



## MISHPOCHOLOGY

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[www.jgsswf.org](http://www.jgsswf.org) <https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF/>

**Zoom Program: Sunday, April 18, 2021**

(12:45 p.m. Socializing) (1:00 p.m. Program)

**Getting the Most Out of Ancestry.com**

**By Donna Moughty**

For more information or to access the Zoom link:

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### President's Spiel

by Kim Sheintal

Many things happened from 1894 through 1995 that sparked an interest in genealogy.

1894: Genealogical Society of Utah, first genealogy organization

1903: National Genealogical Society (NGS)

1943: Missing People Registration will become ITS in 1948

1945: ENIAC (first super computer weighed 50 tons)

1946: UNIVAC (first commercial computer)

1948: International Tracing Service

1949: xerographic copier

1953: Yad Vashem Law

1955: first computer with magnetic core RAM

1960: *Americans of Jewish Descent* by Rabbi Malcolm Stern

1960s: earliest forms of Internet, primitive forms of emails

1965: Title Research will become Find My Past in 2006

1965: Granite Mountain Records Vault built

1976: Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)

1976: *Roots: The Saga of an American Family* by Alex Haley

1977: Roots (TV series)

1977: Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. founded in New York

1977: *Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy*

1978: *First American Jewish Families* by Rabbi Malcolm Stern

1980s: home computers become common

1980: *From Generation to Generation* by Arthur Kurzweil

1981: Jewish Genealogy Seminar (become IAJGS conferences)

1985: *Avotaynu, The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*

1987: JewishGen founded

1988: International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

1988: Internet relay chats (IRCs)

1989: Family Tree Maker

1993: Roots Surname List (became known as Roots Web)

1994: blogs created (term "blog" or "blogger" used in 1999)

1995: Find-A-Grave

1995: Classmates.com

1995: Jewish Gen gets website

1995: genealogy bookmarks will become Cyndi's List in 1996

1995: Ancestral Findings

Digital technology revolutionized genealogical research in 1990s.

In the last twenty-five years, major things happened which helped genealogists. Four popular websites made their debut on the Internet in 1996: Google, Ancestry.com, US GenWeb Project, and Cyndi's List. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida was formed in 1996. Here are some of the exciting things that changed genealogical research from 1996 to the present.

1996: Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

1996: Google

1996: Ancestry.com

1996: US Gen Web Project

1996: Cyndi's List

1997: Six Degrees (first recognizable social media site)

1998: LDS Church leaders build a genealogical website

1999: Family Search

1999: Old Fulton Postcards (today known as FultonHistory.com)

1999: iArchives, Inc. (today known as Fold3.com)

1999: Blogging popularity begins

1999: LDS Church begin digitizing genealogical microfilms

2000: Family Tree DNA

2000: Family Tree Magazine

2000: Roots Web acquired by Ancestry

2001: Nu? What's New

2002: Flickr

2003: LinkedIn

2003: My Heritage

2003: My Space

2003: Photobucket

2005: YouTube

2006: Facebook

2006: Twitter

2006: 23 and Me

2006: Geni.com

2006: Find My Past

2006: Genealogy Bank

2008: Wiki Tree

2009: Pinterest

2010: Instagram

2011: Yad Vashem with Google get Holocaust documents online

2011: RootsTech

2011: Zoom

2012: Ancestry DNA

2015: Living DNA

2020: NGS and FGS merge as National Genealogical Society

2020: Zoom software usage saw significant global increase

These two timelines are a sampling of advancements that have aided genealogists from 1894 through 2020.

