Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
2007 Genealogical/Cultural Conference

October 18 – 20, 2007
Madison, Wisconsin

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CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

Conference Coordinators
Gene Aksamit
Mary Jane Scherdin

Consultant
John Kracha

Program
Ed Langer
Karen Helwig
John Kracha
Mary Jane Scherdin
Suzette Steppe
Gene Aksamit

Registration Brochure
Suzette Steppe

Registration
Ruth Chovancek
Beth Baumeister
Adeline Chovancek
Pauline Jascur
Donette Kranz
Joanne Reis

Syllabus
Suzette Steppe

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Paul Makousky

Audio/Visual
Carl Baumeister
Bob Bina
Al Kranz

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Marcia Griskavich
Carol Claybrook

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Suzette Steppe
Karen Helwig
Dottie Speidel
Donette Kranz
Ginger Simek

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Lori Bessler (WHS)
Frank Matusinec
Karen Helwig
Mike Prohaska

Meal Planning
Mary Jane Scherdin
Karen Helwig
Doreen McKenney

Exhibitor/Vendor Room
Jerry Parupsky
Mary Parupsky
Russ Helwig
Arlene Gardiner

Signs
Cheri Peschel

Publicity
Chuck Romportl
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Beginning Genealogy
By Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A.  <www.lisaalzo.com>

This talk will provide an overview of the necessary steps to take for researching your ancestors, including what sources (traditional and online) to consult, how to identify and locate the ancestral village, and tips for networking with other researchers. Key strategies for overcoming the most common “brick walls” will also be discussed.

♦ Start by researching records on this side of the ocean and work backward
♦ Be flexible and open to alternate spellings, a variety of languages, alphabets, etc.
♦ Anticipate/expect confusion – names, dates, and place of origin
♦ Utilize Internet resources when possible
♦ Always verify information (whether from online or traditional sources)

Initial Focus: Records Available in North America
♦ Records easier to access
♦ Provides clues to village of origin
♦ Helps you to avoid making critical research mistakes

Important First Steps
♦ Develop a research strategy or plan:  Who, What, When, Where, Why
♦ Document everything! Organize your information (readable, easy-to-access formats)
  - Pedigree/Ancestral Chart
  - Family Group Sheet
  - Sample charts online <www.ancestry.myfamily.com/save/charts/ancchart.htm>
  - Ancestor Data Sheet – blank template at: <www.lisaalzo.com/services.htm>

Information to Research
♦ Full name (including maiden names for women)
♦ Approximate dates for vital events (birth, death, marriage, residence, etc.)
♦ Locations for vital events (ask where things happened/understanding of “place”
♦ Ask about documentation for these events in home and family sources
♦ Town/village of origin
♦ Don’t overlook siblings or friends/neighbors
Consult Documents

- Bibles/Diaries
- School report cards/autograph books/funeral books, memorial cards, etc.
- Early correspondence (especially from the Old Country)
- Photographs/Family heirlooms (jewelry, clothing, etc.)

Key U.S. Sources

- U.S. Federal Census records (1790 – 1930) and Mortality Schedules
- State Censuses (years, availability varies according to state)
- Immigration/Naturalization records (Ellis Island Database: <www.ellisisland.org>)
- Social Security Death Index (SSDI)
- Vital Records – Birth, Marriage, Death (Civil)
- Check online databases:
  - <www.ancestry.com> and <www.genealogy.com> (subscription-based)
  - <www.ellisisland.org> (free, must register)
  - <www.godfrey.org> Godfrey Memorial Library ($35.00 per year)
- Search Tools: <www.stevemorse.org> for EIDB, SSDI, Census records, etc.
- Also check Emigration Records:
  - Hamburg (LinkToYourRoots) <www.linktoyourroots.hamburg.de>
  - Bremen (partial 1920-1939) <www.schiffslisten.de/index_en.html>

What if the Civil Record is Unavailable?

- Church records
- Cemetery/burial records/headstone inscription/obituaries/funeral home records
- Lodge or fraternal organization burial or insurance records
♦ Newspapers/Land/Probate Records
♦ Also check Canadian Records (Library and Archives Canada) <www.collectionscanada.ca/index-e.html>
♦ Toronto Emigrant Office Assisted Immigration Registers Database <www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/db/hawke.htm>

Locating the Ancestral Village
♦ Check Maps, Printed Gazetteers and/or Atlases
♦ Check an online Gazetteer (e.g. http://www.iarelative.com/gazetteer.htm)
♦ Use Shtetlseeker available via <www.jewishgen.org>

Foreign Vital Records/Census Records/Military/Other Records
♦ The Family History Library (FHL) <www.familysearch.org>
♦ Until 1950, the churches held all of the official village records for birth, marriage and deaths. After this time, "civil registration" initiated; some records still w/ local priest
♦ FHL has not filmed all records at this point
♦ Sometimes church records for several villages were kept in another parish perhaps in a larger nearby town
♦ Variety of languages used (Cyrillic, Greek, Hungarian, Latin, Slovak); difficult to read
♦ John J. Jaso www.bmi.net/jjaso/index.html>
♦ Muster rolls and qualification lists are available from the 1700s through 1915
♦ Mostly of Austrian records, but some Hungarian records are available
♦ Archive Research: <www.cgisi.org> (under “Research,” “Using Archives” for information:
♦ Consult: Czech and Slovak Letter Writing Guide (LDS) Item #36340 (PDF)
♦ <www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rhelps.asp>

Professional Researchers (check credentials):
♦ Association of Professional Genealogists in America <www.apgen.org>
♦ Board for Certification of Genealogists <www.bcgcertification.org>
♦ Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International <www.cgisi.org/base/research.htm>

Networking: Finding Others
♦ Genealogical and historical societies
♦ Queries in Genealogical publications
♦ Mailing Lists (John Fuller) <www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_country-slo.html>
♦ Establishing Contacts in the Ancestral Village (mayor or priest)
OPENING CEREMONY, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 8:05 A.M.

The National Anthems of the United States, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic will be lead by Sister Anita Smisek, of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin and accompanied with brass instruments by Joel Blahnik, of Fish Creek, Wisconsin, and Michael Cwach of Yankton, South Dakota/Hodonice u Bechyne, Czech Republic.

STAR SPANGLED BANNER (AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM)
Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light
What so proudly we hail’d at the twilight’s last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro’ the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watch’d, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro’ the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
    - Francis Scott Key

KDE DOMOV MŮJ (CZECH NATIONAL ANTHEM) (Text by Josef Kajetán, 1834)
Kde do – mov můj?
Kde do – mov můj?
Vo-da hu - čí po lu - čí – nách
bo – ry šu – mí po ska - lí – nách
v s – dě stkví se ja – ra květ
zem – ský ráj to na po – hled!
A to je krá – sná ze – mě,
ze – mě če – ská do – mov můj
ze – mě če – ská do – mov můj!
Where is my home?
Where is my home?
In the meadows, brooks and fountains
Murm’ring forests, on the mountains
In the gardens’ blooming flow’rs,
All this paradise is ours!
And it is the Czech’s great country
Splendid Country, oh my home,
Splendid Country, oh my home,
English translation - © Czech Music Alliance

NAD TATROU SA BLÝSKA (SLOVAK NATIONAL ANTHEM) (Text by Janko Matuška, 1821-1877)
Nad Tatrou sa blýska, hromy divo bijú.
Zastavme sa, bratia, ved’sa ony ztratia, Slováci ož’ijú.
Tatras filled with firey lightning and with thunder,
People, let’s be daring while ahead we’re faring, Slovaks ne’er will sunder!
English translation - © Czech Music Alliance
The Czech Archival System
By PhDr. Lenka Matušíková

The care of written historical documents in the Czech lands has a very long tradition. For many centuries, historical records were kept both by the prominent noble families in administering their large estates, and by the state authorities of the historical Kingdom of Bohemia. The so-called “Archives of the Bohemian Crown” – a collection of medieval title deeds – was established as early as the reign of Charles IV, in the first half of the fourteenth century. Under the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, a growing interest in national history and an increasing tendency to study archival documents on the one hand combined with the establishment of modern bureaucratic administration on the other to stimulate the creation of a more efficient and sophisticated system of archival record management and document appraisal. Before 1918, however, little proper attention was paid to archive organization. Almost immediately after the creation of an independent Czechoslovakia in 1918, leading Czech archivists began to struggle for a new legislative modification of Czechoslovak record-keeping. In 1939, their efforts were interrupted for several years by the military occupation of Czechoslovakia. It was not until the second half of the twentieth century that concentrated attention was once again paid to creating a unified archive organisation for the Czech lands.

A new law governing the keeping of archives came into force in January 2005 to regulate the network of archives in the entire Czech Republic and bring about their systematic classification. In connection with changes in Czech government administration, the new archival law laid down the constitutional position of a number of state archives and carefully defined the status of private archives.

This presentation will provide a brief description of the history of archival record management in the Czech lands and explain the main recent changes in the state archive network. It will then point out various types of document deposited in a number of archives which have not yet been improved for genealogical studies. Finally, it will clarify the process of making Czech archival holdings available for researchers.
Beginning Slovak Genealogy
By Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A.  www.lisaalzo.com

Nearly 620,000 Slovaks came to the United States during the period of “mass migration” (1880-1914). With a vast number of Americans claiming Slovak ancestry today, the interest in Slovak genealogy is greatly increasing. This workshop will provide an overview of how to begin the research process using both traditional and online sources. Learn how to identify your ancestral village, locate and interpret vital records, trace ancestors through census and immigration records, utilize the Family History Library, tips for contacting possible relatives, writing to Slovak archives, and how to find and hire professional researchers. The basics of organizing your research and strategies for overcoming the most common pitfalls and problems specific to researching Slovak ancestors will also be discussed.

Overview
- Reasons Slovaks left homeland: economic, political or religious repression
- Many returned home after earning enough money to buy land back home
- Over 500,000 Slovaks had settled in the U.S. by 1914 whereas only about 5,000 had put down roots in the Dominion
- Major reason in the disparity in numbers was economic
  - Massive industrialization in the U.S. in late 19th c. requiring cheap labor
  - Canada was little industrialized until the 20th c. (population: more farmers)

Beginning Your Genealogical Research
- Start by researching records on this side of the ocean and work backward
- Be flexible and open to alternate spellings, a variety of languages, alphabets, etc.
- Anticipate/expect confusion – names, dates, and place of origin
- Utilize Internet resources when possible
- Always verify information (whether from online or traditional sources)
- Focus on North America first: Records easier to access
- Provides clues to village of origin; Helps you to avoid making critical research mistakes

Important First Steps
See Beginning Genealogy Talk Syllabus

Key Information to Research:  See Beginning Genealogy Talk Syllabus
- U.S. Census/Immigration/Vital Records/Cemetery/Church records; Emigration/Other records
- Ask about documentation for these events in home and family sources; location
- Town/village of origin; Emigration records
- Don’t overlook siblings or friends/neighbors

Research Diagram:  See Beginning Genealogy Talk Syllabus

Locating the Ancestral Village
- Check Maps, Printed Gazetteers and/or Atlases online Gazetteer <www.iarelative.com/gazetteer.htm>
- Use Shtetlseeker available via <www.jewishgen.org>

Foreign Vital Records/Census Records/Other Records
- The Family History Library (FHL) <www.familysearch.org>; not all records filmed yet
Until 1950, the churches held all of the official village records for birth, marriage and deaths. After this time, "civil registration" initiated; some records still w/ local priest

Sometimes church records for several villages were kept in another parish in a larger, nearby town

Variety of languages used (Cyrillic, Greek, Hungarian, Latin, Slovak)


In Slovakia, censuses were taken according to Hungarian law

Some Hungarian census returns have been microfilmed and are listed in the FHL Catalog under HUNGARY or SLOVAKIA CENSUS


Muster rolls and qualification lists are available from the 1700s to 1915; mostly Austrian

Local Histories/Nobility (from the 1600s); Tax Lists (Austrian records 1654, then 1684, 1746, 1757, 1792) – limitations

Research by Mail

Most records more than 100 years old are now kept in state regional archives [statni oblastni archivy]; later records are maintained at the vital records sections [matricni oddeleni/oddelenie] of local city offices. Contact:

Slovak Ministry of Interior and Environment
Archivná Správa
Krizková 7
811 04 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

*** Consult: Czech and Slovak Letter Writing Guide (LDS) Item #36340 (PDF) ***
<www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rhelps.asp>

Professional Researchers (check credentials) (see Beginning Genealogy Talk syllabus)

Networking: Finding Others

For tips see Beginning Genealogy Talk syllabus

Slovak Pride Database <www.ourslovakia.com>

Slovak Republic Mailing Lists (John Fuller)
<www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_country-slo.html>

Establishing Contacts in the Ancestral Village (mayor or priest)

Slovak Genealogy Web Sites


Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) <www.feefds.org>

Genealogy Articles, Tips & Research Guides (Joe Beine) <www.genealogybranches.com>

Immigration History Research Center (University of Minnesota) <www.ihrc.umn.edu>

It’s All Relative <www.iarelative.com>

Myheritage.com <www.myheritage.com> (Currently beta testing)


Slovak Links <www.slovaklinks.com/index.htm>

Slovak Telephone Directory <www.zoznamst.sk/eng>

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society <www.carpathorusynsociety.org>

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) <www.cgsi.org>

The Slovak Institute <www.slovakstitute.com>
For more information: Book

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Toronto, ON M5E 1S3
Canada
(416) 861-0165; 1-800-580-0165; Fax: (416) 861-1894
<www.genealogicalstudies.com>

Conclusion: Effective Slovak genealogical research in the 21st century is not accomplished by only traditional research or only online research, but rather a combination of both.
That’s How The Clerk (or Minister or Indexer) Spelled It. How To Trace Your Ancestors When No One Knew How To Spell
By James L. Hansen, FASG, Reference Librarian Wisconsin Historical Society

While it’s a problem encountered by most genealogists, the challenges of multiple languages, spelling and pronunciation of names (both personal and place names) can be particularly challenging for Czech-American researchers. This presentation will suggest strategies and tips for ensuring that you can find the necessary resources, no matter how badly the record-keeping officials (or the poor stumped indexers) misinterpreted them.

Bibliography


Enochs, Richard A. "We Don't Spell our Name that Way" in The Indiana Genealogist, v. 4 no. 2 (June 1993) pp. 51-55.


Hansen's Ten Rules for Using Indexes

1. An index is only an index. It is not a substitute for the record being indexed.

2. The larger the size of the index, the more easily pertinent listings are overlooked.

3. In a given record, any vowel may at any point be substituted for any other vowel—or consonant.

4. Virtually every pre-WW II record, in whatever form we see it in today, originated as an attempt by an individual to put on paper what he or she thought was heard.

5. There is no perfect indexing system.

6. It doesn't matter how you spell the name; it only matters how the indexer spelled it.

7. Just because an index is described as complete or comprehensive, doesn't mean it is complete or comprehensive.

8. If you haven't found it in the index, you can only conclude that you haven't found it in the index. You cannot conclude that it's not in the record.

9. The index isn't always at the back of the book.

10. Sometimes it is best to ignore the index altogether.
Documenting Czech Immigrant Arrivals
By Leo Baca

Introduction

Invariably, Czech-American genealogists and family historians reach the point of asking how their ancestors came to America. Many questions come to mind. What was the name of the ship? When did they immigrate? How long was the voyage? What did the ship look like? What was the port of entry? In answering these questions, a significant amount of research needs to be done.

When Did They Immigrate?

The sources for immigration dates include oral history, census records, naturalization records, newspapers, and the internet.

Passenger Lists

There are two kinds of passenger lists. They are the customs passenger lists and the immigration passenger lists. The important thing to remember about passenger lists is the fact that the captain was required to turn in a list at each port of call in the United States. The customs passenger lists gave the passenger's name, age, occupation, and country of origin. The heading gave the date and port of departure as well as the embarkation port and date. Microfilm copies of those passenger lists and abstracts can be purchased from the National Archives. In addition, microfilm copies can be rented from the LDS through a Family History Center which may be located near you.

What About the Ship?

If you are interested in learning about the physical details of your immigrant ancestor's ship, the best overall source is Lloyd's Universal Register. This was a grand attempt at cataloging all the world's ships over 100 tons. As a note of caution, Lloyd's has published registers of ships that it insures since the early 1800s but the Lloyd's Universal Register is totally different because it also includes ships not insured by Lloyd's. Other good sources are Passenger Ships of the World Past and Present by Eugene W. Smith and Ships of our Ancestors by Michael J. Anuta.

Internet Sources

The best internet source for passenger arrival information is the Ellis Island Archives website (http://www.ellisislandrecords.org). This website has passenger list records, copies of original manifests, and ship information (often a picture) on the 22 million immigrants who arrived in Ellis Island (New York) between 1892-1924.

Publications

To date, nine books entitled Czech Immigration Passenger Lists, Volumes I-IX have been published. Anyone wishing to obtain copies of these publications should either check my website (http://home.roadrunner.com/~lbaca) or write to me for information concerning price and availability. My address is: 1707 Woodcreek, Richardson, Texas 75082-4524. My email address is: lbaca@tx.rr.com.
Current Research

Research for Volume X which would have covered Czech arrivals in Baltimore between 1900-1914 was temporarily suspended due to the unavailability of commercially available rentals of passenger list microfilm. A number of Czech genealogists commented to me that they wished the project to move forward. Judy Nelson of Florida suggested an approach that would enable volunteers to abstract passenger list microfilm. I told her that approach was feasible as I could let the volunteers know what microfilm rolls needed to be abstracted and I would provide guidance as to how the abstracting should be conducted. Judy has placed notices of this project in a number of Czech genealogical publications. This project is moving forward. If you wish to be a volunteer, just let me know. I do not know when this will be done but the greater the number of volunteers, the sooner the project will be done.
IDENTIFYING GRANDPA’S REGIMENT IN THE AUSTRIAN IMPERIAL ARMY

Resources available in the LDS Library Catalog
By Karen Hobbs

This session covers how to find and use the LDS resources that will identify an ancestral regiment. Austria’s Line Infantry recruited the majority of soldiers in Bohemia, Moravia, Austrian Silesia and northern Hungary. Infantry Regiment recruiting districts were established in the land area around a recruiting depot. The depot was generally a large city with a garrison fortress. Cavalry and Artillery recruiting districts were based on the basic infantry districts. Cavalry and Artillery regiments were generally recruited in a larger area than the line infantry. A Cavalry or Artillery recruiting district could include up to three Infantry districts.

The best resource for where a regiment recruited and when is the Militar-Schematismus. Use a Keyword search of the LDS catalog to find these films. Select the film for the years nearest an ancestor’s 20 birthday. Find the regiment with the recruiting depot for and ancestor’s residence. A typical title page gives all the data needed.

Militar-Schematismus title page for IR 73 by line:

1. Regiment number.
2. Type of regiment
3. Staff station
4. Recruiting district depot (Eger)
5. Raised in 1860 with battalions from IR 35, 42, and 55
6. Inhaber’s name
7. Honorary name of regiment
8. Colonels commanding.

Recruiting districts changed over time. From about 1830-1859 there were 63 regiments. Maps from that period have not yet been found. In 1860 the number increased to 80 with the new districts being carved out on several old ones. In 1883 22 more regiments were added, changing the map of districts again. Space limitation allows only one map here. The 1873 map below is very rare. It represents the period 1860-1883 when many of our ancestors served. It is not available from any LDS resource.
1873 MAP OF RECRUITING DISTRICTS IN BOHEMIA, MORAVIA, AUSTRIAN SILESIA & SLOVAKIA

A chart from another LDS resource, the history of the Austrian military by von Wrede, is shown below.
VON WREDE'S CHART OF SLOVAK (HUNGARIAN) REGIMENTS AND WHERE THEY RECRUITED 1781-1914

This chart is a general guideline for recruiting districts in Hungary up to 1914. Each regiment is known by the name of a recruiting district (Werb-Bezirk) depot. Recruiting districts might include more than one Comitat. The German name of each Comitat in this chart has an “er” ending. Delete the “er” to determine the German name of a Comitat. Find the Comitat where an ancestor lived in the top line of the chart. Find the regiment number(s) below that Comitat. Find the name of the recruiting depot for that regiment in the chart’s bottom line.

Example: in 1883 Infantry Regiment 25 was recruited in the Losonez district. The district included Zohl, Neogral and Gomor Comitats at that time. IR 25 would be known as the Losonez Regiment. Select the pages in the book that cover the Losonez Regiment if an ancestor resided in Zohl, Neogral or Gomor Comitat after 1873.
SLOVAK IMMIGRANTS CAME TO WISCONSIN, TOO
By Dr. John J. Hosmanek

Numbers of Slovak Immigrants to the United States were considerably smaller to Wisconsin and the Midwest than to the Eastern states, and they arrived quite late in the “Waves of Immigration.” They came mainly from the western part of what is now Slovakia – from Zilina to Bratislava and in between.

The reasons for the Slovaks to leave their homeland were equally, if not more, compelling than earlier waves of immigration. The Slovaks were being throttled by an unrelenting suppression of their language and culture. There was suppression and persecution by the Hungarian government most likely unequalled in the civilized world in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Typically, the immigrant, if he was “dodging conscription” into the oppressor’s Army, would escape at night along a route similar to the American Underground for slaves in Civil War days. Then came the feared, though adventurous, sailing in steerage—without any of what are known as conveniences today. Not even fresh air! There were health restrictions and even an eye infection could result in refusal to permit the immigrant to come into the United States. And although Ellis Island was the best known ports, many Slovaks came later through ports such as Baltimore and Boston. Language difficulties and misunderstandings were widespread and feared. Depending on the Immigration Official, or later, the census taker, a Slovak could become Hungarian, “Slavish,” Austro-Hungarian, or many other things.

Recruiters and family members who came earlier helped the new immigrants, as did various Slovak and other organizations. Nevertheless, it was often a traumatic transition. In Wisconsin, the immigrants settled in cities and villages, such as Ashland, Boyceville, Carrollville, Cudahy, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Moquah, Phillips, and Racine. Due to the restrictions placed on the Slovaks in their homeland, most had only a sixth-grade education. Some had developed skills in working with metals, woods, and wire. A few were merchants and providers of services such as “undertaking,” and the skilled trades.

Slovaks were quick to build churches, fraternal meeting places, taverns, credit unions and other mutual aid organizations. Today, in Wisconsin, there are representatives in virtually every profession and trade - artists, bishops, priests and ministers, educators, physicians and surgeons, nurses, administrators, a federal judge, numerous other judges and attorneys, tradesmen, military leaders, and so forth. We owe our Slovak immigrants much for braving the hardships of emigrating and settling in a new land, leaving us a sound work ethic, and customs and traditions to perpetuate, and to make us proud of our Slovak heritage.
FINDING GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION IN THE WHS LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CATALOGS
By Dee Anna Grimsrud

Original Records and Unpublished Genealogies
The Archives online catalog - ArCat - contains information about original records of use to genealogists, unpublished genealogies, and genealogical research files.

http://arcat.library.wisc.edu

Published Records, Indexes, and Genealogies
The Library online catalog - MadCat - contains information about published genealogies, indexes and records, and about some microfilmed sources such as the federal census. MadCat is the University of Wisconsin-Madison catalog. You can use this catalog to search for the genealogical holdings of the university as well as those of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

http://madcat.library.wisc.edu

Start with the Guided Search
Begin with the Guided Search to find materials by keyword. This approach allows you to use terms that are meaningful to you to find archives and library materials. Note: the default for ArCat is “as a phrase”; the default for MadCat is “any of these.”

Guided Search Screen

Using the Guided Search
Type keywords into the “Search For” boxes, using terms listed on the reverse page or others that you think might be relevant. If you enter a term or phrase in the first “Search For” box and another term or phrase in
the second and/or third “Search For” box, and do not alter any of the other settings, the catalog will search for catalog records that have both terms or phrases anywhere within the catalog record.

Since most genealogical research is locality based, first try entering a geographic name such as country, state, county (for example Brown County), town or municipal name. To widen your search use more general terms; to narrow the search use more specific terms. For example, Wisconsin is a broader term than Brown County, and terms like vital records or court are broader than terms such as births or probate.

