

VINSH FAMILY HISTORY



1827 - 2004

Some Czech Idioms

Vyhazovat peníze z okna.

To throw money out of the window.

To throw money down the drain.

Vstávat se slepicemi.

To get up with the chickens.

To get up with the lark.

Chodit po tenkém ledu.

To walk on thin ice.

To skate on thin ice.

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VINSH FAMILY HISTORY

Introduction

The purpose of this narrative is to tell the story of what is known about the family history of Barta Joseph Vinsh and Antonia Caroline Mezera, especially their decision to come to America. This has been a collaborative effort written from the perspective of first and second generation descendants living in America. Available information has been collected from a number of sources. Principal sources of information used include interviews with surviving children of Barta and Antonia, a Czech Radio documentary on Czech speaking people living in the Banat Region of present-day Romania (translated by a Czech student visiting America during summer of 2002), the 1851 - 1853 village registry of Gernik, the April 29, 1911 departure manifest of the S.S. California from the Port of Glasgow, the September 7, 1911 departure manifest of the S.S. Chemnitz (2) from the Port of Bremen, trip diary of Jim and Judy Blaha to the village of Gernik, Romania during the Summer of 2003, and available U.S. public records. Much of the information about their emigration from Europe is known and supported with documentation referenced in this narrative. However, there are additional aspects of the Vinsh family history, such as confirmation of the connection between present-day Romania and Czech Republic, where additional records may or may not be available at this time. Effort has been made to use available information to support reasonable conclusions with documentation. *Italicized text* denotes areas where either further interpretation of available information is needed or where additional information is needed to support reasonable conclusions. This narrative should be considered an initial effort to document the Vinsh family history. Corrections and additions will be made in the next edition. There is much to learn.

Most certainly, economic and social realities during the time Barta and Antonia lived in Europe influenced their decision to leave the familiar surroundings of their little village of Gernik in 1911. Understanding the economic and social conditions under the Austrian-Hungarian Empire during the period 1867-1918 and differences among the ethnic groups inhabiting the Banat Region where Barta and Antonia lived, makes documenting the Vinsh family history especially challenging. In 1907, the Austrian-Hungarian Empire covered a large land area of 262,577 square miles, including present-day Germany, Czech Republic, and Hungary; and contained about 48.5 million people. The map on next page provides some perspective on these present-day countries in relation to Central and Eastern Europe. The Empire was comprised of 11 ethnic groups. About half of the population was either German or Hungarian. The Czech population comprised about 13% and was considered a minority. The official languages were German and Hungarian. The established church was Roman Catholic. Prior to the defeat of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire during World War I, this government was involved in frequent conflicts and sometimes, warfare with opposing interests. As new lands were added to the Empire, efforts were often made to colonize these new land areas with settlers loyal to the Empire and the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. A frequent basis for political tensions during this time involved a struggle over which government or monarchy would be dominant or what the official language would be among the different ethnic groups within the Empire. For example, the village where Barta and Antonia last lived in southwestern Romania is called Gernik in Czech, Weizenried in German, Szorenybuzas in Hungarian and Girnic in the official Romanian today. Some historical information on major



United Nations map of Central and Eastern Europe showing proximity of Czech Republic and Romania

governmental change between 1820 and 1910 in Central Europe have been incorporated into this narrative to help explain Vinsh family settlement patterns.

The spelling of the surname Vinsh characterizes language differences among the ethnic groups living within the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. Vinsh is spelled (accents omitted) Vins or Vinc in Czech, Wunsch in Hungarian, Wunsch in German and, possibly some other form in Romanian. The name Wunsch means “wish or desire” in Czech and German. Wunsch (accents omitted) was used during the time Barta and Antonia traveled to America. After emigration, Wunsch was the version used until it was changed to Vinsh during the time the children began to attend public schools in America. However, Barta continued to use Wunsch, the Hungarian version he learned in school. *We don't know if the meaning was changed by adding the letter h.*

This narrative is presented in several sections. The first section is called Our Bohemian Roots because it includes the earliest known information about the Vinsh family. The section, called Journey to Gernik, explains how Czech speaking peasants from Bohemia came to live in the Banat Region of present-day Romania. The next section is called Life in Gernik and includes information about what living in this small remote village was probably like near the beginning of the 20th century. Emigration from Europe provides a perspective on the difficult economic and social times Barta and Antonia faced while trying to support a young family in Gernik. Available information about how they managed to reach America is included. The fourth section is called Life in America. This section includes early memories from surviving second generation descendants about their struggle to get established and assimilate in Central Virginia. The last section is called Descendants and contains partial biographical information about the 3 daughters and 6 sons of Barta and Antonia. A partial listing of the family tree has also been identified. A list of reference materials used for this narrative has been included in the Appendix. Several maps, documents and a number of photographs have been added to help give the reader a visual perspective of the Vinsh family history. Most of the individuals in the photographs are identified by name.

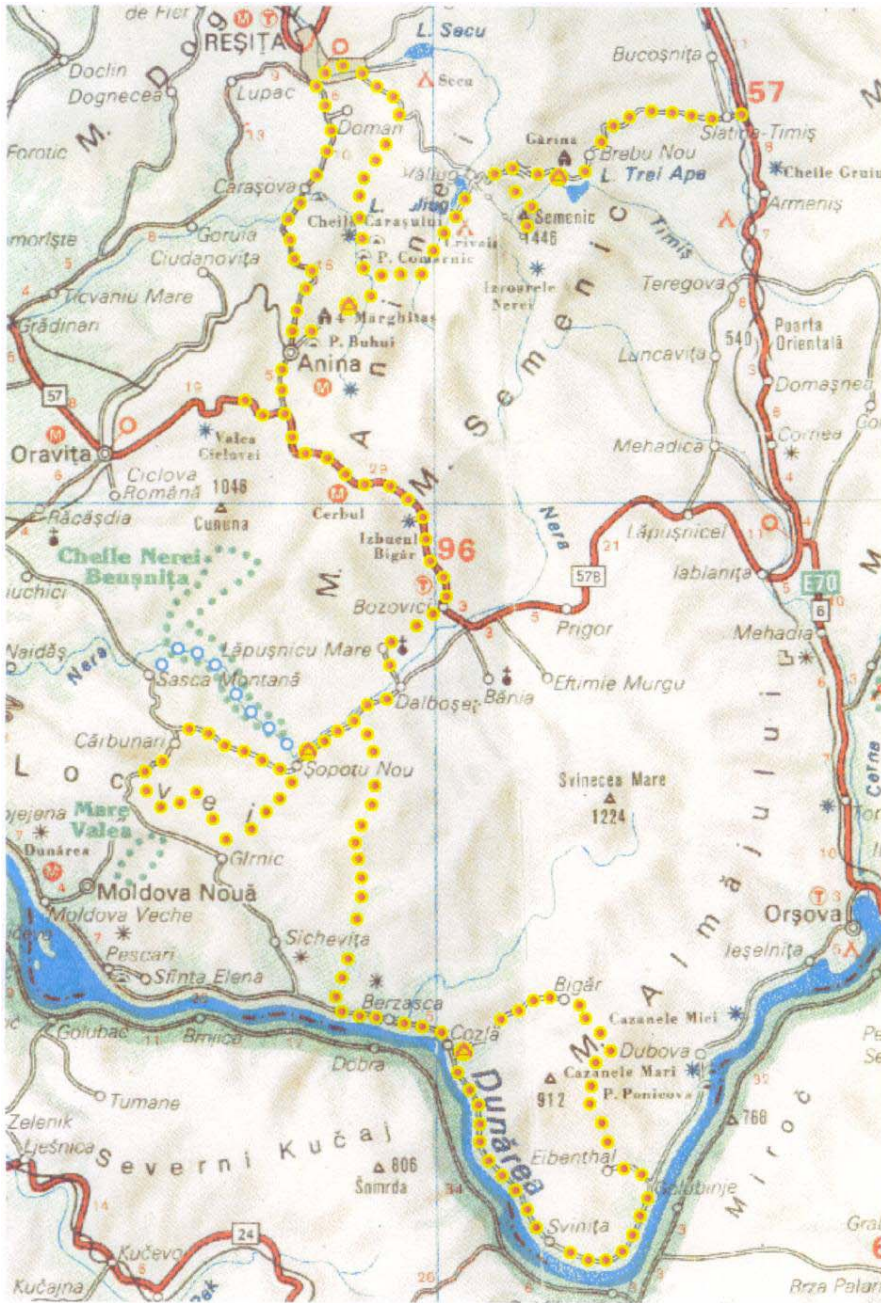
Section I – Our Bohemian Roots

Historians attribute the origin of the word Bohemian to the name of a Celtic tribe called Boii who inhabited portions of central and western present-day Czech Republic prior to the 9th century. Urban settlement patterns in the Bohemia Region of the present-day Central European country of Czech Republic started centuries ago. During the 15th century, economic and social characteristics of Czech urban centers, such as Pilzen and Prague, were comparable to cities in Western Europe of similar size. Historical accounts indicate prior to 1867, the Austrian Empire ruled the Bohemia Region. During the early 1800's, several colonization efforts were made to relocate Czech-speaking settlers, among other ethnic groups, from the Bohemia Region eastward to the Banat Region. The ruling monarchy had an interest in populating its borders with settlers loyal to its government and leadership of the Roman Catholic Church. Between 1718 and 1867, the Austrian Empire ruled both the Bohemia and Banat regions, as well as other large land areas in Central Europe. In 1867, an agreement was reached between the Austrian and Hungarian governments to form a “Dual Monarchy” known as the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. After this time, the Austrian government ruled Bohemia and the Hungarian government ruled the Banat Region. Both governments agreed to

combine resources on matters involving foreign affairs and defense. After WWI, the Austrian Hungarian Empire ceased to exist, Bohemia became part of Czechoslovakia and the Banat Region became the southwestern part of Romania.

