



# Czechoslovak Area Genealogy Club of Southern California Newsletter

Newsletter July 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/](http://Cagc-ca.org/)  
Meetings are **on-hold due to Covid-19**, but usually held on the first Sunday of the following months: February, April, June, August, October and December, at 1:30 pm for lunch at the **Jagerhaus Restaurant, 2525 East Ball Rd, Anaheim, CA 92806**, 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 attend meetings anyway! We try to make the programs fun and interesting for everyone.

**Plans for future CAGC Meeting Topic: “I found my record. Now how do I read it?”**  
**Date: TBD, 2021? @ 1:30 pm**  
**Speaker: TBD**

## FUTURE EVENTS:

- **Whittier Genealogical Society Seminar** (WAGS), Aug 15, @ 1pm  
[Wagswhittier.org](http://Wagswhittier.org), via Zoom, speaker to be determined.
- **FEEFHS-Foundation for Eastern European Family History CANCELLED Aug 3, 2020**, Salt Lake City. [FEEFHS.org](http://FEEFHS.org)
- **Folklore Festival-Czech--Slovak** San Diego/ La Mesa Annual **POSTPONED May 2020**.
- **Genealogy Jamboree** (Burbank): postponed **until 2021**.

## 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

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all well and somehow surviving what the world is giving us right now! Everything we knew has been turned upside down and inside out! I recently had a doctor appointment, and was all set to go in with mask and temp check when they told me that they wanted to do a virtual meeting via Zoom! I told my doctor when we connected that I feel like I am living in a science fiction movie! If you belong to any groups that meet on a regular, or not so regular basis, and are meeting at all, it is likely you are meeting via this social media!

All the various groups I belong to are either meeting via Zoom, or not at all because of the nature of the group! What this does is provide a blessing to the curse that the pandemic has brought! Organizations that earlier I would have to go TO, are providing a way to attend by CONNECTING to Speakers can be part of the events even if the live across the country. Members can live anywhere, or be anywhere and attend meetings! This certainly saves time and money (transportation) but is a sad exchange for the personal contact of attending the event in person.

That being said, I am missing seeing all of you and the warmth that face-to-face meetings provide! It appeared for a while we might be over the worst and society was getting back to some sort of normal, but it appears that some people do not take the seriousness of the situation to heart and recently the statistics for California have gotten worse. This means it will be longer before we can even think of getting together. Since most of us are in that high risk area the government has defined, I don't want to have any of you in a potentially hazardous situation. But, would you be interested in meeting virtually via Zoom? It is easy for anyone to set up, allows anyone to schedule a meeting, allows a speaker to provide a program as if they were using a screen presentation, and eliminates infection potential. Please let me know if this is something you would participate in. It is free in 40 minute blocks for reasonable size group and comes via the internet to all computers.

If you would participate, we could have programs as if we were all together.... Just no good German food served, unless you get some take out! I would start with just an information exchange to make sure all know how it works.

I want to personally thank **Frank Vogel** for all that he has done for this organization over the years of its existence. I am sure you saw his email about the change in his life. There comes a time in all of our lives where we have profound changes...this is one in his. He not only helped get the organization on the road, but has provided assistance to me in multiple ways, has been a speaker, and a go to. I will miss seeing him at our 'in person' meetings, but perhaps he will attend any virtual meetings that we have.

I also want to thank those of you who have reached out with comments on my attempts to keep you all in the genealogical research loop and just keep your busy with other things to think of beyond the

### **Message from the President (cont.)**

world/home space situation. Remember, you are all a part of the group and your contributions to it are appreciated... so if you find something that might be of interest, send it. And finally, and most heartily, I want to thank Mare for being our person in charge of communications! She is doing a wonderful job of directing emails, and in generating all sorts of information to be shared!

So, keep well, my friends, and think of what we can all do for each other to keep each other sane through this crazy situation! It will eventually not be a threat, but the world will have changed when we get back to "normal".

