

Analyze Your Data**Mental Preparation and Tools Needed for Success****Skill Building Exercise #1: Why Solutions Elude Us**

Let's see where we could have missed out!

- ➡ Was it...Too narrow a view
- ➡ Was it...Lack of a consistent work plan
- ➡ Was it...Lack of Direction
- ➡ Was it...A Narrowed Field
- ➡ Did you go in too many directions at once
- ➡ Did you lose Track
- ➡ Did you get Lost

**Skill Building Exercise #2: Remedies**

- ➡ Research one family at a time
- ➡ Develop an organized plan
- ➡ Limit your immediate Objectives to three
- ➡ Add some more after the first set yield a sense of completion
- ➡ Learn about yourself as a researcher
- ➡ Develop a format for your research - individualize a methodology that mirrors the way you like to work
- ➡ Keep Track - source the records you find and the resources you searched
- ➡ Recognize the search systems you used that yield results: Persistence, innovation, and thoroughness are traits that should work for all of us.

Getting the most out of the records we search

The census:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1850-1930.html>

**Skill Building Exercise #3: Scenario Building**

- ➡ Pay attention to old family information
- ➡ Look for the grain of truth in every statement
- ➡ Look for the probable elaboration in these stories
- ➡ Seek out sources that verify or disprove the points

Skill Building Exercise #4: Verify

- ➡ Think like a detective
- ➡ Start collection of data from the obvious sources
- ➡ Find the sticking points where there is no data
- ➡ Ask yourself why?

Skill Building Exercise #5: Theorize

- ➡ Feel comfortable creating explanations and scenarios
- ➡ Become adept at proving and disproving all your theories.
- ➡ Keep an open mind but keep your feet on the ground.
- ➡ If there are no facts then the story is fiction (cloud spinning) until you can show the paper trail.

What is Credibility How do you Build it?

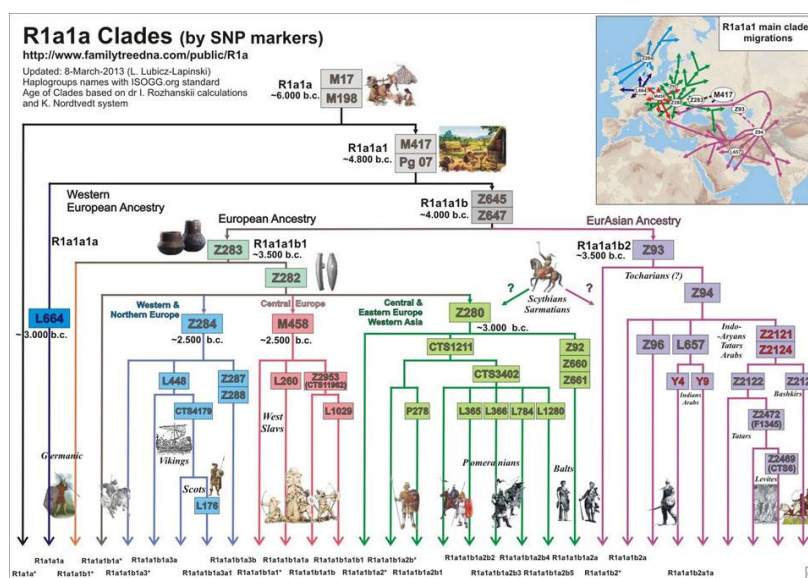
Negative searches are those where you search a series of records and come up empty. No matches.

Negative evidence is where you search and find that not only the person cannot be found but positive evidence shows they could not be part of particular events family history included them in. What you have come up with is The wrong place, The wrong family. The wrong dates. In other words you can definitely prove they were not there and to find them you have to look elsewhere.

How can this happen. For example something may not be remembered, or something is being hidden. A child could belong to the family but was in an institution at the time. A parent could be in an institution and children could be fostered out. A child came to the United States alone, with another family, later than the rest, on someone else's passport, or ticket. If you can dream up a scenario you can bet it happened somewhere to someone.

In detective stories and in the law, one is presumed innocent until proven guilty and the absence of a wrong may prove a right. Not in genealogy. Absence is absence.

You need to find primary source records to be able to link your person or family to the generations above and below. For example, find a birth record with parents' names and the marriage of these two people and their birth records or death records with their parents' names...and it becomes an unbroken chain. If you cannot find primary records, several secondary records can be associated with a person and event to show the most likely connection.



Place is Home

Create and Construct

"I have not failed. I've just found ten thousand ways that won't work."
Thomas Edison

Use JewishGen Communities Databases to find your home Place

Use Google to find a record

Creative search strings using the + sign

- ➡ Jewish+Surname+Place (Jewish+Belarus+Chadash)
- ➡ Jewish+place+events (Jewish+Lithuanian+Pogroms)
- ➡ Jewish+place +year (Jewish+Melitopol+1895)

Use your Librarian to learn more about the Home Place Records in the United States

Use your JewishGen Project Coordinator to learn more about your Home Place abroad

Create timelines in detail

Format

Year, month, day: | Person's name | event**1894, April 9 Bayer family arrival New York City****1894, April 9 Bayer family met at boat by Gordon uncle. Train to New Britain.****Why History Matters**

We do not need to know every detail about the historical events that affected, motivated or pushed your family events. But we do need a broad brush to put our family into a context.

➡ [The Thomashevsky Timeline](#)

[Creating a Research Log](#)

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Research_Logs

[Defining your files and folders to mimic your research style](#)

There is no one way to how you keep your files but there is one rule. Stay organized. Use one system and be consistent. If you can find it again, it works. If you have too many papers or records in inconsistent places and it takes more that searching from your "start" button, you need to find a better system.

Why people love to work between a software program and a subscription database is because the two together father your data and keep it organized for you. What you give away is your own creativity and privacy!

Worrying Your Way toward Solutions

Looking past the obvious, creating and constructing alternate solutions, putting your family into a time and place and digging yourself into its probably causes brings you into the void where there seem to be no correct answers. Here is your road block or dead end. Can you get yourself to open paths? Entering the plain of alternate possibilities.....

"It's a fact: Regardless of skill level, experience, or serendipity, all family historians will encounter dead ends in their research." [Hammering Through the Brick Wall: 3 Tips for New Genealogists](#) By [Claire Wang](#)