

Naše rodina

“Our Family”

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for its religious structure, although significant changes were common in past, e. g. Reformation, Counter-reformation, the Union of Orthodox Church with Rome. The inhabitants therefore included Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics, Lutherans, Calvin-

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Photo, left: Rear part of Franciscan monastery in Nižná Šebastová – seat of the State Archives in Prešov. Photo courtesy of Ferdinand Uličný.

The State Archives in Prešov: Use Holdings of the State Archives in Slovakia for Genealogical Research

By Milan Belej

Prešov – the third largest town in Slovakia according to the data of the last census (2011) – is the center of northeastern Slovakia and the seat of Prešov Region (*Prešovský samosprávny kraj*), one of eight regions the Slovak republic is divided into currently. The region consists of 13 districts situated at the territory of three historical counties: Šariš,

northern Spiš and northern Zemplín. In the past, several nations inhabited the region for centuries, including Slovaks, Germans, Hungarians, Rusyns and Jews. The ethnical variety of the region has changed significantly in the 20th century and, as a result, more than 90% of its inhabitants are Slovaks today. The same diversity was characteristic

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Quarterly Newsletter for the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) members

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Naše rodina promotes genealogy of the ethnic groups that comprise Czechoslovakia as it was formed in 1918. We accept articles of historical and cultural information, but they must have genealogical significance and all are subject to editing. The deadlines for submitting articles to Naše rodina are:

January 1	March issue
April 1	June issue
July 1	September issue
October 1	December issue

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President's Message

by Kathy Jorgenson

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer with time to do all the things that you like to do which can be very different for different people. I enjoy gardening and taking walks in the morning when the air is cool and the birds are singing.

I am also very fond of rainy days. I grew up on a farm and a rainy day meant that we didn't have to work outside in the fields. It was like a vacation. The cows still needed to be milked and the eggs needed to be gathered but after we did our chores, we could read or sew or do just about whatever we wanted. My family also raised raspberries and strawberries commercially so during the berry season the adults were nervous if there was rain and the berries could not be picked but since I wasn't responsible for making sure it got done I remember liking those days. I also remember that when we had a rainy summer my mother made lots of jam and canned berries and even made wine in a big crock.

As you know, CGSI has been partnering with the Miss Czech Slovak Pageant and the dates and details of the state and local pageants for this year were published in the *Naše rodina*. I was privileged to be one of the judges for the Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant in Cedar Rapids on May 16 and the Miss Czech Slovak Wisconsin Pageant in Phillips the weekend of June 19-21. It was an interesting experience for me. In addition to the candidates in each of those pageants, several of the current state queens were there as well as the National Queen, Morgan McMichen. All of these young women are dedicated to preserving and promoting our Czech and Slovak heritage and they are wonderful ambassadors. It was an honor to meet them and see the good things they are doing. They are passionate about their heritage and history and want to share it with others.

If you haven't been on our website recently, you need to check out the new content in the section for members under Education and Webinars. The presentation by Wade Olsen, *Travel Tips for the Czech and Slovak Republics* that was presented at the last Quarterly Program has been posted as well as the handout. You can review the various tips and tricks that will ensure an enjoyable trip to the Czech or Slovak Republics. Wade presents practical and timely tips about traveling within these nations and other parts of Europe at this time.

Also new for you on the website are several books that are now in the public domain. They provide insights into the history of our ancestors. The publications are: *Bohemia Under Hapsburg Misrule* by various authors, edited by Thomas Capek and originally published in 1915; *Germany, Bohemia, and Hungary, Visited in 1837, Vol. II* by the Rev G.R. Gleig, M.A., Chaplain to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea; *The Old World in the New, The Significance of Past and Present Immigration to the American People* by Edward Alsworth Ross, published in 1914; *On the Trail of the Immigrant* by Edward A Steiner, published in 1906; *Aliens or Americans?* by Howard B. Grose, edited under the auspices of the Young People's Missionary Movement, published in 1906.

And if you haven't done so already, be sure to register for our 15th Genealogy and Cultural Conference to be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa from

October 21-24, 2015. The conference brochure and registration information is available on the website at <www.cgisi.org>. I hope to see many of you there.

Kathy Joergensen

“State Archives in Prešov...” *cont. from front cover*

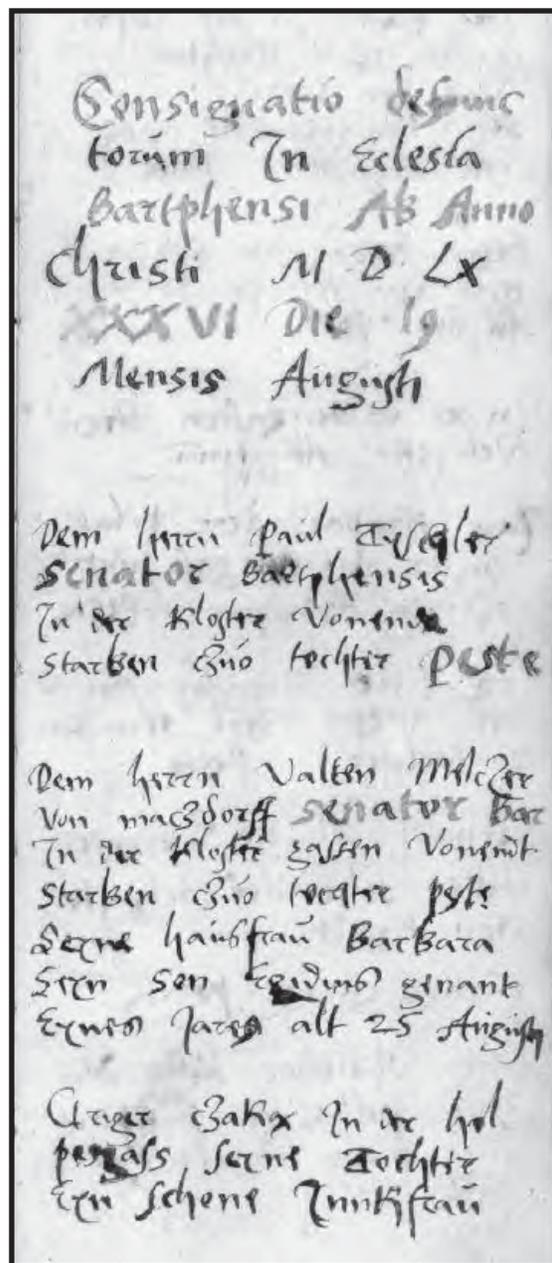
ists and Jews. In addition, the Orthodox Church was reestablished on that territory in the 20th century again.

The aforementioned information about the region and its inhabitants is reflected in the preserved archival documents held in the State Archives in Prešov (SAP), officially the State Archives with Regional Territorial Competence in Prešov. Its predecessor was Archives of Šariš County in Prešov established in 1783. The archives were originally located in the building of County House in Prešov where the Prešov branch of SAP is located today. The archives building and part of its holdings were damaged during the battles in World War II in December 1944.

Foundations of the present archival system in Slovakia (and the Czech Republic as well) were established by the Government Decree no. 29 on Archives in 1954. As a result, a unified system of national, regional and district archives started to develop gradually. In Slovakia, the system was confirmed by the Act on Archives in 1975. The present archival system was created by the Act on Archives and Registries No. 395 in 2002, in which public and private archives are defined. Among the public ones, state archives are the most important. They consist of two State Central Archives (Slovak National Archives in Bratislava, State Central Mining Archives in Banská Štiavnica) and eight State Archives with Regional Territorial Competence (Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Bytča, Košice, Levoča, Nitra, Prešov and Archives of the Capital of the Slovak Republic Bratislava) with the branches. The state archives are transformed regional archives and their branches are former district archives.

Today, there are five branches of the SAP in the district towns of Bardejov, Humenné, Prešov, Svidník and Vranov nad Topľou. The archive is located in a former Franciscan monastery built in 1634 in Nižná Šebastová – a former small town that became part of Prešov in the early 1970s (see photo on front cover). The archives moved into this building in 1993 from the former Lutheran College where it had been located since 1958.

The outlined archival system will probably be modified very soon, as an amendment of the aforementioned Act from 2002 will be discussed in the second reading in the National Council of the Slovak Republic in September 2015. The main reason for the change is an effort to unify the regional competencies of the state archives with a territorial competence of present public administration. As a result, only one central archives will remain, some state archives will be dissolved (Levoča) and others will be established (in Trnava and



The first page of the death register book of Lutheran parish in Bardejov (1586) – the oldest register in Slovakia (the State Archives in Prešov).

Trenčín), if the law passes. As for Prešov, the dissolved State Archives in Levoča will be merged as a specialized institution together with some of its branches (Levoča, Poprad and Stará Ľubovňa).

The State Archives in Prešov preserves more than 3,000 linear meters of archival documents divided into 250 archival fonds (collection groups). The researcher can find various resources of regional origin there. The most important are those of state and public administration (Šariš County, fragments of Zemplín and Užhorod Counties (until 1923), Šariš-Zemplín County 1940 – 1945, Regional National Committee in Prešov 1949 – 1960), secondary schools (Lutheran College in Prešov), families of nobility and estates (e.g. Drugeth from Humenné, Sztáray from Michalovce) and the Collection of Church Registers. Anyone interested in genealogical research can find many sources in the SAP.

These documents are of special importance for the majority of Americans, whose ancestors immigrated to the USA from northeastern Slovakia. In general, the most valuable source for genealogical research is the **register books** (photo on previous page, 95). The oldest ones preserved in Slovakia are the church registers, as the civil registers were introduced in the Kingdom of Hungary only in October 1895. Up to then, each church kept its own registers separately. The church registers were declared as public documents in 1949 and they were turned over to the archives in 1950. Only a few parishes did not follow the provisions of law.

The church registers held in the SAP reflect the aforementioned diversity of ethnicity and religions in the Prešov Region. Researchers can find Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, Lutheran, Calvinistic and Jewish registers there. In the repositories of the SAP, the oldest original church register in Slovakia has been preserved. It is the register of burials for the Lutheran parish in Bardejov, beginning in 1586. On the other hand, the majority of the rural registers in eastern Slovakia go back only to the turn of the 18th and 19th century, some of them up to the last third of the 18th century. However, in western Slovakia, the rural registers go as far as to the beginning of the 18th century and even up to the turn of the 17th and 18th century. The availability of the registers depends primarily on the denomination. In general, Lutheran and several Roman Catholic parish registers have been preserved from earlier periods compared to other denominations. On the other hand, the best preserved Greek Catholic registers go back only to the last third of the 18th century. In addition, many registers from northeastern Slovakia where the Rusyns of the

Greek Catholic religion predominate were damaged and destroyed due to heavy battles during both World Wars. The worst preserved registers are those of Jewish communities because the communities permanently resisted the maintenance of their own registers. As a result, their registers go as far as to the first half of the 19th century only exceptionally.

The parish registers held in the Slovak state archives have been microfilmed for the Family History Library of the Genealogical Society of Utah in the early 1990s. Nevertheless, several church registers were acquired by the State Archives in Prešov (and by other archives as well) after that. These registers are available only in Slovakia. The detailed information on the microfilmed registers can be found on the website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its Family History Library: <<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>>.

American genealogists have easy access to most parish registers from Slovakia in their country or even from their homes in general. However, users should be aware of the fact that each denomination was characterized by its own cultural tradition. That is why records in the registers were written in various languages (Latin, German, Hungarian and Church Slavonic). All church registers are in handwriting that is not easily legible and, in addition, different types of alphabet or letters were used depending on the language. Older records in the Greek Catholic registers are written in Cyrillic, German records are written in New Gothic Italics and even reading of the older records written in Latin characters (Latin, Hungarian and Slovak languages) can be very difficult because of various styles of writing. As a rule, a majority of records in the registers coming from the period after Austro-Hungarian Compromise (1867) were recorded in the Hungarian language.

Recently, the oldest civil registers from 1895 – 1907 were handed over to the branches of the state archives. Their duplicates are available in the state archives and users may find them in the State Archives in Prešov, too.

The second basic source for genealogical research is **census-records**. The first modern censuses in the Kingdom of Hungary were taken in 1857 and 1869. Out of these two, the **census from December 31st, 1869** is used more frequently, because of a complexity and reliability of the dates and also because it has been microfilmed. As well as the church registers, all individual census-sheets from Slovakia have been microfilmed for Family History Library of the Genealogical Society of Utah and they are available on the website of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints and its Family History Library: <<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>>. Only the 1869 census papers from Šariš County are held in the SAP, while those from Zemplín can be found in the County Archives in Sátoraljajújhely (*Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár; Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén Megyei Levéltár in Sátoraljajújhely, Hungary*). These documents are available completely for most villages, but there are locations where the forms from particular houses or even from whole villages are missing. The forms contain personal data about each inhabitant of the house, including the place of birth, their occupation and age. It is very helpful for the research of those who moved to a particular village. Although the data are very reliable, the information concerning age sometimes lacks accuracy.

The State Archives in Prešov and Košice are the only ones where the oldest modern Hungarian census from **October 31, 1857** is stored. The documents come from the territory of the whole Šariš County and they are available for most villages. Although the data does not contain as much information compared to the 1869 Census, they are used very frequently because they make the research quicker and they help to remove the gaps in registers.

The modern censuses from the second half of the 19th century had their predecessors. Various **lists of inhabitants and tax-lists** have been preserved within the archival fonds of Šariš County or among the nobility records in the SAP. They have been recorded since the 1690s onward, but most of them come from the 18th century. Some historians compared the information from the parish registers with those from the tax-lists and found the main problem is to identify the listed individuals reliably. The mentioned documents are represented in the holdings of the SAP by the list of the taxable heads of households by farmsteads (*sessio*) from one of the Šariš County's districts (1712).

