

# 25 Super Slovak Sites!



*Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava.*

THERE'S NEVER BEEN a better time to research your Slovak ancestors. With the current popularity of genealogy, greater availability of key records, and ability to travel abroad, the number of people seeking their Slovak roots has also dramatically increased. Online databases, search engines, and web pages dedicated to ethnic-based genealogy (organizations, message boards and mailing lists) have all helped to greatly streamline the process. Here are 25 websites (listed in alphabetical order) to get you started.

**1. Ancestry.com**  
[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)  
**Genealogy.com**  
[www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)

These two subscription-based sites run by MyFamily.com, Inc. have greatly shaped the concept of

"pajama genealogy," providing pay-for access 24/7 from your own computer to a large collection of US records ( Census, Immigration Social Security Death Index) and other interesting databases. In addition Ancestry.com's Historical Newspapers collection offers access to a large number of digitized newspapers. Subscription plans and prices vary. See the web sites for further information.

**2. Bremen Passenger Lists 1920-39**  
[http://db.genealogy.net/maus/gate/index\\_en.html](http://db.genealogy.net/maus/gate/index_en.html)

Bremen was another frequent port of departure for Slovak immigrants. Unfortunately, from 1875 - 1908, the staff of the 'Nachweisungsbureau', because of insufficient office space, decided to destroy all lists older than three years. With the exception of 2,953

passenger lists for the years 1920-39, all other lists were lost in World War II. You can search the database free of charge, and obtain such details as Family Name, First name(s), Sex, Age, Place of Residence, Nationality, Profession and Destination. Even if you don't turn up your ancestor, perhaps a relative or neighbor will appear.

**3. Carpatho-Rusyn Society**  
[www.carpathorusynsociety.org](http://www.carpathorusynsociety.org)

This non-profit organization dedicated to manifesting Carpatho-Rusyn culture in the United States and supporting Rusyn culture in the homeland in East Central Europe. If your ancestry is Lemko, Boyko, Hutsul, or sub-carpathian Rusyn, you will find a wealth of information on this site about genealogy, customs, traditions, books and publications and other

useful links.

#### **4. Church Record Translations (John Jaso)**

[www.bmi.net/jjaso/index.html](http://www.bmi.net/jjaso/index.html)

Reading and interpreting church records written in old world languages is often a big obstacle for researchers. This site is an excellent resource for anyone who must translate birth, marriage, and death records from Hungarian, Latin or Slovak languages. Images of sample records are shown, and an interpretation of information typically found in these records is provided in columnar format, as well as tips for searching records at the LDS Family History Library.

#### **5. Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI)**

[www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org)

The society serves to promote Czechoslovak genealogical research and interest among people with ancestry in the Czechoslovak region as it was in 1918, including families of Czech, Bohemian, Moravian, Slovak, German, Hungarian, Jewish, Rusyn and Silesian origin. In addition to information about the society and its activities and publications (including this newsletter), researchers will find a useful introduction to genealogical research, travel resources, research in the Czech and Slovak Archives and a listing of professional researchers available for hire in the Czech and Slovak Republics.

#### **6. Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences (SVU)**

[www.svu2000.org](http://www.svu2000.org)

