



Eastern European Genealogy

Map of Countries

Source: Map 1: Eastern Europe – Political, 1996. Dennis P. Hupchick and Harold E. Cox. A Concise Historical Atlas of Eastern Europe. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996.

Many created after WWI – the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Another split in the 1990s.

Study History

Many of these countries - under Austro-Hungarian rule.

- Habsburg Monarchy (1526 - 1918)
- Austro-Hungarian Empire (Dual Monarchy) 1867 – 1918

Emigration

- Mass emigration (1880 – 1920) - primarily economic reasons
- Ship and railroad agents, agents of US companies travelled countries
- Birds of Passage (to earn money to buy land back home)
- Four things to know (before exploring foreign records):

1. Name of the ancestor (original name)
2. Place of origin in Europe - key point
3. Vital data (birth) - to find a birth record
4. Religion of the immigrant ancestor

1. Name change - In many cases, emigrants changed their names:

- would be pronounced the same way (Iveta -Yveta)
- shortened or simplified hard to pronounce names
- anglicized names, to blend in quickly
- the names phonetically recorded in census (as heard)
- incorrectly transcribed by indexers
- female version may be different (a, ova, in) <http://www.behindthename.com/>

2. Learn the Place Name

Records kept locally - find the state, region, district & village

Best sources – church and civil vital records

1. Church records - at the local parish, later moved to the civil registry office (Matrika, Metryka..), usually in a Town Hall
2. Civil Vital Records – created by the local Civil Registry Office, later preserved at the city or regional archives

2. 1. How to find the place?

- Locate all descendants of the immigrant ancestor (photos, naturalization papers, etc.)
- Ideas: Ethnic church, ethnic insurance company, fraternal organization, census, passenger list, naturalization, military records, genealogy societies, Canadian records
- Research friends, associates, and neighbors (FAN) – they joined relatives and friends who spoke the same language

2. 2. US Fed. Census

- Read all columns (birthplace of parents, naturalization year in 1920, mother tongue)
- Census 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 - immigration year

2. 3. Passenger lists

- Who travelled with your ancestor (research them)
- Ancestry.com (LE), Ellis Island, Hamburg Passenger List
- Filby Books collection
- Bremer-PassagierListen.de
- Former Galicia (known as Austrian Poland), HalGal.com/PassengerLists.html

2. 4. Naturalization Record Application (first papers)

- Fold 3 website, Ancestry
- Courthouse and Archives
- From Sept. 1906 – order record at USCIS.GOV/genealogy

2. 5. Gen. societies & more -

- The list of immigrants coming to their region
- Obituaries, County histories, Archives, Libraries, Message boards, Social Media
- University Project: [UNL.edu/CzechHeritage/Margie Sobotka](http://UNL.edu/CzechHeritage/Margie_Sobotka)

Locate place on the map

Gazetteers at MGC:

- Finding Your Ancestral Village in the Former A-H Empire..*(Hudick, Alzo)
- Gazetteer Deutsch-Fremdsprachiges Ortsnamenverzeichnis*
- Gen. Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary*, by J. Auslander
- The Emigration from Germany to Russia..*, by Dr. K. Stumpp

Online Gazetteers:

Genealogy.net, GenTeam.at, Geni.sk - Hungarian names for Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia

- Wikipedia (district & region the village belongs to..)
- Make notes of places nearby (the records at closest parish)

Where are the records?

1. Family Search.org (FS) - <https://familysearch.org/>.

- FSL – 1. Wiki, 2. Catalog, 3. Browse All Publication
2. Online archives in each country or an onsite archives visit
For addresses & writing: FamilySearch.org, Search, Wiki - type *Polish Archives, Polish Letter Writing Guide*

Archives

- Czech Republic, Austria, Poland - Archives online
- Other countries – access the records through FS
- Military records – consult State Archives (before 1865 - War Archive in Vienna, Austria)
- Request of vital records - *International Vital Records Handbook*, 7th Edition, 2017, T. J. Kemp

Archives in the Czech Republic

- Moravia (Morava) ActaPublica.eu & Northern Moravia Digi.Archives.cz
 - S Bohemia Digi.CeskeArchivy.cz
 - W Bohemia PortaFontium.cz
 - Prague Archives AHMP.cz
 - Prague Reg. Archives Ebadatelna.SOAPraha.cz
 - NW part of Bohemia SOALitomerice.cz
 - Eastern Bohemia VychodoceskeArchivy.cz
- Nat. Archives (links to all Archives)** <https://portal.nacr.cz/cro/>

Poland <https://archiwa.gov.pl/pl/>

SzukajWAchivach.pl (Search in the Archives)

Poland, Ukraine, Russia & beyond

- AGAD.GOV.PL – Metryki (Podolie, Lwow, Wolyn)
- PolishRoots.com - Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus
- Ukrainian Archives <https://archives.gov.ua/ua/>
- Ukraine Pra.In.ua/en (1650-1920)
- Russian Archives Eastview.com
- Russia <https://vgd.ru/>; <https://geno.ru/>, Pamyat-Naroda.ru
- <https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/> (also Ukraine)

Slovakia and Croatia - online – Family Search (Church Books)

