



DISCOVER YOUR JEWISH FAMILY HISTORY

Getting Started Handout

About the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando (JGSGO) is a not for profit organization dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. Anyone may join JGSGO.

For more information visit our blog at www.jsgo.blogspot.com, "like" us at www.facebook.com/jsggreaterorlando or call us at 407-494-4230.



"Introduction to Jewish Genealogy Research"

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1. What Makes Jewish Genealogy Research Different?

- Headstone Customs
- Migrations
- Border Changes
- Multilingual
- Naming Patterns
- Spelling Variations: Surnames, Given Names, Towns
- Holocaust, Pogroms, & Inquisition
- Conscription
- Taxes
- DNA

2. Where Do I Start?

• **Create a Baseline**

GOAL: Get Organized

- Write down what you know and work backwards (use forms)
- Interview relatives (use a guide)
- Collect DNA
- Start using family tree software
- Create a research log

• **Get Connected**

GOAL: Stay Current & Learn from Others

- Subscribe to JewishGen Digest
<http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/DiscussionGroup.htm> & relevant SIG discussion groups
http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members_add.asp
- Join JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/>
- Join your local JGS www.iajgs.org
- Attend the IAJGS Annual Conference iajgs2015.org
- Subscribe to *Avotaynu*, *Eastman's Genealogy Online*, *Nu – What's New*
- Take a JewishGen Education Class <http://www.jewishgen.org/education/>

• **Conduct U.S. Research**

GOAL: Learn Original Name & Town

- Find relevant U.S. census records
- Find vital records: death, marriage, birth
- Find other records: probate, deeds, city directories, cemetery, obituaries, SSDI and applications, military records and draft registration
- Find immigration records: naturalization & ships passenger lists

• **Conduct Native Country Research**

GOAL: Add Generations by Obtaining Conscription, Tax, Census, & Vital Records from Foreign Archives



- Research the JewishGen Databases
- Research the FamilySearch catalog <https://familysearch.org/catalog-search>
- Join SIG research projects
- **Use How To Guides**
 - “Finding Records of Your Ancestors: Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors – From the United States to Europe 1850 to 1930”
http://feefhs.org/guides/Finding_Jewish.pdf
 - “Research Outline Jewish Genealogy” <http://feefhs.org/guides/Jewish.pdf>
 - “Jewish Genealogy — Twelve Steps to Getting Started”
<http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/begin.html>

3. What Might I Find?

- **U.S. Records**
 - Census
 - Death Certificate
 - Marriage Certificate
 - Birth Certificate
 - City Directory
 - Cemetery
 - Obituaries
 - Newspapers
 - SSDI & Applications
 - Probate & Court (Deeds, Wills, Trials, Arrests)
 - Draft Records
 - Naturalization
 - Ship Passenger List
- **Native Country Records**
 - Census
 - Death Certificate
 - Marriage Certificate
 - Birth Certificate
 - City Directory
 - Cemetery
 - Conscription
 - Internal Passport
 - Ship Passenger List
 - Tax
 - Holocaust Pages of Testimony
 - Liberation Records
 - Yizkor Books

4. What Are the Key Resources I Should Use?

Online Resources:

- Center for Jewish History www.cjh.org
- International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies www.iajgs.org/future-seminars.html
- Jewish Genealogical Societies www.iajgs.org/members/members.html
- US Holocaust Memorial Museum www.ushmm.org/
- International Tracing Service www.its-arolsen.org/
- Regional Special Interest Groups www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/sigs.htm



- Yad Vashem www.yadvashem.org
- The Consolidated Jewish Surname Index www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi-home.html
- Museum of Family History www.museumoffamilyhistory.com
- Routes to Routes Foundation www.rtrfoundation.org
- One Step Web Pages by Stephen P. Morse www.stevemorse.org
- Ancestry.com (library access is free) www.ancestry.com
- JewishGen www.jewishgen.org
- Family Search www.familysearch.org
- ItalianGen www.italiengen.org
- IAJGS Selected Websites of Genealogical Interest www.iajgs.org/links.html
- Sources for Sephardic Genealogy www.jewishgen.org/sefardsig/sources2.HTM
- Resources Online for Sephardic Genealogy <http://tinyurl.com/ozcwc9f>

Book Resources:

- Kurzweil, Arthur *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History*
- Rottenberg, Dan *Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy*
- Mokotoff, Gary and Blatt, Warren *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy*
- Krasner-Khait, Barbara *Discovering Your Jewish Ancestry*
- Beider, Alexander *Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants*
- Beider, Alexander *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire Revised Edition*
- Mokotoff, Gary; Sack, Sallyann Amdur; with Sharon, Alexander *Where Once We Walked*
- Mokotoff, Gary *How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust*



- Milgrom, Genie *How I Found My 15 Grandmothers*
- Malka, Jeffrey S. *Sephardic Genealogy: Second Edition*

Jewish Genealogical Societies in Florida:

- JGS Broward County <http://www.jgsbc.org>
- JGS Greater Miami <http://www.jgs-miami.org>
- JGS Greater Orlando <http://www.jgsgo.blogspot.com>
- JGS Palm Beach County <http://www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org>
- JGS Southwest Florida <http://www.jgsswf.org>
- JGS Tallahassee <http://www.jgst.org>
- JGS Tampa Bay <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgstb/>

5. Basic Approaches to Finding Ancestors

- **Immigrant Ancestors**
 - Earliest U.S. Census for immigration year and naturalization status
 - Search for naturalization index cards
 - Access ship's manifest
 - Locate/order naturalization documents
- **Israeli Ancestors**
 - Adjust for density of surname
 - Search Bezeq <http://english.b144.co.il>
 - Search the Population Registry – involve the Israeli consulate <http://embassies.gov.il/miami/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Search the Burial Society <http://genealogy.org.il/resources/burial-societies/>
- **Ancestors in the Shoah**
 - Search Yizkor Books on JewishGen
 - Search Yad Vashem by name and by birth town
 - Contact the USHMM
 - Send request to ITS

6. Family History Projects

- Museum of the Jewish People – My Family Story
- Museum of the Jewish People – Generation to Generation
- US Holocaust Memorial Museum – World Memory Project

7. Upcoming Events

- www.iajgs2015.org 35th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem 6-10 July 2015
- “From History to Family History” special lecture by author David Laskin, Ohev Shalom, Maitland FL January 12, 2015 7pm free admission open to the public.

Oral History Interview, Questions and Topics

Following is a list of questions that may be used when interviewing an older member of the family. You can, of course, alter them to suit your particular family (cultural background, etc.).

1. How old are you now?
2. When were you born?
3. Where were you born?
4. Where was your mother born?
5. Do you know what her maiden name was?
6. Do you know where your mother's mother (your grandmother on your mother's side) was born?
7. How about your mother's father? Where was your grandfather (on your mother's side) born?
8. What country did your mother's ancestors come from?
9. What part of the country did your mother's ancestors come from?
10. Where was your father born?
11. Do you know where your father's mother (your grandmother on your father's side) was born?
12. What about your father's father (your grandfather on your father's side)? Do you know where he was born or where he came from?
13. Do you remember hearing any stories about why your ancestors -- either on your father's or mother's side of the family -- came to America?
14. What kind of person was your grandmother? What did she look like? How many children did she have?
15. How many aunts and uncles do you have on your mother's side? On your father's side?
16. What were some of your grandmother's best qualities? Her worst qualities?
17. Did your grandmother have some special talents?
18. How important was your grandmother to you? Do you think she had any effect or influence on you?
19. Do you know what your grandmother died of?
20. Where is your grandmother buried?
21. What kind of work did your grandfather do?
22. Will you describe your grandfather? What did he look like? What kind of personality did he have? Did he influence you in any way? How?
23. Are you like him in any way?
24. Do you know how he died? When did he die? Where is he buried?
25. Can you tell me a story about either your grandmother or grandfather that would characterize her-- perhaps something she did, or the way she reacted to something that happened to her or some member of her family?
26. How did your grandmother and grandfather meet?
27. Were there any family heirlooms/property, etc. that have been handed down from generation to generation? What are they? Where are they now?
28. Can you think of anything else about your grandparents?
29. Can you tell me about any "black sheep" in the family?
30. Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives on either side of the family?
31. What about your parents? Did they ever tell you how they met and fell in love? Tell me that story.
32. How and when did your parents decide to get married?
33. What did your parents do together before they got married? What kinds of places did they go for entertainment, for social life?
34. When and where was your mother born? Your father?
35. Where did they grow up?
36. Did your mother or father ever tell you what their childhood was like?
37. What did your mother do before she was married? Did she work? What kind of work did she do?
38. Was your mother previously married before she married your father?
39. How many children did your mother have?
40. Can you give me the names of your mother's children?
41. What year was each of your mother's children born?
42. Who is the oldest child? The youngest?
43. Can you describe your mother to me? What did she look like?

