

**A Guide for Locating Military Records for the various
Regions of the Austro-Hungarian Empire
by Carl Kotlarchik**

While military records are usually considered a secondary resource for genealogical researchers, knowledge of military service adds depth to a family history and goes beyond just having a list of names and dates. It provides insight into what an ancestor may have experienced during their lifetime and gives a perspective of the history at that period.

To find military records for the Austro-Hungarian Army, one first needs to determine where and how to look for them since they were kept at different locations during various periods of time. The records were also kept differently for the various states within the Empire. Consequently, it can be a little confusing if one does not understand a bit about the history of the Austrian Empire and the subsequent Austro-Hungarian Empire.

A Short History of the Empires ^{1, 2}

The first thing to recognize is that eventually there were at least eleven different ethnic groups in the Austrian Empire. Initially, it was just Austria and the Czech regions of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. The Kingdom of Hungary was not even part of the original Empire. But after the Ottomans invaded Hungary in 1526, the Austrian Hapsburgs used it as an opportunity to gain control of the Hungarian Monarchy. When Austria finally drove the Ottomans out of Hungary in the 1680s, they reached a peace agreement with the Turks that gave them control of most of the Hungarian lands and Transylvania. The Hungarian diet then gave the Austrian Emperor the hereditary rights to the Hungarian Crown. The Austrian Emperor thus became the King of Hungary as well (Kaiser und Konig).

Austria continued to gain control of additional lands from a series of wars in the 1700 and 1800s. When they partitioned Poland with Prussia and Russia, Austria took over the southern section of Poland which was known as Galicia. They also gained the northern section of Italy in wars with the French and, as the Ottomans were driven out of Balkans, Austria and Hungary took over Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It is important to recognize that during this initial period, all these regions were now part of the Austrian Empire and all the ethnic groups were Austrian subjects. As such, all men had a military obligation to the Emperor and could be conscripted to serve in the Austrian Army. Hungary, however, had a unique status. Although the Austrian Kaiser was also the King of Hungary, the Hungarians were allowed to maintain their own parliament and could manage their Kingdom with their own set of laws. Hungary was also allowed to rule over the Slovaks, Ruthenians, Croatians and people in the former area of Transylvania which were all part of greater Hungary at that time. Austria maintained direct control over the Czech regions, Galicia and northern Italy. But most importantly, Austria controlled the armies within the Empire.

Nevertheless, there was a lot of ethnic unrest and the army was used, not only for protection against external threats, but also to maintain control of the various ethnic groups within. Over the years, it was necessary for Austria to use the army to put down a number of internal revolts including one in Hungary in 1848. As a result of this revolt, Austria took direct control over Hungary. But when Austria lost the war with Prussia in 1866, Hungary once again used it as an opportunity to regain control of some of their own affairs.

The Ausgleich

A compromise was reached in 1867, known as the *Ausgleich*, by which Hungary was given equal status with Austria. The Austrian Emperor was still recognized as being the King of Hungary but the Hungarian diet regained powers over Hungarian lands and the people residing within their borders like the Slovaks and Ruthenians. The Empire now became known as the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It would last until the end of World War I, after which, the Empire was broken down into many separate countries.

After 1867, a Hungarian homeland army emerged. In addition to the joint Austro-Hungarian Army, known as the Royal and Imperial Army (the k.u.k.), Hungary formed a new, separate army which they called the *Honved* known as the Royal Hungarian Army (k.u.). Austria already had its own homeland army which they called the *Landwehr* or the Imperial Royal Army (the k.k.).³ Men could be conscripted to serve in either the joint army or their homeland army.

My focus has been on pre-1867 records for my Slovak ancestors, but I will give reference to other ethnic regions and timeframes. I've concentrated on pre-1867 records because they were centrally maintained at the Kriegs Archives in Vienna and are now available on microfilm from the LDS Family History Center. These include records for both officers and enlisted personnel. After 1867, Hungary began keeping the records for their own soldiers, including those from the districts now in present-day Slovakia. Although the records for the officers still exist, the records for the enlisted men are no longer available. Another reason I've avoided looking for post 1867 records is that after the *Ausgleich*, Hungary formed a home guard called the *Honved*. Therefore, many men from Hungary served in this homeland army instead of the joint army (the k.u.k). Unfortunately, the records for the *Honved* units also appear to have been lost. And finally, after the war with Prussia in 1866, the Austro-Hungarian Empire enjoyed an extended period of relative calm and was not involved in any major external conflicts for almost fifty years until WWI. During this period, the Army was used primarily to maintain control of the various ethnic groups, especially those in the Balkans. But in the years prior to 1866, Austria was a major power in Europe and fought a number of wars against France (the Napoleonic Wars), Denmark, Prussia, Russia and even England and Sweden. Consequently, there is a lot of interesting military history in these earlier years. The events are all well documented in numerous books and various accounts. They provide a rich source of information about the times. However, after 1866, Austria's power waned as Prussia became the main force in the German Confederation. By treaty, Austria was eliminated from all participation after having controlled the federation for a century.

