SIG Search

The Belarus SIG Databases are a work in progress

Every SIG has as its goal the acquisition of records, the translation of existing LDS microfilms, archival records, holocaust lists and all material, both statistical and biographical, that gives insight into the lives of our ancestors.

Search for Your Ancestors is a search through the JewishGen All Belarus Database (ABD). Many **Alternate Databases** have been uploaded to the Belarus SIG website as secondary sources.

Search for Your Ancestors⬚	Alternate Search Links

Skill Building Exercise #25: A Sophisticated Search of the JG All Belarus Database

➡️ Open Search for Ancestors. Start a search to find a family that lived in two towns.

➡️ Use the town of **Svir** and the town of **Myadel** (Miadelai)

➡️ **Leave Surname and Region boxes empty**

➡️ Examine this result from the 1897 Lithuania All Russian Census. Monas Khodas, head of Household, born in Postavy left to marry Rokha in Svir where they had a son Itsek. They are all Registered in Medelia.

Volost ——— District ——— Gubernia	Address ——— Landowner	Name				Born ——— Registered ——— Living	Source
Michaliskes ——— Michaliskes ——— Vilna ——— Vilna	- ——— Khodas	KHODAS, Monas	46	Itsek	head of household ——— Tavern-owner	Postavy ——— Medeliai ——— Michaliskes	LVIA 768 / 1 / 1 thru 8 ⬅️ Born Postavy
		KHODAS, Rokha	30	Vulf	wife ——— -	Svir ——— Medeliai ——— Michaliskes	⬅️ Born Svir
		KHODAS, Itsek	5	Monas	son ——— -	Svir ——— Medeliai ——— Michaliskes	⬅️ Married Living in Svir

Skill Building Exercise #26: A Sophisticated Search using 2 Surnames

➡ Enter the surname ("sounds like") **Gordon**

➡ Enter the surname ("sounds like") **Chodash**

➡ When the results return, choose **Revision Lists, List 24 records**

➡ Notice that these results are from the town of Myadel. This is the town where both surnames originate and most families, Gordon and Chodash, intermarried through generations starting in 1765. The Kobylnik-Myadel Association in Israel does not bother with genealogical trees knowing that all Gordon-Chodash are cousins from one generation to another.

Skill Building Exercise #27: Reading a Revision List

In the result for Berko son of Shimshel and his wife Matlia daughter of Josel

➡ How do I know what year the Revision List was taken?

➡ How do I interpret the two ages on the Revision List?

➡ What is a Registration Number?

➡ How do I know what record book this record came from?

Sex / Age Last Revision / Age This Revision	YearLeft / Reason	Comments	Day / Month / Year	Page / Registration # / Former Registration#	Publication Type / Archive / Fond
M / 48 / 64			26 / October / 1850	380 / 31	Revision list / LVIA Vilnius/515/15/934 / Not microfilmed

Registrations → Former Registration#
Ages → M 48 64
Census date → 1850
Record BK → LVIA Vilnius/515/15/934

Berko son of Shimshel was 48 years old at the age of the last revision and is now 64.

The date of this revision census is 26 October 1850. The Revision Census before this one was in 1834.

This Revision List is on page 380 and Berko is Registered as #31. This record has not been microfilmed. It is in the Lithuanian State Historical Archives (LVIA) Fond 515/ Opis 15/ Delo 934

Skill Building Exercise #26: Try your surnames

➡ Use each "sounds like", "Phonetically like" and "starts with" on one surname

➡ Use your results to decide on a possible spelling in the old country. For example, if your results for HURWITZ came back GURWITZ you could assume that starting with a "G" would be a better choice than "H".

Skill Building Exercise #28: Combine your Surname with a Region

➡ Before you try your Surname with a specific shtetl or town, broaden your search to a Region (Gubernia or District).

➡ Why? The original place of registration may be within 15 miles of the town you think of as your ancestral town. The place of marriage may be the town you think of as your ancestral town. It may not be the "root" town for your Surname.

➡ What is a "root" town? Let's define this as the place where your family was settled at the time of the last partition of Poland (about 1795). This was before Surnames were required. The Napoleonic Code[3] mandated that surnames be required.

Skill Building Exercise #29: What does it mean to be Registered in a Jewish Community?

In the Pale of Settlement, by Israel Rosenfeld, "A portion of Russia in which Jews are allowed to reside. Unlike other Russian subjects, the Jewish inhabitants do not generally possess the natural right of every citizen to live unrestrictedly in any place in the empire. Furthermore, they are permitted to leave the Pale of Settlement—that is, to move to another place for permanent or for temporary residence—only under certain conditions defined"

Date: Fri, 6 Feb 2009
Subject: Registered? (in Russia)

In the revision lists you will sometimes see people entered as "missing", and in other places there are notes that people have "reregistered" to or from another place. Now, I have understood that the revision lists are snapshots. If a person moves in to a shtetl and then out between two revisions, he will not appear. So, what does "registered" mean in this context, and in what sense is one "missing"? If you are missing, you have to be expected to be there. It somehow indicates that there is another list that is a register of all who ought to live in the shtetl. Is there? And who kept that list if so? Or were the revision lists (meant to be) continuously updated when people moved between shtetlach? If so, was there a procedure for that (like, go to the revision list clerk's office in the uyezd capital and pay so-and-so to get a stamped paper)?

