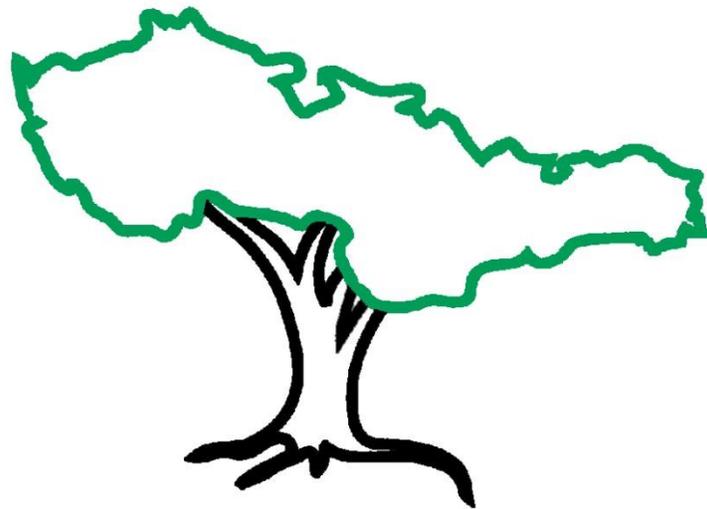# CGSI SYMPOSIUM

LIVE AND VIA WEBINAR

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25, 2014

Minnesota Genealogy Library
1185 Concord St N, South St. Paul, MN
Across the street from Marathon Gas Station

Gaining Historical Context for Your Ancestors
Presented by John Sabol

Who are your ancestors—really? Where did your grandparents or great-grandparents live? What was the neighborhood like then? What is it like now? Who were their friends?

Genealogists sometime refer to this granular research strategy as "putting meat on the bones." The process described in this presentation seeks to add historical context to your ancestors and the places where they may have lived.

Being Czech or Slovak sometimes makes this process easier because of the tendency of our ancestors to never throw anything away. And even the most inconsequential items can have historical value and help you to weave a tale about how they lived.

Where did they live?

Don't confine your search to census data. Get acquainted with the neighborhood and its history, especially if they lived in an area that might be unfamiliar. Google Maps (maps.google.com) is a good place to start, but take some time and visit the neighborhood.

How close by are old storefronts? Where is the church? What is the church like inside? Are their names on any windows or other artifacts? Where did they work? How close is it to their house?

Did they move? How many times? Do some deed research to find out what other property they may have owned.

Where was their church?

If the church is still open, visit the rectory or parish office to determine the accessibility of old records. You might start with sacramental records, but you might also ask about old reports, programs and histories where their names might appear. Even if they don't appear, these items help to give historical context to the community.

If the folks at the neighborhood church are reluctant to help, many church histories can also be found at local libraries and historical societies.

Newspapers

This can be tedious, but the rewards can be great. Be creative in the use of search terms and the rewards can be fascinating. Your local library website may provide access to searchable or browsable newspapers, and on the following Internet sites:

- Ancestry (paid site)—ancestry.com
- National Archives newspaper collection—chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/.
- The University of Pennsylvania Libraries—guides.library.upenn.edu/historicalnewspapersonline
- Google Online Historical Newspapers Website—sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home
- Genealogybank (paid site)— genealogybank.com/gbnk/newspapers/

Artifacts

What did grandma or Aunt Lucy keep in their junk drawers or buffets? Don't let these items go unsearched.

Photographs

It goes without saying that all family photographs should be backed up and then digitized. If parents or grandparents cannot identify people in photos, create a photo roadshow for aunts and uncles.

Be creative in searching

Just because ancestry.com asks you to search for names doesn't mean you have to. Leave the name fields blank and search on keyword for other terms such as a village in Europe. When searching in newspapers, search for an address in the city where the newspaper is published. This opens a whole realm of possible answers.

Hang on to non-Internet material

An African proverb states that "every time an old man or old woman dies, it is as if a library has burnt to the ground." Cling to what they told you when they were living, but always save the things they left behind. Less and less of this material is being retained when people die and more and more of their heritage and history is being lost.

Time Bridge: Rusyns and Slovaks in the 20th Century
Presented by Michal Razus

Culture, lifestyle and work depicted in photography, theater and architecture.

Rusyns represent a small nationality that has been living in the Carpathian Mountains for centuries. However, while not large in numbers they are rich with many talented people and a fascinating culture. Rusyns live in the region that connects Slovakia, Ukraine and Poland. Belonging to the Slavic ethno-linguistic group they are culturally and linguistically very close to the nationalities of the countries they live in. While close, they are not the same. Rusyns have their own language, folklore, traditions and religion.

Just like the Slovaks, the Rusyns also faced political and national pressure and assimilation from Hungarians in late 19th century. They went searching for a better life in foreign countries - especially in the USA where between 1880-1914 around 225,000 Carpathian Rusyns relocated. Until 1918 both nationalities were suffering from political and national pressure and assimilation from Hungarians. In the newly established Czechoslovakia the situation of the Rusyns improved. They gained autonomy in the Sub-Carpathian Rus region. In spite of some better conditions there were more obstacles meeting Rusyns in their journey for a national identity.

Until 1945 most of the Rusyn population was living in the rural areas in the villages with some 500- 800 inhabitants. After the war the process of industrialization of the country began and that had many Rusyns relocating to the towns that offered more working opportunities, along with a Slovak cultural education and environment.

