

## Czech and Slovak Republics: Jewish Family History Research Guide

### Brief History

From the Middle Ages to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the lands that now make up the Czech Republic (Bohemia and Moravia) and the Slovak Republic were provinces of the Hapsburg Empire, later called the Austrian Empire, with its capital in Vienna. In 1867, the Hungarians won greater autonomy under the “Dual Monarchy,” and the territory of Slovakia came under Hungarian administration. The Austro-Hungarian Empire lasted until the end of World War I, when independent Czechoslovakia was formed from Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, and parts of Silesia.. In 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully divided into the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. For detailed historical maps, see

Magosci, Paul Robert. *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe*, U. Washington Press, 1993.

**Genealogy Institute G 2081 .S1 .M3**

Thomsen’s Genealogical Center. *Atlas of the Austro-Hungarian Empire 1892*

**Genealogy Institute DB 906. 75 .A76 1990**

### Finding Your Ancestral Town

To make the best use of this guide, you should first follow the general guidelines in our fact sheets on starting your family history research and, if necessary, use our fact sheets on immigration, naturalization, censuses, and vital records to identify your ancestral town. The following sources may help you find the name of your ancestral town and locate it on the map:

Auslander, Jordan. *Genealogical Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary* (Avotaynu, 2004). English translation of 1877 gazetteer.

**Genealogy Institute DB 904 .G387 2004**

*Czechoslovakia: Official Standard Names Approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names*. Division of Geography, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1955.

**REF DB 194.5 U5**

Lelkes, Gyorgy. *Magyar Helysegnev-Azonosito Szotar* (Talma Konyvkiado, 1998). Modern gazetteer with cross-reference indexes in 9 languages.

**Genealogy Institute DB 904 .L44**

*Magyarország Helysegnevtára ket Kotetben*, 1877. LDS microfiche #6000340-1, microfilm #s 599564 (v.1) and 973041 (v.2). Gazetteer provides each town's Jewish population and synagogue location.

**Available at the Genealogy Institute**

Majtan, Milan. *Nazvy Obci Slovenskej Republiky*. Bratislava: VEDA, 1996.

**Genealogy Institute DB 2708 .M34 1998**

Mokotoff, Gary and Sallyann Amdur Sack with Alexander Sharon. *Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust—Revised Edition* (Avotaynu, 2002). Provides map coordinates of the town and an estimate of the pre-World War II Jewish population.

**Genealogy Institute DS 135 .E83 M65 2002**

*ShtetlSeeker Database* ([www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker/](http://www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker/)). Allows you to search for towns using either the exact spelling or the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex. Soundex searches find similar-sounding names with variant spellings. Links from the database connect each town name to online mapping sites (such as Mapquest.com).

## Finding Records

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

The FHL has microfilmed some vital records for towns formerly in Hungary. 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](http://www.jgsny.org/microfiche.htm). Additional films are available through our short-term loan program, or at any LDS Family History Center (FHC).

### Czech Archives

For a detailed overview of the many records available for Bohemia and Moravia, see the article "Getting Started with Czech-Jewish Genealogy," on the website of the Austria-Czech Special Interest Group, a group of researchers with roots in the region, at [www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech/](http://www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech/) The main source of vital records, books of Jewish families in particular towns, and other records is the State Central Archives:

#### State Central Archives in Prague

Records up to 1850:

Statni ustredni archiv

Tr. Milady Horakove 133

160 00 Praha 6-Dejvice

Czech Republic

Records since 1848:

Narodni archiv v Praze

Archivni 4

149 01 Praha 4 - Chodovec

Czech Republic

Phone: +420 233 326 755  
email:na1@nacr.cz

**www.nacr.cz/eindex.htm**  
Phone:+420 297 4811 111 (operator)  
email:na@nacr.cz

For addresses of regional Czech archives, see the “Gundacker List” at  
**www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech/towns/gundframe1.html**

The Jewish Museum of Prague also holds many Jewish records:

Jewish Museum of Prague  
Zidovske Muzeum Praha  
U Stare skoly 1  
110 00 Praha 1  
Czech Republic  
Phone: +420 221 711 511  
Fax: +420 222 749 300  
office@jewishmuseum.cz  
**www.jewishmuseum.cz/aindex.htm**

Holocaust Department at the Jewish Museum of Prague  
E-mail for inquiries and information: **holocaust@jewishmuseum.cz**

For a detailed listing of the museum’s holdings, see Jan Herman, “The Jewish Community Archives from Bohemia and Moravia,” *Judaica Bohemiae*, Vol VII.  
**LBI DS135.C95 J82, YIVO 15/9038 (01509038)**

## **Slovak Archives**

For the holdings of archives in Slovakia, see:

*Jewish Vital Statistics Records in Slovakian Archives*. Index to Jewish birth, marriage, and death records located in the archives of Slovakia, listing Jewish records alphabetically by town.

