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### **President's Spiel**

by Kim Sheintal

Like many other Jewish American citizens turning 75 in 2025, I have only one grandparent born in the United States. Three of my grandparents were born in Eastern Europe. I did not know where any of my grandparents were born until after I had my own children and began tracing my family.

In 1910, approximately 85% of the United States population was born in the United States. In 1910, approximately 50% of Jewish people in the United States were born in the United States.

In 1920, approximately 89.7% of the United States population was born in the United States. In 1920, approximately 40% of Jewish people in the United States were born in the United States.

In 1930, approximately 88.4% of the United States population was born in the United States. In 1930, approximately 60% of the Jewish people in the United States were born in the United States.

In 1940, approximately 93.1% of the United States population was born in the United States. In 1940, approximately 86% of Jewish people in the United States were born in the United States.

In 1950, approximately 93.1% of the United States population was born in the United States. In 1950, approximately 80% of Jewish people in the United States were born in the United States.

In 2000, approximately 88.9% of the United States population was born in the United States. In 2000, approximately 85% of Jewish people in the United States were born in the United States.

It is estimated that 9 out of 10 people living in the United States today were born in the United States. It is also estimated that 9 out of 10 Jewish people living in the United States today were born in the United States.

## **MISHPOCHOLOGY**

### **Volume 30, Number 2 Summer 2025**

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#### **JGS of SW FL**

(April meeting will be the fourth Sunday.)

Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 1:00 PM

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

The Use of Locations in Genealogical Research

by Eric Wolfgang

Aviva, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota, Florida

For information: Kim at [klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com), 941-302-1433

### **Use of Geography in Genealogy**

**Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida April meeting will be on the fourth Sunday at Aviva (1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota, Florida).

Eric Wolfgang will be presenting "The Use of Locations in Genealogical Research". Using practical real world examples, we will cover how to make the most of location information in your genealogical research, whether it be at the country, city, or even down to the street level. We will go into sources of data, organizing it, and mapping it to visualize the connections between your ancestors based on where they lived. For more information, contact Kim Sheintal at [klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com) or 941-302-1433.

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### **2025 Membership Dues**

Single Membership: \$25/year

Family Membership: \$30/year

Sustaining Membership: \$50/year (single or family)

Mail check (payable to JGS of SW FL) with your name, e-mail, phone, address and surnames/places you are researching to:

Liz Klaber

5389 Manchini Street

Sarasota, FL 34238

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### **JGS of SW FL ONLINE**

JGSSWF website [www.jgsswf.org](http://www.jgsswf.org)

JGSSWF YouTube Channel

[www.youtube.com/@JGSSWF](http://www.youtube.com/@JGSSWF)

JGSSWF speaker's handout archive

[www.tinyurl.com/mr3d8jw](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr3d8jw)

JGSSWF Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/JGSSWF](http://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF)

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## The “Finding Your Roots” Effect

by Jeffrey A. Bockman

Even as an experienced researcher I enjoy watching “Finding Your Roots.”<sup>(1)</sup> In part because of the Been There, Done That, Found That, Know Them, and even Related to Them moments.

However, seeing the guest’s emotional response to discoveries or circumstances faced by their ancestors got me thinking about my own family in a different way.

The show often looks for traits and similarities between a guest and their ancestors. I have noticed some of these in the past but it got me thinking about it even more.

Too often when we have solved our own or another person’s research problem we just move on to the next step (found a new parent now we need to find theirs). When you are doing a jigsaw puzzle you do not celebrate the little successes, you just move on to the next piece until you are done. Genealogy is a lot like working on a jigsaw puzzle that you bought at a garage sale. It has both missing and extra pieces.

The first time that I really felt emotional while researching was when I first came across my father’s Social Security Death Index entry. The other emotional experience was on a business trip one evening in 1996 while looking at the Statue of Liberty from Lower Manhattan. My grandmother Katherine Kaps left Austria (now Slovenia) and came thru Ellis Island in 1910 heading to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to join her sister. That night I wondered what kind of life she was expecting to find and then feeling sorry for her because things probably ended up a lot differently. Immediately after the birth of their fourth child her husband Alvar Bockman left them. She ended up working and raising four wonderful children by herself.

While growing up I never heard her or any of the children ever really mention Alvar. I was 15 before I found out that he had left when my father was five years old and had not died as I had thought. After many years of research I eventually found out that Alvar had changed his last name to Anderson, had and left another family in Michigan, and then died “Never Married” per his death certificate. Fortunately he kept the day and month of his birth and place.

