

Maps

In genealogical research, maps can provide clues to where our ancestors may have lived and where to look for written records about them. Old and new maps can help you track down facts about a branch of your family. How? In the United States, birth, death, property, and some other kinds of records are normally kept by the county governments. If you can name the place where an ancestor lived, new or old maps of that place may also show the county seat where useful data about your kin can be obtained. Old maps can be particularly useful in this regard because pinpointing the name of the place where an ancestor lived can be like trying to hit a moving target. Many towns, counties, cities, and even countries have experienced numerous name changes over the years.

Resources at the Center for Jewish History:

In Print

Atlases

There are close to 40 diverse atlases from various time periods in the reference collections of the Ackman and Ziff Family Genealogy Institute and the Lillian Goldman Reading Room including:

- Oxford Essential World Atlas, 4th edition, 2006 CGI G1021.G4175 2006
- Rand McNally unabridged World Atlas and Encyclopedic Gazetteer of the Universe, 1937 G1019.R3 1937
- Andrees Allgemeiner Handatlas, 1930 G1019.A53
- The Macmillan Atlas of the Holocaust/Martin Gilbert CGI G1797.21.E29 G54 1984
- Historical Atlas of Eastern and Central Europe/Paul R. Magocsi, 1998 CGI G2081.2 M3
- Poland: A Historical Atlas/Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski, 1989 CGI G1951.S1 P34

Maps

Both the Ackman and Ziff Family Genealogy Institute and the Lillian Goldman Reading Room also have collections of individual maps. There are well over 200 maps from different periods and locations, with a strong focus on Central and Eastern Europe. Periods covered range from 1765 – 1990s. See a librarian for access to each location.

Online

Available for patrons at no cost through the public computers' "e-resources":

Historic Map Works, Library Edition is a database with an extensive digital map collection containing over 200 high-resolution, full color historic maps of the world. The collection includes property and land ownership maps illustrating the geographic and development history of the United States from the late 1700s to the present. In addition, there are city directories and illustrations as well as antiquarian maps covering the world from the 15th to the 19th centuries, drawn from the University of Southern Maine's Osher Map Library.

<http://www.proquest.historicmapworks.com/Browse/>

Columbia Gazetteer of the World is an international geographic database of over 165,000 entries including place names, physical characteristics, political properties, and natural and agricultural resources.

<http://www.columbiagazetteer.org/main/Home.html>

Useful Links:

· **<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/> (free)**

University of Texas. Austin Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection offers a collection of links to online maps of states around the country and countries around the world, including a link to European historical maps at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/history_europe.html. The website also offers a link to the **U.S. Immigration Explorer - Interactive Map (New York Times)**. The interactive map allows you to select an immigrant group and to view how they settled across the U.S.

· **<http://www.clockwk.com/centennia.html> (fee)**

Centennia is a map-based guide to the history of Europe and the Middle East from the beginning of the 11th century to the present. It is a dynamic, animated historical atlas including over 9,000 border changes. The map controls evolve the map forward or backward in time bringing the static map to life. The site's maps display every major war and territorial conflict displaying the status of each region at intervals of a tenth of a year. The maps reflect actual "power on the ground" rather than internationally-sanctioned or "recognized" borders.

· **<http://www.davidrumsey.com/> (free)**

The David Rumsey Historical Map Collection has over 20,000 maps and images online. The collection focuses on rare 18th and 19th century North American and South American maps and other cartographic materials. Historic maps of the World, Europe, Asia, and Africa are also represented. Collection categories include antique atlas, globe, school geography, maritime chart, state, county, city, pocket, wall, childrens, and manuscript maps. Some examples are United States map, maps of New York, California map, Arizona map, America map, New York City map, Chicago map, and Colorado map.

· **<http://www.ecai.org/> (free)**

The system developed for managing and cataloging data is the ECAI Metadata Clearinghouse. ECAI's Metadata Clearinghouse includes records which describe datasets or map layers. ECAI metadata records include bibliographic and descriptive metadata for resource discovery allowing identification of resources relevant to a particular place (search by longitude and latitude), time (from 250 B.C. through 2005) or thematic interest.

The ECAI Metadata Clearinghouse also allows you to search through the **David Rumsey Map Collection**.

· **http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dgdivisionbrowserresult.cfm?div_id=hm (free)**

The New York Public Library has digitized their Map Division of maps, atlases and books about cartography. The collection is international in scope, and dates from the 16th century to the present, with a focus on cities, especially New York City. Computer mapping and Geographic Information Systems [GIS] are new programs of the Map Division. Six computer mapping workstations are located in the newly renovated Map Division for public use as well.

· **<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/maplib/maplib.htm> (free)**

The Map Collection houses over 80,000 maps, some 3,000 atlases, gazetteers, travel guides, reference works and digital products. Thematic topics include economics, politics, population and transportation. The collection offers publications on international boundaries, including from

the International Boundary Research Unit (Durham, UK). Most of the material in the collection is for reference use and does not circulate. Arrangements can be made for copying, and there are also large layout tables and a light table to facilitate working with maps and atlases. You may view the collection in Room L-282 at Dag Hammarskjöld Library United Nations New York, NY 10017 Tel: (212) 963 7425 Fax: (212) 963 1779.

· **<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html> (free)**

The Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress holds more than 4.5 million items, of which *Map Collections* represents only a small fraction of those that have been converted to digital form. The focus of *Map Collections* is Americana and Cartographic Treasures of the Library of Congress. These images were created from maps and atlases, and in general, are restricted to items that are not covered by copyright protection.

· **<http://www.feefhs.org/maplibrary.html> (free)**

The Federation of East European Family History Societies map library offers a collection of maps of countries within the Austro-Hungarian, German and Russian empires as well as maps of Scandinavia and nations in the Balkans. Most of the maps are from 1882 while a few others are from 1908 and the 16th century. The site offers several other links to sites offering map collections of Central and Eastern Europe maps from 1896 – 1967.

· **<http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/home.html> (free)**

The Atlas des Deutschen Reichs by Ludwig Ravenstein is relatively rare in libraries of the United States. The atlas helps in tracing the roots of families with origins in any part of the German empire from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Besides Germany, the maps of this atlas also cover the bordering portions of present-day Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, and Switzerland. Due to the large scale of its maps (1:850,000) and its thorough gazetteer of place names, one can locate even small towns and villages on the maps in the Ravenstein atlas. A special feature is one special map with an accompanying table that provides statistics on the religious denominations found throughout the German empire down to the Regierungsbezirk and Kreis governmental units.

· **<http://timea.rice.edu> (free)**

The Travelers in the Middle East Archive (TIMEA) is a digital archive that focuses on Western interactions with the Middle East, particularly travels to Egypt during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. TIMEA offers digitized historical maps and interactive GIS (Geographic Information Systems) maps of Egypt and Cyprus.

· **<http://www.zum.de/whkmla/histatlas/europe/haxeurope.html> (free)**

This website provides a collection of links to historical European Maps from 1500-1942.

· **<http://www.culturalresources.com/Maps.html>**

The bulk of the historical maps on this website are scans from early 20th-Century historical atlases. They are listed both chronologically by era and geographically.

Additional Useful Links by Country:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/methods.htm>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech/maps.html>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/resources.htm#Maps>

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/latvia.html>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/GerSIG/resources.htm#maps>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/GerSIG/resources.htm#money>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Latvia/Maps.html>

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/BialyGen/Maps.htm>

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Lodz/LARGmap.htm>