

CRIMES AGAINST GENEALOGY

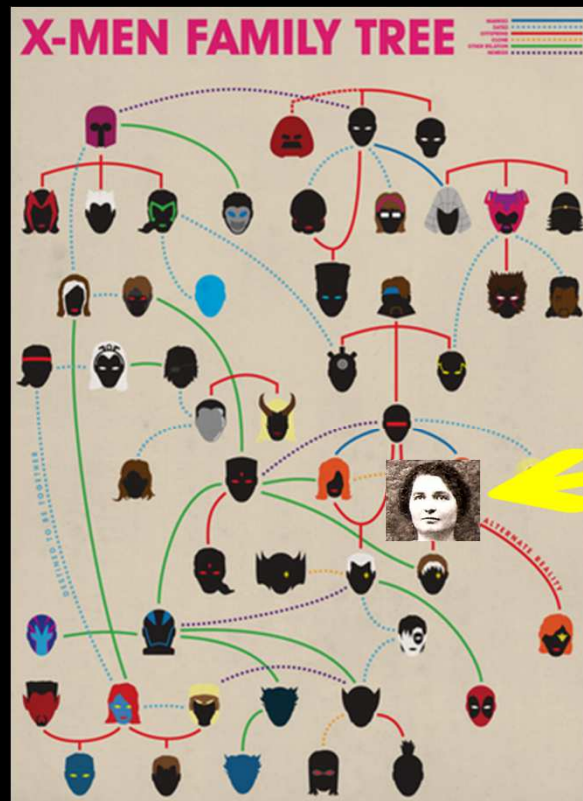


Carol Flesher
August 2021

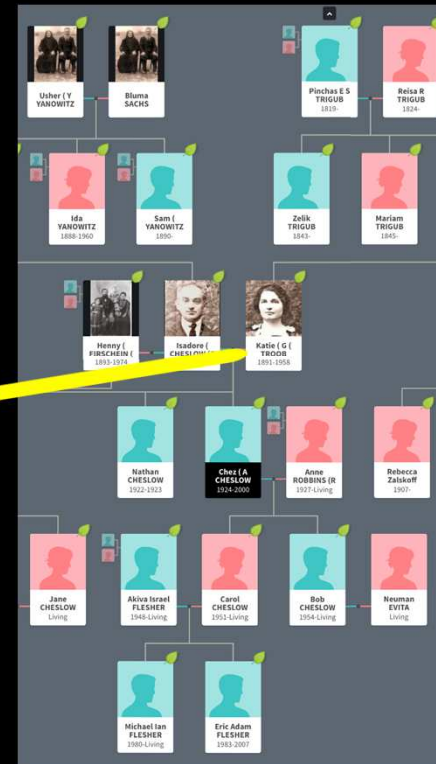
#1 THE CASE OF THE RELATIVE HOARDER

(ALIAS: THE UNDOCUMENTED CONNECTION CREATOR)

Why is
“Nanny”
on the X-
Men
Family
Tree???



Cheslow Family Tree



- **THE SUSPECT— “BORIS”**

Whoa 🤔

- **THE CHARGES:**

- Taking people and information from other peoples’ trees and attaching them to his own trees without documentation
- Collecting “relatives” as the primary goal (he currently has 133,538 people in his trees)
- Assigning relationships between my relatives and his that aren’t proven or accurate

What

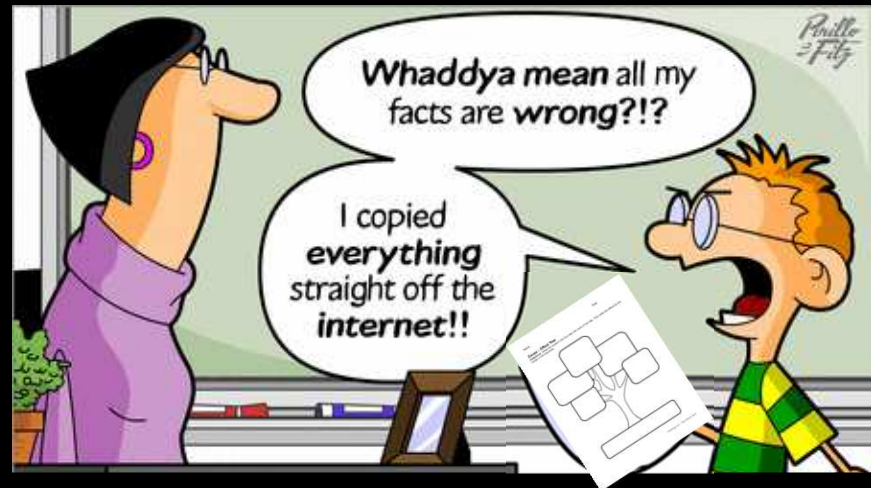


?

