

BELARUS: JEWISH HISTORY & RESEARCH STRATEGY IN BELARUS ARCHIVES



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MAIN POINTS OF PRESENTATION

- Introduction to Jewish history of Belarus
- Type of documents available for research in Belarussian archives
- Type of information each document carries
- What information is needed at a minimum to start the research
- What should you expect from the research

10 MOST USEFUL TYPES OF DOCUMENTS FOR RESEARCH

1. Family lists
2. Revision lists or censuses
3. Metric records (birth/death/marriage)
4. Draft lists
5. List of draftees' families who's sons were avoiding military draft
6. List of Jewish male population
7. List of homeowners
8. List of business owners
9. List of residents who received foreign passports
10. Voters list

MINIMUM INFORMATION NEEDED TO START RESEARCH

- Original last name
- Original Hebrew given name
- Fathers given name
- Name of the home town or shtetl
- Year of birth (even approximate)
- Year of immigration from Russian Empire

WHERE TO LOOK FOR STARTING INFORMATION

- Family archive and family members
- Ship manifests www.libertyellisfoundation.org
- Tombstones inscriptions in case if ancestors are buried in US

SETTING EXPECTATIONS FOR RESEARCH

Best case scenario: family's genealogy can be traced beginning from mid-18th century.

- Names family members
- Years of birth, death and marriage
- Location and value of the house
- Type of business the family used to own if any
- Which congregation they belonged to
- Military records information