



Speaker Presentations  
&  
Biographies

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# Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

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# The Slovak National Archives

*PhDr. Eva Vrabcova*

The attention will be on the history of the archives and archival documents, and the possibility of the exploitation of the documents from the Censuses as a resource for a genealogical research.

Archival documents from the 13th Century till the year 1918, especially the documents of the aristocratic families and domains and the personal collections, which arose from the activity of the salient personalities on the economical, cultural, academics or other field are also the invaluable source of information in the area of the genealogical research.

Professional comment will be provided by the deputy of the Department of Old Collections.

*PhDr. Eva Vrabcova* (1947) graduated in 1970 from the Komenius University in Bratislava and is an employee of the Slovak National Archives. In present she is the head of the Department of the new collection, which acquires, preserves and make archival documents from the year 1918 until the year 1968 originating. She attends to the problem of the professional declassifying of the archival documents from the mentioned period, history of the regions and she is author of the history related article.

# The Austrian War Archives in Vienna and its Records pertaining to Personnel

*Christoph Tepperberg*

## 1. The War Archives in Vienna and its relevance for genealogical research:

### 1.1. A short history of the War Archives:

The Vienna War Archives are among the world's most important military archives. The origins of Austrian military archival affairs date back to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century: in 1711, Emperor Joseph I., upon a suggestion by the famous Prince Eugene of Savoye, then president of the Imperial Aulic War Council, appointed for the first time a proper Archivarius to take care of the Council's files. Thus the "Aulic War Council Chancellery's Archive" was established.

But only in 1801, Emperor Francis II., following a request of another famous general and army reformer, Archduke Charles of Austria, founded the actual "Imperial-Royal War Archives" (k. k. Kriegsarchiv). In the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Kriegsarchiv became the central repository for military records, and the center for military historical research of the Habsburg Monarchy.

Today, the Kriegsarchiv has in its custody the archival records of the central military institutions, the territorial authorities, and the armies in the field of the Imperial (&) Royal Armed Forces. Additionally it holds the archives of the Imperial (&) Royal Navy, as well as famous collections of maps, plans, and pictures/photographs. Thus the Kriegsarchiv offers one source for historical and genealogical research, not only of Central and Eastern Europe, but also of most European states as well as many overseas countries. Its holdings amount to some 50 kilometers of files (roughly 30 miles), with more than 650,000 archival units (boxes, bundles, books), some 416,000 maps and plans, as well as about 300,000 pictures.

### 1.2. Doing research at the Kriegsarchiv:

Good command of the German language, including the ability to read old German handwriting (Kurrentschrift) is nearly mandatory when doing research in the Kriegsarchiv. Over 90 percent of the records are in German, the official language of the Imperial (&) Royal military administration.

### 1.3. Sources for genealogical research (Overview):

In all armies at all times, personnel administration was important for the functioning of the military, – and the Habsburg armed forces were no exception. The written records of this are today found primarily in the Vienna Kriegsarchiv, which thus is a prime source for biographical and genealogical research. Practically all families from Central and Eastern Europe were somehow affected by military service of one or more of their members.

Basically, two main types of files are to be taken into account:

- Documents of the military administration and commands, and
- Personnel records.

## 2. Sources for genealogical research (Detailed Listing):

### 2. 1. Documents of the military administration and commands

For the time prior to 1740, the records of the various military administrations and commands are the only sources available at all for genealogical research in the Kriegsarchiv. They do not contain actual

personnel files, but rather information pertaining to certain “events”, such as advancements, promotions, decorations, marriages, retirements, court martials and other punishments, and deaths. In general, chances are considerably better to find information about officers and military officials rather than about other ranks.

2.1.1. The files of the Aulic War Council (k. k. Hofkriegsrat)

Period covered: 1557-1848.

2.1.2. The files of the Ministry of War (k.[u.]k. (Reichs-) Kriegsministerium; Militaer-Liquidierungsamt, after 1918)

Period covered: 1849-1918/1931.

2. 2. Personnel records, and records pertaining to personnel (Personalakten & personenbezogene Akten)  
Actual personnel files only start in 1740, although some regimental church registers going back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The personnel files after 1740 are an excellent source for genealogical, biographical, social history, and demographical research. As in most armies, there are significant differences in the coverage of officers and other ranks.

2.2.1. Sources for military personnel of all ranks:

2.2.1.1. Musterlisten and Standestabellen (muster rolls = roll call records, and personnel rosters)

Period covered: 1740-1820 (years of birth ca. 1720 - ca. 1800).

2.2.1.2. Grundbuecher, Grundbuchsblaetter (Basic service sheets)

Period covered: 1820-1918 (years of birth ca. 1790 - 1900):

Among others, the service sheets for soldiers from Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia – age classes 1790-1864.

2.2.1.3. Militaermatriken = Tauf-, Trauungs- und Sterbebuecher (military metric books = military parish registers = baptism, marriage, and death records)

Period covered: 1633 - 1918/1938

2.2.1.4. Krankenvormerkblaetter der Militaerspitaeler (hospital files)

Period covered: 1914-1918 (years of birth 1865 - 1900).

2.2.1.5. Kriegsverluste des Weltkrieges (war casualties = wartime losses) 1914-1918

Period covered: 1914-1918 (years of birth 1865 - 1900).

2.2.1.6. Verlustlisten der Truppenkoerper (Casualty lists by units = unit lists of wartime losses)

Period covered: 1914-1918 (years of birth 1865 - 1900).

2.2.1.7. Kriegsgraeberakten (War graves documents = burial records) 1914-1918

Period covered: 1914-1918 (years of birth 1865 - 1900).

2.2.1.8. Belohnungsakten des Weltkrieges (Wartime decorations) 1914-1918

Period covered: 1914-1918/1958 (years of birth 1865 - 1900).

