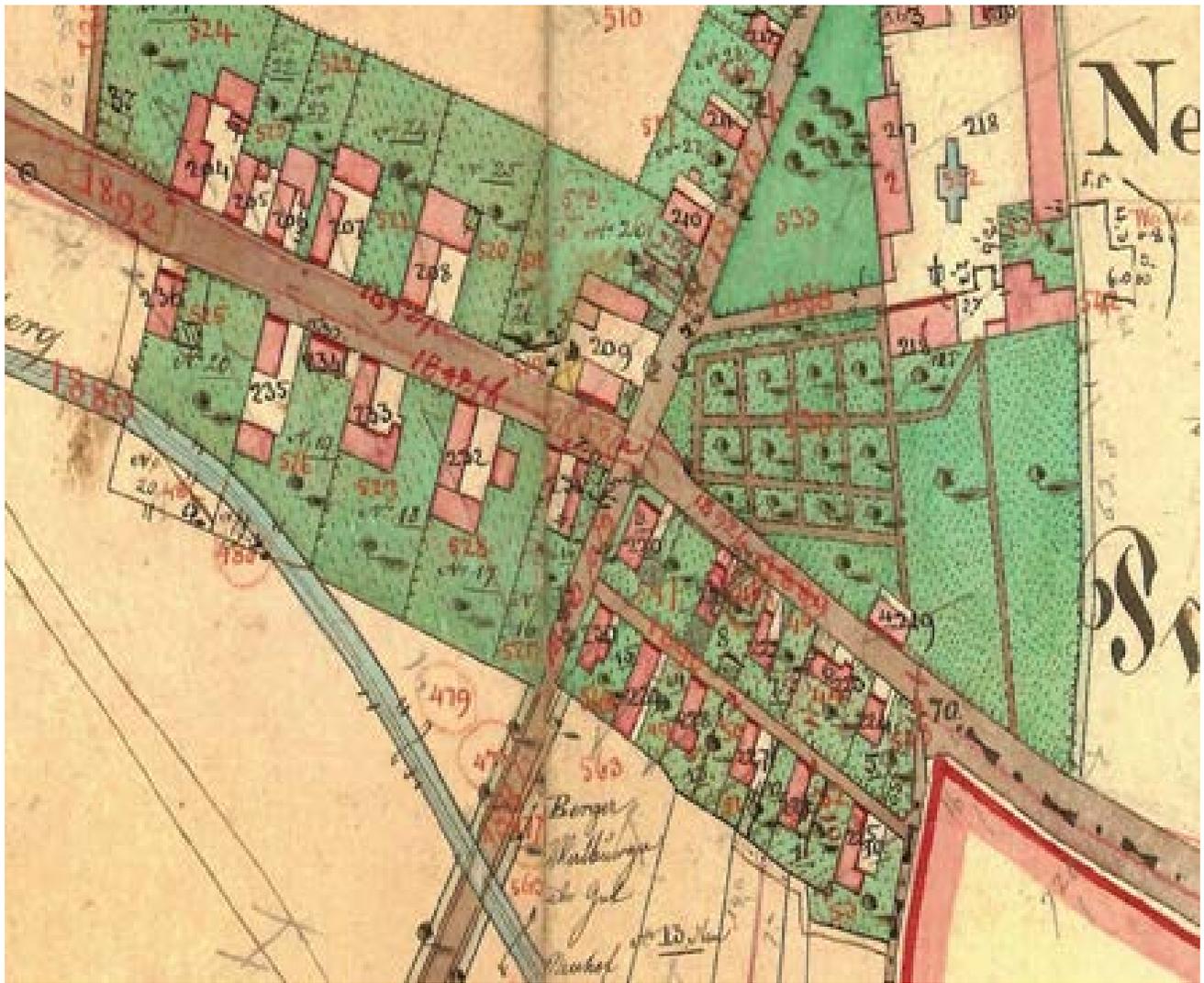


CADASTRAL MAPS
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Another part of your Czech ancestors' history is now being placed online – cadastral maps for all Czech villages. Why should you be interested in these cadastral maps? Because the maps show exactly where your ancestors lived, and identify and locate any land they owned. These very detailed maps show the location of all the houses in the village by number, and the owners' names for each parcel of land in the surrounding area. The maps were prepared in the years 1826 – 43, but most importantly they are now being placed online by the Czech Archives. This article will provide more about the maps and describe how to find the one for your ancestral village online.

