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Featured Lesson: E:DIN

This is the fourth in a series of articles designed to foster understanding of the Genealogical Proof Standard ("GPS"), by illustrating it in practice.

Previous articles used the GPS to expand upon the pedigree of Mordecai Savitsky. This article will continue to do so, using various sources to document his wife and her parents.



Paroches (curtain on Torah Ark) hanging at Congregation Bais Mordechai, the shul of Rabbi Jacob Savitsky (son of Rabbi Mordechai) at 505 Avenue J, Brooklyn, NY

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Understanding Genealogical Proof Standard ("GPS") #3: Negative Search versus Negative Evidence

The Board for Certification of Genealogists sponsored a webinar on utilizing indirect and negative evidence, presented by Thomas Jones.¹ The hour-long video stressed many important aspects to remember about evidence in general and indirect/negative evidence specifically. Jones notes that:

• **Evidence** – it is not evidence if we can't use it to meaningfully answer a genealogical question.²

• **Evidence Context** – three items:³
a. **purpose**: see into the past (usually

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MIDRASHIC GENEALOGY

The First Pharaoh רקיון & פרעה

Who was the first Pharaoh? The Sefer HaYashar in the beginning of Lech-Lecha (<http://www.hebrewbooks.org/pdfpager.aspx?req=40009&st=&pgnum=54>) relates the story of a poor, yet wise, man from the land of Shinur (שנער) named Rikayon (רקיון). He went to Egypt to see if he could improve his financial situation

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DIN ~ YICHUS

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Statement of Purpose

Yichus is a forum to advance knowledge of, and adherence to, genealogical standards. It also serves to showcase various research techniques as well as Rabbinical & Biblical genealogy.

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The Board for Certification of Genealogists ("BCG") describes the components of the GPS.¹ Standard 37 defines: Source, Information and Evidence ("SIE").² The glossary there defines Evidence as, "A research question's tentative answer ... may be direct, indirect or negative" ("DIN").³

Unlike source (**S:ODA**) and information (**I:PSU**), when well-reasoned, any form of evidence (**E:DIN**) is reliable.⁴ Source and information tests are for quality, while evidence tests are for usefulness.⁵ Evidence does not exist until a research question is asked.⁶

Evidence

As mentioned above, evidence

answers a research question. **Evidence** can meet this definition in one of three ways: **DIN**; Direct, Indirect or Negative evidence.

Direct Evidence answers a research question on its own.⁷

Indirect Evidence has gone through an evolution as to its meaning. Current standards no longer reference circumstantial evidence as any part of the definition.

Earlier research guides have given various definitions and examples for indirect evidence.

- "Circumstantial or indirect" and "juggle facts to ascertain meaning."⁸
- "Indirect evidence does not explicitly answer the

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פָּנַחֲא חִיה

Pessie Chaya
Sapir

(15 Apr 1888/9 - Nov. 12, 1976)

13 Jul 1907 Marriage in Saratov, Russia
Velizh, Russia

אלֵינֹזֶר

Eliezer
Poupko

(18 Mar 1886 - 23 Sep 1961)

3 Mar 1938 Marriage in Vilnius, Lithuania

הַתְּנוּיָה בַּיִלָּא

Anna / Genya / (Henya) Beylya
Boiarski / Bayer

(c1888 - 1942) [כ"א איר תש"ב]

10 Jun 1909 Marriage in Belitsa
Lida, Belarus

Joseph
Savitsky

(c1883 - ?)

Mordecai
Savitsky

(3 Jun 1911 - 8 Jun 1991)

בְּתִיה

Bernice
Poupko

(5 Feb 1917 - 26 Dec 2003)

Working Pedigree of Rabbi Mordechai Savitsky, known as the Bostoner Gaon

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- question.⁹ Seemingly citing Jones, a birthdate can be derived from a gravestone that records the date of death and the age, in years, months and days. Circumstantial: Where more than one inference is possible. Additional evidence is required to narrow the range of inferences.¹⁰
- Does not explicitly state the identity, relationship or event. For example: a census record is indirect evidence of an exact age; the record may be supportive when combined with other evidence.¹¹
 - It needs to be combined with other evidence to answer a research question.¹²
 - Requires the introduction of evidence to answer the research question.¹³
 - Indirect evidence can carry equal or greater weight than direct evidence. It carries no weight until and unless we combine it with other evidence.¹⁴
 - The 2019 ProGen seemingly replaces the Evidence Analysis chapter from the prior ProGen (2001). Also, the phrase "circumstantial evidence" is no longer part of the new book's index.¹⁵
 - "The answer to a research question must be deduced by combining two or more facts." However, the example used is not a clear one: A census record listing a mother-in-law can be deduced to be the spouse's mother.¹⁶
 - Information used as indirect evidence may not answer the question at all.¹⁷
 - Equal attention is given to D, I & N.¹⁸
 - Indirect evidence must be combined with at least one other piece of information to answer the question at

hand.¹⁹ BCG currently defines indirect evidence as:

- addressing a research question only when combined with other evidence
- the opposite of direct evidence²⁰

Negative Evidence (not to be confused with a negative search) is the absence of evidence that should be there, for a given circumstance.²¹

Elizabeth Shown Mills describes negative evidence as "the sound of the dog not barking".²² The new BCG Standards manual has Source and Information preference (pages 23 – 24 of the new, second edition, book) but does not discuss evidence preference. By it not being there, it is an example of negative evidence, proving that the attributes of "DIN" all have the same preference; any of the three options are equally suited for use as evidence.