Available information appears to indicate that during the 1820's some of Barta's ancestors were among a group of families granted permission by the Austrian government to move from a small Bohemian village named Sira and help establish a new village in the Banat Region called Gernik, located in present-day Romania. Sira is located in present-day Czech Republic at North latitude 49 degrees 49 minutes and East longitude 13 degrees 43 minutes near the Town of Zbiroh. Zbiroh is located near the main travel corridor between the major cities of Prague and Pilzen. One basis for this assumption is because the 1851-1853 census of Gernik, the village where Barta and Antonia lived prior to coming to America, indicates two households with the surname Wunsch. In 1911, Gernik was under the control of the Hungarian government. Information contained in two ship manifests confirms that Gernik is the place where they last lived in Europe. Gernik is located in the Banat Region of present-day Romania near the western foothills of the Carpathian Mountains approximately 46 degrees North latitude and 22 degrees East longitude. The vicinity map on page 8 shows a portion of southwest Romania. This web location of this map is www.suchy.wz.cz/photos/banat/ban_mapa.gif and was used by a bike tour group during the Summer of 2001. This group has also posted several of the photographs used for this narrative. Gernik is located less than 2 miles North of the Danube River and just East of the town of Moldova Noua, as shown on the lower left portion of the map.

Entry # 10 of the Gernik census lists Johann Wewerka and Anna Wunsch and entry # 23 is for Tomas Wunsch and Barbara Marianna, including what appears as a subentry in the same household for an elderly male named Joseph born in 1782. The birth village cited for Tomas, Barbara and Joseph are all listed as Sira. This fact provides another basis for the conclusion of Czech ancestry. The 1851 - 1853 Census indicates the population of Gernik is comprised largely of Czech speaking Roman Catholics that came from the Bohemia Region. Information from this census was posted on the Internet <http://scbk.hyperlink.cz/gertab.htm> however; this site may no longer be available.



Map used for bike tour showing the Village of Girmic within the Banat Region of southwestern Romania

Barta's death certificate indicates his parents were James and *Caroline (or Carolina) Osvalt*. However, a handwritten family record indicates the given names of Barta's parents were Wesley and Karalin. *We are not certain if Wesley is an English version of Wenceslaus or if this was the middle name used by James. It may be speculated that part of the Vinsh male line goes Barta, James, Tomas and Joseph. However, we do not have documentation on the connection with Bohemia, other than the village name Sira is cited in the Gernik census. It may be possible that a listing of families granted permission by the Austrian Empire to leave Bohemia for the Banat during the 1820's may be available, but we do not know this either. We are not aware of any attempts to*

search civil or church records in either the Czech Republic or in Romania regarding the Vinsh family history.

The Gernik census also indicates several entries for Missera. This spelling may or may not be the Hungarian spelling for Antonia's surname Mezera or Masera. The birth villages for the Missera entries are Hromnice, Tycek, and Zbiroh. These are all places in present-day Czech Republic. Antonia's death certificate indicates her parents were John Mezera and Theresa Snauada. We know less about Antonia's family than about Barta's. We do know her point of contact in the United States was Charles Mezera, who lived on Branders Bridge Road in Chesterfield County, Virginia. The Mezera family name exists today in the same vicinity. *We are not sure if Charles Mezera was Antonia's uncle or one of her father's cousins. Additional family pictures are shown in the Appendices, but we have not been able to identify many of the people.*



Available information indicates that traveling by wagon and crossing the Appomattox River between Chesterfield and the various Dinwiddie-Prince George locations where the Vinsh family lived made keeping up with Mezera relatives impractical. Over time, contact was lost with Antonia's Mezera relatives. The Mezera connection to the Vinsh family history is a significant area where additional information is needed.

Antonia's mother, Theresa Snauada and two small children

Section II – Journey to Gernik

Economic conditions for Bohemian peasants during the 1820's were not favorable. The Austrian Empire taxed its subjects heavily to help pay expenses of a recent war with Napoleon's armies along with other financial needs of this monarchy. The military forces of the Austrian Empire needed replacement troops to serve its political and military interest, especially for guarding its extensive borders against rival interests. Military service of 6 years for most males was a requirement. The eldest male in a farm household usually inherited any farmland owned by a family and was usually exempted from military service. Many rural farm families did not own any farmland. Males without farmland could lease farmland, work as farm laborers or join the military. Available farmland in Bohemia was limited and, as the population naturally increased over time, the opportunity to acquire farmland and some economic security was simply not possible for many people. Further, the practice of serfdom existed officially until a revolution in 1848. Prior to this time, feudal lords controlled how serfs, including much of the peasant population, used the land. Therefore, a combination of high taxes, a lack of ability for many males to acquire farmland and the military service requirement all contributed to a general lack of economic opportunity for many Bohemian peasants. *We do not know if Vinsh ancestors were serfs or freeholders.*

The Austrian Empire sponsored efforts to colonize the Banat Region on its eastern frontier by establishing a series of villages. The first efforts to colonize the Banat Region with Czech settlers was made during the 1820's by Hungarian lumber interests in search of cheap labor to timber the virgin forest of the Banat Mountains. In 1827, the Austrian government recruited a second wave of Czech families to leave Bohemia and help colonize the eastern frontier of the Banat Region. The Hungarian government later organized a third wave of Czech settlers in 1862.

It is believed that Barta and Antonia's ancestors were among the second wave of Bohemian settlers that decided to make the journey to the Banat Region, primarily in search of better economic and social opportunities. The Banat Region was located on the eastern frontier of the Austrian Empire bounded by the Mures River on the North, the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains on the East, the Danube River on the South and the Tisa River on the West. Leaders of the Austrian Empire wanted to maintain control over newly gained land areas in the heavily forested Carpathian Mountains located near the Danube River in the southwestern portion of present-day Romania. In order to enhance the presence of the Empire in the Banat Region, government leaders recruited peasants loyal to Austrian Empire and the Roman Catholic Church. Families were recruited and granted permission to leave Bohemia to relocate in the Banat. About 11 ethnic groups, including Czechs, German, Hungarian, and Poles, established a number of villages in the Banat Region. Czech speaking people established six of these villages. During the 1820's Czechs were considered a minority ethnic group in the Banat, just as today. Families willing to relocate were assured of receiving free land and some financial support. Unlike conditions for peasants in Bohemia, these settlers were assured they would not be subjected to taxes or a military service requirement. Further, a Hungarian lumber merchant offered jobs to settlers willing to timber the virgin forest.

Czech settlers first traveled from Bohemia to Vienna, the capital of the Austrian Empire, and then floated down the Danube River by raft until they reached the Banat Region. Although historical accounts indicate the complete journey took about 2 months, a direct line drawn on a map indicates

Sira and Gernik are less than 600 miles apart. Most likely, roads did not extend into the eastern frontier. Upon arrival, settlers were required to report to the local military command to receive an entrance certificate to allow them to stay. Settlers had to possess a passport, an entrance certificate and a certificate saying they had sold all their property in Bohemia. Settlers were given land and temporary housing. They were told they could not leave the Banat.

The new settlers soon realized conditions would not be as good, as promised. Their new home in the Banat Region was completely forested, uninhabited and rocky. The settlers were promised farmland but what they received was hilly forestland. The dense forestland had to be cleared before any crops could be planted. The climate differed somewhat from what the settlers were accustomed as summers were warm and winters cold with temperature extremes ranging from a high of 100 degrees to lows of -25 degrees Fahrenheit. In the Banat, most of the rainfall normally occurs during the warm periods and ranges between 20 and 40 inches annually. The physical work required of the Banat settlers was much more demanding than farming established fields back in Bohemia. Nevertheless, these hardy pioneers endured. They built log houses, cut timber and cleared suitable land to make into fields for farming. The men cut the trees and the women dug the stumps.

