Prior to 1854, a Czech had yet to set foot in the territory that would one day become the state of Nebraska. A mere thirty years later, however, Czech life was so deeply rooted in Nebraska that the state was sometimes referred to as the “Bohemia of America.” Accordingly, the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) has collected many items relating to the Czechs and their adopted home. It is hoped that the following reference guide proves useful to those pursuing Nebraska Czech research.

**Genealogy Tips**

Research a Nebraska Czech just as you would any other individual. Use census records, newspapers, marriage records, cemetery records, land records, town histories, probate records, etc. If you are trying to find an ancestor’s place of birth in Bohemia or Moravia, try the following NSHS sources:

1. obituary (from local newspaper)
2. Rosicky’s *History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska* [978.2/R73s]
3. Sobotka’s *Nebraska, Kansas Czech Settlers, 1891-1895* [978.2/Soln]
4. county/town histories (arranged alphabetically by county)
5. Burlington Northern Railroad land records (if ancestor lived near railroad)

If you cannot find the birthplace in the above sources, try searching church records (baptisms, marriages, burials), passenger lists, and family papers. Most of these items will not be at the NSHS.

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<td>January</td>
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<td>December</td>
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Refer to a Czech dictionary or a Czech genealogy guidebook for more language help.

**Family Histories**

The NSHS Library has many family histories that contain reference to Czech immigrants who settled in Nebraska. To locate family histories, check your surname in the online library catalog (Oasis) at the following site address: [http://www.nebraskahistory.org/databases/librarycatalog.htm](http://www.nebraskahistory.org/databases/librarycatalog.htm) - to see if a family history has been filed in the Library pertaining to your family.

**Photograph Collections**

The following collections are uniquely Czech in their content. Ask Library/Archives staff members for assistance in searching for photographs of specific individuals and specific places (towns, buildings, etc.) as well as a subject search under Czech-Americans.

**Czech Historical Society Photographic Collection (RG1847)**
Compiled by Rose Rosicky for her history of Czechs in Nebraska.

**Czech-Nebraska Photographic Collection (RG3809)**
Accumulated during research for the 1993 NSHS Czech exhibit (colored transparencies).

**E.A. Kral Photographic Collection (RG0813)**
Photographs of Czech life in Wilber and Saline County.

**Saline County Collection (RG2491)**
Features images of Wilber, including a Czech celebration from the late 1910s or early 1920s.
Manuscript Collections

A subject card catalog index for the older manuscript collections is available in the Library/Archives Reference Room. Some possible references to Czech material may include the following search terms:

- Bohemia
- Czechoslovak
- Czech-Americans
- Bohemians
- Czechs
- Czech
- Czechs in Nebraska

Note: This card catalog has not been updated for collections received after ca. 1990. More recent collections can be searched on our website by using the main Search box located on our home page. Use the same search terms as above paired with the term “manuscripts.” Some additional information may be found using the “Archival Collection Database” located on our website at:

http://www.nebraskahistory.org/databases/nhprc/index.shtml

The list below is not an exhaustive list of Czech related material located in the Manuscript collection. The Library/Archives staff will assist you with the card catalog listed above as well as locating data in other in-house databases, such as archival inventories that are not available online.

Broz, Rev. Jan Stepan (RG0821)
http://www.nebraskahistory.org/databases/nhprc/display-collection.cgi?rn=1190
Materials relating to Rev. Broz and his parish, St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, in Dodge, NE.

Czechoslovansky Cemetery (Ravenna, Neb.) (RG3454.AM)
Located in Sherman County and established in the spring of 1887. Also known as Horak Cemetery.

Czech Fraternal Organizations (Nebraska) (RG1471.AM)
http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/manuscripts/organize/czechlodge.htm
Fifteen volumes of records from various Czech fraternal organizations mostly in and around Wilber, Nebraska.

Czech Pioneer Memorial Collection (RG3146)
Miscellaneous historical information and data concerning the memorial’s student loan fund.

Czech Reminiscences (RG1606)
Reminiscences from early Czech settlers of Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, and Oklahoma.

