

How Historical Name Changes Impact Romanian Genealogy

Or:

WHY IT MATTERS TO GENEALOGISTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS OF ROMANIA, PAST & PRESENT



Bogdan Filipescu
For Romanian Genealogy Society
with assistance from Vicki Albu

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Presenters:

Bogdan Filipescu



Bogdan Filipescu graduated from University of Bucharest, Department of History in 1974, with a major in History and a minor in Ancient History and Archaeology of Romania. He was a museum curator from 1976 until 1991 when he immigrated to the United States. He has also conducted graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, Department of History, and at Hamline University in a program of Master in Public Administration.



with assistance from Vicki Albu

Vicki Albu is a co-founder of RGS and currently serves as its president. She has been researching Romanian roots for over 35 years. Vicki met Bogdan and his wife Raluca shortly after they moved to Minnesota in 1991, and they have been supporters of the study of local Romanian immigration history ever since.

Overview

- Historical regions of Romania
- Brief historical background circa WWI
- Why historical name changes matter to genealogists
- Romanian alphabet & pronunciation
- Name changes (counties, towns, streets, etc.)
- Administrative structure
- Seeking family history records

As time permits:

- Help with locating specific villages

Historical Regions of Romania



Before WWI, the map looked quite different

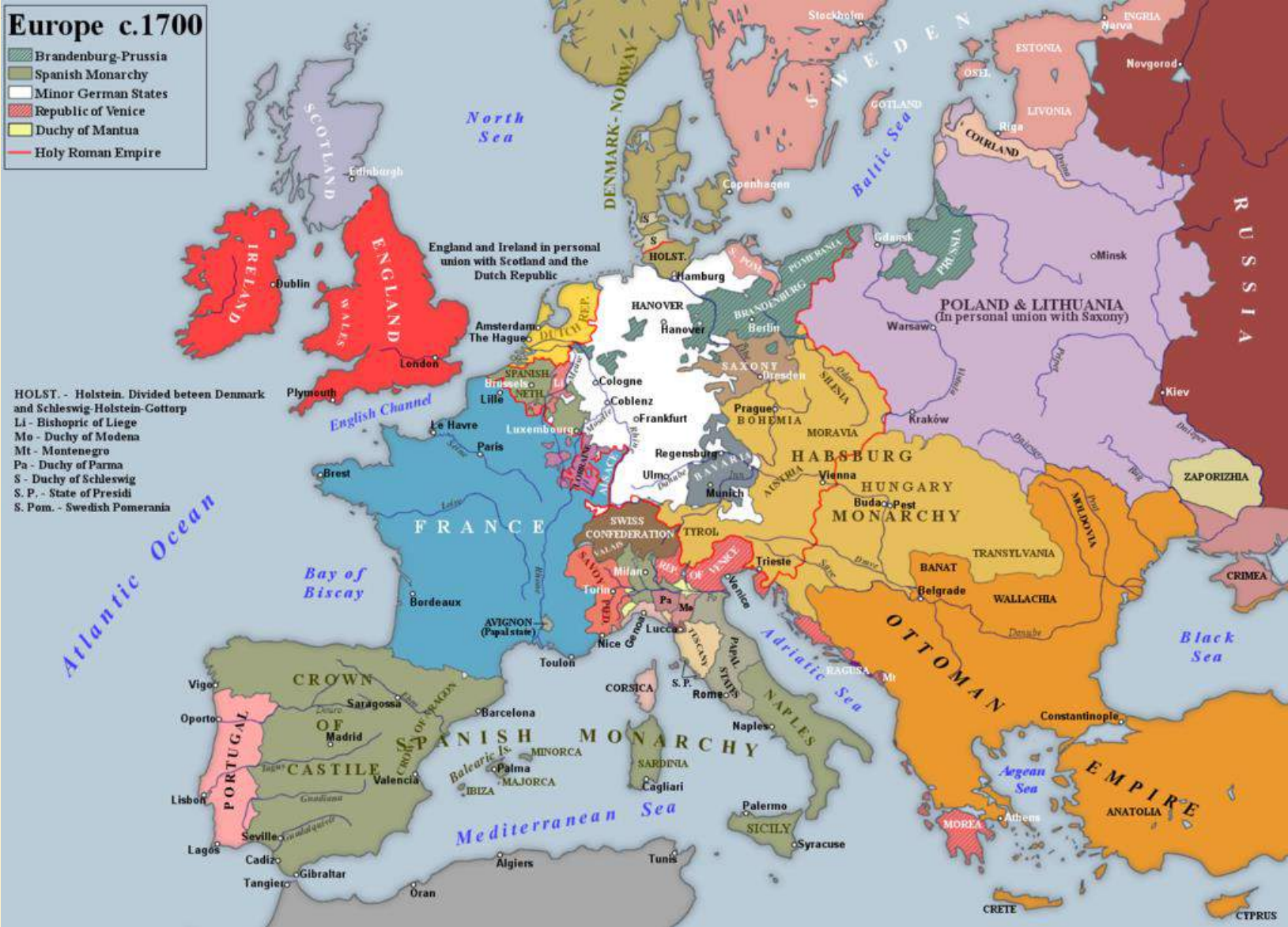


Circa 1914

Dissolution of Austria-Hungary after WWI



Boundaries continually change!



