

Our Family News Letter

Issue 77

Greendale, Wisconsin

June, 2012

Marvin D. Pfeiffer 1936 – 2012



We were all deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend and cousin, Marvin D. Pfeiffer on March 7, 2012. Each of us have our own memories of Marv. Some of us remember the many times that we golfed together at the Heck family picnic. Some of us remember the free golf lessons that he offered us after we missed an easy putt. Some of us remember him as an outstanding father, husband, grandfather, brother, and friend. Nearly all of us remember him offering a helping hand to fix almost anything.

MARVIN D. PFEIFFER Racine, Wisconsin

Surrounded by his loving family and friends, Marvin D. Pfeiffer, age 75, passed away Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at Wheaton Franciscan–All Saints Medical Center. Marvin was born in Racine, September 3, 1936, son of the late Henry and Marie (Nee: Beemster) Pfeiffer.

He was educated at St. Mary's Grade School and graduated from St. Catherine's High School "Class of 1954". Marvin joined the United States Army and was stationed in Germany. Upon returning from service, he married the love of his life, Joanne Heck on November 24, 1959 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. They celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in November of 2011. Marvin attended Milwaukee School of Engineering and became a licensed electrician upon completion of his apprenticeship. Marvin, an electrical contractor, partnered with Jim Thompson and co-owned and operated Electrical Systems and Services for twenty years. He enjoyed golf, golf, and more golf, vacationing, Menards, woodworking, and the computer. More than anything he cherished time with family and friends. He will be deeply missed.

Survivors include his loving wife, Joanne; his three sons, David (Mary) Pfeiffer of Waukesha, Daniel (Patti) Pfeiffer of Naperville, IL, Steven (Cara) Pfeiffer of Racine; his four daughters, Ann (Dan) Kelley, Jeanie (Dr. Malcolm) Hatfield, Lori (John) Suchla, Judi (Steve) Behrendt, all of Racine; twenty-nine grandchildren, Michelle (Rich) Jacobi, Catherine (Dan) Zuperku, Amanda Pfeiffer, Jonathan Pfeiffer, Kaitlyn Pfeiffer, Meghan Pfeiffer, James Pfeiffer, Joy (Steve) Blankenheim, Jenny Pfeiffer, Julia Pfeif-

fer, Erick (Gwen) Robertson, Laura (Ryan) Dehart, Craig Robertson, Karin Robertson, Rebecca (Tony) Arndt, Tom (Amber) Pfeiffer, Jamie Pfeiffer, Pemba Mwepu, Rachel Kelley, Erika Kelley, Dana Mrazek, Mackenna Hatfield, Malcolm "Tre" Hatfield III, Mary Hatfield, Jacob Suchla, Andrew Suchla, Lauren Behrendt, Sammi Behrendt, Jack Behrendt, and Luke Behrendt; great-grandchildren, Aaron Arndt, Quentin Dehart, Tyler Dehart, Renae Dehart; Wyatt Robertson; brothers and sisters, Richard Pfeiffer of Milwaukee, Verna Smet (Quinn) of Stoughton, WI, Joanne Pfeiffer of Ames, IA, Glenn (Sue) Pfeiffer of Racine; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Alvin (Carol) Heck of Peyton, CO, Patricia (Robert) Merritt of Big Bear Lake, MN, Ronald Heck of Beaver Dam; special friends, Sandi and Steve Nylander, Maryellen Carlson and family, Jerome Pfeiffer, all of Racine, and many golf buddies; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many dear friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, March 12, 2012, 10:30 A.M. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1533 Erie Street, with Rev. Sean Granger officiating. Relatives and friends met with the family Sunday, March 11, 2012 at the funeral home from 4:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. and at the church on Monday from 10:00 A.M. until time of Mass. Private interment was held. Memorials to St. Joseph Catholic Church or to St. Catherine's High School have been suggested.

Thank you to Wheaton Franciscan ICU staff, especially Dr. Tierney and nurses, Katie and Kayla, for their compassionate care.

MARESH-MEREDITH & ACKLAM
 FUNERAL HOME
 803 MAIN ST. RACINE, WI 53403

Marv's family put together a display of hundreds of family pictures for the funeral, which must have been painful for them initially but ultimately brought joy to all as we remembered this wonderful man. You could see the pride in his children's eyes as they explained the background on each photo. The family also put together

"Marv's Life Story" that I would like to repeat here in part.



