



The CZECH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF TEXAS

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR CZECH HERITAGE

A Texas 501 ©(3) non-profit organization

The **Czech Heritage Society of Texas** was founded on October 30, 1982 in Taylor, Texas at SPJST Lodge #29. Thirty-two Charter members were present at this meeting called by the society's founder, the late Albert J. Blaha. The Czech Heritage Society of Texas is a non-denominational, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization administered entirely by volunteers.

The mission of the Czech Heritage Society is to preserve and promote the genealogy, history, heritage, culture and language of the Czechs and Czech Moravians of Texas. The society holds three public meetings annually which include an annual genealogy conference and a Czech-Slovak Queen Contest. Members are also available to assist people in locating their Czech ancestors and documenting their family histories.

In 1988, in memory of **Albert J. Blaha, the Albert J. Blaha Research Fund** was established. It was designed to give financial backing to studies that increase knowledge of the history and genealogy of the Czechs of Texas. The Bell and Belfry Fund was established to defray expenses related to the Wallachian Belfry given to CHS by the Czech Republic and the Wallachian Museum in Roznov pod Radhostem. It now stands at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCHCC) located at 250 West Fairgrounds Road in La Grange, Texas. The CHS library that was temporarily located in Houston, Texas has been moved and combined with the TCHCC Library. Additions to the library come from genealogy research by CHS and from gifts or memorial donations from their members. In memory of Victor Petter, the **Victor A. Peter Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established by Harris County Chapter of CHS and is now administered by the State CHS. Donations to these funds are welcomed at any time.

The Czech Heritage Society publishes ***Cesky Hlas*** (Czech Voices), a newsletter printed three times a year that keeps members informed about the state society and county chapter activities and includes articles of cultural, historical and genealogical interest. CHS also publishes an annual membership roster that includes surnames being researched by each member and these are available to the membership through their chapter president. CHS has also published numerous genealogical resource books which have been placed in numerous libraries and has been involved in cultural and genealogical exchange programs between Texas Czechs and the people of the Czech Republic.

County Chapters of the Czech Heritage Society have been established and continue to be established in locations where persons who trace their ancestry to the Czech Lands have an interest in preserving and promoting their heritage. CHS county chapters are located in the following areas:

Victoria County - 1984
Harris County - 1985
Wharton County - 1986
Fayette County - 1986
Concho Valley Counties - 1987
Fort Bend County - 1987
Ellis County - 1987

Galveston County - 1989
Bexar County - 1990
Lavaca County - 1991
McLennan-Hill Counties - 1991
Burleson County - 1991
Travis-Williamson Counties - 1993
Brazos Valley Chapter - 1997
Gonzales County - 2006

Members who belong to a county chapter must belong to the state society as well. Members-at-large are usually from areas, including other states and countries, where no county chapter exists. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in and supportive of the goals of the **Czech Heritage Society of Texas**.

The membership year is from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year. Annual dues to the state are

Regular - \$10.00

Contributing - \$25.00

Supporting - \$50.00

Patron - \$100.00

Other levels of contributing memberships are available. County Chapters establish their additional local dues.

For more information and membership applications write to:

Telephone 979-968-5230

www.czechheritage.org

The Czech Heritage Society of Texas

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