# A Beginner's Guide to Croatian Research

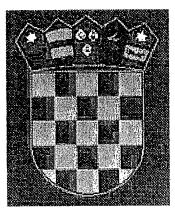
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# **Background on Croatia**

Croatia is a nation and land of remarkable diversity and depth. Originally organized in 1946 as a Republic of the South Slav Federation and now an independent country, Croatia is comprised of the old Austrian territory of Dalmatia, most of Istria, and the former Hungarian crown land of Croatia-Slavonia. It extends in a crescent from the fertile plain between the Danube, Drava, and Sava rivers west to the Gulf of Venice, and then southward along the Adriatic coast to the frontier of Montenegro. It is bounded on the north by Slovenia and Hungary, and on the east by Serbia. Within this crescent, borders follow those of Bosnia-Hercegovina south to the Crna Gora corridor. Prior to the end of World War I the population was 82% peasant. At this time the economy of Croatia-Slavonia was based on agriculture and cattle breeding; the mountain folk of Istria and Dalmatia have been traditionally either wine and olive growers, or fishermen and seafarers. The people of both Croatian and Roman Catholic.

The Croats, or Chrobáti Hrváti, migrated to the Danube valley in the 6th century C.E. from a legendary region called White Croatia. This area, believed to be largely in Ukraine, lies north of the Carpathian mountains between the Dnieper, Dniester, Pripet, and Vistula rivers. Their

areas are primarily Fig. 1 - The Croatian coat-of arms, ascribed to Stipan Držislav, ruler of Croatia from 969-997.



immigration brought them south along the Dalmatian coast to the Roman stronghold of Salona (conquered in 614)1.

Fig. 2 - The Balkans in the late nineteenth century

Modern scholarship is investigating the possibility that the Croats are actually descended from a Persian tribe called the *Harahvati* or *Harouvatis*, a people who occupied the area surrounding Mandahar in contemporary Afghanistan. Indeed, Croatian society of the seventh century bore striking simularities to that of Iran. Ancient Croatian customs and epic poetry have been cited as showing trace elements of Iranian sun and fire worship.<sup>2</sup>

Little is known concerning their early religion, as the pre-Christian Croats were illiterate. During the 7th century they were Christianized. Conversion stemmed from Emperor Heraclius of Byzantium's edict directing Pope John IV to undertake missionary activity among the Croats. This resulted in opening the Church's archdiocese at Salona and transferring its See to Spalatum. Included in the See's jurisdiction were all lands ranging from the Adriatic to the Danube and Drina rivers.<sup>3</sup> By the late 9th century, the Croats had received the privilege of using their national language in church services.

Under pressure from the burgeoning Bulgarian, Byzantine and Frankish empires, local Croatian princes and tribal leaders coalesced for defense into larger political and military units. These eventually evolved into the two duchies of Dalmatia and Pannonia. With the Byzantine-Frankish Peace of 812, Pannonian Croatia was aligned with the Frankish empire, while Dalmatia became a titular Byzantine vassal state. Around 860, however, Pannonia liberated itself and joined the Dalmatian duchy, which also shook off foreign rule. By 880 Branislav was named the first king of a new and independent Croatia.

From the time of the first Dux Croatorum, the power and influence of Croatia grew. King Tomislav and his successors (through Slavac) successfully battled the Bulgarian empire and freed the eastern Adriatic coast from Venice. The leadership of Slavac was followed by that of Dimitar Svinimir (ruled 1076-1089). Svinimir, a man personally crowned by Pope Gregory VII, yet considered a papal lackey, was assassinated while enlisting support to battle the Seljuk Turks. Anarchy and civil war followed, with the Byzantines securing a position in Damatia. In 1091, Laszlo I of Hungary, claiming the throne as Zvonimirs's brother-in-law, occupied most of Pannonian Croatia. Croatia became connected to Hungary for the next eight centuries. This relationship often changed; some kings attempted to abolish the partial union and to integrate Croatia with Hungary. On other occasions, Croats selected their kings independently.

Slowly, through the intrigue and incest which defined the Middle Ages, the power and influence of Croatia was whittled away. With the extinction of the Arpads (the Hungarian national dynasty who introduced feudalism to Croatia), the Croats crowned Ladislas, a Neapolitan prince, as King in 1403. This ruler, grossly uninterested in his newly acquired country, promptly sold Dalmatia to Venice, which ruled it for the next four centuries. The appearance of the Turks in the Balkans during the 15th century imposed a period of hard struggle. Bosnia, which under Kotromanic(h)

became an independent kingdom, fell in 1463. The Croat defeat at Krbavsko Polje in 1493 was followed by the defeat of Louis II of Hungary in 1526, and the greater part of Pannonian Croatia and central Hungary fell to the Turks. The once wide Croatian kingdom was reduced to *reliquiae reliquiarum*. Zagreb, formerly a heartland city, was now a border fortress and the new capital.