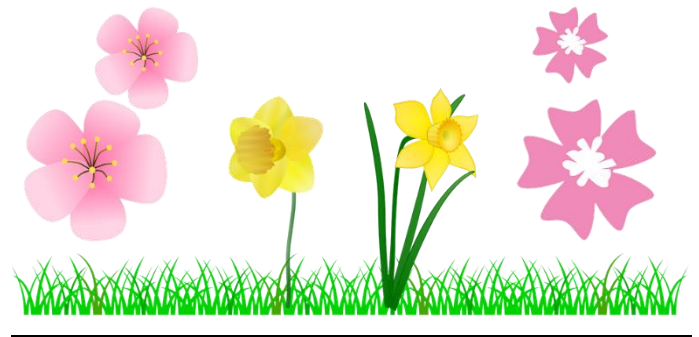
Annette

### **2020 – REVIEW OF PAST CAGC MEETINGS**

**Jan 2020**, Genealogist Speaker Linda Serna gave a lively presentation as she acted out her detective role in “Genealogy as Detective Work”. Her handouts were very detailed and helped to remind us of the steps to keep us on track. She compared the skills used by both detectives and genealogists to solve mysteries and to reason through a genealogical challenge by using the tools of a detective and using indirect evidence. Linda Serna has been doing genealogy for 40 years and was privileged to work on the first season of Genealogy Roadshow on PBS. Besides belonging to several organizations, including the Genealogical Speakers Guild and National organization of Association of Professional Genealogists, she was the past program chair for the Orange County California Genealogical Society and past treasurer for the SCCAPG.

### **Welcome New Members!**

**L. Ungvarsky McMahon**  
**R. McMahon**  
**R. Velchek**  
**L. Joachimstaler**



## HISTORY in 1968:

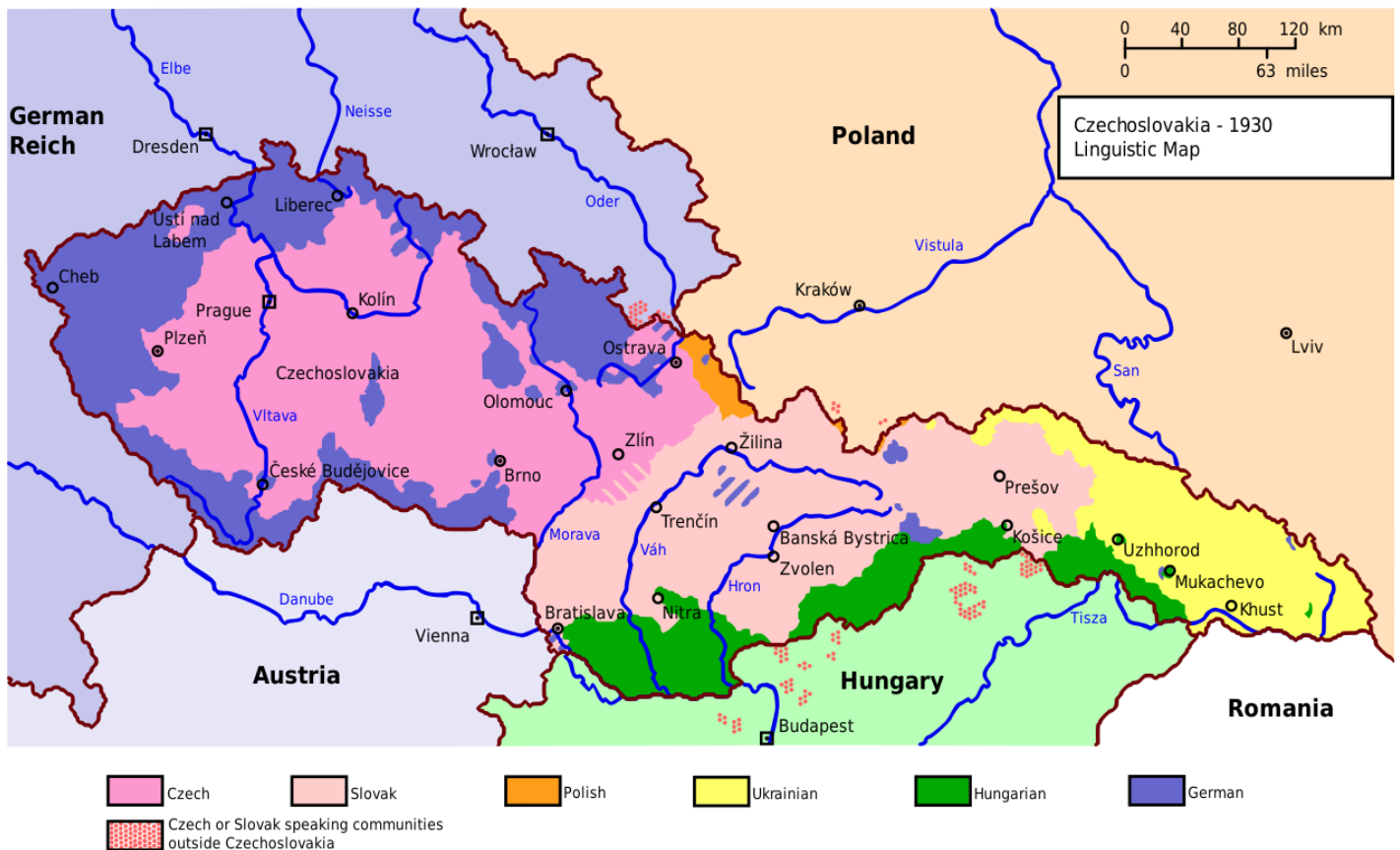
Twenty years after the end of WWII, in 1968 was the Warsaw Pact Soviet Union invasion of Czechoslovakia. Alexander Dubcek was the first Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSC) who made reforms where he removed state controls to allow political parties other than the communist party and freedom of speech and press.