# Wonderful World of Websites

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t99DXctd3wg>

Hidden Tools on Ancestry.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hi7oqHd7UO8>

Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy by Jennifer Mendelsohn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9QVgXXg5Gk>

What the Jewish Genealogist Needs to Know  
about Jewish Family Names by Sally Amdur Sack

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pc9QwKFCYKk&list=P  
LxjmsZhZJi52AonES\\_oSrNCPMzETICPu8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pc9QwKFCYKk&list=P<br/>LxjmsZhZJi52AonES_oSrNCPMzETICPu8)

What is the difference between IAJGS, JGS, JG, SIG, and RD?  
Non JewishGen SIGS:

Gesher Galicia, JRI-Poland, Litvak SIG, Sephardic Gen  
by Nolan Altman

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuZP1R38t7g&fbclid=I  
wAR20X6\\_jL2WYDpPak-  
kFEf1t43JS4\\_7ktrjHqR2v\\_ZJxEVjFik0T7WT2rsk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuZP1R38t7g&fbclid=I<br/>wAR20X6_jL2WYDpPak-<br/>kFEf1t43JS4_7ktrjHqR2v_ZJxEVjFik0T7WT2rsk)

Negative Evidence vs. Negative Research by Dear Myrtle

<https://www.bh.org.il/databases/jewish-genealogy/>

Jewish Genealogy Database at Beit Hatfutsot Museum  
(click "Search the Database Website" which will take you to  
<https://dbs.anumuseum.org.il/> and click "EN" for English)

[https://lialouisecooke.com/2018/03/24/myheritage-dna-  
chromosome-browser/](https://lialouisecooke.com/2018/03/24/myheritage-dna-<br/>chromosome-browser/)

How to Use the MyHeritage Chromosome Browser

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1hopzd9LwE>

Advanced Features of MyHeritage

<https://faq.myheritage.com/en/article/is-myheritage-free>

Is MyHeritage Free?

[https://faq.myheritage.com/en/article/what-are-the-  
advanced-myheritage-dna-features](https://faq.myheritage.com/en/article/what-are-the-<br/>advanced-myheritage-dna-features)

What are the Advanced MyHeritage DNA Features?

<https://bloodandfrogs.com/compedium>

B&F Compendium of Jewish Genealogy

<https://nebula.org/blog/myheritage-dna-review/>

MyHeritage Review – Genealogy Records Meet DNA Testing  
by Christina Swords

[https://www.cbsnews.com/video/yiddish-is-alive-deep-in-the-  
heart-of-texas/#x](https://www.cbsnews.com/video/yiddish-is-alive-deep-in-the-<br/>heart-of-texas/#x)

Yiddish is Still Alive in the Heart of Texas

<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/consanguinity-explained>

Consanguinity

<https://dnainter.com/>

DNA Painter

<https://collectionaire.com/>

Collectionaire

## Brick Walls

by Jeri Lipov, [jerilipov.studio@gmail.com](mailto:jerilipov.studio@gmail.com)

1) Avigdor (Victor) Sulsky was born 15 Tevet in Rakov Poland area. His father was Moshe. Avigdor married Golde Soler (b 1918). He is buried in Rakov Ukraine/Belarus plot 788. About half of their children are unknown to us and appear to have been shot during WWII. I'd like to know how to go about finding more records.

2) Leah Finegold died giving birth to Anna Finegold during Purim 1888 or 89. Her husband was Israel Finegold. He lived in Nikolayev (near Odessa). Leah had a brother who owned a jewelry store and he sued to gain custody of Anna but the judge denied him. His brother was Julius. His first cousin was Hunsey. Israel then married Sarah and had more children. I want to find Leah's birth family.

3) Nahum (Jacob) Lipovetsky was born 1850 in the Kishinev Russia area. He was a fish seller who was murdered in 1899. His wife, Mata or Matla Zaks, left in 1900 or 1910 for France with her many children. His oldest daughter was Rebecca who was married to David Aslan. I'd like to know more about the Lipovetsky and the Zaks families in Russia. In fact, we met another Lipovetsky family in Argentina and wonder if they descend from Jacob's family - say a brother?

