

Hungary: Jewish Family History Research Guide

Hungary (Magyarország)

Like most European countries, Hungary'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, the territory of "Greater Hungary" was much reduced, so that areas that were formerly under Hungarian jurisdiction are today located within the borders of Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia, Poland, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, and Yugoslavia (Serbia). Hungary regained control over some of these areas during the Holocaust period, but lost them again in 1945.

Regions that belonged to the Kingdom of Hungary before the Treaty of Trianon (1920): Burgenland (Austria), Carpathian Ruthenia (from 1920 to 1938 part of Czechoslovakia, now Ukraine), Medimurje/Murakoz (Croatia), Prekmurje/Muravidek (Slovenia), Transylvania/Erdely-inc. Banat (Romania), Crisana/Partium (Romania), Maramures/Maramaros (Romania), Szeklerland/Szekelyfold (Romania); Upper Hungary/Felvidek (Slovakia); Vojvodina/Vajdasag (Serbia, Croatia); Croatia (Croatia), Slavonia (Croatia); Separate division- Fiume (Nowadays Rijeka, Croatia)

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 Hungary and in which county (megye) and district (jaras) it is located. If the town is not in modern Hungary, see our fact sheet for the country where it is currently located. A word of caution: Many towns in Hungary have the same name, and to distinguish among them, a prefix is usually added based upon the county or a nearby city or river. For example, some of the 15 variations on "Nagyfalu" (literally, "Big Village") are: Apanagyfalu, Dravanagyfalu, Havasnagyfalu, Ipolynagyfalu, Losoncnagyfalu, Nyitranagyfalu, and Tizsanagyfalu. The following resources are extremely helpful for locating towns:

- *Magyarország Helysegnevtara 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 Center

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

CGI DB 904 .G387 2004

- *A magyar korona orszagainak helysegnevtara*, 1882. List of counties with links to towns (by district, based mainly on the national census, 1882) available at Radix web site: www.bogardi.com/gen/g104.shtml.

- Lelkes, Gyorgy. *Magyar Helysegnev-Azonosito Szotar* (Talma Konyvkiado, 1998). Modern gazetteer with cross-reference indexes in 9 languages.
CGI DB 904 .L44

Vital and other Records

- Depending on the time period, records may be in several languages: Hungarian, German, Hebrew, or Latin.
- By decree of the Austrian Emperor, in 1787 all Jews within the Empire were required to adopt German surnames. From 1848 onward, especially after 1867, Hungarian Jews increasingly adopted Magyar names.
- 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. Events for smaller outlying towns and villages were recorded in a centralized district register. Civil (government) registration of vital events began throughout Hungary in 1895.
- A census of the Jews was conducted in 1848, and the first national Hungarian census was taken in 1869, but surviving records are incomplete. Other partial census returns also exist for other years, as well as various taxation and property lists dating back to the 1700s. From 1880, a census was taken every ten years. The last census of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was taken in 1910.
- Hungarian Jews were quite patriotic and served as officers as well as enlisted soldiers. The Austro-Hungarian army in Vienna kept muster rolls and various other military records.

The two main sources for Hungarian records 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)

The FHL has microfilms of pre-1895 birth, marriage, and death records, usually starting between 1830 and 1850. Parts of the 1848 Census of the Jews and the 1869 national census are available for the former Zemplen County in Northeastern Hungary (now in Slovakia), 1841 listing of Jews with their physical description from Eger, and the 1848 Census of the Jews available for several counties and cities, as well as earlier Hungarian governmental records of taxation and property lists (1768-1848). The FHL also has an extensive collection of Austro-Hungarian military records. To identify the relevant films, do a "Place Search" at <https://familysearch.org/>, first using the town name and then using the county name. 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). The Hungary SIG of Jewishgen (www.jewishgen.org/Hungary) is in the process of indexing the FHL census and vital records. These indexed records are included in the All Hungary Database.