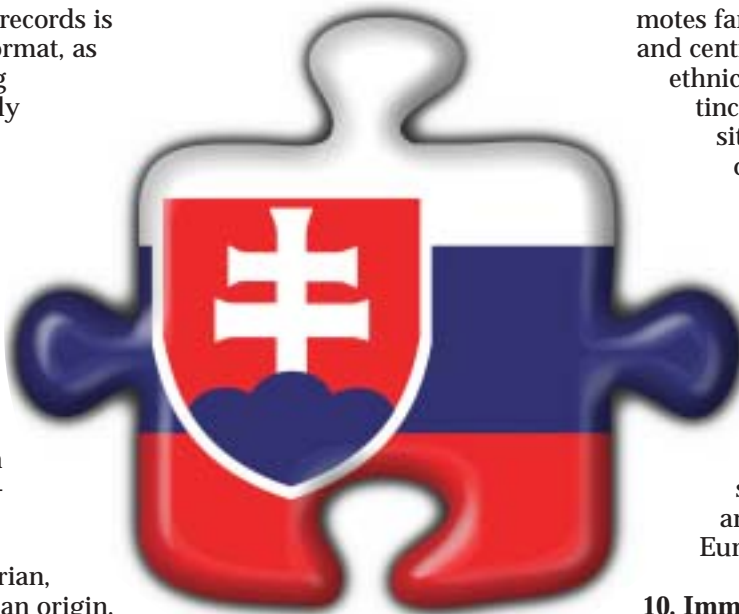
The SVU is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, cultural organization, started in 1958, and dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, the free dissemination of ideas and the fostering of contacts among people. It brings together scholars, scientists, artists, writers, students, lawyers, businessmen and others throughout the world who have a professional, family or other interest in the Czech Republic and Slovakia,

their history, people or their cultural and intellectual contributions. The SVU website has links to many projects and genealogical information that will be of great interest to anyone with Slovak roots.

#### **7. Eastern Slovakia Genealogy Research Strategies**

[www.iabsi.com/gen/public](http://www.iabsi.com/gen/public)

A very informative set of web pages that aid English-speaking



researchers of immigrants from Eastern Slovakia and surrounding areas. This website includes genealogical research strategies, methods and unique resources for people with roots in Eastern Slovakia (Slovak Republic)/formerly Czechoslovakia/formerly Upper Hungary. Primary research areas include those of the Carpathian Mountains, and borderlands of Southern Poland (Galicia) and Western Ukraine (Carpatho-Rus).

#### **8. Ellis Island Database**

[www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org)

This database, first launched in April 2001, contains immigration records of some 22 million immigrants who came to the US through the port of New York from 1892-1924. A significant num-

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ber of Slovak immigrants passed through Ellis Island on their way to a new life in America. You can search the site for free, but you must register with a user name and password. As a result of some major upgrades, the latest version of the site offers users many expanded search capabilities.

#### **9. Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies (FEEFHS)**

[www.feefhs.org](http://www.feefhs.org)

FEEFHS was organized in 1992 as an umbrella organization that promotes family research in eastern and central Europe without any ethnic, religious or social distinctions. The FEEFHS website provides an extensive online "map room," an Ethnic, Religious and National Index of Home Pages and Resource Guide Listings of Organizations Associated with FEEFHS (from 14 Countries), and collection of unique surname databases. This site should be the first stop for any researcher with Eastern European roots!

#### **10. Immigrant History Research Center (University of Minnesota)**

[www.ihrc.umn.edu](http://www.ihrc.umn.edu)

This is a great online reference site for the American immigrant experience. The Center's collection is particularly strong in its documentation of eastern, central, and southern European ethnic groups, and includes: Newspapers & Serials, Fraternal Society Material, Church Records, and Publications, Manuscript Collections, and Oral Histories. Users can browse the collection online by ethnic group. The IHRC is open to all qualified researchers. Materials do not circulate; but researchers may be able to obtain photocopies or photographic reproductions for a fee and either purchase or borrow via interlibrary loan microfilm for which the IHRC holds the master negative. Center staff conducts actual research for users only in extraordinary circumstances, at a rate of \$20 US per hour.

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### 11. It's All Relative

[www.iarerelative.com](http://www.iarerelative.com)

The "It's All Relative"

Genealogical Research Pages offer tools, resources, and information to help you search your Czech, Bohemian, Moravian, Slovak, Lemko, or Carpatho-Rusyn family history and ancestry. You will also find links to a wealth of information on the area formerly Czechoslovakia and now known as Slovakia and Czech Republic, and related areas. One of the most interesting features of this site is the section on Czech, Slovak, and Rusyn traditions.