The **all-Hungarian nation-wide registration of the inhabitants** was taken in 1784 – 1787 (during the reign of Joseph II.). It is scarcely useful for genealogical research. Forms taken by villages do not

contain any names of inhabitants with the exception of noble plot owners. The same is applicable to the **annual registrations of the inhabitants** taken in Šariš County from the beginning of the 19th century until 1847. On the other hand, there is an exception among the documents coming from the 1815 registration. Separate registration papers for each house have been preserved in few villages. They contain extraordinarily valuable information on the names of the inhabitants of each house, especially the males. In 1828, the **all-Hungarian**

Az országgyűlési képviselő-választók állandó névjegyzéke 1884-ik évre.

választókerület		választókörzet		választókörzet		
Sáros		Zborov		Zborov		
A választó		A választói jogviszony alapja				
család- és vezetéknév	foglalkozása	lakhelye	életkor	polg. jog	szül. ház- birtok	nyelvt. jog
1	Balogh Frigyes	feldbírtokos	Zborov	43	1	
2	Balogh János	szeltes	"	42	1	
3	Babcsák József	"	"	36	1	
4	" Andrács	"	"	63	1	
5	Berges-Naftali	korcsmáros	"	55		1
6	Bischo Péter	szeltes	"	40	1	
7	Csárics Nándor	and. portás	"	59		1
8	Dorbóc József	szeltes	"	39	1	
9	Dombóczy János	"	"	30	1	
10	Dvornák István	"	"	40	1	
11	Draos János	"	"	61	1	
12	Draos János	"	"	57	1	
13	" "	"	"	35	1	
14	Draos János	szeltes	"	27		1
15	Draos János	szeltes	"	49	1	
16	Erdős János	korcsmáros	"	58		1
17	Erdős János	"	"	48	1	
18	Erdős János	szeltes	"	27		1
19	Friedman János	szeltes	"	33	1	
20	" Naftali	korcsmáros	"	44		1
21	Fiedák András	szeltes	"	55	1	
22	Friedmann Menedel	"	"	54	1	
23	Földes János	"	"	39	1	
24	Földes János	korcsmáros	"	38		1
25	Földes János	szeltes	"	40	1	
					16	1
					5	3

Voters-list for 1884 from Zborov (the Šariš County archival fonds).

nation-wide tax conscription was taken. It has been preserved nearly completely for the entire Šariš County, but its potential for genealogical research is limited, because numerous social groups have been omitted from this registration and only the names of the heads of households were recorded, while names of their dependents excluded. Other kinds of documents coming from censuses have been preserved very rarely and they are not available in Prešov. These are the **inhabitants registration from 1850 – 1851** available only in fragments in the State Archives in Bratislava and Nitra, as well as **the 1919 Census** held in Nitra.

Some documents are indispensable for the genealogical research of the Jewish families as they have a potential to remove the frequent gaps in the Jewish registers. The **conscriptions of Jews** are held within the Šariš County archival fonds since the 18th century and they can also be found among the documents of archival fonds of noble families and estates. For example, in the archival fonds Drugeth Humenné, the unique conscription of all 555 Jews living in a little town Humenné (northeastern Slovakia) from 1811 is held. It contains records of the places of their birth and origin. In 1848, a conscription of Jews was taken in the Kingdom of Hungary. Papers from all villages in Šariš County from

the conscription are held in the SAP, with an exception of free royal towns. The census is very valuable because it provides the information from the period prior to the oldest preserved Jewish church registers. Their duplicates are held in the Hungarian National Archives and they have been recently microfilmed by the Family History Library of the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Like in other state archives, the **voters-lists** are held in the SAP too. They are part of the Šariš County archival fonds and the oldest ones come from the period of the last third of the 19th century. They were actualized annually up to 1918. Those who want to use them for family research should keep in mind that the general equal franchise has never been introduced in the Kingdom of Hungary. Only a small portion of the population was recorded there – all male nobles, the males whose property or income exceeded the ordered limit (peasants as well) and male intellectuals (priests, teachers). The data can be used for the research of economic condition, age or place of residence of the listed individuals.

Feudal land registers are another source for genealogical research. So-called **Theresian land-register** (rental, *urbár*) coming from the 1770s is the most universal and the best-known of them. It was prepared as a result of the so-called Urbarial patent (decree) issued

TESTIMONIUM SCHOLASTICVM.						
Nomen, & Cognomen, Ætas, Religio.	Gens, seu Natio, Locus Natalis, & Comitatus.	Pater, vel Tyrus, aut Curator, eiusque Conditio, & Habitatio.	Annus & Schola, quam frequentavit.	Classis		
				In Literis, & Scientiis.	In Studio Lingue Hunga- ricæ.	In Moribus.
Joannes Villos Anno 12. Romano Cathol. civ.	Hungaricus Episcopatus Sárosiensis	Pater eius Ignatius letz Episcopus Episcopatus Sárosiensis	Anno 1798 frequentavit Scholam municipalem Sabinovensem per primo Scholasticum.	Ex 34 Condignioribus in- ter sex Eminentiorem locum proximum tenuit. In frequentando fuit dili- gens.	Proficiens Classis In frequen- tando dili- gens.	Prova civ. fuit Classis proxime
Datum Sabinov apud Scholam Patris in Regio Gymnasio				Anno 1798 Mensis Martii Die 27		
Benedictus ... Director Scholæ				Ignatius ... Ambrosius ... Americus ...		

The school report card from Gymnasium in Sabinov, school year 1797/98 (the Šariš County archival fonds).

by Empress Maria Theresa for the Kingdom of Hungary in 1767. The rentals were prepared separately for each village and one of their parts was so-called “urbarium-tables” where the names of serfs who were tenants of peasant plots were recorded. They can be used for family research only when it is assumed that the recorded persons have been successfully identified previously. They provide information on the economic situation of the listed persons. In the SAP, only the land registers from Šariš County are held within the files of Regional Court in Prešov. Their copies are stored in the Hungarian National Archives and as they were digitalized recently they are available on the website www.arcanum.hu/mol/. A great part of the aforementioned group comprises various **land-register documents**, mainly from the second half of the 19th century. The land-register documents consist of land-register books and land-register sheets. They served as a survey for the land distribution and land ownership in each particular village. Most of the files come from the second half of the 19th century. They usually refer to land-register lawsuits. They contain a lot of information on the names of the land owners as well as the inhabitants of the villages.

The Theresian land-register had their predecessors. The oldest ones were created as early as in the 16th century on the great feudal estates. Their use for genealogical research is very limited, as they come from the period when the use of permanent surnames had not been introduced yet. Those coming from the 18th and 19th century have a relatively limited potential to remove the gaps existing in the church register books.

School report cards are another type of useful document for family research. The oldest ones have been occasionally preserved since the 18th century and they usually concern the nobility. They are a part of archival fonds of counties or noble families. Very interesting information can be found in the **books of school report cards** from secondary schools. In the SAP, several archival fonds of secondary schools with regional significance from the towns of northeastern Slovakia are stored. They have been preserved at least from the middle of the 20th century. The best example is the Lutheran (Evangelical) College in Prešov, the institution of all-Hungarian significance that can be considered a kind of high school. The oldest documents from the college including the charter of its foundation have been preserved from the 17th century. The **registers of the enrolled students** provide a very well structured data about the students. Printed **annual school reports** that started to be published later contain the names of stu-

dents arranged alphabetically by the classes. However, the user should keep in mind that only a small part of population had an opportunity to study at secondary schools, especially before 1918, but also in the period between the two world wars.

Northeastern Slovakia is the region where the transatlantic emigration reached the highest rate in the Kingdom of Hungary in 1870 – 1914. The Americans use the documents on emigration of their ancestors from that region very frequently. In the SAP, various kinds of documents can be found, although the initial period of emigration is not well documented. They are all part of the Šariš County archival fonds. Written **applications for emigration passport** and their enclosures – of which the village testimonies are the most important – are worth mentioning. The other ones are the data about potential emigrants recorded in the special tables. In Šariš, they have been preserved since 1890 and they provide the information on personal data, description of personal appearance, the purpose for emigration and the destination.

The main source is **passport registration books**. Those from the period preceding 1904 have been preserved very rarely. Although the oldest books from the SAP come from 1839, there are many gaps there and researchers will learn very little from them. The columns in the registration books coming from the period after 1904 are organized better. Those from Šariš County are one of the few preserved nearly completely. The readers who are interested in these documents will find more detailed information in my previous article in *Naše rodina*.

Although the northern Zemplín is the territorial area of the SAP too, nearly all documents that comprise the Zemplín County archival fonds are held in the county archives in Sátoraljajújhely (*Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár; Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén Megyei Levéltár in Sátoraljajújhely, Hungary*). Most of the documents mentioned in that article (above in italics), e. g. the 1857 and 1869 Censuses, the conscription of the Jews (with an exception of the 1848 Census), the voters-lists and the passport records are available there. Those interested in the research of these documents can send an email to the archives to the e-mail address: <saujhely@bazleveltar.hu>.

There are several ways how to use the documents held in the SAP. The direct study in the archival research room is not very practical, but some Americans try to do it. The variety of languages and styles of scripts are the main hindrance, if the long travel distance

is not taken into consideration. As mentioned before, some documents have been microfilmed or digitalized, so they can be used by American researchers by internet in their homes. Most of them hire professional and experienced genealogists. Anyway, there is still a possibility to use the services offered by the state archives for the clients from abroad. The research can start only after the delivery of a properly completed application that contains correct information. The most important thing is to provide as much information on searched person as possible (place of birth or origin, denomination and, at least one information from the period preceding 1895) to archivists. All the services regarding genealogical research are charged. The research fee calculation is the same in all Slovak archives. It is very important to specify the kind of solicited report precisely as well as to fix the highest financial limit the applicant is willing to pay for the research in the application. More information can be obtained directly from the State Archives in Prešov on their new e-mail address: <archiv.po@minv.sk>.

About the Author:

PhDr. Milan Belej, CSc. was born on October 30, 1966 in Prešov. He graduated from the Faculty of Arts, P. J. Šafárik University in Prešov in Russian Philology and History in 1989. Five years later (1994) he received CSc. degree (Ph.D.) from Comenius University in Bratislava with thesis: *“The Emigration from Slovakia to the U.S.A. during the Period 1918 – 1938.”* He had worked as an expert counselor and deputy director in the State Archives in Prešov for more than two decades (1993 – 2014). M. Belej is dealing with the problems of the emigration from Slovakia, especially to the U.S.A. and published several articles about that topic. He is an author and co-author of several books about the his-

tory of Eastern Slovakian towns and villages in the 19th and 20th centuries – Sabinov (2000), Humenné (2002), Zborov (2005), Michalovce (2007), Lubotice (2008), Poruba pod Vihorlatom (2010), Uzovské Pekl’any (2012), Kráľovský Chlmec (2013) and Plechotice (2014). He has took part on the activities of the Slovak Genealogical-Heraldic Society and he is a co-author of the transcription of Cyrillic records in paleographical aid *“Paleografická čítanka”* (2001). He took part as a speaker on the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Conference in Pittsburgh (2001) and Cleveland (2009) and published several articles in *Naše Rodina*. He has been an expert counselor and deputy director in the State Archives in Nitra since July 2014.

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Future Themes for Naše rodina:

December 2015 . . . Passenger List Search Sources

March 2016 . . . Carpatho-Rusyn Settlements in Eastern US

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Possibilities of Genealogical Research in Košice Regional Archives

By Marek Rímsky

Košice region, as a territorial-administrative unit of public administration in the Slovak Republic, was founded in 2002, but this territory has an incomparably longer history. The region consists of several historical counties called župas (also known as Comitatus, during history, approximately from the 13th Century), which were formed from 11th Century in the Kingdom of Hungary. These were župas Abovská (which was integrated into Abovskoturnianska župa during the years 1786–1790, 1848–1859, 1882–1918), Gemerská, Spišská, Turnianska, Užská and Zemplínska, each of them developing differently.

As a professional employee of the archive and a genealogist, I came in direct contact with descendants of emigrants from the territory of Slovakia, who were interested in their family tree being made, and at the beginning I consider it necessary to briefly explain the usage of geographical and personal names. The reason I am doing this is that descendants of our natives overseas (or in other European countries) maintain an erroneous belief not only of the history of our country, but also the usage of language in our land. I came to realize this from their requests to create their family trees. Of course, I understand that in old maps, books and other sources they find mainly Hungarian names of župas, towns and villages, as these names were used during the time of their ancestors' emigration from their countries of birth. The aim of this short discussion is to broaden the readers' horizons.

The historical Kingdom of Hungary as well as later on the Habsburg Monarchy, which Hungary became a part of, were multinational states. Hungarians themselves were not a majority in historical Hungary. Besides them, Romanians, Serbs, Croatians, Slovaks, Germans, Jews, Ruthenians (Rusyns) and other nationalities lived here. Similarly colourful was the structure of župas, which form Košice region today. Until the mid-



The exterior of the Košice City Archives. Photo courtesy of author Marek Rímsky.

19th century, the official language was Latin, which was gradually displaced by the language of the ruling nation – Hungarian. Although south of the Košice region is currently inhabited mainly by ethnic Hungarians, the origins of many towns and villages situated in the mentioned region, as well as their names, are Slavic-Slovak. As an example, I can use the name of the city of Košice, which gives the name to its region, too. In Hungarian it is called Kassa, in Latin Cassovia, in German Kaschau, but its name is derived from Slavic personal name Koš, Koša, adding the Slavic suffix “-ice” to it. It is similar with personal names and surnames, which researchers are finding in registers and other genealogical sources. The majority of first names in the 19th century were not of Slavic origin (but the common people did not address each other in the official form of the name entered in documents). Therefore, from the 19th century documents we cannot guess the nationality to which a person be-



The State Archives (Statny Archiv) in Košice. Photo courtesy of Michal Razus.

longed, and it is impossible to know to which nation or nationality a person felt he or she belonged. In existing sources we may find Latin forms of names Georgius, Josephus, Joannes, Franciscus, etc., and in Hungarian György, József, János, Ferencz, but a Slovak Juraj (in Eastern Slovakia nicknamed as Ďura, Ďuri), Jozef (Joži, Ďodi), Ján (Jano, Janík, Janči), František (Fero, Feri) can be hiding behind these. It is the same with female names.

Several archives are settled in the territory of the Košice region, in which it is possible to search for one's ancestors. They include the State Archives in Košice, which has branches in Košice, Michalovce, Rožňava and Trebišov; The Košice City Archives and Archbishop's Archives in Košice. Several types of information can be found in the newly established archives of The 'Michal Lacko' Center of Spirituality East–West in Košice, but these are biographic in character, rather than genealogical. Both mentioned clerical archives are still in the phase of processing their materials, which is why most of the archive collections stored there cannot be accessed. Despite this, the employees are very helpful and accommodating, within their possibilities and competencies, of course.

It is adequate at this moment to inform the reader, that at this time we are waiting for the amendment of the bill on archives and registers No. 395/2002 to be passed. According to it, the structure of state run archives in Slovakia will be changed, as well as their names – branches of state archives will be terminated, and they will become integral elements, or “extended workplaces” of the state archive – but it should not have an impact on the scope and content of the state archives.

