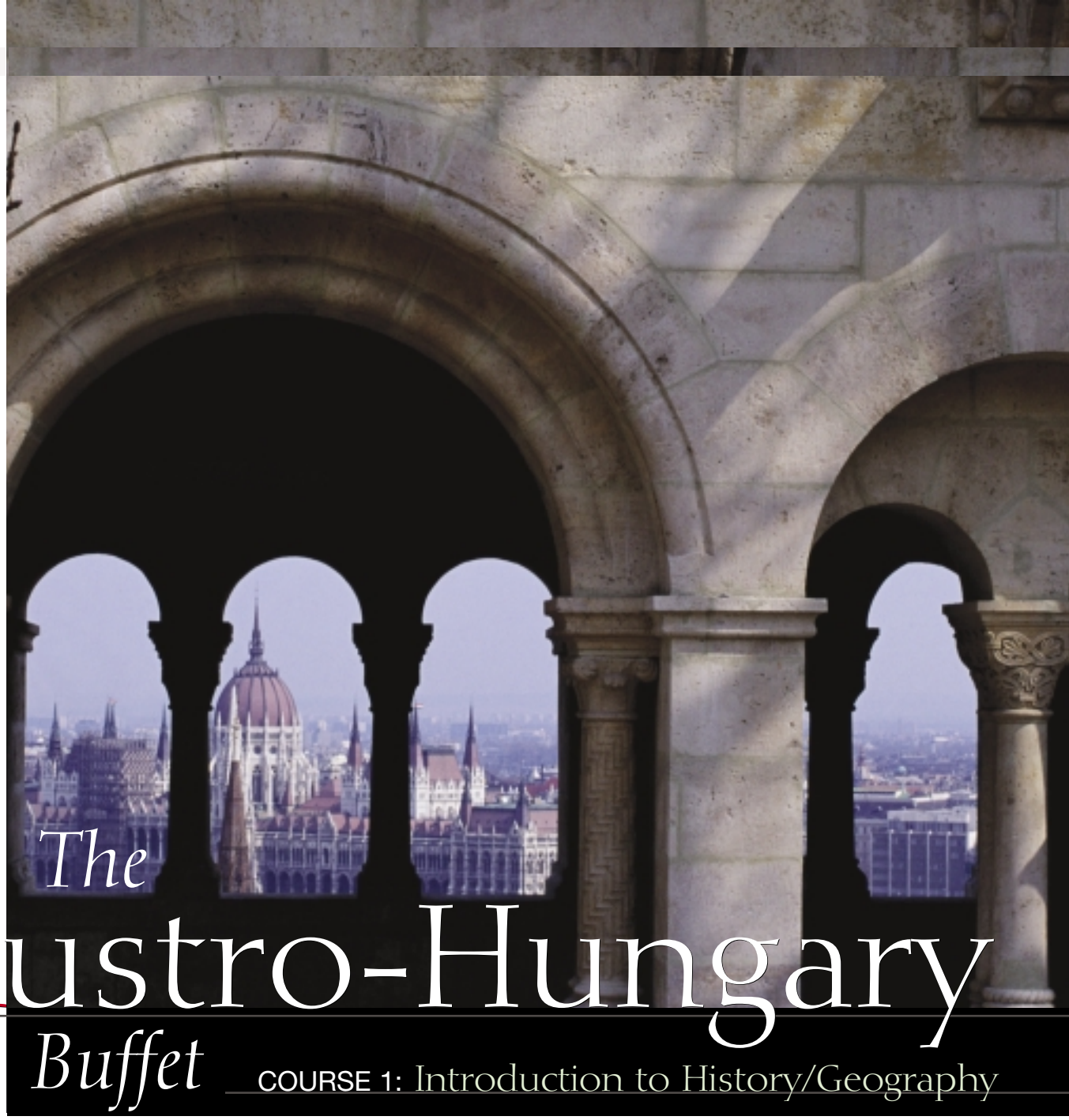
Above: Schonbrunn Palace, Austria.