Brezhnev, the new leader of the USSR, saw these reforms as a threat to the USSR.

400,000 Warsaw Pact troops invaded Czechoslovakia and the Czechs did not fight back. Dubcek and other Czech leaders were arrested. Aug 27, 1968 - Czech leaders returned and told the Czechs that they were ending many of their reforms. 1969 - Dubcek resigned and Brezhnev replaced him with loyal communist, Husak.

(Reference: Wikipedia)

## GERMAN LANGUAGE in CZECH/SLOVAK REPUBLICS



Czech/Slovak Map showing areas in purple where German language may be used.

## GERMAN LANGUAGE IN CZECH/SLOVAK AREAS:

Austria, the Sudetenland (of what was Czechoslovakia) Bohemia, up until 1945 had well over 30% ethnic German population. Moravia had about 22%. (Reference: By Duncan B. Gardiner, Ph.D., Certified Genealogist)

### Schreibübung

[www.kurrentschrift.net](http://www.kurrentschrift.net)

On this page you can enter short texts, which will then be displayed to you after clicking on "Convert" in current script. Please remember the "s-rules". In order for the round s to be displayed within a word, please use the key s when entering the text where a round s would have to be written according to the s rules.

#### When is the spelling used for the "s"?

The round or end-s stands at the end of the word and as joint-s in compositions. The round s also stands if after the s follows a resylling starting with a colaut, such as -lein, -chen, -mus, etc.

The long-s is at the beginning of the word and within a word.

For compound words, if one syllable ends with s and the next begins with s, the first is round and the second is long.

The double-s (in words that are not assembled in the place) is always long.

The usual rules apply to the sharp ß. It should not be replaced by doubles.

(See examples).

Text 1

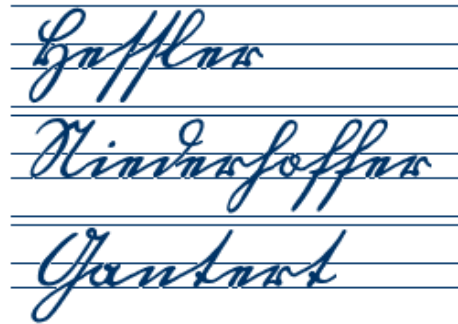
Hessler

Text 2

Niederhoffer

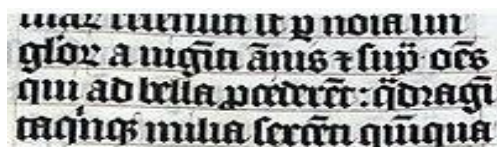
Text 3

Gantert



#### German language / German script

(reference: Wikipedia) Until the early 20th century, German was mostly printed in blackletter:



(mostly in Fraktur, but also in Schwabacher) and written in corresponding handwriting (for example **Kurrent** and **Sütterlin**).

These variants of the Latin alphabet are very different from the serif or sans-serif Antiqua typefaces used today, and the handwritten forms in particular are difficult for the untrained to read.