This story of decline climaxes with the opening of the Hapsburg period, a time of often brutal Germanizing, which was later repeated during Nazi occupation. Briefly, affairs went from bad to worse. Notable highlights of obvious low points include the failed coup d'etat of Prince Zrinsksi and the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand at Saraievo.

This then is the historical backdrop to the documents discussed below. The church books of Croatia and Slavonia reflect this cultural turmoil in many ways, most notably in linguistic diversity. The vital records of a single parish in northern Dalmatia may be written in Glagolitic, Italian, Latin, Croatian, and Hungarian. Generally, record types that form a topical concern for this "Beginner's Guide" are those microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) and available at the Family History Library (FHL) or any of its over 3,000 affiliate Family History Centers. Materials such as Napoleonic civil registration of the Illyrian provinces *et al.* are outside the immediate experience of the author, and so are not discussed.

Fig. 3 - The Glagolitic script

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# Size and Scope of FHL Collection

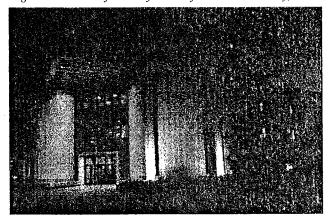
As of 01 May 1999 the FHL Croatian collection consisted of church books from 987 Roman Catholic, 217 Orthodox, and 13 Greek Catholic parishes. Also included are congregational records for 15 Jewish communities. The GSU has been filming in Croatia since March 1985. The original microfilming agreement, signed on 18 December 1984 by the then Departmental Director Richard G. Scott, was for 750,000 frames. While that exposure count was surpassed some 7 years ago, the Society still operates two cameras in Croatia. Microfilming thus far has been organized into 10 projects summarized as follows:

- Various church books from the State Archive of Croatia
- 2) Orthodox church records of the Blaski diocese
- 3) Documents from Croatian district church archives
- Church records from the State Historical Archive of Osijek
- 5) Material from the Historical Archive of Varasdin
- Catholic church books from the Historical Archives of Zadar and Split
- Orthodox church books from the Historical Archives of Zadar and Split
- Church books from the Historical Archives of Dubrovnik
- 9) Records of the Rijeka archive
- 10) Records from the archive at Pazin

At present, over 4,000,000 manuscript pages on 2,692 35 mm. reels of microfilm, each comprised of an average of 750 frames (2 pages of text per frame) are cataloged and available for use. Primary areas of focus are the Austrian Kingdoms of Croatia, Dalmatia, Slavonia, and the Istrian peninsula. General span dates for these films are the latter 1500s to the 1940s.

The FHL also has extensive records filmed under contracts with the Austrian *Kriegsarchiv*, many of which deal with Croatian topics. These include, but are not limited to, 13,100 reels of Austrian military records and 511 reels of denominational registration (primarily Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Greek Catholic, and Jewish).

Fig. 4 - The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah



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# **Record Types**

The record groups microfilmed in Croatia are diverse, forming a linguistic tapestry as varied and beautiful as the Balkans themselves. In the broadest terms the FHL collection for Croatia and Slavonia begins in the mid-1400s and continues through the end of world War I. Significant termination dates are 1869 for Army and Naval records, and 1920 for church books from the former Yugoslavia. Church records, in the main, begin in the later 1600s. The earliest examples are from the 1460s.

Linguistic diversity of the collection is greater than for most other geographic areas. Languages of primary interest are:

German: a Germanic language of the West Germanic group, spoken widely in Central Europe and the national language of Austria and Germany. Germany was the official language of the Austrian Empire, and as such, the language of record for the Austrian military.

Glagolitic: properly speaking, Glagolitsa is a method of writing introduced into the Balkans during the latter ninth century. The Glagolitic literature of Dalmatia, however, took on a character so unique that it can be considered a dialect of Serbo-Croatian. Glagolitsa has the same number of letters as the Cyrillic alphabet and the sound values are identical. In most circumstances one can read the text of a Glagolitic manuscript if (s)he is familiar with Croatian and the epigraphy.

Hungarian: a Uralic language of the Finno-Uralic group spoken throughout Hungary and parts of Croatia, Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Hungarian has been written in a modified Roman alphabet since the 13th century, and is used often in Croatian church books of circa 1830-1890.

Italian: a Romance language spoken primarily in Italy with a sound system virtually identical to Spanish. Italian possesses a grammar similar to other Romance languages, has a simple syntax and is mildly inflected. Italian is common in the 18th-19th century Roman Catholic parish registration of Dalmatia.

