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# Genealogical Databases: Key Tools for the History of Transnational Migratory Trajectories

par **Adèle Sutre**

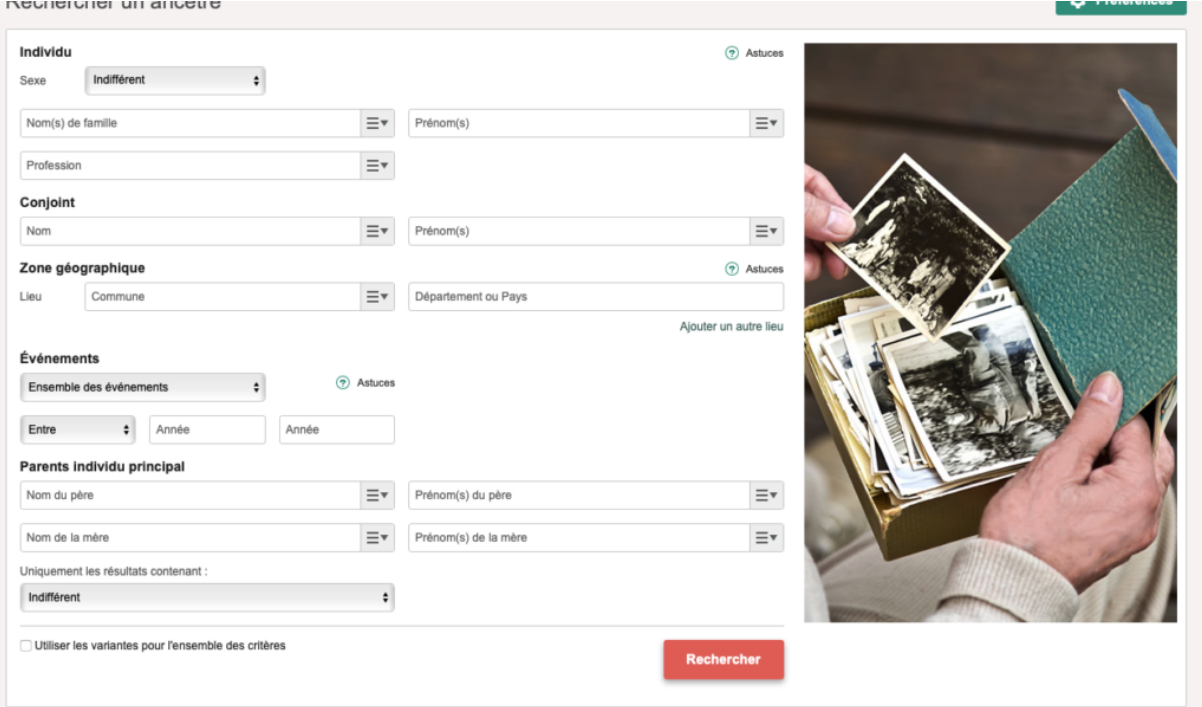
Genealogical research has expanded rapidly over the last twenty years, with the emergence of websites that provide online access to large quantities of archival documents. These websites offer gigantic databases for use by genealogists, but they have proven particularly useful in historical research trying to reconstruct the migratory journeys of individuals or families. These databases can bring together sources of a different nature from across the globe via the connecting thread of biographical itineraries, and as such are a key tool in reconstituting transnational trajectories. They therefore help move beyond the “methodological nationalism” denounced by numerous authors, who have questioned the relevance of a nation state’s borders as a preferred unit of analysis.<sup>[1]</sup> Transnational history invites us to decompartmentalize viewpoints and hence sources, and aims to reveal connections and circulations beyond state borders, with the historian becoming, to use Serge Gruzinski’s metaphor, an electrician repairing the wires cut by national history.<sup>[2]</sup> Genealogical databases are key in this respect, for they do not limit themselves to “national” entries like most archival centers, instead bringing together documents from different countries.

