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

The case of Texas Czech

Lida Cope, copel@ecu.edu
American Association of Applied Linguistics
Chicago, IL, March 2010
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?
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

Moravia

Silesia

Bohemia

Moravia

Silesia

Bohemia
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 (*TCHC*) & 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 1\textsuperscript{st} & 2\textsuperscript{nd} 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.
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 potrhlane 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’;
- *Nésu/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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website (6)</th>
<th>Mission: Heritage</th>
<th>Mission: + Language?</th>
<th>Ref variety</th>
<th>Includes Language material?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPJST</strong></td>
<td>Fraternal Heritage [insurance business]</td>
<td>Not explicitly stated</td>
<td>Czech (EC)</td>
<td>NO; Czech lessons-<em>Vestnik</em>; links to ‘learn-Czech’ sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHST</strong></td>
<td>Heritage organization</td>
<td></td>
<td>Czech (EC)</td>
<td>NO; A few Chapters offer community classes; Comprehensive links to all things Czech and some Czech-learning sites; newsletter <em>Český Hlas</em> ‘the Czech voice’ [offline]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TCHCC La Grange</strong></td>
<td>Heritage Center</td>
<td><strong>✓</strong></td>
<td>Czech (EC)</td>
<td>NO; Closely associated with CHST; share links; Newsletter <em>Náš Český Život</em> ‘Our Czech Life’ [offline]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CEFT</strong></td>
<td>Heritage Educational</td>
<td><strong>✓</strong></td>
<td>Czech (EC)</td>
<td>NO; Program fellows from CR teach community language classes; supports teaching of Czech at UT-Austin …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CCM Houston</strong></td>
<td>Heritage Center</td>
<td><strong>✓</strong></td>
<td>Czech (EC)</td>
<td>NO; Offers Czech (EC) classes; comprehensive links to all things Czech and some Czech-learning sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Texas Czech Genealogical Society</strong></td>
<td>Genealogy &amp; Heritage</td>
<td>Not explicitly stated</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>NO; Links to Czech websites “in Czech only” and other resources; newsletter <em>Ceske Stopy</em> ‘Czech footprints’ [online]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Texas Czech-related websites (private)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Mission: Heritage</th>
<th>Mission: + Language</th>
<th>Referenced variety</th>
<th>Includes language material?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Texas Čzech Genealogy Website</strong></td>
<td>Genealogy &amp; Heritage</td>
<td>Not explicitly stated</td>
<td>Czech (EC)</td>
<td>NO; apart from a Czech diacritic over the English “C” in “Czech” &amp; “Welcome – Vitame Vas”; Dekuji! ‘Thank you’ (no diacritics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Texas Czech Genealogy Pg</strong></td>
<td>Genealogy &amp; Heritage</td>
<td>Not explicitly stated</td>
<td>Czech (EC)</td>
<td>NO; apart from “ˇVítáme Vás(Welcome)”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘goodolejoe’</td>
<td>Czech Stuff “for fun and pleasure”</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>Czech (EC) &amp; reference to Texas Czech</td>
<td>“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!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Texas Czechs (All About)</strong></td>
<td>“...Czech Music, Language, Recipes, &amp; Traditions; Czech out the CDs, DVDs, T-Shirts, Bumper Stickers, Mugs”</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>Czech (EC)</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[^1]: 16
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)

http://www.spjst.org/home.html
“Conversational Czech for Travelers" at the CHS Library and Archives

www.slovnik.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

http://www.czechheritage.org/
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.

![Image of Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen Pageant contestants]

- 2010: Rachel Hurley, Travis-Williamson Counties CHS
- 2009: Michelle Barak, Ellis County CHS
- 2008: Ashley Sulak, McLennan-Hill Counties CHS
- 2007: Marianne Beran, Burleson County CHS
- 2006: Miss Czech Slovak USA, Sara Middlebrook
- 2005: Lacy Gibbs, Victoria County CHS
- 2004: Amanda Gajdesik, McLennan-Hill Counties CHS
- 2003: Lauren Velek, Ellis County CHS
## Czech Heritage Society of Texas: Links

