



THE RESEARCHER

“The JGSTB 2012 Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research: A Foundation for Beginners and an Update for Experienced Researchers”

Part two of the two-part Seminar presented by
The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay (JGSTB)
2:00 PM – Sunday, March 11, 2012

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay concludes a two-session seminar entitled: “The JGSTB 2012 Guide to Jewish Genealogy Research: A Foundation for Beginners and an Update for Experienced Researchers” on March 11, 2012 at 2:00 PM at Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida. Registration will be held at 1:30 PM on both dates. A seminar booklet summarizing all the material to be presented will be provided.

This seminar will focus on developing the proper approaches and applying the necessary tools, techniques and short cuts to most effectively connect you with your ancestors in the old country. Internet resources as well as local non-internet resources will be emphasized to enable the beginner to discover his or her family history as well as facilitate the experienced researcher in resolving “brick wall” problems. This seminar is an extensive revision of the presentation given two years ago; new genealogical resources and new databases will be demonstrated and all Internet links and sites have been updated.

Dr. Emil H. Isaacson will lead the seminar. Dr. Isaacson has 28 years experience in genealogy and has researched his ancestral roots back seven generations to the late 1700’s in Europe. He will share his successful and sometimes unsuccessful techniques.

The course is free to current paid-up members of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay. A one-year family membership will be included in the \$25 course fee for non-members. An additional \$10.00 fee will be charged for seminar materials to defray printing costs, but only one booklet will be needed per couple or family. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited to attend.

For further information on the organization, or for directions to the meeting, call Sally Israel at 727-343-1652.

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A note from Bill Israel:

This documentary was originally prepared by Susan Farley with my assistance a few years ago, and Susan made her inaugural presentation of it at the JGSTB. She has since refined it, added to it, and made a quite professional documentary from it that she presents at various venues around the area, and I think she also presented it in Germany. The Seminole Library is hosting a presentation in April per the following press release. It is an interesting story, and Susan applied a disciplined genealogical research approach to thoroughly document it. I knew her late father Manfred Greenbaum who was a holocaust survivor and Susan's motivation for devoting herself to telling this story.

Seminole Community Library
At St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus
9200 - 113th Street N.
Seminole, FL 33772

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 2/21/12
CONTACT: Michael Bryan
PHONE: 727-394-6923
EMAIL: mbryan@myseminole.com

Holocaust Documentary at Library

SEMINOLE, FL - Local researcher Susan Farley will present a photographic and audio documentary on the life of Holocaust survivor Manfred Greenbaum and his family on Thursday, April 26, at 2:00 pm, in the program rooms at Seminole Community Library at St. Petersburg College. Greenbaum's survival of Nazi brutalities is a testament of courage, even in the face of seeming hopelessness and abandonment.

The library is located on the Seminole Campus of St. Petersburg College, 9200 - 113th Street N., Seminole, Florida 33772. Please call 727-394-6923 for more information.

Michael Bryan, Library Director
Seminole Community Library
At St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus
9200 - 113th Street N.
Seminole, FL 33772
Tel 727-394-6923
Fax 727-394-6925
mbryan@myseminole.com
www.spcollege.edu/sci

JGSTB welcomes new members:
Carol Kershbaum
Fran Steadman
Carol & Robert Stoller

Coming Soon! March 31, 2012

**2nd Annual Suncoast Genealogy Society Fair
Palm Harbor Library, 2330 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor, FL**

1:00-4:00 PM

Registration Starts at 12:30 PM

Speaker - Debbe Hagner

“Tracing Your Ancestors Using United States Religious Records”

Absolutely Free of Charge. Seating limited to 100 registrees.

-----CUT HERE-----

Number of Requested Seats: _____ (no assigned seats)

Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____@_____

Email form by March 19th to: John8530@aol.com

**Or Mail Request before March 19th to:
John Mangan, 809 Hammock Pine Blvd, Clearwater, FL 33761**

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Five Assumptions to Avoid

Courtesy of Ancestry.com

“I had assumed...” Coming to that simple realization is often the key to opening closed doors in our family history. Assumptions can creep into our research without our even realizing it and can form stumbling blocks that bring our research to a screeching halt. Here are five to beware.