Mills stresses that negative evidence is not evidence that negates. That would be a conflict of evidence, requiring resolution.²³

EXAMPLE

Two research questions can help demonstrate E:DIN in practice. The questions would be:

1. Who, when and where did Mordecai Savitsky, born 1911 in Belarus, marry?
2. Who were the parents of his spouse?

Direct

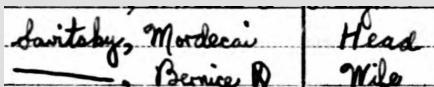
Answering Research Question #1:

- Mordecai's marriage record does answer the "who, when and where" questions:²⁴
 - o Bassia Pupko, born 5 Feb

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- 1917, in Velizh
 - o Married on 4 Mar 1938
 - o In Vilnius, Lithuania.
- The 1940 census does answer the "who" question, by listing Mordecai with his wife, Bernice Savitsky.²⁵



1940 Rhode Island Census

Reproduced from the National Archives and Records Administration

- Mordecai's petition for naturalization does answer the "who, when and where" question, listing his wife, this time as Bessie.²⁶

the name of my wife or husband is Bernice
we were married on March 4, 1938
at Vilna, Poland

Excerpt from Mordecai Savitsky's Petition for Naturalization

Reproduced from the National Archives and Records Administration

Answering Research Question #2:

- Mordecai's marriage record, mentioned above, also answers the question, "Who, were Bernice's parents?":
 - o Bassia Pupko, was the daughter of Eliazar [sp?] & Pessia-Chaja (nee Sapir)
- Pessja Poupko's 1931 ship manifest records Bassja as her 13 year-old daughter. They were traveling to NY, with their last address being Pessja's father, Jacob Sapir, in Petach-Tikwa (Israel). They were going to her husband, Leiser Poupko, in St. Louis,

Family name	Given name	Yrs.
Poupko	Bessie	43
	Bassja	13
	Boroch	13
	Rissija	4
	Salomon	7

Excerpt from 1931 Ship Manifest for Rebbezin Poupko & her children
Reproduced from the National Archives and Records Administration

MO.²⁷ This answers the "who were the parents" question:

- o Leiser Poupko
- o Pessja Sapir

I am _____ married. The name of my wife or husband is Pessja Chaja
we were married on July 13, 1907, at Saratov Russia

Excerpt from "Leiser" Eleizer Poupko 1932 Declaration of Intent
Reproduced from the National Archives and Records Administration

- Eleizer Poupko's 1932 Declaration of Intent lists his wife as Pessja Chaja. It also lists his daughter as Bassia, born 5 Feb 1917.²⁸ This answers the "Who were her parents?" question.
- Eleizer Poupko's 1937 Petition for Naturalization lists his wife as Pessa. He lists his daughter as Bassia, born 5 Feb 1917.²⁹

(5) I am _____ married. The name of my wife or husband is Pesse
we were married on July 13, 1907 at Saratov, Russia
and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows: Isaac July 1, 1908 Haverhill Mass;
Abraham Feb. 1910 Phil. Pa; Rubin Sept. 1914 New York NY; Morduch Feb. 27, 1915 Haverhill Mass. others live Haverhill Mass. Boruch & Bassia Feb. 5, 1917 Rissija Aug. 11, 1926; Salomon May 5, 1928 All born in Russia.

Excerpt from Eleizer Poupko's Petition for Naturalization
Reproduced from the National Archives and Records Administration

- Bernice's U.S. Passport application (#490009, as listed on her 1938 ship manifest) will have her parent's names listed and again answer the "Who were her parents?" question.

PASSPORT NO 49009

Excerpt from Bernice Poupko's Ship Manifest in 1938

Reproduced from the National Archives and Records Administration

- The Social Security Applications and Claims Index records Bassia Savitsky [Bassia Poupko] with a birth Date of 5 Feb 1917, in Velizh, Soviet Union, and parents Eleizer Poupko & Pessie Chaya.³⁰

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Indirect

Answering Research Question #1:

- Bernice is recorded as a passenger on two NYC ship manifests; in September 1931 and again, in June 1938. The 1938 ship manifest has her listed as "Bassia Poupko-Sawicka", with her hyphenated surname, implying that she married sometime between 1931 (that arrival did not list a married surname) and 1938.