Unified Romania in 1918 “Greater Romania”



Counties or Județe – Romania today



Why it matters to genealogists

Questions to keep in mind today:

- In what year was the record created?
- Where were the church records kept?
- Where were the civil registrations (records kept by government officials) kept?

The image shows a handwritten church record book with two columns: 'Proclamații' and 'botezătorii'. The entries are written in a cursive script and include names, dates, and other details related to church proceedings.

The image shows a Romanian birth certificate (CERTIFICAT DE NAȘTERE) from the Communist era. The document is filled with handwritten information in a cursive script. The title 'CERTIFICAT DE NAȘTERE' is printed in bold letters. The document includes fields for the child's name, parents' names, date and place of birth, and a red circular stamp. The text is in Romanian.

REPUBLICA POPULARĂ ROMÂNĂ
ȘEFULUI POPULAR AL Comunei Beba Teche
Starea Civilă

PĂRINȚII
Numele tatălui ISTVAN
Prenumele tatălui ISTVAN
Vârsta tatălui 30
Numele mamei YANNA
Prenumele mamei YANNA
Vârsta mamei 28

CERTIFICAT DE NAȘTERE
Seria N.k. Nr. 799857

Numele YANNA
Prenumele ISTVAN
Sexul Femeie

LOCUL NAȘTERII COPILULUI
Localitatea Beba Teche
Raionul Sovietul Beba

LOCUL ÎNREGISTRĂRII
Localitatea Beba Teche
Raionul Sovietul Beba
Elibetăc Beba Teche Cu Nr. 181

And 1960
Luna Aprilie
Ziua 19 (Cifra al literă)

Data și ora
Ziua 19 din anul 1960 luna Aprilie ziua 22

Nașterea a fost trecută în registrul Stării Civile la
Nr. 181 din anul 1960 luna Aprilie ziua 22

Semnătura
[Signature]

Why it matters to genealogists

1904 - Pal Albu, a **Hungarian** citizen of **Romanian** ethnicity arrives at the port of New York; he says he was born in **Nagy Torak, Hungary**.

1909 - Paul Albu files his declaration of intention to become a US citizen; he says he was born in **Nagy Tarnok, Hungary, Austria** in 1884.

1920 – In the census he is listed as born in **Austria**, with **Romanian** as his mother tongue.

1934 – “Former nationality” on naturalization certificate: “**Jugo Slavia**.”

1939 – Relatives in his hometown send letters postmarked in **Veliki Torak, Yugoslavia, Banat**.

1940 – His death certificate says he was born in **Austria** in 1880.

2018 – Today the town is known by its Romanian name of **Toracul Mare, Serbia**.



Why it matters to genealogists

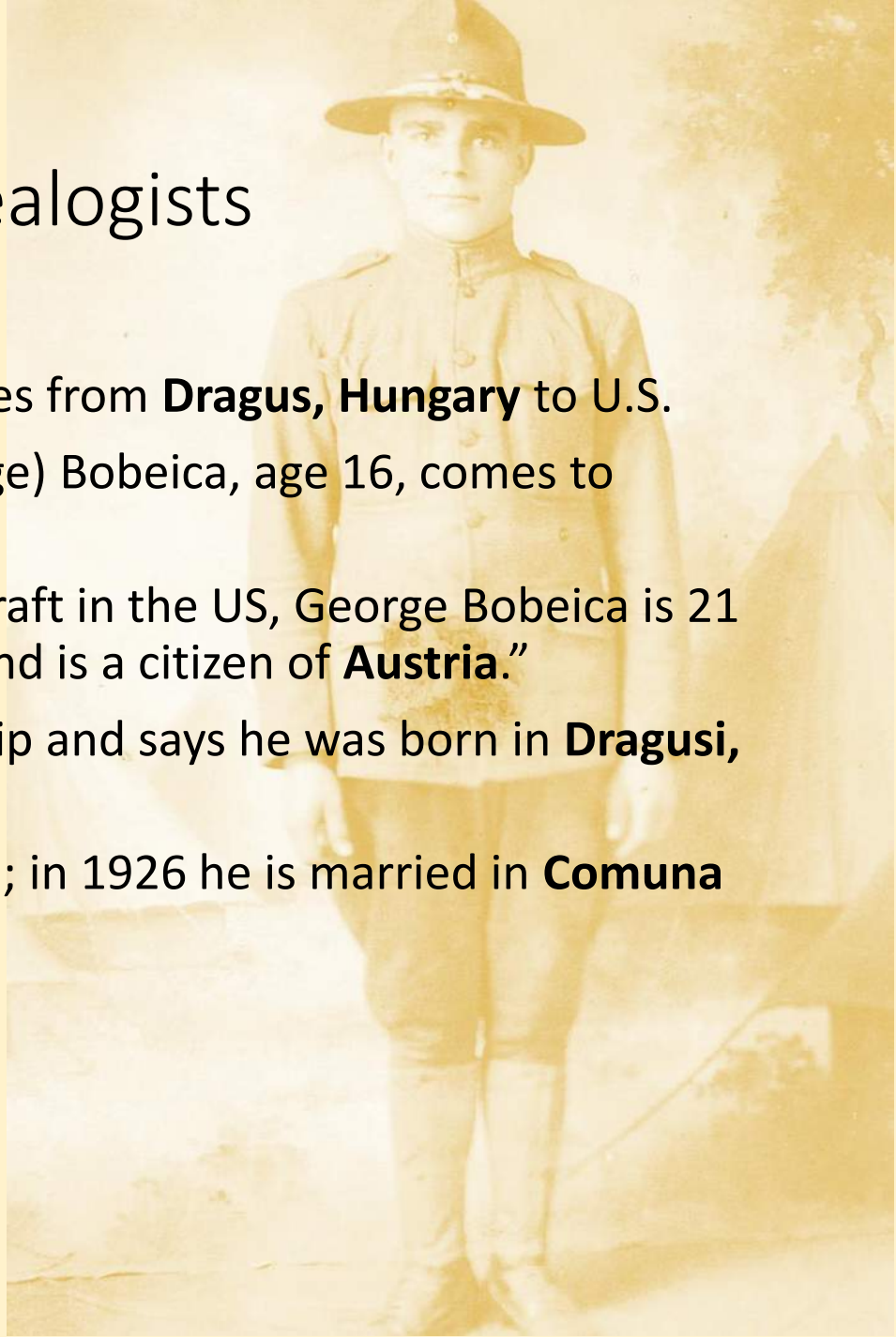
1907 – Jakob Bobeica, age 36, comes from **Dragus, Hungary** to U.S.

1913 – Jacob's son "György" (George) Bobeica, age 16, comes to America from Dragus, Hungary.

1918 – When he registers for the draft in the US, George Bobeica is 21 and says he was born in "**Dragus**, and is a citizen of **Austria**."

1924 – George applies for citizenship and says he was born in **Dragusi, Romania**.

1924 – George goes back to Europe; in 1926 he is married in **Comuna Dragus, Județul Făgăraș, Romania**.



Why it matters to genealogists

1909 – Joan Sarafolean, 24, ethnic Romanian, arrives in US from **Nagy szent miklos, Hungary.**

1912 – His citizenship declaration of intention says he was born in **Torontal County, Hungary.**

1918 – John Sarafolean's alien registration declaration says he was born in **Semiklosch, Hungary.**

1920 – John Sarafolean says he was born in **"Hungary now Romania."**

1977 – A newspaper reports that his brother Mike returns to **"San Nicolaul Mare, Romania."**

Sannicolau Mare is in present-day Timis County, Romania. It turns out that "Semiklosch" is a regional pronunciation of the town name.



Romanian alphabet & pronunciation

A a	Ă ă	B b	C c	D d	E e	F f	G g	H h
a	ă	be	ce	de	e	ef	ge	ha
[a]	[ə]	[b]	[k/tʃ]	[d]	[ɛ/e]	[f]	[g/dʒ]	[h/hʲ~ç]
I i	J j	K k	L l	L' l'	M m	N n	Ń ń	O o
i	je	ka	el	el'	em	en	eń	o
[i/j]	[ʒ]	[k]	[l]	[ʎ]	[m]	[n/ŋ]	[ɲ]	[ɔ/o]
Ȯ ȯ	P p	Q q	R r	S s	Ș ș	T t	Ț ț	U u
ȯ	pe	qu	er	es	eș	te	țe	u
[u̯o~u̯a]	[p]	[k]	[r]	[s]	[ʃ]	[t]	[ts]	[u/u̯]
V v	W w	X x	Y y	Z z				
ve	duplu ve	ix	y grek	ze				
[v]	[w]	[ks]	[i/j]	[z]				
Other letters								
ā	ch	chi̇	ci	dh	dz	dž	ē	ę
[a:]	[k~kʲ]	[kʲ]	[tʃ]	[ð]	[dʒ]	[dʒ]	[e:]	[ɛ]
ea	gh	ghi̇	gi	gu	h'	ī	ie	ł
[ɛ̃a]	[g~gʲ]	[gʲ]	[dʒ]	[gw]	[hʲ]	[i:]	[ie]	[ɫ]
ō	ȳ	oa	tš	ū				
[o:]	[ɔ]	[ɔ̃a]	[tʃ]	[u:]				