Right page: A view of the Parliment Building from Fishermen`s Bastion, Budapest, Hungary



The Austro-Hungary Buffet

COURSE 1: Introduction to History/Geography

by E. Wade Hone

"OH, MY! THERE'S SO MUCH TO CHOOSE FROM! I'LL TRY... A SLICE OF AUSTRIA. NO, WAIT! JUST GIVE ME A SMALL SCOOP OF HUNGARY. WELL, ACTUALLY, I'LL TAKE SOME OF BOTH! YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY; IT ALL GOES TO THE SAME PLACE ANYWAY-THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE, RIGHT?"

While this latter rationale might in fact distinguish central or eastern European ancestors from other basic "food" groups such as Scandinavia, South America and Asia, it still leaves us thirsty for more details. Understanding the ingredients of this region has been almost as confusing for those who lived there as those now faced with tracing their lineage to it. What exactly was the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy? Where is the area today compared to the eras when our ancestors were living there? How

CHEF'S MAP SAMPLER

My Personal Favorites!

Czech Republic

For a good detailed map of areas within the Czech Republic, SHOCart maps are the best I've found thus far. Their website is at www.shocart.cz/index_eng.html and is in English for easy understanding. Choose "Maps" from the main page and then click on Tourist in the left-hand column. These maps are available in 1:50,000 scale and provide excellent topographical information in addition to even the smallest of localities. There are other seemingly good maps, but when using them I have suddenly found myself on roads that simply didn't exist according to the maps. Trust SHOCart when you have the 1:50,000 scale maps. They're currently 69Kr, or about $2.50 plus shipping and handling.

Slovakia

My only choice of maps for Slovakia is the Edícia Turistickchý Máp produced by Vojenský Kartografický Ústav in Harmanec. These maps offer topographical details that are irreplaceable for research of an ancestor's town and neighboring communities. The names are modern, but with the help of gazetteers they are much more enlightening than any earlier available maps. They are at the scale of 1:50,000. These maps can be obtained by visiting the English version site of www.vku.sk/uk_05_03.html. There is a grid map and corresponding map numbers for each

does such awareness help us in our genealogical endeavors? What records are available for research? Truly, a small and steady diet is the only way to manage the weight of such a challenging subject.

History ala carte

While the official era of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy dated from 1867 to the end of World War I, its tenure of influence actually began much earlier. Its geographical jurisdictions, both civil and ecclesiastical, will dictate the record sources, their contents, and the repositories that will be used as ingredients in the "preparation" of one's pedigree "platter." Because these jurisdictions were ever-changing over an extended period of time, a brief history of the empire's core territory is critical to understanding the geographical evolution of the entire region.

During the early sixteenth century, Hungary was firmly wedged between two of the largest empires in the world—the Habsburg/Austrian Empire and the Ottoman Empire. In 1521, the Ottomans began forging their way into Hungary

Below: Figure 1, 1562: The Foot in the Door-via Royal Hungary.

from the areas of present-day Serbia and Transylvania, the latter being the western portion of present-day Romania. Pushing all the way to Buda, they then attempted to proceed towards Vienna. The Habsburg Empire, the predecessor of present-day Austria, having merged with the prominent power of the Holy Roman Empire, swiftly and intensely resisted this invasion into their capital, pushing back across the north and west of the former Hungarian territory. By 1562, after more than forty years of numerous half-hearted treaties and renewed battles, the Peace of Prague treaty established the first real truce between the Habsburgs and the Ottomans. It left an arm of the former Hungarian territory in control of what the Habsburgs called Royal Hungary, or "Austria-Hungary" to distinguish itself from the "Turkish-Hungary" then in possession of the Ottomans. This was the beginning of a forced relationship between the Habsburgs and Hungary, one that met constant, dedicated resistance for the next 350 years. (See figure 1. 1562: The Foot in the Door-via Royal Hungary.)

Royal Hungary continued to change hands between the Ottomans and the Habsburgs, in part and/or in whole, through claim only and/or actual possession, numerous times over the next 120 years, with Hungary having simply been the wishbone tugged at by both sides, all for more important and alternate issues mostly unrelated to the "wishbone" itself. The Habsburgs had been divided into an eastern and western division by the mid-1500s, with the eastern division under the control of Ferdinand and

A distant view of St. Matyas Cathedral, Budapest, Hungary.

section of the country. The order form is for retailers, but it is my understanding that it can be used by individuals as well. (Mine were purchased there in Slovakia, so I have not used the website personally.) The 4.50 Euro prices are for individuals, with negotiations welcomed for commercial distribution.

