



משפחה

Quarterly Publication of
The Jewish Genealogy Society
of Greater Washington

"Every man of the children of Israel shall encamp by his own standard with the ensign of his family" *Numbers 2:2*

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Fall 2002

Jewish Mobility within Europe by Peter Landé, JGS GW

Genealogists are accustomed to searching emigration records from central Europe to the United States, Australia, South America and elsewhere to see where family members went. It is, however, far more difficult to determine movements of individuals within central Europe, where no transportation records exist. However, such movements were common, sometimes within a country, sometimes across borders. The motivation was much the same as for those who went further afield, i.e. the search for greater economic opportunity or escape from various forms of difficulties/persecution in one's previous place of residence.

Within Europe, the favorite destinations, coming from the east, were larger cities within their own countries, as well as cities further afield such as Berlin and Vienna, though tens of thousands of Jews also went to Paris, Antwerp, Amsterdam and virtually every other place in western Europe. What these emigrants could not foretell was the rise of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, which affected them as much as their family members who remained in Poland, Lithuania, the former Soviet Union, or elsewhere in eastern Europe. Some escaped, but most were caught and transported eastward, only often to perish in the same countries from which they had originated.

Ze'ev Rebhun's book, *Autumn 1939 - Yamim Noraim, Memorial book for East European Jews who lived in Germany*, gave me the idea for preparing such an illustrative list. However, I widened the geographic scope and only listed names where I could determine where the individual had been born and where he had resided before being deported. The result is a list of 2,000 names, taken essentially at random, and intended to serve as illustrations of hundreds of thousands of others, many of whom remain nameless. Most originate in eastern Europe, but some were born in the countries from which they were deported and two were even born in the United States.

Some of the names were taken from Rebhun's book, some from deportation lists from Germany and the Netherlands, while others were taken
(continued on page 10)

Mishpacha

Mishpacha is back and will return to its former publishing schedule.

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משפחה

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Appropriate ads the size of a business card will be accepted. The cost is \$15 for one submission or \$50 for one year (4 issues)

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All JGSGW members are encouraged to submit their genealogical research experiences for publication in Mishpacha. Submit articles to either editor: Sharlene Kranz (SKranz_99@yahoo.com) or Donna Sellinger (donna@expressive-designs.com)

Back issues are available from Sharlene Kranz, 4336 Albemarle Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016 for \$5 each.

Table of Contents

Jewish Mobility within Europe	1
From the President	3
Toronto Conference Attracts JGSGW Members	4
Library News	4
Using the 1930 Federal Census	6
More on the 1930 Census	7
1919 Vilna City Directory	9
Obituary - Phyllis Goldberg	9
Call for Presentations	10
After 54 years, Marco Man Finds Long-Lost Relatives on the Internet	12
Records Access	
Texas	14
Polish	14
European	14
Long Island Naturalizations Online	15
Ancestry.com Provides Free as well as Subscription Service	15
Online Index Features Laws Affecting Eastern European Jews	15
Vitally Important Vital Records	16
Research Hints: Name Changes	19

Planning Continues For 23rd International Jewish Genealogy Conference In Washington, D.C.

JGSGW will be the host society next summer for the 23rd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, a chance for Jewish genealogists from around the world to get together for a week of research, networking, learning, and enjoying our Nation's Capital. The Conference hotel is the J.W. Marriott at 13th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., near the White House.

On-line registration will be available beginning February 1, 2003.

Conference Co-chairs Sheri Meisel, Ben Okner and Elias Savada are arranging an exciting program of speakers, workshops, symposia, tours, films and more for attendees. Committee chairs Faith Klein, Peter Lande, Liz Lourie, Rita Margolis, Roberta Solit and David Zinner are working with local research venues including the Library of Congress, the National Archives and the Holocaust Memorial Museum Research Institute to welcome researchers. Ellen Shindelman Kowitt is organizing a Book & Author program, and Flora Gursky is arranging the gala banquet.

Dick Goldman of the Maryland JGS is arranging vendors for the exhibit space, and also working to offer tours of Jewish Baltimore and the Baltimore Jewish cemeteries for our Conference registrants. Vera Mellen is recruiting volunteers, and will be calling YOU soon! Better yet, why not get in touch with Vera now (mellen@erols.com) and tell her how to want to participate in DC2003.

For updates on Conference arrangements, consult the web page at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/DC2003>, which is being maintained by JGSGW webmaster Donna Sellinger.



From the President

Benjamin Fassberg

A new Jewish year and a new month (October/Heshvan) as well as a new President and new Board of Directors have coalesced to begin JGSGW's Twentieth year of existence.

I have set several goals for myself and JGSGW. The first is to find a permanent home for JGSGW and its library. We don't know where that may be, but the search must begin.

My second goal is not only to complete projects begun in prior years, but also to start new research projects. There are thousands of pages of genealogical records waiting to be uncovered here in the Washington DC area. And, some of it must be translated into English.

A third goal is to uncover Naturalization records previously unavailable for use by genealogists from records here in Federal depositories. Some of these records are located at the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

A fourth goal, and probably one of the more difficult goals to achieve, is to seek out and encourage new and younger members of the community to join, become active and contribute new and fresh ideas.

And finally, much of our energies this year must go to making the forthcoming international convention of the IAJGS, the most useful in terms of Jewish genealogy research as well as the most energetic in terms of creating enthusiasm for all Jewish genealogists to explore and delve into each of our individual roots.

Your suggestions and comments on any of these areas are always welcome as well as any other areas where you think the JGSGW might be able to help you.

We would like to have your input and you can reach me or any of the other Board members either by E-Mail or by telephone.

