

Table of Contents

Land Records through History

Chapter I. Land and People 5

1. *Theatrum Europæ* 5
 - i. A Jewel in the Crown 6
2. Land Ownership 7
 - i. Traces of the Middle Ages 7
 - ii. Freedom of Ownership 9
3. “It’s your land, but not really” 11
 - i. Serfs Were Not Slaves 11
 - ii. Ownership vs. Possession 11
 - iii. The Relationship between Lord and Subjects 12
4. Serf or Subject? 14

Excursus. Early Turning Points in Czech History 21

Chapter II. Land Records 24

1. *Desky zemské: Books of Allodial Ownership* 24
2. *Svobodnické knihy* 28
3. *Městské knihy: Books for Burghers* 29

Chapter III. Types of Land: *dominikál* and *rustikál* 33

Chapter IV. Types of Land Possession: *zakoupené* and *nezakoupené grundy* 37

Chapter V. All Farmers Great and Small 40

1. Farm Size and Why it Matters 40
2. Farmers: Who’s Who? 41
 - i. The Most Common Three Terms: *Sedlák–chalupník–zahradník* 42
 - ii. *Lán* and Derived Terminology 43
 - iii. More Words for Farmer 45

Land Books through History

Chapter VI. On the Origin of Land Books 49

1. What is a land book? 49
 - i. What’s in a name? (Terminology) 50

- 2. Purpose and Origins 50**
 - i. The Estate Orphan Agenda 51
 - ii. Urbarial Records 53
- 3. A Brief History of the pozemkové knihy 56**
 - i. Land Books as “Best Practice” 56
 - ii. Land Books in the Age of Reforms 56
 - iii. The Land Books in the Modern State 59

Chapter VII. The Land books and Those Who Kept Them 61

- 1. The Motley World of Land Books 61**
 - i. Universal Land Books 61
 - ii. Particular Land Books 62
 - iii. The System of hlavní kniha 64
- 2. Who’s Who in the Estate Administration? 65**
 - i. Clerks in the Castle 67
 - ii. The rychtář and Village Autonomy 70
- 3. From Contract to Record 71**
 - i. Mandatory Registration 72
 - ii. The General Civil Code of Austria 74
 - iii. The Care of the Books 75
 - iv. On Courts and Offices 76
 - v. The Cost of the Entry 77

Seeking, finding and interpreting

Chapter VIII. Where to Find the Land Books 81

- 1. Archives in the Czech Republic 81**
 - i. Archives with Territorial Jurisdiction 82
- 2. Choosing the Archive 84**
 - i. Determining the Estate 86
 - Matriky 86
 - Gazetteers 87
 - Split allegiances 88
 - ii. Special Cases and Exceptions 88
 - Anomalies 88
 - Praha 89
 - Church organizations 90
 - Estates owned by Towns 90
- 3. The Inventory: the Key to the Fonds 91**
- 4. Choosing the Right Book 94**
 - i. A Test of “farmerishness” 95
 - ii. Choosing the Place and Time 97
 - iii. Choosing the Right Type of Book 97
- 5. “A fonds is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you’re gonna get.” 99**

Chapter IX. How to Search the Land Books	101
1. Organization of the Books	101
i. Books Organized Chronologically	102
ii. Books Organized by Farm	102
iii. The System of Main and Auxiliary Books	103
2. Indexes are good but...	104
i. The Index of “the last possessors only”	105
ii. The Index “the first and the last possessors”	106
iii. The Chronologically Organized Index	107
iv. Special Registers	108
3. The Page-by-page Search	108
4. Search Shortcuts	112
i. House numbers	112
ii. References in the landbooks	113
Chapter X. The Land Records from Close-up	115
1. Structure of the records	116
i. Transactions	117
ii. Records of Annual Payments	118
iii. Bills of debt	118
iv. Receipts	119
v. Marriage Contracts	120
vi. Wills	121
vii. Hlavní knihy (Main books)	121
2. What else is worth noting in the records?	122
i. Underlined texts	122
ii. Texts in the Margins	124
iii. Addendums and Insertions	126
iv. Notes and Reminders (Nota or paměť)	127
Chapter XI. Working with the Records	129
1. First steps	129
i. Identify type of record	129
ii. Identify the record’s structure	131
iii. Identify names and roles	132
iv. Identify dates and numbers	135
2. Specific Tactics	136
i. How many children did they have?	136
ii. Who did the daughters marry?	137
iii. Where did the wife come from?	137
iv. Where did the farmer come from?	139
v. Were they good farmers?	139
vi. Breaking the limits of the parish registers	141
vii. Uncovering family stories	141

