

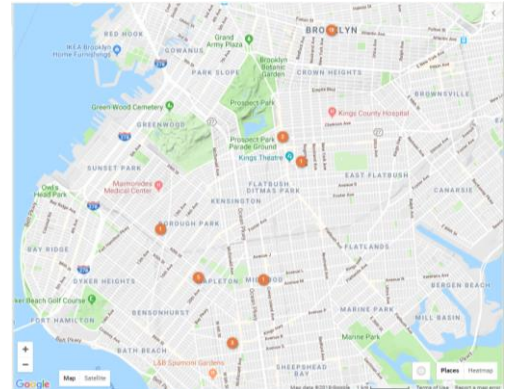
Locations are Everything: The Places Your Relatives Were

By: Daniel Horowitz - Tweeter: [@MyHChiefGen](#) - Instagram: [horowitz_daniel](#)

Where do we use “locations” in genealogy research?

- Birth
- Death
- Residence
- Businesses
- Schools
- Cemeteries

But actually, every fact you register in your research should have a location. Everything happened at a specific time and a specific place.



Records available

Thomas MacEntee, from Genealogy Bargains (<https://genealogybargains.com/>) built a list of multiple facts you can record in your research. Some of the most important records related to locations are:

- ✓ Business letterheads
- ✓ Receipts
- ✓ Licenses
- ✓ Photos
- ✓ Account books
- ✓ Apprentice records
- ✓ Business journals
- ✓ Governmental reports
- ✓ Indenture records
- ✓ Membership records
- ✓ Newspaper advertisements
- ✓ Professional licenses
- ✓ Professional organization records
- ✓ Business insurance records

How you should record a location

Always try to go from the most specific to the most general detail. It's fine to have only a country, but if you know the state, or even the city, it's always best to include them.

Countries should be recorded as they are currently named. This will allow you — and certain technologies — to use maps to pinpoint the exact location. Follow the example of addressing a snail-mail letter:



Identifying places

When studying a location, have the places you already know your family was associated with in mind. Years ago, people did not travel or move so much, and families always wanted to stay together and close by. Chances are, they all lived, worked, and died in the same area — unless a major migration occurred. Take historical events into consideration as well — they may indicate incentives to migrate.

Verify the place, no matter what they said

Some time we heard an ancestral place named with an accent, or read a name that was misspelled by our ancestors. People used names, sometimes made-up, to identify areas, cities or locations close by. This is especially true in the Jewish culture — place names used colloquially were not always the same as the official names. JewishGen (<https://www.jewishgen.org>) is the perfect place to review and verify the place you think your ancestors came from.

History of Poland 1635–2009: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQ8T4oWxe1g>

Changes in Europe borders in WWI: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkpMEkC1Wcl>

Places to find historical maps and photos mentioned in the lecture:

- Street view of 1980s New York <http://80s.nyc>
- Street view of 1940s New York <https://1940s.nyc>
- WhatWasThere <http://www.whatwasthere.com>
- Google Maps <https://www.google.com/maps>
- TheGenealogist's innovative Map Explorer <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/maps/>
- Berlin Historical Maps <https://historicismaps.toolforge.org/berlin/>
- Wikimaps Warper <http://warper.wmflabs.org>
- Old New York <https://www.oldnyc.org>

Places to locate cemeteries:

- U.S. government's Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) <https://geonames.usgs.gov>
- POI Factory <http://www.poi-factory.com>
- BillionGraves <https://billiongraves.com>
- Find-A-Grave <https://www.findagrave.com>

Other links mentioned in the lecture:

- Street Nomenclature for the Municipality of Czernowitz for the Year 1936 <http://czernowitz.blogspot.com/p/czernowitz-street.html>
- Street Nomenclature for the Municipality of Czernowitz <http://muzejew.org.ua/Name-Ukr.htm>
- LiveJournal of GR_Czernowitz <https://gr-czernowitz.livejournal.com>