Latin: an Indo-European language, moderately inflected, belonging to the Italic group. Latin originated among the tribes of the south Tiber River and spread throughout Western Europe with the expansion of Roman influence. Modern Romance languages developed from the Latin spoken in many parts of the Roman Empire.

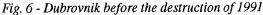
<u>Serbo-Croatian</u>: a South Slavic language native to Croats and Serbs throughout the former Yugoslavia. Croatian and Serbian are actually the same language, save for a few insignificant vocabulary differences and the use of different alphabets.

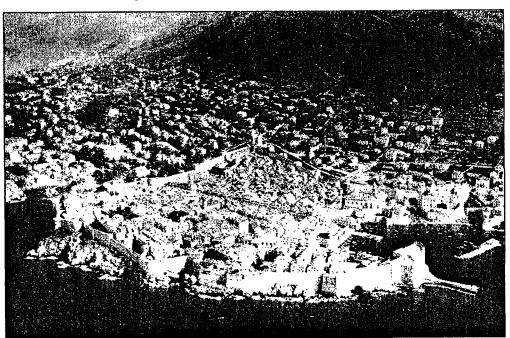
# **Military Documents**

The Austrian Empire existed as a political force from 1806 to 1918. Known as the Austro-Hungarian Empire after 1866, its boundaries at times contained parts or all of present day Austria, Bosnia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

The administration of this empire required a vast military structure that played an important role in the lives of

- Military Commissions, 1466-1866. These contain officers' commissions, instructions, appointments, information concerning military service, and biography.
- 2) <u>Nobility Grants</u>, 1636-1753. This is a collection of grants given for distinguished service or valor.
- 3) <u>Vital Certificates</u>. This is a small, but indexed, collection of birth, marriage, and death certificates.





the citizenry. When, together with Germany, it was part of the Holy Roman Empire, the term of service was life (age c. 65). After 1802 the term of service was reduced to ten years. Universal conscription was introduced in 1868 and every male citizen was required to serve for three years. This was adjusted downwards to two years in 1912. The Austrian Army did not segregate its forces according to religion. Jew, Protestant, Orthodox, and Catholic served side by side. Excluded from military service were the clergy, nobility, government officials, and some workers in critical industries such as mining and agriculture.<sup>4</sup>

The overwhelming majority of military records relating to Croatia and Slavonia microfilmed by the FHL are from the Military Archives in Vienna. The *Kriegsarchiv* collection, unfortunately, is no longer intact. Many of the more recent documents were claimed by modern successor nations of the empire, including Hungary and Yugoslavia. *Kriegsarchiv* documents are divided into two large fonds: the records of the Central Command and those of individual units.

## **Records of the Central Command**

This fond is the only possible source of information on Austrian soldiers and officers prior to 1740. Genealogically relevant series are:

- 4) <u>Wills</u>, 1639-1771. This collection is quite incomplete, yet indexed, and is arranged chronologically.
- 5) Pension and Assistance Records. These are organized by unit designator, i.e. regiment. This designation can be determined by consulting the Schmata, described in item seven, on the following page. The pension and assistance records include:

Pensions: 1749-1922 Invalid Office: 1723-1803

Orphans' Commission: 1702-1770

Soldier Orphans: 1770-1870

This record type provides name and rank, amount of the pension, a list of disbursements (with the total disbursed for each year), the location of payment, and the soldier's unit. Additional information of genealogical value is the location of payment, usually synonymous with the place of retirement.

Payment Books, 1753-1819. These documents are completely indexed and record pensions, wages, and salary data, with supplementary biographical data.

7) Army Rank and Regiment Schematics, 1583-1918. The Schemata are mainly printed materials that continue commission records. Contents are arranged first by force type (e.g. General Staff, Infantry, Artillery) and then by unit designator (e.g. 60th Infantry Regiment). Included are a name index and an explanation of abbreviations and symbols. Personnel are listed by force type and rank and also by unit and rank.

Fig. 6 - Schemata Isting personnel by unit and rank



8) Marriage Bonds, 1750-1918. To insure the monetary support of family members, officers junior in rank to Lt. General were required to bond themselves in the event of death. These records are important as a supplement to the regularmuster lists, which did not generally include names of family members. Information of value includes the officer's name and name of spouse. On occasion the spouse's place of origin and her parents' names are mentioned. Materials are completely indexed by force type and soldier's name, filing on the first letter of the surname then by the first vowel. Consonants are ignored, e.g. Albrecht is indexed as A-e.

