



Czechoslovak Area Genealogy Club of Southern California Newsletter

Newsletter July 2023

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 usually held bi-monthly on the first Saturday of the month at 1:30pm, Zoom meetings, during Covid pandemic. Going forward, we plan to have hybrid-type of meetings of both in-person & Zoom at the Orange FamilySearch Library (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints/Mormon) on Yorba St. 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 2023 meeting dates:

Aug 5th, Oct 7th; Dec 2nd Annual CAGC Christmas Face-to-Face Luncheon.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- **WAGS-Whittier Genealogy:** Sat Aug 19, 1:00 pm Speaker: Mark Cross "Indexing Errors - How to Find the Records When You Can't Find the Records"
- www.conferencekeeper.org/conferences/
- **Orange Annual Family History Fair/Expo Oct 14, 2023** "Branch Out" 9am-4pm, 24 classes!! At the library 674 S .Yorba St.
Register: [OrangeCounty CA FamilySearch Center \(zroots.org\)](http://OrangeCounty CA FamilySearch Center (zroots.org))
- **Czech/Slovak Culture/Dance Lawn Program** Balboa Park, San Diego, Oct 14 & Oct 15, 11am [House of Czech & Slovak Republics \(czechandslovakcottage.com\)](http://House of Czech & Slovak Republics (czechandslovakcottage.com))

Our long-standing Treasurer, Nancy Pestal, has stepped down and our new Treasurer is Farah Takriti. Thank you Nancy, for your 8 years of service, volunteering for CAGC! ❤️

BOARD MEMBERS 2023

President: Annette Gathright
Vice President/Secretary: Mary Shade
Treasurer: Farah Takriti
Webmaster: Mary Shade
Virtual Coordinator: Linda McMahon
Board Member: Marie Garcia-Svarz
Board Member: JoAnn Jones
Board Member: Emeritus: Frank Vogel

President's Message

Happy midyear to all CAGC members!

I can't believe the year is over half gone! My spring was busy with good and not-so good happenings! The good is that I went to Europe for a month. While Rome and London were awesome and interesting, the highlight was spending 3 weeks in the Czech Republic. Part of the not so good is that I broke my foot while in Europe and my kneecap after my return! I was lucky not to be in a cast, but have made a good friend of my cane!

What was super while I was there, in Rome, was that I was able to join our virtual meeting. I enjoyed our speaker and was a bit sad that I was not able to talk to her more. I've known her for many years and always enjoy her presentations. If you haven't reviewed her list of publications, do so. Many of her presentations have been more formalized in her writings that she has available.

If you've been watching television, or reading news on your computer, you have likely found that the topic of AI - artificial intelligence, has been prominent. The entertainment industry is concerned about it taking jobs away from the artists and creators of entertainment content... from writing scripts to acting or providing character presentation, there is concern that machines will do the work of people.

That might be considered a bad result of the use of AI. But there are other places where the use of AI can be of benefit to society. When one realizes the amount of information the average person has available to them compared to just the last generation, the use of AI has to be included in the tools they have available. One of genealogy's latest tool provided a reviewed index for the 1950 census in 6 days instead of 6 months using an optical combination of optical character recognition and what was termed AI. The tool at MyHeritage that provided the process of colorizing photos, and making them sharper is an AI tool. Another tool provides animation and intelligent speech for pictures.

There are several tools available online with different capabilities. One of them is called ChatGPT. It is an AI-powered language model developed by OpenAI that is capable of generating human-like text based on context and past conversations with the user. At this time, it is free. There are other similar programs for a user: Google Bard and one at Bing,

I have recently watch several videos and attended webinars relevant to the use of AI. The webinar's presenter of ChatGPT listed ways to use it to help write your family story and to help find information supporting your research. He had tips on how to use it to have it most effectively used.,,there are additional videos and text lessons online....

Also voiced is the concern of use of such programs by the general public. Lisa Louise Cooke and a video in her collection of them at her Genealogy Gems YouTube channel. She advises everyone to

President's message (cont.)

read the terms of service of these applications, and think about what 'conversations' you :have with the programs... See the video on Chatbot is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFfM2KEhi7k> Also hear some other comments on machine learning and AI here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yp1syVr3vf4>

Another video on the use of ChatGPT is : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnBKjprPTPo> . See if this modern tool is something you want to use to help you in your research.

