



Czechoslovak Area Genealogy Club of Southern California Newsletter

Newsletter January 2021

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/
Meetings are on-hold due to Covid-19, but usually held on the first Sunday of: Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, October and Dec, at 1:30 pm for lunch at the **Jagerhaus Restaurant, 2525 East Ball Rd, Anaheim, CA 92806**, guests welcome. We hope to “see” you all at future meetings, but until then, CAGC has changed to **MONTHLY** Zoom meetings usually on the first Sunday of each month. 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 interesting for everyone.

Looking ahead to our 2021 meeting dates:
Mar 7; Apr 11 (due to Easter); May 2; Jun 6;
Jul 11 (due to July 4); Aug 1; Sep 12 (due to Labor Day); Oct 3; Nov 7 and Dec 5.

Please send us info on speakers, or topics you'd like to have at our meetings: anettka@aol.com
Possible programs: Getting ready for the 1950 census to release in April 2022, How to read records from the Czech lands, Czech history (at one time a Czech rule included Poland), or Finding records in Czech archives.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- **Whittier Genealogical Society Seminar** (WAGS), Sat, Jan 30@ 9am-1pm, www.wagswhittier.org Speakers: Lisa Alzo, Colleen Robledo Green, Thomas MacEntee, \$25 fee.
- **ROOTSTECH; Free!** Feb 25-27, 2021
www.conferencekeeper.org/conferences/
- **Folklore Festival-Czech--Slovak** San Diego/La Mesa Annual planned -May 2021.
- **Genealogy Jamboree** (Burbank): 2 different weekends, Genetic Genealogy portion: June 4-5, 2021, Jamboree June 11-12, 2021.
- **FEEFHS**-Foundation for Eastern European Family History, Salt Lake City. www.FEEFHS.org. The dates of the 2021 FEEFHS Conference Aug 9-13, 2021
- **CGSI** Conference Oct 12-16, 2021 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

BOARD MEMBERS 2021

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all of our members. I hope your holidays were as good as can be expected for a country very much in lock down! I hope you are all well and keeping safe - it isn't over yet

Last year was a year of firsts. First time the country was shut down from people planning to enter, first time that a thriving economy was brought to its knees by a disease that spread like wild fire, the first time that a means to potentially eliminate the disease was developed in months rather than years, and for us, the first time school kids have been educated en mass virtually and people were encouraged to work at home if possible, the first time since our beginning we had a Christmas party without anyone in the presence of other members (except their spouses or other close family members). While many of the firsts were not good ones, it will be interesting to see if interfacing with others primarily virtually will become the norm.

While a few firsts have come about in these few weeks since the new year, the good thing is that with the vaccine available, it appears there is a light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine now being distributed..... No one is sure what kind of new normal we will be facing, but it definitely will not be the same as the past one. We have to take it as it comes, so we had decided to have a meeting monthly, and had our first of the year after the holidays (remember that Christmas is 12 days long, and the end of the season is marked by the Feast of the Epiphany, or the Three Kings day.).

In hope that you have all been busy enjoying the ancestral hunt (for some it was either that, or like many, clean the closets), our first meeting was aimed at helping those stuck somewhere in their search to get past that brick wall. One of our attendees was a friend of mine, Helene Cincebeaux whose primarily interest is Slovakia; her offer to use a data base generated over many years may be the key for some members in finding family or family origins. Helene will also be our speaker at the next meeting; her 50 years of exploration of her family homeland will be her topic of discussion.

Because of the still unknown future in relation to Covid. Many organizations, schools, work places, and anywhere where the activity does not require a physical presence (including doctor's visits, can you imagine that) are working in a virtual mode... as we will also use this means to have our meeting. This will also give us the opportunity to have speakers from anywhere (as we are with Helene, who is in Florida)... This will likely mean we will be giving them an honorarium. This in turn means that we will start collecting dues to do this. Those who paid their dues for last year (check with Mare if you don't remember) will have their dues applied to this year's dues. Those who are new or didn't get them in need to send them in. Mare will provide details on this.

One of the things I started hunting for this year, are resources for searching waaaayyy back. I realize that many of you might be a long way from that, but I have several lines that fit that description. I mentioned a couple resources last meeting, Berni Rula and Soupis Poddanych Podle Viry, covering primarily Bohemia, but knew there had to be more... So, I went searching and came up with more that I sent to Mare, along with descriptions.

