



Czechoslovak Area Genealogy Club of Southern California Newsletter

Newsletter January 2020

The Czechoslovak Area Genealogy Club (CAGC) is a non-profit, volunteer organization, dedicated to genealogical research of peoples of the geographical area formerly known as Czechoslovakia. This includes Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia and Ruthenia. CAGC encourages cooperative research, but does not provide professional (for fee) research services. Website: Cagc-ca.org/

Next Meeting: January 26th @1:30pm- “Genealogy as Detective Work” as Speaker Linda Serna, highlights the skills used by both detectives and genealogists to solve mysteries and explores how to reason through a genealogical challenge by using the tools of a detective and using indirect evidence.

Meetings are held the first Sunday of the following months: February (Jan. due to Superbowl), April, June, August, October and December, at 1:30 pm for lunch at the **Jagerhaus Restaurant, 2525 East Ball Rd, Anaheim, CA 92806**. Seating is limited; reservations are required; guests are welcome. We hope to see you all at future meetings. If you decide to attend a meeting please be prepared to tell us a little bit about yourself and what surnames and ancestral villages you are researching. If you aren't doing any research but just want to meet some very nice people from the Czech and Slovak lands come to the meetings anyway! We try to make the programs fun and interesting for everyone.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- **Whittier Genealogical Society Seminar** (WAGS), Jan 25, 2020 **Dear MYRTLE** Pat Richley-Erickson speaking on Ways to Jumpstart your Research, Clothesline Approach and Proven Strategies. Wagswhittier.org, at 7604 Greenleaf Ave.
- **Rootstech** Salt Lake City: Feb 26-Feb 29, 2020. Rootstech.org.
- **Folklore Festival-Czech--Slovak** San Diego/ La Mesa Annual May 2020.
- **Genealogy Jamboree** (Burbank): postponed [until 2021](#).
- **FEFFHS**-Foundation for Eastern European Family History Studies Aug 3-7, 2020, Salt Lake City. FEFFHS.org
- **I4GG**-International Genetic Genealogy Conference-Las Vegas, NV, Sunday Feb 2-Feb 3, 2020.

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Annette Gathright
Vice President/Secretary: Mary Shade
Treasurer: Nancy Pestal
Webmaster: Mary Shade
Board Member: Hana Haas
Board Member: Marie Garcia-Svarz

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year and new decade to All!

I hope you had a great holiday season, and enjoyed our own Christmas celebration!

Our year was a very busy and fruitful one! We had talked about getting a PC projector so members could give presentations and go greener by not having to print fat handouts like I did last January. To this end, we had a silent auction of items donated by our members. We raised \$100 this way... not a lot but a good start to buying a projector (and a way to recycle Czech and Slovak items). And then, to my surprise, one of our members gave us a projector no longer wanted. John Kracha, a long-time friend of mine living in south San Diego county, no longer needs his; like all good Americans should be doing, he recycled it to a new useful purpose! This allowed us to use the money we raised for stipends for speakers.... and we had a great one in October - Colleen Fitzpatrick. If you weren't able to come, you missed a great talk!

As you have seen, our newsletter editor has been busy generating a great product. I want to encourage all of you to submit items to her for it, or suggest items that she can add to it. We all come across interesting information as we browse the web and are active in our genealogical research.

One area of interest to researchers is the use of DNA. I know some of you have had your DNA tested but I don't know if you have had the opportunity to really use it. This last year, I did the testing, and have spent some time to see how it can help me with my research. My main reason for getting involved in it is the big brick wall encountered by lack of knowledge of my grandmother's line. I thought that if I could find 'cousins' via DNA, I could locate the area of origin of her family. While I haven't done that yet, I have become aware of tools that might help me do that.... perusing DNA matches to identify those who come from that line, using DNA painter, triangulation.... I have found two matches and know how they are related (a good family tree helps!) and am in contact with them - for those of you who are keen to do that, know that not all matches are willing to connect with you....all some are interested in is what ethnicity they are! So, if you do connect with someone, it is a super moment! If you would like to learn more about using DNA, let us know so we can plan a meeting with this topic.