If any of you get into the use of this technological tool, please tell us about your experience with any of the tools.

In this hot weather, spending time outside is not so great, so I've been finding webinars with talks of interest... often about ethnic research - have you seen any of those about Eastern Europe research, the German language, research resources.... use Conference Keeper to help you find relevant ones. One at the Midwestern Genealogy Library - in Independence, Missouri, offered me the opportunity to provide help to one of their attendees who asked how to find relatives that might living in the villages of their ancestors. Having just returned from my trip to Europe, I hope my adventures encourages you to go on one of your own. During my time there, I met in person several distant cousins, one of whom accompanied me on many relative related adventures-finding relatives serendipitously was on our list. Some suggestions for finding them are here:

1. If you have found records for your ancestors or relatives, likely there is a house address. While there are some addresses that have changed over time, often the building will have address plaque for both address.
2. With the address, you can always write to it... and with a translated letter, since not everyone, especially the older one, read English.
3. You can also write to the local post office, asking the postmaster to deliver an included letter to anyone with your ancestral name.
4. If you do get to the ancestral place, a good tool to have is a phone or iPad with a translation program on it and have a WiFi link available.
5. Using family addresses you've found, go knock on the door and ask for any person related to the family name. Many homes have doorbells available that may be located on a fence gate if not a door. Also try neighbors since they can provide info on who lives there if no one home, or might know family members, In small places, strangers in town draw attention. If you stop on street by house, they may come out to see what you want.
6. If you've not found a family member of those answering door, ask if they can tell you where previous resident lives now...hopefully you'll be able to contact them.
7. Go to city hall and ask them if they can tell you who lives in the house, or what happened to relatives. Make sure you have found info on where city hall is: Small villages have administrative functions in city hall in nearby places since they are so small.

President's message (cont.)

8. Look for location page online - possibly at Facebook, but most have an 'obce' page. Many places use page as substitute for newspaper and notices. It will provide information on that place, often including their history. Sometimes the officials will have family names. Look at them as potential relatives, and ask about their family line. There will likely be phone numbers and email addresses you could use to contact them.
9. Using mapy.cz, search use house number and place. If an address is found, you can get to the cadastral files that list the owner of the address, which might help you eventually find family. You can also verify current address.
10. If all else fails, and there is someone walking near where you think your family lived, ask them if they can help you, that you are looking for some family who may be living there.... Who knows, they may be your relative!

And so, here is another newsletter! Thanks to Mare, I know it will be a great one. Remember she could always use some help from all of you... topics of interest, articles of interest for our members, ideas for materials to include in the newsletter. And don't forget to thank her for all her work!

Annette Gathright
President CAGC

WELCOME NEW CAGC MEMBERS!



**Ben
Sandy
Kathy
Gladys**

**Jody
Susan R.
Glenn**

2023 – REVIEW- PAST CAGC MEETINGS

Feb 4, 2023, We had a round-table type discussion of those who had “Hired a Researcher in the Czech or Slovak Republic”.

Apr 1, 2023, Speaker: Iveta Blahutova, Midwest Genealogy Society and CGSI Educator on Czech/Slovak Genealogy methods. Her information was so detailed we were all ready to dive in and use her links.

Jun 3, 2023, "Self-Publishing: Sharing Your Family History with Relatives", Speaker/Author Nancy Carlberg. Nancy provided research tips for preparing your family history to either publish it on-line or in print. She helped us find the best way to make our family histories available for our relatives.

CHATGPT: AI-Artificial Intelligence

By Mary Shade

Annette Gathright spoke about AI in her message above, and here is some more information. In the example below, Sherri Mastrangelo asked the AI a question about genealogy for New Hampshire, and you can see the Artificial Intelligence's ChatGPT response; pretty amazing how it told her where to search for records. So, then I asked about Bohemian marriage records...see 6 of the suggestions AI gave me below, note that it doesn't give you actual links like GenTeam.AT, etc: <https://chat.openai.com/Can you use ChatGPT for genealogy research? — Start Researching>

Credit to Sherri Mastrangelo, 20 Jan 2023, on her blog: www.startresearching.com

Sherri Mastrangelo asked: How do I find marriage records in New Hampshire before 1850?

