

# Resources for Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland

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## History of Jews of Chicagoland

- Encyclopedia of Chicago written by Irving Cutler  
<http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/671.html>
- History of Jews of Chicago by Meites 1924  
<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00000592/00001/1j>

## Vital records (death, marriage, birth)

- Jewish Cemeteries (4 largest have over 65% of Jewish burials)
  - Waldheim (incl Free Sons): over 162,000 burials (708-366-4541)
  - Westlawn: over 43,000 burials (773-625-8600)
  - Silverman & Weiss: over 26,000 burials (708-366-0125)
  - Zion Gardens: over 25,000 burials (773-736-2553)
- Oldest Jewish Cemeteries
  - Zion Gardens (Mt Maariv): from mid 1800s
  - Hebrew Benevolent Society from 1854 (German Jews)
  - Jewish Graceland from 1857 (German Jews)
  - Rosehill estimated 10,000 Jewish burials from 1860s
  - Waldheim, Silverman & Weiss from 1860s
- Cemetery Online Records
  - Jewishdata.com (subscription or via JGSI members only)
  - JGSI Online Death Index (via [www.JGSI.org](http://www.JGSI.org) )
  - JOWBR via [www.Jewishgen.org](http://www.Jewishgen.org)
  - Find A Grave (via [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) )
  - Jewishgen Memorial Plaques  
<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial/>
- Funeral Homes
  - Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home (847-256-5700)
    - Records date from 1894
    - Includes records from former Weinstein Bros, Palmer-Lauer, and Robert A. Weinstein
    - Includes Piser Chapels
      - Records date from 1900
      - Includes records from former Original Weinstains, Hartman-Miller, Gratch-Mandel, Albert & Jaffe, and

J. (Jacob) Weinstein  
- Includes Furth & Company (from 1930s)

•Death Certificates

- Illinois State Death Index 1916-1950  
<http://www.ilsos.gov/isavital/idphdeathsrch.jsp>  
Then need to order from state or at [www.mollx.com](http://www.mollx.com)
- Illinois State Death Index pre 1916  
<http://www.ilsos.gov/isavital/deathsrch.jsp>
- Illinois State Death index via Steve Morse  
<http://stevemorse.org/vital/illdeath.html?years=pre>
- Cook County Vital Records: all records  
<http://www.cookcountygenealogy.com/Search.aspx>  
order directly and get records downloaded (about \$19)
- Molly Kennedy : Illinois Genealogy (our friend in Springfield, IL)  
<http://mollx.com/> Order online and records emailed. about \$6.
- genlighten: Amanda via Family History Library in Wilmette, IL  
<https://genlighten.com/profiles/roots4all> . \$8 for birth, marriage, or death records from Family History Center, Wilmette, IL.
- Ancestry.com: Cook County, Illinois, Marriage and Death Indexes, 1833-1889. <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2433>
- FamilySearch.com:

• Death Notices/obits

- Chicago Tribune Historical Archive (1849-1994 )  
via Proquest at your local library/University
- Chicago Tribune Archives (beta testing)  
<http://archives.chicagotribune.com/>
- Chicago Tribune Archives  
<https://chicagotribune.newspapers.com/search/>
- Molly Kennedy will search Chicago Tribune and other newspapers with date of death ([www.mollx.com](http://www.mollx.com) )
- JGSI Jewish Chicago Database (JJCD) JUF News 1994-2017  
[https://jgsoi.wildapricot.org/JGSI-Jewish-Chicago-Database-\(JJCD\)](https://jgsoi.wildapricot.org/JGSI-Jewish-Chicago-Database-(JJCD))
- JUF News Obits: <http://www.juf.org/news/News-Obits.aspx> 2005-present
- Piser & Weinstein obits <http://www.dignitymemorialjewish.com/en-us/search/obit-search-landing.page?searchlocationonly=1>

•Coroner/Homicide

- Cook County Coroner's Inquest Record Index, 1872-1911  
<http://www.ilsos.gov/isairad/cookinquestsrch.jsp>
- Chicago Police Department Homicide Record, 1870–1930  
<https://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/homicide.html>
- Call Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) to order records  
773-442-4506. Fee is \$1 and they mail them to you.