### 12. Jewishgen.org

[www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)

Often, people of Eastern European descent will discover they have Jewish roots. JewishGen, Inc. is the primary internet source connecting researchers of Jewish genealogy worldwide. Its most popular components are the JewishGen Discussion Group, the JewishGen Family Finder (a database of 350,000 surnames and towns), the comprehensive directory of InfoFiles, ShtetlLinks for over 200 communities, and a variety of databases. In addition, the site includes ShtetlSeeker (which enables you to search for towns in Central and Eastern Europe, using exact spelling or the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex system. This search will display latitude and longitude for each location, the distance/direction from the country's capital city, and a link to a MapQuest map). JewishGen's online Family Tree of the Jewish People contains data on nearly three million people. Even if you are not among those with Jewish ancestors, this website is worth a look!

### 13. LinkToYourRoots

[www.linktoyourroots.com](http://www.linktoyourroots.com)

Many Slovak immigrants from Europe departed from Hamburg, Germany. For a long time, the index to these records (1850-1934) has been available on microfilm through the Family History Library (FHL). Then, there was the online database, "Link to Your Roots" database, launched by the

Hamburg State Archives for searching the Hamburg emigration lists. The search option is no longer available on the LinkToYourRoots site. Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), (subscription required) now has the Hamburg Passenger Lists (Hamburger Passagierlisten) 1850-1934 Note that the lists are in German and only the years 1890-

last name, as well as town name, and define a number of other more specific parameters. This is especially helpful for locating the often misspelled Eastern European surnames and towns/villages. In addition, a visit to Morse's site will offer researchers the opportunity to discover his other one-step forms pertaining to some US census records, the Social Security



1913 have been indexed so far. However, all of the images for 1850-1934 are available. If you can't find your ancestor in a search by name, try browsing the images by year. You may want to begin by browsing the Handwritten Indexes, 1855-1934 on Ancestry. Although you can no longer conduct searches, you can link to historical photographs and other emigration information via the BallinStadt (BallinCity) site, [www.ballinstadt.de](http://www.ballinstadt.de). This is a useful resource for learning about the emigration experience.

### 14. One-Step Web Pages by Stephen P. Morse

[www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)

A collection of online forms used to search certain genealogical databases in "One-Step." The most notable is the frequently-accessed "Searching the Ellis Island Database in One Step," which enables researchers to mine data from the Ellis Island Database (#3 above). Users can choose "sounds like" search criteria for first and

Death Index (SSDI), obtaining birthdays, and the Jewish calendar and others.

### 15. Our Slovakia (Slovak Pride Database)

[www.our-slovakia.com](http://www.our-slovakia.com)

This site includes Helene Cincebeaux's list of more than 23,000 Slovak surnames and villages. New additions to the database are always accepted. Also, check out Helene's "Tours of Slovakia" for upcoming trips back to the homeland.

### 16. The Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington

[www.mzv.sk/washington](http://www.mzv.sk/washington)

This is a very informative site for those planning to pay a visit to their ancestral town or village. The site has a Consular and Visa section, a Slovakia Travel & Tourism section, News from Slovakia, and other useful links.

### 17. Radix — Genealogical Research in Hungary

[www.bogardi.com/gen/index.shtml](http://www.bogardi.com/gen/index.shtml)

This website is dedicated to genealogy research in Hungary and it aims at helping family historians in finding out more about their Hungarian ancestry. Key available resources include: Industry and trade directory of Hungary in 1891, a searchable 1913 gazetteer of Hungary, and a listing of most frequent Hungarian surnames (find spelling alternatives of 6,000 surnames in Hungary in the 1890s). Also available is a forum of Hungarian surnames being researched where you can add the names you are searching and a link to a new Hungarian genealogy Weblog (BLOG) called Radixlog with news about Hungarian family history research.

### 18. Repositories of Primary

Sources [www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html](http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html). This site is a listing of over 5,000 websites compiled by Terry Abraham that describe holdings of manuscripts, archives, rare books, historical photographs and other primary sources useful to researchers.

