

## Jewish Genealogy Research Essentials Part 2

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### Research

#### • Vital Records: Birth, Marriage, and Death Records

- Considered excellent primary source (documents completed at the time of event)
- Some information listed in Vital Records may be inaccurate
- 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) like New York City Department of Records, Municipal Archives, Genealogy; <http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/archives/genealogy.shtml>
  - Libraries and local archives (may access online, by mail, or in person)
  - Online vital records databases provided by local genealogical societies like New York's Italian Genealogical Group <http://www.italiangen.org/>
  - 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
  - Carefully review the document and confirm the listed information

#### • Local Libraries

- Genealogy and History Sections
  - Contain maps, books, newspapers, history and biography sections, 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 many free (to library visitors or members) data bases including regional newspapers, maps, biographies, etc.
- Free AncestryPlus — <http://www.ancestry.com> (annual or monthly membership fees are charged to access outside of libraries)

- Premium Collection of Jewish Family History Collection; Partnered with JewishGen<sup>®</sup>, American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
  - [U.S., WWI Jewish Servicemen Questionnaires, 1918-1921](#)
  - [U.S., WWII Jewish Servicemen Cards, 1942-1947](#)
  - [Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1878-1969 \(AJHS\)](#)
  - [Selected Naturalization Records, New York City, 1816-1845 \(AJHS\)](#)
  - [New York Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1860-1934 \(AJHS\)](#)
  - [AJHS Industrial Removal Office Records, 1899-1922](#)
  - [AJHS Selected Insolvent Debtor's Cases, 1787-1861](#)
  - [AJHS Selected Mayor's Court Cases, New York, 1674-1860](#)
- US Census from 1790 to 1940
- 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
  - Featured Passenger Index Databases
    - 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
    - Boston Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1943
    - Hamburg Emigration Lists, 1850-1934
    - UK, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960
    - Canadian Border Crossing into US ("St. Albans Lists"), 1895-1956
    - Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1800-1945
    - New Orleans Passenger Lists, 1813-1945
    - California Passenger and Crew Lists, 1893-1957
- Military Records
  - US WWI (1917-1918) and WWII (1942) Draft Registration Cards; US Civil War Soldiers; US Veterans Gravesites
  - British Army WWI Service Records (1914-1920)
  - Bavaria, Germany, WWI Personnel Rosters (1914-1918)
- 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 local 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 1790-1940 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, Gravestones and Funeral Homes**
  - Jews primarily buried in “Jewish Section” of cemeteries or sections/cemeteries owns by Jewish societies
  - 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 contact information, gravesites of other family members, death and burial dates, funeral home/director, etc.
  - Religious and Jewish Burial Societies Records
    - Synagogue and/or Burial Society records accessibility ranges based on the individual organizations
    - Record content varies and some are searchable online, for example, online New York Cemeteries <http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krosno/NYCem.htm>
- **Internet**
  - <http://www.jewishgen.org/> -- JewishGen® hosts 20+ million records, thousands of databases and resources and offers the most resources and information for Jewish genealogical research
  - [Databases](#) – A source of all kinds of genealogical information from around the world hosts
    - [JewishGen Communities Database](#) – (aka Town Finder) Searchable information, maps, links and resources for more than 6,000 Jewish communities in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East using various languages and many political jurisdictions
    - [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
    - [Given Names Data Bases \(GNDB\)](#) – Searchable databases to find Jewish given names in Europe from 1795-1925 in Hebrew, Yiddish, and local & pan-European secular names used by Jews including the new names adopted in foreign countries
    - [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://MyHeritage.com> – MyHeritage® provides free genealogy software, search engine, personal family websites and can connect to JewishGen® and for fee searchable records
    - Israeli company developed search engine that identifies which of 1,526+ online genealogy databases have information about a given person plus their spelling variations
    - Annual Data Subscription (\$9.95 mo): Unlimited access to billions of historical records
      - Full set of USA Census Records from 1790-1940 with 650 million names
      - England and Wales birth, marriage and death records from 1700’s to 2000 and England and Wales census records between 1841-1901

- Newspapers, yearbooks, directories, documents, census, guides, photos, family trees and maps from around the world supporting
- MyHeritage.com— <http://www.myheritage.com> (annual or monthly membership fees outside of the libraries that offer MyHeritage.com)
  - Offers over 5.3 billion historical & international records:
    - <http://www.myheritage.com/research>
      - US, UK, Canadian, and Argentina Census, Australian Electoral Rolls, Venezuela Voter Lists, 1867 & 1890 Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany Census, 1574-1902 Westfalen, Minden, Germany Citizen Lists & more
      - Birth and Baptism/Christening from 1500's to 20<sup>th</sup> century for Austria, Bolivia, Caribbean, Chile, England, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Scotland, Spain, Wales and more: 1600's to 20<sup>th</sup> century for Argentina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and more: for many USA States during 1800's and 1900's
      - Marriage & Divorce Records from 1500' to late 1900's for many countries and 1800's to late 1900's for many USA States
      - Death, Burial, Cemetery, Internment AND Obituaries for many countries with some starting in the 1500's and including US Social Security Death Index
      - Civil Registrations, Military & Court Records, Church Records, other Vital Records, Photos, Newspaper Archives, etc.
    - 1.5 billion worldwide family tree profiles
    - Recently acquired World of Vital Records and Geni.com
- <http://landing.ancestry.com/jewishfamilyhistory/us/default.aspx> – FREE Ancestry.com Jewish Family History Collection Highlights: Partnered with JewishGen<sup>®</sup>, American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
  - [Miriam Weiner Eastern European Archival Database](#)
  - [Lithuania: List of Donors to Charity from HaMagid, 1871-72](#)
  - [Hungary: Jewish Census, 1848](#)
  - [Munich, Vienna and Barcelona Jewish Displaced Persons and Refugee Cards, 1943-1959 \(JDC\)](#)
  - [Russia: Duma Voter Lists, 1906-07](#)
- <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://www.intelius.com/> – Great site/tool to search for living descendants and relatives
- <http://www.whitepages.com> – Great site/tool to search for living descendants and relatives

## Sharing Your Research

- Easily create several types of genealogical reports generated with your family tree software
- Simply post your tree on JewishGen<sup>®</sup> [Family Tree of the Jewish People](#) (FTJP)
  - Upload GEDCOM file (**GE**nealogical **DATA** **COM**munication) and set privacy options
- Self Publish
  - Use sites like <http://www.lulu.com/publish/books/> for easier and cheaper self-publishing and sales
  - Use software or subscription sites like Family Tree Maker<sup>®</sup> or MyHeritage<sup>®</sup> to easily turn your genealogical research into a book, poster, etc.
- Create Personal Family Website or Generate a family newsletter

### **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

**Select Bibliography provided in Jewish Genealogy Research Essentials Presentation Part 1 Handout.**