Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook To Jewish Genealogy

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Synopsis

Most American Jews believe they can only trace their families back for two or three generations. In this work Dan Rottenberg proves that they are wrong and shows how to do a successful search for probing the memories of living relatives, by examining marriage licenses, gravestones, ship passenger lists, naturalization records, birth and death certificates, and other public documents, and by looking for clues in family traditions and customs. Supplementing the "how to" instructions is a guide to some 8,000 Jewish family names, giving the origins of the names, sources of information about each family, and the names of related families whose histories have been recorded. Other features included a country-by-country guide to tracing Jewish ancestors abroad, a list of Jewish family history books, and a guide to researching genealogy in Mormon records and in Israel. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

What's the best thing about this book? The Judaica section, where it talks about Jewish history/genealogy? The Etymology section, with its fascinating secrets revealed about common Jewish surnames? The Various Country Biographies? The Jewish Genealogical Societies, complete with short biographies and research tips? Or is it the massive Surname index in the back- over 3,000 names, I believe? No, I think the best thing about this book is summed up in the introduction. It's a book FOR US. For Jews, about Jews, explaining the History of Jews in Europe and other places, and how we can find out about them. So nu, buy a copy! It's worth it!
This book is extremely useful and readable. Not only does it provide plenty of specific Jewish genealogical information, it's a fabulous history lesson. Very useful.

Well written and informative. If you study genealogy, it is a must for your library. It opened several avenues for me, even though I believed that my ancestors were not Jewish. However, I had come to a road block, and it may turn out that one line were Christian Jews. Either way, I believe you will find this book interesting and worth the money.

Lots of information in this compendium of information about family names, place names, and how to start to put together a family history. Although the advice is outdated in this computer age, there is still much to learn from it.

I have a few books on Jewish genealogy and I rate this one to be one of my favorites. What I enjoyed was the thorough information showing how to conduct your own family research, along with information about family surnames at the back of the book.

The book is an excellent source for those who are looking for their ancestors. Very helpful with many lists of surnames and those who are related to who and how to get more info on your ancestors. A must for the amateur genealogist.

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