I also attended the CGSI semi-annual genealogy and cultural conference this fall in Lincoln, NE. It was super busy, had a good attendance and a program that made you want to be able to be in two places at once! I have a syllabus for anyone who wants to look at the presentation info. There was ethnic style food, kolaches, all sorts of ethnic goodies for purchase, entertainment, and a parade of kroje.

What I found out while there, and not in the program, is that the FamilySearch crew is filming in the Czechlands. They are in Slovakia imaging records that are now with in the archives and within the time limits for such. They expect to start putting them online this spring; you can monitor their 'new' to the site records for your area of interest. I understand that they are also doing some imaging in Czech Republic of records that are in the district and other archives there not including the larger, regional ones; many of those archives have completed imaging of those records within the time limit. (continued)

Message from the President (cont.)

Another interesting item was a comment by a linguist and researcher that there may soon be a program to 'read' the written records in a similar manner to the OCR capability used to read printed records. If this does come about, it will greatly change our ability to read records! It is not expected to be available for a couple more years! The next conference will be held in Milwaukee, WI, in 2021, so start your plans to attend, especially if your genealogy takes you back to the Midwest!

Our newsletter editor has also been busy updating our web page. We need you to help her make it better by looking at it, and making comments on what else you might like to see it contain. One thing we need is a resource area where our members can find information to help them in their research. There are so many websites available that have everything from howto's to data bases, records, and imaged books. You can help by sending in URL's for those websites you have found useful or of interest in your research. Ethnic resources will be very useful, but general ones will be useful for our newer researchers.

You can also help us in suggesting topics for our meetings, or providing names of speakers you have heard that would be of interest to our members. All help in making our group helpful to you is most welcome.

I am looking forward to this next year and being able to celebrate your research successes!

Annette Gathright

2019 - A YEAR IN REVIEW:

Jan/Feb 2019. Annette Gathright gave an informative presentation on: "Steps to Researching Vital Records in the Czechlands". Genteam.org has information on villages.

Apr 2019. Our silent auction was a success! Many of our members are very knowledgeable on Genealogy topics, 3 excellent, detailed presentations:

Judith Broberg-Speaker: "Writing To Your Ancestral Villages"

Hana Haas: Speaker: "Short review of Czech Grammar – "Nouns and Why are They Constantly Changing?"

Annette Gathright-Speaker: "Cadastral Maps from the 19th Century"

Jun 2019. Members were the speakers and shared individual challenges, successes, and

stories based on questions: Have you gotten involved in other ways that you are paying tribute to you families? Are you writing stories about them or composing a book? Have you joined the DNA researchers and found relatives to share information with?

Aug 2019. Breaking down brick walls, members brought individual questions and items for research and translation assistance.

Oct 2019. Colleen Fitzpatrick gave an informative presentation on Forensic Genealogy. She is a well-known author of books on Forensic and DNA Genealogy.

Dec 2019. Christmas celebration and exchange of information on what each member liked about the group. St. Mikulas is dressed like a bishop in white clothing, the angel and devil, who gave gifts to good children.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

Recap: San Diego Genealogical Society

Speaker: Nov 9, 2019- Speaker - Lisa Alzo

“Ten Ways to Jumpstart Your Eastern European Research” and “Crossing the Pond: Successful Strategies - Researching Eastern European Ancestors”.

Ms. Alzo’s presentations were very informative for anyone researching the Czechoslovak areas and determining an immigrant ancestor’s town or village of origin is critical to your research. She reminded us of the importance of posting our trees online so others could see, and posting surnames on message boards; also, searching different databases, looking at maps, and the idea of hiring a professional genealogist after exhausting resources. She promotes “Immersion” genealogy where we learn how our ancestors lived and worked, in addition to their culture and customs. It gives us the opportunity to take our research a step further to help us to truly understand our ancestors’ lives. A journey back to your origins helps to bring your research full circle. She has written a book in 2016 entitled: “The family Tree Polish, Czech and Slovak Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Family Tree in Eastern Europe”.



What is a SOKOL?

SOKOL is an organization dedicated to the physical, mental and cultural advancement of its members, and the children who attend its gymnasiums. It is based upon the theory that only physically fit, mentally alert and culturally well-developed citizens can form a healthy, strong nation. In 1862, a highly educated young intellectual, Dr. Miroslav Tyrs (1832-1884) founded Sokol.

