

TOWN-WIDE RESEARCH: BRINGING YOUR SHTETL TO LIFE

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The **major sources** of records used by the Ariogala group to “re-create” their shtetl are listed below.

1. Family members of researchers in your shtetl research group:

Interviews with family members, photos, letters, memoirs, postcards, passports, marriage, birth and death certificates, naturalization certificates.

2. Archives:

Lithuanian State Historical Archives (LVIA), Gerosios Vilties 10, LT-03134 Vilnius, Lithuania; Attn: Galina Baranova. Istorijos.archyvas@lvia.lt

Major records: Vital records, Revision Lists (1795, 1805, 1816, 1834, 1850, 1858), Family Lists, tax (box, candle, property) lists, electors lists, property records, military lists.

Vital records are being translated for the All Lithuanian Database by the LitvakSIG, go to: www.litvak.org.

Some vital records are on microfilm from the Mormon Library in Salt Lake City. To see the list of records microfilmed, go to: www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC/VilnaMicrofilmsIndex.htm

Census Records: Revision lists (Reviskie Skazkie) were a series of ten censuses taken for purposes of taxation and conscription in Czarist Russia from 1795 until 1858. The 1858 RL was supplemented by additional revision lists until 1874, when the **Family Lists** officially replaced the revision lists and continued until 1915. The **1895-7 All Russia Census** is very comprehensive.

Kaunas Regional Archives (KRA), Marionio G-ve 28a, LT-44249 Kaunas, Lithuania.

Kaun.aa@archyvai.lt. Head Archivist – Vitalija Giricyte.

Major records: Family lists, a few revision lists, tax lists, rabbi elector lists, military lists, property records, correspondence, inheritance files, postal bank records, town maps, applications to become farmers, passports.

Lithuanian Central State Archive (LCVA), O. Milasiaus 21, LT-10102, Vilnius, Lithuania; E-mail: lcva@archyvai.lt; Website: <http://www.archyvai.lt/archyvai/>.

Post World War Internal Passports, property records, Lithuanian Archives of Image and Sound.

Archives in Belarus can be found at: <http://archives.gov.by/eng/>

Archives in Ukraine can be found at: <http://www.archives.gov.ua/Eng/Archives/>

Archival Genealogy Research in Ukraine, see: <http://www.archives.gov.ua/Eng/genealogia.php>

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 15 West 16th St., New York, NY 10011-6301; www.yivo.org.

Inter-War Collection of correspondence of town councils established between World War I and World War II in Lithuanian towns; letters, manuscripts, photographs, recordings, books, newspapers.

National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Rd., College Park, MD 20740; www.nara.gov. For World War II Aerial Photographs – Cartographic and Architectural Research Branch (NWDNC), Third Floor; For still photographs – Special Media Archives Services Division (NWCS), Still Picture Team.

3. Museums:

The Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum and Exposition of the Holocaust: Pamenkalnio g. 12, LT-2001 Vilnius; 370-5-2620730, and Pylimo 4, LT-2001, Vilnius; Tel: 370-5-2127912

<http://www.jmuseum.lt/index.asp>

Rumsiskes Folk Museum, A-1 Highway (22 km. from Kaunas): four villages from the 19th century representing Lithuania's major regions (Aukstaitija, Dzūkija, Suvalkija and Zemaitija) in an open air museum.

Town museums: <http://www.muzejai.lt/Lietmuzejai/government.htm>

Town museums in many other countries recommended by genealogists are found on the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles website: <http://tinyurl.com/6da23u>

4. Libraries: University libraries and large **public libraries** may have useful books, including Yizkor books. Check catalogs for libraries in your area.

5. Databases and websites:

www.rtrfoundation.org: for catalogs of archives – find out what types of records and the years available for your town.

JewishGen: www.JewishGen.org/databases – some databases of most use for Lithuanian and eastern European research:

JewishGen Family Finder – www.jewishgen.org/jgff

ShtetlSeeker – www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker

JRI-Poland database – for vital records for Suwalki towns and all of Poland

All Lithuania Database: <http://www.jewishgen.org/Litvak/all.htm>

JewishGen Belarus Database: <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Belarus/>

JewishGen Ukraine Database: <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Ukraine/>

JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR)

Shtetl sites: <http://shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/>

Yizkor Book Translation Project: <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor>

Yad Vashem: www.yadvashem.org.il – Holocaust accounts, testimonies, Pages of Testimony.

Jewish Family History Foundation: www.jewishfamilyhistory.org; Census/tax records for towns and villages in the 18th century, when Lithuania and Belarus were part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

6. Visit Your Shtetl:

Use the **In Your Pocket Guides** for hotels, restaurants, sightseeing, at **www.inyourpocket.com**.

Photograph your town - Jewish community buildings, cemeteries, Holocaust monuments.

Interview current residents; check with local schools for projects now going on in schools to study the former Jewish communities in many towns.

Catalog the cemetery – bring a guide who reads the Hebrew gravestones; photograph and diagram the cemetery.

8. Landsmanshaftn groups and plots in U.S. cemeteries

For New York area – see www.jgsny.org/searchcity.htm

9. Books for Lithuanian research:

Aron, Sam, **A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Lithuania**, 2005, Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain; www.jgsgb.org.uk.

Greenbaum, Masha, **The Jews of Lithuania: a History of a Remarkable Community 1316 – 1945**, Gefen Publishing House, Jerusalem, and Gefen Books, N.Y., 1995.

Schoenburg, Nancy & Stuart, **Lithuanian Jewish Communities**, Jason Aronson, Northvale, N.J.

Katz, Dovid, **Lithuanian Jewish Culture**, Baltos Lankos, Lithuania, 2004, www.baltoslankos.lt

Levin, Dov, **The Litvaks**, 2000, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.

Eliach, Yaffa, **There Once Was a World**, 1998, Little, Brown and Company, Boston.