



# THE FAMILY OF HANA

(IN PICTURES)

Who will believe my verse in time to come  
If it were filled with your most high deserts?  
Though yet heav'n knows it is but as a tomb  
Which hides your life and shows not half your parts.  
*W. S., Sonnet XVII*

Written by Martin



The history of our family I am familiar with starts about 140 years ago. To briefly describe all branches of the family genealogy tree is a complicated task, at least for me. To make the story short, this selection is based mostly on images from the archive of my photographs. But there is a possibility to add anything later. The future remains open...

Brno, December 2020

Dedicated to Hana

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1875 – 1957

**František Rybák** (Brno) + **Vilemína** (Vienna)

1895

**Otakar Dokoupil** + **Berta** (Vážany, Svitávka)

1923 **Cyril, Jan, Anna, Marianne**

1925 **Věra, Oto**

1950 **Cyril + Věra Rybákovi**

**Jaroslav Dvořák + Ludmila** (Znojmo)

1951 **Martin, Vít** +

1952 **Zuzana, Ivona**

1978 **Martin + Zuzana Rybákovi**

1980 **Hana, Aleš**

2012 **Aleš + Klára Rybákovi**

2014 **Štěpán,** 2018 **Alžběta**

Brno, December 2020



## PART ONE

### COLONEL RYBÁK

The parents of František (or Franz) Rybák





I expect this officer is the father of my grandma Vilemine, born in Vienna 1887

*His richly decorated uniform probably indicates a naval officer, but may be he was an officer of the General Staff of the Austro-Hungarian Army, with respect to the official cord.*

*This black/white image does not allow us to determine the correct rank – the colors of uniforms where specific for different functions.*

*May be, this man was a judicial officer or a general accountant of the General Staff.*

This young major is my grandfather  
František Rybák (1875 – 1942)  
with my grandmother  
Vilemine (1884 Vienna – 1960 Brno)



This picture shows him when he was  
promoted to the rank of colonel





## PART Two

### SIBERIA

*Now we have to skip from Vienna, the world of waltz and high-ranking officers, to a small Moravian village. In Vienna were the old Kaiser Franz Josef, ladies in expensive evening toilets and young lieutenants. In Prague another young gentleman Albert Einstein was considering the theory of gravitation. Suddenly, in Sarajevo young Gavrilo Princip killed Ferdinand d'Este, and young men marched into trenches, including the young cadet corporal Otto Dokoupil from Vážany (the guy on the left). He was a bit small, therefore had to wear a taller cap.*





After some time he was in trenches in Russia, but in 1916 he dressed completely different uniform – a legionary one.

