

Supplement:

“Má vlast and my Czech Genealogy”

**Australian Jewish Genealogy Society,
Second National Conference,
Melbourne,
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Disclaimer by the author:

I have tried to check all the material for accuracy but I cannot be totally sure that some facts may not have changed since I prepared the document. If you find a mistake please let me know so I can correct it. Any new sources will be gratefully accepted. I do not claim this to be a complete list.

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1. Annotated Bibliography

This is a selection of books and journal articles.

Aly, Götz. *Hitler's beneficiaries*. Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2007.

Argues that Hitler bought German compliance by his grand theft of the plunder of conquered territory and Jewish industry property and fortunes. The German were given handouts, tax breaks and food packages and so enjoyed an increase in their standard of living while citizens of occupied lands suffered. Page 41 ff mentions appointment of Wilhelm Keppler as Reich Commissioner for Austrian Affairs. He was Hitler's personal economic adviser. His job was to ayanise Jewish owned businesses.

Bartrop, Paul. *Australia and the Holocaust 1933-45*. Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 1994.

Author was a lecturer in race relations at Uni SA and the book gives details of the development of refugee policy in Australia, attitudes to Jewish immigration and anti Semitism. This was a rewrite of Bartrop's PhD thesis at Monash in 1988. He argues that Australia was anti refugee.

Bruell, Claire. "Moravia revisited". In *AVOTAYNU*, Vol 20, No. 4, p11, 2004.

Claire and her husband Peter and a friend were taken around Moravia by Jaroslav Klenovsky to their ancestral towns which include Olomouc. This is a report on their trip.

Bruell, Claire. "International Institute of Jewish genealogy holds symposium in Jerusalem". *AVOTAYNU*, 2006.

Claire's report of a two day symposium in September at the Hebrew university in Jerusalem with speakers Gary Mokotoff and Sally Anne Sack.

Bruell, Claire. "Valasske Mezirici", *AVOTAYNU*, Vol 22, 2006.

One of Claire's ancestral towns.

Crump, Pauline. "The British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia, October 1938 - July 1939. The organisation of attempts to rescue refugees in Czechoslovakia endangered as a result of the Munich Agreement". Dissertation submitted for the M.A. degree, Department of History, University of Sheffield, January 1992 and revised in 2006.

Pauline's father was a political refugee from Vienna and Prague though he was also Jewish. She is a SIG member.

De Silva Cara. *In memory's kitchen. A legacy from the women of Terezin*. Jason Aronson, NJ, 1996.

Recipes remembered and a memoir of the ghetto. An act of defiance to remember recipes when the women were starving in the harsh conditions of the camp, a way station to Auschwitz and other death camps. The hand sewn manuscript miraculously survived though many of its authors perished.

Delson, J. K. "When Jews could not marry: forbidden marriages in 18th and 19th century Bohemia." In *AVOTAYNU*, Vol. 25, No. 1, Spring 2009, p. 29.

In 1726 the Familianten laws were promulgated by the Emperor Charles IV. Its avowed purpose was to limit the Jewish population in Bohemia. It meant that only first born sons could marry and only then after the death of their father. So some Jewish families didn't marry in a civil sense only in a religious ceremony causing many children to be born as illegitimate in the eyes of the State. This led to the use of their mother's family name and a lot of confusion for genealogy researchers in years to come.

Demetz, Peter. *Prague in black and gold. The history of a city*. Penguin, London, 1997.

Index has large number of references to Jews. Demetz's grandfather was Jewish and so he is interested in the Jewish question. He is a historian and so his book is an account of more than a thousand years of Czech history.

Demetz, Peter. *Prague in Danger.* Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 2008.

The subtitle says it all: "The years of German Occupation, 1939-1945: Memories and history, terror and resistance, theatre and jazz, film and poetry, politics and war". He was a boy in Prague in 1939 and an official "half-Jew" so somewhat protected. He is a Professor Emeritus of Germanic language and literature at Yale.

Ebelová, I. *Soupis zidovských rodin v Cechach z roku 1793.* Seven volumes of the 1793 Census of Bohemian Jews. National Archives, Prague, 2002-6.

Available for purchase at the Czech National Archives or for viewing at archives and libraries in USA, England. Extremely valuable resource with 80 pages of locations listed and the index of names occupies 140 pages.

Epstein, Helen. *Where she came from. A daughter's search for her mother's history.* Little Brown, NY, 1997.

Helen Epstein is the author of an important book "*Children of the Holocaust*" about second generation survivors. She turned her gaze to her own family after she had been working on her first book and as a journalist in New York. Her mother worked in haute couture in Prague with her grandmother and was the sole survivor of her family. Epstein has since moved to Harvard University. She is a SIG member.

Faber, David. *Munich.* Simon & Schuster, New York, 2009

Story of the 1938 Anschluss told by a British historian who has done his research in Foreign Office and Cabinet papers, memoirs and archives. Brilliantly written. He deals with all the players in the lead up to the invasions of Austria in 1938 and Czechoslovakia in 1939. Includes details of conflicts amongst top Nazi leadership with the army and also details conflicts in Britain between Chamberlain and other Cabinet members like Anthony Eden, Duff Cooper and Churchill over their appeasement strategies.

Fiedler Jiri. *Jewish sights of Bohemia and Moravia, guide book,* Sefer, Prague, 1991. With article by Arno Pařík on the history of the Jewish Communities of Bohemia and Moravia.

The guide also includes an article explaining ghettos synagogues and cemeteries. Fiedler says he wanted to show the most significant and best preserved historical monuments which have survived the extinction or decimation of Jewish religious communities in the Czech Republic. He gives Czech and former German names for towns. There are more than 130 towns listed and many smaller satellite villages are also included.

Gilbert, Martin. *Kristallnacht. Prelude to destruction.* Harper Perennial, London, 2006.

Chapter 3 is especially pertinent: eye witness accounts in Vienna 1938 and good section on Czechoslovakia.

Gilbert, Martin. *Atlas of the Holocaust.* Pergamon Press Steimatzky. London 1988.

Gilbert shows in maps the routes taken by each transport with numbers on each transport and the notes of their fate.

Goldfarb, Michael. *Emancipation.* Scribe, Melbourne, 2009.

How liberating Europe's Jews from the ghetto led to revolution and renaissance. Goldfarb says that the Hilsner trial led to many Jews leaving towns where the peasants would always hate them for the big cities like Prague and Vienna. He writes about Mahler a German speaking Jew who came from a small town on the border with Austria. He was forced to convert to be eligible to conduct the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

Gottlieb, Amy Zahl. *Men of Vision. Anglo-Jewry's aid to victims of the Nazi regime 1933-1945.* Weidenfeld and Nicholson, London, 1998.

Story of the Central British Fund for German Jewry established in 1933 after Hitler's rise to power. Thousands of refugees came from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia to the UK where they were assisted by funds raised by the Jewish community.

Grunwald, Max. *Vienna.* The Jewish Publication Society of America. Philadelphia, 1936.

Story of the Jews who date back to early times and struggled for citizenship which they finally attained in 1867. Heavily influenced by Jews from the East, Viennese Jewry is cohesive despite having to be founded anew three times after the exile of 1421 again in 1670 and the Anschluss in 1938. Jews of Bohemia mentioned.

Huppert, Jehuda and Drori, Hana. *Theresienstadt. A guide.* Vitalis, Prague, 2000.

Originally written in Hebrew this guide contains general information about the ghetto and descriptions of the site for visitors including the boys' home for Czech children and the home for German boys and girls, the various barracks, mortuary, gas chamber, small fortress to name a few. It also has a map, a timeline and sources. The authors were interned in the camp themselves.

Kaplan, Jan, and Nosarzewska, Krystyna. *Praha Prag Prague. The turbulent century.* Könemann, Köln, 1997.