2.2.1.9. Militaergerichtsarchiv (Military judicial records = court-martial files)

Period covered: 1790-1920

2.2.1.10. Evidenz der Unteroffizierszertifikate (NCO certificates)

Period covered: 1872-1918 (years of birth 1828-1893).

#### 2.2.2. Sources for commissioned officers and military officials:

Unlike for the other ranks, the – comparatively small – group of commissioned officers, and officials is well and much more completely represented among the Archives' holdings:

##### 2.2.2.1. Conduitelisten und Individualbeschreibungen

(Conduct-evaluations, and personnel reports).

Period covered: 1823-1869 (years of birth ca. 1790 - ca. 1845).

##### 2.2.2.2. Qualifikationslisten (Qualification-evaluations)

Period covered: 1869-1918 (years of birth ca. 1820 - ca. 1900).

##### 2.2.2.3. Nachlaesse, Donationen, Depots (Personal papers = personal collections, donations, and deposits)

Period covered: 1618 to present

##### 2.2.2.4. Reserveoffiziersschulen (Reserve Officers' Schools)

Period covered: 1914-1918.

##### 2.2.2.5. Other record groups of interest (...)

### 3. Using the Archives:

Most of the records kept in the Kriegsarchiv are opened to the public. Foreigners basically have the same access as Austrian nationals, with a "reciprocity clause" (i.e., if certain restrictions apply to Austrians in a particular country, these will be applied to persons from this country in Austrian archives, too).

According to the User Regulation of the Austrian State Archives, which came into force on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, fees are required for using the records in our research room: for a five-days-ticket 7.00 Euros, for a 20-days ticket 15.00 Euros, for a one-year-ticket 30.00 Euros.

For further details, please turn to the website of the Austrian State Archives:

<http://www.oesta.gv.at/deudiv/benuetz.htm>

#### 3.1. Visiting the Archives:

The Archives is located in the "Central Archives Building" of the Austrian State Archives in Erdberg in Vienna's 3<sup>rd</sup> district, just opposite the station ("Erdberg") of the U3 underground line: A-1030 Wien, Nottendorfer Gasse 2. No special permit is required to use the Archives.

The common research room of the Austrian State Archives is open from 9am to 5pm on Monday and Thursday, 9am to 6pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 9am to 1pm on Friday. The reading room of the Austrian State Archives' library usually is open from 9am to 1pm, but on Wednesday from 1pm to 6pm.

A printed inventory (Inventar), and finding aids concerning the various record groups of the Kriegsarchiv are also available in the research room. Initial information will be given there or by the archives' directorate.

#### 3.2. Written inquiries:

If not too time-consuming, written inquiries will be answered in due course by archives' advisors without charge. According to the User Regulation of the Austrian State Archives, fees are required for research work. The fee amounts to 28.00 Euros per half-hour, the first half-hour being free of charge. Against payment, also copies from documents can be ordered.

### 3.3. Professional researchers:

If you are not able to visit the archives yourself, but wish to have research undertaken for you, some private persons or institutions have in the past provided research services. While the archives cannot vouch for their reliability, so far experiences have been quite satisfactory. Potential customers are to be aware, however, that genealogical research usually is quite time-consuming, and should clarify maximum expenses in advance.

### 4. Relevant publications (Outline):

- Egger, Rainer: The Kriegsarchiv, in: Austrian History Yearbook 6/7, Wien 1970/71.
- Tepperberg, Christoph: The Austrian War Archives in Vienna (Kriegsarchiv Wien) and its Records pertaining to Personnel, in: East European Genealogist, Winnipeg, Vol. 8, No 4, Summer 2000.

### 5. Sources for genealogical research in other archives, and institutions (...)

#### 5.1. The provinces of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (...)

#### 5.2. The “successor states” of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy

Under the peace treaties of 1919, archival records pertaining to areas outside the new Austrian Republic had to remain in, or to be transferred to the “successor states” (Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia) as well as Italy and Romania for regions now belonging to these countries. (In addition, with Hungary special arrangements were reached because the close interrelation made a division of the records impossible). Therefore, with few exceptions, personnel documents for soldiers – with years of birth 1865-1900 – from regions outside the present Austrian Republic are to be found in relevant archives there (in the “successor states”), although most of these files is considered lost.

#### 5.3. Possible points of contact in the “succeesor states”

The Czech Historical Military Archives in Prague (Vojenský Historický Archiv, Sokolovská 136, CZ-186 00 Praha 8 - Karlín), noe a division of the Vojenský Ustředny Archiv, hold service sheets for soldiers from Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, mainly for the years of birth 1865-1886. Although the majority of documents for soldiers born between 1887 and 1900 were destroyed, some officers’ files and files of some important persons were preserved. See <http://www.genea.cz/vojaci/vha.htm> In addition the VHA Praha holds an important fonds of Austro-Hungarian military parish registers.

5.4. Additional points of contact: <http://www.archivschule.de/content/59.html>

5.5. Further Hints for genealogical research: <http://www.familysearch.org/>

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*Christoph Tepperberg* was born in 1952 in Oberschützen/Burgenland/Austria, a small village famous for its schools since 1845. After finishing high school he completed military service in the Austrian army. He completed the 54<sup>th</sup> course at the „Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung” in Vienna, Austria’s renowned training school for archivists, with a degree as Master of Advanced Studies (MAS). He obtained his PhD in History at Vienna University in 1978 and worked for the Hebrew University Jerusalem on the research project „Germania Judaica“. In 1979, Dr. Tepperberg embarked upon a career as an archivist at the Austrian State Archives in Vienna, where he was responsible for the personal records of the Austro-Hungarian armed forces and for issues of automatic data processing. In 2001 he was promoted director of the Austrian War Archives.

