A Research Log to Start Research

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A research log is vital to effective genealogical work, especially when dealing with brick walls. Whenever one returns to revisit their prior work, it's essential to maintain a record of the sources one has already searched, to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. Furthermore, the process of creating and updating the log forces the genealogist to review their sources, and this scrutiny establishes a disciplined mindset and often triggers new ideas for additional sources.

Importantly, another genealogist can help you more effectively when they can see a list of the places you've already searched. The below example was a brick wall case where I had become discouraged about the prospect of ever finding any further information. However, after learning how to construct a research log, JewishGen's team of experts guided me towards a solution. In the end, we discovered far more about my ancestor than I ever thought possible.

Introduction
Berta BRÜLL was my great-grandmother (father's father's mother). She was born 8 Mar 1873 in Kysucké Nové Mesto, Zilina, Slovakia, according to her marriage record, but I've been unable to find her birth record. She married Salamon Samuel SPITZER on 24 Oct 1897 in Budapest, where they had three children. Berta died on 17 Dec 1919 in Budapest.

Berta's marriage record gives her parents as Jakab BRÜLL (deceased) and Jozefin POLLÓK. Her death record says Jozsef BRÜLL and Jozefa POLLÁK (both deceased). I have a death record for one Jakab BRÜLL in Budapest on 29 Jan 1893 but can't prove it is the same person (age 48 suggests birthdate about 1845 in Varín, Zilina, Slovakia). No success finding birth or marriage for Jakab or any records for Jozefin. Search in Zilina area for possible siblings yielded three possible half-siblings (mother's name different; index results only, actual records only on microfilm, awaiting response to FamilySearch Library Lookup request).

Goal
To understand the life of Berta BRÜLL and conclusively identify her birthplace and parents.

Objectives
1. Find the birth record for Berta;
2. Determine if the above Jakab is "my" Jakab;
3. Find other vital documents for Jakab/Jozsef and Jozefin/Jozefa.

Ourline Descendant Tree

(pggggf) Mozes BRÜLL, b. 1808 in Liptovsky Mikuláš, Žilina, Slovakia; d. 8 Aug 1888 in Varín, Žilina, Slovakia.

m. ?? in ?? to

(pggggm) Jozefa ??, b. 1804 in Liptovsky Mikuláš, Žilina, Slovakia; d. 6 May 1890 in Varín, Žilina, Slovakia.

(pgggf) Jakab BRÜLL, b. 1844 in Varín, Žilina, Slovakia; d. 29 Jan 1893 in Budapest, Hungary.

m. (1) ?? in ?? to

(pgggm) Jozefin POLLÓK, b. 1846; d. 25 Feb 1876 in Kysucké Nové Mesto, Žilina, Slovakia.

m. (2) 5 Jun 1876 to

Regine LÖWY, b. 8 Nov 1851 in Bratislava, Slovakia; d. 12 Jun 1928 in Budapest, Hungary.

(pggga) Mali BRÜLL, b. 1842 in Varín, Žilina, Slovakia; d. ??

(pggm) Berta BRÜLL, b. 8 Mar 1873 in Kysucké Nové Mesto, Žilina, Slovakia; d. 17 Dec 1919 in Budapest, Hungary; bur. 1919 in Kozma St. Jewish Cemetery, Budapest, Hungary.

m. 24 Oct 1897 in Budapest, Hungary to

(pggf) Salamon Samuel SPITZER, b. 9 Feb 1870 in Batrad, Mezokaszony, Ukraine; d. 1 Jan 1941 in Budapest, Hungary; bur. 1941 in Kozma St. Jewish Cemetery, Budapest, Hungary.

Search Log for Berta Brüll in Area of Kysucké Nové Mesto, Žilina, Slovakia
Searched on 22 Sep 2021

	Site	Searched For	Result	Notes
1	**Jewish Communities Database** https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp	Kysucke Nove Mesto in Slovakia	Not found	
2	**Jewish Communities Database** https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp	Zilina in Slovakia	Found (1 hit)	Zilina Locality Page (see #3)
3	**Zilina JewishGen Locality Page** https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Community.php?usbgn=-847521	Links to pursue	Found (10 links)	JGFF for Zilina (see #4) JOWBR for cemetery in Zilina (see #5) (6) Towns w/i 13m of Zilina (see #6a-6f) +1 Town w/I 13m of Kysucke NM (6g) +1 Town w/I 13m of Varin (see 6h)

