

Researching Jewish Motol

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1. How does one learn more about Jewish genealogy in general and Motol's in particular?

--If there is a Jewish genealogical organization near you, join it.

--If you can, connect to the Internet:

First go to JewishGen at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/>

Get acquainted with the first three sections and return to them for more:

--Learn; especially the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions).

--Research; especially the family finder.

--Discussion groups. Don't miss Belarus among the SIGs.

Then, go to:

--<http://www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/Grodno/> and

--<http://www.jewishgen.org/belarus/index.html>

Then, browse through the rest of JewishGen, read, use and participate.

If that is not enough, you can access the broadest collection of genealogical resources at:

<http://www.cyndilist.com>

2. Are there any organizations of the Motele diaspora?

--Congregation Anshe Motele, 6520 N. California, Chicago Ill. 60645. (773)743-2420. It is unclear how much of the current congregation is composed of Motele descendants.

--JewishGen's 1996 Infocfiles identifies the contact for the Israeli Motol organization as "Y. Antonovsky, 26 Trumpeldor Street, Kiryat Ono 55295."

3. Which museums have Motol-related displays?

--Motol town Museum: Motol, Belarus.

Bella Reichenbaum, who was there, says that it is a folkloristic collection and that it has nothing about the Jews.

--Eliezer Chemerinsky's Motol museum in Netanya, Israel is, to the best of my knowledge, defunct.

4. Where else can materials specifically about the Jews of Motol and its diaspora be found?

--Yad Chaim Weizmann: Weizmann Archives -- Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel.

I visited the archives in the summer of 2001 and found it to be an excellent resource for Chaim Weizmann research. However, it deals almost totally with his political and scientific careers. However, there were, at the time, two boxes of items about his family.

For more information please e-mail the archives' director, Merav Segal at merav.seagl@weizmann.ac.il or phone her at [0]8-934-3487.

--The Jewish Archives at the Spertus Museum in Chicago, according to Mike Pollack, has a great deal of material on Motele, some of which had been donated by him. Others have described the holdings as more modest. I found the following relevant URL, address and telephone on the Spertus web site:

<http://www.spertus.edu/Museum.html>

Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies

618 South Michigan Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60605

USA

312- 922-9012.

--Sarah Heller's collection at the University of Illinois -- Urbana library. It was donated by her daughter, Tauby Shimkin.

--Belarus State Archives in Grodno. Explaining how to deal with it is too complicated for this guide. The Grodno Research Group and the Belarus SIG (see # 1 above) are the appropriate organizations for those who are ready to tackle this repository.

5. **Where are there Motele related burial sites and monuments?**

--Motele Landsmanshaft burial plots at the Waldheim cemetery in Chicago.

According to Bruce Chemers:

"I have placed a photo of the monument near the gates to the Anshe Motele section at Waldheim at <http://www.tbcnet.com/~bchemers/motolmonument.jpg> for anyone who is interested."

and

"A photo of the [Waldheim Motol burial section] gate can be found at <http://www.tbcnet.com/~bchemers/motolgate.jpg>"

Diane Baer and Jenny Schwartzberg have been conducting an inventory of the plots. A portion of the names from their inventory is available on this site in the Lists of Names section.

--Motele Landsmanshaft burial plots in NYC according to the Jewish Genealogical Society (<http://www.jgsny.org/searchcity.htm>):

Landsmanshaft: Chebra Gemilis Chasodim Anshe Motele

Locations:

Mt. Zion Path 38 Right, Gate 11

Montefiore Block 87, Gate 124/N

New Montefiore Section 6, Block 5

For information about how to get there see: <http://www.jgsny.org/cemtrans.htm>

--A monument at a site near Motele where the women and children were murdered. Eliezer Chemerinsky's Motele Sheli has a picture of it.