Length of Service Obligation

As previously mentioned, Austria controlled all armies in the Empire prior to 1867. Hungary did form a Honved during the revolt in 1848 but it was disbanded after the revolt was put down by Austria (with the help of Russia). During war time, Austria had as many as half a million men under arms. To maintain this force, it was necessary to conscript 80,000 to 85,000 men a year into the army. The length of service obligation and the age of eligibility changed several times during the 1800s. At the beginning of the century, soldiers faced a lifetime obligation, which meant that once they finished active duty they could be recalled into the army at any time.⁴ By mid century, the obligation was ten years. In the infantry, recruits served one to three years of active duty. Engineers and the artillery served actively for three years and because it took longer to develop the horsemanship skills required for the cavalry, they served seven to eight years actively. After completing the active duty phase, soldiers were put on furlough to their homes and called out annually for additional training. After a total of eight years in the service, men were then put into the reserves to complete their obligation.⁵ But even after the active part of their reserve obligation was completed, men were put into inactive reserves and could be called up in time of war.

Recruitment

Men were eligible to be drafted starting at the age of 20. If they failed the physical, they could be called back the following two years and retested. But after failing three times, they were declared unfit and dismissed. There were five military districts in Hungary and each regimental unit was assigned specific counties in these districts where they were allowed to recruit. However, these assignments changed over time, and consequently, it is necessary to know the “class” year to find a given individual. This was usually twenty years after his birth but could be twenty one or twenty two years, if they were drafted late. Also note that young men could volunteer for the Army as early as age 17. Therefore, volunteers could have a class year below age twenty. The headquarters for the five military districts within Hungary were located in Bratislava (Pressburg), Košice (Kassa, Kaschau), Buda-Pest, Sopron and Oradea.



Map of the Kingdom of Hungary in 1850, showing the five military districts

Determining which ancestors were in the Army

How does one know if they have an ancestor that served in the Austro-Hungarian Army? It may be as simple as having relatives knowing stories about a grandparent who was in the military, as was the case in my family. However, it can also come from actual documents, pictures or notations in church records. In addition, there are other clues that might suggest that an individual was in the army. The age at which a man got married will sometimes indicate military service. Soldiers were not allowed to get married while on their first tour of duty. Therefore, if a man got married later than others in village, it may be because he had been in the service first. It is almost a given that if a man got married for the first time at the age of 27 or 28, he had been in the army.⁷

Determining the Regimental Unit

As most of us have learned, the key to finding ancestral church documents is to identify the family home village or town. Similarly, the key to finding military records is to determine in which regiment the soldier served.

In Alphons Wrede's book: *Geschichte der k. und k. Wehrmacht*⁸ (History of the Austro-Hungarian Armed Forces) volume 1, there are charts for each region of the Empire called the *Uebersicht der Werb- (Ergänzungs-)Bezirks-Eintheilung von 1781 bis 1889*. These charts show in which counties each infantry regiment recruited during any period of time. This book is available from the FHL on film 1187917 item 2. Note that I have created a table extracted from Wrede's book showing which regiments were recruiting in the Kingdom of Hungary by county listings over various periods of time. This table can be found at the end of this article in Appendix A.

Now, by knowing your ancestor's home county and his "class" year, you can determine the infantry regiment in which he may have served by using this table. There are also a number of military maps that show the home depot of the various regimental units in the Empire. But these maps are only useful to indicate which regiments were recruiting in a general area and not specific enough to determine which regiment was recruiting in an individual county. Even when the regimental home depot remained constant, the counties nearby where they recruited often changed. In addition, these maps are only good for the year in which they were created. The *Garnison-Karte von Österreich 1898*,⁹ is an example of one of these military maps. Consequently, for reasons given above, I believe the best method of finding your ancestor's infantry regiment is to use the information extracted from Wrede's book. Note that only infantry regiments are covered in the tables. Other kinds of units, such as the cavalry, artillery and engineers will be discussed later. However, most soldiers were in the infantry, especially those from the peasant classes. In addition, many soldiers started in the infantry before being transferred to other types of units. So, it is a good place to start your search.

Determining the time period for searching military records

The three major time periods to consider are:

1. Pre-1867 - Records centrally maintained at the Vienna War Archives. These records include soldiers from the entire Empire including individuals from Austria, the Czech regions, Galicia, and all of Hungary.
2. 1867 to 1918 - Records maintained by Austria and by Hungary separately. Austria kept the records for the regions they directly administered, including Galicia and the Czech regions of Bohemia and Moravia. Hungary kept those for everyone in their kingdom, which included the Slovaks and other slavs within their borders. By treaty, these records were to be sent to the successor countries but there is a lot of conflicting information as to what has happened to these records (see section below on Czech Military Records).
3. Post-1918 - Records maintained by the states of Czechoslovakia (1st and 2nd Republic) and Slovakia (1st Republic) as well as the other successor nations of Poland, Yugoslavia, Romania, the Ukraine, and various countries formed after Yugoslavia was broken up.

Grundbuchblätter Records (personnel sheets)

Once you have determined your ancestor's regiment, you can look for his personnel records. The information in personnel records includes the name of the soldier, birth year and location, marital status, civilian occupation, religion, and dates of service, description of duties, promotions if any and date of discharge.

