

The Web can hardly save a language, but it can help:

The case of Texas Czech

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Questions

This presentation evaluates the presence of the heritage language of ethnic Czech Moravians in Texas on the most prominent Texas Czech websites and asks: Given a healthy number of these websites, including live video broadcasting, all promoting the ever-thriving Texas Czech culture and commerce, what role does the Web play in the preservation and revitalization of the heritage language?

** What is available?

** What is possible?

** [A complication:] Which variety?

Introduction

The language of Texas Czechs began to evolve in the 1850s, with the first major wave of settlers coming to Texas from the Moravian region of the 19th century Austro-Hungarian Empire. Present-day Texas Czech is a blend of archaic Moravian dialects and standard ('school') Czech, heavily influenced by over a century and a half of contact with English spoken in Texas. As a result, Texas Czech bears little resemblance to European Czech. It is an endangered immigrant language variety, which, considering that natural intergenerational language transmission has long ended and that most speakers and semispeakers are elderly, falls within the alarming Stage Seven on Fishman's (1991, 2000) Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale of threatened statuses: it is approaching extinction.

Origins of Czech Moravians in Texas

Both poverty and persecution pervasive in the Austro-Hungarian Empire during the 19th century drove significant numbers of peasants to seek better economic conditions as well as political and religious freedoms in other parts of Europe and in America.

The phenomenon of “district chain migration” (Hewitt 1979), where entire villages moved to be recreated in fertile farming lands of Texas began in the 1850s and ended by World War Two (cf. Machann and Mendl 1983).

Origins of Czech Moravians in Texas



First settlements and education

At the center of a typical new settlement were a school, church, and fraternal hall. Education was important to largely literate ethnic Czechs in Texas from the outset.

The first documented school was opened in 1859. The English language was brought to the Czech schools in 1871 with the Texas Legislature requiring an English proficiency exam of all teachers in Texas public schools and the use of English as the primary mode of instruction.

Ethnic religion and education

Ethnic religion played a significant role in language maintenance through the 1930s. The English law did not apply to Catholic elementary schools, which kept the Czech language alive for some time, just as did Czech Protestant summer schools.

Long prominent in higher education, the **University of Texas at Austin** began to teach Czech in 1915; the language has remained, with varying enrollments, a subject of study ever since.

The role of ethnic organizations

Just as important as education were Czech fraternal and, later, educational organizations, often involved in the communities' social and cultural life:

- ***Katolická jednota texaská*** 'The Catholic Union of Texas' (*KJT*)
- ***Slovanská podporující jednota státu Texas*** 'The Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas' (*SPJST*)
- **the Czech Ex-Students Association of Texas (CESAT)**
- **the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT)**/the endowment to establish the Texas Chair in Czech Studies, assuring continuous offerings of Czech at the University of Texas at Austin since 1990.
- **Czech Heritage Society of Texas (CHST)**
- **Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCCHC) & TOCA**

How many Texas Czechs are there?

- It is difficult to estimate accurately the number of ethnic Czechs in Texas. Many immigrants of this descent went unreported until 1920 when the US immigration service included “Czech” among possible designations.
- The **1920** Census: 64, 800 foreign-born Czech speakers and 1st & 2nd generation Czechs; “Czechoslovakian” as the third largest group in Texas
- The **1980** US Census: 178,932 Texans of Czech descent;
- The **1990** US Census: 191,754 Texans of “Czech”/”Czechoslovakian” ancestry;
- ***The 1995 Resolution of the State of Texas House of Representatives*** proclaiming the “Czech Heritage Week in Texas” boasts that [this] “second largest ethnic group in Texas ... now number[s] nearly a million,” and ranks the Czech language as the third “most popular spoken language” in the state.
- The **2000** Census: 187, 729 Texans of “Czech”/”Czechoslovakian” ancestry;
- A cautious estimate: **150,000 to 225,000 ethnic Czechs & Moravians today.**

Párknu káru u hauza ... 'I'll park the car by the house'

- Texas Czech (TC) blends the archaic features of Northeastern Moravian dialects – the Lachian (*Lašsko*) and Valachian (*Valašsko*) regions of the present-day Czech Republic, aspects of Standard (Written) Czech, and features of English spoken in Texas.
- Texas Czechs' descriptions of their vernacular as “half and half,” “broken,” or *potrhané jak když leje z boketa* ‘broken as if one pours it out of a bucket’ focus on the typical morphosyntactic integrations of N, V, and Adj. (e.g. *tomáta* ‘tomatoes’; *braunovy* ‘brown’; *farmovat* ‘to farm’, *jůzovat* ‘to use’), and code-switches (e.g. *měla vysoký* blood pressure ‘[she] had high blood pressure’)