**Here is a sample catalog record resulting from a search of ArCat, using brown county in the first box and probate in the second box:**

**Author/Creator:** Wisconsin. County Court (*Brown County*)

**Title:** Probate case files, 1821-1976.

**Quantity:** 18.2 c.f. (47 archives boxes); plus unprocessed additions of 24,240 sheets of jacketted microfilm.

**Arrangement:** Numerical by case file number.

**Summary:** Records relating to the settlement of deceased individuals' estates including inventories of real and personal property; reports and accounts of administrators or executors; statements of claims against estates; resale of real and/or personal property; warrants; contracts; sworn testimony; and similar records. The processed portion of this series is summarized above and dates 1821-1881; there are unprocessed additions, 1821-1976. Records from 1821-1881 are also available on microfilm. Records from 1882-1976 are available only on microfilm.

**Finding aid:** "Probate general index" (Brown Series 139) provides a partial index to these case files. There is an on-line database index to the 1821-1881 portion of this series at the U.W.-Green Bay Area Research Center.

**Location:** Green Bay Area Research Center

**Call Number:** Brown Series 144

**More Tips for Using the Guided Search**

- Be sure to scroll down within a catalog record to see where the collection is actually located; some published materials are held by other UW libraries and some archives collections are held at the Area Research Centers. For information about the ARCs, see www.wisconsinhistory.org/archives/arcnet/

- Searches are *not* case sensitive, so you do not have to capitalize proper nouns.

- If you have a specific family in mind, enter a family surname + the term family (for example: ball family) in the first search box to locate those catalog records in which ball family appears as a phrase. If this search results in too many hits, search again with _____ family in the first box and genealog? in the second box.

- To search all at once for words with the same beginning but various endings, use the truncation symbol or “wild card” of ? . For example, using diar? will locate all catalog records containing either diary or diaries. Using czech? will find czech and czech-americans and czechoslovakia and czechoslovakian and other variations.
When doing locality searches (with a place name in the first search box), enter one of the following terms in the second search box to focus in on specific kinds of records:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>census</th>
<th>court</th>
<th>vital records</th>
<th>birth?</th>
<th>church?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>genealog?</td>
<td>probate</td>
<td>tax?</td>
<td>marriage?</td>
<td>baptism?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obituar?</td>
<td>will?</td>
<td>deed?</td>
<td>divorce?</td>
<td>cemeter?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>military</td>
<td>criminal</td>
<td>land</td>
<td>death?</td>
<td>correspondence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In ArCat only: Because not all catalog descriptions will include the name of a county, there is a special technique to be sure to locate all collections relating to a particular Wisconsin county. This is by using the county’s Geographic Code instead of _____ county in the first search box. Codes for Wisconsin counties are located at http://arcat.library.wisc.edu/help/codes.geographic.htm

For more catalog search hints: for ArCat see arcat.library.wisc.edu/help/aboutarcat.htm and for MadCat see http://madcat.library.wisc.edu/help/basicsearchhints.htm

Archives finding aids (registers) are gradually being put online. A collection with an online register will have a link in the catalog record. To search all online finding aids, go to http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/shswead/

Wisconsin Historical Society
Headquarters Building
618 State Street
Madison, WI 53706-1482

Division of Library-Archives
Library Reference: 608-264-6535
Archives Reference: 608-264-6460
www.wisconsinhistory.org
Historical Sources for Bohemia from the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries
By PhDr. Lenka Matušíková

In the First Department of the Czech National Archives in Prague are deposited three extraordinary documentary sources from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, which contain an enormous amount of information about the inhabitants of Bohemia in that period and can greatly help genealogists in their research. These sources are the 1651 list of Bohemian subjects according to their religion, the “Berní Rula” tax cadaster of 1654, and the “Theresianum” tax cadaster of 1710-48.

The standardized form of Register 1651 was organized in columns in which each person’s name, social status, occupation, age, religious affiliation and the family status of all members of each household, including all servants and farm labours have been recorded.

The tax cadaster „Berní rula“ (1654) recorded an enormous amount of information about each taxpayer in the kingdom, including his name (each farmer in a village, each burgher or craftsman in a town), how many fields the taxpayer owned, how much the farmer sowed in the autumn and how much in spring, how many deserted fields and houses there were in each village and town, the names of the newly settled farmers (between 1651-1653), the occupation of the taxpayers, etc.

The first phase of early-eighteenth-century tax reform gave rise to a document called the „Fasse“. These income return records provided a lot of information about each village on each feudal estate, including: the names of landowners, the number of their fields, the quantity of grassland, the number of livestock and other sources of income of the inhabitants (from crafts, small plots of forests, fishponds, small businesses, etc).

Each of these rich documentary sources recorded information very systematically, defined social categories, and used a uniform format. This makes it possible for researchers to compare the information given in several different historical sources over a long period of time and to trace out the entire course of economic and social development in Bohemia after the Thirty Years War and in the first half of eighteenth century. This presentation will provide a detailed introduction to these unique historical sources and clarify how they can best be used for genealogical research.
FROM DAGUERREOTYPE TO DIGITAL FILE: ORGANIZING AND CARING FOR FAMILY AND PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHS
By David Benjamin, Visual Materials Archivist - Library Archives Wisconsin Historical Society
www.wisconsinhistory.org

I. Introduction

II. Mini history of photographs

III. Handling

IV. Collecting/Collection Development

V. Appraisal

VI. Organization

VII. Storage

VIII. Conservation vs. Preservation

IX. “Scrapbooking”/Utilizing your collection

X. Digital
A Brief Bibliography

Books


Koelling, Jill Marie. *Digital Imaging: A Practical Approach.* AltaMira Press (Walnut Creek, Calif.: 2004)

Reilly, James M. *Care and Identification of 19th Century Photographic Prints.* Eastman Kodak Company (1986)

Ritzenhaler, Mary Lynn, Gerald J. Munooof, and Margery S. Long. *Archives and Manuscripts: Administration of Photographic Collections.* SAA (Chicago, 1984)

Websites


Dear Fred Genealogy Photo Archive. http://www.deadfred.com

National Archives: http://www.archives.gov
Specific sections for:
    Genealogy/Family Historians
    Preservation and Archives Professionals

National Park Service Conserve O Grams.
http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/publications/conserveogram/cons_toc.html
Series 14: Photographs

    Technical Leaflets Series
“DOING GENEALOGY OVER THERE”
By Misa Plickova, Jiri Kaminek

Planning our first trip to the U.S.A. in 1993, equipped only with a road atlas of the United States and Canada and a guidebook with a rather strange title (“Exploring America with an Empty Pocket”), I really appreciated the possibility of discussing our travel plans with my American colleague at Charles University in Prague, where we both taught English. After many discussions he finally put together for us a list of things which we SHOULD DO, and, of course, a list of those which we SHOULD NEVER DO in America. Since it proved very useful, we thought it might be useful to do something similar for those who have never visited the Czech Republic and are thinking of doing it sooner or later.

Everybody knows that when traveling abroad, you need a passport, BUT make sure your passport is valid at least for another 6 months after the arrival date in the Czech Republic. On the other hand, you do not need a visa to visit the Czech Republic for less than 90 days – provided you are an American citizen. We also strongly advise everybody to take out travel insurance in case of illness, accident, etc.

The easiest way to get around the country is definitely by car. And if there are more of you traveling together, it is often surprisingly the cheapest way, too, in spite of the fact that the price of gas is - compared to the US - very high. You will appreciate the comfort of the car mainly when the search for your ancestors will bring you to places that would be inaccessible by any other means of transport. Still, we do not recommend that you use a car in big cities, as it’s difficult to find a place to park, and the network of local trams, buses and subway lines (in Prague) is excellent. Everything is safe, but it’s good to remember that, as in any big city, you should be careful and keep an eye on your camera, cell phone, purse or wallet, especially when getting on and off.

Money. You can pay cash and there is a wide network of ATMs in case you need to withdraw more money. In most gift shops, hotels, supermarkets, etc., all major credit cards are also accepted. Traveler’s checks are sometimes more difficult to cash, but they can be cashed in a bank and also at the American Express office in big cities. You will probably have problems if you decide to use your personal checkbook and write out a check in an ordinary food store. A little reminder – EUROS are NOT USED in the Czech Republic – at least not yet.

Many visitors are also worried how they are going to cope when they don’t speak the language. Czech and/or Slovak languages are not easy..... But nowadays many people speak English, older people may still be able to speak German, so I wouldn’t worry – and there are always your hands, smiles and gestures which do not need words! A little hint – if you remember some Czech words, USE THEM! People always appreciate the effort!

To stay in touch with your family at home, you can use your cell phone – BUT make sure it’s the type that’ll work overseas. We’ve seen a lot of very disappointed people who, instead of chatting happily with their families at home, were on the point of throwing their good-for-nothing apparatus out of the window. In many places you can find Internet cafes. Also, the Internet is usually at your disposal in bigger hotels either in the room or in the lobby.

And you should not forget to explore the Czech culture and enjoy the delicious Czech food during your stay! Both are highly recommended even if the main goal of your visit is the search for relatives.
We hope we will be able to help you get ready for the journey better, and motivate you even more to come over.

By John Leonard Berg

Early in July of 2005, I had the opportunity to become immersed in the culture and history of the Slovak Republic. The intensive two-week journey introduced me to distinctive geographical regions of the country and many aspects of traditional Slovak life. The instructive tour was hosted by an internationally recognized Slovak enthusiast Helen Cincebeaux, who escorted a dozen highly motivated researchers from Kosice to Bratislava, the educational and cultural center of Slovakia. Of special interest were the Carpatho-Rusyn people who have existed in the area since 1348. Visiting the village of Sasova was the pinnacle event of our travel where food, folklore, crafts and customs were explained and experienced. Significant time was given to discussing emigration factors and the economic plights of the villagers, many who now have families scattered throughout the United States. My pictorial presentation will highlight encounters during this wonderful Slovak excursion. Additionally I will also share my personal experiences of doing Slovak genealogy … not always an easy task!
Genealogy is more than names and dates; your ancestors lived surrounded by beauty - in their homes, dress, customs, churches, music, song and dance.

Our ancestor's lives revolved around the seasons with rituals and celebrations that brightened their work-a-day lives. While the church was the heart of village life and many life events took place there; some Pagan traditions were carried on too for added "protection".

Spring
Fasank (beginning of Lent celebration)
Spinning parties - courting rituals
Blessing of the fields and the animals
Easter customs
Christening and churching customs
First Communion
Healing herbs, tea and bee products

Summer
May pole raisings
St. John's bonfires
Corpus Christi and pilgrimages
Decorating homes/fence painting
Love Tokens
Name days
Festivals with music and song
Going to military service rituals

Fall
Harvest Festivals
Wine Festivals
Weddings with customs old and new
Craft making - making linen, batik, lace, embroidery, beading, leather, horn, straw, ceramics
Hody - village festivals

Winter
All Soul's Day
Death Customs
Wood carving, weaving
St. Lucia celebrations
St. Nicholas
Christmas customs
New Year's Day customs
I. Keep High Standards of Research.
   a. Primary vs. Secondary Records
   b. Database vs. Digital Image
   c. Abstract vs. Full Document
   d. Citing Sources

II. What Isn’t Online?
   a. Court Records
   b. Vital Records
   c. Newspapers
   d. Military Records
   e. Land Records

III. Key Websites
   a. Link Sites/Search Engines
      i. www.cyndislist.com
      ii. www.deathindexes.com
      iii. www.google.com
      iv. www.mamma.com
   b. Online Family Trees
      i. www.rootsweb.com
      ii. www.ancestry.com
      iii. www.familysearch.org
   c. Databases/Digital Collections
      i. Private Organizations (free and fee based)
         1. www.ancestry.com
         2. www.familysearch.org
      ii. Research Organizations (free and fee based)
         1. Local (historical, genealogical, public libraries)
         2. State (www.wisconsinhistory.org)
         4. Regional (www.newenglandancestors.org)
   d. Newspapers
   e. Online Tools
IV. Keeping Up With the Changes
   a. Subscribe to Email Newsletters
      i. Rootsweb
      ii. Ancestry
      iii. Family Tree Newsletter
      iv. New England Historic Genealogical Society
      v. OneGreatFamily.com
      vi. GenealogyMagazine.com
      vii. Genealogy.com
      viii. Genealogy Gems (Allen County Public Library)
      ix. Dead Fred’s Genealogy Photo Archive
   b. Check out blogs for current issues in genealogy.
      i. www.genealogyblog.com
      ii. http://blog.eogn.com

MORE WEBSITES

WWW.HERITAGEQUESTONLINE.COM (Subscription for libraries, use with library card, censuses, family and local histories, PERSI)

WWW.USGENWEB.COM (Free site, various indexes and some digital photos)

WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM (Free site, various indexes and research by others)

WWW.RAOGK.COM (contact researchers who volunteer to do look-ups, queries)

WWW.FREETRANSITION.COM (free site to translate information from various languages)

HTTP://UWDC.LIBRARY.WISC.EDU (UW Digital Collections, constantly adding county histories, photo collections, archival materials and maps)

WWW.GLORECORDS.BLM.GOV (Land patents, original sale from the U.S. government)
Germanic peoples were already living in what is now the Czech Republic during Roman times. Most of them have moved on to the west, however, by the time of the arrival of the Czech people in the sixth century. In the twelfth century, King Ottokar II invited Germans to begin farming the border areas of the country, tradesmen and craftsmen to come to the cities, and miners to develop the rich mineral deposits of the country. In the seventeenth century, after the 30 years war, Lutherans, both Czech and German, were expelled from the country and German Catholics were resettled in the country. By the nineteen thirties, fully 1/3 of the population of Bohemia and Moravia was German.