The State Archives in Košice resides since 1973 in an older tenement building on Bačík Street. Its spaces were adjusted for needs of the archives, with reconstruction work finished in 1988. As in other regional branches of state archives in Slovakia, the most frequently used genealogical resources are stored in them. These are church books, which are integrated to collections as an anthology from 1952. Because of the geographical position of the city of Košice, administrative division of Slovakia and the system of state archives in Slovakia, the collection does not completely absorb any of the župas, whose papers are stored in archives. This is the reason why part of the registers which geographically belonged to former Abovská, Turnianska (or Abovsko-turnianska), Zemplínska and Gemerská župas, whose



The research (study) room inside the State Archives in Košice. Photo courtesy of Michal Razus.

parts lie in today's Hungary, is saved in local parish offices, part of registers from Spiš are stored in state archives in Levoča, and some of the registers from Gemer are in the state archives in Banská Bystrica. Registers from northern parts of Zemplínska župa are saved in Prešov state archives. Researchers can receive a copy from registers, which is stored on a microform. There are three microfilm readers in the study room. Lots of registers are available for research on familysearch.org website, but these are not complete, and not all of them are correctly described. Košice belonged among the most important and biggest cities of the Kingdom of Hungary. In those days, the members of all known practiced religions such as Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics, Lutherans, Calvinists and Jews lived here, for that reason their registers can be found here as well. There are 81 files of register books from the city of Košice itself, naturally more than a half of them (51) are from Roman Catholic parish. One of the oldest registers in Slovakia can be found in this collection, register of marriages in the Lutheran parish from 1587. Besides the mentioned book, there are more than 1,000 files of registers stored here, recording entries until 1895 (there are many exceptions from after this year). In this year, state administered registers started to function in parallel

to church ones. Amongst the oldest ones are Lutheran registers from Dobšiná, preserved from 1626. Records in registers are written in Latin, Hungarian and German languages, depending on the location and religion. Exceptionally, in certain areas and periods, it is possible to find items written in Slovak, or Slovakized Czech. It is necessary to point out to potential researchers, that in several Greek Catholic registers they can encounter the Ruthenian language and an alphabet similar to Russian Cyrillic letters, which is rather difficult to read.

Fragments from population census from 1869 (1870) was preserved from Abovská župa. Its full version can be found in the census from 1857. For the most part it is written in the German language, in Kurrent font readable only with difficulties. Approximately the same data sheets were used, and these records contain the same data about the family life. Data sheets from mentioned census in 1869 from the area of Zemplín, which currently administratively belongs to Košice region, are saved in the archives of Hungarian town of Sátoraljaújhely. In State Archives in Košice cadastral papers in extent similar to other state archives are missing, because they were not preserved from competent župas.

Important sources for descendants of former aris-



State Archives in Košice - Branch Košice. Source: Internet.

ocratic families are original copies of rolls of arms (armorials). In congregational records of župa from the 2nd half of the 16th century, we can find all the important events of military-political, economic, social and cultural nature that happened in župa. From the genealogical perspective there are interesting entries about publication of armorials. Copies from registers or genealogical tables of families could be attachments to lists referring to the rights of properties. In the part of collections of župa, the aristocratic papers (nobilitarium) of several tens of families of noble origin are preserved in alphabetical order according to the surname (sometimes predicates) of a family, and these are mostly applications for a certificate of their noble origin, investigations of noble origin, inventories, papers about hereditary disputes, copies from registers, transcripts of rolls of arms and several genealogical tables. Collections of noble families Fischer from Bačkov, Kelcz and Várady from Rozhanovce, Egerer from Boliarov, Máriássy from Brzotín, Marikovský from Veľká Třna and also families Sennyey and Semsey are peculiar. These kinds of papers demand not only a good knowledge of Slovak

(Hungarian) history and facts, but also knowledge of Latin and Hungarian languages, as well as mastering the original writing.

The period of youth and education of our ancestors is aptly complemented with almost 30 secondary school collections mostly from Košice, but also Rožňava, where class catalogues, class-books, listings of students can be found, and these offer information about study results, family conditions and probably also about hobbies of a certain pupil. Collections of universities and high schools are currently, due to privacy policies, unavailable to genealogists, except the documents of the Royal Law Academy in Košice (Kráľovská právnická akadémia in Košice), files from 1787–1913.

Important from biographic and genealogical point of view are collections of Klimkovič, Haltenberger, Puky and Keglevič families, and personal collections of 25 personalities of the region, also collections of many lawyers and building contractors.

Genealogical data could doubtlessly be found also in administrative and legal papers of župas, in historical county vice administrators' (*podžupan*'s) papers, offices of historical districts – so called *služnovský úrad*, notary offices, courts and similar, but such a research would require a participation of a very experienced genealogist, and would demand a lot of time.

State registers from years 1895 mainly till year 1905–1906 are deposited in branches of the State Archives in Košice, Michalovce, Rožňava and Trebišov. State archives took them over from state registries.

The Košice branch is storing the records of register districts, to which municipalities of Košice and Moldava nad Bodvou districts belonged from October 1895 until the end of 1906. Some of these municipalities formed the borders of districts, as for example Opátka and Spišská Opátka, due to this fact some parts of records of municipality Spišská Opátka are partially in Košice, and partially in other archives. The archive contains also records related to the inhabitants of some Hungarian municipalities, which belonged to district notary offices and registers on territory of the Košice district until 1918, and after 1918 stayed in Hungary. Momentarily archives store indexes to registries only on exception, these are held mostly in the corresponding state registers.

The districts of Rožňava and Revúca territorially



The Košice Archdiocese Archives. The archives is situated within the building of the Archdiocese Office. Photo courtesy of Marek Rímsky.

belonged to Rožňava archives. The archive started to take over first state registers 5 years ago. We currently have state registers (birth, marriage, death) saved in archives recorded from October 1895 until the end of 1906. We can then find genealogical sources mostly in these registers. Besides there, we can also find them in available collections of municipalities, personal collections and collections of district notary offices, notary offices. There are collections of Novák (1870–1961), Szontágh (1715–1918) and Sárkány (1887–1914) families, their personal documents, maps, office books and rolls.

Documents of the current districts of historical Dolný Zemplín, bounded by borders of the Slovak Republic, are deposited in branches in Michalovce and Trebišov. Here they also store state registers from 1895 to 1906.

In branches of the state archives, collections of public (municipality, national, primary) schools are deposited, in which papers similar to secondary school col-

lections can be found, which means class-books, class record books, student listings, and even chronicles.

An important role in the field of Slovak archival science is played by Košice City Archives, which is rich in archival inheritance and fortune. It is the only city archive administered by the city itself, and not the state. It resides on Kováčska Street, in the rear block of the building of the historical town hall from the 18th century. In the city archive, there are 53 books from the census of population and households from 1762–1848. They register class belonging (rank), profession, religion, sex, age, and residence of the population. Detailed censuses are from 1850 and 1857. Except the name of the house owner and families living there, each inhabitant provided the year of birth, profession, religion, class, nationality, origin and residence. Amongst the other sources are 3 books of newly accepted citizens from 1580–1666 and 1736–1926 (from the second part of the 19th century, these are only honorary citizens). Personal records of received, released and supported poor inhab-

itants are preserved in the city's poorhouse records from 1838–1854, which continue with evidence of poor from 1855–1873 and 1875–1877. The municipality's collection also contains a huge number of testaments, court records, and similar, from which much genealogical data can be gained.

The Košice archdiocese was founded when Abovský, Šarišský and Zemplínsky archidiaconate set apart from the Jager diocese in 1804. Their boundaries were approximately the same as the borders of the župas. The archive was founded in the same year. In sources, which also contain genealogical data, you can find transcripts of registers of baptisms, marriages and deaths from individual parishes in the diocese from 1895. Partially preserved are also transcriptions from mentioned registers from current Hungarian area of the former Košice diocese (Hungarian Aba and Zemplén) and from area of those parishes of Košice diocese, which until 1977 belonged to Satmárska diocese (area of the former Užská historical county in Slovakia). These materials are more complexly preserved in relevant parish offices, because these are the part of registers which were not nationalized. Besides this, many older materials contain detailed information also about Byzantine-Rite Catholics, non-Catholics (Lutherans) and Jews. Other genealogical references can be found in the personal records of Košice bishops, eventually some priests. Biographies of individual clerical personalities can be compiled from names and descriptions and canonical visitations. In canonical visitations there are also brief assessments of beadles, bell-ringers, grave diggers, (public) teachers, but also people (of the municipalities) as a whole. Lots of information about local landlord families and their activities occur at certain disputes and common correspondence records of individual parishes. Besides random names of some local inhabitants, visitations always capture also land area names, inventories of churches and inventories of parishes, and language of local inhabitants. Incidentally, oral traditions related to church were also recorded in the 18th century. Granted dispenses (dissolutions), mainly in case of mixed marriages, and cases of changes from Byzantine Slavic rite to Latin and reversely, constitute a completely distinctive category of genealogical sources.

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Data was provided by Mgr. Valéria Molnárová, director of State Archives in Košice – branch Michalovce, Mgr. Ján Lipták, director of State Archives in Košice – branch Rožňava, Mgr. Diana Kunderová, employee of the State Archives in Košice – branch Košice, and Mgr. Martin Bartoš, employee of the Košice City Archives.

About the Author:

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The city of Košice Coat of Arms.

Slate Of Candidates For Office 2016 – 2018

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) nominating committee, appointed by President Kathy Jorgenson, including Chair Ginger Simek (past president), Beth Baumeister, Jim Drahos, Joyce Fagerness, and Tony Kadlec recommended the following slate of candidates for office beginning January 1, 2016. Their input, time, effort, and support are greatly appreciated!

The slate was approved by the Executive Committee at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

All positions carry three year terms that are staggered such that approximately one-third of the positions are open each year. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors are responsible for meeting the various needs of our members. The smooth operation of the day-to-day activities of the society depends on volunteers whether in society leadership positions or on special projects. We strongly encourage and always need members to volunteer their services to CGSI. You may notify any Officer or Director of your interest at any time – please consider volunteering your talents!

A vote by the membership on the slate of candidates will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2015, during the Annual Membership Meeting at the Marriott Cedar Rapids Hotel at the conclusion of the CGSI's Conference. The hotel is located at 1200 Collins Plaza Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

If you would like to cast a vote but are unable to attend the meeting, you may request a proxy ballot from Mike Wolesky, Corresponding Secretary, by writing to CGSI at PO Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116-0225 or by e-mail: mwolesky70@gmail.com. Proxies must be received by October 14th to assure being counted.

Executive Committee (3-Year Terms)

The Executive Committee, made up of the 6 officers and 9 committee chairs, runs the day-to-day operations of the society. Committee members attend monthly meetings at the Minnesota Genealogy Center in South St. Paul, Minnesota.

President	Suzette Steppe Hopkins, MN
Corresponding Secretary	Mike Wolesky Newport, MN
Library and Archives	No Candidate
Publications	Paul Makousky Woodbury, MN
Product Sales	Jerry Parupsky Inver Grove, MN

Board of Directors (3-Year Terms)

The Board of Directors consists of the 6 officers and 9 at-large directors. Either one or two of the at-large positions are normally filled by Past Presidents. The directors are responsible for making broad policy decisions, such as establishing the levels and rates of membership, recommended changes to the articles of incorporation or bylaws, approval of major research or funding projects, filling vacant positions on the Executive Committee, and acquisitions of real estate (if the need arises).

We attempt to obtain a broad geographical representation on the board to receive input from persons of varying backgrounds and interests. The Board of Directors meets annually in person and occasionally through Conference call.

Kathy Jorgenson	Minnertonka, MN
Ed Vavra	Ely, IA
Polly Walker	Eden Prairie, MN
Claude Duchon	Norman, OK

Overview of the Marketing Committee Bylaws Proposal

Submitted by Kathy Jorgenson, CGSI Executive Committee President & Steve Parke, Board of Directors Chairperson

The Executive Committee has been working to carry out the strategic objectives that were identified through the strategic planning process which began with a meeting in January, 2014. Many things have changed since the founding of the organization, especially in the areas of communications and technology. CGSI's current positions and position duties, including our committees and committee duties, were analyzed and it was determined that we need a Marketing Committee and Chairperson to effectively promote the CGSI organization and its products and services to members and prospective members. Effective promotion will improve retention of members, attract new members and positively impact our revenue.

While CGSI already has a publicity committee and chair, it was felt that there was a need for someone to carry out marketing activities. Marketing differs in that it is strategic and long-term while publicity is event based and chiefly promotes certain activities.

Developing the Marketing Committee and Chair concept and proposal has been done in consultation with the Board of Directors. In that process the following duties and working relationships were constructed as working guidelines, a practical delineation not to be included in the By-Law change itself.

The duties for a Marketing Committee and Chair would include:

- 1). Conduct market research (potentially surveying existing and past members) to identify organization strengths and marketing challenges and opportunities.
- 2). Develop a long range and mid-term marketing plan for CGSI with input and assistance from the Executive Committee.

- 3). Implement marketing strategies that help ensure consistent and effective marketing focus for initiatives and campaigns that will increase retention of existing members and attract new members.
- 4). Market CGSI to other genealogical and historical organizations and website owners to create awareness of CGSI's vision, products and services, and identify potential opportunities for partnership between organizations.

The marketing committee and chair position works with:

- The Regional Reps and other volunteers to create tools that increase awareness of CGSI and attract new members. Delivery may be through the use of audio/visual presentations, printed marketing materials, and providing our representatives with techniques and approaches to help them more confidently promote CGSI at festivals, conferences, and other appropriate venues.
- The website development team and the Naše rodina editor to provide input and assistance to align content, look and feel that is aligned with our marketing positioning.
- The Publicity Chairman to ensure consistent and aligned messaging and approach in publicity and advertising.
- The Facebook and Email (Mail Chimp) editors to ensure alignment in our approach that is consistent to our marketing positioning.

This new Committee with its attendant Chair and volunteers will require a change in the By-Laws, the specific wording of which appears in the article on page 109.

SAMPLE BALLOT

- I vote yes to the Bylaw change**
- I vote no to the Bylaw change**

CGSI Proposed Bylaw Change

The CGSI Board of Directors is proposing the following changes to the society's bylaws to add a Marketing Standing Committee. The bylaws' structure also requires us to position the election and term of the Marketing Chair within CGSI's schedule of staggered Committee Chair elections. Per standing bylaw rules the Marketing Chair also would become part of the Executive Committee, joining the already existing standing committee chairs for a total of ten.

