

SOLVING FAMILY HISTORY PUZZLES



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RULES OF GAME PLAYING

- Make use of multiple paths, redirecting when necessary
- New information may alter your strategy
- Revisit old information
- Understand that moves build on prior moves
- Learn from others

SOLVING PUZZLES

- What do you want to know?
- What do you know?
- Work from what you know to what you don't
- Gather anecdotal information from family members
- Assume there is a grain of truth in family story, but don't expect it to be precise

FINDING YOUR PATH

- Consider paths to your desired information - what sources contain it?
- Consider whether direct path is the most efficient path
- Search broadly at first, narrow as necessary
- Don't expect perfect matches
- Be prepared to hold conflicting thoughts in your mind

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

Finding the Family Ancestral Town

WHAT DO WE WANT TO KNOW?

- Where are grandparents from?
- Records that document the trail.

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

- Grandparents' names, Leon and Bella Lehman
- Family story is they came through Galveston sometime after 1910
- Had naturalization records from 1921 which give their ages as well as children's names

WHERE TO START?

- Where are we likely to find the town of origin?
- Likely place to find the answer is immigration record
- What will help us find the immigration record?
- Census record tells us year of immigration.

FIRST SEARCH STEPS

- Search for Leon Lehman in Mpls, born 1877+/-5 yrs.
- Two sites: Ancestry.com or familysearch.org

1930 CENSUS – LEON LEHMAN

Leon Lehman, widowed
children Max, Harry,
David and daughter-in-
law and two
grandchildren

Leon immigrated in
1913, Max 1923, Harry
and David 1920

NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE	MARITAL STATUS	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH
Lehman, Leon	48	Male	White	Married	Laborer	Germany
Lehman, [Wife]	45	Female	White	Married	At home	Germany
Lehman, Max	18	Male	White	Single	Student	Germany
Lehman, Harry	15	Male	White	Single	Student	Germany
Lehman, David	12	Male	White	Single	Student	Germany
Lehman, [Daughter-in-law]	18	Female	White	Married	At home	Germany

IMMIGRATION RECORDS

- Search on Ancestry.com, EllisIsland.org or Stevemorse.org
- Need to search on the name he went by in Europe
- Input Leib Lehman (or Leiman/Lejman) into Ancestry
- Birth year 1877 +/-2 years
- Arrival year 1913 +/-2 years

IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Found on Ancestry

Leib Leimann from Warschau
going to Galveston port

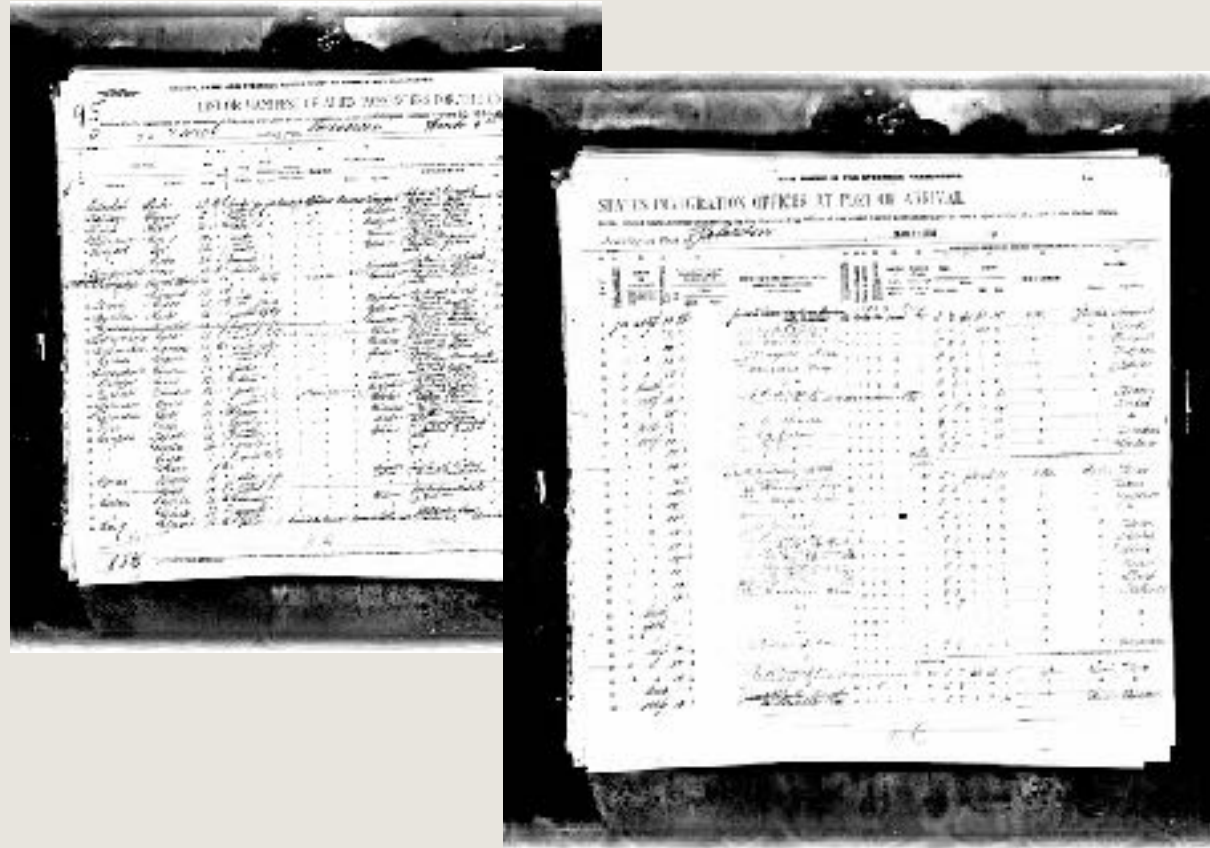
nearest relative in Europe, wife
Beila Leimann

