

# 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 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.

## 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, Nyitranyagyfalu, and Tiszanyagyfalu. 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.
- 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) available at Radix web site: [www.bogardi.com/gen/g104.shtml](http://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**

## 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.
- 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, as well as earlier taxation and property lists. The FHL also has an extensive collection of Austro-Hungarian military records. To identify the relevant films, do a "Place Search" at [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset\\_fhlc.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp), 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](http://www.jgsny.org/microfiche.htm). Additional films are available through our short-term loan program, or at any LDS Family History Center (FHC).

## Records in Austria and Hungary

- Austro-Hungarian military records may be obtained by visiting or writing to the Military Archive in Vienna: Kriegsarchiv, Nottendorfergasse 2-4, A-1030 Wien, telephone 43-1-79540-0, fax 43-1-79540-109. See [www.genealogy.net/gene/reg/AUT/krainf-e.htm](http://www.genealogy.net/gene/reg/AUT/krainf-e.htm).
- 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](http://www.mol.gov.hu), main telephone 36-1-356-5811, information 36-1-356-5811/116, fax 36-1-212-1619.
- 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, 1077 Budapest, Dohany u. 2, [www.bpjewmus.hu/?lang=en](http://www.bpjewmus.hu/?lang=en), telephone 36-1-3428-949, fax 36-1-3421-790.
- 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/Consul/ENG/classical\\_cases/get\\_certificates/Certificates.htm](http://www.huembwas.org/Consul/ENG/classical_cases/get_certificates/Certificates.htm) or contact the Hungarian Consulate (local address: 223 East 52nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10022, telephone 212-752-0661).
- 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 levéltári riportorium, or the National Archives of Hungary web site, [www.mol.gov.hu](http://www.mol.gov.hu).

## 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 /83219**
- Frojimovics, Kinga, et al. *Jewish Budapest: Monuments, Rites, History*. (Cent. Eur. U. Pr., 1999) **YIVO /94937**
- Patai, Raphael. *Apprentice in Budapest: Memories of a World That Is No More*. (U. Utah Pr., 1988) **YIVO /85947**
- Patai, Raphael. *The Jews of Hungary: History, Culture, Psychology*. (Wayne State U. Press, 1996) **YIVO /88703**
- Perlman, Robert. *Bridging Three Worlds: Hungarian-Jewish Americans, 1848-1914*. (U. Massachusetts Press, 1991) **AJHS DS 135 .H9 P47**.
- Schonfeld, Louis. "Hungarian Jewish History." *Magyar Zsido* 2:1, 3-6. **CGI**
- Stessel, Zahava Szasz. *Wine and Thorns in Tokay Valley: Jewish Life in Hungary: the History of Abaujszanto*. (Associated U. Pr., 1995) **YIVO /87587**
- Suleiman, Susan. *Budapest Diary: In Search of the Motherbook*. (U. Nebraska Pr., 1996) **YIVO /92375**

## Genealogical Research

- Eotvos, George. "Resources for Jewish Genealogical Research in Hungary." *Avotaynu* XIII:4, 17-20. **CGI**
- Haraszti, Gyorgy. *Magyar zsidó levéltári reportorium*. [*Directory of Archival Holdings Relating to the History of Jews in Hungary: Hungarian Archives*] (MTA Judaisztikai Kutatócsoport, 1993) **REF Z 6620 .H9 H3 1993**.
- Kempelen, Bela. *Magyarországi zsidó és zsidó eredetű családok*. [*Hungarian Jewish Families*.] (Budapest, 1937-39) **YIVO 3/64661**.
- McCagg, William O. *Jewish Nobles and Geniuses in Modern Hungary*. (Columbia U. Press, 1972) **YIVO 9/76006**
- 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. **REF DS 102.8 Z6**

## Landsmanshaft Collections

- Central Hungarian Sick Benevolent and Literary Society. Records, 1938-1950s. Minutes, financial records, burial and monument permits. **YIVO RG 1153**
- Independent Jokai Lodge. Records, 1929-1937. Originally part of Independent Order Brith Abraham. Minutes, silver jubilee book. **YIVO RG 1117**
- Kossuth Association of New York. Records, 1930-1971. Originally called Kossuth Ferencz Literary Sick and Benevolent Association. Financial records, anniversary journals. **YIVO RG 906**
- Pannonia Lodge No. 185, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Records, 1920-1972. Minutes, financial and membership records, correspondence, and other items. **YIVO RG 869**

