

# The Vranýs and Víšeks of Chicago

**2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**

Compiled by Paul Dierks & Ken Visek

March 1996 1<sup>st</sup> edition © Paul R. Dierks  
February 1999 on-line edition © Paul R. Dierks  
September 2009 2<sup>nd</sup> edition © Paul R. Dierks

Published by

Paul R. Dierks  
3020 Park Trail Lane  
Bethel, OH 45106

## Table of Contents

Preface to 2009 edition .....	4
Introduction (to the 1996 edition) .....	4
Chapter 1 Historical Background & Neighborhoods .....	6
Chapter 2 The Josef Vraný and Anna Homolková Clan .....	11
Chapter 3 The Vaclav Vransy and Marie Seidlova Line .....	17
Chapter 4 The Marie Vransy and Josef Visek Line .....	20
Chapter 5 The Barbora Vransy Line .....	39
Chapter 6 The Josef Vransy and Frances Novotny Line .....	42
Chapter 7 The Jan Vransy and Marie Ruzicka Line .....	46
Index .....	49

## **Preface to 2009 edition**

2009 marks thirteen years since I compiled the first edition of The Vranys and Viseks of Chicago and ten years since I published it on-line. It seems appropriate that we should take the time and try to update the first editions. My interest, after several years of lack of interest in family history research, is to dig back into this stuff, and provide a clearer understanding for my grandchildren, when they are old enough, of what that Bohemian part of their pedigree is all about.

Please feel free to contact me at [prdierks@fuse.net](mailto:prdierks@fuse.net) or Ken Visek at [2kenv@earthlink.net](mailto:2kenv@earthlink.net) with comments, questions, corrections or additions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul", with a stylized, wavy line extending from the bottom.

## **Introduction (to the 1996 edition)**

This manuscript is an attempt to summarize much of the information I have accumulated in the past few years about the Vranys from Kamenne Mosty, Caslav region of Bohemia and their descendants.

As such, the manuscript is in a word - clinical - just the facts and what I believe are logical inferences from the data.

Genealogical research is both fascinating and frustrating. The wealth of information available is immense. The new friends and newly discovered cousins (albeit pretty distant genealogically) and in-laws met is rewarding and fun. And fitting a stubborn piece of the puzzle together can make your day. Nevertheless, with those highs come the never-ending new questions, dead-ends, and pieces that don't quite fit, and worst of all, the pieces you're sure that fit but can't be confirmed. Therefore, this manuscript is nothing more than a "work in progress."

While it is impossible to list everyone who has helped me find, accumulate and fit the data together, a very special thanks goes to Ken Visek who has taken to genealogical

research with a vengeance. Most of the church birth records, announcements of death notices, cemetery records, legal documents (wills, probate proceedings, naturalization papers, and lawsuits) and birth and death records from the government were found by him. Without his work, there could be no manuscript.

The Czech language is rich with diacritic marks and much is lost as the names and words became “Americanized.” Quite frankly, I think it is too bad. So in my way to keep the flavor of the ancestral language that was used by the early Vranys who came to America alive, the second chapter will include some of those diacritic marks. In all other chapters they are removed.

In the process of acclimating to America, multiple variations of a first name may have been used (or just recorded incorrectly by whoever was writing information down). For example, Marie Vraný Visek's birth name was Maria, however there are records for Marie Visek and Mary Visek. Václav is usually James or Jim. And so on.

Surnames are likewise a problem. Some of the Vranys changed the spelling of their name to Vraney, particularly in the Barbara Vraný, Josef Vraný/Frances Novotný, and Jan Vraný/Marie Ruzicka lines. To complicate matters even more is the habit of giving female family members' surnames special suffixes such as -ova or -a. For example, Anna Homolková is the daughter of Josef Homolka, and Barbara Sestaková is the wife Matej Sestak. Barbara Vraný is sometimes found as Barbara Vrana.

There is still much to do, and the list of outstanding questions would literally take up pages. So, please take what you can from this work, share with others, and most important, enjoy the activity.

## **Chapter 1**

### **Historical Background**

Centuries ago, Celtic and Slavic tribes migrated through and inhabited the area southeast of the great European Plain and south of the Carpathian Mountains. This region, to be eventually called Bohemia, got its name from one of the more famous tribes, the Boii, and its language from the leader Cech, who led his Slavic tribe to the valley of the Vlatava River in the fifth century.

Over the centuries, Bohemia was inhabited by a proud people. Regardless of how political boundaries and leaders changed, the underlying constant was the energetic, joyful people with a strong work ethic and a love of life.

The Great Moravian Empire united many Slavic tribes and occupied much of Moravia, Slovakia, Austria, and all of Bohemia during the ninth century. In the tenth century, the Empire was replaced by the Duchy of Bohemia, which united the lands of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia. Falling within the framework of the Holy Roman Empire, Bohemia was raised to the rank of Kingdom in 1085.

During the ensuing three centuries, Bohemia's stature grew and in 1348, Charles I of Bohemia became Charles IV of the Holy Roman Empire. During his reign, Prague became the chief city and cultural center of the Empire.

The reformation (15th century) and counter-reformation (17th century) had a profound effect upon the Czech peoples. In 1620, the German Catholic armies defeated the Czechs at the Battle of White Mountain, just outside Prague, and German Habsburg rule replaced Czech with German as the official language and brought German craftsman and farmers to colonize the region.

During the 1800s, the region experienced a cultural reawakening, with the Czech and Slovak languages restored to positions of respect. Nevertheless, Bohemia was not an easy place to live during the 19th century for many Bohemians, and inhabitants from all over Bohemia looked to America for opportunity to make a better life.

And so it was with the Vranys. In 1885 Josef and Anna Vrany moved their family to America. To Chicago.

## Neighborhoods<sup>1</sup>

The lower west side of Chicago was a major port of entry for thousands of Europeans during the late 1800s. "Pilsen," the neighborhood bounded by 16th Street, Halstead, 20th Street (Cullerton) and Ashland, was named after the second largest city in Bohemia, and replaced "Prague," the original Bohemian colony in Chicago, as the predominant waypoint for Bohemians arriving from Europe after the Chicago fire in 1871.

One of the first institutions in Pilsen was the St. Procopius parish. Established in 1875, membership grew quickly and within eight years a massive church was constructed at the corner of 18th Street and Allport. Overshadowing other surrounding parishes, St. Procopius served as the "mother church" for Chicago's west side Bohemian parishes, such as St. Ludmilla at 2408 South Albany Street<sup>2</sup>. At its height, St. Procopius had the largest Bohemian congregation in the United States, and supported an abbey, a printing plant for *Narod* (Chicago's daily catholic newspaper), a large grammar school and a boys high school (which would later evolve into Illinois Benedictine College in Lisle, Illinois).

The largest factory in the area, McCormick Reaper Works (later renamed International Harvester), as well as Chicago Stove Works, Goss and Phillips and the yards of the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad all provided jobs for thousands of unskilled Pilsen laborers. Later, in 1903, Western Electric relocated its plant from 12th & Clinton to suburban Cicero. This new plant, the Hawthorne Works, provided jobs for many prospering Bohemians as they migrated west to new neighborhoods, such as South Lawndale (Czech California) and even farther west to the suburbs of Cicero, Berwyn and beyond.

By the 1930s and 40s, first and second generation Americans of Bohemian descent were becoming "Americanized," creating blended, culturally mixed neighborhoods. Nevertheless, the Bohemian "way-of-life" changed slowly. In an

---

<sup>1</sup> Basic information about Pilsen and the lower west side of Chicago condensed from Chicago: City of Neighborhoods, Dominic A. Pacyga and Ellen Skerrett, Loyola University Press, Chicago, 1986.

<sup>2</sup> Santos Prokop (St. Procopius) was the location of numerous baptisms, marriages, and funeral masses for many of the Vranys, Viseks and others in this manuscript.

excellent description of the flavor of the Chicago Bohemian community, Norbert Blei describes it this way<sup>3</sup>:

Bohemia may still be a part of Chicago, a section of the Midwest or a mythical kingdom behind the Iron Curtain, but my Bohemia is a river of restaurants, savings and loans companies, bakeries, butcher shops and bargain stores, and it is called Cermak Road [22nd Street]. It flows from Central Avenue west to Harlem, engulfing everything and everybody. Other nationalities continue to thrive here, but the temper is Bohemian.

All gangways, sidewalks, alleys and side streets lead, eventually, to Cermak Road. On Saturday morning, market day all over America, the Bohemians rise early and drive, walk or cycle to the stores. To get there first and be home before everyone else is the eternal Saturday adventure.

Being first at Mid-American Savings and Loan (where they serve coffee and homemade *kolacky*) means you won't have to stand in line while the old lady behind you tries to read the balance in your pass book. Of course there is always the satisfaction of meeting a neighbor and talking over all the things Bohemians usually talk about: money, death or some other Bohemians. All these offices in the area serve as a kind of meeting place, probably a carry-over from the town square in the old country. You won't see any of the Bohemians in their colorful costumes. But the paisley bubuskas are still used, and so are the homemade shopping bags, the loud language, the laughter. And an old Bohemian stands in the corner carefully counting his money.

Other Saturday morning adventures consist of a stop at the newstand for the Denni Hlasatel newspaper and then off to one of the bakeries or butcher shops. Sometimes a husband and wife split up at this point, one to find bargains in meat and vegetables, the other to get fresh bread from the bakery.

Modern supermarkets have had little effect on the Bohemian way of life. They, too, have been absorbed by the people. Much of the help speak Czech. Weekly sales cater to the Bohemian's pocketbook. And there are still a few fruit and vegetable stores left for the old-timer to come and feel the apples, peel away at the lettuce and sort out the good potatoes. Dill and mushrooms are always on hand to satisfy individual tastes. The small meat markets, with real butchers in bloody aprons, stand solidly amidst the chrome and white supermarkets. After all, you can't speak Czech to a freezer full of meat that has already been cut, clean, packaged and priced. And the butcher, Joe Svoboda, has good meat. "Yeah, I used to know his sister from the old neighborhood. He makes all his own sausage, you know. His *jaternice* are the best on Cermak."

Bohemian baking cannot be equaled except by another Bohemian with a slightly different recipe, a slightly different touch to the old, old

---

<sup>3</sup> From Norbert Blei's book, Neighborhood, Ellis Press, P.O. Box 1443, Peoria, IL 61655, 1987



heavy delicacies. All Bohemians bake, but never enough. "Who knows, maybe company will come tonight? You better stop by Fingerhut's or Vesecky's and get a big *kolac* and some rye bread. Maybe get a *bobovka* in case Uncle Charley comes."