Kurrent is an old form of German-language handwriting based on late medieval

cursive writing, also known as *Kurrentschrift*, *deutsche Schrift* ("German script") and *German cursive*. Over the history of its use into the first part of the 20th century, many individual letters acquired variant forms.

German writers used both cursive styles, *Kurrent* and English cursive, in parallel: location, contents, and context of the text determined which script style to use.

**Sütterlin** is a modern script based on *Kurrent* that is characterized by simplified letters and vertical strokes. It was developed in 1911 and taught in all German schools as the primary script from 1935 until the beginning of January 1941.

BYU [German Script Tutorial](http://www.script.byu.edu/)  
[www.script.byu.edu/](http://www.script.byu.edu/)  
**FamilySearch Wiki: Germany Handwriting**  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany Handwriting](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Handwriting)  
**Genealoger: German Genealogy—Language, Handwriting, & Script**  
[www.genealoger.com/german](http://www.genealoger.com/german)  
**My Ancestors and Me: Helps for Translating That Old German Handwriting**  
[www.nancysfamilyhistoryblog-old-german](http://www.nancysfamilyhistoryblog-old-german)  
**Omniglot: German**  
[www.omniglot.com/writing/german](http://www.omniglot.com/writing/german)  
**Suetterlin Schrift: German handwriting** [www.suetterlin/English](http://www.suetterlin/English)

## **The Immigrant Genealogical Society**

<https://immigrantgensoc.org/>



Toni Perrone, pictured above, has done presentations for So. Calif. Genealogy groups.

The Immigrant Genealogical Society (IGS) was founded in 1982 to help Americans trace their ancestors' origins, particularly in the German speaking areas of Europe and the places in the world to which they migrated. The society maintains a genealogical research library, publishes a newsletter and two periodical journals, and offers searches of its holdings for users worldwide.

The library is physically located in Burbank, CA, 818-848-3122.

The Immigrant Genealogical Society is, since December 1985, an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) organization



## 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



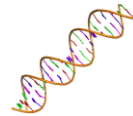
### IN THE COMMUNITY: SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

There's a Czech/Slovak Los Angeles Meetup group: **(For reference only, since many events have been postponed due to Covid-19 virus)**

**[www.meetup.com/So-Calif-American-Czech-Slovak-Genealogy-Social-Meet-Up](http://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.**

### DNA COLUMN:



I4GG-International Genetic Genealogy Conference-Las Vegas, NV, was held in Feb 2020 this year. Colin Whitney, Educ. Dir. for SDGS listed some highlights from the conference:

- cM Total at FTDNA Inflated Because Include Small Segments
- Scapple Good Tool to use for Pedigree Charts
- 23&me has Good Ethnicity Painter
- Use Cluster tools of Matches to Average Relationships
- Use Thrulines at Ancestry to Find MRCA
- Use FamilySearch Tree as Search aid
- DNA2Tree & Genetic Affairs AutoTree Build Trees from Matches

About 30 Million People have DNA Tested

Ancestry 15 Million

23&Me 10 Million

MyHeritage 2.5 Million

Gedmatch 1.0 Million



## DNA (cont.)

Reminder, The DNAPainter Tool created by Jonny Perl is very helpful if you are just getting started with DNA and on that same site, you can find the famous Shared Centimorgan Project created by Blaine Bettinger. It is

extremely helpful if you are trying to figure out all of the possible relationships one of your matches might be. 1C=1<sup>st</sup> cousin, 1C1R=1<sup>st</sup> cousin once removed, etc.

[www.dnainter.com/tools/shared cM](http://www.dnainter.com/tools/shared%20cM)

Half 1C2R 125 16 – 269	Half Great-Aunt / Uncle 431 184 – 668	Grandparent 1754 984 – 2462			
Half 2C1R 66 0 – 190	Half 1C1R 224 62 – 469	Half Aunt / Uncle 871 492 – 1315	Parent 3485 2376 – 3720		Aunt / Uncle 1741 1201 – 2282
Half 3C 48 0 – 168	Half 2C 120 10 – 325	Half 1C 449 156 – 979	Half Sibling 1759 1160 – 2436	Sibling 2613 1613 – 3488	SELF 866 396 – 1397