going to St. Paul, MN

Check for 2nd page

gives name and address of who
he is going to in Minnesota

Not on Ellis Island



SEARCHING ON STEVEMORSE.ORG

GALVESTON PORT

- **Won't work on**

- **Sounds like**

- Leiman, Lejman, Lehman

- **Best match**

- Lejman, Lehman

-

- **Starts with**

- Lejman, Lehman

- **Will work on**

- **Sounds like**

- Leimann

- **Best match**

- Leiman

- **Starts With**

- Leiman

So we're done, right?

Was he really from Warsaw or
perhaps a surrounding town?

JRI-POLAND.ORG: THE DIRECT PATH

- Determine what names would have been before Americanized
- Search for Leib Lejman and Bajla

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jri-poland.org
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Piotrkow Trybunalski PSA Births, Marriages, 1889-1904

Eventually all index records will be directly linked to their images, but in the meantime you can find folk available images **HERE**

Last Updated May 2008

[Click Here to TOGGLE Empty Columns](#)

Surname	Given Name	Year	Type	Akta	Page	House #	Date of: Birth	Town of: Birth	Cause of Death	Maiden Name	Other Surnames
					District	Sex	Marriage/Divorce	Marriage	Spouse		Occupation
					Sygnatura	Age / Born	Death	Death	Spouse Surname		Father Occupation
					Registration			Residence			
LEJMAN	Szyja Lejb	1896	M	47							
BLUMSZTEJN	Bajla Brandla	1896	M	47							

FINDING RECORDS AT THE POLISH ARCHIVES

Collection: 48/333/0 Akta stanu cywilnego Okręgu Bożniczego w Piotrkowie

Akta stanu cywilnego Okręgu Bożniczego w Piotrkowie

Archive

Collection

Units [205/205]



Refine by title of collection (ascending)



Refine by reference code of collection (ascending)

Units in the collection::

Number of units per page 100

Reference code	Title	Dates	Number of scans
48/333/0/-/1	[Księga unikat akt urodzonych]	1872-1874	249
48/333/0/-/2	[Księga unikat akt urodzonych]	1874-1875	155
48/333/0/-/3	[Księga unikat akt urodzonych]	1873-1875	277
48/333/0/-/4	[Księga duplikat akt urodzonych]	1874	135
48/333/0/-/5	[Księga duplikat akt urodzonych]	1875	143
48/333/0/-/6	[Księga duplikat akt urodzonych]	1876	220
48/333/0/-/7	[Księga duplikat akt urodzonych]	1877	258
48/333/0/-/8	[Księga unikat akt urodzonych]	1877-1883	542
48/333/0/-/9	[Księga unikat akt urodzonych]	1883-1886	222
48/333/0/-/10	[Księga unikat akt urodzonych]	1886-1888	189
48/333/0/-/11	[Księga duplikat akt urodzonych]	1942	111

FINDING RECORDS AT THE POLISH ARCHIVES

48/333/0/-/83

[Ksiega duplikat aktów urodzonych, zaślubionych i zmarłych]

1896

263

- Google Translate - [The Book of duplicate acts born, marriages and deceased]

SEARCHING POLISH VITAL RECORDS

- Listed in order of birth – marriage –death
- Same if you search films at the Family History Libraries
- Or on-line at the Polish Archives
- Marriage records are a full page, while birth and death are only a portion
- Each year is designated on the cover so it alerts you to when the year begins
- Then search for section on marriage, then record number
- Index is often at the back
- Click on



48/333/0/-/83

[Ksiega duplikat aktów urodzonych, zaślubionych i zmarłych]

1896

263



w tym zespole ✕



Search

Ad

Collection: [48/333/0 Akta stanu cywilnego Okręgu Bożniczego w Piotrkowie](#) » Series: [units without series](#) » File/unit: [83](#)

[Ksiega duplikat aktów urodzonych, zaślubionych i zmarłych]

Archive

Collection

Units [205]

48/333/0/-/83

Digital copies [263]

Indexes [0]

Items [0]