There are many bright, glittering snack shops on Cermak Road, but few Bohemians do more than take a brief glance. They also stay away from the fancy restaurants that draw the visitors looking for Bohemian foods and atmosphere. The only kind of restaurants that matters is the small, family-operated affair which for the Bohemian is like eating at a friend's house. The wife cooks, the husband waits on tables, and the conversation is Czech.

"Frank's Restaurant - Bohemian Cooking" has been in business since I could read. For years there were just two little neon signs - "Restaurant" - that hung in two windows everlasting steamed up. Outside, a modern sign now hangs above the door. Inside, there is the same long counter, ten stools usually occupied by four or five Bohemians, at least six tables, an old wooden high chair, and Frank himself, round, red, bald and wearing a white apron, and the lady in the back who cooks, smiles and never sits. Aromatic clouds of sauerkraut hang in the air, with occasional whiffs of roast pork and dumplings, tripe soup, homemade bakery and coffee.

"Pelikan's" is no longer run by the gentle old man with the white mustache, whose spotted dog of indistinguishable breed forever padded behind him. Someone has taken the dusty stuffed animals out of the front window. The whole place has been remodeled. Inside, it is lighter than before. The menu is no longer written by hand. I miss the dog under my feet. But the name remains. It's still called "Pelikan's." The food is still Bohemian and homemade. And so are the people.

The Bohemian home is all that I have said of Cermak Road and then some. It is good cooking, heavy bakery, cleanliness, saving a dollar, the family, gossip, pinochle, Pilsener with lots of talk, lots of hollering.

It is sometimes a two-flat house (an investment, of course), usually a bungalow (the old standard of wealth), and less frequently now, the basement of a one-story house. The "Bohemian-in-the-basement" is not a myth, not really a very funny joke. It was a way of life for a people whose only faith was security. Maybe they learned this in the old country. Maybe the Depression taught them, yet inside the heart and head of every Bohemian is the passion to save things - buttons, rags, rusty nails, paper bags. "You never know when you might need them." To keep everything, fresh, new, untainted, is the way to live. There is a certain mistrust in making a beginning. Live in the basement, save on electricity, save on heat. In the old days, just a stove, a light or two, an ice box, a round oak table protected with a flowery oilcloth, enough wooden chairs for the family and friends and the smell of food. Upstairs, a museum of good furniture, slipcovers on the sofa, newspapers on the kitchen floor, oriental

rugs or maybe some crystal from Prague. All of it shined, dusted, rubbed every week. All waiting for a time, for something or somebody.

The house is painted inside and out every year, so it always looks like new. The back yard, forever neat and trimmed. Flowers? Of course - roses and peonies. And as soon as they start making a mess with their petals, out they go in the alley. The alley? The concrete parks of Bohemia. The children's playground for baseball and hide-and-seek and the great sport of alley-picking. "Look what I found behind Rucka's house! A lamp! So what if it's cracked. All I need is a bulb and some cord. Let's go all the way down the alley to Cermak to see what else there is!" They say my Bohemia is notorious for other things - especially a section called Cicero. But I wouldn't know. I walk down Cermak, eat Bohemian food, drink Pilsener, and read the Life newspaper ... just like a Bohemian.

## Chapter 2

### The Josef Vraný and Anna Homolková Clan

Josef Vraný, the patriarchal head of the Vraný clan that lived in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago during the late 1800s and early 1900s, was born in Bohemia circa 1816<sup>4</sup>. He was the son of Jan Vranýho from Zehub and Anny Kučery (whose father was Tomáše Kučery from Hostačov<sup>5</sup>).



Josef married Anna Homolková<sup>6</sup> on June 30, 1839<sup>7</sup> in Kamenne Mosty, a small village about four miles southeast of Caslav. Together, Josef and Anna settled in Kamenne Mosty, and to them seven children were born<sup>8</sup>:

<sup>4</sup> Josef Vraný's Certificate of Death lists his age at death (1886) as 70 years.

<sup>5</sup> Roman Catholic parish records, Žleby, Czech Republic.

<sup>6</sup> Anna Homolková was the daughter of Jan Homolka and Alžeběty "Elisabeth" Šrámková (whose father was Václav Šrámková from Vokřesaneč.) Birth records Roman Catholic parish Žleby, inv. No. 7 (1839-1868) file 76.

<sup>7</sup> Marriage records Roman Catholic parish in Žleby, inv. No. 14 (1830-1847) page 152.

Anna Vraný, born March 14, 1840

Václav Vraný, born July 1, 1843

Anna Vraný, born April 1, 1845

Maria Vraný, born March 18, 1848

Barbara Vraný, born January 24, 1853

Josef Vraný, born November 17, 1855

Jan Vraný, born March 3, 1862

Josef Vraný died at 592 Throop Street in Chicago on August 18, 1886<sup>9</sup>, less than two years after immigrating to America with his wife Anna and most (if not all) of his children and their families<sup>10</sup>. He is buried at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Chicago (formerly St. Stanislas Cemetery)<sup>11</sup>. Anna Homolková Vraný died in August 1891<sup>12</sup>.

## Anna Vraný

The first child of Josef and Anna Vraný, Anna Vraný was born on March 14, 1840 and baptized one day later on March 15, 1840<sup>13</sup>. She most likely died as an infant or toddler.

---

<sup>8</sup> František Vraný, who was born circa 1842 in Tupadla (a village very close to Kamenne Mosty), died in Chicago on January 21, 1893 (51 years old) and was buried at St. Adalbert Cemetery is not a son of Josef and Anna Homolková. František's parents were Josef Vraný and Anna Novák from Tupadla.

<sup>9</sup> Certificate of Death, Josef Vraný, 1886.

<sup>10</sup> Anna Vraný, the first child of Josef and Anna Vraný, born March 14, 1840 most likely died as a child. In addition, there is no record of marriage for Anna Vraný, the third child of Josef and Anna Vraný, born April 1, 1845, nor any indication that she immigrated to America. All other children did immigrate to America circa 1885, with the possible exception of Václav Vraný, who may have immigrated as early as 1881.

<sup>11</sup> The 1891 Chicago City Directory lists an Anna Vraný, widow of Josef Vraný **Error! Bookmark not defined.** living at 592 Throop St.,

<sup>12</sup> St. Procopius church records lists Anna Vraný age at death in August 1891 as 75 years old which is reasonable. The Chicago City Directory for 1891 lists an Anna Vraný at 592 Throop Street with James Vraný. 1892 City Directory shows only James Vraný at 592 Throop St.

<sup>13</sup> Birth record Roman Catholic parish Žleby inv. No. 9 (1839-68) no.2

## Václav Vraný

The second child of Josef and Anna Vraný, Josef, was born in Kamenne Mosty on July 1, 1843 and baptized July 2, 1843<sup>14</sup>. He married Marie Seidlova on January 28, 1868<sup>15</sup>, and together they immigrated to America with their family circa 1881<sup>16</sup>. Václav and Marie had four children, all born in Bohemia:

Antonie Vraný, born March 1868

Václav Vraný, born 1869

Marie Vraný, born March 1874

Anna Vraný, born March 1878

While in America, James worked as a painter and lived most of the years at 592 Throop St<sup>17</sup>.

Václav Vraný died on April 19, 1901 at 592 Throop Street in Chicago<sup>18</sup>, the same address his father died at fifteen years earlier. He was buried at Bohemian National Cemetery on April 22, 1901<sup>19</sup>. At his death, he was survived by his wife Marie, his three daughters, his sons-in-law<sup>20</sup> and grandchildren.

## Anna Vraný

The third child of Josef and Anna Vraný, Anna Vraný was born on April 1, 1845, and baptized one day later on April 2, 1845<sup>21</sup>. There is no indication that she immigrated to America.

---

<sup>14</sup> Birth record Roman Catholic parish Žleby inv. No. 9 (1839-68) no.2 file 69.

<sup>15</sup> Marriage Certificate Žleby inv. No. 26 file 158.

<sup>16</sup> Václav Vraný's Death Announcement in Denni Hlasatel from 1901 states he lived in America for 20 years.

<sup>17</sup> Chicago City Directories, 1888, 1889, 1891.

<sup>18</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Václav Vraný, 1901.

<sup>19</sup> Václav Vraný's Announcement of Death in the Denni Hlasatel which indicates that he was buried at St. Adalbert Cemetery is wrong. Cemetery records from Bohemian National Cemetery indicate that Václav Vraný is buried on lot 6, section T, along with his wife, son Václav, Jr., daughter Antonie Sindelar, son-in-law- Jacob Sindelar, and four grandchildren: George, Elsie, Della and Edward Sindelar.

<sup>20</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Václav Vraný, 1901.

<sup>21</sup> Birth record Roman Catholic parish Žleby inv. No. 7 (1839-68) no.2 file 71.

## **Marie Vraná**

The fourth child of Josef and Anna Vraný, Marie, was born and baptized on March 18, 1848 in Kamenne Mosty<sup>22</sup>. She married Josef Víšek from Biskupice (a small town about one mile southeast from Žleby) on September 3, 1872<sup>23</sup>. To them seven children were born in Kamenne Mosty, six of whom grew to adulthood:

Barbara Víšek, born May 2, 1873

Josef Víšek, born January 3, 1875

Václav "James" Víšek, born November 24, 1876

Anton Víšek, born January 4, 1879

Frantisek Víšek, born January 26, 1881

unnamed female child, stillborn February 19, 1883

Karel "Charles" Víšek , born January 16, 1885

Marie and Josef immigrated to America with their young family in circa 1885<sup>24</sup>, moving at least twice and eventually ending up at 1337 W. 19th Street. It was there that Josef died on November 15, 1911<sup>25</sup>, and Marie died on March 3, 1918<sup>26</sup>. They are buried at St. Adalbert Cemetery.

## **Barbora Vraný**

The fifth child of Josef and Anna Vraný, Barbora Vraný was born and baptized in Kamenne Mosty on January 24, 1853<sup>27</sup>. To her was born one child - Josef Vraný, born in 1876<sup>28</sup>.

---

<sup>22</sup> Birth record Roman Catholic parish Žleby inv. No. 7 (1839-68) no.2 file 76.