Marv's Life Story

A man who accomplished so much of which to be proud, Marvin Pfeiffer was a man of integrity who never worried about building wealth according to the world's measure, but focused his attention on building relationships with those he treasured most. He was a hardworking man and the "go-to" guy who could fix nearly anything in need of repair. With the love of his life, Joanne, by his side for more than 55 years, Marvin helped raise the children who later gave him the gift of grandchildren and great-grandchildren many times over. Although life will never be the same without Marv here, his timeless words of

wisdom, kindhearted ways, and unending love will live on in the generations who follow him.

Life during the 1930's were days that were cloaked in deep hardship due to the unrelenting grip of the Great Depression. Countless people were without jobs, which left many without homes and the hope of a reprieve anywhere on the horizon. Despite the difficult circumstances that surrounded them a young couple was filled with joy to welcome a healthy baby boy into their hearts and home on September 3, 1936. Baby Marvin was one of five children born to his parents, Henry and Marie (Beemster) Pfeiffer, and was raised in the family home alongside his siblings, Richard, Verna, Joanne, and Glenn.

In many ways Marvin experienced a childhood that was reflective of the times. To say he was mischievous as a boy is a bit of an understatement. When he was only about two years old, Marv was known to bite his dog's tail a time or two. As a young boy he also smashed about 20 empty milk bottles from his father's dairy truck, which was not without consequences for him. By the time he was a teen Marv worked as a paper-boy in Racine's downtown district. He attended St. Mary's Grade School and went on to St. Catherine's High School.

Not to be forgotten during his time as a young man was Marv's introduction to the woman who stole his heart. Her name was Joanne Heck, and they met in homeroom during his Junior year at St. Catherine's High School. A dating relationship ensued and they began to become a couple attending many formal dances including Junior and Senior Prom.

After graduating from high school in 1954 Marv went on to serve his country in the United States Army. He was a radio operator in the 6th Armored Division at Fort Leonard in Wood, Missouri. Before going overseas, Marv and Joanne were engaged and they wrote to each other daily while he was stationed in Ulm, Germany for two years.

With a desire to build a life together, Marv and Joanne were married on November 24, 1959, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Together they were blessed with three sons: David, Daniel, and Steven, and four daughters, Ann, Jeanie, Lori, and Judi. Through the years the Pfeiffer family enjoyed spending time together. Some of their favorite experiences were spent camping, and going to church and breakfast together as a family always topped Marv's list. Sometimes good friends joined in this tradition as well.

In order to support his family Marv first worked as an apprentice electrician. After four years servicing his apprenticeship Marv worked for a number of electrical contractors. In 1978, he and his friend Jim Thompson owned and operated Electrical Systems and Services for the next 20 years. Marv also kept busy woodworking and was often helping his children and friends do electrical work at their homes. He was a true handyman who could seemingly fix anything as no project was too great.

Throughout his life Marv enjoyed many things that greatly enriched his life. As his friends can attest he was passionate about golf, especially when he was with his buddies. When he became a grandfather Marv couldn't have been happier, and spending time with his grandchildren quickly became one of his favorite activities. He was a regular at all their school and sporting events, and there were nothing like memorable Christmas traditions in their family, especially Grandpa's Christmas morning omelets. His family will always remember the dance he created, the Marv Dance, which was popular at all celebrations and weddings with family and friends. While enjoying some down time Marv could often be found on his computer.

Something that Marv will fondly be remembered for were his favorite sayings. We will never forget hearing him say, "Measure twice, cut once," and "Kill two birds with one stone." A couple more of Marv's most common words of wisdom were, "It's your upper lip," and asking, "Have you checked the oil in your car?" While working he was known to comment: "It's just a piece of

cake," and, "There ain't nothing to this electrical work."

Through the life he lived each day Marvin Pfeiffer made the most of each moment he was given while cherishing the friends and family he loved more than life itself. He was so vibrant, fun-loving, and full of life, which was contagious to others wherever he went. Marv will be deeply missed and warmly remembered.

