Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: How do I get a copy of a document mentioned in Miriam's summary translations?

Q2: What other documents are there from Belarus other than those mentioned in Miriam's summary translations?

Q3: Neither my family name nor ancestral town appear in any of Miriam's summary translations. How can this material be useful to me?

Q4: I see that the format of the summary translation of revision lists in Miriam's collection begins with a text format and then in the later years, a table was created which resembles the actual format of the documents. Why is that?

Q5: There are a very large number of entries for the RABKIN surname in this database. Why is this?

Q6: I believe there is a mistake in one of the database entries. Who do I contact to fix this?

For answers to other questions not listed here you can contact Paul Zoglin at paulmz@hotmail.com

Q1: How do I get a copy of a document mentioned in Miriam's summary translations?

Scanned copies of some of the original documents from Miriam's collection are viewable via a link in the "original image" column of the search results. If there is no link to the original image then researchers can request scans of original documents directly from the relevant archive. These are the websites for the archives of the documents researched by Miriam:

LVIA (Lithuanian State Archive): http://www.archyvai.lt/en/archives/historicalarchives.html
NHAB Minsk (Minsk Historical Archives): http://www.archives.gov.by/eng/index.php?id=503226
NHAB Grodno (Grodno Historical Archives): http://www.archives.gov.by/eng/index.php?id=377130
Grodno Oblast (Oblast Archives): http://www.archives.gov.by/eng/index.php?id=958435

In your request, be sure and provide the primary name on the document, year of the document, archive file numbers and the page/document number of the relevant document(s) that interest you. There will be a charge by the archives for providing document copies/scans.

Q2: What other documents are there from Belarus other than those mentioned in Miriam's summary translations?

The Routes to Roots Foundation database lists many of the records for Belarus:

http://www.rtrfoundation.org/search.php

The Belarus SIG has translated some of these records. They can be searched using the JewishGen Belarus database search engine:

http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/belarus/

The Belarus SIG uses the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) to notify researchers of newly translated records. Make sure you are listed in the JGFF for your ancestral town:

http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/

You can also try contacting the District Coordinator for you ancestral town:

http://www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/tools/projects/towns/index.html

If your ancestral town is not listed add your name to this list and we will let you know if there are any unpublished records for your town:

Link to signup list

Q3: Neither my family name nor ancestral town appear in any of Miriam's summary translations. How can this material be useful to me?

While Miriam may not have researched your specific family name or ancestral town, the type of documents found by Miriam might exist for your ancestral town. Check the Routes to Roots Foundation Database of record sources:

[Routes to Roots document database](#)

If similar records exist for your town try contacting the Belarus SIG District Coordinator for your ancestral town to see if any of those records have been translated:

[List of towns and District Coordinators](#)

Q4. I see that the format of the summary translation of revision lists in Miriam's collection begins with a text format and then in the later years, a table was created which resembles the actual format of the documents. Why is that?

From Miriam Weiner: "In my early years of doing this work in Belarus (beginning in early 1990s), we did the summary translations in a Word format using indentations to signify various generations (I didn't know how to make tables on a computer back then); as the years went by, I learned how to create the tables that more reflected the actual document format. Also, in the early years of my work, although the documents reflected the actual age of a person rather than the year of birth, I converted the age to the year of birth in my summary translations; at some point, when I began using the table format, I then used the exact age shown on the document. I did not go back and re-format the work I had done previously. All of this was a learning process for me."

Q5. There are an enormous number of entries for the RABKIN surname in this database. Why is this?

From Miriam Weiner: "I have documented my Rabkin roots to Zhlobin, Rogachev Uezd (district) and Gomel Uezd for many years, although I think my Rabkin family may have lived in some other towns as well in Belarus. If you are interested in Rabkin roots in any of the above areas, please feel free to contact me directly. Miriam Weiner, 73 Harbor Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094; 201/866-4075; mweiner@routestorootscom"

Q6: I believe there is a mistake in one of the database entries. Who do I contact to fix this?

Contact Paul Zoglin at paulmz@hotmail.com if you find an error in a database entry