Proposed Bylaw:

- 2.B. **Membership:** The Executive Committee shall consist of the six officers and the ~~nine (9)~~ ten (10) standing committee chairpersons, who shall be voting members. Ad hoc committee chairpersons shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members of the committee.
- 4A. The Corporation shall have the following ~~nine (9)~~, ten (10) standing committees: Education, Hospitality, Library & Archives, Membership, Publications, Product Sales, Publicity, Internet & Electronic Media, ~~and~~ Volunteer & Member Recruitment, ~~and~~ Marketing.
- 4C. Term: the standing committee chairpersons shall be elected at the annual membership or special election meeting for staggered terms of three (3) years as follows:
Education, Hospitality, Internet & Electronic Media – commencing on January 1, 2006 and on every third anniversary thereafter.
Library & Archives, Product Sales, Publications – commencing on January 1, 2007 and on every third anniversary thereafter.
Membership, Publicity, Volunteer & Member Recruitment – commencing on January 1, 2008 and on every third anniversary thereafter.
Marketing – commencing on January 1, 2017 and on every third anniversary thereafter.
- 4F. 10. Marketing: Effectively promote the CGSI organization, and its products and services to members and prospects in order to improve

retention, attract new members and positively impact ongoing revenue.

The proposed bylaw changes are as follows:

- 2B. nine (9) is to be changed to ten (10) for number of standing committees.
- 4A. nine (9) is to be changed to ten (10) in the first line.
Marketing is to be added after Member Recruitment
- 4C. Marketing – commencing on January 1, 2017 and on every third anniversary thereafter is to be added after Membership, Publicity and Volunteer & Member Recruitment.
- 4F. 10. New as written above.

A simple majority of yes votes from members in good standing counted at the October 24th Annual Membership Meeting is required to pass the proposed change. If you would like to cast a vote but are unable to attend the meeting, you may request a proxy ballot from Mike Wolesky, Corresponding Secretary, by writing to CGSI at PO Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116-0225 or by e-mail: research@cgsi.org. Proxies must be received by October 14th to assure being counted.



The Pražský Orloj, Prague's medieval astronomical clock in Staré Město (Old Town), Prague. Photo courtesy of Paul Makousky, 1995.

The Slovak National Archives – Eight Centuries of Slovak History Knowledge

By Daniela Tvrdoňová and Jana Kafúnová

The Slovak National Archives has an essential position among the cultural institutions in Slovakia, such as the Slovak National Library, the Slovak National Museum or the Slovak National Gallery. However, its mission – to acquire, register, preserve, scientifically systematize and access of these cultural heritage sources to the general public – is irreplaceable. Today the Slovak National Archives is the largest and the most important public archives in the Slovak Republic, holding more than 36.5 kilometers or 22.68 miles of the archival documents (*imagine 1 linear shelving meter of the archival documents = more than 3 feet of paper folded on each other*) and about 60 thousand singularities, mostly medieval charters.

This number of valuable archival documents is even more impressive when we find out that the Slovak National Archives was established only 60 years ago. Considering that Slovakia was not a sovereign state nor a special administrative unit within Hungary, there was not any central archives until 1918. Even the first decade of the existence of Czechoslovakia did not bring any changes in the archival organization. During this period we can talk only about county, municipal and Church archives and the Archives of the Slovak National Museum in Martin, which was focused on the collections. In 1928, together with an establishment of the new organization of the public administration in Slovakia – Provincial Office, the Provincial Archives was established. It took custody of the archival fonds of the former county archives, documents from the county office operation from 1922 -1928, the documents from the activities of the former Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic with Full Authorization for Administration of Slovakia (*Registratúra Ministra s plnou mocou pre správu Slovenska*) and from the activities of the Provincial Office. It aimed at giving permissions for research in the former county archives. The Provincial Archive oversaw also the personnel and material provision of the former county and municipal archives and prepared

statements to changes of the names of the Slovak villages. The archives was abolished in 1939 and its responsibilities were taken over by the Archives of the Ministry of the Interior with a seat in the former county House in Bratislava.

After World War II, the Czechoslovak Republic was restored and the archives was transferred to the administration of Presidium of the Commission of the Interior and continued in activity as the Archives of the Commission of the Interior. A proposal for the establishment of a central archives was adopted by the Slovak supreme legislative body of the Board of Commissioners of the Slovak National Council on May 20, 1952. However, after the adoption of Decree-Law no. 29/1954 Coll. on Archives of May 7, 1954, which was the first ever legislative regulation with the law in the field of archives in Slovakia, the single Slovak archival organization was codified - the Central Slovak State Archives in Bratislava, a direct ancestor of the Slovak National Archives and a network of state archives. The newly established Central Slovak State Archives in Bratislava gradually undertook the administration of the documents of the Agricultural Archives in Bratislava, which became the basis for today's Department of Early Fonds and Collections. Other archival documents were increasingly gathered. Along with the changes of the public administration and later after the establishment of the independent Slovak Republic (January 1, 1993), the archives acquired extensive registries of defunct central authorities and organizations to gradually build its current organizational structure. The changes of legislative and changes of names came hand in hand. The Act of the Slovak National Council no.149/1975 Coll. on Archiving from December 19, 1975 changed the name to the Central State Archives of the Slovak Socialist Republic and later the Act no. 571/1991 with effect from January 1, 1992 codified the renaming of the Central State Archives of the Slovak Socialist Republic to the Slovak National Archives.

Right from the beginning of its existence, the Central Slovak State Archives in Bratislava struggled with spatial problems. As the main repositories were housed in rooms in Červený Kameň castle and several basements in Bratislava. Only in 1955 the archives managed to get its own building of the Ministry of Interior on Križkova street in Bratislava.

Because of an increasing number of received documents, the archives was forced to use inappropriate spaces such as basements around Bratislava city and its surroundings. In spite of the fact that in 1957 the

supreme legislative body approved the proposal for constructing a new building, the Central Slovak State Archives was facing the space problem for almost 30 years after its establishment.

Finally, after all these struggles, the cornerstone of the new building of the Slovak National Archives on the Machnáč Hill in Bratislava was ceremoniously laid on December 19, 1975.

The estimated completion date for the building – year 1978 – was postponed several times, especially due to extension of the original project of the building for two more floors and microfilm rooms, as well as to problems with vendors and requirements for bottleneck of materials.

The grand opening of the new-purpose building of the archives in Drotárska cesta street in Bratislava, where it is still situated, was held on August 30, 1983

separation and disinfection, two flats and three garages. The largest part of the basement houses the Early Fonds depot and the canteen for the archives' employees. The entrance to the 180-seat Congress Hall and the separate corridor to the historical film library are located there as well. The reception area, the public research room and the library are accessible from the entrance hall (ground floor), as are the additionally built mailing room, the exhibition room (reconstructed for these purposes in 2009), the Department of Archival Preservation laboratories and the library store room in the central part of this floor. The offices for staff are placed on the first floor and together with the ground floor rooms are rimmed by loggias (gallery or arcade), forming a distinctive ring around the whole building. The remaining eight upper floors (2 to 9) belong to the archival depots.

All the depots except for the library are equipped with compact movable metal shelves, providing the capacity of nearly 70 kilometers (43.5 miles) of archival documents. At present, The Slovak National Archives also maintains some of the documents of the Archives of the Capital of the Slovak Republic – Bratislava.

Today, the Slovak National Archives carries out its tasks through several organizational departments.

The Department of Reference Services provides a link between the archives and the general public. It includes the mail-room, the public research room for studying archival documents, the non-public special library (closed-stack) with more than 70 thousand volumes of books since 15th

century and the microfilms collection.

The Department of Archival Preservation is connected with the comprehensive protection of the archival documents. It includes the restoration and conservation laboratories, the photo laboratory and the disinfecting chamber.

There are also 3 document departments: the **Department of Early Fonds and Collections**, the **De-**



Slovak National Archive building as it looked at its Grand Opening.

The designer of the project was Ing. Arch. Vladimír Dedeček, Csc, who is considered to be the greatest person of Slovak architecture of the last century. The entire building consists of a twelve-storey main building and two-storey archive building with an underground film library and conference hall, both connected with the main building. The lowest floor of the building (sub-basement) stores spaces for the archives reception,

partment of New Fonds and Collections, and the Department of Pre-archival Care.

The Department of Early Fonds and Collections handles archival documents from the 13th century to the year 1918 as well as personal archival fonds, maps and plans with no time restraints.

Probably the most valuable part of its documents includes archival collections of ecclesiastical institutions, especially private historical archives of the Premonstratesian monasteries in Jasov (Košice district) and Leles (Trebíšov district, Košice region) and the Private Archives of the Bratislava Chapter with its precious historical library. Precisely from this library comes the famous *Antiphonary of Bratislava IV* from 1488, registered in UNESCO. The codex is the work of an unknown scribe and illuminator. By its scribal and artistic expression it is to be classified among those manuscript monuments which were created, certainly in the environment of the Bratislava Chapter, between 1480 and 1500. The provenance of the Antiphonary of Bratislava IV is indicated by a painted decoration with figural initial on the folio which contains a stylised symbol of the town of Bratislava (ramparts with a lowering gate) and of the Bratislava Chapter (St. Martin on a white horse). Religious songs were sung from it for several centuries. Its frequent use became evident, manifested by signs of damage, which may be seen especially in the fading of the letters and notation. Several folios are damaged at the lower corners and the bottom margins have had paper stuck underneath. Paper has also been stuck on in places where miniatures or painted initials have been cut out. The majority of folios, however, are undamaged. The Antiphonary is unique not only for its contents but also for its appearance. It is made from the most precious parchment - *charta non nata* – made from the skin of unborn yearlings or calves. The pages are gilded and decorated with priceless *lapis lazuli* blue color. See pages 116-117 for the images of the Antiphonary of Bratislava IV.

Of the Church's origin are also the unique archives of credible locations (*loca credibilia*), such as the Credible location of the Bratislava Chapter of 1240-1866; the Credible location of the Benedictine Convent in Hronský Beňadik of (1260) 1297-1852; the Credible location of the Premonstratesian Convent in Jasov of 1256 – 1942; the Credible location of the Premonstratesian Convent in Leles of 1223-1923 and the Credible location of the Premonstratesian Convent in Turiec of (1259)1288-1912 which, during the five centuries, were acting as public institutions in Hungary in the capacity

of today's notaries (witnessing legal acts) and hence are the invaluable source of information from the medieval history of Slovakia.

A great part of the department is the group of archives of noble magnate families and their feudal manors – more than 120 archives of the Pálfi, Erdődy, Esterházi, Habsburg, Zai, Révai family, etc. but also of the middle and lesser nobility which encompass archival documents from the 13th to the 20th century.

There are also personal fonds of nearly 200 important personalities of the Slovak political, economical and cultural sphere. In addition to classical archival resources, the department keeps wide ranging archival collections of leaflets, posters, postcards, historical photographs, seals, stamps, etc. created by institutions, individuals and the archives itself. Of exceptional documentary value are collections of the various historical maps and plans from the 18th to the 20th century.

The Department of New Fonds and Collections is the largest and it has in custody nearly 22 kilometers (13.6 miles) of documents from the period of the first Czechoslovak Republic, World War II., the first Slovak Republic, but also from the post-war period of Czechoslovakia between 1918 and 1968. The most frequently used archival fonds among the researchers are the fonds from the activities of the central state authorities such as the Minister of Czechoslovak Republic with Full Authorization for Administration of Slovakia of 1918-1927 (*Minister ČSR s plnou mocou pre správu Slovenska z rokov 1918-1927*), the Provincial Office in Bratislava of 1928-1939 (*Krajinský úrad v Bratislave z rokov 1928-1939*) which is – with its 1,380 linear shelving meters - the largest archival fond in the Slovak National Archives. There are also the archival fonds of the first Slovak Republic's Ministries from the period between 1939 and 1945. The other archival fonds such as the Fond of the State Land Office in Prague of 1919-1938 (*Štátny pozemkový úrad v Prahe, 1919-1938*), the State Land Office in Bratislava of 1939-1945 (*Štátny pozemkový úrad v Bratislave, 1939-1945*) and the Commission of Agriculture and Land Reform (*Povereníctvo pôdohospodárstva a pozemkovej reformy*) contain important documents, concerning the land reforms in Slovakia, annexations, confiscations, but also the land allocations and hence they are often searched for the purposes of various pecuniary disputes and other administrative agenda.

The archival documents referring to the fates of the Slovak Jews can be found mostly in the fond of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic between

divorce, number of children (died as well), physical disabilities (such as blindness, deafness, limb loss, mental state, etc.), occupation and employment status, citizenship, nationality according to mother tongue, religion and literacy. For minorities, there were bilingual sheets either in Slovak – Hungarian or in Slovak – German

The Slovak National Archives stores census sheets for the whole territory of Slovakia, sorted by the former districts and within them by individual municipalities. As a result of war, the census schedules of 1940 were realized only in the territory of the former Slovak Republic, so many southern and northern parts, which did not belong to the territory of Slovakia at that time, weren't added. All the inhabitants of Jewish origin had been ordered to write down the Jewish nationality, this information was later misused for their deportation to concentration camps.

Nowadays, the census schedules are an invaluable source of knowledge particularly from demographic, sociological and genealogical point of view. The census schedules of 1930 and 1940 are being digitized in 2015 and subsequently they will be accessible for researchers on the internet. (Note: The location of the web page will be listed on the Slovak National Archive website). However, all the archival documents are subject to the law on protection of personal data, only first names and surnames will be made public. To obtain a copy or certificate, an applicant is obliged to submit an affidavit concerning his ancestor; unless it is a foreign person, an affidavit from a descendant entitled to receive such data is required. The Slovak National Archives requires an affidavit or a power of attorney whenever someone wants to inspect archival documents with personal data.

The Department of Pre-Archival Care methodologically guide and supervise central government bodies and organizations of national im-

portance in the field of their registry, disposal and archival activity. It also takes over and manages the additions of the archives after 1968 and administers the intermediate repository. From the researcher's point of view, the most interesting is the fond of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia 1945 - 1990 (*Ústredný výbor Komunistickej strany Slovenska z rokov 1945 až 1990*).

Access to the archival documents in the Slovak National Archives is available in the form of an extract, abstract, certificate or copy upon written or e-mail request. An applicant should indicate his basic information, subject of the request and, where appropriate, the reason of his application and other accessible information. It can be delivered either personally or by mail to: Slovenský národný archív, Drotárska cesta 42, P.O. BOX 115, 840 05 Bratislava, Slovenská republika or by e-mail: archiv.sna@minv.sk. By law, the archives' obligation is to deposit with a request within 30 calendar days. However, in the case of foreign applicants, all copies of archival documents are sent through the particular embassy of the Slovak Republic in the country, which is provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and therefore takes longer. The Embassy itself contacts the applicant afterwards, so it is necessary to include your mailing address. Any administrative fees are paid directly to the Embassy.



