

The following families emigrated from the eastern part of the old Austria-Hungarian province of Bohemia, now a part of Czechoslovakia. The cluster of villages in the Landskron Kreis (circle, comparable to our county) included Hertersdorf, now Horni Houzovec; Rathdorf, now Skuhrov; Rudelsdorf, now Rudoltice; Michaelsdorf, now Ostrov, Kneppendorf, now Knapovec; and Tschernowier, now Cernovir. At that time, the people in these villages were predominately German in contrast to some of those nearby and in western Czechoslovakia.

Johann Blaschke was born in Hertersdorf, Austria on 23 March 1817. His parents were Johann Blaschke and Katerina Wagner, also of Hertersdorf. About 1844-5, Johann Blaschke married Barbara Skalicky (Skalitzky), daughter of Matyas Skalicky and Katerina Pavkova from Hertersdorf. Their first two children died in infancy, but Johann and Barbara Blaschke emigrated to the United States, and arrived at the Port of New York on 7 December 1852 with their three surviving daughters, ages 5, 3, and 1. The baby died sometime between arrival in the U. S. and their homesteading on the island. The family lived in Chicago, Illinois for about 2 years before moving to Waterloo Township where, on 18 February 1854, The Land Office of Milwaukee, Wisconsin sold John "Blaske" 40 acres of land in Section 10, Waterloo Township for the sum of \$1.25 per acre. Later the farm was owned by Earnest Fischer. While John and Barbara Blaska were in the location, a son, John, was born to them on 22 February 1858. In 1859, the family moved to Amherst Junction in Portage County, Wisconsin. Being a master metalsmith, as well as a farmer, John Blaska may have worked at both efforts in the emerging lumber and farming area in northern Wisconsin at that time. A daughter, Clara, was born to the family in 1859, but died in 1869, at age 10, of apparent ruptured appendix. John Blaska reportedly died in 1868, at about age 51, in an accident in a blacksmith shop in Amherst Junction; and his wife, Barbara, apparently died about 1874. Johanna, the oldest daughter in the family, married Emil Ingwersen in 1866 and lived in Portage County thereafter. Rosalie, second daughter, married Frank Hiebel Jr. in November 1876, and after living in Amherst for several years, lived in the village of Waterloo until her death in 1913. When his mother died, John Blaska was about 16 years of age, and he then became heir to the land in Portage County. It was during this time, and in his earlier years in the country school and neighborhood that the name became Anglicized, and was known as Blaska thereafter. In the early 1880's, John Blaska had returned to Waterloo Township, and on 7 July 1884, John Blaska and Anna Haberman Fiedler were married in St. Wenceslaus Island Church. Soon after their marriage, John and Anna Blaska bought farm land in Sun Prairie Township where they lived and worked until their deaths, he in 1942, and she in 1949, having reared 10 children.

Anna Haberman Fiedler Blaska had one step-brother, Joseph Fiedler, only son of Johann Fiedler and Rosalie Feschl, who during most of his life, lived in a log cabin near St. Wenceslaus Church until it was destroyed by a fire. Their father, Johann Fiedler, apparently emigrated from Germany where he was a cabinet maker. It is understood that it was Johann Fiedler who hand-hewed the pine pews in St. Wenceslaus Church, and joined them with wooden pegs. Without the use of nails, the pews have withstood time, and are in use today in the church.