<sup>23</sup> Marriage Certificate Roman Catholic parish Žleby inv. No. 26 (1850-77) file 160.

<sup>24</sup> 1910 Federal Census records, Illinois.

<sup>25</sup> Certificate of Death, Josef Víšek, 1911.

<sup>26</sup> Certificate of Death, Marie Víšek, 1918.

<sup>27</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Žleby inv. No. 7 (1839-1868) no. 2 file 82.



On September 9, 1877 Barbara Vraný married Josef Policek<sup>29</sup>.

Barbara Vraný died on April 1, 1934, and was buried in a term grave<sup>30</sup> on April 3, 1934 at St. Adalbert Cemetery<sup>31</sup>.

## **Josef Vraný**

The sixth child of Josef and Anna Vraný, Josef Vraný was born on November 17, 1855 in Kamenne Mosty and baptized the day after on November 18, 1855<sup>32</sup>. In circa 1880 he married Františka (Frances) Novotny and together they raised six children<sup>33</sup>:

Marie Vraný, born April 1882 in Bohemia

Joseph Vraný, born August 1884 in Bohemia

Václav "James" Vraný, born May 1886 in Chicago, Illinois

Jan Vraný, born August 1888 in Chicago, Illinois

Anna Vraný, born July 1891 in Chicago, Illinois

Karel "Charles" Vraný, born May 1897 in Chicago, Illinois

Joseph died on February 28, 1930<sup>34</sup> and is buried at Bohemian National Cemetery. Frances Vraný died on March 21, 1930<sup>35</sup>, less than one month after Joseph. She is buried at Bohemian National Cemetery.

---

<sup>28</sup> Barbara Vraný presents an interesting conundrum. It appears that at some point, Barbary Vraný either gave up her married surname for her maiden surname or remarried a man with the Vraný surname. See the discussion in Chapter 4.)

<sup>29</sup> Marriage Certificate Žleby inv. No. 26 file 163.

<sup>30</sup> A term grave is a grave sold over time. If after a period of twenty-five years, the grave had not been paid for, another person (unrelated) may have been buried at the site as well.

<sup>31</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Barbara Vraný, 1934.

<sup>32</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Žleby inv. No. 7 (1839-1868) no. 2 file 84

<sup>33</sup> 1900 Federal Census records for Illinois.

<sup>34</sup> From monument at grave site, Bohemian National Cemetery and Denni Hlasatel, Josef Vraný, 1930.

<sup>35</sup> Announcement of Death, Frances Vraný, 1930.

## Jan Vraný

The seventh and youngest child of Josef and Anna Vraný, Jan Vraný was born on March 3, 1862 in Kamenne Mosty<sup>36</sup>. He married Marie Růžička of Mladotice<sup>37</sup> (a small town about 1.5 miles east from Kamenne Mosty) circa 1884. They immigrated to America circa 1885, and had three children, all born in Chicago, Illinois<sup>38</sup>:

Jan Vraný, born January 21, 1886

Marie Vraný, born July 1887

Anna Vraný, born April 9, 1890

Jan and Marie lived with Josef and Anna at 592 Throop St. after immigrating. Jan worked as a locksmith<sup>39</sup>. Jan and Marie eventually ended up at 2438 S. Albany Avenue until his death on October 29, 1909<sup>40</sup>. He was buried on October 31, 1909 at Bohemian National Cemetery.

---

<sup>36</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Žleby inv. No. 7 (1839-1868) no. 2 file 95.

<sup>37</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Marie Vraný, 1924.

<sup>38</sup> 1900 Federal Census Index, Illinois.

<sup>39</sup> Chicago City Directory, 1887.

<sup>40</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Jan Vraný, 1909.



## Chapter 3

### The Vaclav Vransky and Marie Seidlova Line

The eldest son of Josef Vransky and Anna Homolkova, Vaclav "James" Vransky was born on July 1, 1843 in Kamenne Mosty and baptized one day later<sup>41</sup>. On January 28, 1868 he married Marie Seidlova<sup>42</sup>. Vaclav and Marie had four children, all born in Bohemia:

Antonie Vransky, born March 1868

Vaclav Vransky, born 1869

Marie Vransky, born March 1874

Anna Vransky, born March 1878

Vaclav and Marie lived on Throop Street. He worked as a painter; she kept house. It was at 592 Throop Street, the same address that his father had died, that Vaclav died on April 19, 1901. He was buried at Bohemian National Cemetery on April 22, 1901<sup>43</sup>.

#### Antonie Vransky

The oldest child of Vaclav Vransky and Marie Seidlova, Antonie Vransky was born in March 1868. After immigrating to America with her parents, she married Jacob Sindelar<sup>44</sup> circa 1891<sup>45</sup>.

Jacob and Antonie had six children, all born in Illinois:

George Sindelar, born April 26, 1894, baptized May 6, 1894<sup>46</sup>

Edward Joseph Sindelar, born August 1, 1896<sup>47</sup>

---

<sup>41</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Zleby inv. No. 7 (1839-1868) no. 2 file 69

<sup>42</sup> Marriage Certificate Zleby inv. No. 26 file 158.

<sup>43</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Vaclav Vransky, 1901. See footnote #19 in Chapter 2.

<sup>44</sup> Jacob Sindelar notarized the Last Will and Testament of Barbara Sestak, his cousin-in-law.

<sup>45</sup> 1900 Federal Census records, Illinois. Jacob Sindelar was born in April 1870. He was working as a saloon keeper in 1900.

<sup>46</sup> St. Procopius Church records

<sup>47</sup> St. Procopius Church records. Parents listed as Mathias Sindelar and Antonie Vransky.

Adeline "Della" Sindelar, born July 29, 1898, baptized August 7, 1898<sup>48</sup>

Eliska "Elsie" Anna Sindelar, born December 12, 1900<sup>49</sup>

Silvia Marie Sindelar, born October 22, 1904<sup>50</sup>

Jacob "Jake" Albert Sindelar, born October 10, 1910<sup>51</sup>

## **Vaclav Vransky**

The second oldest child of Vaclav and Marie was born in 1869<sup>52</sup>. Vaclav died on April 16, 1895 and was buried on April 19, 1895 at Bohemian National Cemetery. He was twenty-six years old, unmarried and living at 592 Throop Street at the time of his death.

## **Marie Vransky**

Marie Vransky was born to Vaclav Vransky and Marie Seidlova in March 1874. After immigrating to America with her family, Marie married Vaclav Baur circa 1891<sup>53</sup>.

Vaclav and Marie had six children by 1910, all born in Illinois:

Milada Baur, born December 6, 1898, baptized December 25, 1898<sup>54</sup>

Elsie Baur, born October 6, 1900, baptized October 17, 1900<sup>55</sup>

Vaclav "James" Josef Baur, born 1902, baptized September 21, 1902<sup>56</sup>

Edward Baur, born 1905

---

<sup>48</sup> St. Procopius Church records

<sup>49</sup> St. Procopius Church records

<sup>50</sup> Jacob Sindelar's Announcement of Death in the Denni Hlasatel. Also personal correspondence with James Sindelar, grandson.

<sup>51</sup> Jacob Sindelar's Announcement of Death in the Denni Hlasatel. Also personal correspondence with James Sindelar, grandson.

<sup>52</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Vaclav Vransky, 1895 lists his age at death at 26, putting his birth year at 1869.

<sup>53</sup> Unless otherwise footnoted, names and birth years for Vaclav and Marie Vransky Baur, all their children and Vaclav's mother Catherine are from 1900 Federal Census records, Illinois. Vaclav Baur was born in March 1868. His mother, Catherine Baur, was born circa 1832.

<sup>54</sup> St. Procopius Church records

<sup>55</sup> St. Procopius Church records

<sup>56</sup> St. Procopius Church records

Anna Baur, born 1908

Anton Baur, born circa 1910<sup>57</sup>

Vaclav and Marie Baur lived at 592 Throop Street in 1900. By 1920, they were living at 1532 Elmwood Avenue in Berwyn.

### **Anna Vransy**

The youngest daughter of Vaclav Vransy and Marie Seidlova, Anna Vransy was born in March 1878. After immigrating as a young child with her parents, she married Joseph Vistain<sup>58</sup> on September 6, 1898.<sup>59</sup> In 1900, they lived on Throop Street. In 1920, they were living at 6431 W. 16th Street in Berwyn (right around the corner and just a few houses from Vaclav and Marie Baur).

Joseph and Anna had five children, all born in Illinois<sup>60</sup>:

Arthur Vistain, born March 1, 1899

Joseph William Vistain, Jr., born May 13, 1903

George Jacob Vistain, born December 2, 1904

Anna Vistain, born January 1, 1909

Edward E. Vistain, born June 22, 1917

---

<sup>57</sup> Anton Baur probably died as a child. He does not appear on the 1920 Federal Census records.

<sup>58</sup> 1900 Federal Census records, Illinois. Joseph Vistain was born in April 1873.

<sup>59</sup> St. Procopius Church records. Vaclav Baur and Jacob Sindelar were witnesses.

<sup>60</sup> Birth years for all children confirmed with Federal Census records; also personal correspondence with Kirk Vistain, Joseph W. Vistain, Sr.'s great grandson.

## Chapter 4

### The Marie Vransky and Josef Visek Line

The son of Jan Visek and Barbora Hajka (whose father was Jan Hajka), Josef Visek was born in 1846<sup>61</sup>. At the age of 26 and living in the village of Biskupice (a small town northeast of Kamenne Mosty), he married 24 year old Marie Vransky on September 3, 1872<sup>62</sup>.

Josef and Marie had seven children, all born in Kamenne Mosty:

Barbara Visek, born May 2, 1873

Josef Visek, born January 3, 1875

Vaclav "James" Visek, born November 24, 1876

Anton Visek, born January 4, 1879

Frantisek "Frank" Visek, born January 26, 1881

unnamed female child, stillborn February 10, 1883

Karel "Charles" Visek, born January 16, 1885

In circa 1885, Josef and Marie moved their young family to America along with most, if not all, of Marie's immediate family. They settled in the rapidly growing Bohemian neighborhood Pilsen in Chicago. Josef worked as a laborer. Marie kept house.

There is every indication that Josef and Marie maintained a typical Bohemian existence, merging inconspicuously into the neighborhood. Both were active in societies. In 1900, the Viseks still had their four youngest sons living at home<sup>63</sup>.