From 1820 until 1869, individual personnel sheets for all the troops in the Empire were kept in books called *Grundbuchblätter* in Vienna. After 1869, these records were only kept for the Austrians and personnel from the regions they administered as described earlier. The *Grundbuchblätter* records are listed by regimental number and then by class year. They are not indexed alphabetically by surname. Soldiers are listed starting with the officers, cadets and finally the enlisted men. To find an individual soldier, it is necessary to review all the records for a given class year. The Kriegs Archive will do a search of their records for a fee or you can hire a private researcher to do a search of these records. But they are also available on microfilm from the Family History Library on 2,884 rolls of film. Now, a bit of a warning about using these FHL films, they are not well cataloged. The film titles of the earliest records list the years covered, but the later films only list *Heft* (book) numbers, which are not a very useful guide. In addition, many of the film titles in the FHL catalog contain errors as to the years covered. Some indicate that they only cover the years from 1820 until 1860. However, in most cases, the records for the 1860s are actually covered in those films. I've contacted the LDS about this and have had them change the titles for some films, including all the ones for the Hussars.

But given these problems, it is best to order several of the films in each regimental series to make sure you get the years wanted. The easiest way to search through the film is to go the records for the birth year of your ancestor (see template below). Then look through the records for that year (and several years on both sides if you don't find it immediately).

As mentioned, the *Grundbuchblätter* records by regimental number cover all soldiers in the Empire. But additional *Grundbuchblätter* records exist for soldiers from the eight states within what is now modern Austria (Wien, Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich, Steiermark, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, and Vorarlberg). They are kept at the Kriegs Archive in Vienna. The records cover Austrian soldiers from ~1820 to the end of WWI and they are organized alphabetically by the names of the soldiers within each individual state.¹⁰ The records are on 616 rolls of film available from the FHL.

Czech Military Records

Additional military records for soldiers coming from the Czech regions of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, are located at the Kriegs Archive in Vienna for the years from 1820 to 1864. Personnel sheets for Czech soldiers can be found in records called *Grundbuchblätter Diverse: Bohmen, Mahren, Schlesien*. These records are organized alphabetically by the soldier's names and are available from the FHL on 685 rolls of film or they can be obtained by a private search in the archive described above.

The Director of the Kriegs Archive in Vienna, Christoph Tepperberg, has written the following statement about the records after 1864 for the Czech regions:

“According to the Saint-Germain peace treaty of 1919, all Grundbuchblätter of the years of birth 1865-1900 for soldiers outside the new Austrian Republic had to remain in, or to be surrendered to, the “successor states”. Therefore the Kriegsarchiv keeps from these age-classes only the personnel files for soldiers from the territory of today's Austrian Republic. In the successor states of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the majority of these files (have) been lost. For the Czech Republic, the Grundbuchblätter of the years of birth 1887-1900 have been kept in the repository for military personnel files in Tyrnau (Trnava, Slovakia), where most of them were destroyed, while the remainders and the files of the age classes 1865-1886 are preserved in the Czech Historical Military Archives in Prague.”¹¹

Unfortunately, I do not believe the records in Prague have been filmed by the LDS, but you can hire the archives or other private researchers to do a search for you. Additional types of Czech military records are well described at Czechfamilytree.com¹².

Grundbuchblätter Records for the rest of the Empire

Alphabetical military personnel records by surname makes it fairly easy to find soldiers coming from Austria itself and the Czech regions. Unfortunately, records for the remaining regions of the Empire are not organized alphabetically by name. To find these

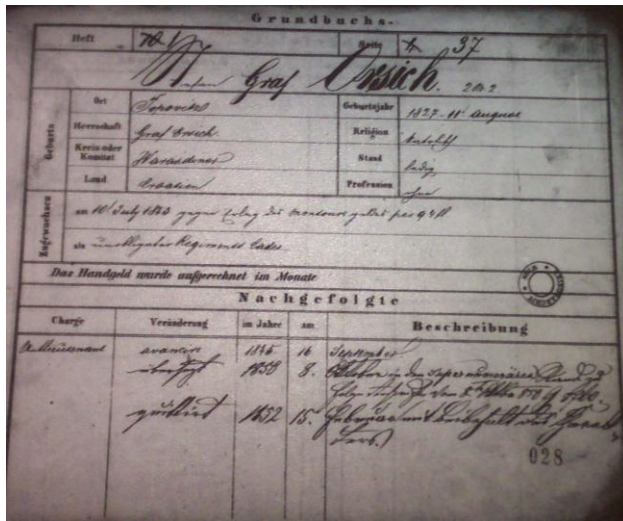
records, you must first determine the regimental number. A chart showing which infantry regiments recruited in Galacia, listed by districts over various time periods, can be found at Polishroots.com.¹³ A list for infantry regiments recruiting in the Kingdom of Hungary can be found at the end of this article in Appendix A. For all other areas of the Empire, you can use tables found in “*An Introduction to Austrian Military Records*” by Steven W. Blodgett.¹⁴ Here is the link to Mr. Blodgett’s article: <http://www.feefhs.org/journal/9/blodgett.pdf> But a word of caution, I found many discrepancies between Mr. Blodgett’s tables and the charts in Alphons Wrede’s book that was discussed earlier. That is why I created a separate table for the Hungarian regions based solely on Wrede’s charts. I have no way of knowing which table is more accurate but Wrede is considered by many to be the ultimate authority on Austro-Hungarian military topics.