Toronto Conference Attracts JGSGW Members

by Sharlene Kranz, JGSGW

More than two dozen intrepid members of JGSGW made their way to Toronto in July for the 22nd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

Toronto is a clean, modern city, which was at least 15 degrees cooler every day than Washington's sultry one hundreds while we were there. The Toronto JGS made us welcome and ran a lively, well-organized conference.

Several Washingtonians were presenters. Dr. Jeffrey Malka spoke about his Sephardic genealogy research. Dr. Ralph Yodaiken spoke about the history of anti-semitism. Arlene Sachs described life in 19th Century Germany. Peter Lande discussed Holocaust genealogical research. Sharlene Kranz and Elias Savada promoted next year's Conference in Washington, D.C. at a well-attended lecture.

Expert speakers from archives around the world, including Belarus and Ukraine, as well as the curator of the Auschwitz Museum were on hand to share their expertise. The Conference's closing banquet featured a speaker on Canadian Jewish history.

Next year - Come to D.C. in 2003!



Fall 2002 JGSGW Library News

by Judy Mostyn White, JGSGW librarian

Greetings and Happy Family Hunting!
The JGSGW library collection is housed at:
Isaac Franck Jewish Public Library
[IFJPL]

4928 Wyaconda Road

Rockville, MD 20852

Telephone: 301-255-1970

The IFJPL hours change seasonally, but generally they are open all day on Mondays and Wednesdays, afternoons and evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Friday mornings, and the morning of the last Sunday of the month. Always call them first to check their hours before going to use our library. Directions to our library can be found on our web site, under Resources, Library.

JGSGW members who wish to use our library should go to the main desk of the IFJPL. There, you sign in, and be sure to put JGSGW in the appropriate category beside your name. You will receive a key to our locked cabinets. Unlock the doors, and use our materials. PLEASE return materials to the same location from which you took them. Close and lock our cabinets, and return the key to the person at the main desk.

Virginia members should be aware of the Jack Klein Memorial Library of Jewish Genealogy & History, located at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, 703-370-9400. Contact JGSGW member, Faith Klein, for more information.

Here's a THANK YOU to the following library volunteers who have helped since last time:

JGSGW member, DAN GROSS, for frequent general help at the library, especially with the catalog.

NEW BINDERS

Binder #31

Miscellaneous Countries

Australia:

item 1: Australian JHS, pamphlet, 1990, index to names, places, subjects, congregations, cemeteries

item 2: Jews of Australia, WJC 1989

item 3: Jews Don't Surf, Jewish World, 1995

Austria:

item 1: Guide to Austrian genealogical records

item 2: list of names on Austrian family trees

Central & South America:

item 1: Murdering Memory in Argentina, NY Times, 12 Dec 1994

item 2: B'nai B'rith & Cuban Jews, WJW, 9 Feb 1995

item 3: Jewish travel sites in Argentina & Brazil

item 4: Jewish genealogical bibliography for the Caribbean

item 5: Jews in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Miami Jewish Tribune, 29 Dec 1989

item 6: Jewish traveller's guide to South America

Greece:

item 1: Jewish Museum of Greece, pamphlet

item 2: Jewish Museum of Greece, newsletter, 1991

item 3: Jewish Heritage in Greece, pamphlet

item 4: Hebrew Epitaphs of Mistra, 1981

Middle East:

item 1: Jews of Iraq, 2 magazine articles

item 2: Jews of Syria, WJC Report

Scandinavia:

item 1: Scandinavian census? survey form, headings translated into English

item 2: Regional archives of Gothenburg, pamphlet, in English & Swedish

item 3: Stockholm Jewish Museum, pamphlet, in English & Swedish

item 4: Genealogy in Sweden, pamphlet

Spain:

item 1: Ancestor hunting in Spain by Miriam Weiner

Switzerland:

item 1: Jewish City guide to Switzerland, 1993

item 2: Swiss Jewish families from 1300s in Lengnau & Endigen, 1954, in German

NEW BOOKS

CS 21 .M65; "Getting started in Jewish genealogy" by Gary Mokotoff and Warren Blatt, published 1999. Beginner's guide with bibliography.

CS 16 .S862; "Bringing your family history to life through social history" by Katherine Sturdevant, published 2000. How to use social history to add depth, detail and drama to family history, with bibliography and index.

DS 135 .R9 L43; "The Jewish Community in Russia, 1772-1844" by Isaac Levitats, published 1943. History, with bibliography.

D 765.2 .W3 O95; "The Warsaw ghetto uprising" published 1975. History of the uprising of 1943. Donated by JGSGW member, Rita Margolis. Thank you, Rita.

CS 71 .W764; "Windmueller family supplement 1984" by Inge W. Horowitz.

Windmueller family history. Donated by S. E. Klemen. Thank you.

F 74 .N56 L6; "Memoirs of I. Alan 'Pete' Lobel" by Martin Lobel, revised edition published 1994. Family history of Lobel family of Newton, MA, with family tree, index and bibliography. Donated by Washington Jewish Week. Thank you.

OLD BOOKS

Here are some of our older books that have been entered into the computer system of the IFJPL, with a description and their new call numbers:

CS 71 .G7384; "Out of the pale: a Grafman family history" by Stephen W. Grafman, published 1990. Family history with bibliography. Old call number FH11.

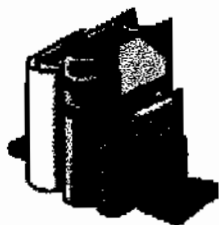
DS 135 .H93 F46; "When the world was whole; three centuries of memories" by Charles Fenyvesi, published 1990. Jewish legends, biographies of the Fenyvesi family, Hungary. Old call number FH21.1.

