



# 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*

**Volume 23 , Number 3**

**Summer 2004**

## President's Message

Ben Fassberg

Time passes quickly when you're having fun! At least the old saying says that's so.

On reflection, the past two years have moved very quickly - last year being the year that JGSGW hosted the 23rd IAJGS Convention. Much work by many people, many meetings solving or attempting to solve the myriad of subjects that go into making a large meeting run smoothly with people from around the world.

From all the compliments JGSGW received at the conclusion of the meetings, those who did the lion's share of work as well as everyone who played a part in the planning and execution of the Convention can share in the pride we all felt at its conclusion

Although this year was no less hectic, it was different. One of our crowning moments was the part JGSGW played in November of 2003 during the Holocaust Survivors Gathering at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington.

JGSGW's part in this meeting was to help Holocaust survivors and/or their families locate friends and family they had not seen in over fifty years or didn't know of their survival. One particular moment that I assume will not be forgotten by those in attendance was when we helped an uncle and his niece find each other after sixty years of separation since they last saw each other in Europe. Neither one of them knew the other was going to be at this meeting. The screams of recognition and the warmth of their greeting caused chills and goosebumps on most of us witnessing this. (And a few tears appeared in those of us in the room at the Museum when the match occurred.)

Our monthly programs were altered this year too. A Committee For the Future was appointed last year to make recommendations to the President and the board on how our organization could improve itself. The committee recommended among other things, that because Washington, D.C. was a source of original genealogical information that was not available elsewhere in the U.S., JGSGW should take advantage of having people who head-up these large government organizations, as our speakers. Thereby, we could



Mishpacha

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## משפחה

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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 (dfsmetsfan@yahoo.com)

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

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The JGSGW Web Site is located at:  
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw>

learn first hand what is currently available, how that information is collected and its significance to the Jewish genealogical world, and what is planned for the future in making other information available although it is not now available.

So we were privileged to have as a speaker Peggy Pearlstein from the Hebraic Division of the Library of Congress whose talk revealed what was available at the Library of Congress for Jewish Genealogists, not only in the Hebraic Division but throughout the various other divisions - from the Map Division, the Newspaper and Periodical Division, and the Genealogy Division itself.

At another monthly meeting, Henry Mayer from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum spoke not only of the huge collection at the museum currently, but enthusiastically spoke of material that was about to be acquired in the Museum's Library and of the large amount of information that needed to be translated into English.

Attempts to engage people from the National Archives not only the downtown headquarters but also from the National Archive repository in College Park didn't materialize because of conflicting dates of some of the speakers. But there's always next year to hear those folks.

It was always a privilege for me to greet so many of you who attended our various monthly meetings and whose words of encouragement not only to me, but to the board evidenced an appreciation of what we were trying to accomplish during our stewardship of JGSGW.

To the new president and the new board, I want to think we have left you with a sound organization. My wish is that even greater things can and will happen in the next two years.

The Israelis, the French, Spanish and Germans have words of parting that to me are more appealing than just good-bye. So, L'hitr'ot, Au revoir, Adios, Aufwiedersehen - till we meet again.

Ben Fassberg  
President, JGSGW



## Jun 2004 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 fourth 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.

Summer 2004

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.

#### THANK YOU

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

US Holocaust Memorial Museum archivist, MICHLEAN AMIR, who helped with assigning call numbers to our books.

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

#### NEW BOOKS

CT 25 .N49; "From memories to manuscript: the five step method of writing your life story" by Joan R. Neubauer, published 1994. How to write an autobiography; includes bibliography.

CS 49 .H38; "Locating your roots: discovering your ancestors using land records" by Patricia Law Hatcher, published 2003. Covers federal and local land records; includes bibliography and index.

CS 14 .T39; "Uncovering your ancestry through family photographs" by Maureen Taylor, published 2000. How to identify, interpret and preserve your family's visual heritage; includes bibliography and index.

CS 14 .C38; "A genealogist's guide to discovering your female ancestors" by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, published 1998. Special strategies for uncovering hard-to-find information about female lineage; includes bibliography and index.

DS 135 .U42 K3613; "Kaminits-Podolsk and its environs", published 1998. Yizkor or memorial book; covers Kaminits-Podolsk Ukraine, Balin, Dunivits, Zamekhov, Zhvanets, Minkovitz, Smotrich, Frampol, Kupin, Kitaygorod; includes indexes; translated from Hebrew.

F 174 .W79 J56; "Jewish cemeteries of the Delmarva Peninsula" by Julian H. Preisler, published 1995. Burial index for Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore.

DS 135 .E83 M65; "Where once we walked" referred to as WOWW. We now have the revised edition, published 2002.

Z 5313 .U6 N523; "Genealogical resources in New York". We now have the second edition, published 2003.

#### OLD BOOKS

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

DS 135 .P62 W3779; "Warszawa" published 1902. Pictures of Warsaw, Poland, identified in Polish, by photographer Karola Sommer. Old call number G49.

DS135 .R93 V63713; "The holocaust of Volhynian Jews, 1941-1944" by Shmuel Spector, Summer 2004

published 1990. History and statistics of Jewish persecution in Volhynia Ukraine with bibliography, index, and maps. Old call number G61. Donated by JGSGW member, Sallyann Sack. Thank you, Sallyann.

