

# Czech Jewish Records

MARTIN TOMPA  
January 22, 2022

For Jewish records in the Czech Republic, the place to go used to be Badatelna. It has now been replaced by Vademecum.

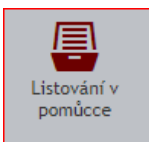
## Resources you will find helpful

1. (What used to be Badatelna Fond 1073, HBMa) The main index for births, marriages, and deaths is <https://vademecum.nacr.cz/vademecum/permalink?xid=f86bf41ed11ae5f01740720eed9eodbb>.
2. (What used to be Badatelna Fond 241) If you can't find your record in (1) above, there are also "control" registers whose main index is at <https://vademecum.nacr.cz/vademecum/permalink?xid=cd507737e9672d2f1bf925d75e7aef6c>.
3. (What used to be Badatelna Fond 2098) These are the Familiant records, whose main index is at <https://vademecum.nacr.cz/vademecum/permalink?handlerInterView=&xid=b2ff9ad3db2bd8546b6f23db31e3a34e&entityType=10026>. I will explain more about the Familiant records in a separate section below. To find your town in this Familiant index, you will need the town index at <https://www.jewishgen.org/austriaczech/familianten.html>. These Familiant books usually have an index in their first pages.
4. In order to find the nearest register for a town of interest, of any of the types (1)-(3) above, Alex Calzareth has produced a wonderful map: <http://calzareth.com/czechmap/>.
5. There is a good introduction to the use of these archives at <https://www.jewishgen.org/austriaczech/czechguide.html>.

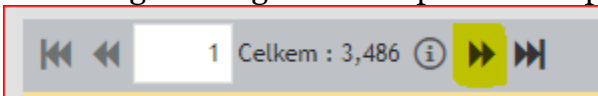
## Basics for navigating Vademecum

Here are instructions for navigating any of the Fonds (1)-(3) above.

1. Follow the main index link above for whichever Fond you want.
2. The next screen will have a grey box with two maroon icons toward the right. Click on the top one (Listování v pomůcce).



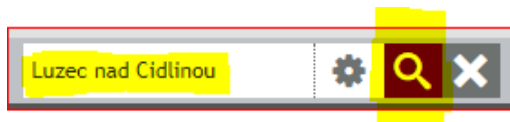
3. This brings you to the index of the books in the Fond. The town names are in the small right panel in a red font.
4. Choose your town from this list and click on it.
5. All of the books from that town may or may not be displayed in the left panel. If they are not, you can scroll through those books one at a time by clicking on the double right triangle at the top of the left panel.



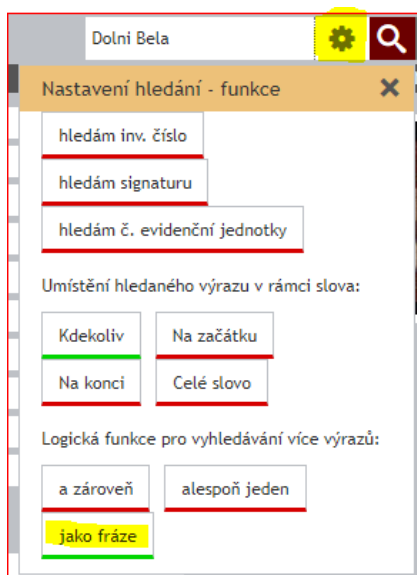
6. Click on the book you want.
7. Click on the image of the book at the right side of the panel. From here on, it will be just like using Badatelna.

## What if your town isn't in the list?

Type the name of your town in the search box and click on the magnifying glass.



This will give you a list of hits with all of these words, not necessarily together. If you want only hits that have the words together exactly as typed in the search box, before clicking on the magnifying glass, click on the gear icon and on the words jako fráze. Then click on the magnifying glass.



When you are done investigating the books that resulted from your search, click on the X to the right of the magnifying glass to clear the search, so it doesn't interfere with the next operation you do.

## Explanation of Familiant records

Here is an explanation of the Familiant records, largely copied from [https://vivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Familiants\\_Laws](https://vivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Familiants_Laws) and Section III of <https://www.jewishgen.org/austriaczech/czechguide.html>. In 1726, by order of the Habsburg emperor Charles VI, the number of Jewish families was limited to 8,541 in Bohemia, 5,106 in Moravia, and 119 in Silesia. (In 1787, Joseph II increased the totals to 8,600 in Bohemia and 5,400 in Moravia.) To enforce this quota, a so-called "Familianten" order was issued. According to this order, only the first-born son of each Jewish family was given permission to marry, upon reaching the age of 24. As long as the paternal grandfather was alive, the firstborn grandchild could not marry. The permit could be sold to another family if there was no son to inherit it. As a result, many Jews who could not obtain marriage permits emigrated from Bohemia and Moravia, or had illegitimate children, the latter undoubtedly defeating the purpose of the order.

The law of Francis I. (Aug. 3, 1797) permitted Jews who had served as volunteers in the army or who lived exclusively by agriculture or by technical skill (*nützliches Handwerk* = useful trade) to marry without regard to the number of established families. They were allowed to marry, but were not familianten, so their firstborn sons could not inherit this privilege from them. It was not easy to use this route, because there was still a guild system, so a Christian master had to be found who accepted the Jewish boy into the apprenticeship. This was not cheap for the father of the boy and hard work for the boy.

In 1848-1849 the Familianten order was abolished, partly reintroduced soon after, and only fully annulled in 1867.

A by-product of the Familianten order was that the government kept very good records of which Jewish families lived in which towns. Records were collected in 1799 and in 1811 and updated as long as the order was in effect. Each record contained the district name, registration number of the family, name of the father, his wife, his parents, his sons, and associated birth, marriage, and death dates. These records provide a very good resource for researchers investigating their family histories. For many families, multiple generations are included. One shortcoming of these records is that no daughters are listed, because only sons could inherit the marriage permit.

Here is an example of a Familiant record, from <https://vademecum.nacr.cz/vademecum/permalink?xid=62da61fd-fe17-4117-b938-do363b09d5eb&scan=0136cd80700f3607ba06acd571262312>. This is the record of Moyses Oesterreicher, my ggg-grandfather from Česká Lípa, who married in 1802. It provides the names of his parents Joseph and Saara, his wife Esther Dub, and his 5 sons with their birth years. Moyses's oldest son Zacharias inherited the marriage permit in

1834 for his marriage. Zacharias's record is given on the same page, with his wife's name Magdalena Schreuer and their son Elias. By the time Elias married in 1861, the Familianten order was no longer in force, so the record was not further updated. Two daughters of Moyses and three daughters of Zacharias are nowhere mentioned on this page.

Dominium		Herkunfts- Familien-Nummer des		Alter und neuer Name des Familianten.		Des vorhergehenden Familianten		Der Familiant bei den Heiratskontra- kten		Söhne des Familianten.		Von den verlebten Individuen die gestorben oder des Landesfluges verlustig worden.			Diese Familie	
Landes.	Domi- niums.			beiderseitige Eltern.	Matr.	unterm Datum und Sub. Jahr.	auf des Dominium.	Gebo- ren- jahr.	Name.		Name	Jahr und Tag des Todesfalls oder der Verlustigungs- Erklärung.	letz- ter Ehestand- Zahl.	von	der.	
5928.	12.	Österreichisch-ung.		Jörg Zinner geb. 1774 Kollon	Magdalena geb. 1774 Kollon	1804	1804	1804	Jörg Zinner geb. 1804 Kollon							
		Österreichisch-ung.		Jörg Zinner geb. 1774 Kollon	Magdalena geb. 1774 Kollon	1804	1804	1804	Jörg Zinner geb. 1804 Kollon							
		Österreichisch-ung.		Jörg Zinner geb. 1774 Kollon	Magdalena geb. 1774 Kollon	1804	1804	1804	Jörg Zinner geb. 1804 Kollon							
		Österreichisch-ung.		Jörg Zinner geb. 1774 Kollon	Magdalena geb. 1774 Kollon	1804	1804	1804	Jörg Zinner geb. 1804 Kollon							
		Österreichisch-ung.		Jörg Zinner geb. 1774 Kollon	Magdalena geb. 1774 Kollon	1804	1804	1804	Jörg Zinner geb. 1804 Kollon							
		Österreichisch-ung.		Jörg Zinner geb. 1774 Kollon	Magdalena geb. 1774 Kollon	1804	1804	1804	Jörg Zinner geb. 1804 Kollon							
		Österreichisch-ung.		Jörg Zinner geb. 1774 Kollon	Magdalena geb. 1774 Kollon	1804	1804	1804	Jörg Zinner geb. 1804 Kollon							
		Österreichisch-ung.		Jörg Zinner geb. 1774 Kollon	Magdalena geb. 1774 Kollon	1804	1804	1804	Jörg Zinner geb. 1804 Kollon							
		Österreichisch-ung.		Jörg Zinner geb. 1774 Kollon	Magdalena geb. 1774 Kollon	1804	1804	1804	Jörg Zinner geb. 1804 Kollon							
		Österreichisch-ung.		Jörg Zinner geb. 1774 Kollon	Magdalena geb. 1774 Kollon	1804	1804	1804	Jörg Zinner geb. 1804 Kollon							