factories, moved to the west and became a farmer. He grew cotton in Arizona and Medina Clover in California. Everything Josef Alois touched prospered. He died in Chico, California, on the 25th of August 1952. Joseph Alois and Gysbertje had three children, Johanna Marie born 28 Mar, 1924, Joseph Edwin, born 30 Mar 1926 and Elizabeth Dortha born 12 Apr 1932. Of these three, the most important to us is Josef Edwin Strobl. Edwin was born in New York on the 30th of March 1926, one block away from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Czech district. He started his university studies in Utah, but the Second World War interrupted his schooling. Ed served in the Navy in the Pacific Ocean. After the war he returned to study in Utah where he met his wife to be, Shawna Ellison. Their wedding was in Idaho Falls at the temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Ed was an active member and a missionary of his church. Ed and his wife served two missions in Czech Republic and one in Frankfurt. They had 11 children, of which only 8 are living today. . At the end of his life Edwin had 54 grandchildren and 37 great-grand children. He died on the 4th of November 2010 in Rexburg, Idaho USA.



Strobel factory

- **Jaroslav**, born 24th of September 1989 in Novy Hrozenkov #228. He married a German girl and moved to Germany after the war. His descendant, Heinz Strobl, lives in Germany today.
- **Marie Karolina**, born 13th of August 1900 in Novy Hrozenkov #228. She died at age of 10 on the 5th of June 1910.
- **Antonin Karel**, born 31st of October 1901 in Novy Hrozenkov #228. He immigrated to **USA**. He married Emily Elizabeth Kelin and later he married Anna Krauchner. He died on the 14th of June 1977.
- **Irena**, born 27th of February 1903 in Novy Hrozenkov. She married Karel Ondrak from Nevelkov. They married in Prague on the 20th of January 1924 and lived in Litomerice. Irena and Karel had three children: Jiri, born about 1924, Jarmila, born about 16th of February 1927 in Litomerice and Karel, born about 12th of August 1934 in Usti and Labem. Jiri was involved with researching the Strobl family tree. He married Miluse Sadilkova and lives at a retirement home today. Jarmila married Ladislav Mezera. They had two children, Irena and Ladislav, who live in Prague Today. Irena's youngest son Karel was engaged in the anti communist resistance movement. He was helping broadcasting anti communist radio programs. Karel was arrested and sentenced



Karel Strobl



Jaroslav Strobl



Irena and Karel Ondrak

to work at a uranium mine. He was shot and wounded during an attempt to escape. He died at age 25 in Prague on the 14th of June 1959.

- **Ludmila**, born about 17th of May 1905 in Novy Hrozenkov, died at birth.

František Štrobl

About 1868 – 1925

Frantisek was born as a fourth child of Anton Strobl and Marie Babicka on the 29th of September 1868 in Novy Hrozenkov #228. After his parents passed away, at 23 years of age married Rosalie Orsagova, a daughter of a farmer from Novy Hrozenkov. Their wedding was on the 29th of February 1892 in Novy Hrozenkov. Rosalie's father was Jakub Orsag. Her mother was Mariana Vrazelova. Frantisek and Rosalie had three children between 1892-1896 (Jindrich Frantisek died a few days after his birth). Then, between 1896 and 1899, Rosalie died at about 30 years of age. Before her death she asked her friend, Karolina Jurickova, to take care of her children, Frantisek (1892) and Emilie (1896).

Karolina was faithful to the promise she gave to Rosalie. She married Frantisek Strobl on the 22nd of January 1900. Frantisek was 31 years old and Karolina was 18. Frantisek and Karolina had 7 more children. In 1907, Frantisek started moving around and was employed in different glass factories throughout the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy. In 1908, we find them in Dubrovnik (Croatia), in 1911 in Daruvar (Croatia) and then in



Glass factory Rudolf in 1953



Glass factory Rudolf in 2011

Vienna. In 1914

Frantisek

returned to his home country and worked as a glass master at the Rudolf factory owned by a glass making corporation, Inwald in **Dubi** close to Teplice. The glass factory was built in an old rolling mill that used to produce thin steel sheets. Production of glass started in 1906. Besides all sorts of hollow glass, which was shaped by blowing, the factory was able to succeed in the market of pressed glass. One of the factory's old time favorites was the so-called *Duritka*, an "unbreakable" glass.