Z 5313 .U5 L37; "State Census Records" by Ann S. Lainhart, published 1992. We probably all know that the US federal government takes censuses every ten years, but did you know that many states took censuses, too? This book lists what is available and where, alphabetically by state. Old call number RG41.2.

Z 6373 .C3 N37; "Archival sources for the study of Canadian Jewry" by Lawrence F. Tapper, revised 2nd ed. published 1987. Major collections on Canadian Jewry in the manuscript division of the National Archives of Canada, with a brief history of Canadian Jews, bibliography and index. Old call number G12.

Z 6373 .G7 G64; "Anglo-Jewish bibliography, 1937-1970" by Ruth P. Lehmann, published 1973. List of references in Great Britain alphabetically by author. Old call number G63.1. Donated by JGSGW member, Sallyann Sack. Thank you, Sallyann.

Z 6373 .G8 A85; "Les Juifs de Grece" by Robert Attal, published 1984. Bibliography of the Jews of Greece, index of places and names, in French, Hebrew, and Greek. Old call number G28.01. Donated by JGSGW member, Sallyann Sack. Thank you, Sallyann.

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 pm or weekend mornings. Till next time, Happy family hunting!



### **It's Free - Genealogical Resources available Via your Local Public Library**

by Rich Meyersburg, JGSGW

We all know that there are for-a-fee databases which have much to offer genealogists, however many of these databases can be accessed for free, often from our homes. The source of these free connections is your friendly neighborhood public library.

These days, the public libraries have a great deal to offer genealogists, but we often don't realize exactly what services they now offer, both at the library and through accessible online databases which may be searched anytime from your home. While the offerings vary considerably from library system to library system, in many cases, various public libraries have reciprocal agreements with other nearby library systems, so even though you may live in Maryland or the District of Columbia, you are likely eligible for a library card from a Virginia public library and vice versa. I mention this at the beginning of this article so you don't skip over the offerings of public library systems not in your jurisdiction by saying, "That's nice, but I can't use their library," when probably you can. Most library systems will require you to enter your library card number before using any of their databases; others may have open access to some of their databases.

Most of these databases are growing collections, and their offerings will improve over time. That being said, let's have a look at some of the genealogical resources available from libraries in the greater Washington area. (This article does not cover the many wonderful resources of the Library of Congress).

I have indicated which libraries offer each service by using the following codes: The cities of DC, AX (Alexandria), and FCh (Falls Church); the counties of: AAC (Anne Arundel),

CC (Calvert), HC (Howard), MC (Montgomery), & PGC (Prince Georges) in Maryland, and AC (Arlington), FC (Fairfax), LC (Loudoun), & PWC (Prince William) in Virginia. MD indicates that the database is accessible through Sailor by anyone with a valid Maryland Public Library card.

#### A. Genealogical Databases.

**HeritageQuest Online** [AX, MD, LC, PWC] offers digital, searchable images of U.S. federal census records with original page images for all documents, from the convenience of your home or at the library. HeritageQuest Online also features digitized versions of the popular UMI® Genealogy and Local History collection which contains more than 25,000 family and local histories, and genealogies; coverage extends from 1700 to the present.

That being said, what does it mean? Most importantly, you can download, using your home PC, most U. S. Census records! There are two notable exceptions at present: The 1880 U. S. Census is not available as a searchable database, but can be browsed, if you know the enumeration district, or page number you are interested in searching (which makes it not very useful for most of us); and their 1930 U. S. Census offerings are very limited at this time. This service is available at most public libraries including the Maryland "Sailor" system which offers it to all Maryland public library card holders (which should make it available to all of us who live in the greater Washington, DC area). The Maryland Sailor access point for HeritageQuest Online is [http:// www.sailor.lib.md.us/cgi-bin/hqo](http://www.sailor.lib.md.us/cgi-bin/hqo)

**AncestryPlus** [AAC, PGC - no card required, FC, LC, PWC] contains over 1.2 billion records in over 3,000 databases including searchable, digitized images of the U. S. Federal Census from 1790 to 1930. Other databases of note include: the American Genealogical Biographical Index; Passenger and Immigration Lists Index (which at present is far from complete); some military information including World War I Draft Registration Cards (currently only from a handful of states, but fortunately New York is one of them); court, church and ethnic records; some city directories; Social Security Death Index (SSDI); Periodical Source Index (PERSI); family history library; and many more databases. Due to licensing restrictions, AncestryPlus is only available for in-Library use).

Okay, so you have to go to your public library to use this service (or even to a public library not in your county or city) but it may well be worth the trip. You will need to take a box of 3 ½ inch floppies with you so that you can save any data you find. Some of the census images are quite large, especially the 1930 U. S. Census images which can take up over half a floppy disk - usually you will be able to get two 1930 Census images on a floppy, but sometimes only one - I suggest that you fill in the extra space with smaller offerings such as WWI Draft Registration Cards, and results from other database searches. In order to download the census images, you will have to switch to the Advanced Image Viewer, which (at many of the local libraries) will have to be downloaded prior to using. It only takes a couple of minutes to do this, and it is essential if you are going to save census images on your floppy.