4) Bensyan Nosacz was born 1869 in Sekilya Ukraine. His parents were Moshe Nosacz and Bunie. He married Soshe (Sarah) Reitenberg (b 1872) Sokola Russia. They changed the name to Stein. Can I find out when and why? His son Sam came to the US - Baltimore to Pittsburgh. His sisters were Eva and Channah and brother Abe. He ended up marrying Anna Finegold (above) in Pittsburgh.

5) Finally, Sam Stein had a horrible traffic accident around 1920 in Pittsburgh. He apparently ran over a gentile child and decapitated it. He had to leave his business in Squirrel Hill quickly. I've looked through Newspapers.com but the search engine hasn't been helpful. I'd like to find a newspaper report on the incident.

## IAJGS 41st International Conference

The IAJGS 41st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, will take place in historic Philadelphia at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel. The conference will be more focused over a shorter time frame—now four days and nights from August 2 -5, 2021. Registration is now open and will continue through May 31. Early Bird full registration will be \$350; Partner/Spouse Early Bird full registration will be \$250. Due to social distancing restrictions ordered by the state, attendance at the Conference must be limited. Therefore, a Wait List will be created once we reach the registration limit. After the success of the all-virtual 2020 Conference, some sessions will again be offered virtually in 2021.

While we anticipate an in-person conference, contingency plans are in place for any eventuality. The Conference is over six months away, and we are working with local health guidelines to continue evaluating our path. The health and safety of all registrants, sponsors, exhibitors, and staff is deeply important, and we appreciate your patience as we make the best determination for this conference.

The IAJGS Conference Chair is Judi Missel. She can be reached at [chair@iajgs2021.org](mailto:chair@iajgs2021.org). The local Philadelphia Chair is Fred Blum. He can be reached at [local-chair@iajgs2021.org](mailto:local-chair@iajgs2021.org).

## Take Family Stories with a Grain of Salt

by Kim Sheintal

To take a statement with 'a grain of salt' means to accept it while maintaining a degree of skepticism about its truth. My cousin Jay told me stories about my great grandparents Joseph and Mary. I collected many grains of salt from these stories.

Here are things that Jay heard about Mary and Joseph.

- 16-year-old Mary got a job in New Orleans in a bar in Vieux Carre (Bourbon Street) and the wife of the owner chased her out of town waving an axe after her. Mary could not speak English when she was in New Orleans. Mary found her way to the family sugar plantation in New Orleans.
- Mary ended up in Pittsburgh when her future husband Joseph came by.
- Joseph immigrated to New York from Russia as a single man, took a train to Oregon, walked back to east coast from Oregon repairing umbrellas in little towns along the way.
- Joseph got to Chicago and liked the feel of the city. Then he somehow arrived in Pittsburgh and again somehow met Mary there and returned with her to Chicago where they married.

Here are my discoveries, with documented sources, about Mary and Joseph's early years in the United States.

- Mary's 1898 ship manifest stated that she immigrated to the United States at age 26. (She could not have been 16 in New Orleans as I had heard.)
- Joseph's 1890 ship manifest stated that he immigrated to the United States at age 23.
- Joseph is listed in the 1893-1894 San Francisco city directory.
- Joseph is listed in the 1899 Cincinnati city directory.
- Mary and Joseph's 1900 marriage certificate is from Chicago.
- I have a photograph (circa 1915) of Mary's brother Marx taken at his sugar plantation in New Orleans.
- I have a photograph (circa 1905) of Mary with her daughter Lil in front of an umbrella shop in Chicago. Lil is my grandmother.



Circa 1905: Lil Contorer with her mother Mary Contorer taken at the umbrella shop of Joseph and Mary Contorer in Chicago

## MyHeritage Adds Lithuanian-Jewish Historical Records in Coordination with LitvakSIG

LitvakSIG is the primary internet resource for Lithuanian-Jewish (Litvak) genealogy research worldwide.

