

Czechoslovak Area Genealogy Club of Southern California Newsletter

Newsletter July 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: <u>Cagc-ca.org/</u>
Meetings are usually held (prior to Covid) on

Meetings are usually held (prior to Covid) 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. CAGC added MONTHLY Zoom meetings during Covid, on the first Sunday of each Going forward, we may have a month. "hybrid" meeting including Zoom from the Jagerhaus restaurant and a virtual/Zoom meeting on the other months. 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. We hope to see you all at future meetings.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Looking ahead to our **2021** meeting dates: Aug 1: Sep 12 (due to Labor Day); Oct 3; Nov

7 and Dec 5 Annual Christmas Party.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- **FEEFHS**-Foundation for Eastern European Family History, Salt Lake City. <u>FEEFHS.org</u> Conference Aug 9-13, 2021.
- WAGS-Whittier Genealogy: Sat, Aug 21, Zoom Pam Vestal: "What the Heck Does That Say? Overcoming the Challenge of Difficult Handwriting".
- www.conferencekeeper.org/conferences/
- CGSI Conference Oct 12-16, 2021 Now VIRTUAL! Instead of Wisconsin.
- 2022 Treasures of Slovakia Tour-Jul 7-17, www.Our-Slovakia.com Helene Cincebeaux.

GOT SUGGESTIONS?

Since we no longer are limited by geography we can consider speakers from other areas, parts of county and the world, so suggestions for topics and/or speakers outside the area would be most welcome.

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

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all well, and keeping safe! So much has happened in 6 months... not only one but three vaccines are available to eradicate the vaccine but we are far from having that happen, as indicated by the news reports. To me "safe" means that I got my Covid 19 vaccine shots and then when you just feel you can breathe, a new variant comes along, and the questions begin again... But it appears that the existing vaccines will protect against it too! The issue in my mind is when will it go away to the point that there is no news about it. According to the medical arena, those vaccination holdouts may keep it newsworthy for a while yet.

What does that mean for us? It means that going back to normal would not be the old normal, but a new one. I am finding more and more organizations are looking at hybrid meetings, which means virtual and in-person, or one then the other. I had Mare send out a survey asking your preference for meetings, and if you also want to do virtual meetings on 'non-regular meeting ' months. I have some responses, but am hoping for more. If you haven't already. please send in yours. Meanwhile, I've joined a group whose topic is Hybrid meetings to ascertain what may be reasonable for us.

I hope that during this time of limited mobility (the governor said open everything, but not all have that confidence of no-problem!) that you have taken advantage of virtual anything. I am seeing many conferences being held virtually - something unthinkable a couple years ago, while others and publicly attended events have opened theirs to in-person attendance, especially those NOT held indoors. I will be attending a virtual event (was going to be held in Milwaukee, but now in lots of living rooms -how cool is that!), and also one which is sponsored out of Chicago. The neat thing is that one could likely go to two conferences simultaneously sponsored by two groups in different areas of the country; the bad part is that no new friendships would be made, or old ones renewed, and no one-on-one chatting over meals or coffee! The education industry has decided that in-person meeting is a necessity for the well-being of the children; likely this holds for all age groups., and we will definitely keep that in mind for us...

If you'd like, please share your experiences during this unprecedented time and how they've changed your life... we have virtual media or electronic media on which to share them.

Meanwhile, we've been trying to figure out what we can do to help you with your research.....comments on what is needed are very welcome. Suggestions on topics, speakers, or whatever are always welcome!

I know you enjoy this newsletter... Mare always has a plethora of topics and different subjects of interest to all those who are interested in their heritage. Remember she is the editor and welcomes both original work from our members, as well as submissions of items of interest.

My best wishes for a good summer.

Annette

2021 – REVIEW- PAST CAGC MEETINGS

Jan 10, 2021, Breaking Down Brick Walls, this was a very successful meeting with new members inspiring us and a reminder of how many resources are available. Many documents are online, we need to go back to the previous links and look again.