After finally finding his parents and learning about Alvar’s early life I had to reexamine my feelings toward him, at least a bit. Alvar was born on a banana plantation between Bluefields and Rama in what is now Nicaragua. To avoid the civil strife and political turmoil in 1893 his parents took the then two and a half year old Alvar back to their homeland of Denmark. Alvar and his mother Alva lived with her parents while his father Theodore returned to Nicaragua. The following year, after even more unrest Theodore relocated to Mobile, Alabama and started a plant nursery.

Alvar lived with Alva’s brother and his family when Alva came to Mobile. Theodore went to Denmark and brought the five year old Alvar to Mobile, finally reuniting the family. Six months later with the nursery business not being very profitable or satisfying Theodore decided to go to Bocas del

Toro, Columbia (now Panama) to try and get back into the banana business. Unfortunately after six months he was bitten by a mosquito and died of malaria. A short while later Alva and Alvar returned to Denmark.

Alvar was nine years old when he started attending a boarding school far from his family. Later he went into an apprentice program. Looking back he spent very little time in a “normal” family situation and less than a year with his father when he was old enough to really remember him.

While I don’t condone his behavior I can understand that maybe he felt that he didn’t need to stay and be a father since he never really had one. Fortunately for me, his son, my father was just the opposite.

I often see traits and similarities that I share with my ancestors. Theodore was a successful entrepreneur at the beginning of the banana business. However he was not a successful manager of the nursery. Success often depends upon being in the right place at the right time and taking advantage of the situation. I see similar traits in other ancestors and myself. The skills and attitude needed to be a trailblazer, entrepreneur, or leader are vastly different than those needed to be a manager. I think that my dad and I inherited the travel bug from Theodore (crossed the Atlantic at least 5 times before 1896). Hiram Demary, a traveler on my mom’s side (grew up in NY, traveled the US and went to Europe with a Circus, went to Colorado territory and helped to make it a State with trips back to Chicago.)

Hiram’s daughter also traveled and was well known artist & an early photographer and President of the Chicago Camera Club.

Genealogy and Family History has grown from just collecting names, dates, and the places to now including:

- Photos – hopefully identifying them
- Documents & Correspondence – hopefully preserving them
- Stories about the people’s life and events – what makes them Them?
- DNA to help both verify the research and provide new leads.

Maybe the next step is writing about how we, their descendants, feel about them and what they did or didn’t do. We need to remember to look at their actions and sayings in the light of the time period in which they occurred.

While we might not have made the same choices nor done the same thing as our ancestors we need to remember that if ANYTHING WAS DONE DIFFERENTLY then there is a good chance that we would not exist. It is great to change the future but as much as we might like to change history, it is not a good idea.

(1) Finding Your Roots - <https://www.pbs.org/show/finding-your-roots/>

Jeff is the author of *Give Your Family A Gift That Money Can’t Buy / Record & Preserve Your Family’s History*. More articles and information about his career in genealogy and his ancestors can be found on his website: [www.jeffbockman.com](http://www.jeffbockman.com).

# Wonderful World of Websites

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/20-black-jews-you-should-know/>

Black Jews

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/find-your-doppelganger>

Do You Have a Look-alike? Find Your Doppelgänger

<https://connect.jfriendssrq.org/?query=jfriends>

Online Platform connect with Sarasota Jewish community

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-844104>

Archaeology students excavating Warsaw's main Jewish cemetery are uncovering a forgotten world

## Identifying Ancestors Through Gravestone Images

by Jim Haberman

As most genealogical researchers are aware, gravestones can be useful in gathering data of family members. They usually contain the deceased's year (and sometimes the date) of birth and death, and often include the names of the spouse and children.

Gravestones with the deceased's Hebrew name will provide the name of the deceased's father, e.g. Yehuda ben Mordechai, Sara bat Mordechai, etc. An excellent source of gravestone data is the [Foundation for Documentation of Jewish Cemeteries in Poland](https://www.foundationforjewishcemeteries.org/). My paternal grandfather, Avraham Haberman, had no known relatives in the U.S., and died in my father's infancy, so when I first began my research I knew nothing about his immediate or distant family. Through his death certificate, which I obtained after jumping

FOUNDATION FOR DOCUMENTATION OF JEWISH CEMETERIES IN POLAND  
THE DATABASE OF THE JEWISH CEMETERIES IN POLAND

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sector: row: number: surname: haberman year of death: show results

number of entries: 25  
current page: 1/1 or jump (write less by one):  
0 hop!