Historical survey in photographs with some text from Habsburg period up to election of Havel as President after the Velvet Revolution in 1989. Heydrich took over as Reichsprotektor in June 1939 and Jews were increasingly targeted- they had to declare their assets then. Goebbels fell in love with Prague and used the Barrandov studios to make 80 propaganda films including "Jew Süß". Barrandov was beyond the reach of Allied bombing until 1944 so it could be used to its full potential. Germans signed unconditional surrender 7 May 1945 at Reims. Karl Frank was captured in Plzen by the Americans and handed over to the Czechs to stand trial. He was hanged 22 May 1946 at Pankrac prison.

After war ended coupons were still used for rationing for 8 years.

Karny, Miroslav, Schindler, Zdenek, Karna, Margita, Linhartova, Lenka, Brod Toman (Eds.) *Terezin Memorial Book, Vol I and II.* Terezin Initiative Publication, Melantrich, Praha, 1995 (Terezinská pametní knihá)

Two volumes of this memorial book contain names and fates of more than 80 thousand Jews deported in time of Nazi occupation from Bohemia and Moravia to Terezin, Lodz (Litzmannstadt) and other concentration camps. Each deportation is given a separate chapter of the book. The deportations (chapters) are sorted in chronological order. Entry of each prisoner reproduces last and first name(s), date of birth and other information, which differs according to individual fates: deportation from Terezin, date and place of death, or a liberation place. The memorial book opens with an introductory word of the President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel, historical overview of the genocide of Czech Jews and of history of Terezin, written by Miroslav Karny, and list of all transports to and from Terezin and other transports from Prague and Brno to Lodz, Auschwitz, Minsk and Ujazdow.

Klenovsky, Jaroslav. *Jewish monuments in Brno.* Moravian Museum, Jewish Community Brno, 1995. (Excerpt from this is on Centropa website)

Klenovsky, Jaroslav. *Jewish monuments of Moravia and Silesia. (Židovské památky Moravy a Slezska)* Vydavatel ERA, Brno, 2001 (includes maps of Moravia and Silesia showing existing cemeteries and synagogues) Czech and English.

This is a valuable source of information about the Jewish communities in Moravia and Silesia with photos and descriptions of synagogues past and present and cemeteries and satellite towns.

Klenovsky, Jaroslav. *Brno Židovské (Jewish Brno. History and monuments of the Jewish settlement in Brno),* ERA, Brno, 2002. English and Czech.

Knowles, Deborah (Ed.) *Mixed Blessings. New Zealand children of Holocaust survivors remember.* Tandem Press, Auckland, 2003.

A delightful collection of memories and recipes by New Zealanders whose parents were survivors including Claire Bruell whose parents were from Moravia and fled Czechoslovakia in 1939 for New Zealand where they became farmers. Recipes Claire includes are *Palatschinken* and *Caraway Bread*. There are 18 other writers all with their own fascinating stories of survival far away from Europe's killing fields.

Krizkova, Marie Rut, Kotouc, Kurt Jiri., Ornest, Zdenek. *We are children just the same. Vedem the secret magazine by the boys of Terezin.* Aventinum, Nakladatelstvi, Prague, 1995.

Lande, Peter. "Additional Czech Holocaust Resources". AVOTAYNU, Vol. XXIV, Number 3 Fall 2008, p 59.

Expands on Dr Matusikova's article on Czech archival sources from AVOTAYNU issue in Summer 2008, notes that 1939 German Jewish Census contains data from Sudetenland. It's available from the LDS Family History Library and also at USHMM. Both Yad Vashem and USHMM have a large number of microfilm collections filmed at the

Czech State Archives. These films have titles such as prison lists, Czech Jews in the United Kingdom, emigration from Czechoslovakia and Czech military Historical Archives. Lande works at the USHMM and is a noted researcher.

Lewis, Helen. *A time to speak.* Carroll and Graf, New York, 1992.

Lewis born in Trutnov in the Sudetenland was a dance student in Prague when the Nazis invaded. She was sent to the Terezin ghetto and then to Auschwitz. Now lives in Ireland. I have included this book because it mentions a close friend of my mother's Franta Weiss who arrived in Australia as a post war immigrant. His wife Zita went to school with my mother in Prague and they were best friends for life. Franta who was an engineer built a radio in Terezin to listen to the BBC forbidden broadcasts and was a member of the Resistance in the camp. He is cited in **Rothkirchen** another reference in my list.

Lytle, Douglas. *Pink tanks and velvet hangovers. An American in Prague.* Frog Ltd, Berkeley, 1995.

Six months after the fall of the socialist Government in Czechoslovakia journalist Doug Lytle quit his job and went there with his Czech girlfriend for a visit. He joined the fledgling *Prague Post* newspaper and stayed much longer. He reports on the first few years of the Velvet Revolution right up to the split in 1995.

Matušíková, Lenka. "Talk to the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies", Chicago, August 2008.

Describes the various types of documents deposited in a number of Czech archives that can be used for genealogical studies Dr Lenka Matušiková is Archivist and Deputy Head of the First Department of the National Archives in Prague, Czech Republic. She is responsible for the pre-1848 state and church archival holdings. As the supervisor of the archival holdings relating to the history of the Jewish population in Bohemia and Moravia for 1700-1950, she has a special interest in the history of Jewish communities and historical records retrieval. This was published in AVOTAYNU in Summer 2008 issue.

Müller, Julius. "Family history research in Bohemia and Moravia: vital records lost and found". *Stammbaum*, Number 30, Winter 2006.

Müller, Julius. "The Jews of Vienna and their Moravian home towns". *AVOTAYNU*, Vol. XXV, Number 1 Spring, 2009. p 13-15.

Emancipation and civic liberation says Müller caused the migration out of Moravian towns into Vienna. There were new opportunities for Jews there. Family ties, trading traditions and former business contacts enabled Jewish entrepreneurs to evolve dynamically and contribute to the larger society economically, politically, socially and culturally. During the 19th century Jewish tradesmen gradually moved from Moravian towns to small villages in Lower Austria along the route from Znaim to Vienna. Müller traces people from Misslitz, Bisenz, Trebitsch and Nikolsburg in this article.

Pressburger, Chava. *The Diary of Petr Ginz.* Picador, Sydney, 2007.

Petr Ginz was a young boy incarcerated at the concentration camp Terezin aka Theresienstadt in the Shoah. He kept a diary of jottings, poems and drawings which has been preserved. He and his parents perished in Auschwitz but his sister survived. This is the first English language translation and publication of a very affecting work.

Rothkirchen, Livia. *The Jews of Bohemia and Moravia. Facing the Holocaust.* University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln and Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. 2005.

The author works at Yad Vashem and is an expert in her subject. She covers the Nazi period, the role of the Jews in the Czech republic in history, the Munich agreement and the German Occupation, the London Czech Government in exile, Jewish resistance, Terezin ghetto. Sections on experiences of Austrian Jews transported to Terezin and hostility of Czech Jews. Also some good historical material on relations between Czechs, Jews and Germans in old Empire.

Rozkošná, B. and Jakubec, P. *Židovské památky čech. Historie a památky židovského osídlení Čech. (History and Monuments of the Jewish Settlement in Bohemia)*, Era, Brno, 2004.

Articles in Czech about the historical development of Jewish settlement, ghettos, synagogues and cemeteries. Most valuable is the guide town by town with details of the history and descriptions of each town and what remains.

There is a timeline and a bibliography, a list of famous Jews and most important each town has a short summary in English. There are also glossaries in English and Czech of terms mostly Hebrew.

Rybar, Ctibor. *Jewish Prague. Guide to the monuments. Notes on history and culture.* TV spectrum 1991. Prague.

Includes descriptions of origin and settlement of the Jewish Town of Prague, assimilation trends, clearance of the Jewish Town and the Terezin Ghetto; also sections on Prague Hebrew literature and the Jews in Prague German literature, tales of the Golem, descriptions of all the preserved synagogues in Josefov and also the old Jewish cemetery. Mentions old Jewish cemeteries at Malvazinky and Olsany and Liben.

Singer, Peter. *Pushing Time away. My grandfather and the tragedy of Jewish Vienna. A memoir.* Fourth Estate, Harper Collins, Sydney, 2003.