Jan 31, 2021, Speaker Helene Cincebeaux, "50 Years on the Backroads of Slovakia & Genealogy Tips" provided many beautiful photos of Slovak life, kroje, and headdresses.

March 7, 2021, various members gave updates of events they attended and resources available like newspapers: www.digitalniknihovna.cz and the Washington, DC Group open to the public, DCSlovaks.org.

April 11, 2021 Speaker: Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD, "DNA: Who am I? What is My Name?" Colleen gave a moving presentation on her work helping a Holocaust family reunite using DNA

May 2, 2021 Those present discussed areas of brick walls in their research. Annette discussed tips and Mary Shade demonstrated how to upload DNA to MyHeritage and run the Autocluster DNA tool.

June 6, 2021 Toni Perrone did an interesting presentation on "Marriage & Inheritance Customs in Germany" with all of her knowledge relating to German influence of the Czech area.

July 11, 2021 Annette demonstrated the use of GenTeam.at website to access archives for research based on placenames under the Gazetteer option.



We miss you Jagerhaus!

DID YOU KNOW? SALT LAKE CITY FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY:

A number of renovations have been made at the FHL during the extended closure, including the installation of state-of-the-art workstations with multiple monitors, as well as adjustable-height desks to accommodate sitting or standing preferences of researchers. Also, nearly 40,000 books from new acquisitions and long-term storage have been added to the collection. All of these enhancements will significantly improve the research experiences of their patron. FHL has always had the "communities" that provide translation help, but now, they've added 2 more **FREE** services:

- Guests can sign up for free, online, <u>one-on-one virtual consultations</u> with a research specialist (available in languages).
- <u>Library look-up services</u>. If you can't come to the library, a staff member can retrieve a book from its shelves and help you find what you're seeking.
- In <u>FamilySearch Communities</u> online, guests can get assistance from volunteers worldwide, including locating or interpreting ancestor records, asking questions, or sharing their expertise with others.

www.Library Homepage (familysearch.org)



SILESIA: POLISH OR CZECH?

Silesia is a historical region of Central Europe mostly in Poland, with small parts in the Czech Silesia is Republic and Germany along the Oder River, with the Sudeten Mountains extending across the southern border. **Parts** of the Czech city of Ostrava [was] within Silesia's borders.

After World War I, the easternmost part of Upper Silesia was granted to Poland by the Entente Powers after insurrections by Poles and the Upper Silesian plebiscite. The remaining former Austrian parts Silesia were partitioned, forming part of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland region, and are today part of the Czech Republic. In 1945, after World War II, most of Silesia was transferred to Polish iurisdiction by the Potsdam Agreement between the victorious Allies and became part of Poland, whose Communist government expelled most of Silesia's population.

(from Wikipedia, some content removed: Silesia - Wikipedia)



Moravian-Silesian Region, with a section in the Olomouc Region.www.wikipedia.org/Czech_Silesia

WHERE DID THE WORD CZECH COME FROM? (CGSI.org website)

Before we begin, it is important to note that just like Bohemian, Czech is an English word and not Czech. The Czech word for a Czech (noun) is Čech (m) or Česká (f), and plural Česky. If the English had accents there would be a hook over the letter C in Czech. But the big mystery is to where did the letter Z come from? You do not see the Z in the Czech spelling of the word. The CZ beginning of the word Czech actually did came from the Czech language name for Bohemia, but many years ago. The Czech language has evolved over the centuries. The CZ combination was part of the alphabet in 16th-century*. The then Bohemia was referred to as Cžechy. The first two letters of "cž" is called a digraph or single sound (like the s in treasure). In 1842 there was a reform of the language and the "cž" was replaced by "č" (a ch sound) (changing Cžechy to Čechy). But in the English language today the CZ remains.

As a region today the word Čechy pretty much is limited to just Bohemia proper and not all of Czech Republic (Česká republika). But for the people of the Bohemia (Bohemians) and Czech Republic (Czechs) are called Česky. Modern Czechs do not distinguish the two.