The dialectal core of Texas Czech

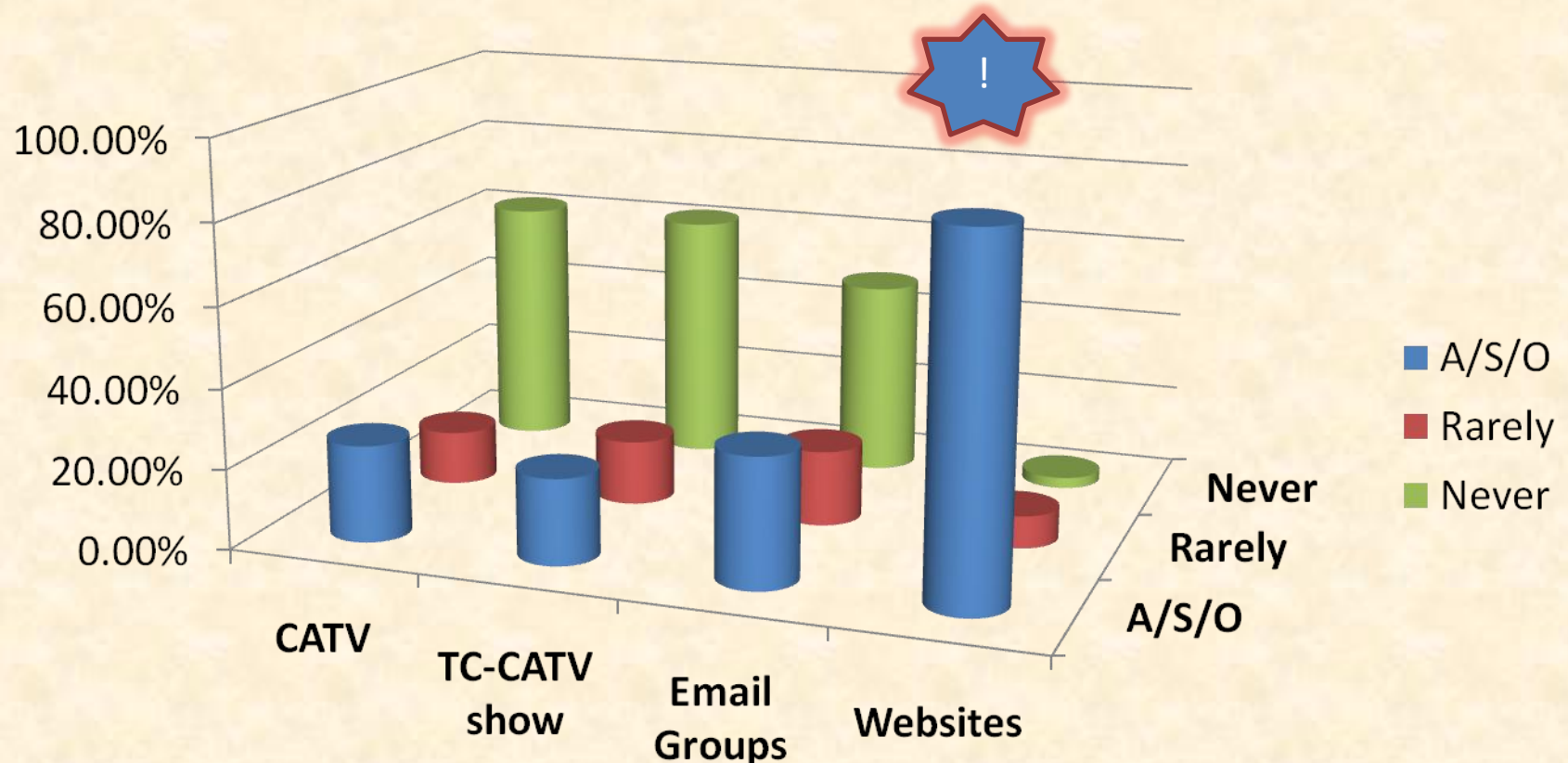
- *Muka/můka* for the EC *mouka* ‘flour’;
- *Něsu/nenisu* for the EC *nejsem* ‘I am not’
- *Mluvit’* for the EC *mluvit* ‘speak’
- *Odkad’ ses’?* → *Odkad’ ty ses’?* For the EC *Odkud jsi?* ‘Where are you from?’
- *Potem* for the EC *potom* ‘after’
- *Rozumja, ale nemluvja* for the EC *rozumí ale nemluví* ‘[they] understand but don’t speak [it]’
- *Cerky, ogaři* for the EC *děvčata, chlapci* ‘girls, boys’

Which variety to promote?

- **View #1:** Texas Czech is not worth teaching. Only the Czech language as used in ‘the old home country’ should be taught
- **View #2:** A “cleaned-up” version of Texas Czech -- dialectal features minus anglicized words – would be acceptable
- **View #3:** Texas Czech is a valuable community resource that can be utilized in teaching Czech as a heritage language or taught for the variety itself (different varieties for different purposes!)

Accessing Web resources N=37

34 (age 54-92) & 3 (age 35-50)





Texas Czech Websites

- **Website (Organization/Private)**
- **Mission: Heritage Preservation**
- **Mission: + Language Preservation?**
- **Referenced/featured variety: European Czech? Texas Czech?**
- **Language material: Referenced? Featured?**

Texas Czech-related websites (organizations)

| Website (6) | Mission: Heritage | Mission: + Language? | Ref variety | Includes Language material ? |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| SPJST | Fraternal Heritage [insurance business] | Not explicitly stated | Czech (EC) | NO ; Czech lessons- <i>Vestnik</i> ; links to 'learn-Czech' sites |
| CHST | Heritage organization | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Czech (EC) | NO; A few Chapters offer community classes ; Comprehensive links to all things Czech and some Czech-learning sites; newsletter <i>Český Hlas</i> 'the Czech voice' [offline] |
| TCHCC La Grange | Heritage Center | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Czech (EC) | NO; Closely associated with CHST; share links; Newsletter <i>Náš Český Život</i> 'Our Czech Life' [offline] |
| CEFT | Heritage Educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Czech (EC) | NO; Program fellows from CR teach community language classes; supports teaching of Czech at UT-Austin ... |
| CCM Houston | Heritage Center | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Czech (EC) | NO; Offers Czech (EC) classes; comprehensive links to all things Czech and some Czech-learning sites |
| Texas Czech Genealogical Society | Genealogy & Heritage | Not explicitly stated | None | NO; Links to Czech websites "in Czech only" and other resources; newsletter <i>Ceske Stopy</i> 'Czech footprints' [online] |

