

MACSE Database of Registers and Name Magyarization Records



MACSE

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Introduction to MACSE

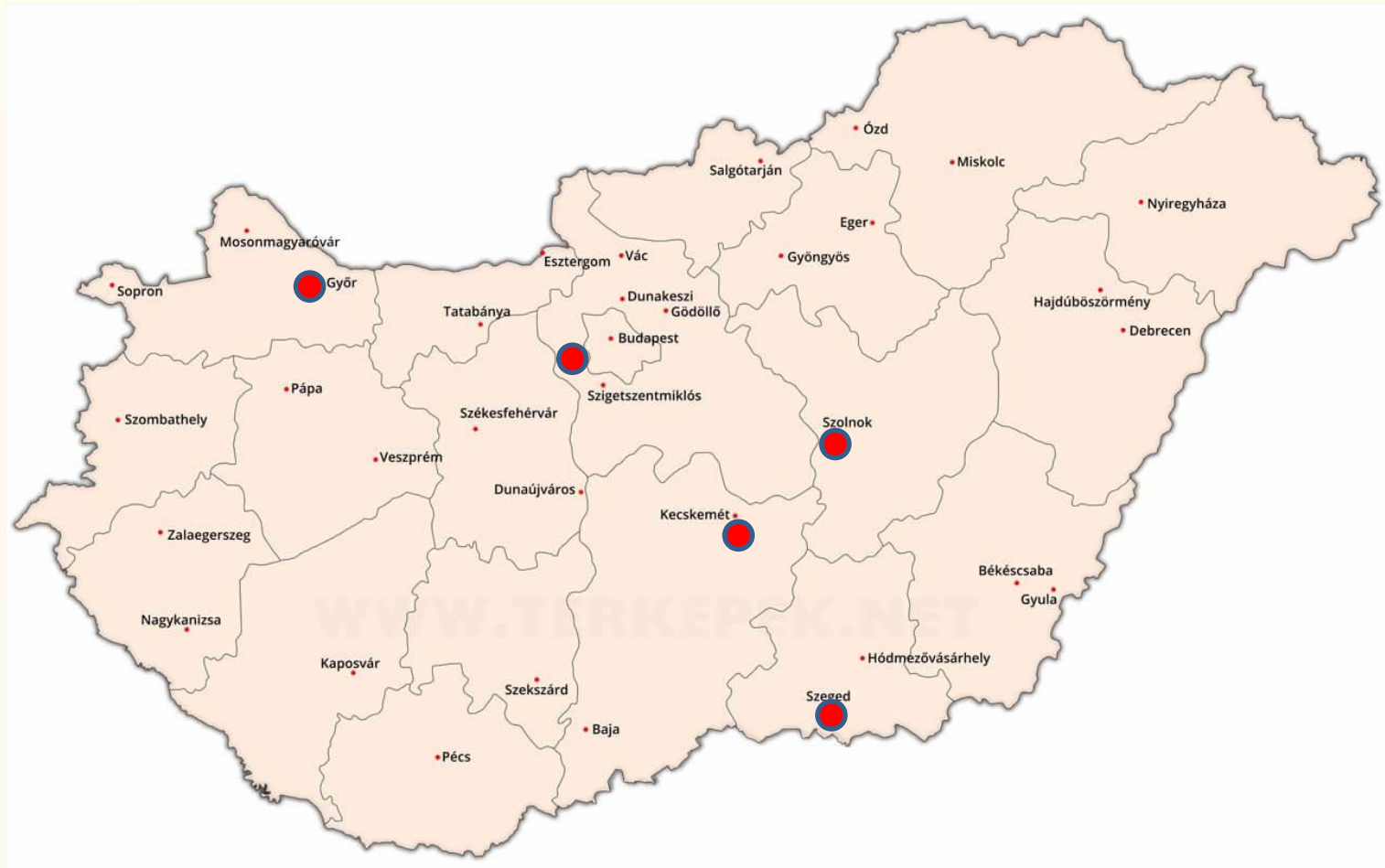
(Hungarian Society for Family History Research)

- Founded: 2011 by amateur genealogists
- Growth: Nearly 2,500 active members today
- Our mission:
 - Gap-filling genealogical databases
 - Organizing professional and community events
 - Educational publications on family and local history

Our Community in Numbers

- Total Members: ~2,500
 - Regular Members: ~900
 - Supporting Members ~1,600
- Age Demographics:
 - 40% aged 50–70
 - 22% aged 71+
 - ~4% under 30 (growing interest since 2023)
- Diverse Backgrounds: Pensioners, teachers, engineers, lawyers and young parents