*First known use of Cžechy was in the Bible of Kralice. It was the complete translation of the Bible from the original languages into the Czech language.

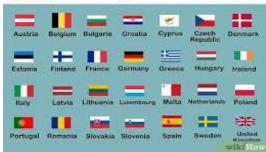
The Czech Republic now has two names, a long and a short. Czech Republic is the long version and Czechia is the short one. Czech Republic and Czechia are English words for the country. In Czech it is Česká republika for the long version and Česko for the short.

CITIZENSHIP THROUGH DESCENT

Excerpts as originally printed in Helene Cincebeaux's Slovakia Magazine Vol#35, #2, Summer 2021.

Slovakia:





Many Slovak-Americans may soon qualify for Slovak citizenship [through a citizenship act amendment], a bill is pending, 2nd reading for June was postponed to [Sept] to allow the 3rd generation descendants, "great-grandchildren" to obtain citizenship. Slovakia's Cabinet approved their citizenship amendment proposal in a move that could make up to 800,000 Slovak Americans eligible for Slovak citizenship.

Slovak descendants want Bratislava to streamline the process by removing the requirement that applicants be in a period of residency when applying. (The residency requirement stands in contrast to neighboring countries Hungary, Czechia, and Croatia.)

Slovak members of Parliament are expected to discuss the amendment and possibly make changes. Slovak citizenship comes with all the rights of being a European Union (EU) citizen, including free movement in the Schengen zone, full work and residency rights in any of the 27 EU states, as well as a host of other benefits, with the ability to pass citizenship on to future children.

The United States, as a general matter, permits dual citizenship.

Basic Eligibility Qualifications (Slovakia):

Eligibility points can become complicated, but the gist is qualifying applicants for Slovak citizenship need to fulfill these requirements:

- Be a direct descendant of a Czechoslovak citizen born in the area of modern-day Slovakia.
- Be at furthest, a third-generation descendant (great-grandchild) of said ancestor.
- Have had their said Czechoslovak ancestor come to the U.S. after 1904.

*[Show cultural & language awareness...join Slovak organization and submit a letter from the approved organization]

You can learn more by joining the Facebook group: "Slovak Living Abroad Certificate & Slovak Citizenship".



Czech Republic:

Czech citizenship Consulate Czech Republic Los Angeles (mzv.cz)

Similarly, in Sep 2019, an amendment of the Czech Citizenship Act came into effect. The amendment enables foreigners to acquire citizenship of the Czech Republic by means of declaration to persons whose at least one parent or grandparent (alive or deceased) is citizen of the Czech Republic or was former citizen of the Czech Republic or Czechoslovakia. (cont. p.6)

CITIZENSHIP THROUGH DESCENT (Czech Republic cont.)

This application can be made in-person at the Czech Consulate General in Los Angeles, to include:

the Czech citizenship Declaration form (Article 31.3):

> Czech Declaration form.pdf

- a copy of his/her own valid ID (e.g. driving license):
- his/her own birth certificate (apostille);
- his/her own marriage certificate (apostille);
- declarant's parents' birth certificates, marriage certificate (apostille);
- *[only if neither of declarant's parents* is/was a former Czech/Czechoslovak citizen: | declarant's grandparents' birth certificates, marriage certificate, and notification of divorce or death certificate;
- document that certifies the date and the basis on which declarant's

- parent/grandparent ceased to be Czech/Czechoslovak citizen (e.g. original of the US Certificate of Naturalization;
- completed form on declarant's personal data:

Personal Data Czech form.pdf

(**) Every public document, issued in the USA must be legalized (in the USA by an *apostille* issued by the respective Secretary of State, A foreign public document, with the affixed legalization, must be submitted together with a certified translation into the Czech language. Certified Czech translations are carried out by interpreters appointed by Czech courts.