## A Wide Range of Sites for a Single Objective: Exploring One’s Family History

Today there are many genealogy websites, including the French sites **Geneanet** and **Filae**, the Israeli site **MyHeritage**, and the American sites **Ancestry**, **FamilySearch**, and **JewishGen**. This is not an exhaustive list, but it gives an idea of the wide range of offerings. Some sites are free, such as **FamilySearch** and **JewishGen**, while others require a paying subscription for full access to their functionalities, such as **Geneanet**, **Filae**, **MyHeritage** and **Ancestry**. While they are all based on the same objective of genealogical research, and provide access to digitized and indexed archival documents for this purpose, they nevertheless differ in how they constitute their collections, with some largely relying on a collaborative aspect through contributions from their members, and others emphasizing partnerships with public and private archival centers. In any event, they all combine in varying degrees these two methods for collecting documents. Finally, despite criticism and debates on this subject, some of these genealogy websites have had great success offering a genealogy research service using DNA

analysis.<sup>[3]</sup> This is especially true of **Ancestry**, **MyHeritage**, and **Geneanet**, which has offered a “DNA file uploading” service on its site since February 2020.<sup>[4]</sup>

Let us consider the example of **Geneanet**, a collaborative database primarily compiled by its members, and focusing primarily on France. The site was launched in 1996 under the name LPF, Liste des Patronymes de France (List of French Patronyms). Its objective was to share genealogical trees, and to enable the comparison and cross-referencing of hundreds of thousands of data items in an effort to pool together research among amateur genealogists. In 2006 the site recorded over 300,000 unique visitors, reaching one million in 2011. In 2019, it claimed to have four million visitor per month, and over six billion individuals listed in genealogical trees, digitized certificates, postcards, family photos, and civil registry extracts.<sup>[5]</sup> Thanks to document indexing, searches can be conducted by keyword, family name, and geographical location.



The screenshot displays the search interface of Geneanet. The search criteria are organized into several sections:

- Individu**: Includes fields for Sexe (Indifférent), Nom(s) de famille, Prénom(s), Profession, and Conjoint (Nom, Prénom(s)).
- Zone géographique**: Includes Lieu (Commune) and Département ou Pays.
- Événements**: Includes Ensemble des événements, and filters for Entre, Année, and Année.
- Parents individu principal**: Includes fields for Nom du père, Prénom(s) du père, Nom de la mère, and Prénom(s) de la mère.
- Uniquement les résultats contenant**: Includes a filter for Indifférent.
- Utiliser les variantes pour l'ensemble des critères**: A checkbox option.
- Rechercher**: A red button to execute the search.

On the right side of the interface, there is an image showing a person's hands holding a photo album, with several black and white photographs visible.

Screenshot from Geneanet © all rights reserved

Launched the same year as **Geneanet**, **Ancestry** was originally a project for the Mormon community in the United States. The site gradually signed agreements with national and local archives throughout the world to digitize part of their collections and make them available online. It notably collaborated with the national archives of the United States and United Kingdom, as well as local associations. In 2008 **Ancestry** established a partnership with the Centre généalogique et héraldique de la Marne to give online access to the index of records collected conducted by its members using civil registries conserved in French departmental archives.

## Search

**First & Middle Name(s)**

**Last Name**

**Place your ancestor might have lived**

**Birth Year**

Search [Show fewer options ^](#)  Match all terms exactly

**Add event:** [Birth](#) [Marriage](#) [Death](#) [Lived In](#) [Any Event](#) [More v](#)

**Add family member:** [Father](#) [Mother](#) [Sibling](#) [Spouse](#) [Child](#)

**Keyword**

**Gender**

**Race/Nationality**

**Collection Focus**

Historical Records

Stories & Publications

Family Trees

Photos & Maps

Search [Clear search](#)

Screenshot of an Ancestry search form © all rights reserved

In November 2018, **Ancestry** claimed to have over 3 million subscribers, 24 billion online documents from 80 different countries, and annual revenues of \$1 billion. As on other sites, the documents available online are those marshaled by genealogists, which is to say primarily nominative sources from civil registries, military records, and immigration records such as passenger lists for ships, passport applications, naturalization files, censuses, birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates, professional directories, and draft registration cards from the world wars.

