

Eduard (Edvard) Bazika was born on 19. 9. 1830 at Olešná near Rakovník. During his lifetime he was a well-known builder of railways, a specialist writer and external examiner at the Czech Technical University. He has bequeathed to us his comprehensive memoirs, which unveil the origins and formation of the Czech technical intelligentsia with their public and private opinions.

Martin Bazika's father (1794-1864) was a castle gardener. In order to provide a good standard of living for his large family he moved with his wife and four children from Olešná to nearby Krušovice in 1837. In ducal service, he became famous especially as a grower of fruit trees and ornamental plants. He made it possible for all his sons to gain a vocational education. Yet, it was only his son Eduard who attained a higher technical education. He attended the main and lower secondary school between 1840-1844 at Rakovník and the upper secondary and the Prague Estates' Polytechnics between 1845 and 1849. He was actively involved in the Revolution of 1848 in the ranks of the Student Legion. Yet, he merely observed the All Saints' Day struggles from the countryside, as his parents had requested his return to Krušovice. In 1849 he successfully completed his technical studies. For a short period he worked in the Křivoklátsko area for the so-called Serfdom Release Commission. In 1851 he left for Vienna. On his father's plea, he became a draughtsman at the Czech entrepreneur František Šebek's construction company. Simultaneously, he also completed a course for His Imperial Majesty's telegraphists. In the same year, again at his father's insistence, he began to work for the State Railways HQ, which at that time was subject to the Ministry of Trade.