ČESKÁ OSADA
A JEJÍ SPOLKOVÝ ŽIVOT
V CLEVELAND, O.
V SEVERNI AMERICE.
VYDANO ČECHY CLEVELANDSKÝMI
... za odbývání ...
NÁRODOPISNÉ VÝSTAVY V PRAZE
ROKU 1895,
.. TISKEM VOLNOSTI V CLEVELAND, OHIO ..

Translated as:


Written by Bohemian Clevelanders

For the 1895 Ethnographic Exhibition in Prague

Printed by Volnosti in Cleveland, Ohio”

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THE BEGINNINGS OF

CZECH IMMIGRATION

TO CLEVELAND, OHIO

Written by Hugo Chotek

The birth, growth, development and flourishing of American communities and cities has been like a fairytale for Europeans, but there is very little information to be found about it in Czech literature. After all, these very beginnings are the most interesting part of the story as they are instructive, reflecting as they do the character of our predecessors and revealing what struggles they had to overcome, the intelligence they drew upon in order to combat such unfavorable conditions and the relentless endurance – so typical of the American spirit – which our emigrants soon adopted for their own.

Our brothers and sisters back home have no understanding of the birth, growth and flourishing of such cities as Cleveland, Detroit, Omaha, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and others, having only heard of what they perceive of as big cities (New York, Baltimore or Chicago) and assuming these others to be nothing more than small towns.

I am speaking of the general European understanding, and not including select individuals who have either traveled throughout the States or who have learned something from articles written by Kořenský, Arbes, Náprstek and others – articles which are brief and incomplete and which cannot clearly depict the conditions and development of the abovementioned cities.

For this reason, the committee of Czech associations <výbor českých spolků> found it suitable to include in this foreword a brief description of the birth, rise and development of Cleveland, in which 35,000 Czechs have made a good new home for themselves.

Knowing from my experience that a clear picture is more eloquent than florid purple prose. I arranged for illustrations of some of the more prominent buildings, a considerable task gladly undertaken by Mr. Brett, librarian for the public library, Mr. Goldenbogen, Secretary of the Department of Public Schools and the editors of the local papers Leader and Plain Dealer. These illustrations clearly show that Cleveland is no small village but a big city.

For the same reason I have divided my foreword into two parts: a brief history of the city of Cleveland, and the beginnings and progress of Czech emigration.
The History and Flourishing of Cleveland

For Europeans the blossoming of some of the large American cities is like a tale from One Thousand and One Nights. A bewildering but elusive adventure, filled with the quintessence of the American: feverish vigor, entrepreneurial spirit and relentless endurance.

The city of Cleveland, with its spectacular skyscrapers, refined schools, beautiful parks and cemeteries, and its mile-long streets housing almost 400,000 inhabitants, was the domain of Indians and free-roaming animals barely one hundred years ago.

One story says that Cleveland's first white inhabitant was an Englishman by the name of Hawder, who in 1786 mediated a trade between Duncan and Willson, acting on behalf of the state, and Caldwell and Elliot, from Detroit, Michigan. Colonel and historian Chas Whittlesey claims that the first white person to have entered the county of Cuyahoga was James Smith of Pennsylvania, who had married an Indian war-captive from the Delaware tribe in the year 1760 and settled down there. We know of no other details and he is not as interesting a case as Hawder, but he did appear there a full 26 years before. Hawder's deal worked out well for him and meant that the mouth of the Cuyahoga River was first earmarked for success. Shortly afterwards the first settlement in Cuyahoga was founded by a German priest from the Moravian Brotherhood, named John Heckenwelder, and David Ziesberger.

At that time most of the settlers were baptized Red Indians who had escaped a bloody massacre at nearby Sandusk and, with the help of Colonel Depuyster and private firm Duncan, Wilson & Co., fled in Deaver and Mackinaw boats to the mouth of Cuyahoga River, where they settled for good. But even there they found little rest, as they were continually monitored and raided by the unfriendly Delawareans and the English, who wanted them to join them in their fight against the Americans (1789-90).

These problems, and the poor handling of them by the priests leading the community, resulted in the dismantling of this colony. Heckenwelder headed south with his supporters while Zeisberger founded a new settlement on the Black River. Although these settlements founded by the Moravian Brotherhood are quite interesting, I cannot delve into them within the limited confines of this foreword.

A 1789 agreement with the Indians meant that the U.S. government gained all land lying west of the Cuyahoga River as far as the Mississippi River and south as far as the Ohio River, reorganizing the area under the title Reserve. Legislation in 1795 set apart three million acres of this area for sale, when a company by the name of Connecticut Land Co. appeared, buying all three million acres for a sum of $1.2 million. The owners were Oliver Phelps, Henry Champion, Roger Newberry and Samuel Mather. General Moses Cleaveland, who purchased his part of $32,600, was chosen as its superintendent and that same year headed out with Seth Pease, the head surveyor, to the mouth of the Cuyahoga River to assess the property. However, the Indians were not happy with this turn of events and attacked the surveyor, making his job extremely difficult. Moses Cleaveland, together with the surveyor and their crew, camped at the river's mouth and often drove away the redskins, as he was well armed.

But preferring to end hostilities, Cleaveland started to negotiate with the chiefs of "six large Indian tribes" (the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca peoples)
which the French called Irognois. <Googling doesn’t turn up this spelling at all… Iroquois?> He offered them cattle and several caskets of spirits and came to an amiable understanding with them.

Now the surveying could continue unhindered and construction immediately began on the necessary buildings and storage facilities, under the supervision of Job P. Stiles. Nathan Chapman and Nathan Perry supplied the surveyors with fresh meat and started trading with the Indians.

In honor of its founder, the new station was named Cleaveland.

In spite of various difficulties, the surveying moved forward quickly, the city's first twelve roads being mapped out by September of 1796, when the city's land covered 520 acres.

The first street was Lake Street, followed by Broad (later renamed to Superior), Deer (later renamed to Miami), Federal, Huron, Ohio, Erie, Outorto, Water, Mandrake, Vineyard, Maiden and Union Streets. In the center of these streets 10 acres were set aside for the public square.

The city's best lots sold for $50 each and properties were sold as follows: $3.00 per acre if 10 acres were purchased, $2.00 per acre for 20 acres and $1.5 per acre if one hundred were purchased.

Twenty percent of the purchase price was to be paid in cash, with the remainder paid over a period of three years. The district on the city's west and south side was named Cuyahoga, and Euclid to the east.

The survey crew returned to their homes back east, with only Job Stiles with his wife and a man by the name of Landon remaining. Edward Paine moved there later to live with Stiles and trade with the Indians.

Stiles fathered the city's first white newborn, who was tended and nursed by a female Indian.

General Cleaveland returned to Canterbury to run a law firm, and he eventually passed away in 1806, deeply respected, valued and loved by all who knew him.

By 1797 the small settlement was populated by numerous immigrants, the most prominent of whom were James Kingsbury and family, Major Lorenzo Carter, Ezekiel Hawley, David Eldridge and John Morgan.

But the summer of that year was a tough one, and more settlers died, primarily because of the unhealthy fumes emitted by the swamps, affecting those who settled farther away from the lake and on higher ground. <I don’t understand. Surely noxious fumes would effect those people in low-lying areas more?> Major Kingsbury built the first cabin on high ground named Doan's Corner (where Kinsman Street now joins with Woodland Ave, and where the impressive Woodland Ave Bank stands), many families following him and settling down in Newburg.

Cuyahoga District's first mill was built by W. W. Williams at the waterfalls of Mill River, the district's first sawmill built at the same location in 1800. The first school was built this same year and its first teacher was Sarah Doan. The fact that the founders of Cleveland were not laggards is evidenced by the fact that, in spite of their small numbers, they managed to set up their own wine presses, built in Newburg by David Bryant. It is no wonder that Newburg became the cradle of the present city.

Between 1800 and 1820 the settlement continued to grow steadily.
In 1817 the state of New York began work on the Erie Canal, shortly after which the state of Ohio began work on a canal to join Lake Erie with the Ohio River. Work was long and expensive, and it took until 1827 for the canal to be completed, when it reached the city of Akron. At that time Cleveland had less than one thousand inhabitants.

The returns on this investment were quickly visible over the next few years as both trade and the city flourished, and the Americans began to reap the rewards of their enterprising spirit. The city's first publication was the Cleaveland Gazette and Commercial Register, its first issue released on July 3 of 1818, but a year later the Herald magazine entered circulation and soon won over the public, becoming the small settlement’s leading publication.

At that time the surrounding countryside was heavily farmed, bringing in more than 20 million dollars in annual revenues. The second year after the canal was opened, one million bushels of wheat and 100,000 bushels of flour were brought into Cleaveland. The first steamboat to make it to Cleaveland was the Walk-in-the-Water on September 1 of 1818. As one might imagine, this event was celebrated with great enthusiasm.

The canal was completed in its entirety when it reached the Ohio River in 1832 and marked the beginning of Cleveland's true blossoming.

It is clear that life for the first settlers was no bed of roses. But men back then were individualists who were skillful in field and domestic work, while the women were not spoiled, faint-hearted or frivolous but rather tough, heroic and sacrificing. They all helped the men build their homes from heavy logs and did not faint when confronted with a bear, leopard or wolf, all of which were quite abundant around Cleveland at that time. Old timers tell many stories fighting with these wild creatures and how Governor Huntington often only barely escaped a pack of wolves. Doctor Josef Šýkora often spoke to me of many very long snakes he saw in the marshlands of what is now Euclid Ave, with all its beautiful, public and private buildings.

In 1820 the first postal service delivered in person by omnibuses to Colombus and Norwalk was set up, followed a year afterwards to Pittsburg and Buffalo. This greatly improved and simplified travel and transportation to neighboring cities.

The city was catapulted into its next phase by the completion of the Ohio Canal, connecting to Akron in 1827.

The American entrepreneurial spirit continued to grow, with such examples as Henry Newberry (father of the later but well-known Professor Newberry), who owned a coalmine and transported to Cleveland an entire load of raw coal, to help the settlers while making a nice profit for himself. However, his plan turned sour when the settlers failed to grasp the utility of coal as a fuel source. They regarded it with suspicion and Newberry failed to make a single sale. In vain he started to distribute the coal to people's homes free of charge, but even then no one was interested, or else they threw the coal into the streets after accepting, to shame their benefactor. Instead of money and gratitude Mr. Newberry received only chiding and ridicule, and it took some time before someone finally tried out what has since become such a treasured source of heating in Cleveland.

At that time, the courthouse, built from large logs and located on the northern side of the square, was too small and plans were in place to build a new, larger building, eventually brought to fruition on the southwest corner of the square.
The city’s port now lay on an important trade route and so the city now found itself growing very rapidly. The 1835 population stood at 5,080, but this doubled over a two year period as, mostly starting in 1836, many settlers poured in from the east. These people were often heading west but many of them decided to remain in Cleveland. Sometimes the influx was so great that the transport companies were packed to capacity and hundreds of people would often have to wait for weeks in Buffalo before they could gain passage in one of the many steamboats traveling to Cleveland.

Cleveland obtained the status of a city in 1836, when a struggle broke out between Cleveland residents and settlers on the other side of Cuyahoga over control of the new entity.

Josiah Barber built the first cabin on the west side.

In 1831 a Buffalo-based company purchased several acres on the west side of the river and divided it into smaller lots. The company worked so diligently to draw in settlers that the new settlement’s growth challenged that of the city of Cleveland and eventually came to be known as Ohio City.

Both cities became seriously embroiled in disputes over their border, which reached a peak when James S. Clark, at his own expense, built the old bridge crossing the river at Columbus Street, connecting Cleveland to Brooklyn.

In 1837 (above said 36 for Cleveland), when both cities obtained their status, both sides tried to claim the bridge for themselves. Ohio City sent an armed mob to cross it, Cleveland following suit. They taunted each another until a bloody fight led to many deaths. The sheriff and city marshal stepped in to stop the brawl and put many in jail, but passionate enmity continued until 1854, when common interest brought both sides to mutual agreement and the cities were joined as one. The primary reason for this was the building of a city water tower at the price of $330,351.72, completed in 1856. Water is pumped to this tower by four massive machines, which pump 40 million gallons of water daily.

With its union with Ohio City, Cleveland’s population increased by 4,000 to 20,984.

The following table better depicts the growth of Cleveland's population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1796</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>9,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1797</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>17,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1851</td>
<td>18,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810</td>
<td>.57</td>
<td>1852</td>
<td>25,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1860</td>
<td>43,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1866</td>
<td>67,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>1,057</td>
<td>1870</td>
<td>92,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1832</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>1882</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>5,080</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>290,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>6,071</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ohio City............1,577
Ohio City............2,462
Ohio City............3,950

(above said 36 for Cleveland)
The first railroad, the Cleveland Columbus Cincinnati Railroad, made it to Cleveland in 1851, followed shortly afterwards by the Cleveland & Pittsburg, Lake Shore & Michigan Southern, and the Cleveland and Maboning Valley Rail Lines.

At this time there were also many Czech immigrants, and many old Czech settlers love to tell lengthy tales of the beautiful flowering of this city over half a century.

The city of Cleveland, like Rome of old, lies partly in a valley and partly up on hilltops, making it very picturesque. The valley is laced with the Cuyahoga River and the Ohio Canal, like two silver threads crossed over by an innumerable number of bridges joining the city's main streets to the western side.

The river and the narrow valley – or the deep ravine and mile-long gorge – naturally divide the city into western, southern and eastern sections. The low-lying areas, in particular around the canal and river, are scattered with an endless number of buildings, factories, lumberyards, smelting plants and steel plants, giving the center a busy clangor. More than 40,000 laborers slave away to put bread on the table for their families and give them a more promising future.

The flourishing of Cleveland's industry is nothing short of astounding. Out of humble beginnings, with its small and insignificant iron works firms and steel plants, grew gigantic and world-renowned factories in less than forty years: major players in the global, industrial and money markets. Just take the Newburg <růlny - decided rulny = the following (will appear several times)> Plate Rolling Mill or the Standard Oil Company as an example.

They were founded in 1857 by the now-deceased Henry Chisholm with only $25,000. Through smart business management and a favorable environment the plant grew very quickly, employing 8,000 workers by 1885 and producing 100,000 tons of railway lines annually, pulling in 25 million dollars in revenues per year. At present, some ten years later, the plant pulls in more than 40 million USD annually and employs 9,000 workers, of which roughly 990 are Czechs. Their daily earnings range from $1.75 to $3.50, depending on their responsibilities.

What is now a world-renowned oil company, the Standard Oil Company, was founded in Cleveland by J.D. Rockefeller in 1870.

The origins of these companies, which now monopolize entire industries, provide some amusing stories, some relating to Czechs. As an interesting example I will now tell one of these, which I have heard from several sources, although I cannot completely vouch for its veracity.

In 1869, the man we know as multi-millionaire John D. Rockefeller was an insignificant, poor laborer. With his perceptive and far-sighted spirit he saw great opportunities in the oil industry, but having little cash himself he sought out partners to help him set up a company. Living near a small Czech settlement (on Croton, Humboldt, Orange, Woodland, Mayflower, Jackson and other streets) he came into frequent contact with Czechs and fell in love with their hard-working, faithful and thrifty nature. He was apparently quite close with the recently deceased Jos. Kříž, whom he had constantly encouraged to divert some of the hundreds he had invested in his own new company to become a shareholder in Standard Oil. But Kříž didn't trust Rockefeller's proposed
business plan and did not go into partnership with him. Rockefeller had similar results with several other Czechs.

Of course, all the founders of the Standard Oil Company are now millionaires, and Kříž could have been the richest Czech in America if he had only the same foresight.

The oil companies are massive complexes and cover many acres, employing 6,000 workers (of which about 800 are Czechs) working for between $1.50 and $2.75 daily.

Standard Oil is now one of the largest conglomerates in the world. But the ironworks industry is also massive. Statistics show there were 214 factories employing more than 25,000 workers, paying between $1.35 and $4 daily, with an annual steel production of $40 million. This is not including the manufacture of sowing machines, itself pulling in $5 million annually.

Since Lorenzo Carter built the first ship, Zephyr, in 1808, the local shipyard has also grown in importance. Since then thousands of ships have been built, some of which have a massive load capacity, such as the Lockowana and Scranton, each able to carry 2,500 tons, with steam power of 1,500 and each costing $200,000. Five years ago one ship was built there with a horsepower of 2,500 and which carried 21 railway cars from one shore to another. The Yela steamboat, due to be released into the water next Wednesday (July 30, 1895), is 400 feet long, has a carrying capacity of 6,000 tons, runs on horse power of 2,000 and cost $600,000 to build. The Lasalle, Joliet, J.H. Wade, Griffin, Frontiaco, Frontiack, Wallworth, Nickels, Alva, Chille and a large number of other large and beautifully designed steamboats with horse powers exceeding 2,500 and carrying capacities of 3,000 tons were also built there, each costing between $250,000 and $300,000.

850 shipbuilders work at the shipyard, many of them Czech.

In fact, Czechs are represented in similar proportions in almost every area of industry, commerce and science.

The rapid growth and flourishing of Cleveland can be seen in the rise in property prices, the number of schools and public and community institutions, by improvements to the city's transport system, by the volume of the postal service and by the extensive use of public libraries.

The following figures show the growth in city and personal property over the past 15 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>City property taxes collected</th>
<th>Private property taxes collected</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>$53,165,295</td>
<td>20,481,899</td>
<td>73,647,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>72,734,940</td>
<td>26,879,115</td>
<td>99,614,055.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>100,891,800</td>
<td>31,748,105</td>
<td>132,693,905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<page 10>
This shows that both city and private property almost doubled in value over only 15 years.

The last report on June 30, 1895 by Postmaster Hutchins is also interesting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume sent in 1894</th>
<th>89,823,126 letters and parcels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume sent in 1895</td>
<td>104,049,986 letters and parcels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;mýlek was repaired in 1895</td>
<td>891,213</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A public library stocked with some 5,000 books was arranged in 1869, first homed on the third floor of a department store, later at the town hall and for the past 15 years on Euclid Ave. At present the library is stocked with 97,000 books, of which 20,000 are selected classical and scientific texts.

Well over 600,000 books are borrowed from the library annually, usually those which are scientific or classical in nature. Few novels and stories are taken out, while sensational or obscene books are strictly forbidden. The library also stocks Italian and French books, as well as about 9,000 German ones. The current librarian, Wm. H. Brett informed me that in the near future they will even be adding Czech books to their stock.

Brett has proven himself to be a capable administrator and is taking all measures to further improve the library, but it lacks seating and either a new building will have to be built or a larger one found.

Cleveland’s public schools are at a high standard and better than those in most other cities in the country. There are a total of 60 in the city (54 six graders, 3 universities and 3 trade schools), some of which were built at a cost of up to $222,308 (such as the Central High School). The value of all school property amounts to $3,537,131, its number of teachers totaling 838.

It is understandable that sectarian schools – in particular, Catholic schools – watch the flowering of the city's public schools with envy and even anger because it has been shown that students of such schools are far less likely to believe in those superstitions and myths that are pounded into the heads of sectarian school students.

Many have tried to oppose the public schools, and after failing in their efforts Catholic priests even tried to plant nuns, or at the very least Catholic teachers into the schools. But they failed in this as well, because the many friends of public schools nipped such plans in the bud, allowing the public schools to flourish naturally and without such interference. To their regret through, believers eventually realized that they had been left trailing in the wake of those who attended public schools. The sectarian education provided by these institutions was simply inadequate, and the rising importance of education, even for common laborers, only highlighted this weakness. For this reason, and with a heavy heart, most of the opponents eventually pulled their children out of the sectarian schools and sent them to the public ones.

The fact that Cleveland is more liberal than sectarian is confirmed by recent statistics gathered by believers themselves, who report that Cleveland has the following 190 church organizations: 26 Catholic, 16 Baptist, 16 Congregational (whose leader among Czechs is Mr. Schauffler), 7 Disciples of Christ, 10 Evangelical, 22 Methodist, 14 Presbyterian, 16 Episcopal, 12 Church Reformed, 12 Lutheran, 4 Independent Lutheran, 3 independent reformed, 11 Jewish, 1 Greek church, 9 Salvation Army, 3 Spiritualist and 8 various.
All the sects combined have 195 churches, valued in total at $5,233,900 and a total of 94,386 members. But if we consider that each of these sects counts every single soul to walk through their front door, including those who come to take part in church auctions – which are purely of a commercial nature – it can be argued that this number is somewhat inflated. And if we consider that Cleveland has 400,000 inhabitants, we can say that at least two-thirds are liberal-minded, which is a good measure of a well-educated population.

The city's universities are considered some of the best in the state, while Western Reserve University, in particular its medical faculty, is renowned far beyond Ohio’s state borders.

There are many other interesting facts about the city today that could be mentioned but that would not fit within the limitations of this book. Suffice to say that the reader can recognize the city's importance in commerce, industry, science and art from the following statistics.

The city of Cleveland has 38 banks, 9 railway lines, 21 cemeteries, 60 public schools, 6 large theatres, 226 associations, 350 public halls, 500 unions, 30 musical groups and choirs, 22 hospitals, 10 military organizations, 50 temperance organizations, 14 public libraries, 500 miles of streets, 250 miles of tram lines, 200 miles of electrical tracks, 10 medical schools and associations, nearly 200 churches, and ships valued at $18 million.

The largest telescopes are manufactured in Cleveland, while almost half the world's rubber is produced here, to an annual value of $2 million.

The city's waterworks came at a cost exceeding $6 million, while the main viaduct cost more than $2 million.

Cleveland is also home to many public and philanthropic institutions. The state mental institution on Broadway, in Newburg, is a magnificent building which can house 600, while the Charity Hospital was founded in 1865 and has an excellent reputation even outside the state. The city hospital and homeopathic institute for the poor comprise extensive and well run buildings. There are also many organizations for the elderly, women with children and orphans, who all receive excellent care, demonstrating both human compassion and the advanced nature of our modern era.

Thanks to the arrangement of boulevards around the city, Cleveland has a total of five parks, the largest of which is Wade Park at 63.5 acres.

The city is abundant in extensive, magnificent and truly artistic skyscrapers, some ten or more stories tall, while on Euclid Ave. a 15-story building is now being completed.

The main viaduct connecting the city with its western areas is 3,211 feet long and cost $2,225,000 to build. It hovers 68 feet above the ground and is 64 feet wide. The central viaduct connecting Ohio St. with Jennings Ave. is 5,360 feet long, 50 feet wide, more than a hundred feet high and cost more than a million dollars to build.

The city itself is divided into 42 wards, each of which is divided into 11 districts, which then vote on the town council.

The city's 12 police stations and 309 officers is relatively low for its size, but manageable since its population is law abiding and peace loving.
The city’s fire brigade is highly exalted, with 26 stations, 370 firefighters, and 26 operators for the steamboat sprayers to help them.

Two fire-fighting steamboat sprayers “steamboat sprayers” mentioned twice. I assume in the last sentence we’re referring to people, and have added “operator” to distinguish are available to protect the river and canal banks by spraying water drawn from the canal or river up to a height of 300 feet. This is an approach that was later adopted by many other cities outside of Ohio, such as Milwaukee, St. Paul, Detroit and others.

As in the center of town, many streets in outlying areas are densely lined with trees and which are very picturesque during the spring and summer months. The houses in these areas are spacious and comfortable, each with a small garden in front full of colorful and aromatic flowers.

More than 35,000 Czechs live in this industrial, commercial and flourishing city and most of them (about two thirds) own their own property or home.
Beginnings of Czech Immigration

Every immigrant, no matter what their nationality, loves to reminisce about the past, or read about it, or tell tales of their own experiences, which often include painful beginnings. These tales are told in vivid detail, full of glory and a much brighter perspective than reality befits, but this is only natural, for the tellers of these tales have often overcome many hurdles in the difficult early days.

Their pride in having survived such ordeals, or even in having twisted them to their own benefit, can result in long and fantastical tales of success and failure around the dinner table.

I have verified all these stories with great care, especially those that concern Czechs who have immigrated to Ohio.

The trials of the first settlers to the Cleveland area were clearly considerable, but the eyes of whoever speaks of them always light up with enthusiasm as with blissful expressions they explain: "You know, we suffered a lot back then, and were often hungry, but the times were good and we kept each other company around a warmer fire and with greater sincerity than is usual nowadays. So sad those golden years are now gone."

Personally, I don't like to let myself be swayed by such romantic talk of "days of yore", because such times were often spiritually dark, and full of ignorance, superstition and slavery – both in body and in spirit – but while researching them I had to keep these skeptical thoughts to myself. However, perhaps such hard times really were the reason that people gathered in tighter groups and become closer and more sincere friends than is the standard now.

I took it upon myself to determine who were the first Czechs to settle in Cleveland and, in 1894 (last year), I personally visited all of the oldest settlers of Czech origin, such as Mrs. Žáková, Mrs. Havlíčková, Mr. Jos. Novák, Martin Kerjčí, J. Kříže, J. Štědrónský, Leo. Levý, B. Wiedenthal, M. Stein and others.

Unfortunately, few of those who I had visited, with the exception of Krejčí, Levý, Stein, Weidenthal, Mrs. Machová and Mrs. Žáková, remembered their past with clarity.

Most have stated that the first Czech immigrant to the area was Jos. Hladík, but that is not the case. This I learned from Leo. Levý, who knew Hladík personally and met almost every day for an entire year. I wrote about my entire meeting with Levý in my book American, from which I will extract the following excerpt:

"You ask how your voyage went? Like a thousand others back then: long and full of suffering, hunger, danger and bitter disappointment. We were all sandwiched in there like sardines and it was no wonder that contagious diseases abounded. There were many Czechs on the boat and about 25 of them died on the way. By the time we hit the American shore there were many orphans who parents didn't survive the journey. My goodness, just the thought of what must have happened to those poor orphans and what kind of fate awaited them in this new land! Did they survive the hardships of life or did they die a meaningless death somewhere? Our goal, and that of most of us Czechs was initially the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, because it is from there that most of the appealing letters were sent and which so excited our famous Smetanova Lhota and the neighboring region of Práhyňský. Once we arrived in Cleveland we were so exhausted..."
that, with the greatest pleasure, we quickly pitched camp. My friend Weidenthal and I stayed there while our other compatriots (I can't remember their names now) continued westwards.

At that time Cleveland had a population of around 10,000 and was divided into three wards.

There was great activity and entrepreneurial buzz everywhere. Work had begun on the Cincinnati & Columbus and Cleveland & Pittsburg railway lines. All the streets were lit up with gas lighting, although there was no mention yet of any waterworks or water mains – construction of a waterworks did not begin until Aug. 10, 1854. The densely populated left bank of the Cuyahoga River did not yet belong to the city of Cleveland. Some 9,000 people lived there and were divided up into four wards under the name Ohio City. Both cities, divided only by a short, wooden bridge, had a combined population exceeding 21,000. And yet the immense envy and enmity between the cities was downright absurd.

Those living in Cleveland did everything they could against the resistance by those living in Ohio City, who paid all with interest at every opportunity. "yes, ,,pay with interest“ meaning they also did all they could to resist the other city. They were paying actual money... I don’t understand this sentence. Who is paying the money? Who is resisting? In the beginning it all seemed as though the locals behaved just like the citizens of the famous village of Kocourkova <research – couldn't find anything on internet. If you can point me in the right direction I could add a little blurb for further explanation, Kocourkova: fictional comical village inhabited by dumb citizens, http://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kronika_m%C4%9Bsta_Kocourkova [let's keep these for footnotes later. Put in [square] brackets after < . It was sheer insanity when the citizens of both cities grabbed their weapons and cannons to fight over ownership of the small wooden bridge on Colombus Street. That little bridge certainly was not worth the amount of blood lost over it. It made one cry, in spite of how absurd it was.

While looking out for other Czechs we ran into Jos. Hladík. We got to know one other quite quickly, and it didn't take long before we befriended one another. Shortly after that, with the help of Hladik, we were acquainted with Professor Adam, Sigmund Stein, Umlauf, Gottfried and a certain Fuchs.

In the western side of the city (back then called the Heights) Hladík, together with his father-in-law, a German by the name of Gemeiner, owned a business in crops, while Stein owned a small hotel, actually a catering house combined with a saloon, on Seneca Street. Umlauf was an accomplished painter and a true artist of his trade. Many sought to commission him and he was quite busy, unfortunately he passed away shortly after our arrival. I don't know what happened to the rest of his family. Mrs. Umlauf moved to somewhere in Brooklyn, while the children either went back to Germany or became Americans. The same year Fuchs returned to Bohemia.

Only five of us remained: Professor Adam (an excellent musician and music teacher), Hladík, Stein, myself and Bernard Weidenthal."
"Hladík was a very well educated young man with a pleasant, good-hearted manner, very active, energetic and enterprising. Together with a German by the name of Gemeiner, Hladík owned a business in eggs, butter, cheese and fish, which must have been successful because it did not take him long to build a very nice brick home in the Heights, which was very expensive at the time. His partner, Gemeiner, had a very beautiful daughter whom Hladík had fallen in love with and become engaged to. But before he could marry – I think it was in 1854 or 1855, I don’t remember anymore – that dear boy, loved by all who knew him, passed away.

At that time 19 Czech families lived there and all of them came to his funeral. Men, women and children – all of them escorted the beloved youngster to his last rest, returning back to their homes with great sorrow.

He was a counselor and a friend to every one of us; always willing to help with any request he could, with never a thought to personal gain.

He had a very good command of English, while his passion and respect among the local Americans proved the great value of his skills, and I am convinced that they too will always remember him. As concerns his property and share in the business, that would be best answered by his partner and father-in-law. As he told Hladík's male cousin, who showed up a few years later in search of an inheritance, Hladík did not leave anything behind.

We all thought it was rather strange, but since we couldn't prove anything we had to keep our mouths shut. Even though Hladík was a good businessman, we feel that he placed too great trust in his father-in-law to be.

I don't remember where Hladík came from (and neither do Mr. Weidenthal and others), except that he is from the Klatovský region."

As to the question who was the first Czech settler in Cleveland, he responded that he could not say for certain, but believes that it was Prof. Adam. Mr. Fr. Ťupa agrees <, who is looking forward to good health, and who I know very well., <Fr. Ťupa who is still enjoying good health knew him very well and speaks of him very highly> Ťupa speaks of him very highly. Prof. Adam was very kind mainly to Czech musicians and only with his help were Mr. Fr. Ťupa, Jan Prosek, Vác. Drábek and J. Bouša able to get into the Atheneum Theatre Orchestra, which in turn made their beginnings in the country a lot easier.

Adam was very well educated and, as a passionate nationalist, took part in the 1848 uprising, which resulted in him having to move to America. He was the son of an affluent physician from Příbram, where he lived and was generously supported, and quite independent in all other aspects. <If he is being supported by his father he isn’t independent?> For health reasons he moved south in the 1850s, where he soon passed away. Mr. Ťupa wrote to him more frequently and still has some of his letters stored away.

According to Levý, Gottfried, who is not well remembered by other settlers either, was a real estate and water transport agent but that he was dishonest and swindled whenever he could.

In the beginning he was very successful. He didn't work very hard, lived very well, and became rich enough to set himself up a large wholesale business in 1851. But that glory did not last long because shortly thereafter he went bankrupt <učinil veřejný úpadek, i guess, maybe „he discredit himself“?> and moved away from Cleveland.
The first large influx of Czech immigrants took place in 1852, when 16 families moved to Cleveland. Many more families came with them on the same boat, but they had set their sights further west, primarily the state of Wisconsin. Those who chose to remain were Jos. Havlíček, Jos. Kříž, J. Řehák, Jos. Kos, Jan Prosek, Fr. Kieger, Jos. Mach, Václav Žák, J. Hala, Andres Polák, Němec, Kotápiš, Zajeda and Pecák.

In spite of extensive research, unfortunately, I was not able to determine the names of the remaining. Some have died, while others moved elsewhere, to the point of being absolutely forgotten over those forty years that had passed by. Even those named above are barely remembered by their contemporaries.


By this last wave the small Czech community was greatly enlivened and we can say that, from this year, a true community spirit was born. Amongst these immigrants there were many men and women of an individualistic, nationalistic and sacrificing nature. They performed their work for the nation with love and passion, and were happy to be in the company of their fellow compatriots. It wouldn’t have occurred to any of them to benefit themselves at the expense of others but to respect and support their fellows, glad to counsel or console them. All of them had hardships and had to struggle for each slice of bread with which to feed their families.

The local Americans did not receive this new influx of immigrants very well because they were not used to seeing women barefoot and wearing a shawl around their head. They looked at them some sort of unknown tribe of Indians or Gypsies, and youngsters would shout at them or throw pebbles at them whenever they went to town.

But this proved to be a foolish prejudice, although our sensitive females suffered a lot of torment and often lacked the courage to walk out in the streets. This negative perception didn’t last long though, as the Americans soon recognized the hard-working, diligent and thrifty nature of the Czechs, as well as their faithfulness and honesty.

The men, both as laborers and tradesmen, were soon sought after and always found work, while the women were gladly taken for domestic work as servants, cooks and housekeepers. Life for Czechs improved. Even if they had a problem communicating effectively in English, they still found work without a problem, as soon as it was evident they were “Bohemian”.

By their honesty, industriousness, diligence and thriftiness, Czechs could now celebrate a victory in this new land.

A large majority of the Czech immigrants settled on the left bank of the Cuyahoga river, called Ohio City and Brooklyn back then and which has become the seat of my own <no, “of which the latter (the place in Brooklyn) created autonomous settlement”> home lately.

above: <?>

Z prvních Čechů valný počet usadil se na levém břehu řeky Cuyahoga, v tehdejším Ohio City a Brooklynu, kterýžto poslednější tvořil osadu pro sebe.
To get a clearer idea of the first settlers on the "west side", I followed my friend Pinter's advice and paid a visit to the families of Marie Nováková, Dsinerová and Zíková, the oldest settlers on that side.

Mrs. Marie Nováková, a pleasant, 73 year old woman, graciously received my visit, in spite of ill health, and spoke in a lively manner of the good old days and how Mrs. Diesnerová and Mrs. Víková, who were here on a visit, were so helpful to her back then.

"When we arrived in Cleveland in 1853," explained Mrs. Novákova, "an entire community of Indians had been camping on the other side of Newburg. We settled down in Brooklyn and discovered many of our compatriots living there. I don't remember all their names but only those I had met frequently, such as F. Zíka, V. Benda, J. Kaiser, old Kocián, Bláha, Zeman, Mráz, J. Hladík, Stein, Bauer, Ptáček, Mařík and others.

Only one Czech, who they referred to as Krejčí Zeman but whose real name escapes me, was living in Ohio City back then.

Back then everything was barren and empty. The low-lying areas around the lake and the Cuyahoga River were only marshes on higher ground, where now there are many fine streets – Pearl, Lorain, Detroit and others. It was covered by dense forest and often inhabited by Indians.

The beginning times were very tough on all of us because the locals perceived us with mistrust – a resistance I was never able to understand. Eventually I learned that it was because of our attire – our women were accustomed to walk around barefoot with shawls around their heads, which the Americans looked at with disdain.

Not able to communicate well with the locals and not knowing the local customs, it was quite harsh in the beginning, not to mention that our financial resources were extremely meager. Under such conditions you can imagine what a saving grace good advice, or help in general, proved to be, and for this I remember J. Hladík, and then the Israelis Leder and Levý. Leder did not for us without profit. <I don’t understand this sentence – missing verb?> He was the type of Jew you’d rarely come across.

It didn't take long for my husband to find a position in Southworth & Williams, paving the city's streets for the next 16 years.

Our social life was dire, with little if anything in the way of entertainment. It was a bit far across the Columbus Bridge to get to Newburg or Cleveland, where there were a lot of Czechs, especially in the winter or in bad weather, for which reason we were out in the cold <byli jsme proto odkazani sami na sebe=we could not rely on anyone but ourselves> . Sundays were always a joy for us as we would meet up with some fellow compatriots. The elder of us would go over what had happened the previous weekend and our hopes for the future, while the younger crowd always brought a violin or accordion and we’d all be up dancing.

It was a simple and neighborly entertainment, although more heart-felt and less pretentious than gatherings are now.

There were no Czech churches at that time so we would go to an American one in the "Flats". Later, in 1858, Father Ant. Krásný arrived, was attached to the Woodlands
parish and would often frequent the Flats. Krásný became well-liked and popular among the Czech and was only criticized for his liberal and social nature."

Their testimony concerning Father Krásný and his peers were similar, while Father P. Houšť, who wrote "History of Czech Catholic Settlers", explains how that "sickness" had accompanied them all the way to America. Also other Páter Krásný's peers talked about him in similar way and Páter A. P. Houšť, who wrote "History of Czech Catholic Settlers", explains how that "sickness" had accompanied them all the way to America - Whose testimony? Which sickness?

above:

He was a devout patriot and held in strict detention in Austria between 1849 and 1857 due to his political activism. He didn't seem to be overly trusted by the local clergy due to his more liberal views, but he was certainly respected and loved by the settlers.

This would be a good time to mention the building of the city's first Czech church, and those that followed.

The first Czech church was built in 1867 on the corner of Burwell and Arch streets, Father Krásný becoming its first priest. He passed away in 1870 and was succeeded by Father Jiří Beránek, but his role was short-lived as the renowned Vilém J. Revis [Řepiš] had taken over administration of the church and settlement in that same year. He was quite fanatical in his preaching and managed to divide the calm group of settlers into two battling camps.

Father A. Hynek founded the Saint Prokop parish, administered by P. J. Koudelka, who was soon called away and replaced by P. F. J. Antl. He didn't fare so well either, and was called away. The leaderless parish was then given to Father Štěpán Furdek, although he returned to his previous parish of the Virgin Marie Lúrdské after only 8 months, resulting in the new church's closure – only for it to be reopened one and a half years later and administered by Father Ant. Vlček.

The church of Virgin Marie Lúrdské was built in 1882 on the corner of Randolph and Hamm streets, while the church of Saint Vojtěcha was built in 1883 on the corner of Garden and Lincoln streets (in East Cleveland). Thanks mostly to the work of Father Hynek, the big church of Saint Váslav was built in 1891 on the corner of Forest and Broadway Streets at a cost of almost $60,000.

The following story shows how our compatriots during the 50s also had a "speculative" spirit.

A certain New York widow owned several acres of land in the Flats (low lying areas near the river) of Ohio City. No one knew anything about her and no one could find out whether the property was for sale, or for what price or conditions. Most assumed that the owners must have died, making the property available, so they began to build cabins on it, assuming the property beneath them would easily fall into their hands. Many Czechs were among them, and they greatly praised the American freedom in which each person could pick for themselves a piece of land and settle on it.
But this praise and joy did not last long, as the owner eventually found out and hired herself a lawyer who set out to sell the properties for more than they were worth. Although the proposed duration of the payment scheme was sufficiently long, the problem was that the wage then earned by a laborer (from 75 to 90 cents per day) was not enough to make monthly payments of between 8 and 10 dollars.

In light of this, these Czechs preferred to abandon their homes, moving westward in bitterness. This was the first failed speculation by some of the Czechs, the names of whom Mrs. Nováková cannot remember, unfortunately.

The small community of Czechs living around Croton Street had a much happier and more social lifestyle. According to some older residents, settlement of this area occurred for the following reasons.

Soon after the arrival of the first Czech settlers to Cleveland, farm owners from Jackson Street to Case Ave., J. Hoyt, Harvey Rice and David Short, divided up their lands into smaller plots and entrusted their sale to Martina Krejčí, who at that time ran a small shop on Burwell Street, near to Forest. These plots were relatively cheap compared than others in the area and allowed for payments over the long term, in which case M. Krejčí, who was well trusted by the community, sold the plots with little difficulty. Besides that, Czechs who worked for Mr. Rice were able to make the payments through deductions from their wages and almost all of them used this opportunity to buy their own homes. In time M. Krejčí also represented the steamboat company, which meant that new immigrants were more likely to be directed his way and gave him the perfect opportunity to sell property – which he did in great abundance.

The settling of more Czechs into a single location inspired a spirit of entrepreneurship among some.

Jos Havlíček was the first among these, when in 1853 he opened the first pub on the corner of Forest and Burwell Streets. The following year, in 1854, M. Krejčí opened a pub and mixed goods store just down the road on the corner of Forest and Croton. At this time Fr. Kieger already had a liquor store between Croton and Orange Streets, while K. Kos ran a pub on Mayflower Street.

In 1851 Vác. Žák arrived in Cleveland as the first Czech baker and shortly thereafter opened up a bakery with his son, which they ran successfully for the next 16 years.

Leví and Weidenthal ran a shearing shop on Woodland Ave.

All of the older residents only have praise for Levý, as he helped many with his advice or aid. Even though he lived modestly in a small home, he managed to offer shelter to the first 16 Czech immigrant families, providing them with everything they needed without asking for anything in return.

As I wrote before, the social life here was much livelier, varied and merry than it was for the Czechs who lived on the West Side or in Brooklyn.

In the early 50s, before when M. Krejčí came with his entourage, their social life was mostly limited to the home, and was organized by the more popular and well-known compatriots. But this later shifted to the pubs set up by Havlíček, F. Novák, Kieger and Kos.

Most of the social activity centered around F. Novák’s hall, and later his theatre, where the Czech men could entertain themselves with conversation, and also where many
important issues were often discussed which would have a great effect not only on social life in general but also on the progress of cultural life <tak in na vyvoj zivota narodniho, … also on progress of nation/national awareness>. 

Although business conditions were not the greatest, they were tolerable and all were able to find work. Despite low wages, food was cheap, in particular meat, which went for a few cents per pound.

The now deceased Jos. Novák described Czech social life back then very eloquently: "Although there were only a few Czechs here back then and we all had to cherish every crumb of bread, we loved one another like brothers and sisters, we clung to one another closely and helped one another in all things, while our social gatherings were genuine, unpretentious and merry and served to strengthen the great bonds of our friendships.

"Sometimes we would meet at Krejči's, other times at Kosa's or Kříže's, or sometimes in a private room, playing the violin or accordion and having a swell old time. It was a great joy to see all the radiant faces and sparkling eyes when the entire small community of men, women and children gathered together somewhere to dance up a storm! What a joy it was to spend time with our own compatriots, amongst family and to be able to sing songs from back home. At that time there was no envy separating us, nor anger or pride. At that time we supported one another and got along well, rather than grabbing each other's last mouthful of food. All this is so different to today, where most of us are quite well-off and where envy has taken hold, hampering our social and cultural life.

All this only affirms the old saying that states that destitution and poverty are more likely to bring people together than abundance.

