Roots on the Road

Introduction to Jewish Genealogy: Finding Your Roots

Created by Myra Rothenberg, Phyllis Grossman and Brad Fanta, from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State (JGSWS.org)
Today’s Presentation

- What you do with genealogy other than family trees
- Getting started down the roots road
- Genealogy is a family puzzle
- Places to visit
- Fun resources
- Important documents
- Jewish genealogy
- Getting organized
- Sharing with the world
What You Get with Genealogy

Other than names and dates
What You Get with Genealogy
Other than names and dates

- Find unknown relatives and connect with new ones
What You Get with Genealogy

Other than names and dates

- Find unknown relatives and connect with new ones
- Flesh out your relatives’ lives
What You Get with Genealogy

Other than names and dates

- Find unknown relatives and connect with new ones
- Flesh out your relatives’ lives
- Relive history
What You Get with Genealogy

Other than names and dates

- Find unknown relatives and connect with new ones
- Flesh out your relatives’ lives
- Relive history
- Relearn geography
Paving the Roots Road
Brick by Brick
It’s all about you!

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Paving the Roots Road  
Brick by Brick  
It’s all about you!

• Start with yourself and work backwards
Paving the Roots Road
Brick by Brick
It’s all about you!

- Start with yourself and work backwards
- Talk to your relatives
Paving the Roots Road Brick by Brick

It’s all about you!

• Start with yourself and work backwards
• Talk to your relatives
• Gather old photos and documents
Paving the Roots Road Brick by Brick

It’s all about you!

- Start with yourself and work backwards
- Talk to your relatives
- Gather old photos and documents
- Record what you find—and don’t find—as you go
Paving the Roots Road Brick by Brick

It’s all about you!

- Start with yourself and work backwards
- Talk to your relatives
- Gather old photos and documents
- Record what you find—and don’t find—as you go
- Start making a family tree
Genealogy is a Puzzle
You’re looking for the pieces

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Genealogy is a Puzzle
You’re looking for the pieces

• Sometimes it’s easier to choose one branch of the family to research at a time
Genealogy is a Puzzle
You’re looking for the pieces

- Sometimes it’s easier to choose one branch of the family to research at a time
- Make a timeline of events, both family and historical
Genealogy is a Puzzle
You’re looking for the pieces

• Sometimes it’s easier to choose one branch of the family to research at a time
• Make a timeline of events, both family and historical
• Remember books for research!
Places to Go
Local resources are the easiest
Places to Go

Local resources are the easiest

- Find a National Archives Research Administration (NARA) location, if you can
Places to Go

Local resources are the easiest

- Find a National Archives Research Administration (NARA) location, if you can
- Find a local branch of the LDS Family History Center (FHC)
Places to Go

Local resources are the easiest

- Find a National Archives Research Administration (NARA) location, if you can
- Find a local branch of the LDS Family History Center (FHC)
- Go to the genealogy department of your local library
Places to Go

Local resources are the easiest

- Find a National Archives Research Administration (NARA) location, if you can
- Find a local branch of the LDS Family History Center (FHC)
- Go to the genealogy department of your local library
- Contact your local Jewish Genealogical Society (JGS)
Resources

Instant success
Resources

Instant success

- Browse city directories
Resources

Instant success

- Browse city directories
- Find old newspaper stories
Resources
Instant success

• Browse city directories
• Find old newspaper stories
• Go to JewishGen.org
Important Documents
Find clues in these records

[Image of handwritten text]

14. Fried. Gutkein 19
15. Fred. Schram 15
16. Alfred Fruch 33
17. Happee Rosenhalb 16
18. Ludvig 15
19. Anna Daniel 10
20. Matl. Breden 16
21. Augusta Henadt 21
22. Anna Cathmae Paul 28
23. Johanna 22
24. Georg Hermann 14
25. Johann Selten 39
26. Greti 42
27. Musel 10
28. Orleans 18
29. Dier 8
30. Bruno Grime 33
31. Fried. Hieer 19
32. Andreas Engelhalt 24
33. Caspao Sining 28
34. Michael Holz 38
35. Gefheinn Besi 29
36. Sen yard Qchen 24
Important Documents
Find clues in these records

• Federal Census returns
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<th>Name</th>
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</table>
Important Documents

Find clues in these records

• Federal Census returns
• Passenger lists
The Passenger Act 1882—District of the City of New York, Port of New York.