ChatGPT: Finding marriage records in New Hampshire before 1850 can be challenging, as record keeping was not as standardized as it is today. Here are some suggestions for finding marriage records from that time period in New Hampshire: 1. Check the New Hampshire State Archives: The New Hampshire State Archives holds many historical records for the state, including marriage records. You can search their collection online or visit the archives in person to view original records. (....this continues with many more suggestions for Sherri)

Mary Shade asked AI: How to find Marriage records for Budilov, Bohemia?

Finding marriage records for Budilov in Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic) will involve searching through historical records and archives. Here's a step-by-step guide on how you can approach this:

1. **Identify the Time Period:** Determine the approximate time period during which the marriage might have taken place. The more specific the date range, the easier it will be to search through records.
2. **Locate Relevant Archives and Repositories:**
 - **Local Archives:** Check if there are any local archives or historical societies in the area that might have preserved marriage records. These could be city or regional archives.
 - **State Archives:** Research the relevant state or national archives that might hold historical records for the region of Bohemia.
3. **Online Databases:**
 - **FamilySearch:** This website operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) is a valuable resource for genealogical research. They have digitized and indexed many records, including marriage records from around the world. It's possible that some Budilov records could be available here.

CHATGPT: AI-Artificial Intelligence (cont.)

- **Czech Genealogy Websites:** Look for online databases and websites specifically focused on Czech genealogy. These might include indexed records and resources for research.

4. Contact Local Authorities:

- **Municipal Offices:** Contact the municipal or town offices in Budilov or the surrounding area. They might have historical records or information about where to find them.
- **Local Churches:** If you know the religious affiliation of the individuals getting married, contacting local churches might provide you with access to parish records.

5. Visit Local Libraries:

- **Local Libraries:** Check if there are local libraries in the area that might have historical documents or resources related to Budilov's history.

6. Collaborate with Researchers:

- **Czech Genealogy Groups:** Join online forums, social media groups, or genealogy websites that focus on Czech genealogy. Fellow researchers might be able to provide tips, guidance, or even share records they've come across.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

11th year Czech, Moravian, & Slovak Folklore Festival San Diego/La Mesa, was **May 20, 2023**.



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

[Upcoming Events – Saint John Paul II \(polishcenter.org\)](https://polishcenter.org)

The HONORARY CONSULATE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC in Los Angeles is officially opened

The "HONORARY CONSULATE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC" in **Los Angeles** officially opened on March 23, 2023, and this honorary Slovak Consulate is supervised/supported by the Slovak Embassy in Washington D.C.

The **Consul** for the "Honorary Consulate Office of The Slovak Republic" in Los Angeles is Mr. **Ben Lyon** and he is responsible for handling matters for **Slovaks** who reside or are otherwise located in **Southern California** and **Southern Nevada**.

Honorary Slovak consul Ben Lyon has profound knowledge of international and technology transactions and for approximately 25 years has been an Executive VP and General Counsel in Silicon Valley, and he has experience with various businesses, tech start-ups, financing, and filmmaking.

Honorary Consulate of The Slovak Republic services in Los Angeles includes, but are not limited to:

- Creating Emergency Travel Documents for lost or stolen Slovak Passports
- Signature verifications- for official matters and important/essential documents
- Assistance with Travel, Educational, and Cultural matters
- Communications with the Slovak Embassy in Washington D.C.

The Honorary Consulate of The Slovak Republic Office Location:
12401 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90025

The Honorary Consulate of The Slovak Republic Los Angeles Office Hours:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm by appointment ONLY.

Other days and times may be available from time to time by appointment.

Contact information/make an appointment:

The Honorary Consul of The Slovak Republic:

Ben Lyon can be contacted by telephone at:

(424) 317-0950 office

(415) 412-6226 cell

or by

email: **Consul@SlovakConsulateLA.com**



**BEN LYON, ESQ.
HONORARY CONSUL OF THE
SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

WEBINARS:

Southern California Genealogy Society has Jamboree free webinars each month. Here's the link. Note: Aug 2023 has an **Eastern European** webinar by Amy Wachs: <https://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>

Legacy Family Tree Webinars has a webinar list showing: Familytreewebinars.com-Future 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 [Video Library • RootsTech • FamilySearch](#)

SLAV Language:

Slav or Slavic, refer to groups sharing a common ethnolinguistic background. Standardized Slavic languages that have official status in at least one country are: Belarusian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Macedonian, Montenegrin, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, and Ukrainian. Russian is the most spoken Slavic language, and is the most spoken native language in Europe. (Wikipedia)

East Slavic=Belarus, Russian & Ukrainian, West Slavic= Polish, Czech & Slovak, South Slavic=Bulgaria, Macedonia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia

Goes back to Byzantine Greek term for Balkans "sklabos".