Request an Apostille :: California Secretary of State

PRESERVE THEIR PAST WITH **GOOGLE MAPS VIDEOS!**

Last issue, we described how one of our members uses YouTube to create videos to pass on his genealogy information. Similarly, you can use Google Earth Pro, free desktop software's Movie Maker, to create a "tour" or video that you can pass along to your family displaying some of your genealogy documents with locations of their journey. You can add photographs, news clippings, even YouTube videoclips to your video. www.Downlaod-

GoogleEarthPro.

Join CGSI

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

- Nase rodina quarterly
- Research assistance
- · Message board and gueries
- · Access to Members Only section - includes 4 databases

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Laura P. Laurie A. Cage H. Cathy U. Mary A.



HOUSE OF CZECH & SLOVAK REP. BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO

10min-Overview/tour: Visit virtually!!

www.House of Czech and Slovak Republic Video www.House of Czech & Slovak Republics website www.Become a Member-House of Czech & Slovak



IN THE COMMUNITY:

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.

WEBINARS:

Legacy Family Tree Webinars has a webinar list showing: <u>Familytreewebinars.com-Future</u> 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/2019

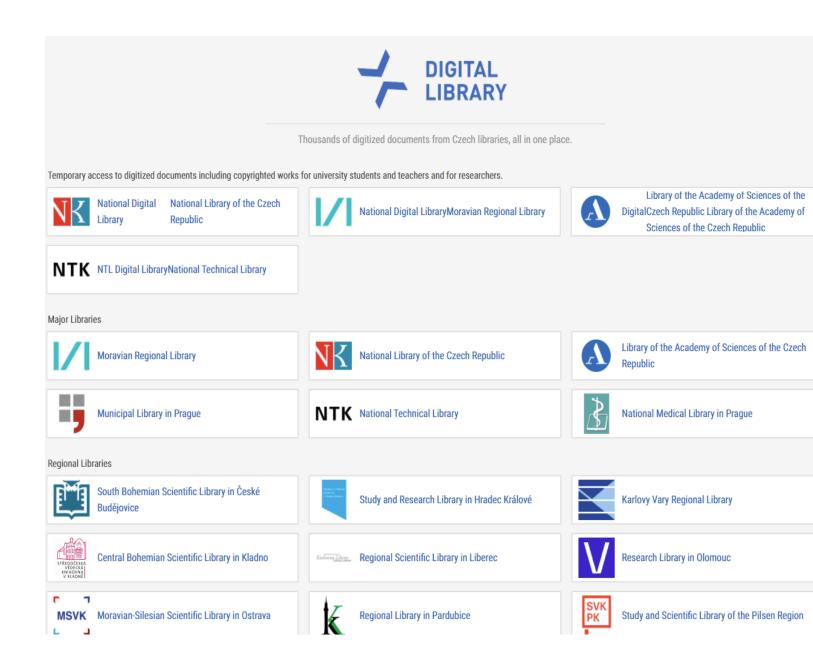
SLOVAKIA KROJE

By Helene Cincebeaux

Helene created a 14min video displaying Kroje at the Pittsburg Annual Slovak Festival Nov. 2020. She paid tribute and gratitude to the Slovaks in over 2,000 villages, during her 50 years of travels, who opened their hearts and homes to tell her about the their precious Kroje. Here is the link(go to 3hrs,30min): www.youtube.com/Kroje

www.SlovakPride.org

CZECH REPUBLIC DIGITAL LIBRARY:



www.digitalniknihovna.cz/

RESOURCES:

Online

Austrian research guide — www.feefhs.org/sites/default/files/guide/austrian_research.pdf