Herman, E.H. (RG1084)
Czech-language poem and publications (Katolicky Delnik and Ochotnicky Krouzek Mosna).

Laurel Hill Cemetery (Omaha, Neb.) (RG4175.AM)

Nebraska Czechs Incorporated (RG1587)
http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/manuscripts/organize/nebraska-czechs.htm
Organizational history and goals. By-laws of Nebraska Czechs Incorporated.

Nebraska State Historical Society Vertical Files (RG5000.AM)
http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/manuscripts/organize/vertical-files.htm#C
Miscellaneous material in file labeled “Czechs in Nebraska.”

Novacek, Alfred T. (RG1615. AM)
Czech researcher and translator who assisted or wrote articles and books on Czech Americans and history of the Czech peoples.

Rejcha, Frank (RG1362)
http://www.nebraskahistory.org/databases/nhprc/display-collection.cgi?rn=1028
Reminiscences of a Saline County Czech immigrant.

Rosicky, Rose (RG4403)
Scrapbooks, correspondence related to the publication of Rosicky’s history of Nebraska Czechs.

Rozanek, Elsa and Adolph (RG5524.AM)
relates to the polka dance career of this Czech couple.

Sokol South Omaha Local History Project Collection (RG5540.AM)
http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/manuscripts/organize/sokolsohp.htm
Documents the history of the Czech neighborhood around Brown Park in south Omaha.

South Central Nebraska Czech Society (RG1570)
Youth-written essays about Czech heritage. Include family group sheets and pedigree charts.

**Splichal, Lumir (RG1426)**
Advertisements for Splichal’s “Lincoln Bohemian Dance Band.”

**Stefan, Karl (RG2624)**
Papers of a Bohemian-born U.S. Congressman for Nebraska.

**Stibal Family (RG1604)**
Nineteenth-century correspondence between the Stibal siblings in America and Bohemia.

**Svoboda, Charles Vincent (RG1245.AM)**
http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/manuscripts/politics/svoboda.htm
Relates to the life and career of a Howard County Czech immigrant.

**Additional Sources:**

**Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey:** (RG14-Historic Preservation) This survey documents many buildings constructed by Czech immigrants in Nebraska, as well as several listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It contains information on owners, institutions, builders, and architects, as well as historical narrative. The survey covers pioneer dwellings, lodge and Sokol halls, churches, cemeteries, and farmsteads. For specific inquiries, contact the Historic Preservation Division of the NSHS for an appointment.

**Museum of Nebraska History Collections:** The museum collections department preserves artifacts associated with Czech-Nebraska history and culture that can provide valuable research information. For specific inquiries, contact the Collections Department at the Nebraska History Museum for an appointment.

**Periodicals (Newspapers & Magazines)**

Nebraska boasted an active Czech press during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth century. See Rose Rosicky’s *History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska* [978.2/R73s] for a detailed history. The following titles are in the NSHS collection. Additional newspaper titles may be located by checking in the online library card catalog (Oasis) as well as verifying issues of newspapers by using the newspaper inventory notebooks (search by town name for the dates of the issues that are available) located in the Library/Archives Reference Room. Most of the titles will be on microfilm. The list below gives each periodical’s place of publication, year of establishment, Czech title, English translation, and call number. Known indexes, abstractions, and/or translations are also noted.

