Q. How can I find documents related to the holocaust and/or my relative’s interview/testimonial about their experiences during the holocaust?

* Pages of Testimony - [YadVashem.org](about:blank)
* USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive - [sfi.usc.edu](about:blank)
* International Red Cross Tracing Service - [ushmm.org](about:blank) ,

[https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/search/](about:blank)

* JewishGen - Holocaust Database [https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/](about:blank)
* Yizkor Books –

[https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Yizkor/Names/](about:blank)

* *March of the Living ~ Our Stories* by Jan Berlfein Burns (available on Amazon)
* The Galitzianer Volume 28 Number 1 March 2021 *Finding Family Serendipitously*by Jan Berlfein Burns

Q. My relatives came from Starodub, Russia. Are there any “old country” records for them.?

* Alex Krakovsky is scanning and posting Ukraine records, use Chrome browser
  + [https://uk.wikisource.org/wiki/Архів:єврейське\_містечко](about:blank)

Or in other browsers

* + https://uk-wikisource-org.translate.goog/wiki/Архів:Єврейське\_містечко?\_x\_tr\_sl=auto&\_x\_tr\_tl=en&\_x\_tr\_hl=enhttps://uk-wikisource-org.translate.goog/wiki/Архів:Єврейське\_містечко?\_x\_tr\_sl=auto&\_x\_tr\_tl=en&\_x\_tr\_hl=en
* Family History Library has “Russian” records, search catalog for town or district. Use chrome browser.
  + [https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog](about:blank)

Lara Diamond has “how to” blog

* + [https://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com/2018/06/accessing-ukrainian-and-other-records.html](about:blank)
* Russian Language Jewish Genealogy Discussion group and databases
  + Lara Diamond has “how to” blog [https://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com/2021/10/finding-family-j-roots-google-combined.html](about:blank)
* Marilyn Robinson Blog

[http://yourjewishgem.blogspot.com](about:blank)

* Routes to Roots Foundation

[https://www.rtrfoundation.org/index.shtml](about:blank)

Q. I can’t read Cyrillic, now what

* Google translate
* Steve Morse – Converting Print to Cursive

https://stevemorse.org/russian/cyrprintcurs.html?font=print

Q. My relatives came from Latvia, are there any Latvian resources?

* [https://www.jewishgen.org/new/latvia-vital-records/](about:blank)
* [http://usdine.free.fr/thexrigaxvitalxrecords.html#Daugavpils](about:blank#Daugavpils)
* Excellent info but hard site to navigate [http://names.lu.lv/en.html](about:blank)
* FamilySearch Library Latvian Jewish Records [https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/3164470?availability=Family%20History%20](about:blank)

Q. How do I find my relatives “old country” names to search for arrival records and old country records?

* Given Names database

[https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/GivenNames/](about:blank)

Billiongraves.com

Findagrave.com

Jewishdata.com

https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/

* Surnames
  + Talk to oldest family members
  + Naturalization record
  + Jewish Gen All country database
    - Search phonetic and soundex for alternate spellings so you will recognize them when you see them on other records
  + Earliest records – names evolve over time
  + Pronunciation and Spelling changes over time
    - Reisz →Reese or Rice
    - Use Google translate to find Pronunciation
* Search Strategies
  + Mis-transcribed because of handwriting
    - K / R, J / I, G / S, F/ T



* + Search “Exact, Sounds Like, Similar”, instead of just Exact
  + Use wildcard in search instead of vowels
    - K?d\* instead of Kadish
    - \*d?sh instead of Kadish
  + Use range of years instead of exact
  + On ships manifest, search for wife, before husband
    - Wife traveling with children easier to recognize
    - Going to husband
  + England and Hamburg passenger list
    - Year of departure, not arrival
    - If you search ancestry passenger lists with year of arrival it will not show the Hamburg or England departure records.
  + Search at all sites, they have different databases and different indexes / transcriptions
    - Ancestry.com ($),
    - FamilySearch.org,
    - MyHeritage.com ($) **Free to JGSLA Members**

Q. How do I find my relatives place of birth?

* Widen search to siblings, children, spouse records.
* Census records
* WWI & WWII draft registrations, other military records
* Naturalizations
* Ships records
* Social Security application [https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-711.pdf](about:blank)

Q. Can you recommend an In Country researcher?

* [https://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Researchers.htm](about:blank)
* Hungary:  Karesz Vandor

[info@hungarianroots.com](about:blank)

[https://www.hungarianroots.com](about:blank)

[https://www.facebook.com/karesz.vandorx](about:blank)

* Romania: Dan Jurca

[https://www.facebook.com/jurca.dan](about:blank)

[dan\_j777@yahoo.com](about:blank)

* Latvia & Baltic Countries: Aleksandrs Feigmanis

[aleksgen@balticgen.com](about:blank)

[https://www.balticgen.com](about:blank)

* Ukraine: Alex Dunai

[aldunai@gmail.com](about:blank)

[aldunai@yahoo.com](about:blank)

[https://www.facebook.com/alexander.dunai](about:blank)

* Ukraine: Alex Denysenko (Den)

[tuagtuag@gmail.com](about:blank)

[https://www.facebook.com/alex.den.7](about:blank)

Q. What if I need more help?

* JGSLA
  + ask@JGSLA.org
  + [mentors@jgsla.org](about:blank)
  + [Bobby@jgsla.org](about:blank)
* Facebook Groups

There is a Facebook group for just about any town or topic you can think of and people in those groups are very helpful

* + [https://www.facebook.com/groups/jgsla](about:blank)
  + [https://www.facebook.com/groups/tracingthetribe](about:blank)
  + [https://www.facebook.com/groups/JewishGenealogyPortal](about:blank)
  + [https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogytranslation](about:blank)