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

ICARUS church books & local history — www.icar-us.eu/en/

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

FEEFHS Slovakian page — <u>feefhs.org/resource/slovakia</u>

FEEFHS Czech Republic page — www.Czech Republic Resources | FEEFHS

FEEFHS Carpatho-Rusyn page www.Regions | FEEFHS

Salzburger family names — www.salzburger.homepage.t-online.de/Fam-name.htm

Literature list on Salzburg emigrants (German) — www.tinyurl.com/jz9dlnu

Archives: Austrian-focused genealogy database — www.genteam.at

Austrian genealogical forum — www.forum-ahnenforschung.eu

Pilsen-Munich archives Sudetenland project (English) — www.tinyurl.com/mj6v6r7

Czech newspapers —

www.digitalniknihovna.cz/

www.tschechien-online.org

www.prag-aktuell.cz

www.pragerzeitung.cz

Slovakia Newspaper — <u>www.spectator.sme.sk/</u>

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

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

East German Gen. Assoc. (German) — www.agoff.de

Austrian National Library — www.www.onb.ac.at

Bohemian church registers — www.tinyurl.com/gsp6ykr

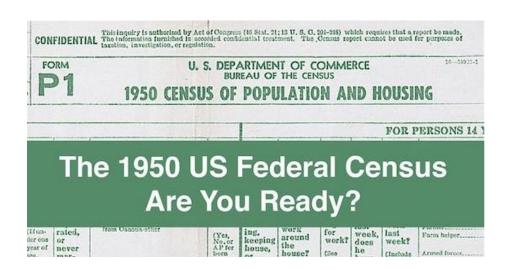
Surname database www.SlovakPride.org

PODCAST » Slovak Ancestry (slovak-ancestry.com)

ADVENT in SLOVAKIA:

www.youtube.com/Advent

This video, created by: Slovak-American Cultural Center, in partnership with Global Slovakia shows many of the Slovak customs for Advent. Such as: "Witching days" St Catherine, St Barbara Dec 4th minor girls dressed in white brush the pans to protect them, also give thanks to the earth), single girls would get a branch from a cherry tree or apple tree & put it in water & watch for growth to indicate that they would get married this year. St Nicholas Dec 6th-delivered presents to children from the dowry story (also story of 3 men 1 dressed as a goat, 1 with hay and 1 with statue of woman on his back and go from house to house delivering presents. St. Lucia's day Dec 13th Refused to surrender her faith, girls dressed in white with goose feathers, wipe the corners of the dwellings to make them clean, St. Thomas-Dec 21st, St. Stephen's day on Dec 26th. A time for reflection and make peace within yourself. See video for detail.



THE 1950 U. S. CENSUS

The 1950 Census of the United States will be released for public on Friday, **April 1, 2022**. When the 1950 census is released in April 2022, it will not have a <u>name</u> index. So, finding people in the census will involve searching by <u>location</u> instead. This is the first Post-war WWII census.

Thomas MacEntee (<u>www.Genealogy Bargains</u>) taught a webinar and said to create a spreadsheet with your ancestor's names & start looking up their enumeration district, using the Stevemorse.org tool. starting <u>now</u> with a spreadsheet of ancestors you want the 1950 census for, and looking up their **Enumeration District (ED)** numbers (for the place they lived in 1950).

He suggested you use the <u>Stevemorse.org</u> website to get these. Note, you need to know the <u>cross</u> streets for the address of your ancestor. So, you may need to use google maps, etc. to get the cross streets. <u>Unified Census ED Finder (stevemorse.org)</u> Ancestry.com created a 1950 census substitute using City directories: <u>1950 Census Substitute - Ancestry</u>

Top Last names in Czech Republic:

Novak "newman"

Svoboda "freeman"

Novotny "newman"

Dvorak "landowner"

Cerny "black"

Prochazka "itinerant"

Kucera "curly"

Vesely "blithe"

Horak "uplander"

Nemec "German"

Top last names in Slovakia:

Horváth, from the Croatian *Hrvat*, "Croat"

Kováč, "blacksmith"

Varga, "leather worker,"

Tóth, "Slovak"

Nagy, "large"

Baláž, "happy, foolish," (Christian "blessed")

Szabó, "tailor,"

Molnár, "miller,"

Balog, bal, "left," or Old Slavic blg, "marsh,"

