

Austria: Jewish Family History Research Guide

Austria

Like most European countries, Austria's borders have changed considerably over time. In 1690 the Austrian Hapsburgs completed the reconquest of Hungary and Transylvania from the Ottoman Turks. From 1867 to 1918, Hungary achieved autonomy within the "Dual Monarchy," or Austro-Hungarian Empire, as well as full control over Transylvania. After World War I, Austro-Hungary was split up among various other countries, so that areas formerly under Austro-Hungarian jurisdiction are today located within the borders of Austria, Bosnia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Ukraine.

How to Begin

Follow the general guidelines in our fact sheets on starting your family history research, immigration records, naturalization records, and finding your ancestral town. Determine whether your town is still within modern-day Austria, and in which county and district it is located.

Records

- Depending on the time period, records may be in several languages: German, Hungarian, Hebrew, or Latin.
- By decree of the Austrian Emperor, in 1787 all Jews within the Empire were required to adopt German surnames.
- Although the Emperor also required the rabbi in each Jewish community to maintain registers of births, marriages, and deaths, before 1848 the rule was often ignored.

The two main sources for Austrian records that are readily accessible are the Family History Library (FHL) of the Church of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) and archives in Austria and Hungary.

Family History Library (FHL) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS)

To identify the relevant films do a "Place Search" at <https://familysearch.org/#form=catalog>. Choose Place –names in the Search box, and type the town's name in the search string. For a list of microfilms on long-term loan at the Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute, see www.jgsny.org/microfiche.htm. Additional films are available through our short-term loan program, or at any LDS Family History Center (FHC).

Jewish Records at the LDS Family History Library

- Birth, marriage and death registers of the Jewish religious community of Vienna, 1826-1938 (Note: Original records beginning in 1826 are held at and available for a fee from: Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien, Seitenstettengasse 4, A-1010 Wien, AUSTRIA, http://www.ikg-wien.at/?page_id=799&lang=en)
- Birth, marriage and death records for Burgenland communities: 1833-95.
- Birth, marriage and death records for St. Poelten, 1874-1938.
- Frauenkirchen's Jewish census, 1848.

Public Records (LDS)

- Vienna's civil registration: Death register-1648-1920; Birth register-1858-1901; Death in Vienna hospitals-1848-1942.
- Birth, marriage and death records for Burgenland communities-1895-1920.

Population Records (LDS)

- Domicile registration of Viennese inhabitants, 1850-1920.
- Probate records: Magistrates court, 1548-1850, indexed.
- Military records: Mustersheets of Viennese, 1760-1900.
- Emigration and Immigration: Passport registers, 1792-1918, partially indexed.
- Occupations: Register of workbooks, 1860-1919, indexed.
- Directories: City directories, 1870, 1902, 1906, 1908, and 1925; telephone directory, approximately 1920.
- Cemeteries: Central Cemetery register, 1875-1904 (Christian and Jewish).

Resources at the Center for Jewish History

CJH's online catalog may be accessed at <http://search.cjh.org>

Landsmanshaft Collection

- Congregation Beth Aaron Beth Sholom (formerly First Austrian Hungarian Congregation Beth Sholom). **YIVO RG 123 Add, BOX 9.**
- New York (County) Hall of Records selected incorporation papers, **AJHS I-154**. Please check the following link for more information about the Austrian landsmanshaft at the AJHS <http://www.jgsny.org/landmanshaft/ajhs.htm> . Also, check Family History Databases at <http://www.cjh.org/p/61> .