The research or reading room at the Slovak National Archive.

Another form of access to the archives of the Slovak National Archives is by studying directly in the research room.

It is open to the public from Monday to Thursday during the hours of 8.00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. The applicant can study archival documents in the original or duplicate archive copy, with a maximum of three archive boxes per day. These documents have to be ordered a minimum of 3 working days in advance by e-mail or phone. When ordering, please specify the name of the archival fond and the signature (usually number of an archival box) - following information can be found in archiving tools that are available in the archives and some also in the electronic format www.vademecum.vsnet.sk by clicking on the Slovak National Archives information.

Unfortunately all tools are in the Slovak language. The language of the majority of archives from the period before 1918 is mainly Latin, later replaced by modern Hungarian and German. Archival documents from the 20th century are, to some exceptions, in the Slovak or Czech language.

About the Authors:

Mgr. Daniela Tvrdoňová, PhD., born on March 20, 1983 in Trstená na Orave, Slovakia. After her studies of History in 2001-2006 she graduated from the Faculty of Arts at **Trnava University** in Trnava and later finished her postgraduate studies with the doctoral dissertation focused on the economic history in Slovakia in the 20th century. She has been working in the Slovak National Archives in Bratislava in the Department of New Fonds and Collections (ONF) since 2006. Her work is focused mainly on the history of the Slovak cooperatives, resettlements in the first half of

the 20th century and the history of the Slovak Archives. **Mgr. Jana Kafúnová**, born on June 28, 1982 in Topoľčany, Slovakia. She studied Ethnology at the Faculty of Arts in Comenius University in Bratislava, and graduated in 2005. While bringing up her two sons, she studied at the First State Language School in Bratislava and obtained a certificate as a translator of Slovak - English language in June 2015. She has been working in the Slovak National Archives in the Department of Reference Services (OAS) since November 2014.



The stacks inside the Slovak National Archive.

ambulans iheresus iuxta mare galilee uidit petrum et andream
 fratrem eius et ait illis uenite post me faciam uos
 fieri piscatores hominum et illi relictis rebus et uenerunt in seculum
 secuti sunt eum. Laud. p. **N**omen eius dicitur ut transfugerent eum
 et uenit ad iherosolimam et clamabat uoce magna dicens innocens
 huius sanguinis sine causa captus et occisus. Quia quia carnis factes
 ducerent eum ut crucifigeretur factus est concursus populo et

This page and following page belong to the Antiphonary of Bratislava IV from 1488.





Results from the 29th Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant

By MaryElizabeth Lackey, Outgoing Director

The 2015 Miss Czech-Slovak Contestants, include (L to R) Elizabeth Kaliska – MN, Angela Kochan – WI, Allison Sexton – TX, Christina Hochla- OK, Meagan Kurlmel – NE, Gabrielle Salva – MO, Liz Kubal – SD, and Sara Vytlacil – KS. Photo courtesy of the Miss Czech-Slovak US organization. Visit their Web-site: <www.missczechslovakus.com> and Facebook page: <www.facebook.com/missczechslovakus>.

The 2015 Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant was a wonderful success. The 29th pageant was held on Saturday August 1 and Sunday August 2 during the Wilber Czech Festival in Wilber, Nebraska, Czech Capital of the US. We had an excellent competition with 8 contestants. All 8 received their state crown through official state pageants. The contestants competed in 4 categories: Private Interview, Onstage Interview, Kroj Presentation and Talent Competition. The performance and competition was outstanding. The official results of the 2015 pageant are as follows:

Meagan Kurlmel, representing Nebraska, of Omaha, NE was crowned the 2015-16 Miss Czech-Slovak US Queen, she is the seventh Nebraska queen to wear the national crown. She also was awarded the Authentic Kroj Award. She was also

awarded a special educational scholarship donated by Dr. Cecelia Rokusek, Slovak Honorary Consul of Florida. Dr. Rokusek dedicates this scholarship to her parents John and Alicia “Fiala” Rokusek.

Gabrielle Salva representing Missouri of Kansas City, MO was crowned the 2015 1st Runner-Up. Gabrielle also received the Talent Runner-Up Award.

Christina Hochla representing Oklahoma of El Reno, OK was crowned 2015 2nd Runner-Up as well as Grand Talent Winner, Sokol Award, and Americanized Kroj Award.

Elizabeth Kaliska, representing Minnesota of St. Paul, MN was awarded the Oratory Award.

Sara Vytlacil, representing Kansas of Belleville, KS was awarded the Lois Fiala Spirit of the

Czech/Slovak Heritage Award. This award is presented to the contestant who exhibits outstanding passion and dedication to her heritage. Sara also received Sokol Talent Runner Up.

Allison Sexton, representing Texas, of West, TX was awarded the Heritage Involvement Award. This award is presented to the contestant whom exhibits outstanding involvement as presented on her application.

Angela Kochan, representing Wisconsin, of Fond du Lac, WI was awarded Miss Congeniality. This award is voted on by her fellow pageant contestants.

The pageant also had an additional outstanding contestant in Liz Kubal representing South Dakota of Tabor, SD.

The Miss Czech-Slovak US organization would like to thank the many generous sponsors and volunteers that make this the most beautiful and colorful heritage pageant in the United States. The Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant is the ONLY Czech/Slovak pageant dedicated to preserving our culture through tradition and kroj. In total the Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant awards over \$10,000 in cash prizes. We would like to thank everyone who joined us this year and extend an invitation to all to join us for the 2016 Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant on August 2-3, 2016.

The Miss Czech-Slovak US Organization would like to announce the new National Director: Alex Cerveny. Alex can be contacted at: acerveny10@gmail.com.

Testimonial to the Value of Membership

By Kathy Zeman

“After reading many of the articles in Naše rodina, my brother (Dan Ruzicka) and I learned how to find documents in the Czech archives and read old German & Czech script. This allowed us to trace our serf ancestors back to the early 1700’s in roughly 50 rural villages in Southern Bohemia. We were then able to visit the actual properties and see the land they farmed, along with other historic sites where nobility lived and records were stored. Thanks to CGSI and everyone who contributed articles to Naše rodina, making it possible for us to take this journey into the past!”

I want to thank Petr Hustak for his article on “History of Jews in Bohemia” published in the March 2014 issue of Naše rodina and appreciate the follow up to my recent questions on the CGSI Facebook page about a source referenced therein. I recently travelled to the Czech Republic to visit properties (back to the 1600’s) of my ancestors in about 60 towns from Ronov nad Doubravou to Žimutice to Podolí I and it’s a beautiful country. We probably drove right past Úžice u Kralup nad Vltavou on our drive out to Terezín for a day trip. I’m sure your article will help many people for years to come.



Advertising Rates

We will accept limited advertising. We generally do not accept ads for products, only services. The rates for the following approximate ad sizes are: full page (7" x 9") - \$150; one-half page (7" x 4½") - \$90; one-half column (3¾" x 4½") - \$50; and column width (3¾" x 2") - \$35. Prices are per issue. All submitted advertisements must be camera-ready. Queries are free to members.

Ads must be approved by newsletter committee



The photo is of the village of Bzí, located north of České Budějovice, South Bohemia and northwest of Dolní Bukovsko.

The National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague in Prague, Oklahoma

By Claude and Helen Duchon

On 16 January, 2015, Helen and I drove from Norman, OK, to the town of Prague (pop. 2500), 45 mi east of Oklahoma City to visit the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague. There we met the Director of the Shrine, Rhonda Bartos, who gave us a private tour of the Shrine and St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, in which the statue of the Infant Jesus is on display. The description and local history of the National Shrine that follow are based on our interview, reference material supplied by Rhonda, some of which is available on the website for the Shrine, and a few additional sources. We are very appreciative of Rhonda for her time and for her explanation of the history of the Shrine and St. Wenceslaus Church.

That there are two Prague's involved in the Shrine in Oklahoma is part of its fascinating history. The "of Prague" reference is to the capital city of the Czech Republic; the "in Prague" reference is to Oklahoma. In fact, each Prague has its own Shrine. The connection between the two Shrines will become evident as this story unfolds, but first let's show and discuss the Infant Jesus statue on display in St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Prague, OK. This statue (as with similar statues of the Infant Jesus of Prague anywhere) serves as a way to have a spiritual encounter with the living Christ. The focus of world-wide devotion to the Infant Jesus statue is the charge "The more you honor me, the more I will bless you." More than three centuries ago, this message was given by the Infant Jesus statue to Father Cyrillus of the Church of our Lady Victorious (Kostel Panny Marie Vítězné) in Malá Strana, the "Lesser Quarter" in Prague, Czech Republic. Since that time, many of those who petitioned before a statue of the Infant Jesus claim they received a blessing, favor, or miraculous healing.

How the statue came to the capital city Prague and how it became to be revered has a long and interesting history, only briefly described here. A more detailed history can be found on the first two websites listed at the end of this article. In the 16th century the statue was brought to Prague from Spain by its owner Maria Manriquez de Lara. Through her marriage it was given



Figure 1. Photo information is at the end of the article.

to her daughter Polyxena. After her second marriage to Bohemian royalty, Polyxena wished to make the statue of the Holy Infant available to all believers and thereupon dedicated it to the Carmelite Monastery and the adjoining Church of Our Lady Victorious in Prague in 1629, where the statue resides today. The dedication occurred during the Thirty Years War and forced the Carmelites to flee for a period of about five years. After their return, the statue was forgotten until Father Cyrillus found the Infant with his hands broken off. One day, while praying before the statue, he claimed to hear a voice say: "Have pity on me, and I will have pity on you. Give me my hands, and I will give you peace. The



Figure 2.

more you honor me, the more I will bless you.” In time Father Cyrillus found benefactors that not only repaired the statue but also constructed a chapel for it.

The history of the National Shrine in Prague, OK began in August, 1947 when the pastor of St. Wenceslaus Church, Father Johnson, visited his critically ill mother in Bakersfield, CA. While at his mother’s bedside in the hospital he spoke about the need of and his hopes for a new church to the Sisters of Mercy, who staffed the hospital. They inquired whether the parish made devotions to the Infant Jesus of Prague. Father Johnson answered in the negative. An offer of a statue of The Infant Jesus of Prague was made, Father Johnson accepted, brought it to Oklahoma, and placed the statue in St. Wenceslaus Church.

Parish members were given information about The Infant Jesus of Prague and devotions to it. Members began telling each other of their prayer requests to the In-

fant being answered. In December of 1947 Father Johnson gazed upon the statue and promised he would make the new church a Shrine to the Infant Jesus if the Infant would help him build a new church. Donations and support soon began arriving from parishioners and businesses in Prague, OK, and throughout the United States. The new St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church was dedicated 22 February, 1949, and the statue of The Infant of Jesus of Prague was placed behind the main altar.

There has been a long tradition of dressing the grace-giving statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague in various robes to bring Jesus closer to the faithful as a real human being. These can be seen in the photo of the gown display cabinet (see photo above). The colors of the robes are coordinated with the liturgical season. The four basic colors normally used are:

White – festive color of purity and holiness for feast days and Easter and Christmas seasons



Figure 3.

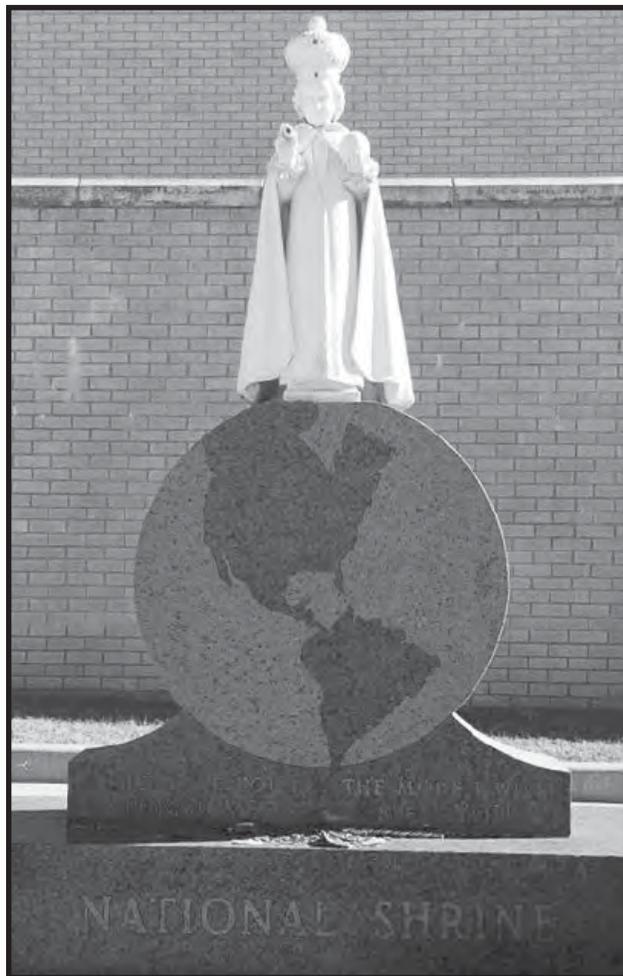


Figure 4.

Red – color of blood, fire, and royalty for Holy Week, Pentecost and feasts of the Holy Cross

Purple – color indicating repentance for Lenten and Advent seasons

Green – color of life and hope for ordinary time

Typically, the outfits at the Oklahoma Shrine are gifts of thanksgiving by visitors and members of the Association of The Infant Jesus of Prague.

An open-air monument of The Infant Jesus of Prague is easily visible from the highway (OK 99) that passes by St. Wenceslaus Church, and there is plenty of space for parking. Also easily accessible for visitors are a number of devotional areas including a unique children's playground and learning area, a beautiful Stations-of-the-Cross sculpture garden, and an Adoration Chapel.

It should be noted that the Shrine in Prague, OK is the *National Shrine* of The Infant Jesus of Prague. There is no other National Shrine although there are other Shrines of The Infant Jesus of Prague. This high status was granted by the Vatican in 1949 and, as part of a lengthy process, required demonstrating that miracles occurred, and that at least one relic is present. In fact, the Shrine has three relics: a chip of the manger, a chip of the cross, and a piece of leg bone from St. Wenceslaus.