**YIVO microfiche**

Kollarova, Zuzana and Jozef Hanus. *A Guide to the Slovak Archives*.(Universum, 1999)  
**Genealogy Institute CD 1169.6 .K65**

Saramanyova, Jane. *Cirkevne Matriky na Slovensku Zo 16.-19.* (Odbor Archivnictva Ministerstva Vnutra SR, 1991). Provides a list of parish registers—including Jewish registers—in Slovakia from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This book can be consulted at the New York Public Library Humanities and Social Science Library, Fifth Avenue at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The Slovak National Archives address is:

Slovensky narodny archiv (only in Slovak)  
Drotarska cesta 42  
817 01 Bratislava  
Phone: +421 2 67298111, 62801178,-81,-83,-85  
Fax: +421 2 6280 1247  
archiv@sna.vs.sk  
[www.civil.gov.sk/snarchiv/](http://www.civil.gov.sk/snarchiv/)

## Sources at the Center for Jewish History

Below is a partial listing of genealogical and historical sources related to the Czech and Slovak lands at CJH. Many additional family histories, memoirs, historical works, photographs, and sound recordings can be found in the collections of the CJH partners. To locate further resources, consult the various catalogs and reference staff.

In particular, the Leo Baeck Institute (LBI) possesses many memoirs and other archival materials from or about the German-speaking Jewish communities of Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, and Silesia. Catalog records for these materials incorporate many finding aids, including box lists, folder lists, and inventories, along with extensive subject headings for names of places, families, and individuals. The Center for Jewish History online catalog is available at <http://search.cjh.org>.

### Archives

*Rabbinical and Historical Manuscripts Collection, 1567-1930.* While most of this collection of mixed provenance consists of rabbinic bound and unbound manuscripts, correspondence, responsa, and other items, there are some community records. These include inscriptions from tombstones in Mislic, 1785-1877, and Prague, 1740-1785. There is an inventory in English. **YIVO Archives RG 128**

*Territorial Collection for Czechoslovakia.* This collection includes materials on the Theresienstadt ghetto (Terezin), including birth and death records for 1942. There is an inventory in English. The bulk of the collection pertains to the Holocaust period (1938-1945). Noteworthy are materials on the Theresienstadt Ghetto (Geto Terezin) that include birth and death records, daily orders, and announcements about deportation. The collection also includes materials on Jewish communities in Slovakia up to World War II. **YIVO Archives Record Group 116—Czechoslovakia**

### Books and Articles

Berger, Natalia, editor. *Where Cultures Meet.* Tel Aviv, Ministry of Defence Pub. House, c1990.

**Genealogy Institute DS 135.C95 W48 1990 or YIVO 00082997**

Brilling Bernhard. *Neues Schrifttum zur Geschichte der Juden in der Tschechoslowakei*. N. G. Elwert- Verlag, 1954.

**LBI DS 135 C95 B7**

Buechler, Yehoshua Robert. "The Jews of Slovakia: Some Historical and Social Aspects." *Review of the Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews*, Vol. 1, 1968-87, pp. 167-176.

**LBI DS 135 .C95 L45**

Collegium Carolinum von Heribert Sturm. *Biographisches Lexikon zur Geschichte der Boehmischen Laender*. Vol. I-III. R. Oldenbourg, 1979-1999

**REF DB 202 B56**

Ebelova, Ivana, editor. *Soupis Zidovskych Rodin v Cechach z roku 1793 VI/2*. Narodni archiv, 2006

**YIVO 000122884**

Fischl, Victor. *The Jews of Czechoslovakia*. National Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia, 1940

Gundacker, Felix. *Matrikenverzeichnis der Juedischen Matriken Boehmens* (Register of Jewish Vital Statistics in the Czech State Archives pertaining to Bohemia). Felix Gundacker, 1998. In German and English.

**LBI q HB 1001 G83 1998**

Gundacker, Felix. *Matrikenverzeichnis der Juedischen Matriken Maehrens* (Register of Jewish Vital Statistics in the Czech State Archives pertaining to Moravia). Felix Gundacker, 2000. In German and English.