The final reference on this topic comes from the *Dislokations-Verzeichnis des k.u.k. Heeres und der k.u.k. Marine, 1649-1914* by Otto Kasperkowitz¹⁵ (Location Index for Recruitment into the Imperial and Royal Austrian Army and Navy Troops). Unlike the other tables which just show the infantry regiments, Kasperkowitz’s tables list all the various types of units including those of the cavalry, artillery and the engineers. Regiments are listed by county or district for all regions of the Empire. It is available from the FHL on film # 1186632. But unfortunately, the years covered in these tables are very incomplete and may not provide guidance for all time periods.

Grundbuchblätter Headings and an Example Record

Grundbuchblätter				
Personnel Sheets				
Heft	Book #	Seite	Page #	
Soldier's Name				
Birth Info.	Ort	Place (town or village)	Geburts-Jahr	Birth year
	Herrshaft	Dominion	Religion	Religion
	Kreis oder Comitat	District or County	Stand	Status (marital)
	Land	Region or Country	Profession	Occupation
Enlistment Info	Zugewachsen	am	on (enlistment date)	
		als	as (initial assignment)	
Nachgefolgte (Service Records)				
Charge	Veränderung	im Jahr	am	Beschreibung
Rank or Position	Change	Year	on	Description

Format of the *Grundbuchblätter* records with translations of the German headings.



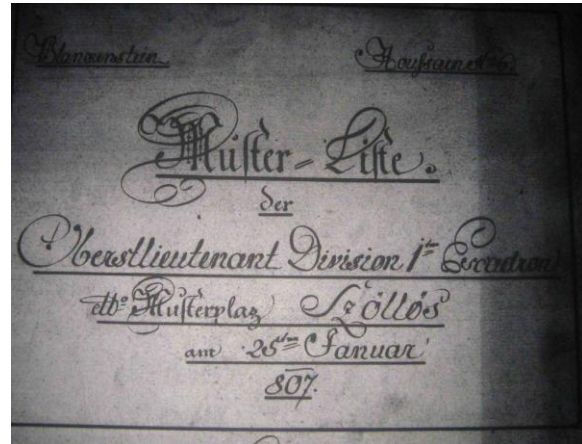
The above record is from the regimental book of the 6th Hussars.¹⁶ It lists Graf (Count) Orsich of Croatia. He was born in 1827 and he enlisted in 1843 as a regimental cadet. He was just shy of being 17 years old. In 1845, he was promoted to 2nd lieutenant and remained in the service until at least 1852. I wish I could read his service records, but the writing is just too difficult.

Musterlisten und Standestabellen (Muster Rolls and Formation Tables)

Prior to 1820, when *Grundbuchblätter* records started to be kept, military records for all soldiers and officers were kept in *Musterlisten und Standestabellen* (Muster Rolls and Monthly Reports). These records at the Kriegs Archive cover the years from 1740 to 1820 and are available on microfilm from the Family History Center on 5,104 rolls of microfilm. Records are organized by regimental unit. Both *Grundbuchblätter* and *Musterlisten und Standestabellen* records provide an individual's year of birth, place of birth, religion, occupation, service record and dates of service. The *Standestabellen* only indicate changes within the last month. *Musterlisten* also list names and ages of children, physical description of the soldier, whether he ever deserted and even information about his horse, if he was in the cavalry.

In addition, there is an alphabetical list of all officers by name called the *Kartei für Musterlisten und Standestabellen* covering the years of 1740-1820. This list is available from the FHL on 29 rolls of film.

Here is an example of a *Musterlisten* record¹⁷ courtesy of Jacques Cotteret.



These images are the covers of the *Musterlisten* for the 6th Hussars from the early 1800s. The honorary regimental name at that time was the Blankenstein Regiment. All regiments had an Inhaber, who was the honorary “owner” of the regiment. In this case, it was Ernst Graf Blankenstein for which the regiment took its name.

An actual record from this book appears below.

1 ^o	2 ^o	Chargen.	Nomina.	Gebürtig		Jahr alt.	Religion.	Ehamb.	Profession.	Verheirathete deren Weiber		Haben Kinder					
				von	aus					Präsent.	Absent.	Männlich	Weiblich	Stamen.	Alter.	Stamen.	Alter.
			Joseph Anton Lunzlik Geb. in der Pfarre St. Michael in dem District	Tabor	Seckau	22 ^{te}	Röm. Cath.			1	0	1	1				
208			Georg Bokorny Geb. in der Pfarre St. Michael in dem District	Wien	Wien	22	Röm. Cath.										
209																	

Many thanks to Jacques Cotteret for providing the following translations of the *Musterlisten* headings.