Hungary

Without question, the best maps for use in Hungarian research are the Megyetérkép produced by Magyar Térképház. Though they are modern in detail, they offer even the most remote locations and provide topographical perspectives rarely matched. These maps can be ordered from the company's web site, which is only in Hungarian, by going to www.terkephaz.hu. Choose "Térképek, rendelés," and the counties and towns will be displayed for selection. Each map is about 375 forints, or about $1.65 as per exchange rates during summer 2003, plus shipping and handling. They are 1: 150,000 scale, but seem much more magnified than that. I have never encountered a place that was not represented.

For more historical maps of Hungary, visit www.akm.externet.hu/km/terkep. These maps are not as extensive, but can be viewed, printed or downloaded right from the internet at no charge. Most were produced in the 1800s, though some date back to the 1600s.

Romania

My suggestion here is Cartographia's Romania Road Atlas. I'm sure there are better scaled maps, this one being 1:300,000, but I have not yet encountered them myself, nor have I met anyone that used a different map when traveling extensively in Romania. See www.cartographia.hu, choose map store, then "Europe." It's about $18.00+, and there is no real topographical data on the map, but it does define most place names due to the country being quite spread out. I'm open for further suggestions on this one.

Slovenia

It's expensive, but they don't get much nicer than Atlas Slovenije, published jointly by Založba Mladinska knjiga and the Geodetski zavod Slovenije. It is 1:50,000 scale. My version is dated 1996 and was purchased in Ljubljana for the equivalent of about $80.00 in the late 1990s. The Family History Library also has a copy. The website for Geodetski zavod Slovenije (Geographic Institute of Slovenia) is www.gzs-dd.si/, where an email address can be found for further inquiry. Though the site is in Slovene, you can email in English. Almost everyone in Slovenia speaks English as a second language. Another avenue if you're not visiting Slovenia in person is ordering through a book vendor by using the ISBN number of 86-11-14789-8.

Croatia

It's not high-definition, but it is simple and easy to use. Check out www.geo-gauss.hr/id27.htm. It is in Serbo-Croat, but it does contain all locations and is navigable, and it's all on the web and free! It does not contain topographical or other details aside from town names, but it serves as a point of reference. Choose the appropriate starting letter for your location and follow along. I am also open to recommendations for this area as well.

Figure 2: 1718: The Predecessor of the Austro-Hungary Monarchy.

A coat-of-arms sculpted in stone.

his subsequent successors. It was this eastern region that continued the Habsburg legacy and played the key role in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

By the early 1600s, internal battles were being fought by the Habsburgs, particularly with the Kingdom of Bohemia which refused to recognize the Habsburg line of authority. Eventually, however, by mid-century, the Habsburgs had decisively won the Bohemian confrontations and had begun to import massive amounts of Germans for integration among the Czech population. Attention was then turned to the crux of Hungary-proper, and by the early 1700s the Habsburgs had taken full control of Hungary and Transylvania, in addition to maintaining leadership over their previous possessions of Royal Hungary. By 1718, they had also added the southeastern Banat region to their acquisitions as well. Their lands now included at least parts of the following present-day countries: Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia, Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia and Poland. (See figure 2. 1718: The Predecessor of the Austro-Hungary Monarchy.)

An internal shift in "formal" linguistics occurred during the 1700s for the Hungarians who by the 1770s had mostly shed customary Latin in favor of further embracing their ethnic Magyar (pronounced Mah-jar) in government affairs. This

deftly demonstrated their intent to not only remain somewhat segregated from Austria, but to aggressively pursue and increase their eventual and complete independence. Such flaunting was quickly countered in the 1780s by Emperor Joseph II who fought to establish German as the only acceptable language of bureaucracy within the bounds of the empire. Nationalism for this region had experienced its first strong stirring, but had been quickly and effectively squelched.

These historical events from the latter 1700s connote an important era of history for genealogists in that most ancestors can be traced back to this period in a very identifiable fashion; only the prominent are likely to be researched earlier with acceptable documentation. Thus, this is history that affects those ancestors whose existence we can identify and put names to.

Figure 3. 1815: The Last Major Growth Experienced by the Habsburg Empire.

Right: Salzburg, Austria.

