



Vital records and other sources for Burgenland - 500242

Syllabus

General historical development:

- Burgenland was part of Hungary until late 1921 (de facto).
- Especially after the wars against the Ottomans (1520s, 1680s), there were many Croat and German speaking settlers.
- Burgenland spans north to south, formed of territory formerly part of three Hungarian counties (Wieselburg/Moson, Ödenburg/Sopron and Eisenburg/Vas), spanning east to west.
- German was/is the predominant language spoken in the area, while Hungarian was the language of administration (especially 1867-1921).
- Predominant religion is roman-catholic, there are also protestants (Lutheran, few Calvinist), and there used to be Jewish communities.

Historical development of vital records:

- Civil registration was introduced in Hungary by 1 October 1895, in Hungarian language.
- Before, vital records (birth/marriage/death) were kept by religious communities: catholic, protestant, Jewish, possibly others, in Hungarian, Latin or German language.
- Civil registration was continued in Burgenland after 1921, then in German language.
- Civil registration was generally introduced in Austria in 1938/1939; forms and content in Burgenland were changed to the standard valid throughout the German Reich; after 1945 records were kept according to Austrian standards.

Civil vital records:

- Civil records are generally stored locally on paper at the civil registry office.
- From 1895 until 1920, duplicates had to be submitted to central authorities in Hungary.
- Duplicates are stored at the Hungarian National Archive; many are available online on Familysearch, some are electronically indexed.
- Between 1895 and 1906, civil records were very detailed; less details afterwards.
- Duplicates before 1921 likely did not receive subsequent remarks, e.g. on marriage or death of the persons concerned.
- Inquiries at civil registry offices in Burgenland: ask for a copy of the original record, not for a „certificate“ („Urkunde“), otherwise you get an extract from the electronic central civil register, which is less detailed.

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Syllabus (continued)

Catholic and protestant vital records:

- Catholic vital records are stored at the parish offices or at the Diocesan Archive in Eisenstadt.
- For some catholic parishes, records are partly in the parish and partly at the archive.
- Some original catholic parish records have come available online on matriken.at (for a fee).
- Protestant vital records are all stored at the parish offices.
- Duplicates had to be submitted to state authorities between about 1825/1827 and 1895.
- Duplicates are stored at the Hungarian National Archive; many are available online on Familysearch, many are electronically indexed.

Jewish vital records:

- Many records were destroyed or lost during or after World War 2.
- Some older records are at Jewish Community in Vienna:
<http://www.archiv-ikg-wien.at/archivportal/bestaende/matriken/>
- Duplicates: same as with the catholic records, see above, available from mid 1830s onwards.

Some practical aspects:

- Original records contain more subsequent remarks, many did not make it onto duplicates.
- Religious records before 1895 often have little content, civil records after 1895 often more.
- Religious records after 1895 are less accessible, but contain useful data like godparents.
- Indexation of duplicate records is sometimes flawed, still very helpful.

Gazetteers - which village belonged to which civil registry or parish office:

- For catholic parish affiliations: genteam.at
- For catholic, protestant and civil affiliations: Burgenland Bunch pages for every district on <http://www.the-burgenland-bunch.org/LDS/LDS.htm> ; multilingual village index: <http://www.the-burgenland-bunch.org/Map/Villages/AllMapNames2.htm>

Other sources:

- Census records for 1857 for Ödenburg/Sopron county are available online on Familysearch via Austria-Burgenland-Census, for 1828 via Austria-Census-1828, with a typed version e.g. under Hungary-Moson-Census, or for different years under Hungary-Vas-Census.
- Village histories can be found via library catalogs or village/parish websites, for a list see: https://www.the-burgenland-bunch.org/Villages/v_Chroniks.htm
- Ask parish or community office about local hobby genealogists or local history experts.
- Parts of dominical archives (e.g. of the Batthyány family) at Burgenland provincial archive: <https://www.burgenland.at/themen/wissenschaft/landesarchiv/bestaende/forschungsarchiv>
- Searchable urbaria e.g. from 1700s and other sources at Hungarian National Archive: <https://adatbazisokonline.hu> or on <https://hungaricana.hu/en/databases/>