I, J. Serbelli, Master of the Steamer Amerique, do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare that the following List or Manifest, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of Customs of the Collection District of the City of New York, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board of the said Steamer HAVRE, FRANCE, from which port said Steamer has now arrived, and that on said list is truly designated the age, the sex, and the calling of each of said passengers, the location of the compartment or space occupied by each during the passage, the country of citizenship of each, and also the destination or location intended by each; and that said List or Manifest truly sets forth the number of said passengers who have died on said voyage, and the dates, and cause of death, and the names and ages of those who died; also of the pieces of baggage of each also a true statement, so far as can be ascertained, with reference to the intention of each alien passenger, as to a protracted sojourn in this country.

Sworn to this 19th day of October, A.D. 1882, before me.

Signed:

List or Manifest of All the Passengers taken on board the Steamer Amerique wherefrom

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Total: 28 passengers
Important Documents

Find clues in these records

- Federal Census returns
- Passenger lists
- Naturalization papers
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the U.S. District Court of W. Dist. of Wash. at Seattle, Wash.
The petition of DONA DORA EDITH BENZERZA, hereby filed, respectfully shows:

1. My place of residence is 520 25th Ave. S. Seattle, Wash. My occupation is Bookkeeper & Office.
2. I was born in Constantinople, Turkey on May 10, 1910. My race is Hebrew.
3. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on July 13, 1934 in the U.S. District Court of W. Dist. of Wash., at Seattle, Washington.
4. I am not married. The name of my wife or husband is

we were married on at
he was born at on
resides at on for permanent residence therein, and now I have no children, and the name, date, and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:

5. My last foreign residence was Constantinople or Stamboul, Turkey, and I emigrated to the United States of America from Peraeaus, Greece. My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, N.Y., under the name of Dona Benzera on Sept. 20, 1911 on the vessel SS "Alice" as shown by the certificate of my arrival attached hereto.
6. I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. It is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to

THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

of whom (which) at this time I am a subject (or citizen), and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (8) I am able to speak the English language.

9. I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of five years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since Sept. 20, 1911 and in the County of King, this State, continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since Sept. 26, 1911, being a residence within said county of at least six months next preceding the date of this petition.

(To be retained by clerk)
Important Documents
Find clues in these records

• Federal Census returns
• Passenger lists
• Naturalization papers
• Birth, marriage, and death records (vital records)
Certificate of Marriage.
STATE OF NEW YORK.

I hereby certify, that Mayer Goldberger and Sara Goldschmidt were joined in marriage by me, in accordance with the Laws of the State of New York, in the City of New York this 29 day of June 1871.

Witnesses to the Marriage:

Attest,

Official Station, Rabbi

Residence, 34 Avenue A
Jewish Genealogy

Why is our research different?
Jewish Genealogy

Why is our research different?

- Naming patterns
Jewish Genealogy
Why is our research different?

• Naming patterns
• Migrations and border changes
Jewish Genealogy

Why is our research different?

- Naming patterns
- Migrations and border changes
- Few surnames before the 1750s
Jewish Genealogy

Why is our research different?

- Naming patterns
- Migrations and border changes
- Few surnames before the 1750s
- Variant spellings for names and places
Jewish Genealogy

Why is our research different?

• Naming patterns
• Migrations and border changes
• Few surnames before the 1750s
• Variant spellings for names and places
• The Holocaust
Getting Organized

Tools of the trade

• Get a research notebook
• Choose a genealogy program
• Join your local Jewish Genealogy Society (JGS)
• Join a Special Interest Group (SIG)
• Choose a genealogy program
Getting Organized

Tools of the trade

• Keep organizing your paper research
Getting Organized
Tools of the trade

• Keep organizing your paper research
• Choose a genealogy program that works for you
Getting Organized
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Tools of the trade

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Sharing with the World
Show your stuff
Sharing with the World

Show your stuff

• Share your family tree
Sharing with the World

Show your stuff

• Share your family tree
• Write a family history or create a newsletter
Sharing with the World
Show your stuff

- Share your family tree
- Write a family history or create a newsletter
- Build a family website
Sharing with the World

Show your stuff

• Share your family tree
• Write a family history or create a newsletter
• Build a family website
• Connect with other researchers
Questions?