In 1805, several major military forces, including the Habsburgs, were conquered at Austerlitz by Napoleon's incessant military rampages. The weaker, western components of the Habsburg Empire were completely lost as the Holy Roman Empire was dismantled to become the Confederation of the Rhine, the eventual father to Germany. The eastern segment of the Habsburg Empire, the strongest and most aggressive, proudly managed to remain preserved and continue with some sense of relative stability for over a century thereafter. Their most significant loss was Silesia to the north, and what constituted a small portion of present-day Slovenia and Croatia.

As Napoleon's forces collapsed in 1814, the following year again saw a complete reapportionment of most Eastern European administrations. The sturdy Habsburgs reclaimed much of the western lands lost to being pursued by the persistent Hungarians, increasingly more determined in their quest than ever before, and the monarchy was still uncertain of the potential consequences of nationalism. "No action" and enforcement of existing policy seemed to be the preferred course rather than possibly take the "wrong action." 1848 finally brought overwhelming challenges to existing political structures throughout all of Europe, and Hungary's Lajos Kossuth took advantage of this distraction to lead a movement declaring complete independence for the Kingdom of Hungary in 1849. The Habsburgs had been fighting to contain Bohemian uprisings in 1848, and Franz Joseph, had recently taken charge of the struggling sovereign with an

Figure 4: 1867 – The Creation of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Bavaria and the Confederation of the Rhine, except for Silesia, extending their borders once again westward to Switzerland. As well, they now controlled Venice and the Venetian Province, and the Dalmatian Coast. The largest gain was the Galician region of Poland. Unsure of how to accommodate the new movement of nationalism without sacrificing a total collapse of the Monarchy's infrastructure, and to better insure the security of their newly reclaimed holdings until a solution could be derived, Austrian/Habsburg rulers moved swiftly to stifle any further growth of nationalism by imposing an absolute martial law/police-state policy for all lands held under the Austrian/Habsburg Empire. (See figure 3. 1815: The Last Major Growth Experienced by the Habsburg Empire.)

Toward the mid-1800s, cultural and geographic autonomy was still

Chain Bridge, Budapest, Hungary.

unbending iron resolve to keep a centralized power for the entire empire. The Croats had already declared independence from Hungary and, with the eventual help of the Russians from the north, it was they who succeeded in helping the Habsburgs maintain power over the Hungarians, defeating the largest organized revolution by the Hungarians up to that time. Ironically, the Croats were then forced to resume their affairs under the guidance of the Kingdom of Hungary, though they were awarded autonomous administrations periodically.

Though the revolution of 1848 had ultimately been lost, the resolve of the Hungarians remained strong to preserve their ethnicity and culture, and to resist being "Germanized." Oppression was extensive following the revolution, but nationalism still managed to flourish, not just for

A snapshot of both new and old world Austria.