DS 135 .R93 S5947; "Sokolievka/ Justingrad; a century of struggle and suffering in a Ukrainian Shtetl" edited by Leo Miller and Diana F. Miller, published 1983. A Yizkor or memory book in English, Hebrew +Yiddish. Old call number G62.

DS 135 .R93 Z32; "The Jewish commonwealth of Zborow", by Solomon Berger, published 1967. Memoirs of the Jews of Zborov, Ukraine before the World Wars. Old call number G49.1.

DS 135 .S75 V344; "Three Jewish communities in medieval Valencia" by Jose Maria Donate Sebastia and Jose Ramon Magdalena Nom de Deu, published 1990. History of the Jews in Castellon De La Plana, Burriana, and Villarreal, all in Spain; includes bibliography and indexes. Old call number G59.2.

If you have any questions or comments about our library, suggestions for new purchases, or want to volunteer, you can reach me at 301-977-0154, or at mostyn@erols.com. Just please don't telephone between 6-8 p.m or weekend mornings. Till next time, Happy family hunting!



Using the 1930 Federal Census

By Roberta Wagner Berman
Adapted from Discovery, Spring 2002
San Diego Jewish Genealogy Society

On April 1st the 1930 Federal Census was released to the public, following a seventy-two year restriction that had been imposed for privacy reasons.

The National Archives has a website devoted to the 1930 Census. You can find it at:

<http://1930census.archives.gov>

This census was indexed for only ten states — Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia plus a few counties in Kentucky and West Virginia.

There is quite a bit of information that was asked for: 1. Street, avenue, road, etc.; 2. House number; 3. Number of dwelling house in order of visitation; 4. Number of family in order of visitation; 5. Name of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family; 6. Relationship of this person to the head of the family; 7. Home owned or rented; 8. Value of home if owned or monthly rental if rented; 9. Radio set, 10. Does family live on a farm? 11. Sex; 12. Color or race; 13. Age at last birthday; 14. Marital condition [Single, married, widowed, divorced]; 15. Age at first marriage; 16. Attended school or college any time since Sept. 1, 1929; 17. Whether able to read and write; 18. Place of birth-PERSON; 19. Place of birth-FATHER; 20. Place of birth-MOTHER; 21. Language spoken in home before coming to US; 22. Year of immigration to US; 23. Naturalization; 24. Whether able to speak English; 25. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done; 26. Industry or business; 27. Class of worker; 28. Whether actually at work yesterday (or the last regular working day); 29. Whether a veteran of U. S. military or

naval force; 30. What war or expedition?
31. Number of farm schedule.

If your family lived in a state that was not indexed you will need a street address to find them. If they didn't move around much you could try the address from the 1920 Federal Census. But if they did move often or if the 1920 address doesn't work you will need to find the 1930 address. This can be done by using a variety of sources. Begin by poring over your documents for addresses. Look at all the birth, marriage and death certificates, naturalization records, ship's passenger lists, social security applications, school records and voting records. Are there old letters and diaries available to you.? Question your family members. Many states had a 1925 state census.

Look in city directories. On the National Archives website at: <http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/citydirs.html> you will find a list of cities and years for city directories. The directories are on microfilm and typically include the name of working people, not the entire family. Many of the city directories are also available for viewing through the Mormon Family History Center. More locations with city directories can be found on "Cyndi's List" at: <http://www.gyndislist.com/cilydir.htm#General>. Once you have determined the address, you need to find the enumeration district (ED). You cannot use the ED from an earlier census.

Enter your state on the National Archives 1930 census website. Then enter the city or county. You will get a page telling you the number of microfilm rolls and number of enumeration districts. By clicking on an enumeration district you will get a description of that district. I used Kings County, New York and learned that there are 55 microfilm rolls and 1953 enumeration districts, described on 49 pages. By going through the 49 pages, I can narrow

down the ED I need. The ED description also includes the NARA roll number.

If you are looking for a smaller geographic area it will, of course, be easier find the ED. I used San Diego County and learned that there are four microfilm rolls and 234 enumeration districts on only six pages. It took me only three minutes to find the one I wanted.

There are two other useful websites: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ITWIT_Census1930/ created by Joel Weintraub. It has files that can be printed out so you can take them with you to consult at the archives. The files cover many of the problems you may have using the 1930 census. There are also forms and links to other sites. Using these links you can locate maps and find out the old/new names of streets in several cities.

<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/> created by Stephen Morse. This website is helpful in determining the ED and has a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that is particularly useful.

Both of these sites have descriptions of the process for finding the ED once you have a street address.

You may need to consult a map to help determine the ED. Use the Morse site to do this. You select your street, and house number, then click on "MapIt." This is a link to MapQuest.



More on the 1930 Census

By Ilene Kanfer Murray

Adapted from Generations, April 2002

Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis

An Enumeration District is defined by NARA as a "basic geographic area of a size that could be covered by a single census taker (enumerator) within one census period." Most large cities consist of many ED's, and since the 1930 census has few

indexes, your first searches will need to be made based on the address of where you or your relatives lived.