Please note that individual libraries often limit your use of their internet computers to 30 minutes or one hour periods if they are busy, and they often are.

When searching either of these census databases, keep in mind that the original census record you are seeking may have erroneous data in it. This erroneous data may be found in any field, including: last name, first name, relationship, age, or birthplace, so you may need to be inventive when doing your searches, and/or when you are deciding whether or not the record you have found is the correct one. Or you may also find

several records which could be the one you are seeking. I also suggest that you pay some attention to neighbors of the person or family you for which you are searching. Sometimes you may find relatives living in different apartments in the same apartment building. Also, if the family you are seeking is at the bottom of a page, be sure to check the entries at the top of the following page, to see if they are a continuation of the record you are seeking. Likewise, you may want to look at the previous page, if the record you are seeking is the first one on a page.

Both services offer some sort of advanced search entry form which will allow you to make some fairly sophisticated searches. Ancestry will let you do a Soundex Code search, HeritageQuest will not.

The HeritageQuest census database has two ways to save the census data: One is to click the right mouse button and then select [Save Picture As]; The other way is to click on the save emblem which is part of your browser. In either case, you will save the file as a .gif file. This file can later be accessed by a graphics package and cropped to remove the black areas surrounding the actual census image.

Census records from Ancestry will be saved as .jpg files, and tend to be larger than comparable .gif files. However, these files also can later be accessed by a graphics package and cropped to remove the black areas surrounding the actual census image.

The actual census data can be on either of two sheets, the "A" page which will come up first, or the "B" page. If the name you are searching does not come up on the first page, click on the "B" tab located above the actual census image.

#### **Otherdays.com [PWC]**

This innovative new website features extensive materials in Irish genealogy and history. It has thousands of original photographs and prints, collections of rare books, maps and newspapers, the first full and comprehensive online Griffith's Valuation and other unique genealogical records. In-library access only.



**B. Newspapers & Obituary Databases** In addition to those sources listed below, please remember that the Library of Congress has the most extensive collection of newspapers in the country.

**Local County Newspapers** can usually be accessed at most county public libraries.

**ProQuest [AC - accessible online at <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/lib/database.asp>]**

There are two collections each of which can be searched simultaneously:

**ProQuest Historical Newspapers:**

**Historical New York Times [MC - Rockville branch only, LC, PWC]**

The New York Times (1851-2001) offers full page and article images with searchable full text back to the first issue. The collection includes digital reproductions providing access to every page from every available issue.

### Historical Wall Street Journal

The Wall Street Journal (1889-1987) offers full page and article images with searchable full text back to the first issue. The collection includes digital reproductions providing access to every page from every available issue.

### Historical Washington Post [MC, LC]

The Washington Post (1877-1988) offers full page and article images with searchable full text back to the first issue. The collection includes digital reproductions providing access to every page from every available issue.

### ProQuest Newspapers: [FCh, MC]

A database of international, national, and regional newspaper articles (no images) including U. S. and international news sources. It can be searched for full text of the articles (including obituaries).

### America's Obituaries and Death Notices [PGC]

A collection of newspaper obituaries and death notices. An ideal resource for genealogical research. Easily searchable by name of the deceased, date range, or text, such as residence, occupation, hobbies, family members or other information, contained in the obituary or death notice. Accessible online at [www.prge.lib.md.us/Databases/Databases.html](http://www.prge.lib.md.us/Databases/Databases.html) - library card not required.

### Baltimore Sun - At most Maryland Public Libraries (In Library Access Only)

Contains the full-text of news, feature stories and editorials published in the Final Edition. 1990 to present.

**Washington Times** [DC, PGC, LC] Coverage begins with 1990. This database does not include classifieds, legal notices, graphics, and articles not copyright to the newspaper. Accessible online.

### Washington Post [all]

Coverage varies.

### Newspaper Source - [FCh, MD]

Selected full text of regional U.S. newspapers, international newspapers, newswires, television and radio transcripts, including: USA Today, The Christian Science Monitor, The Washington Post, The Times (London), The Toronto Star, The Boston Globe, The Chicago Tribune, The Detroit Free Press, The Miami Herald, The New York Daily News, and The San Jose Mercury News. (This database is provided by Sailor - Maryland's Online Public Information Network.)

### Ethnic News Watch - [MC]

Complete newspaper and magazine articles from the ethnic and international press including more than a dozen Jewish newspapers.

### National Newspapers [AX, FC]

Search 27 newspapers including The New York Times, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, Barrons, and Washington Post, plus other important U.S., international and minority interest papers.

### Newsbank Newspapers [PGC]

Full-text articles from over 20 US city newspapers, including: Atlanta, Philadelphia, Richmond, Miami, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Also, full-text articles from the China Daily, Korea Times, Philippine Daily, and Times of India.