- **ACCOMPLICE: THE “COPY/ PASTER”**

The “Copy/ Paster”

Definition—Someone who finds suspected (or even actual) relatives on someone else’s tree, and copies the information, photos, and documents, en masse to his/her own tree. The copy/paster does this without doing the research to verify that the material and family connections are accurate.



THE FACTS:

- Entries from my tree have appeared on other family's trees



- These connections are frequently incorrect and without documentation, based solely on what "Boris" posted

- Occasionally, I have had to revise my tree to correct an error; the uncorrected information is still floating around out there and multiplying
- “Boris” does have some amazing documents that go back to the 1700’s. Very tempting! Unfortunately, he attached them to my people even though I have no proof that they are mine. 🤖

THE VERDICT:

Guilty of spreading false, unproven, and confusing information

THE SENTENCE:

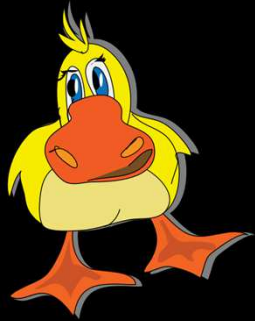
Boris and all copy/pasters need further education in the importance of accurate genealogy.

Collecting hundreds of thousands of relatives is not the same as tracing your family.

Someone else's tree is not proof!



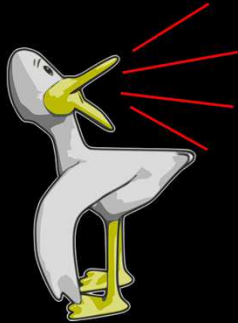
#2 THE CASE OF THE DECEPTIVE DUCK



If it looks like a duck...

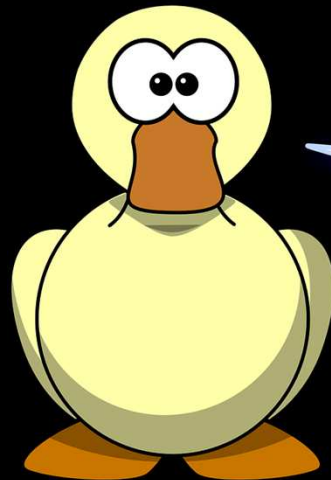


...swims like a duck...



...and quacks like a duck...

...it may not be your duck !



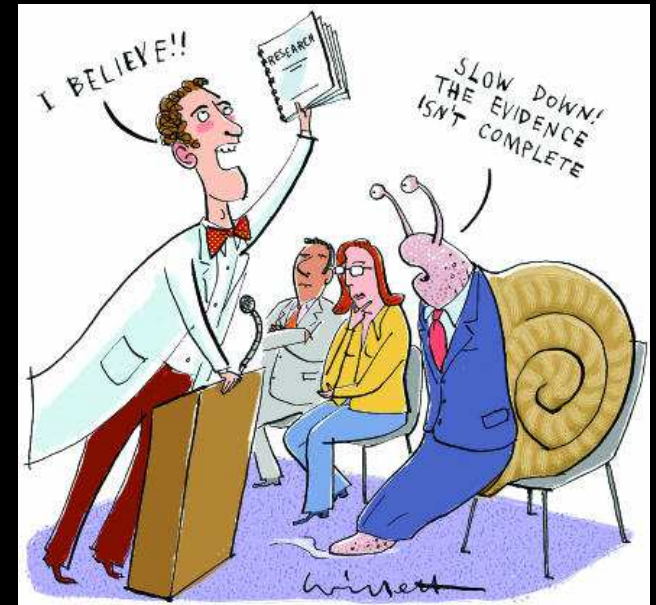
Who
Me???

THE SUSPECT – ME!

THE CHARGES:

Locating a name and
assuming it's a family member
without deeper research

Ignoring new information
that doesn't fit my
preconceived idea



La..la la la...la...la la la

THE FACTS:

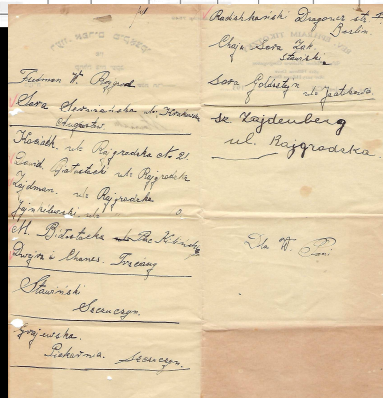
My husband's great grandfather Akiva "Kiwo" Yacov/Yankel Frydman from Rajgrad, Poland (pop. 2400 in 1937.

This is obviously him, right?