Associated local groups



A Collaborative Community

- Core Philosophy: Community work is more effective than individual research
- Peer-to-Peer Support:
 - Deciphering old handwriting (paleography)
 - Translating Latin, German and archaic texts
 - Collaborative brick-wall breakthroughs
- A Defining Pillar of the Hungarian genealogical movement

Crowdsourcing: Vital Records Indexing

- Civil Registers (from 1895 onward)
 - Births: 2.4 million records
 - Marriages: 1.6 million records
 - Deaths: 4.5 million records
- Church Registers (pre-1895)
 - Births/Baptisms: 680,000 records
 - Marriages: 310,000 records
 - Deaths: 610,000 records

Our volunteers have created nearly 10 million searchable genealogical records

Geographical Scope of Research

- Borderless Family Roots
 - Family history does not recognize modern political boundaries
 - Our ancestors span the entire Carpathian Basin
 - Research actively extends into neighbouring countries
- Fieldwork and Exploration
- Cooperation with foreign associations



Sources of Indexing

- Vast majority of our transcriptions come from Family Search



- Other sources:
 - Various state and religious archives
 - Films made by individuals or other associations

The Name Magyarization Database

- Time Period: Covering 1867 to 1933 (Austro-Hungarian Empire & Interwar Era)
- Scale: 170,000 processed historical names
- Genealogical Value:
 - Tracks official family name changes (German, Slavic, Jewish to Hungarian)
 - Solves major "brick walls" in late 19th and early 20th-century research
 - Connects different branches of families affected by assimilation

The Name Magyarization database

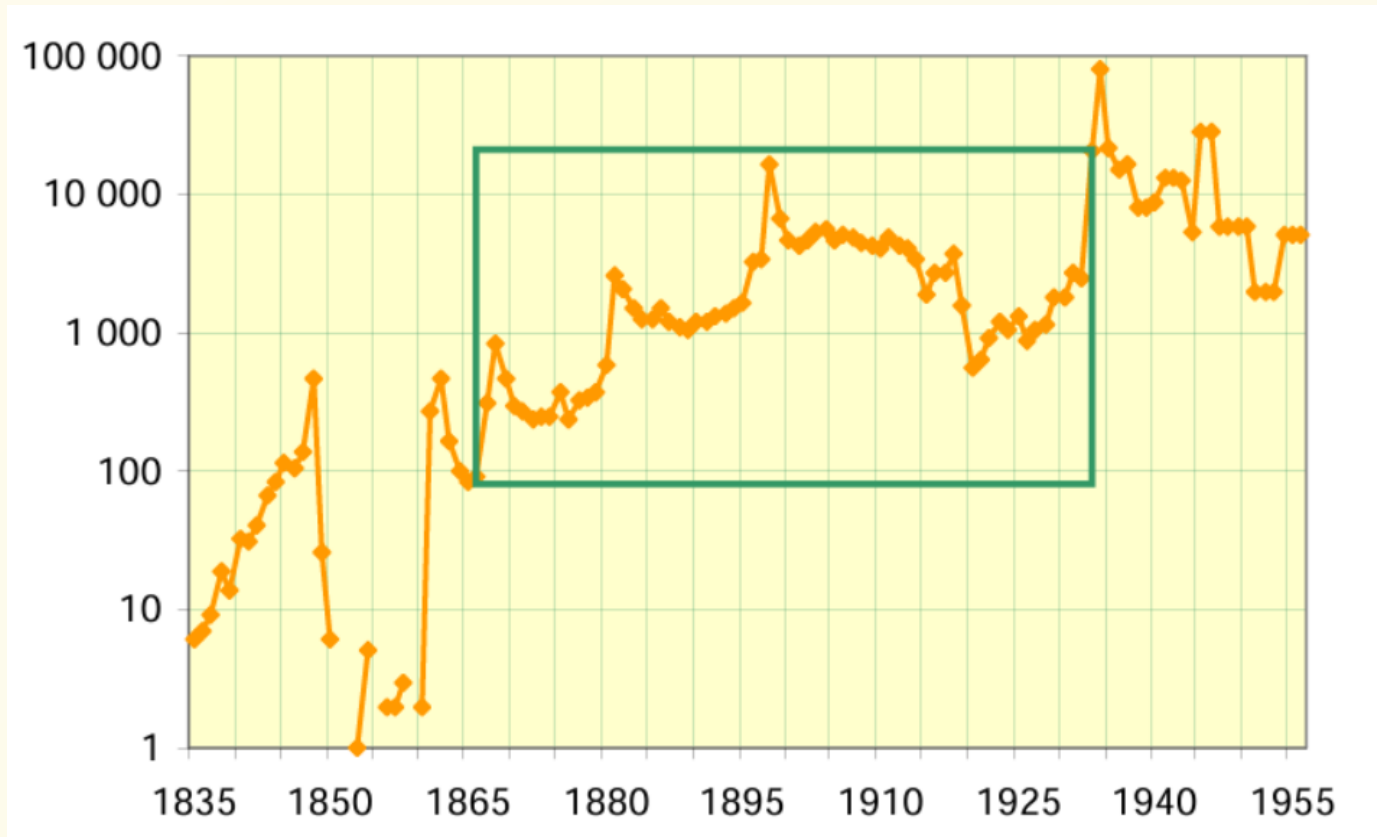
The main source is a result of a common project of

