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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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Winter 2002-03

## Return To Mostchisk

By William Sher

In 1913, my mother Roisa Dann, then a shy sixteen-year-old, sat shivering on the wooden seat of the slow moving train she had boarded in Mostchisk, Austria (now Mostiska, Ukraine). She was traveling toward the seaport of Bremen, Germany. She had said goodbye to her father, Abraham Dann, to go to America to live with an aunt she had never met. She agonized over the thought of leaving her father and abandoning her three younger brothers and a kid sister whom she had mothered since her own mother's sudden and fatal illness five years earlier. Throughout her life, she would never forget packing her few articles of clothing in a straw suitcase and carrying a cloth sack containing a few hard-boiled eggs, a metal bowl of pot cheese and a loaf of dark bread.

Abraham Dann, a part-time cantor, relied on the modest income he earned making brushes. His late wife's sister Betsy and her husband Sam Rosenthal, the owner of a small, but profitable, junk and salvage business in Washington, D.C. sent Abraham the money for Roisa's fare to America.

Within twelve months of Roisa Dann's arrival in America, she became Mrs. Harry Sher. Harry and Roisa worked side-by-side to make a living in the grocery store Harry had bought in Washington. In 1921, Rosie sent ship fare for her sister and two of the brothers to come to America.

In late March of 1941, we received a letter from my grandfather Abraham Dann. He told me how proud he was of me and congratulated me upon reaching the milestone of my thirteenth birthday.

Fifty-five years had elapsed since my mother received that last letter from her father. Then, my mom passed away at the age of 93, not knowing her father's fate. With her passing, it became important for me to find out more about my grandfather and my uncle, who they were, where they lived, and how they died.

I went to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D. C., where the museum's records revealed that only thirteen individuals out of a population of 2,380 Jews who were living in Mostchisk survived the Nazi round-up. I wrote to the seven survivors with whom the museum had recent communications.

I learned about a three-week-long educational tour to Ukraine and Russia run by "Elderhostel" ([www.elderhostel.org](http://www.elderhostel.org)). (Continued on page 17)

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 (donna@expressive-designs.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>



*A CAPITAL CONFERENCE*

**23rd IAJGS Conference on Jewish  
Genealogy  
July 20-25, 2003  
JW Marriott Hotel  
Washington, DC  
Call for Volunteers**

As the host society for the 23rd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in July, we are actively assessing our needs for volunteers and are appreciative of the large number of our members who have contacted us with offers to help.

Currently, Hospitality Chair Sue Isman is hoping to recruit five to ten individuals who will make trips to any of the three airports serving this area to meet VIPs and speakers and transport them to or from the hotel. Special parking passes will be available and this does offer an opportunity for individual discussion with our special guests. Another thirty volunteers will be needed to staff the Hospitality Desk at the hotel in four-hour blocks.

While it is expected that most people will register for the Conference prior to arrival at the hotel, Registration Chair Vera Finberg is going to need volunteers for a late registration desk in the hotel lobby, and to assemble the Registration packets that each attendee will receive. Putting together the packets will be done in advance of the beginning of the conference. Assemblers are assured of pizza and camaraderie as the job gets done.

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Librarian Judy Mostyn White will need volunteers to help with the physical labor of carrying boxes of books from the JGSGW library in Rockville to the hotel, and unloading them onto shelves in the Resource Room on Saturday, July 18th. Others will be needed at the end of the conference to repack. During the conference, volunteers will staff the Resource Room, helping attendees find and check out books.

Tour Desk Chair Simone Bercu will need help at the desk selling tour tickets as well as gathering individuals and ensuring that they board the correct tour buses.

Off site chairs - Peter Lande at the Holocaust Museum, Faith Klein at the Library of Congress, and Liz Lourie, Roberta Solit and Rita Margolis at Archives I and II - will be calling on their regular, knowledgeable volunteers to assist with most of those tours.

Volunteers are needed to attend sessions of the Conference and act as facilitators, to make sure that the logistics in each session run smoothly. Each session will be 75-minutes long, and each volunteer should plan on facilitating 2 consecutive sessions. Of course, these can be sessions you want to attend anyway. Conference attendees from other cities are invited to volunteer for this task. We can work out the details of who attends which session once the program schedule is finalized.

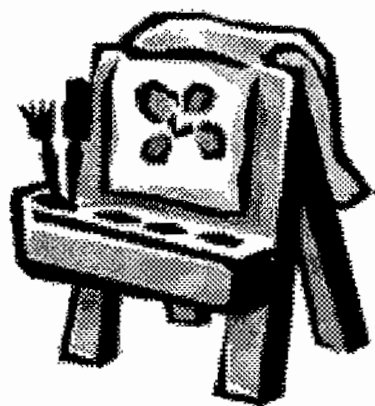
As we get closer to July, Vera Mellen will contact those of you who have volunteered to set specific times in four-hour blocks and to arrange special training or preparation before the conference. You can do more than one volunteer job, on days of your choosing.