**Historical Brooklyn Daily Eagle** [although not local, this database is accessible to all.]

The Daily Eagle was Brooklyn's premier newspaper from 1841 to 1955. Every issue of Summer 2004



the Brooklyn (NY) Daily Eagle from October 26, 1841 to December 31, 1902 can be searched online by clicking on “login” at <http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle/>



### C. Biographical Databases

#### **Biography Resource Center [DC, AAC, HC, PGC, FC, LC, PWC]**

This comprehensive database of biographical information contains information on more than 180,000 people, living and dead, from around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas. Search for people based on one or more personal facts such as birth and death years and places, nationality, ethnicity, occupation or gender, or combine criteria to create a highly-targeted custom search path.

#### **Biography and Genealogy Master Index [PWC]**

A comprehensive index to over 12 million biographical sketches taken from current and retrospective reference books, which covers both contemporary and historical figures around the world.

#### **General Reference Center Gold [DC, FCh, AAC, AC]**

General Reference Center Gold contains articles from newspapers, reference books, and periodicals, many with full-text and images.

#### **Infotrac One File [FCh, AAC, MC, AC, LC]**

Search full-text newswires, newspapers, and periodicals for articles profiling well-known people from a wide array of topics. Coverage from 1980-present.

#### **Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated [AAC]**

Biographies and obituaries from Current Biography, World Artists, Film Directors and print directories of musicians and composers. Accessible online.

### D. Local Genealogical Rooms

Most library systems have local genealogical/historical collections for their local area. These collections are usually located in special rooms and may have many items of interest to genealogists. Ask your librarian about any special genealogical collections they may have, both at an individual branch, and at a central location.

**Act now.** If you live in Maryland and do not have a library card, you can get an Anne Arundel County public library card online at [http://web.aacpl.lib.md.us/library\\_card/onlinereg.asp](http://web.aacpl.lib.md.us/library_card/onlinereg.asp). Unfortunately, this is the only local area Maryland public library which allows online registration for a library card. Non-residents will have to get a Maryland public library card in person at a local Maryland county public library. However, if you live anywhere in the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area, you can get an Arlington County Public Library card online, and be searching the ProQuest Historical Newspapers database tomorrow - I did. Do not pass GO, go directly to [www.co.arlington.va.us/lib/about/webreg.htm](http://www.co.arlington.va.us/lib/about/webreg.htm) and sign up now. It's free.



**Society News:**  
Long-time member Norman B. Willner died May 25 at age 57.  
Lenore Robinson, member since 1985, died April 20.  
Our condolences to their families.



## DOMESTIC RESEARCH

### Military Records On-Line

By Hilary Henkin

Somone in another group I subscribe to found a wonderful new database at NARA. It's part of the ADD - Access to Archival Databases System. This particular database is the "Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, ca. 1938 - 1946". It has records for close to 9 million enlistees in the U.S. Army for WWII. You can search for individual names or by state and county, or a combination. Wildcards are permitted, too.

To search by state and county, start at <http://www.archives.gov/aad/index.html> Click on SEARCH, then select ALL SERIES, the Army file is the sixth entry down.

From there it's pretty self-explanatory. Be sure to select the state and county codes from the code lists - don't type the place names in.

There are other databases in the ADD - check it out!



### Records of Buried Veterans on Web Site

From The Washington Post, April 19, 2004

The Veterans Administration has made it easier and faster for the public to get answers about family history, old war buddies or war heroes. The agency put on the web 3.2 million records for veterans buried at 120 national cemeteries since the Civil War. The web site is: <http://www.cem.va.gov>

The department's Nationwide Gravesite Locator also has records for some state veterans cemeteries and burials at Arlington National Cemetery since 1999.

Private companies have put some of this information online and charged for it, but the VA information is free. The website will be updated daily.  
Summer 2004

## American Battle Monuments Commission website

By Aaron Werbel, JGSGW

Although it's not new, some of you may not know about another site for American WWI, WWII, and Korean War casualties overseas. It's [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov). Click on the war at the top of the page to go to the search engines. I was able to locate my great uncle who died on D-Day in Normandy. It gave his name and rank, regiment and division, state from which he entered the service, date of death, cemetery and specific plot, row and grave number, as well as awards he received in the war. They also have nice pictures of the cemeteries. (The one on the home page turns out to be where my uncle is buried.) For the Korean War Veterans they even have file photos of the deceased and the story of how they were killed when available!!



### Chicago Area Resarch

From *Morasha*, the JGS of Illinois, Spring 2004

The Arlington Heights Memorial Library maintains a large genealogy and local history collection in both print and microforms. The Kathrine Shackley Room for Local History & Genealogy is staffed by volunteers to assist patrons with family research. Library staff will answer genealogy queries by telephone, e-mail, and regular mail if an exact name, place and date is given. The collection includes newspapers, vital records indexes, obituary collections, city and telephone directories, maps, state and federal census, and veterans' materials. (847-392-0100)

In addition, The Library of Congress, in collaboration with the Chicago Historical Society, has created a database of photographic images from the Chicago Daily News, 1902-1933. The database includes over 55,000 images, mostly of Chicago. The database is available on the *American Memory* section of the LOC website at: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/ichihtml/cdnhome.html>

The Illinois State Archives answer genealogical research inquiries regarding state and related federal government records. Write to: Reference Unit, Margaret Cross Norton Building, Springfield, IL 62756. Telephone: 217-782-3556. The Archives holdings include census material, military service records for Illinois veterans, vital records, and land sale records.