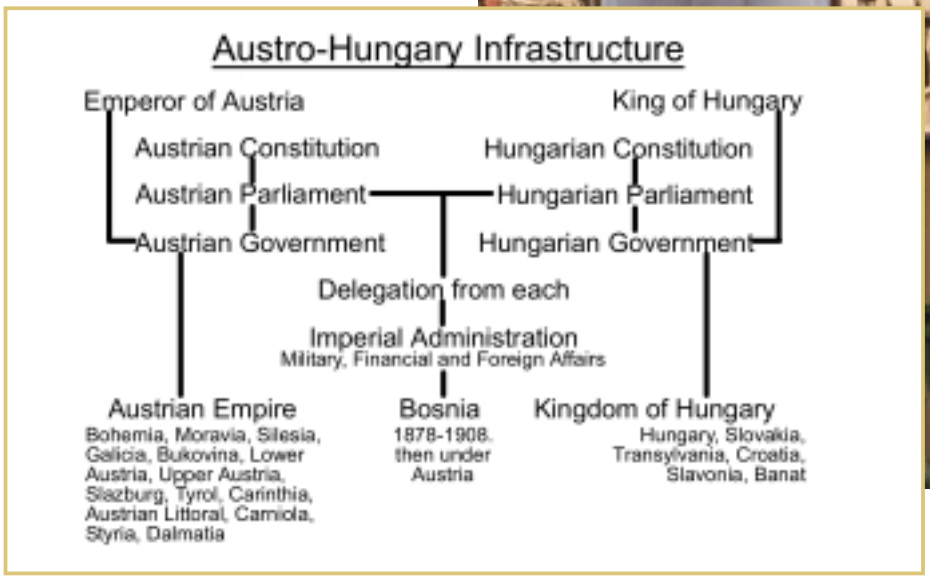


Figure 5: The administrative structure of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Hungary but for the entire European continent. Over the next two decades, what was once considered very radical views by Lajos Kossuth became the standard of most Hungarians. With some prodding by the Germans, who stripped Austria of their Italian regions in 1866 and unified themselves in 1867, the Habsburgs were eventually forced to address the rapid, exponential blossoming of nationalism while still trying to maintain the order and strength of the empire. They could procrastinate no longer.

In 1867, two separate states were formed, officially establishing the Austro-Hungarian Empire, or the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. (See figure 4. 1867: The Creation of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.) By agreement, the Austrian Empire would govern the following crownlands:

Upper Austria Lower Austria

Austrian Littoral: Trieste, Gorizia and Gradisca, Istria

Bohemia	Bukovina
Carinthia	Carniola
Dalmatia	Galicia
Moravia	Salzburg
Silesia	Styria
Tirol	Vorarlberg

Hungary was allotted administration of the regions of:

Hungary	Slovakia

for the Hungarians and others by mid-20th century. (See figure 5. The administrative structure of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.)

Intense shifts back and forth between powers in Eastern Europe were again experienced in the 1870s, though this time on the part of the Ottoman Empire. In 1878, Austro-Hungary became the beneficiary to the continuing demise of the Ottomans, and obtained the rights to occupy Bosnia-Herzegovina and a small sliver of land separating Serbia and Montenegro. That sliver of land was an attempt to prevent further uniting of the Serbs in those two regions. While these lands were occupied by Austro-Hungary for over thirty years, it was not until 1908 that the Monarchy actually annexed the Bosnia-Herzegovina region as a formal part of the empire. Unbeknownst at the time, this annexation was to ultimately launch the first world war. (See figure 6. 1908: The Cornerstone of World War I.)

The resistance to Austro-Hungary was fierce in Bosnia, despite attempts of both appeasement and enforcement by the Habsburgs. Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir apparent to Franz Joseph, considered establishing a unified third autonomous authority consisting of Croatia and Bosnia, similar to that of the Kingdom of Hungary, though was never to achieve the position or authority

Figure 6. 1908: The Cornerstone of World War I.

Transylvania Croatia Banat

The common thread of empirical unity was provided by ultimate oversight of both regions by the Habsburg Monarch, as well as the presence of a unified military (in addition to individual military efforts). And, the final exception ruled that foreign policy could only be entered into by the Monarch. The concessions to Hungary were major in appearance and land mass—minor and superficial in reality; though they did unleash the concept of reformation and cooperation, a concept that was rapidly infecting all of Europe at that time, and one that was able to gradually transform into eventual self-governing freedom

In the distant background, Heroe's Square, Budapest, Hungary.

needed for such an action. Such concepts came to an abrupt halt when, while visiting Sarajevo in 1914, he and his wife were brutally assassinated. In response, Austro-Hungary's retaliatory war quickly began in July of that same year. In the years that followed, this campaign gradually escalated into World War I as various nations continued to reluctantly get involved on one side or the other. When the smoke cleared and the war came to a close, the 1920 Treaty of Trianon officially dismantled Hungary from newly defined Austria. The period of 1918-1920 had re-drawn boundaries throughout almost every square meter in all of Eastern Europe, and the Austro-Hungarian era finally came to an end. (See figure 7. 1921: The End of the Austro-Hungarian Era.)

empire-wide sources of value for helping to narrow down the location from which an ancestor originated within the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. There are surname books and nobility lists, and a few other miscellaneous sources that can be used in select circumstances, but none are of significant consequence. If at all possible, a specific location of origin or

Figure 7: The End of the Austro-Hungarian Era.

Seating Assignments

Nothing gets your mouth watering more than seating yourself to the table at which the very dish you desire is being served. To sit elsewhere would be impractical and leave you hungering for your original objective. The key to successful research in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy is to know which entree is being served at which table—or which source is found in which jurisdiction. Why search "A" if the answer is only found in "B?" While some of these jurisdictions are best included with detailed discussions of their respective record sources, some assistance with place names in general is warranted here beforehand.