**LBI q 69**

Herman, Jan. "Jewish Community Archives from Bohemia and Moravia: Analytical Registers to the Catalogues of Archive Materials from Jewish Communities with the Exception of that of Prague." *Judaica Bohemiae*. Vol. 7, No. 1, 1971. **YIVO 01509038 (15/9038) or LBI C59**

Herman, Jan. *Jewish Cemeteries in Bohemia and Moravia*. Council of Jewish Communities in the CSR, 1982.

**YIVO 93049 or LBI GT 3247 .8 H47**

Iggers, Wilma Abeles, editor and translator. *The Jews of Bohemia and Moravia: A Historical Reader*. Wayne State University Press, 1992.

**YIVO 85404**

Karny, Miroslav, editor. *Terezinska Pametni Kniha: Zidovske obeti nacistickych deportaci z Cech a Moravy, 1941-1945*. Melantrich 1995

**LBI DS 135 C95 T47 1995**

Kieval, Hilel J. *The Making of Czech Jewry: National Conflict and Jewish Society in Bohemia 1870-1918*. Oxford University Press, 1988

**LBI DS 135 C95 K54**

Lipscher, Ladislav. *Die Juden in Slowakische Staat, 1939-1945*. R. Oldenburg, 1980

**LBI DS 135 C95 L56**

Mestan, Pavol. *Anti-semitism in Slovak Politics*. Slovak National Museum; Museum of Jewish Culture, 2004

**YIVO 00112212**

Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews. *The Jews of Czechoslovakia*. 3 volumes. Jewish Publication Society, 1968-1983.

**LBI DS 135 C95 J45 or AJHS DS 135. C95 J45**

Terezin Initiative Foundation. *Terezin Memorial Book: Jewish Victims of Nazi Deportation from Bohemia and Moravia, 1941-1945; a guide to the Czech original with a glossary of Czech terms used in the lists*. Melantrich 1996.

**LBI DS 135 C95 T47 1995 guide**

The Jewish Museum of Prague. *Judaica Bohemiae*. The Jewish Museum of Prague. Vol. 1-24, 1965-1988

**LBI C59**

## **Websites**

Austria-Czech Special Interest Group (SIG): [www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech](http://www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech)

Czech Research Outline: [www.shon.150m.com/czechhtm.htm](http://www.shon.150m.com/czechhtm.htm) (Please note that the Czech State Regional Archives, with the exception of Plzeň—at least temporarily—are no longer taking genealogical requests as of April 2003. One must either hire a professional researcher or go to the archives in person.

Hungarian Special Interest Group (H-SIG—includes Slovakia):  
[www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/](http://www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/)

Information about Slovakia and its Jewish communities:  
<http://jewishwebindex.com/slovakia.htm>

Conscriptions(1850-1914) Applications for Residence Permit of Prague Police Headquarters:

**<http://www.nacr.cz/english/conscriptions.aspx>**

Database of the victims of the Holocaust from Czech and Moravia, including photographs and the last address of the victim.

**[www.holocaust.cz/cz2/victims/victims](http://www.holocaust.cz/cz2/victims/victims)**

Jewish Cemetery in northern Moravia

**[www.krnovh.wz.cz/](http://www.krnovh.wz.cz/)**

Database of some Jewish cemeteries in the Czech Republic (sometimes only in Czech)

**[www.chewra.com](http://www.chewra.com)**

Jewish cemeteries in the Eastern Slovakia, including deportation lists from the Eastern Slovakia region:

**[www.cemeteries.wz.cz](http://www.cemeteries.wz.cz)**

### **Links to Historical Maps and Directories of the Czech and Slovak Republics**

Digitized map of Moravia and Silesia, 1876-1878; map of Czech, 1877-1880 at:

**[http://oldmaps.geolab.cz/map\\_root.pl?z\\_height=500&lang=cs&z\\_width=800&z\\_nwwin=0&map\\_root=3vm](http://oldmaps.geolab.cz/map_root.pl?z_height=500&lang=cs&z_width=800&z_nwwin=0&map_root=3vm)**

Digitized map of Prague with suburbs from 1938:

**[www.mlp.cz/mapa-prahy-1938/prehlist.htm](http://www.mlp.cz/mapa-prahy-1938/prehlist.htm)**

Digitized maps of Moravia and plans of the city of Brno (Brunn):

**[www.vilemwalter.cz/mapy](http://www.vilemwalter.cz/mapy)**

Partly digitized directory of Brno:

**<http://vilemwalter.cz/adresare/prohlizeni.htm>**

Historical maps of Slovakia:

**<http://mapyhorskaslovenska.blogspot.com/>**