Archiwum Paristwowe w Piotrkowie Trybunalskim

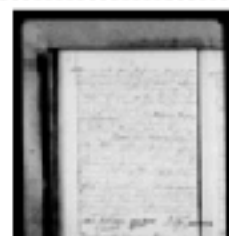
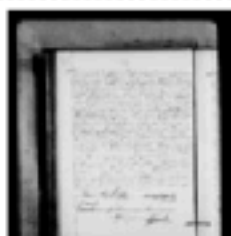
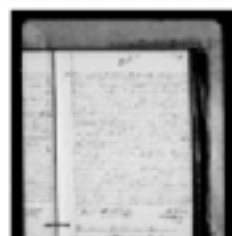
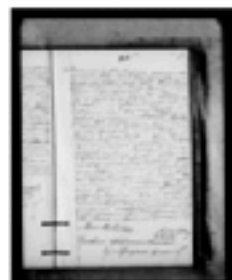
dokumentacja aktowa

Reference code: **83**Translated title: - *brak danych* -Date/Period of creation: **1896**Dates:
1896 - 1896Languages: **polski**
rosyjskiScope and content: - *brak danych* -Classification scheme code: - *brak danych* -Former reference code: - *brak danych* -External physical form: **księga**Internal physical form: **rękopis**Physical condition: **dobry**

[Ksiega duplikat aktów urodzonych, zaślubionych i zmarłych]

[Archive](#)[Collection](#)[Units \[205\]](#)[48/333/0/-/83](#)[Digital copies \[263\]](#)[Indexes \[0\]](#)[Items \[0\]](#)

Number of scans per page 15 



Files 155.jpg

MARRIAGE RECORD

[illegible][illegible]

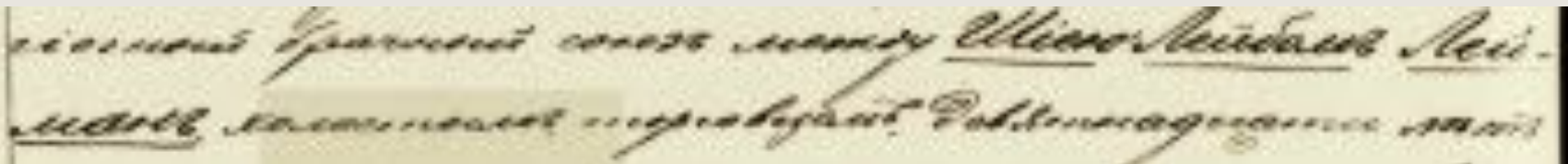
STEVE MORSE.ORG

[English to Russian](#): Transliterating names from English to Russian in One Step

шая лаиб легман

[Russian Print to Cursive](#): Converting from Russian Print to Cursive in One Step

шая лаиб легман

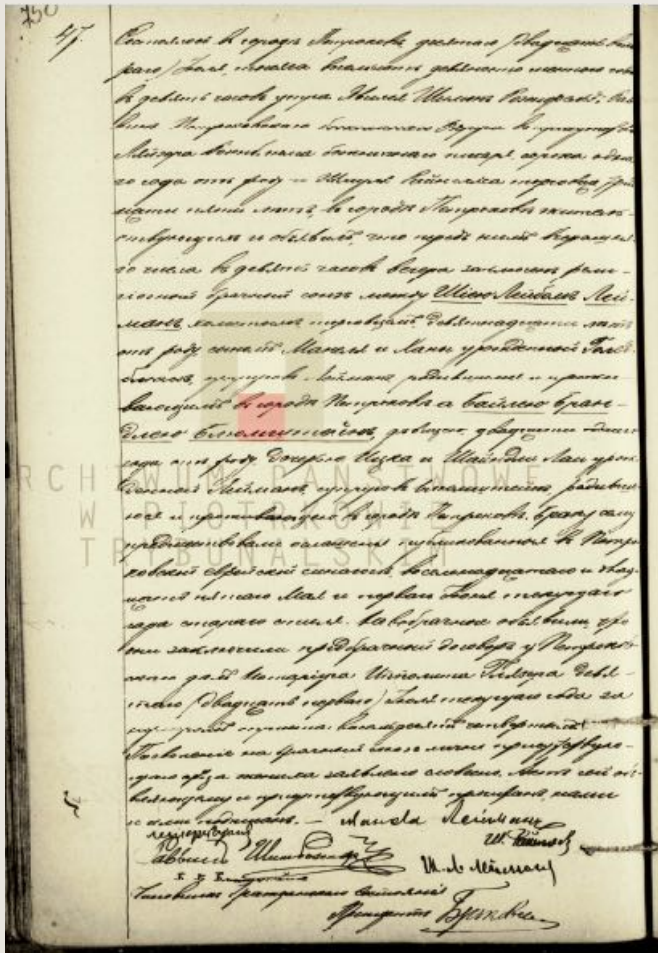


VIEWMATE

- www.jewishgen.org/ViewMate/
- Resize image
- Upload image
- Contacted when ready for posting
- Notify email boards and request assistance

MARRIAGE RECORD

Marr. 47 reg. in
Piotrkow July 22, 1896
of Szija Lejb LEJMAN,
19, tradesman, son of
Machil and Chana nee
GOLDBLUM to Bajla
Brandla BLUMSZTEJN,
21, dau. of Icek and
Szajndla Laja nee
LEJMAN



How do we know this is the right record?

TOMBSTONES

Tombstones

Joshua Areih
father Menachem

Belya Brina
father Yitzkak



Marriage Record

Szaja Leib
father Machil

Balja Brandla
father Icek



Are we sure yet?

