



History

East European countries (Multilingual Thesaurus, EU)

Created after WWI – the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Another split in the 1990s.

Slavic people – Slavs, Sláva – Glory, Slovan – Slav, Slovo - Word

Study History

Magyars (Hungarians) - from the 10th c. (Kingdom of Hungary)

Habsburg Monarchy (1526 - 1918)

Austro-Hungarian Empire (Dual Monarchy) 1867 – 1918

Many of these countries - under Austro-Hungarian rule..

Emigration

Mass emigration (1880 – 1920) - primarily economic reasons

Ship and railroad agents, agents of US companies travelled countries

Birds of Passage (to earn money to buy land back home)

Four Things to Know (before exploring foreign records)

1. Name of the ancestor (original name)
2. Place of origin in Europe - **key point**
3. Vital data (birth) - to find a birth record
4. Religion of the immigrant ancestor

I. Name Change

In many cases, emigrants changed their names - would be pronounced the same way (*Iveta -Yvetta*)

- shortened or simplified hard to pronounce names
- anglicized names, to blend in quickly
- the name phonetically recorded in census (as heard)
- incorrectly transcribed by indexers
- female version may be different (a, ova, in)

Interesting website <http://www.behindthename.com/>

2. Learn the Place Name

Records kept locally (find the state, region, district, and village).

Best sources – church and civil vital records

1. *Church records* - kept by the local parish, later moved to the civil registry office in a town
2. *Civil Vital Records* – created by the local civil registry office, called Matrika, Metryka, .. (usually in a Town Hall), later preserved at the city or regional archives

2.1. How to Find the Place

Locate all descendants of the immigrant ancestor (photos, naturalization papers, etc.)
Ideas: Ethnic church, ethnic insurance company, fraternal organization, census, passenger list, naturalization, military records, genealogy societies, Canadian records
Research neighbors, friends, and associates – they joined relatives and friends who spoke the same language.

2. 2. Census Research

Read all columns (birthplace of parents, naturalization year in 1920, mother tongue)
Census 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 - immigration year
Census - the state as a place of origin – for former Galicia it can be Poland (1920), Russia (1910), or Austria

2. 3. Passenger Lists

Who travelled with your ancestor (research that person, too..)
Ancestry.com (LE), Ellisland.org, Hamburg Passenger List
Filby books collection
Bremer-PassagierListen.de (from Bremen)
Former Galicia (known as Austrian Poland) - HalGal.com/passengerlists.html

2. 4. Search for Naturalization Record

Application to be naturalized - place of origin
Fold 3, Ancestry, Courthouses and Archives
From Sept. 1906 – order record at USCIS.GOV/genealogy

2. 5. Gen. Societies & more..

Societies - list of immigrants coming to their region
Obituaries, County histories, Archives, Libraries, Message boards, Social Media,
University Projects - [UNL.edu/CzechHeritage/Margie Sobotka](http://UNL.edu/CzechHeritage/MargieSobotka)

<https://www.unl.edu/czechheritage/Nebraska,%20Kansas%20Czech%20Settlers%201891-1895/Nebraska/Custer%20p115a-117.pdf>

Locate Place on the Map

Gazetteers - Genealogy.net, GenTeam.au

Geni.sk - Hungarian names for Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia

Wikipedia (district & region the village belongs to..)

Make notes of neighboring places - records - where they attended a church; city and reg. archives

You learned the place.. find records at the FHL or local Archives

Generally for East European research:

Family History Library (FHL) - <https://familysearch.org/>

FHL – Wiki, Catalog, Browse All Publication

Archives in each country - For addresses and writing:

FamilySearch.org - *Wiki link, Archives*, then type 'Letter Writing Guide', etc.

Archives in Europe Online: Czech Republic, Austria, Poland - Archives online

Other countries – Access records through FHL

For Military records – consult State Archives (before 1865 War Archive in Vienna)

Request of vital records - *International Vital Records Handbook*, 7th Edition, 2017, by T.J. Kemp.