Dr. Tepperberg is married and the father of two children

# The People of Slovakia and Their Identity

*Vladimir Bohinc*

In the course of my genealogical work in Slovakia I soon began to realize, that the term Slovak not necessarily means an ethnic Slovak. Slovak nation was the last to become acknowledged and accepted as such. The last attempt to negate its originality was the attempt to create a “Czechoslovak nation”.

If we do not take into account the Kingdom of Samo (623-658), who was a french merchant and thus could not represent the statehood of the Slavs, and the State of Velka Morava (833-895), the people of Slovakia were always subjects of some foreign rule.

They also never ruled over any other nation either and were the last to form their own State.

Although it is believed that the Slovak language was “born” 1000 years ago, it was the last of national languages in this Region to be allowed at the University. Also the term Slovak is rather new. It began to emerge in 19<sup>th</sup> century. In any case, the Slovak language appears to be the most common denominator of the people, which were designated as Slovaks. However, there are ethnic minorities, who do have their own languages and are Slovak only by citizenship. For me, as a Slovene, Slovak language is a priceless source of archaic Slavic words and terms, which often explain some very old words in some Slovenian dialects.

What began to attract my curiosity was the appearance of various surnames, of which I could not imagine that they were all Slovak. I began to collect more information about this and came to conclusion, that due to all kinds of migrations, be it small or large, in past centuries people of very many Ethnicities either settled here or left their traces in form of descendants. At this moment I can count 14 of them. I did not take into account the Turks and Tatars and other invaders.

Since this subject is not my main area of activity, the study is far from complete and I am not sure, whether I will ever be able to finish it. However, I believe the information which I am about to present will be interesting for many of you.

In continuation I will shortly present some details about each of following Ethnicities, their history and role in the Slovak past:

1. Ancient or Proto Slovaks
2. Hungarians
3. Germans
4. Jews
5. Serbs
6. Croats
7. Slovenes
8. Rusyns/Ukrainians
9. Valachians
10. Roma
11. Poles
12. Czech
13. Swiss
14. Greek
15. Italian, French and English

*Vladimir Bohinc* - I am of Slovene origin, born 1946. My formal education is Mechanical engineering High school with additional education in Foreign Trade, Sales and Marketing. I spent almost 30 years in Foreign trade (West to Eastern Europe) in managerial positions. 16 years thereof I was situated in Vienna and traveling Eastern European countries very extensively. In the course of my career I held numerous lectures and presentations. However, none of them were oriented on History/Genealogy. These were my hobbies then. I held one presentation at the Slovene Genealogical Society in Ljubljana, Slovenia, about the work of a professional genealogist. I conduct genealogical and similar researches already for the sixth year.

I speak English, German, Slovak (understand Czech), Polish and Russian, languages of ex Yugoslavia and am a bit less fluent in Italian, but also a bit of French and Spanish. I can provide no reference, which would confirm my capacity in the selected theme, but feel very confident to be able to deliver a very interesting presentation.

# Family Forms in Slovakia

*Marta Botíková*

The word "family" is very rich in meanings. It means stability, security, love, warmth and other emotional concepts, but in the same time "family" could be defined as a small social group based on the relations between parents and their children - the principal members of the group. This group undergoes permanent changes within itself as well as within historical processes.

In my paper I am going to explain the historically changing family forms in Slovakia in comparison with the families in other countries of the Central European region, especially Czech lands. There is no general "Slovak" characteristic for family. The distinguishing features depend on the region, on the historical circumstances, social strata the family comes from and last but not least - the individual story/destiny of the family and its members.

For better understanding of the family forms (structures) I shall explain relations between the concepts of family, household and marriage.

Patrilocal residency of the newly wed couple used to prevail in Slovakia as a result of patrilinear relations, which were applied in transferring possession. The land, the house, the yard were inherited by sons only, even after a law was passed which equalized women and men concerning their right towards family possession(1840). Inherited land was divided among the brothers when their father died, or when he was too old and weak to rule/organize the family. As a consequence of those traditions a complex/joint family form was prevailing in Slovakia during 19/beginning of 20 century. It was not the only possible solution of family structure and relations - the research material proves that also small/nuclear families lived parallel with complex families in the same village and region in the same time. Birth control as an important social phenomenon with strong consequences on lifestyle occurred in certain regions of Slovakia in the first third of the 20century.

There were differences in between peasant and craftsmen, urban families. The cohabitation of the generations was also very important. We should not forget that the family life and changes of it were caused not only within the historical development but also within the family time, in the birth-marriage-death cycle.

My presentation is based mostly on the material collected by ethnographic research (oral sources). Old photographs are going to be shown as a part of the presentation.

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*Marta Botiková* Associate Professor PhD., CSc. (\*29.10.1955 in Bratislava), since 2003 head of the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at Comenius University Bratislava. Her main research topics and teaching activities concerns ethnic differences in everyday culture, ethnic minorities (in Slovakia and Slovaks abroad), family studies (recent and historical topics), gender studies. She took part in several international research and teaching scholarships, among others in 1995/96 as a visiting Fulbright scholar in Olympia, WA. Also lectured in other universities in USA (Pittsburgh, Seattle, Pullman, Bellingham) as well as in Europe (Kraków, Prague, Budapest, Ljubljana, Cambridge).

She is married to Jan Botik and they have two daughters, Zuzana (\*1989) and Daniela (\*1991).