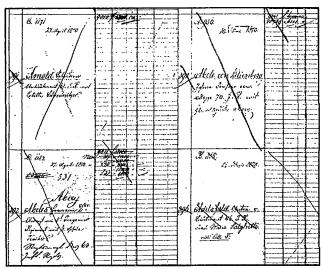


Fig. 7 - Marriage bond of Anton von Adesfeld, a lieutenant in the 46th Infantry Regiment (lower right)

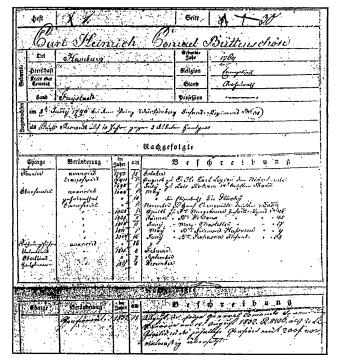
- 9) <u>Military School Records</u>. Biography of students. Includes both the *Marine-Akademe* (1802-1918) and the *Kriegsschule* in Vienna (1871-1914).
- 10) Military Court Records. Archival documents include the Courts of Vienna (1753-1869), Graz (1784-1849), the *Invalidenhaus Wien* (1805-1860), and Pettau (1760-1859). All series contain valuable probate information. Some are indexed.

#### **Records of Individual Units**

Records for soldiers and officers after 1740 are also available in microform at the FHL. While many of the documents created after 1869 were transferred to modern nations created from the Austrian Empire, pre-1869 papers have been filmed and provide a complete record of each person who performed military service. Record series include:

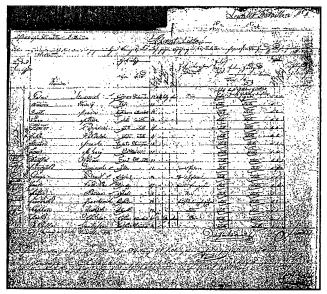
Foundation Books, or Grundbuchblätter (1820-1918) were a local continuation of the muster rolls. Their purpose was to establish a statistical foundation for the military service. They served as a running census of soldiers (and their needs), so the government could plan for horses, feed, rations, etc. After the introduction of universal conscription in 1869, foundation books were kept by the state military registration district. The records have a sheet for each soldier, which was updated annually. The example shown in Fig. 8 demonstrates the valuable information these documents can provide: Carl Heinrich Conrad Buttenschön, from Hamburg, Freistadt Hamburg, was born in 1769. He entered service on 8 June 1790 with the Prinz Württemberg Infantry Regiment no. 38. He made the rank of Petty Officer 15 October 1793, was transferred twice, and was then promoted to Chief Petty Officer 1 May 1800. He was married 18 May 1800 to Elisabeth Du [sic] Plachy, made Junior Lieutenant 8 February 1813, Senior Lieutenant 7 September of the same year, and Captain 8 December 1817. Carl retired 15 August 1832 after 42 years and 2 months in the Army. He was 63 years old.

Fig. 8 - Foundation Book Record for Carl Heinrich Conrad Buttenschön summarizing his 42-year career



2) Muster Rolls, 1740-1820. These records contain name of soldier, place of birth, age, religion, learned occupation, and marital status. After 1770 the rolls include names of dependant children. Musters were taken annually, and indicated soldiers' transfers. Arrangement is by unit.

Fig. 9 - Muster list: Leichtes Bataillon no. 1 of Dalmatia



- 3) Service Records, 1823-1918. These documents supplement the muster and foundation books with information concerning an officer's actual service record. The collection is quite voluminous and indexed. The records include each officer's true unit designator, name, rank, birth date, marriage information, religion, education, place and date of induction, post-induction schooling, decorations, etc.
- Records of the Navy, 1760-1918. Materials from this series are identical to those from the Army. Many of the records have been deaccessioned to the government of Croatia. Access is by unit.
- Ecclesiastical Registers of Individual Units. These records are identical to their civilian counterparts discussed below.

#### **Denominational Vital Records**

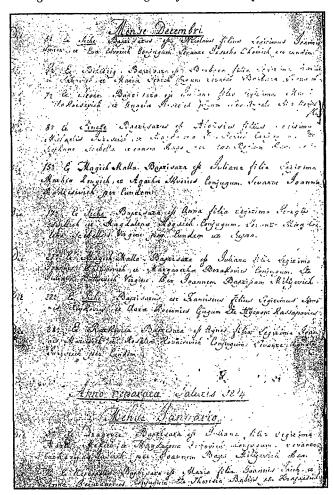
The genealogically relevant religious documents of Croatia, listed in descending order of sheer volume, are from Roman Catholic, Orthodox (also referred to as Greek, Serbian, and now Croatian Orthodox), Jewish, and Greek Catholic institutions<sup>5</sup>. These records comprise some of the most rewarding materials microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah. Examination reveals their contents to be similar to the vital records of other European nations: births (baptisims), marriages, marriage banns, deaths (burials), and occasionally confirmations, communion records, and *statianimarum*.

