

# Questions to Ask

- Who is the gateway ancestor?
- Where did he/she live?
- What was it called then?
- Where is it now?
- What type of records would there be for that period and how were they kept?
- Were your ancestors Jewish, Polish & moved?
- If one record source was burned, where is another copy?

# Austro-Hungarian Empire (1772-1918)

## Impact

- Austria
- Bohemia
- Bukovina
- Galicia
- Hungary
- Moravia

Some larger town and city names changed to German -  
e.g. Lviv = Lemberg

Record keeping from 1714-  
1774 was according to  
Church of Rome

# Record Keeping 1774-1918

February 20, 1784 - Emperor Joseph II decreed

- Catholic church only to keep all vital records
- Dates must be birth, death
- Latin to be used on records
- 3 separate registers: marriage, birth, death

# Religious Records

- 3 Catholic rites = Roman, Greek and Armenian mandated to keep all vital records for all people
- Record duties changed from religious to secular - birth rather than baptism
- Protestant and Jewish congregations kept records but not regarded as official
- 1849 - Protestant records given official status
- 1868 July - Jewish records given official status

# Record Practices

- Records to be columnar in nature = standard format
- 1825 name of midwife added to birth record
- Severe penalties for misinformation, false information or loss of record books

# Tome & Page Practices

- March 1830 decree - all books to be given tome (volume) # and each record assigned page # (if more than 1 page for single record - number of pages to be given on first page of record)
- All pages to be stamped and “sealed”

# Later Practices

- Circa 1850 - allowed Ukrainian parishes to keep records in their language in addition
- Information to be cross-checked with parish census records (started in 19<sup>th</sup> century)
- Register of secular events in parish of residence regardless of faith
- When followed by religious ceremony in parish of faith - record to be sent to parish of residence

# Illegitimate Births

- Father's name not to be entered unless father himself wanted to have his name entered and was willing to swear to his paternity
- Even then the midwife and priest were called upon to sign that the father was well-known to them and was believed to be the rightful father

# Military Vitals

- Military duty was usually 2 years and service records were to be sent to Vienna
- For vital records of military families, if local unit 1000 or larger, records to be kept by priest assigned to the military unit

# Duplication of Records

- Churches to keep 2 sets of records
- Send 1 set to Imperial Chancery each Feb. for previous year
- In Galicia 2<sup>nd</sup> set to be sent to Deanery
- - 1836 only applied to births and marriages
- 1836 + applied to deaths as well

# German Empire

- East Prussia
- Posen
- Silesia
- West Prussia

Records  
dealt with  
under  
German  
section

# Russian Empire

- Bessarabia
- Congress Poland
- Ekaterinoslav
- Grodno
- Kherson
- Kiev
- Volhynia
- Romania

# Russian Empire Records

- Czarist Russian Empire (pre-1917) - Vital records maintained by churches
- 1835 record-keeping for Jews mandated in columnar form - dual language - Russian/Jewish

# Russian Empire Census

- Ten censuses ("*revizskie skazki*" = "Revision Lists") 5<sup>th</sup> in 1795 and 10<sup>th</sup> in 1857-60
- All-Empire census in 1897
- Not all survived
- Those that did held by various regional archives, organized by community, social class and then by address
- Not indexed

# Ukrainian Areas

- East Galicia (Poland)
- West Galicia (Ukraine)
- Volhynia
- Bukovina

# EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## Surname / Ancestral Village Search

- <http://www.eegsociety.org/main.asp>
- For Extra information on the Surnames and Villages Search the Database
- Surnames  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

# Austria - Österreich

- 8 FHC in Austria
- Archives divided by region:
  - Niederösterreich = Lower
  - Oberösterreich = Upper
  - Steiermark, Salzburg, Tirol, Linz, Karnten, Vienna,
- Main repositories:
  - Churches, Society, General Archives, Military Archives, Court records

# My Research On Site

- Many marriages not in local parish - went to special churches of significance
- Bride went to groom's parish
- Many churches per village, most Catholic
- Huge volumes - handwritten, not indexed
- Nazi induced genealogy

