

Weseley
STORY OF GRANDPA AND GRANDMA SLAVIK

Antonia Urban was born in Nejepin, Czechoslovakia, June 8, 1852, daughter of Joseph Urban and Alzbeta Beckovska. She had two sisters, Mary and Josephine and four brothers.

As a young girl Antonia Urban was given in marriage to a widower, Weseley, who had two children Charles and Albina. They lived in a small house on the Weseley property and her husband continued to care for sheep with his brothers.

The young couple were expecting their first child when tragedy struck. In the spring when the men were taking the sheep into the swollen stream to wash them in preparation for shearing the frightened sheep crowded around him and Weseley was knocked down and drowned.

The Weseley family continued to be good to the widow and her step children giving them food. Antonia and the children gathered sticks in the woods to keep them warm. Joseph Weseley was born on December 5, 1880.

Antonia often went to town to look for work, but there was no work for a young woman. She was a pious lady and often stopped to pray at the shrines along the way. One day her prayer was answered in an unexpected way. A shipload of immigrants was going to America where all were told that there was opportunity for work for young people.

Antonia gave up jewelery and other treasures to seek passage on the boat for herself, Albina and Joseph. The oldest, Charles, stayed with the Weseley family and came to America later by himself to settle in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

During the journey sea sickness overcame the young mother and her children. Kind ladies on the boat cared for her and the children until the young mother recovered.

When they landed, Antonia made her way to a farm in Wisconsin where one of the Weseleys had settled (brother or sister). She was not able to find work there and the Weseleys who had no children wanted to adopt Albina and Joseph. After a month or so Antonia left Albina with them, but took Joseph with her to a Czech settlement in Omaha, Nebraska. There she found work cleaning doctors offices in the evenings and there she met Vaclav Slavik, in one of the Czech community gatherings or when he delivered meat. He was working in one of the slaughter houses as a butcher.