Texas Czech-related websites (private)

| Website (4) | Mission: Heritage | Mission: + Language | Referenced variety | Includes language material ? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Texas Čzech Genealogy Website | Genealogy & Heritage | Not explicitly stated | Czech (EC) | NO; apart from a Czech diacritic over the English “C” in “Czech” & “Welcome – <i>Vítáme Vás</i> ”; <i>Děkuji!</i> ‘Thank you’ (no diacritics) |
| Texas Czech Genealogy Pg | Genealogy & Heritage | Not explicitly stated | Czech (EC) | NO; apart from “~ <i>Vítáme Vás</i> (Welcome)” |
| ‘goodolejoe’ | Czech Stuff “for fun and pleasure” |  | Czech (EC) & reference to Texas Czech → | “Want to learn the words to the Czech songs? Here are the lyrics to 73 popular Czech songs. (Sorry purists, but no diacriticals!) ” + Links to ‘learn-Czech’ sites “A spoof on the use of the Czech language by Texans. Words and phrases that are half Czech and half English. Gotta know both languages to be able to understand them. Cute! ” |
| Texas Czechs (All About) “...Czech Music, Language, Recipes, & Traditions; Czech out the CDs, DVDs, T-Shirts, Bumper Stickers, Mugs” |  | Language is the first link! | Czech (EC) | Czech words and phrases; organized around topics; short video lessons; also texts to traditional polka songs (with audio) but only read, not sung; a link to “Czech lingo” leads to a European Czech language –learning sites |

Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas (SPJST)

Organization information & E-commerce

Texas Czech or Czech: 0

Vestnik ("Bulletin") prints Czech lessons

Youth Program: *Vestnik* Projects

Other Interesting Links of Popular Czech Customs

Prague Castle/ *Politika*/ *Kraslice*/ Vegetable Dishes/*Czech* Liberation/*Czech* Football...

Czech Republic's Greatest Athletes ...

Member receives Czernin Palace Medal (promoting *Czech* Heritage)



Insuring & Enriching Lives Since 1897

Celebrate Czech Heritage!

Participate in a Czech Questionnaire! [Click to see Vestnik article and download questionnaire.](#) It's not too late to add your responses. Please participate if you can!

The Czech Coat of Arms displayed here is the most frequently used symbol of the Czech Republic.



The seal can be found on all public buildings, city halls, and offices. Many of the designs devised in the elaborate armory have been used since the time of the Ancient Egyptians, but heraldry itself did not begin until the 11th Century. In continental Europe, the most ancient recorded family crest was discovered upon the monumental effigy of a Court in Wasserburg in Germany.

Heraldry in the most basic principle deals with occurrences associated with the assignments and responsibilities of officers of arms. In other terms, Heraldry is embedded with powerful armored seals making it an important visual part of history. A coat of arms just like the Czech Seal above could be considered the decorative fence that distinguishes heritages from other heritages. In ancient times, the seals distinguished warriors in war when their bodies were covered by protective steel. Today, coat of arms are still used for a variety of reasons even though they are extremely old.

- Welcome
- SPJST Home Office
- Fraternal Activities
- Insurance
- Sales Agent's Page
- Youth
- Vestnik
- Scholarships/Grants
- Administration
- Activities
- Local Lodges
- SPJST Store
- SPJST History
- Photo Gallery
- Heritage
- Member Services/Discounts
- Links
- In The News
- Job Postings/Career Opps

<http://www.spjst.org/home.html>

Czech Heritage Society of Texas (CHST)

"Conversational Czech for Travelers" at the CHS Library and Archives

www.slovník.cz is a great online translator...

KNIHY OFF/LINE - Czech book downloads
<http://hurontaria.baf.cz/KNIHY>

Digital Dialects Czech Language, Interactive games for learning the Czech language

Links to TCHCC and various sites by Czechs and American Czechs; no representation of the dialect

[HOME](#)

[Membership and Meetings](#)

[History of the Czech Heritage Society of Texas](#)

[CHS Office and Library](#)

[CHS Genealogy & Family History Publications](#)

[Robert Janak's Texas Czech Website](#)

[Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant](#)

[TexasCzechs EGroup](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Links](#)

[Recipes](#)

[Prague Post Online](#)

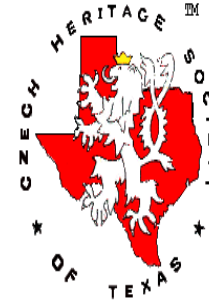


[Click to join TexasCzechs](#)

::

The Czech Heritage Society of Texas

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN 1982,
DEDICATED TO PRESERVATION OF TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE:
GENEALOGY, HISTORY, MUSIC, CUSTOMS, FOOD, COSTUMES, LANGUAGE



[Victor Peter Scholarship Guidelines](#)

[2010 Youth Day Video](#)

ESTABLISHED FIFTEEN CHAPTERS

[BEXAR](#)
[BRAZOS VALLEY](#)
[BURLESON](#)
[CONCHO VALLEY](#)
[ELLIS](#)
[FAYETTE](#)
[FORT BEND](#)

[GALVESTON](#)
[GONZALES](#)
[HARRIS](#)
[LAVACA](#)
[McLENNAN-HILL](#)
[TRAVIS-WILLIAMSON](#)
[VICTORIA](#)
[WHARTON](#)

FOR INFORMATION AND [MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION](#)
CALL OR WRITE

The Czech Heritage Society of Texas
Library and Archives
PO Box 1027

<http://www.czechheritage.org/>

Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen Pageants (CHST)

[HOME](#)

[Membership and Meetings](#)

[History of the Czech Heritage Society of Texas](#)

[CHS Office and Library](#)

[CHS Genealogy & Family History Publications](#)

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[Events Calendar](#)

[Links](#)

[Recipes](#)

[Prague Post Online](#)



[Click to join TexasCzechs](#)

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Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen Pageants

Since 2003, The Czech Heritage Society of Texas has had a representative in the [Miss Czech USA Pageant](#) held in Wilber, Nebraska. These are some of our former contestants and our current reigning queen.



