

# Czech Sources at the Nebraska State Historical Society

Updated September 2024

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## Government Records

### [U.S. Works Project Administration Federal Writers Project-Nebraska State Historical Society, 1932-1942 \(RG515\)](#)

Czechs (sheet 17, Subgroup 2, Series 1, Research Files, Ethnic History, Czechs Box 36, 262.1).

## Photograph Collections

Below is a sampling of Czech related photograph collections.

### [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.

### **Alfred T. Novacek (RG1615)**

Czech researcher and translator who assisted or wrote articles and books on Czech Americans and history of the Czech peoples.

### **Elsa and Adolph Rozanek (RG5524)**

Two photos related to the polka dance career of this Czech couple.

### **Karl Stefan (RG2624)**

Photographs of a Bohemian-born U.S. Congressman for Nebraska.

### **Charles Vincent Svoboda (RG1245)**

Relates to the life and career of a Howard County Czech immigrant.

## Audiovisual Collections

Below is a sampling of Czech related audiovisual collections (No AV items have been digitized)

### **Nebraska Trail (RG4580)**

Contains a short film on the Wilber Czech Festival

**Clarkson Living Legacy Project (RG5194)**

Includes a VHS tape of a program from 1999 on the Clarkson Czech Festival

**Capital City Czech Coraliers (RG4716)**

Includes two sound recordings: *Our Czech Heritage in Song* and *Celebrate the New Czech Freedom*

**Czech Music Collection (RG5757)**

Includes various Czech records from Nebraska musicians including Al Grebnick, the Moostash Joe Polka Band, the Adolph Nemetz Band, and the Czech Buttoneers

## Manuscript Collections

Below is a sampling of the Czech related material in the Manuscript collection.

**[Broz, Rev. Jan Stepan \(RG0821.AM\)](#)**

Materials relating to Rev. Broz and his parish, St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, in Dodge, Nebraska.

**[Clarkson Local Legacy Project \(RG5194.AM\)](#)**

Scrapbook documenting the local Czech festival at Clarkson, Nebraska, in 1999.

**[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 \(Nebraska\) \(RG1471.AM\)](#)**

Fifteen volumes of records from various Czech fraternal organizations mostly in and around Wilber, Nebraska.

**[Czech Reminiscences \(RG1606.AM\)](#)**

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

**[Laurel Hill Cemetery \(Omaha, Neb.\) \(RG4175.AM\)](#)**

Burial Cards, 1881-1983 (microfilm).

**[Nebraska Czechs Incorporated \(RG1587.AM\)](#)**

Organizational history and goals. By-laws of Nebraska Czechs Incorporated.

**[History Nebraska Vertical Files \(RG5000.AM\)](#)**

Miscellaneous material in file labeled "Czechs in Nebraska."

**[Josef Jungman Literary Society \(Valley County, Neb.\) \(RG1621.AM\)](#)**

Photocopy of a record book from the Josef Jungman Literary Society in Valley County, Nebraska. The records, all written in Czech, include minutes, membership information, etc.

**[Milligan Auditorium Corporation \(Milligan, Neb.\) \(RG5028.AM\)](#)**

Minute book (on microfilm) of the Corporation and architectural drawings relating to the building of the Czech auditorium in Milligan, 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 \(RG1362.AM\)](#)

Reminiscences of a Saline County Czech immigrant.

[Rosicky, Rose \(RG4403.AM\)](#)

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 \(RG5540.AM\)](#)

Documents the history of the Czech neighborhood around Brown Park in south Omaha.

[South Central Nebraska Czech Society \(RG1570.AM\)](#)

Youth-written essays about Czech heritage. Include family group sheets and pedigree charts.

[Splichal, Lumir \(RG1426.AM\)](#)

Advertisements for Splichal's "Lincoln Bohemian Dance Band."

[Stefan, Karl \(RG2624.AM\)](#)

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 \(RG1245.AM\)](#)

Relates to the life and career of a Howard County Czech immigrant.

## Library Collection

The following is a brief list of the items in the library regarding Czechs and the Czech culture.

### Czech Histories

Capek, Thomas. *The Cechs (Bohemians) in America*, 1920.