Section III – Life in Gernik

The village of Gernik was the largest of the 6 Czech villages established during the period 1827-1828 in the Banat Region. Gernik is located approximately 44 degrees 30 minutes North latitude and 21 degrees 30 minutes East longitude in southwest Romania only about 1.5 miles north of the Danube River. Land elevation in the Gernik vicinity ranges between 1,300 and 3,300 feet above sea level. This elevation is significantly higher than what the settlers were accustomed to in Bohemia. Gernik is located within Caras-Severin County about 3 hours travel time by car southeast of the Romanian city of Timisoaro. The Banat Region is known for its picturesque landforms, mineral deposits, native flora and fauna. Today, the mountainous terrain and flowing rivers of the Banat Region attracts visitors seeking high adventure activities, such as rock climbing, rafting and caving.

The Czech settlements were able to survive despite unfavorable farming conditions, limited resources and limited support from the Austrian government. Cold winters, diseases, wild animals, and unfamiliar pests impacted their lives. Historical accounts indicate the Czech settlers felt extremely isolated from their former homes in Bohemia. They received little guidance from the government on how to survive in this remote and mountainous new land.

Despite the hardships, the Gernik population increased from 469 in 1830 to a high of 1,400 by the year 1937. However, after WWII its number of residents began to gradually decline. In 2002, Gernik, the largest of the 6 Czech villages, had only 525 residents. In recent years, a nearby copper mine closed. Some opportunity for employment continues in the coalmines located in the nearby Molda Novo. Today, a number of young people are leaving Gernik and relocating in the Czech Republic in search of more employment and social opportunities.

In the Czech Republic, residents of Gernik and other Czech villages in the Banat Region are known as Czech Banats. The Czech Banats are interesting to residents of the Czech Republic because their

language, customs and traditions have changed very little over the last 170 years. The Banat remains isolated and free from many outside influences. Farming still accomplished with hand tools



This photograph was taken in 1998 and shows a working water-powered mill used to grind grain into flour. This active mill is located within about a 3-hour walk of Gernic.

and draft animals. Gernik farmers still make their pitchforks and build their wagons today. The current level of technological development in the Banat is not much more advanced than when Barta and Antonia emigrated in 1911. The typical household contains few modern conveniences but is very self-sufficient. Further, the negative impacts of communism generally never reached the remote Banat region. This is why Radio Prague and several Czech universities made the documentary on the Czech Banats several years ago. (This website is no longer posted on the Internet.) Gernik residents have remained largely isolated over the years and sheltered from many outside influences.



The picture above was taken by group of mountain bikers on tour just outside of Gernik during the summer of 2001 and posted on the Internet. The picture shows the hilly fields used for farming and draft animals still used to transport the harvest by wagon.

Significant social changes in the Banat Region occurred after 1867 when the Austrian-Hungarian Empire was established as a Dual Monarchy. The Hungarian government assumed more direct control over the Banat Region was a more restrictive than the previous Austrian government. The Hungarian government directed many of the ethnic groups, including the Czech-speaking population, be considered Hungarians. Czech schoolteachers were replaced with Hungarian teachers. Hungarian became the official language for administrative purposes. Changes in the official language used for education, civil and church record keeping were a cause for civil discord among minorities in Central Europe during this time period. Changes in language are a form of social change that makes genealogical research especially difficult. Depending on the period, Latin, German, Hungarian and Romanian have been used as official languages in the Banat. The Blaha 2003 trip diary to the Banat mentions difficulties encountered in searching family names as different languages for keeping official church and civil records have been used over time. It is possible for an individual's birth to be recorded in Latin, marriage to be recorded in German and death to be recorded in Hungarian all within the same archive. *It appears some church records are available in Gernik. It is likely these records indicate some Vinsh families lived and may still live in the Banat vicinity. Further, available administrative and church records in the Pilzen and Prague districts may also indicate connections with the Vins family in the Czech Republic.*

Although information about Barta's family is limited, available information indicates the names of his parents were James Vins and Carolina Osvalt.



Barta's father, James Vins (far left). The others are unidentified.

Barta's death certificate and hand written family records indicate he was born on July 12, 1882. He was the eldest of four brothers. The names of the boys were Barta, Fred, Joseph, and Stevie. Fred was the farmer. The names of Barta's sisters were Barbara, Anna and Katie.



Barta's sisters and mother

Of the three sisters, Anna was suppose to come to America with Barta, but for some reason, did not make the journey. Barta corresponded with Anna after coming to America. Each time she sent a letter he would send her a letter along with a few dollars. Anna gave birth to twins and continued to correspond with Barta until his death in 1942. Katie, as Barta, was musically inclined and sang opera. She immigrated in Belgrade, Yugoslavia and also corresponded with Barta. Available information indicates she married, but had no children. Barta received training in music from his father. Barta was a musician and played the harmonica before coming to America. Information indicates that James; in addition to being a farmer, was a teacher of music. Barta's brothers were concerned that Barta, being the eldest male, would later return to Gernik and claim ownership of the family farmland after James died. Available information indicates Barta's brothers sold the farmland after James died. *We do not know*

if any Wunsch relatives are presently living in Girnic.

As military service for most males was required before marriage, we assume Barta completed his 6-year term of military service sometime between his 18th birthday in 1900 and the time he and Antonia married in April 1908 when she was 19 and he was 26. The custom was for the girl to

marry at 18. However, Antonia wanted to save and wait another year in order to acquire a piece of furniture and additional items for her “hope chest” (household furnishings) before getting married.



BARTA
VINS
w/2 FRIENDS

BARTA
VINS
SISTER ANTONIA
MEZERA
VINS

Photograph of Barta in center with two friends in Austria-Hungarian military uniform.

Photograph of Antonia and one of Barta’s sisters.

They were married on April 28, 1908. Barta was employed as a coalminer when their first child, Maria, was born June 25, 1909. His job in the coalmine paid well, but was dangerous work. Marie’s given name was changed to Mary after she entered grammar school in America. The village called Gernik in Czech, Weizenried in German, Szorenybuzas in Hungarian, or Girnic in Romanian, was the last place Barta and Antonia lived together in Europe.

As stated earlier, available information indicates Antonia’s maiden name was Mezera. Her father was John Mezera. *We assume the Mezera family also lived in Gernik.* Antonia was born on April 13, 1889 and attended school through the sixth grade. The name of her mother was *Theresa Snauda or Trisa Shedva.* Theresa died when Antonia was only 7 or 8 years old.

A tragic story passed on by Antonia to her children provides a commentary regarding state of civil authority that likely existed in Gernik during latter part of the 19th century. One day Antonia’s younger brother was with some other boys in an orchard eating fruit. The owner of the orchard got

angry and chased the boys. He caught the smallest one, Antonia's brother, and kicked the little boy to death. There were no authorities to deal with the incident. The local priest was the village authority, but nothing was done about the death of the child.

Today, children in Gernik are taught the Czech language thru the 3rd grade and then Romanian. Educational opportunities are still limited and, in recent years, many of the young people have been leaving Gernik and relocating in the Czech Republic.

Gernik was spared impacts of communism following World War II because of its relative isolation from outside influences. Farming has always been accomplished in the form of family units. The farmers live in the village and travel outside during the day to work in the fields. Photographs taken by visitors and posted on the Internet indicate much of the farming activity is focused on haying and pastureland for grazing animals. Village farmers actually make their own pitchforks and wagons today. Grains are made into flour by small water-powered mills. The Czech Banats are very self-reliant and make most of the necessities they need to live, just as their ancestors did over 170 years ago. They eat locally produced natural foods. They provide their own entertainment with Bohemian folk music and dancing. The church remains the center of social activities in the community. *The extent of the Czech Banat interaction with the general Romanian population today is not known.*

During the summer of 2003, Jim and Judy Blaha made a trip to Gernik and have provided a detailed account of their trip. This trip diary provides much insight into life in Gernik today. In the vicinity of Gernik, nearly all the roads are unpaved and in poor condition. The village is located along a valley with a small stream. Houses and barns line the street. The buildings are well constructed, clean, but have few modern conveniences. The most prominent buildings in the village are the church worship center and community center. The church structure was originally constructed in 1857 and dedicated to Saint John of Nepomuk, patron saint of Czech people. The original church, including a portion of the town, was destroyed by fire around 1900. *The church was rebuilt and it is likely this was the church where Barta and Antonia were married in April 1908.* A picture of the rebuilt church, included in the Blaha trip diary, depicting the prominence of this structure in the community and the Gernik countryside, is shown on the front cover of this document. The church remains the spiritual and social focal point of the community. A Czech speaking priest is still assigned to the Banat. He travels a circuit ministering and visiting a number of villages.

