Basic Information Sources

Debra Kay Blatt

Genealogy – where you confuse the dead and irritate the living

Vital Records – United States
- Birth, Marriage and Death Records
- CDC Website: Where to write for vital records [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm)
- Some indexes and records are filmed at Mormon FHC
- Online sites, such as Ancestry.com
- Often have information like parents’ names, including mother’s maiden name, place of birth
- Don’t ignore witnesses!

Census Records
- Federal Census – every ten years
  - Indexes for some years
  - On-line at Ancestry.com
  - Microfilmed at FHCs, National Archives, Libraries
- New York State Census for 1905, 1915, 1925

Information on Census Records
- Depends on years
- Family relationships
- Ages
- Years of immigration and naturalization
- Occupations, value of house
- Look at the neighbors!
- Look at the census taker!
- Look at the date taken!
Passenger Arrival Manifests

- For all arrivals, including New York, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Galveston, Canadian Border
- Indexes for most
- Manifests and Indexes microfilmed at FHCs and National Archives
- Online at EllisIsland.com for Ellis arrivals
- Online for older NYC records, Boston, and others at Ancestry.com

Information on Manifests

- Depends on year
- Family Groups
- Age, Physical description, occupation
- Place of birth
- Address of relative in Europe
- Address of contact in America

EllisIsland.org

- [www.ellisisland.org](http://www.ellisisland.org)
- Database for arrivals between 1892-1924
- Best to search using Morse search engine
- Only for Ellis Island arrivals, NOT Baltimore, Boston, etc.
- Links to text versions and original manifests

Morse Search Engine

- [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)
- Also accessible through JewishGen website [www.jewishgen.org/databases/EIDB/](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/EIDB/)
- Allows searches with less information
- Allows Soundex

Naturalization Documents

- Documents
  - Declaration of Intention
  - Petition for Naturalization
  - Certificate of Arrival
  - Certificate of Naturalization (Photo)
- Information
  - Date and place of birth of individual, spouse, children
  - Date, place, and ship of arrival
  - Physical description
- Sources
  - Online sources, Ancestry.com, other online indexes
  - Department of Homeland Security (former INS)
  - Local Courts – Indexes on microfilm at National Archives and FHCs
Foreign Records

- Order from Foreign Archives
- Microfilmed records at Mormon FHGs
- www.jewishgen.org
  - Jewish Records Indexing—Poland
    - Contains index to over 3 Million Jewish Vital Records in Poland and parts nearby areas, such as Lithuania, Galicia, Belarus, etc.
  - Databases for Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, etc.
  - Information on ordering from archives
  - Information on using Mormon Family History Centers

Don’t forget general internet searches

- www.google.com
- Sites for periodicals and newspapers such as proquest.com
- On-line phone and address directories

Benjamin Shalom Bernanke

- Age 52 (Born about 1953)
- Lived in Dillon, South Carolina

Can we find his shtetl?

Who are the Bernankes?

- Where does name appear?
- Social Security Death Index
  - computerized index to deaths reported and/or death benefits paid out starting in 1962
  - Contains state of issuance of SS number, date of birth, date of death, residence at death.
  - Can send for application for SS number. SS-5 Form, contains place of birth and mother’s maiden name, as well as employment information
  - www2.familytreemaker.com and other sites
Bernanke, Jonas

Boryslaw

Prezmysl

Next – Hal Bookbinder on Genealogical Research -- Getting Organized