In 1902, Josef and Marie's oldest child Barbara and her husband Matej "Joe" Sestak died months apart, leaving five young orphaned children. Having no home, the orphans moved in and lived with Josef and Marie<sup>64</sup>.

---

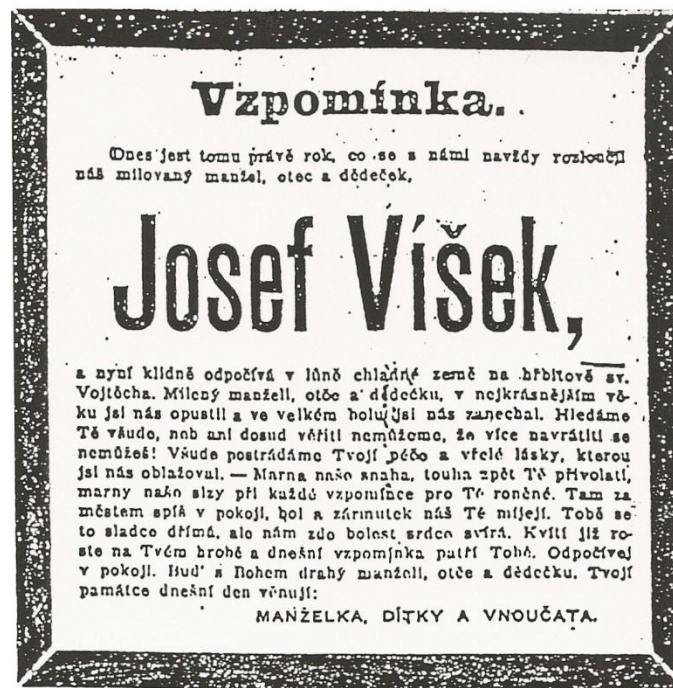
<sup>61</sup> Marriage certificate indicates Josef Visek was 26 years old when he married on September 3, 1872.

<sup>62</sup> Marriage Certificate Roman Catholic parish Zleby inv. No. 23 (1868-92) no. 6 file 107.

<sup>63</sup> 1900 Federal Census records for Illinois.

<sup>64</sup> The Federal Census record indicates all five Sestak children lived with Marie and Josef. By 1920, Josef and Marie Visek and Robert Sestak had died; Matilda Sestak had married Jerome Topol, a chiropodist, and had three children; Joseph Sestak had married and was living with his wife Bessie; and George and Edward Sestak were living with their uncle Charles Visek and Barbara Vransky (Marie Vransky Visek's sister.)

Josef Visek died at his home on November 15, 1911<sup>65</sup> from complications resulting from a stroke. He was fondly remembered by his wife and family. One year following his death, his widow Marie, their children and grandchildren placed a "Vzpomínka" or Reminiscence in the *Denni Hlasatel*, the local daily Bohemian language newspaper.



### Reminiscence

In the days almost a year passed since our beloved husband, father and grandfather

### Josef Visek

Departed from us and his body rests in the burial place at St. Adalbert Cemetery. Our beloved husband, father and grandfather in his most beautiful age left us in great pain. We still cannot believe that you cannot return to us. We lost the protection and care you always had for us. Of no use are our sighs to bring you back; of no use are our tears that are shed every time we think of you. In the distant place you rest in peace, pain and sorrow is not for you anymore. You sleep sweetly but we live with aching hearts. Flowers are blossoming on your tomb to show you that we remember you. Rest in peace. Be with God our dear husband, father and grandfather. We keep you in our memory!

Spouse, children and grandchildren

<sup>65</sup> Certificate of Death, Josef Visek, 1911

Marie Vransky Vissek died on March 3, 1918<sup>66</sup>, and was buried next to her husband at St. Adalbert Cemetery, Lot 8 & 9, St. Vitus section<sup>67</sup>.

### **Barbara Vissek**

Barbara Vissek was the oldest child of Josef and Marie Vissek. She was born in Kamenne Mosty on May 2, 1873 and baptized two days later on May 4, 1873<sup>68</sup>. After immigrating with her parents in 1885, she married Matej "Joe" Sestak<sup>69</sup> on June 27, 1891 in Chicago<sup>70</sup>. Joe and Barbara had five children<sup>71</sup>:

Matilda "Lillie" Sestak, born March 1893<sup>72</sup>

Joseph Sestak, born December 16, 1894

George Thomas Sestak, December 28, 1896

Robert Sestak, born February 16, 1899

Edward Sestak, born May 14, 1901

Joe Sestak died at his home (1178 Whipple Street) on September 5, 1902<sup>73</sup> from Typhoid fever and meningitis<sup>74</sup>. He was buried at St. Adalbert Cemetery on September 7, 1902.

Barbara Vissek Sestak died at her parent's house (462 W. 19th Street) on December 4, 1902<sup>75</sup> of complications from double lobar pneumonia<sup>76</sup>, leaving behind her

---

<sup>66</sup> Certificate of Death, Marie Vissek, 1918.

<sup>67</sup> Also buried on that plot are Marie & Josef's daughter Barbara, son-in-law Matej "Joe" Sestak, and five grandchildren: Robert Sestak (son of Barbara & Joe Sestak), Richard Josef and Anton Josef (sons of Anton and Anna Vissek), Blazenka Vissek (daughter of Frank and Barbara Vissek), and Bozena Vissek (daughter of Joseph and Marie Vissek).

<sup>68</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Zleby inv. No. 23 (1868-92) no. 2 file 88.

<sup>69</sup> Matej was the son of Matej and Katerina Sestak.

<sup>70</sup> Cook County Index to Marriage Register, Females, may 1, 1891 to August 31, 1892.

<sup>71</sup> Joseph's, George's, and Robert's birthdates confirmed from St. Procopius church records. Lille Sestaks birth month and year from 1900 Federal Census Index, Edward's birth date confirmed from St. Ludmilla church records.

<sup>72</sup> Sindelar descendants remember Lillie Sestak as Tillie.

<sup>73</sup> St. Ludmilla church records

<sup>74</sup> Undertaker's Report of Death, Matej Sestak, 1902. Also St. Ludmilla church records.

<sup>75</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>76</sup> Undertaker's Report of Death, Barbara Sestak, 1902, Also St. Procopius church records.

five young (ages 1-9) children. The orphans were raised by Barbara's parents, Josef and Marie Visek.

Lillie Sestak married Jerome Topol, a chiropodist about 1914<sup>77</sup>. To them were born three children:

Adeline Topol, born in 1914

Harold Topol, born in 1915. Married Gwenda Noble<sup>78</sup> after World War II and had three sons:

Clive Topol

Gary Topol

Sterling Topol. Married to Myrna Mackensie, and have two boys, Brad and Ross .

Jerome Topol, born in 1918. Married to Dorothy, and have three children.

Robert Sestak died on May 7, 1913<sup>79</sup> at the age of fourteen and is buried at St. Adalbert Cemetery with his parents, grandparents and four cousins.

By 1920, Joseph Sestak was married to Bessie<sup>80</sup> and the young couple lived at 1929 S. Morgan St. in Chicago. George and Edward were living at 1337 W. 19th St.<sup>81</sup> (their deceased grandparent's former home) along with their uncle Charles Visek and their Great-Aunt Barbara Vransy. George Sestak died in March 1981; Edward died in March 1976<sup>82</sup>.

## **Josef Visek**

Josef Visek was the second child born to Josef and Marie Visek. He was born on January 3, 1875 and baptized on January 5, 1875<sup>83</sup>. He married Marie Hribal<sup>84</sup> on August 2, 1897<sup>85</sup>. Marie gave birth four times; three of the children have been identified:

---

<sup>77</sup> 1920 Federal Census records, Illinois. Jerome Topol was born circa 1890 in Bohemia.

<sup>78</sup> Social Security Death Index, Gwenda Noble born May 6, 1920 and died December 27, 1988.

<sup>79</sup> St. Procopius church records, City of Chicago death records and Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Robert Sestak, 1913.

<sup>80</sup> Bessie Sestak was born September 13, 1896 and died March 15, 1993. Social Security Death Index.

<sup>81</sup> 1920 Federal Census records, Illinois.

<sup>82</sup> Social Security Death Index.

<sup>83</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Zleby inv. No. 23 (1868-92) no. 2 file 92

Bozena Visek, born June 11, 1899<sup>86</sup>

Joseph Visek, born June 21, 1900, bap. June 24, 1900<sup>87</sup>

Sylvia Visek, born June 15, 1904, bap. July 2, 1904<sup>88</sup>

Marie Visek died on February 8, 1956 and buried on February 11, 1956 at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>89</sup>. Joseph Visek died on February 2, 1973 (98 years old) and was buried on February 5, 1973 at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>90</sup>.

Bozena Visek, the first child born to Josef and Marie Hribal Visek was born on June 11, 1899 and died 13 days later on June 24, 1899. She is buried with her grandparents Josef and Marie Vransky Visek at St. Adalbert Cemetery<sup>91</sup>.

Only Joseph and Sylvia lived to adulthood. Neither married. Joseph J. Visek died on March 7, 1993 and was buried on March 11, 1993 at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>92</sup>. Sylvia J. Visek died on March 4, 1977 and was buried on March 7, 1977 at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>93</sup>.

## **Vaclav "James" Visek**

Vaclav Visek was born on November 24, 1876 in Kamenne Mosty and baptized one day later on November 25, 1876<sup>94</sup>. He married Antonia Danek<sup>95</sup> on September 10, 1900<sup>96</sup> and together they had three children:

---

<sup>84</sup> Marie Hribal was the daughter of Vaclav Hribal and Josephine Simek. She was born in Prague circa 1876. Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Marie Vransky, 1956.

<sup>85</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>86</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>87</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>88</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>89</sup> Cook County Medical Certificate of Death, Marie Visek, 1956.

<sup>90</sup> Medical Certificate of Death, Joseph Visek, 1973.

<sup>91</sup> St. Procopius church records

<sup>92</sup> Medical Certificate of Death, Joseph J. Visek, 1993.

<sup>93</sup> Medical Certificate of Death, Sylvia Visek, 1977.

<sup>94</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Zleby, inv. No. 23 (1868-92) no. 2 file 95.

<sup>95</sup> Multiple spellings have been found for Antonia, including Antonette and Antonie.