The second half of the 20th century brought several afflictions to the Rusyn population. After the end of WWII the Sub-carpathian Rus was attached to Ukraine and the whole Central and Eastern Europe was covered under the umbrella of totalitarianism. In 1947 approximately 12,000 Rusyns were lured by false propaganda to move from Slovakia to Ukraine.

One of the key points of the communistic ideology was the destruction of religion. Before they attacked the big Roman Catholic Church they wanted to test their power on the Greek Catholic church. In 1950 they started an "Action P" or the "Sobor of Prešov" where they actually outlawed the Greek Catholic church. This caused huge cultural damage especially to Rusyns. As an alternative they were given the Russian Orthodox church that was more connected to Moscow and so easier to control. The church was renewed later in 1968, but until 1989 was languishing, just as the other churches under communism.

Communists also stopped recognizing the Rusyn nationality and started to call them Ukrainians. In 1960, 1970 and 1980 the dams Domaša and Starina were constructed and a military area called Javorina was created resulting in the abandonment of 15 Rusyn villages. One of the few positive things created during the communist rule was the existence of the Ukranian National Theater in Prešov – today Alexander Duchnovič Theatre. It is the only theater in Slovakia that performs in the Rusin language. Another cultural gem is the foklore ensemble PUĽS that was founded in 1955 and is focused on the Rusyn songs, dances and music.

The democratic changes in society after 1989 also brought new opportunities for Rusyns and the resurgence of their culture, language and literature started almost immediately. A crucial role was played by the revival of the church, education and cultural institutions. Important was the restoration of The Greek-Catholic Seminary and the Greek-Catholic Theological Faculty in 1990 in Prešov. Subsequently, church elementary and high schools in several towns were opened.

The Institute of Rusyn language and culture was established in 2008 and its main goal is to prepare the new teachers of the Rusyn language and publish books about the history and Rusyn culture. For five years now, they have organized the **Studium Carpato-Ruthenorum** – International Summer school of Rusyn language and culture. Besides the local instructors, there also are coming guests from the USA and Canada. Recent guests were Professor Dr. Paul Robert Magocsi (University of Toronto) and Associate Professor Dr. Patricia A. Krafcik (The Evergreen State College).

Also active is The Museum of Ruthenian Culture that stores the collections and artifacts of the material culture. There are also several non-governmental organizations that are promoting the language, literature, and national awareness. To mention at least some of them: Rusínska obroda, molody.Rusyny and rusyn.sk.

Many Rusyns did not remain within the Carpathian region. Thousands of them immigrated to the USA where under Democratic conditions they were able to show their talent and prove their qualities. For instance Michael Strank from Jarabina, Slovakia who became a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. He fought at the Battle of Iwo Jima and was one of those that raised the flag there. Unfortunately he was killed soon after that by friendly fire. He was later depicted at the Marine Corps War Memorial.

Another example of the great spirit was Andy Warhol, world famous artist and father of pop-art. However, he was American- born in Pittsburgh. His parents were Rusyns and came from the small village Miková near Medzilaborce. Today there is a gallery and museum dedicated to his life and work including some of his original works.

To illustrate still vital and working connections with the Rusyns in the USA I can mention the tour of the Rusyn folk ensemble Kečera from Jakubany that will be on its first American tour this September.

According to the last Census from 2011 the Rusyn nationality had 33,482 people. Compared to the census in 2001 when it was only 24,201 it is quite a big difference. This difference can be explained especially by a public awareness of coming to realize their identity. Furthermore over 55,000 people indicated the Rusyn language as their mother tongue. In spite of the recent positive statistics, Rusyns are facing a declining population of the traditional villages in northeast Slovakia. Hopefully with the institutions that were restored or founded recently, Rusyns will be able to survive and maintain their culture in the 21st century too.

Guide to Locating Digitized Czech Vital Records
Presented by Kathy Jorgenson, Al Kranz and Suzette Steppe

Finding the Proper Archive

Website address-URL:	Description:
www.familysearch.org	Home page of Family Search where you can view online records
www.mapy.cz	Map site where you can find locations in Czech Republic and Slovakia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Czech_Rep._-_Bohemia,_Moravia_and_Silesia_III_(en).png	Map-Czech Republic (CR) showing old provinces vs "kraje"
actapublica.eu/userdata/matriky_na_internetu_cr.pdf	Map showing archive structure in Czech Republic
matriky.soalitomerice.cz/matriky_lite/	Access point for digital records of the **Litomerice Archive**
vademecum.archives.cz/vademecum	Access point for digital records of the **Opava Archive**
digi.ceskearchivy.cz/DA?lang=en	Access point for digital records of the **Trebon Archive**
vychodoceskearchivy.cz/zamrsk/matriky/	Access point for digital records of **Zamrsk Archive**
http://actapublica.eu/	Site to access records from **Brno**
www.ahmp.cz	**Prague City Archive** site contains archival collections of entities active in the City of Prague, including the vital records.
www.badatelna.cz	Site for accessing **Jewish** records
http://www.portafontium.cz/	Access point for **Plzen Archive**
http://ebadatelna.soapraha.cz	Access point for **Central Bohemian Region**