Links are organized geographically as: Western United States and Canada, Eastern United States and Canada: States and Provinces A-M, Eastern United States and Canada: States and Provinces N-Z, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe A-M, Europe N-Z, Asia and the Pacific, Africa and the Near East, and Additional Lists. There's also a State, Province, Country Index link and an Integrated Index/List link.

### 19. RootsWeb

[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)

"The oldest and largest free genealogy website", RootsWeb serves to connect people so that they can help each other and share genealogical research.

This site also falls under the MyFamily.com umbrella. From here, you can also link to the WorldGenWeb project, [www.worldgenweb.org](http://www.worldgenweb.org) and the EastEuro GenWeb, [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~easeurgw](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~easeurgw). You can also find messages boards for Slovakia, where researchers can post queries



The website, [www.slovaklinks.com](http://www.slovaklinks.com), provides links to all things Slovak.

and network with other family history enthusiasts.

### 20. Slovak Links

[www.slovaklinks.com/index.htm](http://www.slovaklinks.com/index.htm)

Contains a large collection of web links to sites about/or pertaining to Slovaks both in the US and abroad. A great "one-stop" site for finding information related to your Slovak genealogical research.

### 21. Slovak National Archives

[www.civil.gov.sk/SNARCHIV/uk.htm](http://www.civil.gov.sk/SNARCHIV/uk.htm)

The Slovak National Archives is the largest and the most important public archives in the Slovak Republic. Its aim is to acquire, preserve, professionally and scientifically process, and make archival documents originating from the activities of central government authorities of the Slovak Republic and its legal predecessors accessible. In addition, it provides storage of records of nation-wide importance, as well as those, acquired as gifts and purchases or as a result of deposit agreements. Learn about locations, holdings and hours of operations/procedures.

### 22. Slovak Telephone Directory (Telefonny Zoznam Slovenskej Republiky)

[www.zoznamst.sk](http://www.zoznamst.sk)

In the spring of 2007, The Zoznam company (a subsidiary of the Slovak Telekom) made available online a new universal phone directory. Since September 2007, it includes the phone numbers of all telephone operators (also cellular). This new form is more "genealogy friendly", as it allows you to search for the entire territory of Slovakia. Names can be entered either with or without the accents; however, the search form is available only in Slovak. For help using this directory, go to [www.centroconsult.sk/facilities/phonewp.html](http://www.centroconsult.sk/facilities/phonewp.html). You'll find translations and also a search example. While I preferred the older version, which had an "English" option available, this site still offers a useful way to find out if you possibly still have any living relatives in a particular town or village, especially if you are planning a trip to Slovakia and want to write a letter of introduction prior to your visit.

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### 23. The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies

[www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=554](http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=554)

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies opened its doors to the public in 1976 and in January 2002, the Balch merged into the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, located in Philadelphia. Using the online catalog researchers can search by title, author and subject for: Books and pamphlets, serials and newspapers (including ethnic newspapers (these are in off-site storage and require advance request to view), and other collections. You'll find materials such as letters, diaries, account books, deeds, minutes, and scrapbooks, prints, watercolors and other works of art on paper, architectural drawings, photographs, broadsides, maps, posters and other images, and a variety of printed ephemera, such as event programs, brochures, invitations, advertisements, trade cards, certificates and menus. Microfilm and microfiche reproductions of newspapers, genealogical resources, manuscript collections and other materials are also available. Consult the FAQ section for information about research in person and by mail, applicable photocopying or other fees, etc.

### 24. The Family History Library

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

Because of its extensive efforts in microfilming civil and church records in many areas of Slovakia, The Family History Library has for years been an excellent resource for researchers. In addition, the FHL also has a large collection of atlases, gazetteers and maps essential for research in many Eastern Europe (especially pre-WWI), an extensive "Research Helps" section with word lists for translating foreign language docu-

ments and letter writing guides that can assist you in writing letters to the Slovak Archives, and other useful indexes and free databases. The Family History Library catalog can be searched online for

a database of immigrants from Slovakia and where their descendants can be located today in North America. The idea is that individuals doing genealogical work on a particular surname or location in Slovakia can be put in contact with others working on the same surnames or locations.