<sup>96</sup> St. Procopius church records



Anna Visek, born circa 1901<sup>97</sup>

Josef Visek, born February 15, 1903<sup>98 99</sup>

Blanchie Anna Visek, born July 16, 1906<sup>100</sup>

By 1920, Anna "Annie" Visek had married Edward Vanderaue. At the time of Antonie's death in 1943, Joseph had married Rose, and Blanche had married Roger Zimmerman.

Antonette Visek died on August 25, 1943 and buried on August 28, 1943 at St. Adalbert Cemetery<sup>101</sup>. James Visek died on April 3, 1963 and was buried on April 6, 1963 beside Antonette at St. Adalbert Cemetery<sup>102</sup>.

### **Anton Visek**

Anton Visek was born in Kamenne Mosty on January 4, 1879 and baptized January 7, 1879<sup>103</sup>. He immigrated with his family in 1885 at the age of six.

Anton married Anna Novak<sup>104</sup> on May 2, 1901<sup>105</sup>. Anna had eight births over thirteen years:

Richard Josef Visek, born February 12, 1902<sup>106</sup>

Edward Visek, born April 19, 1903<sup>107</sup>

Mavik Visek, born 1903<sup>108</sup>

Otto Visek, born circa 1905<sup>109</sup>

---

<sup>97</sup> 1910 Federal Census records, Illinois

<sup>98</sup> St. Ludmilla church records indicate that Josef was born on February 15, 1903 and baptized February 28, 1903. City of Chicago death records and Social Security Index indicate a birthdates of March 15, 1903.

<sup>99</sup> Josef Visek died February 9, 1988. Social Security Death Index.

<sup>100</sup> City of Chicago Register of Births, 1906

<sup>101</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Antonette Visek, 1943.

<sup>102</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, James Visek, 1963.

<sup>103</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Zleby inv. No. 23 (1868-92) no. 6 file 99.

<sup>104</sup> Anna Novak was the daughter of Joseph and Catherine Novak.

<sup>105</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>106</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>107</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>108</sup> Bohemian National Cemetery records. A possible twin of Edward. The 1910 Federal Census indicates Anton and Anna reported five births by 1910 while cemetery records seem to indicate six. If twins were counted as one birth, the number reported and suspected fit.

<sup>109</sup> Announcement of Death in the Denni Hlasatel indicated that Otto was 12 years 8 months old on December 5, 1917 making his birth year 1905.

Anton Josef Visek, born September 7, 1906<sup>110</sup>

Elsie "Alice" Visek, born June 15, 1908<sup>111</sup>

Anna Helena Visek, born October 24, 1911<sup>112</sup>

William A. Visek, April 28, 1914<sup>113</sup>



Anton and Anna Visek

Richard Josef died as an infant on March 11, 1902<sup>114</sup> and is buried with Josef and Marie Visek at St. Adalbert Cemetery. Mavik died as an infant and is buried at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>115</sup>. Anton Josef Visek died on June 7, 1907<sup>116</sup> and is buried with Josef & Marie Visek at St. Adalbert Cemetery. Otto Visek was almost a teenager when he died

---

<sup>110</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>111</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>112</sup> Chicago Register of Births, 1911.

<sup>113</sup> Cook County Birth Index, 1871-1916.

<sup>114</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Richard Visek, 1902.

<sup>115</sup> Bohemian National Cemetery records. South half of Lot 12, Block 1, Section F belonged to Anton and Anna Visek.

<sup>116</sup> Cook County Death Index, 1872-1916.

on December 5, 1917<sup>117</sup>. Otto is buried at Bohemian National Cemetery. Anna Helena Visek died on April 17, 1913<sup>118</sup> (one and a half years old) and is buried at Bohemian National Cemetery.

Three of Anton and Anna's children lived to adulthood. Edward, the oldest child to survive to adulthood, married twice. His first marriage was to Irene Hirsch<sup>119</sup>. She died on June 14, 1936<sup>120</sup>, and no children were born to this marriage. His second marriage was to Gertrude Smith. They raised a daughter, Vivian Visek<sup>121</sup>. Edward died at Rush Presbyterian Hospital in January 1974 and was buried on January 26, 1974 at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>122</sup>.



Edward, William and Alice with their mother Anna

---

<sup>117</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Otto Visek, 1917.

<sup>118</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Anna Helena Visek, 1913.

<sup>119</sup> Irene Hirsch (maiden name: Dusky) was born on August 29, 1898 in Marietta, Georgia to Harry Dusky and Fay Price. Certificate of Death, Irene Hirsch, 1936.

<sup>120</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Irene Visek, 1936.

<sup>121</sup> Edward Visek obituary.

<sup>122</sup> Bohemian National Cemetery records.

Alice married Frank E. Holec and had a son Malcolm<sup>123</sup>. She was still alive in 1974 when her brother Edward died<sup>124</sup>.

William A. Visek married Helen Mary Prusa and to them was born a son William A. Visek, Jr. and twin daughters Rose and MaryElln Visek. William Jr. married Rosalie Olanzo. They had at least two sons; one son is named William A. Visek III.

Throughout his life, Anton Visek held a variety of jobs. In 1900 he was a mechanic<sup>125</sup>. In the early 1900s, he was a shoe dealer<sup>126</sup>. From 1908 through the 1910s he worked as a saloon keeper<sup>127</sup>. In the 1920s he worked for the Union Stockyards police<sup>128</sup>.



Anton Visek in Saloon

In addition, Anton was active in the lives of his parents, his brothers and sisters, and other Vransky relatives. In 1902, he served as administrator of the estate of his brother-in-law Matej Sestak. Also, in 1902, he deposed Proof of Heirship in the estate of his

---

<sup>123</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Frank Holec, 1956.

<sup>124</sup> Edward Visek obituary.

<sup>125</sup> 1900 Federal Census records, Illinois.

<sup>126</sup> 1902 Proof of Heirship deposition for his sister Barbara Sestak, he lists his occupation as a shoe dealer.

<sup>127</sup> Chicago City Directories 1909, 1912-16 show Anton Visek worked in a saloon, however the 1910 Federal Census records, Illinois, lists Anton as a mechanic.

<sup>128</sup> 1920 Federal Census records, Illinois, and Chicago City Directories.

sister Barbara Sestak. In 1904, he deposed proof of residency for his Uncle Josef Vransky's naturalization.

Anton Visek died in Albuquerque, New Mexico on January 2, 1926 and was buried on January 7, 1926 at Bohemian national Cemetery<sup>129</sup>. Anna Novak Visek (right) remarried to Frank Potuzak<sup>130</sup>. She died on February 3, 1961 and was buried February 7, 1961 at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>131</sup> next to Anton<sup>132</sup>.



### **Frank Visek**

The fifth child of Josef and Marie Visek, Frank Visek was born in Kamenne Mosty on January 26, 1881 and baptized January 29, 1881<sup>133</sup>. He immigrated to America with his parents at the age of four.

Frank married Barbara Riha<sup>134</sup> on February 10, 1902 at St. Procopius Church<sup>135</sup>. They had three children:

George Francis Visek, born October 24, 1902

Blazenka Anastazie Visek, born May 19, 1906<sup>136</sup>

Frank Visek, Jr., born in 1909<sup>137</sup>

In the early 1900s, Frank Visek worked in a saloon<sup>138</sup>, however by 1907, he was working as a blacksmith<sup>139</sup>. From 1910 on, he worked as a machinist and a mechanic<sup>140</sup>. Frank Visek finished his career at Western Electric in Cicero. Barbara Visek kept house.

---

<sup>129</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Anton Visek, 1926.

<sup>130</sup> Anna's Announcement of Death indicates a daughter Helen Youdris. It is unclear whether Helen is a stepchild of Anna's or whether Anna had a child with Frank Potuzak. If so, she would have been 45 years old or older at the time of Helen's birth.

<sup>131</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Anna Potuzak, 1961.

<sup>132</sup> Bohemian National Cemetery records.

<sup>133</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Zleby inv. No. 23 (1868-92) no. 7 file 103.

<sup>134</sup> Barbara Riha was the daughter of Martin and Marie Skala, first of Braidwood and then later of Chicago. She was born September 24, 1875. Before marrying Frank Visek, she was married to Frank Horejsi (May 17, 1896 at the Congregation of the Bohemian Fraternity.)

<sup>135</sup> Marriage License, State of Illinois, 1902 and St. Procopius church records.

<sup>136</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>137</sup> 1920 Federal Census records, Illinois. Also Announcement of Death in 1949 states age at death 40 years.

<sup>138</sup> Chicago City Directory, 1904.



Frank Visek Family circa 1915, Frank, Jr. on left, George on right

Frank Visek died in Fox River Grove, Illinois on August 1, 1955 and was buried at Bohemian National Cemetery on August 4, 1955<sup>141</sup> next to his son Frank and his granddaughter Georgette. Barbara Visek died in Fox River Grove, Illinois on August 20, 1959 and was buried on August 24, 1959 at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>142</sup>.

Blazenka Visek died on September 9, 1906<sup>143</sup>. She was buried on September 11, 1906 at St. Adalbert Cemetery<sup>144</sup>.

---

<sup>139</sup> Chicago City Directories, 1907, 1908.

<sup>140</sup> Chicago City directories list Frank as a machinist for many years. The 1910 Federal Census records for Illinois report him as a mechanic; the 1920 Federal Census reports him as a mechanic for McCormick Reaper Works factory.

<sup>141</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Frank Visek, 1955.

<sup>142</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Barbara Visek, 1959.

<sup>143</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Blazenka Visek, 1906 lists Blazenka's age at eight months. St. Procopius church records indicate her age at death at three months twenty-one days.

<sup>144</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Blazenka Visek, 1906.





The Frank Visek family circa 1928

In canoe: Barbara Visek with son George, wife Emily & daughter Ellen Betty  
 Standing: Frank Visek, Sr. (left) Frank Visek, Jr. (right)

Frank Visek, Jr. married Eleanor Phyllis Meinsen<sup>145</sup> about 1932. They had one daughter, Barbara Visek, born August 30, 1933 and who would later marry Jerome Kahovec on June 17, 1955<sup>146</sup>. Barbara & Jerome have two Children:

Babette Kahovec, born 1956.

Brian Ray Kahovec, born 1962.

Babette Kahovec married first Raymond Meyer<sup>147</sup>, with whom she has two children:

<sup>145</sup> Born February 25, 1910, Social Security Death Index. Eleanor Meinsen was the daughter of John and Sophie (Barts) Meinsen, 1910, 1920, 1930 Federal Census Records.

