

Jewish Genealogy Research Essentials Presentations Part 2

By Nancy JG Adelson © 2012

Research

- **Vital Records: Birth, Marriage, and Death Records**
 - Considered excellent primary source (documents completed at the time of event)
 - Various locations for Vital Records since they are city/county/state archived
 - State Offices of Vital Statistics (may order online, by mail or in person for a fee)
 - City or County/Borough Clerk's offices (order online, by mail, or in person for a fee) Example: New York City Department of Health & Human Services, Vital Records
<http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/menuitem.739f69b2e9106fe6a62fa24601c789a0/>
 - Libraries and local archives (may access online, by mail, or in person)
 - Online vital records databases provided by local genealogical societies like Italian Genealogical Society for New York <http://www.italiengen.org/VRECLIST.stm>
 - Dr. Steve Morse's Website—<http://www.stevemorse.org>
 - Birth Certificates include some of the following information:
 - Name of child and parents including mother's maiden name
 - Birth date and place of child and birth place, ages, and occupation of parents
 - Marriage Records include some of the following information:
 - Names, birth dates and places of bride, groom, and their parents
 - Marriage date and place and officiator and witnesses
 - Death Certificate
 - Name, occupation, and last residence of deceased
 - Date, place, and cause of death; spouse and parents of deceased
 - Burial date/place and funeral home; person who provided information for certificate
 - Some information listed in Vital Records may be inaccurate
- **Local Libraries**
 - Genealogy and History Sections
 - Contain maps, books, newspapers, history and biography section, knowledgeable librarians
 - Capable of borrowing any book from any other US library and the Library of Congress
 - Microfilmed City Directories
 - Similar to telephone books but privately printed without telephone numbers since early 1800's
 - Contain alphabetical lists of the names of the heads of households, their addresses, and occupational information
 - Internet Access
 - Many larger libraries offer internet access to their data bases including regional newspapers, maps, biographies, etc.
 - Free AncestryPlus (annual membership fee is charged to access outside of libraries)
 - Jewish Family History Collection
 - Partnered with JewishGen[®] and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
 - US Census from 1790 to 1930
 - Canadian Census for 1851, 1871, 1891, 1901, 1911
 - United Kingdom Census Including Scotland, England, Wales
 - Social Security Death Index
 - Information on millions of deceased people with US Social Security numbers including name, birth and death date, and last known residence
 - Immigration Records
 - Passenger Index Database
 - Names linked to images of the passenger lists showing name, age, gender, arrival date, port of arrival, port of departure and ship name
 - New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957
 - Hamburg Emigration Lists, 1850-1934
 - Canadian Border Crossing into US ("St. Albans Lists"), 1895-1956
 - Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1800-1945
 - New Orleans Passenger Lists, 1820-1945
 - California Passenger and Crew Lists, 1893-1957
 - Military Records
 - WWI Draft Registration Cards; US Civil War Soldiers; US Veterans Gravesites

- Trick for Ancestry.com: Use “truncated names” to compensate for misspellings – Use first three letters and *
- Free HeritageQuest™— <http://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/index>
 - Access from library or home using your library username and/or library card number
 - Click “People” to search for ancestors in periodical articles
 - Click “Places” to search for information about towns, cities/regions in periodical articles
 - Click Icon in black & white at top of page “Census” to research 1790-1930 US Census
- Free ProQuest® (offered in some larger libraries)—<http://www.proquest.com> then enter “Genealogy” and “Go” in Products & Services “By Subject” drop down box
 - Can access from library online databases or use their extensive microfilm in libraries
 - Offers online:
 - HeritageQuest™ Online and Ancestry.com Library Edition
 - Historical Newspapers including 10.5+ million obituaries and death notices
- **Cemeteries and Gravestones**
 - Gravestone inscription may provide; English/Hebrew name, picture, inscription, birth and/or death date of deceased and possibly the deceased’s father’s Hebrew Name (“Son of...”)
 - Cemetery office records offer next of kin or person paying for upkeep, gravesites of other family members, death and burial dates, funeral home/director, etc.
- **Internet**
 - <http://www.jewishgen.org/> -- JewishGen® hosts 20+ million records, thousands of databases and resources
 - **Databases** – A source of all kinds of genealogical information from around the world hosts
 - [Family Finder \(JGFF\)](#) – A widely-used searchable database which connects people who are searching the same ancestral towns and surnames
 - [JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry](#) (JOWBR) -- A database of 1.8 million records from over 2,700 cemeteries/cemetery sections from 46+ countries of Jewish names, gravestone photos and other identifying information
 - [Jewish Records Indexing - Poland \(JRI-PL\)](#) – An index of 3.8+ million Jewish vital records in Poland from 500+ Polish towns
 - [Holocaust Global Registry](#) – A central place for searching Holocaust survivors, for survivors searching family members or friends, and for child survivors searching clues to their identity
 - [Family Tree of the Jewish People](#) (FTJP) – A searchable compilation of family trees of Jewish researchers
 - <http://www.whitepages.com> – Great site to search for living descendants and relatives
 - <http://www.stevemorse.org> -- Dr. Stephen Morse’s One Step: Easy search tool “in One Step” for: Ellis Island Search Forms & Ship Arrivals, other Ports of Immigration, Soundex; US, NY, Canada and UK Census; Vital Records; Calendar Conversions; Maps; Genetic Genealogy (DNA), etc.
 - <http://MyHeritage.com> -- MyHeritage® provides free genealogy software, search engine, personal family website and can connect to JewishGen®
 - Israeli company developed a search engine that identifies which of 1,526 online genealogy databases have information about a given person or surname plus their spelling variations

Sharing Your Research

- Easily create several types of genealogical reports generated with your family tree software
- Generate a family newsletter
- Simply post your tree on JewishGen® [Family Tree of the Jewish People](#) (FTJP)
- Self Publish
 - Use sites like <http://www.lulu.com/publish/books/> for easier and cheaper self-publishing and sales
- Create Personal Family Website

Making Time to Work on Genealogy Research

- Short timed sessions or write short stories that will fit into your book or research
- Visit local libraries between appointments and/or driving kids
- Call relatives when you have free long distance minutes or use free Skype or Google
- Research on the internet when you can’t sleep or give up some TV or reading time
- Organize for specific research projects

Answered Questions and Select Bibliography provided with request to nancyadelson@comcast.net.