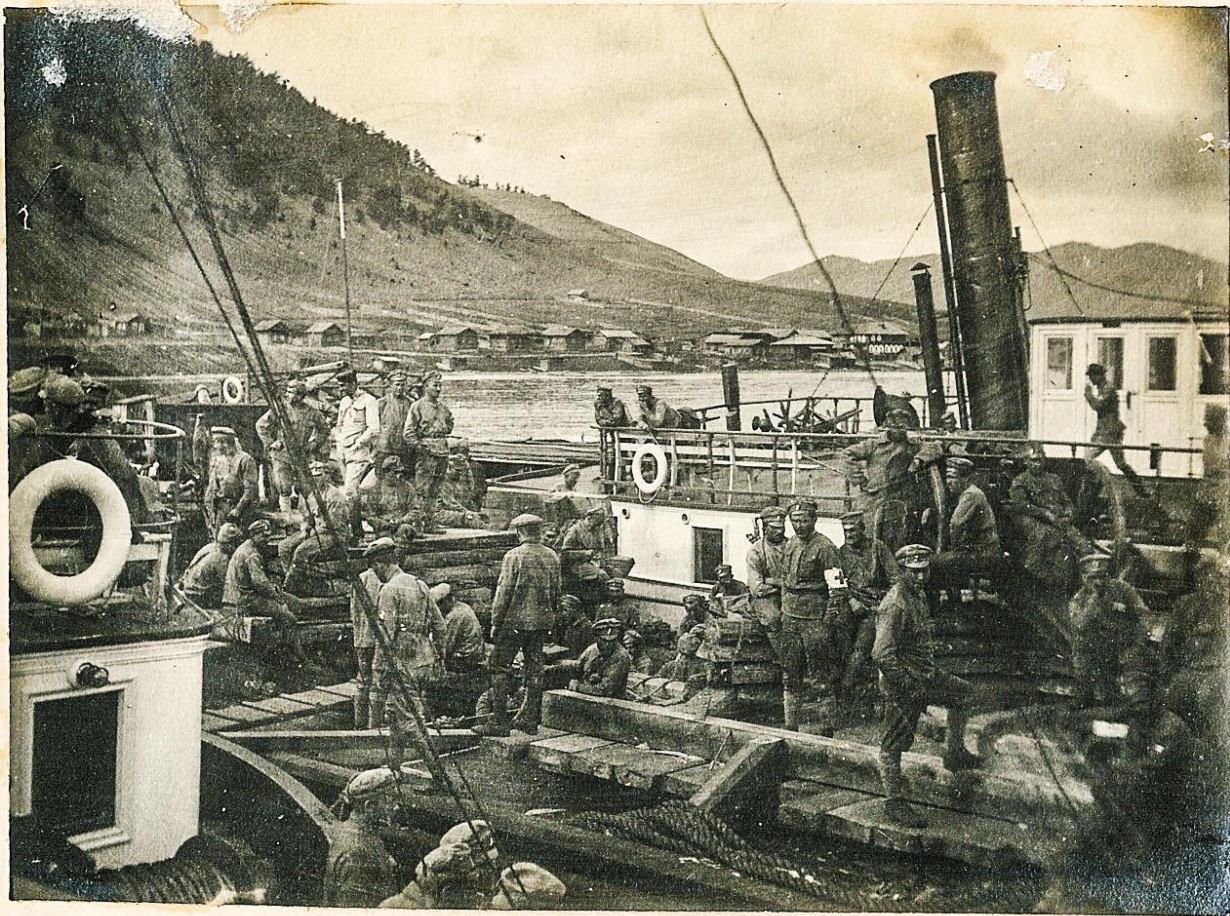
Czechoslovak legion was formed from czechoslovak prisoners of war and fought against the Germans and later, after the Russian revolution, against Lenin's communistic red army. The Czechoslovak legion in the end of the war occupied nearly the whole Siberia.

His journey home took two years. He brought many photos and



diaries from his trip to Siberia through Japan and America to Prague.





Где до пристани Кисленичской на  
реке Байкал





Fight at Bajkal lake

*Линейный корабль "Байкал"*



*Работники на "Посольском" по Байкальскому озеру.*



Nā ištup pāri ņeku Bolaja n  
18. j. 19.



## PART THREE

### SHORT PEACE

After the Great War the future seemed promising. Cyril, my father, was born in 1923. Major Dokoupil married Berta and in 1925 my mother Věra was born.

Grandmather Berta  
died very young







Berta Dokoupil, with children Věra and Ota

After returning from his regiment at the border home to Brno Major Dokoupil had built here a family house. His wife Berta died very young in 1934. Dokoupil, now the lieutenant colonel and the commander of the officer school of infantry regiment in Brno, was raising both orphans Věra and Oto himself in Brno.





*Lietnant colonel Oto Dokoupil*

The short period of peace in Europe ended soon. At the beginning of WWII, the Czechoslovakia has been occupied by Germans. Lietnant colonel Oto Dokoupil joined the resistance at the very beginning, but German *Geheim Polizei* arrested him soon. He was executed in 1943.



*Young Cyril Rybák (1937)*

Family of now retired Collonel Rybák lived in Brno. Cyril was many years younger than his siblings. He was taken care of by the nanny and housekeeper Mája, who became another member of our family – our real grandmother.

