



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
37<sup>th</sup> IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

# JEWISH GENEALOGY

Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland

# Cleveland

28 JULY-2 AUGUST 2019 | CLEVELAND, OHIO | IAJGS2019



# IAJGS2019 - Cleveland

- **Program**

- 205 presentations
- 7 sessions for educators
- 13 meetings of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and luncheons
- 32 meetings of Birds of a Feather (BOFs) and research Groups
- 9 Computer workshops

- **150 presenters for all of program**

- **Attendees**

- 850
- from 16 countries in addition to the USA
- 36 states

# IAJGS2019 - Cleveland

- Also
  - Handouts for most presentations
  - Databases in Resource Room
  - Volunteer translators
  - Mentoring
  - Exhibitors
    - MyHeritage
    - Ancestry
    - Family Tree DNA
    - Family Tree Maker
    - JewishGen

# Categories of Presentations

- Archives and Repositories
- Ashkenazi Research
- Cemetery research
- DNA Research and Genetics
- Ethical and legal considerations
- Genealogy and Jewish History related to WWI
- Holocaust Research
- Genealogy and Jewish History related to WWII
- Immigration and migration over the ages
- Jewish Given names and surnames research
- Jewish History and Culture
- Methodology and Mechanics
- Preserving the Jewish past
- Sephardi Research
- Telling your family story
- Using Technology for Research

[https://www.iajgs2019.org/program\\_schedule.cfm](https://www.iajgs2019.org/program_schedule.cfm)

# Industrial Removal Office (IRO)

- The Industrial Removal Office was created in 1901 as part of the Jewish Agricultural Society to assimilate immigrants into American Society, both economically and culturally. It worked to employ all Jewish immigrants.
- The IRO sent immigrants to all **48 contiguous states** (some before they were states), the District of Columbia, across Canada, and briefly, Mexico. Overall, nearly 79,000 immigrants voluntarily relocated through the program from 1901-1922, with the core years prior to World War I.

# IRO Records

The collection contains administrative and financial records, immigrants' removal records, and correspondence.

- The names entered into the IRO ledgers are available in this index: <https://genealogy.cjh.org/familycollections.php>.

To use the CJH index for the IRO records, select "Industrial Removal Office Records" from under "Collection to Search."

- American Jewish Historical Society – Industrial Removal Office Finding Aid
  - How to use finding aids (general):  
<http://www.ajhs.org/using-finding-aids>
  - Link to IRO Finding Aid (specific):  
<http://digifindingaids.cjh.org/?pID=109188>

# Union Civil War Pension Records

- There are two main indexes for locating and requesting Civil War Pension Records, with similar information, but some differences: on [fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) and [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).
- Access to both sites is free on any computer at any NARA facility.
- Fold3.com is frequently free on Memorial Day or Veteran's Day, as are these records on Ancestry.
  - Record Group T289 (available on [fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com))
  - Record Group T288 (available on [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com))



# Finding Union Civil War Pension Records

- Establish the pension record's location
  - NARA (Washington, DC): Most pensions will be located on site at the National Archives in Washington, DC on Pennsylvania Avenue.
  - NARA (St. Louis, MO): Some pensions that include a C or XC number on their index will be located on site at the National Archives in St. Louis (see FOIA requests below) and must be requested by mail, online, or in person.
  - Online (fold3.com): Widow's certificates with a number less than 175,000 are digitized and available to view on [fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com)
- Request the pension record from NARA (Washington, DC) or St. Louis. – On line.

# Resources on Holocaust – newly or more easily available

- Archives of Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
- Arolsen Archives

# Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

- JDC Established in 1914
- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) (“the Joint”) - collective of three existing religious and secular Jewish organizations: the American Jewish Relief Committee, the Central Committee for the Relief of Jews Suffering Through the War, and People's Relief Committee.
- Dedicated to rescue and relief for Jews in need and to reconstruction and renewal of Jewish communities overseas
- Operates in over 70 countries worldwide

# JDC Archives

- **Text collections** include files on geographical areas and localities, *landsmanschaften*, loan *kassas* (credit cooperatives), internment camps, DP centers, and more at <http://search.archives.jdc.org>
- **Names Indexing Project** with over 500,000 names in the database (<http://names.jdc.org>).
- **Photo collection** with 100,000 images (<http://search.archives.jdc.org> [select Advanced Search])
- **Shoah-Era Lists and Index Cards** (indexed in Names database) - lists of refugees receiving assistance, ship passenger lists, recipients of food parcels and CARE packages, and JDC Emigration Service Index Cards and departure lists. (directory of documents listed under "Lists in the Names Index" (<https://archives.jdc.org/our-collections/names-index/lists-in-the-names-index/>)) in the section "Lists from the Nazi Period and Its Aftermath."