ROMANI CULTURE:

By Mary Shade

I first learned about the Roma culture when Global Slovakia had a webinar in April 2021. They have a history of being nomadic, their roots go back to India. Pope Francis visited a Roma community in Sept 2021 in Košice, Slovakia. They have endured a lot of discrimination. At the CGSI conference in 2021, Stepanka Korytova Magstadt did a presentation on Roma past and present and said that the prejudice still exists today. The BBC news article (2015) states that the EU started a global initiative in 2005 to improve housing, jobs, health and education for the Roma.



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.

October Orange FamilySearch Annual Family History Fair/ (Expo in the past)

Oct 14, 2023, Saturday, 9am-4pm, Free of Charge

Theme: **“Branch Out”** 9am-4pm, 24 classes!! At the library 674 S .Yorba St.

Register for free: [OrangeCounty CA FamilySearch Center \(zroots.org\)](https://www.familysearch.org/locations/orange-county-ca)

Orange County FamilySearch Center

presents:

“Branch Out”

List of Classes to take:

Session 1:

A. Family Trees or Fairy Tales

B. Using the FamilySearch Wiki

C. Beginning Hispanic Research

D. Finding Your Ancestors in England

E. Oral Histories

F. Early Colonial Research

Session 2:

A. Once enslaved, once slaveholder: Forging a Forever Family Bond

B. Using the Genealogical Proof Standard

C. Tracing for Your Indigenous Roots in Mexico

D. Establishing and Maintaining Accurate Records in FamilySearch

E. Using FamilySearch Phone Apps

F. Using OC Archives in your research

Session 3:

A. Polish/Russian Research

B. Writing your Family History

C. Find a Grave

D. French Canadian Research

E. Using the Timeline to Build Your Tree

F. Hidden Gems of FamilySearch.org

Session 4:

A. Newspapers and Obituaries

B. Creatively Decorate Your Home with Family History!

C. America: Birthrights, Head rights, Legal rights to get it right!

D. Using the Orange County Archives in your research

E. Using Social Media and Google for Genealogy

F. Beginning Spanish Research - (in Spanish)

RESOURCES:

Online

FamilySearch.org offers free lookup for “locked” records: [www.Record Lookup Service • FamilySearch](#)
Austrian research guide — [www.feeffhs.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 — [www.czechusa.com/index.html](#)
FEEFHS Slovakian page — [www.feeffhs.org/resource/slovakia](#)
FEEFHS Czech Republic page — [www.Czech Republic Resources | 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](#)
Czech Archives webinar: [Introduction to Czech Archives - YouTube](#) (Sokol Milwaukee)
Austrian genealogical forum — [www.forum-ahnenforschung.eu](#)
Pilsen-Munich archives Sudetenland project (English) — [www.tinyurl.com/mj6v6r7](#)
[www.Holocaust.cz](#)
Passenger lists Bremen: [www.Bremen Emigrants \(passengerlists.de\)](#)
Czech newspapers —
[www.digitalniknihovna.cz/](#)
[www.tschechien-online.org](#)
[www.prag-aktuell.cz](#)
[www.pragerzeitung.cz](#)
Slovakia Newspaper — [www.spectator.sme.sk/](#)
Slovak dictionary: [www.slovake.eu/en](#) or [www.Slovak dictionaries \(savba.sk\)](#)
Slovak genealogy website Bill Tarkulich: [www.iabsi.com/gen/public/](#)
Beginner’s Slovakia Research: [www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Slovakia_Beginning_Research](#)
Google translator for websites: [www.itools.com/tool/google-translate-web-page-translator](#)
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.onb.ac.at](#)
Bohemian church registers — [www.tinyurl.com/gsp6ykr](#)
Surname database [www.SlovakPride.org](#)
PODCAST » [Slovak Ancestry \(slovak-ancestry.com\)](#)
[www.Arolsen Archives.org](#) for Holocaust
[www.Mapy.cz](#) for both Czech and Slovakia locations
[www.Arcanum Maps - The Historical Map Portal](#)
[www.zanikleobce.cz](#) website for vanished towns
[www.slovník.juls.savba.sk](#) Historical dictionary for Slovakia
[www.kdejsme.cz](#) for places where Surname is common.
[www.portafontium.eu/](#) for PILSEN records or German Bohemians (Bavarian)