- | | |
|------|---|
| 2010 | Rachel Hurley, Travis-Williamson Counties CHS |
| 2009 | Michelle Barak, Ellis County CHS |
| 2008 | Ashley Sulak, McLennan-Hill Counties CHS |
| 2007 | Marianne Beran, Burlison County CHS |
| 2006 | Miss Czech Slovak USA, Sara Middlebrook |
| 2005 | Lacy Gibbs, Victoria County CHS |
| 2004 | Amanda Gajdesik, McLennan-Hill Counties CHS |
| 2003 | Lauren Valek, Ellis County CHS |

Czech Heritage Society of Texas: Links

LINKS

Participate in a Czech Questionnaire!

[Letter](#) [Form](#)

| | |
|---|---|
| Czech Republic | <p>www.czech.cz is a nice site that give bits of info on the country http://www.radio.cz/en/ the site for Cesky Rozhlas - Czech Radio program. http://czcams.grentzius.com - CZcams - Czech Republic webcams Czech Folks news from the Czech Republic Study Abroad Czech Republic promoting Czech culture and heritage to American and Canadian students</p> |
| Genealogy | <p>COUSINS Relationship Chart Online Telephone Directory for the Czech Republic</p> |
| Feature Articles Written by our Members | <p>Personalities of Czech Ancestry by Daniel Hrna of Houston, Texas (1997) Czech Immigration To Ennis, Texas - The 1880's by Frank Mikula of Dallas, Texas The Czech Heritage Society of Texas and Genealogy by Robert Janak (2002) Guide to the Czech Communities in Texas compiled by Cindy Neal</p> |
| Other Articles of Interest | <p>The Czech Republic and Czech Americans on Their Way to a Common Future: A Resolution by Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., Ph.D. Landskroner Emigration to the American Midwest (1996) by Edward G. Langer of Hales Corners, Wisconsin The Development of Parochial Vital Registers in the Bohemian Lands with Special Emphasis on the East Bohemian Areas (the Historical District of Chrudim) (1997) by Karel Kysilka of Zlin, Moravia, Czech Republic Czechoslovak Americana on the Net by Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., Ph.D. (2001) The Czechs in America by George Kovtun, Czech Area Specialist, European Division, Library of Congress (2001)</p> |
|  Czech Music Online | <p>The Czech Melody Masters POLKAJOHN GOODOLEJOE hosted by Joe Janecka Czech Classical Music The Nebraska Czech Brass Band Chris Rybak</p> |
|  Czech Language | <p>"Conversational Czech for Travelers" at the CHS Library and Archives www.slovník.cz is a great online translator KNIHY OFF/LINE - Czech and English books for downloading - http://hurontaria.baf.cz/KNIHY/ Digital Dialects Czech Language, Interactive games for learning the Czech language Texas Czechs A website to find the lyrics to your favorite Czech songs and relive all of those Czech phrases you heard before.</p> |

Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT)

The State of Texas has one of the largest Czech-American populations in the USA. As many as 750,000 Texans trace at least part of their ancestry to the Czech lands of Bohemia and Moravia, which now make up the Czech Republic. Evidence of this heritage can be seen in annual Texas Czech festivals and celebrations, fraternal organizations, music and cultural programs, Czech-language newspapers, and publications of books about the Czechs in Texas ...

Czech Language Classes in the greater Brazos Valley Area/Spring 2011



The Czech Educational Foundation of Texas

Home
About CEFT
History
From the President
From the Chair
Programs
Newsletter
Events/News
Directors/Officers
Czech Links
Membership Info

Participate in Lida Cope's Questionnaire: Experiences with and in Texas Czech culture

The Annual Membership Meeting of the CEFT
Saturday, January 22, 2011 10:00am
SPJST State Headquarters Building
520 N. Main St.
Temple, TX 76501

Czech Class in the Greater Brazos Valley Area - click [here](#) for information

For more news and events, click [here](#)

Since 1954 The Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT) has been promoting the study of Czech language and culture in Texas institutions of higher learning through a variety of funded programs.

 In the 1980s our organization established the **Texas Chair of Czech Studies** at the University of Texas at Austin. In 1999 we created the **CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellowship** at Texas A&M University. Read messages from the recent Fellows [here](#). In recognition of its outstanding success in establishing these two educational programs at major universities in the U.S. and in promoting Czech culture abroad, the CEFT received the prestigious **Jan Masaryk Gratias Award** from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000.

The University of Texas at Austin

Our most recent and exciting endeavor was the establishment of the CEFT Frank J. and Hermine Hurta Kostohryz Residency in Czech Music and Culture at the University of North Texas which was celebrated in January of 2007.

 Browse through our [list of officers and directors](#) - you may have a friend or two on board.

