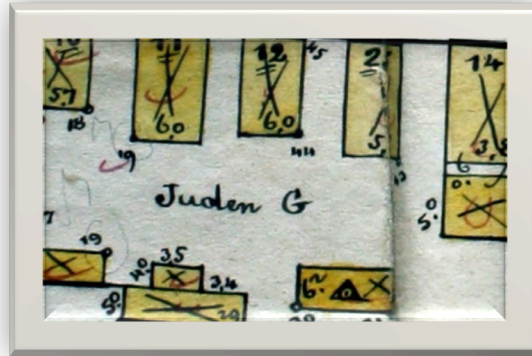


Gesher Galicia's Cadastral Map & Landowner Records Project: A Virtual Recreation of a Vanished Province

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Galicia, a former province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, ceased to exist in 1918, but the cadastral maps created by the crown land's cartographers provide an incomparable portrait of this historical region. In 2007, the international research group, Gesher Galicia ("the bridge to Galicia") initiated the Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project, resulting in several online platforms where mapping intersects with visual and metrical records to create a unique research portal.

Historical Background

The Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria was ruled by the Hapsburgs from 1772 – 1917. Its borders spanned what is now Eastern Poland and Western Ukraine. The territories acquired from the First partition of Poland resulted in the largest, and most populated, province of the Austrian Empire until the collapse of Austria-Hungary in 1918, when Poland regained control. In 1773, Galicia had about 2.6 million inhabitants in 280 cities and market towns: approximately 5,500 villages, plus hamlets, groups of houses and manorial farms. Approximately 75 – 80 percent of these communities had Jewish residents in sizeable numbers. There were nearly 19,000 noble families and the complicated relationship between the magnates, the peasants and the Jews are memorialized in the maps and records housed in European archives.

It was not just Galicia as an entity that disappeared. World War II eradicated most of the Jewish population. The encroachment of the Soviet Union changed the economic landscape. The noble families and their estates were soon gone and many Poles were repatriated back to towns within the new Polish borders. Nevertheless, the footprints of these "Galitzianers" are still found in the huge collections of cadastral maps and documents scattered between archives, libraries and repositories in numerous countries, all of which lay claim to a piece of almost-mythical *Galicia*.

Three distinct property surveys were conducted during the Austrian period of the 18th and 19th centuries. Upon gaining control of the region the crown commissioned the Josephine Cadastral Survey, between 1785 and 1788 and the Franciscan Survey, between 1819 and 1820. The Austrian Stabile Cadastral Survey of the 1830s to 1860s consisted of landowner records and detailed maps showing the smallest parcels of land, individual yards, houses, barns, roads, field plots, synagogues, cemeteries and even large trees. At least three versions of maps were created

including a field sketch (feldskizzen), a preliminary drafted version (indikationskizzen) and the cadastral map in full color. At least one or more versions of these maps still exist for most locales and provide a view of the business, social and agricultural life of Galician communities. The comprehensive details of documents and maps facilitate modern reconstruction of the changing patterns of land use and ownership.

The Geshher Galicia Project

In the spring of 2007, Geshher Galicia began obtaining images of cadastral maps and landowner records from the Central State Historical Archives in Lviv, the State Archive of the Ternopil Oblast (Ukraine) and Polish State Regional Archives in Krakow and Przemysl and Rzesow. The project was established to introduce historians, genealogists and Holocaust researchers to the valuable information found on cadastral maps and to encourage research based on the merging of the data found in maps with “companion” records such as landowner, magnate, tax, school and voter records.

The project objectives were:

- to survey archival property records and maps for towns in Galicia resulting in a written inventory of these Fonds.
- to digitally photograph or scan cadastral maps for this region
- to digitize and/or index landowner records as companion pieces to the maps
- to create online portals to display high-resolution maps and search engines for the records.
- to annotate maps by merging data from records, personal testimonies, newspapers and ephemera to create a fluid portrait of a town, showing the evolution of a place in historical context: a cartographic timeline.

Status Report

Inventory: As of 2013 Geshher Galicia’s Galician Archival Records Project inventory has catalogued the cadastral and landowner holdings of over 150 towns, with over 1,700 record listings in our searchable inventory at: <http://inventory.geshhergalicia.org>.