# Belarus

- Formed from former Russian Empire gubernias of Minsk, Mogilev, southern Vitebsk, SE Vilna, and E Grodno
- Western portions (Grodno, Vilna, western Minsk) in Poland 1919-1939
- Record-keeping - see Russian Empire
- Archives - 55, Kropotkina str., Minsk, 220002, BELARUS

# Bulgaria

- Orthodox parishes records to 1800
- Civil registration began 1893
- FHL films for Sofia, Panagurska and Pazardijk districts from 1893 to 1910 (some to 1912)
- Archives: Centralen Darzaven Arhiv; ul. Slavjanka; Sofia; BULGARIA

# Croatia

- Province of Hungary until WWI
- Part of Yugoslavia 1918-1991
- Independent 1991
- FHL microfilm covers parish registers
- Catholic, Orthodox, Greek Catholic
- From late 1500s to 1940s
- Civil registration began 1946

# Czech Republic

- Formerly Czechoslovakia
- In Austria-Hungary = Bohemia and Moravia
- Earliest Catholic matriky late 1500s
- Most priests didn't comply until 1600s
- From 1620 - 1781 Austria allowed only Catholic registrations for all
- Czechoslovakia started civil registration for non-churchgoers in 1918,
- State controlled vital records start 1950

# Czech Republic cont.

- Archives - Statni Ustredni Archiv v. Praze; Malastrana, Karmelitska 2; 118 01 Praha 1; CZECH REPUBLIC. Tel. 531 551
- *A Handbook of Czechoslovak Genealogical Research*, by Daniel M. Schlyter. (GenUn, 1985, 1990). 131 pages

# Estonia

- Independent in 1918
- Formed from Estland gubernia and northern Livonia gubernia of Russian Empire
- Republic of U.S.S.R. 1940-1989
- Independent 1989
- LDS has microfilmed all Jewish records

# Estonian Archives

- Before 1917 - Eesti Riiklik Ajaloo Keskarchiv (Estonian State Historical Archives); J. Liivi 4; 202400 Tartu; ESTONIA
- After 1917 - Eesti Riigiarhiiv (Estonian State Archives); Maneezhi 4; 15019 Tallinn; ESTONIA

# Germany - Part of EE?

- Part of Europe & East Europe
- Importance in EE due to Prussian Empire
- Emigration - many seeking religious freedom
- Border changes
- Acquisition & loss of territories

# Germany

- Before 1871 was jumble of duchies, kingdoms, principalities & states etc.
- History closely linked to Frankish Empire - Neustria & Austrasia
- 1871 united as German Empire under Prussia
- Austrian-Hungarian empire remained separate

# Germany - Post WWI

- Parts separated into or joined France, Belgium, Denmark
- Posen and parts of Silesia and West Prussia ceded to Poland
- Northern tip of East Prussia (Memel) goes to Lithuania

# Germany - Post WWII

- East Prussia divided between Poland and Russia
- Most of Pommerania, West Prussia and Silesia go to Poland
- Records vary by area, state and era
- Inconsistent until 1876

# German Archives

- Major library - Staatsbibliothek (Unter den Linden 8; Postfach 1312; O-1086 Berlin)
- Vital stats for over 400 communities - Zentralstelle für Genealogie (Georgi-Demitroff-Platz 1; O-7010, Leipzig)
- Bundesarchiv (Berliner Strasse 98-101; O-1561 Potsdam)
- Leo Baeck Institute (129 East 73rd St.; New York, NY 10021)

Website: <http://www.lbi.com>

# Hungary

- 1867 to WWI Part of Austro-Hungarian Empire
- 1918 separated but larger than today
- Some former areas now in Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, and Austria
- National Archives: Magyar Országos Levéltár; Bécsi kapu tér 2-4; 1014 Budapest; HUNGARY. Tel. 00361 356 58 11

# Hungary

- Civil registration from 1700s-1895
- Baptisms (*keresztelo*)
- Marriages (*házasság*)
- Burials (*temetés*)
- LDS films cover these registers (*anyakönyv*)
- Some registers include Romania and Yugoslavia