- National Archive of Hungary
- ELTE Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics
- MACSE

Additions are from our indexed records as name changes were subsequently registered in the birth registers

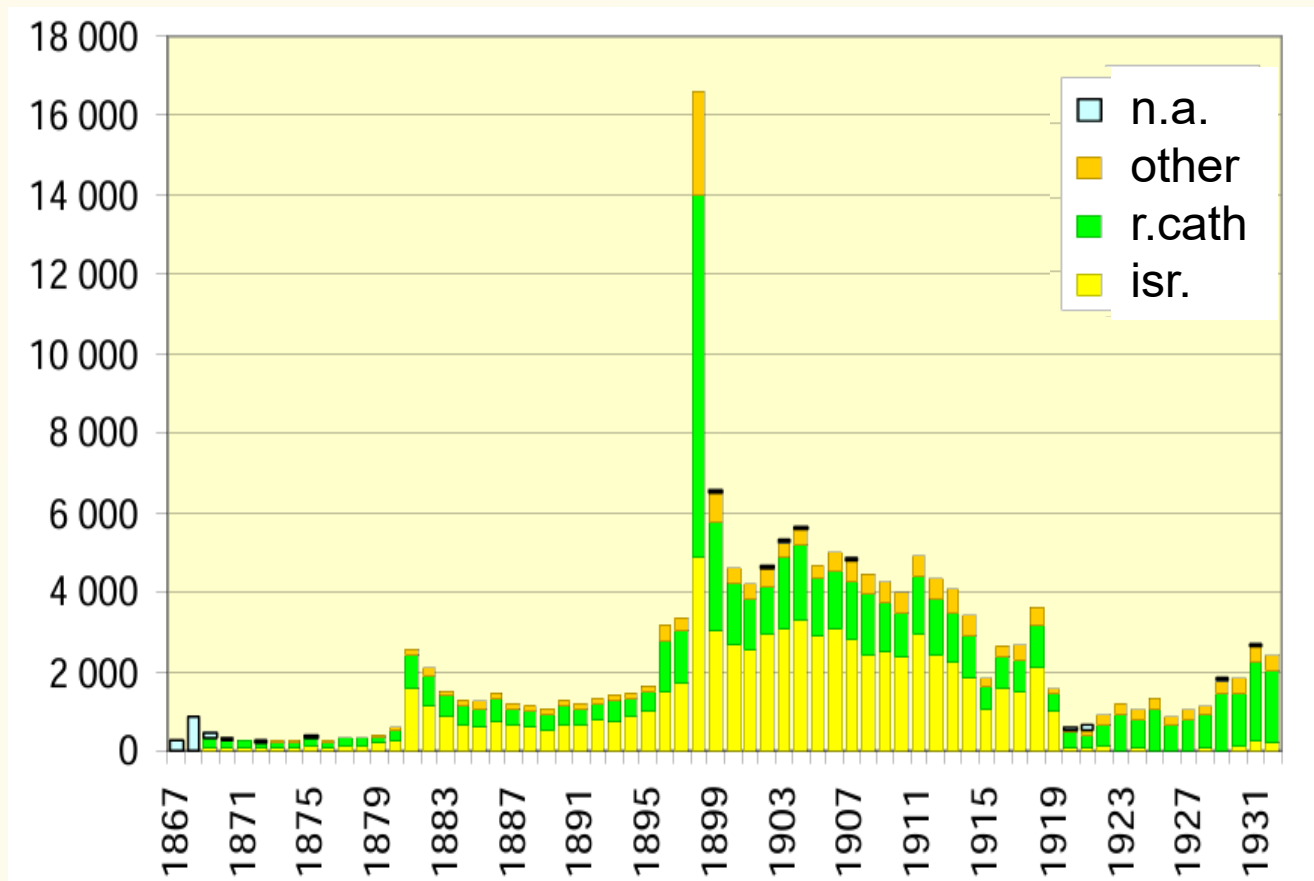
The Name Magyarization database

Number of cases per year



The Name Magyarization database

Distribution of name changes by religion 1867-1932



Commemorative Genealogy: Memorials & Honor Rolls



- Scope: Photographing and registering 6,500 historical monuments and memorial plaques
- Scale: 330,000 individual names recovered
- Key Historical Eras Covered:
 - 1848–49 War of Independence
 - World War I & World War II
 - The Holocaust
 - The 1956 Anti-Soviet Revolution