Thanks to the indexing of these documents disseminated across the globe, keyword searches can find individuals by last name, first name, and geographical location. **Ancestry** offers more search criteria than its competitors and partners, including searches with no family name but rather a simple keyword such as trade, street name, ship name, nationality, “ethnic” identification, religion, etc. The site also offers searches for “events” such as a birth, marriage, death, or departure from a port or city. It also has a relatively effective functionality that spontaneously proposes individuals with a family relationship to the person being searched. The results are presented in two forms: a simple list of entries and classification by category, which distinguishes between documents from civil registries, censuses, immigration records, trips, and military archives. Finally, these results can be filtered by period and geographical location.

# All results for Lubartow

**Search Filters**

Broad Exact

1 more search fields: [Hide additional fields](#) ^

Anything: **lubartow**

Collection: All Collections ▼

[Edit Search](#) | [New Search](#) | [Update](#)

**Filter by**

**All Categories**

- > Census & Voter Lists 2
- > Birth, Marriage & Death 682
- > Military 77
- > Immigration & Emigration 353
- > Newspapers & Periodicals 40
- Pictures 1,206
- > Stories, Memories & Histories 2,102
- Maps, Atlases & Gazetteers 1
- > Directories & Member Lists 2,088
- > Court, Land, Wills & Financial 25
- > Dictionaries, Encyclopedias & Reference 23
- Family Trees

**New:** instantly filter by location and time period.

Results 1-50 of 6,572 Records Categories

**i** To get better results, add more information such as **First Name, Last Name, Birth Info, Death Info and Location**—even a guess will help. [Edit your search](#) or [learn more](#)

<p> <b>Free Access: Europe, Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutees, 1939-1947</b> CITY &amp; AREA DIRECTORIES</p> <p><a href="#">View Image</a></p>	<p>Name Helene Bordzol</p> <p>Birth 13 Okt 1922 Lubartow</p> <p>Residence 5 Apr 1941 Selb (Oberfranken), Selb/Oberfranken</p>
<p> <b>Free Access: Europe, Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutees, 1939-1947</b> CITY &amp; AREA DIRECTORIES</p> <p><a href="#">View Image</a></p>	<p>Name Janina Zalewska</p> <p>Birth 10 Jan 1914 Lubartow</p> <p>Residence 8 Juni 1941 München, Oberbayern</p>
<p> <b>Free Access: Europe, Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutees, 1939-1947</b> CITY &amp; AREA DIRECTORIES</p> <p><a href="#">View Image</a></p>	<p>Name Adam Wojdadt</p> <p>Birth 18 Apr 1922</p> <p>Residence 19 Jan 1945 Waldmünchen, Waldmünchen</p>
<p> <b>Jewish Holocaust Register of survivors printed in Pinkas HaNitzolim I &amp; II, 1945</b> SOCIAL &amp; PLACE HISTORIES</p>	<p>Name Abram Wisenmann</p> <p>Birth 1926</p> <p>Residence <b>Lubartow</b></p>
<p> <b>Jewish Holocaust Register of survivors printed in Pinkas HaNitzolim I &amp; II, 1945</b> SOCIAL &amp; PLACE HISTORIES</p>	<p>Name Szloma Wisnia</p> <p>Residence <b>Lubartow</b></p>

Screenshot of a results page from Ancestry © all rights reserved



ABOUT US

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DATABASES

RESEARCH

DONATE

Home » JewishGen Databases

<b>General</b>	<b>Eastern Europe</b>	<b>Belarus</b>	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>
<b>Poland</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Austria / Czech</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>Romania / Moldova</b>
<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>Scandinavia</b>	<b>South Africa</b>
<b>Israel</b>	<b>Syria</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>Latin America</b>
<b>Crypto Jewish</b>	<b>Miriam Weiner</b>			

