

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

Quarterly Program at the Minnesota Genealogical Society

Saturday, February 11th, 2012

The Lands They Left: A Look at the Societies Which Bohemian, Moravian, Slovak and German Emigrants Left in the 19th Century.

Have you wondered why your ancestors chose to leave their homelands for an uncertain future in a new land? The Habsburg lands, from which the Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks, and Germans emigrated, mainly in the second half of the 19th century, were going through major economic, demographic, social, and cultural transformations.

Traditional feudal social patterns were still widespread in the countryside, while population growth and early industrialization put new economic pressures on both countryside and rapidly growing towns. At the same time the Habsburg state, which had been rapidly modernizing under the enlightened monarchs of the later 18th century, was eager to industrialize but found it difficult to cope with the consequences of urbanization and education.

This program will look at the conditions and changes in our ancestor's homelands which influenced their decisions to emigrate. We want to look at the remarkable cultural and political changes that led to the national awakening and look at the ways in which both new opportunities and pressures favored the spurt of migration, above all to the United States.

12:30 Registration

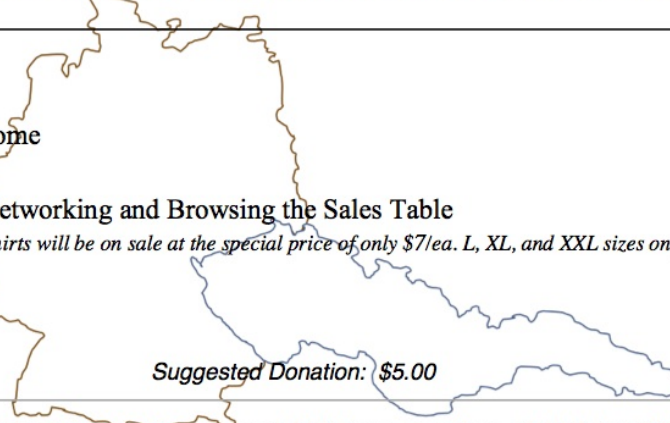
1:00 Announcements and Welcome

1:15 Program

2:15 Break for Refreshments, Networking and Browsing the Sales Table

(Note: CGSI embroidered sport shirts will be on sale at the special price of only \$7/ea. L, XL, and XXL sizes only, no sm. or med.)

2:45 Continuation of Program



Suggested Donation: \$5.00

Presenter: **Dr. Diethelm Prowe** is the Laird Bell Professor of History, emeritus, at Carleton College, Northfield, MN where he taught modern European history for 42 years. From 2001 to 2011 he served as editor of *German Studies Review*, which publishes articles on history, literature, politics, and interdisciplinary topics relating to the German-speaking areas of Europe. While at Carleton he regularly taught a course on the history of Eastern-Central Europe, and in the fall of 2000 he directed the ACM (Associated Colleges of the Midwest) Central European Studies Program in Olomouc, Czech Republic. Since then he has spent three shorter periods doing archival research on the interaction of Czechs and Germans in Moravia in the 19th century, primarily in Olomouc and Brno.

A native of Germany, he immigrated to the United States with his family at age 16 and has kept in touch with central Europe since then, with a first visit to Czechoslovakia and then-communist East Eastern Europe in 1971.

Location: **Minnesota Genealogical Society**
First Floor Auditorium
1185 Concord Street N.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55075

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