<table>
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<th>Town</th>
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<td><em>Pokrok</em> (Progress)</td>
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<td><em>Domaci Noviny</em> (Local News)</td>
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<td><em>Ozvena zapadu</em> (Echo of the West)</td>
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<td>1871</td>
<td><em>Saline County Post</em></td>
<td>[071/C86us] film</td>
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<td>1905</td>
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<td><em>Konensky</em> (Comenius)</td>
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<td><em>American Czech Magazine</em></td>
<td>[325.2437/qAm3]</td>
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<td><em>Knihovna Americka</em> (American Literary)</td>
<td>[891.86/K74]</td>
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<td><em>Hospodar</em> (The Farmer)</td>
<td>[630.5/H79] film</td>
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<td>1892</td>
<td><em>The Bohemian Voice</em></td>
<td>[325.2437/B63]</td>
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<td>1894</td>
<td><em>Delnicke Listy</em> (Labor News)</td>
<td>[053.7/K97] film</td>
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|       | 1898 | *Bratrske Vestnik* (Fraternal Herald) | [325.2437/B73] film *
|       |      | *Bratrske Vestnik/Fraternal Herald Death Records Index.* [325.2437/B73 Index] film |
1898  *Osveta* (Enlightenment) [053.7/K97] film
1900  *Kvety Americe II* (American Blossoms II) [053.7/K97] film
1903  *Osveta Amerika* (American Enlightenment) [053.7/K97] film
1905  *Rozhledy* (Outlook) [053.7/Omlr] film
1910  *Cesko-Americky Venkov* (Bohemian-American Country Life) [630.5/fC42] film
1911  *Nova Doba* (New Era) (newspaper) [073.7/Omlnd] film

Sobotka, Margie, compiler, and Mayme S. Perina, translator. *Nova Doba (New Era), Deaths & Obits (1911-1918).* Elkhorn, NE: Sobotka, 1984. Also includes information about South Omaha funeral homes and cemeteries. [978.2/Sold Sec. 3-5]

1915  *Denni Pokrok* (Daily Progress) [073.7/Omldp] film
1915  *Nova Doba* (New Era) (annual calendar) [053.7/N85]
1916  *Kvety Americe III* (American Blossoms III) [053.7/K97] film
1916  *Pionyr* (Pioneer) [053.7/P65]
1921  *Narodni Pokrok* (National Progress) [073.7/Omlnp] film

**Schuyler**
1887  *Nova Doba* (New Era) [077/N86d] film
1892  *Kotva* (The Anchor) [073.7/Sch8k] film
1892  *Nove Doby Listy Svatencni* (Sunday Supplement to the New Era) [077/N86d] film
1893  *Svit* (The Gleam, The Dawn) [073.7/Svi3] film
1901  *Zlata Hvezda* (The Golden Star) [891.86/Z7]
1904  *Cesky Obzor* (Bohemian Horizon) [053.7/Sch8co] film

**Wahoo**
1891  *Pritel Lidu* (The Peoples’ Friend) [071/W64p] film

**Wilber**
1893  *Wilberske Listy* (Wilber News) [053.7/W64l] film

**Out of State Periodicals in the NSHS Collection**

**California**
Visalia  1994  *Morava Krasna* (Moravian Heritage?) [325.2437/M83lk]

**Illinois**
Chicago  1885  *Zlate Klasy* (Gold(en) (grain)ear [630.5/fZ7]
Chicago  1898  *Kalendar Hlasatel* (Hlasatel Calendar) [325.2437/K12h]

**Iowa**
Iowa City  1869  *Slovak Americansky* (Slavic American?) [073.7/SI5] film

**Kansas**
Wilson  1905  *Kansasky Rozhledy* (Kansas Outlook) [053.7/W69r] film

**Minnesota**
St. Paul  1904  *Minnesotske Noviny* (Minnesota News) [053.7/Sa25n] film
St. Paul/ Minneapolis  1908  *Minnesotsky Pokrok* (Minnesota Progress) [073.7/M66]

**Missouri**
St. Louis  1919  *Ceska Zena* (Czech Woman) [325.2437/C421]

**New York**
New York  1926  *Czecho Slovak Pictorial Weekly* [053.7/T96]

**Oklahoma**
Oklahoma City  1907  *Cesko-Slovansky Obzor* (Czech-Slavic Panorama) [053.7/Omlcs] film

Prague-Karlin  1868  *Obcansky Kalendar Koruny Svatovaclavske* (Citizens’ Calendar of the Saint Venceslas Crown) [053.7/Obi]

4
Publications

The following is a list of the books, articles, theses, dissertations, and other printed materials that were located in the library catalogs under “Czech,” “Bohemia,” and “Moravia” (and variations thereof) in 1999, along with a few additions and corrections that were added in 2010. It is fairly exhaustive, but there are undoubtedly other materials in the Library stacks that belong on this list. The following information is provided as recommendations to help you locate further titles in the Library collection by using certain terms in Oasis.