Progress Report on Clara Stratmann Ancestors



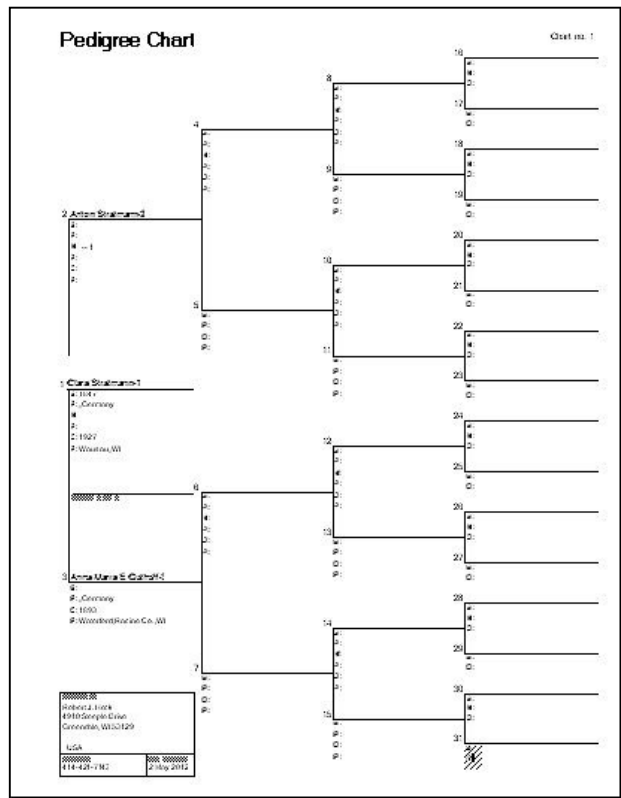
L-R: Researching a microfilm of an old German church record are Robert J. Heck (Retired New Berlin Fire Chief), Robert J. Heck (Retired Electrical Engineer and your Editor of this newsletter, Cheryl Ann Heck (Working 911 Dispatcher and daughter of Retired New Berlin Fire Chief.

One year ago Cheryl Ann Heck asked me if she could help research some branch of our family. Cheryl was a Volunteer at the local Family History Center and was very eager to learn how to conduct family research.

Her dad is my first cousin and Cheryl is my first cousin one time removed. She calls me "Uncle

Bob". I guess the name has stuck a bit because one day recently I was talking to her dad, my cousin Bob, on Skype when his wife, Lorraine, asked whom he was talking to, he replied "It's Uncle Bob". Lorraine knew then that he was talking to me.

I thought long and hard about what branch of our family I should suggest to Cheryl and her dad. I decided to have them try looking for the ancestors of our great grandmother, Clara Stratmann, wife of Henry Henningfeld. This was to be a joint research project with Cheryl, her dad and I doing the research here in Wisconsin during the warm weather months. After Bob and Lorraine became "Snow Birds", Cheryl and I continued with the research here and we used her Dad as a "Consultant" in Florida via Skype. It really worked out well. Bob's familiarity with Latin and European script were a big help.



When we started, we knew that Clara Stratman was born in 1847 in Germany, married Henry Henningfeld in Waterford, Wisconsin in 1873, and died in Wausau, Wisconsin in 1927. We knew that her mother was Anna Maria Elisabeth

Guthoff, born in 1819 in Germany, and died in Waterford, Wisconsin in 1893. We knew that Clara's father was Anton Stratmann who was born in Germany and died there. That was the extent of what we knew one year ago about Clara's ancestors. On the previous page I show graphically what we knew one year ago. I don't expect you to be able to read the starting Pedigree Chart. On the following page I have displayed the Pedigree chart for Clara Stratmann one year later.

Our research started by reviewing some of the church records from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin. The christening records for Clara's children showed that she was from Hamm or Ham, Prussia. With a little bit of searching we found the location of several places called Ham or Hamm. The one that we zeroed in on was the city of Hamm in StKr Hamm. StKr essentially means County or State District. Since Hamm was such a large city in Westfalen, Germany we needed to find documentation, which would lead us to a particular church or adjoining village.

In the last issue of Our Family News Letter, I reported that we had ordered three additional microfilms from the Family History Center. Those films finally arrived and we have been busy ever since browsing through old church records dating back to the 1600's.

While searching the web site

<http://familysearch.org>

we found a transcription of a marriage between Elizabeth Guthoff married to Anton Strutmamm (sic) on 15 Feb 1846 at the town of Geithe, which is in Kr Hamm (County Hamm). She was 27 and Anton was 33. His birth year was shown as 1813 and her birth year was shown as 1819. Her father was shown as Heinrich Guthoff in the transcribed record. The actual record shows her father as Diedrich Guthoff. She was shown as a Widow. Source film number 949283 Reference number 3, Indexing project batch number M96442-1.

