



Czechoslovak Area Genealogy Club of Southern California Newsletter

Newsletter Jul 2026

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 and only in-person at the Christmas party. 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 2026 meeting dates:
Aug 1st, Wesley Johnston, “Reconstructing the Families of a Czech Village: **Modřejovice** in Central Bohemia”

Oct 3rd, Beth Massura, DNA.

Dec 5th, Annual CAGC Christmas in-person Luncheon at Mimi's café in Tustin.

FUTURE EVENTS:

FEFHS: Foundation Eastern European Family History Studies in Salt Lake City! Annual Conf Aug 5-7, \$239 Early bird July 5, \$279, right next to the FS library! **52 live sessions** on genealogical research across the **Russian Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire, Poland, and Germany.**
<https://feefhs.org/>

Gen. Society of North Orange County:
Annual Seminar “Homesteading, Using FamSearch Community & Wiki, Newspapers, Ancestry DNA: **Jamie Lee McManus Mayhew, PLCGS-\$40, July 25 9:30am - 3:30pm**
<https://www.gsnocc.org/seminar.html>

Whittier Genealogy Society:
July 18 @1pm “Internet Archive - The Amazing Genealogical Resource You're Not Using!” speaker Debra Dudek.
<https://wagswhittier.org/>
Zoom link on website.

FamilySearch Eastern European Special Interest Group 3rd Sat Jul 18th@1pm PST, Presented by Washington DC FS Center. ZOOM, email maryannevan@gmail.com

Family Search Library in Orange Annual Family History Fair/Expo: Sat, Sept 12th
Keynote Speaker Mark Mortenson 9am-4pm

President's Message:

Ahoj! Dobrý deň!

Happy 4th of July! America's Semiquincentennial, 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence! I honestly have not gotten my family trees back to 1776. That's about 8-10 generations, so congratulations to those of you who have gotten this far! I hope you are all doing well. Thank you again to the CAGC Board members who have helped keep this club running.

We tried something new this year, a workshop type of meeting for Embroidery painting. It was a lot of work coordinating, but I think those who participated enjoyed it. Even though this is not genealogy, we may include other topics like Pysanky egg decorating or cooking, based on interest of the group.

The Cottage in Balboa Park, House of Czech & Slovak Republics reopened in March 2026 and looks very nice. Here's a [link](#) to see the cottage scroll down to 3D Virtual Tour:

<https://czechandslovakcottage.com/>

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=azM7V1UfgPZ>

I have not received an update from the CGSI group regarding our partnership, but will keep you posted.

As we announced in 2025, Los Angeles got a new Czech Consulate **ARNOŠT KAREŠ**, and we will invite him to our Christmas party again, hopefully he will be free this year.

We would always like feedback on our activities. We have not tried the suggestion to experiment with Breakout Rooms in Zoom as time permits. We didn't get the chance to test it at our Aug meeting due to the settings, but hope to try again in the future.

Thank you for all of your support. Mary Shade, CAGC President.



CZECHMOVIE

This is a shopping website (disclaimer, we are not paid to advertise for them), but it may give you ideas of Czech movies, books, music and **foods**, etc. to explore:

www.czechmovie.com/products/

GOT SUGGESTIONS?

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

2026 – REVIEW- PAST CAGC MEETINGS

Feb 7, 2026, Embroidery Painting Workshop, teacher Milada Bohackova from Czech and Slovak School of Atlanta. Milada taught us how to use fabric paints to transfer Czech and Slovak cultural patterns to tote bags and kitchen towels.

Apr 4, 2026, Speaker: Jason Cadek, CGSI Czechoslovak Genealogy Society International Orientation -Video & Demo Mary Shade

June 6, 2026, Speaker: Daniel Horowitz, Topic: MyHeritage AI Tools.

WIKITREE :



Have you put your family tree on Wikitree?

www.WikiTree: The Free Family Tree

One of our members uses it because he can protect his family tree from changes. I talked about it 3 yrs ago, here's a quick blurb: WikiTree is for genealogy collaboration. This happens at two levels. At the modern level, the collaboration can be private. Use WikiTree to collect and organize your personal family history and privately collaborate with family members. If you invite non-genealogist family members they might not move beyond this level.

One nice benefit is that you can enter your **DNA Kit#'s or Gedmatch#** on this website to help others investigate their relationship to you. WikiTree is **100% free** for everyone, forever

REMINDER: CGSI Quarterly Czech & Slovak Research Discussion Group:

Unfortunately, this group falls on the same dates as our CAGC meetings in Feb & Aug, but the August meeting is cancelled due to vacations, so the next Discussion is Nov 7th.