Specific Example for Okres and Parish

Website address-URL:	Description:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions_of_the_Czech_Republic	Map-CR-13 "kraje" and Praha "hlavni město" in Czech form
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_the_Czech_Republic	Map and table-sample of "okres" (districts) within each "kraj"
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svitavy_District	Wikipedia article on Svitavy District
genteam.at	Felix Gundacker's site on Austrian Empire-info on places to find their parishes and archives
fallingrain.com/world/EZ/a/O/l	Info on places to find kraj and longitude and latitude
familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Czech_Republic_Parish_Finder	FamilySearch-list of CR towns showing their parish and historical judicial district

Locating the Records for Our Example

Website address-URL:	Description:
vychodoceskearchivy.cz/zamrsk/files/2011/11/mapy.pdf	Map-Zamrsk archive-parishes digitized and whether viewed via Zamrsk (orange) or FamilySearch (green)
familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1&region=EUROPE	List of European records available on FamilySearch including Czech and Slovak Republics
familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https%3A//api.family search.org/records/collection/1804263/waypoints	FamilySearch-screen to select the religion to search
familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https%3A%2F%2Fapi.familysearch.org%2Frecords%2Fwaypoint%2FMM5H-KMW%3A1818437372%3Fcc%3D1804263	FamilySearch-screen to select the okres to search
familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https%3A%2F%2Fapi.familysearch.org%2Frecords%2Fwaypoint%2FMM5H-KSK%3An604816833%3Fcc%3D1804263	FamilySearch-screen to select the parish to search
familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https%3A%2F%2Fapi.familysearch.org%2Frecords%2Fwaypoint%2FMM5H-KN5%3A1276041494%3Fcc%3D1804263	FamilySearch-screen displaying parish records for the selected parish

Slovak Archive Overview

Website address-URL:	Description:
vsnet.sk/obce/webformmain.aspx	List of all communities in Slovakia showing the okres and the kraj.
familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https%3A%2F%2Ffamilysearch.org%2Frecords%2Fwaypoint%2FMMT9-FKP%3An29117486%3Fcc%3D1554443	Search for Zborov in Slovak records
familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://www.familysearch.org/searchapi/search/collection/1554443	Example of search function available for indexed records
familysearch.org/search/records/index#count=20&query=%2Bgivenname%3AJosef~%20%2Bsurname%3ASimcso~&collection_id=1554443	Result of search for Janos Simcso
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Slovakia	Map-Slovak Republic (SR)-okres/counties.
minv.sk/swift_data/source/verejna_sprava/pictures/statny_archiv_sr/p19-01-09.jpg	Map SR-state "central" archives and 8 state regional archives including Bratislava mesto (city) archive.
upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/65/Slovak_counties_of_1918.png	Map-SR-counties formed in 1918; do not conform to present structure.
familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/b/b4/Slovak_historical_borders.jpg	Map-SR-counties formed when Slovakia separated from Hungary. Hungarian/Slovak names given.

Other Useful Websites

http://www.cgsi.org/
The CGSI website has a large section on Research including lists of professional researchers and translators.

http://www.suetterlinschrift.de/Englisch/Write_your_name.htm
This site allows you to write words in Suetterlin handwriting ("old German hand") to compare to records.

http://www.omniglot.com/writing/german.htm#suetterlin
This website has examples of different German scripts. In English

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Czech_Republic_Church_Books_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records)
Information on history and how to use Czech records

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Slovakia_Church_and_Synagogue_Books_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records)
Information on history and how to use Slovak records

http://czechgenealogy.blogspot.com/2011/10/guide-to-actapublicaeu-website.html
Excellent site for information on how to do research especially on the ActaPublica site

http://cesarch.cz/old/archweby.php.html
This is the website of the Czech Archive Society and it lists state, regional, district and some independent archives.

http://www.genteam.at/
Site referenced above for finding locations in Austrian Empire. It is useful for comparing names in different languages. Must register to use, but is free.

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List
Latin word lists and helps for genealogists.

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Word_List
German word lists and helps for genealogists.

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Hungary_Genealogical_Word_List
Hungarian word lists and helps for genealogists.

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Czech_Republic_Genealogical_Word_List
Czech word lists and helps for genealogists.

FamilySearch gives the following message:
"We hope to have the Slovak Genealogical Word List available soon. Please keep checking."

http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions_of_the_Czech_Republic
Map-CR-13 "kraje" and Praha "hlavni město" in Czech form

http://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Czech_Republic_Archives_and_Libraries
Map-CR-modern regions and archives

http://www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech/
Website with information for Jewish research in Austria and The Czech Republic

http://www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/
Website for those with Jewish roots in the area known as "Greater Hungary" or pre-Trianon Hungary and covers all those areas that were once predominantly Hungarian-speaking.

http://www.seznam.cz/
Website for locations in Czech Republic and Slovakia which has the map function listed above but where you can often find the link to the official town website.

http://www.kdejsme.cz/
Website where you can search on surnames to find where there are people with that name living at the present time. In Czech

http://digi.nacr.cz/prihlasky2/indexen.php
This is a website with digitized records of the *Applications for Residence Permits in the City of Prague, 1850-1914*. It is in Czech.