Searching the Ellis Island (gold) Database in One Step

We acknowledge the work of [Dr. Stephen Morse](#), [Gary Sandler](#), and [Michael Tobias](#) in creating this search tool

[Overview](#)[Ship Pictures](#)[Ship Lists](#)[Manifests](#)[Frequently Asked Questions](#)[Morse's Other Webpages](#)

For the most versatile searching from 1892 to 1924, use this [One-Step Gold Search Form](#)

For searching all years from 1892 to 1957, use the [One-Step White Search Form](#)

For searching all years from 1820 to 1957, use the [One Step All-New-York Passengers Form](#)

Your email address (optional) [Why should you provide this?](#)

There is no required field, not even the last name

First Name	<input checked="" type="radio"/> starts with or is <input type="radio"/> sounds like <input type="radio"/> contains	<input type="text"/>	Last Name	<input checked="" type="radio"/> starts with or is <input type="radio"/> sounds like <input type="radio"/> is phonetically	<input type="text"/>
First Name of Companion	<input checked="" type="radio"/> starts with or is <input type="radio"/> sounds like <input type="radio"/> contains	<input type="text"/>	Town Name	<input checked="" type="radio"/> starts with or is <input type="radio"/> sounds like <input type="radio"/> contains	<input type="text"/>
Ship Name	<input checked="" type="radio"/> starts with or is	<input type="text"/>	Port Name	<input checked="" type="radio"/> starts with or is <input type="radio"/> contains	<input type="text"/>

Specify at most two of the following three ranges

Year of arrival is between	<input type="text"/> 1820	and	<input type="text"/> 1923	Arrival month	<input type="text"/> 1212	Arrival day	<input type="text"/> 2222
Age at arrival is between	<input type="text"/> 2222	and	<input type="text"/> 2222	Start search at entry	<input type="text"/> 1	Marital Status	<input type="text"/>
Year of birth is between	<input type="text"/> 2222	and	<input type="text"/> 2222	hits/page	<input type="text"/> 50	Gender	<input type="text"/>

Immigrated
between
1920-23

Lejman

Ellis Island Identification

Not required if you do not wish to see the manifest or passenger record

If you have chosen to block third party cookies, this will not work

Username (typically your email address) Password

☐ Remember this username and password

[I do not have an Ellis Island account](#)

Login in
Ellis Island

STEVE MORSE.ORG

Enter Lejman and arrival of 1920-23
Can also search on Ancestry.com

	Name ▲	Residence ◆	Age ◆	Born* ◆	Arrived
1	Lejman, Awrum	Warsaw, Poland	17	1904-1905	1922
2	Lejman, Beili Brandel	Piotrkow, Poland	42	1877-1878	1920
3	Lejman, Channa	Lade, Poland	20	1902-1903	1923
4	Lejman, Chasza	Dubeczno, Poland	14	1905-1906	1920
5	Lejman, David	Piotrkow, Poland	8	1911-1912	1920
6	Lejman, Heraz	Piotrkow, Poland	10	1909-1910	1920
7	Lejman, Herzel	Dubeczno, Poland	17	1902-1903	1920
8	Lejman, John	Providence, R.I., U.S.	27	1892-1893	1920
9	Lejman, Josef	Warszawa, Poland	9	1912-1913	1922
10	Lejman, Josef	Warpalice, Poland	29	1892-1893	1922
11	Lejman, Marjanna	Warpalice, Poland	23	1898-1899	1922
12	Lejman, Mordki	Piotrkow, Poland	24	1897-1898	1922

IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Beila Brandel Lejman with
sons Hersz and David

