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-Hungry 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. The primary focus of this fact sheet is Austria within its post World War II borders. Fact sheets for other countries formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire are also available.

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.

A good resource for starting your research is "Beginner's Guide to Austrian Jewish Genealogy" by E. Randol Schoenberg. This manual is accessible on the jewishgen Austria-Czech Special Interest Group (SIG) website, **www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech.**

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.

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://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlc/.** 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 **http://www.jgsny.org/microfilms-at-cjh**. 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, 1826-1943 (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; Deaths in Vienna hospitals-1848-1942.
- Birth, marriage and death records for Burgenland communities-1895-1920.

Population Records (LDS)

- Domicile registration of Viennese inhabitants (meldezettel), 1850-1928, 1930, 1940, 1948. These registers contain useful information for family history research such as name, birth date and place of head of household, family members, and old and new places or residence.
- 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).

Genteam Austria

Genteam Austria, **www.genteam.at,** is an online collection of Austrian records indexed by a team of volunteer genealogists and historians containing some 7 million names. You must register to access the records. Some examples of records are the following:

- Jewish records of Vienna indexing birth and marriage records from 1826 to 1910 and death records from 1866-1910
- Resignations from the Jewish Community
- Jewish Converts
- Burials in Jewish Cemeteries in Vienna

Resources at the Center for Jewish History

CJH's online catalog may be accessed at **http://search.cjh.org.** The Center has many archival resources for Austria that may be helpful as background material for family history research or for researching specific families. Most of these resources are part of the collections of the Leo Baeck Institute which is dedicated to the history of German speaking Jews in Europe. Many of these resources have been digitized and are therefore available online. Some of the categories that can be searched are some 200 memoirs and biographies, 600 photographs, 300 archival materials, 300 oral histories, and 20 genealogical tables or family trees. Some examples are the following:

- Unger Family Collection, 1939-1971, **LBI F AR 25254.**
- Paula Baum Collection, 1776-1982, **LBI F AR 1314**
- Bergmann Family Collection, 1901-1981, **LBI F AR 6386**
- Bruno Weil Collection, 1854-1972, **LBI F AR 7108**

Online archival resources can be accessed by clicking on "Explore the Collections" on the Center Home Page, then click on "Search Digital Collections" and then enter the search term "Austria".

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.jgsnydb.org/landsmanshaft/ajhs.htm** . Also, check Family History Databases at **http://www.cjh.org/p/61 .**

Territorial Collections

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- **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) **YIVO 000078736**
- Broser, Vera. Der Weg ungarischer Juden nach Niederösterreich, 1944 bis 1945 : das Lager Felixdorf (Verein Kultur im Alltag, [1990]) **YIVO 00083180**
- Fraenkel, Josef. The Jews of Austria : essays on their life, history and destruction (Vallentine, Mitchell, 1967) **ASF, LBI, YIVO 000067180**
- Freund, Florian. Expulsion and extermination: the fate of the Austrian **Jews**, 1938-1945. (The Austrian Resistance Archive, 1997) **LBI DS 135 A9 F74**
- Memorial sites for concentration camp victims in Upper Austria : [a documentation] (Provincial Archives of Upper Austria, 2002) **LBI st 1855/ENG**
- Moser, Jonny. Demographie der juedischen Bevoelkerung Oesterreichs 1938-1945 (Dokumentationsarchiv des Oesterreichischen Widerstandes, 1999) **LBI st 844**
- Oertel, Christine. Juden auf der Flucht durch Austria : jüdische Displaced Persons in der US-Besatzungszone Österreichs. (W. Eichbauer, 1999) **LBI st 757**
- Schneider, Gertrude. Exile and destruction : the fate of Austrian Jews, 1938-1945 (Praeger, 1995)**, YIVO 00087264**
- Werner, Margot. Die Taetigkeit der Sammelstellen (Oldenbourg, 2004) **LBI st 2434/v. 28**

YIVO Library also has memorial books:

- Ḳehilat Tsehlim ve-ḥakhamehah : sefer zikaron li-ḳehilah ḳedoshah 'Tsehlim' (Makhon 'Zikaron' – mif'al le-hantsahat Yahadut Hungaryah, (Deutschkreutz) [1999 or 2000]) **YIVO DEUTSCHKREUTZ 2000**
- Lohrmann, Klaus. 1000 Jahre Oestereichischer Judentum (Eisenstadt Roetzer, 1982) **LBI DS 135 A9 R6 V4**
- Rosenkrantz, Herbert. Verfolgung u. Selbstbehauptung die Juden in Oesterreich 1938-1945 (Herold 1978) **LBI DS 135 A9 R6 V4**
- Goldstein, Moshe. Ma'amar sheva' Ḳehilot : yad va-shem la-ḳehilot ha-kedoshot Aizenshṭaṭ, Maṭerśdorf, Tsehli, Ḳoibersdorf, Laḳenbakh, Froyenḳirkhen, ḳits'eh (1954 or 1955) **YIVO 000046174**

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**
- The Austrian National Library: **http://www.onb.ac.at/ev/index.ph**p
- IHFF -Institute for Historical Family Research: **http://www.ihff.at/IHFFe.htm** (This is a commercial organization for family history research in Austria.)
- 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/personensuche**
- Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien (Jewish Community of Vienna): **http://www.ikg-wien.at/?lang=en**
- Genteam Austria*:* **http://www.genteam.at**