The SOKOL symbol is a Falcon.
Sokol is the Czech word for Falcon.

The SOKOL Credo

To build a healthy and beautiful human body, to cultivate a harmonious and total person, to develop firm character, a well-rounded disposition and a love of truth and justice; to produce strong, lovely and honorable people: That is the goal of a Sokol education.

Group Online Courses
Beginner's Czech Language & Culture I
10-week, 15-hour courses with Instructor, Anna Cooková

Wednesdays Noon - 1:30pm (Central Time)
January 22 – March 25, 2020

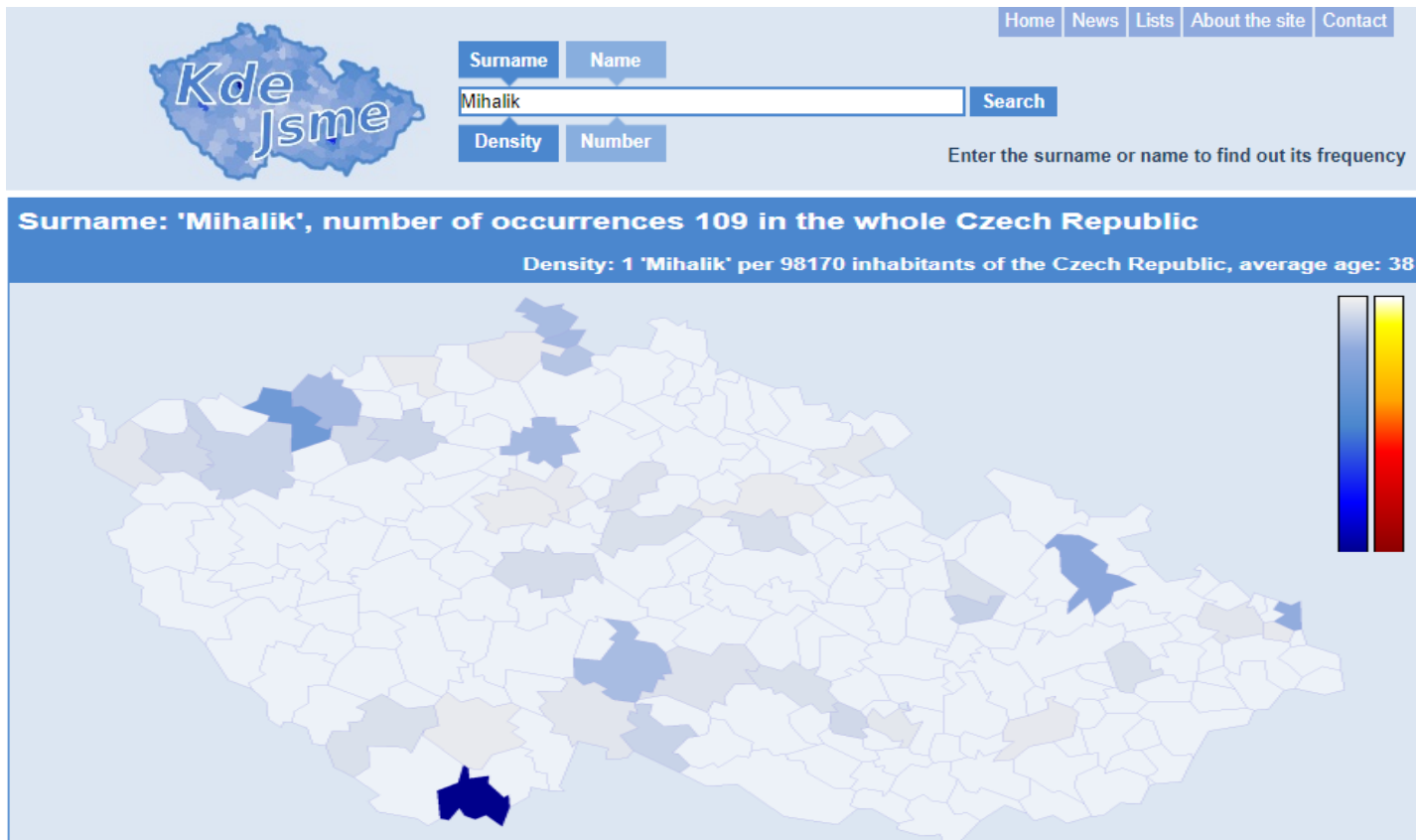
 **–Vítáme Vás! (We welcome you!) –**
Learn to read, write & speak in Czech!