- Marriage Records
  - Cook County Vital Records (see above)
  - Illinois Statewide Marriage Index  
1763-1900 (on IL State Archives website)  
<http://www.ilsos.gov/isavital/marriagesrch.jsp>
  - Ancestry.com : Cook County, Illinois, Marriage and Death Indexes, 1833-1889. <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2433>
  - Sinai Congregation Marriages (526) 1861-1905  
<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/USA/sinai.htm>

- Birth Records
  - Cook County Vital Records  
<http://www.cookcountygenealogy.com/Search.aspx>
  - Indexes on [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org)
  - genlighten Chicago births 1871-1915  
<http://www.genlighten.com/offerings/chicago-birth-certificate-and-birth-registers-1871-1915>
  - genlighten Chicago births 1871-1922  
<http://www.genlighten.com/offerings/chicago-cook-county-birth-certificates-1871-1922>
  - genlighten Chicago births 1923-1937  
<http://www.genlighten.com/offerings/chicago-cook-county-birth-certificates-1923-1937>

## Location/residence records

- Chicago Re-numbers Streets in 1909
  - Any documents prior to 1909 will probably have wrong numbering
  - My mother's birth certificate (1907)
    - 521 South Halsted on certificate
    - Now 1314 South Halsted
  - Chicago Historical Society will give you new address or go to their website: [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org)
  - Newberry Library has a guide at :  
<http://www.chicagohistory.org/documents/research/resources/1909NumberChanges.pdf>
- City Directories
  - Chicago: 1839-1870 (irregular), 1871-1917 (every year), 1923, 1928/29
  - Contain name, residence, occupation, work address (optional)

-Newberry Library: Find Your Ancestor's Neighborhood  
<http://www.chicagoancestors.org/#tab-tools>

-Newberry Library: City Directories: 1866, 1870, 1871, 1875  
1880, 1885, 1892, 1900, 1910, 1923  
<http://www.chicagoancestors.org/#tab-tools>

•Fold3 \$ 1839-1917 (most), 1923  
<https://www.fold3.com/browse/5/h25JYODs2>

Miriam J. Robbins full inventory

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/usa/il/cook>

-Heritage Quest (via your local library)

•Census help

-Genealoger help with EDs,....

<http://www.genealoger.com/illinois/counties/Chicago%20and%20Cook%20County/census.htm>

-A Look at Cook : help with census. <http://www.alookatcook.com/>

- Property records (Cook County Assessor)  
<http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/Search/Property-Search.aspx> (by address or PIN)

<http://162.217.184.82/i2/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> (by name 1985-)

-Chicago Voter registration records (in lieu of 1890 census)

-1888 (ancestry) : <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5991>

-1892 (ancestry): <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6001>

## Naturalization records

•Naturalization

-INS Naturalization Index for Chicago & Cook County  
(incl some Indiana, Wisconsin) :1871 to 1950

-Cook County Declarations Index  
<http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/NR/>

Clerk Of Circuit Court of Cook County  
50 W. Washington Room 1113  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: 312-603-6601

-Family Search for Naturalization Index

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1838804?collectionNameFilter=false>

-Family Search for actual Federal (US District) Court Naturalization Papers (1906-1994)

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G92N-KKPB?owc=Q4K7-W38%3A1010138201%3Fcc%3D2212212&wc=Q4K8-829%3A1010138201%2C1068272401%3Fcc%3D2212212&cc=2212212>

-National Archives ordering

<https://www.archives.gov/chicago/finding-aids/naturalization-records.html>

## Legal (coroner, wills, probate)

- Ancestry.com

Illinois, Wills and Probate Records 1772-1999.

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9048>

-Cook County Coroner index 1872-1911

<https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/cookingt.html>

- Call Clerk of Circuit Court 312-603-6601

## Life in Jewish Chicago

Jewish Sentinel (1865-1996)

<http://web.nli.org.il/sites/JPress/English/Pages/Sentinal.aspx>

<http://web.nli.org.il/sites/JPress/English/Pages/Sentinal.aspx> (best)

<http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16614coll14>

Jewish Community Blue Book 1918

<https://archive.org/stream/chicagojewishcom00sent#page/n3/mode/2up>

## General Chicago Research

### High School Yearbooks

[https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1265&path=  
=](https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1265&path=)

Genlighten:

<http://www.genlighten.com/offerings?county=Cook&page=1&state=Illinois>

Molly Kennedy : [www.mollx.com](http://www.mollx.com)

## References (All material from this lecture plus MORE)

### Resources for Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland

[www.JewishGen.org/Infofiles/Chicago](http://www.JewishGen.org/Infofiles/Chicago)

### Organizations:

- Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois (JGSI) [www.jgsi.org](http://www.jgsi.org) 312-666-0100
- Chicago Jewish Historical Society [www.chicagojewishhistory.org](http://www.chicagojewishhistory.org) or 312-663-5634