Assuming Relationships

Beginning in 1880, the U.S. Censuses began asking for the relationship to the head of household. Prior to that though it's easy to look at an entry and assume that it's your typical father, mother, and children situation. But is that twenty-something woman really the mother of all the children? Could she be the sister of the head of the household, stepping in to help out with the household after the death of the mother? Are all of the children from the same marriage, or is that first son a step-child from a previous marriage? Or perhaps an orphaned niece or nephew has come to live with the family? To make sure you have a clear picture of the family structure, wherever the relationship isn't clearly stated in records, seek out vital records and other proof that the family is indeed as it appears.

Assuming Religion

We may also be tempted to think of our ancestors as having the same religious affiliation that we do, but we need to remember that people may have converted for any number of reasons. Residents of sparsely populated areas may have attended the only church that was within a reasonable distance, regardless of denomination. Religious affiliation may have changed with a marriage between two people of different religious backgrounds. They may even have changed to avoid persecution and prejudice. Whatever the reason, it is important to keep an open mind when searching for the religious records of our families.

Assuming the Family Legend Is True

Many a family historian has been led on a wild goose chase because of a family story that was just that—a story. While these tales may contain clues and some truth, they could also have been embellished, sometimes to the point of becoming more of a fairy tale. Pick apart the information in the story and analyze it separately. Determine which aspects are provable and seek out documentation to back up the story. Does it make sense in the context of other facts you have uncovered or in the context of the place and time in which they lived? Also think about the source of the story. Is it someone who would have had first-hand knowledge of the event or someone generations removed who heard about it from a third party?

Our Name Was Always Spelled...

In this day and age, where we all carry identification in the form of a driver's license or state I.D. card, it's hard to imagine that our ancestor may have spelled his name radically different than the family surname we recognize today, but often we'll find that surnames have changed over the years—sometimes with minor changes, sometimes drastically. My great-grandfather arbitrarily changed his surname completely in order to find work in the early 20th century and kept the alternate name for more than a decade before reverting to his original Polish name. For our forebears who couldn't read or write, how their last name was spelled just wasn't a priority in their life. You may encounter phonetic variations, Anglicized versions of ethnic names, and any number of reasons for the variants. So keep an open mind to these variant spellings when you're searching for your ancestors. For more tips on finding ancestors with “misspelled” names, see the article in the Ancestry.com Learning Center.

Assuming Disappearing Ancestors Died

When an ancestor disappears from the census records or city directories in which we've been tracking him or her, it's common to jump to the conclusion that that person had died, especially if we're looking at elderly relatives. Before you resign your relative to an early grave, seek out any death-related records and if you can't find reference to a death, make sure he or she didn't move in with another family member or to an institution of some sort. Been there, done that. When a 96-year-old great-great-grandmother didn't appear in the 1870 census, I assumed she had died between 1860 and 1870. Turns out she had died in 1873. When I looked again, I found her in the almshouse in 1870.

When You Can't Find the Vital Record...

Courtesy of Ancestry.com

Looking for a birth, marriage, or death record but coming up short? Here are some places – and techniques – you can turn to for answers when the usual sources don't pan out.

Birth Dates

While it's important to remember that these are not primary sources for birth information, both marriage and death records often include birth dates and places.

U.S. federal censuses records for the years 1850–1930 include ages for everyone in the household. With a little math, this will help you close in on a birth year. Enumerators used fractions to record ages for people born within the census year (e.g., 1 month = 1/12, 2 months = 2/12, etc.). The 1900 census asked for the month and year of birth, as well as ages.

Military records will often include birth information for the person who served, and occasionally you'll also find birth details for family members. World War I Draft Records and the World War II "Old Man's Draft" are two good examples of military records that include birth dates.

Marriage Dates

Since churches began recording marriages before counties and states did, they are an obvious choice as an alternative to a civil marriage record. Determine what churches were around at the time you think your ancestors married; then search those closest to where your ancestor lived or that shared an ethnic affiliation with your relatives. (You may find reference to church affiliations in death and other records.) Once you have determined what church your ancestor attended, a call to the church may be all it takes to find where the records are located, but if the church no longer exists, it may take a little digging. Many denominations have their own archives, while records for others may be held at a local or state historical society. And don't overlook the possibility that a local group has made the records available online. Plugging the church name into a search engine could bring you an unexpected surprise. Don't forget to search collections like the new Pennsylvania, Church and Town Records, 1708–1985, which include records from many Pennsylvania congregations.