I want to note, that I am not a Czech speaker, nor do I read any of the languages. What I used to search was a Google Chrome browser. When I found a likely page (using Czech versions of what I wanted to

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (cont.)

find) a Chrome affiliated translator gave me an English version for pages that I brought up. I could browse and search the page to see if I could find anything of interest to me.... like an ancestor's name, or record or a place where I knew my ancestors lived. Not all pages will be translated (and you might find some that have an English flag/button to select a translated version). But many will and that means you can read them! You don't have to be looking for way back information to use this technique.

So enough of what I have been playing with. What about you? Have you used information sent out last year for research, or maybe to keep from aimlessly decluttering? Have you set any goals for finding ancestral information? Are you stuck somewhere? What topics would you like to hear from lecturers? Please send an email so we can help you find solutions. We don't have to have a brick walls meeting to knock a hole in your problem... we can do crowd sourcing to find solutions (Another neat term coming up in this age of virtual sharing!).

We have 9 more meetings to generate a program for.... your ideas are important as is your participation in the meeting. Possible programs: Getting ready for the 1950 census to be released in April 2022, How to read records from the Czech lands, Czech history (did you know at one time a Czech rule included Poland?), Finding records in Czech archives, Doing research in the time of Covid pandemic.

Keep well, practice safe habits! And when you can, get that vaccine shot to do your part in this war against COVID 19!

Annette

2020–PAST CAGC MEETINGS

Jan 2020, 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.

Dec 2020 First Zoom Virtual meeting for Annual Christmas Party was a success, even with social distancing. It was nice to catch up with old friends after the Covid hiatus.



SLOVAK HERITAGE AND GENEALOGY

The Slovak Pride Database website, www.Slovakpride.org, sponsored by the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International, was updated in Dec 2020 and has some 30,000 entries! You can browse the .pdf lists to find surnames and villages that are part of your family tree. You can include your surnames if from Slovakia or obtain contact information to reach any of the listers, by e-mailing the editor **Helene Cincebeaux** at helenezx@aol.com. The listings may give clues to villages of origin. Ancestral Surname / Village & County.

HAVE YOU WONDERED HOW TO PRESERVE YOUR GENEALOGY RESEARCH?

Our Slovakian member, Don Yenché has taken the extra step and preserved some of his genealogy and family experiences using video. He has done an excellent job, and you can view his work on his YOUTUBE Channel: www.youtube.com/dgymvca/videos

You too can document your Genealogy road trips using a smart phone and uploading to YouTube. (still free). This allows you to add

Olsavica, Slovakia:

www.youtube.com/Olsavica

Rusyn, Slovakia:

www.youtube.com/Rusyn

Sliepkovce, Slovakia:

www.youtube.com/Sliepkovce

Bratislava, Slovakia:

www.youtube.com/Bratislava

Spis Castle, Slovakia

www.youtube.com/Spis Castle

Kosice, Slovakia

www.youtube.com/Kosice

the little stories that have been passed down, include photos of your ancestors, and add narration of history at the time.

Here is a Demo of how you can use PowerPoint to change your slides into a Video for YouTube. By using the **animation** features in PowerPoint, you can make it more exciting before you convert:

www.youtube.com/How to make Video from PowerPoint



Don Yenché

SCANNING YOUR PHOTOS AND MAKING BACKGROUND NOTES

Never knew you could do this! Data attached to every photo. Nancy Loe (Sassy Jane blog) was a guest speaker for a webinar during Covid and discussed how to REALLY scan your photos. Select the .tif (TIFF Tagged Image File Format) when scanning to create a master image. This format allows you to store **metadata** attached to your photo, Wikipedia states is data that provides information about other data. So, with a .Tif format you can embed details like date of photo, family names,

relationships, history, and keywords. Save your picture as .tif file and you can use a metadata editing software (or Scanner program) to add your text, under the IPTC section. Irfanview is a free software that allows editing. The nice thing is that you can enter **KEYWORDS**, such as a Surname, so when you search your computer for files, these keywords will be included. For more information: www.Sassy Jane Sep 2020, www.Comparison-digital metadata editors - Wikipedia