Archives in the Czech Republic

Moravia (Morava)	ActaPublica.eu
S Bohemia	Digi.CeskeArchivy.cz
W Bohemia	PortaFontium.cz
Prague Archives	AHMP.cz
Prague Reg.Archives	Ebadatelna.SOAPraha.cz
NW part of Bohemia	SOALitomerice.cz
E Bohemia	VychodoceskeArchivy.cz
N Moravia	Digi.Archives.cz

Nat. Archives (links to all Archives) - <https://portal.nacr.cz/cro/>

Poland – Archives - <https://archiwa.gov.pl/pl/>

Search in the Archives - SzukajWAarchiwach.pl

Poland, Ukraine & Russian Archives:

AGAD.GOV.PL – Metryki (also Podolie, Lwow and Wolyn - now in Ukraine)

PolishRoots.com - for Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus

Ukrainian Archives <https://archives.gov.ua/ua/>

Ukraine Pra.In.ua/en (1650-1920)

Russian Archives Eastview.com

Russian websites: <https://vgd.ru/>; <https://geno.ru/>, Pamyat-Naroda.ru

<https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/> (also Ukraine),

Note: Latvian emigrants listed as Russians, Germans or Lithuanians

Slovakia and Croatia - Online – FHL - Church books – online at FHL [Family History Library](http://FamilyHistoryLibrary)

Slovakia - Cisarik.com

For Slovakia, Hungary, Carpatho-Rus, former Galicia - Bill Tarkulich's website - labsi.com

Hungary - Former Territories, Austria

Matricula Online Data.Matricula-Online.eu

Hungarian 1828 Land Census, 1869 Census (FHL Wiki)

Hungaricana.hu (Urbarium 1747)

Central Hungarian Archives <https://mnl.gov.hu/angol>

For military - Austro-Hungarian-Army.co.uk

GenTeam.at (gazetteer)

Austria – Passport Applications (filmed, FHL)

Vienna Police Registration Cards, 1850-1928 (FHL)

German Colonies (East. Europe & Russia)

AHSGR.org, HFDR.de, GRHS.org

Colonies Glueckstal.net, BukovinaSociety.org

VolgaGermanResearch, WolgaDeutsche.net GRHC Library

BlackSeaGr.org Odessa3.org (Digital Library)
SGGEE.org - vital records online

Other Helpful Links & Findings..

FEEFHS.org

JewishGen.org JewishGen.org

Canadian Society EEGSociety.org

Cyndi's list <https://cyndislist.com/>

Newspapers, C & E Europe, online Difmoe.eu

Search the web (local Archives - their holdings)

Genealogy groups on social media

Does community have a website? (history, chronicle)

Translation Help online:

Records in German, Hungarian, Latin, Russian, Polish, etc., Orthodox church in Cyrillic.

Translate.Google.com, Dict.Leo.org, Babelfish.com

SteveMorse.org

<https://zofiafederowicz.com/aktametrykalne/>

FamilySearch.org - Wiki, type the keywords such as 'German words' or 'Polish letter writing guide'

Translation Guides at MGC:

The German – English Genealogical Dictionary, by E. Thode

Translation Guide.. (19th Cent. Polish Doc.), by J. R. Frazin

Following the Paper Trail..(multilingual), by J. D. Shea

In Their Words.. (Polish, German, Latin & Russian), J. Shea

Handy Guide to Hungarian Gen. Records, by J. H. Suess

Central European Genealogical Terminology, by J. H. Suess

MYMCPL.org, Catalog:

Finding Your Ancestral Village in the Former A-H Empire.., by J. Hudick and Lisa A. Alzo

Gazetteer Deutsch-Fremdsprachiges Ortsnamenverzeichnis, Gen. Gazetteer of the Kingdom of

Hungary, by J. Auslander, The Emigration from Germany to Russia.., by Dr. K. Stumpp

Periodicals at MGC - Avotaynu: The Int. Review of Jewish Genealogy, East European Genealogist, Family Tree Magazine, Heimatbrief (German-Bohemian Heritage Society), Journal of the AHSGR, Koreny (Roots) – CSAGSI, Linden Tree (Slovenian), Lithuanian Heritage, Naše Rodina (Our Family), CGSI, MN, Polish Eaglet, Polish Footprints, Rodziny, Romanian Roots, Slovakia

Wishing you success in your East European Research!