1st Sat's: Feb, May, Aug, Nov from 1 – 3 pm
Central Time via Zoom

Who: Open to CGSI Members Only

CGSI continues its opportunity for members to meet and share resources and discoveries. Moderated by CGSI Education Chair **Iveta Blahútová**, the format is informal, with participants sharing information about themselves, their family history, and their genealogy research, as much as they are comfortable. The goal is to have an open, inclusive discussion where participants can learn, share, and connect.

RUSYNS/RUTHENIANS:

By Mary Shade

RUSYN TRANSLATOR: (You can access it using RUSYNATOR.com) or

<https://www.orynycz.com/rusyn-translator/>

Here's the video where Petro talks about it:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/mGcMHV7bij0>

Petro Orynych demonstrated this AWESOME translator for the Rusyn language!

This was shown 2 months ago on Facebook as “The First AI Translator into Rusyn for Slovakia”

I needed this for the Presov Studium Rusyn Language homework! Since the teacher said my homework was Ukrainian, not Rusyn, because I used the Google translator

https://www.facebook.com/events/1427095018621585/?active_tab=discussion

Rusyn Translator on Facebook RUSYNATOR



Rusyn Translator

[ByteClub.ai](#) [Lemko Translator](#) [About Me](#) [Blog](#) [Publications](#) [Cont](#)

Type for fast, free translations into Rusyn for Slovakia & Poland (Cyrillic + Latin alphabets) by The Rusynator, the best Rusyn translator.



RUSYNS in the MOVIES:

Soviet era film 'Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors. The film has a Romeo and Juliet theme involving two feuding Hutsul families, shared by Jerry who has Rusyn discussions. *(Even though this movie was not my favorite type and a little hard to follow for me & some of the subtitles were hard to see, I enjoyed seeing the scenes and how they interacted depicting the past.)*

<https://www.tccweb.org/carpathorusynheritage.htm#shadows>

HISTORY:

Milan Rastislav Štefánik (1880–1919) is a revered Slovak national hero, Brigade General, astronomer, aviator, and diplomat who was instrumental in founding the independent state of Czechoslovakia in 1918. Overcoming immense adversity, his relentless efforts alongside T.G. Masaryk and Edvard Beneš helped unify the Czech and Slovak nations.

His multifaceted life spanned the sciences, military, and international politics:

- **The Renaissance Man:** Born in Košariská (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire), Štefánik initially studied astronomy. He became an internationally respected scientist, establishing observatories from Tahiti to Mont Blanc.
- **Diplomacy & World War I:** During WWI, he joined the French Army, rising to the rank of General. Using his vast international connections, he masterminded the formation of the Czechoslovak Legions and became Czechoslovakia's first Minister of War.
- **Tragic Demise:** Štefánik's life was cut tragically short on May 4, 1919. While returning to his newly established homeland from Italy, his plane crashed near Bratislava.
(from Google AI overview)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milan_Rastislav_%C5%A0tef%C3%A1nik

During World War I, he served at the same time as a general in the French Army and as Minister of War for Czechoslovakia. As one of the leading members of the Czechoslovak National Council (the resistance government), he contributed decisively to the cause of Czechoslovak sovereignty, since the status of Czech- and Slovak-populated territories was one of those in question until shortly before the dissolution of Austria-Hungary in 1918.



{photo from YouTube video link}

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhMCs2nLgKk>

(Topic suggested by CAGC member Paul)

RIDE OF THE KINGS:

By Mary Shade

Pentecost in 2026 was on **Sunday, May 24**. Ride of the Kings is an integral part of the Pentecostal celebrations. I had never heard of Moravian Slovakia before, but **Moravian Slovakia**, also called **Slovácko** (Czech: *Slovácko*, older *Moravské Slovensko*) is a cultural region in the southeastern part of the Czech Republic. The ritual is believed to date back to the 15th century, honoring a legendary escape of Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus disguised as a woman.

(from <https://www.rideofthekings.com/about>)

Vlčnov is linked with the Ride of the Kings

An ancient tradition attracting visitors from all over the world. Nevertheless, this picturesque corner of southern Moravia holds much more. Located in the heart of “Dolňácké Slovácko” region, Vlčnov is a place where rich history, vibrant folklore, and warm hospitality of local people meet. The village’s history dates back to the 13th century, and until today it boasts preserved examples of traditional folk architecture, particularly its iconic wine cellars, known as “búdy”.