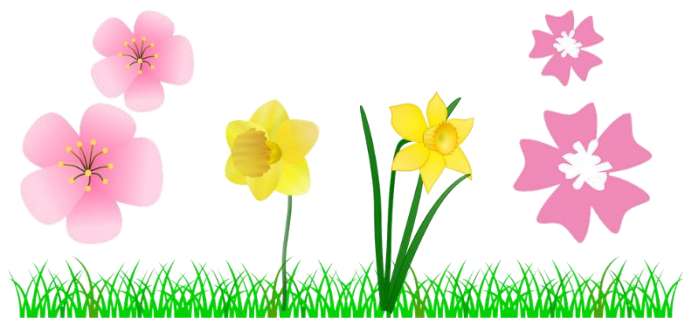
SCANNING YOUR PHOTOS (Cont.)

Compression:	JPEG, quality: 79, subsampling ON (2x2)
Resolution:	96 x 96 DPI <input type="button" value="Change"/>
Original size:	381 x 467 Pixels (0.81)
Current size:	381 x 467 Pixels (0.81)
Print size (from DPI):	10.1 x 12.4 cm; 3.97 x 4.86 inches
Original colors:	16,7 Million (24 BitsPerPixel)
Current colors:	16,7 Million (24 BitsPerPixel)
Number of unique colors:	45977 <input type="checkbox"/> Auto count
Disk size:	44.95 KB (46,026 Bytes)
Current memory size:	521.77 KB (534,288 Bytes)
Current folder/list index:	84 / 147
File date/time:	1/25/2021 / 15:30:05
Loaded in:	0 milliseconds
<input type="button" value="EXIF info*"/> <input type="button" value="OK"/> <input type="button" value="Comment"/>	
<input type="button" value="IPTC info*"/>	

IPTC is where the data can be entered

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Beth M.
Christee K.
Mary J.



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

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



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

WEBINARS:

Legacy Family Tree Webinars has a webinar list showing: www.Familytreewebinars.com
The Legacy webinars are free for a week after live presentation.
www.Familytreewebinars.com

Rootstech had several talks about topics that are now online. To access them, go to www.rootstech.org/category/201



We miss you Jagerhaus!



JEWISH RESEARCH:

Holocaust Remembrance Day is a memorial day designated by the United Nations to mark the anniversary of the January 27, 1945, liberation of Auschwitz.

National Archive-Jewish Registries-
www.badatelna.eu/fond/1073/

JewishGen.org has many links and many databases.

www.JewishGen Family Finder
Surnames and ancestral towns being researched by 110,000 Jewish genealogists.

www.Family Tree of Jewish People
Data on more than eight million people, from family trees submitted by 6,000 genealogists worldwide. Another language that records are written in Latin

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/holocaust
www.jewish/ShtetlFinder

Here's one of their databases:

www.JewishGen's Holocaust Database

There is a burial database that may have records if you are lucky!

www.JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry

CZECH TAX REGISTERS by Frank Vogel

The Moravian version of *Berní rula* is known by several names, the most common is *Lánový rejstřík*. Actually, there were two *rejstříks*; the first one compiled in 1656 - 1657 is called the *1. Lánový rejstřík*, and the second from 1669 - 1679 is the *2. Lánový rejstřík*. To make it easier, I will refer to them as the 1. Tax Register and the 2. Tax Register.

Due to serious unintentional (and intentional) errors, the 1. First Register was unacceptable. Yes, even in the 17th century people were complaining about unfair taxes and they cheated on taxes.

The Tax Register record show villages in a selected estate, inhabitants by name, if they have acreage or were landless, in some cases it shows the previous dweller, and other data.

Keep in mind, that only lordship subjects are listed in Tax Registers. Access the register:

1. type **Zemsky archiv brno lanske rejstriky**
2. select **A8Apps1 - Moravsky Zemsky Archiv** or link:
3. www.Moravsky Zemsky Archiv
4. on the left side of the screen under **Aplikace**, select **Lanove rejstriky – HTML** or link:
5. www.Lanove rejstriky
6. in the middle section, under **Obsah** are names of estates. *You need to know, in what estate is researched village or town*
7. move cursor down until you see **the desired estate**, click on **chevron icon under column DD**
8. click on **name of researched village/town**
9. click on **X on right** to get whole first page of the record
10. click on **two triangular arrows** will move to the next page or move to a previous page



VIRTUAL SLOVAK FESTIVAL: Review of Pennsylvania Virtual Slovak Heritage Festival - Cooking Demo, Lisa Alzo Tips and Slovaks Living Abroad

by Mary Shade

In case you missed it, you can still watch it: [www.Slovak Heritage Festival - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Spaetzle instead of egg noodles!