Rajgrad Births, Marriages, Deaths 1826-27 29-30,35,38-50

Polish National Archives of the JRI-Poland.org
Last Updated October 2010
Click Here to 1900-18 Family Columns

Click to View	Surname	Given Name	Year	Type	Page	House #	Date of Birth		Town of Birth	Cause of Death	Maiden Name	Other Surnames	Father	Father Age	Father Town	Father Father	Father Mother	Father Mother	Comments	Microfilm
							Birth	Death												
	SAPRO	Eliza	1840	M	15		1840		Krasnopol				David							747021
	FRYDMAN	Wina	1840	M	15		1840		Krasnopol				Estera							747021
	FRYDMAN	Moshe Naftali	1842	B	11		1842						Abram							747021
	FRYDMAN	Kiwo Jankel	1844	B	21		1844						Abram							747021



Click to View	Surname	Given Name	Year	Type	Page	House #	Date of Birth		Town of Birth	Cause of Death	Maiden Name	Other Surnames	Father	Father Age	Father Town	Father Father	Father Mother	Father Mother	Comments	Microfilm
							Birth	Death												
	WOLBERG	Inda	1844	M	25															747021
	FRYDMAN	Kiwo Jankel	1844	B	21								Abram							747021

Folders full of records, gravestones, and first-person family knowledge.

But wait—what's this?????

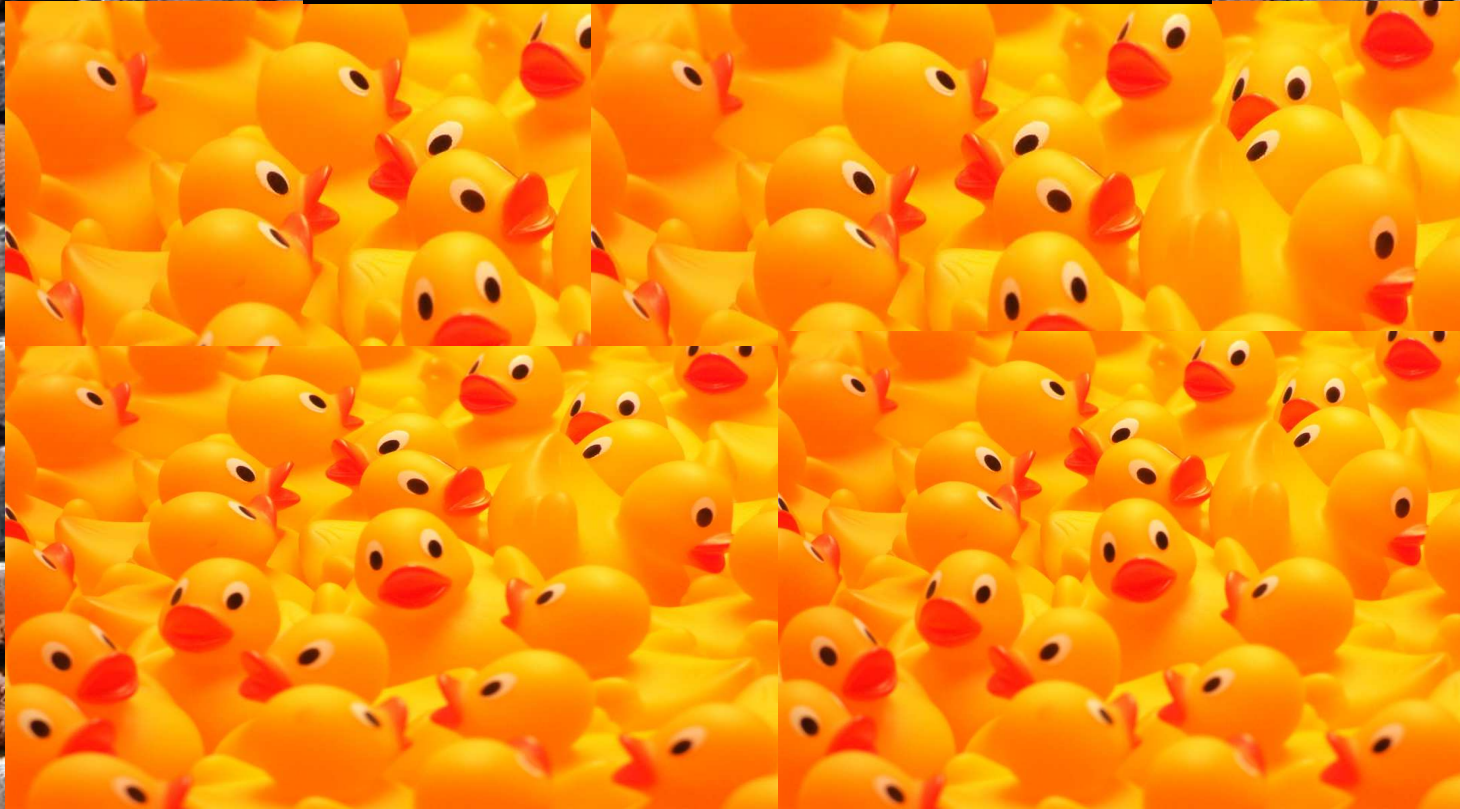
New information?

Documents/letters/gravestones, new BMD info?