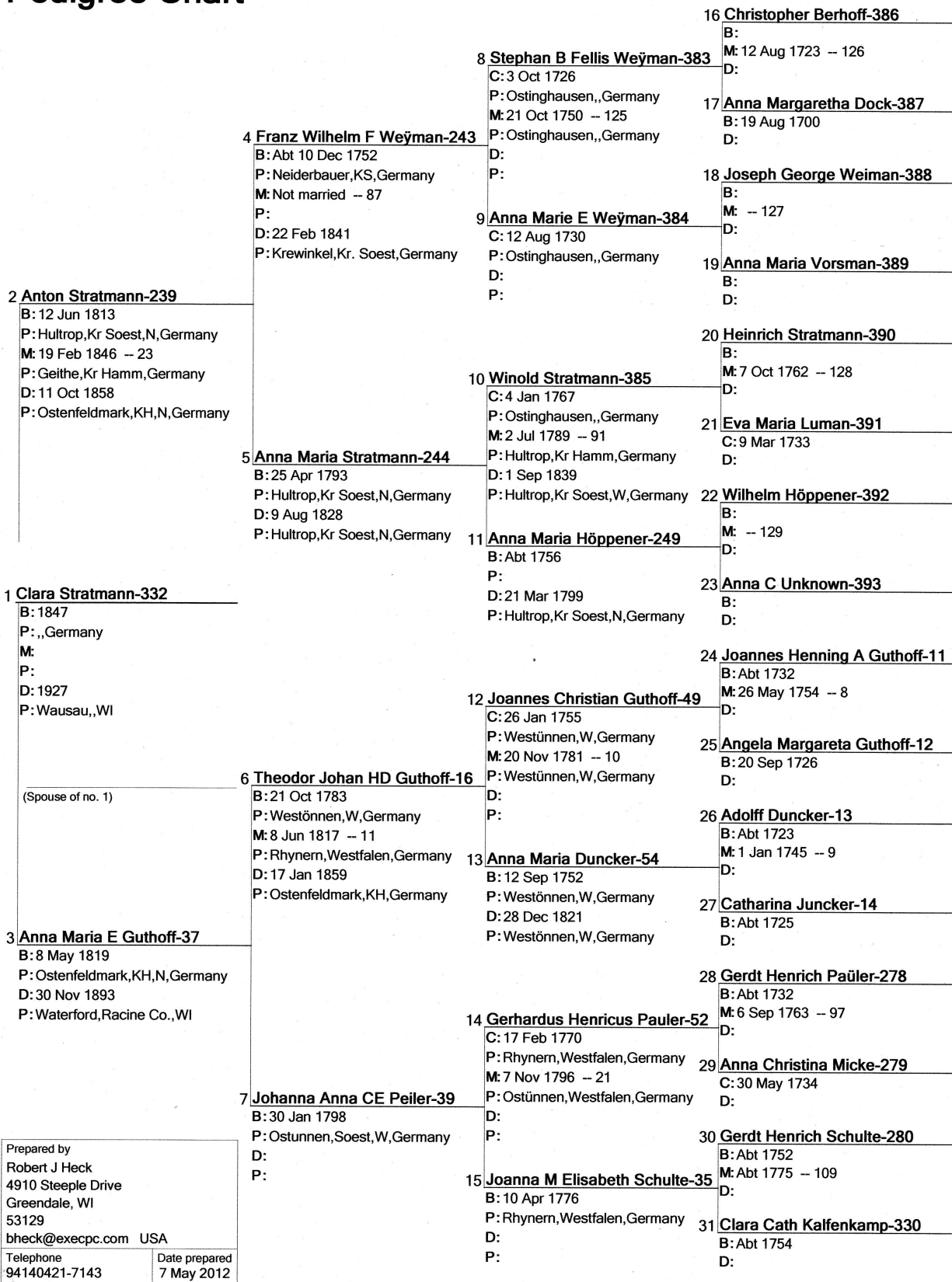
It was this transcribed item that ultimately led us to the right Hamm and to the right parish church. We looked up the town of Geithe on the internet but could not find anything. A search on Google Images led us to an image of the church.



The Catholic church at Geithe, shown above, was in a rural area just outside of the City of Hamm. We then searched the familysearch.org web site and found that the church records had been microfilmed. We ordered microfilm 1185478, and about three weeks later we received the film and soon found the marriage of our Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff to Anton Stratmann. The marriage record contained much more than we expected and ultimately led us to the rest of the family.

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1



Prepared by Robert J Heck 4910 Steeple Drive Greendale, WI 53129 bheck@execpc.com USA	
Telephone 94140421-7143	Date prepared 7 May 2012

On the previous page I've included a pedigree chart as of May 1, 2012 showing how much Cheryl, her dad Bob, and I discovered during the past year. This chart and the one on page 4 start with Clara Stratmann, wife of Henry Henningfeld. During the year of research we have added 393 individuals, 129 marriages, and 180 microfilm notes.