The National Shrine of The Infant Jesus of Prague

in Prague, OK has become a popular attraction for persons from all fifty states and 13 foreign countries. Currently, there are about 75,000 visitors annually. There is convenient signage on I-44 north of and I-40 south of Prague. The Shrine is open 365 days a year from daylight to dark.

The main website for the National Shrine of The Infant Jesus of Prague (in Prague, OK) is:

<www.shrineofinfantjesus.com>

Other useful websites among many are:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infant_Jesus_of_Prague> - This website addresses the history of The Infant Jesus of Prague and a good source of references for in-depth reading.

<www.pragjesu.info/> - This website, in particular, deals with The Infant Jesus of Prague in the city of Prague, Czech Republic. It will be useful to explore for anyone planning to visit the capital Prague and the Church of our Lady Victorious.

About the Authors:

Claude and Helen Duchon have been CGSI members since March of 1990. Claude was a volunteer when CGSI first participated as a vendor at the Yukon, Oklahoma Czech Festival in October 1992. In more recent years he and Helen have staffed a booth at the Prague, Oklahoma Festival held in May and assisted with a CGSI sales booth in Kewaunee, WI where he has relatives. Claude has served on the CGSI Board of Directors since January 2013 and is running for a second three-year term in October. He serves as a Professor Emeritus at the School of Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma.

Helen is an avid photographer and has captured many moments at past CGSI Conferences as well as her own personal activities and interests. Helen and Claude love to travel and have spent time in Europe this past summer. Helen is very active as a Committee Member with the League of Women Voters in Norman, OK. She also loves to write, examples being University Women's Association Newsletter, Friends of the Norman Library Newsletter and *WriteLine* for Galaxy, newsletter of the Norman Galaxy of Writers.

Photos Information:

Figure 1 description: The statue is 24 inches tall with blond hair and blue eyes. The photo shows the In-

fant Jesus dressed in deep royal burgundy and gold and located behind the tabernacle in a glass window. The two raised fingers in his right hand represent the two natures of Christ and three folded fingers the Holy Trinity. His gold and silver plated crown was made in Italy and paid for by members of the Association of The Infant Jesus of Prague from Dallas, TX. Photo is courtesy of Rhonda Bartos.

Figure 2 description: The photo shows many of the robes with various colors that are used to clothe the Infant Jesus statue. Photo is courtesy of Rhonda Bartos.

Figure 3 description: The granite and marble monument to the Infant Jesus is located in front of the Shrine building and adjacent to St. Wenceslaus Church. Photo is courtesy of Rhonda Bartos.

Fig. 4 description: The inscription immediately below South America reads "The more you honor me – the more I will bless you." The back of the monument shows a similar outline of Europe with Prague, Czech Republic identified by name and location.

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The exterior of St. John Nepomucene Catholic church in the town of Pilsen, Kansas. Photo courtesy of Marvin Tajchman.

Pilsen, Marion County, Kansas

By Judith Biehler Pasch

St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church

Pilsen, Kansas is a small rural community found in northern Marion County. You have to want to be in Pilsen in order to find it because it is only accessible by county roads. It is one of those infamous “don’t blink or you’ll miss it” spots in the Tallgrass Prairies that my born and bred Kansas father Ed Biehler used to tease us “city kids” about (my parents moved to Brigh-

ton, Adams County, Colorado in 1959 where my brothers and sisters and I were raised). Pilsen is not so much a town as it is a church. The St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church is “literally and figuratively the heart of the town.” It is Pilsen’s landmark.¹ Once while driving my mother to her Aunt Lillian Benda’s funeral, her directions consisted mainly of, “Now just look for the church steeple.” Easy enough for her - she was born and raised there!

Mom (Marcella Emilie Benda Biehler) describes Pilsen in a personal journal as ... *a tiny little town or more of just a village that consisted of a church, a band stand, and a hall where all the dinners, dances, and social activities took place. There was a bank, a grocery store which was also the post office, and a blacksmith shop...a Catholic school and the parish house for the priest. There were a few residential homes most of them of older people who could then walk to church since this was before the automobile was invented.*²

From my outsider’s perspective, Pilsen is one huge Catholic Church. And not just any church. It is a colossal Gothic styled red brick house of worship, with a steeple soaring into the sky acting as a beacon for souls seeking the small Bohemian Settlement.³ As a novice genealogist, I have found solace walking through the pastoral cemetery just behind and northeast of the church knowing that

beneath the tombstones lie the bones of my ancestors. For my mother, her family, and other Bohemian families in the area, the Church was and still is the center of their lives. From birth to death, St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church plays an integral part in the community and in each of their lives. My mother recounts:

I was baptized by Father Sklenar, our parish priest in the church. I guess I always went to church from the time I was born. Our church was about three miles from our home. Naturally, I don’t remember the earliest years, but the church is a beautiful church built by most of the people in the neighborhood. Pilsen was a settlement of Czech people and church was the hub of all our activi-

ties. Later, the people built a hall where I remember celebrating Holy Days by having a big dinner prepared by the women. It was something I always looked forward to. It wasn't only dinner but supper and dance following. Weddings at church were the highlight of celebrations. Of course sad times also. I still remember the cold, cold, day my mother was buried...⁴

In 1964, Dr. Joseph Cada, writing on the Czech-American Catholics of 1850–1920, captured a snapshot of these immigrant pioneers who helped further the settlement of

America's Midwest. Cada summarized the role of the church, that is, religion, in the lives of the Czechs as a "... integral part of... life... woven into the pattern of... daily existence... preserving the faith and tradition of the medieval man, respecting the authority of the Church in matters temporal and spiritual..." These first generation Bohemian-Americans "... trusted implicitly in God Who rewarded good and punished evil

[and] saw in life a period of trial. [For] Only the soul, chastened and purified by earthly vexations and tribulations would return into the lap of its Maker."⁵

My first generation Bohemian ancestors recreated their lives as best they recalled them from the "old country." They kept their religious traditions and personal values when they crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the extent of group isolation and excessive veneration of tradition. Bohemians immigrating to America were seeking economic and political freedom, not the release from their culture, customs, and traditions. For my Bo-

hemian family, the Catholic Church was more than a religion. It was a way of life inflicted on some of them for centuries both spiritually and politically, until it became by necessity, a social support system.

Consequently, "The settlers never really shed their old way of life with its values, ideals, outlook and tendencies but rather relived it, though in a modified way, at another time and in another place"⁶ For most of my Bohemian relations, this place was Pilsen, Kansas. My Aunt Jerry (Gerada Benda Shramek) shared with me her memories of the traditional wedding festivities in the St. John Nepomucene Church community:



"Beauty of the West", the remnant of the building where Jakub Rudolph held church services in Pilsen. Photo courtesy of Judy Biehler Pasch.

The weddings were a big celebration for the whole parish. Usually the big dinners were at the Pilsen Hall which was located right west of the church. Women worked several days at the hall preparing the food. I even helped make kolaches and rohlicky (rolls) although I was only in my teens. There was always homemade chicken noodle soup. Noodles made by women were so finely cut-about the width

of a string-and so delicious. The tables were filled with everything (food) imaginable. Afternoons were spent visiting, band played up in the balcony, some men played horseshoes. Then in the evening there was another feast, tables cleared, floor swept, and the dance began. That's how boys met girls. It was fun! ... And if a gal was a good dancer, she never sat out a piece and danced all night and did not even have to have a date, because in those days everybody danced with everybody. We even had little tiny note books and pencils and had to write down



Side altar depicting Jesus on the right side of the main altar at St. John Nepomucene. Photo courtesy of Marvin Tajchman.

who asked to dance. I remember I would have as many as twenty promised ahead. Even if we had dates, we'd still dance with others. Great fun! ... Connie and your mother, also Bendie and I just loved to dance. Every chance we got, we would go. Maybe 2 or 3 dances a week.⁷

However, there was a major significant difference in trying to recreate their religious traditions on American soil. For my ancestors in Pilsen, Kansas, unlike Europe, Catholicism was *not* the dominant religion nor supported by the State. As a religious institution in Europe, the Church in Bohemia dated back to 863 a.d. – 867 a.d. with the missionary work of Cyril and Methodius and was not dependent on financial support from parishioners. In Europe, the Church held property and was supported by nobility.⁸ On the contrary, in America monetary support for the Church *had* to come from the parishioners. They had to find the land, purchase the property, and fund the building and its administration with their own money. More crucial, the Bohemian people needed to find a priest. And not just any priest. They needed a priest

who spoke the language and understood the Mass in the customs and traditions of the “old country.” The role of the priest in the Czech-American church was critical and essential. It was the responsibility of the priest to ensure that the traditions of the Bohemian Catholic worshippers transferred from generation to generation safeguarding the continuity of values. Priests managed the generational transfer through the formation of choirs, drama clubs, Czech diction groups, and a Catholic education. To keep the Bohemian bloodline strong,



Sign along the side of the highway when entering Pilsen, Kansas. Photo courtesy of Steve Parke.

it became common practice for parish priests to help inter-marriages among the youth. This practice “grew out of the pastor’s anxiety to hold onto the youth of the parish, furnish it with proper kind of entertainment and avocation, and have it inter-marry within the national group.”⁹

Oral history of the Pilsen pioneers praise Jacob Rudolph, one of the founding fathers, for his leadership role in assuring that the “people’s spiritual lives were attended to” by holding prayer services in the old stone school house known as Cross School and at the Beauty of the West School. “He read from his Czech

language Holy Bible, taught the young people to sing religious songs, and often drove his team of horses as far as Emporia, [Kansas] to bring Catholic Fathers out to Pilsen.”¹⁰ That Czech Holy Bible used by Rudolph may very well have been a Catholic prayer book called *Štěpná Zahrada*. A publisher named Alois (Louis) Josef Landfras from Jindřichův Hradec printed prayer books and booklets, song books, natural history education books, and regional newspapers for the common people.



ABOVE: *St. John Nepomucene Parish school.* Photo courtesy of Judy Pasch.
BELOW: *St. John Nepomucene cemetery on or around Memorial Day with all the US flags.* Photo courtesy of Marvin Tajchman.



Landfras was not only a publisher but served as the mayor of Jindřichův Hradec from 1850 to 1860. The Catholic prayer book measured “3 ½ inches wide by 7 inches long and about 1 ½ inches thick exclusive of the elaborate metal cover with colored glass set as jewels, and has a clever clasp.”¹¹ Using this type of prayer book, Rudolph could say prayers for morning, evening, during Holy mass, and vespers, at confession, or at Holy Communion. Until Pilsen had land, a church, and a Bohemian priest, it had Jacob Rudolph and a bible to keep an “old country” Bohemian Catholic Church alive and thriving.

The Founding of Pilsen

The history of Pilsen is as quaint as the village itself. In 1873 Vit Franta and Jacob Rudolph, two emigrant Bohemian friends living in Chicago, heard of the availability of farm land for sale in Kansas (most likely through pamphlets distributed by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé railroad).¹² They decided to take a train to Florence, Kansas to check it out. The two friends were

“favorably impressed” and stayed long enough to purchase land and return to Illinois. The following year they moved their families to the newly acquired acreages. As rumor of their land-find gathered momentum, other Bohemian families and friends collected their belongings and followed the two friends to the Kansas virgin Tallgrass Prairies resulting in what sociologist’s refer to as the “chain-migration mechanism.”^{13 14}

Vit Franta was originally from Staňcov, a small village near Třeboň in the county of České Budějovice, Bohemia. Grandson Clif McLoud described Franta as “a strong leader of the Chicago Bohemian community” indirectly implying that Vit Franta seems to have been well established in the Chicago Bohemian community prior to Anna Benda’s (my great-great grandmother) arrival in Illinois. The connection between Franta and Benda is important as Anna Maxa Benda and Vit Franta had arranged for their two oldest children to marry once in America. Parish archival records in Hamry and Staňcov inform us that Maxa Benda and her family left Hamry in February 1864 (nine months after her husband Vojtěch Benda had died, 9 June 1863)¹⁵ while the Franta family left Staňcov in October 1864 – eight months after the Benda family departed Bohemia. Regardless, it does seem in fact that Franta’s personality comes through as a charismatic individual with the ability to motivate others.¹⁶

Documenting Franta’s leadership position in Chicago may not be possible but his influence in encouraging others to join him in his land venture is evident. McLoud writes in his family’s oral history that is was “Vit Franta [who] spread the news that the Santa Fé railroad was selling good farm land at \$2.00 per acre. Many other people of Bohemian descent heeded Vit Franta’s advice...” and by 1875, the Kansas State Census of Clear Creek Township¹⁷ listed ten Bohemian farmers from Illinois and two families from Iowa having taken up farming in the small Bohemian settlement known as Pilsen, Kansas. These farmers include:

- John Bisjex (probably Bisek), his wife and 3 children;
- John Mailmorke, his wife and 4 children;
- Jacob Rudolph, his wife and 3 children and J. Wilt, a 19 year old male living with the Rudolph family;



Cemetery gravestone of Vaclav Tajchman, great grandfather of Marvin Tajchman, courtesy of Marvin.

- V. Frantz (Franta), his wife and 2 children;
- Harody, his wife and one child;
- J. Sticker (Stika), his wife and 2 children;
- F. Sticker (Stika), his wife and 2 children;
- Hawdy, his wife and 1 child;
- J. Prusia, his wife and 2 children;
- Chas. Vanoski, his wife and 3 children; and
- John Lentz, his wife and 4 children.

From Iowa came Martin Slinoh (Sklenar), his wife and 5 children. (According to Judy Nelson, Bohemian genealogist in Oxford Junction, Iowa, Martin Sklenar arrived in Oxford Junction Township in 1860 and lived there until 1873 with his wife Terezie Novacek Sklenar. They moved to Kansas in 1873. She is uncertain, however, if this Sklenar family was from the Třeboň area where other Sklenar families reside.)

But why did Franta and Rudolph choose Kansas and not Iowa? Vit Franta’s son-in-law Frank Benda and daughter Mari Franta Benda were married in St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Chicago in the month of July 1869. Mari Franta, only 13 years old when she arrived in America in 1864 and Frank Benda, just 18 years of age that same year, waited until 1869 to marry. Apparently the families decided Mari should wait until she was at least 18 years old to marry. The newly married couple moved out of the Chicago area following

Frank's mother Anna Maxa Benda, his younger sister Jennie and her husband Jacob Korbel, his brother Michael Benda and sister Elizabeth Benda Ledvina and her husband Georg to the Oxford Junction, Jones, Iowa area. (Frank's oldest sister Catherina Benda Urbanek and her husband Ignatz Urbanek remained in Chicago until 1875). While no one is certain why so many Czech immigrants settled in Jones and Johnson County, Iowa, it is known that the State Board of Immigration of Iowa published handbooks in several different languages for European agents to "persuade foreigners to locate in Iowa."