Nearest relative in Europe-
mother Szejndel
Blumstzteijn

Going to husband Louis in
Minneapolis

Beila Brandel Lejman with
sons Hersz and David

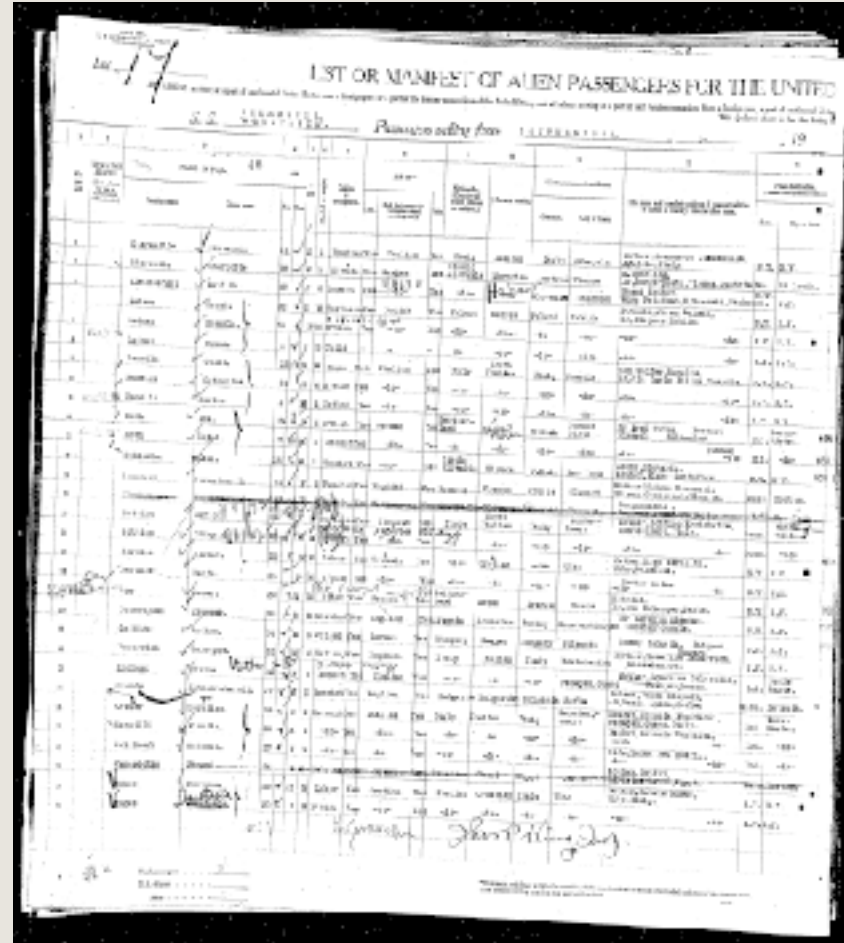
Nearest relative in Europe-
mother Szejndel
Blumstzteijn

Going to husband Louis in
Minneapolis

Beila Brandel Lejman with
sons Hersz and David

Nearest relative in Europe-
mother Szejndel
Blumstzteijn

Going to husband Louis in
Minneapolis



WHAT DID EACH SOURCE TELL US?

- Oral history
- Census
- Immigration
- JRI-Poland – vital records
- Polish archives
- SteveMorse-Russian
- Viewmate-translation
- Tombstone-names
- Americanized/Original Names
- Meaning & derivation of Jewish names
- Port of entry to cross-check
- Years of immigration
- Reveal town of origin
- Marriage record index
- Locate actual record
- Validate correct marriage record
- Translate record
- Compare names to marriage record
- Search under correct names
- Compare different but similar names

CHALLENGES

- Not all resources work
- Polish Archives are difficult to maneuver
- How do you know when you have proved it out
 - Marriage record was promising
 - Matched closely with tombstones it was likely
 - Match between marriage record and immigration record proved it out

WHEN FEW ARE LEFT TO SHARE STORY

Connecting Holocaust Victims to Family

WHAT DO WE WANT TO KNOW?

- Names of family members
- Dates and places of birth

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

- Names of grandparents who both died in the Holocaust
- Town

FIRST STEPS

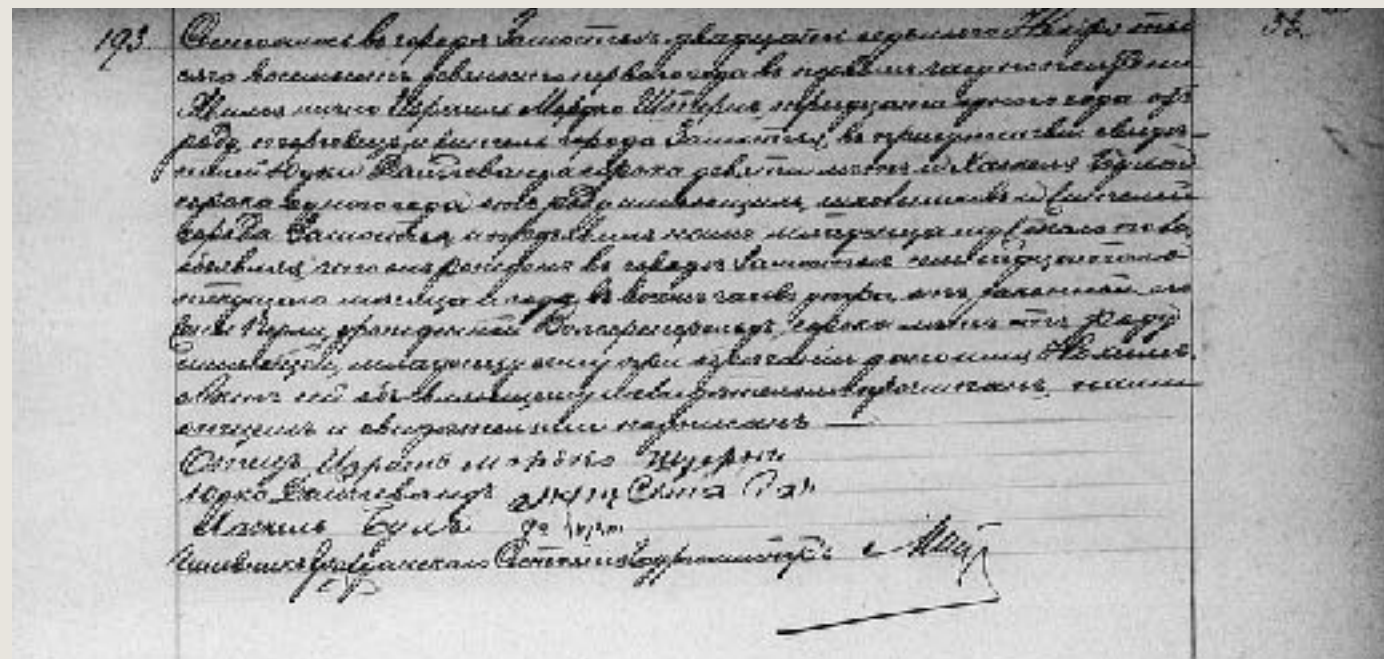
- Start with the obvious
- Search JRI-Poland for vital records by name and town
- Found likely grandfather's birth record –only one record