44. If you can remember the way your mother looked, what is she doing now, in your thoughts? How do you picture her now?
45. Did your mother or father have any birthmarks or scars? Do you know how they got the scars?
46. Can you tell me a story about your mother--something she did or the way she was--that you remember most?
47. Did your mother have any hobbies? Was she artistic? Musical? Did she sew or have any other "craft" hobbies? What were her hobbies?
48. Did your mother work outside of the home? What kind of work did she do?
49. Was your mother a good cook? What was her favorite meal? What meal did she make that was your favorite? Can you cook as well as your mother?
50. Did either of your parents read to you when you were small? Did they tell you bedtime stories?
51. Was either of your parents actively involved in the community?
52. What skills or talents did you learn from either your mother or father?
53. What important lesson or lessons did either one teach you?
54. Tell me about your mother's temper? Did she ever lose her temper that you remember? Why did she lose it? How did it finally end up?
55. Did your mother or father have a good sense of humor?
56. Can you remember when your mother or father cried? Why did they cry?
57. What is the saddest event you can remember?
58. Do you think you inherited some of your mother's emotional qualities? Which ones?
59. Tell me how you are like your mother? Your father?
60. How was your mother's health, generally?
61. Was she ever severely ill or injured? Tell me about it.
62. What religion was your mother raised in? Your father?
63. What do you think was the greatest tragedy your mother or father suffered in their lives?
64. When did your mother die? Your father?
65. What cemetery are they buried in?
66. Did your mother or father ever say how they felt about death or dying? What was their attitude about it?
67. Tell me about your parents' education (grandparents, etc.). How much education did they have? Where did they go to school? Can you remember if they ever said anything about their experiences at school?
68. What kinds of dreams of the future did your mother/father have? Did any of their dreams come true?
69. Did your parents/grandparents live through any wars? Which one? Was your father or grandfather in the military during the war? Did either one ever fight in a battle? Where? Were they ever wounded? Were any of your ancestors killed in battle?
70. Tell me a story about your father, something that stands out clearly in your mind.
71. What are you thinking right now? Happy thoughts or sad?
72. Was your father or grandfather physically strong? Did either of them like to work outdoors? Did either of them have hobbies? What did they teach you, that you can remember?
73. Did your father or grandfather have lots of friends? Did they like lots of people around?
74. Describe your surroundings when you were a child? Can you picture the kitchen?
75. Tell me about your uncles or aunts. What are their names? Can you tell me what years they were born? What do you remember most about them? Does any ONE stand out in your memory? Why?
76. Who was your favorite cousin? Why?
77. Are you in touch with any of your aunts, uncles, cousins? Where do they live? How can I get in touch with them?
78. How many sisters and brothers do you have? What are their names? What years were they born? Did any of them die in childhood? Did any of them die when adults? What did they die of?
79. Did you have a favorite brother or sister? Why "favorite"?
80. What was the major news event of your life? How did you feel about it? What influence did it have on you?
81. What political party did your parents or grandparents belong to? Did they vote?
82. Do you remember your grandparents' parents (your great-grandparents)? What were their names? How old were they when they died? Where are they buried?
83. Did your parents or grandparents speak a foreign language? What language?

Five-Generation Ancestor Chart

Chart # ____

1 on this chart = ____ on chart # ____

SEE CHART #

The chart is a pedigree chart with 31 numbered boxes, each representing an individual. The boxes are arranged in a tree structure, starting from a single individual (1) and branching out to 31 individuals across five generations. Each box contains fields for birth date and place, marriage date and place, death date and place, and spouse. The chart is a pedigree chart starting from a single individual (1) and branching out to 31 individuals across five generations.

