



SPEDL-SCHWEYDA FAMILIES

PREPARED FOR
MICHAEL COLE

RESEARCH REPORT
JULY 2020

 **ancestry**ProGenealogists®

Introduction

A prior research session had focused on the paternal ancestry of “John” Wenzl Thuma (Tůma) (1848-1943), whose ancestors were from Lautschim, Bohemia, Austrian Empire, which is today known as Loučim in the Czech Republic. Research this time focused on his maternal ancestry, who were from neighboring towns in the same area of Bohemia.

What was known initially was that Anna Sperl died at the age of 42 on 12 February 1857 in the town of Úsilov in Slavíkovice Parish, as the daughter of Wenzl Spedl and Anna Schneyda, both from Lipkau (now Libkov), which was also in Lautschim Parish.

The priority for this research was to extend the direct line back as far as possible, as opposed to finding complete families of each of the children of direct line ancestors. Although that was the goal, in some cases, it was essential to get as many records as possible, since sometimes, later baptismal records gave more information on the parents and the parents’ origins. In cases where the family could not be extended back earlier without additional clues, more information was found on the complete families of direct line ancestors, but only transcriptions were made of these other records; copies with full translations were made of only direct line ancestors. This allowed us to move quicker in extending these family lines back as far as possible in the allotted time.

Wenzl Spedl & Anna Schweyda Family

Anna Spedl (Sperl), who later married Johann Tůma, was born 30 May 1813 in house number 21 in Lipkau (Lautschim Parish), which is today known as Libkov (Document 1). Her parents were Wenzl Spedl and Anna, daughter of Georg Schweide [*sic*], a farmer, and Margaretha. Transcripts were made of her siblings’ baptismal records since more information was needed to find the parents’ marriage record. Wenzl Spedl and Anna Schweyda had nine children born from 1810 to 1831.

Wenzl Spedl married Anna Schweid [*sic*] on 18 April 1809 (Document 2). Wenzl was an innkeeper’s son who was 27 years old and single, living in house 27 in Ausilau (Pollin Parish), which is today known as Úsilov (Poleň) Parish. Anna was the 20-year-old single daughter of Georg Schweida and Margaretha Kral from Likpau.

It is interesting to see how the surname Spedl evolves over time in the Czech records as one goes back in time. The way the name appears in documents can be seen in the transcripts in the accompanying research journal. The name seems to be mostly spelled Spedl in the 19th century, although here and there, the name is written as Sperl. These names must have been relatively similar phonetically and interchangeable to some degree. Wenzl Spedl’s father is more often listed in records as Sperl, but his father is listed often as Spedl, as well, and the earliest records found so far show the spelling of the name as Špedl, which would have been pronounced with a “Sh-”/”Sch-” sound at the beginning.

Johann Spedl & Mariana Němeczek Family

Wenzl was the German form of the Czech given name Václav, which in Latin was often written as Wenceslaus. At the time of his baptism on 11 April 1782, the church registers were written in Latin, so his name was given as Wenceslaus. While at the time of his death, the records were kept in Czech, so his name was spelled with the variant of Václav – Václav. In between these events, the registers were generally kept in German, so his name was most commonly spelled, Wenzl.

He was born in house number 15 in Ausilau (Úsilov), son of the innkeeper Joannes Spedl and his wife Maria (Document 4). The marriage of Joannes Spedl [sɛdɛl], son of the deceased innkeeper in Ausilau number 13 – Fidercum Spedl, to Maria, daughter of Lorentius Niemeczek, took place on 12 November 1776 at Schepadl (Aubotschen Parish), now Všepeř (Úboč Parish) (Document 3).