Photographic and Territorial Collections

- Photographs from the Unger Family Collection. **LBI F AR 25254.**
- Photographs from the Paula Baum Collection; **LBI F AR 1314.**
- Photographs from the Bergmann Family Collection; **LBI F AR 6386.**
- Photographs from the Bruno Weil Collection; **LBI F AR 7108.**
- **Territorial Collection.** Assorted material relating to Jewish history and life, 1900s-1930s. Press clippings, original documents of the Jewish community of Tata-Tovaros, bound publication by Jewish prisoners of war (1916), anti Semitic postcards. **YIVO RG 116 - Austria**
- **Territorial Collection** (Vilna Archives). Included are correspondence, reports, memoranda, minutes of meetings, printed materials, posters, clippings, financial records. Topics relate to cultural and educational activities, political parties and elections, charitable institutions, labor organization, religious life, blood libel trials. **YIVO RG 33 – Austria**
- **Territorial Photographic Collection** . Includes card Inventory to Austria. **YIVO RG 120 – Austria**

Holocaust – Books

- Arad, Yitzhak. Documents on the Holocaust selected sources on the destruction of the Jews of Germany and Austria, Poland and the Soviet Union (Ahva Cooperative Print. Press, 1981) **CGI**
- Broser, Vera. Der Weg ungarischer Juden nach Niederösterreich, 1944 bis 1945 : das Lager Felixdorf (Verein Kultur im Alltag, [1990]) **YIVO**
- Fraenkel, Josef. The Jews of Austria : essays on their life, history and destruction (Vallentine, Mitchell, 1967) **ASF, LBI, YIVO**
- Freund, Florian. Expulsion and extermination : the fate of the Austrian **Jews**, 1938-1945. (The Austrian Resistance Archive, 1997) **LBI**

- Memorial sites for concentration camp victims in Upper Austria : [a documentation] (Provincial Archives of Upper Austria, 2002) **LBI**
- Moser, Jonny. Demographie der juedischen Bevoelkerung Oesterreichs 1938-1945 (Dokumentationsarchiv des Oesterreichischen Widerstandes, 1999) **LBI**
- Oertel, Christine. Juden auf der Flucht durch Austria : juedische Displaced Persons in der US-Besatzungszone Oesterreichs. (W. Eichbauer, 1999) **YIVO**
- Schneider, Gertrude. Exile and destruction : the fate of Austrian Jews, 1938-1945 (Praeger, 1995), **LBI**, **YIVO**
- Werner, Margot. Die Taetigkeit der Sammelstellen (Oldenbourg, 2004) **LBI**

YIVO Library also has memorial books:

- *Ḳehilat Tsehlím ve-ḥakhamehah : sefer zikaron li-ḳehilah ḳedoshah 'Tsehlím' (Makhon 'Zikaron' – mif'al le-hantsahat Yahadut Hungaryah, (Deutschkreutz) [1999 or 2000])* **YIVO**
- 1000 Jahre Oestereichischer Judentum (Edition Roetzer, 1982) **YIVO**
- Verfolgung u. Selbstbehauptung die Juden in Oesterreich 1938-1945 (Herold 1978) **LBI**
- Goldstein, Moshe. Ma'amar sheva' *Ḳehilot : yad va-shem la-ḳehilot ha-kedoshot Aizenshtat, Mařersdorf, Tsehlí, Ḳoibersdorf, Laḳenbakh, Froyenḳirkhen, ḳits'eh* (1954 or 1955) **YIVO**

Holocaust – Archives

Consult with LBI online catalog for over 250 memoirs, biographies, and oral histories pertaining to the fate of Austrian and Hungarian Jews, 1938-1945, www.search.cjh.org, choose “Leo Baeck Institute” in the drop-down menu.

Web Sites

- Austria-Czech SIG: <http://www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech/#projects>
- The Austrian National Library: <http://www.onb.ac.at/ev/index.php>
- IHFF -Institute for Historical Family Research: <http://www.ihff.at/IHFFe.htm>
- The Austrian State Archives: <http://oesta.gv.at/DesktopDefault.aspx?alias=oestaen&init>
- Registration by Name: Austria Victims of the Holocaust: http://www.doew.at/ausstellung/shoahopferdb_en.html
- *Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien* (Jewish Community of Vienna): <http://www.ikg-wien.at/?lang=en>