 Read about our [history](#), enjoy a look at our online scrapbook and take advantage of our many links to online sources about the Czech Republic and Czech-related organizations in Texas and elsewhere in the United States.

The University of North Texas

Texas A&M University

Internet 100%

<http://ceft.us/index.html>

The Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society (BVCHS) and the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT) offering jointly a Community Czech Class in Spring 2011:

- A 16-week course in the Czech Language beg. January 25, 2011; 2hrs 1x a week 2 hrs
- Focus on beginners, but “will be structured to accommodate both beginners and more advanced speakers of Czech”
- Concentrate on **Conversational Czech** for anyone who is interested.
- Instructional materials provided for a fee
- A textbook is available; not required.
- The instructor: Petr Antene, the current holder of the **CEFT William J. Hlavinka Czech Fellowship at Texas A&M University**, from Rokycany, Bohemia in the Czech Republic. (Master's Degrees in English and in Czech from Palacky University in Olomouc, Moravia, Czech Republic, and is pursuing a degree in English Literature at Texas A&M)

<http://ceft.us/index.html>

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, a multi-functional facility, will preserve and promote the history, language, culture, and heritage of Texans of Czech ethnicity who trace their ancestry to the Czechs who immigrated from the present-day Czech Republic or the former Austro-Hungarian Empire (including Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, and Slovakia)

Czech Children's Hour

Thursday, April 7, 2011

"Pavel Cech and illustrator will present a program designed for children 4-8 years old. With him will be Sabina Seidlova and guitarist Lucie Bystronova who will teach children some folk songs or songs about the stories written by Pavel Cech."

(888) 785-4500

Open: Monday-Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm
Weekends: by special arrangement only

TCHCC

TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

MUSEUM KOPECKY GIFT SHOP HANSLIK HALL AMPHITHEATRE ABOUT US MEMBERSHIP EVENTS MAP

See the current [TCHCC NEWS](#)

Vítáme Vás!...

Welcome to the **Texas Czech Heritage Center, Inc. (TCHCC)**, located right next to the Fayette County Fairgrounds in La Grange, Texas.

After more than 10 years, the Center was complete. On October 10, 2009 the TCHCC Library, Museum and Archives was dedicated to all Texas Czechs of the past, present and future and to anyone interested in learning about the Texas Czech culture...

Visit us and learn what we are all about!

[Texas Historical Foundation](#)

HOME MUSEUM THE KOPECKY GIFT SHOP HANSLIK HALL AMPHITHEATRE ABOUT US MEMBERSHIP EVENTS MAP EMAIL

<http://www.czechtexas.org/>

TEXAS CZECH VILLAGE **GENEALOGY MELNAR LIBRARYPOLKA LOVERS CLUB OF TEXAS** THE KOPECKY GIFT SHOP**

Czech Center Museum Houston (CCMH)

“The purpose of the **Czech Center Museum Houston** is to unify the **Czech/Slovak** American Community around issues of importance and provide a central focus for all things **Czech related**, serving as a clearing house for information useful for members, visitors, individuals, organizations, and the media. “The mission is to “promote the Czech/Slovak Culture and Heritage by preserving, recording and celebrating the **language**, scholarship, and the arts of Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Silesia; Sponsor activities and events ...provide a forum for lectures, concerts, exhibits and interaction with citizens visiting from Czech and Slovak Republics; Provide **Czech language instruction**, a museum, archives, genealogy research facilities, and a library for history and contemporary research of the Czech/Slovak peoples...



Czech Center Museum Houston
in the Museum District

*Museum - Prague Hall - Brno Gallery - Wenceslas Chapel
Prague International Gift Shop*

This beautiful facility is open to the public for rentals, parties, receptions and meetings.

[Click here for Employment Opportunity - Part-Time Administrative Assistant.](#)

- About Us
- Calendar of Events
- News & Media
- Friends & Partners
- Membership
- Support the CCMH
- Scholarships
- Czech Links
- Gift Shop
- Silent/Live Auction
- Photo Gallery
- Houston Receptions
- Contact Us

Prague Hall

Brno Gallery

Czech Center Museum Houston is a

<http://www.czechcenter.org/>

*Comprehensive Czech links including Local Lingo
(also not what you might think)*

Vsichni jsme spojeni! “We are all united!”

Texas Czech Genealogical Society

| <i>Click on these</i> | <i>To see these ITEMS</i> |
|---|--|
| 2011 Czech Republic Tour | Czech out our 2011 Tour with TCGS. (Sign up deadline is March 1....) Don't wait.... |
| Advertise | Advertising in the Ceske Stopy |
| Brazos County | Brazos County 1900-1910 Czech Census Extractions |
| Cemeteries | A listing of Cemeteries by County. Put your cemetery on this list We need everyone's help to list the cemeteries of Texas that have Czechs. |
| czechsites | A listing of information sites that are in czech only. You can practice your czech here. |
| Directories & People | Directories for locating people |
| Dues | Dues for this organization and how to join..... |
| Genealogists | A listing of professional genealogists. |
| Hovezi Surnames | A listing of the names in the "Welcome to Hovezi Book" |
| Items | TCGS Publications Available for Purchase |
| Keyboard | How to make Czech characters on windows. |
| Lee County | Get a deal on the new book by Rev. John Gantt |
| Libraries & Directory | On line Libraries and Subject Directories |
| Maps & Places | Get your maps and find the right places. |
| Meetings | List of TCGS Meetings |
| | Names and address of the members. Names, addresses, phone numbers, and |



**TEXAS
CZECH
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY**

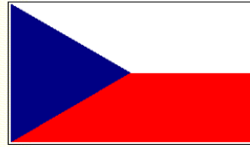


A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization.