There are few nationwide or previous residence must be known in order to properly begin ancestral research in this part of the world. But even when a precise location is known, there may yet be challenges to overcome before getting a taste of the records we so desperately crave.

While the Kingdom of Hungary relied on a system of counties for a mid-level domain, (e.g. Herend, *Veszprem County*, Hungary), locations in present-day Austria held a system of crownlands. The two systems actually had very little in common, but did offer an additional tier level of geographic administration and help distinguish same place names within different regions. The use of gazetteers and such geographical acknowledgment is

essential when looking up entries on library and archive catalogs, and when maintaining a uniform format of entry in computer programs.

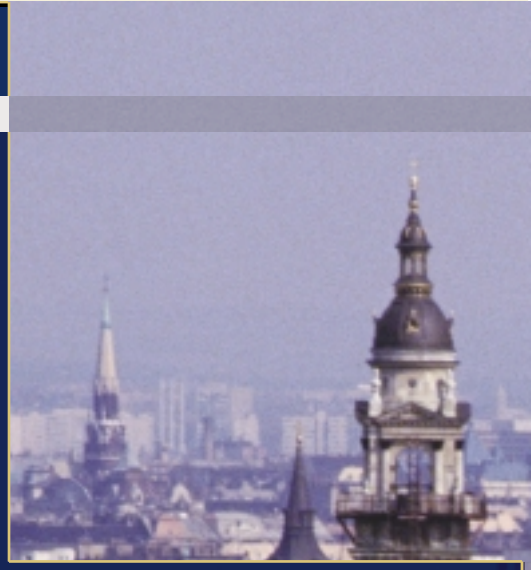
"Place-name gazetteers," for wont of a universal description for similar sources in various countries and languages, are the primary source for determining the correct ecclesiastical or civil jurisdiction in which to search for an ancestor, based on a known residence. Existing records of the ancestor may have described a small farm or village that was part of a larger administration actually charged with keeping the records. Inversely, the ancestor may have described a large region or district that contains several smaller places of authority within. Gazetteers help identify the various possibilities that exist, and can isolate one location for civil record research while pinpointing a separate location for ecclesiastical research, all for the inhabitants of a third separate and distinct place of actual residence. These gazetteers can be found at many major universities and archives around the United States and in most major archive facilities in the present-day countries involved. Each gazetteer may contain different types of information, and it can be essential to find one that will cover the broadest range of needs. The Family History Library, a critical repository due to the availability of its collections on microfilm that can be ordered from a branch library center, has the following of importance:

A fourteen volume set titled *Gemeindelexikon von Oberösterreich* is divided by province for Cisleithanian Austria, (the Austrian Empire portion of the Monarchy), and is also accompanied by a master index volume that identifies which province and volume in which your location can be found. If you already know the province, then the accompanying index within that volume is the quickest way to get started. The following divisions are used:

Vol. I	Lower Austria
Vol. II	Upper Austria
Vol. III	Salzburg
Vol. IV	Styria
Vol. V	Carinthia
Vol. VI	Carniola
Vol. VII	Istria, Görz and Trieste
Vol. VIII	Tyrolia and Voralberg
Vol. IX	Bohemia
Vol. X	Moravia
Vol. XI	Silesia
Vol. XII	Galicia
Vol. XIII	Bukovina
Vol. XIV	Dalmatia
Master Index of Localities	

The collection is dated 1907, and the pages within help identify: the location; population by male, female and total; religious enumerations for that location by Catholic, Lutheran, Jewish and "Other;" and even the linguistic predominance, whether German or otherwise. It does not, however, describe the location of the churches to which the different communal denominations subscribed. This was certainly less of an issue in Cisleithanian Austria than in the Kingdom of Hungary and its administrative domain.

For Transleithanian Hungary there is one printed source that excels beyond the rest when dealing with very obscure place names and spellings. The *Magyarország Helységnévtára* is a collection of place names, governing jurisdictions, population counts, religious affiliations and the assigned religious jurisdiction. The most popular one dates about 1877, and is most widely used due to its having been placed on microfiche and made available through the Family History Library. It includes all areas under the former Kingdom of Hungary, including those in present-day Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, etc., but there are typo-



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graphical errors, omissions and other similar challenges that may be encountered when using this particular two-volume set.

