

Miriam Weiner Introduces New Surname Database
with 2,000,000 Names at her Website

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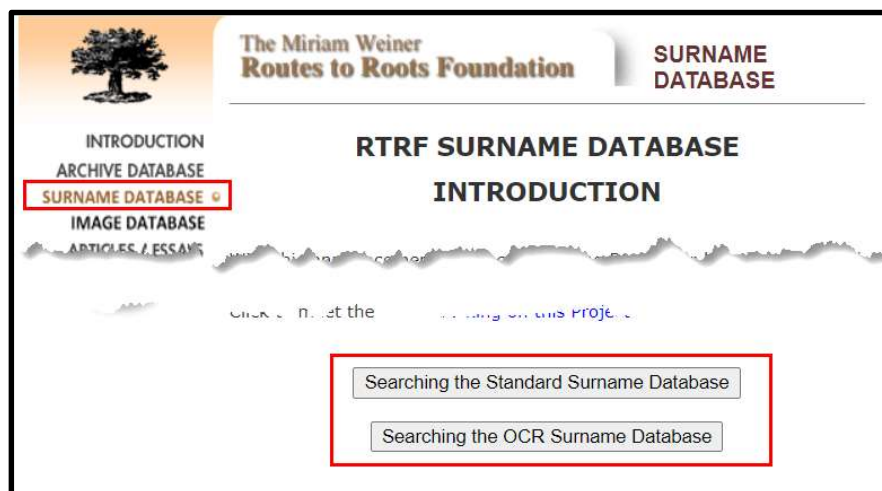


For the past 18 months, I have been updating and enhancing the RTRF website with two new surname databases as well as a major update to the maps and images sections on the website.

Introduction to Surname Databases

The link to the Surname Databases is on the Home Page menu on the left. A click on **Surname Databases** goes to the **Introduction** page at <https://www.rtrfoundation.org/lnintro.shtml>.

Please review the RTRF Surname Database Introduction page first. Then note the links to the two different databases: Standard Surname Database and OCR Surname Database.



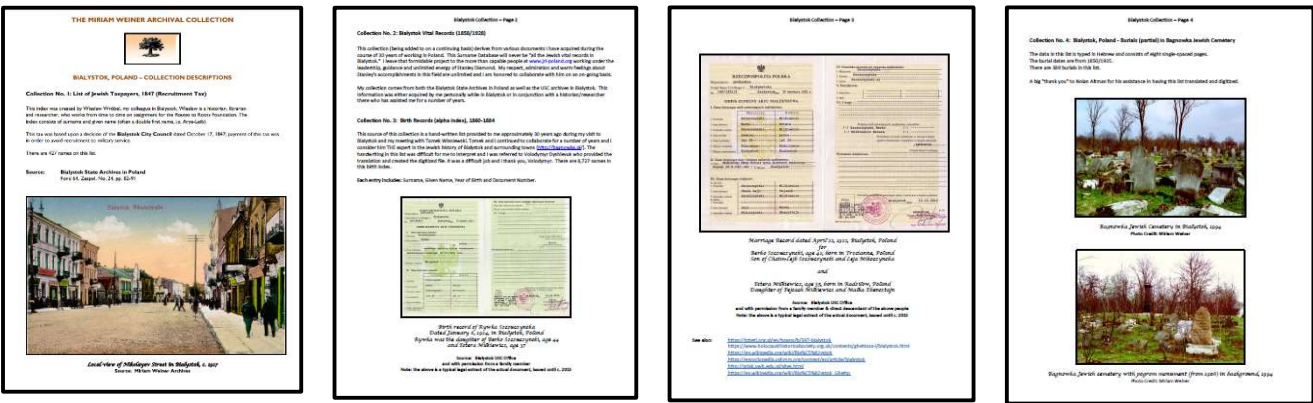
Together, the Standard Surname Database and the OCR Surname Database contain a diverse variety of record collections.

- Standard Surname Database includes:**
- Names lists from historians and heads of Jewish communities
 - Name lists from books
 - Name lists from various archives
- OCR Surname Database includes:**
- Business Directories & Address Calendars
 - Telephone books
 - Names lists from books and archives

- Birth, marriage, death and divorce records
- Census lists & family lists
- School records
- Property records
- Voter lists
- Notary records
- Local government records
- Immigration records
- Holocaust lists (both victims & survivors)
- Kahal lists (Jewish community/society lists)
- Pogrom documents
- Business directories
- Rabbinic records
- Hospital records
- Passport documents
- Business documents (lists of shops and factories, along with their owners)
- Telephone books
- Military records
- Police files
- Tax lists
- Occupation lists

Many of the collections in this database are not online elsewhere. Some were provided by heads of local Jewish communities; a significant number of the collections was given to me by directors of various archives through the years and continues to this day.

The **Collection Description (CD)** links are available with each search result and they range in length from 1-10 pages. Each CD is different from the others (no template used). These CD pages often include a short reference to my first visit to that town, how I happened to acquire the collection; multiple photos (both current and pre-World War I from my collection), document examples, images of people I worked with in that town and links to other resources for that town. These links are usually ones not so familiar to the researcher.