**General:**

- [Unified Search](#)**  
 Explore millions of records from more than 850 unique collections from around the world, including more than 2.75 million records related to the Holocaust, and more than 3 million burial records. Records are continually updated/added.
- [The JewishGen Family Finder \(JGFF\)](#)**  
 Surnames and ancestral towns being researched by 110,000 Jewish genealogists worldwide. More than 600,000 entries.
- [The Family Tree of the Jewish People \(FTJP\)](#)**  
 Data on more than eight million people, from family trees submitted by 6,000 Jewish genealogists worldwide.
- [The JewishGen Communities Database](#)**   
 Historical names and jurisdictions, maps, JewishGen links and resources for more than 6,000 Jewish communities in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.
- [The JewishGen Gazetteer](#)**  
 Locate places in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, by name or location. U.S. Board on Geographic Names data for 54 countries.
- [The JewishGen Holocaust Database](#)**  
 More than 2.75 million entries regarding Holocaust victims and survivors, from many sources.
- [Miriam Weiner: Routes To Roots Collection](#)**  
 New Partnership with Miriam Weiner & The Routes to Roots Foundation
- [The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry \(JOWBR\)](#)**   
 More than three million entries from cemeteries and burial records worldwide, from 7,500 cemeteries in 128 countries.
- [The JewishGen Memorial Plaques Database](#)**   
 Information from synagogue yahrzeit plaques and other memorial records. 177,000 records from 263 synagogues.
- [The JewishGen Discussion Group message Archives](#)**  
 Search more than 100,000 previous JewishGen postings, 1993-date.
- [The JewishGen SIG Lists message Archives](#)**  
 Search messages posted to the JewishGen SIG mailing lists, 1998-date.
- [Jewish Records at the Family History Library](#)**  
 An inventory of the Jewish-specific resources at the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City.
- [Ellis Island Foundation Database](#)**  
 One-Step Search Tools — enhanced search capabilities for easier access to data on [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org).

Screenshot of a page from JewishGen © all rights reserved

Some sites are more specialized, such as **JewishGen**, a non-profit organization founded in 1987, and affiliated since 2003 with the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York. When it was created, the site intended to be an international resource for Jewish genealogy. It was initially an email distribution list and online forum, before becoming an actual website in 1995. In 2008, JewishGen established a partnership with **Ancestry**, which helped improve its technical performance, and provided it with stable income. In return, **Ancestry** offered its subscribers access to the genealogical resources collected by **JewishGen**, which nevertheless remains a free tool. The site functions primarily thanks to volunteers, and includes a few million documents from over 850 collections worldwide that specifically concern Jewish families. It consists of multiple separate databases (such as The JewishGen Family Finder, The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry, and The JewishGen Holocaust Database), but also allows search requests across all of these resources. It is also possible to limit searches to a specific country.

## The Limits and Biases of These Tools

These websites propose extremely rich offerings, in which both amateur and experienced genealogists can quickly be overwhelmed. It is important to note that a number of them have signed agreements with one another, and hence at times propose redundant offerings. For

example, **Ancestry** and **FamilySearch** announced a partnership in 2013 to digitize and index over a billion documents from across the globe. These documents are still freely available on **FamilySearch**, and are also accessible via a subscription to **Ancestry**, broadening its offerings. That same year **MyHeritage** allowed **FamilySearch** to use its technological advances, thereby expanding its collections. In 2014, **MyHeritage** established a partnership with BillionGraves to digitize and document all of the world's tombs and cemeteries. These examples show the difficulty of clearly delimiting collections based on provenance, as a researcher habitually does when frequenting physical archival sites. It is therefore important to underscore the source for documents found using these websites.

The screenshot shows a search result for Rifka Eisenberg on FamilySearch. The page is titled "Rifka Eisenberg" and "BillionGraves Index". It features a table of event details, a section for available images, and a citation for the document.