Vitame Vas

<http://www.txczgs.org/>

The Czech Genealogy Page!




Vítáme vás(Welcome)

My research is focused most strongly on Czechs and Moravians and their descendants in the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Century, particularly those whose families immigrated to Texas in the 19th Century.

The GEDCOM that can be accessed below as an HTML file contains more than 9,500 individuals. About 3,000 of them have Czech or Moravian surnames (about 400 of which are still living in the Czech Republic), and many are European royalty and early American settlers. The database also links European royalty to Biblical individuals back to Adam and Eve (using material from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles).

Here are some links for those researching
Czech or Moravian lines:

-  [Texas Czech Genealogy Publishing Group \(Free Texas Vital Records, Pamatnik Photo Album and much more!\).](#)
- [Czech Genealogical Research Services.](#)
- [Texas Czech Genealogical Society Homepage.](#)
- [Czech Heritage Society of Texas Homepage.](#)

<http://www.czechgenealogy.org/>



TEXASČZECHS
a Texas Czech Genealogy Website

Welcome - Vitame Vas

[Family Trees](#) New

[Ancestral Photos](#)

[Surnames](#)

[Recipes & More](#)

Search

TexasCzechs is a Texas Czech genealogy website designed to help those who are in search of their family roots from the Czech Crown Lands of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia (and sometimes Lusatia and Ruthenia). This site contains Family Trees, stories, ancestral photos, and tips on doing genealogical research in the Czech Republic.

Outside of Texas, very little is known of this special breed of Texan and we hope this site will give you a better understanding of the Czech immigrants who settled the fertile black-land soils of Texas - their trials, tribulations and successes!

For more information on the Czechs of Texas, [click here](#).

If you've got photos of Texas Czechs you'd like identified, please

<http://texasczechs.homestead.com/>



Welcome Czechs of Texas and Czechs worldwide!

Home

- Czech Language
- Czech Music
- Czech Prayers
- Czech Names
- Czech Gifts
- Europe Tours
- Videos
- Czech Costumes
- Events
- Travel
- Photos
- News
- Polka CDs & DVDs
- Sponsors
- Our Team
- Contact Us
- Links
- Texas Czechs Blog
- World Heritage Designs
- Jak se mas?



✦ **Jak se máš? Přejeme Vám hezkej den**
Your home of Czech Music, Language, Recipes, & Trac
Czech out the CDs, DVDs, T-Shirts, Bumper Stickers, Mugs

<http://www.texasczechs.com/>

| Basic Czech | Phrases & Conversations | Other |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Phrases • Colors • Date & Time • Food • Numbers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel • At the Restaurant • Our Family • Our Home • Tongue-Twisters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Czech Musi • Jokes • Recipes • Videos • Czech Names |

JAK SE MÁŠ?

Get our new Bumper Sticker!

Click the sticker to

Welcome to www.texasczechs.com! To all you lovers of Czech Music and culture, these pag
 Here you find the lyrics to your favorite **Czech songs** and relive all of those **Czech Phrases**
 Also check out the new Texas Czechs **Gift Shop**.

In the **Events** section, you will find dates and locations of various annual Czech picnics and fe
 photos taken at these functions. Now, while we like to dance and talk, we also like to eat the
 home-cooked food. Czech out our selection of **Recipes**. While we Czechs love living in today
 not to be forgotten: selected snippets from the past can be found on the history page.

Interested in going to Europe? The Czech Republic? Slovakia? Go to the **Travel** section.



Vitame Vas

We welcome you

Czech Stuff

These pages of Czech stuff were developed for your fun and pleasure. Hope they are enjoyable. If you have any suggestions, I would be glad to hear from you.

Czech Stuff is divided into categories for easy navigation. Click the buttons on the left for the category, and then the blue link for the page you wish to view.

Czech Stuff

Czech Costumes

Czech Music

Czech Language

Czech Activities

Organizations

[Westfest 2010 Czech Costume Modeling Pictures](#)

[Snapshots of Westfest 2010 CHS float and modeling](#)

<http://www.goodolejoe.net/czech/indexf.htm>

Czech Language

My Pages

[Spring Class Write-up in Waco Tribune](#)

[Czech Pronunciator](#) Learn to speak some Czech. Here are some useful words and common phrases spoken in the Czech language. (Uses Real Audio)

[Texas Czechs Website by Chris and Edita Rybak](#) Lots of stuff, language, music, videos - Got to visit this site!

[Texas Czech](#) A spoof on the use of the Czech language by Texans. Words and phrases that are half Czech and half English. Gotta know both languages to be able to understand them. Cute!

[Fall 2009 Czech Class in West Pictures](#)

Links

[Bohemica.com](#) Great Czech language site. Includes language, culture and tutorials.

[Czech Info Center](#) All around Czech information site.

[Top of Page](#)

Czech Activities

My Pages

Queen contestants in their Czech costumes..

[How to Polka Texas Style](#) Every Czech needs to know how to polka dance. Here are some simple instructions on how to do it, Texas style. Real Easy!

TexasCzechs - the Electronic Czechs



[Click to subscribe to TexasCzechs](#)

[Go directly to TexasCzechs](#)

This is the official eList for the Czech Heritage Society of Texas. We share comments, questions, and answers related to the genealogy, history, culture, music, dance, etc. of the unique people called the Czechs of Texas. Membership is not required to participate in the mail list. If you'd like to join the list, enter your email address in the form below and click the Join Now button. If you are not sure how to use an eList, please read the [Netiquette Tips](#) page for guidelines and hints.