***Musterlisten* Headings:**

- Chargen – Rank or position (note these men were *gemeiner* (troopers or privates))
- Nomina – Names
- Gebürtig – Birth 1. Location (City, Town, or Village) 2. County or District
- Jahr Alt – Age
- Religion

Stand – Status (marital)

Profession

Verheiratete deren Weiber -- Married men whose wives (are):

Präsent – present

Absent

Nicht zur Militär juridis. Gehörig -- Not under military jurisdiction

Haben Kinder – Have children

Männlich – Males (with names and ages)

Weiblich – Females (with names and ages)

Maass- Measures (height of soldier)

Schuh(e) – feet

Zoll – inches

Strich – line (~1/10 of inch)

Records for Officers

There are records for all officers in the Austrian and subsequent Austro-Hungarian Army at the Kriegs Archive in Vienna. They cover the years from 1761 to 1918 and are comprehensive for all units. Note, about 10% of all soldiers were officers. Their service records are indexed alphabetically by surname. The information provided lists the service record of the officer and events and duties that he performed. They also list the units in which he served. In addition, these records sometimes provide information about the soldiers parents. Officer records can be found in the *Dienstbeschreibungen und Qualifikationslisten der Offiziere*. These records are arranged alphabetically by last name. They are available on 3,408 films from the FHL.

Other units beyond Infantry

There were several other types of units within the army beyond those of the infantry. There were the Jägers (riflemen), the Artillery, the Engineers and the Cavalry.

Records for the Cavalry

The cavalry units were divided into several types of both heavy and light cavalry. These included the *Cuirassiers* (or *Kurassiers*) who were the heavy cavalry used for head-on attacks against the enemy in close fighting. Cuirassiers wore helmets and some body armor including breast plates. They came mainly from Austria.

The *Dragoons* were a second type of heavy to medium cavalry unit. They carried a saber and a short carbine rifle but did not wear any body armor. They were often used as quick mobilization troops because they could rapidly ride to the scene of a battle, dismount and fight as infantry. They were recruited from Austria and the Czech region of Moravia.

The *Chevauxlegers* were medium to light cavalry. They were mainly used for patrolling and reconnaissance. Chevauxlegers were converted to other types of cavalry in the mid 1800s. They were recruited mainly from the Czech region of Bohemia but several regiments were drawn from Galicia, Austria and even Italy.

The *Ulans* used the lance as their weapon of choice. They were light cavalry drawn mainly from Galacia (Poles and Ukrainians).

The final type of cavalry unit was the *Hussars*. They were mainly recruited in the Kingdom of Hungary and were known as superb horsemen. They were also known for their daring and flamboyant personalities, both on and off the battlefield. Hussars were light cavalry used for reconnaissance, raids on enemy supply lines, flank attacks and rear guard actions. They used a short, curved saber in close fighting and favored a somewhat smaller horse (14 to 15 hands) than other units. There were eventually 16 Hussaren regiments with some drawn from Transylvania.

Finding the records for a soldier in the cavalry is a bit harder than that for the infantry. But you still need to determine the regimental unit in which the soldier served. To do so, you can use the *Dislokations-Verzeichnis des k.u.k. Heeres und der k.u.k. Marine, 1649-1914*, cited earlier. There are also various charts available along with maps that show where the cavalry units recruited as well. An example is found in *Hungarian Hussar 1756-1815* by David Hollins.¹⁸ On page 55 he describes in which counties of Hungary each Hussar regiment recruited around 1800. There is also an excellent map on this page that shows the recruitment districts for the Hussar regiments. This map is better than some others because it shows the boundaries of the recruitment districts instead of just the location of the home depots of the various units. Note, page 55 of Hollins' book can be accessed on Google Books but it is inexpensively available from various on-line bookstores.

Cavalry regiments usually maintained an association with specific infantry regiments and recruited in the same counties and districts as these IRs. Therefore, this provides another way to determine the cavalry unit for your county of interest. In books called the *Militar-Schematismus*, records were kept for each regiment. Beginning in 1867, the regimental numbers of the associated infantry regiments are shown for each cavalry regiment. By knowing the recruiting counties of the infantry, one then knows the likely recruiting counties for the associated cavalry regiment. But associations changed over time, therefore it must be determined for a specific time period. Look for the *Militar-Schematismus* on line at Google books. They are available, by year, from 1815 until the 1890s, but only after 1867 do they show which infantry regiments were associated with specific cavalry units.

Records for Other Types of Units

I have not personally researched records for other types of units such as the artillery, jägers or engineers, but I would assume that these could be found using the same methodology described above.