Archive Info Fond-Opys-Sprava	Place	Admin. District	Type	Year	Scale - Size	Pages	Description	Status
Lviv Archives: 186-1-7503	Hrymaliv (Grzymalow)	Skalat (Ternopil' okr.)	Text	XIX century			Record book of landowners.	Not Yet Examined
Lviv Archives: 186-1-7504	Hrymaliv (Grzymalow)	Skalat (Ternopil' okr.)	Text	1829-1859			Record book of lands.	Not Yet Examined
Lviv Archives: 186-13-40	Hrymaliv (Grzymalow)	Skalat (Ternopil'; Skalat)	Map	1828	2.04 58 x 71			Not Yet Examined
Lviv Archives: 186-13-41	Hrymaliv (Grzymalow)	Skalat (Ternopil')	Map	1861 [orig. 1828]	2.04 64 x 80	20 parts	[Lenius notes: Katasterkarte - Reambulirte Auflage. A revised cadastral map showing house numbers, not parcel numbers. Many of the field parcels have householder names. The sheets of this black & white map were folded into a compact map. This revised map of 1861 and is based on the original cadastral map of 1828. Many of the field properties have the householder names. Photocopies.]	Acquired

These records have been expanded to include voter, tax, magnate, tabula, governmental and school records. Any document with information tied to a resident, house, parcel or building

number that would appear on a cadastral maps is targeted for review, acquisition or indexing. The inventory database is searched by exact spelling, with a place list at the bottom of the page. Many communities with the same name, but in different districts, are delineated by administrative districts, which changed over the years.

Database:

The All Galicia Database (AGD) launched in 2011 at: <http://search.geshergalicia.org> has over 230,000 records from 79 data sources from birth, death, marriage and divorce records to directories, school, voter, tax and landowner records from Galicia. These diverse community records cover all the ethnic/religious groups: Jews, Poles, Ukrainians, Ruthenians, Germans, Catholics, Greek Catholic and Orthodox. The application for this database is LeafSeek (<http://www.leafseek.com>) created by Brooke Schreier Ganz, a tool that combines multiple datasets of different types — such as birth, marriage, and military records — into one unified searchable website and allows researchers to sort and find inter-connections in data. It offers built-in geo-spatial searches, pop-up Google Maps, Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching, name synonyms, and language localization. Using an API (Application Programming Interface) allows our site to access data related to our research from other research organizations.

Record Sources

x Surname: Kowalska
(and phonetic matches)

Record Types

Phonebook (2)
Property (8)
School (6)

Top Surnames

Kowalski (15)
Kowalska (1)

Top Given Names

Jozef (3)
Zofja (3)

Results found: 16 (showing 1 to 16)

+ Jan KOWALSKI

1879

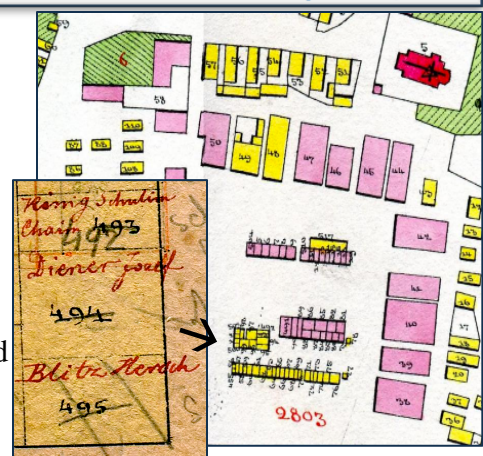
Year: 1879
Town: Buczacz (now [Buchach, Ternopil's'ka oblast, Ukraine](#))
House Number: 0
District: Miasto
Property Area (in morgi): 1 morgi
1 morg in Galicia = 1.422 acres
Property Area (in sazni): 453 sazni
1600 sazni in Galicia = 1 morg

This record comes from the *Buczacz Homeowners List (1879)* database. The original records are held in *Original Source Not Identified* and were added to this search engine on 5 September 2011. The Geshergalicia unique record ID is GG-Buczacz-1879-Houses-482.