Collection Description Example: Bialystok, Poland

Standard Surname Search

Example: A search for the surname “Rabkin” yields many different record types. Select the desired record collection. In this example, Belarus Army Recruits is of interest. The specific search result summarizes the key information and, in this case, provides a link to the list of Jewish Army Recruits, along with an English translation of the Cyrillic document.

Belarus Army Recruits

Surname	RABKIN
Given Name	Abram
Father's Given Name	Kalman
Birth-Year	
Record-Type	Army/Recruits
Description	List of Jewish men
Year	1874
Town	Vitebsk
District	Vitebsk
Province	Vitebsk
Country	Belarus
Fond	NHAB Minsk/2496/1/2531
Page	141
Family	1606
Summary	Vitebsk_R12-13
Image	click to view
Surnamesearch	RABKIN

Source: www.rtrfoundation.org
Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation

MINSK HISTORICAL ARCHIVES
Vitebsk Jewish Community / 1874

ALPHABET LIST / File #2531

Tsalko RABKIN

Abram

Sholom

Shmull RABKIN

Itzka

Here are a few examples of the types of documents you may find:

Death Record, 1935
Rejowiec, Poland

Transport List to Majdanek, 1942
Lublin, Poland

Notary Record, 1942
Frysztak, Poland

List of Jews from villages
in Lvov region, 1932

Marriage Announcement, 1906
Monasterzyska, Ukraine

Property Record, 1891
Pultusk, Poland

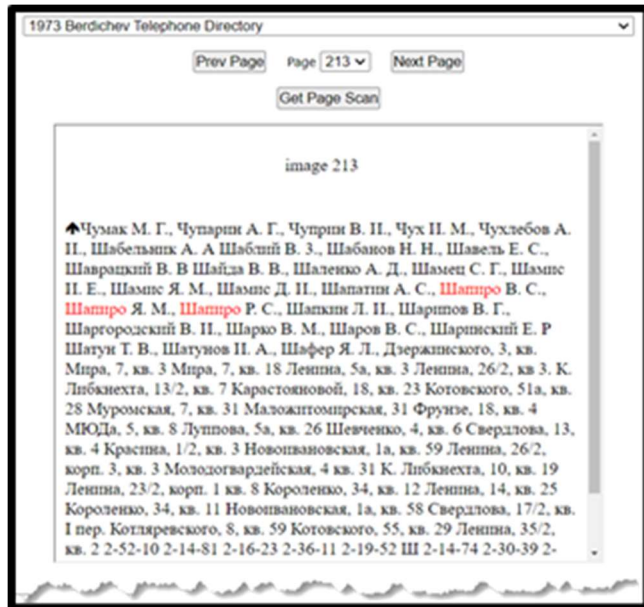
Will (probate document), 1906
Nowy Korczyn, Poland

Sample page from a Pinkas
Sudilkov, Ukraine, 1858

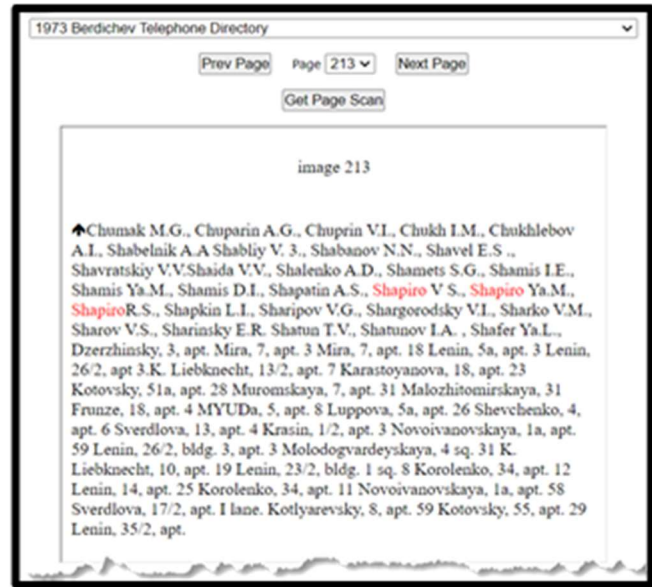
OCR Search: Business Directories & Telephone Books

I have acquired numerous telephone and business directories, mostly in Cyrillic. The website has a tool that allows you to type the surname in Latin characters and it automatically converts the text to Cyrillic and searches through the Cyrillic documents in the database.

While the search results appear in Cyrillic, just right click in Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge and it will automatically translate the results:



Before clicking “Translate to English”



After clicking “Translate to English”

Three different map collections:

- Joint Operations Graphic (JOG) Maps
 - Produced by U.S. Department of Defense Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, and in English!
 - Belarus, Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, Moldova, and portions of Romania and Hungary
 - Very detailed – small villages, roads, railways, oil wells, geographic features, industrial buildings, etc.
- Town and Region Maps
 - Historic and modern-era maps
 - Acquired from local town mayors, town architects, historians
 - Soviet town plans
- Collection of diverse maps – examples:
 - Partitions of Poland
 - Major Jewish Communities (of Poland in 1931)
 - Galician and Polish Administrative Districts
 - Pale of Jewish Settlement
 - Jews of Bukovina on the Eve of the War
 - Minsk Ghetto