<sup>146</sup> Cook County, Illinois Marriage Index 1930-1960

<sup>147</sup> July 31, 1982, California Marriage Index 1960-1985

Amanda Meyer, born 1984. Amanda Meyer married Chris Jensen in 2006 and have one daughter Kendall, born August 12, 2009.  
Megan Meyer, born 1985.

Babette Kahovec would later divorce and marry William Jones<sup>148</sup>.

Brian Kohovec married Kathleen R. Balgeman on July 6, 1984<sup>149</sup>. They have four children:

Brian Kahovec, born 1988  
Taccoa Kahovec, born 1990  
Curtis Kahoce, born 1994  
Timmy Kahovec, born 1996

Barbara & Jerome Kahovec are retired and live in Paradise, California. They are active in their community and the lives of their children and grandchildren.

Frank Visek, Jr. was a lithographer by trade but a musician as well, and played with played the clarinet and saxophone with his brother in the band Jerry Thorpe and the Mid-West Admirals.

---

<sup>148</sup> Basic information unless otherwise footnoted concerning Barbara Kahovec and her family comes from personal correspondence between Barabara Kahovec and Paul Dierks.

<sup>149</sup> California Marriage Index 1960-1985





Frank Visek, Jr. (fourth from the right) with his brother George Visek (far right)



Frank Visek, Jr. (top far right) with his brother George Visek (middle far right)

Frank Visek, Jr. died on July 23, 1949 and was buried at Bohemian National Cemetery on July 26, 1949. Eleanor remarried twice<sup>150</sup>, the last time to Telesfor Gabaldon<sup>151</sup>, with whom she remained until his death in 1980<sup>152</sup>. Following his death she moved to California to be near daughter Barbara and her family. Eleanor Meinsen Gabaldon died on August 21, 1982 in California<sup>153</sup>.



Frank Visek, Jr. & Eleanor Meinsen circa 1930



Frank Visek, Jr., daughter Barbara & niece Ellen circa 1936

George Francis Visek was born on October 24, 1902 and baptized on November 10, 1902<sup>154</sup>. He married Emily Clementine Hegner<sup>155</sup> on December 12, 1925<sup>156</sup>.

<sup>150</sup> Married briefly to Frederick Lasak, February 10, 1950, Cook County, Illinois Marriage Index 1930-1960

<sup>151</sup> March 15, 1958, Cook County, Illinois Marriage Index, 1930-1960.

<sup>152</sup> Telesfor Gabaldon was born in New Mexico on November 20, 1905 and died in Illinois on July 30, 1980; Social Security Death Index & California Death Index, 1940-1997.

<sup>153</sup> Social Security Death Index, Eleanor died in Cupertino, Santa Clara, California.

<sup>154</sup> St. Procopius church records

<sup>155</sup> Born September 23, 1904, Emily Hegner was the daughter of Clement and Emmilee Sejba Hegner.

<sup>156</sup> Marriage Certificate, 1925.



George and Emily raised three children:

Ellen Betty Visek, born May 18, 1926

Georgette Ray Visek, born April 14, 1934<sup>157</sup>

Kenneth Edward Visek, born July 27, 1943

While George Visek worked at Standard X-Ray for more than thirty years, he was a musician his entire life. Proficient at all keyboards including the accordion, as a young adult, he performed with a couple of dance band, the Pierrot Novelty Orchestra and later Jerry Thorpe and the Mid-West Admirals, in and around the greater Chicagoland area.



George Visek seated at the piano

---

<sup>157</sup> Cook County, Illinois Birth Index, 1916-1935.

Later, he played casually, as well as for a weekly radio broadcast. In 1963, he accompanied his grandson as the young musician participated in his first solo contest at school.

Even into his eighties, George Visek could sit at a piano and bang out hundreds of "standards," all without the benefit of sheet music or fakebook.

George Visek died on January 20, 1983 in Largo, Florida.



George & Emily Visek 1925 & 1981

Georgette Visek died on June 28, 1935 and was buried at Bohemian National Cemetery on July 1, 1935<sup>158</sup>. She was fourteen months old.

Ellen Betty Visek married Paul Arthur Dierks<sup>159</sup> on December 11, 1948. They had two children:

---

<sup>158</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Georgette Visek, 1935.

<sup>159</sup> Paul Arthur Dierks is the son of John William Dierks and Grace Martha Rendant. He was born on September 11, 1923.

Paul Robert Dierks, born November 14, 1953 in Chicago. He married Sandra Ann Miller Vaughan<sup>160</sup> on January 19, 1979 in Jacksonville, Illinois. They have two children:

April Renee Vaughan, born September 4, 1975<sup>161</sup>. She married Kevin Cropper in Milford, OH on September 19, 1999. They have one child, Esmee Eva Cropper, born December 19, 2009.

Hilary Renee Dierks, born August 3, 1981<sup>162</sup>. She married Nicholas Wiezbenski on June 27, 2004 in Toledo. They have two children:

Elijah Nicholas Wiezbenski, born December 5, 2004 in Cincinnati, OH  
Karina Autumn Wiezbenski, born February 11, 2008 in Cincinnati, OH

Valerie Lorraine Dierks was born on November 1, 1959<sup>163</sup>. She is married Dave Simpson in 2007.

A chemist by profession, Kenneth Edward Visek has remained in the Chicagoland area his entire life.

## **Charles Visek**

Charles Visek was born in Kamenne Mosty on January 16, 1885 and baptized January 17, 1885<sup>164</sup>. He immigrated to America with his parents when less than one year old, and lived with them until their deaths<sup>165</sup>.

At some point after 1920, Charles left the 19th St. household and moved to 4025 W. 16th St.<sup>166</sup> before settling at 1901 S. Loomis St.<sup>167</sup>, the location he lived at until he

---

<sup>160</sup> The daughter of George Robert Miller and Suzanne Walech, Sandy was born September 11, 1949 in Jacksonville, Illinois.

<sup>161</sup> In Herrin, Illinois to Sandra Miller Vaughan and David Earl Vaughan.

<sup>162</sup> At Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio.

<sup>163</sup> Married for a time to Dennis Koceja.

<sup>164</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Zleby inv. No. 23 (1868-92) no. 6 file 112.

<sup>165</sup> In 1900, Charles was living with his parents and three of his brothers at 462 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1910, he was living at 1337 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street with his parents and the five Sestak children (his niece and nephews.) In 1920, Charles was living at 1337 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street with his nephews George and Edward Sestak and his aunt Barbara Vransky.



died. For a major portion of his working career, he was a guard at the House of Correction. He married Anna Czochara on January 17, 1937<sup>168</sup>.

Charles Visek died on February 14, 1954 from lung cancer. He is buried at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, Illinois<sup>169</sup>. He was survived by his wife Anna Visek. It does not appear that Charles and Anna had any children together<sup>170</sup>. Anna Visek died in 1979 and is buried at Resurrection Cemetery<sup>171</sup>.

---

<sup>166</sup> 1923 Chicago City Directory lists a Charles Visek on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, the same address as his brother James.

<sup>167</sup> 1928 Chicago City Directory lists Charles Visek's address the same as his Certificate of Death – 1901 S. Loomis Street.

<sup>168</sup> Cook County Marriage Index.

<sup>169</sup> Certificate of Death, Charles Visek, 1954.

<sup>170</sup> Obituaries for Charles Visek, 1954 and Anna Visek, 1979 make no mention of children.

<sup>171</sup> Obituary, Anna Visek, 1979.

## Chapter 5

### The Barbora Vrans Line

Barbara Vrans was born and baptized in Kamenne Mosty on January 24, 1853<sup>172</sup>. The sixth child of Josef and Anna Homolkova Vrans, at the age of twenty-three, she had a son Josef Vrans. On September 9, 1877 she married Josef Policek in Bohemia. To them were born two children, both whom died in infancy.

Barbara Vrans presents an interesting challenge to genealogical researchers because after immigrating to America, her last name was again Vrans and not Policek. Of course the immediate response to this conundrum is that the Barbara Vrans in America is different from the Barbara Vrans in Bohemia. The evidence, however, supports otherwise.

The Announcement of Death for Barbara Vrans in Chicago's Denni Hlasatel in 1934 indicates she was born in Kamenne Mosty, the same village as all children of Josef Vrans and Anna Homolkova. Unfortunately, being the last of the siblings to die, she was not survived by any of her brothers, sisters, or parents<sup>173</sup>. Nevertheless, the possibility that there were two Barbara Vrans born in Kamenne Most circa 1850, and ending up in Chicago is certainly low. This is particularly true since the only other Vrans identified in Chicago in the late 1800s and early 1900s from Kamenne Mosty belonged to the Josef Vrans and Anna Homolkova family, and no other Barbara Vrans born circa 1850 have been identified in Chicago<sup>174</sup>.

In addition, multiple Announcements of Death for the sibling Vrans indicate a surviving sister (not sister-in-law) Barbara Vrans<sup>175</sup>. Furthermore, Barbara Vrans was a witness when Barbara Sestak (Barbara Vrans's niece) wrote and signed her will in 1902<sup>176</sup>.

---

<sup>172</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Zleby inv. No. 7 (1839-68) no. 2 file 82.

<sup>173</sup> And therefore unable to absolutely confirm the relationship.

<sup>174</sup> There is one other Barbara Vrans, born circa 1865 in Bohemia but not Kammene Mosty. She took the Vrans surname upon marriage.

<sup>175</sup> For example, Jan Vrans's Announcement of Death in the Denni Hlasatel in 1909 lists Marie Visek and Barbara Vrans as surviving sisters.

<sup>176</sup> In a deposition of Heirship for Barbara Sestak's probate, Barbara Vrans testified she was widowed and that her former husband's name was Josef Vrans.

Barbara Vransy had one child, a son, Josef Vransy, who was born in March 1876<sup>177</sup>, before she married Josef Policek. After marrying Josef Policek in 1877, Barbara had two more children, both of whom died in infancy in Bohemia.

Barbara Vransy moved several times while living in Chicago. In 1900, she was a live-in servant of Ernst Gutwillig at 1266 Sheffield Avenue<sup>178</sup>. In 1902, she was living at 1158 Whipple Street, just a few doors from the Sestaks<sup>179</sup>. In 1910, she lived with her nephew James Visek and his family<sup>180</sup>. Between the years of 1914 and at least 1920 she lived with her sister Marie Vransy Visek, the Sestak orphans and her nephew Charles Visek at 1337 W. 19th Street<sup>181</sup>. In 1934 she was living with her son at 1401 S. Wisconsin Avenue in Berwyn.