JRI-POLAND SEARCH

<div>Please Read our Conditions of Use jri-poland.org ©Jewish Records Indexing - Poland</div>						Zamosc PSA Births 1878-86,91-1902 Deaths 1888-1903 Eventually all index records will be directly linked to their images, but in the meantime available images HERE Last Updated June 2016 Click Here to TOGGLE Empty Columns					
Click to View	Surname	Given Name	Year	Type	Akta	Page	House #	Date of: Birth	Town of: Birth	Cause of Death	Maiden Name Patronym
						District	Sex	Marriage/Divorce	Marriage	Spouse	
						Sygnatura	Age / Born	Death	Death	Spouse Surname	
								Registration	Residence		
View Image	SZTERN	Nochim	1891	B	193		m				

POLISH ARCHIVES AND VIEWMATE

Parents Israel
Mordko
Stern and
Perla
Wolfenfeld



Translated on Viewmate



Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

Search Our Database

The Award-Winning Searchable Database of Indexes to Jewish Records of Poland

JRI-Poland is an independent non-profit tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

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Search Our Database

Search Parameters:

☐ [Help with Search Parameters](#)

☐ [Help with Search Types](#)

1: Surname Phonetically like wolfenfeld

2: Town Phonetically like zamosc

3: Data Type Search Type

4: Data Type Search Type

☒ Match ALL of the above (logical AND)

☐ Match ANY of the above (logical OR)

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Czech Records Indexing - Poland

Zamosc Births 1826-30,32-90 Marriages 1826-30,32-88 Deaths 1826-30,41-64,76-87
Last Updated June 22'16
Click Here to TOGGLE Empty Columns

Zamosc
Lublin Subania
Located at 50°43' 23"15"

Click to View	Surname	Given Name	Year	Type	Akta	Page	House#	Date of Birth	Town of Birth	Cause of Death	Maiden Name	Other Surnames	Father	Father Age	Father Town	Father Father	Father Mother	Comments	Microfilm
						District	Sex	Marriage/Divorce	Marriage	Spouse	Occupation	Father	Father Age	Father Town	Father Father	Father Mother	Extra Information		
						Signature	Age / Birth	Death	Death	Spouse Surname	Patronymic	Father Occupation	Mother	Mother Age	Mother Town	Mother Father	Mother Mother		
View Image	WOLFENFELD	Abraham	1860	M	16		in						Wolf						771651
View Image	SZRYFT	Cyrla	1860	M	15		1						Jonas						771651
View Image	WOLFENFELD	Perla	1861	B	97		1						Abraham						771651
View Image	WOLFENFELD	Mordko Wolf	1861	B	73		in						Abraham						750697
View Image	WOLFENFELD	Wolf	1860	D	97		in						Abraham						750697

Ordered additional records from the FHL

Found 60 records back to his 4th great grandmother

DILEMMA

- How to verify likely grandfather's record as actual?
- Was I building a house of cards on an incorrect record?

YAD VASHEM RECORD

<p>back of the photo.</p>	3. Maiden Name	
	4. Date of birth or approximate age 1891	
<p>THE MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE LAW, 5713-1953 determines in article No. 2 that: —</p> <p>The task of YAD VASHEM is to gather into the homeland material regarding all those members of the Jewish people who laid down their lives, who fought and rebelled against the Nazi enemy and his collabora- tors, and to perpetuate their memory and that of the communities, organizations, and</p>	5. Place of birth (town, country) ZAMOSC POLAND	
	6. Name of mother of the deceased PEARL	7. Name of father of the deceased ISRAEL
	8. Name of wife or husband HENIA	9. Profession MERCHANT
	10. Place of residence before the war ZAMOSC	
	11. Place of residence during the war WLODZIMIERZ WOL.	

SECTIONS 1 TO 12 REFER TO THE DECEASED ONLY

Searched Yad Vashem and located record submitted by uncle with names of parents that tied to birth record.

WHAT SOURCES DID WE USE?

- JRI-Poland – to find grandfather and work our way back
- Polish Archives – to get birth record
- Viewmate – to translate
- Family History Library –to get multiple records
- Yad Vashem –to verify correct record

A TOMBSTONE FAMILY TREE

Connecting Tombstones from New York to Belarus

WHAT DO WE WANT TO KNOW?

- How does the New York family connect to Belarus?
- Does the Belarus cemetery hold any family members?
- Is there any family relationship between “cousins” from anecdotal information?