### Links

**Participate in a Czech Questionnaire!**
- [Letter](#)  
- [Form](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong><a href="http://www.czech.cz">www.czech.cz</a></strong> is a nice site that give bits of info on the country</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong><a href="http://czcams.grentzius.com">http://czcams.grentzius.com</a></strong> - CZcams - Czech Republic webcams</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Czech Folks</strong> news from the Czech Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Study Abroad Czech Republic</strong> promoting Czech culture and heritage to American and Canadian students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genealogy</td>
<td><strong>COUSINS Relationship Chart</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Online Telephone Directory for the Czech Republic</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature Articles Written by our Members</td>
<td><strong>Personalities of Czech Ancestry</strong> by Daniel Hna of Houston, Texas (1997)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Czech Immigration To Ennis, Texas - The 1880’s</strong> by Frank Mikula of Dallas, Texas</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>The Czech Heritage Society of Texas and Genealogy</strong> by Robert Janak (2002)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Guide to the Czech Communities in Texas</strong> compiled by Cindy Neal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Articles of Interest</td>
<td><strong>The Czech Republic and Czech Americans on Their Way to a Common Future: A Resolution</strong> by Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., Ph.D. (1996)</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Landskroner Emigration to the American Midwest</strong> by Edward G. Langer of Hales Corners, Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Development of Parochial Vital Registers in the Bohemian Lands with Special Emphasis on the East Bohemian Areas</strong> by Karel Kysilka of Zlin, Moravia, Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Czechoslovak Americana on the Net</strong> by Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., Ph.D. (2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Czechs in America</strong> by George Kovtun, Czech Area Specialist, European Division, Library of Congress (2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Music Online</td>
<td><strong>The Czech Melody Masters</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>POLKAJOHN</strong></td>
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<td><strong>GOODOLEJOE</strong> hosted by Joe Janecka</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Czech Classical Music</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>The Nebraska Czech Brass Band</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Chris Rybak</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Language</td>
<td><strong>&quot;Conversational Czech for Travelers&quot;</strong> at the CHS Library and Archives**</td>
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<td><strong>Texas Czechs</strong> A website to find the lyrics to your favorite Czech songs and relive all of those Czech phrases you heard before.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>KNIHY in Czech Complete English Translation</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT)**

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

[http://ceft.us/index.html](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 Palacký 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.”
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...

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

Vsichni jsme spojeni! “We are all united!”
# Texas Czech Genealogical Society

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<th>Click on these</th>
<th>To see these ITEMS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2011 Czech Republic Tour</strong></td>
<td>Czech out our 2011 Tour with TCGS. <em>(Sign up deadline is March 1....) Don't wait....</em></td>
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<td><strong>Advertise</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Brazos County</strong></td>
<td>Brazos County 1900-1910 Czech Census Extractions</td>
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<td><strong>Cemeteries</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>czechsites</strong></td>
<td>A listing of information sites that are in Czech only. You can practice your Czech here.</td>
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<td><strong>Directories &amp; People</strong></td>
<td>Directories for locating people</td>
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<td><strong>Dues</strong></td>
<td>Dues for this organization and how to join....</td>
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<td><strong>Genealogists</strong></td>
<td>A listing of professional genealogists.</td>
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<td><strong>Hovezi Surnames</strong></td>
<td>A listing of the names in the &quot;Welcome to Hovezi Book&quot;</td>
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<td>TCGS Publications Available for Purchase</td>
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<td><strong>Keyboard</strong></td>
<td>How to make Czech characters on windows.</td>
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<td><strong>Lee County</strong></td>
<td>Get a deal on the new book by Rev. John Gaultt</td>
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<td><strong>Libraries &amp; Directory</strong></td>
<td>On line Libraries and Subject Directories</td>
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<td><strong>Maps &amp; Places</strong></td>
<td>Get your maps and find the right places.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Meetings</strong></td>
<td>List of TCGS Meetings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**TEXAS CZECH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization.  
Vitame Vas

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:

- NEW Texas Czech Genealogy Publishing Group (Free Texas Vital Records, Památník Photo Album and much more!).
- Czech Genealogical Research Services.
- Texas Czech Genealogical Society Homepage.
- Czech Heritage Society of Texas Homepage.

http://www.czechgenealogy.org/
Welcome - Vitame Vas

**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](http://texasczechs.homestead.com/). If you've got photos of Texas Czechs you'd like identified, please...
Welcome to www.texasczechs.com! To all you lovers of Czech Music and culture, this page has it all. Here you can 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 festivals. Now, while we like to dance and talk, we also love to eat the home-cooked food. Czech out our selection of Recipes. While we Czechs love living in today's world, 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.

Westfest 2010 Czech Costume Modeling Pictures
Snapshots of Westfest 2010 CHS float and modeling

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!

Links
TexasCzechs - the Electronic Czechs

Click to subscribe to TexasCzechs
Go directly to TexasCzechs

The 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

Steve Alvarez
http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~alvarez/

Darlene Baker
http://www.geocities.com/dbaker225/sixmilecemlist2.htm

WHAT IT CONTAINS

Genealogy - surnames Zaruba, Lastovica, Pavlichek
Marriages in Austin County
St. Mary's Cemetery- Frydek, Texas
Sealy Catholic Cemetery- Sealy, Texas
Over 4,000 obituaries of Texas Czechs

A partial inventory of the Six Mile Cemetery, Lavaca County
**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?
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.

Found the word "Pochovat", or "buried", in the Czech word list on line. The link is [http://www.feehs.org/guides/Czech-wordlist.Pdf](http://www.feehs.org/guides/Czech-wordlist.Pdf)
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

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
Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.

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
Stasny Valentin 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
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! - Víťame 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! - Ukáži si vstrek!
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...
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 is 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

512 228 8065  
john.tomecek@gmail.com

TČDP  TEXAS CZECH DIACET 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 program then tells us the features that will help us understand how Texans Czech sounds.
Discussion

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
Discussion

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.


-- 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!