More modern gazetteers for some of the present-day countries can also be useful for research in the former Austro-Hungary periods. These include the *Imenik Mesta u Jugoslaviji* for the former republic of Yugoslavia. Dated, 1973, this includes the present-day countries of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, and the Serbian provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina. Copies can be found at the FHL, the National Archives in Zagreb, as well as in archives and various universities of Belgrade and other locations throughout the Balkans.

An excellent source for former Czechoslovakia is the *Administratives Gemeindelexikon der Čechoslovakischen Republik*, which offers the attending location of the Roman Catholic population for each community, as well as whether the citizenry was predominantly German or Czech. One of the most advantageous aspects of this set (dated 1928 for the volume at the FHL) is that it contains indexes in Czech, Slovak, German, Hungarian, Russian Cyrillic and Polish for cross-references of town names and their recent changes in name, spelling, and/or language.

Besides the Czech regions of Bohemia and Moravia, significant name changes occurred mostly in Hungary's administrative regions of Slovakia, Galicia, Transylvania and Banat. *The Történeti Összehasonlíto Helységnévtára, 1773-1913*, can help discern such changes as *Irhócz* having also been known as *Jalhová*, *Walchowec*, *Vulchovce* and *Irhuczok*, in addition to other variant spellings, in both the Roman and the Cyrillic alphabet. The names are derived from specified periods of time: 1773, 1808, 1837, 1873, 1900 and 1913. The book's strengths are further compounded by an excellent educational introduction in both English and Hungarian that outlines a solid methodology for considering alternate name spellings and name equivalents in different languages.

There are also various on-line gazetteers and other place-name finding aids available to the Internet user. One such is the Hungarian Village Finder at www.hungarianvillagefinder.com, which covers the former Kingdom of Hungary under the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, and offers clues to the most remote places and alternate names and/or spellings for the same location over a period of time. The site, requiring a subscription, is well worth its cost and is also available in a CD-Rom format.

Maps abound, in both electronic and print formats, and searches can often be disappointing if the wrong map is used. A seemingly fancy map may actually include only major towns and roads because of the scale used and the intent of the map. Hiking maps have often proven the most beneficial due to the topographical content and the scale at which they are designed. For map suggestions of the former Austro-Hungarian localities, both modern and historical, peruse the separate box "Chef's Map Sampler: My Personal Favorites" (found on pages 28 and 29).

Finally, be aware that different repositories may rely on different eras of geographical jurisdiction for their cataloging. The Family History Library tends to use the Austro-Hungary era boundaries as well as cross-references to the present-day jurisdictions for the same entries. Thus, *Nagy Kürtös*, *Nógrád*, *Hungary* can also be found under *Velky Krtíš*, *Slovakia*, and both direct to the same set of records. If the name you're looking for isn't found in the FHL catalog, search by the larger location status, such as Slovakia, or Nógrád, and search "related places" to see if there is an alternate or more precise spelling that may not have been taken into account yet. Otherwise, reference the sources mentioned previously for possible name changes. And, it might simply be that the location is not yet available on microfilm and is only available through on-site research. Consider all options, and never give up.

Obviously, an entire Austro-Hungarian "meal" cannot possibly be dished out in a single serving—there's just not enough room on our plates. However, by eating the historical/geographical "salad" first, we can better digest the entrées of sources in which our ancestors will eventually need to be researched. This is but the beginning of a feast—the feast of Eastern European family history research dubbed the Austro-Hungarian Buffet. Hopefully, we're

still a little bit hungry and have room for more, as the next course is soon to be served. ■

E. Wade Hone is currently establishing the Eurogins Research and Education Foundation, devoted to European and foreign language research, and the promotion of European history and geography, in addition to other academic objectives. He recently concluded a thirteen-year tenure as senior partner of Heritage Consulting and Services in Salt Lake City, and has been professionally involved in history and genealogy since 1984. His educational background is in world history and linguistics. He is a national speaker and the author of Land and Property Research in the United States and has also produced numerous multimedia presentations on a variety of genealogical subjects. He lives in the Salt Lake valley and spends portions of most years in the former Austro-Hungary regions doing research, inventory and preservation work to compliment that which can be done from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. He can be reached via email at wadeh@eurogins.com or through the web site of www.eurogins.com.