DNA COLUMN:

By Mary Shade

Living DNA is a DNA company that tends to focus on the British Isles, but has slowly expanded to parts of other countries. I've found many on my match list that have Slovakia as their country:



Living DNA now has a Chromosome browser to compare your matches!

[Living DNA](#) | [DNA Kits](#) | [Bring your DNA to Life](#)

“The 22 autosomal chromosomes, over which the Living DNA matching method estimates relationships, are presented in Centimorgan (cM) units.”

One of the drawbacks is that it only allows you to compare 2 people at a time

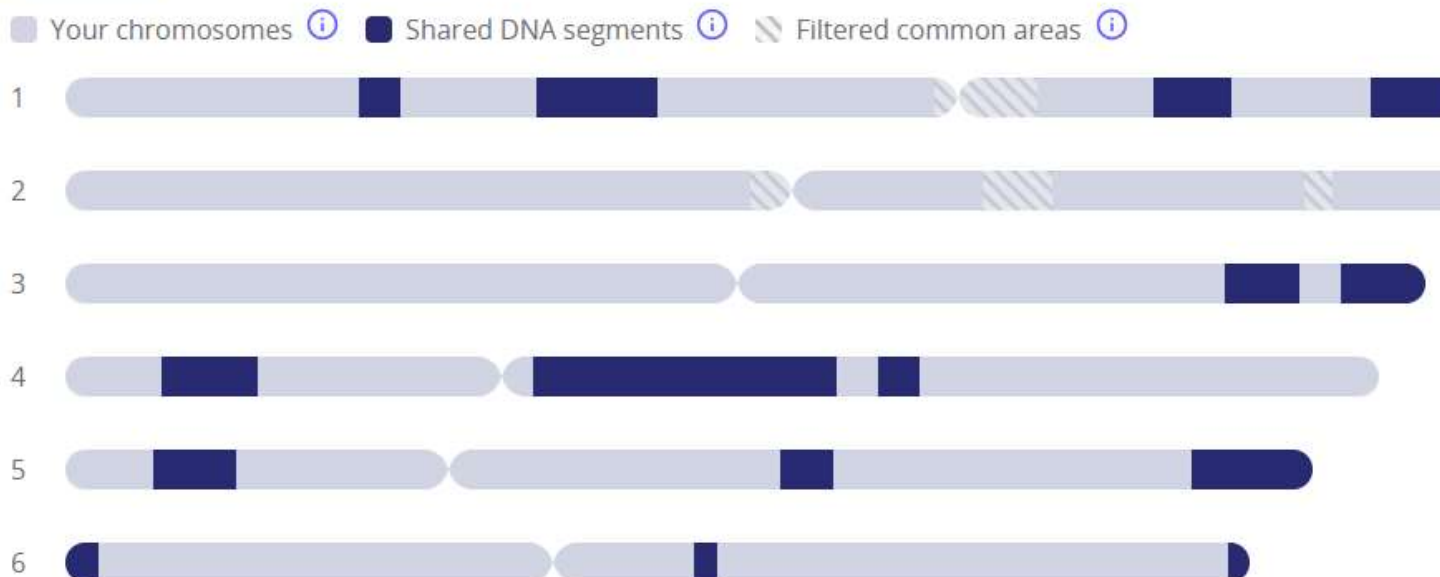
What is a Chromosome Browser?

[Click to show more](#)

☐ Only show segments longer than cM

[Browser view](#)

[Table view](#)



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. Donations are suggested at \$5.00 per year, mail to Treasurer: Farah Takriti. Please email Annette Gathright with questions: anettka@aol.com or Mary Shade: meshade@gmail.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.scsgsgenealogy.com.