*Cyril with his sister Marianne*





## PART FOUR

### AFTER THE WAR



Věra was twenty after the WWII, her brother Oto was fourteen. Both orphans were supported by their uncle Málek and successfully studied medicine.

Platí do 30. září 1940

Pan Věra Dobráňová

Slečna

jest roku stud. 1940/41 řádným posluchačem

právnícké  
lékařské  
fakulty přírodovědecké Masarykovy university.  
filosofické

V Brně dne 1. 10. 1940

Podpis posluchačův: Věra Dobráňová

Bydlí: Prut, Karlštejn 25a

t. č. děkan fakulty. F. 103





Cyril studied law and after becoming JUDr. he has to join the military service.



## PART FIVE

### THE BOLSHEVIK ERA

The after war crisis, food ticket system, currency reform, Stalinist terror – there was not a good time to start a family.





I was born 1951. Here with my nanny Mája







My parents and brother Vítek







*Cyril and Marianne*

Aunt Marianne obtained permission to visit her homeland 20 years after leaving for Australia. She and her husband Walter were very adventurous in contrast to the rest of family. They ran an alpine hotel for tourists in Austria, a chicken farm in Australia a later a service workshop for racing motorcycles.

But later Walter killed himself in a motorcycle, and Marianne contracted severe TB again. It took several years for her to recover. And it took several years for the intercontinental aircrafts to receive pressurized cabins and she could travel to Europe.



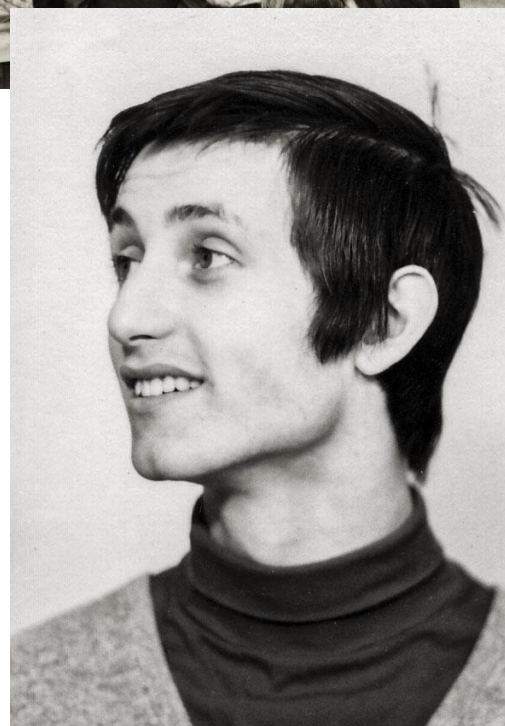
## PART SIX

### INTERMEZZO 1968

Prague spring 1968 brought new hopes. I studied the high school and we students were deeply interested for political events, full of enthusiasm and optimism. My father was finally allowed to practise as a lawyer and my mother was allowed to work in Brno again.

Our enthusiasm soon ended, with invasion of Russian tanks. The bolshevics were back again, for next twenty years.

Free political demonstrations  
were allowed for several months  
only.





My mother Věra, psychiatrist (1970)





*Dance lesson (1969)*

**Tramps:** A specifically Czech way of camping. Often without tents, or with a simple Austrian military tent only, by a fire in the wild, but always with a guitar, the food was cooked on the fire. All you had to take with were an aluminium spoon, a blanket, a kettle and a hunting knife. Some bread, bag of tea, sausages and a bottle of cheap rum, of course, too. And an old US army bag called usarna or an other one with veal fur, called the calf.



## PART SEVEN

### MARTIN AND ZUZANA



After Russian invasion all political and cultural activities were monitored and strictly inspected again. Contacts with western countries were interrupted, western culture, music, literature and movies were suppressed. The same with western products: you were allowed to buy them in special shops only, for very high prices, paid in dollars.

Sport was the part of life, which was not so tight regulated by communists. I started to play volleyball on the university team, which helped me to find many new friends for life.

In September 1978, I married a kindergarten classmate, an athlete and a successful volleyball player, Zuzana.