Otilia Golis demonstrated cooking Bryndzove Halusky. See her demo on link below at **1-hr mark**. Use Spaetzle maker, boil in water for 6-7 mins. Top with Sheep's milk Feta Cheese.

[www.Slovak Homemade Cakes | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SlovakHomemadeCakes)

Fake Bryndza Halusky with goat cheese (Falosne Bryndzove halusky)

It's not easy to get bryndza in America, but I found a pretty good replacement. Trader's Joe sells Sheep's milk Feta cheese and it's amazing, tastes so close to the real Bryndza cheese. (or you can use plain goat cheese). Goat cheese is little too strong and not so creamy so add few 1-2 tablespoons of warm heavy cream to thin it out.

RECIPE: Potato Halusky:

1 small potato, grated finely
1+ cup of flour
1/3 cup of cold water or as needed
1 tsp salt

1-2 blocks of Sheep's milk Feta cheese
1-2 tablespoons of warm heavy cream or sour cream
salt & bacon to taste

(or small package of plain goat cheese
2-3 tbsp of heavy cream)



Virtual Slovak Festival (cont.)

Five Tips to Discover Your Slovak Roots – Lisa Alzo

[www.Slovak Heritage Festival - YouTube](#)

Lisa Alzo explained how searching Slovak ancestry can be difficult and her suggestions included: building a family tree, determine where your ancestor was from and with emphasis of immigration records. If they **immigrated after 1906**, you should consult the USCIS website:

The USCIS Genealogy Program uses indices unlike any immigration or naturalization index available to the public. Our unique Master Index system is a combination of index tools—partially automated and partially manual—that work together to identify and locate old agency files and records.

An Index search costs \$65 at this link:

[www.DHS Genealogy Requester Information](#)

[www.Immigrant Records at the National Archives](#)



Virtual Slovak Festival -Slovaks Living Abroad

There is an office, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic for Slovaks Living Abroad:

www.USZZ.sk

There was an interview with the Director for the Office of Slovaks Living Abroad, **Mgr. Milan Jan Philip**, during the Pittsburg, Pennsylvania Slovak Festival (from Nov 1st).

If you want to hear the interview with him,

Here is the YOUTUBE link,

www.youtube.com/Slovaks Living Abroad

Here is a link for a Facebook group (not affiliated with USZZ), that discusses issues with Slovaks Living Abroad: **Slovak Living Abroad Certificate & Slovak Citizenship**