SECTION IV – EMIGRATION FROM EUROPE

In the year 1867, the Austrian Empire was defeated by Italy and Prussia. A result of this historical event was the development of an agreement between Austria and Hungary to establish a “Dual Monarchy” in which the Banat was to be controlled by the Hungarians. In 1868, the Hungarian leadership introduced several strict laws. These laws included a provision that made Hungarian the official language of the Banat Region. Hungarian was taught in primary schools and used for official record keeping. Barta and Antonia were taught Hungarian in the school they attended in their home village. Family surnames and village names in the Banat Region were changed. Many of the new names were unrecognizable to the Czech-speaking residents. The village name of Gernik was changed to Szorenybuzas. Ethnic groups living in the Banat, including the Czech speaking people, did not view these social changes favorably.

The Hungarian Army had been drafting males from the Banat Region for years. Males were required to serve in the military before marriage. In 1882, the Austrian-Hungarian Empire entered into an agreement with Germany and Italy to form an alliance to strengthen their mutual defense in case of attack by France or Russia. Available information indicates that during the spring of 1911 Antonia was pregnant with their second child, Anna, when Barta was notified military service requirements had changed. He was being required to serve again in the Austria-Hungary military. Available information indicates Barta’s daily military pay would roughly have equaled the cost of a pack of cigarettes at that time and would have provided little compensation to support a family. It is reasonable to assume this was the time Barta and Antonia made their decision to leave the Banat Region for America. Antonia and baby Maria moved in with one of Antonia’s sisters. Barta quietly departed Gernik and managed to obtain a passport.



Photograph of Barta and Antonia with daughter Mary and Houska family.

During this same time, it is our understanding news was being received from America that good farmland was available in the South along with employment opportunities. Further the government was not oppressive. Also, information published by local land development companies during the 1910 time period encouraged Czech immigrant farmers to come to Central Virginia to purchase farmland. Land sales literature attracted a number of Czech and German families in the mid-western states seeking a better farming climate. Testimonials were published in native languages and told about abandoned farms in the South following the American Civil War. *We do not know if these booklets or other promotions were sent abroad. Probably, a more convincing case for Gernik residents to consider relocating in Central Virginia were reports from relatives and other contacts who had already emigrated, such as some of Antonia's relatives.* The presence of a Catholic Church, an existing Czech farming community, available farmland and a favorable climate all likely contributed to their decision to locate in Central Virginia.

By the spring of 1911, Barta and Antonia had made their decision to leave for America. Because of Barta's military status, they most likely decided it would be safer to emigrate separately. *It appears Barta and Antonia obtained passports with different formats.* However, both documents include the Austrian-Hungarian coat-of-arms. Available information indicates Antonia was not allowed passage from the Port of Bremen, Germany until after her child was born. Anna, the second child, was born July 22, 1911. *We do not know if Antonia returned to Gernik with Maria until Annie was born or remained near the Port of Bremen during this time period.* We assume Barta started his emigration during the late winter of 1911. Antonia and the two children did not leave Europe until September 1911.

Barta's passport appears to be dated March 7, 1911 and was obtained in Vienna, Austria. His occupation is listed as journalist. The place name Szorenybuzas is written on his passport. Barta's emigration information includes a ticket dated April 25th for travel between Basel, Switzerland and Antwerpen, Belgium. This document appears to also indicate he was to board the S.S. California in Antwerpen, Belgium bound for New York, U.S.A. via Glasgow, Scotland. The manifest for the S.S. California indicates Barta departed the Port of Glasgow on April 29, 1911 and arrived in the Port of New York on May 8, 1911. A copy of a portion of this ship manifest is shown in the Appendix. Available information indicates Barta traveled first class and the S.S. California crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 9 days. Barta's ship manifest also indicates his destination was Petersburg, Virginia and point of contact as a cousin named Joseph Glazier.

Antonia's passport was dated August 22, 1911 and was obtained in a place located near the Port of Bremen in Germany. Her occupation is listed as housewife with Szorenybuzas, Hungary as last place of residence. Antonia's emigration information includes a boarding authorization document indicating passage charges for her and 2 children amounting to 150 marks, plus an entry fee for the Port of Baltimore of 20 marks. She and her two daughters departed the Port of Bremen, Germany on September 7, 1911. A copy of a portion of this ship manifest is also shown in the Appendices. Her destination is listed as Petersburg, Virginia. Crossing the Atlantic aboard the S.S. Chemnitz (2), a modified freighter, took 14 days. Her ship manifest indicates the ship arrived at the Port of Baltimore, Maryland on September 21, 1911. Antonia often told her children the ship was crowded and the crossing was not a pleasant trip. There was very little drinking water and powdered milk available on the ship. After landing, she expressed no interest in boarding another ship. Mary was two years old and Anna was only 2 months old at this time. Fortunately, Antonia was able to

travel on the ship to Baltimore and later by train to Petersburg with friends from the Houska and Uzel families. Jennie Houska, Antonia's niece, eventually settled in Elsie, Michigan, frequently corresponded and visited with Antonia back in Virginia. Jennie Houska was 101 years old when she died on November 24, 1994. She was also from Szorenybuzas and married Frank Houska in 1908, the same year as Antonia and Barta were married. *Given the military status of Barta and the fact that he had been missing since April, it is unclear why authorities permitted Antonia and her two daughters to board ship in September at the Port of Bremen, Germany. Translation and interpretation of these documents may yield further information.*

Little is known about processing requirements Barta and Antonia experienced after reaching America. Available documents appear to indicate that some type of physical examination and/or vaccination was required at both ports of entry. However, available information indicates Antonia was eventually able to secure transportation via train for herself and her two daughters from Baltimore, Maryland to Petersburg, Virginia. Her scheduled connection with Barta in Petersburg was missed, initially, because of confusion related to the passenger and the freight station locations in Petersburg. Help was obtained after Mrs. Uzel was able to speak with a Jewish lady in German regarding directions to Wagner's store on Halifax Street. A black man showed them the way to Halifax Street. The distance from the train station(s) in Petersburg near the Appomattox River up the hill to Halifax Street was considerable for Antonia to walk with 2 small children. Both Uzels and Houskas accompanied her to the store. Barta and Antonia only had \$50.00 at this time and they owned money for passage expenses. They initially lived with Joe Mezera in Dinwiddie. The family later moved in with Charles Mezera in Chesterfield, along with the Frank Uzel family, and managed to live in two rooms. It is not known if Wagner's store functioned as settlement house in Petersburg for newly arrived immigrants. The Mezera relative(s) evidently had left Europe sometime earlier and became a Wunsch point of contact in America. Also, a Mezera relative may have provided a loan for the passage expenses of Antonia.

SECTION V - LIFE IN AMERICA

Available information indicates the Wunsch family stayed with a Mezera household in Dinwiddie for a period of time. Antonia's father, John Mezera, remained in Gernik. Charles Mezera lived in Chesterfield and Joe Mezera lived in Dinwiddie. They were cousins. Prior to the time Barta and Antonia purchased the Temple farm on West Quaker Road in Prince George County, they had moved 9 times since they were married and did not want to move again. At some point during this time period, Barta was able to secure a job working as a laborer for the railroad for 25 cents a day. Barta also earned money by farming and playing music. Available information indicates the money he earned was used to help repay a loan from the Mezeras. The places the Wunsch family lived in Central Virginia were as follows:

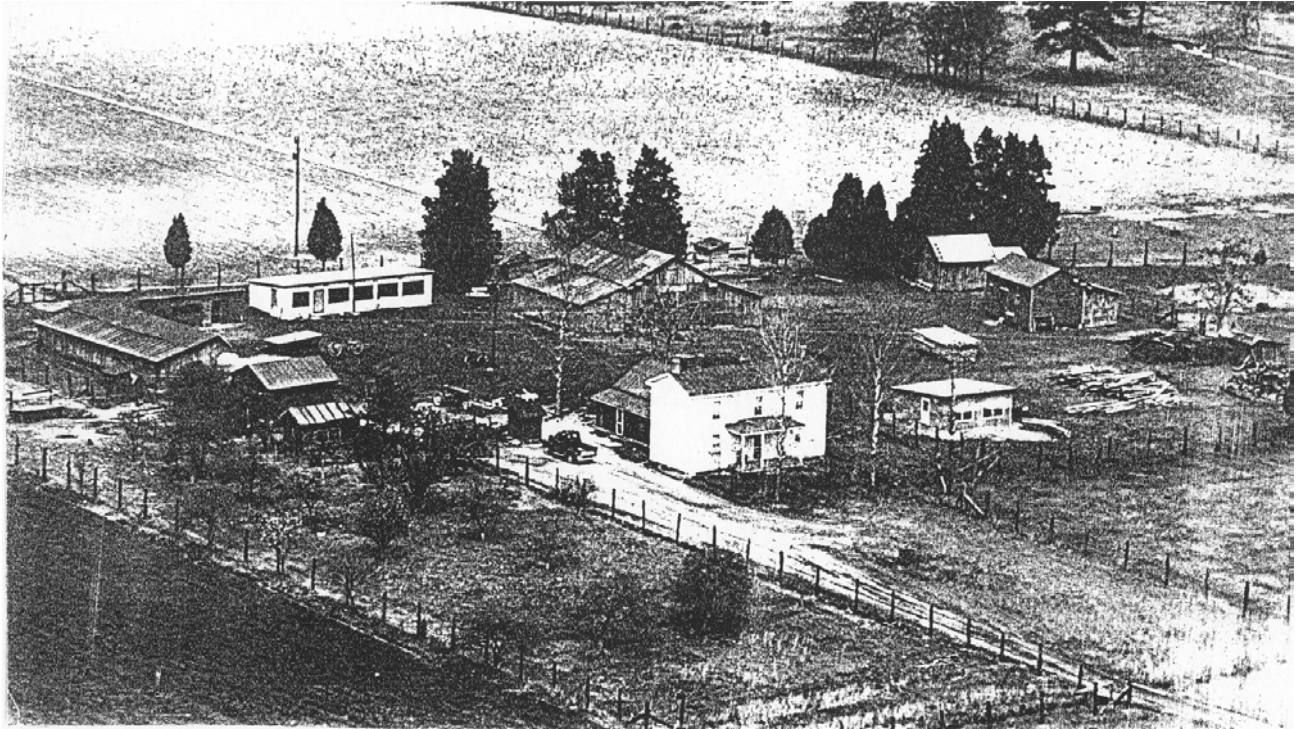
1. Dinwiddie with Joe Mezera - During this time Barta and Antonia acquired a mule and \$50 towards a second mule.
2. Chesterfield with Charles Mezera - Along with the Frank Uzel family, the Wunsch family lived in a small 2-room house. The names of the Uzel children were Joe, John, and Theresa.

During this time, Margaret Malon's grandfather, Frank Blaha sold Barta a cow, and for additional 2 dollars, received 2 pigs. Franks's wife gave the Winsch family 5 hens and a rooster. She said the children needed to eat eggs.

3. Dinwiddie, U.S. Route 1 near railroad tracks - Farmland was rented from a family named Cacks (spelling and pronunciation uncertain). This place had a nice two-story house, but was sold to the Mack family. Frank, the 3rd child, was born on October 8, 1913 at this location. While living on the farm near the church in Dinwiddie, Mary was assigned the responsibility of caring for baby Frank while Barta and Antonia worked in the fields. One example of how the work ethic was instilled in the children at an early age was Mary's job of caring for baby Frank. Mary was responsible for pulling a small cart carrying Frank out to the fields where Barta and Antonia were working so Antonia could nurse him. Mary was only 4 or 5 years old at this time. One time, the cart over turned. Frank was not hurt but Mary got a spanking from Barta. Antonia felt bad about Mary's spanking.
4. Dinwiddie, Squirrel Level Road – This farm apparently included a home site that only had a standing chimney. Barta and some neighbors built 2 small rooms onto the chimney. Barta cut firewood and then hauled it into town for sale. When he made trips to town, Barta would load the wagon with manure and haul the manure to the sandy farm fields he rented in order to amend the nutrient poor soil. Barta was not successful in improving the sandy land. The farm was sold at auction and the Winsch family moved out of Dinwiddie.
5. Prince George, Bull Hill Road – Barta rented a farm owned by Frank Kvasnicka, but had to move out after a crop share dispute. Theresa was born on January 7, 1916 at this location. Joe was born November 29, 1917 six months before they moved from this location.
6. Prince George, Birchetts Place – This farm was fine, except it was located too far from the church on Route 460 and school on Rives Road.
7. Prince George, Wagner's farm (near Church of the Sacred Heart) – Barta was able to raise a good crops here, but got upset and moved after staying only 1 year following a crop share agreement with the land owner.
8. Prince George, West Quaker Road, Temple Farm
After moving to the Temple Farm on West Quaker Road (Quaker Road), Antonia and Barta decided they were tired of moving. They wanted to purchase the 70-acre farm from James Temple, its owner. The owner wanted cash. A loan from Stephen Glazier was secured in the amount of \$4,500 at a 6 percent interest rate to purchase the farm. At this time, the Temple farmhouse was a 4-room, 2-story structure.



Photograph of Barta and Antonia with 6 children. The location of this farm is not known. From left to right, the names are Frank, Joseph, Wesley, Barta, Theresa, Mary, Antonia and Annie.



Undated aerial photograph of the Vinsh farm on West Quaker Road in Prince George, Virginia

Robert, the seventh child, was born February 1, 1922 during the first winter at the Temple place. Later, Barta added several rooms on the north side of the house to accommodate his growing family. Barta and Antonia made the final farm payment only a few years before Barta died during the winter of 1942 on the 23rd of February. He had returned home from a hunting trip near the vicinity of the Brandon Plantation in southeastern Prince George County near the James River. The day was foggy and he was sick. A doctor was called to the house and Barta was admitted to the hospital. He died 3 days later of a heart related problem.

By any measure, the farm purchase on West Quaker Road has to be considered a milestone in the Vinsh family history. It must have been source of much pride for Barta, Antonia and the children. Its proximity to the church on Route 460 and the school on Rives Road was something they desired. It must have been a financial struggle for the family to make the farm produce enough income to support a family of 11 and make the farm payments, especially during the “Great Depression” years. We really can never know how hard all the family members had to work on and off the farm, so the family could financially survive during these early years in America. To make financial ends meet, the children often had to work on the farm rather than continue their education in public schools.

Available information also indicates that although Barta had experience as a musician, soldier and coal miner in Europe, he apparently did not have much prior experience with farming. According to market demand, the primary crops raised on the farm were Spanish peanuts and corn. Farm life in America was very different than farm life Gernik. In America, farmers lived in a dispersed pattern with houses physically located on the farm. In Gernik, farmers lived clustered in the village

surrounded by farmland tracts. Farms in Central Virginia were only about 150 feet above sea level and contained few rocks. The winters in Central Virginia were milder than those in the Carpathian Mountains.

The language difference became an issue as the Winsch children began attending public schools. The schoolteachers did not allow the children to speak Czech in school and the parents did not allow the children to speak English at home. In fact, available information indicates the children were punished at home and in school, if they disobeyed these practices. We can only imagine how difficult it must have been for the children to attend school and try to make friends with others while not being able to speak English. Barta was fluent in several languages, including Czech, Hungarian, and German and had some knowledge of a several others. However, he did not know any English or understand the American monetary system when he first came to America. Antonia almost always spoke Czech. Even after living for many years in America, she spoke very little English.

On April 9, 1921, Barta Winsch received his Certificate of Naturalization (shown in the Appendices) after completing legal requirements in Richmond, Virginia. Naturalization in the United States at that time was a 2-step process that took at least 7 years to complete. Naturalization was not a requirement for Barta or any immigrant. However, this process enabled him and his family members as aliens to become U.S. citizens and, upon age, vote in local, State and national elections. The first step for naturalization may be initiated after the alien has been in the U.S. at least 2 years and is called the Declaration of Intent. This document, signed by the applicant, indicates a desire to become a U.S. citizen; renounces allegiance to any foreign government and provides background information on applicant's immigration. The second step involved a petition to the court for citizenship; an oath of allegiance to the U.S. of America and contained statements from 2 witnesses indicating the applicant is of good character and residency. Also, until 1922, wives of men who completed the naturalization process and, until 1940, children under the age of 21 automatically became U.S. citizens. Barta's Certificate of Naturalization names all existing family members. Joseph, youngest at this time was 3 years old. A copy has been included in the Appendix. *It is not understood why Barta traveled to the State capital in Richmond to complete his naturalization certification as any court of record could administer this process.* Historical information indicates that frequently Protestants from Western Europe who had settled in the United States earlier did not view Catholic immigrants from Central and Eastern European countries favorably because of their religious connection with the Pope in Rome. Regardless, the completion of the naturalization process is likely to have been a source of satisfaction because Barta and Antonia certainly never had the opportunity to vote in democratic elections previously. The Hungarian government in the Banat Region did not conduct elections to determine governmental leadership.