Barbara Vransy died on May 1, 1934 and was buried in a term grave at St. Adalbert Cemetery on May 3, 1934<sup>182</sup>.

### **Josef Vransy (Vraney)**

Josef Vransy, the only known child of Barbara Vransy to live to adulthood was born in March 1876. After immigrating to America with his mother and other Vransy relatives, he married Marie Hejhal<sup>183</sup> circa 1897. Together Josef and Marie had two children:

George Joseph Vransy (Vraney), born January 1, 1899

Joseph Vransy, born February 19, 1901

In 1900, Josef and Marie Vransy lived at 1049 South Turner Avenue<sup>184</sup>. In 1920 they were living at 2648 W. 21st Street. In 1934, they lived at 1401 S. Wisconsin Avenue<sup>185</sup>.

---

<sup>177</sup> 1910 Federal Census Index, Illinois

<sup>178</sup> 1900 Federal Census, Illinois

<sup>179</sup> Deposition of Heirship, Barbara Sestak's probate, 1903.

<sup>180</sup> 1910 Federal census Index, Illinois.

<sup>181</sup> Multiple City Directories, 1914-1920. Note: Marie Visek died in 1918.

<sup>182</sup> Certificate of Death, Barbara Vransy, 1934.

<sup>183</sup> The name Hejhal has taken a variety of different spellings. The 1900 Federal Census records for Illinois indicate that Marie Hejhal was born in July 1876.

<sup>184</sup> 1900 Federal Census records, Illinois.



Joseph Vraney died October 6, 1944 in Fox River Grove, Illinois, and is buried at St. John Cemetery in Cary, Illinois<sup>186</sup>. Marie Hejhal Vraney is buried at St. Adalbert Cemetery<sup>187</sup>.

The first son of Joseph Vraney and Marie Hejhal, George Joseph Vraney was born on January 1, 1899 and baptized January 14, 1899<sup>188</sup>. He married Ann Rita Vonish<sup>189</sup>. They had two children<sup>190</sup>:

Lawrence Edward Vraney, born December 13, 1926 in Chicago. He married Inga and together they had six children: Charlotte, Lawrence Edward, George, Edward, Jeff, and Joseph. Lawrence Vraney, Sr. died on December 30, 1977.

Mary Diane Vraney, born December 7, 1930. She married Donald Joseph Opatrny<sup>191</sup>. Mary and Donald had nine children: Georgia, Christine, Donna, Mary, Stephanie Jean, Joe, Paula, Elizabeth, and Matt.

George Joseph Vraney died on December 9, 1968 in Chicago, Illinois. Ann Rita Vonish died June 2, 1962 in Fox River Grove.

This second son of Josef Vraney and Marie Hejhal, Joseph Vraney was born February 19, 1901 and baptized on March 5, 1902<sup>192</sup>. Joseph died as an infant, probably May 14, 1902<sup>193</sup>.

---

<sup>185</sup> Certificate of Death, Barbara Vraney, 1934.

<sup>186</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Josef Vraney, 1944.

<sup>187</sup> Correspondence with Stephanie Jean Opatrny Smith, 1995.

<sup>188</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>189</sup> The daughter of John Anthony Vonish and Mary Ruska, Ann Rita Vonish was born July 25, 1900.

<sup>190</sup> Correspondence with Stephanie Jean Opatrny Smith, 1995.

<sup>191</sup> Donald Opatrny was born July 25, 1928 and died April 13, 1900.

<sup>192</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>193</sup> Cook County Death Index (1872-1916).

## Chapter 6

### The Josef Vransky and Frances Novotny Line

The second youngest son of Anna Homolkova and Josef Vransky, Josef Vransky was born in Kamenne Mosty on November 17, 1855 and baptized one day later November 18, 1855<sup>194</sup>. He married Frances Novotny (born June 19, 1857<sup>195</sup>) circa 1880.

Josef and Frances had six children. Two were born before they immigrated in 1885<sup>196</sup>; four were born in Chicago, Illinois<sup>197</sup>:

Marie Vransky, born April 16, 1882 in Bohemia

Joseph Vransky, born August 1884 in Bohemia

Vaclav "James" Vransky, born May 1886 in Illinois

Jan Vransky, born August 1888 in Illinois

Anna Vransky, born July 1891 in Illinois

Charles Vransky, born May 1897 in Illinois<sup>198</sup>

Joseph Vransky died on February 28, 1930 and buried in the family plot at Bohemian National Cemetery on March 3rd<sup>199</sup>. Frances Vransky died less than one month later on March 21, 1930 and is buried beside her husband at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>200</sup>.

#### Marie Vransky

Marie Vransky married Joseph Kloud (born 1874<sup>201</sup>) circa 1898. They lived at least for a short period of time with Marie's parents, Josef and Frances Vransky<sup>202</sup>.

---

<sup>194</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Zleby inv. No. 7 (1839-1868) no. 2 file 84.

<sup>195</sup> From gravesite monument, Bohemian National Cemetery

<sup>196</sup> Naturalization papers for Josef Vransky, 1904, indicate that he immigrated in 1885 into New York.

<sup>197</sup> All birth months and birth years are from 1900 Federal Census Soundex records.

<sup>198</sup> There is a Charles Vraney born April 5, 1897 listed on the Chicago Cook County Birth Index 1871-1916.

<sup>199</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Josef Vransky, 1930.

<sup>200</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Frances Vransky, 1930.

<sup>201</sup> From gravesite monument, Bohemian National Cemetery.

Marie and Joseph had two children, both born in Illinois:

Mary Kloud, born 1898. Married Ladislav Skala<sup>203</sup>. Marie & Larry ran a local butcher shop. They had no children<sup>204</sup>.

Helen Kloud, born 1906. Married Jerome “Jerry” Placek. They had two children, Don and Judy Placek<sup>205</sup>.

Joseph and Marie moved their family to Janesville, Wisconsin in about 1928 when Joseph took an executive position with The Janesville Furniture Company (no longer in business).

Marie Kloud died on Saturday, April 26, 1936<sup>206</sup> at her home, 874 Sherman Avenue<sup>207</sup> and was buried on the 29th at Bohemian National Cemetery. Joseph Kloud died in 1960<sup>208</sup>.

## **Joseph Vransky**

Joseph Vransky lived with his parents a major portion of his adult life<sup>209</sup>. He worked at least for a while as a laborer<sup>210</sup>. Josef married Marie (maiden name unknown) sometime after 1930<sup>211</sup>. He died on November 2, 1948 and was buried on the 5th in the family plot at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>212</sup>.

---

<sup>202</sup> 1900 Federal Census records, Illinois indicate that Mary and Joseph living at the same address as Josef and Frances (2620 May Streets) along with all other five siblings.

<sup>203</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Mary Kloud, 1936.

<sup>204</sup> Correspondence Thomas Masterson, 4/5/1996.

<sup>205</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Mary Kloud, 1936.

<sup>206</sup> Ibid.

<sup>207</sup> Obituary for Marie Kloud in the Janesville Daily Gazette, April 28, 1936.

<sup>208</sup> From gravesite monument, Bohemian National Cemetery.

<sup>209</sup> He was living with his parents at age 35 in 1920. 1920 Federal Census Soundex records.

<sup>210</sup> Chicago City Directories, 1916-1917.

<sup>211</sup> Neither of Josef Vransky's parents' Announcement of Death in the Denni Hlasatel mention Marie as a daughter-in-law. In addition, it appears from Josef's Announcement of Death in 1948 that he probably had a stepson Charles Kral.

<sup>212</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Josef Vransky, 1948.

## **Vaclav Vransky**

Vaclav "James" Vransky married Margaret (born 1888) circa 1910. They had four children:

Margaret Vransky, born 1911<sup>213</sup>

Francis Vransky, born 1912<sup>214</sup>

James J. Vransky, born July 7, 1914<sup>215</sup>, died 1914<sup>216</sup>

Earl Vransky, born November 2, 1917, died April 2, 1991<sup>217</sup>

James Vransky died in 1952; Margaret died in 1947<sup>218</sup>. Both are buried at Bohemian National Cemetery in the family plot.

## **John Vransky**

John Vransky married Emma circa 1911. They had two children:

John Vransky, born September 14, 1912

Ruth Vransky, born 1918

This young family lived for a time with Jan's parents, Josef and Frances Vransky<sup>219</sup>

## **Anna Vransky**

Anna Vransky married Charles Saufl (1888-1967)<sup>220</sup>.

---

<sup>213</sup> 1910 Federal Census records, Illinois.

<sup>214</sup> Chicago Cook County Birth Index (1871-1916).

<sup>215</sup> Chicago Cook County Birth Index (1871-1916).

<sup>216</sup> Cemetery records, Bohemian National Cemetery.

<sup>217</sup> Social Security Death Index.

<sup>218</sup> Cemetery records, Bohemian National Cemetery.

<sup>219</sup> 1920 Federal Census Soundex lists John, Emma and children living with Josef and Frances at 2845 S. Hamlin. In addition, 1923 Chicago City Directory lists John as a foreman living at 1845 S. Hamlin.

<sup>220</sup> Social Security Death Index.

## **Charles Vransy**

Charles Vransy worked at least for a time as a clerk, and lived at home until at least 1923<sup>221</sup>. He married Louise.

---

<sup>221</sup> Chicago City Directory, 1923.

## Chapter 7

### The Jan Vransy and Marie Ruzicka Line

The youngest son of Josef and Anna Homolkova Vransy, Jan Vransy was born in Kamenne Mosty on March 3, 1862 and baptized one day later on March 4, 1862<sup>222</sup>. He married Marie Ruzicka<sup>223</sup> (born May 1, 1861<sup>224</sup>) from nearby Mladotice on June 9, 1884 and immigrated to America with the rest of the Josef Vransy family.

In America, the Vransys had an active social life, being busy with family, local societies and working. John worked as a laborer and in a hardware store most of his working life. Until Jan's death in 1909, the Vransys lived at 1155 S. Albany<sup>225</sup>. Shortly before his death, the family moved to 2438 S. Albany. It was there that Marie Ruzicka Vransy died in 1924<sup>226</sup>.