4	**JGFF for Zilina** https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffform.php?feature=-847521	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Brull – NF Pollok (3 hits) Spitzer - NF	Sent note to Gary Binetter (POLLAK) - Negative reply Sent note to Daniel Gerald Haas (POLLAK) Sent note to Alexander E. Roth (POLLACK)
5	**JOWBR for cemetery in Zilina** https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/jowbrshow.php?id=SLOV-07551 Linked site with list of graves http://norwitz.net/blog/2017/10/01/zilina-plot/	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Brull (NF) Pollak (8 hits) Spitzer (15 hits)	Frustratingly, only names of deceased. No dates or other info. No way to tell if these are relatives. Sent note to Cyndi Norwitz re. mention of Bytca records on her site.
6a	**Kotesova JewishGen Locality Page** https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Community.php?usbgn=-843287	Links to pursue	Found (1 link)	JGFF for Kotesova (see #6a1)
6a1	**JGFF for Kotesova** https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffform.php?feature=-843287	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Brull (NF) Pollak (1 hit) Spitzer (1 hit)	Sent 2nd note to Cyndi Norwitz (POLLAK). Deferred action on Spitzer hit.
6b	**Hlinik nad Vahom JewishGen Locality Page**	Links to pursue	Found (1 link)	JGFF for Hlinik nad Vahom (see #6b1)
6b1	**JGFF for Hlinik nad Vahom** https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffform.php?feature=-842251	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Not found	
6c	**Varin JewishGen Locality Page**	Links to pursue	Found (1 link)	JGFF for Varin (see #6c1)
c	**JGFF for Varin** https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffform.php?feature=-846829	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Brull (NF) Pollak (1 hit) Spitzer (NF)	Sent note to Sandra Preis Pakin (POLLAK)
6d	**Bytca JewishGen Locality Page**	Links to pursue	Found (2 links)	JGFF for Bytca (see #6d1) Yizkor book for Bytca (see #6d2)
6d1	**JGFF for Bytca**	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Not found	

	https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffform.php?feature=-841178			
6d2	**Yizkor book for Bytca** http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/bytca/bytca.html" rel="nofollow - http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/bytca/bytca.html	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Brull (NF) Pollak (4 hits) Spitzer (1 hit)	No action. Not enough information to determine whether these are relatives.
6e	**JewishGen Locality Page** for Rajec	Links to pursue		JGFF for Rajec (see #6e1) JOWBR for cemetery in Rajec (see #6e2)
6e1	**JGFF for Rajec** https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffform.php?feature=-845384	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Brull (NF) Pollak (2 hits) Spitzer (NF)	Sent note to Alexander Spencer (POLLAK) No note to Daniel Gerald Haas (duplicate)
6e2	**JOWBR for cemetery in Rajec** https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/jowbrshow.php?id=SLOV-04226	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Brull (NF) Pollak (15 hits) Spitzer (3 hits)	Possible Pollak and Spitzer relatives here. Needs further research.
6f	**Stara Bystrica JewishGen Locality Page**	Links to pursue	Found (1 link)	JGFF for Stara Bystrica (see #6f1)
6f1	**JGFF for Stara Bystrica** https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffform.php?feature=-846081	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Brull (NF) Pollak (NF) Spitzer (1 hit)	Deferred action.
6g	**Cadca JewishGen Locality Page**	Links to pursue	Found (1 link)	JGFF for Cadca (see #6g1)
6g1	**JGFF for Cadca** https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffform.php?feature=-841199	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Not found	
6h	**Martin JewishGen Locality Page**	Links to pursue	Found (1 link)	JGFF for Martin (see #6h1)
6h1	**JGFF for Martin** https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffform.php?feature=-844113	Brull, Pollok, Spitzer	Not found	

	Site (Location)	Searched For	Result	Notes
	Google www.google.com	"Jewish Records Slovakia"	7.92M hits	Top hits shown below
1	**Encyclopaedia of Jewish Communities, Slovakia** https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinkas_slovakia/pinkas_slovakia.html" rel="nofollow - https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinkas_slovakia/pinkas_slovakia.html (Online)	Zilina Kotesova Hlinic nad Vahom Varin Bytca Rajec Stara Bystrica Cadca Martin Gbely Holic Secovce	Found (not online) Found (not online) Found (not online) Found (not online) Not found Found (not online) Found (not online) Found (not online) Found (not online) Found (online) Found (online) Found (online)	Original book is in Hebrew. Searched for other copies (see #1a). Saved copies of Gbely, Holic, and Secovce pages (online here, in English) for use with other branches of family (believed not relevant for Brull branch).
1a	**Google** http://www.google.com/" rel="nofollow - www.google.com (Online)	"Pinkas ha-kehilot Encyclopaedia of Jewish	2,990 hits, including: USHMM YIVO	WorldCat shows closest copy is at USHMM. Did not find a copy currently for sale online.