### AJHS Landsmanshaftn Papers Inventory Now Online

From: Irene Newhouse, Kihei, Hawaii <[einew@hotmail.com](mailto:einew@hotmail.com)>

Jerome Seligsohn's inventory of Landsmanshaftn papers at AJHS, as well as the inventory of papers from locality-oriented Workmens Circle groups [all AJHS call number I-332] is now online at:

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Lida-District/landsmen.htm>

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Lida-District/js.htm> will serve as the URL to which any future inventories he makes will be linked; the Bronx Bakers MAS inventory is already linked to that page.

## More Wisconsin Records Available



Melissa A. McLimans, Manager, Wisconsin Genealogical Research Service  
Historydocs@whs.wisc.edu

Last winter the Wisconsin Historical Society announced the creation of the Wisconsin Name Index, an online database leading to over 100,000 obituaries, biographical sketches and newspaper articles, all about Wisconsin ancestors. The Name Index was a huge success, allowing researchers to look up ancestors in more than 1,500 books and periodicals found in libraries or to order paper copies directly from us. However, there was one resounding comment: add more content.

Over the past year, the Wisconsin Historical Society has done just that. We have added over 60,000 entries from a variety of sources. Some sources focused on local county histories, with biographical sketches; others were professional histories, many highlighting the women of Wisconsin, while still others centered on Wisconsin's military history.

I would like to invite you to visit our website at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/wni](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wni) to learn more about our resource. We have received many emails from users expressing their pleasure and excitement about the Wisconsin Name Index. One customer wrote, "I would like to let you know that your hard work is a big help for those who are researching their family history". We are so glad to be able to help researchers from across the country and hope that you will share the Wisconsin Name Index and our other genealogical services with your members and other family historians.

Please feel free to share the content of this letter or our website (<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org>) in your newsletter or website. We would love it if you would add us to your links page if we are not already there. If you have any questions about what the Wisconsin Genealogical Research Service offers, send me an email with your question. I would love to hear from you.



### Steven Spielberg's Visual Holocaust Foundation

Tom Venetianer <[tom.vene@uol.com.br](mailto:tom.vene@uol.com.br)>

Recently a JewishGen member inquired about where she could see the testimony tapes recorded by Steven Spielberg's foundation. I wrote them and got the following clarification:

Currently only Yad Vashem and the Washington Holocaust Museum carry the tapes which are available to the general public. However briefly other 4 locations will open:

- \* the Foundation's Tapper Research and Testing Center, in Los Angeles, CA
- \* Yale University in New Haven, CT
- \* Rice University in Houston, TX
- \* University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA

These new locations will allow digital searching and viewing. I hope you will find this information useful.



### Maryland Online Vital Records Indexing Project

Monica Leonards <m\_leonards@hotmail.com>

Maryland has begun putting indexes to its vital records on-line: <http://mdvitalrec.net/cfm/index.cfm> So far, they have death records for the entire state (1898-1944), and for the City of Baltimore (1875-1942).

The interface is a little confusing and time-consuming, but usable. You can also generate a form to order the documents, but so far there's no on-line ordering.



### Happy Birthday JGSGW!!

Our Society will be 25 years old in the fall of 2005, a little over a year from now. How should we celebrate that anniversary? A dinner, a picnic, a commemorative book? Please contact Sallyann Sack and Diane Goldman, who are heading up the commemoration committee, with your thoughts and ideas.

### NYC death index, 1891-1911, now online (free)

From: Renee Steinig, Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island <rsteinig@suffolk.lib.ny.us>

Our colleagues at Long Island's Italian Genealogical Group have done it again. Led by IGG's John Martino, volunteers from several Long Island genealogy groups have created a new database that is, well, "to die for."

Folks, they've created a free online index to New York City deaths, 1891-1911! The index, which covers 1,400,000 records, allows Soundex and wildcard searches for last names and first initial searches for first names.

Reflecting the historical boundaries of the city of the city, the index includes only Manhattan deaths for the years 1891 to 1894 and Brooklyn and Manhattan deaths for 1895 to 1897. From 1898 to 1911 all five Boroughs (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island) are covered.

Microfilmed NYC death indexes for this period are particularly tedious to work with, because they are subdivided by borough and month. Hence a researcher who has no idea of date or place of death needs to look for a name in January, February, March, etc. in Manhattan, then in the Bronx, etc.

#### Caveats:

- The index was created by scanning the original index books, then proofreading the results. Many spelling errors present in the original index were carried forward.
- The system currently has some glitches. For example, when I searched for "H Wolf," results were 22 pages of Wolfs – all Wolfs with first names containing the letter H, beginning with Abraham.

The IGG website <http://www.italiangen.org> also offers indexes to naturalizations in

- Southern District Court, Manhattan, 1906-1959
- Nassau County, NY, 1899-1986
- Suffolk County, NY, 1853-1990
- Bronx County, NY, 1914-1952

and to

- military naturalizations in the New York area during the two world wars and the Korean War

John's next project: NYC marriage records! If you live on Long Island and are willing to help, contact John Martino at [JohnM16881@aol.com](mailto:JohnM16881@aol.com) or the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island at [JGSLI@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:JGSLI@suffolk.lib.ny.us) .