Some large cities have address indexes already done. NARA microfilm series M1931 consists of seven microfilm rolls that convert street addresses to ED numbers. The cities covered on those rolls are as follows:

Akron, OH
Canton, OH
Denver, CO
Gary, IN
Long Beach, CA
Omaha, NE
Queens, NY
San Antonio, TX
Tulsa, OK

Atlanta, GA
Chicago, IL
Detroit, MI
Grand Rapids, MI
Memphis, TN
Paterson, NJ
Reading, PA
San Diego, CA
Washington, DC

Baltimore, MD
Cincinnati, OH
Elizabeth, NJ
Indianapolis, IN
Miami, FL
Peoria, IL
Richmond (Staten Island), NY
San Francisco, CA
Wichita, KS

Berkeley, CA
Cleveland, OH
Erie, PA
Kansas City, KS
Newark, NJ
Philadelphia, PA
South Bend, IN
Youngstown, OH

Brooklyn, NY
Dayton, OH
Fort Wayne, IN
LA County, CA
Oklahoma City, OK
Phoenix, AZ
Richmond, VA
Tampa, FL

In addition to the above cities, address indexes exist for most of North Carolina.

What if your ancestors inconveniently were living in St. Louis or Pittsburgh or any other city not on the above list? There are 30 microfilms that give ED boundaries, part of the T1224 series. To get the address/ED equivalent, you might have had to go through the films with a map and match addresses to EDs. However, our Ellis Island friend, Stephen Morse, has come to our rescue once again and created a website with a built-in matching function that will do this time-consuming chore for you.

"The website does this by consulting tables that were generated from the T1224 microfilm. These tables contain all streets that are in each ED for selected large cities. So you enter your street and the website can tell you which EDs that street passes through. If it is contained in only one ED, your task of finding the ED is finished. Otherwise you can enter additional (cross) streets and the website will list all EDs common to those streets. By entering enough additional streets, the website will be able to narrow the possibilities down to only a single ED. If there are still multiple EDs after entering the cross streets, then enter additional streets to complete the closed city block. If the street names and house numbers have not changed since 1930, then the cross streets will show up on the map. If there have been significant changes since 1930, it will be necessary to seek out a map from that time period."

My cousin, Harry Kanfer, lived in St. Louis City at 5512 Wells St. around 1930.

How did I know this? I used the city directories (available in book form at the Mo. Historical Society Library on Skinker or on microfilm at the St. Louis Co. Library Headquarters) to determine his address. On Stephen Morse's census site, I followed the directions to access St. Louis and then typed in Harry's address. To find the cross streets, I used an excellent feature of the site, which allows you to actually see a map of the area. Once I had the cross streets in, within seconds I learned that Harry's house was in ED 199. Now, I'm ready to find him on the census.

Place this site into your Bookmarks/
Favorites. You'll love it!

<home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census>



LITHUANIA

1919 VILNA CITY DIRECTORY

Posted on JewishGen
Roots-Key, Spring 2002

Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles

The 1915 Vsia Vilna (All of Vilna) database containing over 17,400 entries from the 1915 city directory for Vilnius, Lithuania is now part of the All Lithuania Database (ALD) <http://www.jewishgen.org/litvak/all.htm>.

The entries in the Vsia Vilna 1915 database are from the section entitled, "*List of Inhabitants of Vilna and Subscribers of the Vilensko Telephone Service.*" While most of the entries are for families and individuals, the entries also include those businesses and government offices with telephone service. The directory was written in Russian.

Entries for families and individuals usually list only the head of the household, not the spouses nor the children. The information given may include: surname, Given Name, Father's Given Name, Occupation/Business, Address, Telephone Number, Other Comments

In Memory Of Phyllis Goldberg

1935-2002

It is difficult to pull together all our memories of Phyllis. Until the very end she was so active, so full of life, and so much involved in different activities. There was no question, however, what came first for her. It was her family - her husband, two children and 4 grandchildren. She loved to show off pictures, or be the doting grandmother/babysitter.

Her family involvement led her to her second most important activity, supporting research on Fanconi Anemia, a disease which affected one of her grandsons. She threw herself into supporting research, and conducting genealogical research to identify possible carriers of this unusual disease. But she did not limit her work to her own family. She was always ready to help others at the JGSGW to locate sources of information. She also contributed much time and effort to the Yizkor book project.

Having previously worked there as a professional, she returned to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a volunteer. In this capacity she was deeply involved in museum efforts to compile a database of Holocaust victims and survivors.

Phyllis had a good sense of humor. One could tease her about her family name of Zwetschkenbaum (plum tree). She loved a good joke as much as a serious discussion and passed the best to her many friends via email — and she made friends easily wherever she went.

We shall miss her.

Submitted by Peter Lande and Marie Kramer



A Capital Conference

Call For Presentations
23rd IAJGS International Conference on
Jewish Genealogy

July 20-25, 2003 * Washington, D.C.

On behalf of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington is now accepting proposals from potential speakers for the 23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The conference will be held from July 20 to 25, 2003, at the J. W. Marriott Hotel in Washington D.C. The conference hotel is very convenient to major repositories including the Library of Congress, National Archives, and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Because of the extensive archival resources and tourist attractions in the Washington area, we expect record attendance at this conference. It is therefore important for attendees and speakers to plan early.

Presentation proposals should include the following six sections. If you submit more than one proposal, please use a separate page for each submission.

- ◆ Name, Title and Organizational Affiliation if applicable, Address, Telephone, and E-mail address for each presenter
- ◆ Presentation Title
- ◆ 50 -100 word description of the presentation to be used in the Seminar Program Syllabus and CD-ROM
- ◆ 50 - 100 word bio of the speaker to be used in the Seminar Program Syllabus and CD-ROM
- ◆ A more extensive description, up to 500 words, describing the content of the presentation, identifying whether the presentation is geared to beginner or intermediate/advanced genealogists, and a description of the speaker's prior lecture experience, with emphasis on Jewish genealogy; this information will assist the program committee to decide on the merits of the presentation.
- ◆ Audio-video equipment required for the presentation

The presenters selected will receive free registration at the conference. All presenters invited to the conference must agree to submit a presentation summary, 1-4 pages in length (special programs may require additional material), by a date to be identified on acceptance of the proposal. The summary materials will be included in the conference syllabus and CD-ROM as a resource for conference attendees. Please refer to previous conference programs for samples of speaker materials, which frequently include an outline or narrative summary, a bibliography of readings and Internet resources, and maps, graphics or other explanatory material. Presentations will also be professionally tape-recorded.