How can we have two Akiva Yakov/Jankel
Friedmans from Rajgrad who married two Yente
Baila Zeitmans? I already proved that there was
only one of each!

I was good before. Now I have...

A Brick Wall of Ducks!

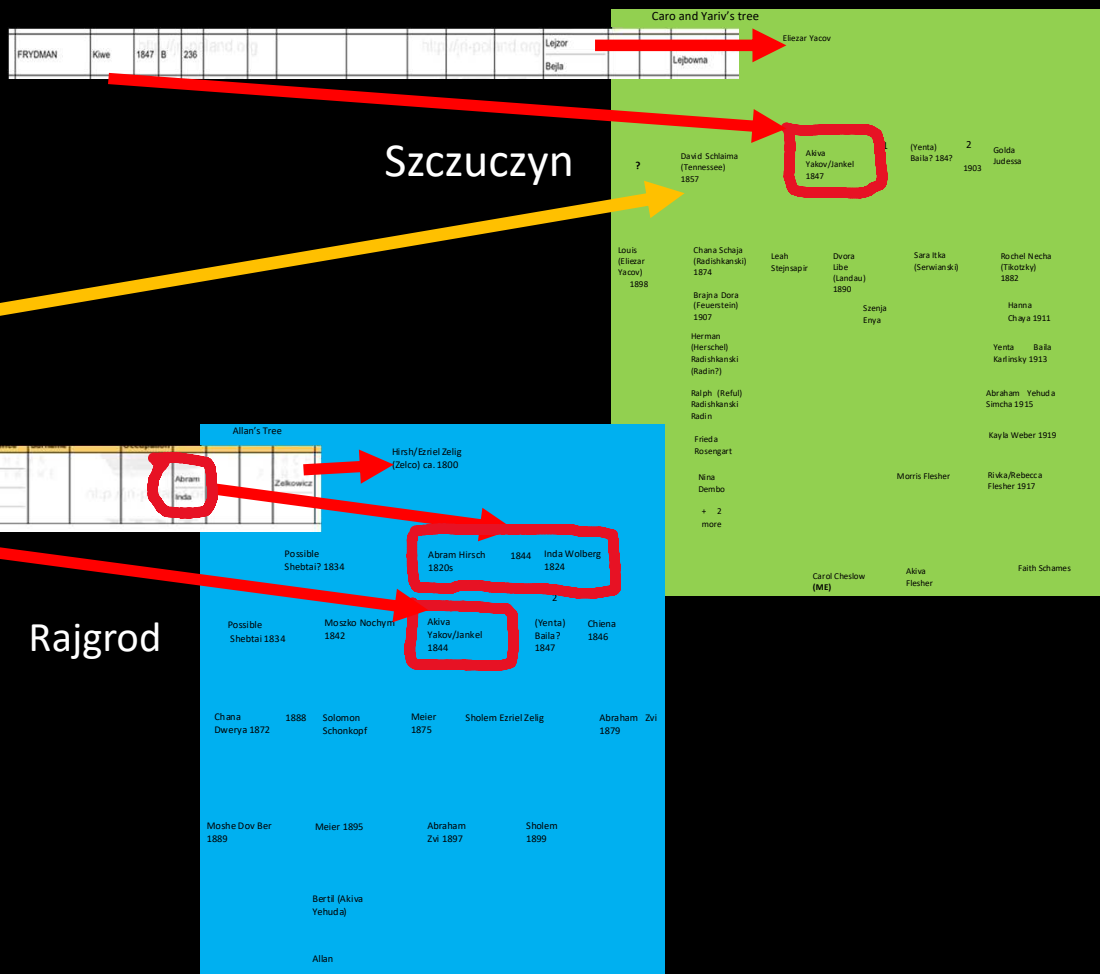


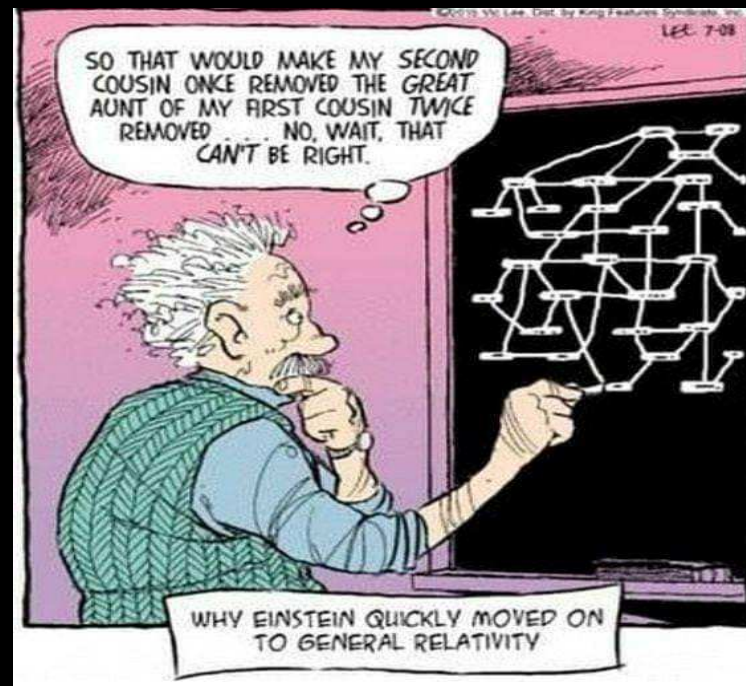


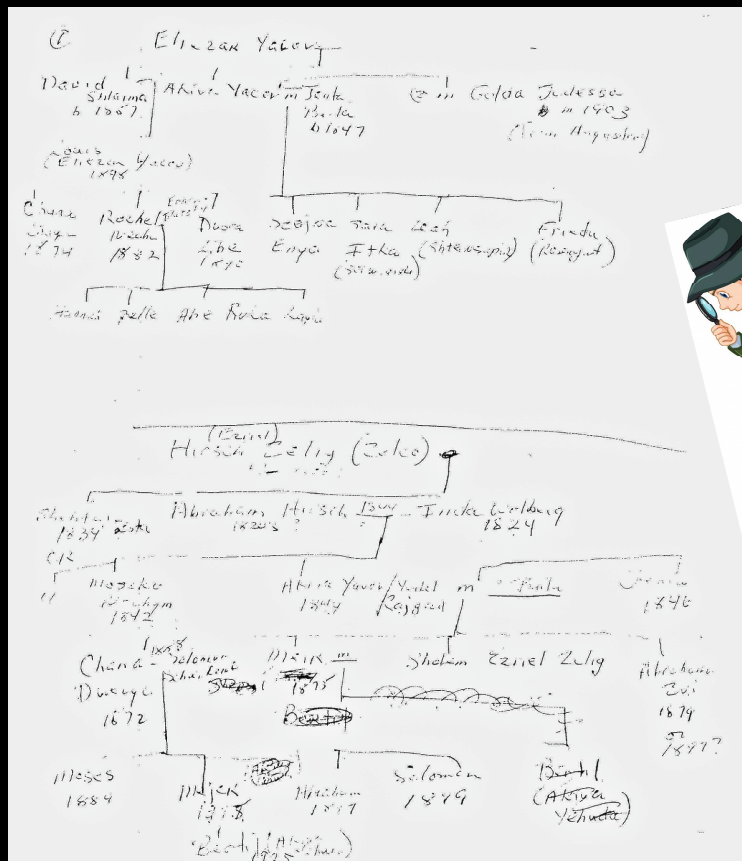