CZECHTALK.COM
Maximum of 12 students
Easy Online Access
Course Materials Included
A Systematic Approach Using Parts of Speech

CGSI Member: \$210 (reg. \$300)
Non-member: \$235

Contact Anna Cooková for a registration form by emailing:
 annacookova@gmail.com or call 715-651-7044
Sponsored by Czechoslovak Genealogical Society, Int'l

SURNAMES SEARCH: CZECH REPUBLIC: www.kdejsme.cz/



Mihalik (108)		
Municipality with RP	Number	Every X-th
Kaplice	12	3346
Kadaň	9	10109
Prague	8	168961
Karviná	8	17556
Chomutov	7	21290
Bruntál	5	15681
Pelhřimov	4	22931
Mělník	4	21809
Carlsbad	4	39706
Brno	4	117678
Ostrava	4	102362
Sokolov	3	48736
Rumburk	3	23000
Pardubice	3	64008
Kolín	2	72641
Benešov	2	56712
Louny	2	44170
NewBor	2	26965
Varnsdorf	2	20987
Jihlava	2	82732
Nymburk	1	77332
Česká	1	221012

You can type in your surnames on the first page and the results show both a map with a visual location and a listing of the frequency in which your surname appears.

In the example above, the surname **Mihalik** was entered in the Searchbox, and the map shows most (12) of them are located in Kaplice, then, 9 in Kadan, and 8 in Prague, and so on.

This may be a tool for those who are just starting out and have no idea where in the Czech Republic to search.

NAME DAYS vs. BIRTHDAYS:

Discover over 365 Czech names that are part of the Czech calendar!

http://www.myczechrepublic.com/czech_culture/czech_name_days/index.html

In the Czech Republic, every day of the year is someone's name day ("svátek" or "jmeniny" in Czech - the latter is more formal). It is a reason to celebrate, wish the person a Happy Name Day, and buy a little present, like flowers and a box of chocolates. Remember: Never give anyone an even number of flowers (2, 4, 6...). Such bouquets are used at funerals. The number should be odd (1, 3, 5...).

Find out if your name has an equivalent in Czech and what its diminutive version would be. Learn on which days your friends' or family members' names fall and how to wish them a Happy Name Day in Czech!

Wish your friends a Happy Name Day:
Všechno nejlepší k svátku! (*All the best for your name day!*)

In Poland, many people do not celebrate their birthday when they get older/after age of 30 years. **They may organize a party on their name day instead.**

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

There's a Czech/Slovak Los Angeles Meetup group:

www.meetup.com/So-Calif-American-Czech-Slovak-Genealogy-Social-Meet-Up

Czech/Slovak Events: St. John Paul II, Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA.

Join CGSI

Your CGSI membership gives you the best tools for genealogical research:

- *Nase rodina* quarterly
- Research assistance
- Message board and queries
- Access to Members Only section
– [includes 4 databases](#)

WEBINARS:

Legacy Family Tree Webinars has a webinar list showing: Familytreewebinars.com

The Legacy webinars are free for a week after live presentation.

Familytreewebinars.com/arm.chived_webinars_bydates.

Rootstech had several talks about topics that are now online. To access them, go to www.rootstech.org/category/2019

DNA COLUMN:

If you haven't looked lately, **Ancestry.com** has updated their DNA Matches filters! Ancestry always had the "STAR" ★ feature, but now you can add several more filters.