The growth of the Czech community and the city overall inspired many of our compatriots to have a shot at industry <pustit se do prumyslu – in a "forward by the translator" I would suggest mentioning that Czechs are very industrious and technical. Between the two world wars Czech was the sixth most industrial nation in the world. I feel it myself, and almost look with disdain at many Westerners around me who are perfectly content to loaf around and do absolutely nothing. This is the Czech spirit. The way the author wrote the above statement is absolutely natural for any Czech. For a Westerner they might think they "launched into industrial activity" as some sort of random event, so I think a forward explanation would put everything into better context. MK: Agreed> One of the first, larger industrialists was Jos. Štopl, who had established the first Czech brewery <pod senovážným pláckem=under the hay-sheafing square Hay sheafing? Threshing? Baling?>. Štopl was a talented brewer, but even though he had a good feel for business, he was not so successful and soon had to abandon his endeavors. But it wasn't really his fault but rather due to unfavorable conditions and a long string of bad luck.

The same conditions forced the closure of a second Czech brewery set up on the western side by Jos. Zíka, and a third established by Fr. Payer in 1873 together with his partner, Leising, and which he later ran together with Jan Tlapa. The now deceased F. Payer explained the demise of the third brewery as follows.

"Our beer was much sought after and, many said, also healthy. But that year was very hard on the brewery industry because of the lack of ice following a poor winter. At
that time there were no ice machines, meaning that the price of ice rose to $25 a ton. Malt cost $2.04 a bushel, while hops cost roughly the same. This increased costs, while cash was lacking, forcing us to abandon the trade and switch to something more secure."

I often wondered how was it possible that this small group of Czechs, who came to this area together with Germans, Irish and Americans and who were faced with the same, if not worse, conditions, did not advance as they did but stayed poor, while the others raked in millions. After all, they had the same opportunities, the same hurdles, but were more intelligent than many Germans, English or Irish. After much discussion I came to the conclusion it was because of the Czech character: one which never was and never will be such a bloodsucking profiteer as can be found among the thousands or hundreds of thousand in other nationalities. When a Czech is doing well, he wants to share his good fortune with others, helping them with pleasure.

It is greatly against a Czech's nature to benefit himself by taking advantage of someone else's spiritual and physical prowess and growing fat on the labors of others. Czechs believe that only by hard and honest work can they achieve independence and, if lucky, abundance. It is simply against their nature to make slaves of others and swindle their way upwards. Czechs have always preferred to act the role of an anvil, which they would turn against only if faced with injustice, harm or unfair play. <This metaphor does not make sense in English. Do you mean that Czechs would only ever become violent/aggressive in these cases?> But let me not stray from the agenda.

None of the first Czech settlers immigrated to America with the intention of finding menial work. Most hoped to find themselves a piece of soil to begin an independent life as a farmer. But because such a dream required the finances they did not possess, most of them were forced to remain in the city and take on whatever work they could find, regardless of their previous habits or inclinations. Only a few of them were fortunate enough to have the resources to buy farmland and the necessary equipment to get themselves on their feet.

Some of those who were successful, and who had arrived to Cleveland in 1853 and set up a farm, were J. Čapek and J. Doubrava, who are also the oldest Czech farmers in the country of Cuyahoga.

A year later Fr. Vrbský, Ant. Marek, Vinc Třebický, Jan Šebánek and Jos. Sojka, each with their respective families, bought farms in the eastern part of the county. This number expanded over the years until, today, many content, independent and often wealthy Czech families of farmers live in the outlying areas of the city.

But let us get back to the impact of Czechs on the Cleveland itself. During the 60s and 70s Czech immigration was particularly strong, injecting new, healthy and vibrant blood into the community. Some of the names included J. V. Sýkora, the families of Juenglinka, Dyzner and Šťáral, V. Huml, J. Bejček, J. Beneš, K. Čermák, P. Malý, F. Chaloupka, Ondřej Mitermiler, F. Bušek, the families of Herold and Paldov, V. Rychlík, F. Vácha, F. Pešek, br. Vopalencek, J. Hřebejk, Fr. Šafráněk, Jos. Malý, Jos. Žíkeš, F. Hoefner. A. Pintner, J. Kulas, A. Šindelář, the Vaňkov family, V. Malický, J. Matoušek, M. Hošek, H. Švare, V. Havlíček, the Macourka family and others, among whom Josef V. Sýkora and Václav Rychlík did quite well on the cultural scene <v narodnim pusobeni vynikali, Yes. All this „national activities“ and „life of nation“ notes refer to the fact that perceived ultimate goal of most of social and cultural activities was defending and building Czechs' national awareness> . Josef V. Sýkora, educated in Písek, moved to
Cleveland in 1863. Sýkora had a fiery and merry nature full of fervent national pride. He became very popular among the good-natured Czechs and became instrumental in nurturing the spirit of the small Czech community. František Novák, Václav Rychlík (a latecomer) and himself became instrumental in enlivening and bringing together the community and giving it a meaningful direction. The were liberal-minded and took all efforts to battle superstition, heresy, obscurantism and backwardness, making good ground for the likes of Fr. Zdrůbek, V. Šnajdr, L. Palda, Škarda, J.V. Čapek and others. They were the ones who were forced to succumb to the first difficult, laborious pioneering work to build up a liberal-minded Czech community, often confronting many backwards-thinking fanatics. After all, more than four-fifths of the Czechs were devout Catholics and it was difficult to introduce liberal thinking against this current. Dr. Prošek, Jan Aubrecht and V. Nevařil later joined their cause in this endeavor.

But they succeeded in the end, albeit slowly, as each new wave of Czech immigrants brought with it men of learned, distinctive and liberal-minded character who injected vigor and inspiration into this small but growing community. They say that we are all endowed by birth with a free spirit and mind. I do not believe it, because world history provides thousands of examples that show both these traits need to be nurtured and maintained, just as faith and belief have been over the millennia. The lessons of childhood have deep roots and cannot be easily replaced, even with something that is notably more beautiful, useful or wholesome. The seeds of emotions and ideas must be planted at an early age and then carefully maintained with constant watering – something that cannot be attained within a single generation. This is why such pioneering work is so difficult, slow and unappreciated in new settlements. The results of such work are not immediately apparent but over time, once the tree has grown and produced its first sweet fruit.

The same applies to the work of our first pioneers in building up a liberal-minded and cohesive community. In hindsight, it is easy today to see and praise the zealous and sacrificing work of our torch-bearing forefathers.

Czechs first started to settle on "The Heights" (now the 24th ward and previously called Kozoluby) shortly after Rockefeller built the oil plant, spoken of earlier, there, at a time when the farms on the other bank of the Kingsbury Ravine were divided into smaller plots and sold.

Because the plots were cheap and sold on long-term payments, Czechs took advantage of the offer in droves and built their own homes. At present this 24th ward holds the largest Czech community in Cleveland, which, with its population of 7,000, would make a nice small town back in Bohemia.

Praha, also located in the 24th ward on a small peninsula and surrounded on all sides by a deep gully (Kingsbury Run <or Kingsbury Ravine?>) has a Czech character, and is a lovely site to look at during the spring or summer when driving over the viaduct joining Huboldt and Davies Streets or Willson Ave. About 125 homes stand on this small corner, almost all of which are owned by Czechs. The reasons why some Czechs settled in the east end of the city (East Cleveland) are the same as those for the south and west parts of Cleveland.
The city is home to some 35,000 Czechs, probably more, of which about 13,000 reside in the 17th, 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th wards, about 11,000 in wards 35, 39 and 40, while about 10,000 reside in 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd wards (East Cleveland).

Then we have more than a thousand scattered along different streets, such as St. Clair, Euclid Ave., Woodland, Cross and others.

A school census between 1892-3 reveals that at the time more than half of all Czechs lived in the 24th ward. Of the 2,564 families living in this ward, 1,491 were Czechs and 227 Polish.

Of these, 3,212 were Czech youngsters (between the ages of 6 and 21), while 503 were Polish. All these numbers have grown significantly over the past 3 years, by at least 500, for which reason we can say that around 7,000 Czechs currently reside in the 24th ward.

Czechs maintain an excellent reputation in the city and hold a promising future within it. Generally the Americans have learned to afford them great respect, mostly because of their reliability, carefulness and thriftiness, and because they are considered intelligent and law-abiding.

What great strides they have made in a mere 40 years! Coming from such low beginnings, scorned as inferior, unwelcome and shunned, their women ridiculed! The first families to arrive came practically naked, with neither a dime in their pocket nor a word of English on their tongues, relying on the strength of their hands, their intelligence and endurance. How do they fare today? Just walking down the streets of Broadway, Willson, Croton, Petrie, Central, Lincoln, Clark Ave. and others there are large and beautiful commercial buildings privately owned by Czechs. Americans can only marvel at the entrepreneurial and hardworking zeal of the Czechs, and at the material and spiritual advances they have made in such a short period.

Czechs are now considered a cornerstone of the community and are well received. Even in public life Czechs hold respectable positions, some taking their place in public office. Vác. Šnajdr worked on the Library Council while Mr. Jan Vevera took the role of Country Commissioner. For many years Jan Vaněk acted as the city's secretary to the police department, a respectful, important and responsible position, while K. Kůžel was the county's first secretary <prvním příručím okresního písaře = county clerk's/typist's first secretary>. His brothers also took important roles: J. Kůžel in charge of payroll at one of the city's largest banks, the Dime Saving Bank, and F. Kůžel taking the same position at Wick's Bank. Fr. Šťárdal was a partner and director in one of the city's largest printing companies while the lawyers Jos. V. Sýkora, Jos. Novák, Tomáš Pivoňka, Fr. Freund and physicians M. Rosenwasser, Jos. Sýkora, Fr. Franke, J. Procházka, Jan Kofroň, J. Plent, V. J. Albl, V. Havlíček, F. Spurný, Páv, Kolb and Stránky are all highly educated and have won the confidence of the broader public and respect of their professional colleagues of all languages.

And what of our architects? Many of them, such as Vác. Beneš, continue to hold their own against the city's most renowned, American architects. Ondřej Mitermiler is the oldest and most renowned among them, followed by the no-less accomplished and educated J. W. Hrádek.

Czech pharmacies, such as those of Otta Žikeš, J. V. Bubny, F. Herold, M. Albl, Fr. Vačkář and O. Bejček, hold their own among the best in America.
Several years ago skilled brewer Vác. Medlín built a proper Czech brewery here, but in spite of all his efforts it did not work out, and was forced to sell his prized brewery to an international conglomerate. I hope that our second proper Czech brewery, Plzenský Pivovár, has a brighter future. This brewery was built in 1894 and run by Vác. Kalva. Its beer is excellent and far outshines the beer produced by the Czech city <which city? or should it be cities plural? K: Good point from proofreader. Perhaps readers don’t know the Czech version of Pilsen – put English translation in square brackets?>.

Not only have Cleveland's Czechs excelled in industry, art and science but also in commerce, where countless of them have succeeded in one business or another.

The liberal spirit has taken root among Czechs, slowly but surely. From humble beginnings when the number of liberal-minded Czechs could have been counted on a few fingers some 20 years ago, the number of freethinkers </Scott says there was a movement called Freethinking, or the Freethinkers – consider researching and adding something, MK: if it's “volnomyšlenkářství” that could be just way of thinking somewhere between classical liberalism and “libertinism”. I did not hear about any official movement, though. Some info here http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freethought. I have rendered the noun as “freethinker”, and the adjective as “freethinking” where it would appear to relate directly to this movement. The mention of The Freethinking Fellowship and the Czech Freethinking Sunday schools leads me to think that it was recognised as a philosophy. I have used “free thinking” when the meaning is more “free” or “unfettered by superstition”. Have added to glossary.> has grown to an impressive number, nurtured by the free and liberal American environment in general. Even those Czechs who had freed themselves of their previous bonds to guilt came to realize that the concept of "religion" is simply too narrow for today's reality and, besides one's obligations to the state and church, a person has other responsibilities, such as to those who are close to him. They came to realize that religion, with its orators, steals some of their common sense, in that it forces them to believe in something that cannot even be understood. They came to realize that only by suppressing superstition and emancipating themselves from the claws of the Roman juggernaut is it possible to find the true individual and spiritual freedom that leads to progress and inspiration.

To come to such a conclusion takes time and the spirit of progress and inspiration, in its battle against superstition and obscurantism, is forced to fight for every square inch where superstition has taken root and where the catechism has been drilled into the hearts and minds of the entire nation over the centuries. <I think it would be worth mentioning, in [ ] brackets or something, a brief history of Jan Hus, who inspired Martin Luther and was the beginning of the Protestant movement. After the Catholic Church sent armies from many countries around Europe, lost several times and eventually won, it wanted to suppress any such rebellious notions from its European domain, so it built countless beautiful churches throughout the country. Czechs know all this, so it is implied. It is a very interesting story worth reading, and in this case, I think mentioning. It would also explain the author’s rather aggressive stance against religion. At some 85% of the population, Czechs are now the biggest atheists in the world.>

What has proliferated and flourished for centuries, even millennia, cannot be erased within a single generation. Although the catechism is to a certain degree embedded in legislation, it must also accommodate the spirit of the times, progress and
enlightenment <[inspiration]> . If it does not, it cannot expect that the more enlightened among us will adhere to it and believe in something that has proven only to be a nonsensical fairy tale.

The spiritual advancement of Cleveland Czechs is truly noteworthy, because it is clear that half of them are learned individuals and on the way to true liberal-mindedness. And I emphasize "on the way", because until now only a few of them had yet reached its fountainhead, reflected in social and community life.

A free thinking person with an enlightened character is not selfish, but happy when someone else is successful. Such a person is not malicious, because they do not take pleasure in harm caused to others. Neither are they envious, but are happy when others do well. They are not contentious, because they love peace and harmony. They are not cruel and do not willfully hurt others. They are not superstitious as they do not believe in the impossible or in nonsensical fairy tales. Overall, such people are noble-minded, sacrificing, selfless, preferring to live in harmony, full of love.

As is evident, it is not an easy task to be free thinking, because such a person is not motivated by a reward in heaven or a punishment in hell. Their only reward and satisfaction is in their own conviction that they have acted as a progressive, educated and enlightened individual.

And such are Cleveland's Czechs in great number. It goes without saying that the male portion of this community nurture a fierce loyalty to their homeland. As I wrote before, Cleveland's Czechs are Czech in character, down to the core. There are Czechs here, regrettably not in greater numbers, who do not consider patriotism like a dairy cow or a veil<br>covering their selfish or sordid intentions, but who with all their heart cling to all that is most precious in our culture <[nation]> and language, and who do not neglect any cause which could benefit or strengthen anything that is Czech. They are like the diligent bee, which endures its own honey for the good of all, without any complaint, only because the community needs it. <This isn’t right – to endure/tolerate in this context means “to put up with”, as though the honey were a burden to the bee. Is the meaning that the bees make the honey selflessly for all? In which case the correct verb might be “give up”>

Since I first wrote these thoughts down, the number of men, women and children with this burning passion and the free thinking nature of the community overall has increased greatly. This has had a direct effect on culturally oriented events <i v ruchu narodnim, ruch is also “movement”>. This only shows that the accusation that free thinking Czechs are less likely to support their cultural spirit is out of place. Relating to this I need to mention the following.

[Caption next page: View from Edgewater Park.]

The 1895 "Catholic" calendar, under the entry "Catholic Czechs in America", states: "The primary backbone to maintaining Czechoslovak culture in America is our renowned Roman Catholic Central Union. This entity may be considered the Noah's Ark of Czechoslovakia. We must not allow other entities to distance themselves from the Ark and drown...<utonou=get drowned, we must not allow other entities to distance from the Union if they are to escape the danger of getting drowned. I think you should keep
“drowned” because it links with the Ark and the flood. The Union's fall would certainly result in the demise of our Czech and Slavic-think about “Czechness and Slavicness/Slavonicness”. In Czech it sounds the same strange. Careful, “slovan/ský/ství” refers to “Slav/ic/ness” not “Slovak/ness”!! - This should be Czech and Slavic then, these are the correct adjectives culture on that continent."

I'm sorry, but it's not like that at all. It would certainly be a sorry state of affairs if the flourishing of our culture in America depended on the Roman Catholic Church. Fortunately this is not so, as the main pillars of our culture here are The Freethinking Fellowship (headed by Č. S P. S., Č S. B. P. J., The Sokol League, the choir and amateur associations, and the patronages of Czech Freethinking Sunday schools <Sunday schools are invariably religious in nature to an English speaker (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunday_school) so you might need to explain this. I presume these are atheist groups that meet on Sundays?>), the Association of Czech Women and the Sister Support Group, and the American Foundation and Free Community.

It is precisely these organizations which nurture the true spirit of our culture and which plant within the hearts and minds of our youth the seed of love for our nation and respect for our predecessors – those who shed their blood and laid down their lives and property for personal and spiritual freedom.

It is precisely these organizations that comprise the heart and soul of our culture here in America, because they are made of inspired, learned, sacrificing, noble-minded characters, full of enthusiasm for all that is beautiful, fertile and useful.

Love for one's roots <[nation]> and native language is a gift of birth, and each warrior of this free thinking army is aware of his/her national and personal obligations which they fulfill freely, with gladness, knowing very well that they will not be remunerated for these actions after death.

These organizations do not falsify our history and do not plant the seeds of superstition, delusion, backwardness and hypocrisy within the hearts of our youth.

The flourishing of such organizations results in the flourishing of our cultural life here in America, the spread of free thinking, and embrace of spirit "dusevni osvojenosti - dusevní osvojeností" it means here "they meant by it that people should think freely" or get "free spirit of thinking" in this context .... see, people weren't used to it so person who wrote it propagates "to have free spirit of thinking" but at the same time " also: to build a cultural identity" and "love for one another" as a "Czech nation living in USA - he is promoting unwritten Christian principals and to have strong national identity in newly found free world (USA), because they didn't have that freedom at their own country. So when you translate it, think in this context .... >. Such free thinking organizations are just
starting in Cleveland and have the whole future ahead of them. I am firmly convinced that the future will shine for us and that our culture will grow stronger as do these organizations. I wish only harmony, sacrifice and love between all of us!
THE FIRST
STATISTICS CONCERNING CZECHS IN CLEVELAND
at the start of 1869

The first statistical analysis of Cleveland’s Czechs was performed by Karl F. Erhard in exchange for a very small fee, paid by the Perun National Association. A brief overview of his survey follows.

On January 23, 1869, the city was found to have 696 Czech families, comprising 3,252 members, of which 1,749 were male and 1,503 female.

Of the males, 366 were employed in manual labor, 76 were bricklayers, 72 carpenters, 56 tailors, 44 shoemakers, 39 barrel makers, 25 locksmiths and machine operators, 24 farmers, 18 blacksmiths, 15 retailers, 13 musicians (not counting those who earn their living in another field), 11 metal founders, 12 butchers, 9 saddlers, 9 upholsterers, carpenters and weavers, 8 stonemasons, 7 cartwrights, 6 furriers, 6 tinsmiths, 5 bakers, 5 tanners, 5 dyers, 4 cutlers, 2 builders, 2 librarians, 1 pressman, 1 watchmaker, 1 health supervisor, 1 city policeman, 1 brewer and 22 innkeepers. 90 males were unemployed while 50 females worked on a farm.

112 Czechs were learning the farming trade.

There were 35 widows and 33 widowers.

There were 218 evangelists and Freethinkers, while the rest were Catholics.

The following wave of Czech families came to Cleveland: 3 in 1850, 16 in 1852, 31 in 1853, 25 in 1854, 13 in 1855, 7 in 1857, 7 in 1858, 15 in 1860, 3 in 1862, 31 in 1863, 74 in 1864, 93 in 1865, 129 in 1866, 91 in 1867, and 97 in 1868.

Youngsters who came here without their parents are as follows: 8 in 1862, 9 in 1864, 13 in 1865, 43 in 1866, 38 in 1867, and 42 in 1868.

The Czech who have settled in Cleveland came from the following regions: 224 from Prague (a large part from Beroun), 194 from Písek, 137 from Tábor, 7 from Jičín, 5 from Boleslav, 2 from Cheb and 8 from Moravia.
The Lípa Slavic Association was founded in 1862. The Svatojánský Union was founded a year later. The Slavic Credit Union, the first such union for Czech immigrants to America, was established on September 14, 1865. The Perun National Association was founded by the Slovak Lípy National Association on March 1866, became a separate entity on July 21, 1867. The Zvonař Choir was formed on July 1, 1867. The Lumír Choir was formed in the same year. Due to an outbreak of illness, the Czech Support Guild was incorporated on Jan. 28, 1868.

The Association of Czech Immigrants was formed in the same year. The Saint Anna Fellowship was formed in 1868. The Mravenec Czech Laborer Guild was incorporated on January 4, 1869. This makes up a total of 11 Czech associations in the city of Cleveland.

Publications with their number of subscribers are as follows: Slavie with 80, Pokrok with 75, and the National News with 58 (set up by Slovak Lípy).

The Perun National Association subscribed to Pokrok and the following publications from Bohemia: Thalie, Světzcir, The Humor Papers and The Amateur Theater.

How many of the farming publications are being subscribed to is, unfortunately, unknown.

This hereby concludes the statistics gathered on January 23, 1869. The involvement of the various organizations will be described hereafter.
Introduction

From the statutes approved in St. Louis, MO, on June 5 and 6 of 1876.

The fundamental principles of the Czech-Slavic Support Group are: to maintain and nurture the Czech language in communities across America, in particular where the Order is established, ...at the same time to provide Czech speaking citizens of the United States with opportunities to claim their spiritual and material dignity and maintain their mutual interests. This is to be enacted by associating in individual orders/groups, which all together create one fraternal entity. Each single member of any individual group can thus feel like a peer or member of other groups and at the same time a member of the umbrella organization.

Individually and together as a whole we work to help our suffering brothers, widows and orphans as our dedicated task. Wouldn't we all be glad to offer a helping hand for such a noble cause? We would certainly never consider abandoning them and, among the compassionate of us, bickering, malice and arguments will be ironed out. Together, voluntarily and in an atmosphere of friendship, charity and love we fight the battle of life, an endeavor made easier by the faithfulness, harmony and total dedication we possess.

EQUALITY * HARMONY * BROTHERHOOD

BY THIS WE HEREBY DECLARE
THAT THE VENERABLE AMONG US

Have accepted as a member of our organization on this the 18th day

Czech-Slovakian Support Fellowship <[A subsidiary of the
Grand Order of the State

[illegible text]
Grand Order of the State of Ohio

On March 8 of 1870, the new order of Svornost [Harmony] was formed, number three within the Czech-Slavic Support Fellowship &lt;/podporující spolku, Slavic!&gt; as approved by the Main National Order of Č. S. P. S. in St. Louis and which sent it an invitation to take part in celebrations of its formation, to take place on March 9 at the homestead of Josef Havlíčka.

The Main National Order accepted this invitation with pleasure, while Karel Roth from St. Louis, MO appeared as its representative in Cleveland to launch the new order within the organization and take part in its celebrations. At this meeting Roth explained that a branch of the Grand Order of Č. S. P. S. should be established for the state of Ohio, so that any order founded by Czech immigrants living within the state of Ohio could be administered. This notion was approved and the following were appointed as representatives of the Grand Order: V. K. Havlíček, Frant. P. Pešek, Ant. Spurný, Frant. Hrubý, Frant. Šafránek, Jan Bláha and Josef Marvan. In a special meeting these representatives then appointed the following to their roles: Václ. K. Havlíček as chairman, Frant. Šafránek as supervisor, F. P. Pešek as secretary, Frant. Hrubý as treasurer, and Jan Bláha as guard.

At that time, as during the first few years, each Czech appointed as a member of the Grand Order treated their new role as a higher calling and undertook their new obligations with the greatest of care. All the meetings were held in utmost secrecy and received the greatest of respect from the Grand Order. That year a meeting was held at Č. S. P. S. in St. Louis, MO, where Brothers Josef Staňkovský and Karel Roth, both living there, were awarded power of attorney to act on behalf of the Ohio Grand Order and Svornost.

In 1871 Brother Ondřej Mitermiler was appointed as an envoy to the meeting. Brother Jan Kos was appointed as the envoy for the 1873 meeting, which took place in Allegheny, PA.

On June 10, 1874 the Ohio Grand Order established a new order in Detroit, MI, Number 6 among the Č. S. P. S., whereby Havlíček took part in its celebration and sat as a member of Svornost. The entire gathering and celebrations were very heart-warming and friendly as the Detroit Czechs showed their guests the most praiseworthy old Czech style of hospitality.

Havlíček was again chosen by the order's brothers to make a second visit to Detroit on July 14, 1875, where the next day the Ohio Grand Order was to set up a new Grand Order for the state of Michigan. As before, many Svornost members also took part, accompanied by their banner. The evening boat ride was beautiful, the still lake only occasionally disturbed by the gentlest of breezes, and spirits were at their highest. The festivities continued into the small hours and resumed at sunrise following a short nap, as the attendees were full of great anticipation to view Detroit City coming into view. Upon their arrival they were greeted by a local ensemble of Mr. Stejskal, which played songs from back home from the edge of Detroit's harbor. Members of Havlíček Order No. 6 <[?] and other Detroit representatives stood on the shore shouting a heartfelt "Hello!" ["Na zdar!"] and the same reply rang out from the boat with much waving of arms and shawls, creating a lively and stirring atmosphere. After this friendly greeting the group was led, to
the accompaniment of the band's music, to the order's headquarters, where they were well-fed and then escorted to the cozy homes of their hosts to be subsequently lavished with proper Czech hospitality.

The brothers and members of the Havlíček order then met at two in the afternoon at the order's premises to vote in members of the Michigan Grand Order and officially declare the new order as lawful.

Their farewells as they departed for Cleveland were very heartfelt, <something of a contradiction> such that the time spent there will certainly remained etched in the minds of the attendees.

On the invitation of the National Grand Order </narodni hlavni rad> the Ohio Grand Order was asked to send a representative to Chicago, where a newly-formed order, Věrnost [Allegiance], was established as No. 8 within Č. S. P. S. on September 18, 1875. For this, Brothers František Kolář and Antonín Ráže were chosen and they willingly accepted the mission.

On January 2, 1876, the Grand Order once again turned joyfully to new work, this time with the founding of a new order, No. 9, named Žižka, on the west side of Cleveland under the auspices of Jan Bejček. The occasion was again flamboyant and was attended not only by all the members of Svornost (Order No. 3) with their musicians and banner, but also the Lumír choir and their banner. The weather was so beautiful and mild during this winter period that the attendees found themselves drenched in sweat, in spite of the summer attire they were clad in. After the functions were assigned within the Žižka order speeches were made, songs were sung and a concert began, after which there was an excellent banquet and everyone took to the dance floor.

On July 1, 1877 the Lidumil order (No. 16) was established under the auspices of Vác. Prošek, again with great fanfare and festive and friendly atmosphere.

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On July 10 of the same year the Přemysl order (No. 18) was established in the eastern part of Cleveland.

On August 24 of the same year the creation of a new order by the name of Bratři v Kruhu [Brothers in the Circle] (No. 22) was approved and officially established on September 9.

On February 28, 1878 the Grand Order ruled that they would hold a meeting of Č. S. P. S. here in Cleveland on the 30th of June of the same year – to give ample time to those brothers who had been invited to make arrangements. It was decided that attendees were to be accommodated at V. Rychlík while the chairman and secretary were to arrange a garden party and music for the celebrations. The secretary was charged with the task of inviting all the local Czech organizations to attend.

In a meeting held on May 12 at the premises of V. Rychlík, besides all the local orders of Č. S. P. S., the following Czech organizations pledged their participation in the event:

The Vlasta u Peruna Female Ensemble
The Vlasta no. I u Svatoně Female Ensemble
The Libuše no. I u Rychlíka Female Ensemble
The Libuše u Slovanské Lípy Female Ensemble
The Lumír Choir
The Thalie Theatre Ensemble
The Budivoj Amateur Ensemble
The Cleveland Sokol Group
The Lípa Slavic Group
The Brother's Union
The Perun Collective
6350 A. O. F. Equality Court
6348 A. O. F. Záboj Court
6394 A. O. F Jan Hus Court
36 I. O. F. Prague Court

Havlíček, Order No. 6 of the Č. S. P. S. also promised they would come in the greatest numbers they could muster.

In a meeting on May 23, Cleveland's local orders committed the necessary number of members to serve the attendees of the garden party. Jan Kos and Vác. Doležal were elected to arrange the necessary number of emblems while Frant. Payer and Karl Blázej were assigned with organizing the day's program. Brother Václav Šnajdr and editor Dennice Novověk were asked to speak at the celebrations.

One day prior to the event, on June 29, all the attending Č. S. P. S. members gathered at the home of V. Rychlík on the corner of Croton and Humbold Streets to be welcomed and later entertained by the Luminír choir and the band of Václav Mudry. The evening was as festive as one would expect.

The next day, on June 30, a great Czech holiday unfolded in Cleveland. Czech homes in the heart of the settlement, on Croton Street but also in other parts of the city, were adorned with Czech, Slovak and American flags and many other decorations and banners.

When the time came, all the groups and bands gathered from all parts of the city, the female groups arriving in carriages while the marshals, adorned with their national stripes, arrived in style, showing off their riding skills. Soon enough Croton and Humboldt Streets were packed with all the groups and the multitudes of spectators, all were welcomed, pictures were taken and the whole party moved into the garden of the Halthnonths to kick off the festivities. Speeches were made, songs were sung and music played, the entire event accomplished with great success.

The meeting came to the decision that the magazine Dennice Novověk would act as a body of Č. S. P. S. over the next two years. The printing company Dennice Novověku was initially owned by Pokrok magazine, but that month a payment to the printing company was overdue, and so the company's editor and owner, Brother Václav Šnajdr, decided to put it into receivership and sell it to another company. ...
back in timely installments. The printing company was back up and running in no time, and the loan paid back in full over time.

On December 12, 1878 the Grand Order ruled that they would replace the old emblems with new ones and issue enough for all the members of Č. S. P. S. Ohio, at a total cost amounting to $62.46. To celebrate the Order's 25th year of existence on June 8 of that year, the National Grand Order of Č. S. P. S. in St. Louis extended a cordial invitation to all local orders and formed a commission responsible for determining the cost of music and using a garden. At its next meeting the commission reported that the Lied's garden was suitable and approved the cost of $40. There were to be two musical groups: that of V. Mudry, made up of 25 men, each to receive $5, the bandleader earning one dollar more, while the second band, Žižka (from the western part of town), was made up of 18 men requiring only $1.75 each for their participation in the procession. The first group was to play a concert in the garden and both groups were accepted by the order.

The procession took place as follows: marshals in the lead, together with the Lumír choir with their banner, and music from the west side of town. Then the following orders of Č. S. P. S.: Svornost No. 3, Žižka No. 9 and Lidumil No. 6, followed by the band of V. Mudry, then Přemysl Order No. 18, Brothers of the Circle No. 22 and the Ohio Grand Order. The procession ended at the garden.

The garden festivities were assigned to chairman Václav Rychlík, while the editor of Dennice Novověku, Václav Šnajdr, was chosen to give a speech.

Members of the Č. S. P. S. came in full representation until the garden was bursting at the seams. The Lumír choir sang and band played beautifully, the atmosphere was joyous and all were impressed by the organization. Proceeds were collected and the profits distributed among the orders.

At a meeting on November 18 Č. S. P. S. Order No. 50, Budijov, was announced and received for the state of Ohio.

[caption: 1878 Meeting of the Č. S. P. S. Brotherhood in Cleveland, Ohio]

On January 29, 1880 at the Slovanské Lípy of the Ohio Grand Order Order No. 56, Petr Chelčický, was established with the usual celebration.

Shortly afterwards, on the 22 February, Order No. 59 of Č. S. P. S., Jan Kolár, was established by the Grand Order at F. Kinkory on Forest Street.

At a meeting on March 16 the Grand Order gathered to decide whether they should become incorporated and the local orders were invited to do the same. For this purpose the order put together a commission to determine all that was needed to achieve this. The decision whether to incorporate was made on April 10 of 1880 and reads as follows:

Č. S. P. S. Grand Order of Ohio
Incorporation Certificate
Because the Ohio Grand Order of Č. S. P. S. [Česko Slovanská Podporující Společnost – Czech Slavic Support Company – make sure abbreviation clear at its first instance – Earlier you call it Czech-Slovak], at a general meeting in the city of Cleveland on March 16, 1880, has ruled to become an incorporated entity pursuant to the laws of Ohio, the undersigned J. F. Sprostý, F. O. Jungling, F. J. Vácha, Václav Rychlík and Jan Gebhard, who are citizens of the state of Ohio and members of the Ohio Grand Order, a company comprising more than 5 members and established pursuant to the statues of the National Grand Order in St. Louis, Missouri, hereby bear witness that we have been appointed and authorized to sign the incorporation agreement to incorporate the Č. S. P. S. Grand Order of Ohio pursuant to Paragraphs 3235 and 3236 of amended Ohio legislation, which came into effect on January 1, 1880 and which govern the formation and incorporated entities, entitling it to hold property and assets in its name and to take legal action or have legal action taken against it.

I. The name of the incorporation shall be the Grand Order of Ohio, Česko Slovanská Podporující Společnost.

II. The main location of this corporation shall be in the city of Cleveland, county of Cuyahoga, state of Ohio.

III. The reasons why this incorporated entity has been founded are as follows: to provide charitable services by establishing a fund for widows and orphans. On confirming the death of a family member, a prescribed amount shall be paid out to the widow, children, parents or friends of the deceased, or as prescribed by the deceased prior to their passing away.

Also to arrange for and settle all burial costs and to prepare all arrangements related to it.

To bring together in brotherhood all those of fit health, with good moral character and social competence, between the ages of 18 and 45, of any religion, trade or profession, and who are of Slavic origin.

To support widows and orphans of deceased members, provide support for sick members, provide moral and practical support to its members and those who are dependent on them, provide moral and educational seminars and events, from time to time ask its members for prescribed fees designed to support the charitable acts of this corporation, and to implement all the individual rights, ceremonies, confidentialities and signs respectable of the Č. S. P. S. order.

As bearing witness of the aforementioned we hereby sign and seal this agreement.

In Cleveland on April 10, 1880.

John F. Sprostý
F. O. Jungling
F. J. Vácha
Václav Rychlík
John Gebhard

This is followed by the notary confirmation of J. M. Novák, Wibur F. Hinman, the clerk for the Court of Common Pleas, and by the state secretary Milford Barnes together with the state seal of Ohio.
On April 19, 1880, Vítězslav Hálek, Order No. 62 of Č. S. P. S. was established by the Ohio Grand Order at A. Klipce.

In a response to a question put forward by Order No. 9, Žižka, concerning whether it would be possible to obtain a permit to organize a Sunday school on the west side of town in the city's public school, the Grand Order authorized a brother representative for that precinct to ask the public school teachers there to put together a list of Czech children attending their schools, and to submit this request to their school council. The next meeting of the Grand Order declared that the request of the Žižka order had been accepted by the school council.

The first secretarial fee of $25 was approved by the Grand Order on May 10, 1880, with a further guarantee of $650. Up until this time all administrative work for the Grand Order had been provided free of charge.

On December 15, 1880 a meeting of the Grand Order approved further secretarial fees of $40, with a guarantee of one thousand dollars. The guarantee for the accountant was agreed at $50.

Since the individual Č. S. P. S. orders had sent their local statutes to the Grand Order for review, the Grand Order ruled to set up a special commission made up of one representative from each of the orders to look over and compare the various statues in order to unify each of their advantages and obligations.

In a meeting held on May 26, 1880, the proposal to print out 150 copies of the local statutes and send a copy to the Grand Order and chairman of each of the local orders was accepted.

On May 30, 1882 it was ruled that, in the event that any member of the Grand Order shall come to pass away, all members of that order shall carry the member to their designated place of rest.

The Grand Order sent a wreath priced at $6.40 for the coffin of recently deceased professor Ludimír Klácel.

On April 27, 1882 a Mrs. Benediktová from Nemějice, in the district of Písek in Bohemia came forward to claim her inheritance (a death payout by Č. S. P. S.) following the passing away of her son, Benedikt, belonging to Přemysl Order No. 18. Because she provided all the necessary certification proving that she was indeed his mother, her claim was accepted and, based on her request, the financial amount was withdrawn from the city's savings bank and sent to the district court in Písek for her retrieval. At the next meeting the Grand Order received confirmation from her that she had received the funds.

In a meeting on June 26, 1882 a letter was read to the commission requesting the creation of a gravestone for Professor Lad. Klácel of Cedar Rapids IA. The letter was received and the local orders are to be asked whether they would like to contribute some funds for this purpose, which they could through the Grand Order.

Brother Záleský from Bell Plaine IA. sent the Grand Order a picture of a coffin of the deceased Professor Lad. Klácel, flowers, wreaths and decorations. The commission accepted the donations, gave thanks and assigned itself the task of arranging a frame.

On September 24, according to the Č. S. P. S. statutes, Chairman J. F. Sprostý and Vice-Chairman Fr. Payer were empowered to establish a new order, No. 79, Tomáš Payne, in Cincinnati, after which they submitted receipts of their travel expenses to the Grand Order.
On June 30, 1883, a new order, No. 92, Václav Šnajdr, was established in Bellaire, Ohio by Chairman Aug. Votýpka and Secretary Vác. Rychlík. Frant. Hrubecký also joined as a member of this new order.

On the morning of August 4, the request to establish a new order, No. 96, Břetislav I., was accepted by the Ohio Grand Order. In the afternoon the gathering moved to the garden of Mr. Maňák to celebrate the founding of the new order.

On March 16, 1884, the Executive Council of the Ohio Grand Order voted to establish Order No. 103, Čeští Bratří [Czech Brothers].

A meeting of the National Grand Order on May 29, 1884 confirmed the establishment of Order No. 110, Sion, whose committee had been introduced into the order by the Grand Order on June 15.

To commemorate the building of a memorial honoring Prof. L. Klácel in Belle Plain, Iowa, Václav Šnajdr was empowered by the Ohio Grand Order to represent them. A telegram was to be sent there as well.

On June 28, 1885, a new order, No. 123, Čechomír, was established, administrators chosen, and the founding later celebrated in the garden of Mr. Maňák.

Brother Frant. Kasík, a member of Václav Šnajdr (Order No. 92), requested that a collection be sent around following the passing away of his wife, who had been sick for a very long time and who had left behind her five young children. In this case her brother was not legally entitled to help, for which reason the case was brought to the attention of the Grand Order, which obliged.

On December 29, 1885, a request was submitted to the Grand Order by H. Nynkodym to ask for volunteer donations from local Č. S. P. S. orders. It was determined that this brother was very helpful in setting up the Čechomír order but that he later could not become one of its members due to an unfortunate illness. His request for donations was accepted.

On February 28, a similar request was made for voluntary contributions from local Č. S. P. S. orders to support Václav Třísk, a non-member who had been seriously sick for a long time.

On March 8 of 1886, the committee of the Ohio Grand Order established a new order, No. 131, Pravdomil, with its Stehlík Hall.

A request was made and accepted to ask local Cleveland orders for voluntary contributions to the widow of František Šlesinger.

On May 27, 1886, representatives of the orders were proposed to establish a second branch of Č. S. P. S. and asked to make the relevant changes to their statutes by the next meeting. The proposal was heartily received.
In a meeting on July 29, 1886 the Grand Order requested that the local orders organize a combined outing for the benefit of local Czech Sunday schools. This notion was accepted.

On October 21 the new order Slovač was recommended for acceptance by the National Grand Order, which officially confirmed its establishment on November 25 of the same year.

Half way through September of 1887 another outing of Č. S. P. S. was organized, which turned out to be very successful. The proceeds were distributed among the attending orders.

On July 26 of 1888 Slovač Order No. 133 joined with the club Žižkův Meč [The Sword of Žižka] to become Č. S. P. S. Order No. 133 under the name of Žižkův Meč. The Grand Order also set up a new committee for this new, combined entity.

On September 29, 1889 a new order, No. 160, Lech, was established in Bellaire by Chairman Jos. Kocian and Secretary V. Kalva.

In a meeting on January 30, 1890, the Grand Order ruled to circulate a request among all of Ohio's orders for a contribution to build a monument in Prague honoring Jan Hus. <It's a beautiful monument and a picture should be included here. You should read about Jan Hus and Jan Žižka – quite fascinating pieces of European history. I think an abbreviation of it could be included in the forward or something, to help the reader understand some of the context.> The brother representatives there present were asked to impress the importance of this cause on other members once back at their orders.

The next meeting resolved to send the donation of $122.15 contributed by all the orders for the Jan Hus memorial to Mr. Vojt Náprtek in Prague. This combined donation was later quoted in the Prague publication National Papers [Národní List].

V následující schůzi usneseno, by příspěvek v částce 122,15 od řádu na památku Jana Husa k Velkořádu složený zaslán byl na pana Vojtu Náprtska do Prahy. Později byla zásilka tato v úřadských Národních Listech.

The Žižka, Budijov and Sion Orders donated a total of $25 to help those in Bohemia who had been affected by flooding, sending this money to the National Grand Order of Č. S. P. S., which in turn sent it to Bohemia.

The husband of Marie Pešinová, a member of the Čechomír Order who had spent several years in an asylum, for which reason the order would like to provide greater support for his wife and four young children by asking for voluntary contributions from the various orders, and ask the Čechomír Order to manage and expend the contributions according to need. <Sentence lacking a main verb – I don’t understand the meaning>

The request to allow the death payout of $1000 for living costs from the sick Jos. Smiška of the Svornost Order was submitted to the Grand Order, accepted and the commission given the authority to send the necessary documentation to the National Grand Order, once the brother acquired and submitted them, to be handled according to the old statutes at the next meeting.

At the same meeting, on July 30, 1891, a commission memo was read for the construction of a memorial honoring Jan Žižka in Bohemia's Borovan, and whether the memo should be printed in a greater number of copies through Dennice Novověku to circulate among Ohio's orders. The publisher's editor was also asked to lend his support to the notion.
At a meeting on December 30, 1891 Václav Kalva was appointed as the state secretary with annual earnings of $100 and a guarantee of ten thousand dollars. Kalva was to submit his bookkeeping to the commission supervisor every month.

The Grand Order approved a request by Jos. Vobecký, a member of the Břetislav I. Order, to circulate a petition for voluntary donations to aid in his illness and misfortune.

As a precaution against possible unpleasantness and disputes due to death, the brother representatives were asked to strongly recommend <Brother representatives should during the meeting warmly recommend to the members of Č.S.P.S. to fulfill the order's inheritance papers as a warning against possible unpleasantness and disputes in case of death. – Not sure what this means?

Once the Grand Order was convinced that Brother J. Rýdl, member of the V. Šnajdr Order, was truly in a difficult predicament, he was permitted to send out a request for personal help to the other orders.

A five-member committee was put together to welcome guests from the old continent who would be visiting the Chicago exhibit, and to work together with the existing, female-member committee to work out an appropriate program.

In reference to the lengthy sickness of J. Vilt, a member of the Pravdomil order, the Grand Order approved the sending out of a request for voluntary support from the other orders.