Each presentation will be scheduled for a 1-hour time slot followed by a 15-minute question and answer period (75 minutes total time). We will attempt to honor requests to schedule presentations on a date and time convenient to the presenter, but we cannot guarantee a specific schedule.

Deadline for submission of proposals is December 31, 2002

Proposals should be sent to Sheri Meisel, Conference Co-Chair, 7207 Garland Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, 20912, U.S.A. Questions about the Call for Proposals should be directed to Sheri Meisel at <smeisel@umd.edu> or at the above address. We will respond to all submitted proposals with notification of the decision of the program review committee, no later than February 15, 2003.

Visit our website, www.jewishgen.org/dc2003, for additional information about next summer's capital conference. Thank you in advance for your interest and proposal.

(Continued from page 1)

direct from concentration camp records which are held in the Captured German Records collection at the United States National Archives at College Park, Maryland.

The information is broken down as follows:

- Family name
- Given name
- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Last known place of residence
- Date of death (where known)
- Place of death

Researchers should be aware that names of individuals and/or cities were often strangely spelled. Sometimes a name might be spelled several different ways in the same document. I have simply spelled them as they appeared in the documents with the exception of Lemberg/Lviv/Lwow which I have simplified to Lwow and Warsaw/Warschau/Warszawa which I simplified to Warschau.

Persons seeking further information on any individual should be aware that in most cases little more is available in the sources I consulted. In a few cases profession or street address is noted, but these are rare except in the actual deportation lists which are usually only available for France and Germany. I would like to remind readers that the purpose of this list is illustrative, i.e. if you are looking for a Polish family, start in Polish records, but also consider looking in French, German and Dutch records. The search may be difficult, but the results rewarding.

(These lists can be found on the JGSGW web site under Holocaust Research:
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw>)

Peter Lande is a long time member of the JGSGW. He is a retired foreign service officer and a volunteer at the US Holocaust Museum Research Institute. He was the recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001.

After 54 years, Marco man finds long-lost relatives by Internet

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
aszagier@naplesnews.com
Adapted from the Naples News

Fifty-four years is a long time to go without seeing family. A lifetime, even.

Much has changed in the halfcentury since Maury Atkin, now 84, a JGSGW member, last heard from his relatives in Belarus, a former Soviet republic surrounded by the Russian, Polish, Latvian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian borders.

Atkin, a World War II Marine, has since raised three children, and they have their own children. The part-time Marco Island resident and retired economist has traveled the world, including 85 visits to Israel and a return trip to his father's homeland.

By the time the 21st century rolled around, Atkin had long abandoned hope of ever hearing from his cousins Sima and Abram Mazo, children of his father's sister. But faster than you can say Google, some Internet sleuthing led Atkin on a genealogical journey that culminated in an emotional meeting with his never-beforeseen relatives in Moscow, where they now live.

Despite the cultural differences and language barrier, an immediate friendship and kinship - was born.

"I was so elated," said Atkin. "I didn't think it was possible."

The roundabout reunion's origins can be traced to 1911, when Atkin's father, Joseph, left the village of Chereya, Belarus, for the United States, the czar's police minions close behind. Twenty years later Joseph Atkin returned to Chereya to visit his elderly mother, but he died in 1938, and the Atkins in America never heard from their relatives after 1946.

"I received the last letter in February 1946," Atkin recalled. "I replied to that letter but they never received my reply. After the seizure of Leningrad, I didn't

know whether anybody survived, where they were, if they were alive or dead."

On a trip to Moscow and Leningrad in 1968 as a member of an American trade delegation, Atkin attempted to locate his cousins. With Sima's 22-year-old letter in hand, he visited a Leningrad synagogue to ask questions.

A promising lead emerged.

Too promising, it turned out. The helpful stranger turned out to be a Soviet informer.

Atkin canceled the meeting, his hopes of a connection seemingly dashed.

Fast forward three decades.

In the summer of 2000, Atkin and his wife, Flora, embarked on a cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg, the modern name for Leningrad. On a lark, Atkin showed his Russian tour guide and translator a copy of the yellowed letter from 1946. It was another dead end.

Back home in suburban Washington, D.C., Atkin contacted Dr. Sallyann Sack, a researcher and former president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington.

She gave Atkin the e-mail address of Daniel Kohn, a young American studying in Russia. Also known as Dayakohn@yahoo.com.

A decade ago, Atkin would have written to Kohn, who, living in Communist Russia, might get the letter two months later, if at all. Instead, Kohn replied promptly over the Internet. Within 30 days, the search that took more than 50 years had come to an end.

"Through the magic and speed of the Internet and email ... we soon had information about our relatives' education, professional experience, children's addresses, telephone numbers and Abram's special aptitude for gefilte fish," Atkin wrote in a genealogical newsletter article recounting his search.

A few phone calls later, the Atkins were headed to Russia, joined by their two children and a niece. On July 11, 2001 they

finally met Abram Mato, now 83, and his sister Sima, 78. Any communication hurdles were immediately surmounted.

One look at the people on the other side of the doorway, and Atkin knew he was at home.