Kestner 1811 (Parnau, Lise, Lieke, Kestner (Pfr. Grosseck),
 Elise, Richard Morpal, Damm, hoch (P. Grosseck),
 Henry, Maria, Mariel, Pfr.

Szczuczyn

Rajgrod







THE INVESTIGATION:

Time for good ole-
fashioned detective work!

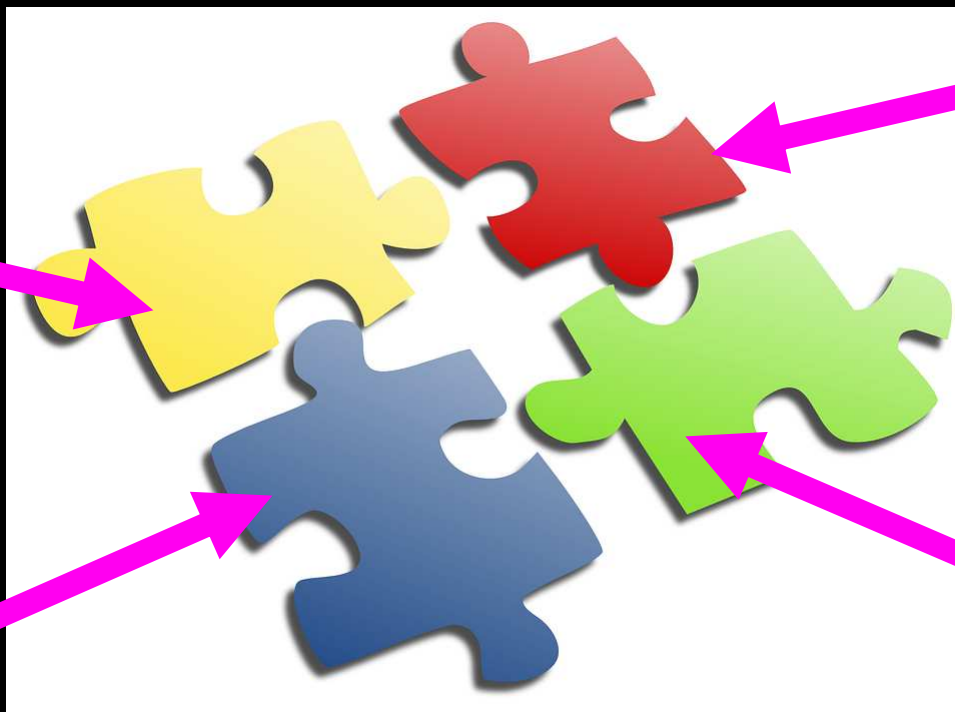
Pencil/paper

Dates/places/sources

I made contact with other
family members to share
new info do some
problem solving