Records in Austria and Hungary

- Austro-Hungarian military records may be obtained by visiting or writing to the Military Archive in Vienna: Kriegsarchiv, Nottendorfer Gasse 2, A-1030 Wien, telephone +43-1-79540-452, fax 43-1-79540-109. email: kapost@oesta.gv.at
See www.genealogy.net/gene/reg/AUT/krainf-e.htm.
- Some of the military records may also be found at the county archives. Recent records after ca. 1870 are likely to be at the National Archives of Hungary (Orszagos Levelat) in Budapest.
- Pre-1895 birth, marriage, and death registers, Census Returns of Jews (Acta Judaeorum) of 1725-1728-1755, the 1848 Census of the Jews (23 counties and 15 cities), and pre-1918 military conscription lists are available at the National Archives of Hungary, 1014 Budapest, Becsi kapu ter 2-4 (mailing address 1250 Budapest, P.O. Box 3), www.mol.gov.hu/angol/bal_menusor/about_us.html; main telephone (+36-1) 225-2800, Fax (+36-1) 225-2817. E-mail: info@mol.gov.hu
At www.e-archivum.hu (only in Hungarian) you can find inventory of the collections of the National Archives of Hungary and some of its finding aids as well.
A description of the archival holdings preserved in the National Archives of Hungary:
www.natarch.hu/english/menu_31.htm
- Census returns of Jews 1827-1853 are available at MAZSIHISZ Association of Jewish Communities of Hungary: The Jewish Museum and Archives of Hungary/Magyar-Zsido Okleveltar, H-1077 Budapest, Dohany u. 2, **website:** www.fsz.bme.hu/hungary/budapest/bpmuz/bpmuz19.htm
e-mail: bpjewmus@visio.c3.hu
Phone: (+36-1) 3428-949,
- To order post-1895 records (access limited to current year minus 90 years for births, minus 60 years for marriages, and minus 30 years for deaths), see:
<http://www.huembwas.org/consular/INFO/14-22/Genealogia.htm> or contact the Hungarian Consulate (local address: 223 East 52nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10022, phone: 212-752-0661, fax: 212-755-5986).
- Under the same access limitations, vital records registers and record extracts are available in Hungary at local government offices and regional archives. For addresses, see (below) Haraszti, Gyorgy, *Magyar zsidó leveltari reportorium*.
- Further information on how to find Jewish ancestries in the National Archives of Hungary, see:
http://www.mol.gov.hu/angol/bal_menusor/fomenu/family_research/guide_to_family_history_research/families_of_jewish_origin.html

Resources at the Center for Jewish History

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

General Books and Articles

- Fenyvesi, Charles. *When the World Was Whole: Three Centuries of Memories*. (Viking, 1990) **YIVO 0008319 (83219)**
- Frojimovics, Kinga, et al. *Jewish Budapest: Monuments, Rites, History*. (Central European University Press, 1999) **YIVO 00094937 (94937)**
- Patai, Raphael. *Apprentice in Budapest: Memories of a World That Is No More*. (University of Utah Press, 1988) **YIVO 00085947 (85947)**
- Patai, Raphael. *The Jews of Hungary: History, Culture, Psychology*. (Wayne State University Press, 1996) **YIVO 00088703 (88703)**
- Perlman, Robert, 1919-. *Bridging Three Worlds: Hungarian-Jewish Americans, 1848-1914*. (University of Massachusetts Press, 1991) **AJHS DS 135 .H9 P47. 1991**
- Schonfeld, Louis. "Hungarian Jewish History." *Magyar Zsidó* 2:1, 3-6.
CGI DS 135 .H9 M278
- Stessel, Zahava Szasz. *Wine and Thorns in Tokay Valley: Jewish Life in Hungary: the History of Abauzsanto*. (Associated U. Pr., 1995) **YIVO 00087587 (87587)**
- Suleiman, Susan. *Budapest Diary: In Search of the Motherbook*. (University of Nebraska Press, 1996) **YIVO 00092375 (92375)**

Genealogical Research

- Eotvos, George. "Resources for Jewish Genealogical Research in Hungary." *Avotaynu* XIII: 4, 17-20. **CGI**
- Haraszti, Gyorgy. *Magyar zsidó leveltári reportorium*. [*Directory of Archival Holdings Relating to the History of Jews in Hungary: Hungarian Archives*] (MTA Judaisztikai Kutatócsoport, 1993) **Z 6620 .H9 H3 1993**.
- Kempelen, Bela. *Magyarországi zsidó és zsidó eredetű családok*. [*Hungarian Jewish Families*.] (Budapest, 1937-39) **YIVO 00064661 (3/64661)**
- McCagg, William O. *Jewish Nobles and Geniuses in Modern Hungary*. (Columbia University Press, 1972) **YIVO 00076006 (9/76006)**
- Patai, Raphael. *The Jews of Hungary: History, culture, psychology*. (Wayne State University Press, 1996) **ASF DS 135 .H9 P33 1996 or YIVO 00088703**
- Scheiber, Sandor. *Magyar zsidó hírlapok és folyóiratok bibliográfia 1847-1992*. [*Bibliography of Hungarian Jewish Newspapers and Journals 1847-1942*] (MTA Judaisztikai Kutatócsoport, 1993) **YIVO Z 6956 H9 S3 1993**
- Suess, Jared. *Handy Guide to Hungarian Genealogical Records*. (Everton, 1980) **CGI CS 563 S93**
- Ujvari, Peter. *Zsidó Lexikon*. (Blackburn Int'l, 1987) Geographical and biographical dictionary of Hungarian Jewry; reprint of 1929 edition. **DS 102 8 .Z6**