Sample of Blaine Bettinger's Shared Centimorgan tool

## Join the Czech DNA Project on FamilyTreeDNA.com:

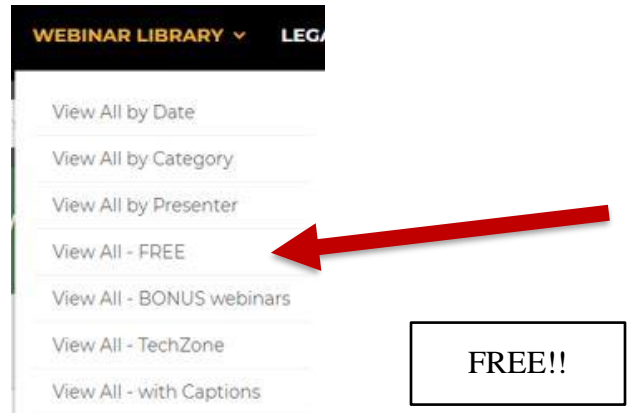
The Czech DNA Project is part of a study designed to see if specific patterns emerge from correlating Czech surnames with Czech villages. The Project is growing with a count of 853! The Project welcomes those persons who can trace their origins to what is now known as the Czech Republic (Czechia)X. DNA testing of your Czech line is required to participate in this study. FTDNA accepts raw autosomal uploads of DNA results for persons who tested at other companies. [www.familytreedna.com/groups/czech](http://www.familytreedna.com/groups/czech)

## WEBINARS:

Legacy Family Tree Webinars has a webinar list showing: [Familytreewebinars.com](http://Familytreewebinars.com)

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

[Familytreewebinars.com/arm.chived\\_webinars\\_bydates](http://Familytreewebinars.com/arm.chived_webinars_bydates).



## ROOTSTECH CONFERENCE [www.rootstech.org/sessions](http://www.rootstech.org/sessions)

Presentations are available from Feb 2020 RootsTech conference.

Topics are not specific to Eastern Europe, but here are the links:

## RESOURCES: (including some German links)

Austrian research guide — [https://feefhs.org/sites/default/files/guide/austrian\\_research.pdf](https://feefhs.org/sites/default/files/guide/austrian_research.pdf)

Austrian Genealogy & History Society — <http://www.familia-austria.at/index.php/en/>

ICARUS church books & local history — <http://icar-us.eu/en/>

Moravian Heritage Society — <http://www.czechusa.com/index.html>

FEFHHS Moravian page — <http://feefhs.org/members/moravian.html>

German Settlement of Northeast Moravia — <http://feefhs.org/journal/10/german.pdf>

Austrian military records — <http://feefhs.org/journal/9/blodgett.pdf>

Austrian military recruitment districts — <http://feefhs.org/journal/9/blodgett2.pdf>

Salzburgers — <https://de.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SalzbürgerEmigranten/info>

Salzbürger family names — <http://salzbürger.homepage.t-online.de/Fam-name.htm>

Literature list on Salzburg emigrants (German) — <http://tinyurl.com/jz9dlnu>

Austrian-focused genealogy database — <http://www.genteam.at>

Austrian genealogical forum — <http://www.forum-ahnenforschung.eu>

Pilsen-Munich archives Sudetenland project (English) — <http://tinyurl.com/mj6v6r7>

Czech newspapers — <http://www.tschechien-online.org>

& <http://www.prag-aktuell.cz>

& <http://www.pragerzeitung.cz>

Newspaper for Germans in Slovakia — <http://www.npz-online.eu>

German newspapers for South Tyrol — <http://www.stol.it> & <http://www.suedtirolnews.it>

Goethe Institute Triest — <http://www.goethe.de/ins/it/de/tri.html> (former)

East German Gen. Assoc. (German) — <http://www.agoff.de>

Austrian National Library — <http://www.onb.ac.at>

Bohemian church registers — <http://tinyurl.com/gsp6ykr>

Sudeten Mailing List — <http://list.genealogy.net/mm/listinfo/sudeten.bms-1>

Mailing Lists (for all German regions, plus German-speaking areas in Europe) —

<http://list.genealogy.net/mm/listinfo/>

## 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.

## Czechoslovak Area Genealogy Club

We support the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI). Visit them at [www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org).

And we support the Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS). Visit them at [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com).