# Latin Catholic (Greek and Roman) Documents

Roman and Greek Catholic church books are primarily composed in Latin and/or Serbo-Croatian. The earliest Catholic parish register filmed by the GSU dates to the 1460s, is in Glagolitic script and belongs to an as yet unidentified Dalmatian parish. The oldest identifiable records represent registration from the Adriatic coast (Banj 1587, Hvar 1516, Krk 1565, Rab 1569, Split 1597, Zadar 1569) and the former Austrian Küstenland (Bale 1538, Rovinj 1553).

Croatian Catholic birth records are easy to read and are written with a highly redundant vocabulary and a simple syntax. The example shown in Fig. 10 (opposite page) is reflective of birth records in general. At the top of the page, underlined, is listed the month of registration, Mense Decembri, "In the month [of] December." Eight baptisms where performed during this period. The event of the 21st is typical of each: Die 21. Ex Magic Mala. Baptist est Juliana filia legitima Joannis Philipovich, et Margaretha Berakovics conjugum. Lte Juliana Katticsich virgine. Per Joannem Baptisiam Milÿevich, "On day 21. From Magich Malla. Juliana, a legitimate daughter of the lawfully married Joannis Philipovich and Margaretha [née] Berakovics, was baptized. Godparent was the unmarried Juliana Katticsich. [The baptism was performed] by Djinnis Baptisia Milÿevich."

Fig. 10 - Latin birth register from Nova Kapela, 1814



Latin marriage records are common to the Catholic religions. Fig. 11 is an example from the parish of Kutina for the 7<sup>th</sup> of February, 1807, and poignantly demonstrate that Croatian weddings are indeed family affairs.

- Mathias Kudlek marries Maria (widow of Georg) Kudlek
- Barbara (daughter of Mathias) Kudlek marries Joannes Gredyan
- Stephan Kudlek marries Agatha (dau. of Joannes) Martinich
- Barbara (widow of Joannes, mother of Agatha) Martinich marries Stephan Szmudy
- Blasius (son of Paul) Martinich marries Dorothea Mihacz
- Maria (daughter of Paul) Martinich marries Joseph (son of Lucas) Szmudy
- Emerius (son of Mathias) Szmudy marries Catharina Poszavetrich
- Bartholomeus (son of Michael) Martinich marries Rosalia Jagust

The records are uniform in style and content A transcription the last entry in Fig. 11 reads: Copulatus e[st] Gregorius adolescens filius defuncti Stephani Mikoleta

Sartor, cum delecta sibi sponsa Anastasia vidua defuncti Djinnis Boken. PP Michaele Mallovich et Georgio Dorkanich, per Joannem Detanovich, Parochum Kutt. In English: "Gregory, the unwed son of the deceased Stephan Mikolet Sartor, was married to his personally chosen bride, Anastasia, the widow of the deceased Djinnis Boken, by the priest of Kutina, Joannis Detanovich. The witnesses were Michael Mallovich and Georg Dorkanich."

Fig. 11 - Weddings for an extended family in Kutina, 1807

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Fig. 12a - Latin death record of Catharina Doschlich from Nova Kapela

Death records are equally simple, listing the deceased's place of residence, gender and age. The 9 October entry (fig. 12a) reads: Die 9a. Ex Neocapella. Obiit in Domine Catharina Dosclich vidua annorum 39 provisa S. S. Sacramentis, et sepulta est per Petrum Hrajaczich. In English: "On [October] 9th. From Nova Kapela. Catharina Doschlich, a widow 37 years old, died in the Lord, having received Last Rites she was buried by Petar Hrajaczich."

Entries can sometimes offer more personal detail and display a dramatic or literary quality. Consider, for example, the death of 16 November (Fig. 12b): Obit in Domino Thomas Bobis ivich vir Kobascino. annorum 56 morte repentina, et improvisa, ex Suboczka quippe in caru [sic] redux, et per plures Parochias infirmus pertransiens, nulli [u]bi Sacerdotem, ut Sacramentis provideatur, evocando, in Batzina Spiritum Creatori, reddidit, et in Parochiali Cæmeteris Neocapellæ ad B.[eatam] V.[irginem] M.[ariam] Sepultus est per Joannem Baptistam Milÿevich Cæsareo. Regium Parochum Neocapellæ. "On the 16th. From Kobascino. Thomas Bobisčivich died in the Lord at age 56 from a death that was both sudden and unforseen, so much so that he, while ill, was returned with care from Suboczka, passing through many towns where there was no priest, so that he might be given Last Rites. In Batzina, crying out, he yielded to the Spirit of the Creator and was buried in the parochial cemetery "Blessed Virgin Mary" of Nova Kapela by Djinnis Baptista Milÿevich, senior priest of the Nova Kapela parish."