Professor Peter Singer from Melbourne is a philosopher who teaches in America and Australia and is a prolific author and Animal Liberation advocate. He is descended from David Oppenheim the Chief Rabbi of Prague in the Seventeenth Century. His Moravian born grandfather Dr David Ernst Oppenheim was in Freud's circle in Vienna. The memoir ranges across his family and the life of Jews in Austria and the Czech Republic.

Shulman Yaakov Dovid. *The Maharal of Prague.* The story of Rabbi Yehudah Loew. CIS, NJ, 1992.

Terezin Memorial Book. *Jewish victims of Nazi deportation from Bohemia and Moravia 1941-1945.* A guide to the Czech original with a Glossary of Czech terms used in the lists. Terezin initiative, Melantrich, 1996.

Includes a 60 page detailed article in English by editor Miroslav Karny on the genocide of the Czech Jews, sources and descriptions of each transport.

Torsh, Daniela. "Lost in Prague". Talk for the Australian Jewish Genealogy Society, Sydney, 2007. Published in abridged version in *Kosher Koala*, AJGS, Sydney, Dec. 2007.

The author could not find the Czech archives in the early 90's when the pace of change post velvet revolution was so fast even the buildings were shifting. Thanks to a work contact she met with the Senior curator of the Religious documents and has found a lot of material from the archives since. The Czech Republic has not allowed filming of their records for Jews by the Mormons so you have to write the archives for vital records such as births, deaths and marriages.

Torsh, Daniela. "The 1793 Bohemian census of Jews". Talk for the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Sydney 2009. Unpublished.

The author holds the only copy in Australia of the seven volumes of the 1793 census of Bohemian Jews which includes censuses of Prague in 1792 and 1794. The transcribed censuses are a valuable source of early information about Jewish families who lived in the hundreds of towns in Bohemia where Jews were allowed to have their domicile although there were restrictions on how many Jews could live in each town. Indices of names and towns are a significant addition to our knowledge of Jewish genealogy in the Czech Republic. The author has written a complementary Finding Aid for use of the census.

Torsh, Daniela. "Finding Hilda- an Austrian genealogy story". Talk delivered at Second National Jewish Genealogy Conference, Melbourne, March 2010. Unpublished.

The author tells how a restitution claim for her grandmother's house in Vienna led her to meet her cousin Hilda in England and to uncover a whole branch of the THORSCH family in Vienna she knew nothing about. The accompanying hand out lists archives, libraries, websites and sources for genealogy research in modern Austria.

Weissova Helga. *Draw what you see. A child's drawings from Theresienstadt/Terezin.* Wallstein Verlag, Goettingen, 1998.

Czech artist Helga Hoskova was a child prisoner in Terezin. She and her parents arrived in December 1941 and the words of the title are from her father. She was an inmate of the girls home L410. She and her mother were sent to Auschwitz 3 days after her father but she left her drawings behind with her uncle who hid them and saved them. Weissova was born 1929 in Prague. Her father Otto worked for the State bank there. She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and later became a professional artist.

Wenzerul, Rosemary. *Genealogical Resources within the Jewish Home and Family.* Federation Family History Societies, Lancashire, 2002.

Contents include where do I begin? And what should I do with the information collected? Wenzerul says that there is so much information in your own home that when you first start you may not need to visit archives and record offices. But once you have put together all the documentation from your own family then you may need to start visiting them. Don't just concentrate on the internet either. Make sure you talk to relatives as well as examining original documents and visiting archives

Zogbaum, Heidi. *Kisch in Australia The untold story.* Scribe, Melbourne, 2004.

Story of Czech Jewish newspaperman the communist Egon Kisch's ill fated visit to Australia to attend an anti war conference in Melbourne before the Second World War. He was banned by then Attorney General Robert Menzies but managed to land anyhow and suffered a broken leg as he illegally jumped to shore in November 1934. His court case against Menzies became a cause célèbre on the Left.

2. Czech Sources

a. Czech National Archives (CNA)

Chodovec in the Prague 4 district is where the new National Archives building can be found. Adjacent are two other important archives, the Prague City Archive and the Prague Regional Archive.

To get access to the archive, email or call ahead and make an appointment if you want to meet an archivist or use their reading room or reference library. The research room is open Mondays and Wednesdays 9am to 6pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 4pm. Closed last Friday of every month. You must take ID with you, preferably your passport, as security is strict. They have a reading room and library. Check out the collection on the National Archives website www.nacr.cz.

Street address:

Narodni Archiv

Archivni 4/2257

149 01

Praha 4- Chodovec

Tel: +420 974 811 111 (operator)

Email: na@nacr.cz

Website: <http://www.nacr.cz>

Way to the Archives using public transport:

The best way is to go by underground - red line "C" - to the station "Opatov", here change to bus number 213 (goes all day long) or bus number 260 (goes only part of the day). The nearest bus stop to the Archives is "Chodovec".

There are some publications for sale at the front counter of the Archives including a useful two part street register which shows how street names have changed over the years and includes historical background on the street names. This is also where one can purchase copies of the 1793 and 1783 censuses. (The titles can be found on the website under publications).

The CNA have another important building in Prague 6 in the suburb of Dejvice near Prague castle.

The research room of the 1st department in Prague 6 - Dejvice

Address: Milady Horákové 133, Praha 6 - Dejvice

Tel: +420 233 326 755, +420 974 847 834

Email: na1@nacr.cz

All the Jewish births, deaths and marriages records for the last few hundred years are kept by the First Department of the **National Archives in Dejvice**, by Senior Archivist Dr Lenka Matušiková. She has collected over 3,000 Matriky- the record books of each Jewish Community in Bohemia and Moravia. These original documents were initially collected by the Nazis and then liberated in 1945 by the Communists. Their library call sign is HBMA.

Dr Matušiková is a trained historian and archivist and is able to find records and provide copies if you write to her or email a request. The records have been microfilmed now to preserve them. Some records were destroyed by the Nazis, some under Communism so regrettably there are gaps in the records. Dr Matušiková has created an index book which shows the years for which records are held at the archives for each town and city in the Czech Republic. This unpublished index is held in the Reading Room so you can see which of the HBMA collection you want.

Entry to the archive can only be gained by contacting Dr Matušiková ahead of time. If you want to use the reading room you have to take your passport as security is strict. This archive is open to public Monday to Thursdays from 9am to 6pm and Fridays 9am to 2pm. It's closed on the last Friday of every month.

Her telephone number in Prague is +420 974 847 825.

Her email address is: Lenka.matusikova@nacr.cz

Way to the Archives using public transport:

Best to go by underground line green "A" (station Hradčanská) or by tram number 1,8,15,18,25,26 (station Hradčanská).

NB the Czech BDM records are NOT available through the Mormon film records so the Czech National Archives is the ONLY place to get them from though some local and regional archives also have copies of limited numbers of vital records as well as other records.

i. Police records for Prague 1850-1914

The CNA hold the household registration records for Prague and some regional areas as well. Recently the so called "conscription" records- what we would call household registration -have begun to be digitised and so can be searched on line. They are asking for donations to make this work faster. Some of you may wish to contribute. If so the details are on the website.

Family and individual registration i.e. where one lived are shown in a table of police records for Prague (some areas only, it is not comprehensive for all of Prague) 1850-1914. They are adding names all the time.

English website: www.nacr.cz/english/conscriptions.aspx.

You can search on family name, first name and or year of birth.

The records give head of household, wife with maiden name, children and other relatives who lived at the same address, date of registration, number of house, occupation of man, year and place of birth, religion, deaths in family, marriages, (NB conscription means something different in this context, nothing to do with army service. It means the registration form.)

At the time of writing there are 1.3 million entries that have been digitised. They are at the back end of the alphabet so not long before they will have completed this work.

ii. 1793 Census of Jews in Bohemia

During the past five years, seven volumes of the Bohemian Jewish census of 1793 (Soupis zidovskych rodin v Cechach z roku 1793) have been published in Prague by the State Archives [Statni ustredni archiv v Praze]. The final volume VI/2 is a cumulative "name and place" index which makes searching much easier. It also includes a list of errata and a useful bibliography.

This final volume has some explanatory German text, whereas the other volumes are entirely in Czech, but the actual census entries are transcribed from the old German records and are therefore in German.