The German-Bohemians began to emigrate from the Austrian empire immediately after the 1848 revolution when the last vestiges of feudalism were abolished and the peasants were free to leave the Austrian Empire. German-Bohemians began coming to Wisconsin and Minnesota in the mid eighteen fifties. They came from the villages of Landskron in the Schönhengstgau of eastern Bohemia to farm the land of the Watertown area east of Madison. They came from the southern Böhmerwald, the Bohemian Forest, to Oshkosh to work in the lumber mills. They came from the northern part of the Böhmerwald to be lumbermen farmers in northern Wisconsin west of Green Bay, to communities in Kewaunee and Manitowoc Counties. They heeded the call of the Wisconsin Central Railroad to settle the railroad lands in central and northern Wisconsin. They came from Falkenau on the Eger River in northeastern Bohemia to work in the factories and mills, and to start small businesses in Milwaukee.

About the same time the German-Bohemians began to arrive in Minnesota. In 1855 the first German-Bohemians came to farm on the bluff lands overlooking the Cottonwood River just south of New Ulm, in southwestern Minnesota. From this small beginning the settlement spread to city of New Ulm and on to half a dozen counties in southwestern Minnesota. The German-Bohemians also came from the Böhmerwald to work for the railroads and factories in Saint Paul. They lived in the German Catholic parishes that ringed the center of the city, most notably in the Frogtown neighborhood. From these communities German-Bohemians moved on to other parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota, the Dakotas and the Far West.

For the most part the German-Bohemians lost much of their cultural heritage and were assimilated into larger German speaking communities but you can still hear the Böhmish dialect spoken on the streets of New Ulm and you can still eat sauerkraut, pork ribs and dumplings and schmirkuchen in many of the homes in the German-Bohemian communities throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota.
What do genealogists do after they’ve traced their ancestors as far as written records will take them? Linguistic research and genetics research are two possibilities. We chose to see where genetics research would take us.

I was not aware of the possibilities of genetics research until I attended Dr. Gary Kocurek’s presentation at the September 2001 Texas Czech Genealogical Society Conference in College Station. At that time Gary presented the results of his first mitochondrial DNA test which indicated the possibility of a genetic marker for Valachs. His paper on this was published in Ceske Stopy (Volume I, Number 3, pages 16-18). That was the beginning of the Czech DNA Project.

Now, what is this all about? Genetics research during the past fifteen years has shown that an incredible amount of information about our ancestry is encoded in our genetic material (DNA). What we have learned in school is that we receive half of our genetic material from each our parents. What we didn’t learn was that there are two kinds of DNA that are passed down from the father and mother that are not mixed. This makes it possible to trace both our maternal and paternal lines since no mixing of DNA occurs for these two kinds of DNA.

The method for tracing your maternal line is called mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequencing. Mitochondrial DNA is passed from a mother to her children. While all children receive mtDNA from their mother, only females can pass on mtDNA. From these seemingly simple facts, an incredible amount of genetics research has resulted. The clearest expression of this research is in the book entitled The Seven Daughters of Eve by Dr. Bryan Sykes of Oxford University. Mitochondrial DNA research has led to the finding of a mitochondrial Eve and an assertion that 95% of all Europeans are descended from seven different women who lived 10,000-45,000 years ago. The basic mtDNA test costs $129 plus $2 postage.

The method for gathering a DNA sample does not involve any blood. You are sent a small brush to scrape some cells from the inside of your cheeks. You seal the brush in small plastic package and return it to the genetics testing company with the payment for the test.

The method for tracing your paternal line is called Y chromosome testing. The Y chromosome is passed from father to son. The method for gathering a DNA sample is the same as described above for mtDNA. Family Tree DNA (http://www.familytreedna.com) offers group discount rates for various types of genetics study. For a 12 marker test, the group discount rate is $99 plus $2 postage. To participate in this study and to obtain the group discount rate, contact Leo Baca at lbaca@tx.rr.com or 1707 Woodcreek, Richardson, TX 75082. The Czech DNA Project has a website: http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Czech. You can join the project by visiting this website and ordering a DNA test. The project now has 184 members.

An update of the results achieved to date will be presented at the CGSI Conference in Madison.

If you want to learn more, there is a list group on the use of DNA in genealogy. You can subscribe at GENEALOGY-DNA-L@rootsweb.com. Just put "subscribe" in the subject line of your email. Or you can email me at lbaca@tx.rr.com or Joni Hudson at JOANH954@aol.com. Joni is the project co-administrator. She has been working a number of genealogical issues/problems with project members.
The Old World

The district of Landskron (Czech: Lanškroun) in Northeast Bohemia consists of the town of Landskron and forty-two bordering villages. It includes the Czech market village of Běermá (Böhmisch Rothwasser). The villages varied in size from a few hundred people to about 1,500 inhabitants. Three-quarters of these villages were predominantly German, and the majority of both ethnic groups were of the Roman Catholic faith. There were three broad social groups - the "large farmers, the "small farmers" and the day laborers. Some of the day laborers, called "cottagers, owned a small house. Most of the area's population consisted of day laborers scratching out a marginal subsistence.

Landskron-district farmsteads were not separate from its villages. Farm buildings were located on both sides of a road, and farm fields stretched straight back from the buildings until they bordered another village's farms. Farms might also end at the woods or at an untillable hill. Generally, farmers cultivated contiguous fields, unlike the practice in other areas of Europe. It could, however, be a considerable distance from the farm buildings to each farm's property limits. The farm buildings also showed a distinctive configuration. Generally, the living quarters were physically connected to the farm buildings. More elaborate farmsteads were set up in an U-shape or square with a courtyard in the middle.

Emigrating to The New World

The first sizeable emigration from the district of Landskron occurred in 1851 and consisted of Czech Protestant day laborers primarily from the villages of Běermá and Nepomuky (Nepomuk). These poor Czech Protestants were encouraged by the Austrian Government to move to the Banat region of Hungary in search of a better life. After they received correspondence from Joseph Bergman, a Protestant minister, extolling life in Texas they decided to emigrate to Texas. On November 6, 1851, about seventy-four Czechs started on their trip to America. A second group of about eighty-five Czech Protestants left their homes for Texas on about October 9, 1853. In later years, many other Czech Protestants from the district of Landskron emigrated to Texas. They were joined by some Czech and German Catholics from the district of Landskron. Some of the Czech Catholics who settled in Pierce County, Wisconsin, first traveled to Texas before settling in Wisconsin.

When the first poor German Catholics applied for passports shortly after the first group left for Texas, they also said they were going to Texas. For some unknown reason they changed their minds and went to Wisconsin instead. Three possible reasons exist. First they may have learned about the climate difference between Texas and Wisconsin and decided that the Wisconsin climate would be more suitable. Second, they may have learned that Wisconsin's voting laws were more liberal in granting the vote to

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1 Please note that I refer to a town's name in the language spoken by the majority of its inhabitants in the 19th century. The name in parentheses is the name in the non-majority language, be it Czech or German.

2 Some passport records for this district are still in existence in the regional archive in Zámrsk in the Czech Republic.
emigres. Among the first things many emigres did after arrival was to apply for citizenship, which suggests this right to vote was important to them. Finally, just as the Protestants went to Texas at the behest of a Protestant minister, the Catholics may have gone to Wisconsin at the urging of their Catholic priests. In the early 1850s, John Martin Henni, a German-speaking Swiss, was the Bishop in Milwaukee. It is likely that some of the clergy in the Landskron area had learned of the presence of a German-speaking bishop in Milwaukee through the fund-raising activities of the Leopoldine Society, a Viennese missionary society. A Landskroner priest would logically encourage his flock to go to a state where there was a German-speaking Bishop who would look out for their spiritual interests. The focus of this early migration was near Watertown in southern Wisconsin.

The first notable migration of wealthier farmers and Czech Catholics occurred after the Austro-Prussian War of 1867. After Austria lost, the district of Landskron/Lanškroun was occupied by Prussian soldiers, and this unhappy experience spurred more emigration to America.

Settlements in the New World

When the new emigrants arrived in America, previous settlers helped them find homes, farms and jobs. The Landskroners tended to live near each other, as the later arrivals would move near their countrymen. Sometimes these later arrivals would only stay near their friends and relatives for a few months or years before moving to find cheaper land. The expanding path of these Landskron emigrants can be traced westward from Watertown toward Sun Prairie, Wisconsin and south to Janesville, Wisconsin. A significant number of Landskroners settled in Pierce County, Wisconsin, just east of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. Both Germans and Czechs from Landskron settled in this area. The Czech community of Pierce County is still referred to today as Cherma, after their Bohemian hometown of Čermná. Other Landskroner groups settled near Owatonna, Minnesota and Casselton, North Dakota, and other emigrants settled in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, South Dakota and Oregon.

It is logical to assume that the Landskroner emigrants spent a great deal of their social life with each other. Since many of them bought adjoining farms, this would allow for socializing with fellow Landskron emigrants. Since most were Roman Catholic, they also attended the same church. The membership of at least three Wisconsin Catholic churches was predominantly Landskroner: "The Island" church, St. Wenceslaus, built in 1863 outside of what is now Waterloo; the Church of the Immaculate Conception, built in the early 1880s in "Lost Creek" in Pierce County, and St Martin's Church, built in the 1890s in Cherma in Pierce County. The first two were German and the last was a Czech parish. One of the results of this social interaction is the relative frequency of Landskroner intermarriage with other Landskroners. As in the Old World, some of these marriages crossed linguistic lines, with a German-speaker marrying a Czech-speaker.

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MORE COMPUTER GENEALOGY: THE LATEST AND WHAT’S TO OFFER
Presented by John Kracha

Computer Genealogy Programs. With your computer, you can use genealogical software to store information on thousands of individuals, access CD-ROMs containing indexes to valuable genealogical records, scan images to preserve your family heritage and share information with researchers throughout the world via the Internet. Most of the software programs from major suppliers have many features and system requirements. They have different “bells and whistles” to lure you into purchase. We will briefly address those of the major software programs along with costs and support. Two sources: http://www.consumersearch.com/www/software/genealogy-software/comparison.html and http://www.lkessler.com/gplinks.shtml#jg2

Expand skills
On line catalogs - http://catalog.loc.gov/
Directories - http://dir.genealogytoday.com/
Genealogical Index - http://www.genealogyhomepage.com/
Search engines - http://www.btinternet.com/~allan_raymond/Genealogy_Sites.htm
Message boards - http://boards.rootsweb.com/localities.ceeurope.slovakia/mb.ashx
Educational classes – http://genealogy.about.com/

Digging Up the Living - https://www.intelius.com/
http://web.public-records-now.com
http://www.peoplelookup.com
http://freerecordsregistry.com/
http://www.peoplefinders.com

Blogs
http://milesralston.blogspot.com/2007_03_01_archive.html

Family website – www.ancestry.com

Retracing old territory
rootsweb.com - http://www.rootsweb.com/
dead ends revisited

Gadgets
Two-way radios - http://www.buytwowayradios.com/

DNA - http://www.geogene.com/

This is the re-engineering of the “shrink-wrapped” software application packages that we have had for over 20 years. The web-based system allows any number of specified members access to the file and update and maintain their branch of the family tree. This portion of the presentation will address potential advantages and disadvantages of this concept and provide a static demonstration of some programs.
There are so many innovations and imaginative processes in this age that it may be difficult to define where we go from here. Do you remember that some 20 years ago that we didn’t have the computer to help us organize our files?

