

American Jewish Cousins Clubs and Family Circles as a Genealogical Resource

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- 1) Purpose of Jewish Mutual Aid Societies:
 - Sick benefits
 - Burial plots
 - Aid for the indigent here and abroad

- 2) Types of Jewish Mutual Aid Societies:
 - Benevolent societies, burial societies
 - Landsmanschaftn, fereins, vereins
 - Family circles, family clubs

- 3) Genealogical Resources Provided by Cousins Clubs and Family Circles
 - Minutes of meetings and family invitations
 - Photos and oral history opportunities
 - Newsletters and newspaper clippings
 - Family trees, member rosters and Websites

- 4) Notable Family Clubs and Family Circles
 - B'nai Abraham and Yehuda Leib Family Society (formed 1901, Baltimore)
 - Friedman Family Circle (established 1909, Manhattan)
 - Zagoren Family Unity, Inc. (Incorporated 1920, Brooklyn)
 - Katz Family Club (formed 1905, Cleveland)

- 5) Bibliography and Short History of Works on This Subject
 - 1939 – WPA Project of the Yiddish Writers Guild (Yiddish)
 - 1978 – *Mishpokhe* by William E. Mitchell
 - 1978 – “Class, Kinship, and Ethnicity: Patterns of Jewish Upward Mobility in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania” by Myrna Silverman, in *Urban Anthropology* 7:1, pages 25–43
 - 1992 – *Jewish Hometown Associations and Family Circles in New York* by Hannah Kliger
 - 2009 – *Kinship, Ethnicity and Voluntary Associations* by William E. Mitchell
 - 2012 – Master’s Thesis by Amanda Cohen (B’nai Abraham and Yehuda Leib Family Society)