**Gesher Galicia Special Interest Group 2014**

**Guide to using The All Galicia Database, Map Room & Website**

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**Gesher Galicia** ("The Bridge to Galicia") is the special interest (membership) group for people researching their Jewish roots in the former Austrian province of Galicia. Members receive our quarterly journal, “The Galitzianer,” and get access to our new website’s **Member’s Only Portal**, where they can search the “Gesher Galicia Family Finder,” and back issues of “The Galitzianer,” along with access to videos, articles and original documents not available on our public site.

The Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, or simply **Galicia**, was the largest and northernmost province of Austria from 1772 until 1918, with Lemberg (Lwów, L'viv) as its capital city. It was created from the territories taken from the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the partitions of Poland and lasted until the dissolution of Austria-Hungary at the end of the First World War. Today Galicia is an historical region split between Poland (Western Galicia) and Ukraine (Eastern Galicia.) If you grew up hearing stories about relatives who came from “Austria,” it is highly possible they actually came from Galicia.

**Our re-designed website offers these free searchable databases:** The All Galicia Database, The Gesher Galicia Map Room and the Galician Archival Records Project Inventory

Gesher Galicia’s goal is to help you make progress in tracing your ancestors and exploring the cultural and personal facets of their lives. Whether it’s expanding our record acquisitions, indexing data or holding seminars and programs on Galician research topics, we keep looking for innovative ways for you to make breakthroughs in research from the 19th century through the Holocaust-era.
The Galician Archival Records Project (GARP) is the new “umbrella” project under which all other Gesher Galicia research projects exist. Our extensive “Cadastral Map & Landowner Records Project” will be included, but the availability and desirability of other types of records required the expansion of the scope of our projects. This list is not finite. Quite the opposite. We are committed to growth, and new projects can be suggested -- and added -- at any time by our members.

The GARP Project currently includes:

- The Cadastral Map & Landowner Records
- The Voter, School, Tax and Tabula Records
- The Vital Records & Census Project
- The Polish Magnate Record Project
- The Austrian State Archives Project
- The Stanislawow 1939 Census & Passports

If you go to the website under the “Research” dropdown menu, you can click on a project name to link to a detailed page with information about that project. An FAQ (also on the website) is provided below which explains how the project works, how we choose the towns and select the records, how to start your own town project or how to donate to view records that have already been digitized.

How is the Galician Archival Records Project organized? What is its focus?

Most of these projects are town-centric. We focus our research specific Galician towns in an attempt to acquire many different types of records containing genealogically relevant data. While our focus is not specifically with vital records -- because many of the Galician vital records held in Polish archives have already been indexed by JRI Poland -- we are committed to indexing Galician records that are not in AGAD or the Polish State Archives, but rather reside in Ukrainian archives and are not included in JRI’s databases. We are also acquiring “province-wide” documents, which contain details on every Jewish community in Galicia, including lists of religious community and Kahal leaders and lists of teachers in Jewish religious and state-mandated schools throughout Galicia and other esoteric items.
THE ALL GALICIA DATABASE - AGD

This search engine currently features over 240,000 records from 80+ different data sources, covering birth, death, marriage and divorce records to phonebooks, school and landowner records. The majority of this data exists nowhere else online and it is expanding daily. You can search by given name and surname, with wildcard and Soundex search options. One innovation is to search by “kinnui” - Jewish nickname or name variant. Searching for “Rebecca” will also turn up matches for names like Rivka, Becky, etc. A search for Hersch will find spelling variants like Herz and Hirsch, but also Tvi and Zvi.

HOW TO SEARCH IN THE NEW:

The All Galicia Database

Latest News & Corrections:

Enter your search:

Record Types
- Birth (7,903)
- Death (7,138)
- Divorce (42)
- Holocost (4)
- Landowner (971)
- Marriage (101)
- Powiel (203)
- Phonebook (728)
- Property (1,676)
- School (1,444)
- Yearbook (145)

Welcome!

Hello and welcome to Gesher Galicia's all-new All Galicia Database! This search engine currently features 172,964 records from 41 different data sources, covering everything from birth, death, marriage and divorce records to phonebooks, school and landowner records, all from the former Austria-Hungarian province of Galicia, which today is part of eastern Poland and western Ukraine. Although Gesher Galicia's focus is on eastern Galicia in this region, the diverse community sources of information in this database also contain names that span the entire Jewish and religious groups who lived in the area, so not everyone listed in this database will necessarily be Jewish.

Cadastral Map & Landowner Records Project

In the spring of 2007 Gesher Galicia (GG) initiated a long-term project to obtain cadastral maps and landowner records from the Lviv Historical Archives. There are over 160 towns now represented with more being added monthly.

Landowner records provide a searchable snapshot of where our ancestors lived and the property they owned. Three distinct 18\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th} century land surveys provide detailed records with owner’s names, size of land parcels, type of land, crops, business types and more. The Austrian Stable Cadastral Survey of the 1830s to 1860s show the smallest parcels of land, individual yards, houses, barns, roads, field plots, synagogues, and kahal buildings. By matching the information in the land record books to the maps – along with comparing the maps to house numbers on vital records – you can see exactly where in town your ancestors once lived.
The Gesher Galicia Map Room offers high-resolution scans of cadastral maps showing names, house and parcel numbers. Compare information on vital records with these maps to get a portrait of shtetl life. Use our province-wide and specialty maps to identify districts, collateral towns, and even railway routes your ancestors used to travel to ports to embark on their journeys to a better life.

Password access to The Gesher Galicia Family Finder (GGFF), which lists the surnames and towns being researched by each member. This exclusive database for researchers to connect is available only to members of Gesher Galicia who are logged into our website.

Electronic and/or paper subscription to The Galitzianer, a quarterly journal covering topics of interest to Jewish family historians, plus access to almost two decades of back issues. Writers contribute on a variety of subjects on Galician history and society, travel experiences, photos, research results, advice on obtaining records, and personal stories from their own Galician family history.

BECOME A MEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR ACTIVITIES & ADVANCE YOUR RESEARCH!
IF ALREADY A MEMBER CONSIDER A DONATION TO YOUR FAVORITE PROJECT:
www.GesherGalicia.org