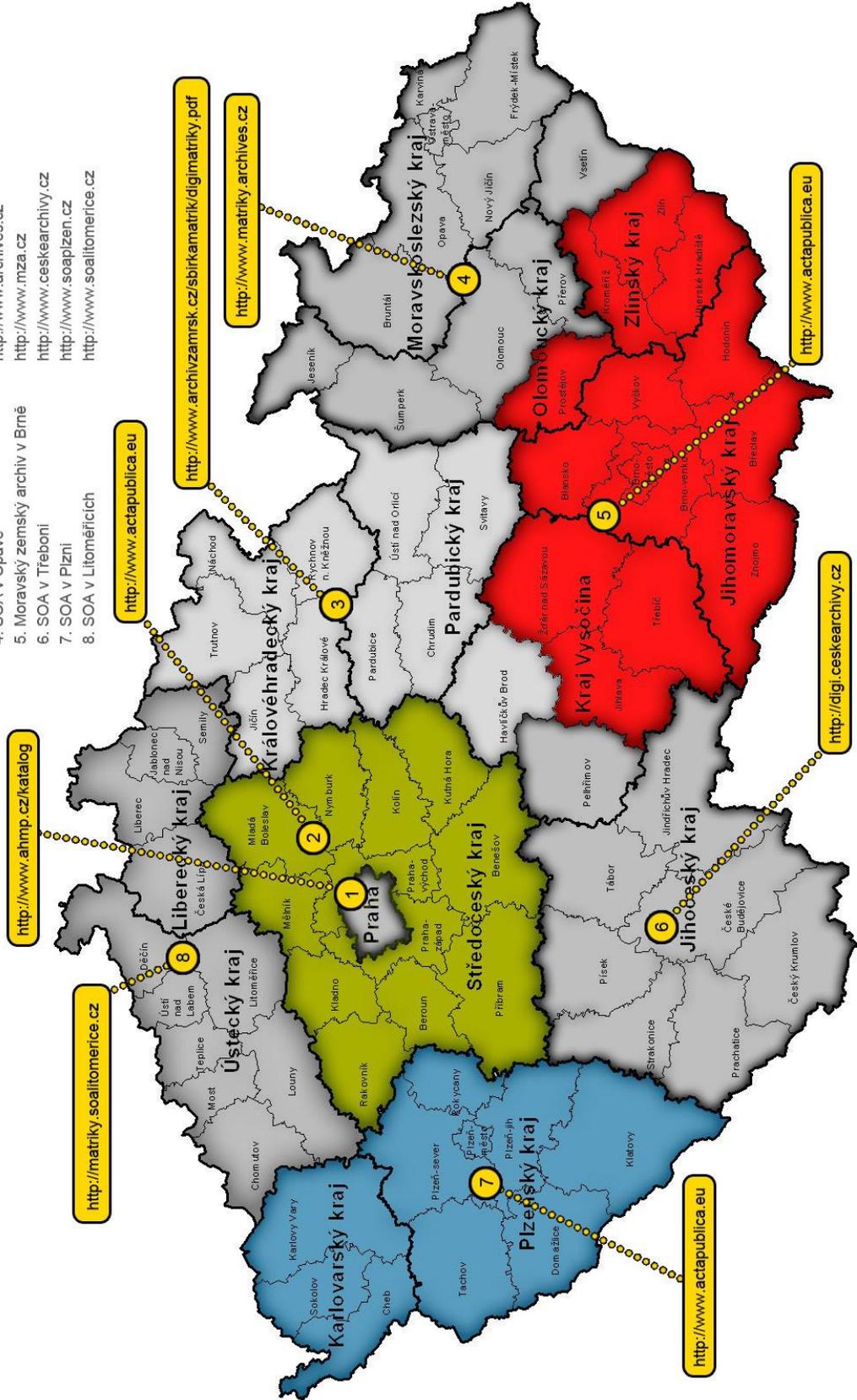http://nahlizenidokn.cuzk.cz/VyberParcelu.aspx
This is a website where you can find the current owners of property in the Czech Republic. It is in Czech.

This is a map from the Actapublica site that shows the areas that are covered by the specific archives. Some of the web addresses are out of date, so please use the information that is given on page one of this handout.

Matriky na Internetu

1. Archiv hlavního města Prahy
2. SOA v Praze
3. SOA v Zámrsku
4. SOA v Opavě
5. Moravský zemský archiv v Brně
6. SOA v Třeboni
7. SOA v Plzni
8. SOA v Litoměřicích

http://www.ahmp.cz
http://www.soapraha.cz
http://www.vychodoceskearchivy.cz
http://www.archives.cz
http://www.mza.cz
http://www.ceskearchivy.cz
http://www.soaplzen.cz
http://www.soalitomerice.cz

