

Belarus SIG Navigation System

Return to Home



The SIG logo will always take you back Home.

Put your cursor on the Logo and you will see a rollover message "[Return to Home](#)"

The Belarus SIG website is organized to meet the needs of visitors who are new to genealogy, old timers, supporters and volunteers. From the Home Page to the Help Desk, we want to open up Jewish Belarus — and to add depth and color to our ancestors' stories.

The Home Page

Skill Building exercise #5: Explore the Home Page

Belarus is a country with a long history of border changes. While geographic coordinates have been the same, place names, ruling governments, the power of the Jewish Kehilla, allegiance, language, record depositories, tax rolls and laws changed many times.



The red line indicates the modern boundaries of Belarus. Note that Grodno, Vilna and Vitebsk and a small part of Polesie in Minsk are now in other Countries.

Every country has special ways to identify geographical areas. Belarus (White Russia) is a modern name for an old region that uses *Jurisdiction titles* (Governates and Voivodeships) originally of Russian and Polish origin.

The Belarus SIG site uses *Gubernia* (pl. Gubernias) to describe these jurisdictions before 1900.

- ➔ Visually locate your ancestral gubernia on the map. 📍 Do you know about where your town or shtetl is in the Gubernia? Could you pin it?

Skill Building Exercise #6: Find out more about your Gubernia

Under the map on the [Home Page](#) locate the 5 Gubernias of pre-1900 Belarus.

[Grodno](#) [Minsk](#) [Mogilev](#) [Vilna](#) [Vitebsk](#)

- ➔ Choose your Gubernia and open the hyperlink. Notice that this Gubernia Page ([Communities](#)) gives you a link to modern names and modern boundaries from a Belarusian Website [Cities of Belarus](#).
- ➔ If you know the name of a town you can follow the hyperlink to the [JewishGen Communities Database](#) Section on JewishGen.

Skill Building Exercise #7: [Home Page](#) [Search for your Ancestors](#)

- ➔ When you know a family surname you may search for your ancestor.
- ➔ Click on the Search for your ancestors hyperlink
- ➔ Where are you now?

JewishGen Belarus Database

The *JewishGen Belarus Database* is a multiple-database search, which incorporates all of the databases listed below, containing more than 800,000 entries from Belarus.

Surname	Sounds Like	HURWITZ
Data Type	Search Type	
Data Type	Search Type	
Data Type	Search Type	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Match ALL of the above (logical AND) <input type="radio"/> Match ANY of the above (logical OR)		
Region: All Regions		
<input checked="" type="radio"/> ALL entries <input type="radio"/> Entries added/changed since Jan 2014		
<input type="button" value="Search the JewishGen Belarus Database"/>		

You have left the Belarus SIG webpage and are now in the [JewishGen All Belarus Database \(ABD\)](#). You have put a surname into a **meta-database**. A meta-database is a group of unlike databases that are searchable in one search. Scroll down below the search box to see the **Component Databases**.

Component Databases:

<p>All Belarus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JewishGen Family Finder More than 38,000 entries by Jewish genealogists researching families in Belarus. JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry More than 48,000 burial records for Belarus and Belarus landsmanshaft cemeteries worldwide. Yizkor Book Necrologies 55,000 entries from lists of Holocaust martyrs in Yizkor Books for towns in Belarus. Yizkor Book Master Name Index 12,500 names indexed from Yizkor Books for towns in Belarus. JewishGen Holocaust Database More than 120,000 names from various datasets with information 	<p>Grodno Gubernia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grodno Gubernia 1912 Voters List Names of more than 26,000 men of Grodno Gubernia who were eligible to vote in the Russian parliamentary elections in 1912. Brest Ghetto Passports Names and demographics of more than 12,000 people in the Brest Ghetto; a database of Holocaust victims drawn from Soviet archives. 1897 Census for Grodno Gubernia Detailed family data for 8,000 individuals living in Grodno gubernia, as recorded in the "All Russia Census" of 1897. <p>Minsk Gubernia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minsk City Homeowners Lists, 1889 and 1911 Nearly 9,000 homeowners from 1889 and 1911 Minsk guidebooks.
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Skill Building Exercise #8: Search for a SURNAME

The JewishGen Search capability expands a simple search by giving you the opportunity to use **filters**. A filter defines your search.

The Belarus SIG All Belarus Database currently uses these filters

Search Type	Data Type (X 4)	All Regions	Search Configuration
Phonetically like Sounds like Starts with Is exactly Fuzzy Fuzzier Fuzziest	Surname Given Name Town Any Field	Grodno Minsk Mogilev Vilna Vitebsk	Setting the configuration to meet your search needs The JewishGen All Belarus Database (ABD) allows for any combination of these 6 filter types
Add a date range of entries added			

- ➔ Put the name HURWITZ into the search menu. The menu box asks you if you want to use "phonetically like" "sounds like" "starts with" (at least 3 letters i.e. HUR) "is exactly". Each choice will give you different results. Using the spelling HURWITZ try all of these choices.
- ➔ Notice that the "returns" are grouped by country. Some results are in Belarus. Some are in Lithuania; some are in Latvia and some in Poland. Some are in the United States.
- ➔ Why?
- ➔ Go back to the search screen. This time choose a Region — GRODNO
Now you have filtered the search engine to have 3 filters: the surname and Phonetically (HURWITZ) and the Region (Grodno).
This limits the results to Belarus, Poland and the United States.

Skill Building Exercise #9: Search for your Ancestors

- ➔ Choose one of your own surnames.
- ➔ Decide on how you want to filter your search.
When your search results appear: **notice that you can click either on the left or the right.** Both hyperlinks take you to different information. The **Description** (on the left) takes you to information on how the database information was gathered, from where, how it was transcribed and what you can expect to learn from the record.

On the right you can click on the **results of your search**.

The Belarus Birth Database has 105 records for a surname that is phonetically like HURWITZ in the Grodno Region.

