

most significant ones were called Celestýn and Prókopi. The first written reference of mining activity in Bystré comes from the year 1810. Nonetheless, the mines in Bystré expanded most after 1839 because of the appearance and involvement of the following people. Rudolf Manger, Franz Lamprecht from Malá Chýška in the Tábor region, Herrmann Pohl from Prussian Bad Reinerz, and the mining company owned by Pohl, Rzehak and Pfeifer. Two main mines were opened in Bystré in the second half of the 19th century; a mine called Klara was the first of them. Klara was in operation between 1858 and 1890 and it was owned by the Starkov establishment, represented by the Kaiserstein kin. Mine Herrmann was the second one, it opened in 1854. Johann Rzehak, a native of Bystré and an entrepreneur in the textile industry, obtained both mines in 1888. Mining activity ceased in 1890 in mine Klara and in 1896 in mine Herrmann. Rzehak then moved his activities to Radvanice. A mine called Kateřina was then excavated, a dye-house working with Rubia tinctorum dye was built and he also owned a bleachery. The coal mining activity in other municipalities of the Radvanice – Verněřovice coal mining region (that is in Slavětín, Jívka, Horní Verněřovice and Dolní Verněřovice) was not as significant as in Radvanice where the coal mining activity was concentrated in subsequent years and where coal ceased to be mined from Kateřina (Katherine) in 1994. This is the topic of the third chapter. The first written reference on hard coal mining dates back to the first discovery of hard coal in the area in 1804. There is also a remark on the first mine called Vavřinec (Lawrence). Mining activity develops only after 1839 when Rudolf Manger and Franz Lamprecht from Malá Chýška in the Tábor region, a landowner from Southern Bohemia, began their activity in the region. One of the mines owned by Franz Lamprecht was named after his daughter Katharina in 1839. This name was then used until 1994 (except for the period between 1950 and 1990 when the name was changed to Stachanov, after a Soviet stock-worker). The invention of the steam engine and the spread of the industrial revolution attracted entrepreneurs such as Vojtěch Lanna, the Klein brothers and Johann Liebig from Liberec to the foothills of the Krkonoše Mountains. The largest expansion of the mines in Radvanice occurred after 1918 when the extracting company in Radvanice was founded. Then mining activity increased, and a lot of owners were investing large amounts of money into the construction of facilities. Naturally, the number of employed coal-miners also increased. The fifth chapter deals with the period after the Second World War when the mines in Radvanice found themselves on the land of the so-called Third Reich, governed by the Germans. That was the reason why the extracting company in Radvanice sold the mines to Western Bohemia joint-stock mining company with headquarters in Zbůch u Plzně in 1942. Between 1942 and 1945, the coal-miners count was completed by Russian prisoners. Two of them died here and are buried here. The sixth chapter describes the expropriation of the local mines after the Second World War and in 1946 the mines in Radvanice, as well as mines in Svatoňovice and Zaecléf, were incorporated into a newly founded state-owned national company called Východočeské uhelné doly in Trutnov. The seventh chapter deals with the period between 1952 and 1957 when the mine in Radvanice was excluded from the state-owned national company Východočeské uhelné doly and was taken over by another state-owned national company called Jáchymovské doly Jáchymov; also Uranium miners. Except for the German miners who were not displaced, the people who were forced to work in these mines came from all walks of life. They included former factory owners, sole traders, police officers, lawyers and construction workers. Not to mention those excluded from public life by the communist regime of 1948. Security services were frequently interested in the activity of the mines, especially with the activities of its German employees. The eighth chapter is devoted to the Radvanice mine closure. Mining activity ceased on the 31st of March 1994. The author supplements the disclosed data with a large quantity of accompanying pictorial materials. These include mine maps, historical postcards and photos, archival documents and contemporary advertising.

The history of Kateřina, the last mine in Radvanice in the former Zaecléf – Svatoňovice coal mining district, ends a long tradition of coal mining in the foothills of the Krkonoše Mountains between 1570 and 1994.

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