If you're just beginning the research process, you should be prepared for the reality that not all of the information you seek is available online. You'll still have to locate hard copies of records, consult microfilm, and/or contact the Slovak archives by mail, visit them in person, or hire a professional researcher to obtain certain documents.

In addition, the above-referenced sites are just a small sampling of what's available online for Slovak genealogists. Use these sites to jumpstart the search process, but be sure to also do some sleuthing on your own, as many of these sites contain links to additional online databases or resource pages. So,

gather your notes, turn on the computer, get online and get going! Your Slovak ancestors are waiting for you!

The Slovak Institute in North America has always made its home in Cleveland, Ohio. First dedicated in 1952 to be a source for knowledge about Slovakia with material in the Slovak language. Over the years it has also published books in Slovak that now can again be offered for sale. Currently books in other major languages are found on the shelves of the Slovak Institute, written to explore the growth of the Slovak people both in Slovakia and around the world.

In recent years, the research of surnames for Slovak immigrants coming to America has created a need for a new service by the Slovak Institute. Working with spellings of surnames and maps to identify old towns going back to their period of the Dual Monarchy (1867 to 1918) is made easy.

More information about [Dr. Andrew Szekely](#) and the Slovak Genealogical records.

**Business Hours For public:** The Slovak Institute is closed and open to the public 5 days a week, Monday through Friday 10am to 3pm. Advanced notice of your visit and the nature of your research would be appreciated.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

To reduce link abuse on Order Form, for purchasing Christmas and Easter greeting cards packaged in packs of 25, for \$18. During Christmas season we offer Quality for sale, they come packaged a minimum 3 weeks per envelope, for \$1. Another item frequently asked about is our 3 Ft. x 2 Ft. black and white map of Slovakia. Designed and printed by the Slovak Institute, it sells for \$10 per map plus the necessary \$3 additional charge for packing and postage on [www.slovakinstitute.com](http://www.slovakinstitute.com) order within the United States.

If help is needed locating a town or a village on the map or seeking information about that place, just provide details with the order, or contact afterwards, if any contact number given at the bottom of this page.

**Books in Progress**

It was necessary to upgrade the library to fit the needs of the expected visitors coming to the Slovak Institute. Earlier books held in the Institute were cataloged but many recent books have to be identified in a card file. This is currently an ongoing project. Permanent display of Slovak personalities and families name are being added to the Institute.

The Institute operates independently as a non-profit organization under 501-c-3 status. Your financial support for the operating of the Institute will be gratefully appreciated. Please send donations directly to the Slovak Institute of St. Andrew Abbey.

**The Slovak Institute, located in Cleveland, Ohio, [www.slovakinstitute.com](http://www.slovakinstitute.com), was first created in 1952 to be a source of knowledge about Slovakia with material in the Slovak language. Visitors can use its vast collection of books and other materials to learn more about Slovak immigrant surnames, identify their ancestral town/village, and explore more about their Slovak heritage.**

free and the desired films then ordered from your local Family History Center (FHC).

### 25. The Slovak Institute

[www.slovakinstitute.com](http://www.slovakinstitute.com)

The Slovak Institute in North America is located in Cleveland, Ohio. The institute was first dedicated in 1952 to be a source for knowledge about Slovakia with material in the Slovak language. Books in Slovak and other major languages are found on the shelves of the Slovak Institute, written to explore the growth of the Slovak people both in Slovakia and around the world. In addition, the Slovak Institute's Web site contains a link to the Surname Location Reference Project (SLRP)-

**Lisa A. Alzo has been sleuthing for Slovak ancestors for over 18 years. She's the author of seven books, including Finding Your Slovak Ancestors (Heritage Productions), is a frequent lecturer on Slovak genealogy, and teaches others how to find their Slovak ancestors through GenClass, [www.genclass.com](http://www.genclass.com), and the National Institute for Genealogical Studies [www.genealogicalstudies.com](http://www.genealogicalstudies.com).**