Slovakia, Hungary, Carpatho-Rus - Cisarik.com; Bill Tarkulich - iabsi.com; CGSI.org <https://cgsi.org/>

Hungary (former territories) & Austria

- Matricula Online Data.Matricula-Online.eu
 - Hungarian 1828 Land Census, 1869 Census (FHL Wiki)
 - Hungaricana.hu (Urbarium 1767)
 - Central Hungarian Archives <https://mnl.gov.hu/angol>
 - Military - Austro-Hungarian-Army.co.uk
 - GenTeam.at (gazetteer - shows a proper archive)
- Austria – Passport Applications (FS)
- Vienna Police Registration Cards, 1850-1928 (FS)

German Colonies (East. Europe & Russia)

- AHSGR.org, Glueckstal.net, BukovinaSociety.org
- [VolgaGermanResearch](#), [BlackSeaGr.org](#), [Odessa3.org](#), and many others...

Other helpful links & findings... [FEFHHS.org](#)

- My Heritage LE
- JewishGen.org [JewishGen.org](#)
- Canadian Society [EEGSociety.org](#)
- Cyndi's list <https://cyndislist.com/>
- Newspapers, C & E Europe, online [Difmoe.eu](#)
- Search the web (local Archives - their holdings)
- Genealogy groups on social media
- Does community have a website? (History, Chronicle)
- Does community have a social media presence?

Translation help online

- Translate.Google.com, Dict.Leo.org, Babelfish.com, [SteveMorse.org](#)
- Orthodox church records in Cyrillic
- Russian: <https://zofiafederowicz.com/aktametrykalne/>
- [FamilySearch.org](#) - Wiki, type the keywords such as 'German words', 'Polish words'

Translation guides at MGC

- The German – English Genealogical Dictionary, by E. Thode
- Translation Guide.. (19thc. Polish Doc.), by J. R. Frazin
- Following the Paper Trail..(multilingual), by J. D. Shea
- In Their Words.. (Polish, German, Latin & Russian), J. Shea
- Handy Guide to Hungarian Records, by J. H. Suess
- Central European Genealogical Terminology, by J. H. Suess

Periodicals at MGC - East European Genealogist, Family Tree Magazine, Journal of the AHSGR, Koreny (Roots), Lithuanian Heritage, Naše Rodina (Our Family), Polish Eaglet, Polish Footprints, Rodziny, Romanian Roots, Slovakia

Word of Encouragement - MGC can help! Wishing you success in your East European Research!



LINKS (East European Genealogy class)

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/united-states/>
<https://www.behindthename.com/>
<http://www.bremer-passagierlisten.de/>
<https://www.uscis.gov/records/genealogy>
https://www.unl.edu/czechheritage/Margie_sobotka.shtml

Czech Republic:

<https://www.mza.cz/actapublica/matrika/hledani>
<https://digi.ceskearchivy.cz/Introduction> <https://www.portafontium.eu/?language=cs>
<http://www.ahmp.cz/> <https://ebadatelna.soapraha.cz/pages/IndexPage?1>
<https://www.soalitomerice.cz/en/>
<https://vychodoceskearchivy.cz/home/zivotni-situace/badani/matriky/>
<https://digi.archives.cz/da/index.jsp> <https://portal.nacr.cz/cro/>

Poland:

<https://archiwa.gov.pl/> https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/en/strona_glowna
<https://metryki.genealodzy.pl/> <https://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/>
<https://www.jri-poland.org/> <https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/testy.html> (also Ukraine)
<https://www.polishroots.com/> <http://halgal.com/passengerlists.html>

Ukraine and Russia:

<https://archives.gov.ua/ua/> <https://pra.in.ua/en>
<https://www.eastview.com/ukraine-resources/> <http://online.eastview.com/projects/ticfia/>
<https://vgd.ru/>; <https://geno.ru/> <https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/>

Slovakia:

<https://www.cisarik.com/> <https://www.iabsi.com/gen/public/index.htm> <https://cgsi.org/>

Hungary & Austria:

<https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/> <https://www.hungaricana.hu/en/>
<https://archives.hungaricana.hu/en/urberi/> (Urbarium of 1767)
<https://mnl.gov.hu/angol>; <https://www.austro-hungarian-army.co.uk/>
<https://www.genteam.at/de/>

German Colonies in Eastern Europe and Russia:

<https://ahsgr.org/> <https://hfd.r.de/> [GRHS.org](https://www.grhs.org) <https://www.grhs.org/pages/home>;
<https://www.glueckstal.net/> <https://bukovinasociety.org/> ;
<https://volgagermanresearch.wordpress.com/>
<https://wolgadeutsche.net/> <https://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/> <https://blackseagr.org/>
<http://odessa3.org/> <https://www.sggee.org/> <https://volgarecords.com/> <https://danube-swabians.org/>

Other Links:

<https://feefhs.org/> <https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/> <https://eegsociety.org/>
<https://cyndislist.com/> <https://www.difmoe.eu/>

Translation Help: <https://stevemorse.org/> <https://zofiafederowicz.com/aktametrykalne/>

Midwest Genealogy Center Website: <https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy>

<https://www.mymcpl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/06-0227%20Czech%20Slovak%20East%20European%20Genealogy%20Research.pdf>