Military Church Records

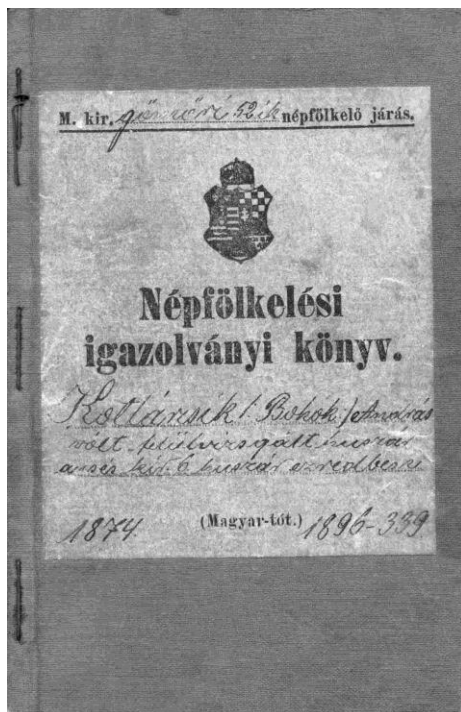
Church records for soldiers can be found in *Militärkirchenbücher* covering the years from 1654 to 1922. They mainly record the deaths of active duty soldiers, but if a soldier got

married or had children while in the service, they record the marriages and baptisms of any children. This was only done if the family was present at the soldier's location and not if they lived elsewhere. The FHL has these records on 551 rolls of films and they are arranged by military unit or hospital.

Military Identity Books

Although the *Grundbuchblätter* for Hungarian troops after 1869 are lost, individual soldiers were given small identity books that listed information about their record of service. These books are sometimes referred to as "military passports" because men used them when immigrating to prove that they had fulfilled their military obligations. Information in these books included name, birth year, class year (draft year), record of active duty, type of unit and regimental number, whether the assignment was in the joint army (k.u.k) or a homeland army (landweir or honved), date of discharge from active service and a description of further obligations in the reserves.

Here is an example of a military identity book:



These are the records for András Kotlárcsik who was born in 1874. He served in the "cs és kir" army which is the Hungarian abbreviation for "császár és kiraly" or the Kaiser & King's Army (k.u.k). This was the joint army and not a homeland army. His unit was the 6th Huszar Regiment. He was drafted in 1896 (classing year) and these records were taken from page 339 of his regiment's personnel book for that year. He was registered from Gömör county in the 52nd military district of Hungary.

részére a sebesülési pótdíj a fentidézett rendelettel ...
 tel ... frt krnyi összegben állapították meg,
 és a ... m. kir. adóhivatalnál folyócsé
 téletett.

A rokkantsági nyugdíjra való igény részére
 fenn van tartva, megszünik 18 évi
 hó napján, és csakis ezen időn belül érve
 vesethető.

Ezen felülvességek népfölkeles szolgálta
 latra köteles, és az 1911 évi december hó 31-ig
 a népfölkelesnek 1-ső osztályába, az 1916 -il
 év végéig pedig a népfölkeles 2-dik osztályába
 tartozik.

Kelt. Szolovár 1897 évi május hó 31-én

Név	Phallóvárosi (Bótkó) András	
Foglalkozás, mesterség	falukész	
Születési év	1874	
Sorozási év, anyakönyvi lapszám	1896-339	
Helyfoglalás	község	Csetnek
	közigazgatási járás	Rozsnyói
	vármegye	Győr
Helyfoglalás (lak.) hely	község	
	közigazgatási járás	
	vármegye	
Tartozik (lak.)	ország	
	népfölkeles járásparancsnokság	

M. KIR. GÖMÖRI NÉPFÖLKELES VÁRÁSPARANCSNOKSÁG

Handwritten signature: Székely

András was born in 1874 and was a farmer in civilian life. He was registered from the town of Csetnek in the Rozsno District of Gömör County. (This was his place of birth.)

He was discharged after completing basic training seven months after being drafted in 1896. He was now assigned to the 1st reserves until 1911 after which he was assigned to the 2nd reserve classification until 1916.

For various reasons, soldiers were often sent into the reserves, in time of peace, after they had completed basic training. Sometimes it was due to poor health. But often it was a way to save money since soldiers were not paid for reserve service. By this means, the army could maintain a greater number of men who would have some training and could be quickly mobilized if needed.

Regimental Histories

After finding your ancestor's records, you can then learn about where he was stationed and any military actions he might have participated in by reviewing the regimental history of his unit. Since Austria had problems controlling the various ethnic groups in its Empire, men were usually stationed outside of their own home districts except for a small depot of the regiment, which handled administrative duties and recruitment. The remainder of the regiment was garrisoned at some distance from their homes. This was probably done because it was thought that they could be used to put down revolts, which they might not do in their home districts. In addition, it made desertion more difficult.

Regimental histories covering the years from the mid 1700s until 1866 can be found in a series of books written by A. Graf Thürheim entitled *Gedenkblätter Aus Der Kriegsgeschichte Der K. K. Oesterreichischen Armee*, which were published in 1880. There are at least three books in this series and the first two can be read or downloaded from Google Books. Book one covers the infantry and book two covers the cavalry. I

have not found book three but I assume it covers other units like the artillery and the engineers.