Thanks to the now-commonplace Internet and the World Wide Web's ability to store and retrieve massive amounts of data at the stroke of a keyboard, such stories are becoming increasingly common, said Sack, a child psychologist.

"It's just exploded," she said. "A lot of people don't have to go to genealogical societies or libraries or archives. Every day, we get up and talk to people all over the world (via e-mail)."

It's a far cry from her early, unsuccessful efforts to learn about her heritage, said the 65-year-old Sack.

"People my age grew up thinking there was no way Jews could do genealogy. My mother would say, 'your parents came from the old country.' And I'd ask, 'Where's the old country?' And then she would say, 'well Hitler killed everybody.'"

While many records were destroyed in the Holocaust, the Nazis and other governments in Eastern Europe kept meticulous records, said Sack.

And once the Soviet Union fell, a treasure trove of information became open to American researchers, she said - right as the Internet revolution was gaining steam.

Last month, Maury and Flora Atkin received a letter from their cousins in Moscow congratulating the couple on their 60th anniversary. Even with an inexact translation, the sentiment is unmistakable.

"It was not our fault but an evil rock that those 60 years we did know anything about each other," the letter reads.

"And now, in this year 2001 you dear Maurice broke into our family as a hurricane. We wish you happiness, laughs and joy, so your table will always be full and so your connection will never be broken again."



Maury Atkin, 84, of Marco Island holds his laptop computer displaying a photo of his long-lost cousins, Abram Mazo, in the left of the screen, and Mazo's son. After a 54 year search, Atkin was able to locate them with the help of the internet. *Prof. Walter Szyb*

Records Access

TEXAS

FGS Forum, Winter 2001

The Texas Seaport Museum at Galveston, Texas, seeks to preserve the history of this nineteenth -twentieth century port of arrival. Many immigrants chose this entry point over the more congested communities of the Atlantic seacoast. The museum offers on-line access to an index of 132,119 passengers compiled from 22 sources, including its own records and newspapers. The database covers 1844-1954. The free site can be accessed at <http://www.tsm-elissa.org/immigrationlogin.htm>

First time visitors must provide an e-mail address to receive an identification number. The database includes name, members of travel parties, age, gender, occupation, country (or area) of origin, ship name, date and original port of departure, date of arrival, and U.S. destination. [AVOTAYNU e-zine, "Nu, What's New?" 2:16 (August 6, 2001)]

POLISH

FGS Forum Winter 2001

Polish Roots, found at <http://www.polishroots.org> is a Web site devoted to

to those researching Polish ancestry. Here will be found information and links to sites concerning Jews, Carpatho-Rusyns, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, and Kashubians and many more ethnic groups from that area of Europe. Its most popular features are the Polish Roots Surname Search, which allows users to register surnames they are researching. Sortie other online offerings are translated entries from the *Słownik Geograficzny*, a 19th Century Polish gazetteer covering present and former territories within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and a variety of databases such as Polish National Alliance Lodges and Galician Vital Records availability. Other database include the 1907 Krakow city directory, information on Hallers army, and Galician vital records. These are just a part of the many other databases and links of great use to related ethnic group researchers.

[Polish Roots Web site (above), September 2001]

EUROPEAN

FGS Forum, Spring 2002

Help is needed indexing the 1891 New York Immigrant lists for those individuals arriving from Austria, Poland and Galicia. This volunteer project involves studying microfilm for ship's records for 1891, listing people with those citizenships, and mailing or e-mailing your list to the coordinator for inclusion in the index.

To see what the final project will look like visit <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/1890ny.htm> and view the index for 1890. Access to the microfilms are available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and some branches (Chicago, Denver, New York City, and Pittsfield, MA). Several large public libraries also have copies, Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Boston; Dallas; Houston; Jamaica, NY; New York City; and the Wisconsin State Historical Society at Madison. Also through loan at any of the more than 3500 local LDS Family History Centers

across the country. Interested persons should please contact the project coordinator: Howard Relles, e-mail: rellesh@nycap.rr.com

[Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Orlando Florida <<http://members.aol.com/JGSGO>> website 11/30/01]

LONG ISLAND NATURALIZATIONS ONLINE

Generations Spring 2002
Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island informs us that indexes to Long Island naturalizations are online at the Italian Genealogical Group's website: [http:// www.italiangen.org/databases.stm](http://www.italiangen.org/databases.stm)

These databases, created under the leadership and initiative of John Martino, list records held by the

- Nassau County Clerk (65,000 names, 1899 to 1986)
- Suffolk County Clerk (67,000 names, 1853 up to 1990)

Among them are the naturalizations of thousands of NYC men who trained at the Camp Mills (Mineola) and Camp Upton (Yaphank) army bases during World War 1. (One of Camp Upton's better known soldiers was Sgt. Irving Berlin, who wrote the song "Oh, how I hate to get up in the morning" while stationed there).

Also on the IGG's web site is an index to naturalizations which took place at military camps in the New York area during World Wars I and II and the Korean War.

These databases were created through the hard work of dozens of volunteers, including JGSLI's Jack Hayne, Rhoda Miller and Jackie Wasserstein.

Ancestry.com Provides Free as Well as Subscription Services

Generations March 2002
Jewish Genealogical Society of St Louis

Fall 2002

You may know that Ancestry.com is one of the largest genealogy sites on the Internet. Although many parts of the site are for paying customers only, there are some areas that are free and worth a visit. (Actually, if you do a lot of genealogy on the Internet, it is well worth a subscription to the site.) Here are a few areas to take a look at: Social Security Death Index (SSDI): www.ancestry.com/ssdi Ancestry World Tree: www.ancestry.com/awt The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy: www.ancestry.com/source

Online Index Features Laws Affecting Eastern European Jews

Those interested in Eastern European Jewish history know that Jews living in czarist Russia were subject to a series of edicts (ukase). As announced recently in "Nu, What's New?" the online newsletter published by Gary Mokotoff of Avotaynu, "Michael Steinore of California has placed on the Internet an English translation of some czarist decrees, condensed summaries of others, and a subject index to all Czarist decrees concerning Jews up to 1873." Based on an index created by a researcher named Levanda in the late 1890s, it is located at <www.angelfire.com/ms2/belaroots/levanda.htm>.