The Rudolf glass factory was the only glass factory in the world that used oil. The factory was modernized in the 20's and 30's of the 20th century and wanted to expand its exports. The bold plan called for mass-producing automated dosage production line, but was stopped by the world economic crisis.

Frantisek was 45 years old when the First World War started. On the 26th of July 1914, the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy called for partial mobilization. This changed five days later to a general mobilization, and all men born between 1877 and 1892 were called to arms. During August of 1914, in the so-called Second Call, the Monarchy drafted men born between 1872 and 1876. Throughout the fall of 1914, the drafts continued and finally stopped with the draft of all men born between 1865 and 1900, a total of 35 years worth of men of the Monarchy. Frantisek was also drafted.

The Czech society before the war generally sympathized with Russia, but not all Czechs were oriented against the Monarchy. Most Czech



soldiers were called to the eastern front. The terrible losses that followed radicalized the Czech society as well as the newly called battalions of the individual Czech infantry regiments leaving for the eastern front. Military news started publishing articles about the unreliability of the Czech soldiers. The army HQ started to closely watch the mood in Czech units, and the so called “panslavic movement” in the Czech regiments came as a welcomed excuse for the unsuccessful eastern campaign. Military units composed of Czech and Slovak volunteers who lived in Russia started appearing as early as 1914. The first organized unit was named “The Czech band of brothers,” and served as an example for other Slavic minorities living throughout the Russian lands to join the Russian army. Problems started when the unit began expanding by drafting Czech and Slovak prisoners of war. Russian leading officers did not like the idea. They were saying that soldiers who betrayed their military oath once could do it again. The situation changed after the battle at Zborov. The Czechoslovak soldiers fought on the Russian side so bravely that they won the hearts of Russian officers. The newly formed Czechoslovak legions had over 360,000 soldiers and became a significant force at the Russian front.

The new communist Russia signed a peace treaty with Germany in 1918. In the so-called Celjabinisk incident, the Bolsheviks attempted to dismantle and take arms from the Czechoslovak legions. The legions started an independent fight against the Bolsheviks. At one time, the legions controlled an area larger than the whole of Europe. About 10,000 Czechoslovak soldiers switched sides and fought on the Russian side in the lines of the regular Red army. Eventually the legions retreated towards Vladivostok from where they sailed home to Europe.

It is very difficult to track the trail of Frantisek Strobl amid tribulations on the eastern front during and after the First World War. According to family tradition, Karolina traveled to Vladivostok to meet Frantisek and to bring him home. But we don't find Frantisek's name in the records of Czechoslovak legions, and it is highly improbable that Karolina would have been able to get through the line between the Bolsheviks and the legions. After the war Frantisek joined the Czech Communist Party, which could lead us to conclude that he fought against his Czech brothers on the side of the Red army. In that case he would have most probably never traveled to Vladivostok. Frantisek's military documents were shredded and we will probably never know the true story of Frantisek Strobl.

After the war Frantisek returned to work at the Rudolf glass factory in Dubi. He died in a tragic accident at the factory on the 21st of June 1925, at 57 years of age. Karolina lived for another 40 years and died at the age of 86 on the 9th of January 1966.