Cadastral Map Room:

Created in July 2012 by Jay Osborn, images of maps are acquired, scanned or digitized with permission from collections in Austria, Poland, Ukraine, and the United States. Historic maps were often produced on multiple sheets, so we digitally “stitch” the images together and tile them to simplify web browser viewing. To display the maps online Osborn uses MapTiler/ GDAL2Tiles, Klokan Petr Pridal, GDAL and OSGeo. The original maps are the property of the source archives, but in most cases the stitched images and the Map Room viewer has been created by Geshergalicia. The maps are grouped alphabetically by scale (regional or town), with a category of “specialty” maps including province-wide, rail, telegraph and voivodship maps. We are also adding “memory maps” (hand-drawn by former residents) and wartime/ghetto maps. Maps are uploaded as new images are collected and stitched.

Grzymalów Center Cadastral Map 1828/1861





Bohorodczany Center Cadastral Map 1851/1878

Cadastral map of the center of the town of Bohorodczany (Bohorodchany, Brotchin), administrative district of Bohorodczany, region of Stanisławów (Ivano-Frankivsk), surveyed in 1851 and updated/lithographed in 1878. Copy, with hand-written corrections and annotations.



Bołszowce Town Cadastral Map 1846

Partial cadastral map of the town of Bołszowce (Bil'shivtsi), administrative district of Berezhany, region of Stanisławów (Ivano-Frankivsk), from 1846. Cloth-backed, folded, and bound into a compact book for portability, with hand-written annotations. About two-thirds of the original map is available, all of which is presented here. Because the map is worn at the section edges, for this stitch the sections were trimmed but not blended.



Brody Town Cadastral Map 1844

Cadastral map of the town of Brody, administrative district of Brody, region of Zolochow (Zolochiv), from 1844. Note this cadastral map is very unusual in two respects: the residential area extends to the cadastral limits (no agricultural land within the cadastral border), and the map includes numerous street names. Parts of modern Brody lie outside the 1844 cadastral border: the village of Smolno and the "large and small farms" (folwarkie wielkie and folwarki male). See also a pictorial description of the location of the old Jewish cemetery in Brody, by Pamela Weisberger.



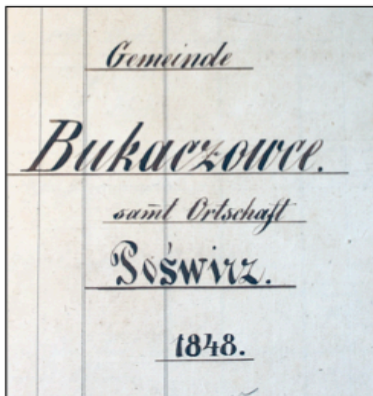
Bukaczowce Center Feldskizzen 1848

Partial feldskizzen (field sketch) map with house numbers of the center of Bukaczowce (Bukachivtsi), administrative district of Rohatyn, region of Stanisławów (Ivano-Frankivsk), from 1848. All available map sheets with numbered buildings were acquired; three sheets stitched at visible seams; two sheets stitched speculatively based on 1855 & 1880 regional maps; one sheet floating in best-guess location.

Practical Application for Researchers

There are numerous reasons for academic researchers, sociologists, family historians and writers to include cadastral maps and property records in their repertoire of source documents, yet these remain an underutilized and overlooked resource. Problems are the inaccessibility of images, difficulty discovering or locating records and the lack of inventories and search engines. Geshet Galicia's goal was to simplify the process by bringing the data *to* the researchers via our free, open-source Internet portal. An added benefit to our activities is the preservation of aging and fragile maps, which are subject to the vagaries of poorly equipped archives (mold, flood, theft, fire) by recreating them as single, easily viewable documents that can be examined in minute detail. (Most maps held in the archives were created in sections. It's rare that one can access the details of an entire map in a single view, unless the pieces are laid out on the floor - a necessity given the size of most complete maps, often more than two square meters.) Used in combination with all types of written documents – vital, census, magnate, tax – maps provide the exact locations where people lived, worshipped and engaged in business. One can document an entire village from the names written in the margins or entered into plots of land. Maps provide a