This is a new era. We are taking our former capabilities to the limit by expanding technology, originally developed for recreational purposes to assist those of genealogical goals.

Within the genealogical community, tremendous strides are being undertaken. Some for profit and others to guarantee the preservation of our historical heritage.

We hope that you can take the lessons learned from the two previous presentations, and blend in the lessons of today. We have come a long way and with the advent of the Web-based technology, hope that you are able to profit from your new research.
Finding Family in Slovakia: Uncovering the Roots and Adding Branches to the Family Tree
by Mark Lencho

When my father died suddenly in 1991, he had never acted on his curiosity to rediscover the family that his parents had left behind after they emigrated from the Orava region to Chicago early in the 20th century. His contacts in Slovakia included an old aunt, her niece, and a cousin. He had a little family tree that the cousin had sent him, consisting of the uncles and aunts of Dad's mother and their children. So with this information in hand, my wife and I went to Slovakia to see where the branches would take us. Two years later, we are living in Slovakia, and in my mother's living room there is a beautiful painting of our family 'rodostrom' (genealogical tree) going back to 1720, topping out with a leaf for our brand-new baby daughter, Žofia Zuzana. This is the story of how a couple with no genealogical experience tracked down the information, in the process reconnecting with the family, art, and culture of the country of their heritage.

For us, there were two main reasons to be interested our family history. Both my Slovak grandmother and grandfather had died long before I was born, so their personal histories were mysterious and therefore intriguing. My father’s contacts in Slovakia were of the most tenuous kind: occasional correspondence on Christmas holidays, short greetings constrained by lack of shared experience or language. There were some black and white photos of people who dressed differently and who lived in the mountains. Slovakia as part of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was a society closed off to us, remote and unknown. Like many Americans the emigration from Europe had resulted in a breach with the past, and I felt it was necessary to recover some of this history in order to learn something about myself.

The years rolled by, Mother had married my Dad’s brother after Dad passed away, so stories about my grandparents and rumors and legend about the old country continued. Meanwhile things were changing dramatically in Slovakia. The fall of communism meant that travel there had become feasible. And my Dad’s aunt’s niece’s daughter, we came to find out, had an e-mail address. It was December 2003, and while sitting around the Christmas dinner table having been regaled with another story of Granddad’s industry and struggles a long time ago, my wife decided it was time to act. We decided to see if we could discover and gather up the remnants of our scattered family.

For me, the first act of geneological research was perhaps curious and surprising: I resolved to learn Slovak. Not only did I feel that learning the language would enable me to look at official records (I was and still am naïve about the English language databases by means of which geneological work is carried out in the states. Would they be able to tell me something from Utah?). More importantly, I would be able to talk to my relatives to find something about the stories of the people behind the names. For me, discovering genealogy would mean salvaging stories, not just names, dates, and milestones. Besides, I was a linguist by profession, so even though my speciality was in theoretical systems and not learning languages, I felt that all this theoretical knowledge could be of great benefit in the practical challenges of learning another language.

With the help of the Bohemian listserv, the chairman of the Slavic Studies Department at the UW-Madison, put me in touch with a delightful Slovak au-pair working in Madison, Katarína Fiserová. She became my first Slovak teacher. For four months before our first trip to Slovakia I worked with her on my Slovak twice weekly, writing back and forth when we were not meeting with each other in one of the student unions. This work gave me the nerve and skills to write to my internet-connected relative, Zdenka Sopková, in basic Slovak. Zdenka was quite surprised and delighted that a distant American relative of
hers could communicate in Slovak, and she quickly extended an invitation for us to stay with her during our intended trip to Slovakia. Meanwhile she spread the word among all her family that they would be having special guests. By the time we got to Slovakia for the first time, June 2004, we had quite a welcoming party waiting for us in Orava. I met two of the three correspondents of my father (his aunt and her niece) and was put in touch with the family of the third, the other cousin from a different branch of the family, centered in Žilina.

Our most important discovery was that in knowing just a little bit of the language could actually take us a great way. The common language brought us together, and family history talk could be supplemented with pictures and official records. These family conversations produced some refinements in the little family tree we brought to Slovakia with us. More importantly, we now had a group of friends and family advocates. Their advice was for us to visit the city hall in what corresponded to the county seat for their region. Our conversations with the clerks there did not lead directly to records and data but to widening our circle of acquaintances. Finally we talked to an office worker who had an acquaintance in a town about 100 kilometers away who was an archivist/genealogist by profession. It was the relationship with this archivist, Kamila Chuda, that became the leading edge of our genealogical activities.

Mrs Chuda’s method was to first contact all of my Slovak contacts in order to ascertain for herself in detail what I was able to convey to her only clumsily in my Slovak. Then for the next year, she visited the institutions for family records in all the regions where she had a name of my relative. Working back, examining birth and death notices and marriage records, she painstakingly revealed the family roots over 300 years old. This direct archival work yielded a stack of documents, copies of actual records in the original Slovak or Latin. Starting with my grandfather and grandmother and working forward, she was able to find living branches and leaves on my grandfather’s side, a side that had been always a complete unknown. Now that the Slovak perspective on my tree had widened and clarified, I supplied my archivist with information on the American branches, and then we endeavored to put all the genealogical work to good use: through her professional connections we identified an artist known for his work illustrating Slovak legends in children’s literature. Our aim was to render the genealogical material aesthetically, make a painting, make prints from the painting, and use the prints as calling cards for introducing ourselves to family for whom we had discovered records, but with whom I had yet to make contact.

In August 2005, the artist Peter Matis presented my Aunt Margaret, my wife and I with the completed canvas: family trees in their domestic context, the result a rather vivid yet subtle cultural display and conversation piece for family reunions planned for the future. More connections were made, contacts broadened, and ultimately this work contributed to my selection as a Fulbright award recipient the following year. Since August 2006, my family has lived in the country of its ancestral home, feeling home. Life proceeds, my wife gave birth in Slovakia, and our baby carries the names of her great and great-great grandmothers: Žofia Zuzana. This littest of leaves already knows related branches in a real living sense, as a result of our geneological adventures.
Historical Sources for Bohemia from the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries
By PhDr. Lenka Matušíková

In the First Department of the Czech National Archives in Prague are deposited three extraordinary documentary sources from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, which contain an enormous amount of information about the inhabitants of Bohemia in that period and can greatly help genealogists in their research. These sources are the 1651 list of Bohemian subjects according to their religion, the “Berní Rula” tax cadaster of 1654, and the “Theresianum” tax cadaster of 1710-48.

The standardized form of Register 1651 was organized in columns in which each person’s name, social status, occupation, age, religious affiliation and the family status of all members of each household, including all servants and farm labours have been recorded.

The tax cadaster „Berní rula“ (1654) recorded an enormous amount of information about each taxpayer in the kingdom, including his name (each farmer in a village, each burgher or craftsman in a town), how many fields the taxpayer owned, how much the farmer sowed in the autumn and how much in spring, how many deserted fields and houses there were in each village and town, the names of the newly settled farmers (between 1651-1653), the occupation of the taxpayers, etc.

The first phase of early-eighteenth-century tax reform gave rise to a document called the „Fasse“. These income return records provided a lot of information about each village on each feudal estate, including: the names of landowners, the number of their fields, the quantity of grassland, the number of livestock and other sources of income of the inhabitants (from crafts, small plots of forests, fishponds, small businesses, etc).

Each of these rich documentary sources recorded information very systematically, defined social categories, and used a uniform format. This makes it possible for researchers to compare the information given in several different historical sources over a long period of time and to trace out the entire course of economic and social development in Bohemia after the Thirty Years War and in the first half of eighteenth century. This presentation will provide a detailed introduction to these unique historical sources and clarify how they can best be used for genealogical research.
This presentation will be illustrated with the screening of selected film clips from each period.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Czech and Slovak people are endowed with a rich and distinguished cinematic legacy, despite being marked by huge social upheavals of the twentieth and early twenty first century. Their film culture, during its one hundred year long history, survived five different sociopolitical systems. (Compare that to the relative stability and consistency of our American democracy over the last hundred years of film history.) Its beginnings were rooted in the era of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The first motion pictures were presented in the Czech lands in 1898, and in Slovakia (Upper Hungary) at the end of 1896. This was just a year after the world’s very first public film screenings of the Lumiere brothers in Paris.

**POST WORLD WAR I**

In 1918, as a result of the dissolution of the Habsburg monarchy after the First World War, the formation of a free and democratic Czechoslovak Republic was forged by the joining of Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. The period of about two decades between the World Wars (1918-1939) saw a huge discrepancy in the quantity and sophistication of films produced in the Czech lands compared to those in Slovakia. Most films were made in Prague during this era, as it had been the vital German-Czech cultural center for centuries, as well as the capital of the German Holy Roman Empire’s Kingdom of Bohemia, drawing commerce and artistic talent to its center. Whereas Bratislava, Slovakia’s capital city, was much smaller and struggled to compete with Vienna, just forty miles away, in attracting film production. It was Vienna, the Habsburg monarchy’s capital city, that drew the region’s businessmen, artists and filmmakers. This was, historically, Slovakia’s most difficult period for its film culture. From 1932 – 1938, 30-50 sound films were produced each year in Czechoslovakia; less than one per year was Slovak.

Czech filmmaking began to flourish during this time between the World Wars, even though producers were forced to compete with foreign film imports. To help insure a stable domestic market, the renowned Barrandov Film Studios in Prague were constructed in 1933. Just before that, the year 1926 brought the beginning of a film era known as “Czech Modernism”, motivated by a growing exposure to world cinema, by the freedom of the Jazz Age, and by its homegrown Devetsil avant-garde movement. The cinema that emerged was a unique compilation of Czech artistry and experimentation with outside influences of German Expressionism, Soviet editing styles, Hollywood glamour, and Surrealist dream imagery. These visually stunning works featured narratives that ran from social realism and portrayals of strong-willed women, to cinematic poetry and haunting documentary-style foreshadowing of the Holocaust during WWII.

The credits for these films often read like a who’s-who of the Central European Avant-Garde. Gustav Machaty is the one Czech director of the interwar years who gained an international reputation and the first major success for Czechoslovak film. His fame rests squarely on the *succes de scandale* of his film *Ecstasy* (1932) featuring a nude Hedy Lamarr in daring erotic scenes. Together with his films *Erotikon* (1929) and *From Saturday to Sunday* (1931) – the three works provide a clever and often subtle analysis of male/female relations. Other important films include Karel Anton’s *Tonka of the Gallows* (1930), Josef Rovensky’s *The River* (1933) and Karel Plicka’s *The Earth Sings* (1933), a notable Slovak documentary on the folk traditions throughout the four seasons. It was one of the few Slovak films to gain notice during this period as an audience favorite and a Venice Film Festival award winner in 1934, along with *The River* and *Ecstasy*.

**WORLD WAR II**

Tragic and systemic change occurred again in Czechoslovak society with the rise of Nazi Germany, the German annexation of Austria, agitation for autonomy in Slovakia, an appeasement policy of France and the United Kingdom, and ultimately the declaration of WWII in September of 1939. Through provisions of the 1938 Munich Agreement, the Czech Sudetenland was ceded to Germany, southern Slovakia was given to Hungary, and Poland
obtained the disputed Zaolzie region. In October, 1938, when Slovak autonomy was declared, President Benes resigned and left the country to resume Czechoslovak political activities in exile. In March, 1939, Slovakia gained nominal independence as a German satellite state under Jozef Tiso, a Catholic priest, dissolving the Czechoslovak Republic. Hitler invaded what remained of Bohemia and Moravia to Germany and occupied it as a German Protectorate. The Jews in Slovakia, by Tiso’s direct order, were denied all civil rights, lost properties to the process of Aryanization, and were transported to their deaths in concentration camps. The same tragedy occurred in the Czech lands under Nazi control. Czechoslovakia’s Jewish population in September, 1939 numbered 315,000; during the Holocaust 260,000 or 82.5% of its Jews were murdered. After 1945, this theme of man’s inhumanity to man was destined to reverberate in the films of Czech and Slovak directors for many years to come.