A request was submitted to the Ohio Grand Order to allow a death payout on behalf of legal guardian Fr. Hauser to the family of Jan Pešín, a member of the Čechomír order, since the brother had been institutionalized for five years already, with no hope of recovery, and the matter recommended for further handling by the National Grand Order of Č. S. P. S.

On April 26, 1894 the Grand Order ruled to invite all the brotherhood orders of Č. S. P. S. to supply a brief history of their organization and collect interesting artifacts suitable for an ethnography exhibit. Once the Grand Order received these it would compare them all and find a suitable location for them.

In a meeting on the 27th of September, according to the request of two thirds of the orders, it was decided to publish these historical records and send some copies back to Bohemia.

Because the hall in which the Ohio Grand Order has been holding its meetings has been graciously offered for free by brother Václav Rychlk and because the previous administrators of the Grand Order had been working free of charge up to halfway through 1880 (only a small wage was offered to the secretary and, starting a few years ago, a small wage was set aside for the order’s accountant and state secretary), the profits from member fees and after necessary expenses shall remain in treasury, the order's property shall remain as is. 1894 hereby concludes the end of these comments. <I have left this paragraph with its present tense timeframe because „1894 hereby concludes the end of these comments“ but elsewhere throughout this whole section on orders I have corrected the tenses to the past time frame as is appropriate for historical narration>

</file 26, page 38
Until recently the Ohio Grand Order administrators had enough other work in addition to the meetings, such as: the chairman and secretary would deliver all death payouts to the homes of local widows or inheritors; after the biannual or annual meetings of local Č. S. P. S. orders, their new administrators would be sent an invitation, such that, sometimes, especially after the annual meetings, this would require a trip to the orders twice or three times a week. This task remained the duty of the brothers representing the relevant order until only recently. <Is this is correct meaning?> Furthermore, the Ohio Grand Order had always taken part in all celebrations and meetings at the National Grand Order.

The list of brother representatives in the Č. S. P. S. Ohio Grand Order are as follows: Václav Vaněk as the chairman, Frant. Hrubecký as the vice-chairman, Jakub Bečvář as the supervisor, Alois Žák as the secretary, Josef Čermák from Order No. 50 as the accountant, Frant. Hauzer as the treasurer, Josef Ondráček as the guide <průvodčí, context? It could be guide, in modern Czech it is ticket collector in train. I’m not sure about this. I can’t think of any examples of using guide in this context. What does the guide do in the meeting? It sounds like they guide the proceedings of the meeting, although this is usually the chairman’s job. Hmm.>, Josef Čermák from Order No. 5 as the internal guard, Václav Čermák as the exterior guard, and Václav Kalva as the state secretary <State secretary is usually a governmental position but that can’t be what is meant here… secretary for the state?>.


The administrative hierarchical structure of the Č. S. P. S. is as follows:

a) the National Grand Order is the highest body within the entire unit
b) the state Grand Orders are on the next, lower level, operating within their state

c) administrators of the individual orders or Č. S. P. S. numbers

The representatives and administrators of each order are elected by the relevant orders themselves during their annual meetings and elect as many administrators as deemed appropriate considering the size of the membership.
Some Czechs in Cleveland came up with the idea of forming a new group in conjunction with the St. Louis Grand Order.

To this purpose, many Czechs gathered on January 26, 1870 at the premises of Josef Havlíčka and decided to name the new club the Svornost Order No. 3, write up a justification for the new club and request to join the Union and send further explanation.

The meeting then elected the following administrators: Vác. K. Havlíček as chairman, Frant. Šafář as vice-chairman, Frant. P. Pešek as secretary, Frant. Hrubý as the accountant, Ant. Spurný as the treasurer, Jan Bláha as the guide <[.. and Jos. Marvan as the guard.


The meeting ruled that the membership fee should be five dollars, payable every month in a total of five installments, the first installment to be paid at the meeting.

It was further ruled that the quarter yearly fee should amount to one dollar and that it should always be paid up in advance.

New members were to pay half their membership fee at the time of their application and the rest prior to their official inclusion. New members should be between the ages of 21 and 45 and should come from proper, healthy Czech backgrounds.

In the event that a member became sick and needed help from the other members, they would have to lodge such a request within six months of falling ill.

A meeting on February 1, 1870 ruled that the group would officially be called Č. S. P. S. Svornost Order No. 3, and discussed whether it should be incorporated.

A meeting on the 15th of February accepted the proposal to organize a party and banquet to which members would be allowed to invite two guests and at which the serving of guests would be the responsibility of the members' wives.

At a meeting on the 22nd of February a letter from the National Grand Order of St. Louis was brought forth, in which were stated the conditions for the affiliation of the Svornost order with Č. S. P. S. Everyone present agreed with the conditions and the secretary was charged with the task of informing the National Grand Order of their decision.

On March 8, 1870 Brother Karel Roth of St. Louis, acting as emissary for the National Grand Order of Č. S. P. S., came to officially incorporate the Svornost order into Č. S. P. S., officially install the order's administrators and hand the order a Č. S. P. S. certificate.

At the same meeting steps were taken to set up the Č. S. P. S. Grand Order for Ohio and the following were appointed: V. K. Havlíček, F. P. Pešek and Ant. Spurný, each for a period of one year, and Frant. Hrubý, Fr. Šafář, Jan Bláha and Jos. Marvan, each for a period of two years. The meeting also received material from the National Grand Order emissary concerning what steps to take next.
Brother Vác. Šafář donated a voting box to the order, while brother F. P. Pešek donated a stand for the order's official stamp.

A meeting on 22 March ruled to create group sashes for the Svornost order and which should reflect the most modern fashion compared with those used by other local orders.

Proceeds from the first party amounted to $25.99.

The adoption of the confidential tendencies or principles of the Svornost order invoked various – and sometimes outright ludicrous – opinions among some of the less aware of our local compatriots, in particular from older religious women who expressed fear of developing a closer relationship with any member of Svornost, under the belief that they were secretly of the devil. The words: "The devils are coming!" or "They don't know God!" would often be overheard from such women at gatherings or processions along the public streets.

But in spite of such prejudice, the Svornost order grew surely and steadily, as did the numbers of its membership and the assets that it held.

One of our members, Frant. Janeček, died this year, while his widowed wife, according to our order's statutes, was entitled to a monthly support of five dollars either until she remarries or...<?>

At a meeting on April 19 it was decided to organize a ball for the group, to which the Lumír choir was to be invited for entertainment.

To celebrate the opening of the new Czech hall of the Perun order, the Svornost order decided participate in full colors and membership.

On December 1, 1870 the Svornost order moved to the hall of the Perun order and ruled to have a combined meeting only once a month.

All members of the Svornost order also participated in the celebrated opening of the Slovanská Lípa hall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues during 1870</td>
<td>$335.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures during 1870</td>
<td>$270.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash left over</td>
<td>$64.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>$96.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets/capital</td>
<td>$160.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The order's first outing was on the 27th of July, 1871 in the garden of M. Dahler and garnered proceeds totaling $23.97.

Records show that the founding of a new Č. S. P. S. order at Slovanské Lípy was prevented by the Svornost order.

The celebrated Jan Hus on July 15, which the Czech groups joined in with great fanfare in the center of the city and garden of Lied, the Svornost order took part in full membership. <What happened regarding Jan Hus? Sentence doesn’t make sense>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues that year</td>
<td>$529.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures for that year</td>
<td>$470.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On November 16 the Grand Order met with members of the Budivoj order and many members of Svornost Order No. 3 and other Cleveland-based orders in one of Č.S.P.S.'s rooms, where a general meeting was to begin. Brother Vác. Rychlík, chairman of the National Main Order, launched the meeting with a very interesting speech in which he explained the purpose of the federation and thanked the friends and supporters of the union, after which he asked Brother Ant. Ráže, chairman of the Grand Order, to perform the ceremony of appointing the officials.

The Budivoj order's first elected officials were as follows:

Aug. Votýpka as chairman, Jos. Čermák as the supervisor, Ferd. Erhard as secretary, Jos. Kysela as accountant, Fr. Vaněk as treasurer, Fr. Votava as conductor, Jan Žikeš as inner guard and Jan Kovářík as outer guard.

Once the ceremonies were over, speeches were also given by National Main Order chairman V. Rychlík, Grand Order chairman Ant. Ráž and Grand Order ex-chairman Mich. Albl.

After that the chairman of Budivoj, Brother August Votýpka addressed all present and gave a very interesting speech on the reasons for joining the federation. The stage curtain was then suddenly raised to reveal Mrs. Matilda Škalová, who on behalf of Libuše No. 1. J.Č.D. handed the new order a beautiful banner in American colors, and gave a speech which was very warmly received.

The order's chairman, Brother Aug. Votýpka, gave thanks for the beautiful present and promised the Libuše order that, as it had in the past, Budivoj would continue to stand by Libuše like a brother.

Many eyes welled with tears because of the heartfelt meeting and many still remember it today.

From that moment the Budivoj continued valiantly in its endeavors, organizing events and plays, and contributing their earnings to good causes.

In 1881, when a horrible catastrophe afflicted the National Theater in Prague, the Budivoj order approached the amateur dramatics of Cleveland to organize a play in order to send the proceeds to the National Theater, and the proceeds were generous indeed.

The Budivoj order continued in this way until 1884, when it sold its wardrobe to the Budivoj Amateur Dramatics Club so that it could fully focus on Č.S.P.S. matters.

At a meeting in Chicago it proposed a 5 cent fee per member to cover death payouts for deceased wives. This proposal was later amended to regular support of $250, which still applies today.

Total charitable support paid out
   to its members $74.66
   outside of the order $207.00
In support of Czech Sunday Schools $256.62
Donated to the St. Louis hall in 1880 $2.50
In 1881 the order organized three plays, the earnings of which being donated as follows:

To ill brothers of Order No. 3 $59.55
To families of Order No. 22 $32.25
To Czech Sunday schools $23.90

--------
Total $116.70

During the same year the order also paid out the following:

For music for the burial of President James Garfield <Sp. St.?> $15.00
In 1882 a tombstone for Klácel $10.00
In 1884 to the Prague Math School $14.60
In 1889 to the National Hall in Cleveland, O. $50.00
In 1890 to the Jan Hus Memorial in Prague $10.00
In 1890 to those afflicted by the Czech flooding $10.00
In 1890 to the Czech National Hall in Cleveland $10.00
In 1892 to a celebration honoring Jan Amos Koenský $1.00
Total support to ill brothers between 1880 and 1893 $3,750.00
Total death payouts made between 1880 and 1893 $11,723.60
Total assets held at present $1,739.60

Since its founding on the November 13, 1879 until December 9, 1893, 128 members joined, eight passed away, nine left, 27 were expelled and five were not granted membership. At present the order has a membership of 84.

Membership List of Budivoj, Order No. 50
on December 9, 1893

Elected Officials of the Budivoj Order in 1893

Vojt Anderle as chairman, Ferd. Mára as supervisor, Jan Štýs as secretary, Václav Hončík as accountant, Hynek Švarc as treasurer, Jan Matoušek as conductor, Karel Hůlka as inner guard and Jan Trojan as outer guard.

Fr. Čermák, committee to compile the history of the Budivoj order.

Č.S.P.S. Order No. 56, Petr Chelčický

in Cleveland, Ohio

In January of 1880, many free-thinking Czechs gathered in Cleveland at Slovanské Lípy to form an association to support members in the event of hospitalization or death, and to join the Czech Slavic Support Guild – Č.S.P.S.

The members of this new association decided to name it Petr Chelčický, to commemorate a man who had served the Czech nation, earning the respect of Czechs in the past and in times to come.

On January 30 of 1880 the following members were received into Č.S.P.S. by the Grand Order of Ohio’s chairman:


On February 5 of 1881 the Grand Order of Ohio’s chairman ceremonially appointed the following elected officials:

V. Votava as chairman, A. Pik as supervisor, E. Pajer as accountant, J. Kusta as treasurer, J. Prošek as conductor, J. Sluka as the inner guard and V. Krejča as the outer guard.

The order of Petr Chelčický was incorporated according to the laws of Ohio on April 22 of 1880, the incorporators being:

Václav Marek, Ignác Staine, Václav Hanuš, M. Sadranský and Jan Sluka.

Incorporation Certificate

of Petr Chelčický, Order No. 56 of Č.S.P.S.

Since Petr Chelčický, Order No. 56 of Č.S.P.S. in its general meeting held in the city of Cleveland <<incomplete sentence?>>

Budget of Petr Chelčický, Order No. 56 of Č.S.P.S.:

Total revenues $22,726.36
Support for illness $2,217.67
Death payouts $7,868.14
Donation to Czech Sunday schools $167.24
Various expenditures $4,062.02
Total expenditures $14,314.87

On February 1 of 1881 the order ruled to take part in the formation of Czech Sunday schools. The meeting also formed a three person committee of V. Votava, V. Štaine and A. Placák and approved the first fee of $8.

On September 5 of 1888 the order ruled to help out with the construction of the National Hall, electing a five-member committee comprising J. E. Vorel, Vác. Hanuš, Jan Srp, Jak Bečvář and Fr. Pták, and agreeing to pay $25.

The Petr Chelčický order's first burial took place on September 27, 1883, as Brother Josef Pos passed away after contracting tuberculosis.

The second burial took place on November 28, 1891, for Brother Václav Hanuš.

The elected officials for 1894 were as follows:
Fr. Pták as chairman, A. Černohorský as supervisor, Jan Prošek as accountant, Jos. Černý as secretary, Václav Dobrý as conductor, V. Votava as treasurer, Vác. Vomasta as outer guard, Bernard Vopalecký, Vác. Neubauer, Frant. Janovský, Jan Srp and Jan Žabour, while the school committee was made up of Jos. Skalák, Ant. Hromádka Jr. and Vác. Dobrý.

List of Members of Petr Chelčický, Order No. 56


Jan Kollar, Order No. 59 of Č.S.P.S. in Cleveland, Ohio

The order was founded at Frant. Kinkor on Forest Street and entered into Č.S.P.S. on February 15, 1880. Its first elected officials were:
K. J. Herold as chairman, Jos. Janoušek as supervisor, Ladislav Čapek as secretary, Fr. Mareš as accountant, Fr. Kinkor as treasurer, Fr. Stádník as conductor, J. Petr as the inner guard and V. Uher as the outer guard.

The remaining founding members were as follows:
Throughout its entire existence this order has been true to its obligations, not only to its own members and to the Č.S.P.S., but also helping out with charitable matters or Czech cultural activities to the best of its abilities.

The Jan Kollar order organized a great function for the unveiling of its banner in October of 1885, a function which was packed to the seams with representatives sent from various Czech clubs and members of Č.S.P.S., along with many other guests. The occasion was praised for its exquisite atmosphere, and after the ceremonies were complete the festivities began in full force.

Total assets at present $1,066.07
Total number of members 49

The order’s existing members are as follows:

The existing, elected officials are as follows:
Jos. Buliček as chairman, Jos. Kutina as supervisor, Bohumil Holpuch as secretary, Jos. Charvát as accountant, Jos. Uher as treasurer, Jos. Zerák as conductor, Jos. Hodouš as inner guard and Ant Protiva as outer guard.

Vítěžslav Hálek, Order No. 62 of Č.S.P.S.
in Cleveland Ohio

At the start of 1880, as the Č.S.P.S. slowly grew in numbers, there were those who thought it would be a good idea to start an order in the 24th ward.

Anton Klipec and Vác. Záveský instigated the founding of just such an order and sacrificed their time inspiring others to support such a notion in order to attain the numbers to warrant its creation.

Their efforts were eventually successful, and they mustered together enough support for work to begin to bring their plans to fruition.

The new order was named Vítěžslav Hálek and, on April 19 of 1880, in the hall of Anton Klipec on Hamm Street, it was incorporated into the federation by the following officials of the Grand Order: its chairman V. Vaňek, secretary Frant. J. Vácha and accountant J. Čermák.

Vítěžslav Hálek, Order No. 62 of Č.S.P.S. were as follows:


After introducing the new members to the federation and briefly educating them on its principles, a plan was made to meet at 8 o'clock to vote in its new officials, the results of which were:

- V. Soulek as chairman, Vác. Záveský as supervisor, Fr. Kakeš as secretary, Vác. Šanda as accountant and Jos. Vlasák as treasurer.

The order's budget for 1880 was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly fees and death benefit contributions</td>
<td>$306.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death benefits paid out</td>
<td>$106.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to the Grand Order</td>
<td>$19.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various expenditures</td>
<td>$51.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchased property</td>
<td>$125.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining</td>
<td>$3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets held</td>
<td>$3.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1894 the elected officials were as follows:

- Tomáš Šídlo as chairman, Jos. Lisý as supervisor, Mat. Král as secretary, Jan Zikán as accountant and Fr. Vlach as treasurer.

Revenues from quarterly payments and death payments to Grand Order $2,824.39

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death payments paid out</td>
<td>$1,207.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid to Grand Order</td>
<td>$3.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to brothers fallen ill</td>
<td>$540.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various expenditures</td>
<td>$274.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property purchased</td>
<td>$3.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Added to savings account</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total remaining</td>
<td>$334.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in savings account</td>
<td>$695.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets held</td>
<td>$1,039.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members of Vítěžslav Hálek, Order No. 62

Thomas Paine, Order No. 79 of Č.S.P.S. in Cincinnati, Ohio

Through the efforts of two well-known Č.S.P.S. members still alive today, brothers Beneš and Vilém Vokůrka, 12 Czechs from this area gathered on July 2, 1882, to learn about the federation's principles and agree to establish such an order here as well.

But such aspirations seemed hopeless since there was already an order here by the name of Slovanská Lípa, and the proposed new order was of such miniscule membership that it did not seem to make much sense to form a second order. The good will and firm and promising foundation of the Č.S.P.S. convinced many that strength could only be found in numbers and added to the membership of Slovanské Lípy. 

To find more members, notifications were published in such magazines as Denníce Novověku, Dělnické Listy and the Cincinnati Volksblatt to spread the news among our compatriots, including those who were living in German communities.

Based on a proposal by Vojt Beneš, a meeting on July 30, 1882, ruled to name the club Thomas Paine. Although names of many famous men were suggested, after it was explained who Thomas Paine was, all members present were satisfied with that choice.

A meeting on August 12, 1882 went better, and 12 new members were added to the order, although it was not the practice back then to record these names.

On September 24, 1882, the club was accepted into the Č.S.P.S. under the name of Thomas Paine, Order No. 79.

The following made up the order's 22 members:

The order's first officials were elected only for a period of three months and were the following:
Hrůza Fr. as chairman, Vilém Vokurka as supervisor, Janoušek Frant. as secretary, Partl Vác. as treasurer, Táborský Karel as accountant and Beneš Vojta as conductor.

Support for ill members was set at $5 a week, which still applies.

Death benefits were paid out to the following four families: $750 to Mich. Vroblůvský, who passed away on 22 November, 1885; $1,000 to Jan Žížala, who passed away on February 16, 1889; $1,000 to Jan Horák, who passed away on July 4, 1892; and $1,000 to Fr. Fisher, who passed away in Baltimore, Mo. on April 24, 1893.

As prescribed by its constitution, from 1883 until 1893 the order paid out the following hospitalization support and death benefits:

- Hospitalization of members $93.49
- Death benefits $3,136.85
Postal costs $49.00
Paper, statutes and documents required throughout its existence $31.00
For the magazine from 1883-89 $24.60
Support of other orders from 1883-93 $37.30
For the Jan Hus Memorial $10.00
Support of Příbram miners $5.00

The order does not have a library, for which reason no books other than those specifically for the order have been purchased, amounting to $9.80.

The order does not have its own hall, and so meetings are held in the German Arbeiter Hall.

The order maintains the same printed forms, statutes and regulations as do other orders of Č.S.P.S.

In 1892 the Thomas Paine order sent $5 to the National Committee to aid a homeless shelter and has vowed to make the same donation every year.

The order's only revenues were from monthly required fees.

The order does not organize profit generating picnics, balls or other events as not many Czechs live in the Cincinnati area, and so the order is more or less on its own.

The pay set aside for the order's officials totals $10 annually.

18 members joined the order between the years of 1882 and 1894, while six were expelled during the same period.

Compiled by Jos. Heida

Václav Snajdr, Order No. 92 of Č.S.P.S.
in Bellaire, Ohio

Václav Šnajdr, Order No. 92 was incorporated into Č.S.P.S. on June 30 of 1883, in Bellaire, Ohio.

The 13 founding members were as follows: Jos. Hora, Vác. Akrman, Fr. Holub, Fr. Červenka, Jan Pos, Fr. Andrđle, Vojt. Burda, Frant. Šrámek, Fr. Herink, Jos. Hlat, Jos. Webr, Jan Haišman and Fr. Burda.

The respectable August Votápka and Vác. Rychlík as chairman and secretary of the Grand Order of Ohio respectively, incorporated the order into the federation and fully briefed the other members on how they were to manage the new order.

At the start the following officials were elected to the order:
Jos. Hora as chairman, Jos. Webr as supervisor, Fr. Hering as secretary, Vác. Akerman as accountant, Fr. Anderle as treasurer and Fr. Červenka as conductor.

Brother Fr. Hrubecký, a member of the Pravdomil order and also the Grand Order, took part in the Václav Šnajdr order's incorporation into Č.S.P.S. and was elected to represent the new order at the Grand Order of Ohio, as it remains today.

The order ruled to meet at 9am on the first Sunday of each month and, at the end of the meeting, Brother Václav Rychlík, secretary for the Grand Order, encouraged the members to remain faithful to the obligations they had established with their new
federation of brothers, and in great detail explained the beautiful purpose of the Č.S.P.S., which had been expanding very rapidly across America to become a core establishment among Czech compatriots. In conclusion all present loudly exclaimed: “Na zdar!”

The following is from a financial statement of Václav Šnajdr, Order No. 92 of Č.S.P.S. between the dates of July 30, 1883, and July 30, 1894 – a period spanning 11 years.

Expenditures towards support:

For a monument commemorating Klácel $4.50
For a monument in Prague commemorating Hus $15.00
For Jan Hus monument in Bohemian Village, Long Island $5.00
For the construction of a hall for the Prokop Velký order $5.00
Collection among brothers to help those afflicted by flooding in Bohemia $8.00
For Czech miners in Coal City, IL. $5.00
Purchase of tickets for five events organized by other orders $25.00
At the request of Č.S.P.S. orders, contributions for ill brothers made in addition to regular support $88.58

Total revenues from the order's founding until July 30 of 1894:

Registration Fees from new members $429.00
Monthly fees $3,113.50
Fees for death benefits $6,840.00
Fees for death benefits to wives of members $924.53
Fines $6.20
Trust level <čestné stupně > $393.61

-------------
Total $11,713.00

Total expenditures:

In support of ill brothers $2,862.50
Death benefits for deceased brothers $6,840.00
Death benefits for wives of brothers $94.06
Payments per head $94.06
Postal costs $110.32
Expenditures to club hall $20.00
Loans to brothers $136.00
For the federation $64.70
Various expenditures $620.52

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Total $11,673.63

Total revenues from 30 July, 1883 to 30 July, 1894 $11,712.00
Total expenditures for same period  $11,672.63

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Revenues less expenditures   $39.37
Loans to brothers          $285.99
Fixed assets               $9.35

---------------
Total assets on hand       $344.71

Chairman Vác. Pecl, supervisor Mart. Trojan, secretary M. Karlovec, accountant Jan Vachuta, treasurer Jan Šťastný, conductor Jan Rybák, inner guard Fr. Makovička and outer guard Anton Kášal.

Brother Anton Pik, who was supposed to conduct the event, was not able to attend as the ex-chairman.

The celebrations of this order's founding ended with festivities in Maňák's garden on Finn Street, which many clubs and corporations had taken part in with their banners. During these celebrations the ex-chairman of the Grand Order of Ohio, Brother Fr. Payer, had spoken knowledgeably about the core principles of free-thinking and explained to those present its overall purpose.

After completion of the speeches and reading out of congratulations, some of which came by telegram, the Lumír choir sang a beautiful four-part harmony, after which the chairman, Václav Pecl, thanked all those present for their warmth and support. The group then returned to the garden, where another ceremony brought the event to an end.

Those present often think back to that occasion, which ended late in the evening in good spirits and friendship.

The entrance fee and earnings from such events became the primary source of income for the order and were all used to buy the most needed books and meet the other requirements of the order.

All of the order's revenues came from entrance fees to such events, fees, charitable donations, transfers, earnings from organized balls, excursions, gatherings and parties, and were used to support brothers who had fallen ill, to provide voluntary donations to help out brothers in financial duress, maintain Czech Sunday schools and to promote the good name of Czechs here and abroad.

Much financial support had also been sent back home either to fund national enterprises and cultural projects, or to support compatriots afflicted in some way.

All our records were destroyed in a fire of 1883, including our property, which the order was not able to replace since the insurance had already expired. This cost the order a loss in assets amounting to $180.00.

I would like to describe in detail how our order continued to grow.

The founding members Jan Pekař and Ant. Rybák joined the order at a meeting on August 11. Jan Škola then joined at a meeting on August 25, while the following founding members joined on September 15:

Fr. Procházka, Jan Pech, Karel Žižka, Václav Žižka, Vác. Altman, Štěpán Čada, Fr. Hojda and Jan Metlička.
The remaining members joined...

Earnings left over were stored in a savings account, or otherwise lent to brothers at a good rate of 6% per annum. Considering the short life of this order it did not have the opportunity to build up a large cash reserve. Each year brought with it some calamity and many ill brothers, meaning that the coffers were bled dry from year to year.

Recently some funds were earmarked for the construction of a national hall, but as the patrons stored the funds in a bank account, construction progressed slowly and we were told it was due to a lack of funds. In any event, during this time, our fellow Catholics built two beautiful churches next door. Good success to them!

Over the past thirteen years four of our brothers have passed away – two from natural causes, two from poisoning, and one wife has passed away.

Brothers Vošmík and Alois Zelenka died of tuberculosis, while Brothers Fr. Budař and Jos. Daněk died of poisoning. The wives of Brothers Jan Pečkař and Ant. Pešek also passed away – one died of cancer and the other died in childbirth.

Our total assets currently stand at $600 in cash and loans, with $200 in property.

It is also worth mentioning that Brother K. Jílek, a member of our order, has been confined to a mental institution in Newburg, O., for the past five years.

Břeclav I., Order No. 96 of Č.S.P.S.'s membership currently stands at 72, and is as follows.

List of Members of Břeclav I., Order No. 96


From the above the following were unanimously elected to preside as the order's officials during 1895:

Fr. Sluka as chairman, Jos. Bláha as supervisor, August Bubák as secretary, Fr. Friček as accountant, Ant. Rybák as treasurer, Karel Rybák as conductor, Fr. Bláha as inner guard and Jos. Pokorný as outer guard.

Čeští Bratři, Order No. 103 of Č.S.P.S.
in Cleveland, Ohio
Inspired by their compatriots in other parts of Cleveland, Czech patriots living in Brooklyn founded a club with the intention of incorporating it into the powerful and charitable Č.S.P.S., which by then had spread throughout all the Czech communities of America.

After several meetings the club finally ruled to join the famous federation on March 16, 1885, under the name of Čeští Bratří (Czech Brothers), Order No. 103.

The celebrations which took place at M. Pekař were long remembered by all the compatriots living in that part of the city. The founding members were as follows:


Since the order's founding 45 members had joined, three had passed away and 11 had been expelled, such that 49 remained in total by the end of 1894.

According to the statutes, a sum of $750 was paid out to one deceased brother and $1,000 to another.

Four wives of brothers had passed away, a sum of $250 paid out for each.

A total sum of $1,428 had been paid out to members fallen ill.

$106.55 was paid out in support of a Czech school and for cultural purposes.

$88.12 was granted to afflicted brothers from other orders.

Total revenues throughout the order's existence $10,163.91
Total expenditures amounted to $9,034.68
Tangible and intangible assets remaining $1,129.33

There were a total of five events and parties designed to strengthen the brotherhood, all of which were a huge success.

The order always meets in the same room, owned by Mr. Pintner and located on Clark Street.

List of Members in Čeští Bratří, Order No. 103


At the end of 1894 the official committee was comprised of the following:

J. Peterka as the chairman, J. Štědronský as the vice-chairman, Fr. Stíndl as the secretary, V. Jirava as the accountant, F. Sakryd as the treasurer, V. Keltner as the conductor, J. Tomec as the inner guard and A. Bursík as the outer guard.

Sion, Order No. 110 of Č.S.P.S
in Cleveland, Ohio
In 1883, when some compatriots living in one of the more outlying areas of Cleveland saw the moral benefits and wisdom in starting their own order, they began to take measures to do so.

At first Brother Ant. Lukeš, one of the younger compatriots and the previous owner of the hall in which the Sion order still gathers, had intended to establish a Sokol club, but they reasoned that many young members would be required for such a club, and as the area lacked young men, and because there were still many older compatriots living there, they ruled to form a Č.S.P.S. order instead.

The club's first meeting was held on August 3, 1883, where 15 members were recorded. It was decided that they would apply to the federation once their numbers were strong enough.

Subsequent meetings added 11 new members, bringing the total up to 26, who voted to elect brothers Ant. Lukeš and A. Žák as the first chairman and secretary respectively. Preparations were soon made to submit a request for inclusion in the federation. At that time the Third Catholic Association had been founded nearby, and many from our order transferred there.

The 15 that stayed remained faithful to the cause and continued to take measures to achieve their goals and to seek out a suitable name for the club. Of the many names suggested, the club finally decided on Sion. It shouldn't take too long for me to briefly explain why this name was chosen. At that time a Sunday paper by the name of Dennice Novověku circulated, a well-known historical novel by Karel Herloš in which one of the heroes was an esteemed Czech Hussite of noble birth, Roháč of Dubé. He owned a castle by the name of Sion (Zion) which served as a safe haven and stronghold for himself and his army against the crusaders and Zikmund's bailiffs. Since most of the club's members were readers of the above paper, they decided to name the club as they did.

Once they came to this conclusion they immediately submitted a request to join the federation, included the usual fee of $25, and sent it to the Grand Order of Ohio on March 3, 1884. On April 24 the new order, Sion, No. 110, was approved and incorporated into the federation on July 14, 1884. Brothers Vác. Chott, Vác. Rychlík and Em. Payer gave speeches during the lavish ceremonies and the following brothers were received:


Brothers A. Lukeš from the Svornost order, Fr. Liška from the Bratří v Kruhu order and J. Koudelka from the Jan Kollár order were also received by transfer papers.

The first elected officials were as follows: Jos Koudelka as chairman, Ant. Lukeš as secretary, Al. Žák as accountant, Fr. Liška as conductor, Vác. Chott as supervisor, Tom. Hess as treasurer, Jos. Počta as inner guard and Jan Žižka as outer guard.

Since its founding the order blossomed wonderfully, climbing to a membership of 40 over a period of six years and controlling $60 in assets. Over the past four years, due to many brothers falling ill, the order found itself financially weaker. Only one brother, Ant. Černý, passed away, to whose family the order paid out a death benefit of $1,000. The wives of Brothers Andrease Kirkl, Vác. Baner and Fr. Pánka also passed away and
the order paid out $250 for each of them. Over the past 10 years the Sion order has paid out $750 in support to brothers fallen ill and $85 in charity. At present the membership stands at 32 and the order owns assets amounting to $404.32.

This sums up the history of the order.

List of Members of Sion, Order No. 110


Čechomír, Order No. 123 of Č.S.P.S.
in Cleveland, Ohio

On April 3 of 1885 several Czech compatriots living in Cleveland met in what was the 14th ward (now the 25th) at J. Ondráček’s on Portage Street, and voted to establish a club which would later be incorporated into a support federation. Due to lack of space the club was later moved to Vác. Klipec’s on Hamm Street, where a meeting was held every Sunday afternoon and where additional members were accepted.

By May 5 the membership had climbed to 37 and the club voted to join the Č.S.P.S. under the name of Čechomír.

After a thorough medical examination of all members and their wives, the request for incorporation was sent to the Grand Order of Ohio, the customary $25 application fee included. After the Grand Order examined the application and received approval from the local orders, it sent the application to the National Main Order in Chicago, Ill., which confirmed the acceptance under the name of Čechomír, Order No. 123. On June 27 of 1885 the Grand Order of Ohio ceremonially received the new order and officially appointed its elected officials. The ceremonies were concluded by an outing attended by all the local orders of Č.S.P.S. and Sokol clubs. The ceremony and outing were received with the greatest success.

The first officials were as follows:

The order’s founding members were as follows:
A total of 89 members have been accepted into the order since its founding until July 27 of 1894, a period of nine years. Of those, eleven were expelled, three passed away, two withdrew and two transferred elsewhere. That brings the present total to 71 members entitled to support when falling ill or passing away.

As the table below shows, the Čechomír order paid out $6,511.65 to the federation for brothers who had passed away, while it received $3,000 from the same owing to three of its own brothers passing away.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death benefits for deceased wives</td>
<td>$994.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death benefits received</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues</td>
<td>$11,773.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The order's various expenditures, such as salaries for officials, fees for the hall, burial expenses for brothers, fees for the Grand Order of Ohio and for the National Main Order, travel meeting costs, and postal and printing costs amounted to the following over the order's nine years of existence:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total various costs</td>
<td>$1,344.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for brothers fallen ill</td>
<td>$1,923.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death benefits for deceased brothers</td>
<td>$6,511.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death benefits for deceased wives</td>
<td>$994.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for brothers fallen ill not covered by statutes</td>
<td>$149.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To maintain Sunday schools</td>
<td>$135.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for those back home</td>
<td>$7.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditures</td>
<td>$11,065.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total revenues $11,773.96
Total expenditures $11,065.48

Assets remaining $708.48

Compiled by Jos. Operman

Frant. Hauzer
Chairman
Havel Horažďovský
Secretary

Jos. Tichý as supervisor, Jan Procházka as accountant, Jan Ondráček as treasurer, August Vondrák as conductor, Vojt. Perk as inner guard and Jan Šťastný as outer guard.

List of Members of Čechomír, Order No. 123

Pravdomil, Order No. 131 of Č.S.P.S.
in Cleveland, Ohio

As the population of Czechs continues to grow in the area, and our orders increase in size as they continue with their good, charitable work, there remains the need to found additional orders.

When forming such groups the Czechs made sure they were not left behind. Coming to this abundant and blessed land, they quickly settled in and adopted the beneficial customs of their fellow citizens. One of these customs was to band together for the purpose of providing a means of insurance against illness or death.

Now there are a thousand such Czech support organizations scattered across this great land, our new country. One such organization is the Czech Slavic Support Federation, better known as the Č.S.P.S. Federation, the largest of them all. In every corner of this country this federation is known for its charitable work, and the explosion of growth it has experienced over the past 25 years has been beyond all expectations.

Wherever Czech communities formed they would immediately gather together to found a new order.

The same occurred in the eastern part of Cleveland at the end of 1885. At that time part of the city already had one order, in the name of Přemysl, Order No. 18. This order already had a secure future, considering its 60-strong membership and assets exceeding one and a half thousand dollars.

In this part of Cleveland lived many Czechs who had so far not joined any order and no notions were put forward to found a new one.

Such a thought was first submitted by Fr. Hrubecký, a member of the Přemysl order, who had first approached the Svornost order back in 1878.

After further consideration Hrubecký discussed his notion with Mr. Matěj Nový, who like many others did not belong to any order, explaining to him the purpose of the federation and how a new order could be successfully formed in this part of the city. On learning of the federation Mr. Nový became a fervent advocate of the concept straight away, and promised to do all in his power to bring it about. But before commencing he suggested one more confidant who could be put to this task, pointing to fellow compatriot Vác. Čada, and so it was done.

These three, Fr. Hrubecký, Mat. Nový and Vác. Čada, began to meet regularly and take steps towards completing their task.
Hrubecký was assigned the task of providing the necessary advice and handling all correspondence, while Nový and Čada were to recruit as many new members as they could. For his role Hrubecký put together a document which all intending to join the new club were to sign. The document was worded as follows:

“Cleveland, Ohio on December 8, 1885

We, the Czechs listed below, living in the eastern end of Cleveland, have understood the benefits and need for coming together as a form of insurance in the event of our own illness or death or that of our families, and recognize that the Č.S.P.S. Federation is the best recourse for such measures. We note that in this part of the city there live a large number of young, healthy and respectable compatriots, with whose support we will found a club and, once we have attained the necessary number of members, will submit a request for incorporation into Č.S.P.S. For the time being the registration fee for our club will be two dollars. The club's name will be decided upon once it has been formed.”

Matěj Nový and Vác. Čada then travelled around with this document to get it signed by all those who expressed interest in joining the new order.

All those who had signed the document then met for the first time on the first day of 1886, in the home of F. Hrubecký, where decisions were made on what measures to take next.

At that time the document already had sixteen signatures, which was enough to start a new order, but the signatories preferred to have more and so more were sought. By the second meeting the number of signatures had climbed to 24 and were as follows:


Besides Fr. Hrubecký three other members came over from the Přemysl order, those being Fr. Tišler, Fr. Vlček and Vác. F. Zborník, who were glad to become founding members of the new order. Now we had to decide how to name this new order, and many names were proposed, but none were approved by vote.

Fr. Hrubecký proposed that the new order be named Pravdomil (Lover of Truth), commenting, “After all, truth is our cornerstone, truth is what we wish to defend, and by truth we wish to conquer.” His proposal was accepted unanimously and the order was officially named as such.

The meeting also ruled to send the application, without further delay, to the Grand Order of Ohio. The necessary application fee of $25 was included, together with a medical report by Dr. Havlíček stating that he had thoroughly examined all of the members and their wives and declared them totally healthy, recommending them to be accepted as a result.

The founding members were now certain that their endeavors would end with success and that no obstacles would stand in the way of the order’s formation. However, they found themselves disappointed because the Přemysl order was not interested in acting as an idle bystander and letting the process move forward so easily. The Přemysl order felt that Pravdomil would act as competition against them and even threaten them,
so they stirred up contention among the local Č.S.P.S. orders not to allow its formation, since their approval was required.

In the beginning the Pravdomil order did not take such agitation very seriously, assuming that the local orders would approve their application without contention. They believed that the founding of a new club would only benefit the federation, considering that the greater the number of orders established, the faster the membership of the federation would grow, and the stronger it would become.

The Grand Order of Ohio received the application and sent out a request to the local orders to find out if they would accept the new member.

The first response came from the Svornost and Petr Chelčický orders, who both ruled that they would not approve the new member, arguing that the new order would be detrimental to Přemysl, threatening its existence. The founding members of Pravdomil did not take this news favorably, as their good intentions were now called into question: they simply wanted to elevate themselves, for the Č.S.P.S. to thrive and their new order to prosper financially. After all, how could a small group of 28 members threaten the existence of an order with membership exceeding 60 and whose assets exceeded one and a half thousand dollars? The Pravdomil founders could not see reason in this but did determine that such rulings were made under pressure from the Přemysl order.

Time was of the essence and the order realized it would have to take a firm hold of the reins in order to complete their task. The onus fell on Hrubecký and Tišler, who were older settlers and well respected and trusted among the entire community. It was up to them to fix the damage done and make sure no other negative votes would be delivered to the Grand Order.

They set out, meeting with one friend after another, explaining themselves and requesting a fair judgment. In particular, they pointed out that it would be absurd to think that such a relatively weak and penniless order could threaten the existence of an older one with almost three times the membership and significant financial resources.

Every order has at least one member trusted by his brothers who heavily influences that order's rulings. Hrubecký and Tišler made certain to visit precisely these members and request that they give a fair verdict. Both came back from their separate excursions and were glad to say that they were promised positive rulings.

There was finally a meeting of the Grand Order in which the fate of Pravdomil was to be sealed. The founding members were pleasantly surprised to find out that no other orders had voted negatively, and therefore the Grand Order ruled to allow the new order, considering that most local members of the federation had approved its formation.

Hrubecký and Tišler's work was not in vain and the Pravdomil order prevailed.

Now it needed to make sure that the Grand Order would arrange a quick confirmation at the National Main Order in Chicago. The Grand Order was glad to oblige and it took only a few days for a confirmation to come back, Pravdomil becoming the 131st order of the federation.

But it did not take long for the National Main Order to announce that it had received a protest against the new order's founding, from Přemysl, to be precise. Thankfully the main order could respond: “Too late!”
Plans were now set in motion to incorporate the new order on March 8, 1886. Such a struggle from difficult beginning deserved a proper celebration, for which the hall of Mrs. Stehlíková was rented, where the new order was to have its meetings.

For this purpose the hall was exquisitely decorated and the following mottos added, among others: “The federation blossoms further”, and “Pravdomil overcame”.

The executive committee of the Grand Order of Ohio came in full numbers, and the ceremonies were launched in a dignified manner by its chairman, Fr. Kysela, while its secretary, brother Václav Rychlík, recorded the proceedings into their books.

Although the actual incorporation was made in private, the appointment of the new order's officials was public and managed to draw a large and curious crowd. The appointments were as follows:

V. F. Zborník as chairman, F. Vlček as supervisor, Fr. Hrubecký as secretary, Fr. Hanket as accountant, Fr. Tišler as treasurer, Mat. Nový as conductor, Jos. Dezort as inner guard and Jan Lukeš as outer guard.

Once all of the officials had bound themselves to fulfill their new obligations faithfully and justly, the newly elected chairman thanked the Grand Order’s officials for all their efforts and instructions, and promised them that the Pravdomil order would work hard to earn a respectable position in the Č.S.P.S.

The National Main Order’s chairman, Brother Jan F. Sprostý, then gave a stirring speech and urged them to remember their obligations, both to the federation and their civilian obligation, and to fulfill them faithfully.

At the ceremony's conclusion, the new Pravdomil Order No. 131 of Č.S.P.S. exclaimed “Na zdar!”, repeated again by the exuberant audience. This ended the public event and the meeting, so that the Pravdomil could begin with its charitable activities.

As was mentioned above, 24 members had registered, but two of them were declined: F. Lechníř for being too elderly, and Fr. Říha for being too young. The order began its new life with four new members, making up a total of 26.

Only one new member came on board during the first year, which was entirely due to the room where they held their meetings. For this reason the order moved to brother F. J. Vachalec’s at the end of 1886, where they found greater success, their membership growing as follows: 32 members in 1887, 43 in 1888, 56 in 1889, 63 in 1890, 70 in 1891, 69 in 1892, 76 in 1893 and 69 in 1894.

Although the order had started out virtually empty handed, it accumulated the following wealth over the years.

$252.67 in 1886, $428.05 in 1887, $639.95 in 1888, $919.75 in 1889, $1,209.99 in 1890, $1,428.06 in 1891, $1,361.12 in 1892, $1,479.94 in 1893 and $1,487.35 in 1894.