*The State [of Iowa] spent a total of \$29,500 to encourage immigration. Railroads were being rapidly built across America, effectively opening up millions of acres of land for settlement. Letters from early Czech settlers...spoke of a great life; full of opportunity to own your farm and never be hungry...Land in Iowa was cheap and plentiful. [But] The top pull factor for Czechs settling in Iowa was this abundance of affordable, fertile land.*¹⁸

The lure to Kansas may have been prompted by a good old fashion marketing campaign. Just as in Iowa, Kansas and the railroad companies were publishing pamphlets providing listings of land agents to assist emigrants in getting information about land prices, rates, routes, and how to reach the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe. AT&SF railroad, needing operating cash and help in settling the sparsely populated areas extending westward from Kansas City, was offering a "Shopping Excursion" package to any buyer "desiring to look over a real estate parcel and ... [then] discounting such trips to visit its land offices and giving back the ticket price as part of the purchase price if a sale was concluded." AT&SF land agent M. Solomon in Illinois was conveniently located downtown Chicago on Dearborn Street. It is possible that through this office Franta and Rudolph secured tickets for their scouting expedition to Kansas.¹⁹

Land agents and the railroads such as AT&SF understood that a successful *individual* farmer lay largely in the hands of a supportive farming *community*. That is, AT&SF wanted to encourage a group of farmers and their families of similar interests to move to the Kansas frontier – especially those that understood the difficulties and challenges that trailed farming virgin soil.²⁰ Hardship was nothing new for Bohemian people.

Realities versus Railroad Propaganda

For twelve-year old Joseph Svitak, immigrating to

America which was to become his adopted "Mother Country," the parting with friends and family from his beloved Austria-Bohemia was bittersweet. So extreme the sorrow of leaving Bohemia that thirty-three years later that heartache resonates throughout an article written for the *Marion Record* "Old Settler's Day" edition, 16 October 1913. "Can a man be a good citizen who at the same time cherishes the tongue of his forefathers...?" Svitak penned perhaps more for himself than for his intended audience. "According to my notion," Svitak maintains, "I answer 'Yes!'" Svitak argues that as a naturalized citizen he gave to America his "warm and sympathetic heart" and that his "adoptive mother" received a dutiful son and worthy benefactor in exchange for her gifts of freedom of religion, liberty, and a country free of the militarism that exists in the once almighty and powerful Austria-Bohemia.

A theme repeated often by fellow Austrian-Bohemians immigrating to America in the mid to late nineteenth century, the Svitak family's journey "across the ocean" was not without unimaginable hardship and difficult life lessons. Beginning their journey from Lukavec, Bohemia, the family rode by train and sailed by ship to the port in New York. Similar to other immigrants unfortunate experiences, the family "fell into the hands of an unscrupulous agent" who perceiving the family as a source of income, overcharging for a "meager dinner" and supper. Finally making railroad connections to Chicago, we can surmise that the family rode in a boxcar with wooden slats for seating and huddled together in scant comfort in the chilly October 1880 climate. Arriving three days later in Chicago, a telegram wired to a friend living in Lincolnville, Kansas was to notify their host of their impending arrival. "This same dispatch," Svitak humorously recalls, "was delivered to us by mail a week after our arrival."

But the family's hardships had just begun. Once in the train station in Florence, Kansas, the telegraph not having been received, the family was forced to rely on the "kindness of strangers" to find first someone who spoke Czech, and then to secure a means of travel to Pilsen. Having traveled by train, ship, and then once again by horse and wagon, the family arrived to find their newly adopted homeland scorched by prairie fire and finding fellow immigrants living in sod huts. Svitak wrote of his first memories of Kansas:

Sad was the impression made upon us as the surrounding country then looked black and barren after a recent prairie fire. Along the entire road all we could see was here and there a little hut, a stable made from

straw, with a lean cow and a team of Texas ponies. My dreams of a promising land filled with milk and honey came to naught. My father [Frank Svitak] and step-grandfather [Joseph Smetana] however, being more experienced perceived at the first glance that the virgin prairie was very fertile and only awaited hands to cultivate it. That they made no mistake is proved by the appearance of the same country after thirty-three years. The country is covered with beautiful and commodious dwelling; the roar of prairie fire is changed to the roar of automobiles. The scorched prairies produce golden grain in abundance. What a change on the road to prosperity!

Joseph Svitak grew to love his adopted mother country in Pilsen, Kansas. He became “one of the best known and influential Bohemians of ... [Marion] county.”²¹ A farmer, he married, and raised a family. But the memory of Bohemia, the friends he left behind, and the country he loved so dearly were always on his mind. Always a memory.

Records of a U.S. Passport Application inform us that on 27 March 1912, Joseph Svitak, age 45 and now a naturalized citizen living in Marion County, Kansas for 32 years was about to “go abroad temporarily” with the intent to return within one year. The United States of America’s State Department required that Joseph Svitak reaffirm his Oath of Allegiance prior to presenting him an official passport. Svitak was to:

Further...solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; SO HELP ME GOD.” Joseph Cerny, Notary Public and friend certified having known Svitak for nineteen years.

On 17 October 1912, the *Marion County Record* noted Svitak’s return from his travels: “Joseph Svitak returned a short time ago from a four-month visit at this boyhood home [Lukarre, Austria] in the old country. It has been 32 years since he came from there and of course, he found many changes. He visited in Paris, Germany, and a number of other places.”²²

It is what occurred ten years later that reveals the depth of Joseph Svitak’s love of his country – America or Bohemia – it is hard to say which one or both. On 26 January 1922, Mr. Svitak, now fifty-five years old, filled out another application for a United States Passport. As before, he was asked to state the date and place of birth,

that his father Frank Svitak was deceased, that he had immigrated to the United States on 10 October 1880, and that he was a naturalized citizen having lived forty-one years in Marion County, Kansas. And of course he was asked to reaffirm his allegiance to America. But it is this statement that caused me to pause:

“My last passport was obtained from Washington D.C. on April 1st 1912 and was used and burned it. I am about to go abroad temporarily, and intend to return to the United States within 12 months with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein: and I desire a passport for use in visiting the countries hereinafter named for the following purpose: Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, South Belgium, and Holland for Restoration and health.” (Italics are mine. Underlined wording indicates blanks Mr. Svitak was asked to fill in on the application).²³

One wonders what would cause someone to destroy their passport. I can suggest a few ideas but only Joseph Svitak knows the true reason or reasons he chose to “use and burned it.” I suspect memories had a lot to do with it for as Svitak said himself, “I love and cherish my adopted country and am willing to give my weak strength and all my goods for its defense, but I am at the same time proud of my nation, once so glorious, and always cherish a warm spot in my heart for my unfortunate old country.” Jos. Svitak. Pilsen, Kansas, 13 October, 1913.

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About the Author:

A former lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Human Ecology, Department of Consumer Sciences, Judith Biehler Pasch is now a part-time piano instructor and genealogist. Pasch researched and presented at The Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern American, Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture/ American Culture Association, and The School of Human Ecology Centennial, UW-Madison her findings on Women’s History and the Practice Cottage. Pasch’s current family historical research in Pilsen, Marion County, Kansas was supported in part by a grant from the Kansas Historical Foundation, new found cousins Karen Silhan Shelby and Eleanor Silhan, and an encouraging husband, James Pasch.

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CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2014

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

CASH – CHECKING	\$ 65,653	
CASH – SAVINGS	\$ 33,003	
CASH – PETTY (FOR SALES)	\$ 210	
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT	<u>\$ 57,193</u>	
TOTAL CASH/INVESTMENTS		\$ 156,059

MERCHANDISE INVENTORY	\$ 92,996	
LIBRARY COLLECTION	\$ 23,746	
CZECH IMMIGRATION DISPLAY	\$ 4,599	
CZECH GENEALOGY EXHIBIT	\$ 1,231	
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 0	
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	<u>\$ 176</u>	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>\$ 122,749</u>

\$ 278,808

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

DEFERRED MEMBERSHIP FEES	\$ 19,305	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$ 7,560	
SALES TAX PAYABLE	\$ 254	
FUTURE INT'L CONFERENCE	\$ 150	
TRAVELING LIBRARY/EDUCATION	\$ 8,468	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ 35,737

RETAINED EARNINGS	\$ 237,466	
CURRENT EARNINGS (LOSS)	\$ 5,605	
TOTAL CAPITAL (EQUITY)		<u>\$ 243,071</u>

\$ 278,808

INCOME STATEMENT

1/1/14 THRU 12/31/14

INCOME

MEMBERSHIP FEES	\$ 59,415
2014 SYMPOSIUM FEES	\$ 7,361
SALES OF MERCHANDISE	\$ 14,942
LIBRARY DONATIONS	\$ 5,228
2015 CONFERENCE SPONSOR	\$ 2,000
GRANTS/CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 4,191
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 662
POSTAGE HANDLING FEES	\$ 1,638
QUARTERLY PROGRAM FEES	\$ 299
PIONEER CERTIFICATE	\$ 134
OTHER INCOME	\$ 453
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 96,323
CURRENT EARNINGS (LOSS)	\$ 5,605

EXPENSES

NAŠE RODINA	\$ 36,464
2014 SYMPOSIUM	\$ 6,178
COST OF GOODS SOLD	\$ 12,703
LIBRARY EXPENSE	\$ 7,650
SALES EXPENSES	\$ 8,976
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES	\$ 4,063
BOARD OF DIRECTOR	\$ 3,838
QUARTERLY MEETING EXPENSES	\$ 384
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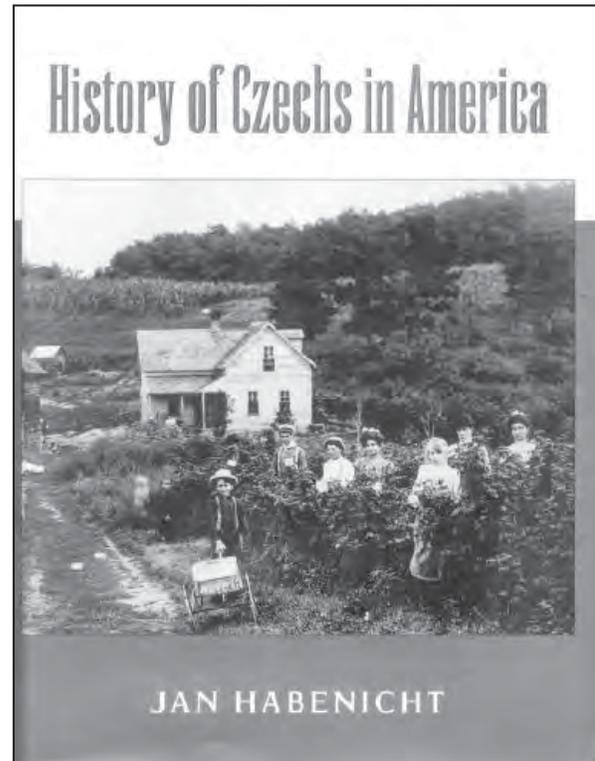
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The Librarian's Shelf

By Suzette Steppe

Theme of This Issue: Introduction to the Slovak Archives

☞ **Frgn Cze Q007** *Cirkevné matriky na Slovensku zo 16.-19. Storočia / Church records of Slovakia in the 16th through the 19th centuries*. Edited by Jana Sarmányová-Kalesna. Published by Odbor Archívniectva Ministerstva Vnútra SR, Bratislava, 1991. Towns in Slovakia are listed in alphabetical order with a list of their parishes (Roman Catholic, Reformed, Evangelical, etc) and the inclusive dates of birth, marriage and death registers which exist for each parish. In Slovak with 3-page summaries in English and German.

☞ **Frgn Cze R025** *Ancestral Tree, Slovakia Roots*. By Joseph J. Hornack. Npl Surname Location Reference Project, 1995.

☞ **Frgn Cze R026** *Hor Ancestral Tree, Slovakia Roots*. By Joseph J. Hornack. Npl Surname Location Reference Project, 1995.

☞ **Frgn Cze R046** *Finding your Slovak Ancestors*. By Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A. Published by Heritage Productions, Toronto, CA, 2005. This new book fills a real need for those that are looking for assistance on how to research Slovak ancestors. It answers the basic question of "where to begin" and then leads the reader to the many sources to be found in the U.S., Canada and Slovakia. Internet research is included as well as a listing of related websites. The LDS continues to microfilm Slovak vital records and this book describes how to access those records. Reflecting the author's personal approach, the book also emphasizes networking and finding Slovak "Cluster Communities."

☞ **Frgn Cze R074** *Informatívny sprievodca Štátnych Archívov Slovenskej Republiky I. / Informative guide to the State Archives of the Slovak Republic I*. Edited by Maria Stieberová. Published by Ministerstvo Vnútra Slovenskej Republiky, odbor archívniectva a spisovej

služby, Bratislava, 2000. This is a guide to the contents of the Slovak State Archives arranged according to subject, with further subdivisions under each subject and under that the names and size of specific collections. In Slovak with brief German summary.

☞ **Frgn Cze R075** *Informatívny sprievodca Štátnych Archívov Slovenskej Republiky II.1 / Informative guide to the State Archives of the Slovak Republic II.1*. Edited by Milan Mišovič. Published by Ministerstvo Vnútra Slovenskej Republiky, odbor archívniectva a spisovej služby, Bratislava, 2001. This is a guide to the contents of the Slovak State Archives arranged according to subject, with further subdivisions under each subject and under that the names and size of specific collections. In Slovak.

☞ **Frgn Cze R076** *Informatívny sprievodca Štátnych Archívov Slovenskej Republiky II.2 / Informative guide to the State Archives of the Slovak Republic II.2*. Edited by Milan Mišovič. Published by Ministerstvo Vnútra Slovenskej Republiky, odbor archívniectva a spisovej služby, Bratislava, 2001. This is a guide to the contents of the Slovak State Archives arranged according to subject, with further subdivisions under each subject and under that the names and size of specific collections. In Slovak with a brief summary in German.

☞ **Frgn Cze R077** *Informatívny sprievodca osobitných Archívov Slovenskej Republiky / Informative guide to the personal Archives of the Slovak Republic*. Edited by Peter Kartous. Published by Ministerstvo Vnútra Slovenskej Republiky, odbor archívniectva a spisovej služby, Bratislava, 2001. This is a guide to the personal papers in the Slovak State Archives arranged according to subject, with further subdivisions under each subject and under that the names, dates covered and size of specific collections. In Slovak with a brief summary in German.

