

## ▲ Family Tree

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she said of her scattered notes. "It's lots of work, it's inefficient and it's not organized. This computer program is good for me because it gives me many possibilities to organize my material and search other databases. Technology triggers the possibilities for genealogy."

The couple already has visited Salt Lake City twice to search the vast Mormon collection of microfilmed European records. Ruth perused

thousands of documents and discovered death records for her grandparents and other relatives.

Moshe does Internet research of people whose names are written on the back of old family photographs. To learn more about the branch of his family that left Belarus and Lithuania for the United States, he often conducts online searches of U.S. census records and the Social Security Death Index.

New opportunities continue to open up.

The International Tracing Service

archives in Bad Aronson, Germany, is a font of newly declassified information. My Heritage now links researchers to 1,536 databases around the world.

Ancestry.com says it spends millions of dollars per year digitizing records that can be searched online. Even before records are indexed, said the company's indexing manager, Crista Cowan, Ancestry.com users can browse such digitized documents as naturalization papers much like scrolling microfilm spools.

Many software programs also enable the posting of family trees online, which allows relatives to share and edit each other's information. For privacy reasons, users can restrict access to the trees; some sites limit what information can be viewed.

"What all this means is, if you have an Internet connection and are sitting in a yurt in Mongolia, you can find out information," Dardashti said. "What we always say is, if you don't find what you're looking for today, try tomorrow."

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