

Joe, I did some research from the tape you provided me. I came to this conclusion:

1. Last name Ráček - as I assumed before, is the "little crayfish" or better "baby crayfish", not a sea gull as we discussed before - correct Czech pronunciation should be something like "r- u (like in bud, but long) - tsch -ek".

2. The father of your grandfather ( I believe, he is the narrator - his pronunciation in Czech was very distinct) has the first and middle name same as the Austro-Hungarian Emperor at the time of his birth, German version Franz Josef = Czech version of František Josef, English pronunciation is "Fran-ti-shek".

CHEB-SUAW #3

3. The place of origin is in Czech - Krchlebice , pronounce "Kr-khle-bi-tse". The "hamlet" of Krchlebice was situated in Central Bohemia, ca. 100 miles East from Prague. According to the information I received from Czecho-Slovakia this week, the "hamlet" was in early 60s integrated as a part of small town of Krchleby, now population ca. 1350. The town of Krchleby is now in Kutna Hora county, the town of Kutna Hora is the largest town of the area, population ca. 22,000.

The area historically famous in Czechoslovakia, the town of Kutna Hora boomed in 13th century when silver was discovered and pretty soon also the Czech coins were minted there for centuries. Famous is also the " 1409 Decree of Kutna Hora" when the Czech King Wenceslaw ruled that Charles University in Prague, est. 1348, would be exclusively Czech university and according to this decree, the foreign influence on this university decreased. Kutna Hora is situated ca. 6 miles NW from Krchleby. About 3 miles North of Krchleby is another famous Czech town of Čáslav (Tscha-slav), pop. ca. 10,000 with a castle built in 1143. Town was under "protection" of the Czech kings from 1253. In 1421 it was a seat of the "Czech Parliament", where the Hussittes, anti-Luxembourg resistance, adopted the principles of the Czech law.