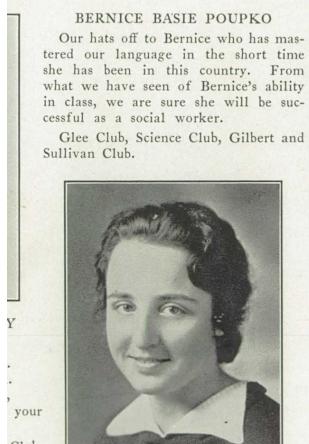
POUPKO-SAWICKA BASSIA

Excerpt from Bernice Poupko's Ship Manifest in 1938

Reproduced from the National Archives and Records Administration

Adding in Bernice's 1936 Haverhill High School Yearbook detail further narrows the timeframe, with the indirect evidence now showing she married sometime between 1936 and 1938.³¹ Adding in her father's July

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Excerpt from the HHS 1936 Yearbook
Reproduced with permission from Sandra McArthur, Administrative Assistant to the Principal at Haverhill High School.

1937 Petition for Naturalization, recording her without a married name, and living at home, narrows the time range for the marriage to 1937 – 1938.

Answering Research Question #2:

- The 1937 city directory for Haverhill, Massachusetts, has a group of six Poupkos living at the same address (435 Washington Street, Haverhill, MA).³² Bernice is part of that list. The 1940 census records the same names, this time with the relationships, at the same address. However Bernice is not listed with them. The city directory alone does not list relationships, and so does not indicate directly who Bernice's parents were.³³ The Haverhill 1940 census does not list Bernice. Only when combining them together does the tentative answer appear to be that Eliezer and Bessie were Bernice's parents, still living at the same 435 Washington Street address.

Poupko Bernard, student, r435 Washington
 " Bernice, student, r435 Washington
 " Elzezar (Bessie), rabbi Congregation of Chavas Achim, h435 Washington
 " Isaac, student, r435 Washington
 " Morris, r435 Washington
 " Ralph, student, r435 Washington

Excerpt from the 1937 Haverhill City Directory
Reproduced, Courtesy of Ancestry.

Answering Research Question #1:

- There is a single 1931 ship manifest record for Elezer, Pesha and Bernice. They travelled together. There is also a 1938 ship manifest record, but only for Pesha and Bernice and they did not travel together. Since the 1938

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return was for the return from the wedding in Europe (as proved above), why is there no return voyage for Eliezer? Was he not in attendance? It is negative evidence for something, but what? Did Eliezer attend the wedding? Was he no longer alive? Did he stay in Europe? The Find-a-Grave website listing for Eliezer Poupko supplies the answer.³⁴ He was alive in 1938, passing away many decades later.³⁵ Eliezer met with Soviet President Mikhail Kalinin in 1930 and subsequently was sentenced to Siberia. This was the reason the family left Europe in 1931. And this was the reason Eliezer was unable to attend his daughter's wedding in Soviet-controlled Vilna in 1938.



Reproduced with permission from Charles Zar of Rockledge, PA, who took and posted the photo on Find-a-Grave under ID: 48188945 (Memorial #145978654).

- For Bassia's return voyage, her husband Mordechai does not return with her on 28 Jun 1938. This is an example of negative evidence – with it we can prove he did not travel to the USA with her. It is “the absence of information that answers a research question.”³⁶ How is it known that Mordechai did not travel back with Bernice? Searching Ancestry, for 28 Jun 1938 passenger arrivals, there were 3,367 people. Adding the filter of the vessels with a departure from the port of Cherbourg, France, narrows it to 209 people. Narrowing it to those whose first name starts with “Mor*” leaves only 2 people: Moritz Strauss (born about 1899) and Morris Shain (born about 1910). Neither one is Mordechai Savitsky. Changing the parameters to instead look for anyone with a surname starting with “Saw*” only shows Bassia Poupko Sawicka. There are no results for anyone whose surname starts with “Sav*”. Just to be sure that Mordechai Savitsky was not on that boat, the search was changed to anyone born 1911, +/- one year. The 18 results did not include him. Mordechai was not on that boat. In fact, direct evidence can prove that Mordechai does not leave Europe until almost 9 months later. But, this negative evidence does prove he was not on that boat.

Answering Research Question #2:

- The 1940 census for the family of Bernice's parents does not include a Bernice.³⁷ On its own, it might be negative evidence of her not being part of the family, or of being married, or of not being alive. Further

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research does prove that it is because she is married and living in Boston.

For further reading, review "QuickLesson 13: Classes of Evidence—Direct, Indirect & Negative" at
<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-13-classes-evidence%20%94direct-indirect-negative>