Fridrich Špedl & “Marzeni” Maria Magdalena Family

The Latin name Fidercum Spedl was written with the more German variation, Fridrich or Fydrich, in original records. The Czech name Jan is written as Johann or Johannes in German, and Joannes in Latin. Jan, son of Frydrich Špedla [sɛdɛl] and Marženi, was born 20 November 1751 in the village of Ausilau (spelled in the original record as Hauszłowa) (Document 5). The name Marzeni was a shortening or Czech nickname for the longer Biblical name Maria Magdalena. Her name was listed variously in other records of the baptisms of her children as Marženy, Maydallený, Magdalena, and Marži-Magdalena, and once (likely mistakenly) as Woršula (1758).

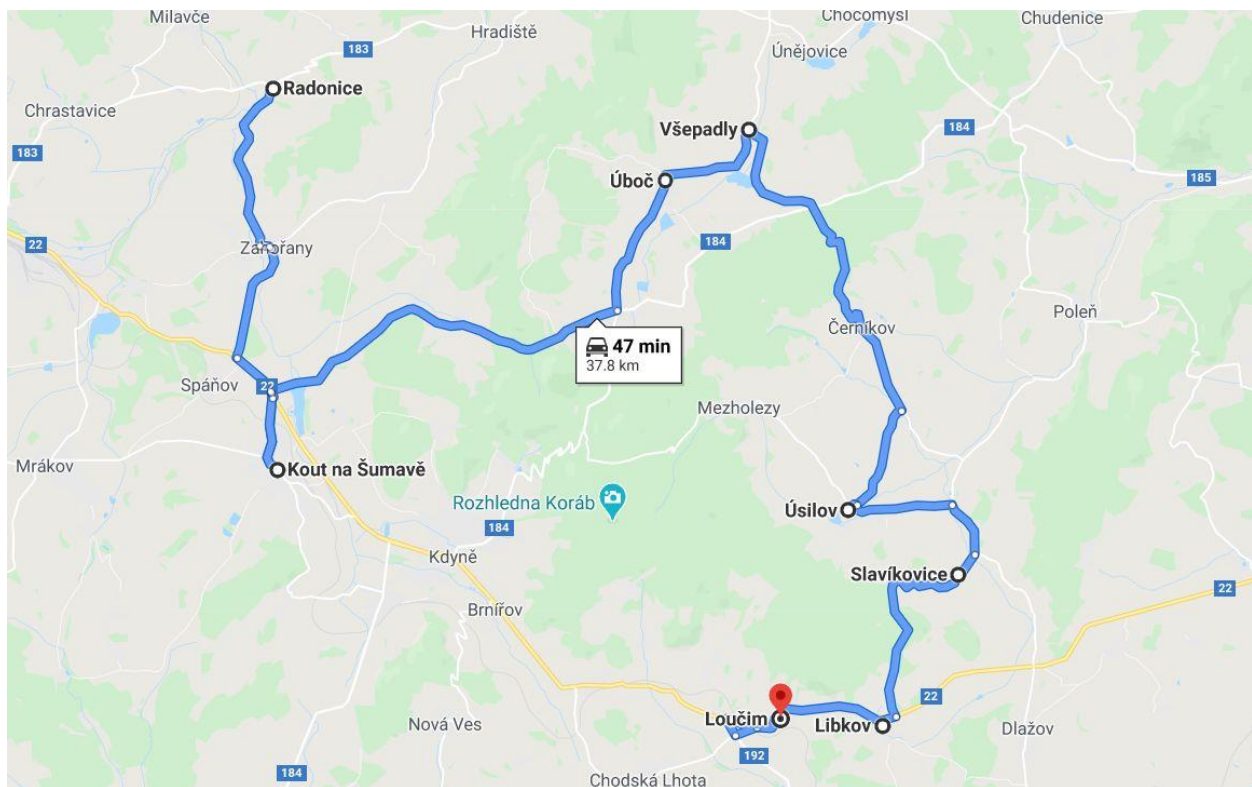
Although a marriage record has not yet been found for Fridrich Špedl and Marzeni, a birth record was identified for “Fridericum” [sɛdɛl], son of Thoma Spedl [sɛdɛl] and Salomena, who was baptized 7 November 1724 in Kautha. Today Kautha is known as Kout na Šomavě in Kdyně Parish. Further research on the earlier origins of this Spedl-Špedl family is likely possible; however, research at this point moved to the Němeczek (Niemeczek) family.