COMMUNISM
After Soviet troops liberated Slovakia and the Czech lands at the end of WWII, the former Czechoslovakia was recreated, with the absence of Sub-Carpathian Rus that became a part of the Soviet Union. By 1948, the central government in Prague was Communist controlled, as was Slovakia’s government. Yet another fundamental change occurred when Czechoslovak film was nationalized and completely controlled by the Communist establishment. All people working within the film industry became government employees like everyone else, with a steady salary, regardless of whether or not any profits were made. All films during the first 10-15 years of communism were mandated to be of social realist content and had to reflect the good of collective communist society. It had to be pictorialized as only happy and optimistic. As a two-state federation with parallel governments in both the Czech and Slovak Republics, Slovakia was still removed from the real center of political power based in Prague, and was less tightly controlled by the Communist Party. As a result, the earliest non-conformist, liberal works of film came out of Bratislava.

REFORM MOVEMENT AND THE NEW WAVE
It was a Slovak filmmaker, Stefan Uher, who paved the way for the New Wave, the golden age of Czechoslovak cinema, with his 1962 production of Sunshine in a Net. Structurally radical, highly personal, thematically pessimistic - it was an exploration of truth and lies through the eyes of urban teenagers. It served to inspire the generation of New Wave filmmakers that emerged in 1963, including Czech artists such as Milos Forman, Vera Chytilova, Ivan Passer and Jiri Menzel. Slovak New Wavers included Uher, Juraj Jakubisko, Elo Havetta, and Dusan Hanak. The period has been widely recognized as one of the most important movements in world cinema since Italian neorealism. It peaked between 1965 and 1967 when the Shop on Main Street (by Slovak Jan Kadar and Czech Elmar Klos, 1965) and Closely Watched Trains (by Czech Jiri Menzel, 1966) won Academy Awards for Best Foreign Film. Two other films by Milos Forman won Oscar nominations - Loves of a Blonde (1966) and Firemen’s Ball (1968).

The development of this explosion of creativity and innovation in the cinematic arena can be seen as part of the wider phenomena of the growth of ideas in politics and the arts that made up the Czechoslovak Reform Movement, led by the (Slovak) first secretary of the KSC, Alexander Dubcek. A program adopted in April 1968, during the “Prague Spring”, set guidelines for a modern, humanistic democracy that would give socialism, in Dubcek’s words, “a human face.”

NORMALIZATION
But it was all halted by the 1968 Soviet invasion that resulted in the neo-Stalinist period of the so-called Normalization regime. Czechoslovak film again found itself, for the next two decades, under ideological communist dictate and international isolation. Some filmmakers, Forman, Kadar, Passer, and others, went into exile. Others remained in the federation, but were not allowed to shoot for several years.

In Slovakia, the strict communist control of the 1970’s began to let up with the release of several important films in the early 80’s, made also by New Wave directors which arguably matched the quality of films from the 1960’s. Stefan Uher’s She Grazed Horses on Concrete (1982) was also largely the work of Milka Zimkova, who wrote the original story, co-authored the screenplay and starred in the leading role. The narrative thread is a single mother’s story in an Eastern Slovakia village across two generations, dramatizing the process of evolving moral attitudes and social change. The film was the first major film in Slovakia to deal with the women’s issue of abortion, employ women in all starring roles, to extensively use the East Slovak dialect, and was a huge box office success.
Juraj Jakubisko’s *A Thousand Year Old Bee* (1983) is one of the most popular Slovak films ever made about three generations of a farmer’s family from the late 1800’s to the early 1900’s. It received the Golden Phoenix prize from the City of Venice, in partnership with the Venice International Film Festival.

**POST- COMMUNISM AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPLIT**

After the Velvet Revolution of 1989, (and the peaceful Velvet Divorce of 1993) Czech and Slovak cinema again went through another fundamental transformation. The state film monopoly that had guaranteed uninterrupted film production was abolished. Film production initially went into decline; democratization paradoxically caused a thematic crisis and an absence of suitable subjects. New freedoms actually removed one of the important motivations of artistic creativity – the critical response to the communist social and political status quo. The socio-political dimension of film art which used to be a legitimate part of progressive creativity was replaced by standard, democratic political structures. The changes required an entirely new approach on the part of the filmmakers who now had unrestricted freedoms, but became subordinated to a market economy. It has been the generation of the young newcomers that has generally adapted best to these new conditions and for the time being has moved largely from the intellectual film to the commercial film that entertains. We see that a pattern of mainstream international success has returned to Czech cinema with directors that have garnered prestigious international awards, including an Oscar and several Oscar nominations. Jan Sverak’s film *Kolya* (1996) won the Academy Awards for Best Foreign Film and his *Elementary School* (1991) was nominated for an Oscar. Other Czech directors of international importance are Jan Hrebejk (*Divided We Fall*, 2000; *Pupendo*, 2003; *Beauty in Trouble*, 2006), Petr Zelenka (*Buttoners*, 1997; *Wrong Side Up*, 2005), and Sasa Gedeon (*Indian Summer*, 1995).

Contemporary Slovak film is slowly undergoing positive development despite unresolved issues such as lack of fiscal support, dropping audience numbers, and public apathy. There had been a near disintegration of the film community in Slovakia leading into the new century, but things have begun to change with the Bratislava Film Festival and government proposals for legislation that will increase the production of new features per year. State support is now growing with assistance from Eurimages and Media Programme, a European Union distribution network. Slovakia has seen some of its most talented and productive filmmakers, such as Juraj Jakubisko, leave for the Czech Republic, where funding is more readily available. However, this current period has given rise to Slovakia’s newest directing star, Martin Sulik, with his succession of five new feature films, among them *The Garden* (1995), *The Landscape* (2000), and *City of the Sun* (2005).

In the post-communist world, the market has asserted itself, films have to be popular with audiences to survive, and American films dominate European markets. As Czech and Slovak films forsake their political and cultural roles to compete in the world market, they face the realm of compromise, packaging, and advertising that will leave some longing for conditions of the past. As in most other European countries, the voice of national culture will require both subsidy and co-production if it is to survive.

(Note: A BIBLIOGRAPHY of source materials will be available upon request.)
USING AUSTRIAN MILITARY RECORDS ON FILM IN THE LDS LIBRARY
Karen Hobbs

LDS films are based on records available at the Vienna War Archiv. In some cases an ancestor’s military record is the only source of a birthplace and random searches of these valuable films can provide place names associated with ancestral surnames that could not be found elsewhere.

The session is an introduction to the types of records that have been filmed. The LDS library catalog includes over 2600 titles for Austrian military records. About one half of them are personnel and regimental records and the rest are military churchbooks. All of the titles are in German. We will demonstrate how to select German words found in film titles to find records of ancestors who served in the Austrian Army.

LDS films include virtually all records kept in the Vienna Kriegsarchiv (War Archive). Around 1000 films of military records are not yet cataloged and therefore not available to local FHCs. Some films already in the catalog are unavailable to local FHCs because of Austrian privacy laws restricting circulation of films dated after 1907 (less than 100 years old).

Personnel Records: The session includes examples of military records with explanation / translation of their contents.

Grundbuchblatter — individual soldiers' record; most are dated 1820-1868 or 1870 with gaps inbetween. Grundbuchblatter are dated for the year a soldier was inducted -- after his 20th birthday. Exceptions to typical induction dates are discussed briefly along with the possible location of records no longer kept at the Vienna War Archive.

Grundbuchblatter are available for: Infanterie Regiment 01 – 102; Jägerbatallion (Light Infantry Marksmen); Landwehr Bataillon (ready reserve battalion attached to each regiment); Kavallerie Regiment or Eskadron for Dragoon, Uhlanen, Chevauxleger, Kuirassier, & Husaren (Hungarian Cavalry); Artillerie Regiment and smaller Artillery units.

Musterlisten — list men present for duty: can include vital data 1811-1820. They include infantry regiments Infanterie & Landwehr Batallion. Assentliste & Transfurungliste with personal data for each soldier listed are in Musterlisten.

Standestabellen — Regimental monthly reports; may include soldier's vital information 1811-1820. Standestabellen are accompanied by special muster lists of men present for duty or those absent for various reasons.

Standesakten — special monthly reports and muster lists for food supply troops like butchers and bakers.

Kirchenbuch — regimental and military community church books with death reports for soldiers, their dependents and others who died under military jurisdiction; separate registers of marriages of active duty soldiers and births / baptisms that took place in a military venue. Kirchenbuch include vital data with each entry.

Qualifikationslisten der Offiziere — multi-page individual officers’ records detailing each officer’s active duty career. Session teaches to find all officer records easily.

Ultimately a researcher needs some idea of which regiments recruited in the area where an ancestor most likely lived or was born.
The rare map below shows recruiting districts with regiment numbers during 1860-73 when there was a total of 80 regiments.

Grundbuchblatter

Grundbuch are sorted on the year of induction. Originals like the one on the left above filled in all spaces. Regimental staffs made copies of Grundbuch and they did not always fill out all the data on the original. Most often they left out the soldier’s description in the middle of the document. Updates often were not added to all copies of a Grundbuch. The record(s) above show induction and transfer on the original and additional transfers and discharge on the duplicate (Duplicat). Duplicates are found under Film Details.
This translation of the data from the original and duplicate *Grundbuchblatt* above gives the complete record of this soldier. Note that the transfer back to his regiment in 1863 and mustering out into the reserves in June of 1867 would be unknown if the *Duplikat* record were not available.

It is important to note that *Grundbuchblatt* on film are seldom dated after 1868-1870.

*Kirchenbuch* (churchbooks) can include dates to 1920.

A first search for records of Soldiers from *Bohemia and Moravia* should be the film:

**Grundbuchblatt Diverse.**
This film includes records from many regiments including infantry, cavalry and artillery. Some few may have induction dates later than 1868-1870.

There is no equivalent film for Hungarian/Slovak soldiers.

There are no records for men or Czech & Slovak Legions in Russia, France and Italy during World War I. If they were first Russian prisoners or if they deserted from an Austrian regiment, Austrian records will show up to the date taken prisoner or date of desertion. World War I records of most common soldiers are only 3 x 5 cards with vital data and some notations about their service. The LDS library has not yet cataloged World War I records. Send inquiries about World War I soldiers to the Vienna archive.

In armistice of 1918 required Vienna to send all military records of soldiers with birthdates after 1865 to the successor nations of the Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy. The new nation of Czechoslovakia received records for Bohemia, Moravia, parts of Austrian Silesia and for northern Hungary to include the Carpathians. The records went to a military archive in Prague.

