

The present work maps a specific set of the traditional subsistence techniques by way of example of the abandoned village named Nová Ves u Klikova (1792–1953). In the 18th century occur changes in methods of forest exploitation in Central Europe in general. The increased demand for fuelwood and building wood gave rise to the “rationalization” of the forest management. Another source of energy for the developing industry was peat at that time. Nová Ves u Klikova was an example of the so called peat colonization. Small farmsteads were founded on the infertile peaty soil that was not able to ensure sufficient means of subsistence. As a consequence it was developed an important centre of production of straw baskets and chip baskets in the second half of the 19th century. The existing ethnological literature pursued the local production of baskets, whereas the topic of the cutting of peat and its further treating in relation to folk culture is still untreated. In view of that fact this text lays stress on the “cultural history of peat”.