www.facebook.com/groups/Slovak

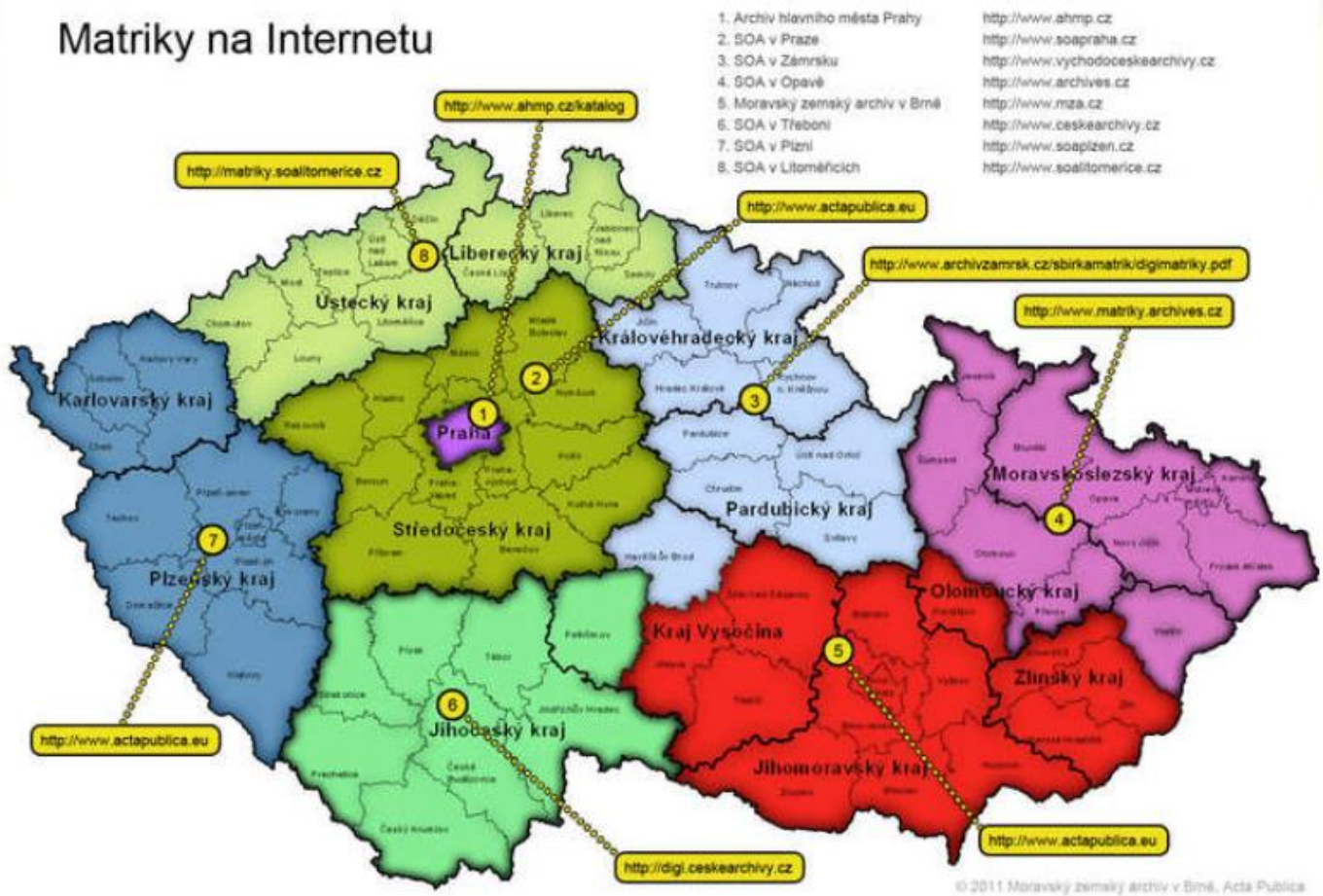
CZECH HERALDRY HISTORY "EAGLE IN THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC"

This article describes the history of the Czech symbols (eagle and lion) used and how their meanings changed over time with the various changes in power.

[www.zsru.cz/sl/2003_2/Czech Coat of Arms](http://www.zsru.cz/sl/2003_2/Czech%20Coat%20of%20Arms)