Local newspapers may have run notices of your ancestor's engagement or marriage. Look for tidbits in social columns, as well as in sections that regularly listed marriage announcements and engagements. You can search historical newspapers on Ancestry.com. Also look for notices of anniversaries, especially memorable ones like 25th and 50th, in local newspapers. You may find details about the original marriage, including the date and names of witnesses, or a guest list of anniversary party attendees that will likely include other family members.

When marriage records can't be found, estimate the marriage date based on the age of the first child (subtract a year, just to be safe). As with any estimation you include in your research, be sure to note it as such. And bear in mind that there are a number of factors capable of throwing this estimate off.

Death Records

New York, Death Newspaper Extracts, 1801–1890 (Barber Collection), is just one example of a collection that can be invaluable for finding information about New Yorkers, people who died in New York while visiting, or even individuals who did not live in New York but whose relatives did.

An obvious alternative to a death certificate can be found at the cemetery, whether on a tombstone or in the records of the cemetery sexton. Millions of cemetery records have been transcribed and indexed by genealogical societies. Find-a-Grave.com includes photographs of several million graves with death and other information. If your ancestor lived in a city, city directories can be especially useful. When someone who has been listed in a directory for several consecutive years suddenly disappears, it might be that he or she has passed away. When a man died, his wife may be listed in subsequent years as "widow" or "widow of..." Ancestry.com has directories for many cities and years.

Meet the Members

William E. (Bill) Israel is a genealogist with thirty-two years experience in researching his Jewish roots. He has traced ten generations of his family lines over a period of 230 years, and he has documented approximately 3,000 relatives. Bill has not only been his family's historian, but he has managed or assisted in managing 15 Israel family reunions since they began in 1980, plus 7 family reunion for his wife's family since they began in 1989.



Bill was a founding member (in 1999) of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay (JGSTB), and he is a past president and current board member of that organization. He has participated in numerous International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) annual conferences as a delegate and as a speaker, and he served on the Board of Directors of the IAJGS from 2007-2010. He currently serves on the Board of the LitvakSIG (Lithuanian Jewish Special Interest Group). Bill has been a speaker at Jewish genealogy conferences, genealogical societies, and for a variety of Jewish organizations. He established and taught beginners' classes in Jewish Genealogy for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay, and he was the founding editor of that society's newsletter.

Bill and his wife and daughter made their first genealogical trip to Eastern Europe in 1993 to "connect" with their roots, and they visited every one of their ancestral towns in Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus. They revisited most of these towns again in 2006 on a genealogical tour of Latvia and Lithuania, and they were able to obtain numerous family records from the national and regional archives there. Bill's family research in this country, in Israel and in Eastern Europe has taken him into courthouses, libraries, cemeteries, to national and regional archives and to the LDS Family History Center at Salt Lake City on multiple occasions. He is experienced in using computers and the Internet for family research, and his family tree is published in "The Family Tree of the Jewish People" as well as at Ancestry.com.

Bill is a North Carolina native, a Georgia Tech graduate, a retired Honeywell executive, and a 44-year resident of St. Petersburg, Florida. He is a member of Temple Beth-El in St. Petersburg, and he has served on that temple's Board and as the President of its Brotherhood. He was a founding Vice President of Temple Hillel in Pinellas County, Florida. Bill served as Chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Pinellas County Jewish Federation; he was a founding officer of the Florida West Coast Technion Chapter, and he has served as the Vice President and the Treasurer of Gulfcoast Jewish Family & Community Services where he is that organization's longest serving board member with 33 years of continuous service.

He is married, and Bill and his wife Sally have one daughter, Sharon, who is an Intellectual Property attorney in Houston, Texas specializing in patent litigation. Besides genealogy his interests include computers and computerized investing, reading, writing, publishing, travel, organization work, civic activity in local government affairs, and he is a collector (and player) of vintage ukuleles.

Upcoming Meetings of Our Sister Societies

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

meets at 1 PM at the Kobernick House 1951 N. Honore Ave in Sarasota.

- March 18, 2012: "Write Your Family History NOW!" with Mike Karsen
April 15, 2012: "Bintel Briefs" with Alice Cotman, Karen Gary, Elyse Diamond, Rosalie Leon, And Martha Kesler
May 20, 2012: "Delta Jews of Mississippi" with Rabbi Allan Schwartzman

Suncoast Genealogy Society, Inc.

meets the fourth Saturday of the month at 2 PM at the Palm Harbor Library 2330 Nebraska Ave. in Palm Harbor.