The year of 1892 saw a significant shortfall due to the fact that a high number of its members fell ill that year and $440 had to be paid out that year to cover it.

The order showed the following financial figures by the end of 1894:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death benefits to brothers</td>
<td>$5,751.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death benefits for wives of brothers</td>
<td>$855.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid out to ill brothers</td>
<td>$1,915.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptional support</td>
<td>$92.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to Sunday school</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Donation for Jan Hus Monument in Prague $10.00

Funds received from the federation:

Death benefits to three brothers $3,000.00
Death benefits to 7 wives of brothers $1,750.35
Total assets by end of 1894 $1,478.35

Compiled by Fr. Hrubecký

List of Members of Pravdomil, Order No. 131 end of 1894


Žižkův Meč, Order No. 133 of Č.S.P.S. in Cleveland, Ohio

In March of 1888, several society-minded compatriots met under friendly circumstances at J. Holečka’s on Homewood Street, during which time the thought surfaced of whether to establish a Č.S.P.S. club in this remote part of the city, where many Czechs resided. Several of those present were quite excited about the idea and the decision was made to seek out additional compatriots and meet in the same location, where those gathered agreed on the formation and that the club should be called Žižkův Meč.

An application for acceptance into the Č.S.P.S. Federation quickly followed. At that time, Slovač, Order No. 133 of Č.S.P.S., the weakest of local orders back then, decided to join Žižkův Meč at its point of meeting, while the Grand Order of Ohio saw it fit that the Žižkův Meč order, which had already been accepted into the federation, should join forces with that of the Slovač order. But before this union could take place some obstacles had to be overcome. Through justifications and explanations they were eventually resolved by the Grand Order and the two orders were invited to a meeting on 15 July.

The acting committee of the Grand Order of Ohio also attended this meeting, explained the importance of the federation, and with the full agreement of all those
present, the name of order Slovač was changed to Žižkův Meč, keeping the order number of 133.

The full membership of the new, combined order was now as follows:

The new membership then voted in the following officials:
Fr. Kadeřávek as chairman, Fr. Šafránek as supervisor, Josef Voput as secretary, Jos. Lukeš as accountant, Vojtěch Titl as treasurer, Fr. Hubený as inner guard and Jos. Brajnstain as the outer guard.

Although this order, with its older and more indebted members, had to overcome many difficulties through frequent correspondence and found it difficult to add to its membership in the beginning, since few free-minded Czechs could be found in that part of town, the resolve of its members did not weaken. Through endurance and persistence they managed to accumulate a slow trickle of members, ensuring the new order's continued growth.

Expenditures for cultural purposes $30.00
Charitable donations $20.00
Total assets $387.31
Number of members 37

The order's current officials are:
Ferd. Vlna as chairman, Em. Kašík as supervisor, Jos. Holeček as secretary, Fr. Šafránek as accountant, Em. Klimeš as treasurer, Jos. Klaisner as conductor, Fr. Vrána as inner guard, Jan Hejduk as outer guard, asset management committee comprised of Vác. Matějka, Josul Málek and M. Hodouš.

The remaining membership is as follows:

In the month of July in 1889 several Czech compatriots gathered together in our little town of Bellaire to discuss the possibility of forming a support club. After several debates and after comparing different statutes the group decided to apply for acceptance into the very large Č.S.P.S. Federation. Once that was decided they voted on their officials, electing V. Sklenář to the role of chairman and F. Adámek as secretary.
The group further decided that the secretary should send an application to the National Main Order. The meeting then ended, the next one scheduled for the third Sunday in August.

The second meeting was also fully attended and properly initiated. A letter was read from the National Main Order in which they stated that officials would come from the Grand Order of Ohio on September 29 to incorporate our club into the federation. The letter also instructed us to send $25 to cover the costs of the Grand Order's officials, which we undertook to do immediately. The same meeting agreed to call the new club Lech, the National Main Order assigning us number 160. After that the meeting came to a close.

On September 29 officials arrived from the Grand Order of Ohio, namely the chairman, Jos. Kocian, and the secretary, V. Kalva, to gather together with us in the club's hall, where we were to be incorporated into the federation.

After the usual formalities we were happy to promise to do our utmost to uphold the instructions and advice given to us by these officials, and to work to strengthen the good name and renown of the Č.S.P.S.

The following officials were then voted in for a period of one year: Václav Sklenář as chairman, Ant. Konigsmark as vice-chairman, Anton Petrán as supervisor, Fr. Adámek as secretary, Jan Zastudil as accountant, Alois Sklenář as conductor, and Jan Karnoš and Vác. Němec as guards.


Total revenues and expenses of Lech Order No. 160 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues</td>
<td>$3,900.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to brothers fallen ill</td>
<td>$730.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death benefits</td>
<td>$2,303.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support outside of statutes</td>
<td>$66.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various expenditures</td>
<td>$549.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditures</td>
<td>$3,650.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues</td>
<td>$3,900.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-------------

Remaining    $250.59

In cash       $171.89
Fixed assets  $53.70
Borrowed      $25.00

$250.59

Lent to members $163.03

$413.62

Total assets  $413.62
List of Members of Lech Order No. 160


Our order organizes a ball every year which generates fairly good earnings.

In conclusion we would like to mention that our order partly consists of coal miners, and we would like to recommend that the federation continue to accept miners, despite fears that receiving miners will not prove fruitful to the Č.S.P.S. Our order has existed for five years and we are proud to say that none of our brothers have died or suffered serious injury.

On behalf of the committee,
Alois Sklenář, Jan Hain, Václav Aámek

Žižkův Tábor, Order No. 204 of Č.S.P.S.
in Cleveland, Ohio


Once the order was incorporated, its officials were publicly appointed and letters of congratulations read out loud.

The following officials were appointed:
Tom. Slavík as chairman, Jan Hlulec as supervisor, Jan Rovný as secretary, Václav Celerín as accountant, Jos. Brejška as treasurer, V. Vokatý as conductor, F. Volek as inner guard and J. Zelenka as the outer guard.

Once these appointments were made the chairman of the Grand Order, F. Hrubecký, spoke about the federation's charitable works and the benefits of adding new orders.

This was followed by a response by the order's chairman, Tom. Slavík, after which brother Grund. Krátka thanked the Grand Order for the incorporation, swiftly followed by the unanimous proclamation: “Success to the federation!”

The Žižkův Tábor order has a total of 15 members, with several more in the pipeline as the order's location is fertile ground for expansion, not only for us but for Žižka, Order No. 9 and Čeští Bratří, Order No. 103, who were present in great numbers during our incorporation and who were very friendly during their attendance, giving us the hope that we will soon flourish.
The order thanked and credited Jos. Hulec, Jan Dvořák and Jan Tomšík for its foundation.

List of Members of Žižkův Tábor, Order No. 204

The founding members were as follows:
- The following members joined later:
  - Karel Chvojan, Matěj Kouba, Jan Lehečka, Vác. Slavík, Josef Vojtěch, Josef Šťastný, Jan Celerin, Frank Lepa, Louis Asoher and Frank Trněný.

The Žižkův Tábor order's officials are as follows:
- Tornád Slavík as chairman, Mat. Rovný as secretary, Jos. Brejška as treasurer, Vác. Celerin as accountant, Jan Hulec as supervisor, V. Vokatý as conductor *(marshal? or deacon or steward?)*

Postscript

When at the start of the second half of 1894 the Č.S.P.S. Grand Order of Ohio decided to publish the history of its subsidiary orders, it assumed that its intentions would be understood and that all of the sub orders would execute their obligation with a faithful depiction of their origins, their early beginnings, their gradual expansion, and their charitable works.

This was sadly only partly the case. Some of the orders, in particular the older ones, painted their history in true colors, while others did not quite represent the truth faithfully, or were superficial in their attentions, or else bragged endlessly of their exploits, delaying our eventual publishing longer than we hoped. In the end we compiled only about half of what we had hoped to compile, but if the material simply isn't there one has no choice.

The Grand Order of Ohio appointed the committee below to overlook and edit the submitted material for print and seek out additional information to make the book as complete as it could.

The older orders remind us how difficult it was in the beginning. The greatest obstacles of all the orders came from religious sources, since the federation was the first free-thinking Czech club in the country and a thorn in the side of many religious groups. They urged newly arrived immigrants to stay away from the federation by declaring that the Č.S.P.S. was a satanic organization threatening those who did not heed the church's warning of eternal damnation, and hoped to crush the fledgling federation in this way.

Such spells have a great effect on believers, as is well known, but such spells do not work on their own. As the testimony of our older orders confirm, such pressure only inspired them to work harder, and their reward was exquisite, as they built up an organization we can all be truly proud of. We are not interested in any religion but are nurturing true brotherly love and charitable giving, we take care of our brothers who are taken ill,
supporting and comforting them and providing them with medical care, and if they pass away we take care of their wives and children.

According to our principles, support in sickness and in death, and comfort in times of misfortune outweigh all heavenly kingdoms.

The younger orders then clarified how we organize new member clubs, who can become a member and how, what advantages we offer, how faithfully we hold together, how well we meet our obligations, from where we collect our revenues, which we then allocate for charitable and cultural purposes, both here and back home, a country we will never abandon. Furthermore, they show how the incorporation works, how it takes legal effect and how they likewise become protected under law. Therefore, even the most doubtful, after carefully reading this book, will come to a more just impression of the Č.S.P.S. Federation.

It was mostly the Ethnographic Exhibit in Prague that had prompted us to publish this work, and it was our wish that it would be available at the time of the exhibit’s opening, but the sluggish response of some of our orders along with other factors have not made this possible, although we hope to find our place before the exhibit’s end to give our dear compatriots back home an opportunity to peer into our lives.

Let us end then with a wish that our beloved federation will continue to prosper, that its membership will continue to grow and that it will continue to take care of widows and orphans and to work for the honor of our Czech roots.

Grand Order Committee
Frant. Hrubecký, Jan Vaněk, Josef Čermák
Slovanská Lípa in Cleveland, Ohio
PROPERTY OF F. ŠÍCHA

History of Remaining
CZECH CLUBS
IN CLEVELAND, OHIO
Partially written and edited by Václav Rychlík.
Slovanská Lípa Club / Choir

When the first Czech immigrants began to settle in the Cleveland area, they felt foreign and alone. Not knowing the language or habits of the new home they had chosen for themselves, they naturally clung to one another, relishing the opportunity to bask in the language of their native land at least occasionally. This is why they welcomed every new Czech immigrant, especially since most of them came from the Tábor area. For this reason, the thought soon occurred to our forebears to form some sort of an organization
which would strive to maintain our language and provide help to its members in times of illness or misfortune.

To this purpose a meeting was first summoned and held on May 11, 1862 at the home of Martin Krabčí, where the general agreement was to give the new organization the beautiful and well-known name of Slovanská Lípa (Slavic Lime). As our founding fathers once found relief and comfort in the shade of these old spreading trees, both at the end of the working day and as they drew nearer to death, the founders of the association also hoped to find spiritual and material comfort in the club. Therefore they became the first members enthusiastically. The first election of the Slavic Lime organization board followed and the following officials were elected:

Fr. Sýkora as chairman, Fr. Koza as vice-chairman, Jan Buzek as secretary, Jan Rehák as treasurer and Jos. Kříž as librarian.

The gradual growth of the Czech population in Cleveland naturally increased the club's membership until, in its third year of existence, at the start of 1865, the idea circulated of arranging a banner. Based on suggestions by compatriots from the Písek region, this task was delivered into the devoted and self-sacrificing hands of a woman living in Písek of Bohemia, who immediately and enthusiastically began to create it. Within two months the beautiful banner, woven with gold and silver, was completed and sent to Cleveland before the year's end.

News of this treasure had spread like lightning not only among the club's members but also local Czechs in general, and a meeting was quickly arranged for May 26 of that year, when the banner was to be ceremonially christened.

Lavish preparations were made and J. V. Sýkora chosen as its speaker, while Mrs. Kopřž-steinová, creator of the banner, with her godparents Anna Buzková and Karolina Kopřž-steinová were invited to take their respectable places at the event, which they accepted obligingly. The day finally arrived and the area around Croton and Forest Streets were already full of life in the morning. Members of the club were beautifully dressed in their colorful, Slavic sashes, and they all held their breath for the moment the banner would be revealed.

The congregation then moved to Kinsman Street (now Woodland Ave.) to the German Catholic church, which was still wooden at that time and in which Father Krášný would preach in Czech every Sunday at 9am, in order for the good father to christen this, the first Czech banner.

J. V. Sýkora gave an excellent and enthusiastic speech while the mother and godparents of the banner uttered a few words, after which Father Krášný christened the banner and the ceremonies were concluded.

At the time Slovanská Lípa undertook both a supporting and an educating role in the community, purchasing a number of books from Bohemia, subscribing to Czech magazines and founding the first Czech Sunday school, which would teach Czech children in their native language for a couple of hours at a time. Unfortunately, due to the indifference of the students and their parents, the school came to an end after a short time.

At that time Slovanská Lípa was located in the first Czech hall of Fr. Novák, on the corner of Orange and Belmont Streets.
In 1866 Slovanská Lípa opened a drama department under the name of Perun, which then broke off as an independent organization a year later, following disagreements between the members of the two organizations. Slovanská Lípa started another drama group, which would perform in the hall of Fr. Novák.

This soon caused problems though, and in 1868 Slovanská Lípa moved to the hall of Václav Havlíček at 101 Croton Street, where a stage was built and performances occasionally held.

In the same year the Táborita support club, which was established only two years beforehand, integrated with Slovanská Lípa, bringing with it 42 members and $300 in assets, while both clubs agreed to celebrate the union with an opulent event to be held on July 4, 1868.

At that time most Czechs were well employed, with even the lowest laborers receiving good pay, for which reason the ceremonies were expected to yield excellent earnings.

On the fourth of July Slovanská Lípa, accompanied by mounted marshals and with Czech music playing, proceeded to visit the western part of Brooklyn, where they were invited to set up their tent in the garden of a farm there. Not long after noon the Czech audience started to arrive – women with families were brought in rented carriages, locals came on foot – and very soon a nice cheerful atmosphere spread throughout the company.

... shortly after which the celebrations reached full swing and all present had a great time. The Lumír choir contributed to the music by singing a few songs.

Everything went smoothly but, although the healthy sale of drinks and other things were expected to yield equally healthy earnings, organizers were disappointed to find they were ten dollars short, which incurred great resentment. As an indication of how the event's earnings were squandered, one Czech woman found several large crumpled bills near the cash register (the cashier is the person, do you mean the cash register?), which she surrendered to the committee, while the owner of the garden, an honest American, found a roll of bank notes the next day. He delivered this to one of the organizers who, unfortunately, kept the sum for himself.

... He delivered this to one of the organizers who, unfortunately, kept the sum for himself.

At the start of 1870 Slovanská Lípa wrote a second time to all the orders of the same name (my guess is “Soustátí” refers to the United States) in order to form a joint order, but this request failed to spark any interest, as only the Slovanská Lípa order in Chicago replied.

Because at that time Slovanská Lípa held most of its assets in cash, the members considered building their own hall. For this they put together a construction committee in charge of looking for a suitable location, soliciting voluntary loans and managing the construction. This turned out to be very successful, owing to an abundance of enthusiasm for our Czech heritage and the close communal ties we had back then, so much so that construction began that same year, and by May 29 of 1871 so much progress had been made that the job was basically done.
On that day Cleveland’s Czechs, in particular the members of Slovanská Lípa, celebrated with great fanfare the opening of the beautiful new building on the corner of Croton Street and Case Ave.

All the local orders attended the event, including Detroit’s Slovanská Lípa, so that it could join the grandiose parade with its banner. The procession wound through a few streets, stopping at the new building, where the construction committee’s chairman, Fr. Sýkora, gave a short speech and handed the building’s keys to the order’s chairman, F. Chaloupka. Chaloupka accepted the key with a heart-warming and eloquent speech, rounded off with a call to action from its members. With that the congregation gave a loud “Na zdar!”.

Before the building was actually opened, the entire procession lined up for a photograph, which turned out to be less than favorable considering the extreme humidity that day.

After that, the gathering entered the hall to sit down in the prepared seating. A band played the Czech national anthem, a female choir conducted by Fr. Bláha sang a ceremonial song, after which F. B. Zdrůbek, the editor of Pokrok, gave some fine words and concluded: “Lípo Lípo drahá buď Čechů oslava!” (Our dear Lípo, let the Czech festivities begin!”

After his speech was heartily received, the Lumír choir sang a ceremonial song, and the club’s chairman thanked all present once again for their participation and declared a recess until the evening when a glamorous ball and banquet organized by the Libuše choir was to take place.

A week later, the amateur actors of Slovanská Lípa performed Carinthia in Bohemia to a packed audience. The evening’s atmosphere was, by all accounts, exquisite.

In the same year the number of the club’s members rose to 240. The hall itself ran up a tab exceeding twelve thousand dollars, half of which had already been paid off by the end of the year.

During the next year, 1872, some of the members expressed dissatisfaction with the new election of officials, which led to creation of two factions. Those who were dissatisfied called a special meeting, which the older party refused to attend, considering it illegitimate. Nonetheless, this meeting went ahead, holding a second vote and electing new officials so Slovanská Lípa now had two committees, both claiming legitimacy. The older party challenged the situation legally, trying to prevent the new committee from representing the order, and appealed to the constable from the confederate hall, guaranteed by Jan Kopňan and K. Franke. <Not sure about meaning here>

This caused quite the rumpus during the next meeting, resulting in the immediate dismissal of the order’s originally elected chairman and deputy. The calmer members failed to dissuade the furious ones, even when, during the next meeting, it was announced that the expelled Jan Kopňan intended to take legal action against the order for dismissing him without cause.

Even once the Slovanská Lípa order lost in the second legal battle and the more moderate party tried to attain peace, all efforts were futile. Some members were even threatened with the same fate as J. Kopňan, the founder of the association. This led to a
decline in activities, as members withdrew their funds, or politely left the group. This hastened the decline of a once beautiful association.

As many of the respected members of the older party were amateur actors, the Libuše club, which had made great sacrifices to the Slovanská Lípa order, also suffered at this time, losing its place in the rented hall, which forced those who stood faithfully with the Libuše club to move out. In 1873 many of the amateur actors who had been renting the same space followed suit. Josef Zborník took over the Slovanská Lípa hall, followed shortly thereafter by Václav Landa, who worked tirelessly to restore the order to its former glory. With the help of J. V. Čapek, the editor of Dišlík, Landa organized several successful plays, while the Slovanská Lípa order itself lent its unused land to the Sokol Club to build a gymnasium. But this excitement soon died when the creditors came after Sokol, extinguishing the last ray of hope for the Slovanská Lípa order. The final nail in the coffin came with the verdict that not only was Slovanská Lípa liable for all legal expenses in the battle against Jan Kopfstein, but it was to pay him damages as well.

The remaining members scrambled for a solution and were forced to sell their banner, paintings, office furniture, fine theater wardrobe and their library. The order was dissolved at the start of 1877, leaving its new hall in the hands of the creditors.

One small comfort at this time of upheaval was that this hall was purchased by an elderly and educated Czech by the name of Fr. Šícha, reducing the cultural loss.

Shortly after the Slovanská Lípa order's original founding, Catholics began to ponder the possibility of starting their own club: one that would espouse their Catholic ideals.

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The Svatojanský Order

One of the oldest Czech guilds is the Saint Jan Nepomucký Club, founded as a support organization on May 10 of 1863, with a total of 13 members. This membership grew with the influx of Czech immigrants to its present 175 strong membership, its expenditures until December 2, 1894 amounting to:

Support to brothers fallen ill  $14,513.09
Burial costs  $4,195.35

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Total  $18,708.44

In spite of the fact that a recent legal dispute against some of its members cost the club a significant sum, the club survived and today enjoys a sound financial footing which it expects will continue into the future.

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Drama Department
By the time the first Czechs began settling in the Cleveland area, the idea of organizing some form of Czech entertainment, was already being floated. This was organized on November 16 of 1863 by the Slovanská Lípa club in the fire station on Perry Street.

Directed by J. V. Sýkora of Nevězic, the first Czech plays of The Czech volunteer and the French farmwife, The female recruiter in Kocourek and Widow Bobrovská were presented, followed by a ball and evening of festivities.

Later two more plays were presented at this location: Man without a woman and The Lhota Estate.

The fourth play and concert, Aunty, was held in the National Hall, with Anna, Josef, Paulina Firstová, Mrs. Anna and Mr. Frant. Juengling participating in the concert.

At that time the acting ensemble was comprised of J. V. Sýkora, František Kozy, Josef Stědronský, Josef Hřebejk, Ant, Dýžner, Jos. Kramosil and Fr. Juengling, sl. Anna, Josef and Paulin First, Rosalia and Marie Hřebejková, Marie Mášek and Mrs. Anna Juengling, with Jan Buzek as the prompter.

Once the hall of Fr. Novák was completed other plays were presented there, such as Monika and Strakonicky Dudák (The Strakonice Piper).

In 1867 Karel Čermák of Beroun took over directorship of the Slovanská Lípa amateur drama club and directed Israelita and The Heist (Loupež) as well as some comedies. On his passing away in January of 1868 he was replaced by Vác. Rychlik of Kolín, who directed many plays, first in the hall of Vác. Havlíček, then Slovanská Lípa and finally in the hall of the Budivoj drama club, which the Slovanská Lípa amateur drama club joined with and where it remained, with the exception of a few short breaks. Under his directorship the following plays were presented: Beggars (Žebráci), The Expatriots (Exulanti), Black Ghost (Černé duše), The Mayor (Primátor), Jan Výrava, The Old Town Square and Small Side (Staré město a malá strana) <This doesn’t read right… what does “small side” mean?>, Ivorutans in Bohemia (Ivorutaně v Čechách) <Google has no hits for “Ivorutans” – is it someone’s name?>, Hussite Bride (Husitská nevěsta), Son of a Person (Syn člověka) <Sounds translated. “Someone’s Son”?>, Karel Havlíček Borovský, Marie Terezie, Emperor Josef II. (Císař Josef II.), Intrigues and Love (Ouklady a láška), Paris Secrets (Tajnosti pařížské), Faust the Second (Faust druhý), The Blind Bride (Slepá nevěsta), Krakonoš, The Poor Songwriter (Chudý písničkář), The Zlatodvorský Farmer (Sedlák zlatodvorský), The Poachers (Pytláci), The Cross by the Stream (Kříž u potoka), Galejní's Slaves (Galejní otroci), Palič's Daughter (Paličova dcera), Old Debts (Staré dluhy), Paris Secrets (Tajnosti pařížské) <This is listed twice>, Valdek Blaník, The Scamp (Dareba), Imp (Diblík), Old Crazies (Stari blázni), A Priest and a Soldier (Kněz a voják), The Abandoned Infant (Nalezenec), Katův's Scoundrel (Katův pacholec) <If Katuv is a place name, then “The Scoundrel of Katuv” sounds better>, The Will (Závěť), Mrs. Marjánka, Mother of the Regiment (Paní Marjánka matka pluku), Výškovský Jew (Výškovský žid) <Is his name Vyskovsky? If so “The Jew Vyskovsky” is better>, The Polish Jew (Polský žid), The
Nuisance (Protiva), Jos. Kajetán Tyl, The Eleventh Commandment (Jedenácté přikázání), Svatojánský Pigrime (Svatojánská pout’), The Cursed Man (Proklatec), The Friar and his Parish Clerk (Pan farář a jeho kostelník), The 67ers (Sedmašedesátníci), The Last Taborite (Poslední Táborita), The Nihilists (Nihilisté), Each to his Own (Svůj ksvému), Offering in the Balkans (Žertva na Balkáně), The Innocent Convict (Nevinný odsouzenec), Black Mountain (Černá hora), Ševcov's Daughter (Dcera ševcova<=>The Shoemaker's Daughter), The Gypsy Lady (Cikánka), The Harvest Festival (Obžinky), The Wordly Noble Patriot (Šlechtic z národa a světák), The Prodigal Son (Marnotratný syn), Lužanský Rose (Růže Lužanská) <Again, if it’s a place name, “The Rose of Luzanska” is better>, The Villagers (Vesničané), Karlin Girl (Děvče z Karlina), Father Palacký (Otec Palacký), Krakonoš, The Bell at God's Mother (Zvoník u matky boží) <Sounds translated. “The Bell of God’s Mother?” – or is God’s Mother a place name? In which case perhaps leave untranslated>, The Friar's Cook (Farářova kuchařka) and others.

Most of these plays were organized for charitable purposes, although the first few plays required some purchases, such as the wardrobe, decorations and other details which posed somewhat of a problem for the management. These concerns were alleviated with the building of the Perun National Hall and Slovanská Lípa, although the club's director still had to double up as the plays' director as well, and even its decorator, showing worthy dedication on his part.

In 1873 J. Aubrecht of Abíroh u Žebráka took over directorship of the Slovanská Lípa drama club, and organized many plays both there, later in the Perun hall and later still with the old veterans in the hall of V. Rychlík. Some of his best plays include Hamlet and The Two Orphans (Dva Sirotci), which enjoyed great success.

Dr. Prošek directed the play Homeland (Vlast) in the Perun hall.

For a time during 1874 Jos. Línek of Smetanová Lhota directed the Slovanská Lípa drama club and directed the following plays: The Svojanovský Family (Rod Svojanovský), Carinthians in Bohemia (Korutané v Čechách), Břetislav Bezejmený, Lukrecia Borgio, The Downfall of the Přemyslovs (Záhuba rodu Přemyslovců), The Amazon of Bohemia (České Amazonky) and others.

At that time Dr. Habenicht directed the Perun hall with actors such as Narcis, Izák Lévy, Kupec Benátský and others. J. V. Čapek directed for a while at Slovanská Lípa while Diblík edited <edited? Not the right verb for theatre. Produced?>.

When the combined drama clubs performed Jaroslav Conquers the Tartars (Jaroslav vítěz nad Tatary) in Slovanská Lípa the proceeds went go to the Prostějov Math School.

In the Perun hall the drama club duo performed The Parisian Ragman (Hadrník Pařížský) in aid of those who had suffered from the fires in Chicago, and later Lipany to support the National Theater in Prague. J. V. Sýkora directed the following plays acted by the Perun drama club: Jan Hus, Jan Žižka, Magelona, The Burglars (Loupežníci), Jiřík's Vision, (Jiříkovo vidění), The Forest Virgin (Lesní panna), Man of the Nation (Muž národa), Debora, Preciosa, The Amazon of Bohemia (České Amazonky) and The Three Suitors (Tři ženichové).

Later Jos. Hospodský directed some comedies there.
The Thalie and Luna drama clubs were directed for a number of years by Jos. Kůzel, performing in the Perun, Slovanská Lípa and V. Rychlík halls and where the last of which they played, The Lady of the Camellias (Dáma s kameliemi).

Ladislav M. Čapek was also director for a while.

Antonín Šícha of Minkovic u Kralup and František Kysela of Heřmanova Městce directed the following special, charitable and very successful plays for English speaking audiences: Záviš of Falkenstein (Záviš < z Falkensteina) in aid of Czech free-thinking schools in Cleveland, Big Dream (Velký sen) in aid of Foundation School in Bohemia, and Damon and Pythias in aid of local Czech cultural halls.

These performances are considered the greatest Czech theatre performed in the city.

The plays Damon and Pythias and Unjustly Sentenced (Nevinně odsouzen) were translated into English by František Kysela.

During the championship trials in Haltmort, Anotonín Šícha also directed a summer presentation of Othello, along with The Burglars (Loupežníci), The Two Orphans (Dva sirotci), Lukrecie Borgio, Angelo, Tyran Padovánský (Tyran Padovánský), Mrs. Minemistrová, and later Zvíkovský's Imp (Zvíkovský rarášek). He directed Romeo and Juliet in the hall of V. Rychlík, along with The Stag Beetle of Dubé (Roháč z Dubé), City and Village (Město a vesnice), and Intrigues and Love (Ouklady a lásky) while on a school outing to Detroit.

Once the Mich. Albla hall had been built in the southern end of town, Václav Nevařil of Zásmuk became the director of its Kajetán Tyl drama club, followed by its owner Mr. Chvátal, then by A. Votýpek, and then by Fr. Fila following the former’s death.

In 1892 Václav Hončík directed the Budivoj drama club’s performances of A Round World (Kulatý svět), Pink Handcuffs (Růžová pouta) and Uncle Neklužev (Strýček Neklužev).

In the west end of the city Vác. Huml, Jaroslav Luňák, Jos. Lokajíček and J. Trejbal directed plays presented in the hall of Jan Bejček and Josef Pinter.

Dominik Janda and Fr. Kohoutek directed Mošna drama club’s plays in Holečkov’s hall. Janda also directed the Thalie club at Slovanská Lípa, where they played White Mountain Heirs (Dědicové bělohorští) and The Poor Songwriter (Chudý písničkář).

During the visit of Mr. Jos. Šmaha, director of the National Theater in Prague, two plays were presented for his benefit by the combined Cleveland drama clubs” Jan Hroběcký of Hroběc in the Jacobs Cleveland Theater and Cikán (Cikán) in the hall of Vác. Rychlík. Both plays ran smoothly and pleased the beneficiary, although proceeds were not as strong as hoped for due to the hard times in general.

Under J. Dardy's directorship the Drama Club Association, which held together for about a year, performed The Awakeners and The Exile, the proceeds from the last of which going towards the construction of the local National Hall.

A key figure worth mentioning is Vác. Malický, who has now dressed the actors for many years now with tireless dedication.
Czech Cleveland now has a total of thirteen theaters, which are as follows: the halls of Slovanská Lípa, Václav Rychlík, The Catholic Concord, Jan Bejček, Josef Pinter, F. Jindra, Mrs. Chvátalová, F. Wachalec, Fr. Leibliner, V. Holeček, Columbia Hall, Bohemia Hall and the older hall of Němec in which Czech plays are occasionally presented.

It can be said that Cleveland's Czech drama clubs have taken on tough projects and delivered them with great success.

Next to the free-thinking Czech drama clubs in Cleveland the Catholics also hold their own, with the drama clubs of The Catholic Concord and The Reader's Club deserving particular recognition.

Czech Music in Cleveland

In 1865 a Czech musical quartet comprised of Fr. Bláha, Fr. Moták, Vác. Vobořil and Fil. Geiger arrived in Cleveland and proved themselves among the best musical ensemble in the city at that time.

In 1867 the Rochs put together their own string orchestra which played around town for a few years.

But it was not until after the arrival of Vác. Mudra in 1871 that the first Czech brass band was formed under his directorship, even though the musicians had performed there for some time, some as leaders of English speaking bands.

Following Václav Mudra other groups, such as Bratrů Zámečníků (The Locksmith Brothers) and later Fr. Drubý, formed bands which have since met with resounding success, both here in Cleveland and abroad.

We should also mention the orchestra of Fišer and Wiegenberger, the bands of Kovář, Hronek, Daček. Protek, Pivoňka, Y. Šolec, Malec and Ledvina, J. Kofroň, Kozák, J. Chaloupek, Y. Matušek, Jos. Rada, Jan Jírbeň, Fr. Yondrušek and others, which show that the Czechs had more than their fair share of musical talent. As for older teachers, we have Fr. Bláha, Fr. Drábek, J. A. Roch, V. Mudra and M. Fišer, while the more modern included Ant. Machan as the only teacher of musical theory, J. Kos, Stěpan Erst, Alfred Wiescnberger, Fr. Hrubý, Josef Balaš and many others.

It is worth noting that many of our cultural and charitable events were accompanied by volunteer Czech musicians.

Club of Czech Settlers (Spolek Česká Osada)

In 1865 a club was founded at the residence of Václav Žák with the aim of forming a Czech agricultural community out west, either in Dakota or Mississippi. The association had branches in different states with a membership nearing 500, all with a similar amount of assets.

However, in 1866 the tables turned to settlements increasing on the Kavkaz, in which Karel Jonáš played a large commercial role, but since the actual move didn’t take place, the club fell apart and Jonáš left the proceeds with Slavie for charitable purposes. I don’t understand this sentence. I had not heard of Kavkaz, but Wikipedia redirects to Caucasus, i.e. the area between Russia and Europe.
The Perun Cultural Club (Narodní spolek Perun)

Soon after the founding of Slovanská Lípa plans were afoot to form a drama club under the name of Perun. This club began operations on February 25, 1866, but due to a misunderstanding an insurrection rose against Slovanská Lípa and Perun broke off as its own independent club.

In 1870 the Perun club obtained permission from the city to build an all-purpose hall for a school, gymnasium and theatre on land abutting Croton Street. At that time enthusiasm for building the first Czech cultural hall in Cleveland was so great among the membership that everyone made all efforts to assist with its construction, whether providing finances or offering day and night dedication to the building, such that the hall was built within that very same year, its opening marked with great fanfare by the attendance of all the local Czech clubs.

At that time the number of its members also rose past 80. Perun Club stood out as offering the following: a Czech school for which a special committee had been created, a physical education center directed by Sokol, the Thalie drama department and the Zvonař singing department. There were even discussions to set aside a reading room. All of these were set up under the strict supervision of the Perun club and made subject to its rules.

The passion of members hadn’t waned one bit, when a second Czech hall was built by Slovanská Lípa within a year. The drama productions, the Sokol productions and others of the time were ranked among the best and often received favorable write ups in national magazines.

In 1872 the Perun club organized a grandiose and very successful celebration in honor of Jan Hus, the procession following through the city and ending in the Lied's garden.

At the same time the land on which the hall stood, together with some of the immediate surroundings, was bought by the association from the city, setting a $100 share per member which led some members to quit and marked the beginning of Perun’s transformation from national association to business group. However the company failed to keep up repayments and lost all its property and assets in a court battle with the city in July of 1886, upon which the city converted the building into a fire station.

The Perun club deserved a better fate, having been founded in a noble spirit and worked in the support of Czech causes.

If any mistake occurred it was because of over-zealousness and enthusiasm, but the intentions were always good.

Most of the former Perun members shouldn’t feel ashamed of how things turned sour, after they supported the project so feverishly, full of fire and with all their abilities. After all, their hard work was without a thought for the profit, and their conscientiousness
was for a good, beautiful and noble cause. That the outcome was other than they originally hoped for was only the result of unfavorable and unforeseeable circumstances.

The fall of Perun turned out to be a real setback indeed, because it hindered the flourishing of cultural life for several years, wearing down the hearts of most free-thinking Czechs as their hope waned in matters concerning progress and free thought.

Those who had contributed to the club's downfall eventually realized the error in their ways and regretted their part for many years to come.

We can confidently say that without Perun's demise the cultural life of the free-thinking Czech community would have been much more developed than it is today.

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The Brotherhood (Spolek Bratřská Jednota)

The Brotherhood was formed in the western end of Cleveland in the hall of Václav Sprostý in 1869, for the purpose of supporting sick members. At that time it was formed of Czechs from all walks of life, regardless of their religious beliefs.

It did not take long for the new club to acquire a beautiful banner, round up some more members and accumulate enough funds to purchase land for the construction of its own hall. But construction never began because the members eventually came to realize that their fellowship offered little advantage in the future, as the prospering federation of Czech orders was gaining a leading position. With this in mind, the members of The Brotherhood decided to divide up the club's assets and dissolve the organization.

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Slovanská Lípa Amateur Drama Club
later changed to Budivoj Amateur Drama Club

When the Perun drama club had pulled away from Slovanská Lípa in 1867 the remaining members of Slovanská Lípa decided to set up a new drama club under the directorship of Karel Čermák. Following his death in February of 1861 this role was filled by V. Rychlík and the club continued successfully, accumulating an impressive wardrobe in a relatively short period of time, and purchasing new facilities by 1871. But this good progress was soon halted in 1873 by an inner revolt, restricting any performances on the new property, which forced the club to move the V. Rychlík's hall in the same year. For some time a reading club shared these new facilities with them until, in 1874, the remaining members chose to officially rename their club “Budivoj”.

The newly formed club has gradually reached its former level of activity, put together a new wardrobe and replaced other necessities, until it can now boast assets that few other Czech drama clubs dare to.

Budivoj, Order No. 50 of Č.S.P.S., also grew from these humble beginnings.

Over time the Budivoj drama club produced charitable plays in the aid of the National Theater in Prague, the Foundation Schools in Bohemia, the Prostějov schools,
those affected by flooding in Bohemia, for Montenegrins, towards the construction of the
Jan Hus Memorial in Prague, for the local National Hall and for other charitable deeds.

There wasn't a single Czech company the drama club would not be glad to help
out, and no doubt this will continue to be so.

The only thing we can hope for is that the younger generation will now carry the
flame and continue to put their hearts into this art form with all their might, so that Czech
theater can continue to flourish throughout the ages.

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Slovanstva Savings Bank

This esteemed organization was founded in 1867 at the residence of Fr. Novák. Once the Perun hall was built, the savings union moved into it, experiencing good
success, increasing its financial reserves and expanding its membership. The future appeared rosy indeed, but with the fall of the Perun club the Slovanstva (Slavic) Savings Bank experienced the same fate. This highly promising union eventually dissolved in 1876.

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Lumír Choir

The Lumír choir was founded in June of 1867 at the residence of J. Junger and under the directorship of A. J. Roch.

Its founding members were as follows:
A. J. Roch, Václav Rychlík, Hynek Švarc, Vojt. Svoboda, Frant. Macourek, Jan
Macourek, J. Strnad, Ant. Nový, Matěj Hošek and Ivan Bohutínský.

On July 4 of 1868 the Lumír choir made its first impressive public performance
during the celebrations of Slovanská Lípa joining with the Taborites.

In 1869, with a membership of 16, the Lumír choir organized a large outing in the
Lied's garden to which all local Czech clubs were invited, the choir using the proceeds to
furnish itself with a fine banner. Anna Vaňková willingly took it upon herself to sew all
the gold and silver, and the splendid banner was finally revealed on May 1, 1871 in a
celebration involving all the local Czechs in the hall of Fr. Novák.

In 1871 the choir organized an outing with a concert to Detroit, Mich., which was
warmly welcomed by the local Czechs there. It was performed in the forest of Mr.
Stejskal while directed by Fr. Bláha. With the good help of Detroit Czechs and good
equipment the performance turned out to be a great success.

During the early years, the members would organize private social events, such as
serenading at birthdays, name days or special celebrations of a member. Even in winter,
no matter how far away they lived, they always managed to collect in full attendance to
honour a member by singing outside his home.
Such a performance was always a welcomed surprise, after which the collective was invited inside to taste the liquid gold of the hops and let rip for the rest of the evening.

The Lumír choir would regularly practice every Wednesday, for several years, with every member longing for each gathering, missing out on practice only due to the most pressing matters.

At that time we were all in the same boat and felt the greatest camaraderie. Sometimes the Lumír choir would be without a choirmaster, or some of the stronger singers would move to another city, forcing the members to choose whether to give up or struggle on. But one way or another it would always turn out well.

In 1879 a female department of Lumír was created, which later became a mixed ensemble and celebrated its 25th anniversary jubilee in the hall of V. Rychlík in 1892.

Due to an unfortunate misunderstanding in the latter part of 1892, the choir members broke up into two camps, one remaining in the old location in the 17th ward, the other moving to the 24th ward. Štěpán Erst directed those who remained in the original location while Alfred Wiesenberg directed the new, mixed ensemble of Lumír.

Both choirs look forward to singing at every Czech event in Cleveland and have ample support from participating or contributing members. Let's just hope that the rift dividing them will one day be closed so that they could sing as one large collective, just as they did in the old days.

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Bell Founder Choir

The Bell Founder choir was formed in 1867 as a faction of the Perun choir, meeting in the hall of Fr. Novák. They moved to the Perun choir hall once that was built. In the beginning they focused on training youngsters and would cooperate with the Thalie drama club. Since the choir never performed on its own it eventually ended.

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Free Community Club

The Free Community Club (Svobodná Obec) was formed in 1868 at the residence of František Novák, with 37 members to start.

In 1872 the club published a magazine named Voice of the Free-Thinking Federation (Hlas Jednoty Svobodomyslných) under the management of Professor Ladim Klácel. A year later the club organized a wonderful event in Perun's hall, with their 42 dollars net profits dedicated to the professor.

The Free Community Club lasted until April 2, 1879, when it had changed its name to become the fifth order of Č.S.P.S. The club also adopted its new role of supporting members who fall ill or pass away.

The founding members of the Free Community Club were as follows:
Jan Veverka, Martin Polcar, Mat. Beneš, Vác. Beneš, Jan Polcar, Jos. Formánek, Jos. Prošek, Jos. Veverka, Jan Bejček, Karel Březina, Josef Habart, Jan Beneš, František Chaloupka, Anton Pik, Josef Žďára, A. Ouřada and Václav Landa. At the moment the order is not active but continues to exist in name.

Č.S.P.S. Order No. 10

This order was founded in 1880 at the residence of Jan Beznosk on Forest Street, from where it later moved to the hall of Slovanská Lípa. Back then it organized a great celebration of its new banner, to which it invited all Czech clubs, who either showed up in either full attendance or sent a stand-in representative. Once the ceremonies were over the dancing began and everyone had a great evening.

The order had promising beginnings but eventually found itself suffering financially, until it dissolved completely.

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Coffee Club

Some of our female Cleveland compatriots joked that they should found a friendly club where women could come to drown their domestic problems in a soothing cup of coffee, such a popular drink among women, and enjoy some carefree company.

The joke became a reality in 1869 when a small group of 25 Czechs, most of whom were fun-loving and humorous to begin with, gathered together.

The club gets together on birthdays, for special events of its members, or when an interesting Bohemian decides to grace our town with her presence.

The club has been run by Mrs. Fratinška Franke as its chairwoman, Františka Martinec as its vice-chairwoman, Marie Hájková as its secretary and Alžběta Miernírová as its treasurer for many years, showing what excellent organization these four have been responsible for.

Since its founding the club has had the misfortune of three of its key members passing away. Their graves are always each adorned with flowers on the special days of adornment.

One interesting quality of this club is that its entire existence has been free of any of the discord or disagreement which may seem common among our better halves.

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K.Č.L. Choir Number 1

The Circle of Czech People (Kruh Českého Lidu – K.Č.L.) Number 1 was formed in 1870 at the residence of Fr. Nováček and later moved to the Perun hall once its construction had been completed.

Around that time, the club sent out agents in order to form similar choirs in other cities and managed to so in Detroit, its fifth such organization.
The founding of similar clubs in Allegheny City, Baltimore and others failed to yield the desired results, which is why only numbers 1 and 5 remained.

The club organized its first event in Cleveland in 1872, when a large number gathered in Lied's garden.

Not only all the local Czech culture clubs were in attendance, but also all the members of K.Č.L. club no. 5 from Detroit, Mich., who were warmly housed among Cleveland's Czechs.

What gains such a visit contributed to the K.Č.L. club may not be known, but the two clubs remained for many years until, alas, the Detroit club grew into Havlíček Order No. 6 of Č.S.P.S.