Book one can be found at the following link:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=f8iEAAAIAAJ&pg=PP7&dq=A.+Graf+Th%C3%BCrheim&cd=6#v=onepage&q=&f=false>

Book two can be found here:

<http://books.google.com/books?dq=Huszaren+regiment+No.10&jtp=1&id=qcADAAAAIAAJ#v=onepage>

The regimental histories show the honorary names that the regiment had, where their home depot was located, and most importantly, any engagements, skirmishes, or battles in which the unit participated. Now it can get very interesting because most wars during this time are well documented. By example, I'm interested in the time period of the 1860s during which Austria fought a war with Denmark and a later one with Prussia and Italy. These wars are documented to the extent of the day-by-day activities of individual regiments.

Uniforms:

If you are lucky enough to find your ancestor's military records, you should be able to learn quite a lot about what he actually did while in the Army. You can start by learning how he was dressed. To learn what the uniforms of the Austrian Army looked like, I recommend two books by Darko Pavlovic. These books have beautiful illustrations of the uniforms of the various types of soldiers and units. They are part of the Men-At-Arms Series by Osprey Publishing and are entitled *The Austrian Army 1836-66 (1) Infantry*¹⁹ and *The Austrian Army 1836-66 (2) Cavalry*²⁰. Additional illustrations of men in their uniforms can be found at the *Das Österreichische Herr* website²¹.

Military Archive Addresses

My personal experience has been that the archives will respond to individual inquiries of a general nature. However, there are charges for more specific questions requiring research on the archive's part. The archives explain their fee structure in their initial response before they do any research. Answers to questions are typically in the native language and not English. If you don't speak the language, Google Translate can be used to help understand the responses.

Addresses of the relevant military archives for Austro-Hungarian Army records:

Vienna:

Kriegsarchiv
Nottendorfergasse 2-4
A-1030 Wien
Austria

Trnava:
 Vojenský historický archív
 Univerzitné nám. 2
 917 01 Trnava Slovak Republic

Prague:
 Vojenský ústřední archiv Praha
 Sokolovská 136
 186 00 Praha 8 Czech Republic

Budapest:
 Hadtörténelmi Levéltár
 1014 Budapest
 Kapisztrán tér 2-4 Hungary

Appendix A

Table of the Recruiting Locations for the Austro-Hungarian Army Infantry Regiments in the Kingdom of Hungary by County from 1781 until 1883.

County (Varmegye)	Year: 1781 1801 1809 1817 1853 1857 1860 1867 1873 1883									
		(1798)			(1851)					
Abauj-Torna	19	19	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Also-Feher (Unter-Weissenburg)	31	31	31	31	50	50	50	50	50	50
Árad	37	-	61	-	-	33	33	33	33	33
Árva	19	60	32	-	-	56	70	-	-	-
Bács-Bodrog (Neusatz)	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	6	6
Bács-Bodrog (Zombar)	52	-	52	-	6	6	23	23	23	33
Bács-Bodrog (Maria-Theresiopel)	52	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	86
Baranya	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
Bars	33	33	33	33	25	25	25	26	26	26
Bekes	52	-	37	-	46	46	46	46	46	101
Bereg	39	62	34	-	5	5	65	65	65	65
Besztercze Naszod (Bistritz)	51	51	51	51	51	51	63	63	63	63
Bihar (Northern)	37	37	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
Bihar (Southern)	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37
Borsod	32	-	34	34	60	60	60	34	60	60
Brasso (Kronstadt)	31	31	31	62	31	2	2	2	2	2
Csanád	52	-	37	-	46	46	46	46	46	46
Csik	-	-	-	82	82	-	-	-	-	82
Csongrád	52	-	37	-	46	46	46	46	46	46
Esztergom (Gran)	33	33	19	19	19	32	69	26	26	26
Fogarás	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Gömör	19	19	60	-	60	60	34	25	25	25
Győr (Raab)	34	34	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
Hajdu (Hajduken)	10	-	39	39	-	-	-	79	39	-
Háromszék	31	31	31	62	31	2	2	2	2	2