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

- Oldest relative in US was my great-grandfather who is buried in NY
- Family came from Dunilowicz based on immigration records
- Family is buried in the Dunilowicz section of the cemetery in NY
- Landsman from Dunilowicz included Abraham and Sadie Singer
- A cousin of my father told me that the name was changed from Raichel to Rothchild

AN INQUIRY

- Contacted Jewishgen.org E-mail Boards
- *Has anyone been to Dunilowicz? Anything you can tell me about it?*
- *“My family is from there so could you keep an eye out for their name.”*
- *“Yes, I have and I had the cemetery transcribed.”*
- *May find similar information on JOWBR (Jewish On-line Worldwide Burial Registry) via Jewish Gen*

THE STARTING POINT



My great-grandfather's
Tombstone

TOMBSTONE CLUES



Pesach Mordechai
Dunilowicz, Belarus
great- great grandfather



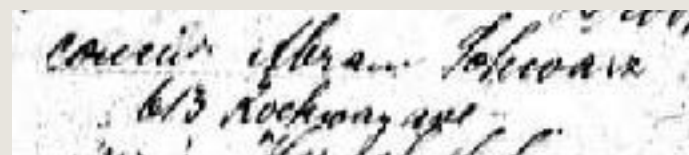
Eska Raichel Zinger
Dunilowicz, Belarus



Schloime Raichel
great-grandfather's - NY

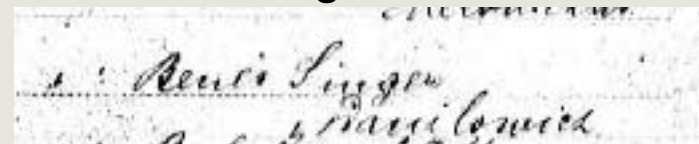
THE CONNECTING LINK

Going to Cousin
Abram Schwartz



צו אברהם שווארץ
אין רוקנזאג

Nearest Relative in Europe
Benes Singer



בענעס זינגער
אין מאגילניץ

THE MYSTERY OF AWSAJ ISRAEL OSIAS JOSHUA RAICHEL ROTHCHILD

ADMITTED	Raichel	Age 66	✓	Wid	Merchant
----------	---------	--------	---	-----	----------

Awsaj Raichel, a 66 year old widowed merchant

Going to

Son: Morris Rothchild, 27 E 30 Str., New York, N.Y.	no	out
--	----	-----

his son Morris Rothchild


STATE OF NEW YORK
Department of Health of The City of New York
BUREAU OF HEALTH
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

NAME: Mrs. Raichel
AGE: 66
SEX: Female
RACE: White
DATE OF BIRTH: 1874
PLACE OF BIRTH: Poland
OCCUPATION: Merchant
CAUSE OF DEATH: Heart
SIGNATURE: [Signature]
DATE: 1940

15 PLACE OF BURIAL
New Mt Carmel Cem
16 UNDERTAKER
Sea Gate Funeral Home

In the same plot had
Israel, Morris,
Hyman, Sarah
Rothschild

MOUNT
CARMEL
CEMETERY



HomeHours
DirectionsInterment
SearchToday's
IntermentsScheduled
Unveilings

Interment Search

Interment search allows for a comprehensive search of individuals buried at our cemetery.

While searching
If you are unsure of the name or spelling, it is best to enter as little information as possible to find the interment. Once you see the results, you can sharpen your search by entering more information. Remember, the more information you have in your search, the more limited your search will be.

First Name

Last Name

Date of Death
(Month / Year)

Section

Block

Map/Path

Society

Search

rothschild

Search Results - Showing all 64 matches.

Last Name, First Name	Location	Society	Date of Death
ROTHSCHILD, AARON	1-B-3-746-1		3/17/1955
ROTHSCHILD, AARON	2-2-B-421-2	LOT E 3/4 421 GR 1/2 2 &	8/3/1962
ROTHSCHILD, ABRAHAM	1-B-DES1-745-9		8/30/1929
ROTHSCHILD, ADRIENNE	1-E-67-R-11R-3	SONS OF BENJAMIN	3/25/1960
ROTHSCHILD, ALBERT	1-E-67-R-6R-1	SONS OF BENJAMIN	4/2/1953

CONTACT CEMETERY

- Through the cemetery you can get photos of tombstones
- Sometimes the monument makers are the ones who provide them
- Typically send a contribution of \$10 per photo
- Each one is a bit different, but contact to find out