Romanian alphabet & pronunciation

Places

- Beba Veche, Igriş and Timișoara, towns in Timiș County
- Comuna Dragus, Județul Fagaraș, Romania
- Arborea, Județul Botoșani
- Săpânța, Județul Maramureș (Home of the Merry Cemetery)

Other requests?



Romanian alphabet & pronunciation

Names

- Ioan Sarafolean
- Atanasie Ciurcie
- Filip Comloșan
- Ilie Moțu
- Paraschiva (a lady's first name)
- Gheorghe

Other requests?



What are “administrative divisions”

Counties or Județe – Romania today



What are “administrative divisions”

- Municipalities and Cities (urban areas)
- Communes/Towns and Villages (rural areas)
- Example: Timiș County



Administrative divisions [edit]

See also: *Timișoara metropolitan area*

Timiș County has 2 municipalities, 8 towns and 69 communes

• Municipalities

- Timișoara - capital city; population: 319,279 (as of 2011)
- Lugoj - population: 37,321 (as of 2011)

• Towns

- Sănnicolau Mare - population: 11,540 (as of 2011)
- Jimbolia - population: 10,808 (as of 2011)
- Receaș - population: 7,782 (as of 2011)
- Făget - population: 6,571 (as of 2011)
- Buzieș - population: 6,504 (as of 2011)
- Deta - population: 5,963 (as of 2011)
- Gătaia - population: 5,449 (as of 2011)
- Ciocova - population: 5,348 (as of 2011)

• Communes

- | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Balinț | • Brestovăț | • Deta | • Giarmata | • Margina | • Peciu Nou | • Sănmihailu Român | • Uivar |
| • Banloc | • Bucovăț | • Giera | • Giera | • Mașloc | • Periam | • Sânpetru Mare | • Vârjaș |
| • Bara | • Cărpiniș | • Dudeștii Noi | • Giroc | • Mânăstir | • Pesac | • Secaș | • Vălcani |
| • Bărna | • Cenad | • Dudeștii Vechi | • Giulvăz | • Moravița | • Pietroasa | • Șaș | • Victor Vlad Delamarina |
| • Beba Veche | • Cenei | • Dumbrava | • Gottlob | • Moșnița Nouă | • Pișchia | • Șandra | • Voiteg |
| • Becicherecu Mic | • Checea | • Dumbrăvița | • Iecea Mare | • Nădrag | • Racovița | • Știuca | |
| • Belinț | • Chevereșu Mare | • Fibiș | • Jamu Mare | • Nițhidort | • Remetea Mare | • Teremia Mare | |
| • Bethausen | • Comloșu Mare | • Foeni | • Jebel | • Ohaba Lungă | • Sacoșu Turcesc | • Tomeșii | |
| • Blid | • Coșteiu | • Gavojdia | • Lenauhelm | • Orșoara | • Saravale | • Tomnatic | |
| • Birta | • Criciova | • Ghilad | • Liebling | • Otelec | • Satchinez | • Topolovățu Mare | |
| • Bogda | • Curtea | • Ghiroda | • Livezile | • Parța | • Săcălaz | • Tormac | |
| • Boldur | • Darova | • Ghizela | • Lovrin | • Pădureni | • Sânnandrei | • Traian Vuia | |



Bega at night, in Timișoara

What are “administrative divisions”

- **Example of a Commune in Timiș County (Județul Timiș)**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

- Sânpetru Mare
- Commune
- Coordinates: 46°3′N 20°40′E﻿ / ﻿46.050°N 20.667°E﻿ / 46.050; 20.667
- Mayor Viorel Popovici (PSD)
- Area 101.59 km² (39.22 sq mi)
- Population (2002)[1] 5,844
- Sânpetru Mare ("Greater St. Peter"; German: Großsanktpeter or Ratzsanktpeter; Hungarian: Nagyszentpéter; Serbian: Велики Семпетар) is a commune in Timiș County, Romania. **It is composed of two villages, Igrış (Egres) and Sânpetru Mare. It also included Saravale village until it was split off to form a separate commune in 2004.** The village of Sânpetru Mic is in the neighboring commune of Variaș.

Seeking family history records

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September 8, 2017

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Questions?



Thank you for coming today.