Individual 1 (Root):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 MARRIAGE DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE
 SPOUSE

Individual 2 (Child of 1):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 MARRIAGE DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 3 (Child of 1):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 4 (Child of 2):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 MARRIAGE DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 5 (Child of 2):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 6 (Child of 3):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 MARRIAGE DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 7 (Child of 3):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 8 (Child of 4):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 MARRIAGE DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 9 (Child of 4):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 10 (Child of 5):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 MARRIAGE DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 11 (Child of 5):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 12 (Child of 6):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 MARRIAGE DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 13 (Child of 6):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 14 (Child of 7):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 MARRIAGE DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 15 (Child of 7):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 16 (Child of 8):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 17 (Child of 8):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 18 (Child of 9):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 19 (Child of 9):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 20 (Child of 10):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 21 (Child of 10):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 22 (Child of 11):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 23 (Child of 11):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 24 (Child of 12):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 25 (Child of 12):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 26 (Child of 13):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 27 (Child of 13):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 28 (Child of 14):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 29 (Child of 14):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 30 (Child of 15):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Individual 31 (Child of 15):
 BIRTH DATE AND PLACE
 DEATH DATE AND PLACE

Instructions:

1. Identify the most recent common ancestor of the two individuals with the unknown relationship.
2. Determine the common ancestor's relationship to each person (for example, grandparent or great-grandparent).
3. In the topmost row of the chart, find the common ancestor's relationship to cousin number one. In the far-left column, find the common ancestor's relationship to cousin number two.
4. Trace the the row and column from step 3. The square where they meet shows the two individuals' relationship.

THE MOST RECENT COMMON ANCESTOR IS COUSIN NUMBER ONE'S ...

	parent	grandparent	great-grandparent	great-great-grandparent	third-great-grandparent	fourth-great-grandparent	fifth-great-grandparent	sixth-great-grandparent
parent	siblings	nephew or niece	grandnephew or -niece	great-grandnephew or -niece	great-great-grandnephew or -niece	third-great-grandnephew or -niece	fourth-great-grandnephew or -niece	fifth-great-grandnephew or -niece
grandparent	nephew or niece	first cousins	first cousins once removed	first cousins twice removed	first cousins three times removed	first cousins four times removed	first cousins five times removed	first cousins six times removed
great-grandparent	grandnephew or -niece	first cousins once removed	second cousins	second cousins once removed	second cousins twice removed	second cousins three times removed	second cousins four times removed	second cousins five times removed
great-great-grandparent	great-grandnephew or -niece	first cousins twice removed	second cousins once removed	third cousins	third cousins once removed	third cousins twice removed	third cousins three times removed	third cousins four times removed
third-great-grandparent	great-great-grandnephew or -niece	first cousins three times removed	second cousins twice removed	third cousins once removed	fourth cousins	fourth cousins once removed	fourth cousins twice removed	fourth cousins three times removed
fourth-great-grandparent	third-great-grandnephew or -niece	first cousins four times removed	second cousins three times removed	third cousins twice removed	fourth cousins once removed	fifth cousins	fifth cousins once removed	fifth cousins twice removed
fifth-great-grandparent	fourth-great-grandnephew or -niece	first cousins five times removed	second cousins four times removed	third cousins three times removed	fourth cousins twice removed	fifth cousins once removed	sixth cousins	sixth cousins once removed
sixth-great-grandparent	fifth-great-grandnephew or -niece	first cousins six times removed	second cousins five times removed	third cousins four times removed	fourth cousins three times removed	fifth cousins twice removed	sixth cousins once removed	seventh cousins

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

2015 Membership Application and Renewal Form



“JGSGO research bridges the gap to our ancestry and family tree.”

APPLICANT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT):			
CHECK ONE:	New Member <input type="checkbox"/>	Renewing Member <input type="checkbox"/>	Date:
Mr. Mrs. Ms. Other	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Mr. Mrs. Ms. Other	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Street Address			Apt. #
City		State	Zip
Phones, home/cell/work		E-mail Address	
NORTHERN ADDRESS (for part-time FL residents):			
Street Address			Apt. #
City		State	Zip
Date going north:		Date returning south:	

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (PLEASE SELECT ONE. DONATION IS OPTIONAL.):			
NOTE: dues increased by \$10; if you do 5 hours of JGSGO work, you avoid the extra \$10			
Lifetime	You are a permanent member who really helps pay our bills	\$250	
Individual	General membership.	\$ 35	
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<p>Return this form with your CHECK payable to JGSGO. Mail to: JGSGO, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 941332, Maitland, FL 32794 Membership Questions? Email V.P. Membership: jgsgo.membership@gmail.com</p>			

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- Attend 10 meetings per year featuring quality speakers on interesting and informative subjects for both beginning and experienced genealogists.
- USB drive with many genealogy tools & space for your files
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- Share the joys, vicissitudes and thrills of "finding" your links to the past.

“The sky is the limit when you join in and take an active role.”

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