Barta interest in music continued until his death. He learned to play the E-Flat clarinet from a man named Urban. He later taught his sons to play musical instruments: Frank the trumpet, Joe the baritone, Wesley the B-Flat clarinet, and Robert the E-Flat clarinet. *We have not been able to locate a photograph of Barta and his sons with their musical instruments.*



Photograph of Barta, shown on the left, with one of his bands. Band members pictured left to right are William Hanzlik, Albert Cizek, Joe Chudoba, Wesley Olevarus, Joe Hanzlik, Joe Piecek, Louis Hanzlik, Wesley Hanzlik and Joe Bendal.

Barta also taught music to children at church. During the summer months he would travel to Virginia Beach to play music and earn extra income for the household. While out of town, he often stayed in hotels. The hotels provided boxes of breakfast cereal for its patrons. Barta would pack boxes of cereal in his suitcase and bring them home for his children as treats.

Barta organized several brass bands with 10 to 12 men each that played polkas and waltzes for social gatherings. Barta often played his harmonica for weddings. It is likely many of the social gatherings included dances in the parish halls of the Church of the Sacred Heart in New Bohemia, located near the Vinsh farm on West Quaker Road in Prince George County, and at the original parish hall of St. Johns on Squirrel Level Road in Dinwiddie County.

Barta and several of his sons joined the Virginia National Guard Band. The military unit met in Petersburg once a week. Membership in a military unit demonstrated their support of the government in America and provided some additional income for the family. Several of the sons joined military services with specialties as bandmen. Later, some were transferred to active duty during WWII.



Barta in Virginia National Guard uniform with 2 daughters

Antonia enjoyed watching her grandchildren grow up. She liked growing plants, especially gladiolus and peonies, and maintained a small flower garden near the farmhouse. Her flower arrangements were frequently taken to church on Sundays and placed on Barta's gravesite before Mass. As mentioned earlier, Barta died in 1942 at the age of 59, just a short time after he and Antonia paid off the loan for the farm. Antonia never remarried. She continued to live on the West Quaker Road family home place. Later, she lived with her daughter Theresa on Young's Road in Petersburg. Antonia died on August 19, 1983 at the age of 94. Her cause of death was a result of stroke during a brief stay in the hospital. Both Barta and Antonia are interned in the cemetery located adjacent to the Church of Sacred Heart on U.S. Route 460 in Prince George County, Virginia.

Barta and Antonia sought better economic and social opportunities for themselves and their children. Throughout their 34 years of married life, they took risks and worked hard to establish a family in a different county where, at first, they did not know the language or even what living in a

democratic society would be like. They believed America would provide better economic and social opportunities. They managed to raise a family, acquire property, help assure freedom in their new homeland with military service and continued to receive spiritual guidance from the Catholic Church. During their lifetimes they were able to fully realize Life in America did indeed provide the very opportunities they sought for themselves and their children.

SECTION VI – DESCENDENTS

Barta and Antonia raised 9 children during their lifetime. A family portrait taken near the front porch of the home place on West Quaker Road in Prince George County, Virginia is shown below. Brief biographical sketches of the children have been provided along with partial listings of descendents. The numbers towards the left margin of the descendancy chart indicate the generation number beginning with Barta and Antonia. The start of the 6th generation has commenced and there are now over 130 descendents. Corrections will be made and additional information added with future updates of this family history.



Seated with Barta and Antonia are John and Charles. Joe and Frank are standing on the left. Robert and Wesley are standing on the right. Theresa, Annie and Mary are standing in the second row.

Mary/Maria

Mary/Maria Antonia Vinsh, the first child of Antonia and Barta, was born on June 25, 1909 in Gernik, Hungary. She married Charles Albert Blazek on November 23, 1925. They made their living on a farm in western Prince George County and raised two children, Rose Marie and Louis Charles. Charles Albert Blazek died in December 1981. Mary now resides with a granddaughter on Halifax Road in Dinwiddie County, Virginia.

- 1 Barta Joseph Vinsh b: July 12, 1882 d: February 23, 1942
+Antonia Mezera Vinsh b: April 13, 1889 m: April 28, 1908 d: August 19, 1942
 - 2 Mary Antonia Vinsh b: June 25, 1909
+Charles Louis Blazek b: November 28, 1902 d: December 19, 1981
 - 3 Louis Charles Blazek b: June 16, 1926
+Ann Harrison Blazek b: August 21, 1928
 - 4 Charles Louis Blazek b: March 19, 1951
+ Sherry Johnson Blazek b: July 15, 1953
 - 5 Tarah LuAnn Blazek b: February 4, 1976
 - 5 John Charles Blazek b: December 13, 1980
+Vanja Janjetovic Blazek b: January 5, 1982 m: April 14, 2000
 - 6 Ella Noel Blazek b: February 8, 2001
 - 5 Charles Louis Blazek, III b: May 25, 1982
 - 4 Glen Edward Blazek b: June 11, 1957
+ Sue Blazek b: July 16, 1957 m: October 23, 1982
 - 5 Daniel Stephen Blazek b: December 25, 1985
 - 5 Sarah Ann Blazek b: September 14, 1987
 - 3 Rose Marie Blazek b: November 5, 1928 d: March 31, 2000
+Gordon Calvin Hickman b: _____
 - 4 Rosemary Elaine Hickman b: August 12 1949
+William Lewis Jennings b: October 11, 1949
 - 5 Jon Christian Jennings b: October 24, 1970
+Malynda Strickler b: _____
 - 6 Charles Anthony Jennings b: December 31, 2002
 - + Peter Anthony Feddo b: Oct.18, 1941 m: Jan. 5, 1980 d: March 7, 2001
 - 5 Peter Anthony Feddo, Jr. b: June 28, 1983
 - +Alton Uzel b: July 11, 1921 m: _____ d: April 21, 1992
 - 4 Caroline Alexandra Mary Uzel b: May 7, 1960
+Robert Hudson Fowler, Jr. b: March 19, 1962 m: August 23, 1993
 - 5 Alexander Fowler b: July 10, 1996
 - 5 Hannah Marie Fowler b: March 23, 1998
 - 5 Eric Fowler b: May 18, 2000
 - 5 William Alton Fowler b: May 18, 2000 d: May 17, 2000

- 4 Robert Mack Uzel b: August 24, 1962
 - +Sara Jones b: October 8, 1962 m: June 4, 1987
 - 5 Mallory b: March 3, 1992
 - 5 Camille b: November 13, 1993

Anna/Annie

Anna Carolyn Vinsh, the second child of Barta and Antonia, was born July 22, 1911 in Gernik, Hungary. She married William Joseph Hanzlik of Prince George, Virginia on April 10, 1934 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in New Bohemia. They had two children, William (Billy) Charles and Elizabeth (Betty) Ann. Their first residence was a farm located on Rives Road. Later, the family moved to a farm on Wagner Road, also located in Prince George County. Anna, William (Willie) and their son William (Billy) are buried at Southlawn Cemetery, located in Prince George County, VA.

- 1 Barta Joseph Vinsh b: July 12, 1882 d: February 23, 1942
 - +Antonia Mezera Vinsh b: April 13, 1889 m: April 28, 1908 d: August 19, 1983
 - 2 Anna/Annie Carolyn Vinsh b: July 22, 1911 d: December 14, 1971
 - + William Joseph Hanzlik b: October 11, 1904 m: April 10, 1934 d: July 5, 1978
 - 3 William Charles b: February 3, 1935 d: August 3, 1962
 - 3 Elizabeth Ann b: November 22, 1936
 - + Curtis Harlow b: January 10, 1937 m: December 15, 1957
 - 4 Joyce Arleen Corriere b: September 5, 1958
 - 5 Karen Louise b: July 23, 1985
 - 4 Jeffery Curtis b: July 20, 1963
 - +Lauri Ann Turconi b: September 30, 1966 m: October 17, 1992
 - 5 Brittany Ann b: April 17, 1994
 - 5 Rachael Elizabeth b: September 22, 1996
 - 5 Jenna Marie b: November 22, 1999
 - 4 David William b: December 19, 1964
 - + Elizabeth Schade b: June 26, 1965 m: April 23, 1988
 - 5 Logan Patrick b: March 15, 2001

Frank

Frank Charles Vinsh, the 3rd child of Barta and Antonia Vinsh, was born on October 8, 1913. He married Annie Barbara Blaha on October 29, 1935 in St. John's Catholic Church in Dinwiddie, Virginia. They lived in Dinwiddie, Hopewell, Petersburg, and then moved back to Dinwiddie where he farmed and worked at Allied Chemical. In 1952 they moved to Squirrel Level Road with their four children Franklin, Cecilia, Harvey and Connie. Annie died in November 1955 and Frank in September 1995. They are buried in St. John's Church cemetery in Dinwiddie.

