

Your First Post

In this class we will be reviewing the data that you have already collected. We will pay close attention to the place where your research stops — the place where you can no longer make progress. Sometimes that is a particular record or record group; sometimes it is the verification of your family story.

Your first post contains the information you have collected separated into groups: (1) introduction to your family story and the information you have collected (2) Your goals and objectives in this course (3) an outline Descendent Tree (4) sources.

1 Introduction

We will use the information in your introduction to check primary and secondary records.

The first section is a few paragraphs on your previous search and your current project

An introduction should include: DATES NAMES AND PLACES

- ➡ Who are you searching?
- ➡ When did they live?
- ➡ Where did they live before they immigrated?
- ➡ About when did they immigrate?
- ➡ What city did they settle in when they immigrated?
- ➡ How come (what questions what mystery how come you want to know)

Example of an Introduction

(a brief introductory paragraph about your project including your research goals)

I am interested in finding more about my gg gf Reuven Lindner: his birthplace, parents, occupation and why he came to the United States. I know that Reuven married Dora Eichel who came from Rohatyn, but I don't know where he was born or where he died. At one point he lived in Burshtyn. In the US census he is a dressmaker. Family story says he was a Dayan and he returned to Europe in 1904 to seek "a cure"; I know ggm Dora returned with the children in 1906 from Budapest and my grandmother said she went to school in Budapest.

2. Goal and 3 Objectives

Example of Goal and 3 Objectives

Goal:

To find out more about my Lindner family in Galicia.

Objectives: (My To-Do List)

3 concrete objectives you would like to accomplish by the end of 3 weeks

1. Find birthplace of Reuven Lindner.

2. Find what records are available in Burshtyn for Lindner
3. Reuven (Riwan) left the US around 1903 to return to Europe; find the death place for Reuven Lindner.

Setting a Goal and Three Objectives



Goals are long-term aims that you want to accomplish

"Goals" with the word 'go' in it are abstract. Goals are unbounded. Goals are directed toward undiscovered territory and an undetermined end

Objectives are the immediate short steps

"Objectives" with the word "object" in it are concrete. Objectives are **definable**, **discrete**, **measurable**. Objectives are complete, narrow and precise.

Examples of Vague Goals

- ➡ To learn more about my grandfather and his siblings in Galicia
- ➡ To learn about how to find records using JewishGen and JRI-PL
- ➡ To improve my strategies for searches for siblings and holocaust survivors

Definition of Objectives

All or any of these objectives are concrete attainments that can be achieved by following a certain number of steps and looking into a discrete number of resources, sources or databases.

- ➡ 1. Find birthplace of Reuven Lindner.
- ➡ 2. Find what records are available in Burshtyn for Lindner
- ➡ 3. Reuven (Riwan) left the US around 1903 to return to Europe; find the death place for Reuven Lindner.

The Outline Descendent Tree (ODT)

Your immigrant ancestor family group

The Outline Descendent Tree (ODT) is the most valuable tool in your repertoire.

Learn to post the biographical information on an ancestor **in one line**, a concise sentence using abbreviations and lots of question marks (?). The (?) tells us what we will be searching for and help decide the objectives for your work.

- ➡ Start with your immigrant ancestor
- ➡ If you know the names of this person's parents put them above your immigrant.
- ➡ If your immigrant ancestor has siblings put them in order of birth
- ➡ Under each sibling put in the family composition

We are usually interested in the immigrant's parents' names and place of former residence. If you do not know them put in a question mark “ ? “

We are usually interested in original names from passenger records.

Use > (changed to) after the original name to identify names used in U.S. records.

For example, see below.

Shmuel Zanwil> Samuel would be the correct way to list this person.

Leah>Elizabeth would be correct for the wife.

Use this format sequence:

Line 1 (Relationship to you) first name, SURNAME, born year, born place, emigrated year to city in US, died year/place.

Line 2 married year/place to

Line 3 (Name of Spouse if you are going to list a marriage

ODT

(mgf) Samuel>Shmuel Zanvil ZONIS, b.17 Jul 1879 or 1880 in Atache (Bessarabia), Russia; e.c.1898-1900, d.25 Nov 1964 in Pittsburgh, PA, buried Beth Abraham;

m. 31 Jan 1904 to

(mgm) Elizabeth>Leah SCHAFER, b.c.1885 in Odessa, Russia, e.c. 1889, d.18 Apr 1947 in Pittsburgh, PA, buried Beth Abraham.

(mgu) Jack>Jacob SONNES>ZONIS, b.15 July 1883 in Atache (Bessarabia), Russia; e.c. 1904 to London; e. 1920 to US; d.11 Jan 1985 in Los Angeles, CA,

m. Oct 1909 to

(mga) Annie SILVERSTEIN, b.23 Jul 1889 in Dvinsk, Russia, e.c. 1891 to London, e. 1920 to US; d. 17 Nov 1966 Los Angeles, CA.

(mgu) Abraham ZONIS, b.c. 1890 in Atache (Bessarabia), Russia; e.c. 1947 to Israel, d.? in Israel, m. ? in Russia.

(mgu) Gregorio ZONIS, b.c. ? in Atache (Bessarabia), Russia e. ? to Argentina, d.?

Some common rules

- Capitalize the SURNAMES
- Start with the immigrants, as they are the key to our genealogies
- Give the vital information: birth/immigration/death/marriage dates and places
- **Use question marks for unknown information**
- Use abbreviations:
 - b. for birth,
 - i. for immigrated,
 - NA for Naturalized
 - m. for married,
 - d. for died
 - gf for grandfather,
 - mgm for maternal grandmother etc
 - ca. circa “about”, as in ca 1890
 - bur for buried
 - ? for the unknown we might want to search for
- If the name changed, use this format:
Chaim>Harry or **Wlosko>Wosk**
- If you know the date, include it.
- If you only know a year put in a (?) or @ or abt.
- When dates are incomplete I know that there is no record source and we may need to find the record.