The libraries and research centres which hold copies include the Prague Jewish Museum reading room in Smichov, Central Archives, Prague in Dejvice; YIVO Institute in New York; and the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City; British Library, London; Adler Society, Vienna; Harvard's Widener Library, UC in Berkeley, Stanford University US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society have it in their library in St. Paul, MN.

ISBN numbers and Kreis/Kraj Contents for Volumes I - VI/2 are:

Vol I ISBN 80-85475-91-X - Elbogen/Loketsky; Bunzlauer/Boleslavky and Budweiser /Budejovicky Kreis/Kraj;

Vol II ISBN 80-85475-96-0 - Kaurzimer/Kourimsky; Bidshover/Bydzovsky; Leitmeritzer/Litomericky Kreis/Kraj

Vol III ISBN 80-86712-03-6 - Prachiner/Prachensky; Berouner/Berounsky; Tabor/Taborsky Kreis/Kraj

Vol IV ISBN 80-86712-12-5 - Chrudimer/Chrudimsky; Pilsner/Plzensky; Saatzer/Zatecky; Koniggratzer/Hradecky Kreis/Kraj

Vol V ISBN 80-86712-21-4 - Czaslauer/Caslavsky; Klattauer/Klatovsky; Rakonitzer Rakovnický Kreis/Kraj

Vol VI/1 ISBN 80-86712-03-6 - Prague only - Praha 1792 - Praha 1794

Vol VI/2 ISBN 80-86712-34-6 - called Praha 1792 Praha 1794 - Cumulative index bibliography; errata and German-language introduction.

To purchase these volumes costs range from 200 Czech Crowns down to 100 CZK.

The census was also taken at the same time in Moravia. Unfortunately the Moravian censuses are not as yet collected from their various locations in the Moravian Regional Archives and the Archives of the Estates and so far no funds or personnel have taken any interest in transcribing them.

b. City of Prague Archives

In Czech they are called: "Archiv hlavního města Prahy"

Website: <http://www.ahmp.cz>.

These are co-located with the CNA at Chodovec but are in the smaller building behind the National Archives. The City Archives have good reference materials like city business directories and Year Books from the 1800's through to the WW2. They also hold school records for Prague schools- "tridni katalog" in Czech. Plural = "tridni katalogy".

The same advice applies as for the CNA, take ID and make an appointment ahead of time. Check opening hours before you go. The directions to get there are the same as for the National Archives.

Dr Hana Svatorova was the very kind lady who helped me.

Her email is: ahmp@cityofprague.cz.

c. Prague Regional Archives

These are found in the building adjacent to the CNA at Chodovec. Same access rules as above two archives. These archives hold files on businesses, Aryanisation during WW2 of Jewish businesses, personal files and much more.

Statni oblastni archiv v Praze

Archivni 4/2257

149 01, Praha 4

Tel: 974 847 358, 974 847 269(reading room), 974 847 357

Email: soapha2@mvcz.cz

Website: <http://www.soapraha.cz>

d. Selected list of local archives

Local and regional Czech archives are also very worthwhile checking for census records, domicile records, school records. In Moravia the usual rule is that the reading rooms are only available to the public on Mondays and Wednesdays and for restricted hours. Make sure you call, write or email ahead to confirm your visit.

The Association of Czech archivists' website has complete lists of addresses and email contacts of all the local archives and regional ones too. It has an English language section that explains how the archives are organised.

Website: <http://www.cesarch.cz/adresar>.

If you need help you can email them to ask at cesarch@cesarch.cz

MORAVIA

The Moravian Regional Archives are in Brno.

Brno:

Moravsky zemsky archiv v Brne

Palachovo nam 1
P.O. Box 51
625 00 Brno
Tel: 533 317 224 (study room), 533 317 535 (Director)

Email: podatelna@mza.cz
Website: <http://www.mza.cz>

Uhersky Hradiste:

The Director
Statni Okresni Archiv Uherske Hradište
Frantiskanska ul.c.124
686 66 Uherske Hradište
Czech Republic

Prerov:

Přerov Archive
Email: podatelna@pr.archives.cz

Frydek-Místek:

Statni okresni archiv
Frydek- Místek
Bezrucova 2145
CZ-738 01 Frydek- Místek
Czech Republic

Tel: +4420 558 432 076
Fax: +420 558 431 732

Email: podatelna@fm.archives.cz
Website: www.archives.cz/frydek-mistek

Ostrava:

Mgr. Hana Šústková
Ostrava City Archive (Archiv města Ostravy)
Špálova 19
702 19 Ostrava

Email: hsustkova@ostrava.cz

Hodonin:

Statni okresni archiv v Hodonin
Koupelni 10
695 01, Hodonin

Tel: 518 352 450, 518 343 306

Email: soka_hodonin@mza.cz
Website: <http://mza.cz/soka.html>

Mgr Galina Rucka
Email: rucka@mza.cz

BOHEMIA

Most local archive:
Statni okresni archiv v Moste
Leose Janacka 1310/2
434 01 Most

Tel: +420 476 106 705
Fax: +420 476 106 702

Email: sokamost@soalitomerice.cz

Jindrichuv Hradec:

Statni okresni archiv Jindřichův Hradec
Vaclavska 37/III
377 11, Jindřichův Hradec

Tel: 384 321 209, 384 321 280

Email: posta@jh.ceskearchivy.cz

e. Czech National Library

Address:

The National Library of the Czech Republic
Klementinum 190
110 00 Prague 1
Czech Republic

Tel: +420-221663111 (Operator)

+420-221663262 (Office of Director General)

+420-221663260 (Foreign Relations Department)

+420-221663201 (The Department of Reference and Interlibrary Services)

Fax: +420-221663261

E-mail: sekret.ur@nkp.cz (Office of Director General)

oms.ur@nkp.cz (Foreign Relations Department)

Location: A Baroque complex in the Old Town close to the Charles Bridge

Entrances into the complex:

- from Marianske namesti (Virgin Mary Square)
- from Karlova ulice (Charles Street)
- from Krizovnicka ulice (Krizovnicka Street) through the passage next to the St. Salvator Church (St. Saviour's Church)

How to get there: Metro - line A - Staromestska Station

Tram - 17, 18 - Staromestska Station

Visitor Information and Library Shop: Mon - Fri 9am – 5pm; closed Saturday

Main Hall: Help and Information Desk Mon – Sat 9am – 7pm

i. "Kramerius" At Czech National Library

Website: <http://kramerius.nkp.cz/kramerius/Welcome.do>

The search pages are in English.

SIG member Peter Lowe posted this recently:

"The digital library apparently contains about 7 million pages. The index is largely based on OCR, so is far from perfect as can be seen from the "snippet" transliteration that one gets for each entry. The digitized books and periodicals are mainly in Czech or German. If you are researching common surnames, try including their town or village of origin together with their surname.

When researching my Bohemian surnames, the periodical "Bohemia" gave a lot of interesting "hits". In particular it often has death notices similar to those in the Prager Tagblatt. A key difference is that the latter is unindexed. So this has allowed me to find a number of death notices, and using the publication I could then also find the notices in the Prager Tagblatt (from <http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=b>).

From the overall index, and the "snippet" transliteration, I found that an edition of "Bohemia" from 1912 must have had an announcement of my grandparents' marriage. This was the first clue to the marriages' exact date. Unfortunately, I could not see the image of the announcement as it appears that for copyright reasons the website does not provide images of most pages after about 1900. However, it does allow one to order copies of such pages.

Another interesting resource is a series of directories for Bohemia, including:

Statistik und Beamten-Schematismus des Grossgrundbesitzes im Koenigreiche Boehmen 1891 which lists all tenant farmers, which of course includes many Jewish names.

Allgemeines Adress- und Handels- Handbuch der Hauptstadt Prag sammt Vorstädten 1871 which is a detailed address and trade directory from Prague and surroundings and the rest of Bohemia. Within it there are several name and place indexes, and I could find many of my direct ancestors in this book

One series of publications: Liste der P.T. Curgäste in Carlsbad in the period around 1870 is quite fascinating. (I have edited Peter's posting here). These list guests staying in the spa resort of Carlsbad (Karlovy Vary). For each it gives some information about profession, and their normal residence, date of arrival and address in Carlsbad, and sometimes information on accompanying family members. I was amazed at how many of my family are listed as staying there. No doubt this was where many family connections were created.