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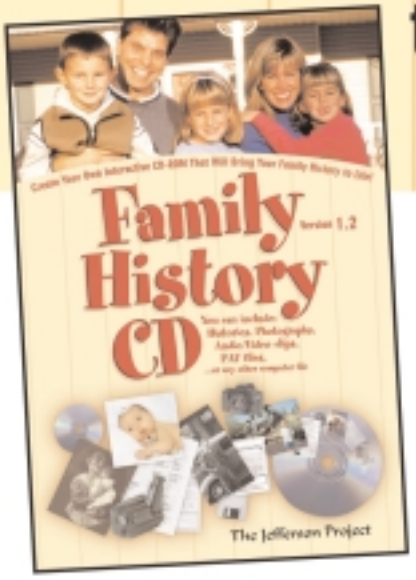

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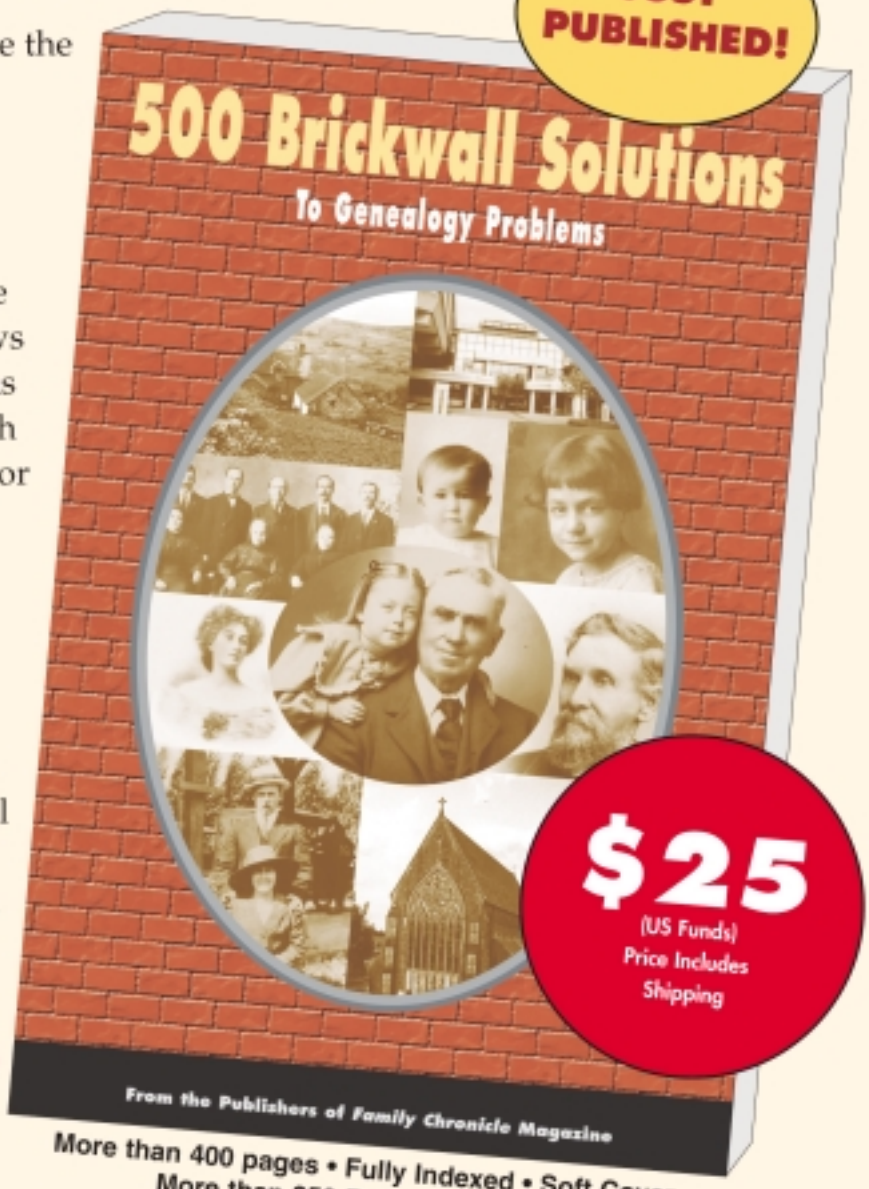

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