In spite of such promising beginnings through, the K.Č.L. Choir Number 1 lasted only until 1878, when its assets were divided among its remaining members.

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Thalie Drama Club

This club was formed the same year as was Perun, in 1870, when the Perun hall was built to furnish a much desired pastime and provide the foundations of a close competition against Slovanská Lípa for years to come. The selfless dedication and enthusiasm of this ensemble had earned them a respectable reputation among the local population.

The Thalie drama club gradually compiled its own wardrobe, which it would use in the production the most difficult performances on stage. Since the Czech community in Cleveland was full of zeal for their cultural heritage, the club received much recognition and praise.

But times are constantly changing, and this praise and enthusiasm eventually faded, in spite of several attempts to stir up enthusiasm amongst apathy, until the club changed its name from Thalie to Luna.

The drama club continued to perform in the Perun hall for a few more years, then for a longer time at Slovanská Lípa, and even gave some superb performances after that in Rychlík's hall, marking its last production for good.

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Czechs of East Cleveland

The first Czechs began to populate this section of the city in around 1870, it is thought, when it was an independent community named East Cleveland Village.

The soil was not the most favorable as it was boggy and impossible to ride through after any decent amount of rain. Even so, more Czechs began to settle here because the land was cheap and enough work and earnings to go around.

Some of the first settlers were:
Josef Stehlík, František Tišler, František Kop, Jan Sojka, F. Procházka, František Horáček, Jan Beneš, Josef Řezniček, Jan Urbánek, Jos. Lupínek and others.
František Chaloupka was the first to try his luck at running a store. He was successful, popular among local compatriots, and his promising business combining a butcher shop with a pub proved truly worthy as time went by.

But events turned sour when both establishments burned down, and the financial crash of 1873 did not spare Chaloupka any more than it spared thousands of other companies. This was aggravated further by the fanatical agitations of the temperance movement, who were stirring up trouble with negative consequences for him. He held his ground but this only incited them further, until he found himself up in court against a ruthless lawyer, marking the beginning of his end.

His business declined while that of his competition increased, as other compatriots understood the wisdom of such varied trade, until he was finally forced to sell his holdings to Mr. F. Pajer. However, this led to the formation of the first Czech federation in East Cleveland, under the name of Přemysl, Order No. 18 of Č.S.P.S., in 1877.

On June 3 of the same year the order, with its 18 members, was wholeheartedly accepted into the federation. Fr. Pajer worked feverishly for the federation and was instrumental in helping the new order flourish. At present it has 83 members and boasts assets to the sum of $2,500.

A few months after this order’s founding the Ancient Foresters (Starobylých Lesníků) was established on the same Jan Hus court. This last organization has its roots in England and has also flourished successfully, its membership growing from 22 to 64 and its coffers now filled with $1,100 dollars in assets.

A year later Czech women entered the game by forming their own support group, and proved instrumental in the launch of Ladislav Choir No. 2 of J. Č. D., which became a part of this federation on August 4 of 1878. There were 26 female founding members, this membership growing to its present 62 with respectable assets. The Jan Kolár drama choir formed in 1885, has remained faithful to its task and now boasts a membership of 50.

In 1886 Pravdomil (Truthlover), Order No. 131 of Č.S.P.S. was formed with a membership of 26, this rising to the present 72 with coffers showing $1,500.

In 1889 the Jan Žižka Club No. 749 of the Equitable Aid Union was formed. Its membership currently stands at 55 and has assets amounting to $225.

In 1890 Lože Praha of R. an D. Cti was formed, its membership presently at 74 with assets totalling $650.

In 1891 Cleveland Order No. 26 of Č.S.B.P.J., with a present membership of 48 with assets amounting to $650 was formed.

Finally came the teaching club of Karel Havlíček Borovský, followed by the Czech Social-Democrat Union.

This concludes the list of free-thinking societies.

Our Catholic brothers certainly didn't remain idle either, founding a settlement in which it built St. Vojtěch church and a convent school of several grades. Its oldest club is St. Vojtěch, founded 15 years beforehand and now with 75 members. After that we have the St. Víť, St. Josef, Knights of St. Václav, St. Antonín and the Blue Collar Catholics clubs.

The women’s clubs were St. Alžbeta, St. Anna and Mother Marie, the St. Anežka Maiden Club and the Young Angel Club.
Father Malech presides over the community, brings joy to his flock and is well liked by all.

So in less than 25 years the Czech settlement in East Cleveland grew surprisingly quickly, established a host of charitable and philanthropic organizations while accumulating much in the way of assets, and respect from the Americans.

Our compatriots have been involved in all levels of commerce, from speculating on the property market to other forms of business. They have tailors, butchers, clothing manufacturers, shoe manufacturers, furniture makers, physicians, and certainly their share of pub owners. Not to mention the host of builders who performed so well gathered together. The entire population of Czechs in this part of the city ranges between four and five thousand.

Compiled by F. Hrubecký

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Vlasta Female Choir


The choir gathered at the residence of A. Jeungling on Case Ave. but moved to the Perun hall once that was built.

On July 4 of the same year a general meeting was held in the new hall and the following committee elected:

Josefa Beneš as chairwoman, Marie Kulas as vice-chairwoman, Anna Kalina as secretary, Anna Juengling Sr. as treasurer and Josefa Veverka as supervisor.

The purpose of the Vlasta Femal Choir (Dámský Sbor Vlasta) is education and mutual support. Any Czech woman who agrees with the choir's statues and is willing to attend its meetings and lectures is able to join, provided she agrees to defend and maintain the choir's good name and honor.

The choir, which was formed at the start of 1870 for educational purposes, later ceased its operations but, mostly due to the efforts of J. Bejček and M. Strnad, renewed its activities on February 17 of 1878 under the name of Vlasta First Female Choir (První Dámský Sbor Vlasta), its 22 members once again undertaking the obligation to support one another in case of misfortune or illness.

On that day a general meeting of the choir prepared new statutes and the introduction below, which was received with enthusiasm:

“Like any other good and noble thought, the passing of time has enabled the bringing together of certain individuals to form a broader group intent on enacting noble thoughts from the same impetus that brought together these Bohemian women, not only to faithfully defend those principles in their hearts,
... but also so that the good name of Bohemia and their own dignity and noble character would not fade away overseas. It was their purpose to work together towards the common good, a positive force that we are so greatly in need of these days. It is to fulfill these established statutes that the Vlasta Female Choir was formed.”

After the statutes were completed the meeting elected officials for the next six months, as follows.

Aloisie Smečenská as chairwoman, Františka Páv as vice-chairwoman, Albína Šnajdr as secretary, Františka Franke as treasurer, Dora Todl and Matilda Malá as supervisors.

This hereby concluded the joining of many Bohemian women into a single collective which continues its good works today.

The Club's Financial Report

Total revenues $4,024.66
Total expenditures $2,952.89
Sickness benefits $1,550.35
Death benefits (9 members in all) $450.00
For charitable purposes $189.87
Donation to Prof. Lad. Klácel $36.77
Donation to the Prague National Theater $10.00
Donation to Czech school $10.00
Donation to Chic. Club $10.00
Donation to the Cleveland Cultural Hall $55.80

List of assets:

In savings account on July 31, 1894 $1,172.25
Remaining in cash $10.73
Real estate property $50.00

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Total assets $1,232.98

At the moment the club is run by the following committee:

Kateřina Hoffman as chairwoman, Antonie Šínágl as vice-chairwoman, Josefa Mareš as secretary, Františka Doering as accountant, Marie Vokoun as treasurer, Marie Smišek as supervisor, Rosalie Chrášťanský and Karolina Moravec over committee of assets <in charge of committee of assets?>.

The fact that the Vlasta club enjoys favor among Czech is best proved by its rapid growth over the years, its membership presently:

M. Strnad, Alžb. Malínský, Anna Marek, Dora Todl, Františka Páv, Františka Franke, Josefa Kejček, Anna Vobořil, Josefa Sýkora, Paulina Vopalečky, Anna Kužel, Marie Veverka, Žofie Vrbský, Krist Zvěřina, Kateřina Havliček, Františka Šimek, Marie Nessy, Anna Juengling, Marie Piek, Fr. Aubrecht, M. Plent, M. Vokoun, A. Mudroch, M.
This report has been prepared by

Kateřina Hoffman Josefa Mareš
Chairwoman Secretary

Federation of Czech Women

The Federation of Czech Women is one of the most renowned Czech organizations in all of North America, its efforts reaching deep into community life. This is testified to not only by the size of its membership but by the scope of its good public works.

Such organizations began to form when Czech-American women realized that they could do good works outside of their family responsibilities and contribute to the cultural and social life, and when they realized they had the strength and courage to form a federation of equal strength to that of the men.

Cleveland, Ohio, is one of the cities in which these ideals were first put into practice, when on September 25 of 1870 several patriotic Czech women met to determine whether it was possible to establish a female body with similar principles to the existing Czech clubs.

After good counsel the suggestion won approval and the first such female federation was formed, under the name of Libuše.

For many years this club worked for the social and cultural good while its tireless officials did all they could to found similar clubs in neighboring Czech communities.

But such endeavors had their own hurdles, mostly in the form of the preconceptions of some less aware compatriots who argued that women should focus their energies strictly at home.

Yet no matter how stretched their energies, these Czech women, headed by Kar. Rychlíková, supported by her husband, Václav, and Antonie Mallý, did not rest until they succeeded in forming a second female club on June 9, 1878, in the eastern part of Cleveland, naming it Ladislava.
This paved the way for the formation of the North American Federation of Czech Women (Jednoty Českých Dam v Soustátí Severní Ameriky), making Libuše Order No. 1 and Ladislava Order No. 2.

The noble intentions of our founding sisters can now be best portrayed by the federation's massive expansion, the organization now established in all states of our new country, and its charitable deeds.

The federation was built from powerful Czech sources to support the education of youth in the Czech language and to provide support of its members through illness and death benefits.

The federation accepts women between the ages of 18 and 45 who are healthy and of good moral character (regardless of religious background) and can afford a registration fee of at least $2.

Its organizational structure is as follows:
1. Central Committee as the federation's head.
2. State Grand Committee, departments subordinate to the federation.
3. The individual orders and the fundamental core of the federation.

J. Č. D. Central Committee

Based on the mutual interests of Libuše, Order No. 1 and Ladislava, Order No. 2 of the Federation of Czech Women, a central committee was set up to legalize all matters of the federation.

Its first officials were as follows:
Libuše's Karolina Rychlíková as chairwoman, from the same order Anntonie Mallý as secretary, Ladislava's Kat. Urbánková as treasurer and Libuše's Marie Vaňková as supervisor, with Libuše's Josefa Kolářova and Ladislava's Antone Váchová as representatives.

The central committee is the federation's primary managerial body, and is the highest legal power during their annual meetings made up of one representative from each of the J.Č.D. (federation) orders, with one vote for every 20 members in that representative's order.

The following lists the central committee's responsibilities:
To manage a full list of all J.Č.D. accepted, expelled, withdrawn and rejected members.
To send a report of these records after each semi-annual meeting to all sister orders.
To report any deaths to all J.Č.D. orders with the portion they are to pay and who they are to send the sum to.

Approves the founding of new sister orders provided their membership is comprised of at least twelve proper, healthy Czech women in good condition and that they pay a $10 registration fee.
Each order shall pay a quarterly fee of two cents per membership head to help cover expenses of the central committee.
It did not take long for the federation to set up orders in Alleghen and Detroit, launching its much hoped-for growth, aided further by reports of it in the Czech press which began to circulate.

In time a proposal was put forward for an amendment to the federation's statutes, for which reason a meeting was summoned in Cleveland, Ohio in 1880, where representatives of the now eight orders had gathered.

The meeting elected the following officials for the next period:
Karolina Rychlíková as chairwoman, Františka Martincová as secretary and A. Váchová as accountant.

The next meeting was held two years later in Chicago, Ill., by which time the federation had grown to 21 orders.

That meeting voted to increase death benefits to $250 to be divided among all the members.</na rozpocet vsech udkyn >.

The following meeting was to be held four years later in St. Louis, Mo.

For this next period the following officials were elected:
Františka Martincová as chairwoman, Karolina Rychlíková as secretary and Antonie Mallý as accountant.

The third meeting took place in 1886 in St. Louis, Mo., at which time the death payments were increased to $300.

The next meeting was to be held four years hence in New York, until which time the following officials were elected:
Marie Rokůsková as chairwoman, K. Rychlíková as secretary, Fr. Martincová as accountant, who stepped down in 1887 to be replaced by Antonie Mallý.

At that time Mr. Jan Vaněk, scribe <příručí pisaře = clerk's assistant> for the city of Cleveland, was asked make a drawing for the Federation of Czech Women diploma. Vaněk was happy to oblige and worked on the drawing with faithful diligence, for which the federation is grateful to this day.

The fourth meeting took place in 1890 in the city of New York, with representatives from 42 orders in attendance and at which it was decided to increase the death benefits to $400.

Until this meeting, the central committee's main office was located in Cleveland, Ohio, but it now moved to New York, where it has successfully operated until the present.

J.Č.D. Grand Committee for the State of Ohio

The Grand Committee of Ohio is located in the city of Cleveland and was founded on January 14, 1890, when the decision was being made whether to move the central committee of the J.Č.D. to another state.

The Grand Committee is the highest official body presiding over all J.Č.D. orders within its own state, collecting all fees and quarterly reports from them, which they then forward to their designated place.

On receiving news of any member deaths in its own state, the Grand Committee immediately informs the central committee and informs its state orders once it has received the death benefit.
Its first officials were as follows:
Františka Franke as chairwoman, Antonie Metlička as deputy, Marie Hájek as secretary, Arnoštýna Bubák as accountant, Anna Bácha as treasurer, B. Pauch as supervisor, while the accounting committee was made up of A. Stádník, M. Jirouch and J. Bečvář.

The Grand Committee presides over the following orders:
Libuše No. 1., Ladislava No. 2., Vratislava No. 6., Vlastimila No. 9., Blahomila No. 16., Lidumila No. 21., Eliška Pešková No. 30., Františka Stránecká No. 31., Renata Tyršová No. 37., Vlastenka (Female Patriot) No. 42., Dobromila No. 45., Pravda (The Truth) No. 59. and Anna Sázavská No. 61.

At present, in 1895, the officials are as follows:
Retired chairwoman Fr. Franke, chairwoman Antonie Mallý, deputy Barbora Hrubecký, secretary Marie Hájek, accountant Arnoštýna Bubák, treasurer Math. Škala and supervisor Marie Tichá, with the accounting committee comprised of: Fr. Dostal, Anna Fanta and Marie Kušta.

J.Č.D. Libuše, Order No. 1

On the 25th of September, 1870 and by invitation of Fantiška Franke and Karolina Rychlíková, several Cleveland patriots gathered together to form a club of women to cooperate with the different cultural organizations that existed. Twelve Czech women gathered for this meeting and decided to name the new club Libuše, after the famous Czech priest.

The new club grew quite rapidly and soon organized its first banquet with prizes, pulling in profits of $475 which it donated to the construction of the Slovanská Lípa Czech culture hall.

Being encouraged by the first enterprise's success, the Libuše club increased its activity, both through participation in other national enterprises and by contributing hard cash. <MK: uuf, the style...>

While the Slovanská Lípa hall was being built this club moved there on the condition that half of all its earnings from organized events would go to Slovanská Lípa and the remainder to its own coffers. All went well until 1872 when a misunderstanding between members of Slovanská Lípa and Libuše, which was comprised mostly of the wives and daughters of Slovanská Lípa members. The inequality became increasingly exhausting to the point that a faction of the club broke away, with the remaining members not allowing them any further use of the hall.

Until 1873 the Libuše order was forced to hold its meetings in the private residences of its members, after which it moved into the hall of V. Rychlík where it would undertake cultural and charitable works and support its members if sick, or their families in the event of their death.
The next time measures were taken to start a female club was on May 26 of 1878 when the Ladislava club agreed to join the organization as order number two of the Federation of Czech Women (Jednota Českých Dam – make sure is above somewhere).

At that time the federation received greetings from a Mrs. Nápřestková of Prague, where she stated that she was thinking of visiting America. In response the Libuše order declared her an honorary member and said she was welcome to take part in any of their meetings.

Besides the various charitable works the Libuše order undertook with great sacrifice, it donated $5 to the making of an American silk banner for the formation of Budivoj, Order No. 50 of Č.S.P.S. Today the Libuše order can take pride in its material and moral success.

In December of 1894 the following officials were elected:

Tekla Petráš as chairwoman, Antonie Ileroldová also as vice-chairwoman, Kat. Hofmanová as deputy, Ant. Mallý as secretary, Marie Hájek as accountant, Karolina Rychlíková as treasurer and Majd. Horáková as supervisor, asset committee comprised of M. Vokounová, Marie Gotterba, Marie Macourek, Antonie Koch and Marie Pivalová.

Libuše asset statement:
Total revenues up to 1893 $8,710.74
Expenses:
Cultural and charitable purposes $397.24
Illness benefits $1,260.50
Death benefits $3,009.36
Various $902.01

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Total $5,569.11
Remaining assets $3,141.63
Total membership 121

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Ladislava, Order No. 2

The female club of Ladislava, Order No. 2 of J.Č.D. was formed on the eastern side of Cleveland on June 9, 1878 in the hall of F. Polák on Garden Street. Its founding members numbered 17 and it was incorporated into the Federation of Czech Women on August 4, 1878.

It first officials were as follows:

Antonie Váchová as chairwoman, Anna Urbánková as deputy, Eleon. Dvořáková as secretary, Johana Poláková as accountant, Marie Hejduková as treasurer and Kat. Urbánková as supervisor, with Kat. Zemanová acting as the asset committee.

The Ladislava order trains its members by emphasizing the joining together of Czech speaking female sisters, unites and educates by giving informative and scientific lectures, provides moral and material support to its members, teaches youngsters in the Czech language and supports cultural events to whatever degree it can.
The elected officials in 1893 were:
Marie Jilková as chairwoman, Kat. Marešová as deputy, Žofie Marešová as secretary, Marie Hejduková as accountant, M. Hauzerová as treasurer and Marie Vagnerová as supervisor, with Františka Lukešová, Kateřina Mžiková and Marie Heduková acting on the asset committee.

Asset statement:
Total revenues up to 1893 $3,118.67
Expenditures:
Support to sisters fallen ill $321.85
Donations to Czech Sunday schools and cultural events $99.48
Death benefit payouts and club costs $1,979.38
------------
Total $2,391.61
Total membership 71

Vratislava, Order No. 6 of J.Č.D.

Vratislava, Order No. 6 of J.Č.D. was formed by 18 founding members in the western part of Cleveland on April 6, 1879, incorporated into the federation on May 11, 1879.

The acting committee was as follows:
Aloisie Spröstá as chairwoman, Josefa Gottherová as deputy, Marie Hoenigová as secretary as Josefa Vondráková as treasurer, with Karolina Hnátková presiding over the illness committee.

The Vratislava order celebrated its incorporation into the federation by organizing a ball on June 2 in the hall of Václav Sprostý. It invited Žižka, Order No. 9 of Č.S.P.S., the orders of J.Č.D. and the Vlastenka club to a fantastic evening. "Lodges" can be occasionally used throughout.

The order held its first meeting in January of 1880 in the hall of Václav Sprostý, from where it later moved to the hall of Mr. Bergholtz, then to the hall of Jan Bejčka six months later, where it has remained until today.

The order took part in all cultural events such as those in benefit of the Prague National Theater's construction or Foundation Schools and local Sunday schools.

The order gave a special donation of $72 for the making of a Golden Prague (Zlatá Praha) Sokola banner.

In 1893 the committee was made up of the following elected officials:
Josefa Bejčková as the ex-chairwoman, Terezie Čermáklová as the chairwoman, Barbora Kašparová as the deputy, Kateřina Slapničková as the secretary, Kat. Beránková as the accountant, Marie Sprostá as the treasurer and Anna Kotrčová as the supervisor, with the asset committee made up of Josefa Jiravová, Marie Drdová, Kateřina Pekařová, Marie Macháčková and Anna Nedělová.
Total revenues up to the end of 1893 $7,233.87
Total expenditures $5,435.35
-------------
Remaining club assets $1,799.52
Total membership 89

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Vlastimila, Order No. 9 of J.Č.D.

From 1870 until 1879 this club was named Libuše u Slovanské Lípy as a separate club until it was incorporated into the Federation of Czech Women as Vlastimila Order No. 9.

At that time its membership totaled 48 and it controlled accumulated assets of $353.67.

When the club was incorporated into the J.Č.D. the committee was comprised of the following:

Marie Matějová as the ex-chairwoman, Veronika Srpowá as the chairwoman, Anna Skalová as the deputy, Marie Sluková as the secretary, Marie Marková as the accountant, Anna Máchová as the treasurer, Anna Šebková acting as the asset committee, Alžběta Hvězdová as the supervisor and the property committee made up of M. Sikstová and A. Metličková.

In the beginning the club served mostly to support the Slovanská Lípa order but later added to that role the purpose of offering help to those members fallen ill.

Once the order had become independently incorporated into the Federation of Czech Women it adopted all of its principles of charitable deeds and donations.

In 1894 the committee was made up of the following members:

Josefa Mudrová as the ex-chairwoman, Antonie Šináková as the chairwoman, Terezie Haasová as the deputy, Anna Šáchová as the secretary, Marie Žáková as the accountant, Josefa Votavová as the treasurer, Barbora Kulišová as the supervisor, A. Kiriánová acting as the asset committee, and Anna Musilová and Anna Marshová <what are their roles?>.

Total revenues up to the end of 1894 $6,559.91
Expenditures:
Support to sisters fallen ill $1,089.00
Death benefits $2,217.32
Various expenses $1,952.98
Emergency support $137.00
Cultural support $87.84
Blahomila, Order No. 16 of J.Č.D.

A female Czech club was formed at the start of 1880 in the 24th ward, back then the 14th, for the purpose of helping humanity, supporting the Czech language and, if possible, supporting other members financially. The order grew very quickly until, with a membership of 29, it considered joining the Federation of Czech Women.

This possibility soon became a reality and the Blahomila club became Order No. 16 of J.Č.D.

In 1881 the order grew substantially with the joining of the Vlasta club, which had been an independent club since 1877 but now benefitted by joining the sister federation.

The presiding committee was comprised of:
A. Záveská as the chairwoman, M. Jarešová as the deputy, Jos. Šandová as the secretary, Anna Klipcová as the accountant, B. Tyburcová as the treasurer and Barbora Baxová as the supervisor.

One member died that year, but since she had not yet become eligible to receive death benefits, her family collected donations totaling $116.25 among the local J.Č.D. orders. The order contributed an additional $25 for burial costs.

The club's coffers covered not only legally required fees but also went towards charitable deeds here and in Bohemia.

In 1893 the elected officials were as follows:
Ant. Metličková as ex-chairwoman, Albína Černá as chairwoman, Kar. Davidová as deputy, Auna Stádníková as secretary, M. Robejšková as accountant, M. Škálová as the treasurer and K. Šturcová as the supervisor.

Total revenues $7,079.30
Expenditures:
For charitable deeds here and in Bohemia $302.00
Illness benefits to members $980.50
Death benefits $2,103.99
Club costs $2,638.74

Total $6,025.23
Remaining assets $1,054.07
Total membership 101
Lidumila, Order No. 21 of J.Č.D.

When Czechs first started to settle the newly built Warren, Solon and Trumbull Streets, previously farmland, the newly arrived wives sought out a friendly group where they could meet with others on Sundays and speak of womanly concerns and entertain themselves.

Such a thought was also supported by many men and it did not take long before a group of 43 members formed in the hall of Václav Proška on the corner of Solon and Trumbull Streets, calling themselves first the Ludmila club but changing it to Lidumila once they joined the J.Č.D.

The club was incorporated into the sister federation on June 5 of 1881, when the following officials were elected:

- Kateřina Janoušková as chairwoman,
- Antonie Humpálová as deputy,
- Karolina Šindelářová as secretary,
- Anna Riehtrová as accountant,
- Anna Prošková as treasurer and
- Kateřina Hofmanová as supervisor, with Alžběta Trojanová and Marie Kratochvilová making up the asset committee.

With united and vigilant dealings the club managed to overcome all obstacles thrown at it and continues successfully from where it started.

The following were the elected officials in 1894:

- Karolina Šindelářová as ex-chairwoman,
- Františka Dostálová as chairwoman,
- Ludmila Majerová as deputy,
- Arnoštýna Bubáková as secretary,
- Marie Bicánová as the accountant,
- Antonie Humpálová as the treasurer and
- Kat. Protivová as the supervisor,

with the asset committee made up of Marie Hořejšová, Anna Texlerová, Karolina Mžiková, M. Metličková and Anna Růžičková.

Total revenues $5,560.49
Expenditures:
- Support to sisters fallen ill $1,117.75
- Death benefits $2,275.38
- Cultural support $99.72
- Club costs $1,172.40

Total $4,665.25

Tangible and intangible assets totaling $1,074.63
Total membership 109

Eliška Pešková, Order No. 30 of J.Č.D.

Twenty members, mostly comprising those who had left the Vratislava order, formed Order No. 6 of J.Č.D., upon its official incorporation on February 13 of 1886.

Its first meeting chose to name the club Eliška Pešková in recognition of the witty writer back home.
The club gathers in the hall of Josef Pintner on Clark Ave. Its first elected officials were as follows:

Anna Kolbová as ex-chairwoman, Anna Humlová as chairwoman, Anna Juenglingová as secretary, Markéta Červenková as the accountant, M Vaňková as the treasurer, Marie Kozelková as the deputy and Marie Hulcová as the supervisor, with the asset committee made up of Anna Lukavská, Kateřina Hanslíková and Anna Kočárová.

The existing committee is made up of:

Markéta Červenková as ex-chairwoman, Anna Krejčová as chairwoman, Kateřina Hánová as deputy, Louisa Sakrydová as secretary, Marie Maříková as accountant, Kateřina Pintnerová as treasurer and Kateřina Hanslíková as supervisor, with the asset committee made up of Anna Lukavská, A. Styndlová and F. Koránová.

Over time the Eliška Pešková order grew to 49 members and received favor and recognition from the general public due to its deeds, both within its own organization and as regards its charitable activities elsewhere.

For these reasons the club can look forward to a promising future, helping not only its own members, but supporting the wider Czech cause in America and back home.

Total revenues up to 1893 $2,743.68
Expenditures:
Support to sisters fallen ill $289.50
Death benefits $852.70
For educational, cultural and charitable purposes $56.85
Cash in hand $345.64
Total membership 49

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Františka Stránecká, Order No. 31 of J.Č.D.

Sisters Anna Vágnerová and Petronella Davidová, as founders of this club, set out to support equality, perform charitable deeds and edify the reputation of Czech-American women to prove that even Czech women are able to contribute to enlightenment.

The club named itself in honor of the writer Františka Stránecká, as she was an excellent storyteller and a shining example of humanity and morality.

Františka Stránecká earned herself a well-respected name in Czech literature.

The club was incorporated into the federation on March 27 of 1886 by the central committee of J.Č.D.

The following were elected into the committee:

Petr. Davidová as chairwoman, Barb Sojková as deputy, Johana Sojková as secretary, Anna Mazáčová as accountant, Anna Oudráčková as treasurer and Marie Cimprichová as supervisor, with the asset committee made up of Anna Šídlová, Anna Jílková and Marie Fingulínová.

In gratitude at the club’s founding, the chairwoman, P. Davidová, gave a beautifully sewn ribbon to the club’s founder, Anna Vágnerová, who later reciprocated by donating a portrait of Františka Stránecký to the club, who were very grateful for the gift.
To celebrate the founding a ball was held on April 16 of 1888, with great success. Similar to a ball held in 1892.

In 1894 the following committee was elected:
Anna Mazáčová as chairwoman, Anna Krejčičková as deputy, Anna Kolářová as secretary, Anna Vágnerová as accountant, Marie Fingulínová as treasurer and Kat. Kroftová as supervisor, with the asset committee made up of Barbora Chvátalová, Marie Humlová, Barbora Horaž dovská and Anna Vlasáková.

Total revenues up to 1894 $4,337.20
Expenditures:
Support to sisters fallen ill $295.00
For charitable purposes $6,925.00
Death benefits $1,163.45

Total membership 71

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Renata Tyršová, Order No. 37 of J.Č.D.

At the start of 1888, when the Federation of Czech Women enjoyed great popularity among socially conscious Czech women and began to rapidly expand, the thought surfaced of whether to form a club in the 25th ward, because that is where most of the Czechs were, yet it lacked any female representation.

Arnoštá Bubáková and Anna Pejšlová are responsible for the order's founding. Soon enough members were brought together, who voted to name the club Renata Tyršova.

The club was founded at the residence of Václav Holeček on Homewood Street. Its first elected officials were as follows:

Anna Rybáková as chairwoman, Anna Ilulešová as deputy, Marie Prošková as secretary, Anna Štěpánová as the accountant, Anna Budařová as the treasurer and Anna Holečková as the supervisor, with the asset committee comprised of Anna Koenigsmarková, Josefa Kolářová, Josefa Beznosková and Marie Brastainová.

There were 19 founding members in all, and besides the usual principles, the club was particularly dedicated to teaching children in the Czech language.

If love is the lifeforce of the Czech language, pulsing through all its veins, friendship is a beautiful blossom, pleasing to the eye and cheering by its aroma, and when the fruit ripens, it feeds the hunger of the human spirit. <Zakládajících členek bylo 19. Kromě úkolů, které si spolek dal za cíl, ženy kladly důraz nato, aby české děti se vzdělávaly v českém jazyce a byly tak všem příkladem. Když pak lásku k českému jazyku koluje v žilách jako míza v rostlinách, pak přátelství je jako květ, kterým se potěší smysly - oči krásou a čich vůní - a ovoce nakonec nasytí duši.>

The elected officials in 1894 were:
Josefa Bečvářová as ex-chairwoman, Anna Rybáková as chairwoman, Anna Rybáková as deputy, Anna Králová as secretary, Veronika Čermáková as the accountant,
Marie Štíbrová as the treasurer and Anna Lormauová as the supervisor, while the asset committee made up of Josefa Máchová, Josefa Prošková, Anna Budařová and Stázi Kuchařová.

Total revenues up to 1893  $1,604.63

Expenditures:
Support to brothers fallen ill  $102.50
Death benefits  $484.41
Fees per head  $25.44
Various  $633.48

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Total  $1,275.83

Total assets  $328.77
Total membership  48

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Vlastenka, Order No. 42 of J.Č.D.
in Bellaire, Ohio

When in 1889 a male club under the name of Lech, Order No. 160 of Č. S.P.S. was founded in our little town of Bellaire, Ohio, the notion was put forward as to whether to form a similar, sister organization.

Private meetings were soon set up to give ourselves a chance to learn something of the principles and advantages the Federation of Czech Women might offer.

Our task would have dragged out much longer had not some brothers of Č. S.P.S. offered their advice, and their help has definitely speeded up our incorporation into the mighty Federation of Czech Women.

We decided to call ourselves the Vlastenka (Female Patriot) club, to constantly remind us to always remain shining examples of our dear motherland, to stand by her through thick and thin, and to remind us that we sisters can contribute to the success and flowering or our culture as much, or even more so, than the men. After all, aren't future generations almost entirely in the hands of women? We say yes!

Every family knows that it is the mother who is most responsible for the upbringing of her children. It is in these responsibilities that we can see the character of a mother and female patriot.

The club was incorporated into the Federation on February 23, 1890 by 15 founding members. It was agreed that the club would have its meetings at the residence of Jakub Zdvořáček, where the following officials were elected:

Alžběta Němcová as chairwoman, Jos. Petránová as deputy, Marie Paulová as secretary, Albína Sklenářová as accountant, Marie Ivoterová as treasurer and Marie Burdová as supervisor.
The club organized two balls in 1891, both of which were successful. Because we lack the resources for special education, we make certain that all of us are of healthy and of a sensible, free-thinking character, and our efforts are crowned with success.

In 1893 the elected officials were as follows:
Albína Sklenářová as chairwoman, Ver. Švambergová as deputy, Marie Zdvořáčková as secretary, Marie Paulová as accountant, Marie Šlancová as treasurer and Fr. Brémová as supervisor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total revenues up to 1893</th>
<th>$604.32</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to sisters fallen ill</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
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<td>Death benefits</td>
<td>$248.25</td>
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<td>Various</td>
<td>$119.58</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>$192.06</td>
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</table>

Total assets $192.06
Total membership 26

Dobromila, Order No. 46 of J.Č.D. in Bridgeport, Ohio

We formed this club to help maintain our Czech culture in this new country of ours, by nurturing a love for our language in our children. We also wanted to provide a platform to support one another in the event of a member falling ill or passing away, to look after children of a deceased member, and to work for the good of humankind.

The club was incorporated into the Federation of Czech Women on November 1890 with a total of 26 members.

The clubs first officials were as follows:
Marie Charvátová as chairwoman, Anna Beránková as deputy, M. Andrlová as secretary, Josefa Hrabáková as accountant, Marie Cíglerová as treasurer and Terezie Humlová as supervisor.

The club organized a successful ball in the same year.

In 1893 the elected officials were as follows:
Anna Beránková as chairwoman, Anna Horová as deputy, Anna Červenková as secretary, Josefa Hrabáková as accountant, Kateřina Beránková as treasurer and Anna Ivučerivá as supervisor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total revenues up to 1893</th>
<th>$750.93</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Expenditures:</td>
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<td>Death benefits</td>
<td>$311.07</td>
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<td>Support of ill members</td>
<td>$44.00</td>
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<td>Charitable purposes</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
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Remaining expenses $72.62  
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Total $449.60

Total assets $301.24
Total membership 36

< file 73, page 128
Pravda, Order No. 59 of J.Č.D.

</ file 73, page 128
Pravda, Order No. 59 of J.Č.D.

Through the good intentions of Sisters Antonie Váchová, Josefa Ptáčková and Františka Urbánková our club was founded on March 13, 1893. By their invitation 30 fellow female compatriots gathered at the residence of Josefa Ptáčková to discuss the matter of forming a J.Č.D. order.

The meeting was led by Antonie Váchová, who explained the main principles of J.Č.D. and who proposed that the new order by named Pravda (The Truth), which everyone present agreed to, since the word carries such great significance and does not permit any injustice wherever it exercises influence. The club chose this as its name so that it would always serve as a guide to each of its members while reminding us of Jan Hus's famous words: “Let truth conquer”.

Pravda, Order No. 59 was incorporated into the Federation of Czech Women on May 15 of 1893 by the Grand Committee of Ohio.

The elected officials were publicly assigned their posts as follows: Josefa Ptáčková as the ex-chairwoman, Antonie Váchová as chairwoman, Barbora Hrubecká as deputy, Františka Ubánková as secretary, Marie Hanketová as accountant, Josefa Zborníková as treasurer and Augusta Nová as supervisor, with the asset committee made up of Anna Rottová, Alžbeta Klímová and Marie Holečková.

Upon completion of the ceremonies the chairwoman of the Grand Committee gave an excellent speech to the new order, to which its chairwoman gave a suitable response and the festivities began, the earnings of which added $60 to the coffers.

The order now has a total membership of 51.

Total revenues were $263.92
Expenditures:
Death benefits $75.84
Other expenditures $46.15
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Total $121.99
Cash remaining $141.93

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Anna Sázavská, Order No. 61 of J.Č.D.
In 1893 Marie Hájová of Libuše, Order No. 1 and Arnošta Bubákové of Lidumila, Order No. 21 were informed that many free-thinking women were considering forming a new club which would be a part of the growing Federation of Czech Women here in Cleveland. These two compatriots threw themselves into making this thought a reality by forming just such a club for healthy and politically aware Czech women, which met with great success since they managed to put together 25 members, who gathered to discuss the matter in the hall of Vincence Sýkora at 42 Nursery Street.

At this meeting the club voted to call itself Anna Sázavská J.Č.D. and submitted a request to become a part of the federation, which accepted them gratefully, the club officially incorporated into the Federation of Czech Women on June 18 of 1893.

The following officials were elected:

Josefa Žikešová as ex-chairwoman, Josefa Vetešníková as chairwoman, Josefa Čermáková as deputy, Josefa Kuchařová as secretary, Barbora Vančatová as accountant, Marie Kubrnová as treasurer and Kateřina Marešová as supervisor, with the asset committee made up of Barbora Večerková, Barbora Štípková and V. Janečková.

Once the officials had been appointed, the atmosphere became more relaxed and everyone eventually found their way home.

The total cash sum accumulated from membership fees and from a donation of $5 from Mr. Dra. Sýkora amounted to $116.76, of which the following sums were expended:

- Death benefits $31.03
- Fees per head $1.14
- Remaining club expenses $33.25

Total $65.42

Remainder at the end of 1893 $51.34

In 1894 many of the same officials were elected, with the exception of the treasurer role, which went to Marie Švarcová, while Barbora Bastýřová replaced V. Janečková on the asset committee.

The club's established principles and its very name have given direction to the good work and charitable enterprises of its sisters.

The club's founders, Marie Hájková and Arnošta Bubáková, donated a life-sized painting of the famous writer Anna Sázavská.

Sister and accountant Barbora Vančatová donated beautiful insignias for the elected officials and sister Josefa Žikešová donated a beautiful carpet, which were all gratefully received by all members.

Over a period of nine months the club received five new members, bringing up the total membership to 30 well-standing compatriots.

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Láska k Vlasti, Order No. 1 of the Sister Support Federation
The Láska k Vlasti (Love for One's Homeland) club was founded on January 19 of 1890 at the residence of Mr. František Dukát in the western part of Cleveland, and acted as a support organization in times of illness and death.

Its founding members were as follows:
Terezie Mlčkovská, Barbora Kotápišová, Marie Svobodová, Anna Fridlová and Josefa Zítková.

The club also laid the first cornerstone of the Sister Support Federation (Sesterské podporující Jednota).

Its elected committee is comprised of the following:

Josefa Ryantová as chairwoman, Marie Simáková as vice-chairwoman, Marie Tomšíková as secretary, Marie Nová as accountant and Barbora Řeřichová as treasurer.

The group gathers every second Sunday.

Donated for different purposes $23.50
Total assets at present $625.39

Number of founding members 34
Number of new members 63

Josefa Ryantová
Chairwoman

Marie Tomšíková
Secretary

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Věrné Sestry, Order No. 2 of S.P.J.

On the suggestion of Cecilie Koubková, several women met at the residence of Mr. Kodšmída on Forest Street to form a female club.

They voted to name their group Věrné Sestry (Faithful Sisters), Order No. 2 of the Sister Support Federation, whose purpose is to provide financial support at times of illness or death.

The proposed and elected officials were as follows:
Cecilie Koubková as chairwoman, Johanna Kučerová as secretary and Josefa Kuchařová as accountant.

The following founding members paid the registration fee of 50 cents:
Cecilie Koubková, Marie Kroupová, Františka Kodšmídová, Kateřina Dvořáková, Johanna Kučerová and Josefa Kuchařová. This earned total funds of 3 dollars and it was decided to hold the next meeting on March 27, 1892.

The following officials were elected:
Josefa Vetešníková as chairwoman, Marie Macákovi as ex-chairwoman, Veronika Štechová as deputy, Anežka Mallá as secretary, Juliana Žahourová as accountant and Kateřina Camingsová as treasurer, with the asset committee made up of Kateřina Forejtová, Anna Pecková and Barbora Mašková, while Antonie Kliková served as the conductor and Marie Křížková as the supervisor. Josefě Vetešníková, Veronika Štechova,
Juliana Žahourová and Anna Česká acted as representatives in the central committee. The present acting officials are as follows:

Josefa Vetešníková as chairwoman, Veroniká Štechová as vice-chairwoman, Anežka Mallá as secretary, Juliana Žahourová as accountant, Marie Babáková as treasurer, Marie Křížková as conductor and Kateřina Dvořáková as guard, with the asset committee made up of Kateřina Forejtová, Kateřina Camingsová and Johanna Kučerová.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total assets in cash</th>
<th>$118.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total property held</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$168.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of members is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New members</th>
<th>45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Founding</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The club always enjoys a private party after each new election of its officials. Whenever a member passes away, twelve members in three vehicles adorned with emblems always appear at the funeral. The club always gathers on the first Sunday of every month.

Libuše, Order No. 3 of S.P.J.

On January 26 of 1890 the all-female club of Libuše, Order No. 3 of S.P.J. was formed by 22 founding members, who had requested the grand officials of the Sister Support Federation to officially appoint their elected officials. The grand officials of the Sister Support Federation's Grand Committee were Josefa Riantová and Terezie Mlčkovská.

They officially appointed our officials as per the federation's norm, our order's first officials being as follows:

Marie Pinta as chairwoman, Františka Jirovský as vice-chairwoman, Kateřina Beránek as secretary, Kristina Lusk as accountant, Antonie Kašpar as treasurer, Anna Placký as supervisor, and Marie Drda and Anna Barsa acting on the asset committee.

The registration fee was 25 cents per member, which totaled out at $5.50. The following was decided upon at the meeting:

1. That each member should contribute an additional $1 to the club's coffers.
2. That the Libuše club should join the Sister Support Federation (S.P.J.).

Grand sister Josef Riantová was so kind as to incorporate our Libuše Order No. 3 into the Sister Support Federation, to the great joy of all members. <This sentence looks like it should be at the end of the numbered list, not incorporated into it? If it belongs here perhaps it should be in parentheses>
3. The proposal was put forth to incorporate the club and, on May 30 of 1894 the following committee was elected to execute the incorporation: Anna Schutt, Marie Cipra and Kateřina Beránek. The incorporation was made legal and the committee of Libuše Order no. 3 of S.P.J. surrendered on June 20, 1894. <I’m not sure I understand. If Libuse is being incorporated into a federation it doesn’t follow that the committee would have to “surrender”>

4. In the event of a member passing away it was ruled that each remaining member should contribute an amount of $1, payable within 60 days.

5. It was decided that new members should be between 18 and 45 years of age, of good character and healthy, with no regard to their religious orientation.

Total revenues from 1890 to 1894 $701.07
Total expenditures from 1890 to 1894 $497.94

In 1895 the acting officials were as follows:
Marie Cipra as chairwoman, Marie Krupka as vice-chairwoman, Anna Našineo as secretary, Anna Schutt as treasurer, Anna Kocian as supervisor, Josefa Barsa, Marie Jech, and Marie Kašpar acting on the asset committee.
</ file 75, page 132

The founding members were as follows:
Later members were as follows:

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Vlasta, Order No. 6 of S.P.J.

On April 15 of 1894 Vlasta, Order No. 6, was founded in the hall of T. Dukát, by Marie Šimaková, Marie Houšková, Anna Fridlová and Terezie Mlčkovská for the purpose of education and support.