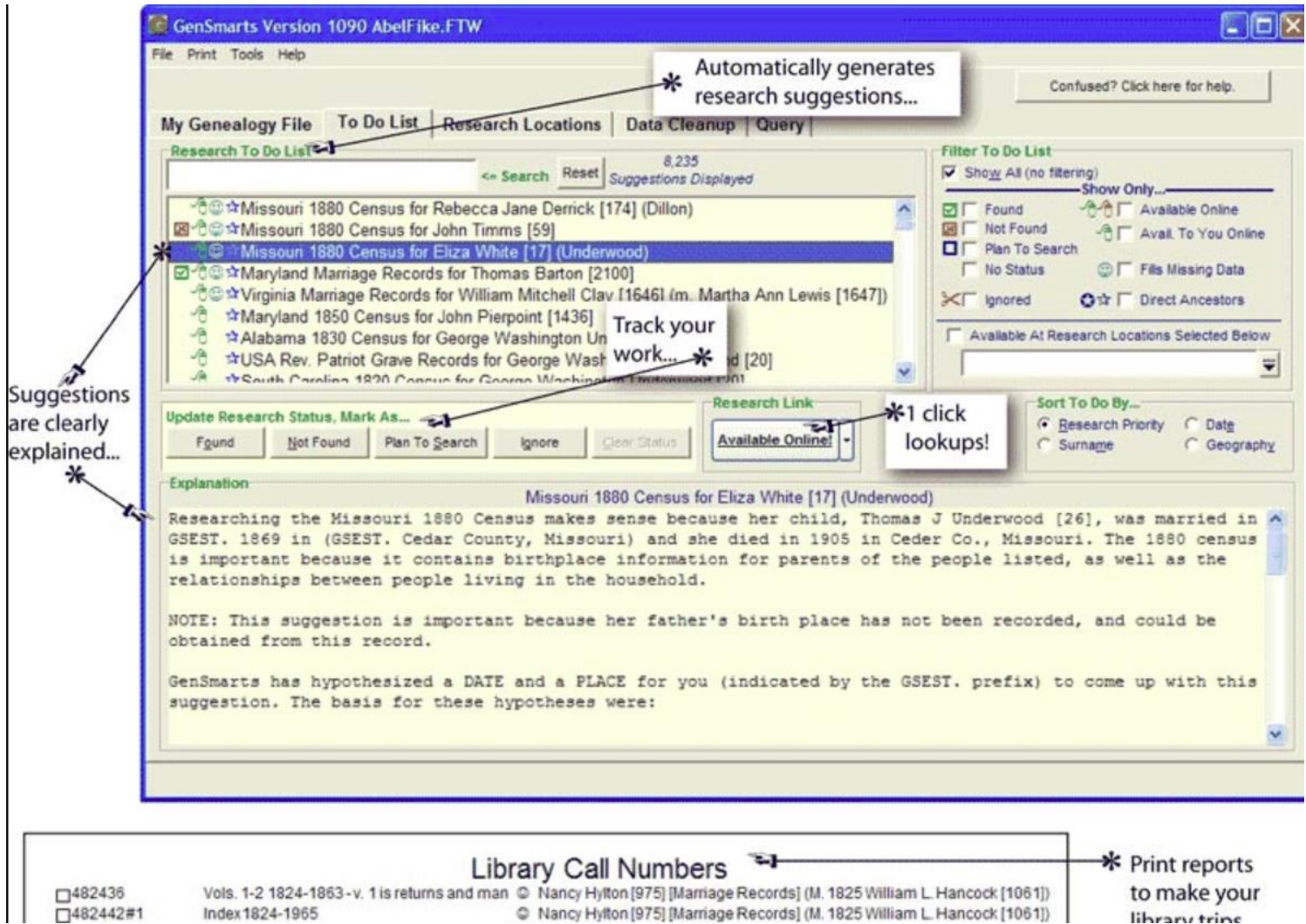
Map of regional archives, their online connection and info about digitization at the archives; this info looks to need updating, but what is there is useful. Using the FamilySearch [wiki](#) for these archives should be more up-to-date, but who knows...for newsletter, an image of map and comment about it plus link to the page should allow interested parties to use it. Likely there is more update info at the archive site. www.genealogie.cz/aktivity/digitalizace/



In the border areas, the seat of the parish office is decisive. If the boundaries of the parish extend to another district, the registers of the municipality are included in the district of the parish seat. Registers from the South Moravia region can be [found on www.actapublica.eu](http://www.actapublica.eu) (note Digitization takes place continuously, some registers are therefore not yet published, more in the text below).

A GENEALOGY TOOL -ORGANIZE YOUR RESEARCH

www.gensmarts.com



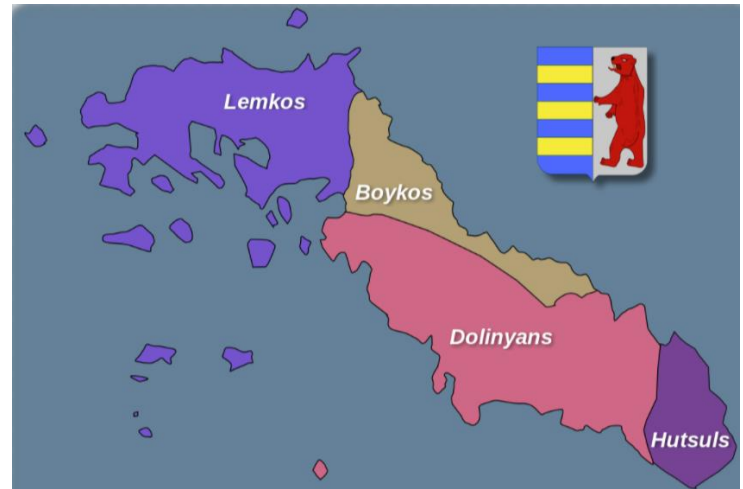
(Screenshot taken from the GenSmarts website)