During World War II Russian soldiers turned the Prague archive into a barracks and some historians say they burned the “old papers” they found as fuel for the stoves. After 1993 Prague agreed to transfer the surviving Slovak / Hungarian records to Bratislava. Whether that transfer has been made is unknown. Recent searches for Slovak records in the Prague archive have had a negative result. Once the transfer is complete it will be some time before Slovak archivists have cataloged the material.
The American Geographical Society Library: A “World” of Resources for Genealogists
Presentation by Jovanka R. Ristić

I. Background information and brief history of the American Geographical Society (AGS) Library
   A. The AGS in New York City, 1851-1978
   B. The move of the library collections to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries in 1978: why and how this happened
   C. The AGS Library in Milwaukee, 1978-present: description of facilities, highlights of the library

II. Activities in the AGS Library: what has been going on since the move to Milwaukee?
   A. Acquisitions: the Library has continued to grow, it is not a museum!
      1. New items are added through purchases, gifts, and exchanges.
      2. As a government depository library, the AGS Library receives numerous new maps and other materials from agencies such as the US Geological Survey on an ongoing basis.
      3. Antiquarian as well as current materials are added.
      4. Digital spatial data
   B. Preservation/Restoration
      1. Books
      2. Maps
      3. In-house preservation
   C. Recataloging project: all AGS Library materials are being cataloged to current standards, and are being added to the UWM Library’s online catalog.
   D. GeoDex: a software program developed in-house to organize and keep track of large map sets, such as topographic maps and nautical charts.
   E. Reproduction facilities: photocopying, photography, scanning, plotting
   F. Publications
   G. Outreach activities
      1. Holzheimer “Maps and America” annual lecture series
      2. “Academic Adventurers” lecture series
      3. Map Society of Wisconsin
      4. Tours, lectures, class presentations
      5. Exhibits
         a. Changing exhibits in the AGS Library
         b. Online exhibits: Afghanistan, digital maps, transportation around the world, world cities

III. Materials of special interest to genealogists
   A. Gazetteers, both historical and modern
   B. Maps
      1. Small scale – shows large, general area (Europe, Austrian Empire, etc.) with small amount of detail
      2. Large scale – shows small, specific area with large amount of detail (enough to see individual towns, villages identified by name)
3. Maps showing same area at different time periods: changes in political/administrative boundaries, changes in place names, changes in transportation networks, etc.
4. City plans for most major US and world cities, from various time periods

C. Atlases
   1. Covering particular countries, regions, cities, or topics
   2. Historical atlases
   3. County atlases and plat books for many areas of the US, dating from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries
   4. Fire insurance atlases of US urban areas

D. Specialized reference works

IV. Services offered to genealogical researchers
   A. In-person reference assistance
   B. Inquiries via phone, letter, e-mail
   C. Service charges

Contact information:
AGS Library
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Libraries
PO Box 399
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-229-6282
Toll-free: 800-558-8993
Fax: 414-229-4380
E-mail: agsl@uwm.edu
Web page: http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/AGSL/
“Strč prst skrz krk. “

Though you are not very likely to find a sentence like this in your genealogical research, this is a good way to show that lack of vowels does not make a language impossible (until you try to pronounce it). What you will find are many words with consonant clusters, diacritical marks, such as „pokřtěný“, římskokatolický“, „hrnčíř“, or „pohřben“, words that will look familiar but have different endings. To make all this less overwhelming, in the first part of the presentation we will look at how throughout the language historical development these clusters and diacritical marks were implemented to shorten and simplify its spelling. The greatest challenge of the language is its grammar. However, for your research there are only a few rules that are worth familiarizing with in order to recognize certain word forms in the documents, for example adjectives, which end in a long vowel, marked by „čárka“, or a stress mark. As expressions in genealogical documents are not written in their basic forms, being aware of some very basic phenomena of the Czech language structure will be helpful in getting the best idea of the records.

There is no doubt that the greatest challenge for genealogical researchers is the vocabulary, mostly related to family relationships, occupations, social status, dates, and addresses. In the second part of the presentation a selected vocabulary list will be addressed and discussed. Several particulars can make this step of your research more challenging. First it is the fact that many occupation phenomena from previous centuries do not have English counterparts as they do not appear in American society, therefore it may be difficult to know what exactly your ancestors did for a living. Furthermore, some of the current spelling may differ from the ancient forms, which were often Germanized, Latinized, or even misspelled. Finally, what needs to be taken into account is that many houses have since been renumbered.

One easy step forward in „cracking down“ genealogical documents is being familiar with their standard format and organization, male vs. female last names, and the use of abbreviations. Even without any knowledge of Czech it is possible to distinguish information about a female from that of a male simply by looking at the last name ending (however, the documentation of maiden names breaks this rule). And if no last name is given, it can be assumed this is the wife and shares her husband’s last name. Another tradition, which to some degree is still carried on particularly in small villages and can be observed from some marriage documents, is that marriages usually took place in the village of the bride’s residence, which may be the only place recorded. This is just an example showing that genealogical documents carry not only factual information, but are also a small window into the Czech tradition.

This presentation will likely leave you with many questions that will be answered at the end. However, the hope is that this will help you discover the beauty of the Czech language and make the adventure in ancestral research more enjoyable!
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A. grew up in Duquesne, Pennsylvania. She is the author of several books including: Three Slovak Women, Baba’s Kitchen: Slovak & Rusyn Family Recipes & Traditions, Finding Your Slovak Ancestors, Pittsburgh’s Immigrants, and Slovak Pittsburgh, as well as numerous magazine articles. Lisa serves on the Board of Directors for CGSI. She teaches online genealogy courses and is a frequently invited speaker for national conferences, genealogical and historical societies. Lisa can be reached through her website: <www.lisaalzo.com>.

Thomas J. Archdeacon is professor of history at the University of Wisconsin Madison. He has taught there since 1972 and served as department chair between 1998 and 2001. He came to Wisconsin from the U.S. Military Academy, where he taught as a captain in the Army. Archdeacon earned his B.A. at Fordham and his M.A. and Ph.D. at Columbia. He is the author of books on colonial New York City, American immigration history, and the use of quantitative evidence.

Leo Baca is a fourth generation Czech Texan whose primary interests lie in documenting the arrival of Czech immigrants to America. Leo's other interests include researching Valachian history and the application of genetics to traditional genealogical research. Leo has conducted Czech genealogical research for nearly thirty years. He has published the nine-volume series; Czech Immigration Passenger Lists, Volumes I-IX. From time to time he has published articles and presented seminars on Czech genealogy, history, and genetics. At the present time, he is conducting a genetics study of Czech Americans. He is a member of numerous Czech organizations. He was a founding member of the Czech Heritage Society of Texas and the Texas Czech Genealogical Society. And he is currently serving his second term on the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Board of Directors.

David Benjamin is the Visual Materials Archivist at the Wisconsin Historical Society, a position he has held since 1994. David has a B.A. in Art History and a Masters of Architecture in American Architecture and History, both from the University of Kansas. He also holds a Masters of Library Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. David has been a practicing archivist for over twenty years. At the Historical Society he is responsible for processing and cataloging the Society’s visual materials including photographs, negatives, posters, visual broadsides, moving image materials, and works on paper. David has been teaching workshops on how to organize and care for family and personal photograph collections for the past six years.

John-Leonard Berg is currently the Coordinator of Public Services for the Karrmann Library at the University of Wisconsin - Platteville. He has been at the University for ten years and wears several different hats. Along with coordinating all reference services, John is responsible for information literacy initiatives, outreach to high school students in the tri-state area and distance education liaison. John has procured several grants to support his research interests in 19th Century German-Bohemian immigration and Slovak genealogy. He recently presented his research in Düsseldorf, Germany, and at the 31st Annual Symposium of the Society of German-American Studies in Lawrence, KS. John is active in several genealogical associations and enjoys gardening and ethnic dining.

Lori Bessler has worked at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives since 1988 and has been the Head Librarian of the Microforms Collection since 1992. She is also the Outreach Coordinator for the Library Archives of WHS. Lori has done genealogical research for over 25 years and has lectured within the Midwest about genealogical research.
Joel Blahnik and Anita Smisek OP, established the Czech Music Alliance in 1987. The duo has conducted presentations at various universities, state/national conventions, public/parochial schools, churches and religious institutions across America and in the Czech Republic. Smisek's expertise is as vocalist, keyboard and musical editor in Czechoslovak liturgical and folk music. Blahnik functions as composer, conductor, arranger and brass performer and recently was named "Mr. Czech Music of USA" by the Prague Conservatory. In 1989, they established Alliance Publications, Inc., which now is the 2nd largest publisher of Czechoslovak music in the world.

Helene Baine Cincebeaux, on CGSI Board of Directors, co-founded the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International 20 years ago, is editor of the quarterly "Slovakia", and maintains the Slovak Pride database, listing 25,000 surnames/villages. She co-founded the Moravian Heritage Society 15 years ago and edits "Morava Krasna". Helene organizes Treasures trips to the "old country" taking over 1,500 people and finding living family for 98%. She authored "Treasures of Slovakia" and has exhibited Czech/Slovak folk dress and photographs in 9 countries.

Dee Anna Grimsrud, MLIS, is a reference archivist, specializing in genealogy, at the Wisconsin Historical Society. She has been doing family research since 1971, and has been helping others to find useful resources at WHS since 1996.

James L. Hansen, F.A.S.G, has been since 1974 a reference librarian and genealogical specialist at the Library of the Wisconsin Historical Society, where he assists several thousand researchers a year in their genealogical and historical research. He has taught beginning and advanced genealogical research courses over Wisconsin's Educational Telephone Network. Among his publications are articles on a variety of genealogical topics, a bibliography of territorial Wisconsin newspapers, and a guide to the library in which he works. He is a nationally-known speaker, having lectured on genealogical topics around Wisconsin and at numerous conferences (national, state and local) in the U.S. and Canada. He was the 1994-1995 president of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and in 1995 was named a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. In 2002 he was awarded the Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship at the National Genealogical Society conference in Milwaukee.

Karen Hobbs is an author, lecturer, and independent scholar working as a translator of Imperial Austrian military history and of German-Bohemian history, culture and tradition since 1993. Karen has contributed translations and original articles to periodicals of the GBHS, CGSI, EEGS, and Bukowina Heritage societies. She has been speaker at academic and genealogical conferences in Minnesota, Texas, Nebraska, Illinois, Iowa, Colorado and in Regina, Saskatchewan. Karen has published the book, One Hundred Tales from Sudetenland, and CDs about regional and military research in the successor nations to the Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy. She is currently working on “Tips for Using the LDS Library Catalog”.

John J. Hosmanek’s professional career was completed with the last ten years served as the superintendent of one of the largest school districts in Wisconsin. His education included earning a bachelor degree in history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and masters and doctorate degrees at Marquette University. Twice the Wisconsin State Historical Society has accorded him recognition. He is a past-president of groups as varied as the Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society, Rotary Club, and the Urban League. He recently authored "Kensosha," a history told with the use of vintage postcards. He is currently in his 17th year as the Editor of the Wisconsin Slovak, a quarterly publication for the 800-member Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society.

John Kracha has been a CGSI Board Member for six years. He has served as Chair or Co-chair of the Winter Symposiums held in National City, California, Mesa, Arizona and Orange, California. He has been
researching his family from Southern Bohemia for several years and is reviewing the migration from Bohemia to Croatia. John is President of the Computer Genealogy Society of San Diego and a Past-President of the House of Czech and Slovak Republics of San Diego.

**Edward G. Langer** has worked as a tax lawyer/CPA for over twenty-five years. He is an amateur historian who specializes in German and Czech Emigration from Northeast Bohemia. He served as the President of the German American Heritage Society of Wisconsin, Inc., which designed and financed an exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum dealing with three German-American educators. He is president of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

**Mark Lencho** is currently teaching linguistics and working on his Slovak under the auspices of the US Fulbright Scholar Teacher program at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, Slovakia, where he is living while on a year-long sabbatical from his position as Associate Professor in the Department of Languages and Literatures at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He is a second generation American of Slovak descent.

**Susan Marcinkus**, Producer/Director is Co-Producer of Manifest Films, in Chicago and Los Angeles. Over the last fifteen years she’s worked in Hollywood as director, producer and editor on award winning film and TV projects. Her personal documentary film, *Pictures from the Old Country*, chronicles her quest to uncover the mysteries of her Slovak heritage and identity. It’s had numerous airings on PBS TV and has played at conferences and universities across the U.S. and central Europe. Marcinkus holds a BFA from the University of Wisconsin and an MFA in Film/TV Directing from the American Film Institute, Los Angeles.

**PhDr. Lenka Matušíková**, Archivist, Deputy Head of the First Department (responsible for pre-1848 state and church archival holdings) of the National Archives in Prague, Czech Republic. As the supervisor of the archival holdings relating to the history of the Jewish population in Bohemia and Moravia for 1700-1949, she has a special interest in the history of Jewish communities and historical sources retrieval. Her research interests include also the social and economic world of peasants in early modern Bohemia. She graduated from Charles University (PhD. 1977)

**Ludmila Mikulasova Rao**, native of the Czech Republic, is a graduate of Masaryk University in Brno and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is an English as a Second Language teacher at the UW-Madison and at the Wisconsin English as a Second Language Institute (WESLI) in Madison. For the past few years, Ludmila has taught beginner and intermediate Czech language courses as well as independent reading courses for the Slavic Department at the UW-Madison. On multiple occasions Ludmila has assisted individuals in their search for ancestors through translations of genealogical documents.