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12. Thomas W. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Proof* (Arlington, VA.: National Genealogical Society, 2013), 14.
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14. Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, third edition, revised (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017), 25.
15. Thomas W. Jones, "Reasoning from Evidence," chapter 12, *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*, (aka Progen II), Elizabeth Shown Mills, editor (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2018).
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17. Thomas W. Jones, "Reasoning from Evidence," chapter 12, *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*, (aka Progen II), Elizabeth Shown Mills, editor (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2018), 272.
18. Elizabeth Shown Mills, "QuickLesson 13: Classes of Evidence—Direct, Indirect & Negative," *Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage* (<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-13-classes-evidence%20%94direct-indirect-negative>) : 4 January 2019). Also, *Genealogy Standards: Second Edition* (Nashville & New York: Ancestry, 2019), 25, Standard 40.
19. Victor S. Dunn. "Skillbuilding: Dunn on Indirect Evidence," *Board for Certification of Genealogists* (<https://bcgcertification.org/skillbuilding-dunn-on-indirect-evidence/>) : 4 January 2019). Also, *Genealogy Standards: Second Edition* (Nashville & New York: Ancestry, 2019), 80.
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23. Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Negative Evidence: Evidence that Negates?," blog post, *QuickTips: The Blog @ Evidence Explained* (<https://www.evidenceexplained.org/quicktips/negative-evidence-evidence-that-negates>) : accessed 1 April 2019.
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25. 1940 United States Census, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Roxbury, enumeration district (ED) 15-444, Sheet 4B, Dwelling #568, Household 90, Bernice Savitsky; *digital image*, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 9 October 2018); *citing* National Archives Microfilm Publication T627, Roll 1670.
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28. "Massachusetts, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950," entry for Leizer Poupk, digital image, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 2 April 2019); *citing some 1845 – 1911 data that does not seem to match.* Leizer (aka Eliezer) Poupk, petition for naturalization #179048 (1937) at USDC Massachusetts in Boston; *digital image*, "Massachusetts, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950," database and images, image 1586 of 2574, Ancestry (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 2 April 2019); *citing* an inaccurate NARA source. In a phone call to NARA Waltham (Joe K : spoke 9 Apr 2019), the correct source was given as: *Petitions and Records of Naturalization, 12/1790 - 2/1991, USDC Boston, NID 595176* (<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/595176> : accessed 9 April 2019), box 177, petition 179048. Ancestry also inaccurately records the birthdate of Leizer Poupk as 23 Jan 1932. In fact, that is the date of his Declaration of Intent. He was born in 1886.
29. Eliezer's Petition for Naturalization is recorded with his Declaration of Intent, as cited in footnote 28.
30. Social Security Administration, "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 October 2017), entry for Bassia Savitsky, 26 Dec 2003, SS no. 010-54-0904.
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37. 1940 United States Census, Haverhill City, Essex County, Massachusetts, population schedule, Haverhill, enumeration district (ED) 5-125, Sheet 5B, line 61, household 105,), Eliezer Poupk; *digital image*, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 15 March 2018); *citing* National Archives Microfilm Publication T627, Roll 1580.

Methodology: Negative Search and Reasonably Exhaustive Research

A focused question is a necessary component of genealogical research.¹ To illustrate this, consider the question, “When and where was Chana Weinstock, also known as Jane, wife of Miklos Yurowitz, born?”

Researching records requires a plan. This includes searching record sets. To start the research, three main online databases will be searched:

- JewishGen
- FamilySearch
- Ancestry

Searching **JewishGen** for either “Chana Yurowitz” or “Jane Yurowitz”, returns no matches. “Jane Weinstock” does yield one result, which was not “our” Chana. Using “Chana Weinstock” does yield numerous results, but none of them are “our” Chana.

Searching **FamilySearch** for “Chana Weinstock” has 9 results. None are “ours”. Interestingly, they have results for Jewish burials in Israel, which, JewishGen did not seem to have. This is an example

of why it is pays to look for sources in as many places as possible; the effort should be reasonably exhaustive. Here, a Mormon-based website has sources a Jewish-based website does not (yet) have.

Further lookups in FamilySearch, this time for “Jane Weinstock”, produced 24 results, but again, none were her. “Chana Yurowitz” had zero results. “Jane Yurowitz” had one result that appears to be “our” Chana. This was her SSDI entry, which includes her birthdate of 11 Jan 1907.²

Switching to **Ancestry**, a search for “Chana Weinstock”, born 1907, yields 29 results. Only one of these refer to the Chana Weinstock being researched – it is from a member tree, labeled “Weinstock, Walker, Davis - Use with Caution!” There is no source citation for the listed birth detail of “1 Jan 1907 in Paksch, Tolna, Hungary”.

Going back to the JewishGen homepage “**Search for a town**” feature, looking for “Paksch”,

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Methodology: Negative Search and Reasonably Exhaustive Research

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directs the user to a result of "Paks, Hungary, with Alternate names: Paks [Hun], Paksch [Ger], Dunakömlőd".³

Continuing the search in Ancestry for "Jane Weinstock", gives 100 results. There is only one result that is a match to "our" Chana. It is an unsourced family tree, labeled "Ephraim Yurowitz Family Tree", and it has no birth detail. It does add that she resided in Budapest, Hungary, in 1935. This is a hint to keep in mind for expanding the research plan. A "Chana Yurowitz" search had zero results. A "Jane Yurowitz" search had 2 results; one of which was the same SSDI result found using FamilySearch. Rather than ignoring this redundant result (which was previously seen on FamilySearch), looking at it on Ancestry includes "Suggested Records". In this case, this was an entry from the U.S. Naturalization Records Indexes, 1794-1995, for the New York Eastern District of New York. As an index, it does not have any birth detail, so it may seem to have been futile (see the

image on the next page).

