

VITAL RECORDS AND OTHER SOURCES FOR BURGENLAND

Markus Schönherr, Vienna, Austria



Vital Records and Other Sources for Burgenland

General historical development:

- Burgenland was part of Hungary until late 1921.
- Many Croat and German speaking settlers, esp. after Ottoman wars (1520s, 1680s)
- Burgenland: north-south; formed of parts of 3 Hungarian counties: east-west (Moson, Sopron, Vas)
- German was/is predominant language spoken, Hungarian was language of administration (esp. 1867-1921).
- Catholic is predominant religion, also protestants, before WW2 also Jewish communities.

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Historical development of vital records:

- Civil registration introduced 1 Oct 1895, Hungarian
- Before: vital records kept by religious communities: catholic, protestant, Jewish; in Latin, Hungarian, German
- Civil registration continued after 1921, in German
- Civil registration generally in Austria after 1938, German standard, after 1945 Austrian standard

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Civil vital records:

- Civil records stored at civil registry offices, on paper
- Duplicates 1895-1920 at Hungarian National Archive -> online at Familysearch
- 1895-1906 very detailed, afterwards less detail
- Duplicates before 1921 likely have no subsequent remarks after 1921
- Inquiries: ask for copy of original, not „certificate“

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Catholic and protestant vital records:

- Catholic records: at parish office or at Diocesan Archive in Eisenstadt
- Some catholic records: partly at parish, partly at archive
- Some catholic records: online at matriken.at (for a fee)
- Protestant records: all stored at parish offices
- Duplicates between 1825/1827 and 1895 at Hungarian National Archive, online on Familysearch, many electronically indexed

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Photo: Markus Schönherr

Diocesan Archive in Eisenstadt/Kismarton

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Photo: Markus Schönherr

Catholic parish church and cemetery in Pamhagen/Pomogy

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Jewish vital records:

- Many destroyed during/after WW2
- Some older records at Jewish Community in Vienna
- Duplicates 1833/1835 to 1895 at Hungarian National Archive, online at Familysearch, some electronically indexed

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Some practical aspects:

- Original records: more subsequent remarks than duplicates
- Religious records before 1895: often little content
- Civil records 1895-1906: much more content
- Religious records after 1895: less accessible, but useful data like godparents
- Some duplicates indexes flawed, still helpful

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Gazetteers:

- Which village belonged to which civil/parish office?
- Catholic affiliations: GenTeam gazetteer
- Catholic, protestant, civil affiliations:
Burgenland Bunch pages for every district,
plus multilingual village index

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Other sources - census:

- Census records on Familysearch not easy to find
- 1857 for Sopron county: Austria-Burgenland-Census
- 1828: Austria-Census-1828
- 1828 typoscript: Hungary-Moson-Census
- Different years: Hungary-Vas-Census

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Other sources:

- Village histories: library catalogs, village or parish websites or offices, list on Burgenland Bunch site
- Ask parish or community offices about local hobby genealogists or local history experts
- Burgenland provincial archive:
parts of dominical archives
- Urbaria of 1700s in Hungarian National Archive

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Photo: Markus Schönherr

Esterházy palace in Eisenstadt/Kismarton

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Conclusion:

- Research strategy depends on available records for locality and religion.
- Going further back can be difficult, as vital records before 1895 often contain few details.
- Records can be stored in many different places.

Good luck!

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by Markus Schönherr

Professional Genealogist in Vienna, Austria

markus.schoenherr@gmx.net