Special knowledge

Chapter XII. Special issues 145

1. Dates 145

- i. Years 146
- ii. Months 147
- iii. Days 149
- iv. Dates for Regular Payments 151

Excursus A Word About Easter and Other Movable Feasts 153

2. Curtailed Words and Abbreviations 155

- i. Titles 155
- ii. House numbers 156
- iii. Roman Numerals 160
- iv. Katastr 161
- v. Percentage 161
- vi. Miscellaneous Details 162

3. Money and Currency 163

- i. Currency and money 163
- ii. Unit of account 164
- iii. Groše and kopy grošů 165
- iv. Zlatý (rýnský) and krejčary 166
 - Krejčary 166
 - Ratio of zlatý to krejčary 167
 - Ratio of kopa grošů to zlatý 168
- v. Denáry 169
- vi. Konvenční měna 170
- vii. Paper Money: bankocetle and vídeňská měna (Wiener Währung) 171
- viii. Rakouská měna (österreichische Währung) 172
- ix. Koruny 173
- x. Miscellaneous Cases 173
 - Tolary 173
 - Moravský zlatý 174
 - Slezský tolar 174

4. Measures of Our Ancestors 176

- i. Field Measures 177
 - Korec 178
 - Strych and věrtel 178
 - Jitro, sáhy and měrice 179
 - Záhony and záhonná míra 181
- ii. Volume Units (Grains and Loose Matter) 182
 - Strych, věrtel and mírka 183
 - Měrice and achtel 184
- iii. Volume Units (Liquids) 184
 - Žejdlík 185
 - Vědro 185
 - Kvarta 186
- iv. Quantity 186

Snop and mandel	186
Kusy (Pieces)	187
v. Weight Units	188
Libra	188
Cent	188
vi. Length Units	189

Chapter XIII. Property Rights 191

1. A Short Recapitulation	191
2. Rodinné majetkové společenství or Property within the Family	192
3. Inheritance 193	
i. Escheat (Odúmrť)	194
ii. The Indivisible Nature of the Farm	194
iii. Traditional Inheritance Systems in the Czech Lands	195
iv. Inheritance Rules in the Written Laws	196
v. Who was the Heir and Why?	198
vi. Contracts instead of Wills	198
vii. Succession of the Youngest and Eldest Sons	201
4. The annual Payments to the Heirs	203
i. Vejruňky	204
ii. The Purchase of the Inheritance Share	206
5. Women and the Family Property Union	207
i. Dowry	207
ii. Marriage Contracts	209
6. Divisions of Farms	210

Chapter XIV. Transactions and Changes of Farms' Possessors 214

1. Sales	214
2. Barters	217
3. Výměnek or Provisions for Retirement	218
4. Interim Farmers	219
5. Expulsion from the Farm	220
6. Auctions	221
7. Sale of Individual Plots	

Chapter XV. The Robota and Other Duties of Farmers 224

1. Obligations to the Vrchnost	224
i. Robota	224
Types of robota	225
Regulation of Robota	226
ii. Úrok	230
iii. In-kind Payments	230
iv. Daleké fůry or Long Rides	230
v. Watches and Hunting	231
vi. Beer and Brandy Consumption	231

- 2. Obligations to the State: Kontribuce, daně 232
- 3. Obligations to the Church 234
 - i. Tithes 234
 - ii. Iron Cattle 236
 - iii. Fabrica Ecclesiae 236
- 4. Teachers and Carols 236
- 5. Redeeming of Robota and Other Burdens in 1849 238

Chapter XVI. Follow the Money 241

- 1. The Heir's Heirs 242
- 2. DIY 248

Chapter XVII. The Land Books and How to deal with Roof Names 252

- 1. Roof Names 252
- 2. Other sources of dual names 254
- 3. The Reverse Paradigm 256