Its elected officials were as follows:
Marie Chvojanová as chairwoman, Marie Kudrnová as deputy, Marie Svobodová as secretary and Anna Baksová as accountant.
The club gathers every third Sunday of the month in the hall of T. Dukát and has donated a carpet valued at $3 to the Táborky sister club of S.P.J. and a quilt valued at $3.50 to the Vilma Sokolova order of S.P.J.

Total club assets $94.47
Number of founding members 4
New members 34

Marie Chvojanová
Chairwoman

Marie Svoboda
Secretary

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Táboritek, Order No. 7 of S.P.J.

This club was founded in 1894 on August 26 in the hall of Mr. Josef Šácha on Fila Street.

Anna Záveská and Marie Kubrnová are mostly responsible for the Táboritek (Taborites) order, both of whom are also dutiful and enthusiastic members of Růžena Jesenská, Order No. 5 of the Sister Support Federation.

The Táboritek club has a total of 30 members. Although it is young and its coffers sparse, every member who falls ill is supported with two dollars a week, or 200 dollars in the event of a member passing away.

(caption under picture on the next page)

Czech teachers in primary schools in Cleveland, Ohio during 1895.

M. Pivoňka   E. Pekař   B.A. Zelený   F. Formánek   J. Vobořil
B. Páv   M. Hejna   Mrs. K. Čapek   A. Suchý   L. Kolb   P. Kysela
R. Vopalecky   M. Jehlička   M. Machart   J. Šiškovský

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Vilma Sokolova, Order No. 8 of S.P.J.

Order No. 8 of S.P.J. was formed by compatriots Antonie Vachová and Veronika Štechová on September 23, 1894 at the residence of Mr. Koudelka on Weckerling Street.

Its acting officials are as follows:
Antonie Vlach as chairwoman, Anna Michna as deputy, M. Kušta as secretary,
Marie Robejšek as accountant and Anna Vondráček as treasurer.

Its founding members numbered 44, although this tally now rests at 49. The club meets on the first Sunday of every month in the hall of Mr. Koudelka.
Education in Cleveland
related to Czechs and free-thinking schools

The large city of Cleveland, whose size, population and wealth has been thoroughly described elsewhere in this literature, has public (free), sectarian and private schools.

We would like to focus our attention on public schools, a fair percentage of which are attended by hopeful Czech-Americans and from which the same high percentage of well-equipped youngsters graduate each year.

The schools are administered by one director and a seven-member school council. The director is responsible for appointing school superintendents and some of each school's officials, and also nominates their caretaker, while the superintendent nominates the principals and teachers, who are then either confirmed or rejected by the school council.

An 1894 school report revealed that Cleveland's public schools were attended by 44,000 students. An 1895 school census revealed that a total of 91,723 students had attended both sectarian and public schools, showing that sectarian schools have a respectably high attendance. It should be mentioned that several thousand students have started attending public schools since this census, as the numbers have been growing every year.

There are a total of 46 public school facilities, of which a few are located in only a single room. But most of them have between eight and 33 rooms and many of those look like palaces.

The combined cost of all the schools in Cleveland, including their internal furnishings, exceeds more than four million dollars, employing 970 teachers. Over time our own Czech element gradually made its way among these numbers, the first of which in 1874: A.F. Landa (now A.F. Škarda) and K.M. Landá (now K.M. Čapek), both from Prague. The former first started in Warren School while the latter began in Clark School, both for the reason that these two schools contained the highest Czech student population and because these students often had difficulty understanding the principal or the teachers.

Both were immediately liked by their fellow teachers as it was already known that they were already well versed in the Czech, German and English languages. They both worked at their posts until 1878, when Mrs. Škarda took leave and soon moved to New York.

From this point forward Mrs. Čapková continued alone, until when in 1882 she received help from Antonie Škodová of Nová Benáta in Bohemia. Miss Škovová alternated between teaching third and fourth grades at Walton School until 1886, when she married Tom Pivoňek and ended her teaching career.
In 1886 Miss Marie Jehličková of Zájezdec (Chrudim region) came onto the scene, and has since then taught either first or second grade at Warren Elementary School.

Very rarely were there cases where someone purposefully chose the teaching of youngsters as their profession.

It was another three years before another Czech compatriot joined the task force, when in 1889 a Miss Františka Formánek arrived. She was born in Bohemia, obtaining her education in Cleveland (as did her peers), and she taught second and third grades alternately.

In September of that year a Miss Anna Vobořilová began to teach first, second and third grades in Fowler Elementary School, until September 14 of 1894 when she fell ill with respiratory problems, passing away on May 25 of 1895. Miss Vobořilová was born in our city of Cleveland.

In that year our pioneering teacher, Mrs. Čapek, was promoted to a new position due to her dutiful and enterprising dedication, a position which was not easily come by: the task of writing manuals and teaching new teachers the skills of their new trade.

After that it seemed that the influx of Czech teaching talent waned somewhat, until 1890 when a new warrior arrived to strengthen the dwindling numbers: one Paulina Kysela, who was born in New York but then moved here at a very young age. She bid farewell to the wider world<asked two consultants and still doesn't make sense in context, but that's what the guy wrote – Ok! Ha! I think perhaps the writer’s implying that in deciding to have a career she had to give up other things, like marriage? I’ve changed it to “wider world” to imply this narrow focus> and decided she wanted to educate youngsters. She taught first and third grades at Kinsman Elementary School.

Another compatriot joined the teaching ranks in 1891, a true asset from the days of old, as is partially known, <Don’t understand this “from the days of old, as is partially known”? She’s old fashioned? Or she has a great knowledge of ancient times?> namely Miss Bohumila Zelen, born in Beroun of Bohemia. She was a professor of Latin, Greek holding a Bachelor of Science. At the moment she is preparing herself for a PhD. In the beginning Miss Zelený taught seventh grade at Outhwaite, then for a short time at Ridgewell College in Indiana, and now she teaches eighth grade at the private school of Orphan Asylum on Woodland Ave.

As we wrote earlier, the floodgates of Czech involvement in education seemed to slowly open <(previously wrote opposite – please change if you know where it is. Do you mean: “It seems that 1891 was the last year in which one of our compatriots joined the teaching ranks, but a true asset at that, from the days of old, as is partially known”, i.e. start of last paragraph? I’ve rewritten this anyway, please ignore if this isn’t what you wanted.) and 1892 saw two new additions.>

In this year and the following two the additions were purely of Czech origin, which only proves that the heritage of our Czech teachers had put down firm roots.

Miss Marie Pivoňka and Miss Marie Machart, both born in Cleveland, entered the teaching profession with conviction and the will to succeed and have been working
valiantly to this end, the first teaching first and third grades at Union School while the second teaches first and third grades at Huck School for Further Education.

Considering that the number of school rules increased to the point that the discipline seemed almost military in nature, one which even men would have difficulty coping with, in 1893 more Czech heroines stepped onto the scene to give their teaching compatriots a helping hand.

All these were born and raised among us, educated in our city of Cleveland where they chose to return the favor, and their names should be immediately familiar to us: Miss Laura Kolb, Miss Rosa Vopalecký and Miss Josefina Vobořil. The first teaches second and third grades at Walton, the second teaches second grade at Warren Elementary School and the third either third or first grades at Fowler.

One particularly noteworthy year was 1894, when the number of our Czech-American teachers grew markedly with the addition of some new faces, who have all promised to remain faithful to the principles of their new profession and deliver it with a motherly love. These are as follows:

Miss Marie Hejna, who teaches third and fourth grades at Woodland Hills School, Anna Suchý, who teaches second and third grades at Cherry School, Miss. Effie Pekař, teaching third grade at Clark School, and Miss Berta Páv, who teaches second grade at Independence School. As mentioned above, all of these teachers were born and raised in Cleveland.

The next year, 1895, was a year of rest or disappointment as only one teacher, Miss Josefina Šiškovský of Vienna, added her services to those already proffered. She teaches first and second grades, although only the German language.

If we didn't know that four Czech girls are currently in the process of completing their pedagogical training, we might lament that: “We started with a teacher from Prague, but ended with one from Vienna.”

Let's just hope that upcoming years will see a further flowering of new teachers, and further enlightenment of Czech thought.

As the following few lines will show, our hopes will be satisfied and we are pleased to learn that something is being done for our youngsters as every year new Czech blood is added to the teaching work force.

After carefully calculating the number of Czech students attending the various schools in Cleveland we came to the following figures:

639 in first grade, 476 in second grade, 461 in third grade, 481 in fourth grade, 366 in fifth grade, 205 in sixth grade, 117 in seventh grade and 64 in eighth grade, making up a total of 2,809, to which we can add a further 69 students attending various high schools and four completing ordinary school, giving a total of 2,882, which would be enough to inject fresh life into a reasonably large Czech city. Of this total the following numbers currently attend the following schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of school</th>
<th>Number of students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fowler</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huck</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central High</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinsman</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South High</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of school</th>
<th>Number of students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These numbers show which schools most of our students attend and if we analyze things further it would appear that the Czech element aspires to populate the city to the point of introducing the teaching of Czech as a language into the city's public schools. Let us place our hope in such blissful dreams!

The first Czech Sunday school was set up by the educational and support club of Slovanská Lípa in 1864, in the first Czech hall of our very own František Novák, where Czech youngsters were taught in the Czech language for two hours every Sunday. Regrettably, this respectable enterprise eventually fizzled out, probably due to the apathy of parents.

Compiled by L. Č.

Memorial <Is this correct? Because there’s no mention of a memorial in the text that follows...> to Czech Sunday Free-Thinking Schools in the 17th ward of Cleveland, Ohio

IN THE MEMORABLE YEAR OF 1880

The desire, yes, even the imperative to maintain and further nurture our mother tongue and culture was bolstered by certain members of our society, here worth mentioning.

Among the men: Vác. Šnajdr, Mart. Krejčí, Eduard Vopalecký, Václav Rychlik, Ant. Ráž and others, all of whom set a goal and later accomplished in founding the first Czech free-thinking school at the existing facilities of Perun. It was here that some 70 children were taught through the exemplary voluntary dedication of Václav Šnajdr, Eduard Vopalecký and F.B. Zdrůbek.

Shortly after this the patriots and members of Svornost, Order No. 3 of the Czech Slavic Support Federation </.. ; Budívoj, Order No. 50 of Č.S.P.S.; members of the Lumír choir; the Petr Chelčický order and the Equality of Rights Court (Dvůr Rovnoprácnost) Order No. 6350 of A.O.F. Old Foresters (Starých Lesníků) developed the same passion, and the school moved to Václav Rychlík’s, where many teaching aids were acquired and a new school committee elected on February 6 of 1881, which chose Miss Camila Landa to teach first grade and Theodor Geiger and Václav Rychlík to take turns teaching second grade. Václav Šnajdr also agreed to offer occasion lectures on Czech history over the summer months.

Further support was added by the Sokol Physical Education Club of Cleveland, the Czech Sokol Physical Education Club, the Libuše No. 1 female choir and Vlastimila, Order No. 9 of J.Č.D.
All the representatives of the above-named clubs soon came to the conclusion that, considering the number of Czech inhabitants in the city with their political influence, we should be entitled to some space in Cleveland's public schools, and soon afterwards the elected committee received a permit to teach our mother tongue each Sunday throughout the year on Mayflower Street in the 17th ward.

Responsibility for the rooms lent out was entrusted to the school committee and to the teachers.

The three-member school committee took its responsibility seriously and would visit the school every Sunday to make sure that everything was in order.

It should be added that the above-mentioned orders and clubs collect certain fees each year and also contribute something from their coffers to cover the costs of the teachers and the caretaker.

Each year in the month of May the teachers organize a social event for the youngsters, where they offer a few words and then enjoy heart-felt conversations with the invited parents and their friends.

It is also customary for the school committee to prepare a Christmas tree during the Christmas period and hand out presents to the students while saying a few words.

The committee also obtains Czech-American books from the publisher August Geringer of Chicago, which are then printed and distributed in amended form by F.B. Zdříbek, teacher of the free-thinking community.

The orders and clubs interested in maintaining the free-thinking Czech school every December choose their representative. The existing committee is made up of the following:

The self-sacrificing and devoted chairman, Brother Josef Šácha, Brother Vojt. Andrdel as secretary, Brother J. Skalák as accountant, Brother Václav Purma as treasurer, the other committee comprised of Brother František Mára, Brother Václav Hončík, Brother Václav Buřita, Brother Jan Štís, Brother Anton Hromádka, Brother Václav Kadlecček, Brother Josef Exner and Brother Rudolf Kutil.

The above have vowed to continue their support of our cultural heritage and to further develop our school.

Václav Hončík teaches second grade to about thirty students every Sunday from 10-11:30am.

Jan Nessý teaches first grade to about 35-40 student during the same period.

Compiled by John J. Nessý

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Free-Thinking Czech Sunday School in Wards 25 and 26

The free-thinking Czech Sunday School for the 24th and 25th wards was founded by the following Č.S.P.S. orders:

Lidumil, No. 16; Circle of Brothers, No. 22; Jan Kollár, No. 59 and Vítězslav Hálek, Order No. 62.

The school is now maintained by the following Czech-Slavic free-thinking clubs:
Lidumíl, Order No. 16; Circle of Brothers, Order No. 22; Jan Kollár, Order No. 59; Vítězslav Hálek, Order No. 62; Břetislav I., Order No. 96 and Čechomír, Order No. 123, all of the Č.S.P.S.

Blahomila, Club No. 16; Lidumila, No. 21; Františka Stránecká, No. 31 and Renata Tyršová No. 37, all of the J.Č.D.

Czech Sokol; Jan Křtitel, Order No. 6 and Žižkov, Order No. 27 of Č.S.B.P.J. Court of Ancient <(Old) Foresters A.O.F of A. Záboj, No. 6348, including Žižka, 7289, and finally the Pythia Palacký Knights, No. 317. All these orders and clubs elect one of their members to represent them, these representatives then voting in a smaller committee and acting in the school administration. The first school committee was made up of the following male members:

A. Páv from Lidumil, Order No. 16; V. Nevařil from Circle of Brothers, Order No. 22; František Stádník from Jan Kollár, Order No. 59; and František Kakeš from Vítězslav Hálek, Order No. 62.

In 1894 the voted members were as follows:

František Jiskra from Lidumil, Order No. 16; M. Horálek from Circle of Brothers, Order No. 33; František Stádník of Jan Kollár, Order No. 59; František Svoboda of Vítězslav Hálek, Order No. 62; František Frýček of Břetislav I, Order No. 96; František Vacík of Čechomír, Order No. 123; Mrs. A. Skała of Lidumila, Club No. 21; Mrs. A. Stádník of Blahomila, Club No. 16; Mrs. B. Chvátalová of Františka Stránecká, Club No. 31; Mrs. S. Kuchař of Reneta Tyršová, Club No. 37; Josef Frčka of Czech Sokol; František Jiskra from Jan Křtitel, Order No. 6 and Žižkov Order No. 27; Josef Frčka from Záboj Court No. 6348; Anton Nosek of Žižka, Court No. 7287; and V. Hončík of Pythia Palacký Knights, No. 317.

The school was founded in 1883 and subsequently staffed by the following teachers: Mr. L. Čapek and Mrs. K. Čapková, then the following male teachers: Sakryd, Houška, Trejbal, Pick, Dvořák, Linert, Wessler, Blažej, Horák, Bubák, Švarc, Hassman, Buliček and Kostíř. The school now has four grades. A. Trejbal and František Kostíř teach the first two grades, Josef. J. Buliček teaches one second grade class and František Horák teaches one third grade class <is this the correct meaning?>.

Grammar, writing, reading and singing are taught at the beginning of the first two grades, while Czech geography and history are taught in the second and third grades.

The songs are drawn from Czech hymnbooks, mostly simple traditional songs.

The school also has its own library, established by the above-mentioned Č.S.P.S. orders with the help of Svornost, Č.S.P.S. Order No. 3.

Within the school one person is always chosen to act as librarian, taking responsibility for lending the books to the broader public for a certain fee, mostly books relating to history, geography or theater. Once a year the school committee organizes a special event for the school children, such as a play, an outing or a Christmas tree, the proceeds of which go to the school.

In 1894 the following three teachers taught at the school: Fr. Horák, who taught third grade, while Václav Švarec and V. Hassman taught the second and first grades. The only problem the school suffers is that its staff is comprised of working individuals who do not have much free time, such as those working in the water management sector, or involved in the Temperance Movement – KK Perhaps just leave out as both consultants don't know. The other one said Temperance like resiliance to alcohol. Have no clue, but I
remember the Temperance (those involved in temperance, movement?) a few times throughout this book..> <MK: not sure here. „for what we suffer a lot from a temparence movement” i don't get the meaning.> <Temperance is correct – Jen. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperance_movement>

Of roughly 200 students attending the school, 50 are in the third grade, 60 in the second and 90 in the first two.

Prepared by Jos. J. Buliček

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Czech Sunday School in the 40th Ward in the Western Part of Cleveland

On November 10 of 1878 Žižka, Order No. 9 of Č.S.P.S. voted to establish a free-thinking Czech Sunday school.

For this purpose Jan Sprostý agreed to offer one of his rooms while Václav Humel and Antonín Dizner agreed to dedicate their time until a proper teacher could be found.

The order then elected a committee to run the school while the order’s chairman acted as the main supervisor over what was taught and the entire committee.

The school began teaching in December of 1878, with a class attendance of 37 pupils and a focus on reading, writing and grammar. The committee purchased 50 books, while students who lacked the funds to buy the necessary books were allowed to borrow them.

The first quarterly report revealed revenues of $33.29 and expenditures of $27.95, the revenues coming from voluntary contributions and from the order itself.

As time passed the increasing number of students meant that the single room was no longer adequate, so larger facilities were sought, and the committee managed to receive approval from the city’s schools director to use one of their rooms for an indefinite period.

The students started to be taught in one of the city's schools in March of this year, the classes progressing successfully.

In April the committee found a proper teacher in the name of L. Čapek and agreed to pay him $1.50 per class, each class attended by 45 pupils. After a year Mr. Čapek was replaced by J. A. Hospodský.

On March 13 the students practiced their singing in public, and a new teacher, J. L. Luňák, was appointed on October 16 of 1882. The number of students had climbed to 60, which the teacher divided into two classes.

The teacher organized a play by the students with good success, its proceeds amounting to $14.50, which the committee running the school used to cover the school's costs. The Žižka order donated $10 for the students and a further $59.50 to the school committee to cover school costs.

The report showed that the student play Král Liliputánský <italics for titles of plays> was organized that year, with $10 donated by the Žižka order going towards the
children. During this year the students were taught on 40 Sundays between the hours of 8am and noon.

In 1884 the order donated an amount of $78.75, students were taught on 45 Sundays and the teacher was required to submit a report to the committee every three months on the school's progress. That year the school's revenues amounted to $162.41, with expenditures of $134.95.

In 1885 the school experienced some difficulty when they discovered that the school building was to be torn down so that a new and better one could be built in its place. Regular classes were no longer possible, so the teacher arranged for a position in the 24th ward, forcing the committee to look for a replacement.

On November 22, L. Čapek began to teach two classes on a regular basis. In the same year choir performances were given bringing in proceeds of $25.63. The school's annual revenues amounted to $99.81, with expenditures totaling $94.90.

In 1886 the committee still had no room in which to continue with its regular classes, numbering two at that time.

The order contributed $100.25 in monthly payments for the classes. Other details are not recorded clearly and cannot be mentioned here.

In the following year, 1887, the school committee failed to come to an agreement with its teacher, L. Čapek, concerning the curriculum and other matters, so it approached Fr. Sakryd, a widely recognized, well liked and active teacher. After the holidays Sakryd replaced Čapek and divided the students into two classes according to their abilities, bringing life back into the school and attracting more students. Now the students, the teacher and the school committee felt comfortable in their new environment. Besides the voluntary contributions donated by the committee this year, the order itself donated an amount of $57.75.

In 1888 both the parents of the students and the Žižka order were quite pleased with Fr. Sakryd's work.

In April a student performance, lectures and choirs were organized and it was the first time the students' progress was displayed in public, while a special area was set aside to show the students' exercise books. Frant. Sakryd paid careful attention to his teaching and focused mostly on reading, writing and singing, with some attention towards Czech history concerning such prominent figures as Amose Komenský and Jan Hus. By this time the number of students had climbed to 80, separated into two classes. Because the number of students continued to grow, both the committee and the order saw it fit to open a second, single-class school with a new teacher. On May 8 the order decided to approach all the free-thinking Czech clubs for their help for this purpose, and this was duly done.

The following orders and clubs stepped forward to help out:
- The Zlatá Praha (Golden Prague) Sokol Physical Education Club; the Vlastimil Forester's Court (Lesníci Dvůr); the Č.S.P.S. Czech Brotherhood (Čeští Bratři) order;
- Č.S.P.S. Josef, Order No. 1; the Czechoslav order; the Václav II Knights (Rytíři); and the Vratislava and Eliška Pešková female clubs.
- These orders and clubs, including the Žižka order, appointed a representative to sit on the new committee, which immediately sent a request to all of them for a 5 cent
quarterly donation for every student. The previous committee surrendered all of its assets, books, table, heater and other belongings. The new committee also ruled to open a single-class school in the neighboring 39th ward, so that the students would not have so far to go.

At that time a Czech lawyer by the name of A. Melichar was sitting on the city's school council. The school committee asked this council for the use of a room in the 38th and 40th wards, and with the help of several Czechs the school council agreed to make available one city school classroom in every ward where Czechs lived, to be used to teach Czech free-thinking Sunday schools.

J. V. Luňák was appointed to teach in the 39th ward, while the teachers worked together to organize theatrical performances with singing.

Student enrolment grew to 130 while revenues for the year amounted to $105.84 and expenditures $86.

In 1889 the Jan Hus order, the Prague Knights of Labor (Rytířů Práce Praha) union and the Slavoš amateur choir stepped forward to donate $18.40. Because the 5 cent fee was not enough to cover costs, the committee was forced to raise this to 10 cents.

In September the committee organized an outing for the benefit of the school and pulled in proceeds of $24. Over the Christmas holidays the students performed a play, while the Slavoš amateur choir prepared a richly decorated Christmas tree and presents for the children. Proceeds from the play amounted to $25.87, with total revenues for the year at $234.58, expenditures $199.44.

In 1890 the number of students in the 39th ward climbed to 60 the group was split into two classes. The committee also made some amendments, deciding to accept only children older than eight, as the school was getting crowded and the younger students generally needed more attention.

The teacher Mr. Luňák successfully presented a student performance of Love for One's Country (Láška k vlasti), pulling in proceeds of $18.36. Some of the clubs had stopped supporting the school, forcing the committee to help organize the performances in order to cover costs.

In 1891 the school supervisors issued a very favorable report on the students' progress, and more and more students joined the school. On April 8 of the same year teacher František Sakryd organized a play with students living in the 40th ward, called Birds in a Cage (Ptáčkové v kleci). All the students' exercise books were also put on display, and proceeds from the play drew in $23.25, contributing to total revenues for the year of $172.19, together with expenditures of $160.48. In the summer a countryside outing was organized for the children.

In 1892 only six clubs remained that would contribute 40 cents per member to the school.

In February teacher F. Sakryd organized two plays: Lorence's Holiday (Lorenčin svátek) and On a Journey (Na výletu). The committee's notes showed that the performance was successful, although attendance was low, pulling in proceeds of only $8.90. For this event as well the student's books were on display for all to peruse their progress, including handwriting exercises.

There were 100 students at the school in the 40th ward, while 60 attended the 39th ward school. Forty classes were held during the year and, as last year during the holidays,
a countryside outing was organized this year to the farm of Mr. Uher, about five miles from the city. Revenues for the year amounted to $191.56, expenditures $179.10.

By 1893 class attendance in the 40th ward grew to 105 students, with more than 60 in the 39th ward.

In the 39th ward the teacher stepped down to be replaced by Mr. V. Celerin, who organized a student play in May, drawing in proceeds of $14.

In the 40th ward F. Sakryd also organized a play, this one under the name of The Blind Old Lady (Slepá babička). The performance went well and, as with every other year, the students' exercise books were laid out for display. The event pulled in proceeds of $20, which, together with the proceeds from the other play, went to cover school costs.

In a meeting on June 30 the school's committee ruled to name itself Patron of Czech Sunday Schools in the 39th and 40th Wards.

That year 41 classes were taught, and over the holidays the patrons and the teachers organized an out-of-town farm outing for the children. Revenues that year amounted to $232.21 while expenditures totaled $185.21.

In 1894 the teaching continued as it had previously, both schools teaching two classes, 78 students in total attending the 39th ward, while 110 attended the 40th ward school. The following clubs pledged their allegiance and support to the school:

Five members from the Žižka order, two members from the Czech Brotherhood (Čeští Bratří), two members from Golden Prague (Zlatá Praha) Sokol, two members from the Czech Lion (Český Lev), two members from the Vlastimil order and one member from the Vlastimil Forester's Court (Vlastimil Lesníci).

The Vratislava Female Choir also contributes some money, but is not represented on the committee. Among the grand evening events organized in the 40th ward there was a student play entitled Mr. Teacher (Pan učitel), where poems were read, choirs sang and school exercise books were opened, pulling in net proceeds of $15.25. The committee ruled to organize activities for the children on Sundays in the afternoon. The committee further ruled to print out the school's history, from the beginning until 1895, and display it at the National Hymn Fair in Prague, Bohemia, together with portraits of the students.

Of the committee's members the Patrons this year are made up of the following:

František Kozlík as chairman, Jan Marek as secretary, Josef Vondrák as accountant and Josef Hlaváček as treasurer.

40 classes were given this year.

Revenues were $208.60
Expenditures were $182.88

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Remaining in cash $26.38

The 110 students attending the 40th ward school and taught under Fr. Sakryd are split up into two classes, one from 8-10am and the other from 10am-noon. The 39th ward, on the other hand, has only one class of 60 students, taught by Mr. V. Celerin.

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The American Foundation for Schools in Bohemia
With a love for our cultural life, several dedicated compatriots gathered together on December 3, 1886 to form the Central Education Foundation in our city, to help the Czech nation fight for their holy rights.

Those who were inspired to take up this noble call were the following:

Franta Hrubý, Jan Hrubý, Josef Kalous, Karel Marek, Franta Ledinský, Josef V. Bartůněk, Anton Kužel, Vincenc Macan, V. and K. Rychlík, Frant. Kysela and Fr. J. Husinský. They elected to name themselves the Central Education Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio, and immediately began to work on expanding their ranks, succeeding in attracting another 15 members to contribute to their cause.

Once the club began to be active it attracted several men and women of a more affluent background who cordially agreed to take care of the treasury, whom the club named as honorable members, as follows:

Marie Křemelová, A. Čermáková and M. Burdová (women) and Antonín Šicha, K. Martinec, F. Fila, M. F. Fňouka and F. Votýpek (men).

The following made up the first committee:

František Husinecký and chairman, Jan Hrubý as secretary, Fr. Ledinský as accountant and Frant. Hrubý as treasurer.

A female department had formed at that time as well, made up of the following:

Anna Hanousek, Mathilda Marek, Barbora Nárovec, Mary Hanousek, Kateřina Vondraček, Anna Král, Anna Káral, Kateřina Káral, Anna Ledinský, Julie Truc, Marie Brabenec and Anast. Kubíček.

This department contributed to the men’s club and took part in every event organized to benefit the Education Foundation (Matice Školské). This branch of the club also sent $12 to Prague as a collection among its members.

In spite of the fact that many Czechs could still be found who did not appreciate the good work of the Central Education Foundation, within a short time the club managed to gain such a success that it sent a hefty $161.89 to Prague in September of 1887, with a further $121 the year later.

These donations were drawn from collections, event proceeds and member contributions, whereby each member pays $1 annually.

The club was more than 50 members strong at that time, but due to either lackluster canvassing or a lack of enthusiasm on the part of those who left, this figure dropped to 26 by the beginning of 1892. But the remaining members fought on valiantly and stood firm in advancing the foundation. Their names are honorably mentioned below. They performed a successful play in the city's Star Theatre, successfully increasing the club's revenues to the point where they were able to send proceeds of 500 zl. r. č. on May 23 of 1892, and 250 zl. r. č. on Feb. 28 of 1893 to the central committee in Prague.


After this, once the remaining committee members of M. Fňouka, Fr. Hrubý, Jos. Nárovec, Václ. Rychlík and Fr. Kohoutek concluded their work for the administrative
year 1893-4, another 128 zl. r. č. <= zlatý rakouského čísla (Golden Austrian Numbers), austrian currency from 1858-1892> was sent to Prague on February 15, 1894. Then, on August 8 of 1894, the club organized an excellent outing to Lake Erie, at Put-in-Bay, drawing in proceeds of $105.75, which it sent to Prague as part of its $200 donation on September 11. Even so, $69.70 remained to line the coffers.

Last year the Central Education Foundation exploded in membership to 120 active members, not including the above mentioned honorary members. There are also two external members who publish the honorable magazines of Volnost (Liberty) and Dennice Novověku (New Times Daily).

The club is eternally grateful to these two magazines, which provide news without profit, as without them it would have not attained the growth that it has.

The club now holds an honorable membership diploma and a genuine membership of Cleveland Czechs.

It last remaining committee members are M. Fňouka as chairman, František Hrubý as vice-chairman, V. Rychlík as treasurer and K. Richter as secretary.

Czech Female Compatriots
Statistics from 1888 to December of 1894

On April 8 of 1888 Anna Kiriján and Anna Cipra called for a meeting of women through the public papers, to form a new support club at 23 Mead Ave. Besides these two the following eleven made it to the meeting: Cecilie Šulc, Anna Musil, Anna Maleček, Františka Pánec, Marie Souček, Barbora Charvát, Františka Burek, Anna Fijala, Anna Hablesreiter, Barbora Masek and Kat. Kaftan.

Anna Kiriján started the meeting, some explanations were made, all viewpoints from those present were received and the new club was established, moving closer to an election of its officials, who were decided upon as the following:

Anna Kiriján as chairwoman, Anna Hablesreiter as deputy, Anna Musil as secretary, Barbora Charvát as accountant and Anna Maleček as treasurer.

The organization named itself the Czech-American Lady's Club (Damský česko-americký klub) and each of the attending sisters paid a registration fee of 50 cents and agreed on a monthly fee of 10 cents. All subsequent members paid the same and the club held its meetings on the first Sunday of each month. After being a member for at least six months the sisters were then entitled to seek support of $1.50 if they fell ill.

The club also agreed to accept new members up to the age of 50, whereby the registration fee was increased to a full dollar in June. A month later the club changed its name to the Club of Czech Compatriots (Sbor Českých Vlastenek).

The Club of Czech Compatriots took it upon itself to improve the welfare of Czech women living in the United States, to support our native language both in public and at home, and to help those female compatriots fallen ill, in particular widows and their children in their time of need.
In September of 1889 the club organized a rummage sale which pulled in proceeds of $180, handed to the patronage of the Czech National Hall.

In July of 1890 a death fund was set up, to which each member was to pay $1 towards its basic capital. The club also ruled that all sisters should attend a member’s funeral in carriages. The club was incorporated this year as well.

In December of 1892 the club accepted an invitation by the Federation of Czech Ladies to set up a three-member committee to look over the hosting of guests from the old country, Bohemia. A. Michna, Aloisie Sprostý and Kateřina Forejt were chosen to sit on this committee.

For this purpose each member contributed 10 cents, while $5 had been approved in December of 1894 to cover costs relating to the Ethnographic Exhibit.

In 1894 the elected officials were as follows:

Anna Musil as chairwoman, Anna Michna as deputy, Anna Pleischl as secretary, Anna Burda as accountant, Marie Tichá as treasurer and Anna Mudra as supervisor, with the asset committee comprised of Marie Švarc, Marie Pokorná and Anna Ondráček.

The club now has 78 members in all. From its founding until the end of 1894 it accumulated revenues of $1,663.07, with $99.44 deposited in the bank to cover the death fund. $483.54 remains in the bank coffers and $125 was lent to some of the sisters, leaving assets totaling $608.55. A total of 82 members were approved in total, of which four were expelled and one died, leaving 78 remaining.

Anna Musil    Anna Burda
Chairwoman    Accountant

The Brothers of Jan Hus Club

In 1871 the first Czech club was established in the 14th ward, by Michal Albl. On June 6 of 1871 a meeting was called at Number 23 to establish a new Czech club under the name of Brothers of Jan Hus. Sixteen people showed up for that meeting, which immediately agreed to form the club, with Michael Albl elected as its chairman. The club was 32 members strong by the end of December.

Unfortunately, the club didn't last long – only a year and a half – the members dividing up the club’s savings between themselves according to their investment in it.

A.

The Radek Club

The veteran Radek Club (Radecký spolek) was established in 1871 in the hall of Josef Havlíček, above whose entry are written the words “Radek Club Barracks” (Kasárna spolku Radecký), which have hung there since the support club's founding.

Most of the members of this club are Czech army veterans who banded together under their leader, Major Josef Kubiček, together with <> It did not take long before the company exceeded 60 members.
Of course, for such a group, a uniform was in order and the group the Austrian cannoneers of the time as their inspiration. The group chose as their exercise grounds the free field space behind Perun's hall, near to Palacký and Písek (Sand) Streets.

The club loved to take part in all Czech events, but as its participation weaned, one by one the lower ranks began to desert the strict military hierarchy, until, alas, the remainder ruled in 1879 to dissolve.

The Reader Club

The more cultured Bohemians felt the need to secure some means by which they could continue their studies. A meeting of many compatriots was held for this purpose at Václav Rychlík’s in April of 1873 which ruled to organize a reading club which would be both educational and organize events. The following officials were elected:

Jan Modroch as chairman, František Horák as vice-chairman, Josef Podlaha as bookkeeper, Josef Soukup as treasurer and Václav Rychlík as librarian, while František Votava, Bedřich Šimek and Hynek Švarc were to sit on the supervisory committee.

The club immediately became official and ruled to begin ordering books from Leo Palda, collecting the remaining needs from Prague. The club organized the first proper conference on July 13, 1873, which turned out quite successful thanks to its packed program and attendance.

Later lecture forums were organized on special Czech holidays, the discussions from which were published by Václav Šnajdr, editor for Pokrok (Progress) and Dennice Novověku (New Age Daily) , enlightening the community. Šnajdr also became involved in organizing lectures and events, even taking part in the debates, be they solo or comical presentations.

All members and their families were entitled free access to the lectures and the atmosphere was generally convivial.

Bad American manners were often not permitted at these events and the club eventually managed to collect an impressive library, adding to it on a constant basis.

In later years attempts were made to hand over the entire collection to the city library, on the condition that the city would continue to add to it.

However, these attempts met with failure and, due to weak membership, the group eventually dissolved. Even though the club still technically exists it is very rarely active on the public scene. At the moment the club’s chairman is Bartolověj Řežábek, while the library itself is located at V. Rychlík’s.

The Sokol Physical Education Club

This club was established in 1871 at František Novák, by the Perun national order. In the beginning the exercises were simple, but in 1870, with the construction of the Perun hall, the group hired the physical education instructor Louise Besta, after which the club made noticeable advances as it was the first such Sokol club in Cleveland and both new immigrants and heritage organizations were quite excited about the new club, supporting it wherever they could.
In the beginning the club uniformed itself only partially, but eventually it arranged a complete sports kit as per Sokol in Bohemia. The club would gladly wear its attire at every event and often led processions, attracting yet more members in the process.

The club’s leaders and physical education instructors were Václav Beneš, Jan Prošek, František Žák, Jan Jiřel, František Habuš and Bohuslav Trojan.

The first flamboyant event at which the club had partially uniformed itself was at a celebration of the centenary of the naturalist Humboldt, in 1868.

The first grandiose Sokol outing was organized in 1872 to the garden of the Vacín's on the corner of Clark and Svisș Streets. For this event the club hired Mr. Hájek’s band, from Detroit, marching along with this band while dressed in full uniform.

All the local clubs attended this event with their own banner and hired bands, who took turns playing in the garden to the great acclaim of all.

The next day the Detroit band played in Perun's hall and was then escorted by the club to the pier, from where it would return back to Detroit with great fanfare by those present.

Once in a while the club would also organize public productions, and in the winter months it would organize masquerades, which were considered the most exciting Czech events of the time. The last one in particular was the talk of the town, graced with a colorful variety of masks and selected guests.

One of the most sensitive issues between the Perun and Sokol clubs was that the Sokol was always obligated to always invest $50 into Perun's coffers, this while it was permitted to use the hall for free.

This always led to misunderstandings until the Sokol club finally decided to move to the Slovanská Lípa hall and proclaim itself independent.

Slovanská Lípa agreed to allow the club to erect a new gymnasium on its undeveloped property, its membership now more than 70 strong.

In 1873 the financial crisis hit America, and the club could not even think of paying its debts, as many of its members were glad if they could just cover their own costs and were not able to contribute to cultural causes, shortening the life of the new club. It was sold off in a public auction due to failure to make its payments for construction wood.

It then became necessary for them to move back to the Perun hall, where the Sokol club first came to be.

Over time the mistakes of the past had been forgotten and the club adopted the name of Cleveland Sokol when the Federation of American Sokols (Jednota amerických sokolských) formed, under which name it performed successfully for many years.

Worthy of particular mention is the memorable outing to Bayer Park, to rooms which had only just been prepared for such a purpose. Sadly, these preparations fell short somewhat when it came to the roof of the dance hall, which was covered only with planks of wood, much to the club’s surprise. The roof served its purpose well enough at the start of the festivities, as the weather was immaculate, everything was splendid and spirits ran high. However, by the evening a strong gale began to brew, followed by a
proper downpour. The cover below the wooden ceiling helped slightly, but not much, and everyone lived too far away to rush home, so they all found cover where they could and sat it out, only appearing from their makeshift shelters once the storm had subsided. The men still looked somewhat presentable, but oh, the poor women! Their dresses and hats, many of which had been bought especially for the occasion, were now dripping rags, a situation compounded on the muddy ride home, as they slip-slid their way home through wet clay and great puddles of mud.

But this did not knock the brave club's spirits as they heroically carried the woman, wading up to their knees in the muck until they got to the agreed bus stop. But what could this omnibus of Josef Štědronský really offer for so many hundreds?

Then yet another misfortune befell them, as one of the horses tore a muscle and fell on the spot. It had to be left there, meaning that still more of the guests had to trudge through the mud.

You will have to imagine for yourself, dear reader, how those beautiful boots, stockings and dresses worn by our woman must have looked, as the women themselves swiftly conspired to forget all about it.

For those who had to make it home over the hill, they had it much worse as they often slid into mud puddles and were only too glad to make it home alive.

Thankfully there was a silver lining, which came in the form of the event's proceeds for the Sokol club, which breathed more life into the club, allowing it to take a major part in many cultural events. However, with the demise of the Perun club, it began to dwindle away, until the remaining members felt it was time to dissolve the club on April 24 of 1888, leaving the remaining assets (still a respectable amount) for a good cause.

(Caption of picture next page:)

Inside view of Czech Sokol of Cleveland's hall.

Czech Sokol Gym Federation

This federation was established in 1875 in the hall of Slovanská Lípa, where the members of the club had already been quite active exercising in a section of the hall.

Once the Cleveland Sokol had left the federation moved to the Perun hall, where it did well for a few years.

Later it moved to Mead Ave. to exercise at Mr. Malečka's, while meetings were held at Mr. Rybák’s on Finn Street.

Each year the Czech Sokol Federation (Jednota Sokol Čech) would organize a successful outing in Forest City Park where it would give a public display of its members and students exercising. They also organized grandiose balls at the same location. In fact, the federation was doing so well that it quickly became time for them to think of building their own gymnasium.

For this purpose a building site was purchased on Smith Ave, while Josef Hrádek was so kind as to design the gymnasium's plan free of charge.
Donations were collected to cover the costs of construction, which proceeded quickly until the new gymnasium stood tall and ready in January of 1892.

The gymnasium opened with great fanfare in the form of a speaker by the name of Leo Palda from Cedar Rapids specifically hired for the event, while Václav Šnajdr, editor for New Age Daily (Dennice Novověku), stood in as the second speaker. The mixed Lumír choir sang for the crowd, which was so amply represented by other club members and the public that they were packed in the hall like sardines. Even so the crowd kept its composure and the evening was well remembered.

The federation continued to organize public productions, such as a Christmas tree for its students, who were always glad to see one another.

Around then the federation decided to change its name to a simpler form: Czech Sokol. Its first trainer was Fr. Sluka.

Josef Štíbr both exercised at and led the club member for many years and led the exercises for the club’s first outing in the Haltmorth garden, with great success.

It was taken as given that the Czech Sokol attended every cultural event, and so it certainly didn’t want to miss the Czech days in the Chicago World Fair of 1893. There two of its members took part in some exercises and managed to take home some awards during competitions held in a Chicago military building.

and later took home medals at other international competitions.

In 1895 the Czech Sokol, together with the New Nation Sokol (Sokol Nová Vlast) on the west side of town, organized two mutual outings to publicly display the training moves of their members and students, enjoyed both by those performing and those who came to see the show.

In July the club took part in the Detroit regional competitions, where Cleveland's Sokol group swept the board.

Besides these outings and performances the club members come together in private parties or masquerade balls, to their great enjoyment.

On December 3 of 1894 the club organized an afternoon event for the children, together with a dinner for its students in both schools – physical education and manual work. During the same year the club donated $155.90 towards the construction of the Czech Cultural Hall, while supporting other charitable purposes as well.

Its current officials are as follows:

Mrs. Anna Schuttová as president, Miss K. Jirouch as deputy, Mrs. Marie Zemanová as secretary, Miss Marie Kulhánková as chief, Miss Marie Kušťová as treasurer and Miss J. Hauzerová as accountant, while the trainers were Miss M. Jirouchová, Miss C. Kulhánková, Miss J. Hauzerová, Miss B. Ptáková and Miss M. Batystová.

Miss M. Cinková, Miss Marie Kušťová and Miss K. Macourková directed the manual labor school.
The Anna Náprstková Female Sokol Club (Sbor Sokolek Anna Náprstková) was established on June 4, 1894 and is made up of young Czech-Slavic women interested in developing their physical and spiritual prowess. The club is particularly interested in charitable activities.

Its first officials were as follows:
Mrs. Anna Schutt as president, Mrs. Marie Slabý as deputy, Miss Marie Kofroň as secretary, Miss R. Pik as accountant, Miss M. Mráz as treasurer and Miss M. Pik as chief, with the asset committee comprised of Mrs. A. Sakryd, Mrs. E. Schmitt and Mrs. Lokajičková.

Cash in hand $25.00
Donated to charitable purposes $51.00
Total number of members 32

The club exercised and held its meetings in the hall of the New Nation Sokol Federation (Tělocvičná Jednota Sokol Nová Vlast) on the west side of town.