THE MISSING PIECE



TOMBSTONE TREE



Pesach Mordechai
Dunilowicz, Belarus
great- great grandfather



Eska Raichel Zinger
Dunilowicz, Belarus



Joshua Raichel NY

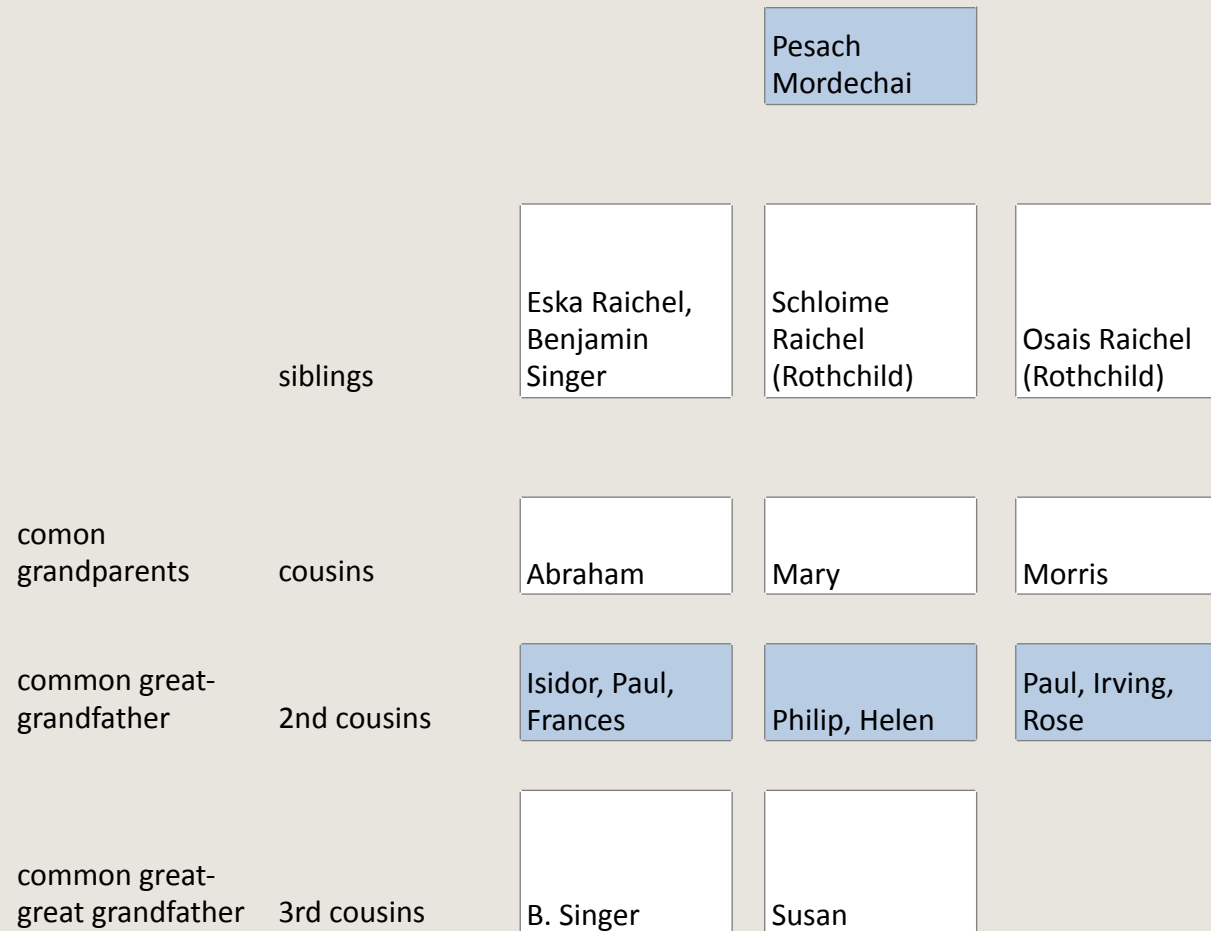


Schloime Raichel
great-grandfather's - NY

THE STORY IN THE DATA

- Immigration Date
- Naming Patterns

NAMING PATTERNS



WHAT SOURCES DID WE USE?

- Jewishgen email boards
- Tombstones- Dunilovichi
- Tombstones - US
- Burial Societies
- Death Records
- Cemetery Records
- Immigration Records
- Oral history-name change, landsmen
- Naming patterns-relationship

ALL SOURCES USED IN CASES

- Oral history
- Naming Patterns
- Americanized/Original Names
- Meaning & derivation of Jewish names
- Jewishgen email boards
- Tombstones- US and Europe
- Burial Societies
- Death Records
- Cemetery Records
- Marriage Records
- Census
- Immigration
- Polish archives
- Viewmate
- Yad Vashem
- Family History Library/Familysearch
- Ancestry.com
- JRI-Poland
- SteveMorse

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Some puzzles take years to solve
- New records go on-line, new resources arise, your knowledge grows
- You may find the stepping stone that takes you to the answer
- Sometimes the obvious isn't so obvious, it takes awhile to recognize
- Revisit past research

WHAT AND WHERE

WHAT

- Census
- Immigration
- US Vital Records
- Proximity of towns
- European vital records
- Tombstones
- Holocaust Records
- Translation

WHERE

- Ancestry, Familysearch
- Ancestry, Ellis Island, Nat'l Archives, Steve Morse
- Civil Offices, FHL, Italiangen
- Jewishgen community finder
- Polish archives, FHL, JRI
- Cemeteries, JOWBR
- Yad Vashem, ITS
- Viewmate, Steve Morse (names)

ONLINE RESOURCES

<http://www.studio409art.com/Genealogy/Articles.html>

- Handout for overview talk

- A listing of online sites with active links

- Blog posts on specific genealogy topics

- Fiction and non-fiction books on Jewish topics that may inform your genealogy search

MNJGS.org - Minnesota Jewish Genealogical Society, see Resource page

QUESTIONS?