

Best Ways to Get Records

The best way to get records for your family is to join a project for your shtetl(s). Paul Zoglin, the Belarus SIG Database Coordinator, has enlisted a team of enthusiastic District leaders. If you are registered in JGFF your team leader may contact you. He may alert you to Belarus SIG progress in record upload. The SIG coordinators are working to find volunteers to help get records online. Are you willing to volunteer a few hours a week?

- [Look at our contact page](#). Is there a coordinator for your District or Gubernia?
- Write to your coordinator and ask what records or images are available.
- Donate \$100 and join a project through [JewishGen-erosity - Belarus Projects](#)
- Donors will have access to all records that come available for their project at least a year before they are uploaded to the All Belarus Database.
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If you want to write to the archives, it is best to check the discussion groups before you write to the archives. Other Jewish Genners may have recent experience. Here is a string of letters written in 2012.



On 10/11/2012 9:30 AM, Dr. Richard Pavelle wrote:

I sent several emails to niab@niab.by at the National Historical archives of Belarus asking for information on researching my ancestors. They are not responsive. Has anyone found them to be helpful?



Date: Fri, 12 Oct 2012 11:54:21 -0400

Subject: Re: Researching my ancestors

I have had success at the Archives in Grodno and I imagine the other branches are similar. They are slow in responding. I think the key is to be specific about what you are seeking. If you go to their English language website (which I'm assuming you did), there are listings of what kind of records they have on hand. Asking them about searching specific records for specific names should produce at least a response.

The response may be in Belorussian and you may need to have it translated. It will give you information about whether your names were found and how to pay for further research and copies of what they find.

What I learned in general is that they have very little of vital records (birth, death, marriage). Most of what they have are civic records of interest to the government, i.e.: revision lists (census), court documents (trials, etc.), and lists of office holders.

You may be more successful if you hire a local researcher who can go there in person. JewishGen has some listed who are recommended by other users.

Good luck in your research!



Date: Sun, 14 Oct 2012 09:06:07 -0400

Subject: Fw: Researching my ancestors

I disagree with Joy's statement "they have very little of vital records" as my experience was completely the opposite. By providing simply four last names and three village names, the National Historical Archives of Belarus in Grodno produced 124 citations that include births, deaths, marriages and circumcisions as well as tax data and other civic information.

I do agree that having someone be your proxy is very helpful.

Best wishes,

Lisa

Volunteer/Donate



Date: Fri, 21 Jan 2011 09:29:36 -0500 (EST)

Subject: Re: The 1887 **Belarus** and Lithuanian Census and Family Lists

On Thu, 20 Jan 2011, les evenchick <piratefish@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Where are the 1887 Belarus and Lithuanian Census and Family Lists
> to be found? Are they on JewishGen? If so, how does one get access?

I believe the Russian Empire had a revision list in 1874-75, not 1887 (although I suppose certain regions could have had local censuses - which are really lists of residents for tax purposes).

I don't think any Russian revision list has even been transcribed in toto. In fact, I doubt whether any revision has ever been reproduced in toto. Such lists for many Russian towns have not even been microfilmed, and the current Belarusian government has prevented new microfilming for years.

On JewishGen, I see it's up to various groups to organize and get whatever data they can, arrange to get it translated and mounted on the various databases.

I helped coordinate such a project with the 1811 revision list for Slutsk (now part of the "All Belarus Database" on JewishGen). At this year's IAJGS conference, I hope to propose a similar project for the same town.

Bob, New York City,