Type d'événement:	Burial
Lieu de l'événement:	University City, St Louis, Missouri, United States
Longitude du cimetière:	-90.33226
Latitude du cimetière:	38.67043
Cimetière:	Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery
Nom:	Rifka Eisenberg
Date de naissance:	1874
Date de décès:	1950
Image numérique identificateur de la filiale:	699466

**Images disponibles**  
Faites une des choses suivantes pour afficher ces images :

- À [billiongraves.com](http://www.billiongraves.com). En cliquant ici vous quitterez le site FamilySearch.org (des frais et d'autres modalités peuvent s'appliquer).

Collection de documents : [BillionGraves Index](#)

**Renseignements concernant le document :**

**Indiquer ce document en référence**  
"BillionGraves Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VTW4-C67> : 9 November 2015), Rifka Eisenberg, died 1950; citing *BillionGraves* (<http://www.billiongraves.com> : 2012), Burial at Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery, University City, St Louis, Missouri, United States.

**Documents d'archives semblables**

[Rifka Eisenberg](#)  
Find A Grave Index

Screenshot of a page from FamilySearch referring the reader to the website BillionGraves © all rights reserved

Despite the advantages offered by these tools, they have numerous limitations that should be kept in mind. First, they are designed to establish one's family history, and hence are exclusively oriented toward certain types of sources traditionally used by genealogists. It would be wrong to think that these databases are

sufficient on their own, for like any other source they offer a partial view of reality, in this case through a genealogical prism.

Another potential pitfall is the sheer quantity of digitized documents can give an illusion of exhaustiveness that is far from being real. Some documents are poorly indexed, and hence “unfindable” by keyword searches; some collections are not entirely digitized, and for that matter it is difficult to follow the logic used in selecting which “batches” are made available online. Finally, even if they claim to offer a global view, most sites remain centered on specific geographical areas. **Ancestry**, for instance, offers documents from over 80 different countries, although digitizations primarily concern the United States, and some parts of the world are genuine blind spots, especially Asia and Africa. The logic of digitization remains guided by economic considerations, as demonstrated by growing partnerships with Latin American archives in an effort to attract Hispanic clientele in the United States.

## Process and Prospects for Research

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

ALL ALIENS arriving at a port of continental United States from a foreign port or a port of the insular possessions of the United States, and all aliens arriving at a port of said insular possessions from a foreign port, a port of continental United States, or a port of the insular possessions of the United States. This (white) sheet is for the listing of Passengers sailing from Gdymia, Poland, August 12th, 1934

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
														Country	City or town, State, Province or District	
1		Lis	Wajsla	23	f	housewife	yes	Poland	Hebrew	20-29	Konowice	048	Warsaw	Jul. 9, 34	Poland	Sanzew
2		Birkenthal	Rittel	31	f	housewife	yes			06-	Ustrzyki Dolne	514		May 25, 34		Ustrzyki Dolne
3	UNDER 18	Birkenthal	Elzig	6	m	child	no			07-	Praszyn	515		May 25, 34		Ustrzyki Dolne
4		Klajnrot	Chaja	35	f	housewife	yes			06-	Gablin	51		Jul. 18, 34		Gablin
5		Lipsman	Wajsla	43	f	housewife	yes			06-	Swolen	522		May 28, 34		Warsawa
6	UNDER 18	Lipsman	Mazjan	13	m	pupil	yes			07-	Warsawa	523		May 28, 34		Warsawa
7	UNDER 18	Lipsman	Fajga	11	f	pupil	yes			07-	Warsawa	524		May 28, 34		Warsawa
8	UNDER 18	Lipsman	Chana	8	f	pupil	no			06-		525		May 28, 34		Warsawa
9		Blustejn	Sura-Laj	59	f	housewife	yes			06-	Janow podl.	471		Apr. 28, 34		Janow Podl.
10		Blustejn	Chaskiel	20	m	electrician	yes			07-	Biala podl.	472		Apr. 28, 34		Janow Podl.
11		Zweiflar	Rajzel	24	f	housewife	yes			06-	Krakow	44		Jul. 20, 34		Krakow
12		Gordon	Zyvia	42	f	housewife	yes			13-	Krasno-looki	582		Jun. 22, 34		Dokazyce
13	UNDER 18	Gordon	Izrael	4	m	child	no			14-	Dokazyce	583		Jun. 22, 34		Dokazyce
14	UNDER 18	Gordon	Heter	6	f	child	no				Dokazyce	584		Jun. 22, 34		Dokazyce
15	UNDER 18	Gordon	Szolom	12	m	pupil	yes				Dokazyce	585		Jun. 22, 34		Dokazyce
16	UNDER 18	Gordon	Hison	15	m	pupil	yes				Dokazyce	586		Jun. 22, 34		Dokazyce
17	UNDER 18	Fischbein	Wolf	63	m	merchant	yes				Wladimierz Wolynski	587		Jan. 18, 34	U.S.A.	New York, N.Y.
18		Fischbein	Chawa-Mel	07	f	housewife	yes			06-29	Wladimierz Wolynski	590		May 14, 34	Poland	Wladimierz
19		Raab	Chaskiel	34	m	merchant	yes			20-		5209		Jun. 27, 34		Raszew
20		Peretz	Elka	30	f	housewife	yes			06-	Lubartow	39		Jul. 18, 34		Lubartow
21		Solkos	Mazja	58	f	cook	yes			08-	Brasow	513		May 24, 34		Brasow
22	UNDER 18	Zweiflar	Klajnrot-Talassa	8	m	child	no							Aug. 24, 1934	U.S.A.	New York, N.Y.