I think there is a lot to learn from this website, and no doubt others who are more expert at understanding the way it is arranged and indexed can give further advice.

Peter Lowe
Hertford, England

Researching: ADLER (Amschelberg), EISNER (Amschelberg & Kolin), FUERTH (Amschelberg), JERUSALEM, BEYKOVSKY, THORSCH, KOPPERL

f. Military Records

Before 1918 Czechs were obliged to join the army of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. All their military records were housed in Vienna at the Military Archives. When Czechoslovakia was created by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 most of the military records for Bohemian, Moravian, Slovakian, and Silesian personnel were transferred to the Military archives in Trnava in Slovakia. Officers' records however remained in Vienna.

The Austrian Military archives say that records of men born 1865 to 1886 are what were transferred to the new country. They note these records are **incomplete until 1864, 1887–1898 largely destroyed!**

In 1995 Czechoslovakia ceased to exist. Instead two new Republics were created: the Czech Republic which includes Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia and the Republic of Slovakia. So the Trnava records were split between the two new Republics and the Czech Military archives got the records for Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.

The Czech Military Archive address is:

Vojenský Ustředni Archiv v Praze,
Sokolovská 136,
18600 Praha 8
Czech Republic

The Slovak records include those from 1793–1921, war graves and military cemeteries 1914–1919, military parish records 1621–1950.

The address is:

Vojenský Historický Archiv v Trnave,
Univerzitné námestie 1,
91700 Trnava
Republic of Slovakia

For officers' records you still have to ask at the **Austrian Military Archives:**

Kriegsarchiv
A-1030 Wien
Nottendorfer Gasse 2
Austria

Officers are listed in an alphabetically organized archive of so-called "Qualifikationslisten" (the file numbers are all QUALL ###) and can be accessed by name alone! The files contain mainly military career details, but it is possible to pick out details on date and place of birth, marital status

and whether and when children were born. See <http://www.genealogy.net/reg/AUT/karchiv.html> for a detailed description of the archive in German, or contact:

Adresse: Nottendorfer Gasse 2-4, 1030 Wien

Tel: (+43-1-)79540-452

Fax: (+43-1-) 79540-109

Email: kapost@oesta.gv.at

Website: www.oesta.gv.at

Central reading room opening hours: Monday, Thursday 9am – 5pm; Tuesday, Wednesday 9am – 6pm, Friday 9am -1pm

During the Shoah a lot of Czechs escaped to England where they joined the British Army. There is a special website which contains lists of Czechs who were in the British army in WW2: <http://webspaces.webring.com/people/fc/czechandslovakthings/>

g. Czech Cemeteries

Stonepics is a new Czech website of cemeteries mostly not Jewish ones but municipal cemeteries do contain graves of some Czech Jews who were assimilated or for some other reason were not buried in Jewish cemeteries. Worth a look.

Website: <http://czech.stonepics.com/czech.htm>

h. Czech maps

This is a modern map source produced in the Czech Republic so it is up to date and has a lot of smaller towns. It is in Czech but easy to use even if you don't have the language.

Website:

<http://www.mapy.cz/#centerX=139956224@centerY=132161536@typ=base@zoom=9@vizType=none@vizlds=none>

For ancient maps *AVOTAYNU* is a good source. See under International Sources for more.

3. Jewish Czech Sources

a. Federation of Jewish Communities in Czech Republic

Useful history and map of CZ with location of all official Jewish Community offices throughout the country and good links.

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic is based in the Old Town of Prague in the former Ghetto in Josefov at 18 Maiselova Street. That is where the Prague Jewish Community is also based and the High synagogue and the Chief Rabbi. There is also the original card file for all transports of Czech Jews which contains the final address from where they were deported. They will certify copies for you for a small cost.

The postal address is;

Federace Zidovskych Obci v Ceske republice
Maiselova 18
P.O. B. 297
110 01 Praha 1
Czech Republic

Website: http://www.fzo.cz/enodk_mez.do

b. The Jewish Community of Prague

It is a member of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic. The Jewish Community of Prague (JCP) supports the religious and cultural life of its members and administers their social and health needs. The Community today has about 1,600 members. However, since 1989 the number of members has grown by approximately 900 persons and the average age of the members has decreased from 80 to 57 years.

JCP is in charge of the Old-New Synagogue (Alt-Neu Schul) and other cultural and religious institutions (synagogues, cemeteries, museums, memorials etc.) unless they are under the care of The Federation of Jewish Communities.

JCP runs a kosher restaurant and supports Jewish education of its members and contributes to comprehensive education in Judaism and Jewish history, especially in its work with youth.

JCP speaks out against all manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, Nazism, fascism, discrimination, and intolerance and commemorates Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

JCP provides financial support and space to a number of Jewish unions and associations. Their activities include sport, culture and the challenges facing the next generation.

Tel: +420 224 800 813 (Administration office) Czech, English, and Hebrew spoken

Fax: +420 222 318 664

Email: sekretariat@kehilaprag.cz

Website: <http://www.kehilaprag.cz>

Through its company, Matana Inc., The JCP administers the real estate holdings of the Jewish Community. Since 1990 Matana has been involved in the reconstruction and renovation of synagogues and cemeteries that have suffered from extensive damage and neglect.

JCP administers nineteen non-Prague synagogues and more than 170 cemeteries with large number of adjacent buildings (morgues, ceremonial halls, and cemetery houses).

Matana, a.s., Správa budov a hřbitovů – Matana, Inc., Administration of Buildings and Cemeteries
Malá Štupartská 1, 110 00 Praha 1

Tel: +420 272 739 045

Fax: +420 272 734 609

Email: sbh@cmail.cz

c. Jewish Museum of Prague

Jewish Museum expositions can be found in different buildings in the centre of Prague.
Opening hours: Daily except Saturdays and Jewish holidays. November – March: 9 am – 4.30 pm; April – October: 9 am – 6 pm.

Tel: +420 221 711 511
Fax +420 221 711 584

Email: office@jewishmuseum.cz
Website: <http://www.jewishmuseum.cz>

They have a new reading room at Smichov in the former synagogue right near the Anděl Metro station in Praha 5. They hold a lot of records from destroyed synagogues and Jewish Communities and of course historical records. They will do research for you. See website for more info. <http://www.jewishmuseum.cz>.

Their main office is at:
U Staré školy 1
110 00 Prague 1
Czech Republic
Tel: (+420) 221 711 511
Fax. (+420) 221 711 584

Paní Dr Vlastimila Hamackova is in charge of the Museum archives.

Since 1965 they have published *Judaica Bohemiae* a journal devoted to Jewish history and culture in Bohemia and Moravia (and other countries of the former Habsburg Monarchy) from the Middle Ages through to the present. Special attention is paid to the history of the Jewish Museum in Prague and to research into its collections. Featuring original specialist papers (studies, reviews, and reports); it is intended for local and foreign researchers, as well as for others with an interest in Jewish issues. The texts are published in English and German.

d. New Jewish Cemetery

It is at Zizkov, Praha 3. You can catch the underground to get there. The entrance to the cemetery is right opposite the metro station *Zelivskeho* on the green "A" line.

Address is:
Zidovský hřbitov
130 00 Praha 3
Izraelska 1

Tel/fax: +420 226 235 248
Email: berkovic@kehilaprag.cz

The cemetery may be visited Sunday to Thursday from April to September from 9am to 5pm. From October to March the hours are 9am to 4pm. Fridays all year round hours are 9am to 2pm. The New Jewish Cemetery was founded in 1890 and is a preserved historical monument. It is the only functioning Jewish cemetery in Prague where funerals of Jews are still held. The cemetery occupies more than 10 hectares with about 25,000 graves.