These are the known descendants of Frantisek Strobl:

- **Frantiska** about 29th of December 1892 in Novy Hrozenkov #228. She married Josef Laska in Teplice on the 21st of February 1914. Josef was from Tuhany u Strucince; they had one daughter Ludmila.
- **Jindrich Frantisek** about 22nd of May 1895 in Novy Hrozenkov #228. He died of catarrh a few days later on the 4th of June 1895.
- **Emilie** about 5th of May 1896 in Novy Hrozenkov #228. She married Eduard Frantisek Jezek in Teplice on the 9th of August 1919; they had two daughters Anna and Marie.
- **Marie** about 29th of December 1900 in Novy Hrozenkov #228. She died of bronchitis in Novy Hrozenkov when 8 months old on the 5th of August 1901.
- **Ludmila** about 2nd of August 1902 in Novy Hrozenkov 228. She married Rudolf Novy on the 7th of November 1920. Rudolf was a glassmaker from Plzen. They lived in Novy Mstisov and had three children. Rudolf Novy died on the 27th of January 1945. Ludmila then married Vojtech Siska. She died at a hospital in Teplice on the 11th of January 1963. She had a tumor in her gallbladder.
- **Valerie** about 1904. She died tragically at age 16 in 1920. She was working at a glass-cutting workshop when her hair got caught in a machine and tore all skin off of her scalp. She died of the wounds.
- **Anastazie** about 15th of July 1906. She married Bedrich Preller and had two daughters and a son, Drahuse, Ludmila and Ladislav. They moved to Sazava in 1938 after Germany occupied Sudeten.



Ludmille Stroblova (*1902)
Picture from 1818

- **Rudolfina** about 23rd of September 1908 in Dubrovnik (Croatia). She married Josef Hanzlicek who was a miner. They had three children – sons Josef and Karel and daughter Sona (Sonya). Karel (*1961) lives in Dubi and worked in the Inwald glass factory (today's glass factory OI Czech) for almost 20 years.
- **Alois** about 23rd of March 1911 in Daruvar (Croatia), started working in the Inwald glass factory in Dubi when he was 14 years old. Later he worked as an accountant and married Antonie Bechynska. They had 5 children.
Alois died on the 19th of April 1970.
- **Josef** about 29th of October 1914, probably in Vienna. It is not clear when and where Josef was born. His older sister Frantiska's wedding was in Teplice on the 21st of February 1914. Therefore, Josef was either born in Vienna at a different date, or in Teplice. Josef married Adina. They moved to Podebrady before the Second World War. Josef worked at a



local glass factory. They had two children – Jana and Josef.