Thalia Amateur Actor's Club

The Thalia Amateur Actor's Club was established in 1892 at Slovanká Lípa, where under the directorship of Antonín Štícha it held performances until 1894. Štícha was eventually replaced by D. Janda, who organized two performances in Slovánská Lípa, after which the club merged with the Amateur Drama Club in the 24th ward.

The drama club performed in the Bohemia Hall under the directorship of F. Dardy – two performances to raise money for itself and a third for the benefit of the National Hall. Club members come from all corners of the city, attracting mainly young people, and it can certainly expect the greatest of success in the future.

International Clubs

Many have lamented that such a large number of Czechs join clubs of other cultures, so weakening those clubs that are purely Czech. But this is only natural considering certain circumstances. Each person has their own perspective on things, aspirations and desires, while their inclinations reflect those they sympathise with.

Just because some Czechs join clubs of other cultures does not hinder our own cultural life. In fact there is evidence such involvement has injected plenty of life into our own culture and reputation.

Almost all members of some foreign club are likewise members of a Czech club as well.

Just because they join a different kind of club does not mean they are abandoning their roots. On the contrary, they proudly exclaim they are Czech and want to be depicted
that way everywhere they go. They always gather around themselves like-minded people with whom to form or join a club, and if they join a foreign language clubs, they will always hold true to themselves and remain independent and Czech.

American clubs have recognized Czechs as educated and intelligent and of good character, and have given them due respect.

Czech members have gained the respect and love of their fellow members in the largest and most powerful of organizations, such as the Pythian Knights, Knights and Dames of Honor, The Foresters and the Odd Fellows.

If Czechs did not take part in other organizations they would not be so respected by those around them.

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Secret Societies

International clubs are also often considered secret societies. Such organizations have flowered among our Czech flock, their secretive character both alluring and repelling, both of these, I'd say, due to a misunderstanding. So I hope you don't mind if I take this opportunity to bestow upon you my opinion, as one who is a member of both the most secretive and the most public. <Correct meaning?>

I split up the clubs into three classifications: <he only lists two>

1. Clubs whose secretive nature reflects the methods by which they get to know its members, helping each other and the many who are in need. Such clubs have their insignia, code, handshake, ceremonies when new members pledge, and vows of secrecy. That is the extent of their secrecy, however, as their primary cause is plain: to uplift mankind and reduce suffering.

2. Clubs which have added secret doctrines to the above secrets and they have secret goals or plans which their general membership is unaware of, gathering at locations only known to themselves and avoiding the limelight by not making any public appearances.

There are many organizations of the first nature around us, with names like American Foresters, Knights and Dames of Honor, the Pythian Knights and the Odd Fellows, while many others have dissolved, and others are still surviving.

This second classification of clubs, on the other hand, has never won much favor among us and never will. We consider such clubs a cancer which must be wiped out.

I regret that I lack the space on these pages to go into greater detail, so I'll just end with the question: <?>

Prepared by K. F. Tůma

Záboj Court No. 6348 A.O.F of A.
Ancient Order of Foresters of America
This group formed a politically-oriented club around 1873, changing tack half a year later by joining a support group under the name of Czech Support Club No. 1 (Český podporující spolek č. I).

In 1875 the club joined the large network of Foresters, which has grown extensively throughout America and Great Britain – as per original. < UK is stylistically quite modern so if the text is referring to Scotland/Wales/Ireland as well as England use Great Britain> and in which it was labeled Záboj </ Court No. 6348 of the Old Foresters.

In a meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1877, the American section decided to break away from the British and name itself the Old Foresters of America.

This order has contributed to much joy among Czechs living in Cleveland. The club arranged for its own banner – a beautiful one, made strictly from heavy silk and which lasts even today as a proud showpiece of all Czechs and Czech organizations in Cleveland.

Much is said of the banner:

The beautiful stitching in golden thread was undertaken by the esteemed Mrs. Marie Vaňková of Libějic u Vodňan, Bohemia, which she granted from the good of her heart. Her only request was that this banner accompany her on her funeral day during her last few hours on this earth before being put to rest – a request which the order duly fulfilled with all sincerity.

On the 31st of July, 1890 our order organized and attended the burial of one of its members, Brother Novák. But to add to their sorrow, when the carriage returned after the last rites were read, they found that their dear hall had burned to the ground in the meantime.

Fortunately the banner was saved, and looked after by the hall's neighbor, Brother Fr. Končaný, who with the help of Jan Kinkor, son of our brother Frant. Kinkora, risked his life to pull the banner out of its cabinet.

The order can boast a respectable reputation, has 158 members and has $2,000 strong in its coffers.

The club pays out $5 weekly for half a year in support of brother fallen ill. If a brother passes away $100 is paid out immediately, 16 members in four carriages attend his funeral, the club dedicates a beautiful flower arrangement costing $5 while one carriage is reserved exclusively for the family of the deceased. Each member can also benefit from special insurance for life. No political or religious debates ever haunt our meetings.

Prepared by Jan J. Nessú

Court of Equal Rights No. 6350, A.O. of A

On October 2 of 1877 a larger number of free-thinking Cleveland Czechs gathered together at Slovanská Lípa, on the corner of Croton and Case Streets, to form a support club in the event of death or illness.

The group then submitted a request to join the Federation of Ancient Foresters </ .
Acceptance wasn't a problem, the club becoming Equality Order No. 6350 of the federation on October 2 of 1877, with the event organized by officials of the Cleveland United District.

The founders of this court <Dvur> came to this name because they were the second Czech order in the world to have been admitted into this federation. This federation was made up of many nationalities and the Czech acceptance into this Court of Foresters </ gave Czechs the same rights as other nationalities in this great state of freedom. Such a notable step forward for equality deserved the respect of a name.

The Federation of Old Foresters (Jednota Starých Lesníků) has expanded to all over the world and has its origins back in England, in 1730. Robin Hood and Little John are said to be its founders.

The origins of this order go back to when peasants, evicted through no fault of their own, for they were good and charitable citizens, were forced to survive in the forests of England. They eventually expanded into Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, France, Australia, Africa and the English colonies.

The first order in North America was established in 1750. The federation was made up of its highest order, which gathered every two years (always at a new location) to vote in new officials, and all the other regions, districts and courts.

Between 1886 and 1888 the highest court in England declared that all orders, including those in the United States, must accept members regardless of the color of their skin – meaning that blacks and Chinese were now permitted.

A memorable meeting on August 15 of 1889, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, voted to break away from its English roots and found a new Federation for the United States of North America.

A total of 600 representatives had attended that meeting, of which seven were Czech. The new federation was named the Older Order of American Foresters </. Now that the federation had set up its structure it discussed the matter of the Court of Equality (Dvůr Rovnoprávnost) </. Any healthy and proper male aged between 18 and 50 can become a member, the only obligation being that he must pay an amount reflecting his age, and then 50 cents each month as a contribution to the court's coffers. In exchange for this, the member is entitled to $5 weekly in the case of illness, and $100 is given to every wife of a deceased member to assist with funeral expenses.

The federation also set up a death or insurance fund, whereby only members are entitled to such insurance. This fund was set up in 1874, its premium amounting to one thousand and five hundred dollars.

</ end of file 88

<< file 89, page 156

Fees were according to age and the fund was put under supervision of the High Court. The Equality Court (Dvůr Rovnoprávnost) has 19 insured members: 16 at $1,000 each and three at $500.

On October 2, 1877 the elected officials were as follows:

Jan Aubrecht as chairman, Louis Boháček as vice-chairman, Václav Votava as policy secretary, Josef Bečvář as treasurer, Josef Línek as accountant, Anton Šícha as
first conductor, Matěj Karlovec as second conductor, Fr. Prosek as inner guard, Jan Prosek as outer guard, with Jan Kušta, Jan Řehák and Václav Šafář on the asset committee.

Financial State of the Equality Court

Total revenues from 1877-1894 $12,169.00
Total expenditures during same period $11,466.00

Held in cash $703.00

Illness < benefits paid out during period $6,190.09
Other expenses $5,013.00
$50 each paid out to seven wives from the burial fund $350.00
$75 each for two and $100 each for nine deceased members $1,050.00

Total burial payouts $1,400.00

Paid out to one widow from the insurance fund $2,000.00
Paid to two widows, $1,000 each $2,000.00

Total $4,000.00

On October 2 of 1894 a beautiful banner was unveiled during the celebrations for the court's founding, which adorns our hall to this day. Its cost exceeded one hundred dollars, an amount that came out from the pockets of its members.

The following brothers passed away during the court's existence: V. Marouš in 1878, Frank Knechtl in 1890, Václav Slapnička, Ignác Steiner and Jan Plaišl in 1891, Václav Hanuš, Wm. Miller and Jan Žák in 1892, and Anton Svatoš, Vác. Šafář, and Vojtěch Kopfstein in 1894.

In January of 1895 the following officials were elected: Václav Votava as head forester, Adolf Taubr as deputy forester, Adolf Kutil as treasurer, Jan Žahorr as accountant, Vojta Andrdle as policy secretary, Václav Purma as first conductor, Jos. Exner as second conductor, Karel Stech as inner guard and Josef Skalák as outer guard, with the asset committee made up of: Frank Janovský, Václav Heidenreich and Mat. Zeman. Brother Fr. Vlner represents the grand chairman in his role as deputy. Vlner was the former head forester for the Jan Hus Court and is now responsible for maintaining order at the Equality Court.

The court also elects its own physician, which has been Dr. J. Sýkora for several years now. The court holds meetings twice a month, always on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, and always at a set time, at which all affairs are settled.

Members of the Equality Court
Vlastimil Court A.O.F. of A <What is A.O.F of A? Looks very awkward in this format, we do not use words in the middle of acronyms in Eng> No. 7048

This court was established in 1883 with 26 members, and has been successful ever since, its membership growing to its present level of 41.

Over time some members had been expelled (have left??) while others joined, with membership peaking at 45. The court presently holds $400 in its bank account.

Meetings are held in the hall of Jan Bejček on the first Thursday of every month.

List of Vlastimil Court Officials and Members

František Sprostý as head forester, Jos. Nádeník Sr. as deputy forester, F. J. Hnátek as financial secretary, Fr. Fanta as treasurer, Jan Štědrnáský as scribe, Fr. Vápeník as senior conductor, Jan Kober as junior conductor, Jan Zajiček as inner guard, Jos. Nádeník Jr., as outer guard, Alois Vachalovský as custodian and Jan Drda as flag bearer, with Alois Vachalecký, Matěj Čermák and Karel Kocian sitting on the asset committee.

Czech clubs in this field also included the Záboj Court, the Equality Court (Dvůr Rovnoprávnost) and the Jan Žižka Court in the 17th, 24th and 25th wards, with Jan Hus on the southern side of town and Vlastimil in the west.

The following submitted applications to establish new orders of other clubs: Jan Aubrecht, J. Musil and F. Vlach from Equality Court No. 6350, and A. Pick and Jan Vachuta of Záboj Court No. 6348 of A. O. F.

Brother Aubrecht was well acquainted with the establishment and management of such courts, as well as being a skilled speaker. He explained to those who attended the public purpose of their meetings, the charitable and useful qualities of such courts, and suggested they vote in a temporary chairman and secretary, those roles being taken by Václav Záveský and František Vlach.

These meetings also voted on a low registration fee of $1 to make the club accessible to a greater number.

After several meetings the following joined the club:

A meeting held on April 15 voted to accept a proposal by Brother Jos. Malý of Záboj Court to include Brothers Václav Záveský, Jan Hanš and August Smith in the order. On April 29 the following were also nominated: F. Cibálek, F. Belinger, František Košťál, Tomáš Hrdlička and Fr. Sýkora. The same meeting decided that future registrees should pay $3, which applied to those who had applied at the club's meeting on May 13 of 1888, including Mr. Kostohryz, Vác. Kalva, Vac. Bláha, Vinc. Pekař and Jan Lisý.

It was also decided that the next step should be an introductory meeting and that it should be held on May 19, 1888. At that meeting the club ceased to exist in its current form, when it became absorbed into the federation.

Introductory ceremonies were held on May 19, 1888 in the federation building by the Záboj order. The meeting also decided to organize a social gathering in order to invite members from other foreign-language courts. The Záboj Court was requested to organize such an event in its own hall, after which they would escort those gathered to our hall and accompany them with music.

The first protocol was written up by Záboj court's secretary, Brother Jos. Charvát, and this first meeting elected in the following officials:
Brother Anton Pick as court head, Václav Záveský as deputy head, Jos. Lisý as financial secretary, August Bubák as treasurer, Václav Jiráš as protocol secretary, Josef Friedl as senior conductor, Albert Cabálek as junior conductor, V. Šulc as inner guard and Petr Vacík as outer guard.

Because Brothers Friedl and Šulc were not present at the meeting other brothers accepted their positions on their behalf. <I don’t understand this... if other brothers were
elected then why are Friedl and Sulc on the list? Do you mean that the accepted their roles in absentia, i.e. that other brothers accepted their positions for them?

Once the brothers were assigned their positions and they announced their vows, it was explained to them what their new roles entailed.

The head of the High Court (Vysoký Dvůr) gave a speech in English on the purpose of the Foresters, and explained that the federation was founded by workers and not rich people, which is why so many orders were springing up and why the Foresters had been received with such favor by the brothers. He reminded the brothers to work for the success of the Foresters, so that it could overcome dark times and succeed.

Over a short period of time the new court accumulated the respectable amount of $482.55, which it deposited in a savings bank to gain interest. It also now holds $300 worth of assets, which includes its beautiful silk American banner unveiled with great pomp on March 28, 1892 to the attendance of many Czech and Slavic clubs.

Those who were able to attend the event will remember it for a long time. Mrs. Lukášová, creator of the banner, and <Mrs? Ms?> Bubáková, its godmother, <flagged this before. I don’t understand what the banner’s godmother is!> embroidered the banner with a beautiful three-colored thread showing the name of its ceremonial unveiling. The maids of honor <if they are unmarried then it’s maids, although this is usually a term reserved for weddings>, Miss. Vitcha, Miss Trojan, Miss Lukáš, Miss Sýkora, Miss Záveský and Miss Bureš, added beautiful wreaths with white stripes – the color of innocence. The banner was unveiled in the usual manner.

The club’s assets have accumulated over the years, from registration fees, monthly contributions and events and outings. These assets have been deposited into three funds: 50% of the proceeds from contributions, registration fees and other sources of income were deposited in the support fund; 5% of proceeds in the charitable fund; and 45% of proceeds in the domestic fund. There is also a special fourth fund into which donations and outing proceeds are deposited. This fund is available for special expenses and charitable donations not falling under the statutes, such as brothers in dire circumstances or from other Lodges, or for our compatriot enterprises, either here or back home, who require our aid.

Since the federation has its origins in England, although meetings are run in our native tongue, correspondence is always in English. At the moment our court is 50 strong in upstanding brothers, governed by the following officials:

A. Burda as head forester, Ant. Kočmit as deputy forester, Jan Král as secretary of protocol, Matěj Král as financial secretary, Václav Šulc as treasurer, Václav Sýkora as senior conductor, Matouš Vlach as junior conductor, Alb. Cabálek as inner guard and Jan Pekárek as outer guard, with Jan Vachuta as the ex-chairman.

The club was sad to see two of its brothers go to their eternal rest while the club was still new: Václav Vitcha, who shot himself on September 18, 1893 and was buried two days later; and Ignác Sýkora, who died of a stroke and was buried in the home country on January 31, 1894. During this time two wives of our brothers had also passed away: Mrs. Košťálová, who passed away due to blood poisoning on January 31, 1892, and Mrs. Barbora Vacík, who passed away from childbirth at the advanced age of 39 on January 17, 1893.
A total of 65 brothers have registered with our club since the beginning until the present day.
Of those, 15 were expelled or left, leaving the present membership of 50 good standing brothers.
This brief outline of the life and management of the Jan Amos Komenský Court has revealed its function both internally and externally, as it is founded on a brotherhood intent on doing the most good it can, and on expanding the court as a single entity, one which can stand proud among our foreign brothers for many years to come.
After these points were made known the collective resounded in a single voice: “Na zdar!”

Written by August Bubák

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Jan Neruda Court, No. 8015 A.O.F. of A.

The Jan Neruda Court was established in the city of Cleveland on September 24, 1891 at the residence of Matěj Štefan on 140 Hosmer Street.
Its naming was made official by the Equality Old Foresters of America, No. 6350 on November 26 of 1891.
The club's official naming was overseen by Václav Votava as its head forester, Jan Žahour as its financial secretary and a large collection of citizens, when it was officially named as Jan Neruda Court, No. 8015 of the Ancient Foresters of America.
Its founding members were as follows:
The club started with a membership of 23, with the following elected as officials at that time:
Jos. Počta as head forester, Jos. Vošmik as financial secretary, Jan Batista as deputy forester, Matěj Štefan as treasurer, Karel Šepř as secretary of protocol, Jan Batista as senior conductor, Jos. Soukup as junior conductor, Jos. Veverka as inner guard, Josef Karl as outer guard, with Jan Hronek, Josef Drasuer, and Jan Veverka on the asset committee.
In 1891 the Jan Neruda court had $35.05 in its coffers and 23 members in its brotherhood. In 1892 the club had $35.05 in assets, 25 new members and an extra $297.90 into its coffers. So the total is now $35.05 + $297.90?!. The next year one new member joined while another left, and $51.43 was added to the coffers.
In 1894 $24.17 was added to the court's assets while the coffers held $508.64 in cash.
$191.33 was paid out to ill brothers, while in 1893 one brother passed away. Ten members were expelled in 1894 while one left, leaving the membership at 36.
In 1895 the following officials were elected:
Jos. Soukup as head forester, A. Pokorný as deputy forester, Josef Počta as financial secretary, Jan Batista as treasurer, Iguác Hrách as secretary of protocol, Ig. Svoboda as senior conductor, K. Oktjvec as junior conductor, Jan Novák as inner guard and Jos. Svoboda as outer guard.

Prepared by:

Jos. Soukup  
Head Forester

Jos. Počta  
Financial Secretary

Sanctuary of Equality, No. 6350 of Sheep of America

This club (Svatyně Rovnoprávnost č. 6350 Ovčáků Ameriky) was established on January 15, 1894 in the hall of Slovanská Lípa, with the following founding members:


The sanctuary presently has 37 members and its elected officials are:

Jan Žahour as pastor, Jos Skalák as deputy pastor, Jan Prosek as secretary, Adolf Taubr as secretary of protocol, Fr. Stádník as treasurer, Jan Exner and F. Voltava as conductors and V. Kovářík and Vác. Kadleček as guards. These same officials hold these same positions today, with the exception of the pastor, who is now F. Vlna.

Czech Club No. 10

This women’s order (Sbor Čechie) of the Ancient Foresters was established on Nov. 15, 1895 in the Perun hall, a supporting club.

Its first officials were as follows:

Anna Vobořilová as chairwoman, Marie Krejsová as secretary and Kateřina Davidová as accountant.

This club started with 15 members but within a short time this increased to 50. When the Perun hall was handed over to the city, the Czech Club moved to the hall of V. Rychlík, where it has remained until today.

At the end of June, 1894 the club’s assets amounted to $714.74 and its membership stood at 55.

The Růžena Jesenská Club

The Růžena Jesenská club was established on May 29, 1888 by Mrs. Anna Záveská and Mrs. Antonia Vlachová, under the name of Taborite Circle (Kruh Táboritky) No. 52 of the Forest Association (Družsvo Lesa).
On July 24, 1893 the club changed its name from the Taborite Circle, No. 52 to Růžena Jesenská and withdrew from the Forest Association. On August 13 of the same year, the club was incorporated into the Sister Support Federation (Sesterské Podporující Jednota) as No. 5. At this point the club had a membership of thirty women.

The Růžena Jesenská club, <sbor> No. 5 of SSF <-S.P.J – search throughout, and other cases-> was incorporated on May 4 of 1894, in Ohio's city of Columbus.

Those responsible for the incorporation were: Anna Záveská, Marie Kubrna, Anna Hospodská, Cecilie Vlach and Klára Vrbský.

The club's purpose is for its members, all worthy Czech-Slavic-American women, to support one another and to cultivate their education.

Any member fallen ill is entitled to support of $2 weekly, or $200 from the federation in the event of death. All the members of any club in which a member passes away shall attend the funeral, the club donating a flower pillow valued at $5.

The club accepts women of moral character with unblemished reputations between the ages of 18 and 45, who pay a registration fee according to their age. The club is actively involved in all cultural events and contributes what it is able.

On February 11 of 1890 the club donated $10 to purchase an item to place in the bazaar organized for the Czech Cultural Hall in Cleveland, which the club partook in and which pulled in proceeds of $30.

On February 12, 1893 the club bought $25 in shares from the Czech Cultural Hall in Cleveland. <check comma thing>

On April 8 of 1894 a proposal was put forth and accepted for the entire body of members to become <> the Prague Education Foundation (Matice Školské v Praze), which it had been supporting according to its abilities. <

On June 10, 1894 the club donated two dollars instead of buying 10 tickets for an outing organized by the Patrons of the Czech Cultural Hall.

On August 12, based on a request from the Č.S.B.P.J. Federation for the club to take part in its ten year anniversary celebrations, the club’s committee attended in a carriage.

On October 14, 1894 the club donated $1 to T.J. Czech Sokol in Chicago. The club is now 45 women strong and holds $245.00 in movable and $50 in fixed assets.

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Vlasta Club of the Czech Support Fellowship

This club is presently 62 members strong and was founded on July 11 of 1893, in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

The first committee was made up of the following women:

Alb. Černý as chairwoman, Kat. Čanský as vice-chairwoman, Marie Kušta as secretary, Kristina Zvěřina as treasurer and Marie Zbešovská as supervisor, with the asset committee made up of Anna Růžička, Marie Kuderna and Marie Koutník, and the committee of patrons for the building of the Czech Cultural Hall in Cleveland made up of Antonie Herold, A. Šídlo and Krist. Zvěřina.
In 1894 the committee was made up of the following members: Antonie Herold as chairwoman, Anna Votýpka as vice-chairwoman, Matilda Raus as secretary, Barbora Chvátal as accountant and Krist. Zvěřina as treasurer, with the asset committee made up of Anna Růžička, Marie Kuderna and Marie Koutník, and the committee of patrons for the building of the Czech Cultural Hall made up of Aloisia Beneš, Anna Votýpka and Antonie Herold. This new group currently holds $680 in assets and has paid out a total of $80 in payments of $2.50 weekly to support sisters fallen ill. If a sister passes away, her bereaved family receives $50. Although the collection is small, it fears no hurdles and is steadfast in its resolve to achieve its goals.

Antonie Herold, Chairwoman
Matilda Raus, Secretary

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Knights and Ladies of Honor
(Řád Rýtířů a Dám Cti)

This is a charitable organization of both male and female members, organized into supreme lodges, grand lodges and subordinates lodges. The order is international, meaning that correspondence between the supreme and grand lodges is in the English language. The local subordinate lodges converse in their own, native languages. The first Czech lodge in Cleveland was established on March 28, 1888, with 48 members drawing up a charter to be named Czech Lion Lodge (Lože Český Lev) No. 1294 of the Knights and Ladies of Honor. On February 16, 1894, the lodge was incorporated under Ohio state laws, with the self-stated goal of supporting charitable activities and aiding one another in the event of illness or death. Each member agrees to contribute to death benefits, while they understand that they must not be past the age of 50 and be in completely good health. Membership of the Czech Lion Lodge presently stands at 111, which certainly reveals the strength of the free-thinking movement. 62 of the members are male while 49 are female.

As regards death benefits, 17 members pay support of $500, 62 members $1,000, 5 members $2,000 and 1 member $3,000. 26 members contribute only for sickness or emergency benefits.

Since its founding, the Czech lodge has gathered twice monthly at Václav Rychlík's hall, located at 103 Croton Street. At the end of 1894 the club's cash assets amounted to $1,1141.27. Each year the lodge celebrates the day of its founding, with proceeds from the event donated to maintain the graves of members past, and the remainder given to their orphaned children.

Club members always visit the graves to carry out maintenance on Decoration Day – the American national holiday that exists just for this purpose. The club's members
and friends of the deceased are invited to the hall, and then after a brief ceremony they take the decorations to the graves.

The club's emblem has a red stripe for the elected officials and a blue one for members, 3 inches long and 1.5 inches wide, decorated at the top with a metal shield with the letters K. & L. of H. <hmm. Is this just their symbol, i.e. they put it on their letterheads etc? In which case emblem is fine, or crest. Or do they wear it? The bit about how its red for officials and blue for members, plus the dimensions, makes me think they wear it. In which case “emblem” is wrong and I would recommend the term “medallion”. I think the term “emblem” is used elsewhere, but as I can’t access the original I’m not sure whether the meaning is different.> At the bottom is a triangle with the letters O. M. A. Each lodge has the following officials: a protector, a vice-protector, secretary, accountant, treasurer, two conductors, a guard and a three-member asset committee.

There are more than 1,300 such lodges in the United States and total membership on December 1 of 1894 amounted to 80,898.

Since the federation's founding on September 6, 1877 until December 1 of 1894 it paid out death benefits amounting to $9,389,034.72 <9 million dollars??>, of which $6,500.00 went to five deceased members of the Czech Lion club.

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Palacký, Lodge No. 317 – Pythian Knights

The Pythian Knights (Rytířů Pythia) was established by Just Henry Rothbone <? Justin? Or the title, Justice (i.e. he’s a judge)? > on February 15 of 1864, on 369 F. Street, Washington, D.C. At the time the founder was a student of Eagle Harbor school and was inspired by the remarkable friendship of Damon and Pythia. In 1865 the top writer of the Federal Medical Department <ledarskem spolkovem odboru> in Washington wrote introductory ceremonies based on the well-known play Damon and Pythia, to which he invited everyone he knew. With their consent he took measures towards establishing the order, which he named according to the hero of the same play. The first lodge was named in honor of the country's father, Washington, the second to honor Franklin, the third Columbia and the fourth Potomac. Later the order expanded into Virginia and Pennsylania. Grand lodges were established, and since 1868, when the supreme international lodge was created, the order has experienced excellent growth. The order has around half a million members and owns and runs orphanages and shelters for old members in almost every state of the union. Its highest legal body is the Supreme World Lodge <> . The supreme lodges < supervise the grand lodges, which in turn supervise over the subordinates.

Czech lodges belonging to this federation may be found in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and Omaha.

The Palacký Lodge, No. 317, the only Czech lodge in Ohio, was established in our city on April 17, 1889, by F.C. Končan and F. Březina. The beginnings were very promising: <> . A report in July of this year counted 37 members and assets of $406.66. An official report in July of 1895 showed membership at 206 and assets of $3,748.64. The Palacký lodge can pride itself in the fact that its members include both editors of
local magazines, most of the publishers and typesetters and most of the doctors, lawyers, retailers and business owners.

Since the lodge's founding, eight members passed away, each of whom received $75 from the lodge's funds, their coffins adorned with flowers at a cost of $10 and a carriage provided for the closest relative. Members fallen ill, widows and orphans were paid a total of $1,596.50 by July 1st of this year.

Since the Palacký lodge is part of an international federation it takes part in all national endeavors: it supports Sunday schools, is a patron of the Czech Cultural Hall and supports all that is beautiful and noble, remaining faithful to its original purpose: to serve humanity.

Meetings are held each Friday night in the beautiful residence of J. F. Trojan on Broadway, close to Petrie Street. The lodge has the following 14 ex-chancellors (ex-chairmen): J. C. Končan, Fr. Březina, Jan Kratochvíl, Jos. Charváat, Anto. Šácha, Václav Hončík, Vojt. Soulek, Jindřich Procházka, Fr. Hesoun, Jan. F. Vachuta, Jan. E. Vorel, Tomáš Woelfel, Josef Bláha and A. J. Klečka.

The following elected officials are as follows: J. C. Karlovec as general chancellor (chairman), Jos. Dušek as vice-chancellor (deputy to the chairman), Jos. Šťastný as prelate, J. E. Vorel as labor supervisor, K. F. Tůma as archive and seal guard (secretary), J. F. Charvát as financial supervisor (accountant), F. Sluka as treasury supervisor (treasurer), Ben. J. Doležal as armorer, with Alb. Hudec and F. Štícha as the guards.

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Ludvík Theater Company

Once they learned that the Czech theater company of Ludvík intended to give several performances in Cleveland, the amateur actors of F. Kysela and A. Šícha sent an invitation to all local amateur drama clubs to meet at Vác. Rychlík’s to discuss accommodation for the arriving ensemble and to put together a program for them.

This work was divided amongst the established committee, made up of both free-thinking and Catholic amateur actors, everyone acting in full agreement regardless of their beliefs.

On Friday, April 14 in the afternoon the Ludvík ensemble of 13 men and 10 women arrived at the Valley railway station to be greeted by the committee and their gracious hosts.

The guests were greeted warmly, and were pleased to find their hosts had made every effort to show that they had not forgotten the most beautiful of Slavic virtues: hospitality, even in their new country.

Every host did their best to provide a comfortable home for the guests. We only had one thing to explain: in this country everyone is equal, with no displays of bowing, hand kissing or any other form of excessive social deference, which is foreign to us. After all, both in spirit and body we are able to speak our minds, straightforwardly among equals – a trait our guests most certainly appreciated.
On Saturday night the Thalia drama club organized an excellent dinner in the hall of Slovanská Lípa, where Fr. Kysela welcomed the guests on behalf of Cleveland's Czechs with a superb speech, to which the Ludvík's director responded with gratitude. The Lumír choir then sang two songs and the night got off to a great start.

The Ludvík drama company performed the following plays in our city:

On Sunday, April 16 in the Jacobs Cleveland Theatre it performed Queen Barbora (Královna Barbora), then A Night in Karlstein (Noc na Karlštejně) on April 17 at Slovanská Lípa, The Eleventh Commandment (Jedenácté příkázání) < on April 18 in the Colombia Hall, Girl with a Moustache (Dívka s knířem) and So Many Girls but Not a Man In Sight (Žádný muž a tolik děvčat) < on April 19 at J. Bejček’s hall, The King and the Peasant (Král a sedlák) on April 20 in F. Vachalec’s hall, The Ironworks Owner (Majitel hutí) on April 21 at Svornosti Katolické (Catholic Concord) hall, Girl with a Moustache (Dívka s knířem) and So Many Girls but Not a Man In Sight (Žádný muž a tolik děvčat) < again on Saturday, April 22 at Slovanská Lípa, and Gazdina's Robe < (Gazdina roba) on Sunday, April 22 at Slovanská Lípa. <Should this be May? The plays seem to run in chronological order other than this last one>

All of the performances went smoothly in front of packed audiences, bringing in impressive proceeds of more than $1,800 in profits during the tour of Cleveland. The profits certainly exceeded anything the ensemble had earned elsewhere. Once those performances were complete the entourage headed back to Detroit, Michigan.

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Visitors from Back Home

The following is an excerpt from the Hospitality club <I’m assuming this is a particular club, which means it should be called the Hospitality club> for welcoming and accommodating Czech guests to the Chicago World Fair, happening at the time of writing.

By suggestion of the J.Č.D. Grand Committee of Ohio, representatives of local Czech female clubs gathered together on December 11, 1892, in the hall of V. Rychlík in order to form a committee which would be responsible for welcoming and accommodating Czechs visiting the World Fair.

The meeting was initiated by Karolina Rychlíková, who explained to all those present the meeting’s purpose, after which letters were read, proclaiming the names of the representatives from the different Cleveland female clubs, as follows:

Marie Kušta, A. Šídlo and Anna Růžička from Vlasta, Club No. 2. of J. Č. P. D.
Aloisie Sprostý, Anna Michnová and Kateřina Forejt from the Czech Patriotic Ladies (Českých Vlastenek).
Marie Macourek, Anna Kužel and Marie Vokoun from the first female Vlasta club.
Kateřina Hoffman, Marie Vopalecký and Anua Koch from the Czech Circle, No. 10. of A. F. O.
Kateřina Beránek, Marie Cipra, and Josefa Kothera from the Libuše S. P. J. club.
Frant. Franke, Marie Hájek and Marie Rokůsek from the Grand Committee of Jednota Českých Dam (J.Č.D.).
Karolina Rychlíková, Antonie Mallý and Antonie Herold from Libuše, Club No. 1 of J. Č. D.
Rozarie Stupka, Marie Hauzer and Josefa Ptáček from Ladislava, Club No 2. of J. Č. D.
Josefa Bejček, Terezie Čermák and Josefa Vácha from Vratislava, No. 6 of J. Č. D.
Anna Sácha, Anna Musil and Anna Kirian from Vlastimila, No. 9 of J. Č. D.
Antonie Metlička, Albína Černý and Anna Stádník from Blahomila, No. 16 of J. Č. D.
Marie Červenka, Kateřina Pintner, and F. Šebánek from Eliška Pešková, No. 30 of J. Č. D.
Josefa Bejček, Terezie Čermák and Josefa Vácha from Vratislava, No. 6 of J. Č. D.
Anna Šácha, Anna Musil and Anna Kirian from Vlastimila, No. 9 of J. Č. D.
Antonie Metlička, Albína Černý and Anna Stádník from Blahomila, No. 16 of J. Č. D.
Marie Červenka, Kateřina Pintner, and F. Šebánek from Eliška Pešková, No. 30 of J. Č. D.
After that the following officials were elected:
Marie Rokůsek as chairwoman, Marie Hájek as secretary and Antonie Mallý as treasurer.

Mrs. Josefa < Náprstková of Prague suggested that their members cover the costs of loaning memorable works of Czech women to the Chicago World Fair. They accepted wholeheartedly and decided that each female club member should contribute 20 cents for this purpose.

Other women who wanted to become members of the club had the right to take part in all the discussions once they had paid a fee of 25 cents. <

During the next meeting the following female patriots requested to take part in the discussions: Františka Dostálková, Math. Škálová, Anna Kolbová, Marie Kratochvílová, J. Humpal-Zemanová, Anna Plajšlová, Eleonora Plajšlová, Marie Ivrejsová, Helena Svobodová, Marie Pistoriusová, Marie Kohoutková, Cecilie Woelflová, M. Poláková, Marie Hrubý, Františka Doering, Františka Chalupecká, Božena Benešová and Anna Lokavská. Each of these contributed 25 cents.

Mrs. Josefa Humpal-Zemanová had described the noble purpose of this club with fine and enthusiastic words, and urged those members present to continue with their endeavors.

The following women’s clubs voted to contribute to the cause:

The Vlasta No. 2 Club of the Federation of Supporting Partners (Jednota Podporujících Družek) and the Czech Female Patriots (Českých Vlastenk) club each contributed $10.

The members of the following clubs each contributed 20 cents:
First Female Vlasta Club (První Damský Sbor Vlasta); Czech Circle (Kruh Čechie), No. 10 of A.O.F.; Libuše, Club No. 1 of J.Č.D.; Ladislava, Club No. 2 of J.Č.D.; ‘Vratislava, Club No. 6 of J.Č.D., Vlastimila, Club No. 9 of J.Č.D.; Blahomila, Club No. 16 of J.Č.D.; Eliška Pešková, Club No. 30 of J.Č.D.; Františka Stránecká, Club No. 31 of J.Č.D. and Reneta Tyrš, Club No. 37 of J.Č.D.

In order to organize a proper welcoming party for our dear Czech guests to Cleveland, the Lumír choir was invited to provide gracious entertainment. <

Because the club's chairwoman had been forced to resign from her post when she moved away from the city, A. Heroldová was voted in to take her place.
At this meeting it was ruled to publish a contact name for the convenience of Czech visitors that needed help in Prague’s national papers. A meeting on April 11, 1893, voted to purchase an album, in which to collect portraits of Czech women authors and scholars. A special committee was set up to purchase such an album.

The album was to include a printed inscription: “Dedicated to Czech women authors by Cleveland's Czech women on May 1, 1893”, in both Czech and English.

A meeting on June 7 of the same year voted to invite honorable Czech men’s clubs to also take part and to send their representatives to the next meeting, held on June 19, 1893.

The male representatives attended this meeting and helped with overall suggestions. A financial report was also submitted during this meeting and it was agreed to publish it in the local Czech papers. Another committee, made up of the following members was formed to arrange accommodation for our Czech guests:

- Karolína Rychlíková
- Marie Hájková
- Františka Franke

Mallá and Antoní Heroldavá to take care of the southern part of town, meaning ward 24.
- Josefa Bejková
- Terezie Čermáková

Any news on arriving guests or other arrangements was to be published in local papers as soon as it was known.

But it turned out to be quite a daunting task to determine when exactly our guests would arrive in Cleveland once they got off the boat in New York. For a start, three letters were sent to New York, once it was known that some Czech guests had already arrived. When no reply was received, two telegrams were sent, and when no response was made to those either, the welcoming committee sent Tomáš Woelffl to Buffalo on the morning of Saturday, August 5. This trip was also unsuccessful.

But finally, on Saturday, August 5, a telegram was received from the secretary of the Central Committee of J. Č. D. in New York, Anna Machovská, informing us that our Czech guests would arrive in Cleveland on the Monday morning.

The following made up the welcoming program for our dear guests:

- Czech Sokol (Sokolové Čech) and New Homeland (Nová Vlast) shall appear in their uniforms and the Sokol band together with the Sokol entourage – Reneta Tyršková and the welcoming committee. Guests will be addressed by the committee’s chairwoman, A. Heroldová, and escorted in carriages to the Rychlík hall, after which they will be taken to their hosts following a short break. A banquet will be organized on Monday evening at the Halnoth’s garden, where all the local Czech bands and the Lumír and Jablonský choirs will perform.

When the first group of Czechs were ready to travel our way they expressed the following request:

“Our first task is to offer our Czech brothers in America a proper Czech greeting, on behalf of the entire nation, and to thank them again for their endless sacrifices. We
would like to return the favor of their last visit back home by travelling to this land of freedom.

“Our entire nation is delighted that we can treat you this way.

“We will eagerly watch the news of your travels and hope that the coming together of our compatriots will bring fruits of solidarity and mutual love for our homeland, and that this meeting will lead to greater success for our nation.

“We sincerely wish that the expedition leader will remember his mission fondly, and look forward to hearing that our brothers' first impression on landing was a joyful one, congratulating them in advance on the success of their overseas journey.”

You can imagine how impatiently they waited for news of the group's arrival to New York, but there was disappointment. The “Czech New York” <unclear what this is. Another club that was hosting the visitors? Why’s it in quote marks?> broke up into two factions at last minute, which meant that the welcome of the arriving Czechs lacked honesty and warmth. It is disappointing that the “Czech New York” could not put their differences to one side, especially for such an important event. <If it’s not a club, then perhaps phrase this “Upon their arrival in New York our visitors discover that the Czech community had descended into infighting and factionalism, and that their welcome lacked honesty and warmth. It is disappointing that the New York Czechs could not put their …”>

We in Cleveland had been so looking forward to heading out, making all the necessary preparations to prove “that which links us in our hearts is strong despite the ocean between us”. Thirty thousand of us here in Cleveland had been struggling since January to make this all happen and invite our brothers from back home with open arms – we were certainly disappointed, but fortunately only partially!

We thank all those who were not disheartened by misfortune and managed to make it to our city. Be certain that our guests will be greeted with a sincere handshake – albeit a work-calloused one. We are all ecstatic with the thought of meeting you with true, open Czech hearts.

On August 7 of 1893, at seven in the morning, our Czech entourage finally arrived at the station under the viaduct, where the Sokol club, representatives of the Č.S.P.S. and Č.S.B.P.J, female representatives from J.Č.D. and members of the welcoming committee were waiting, greeting them with open arms on arrival.

Our visitors were then taken by carriage to the Rychlík hall, adorned for the occasion by Czech and American banners. The facade itself displayed the message: “Welcome dear guests!” and the hall was decorated by an obliging Václav Chrášťanský, with many tables laid out in the hall's center to feed our valued guests. Czech cake was certainly not lacking!

A. Heroldová, the committee's chairwoman, welcomed the guests with a brief but heartfelt speech, emblems were presented to them and the gathering was instructed to be seated. Sokol members and all the local Czechs heartily greeted our comrades, the occasion entirely electrifying. All the hosts waited eagerly to learn of the guests assigned to them, one such tale being as follows:

<< file 97, page 170
Mr. F. Hrubecký from East Cleveland was assigned a young woman whose name is not important here. As Hrubecký invited her to depart with him, the woman hesitated, blushed and then asked: “Would it be possible to bring along this gentleman as well?” Hrubecký immediately assured her it would be no problem, and then asked, “Is he a friend of yours?” “He's my husband. We just got married in New York, where our mother lives.” "Our” mother?! His mother? Her mother?>

So it happened that, although more than 100 guests failed to arrive, Mr. Hrubecký had three guests of his own, and was very happy for it. As for the guests, their journey to America became a honeymoon.

Dinner and Concert in the Haltnorth Garden on the evening of August 7, 1893

The evening celebrations organized in the Haltnorth garden in honor of our Czech guests will be long remembered, mostly because the atmosphere was entirely Czech: harmonious and undivided by politics, where the entire gathering radiated as a unified whole.

The band, made up of a mix of the best local musicians and directed by J. W. Mudra, as well as the Lumír and Jablonský choirs, directed by Alfred Wiesenberger, exhilarated the Czech ensemble and went as far as impressing the city dignitaries there present, including Mayor Blee, Directors Lawrence and Thompson, Sherriff Ryan, Detective Jan Vaněk, County Commissioner Jan Vevera and others.

The presence of such city and county dignitaries was made sweeter by the fact that it was so rare.

By seven the guests began entering the garden, lit with beautiful, green electric lamps over carefully prepared water fountains, the atmosphere and mood vibrant as the various bands, choirs and the united Cleveland Czechs gathered. Could we have asked for anything more?

The welcoming committee chairwoman kicked off the celebrations with a fine speech, after which, on behalf of all the local Czechs, she gave a golden ring with the inscription “Cleveland” to two children of our Czech guests.

During the dinner, leading figures of the city gave their own speeches, the lead speaker, Václav Šnajdr, delivering a beautiful greeting, after which one of the visitors gave a response. After that many others spoke.

It is also worth mentioning that the Czech Mandolin Club performed twice during the evening, which only goes to show how obliging everyone was to make the evening a smashing success.

The following Czech guests were present:

Jindřich Čuhl, Jos. Strnad, Fr. Čmíral, Karel Duneš with wife and child, Bohumil Červinka, Fr. Červinka, Jan Poláček, Mr. Fišer, Vil. Karchuta, Mr. Vráná, Mr. Křivánek, Miss Inemanová, Mr. Flek, Mr. Picha, Mr. Jan Černý with son, Mr. Ludvík, Mr. Kutílek, Mr. Horáček with two women, Mrs. V. Bubeníček, Mr. Mihulka with wife, Miss Marie Pačinková, Mr. V. Rek, Miss Fr. Daněk, Mr. Mojmír Urbánek and Miss Alžbeta Zvelebil.