Landsmanshaft Collections

- Central Hungarian Sick Benevolent and Literary Society. Records, 1941-1975. Minutes, financial records, burial and monument permits. **YIVO RG 989**
- Independent Jokai Lodge. Hungarian-Jewish mutual aid society founded in New York in 1912 as a part of Independent Order Brith Abraham. Minutes, 1929-1936. Silver Jubilee book, 1937. **YIVO RG 1117**
- Kossuth Association of New York. Records, 1930-1971. Originally called Kossuth Ferencz Literary Sick and Benevolent Association founded in 1904 by Hungarian Jewish immigrants. Financial records (1947-1971), anniversary journals (1939, 1939, 1954). **YIVO RG 906**
- Pannonia Lodge No. 185, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Records, 1920-1963. Minutes, financial and membership records, correspondence, and other items. **YIVO RG 869**

Territorial and Photographic Collections

- Territorial Collection. Assorted materials related 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 - Hungary**
- Territorial Photographic Collection (1860s-1970s). Rural scenes (houses, "country stores," daily farm life), peddlers, merchants, lumberyard workers, students, rabbis, synagogues & religious objects, street scenes, summer camps. Online "People of a Thousand Towns" at <http://yivo1000towns.cjh.org>. includes photographs from Budapest, Csongrad, Gyongyos, Sopron, and Szeged. **YIVO RG 120 - Hungary**
- Raphael Abramovitch Collection. 1920s-1930s. Photographs related to Jewish life in Europe and Israel, including Hungary. **YIVO RG 390**
- American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC) Photographs. Photographs depicting AJDC activities worldwide, including Hungary (DP period). **YIVO RG 335.9**
- American ORT Federation (1922-1960). Country files and photos of vocational programs, including Hungary. **YIVO RG 380**
- Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage (Frankfurt Am Main, 1930-1945). Nazi institute that collected materials on the Jewish question, including photographs from Hungary. **YIVO RG 222**

Holocaust – Books

- Aharoni, Rachel. *Budapest Memorial Book=A Rakospalotai Zsido Hitkozseg tortenete*. (New York Public Library and The National Yiddish Book Center, 2003) **YIVO Budapest 2003 (1978) (Mezzanine)**
- Bar-Shaked, Gavriel, editor. *Nevek Munkaszázadok Vesztéségei a Keleti Magyar Hadmuveleti = Shemot anshe pelugot ha-'avodah she-nispu ba-hazitot ha-mizrah*