se	ro	nu	sex	first name	surname	hebrew name	fathers name	husbands name	maiden name	date birth of (m/d/y)	date of death (m/d/y)	additional info	ph
12b	15	1	M	Jakób	Haberman						12/20/1925	zyt lat 61	
17	5	37	M		Haberman	Mordechai Dov	Chaim Tzvi Hakohen				9/10/1901		
19	7	9	F		Haberman	Bella Rivka	Aharon Yehuda	Nate Eliezer			6/21/1868		
22a	5	13	F		Haberman	Frimet	Aharon	Mordechai Dov Hacoen			9/15/1901		
41	10	4	F		Haberman	Tauba	Shmuel	Eliahu Hacoen			4/21/1879		
41	13	5	F		Haberman	Sara	Tzvi	Yitzhak			12/31/1880		
51	9	4	M		Haberman	Yaakov Tzvi	Yitzhak				3/27/1906		
57	4	32	M		Haberman	Yehuda Leib	Shaul				2/10/1923		
60	2a	46	F		Haberman	Miriam	Israel				10/14/1904		

Figure 1. Current screenshot of the index record of Yehuda Leibish's grave (red arrows)



through the many prescribed hoops, I learned that that he was born in "Russia", that his father was "Louis", and that his mother was a Dowbroner. That all led to a dead end until around 2011, when I found his 1913 draft registration card. It clarified his place of birth as "Warsaw, Poland, Russia". With that I was off and running. After coming across the Foundation's web site in 2012, I was able to locate the record of "Yehuda Leib[ish] Haberman". Since Leibish is often anglicized as Louis, and since his father's name



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## WYNIKI WYSZUKIWANIA

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cemetery	Warszawa (Okopowa)
sector	57
row	4
number	32
sex	M
surname	Haberman
first name	
hebrew name	Yehuda Leib
fathers name	Shaul
husbands name	
maiden name	
date of birth (m/d/y) (m/d/r)	
date of death (m/d/y) (m/d/r)	2/10/1923
additional info	



**Figure 2. Current screenshot of the full record of Yehuda Leibish's grave including photo**

web site along with other clues also enabled me to locate the graves of Leibish's father and his wife Rachel, and the name of Rachel's father.

Another cemetery of interest to me is the Jewish cemetery of Brest-Litovsk in present-day southwest Belarus, from where my maternal grandmother emigrated, and where her parents and one sibling remained, their fate unknown. An effort is currently underway to recover the gravestones from the cemetery, which were scattered by the German invaders during World War II, and construct a memorial from them. For details, visit their web site by clicking [here](#).

## Kalikow Jewish Genealogy Research Center

The Kalikow Jewish Genealogy Research Center has been running for over a year. The Center has assisted hundreds of researchers, and are expanding their reach to serve the casual visitors who stop by with an interest but not necessarily time to work with their consultants. They are planning and implementing other exciting programs as well. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida, along with other Jewish genealogical societies, has submitted their brochures for the visitors to take home.

“The Center is a physical presence for JewishGen, the largest Jewish genealogy and family history website and a division of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Center staff and volunteers are on hand to assist in uncovering your family’s past. Jewish Genealogical research can be complicated, with

was "Shaul" (which matched my father's name of Saul), and since the years of his birth and death aligned with Avraham's birth, it wasn't a stretch to surmise that Leibish was my great grandfather.

In Figure 1, the small icon in the "ph" column indicates that a high resolution photo of the gravestone is available by clicking on it. However, at the time I found the record the photo hadn't been attached to it. I therefore had to recruit a man in Warsaw who for a very modest fee agreed to take photos of the gravestone, which he found laying flat on the ground and broken into two pieces, and mail them to me. Rabbi Steinmetz of Chabad of Sarasota kindly agreed to translate it for me. It reads:

*A man who walked in the way of the upright/unblemished. Acts of kindness he did all of the days. Was the first and earliest to engage in mitzvot. The exalted and honored, R' Yehuda Leib, son of R' Shaul, Haberman. Passed away 24 Shvat 5682.*

By the way, contrary to the digital record, the date of death indicated on the stone is equivalent to February 22, 1922, so 2/22/22! The Foundation's

hidden details and languages we may not know. Our experts will answer questions, and help visitors navigate across JewishGen and many other critical resources which will be accessible at the Center. The Center is open when the Museum is open on Thursdays and Sundays. Museum tickets are required to visit the center.” <https://mjhnyc.org/kalikow/>

People can work with expert researchers to uncover their family’s past at The Center. For a list of Kalikow genealogists helping The Center, go to <https://mjhnyc.org/kalikow/kalikow-genealogists/>

**Welcome New Member**  
Gale Hilburg