WHY WERE CADASTRAL MAPS MADE - It is helpful to understand that three cadasters (land registries) were prepared in the Czech lands between 1654 and 1840. The first one was named the *Berni rula* and was prepared in 1654 shortly after the end of the 30 Years War, in Bohemia only. The *Tereziánský katastr* (Land Registry of Maria Theresa, Empress of the Austrian Empire) was prepared from 1710 – 13 in Bohemia. The last one was named *stabilní katastr* (*Stabile cadaster*) when Bohemia was mapped during the years 1826 – 1843 and Moravia 1824 – 36. The cadaster provided the list of properties and owners that was used to assess taxes. Preparation of cadasters varied throughout the vast Austrian Empire over the years, and did not always involve surveys since some relied on information provided by land owners. Cadastral maps were also not always prepared as part of the land registry in the Austrian Empire until the 19th century, when the *Stabile Cadaster* was prepared. As the name implies, the *Stabile Cadaster* was intended to provide a reliable long-term solution to the basis for land taxation.

WHAT DO THE CADASTRAL MAPS INCLUDE – The maps we are interested in were developed during the *Stabile cadaster*, and in Czech are *indikační skici* (*indication sketches*). These maps were prepared in the scale of 1:2880 for plots of land and 1:1440 within the villages. The *indication sketches* are hand-painted maps that were drawn up for each locality, showing the houses, farmyards, farm buildings, gardens, pastures, fields, streams and woods. The maps are colored with each color representing one of the preceding features; e.g. stone buildings are red, brick buildings are pink, wooden houses are yellow, water is blue, gardens are dark green, meadows are green, fields are brown, roadways are dark brown, and forests are dark grey. A portion of the *indication sketch* for the small village of Pavlov located a few kilometers west of Prague is shown below:



The actual map includes not only the village but the land plots within the surrounding area. Each plot of land is identified by a property number that is written in red on the sketch, and also includes the owner's name and house number. Within the village, as shown above, the house number is written on each house on the sketch. Although the reproduction shown here is not in color, the original is in accordance with the color coding scheme described above.

For an example of the numbering system, the Aksamit home – #16 – is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of the two roads passing through Pavlov. Two buildings are shown; one was the house and the second was a blacksmith shop. The small plot of land – #529 – behind the buildings was the garden. As can also be seen, the house numbers increase in order – #17, #18, etc. – as one moves to the left from the Aksamit property.

WHERE DO YOU FIND THE CADASTRAL MAP FOR YOUR VILLAGE - The maps for Bohemia are stored at the National Archive in Prague and for Moravia in the Moravian Land Archives in Brno. These maps were prepared in the years 1826 – 1843 and through age and usage have become quite fragile. To prevent further damage and to preserve these rare and valuable documents, the archives are digitizing the maps and placing them on a special website, thus continuing access to the maps.

HOW DO YOU FIND YOUR CADASTRAL MAP ONLINE - The cadastral maps are available online at: <http://archivnimapy.cuzk.cz>. Although the website is in the Czech language, and a number of steps are required to finally locate the map of your village, it is not that difficult. For those who wish to view the computer screen for each step of the process, I highly recommend the blog (see source below)

where Blanka Lednická provides an excellent guide to navigating this website. Due to space considerations, I will provide an abbreviated step-by-step approach here without showing the screens:

1. Go to <http://archivnimapy.cuzk.cz>
2. Click on the box labeled *Stabilní katastr*
3. In the drop-down menu in the upper left corner (*Vyhledat*), select *Názvy – Geonames Česká republika*
4. In the *Geonames* box, enter the name of your village and click on *Vyhledat*. You must enter the correct Czech name for the village including the diacritical markings!
5. Click on “i” on the right and then on the map in the general area of your village.
6. Now click on *mapa* in the box located in the upper left corner
7. The next screen shows a number of small maps, click on *skica*
8. You now have the map of interest, and can move it and enlarge it using usual methods for manipulating images.

Maps for some small villages are included within that of a larger nearby town; for example, the map of Pavlov appears within the Unhošt map. So depending on the size of your village, you may need to study the surrounding area to find the map that includes it.

I have found the Google Chrome browser the easiest to work with in locating maps on the above website. Mozilla Firefox also worked, but I did have some problems using Internet Explorer; although that may be due to some settings on my computer.

The cadastral map makes a great addition to your family history - I encourage you to become familiar with the map for your village (s). These maps have even become prized possessions of persons I know who have them!

Sources:

1. *Old Cadastral Maps*, Dr. Milan Coupek, Naše rodina, Winter 1992
2. *The Cadastral Map in the Service of the State: A History of Property Mapping*, Roger J.P. Kain and Elizabeth Baigent, University of Chicago Press, 1992
3. <http://czechgenealogy.nase-koreny.cz/>, Blanka Lednická