We have a talented group of people who have created websites of interest to those researching their family history. Many of us have found we are related through sharing our stories online, so be sure to CZECH out these websites!

MEMBER & WEBSITE

WHAT IT CONTAINS

Steve Alvarez

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~alvarez/>

Genealogy - surnames Zaruba, Lastovica, Pavlicek

Marriages in Austin County

St. Mary's Cemetery- Frydek, Texas

Sealy Catholic Cemetery- Sealy, Texas

Over 4,000 obituaries of Texas Czechs

Darlene Baker

<http://www.geocities.com/dbaker225/sixmilecemlist2.htm>

A partial inventory of the Six Mile Cemetery, Lavaca County

Electronic Czechs...

Re: Female surnames Wed Aug 4, 2010 1:30 pm (PDT)

I'll get this started though I'm no expert. The birth record spelling is probably the correct one. Now, that said, you must decided if the correct name is Mojzisek or Mozisek. Normally, they would be two different names. The Moyzisek is probably an Americanized spelling, (incorrect), since the "j" in Czech is pronounced like a "y" in English. A Czech pronunciation of the "y" would be similar to "e" in English.

The ground rule for converting a masculine name that ends with "ek" such as Mojzisek, to the feminine form would be to drop the "e" and add an "a" to the end. Masculine Mojzisek=Feminine Mojziska. -- Hope this helps a little.

Subject: [TexasCzechs] Female surnames Tuesday, August 03, 2010 9:15 PM

Hi all, I have gotten to the point in my research where I have been going through Czech archives online, and I have had some luck. A question I would like to pose to the group is at what point should one use the female versions of surnames? I am thinking to use them for everyone beyond the immigrant generation. What are your thoughts?

Word Meaning Tue Jul 13, 2010 11:48 am (PDT)

Does anyone know the word Pochoval? Pat could not find it in her Czech Dictionary. It is a word used in my GrGr Grandmother Rozina Valigura Urban Death Record from Moravia.

Re: Word Meaning Tue Jul 13, 2010 8:03 pm (PDT)

Found the word "Pochovat", or "buried", in the Czech word list on line. The link is <http://www.feefhs.org/guides/Czech-wordlist.Pdf>

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• CZECH CLASS

• CZECH TRADITIONS

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April 18 , 2011

[complete broadcast](#) (1024 kbps)



Report from Czech Republic

[Easter Fair](#)

Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic

by Tomas Hejtmanek

Czech Class

theme of this lesson is:

[Agreement](#) (souhlas)

by Dana Hermachová

AGREEMENT



Czech Traditions:

Step by step directions for [making traditional Czech Kraslice](#) or Easter eggs using the wax and dye method.

Paula Campo is known as the Ennis Egg Lady from Ennis, Texas and she shares her talent and step by step egg decorating instructions from sketching the design, heating the wax, and dipping the eggs in each color. Paula's eggs are a colorful example of her artistic talent and expresses her Czech heritage. You will see that no egg is exactly alike.

by Jana Vaculik



From our archives:

[Moravian Festival in Vracov](#), Czech Republic



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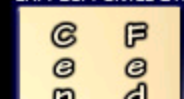
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Home of Texas Czechs



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Home of Texas Czechs

Wishing everyone a Happy Valentine from the Home of Texas Czechs! Šťastný Valentín!

February 14 at 12:24pm · Like · Comment

Peggy Vanyo, Sam Mountainsmith, Marcie Otahal Teague and 16 others like this.



Lucia L Cheshire Stastny Valentín Vam Vsetkym zalubenym!

February 14 at 2:17pm · 1 person



Tim Sowder

South Texas Polka and Sausage Festival
March 26-27

March 23 at 1:21pm · Like · Comment



Loretta Prasifka Wittliff Barsch

- Wall
- Info
- Photos (16)
- Links
- Events
- Video
- Discussions
- Notes
- Favorite Pages

About



by Home of Texas Czechs on Friday, May 21, 2010 at 4:24pm

Thanks to all of you that contributed to some popular Texas-Czech phrases, I see everyone had fun sharing them. I noticed that there was a request for the translation or correction in spelling, so I put them together for you to learn.

How are you? - Jak se máš?

Welcome! - Víťáme vás!

Good day! - Dobrý den!

Good night! - Dobrou noc!

Goodbye! - Sbohem!

With God (Bless you, Good Bye) – S pánem bohem

Beer – Pivo

We'll drink some!

Let's drink! - Zachlastáme!

To your health! Cheers! – Na zdraví!

We are home! - Jsme doma!

I love you! - Miluji tě!

Give me a kiss! - Dej mi hubičku!

Show your belly button! - Ukáží pupok!

- Home of Texas Czechs's Notes
- Notes About Home of Texas Czechs

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YouTube

Říjen - měsíc českého dědictví v Texasu

October Texas Czech Heritage Month in Texas:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHS7vHMszkw>

Ethnic Festivals

e.g. Westfest "Pivo! Polka! People!"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX9rMaekRVg&feature=related>

Texas Czech band performances...



course, the project of this sort is complete without public appreciation and giving due to those people for whom it is being conducted. The project has adopted the motto "Nás Jazyk, Nás Dedictví, Nas Povinnost," "Our Language, Our Heritage, Our Duty" to convey a sense of unity with the Czech population of Texas.