Our wedding – my new mother-in-law and father-in-law

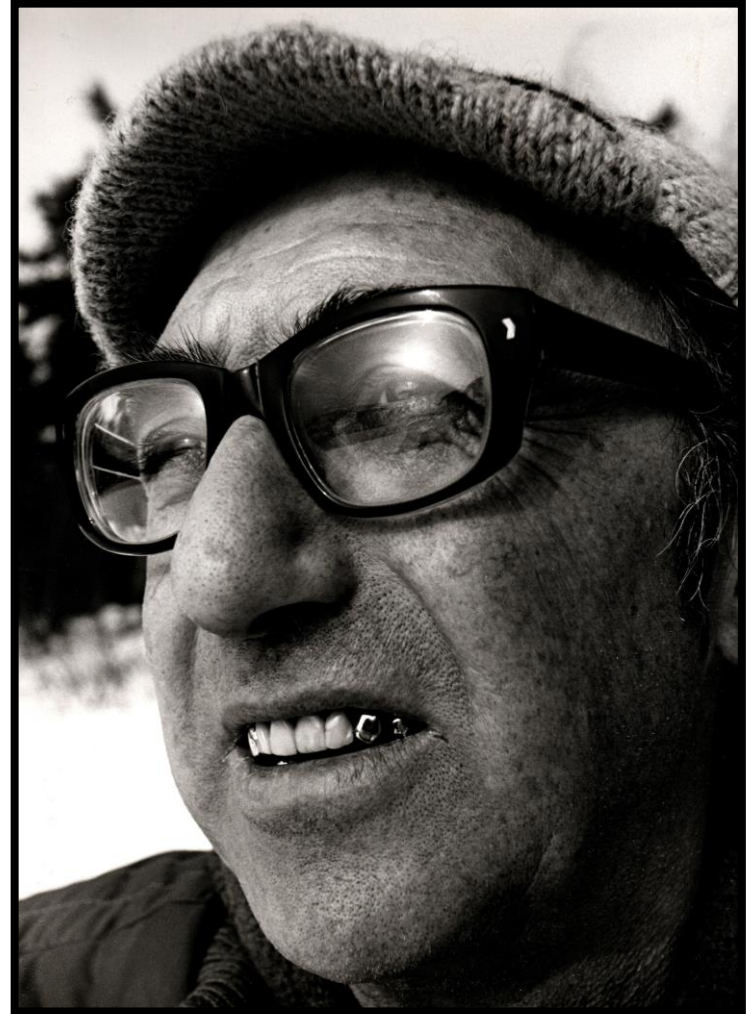






*Last photos of my father. He died in car accident of 1979*

His unexpected death affected everyone, especially my mother. She only got a little better after Hanka's birth, to which she devoted a lot. She had a hard time with her, Hanka was headstrong a bit.