At Ancestry click on the + next to a match to assign it to a group with the color you choose

Sort ▾ Groups ▾ Filters ▾ Search

Full Sibling

Sister
Shared DNA: 2,615 cM across 66 segments ⓘ
15,305 People
Common ancestor

1st Cousin

1st-2nd Cousin
Shared DNA: 944 cM across 35 segments ⓘ
423 People
Common ancestor

Add/edit group
Create custom group
Starred matches
Etne (further back S
German unknown
Halling

Image Courtesy of Kitty M. Cooper

You can also edit the Groups (Colored circles) by clicking on your DNA match name:

You and [Redacted Name]

Predicted relationship: 2nd-3rd Cousin
Shared DNA: 206 cM across 9 segments

➕ Add/edit groups
Add note

Other Filter categories can be seen across the top:
Unreviewed, Common Ancestors, Messaged, Notes, Trees, Shared DNA, and Groups.

Filter by: Unreviewed Common ancestors Messaged Notes Trees Shared DNA Groups Reset filters Search | Sort

Last 7 days

Marilyn
5th-8th Cousin
Shared DNA: 7 cM across 2 segments ⓘ
Unlinked Tree
Add to group

patricl
5th-8th Cousin
Shared DNA: 7 cM across 1 segments ⓘ
No Trees
Add to group

Janelle

Relationship: Close to distant
Date: Newest to oldest

Your New Matches "Unreviewed" have a BLUE Circle in front

DNA COLUMN: (cont.)

Ancestry has done a lot of the work for you by searching trees for common ancestors

The screenshot shows a list of DNA matches filtered by 'Common ancestors'. The filter is highlighted with a red arrow. The matches are:

Name	Relationship	Shared DNA	Common Ancestor	Additional Info
Carol	5th-8th Cousin	7 cM across 1 segments	223 People	Add/edit groups, 6th Fatland TL
Susan	5th-8th Cousin	7 cM across 1 segments	2,623 People	Add/edit groups, 6th via Tveito looks correct
K.D.	5th-8th Cousin	7 cM across 1 segments	866 People	Add to group

Image Courtesy of Kitty M. Cooper

You can also screen out all of your distant cousins by setting the “Shared DNA” value to 15 cMs:

The screenshot shows the 'Shared DNA' filter dropdown menu open, with a red arrow pointing to the '15' value in the 'Custom centimorgan range' section. The dropdown options are:

- All matches (25,527)
- Close matches—4th cousin or closer (277)
20 – 3,490 shared centimorgans
- Distant matches (25,250)
6 – 20 shared centimorgans
- Custom centimorgan range (selected)
15 – 200
Min of 6 cM, Max of 3,490 cM

The main list of matches is partially visible, showing:

Name	Relationship	Shared DNA
Maril	5th-8th Cousin	7 cM across 2 segments
patri	5th-8th Cousin	7 cM across 1 segments
Janel	5th-8th Cousin	9 cM across 1 segments

Join the Czech DNA Project on FamilyTreeDNA.com:

The Czech DNA Project was launched in late 2001 as part of a study designed to see if specific patterns emerge from correlating Czech surnames with Czech villages. The Project is growing with a current count of over 800 participants! The Project welcomes those persons who can trace their origins to what is now known as the Czech Republic (Czechia).

DNA testing and genealogy data of your Czech line is required to participate in this study. These data are crucial especially when paired with DNA results. FTDNA accepts raw autosomal uploads of DNA results for persons who tested at other companies.

www.familytreedna.com/groups/czech

CULTURE:

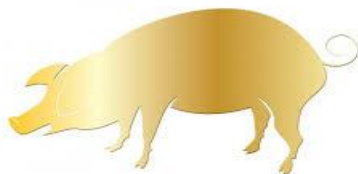
Czech Customs to predict the future:

Fortune telling and predicting the future has obsessed mankind for ages, and at Christmas there are traditions that are still practiced today.

Walnut shells are cut in half and a candle is placed in it. The shell is floated on a bowl of water, if it makes it across the bowl, the person will live a healthy long life. If it sinks it will bring bad luck.

If a goat is given apples to eat on Christmas eve, the milk will be sweet. If hens are fed poppyseeds, peas wheat and barley, they will lay lots of eggs the following year.

Children are told if they fast on Christmas Eve, they'll see a Golden Pig. Only a few totally respect the fasting tradition today, but many eat meatless dishes for lunch.



