

2020 Updates to 2016 Latvia Guide.

Sadly Irina Veinberga Head of the Latvia Historical Archives Genealogical Division died this year. The Archives Staff have been depleted and they have ceased doing research from Nov 1 2020. Researchers can still do research at the Archives and of course copies of records may be requested. You will need the Archival number which can be obtained from the records on the Raduraksti site or from records that are in the Jewishgen Latvia Database. The new URL for the Raduraksti site is

<https://www.raduraksti.arhivi.lv/>

The new contact email address for the Archives is vestures.arhivs@arhivi.gov.lv

The Raduraksti site which is the Latvian Archives site moved their data to the new site and unfortunately changed the links we had created from Jewishgen Latvia Database to the records on the Raduraksti site.. Marion Werle presented a workaround at the Annual Conference held this year that will help you find the records in Family Search.

JewishGen have put a video of her presentation on line at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwpu2OHFmS8&t=29s>

The LatviaSIG is now called the LatviaRD which is the Research Division. All the SIG's have been changed to Research Divisions.

Paul Cheifitz Co-Director

Marion Werle Co-director

Arlene Beare Co-Director

latviaRD@jewishgen.org will reach all of us.

It has become even more important for the Research Division to transcribe data for researchers seeking information on their family in JewishGen Latvia Database. We have a number of Projects and few volunteers. Please contact us as we will be glad to steer you on the way until you are comfortable with what you are doing. One does need a basic knowledge of Jewish names and the Geography of Latvia.

As I have detailed in previous updates, we continue transcribing the Passport Issuance Books. I have just finished transcribing a very nice database of nearly 1500 entries for the Passports handed in to the Riga Police. They contain a wealth of information. The place born in, place living in at time and place of permanent Residence is recorded.. There are photos and information on children as well as Addresses and Places they have travelled to, Second marriages, Divorces and much more. I have compiled a

Glossary of Latvian Occupations and Latvian words to help Volunteers with the transcription. We provide a Template and can give a Zoom Instruction Session.

We are in the process of uploading to Jewishgen almost 5000 names. These are from Passport Issuance Books for Rezekne, Daugavpils and Ludza. and Passports handed in to the Riga Police for people who were born or lived in Jekabpils. We are grateful to the following who transcribed Passport Issuance Books. Paul Cheifitz Ludza, Russ Maurer Daugavpils, Shoshana Grinbaum Rezekne, Skaistkalne is work in Progress with Brad Mirkin and Jennifer Shoer.

There are 46000 Internal Passports in Riga passport Issuance Books. Paul Cheifitz Shoshana Grinbaum, Charlotte Wiener and I are busy transcribing them. We need a lot of Volunteers to speed up the work.