Habenicht, Jan. Miroslav Koudelka, translator. *History of Czechs in America*, reprint and translation, 1996.

### Czechs in Nebraska

Hrbkova, Sarka B. "Bohemians in Nebraska." [Publications of the Nebraska State Historical Society 19 \(1919\): 140-58.](#)

Kucera, Vladimir and Alfred Novacek. *Czechs and Nebraska*, 1967.

Kucera, Vladimir, editor. *Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska*, 1972.

Kucera, Vladimir, editor. ***Czech Churches in Nebraska***, 1974.

Kucera, Vladimir and Alfred Novacek, editors. ***Czech Contributions to the Progress of Nebraska***, 1976.

Kucera, Vladimir, editor. ***Czech Dramas in Nebraska***, 1979.

Kucera, Vladimir and DeLores, editors. ***Czech Music in Nebraska***, 1980.

Murphy, David. "Dramatic Expressions: Czech Theater Curtains in Nebraska." [Nebraska History 74 \(Fall-Winter 1993\): 168-183.](#)

***History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska***, 1929.

Rosicky, Rose. ***History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska***, 1929.

Rosicky, Rose. "The Czechs of Colfax County." ***Nebraska History*** 14 (April-June 1933): 137.

Saskova-Pierce, Mila. "Czech Language Maintenance in Nebraska." [Nebraska History 74 \(Fall-Winter 1993\): 209-217.](#)

Sedivy, Joseph Paul. ***Pioneer Days in Nebraska: Reminiscences of...*** translated from the Czech by Rose Rosicky.

Svoboda, Joseph G. "Czech-Americans: The Love of Liberty." [Nebraska History 74 \(Fall-Winter 1993\): 109-119.](#)

Sobotka, Margie, compiler. ***Index of Czech Settlers in Nebraska (Birthplace and County of Residence, 1864-1892)***, Sobotka, 1976.

Sobotka, Margie, compiler. ***All Name Index - Czech People in Nebraska***, 1976.

Sobotka, Margie, compiler. ***Czech Immigrant Passenger Lists (for Nebraska), 1879, 1982.***

Sobotka, Margie, compiler. ***Burials at Bohemian National Cemetery in Omaha, Jan. 1977-Dec. 1984***, 1985.

Sobotka, Margie, compiler. ***C.S.P.S. Lodge Death Claims, 1886-1896***, 1988.

Sobotka, Margie, compiler, and Karleen Chott Sheppard, translator. ***Death Abstractions (and Miscellaneous Items) (1916-1927) from Krestanske Listy (Christian Journal)***, 1998.

Sobotka's ***Nebraska, Kansas Czech Settlers, 1891-1895***, 1980.

## Family Histories

The Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) library holds over 3000 genealogies, many of which are families of Czech descent. Search the [online library catalog](#) for specific surnames, counties, or towns.

## Serials (Newspapers & Periodicals)

NSHS has many local community newspapers that can be found on microfilm and digitized on newspapers.com. See our full listing [here](#).

### Additional Sources:

**Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey:** ([Historic Preservation Survey](#)) 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, email [Historic Preservation](#).

**Nebraska History Museum Collections:** The museum collections preserve artifacts associated with Czech-Nebraska history and culture that can provide valuable research information. These artifacts have been photographed and are searchable [online](#). For specific inquiries, email the [Museum Collections Department](#)

**Publications Division:** The NSHS Blog "[The Czech-American Experience](#)" provides links to the articles that appeared in the *Nebraska History Magazine* (Volume 74, #3&4, 1993) by the same title and lists other *Nebraska History Magazine* articles relating to Czechs in Nebraska.

**Special Presentation:** David Murphy, "[Old Country Roots: Czech-American Landscapes](#)," YouTube video, 1:06:27, November 1996 (posted April 9, 2014). A brief interpretive survey of some of the most prominent features of Czech material culture that were replicated in the Czech-American landscape.

**Czech Exhibit:** David Murphy curated a Czech exhibit entitled, "The Heart of Two Continents-Czechs and Nebraska," for the Nebraska History Museum, Lincoln, in 1991-1993. The exhibit is no longer on display at the Nebraska History Museum, but the exhibit script and related information is available.