# The Regional State Archives in Prague and Genealogy

*Jiří Vichta*

The Regional State Archives in Prague (*Státní oblastní archiv v Praze*) is one of seven regional archives in the Czech Republic. Its competence is determined by the Central Bohemian Region and partly includes the city of Prague. It administers a total of 30 kilometres of archival documents, the oldest one dating 1166. Having moved in 2001 to a brand new, modern building in Prague - Chodovec, where the seat of the National Archives (*Národní archiv*) is also located, the conditions have significantly improved for researchers, staff and namely for the archival documents as such. Following public service reorganising in 2002, the Regional State Archives in Prague became an administrative body managed directly by the Ministry of Interior. 12 Central Bohemian District State Archives were incorporated and have become internal organizational units.

## Genealogical sources in the Regional State Archives in Prague

The Regional State Archives in Prague is one of the most sought-after Czech archives in terms of genealogical interest. Each year, several hundreds people and institutions contact it with a written request for genealogical information, a substantial number of these requests coming from abroad. The total number of research visits to the Archives study room amounts to 7000 a year, many of these visitors coming from outside of the Czech Republic. The main reason being there are kept about 10 thousand parish registers (of births, marriages and deaths), these being the most important and requested genealogical source. Every person whose ancestors come from Central Bohemia can find in these registers basic relevant data about them. The only exception being Jewish ancestors since Jewish registers coming from all of the Czech Republic territory are kept in the 1st department of the National Archives in Prague. It is equally important to point out that Prague parish registers are kept in the Prague City Archives (*Archiv hlavního města Prahy*). The registers are of enormous historical importance and entries can be found therein, among other things, pertaining to important figures (e.g. birth of the composer Antonín Dvořák, Chicago the mayor Antonín Čermák or the marriage of the composer Bedřich Smetana).

The collection of parish registers is preserved in a very good condition, which is why in most cases, ancestors can be traced back as far as to the 17th century when the registers were globally introduced at parishes. The oldest Central Bohemian register coming from Kutná Hora was established already in 1573. At first, records were often carried out with negligence and it happened that sometimes the priests omitted to enter events. Up to the second half of the 18th century, the records used to be one sentence short and included only the most basic data. In the instance of newborn children, the christening

date used to be entered instead of the date of birth and the mother's maiden name would not be included at all. When researching further back in the past, namely prior to 1800, it is marriage records that are of big importance, where names of fathers of both husband and wife used to be recorded as well as the place of their origin. The marriages were usually concluded in the place where the bride lived. In 1770, the entries form changed significantly, as records division into sections was introduced. From that time onwards, information was also regularly recorded about the occupation and social status of fathers. Important changes in registers maintenance took place in the 1780s. In 1781, registers became public records, Protestant confession was authorised and consequently, Protestant pastors started to keep registers too. However, at the beginning, they kept them only for their personal use and had to report every act to Catholic parish priests in order to record all information in Catholic registers as well. Up to the half of the 19th century, data about persons of Protestant confession may be found in Catholic as well as Protestant registers. At that time, registers records started to have a more informative value. This applied namely to birth records, in the instance whereof, besides the parents names, grandparents names and their places of residence were also recorded. Compared to older registers, a genealogist has a significantly easier task when working with them. From 1870 on, civil registers started to be kept for people without confession. Prior to the birth of Czechoslovakia in 1918, these were only of a very small number. In December 1949, the registers administration was nationalised and after 1952, registers were gradually transferred to state (regional) archives. Under the Records Act, these archives were to store birth registers older than 100 years and marriage and death registers older than 75 years. More recent registers are kept at the so-called registry offices. There are about two hundred of such registry offices in the Central Bohemian Region. Of course, possible overlaps have to be expected from both sides, since individual volumes may include entries from the interval of several decades. However, it can be generally said that the most recent registers kept by regional state archives date back to the beginning of the 20th century.

Maximum technical care is provided to registers, as well as to other archival documents in the Regional State Archives in Prague. The conservation unit staff who is using state-of-the-art methods restores damaged volumes and there also is special equipment installed to disinfect documents attacked by moulds.

#### Studying in the Regional State Archives in Prague

People interested in the research of information about their ancestors in the registers stored in the archives have several options. First, they may visit the archives in person and search for the information they need. The study room is open to public from Monday to Thursday, from 9:00 to 16:00 (Monday and Wednesday till 18:00), there are some 57 seats and no advance booking is required. During the first visit,

after presenting the ID, the researcher fills in a research form, s/he is given an archives aid (inventory) to chose the archival documents s/he wants to study, then, s/he fills in an order form. Registers are presented while one waits, normally once an hour. During one day the researcher is allowed to study 5 registers, however, in justified cases, more registers may be used. Some registers, especially the most ancient ones, are scanned and instead of the original volume, a microfilm is offered. Other archival documents are usually delivered within a three-day delay. The study may of course be only carried out in the study room, but it is also possible to ask for a photocopy, photograph or a microfilm to be made for a fee. A smaller number of free sheets may be copied instantaneously, in other instances, longer delay is to be expected. Orders of a greater number of copies, photographs and microfilms are handed over by the study room staff to our reprographic department. The use of one's own digital camera is allowed and is free of charge, however, the copies must not be used for commercial purposes.

From the financial point of view, studying in the archives represents for the applicants the most efficient option, since the submission of archival materials for study purposes is free of charge (since the beginning of 2005, submission of the registers is also free of charge). On the other hand, a basic level of skill is required in reading obsolete writings and languages, in which these entries used to be kept (Czech, German and Latin).

People who are not in the position to visit our archives in person, namely foreign citizens, can contact one of the many professional genealogists active in the Czech Republic.

#### Making of genealogical research

Individuals can also ask the Archives to carry out genealogical research for them, this facility being paid for (approx. 15 USD for an hour of work). The Regional State Archives in Prague, however, can provide this service only to a limited extent. Because of the high number of interested individuals, small number of archivists and new duties stemming from the new Archives Act, it is not possible to administer applications for detailed and time-consuming genealogic research. Nonetheless, our archivists make efforts to satisfy all the applicants and provide them, if possible, with a positive answer. Unfortunately, it is beyond our means to dispose of the genealogical research application within a period shorter than several months.