At this point, one might conclude that there may be one primary source for the date of birth and none for the place of birth. The SSDI, which is based on the deceased's original SS-5 filing, was completed by her when obtaining her social security number.⁴ Analyzing the record set, it's apparent using **SIE** components, that for the actual birthdate, it is:

- **S**:ODA – it is a derivative (an original would be her hand-written SS-5)
- **I**:PSU – it is primary
- **E**:DIN – it is direct

The family tree mentioned above from Ancestry, for the place of birth, is:

- **S**:ODA – it is authored
- **I**:PSU – it is secondary
- **E**:DIN – it is direct

Many genealogists require at least two, and even three, independent original, primary items to meet the GPS.⁵ It would seem that in this case we have exhausted our options.

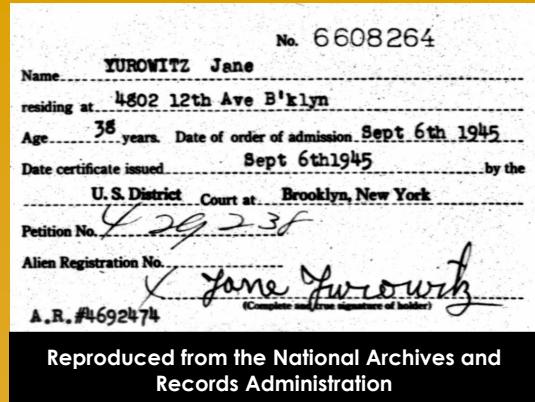
In fact, all that was exhausted

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Methodology: Negative Search and Reasonably Exhaustive Research

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were the easy options. There are still several options to explore. If the family tree in Ancestry is accurate, then, although not indexed, 1907 births for Paks in Tolna county of Hungary are available in the post-1895 collection of Hungarian births. It would require research by hand, something common years ago, when a researcher would have to crank through unindexed microfilm. In this case it would be scrolling through online scans from the Tolna Birth Register. It is tedious, but still an



https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/results?count=20&placeId=77137&query=%2Bplace%3A"Hungary"

FamilySearch

Family Tree Search Memories Indexing

Records Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Refine your search

Search by:

Place: Hungary, Tolna, Paks

Surnames

Titles

Author

Subjects

Keywords

Search for:

Call Number

Film/Fiche Number

Availability

Any

Online

Family History Center

Update Reset

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

[PRINT](#) [Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

Part of Hungary, Tolna

▶ Hungary, Tolna, Paks - Church records (4)
▶ Hungary, Tolna, Paks - Civil registration (1)
▶ Hungary, Tolna, Paks - Jewish records (1)

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Methodology: Negative Search and Reasonably Exhaustive Research

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option. Also, although only an index to naturalization for Jane Yuowitz was searchable online, FamilySearch does have the actual scans for NY Eastern District Naturalization records online. It is possible to perform a manual search using the petition number.

Exploring FamilySearch, and reviewing the index card, we see that the Petition was filed in 1945 under #429238. Going to the catalog in FamilySearch, the film would be located on the entry "Naturalization records, cert. no. 429151-429550, 30 Apr.-7 May, 1945, Film 2404177 [DGS 777388]".

⁶ Clicking on the camera icon and scrolling to image 361(thru 364) of 1769, yields four pages:

- Certificate of Arrival
- Declaration of Intent
- Petition for Naturalization, front of page
- Petition for Naturalization, back of page

One fact is obvious right away from the Certificate of Arrival. Her name was not only Chana and Jane. It was also Janka. The Declaration clarifies further, noting

both Janka and Yanka. The Petition lists the name changes from Janka to Yanka to Jane. Both the Declaration and Petition list the same birthdate as the SSDI and also lists the birthplace as the same place recorded in the Ancestry tree – Paks, Hungary.

Utilizing the FamilySearch Catalog and typing "PAKS" for place, the website suggests "Hungary, Tolna, Paks" to search on.⁸ Searching produces:

- Hungary, Tolna, Paks - Civil registration (1)
- Állami anyakönyvek, 1895-1977
- Author: Paks (Tolna). Anyakönyvi Hivatal; Tolna Megye Levéltára

Clicking the hyper-link from "Állami anyakönyvek, 1895-1977" results in a page with Hungarian phrases. Keep in mind that

- Birth = Születés
- Marriage = Házasság
- Death = Halál

Searching through the list of films, the line entry of "Születtek szept.

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Methodology: Negative Search and Reasonably Exhaustive Research

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1905-júl. 1912 Film 2055971 [DCG 5036622]", should contain the 11 Jan 1907 birth record of Janka Weinstock. Clicking on the camera icon displays 807 pages. Page 307 indicates the start of Item 3 in the collection: 1907 records. On page 327, line 17, Janka Weinstock's birth is recorded, in Paks, on 11 Jan 1907.

Practicing the concept of reasonably exhaustive research, a living relative of "our Chana" - Chana Yurowitz was contacted and a certified copy of Chana's marriage record was supplied (see the image on the next page). This confirmed the success of the overall research process.

The lesson to learn is that even though the original research question had a negative search result, the answer to the question was possible using available resources. The evidence was available, without having to travel to New York City or Paks, Hungary, to find original, primary, direct proof.