**Hanka \*13. srpna 1980**





Aleš \*20. 9. 1982





Hanka, Hoduňka 1984







1984

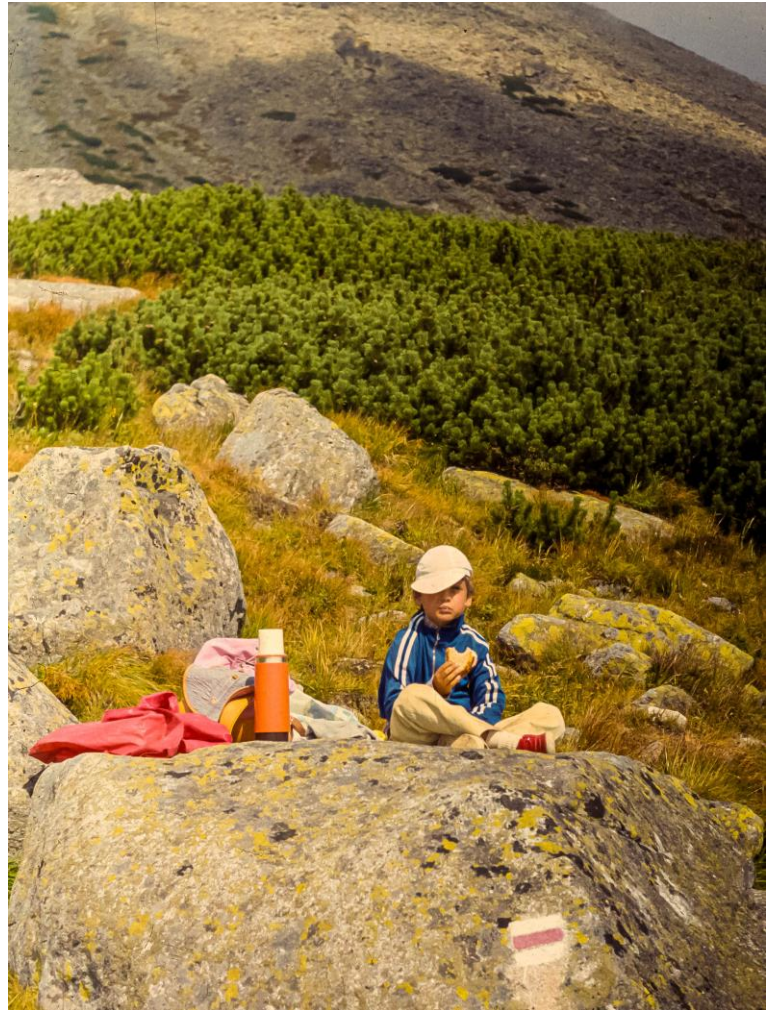


1986





1987



High Tatras

Aleš. Athletic games, camp Hartvíkovice 1987





1989



1989 First School Day

## PART EIGHT

## VELVET REVOLUTION



The revolution did not come suddenly, but with the advent of Gorbachev's reforms and the events in East Germany, things finally started to move. Unexpected - at least for me - was how quickly the communist regime in our country collapsed. The student demonstrations were suppressed with usual brutality, and I expected the well-known scenario from previous demonstrations would be applied again. Well, crash of the communism was a very pleasant surprise.