The manager Mr. Ivan Berkovic has a computerised database where he can find the grave position by name. He can also arrange for repairs and renovation of graves. Or you can approach Mr Mojmir Maly, whose company Matana a.s. is responsible for the management and upkeep of Jewish cemeteries and real estate owned by the Jewish Community in Prague and by the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic.

Tel: +420 272 734 004
Fax: +420 272 734 609
Email: sbh@cmail.cz

Matana a.s. (address: Mala Stupartska 1, 110 00 Prague 1)

Erich Lewitus has put together some information on some of the graves at the New Jewish Cemetery at Zizkov. As it is online and if he has photographed your ancestral grave it is quite a good website to visit. Or you can email him directly on Erich Lewitus: erichl@bezeqint.net

He has also mapped part of the Olomouc cemetery.

His URL links are

Zizkov cemetery:

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~erichl/prague_zizkov/prague.htm

Olomouc cemetery: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~erichl/olm/index.html>

Achab Haidler has a long term project of mapping all Jewish cemeteries. His website is supported by the Jewish Museum but it is only in Czech:

<http://www.chewra.com/keshetnew/kweb/kategorie.aspx?kid=2>

e. Cemetery of Noda B'yehuda

It's next to subway station Jiřího z Poděbrad, on the green line "A". There is no record book of burials and the cemetery is not well tended but many stones still stand and names are legible.

Opening hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am - 1 pm

f. Terezín Memorial and Institute

It is at the former concentration camp itself, housed in one of the old barracks. Terezin is once again a Czech town with its citizens living in between the ghetto memorials.

Director is Dr Jan Munk

Postal address:

Principova alej 304

CZ- 411 55 Terezín

Tel: +420 416 782225

Website: www.pruvodce.com/terezin

They have a small museum in the former Magdeburg Barracks which displays art and music of the Holocaust and a bookshop and some archives in the small fortress.

To get to Terezín you catch the Usti nad Labem bus from Florenc bus station in Prague. It goes fairly frequently costs very little and takes about an hour through the lovely Czech countryside. You need to write or email before you go to arrange access as public access is quite limited.

The **Terezín Initiative Institute** attempts to document the names and fates of all prisoners of the Terezin ghetto and of other victims of the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question" in the Czech Lands and to use this data in order to assist commemoration and promote Holocaust education. The information gathered in the framework of this documentation project is made available for survivors, family members, but also to the public, to historians and for schools.

It was founded in 1993 by an international association of former prisoners of Terezín ghetto. They host a Holocaust website with details of all former prisoners.

Address: Jáchymova 3, 110 00 Praha 1,
Czech Republic.

+420-222 31 70 13

Email: database@terezinstudies.cz

Website: www.holocaust.cz

The aim of this website is to provide the Czech public with reliable information about the history of the Holocaust. The Czech version of this website contains numerous texts and documents about the Holocaust, including interviews with survivors.

The website is specifically designed for use in Czech schools, by both students and teachers.

g. Jewish Community of Brno

Their website has links to the Brno Jewish Cemetery which is large and well cared for and still in use and also has an online searchable database.

Website: http://www.zob.cz/index_en.html

To write to them:

Jewish Community of Brno
Zidovska obec Brno
tř. Kpt. Jaroše 3
Brno, 602 00
Email: zob@zob.cz
jas@zob.cz
secretary@zob.cz

h. Professional Czech Family History Researchers

Czech family history researchers who will do paid work for you (and whom I can personally recommend) include Mr. Jaroslav Klenovský in Brno and Mr. Julius Müller and Mrs. Iva Steinová in Prague.

Jaroslav Klenovsky works for the Jewish Community in Brno looking after all the cemeteries and graves in Moravia. He also does private work as a genealogy researcher and is also the author of many books and articles about Moravian genealogy (see bibliography above).

Jaroslav will charge you by the day if he takes you round in his car to see your ancestral towns, or to visit archives and cemeteries. Arrange the trip well before you go and make sure you explain exactly where you want to go and he will take you to see synagogues, local and regional archives, properties, and cemeteries too. (His daily rate available on request).

He has worked with me a lot and recently taken researchers Eva Brown from Sydney, Claire Bruell from Auckland and Robert Fraser from WA round Moravian towns. He speaks and writes Czech and German but is able to read and write in English. He took me to Brno archives to search the "*Heimatsrechtkarten*" which is a card file of registrations of where people lived. He can also arrange accommodation if you need it.

Contact: Jaroslav Klenovsky
tř. Kpt. Jaroše 3
602 00 Brno, CR
Tel: +420-544509608 office
+420-547220150 at home
+420-608627247 mobile

Email: jaroslav.klenovsky@zob.cz,
Website: www.zob.cz

Julius Müller of Prague has his own company called Toledot which has its own website:

<http://www.toledot.org/kraje.html>.

His email is: jmuller@toledot.org

He will take you to ancestral towns and to the archives to do research, rate on request. Müller is the Czech correspondent for AVOTAYNU and has written extensively about Jewish genealogy. He has a project funded by a grant from the IAJGS to digitise the Familianten Bücher which is available via a link on his website. Julius speaks and writes in English, Czech and German.

Iva Steinová writes and speaks English, Hebrew, German and Czech. Her charges are available upon request. Her contact details are:

Postal address:
Paní Iva Steinová
Slunecni nam 6
Praha 58
158 00 Czech Republic

Tel: +4202 5161 3267
Email: i-e-stein@seznam.cz

Some other professional researchers and translators listed on the Austria/Czech SIG on Jewish Gen:

Felix Gundacker

Professional genealogist for Austria, Bohemia and Moravia:
IHFF Genealogie Gesellschaft mbH
A-1190 WIEN, Pantzergasse 30/8
Austria

Tel: +43 1 369 97 29
Fax: +43 1 369 97 30
email: IHFF@netway.at
Website: <http://www.ihff.at/indexstarte.htm/> in English
<http://www.ihff.at/indexstart.htm> in German

Mr. Jiri Osanec

I. P. Pavlova 26
Olomouc
Czech Republic
Email: josanec@iol.cz

Magda Simonovska

Na Konvarce 17,
Prague 5
Czech Republic
Tel: 001 42 02 549136
Email: m.simonovska@quick.cz

If your family had Ostrava roots there is a group in England who has a newsletter and is working with Mrs. Libuše Salomonovičová of Ostrava who does local research & whom you may wish to contact. The general contact is David Lawson lawsonassoc@btinternet.com and salomonovic@volny.cz

i. Czech Jewish History

For good general background on Czech Jewish history see this Porges family website:

<http://www.porges.net/JewishHistoryOfCzechRepub.html>

j. The Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia Project

This is collaboration between Czech, Austrian and German academics, archivists and others. Dr Matušiková of the Czech National Archives is involved.

"Bohemia, Moravia et Silesia Judaica" is a project in which we would like to collect all documents concerning the Jewish population in Moravia (and later?? and Bohemia) in the period 1520-1680. But in the research we are trying also to identify the documents from 18. and 19. century, which could be used for genealogical studies."

Website:
http://bmsj.eu/index.php?option=com_registration&task=activate&activation=484b97dbdbc3aa4b71501c5d792ceced

4. Australian Sources

a. Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney Jewish Museums

The libraries of these museums are available online and also for personal visits. All have a lot of important reference material you can use.

i. Adelaide

Adelaide Jewish Museum - is a virtual museum.

Tel: +61 8 8110 0999

Fax: +61 8 8110 0900

Email: curator@adelaidejewishmuseum.org

ii. Melbourne

Australian Jewish Museum

Website: <http://www.jewishmuseum.com.au/>

Opening hours are Tuesday to Thursday 10am to 4pm and Sunday 10am to 5pm.

Address: 26 Alma Rd, St Kilda.

Tel: +61 3 8534 3600

Email: info@jewishmuseum.com.au

The Museum has a reference library and the catalogue is available online. If you want to do research there contact librarian Susan Faine: sfaine@jeiwshmuseum.com.au.

iii. Sydney

Sydney Jewish Museum

Website: <http://www.sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au/Home/default.aspx>

The Sydney Museum is in Darlinghurst Rd and has Permanent Exhibitions, an excellent library, shop, theatre and education facilities and a Sanctum of Remembrance. It combines Holocaust research as well as material about contemporary Australian Judaism.