- 1 Barta Joseph Vinsh b: July 12, 1882 d: February 23, 1942
 - +Antonia Mezera Vinsh b: April 13, 1889 m: April 28, 1908 d: August 19, 1942
- 2 Frank Charles Vinsh b: October 8, 1913 d: September 13, 1995
 - +Annie Barbara Blaha b: October 3, 1912 m: October 29, 1935 d: Nov. 19, 1955
- 3 Franklin Charles Vinsh b: September 22, 1936
 - +Mary Cruz Baca b: May 16, 1937 m: June 28, 1958
 - 4 Michael James Vinsh b: April 3, 1960
 - 4 Anna Maria Vinsh b: May 6, 1962
 - 5 Hunter Austin Vinsh b: June 23, 1994
 - 4 Susan Yvonne Vinsh b: August 21, 1963
 - +Phillip Brown b: January 9, 1963 m: March 22, 1986
 - 5 Brittany Brown b: February 20, 1987
 - 5 Reed Brown b: November 28, 1989
 - +Ron Jolly b: January 13, 1947 m: September 26, 1992
 - 5 Garrett Jolly b: November 12, 1991
 - 4 Steven Anthony Vinsh b: September 6, 1966
 - +Kathy Daly b: April 6, 1967 m: June 20, 1992
 - 5 Kyle Steven Vinsh b: September 4, 1993
 - 5 Kelsey Marie Vinsh b: July 17, 1998
- 3 Cecilia Ann Vinsh b: January 25, 1938
 - +Jerry Blaha b: August 11, 1935 m: August 9, 1962
 - 4 Jeffrey Lynn Blaha b: October 23, 1962
 - 4 Gregory Lee Blaha b: May 8, 1964
 - +Toni Kline b: October 22, 1963 m: April 19, 1997
 - 5 Joshua Ryan Blaha b: January 20, 2000
 - 5 Jacob Alexander Blaha b: October 8, 2001
 - 4 Melissa Gayle Blaha b: November 29, 1966
 - 4 Daniel Thomas Blaha b: September 25, 1973
 - +Stacey Miller b: August 31, 1972 m: October 25, 2003
 - 5 Riley Alexandra Blaha b: April 14, 2002
 - 4 Brian Patrick Blaha b: October 22, 1977
- 3 Harvey James Vinsh b: August 10, 1945
 - +Patricia Pillow b: November 27, 1946 m: November 11, 1972
 - 4 Harvey James Vinsh, Jr. b: June 29, 1974
 - 4 Angela Marie Vinsh b: March 21, 1979

- +John Richard Cabaniss b: October 1, 1975 m: October 10, 1998
- 3 Constance (Connie) Marie Vinsh b: January 29 1950
 - 4 Kelly Frances Marcum b: April 23, 1968
 - +Darrel Elmore b: May 31, 1966 m: April 8, 2000
 - 5 Holly Marie Elmore b: February 20, 2001
 - 5 Cole Jacob Elmore b: February 20, 2001
 - 4 Elizabeth Kaye Marcum b: July 30, 1979
 - 4 Timothy Scott Marcum b: January 28, 1971
 - +Terry Kline b: December 6, 1966 m: September 18, 2004

Theresa

Theresa Josephine Vinsh, the 4th child, was born January 7, 1916. She was married in the Church of the Sacred Heart in Prince George, Virginia on October 30, 1937 to Louis John Blaha. Louis is buried in Southlawn Cemetery, located in Prince George County. They raised four children. The first two children, Jennie and Lucille, were born in the farmhouse on Rives Road, also in Prince George. The second two children, Rosemarie and Louis, Jr. were born in Petersburg General Hospital after the family moved to a farm on Squirrel Level Road in Dinwiddie County. The last move Theresa and Louis made was in 1953 to their home at 1710 Young's Road in Dinwiddie County, now part of the City of Petersburg.

- 1 Barta Joseph Vinsh b: July 12, 1882 d: February 23, 1942
 - +Antonia Mezera Vinsh b: April 13, 1889 m: April 28, 1908 d: August 19, 1942
 - 2 Theresa Josephine Vinsh b: January 7, 1916
 - +Louis John Blaha b: February 21, 1915 m: October 30, 1937 d: August 14, 1974
 - 3 Jenny Blaha Jones b: March 13, 1940
 - +William Jones b: July 12, 1939 m: July 9, 1960
 - 4 Cheryl Jones Bales b: April 8, 1961
 - +Jeffrey Scott Bales b: August 6, 1966
 - 5 Christopher James b: October 25, 1981
 - 5 Ryan Scott b: September 4, 1992
 - 5 Maria Nichole b: April 20, 2001
 - 4 Kevin Scott Jones b: June 24, 1963 d: November 25, 1990
- 3 Lucille Blaha Moran b: November 10, 1941
 - +Raymond Moran b: Oct. 24, 1934 m: Sept. 20, 1974 d: July 28, 1987
- 3 Rosemarie Blaha DiMantova b: May 24, 1946 d: January 15, 1999
 - +Harry Harvey Jones b: February 27, 1946
 - 4 Thomas Louis Jones DiMantova b: October 18, 1965
 - +Anita LaMonica b: April 21, 1954
 - 5 Sara Elizabeth b: June 8, 1987
 - 4 Brian Mathew Jones DiMantova b: September 29, 1967
 - +Barbara Lee b: July 28, 1948
 - +Kathy Izyk b: December 26, 1966

- 5 Billie Marie b: December 1, 1989
- 5 Brian Mathew II b: December 1, 1989
- +Victor DiMantova b: November 16, 1939
- 4 Courtney DiMantova Baltos b: February 10, 1973
- +Joseph Charles Baltos, Jr. b: July 17, 1966
- 5 Alexander Joseph b: December 13, 1999
- 5 Brooke Rosemari b: May 2, 2002
- 3 Louis John Blaha, Jr. b: April 5, 1948
- +Brenda Peyton b: August 31, 1949 m: June 20, 1970

Joseph

Joseph James Vinsh, the 5th child of Barta and Antonia, was born on November 29, 1917. He married Emily Theresa Chudoba on June 13, 1947 in St. John Catholic Church in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. He and his wife made their home on West Quaker Road in Prince George County, Virginia. They raised four children: Joseph Vinsh, Jr., Fred Tony Vinsh, JoAnn Skalsky and Barbara Antonia Vinsh Priode. Emily died of breast cancer in September 2, 1970 and Joseph died of colon cancer in January 13, 1990. They were buried in the Church of the Sacred Heart cemetery in Prince George County, Virginia.

- 1 Barta Joseph Vinsh b: July 12, 1882 d: February 23, 1942
- +Antonia Mezera Vinsh b: April 13, 1889 m: April 28, 1908 d: August 19, 1942
- 2 Joseph James Vinsh b: November 29, 1917 d: January 13, 1990
- +Emily Theresa Chudoba b: March 2, 1920 m: June 13, 1947 d: September 2, 1970
- 3 Joseph James Vinsh, Jr. b: May 21, 1950
- +Mary Elizabeth Booker b: January 5, 1954 m: March 20, 1982
- 4 William Joseph Vinsh b: April 19, 1984
- 3 Fred Tony Vinsh b: October 30, 1953 d: August 25, 1997
- 3 Joann Vinsh b: August 21, 1956
- +Charles Skalsky b: May 6, 1950
- 4 Melissa Nicole Skalsky b: April 2, 1977
- 4 Amanda Emily Skalsky b: October 8, 1981
- 4 Bryan Charles Skalsky b: February 26, 1985
- 4 Kelly Jo Skalsky b: February 26, 1985
- 3 Barbara Antonia Vinsh b: August 8, 1959
- +Kenneth Leon Priode b: October 17, 1958 m: May 19, 1984
- 4 Antonia Renee Priode b: August 9, 1989

Wesley

Wesley William Vinsh, the 6th child of Barta and Antonia Vinsh was born on January 25, 1921. Raised on the family farm I Virginia, he left home in 1942 to join the U.S. Navy and serve in WWII. He was stationed on the USS Washington based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He met Anna Grayaske at a USO function. They were married in May 1947 and made their home in Philadelphia. Wesley and Anna had 5 children: Donald, Carole, Thomas, Celeste and Sharon. Wesley is currently retired and living in Petersburg, Virginia.

