Jewish Genealogy 101

- Start with what you know & work backwards
- Documentation
- Start in the US before jumping back to Europe
  - Census records
  - Military records
  - City directories
  - Naturalization documents
  - Vital records
  - Newspapers
  - Jewish museums/historical societies
  - Land records
  - Graves
    - Gives you deceased’s Hebrew name
    - Gives you deceased’s father’s name (and sometimes more)
    - FindAGrave/BillionGraves/JOWBR
- Crossing the pond
  - Ship manifests—look at the second page!
  - Use Hebrew/Yiddish names when searching
    - Hamburg
    - Stevemorse.org
- In Europe
  - JewishGen
    - Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
      - Mailing lists
        - Post yourself
        - Look at archives
      - Databases of indexed records
      - JGFF
  - FamilySearch (some duplication of JewishGen)
    - Online searching
    - Microfilms (for specific towns)
  - Geographic divisions
    - Guberniya (New York—city or Albany? Same with Vilna Guberniya), Uzeyd
    - Town name changes (JewishGen can help)
- In general
  - Facebook groups (Tracing the Tribe, Jewish Genealogy Portal)
  - Viewmate (on JewishGen) or Facebook “Genealogy Translations”
  - Yad Vashem’s database
  - Be flexible
Creative name spellings
Name changes
Age guesses
Most eastern European records are NOT online—but many exist
Routes to Roots
Genetic genealogy (and the difficulties of analyzing Jewish DNA)