As the project director is himself a Texas Czech, he feels a sense of duty to the language of his forebears. This has produced an impressive outpouring of community support and encouragement, and Tomecek has found fertile soil in the prospects of preserving the language.

Indeed, after having given a number of public speeches on the topic at various ethnic society meetings, he is preparing to launch an initiative to establish "Czech School" for Texas Czech youth in the communities. These classes are being conceived to be taught on Sundays in churches and community centers across Czech Texas. It is hoped that through education of the youth, use of the language will flow from creating a peer group with whom they can use this language. This in turn will strengthen the ties of the community that have become weak in our modern world. It is the hope and mandate of the Czech people in Texas that their language not die with them. As one speaker put it to Tomecek, "My grandkids, they can learn that European Czech any time, but they won't. We both know that. The only way it will happen is if they grow up speaking it, and they ought to talk like we do."



The Texas Czech Dialect Project is seeking the help of the Texas Czech community to realize their goals of preserving this unique variety of Czech, "born and raised" in Texas for future generations. Many Texas Czechs have heard or think that their Czech is "wrong," "slang," or "trash" Czech. This could not be more wrong! The Czech spoken in Texas is the very last place in the world that this older variety of Czech is preserved. This older form has many unique elements that no longer exist in Europe. Not only one dialect of such great importance, but many, from all across the Czech-speaking lands exist here.

We in Texas are fortunate to have such a heritage and should be proud of our Czech. Once we lose it here, however, it will

Interested in Preserving Texas Czech?

**Do you or anyone you know (friends,
colleagues, church members, neighbors)
speak Texas Czech?**

If so, you may be able to help document and preserve this unique language before it dies out! The **Texas Czech Dialect Project (TCDP)** is an organization at the University of Texas created to document and research the Czech language across Texas. The TCDP aims to preserve and provide information about the rich heritage of the Texas Czech dialects as they reflect the cultural and linguistic traditions of their residents.

Our ancestors came here with a vision of a community of Czechs and Moravians, free from foreign oppression and with the ability to raise their children in their own culture. Help us save our sacred mother tongue, that our ancestors gave so much for.

If you are interested, please contact the Project Director, John Tomeček, for more information.

John M. Tomeček
PO Box 7293
Austin, Texas 78713

cell phone 512 228 8065
email john.tomecek@gmail.com

TČDP TEXAS CZECH
DIALECT PROJECT

Náš Jazyk, Naše Dedictví, Naše Povinnost

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXAS CZECH DIALECT PROJECT (TCDP)

What kinds of questions do interviewers ask?

Interviewers try to ask questions that will produce casual, relaxed conversation. This usually involves questions about topics ranging from childhood games to current activities. Since our major focus is on what people are interested in as they talk, we focus on getting people to talk about their favorite topics. If you have a story to tell, by all means, don't be shy! We love to listen.

Why do they need to tape record the interview?

The interviews need to be tape recorded because the interviewers are interested in many aspects of the community's language, not just in hearing one or two unusual pronunciations or a new word. We can't listen for all the different features we're interested in all at once -- and pay attention to what's being said -- without making a tape that we can go back and listen to as many times as we need to. One of our main goals is to paint as accurate a picture of the language as possible; tape and video recordings help us ensure that the descriptions we develop are based on real-life language use and not on vague impressions.

What exactly do the interviewers do with the interview?

We go through each interview in order to describe exactly how different structures pattern. We also compare different language items across different groups of speakers within a community. For example, we may look at how a particular type of sentence structure or even a single vowel is produced by older people, middle-aged people, and younger people to see how the language is changing over time. Some of the things that can be done with a tape recording are pretty amazing. For example, we can isolate a vowel in a particular word and enter it into a computerized program that measures exactly the physics of the sound waves that result in a particular production. The

What role does the Web play in the preservation and revitalization of the Texas Czech vernacular?

- Texas Czechs have a strong presence on the Internet
- Individuals take the time to create heritage-related websites; virtual social networks exist on Facebook; group email lists; blogs; Youtube
- As for language: TC organizations promote European Czech as part of a 'heritage package'; the point of reference is the Czech Republic
- No language material on the sites except for a few maintained by individuals; typically links to sites teaching modern Czech; Texas Czech vernacular not acknowledged
- Should it be? Is it just an applied linguist's wish? Lg. revitalization ultimately is a community's choice
- There is enough interest to be harnessed while the vernacular (a resource!) still exists; the question is: Who will do it?
- The *Texas Czech Dialect Project* holds much potential as a corpus for both documentation and uses in teaching; should include both spoken and written discourse + the existing/digitized TC archive & Texas Czech newspapers); needs public support from organizations and universities (like UT-Austin) and resources

What role does the Web play in the preservation and revitalization of the Texas Czech vernacular?

- ‘Czech lessons’ referenced by websites could be a good starting point for adding local variants, which, in turn, would boost the status of Texas Czech; so would open discussions by already engaged “electronic” Czechs and those frequenting *Facebook*
- The Center for Applied Linguistics : The Heritage Language Programs database <http://www.cal.org/CALWebDB/Heritage/Default.aspx> lists one (community-based) Czech class (CHST Bexar County Chapter); information posted by a CHST member
- **It is not about ignoring modern Czech/a complete shift to the vernacular; it’s about viewing Texas Czech as a language variety in its own right. It can function as a natural stepping stone to European Czech for the young and a resource for any ethnic Czech Moravians in Texas wishing to improve their *existing* language skills in a community language class. And the Web CAN help!**

Děkuji Vám!
Tož vam děkuju!
Thank you!