Wedding of Alois Strobl with Antonie Bechynska, brother Josef Strobl on the left

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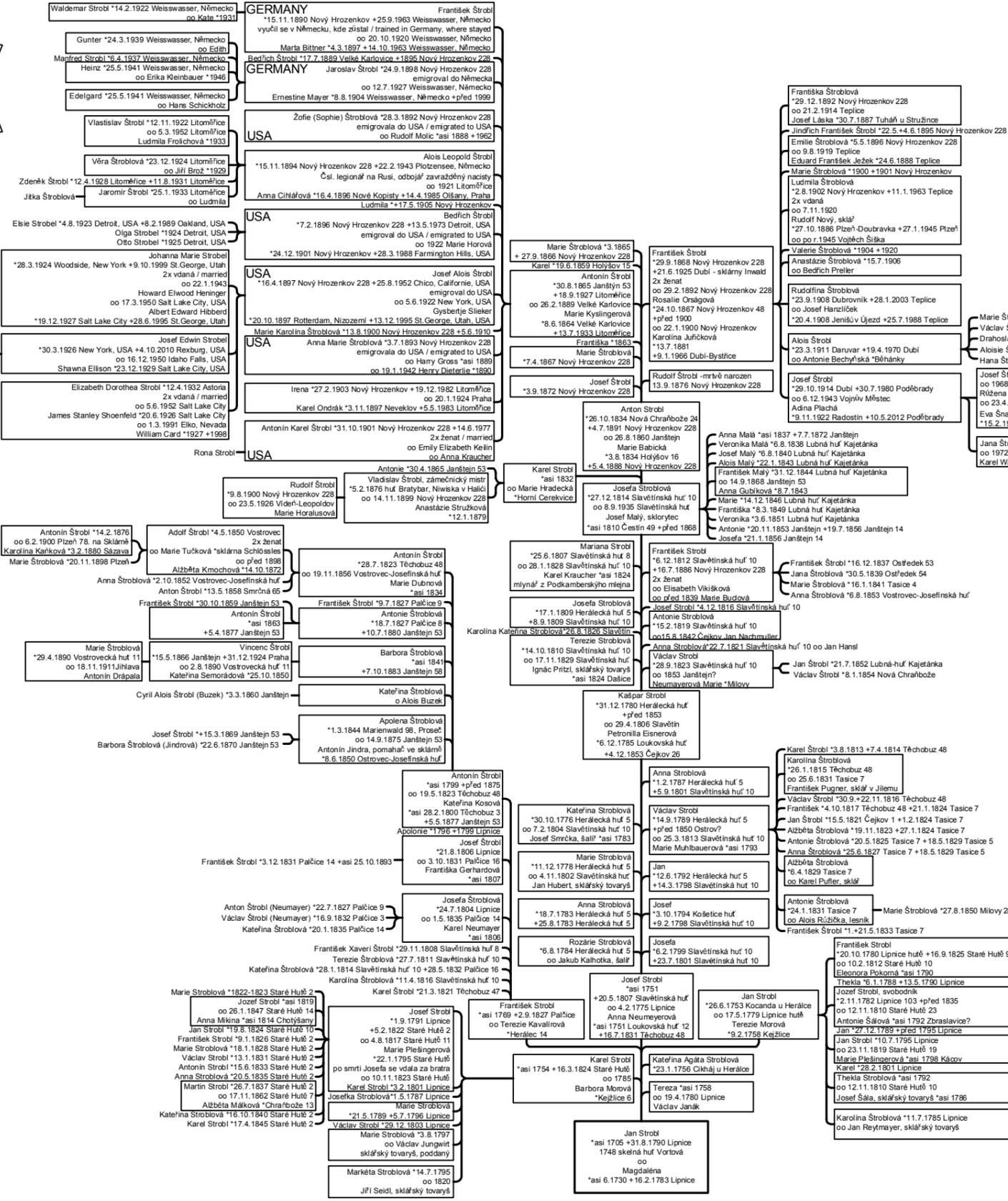
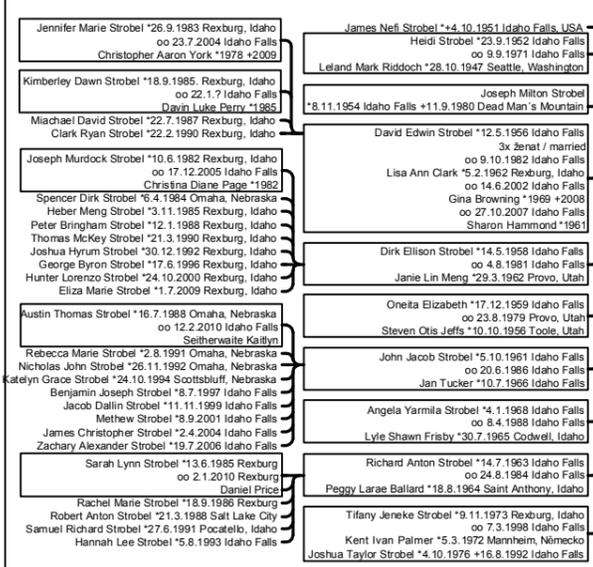
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Pedigree of glassblower family Strobl from Horácko and Sázava basin

version 27.05.2012

Rodokmen sklářského rodu Štrobl z Horácka a Posázaví

verze 27.05.2012



Migrace rodu Štrobl

Migration of family Strobl