When lodging a genealogical research application, it is necessary to list certain data without which it would not be possible to start the research. In addition to the name of the person looked for and an approximate date of birth, possibly the date of marriage or death, it is namely the place where a given event took place. The registers are sectioned according to individual parishes. There used to be some 400 parishes in Central Bohemia and there is no central index. If the place is not known where a person was

coming from, it is not possible to find in the registers any information concerning him/her. An important, however not essential, piece of information is the confession of a given person.

It is a common wish of namely USA citizens to locate their living relatives in the Czech Republic. It needs to be pointed out that in such cases, it is not possible for the archivists to provide a satisfactory result. Registers containing information about living people are kept by individual registry offices and are not publicly accessible. These information can only be requested by a person the record is concerning, or a close relative (descendent, sibling). The search using other sources is further complicated by the stipulations of the Personal Data Protection Act. Our archives is thus not in a position to provide any information about people born around 1900 and later.

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*Jiří Vichta* is 29 years old. He studied archival science and history at the Charles University in Prague, where he graduated in 2001. He has been working in the Regional State Archives since 1997 (full time since 2001). He is an administrator of approximately 10,000 parish registers kept in the Archives and one of his main tasks is making genealogical research. He also cooperates with the Sokol New York organization assisting the Sokol with organizing of their archival collection and library.

# Possibilities for Genealogical Research at the State Regional Archive in Třeboň

*Laděna Plucarová*

The State Regional Archive in Třeboň belongs among the greatest and oldest institutions of its kind in the Czech Republic. It can boast a rich history and traditions. Our origin dates as back as 1602 when the archives of a famous South-Bohemian noble dynasty, the Rožmberks were moved – already sorted out and catalogued - from their original seat in Český Krumlov to Třeboň. The significance of the Archive was further multiplied during the period of the lords of Schwarzenberg (1660-1945). The development of our country after World War II brought nationalization and the Archival Codification Act, resulting into the creation of a large complex, the State Regional Archive in Třeboň, with its branch offices in České Budějovice and Jindřichův Hradec respectively. Finally, with the changes of the state administration, the then State County Archives covering the whole of South Bohemia became our independent organizational units in 2002.

The fund of our Archive consists of around 30 miles of archival material in 12,959 collections that include dozens of thousands of files. As a result, the Archive offers rich sources for political, social, economic, military, religious and cultural research of various periods of the history both of the region and the whole country.

Persons engaged particularly in family history can find plentiful possibilities for their research at our Archive, too. And we have been feeling, indeed, the worldwide boom of interest in genealogy since the early 1990's. South Bohemia was one of the regions with very frequent emigration in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Namely persons from the rural areas with not very fertile land were seeking better living, land and job opportunities and their dream country were first of all the United States. Our Archive has been in frequent contacts with many applicants from the U.S.A. who search for their Czech roots.

Let us sum up the most important sources that the State Regional Archive in Třeboň can offer for genealogical research.

a) Church sources

- Parish registers

- They represent the main source of genealogical data, offering the vital information on individuals and the members of his/her family; in addition to the dates of birth/baptism, marriage and/or death of our ancestors, we can learn from them the information on the ancestors' places of origin, their residences, professions, social status, relationship to other members of the family, causes of death, etc.

- We keep the registers from the territory of the South-Bohemian Region as it existed in the 1960's thru 1990's; generally, south Bohemia and a small section of south-west Moravia.

- They are the registers conducted by all the churches working in that territory up until the 1920's: First of all, Roman Catholic parish offices (1587-1925), Evangelical parish offices (1782-1923), and some smaller churches too: The Baptist Church (1860-1908), the Orthodox Church (1923-1925) and the Czechoslovak Church (1920-1926). And finally, the so-called civil registers for agnostic persons (1868-1927).

- Parish register duplicates

They are the second or third copies of the records from the period 1799-1949 and they can substitute the originals that have got accidentally lost or destroyed.

- Additional documents for vital statistics records. Their collection comes from 1727-1949 and contains nuptial proceedings, legitimization records for children born out of wedlock, autopsy reports, etc.

#### b) Sources of economic character

- They provide information on individuals, their properties and their duties. The periods covered by them vary place by place, estate by estate.

- Land registers (in Czech, pozemkové knihy, in some cases, gruntovní, urbární or purkrechtní knihy) contain records on the possession of rustical properties, i.e. both the immovables and movables of subjects. Those records were the basis for inheritance procedures, financial transactions (debts and the like), as well as taxation. For they provide information on the farm owners, their families, their duties and farm equipment, they not only enrich our knowledge of the ancestral families but can even substitute, to a certain degree, vital statistics records for periods that the birth, marriage and death registers are missing for.

- Land and duty registers (in Czech, urbáře) provide information on the number of persons living on an estate (farm, cottage, house) and their feudal duties, such as taxes, contributions, mandatory labor, etc.

- Registers of subjects (in Czech, soupisy poddaných) provide lists of all families subject to their feudal lords, including children.

- Town registers (in Czech, městské knihy) provide lists of town population with their economic and legal status in the community and its administration.