In 2011, the Ride of the Kings was inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, gaining international recognition. Though times change, this unique ceremony endures, representing pride, tradition, and the unbreakable bond between generations. In Vlčnov, this legacy is lovingly and respectfully passed onto future generations every year.

The first written record of the Ride of the Kings in Vlčnov dates back to **1808**, even though oral tradition suggests the ceremony took place much earlier. What is certain, however, is that the tradition has been preserved through generations and continues uninterrupted every year. Nowadays,



RIDE OF THE KINGS: (cont.)

it is one of the most significant folk traditions not only in the Slovácko region but in the entire Czech Republic.

The Ride of Kings (*Jízda králů*) is a UNESCO-listed Intangible Cultural Heritage folk tradition in the Czech Republic, held annually at Pentecost (usually May/June) in Moravian villages. The festival features young men on decorated horses escorting a young "king" in female attire with a rose in his mouth, symbolizing a 15th-century escape.

- **Location:** Primarily in the village of Vlčnov, but also celebrated in Hluk, Kunovice, and Skoronice in southeast Moravia.
- **The "King":** A young boy (aged 10–15) dressed in traditional women's clothing with his face partially covered and a rose in his mouth, symbolizing silence and disguise.
- **The Procession:** The king is accompanied by "legrúti" (young men) on decorated horses who ride through the village, singing and collecting gifts.
- **Significance:** It is a vibrant celebration of local folklore, featuring traditional costumes, music, and dance, often linked to the Christian Pentecost holiday.

(From Wikipedia) The Ride of the Kings (Czech: *Jízda králů*) is a festival that is celebrated in Spring, at the Pentecost, in Moravia, the south-east of the Czech Republic. The festival takes place in the region historically known as Moravian Slovakia.

Until World War II, the Ride was an integral part of the Feast of Pentecost, but has since become largely a social event.^[2] The ceremony begins with a religious service and the approval of the Mayor, followed by the preparation of the costumes and decorations for the horses and riders. These are made by the women of the villages, according to traditional colors and designs unique to each place.^[2]

The Ride itself is performed by young men who number between 15 and 25.^[2] They are preceded and followed by singers and an honor guard wearing unsheathed swords to protect the "King"; a young boy of 10 to 15 years old, whose face is partially covered, holding a rose in his mouth.^[1] The King and his groomsmen are dressed in feminine costumes, while all the other riders wear masculine clothing.^[1] After riding through the village for a few hours, sometimes exchanging witticisms with the crowd, the participants return home then, later in the evening, meet at the "King's House" for music and dancing.^[2]

Ride of the Kings
Jízda králů



A young boy (the "King") in traditional costume with a rose in his mouth at the Ride of Kings in Vlčnov (2007)



NEWSPAPERS ARTICLES AS A GIFT IDEA?

Jurgen Sturma from RootsTech recommended this Austrian newspaper: <https://www.onb.ac.at/en>

Interesting idea....this Website offers prints of various newspapers, (maybe not for our relatives), but maybe we can use a similar idea for other newspapers that you are familiar with in CZ or SK?

Like Arcanum Eastern European Newspapers, <https://adt.arcanum.com/en/> So, you can create a reproduction

and make a personal gift out of it.

You can search for Free, but if you want to see the newspaper, it's ~13 EU/month.

<https://www.onb.ac.at/en/library/reproduction-options-and-anniversary-newspaper/anniversary-newspaperswspapers>

Austrian Newspapers: *Are you looking for a suitable present for special occasions such as birthdays, company anniversaries, weddings or retirements? Commission us to create a reproduction of a newspaper from days gone and make a personal gift.*

IN THE NEWS:

SLOVAK CITIZENSHIP CHANGES:

Here's the link discussing the changes to the Slovak Citizenship by Descent Law that got approved sent by Rosemary. (1) It removed the residency paperwork requirement, (2) all applications for the certificate will now be sent to Slovakia electronically and the certificate itself will also be transmitted back to the embassy electronically, (3) There's a new addition, but the writer of this article didn't think it would really change anything since it doesn't list the type of "documents" for citizenship of ancestors, so I'm not sure, but I think we would still be able to use the 1930 Slovak censuses as one way of "proving" ancestors' citizenship.

explicit/formalized requirement for "certificate or document through which the applicant gives evidence that their [qualifying ancestor] was a Czechoslovak citizen born on the territory of the Slovak Republic..."