Fig. 12b - Latin death record for Thomas Bobiscivich

Die 16:	Hobasimo . Obier in Domine	Thomas Botonwich via an
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Important key words and phrases in these Latin records are:

Baptisatus, -a est (feminine past perfect passive construction from baptizo) meaning "was baptised"

Copulatus est ... cum meaning "was married ... to"

Die (ablative singular from dies: day) meaning "on the day [of]"

Defuncti (genitive singular of defunctus, participle from the deponant defungor) meaning "of the deceased"

Legitimatus, -a meaning "legitimate"

Levante (abbr. Lte, gerund or gerundive from levo: to raise).

Roman belief held new born children were raised from

the ground into life by the goddess *Levana*, hence the Latin meaning "midwife." Here, by extension from the act of drawing out an infant from a baptismal font, "godparent"

Mense (ablative singular of mensis: month) meaning "in the month [of]"

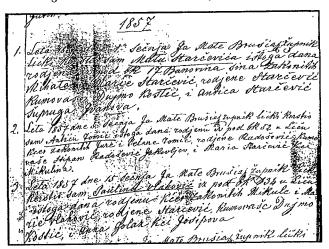
Obiit (from obeo) meaning "(s)he died"

Patrinus, -a, pl. patrini (abbr. P. or PP.) meaning "patron, protector", and so in a marriage context, "witness" Viduus, vidua meaning "widower, widow"

# Croatian Catholic (Greek and Roman) Documents

Birth records in Croatian are similar to their Latin counterparts. Figure 13 is an example from the parish of Lič. Entry 1 reads: Leta 1857 dne 1a Sečnja Ja Mate Brušiach župnik lički kerstio sam Matu Starčevića istoga dana rodjena iz pod b[roja] k[uće] 17 Banovina sina zakonitih Mihata i Marie Starčević, rodjene Starčević. Kumovaše Dujmo Kostić, i Antica Starčević šupruga Ivanova. In English: "On 1 January 1857, I Mate Brušiach, the priest of Lič, baptised Mate Starčević, born on the same day at house number (book number?) 17, Banovina [of the Banat], a son of the lawfully married Mihat and Maria Starčević née Starčević. God-parents were Dujmo Kostić and Antica Starčević, spouse of Ivan."

Fig. 13 - Croatian birth records from Lič, 1857



Important key words and phrases in these Croatian records are:

Dne (adv.) meaning "on the date"

Kumovaše (from kumovati: to sponsor, be a god-parent)

Krst (Kerst) meaning "Christening"

Leta (old plural for godina) meaning "in the year"

Sečnja (old spelling of siječanj) meaning "January." The

other eleven months of the year, in calendrical order, are veljača, o žujak, travanj, svibanj, lipanj, kolovoz, rujan, listopad, studeni and prosinac

Rodjen (Roðen) meaning "born"

*Šuprug, -a* meaning "spouse"

Zakonitih (gen. pl. of zakonit) meaning "lawful, legitimate"

By 1878 the majority of Catholic marriage and death registration was written in Croatian. Figures 14 and 15 illustrate these record types on printed forms. documents, when read from left to right, outline the following information.

# Marriages:

Broj tekući, entry number

Godina, mjesec, dan, kad su vjenčani, year, month, and day when married

Ime, prezime, stališ nijhov, personal name, surname, and profession (e.g. poljodjelac, farmer)

Gdje su se rodili, place of birth

Gdje stanuju, place of residence

Vjera jim, religion

Doba jim, age

Jesu li mladenci ili udovci, single or widowed Ime, prezime, vjera, stališ njihovih roditeljah, personal name, religion, surname, and profession of parents Ime, prezime, vjera, stališ njihovih svejedokah, personal name, religion, surname, and profession of in-laws

Ime, prezime, služba onoga, koji jih je vjenčao, personal name, surname, and profession of marrying authority (e.g. *župnik*, priest)

Jesu li ozvani? Je li jim se oprostio koji oziv ili koja zaprieka, were there bans? Were they approved or was there an hinderance?

Opazke, observations and comments

# Deaths:

Broj tekuči, entry number

Godina, mjesec, dan, kad je umro, year, month, and day

Ime, prezime, stališ njegov, personal name, surname, and profession (of the deceased)

Ime, prezime, stališ njegovih roditeljah ili žene, name, surname, and profession of parents or wife

Gdje je rodjen, place of birth

Gdje je stanovao, place of residence

Verja mu, religion

Doba mu, age

Od čega je bolovao ili umre, cause of death

Je li primio svete sakramente umiruć ih? Was the deceased given Last Rites?