Passenger list with the name Elka Peretz © Ancestry.com. New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011



Despite their biases, these websites offer invaluable resources for both genealogists and historians. With respect to the Lubartworld project, which aims to reconstitute the worldwide journeys of families from the same city, it is possible to search with the keyword “Lubartów,” and thereby access a highly diverse range of documents, in terms of both their nature and geographical origin. Let us consider the example of Elka Peretz: she appears in databases containing passenger lists bound for New York, in addition to US censuses, naturalization files, and social security records. When grouping these documents together, we learn that she was born on May 16, 1904 in Lubartów, and that she arrived in New York on August 29, 1934 from the Baltic Sea port of Gdynia. Her naturalization application indicates that she was naturalized as an American citizen in 1937. The 1940 US census reveals that she lived in the Bronx neighborhood of New York.

This initial search can be developed further through information contained in the collected documents. For example, her naturalization file mentions that she married Julius Peretz in Lubartów on November 7, 1933. A search using his last name reveals that he was born in Lubartów in 1894, and arrived in the United States in 1921, where he was naturalized in 1927. Some documents only appear in searches using the keyword “Lubartów.” There are multiple reasons for this: a misspelled name that soundex algorithms could not connect using consonant sounds;<sup>[6]</sup> an erroneous or missing indexing for the place of birth; or missing information in the original document.

ORIGINAL  
(To be retained by  
clerk)

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

No. **281392**  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

**PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION**  
Eastern District

To the Honorable the U. S. District Court of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

The petition of Ellen Peretz, hereby filed, respectfully shows

(1) My place of residence is 2 1871 Walton Ave., Bronx, N. Y. (2) My occupation is Housewife

(3) I was born in Lubartow, Poland on May 16, 1904 My race is Hebrew

(4) ~~My last foreign residence was \_\_\_\_\_ I emigrated to the United States of America from \_\_\_\_\_ My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ under the name of \_\_\_\_\_ My last admission was granted \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ as shown by the certificate of my arrival attached hereto.~~

(5) I am \_\_\_\_\_ married. The name of my \_\_\_\_\_ or husband is Julius we were married on November 7, 1933 at Lubartow, Poland; he was born at Lubartow, Poland on June 29, 1895; entered the United States at New York, N. Y. on March 9, 1921 for permanent residence therein, and now resides at ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ 1871 Walton Ave., Bronx, N. Y. I have no children, and the name, date, and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:  
My husband was naturalized on February 8, 1927 at Brooklyn, N. Y. Certificate not 2378576

(6) My last foreign residence was Lubartow, Poland I emigrated to the United States of America from Gdynia, Poland My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, N. Y. on August 29, 1934 under the name of Elka Peretz on August 29, 1934 on the vessel Koaciuzsko

(7) I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. It is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to The Republic of Poland and The Republic of Austria

of whom (which) at this time I am a subject (or citizen), and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (Yes) I am able to speak the English language.