Address: 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst NSW 2010
(Corner of Burton St and Darlinghurst Rd).

Opening hours: Sun - Thurs 10am - 4pm, Friday 10am - 2pm

b. Archive of Australian Judaica

The Archive is a collection of source materials relating to Jewish Life in Australia from the origin of the Jewish community up to the present day. The material housed in the Archive consists of a variety of types including anything of an archival or ephemeral nature, which reflects the multifaceted nature of Jewish life in Australia, and its social interactions with the broader Australian community.

Address:

Rare Books

University of Sydney Library

University of Sydney NSW 2006

Tel: +61 2 9351 4162

Fax: +61 2 9114 0881

Email: marianne.dacy@sydney.edu.au

c. Australian Association of Jewish Studies

Publishes journal, holds conferences. Many of the academics work in areas of some interest to genealogists.

Website: www.aajs.org.au

d. The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

Has branches in Melbourne and Sydney and Perth. Publishes newsletter online and also has *Kosher Koala* on DVD indexed. Both Sydney and Melbourne have extensive reference libraries you can consult.

Website: <http://www.ajgs.org.au/>

e. Australian Jewish Historical Society

This site documents the Jewish experience in Australia, which began with the arrival of the First Fleet in 1778, and continued with Jewish involvement in all facets of the subsequent development and evolution of Australia.

Published journal since 1939 and has library at Mandelbaum House on Sydney Uni campus and in Melbourne at Makor Library in Caulfield.

Website: <http://www.ajhs.info/>

f. Holocaust Museum, Melbourne

Jewish Holocaust Museum and Research Centre

13 - 15 Selwyn Street,
Elsternwick, Victoria, Australia, 3185,
Tel: +61 (0)3 9528 1985
Fax: +61 (0)3 9528 3758

Website: www.jhc.org.au/

g. Australian National Archives and State Archives

Main location is in Canberra but has offices in all capital cities. The National Archives hold all immigration, citizenship and shipping records. They have a very useful online search facility.

Website: <http://www.naa.gov.au/>

State Archives also hold other useful material like school records and much more.

NSW State Records has Naturalisation records up to 1903 then they went Federal and are in NAA. Also shipping arrivals to 1922.

Website: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>

VIC Public Records Office has similar with arrivals up to 1923 + index of naturalisations up to the 1920s.

Website: <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/>

SA has a few shipping records particularly of what they label German immigrants - but this just means the boats out of Bremen/Bremerhaven and Hamburg so has quite a few European Jews in the 1880-90s.

Website: <http://www.archives.sa.gov.au/>

(Thanks to Robyn Dryen for this information re State holdings)

h. Immigration Museums

i. Adelaide

82 Kintore Avenue
ADELAIDE SA 5000
Tel: +61 8 8207 7580
Fax: +61 8 8207 7591
Email: migration@history.sa.gov.au

Opening hours: 10am - 5pm Mon to Fri; 1pm - 5pm weekends and public holidays

ii. Melbourne

They hold shipping and immigration records and have a good reference library.

Street address:
Immigration Museum
Old Customs House
400 Flinders St
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000
Postal address:
Immigration Museum
PO Box 666
Melbourne VIC 3001
Australia
Tel: +61 3 9927 2700

Website: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/>

i. National Library of Australia

In Canberra but also online. Currently running an exhibition about the Dunera Boys, enemy aliens- many Jewish deported to Australia for the duration of WW2. The NLA has experts in family history.

Website: <http://www.nla.gov.au/>

The NLA is digitising newspapers 1803-1954 and you can search them online.

Website: <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>

State Libraries also have family history sections with huge collections and databases. There are family history librarians you can consult.

j. Qualified Translators in Australia

I would recommend the use of accredited translators for official documents. You can get names at the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT) www.ausit.org or through the online NAATI directory www.naati.com.au.

Australian based translators are best obtained via the NAATI system of accreditation. This is an Australian and International system that ensures ethical and quality control. I have used Katarina Steiner who is a level 3 NAATI Czech and German translator. Her contacts are:

Mgr. Katarina Steiner
P.O. Box 1079
Crows Nest, NSW, 1585.
Tel/Fax: +61 2 94360496
Mobile: 0417 360 496
Email: ksteiner@ozemail.com.au

Another translator, also with the highest level NAATI qualification I have worked with who does German and Russian is:

Ms Felicity Mueller
6 Bristol Ave
Pymble, NSW, 2073
Tel: +61 2 9488 7817
Mobile: 0412 193 081
Email: fmuller@bigpond.net.au

5. International Resources

This is not an exhaustive list. There are many sources and I am including some I have found helpful.

a. Jewish Gen and the Austria/Czech Sig

This is a huge resource for genealogy researchers. The international website contains a lot of different databases and is a fantastic way of connecting with other researchers who are interested in similar areas or subjects. Explore the whole website and join the Special Interest Group (SIG) for Austria and the Czech Republic. There are over 1000 members who can help you! If you log on. It's free and easily navigated.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech/> is the URL for the SIG Austria/Czech special interest group.

Address your messages for this list to: austriaczech@lyris.jewishgen.org.

This Special Interest Group (austriaczech@lyris.jewishgen.org) is hosted by JewishGen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy.

Website: <http://www.jewishgen.org>

I also recommend you use the Jewish Gen Family Finder (JGFF) which connects people with common ancestors. This is accessed at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/>

Every three months or so you should check your surnames and towns in the JGFF. They get hundreds of new entries every day. Try using a D-M Soundex search type to get all variations on the spelling of surnames. Also don't forget to search your ancestral towns (leaving the surname field blank in the search form), because that is a great way to locate potential cousins or others who might have information that is useful to you.

Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP), <http://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/>. You should also regularly do surname and town only searches in FTJP. You never know whom you will find on someone else's tree. If you have not yet submitted your tree to FTJP, now is a great time to do it. If you use a genealogy program, it takes just a couple of minutes to submit the data.

Check SIG archives for new sources and for new members for references to your ancestral town or family names. Try searching the SIFG archives for town names, family names for postings back to 1998. It's a very useful resource.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/cure/index.asp?msg=99&reason=nocookie&from=http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg~jgsys~sigspop>

Jewish Gen has very useful translation aids such as for transliteration of Czech to German town names or Czech to Yiddish or Hebrew names. It contains Shtetlinks which are descriptions of the town and its history. Some Czech towns are included.

You may want to also join the Hungarian and the Galician SIGs as these include territory which was once Czechoslovakia or Austria. The borders of the Czech Republic in past times were changed and towns may have once been Slovak, Polish or Hungarian which are now Czech.

Jewish Gen has so much in it I haven't space to describe the whole thing. Use it!

b. Jewish Gen Burials

Many cemeteries in the Czech Republic may be investigated using the Jewish Gen's JOWBR project on its website.

A recent posting by Nolan Altman who co-ordinates the JOWBR may be of interest:

JewishGen is pleased to announce its 2009 year-end update to the JOWBR (JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry) database. The JOWBR database can be accessed at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/>

This update includes approximately 104,500 new records and 20,700 new photos. The database is adding 118 new cemeteries along with updates or additions to an additional 99 cemeteries from 15 countries. This brings JOWBR's holdings in excess of 1.3 million records from more than 2,500 cemeteries / cemetery sections from 45 countries! "

[From Nolan Altman SIG 14/1/10]

c. The Stolperstein – (“Stumbling Block”) Project

You may have heard of the *Stolperstein* Project which has been running in Austria and Germany for some time and is now starting in the Czech Republic and other countries. It was established and is run by Gunter Demnig

Website: www.stolpersteine.com.

Brass plaques are set into the pavement outside houses or schools etc as a memorial to people who were murdered or forced to flee by the Nazis. Each “stone” is 96mm by 96mm and has inscribed on it:

Here lived (or studied, or taught etc)

Name, family and maiden name

Date of Birth

Date of Deportation and place to which deported

Ultimate fate with date of death (if known)

Children or family members who fled to safety (e.g. on *Kindertransport*) or even who committed suicide under the stress and terrors of the time can also be commemorated with a stone.