http://www.archivzamrsk.cz/sbirkamatrik/digimatriky.pdf

http://www.matriky.archives.cz

http://www.actapublica.eu

http://www.actapublica.eu

http://digi.ceskearchivy.cz

http://www.ahmp.cz/katalog

http://matriky.soalitomerice.cz

http://www.actapublica.eu

Moravskoslezský kraj
Karviná
Ostrava-město
Ostrava-město
Frýdek-Místek
Nový Jičín
Vsetín
Opava
Bruntál
Olomoucký kraj
Olomouc
Přerov
Zlínský kraj
Zlín
Kroměříž
Uherské Hradiště
Prostějov
Vyškov
Hodonín
Jeseník
Šumperk
Blansko
Brno-město
Brno-venkov
Břeclav
Pardubický kraj
Svitavy
Žďár nad Sázavou
Znojmo
Náchod
Ústí nad Orlicí
Jihomoravský kraj
Kraj Vysočina
Trutnov
Rychnov n. Kněžnou
Pardubice
Chrudim
Třebíč
Královéhradecký kraj
Hradec Králové
Havlíčkův Brod
Jihlava
Jičín
Semily
Nymburk
Kolín
Kutná Hora
Jablonec nad Nisou
Mladá Boleslav
Benešov
Pelhřimov
Jindřichův Hradec
Liberec
Praha-východ
Praha
Praha-západ
Tábor
České Budějovice
Liberecký kraj
Česká Lípa
Mělník
Středočeský kraj
Příbram
Kladno
Beroun
Písek
Strakonice
Děčín
Litoměřice
Rakovník
Rokycany
Český Krumlov
Ústecký kraj
Ústí nad Labem
Louny
Plzeň-jih
Plzeň-město
Plzeň-sever
Prachatice
Jihočeský kraj
Teplice
Most
Chomutov
Karlovy Vary
Tachov
Klatovy
Karlovarský kraj
Sokolov
Cheb
Domažlice
Plzeňský kraj

actapublica.eu/userdata/matriky_na_internetu_cr.pdf

The Slovak Struggle for Autonomy
The Century that led to the Cleveland Agreement, 1915
Presented by Rev. Michael Brunovsky, OSB

Presentation Outline

The National Awakening
　　　　-codification of the Slovak Language
　　　　-linguistic developments awakening Slovak identity
　　　　-The *Štúrovci*

Slovak Romanticism

Magyarization

1848 Reforms
　　　　-Demands of the Slovak Nation
　　　　-Slovak National Council
　　　　-Myjava Declaration

Matica Slovenská

The *Ausgleich* of 1867 and renewed Magyarization

The Slovak National Party

Immigration and the Slovak Community
　　　　-Slovak League of America
　　　　-Fraternal, cultural and civic organizations
　　　　-Attention to the European situation
　　　　-The Cleveland Agreement

German-Bohemians, Who are these people? History, Culture and Immigration to the United States
Presented by Wade Olsen

This presentation will cover German-Bohemian history taking a look at who they were and where they lived in Bohemia.

- Outline the history of different cultures living in the region of Bohemia. Now the Czech Republic.
- Profile some of the places and communities they lived throughout Bohemia.
- Detail some of the communities of German-Bohemians who lived in the western edge of the Czech Republic – Homeland to many Czech and German-Bohemians throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois.

In the mid-nineteenth century there were many reasons to leave their homeland and we will discuss some of the main factors in this momentous decision.

- Economic Situation in Europe mid Nineteenth Century
- Family size, Inheritance, Land Holdings
- Military Service Requirements
- Land and jobs available in the United States – Discuss U.S. Immigration Policy and the Industrial Revolution

We will explore the paths they took and outline the places they settled.
- Take a look at the paths they traveled to the New Land
- Describe some of the experiences of these immigrants
- Outline a number of the places these immigrants settled throughout the United States, focusing on the upper Midwest locations

As they traveled to a new land they often followed others from their homeland villages and we will take a look at some of the communities they formed in the United States. As we review these settlements, we will see a trend in groups of people starting a new life in the same places. Finding a link to the homeland is a roadblock for many people. We will take a look at Chain migration and identify opportunities to find clues as to where you ancestor originated.

Interpreting Slovak Birth, Marriage, Death and Census Records
Presented by John Sabol

Doing Slovak vital record searching is becoming increasingly easier and can most times be done without even getting out of your pajamas, if you are so inclined. However, if you don't know your ancestors' village or villages of origin it becomes an exercise in frustration.

The LDS church has made it fairly easy to look up records online without leaving the solitude of your home. And LDS volunteers have indexed many of these lists. If you have one of those surnames that appears in only one place in Slovakia, the task becomes that much easier. But ask yourself: How often does this happen?

If you are searching for records relating to Horvath or Kovač (or Szabo, Sabo or Sabol) and you don't know the village of origin, prepare for many hours in front of a computer screen or microfilm reader.

So, presuming you know the village name, what are you looking for? And what will you find?

I do online Slovak record searching through the LDS Family Search website—familysearch.org. You can click on the Search tab, then click on the world map to select an area (e.g., Europe), then click the country you are seeking from the list. If you want to go directly to Slovakia, use this link— familysearch.org/search/collection/list/?page=1&countryId=1927146

- Select Slovakia, Church and Synagogue Books, 1592-1910, and from the next screen you can either search by name or browse the records.
- If you choose to browse, click on the Browse link and select the religion of the records you want to search. This brings up a list of modern-day Slovak counties.
- Pick the county, which will have the name of a major city that appears to be closest to the village you are searching.
- The next screen will list the villages in that area. If you have made correct choices, the village you are seeking will be on this next list. Click on the village and you can then select the type or types of records you want to view.

Following is what you can expect to find in birth, marriage and death records.

Births

- Dates of birth and baptism (only accurate record of this historical fact—this applies to marriages and deaths also)
- Parents' names
- Whether legitimate or not
- Status, occupation, religion of parents
- Location of the family home
- Godparents' names and possibly occupation
- Other comments (possibly including dates of marriage and/or death)

Marriages

- Date of marriage
- Bride's and groom's names and sometimes parents' names
- Ages (not necessarily accurate)
- Religion
- House number
- Whether single or widowed (always interesting and good to know)
- Name or names of witness(es) and possibly their occupations
- Other comments

Deaths

- Date of death
- Name of deceased
- Spouse's or parents' names
- Age (not necessarily accurate)
- Place of birth
- Cause of death (not in all death records)
- Funeral location and date
- Other comments

Remember that these records—made before 1895—are official civil records. The church was the place where these life events were recorded for the village.

