

NO LONGER DEAD END KIDS: DISCOVERING THE ANCESTRY OF THE GORCEYS

Description:

The Russian Jewish ancestry of the Gorceys was a mystery to the family until recently. Leo and Bernard Gorcey were famous movie and stage actors in the 1930-1950s and starred in the series of Dead End Kids and Bowery Boy films. They are also close relatives to my wife. The talk will review the research steps and analysis required to find the original Gorcey surname, the family's arrival in America, and their Russian town of origin. The talk will also cover the persistence required, and the research methodologies and sources used, with a focus on Jewish genealogy. This program was presented to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington, DC.

Speaker:

David Kathan is a long-time genealogist with expertise in Colonial American genealogy, Jewish genealogy, and the use of DNA in genealogy. David recently retired from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as a Economist, where he focused on the integration of distributed energy resources into the wholesale electric power system. David initially became interested in genealogy in his teens, but took a 40-year hiatus to focus on schooling, career, and family. He became stricken by the genealogy bug again in the early 2010s and has been actively researching his lineage along with his wife's Ashkenazi ancestry. David has spoken before several genealogy societies on his research over the years. David has a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College, and a masters and doctorate from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.