### **New One-Step Feature on the EIDB for finding ship arrivals into Ellis Island**

From: "Diane Jacobs" <[kingart@ix.netcom.com](mailto:kingart@ix.netcom.com)>

I've just learned that Steve Morse now has a complete list of all the ship arrivals into Ellis Island for the years covered by the EIDB (1892 to 1924). This list was just completed a few weeks ago. For each ship it gives the microfilm roll and the date of arrival. Furthermore, for many of the arrivals it even gives the starting frame number for the ship. This list can be accessed from his webpage at <http://stevemorse.org/ellis/boat.html>

From this webpage you can quickly get to the manifests for any ship if you know the name of the ship and the approximate date of arrival.

Steve informed me that he has a team of volunteers who are continuing to add frame numbers to the list so that eventually he'll have the frame number for every ship arrival.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Steve directly. His e-mail address is at the top of his webpage.

Editor's note: Steve Morse will be guest speaker at a JGSGW meeting this Fall.



### **New York City Archives institutes on-line ordering**

By Barbara Leibell

I was just online at the NYC Archives, and now you can order original marriage, death and birth certificates from them online! Amazing! There's also this new project called "This Old House" where you can order photos of almost any building and residence in NYC in about the 1930's. There was a photo project during the Depression as part of the tax records. These photos are also available online for those who want a photographic record of where their ancestors lived. <http://nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/home.shtml>



### **Yizkor Book Collection of NYPL Going On-Line**

The New York Public Library (NYPL) plans to put digitized images of its complete collection of yizkor books—more than 700 books—on the Internet. It has already placed 20 of these books at their site. The portal to this collection is at [http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbooks\\_intro.cfm](http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbooks_intro.cfm)

Summer 2004



## OVERSEAS RESEARCH

### Yad Vashem Digitizing Master Index of International Tracing Service

Yad Vashem is in the process of digitizing from microfilm the master Index of the International Tracing Service (ITS). This collection, known as the “Arolsen records” after the town in Germany where ITS is located, is one of the most important sources of information about the fate of millions of people caught up in the Holocaust, both survivors and victims.

The ITS index is in alphabetical order, given name within surname. Yad Vashem will create an index to the index, but it will not be an every-name index because the file is huge—about 47 million records. One solution being considered is to have the Yad Vashem index identify every unique surname. Searching will then be accomplished by going to the start of the surname within the ITS index and browsing forward to locate specific individuals.

It is hoped that at least a portion of the system will be available in time for the annual conference to be held July 4-9 in Jerusalem.

From 1943 to the present, ITS, and its predecessor organizations, have been accumulating documents relating to the fate of individuals affected by World War II. If they received a list of 350 people who died in Dachau, they created 350 index cards. If they acquired a list of 915 persons deported from Drancy, France, to Auschwitz, they created 915 index cards. If there was a list of 12,217 persons registering at a displaced persons camp after the war, they created 12,217 index cards. By 1955, they had accumulated more than 47 million index cards each identifying a specific individual at a specific place and time. These cards represent about 14 million people.

More information about the ITS, including a sample index card, can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/Holocaust/ITS.htm>. ITS has a website at <http://www.its-arolsen.org>.

*From Nu? What's Nu?*



### Yad Vashem Central Database of Holocaust Victims Grows

At the annual conference on Jewish genealogy held in Washington last summer, Yad Vashem previewed their Central Database of Holocaust Victims Names. The center of attraction was the Pages of Testimony. The organization now plans to have the following databases included when they go online sometime this summer.

Archives Lists (Small Lists)

Austria (Dow)

Berlin (Gedenkbuch)  
France (Klarsfeld deportation lists: 70,000 Jews deported from France primarily to Auschwitz)  
Germany (Gedenkbuch: 128,000 German Jews murdered in the Holocaust)  
Hungary (Nevek series of name lists)  
Lodz Ghetto (Censuses of the ghetto)  
Luxembourg (All victims)  
Mauthausen (Jewish inmates)  
Megilot - Memorial Lists (Small Lists)  
Netherlands (Oorlogsslachtoffers)  
Pages Of Testimony Collection (3 million victims)  
Slovakia (Deportations in 1942)  
Theresienstadt Camp - Bohemia/Moravia  
Thessaloniki (Deportations)  
Yizkor Books  
Yugoslavia (State Register)



### **Online Video of the Hamburg Emigrant Experience**

If you have a high-speed modem, there is a 10-minute video of the Hamburg emigrant experience at [http://fhh1.hamburg.de/fhh/behoerden/staatsarchiv/link\\_to\\_your\\_roots/english/video\\_clips.htm](http://fhh1.hamburg.de/fhh/behoerden/staatsarchiv/link_to_your_roots/english/video_clips.htm). It is a 17MB download.



### **Romanian-Jewish Name Lists Now Online**

The Romanian-Jewish Community website located at <http://www.romanianjewish.org> has a number of name lists of value to genealogical research. Much of the information at the site is in Romanian, but a resourceful genealogist can extract information of value.