Gdje i kad je pokopan? Place and date of the burial Ime, prezime i služba onoga, koji ga je pokopao, personal name, surname, and profession of person performing the burial

Opazke, observations or comments

Fig. 14 - Croatian marriage records from Brestovac

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ekuti	kad su vjeočani	atalië njihov	gdje sa 👟 radili	gdje stanuju	vjera jim	doba jim i	denci ili udovci	roditeljah	svjedokah	jih ja vjenčau	koji oziv ili koja zaprieka	kenithenga zakata od 8, lisupada 1820.	
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Fig. 15 - Croatian death records from Brestovac

Hroj leknek	Godina, mjesse, dan, kad je umro	serie tilekon	Poko ime, prezime, ualizajegorah roditeljah ili dene	gdje ie rodien	je stanovao	rjera mu	doba mu	Od čaga je bolevze ši umre?	Jo li primlo sveto sukramento umirudili?	Gdje i kad je pokopan?	ime, prezime i sluiba onoga, koji ga je pokopao	Opazko
111	1898 Fravnja 242	Jelo No.	Stanfle St.	Tustjere. Y	The Foreign	Mine	lents C.	(1)	-	18 Francis	Alsgandon	
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Many Catholic records from Croatia are written in Glagolitic script. Glagolitic records are identical in content to other pre-printed Catholic parish registration. The complexity of the epigraphy, however, makes a detailed analysis impossible here. Figure 16 supplies a key to the Glagolitic alphabet. The columns, from left to right, provide the lower-case form of the Glagolitic letter, the upper-case

Fig. 16 - The Glagolitic alphabet<sup>6</sup>

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10	m	90	п	80	Р	р
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form, the corresponding numerical value, the Cyrillic equivalent, the numerical value of the Cyrillic equivalent, the Latin transliteration, and the pronunciation. This numerical value of the characters is important in order to read dates, for the Glagolitic script, like Greek and Latin before it, usd letters to also represent numbers. Figure 17 provides an example of a Glagolitic parish register.

# Orthodox

The Eastern rite records of Croatia are uniformly written in Serbian (i.e. Serbo-Croatian with a Cyrillic script). Figure 18 (opposite) is an example. Document content is similar to Croatian Catholic records. The beginning researcher, with some practice, will be able read Orthodox parish registartion by equating Serbian words to Croatian counterparts using the following transliteration table.

A, a=A, a	J, j=J, j	C, c=S,s
Б, б=В, ь	Κ, κ=K, k	T, T=T, t
B, B=V, v	Л, л=L, І	Ъ, ћ=Ć, ć
$\Gamma$ , $r=G$ , $g$	Љ, љ=Lj, lj	У, y=U, u
Д, д=D, d	М, м=M, m	Φ, φ=F, f
ъ, <b>ђ=</b> Ð, đ	H, H=N, n	X, x=H, h
E, e=E, e	Њ, њ=Nj, nj	Ц, ц=С, с
Ж, ж=Ž, ž	O, 0=O, 0	Ч, ч=Č, č
3, 3=Z, z	П, п=Р, р	Ų, u=Dž,dž
И, и=I, i	P, p=R, r	Ш, ш=Š, š

#### Jewish

Jewish ecclesiastical records date from the latter 18th to the end of the 19th century. Several registers, created under the aegis of the Austrian military, continue through the conclusion of World War I. Excluding military records, which are exclusively in German, the vital documentation of Croatian Jewry is written in Croatian, German, or Hungarian with marginal translations into Hebrew and Yiddish. The one routine addition to the standard birth, marriage and death record type is the inclusion of the event date by the reckoning At present, fifteen Jewish of the Hebrew calender. congregations are in the FHL collection: Čakovec (1782-1895), Darda (1854-1895), Drnje (1800-1910), Karlovac (1853-1880), Koprivnica (1850-1898), Ludbreg (1851-1911), Orahovica (1779-1939), Osijek (1780-1913), Pakrac (1866-1910), Slatina (1858-1912), Slavonska Požega (1821-1941), Varaždin (1879-1920), Virovitica (1856-1881), Vukovar (1850-1931) and Zagreb (1858-1904).

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Fig. 19 - Jewish birth record printed in Hungarian and German. Handwritten information is in German and Hebrew. Note Hebrew calendar dates of 5625-5627.

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# **Working Aids**

The challenges of Croatian genealogical research are numerous and range from language issues, document identification, through problems associated with historical geography. At times, all but the most savvy academic must seek assistance from scholarly publications. The following working aids are useful for providing information that may answer the many linguistic and locality questions that both the beginning and advanced researcher must address.