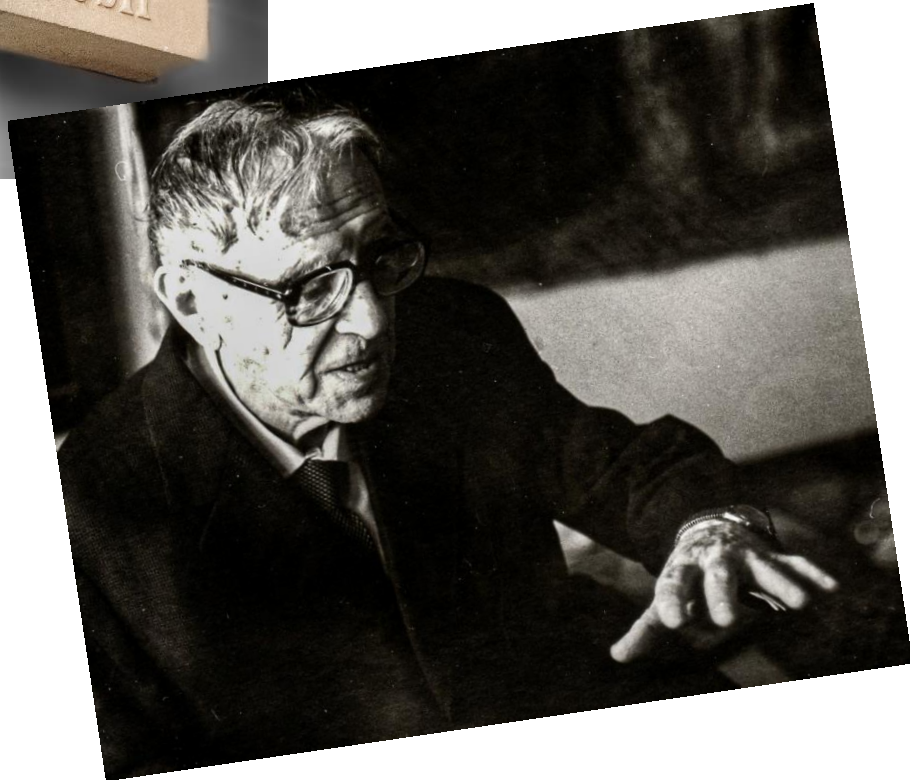








Our Uncle Josef Šafařík died in 1992. He is considered one of the most prominent Czech philosophers. His essays were long prohibited to publish, and his *opus magnum* “The way to the last” was published with help of his friends just days before his death. His friend and later president Vaclav Havel awarded him the order of T. G. Masaryk.



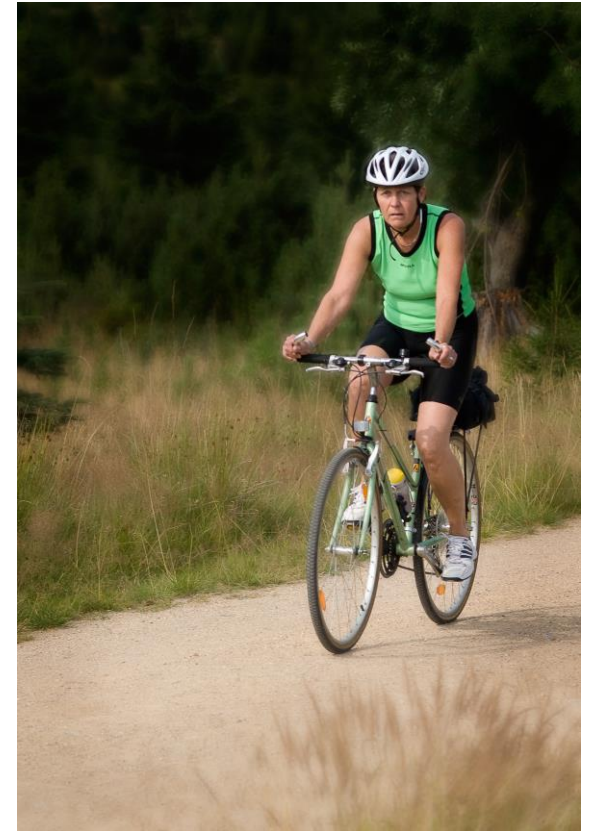


AN INTERMEZZO

SPORTS FAMILY



Aleš (Junior National Handball Champion)



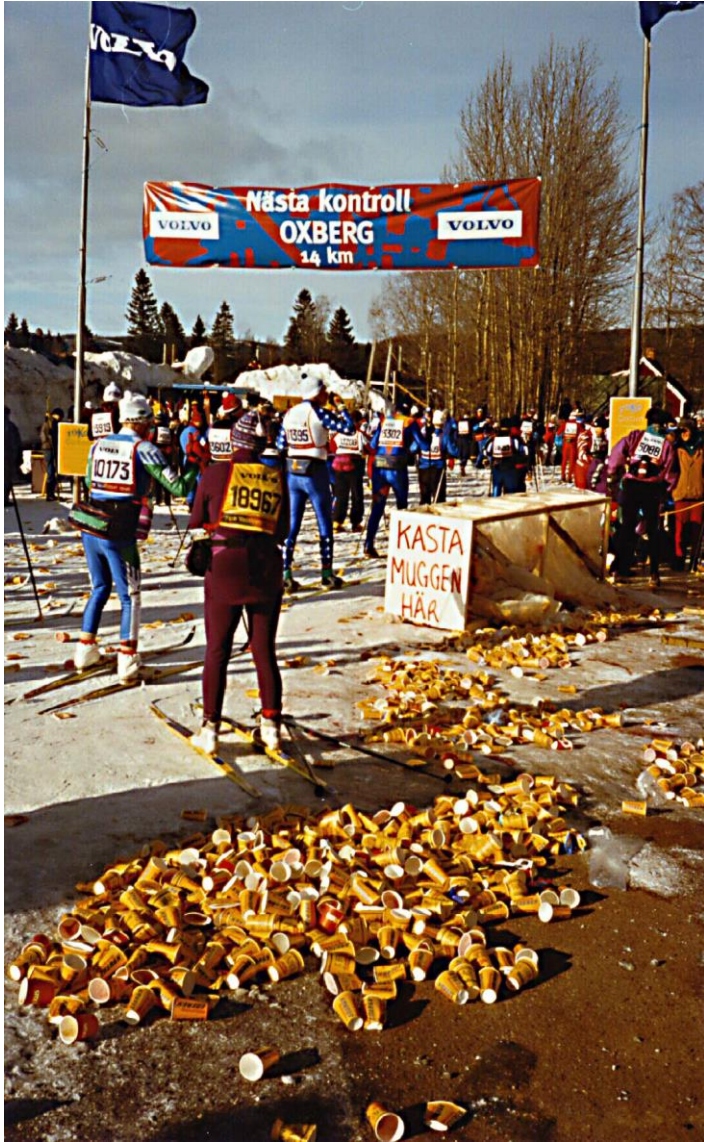
With number 4 Zuzana, University Brno, National Volleyball League 1979