The Cutting of the Apple

After Christmas dinner, every person present at the table cuts an apple in half (crosswise, from the stem down). Both halves are shown to everyone around the table. If the core is shaped as a star, it means that everyone will get together next year in happiness and health. A four-pointed cross is a bad omen and means that

someone at the table will fall ill or die within a year.

Other Christmas superstitions include not writing a love letter on Christmas Eve. Otherwise bad luck will follow. Laundry should not be done on New Year's Day in order to prevent unhappiness. It's not all grim. Eggs laid and bread baked on December 25th are believed to have magical powers.

Young girls always want to know if they are getting married in the year to come. This is the way to find out. On Barbora's Day, **December 4th**, a maiden will cut a branch of a cherry tree and place it in water. If the branch blooms by Christmas Eve, she will get married within a year. She can also throw a shoe over her shoulder aiming at the door. If the toe of the shoe points toward the door, she will be a bride within a year.

TRAVELING - THE CZECH REPUBLIC:

<https://www.czechtourism.com/practical-information/>

Do I need an international driver's license?

Your passport and **driver's license** are all you **need** in most European countries.

However, some countries also require an **International Driving Permit (IDP)**. An IDP is an official translation of your U.S. license and costs about \$20. You can get it from the AAA without being a member. The U.S. State Dept **advised** drivers to obtain IDPs.

NATIONAL ANTHEMS: (Reference from Wikipedia)

Kde domov můj; English: "Where my home is" is the national anthem of the Czech Republic, written by the composer František Škroup and the playwright Josef Kajetán Tyl.^[1] It was first performed by Karel Strakatý at the Estates Theatre in Prague on 21 December 1834.

Soon after Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918, the first verse of the song became the Czech part of the national anthem, followed by the first verse of the Slovak song *Nad Tatrou sa blýska*. The songs reflected the two nations' concerns in the 19th century.^[2] When they were confronted with the already fervent national-ethnic activism of the Germans and the Hungarians, their fellow ethnic groups in the Habsburg Monarchy. Because of the linguistic and ethnic diversity of the First Republic, official translations were made into Hungarian and German as well.^[3]

With the split of Czechoslovakia in 1993, the Czechoslovak anthem was divided as well. While Slovakia extended its anthem by adding a second verse, the Czech Republic's national anthem was adopted unextended, in its single-verse version.^[1]

National Anthem of Czechoslovakia 1918–1992



The first stanza, along with that of the Slovak song *Nad Tatrou sa blýska* which is nowadays the national anthem of Slovakia, became from 1918 to 1992 the national anthem of Czechoslovakia.

Czech and Slovak	English translation
Stanza 1 (<i>Kde domov můj</i>)	
Kde domov můj, kde domov můj, voda hučí po lučinách, bory šumí po skalínách, v sadě skví se jara květ, zemský ráj to na pohled! A to je ta krásná země, země česká domov můj, země česká domov můj!	Where my home is, where my home is, Water roars across the meadows, Pinewoods rustle among crags, The garden is glorious with spring blossom, Paradise on earth it is to see. And this is that beautiful land, The Czech land, my home, The Czech land, my home!
Stanza 2 (<i>Nad Tatrou sa blýska</i>)	
Nad Tatrou sa blýska, hromy divo bijú Nad Tatrou sa blýska, hromy divo bijú Zastavme ich, bratia, veď sa ony stratia, Slováci ožijú. Zastavme ich, bratia, veď sa ony stratia, Slováci ožijú.	There is lightning over the Tatras, thunders wildly beat, There is lightning over the Tatras, thunders wildly beat. Let's stop them, brethren, after all they'll disappear, the Slovaks will revive. Let's stop them, brethren, after all they'll disappear, the Slovaks will revive.

MEMBERSHIP

Members receive the newsletter, meeting notices, periodic mailings from the club, handouts from meeting presentations and programs, and receipt of genealogical research assistance from club members. Membership dues are \$5.00 per year per household. Please email the treasurer for information on joining the club and getting all the member benefits. Feel free to distribute attached flyer for CAGC!

Czechoslovak Area Genealogy Club

We support the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI). Visit them at www.cgisi.org.

And we support the Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS). Visit them at www.scgsgenealogy.com.



CAGC Club Flyer
Dec 2019.docx