It seems that people often did not reregister. My gggf moved around Lithuania quite a bit during the last quarter of the 19th century. When he finally left for Sweden, he got a paper signed by the rabbi in his birth shtetl stating names and birth dates for his family (as well as his occupation and good standing) even though he left twentysome years before and his children were born everywhere but there. Assuming the rabbi did not have anything to do with the revision lists, this implies that the Jewish community kept some other list where the family would appear (not birth or marriage lists). Did they?

Simon
Stockholm, Sweden.

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[3] http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/printarticle.aspx?id=2126 In the Pale of Settlement, a law forcing all Jews to acquire family names was passed in 1804. The authorities in Jewish *kahals* (communities) were responsible for implementing the process. No regulations restricted the selection of surnames.

➡ A Surname search may show that catastrophic events or economic conditions, or merchant activities, brought about migration from one town to a new town. However registration was often linked (and noted on vital records or census records) to the original town of birth or family residence.

Example:

| **GOFMAN**, Hirsh | Aron, Yosel

Perlya, Moisei

- | 30/3/1892

14 Nisan | Gomel

Gomel

Mogilev | father is a petty bourgeois the Keidan society from Kovno guberniya and uezd | Gomel

1892

M61 | Not Microfilmed / -

-

NHABMinsk/2003/4/6 |

Analyses of this record from 1892 shows that Aron and Perlya gave birth to a son Hirsh on the 3 of March 1892. The father was registered to the Keiden Jewish Community in Kovno Gubernia. This means that, although living in Gomel, the father was not a permanent member of the Gomel Community and was paying taxes in Lithuania.

| Kedainiai

Kaunas

Kaunas | GOFMAN | Yosel | Mortchel

51 | | married; Passport valid for 1 year; photographer | 18

Dec

1875 | 734

404 in 1858 | Certificate for Passport

KRA/I-61/2/5601 |

In this Litvak SIG record for Kedainiai, the father of Aron, Yosel, is 51 in 1875. Litvak SIG records show that his was a family of photographers whose sons moved into Belarus and to Chernigov in Ukraine. All continued to be registered in the Keidan Jewish Community.

Town Dweller in Telsai - Famly from Gargzdai

| **ZUSMANOVICH, Shmuel** | Sholem, Shmuel

Golda | 24/5/1893
———
21 Sivan | Eigirdziai

Telsiai

Kaunas | Town-dweller, Family from Gargzdai | Telsiai

1893

M33 | 2328931 / 2

LVIA/1226/1/2067 |

The next record is an example of a family disrupted by Napoleon's march to Moscow in 1812. In 1816 from the town of Vilkija Ruben ben Abram registered with his wife and daughter. Noted by the Kahal leader was their **former residence** across the Neimen River in 1812.

Vilkija Raseiniai [later Kaunas] Vilnius [Kaunas after 1842]	EKLINSKY/SKLINSKY ?	Rubin	Abram	Head of Household	50	Came from other side of Nemunas River in 1812	14 August 1816	28 17	Additional Revision LVIA/515/25/383

Skill Building Exercise #30: Residence, Migration and Taxes

Jews had very few privileges. Life was restricted. Everyone was counted and accounted for. The Jewish Community governed alongside the Civil governmental agencies. Restrictions and regulations determined *where you could live*, *when you could move*, *where you paid taxes*, *who could represent your interests*, *when you could vote*.

Every male over 13 who was in good standing with respect to taxes was eligible to vote for the representatives. A primary function of the Kehilla was to act as the State's agent in tax collection. The Kehilla **also had the authority to tax its members to support its own** administration: the official synagogues, mikvot, educational institutions, courts and social welfare groups. Some taxes were collected by Jewish schools. Taxing powers were enforced by the State because the Kehilla was seen as an arm of the . . . government, even though Kehilla leaders had no role in promulgating the restrictive taxes on the Jews.

Registration was simple.... if your family was registered in a Kehilla district, that was it forever or until you received official permission to move your "domicile." Domicile, in this sense meant that you could reside elsewhere but when it came to voting and paying taxes, you were registered in one Kehilla and that was it. Vital records registration was handled somewhat differently because that was by a birth or death within in a town in the district. The word "domu" is often seen in records. The way this was explained to me, that term refers to a family registration. Females, of course, were irrelevant within this system so think only males over 13.

Read more: Suzan

Other Kinds of Records
Duma Lists add information on Residence, Income, Town

GRIBETS, Mikhel	Gershenov	1907 287	Value: 350 / Category: apartment tax / Nationality: Jewish / Remarks: 1st congress	Pogost Slutsk Minsk

Minsk Homeowners List with address in 1889

Surname	Given Name	Patronymic	Street	Number	Comments	Year
GURVICH	Yosel-Yankel	Mordukhov	Novyya Stroeniya Place	4	heirs of Yosel-Yankel Mordukhov GURVICH	1889