GenSmarts is an Add-on type of tool you may not have heard of that helps you organize your research and track what you've done; it creates a suggested "to do" list, for less than \$30. It includes records for US, Canada and the UK, and connects with genealogy websites, like FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com, as well as major genealogy libraries. It works with many of the genealogy programs you may be using like Family Tree Maker, Roots Magic, or Legacy, etc. If you are planning a trip to Salt Lake City, it can help you create a list with the Library Film numbers. A link that has reviews: www.gensmarts.com/reviews

CARPATHIAN-RUSYN CULTURE:

Carpatho-Rusyns do not have their own state, they function as legally recognized national minorities with their own language mostly in: Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Romania, and the United States. Their locations are also called Ruthenia. Their subgroup names are Lemkos, Boykos, Dolinyans, or Hutsuls. They often use the Cyrillic alphabet. Slovakia had what was considered Western Slavic languages, where Rusyns were speaking Eastern Slavic languages. They are very religious and may have the Greek Catholic church or an Eastern Orthodox church. In the U.S. the Greek Catholics were known as the Byzantine Catholics. Some converted to Roman Catholics or Protestants. Maps often depict the Sub-Carpathian Rusyn area that is part of the Ukraine. Since 1989, cultural, not political, Rusyn societies were developed to preserve their heritage as a distinct people.

References: Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center by Paul Magocsi, and Carpatho-Rusyn Society. Videos are available on YouTube: www.Rusyns - Slovaks Similarities-Differences



Cyrillic Alphabet

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



RESOURCES/LINKS:

Austrian research guide — www.feefhs.org/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>
Blanka Lednicka's webpage: [www.Czech Genealogy for Beginners](http://www.CzechGenealogy.com)
Military recruitment districts — <http://feefhs.org/journal/9/blodgett2.pdf>
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)
Austrian National Library — <http://www.onb.ac.at>
Bohemian church registers — <http://tinyurl.com/gsp6ykr>
Slovakia Genealogy Research Strategies www.iabsi.com
Slovakian national archives www.minv.sk/

FACEBOOK:

Czech Out Your Ancestors
<https://www.facebook.com/czechoutyourancestors/>

Several members have received help from these Facebook groups:

Czech Bohemian Ancestry/Genealogy
Czech Genealogy
Genealogical Translations

HISTORY -1983

Excerpt from New York Times article, Dec 25, 1983, “Many From Eastern Bloc Seek Yugoslav Asylum”, by David Binder.

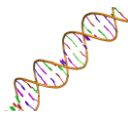
“Many hundreds of Soviet-bloc citizens have sought political asylum in Yugoslavia in the last two years, posing awkward political and logistical problems for the Belgrade Government, according to United Nations and Yugoslav officials. The officials said that of the 2,919 people who sought asylum in Yugoslavia in 1982,...”

“...Besides the large number of Rumanians, most of whom seem to have been fleeing for

economic rather than political reasons, many Czechs and Slovaks have asked for asylum. They numbered 180 in the first six months of this year and 763 for all of 1982.”

For perspective, the fall of the Berlin wall occurred Nov 10, 1989, Oct 1990 started the break up of Yugoslavia, and the official end of the communist Soviet Union was on December 26, 1991.

DNA COLUMN:



HAPLOGROUPS-What are they?

The Y chromosome passes almost unchanged from father to son. Male ancestors carried their Y-DNA line along their migrations, allowing you to trace your paternal ancestry. Males can use Y-DNA to determine where their direct paternal ancestors came from, their locations in historic times and how they migrated throughout the world. If you have tested your Surname Y-DNA through a male relative at FTDNA.com, it can predict your ancestry back many generations, and your results show your surname's Haplogroup. According to the International Society of Genetic Genealogy, a haplogroup is a genetic population group of people who share a common ancestor on either their paternal or maternal line. Particular haplogroups are associated with well-known ancestral groups (from Wikipedia and FTDNA.com).

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 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.CzechRep-DNA -FamilytreeDNA](http://www.CzechRep-DNA-FamilytreeDNA)

Family Tree DNA has a “Slovakia DNA Project” that you can join, if you are eligible:

www.Slovakia-DNA - Overview | FamilyTreeDNA

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, mail to Treasurer: Nancy Pestal, P.O. Box 1385, San Clemente, CA 92674. Cash or check, if check, Payable to Nancy Pestal. Please email Annette Gathright with questions: anettka@aol.com

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.