- 1 Barta Joseph Vinsh b: July 12, 1882 d: February 23, 1942
 - +Antonia Mezera Vinsh b: April 13, 1889 m: April 28, 1908 d: August 19, 1942
- 2 Wesley William Vinsh b: January 25, 1921
 - +Anna Marie Grayaske b: April 28, 1919
 - 3 Donald Joseph Vinsh b: April 5, 1950 Philadelphia, PA
 - +Karen Withsosky b: June 17, 1952 Philadelphia, PA
 - 4 Robert Wesley Vinsh b: March 1, 1972 Abington, PA
 - 3 Carole Ann Vinsh b: April 23, 1952 Philadelphia, PA
 - +Glen McCann m. July 14, 1971
 - 4 Timothy McCann b: May 22, 1974
 - 4 Maureen McCann b: December 30, 1979
 - 4 Caroline McCann b: September 25, 1984
 - 3 Thomas John Vinsh b. September 20, 1953 in Philadelphia, PA
 - +Janet West b. June 18, 1953 m. May 19, 1979
 - 4 Adam Vinsh b. March 26, 1983
 - 4 Allison Vinsh b. January 15, 1986
 - 3 Celeste Vinsh b. July 29, 1955 in Abington, PA
 - +Kenneth Wolf m. May 18, 1981
 - 4 Jacob Wolf b. December 12, 1985
 - 3 Sharon Vinsh b. January 18, 1961 in Abington, PA
 - +Bruce Kitchen b. May 1959 m. December 12, 1982
 - 4 Elizabeth Kitchen b: November 22, 1980
 - 4 Brian Kitchen b. May 27, 1983
 - 4 Paul Kitchen b. January 18, 1989

Robert

Robert Joseph Vinsh, the 7th child of Barta and Antonia Vinsh, was born on February 1, 1922. He married Josephine Marie Kump on August 19, 1944 while serving in the military and stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia. After WWII, they made their home near Washington D.C. in the City of Alexandria, Virginia. They raised 3 children: Bartholomew (Bart), Dianne and Matthew. Robert and Josephine retired on April 1, 1982 and moved to Concord, North Carolina, a suburb of Charlotte.

- 1 Barta Joseph Vinsh b: July 12, 1882 d: February 23, 1942
+Antonia Mezera Vinsh b: April 13, 1889 m: April 28, 1908 d: August 19, 1942
- 2 Robert Joseph Vinsh b: February 1, 1922
+Josephine Marie Vinsh b: January 16, 1922
- 3 Bartholomew Francis Vinsh b: August 6, 1950 in Washington, D.C.
+Connie Diane Yates b: September 4, 1955 m: July 3, 1993
- 3 Diane Romona Vinsh b: August 12, 1955
+Norman Lepchitz b: April 10, 1955 m: November 19, 1977
- 3 Matthew Vinsh b: May 3, 1959
+Kimberly Odam b: March 21, 1969
- 4 Matthew Justin Vinsh b: June 18, 1989
- 4 Kistin Brook Vinsh b: August 7, 1991

John

John Fred Vinsh, the 8th child, was born April 1, 1924 at 5100 West Quaker Road, Prince George, Virginia (the Vinsh family home place). In 1951, he married Rosie Marie Horak in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in New Bohemia, Virginia. Both are buried at Southlawn Cemetery, located in Prince George County, Virginia. They raised three children. Joyce, David and Jean were born in Petersburg General Hospital and were raised at the family home place.

- 1 Barta Joseph Vinsh b: July 12, 1882 d: February 23, 1942
+Antonia Mezera Vinsh b: April 13, 1889 m: April 28, 1908 d: August 19, 1942
- 2 John Fredrick Vinsh b: April 1, 1924 d: October 8, 2004
+Rosie Horak b: October 8, 1929 m: _____ d: July 5, 1992
- 3 Joyce Vinsh b: April 12, 1952
+Donald Rackley b: _____
- 4 Amy Nichole Rackley b: _____
+Danny Walters b: _____
- 5 Brianna Nichole Rackley b: _____
- 3 David Michael Vinsh b: March 11, 1955
+Mary Evelyn Rose McConnell b: Sept. 15, 1959 m: March 7, 2980
- 4 Lisa Ann Vinsh b: August 13, 1982
- 4 Mallory Kay Vinsh b: November 5, 1984

- 4 Aaron Lynn Vinsh b: January 18, 1986
 - +Carter George Jackson b: January 29, 1986 m: Jan. 29, 2003
 - 5 Conner George Jackson b: April 14, 2004
- 4 Antonia Danielle b: April 13, 1987
- 4 David Michael Vinsh, II b: November 11, 1988
- 3 Jean Frances Vinsh b: October 4, 1958

Charles

Charles Francis Vinsh, the 9th child, was born August 26, 1926. He married Margaret Simmons of Prince George. They made their home on Baxter Road in Petersburg. They raised two children, Thomas and James. Charles and Margaret are buried near their son James at Southlawn Memorial Park in Prince George County, Virginia.

- 1 Barta Joseph Vinsh b: July 12, 1882 d: February 23, 1942
 - +Antonia Mezera Vinsh b: April 13, 1889 m: April 28, 1908 d: August 19, 1942
 - 2 Charles Francis Vinsh b: August 26, 1926 d: July 9, 2000
 - +Margaret Simmons b: _____ m: _____ d: December 31, 2002
 - 3 Charles Thomas Vinsh b: November 18, 1963
 - 3 James Everett Vinsh b: November 7, 1954 d: August 5, 2004
 - +Mary Mulligan b: _____ m: May 14, 1983
 - 4 Jennifer b: _____
 - 4 April b: _____

Appendices

No. 1335942

To be given to the person Naturalized.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NATURALIZATION

Petition, Volume IV, Number 522
Description of holder. Age, 38 years; height, 5 feet, 10 inches; color, white; complexion, light; color of hair, brown; color of eyes, blue; marks, None; visible distinguishing marks, None.

Name, age and place of residence of wife Antonette, 35 New Bohemia, Prince George Co., Va.
Names, ages and places of residence of minor children Mary H., Anne, 9; Pravey; Peregias & Joseph, 3 all of said children now reside at new Bohemia, Prince George County, Virginia

ORIGINIAL
United States of America } ss:
Eastern District of Virginia }
Be it remembered, that Barta Wensch

then residing at number _____
Town of New Bohemia (Prince George Co.) ^{State} ~~County~~ of Virginia, who previous to his naturalization was a subject of Austria-Hungary, having applied to be admitted a citizen of the United States of America pursuant to law, and a Regular Term of the District Court of United States, held at Richmond, on the 9th day of April, 1904, the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and twenty-six, the court having found that the petitioner had resided continuously within the United States for at least five years and in this Territory for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the filing of his petition, and that said petitioner intends to reside permanently in the United States, that in all respects, conformed with the law in relation thereto, and that he was entitled to be so admitted, it was, thereupon ordered by the said court that he be admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

The testimony aforesaid the seal of said court is hereto affixed on the 7th day of April, 1904, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and twenty-six, and of our Independence the

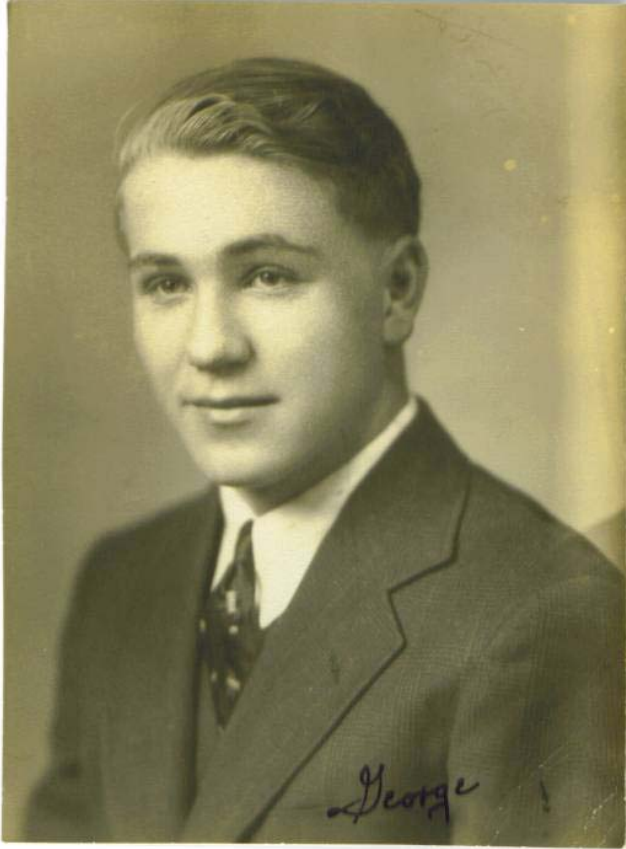
(Signature of holder.)







JOSEPH THERESA WESLY ANNIE MARY JOHN
FRANK BART(PAPA) CHARLIE ANTONIA(MAMA) ROBERT





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