1. Elizabeth Shown Mills, "QuickLesson 13: Classes of Evidence—Direct, Indirect & Negative," *Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage* (<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-13-classes-evidence%20%94direct-indirect-negative> : accessed 22 Mar 2019), Step Two: Define The Research Question.
2. "United States Social Security Death Index," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JT1N-M2C> : 20 May 2014), Jane Yurowitz, Jun 1981; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).
3. <https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/community.php?usbgn=863807&scale=K> : accessed 12 Apr 2019.
4. <https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf>
5. Bill, Dollarhide, "Family Group Sheet Standards," *GenealogyBlog*, 20 Jul 2012 (<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=20637> : accessed 12 Apr 2019) Cite Your Sources, paragraph 2.
6. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/988724?availability=Family%20History%20Library>
7. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3357-9THJ-K7F?i=326&cc=1452460&cat=654631>
8. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/search/>

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Methodology: Negative Search and Reasonably Exhaustive Research

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Marriage Record of Miklos Yurowitz & Janka Weinstock

Reproduced with permission from Edythe Maza

Yurowitz-Weinstock marriage certificate, citing the marriage of Manó Jurovics (birth place Zavidoviss, Bosnia) and Janka Weinstock (birth place Paks, Tolna) on 6 Nov 1931, in Budapest, Hungary; Yurowitz Papers, privately held by Edythe Maza, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE] Deer Park, Long Island, 11729, USA. Issued by the Registrar in Budapest, date unknown; this certificate is a certified extract of the marriage registered on 6 Nov 1931 as No. 1665 in District VI. Upon the death of Miklos Yurowitz on 12 Jul 2006, this certificate was passed to his daughter, Edythe Maza.

ARTICLES *Of Interest*

From Publications Not Affiliated With Jewish Genealogy

The study of Jewish Genealogy is different than that of other ethnicities and cultures. Primarily, it requires detailed knowledge of a very broad range of countries; their borders, history, repositories, and laws. At the same time, an aspiring Jewish genealogist would gain from an awareness of the maturity older non-Jewish societies have reached, in terms of methodology and standards. This column seeks to further the awareness of their various publications and the stories within.

The Board for Certification of Genealogists recommends reading peer-reviewed genealogy journals. It lists TAG, The Genealogist, NEHGR, NGSQ and NYGBR.¹ This article also includes references from OnBoard and APGQ.

The American Genealogist

A quarterly journal founded 1922

TAG Vol 90, #3 (July 2018): The Signature of John Howland by David L. Greene: Excellent use of

GPS to show how the lack of a citation does not mean a conclusion “must be disputed”.



The Genealogist Vol 33 #1 (Spring 2019): The Grand Princely Family Fresco In Saint Sophia Cathedral In Kyiv, And The Identity Of Agatha The Wife Of Edward Atheling: The Search Continues, by David Jay Webber: uses sound reasoning to disprove 1000-year old genealogy; On The Ethnic Origin Of The Actor John Malkovich, by Žarko B. Veljković: compact article (6 pages with images) details 4 generations across the USA and Croatia with an eclectic mix of source citations (including GENI and Croatian records).

The NEHG Register

The Register (NEHG) Volume 173 (Winter 2019): English Origin of Leslie Bradfield of Wethersfield

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and Branford, Connecticut by Patricia Law Hatcher (p 66 – 81): utilizes timelines as part of the proof, for both origin and overall life story of Leslie/Lisle. Also, footnote 50, reminds the reader where to learn more about The White Queen Test.



American Ancestors Vol 19, #2 (Summer 2018): New Jewish Heritage Website; Searching for a Common DNA Ancestor (detailed steps); Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight.

American Ancestors Vol 19, #4 (Winter 2019): New Director of the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS; Locating a Marriage Record in Poland; Using DNA to identify ancestry; Jewish Heritage Center houses various *yahrtzeit* records; Family Focus lists Jewish yDNA Study of the Langsam/Miller/Spira families.



OnBoard

NEWSLETTER OF THE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION OF GENEALOGISTS®

BCG OnBoard January 2019: DNA Ethics in 2019 by Judy G. Russell.



© 2019 by National Genealogical Society (NGS). Image courtesy of NGS, used with permission, 2019.

NGSQ Vol 106, #4 (December 2018): DNA Helps Identify "Molly" (Frisch/Lancour) Morelli's Father by Jill Morelli: DNA study using atDNA, yDNA & xDNA to prove parentage.

NGS Magazine Vol 44, #4 (Oct – Dec 2018): Using Sanborn Maps; Landsmanshaftin and HIAS; Organizing Genealogy Files and Notes.

NYG&B

NYG&B Record Vol 150, #1 Jan 2019: Henry and Hannah (Lambert) McDougal, by Capers

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W. McDonald: historical article, with many citations of Brooklyn sources. It is an excellent example of the Genealogical Proof Standard.

NYG&B Researcher Vol 29, #4 (Winter 2018): Update on NY Land Records Project; Photos of all NYC 1940 buildings online via DORIS.



APGQ Vol XXXIV #1 (March 2019):

Unknown Parentage Research by Kerry Scott: DNA Methodology including cousin clustering technique; Review of Vivid-Pix Restore software by Michelle D. Novak

1. [https://bcgcertification.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/BCG-PAF-2018.pdf].