- Cadastres (in Czech, katastry) served as the records of land ownership to determine the amount of

taxes. They were made twice:

- Joseph II Registry (Josefský katastr, 1785-1789).
- Stable Registry (Stabilní katastr, 1826-1879).

c) Sources of sociological character (including law and administration documents)

- They provide information on the position of individuals in the society.
- There is a large number of books and documents from various periods and they can be used as secondary sources to extend and deepen our information after the sources listed above have been exhausted. They include:

- Guild books
- Records of association and clubs
- Village, town, parish and school chronicles
- Manorial administration books
- Church funds – parish archives, cloister archives, etc.
- Lawsuit records
- State administration records (county and regional offices – for example, emigration records)

This paper presents a brief survey of numerous possibilities for every genealogist who visits our archive in person or contacts us by regular mail or electronically. It is an attractive challenge to learn about one's origin and get acquainted with the life ancestors. And it usually is a long time project because every step does not only provide deeper views, it also brings new impulses, discovers interesting consequences, opens further tracks to trace. But even the first steps of genealogical endeavor bring every family historian a good deal of satisfaction. Generations of one's ancestors are not forgotten, one feels that his/her life plays a certain role in the development of the family and it should not be wasted.

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*Dr. Laděna Plucarová* was born in 1967 in Dačice and finished studies in Pedagogická fakulta in České Budějovice. Dr. Plucarová has worked in the State Regional Archives in Trébon since 1991 and in 2005 was named Chief of Administration of the archive collection.

# Genealogical sources from Eastern Bohemia

*Mgr. Milan Novotný*

The State Regional Archives in Zámrsk (Státní oblastní archiv v Zámrsku) and its district archives (státní okresní archivy): Hradec Králové, Chrudim, Jičín, Náchod, Pardubice, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Litomyšl - for district Svitavy, Trutnov, Ústí nad Orlicí

- web - <http://www.vychodoceskearchivy.cz>
- basic information about the study
- research regulations

## ***Genealogical sources in Zámrsk:***

parish registers (matriky)

- registers of baptized/births (pokřtěných/narozených), marriages (oddací), deaths (zemřelých)
- Roman Catholic Church, reformed churches, Czechoslovak Hussite Church; state registers of births, marriages and deaths; no Jewish registers (in National Archives in Prague)
- from 1587 to 1949 from Eastern Bohemia
- about 10.900 books, over 4.100 microfilms

archival groups of manors (archivní fondy velkostatků)

- land registers (pozemkové, gruntovní, purkrechtní knihy) - books of landed ownership - from 16th to 19th century
- land and duties registers (urbáře) - records written by clerks of a landlord listed each holder of land property together with his financial and work duties - from 16th to 18th century
- registers of serfs (soudy poddaných)
- land registry (katastry) - official registers of the quantity, value and ownership of real estate used in apportioning taxes - from half of 17th to half of 19th century

archival groups of regional governments (archivní fondy krajských vlád) 1850 - 1855

- registers of passports (rejstříky vydaných cestovních pasů)

## ***Genealogical sources in district archives:***

archival groups of district offices (archivní fondy okresních úřadů) 1850 - 1945

- registers of passports (rejstříky vydaných cestovních pasů)
- agenda about emigration

archival groups of municipal corporations (archivní fondy měst, obcí) - to 1945

- censuses, registers of inhabitants (sčítání lidu, seznamy obyvatel)

archival groups of parishes (archivní fondy farních úřadů) of the Roman Catholic Church

- registers of parishioners/souls (soupisy farníků/duší)

archival groups of schools (archivní fondy škol)

*Emigration to the USA from Eastern Bohemia and its bibliography*

Mgr. Milan Novotný born 1973. Study:

- 1992 - 1995 Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Law
- 1998 - 2004 Masaryk University in Brno, Faculty of Arts, archival science - history
- from 2004 Masaryk University in Brno, Faculty of Arts, doctoral study of history

employment:

- The State Regional Archives in Zámrsk: 1996 - 1997 civil service, from 2003 archivist, from 2004 chief of department for research room, library, workshops and filing

historical interest:

- region of Litomyšl, 16th - 18th century, recatholization



# History of Silesia and Northern Moravia in 18th and 19th century

*Mgr. Zdenek Kravar*

The administration of the land, Silesiac wars, characteristic of the parts of the land

History of the Zemsky archives at Opava

The history of the archives,

The archives today

Important collections and funds

The collection of church registers

Possibilities of genealogical research at the archives

Interesting records in the registers

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*Mgr. Zdenek Kravar, archivist* was born in 1971 in Opava, graduated at the university at Ostrava in 1995 /German/ and at the Silesiac University at Opava in 2003 /history/, since 1995 employed by Zemsky archives at Opava.

Professional orientation: genealogy, history of Czech Silesia since 1648, history of Sudetenland 1938-1945, edition of records, translation in German

Works published – about archivism in Silesia, genealogy, common life in the past

# How to Recognize Professional Research from Amateur Research

*Jan Pařez*

Is genealogy a scientific discipline or a hobby? What must be included in a comprehensive report based on genealogical research: correct citation of all documents, persons mentioned in parish register entries, different methods of transcription for names, and problems between Czech and other national historical realities.

## Land Books: A Unique Source for Learning about the Everyday Life of Early Czech People

*Jan Pařez*

Land books are the most important complementary source for genealogical research in the Czech lands. Beginning with their history and use, this presentation will emphasize the importance of this source, in particular as a means to extend family histories in the absence of parish registers. Also, their importance in detecting irregular changes of family surnames and understanding everyday life of our ancestors.

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*Jan Pařez* born in 1961, Prague. Graduate of the Charles University, Prague (M.A. 1987; PhD. 2002). Curator of the manuscript collection of the Strahov Library, Prague. His scientific work deals with genealogy (a professional genealogist since 1990), historical geography, the cultural history of the 16th century and diplomacy of 14th to 17th century. Cooperated with Czech, Belgian, French, Dutch TV, participated in a number of home and international conferences and exhibitions. Since 2002 he also teaches Czech history at Central and East European Studies (Charles University).