Revisited old
correspondence
and saved/filed
information



Read and
translated
Hebrew names
on the family
gravestones

Cross checked
sources
against each
other

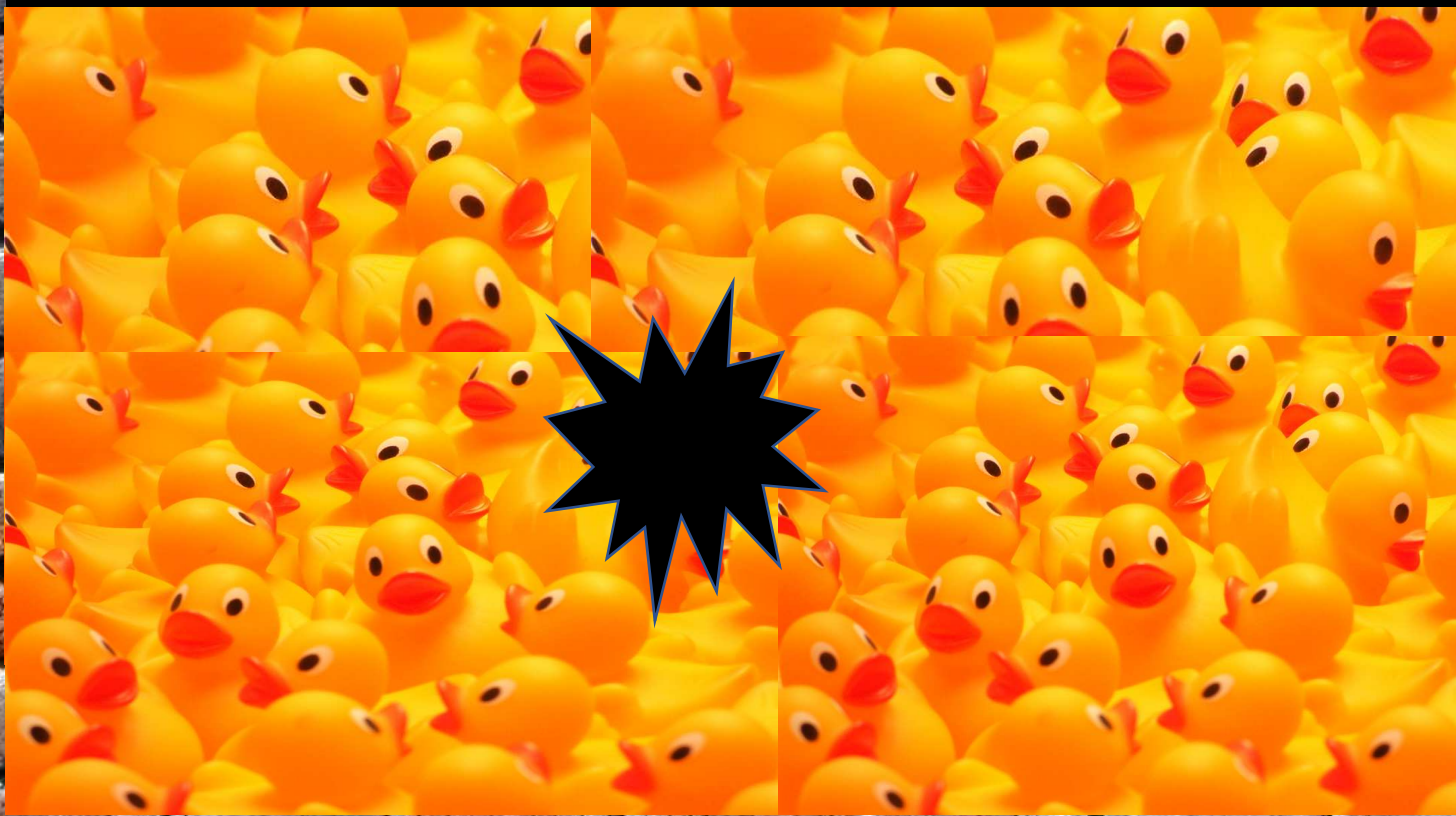
Checked
BMD dates
to see if
they make
sense

ISRAELI RELATIVE REVEALS NEW ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE

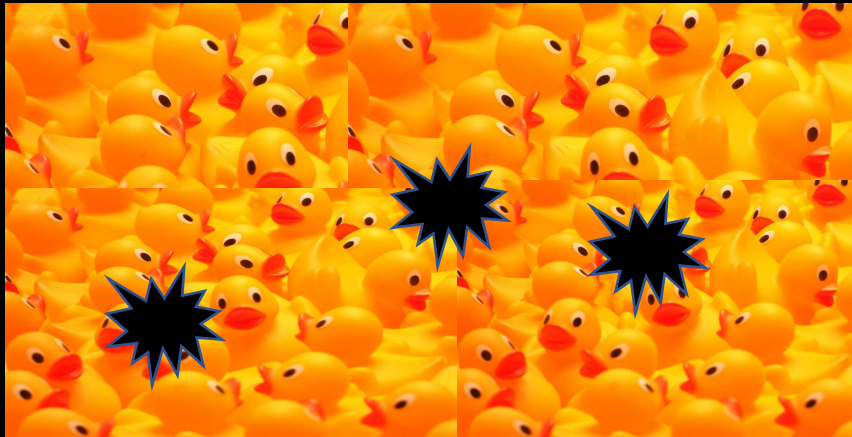
“I don’t remember if I told you--my ancestor’s nickname was “Der langer Kiwa,” Yiddish for “the tall Akiva.” Could this be evidence of two Akivas? Or just one tall one?

More questions—some things still don’t fit

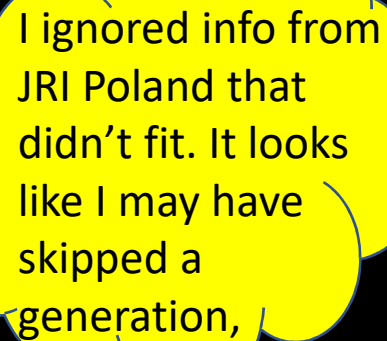
Possible Breakthrough in the Brick Wall of Ducks...



But too many discrepancies and questions remain.
Was Akiva's father Ezriel Zelig or Ezriel
Hirsch Zelig or Ezriel Hirsch or
Eliezar Yacov? 1 or 2 Akivas?

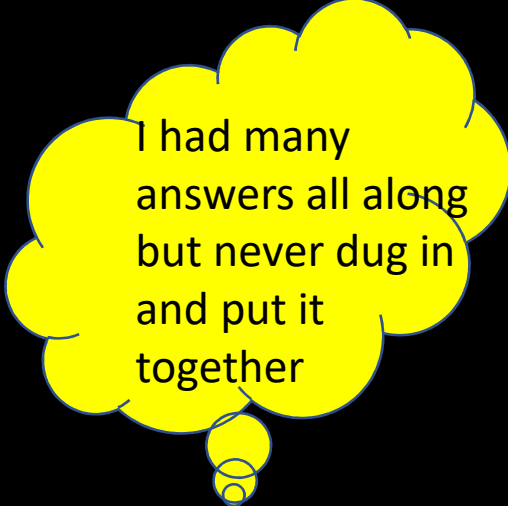


Brick wall isn't
broken
through yet

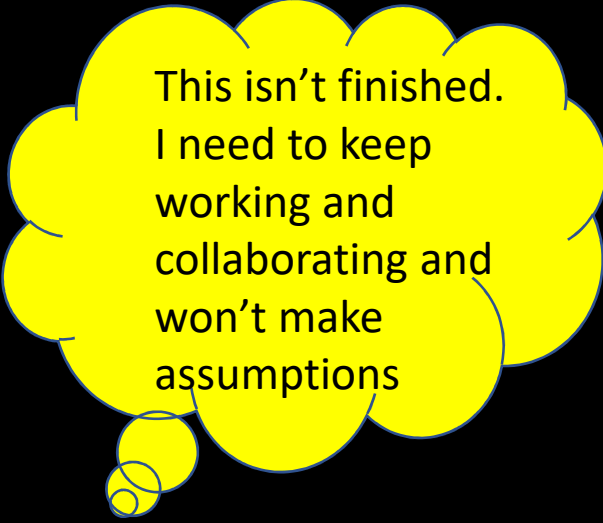


I ignored info from JRI Poland that didn't fit. It looks like I may have skipped a generation,

THE CONFESSION:



I had many answers all along but never dug in and put it together

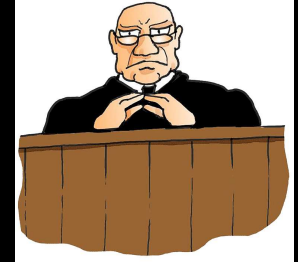


This isn't finished. I need to keep working and collaborating and won't make assumptions

THE VERDICT: PROBATION

- I will continue to work with the two relatives in Israel
- If I am right, I will no longer be related to one of them 😊 Or maybe we are still related but in a different way
- If I am right, I will fix the errors on both of my online trees and on my computer software
- I resolve to check and recheck my assumptions, even when there are documents to back things up.
- I will continue to research, look for documentation, and clear up discrepancies

A FEW MISDEMEANORS ON THE DOCKET:



1. Failure to check for the latest on JewishGen
2. Committing DNA breaches of etiquette
3. Being too “clingy” or too distant with newly-discovered relatives

JEWISHGEN – SUBSCRIBE TO DISCUSSION GROUPS AND DATABASES

**JewishGen.org**
מרכז עולמי לגנאלוגיה יהודית
The Global Home for Jewish Genealogy

JewishGen.org Discussion Group main@groups.jewishgen.org

Welcome!
The JewishGen.org Discussion Group unites Jewish genealogical researchers worldwide as they share information, ideas, methods, tips, techniques, and resources.