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Midrashic Genealogy / DNA

Cont. from first page (**Midrashic Genealogy**)

by impressing the king with his intellect. Rikayon did not know the custom of the land. King Ashverosch (אַשְׁוֹרָךְ צָן עֲנָס) saw commoners only one day a year, and that day had recently passed. To sustain himself while he awaited the next appearance of the king, Rikayon took over the cemetery. He required anyone performing a burial to pay him a tax in the name of the king. With this ploy Rikayon amassed a large fortune. The appointed time of the king's appearance arrived and all the people petitioned the king. "We understand taxing the living, but to tax the dead?!" they complained. The king became very angry when he discovered what was being perpetuated in his name. He ordered that Rikayon be brought before him. Rikayon brought a large entourage, dressed in much finery. He presented precious stones and other presents to the king. The king and the rest of the populace were quite taken by the magnificence of the entire procession. As Rikayon began to speak to the king, he further impressed him and found favor in the king's eyes. The king appointed Rikayon to be the one to run the country when the king was sequestered during the year. But, because of his original treachery, he had his title be that of Pharaoh (with its root as Pey-rah-yon), stating that he took a ransom from the dead (הַכְלֵל פְּלִעַת מֶמֶשׂ). MeAm Lo'ez (Genesis 3b, p596) clarifies the Hebrew year Rikayon took power as 2023.



DNA for Genealogists: Not Scientists or “Dummies”

The Board for Certification of Genealogists (“BCG”) announced that it is adopting Standards for DNA Evidence. BCG approved five modified and seven new standards relating to the use of DNA evidence in genealogical work (see: <https://bcgcertification.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Standards-Manual-2019v2014StdNumbers.pdf>). BCG also updated the Genealogist’s Code to address the protection of people who provide DNA samples.

In light of this, the executive council at JGS of Brooklyn feels it necessary to introduce a new column devoted to DNA. The goal will be to deliver information researchers need, in a way that does not require a degree in biology or even in-depth knowledge of the science. The goal of this column is to demonstrate how DNA can be used in the area of genealogy. The goal is not to teach the science.

For instance, knowledge of meiosis and anaphase, metaphase, etc, does explain what takes place during the reproduction of cells. It can be argued that to do visual phasing, this knowledge is a requirement. The JGSofB council does not agree. In fact, the entire science behind reproduction is not required to use the DNA to help in genealogical research, just like knowledge of the Relational Data Model of the various JewishGen databases is not required in order to search for possible matches. And similarly, just like understanding naming patterns, migration and religious customs may enable broader research, so too will understanding the inheritance patterns in DNA, like recombination, enable broader research.

מצרים : Egyptian Timeline in the Torah

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- 41:14 and footnote 21, p. 643) and that he ruled 1545 – 1525 BCE. It was at the beginning of the 18th Dynasty (2191 in the Jewish Calendar or 1570 BCE) that he defeated the Hyksos and drove them from Egypt.
- vi. MLT p600, citing 3:656, 665.
 - vii. MLT p600, citing ML Genesis IV 3:541. Also, footnote 28 to ML Genesis 50:45. Also see ML Genesis IV 50:4 – 5, p543.
 - viii. ML 4:551 – 552 and footnotes 64 – 70 on p666.
 - ix. MLT p600, citing 3:588, 670. Also see ML Genesis IV 50:19 – 21, p 588 and footnotes 237 & 238 (p. 670) that Magron, also known as Thutmose III, may have been Yosef himself.
 - x. MLT p600, citing. Also, for identity of Hapshepsut/Hatshepsut, see:
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Hatshepsut>
 - xi. MLT p600, citing 3:589, 670. Also ML Exodus 1:232, footnote 38.
 - xii. MLT p600, citing 3:670. Also, ML Genesis, IV, p666, footnote 69.
 - xiii. MLT p600, citing 3:670.
 - xiv. MLT p600, citing 3:590 for Yosef's death. See ML Exodus 1:8, 232, for Tzefo's escape.
 - xv. ML to Exodus 1:8 – 12 and 1:233, footnote 43 (which also notes Tzefo survived the battle and continued his rule until 2367 [1394 BCE]). This would mean Tzefo was alive from the time of Yaakov's burial in 2256, when he was initially imprisoned until 2367, a period of 111 years. For the identity of Tachpanches, see Exodus 1:233, footnote 46.
 - xvi. MLT p600, citing 3:670.
 - xvii. MLT p600, citing 3:77.

Cont. from first page (**Understanding Genealogical Proof Standard #3**)

- to answer a question about the past)
- b. **research:** evidence that we can re-examine today, to view the past
 - c. **reasoning:** to help us understand the past

 **Evidence Assemblage** – until evidence is assembled (such as put into a table) the evidence label (DIN [direct, indirect or negative]) can not be applied conclusively.⁴

Tom made several other observations. Negative evidence requires two conditions:

- 1) If it is true if something is not there
- 2) It adds to the assemblage, it supports the conclusion and answers a question

He stressed that negative evidence is not:

- absence of records (i.e.: no marriage records at all, versus there ARE marriage records but no record for a specific person that should be recorded there)
- an unproductive search
- evidence of a non-relationship (i.e.: a will with a missing child does not prove anything)

Negative evidence can be used when it is helping to:

- establish age, status, death or removal from a location
- eliminate competing possibilities (process of elimination)

One of Jones' concluding remarks loosely reflected on a common statement of, "absence of proof is not proof of absence."⁵ Genealogists should say, "Absence of information could be evidence of absence but not proof of absence." We need to be mindful that evidence in its "raw" form, not assembled, is never proof, just evidence.

