

GONE GIRL: DNA AND DOCUMENT STRATEGIES FOR FINDING A VERY LONG LOST FEMALE COUSIN

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ALL WEBSITES VALID AS OF 31 JANUARY 2023 STRATEGIES IN ORDER OF PRESENTATION

- **GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD**

- Reasonably exhaustive search.
- Complete and accurate citation of sources.
- Analysis and correlation of the collected information.
- Resolution of conflicting evidence.
- Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

Board for Certification of Genealogists. The Genealogical Proof Standard.
<https://bcgcertification.org/ethics-standards>

- Build a family tree with as much information as possible about lateral relatives.
- Oral history may not be a perfect source, but it frequently provides clues. Be sure to record your sources with audio or video.
- Odessa records (credit to Gary Pokrassa):
 - index records for Odessa 1903-1919:
<https://uk.wikisource.org/wiki/%D0%90%D1%80%D1%85%D1%96%D0%B2:%D0%94%D0%90%D0%9E%D0%9E/39/6>
 - actual metric birth records for Odessa are births 1886 and 1907:
<https://uk.wikisource.org/wiki/%D0%90%D1%80%D1%85%D1%96%D0%B2%D0%B8/%D0%94%D0%90%D0%9E%D0%9E/39/5>
- Odesa Birth Index 1878-1900
https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Ukraine/Odessa_birth_index.htm
- On passenger manifests, think out of the box for alternative spellings and have knowledge of Hebrew or Yiddish names of the passenger.
- On passenger manifests, related family groups may not be on the same page.
- Search for all possible census records; let the census record sequence tell a story. One never knows the information that might be revealed.
- Multiple census records help to confirm birth dates, places, naturalization status, occupation, etc.

- City directories provides information between census years and provides information about the family.
- The 1940 census tells us who provided the information. Look in the name column for (X)
- City directories provides information beyond available census years. I can also provide a business name and whether a woman is widowed, as well as her deceased husband's name.
- Gravestone photos can be critical to learning a person's Hebrew or Yiddish name.
- Check landsmanshaft gates for the person's name. This can be followed up by searching for landsmanshaft records. The largest collection is available at YIVO
https://libguides.cjh.org/genealogyguides/landsmanshaftn/locating_records
- Search for obituaries in English and Jewish newspapers.
- Whenever possible, do searches yourself rather than ask someone else. You know best what you are seeking.
- Use maps to better understand the story.
- When possible, compare a story in multiple newspapers; each may have bits and pieces of different information.
- When possible, visit the site of a story.
- Use cultural and social history to flush out the story.
- Always try to find the documentation to support the story.
- Exhaustively search for all possible records. For immigration and naturalization, utilize the services of USCIS
<https://www.uscis.gov/records/genealogy> NOTE: fees may soon dramatically increase!
- Numbers next to the person's name on the manifest, indicate that there is a naturalization record. Marian Smith, former USCIS historian provides an excellent guide to the numbers and their meaning
<https://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/manifests/>
- Probate records can reveal unexpected information. These records are usually found in a county courthouse.
- When you hit that brick wall...
 - Take a break from the line of research.
 - Review new online resources.
 - Try to obtain or review the oral history.
 - Utilize DNA strategies.
- DNA test and/or upload to multiple companies.

- Use the shared matches and tools provided by the various companies and third parties.
- Use the Social Security number to verify a person's identity.
- A "false" maiden name may have been relevant to something in the person's life. In this case, it was the name of her parents' business.
- Home sources can provide unexpected documents. Speak to the friends, associates, and neighbors (FAN club) of the person to see what they have.