Addition to the Library:

☞ **Frgn Cze Uncatalogued:** *Učebnice Čtení Starých Textů nejen pro rodopisce / Textbook of Reading Old Texts for Genealogists*. By collective authors. Published in 2014. This book teaches genealogists how to read old script and is an invaluable resource to those who are intimidated by the handwriting of Archive records that they are trying to research.

There are alphabet charts that show the Latin, Kurent, and Švabach scripts that are used in the documents:

	Kurent – německé novogotické písmo kurzivní		Svalach – novogotické písmo (tiskové)	
	majuskuly	minuskuly	majuskuly	minuskuly
A	<i>U</i>	<i>u</i>	U	a
Ä	<i>U</i>	<i>ü</i>	U	ä
B	<i>L</i>	<i>b</i>	B	b
C	<i>C</i>	<i>c</i>	C	c

There is a chart that shows the evolution of the script from 1600-1935:

Písmena	České novogotické písmo kurzivní								Přímá odměra (1:1) - na lůžku - slyšte	
	1600	1580	1654	1704	1746	1807	1839	1911		1935
a	<i>at</i>	<i>ak</i>	<i>at</i>	<i>ak</i>	<i>at</i>	<i>ak</i>	<i>at</i>	<i>ak</i>	<i>at</i>	<i>ak</i>
b	<i>bt</i>	<i>bk</i>	<i>bt</i>	<i>bk</i>	<i>bt</i>	<i>bk</i>	<i>bt</i>	<i>bk</i>	<i>bt</i>	<i>bk</i>
c	<i>ct</i>	<i>ck</i>	<i>ct</i>	<i>ck</i>	<i>ct</i>	<i>ck</i>	<i>ct</i>	<i>ck</i>	<i>ct</i>	<i>ck</i>

There are numerous examples of a variety of Archive documents that show the original document and the translation of the document:

<i>Octobris die 26. obiit et 28. hujus sepulta est a P. Adamo Katzerowsky capellano fund. loci</i>	<i>72. Alžběta dcera Jana Sygra měšťana</i>	Octobris die 26. obiit et 28. hujus sepulta est a P. Adamo Katzerowsky capellano fund. loci	72	Alžběta dcera Jana Sygra měšťana
<i>Novembreis die 1. obiit et 2. hujus sepulta est a P. Adamo Katzerowsky capellano fund. loci</i>	<i>12. Anna dcera Fratisska Horaka sedlaka, matere Anny</i>	Novembreis die 1. obiit et 2. hujus sepulta est a P. Adamo Katzerowsky capellano fund. loci	12	Anna dcera Fratisska Horaka sedlaka, matere Anny
<i>Novembreis die 10. obiit et 21. hujus sepulta est a P. Adamo Katzerowsky capellano fund. loci</i>	<i>190. Karel syn Jana Sygra měšťana</i>	Novembreis die 10. obiit et 21. hujus sepulta est a P. Adamo Katzerowsky capellano fund. loci	190	Karel syn Jana Sygra měšťana

While the book is in Czech anyone can follow along to compare the final translation to the original document. Along with the charts in the book, the genealogist can study the examples from specific time periods to become more comfortable with reading and translating their ancestor's documents.

When CGSI takes it's library on the road to festivals or to a conference one of the most common requests is to show someone how to find

their ancestor's church records. As more and more genealogists are locating records they are telling us that they cannot read the records. This book will help them do that just like a foreign language dictionary will help them translate words into English. This will be a valuable resource for the Traveling Library that we will take to the Cedar Rapids Conference in October.

This book is available for purchase from CGSI for \$23.00.

Cedar Rapids Conference

Once again, CGSI will be bringing its Traveling Library to the Cedar Rapids Conference. Some of the resources that we will bring include:

- Berní rula (1653-54 Bohemia census)
- Soupis poddaných podle víry z roku 1651 (Bohemia religious census)
- Leo Baca's Immigration books
- The History of Czech in America
- The History of Slovaks in America

- And other books that would be appropriate for the Cedar Rapids area

We will have volunteers in the library that can assist you with limited online research. Online sites that the volunteers can access:

- CGSI member's only section
- Ancestry.com
- Family Search

- Czech Archives

Whether you are new to online research in general or you need some help navigating the various archive sites and reading the church records we will have volunteers with laptops to help.

CGSI is Looking for Family Histories

If you have a family history and would like to share it with others who are conducting genealogical research we would be happy to add it to our collection. The family history must be shelf ready either in a three-ring notebook or bound. We cannot accept loose-leaf pages.

You can send the family histories to:

CGSI – Librarian
PO Box 16225
Saint Paul, MN 55116-0225

Library Volunteers Needed

There are many opportunities to volunteer and no experience is required, library training will be provided. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with all of the resources available in the library and to assist other members with their research. There are many great programs that the CGSI and MGS volunteers are responsible for putting together for their members and the Genealogical Library is the largest of these programs.

As such it requires a number of people who can donate their time to keep the library maintained and open to its members. You can volunteer as often as you like, once a week or once a month, day or evening shifts. For further information please contact MNGSVolunteers@comcast.net or CGSILibrary@aol.com

Periodicals

We have issues of various periodicals that have been donated but are not on the shelves due to space limitations. These are stored in the CGSI office and if you have an interest in examining them, please contact library@cgsi.org. The periodicals include *Hospodář*, *Ženské Listy*, *Jednota*, *Hlás Národa*, *Česká Žena* and *Přítel*.

Library Collection Research Policy

CGSI will do research on selected books and reference material in our library collection. Mostly, these are books with name indexes or are indexes themselves, such as Leo Baca's Czech Passenger Arrival Lists, the ZČBJ (Fraternal Herald) Death Index, the Nebraska/

Kansas Czech Settlers book, and the telephone directories of the Czech and Slovak Republics.

A nearly complete list of the CGSI's book, microfilm/fiche, and map collection is available on the website, www.cgsi.org. The collection is searchable by part or all of the title by using any of the following parameters: "Is equal to," "Contains," "Starts with," and "Ends with." The books can also be sorted by title and author.

Another feature of the on-line library collection is the special notation of those searchable for a fee under the research policy (discussed later). The notation is identified with a capital letter "S" in the far right margin of the book record.

Books may also be searched according to the following categories: "Any," "Family History," "Foreign," "Maps and Atlases," "Microfilm/Microfiche," "Minnesota and United States," "Tapes," and "Telephone Directories."

We cannot accept open-ended research requests such as "tell me what you have on the Jan Dvořák family of Minnetonka, Minnesota." When making a research request you must specify which book you want researched and what family, castle, town, etc, for which you want information.

The fees for various research are as follows: Telephone Directories of Czech and Slovak Republics - \$5.00 for each surname provided (per directory) per member, or \$10 for each surname provided (per directory) per non-member, plus 25 cents for each address we find and extract from the book.

Other Sources/Books - \$10.00 per half hour of research for members or \$20.00 per half hour of research for non-members. Expenses for photocopies and additional postage will be billed. The minimum charge of \$10.00/member or \$20.00/non-member must accompany the request for information.

Copies of St. Paul Archdiocese Church Records from our on-line database (up to 1934)

- The church name, microfilm number, page number and surname are required
- Members - \$5.00 for the first copy and \$2.00 for each additional copy on the same roll of microfilm
- Non-members - \$10.00 for the first copy and \$3.00 for each additional copy on the same roll of microfilm

Copies of St. Paul Archdiocese Church Records Post 1934 (from Films owned by CGSI)

- The church name, person's full name, type of record (baptism, marriage or death), and date or ap-

- proximate timeframe +/- five years are required
 - Members - \$10.00 per ½ hour of research
 - Non-members - \$20.00 per ½ hour of research
- Copies of Leo Baca's Czech Immigration Passenger Lists from the online database (currently volumes V, VI, VIII, IX):
- The volume number and surname are required
 - Members - \$5.00 for the first copy and \$2.00 for each additional copy
 - Non-members - \$10.00 for the first copy and \$3.00 for each additional copy
- Copies of Leo Baca's Czech Immigration Passenger Lists not available from the online database:
- The full name, port of arrival and an approximate year of arrival +/- five years
 - Members - \$10.00 per ½ hour of research
 - Non-members - \$20.00 per ½ hour of research

We will continue to provide at NO charge for members, help on deciphering town names on documents, locating town or villages, providing postal codes, and advising on correspondence to those in the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Research is conducted by CGSI volunteers. They will not be able to interpret any information for you that is found in a foreign language.

CGSI Library

The CGSI Library holdings are housed within the William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center (LRC) of the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS). The LRC is located at 1185 Concord St N, Suite 218 in South St. Paul, MN* (Across the street from the Marathon Gas Station). Parking is available in lots on the north or south end of the building and on the east side of Concord St.

MGS Library telephone number:

(651) 455-9057

MGS Library hours:

The first Saturday of the month from 1 to 4 pm is the designated CGSI research day.

During these hours, the library is staffed by CGSI volunteers who are there to assist you in locating the resources you need in your research.

**Please do not send mail to this address, instead continue to send it to the P.O. Box.*

Membership Form

On the back page of this issue, your membership number and expiration date is printed on the top of the address label.

If your membership is due within the next three months, fill out the following form and return to CGSI.

Renewal New Membership No. (on top of mailing label) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip Code _____ Telephone () _____

Email _____

*Students must enroll online at www.cgsi.org so that required information can be captured.
Foreign members will receive their publications in electronic format only.

Make checks payable to and mail to: **CGSI, P.O. Box 16225
St. Paul, MN 55116-0225**

Circle Choice:

Term	Student	Individual	Household	Sponsor
1 Year	\$15.00*	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$55.00
2 Year	N/A	\$65.00	\$70.00	\$95.00
3 Year	N/A	\$90.00	\$95.00	\$125.00

Membership Fee \$ _____
1st Class Postage \$ _____
Library Donation \$ _____
Total Payment \$ _____

USA Funds Only

**USA 1st Class Mail add \$10 for 1 year;
add \$20 for 2 years; add \$30 for 3 years**

- Copy this form as necessary -

Calendar of Events -*Mark Yours*

If you have a question write the webmaster at info@cgsi.org or call our number (651) 964-2322 to leave a voice mail message. Your call will be returned.

September 19, 2015 (Saturday) 10 am – 5 pm

Annual Dožinky (Harvest) Festival

Hwy 19 in downtown New Prague, MN
Visit the CGSI Sales table in Czech Village
www.newprague.com/events/dozinky-festival/

September 27, 2015 (Sunday) 11 am – 5 pm

26th Annual Czech and Slovak Festival

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol MN
C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan St, St. Paul
Further info: www.sokolmn.org

September 27, 2015 (Sunday) 9 am

38th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival

The PNC Bank Arts Center
Exit 116, of the Garden State Pkwy, Holmdel, NJ
Further info: (732) 442-9200 M-F 9-4

October 3, 2015 (Saturday) 8 am – 5 pm

Oklahoma Czech Festival - 50th Anniversary

5th and Cedar Street, Yukon, Oklahoma
Info: www.czechfestivaloklahoma.com

October 10, 2015 (Saturday) 8 am – 4 pm

Texas Czech Genealogical Society

It's All About Google by Lisa Louise Cooke
Caldwell Civic/Visitor Center, Caldwell, TX
Further info: www.txczgs.org

October 18, 2015 (Sunday)

11th Annual Czechfest

Holthus Convention Center (near I-80)
York, Nebraska 68467
Info: www.nebraskaczehsofyork.org

October 21-24, 2015 (Wednesday – Saturday)

CGSI's 2015 Genealogical/Cultural Conference

Marriott Cedar Rapids Hotel, Cedar Rapids, IA
35 presentations offered Thursday – Saturday
“Night at the Museum” Gala event Thu Oct 22
For lodging check the link on our Conference page:
www.cgsi.org or e-mail PaulMCzech@comcast.net
Silent Auction donations still being accepted:
Contact: GarnetBina@comcast.net

October 24-25, 2015 (Saturday, Sunday)

100th Anniversary of the Cleveland Agreement

Event to establish an independent Czecho-Slovakia
Historic Bohemian National Hall (SGC) Cleveland, OH
Further info: www.sokolgreatercleveland.org

October 25, 2015 (Sunday) Noon – 6 pm

Czech-Slovak Heritage Assoc. Festival

Baltimore 45 Association, Inc. Hall
2501 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore, MD
Info: www.czslha.org or (410) 662-6094

November 1, 2015 (Sunday) 1 to 5 pm

25th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival

University of Pitt Slovak Studies Program
Commons Room, Cathedral of Learning
4200 5th Avenue, Oakland, PA
Further info: e-mail: Slavic@pitt.edu

November 7, 2015 (Saturday) 11:00 - 6:00

25th Annual St. Lucas' Slovak Festival

St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church
7100 Morganford Rd, St. Louis, MO
Further info: ochymom@att.net

November 13-15, 2015 (Friday – Sunday)

American Sokol 150 Years of Service

Volleyball, bowling, Anniversary Party,
Dinner and Dancing, Silent Auction.
Events in McCook, Chicago and Lisle, IL
Further info: www.american-sokol.org

November 21, 2015 (Saturday) 10:00 - 4:00

Annual Czech Holiday Fair

Historic Bohemian National Hall (SGC)
4939 Broadway Ave Cleveland, OH 44127
Further info: www.sokolgreatercleveland.org

November 21, 2015 (Saturday) 11 am – 7 pm

Annual Czech Fall Festival

American-Czech Educational Center
4690 Lansdowne Ave, St. Louis, Missouri
Info: (314) 752-8168 or www.acec-stl.org.

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
P.O. Box 16225
St. Paul, MN 55116-0225

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Coming in the December 2015 Issue -

- “Beyond The Arrival Date: Examining Other Clues in US Passenger Lists”
- Using Lesser Known Passenger Arrival Sources to Locate Your Ancestor(s)
- A One-Step Portal for On-Line Genealogy
- “U.S. Immigration via Quebec, Canada”
- Czech and German Surnames of Czechs

Don't Forget 15th Genealogical/Cultural Conference!!

See our Video and registration info at www.cgsi.org



The hallway outside the exhibit gallery's in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Photo courtesy of NCSML.



Jan Dus of Polička, Czech Republic speaking at the 2013 Chicago Conference. Photo courtesy of Ric Peltier.

CGSI website: www.cgsi.org