(8) I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of one years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since August 29, 1934 and in the County of Bronx this State, continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since August 29, 1934 February 4, 1936

(10) I have not heretofore made petition for Naturalization: Number \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ and such petition was denied by that Court for the following reasons and causes, to wit: \_\_\_\_\_ and the cause of such denial has since been cured or removed.

Attached hereto and made a part of this, my petition for citizenship, are my \_\_\_\_\_ certificate from the Department of Labor of my said arrival, and the affidavits of the two verifying witnesses required by law. Wherefore, I, your petitioner, pray that I may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and that my name be changed to \_\_\_\_\_

I, your aforesaid petitioner being duly sworn, depose and say that I have \_\_\_\_\_ this petition and know the contents thereof; that the same is true of my own knowledge except as to matters herein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters I believe it to be true; and that this petition is signed by me with my full, true name.

Ellen Peretz  
(Complete and true signature of petitioner)

Naturalization application form for Elka Peretz © Ancestry.com. New York, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1794-1943 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013

Through multiple searches on a number of databases, and the supplemental information gradually gathered, an outline of the Peretz family's journey between Poland and the United States emerges. The resources offered by genealogy websites are not sufficient on their own to fully reconstitute family itineraries, but they offer the easiest point of departure—thanks to document indexing and keyword searches—for pursuing inquiries in national and local archival centers. For example, most countries conserve naturalization or immigration files. Some associations or organizations also generated substantial archival collections, such as the **International Refugee Organization**, whose files are conserved at the French National Archives in Pierrefitte, and the archives of the **International Refugee Organization (ITS)** in Bad Arolsen, Germany. Finally, local archives also represent a substantial mine of information. In the case of inhabitants from Lubartów, the information gathered from genealogical

databases can be compared with the that contained in the **1932 population register** produced by the town.

## Conclusion

Genealogy databases offer dizzying possibilities, but it is important to keep their limitations in mind, as they are tools designed for a very specific purpose that is not necessarily that of historical research. The information they provide can be illuminated by other sources, including local, national, and private archives. It is only by combining them that we can hope to particularly reconstruct family itineraries in all their complexity. In addition to helping reconstitute the migratory trajectories leaving from Lubartów and spreading across the globe, these databases can reveal the logic behind the mobility of these individuals and families, namely by studying their rhythms and temporalities on all spatial and temporal scales. They also analyze the development and functioning of social and economic migration networks through the circulation of information, money, and individuals serving as trailblazers, who subsequently provided a foothold for continued migration.

- 
- r1 On methodological nationalism, see especially Andreas Wimmer and Nina Glick Schiller, "Methodological Nationalism, the Social Sciences and the Study of Migration: An Essay in Historical Epistemology," *International Migration Review*, vol. 37, no. 3, 2003, p. 576-610.
  - r2 Serge Gruzinski, *Les quatre parties du monde. Histoire d'une mondialisation* (Paris: La Martinière, 2004).
  - r3 For example, in 2019 **MyHeritage** generated \$70 million in revenues using DNA tests.
  - r4 The practice of "recreational genetics" is illegal in France, although it is possible to take the test on a foreign site such as **MyHeritage** or **Ancestry.com**. **Geneanet** then proposes to analyze the results by comparing the DNA with that of other members who have also submitted their genetic data.
  - r5 This number should be put into perspective due to many duplicates: there are not six billion different individuals on **Geneanet**, but rather six billion referenced entries in its search engines. Some individuals appear multiple times in different documents.
  - r6 A soundex is a phonetic algorithm that indexes names based on their pronunciation. Names with the same pronunciation are coded by eliminating double letters and silent letters, and by connecting the sounds of certain letters. This makes it possible to link certain names in spite of different spellings.