The term “Czech” may be used in the Standard Search screen in Anywhere for all titles that have the term Czech within the content of the catalog record. To locate separately cataloged Hospodar articles, list the call number 630.5 H79 in Anywhere. You may also use the Enhance Search for Boolean searches. For example, to locate Czech cookbooks use the term Czech and 641.5 in the blanks along with the term Anywhere in the drop down menus. To locate Czech family histories/genealogies use the term Czech Americans and 929.

Czech Genealogy Guidebooks

Miller, Olga K. Genealogical Research for Czech and Slovak Americans. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Company, 1978. [929.437/M61g]


Czech Gazettes & Atlases


Czech Dictionaries & Grammars

Hrbej, Jeffrey Dolezal and Sarka B. Hrbkova. A Grammar of the Bohemian Language for High Schools and Colleges. Lincoln, NE: Hrbej, 190-. [491.86/R85]


Mourek, Prof. Dr. Vaclav Emanuel. Pocket Dictionary of the Bohemian and English Languages. Leipzig: Otto Holtz’s Nachfolger, 1896. [491.86/R86]


Stepanek, Orin. Simplified Czechoslovak Grammar and Conversation Book. Omaha, NE: The Czech Historical Society of Nebraska, 1930. [491.86/S44s]

Czech Histories


Maurice, C. Edmund. The Story of Bohemia: From the Earliest Times to the Fall of National Independence in 1620; With a Short Summary of Later Events. New York, NY: G.P. Putnam’s Son, 1908. [943.7/M454a]


Czechs in America

Capek, Thomas. Pamaty Ceskych Emigrantu v Americe. Omaha, NE: Pokok Zapadu, 1889. History of earliest Czech immigrants (Herman, Filip, Moravian Brethren, etc.). [325.2437/C17p]

Capek, Thomas. Pamaty Ceskych Emigrantu v Americe. Omaha, NE: Pokok Zapadu, 1889; reprint, Omaha, NE: Naradni Tiskarny, 1907. Revision of 1889 version, includes some English text. [325.2437/C17p 1907]


Jung, Vaclav Alois. Na prahu Novoho Sveta. (On the Threshold of the New World). Omaha, NE: Pokroku Zapadu, 1908. [325.2437/J95n]


Czechs in Nebraska

Dvorak, Marcella. The Story of a Czech Church in East Central Nebraska. Dvorak, 197-. History of Wilson, Colfax County. [978.229/W746s].


Hospodsky, J.A. Wilber v Obrazech. Wilber, NE: Pritel Lidu, 1903. Pictorial History of Wilber. [917.8/2/H79w].


Kurec, Vladimir and Novacek, editors. Czech Contributions to the Progress of Nebraska. Lincoln, NE: Kurec and Novacek, 1976. [978.2/K95ce].


Kurec, Vladimir and DeLores, editors. Czech Music in Nebraska. Lincoln, NE: Kurec, 1980. [978.2/K95cm].


Nebraska Burlington & Missouri Railroad Lands. Bremen, Germany: Dercksen & Wichein, 1881. Czech-language guide for immigrants moving to Nebraska. [917.82/B92c].


Pamatnik. Omaha, NE: Katolicke Jednoty Sokol, 1920. Souvenir of Omaha Catholic Sokol event held in 1920. [325.2437/K91p].


Sokolsky Slet. Crete, NE, 1964. English and Czech-language program of Sokol event held in Crete, NE in 1964. [325.2437/S03].

Stanový Zapadni Cesko-Bratské Jednoty ve Spojenych Stactech. Omaha, NE: Narodni Tiskarny, 1902. Souvenir of 1902 convention held in Wilber, NE. [325.2437/C996].

Sterba, Edward. The Czechs of Omaha. Omaha, NE: Sterba, 1926. Includes Josef Stepan family history. [978.2388/S04c].