Climbing in Dolomiten  
2008







Cross-country long-distance  
run (92 km) Vasalopet (1998,  
Sweden)







Sešlost Brno - Republic Champions – Volleyball, Category Superveterans (older over 50 years)



## PART NINE

## NEW GENERATION

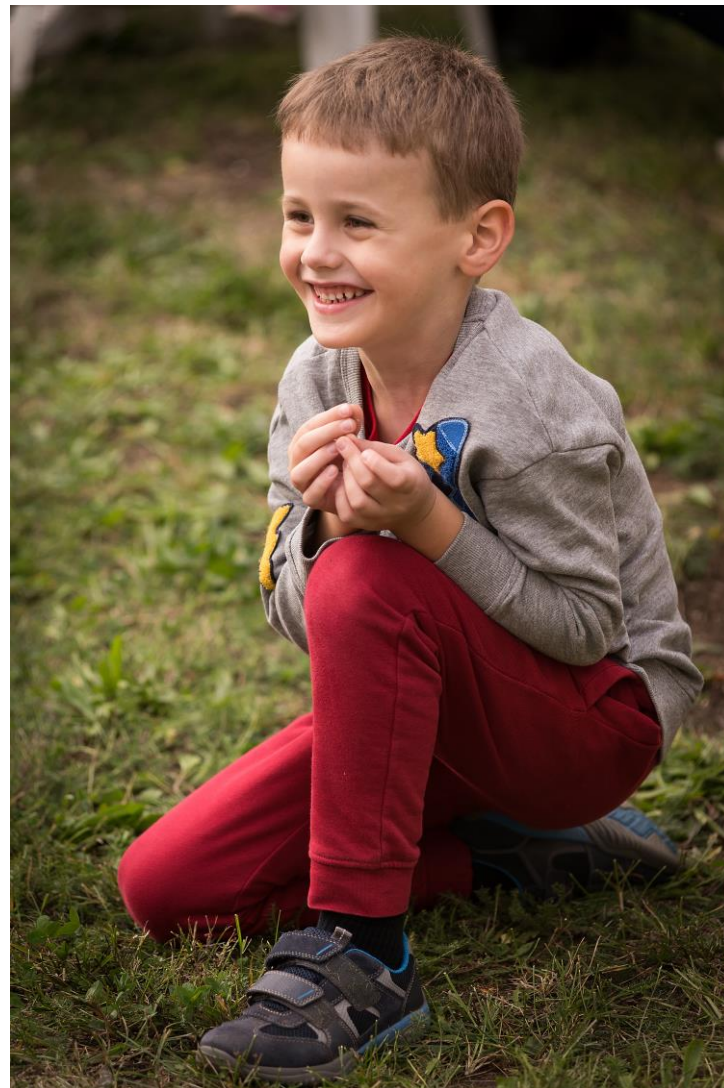


Wedding of Aleš and Klára (2012)





