HANDOUT FOR FINDING YOUR ANCESTRAL TOWNS

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Once you've traced your family tree back to the immigrant ancestor, determining his/her birthplace is the key to the next branch in your family tree. Knowing just the country isn't just enough - you'll usually have to get down to the town or village level to successfully locate your ancestor's records.

1. Ask questions about your family to other family members. Look at photo albums, wedding albums, pictures, letters, diaries, etc. for clues

2. Determine your direct ancestry
   a. Ashkenazi or Sephardi
   b. Litvak, Galician

3. Locate Cemeteries where ancestors are buried. Review entrance gates for Landsmanshaftn name/s. Check siblings/other relatives for information about burial.

4. Census: Review 1910-1940. (Ancestry.com)
   Note: Often Austria means Galicia not Vienna
5. **Petition for Naturalization**: Lists place of birth and date of arrival. Sometimes has original name. (Fold3 or Ancestry.com)

6. **Ships Manifest**: 2nd page, last column has place of birth. 1st page has last place of residence and next of kin. (Ancestry.com)

7. **World War II Draft Registration**: Often has town of birth (Ancestry.com)

8. **JewishGen.org/gazetteer**
   Try Phonetically Like vs. Sounds Like
   Click JewishGen logo for more information about town. ->

9. **JGS Library** is located at the Sandler Center on the Federation Campus. Directions at www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org/library

   GENERAL RESEARCH BOOKS: full list of library holdings available at
   www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org
   Where Once We Walked
   Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from
   The Russian Empire
   Galicia
   The Kingdom of Poland
   Ukraine
   German
   Sephardic
   Prague
   Amsterdam

10. **GOOGLE IT**

Internet Resources:

Eastern Europe:
http://feefhs.org/maplibrary.html

Belarus
www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/Shtetls/Belarus.htm

Germany
http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/German/German- idx?type=header&id= German.RavenAtlas

Hungary
Austro-Hungarian counties 1910.**http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/maps/1910/vmlista.htm**

Hungarian Place Locator **www.bogardi.com/gen/g056.htm**

Lithuania
Litvak SIG *Shtetls of Lithuania* database
www.jewishgen.org/Litvak/Shtetls/Lithuania.htm
Interactive map of Lithuania
www.maps.lt/map/default.aspx?lang=en

Poland
JRI-Poland Town Index. Includes gubernia, province, and map coordinates.
www.jewishgen.org/JRI-PL/town/index.htm

Slovakia
Gazetteer of Slovakia **www.iarelative.com/gazateer.htm**
Interactive Slovak map **http://mapy.atlas.sk/**

Ukraine
Ukraine 1:100,000 topographic maps – U. California at Berkeley Library
www.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/x-ussr/ukraine.html

Town Histories
Google it
Check list of holdings of JGS library

Yizkor Books
New York Public Library Yizkor Books Online
www.nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbooks_intro.cfm