What will you really find?

Records will be in Hungarian or Latin. Slovak did not become the official language in the Slovak part of Czechoslovakia until 1918. Always keep tables of Latin and Hungarian genealogical words and phrases handy, or use Google translate.

Latin words and phrases— genealogy-quest.com/glossary-terms/latin/
Hungarian— feefhs.org/guides/Hungarian-wordlist.pdf
Slovak and Hungarian given names— rootsweb.ancestry.com/~scoconee/names.html

What's my name? Really!

This language barrier causes a great deal of confusion when it comes to determining the proper spelling of a particular surname. You need to know the following:

- There was no written Slovak language until the 1850s. But it was still evolving and its use in small villages would be limited by people's own literacy and the government's efforts to force Magyarization on the people.
- People would tell their names to the priest—possibly in spoken Slovak or some dialect of Slovak. There are as many as 33 historical dialects, most of which are rarely used today.
- The priest would transliterate the spoken information into his own language—mainly Hungarian but possibly German.

When you are recording this information, it is important that you record the names as they appear in the records. To do otherwise would be misleading to others and to yourself.

What all of this means is that you must make these records work for you. These facts obviously stand for themselves, but you need to interpret and see beyond the records to give more meaning to your research.

Don't take the easy way out

You can also use the Search function in familysearch.org to find where specific names may be listed and look at the indexed information and the actual record.

Current chatter on Internet sites and in blogs has turned up a nasty habit practiced by people who don't want to take the time to research records. They will just use information contained in an LDS index as fact without taking a close look at the record itself. Remember many of these index entries may be produced by people who do not have a Slovak or maybe not even a Hungarian background. Names can be read or transcribed incorrectly.

Once you see a name in an index follow through to view the record. At the same time, learn the other names in the village. Otherwise, you could be misled by an index entry. Remember, if a surname looks out of place, investigate.

Census Research

Familysearch.org is gradually putting all of the 1869 Slovak census records online; otherwise, you will have to research at your local LDS Family History Center. This is the best and most comprehensive census to use for research. Moreover the year, 1869, is almost ideal because it does give some context to the families of grandparents who may have been born a few years later.

To see the 1869 records click on familysearch.org/search/, select Slovakia as you would do to research village records and then select Slovakia Census, 1869. These records are unindexed, so you must browse through the census records for a village.

The census for each village is organized according to house number, so if you have an idea where your family lived because of other records you have researched, you can go directly to the record for your family.

This census counted everything from people to livestock, and each entry contains four pages—one for livestock, one for the buildings and two for people. People pages may be repeated if the family size exceeds the amount of space.

The census is generally in Hungarian and possible Rusyn for eastern areas. Some census records for western Slovakia might actually be in Slovak or the Slovak language as it was used in 1869.

The website berecz.us/tutorial/miscdocs/notes.htm gives good guidance as to the terms used.

A TIME OF PASSAGE: HISTORY OF THE CZECHS AND SLOVAKS, 1781 - 1918

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For the Czech and Slovak peoples, the period from 1781 to 1918 was an era of change, turmoil and transformation -- a "time of passage". That same period also witnessed another passage: the emigration of our ancestors from the Old World to the New. As genealogists and family historians, knowledge of the political, social, economic and cultural history of this important time will help us to understand the forces that shaped and influenced our ancestors' lives. The following is a chronology of major events and developments during this period:

CHRONOLOGY

1781   Joseph II issues Patent of Toleration, permitting practice of Protestantism and decreeing religious toleration within the Austrian Empire.

1781-85   Joseph II decrees the near-abolition of serfdom in Czech lands (1781) and Slovakia (1785).

1787   Anton Bernolák publishes book of Slovak grammar, advocates recognition of Slovaks as a distinct Slavic race.

1792   Josef Dobrovský publishes his "History of the Czech Language."

1805   Napoleon defeats Austrian/Russian army at Battle of Austerlitz (Slavkov) in Moravia.

1815   Treaty of Vienna, ending the Napoleonic Wars; Austria emerges as the dominant power in Central Europe under the repressive regime of Count Metternich.

1820s   Industrial revolution begins in Bohemia, with introduction of mechanized, steam- powered textile factories.

1835-39   Josef Jungmann publishes his five-volume Czech Dictionary.

1836   František Palacký publishes first volume of his "History of the Czech Nation."

1839-45   First steam-powered railroads built in Czech lands: Vienna to Brno (1839); Olomouc-Prague (1845).

1844   Ludevít Štúr, Josef Hurban & Michal Hozda proclaim an independent Slovak language.

1846   Karel Havlíček appointed editor of Prague newspaper, becoming a leading voice of Czech nationalism.

1848   Revolution of 1848; Slav Congress convenes in Prague; riots in Prague suppressed by Austrian troops; Slovak rebels issue "Demands of the Slovak Nation" and raise a volunteer army against the Hungarians.

1848   Serfdom and robota obligations abolished throughout Austrian Empire.

1861   Slovak Congress convenes in Turčiansky Svatý Martin, drafts Memorandum to Hungarian government demanding Slovak national rights and an autonomous state.