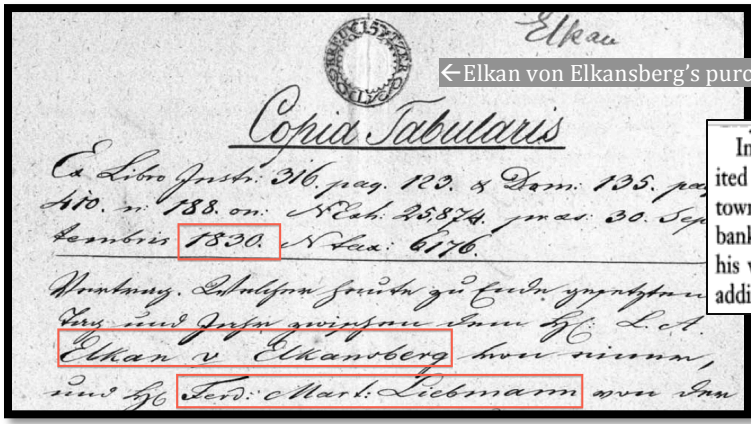
NAMES ON MAP CORRESPOND TO ALPHABETICAL LEGEND



- A. Kuczyński, Kaziv
- B. Stom Selman
- C. Pruczyj Mikolaj
- D. Hajduk Hnat
- E. Bublinski Wasyl
- F. Numkowski Michal
- G. Kleinfeld, Schulim
- H. Schwarz, Lummer
- J. Glaser, Ainsil
- K. Schenker, Daniel
- L. Dickmann Alter
- M. Semel Aron, Semel Itzik
- N. Szumski Roman



road map of where the residents toiled in the fields, sold wares at the market square, washed clothes or frolicked in the rivers, or were buried. Maps and records also provide valuable data on many women who ran businesses in the rynek (market square) – names otherwise lost to history.



In 1818 Elizabeth's daughter, Countess Constance Rzewuska, inherited the estate. However, she went bankrupt. Five years later the castle, town, forestry and five villages were bought at auction by the Viennese banker, Leopold Elkan de Elkanberg. It was from him that Antime and his wife acquired the property in early 1831 – later enlarging it by adding the neighbouring estates of Zielona and Pajówka.

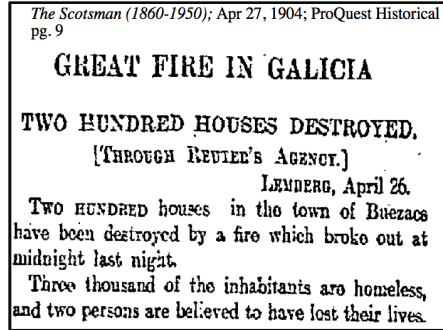
Excerpt from "The Stuart's Last Secret" by Peter Pininski

Magnate records found in libraries in Lviv, Krakow and Wroclaw can add a further dimension to research into the economics of land ownership and the relationships between the nobles and town residents. Dimensions can be added by making use of photographic documentation from the Austrian State Archives/Kriegsarchiv WWI photo collection.

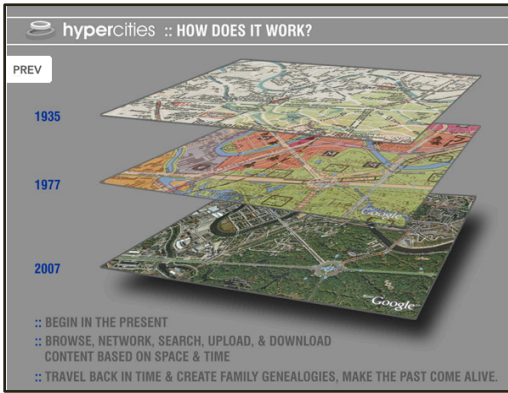


The Future

Gesher Galicia plans to develop software to expand the capabilities of our Map Room and to collaborate with other digital/cultural mapping groups, with an eye towards annotating maps and adding interactive capabilities to our site. Using the Gesher Galicia historical map collection and growing records database as the foundation we will



incorporate metrical data, photographs, historical newspapers, directories and eyewitness accounts to create a history that spans over a hundred years of a cadastral community's life. The project development will



have parallel paths involving digitization and acquisition along with the development of new applications to offer an online, interactive research portal for a variety of users. We hope to learn from other mapping cooperatives, like UCLA's Hypercities, with its exploration of the historical layers of a city, to work towards making the past come alive. Add the element of social networking and crowd-sourcing, and we have a template to link cultures, languages, generations and international research communities by making innovative use of these archival cadastral map collections.