As an example, let us assume we are searching for information about persons named Orenstein. At the home page identified above, click the button "Family Roots" on the right. On the next page, select the initial letter of the surname being searched: "O". This brings up a list of surnames with the initial letter specified. Click the name "Orenstein". This identifies in this particular database all persons named "Orenstein", There are only two: Leia Orenstein and Josef Orenstein. Searching this database first may be of value in searching the other databases at the site because it will show spelling variants of the name; in this case Orenstein and Ornstein.

There are other name lists at the site. Go back to the home page. Click the button to the right "Search in this Site." This brings up three other sources of names. Option 1 is merely identified as "Search in site." Using a surname (Orenstein) as a keyword, two additional sources are disclosed: "Four Centuries of Living Together" and "The Jewish Community from Buzau."



Finally, a few years ago, Iancu Braustein, director of the Library of The Romanian Academy in Iasi, Romania, published two books: one listing Jewish students of the University of Iasi for the period 1860-1950, the second a catalogue of the Jewish craftsmen involved in the economy of Moldova. They represent the two other options of the "Search in the Site" location. Using the surname "Orenstein" discloses numerous hits.

The website has other information about Romanian-Jewish history of value to family historians. Much of it is in Romanian, but a bit of conscientious effort can reap rewards. For example there are names/addresses of all the organized Jewish communities in Romania. I discovered this under the FEDROM button by using the English version of the site. It was item #1, which states the information is available only in Romanian. Click on the word "Romanian" on this page, and the list appears giving the names, addresses, and phone numbers by city. Other tabs might provide information of value in genealogical research.

The website is sponsored by B'nai Brith International and Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania.

The Braustein databases can be accessed directly at

[http://www.romanianjewish.org/ro/mosteniri\\_ale\\_culturii\\_iudaice\\_02\\_04.html](http://www.romanianjewish.org/ro/mosteniri_ale_culturii_iudaice_02_04.html) and

[http://www.romanianjewish.org/ro/mosteniri\\_ale\\_culturii\\_iudaice\\_02\\_05.html](http://www.romanianjewish.org/ro/mosteniri_ale_culturii_iudaice_02_05.html)

*From Nu? What's Nu?*



### **Romanian Archives Restricts Records Access**

Rosanne Leeson, co-coordinator of ROM-SIG, the Romanian Special Interest Group reported to her membership that the director of the Romanian National Archives, Mihai Corneliu Lungu, has given an order to all the district branches of the National Archives not to allow researchers any access to vital records. It is not a written order but was verbally transmitted.

At about the same time, AVOTAYNU received e-mail from its Romanian Contributing Editor, Ladislau Gyemant, of this new regulation. Gyemant also noted that there has been a general slowdown in service to patrons. The number of registers given to a researcher daily has been reduced to ten making the process much slower. Requests for photocopies of documents are being refused under different pretexts: lack of toner, paper or personnel; bad functioning of the copying machines; etc. Archival fonds which were accessible before have become inaccessible under the pretext that the archives was not prepared for public access to these fonds. Gyemant confirmed the restriction of access to vital records.

One reason given for the new policy was that the researchers were using these records to make money. The second was that this data was being used to make claims for Holocaust reparations from the Romanian government.

Regarding the objection that the archives is being used for commercial purposes, one user of the Romanian archives commented: "Everybody who does research in the archives earns money in one form or another. Teachers researching for their degree papers improve their salaries; specialists preparing their doctor's degrees get more money after passing their exams; researchers who publish a book as a result of their research sell the book and earn money; researchers who do research as part of their work in a research institute get salaries for their work, etc."

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### **Ancestry.com Adds 1901 British Census to Its Databases**

Through a license agreement with the National Archives of England, Wales and the United Kingdom, Ancestry.com will digitize and index the 1.47 million original census images of the 1901 census of England, Wales, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. A portion of the England census is already completed and available at their site, <http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/census/uk/main.html>? It includes the counties of Berkshire, Hampshire, Kent, London, Surrey and Sussex--nearly 8 million names or 24% of the entire census.

Their collection already includes the 1871 and 1891 censuses. As is true of most of Ancestry.com's databases, it is a fee-for-service site but is available to current subscribers at no additional cost.

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### **Research Handbook for Galicia and Bukovina**

Eden Joachim <esjoachim@optonline.net>

I recently learned of this scholarly work, which may be of interest to us:  
Galicia and Bukovina : a research handbook about Western Ukraine, late 19th and 20th centuries by John-Paul Himka. Mr. Himka is a professor specializing in Ukrainian studies at the University of Alberta.

The ENTIRE book is on line at: <http://www.ourroots.ca/e/toc.asp?ID=1563>

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### **Bremen Passenger Lists Online**

Eden Joachim <esjoachim@optonline.net>

The Bremen Germany Chamber of Commerce has a website with passenger lists available for searching at <http://db.genealogy.net/maus/gate/shiplists.cgi?lang=en>

The listing will cover the years 1920 through 1939, but are only partially indexed at this time.