-
1. Tom Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, "Using Indirect and Negative Evidence to Prove Unrecorded Events," 19 October 2018; MP4, Board for Certification of Genealogists, *familytreebinars.com* (https://familytreebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=872 : accessed 29 October 2018).
 2. Jones, "Using Indirect and Negative Evidence to Prove Unrecorded Events," 4:17 in Negative Evidence.
 3. Jones, "Using Indirect and Negative Evidence to Prove Unrecorded Events," 2:20 in Introduction.
 4. Jones, "Using Indirect and Negative Evidence to Prove Unrecorded Events," 3:10 in Introduction.
 5. Unsourced, but attributed to William Cowper (1731-1800).

מצרים : Egyptian Timeline in the Torah

Part I

The focus of this article is not to present an alternate timeline. This author is not a credentialed historian with a focus on Egyptian history. This author is well versed in Biblical commentary and Midrashic writings. Some of the stories in Egyptian history do closely mirror the underlying detail described in Jewish texts. There are numerous instances of the intersection of Jewish history with that of Egypt. Some of these important Jewish dates include:

- **2023 (1738 BCE):** Rikayon becomes Paroh (Pharaoh), the same year Avrohom Avinu (Abraham) goes down to Egypt for the first time.ⁱ
- **2191 (1570 BCE):** Ahmose becomes Paroh, beginning the 18th Egyptian Dynasty (a year before Yaakov Avinu marries).ⁱⁱ
- **2216 (1545 BCE):** Amenhotep I becomes king of Egypt.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **2236 (1525 BCE):** Amenhotep I dies and Thutmose I becomes Paroh.^{iv}
- **2238 (1523 BCE):** Yosef HaTzadik (Joseph) unifies all of Egypt during the first 2 years of famine.^v
- **2253 (1508 BCE):** Thutmose I dies and Thutmose II becomes Paroh.^{vi}
- **2255 (1506 BCE):** Yaakov Avinu passes away.^{vii}
- **2256 (1506 BCE):** A battle is fought after the burial of Yaakov between Eisav's sons and Yaakov's son. In the battle, Tzefo, son of Eliphaz, is captured.^{viii}
- **2270 (1491 BCE):** Thutmose III (Magron) becomes Paroh.^{ix}
- **2277 (1484 BCE):** Hapshepsut becomes co-regent of Egypt.^x
- **2288 (1473 BCE):** Eisav's sons, African king Angius and the Yishma'elim join forces and with over a million-man army, they march on the city of Rameses to free Tzefo, son of Eliphaz. Yosef and his brothers lead the Egyptian army and defeat Eisav's sons. Their (Eisav's son's) king, Bela ben Beor, falls in battle.^{xi}
- **2292 (1469 BCE):** Hapshepsut dies and Thutmose III becomes full king.^{xii}
- **2303 (1458 BCE):** Thutmose III invades Canaan and Syria.^{xiii}
- **2309 (1451 BCE):** Yosef HaTzadik passes away. Tzefo escapes from prison and flees to Carthage.^{xiv}
- **2317 (1444 BCE):** Tzefo (grandson of Eisav) wars with Egypt in Tachpanches and is defeated.^{xv}
- **2325 (1436 BCE):** Thutmose III dies. Amenhotep II becomes Paroh.^{xvi}
- **2332 (1429 BCE):** Levi, the last of the sons of Yaakov, passes away.^{xvii}

i. MeAm Lo'ez ("ML") Timeline at the end of Genesis IV/3b (hereafter: "MLT"), p596, citing ML 2:25 for Rikayon. For Avrohom, citing 2:27, 30, 35.

ii. MLT p598, citing 3:643. Also, Yaakov's marriage to Rochel & Leah in 2192, citing 3:50.

iii. MLT p599, citing 3:643.
iv. MLT p599, citing 3:643, 656)
v. Based on MLT p599, citing 3:465, 480, 656, for Yaakov's arrival in Egypt and the end of the famine. Also see ML Genesis IV 47:7 – 10 and foot note 30 (p. 656) that Ahmenhotep I appointed Yosef as viceroy (citing ML Genesis IV

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Standards

GEDCOM Standards for "GPS" #3

The Genealogical Proof Standard requires analysis & correlation.¹ Correlation means a relation existing between variables which tend to occur together.² You correlate detail from multiple sources to confirm things like relationship and identity. Isolated detail may not yield facts, but when you use (correlate) detail from multiple sources, it may uncover new facts. For example:

- Creating a timeline of occurrences
- Charting variables, like age and place, across multiple censuses
- Comparing signatures from multiple documents
- Using a spreadsheet for comparing or charting DNA results

1. Genealogy Standards (Nashville & New York: Ancestry, 2019), 2 – 3.

2. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/correlation> : accessed 25 October 2018.