		Communities Slovakia"	WorldCat	Followed link to USHMM (see #1a1)
1a1	**USHMM** https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/bib98686" rel="nofollow - https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/bib98686 (Online and archives)	Details on above book	Onsite visit required	Noted for future visit to USHMM archives in Washington D.C.
2	**Family Search – Slovakia Jewish Records Wiki Page** https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Slovakia_Jewish_Records" rel="nofollow - https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Slovakia_Jewish_Records (Online and archives) (previously reviewed; reviewed it again,documented)	Links to pursue	History of Jews in Slov. Slovak Jewish Hertg Ctr YIVO Ency. Jews E. Eur. JGFF Slovakia 1869 Census Slovakia Ch/Syn. Books Hungarian SIG Jewish Family Research In Slovakia (indirect) Center for Jewish Hist. Slovak Jewish Heritage JG Communities DB	Reviewed page (Wikipedia) Reviewed page Reviewed page (previously reviewed; background) Previously reviewed See #2a See #3 Reviewed page See #2b See #2c See #2d Previously reviewed See #2e

			JewishGen Gazeteer	
2a	**Family Search - Slovakia 1869 Census (Online)** https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99K-Q4SM?owc=waypoints" rel="nofollow - https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G99K-Q4SM?owc=waypoints &wc=QZ77-B17%3A323641301%2C323641302&cc=1986782	[above 9 town names]	NF	Trencsen is the 1869 county; only two municipalities have records; neither contains relevant records. Do other municipalities exist at local archives?
2b	**JewishGen – Jewish Family Research in Slovakia** by Vivian Kahn and Jan Hlavinka https://www.jewishgen.org/hungary/slovak%20resources%20guide%20rev.pdf" rel="nofollow - https://www.jewishgen.org/hungary/slovak%20resources%20guide%20rev.pdf (Online document)	Links to pursue	Slovak National Archives	Recorded link (at left), which has address and email for Slovak National Archives, for possible future email inquiries. (Address and email also provided by Family Search Slovakia Wiki, above).
2c	**Center for Jewish History** https://search.cjh.org/primo-explore/search?vid=beta&lang=en_US" rel="nofollow - https://search.cjh.org/primo-explore/search?vid=beta&lang=en_US (Online and archives)	Brull, Pollak	Not found	Many hits, esp. for Pollak, but none on the first page were relevant. Need a lot more time to search comprehensively. (Note: Previously found papers of George Ascher, my pgm's 1C)

2d	**Slovak Jewish Heritage Site (Online)** http://www.slovak-jewish-heritage.org/fileadmin/www_files/images/Slovak_Jewish_Heritage_Route.pdf" rel="nofollow - http://www.slovak-jewish-heritage.org/fileadmin/www_files/images/Slovak_Jewish_Heritage_Route.pdf	Background	Inconclusive	Background info such as locations of cemeteries and synagogues, with many photos; relevance TBD.
2e	**JewishGen Gazeteer (Online)** https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp" rel="nofollow - https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp	Additional towns	None found, beyond 9 towns already listed	182 place names within 10 miles of Kysucke Nove Mesto, but only 5 qualify as Towns (none new).
3	**Family Search – Slovakia Church & Synagogue Books** https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1554443" rel="nofollow - https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1554443 (Online and archives)	Browse>Jewish> [above 9 town names]	1 hit, for Zilina>Rajec>Births	Page images to search (see #3a)
3a	**Family Search** https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRQV-SHZ9?wc=9P3G-W" rel="nofollow - https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRQV-SHZ9?wc=9P3G-W 3F%3A107654001%2C114337401%2C114337402%2C114337403&cc=1554443 (Online and archives)	Brull Pollak Spitzer	2 hits: Pollak Spitzer	Item #5 (pages 3-17) is written in Hebrew; unable to read. Noted for future follow up. Item #6 contains birth records for one Ignatz Pollak, wife Hani Gelb, and children Jakob, Rosi, Simon. (p. 21) No Jozefin or Jozefa. Also, one Jakob Spitzer and family (p. 26);

					appears to be unrelated to me.
4	**JewishGen – Slovak Archival Records Project (Online)** https://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/projectdesc/DB_Slovak.html" rel="nofollow - https://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/projectdesc/DB_Slovak.html	Background	Project description	Reviewed page
5	**Jewish Family Search – Vital Records of Jews in Slovakia (Online)** http://jewishfamilysearch.com/vital-records-jews-slovakia/" rel="nofollow - http://jewishfamilysearch.com/vital-records-jews-slovakia/	Searched map for additional towns	None found	All towns in area are already on list of 9 towns.

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pgga) Lina BRÜLL, b. 18 Jul 1879 in Bratislava, Slovakia; d. ?? in ??

(pggu) Nátán BRÜLL, b. 3 Mar 1884 in Budapest, Hungary; d. 30 May 1884 in Budapest, Hungary.

(pgga) Sara BRÜLL, b. 10 May 1885 in Budapest, Hungary; d. 1921 in Budapest, Hungary.

(pgga) Josefa BRÜLL, b. 26 Dec 1886 in Budapest, Hungary; d. 1 Jul 1924 in Budapest, Hungary.

(pgga) Amalia BRÜLL, b. 9 Mar 1888 in Budapest, Hungary; d. 4 Jul 1889 in Budapest, Hungary.

(pgga) Róza BRÜLL, b. 16 Oct 1889 in Budapest, Hungary; d. 23 Nov 1889 in Budapest, Hungary.

(pggu) Mózes Mór BRÜLL, b. 30 Nov 1890 in Budapest, Hungary; d. 23 Feb 1895 in Budapest, Hungary.

(pgga) Janka Yentel BRÜLL, b. 2 Jul 1893 in Budapest, Hungary; d. ?? in ??