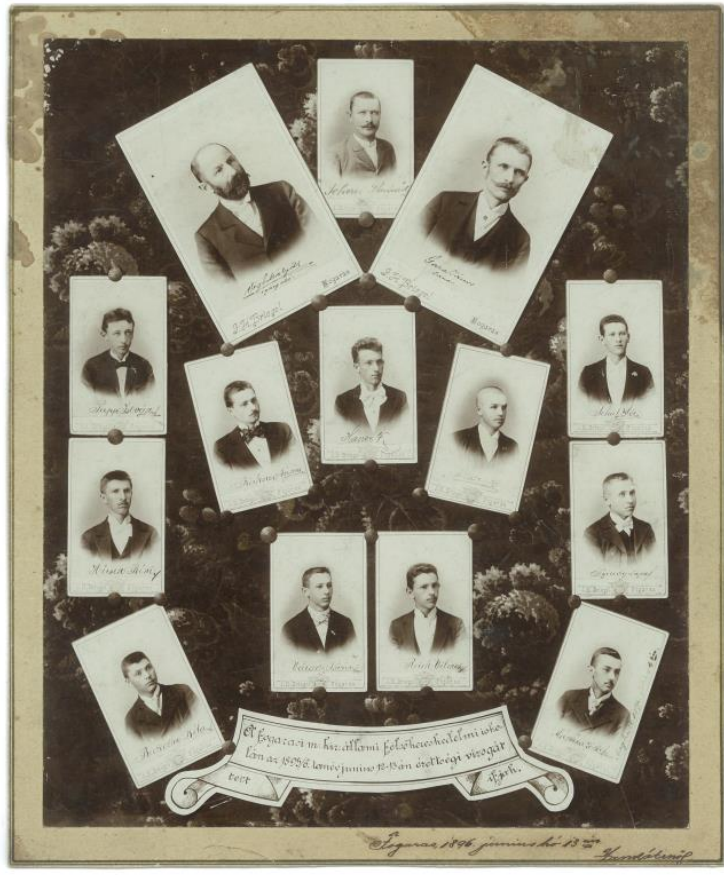
Solving Research Enigmas

The Miller's Database



- Tracks highly mobile tradesmen
- Solves the mystery of "disappearing" families across distant counties

Graduation Class Photos



- ~2,500 photos from high schools and universities
- Over 100,000 indexed names
- Provides visual context and early career data for ancestors

Collaborations with the National Archives of Hungary

- The Gendarmerie Files:
 - Indexing the Ministry of the Interior's state police filing system
 - Unlocking massive personal data from pre-WWII local law enforcement
- Czechoslovak-Hungarian Population Exchange:
 - Indexing complex records of the forced migration and resettlement programs
 - Connecting families affected by the post-war population shifts
- Impact: Transforming raw, sensitive administrative files into clean, searchable historical data.

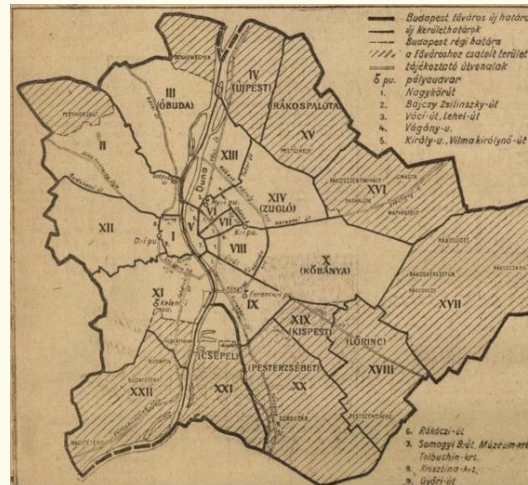
Bridging History and Technology: Supporting AI Development

- The Challenge: Historical records often contain unique, difficult-to-read, or overlapping handwriting
- The MACSE Contribution:
 - Volunteers provide human-verified transcripts
- The Outcome: Accelerating the automated digitization and full-text search capabilities of the National Archives of Hungary



Unlocking "Greater Budapest"

- Historical Context: In 1950, Budapest expanded by absorbing several independent towns and villages
- The Challenge: Vital registers were re-organized under the new district structures



- Joint project with the Budapest City Archives (BFL)
 - Creating searchable indexes for previously hard-to-trace suburban populations
- The Value: These records are currently unavailable online anywhere

Thank you for your attention. I would love to hear your thoughts or answer any questions you might have.



MACSE

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