A group of descendants from Ostrava are going there in June to be present when the Stolpersteine will be laid there this year.

d. Britain

i. The British Library

Holds many records relating to Jewish immigration, Jewish survivors, life for Jews in England, electoral rolls, internment during the war, databases that can help you locate births deaths and marriages and much else besides.

Website: <http://www.bl.uk/>

ii. The Jewish Genealogical Society

Is also very helpful. They have published a guide which includes information about vital records, hospital records, synagogues, and cemeteries if you are looking for a grave. They publish *Shemot* a quarterly journal. You can visit their library and office in London by appointment.

Email: enquiries@jgsgb.org.uk

Website: www.jgsgb.org.uk

iii. The Jewish Refugees' Committee

Helped a lot of Czech and Austrian Jews to escape to Britain after 1938. They have an archive and Lillian Levy may be emailed to ask for information.

Jewish Refugees Committee - Archive

World Jewish Relief

Tel: 020 8385 3076

Fax: 020 8385 3080

Email: jrc@ajr.org.uk

iv. Moving Here

British immigration records search partnered by the British Archives in Kew.
This is a good website created with archival records.

Website: <http://www.movinghere.org.uk/>

e. France

For refugees who may have escaped Austria and gone to France or Africa or been transported to death camps try the Paris based database

Website: <http://www.jewishtraces.org/search.php>

Manuela Wyler who manages this posts from time to time on the SIG.

f. Galicia and Bukovina

Under the Austrian Empire from 1772 Galicia- now southern Poland and parts of Ukraine -was part of the Austrian Territories. Its capital was Lvov. So the website JRI-Poland is helpful to locate family in Galicia which included Krakow and Lvov. Bukovina was annexed by Austria in 1775 and became a separate province in 1849. Tarnopol was lost to Russia in 1809 but came back to be part of Galicia in 1815. There was a large population of Jews in eastern Galicia.

Because Russian, Yiddish, German and Polish languages were used to register Jewish births, deaths and marriages in this territory the volunteer transcribers for JRI-Poland have done a huge mitzvah. JRI-Poland transcribed into English allows you to find a name and then locate its attached records by town and archive. You then have to pay for the copy of the record and send payment and afterwards you will receive your copy. There are four million records already indexed and the database is being updated regularly.

JRI-Poland is one of the Jewish Gen projects and you can access it from the Jewish Gen website: <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/index.htm>

Some important notes about Vital records in Galicia

Subject: variation in towns in vital records

From: "Suzan & Ron Wynne" <srwynne@erols.com>

Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2007 07:54:53 -0400

Galicia was broken into JEWISH administrative districts by the Austrian government. Every district was governed by elected and appointed men from the Jewish community. Each district was itself, a branch of the central kehilla in Lemberg. Austrian law required every Jew to belong to a kehilla for the purpose of taxation, census. A person was attached for life to a kehilla. When people married someone in another kehilla, they didn't automatically change their membership to the kehilla where they newly resided. Kehillot officials were sometimes reluctant to approve a transfer because it meant a loss of revenue from taxes. Then the children came. So, to which kehilla did the children belong? Say that Mom belonged to one, Dad to another. The children were born in still another.

So, over time, we can imagine that there might be some confusion creeping in.

When a person lived in a town which shared its name with other towns, sometimes the registrar would put a slash indicating which kehilla/administrative district the town was in. The kehilla issue shows up in the census records where every individual's kehilla was noted...too bad we don't have more census records. Voter lists contain the current residence of the individuals eligible to vote in the kehilla elections. We can see that emigration from Galicia to "Amerika" did not always end one's membership either! In fact, all sorts of official documents that can be seen on microfilm at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem illustrate the importance of kehilla membership. A person had to be in good standing with taxes to vote, obtain a business license, marry officially, etc.

Suzan Wynne, Kensington, MD

Author of The Galitzianers: The Jews of Galicia, 1772-1918

Subject: Galicia and Bukowina border

From: "Suzan & Ron Wynne" <srwynne@erols.com>

Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2007 08:12:08 -0400

In any discussion about the border between Galicia and Bukowina, I think it is vital to keep in mind that for a long time, Bukowina was officially considered to be part of Galicia. When Austria absorbed it into its Empire, to live in Bukowina meant one was living in Galicia. The people of Bukowina were fairly nationalistic and never liked having their national identity wiped out in that fashion and constantly pressed for designation as a separate Crown land. So, a couple of times, Austria granted Bukowina's wishes. The first separation was in 1849 but then the Austrian Parliament rescinded the decision in 1859 and until sometime in 1861, Bukowina was again part of Galicia. Bukowina had only one kehilla based in Czernowitz because most of the Jews lived in that city or in surrounding towns.

Suzan Wynne
Kensington, MD

g. Germany

After the war ended the Allies collected as many documents as possible and placed them in an archive in the German town of Bad Arolsen under the control of all 11 Allied Governments. For years these records were pretty inaccessible. Recently after a lot of international pressure they are now much more readily accessible.

You can download applications off their website.

Bad Arolsen- International Tracing Service: <http://www.its-arolsen.org/english/index.html>

Note that the records are being digitised and are available if you visit the USHMM or Yad Vashem's research library where you can get the records from a computer.

h. Israel

Israel has many archives but few are online.

i. Yad Vashem

The Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem has a huge database of Holocaust victims which is constantly being updated. You can often discover family members here and sometimes they even have photos. You can download your family members' names into the database and the museum is calling for more records to be added from the Diaspora.

Website: <http://www.yadvashem.org/>

ii. The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

Location: 46 Jabotinsky Street, Jerusalem (Giva't Ram campus, Hebrew University)

Postal Address: POB 1149, Jerusalem 91010

Tel: 972-2-5635716

Fax 972-2-5667686

Email: archives@vms.huji.ac.il

Website: <http://sites.huji.ac.il/archives>

iii. Beit Theresienstadt

Is in Israel on the Givat Chaim Ichud kibbutz near Tel Aviv set up by survivors in 1955. They have an archive and library and you can search the Holocaust collection online. Recently they appointed a new director Oded Breda a second generation survivor. They publish a newsletter and other services for families of ghetto inmates.

Website: <http://www.bterezin.org.il/>

i. Slovakia

All Jewish records are held in their National Archives. There is a small fee for their research. Application form in English for family history research may be downloaded from their website.

Ministerstvo vnútra SR
Štátny archív v Bratislave
Križkova 7
811 04 Bratislava

Email: archiv.soba@mvsr.vs.sk.

j. USA

i. The US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Is in Washington DC and well worth a visit. They have a fantastic research library with an amazing collection. They also have a lot of material and their catalogue is online. Their collection includes survivor lists and you can post on their notice boards for missing family.

USHMM archives librarian email: archives@ushmm.org

ii. The Centre for Jewish History

In New York is on 16th Street downtown and holds a very extensive collection in three major sections, American, Yiddish, and German. Their librarians are most helpful and they also have volunteers to assist you to use their library.

Centre for Jewish History
15 West 16th St, New York, NY, 10011
Phone: 212 8301

Website: www.cjh.org

iii. AVOTAYNU

Is both a website and a genealogy journal coming out of New York. They publish some important reference books, maps and the journal. They have published many articles about Austria and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Website: <http://www.avotaynu.com/journal.htm>

iv. Steve Morse

Has a good website where you can search a lot of different records including census data, Ellis Island arrivals and much more. It's a free site.

Website: <http://stevemorse.org/>

v. Cyndi's list

Is a compilation of a lot of different websites.

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

vi. ancestry.com

Is a very useful site some of which you can get for free via the Jewish Gen website. Some of it is subscription only.

Website: <http://www.ancestry.com.au/>

k. Centropa

Is a new website for Jewish history in Eastern Europe. It has a section for the Czech Republic and another for Slovakia and Austria too. It contains biographic interviews and many photos. Jaroslav Klenovsky has submitted articles about the Jews of Brno and Mikulov.

Website: <http://www.centropa.org/index.php>