Heves	32	-	32	-	60	60	60	60	60	60
Hont	33	33	33	33	25	25	25	26	26	26
Hunyad	51	51	51	-	50	50	64	64	64	64
Jász	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	38	38	38
Kun-Szolnok	34	-	19	19	33	32	69	69	69	69
Kis-Küküllő	51	51	51	51	-	51	51	51	51	51
Kolozsvár (Klausenburg)	51	51	51	51	-	51	51	51	51	51
Komárom (Komorn)	34	34	19	19	19	12	12	12	12	12
Krasso-Szörény	37	61	61	61	61	61	43	43	43	43 & 83
Lipto (Liptau)	19	60	32	-	-	56	70	-	-	-
Máramaros (Mármaros)	39	-	-	-	5	5	65	-	-	85
Maros-Torda	51	51	51	62	62	62	62	62	62	62
Moson (Wieselburg)	not listed but possibly the same as Győr									
Nagy-Küküllő	not listed but possibly the same as Fogaras and Szeben									
Nógrád (Neograd)	-	-	32	-	-	-	25	25	25	25
Nyitra (Neutra)	2	2	2	2	2	4	72	72	72	72
Pest és Ofen	32	32	-	-	-	-	33	33	32	32
Pest-Pilis	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
Pest-Solt	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	38	38
Pozsony (Preßburg)	2	2	2	2	2	4	72	72	72	72
Saros	19	-	60	60	12	20, 46	67	67	67	67
Somogy	52	52	52	52	52	48	44	44	44	44
Sopron (Ödenburg)	34	48	48	48	48	49	76	76	76	76
Szabolcs	39	39,62	39	-	-	39	5	5	5	5
Szatmar	39	39,62	39	-	-	39	5	5	5	5
Szeben (Hermannstadt)	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Székes-Fejervár (Stuhlweißenburg)	34	-	19	19	33	32	69	69	69	69
Szepes (Zips)	19	-	60	60	12	20, 46	67	67	67	67
Szilágy	51	51	51	51	-	51	51	51	51	51
Szolnok-Doboka	51	51	51	51	51	51	63	63	63	63
Temes	37	61	61	61	-	-	61	61	61	61
Tolna (Tolnau)	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
Torda-Aranyos	not listed but possibly the same as Also-Feher									
Torontál	37	61	61	61	29	29	29	29	29	29
Trencsen	2	60	2	2	2	3	71	71	71	71
Turocz (Turoz)	not listed but possibly the same as Trencsen									
Udvarhely	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82
Ugocsa	not listed but possibly the same as Bereg									
Ung	39	39	34	-	-	34	66	66	66	66
Vasvár (Eisenburg)	34	48	48	48	48	48	48	16	48	48 & 83
Veszprém	34	34	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
Zala	34	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48 & 83
Zemplen	39	39	34	-	-	34	66	66	66	66
Zólyom (Sohl)	33	33	33	33	25	25	70	70	25	25

- The Kingdom of Hungary consisted of Hungary proper, the province of Croatia and Slavonia, the province of Fiume and the Principality of Transylvania.
- County names are in Hungarian, followed by the German name in parentheses.

- This table was extracted from the charts: *Uebersicht der Werb-(Ergänzungs-) Bezirks - Eintheilung von 1781 bis 1889* found in Alphons Wrede's book: *Geschicht des K. und K. Wehrmacht Vol. 1.*

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- ¹ Gascoigne, Bamber. HistoryWorld. From 2001, ongoing. <http://www.historyworld.net>
- ² C.A Macartney, *Hungary – A Short History*, <http://www.hungarian-history.hu/lib/macartney/index.htm>
- ³ Glen Jewison & Jörg C. Steiner, *Austro-Hungarian Land Forces*, <http://www.austro-hungarian-army.co.uk>
- ⁴ Karen Hobbs, *Austrian Military Records*, in an article prepared for the Czech Genealogical Society.
- ⁵ Henry Montague Hozier, *The Seven Weeks War* (London, England: Macmillan and Co. 1867) p.130-131.
- ⁶ *Hungarian Military Districts in 1850*, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hungary1850.png>, released into the public domain by the copyright holder “Panonian”.
- ⁷ Karen Hobbs, *Austrian Military Records*.
- ⁸ Alphons Wrede, *Geschicht des K. und K. Wehrmacht volume 1*, (Vienna, L.W. Seidel & Son, 1898)p.114.
- ⁹ *Garnison-Karte von Österreich 1898*, <http://www.kuk-wehrmacht.de/regiment/img/oegarnkart1898.jpg>
- ¹⁰ Steven W. Blodgett, *A Beginners Guide to Austrian Research*, FEEFHS Journal, V10, p.54-55.
- ¹¹ Christoph Tepperberg, *SOURCES FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE AUSTRIAN WAR ARCHIVES IN VIENNA (KRIEGSARCHIV WIEN)*, <http://www.austria.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=25264>
- ¹² *Military Records (Czech)*, <http://www.czechfamilytree.com/military.htm>
- ¹³ *Austrian Military Recruitment within Galicia*, http://www.polishroots.com/Resources/austrian_recruit/tabid/204/Default.aspx
- ¹⁴ Steven W. Blodgett, *An Introduction to Austrian Military Records*, FEEFHS Journal, V9, p. 80-82.
- ¹⁵ Otto Kasperkowitz, *Dislokations-Verzeichnis des k.u.k. Heeres und der k.u.k. Marine, 1649-1914*, (Vienna, 1969).
- ¹⁶ Count Orsich military record from Grundbuchblätter of Husaren regiment 06, Kriegs Archive, Vienna, LDS Family History Library film # 1431496.
- ¹⁷ *Militar-Schematismus* records for HR6, Kriegs Archive, Vienna, LDS Family History Library film #1690914.
- ¹⁸ David Hollins, *Hungarian Hussar 1756-1815*, (United Kingdom: Osprey Publishing Ltd.) p55.
- ¹⁹ Darko Pavlovic, *The Austrian Army 1836-66 (1) Infantry*, (United Kingdom: Osprey Publishing Ltd.)
- ²⁰ Darko Pavlovic, *The Austrian Army 1836-66 (2) Cavalry*, (United Kingdom: Osprey Publishing Ltd.) 1999.
- ²¹ *Das Österreichische Herr*, <http://www.kuk-wehrmacht.de/regiment/>.