

December 2019 update to the JGSGB Jewish Ancestors Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia and Estonia 2016

1. Page 20 Additional Information from Dr Jeffrey Mark Pauli

We have published two articles on Jewish surnames. One is entitled: "The Jewish Surname Process in the Russian Empire and its Effect on Jewish Genealogy." Here is the link to that article:

<https://avotaynuonline.com/2015/08/the-jewish-surname-process-in-the-russian-empire-and-its-effect-on-jewish-genealogy/>. The other article is

entitled: "The History, Adoption, and Regulation of Jewish Surnames in the Russian Empire – A Review." Here is the link to that article:

<https://www.surnamedna.com/?articles=history-adoption-and-regulation-of-jewish-surnames-in-the-russian-empire>

2. Page 23 update: GRO in UK pilot message

PDF Pilot Phase 1

From 9 November 2016, the GRO (General Record Office in the UK) trialled the emailing of PDF copies of registration records. Records would not be immediately viewable, but emailed as a PDF.

The pilot was in 3 phases, starting with their digitised records:

- Births: 1837 – 1934 and 2007 on
- Deaths: 1837 – 1957 and 2007 on
- Marriages: 2011 on
- Civil Partnerships: 2005 on

Full details are in 'Most Customers Want to Know' section of the GRO Website Phase 1 closed on 30 Nov, or when 45,000 PDFs had been ordered, whichever was sooner. Details of phase 2 (3 hour PDF service) and phase 3 (records not digitised) are to be announced by the GRO shortly after the trial ends.

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp>

Latest message on their site-

Welcome to the new look website for the General Register Office which was updated on 12th September 2019

We are currently adding to our online indexes which will help you identify and apply for copies of our records. We have now added online indexes for deaths registered between 1984 to 2019.

Multi-lingual Standard Forms may not be recognised by EU Member States once the UK has left the EU. Individuals should contact relevant authorities in EU Member States to check whether they will accept MSFs post-Brexit.

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The [Latvian State Historical Archives](#) now has **Vital Records** up to 1914

4 **Important** New Marriage Records on Jewishgen Latvia Database

Go to the database and choose Vital Records . Read the Background information on the green banner with picture of Christine Usdin.you will get detailed information on how to view original images on the Raduraksti site.

Page 37 Genetic Genealogy

Autosomal DNA testing is done by several Companies. The 4 Major Companies are FTDNA,MyHeritage,Ancestry and 23 and me. You can download your Raw DNA data from all the Companies and up load to others including Gedcom. Ancestry allows a download of your raw data but does not accept uploads from other Companies.. Gedcom is not a testing Company but it accepts Raw data from other Companies so this gives you a wider pool for your matches. I must stress you are not uploading your DNA just your Raw DNA data. A very useful tool for trying to sort out your matches is DNAPainter.com This is also free but you get some extra tools if you pay a subscription.

Please note that Verogen has taken over Gedcom. Contact them on gedmatch@verogen.com if you have any queries.

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Archivist Lithuania Virginia Cijunskiene is no longer at the Archives .IF you need records then email-

Sandra Žverelytė

E –Mail: s.zverelyte@lvia.lt ,

WEB: www.archyvai.lt

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6 **Shamir**

Association “Shamir” and Riga Ghetto and Latvian Holocaust museum hosted more than 57 000 visitors since opening and has organized exhibitions, seminars and concerts, published books, shown exhibitions in Bremen and Oslo, and has opened a school teaching history of the Holocaust and tolerance. Information at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4V9NZLekpw9UThHSEVCZEdbQ2prM3NJeDBLd1I3UVZhY0Jz/view?usp=sharing>

7 RIGA: NEW JEWISH CEMETERY "SMERLI"

From a message of 25 Sep 2016:

RIGA NEW JEWISH CEMETERY "SMERLI" [<http://www.smerli.lv/site/main/>]
(Council of Jewish Communities of Latvia) Top right corner of the main page offers language buttons for Russian, English and Latvian.

8 The Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Latvia

The Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Latvia launched a new database "Holocaust Memorial Places in Latvia" thanks to a grant by IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance): <http://memorialplaces.lu.lv/map/>

9 Translations from "Pinkas Ha-Kehilot Latvia v'Estonia"

Translations for 6 Latvian shtetlach from "Pinkas Ha-Kehilot Latvia v'Estonia" are now available on the JewishGen Yizkor Book website. The towns are Aizpute, Jaunjelgava, Piltene, Riebini, Subate and Viski. Most of these were originally published in the old Latvia SIG newsletter and were donated by the newly reconstituted JewishGen Latvia SIG so that they now have a permanent home on JewishGen.

10 Synagogues of Latvia online on my Riga kehilalink

A beautiful Book of Old Latvian Synagogues 1918-1940 was written by the late Rabbi Barkan ISBN 9984-19-616-x

The book may be out of print but a series of postcards were published. I have scanned a number of the synagogues to my Riga Kehilalinks page.

Use chrome browser for best results.

<https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/riga/rigapage.htm>

you will find Synagogue photos

Tukums, Jekabpils, Jelgava, Karsava, Leipaja and Krustpils.

[Page 2](#) has photos of synagogues Ventspils, Bauska, Rezekne, Riga, Riga Jurmala Bulduri.

[Page 3](#) has photos of Daugavpils

[Page 4](#) has photos of synagogues in Piltene, Varaklani, Sabile, Jaunjelgava, Kuldiga and Ludza

11 Family Search site Info Sent by Marion Werle

Documents are put online as available in unindexed collections. You can find what is available by browsing the FamilySearch catalogue by location. The instructions to find the vital records (during the SIG meeting) have changed slightly, because it turns out that two different departments are involved. One puts out the digital folders in a preliminary arrangement, and then the cataloguers (on the library side) rearrange the categories, if necessary. You used to have to go two levels

down by town name to find the Jewish records, but now they appear on the first level. And some of the cataloguing has been changed to include records for a town in the jurisdiction in which it resides, rather than the town itself. So, for example, the passport registers stored in the Rezekne prefecture include smaller towns within its jurisdiction, and you will find them in the catalogue under Rezekne. The librarians have duplicated the jurisdictions to match the way LVVA does it, which makes sense.

12 Page 93 LatviaSIG

LatviaSIG remains as LatviaSIG and will not be called Latvia Connections. Jewishgen is thinking of changing all the names of the SIGs but I will let you know if this happens.

Paul Cheifitz is the Convenor of the SIG and can be contacted at paulcheifitz@gmail.com

13 LatviaSIG Projects

The Family Search site has Passport Issuance Books 1919-1940. The database has a lot of information but Jewish passports are together with others. We are making a database of the Jewish entries by searching for images that have Jewish as Religion (ebreju) There is a lot of information as the records show not only the name and number of the Passport but occupation ,place of origin ,place where living, and children are occasionally listed as well as other information.

Another Project we would like to undertake is the Riga Records Completion. If anyone is interested in helping please contact Paul Cheifitz.

paulcheifitz@gmail.com