# Treasures of Folk Art in Bohemia and Moravia.

*Hana Maříková*

The treasury of folk art includes those creative efforts, which came from and were intended for the people, giving rise in us to an artistic experience, and apart from their aesthetic value have still another function. One trend in folk art we call the traditional and it had a magic -symbolic function – living and developing uninfluenced by cultural styles. The second trends is art made folkloric, starting from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century; it drew on impulses from stylistic art and the technical and creative influences of crafts, among some of which the function of representation or pomp predominated. Whereas in traditional folk art the producer and consumer were one and the same person, in folkloric art there was a division between the two.

Characteristic of folk art is its simplicity of composition, abbreviations, a fantasy unconstrained by reality, expressive shape and colour. Often the main motive springs from a detail, suppressing the original subject partially or entirely. Another typical feature is the flatness of spacing, the additive compositional parts or details, which created a new artistic unity and a special poetry.

Traditional folk art goes back to the oldest times, the first traces of folkloric art are from the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries [especially sculptural work], but tangible proof of both groups can be found in large quantities in our country only from the mid – 17<sup>th</sup> century. The term folk art was born the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when folk artifacts began to be collected, evaluated and exhibited. By thinks time most of them had already lost their original function the life of people.

Czech and Moravian folk culture is part of the culture of Central Europe, while the eastern part of our territory was decidedly influenced by Carpathian culture.

Tradition, adherence to certain political and economic entities, religious confession and autarkic conditions in the village created ethnographic areas differing not only in dialect, but also in material expression and spiritual culture [tales, dancier, songs, houses, costumes, etc.].

Some expressions and forms of folk art in our Lands [that is Bohemia and Moravia] reached excellent levels and their products differed quite specifically from those of other nations. These include Easter eggs, striped cotton and linen – and – wool cloth, embroidery [“on paintings”], costumes, stucco – decorated South Bohemian gabled houses, wooden sculpture, carved and painted Nativity scenes, paintings on glass and on paper, cut and shaped glass, and metal-bound prayer books.

Just as among other European countries, creative folk art grew stronger in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the advance of a national awareness and abetted our national revival.

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Hana Marikova, RNDr. (1958) Graduated in 1982 from Charles University, Prague - Major: Preservation of the Natural Environment. Post-graduate studies at Charles University, Prague - Major: Preservation and Creation of Natural Resources in Water Management. Doctorate. Currently employed at the Ministry of Natural Resources

Marikova is a lecturer on activities for education of adults and youth in traditional folk art crafts and a leader of artistic crafts for the Club of People's Creation and the Boys and Girls Scouts. She is a member of, Association of Painters, Easter Egg Painters, and Wire Artists of Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. She publishes and cooperates with museums and special institutions in the Czech Republic (Institute of Peoples Culture, Straznice) and has co-authored educational programs and books, and organized trips to Craft Fairs throughout Europe.

# Census registers and land registers as resources for genealogy

*Martin Pytr*

The main resources for genealogical researching are vital registers. But in the case when vital (birth/wedding/death) registers are not available, it is necessary to look for another resources. Another resources are also possible to use together with the vital registers to better know about life of the ancestors in greater detail. Following resources, both census and land registers, bring to us not only the names of the ancestors or their vital data but also refer about their material and social status backgrounded by the systems and historical events of the previous centuries.

**Census registers** are stored in the District Archives.

Census records were made for each house and was sorted by the numbers of the houses. Information in census records consisted from names of the inhabitants, their dates of birth, religion (confession), native language, occupation, literacy etc. There were written all persons living in the house, not only the family of the householder but also laborers and maids serving in the house or farmstead. Persons belonged to the house but living temporarily in another place (men serving in the army) were mentioned in the records too but were scored out and they were not count to the number of persons living in the house. Census records also mentioned the number and kinds of domestic animals held there, including the number of bee-houses.

First census in Austro-Hungarian monarchy started in 1857, next ones were in 1870, 1890, 1900, 1910 and continued also in Czechoslovakia since 1920 with 10years period.

The oldest census registers are written in German only, the later ones are bilingual or in Czech. Since the 1870s Austro-Hungarian Empire allowed to use languages of their non-German inhabitants also in official documents. Also later Czechoslovakia allowed to non-Czech minorities to use their language there.

**Land registers** are stored in the Regional State Archives. Records described mainly the changes of the holders of farmsteads, houses and other immovables. The records said not only about the succession of farmstead holders by the time but often also about their material relations and duties to the parents and siblings. New holder had to pay to siblings their parts and also to care about the former holders, who were mostly his parents.

In the land registers are also written a lot of interesting facts about the prices of the properties (what were in different numbers and currency, and changed during the times), numbers and kinds of domestic animals and fruit trees hold by the farmstead holder, bout their taxes, debts and heritages, about the

drudgery and another obligations of the peasant to the landlords. Land registers sometimes referred also about destroyed and deserted farmsteads as the consequences of wars or natural disasters. Another interesting fact what the land registers referring about, is problem of the escaping peasants. It happened sometimes that the holder left his farmstead and escaped to another dominium. It was mainly for the debts but sometimes also for too high number of obligation in drudgery or for confessionnal oppression. Land registers are written in Czech and German languages, since the end of the 18th century the records were written in German language also in Czech speaking areas.

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*Martin Pytr*, of Mořkov, Moravia, Czech Republic studied at the Gymnasium in Nový Jičín (1986-1990) and postgradual study of the computing at Economical Academy at Valašské Meziříčí (1990-1992). He worked in District Office in Nový Jičín as a system operator (1994-2000). Since January 2001 Martin has been a genealogical researcher. Most of his projects are done for Czech-Americans with roots in northern Moravia and Silesia. Much of his work is dedicated to the descendents of immigrants from Hodslavice – a Moravian village located 2 km from his home.