## Territorial and Photographic Collections

- Territorial Collection. Assorted materials 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 - Hungary**
- Territorial Photographic Collection. 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" (accessible from [www.yivo.org/library/index.php](http://www.yivo.org/library/index.php)) includes photographs from Budapest, Csongrad, Gyongyos, Sopron, and Szeged. **YIVO RG 120 - Hungary**
- Raphael Abramovitch Collection. 1920s-1930s. Photographs relating 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. Country files and photos of vocational programs, including Hungary. **YIVO RG 380**
- Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage (Frankfurt Am Main). Nazi institute that collected materials on the Jewish question, including photographs from Hungary. **YIVO RG 222**

## Holocaust – Books

- Bar-Shaked, Gavriel. *Nevek Munkaszázadok Veszteségei 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**
- Bar-Shaked, Gavriel. *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**

- 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**
- Braham, Randolph L. Eichmann and the Destruction of Hungarian Jewry. (Twayne, 1961) **YIVO 3/63076**
- Braham, Randolph L. The Holocaust In Hungary: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography: 1984-2000 (Columbia U. Pr., 2001). **REF Z 6374 .H6 B73 2001**
- Braham, Randolph L. The Hungarian Jewish Catastrophe: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography. (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1962) **REF Z 6374 .H6 Y22**
- Braham, Randolph L. The Politics of Genocide: the Holocaust in Hungary. (Columbia U. Pr., 1994) **YIVO /90991**
- Braham, Randolph L. The Politics of Genocide: The Holocaust In Hungary. Condensed Edition. (Wayne State U. Pr., 2000) **YIVO /106553**
- Braham, Randolph L., ed., with Scott Miller. The Nazis' Last Victims: The Holocaust in Hungary. (Wayne State U. Pr., 1998) **YIVO /92888**
- Carmilly, Moshe. The Road to Life: the Rescue Operation of Jewish Refugees on the Hungarian-Romanian Border in Transylvania, 1936-1944. (Shengold, 1994) **YIVO /88667**
- Cesarani, David, ed. Genocide and Rescue: the Holocaust in Hungary 1944. (Berg, 1997) **YIVO /90686**
- Cohen, Asher. The Halutz Resistance in Hungary, 1942-1944. (Columbia U. Pr., 1986) **YIVO /80940**
- Counted Remnant. Register of Survivors in Budapest 1946. 4 volumes. **YIVO 3/22766**
- Deaglio, Enrico. The Banality of Goodness: the Story of Giorgio Perlasca. (U. Notre Dame Pr., 1998). **YIVO /107283**
- The Destruction of *Hungarian Jewry: A Documentary Account*. (Pro Arte, 1963) **YIVO 3/66170**

**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, Satoraljaujhely, Szekesfehervar, Ujpest (Budapest), Vas Megye, Zemplen Megye.

### **Holocaust – Archives**

- Eyewitness Accounts of the Holocaust Period. Accounts relating 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 relating 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](http://www.jewishgen.org/Hungary)**
- Hungarian National Archives: **[www.mol.gov.hu](http://www.mol.gov.hu)**
- Hungarian Jewish Homepage: **[www.interdnet.hu/zsido/english](http://www.interdnet.hu/zsido/english)**
- HungaryGenWeb: **[www.rootsweb.com/~wghungar/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wghungar/)**
- Interactive Hungarian Road Map: **<http://lazarus.elte.hu/moterkep/indul.htm>**
- Jewish Cemeteries in Hungary: (photos) **[www.geocities.com/winter\\_peter\\_4/cemeteries.html](http://www.geocities.com/winter_peter_4/cemeteries.html)**
- Jewish Hungary: **[www.haruth.com/jw/JewsHungary.html](http://www.haruth.com/jw/JewsHungary.html)**
- Memorial Museum of Hungarian-Speaking Jewry (Safed, Israel): **[www.hjm.org.il/](http://www.hjm.org.il/)**

- Radix - Genealogy Research in Hungary: [www.bogardi.com/gen/index.shtml](http://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/trianon.html>
- Translation Guide for Vital Records: [www.bmi.net/jjaso/index.html](http://www.bmi.net/jjaso/index.html)