

# **Jewish Genealogy – Getting Started by Larry Bassist**

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## **Basics – Same as non-Jewish genealogy**

Start with yourself and work back, documenting as you go, do all family members

## **What do you already know? Write it down**

Name, birth date and place, parents, marriage date and place, etc.

## **Gather documents – birth, marriage, others**

## **Gather similar info and documents for parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.**

Anything in your possession, ask relatives, especially oldest relatives. Ask about their ancestors

## **Jewish considerations**

“Hang loose” on spellings. Names are very fluid. Sacred and secular names often don’t match.

Ashkenazic Jews (Eastern Europe) often named children after dead grandparents.

Family names sometimes changed. Check naturalization and Social Security card applications.

## **General resources**

Civil birth marriage death, cemetery, census, military, naturalization, passport, probate, wills, land, property, synagogue, newspapers, local histories, ship list, other court records, etc.

## **Important – keep an open mind, family lore might have a grain of truth in it, find town of origin in old country (be flexible on pronunciation and spelling)**

Ship lists ([SteveMorse.org](http://SteveMorse.org)), naturalization records, census records, close relatives and neighbors’ records, lore

## **Some Jewish Sources**

[JewishGen.org](http://JewishGen.org), [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), Routes to Roots Foundation - <https://www.rtrfoundation.org/index.shtml>, [JRI-Poland.org](http://JRI-Poland.org), [Alex Krakovsky documents](http://AlexKrakovsky.com), [Genteam.at](http://Genteam.at), MACSE - <https://macse.hu/society/kezdolap.php>, [YadVashem.org](http://YadVashem.org), [USHMM.org](http://USHMM.org), [Arolsen Archive](http://ArolsenArchive.org)

## **Don’t forget general sites**

[Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com), [MyHeritage.com](http://MyHeritage.com), [Geni.com](http://Geni.com), [en.Geneanet.org](http://en.Geneanet.org), [Filae.com](http://Filae.com), etc.

## **And, of course, DNA**