If you have ancestors from Eastern Europe, this is a site at which you will want to spend some time reading and studying. There is so much information presented there about the legal and political conditions under which Eastern European Jews lived and worked! If you have heard stories about property ownership, serving in the army, taxation, etc. in the "old country," you will want to bookmark this site and work through the alphabetical index at your leisure.

A few of the edicts highlighted in "Nu, What's New?":

Public prayer and worship may only be held in the synagogues and houses of prayer. Jews holding divine worship in their houses without permission of the authorities will be punished by law.

Jews are declared to be aliens, whose social rights are regulated by special ordinances.

Landed estates, including land which has been apportioned to peasants for their permanent use, can not be sold to Jews.

A Jew is not eligible for the post of mayor.

Jews may not serve in the Navy.

If you do not subscribe to the online newsletter, buzz over to the Avotaynu site (www.avotaynu.com) and sign up. It's free, and it's filled with outstanding and timely information. And, if you don't subscribe to Avotaynu, what are you waiting for? It's THE journal for Jewish researchers. You can't really be without it and still research Jewish genealogy effectively.

Vitally Important Vital Records

by Amy Johnson Crow, CG

National Genealogical Society, March/April 2002

Contrary to the "hatched egg" or "alien intervention" theories, all Of Our ancestors were born. Many of our ancestors decided to get married at some point. And, though evidence may be lacking for some of them most of our ancestors have died. It is no wonder then that vital records - births, marriages, and deaths - are the most sought-after records in genealogical research.

When They Started

The New England states recorded births and marriages from the earliest days of the towns. States formed from the Northwest Territory - Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota - kept marriage records upon creation of a county, but did not keep birth

and death records until much later. Other areas of the country have a similar pattern of marriages being recorded years, or even decades, before birth and death records began.

By the early 1900s, most states began recording births and deaths on a statewide basis. This aids the researcher in that it is not necessary to know the exact location of birth or death. Most states maintain two sets of records - one with the state and the other in the county or city of the birth or death. When a record is not found at the agency that the researcher expected, searching at the other location might turn up the needed document. For example, if a death certificate isn't found in the county where the death occurred, a search at the state vital statistics office should be conducted.

Some states also maintain statewide marriage and divorce records, beginning generally in the mid 1900s. Like births and deaths, this helps the research process in not having to know the county of the event. However, many statewide marriage and divorce volumes are abstracts of the records found in the county. Taking the next step and obtaining the full record from the county often results in finding more information.

Their Usefulness

The information contained in vital records, like other types of records, varies by location and time period. Generally speaking, the earlier records will not contain as much information as more recent records. For example, most marriage records in Illinois prior to 1877 did not record the names of the bride and groom's parents. Death records in Ohio prior to December 1908 did not record the names of the deceased's parents unless it was an unnamed infant who died.

The fundamental question in genealogy is: "Who are the parents?" Birth records, even the earliest ones, typically list the

parent's names. But if early marriage and death records do not list the parents, why look for them? The answer lies in what is listed in the record.

A marriage record will have, at the least, the name of the bride and groom, the date of the wedding, and the name of the person who officiated the ceremony. Even with this bare amount of information, there are good genealogical clues besides the proof of the marriage. The bride and groom's names may be listed with a middle initial or middle name that had not been seen before. The bride may be recorded as "Miss" or "Mrs." - both valuable clues to her previous marital status.

Examining who performed the ceremony can lead to further avenues of research. If he was an M.G. (Minister of the Gospel), that should lead to a search for church records. Fortunate researchers find the minister's denomination listed on the record, such as "John Wagenhals, Lutheran Minister.

Researchers who find that their ancestors were married by a J.P. (Justice of the Peace) can also take away a bit of information. Most marriages performed by justices of the Peace were for couples who lived nearby. There are certainly exceptions to this rule, especially in areas known as "Gretna Greens" where the requirements for marriage were less stringent and consequently drew couples in from surrounding areas. However, in most instances, the residence of the Justice of the Peace may be a clue to nearby residences of the bride and groom's families.

Many researchers look for death records in the hope of finding the parents' names listed. It is important to remember, however, that the accuracy of those names is only as good as the knowledge of the informant. Was the informant a child of the deceased, born after his grandparents died? Did he know their names? People who died

in hospitals or other institutions are often given parents with the name "Unknown."

Certainly, this does not mean that death records are not important. They place the death at a particular time and a particular place. This can aid in a search for obituaries, another valuable research tool. Death records, even early ones, usually record the cause of death. This could be important when building a family medical history. Unusual or violent causes of death should be followed up with a search for coroner records, which can be very detailed. (For more information about causes of death, see William B. Saxbe, Jr.'s article, "Nineteenth-Century Death Records: How Dependable Are They?" in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, volume 87, number 1, March 1999.)

Divorce -The Forgotten Vital Record

Even in the "old days," love did not always last forever. Divorces have been around nearly as long as marriages. Our ancestors' misfortune can be our great discovery. Divorce records are truly genealogical gems. They often give details about the marriage (sometimes providing the proof of the marriage date and place when marriage records do not exist). Frequently, they give details about the circumstances of the marriage and its breakup. Particularly important is the listing of children and their ages that is included in most divorce documents.