To Jan and Marie were born four children<sup>227</sup>, three of whom are identified:

Jan Vransy, born January 21, 1886<sup>228</sup>

Marie Vransy, born July 7, 1887<sup>229</sup>

Anna Vransy, born April 9, 1890

Jan Vransy died on October 29, 1909 and was buried on October 31, 1909 at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>230</sup>. Marie Ruzicka Vransy died on January 18, 1924 and was buried on January 22, 1924 at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>231</sup>.

---

<sup>222</sup> Birth records Roman Catholic parish Zleby inv. No. 7 (1839-68) no. 2 file 95.

<sup>223</sup> Correspondence with Thomas Masterson dated July 5, 1994. Marie Ruzicka was one of nine children of Jan and Barbara Ruzicka.

<sup>224</sup> 1900 Federal Census Index, Illinois. Death Certificate, Marie Vransy, 1924.

<sup>225</sup> Chicago City Directories 1890, 1892, 1899, 1900, and 1909, John and Marie lived at 1155 S. Albany. John is listed as a laborer in 1890, and in hardware 1892, 1899 and 1900. There is no job listing for Jan Vransy in 1909 (the year he died.)

<sup>226</sup> Chicago City Directories for 1910-14, 1916 and 1923 indicate Marie, widow of John, living at 2438 S. Albany. Also in this household are John Vransy, Jr. and his family

<sup>227</sup> One child died as an infant according to Proof of Heirship testimony of Anna Hodous following her mother's death.

<sup>228</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>229</sup> St. Procopius church records.

<sup>230</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Jan Vransy, 1909.

<sup>231</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Marie Vransy, 1924.

## **John Vransky, Jr.**

John Jr. married Anna Vetesnik September 21, 1907<sup>232</sup>. They lived with his mother, Marie until 1924 when he and Anna moved to 2166 S. Washtenaw Ave<sup>233</sup>. John, Jr. carried on his father's profession in the hardware business from 1910 until sometime before 1923 when he was working as a tinner<sup>234</sup>.

John and Anna had two children:

Milada "Mildred" Stephanie Vransky, born December 26, 1910 and baptized Jan. 1, 1911<sup>235</sup>.

Edward Vransky, born February 1, 1916. He died in July 1986<sup>236</sup>.

## **Marie Vransky**

Marie was born on July 7, 1887 and baptized on July 13, 1887<sup>237</sup>. She married Frank Kasal<sup>238</sup> circa 1909. They had one child, Harry, born circa 1910.

Marie died very young at the age of 28 on May 30, 1916 and was buried on June 2, 1916 at Bohemian National Cemetery<sup>239</sup>.

## **Anna Vransky**

The youngest child of John Vransky and Marie Ruzicka to grow to adulthood, Anna Vransky was born on April 9, 1890<sup>240</sup>. On June 7, 1911 she married Anton "Tony" Hodous (born June 13, 1888). To them four children were born, all in Chicago:

---

<sup>232</sup> St. Ludmilla church records.

<sup>233</sup> From affidavits from Marie Vransky's probate, 1924-25.

<sup>234</sup> Chicago City Directories, 1910-14 John is living at 2348 S. Albany working in hardware. 1923 Directory lists John as a tinner living at 2348 S. Albany. 1928 City Directory lists John as a tinsmith living at 2116 S. Washtenaw Ave.

<sup>235</sup> St. Ludmilla church records.

<sup>236</sup> Social Security Death Index.

<sup>237</sup> Correspondence with Thomas Masterson, 1995.

<sup>238</sup> Frank Kasal was the son of Josef and Marie Kasal.

<sup>239</sup> Announcement of Death, Denni Hlasatel, Marie Kasalova, 1916.

Adeline M. Hodous, born May 29, 1912 and christened June 6, 1912<sup>241</sup>. She married Frank Smith, Jr. on January 4, 1936.

Marie Hodous, born November 24, 1915 and baptized December 15, 1915. She married Stanley Jirasek (born August 3, 1914) on December 24, 1935 and to them was born two children:

Joan Marie Jirasek, born July 24, 1939 and baptized August 20, 1939. She married Thomas James Masterson on June 7, 1958.

Judy Jirasek, born April 3, 1943<sup>242</sup>.

Ann Hodous, born July 16, 1917. She married Longar Truesdale.

Mildred Hodous, born December 27, 1920. She married George Halka on May 25, 1940.

---

<sup>240</sup> Much of the information about the Anna and Tony Hodus family comes from correspondence with Thomas Masterson, 1995.

<sup>241</sup> St. Ludmilla church records.

<sup>242</sup> Judy married and divorced Charles M. Franta. She married Robert Linquist in March 1993.



## Index

Baur  
  Anna, 19  
  Anton, 19  
  Catherine, 18  
  Edwatd, 18  
  Elsie, 18  
  James Joseph, 18  
  Milada, 18  
  Vaclav, 18, 19  
Cropper  
  Kevin, 37  
Danek  
  Antonia, 24  
Dierks  
  Hilary Renee, 37  
  Paul Arthur, 36  
  Paul Robert, 37  
  Valerie Lorraine, 37  
Gutwillig  
  Ernst, 40  
Hajka  
  Barbora, 20  
  Jan, 20  
Halka  
  George, 48  
Hegner  
  Emily, 34  
Hejhal  
  Marie, 40  
Hirsch  
  Irene, 27  
Hodous  
  Ann, 48  
  Anton "Tony", 47  
  Marie, 48  
  Mildred, 48  
Holec  
  Frank E., 28  
  Malcom, 28  
Homolkova  
  Anna, 11  
Horejsi  
  Frank, 29  
Hribal  
  Marie, 23  
  Vaclav, 24  
Jirasek  
  Joan Marie, 48  
  Judy, 48  
  Stanley, 48  
Kasal  
  Frank, 47  
  Josef, 47  
  Marie, 47  
Kloud  
  Helen, 43  
  Joseph, 42, 43  
  Marie, 43  
  Mary, 43  
Koceja  
  Dennis, 37  
Kucery  
  Anny, 11  
  Tomase, 11  
Masterson  
  Thomas James, 48  
Meinsen  
  Eleanor, 31  
Miller  
  George R., 37  
Noble  
  Gwenda, 23  
Novak  
  Anna, 12, 25  
  Catherine, 25  
  Joseph, 25  
Novotny  
  Frances, 15, 42  
Olanzo  
  Rosalie, 28  
Opatrny  
  Christine, 41  
  Donald Joseph, 41  
  Donna, 41  
  Elizabeth, 41  
  Georgia, 41  
  Joe, 41  
  Mary, 41  
  Matt, 41  
  Paula, 41  
  Stephanie Jean, 41  
Placek  
  Don, 43  
  Jerry, 43

Judy, 43  
 Policek  
     Josef, 15, 39, 40  
 Potuzak  
     Frank, 29  
 Riha  
     Barbara, 29  
     Martin, 29  
 Ruska  
     Mary, 41  
 Ruzicka  
     Barbara, 46  
     Jan, 46  
     Marie, 16, 46  
 Seidlova  
     Marie, 13, 17, 18, 19  
 Sestak  
     Barbara, 22, 39  
     Brabara, 29  
     Edward, 22  
     George, 23  
     George Thomas, 22  
     Joe, 20, 22, 28  
     Joseph, 22, 23  
     Katerina, 22  
     Lillie, 23  
     Matilda, 22  
     Robert, 22, 23  
 Simek  
     Josephine, 24  
 Sindelar  
     Adeline, 18  
     Edward Joseph, 17  
     Eliska, 18  
     George, 17  
     Jacob, 13, 17, 18  
     Sylvia, 18  
 Skala  
     Ladislav, 43  
     Marie, 29  
 Smith  
     Gertrude, 27  
     Stephanie Jean Opatrny, 41  
 Smith, Jr  
     Frank, 48  
 Sramka  
     Vaclav, 11  
 Šrámka  
     Elisabeth, 11  
 Topol  
     Adeline, 23  
     Brad, 23

Clive, 23  
 Gary, 23  
 Harold, 23  
 Jerome, 23  
 Ross, 23  
 Sterling, 23  
 Truesdale  
     Longar, 48  
 Vanderaue  
     Edward, 25  
 Vaughan  
     April Renee, 37  
     David Earl, 37  
     Sandra Ann Miller, 37  
 Visek  
     Alice, 26  
     Anna, 25, 29  
     Anna Czochara, 38  
     Anna Helena, 26, 27  
     Annie, 25  
     Anton, 14, 20, 25, 28, 29  
     Anton Josef, 26  
     Antonette, 25  
     Barbara, 14, 20, 22, 29, 30, 31  
     Blazenka, 29, 30  
     Bozena, 24  
     Charles, 20, 23, 37, 38, 40  
     Edward, 25, 27  
     Ellen Betty, 35, 36  
     Frank, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32  
     Frantisek, 14  
     George, 34, 35, 36  
     George Francis, 29  
     Georgette, 36  
     Georgette Ray, 35  
     James, 24, 25, 40  
     Jan, 20  
     Josef, 1, 14, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29  
     Joseph, 24  
     Karel 'Charles', 14  
     Kenneth Edward, 35, 37  
     Marie, 14, 24, 26  
     Mavik, 25  
     Otto, 25, 26  
     Richard Josef, 25  
     Rose, 25, 28  
     Sylvia, 24  
     Vaclav, 14, 20  
     Vivian, 27  
     William, 28  
     William A., 26, 28

William, Jr., 28	Frances, 15, 42
Vistain	Francis, 44
Anna, 19	Frantisek, 12
Arthur, 19	George Joseph, 40
Edward, 19	James J., 44
George, 19	Jan, 12, 15, 16, 42, 46
Joseph, 19	John, 44
Vonish	John Jr., 47
Ann Rita, 41	Josef, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 29, 39, 40, 42
John Anthony, 41	Joseph, 15, 40, 41, 42, 43
Vraney	Margaret, 44
Charlotte, 41	Maria, 12
Edward, 41	Marie, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 42, 46, 47
George, 41	Milada, 47
George Joseph, 41	Ruth, 44
Jeff, 41	Vaclav, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 42, 44, 46
Joseph, 41	Vranyho
Lawrence Edward, 41	Jan, 11
Marie Diane, 41	Walech
Vrany	Suzanne, 37
Anna, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 42, 44, 46, 47	Wiezbenski
Antonie, 13, 17	Elijah Nicholas, 37
Barbara, 12, 14, 15, 23, 39, 40	Karina Autumn, 37
Charles, 15, 42, 45	Nicholas, 37
Earl, 44	Zimmerman
Edward, 47	Roger, 25