**Robert Paulson** is the founder of the German-Bohemian Heritage Society (GBHS). He has done the pioneering research into the history, culture, and immigration of the German-Bohemians, and is co-author of two books: *German-Bohemians, The Quiet Immigrants* (with Vern Rippley); and *Border People: The Böhmisch (German-Bohemians) in America* (with Ken Meter). Mr. Paulson’s most recent book is entitled *Franz Massopust, German-Bohemian Pathfinder and Founder of New Ulm: A Tragic Family Saga*. Paulson has also written several articles for *Nase Rodina* and the German-Bohemian Heritage Society journal, *Heimatbrief*. He has given
presentations for conferences of CGSI, SVU, GBHS, and the Society of German-American Studies (SGAS). Since 1978 he has traveled extensively in the western Czech Republic, and has led several genealogy tours to that region. He is a retired music teacher living in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Misa Plickova and Jiri Kaminek** have been helping friends from the U.S. find their ancestral families in the Czech Republic for the past ten years. While doing this, they came to better understand the problems connected with such an adventure. Since they’ve traveled widely in the U.S. themselves and thus are familiar with the differences between the U.S. and Central Europe, they can draw on their experiences and help American travelers to prepare for their visit to the Czech Republic. Misa Plickova, a graduate of Charles University in Prague, is currently a university lecturer of English at the Czech Technical University in Prague. Jiri Kaminek, a graduate of the Technical University in Brno in the field of cybernetics, has been engaged in the travel business in Europe for the past 15 years.

**Jovanka Ristić** is a Senior Academic Librarian at the American Geographical Society (AGS) Library, a special collection within the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) Libraries. A native of Milwaukee, she has degrees in biology and library science, all from UWM. With over twenty-five years of experience as a reference librarian in the AGS Library, she has a thorough knowledge of its resources, and has made numerous presentations to genealogical groups throughout Wisconsin and northern Illinois, as well as at national conferences.

**William G. Thiel** is an attorney in private practice in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Born in Milwaukee in 1950, he has devoted substantial time and effort to learning about and also teaching and writing about the great immigration of Germans to Wisconsin in the 19th Century. He teaches the subject at UW-Eau Claire and individually and together with his partner, Johannes Strohshank, he has written several books on this topic and looks forward to completing several more in the next few years.
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
of the
CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
October 20, 2007  4:00 PM

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of Officers and Directors
3. Approval of 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Treasurer’s Report
5. Committee Chair Reports
   Membership
   Library
   Sales
   Internet/Website
   Education
   Hospitality
   Volunteers
   Publications
   Publicity
6. History of Slovaks in America
7. Conference Reports
   2008 Seattle Symposium
   2008 Quarterly Meetings
   2009 Conference Preview
8. Tribute to Retiring Officers and Board of Directors
9. Nominating Committee Report
10. Floor Nominations
11. Election of Officers/Directors
12. Old and New Business
13. Adjourn
1. **Call to Order:**
President Gene Aksamit called the 18th annual membership meeting of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International to order at 3:50 P.M.

2. **Introduction of Executive Committee and Directors:**
President Aksamit introduced the Executive Officers and Board of Directors. The Committee Chairs were introduced during the course of the meeting.

3. **Approval of 2005 Annual Meeting Minutes:**
President Aksamit asked for corrections or additions to the minutes for the 2005 annual membership meeting. There were none and a motion was made by Dottie Speidel and seconded by Margie Sobotka to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

4. **Treasurer’s Report:**
Sandy Pavelka made the Treasurer’s report. A comparison of the balance sheets for the year’s ending September 30, 2004 and September 30, 2005 was made. For the year ending September 30, 2005 total liabilities and equity decreased from $373,523.78 to $315,562.57 (15.5% decrease). The net income decreased $44,694.71 from -$14,641.84 in 2005 to -$30,052.87 in 2006. The decrease of total liabilities and equity is primarily due to the Back to the Homeland conference. The decrease in net income is a combination of the Back to the Homeland conference, web site expenses and publication of the Rocenka. A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Dennis Mickesh and seconded by Ginger Simek. Motion carried.

5. **Committee Reports:**
**Membership:** Kathy Jorgenson reported that total membership is 3,059. We currently have members from every state, six Provinces in Canada and six countries.

**Library:** Wayne Sisel reported that the library collection continued to grow in 2006 through donations and purchases of 55 titles. Also included in the collection was the 16-volume Kingdom of Bohemia and 28-volume 1900 Czech Encyclopedia set. Our foreign titles and books continue to be translated by Karleen Shephard.

Work continues on the Cadastral Map project. This project was started after the Back to the Homeland Conference. The conference attendees that visited the National Archive in Prague had the opportunity to purchase cadastral maps of their villages. After returning the attendees were asked to provide copies of the maps to the library for reference.

Ginger Simek continues to handle the research requests, which includes more requests for the Berni Rula and Soupis. The traveling library has been expanded and will be traveling to various regional festivals. Work has begun on a lending library and it will be up and running in 2007. Several members from across the country submitted applications to oversee the lending library and a volunteer from Nebraska was chosen to serve as the Lending Librarian.

**Sales:** Jerry Parupsky reported that he attended nine festivals this year and sales were better this year than last year, $9,300 vs. $7800. Internet sales now account for 50% sales and on average an Internet sale is twice as large as a mail order sale.
**Internet:** Bob Bina reported that additions to the web site have been put on hold due to the necessity of resolving the on-line membership database issues. He reported that in the near future he would be adding more content.

The list of translators, The History of Czechs in America surname index and the winning Slovak essays have been placed on the web. Search statistics show that 80% of searches on the CGSI web site at for surnames. There are currently nine books of membership surname and he is working with a volunteer to get the indexes on-line. Also looking to add to the web site will be a DNA write-up by Leo Baca.

**Education:** Ruth Chovancek reported that it is her job to keep the Executive Committee members informed and aware of the Czech & Slovak events taking place in the Twin Cities area. Particularly when a visiting Czech & Slovak dignitary is coming to speak or visit. We have had several book discussion meetings, musical events and Czech and Slovak movies.

Most of these events are open to the general public, but sometimes we are so busy that we don’t read the newsletters or newspapers that we receive, so Chovancek brings them to the committee’s attention.

Chovancek also tries to arrange language classes when needed. The Sokol group does a good job arranging Czech language classes and Chovancek is helping to arrange some Slovak language classes.

**Hospitality:** Janelle Pavlovec asked for volunteer assistance to man the registration table for future meetings.

**Volunteers:** Dolores Jorgenson called for additional volunteers to assist with each of the committees.

**Publications:** Paul Makousky reported that the themes for future issues of Nase Rodina are: Jewish genealogy in December 2006, Ethnic Minorities in the Czech and Slovak Republics in March 2007, Gazeteers and Maps as Research Tools in June 2007 and Czech and Slovaks of the Pacific Northwest in September 2007.

Makousky reported that Lisa Alzo, the Publications vice-chair will be writing a beginning genealogy column called Genealogy 360 starting in the December Nasa Rodina.

Makousky asked that anyone with ideas for future themes, subjects, or articles contact him. He is currently looking at Canadian Ports of Entry, Gypsies in the Czech Republic and Slovaks in Bridgeport, CT.

**Publicity:** Chuck Romportl reported that he is currently working on a number vehicles for CGSI publicity. They include flyers, articles, press releases, web site, brochure distribution and conference displays to name a few.

Romportl is looking for volunteers who have desktop publishing experience and volunteers to help distribute CGSI information.

Clair Haberman was recognized for his work coordinating and issuing the Pioneer Certificates.

6. **History of Slovaks in America:**
Steve Potach updated the membership on the status of the book. There has been tremendous progress towards completion of the final translation of the History of Slovaks in America during the past year. The final manuscript is being submitted to the Culen family for their review and approval, which should take two-three months to complete. Once finished the manuscript will be delivered to the

7. Conference Reports:
The 2007 Conference will be held October 18 – 20th, 2007 in Madison, WI at the Alliant Energy Center. This site was chosen because it offered fixed costs and therefore lowered the financial risk. The attached hotel will offer attendees a conference rate.

There are three Wisconsin people who are coordinating speakers and entertainment; Ed Langer, Mary Jane Sheridan and Karen Helwig. On the first day attendees will have three options; Lisa Alzo will present a seminar on beginning genealogy, the Wisconsin Historical Society will have a hands-on workshop or tours. On Friday and Saturday there will be three concurrent sessions for a total of 24 presentations. Dr. Lenka Matusikova will present the keynote address.

The 2009 Conference site has been chosen and it will be held in Cleveland, Ohio. Paul Makousky is the conference chair and has already starting contacting sites within Cleveland.

The 2007 quarterly meeting schedule has been set with three meetings:
a. 02/24/07 Slovak in American and Slovak Essay Contest
b. 05/05/07 Czechs in Vienna and Reading German Script
c. 06/23/07 The traveling library to be in Clarkson, NE

8. Tribute to Retiring Officers, Committee Chairs and Board of Directors:
Aksamit reported the retirement of the following:
Board of Director Dave Pavelka - 6 years of service
Library Chair Wayne Sisel - 6 years of service
Volunteer Chair Louise Wessinger – 2 1/2 years of service
Board of Director Jack Smith - 6 years of service

In addition to the tribute to retiring officers, committee chairs and Board of Directors, the Distinguished Service Award was presented to Gene Aksamit for his continued service to CGSI. He was library chair from 1995 – 2000 and as current President from 2001 – 2006. During his tenure as library chair he worked with the Minnesota Genealogical Society to make the CGSI Library collection available on-line through the Mandarin Library Automation database and helped create an exhibition on Czech Emigration to the USA 1848 – 1918 for both the 1999 visit of Czech President Vaclav Havel and the Conference in Lincoln, NE. As President he has built strong working relationships with a number of organizations including the Czech Embassy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Archives.

09. Nominating Committee Report:
The committee of Chuck Romportl, Clair Haberman, Joyce Fagerness, Paul Makousky and Dave Pavelka reported the following slate for the positions open as of January 1, 2007:
President Ginger Simek
Corresponding Secretary Kathy Jorgenson
Library Chair Suzette Steppe
Sales Chair Jerry Parupsky
Board of Directors Gene Aksamit
Chris Miksanik
Lisa Alzo
Mike Prohaska

10. Floor Nominations:
President Aksamit called for nominations from the floor and hearing none he asked for a motion to accept the slate as presented.
11. Election of Officers/Directors:
The motion to accept the full slate was made by Dottie Speidel and seconded by Mark Bigaouette. Motion carried.

13. Old/New Business:
Old Business: None
New Business: None

14. Adjourn:
Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chuck Romportl and seconded by Wayne Sisel. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Submitted December 19, 2006
Suzette Steppe
Recording Secretary
2007 DOOR PRIZE DONORS

American Family Insurance Company, Madison, WI
Berres Brothers Coffee Roasters, Watertown, WI
Bily Clocks Museum/Antonin Dvorak Exhibit, Spillville, IA
Carousel Alpacas, Saukville, WI
City of Fitchburg, WI
Hilton’s Hacienda Alpacas, Sheboygan Falls, WI
Klinke Cleaners, Madison, WI
Lori Knutson, Random Lake, WI
Lenore Resch Creations, Kewauskum, WI
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, IA
Orange Tree Imports, Madison, WI
Penfield Books, Iowa City, IA
Reunions Magazine, Milwaukee, WI
Scrapbook Superstore, Madison, WI
Mary Secor, Kewauskum, WI
Sentry Insurance Company, Stevens Point, WI
U.W.—Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
1. Wisconsin Historical Society
2. Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.
3. Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society
4. German-Bohemian Heritage Society
5. Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
6. Alliance Publications, Inc.
7. Heritage Tours Inc.
8. ABC – Imports
9. European Trading Company
10. Czech Crystal Palace
11. Young Slovakia
12. Michael Cwach (Books, CD’s, DVD’s)
13. Karen Hobbs (Publications)