1862   Sokol movement founded.

1863   Matica Slovenská founded.

1866   Prussians defeat Austrians at the Battle of Königgratz in eastern Bohemia.

1866   Cholera epidemic in Bohemia.

1867   Creation of Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy; Hungarians gain equality with Austrians within Hapsburg Empire and retain control over Slovaks.

1867   Czech peasants permitted to divide their land, increasing the fragmentation of peasant landholdings.

1868   Bohemian and Moravian legislatures, supported by mass popular demonstrations, demand restoration of traditional rights of the Bohemian kingdom.

1873   Crash of financial markets, triggering economic depression in Austro-Hungarian lands; cholera epidemic in Austria-Hungary.

1870s to 1890s Agricultural depression in Bohemia and Moravia.

1874-75   Hungarian government begins aggressive campaign of Magyarization against Slovaks, closes down all Slovak-speaking high schools and Matica Slovenská.

1879   Teaching of Magyar language made compulsory in Slovak schools.

1881-82   Charles University in Prague divided into separate Czech and German institutions.

1883   National Theatre opens in Prague, show-casing music of Smetana, Dvořák and other Czech composers.

1891   The militant Young Czechs become the dominant political party in the Czech lands, pressing nationalist demands in the Austrian parliament.

1892   Martial law declared in Prague after demonstrations by student radicals.

1897   Four days of riots erupt in Prague and other Czech cities after dismissal of pro-Czech Premier Badeni; Austrian troops called in to restore order.

1898   Slovak nationalist newpaper *Hlas* begins publication; Slovak farm laborers stage a harvest strike, suppressed by Hungarian troops.

1899   Wave of popular anti-Semitism accompanies trial of Leopold Hilsner, a Czech Jew, on charges of ritual murder.

1900   Tomáš G. Masaryk becomes leader of Realist political party.

1905   General strike in Prague and widespread demonstrations in Czech provincial towns, demanding universal suffrage for Czechs.

1906   Austrian parliament grants universal male suffrage to Czechs; Slovak nationalist candidates win seats in Hungarian parliament.

1907   Hungarian police massacre Slovak civilians at village of Černová; new laws sharply restrict use of Slovak language in elementary schools.

1914   Outbreak of World War I; thousands of Czech and Slovak soldiers desert the Austrian Army and surrender to Allied Powers.

1916   Czechoslovak National Council established. Masaryk, Beneš and Štefánik work abroad for creation of independent Czechoslovak state.

1917   Czechoslovak Legion military units formed in France, Russia and Italy.

1918   End of World War I; formation of an independent Czechoslovakia.

How to Overcome Brick Walls in Slovak Research

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Tracing our Slovak ancestry can be challenging at times. Sorting out surnames, trying to identify ancestral hometowns, and deciphering old country records to connect families are just a few of the obstacles we often encounter along the way. Through sample case studies, this webinar will demonstrate lesser-utilized research tactics, and discuss repositories and key resources used to locate information about Slovak ancestors.

Overview
- General tips for overcoming brick walls in genealogy research
- Strategies for overcoming the most common pitfalls and problems
- Sample case studies for tracing those hard-to-find Slovak ancestors
- Resources to help with your research

Key Information to Research
- Must learn the immigrant's original name
- Need to obtain specific name of town or village of origin

Common Brick Wall Scenarios
- Failure to exhaust all resources
- Not reading the directions (FAQ, Help, and About sections for online databases/websites)
- Using indexes instead of records (these are usually just finding aids)
- Relying only on the Internet, or Family History Library microfilm
- Narrow research to one line
- Not understanding the time period (you must know how historical, geographical, political changes and laws influence records and cataloging)

Records to Check
- Home and family sources
- Census Records (1790-1940)
- Immigration/Emigration records and Naturalization documents
- Military Enlistment and Pension Records
- Vital Records/Social Security Death Index & SS-5 (new restrictions)
- Cemetery/Funeral Home/Obituaries
- Church Records
- Land/Probate
- Fraternal organization records, newspapers, and miscellaneous/other

"Brick Wall" - The seemingly "unsolvable" research problem.

Wherever we look, we find no answers.

General Tips to Overcome Brick Walls

- Review your previous research
- Have a goal and use all research powers to achieve it
- Keep a research log (record positive <u>and</u> negative results)
- Notice the details
- Keep an open mind
- Collateral and Cluster research: FAN (Friends, Associates, Neighbors) Club (the term was coined by genealogist Elizabeth Shown Mills)
- Don't be afraid to make some educated guesses
- Look for original documents
- Focus on one missing record at a time
- Create a timeline for your ancestor
- Be prepared to spend money (for records, translations, or professional researchers)
- Continuing education
- Step away from the computer (onsite research)
- Practice "Immersion Genealogy" (see http://www.immersiongenealogy.com)
- Embrace technology
- Try something new
- Be realistic
- Network with others
- Leave "Virtual Breadcrumbs" (see below)
- Write out or "mind map" the problem
- Don't give up!