Group Information

- www.jewishgen.org
- 16,699 Members
- 588,958 Topics, Last Post: 1:50pm
- Started on 11/15/04
- [Feed](#)

Group Email Addresses

Post: main@groups.jewishgen.org
Subscribe: main+subscribe@groups.jewishgen.org
Unsubscribe: main+unsubscribe@groups.jewishgen.org
Group Owner: main+owner@groups.jewishgen.org
Help: main+help@groups.jewishgen.org

Group Settings

- All members can post to the group.
- Posts to this group require approval from the moderators.
- Posts from new users require approval from the moderators.
- Messages are set to reply to group.
- Subscriptions to this group require approval from the moderators.
- Archive is visible to anyone.
- Wiki is visible to anyone.
- Only moderators can create hashtags.
- Members cannot edit their messages.
- Members can set their subscriptions to no email.

All JewishGen Databases

14 total matches found

Surname (phonetically like) : FRYDMAN AND

Givenname (DM soundex) : KIWO AND

Town (phonetically like) : RAJGROD

Run on Tue, 20 Jul 2021 15:47:12 -0600

Description

Press the Button to view the matches



JewishGen
Family Finder



List 1 record



JRI
Poland

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland



List 13 records from Łomża Gubernia

Miriam Weiner “Roots to Roots” collection



The screenshot shows the JewishGen website interface. At the top left is the JewishGen logo, a stylized blue and green flower, with the text "JewishGen" in blue and green, and "מרכז עולמי לגנאלוגיה יהודית" and "The Global Home for Jewish Genealogy" below it. To the right, it says "Logged in: Carol Flesher" with links for "My Profile" and "Logout". Further right is the logo for the "An affiliate of MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST". Below these is a green navigation bar with buttons for "ABOUT US", "GET STARTED", "DATABASES", "RESEARCH", and "DONATE". The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: "Home » JewishGen-eral Information » Press Releases » The JewishGen / Miriam Weiner 'Routes to Roots' Collection". Below this is the heading "New Partnership with Miriam Weiner & The Routes to Roots Foundation". To the left of the text is an orange square containing a white tree icon. To the right of the tree icon, the text reads "The Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Collection" in blue and brown, followed by "@JewishGen.org" in blue and orange.

JewishGen
מרכז עולמי לגנאלוגיה יהודית
The Global Home for Jewish Genealogy

Logged in: Carol Flesher
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[ABOUT US](#) [GET STARTED](#) [DATABASES](#) [RESEARCH](#) [DONATE](#)

[Home](#) » [JewishGen-eral Information](#) » [Press Releases](#) » The JewishGen / Miriam Weiner "Routes to Roots" Collection

New Partnership with Miriam Weiner & The Routes to Roots Foundation

 The Miriam Weiner
Routes to Roots
Collection
@JewishGen.org

DNA ETIQUETTE: CONTACTING MATCHES

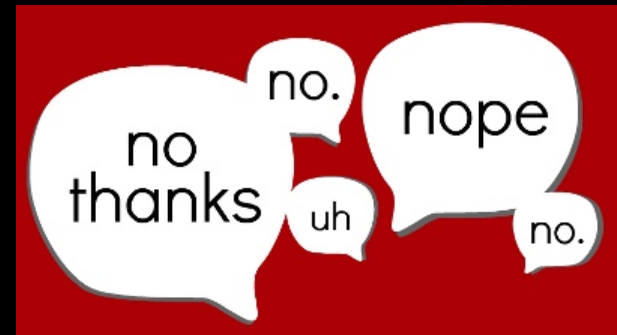
- “Are you Jewish? If so, I guess we are related. Send me everything you know.”
- “We have Y DNA match and 2nd Cousin - 3rd Cousin My grandparents are from Galicia. Do you know something?”
- Always answer any inquiry. Be kind.



AFTER YOU CONTACT NEW RELATIVES...

People have different expectations; don't assume that you will soon be sharing Shabbos dinners. Also don't assume that the new relatives want a close relationship with you.

If you want more contact, be sure to respect boundaries. Some folks just want to share genealogical information.



We are all perpetrators
and victims of “Crimes
Against Genealogy.”

No matter how
experienced we are, we
are still learning!