Western Bohemian Fraternal Association Convention Souvenir. Omaha, NE: National Printing Co., 1937. Souvenir of convention held in Wilber. Includes Nebraska lodge histories. [325.2437/W52p].
Wilbur, the Czech Capitol of Nebraska: Our Czech Heritage. Wilber, NE, 1967. Czech Festival program. [325.2437W664c]

Bohemian Settlements in Nebraska. Typescript, n.d. Translated from Osvesh Amerika newspaper. Includes reminiscences. [978.2B63]

Nebraska Czechs - Biographies & Autobiographies


Daniels, Sherrill F. An Index to and Bibliography of Reminiscences in the Nebraska State Historical Society Library. Lincoln, NE: Daniels, 1986. Use Vol. 2 to check the Proper Noun Library.

Nebraska Czechs - Genealogy Aides


Sobotka, Margie, compiler. Index of Czech Settlers in Nebraska (Birthplace and County of Residence, 1864-1892). Elkhorn, NE: Sobotka, 1976. Abstractions from Rosicky’s history. [978.2B73s v. 1]

Sobotka, Margie, compiler. Czech Servicemen of Nebraska (Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I) (Hometown and Branch of Service). Elkhorn, NE: Sobotka, 1976. Abstractions from Rosicky’s history. [978.2R73s v. 2]

Sobotka, Margie, compiler. All Name Index - Czech People in Nebraska. Elkhorn, NE: Sobotka, 1976. Abstractions from Rosicky’s history. [978.2R73s v. 3]


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<td><strong>Illinois Czechs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Texas Czechs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Machann, Clinton and James W. Mendl, translators and editors. Czech Voices: Stories from Texas in the American Narodni Kalendar.</strong> College Station, TX: Texas A&amp;M University Press, 1991. [325.2437/C998v]</td>
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<td><strong>Czech Catholics</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Skrabanek, Robert L. We’re Czechs.</strong> College Station, TX: Texas A&amp;M University Press, 1988. Texas Czechs. [325.2437/S629w]</td>
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<td><strong>Czech Protestants</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fleiser, Bedrich. Maly Katechismus.</strong> Omaha, NE: Pokrok Zapadu, 1882. Czech-language fiction. [891.86/K75]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Herlos, Karl. Husite.</strong> Omaha, NE: Pokrok Zapadu, 1884. Czech-language fiction. [891.863/H42h]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hruby, Jeffrey D. Bohemian Reader.</strong> Hruby, 1990. Czech poetry with biographies of authors. [891.86/H85b]</td>
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NE : Kucera], 1982. [398.2/K96c].

Oliverius, J.A.  *Kralodvorského a Zelenohorského*. Omaha, NE: Pokrok Zapadu, 1890. Commentary on two old Czech manuscripts. [891.861/J014k]

Rais, Karel V.  *Zapadli Vlastenci*. South Omaha, NE: Nove Doby, 1913. [891.863/R13z]

Rosicky, Rose, translator.  “*A Collection of Bohemian Stories*.” Scrapbook, n.d. Translated stories from *Bratrsky Vestnik* and *The Czechoslovak Review* from the 1910’s and 1920’s. [891.86/R75]

*Songs of our Homeland : Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln, Inc.* by [Capital City Czech Choraliers]. [Lincoln, NE …The Choraliers], 2002. [325.2437/S698o].


_____.  *Narodni Zpevnicek Cesko-Americky*. Omaha, NE: Narodni Tiskarny, 1907. Czech folk tunes (without music). [891.861/N16]

_____.  *Shirka Pisni*. Omaha, NE: Narodni Tiskarny, 1921. Bohemian folk tunes. [786/N16s/1921]

This guide was originally compiled in 1999 by Stephanie Mestl Polk, a former reference assistant at the Nebraska State Historical Society. It was revised in 2010 by Cindy S. Drake, Library Curator, with assistance by Tom Mooney, Manuscripts Curator and Karen Keehr, Curator of Visual and Audio Collections. Please direct any questions, comments, or suggestions to Cindy S. Drake, Library Curator.

(cindy.drake@nebraska.gov)

April 2010