

## **“Think Like a Reporter to Avoid Rookie Genealogy Mistakes”**

NYGB •07 April 2020

Jennifer Mendelsohn

Resistancenealogy.com

### **DO:**

- Follow the clues you find like the “dun-duns” on “Law and Order.” Where is the next place the information is propelling you? Go there!
- Remember Maurice Templesman – the info is out there. It’s up to you to find a path to it. If you can’t go right to the bullseye, how can you use the concentric rings?
- Get creative in how you search. Use wildcards. Think broadly. Adjust your strategy.
- Play “Concentration.” Remember the cards you’ve seen and turned over.
- Remember your logic grid. Do all the details match?
- Be a gatekeeper, not a vacuum, especially when it comes to importing other people’s trees.

### **DON’T:**

- Rely too much on hints. Remember quality over quantity.
- Assume every document you need will be online. If a search returns a record that seems like it *could* be the one you want, don't assume it *must* be.
- Forget common sense. Always remember Occam’s Razor – the most likely scenario is the least complicated.
- Overthink it. Sometimes all it takes is a simple Google search.

### **Some Resources**

- Steve Morse’s Ellis Island Gold Search:  
<http://stevemorse.org/ellis2/ellisgold.html>
- Steve Morse Federal Census ED finder tool:  
<https://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>
- Children Can’t Be Born Before Their Parents:  
<https://blog.myheritage.com/2017/12/children-cant-be-born-before-their-parents-a-common-sense-guide-for-genealogical-beginners/>

### **For Jewish Genealogy:**

The Jewish Gen Community Database:

<https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp>

The Jewish Gen Family Finder <https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/> (

Facebook’s “Tracing the Tribe” <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tracingthetribe/> (

The Jewish DNA group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DNAHelpJewishJourney/> (