- Területeken = Names of Jewish Victims of Hungarian Labour Battalions.* (Beate and Serge Klarsfeld Foundation, 1992) **YIVO Hungary 1992 (Mezzanine)**
- Bar-Shaked, Gavriel, editor. *Nevek a Hajdú megyéből kiűzött zsidók nevei = Shemot ha-yehudim she-gurshu mi-mehoz Haydu be-Hungariyah = Names of the deported Jews from Hajdu County, Hungary.* (Beate and Serge Klarsfeld Foundation, 1992) **YIVO Hajdu-Bihar Megye (Hungary) 1992**
 - Bar-Shaked, Gavriel. *Nevek magyar zsidó nők a Stutthof-i koncentrációs táborban = Shemot: shemot nashim yehudim be-mahane Shtuthof = Names of Hungarian Jewish women in the Stutthof concentration camp.* (Beate and Serge Klarsfeld Foundation, 1992) **YIVO Hungary 1992 (Mezzanine)**
 - Bar-Shaked, Gavriel, editor. *Nevek : Magyar zsidók a Mauthausen-i koncentrációs táborban = Shemot ha-megorashim mi-Hungaryah ha-gedolah le-Mahane ha-hashmadah Ma'utha 'uzen = Names of the Jews deported from greater Hungary to the Mauthausen Concentration camp.* (Beate and Serge Klarsfeld Foundation, 2005) **YIVO Hungary 2005 (Mezzanine)**
 - Bar-Shaked, Gavriel, editor. *Nevek : A Bihar megyéből kiűzött zsidók nevei (1. rész) = Shemot : shemot ha-megorashim mi-mehoz Bihar (helek1) = Names of the Jews deported from Bihar county (part 1).* (Beate and Serge Klarsfeld Foundation, 2005) **YIVO Hungary (Bihar Megye) (Mezzanine)**
 - Braham, Randolph L. *Eichmann and the Destruction of Hungarian Jewry.* (Twayne, 1961) **YIVO 00063076 (3/63076)**
 - Braham, Randolph L. *The Holocaust In Hungary: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography: 1984-2000* (Columbia U. Pr., 2001). **YIVO Z 6374 .H6 B73 2001**
 - Braham, Randolph L. *The Hungarian Jewish Catastrophe: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography.* (City University of New York: distributed by Columbia University Press, 1984). **YIVO D810 .J4 .B3 1984**
 - Braham, Randolph L. *The Politics of Genocide: The Holocaust In Hungary.* Condensed Edition. (Wayne State University Press, 2000) **YIVO 00106553**
 - Braham, Randolph L., ed., with Scott Miller. *The Nazis' Last Victims: The Holocaust in Hungary.* (Wayne State University Press, 1998) **YIVO 00092888**
 - Carmilly, Moshe. *The Road to Life: the Rescue Operation of Jewish Refugees on the Hungarian-Romanian Border in Transylvania, 1936-1944.* (Shengold, 1994) **YIVO 00088667**
 - Cesarani, David, ed. *Genocide and Rescue: the Holocaust in Hungary 1944.* (Berg, 1997) **YIVO 00090686**
 - Cohen, Asher. *The Halutz Resistance in Hungary, 1942-1944.* (Columbia U. Pr., 1986) **YIVO 00080940**
 - Counted Remnant: *Register of Survivors in Budapest 1946.* 4 volumes. **YIVO Budapest 1946 05/08/02 N (Mezzanine) (3/22766)**
 - Deaglio, Enrico. *The Banality of Goodness: the Story of Giorgio Perlasca.* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1998). **YIVO 00107283**
 - *The Destruction of Hungarian Jewry: A Documentary Account.* (Pro Arte, 1963) **YIVO 0066170 (3/66170)**

- Gur, David. *Brothers for Resistance and Rescue: The Underground Zionist Youth Movement in Hungary during World War II*. (Gefen, 2007) **YIVO Hungary 2007 (Mezzanine)**

YIVO Library also has Yizkor (memorial) books for many places in Hungary: Abauj-Torna Megye, Bonyhad, Budapest, Debrecen, Derecske, Eger, Fehergyarmat, Hajdu-Bihar Megye, Hungary, Kisvarda, Mad, Nagykallo, Paks, Papa, Satoraljaiújhely, Szekesfehervar, Ujpest (Budapest), Vas Megye, Zemplen Megye.

Holocaust – Archives

- Eyewitness Accounts of the Holocaust Period (1939-1945). Accounts related to ghettos and death, labor, and internment camps; testimonies of Jews on the Aryan side and in hiding; and memoirs of Jewish partisans and underground fighters. A significant group of materials pertains to Hungary. **YIVO RG 104**
- Territorial Collection. 180 microfilm reels of documents selected from state and municipal archives in Hungary related to the Jewish experience during the World War II period; memoirs, poems, other documents. **YIVO RG 116 – Hungary**
- Berlin Collection. Records, 1931-1945. Fragmentary records of agencies of the Nazi government, including materials on occupied countries like Hungary. **YIVO RG 215**

Web Sites

- Hungarian SIG (H-SIG) Includes all areas within "Greater Hungary":
www.jewishgen.org/Hungary
- Hungarian genealogical terms and phrases translated into English:
www.bmi.net/jjaso/Hungarian_Terms_and_Phrases.html
- Hungarian Jewish Homepage: **<http://zsido.hu/guide/english.htm>**
- HungaryGenWeb at Ancestry: **www.rootsweb.com/~wghungar/**
- Interactive Hungarian Road Map: **<http://lazarus.elte.hu/moterkep/indul.htm>**
- Jewish Cemeteries in Hungary
<http://www.iajgsjewishcemeteryproject.org/hungary/index.html>
- Jewish Hungary: **www.haruth.com/jw/JewsHungary.html**
- Memorial Museum of Hungarian-Speaking Jewry (Safed, Israel): **www.hjm.org.il/**
- Radix - Genealogy Research in Hungary: **www.bogardi.com/gen/index.shtml**
- Settlements detached from Hungary by the Treaty of Trianon 1920 (partial list A-K):
<http://parizs.tripod.com/trianon/tria0200.html>

- Jewish history of Hungary (contains some historical maps)
www.porges.net/JewishHistoryOfHungary.html
- Maps of Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1882 and 1908
www.fefhs.org/maplibrary.html
- Website for genealogists who are looking for Hungarian ancestry see (fee based):
www.progenealogists.com/hungary/index.htm