When dealing with divorce records, it is important to look not only for the divorce decree, but also any other documents. Affidavits and recorded testimony give a real eyewitness view of the proceedings. Of course, divorces can be messy and some testimony should be taken with liberal amounts of salt.

Finding the Records

The first step to finding the record is determining if it exists. For example, there is no use in looking for a civil marriage record from 1834 in Pennsylvania because

that state did not require its counties to record marriages until 1885. There are several national guidebooks with this type of information. Internet users may want to consult the research guides at www.familysearch.org (from the Search screen, click on either the "Research Guidance" or "Research Helps" tabs).

Many genealogical societies have published the vital records for their area in book form or in their periodicals. Checking for these resources can aid the search for records. These publications are often indexed or in alphabetical order, which can be a real boon to genealogists working in locations where the original records are unindexed.

Of course, the Internet is another place to find indexes, abstracts, transcriptions - and sometimes digital images - of vital records. The web sites of different GenWeb projects, genealogical societies, individuals, and commercial entities have databases of these types of records.

After finding a record in a publication, either in print or electronic format, it is a good idea to get a copy of the actual record, if possible. Errors may have occurred in the abstracting process. Many abstraction projects leave out details that may seem unimportant at first. Getting a copy of the actual record may reveal the clue necessary to accurately evaluating the information.

Obtaining a Copy

There are several things to keep in mind when contacting a government agency to order a photocopy of a document. The first is making sure that you have the correct address. The addresses for state vital records offices can be found in many national and state guidebooks, as well as on the Internet at www.vitalchek.co in /listmail.asp. Genealogical societies and GenWeb sites often have the contact information for local and county agencies. Before writing to any agency, especially

local ones, it is important to determine if they actually have custody of the records. Many early vital records have been moved to county, regional, or state archives. Again, checking with the genealogical societies and GenWeb sites for the area can help in this regard.

When writing to the agency, be certain to keep the letter short. The clerk's main duties are in dealing with current business at hand, not wading through a three page letter to try to find what record is being requested. Be certain to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, preferably a long, #10 envelope with sufficient postage. Another way to help insure a response is to include your address in your letter, in case the return envelope becomes separated from it.

Opting for a plain copy, rather than a certified copy, is a much cheaper option. Some agencies charge only a few cents for a plain copy, but \$10, \$15, or more for a certified copy. A plain copy is usually sufficient for genealogical research. In some cases plain is preferable to certified, as some locations type a new certificate for a certified copy, but make a photocopy of the original for the plain copies requested.

Many vital records kept by the counties and towns are available on microfilm through LDS Family History Centers. There is a fee to rent the film and a charge to make photocopies, but this is often less expensive (and less time-consuming) than ordering copies from a government office, especially if there are many records to copy.

Conclusion

Because of the events they represent and their relative abundance, vital records form a large part of the framework of genealogical research. Knowing what information to expect in them and how to find them can help assist in the use of these vitally important records.

Research Hints: Name Changes

By C. Edwin Murray
Generations May 2002

Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis

Have you ever heard a cousin/aunt/uncle tell you a story of a name change in your family? Usually it is a story of the immigrant changing his/her name at Ellis Island. This long-standing family myth is almost certainly an impossibility since the customs agents at Ellis Island were only using the manifests of names of passengers for arriving ships. If there was a name change, it might have taken place at the port of departure in Europe. It could have been because a clerk wrote the name in a different way than the person wrote his/her own name. The clerk was only writing the name the best way he could, based on what he heard. Or a name could have changed because the immigrant created a new name for him/herself before he/she departed for America or used a passport and/or papers with someone else's name on them.

Often the name was not changed until sometime after the immigrant arrived in America. This name change was sometimes just a shortening of the name such as Goldstein to Gold or Rosenheimer to Rosen. Later, Rosen could evolve to Rose or Ross. Sometimes the immigrant translated his/her Hebrew or nationality name to the English equivalent. Sometimes he took his wife's surname because it was easier to pronounce. Sometimes an immigrant took his sister's married name for the same reason.

Usually it was the children of the immigrant that changed their surname so that it was more Anglicized and they could better assimilate into society. They didn't want to sound like they were foreigners. Often it was the eldest son that made the change. I have found that most daughters did not change the spelling of their maiden name.

Sometimes the children went to great lengths to change the family name. One case that I have found was where the parents kept their old name while still alive in St. Louis. They even had a tombstone made with this name. At the time of death, the children listed their mother with a new surname on the death certificate. Since the father did not speak or read English, he must not have been aware of the change. When the father died, the children had the new surname placed on his death certificate. A couple of years later, the children had new tombstones made for their parents with the new surname. It was only because a search of monument company records showed that new tombstones had been made to record the change in surname and because one of the daughters had an amended death certificate made that stated that the father was "aka" (also known as) the name that they arrived in America with, that I knew that a name change had taken place.

The reason that we sometimes hit a brick wall in our research is because we don't find the name of the parents. One reason could be that they or their children changed their name and we have not found a record that indicates an earlier name. Until you find the earlier name, you will be unable to continue your search.

Search all early records for the immigrants, especially before the children grew up. When you search for the passenger ship records, look for the original (usually Yiddish) given name of the father, mother, and children with the correct ages. If the surname has changed, sometimes the given names have not. Find the first census records after they have arrived in America. Often the original name is given. Look for amended death certificates. Finally, check the monument companies for names on tombstones and the name of the purchaser. This might show you the original name and the changed name.



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