## Grodno Gubernia 1897 All Russia Census Now Live

Mark Halpern, BIALYGen Coordinator, <Bialystoker@comcast.net>

We, the descendants of Jews who lived in Bialystok and nearby towns which were once a part of Grodno Gubernia, owe a debt of gratitude to the wonderful folks of the Belarus SIG. Through their contacts in Grodno, they indexed the remaining fragments of the original 1897 All Russian Census for Grodno Gubernia, including the parts now in Poland.

I have copied below the original announcement by Dave Fox, Belarus SIG Coordinator. You should read the Introduction to the database. In addition to the inclusion of this entire database into the All Belarus Database, this entire database is also included in the All Poland Database at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Poland/>

If you have benefited from the translation of the 1897 All Russian census for Grodno Gubernia, we ask you to make a donation to either or both the Belarus SIG "Grodno Area Projects" at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/Belarus.html> and the BIALYGen "Grodno Archives Research Projects" at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/Bialystokrrg.html>

I wish you all success in your search. Please share your successes with the group.



I am pleased to announce that the 1897 Grodno Gubernia All Russian Census is now available for searching via the All Belarus Database (ABD) <<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/belarus/>>.

Please read the introduction to 1897 Census <[http://www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/intro\\_1897\\_russian\\_census.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/intro_1897_russian_census.htm)> to learn more about what is included in this database and why you may not find families who should be in the database.

Please keep in mind that this database includes shtetls that are now in Poland, as well as Belarus. In addition, the place of birth and place of registration has locations all over Europe and may provide researchers with hints of family migration paths.

This database was funded by donations to the Belarus SIG and BIALYGen and is an example of what can be done when researchers band together and financially contribute to acquire and translate genealogical data.

I would like to thank Edward Rossenbaum, our SIG Webmaster and Database Manager; Mark Halpern, Coordinator of BIALYGen; Michael Tobias and Warren Blatt, of JewishGen; and the many people who contributed to make this project a reality.

Please report your successes in using this new database on the SIG discussion group.  
*David Fox, [davefox73@earthlink.net](mailto:davefox73@earthlink.net), Belarus SIG Coordinator*



## New Records from Czesochowa Area now on-line

From Daniel Kazez, dkazez@wittenberg.edu

I have made a collection of some of the Czestochowa-Radomsko Area Research Group materials specifically for the town of Czestochowa. It includes nearly 25 thousand records in all (but just a small portion of the collected CRARG databases).

If you are interested, take a look at either item below. (They both have the same content.)

Very large web page--

<http://www.kazez.com/~dan/0523.Czesto/web.html>

Ziped Word doc file--

<http://www.kazez.com/~dan/0523.Czesto.zip>



### Krakow web site

"Denise Azbill" <famaz1@hotmail.com>

There is a very interesting web site for Krakow with many databases: <http://www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/Krakow/>

***Hold the date...***The first meeting of our new programming year will be held on September 12, 2004 at the newly restored **Sixth and I Streets, N.W. Historic Synagogue**. We're looking forward to seeing this renovated synagogue which is now a thriving downtown congregation and Jewish community center. You may have read about this saved landmark in The Washingtonian, The Washington Post, and The Jewish Week. Plan to help JGSGW kick off the new year in this new home for Washington-area Jewry.



## Library of Congress Exhibit Opening September 2004

The Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History will launch the anniversary year in September of 2004 with the opening of an American Jewish history exhibit at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The exhibit will feature rare, original documents, photographs, film, manuscripts and other materials that will tell the story of 350 years of Jewish life in America. Source materials for the exhibit will be gleaned from the expansive repositories of the four Commission partners. The title for this exhibit is: "From Haven to Home."

The Library of Congress, curator of the exhibit, has agreed to allow the exhibit to travel to both New York and Cincinnati following its Washington, D.C. showing. It is estimated that the Library of Congress' exhibit on American Jewish history will be on display for a period of three months in Washington. The exhibit will be available to travel beginning in late December, 2004.



### Using a new Internet Database for a Genealogy Success

By Sharlene Kranz

A new on-line database that lists the burial sites of U.S. Veterans [<http://www.cem.va.gov>] enabled me to find a branch of a family I had long been unable to get information on. Looking up cousin Harry C. in the new database, I discovered not only where he is buried (Long Island Veterans Cemetery) but also the dates of his military service (1919-1921) and his birth and death dates. I had had none of this information. With his date of birth in hand, I wrote to the NYC Municipal Archives and purchased a copy of Harry's birth certificate; it had his parents' names on it, so I then knew I was dealing with the right Harry C. Knowing his dates of service, I wrote to the Military Personnel archive in St. Louis for information on his military service; they provided me with his rank, and unit. With this information, I have written to the Army War College archive in Pennsylvania for information on Harry's unit. Knowing how Harry spelled his last name (the original name began with K) I was able to find him in the 1930 NYC Census, which told me his wife's name and the names of their three sons. Finally, I found Harry on the SSDI database, and have written to the Social Security Administration for a copy of his social security application. Armed with all this information, my next step is to try and locate Harry's children and/or grandchildren. But for the new veteran's gravesite database, I would still know nothing about my cousin Harry C.





## JGSGW Meeting dates 2004:

June 27, 2004 at JCC of Northern VA

Sept 12, 2004 - Meeting at the newly restored  
Sixth and I Sts., NW Historic Synagogue

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