Laurentius Niemeczek & Rozina Kadletz Family

Mariana Němeczek (Niemeczek), the wife of Johann Spedl, was born 10 April 1756 in Schepadl, now Všepeř in Úboč Parish (Document 8). Although her marriage record gave her father’s name as Lorenti Niemeczek, judge, living in house 27 in Schepadl, her baptismal record gave her father’s name in its old Czech version – Wawčincze Niemeczka. Her father was a farmer at the time of her birth, and her mother was named Rozina.

Laurentius Niemeczek of Schepad and Rosalia of Aunovitz were married in November 1751 in Aubotschen, now Úboč, Czech Republic (Document 7). Laurentius Niemeczek was the son of the deceased Andreas Niemeczek, while Rosalia was the daughter of the deceased Simeon Kadletz of Aunovitz.

The following map shows the towns mentioned here relative to each other (Document 9):



Once again, it should be possible to continue research on the earlier origins of Laurentius Niemeczek and Rosina Kadletz, but at this point research turned to the Schweida-Kral family lines so there would be time enough to research each of the lines on this side of the family.

Georg Schweida & Margaretha Kral Family

The Schweida surname was listed variously in records as Schweyda, Schweida, Schweyda-Schweydin [feminine version], Schveyda, Schvegda-Schvegdiana, Šwegda-Schwegdowa, and Šweidy. Anna Schweyda, who later married Wenzl Spedl, was born 26 November 1789 at house number 22 in Lipkau [now Libkov] in Loučim Parish (Document 10). Her parents were the farmer Georgius Schvegda [sic] and Margarita née Kraliana [sic]. In this case, the surname ending -iana was a Latin feminine ending -owa was the Czech feminine ending, and -in was the German feminine ending often added to the surnames.

Georgius Schvegda was a member of the Noble Olivier-Wallissian's Infantry Regiment three years earlier, when he married Margarita, widow of Wolfgang Frantz, a farmer in Lipkow, on 27 March 1786 in Lipkau (Document 11). Because the marriage record did not give ages or where the bride and groom were originally from, it was important to expand the research of this family to make a clear connection back to the earlier generations.

A death record for Marketa Šweydowa, a peasant woman who died of a fever at the age of 46 on 10 January 1804 in house 21 in Lipkau, was found (Document 12). Giřík Šwegda [sɪ] of house 21 in Lipkau married a second time, on 15 February 1803, to Woršila Ekstein. His age at that time was given as 40 years old. He died on 26 January 1840 at the age of 81 (Document 13). Knowing his age was necessary for locating his baptismal record.

Andreas “Ondřej” Schweida & Catharina Hronek Family

The Schweida family was originally from the town of Počinowitz [now Pocinovice, sometimes referenced as Putzeried], which was also in Lautschim Parish. It was a quite common name there, while rare elsewhere. Although a Georgius Schweide, son of Daniel and Anna, was found born in 1757, subsequent research showed that he was married in 1796 to Anna Gičík and took over the family farm in Počinowitz, rather than moving to Lipkau like your ancestor.

Only one other Georgius Schweida was born during the period 1755-1766 in Počinowitz, making him the likely ancestor. Georgius, son of Andreas Schweida & Catharina of Počinowitz, was born and baptized the same day, on 11 January 1762 in Počinowitz (Document 14). An older brother, Jan had been found born 14 April 1756 in Počinowitz as well.

Andreas Schweida was referred to in the old Czech version of his name in his marriage record as Ondřezg [Ondřej] Šwegdy [sɪ]. He was married 14 November 1752 to Kateřzyna, daughter of Waczlav Hronka [sɪ] in Loučim, although both were from Počinowitz (Document 15). Andreas was the son of Jan Schweida, and Kateřina was the daughter of Wacslav Hronek.

