

## Jewish Genealogy: Where to Start & What's Available

- Start with what you know & work backwards
- Documentation
- Start in the US before jumping back to Europe
  - Census records
  - Military records
  - City directories
  - Naturalization documents
  - Vital records
  - Newspapers
  - Jewish museums/historical societies
  - Land records
  - Graves
    - Gives you deceased's Hebrew name
    - Gives you deceased's father's name (and sometimes more)
    - FindAGrave/BillionGraves/JOWBR
- Crossing the pond
  - Ship manifests—look at the second page!
  - Use Hebrew/Yiddish names when searching
  - Hamburg
  - Stevemorse.org
- In Europe
  - JewishGen
    - Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
      - Mailing lists
        - Post yourself
        - Look at archives
      - Databases of indexed records
      - JGFF
  - FamilySearch (some duplication of JewishGen)
    - Online searching
    - Microfilms (for specific towns)
  - Geographic divisions
    - Guberniya (New York—city or Albany? Same with Vilna Guberniya), Uzeyd
    - Town name changes (JewishGen can help)
- In general
  - Facebook groups (Tracing the Tribe, Jewish Genealogy Portal)

- Viewmate (on JewishGen) or Facebook “Genealogy Translations”
- Yad Vashem’s database
- Be flexible
  - Creative name spellings
  - Name changes
  - Age guesses
  - Most eastern European records are NOT online—but many exist
  - Routes to Roots
  - Genetic genealogy (and the difficulties of analyzing Jewish DNA)