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
* USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive - sfi.usc.edu
* International Red Cross Tracing Service - ushmm.org ,

https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/search/

* JewishGen - Holocaust Database https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/
* Yizkor Books –

https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Yizkor/Names/

* *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

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

Lara Diamond has “how to” blog

* + https://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com/2018/06/accessing-ukrainian-and-other-records.html
* 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
* Marilyn Robinson Blog

http://yourjewishgem.blogspot.com

* Routes to Roots Foundation

https://www.rtrfoundation.org/index.shtml

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/
* http://usdine.free.fr/thexrigaxvitalxrecords.html#Daugavpils
* Excellent info but hard site to navigate http://names.lu.lv/en.html
* FamilySearch Library Latvian Jewish Records https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/3164470?availability=Family%20History%20

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/

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

Q. Can you recommend an In Country researcher?

* https://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Researchers.htm
* Hungary:  Karesz Vandor

info@hungarianroots.com

https://www.hungarianroots.com

https://www.facebook.com/karesz.vandorx

* Romania: Dan Jurca

https://www.facebook.com/jurca.dan

dan\_j777@yahoo.com

* Latvia & Baltic Countries: Aleksandrs Feigmanis

aleksgen@balticgen.com

https://www.balticgen.com

* Ukraine: Alex Dunai

aldunai@gmail.com

aldunai@yahoo.com

https://www.facebook.com/alexander.dunai

* Ukraine: Alex Denysenko (Den)

tuagtuag@gmail.com

https://www.facebook.com/alex.den.7

Q. What if I need more help?

* JGSLA
	+ ask@JGSLA.org
	+ mentors@jgsla.org
	+ Bobby@jgsla.org
* 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
	+ https://www.facebook.com/groups/tracingthetribe
	+ https://www.facebook.com/groups/JewishGenealogyPortal
	+ https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogytranslation