

FROM
MARILYN GOLDEN VP
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CHRONICLES, Our
quarterly award-win-
ning journal:

Please submit articles
to our **Chronicles** edi-
tor, Evan Fishman,
editor@jgasgp.org

We all have stories to
tell! Deadline for the
next issue of *Chroni-
cles* will be announced
in the spring issue.

If you want to add a
hard copy of
[Chronicles](#) to your
membership it is an
extra \$10.



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

5/7/2021

Hi Everyone,

A big thanks goes out to **Fred Blum, David Brill, Karen Franklin, Mark Halpern, Ed Janes, Joel Spector, Walt Spector, Chuck Weinstein, and Miriam Weiner** for cohosting our Ask the Experts meeting. Everyone who responded to our Ask the Experts survey was placed in a Breakout Room when they chose the following areas of research: Philadelphia, Ukraine, Poland/Galicia, Belarus, Lithuania, and Germany. Despite the glitches, I'd say it was a mostly successful experience for us. Mark called it a beta test. It looks like he'll want to do this again!

I was in the Lithuania room with Ed Janes. He provided some suggestions and I'm inspired! Don't forget to let us know if you had any break throughs or successes with the information you gleaned from your room. The co-hosts want to know if they were instrumental in helping you and we'd enjoy hearing about it too! Several members have written to me requesting contact with others from their group. I'm happy to share that information with you. Send your discovery to Evan Fishman, editor at *Chronicles*!

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Look for our **Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy** under the Publications tab on our new website for a comprehensive beginner's guide.

As genealogists, we all visit cemeteries to gather information and take photos of headstones. Someone from Arizona contacted me with a request for cemetery photos at King David cemetery in Bensalem. I went to their office to

request the exact grave location. I was informed that I was not allowed the information unless I was related. I also couldn't enter the cemetery and take photos because they are privately owned! They don't want to have photos on the internet and are concerned about identity theft. That wasn't expected as I've been to numerous cemeteries and taken photographs. The office manager said she'd take photos and send them herself. So, I gave her the email I had received with the sender's information. One month later she did send those photos! What did I learn? The next time I'll say I'm a cousin!

Cemeteries and burial information provide us with facts and can lead us to so many discoveries. When researching online don't forget to check all the available resources such as Findagrave.com, Billiongraves.com, and JOWBR [JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry](#) at Jewishgen.org. Search by full name, Hebrew name, nick names, or initials. Provide as much information as possible. Dates are helpful. I was successful researching graves in the UK using the Irish Jewish Genealogy Society, Scotslandpeople.org, and the Scottish Jewish cemetery records. You need to be creative in your research and continuously recheck websites for updates. Don't stick with only the most popular sites!

Ellen Kowitt's [The Case of the Missing Ancestors: Genealogy Tips from Nancy Drew](#) was my inspiration.

How do I know when my genealogy research is complete? You're never really "done" researching your family history. There are always new people, stories, and records to add to your tree. Enjoy the process, and don't forget to source everything! Sign up for the [Family History Daily](#) and receive a free comprehensive genealogy checklist! See the information below in Resource Suggestions. The more you read and listen, the more you learn.

Chronicles

Keep those research articles coming!! We look forward to hearing from you about your Breakout Room successes! We are currently working on the Spring edition. Contact Evan, editor@jgasgp.org for any questions.

Contributions

We would like to thank all members who make generous donations over \$10.

Each quarter we will publish the names of those donations received. We appreciate your continued kindness and generosity.

From the President's Desk

Congratulations to our Ask the Experts team, both Experts and planners! What a great afternoon of learning and collaboration. All of the feedback received thus far has indicated that this event was truly a labor of love. All of the Experts who led sessions, committed to not just sharing their knowledge and expertise with our members, but also to the pre-event training sessions required to pull this event off so smoothly. Thank you all for your generosity!!!

Kudos to Marilyn and Mark for once again successfully planning and carrying out a new event for our members. I am so impressed with the extremely time consuming organizational work and "people skills" of Marilyn, and Mark, your ability to bring in the right people for all of our programming is always stellar. THANK YOU BOTH!!!!

I look forward to this new virtual format for Ask the Experts becoming a regular part of our programming cycle. I also hope that we will have the honor of all of you Experts joining us again in the future. Thanks to you all for making this event such a success!

With gratitude,

Felicia Mode Alexander

Future JGASGP Zoom Meeting

Date: Sunday, May 23, 2021

Time: 1:00 PM check in, chat, and schmooze

Official program starts promptly at 1:30

Guest Speaker: Alex Krakovsky: Referred to by FamilySearch as “one of the most influential figures in modern Jewish genealogy”

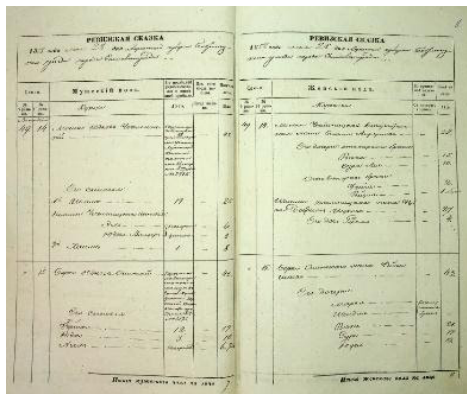
Alex Krakovsky, a Jewish Ukrainian, is using freedom of information laws and the court system in Ukraine to force archives to allow him to scan their records and post them on a public website.



Alex was born in Kyiv in 1982 and graduated Kyiv Polytechnic Institute in 2005. He started his own genealogy with a trip in 2011. Since then, he became involved in various Ukrainian archive projects. Most notable is [Jewish towns](#) (use Google's Chrome browser and it's translate function to view in English) with the goal to digitize and publish online all of the Jewish records in Ukraine. Alex spent years in Ukrainian archives finding various unknown Jewish lists and putting them online. He won many lawsuits with Ukrainian archives to make records open and available to everyone.

Topic: Tracing Jewish Ancestors from Ukraine: Why Many Researchers Fail and How to Succeed.

The Internet is full of typical questions like "my Rabinovich ancestors came to the US from Berdychiv in the early XX century, but I can't find any records". People struggle for years and most eventually fail to find anything and give up. The key to success is it just doesn't work this way. It's not hard to find records you need. Genealogy is not rocket science. But you need to understand fundamental principles of how it all really works. And then you might find much more than you expected.



Help Wanted

Someone to take meeting notes as a backup for Linda, our secretary. You will need to send your typed summary notes to Linda a few days after each meeting. Summaries are published in Chronicles. Please contact Linda if you can help. lbewall623@gmail.com

IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy



You can now register for the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The Early Bird Registration fee is \$250 until June 10. It will be an all-virtual conference held from August 1–5. The conference will feature live-stream presentations as well as more than 100 pre-recorded, on-demand video presentations, both available for 60 days after the conference ends. Sessions will cover virtually every aspect of Jewish genealogy.

The special Conference tracks this year are:

- Early Jewish Settlers of the Americas
- Innovative Methodology
- Keepers of the Shoah Memory
- Beginners Research
- DNA Insights for Genealogy
- Heritage and Cultural Materials

Conference programs will range from those geared to first timers through conference veterans. Zoom-type networking will be available through Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Birds of a Feather (BOFs).

Additional information, including how to register, is at the conference website: <http://iajgs2021.org>.

Membership Dues

Our fiscal year runs from January 1st - December 31st, 2021. Our 2021 membership form is on our website. \$10 extra for printed Chronicles. Only active members will have access to our new members only portal on our website, receive the JGASGP Newsletter and emailed Chronicles. All meetings are for paid members only. Please do not share the Zoom links. Our fabulous meetings are a member benefit! Tell your friends about us and send them to our website to join!

Resource suggestions:

Sign up for "Nu? What's New?" The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy

Keep abreast of the most recent news in Jewish genealogy. Be informed of what is going on in Jewish genealogy worldwide. Read about the latest discoveries in DNA and how it can influence your methods of research. Subscribe to Nu? What's New? our weekly e-mail magazine. Each week (usually on Sunday) you will receive a copy of this publication by e-mail. The cost is only \$12 per year; that's only \$1 per month or about 25 cents per issue.

RESEARCH INTO THE ORIGINS AND MIGRATIONS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE <https://avotaynuonline.com/>

Avotaynu DNA Lecture Materials.

This is a previously recorded lecture from December.

BY ADAM BROWN ON DECEMBER 3, 2020

To view a recording of Adam Brown's lecture to JewishGen viewers

visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QafFMkGDgVw>

Sign up for the Family History Daily and receive a free comprehensive genealogy checklist!

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/your-most-common-genealogy-questions-answered/>

Your Most Common Genealogy Questions Answered

Family History Daily has produced an article on "Your Most Common Genealogy Questions Answered." Many are oriented toward the needs of people starting their family history research, but others, such as "Is there a good way to break down a brick wall" applies to all levels of research.

Here are some of the topics:

- What's the first step in researching my family history?
- Is DNA something I should explore when researching my family tree?
- What questions should I ask my older relatives about our ancestry?
- Can I find out everything about my family from online sources?
- Where can I find the meaning of my last name (surname)?

How do I know when my genealogy research is complete? You're never really "done" researching your family history. There are always new people, stories, and records to add to your tree. Enjoy the process, and don't forget to source everything!

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

With more than 21 million items in our collections, from diaries and letters to deeds and directories, HSP is one of the most complete and professional genealogy centers in the nation—and the largest in the Mid-Atlantic region. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, HSP is currently closed until further notice. You can contact them for more information.

<https://www.portal.hsp.org//for-genealogy>

Volunteers:

Working on the Philadelphia Resource Guide 2021 continues. **Thank you to everyone** who has helped us with this project so far! We couldn't have done it without you! Our plan is to have a newly revised 2021 Resource Guide for the City of Philadelphia ready for the IAJS Conference 2021. The previous guide from 2009 is currently on our website for you to use. It has a lot of information and is worth checking out! Remember though, some of the information may be out of date! There will be more ways to volunteer in the future!

Webinars, Podcasts and Zoom Meetings of Interest

Utah JGS CALL TO MEETING – MAY 10, 2021 8:30 PM EDT

Guest speaker: Angie Bush, an internationally recognized genetic genealogist working at Ancestry ProGenealogists. Her presentation will be “Endogamy and Your DNA Matches”.

[Please sign up online to attend this meeting.](#)

We’re expecting a shorter presentation, so bring your DNA and endogamy questions for Angie.

June 21 – **Chuck Weinstein, *The Three Great Myths of Jewish Genealogy*** (*future meeting info to be announced*)

<https://ujgs.org/blog/news/> Meetings are free, but you need to pre-register for each webinar.

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island is delighted to invite you to our bonus monthly meeting given by board member and webmaster of the JGSLI and the JewishGen Research Director for Germany, Alex Calzareth. We ask that you register in advance (see below). Please share with your friends!

Time: May 12, 2021, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Speaker: JewishGen Research Director for Germany, Alex Calzareth.

Topic: German Archival Records: Going Beyond Vital Records to Uncover Your Family’s Stories

Vital records can be used to trace Jewish families in Germany to around 1800. But if you stop there, you will miss out on stories that can be found in records related to schooling, travel, business, military service, and communal life. Other records, such as tax ledgers, real estate transactions, marriage contracts, and probate proceedings, can help untangle family relationships and reveal a family's social status. Using examples from towns in southwest Germany, Alex will show researchers how to uncover these records for their own families.

There are two ways to join our meeting:

Register for our Zoom meeting: this will allow you to join in so you can chat with others before and after the meeting. We have increased our Zoom capacity so all registrants will be able to join.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMud-2uqDIsEtotGFomHUIME3PgHt25t7EF>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Our meeting will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. Please visit <http://bit.ly/JGSLIYT> at the meeting start time and the meeting's video should be listed. No YouTube or other login is required, but if you are signed in you can ask questions in writing via the comment section under the video. This webinar is free and open to the public.

Here are 3 programs running the same time as our meeting. If your family is not from the Ukraine, you may find these of interest. Gil is speaking about DNA. His presentation is earlier than ours and you can attend both. Don’t forget to pre-register for these programs.

IGRA invites you to join us as we host

Date: May 23, 2021 (This is at noon before our scheduled meeting-plenty of time to listen to Gil)

Guest Speaker: **Gil Bardige** in our 2021 Webinar Series.

The Zoom Webinar is at 7 pm Israel time - noon EST.

Gil's topic is: "Help! I Just Got My DNA Results and I'm Confused". For anyone needing a clear explanation of how to evaluate all the DNA results - this lecture is for you. Learn to prioritize your match lists, get organized and thus reduce the stress and confusion.

The webinar is free however advance registration is required: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/1JmvdO2gqToqGNJkuqoWvoQgiMjpKxINReAo>

Garri Regev, President, IGRA

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut

Date: Sunday, May 23, 2021

Time: 1:30 pm (Note* This is the same time as our meeting)

Guest Speaker: Joel Weintraub

Topic: presenting "Here Comes The 1950 Census: What to Expect"

Joel will prepare us for its debut by covering what is a census, who uses the census, census caveats, how the 1950 census was taken, training of enumerators, enumerator instruction manuals, census sampling, 1950 population and housing forms, census questions, post enumeration codes, 1950 undercount, and a summary of the results. Joel will conclude with a discussion on his and Steve Morse's 1950 census locational tools, online right now at the stevemorse.org website. Those 1950 utilities took almost 8 years to produce with the help of under 70 volunteers, involve 230,000 or so searchable 1950 census district definitions with about 79,000 more small community names added, and street indexes for over 2,400 1950 urban areas that correlate with 1950 census district numbers. If time allows, Joel will demonstrate searches on the One-Step Unified Tool.

Joel Weintraub, a New Yorker by birth, is an emeritus Biology Professor at California State University, Fullerton. He became interested in genealogy over 20 years ago and volunteered for 9 years at the National Archives in southern California. Joel helped produce location tools for 1900 through 1950 federal censuses, and the NY State censuses for NYC (1905, 1915, 1925) for the Steve Morse "One-Step" website. He has published articles on the U.S. census and the 72-year rule, the name change belief and finding difficult passenger records at Ellis Island, and searching NYC census records with the problems of NYC geography. He has a YouTube channel that has his genealogy (and biology) talks at "JDW Talks".

The webinar is free for JGSCT members. The non-member donation for attending the webinar is \$5.

To become a JGSCT member, [click here](#). To contribute a donation to attend the webinar, [click here](#). Once you complete your donation, you will receive a link to complete your webinar registration.

Joel Weintraub 1950 Census Talks on YouTube Joel has put on his YouTube channel, "JDW Talks", several videos that should complement and enhance the 1950 tools and information that is on the One-Step U.S. Census section. Another video on how the One-Step Census Tools started in 2002 should be of interest to users of the utilities. Videos run from about 10 1/2 minutes to over 54 minutes. JDW Talks also has many other census and Ellis Island talks for researchers.

[The 1950 U.S. Census For Genealogists](#)

[1950 Census Location Search Tools](#)

[Demonstrating 1950 Census Urban and Rural Location Searches](#)

[Twenty Questions About The 1950 Census & The One-Step Locational Search Tools](#)

[Resources For U.S. Street Name & Number Changes With An Emphasis On The 1950 U.S. Census Training](#)
[1950 Census Takers: More Resources Including A Real Training Session](#)
[1950 Census Block Housing Information: Large Urban Areas](#)
[Missing From 1950 Census Schedules - Americans Living Abroad](#)
[The Origins of the Morse One-Step Census Tools](#)

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston offers numerous monthly programs and previously recorded lectures. <https://www.jsgsb.org/event>
Joint Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts and the JGSGB
Date: May 23, 2021
Time: 1:30 PM EST (Note* This is the same time as our meeting)
Guest Speaker: Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz
Topic: [Finding Vital Records from Poland Online](#)

If you'd like to go beyond JewishGen and JRI-Poland to find vital records for your Polish-Jewish ancestors, this program will introduce you to major websites such as Metryki, GenBaza, Szukajwarchiwach (the Polish State Archives), Geneteka, and FamilySearch. Our speaker, Julie Szczepankiewicz, will also review U.S. records that contain the specific places of origin of your immigrant ancestors, suggest resources to decipher misspelled place names, and identify the registry or parish offices that kept the records for your ancestral towns. Recorded program will be available on the Members-Only Page for 1 year. **Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz** is a professional genealogist, writer, and speaker, with over 20 years of experience in researching her family's origins in Poland, Germany, the U.S., and Canada. She is the Secretary of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts, contributes to a number of genealogy-related Facebook groups, and writes an informative genealogy blog, [From Shepherds and Shoemakers](#). Non-members [click here](#) to register for Zoom link.

The Chicago Jewish Genealogical Society
<https://www.jgsi.org/Events-calendar> You will need to register on their website.

The Center for Jewish History is holding a free virtual Genealogy Coffee Break webinar at 2:30 p.m. Central Time every Tuesday on Facebook Live. If you are on Facebook, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/centerforjewishhistory/501317183869918>
Go to the CJH website to see all their exciting programs for the next month. <https://www.cjh.org/>

ConferenceKeeper.org has many events, conferences, and podcasts, listed for the month. Sign up for their weekly e-mails. Check out their virtual listing of events. <https://conferencekeeper.org/virtual/>

MyHeritage.com is continuing to offer many live or recorded lectures. Even if you can't make it to the live events, you can still enjoy all recorded FB Live sessions in the Videos section of the [MyHeritage Facebook page](#). Many of the webinars are available for free viewing on the [MyHeritage Knowledge Base](#).

Legacy Family Tree Webinars General research <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

Podcast: The US National Archive "On the Record" <https://conferencekeeper.org/genealogy-podcasts/>

To find online links to other Jewish genealogical societies, check out the list from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies at: <https://www.iajgs.org/membership/member-societies/>

News from JewishGen

[JewishGen.org/live!](https://www.jewishgen.org/live) Has many recorded lectures and continuously adds new programs to their site.

JewishGen Virtual Conversations provides helpful suggestions, strategies, resources, and support with your genealogical research. These private sessions are designed to empower you to find the answers you are looking for. Just \$36 for a 45-minute Zoom session. To learn more, or to complete the questionnaire to get started, go to <https://www.jewishgen.org/Education/edu-virtual.html>.

JewishGen Study Group. JewishGen is yet again offering a study group to sharpen your ability to analyze data, solve genealogical puzzles and become a savvy searcher. It will run from May 2 – May 16. Students will work together on pre-selected genealogical problems. Each case study represents a different country and a different time. Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of tools, techniques, and databases. Tuition is \$60. Class size is limited, and enrollment will close when course is full. Enroll at https://www.jewishgen.org/education/coursesview.asp?course_id=40306.

JewishGen Romania Research Division has started a Facebook group. It will be used to share updates on their progress and requests for volunteers. They are looking forward to good commentary, mutual assistance, sharing historical records and information, translation help and new connections on Romanian Jewish genealogy. Join the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jewishgenromania>.

In Advance of Shavuot: Salad Recipes from Sarina's Sephardic Cuisine

May 11, 2021 at 2:00 PM EST

Speaker: Sarina Roffé

Cookbook author Sarina Roffé will use recipes from her cookbook to demonstrate the art of mezze, typically served before a meal in the Middle East, or before the Sabbath lunch meal. A proper mezze table will have at least four to six salads, served on small plates. Sarina will demonstrate how to make several salads and show us how to set the mezze table. Sarina Roffé is a career journalist and holds a BA in journalism, an MA in Jewish Studies, and an MBA. She is the editor of Dorot for JGS of NY, the author of Branching Out from Sepharad, Backyard Kitchen: Mediterranean Salads, and Backyard Kitchen: The Main Course. Sarina speaks often at genealogy and historical conferences and has written hundreds of articles. She has researched numerous genealogies and is considered an expert in Syrian Jewry. She is a former member of the IAJGS board, Chair of the JewishGen Sephardic Research Division, co-chair of the Brooklyn Jewish Historical Initiative and founder of the Sephardic Heritage Project. Sarina presents often at IAJGS and historical conferences and has completed over a dozen genealogies, through her genealogy consulting business, Sephardic Genealogical Journeys.

[Click here to register](#)

Researching Jewish Families in America: Focus on Southern Jewish Resources

May 25, 2021 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time

Speakers: Jeremy Katz, Ellen Kowitt, Josh Parshall, Dale Rosengarten, Anna Tucker

Jeremy Katz, Senior Director of Archives at the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, holds a B.A. degree in History from The Ohio State University, a M.A. degree in Public History from Wright State University, as well as a certification from the Academy of Certified Archivists. After completing a post-graduate internship at the American Jewish Archives, Mr. Katz joined the staff at the Breman Museum in 2013. Since then, he has worked to grow, preserve, and increase access to the Ida Pearle and Joseph Cuba Archives for Southern Jewish History at the Breman Museum. He has been recognized for his work by receiving the Atlanta Jewish Times' 40 Under 40 Award and the Marilyn Shubin Professional Development Award. He is the author of The Jewish Community of Atlanta (Arcadia Publishing, 2021).

Ellen Kowitt is Director of JewishGen's USA Research Division. She is past president of Jewish Genealogical Societies in Colorado and Greater Washington, DC, and she served for three years on the IAJGS board of directors. Ellen publishes articles in Family Tree Magazine and Avotaynu, and she lectures frequently on genealogy topics. Ellen has completed

ProGen, attends genealogy institute programs, and is a member of the Colorado Chapter Association of Professional Genealogists. In 2020, she was appointed National Vice Chair of a newly created Daughters of the American Revolution Jewish Task Force.

Dr. Josh Parshall has served as the Director of the ISJL History Department since July 2017. This is his second stint at the ISJL, having previously worked as oral historian from 2009 to 2013. His academic interests include American Jewish culture and politics, Yiddish language and culture, and southern studies. He holds a Ph.D. from the Department of American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where his dissertation research focused on southern branches of the Arbeter Ring (Workers Circle).

Dale Rosengarten, founding curator of the Jewish Heritage Collection and former director of the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture—both at the College of Charleston—earned her B.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. Working with McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina, she developed the travelling exhibition *A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life* (2002–03) and co-edited (with Theodore Rosengarten) a book by the same name. She was co-curator (with Adam Mendelsohn) of the exhibition *By Dawn's Early Light: Jewish Contributions to American Culture from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War*, which opened at Princeton University Art Museum in 2016, and travelled later that year to the New-York Historical Society under the title, *The First Jewish Americans: Freedom and Culture in the New World*.

Anna Tucker is the curator at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience (MSJE), opening in New Orleans in May 2021. She graduated summa cum laude from the history programs at Berry College (B.A.) and Georgia State University (M.A.), and has over a decade of experience in the museum field. Prior to joining the MSJE, she served as the special project's curator for the Department of Museums, Archives and Rare Books at Kennesaw State University and was a member of the executive team overseeing the Museum of History and Holocaust Education, Bentley Rare Book Museum, and Zuckerman Museum of Art.

[Click here to register](#)

Website Update

Over 180 members have registered for our new jgasgp.org website!

If you need help contact Jim, webmaster@jgasgp.org

Send your personal photos to Jim to be included in a future slideshow! If you haven't seen the slideshow yet, check it out!

Condolences

JGASGP extends condolences and well wishes to member's families. If you know of the illness or passing of a past or current member, please email a link of the obituary or provide the information for me to share.



Disclaimer: The purpose of our group is to help foster research, education, collect family records and family connections. No political comments or advertising for services or merchandise are permitted.