"...Furthermore, the new provision does not exhaustively list explicit formal documents by name to establish an ancestor's Czechoslovak citizenship. This therefore does not significantly affect evidentiary rules under the act nor does it limit the type of (documentary) evidence available to prove one's Czechoslovak citizenship."

Source:

<https://blog.cs-passport.eu/slovak-parliament-approves-changes-to-the-citizenship-by-descent-law/>

WEBINARS:

Legacy Family Tree Webinars has a webinar list showing: [Upcoming Webinars - Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

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

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar-library?language=english>

WELCOME NEW CAGC MEMBERS!

- Kristi



CGSI Volunteer Village project Reminder to add your village if you are a CGSI member.
<https://cgsi.org/form/our-villages-submission-2025>

Remember how we discussed this at the CGSI Orientation meeting...It looks very easy to do, and will help get your village on their website:

CGSI hopes you share your village story.

To do so, answer the questions below and click Submit. Your submission will be reviewed for inclusion on the [Our Villages](#) page.

Village Name

Region and/or Nearby Villages

Present-day country

Czech Republic Slovakia Other...

Historical Names (if known)

Village Website (if known)

You can submit your village story one of two ways: enter the story in the box or upload a document with the story. Suggested story length is about 500 words.

Your Story

Upload a Document

Upload an Image

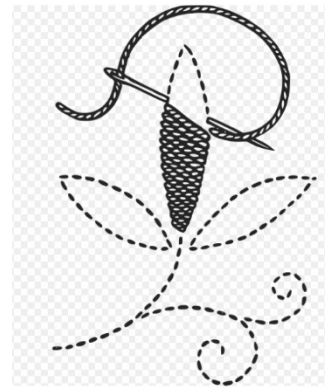
**CAGC Embroidery Painting Workshop
-Feb 2026**



**CAGC Embroidery Painting
Workshop: Carol L., Maria
and Mary S. creations**



Showcase of Maria 's Threaded Embroidery Pieces



Maria shows her talent! She brought samples of her work of threaded embroidery pieces to the Embroidery painting workshop

RESOURCES: Online

Facebook Grp: Czech & Slovak Americans Genealogy Soc. of Illinois:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2087105394887086>

Hosting Student Exchange from Czech Republic: www.greenheartexchange.org/host-exchange

Passenger lists: <https://stevemorse.org/>

Czech Gazetteer for villages: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Czech_Gazetteer_K

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

Beginner's Czech blog: www.czechgenealogy.nase-koreny.cz/p/contact.html?m=1

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

Moravian Heritage Society — www.czechusa.com/index.html

FEEFHS Slovakian page — www.feefhs.org/resource/slovakia

FEEFHS Czech Republic page — [www.Czech Republic Resources | FEEFHS](http://www.Czech_Republic_Resources_|_FEEFHS)

Pathfinders.cz -do research, but also will obtain just a record in Czechia, have partner for Slovakia

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

Czech Archives webinar: [www.Introduction to Czech Archives - YouTube](http://www.Introduction_to_Czech_Archives_-_YouTube) (Sokol Milwaukee)

[Matriky - ACTA PUBLICA \(mza.cz\)](http://Matriky_-_ACTA_PUBLICA_(mza.cz))

Austrian genealogical forum — www.forum-ahnenforschung.eu

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

www.Holocaust.cz

Historical Atlas of Czech towns: [www.Historical Towns Atlas | Historický atlas měst \(cas.cz\)](http://www.Historical_Towns_Atlas_|_Historický_atlas_měst_(cas.cz))

Passenger lists Bremen: [www.Bremen Emigrants \(passengerlists.de\)](http://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 \(savba.sk\)](http://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

Bohemian church registers — www.tinyurl.com/gsp6ykr

Surname database www.SlovakPride.org

PODCAST » [Slovak Ancestry \(slovak-ancestry.com\)](http://Slovak_Ancestry_(slovak-ancestry.com))

[www.Arolsen Archives.org](http://www.Arolsen_Archives.org) for Holocaust

www.Mapy.cz for both Czech and Slovakia locations

[www.Arcanum Maps - The Historical Map Portal](http://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.portafortium.eu/ for PILSEN records or German Bohemians (Bavarian)

Mapire.eu

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 always welcome, mail to Treasurer: Farah Takriti. Please email Mary Shade with questions: meshade@gmail.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.



BOARD MEMBERS 2026

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