**Štěpán** \*23. 6. 2014



**Alžběta** \*2. 1. 2017



## PART TEN

### AND TIME GOES BY

Grandma Věruška – eightieth birthday  
2005

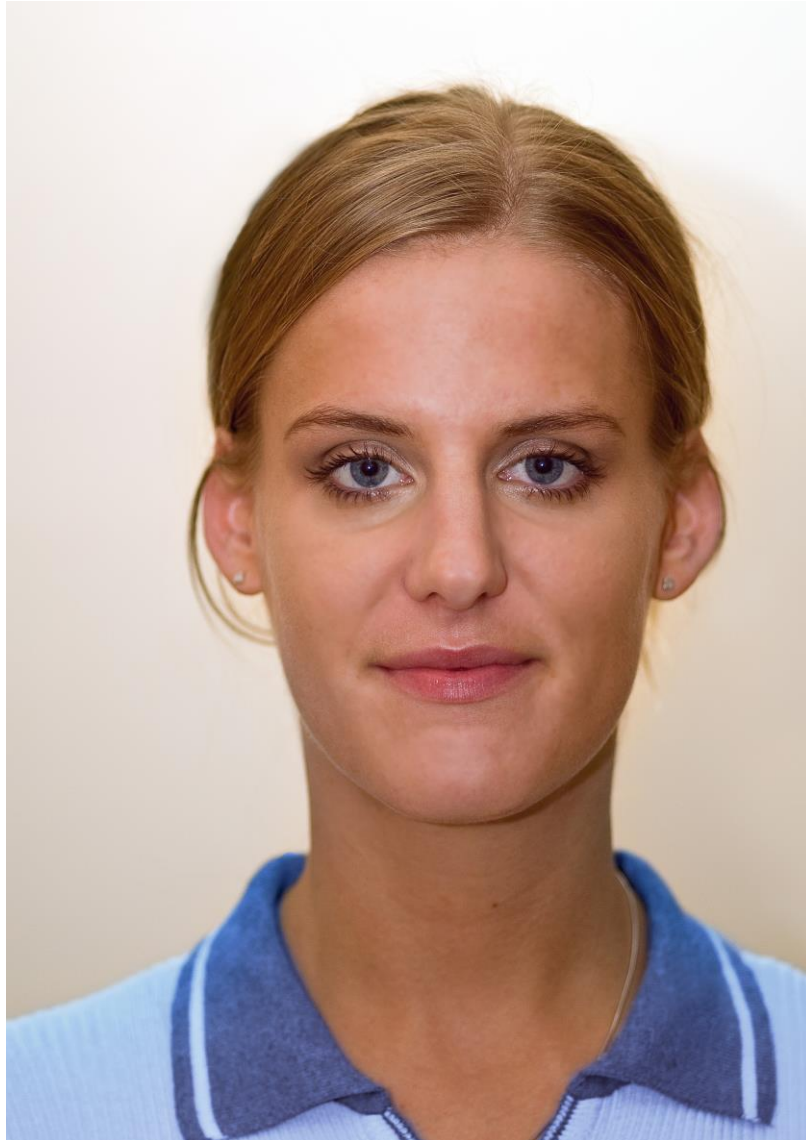






Christmas 2007

*(Martin, Hana, Aleš, Zuzana  
Vladimír (friend of Věra), Věra, grandfather  
Jaroslav)*



Hana (2008)



The Last Snow Festival - a cross-country ski ridge in comic costumes (I am the wounded man), 2012





Our Friends, Birthday Party in Hippies Style 2013





Klara, Concert in St. Peter Cathedral, Brno 2015





Grandma Věruška, ninetieth birthday (2015)



Ribanna, Christmas 1985



Indians (Summer Vacation 2018)





Hana and Betty, 2020



**Grandma Věra died on 4. July 2020**



## PART ELEVEN

### THE FUTURE



(to be continued)