A few days later Mr. F. Herites arrived with his wife and two daughters, and Miss F. Martanová.
Sightseeing around the City

On invitation from Major Blee our guests gathered at 11am in front of the county hall for a tour. Commissioner Vevera, the secretary, Vaněk, ex-alderman Pták, Sokol chairman Woelfel and others were all present.

After the tour the group was taken by carriage to the local hospital to be welcomed by its director as a representative of the mayor and, once the tour was complete the guests were invited for lunch.

In spite of the hospital’s regulations, a casket of Czech malt liquor was cracked open, with the help of the director and host, who then handed out fine cigars.

After a short break the guests were taken to a second city establishment, a sweatshop <robotára – sweatshop can’t be right – has very negative connotations of slave labour. Factory? Workshop?>, where they were welcomed by the city mayor, the charity department director and the supervisor, who also served as the tour guide.

The group then went to the Lake View cemetery, in particular to the Gargield monument, after which the guests were driven along Euclid to be shown some of the city's prominent landmarks.

Reports in Non-Czech Local Papers
Concerning our Celebration and Dinner

The Leader published more than half a column under the title: “A Royal Welcome – Czech guests treated like royalty by their local compatriots. – Joyous celebrations at Haltnorth's garden. – Orations by Major Blee and others. – Music, song and dinner.”

From the detailed description it was clear that the city had not witnessed a more successful event.

The Plain Dealer also allocated half a column for us, under the title: “Beautiful Bohemia – The guests of local Czechs were treated like royalty in Haltnorth's garden. – List of guests.” The column included a longer report on the romantic wedding between Mr. Horáček and Miss Oswald, ending with a quotation from the groom: “This is a large country and in many respects is better than Bohemia, where it takes three weeks to find a priest and get married. Here it only took a few minutes!”

Among other matters, the Cleveland World wrote: “Czech visitors were truly treated like royalty when they were hosted by their local compatriots.”

The Press mentioned: “The welcoming of Czech guests from Prague was a delightful event. The dinner could not have gone better.”

The Cleveland Anzeiger & Deutsche Presse wrote: “The Czech community in Cleveland showed its finest qualities during this occasion and were illustrious in every respect. What other nationality in Cleveland could compile a band of such caliber from within its own ranks? Not only bands but fine choirs too, and the women and youngsters who helped bring it all together. The dinner speeches were by turns both moving and humorous, and the beer flowed freely until midnight among a very joyous crowd.

The Waechter wrote: “Another great Czech garden gathering.”

Our Guests at the World Fair
Our guests, Sokol members and others intending to visit the Czech Days <českému dni> at the World Fair met on the evening of August 9 at the Sokol gymnasium, while members of the Catholic Reading Group with others met in the hall on Douse Street.
<< file 98, page 172
By 9pm the Sokol band showed up at the Sokol gymnasium in full attendance to play a few songs, after which the entire ensemble boarded an electric train, to which another carriage had to be added due to the sheer numbers.

The band continued to play until the arrival at the station, and the Czech passengers would shout out “Na zdar!” (Greetings!) whenever the train passed through a Czech neighborhood.

Once the special train, adorned with Czech signs, arrived at the station, those continuing on expressed their heartfelt gratitude and the entire occasion was very emotional. Roughly 12 Czech Clevelanders had accompanied the entourage and waved them farewell as they headed home to Cleveland, to the sound of Czech songs and a boisterous “Na zdar!” and “Happy returns!” (Šťastný návrat!).<Maybe “Travel safely!”? “Many happy returns” is a birthday wish so it sounds a bit strange>

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Guest Appearance of Mr. Šmaha
Director of Prague's National Theater

It was reported that Mr. Šmaha was to help Cleveland's amateur actors at the Jacobs Cleveland Theater on August 27 for the play Jan Hrobčický of Hrobčic, in the role of farmer Vrba. All the preparations had been made, but due to a misunderstanding it turned out that Mr. Šmaha was to perform in New York on the same day, which caused a bit of mayhem in Cleveland, where they had no other option than to choose another day to perform. But that itself was difficult as the Nová Vlast Sokol (New Homeland Sokol) had already arranged to unveil its new banner the week before, forcing the actors to choose an even later date to maximize the play's success. Mr. Šmaha announced that he could not possibly make this new date. However as Cleveland's Czechs had so looked forward to seeing him, he finally decided to head out to our city on September 2. What with all the unfortunate circumstances our local compatriots began to doubt whether he would manage to come, and the local paper D.N. expressing the same doubt, significantly agitation our honored guest and greatly reducing the prospect of his arrival.

But on the Friday morning of August 29 Mr. Šmaha did indeed arrive at our train station from New York where a welcoming committee was waiting for him. Our guest was then taken to be accommodated by V. Rychlík.

On September 3 of 1893, Volnost wrote the following of the great performer:

Mr. Šmaha's Performance
The performance was a fabulous success. There was a large audience (although it could have been larger), our jovial and hard-working compatriots filling the Rychlík hall on Saturday and Jacob's hall yesterday. And it's no wonder, as this year has had more than its share of flamboyant celebrations. We have worn ourselves out from the busy schedule and preparatory work, and as the cold of winter begins to knock on our door it is time to put the summer to rest as a sweet memory. Even so, the attendance was impressive.

On Saturday evening Mr. Šmaha recited Blacksmiths on Strike (Stávku kovářů) in Rychlík's hall, where he also performed in the main role of the dramatic study Gypsy (Cikán). The Germans, who usually adamantly criticize anything produced by our compatriots, were forced to acknowledge that Mr. Šmaha was certainly one of the best orators of Europe. He simply hypnotized the entire audience.

This was best shown once he stepped off the stage. As he slipped behind the curtain, the audience became aware of reality again, and the entire hall burst into a tumultuous applause, the like of which rarely remembered in these parts, demanding of the master a full four encores! His role as Peti in Gypsy was unparalleled, bringing to life all his virtues and vices: revealing his conniving behavior, thieving ways and big-headedness but also his compassion for others, his faithfulness to his word, his carefree life of leisure and his burning passion for his violin. The way Peti expressed his love for the return of his violin cannot be matched by even a mother expressing her love at the return of her only son.

Mr. Šmaha was handed a large bouquet of red roses, while other notable performances were made by Mr. F. Mára, Mr. Vlna, Mr. Princ and Miss A. Hájkova.

Václav Hrobčický of Hrobčic by Stroupež played last night in Jacob's theater, where Mr. Šmaha played farmer Vrba, one of his satirical roles, which he performed with compelling magnificence. The audience were entranced by his performance, with four beautiful bouquets handed to our famous guests almost every time he was called to the stage. The Kyselas were performed heroically and the same can be said for Jiří (Mr. Šícha), Father Zeman (Mr. Rychlík) and Strakoš (Mr. F. Ledinský).<not sure of a lot of the names.> Mr. Bartůnek played the forester, Mr. Kužel the agent, Mr. Skalák the administrator and B. Šáchol laddie Josifek, contributing to a very successful evening. Of the women, Mrs. Hájková played Verunka, and Mrs. Vrbová played a memorable part in the event and also receiving her deserved recognition. Kolenicová was superbly played by Mrs. Kuželová, although at some points delivered with a somewhat weak voice, which was regrettable. The orchestra, directed by Mr. Mudra, also deserves full recognition.

After Sunday's performance the actors were invited to a dinner party, organized by the Rychlík's in honor of Mr. Šmaha, only the best selection of food and drinks were chosen. Mr. Šmaha praised our drama club, assuring us that we outperformed our Chicago and New York counterparts. The praise was certainly well received; let's just hope it leads to inspiration and not to inflated egos. Mr. Šmaha departed from us last night to Buffalo, where he plans to visit the Niagara Falls, return to New York and then move on to Prague, the city of a thousand spires. Before leaving though he was careful to stress that his visit to Cleveland was a truly rewarding experience.
Summary of the Most Opulent Czech Celebrations

The greatest of these was the christening of Slovanská Lípa's banner on July 4, 1866 in the church on Woodland Ave (previously named Kinsman).

The second was the outing in celebration of Slovanská Lípa joining together with the Táboritá club and which took place in the western part of the city on July 4, 1868.

The opening of the new Perun hall on Croton Street in August of 1870.

The unveiling of the Lumír choir's banner in the hall of František Novák on the corner of Orange and Belmont Streets on May 1 of 1871.

The opening of the new Slovanská Lípa hall on the corner of Croton Street and Case Avenue on May 29, 1871.

The Jan Hus commemoration organized by the Perun club, complete with a large procession through the city followed by an outing to the Liedov's garden in 1872.

The Circle of Czech Peoples Federation convention (Jednota “Kruh Českého Lidu” – or K.Č.L. for short) held at Liedov's garden in 1872.

The memorial of Czech historian František Palacký organized by the Czechs of Cleveland on the property of the Perun hall.

The Cleveland Sokol ceremony held on the western part of town in the Vacín's garden.

The christening of the banners of several orders of Č.S.P.S.

The Č.S.P.S. convention held in June of 1878.

The Federation of Czech Women convention held in June of the following year.

The Sokol Federation convention festivities held in 1881.

The outing of the Czech Cultural Hall Patrons held on July 3 of 1891 in Beyerles Park.

The celebrated opening of the new Czech Sokol hall on Smith Street on January 1 of 1893.

The welcoming of Czech visitors to the Columbian World Fair in Chicago held in the Halnort's garden on August 7, 1893.

The opening of the Sokol New Homeland (Sokol Nová Vlast) hall on the west side, November 20, 1893.

It is also worth mentioning that the founding of the various clubs or order of different federations has always been celebrated in one flamboyant manner or another.

Czech Publications

The Czech media: what a significant force in our cultural and social lives! Where would we be without the inspiring, inquisitive and instructive voice of our Czech press? Any investigation into the Czech press would yield the same conclusion as to their significance in our cultural and social existence. From their very founding at the time of the first arrival of Bohemian immigrants, Czech periodicals have nurtured our love of our homeland and the beautiful Czech language, have stung the lethargic into charitable
action, energetically defended the honor of our community, instructed our compatriots of their individual rights and increased awareness of true spiritual freedom, advancement and enlightenment. Without these publications such awareness would not exist among us and without the vigorous and hard work of Czech journalists and writers our people would not have climbed to the cultural standing we now enjoy in this new country of ours.

This primarily applies to the efforts of Czech journalists of the 1860s and 70s, as accurately described by Mr. Lev Palda in his following memorandum:

“What these periodicals meant to us – which we firmly placed our faith in and always looked forward to the next issue – can be best testified by matters surrounding the support of Pokrok, whose regular earnings fell short of costs, whereby significant funds were collected in the Cleveland area. I remember cases where individuals contributed an entire $5 donation in one shot. Why? Certainly not for recognition in the papers, but because of a sincere desire to elevate our people through free thinking. Freedom of thought was not about comfort or freedom from obligations to help our own, as many might conclude nowadays, but instead served exactly those obligations and acted as a virtuous challenge to fulfill them. All of us knew in our hearts that the road ahead would be a long one, but firmly believed in what lay at the end of it, its ideals beautiful, its achievement most certain. And one aspiration burns in the hearts of all those who have been awakened: for us to stand firmly on this new soil to become a free, successful and contented people. None of us perceived any obstacles or barriers to our goals and all of us were glad to take part in any cultural pursuit.”

It was the work of these Czech journalists and a few awakened and sacrificing souls who brought our people to this awareness.

And it was these sacrificing individuals who worked the hardest to establish Czech publications in the city of Cleveland, understanding that only through these means could the concept of free thought be spread the widest.

After many meetings a company was finally formed and headed by M. Krejčí and J. V. Sýkora.

It was a good time to buy out the journal Pokrok of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and edited by F. B. Zdrůbek. The paper was not making ends meet, so the company Czech Printers (České Tiskárny) acquired it and moved it to Cleveland, offering Zdrůbek the opportunity to continue in his role, which he accepted.

This took place on February 9, 1871. But shortly thereafter Zdrůbek surrendered his position and was replaced by J. V. Čapek, who had been born and educated in Bohemia (where he was a well-known humorist and poet), but he too quit, after a year, to start his own independent weekly comic strip The Pixie (Diblík), which he later changed into the political weekly National Newspapers (Národní Noviny). However, neither of these were successful either, and Mr. Čapek moved to New York where he agreed to work as an editor for The New York Papers (New Yorských Listů).

On Mr. Čapek's departure, Václav Šnajdr took over as editor of Progress (Pokrok) , at a time when he was already respected as a Czech journalist and poet. He radicalized the paper even more than it was during the days of Fr. B. Zdrůbek. But survival was tough in an ocean of anger and ignorance, and the number of sincere and sacrificing free-thinkers was very few. No wonder then that this unfair battle led to the paper's demise, although from its ashes immediately arose The New Age Daily (Dennice
Novověku), published by the former Grand Order of the Č.S.P.S. Even this paper, published and edited by V. Šnajdr, had its own hurdles in the beginning, but because it was well managed it grew stronger every year and established firm roots in fertile soil. Since this federation was the largest and strongest of the free-thinking in America, survival of this paper was secured, drawing to it more free thinkers. The New Age Daily today stands as a leader of all the free-thinking papers in America, a position gained by relentless endurance, firm foundations and the tireless diligence of its publisher and editor.

Concerning The Workman's Paper (Dělnický Listy), founded at the start of 1875, Lev J. Palda writes the following:

“In May of 1875, with fellow compatriot F. Škarda, I published the first issue of The Workman’s Paper from the Plain Dealer building on Seneca Street. Škarda took care of the commercial end while I handled editing. We published this weekly paper for more than two years to the best of our abilities without any sort of remuneration, in the process of which I lost everything I had saved up from my cigar business. I'm not saying this to win any praise but simply as a point of fact...

Škarda and I survived frugally from our savings, Škarda later from the earnings of his wife, a teacher at an elementary school, several times drawing from her income to cover wages or other costs. Those were tough times indeed! And once the number of our subscribers had increased, mostly by decreasing subscription fees from three to two dollars annually, overall revenues had not increased enough to offer us anything resembling a decent living. We were banging our heads against a wall. I can only attribute the way we carried the burden with such light hearts to our enthusiasm for what was tormenting us and to the worriless nature of youth. But it is true there were times when we were close to losing all hope and suffered utter distress. We are, after all, only human, driven by a desire to attain a content, affluent, comfortable and safe existence.

To a large degree we founded The Workman's Paper because of the abundance of blue collar laborers, not only in the Cleveland area but Czech communities elsewhere, where I was often invited to give lectures on blue collar matters or where I was often active in labor unions at every opportunity. By 1876 Czech unions and social labor parties had arose in Cleveland and other areas, in what were considered “worker's quarters”.

This paints a true picture of the conditions we had to endure and most certainly few Czech journalists or writers in America were rewarded with a better fate for all their hard toil. The people can be very ungrateful, throwing a rock instead of offering even a slice of bread to those who sacrifice their lives for the spiritual revival of the many!”

By Hugo Chotek.

It is natural that the worker's movement became fashionable, even to an exaggerated degree. There are no rich folks among our Czech communities, the affluent are scant, so we are made up of a mixture of laborers. Because the word “capital” has been seen as “the enemy” for many years, it is no wonder that the Czech working class
saw its employers as oppressors, reacting with strikes which mostly ended to the
detriment of the laborer. Fanaticism was feared by some of our more prominent citizens,
including several Czech veterans of Cleveland, led by brothers Eduard and Karel
Vopalecký and Jan Veverka. < These three

resolved to publish a newspaper to level the playing field and to explain that workers
have their sacred rights while capital has its limitations, and that the benefit of all requires
that capital and the labor force meet half way. K. F. Tůma, the former editor of the
Chicago Gazette (Chicagský Věstník), was chosen as editor for the new publication.

The gazette was published once a week at 112 Croton Street and was named
Liberty (Volnost), the first issue going to press on Saturday, August 28, 1880. Any
paper's beginnings are tough, but the beginnings of Liberty were the worst of all Czech-
American publications. The gazette was received quite negatively by the population,
which was made only worse by the lack of capital, workers, and too much agitation. It
seemed the whole world was against that little magazine. By the end of the first year it
was boycotted, but came back from the dead somewhat with the Newburg Ironworks
strike. Liberty <zrážela ze strajku> pointed out the fact that the strikers were not
organized, meaning that the owners, who are millionaires, are at an advantage. The strike
failed, the wages of subjugated workers decreased, and many of our compatriots were
dismissed, beaten by policemen or fined by the courts, and so the paper was boycotted as
a result. Over a period of three years we were boycotted three times by the very people
we were trying to defend! No wonder Jan Veverka had enough of publishing after only
half a year, quitting the company. Shortly afterwards the printer was moved to the
property of Eduard Vopalecký on 127 Humboldt and 11 Perun Street (close to the corner
of Písek (Sand) Street), where it has remained up until today. Liberty stood its ground,
and once it managed to cast the proletarian concept in its natural limelight, it began to
organize labor unions – it educated our good-natured compatriots, setting the precedent
for what the magazine is today. Within two and three quarters of a year it had changed
from a weekly to a thrice-weekly publication, which expanded in content and, since
August 14 of 1892, is now published on a daily basis (with the exception of Sundays). In
May of the same year the daily was acquired by a company of 43 shareholders made up a
mixture of compatriots and the plant was incorporated by the Columbus Secretary of
State with a basic capital of $10,000. The executive board members of this new company
are: František Březina as chairman, Fr. Sprostý as deputy, Ed. Vopalecký as secretary,
treasurer and sales director, while the company's management is made up of Karel Frič,
Theodor B. Melzer, Vác. Rybák, Tomáš Šanda and Antonín Spurný. The plant itself
employs nine typesetters, one pressman, one machine operator, ten delivery personnel,
two editors and one permanent reporter.

Besides the daily a weekly is also published on Wednesdays and which was
recommended <jest zvolen> by the Č.S.P.S.”

By K. F. Tůma.

When the Czech population had climbed to 30,000 by the end of the 1880s, many
suggested the printing of a permanent daily newspaper, and so J. V. Luňák and several
friends decided to have a go at it. However, the daily was not established on a firm
footing and lacked the necessary funds to overcome initial friction and to maintain the printers, so it demised after only three months of a trying existence.

The Cleveland Papers (Clevelandské Listy), founded < by J. S. Čada, purely served the proletariat class and, with the abilities and exhaustive efforts of Mr. Čada, the paper would have not only survived but could have served workers and the free-thinking community well, if it were not for the spiteful resentment of the competition. This is one of the sadder chapters of the story of Czech journalism in America and better spoken of minimally.

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Our Catholic compatriots also made several attempts at publishing purely Catholic oriented papers, but without significant success. The very well managed and excellent beginnings of The Wake-Up Signal (Budiček) quietly faded away after many battles, after which this community lost interest in making any further endeavors. Two years ago the rumor went around that a Catholic publication would be issued three times a week, but nothing came of it.

A new fiction magazine, Entertainment Magazine (Zábavné Listy), came out in October of 1895, its publishers and owners B. Příchoda et al, its location on 35 Burwel <Burwell?> Street. It was well made, its reading material carefully chosen and its illustrations were appealing. In all there are now four Czech publishing companies in our city: The New Age Daily (Dennice Novověku), Liberty (Volnosti), Mr. J. V. Čapek and the Catholic publication of J. Svoboda.

By Hugo Chotek

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Patronage of the Czech Cultural Hall

In the past attempts to maintain the local Czech cultural buildings by free-thinking Czechs, through their various events and activities, were unsuccessful, and over time these attempts waned significantly. New interest has appeared over the past few years, and so we find ourselves with greater resolve to build a respectable Czech Cultural Hall.

The main reason for doing this is that, at the start of 1889, the Cleveland School Council disallowed the use of its space by Czech Sunday schools because they determined that some of the wards had been charging a fee, which was in conflict with the state's regulations.

The Czech school committees in the 24th and 25th wards, which had mostly been affected by this prohibition, gathered together to discuss an alternative solution and came to the conclusion that the best approach would be to build their own school in the middle of those wards. They then announced this decision to all the Czech organizations based in those wards and invited them to send their representatives for further consultation concerning these matters, to meet at the hall of Mr. Rybák on Finn Street, where the school committee generally held its meetings. Míchal Albl was selected as the temporary chairman of this meeting, Václav Vaněk as its secretary.
After exchanging several ideas the meeting decided to build a stately hall, which satisfied all the Czech organizations.

It was then decided to send the proposal to all local Czech organizations and ask them for their participation.

The meeting also voted in the following line-up of committee members: M. Albl as chairman, Václav Vaněk as secretary, Jan Burda as accountant, and Karel Herold, Anton Šácha and E. Fingulin as treasurers.

A subsequent meeting, attended by representatives sent from most of the local Czech organizations, set up the following committees: for establishing the rules or statutes for handling incorporation; and for organizing events and related activities under the title of Patronage of the Czech Cultural Hall (Patronát Česko Národní Síně).

The committee has been tasked with requesting various organizations and individuals to purchase <rozebrání akcií> shares or offer some other form of loan.

To help with financing it was also decided to organize one large, combined outing a year and, during the winter, a grand patronage ball.

The local drama clubs were also asked to occasionally organize a performance in benefit of the hall.

A later meeting elected a committee to seek out a suitable property for the hall and several locations or sites were proposed. Until that was resolved the various Czech clubs began to organize events and request for donations for the hall's construction, after which significant funds were collected for the property's purchase.

Finally, a meeting held on March 31 of 1889 made the decision to acquire property on the corner of Broadway and Mead Ave, existing number 112 <jsoucí a sice 112 při 150 stop.,> for a sum of $6,700.

Now the real work began, as every organization did all it could to help the hall's construction by organizing events or collecting donations, each aspiring to outperform the other. Even the female clubs competed against the men's, such that not only was the property paid for in a short period of time, but a significant amount of cash was left over and deposited onto a bank account.

Later on, exhibitions and fairs were organized on the 16th, 17th and 18th of May, 1890, in the Roller Ring on Broadway, and on the 19th and 20th of May of the same year in the Perun Hall on Croton Street, during which the bands of V. Mudry, the Zámečník brothers and Hronek played free of charge. This enterprise pulled in net profits of $650.16.

A band made up of young musicians directed by Mr. Polák organized a nice ball on the east side of town and submitted the net proceeds to the patronage.

Alongside this, net proceeds from theatrical performances, amateur acting performances and other special events organized by male and female clubs alike were occasionally added to the increasing cash deposit of the Czech National Hall.

One of the most flamboyant local Czech celebrations of recent times was the outing organized by the Patronage to the Czech National Hall on July 5, 1891 to Beyer Park.

This grand procession, drawn from all the Czech organizations in the Cleveland area, complete with their beautiful banners and club emblems, impressed and fascinated even uninvolved bystanders. In particular once the entire gathering had moved the grounds of the future hall, with our bands proudly blaring the songs of our heritage, then
to Beyer Park </do Beyerlova parku>, and along the streets, where our residences were 
adorned with our cultural banners and other decorations and where we were greeted with 
proper, heartfelt bohemian cordiality.

After a few hours the Lumír Mixed Choir [Smíšený Pěvecký Sbor Lumír] sang, 
speeches were made by Mr. Šnajdr and J. Sprostý received with thunderous applause by 
the crowd, after which the bands let rip and the Sokol members displayed their skills. In 
the park different games were organized, one of which included the Mermaid [Mořská 
panna] <should you say what this is? I've never heard of it>, which turned out to be an 
excellent and profitable idea.

The crowd was tickled pink with excitement and the entire event pulled in net 
proceeds of $2,500.

The next year's outing, in 1892, also attracted a large crowd, but financial 
difficulties then only pulled in net proceeds of $1,200. Later outings and organized balls 
were also successful and likewise contributed respectable proceeds to the Czech Cultural 
Hall [Česko Národní síň].

In spite of the difficult conditions the hall's assets continue to grow, such that the 
property's value of $6,700 has now been fully paid for and its cash assets have surpassed 
$10,000.

Because the building's construction, according to the accepted designs of Ond. M. 
Mitermiler and J. Hrádka, is estimated at $60,000, the committee has decided to begin 
with construction only once a greater sum has been saved.

In 1895 the Patronage's presiding <[elected] members were as follows: F. 
Hrubecký as chairman, J. E. Vorel as vice-chairman, Alois Žák as secretary, J. Burda as 
accountant, and Tom. Šídlo, Ant. Petráš, and F. Vlach as the treasurers.

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Cleveland Sokol

The Cleveland Sokol was founded at the start of 1895 in the East end of town and 
presently has enough members to ensure its secure survival into the future. F. Hanuš is its 
head trainer.

Besides this physical education organization, Cleveland is endowed with other 
social and support clubs, but since we are not aware of their details we cannot include 
them here.

We do at least know that there are Czech worker clubs, a union of Czech 
carpenters and bakers, amateur drama clubs in the East and West parts of the city, the 
Slapnička Firing Club in the 24th ward, and many others, who share their members with 
other clubs or orders.

Cleveland's Czechs are looking forward to the arrival of renowned traveler E. St. 
Vráze, who intends to provide some lectures here.

In addition, the famous violinist, F. Ondříček, is also supposed to visit.

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Grand Prokop Lodge, No. 708 of I.O.O.F.

This abbreviation stands for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a secretive club founded in England that spread throughout the world, and is currently the strongest in number after the Free Masons. Its first America-based lodge was established in Washington in 1802, by Thomas Wildey in Baltimore who had summoned a meeting at the Seven Stars [U sedmi hvězd]. By 1819 there were only six lodges independent of England. A meeting in Baltimore concluded that it was not dignified of an American to receive orders from England. As the only alternative would be to become completely independent of the colonial ruler, lodges were established in four states the following year. Since it announced independence the federation has flourished in America, under its new slogan "Friendship, Love and Truth". It clearly holds true to its motto since the federation is second only to the Free Masons in terms of elevating humanity, reducing suffering and undertaking charitable acts. Its latest reports evidence that support of $1,000,000 went the sick last year alone, almost $600,000 to orphans and much more in the form of other charitable support. The order provides extensive and continued support to orphanages, shelters, the motherland <domoviny>, libraries and study halls.

The Grand Prokop Lodge [Prokop Veliký Lože] was accepted into this federation on Saturday, November 19, 1881 and was founded by F. Kysela, Vác. Rychlík, V. Kaucký, F. Payer, V. Klipec, K. F. Tůma, T. Mužík, V. Zmína, Q. Kuliš, Jos. Kocian, J. A. Hospodský, J. Forejt, A. Páv, J. Jiříle and Er. Křemel. Its first master (chairman) was V. Rychlík, its first secretary K. F. Tůma. The latest report indicates the lodge has 24 members and controls capital amounting to $1,035.51, of which $205.59 has been set aside to support widows and orphans.


By K. F. Tůma

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Karel Havlíček Borovský Educational Club

In May of 1885, when most of Cleveland's Czechs lived in the 14th (now 24th) Ward, several support clubs and orders had cropped up practically at the same time. So in order for an educational club to be included among these to represent the goals of Free-Thinking Czechs, several more educated and aware Czechs decided to gather at Mr. Noska's on Warren Street to discuss the matter.

The proposal to form a club whose primary goal would be to educate young people and lend out worthy publications for the purpose of their enlightenment was received with enthusiasm, the meeting voting to name the new club Karel Havlíček Borovský.

The clubs founders were Fr. Sakryd, A. Nosek, F. Motl, Fr. Mareš, V. Nosek, Jan Kubaň, Jos. Vícha, V. Procházka and Fr. Jankovský, later joined by others.
After a year the club moved to Broadway Hall, where it put together a good collection of books for its library from funds collected from organized events, to which it continued to contribute to over time.

Because the group was comprised predominantly of younger members, it flourished rapidly and won great favor among the local Czech population.

An outing organized by the club to Bayerl Park contributed major funding for the library's expansion. The Karel Havlíček Borovský Club has recently been meeting at the Sokol gymnasium on Smith Ave. The library contains volumes worth over $600, including publications from the best Czech authors.

The club is always happy to partake in such public events and celebrations, organizing some of them on its own, or at other times partnering with the Jan Žižka Czech worker's education club to organize grand events.

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Czech Slavic Brotherhood Support Federation

This Federation was established in Cleveland, Ohio in 1885, with orders now numbering 52 with a total membership of 2,173 and Federation assets of $5,076.95.

The following orders are based in Cleveland: Josef No. 1, Vít No. 2, Ryt.Václav II No. 3, Václav I No. 5, Jan Křtitel No. 6, Čechoslovan No. 7, Čelakovský No. 8, Věrní Bratří No. 9, Zvíkov No. 10, Vlastimil No. 11, Stanislav No. 12, Blaník No. 13, Cleveland No. 26, Žižkov No. 27, Sokol Zlatá Praha No. 28, Soběslav No. 35, Táborité No. 40, Jeroným Pražský [Prague Jeroný < ] No. 43, Dalibor No. 49 and Prokop Velký No. 51.

The presiding members of the National Main Order are as follows:

Jakub Hájek as chairman, Fr. Koslík as vice-chairman, F. Vlach as secretary, F. Lokářiček as accountant, J. A. Pintner as treasurer, Josef Koňas and František Kozlík as the acting accounting committee.

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Czech Roman Catholic Organizations

Many of the oldest Czech organizations in Cleveland, which often have a large Czech membership, belong to the first and second Czech Roman Catholic Central Federation [České Římsko Katolické Ústřední Jednota], which in themselves together have a large membership of local Czechs.

Because these organizations have already published their histories and have not provided us with more detailed news, we will only mention their names as we are able.

The following are among the men's clubs: St. Cyrilla and Methoděje, Svornost Katolická, St. Jana Nep., St. Jiří, St.Vojtěcha, Ryt St. Ludvika, St. Štěpána, St. Petra and Pavla [Saint Peter and Paul], St. Josefa No. 2., St. Ignáce, St. Václava, Petra No. 1, St.
The following are among the women's organizations: Anny v osadě [v osadě = parish of] St. Václava, Anny v osadě St. Prokopa, Anny v osadě St. Vojtěcha, Anny v osadě St. Ladislava, St. Ludmily, Alžběty, Anežky, Barbory and Ludmily No. 2.

Besides this there are also Catholic amateur drama clubs and choirs, and youth and young women's organizations.

The First Roman Catholic Central Federation was established in 1876, and its present (1895) presiding members are the following: Jos. Chalupský as chairman, Vojt. Čečka as vice-chairman, Fr. Šindelář as secretary, Jan F. Božovský as accountant, J. Mikšák as treasurer, Š. Furdek as chaplain, V. Sprostý, J. Masák and Jan Jiroušek as directors, Dr. V. F. Chvátal as head physician.

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A Short Excerpt from the History of the St. Augustín Reading Club

On December 26 of 1880 several young men gathered in the Mr. Jan Valvoda building on Solon Street. These men felt a need for spiritual enlightenment, to nurture their mother tongue amongst themselves and the broader Czech population, in particular the younger generation who were in danger of losing it altogether, and to defend the interests of their faith, as inherited from their forefathers. Such beautiful thoughts fell on fertile soil.

The seventeen men present immediately formed an alliance under the name of the St. Augustín Reading Club [Čtenářský sbor sv. Augustína].


The club's initial cash assets amounted to $1.70, compiled from contributed monthly fees of 10 cents.

The greatest desire of the participating men was for the club to own some books and magazines. It only took five months for the club to hold the following magazines: Světozor of Prague and the monthlies Ludmila, Václav and Anežka of Budějovice [The Czech city of Budvar, in Southern Bohemia].

At that time books from the following authors were ordered for a sum of $50: Tyl Čelakovský, Němcova, Světla, Podlipský and others.

As regards scientific books, the following are worth mentioning: Lepař's History, Physics, and Kozen's Geographical Atlas. These books made up the beginnings of the club's library.

Over time the Club expanded in all directions, its membership growing, as did its treasury, enabling the Club to increase its accomplishments. It expanded the most once it was accepted into the central alliance of the First Catholic Central Federation, as order
no. 118. At that time the Club also became a support club, supporting its sick members with $4 a week.

In 1888 the Club fulfilled a long held dream of purchasing and consecrating a banner, the cost of which ran to $200. At present the Club arranges lectures and loose discourses on different subjects at its meetings. Sometimes a member might present a paper of his own devising, which would then be discussed or criticized. Others might present smaller translations from English or other languages. This approach has won great popularity among its members and continues until today.

All last year the Club worked hard to achieve its goals, but it was hindered by the fact that it did not have its own hall and had to rent several locations, making its work more difficult. Fortunately, due to the good teamwork and strong will of its members, such hurdles were overcome, so that by the end of 1891 a single story building was purchased on Douse Street for a sum of $2,000. This accomplishment represented a significant step forward.

The purchase of this building signified the first step in realizing a hall where the Club could organize regular lectures and equip a proper reading room with suitable magazines which could be regularly read. Much progress was made in this area once the club acquired its new facilities, and the hall is now finely arranged with its rooms well set up for meetings, although the furnishing of the reading room is still a future project.

Because the club wanted to focus on increasing the volume of its library by regularly purchasing more books, it lacked the funds to start construction of the reading room. This year, however, a meeting in August assigned the administrative committee the task of drawing up <zdělat plány> plans to reconstruct the club’s rooms, breathing new life into their plans and rekindling hope that their goal is now within reach.

This year marks the 15th year of the Club's existence, so how do we find the Club now? We must say the situation is quite good, as the accumulated membership funds for sick Brothers amounts to $3,000. The Club now has 203 members, of whom 89 belong to the Central Federation.

[caption under picture]

Elementary School on Madison Ave. in Cleveland, Ohio

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The club’s greatest pride is its richly stocked library with a present value of $1,000, complete with 493 books making up more than 800 individual entertainment and educational works. The club has managed such an impressive feat by charging a fee of $1.20 annually to each member, meaning that $100 worth of books may be bought each year. There is such interest for reading among the members that each new addition is immediately snatched up and passed from hand to hand as soon as it is read.

Otherwise, lovers of reading also have access to the books for a fee of 25 cents monthly.

Aside from the library, the club's success can be seen in its contributions to other purposes:

To widows surviving a deceased brother $4,905.65
Support to brothers fallen ill $254.80
To cover funeral costs of brothers $87.00
Financial aid to brothers in need $150.00
Donations to orphanages, foundations and
other charitable purposes $696.95
Donations to church services $417.50

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Total paid out $6,512.40

The existing presiding committee is made up of the following:
Jan Valvoda as chairman, J. A. Štukbauer as federation representative <zástupce u
Jednoty> , Jan Ledinský as vice-chairman, František Kotaška as accountant, J. Suda as
treasurer and Ant. Pinkava as secretary.

Prepared by J. A. Štukbauer

Without question Cleveland's Czechs have proven themselves to be industrious,
with practically every one of them of reasonable age seeking to join some group, whether
it is culturally-oriented or Catholic, securing a future for themselves and their family in
the event of their sickness or death.

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Census of Czechs in Cleveland
<This section is challenging because all of the categories should really either represent
specific roles, or places/nature of work, but not a mixture of both. I think roles would be
preferable as this census list concerns individual livelihoods, hence “tobacco shop
workers/owners” instead of “tobacco shops”. But if you don’t have sufficient info to say
how these people are employed within each industry, it would be better to make all of the
categories into places/nature of work, so, for example, “Architects” becomes
“Architecture” etc. Have left all numbers in numeral form because the list is not in full
sentences.>
Architects – 3
Coopers or barrel makers– 2
Pastry cooks – 2
Workers <owners?> on Czech periodicals – 5
Tobacco shop workers <owners?> <Doutnikářů> - 33
Photographers – 2
1 planers shop <Hobovárna – as in plaing wood?>
19 watchmakers
7 barbers
187 <employed in the hospitality industry> restaurants and inns.
Managers of: 4 breweries, 6 insurance companies, 5 properties, 3 ferries
<přeplavní>.
3 stonemasons or sculptors
9 bands
5 carpenters
2 tinsmiths
2 book dealers
9 blacksmiths or coachmen < kočárníků>
26 custom tailors and
1 bowling alley <kuželna>.

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6 pharmacies
11 physicians and
4 billposters <lepičů papíru>.

Retail stores: 2 tea shops, 2 pottery and glass stores, 63 meat shops, 7 furniture stores, 62 shoe stores, 4 liquor and wine stores, 167 grocery stores, 28 silver shops, 9 clothing stores, 9 coal stores, 6 hardware stores <železným zbožím> and 7 modistes/hatters.

6 painters,
18 notaries and
2 cutlers.

Patents are owned by two of our compatriots (one for a washing machine and the other for a grater)
there are 22 bakeries and
2 breweries.

Of entrepreneurs: 2 in floor tiling, 4 in canals, 1 in plastering, 15 in carpentry, 6 in bricklaying, 1 in moving and 1 cartman; 9 lawyers; 7 in graveyard work <pohrobník> ; 7 helping in childbirth and 1 clothing rental shop.

29 halls, or which 12 are for theater performances, 3 for saddlers, 1 for a foundry and 13 for seamstresses.

4 parish schools teaching daily, with 4 Sunday schools maintained by free-thinking organizations.

4 printing companies.

12 music teachers; 1 music institute.

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Czech Cleveland now has the following Czech quarters: Kozoluby, Žižkov, Husinec, Praha, Probolov, Videň [Vienna], Trocnov, Varšava [Warsaw], Na zahrádce [In the backyard], Dakota, Kuba, Bruklin [Brooklyn], Karlov and Kalifornie. In these quarters the following Czech-named streets may be found: Beroun, Hejna, Hus, Jíroušek, Martin, Otakar, Otava, Palacký, Perun, Písek [Sand], Prague, Praha [Prague], Purkyně, Svoboda [Freedom], Sýkora [Chickadee] and Vaněk.

Even Americans of Czech descent are actively involved in political movements, especially in elections and voting. We are well organized in several wards, forming a majority or decisive vote in a few of them, and we are generally unified in our stance. We
take pride that our compatriots sit in official positions at both the county and municipal levels, either as paid public servants or through serving honorable functions.

In the Municipal Legislature

The first Czech councilman was Mr. Ferdinand Svoboda, who represented the 14th ward from 1875-76. Fr. Karda was the councilman, as was the title back then, and trustee in the same ward from 1881-82. The city was divided into 18 wards at that time. In 1882 the city had a total of 25 wards, and Josef J. Pták represented the 12th ward from 1883-84.

During that same year the legislative body was divided into older councils, of which there were 9, and councilman bodies, of which there were 25. <

In 1885 the 14th ward was represented by Mr. Emanuel Payer and the 22nd ward by Mr. F. C. Friend.

Further changes were made this year as well, the older councils remaining but the number of grew into a total of 40. There were also 40 aldermen/councilmen.

The next year, in 1886, Mr. J. Pták was elected to represent the 3rd district in an older council, and Mr. Fr. Fíla to represent the 25th ward from 1886-87.

In 1888 Mr. J. J. Pták was again elected to represent the 3rd district, Mr. Fr. Hesoun the 17th ward and Mr. Fr. Turek the 4th ward.

Mr. F. Hesoun was again elected in the 17th ward, moving to the 24th ward partway through the two terms he served on the municipal council.

Besides Hesoun, Mr. J. M. Novák and Mr. Jan Havlíček served as councilmen for the 24th ward.

On the School Council

We only managed two representatives (educators) in this position: F. C. Friend and Anto. Melichar. After that the school council was reorganized so that it was made up of seven members voted in by all of Cleveland, which severely weakened the Czech vote.

We do also have our representative on the library council in the form of Václav Šnajdr, while Tomáš Pivoňka sat as a member on the educational examination board.

In the Police and Fire Brigade Departments

The finest Czechs in all of Cleveland are represented as follows: Jan Vaněk as secretary, Jan Sprostý as detective, along with nine policeman and nine fire fighters.

Working in Municipal Services

We have one engineer in the municipal offices, one in health care services, one boiler attendant in the city's waterworks, one in the street maintenance department, one in the parks department and three school caretakers.
So, as with the statistics concerning entrepreneurs and industrialists, these figures were counted individually. Many Czech laborers are employed in various fields but how many cannot be determined. In any case it is certainly an impressive number. It is this stable employment and the thriftiness of Czechs (although they certainly could not be accused of tight-fistedness) that explains why a large majority of our compatriots own their own homes <bydlí ve svém>. In this manner we have convinced Americans that we are not an undesirable entity – that we have not come here to earn quick cash only to return back home or to send our earnings there. This is because we have found in America both freedom and affluence – something which we not only value but which we would like to contribute to with all our strength. But we certainly do think back on our native country. Blood is thicker than water and our country is in such a sorry state that it needs not only the help of its patriots but of any kind heart which may be willing. Our generosity of spirit towards our motherland will only make us shine brighter in the eyes of Americans.

Czechs take to politics as a fish to water. It is quite evident that a divide has developed amongst us in the political sphere, as our people are no longer so concerned about a candidate's abilities or his/her own political convictions, but rather his/her religious faith or the lack of it. This preoccupation cannot last, as it is unnatural to root one's decisions in mere fantasy. Civil awareness will eventually sweep such notions under the carpet, after which we can all, once again, be proud to be Czech Clevelanders.

By K. F. Tůma

POSTSCRIPT

The Committee for Compiling the History of Cleveland's Czechs, from the regular laborers to the boldest Czech entrepreneurs, undertook this task shortly prior to launch of the Prague Ethnographic Exhibit, when those previously charged with this task completely abandoned it. The committee spared no efforts to produce a complete work and hopes that, if this history does not turn out as well as one could hope, due to the apathy of some, that at least it could serve as a basis for future researchers and writers of Czech Cleveland's history once the diaries and memories of those presently living pass away.

The first part of these memoirs was submitted to the Ethnographic Exhibit and the Náprstek Museum <Náprskova museum> at the start of August, 1895.

Once finished the complete works was then sent to the National Geographic and Náprstek Museum in Prague.

With respect,
Postscript by Publishing Company

I myself have a few words I'd like to add. As a reader you must have certainly noticed the well-organized nature of this book and its typographic appearance. I have done the best I could, and I certainly didn't lack good intentions. To preserve our good name I strived for the best, but I'm not able to perform miracles. Aware of the difficulties I chose to publish this text using stereotyping. <nechal jsem stereotypovat sazbu.> This incurred significant and unnecessary costs because, even though all donations were subject to a deadline, it was necessary to significantly extend this period, as reported in both of the local Czech publications. Today, on November 22, I have been handed a note stating that the book should be delivered to Prague prior to the conclusion of the Ethnographic Exhibit.

Both V. Rychlík, the book's organizer, and the printing company are richer in experience from this endeavor, earning not a few gray hairs in the process. We did the best we could, at no profit to ourselves. We are proud that Czech Cleveland is the first Czech settlement which can boast of its history. Any criticism would be harsh and only justified from those who, under difficult circumstances, would be able to perform better than us!

On behalf of the Volnost publishing company,

EDUARD VOPALECKÝ

[Stamp: ČSAV PRAGUE GENERAL LIBRARY]