Lukáč, from the Latin (Greek) Lucas

www.Slovak Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh

(archive.org)

HISTORY:

When is Slovak National Uprising Day? AUG 29th Výročie Slovenského národného povstania

This public holiday commemorates August 29th 1944, which marked the start of an uprising against the pro-Nazi government of the time. In 1938, the Munich agreement established the independent Slovak state, led by Jozef Tiso. In 1944 Tiso declared martial law allowing the German army to occupy the country on August 29th. Up to that point, there had been limited and sporadic guerrilla resistance operations across Slovakia. To counteract the planned occupation, a formal military plan was put in action by the exiled Czechoslovak government, Slovak partisans and deserters from the Slovak army. The forces of the uprising consisted of several armored units as well as part of the Slovak Air Force. Despite some limited support from the allies, the uprising was crushed by the German forces before the end of October 1944. After the defeat, the remaining forces of the uprising

continued with small guerrilla actions until the end of the war. Slovak National Uprising Day has been celebrated since 2003 to be a national holiday for Slovakia as it represents a time when all Slovaks came together against an oppressive dictatorship. However, some see this antifascist celebration as having a strong communist aspect and it isn't celebrated by all Slovaks. On August 29th each year, wreaths are placed on a memorial to the Slovak National Uprising in Bratislava. Source: Wikipedia: edited to remove portions: National day - Wikipedia

August										
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
29	30	31								

LIBERATION DAY IN PILSEN (PLZEN)

Every year, Pilsen conducts the Liberation Celebration of the city in the Czech Republic.

This is because the liberation of Czechoslovakia by allied troops on May 1945 ended the Second World War fighting in Europe. Most of the Czech area was occupied by the Soviet army, the bulk of western Bohemia was occupied by the U.S. 3rd Army led by General George Patton.

On May 4, General Dwight Eisenhower ordered to advance in the heart of Czechoslovakia, which began key American operations in Czechoslovakia. On May 6, 1945, the city of Plzen was liberated by the U.S. Army. Because of Soviet occupation, the memory of fighting or dead Americans was forgotten and even belittled and thus any official celebration marking the arrival of the U.S. army in Pilsen would have been unthinkable before 1989. Since 1990, Plzeň goes notionally back to 1945 and honors those who gave us freedom. The Liberation Festival is held the first weekend in May and

people from all over the world come here to celebrate the liberation by the US Army with the inhabitants of the town, military veterans and their families together. (Courtesy of Tres Bohemes site) Pilsen Liberation Festival (May 1 to 9, 2022) | The National WWII Museum | New Orleans

DNA COLUMN:

HOW MANY CENTIMORGANS IS YOUR DNA MATCH?

DNA Painter | Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4 with relationship probabilities

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. $1C=1^{st}$ cousin, $1C1R=1^{st}$ cousin once removed, etc. www.dnapainter.com/tools/shared cM

Half GG-Aunt / Uncle 208 103 – 284	Great-Grandparent 887 485 – 1486								
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	1C 866 396 – 1397			
Half 3C1R 37 0 – 139	Half 2C1R 66 0 – 190	Half 1C1R 224 62 – 469	Half Niece / Nephew 871 492 – 1315	Niece / Nephew 1740 1201 – 2282	Child 3487 2376 – 3720	1C1R 433 102 – 980			
Half 3C2R 27 0 – 78	Half 2C2R 48 0 – 144	Half 1C2R 125 16 – 269	Half Great-Niece / Nephew 431 184 – 668	Great-Niece / Nephew 850 330 – 1467	Grandchild 1754 984 – 2462	1C2R 221 33 – 471			
Half 3C3R	Half 2C3R	Half 1C3R 60 0 – 120	Half GG-Niece / Nephew 208 103 – 284	Great-Great- Niece / Nephew 420 186 – 713	Great- Grandchild 887 485 – 1486	1C3R 117 25 – 238			

Sample of Blaine Bettinger's Shared Centimorgan tool

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.cgsi.org.

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











