

The name BARTFAY literally means from the city of Bartfa. In Hungarian, either an I or Y at the end of a name often means FROM a certain city or place. In either case, in Hungarian the phonetic pronunciation of the name is similar to Bahrt-foy-ee without the Y. My father was a Bartfai in Hungary, but to simplify the pronunciation in America, the spelling was changed to Bartfay.

I only found out the meaning of the name while living in Ohio and leafing through a 1975 book Hungary--Pictorial Record of a Thousand Years--The Hungarian Genius. Page 43 described the Bartfa Public Library from the XV Century. Looking at a map of pre-1920 historic Hungary, I found the city of Bartfa in northern Hungary, near the Tatra Mountains and Polish border. The 1920 Trianon Treaty dismembered historic Hungary. Slices were lost to six successor countries. The city is now in Slovakia and is called Bardejov. It is located north of Miskolc, Kosice, & Presov and south of Krakow. In 1916, the Bartfa Library's book collection was taken to Budapest, where it is on display in the Hungarian National Museum. There is a Bartfa Street in Budapest, Szekesfehervar, and some other Hungarian cities.

I visited Bartfa in 1978. It is a charming old city of 33,000 which won a UNESCO Award for its historic preserved buildings. The huge church was written about in the 1240s. A huge town hall dates back to 1505. Both are located in a large square with buildings all around it. When I visited, there were many park benches scattered around the square and older men were sitting and chatting. I went up to a couple of the park benches and asked "beszel Magyarul?" (do you speak Hungarian?) On both occasions, someone got up and we talked in Hungarian.

Outside Bartfa in this beautiful green hilly area is the historic resort once called the Bartfa Furdo, but now called the Bardejov Kupele. The resort, with curative waters and music concerts, was once a destination for European royalty, and still attracts thousands of tourists who stay at one of a number of hotels. See: [www.bardejov.sk](http://www.bardejov.sk) Or, see: [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) Type in: Bardejov, Slovakia See: images

#### SOME CONTACTS FOR THINGS HUNGARIAN

Magyar Marketing, Youngstown, Ohio--publishes a free colorful, attractive annual catalog, selling a wide variety of Hungarian materials (clothes, music, books, food, etc). *Twice a year, it sponsors trips to Hungary* with most who go having a Hungarian heritage. See: [www.magyarmarketing.com](http://www.magyarmarketing.com) Call: 1-800-786-7851.

American Hungarian Foundation Museum, Library & Gift Shop, New Brunswick, NJ--located in an old Hungarian neighborhood just outside the campus of Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey. Sponsors an annual dinner dance in NYC at the Waldorf Astoria. See: [www.AHFoundation.org](http://www.AHFoundation.org) Call: 1-732-846-5777

William Penn Association, Pittsburgh Pa--a large Hungarian fraternal life insurance company founded in 1886. Single pay life policies & college scholarships available. Members receive a monthly magazine listing multi-state activities including a Summer Language Camp. See: [www.williampennassociation.org](http://www.williampennassociation.org) Call: 1-800-848-7366.

International Summer Language School at the University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary. Founded in 1927, its 2-4 week courses attract over 600 students of all ages and skill levels from many countries in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. See: [www.nyariegyetem.hu](http://www.nyariegyetem.hu)

A FEW REFERENCE BOOKS--Your local library can get these books for you through interlibrary loan or they can be purchased through the American Hungarian Foundation.

Ties that Bind, Ties that Divide--100 Years of Hungarian Experience in the United States (Author is Julianna Puskas, published in 2000 by Holmes & Meier, 444 pages) In words and pictures, it describes the various waves of Hungarian immigration to the U.S., the establishment of Hungarian churches some of which still exist, etc.

The World of Names--A Study in Hungarian Onomatology (Bela Kalman, 1975, Budapest, 199 pages) Discusses the origin and meaning of thousands of Hungarian first and last names.

Americans from Hungary -- (Emil Lengyel, Glenwood Press, reprinted 1974) 319 pages. Shows the amazing U.S. career success--from Hollywood to the H bomb-- of many Hungarian immigrants.

Spirit of Hungary--A Panorama of Hungarian History & Culture (Stephen Sisa, Rakoczi Foundation, Toronto, Canada, 1983) Large size, attractive, well written coffee table book, with many photos and illustrations.