To estimate the birthdates for Andreas and Catharina, their death records were examined. They had lived at house number 37 in Počinowitz, and Katharina died there of consumption at the age of 70 on 11 December 1796 (Document 16). Andreas Schweyda remarried on 7 February 1798 at the age of 70 to Margaretha Haupler, also a widow. He died at the age of 85 on 6 September 1813 at house 37 in Počinowitz (Document 17). Andreas Schweyda may have married a third time, since a death is recorded on 27 November 1815 of an Anna Schweyda of house 37 in Počinowitz, the widow of Andreas Schweyda.

This suggested that Andreas and his wife Kateřina were born about 1728 and 1726, respectively. Although the church records for Počinowitz in Loučim Parish go back to 1686, there are gaps in the records. The baptism registers for the period 1718-1730 are mostly missing. It may be possible to piece together another generation or two by combing through all of the records during the period 1686-1740. Unfortunately, these records are not indexed and with the gaps involved, this looks like a reasonably detailed research project.

Kral Family

“Marketa” Margaretha Kral, the wife of Georg Schweida, was from Slawikowitz in Pollin Parish, now known as Slavíkovice (Poleň Parish). Efforts to find her first marriage to Wolfgang Frantz of house number 21 in Lipkau have not yet been successful. She did have a son by this marriage named Wolfgang, who was born in 1779 in Lipkau. One of the witnesses to this baptism was an Eva, wife of Georg Polak, a farmer in Slavíkovice.

Although much effort was made to establish Margaretha’s parents, this has not yet been successful. We did find that there were five Král families having children in Slavíkovice between 1745 and 1765. Only two children were found during that period with the given name Marketa. One was the daughter of Jan and Kristina Král and born in 1750; the other was the daughter of Jan & Marketa, born in 1748. No births were identified during the period 1754-1757, which would have matched your ancestor’s age at the time of her death.

A Marketa Král of Slavíkovice was found to have married in 1768 to Franciscus Halada of Louczin. This would have been one of the two women whose baptisms were mentioned above. If this man died and Marketa remarried a second time to Wolfgang Frantz, that would establish her as the correct ancestor. On the other hand, it might have been the other Marketa Král. It looks like this is the correct family, but it will require more research to establish for certain just how she connects to these other Král families of Slavíkovice. Her marriage record to Wolfgang Frantz could be key in making that connection. It was interesting to see that some of the records for families of Slavíkovice, while using the name Král, also at times were referred to as Králík and Krahulík. These seemed to have been interchangeable at the time.

Conclusion

Much progress was made on the ancestry of Anna Sperl (1813-1857), taking most of her ancestral lines back three more generations to the late 1600s and early 1700s. More research could be done in the Catholic registers of this area since these records go back to the 1600s.; however the older registers provide less information and many of them are unindexed.

Since the archaic Czech used in these early records is quite different than the later standardized form of the language, it takes careful work and obtaining as many documents as possible on each family, not just the direct line ancestors, in order to compile the earlier origins of these families. We can continue working on these lines until we have reached the beginning of the records, with the understanding of the limitations of the early records.

Your Research Package

Our research for this session comprises several elements, each of which is critical to the results of our efforts on your behalf. This report must be seen in conjunction with these other parts as the full scope of the research you requested.

Research Report. This document walks you through our research, highlights the important information we uncovered and discusses the challenges we faced.

Research Journal. The accompanying Research Journal is the list of our searches, both successful and not successful. The Research Journal documents the true scope of the research performed during this session. It is an essential tool for future research because it also details sources that did not provide new information.

Document Images. These copies of the documents we uncovered during our research contain the key information we found about your family, along with full citations for those records.

Private Family Tree. We created a private family tree at *Ancestry* for the family lines we researched, to which you already have access.



Your Research Team at
ancestryProGenealogists

Researcher: Gary Horlacher
Research Manager: Paul A. Schmidt
Client Relationship Manager:
Brian Smith
brsmith@ancestry.Com
385-776-5727

Cover photo by Chris Lawton on *Unsplash*.