Leaving "Virtual Breadcrumbs"

- Social Networking
- Blogs
- Chats and Hangouts
- DNA Analysis
- Family Websites
- Locality-Based Sites/Maps
- Message Boards and Forums
- Online Family Trees
- Photo Sharing Sites
- Pin Boards
- Cemetery Sites
- Storytelling/Tribute Pages
- Videos
- Wikis

Sample Case Studies

1. Locating missing passenger manifests

2. Following family lore

3. Tracing an elusive "black sheep" ancestor

Key Resources

Major Genealogy Sites/Databases ($ = subscription website)
Ancestry.com http://www.ancestry.com ($)
Castle Garden http://www.castlegarden.org
Ellis Island http://www.ellisisland.org
FamilySearch http://www.familysearch.org; Wiki: http://wiki.familysearch.org
FindMyPast http://www.findmypast.com ($)
Fold3 http://www.fold3.com ($); GenealogyBank http://www.genealogybank.com ($);
Genealogy Articles, Tips & Research Guides http://www.genealogybranches.com;
Mocavo http://www.mocavo.com ($)
MyHeritage http://www.myheritage.com ($)
Online Searchable Death Indexes & Records http://www.deathindexes.com
One-Step Web Pages (Steve Morse) http://www.stevemorse.org
Research Guides http://www.researchguides.net;
RootsWeb http://www.rootsweb.com
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (Click on "History and Genealogy")
http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis

Other Websites for Slovak Research
Cisarik.com http://www.cisarik.com
Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences (SVU) http://www.svu2000.org
Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) http://www.cgsi
FamilySearch Wiki Slovakia https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Slovakia
Hungary Exchange http://www.hungaryexchange.com
It's All Relative http://www.iarelative.com
Our Slovakia http://www.our-Slovakia.com
Radix – Genealogical Research in Hungary http://www.bogardi.com/gen/index.shtml
RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees: Czechs and Slovaks
http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson27.htm#Czechs
RootsWeb Message Boards http://boards.rootsweb.com
Slovakia Genealogy Research Strategies http://www.iabsi.com/gen/public
Slovak Pride Database http://slovakpride.homestead.com

Miscellaneous Websites
Balch Institute (Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
Carpatho-Rusyn Society http://www.carpathorusynsociety.org
Cyndi's List: Eastern Europe. http://www.cyndislist.com/eastern-europe
East European Genealogical Society (EEGS) http://www.eegsociety.org/Home.aspx
Evidence Explained http://www.evidenceexplained.com

Family Search Letter Writing Guide
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/b/bf/LWGCzechSlo.pdf

Find A Grave http://www.findagrave.com

Foundation of East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS) http://www.feefhs.org

Fuzzy Gazetteer http://isodp.hof-university.de/fuzzyg/query

GenealogyLinks.net http://www.genealogylinks.net/europe/index.html

Google Earth http://earth.google.com

Google Translate http://translate.google.com

Immigrant History Research Center (University of Minnesota) http://ww.ihrc.umn.edu

Jewishgen.org http://www.jewishgen.org

Church Record Translations Access via Internet Archive (Wayback Machine)
https://web.archive.org/web/20090518090221/http://www.bmi.net/jjaso/index.html

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library http://www.ncsml.org

Repositories of Primary Sources
http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html

Slovak Archives http://www.civil.gov.sk/archiv/snarchiv/uk.htm

Slovak Institute http://www.slovakinstitute.com

Surname Navigator site http://www.geneaservice.nl/navigator

WorldGenWeb http://www.worldgenweb.org

Professional Researchers (check credentials)

Association of Professional Genealogists in America http://www.apgen.org

Board for Certification of Genealogists http://www.bcgcertification.org

Cyndi's List http://www.CyndisList.com/profess.htm

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International http://www.cgsi.org/base/research.htm

Forums and Social Media Sites

Geneabloggers http://www.geneabloggers.com

Facebook http://www.facebook.com

GenealogyWise http://www.genealogywise.com;

Google Plus http://plus.google.com

Pinterest http://www.pinterest.com

Twitter http://www.twitter.com

RootsWeb http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com

Genealogy.com http://www.genealogy.com

Delphi Forums http://forums.delphiforums.com

Yahoo! http://messages.yahoo.com/yahoo/Family_%26_Home/Genealogy/index.html

Articles, Books, and Courses

"Center of Attention" by Lisa A. Alzo, *Family Tree Magazine*, Aug. 2005

Tracing Eastern European Ancestors, Internet Genealogy Special issue http://www.internet-genealogy.com

Nase rodina (newsletter of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International); Order back issues:

http://www.cgsi.org/publications/article-index

Legacy Family Tree Quick Guides: Slovak Genealogy

http://www.legacyfamilytreestore.com/SearchResults.asp?Cat=71

Finding Your Slovak Ancestors by Lisa A. Alzo. Toronto: Heritage Productions.

http://www.genealogicalstudies.com

Nazvy obci Slovenskej Republiky (Names of Villages, Slovak Republic) Milan Majtan

Course: **Discovering Your Czech & Slovak Roots** at Family Tree University

http://www.familytreeuniversity.com

Course: **Finding Your Slovak Ancestors**, National Institute for Genealogical Studies,

http://www.genealogicalstudies.com

Scrivener for Genealogists QuickSheet by Lisa A. Alzo http://www.lisaalzo.com

Mind Maps for Genealogy, Enhanced Research Planning, Correlation and Analysis by Ron Arons

https://www.ronarons.com

Tools and Apps

Dropbox http://www.dropbox.com

Evernote http://www.evernote.com

Genelines http://progenygenealogy.com/products/timeline-charts.aspx

Google Drive http://drive.google.com

Popplet http://popplet.com

Scapple (Literature and Latte) http://literatureandlatte.com

Scrivener (Literature and Latte) http://literatureandlatte.com