# Arolsen Archives- International Center on Nazi Persecution - formerly known as the International Tracing Service (ITS)

- World's most comprehensive archive on the victims and survivors of National Socialism
- The International Commission (IC) oversees the work of the Arolsen Archives on behalf of former victims of persecution - government representatives of eleven member states
- The [Berlin Treaties](#) of 2011 provides the legal basis for the Arolsen Archives and regularizes the funding of the Arolsen Archives by the Federal Government of Germany Commissioner for Culture and the Media.
- Their collection has information on about 17.5 million people and belongs to the UNESCO's Memory of the World.
- Working for some time on digitizing records to make them available to public – can search on their website at <https://arolsen-archives.org/en/search-explore/search-online-archive/>

# Accessing Records

- New partnership with Ancestry -  
<https://www.ancestry.com/cs/alwaysremember>
  - Free to all, no subscription required
  - For members with trees on MyHeritage, contents now turning up as hints

# Two major sets of records

- **Passenger Lists - 1946–1971**

This collection consists of passenger lists of immigrants leaving Germany and other European ports and airports. The majority of the immigrants listed are displaced persons - Holocaust survivors, former concentration camp inmates and Nazi forced laborers, as well as refugees from Central and Eastern European countries and some non-European countries. Many of the immigrants listed in the collection fall outside the ITS (International Tracing Service) mandate.

- **Lists of Those Persecuted 1939–1947**

Registers of people living in Germany who were persecuted by public institutions and corporations. Some of these records include details on those who died, including burial information. The documents were assembled according to the Zones of Occupation - American, British, French and Soviet - by the Allied forces within Germany. Areas outside Germany were also recorded. Only records of American zone available today.

# Unindexed Records and How to Find Them

- Sites with many Digital Records not indexed:
- Either waiting for indexing, or copyright/ownership barriers to indexing
- Not accessible through Search page
- Accessible through catalog
- **Sites**
  - FamilySearch has largest collection
  - Ancestry
  - FindMyPast



# Example of Navigating the Catalog

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/search/>

*Example - Karolin (Pinsk) Jewish Metrical books, 1860-1872*

Film/Digital Notes (This family history center has 1 of 1 films/fiche.)					
Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
Volume 917-1/2 Births 1860-1872	Family History Library	International Film	1794309 Item 4	4388730	

## Film

- This is a digitized version of the microfilm with the old film number 1794309
- The Karolin Metrical books are Item 4 on this microfilm. There can be multiple items on one microfilm and they can be from different collections.

## DGS

- DGS are Digital Filming Numbers. The DGS # for this microfilm is 4388730

## Format symbols - apply to catalog and all other records found



This collection can be viewed from home



This collection is available online but can only be viewed at a Family History Center. Find the closest Family History Center: <https://www.familysearch.org/locations/>.



This collection has not yet been digitized and is only available for viewing at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. All microfilms will eventually be digitized.

# Tip: Combine the use of two sources – one for the index and one for the records

If you find an index record for a document, always see if a digitized copy of the record is available on another site. Below are just a few examples:

## **JewishGen**

JewishGen and its associated Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have indexed many FamilySearch microfilms. The index record will usually provide the Microfilm #, Item # and Image #.

## **Cuyahoga County, Ohio Marriage Records**

Index – *Ancestry* - Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Marriage Records and Indexes, 1810-1973

Records – *FamilySearch* - Ohio, Cuyahoga County, marriage records, 1942-1973

## **Industrial Removal Office**

Information on the records - <http://digifindingaids.cjh.org/?pID=109188>

Index – Center for Jewish History - <https://genealogy.cjh.org/family-collections>

Records – *Ancestry* - U.S., Industrial Removal Office Records, 1899-1922 – access through catalog