# **Church Directories**

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# <u>Maps</u>

- Generalkarte von Mitteleuropa. Vienna: Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen, 1889-1967.
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#### Conclusion

The genealogical records of Croatia pose significant research opportunities for both success and frustration. The intent of this *Beginner's Guide* was to familiarize the genealogist, mainly by illustrated example, with the record types common to the nation of Croatia. A discussion of the research process itself, for several reasons, has been

avoided. Paramount among these considerations is the upcoming publication by FEEFHS of a Beginner's Guide to genealogy. This paper will discuss in detail basic research principles common to East and Central European genealogy. To further assist the reader with Croatian research, I have provide two supplementary documents: Appendix A, a list of all Roman and Greek Catholic parishes in Croatia, and Appendix B, a summary of all Croatian localities microfilmed by the FHL through 1 May 1999. The users of this latter document can obtain microfilm numbers by consulting the Family History Library Catalog at http://www.familysearch.org.

#### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> N. Nodilo, "Pad Salona," Glasnik Matice Dalmatinske (Kolovoz, 1903): 1-7.
- <sup>2</sup> Stanko Guldescu, *History of Medieval Croatia* (The Hague: Mouton & Co., 1964), 34.
- Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus, De administrando imperio, ed. Gyula Moravcsik and R.J.H. Jenkins (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies, 1967, 1985 printing): ch. 31.
- Steven W. Blodgett, "Great-Grandfather was in the Imperial Cavalry: Using Austrian Military Records as an Aid to Writing Family History," in Continental European Family and Local History, vol. 7 of World Conference on Records: Preserving our Heritage (Salt Lake City: Corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1980), series no. 504, p. 1-2.
- The term Greek Catholic has two meanings in Yugoslavian research. First, it can refer to an Orthodox believer who is not a member of the state religion; second, to an Uniat, i.e. one who practices the Eastern rite but recognizes the ruling authority of the Bishop of Rome. The researcher can readily make the distinction between Eastern rite Catholic and Orthodox parishes by consulting: Franz Raffelsperger, Allgemeines geographischstatistisches Lexikon aller österreichischen Staaten, 9 vols. (Vienna: Verlag der K.K.A.P Typographischen Kunstanstalt, 1845-1853). An example of this from vol. 4, p. 683: "Medare, Slavonien ... Dorf von 63 Häus. u. 328 Einw., mit einer griech. nicht unirten Pfarre," translates as "Medare, Slavonia ... a village of 63 houses and 328 residents, with a Greek [rite], non Uniat, parish."
- <sup>6</sup> Source: Enciklopedia Jugoslavije, 8 vols. (Zagreb: Lesikografski Zavod, 1955-1971), 3:463.

# Addendum to Beginner's Guide to Croatian Research

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The "Beginner's Guide" published in the last issue of this journal focused on ecclesiastical and military records for the area of modern Croatia. The author deliberately avoided a description of civil registration documents due to a paucity of materials. A significant number of readers, however, have requested an example of Illyrian provincial registration. The transcribed and translated document below from Cres, Croatia, written in Italian, will hopefully accommodate their wish.

#### Provincia Illiniche

Oggi due del mese di Settembre mille ottocento dodici innanzia me Antonio Zauaria Lion Maire di Cherso Circondario Communale di Cherso dipartimento della Croazia Civile faciente le funzioni d'uffiziale pubblico dello stato Civile si sono presentati li Antonio Vitich del fu Antonio, e Pr. Zuanne Bolmarcich il primo di professione Teriere dell'eta' d'Anni cinquanta circa ed il secondo di professione Marinaio dell'eta' d'Anni quaranta otto circa dimorant in Cherso, Circondario Communale di Cherso dipartimento della Croazia Civile, i quali dichiarano che Lorenzo Vitich del fu Antonio fratello del primonominato é morto quest'oggi alle ore undici mattina nel suo Domicilio posto in Contra rialto di questa città

dietro questa dichiarazione, ho esteso il presente Atto, che li predetti non hanno firmato per esser illetterati, ma soltanto io

Antonio Vitich +
Zuanne Bolmarcich +

#### **Illyrian Province**

Today, 02 September 1812, Antonio (son of the deceased Antonio) Vitch and Pr. Zuanne Bolmarcich appeared before me, Antonio Zauria, civil registrar and Lion Maire of Cherso, municipal district of Cherso, civil department of Croatia. The first mentioned is a landowner around 50 years of age; the second, a sailor about 48. Both live in the city of Cherso, Cherso county, Croatia. They have declared that Lorenzo Vitich, son of the deceased Antonio and brother to the first mentioned gentleman, died today at 11:00 AM at his home in the Contra Rialto district of this city.

This record is continued on the reverse of this declaration. The above mentioned gentlemen have not signed this document, myself being the only literate person.

Antonio Vitich +

Zuanne Bolmarcich +

Civil registration from Cres, Croatia