- March 31, 2012 1—4:30 Genealogy Fair with Debbe Hagner
April 28, 2012 1-1:45 Roots Magic User Group Meeting
April 28, 2012 2-4:30 SGS Officer Installation and Party
May 26, 2012 1-1:45 Roots Magic User Group Meeting
May 26, 2012 2:00 Debra Fleming "Using Google Books & More"

FREE Genealogy Forms

The following are all available for downloading from Ancestry.com:
Ancestral Chart, Research Calendar, Research Extract, Correspondence Record,
Family Group Sheet, Source Summary, US Census Forms, UK Census Forms
Canadian Census Forms

Log on to www.Ancestry.com

Click on the box at the top of the page for Learning Center

In the drop down menu, click on First Steps

On the right side of the page, click on Start With Paper and Pencil

Choose the form you want from the list and download it.

Websites to Explore

www.genealogyintime.com This interesting website has articles to read plus a list of the Top 100 Most Popular Genealogy Websites. It is worth a visit just to print out that list! You can also sign up for their newsletter from the website.

www.geneabloggers.com You can read the blogs at this site. There are over 2,000 bloggers listed on the website posting in dozens of categories. Three to four hundred blog posts are written each day.

Officers of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

<u>President:</u> Clint Elbow	skyhawk54058@gmail.com	727 692-5334
<u>1st Vice President:</u> Barbara Smith	bsmith831@aol.com	727 585-6064
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Plus the Officers and Committee Chairs

Committee Chairs:

Community Representative: Bill Israel	wisrael.im56@gtalumni.org	727 343-1652
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Membership: Richard Adelson	radelson2@verizon.net	727 785-5706
Newsletter Editor: Natalie Armitage	nrarmitage@centurylink.net	352 341-5188
Programs: open		
Publicity: Sally Israel	sisrael@tampabay.rr.com	727 343-1652
Webmaster: Clint Elbow	skyhawk54058@gmail.com	727 692-5334

Food Bank Request

When you arrive for meetings you may have noticed the bags and boxes of canned and non-perishable food in the hallway just past the reception desk. The Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services operates a food bank for the benefit of those in need and our donations help make it possible for them to carry out their mission. If you are able to bring canned or non-perishable food to donate, it will be greatly appreciated. Every little bit helps!

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services provides JGSTB, at no cost, a meeting facility, a mail room, Internet service, storage for our library and hospitality supplies and use of its audio-visual and computer equipment. The food donations requested are a small token of appreciation for all of that.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual dues - \$25 - make check payable to *JGSTB*

Mail check and application form to:
Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay
c/o Treasurer
14041 Icot Blvd.
Clearwater, FL 33760

DATE OF APPLICATION: _____

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (street, city, zip): _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____

BUSINESS TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

APPLICANT'S FAMILY NAMES AND LOCATIONS BEING RESEARCHED

SURNAME	TOWN	COUNTRY

DUES PAYMENT RECEIVED: Date _____ Amount _____

Payment in (cash or check #) _____

Received by _____

For further information contact Clint Elbow, President:

(727) 692-5334

jgstampabay@gmail.com

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TAMPA BAY

We're on the web!

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgstb/>

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month, except for the months of July and August. Meetings are held at the Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida. Library access and pre-meeting social begins at 1:30 PM; the meeting begins at 2:00 PM.

JGSTB was founded in 1999 by a group of individuals in the greater Tampa Bay area who were interested in learning how to research their Jewish family roots. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited to attend our meetings. Beginners as well as experienced researchers are welcome. An extensive library of books, maps, videos, CDs, periodicals and other materials on Jewish genealogy, as well as genealogy in general, is available for use by all members. Members may check out items to take home. A listing of the library contents can be viewed on our website.

For further information on the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay or directions to the meeting, call Sally Israel at 727 343-1652.

The JGSTB is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)—an independent non-profit umbrella organization coordinating the activities and annual conference of more than 75 International and local Jewish Genealogical societies around the world.

You can contact us by email at: jgstampabay@gmail.com

The newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay (JGSTB)

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Web page: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgstb/>

Published quarterly in March, June, September and December

Permission to reprint articles is granted providing credit is given to the author and JGSTB