# 1918 – The Creation of Czechoslovakia

*Stepanka Magstadtova*

The presentation will start with the historical background of the break of Habsburg Empire, and it will cover the main ideas the Czechs and Slovak leaders had about the future of their countries. It will then discuss the WWI as it relates to the independence movement – the main groups working at home and in exile to achieve independence. The talk will also touch on the changing attitude of the Allies to the independence movements in Central Europe.

Stepanka Korytova-Magstadt, Ph.D.,

- Native of Prague, left in 1978. Settled in United Kingdom, went to University of Southampton.
- Postgraduate studies in Nebraska. Here she got interested in Czech migration to the United States in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Published her dissertation as “To Reap a Bountiful Harvest. Czech Migration Beyond the Mississippi, 1850-1900.”
- She continued with her research looking at other aspect of Czech migration – women, mutual benefit societies, and articles and conference presentations followed.
- Returned to Czechoslovakia in 1993, and now teaches American Studies at Charles University and University of West Bohemia.

# The possibilities of usage archive records of the Olomouc Branch of The Regional archives in Opava to study personal and global emigration and genealogy on the north Moravia

*Jan Štěpán*

The wave of Emigration, which struck the Czech country in the 19th century, was evoked largely by the hunger for freedom and the endeavor to find better living. Probably most of emigrants, who were leaving his one's native country, were directed at the America. From the funds of old country estates, which are on deposit in the Olomouc Branch of The Regional archives in Opava can be used materials, which concern either directly or indirectly of emigration. Generally concern for example about requisitions to issue of passports and their true issue or refusal of them, jural prescripts and public notice collected by the office of old country estates or about economic area condition from which happened more frequently to waves of emigration. For example, in cases of the concrete watched individuals, may be searched in farmholders books and books of deeds for searching of sizes their immovable possession to find out approximate sum of finances, which was available for emigrated family. From materials can be as well find out the rear of family and family properties and social origin of emigrants and in some cases also a direct reason for emigration. At the same time we can find important basic information about families of emigrants in church registers. Generally can be traced up the age structure of families, groundwork of health which was brought along from family to the new one's native country, eventually labor and social rear in families of emigrants.

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*Mgr. Jan Štěpán* Born in Olomouc on 1974. Study at The Department of History of the Philosophical Faculty of Palacký University in Olomouc 1992 – 1997. I work as an archivist at Olomouc branch of the Regional archives of Opava from the year 1997, and from 2001 I am assistant of the leader of the branch. My preferences are on genealogy, heraldry, numismatology and history of the development of Olomouc-bishop courts in the second half of 16th century.

# Czech & Slovak Family Name Sources – A Lesson for Foreign Genealogists

*Miroslav Koudelka*

A) The history of surnames in the Middle Ages: From given names thru personal attributes to the 1780 family names codification

B) Sources of Czech and Slovak family names and their semantic content:

## 1) Christian (first) names

Jan: Jána, Janák, Janalík, Janáček, Janča, Jančík, Janda, Jandák, Jandera, Jandourek, Janeba, Janeček, Janek, Janele, Janeš, Jahn, Janíček, Janík, Janiš, Janko, Jankovec, Jankovič, Janků, Jánoš, Jánošík, Janošík, Janota, Janouch, Janoušek, Janouškovec, Janový, Jansa, Jantalík, Janů, Janza, Janžura, Jašek, Jenčík, Jeníček, Jeník, Jeništa, Ješ, etc.

Altogether there are at least 150 surnames derived from this ancient given name. Its origin: Jan is the Czech form of the Latin name Joannes which was derived from the Hebrew name Jochánán (the meaning of which is "God is mighty").

Similar cases: Martin: Martinák, Martinásek, Martinec, Martínek, Martinka, Martinů, Pavel: Pavelka, Pavlásek, Pavlík, Pavlíček, Pavlů, etc;

## 2) Geographical names

Towns and villages: Makov = Makovský; Střítež = Střítežský, Praha = Pražák;

Foreign countries: Germany = Němec; Poland = Polák; Turkey: Turek; Austria: Rakušan;

## 3) Professions

Smith = Kovář; tailor = Krejčí; tow dealer = Koudelka; shoemaker = Švec; farmer = Sedlák;

## 4) Personal characteristics

Curly = Kučera; happy = Šťastný; talkative = Hovorka; newcomer = Novák; short = Krátký;

## 5) Natural phenomena

Mountain dweller = Horák; cliff = Skála; frost = Mráz; veverka = Squirrel; rose = Růžička;

6) Verbs

Whistle = Hvížd'ala; hurry = Pospíchal; catch = Chytil; cut down = Skácel; buy for expensive = Drahokoupil;

C) Language aspects of family names appearing in genealogical documents:

- 1) Language used for recordkeeping (Latin, German, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian)
- 2) Spelling variations in vital registers and other documents
- 3) Female forms
- 4) Traps of Czech and Slovak endings

D) A survey of most frequent Czech and Slovak family names

*Miroslav "Mirek" Koudelka* (1953) graduated in Teaching Czech and History at Palacky University in Olomouc, Czechia. He has a degree in Teaching History and a higher degree in Czechoslovak History (Komensky University in Bratislava, Slovakia). He studied English, too.

After the political changes in his country, he quit teaching and became a freelance researcher, translator and tour guide. His greatest project was the English translation of Jan Habenicht's *History of Czechs in America* (published by the CGSI). Every year he performs dozens of genealogical research projects and guides several groups or individuals in Czechia. Mirek has written a number of articles on genealogy and history, published both in the United States and Europe. Since 1995, he has almost every year given presentations at genealogical conferences in the US. He presently serves as the Regional Representative of the CGSI for the Czech Republic.

Besides Czech, he is fluent in English and Slovak and understands German, Russian and Latin.