Our job is not quite finished. We still need to review all 393 individuals and attempt to figure out how they are connected to our family. The names of the individuals that we discovered are mostly from small villages. The time frame ranges from 1690 through 1860. In the process of researching Clara's ancestors, we ordered microfilms from the following towns and villages in Germany. Hultrop, Ostinghausen, Hamm, Krewinkel, Soest, Westonnen, Ostunnen, Rhynern, Geithe, Ostfeldmark, Nord Herringen, Hagen, Tietelsen, and Olfen. Some villages required two or three microfilms. Each microfilm cost between \$5.75 and \$7.00 to order.

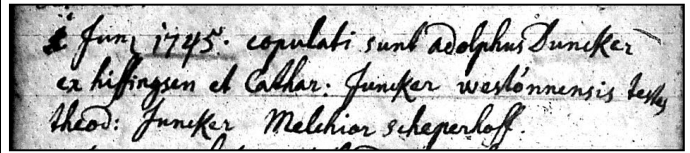
In the process of our one-year research project, my cousin Bob Heck, retired New Berlin Fire Chief, learned to sharpen his script reading skills and his Latin translation skills. He really enjoyed browsing through microfilms of church records that were over 300 years old. Cheryl Heck learned many Latin terms used over those 300 years in the sacramental records and she learned to identify ancient hand-written script characters and names. She also became an expert in recording the documentation that we discovered. Cheryl taught a class on documentation at one of our MPAFUG meetings. MPAFUG is the Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group that we belong to with over 600 members.

You might ask what I learned during our research project. I enjoyed seeing Cheryl and her dad grow as researchers. I learned that our next project would need to be more challenging. I think the next project will be to find the Ancestors of our Peter McNulty 1807-1880.

Thank you Cheryl and Bob for a job well done.

Sample of Documents

Following are a few images that we discovered. Marriage record from 1 June 1745 at Westonnen



of Adolph Duncker from Hiffingsen to Catharina Juncker from Westonnen. The witnesses were Theodor Juncker and Melchior Schepelhoff.

The marriage record above shows the marriage of my great-great-great-great-great grandparents.



The Catholic church at Westonnen, Germany. The Guthoff branch of our family attended church at Westonnen in the 1600 – 1800 time period. Many of them lived in Ostonnen, which was less than a mile away. Catholics attended church in Westonnen and non-Catholics attended in Ostonnen.

Heck Family Picnic: A 46 Year Tradition

This year the annual Heck Family Picnic has been moved up a bit. Normally it is held on the 3rd Sunday of July but this year it is being held on July 8, 2012, the 2nd Sunday in July.

The picnic is held at the Leisure Center, 101 Bayfield Drive, Racine, Wisconsin. The day's events start out with an early bird breakfast at 7:00 AM at the Douglas Avenue Diner, 5125 Douglas Avenue, Racine, WI 53402. Anyone can attend the breakfast and no reservations are required.

Following breakfast many from the family drive a short distance to Shoop Park for a challenging round of golf. Golf starts at 8:30 AM. You can make golf reservations through Bill Merritt or Jim Spidel at (651) 442-1593. The cost for the golf outing is \$5.00 plus green fees. The \$5.00 is used to purchase some outstanding prizes for the golfers. Golfing with the family is a lot of fun, and you don't even have to be good to participate.

Following golf, the family gathers at the Leisure Center at 12:00 noon for lunch. Each family brings their own meat, buns, and beverages. Each family brings food to share with the group, which includes appetizers, salads, deserts, giant fruit bowl, miscellaneous items and condiments.

Swimming is available in the adjoining pool for a fee of \$1.00 to be paid at the pool.

If you have any questions please call Cel at (262) 639-5370 or Shirley at (262) 681-9427. This newsletter is written and published by

Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129.

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Czech Church Records Now On Line

The problem with Czech research is that very little information is available. When the Slovak Republic broke away from the Czech Republic the Slovak government allowed church and civil records to be microfilmed by LDS Family History Center. Not so with the Czech Republic. The Czech government required that you hire a local researcher to do the research for you.

While working on my Czech ancestry this week I found a new web site that had church register images of birth, marriage, and death from the Archives at Pilsen, Prague, and Brno. My family lived in the tiny village of Rudimov which was in Southern Moravia, the Czech Republic. The Archives that covered that area was in Brno.

The site is in Czech and in German. I used Google Translate to convert it to English, but that slowed down the searching a bit. So after reading what I could in English, I went back to searching the site in Czech.

The site is a little tricky to use but it contains a ton of information. Knowing a few of the words should help you out.

Vyhledavani = Search Archive
Obec = Community
Hledat = Search Town.
Narozeni = Birth or Christening
Oddani = Marriage
Zemreli = Death or Burial

Start out by clicking on Vyhledavani and select the Archive near your town or village. Enter a community (Obec) and then press enter (Hledat). Here is the web address:

<http://actapublica.eu/>