## Roots Tech 2021

by Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Access Monitoring Committee

RootsTech 2021 was held 25-27 February 2021. If you missed RootsTech, or had to more sessions to attend and the time ran out, don't fret! While RootsTech 2021 is over, their programs are available online for one year.

There were over 1.2 million people worldwide who participated. It was the world's largest family history event. Over 35 languages were available. There were 1,000 breakout sessions across eight different tracks which included: keynotes, connecting with family, finding ancestors, DNA, places, records and research, memories-stories, photos and video, traditions and heritage and website, tools and apps. This includes several Jewish-specific topics: Hebrew Naming and How to Read Hebrew Headstones with Nolan Altman, Landmanshaft: What Are They and How Can They Help My Research with Nolan Altman, Using the JewishGen Discussion Group and Jewish Genealogy Portal with Avraham Groll, Explore Jewish Genealogical Societies with Marlis Humphrey, Crypto-Jewish Genealogy Series, How I Found My Crypto-Jewish Grandmothers, and How Crypto-Jewish Genealogy is Different all with Genie Milgrom. Also, Mexican Genealogy: Jewish Origin of Three Families in Jalisco with Nefi Arenas Salazar and Shining a Light on Jewish Genealogy with Liba Casson-Nudell. The Soil from Which They Grew: The Alliance Colony in America (Vineland, NJ). Of course there are sessions on different ethnicities, researching, documents and DNA and much more.

The virtual exhibit hall had many different organizations with "booths"

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/expohall>

The IAJGS booth is available to view at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/expohall/iajgs>

Go to: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/>.

You must be registered at FamilySearch to access the conference and registration is free. They require your name and email address.

The list of sessions is:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/RootsTech/2021/RootsTech-Connect-2021-Sessions-eng.pdf>

## Genealogy Virtual Conferences

### National Genealogical Society (NGS) 2021 Live!

May 17, through May 21, 2021

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/ngs-2021-live/>

### New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC)

April 1, thru May 31, 2021

<https://nergc.org/2021-conference-2/>

### Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS)

April 14 thru April 17, 2021

<https://www.ogsconference.org/>

## The Fate of Holocaust Victims in Yad Vashem's Documentation and Projects by Serafima Velkovich

Serafima Velkovich has worked at Yad Vashem for 15 years. She presented a webinar on March 9, 2021 in partnership with JewishGen and Yad Vashem. The webinar link is listed here: <https://www.facebook.com/JewishGen.org/videos/1321733954865131>

## An Interesting Illustration of Pseudo-endogamy

by Jim Haberman

Endogamy is the custom among isolated groups of intermarrying/procreating within the group over long periods of time. Jews were prone to such practice due to the imposed isolation under which they lived for many centuries. I first became aware of the phenomenon a year or two ago while reviewing my DNA matches on Ancestry.com. At that time I happened to notice that one of my maternal second cousins shares DNA with one of my paternal second cousins.

I recently came across another example. Per my prior research, Fajgla Twardogora (born ca. 1840-1850 in present day Poland) appears on my paternal tree, and was the sister-in-law of my father's maternal grandmother (my father's mother's uncle's wife).

Shortly prior to writing this article, I received a routine e-mail from Geni.com, the subject of which was "We found your in-law relationship to Fajgla Twardogura" (note Geni's slightly different transliteration of her name), with a link to a page on Geni's web site containing the following image:



As you can see, the convoluted relationship Geni ascribes originates with my mother. Now granted, this is not an example of true endogamy, as the connection Geni uncovered crosses five sets of spouses, eventually leading to Fajgla, from whom I don't even descend. Nonetheless, it illustrates the tight communities in which our ancestors lived. Perhaps it would be more accurately described as "26 degrees of separation."



**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ✦ SINCE 1996

### 2021 Membership Dues

Single Membership: \$25/year    Family Membership: \$30/year    Sustaining Membership: \$50/year for Single or Family  
Mail check (payable to JGS of SW FL) with your name, e-mail, phone, address and surnames/places you are tracing to:

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