Contact Volunteer Chair Vera Mellen at [mellen@erols.com](mailto:mellen@erols.com) or 703-538-5668 and let her know how and when you want to volunteer to make DC2003 a success.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/dc2003>

## Art and Essay Contest Announced

Do you have children, grandchildren, cousins or neighbors who attend Washington area Jewish day or supplemental Hebrew schools? In



conjunction with next summer's International Jewish Genealogy Conference, JGSGW is sponsoring "L'DOR VA-DOR, FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION IN

PROSE", an ART and ESSAY CONTEST for Students. Please help us to get the word out about this contest! Prizes will be awarded to the winning students at the conference. JGSGW invites K-University students in Hebrew day and supplemental religious schools in Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Washington, DC to submit original artwork or an essay that addresses themes important to Jewish genealogy.

The objectives of the contest are to:

- ◆ Promote knowledge about the student's own family members who immigrated to the United States,
- ◆ Promote knowledge of Jewish culture and history in 18th or 19th Century ancestral countries or towns, and
- ◆ Promote students' understanding of the significance of learning about their own family history, and how personal family history relates to the history of the Jewish people.

Complete information on how to enter the contest is available on the JGSGW website:

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

## Testimonial

Sallyann Amdur Sack, founder, JGSGW

In a recent edition of "Nu? What's New?" Gary Mokotoff described JGSGW as one of the "oldest and most proactive" of all the Jewish Genealogy Societies and once again I felt that surge of pride I always get when someone talks about our society. This time I've decided to write a fan letter.

As we enter our 23rd year and fifth genealogy conference, Gary's praise is well deserved. As one of the first Jewish genealogy societies we've done much to help develop the field.

Several other JGSs have by-laws and articles of incorporation that are nearly identical to ours because we helped them organize.

The conference after ours (in 2004) will be in Jerusalem and it's fair to say that we had a bit of a hand in that too. JGSGW organized and ran the first international seminar on Jewish genealogy in Jerusalem in 1984. We hatched the idea and showed that it could be done and as a result five conferences have been held outside of North America (two in Jerusalem, two in London and one in Paris).

We blazed another trail too. Back in the pre-computer days we volunteered our time to index records at the National Archives and in local synagogue archives. We raised the money, organized and ran the project to index and catalogue the Russian consular records.

More recently, we've sponsored a cable television show on Jewish genealogy.

Most of all, we have always had a wonderful spirit of sharing and cooperation. We've known from the start that the best way to learn about our own families was to help everyone else learn about theirs too. Most of all, that's what I admire about our group.

## **News From Nu? What's New? News About Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu**

### **1880 US Census, and 1881 Canadian and British Census Now Online**

The 1880 U.S. census and 1881 Canadian and British census records are now online at the FamilySearch site of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons): <http://www.familysearch.org>. Fields available to limit the search criteria include first name, last name, country of birth, birth year, birth year range, state (U.S.), province (Canada), country (British). You cannot retrieve the census image page, only the information contained in the index. The U.S. census has an all-person index, not just heads of household.

### **CAHJP Back In Operation**

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem has completed the move to its new location at 46 Jabotinsky Street.

### **New Book On Sephardic Genealogy**

Avotaynu's latest book, "Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World," a comprehensive guide to researching Sephardic ancestry, is newly published. The author, JGSGW member **Jeffrey Malka**, did an excellent job writing a book that will work for beginners (he included a chapter on getting started) as well as advanced researchers. The book is divided into five parts.

Part I deals with a brief review of Sephardic history, the status of Jews under Islam, Sephardic languages, and the evolution of Sephardic names from biblical times to the present.

Part II covers the methodology for valid genealogical research including record  
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keeping and date conversions from a variety of calendars.

Part III discusses the known archives and resources for genealogical research in 20 countries where Sephardim have lived, from pre-expulsion Spain to North Africa, Turkey, the Balkans, Egypt, Syria, and the New World.

Part IV contains a directory, sorted by country, of Internet sites and resources of interest to Sephardic genealogists.

The final section, the appendices, provides a dictionary of many Sephardic surnames giving their etymological meanings and origins, reference tables of Arabic and of Sephardic Hebrew cursive alphabets, Islamic calendars, genealogy forms, archival resources, and other useful tools. An extensive bibliography, 19 illustrations and maps, 8 tables, separate person and topic indexes make for easy reference and use.

The author, **Jeffrey Malka, M.D.**, a retired orthopedic surgeon, is descended from a long line of Sephardic rabbis. His grandfather was chief rabbi of Sudan from 1906-1949. He has been researching his Sephardic roots for more than 20 years and is the author of "Resources for Sephardic Genealogy," an award-winning website for Sephardic genealogy. He was asked by JewishGen in 2001 to create its SefardSIG section, a site he continues to develop.

Additional information, including a complete Table of Contents, can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/sephardic.htm>.

### **Name-Change Gazetteers On The Internet**

A comprehensive list on the Internet of German names for Polish towns is located at <http://www.kartenmeister.com>. The site states it contains 59,143 locations with over 25,500 name changes. The area covered is all the eastern provinces that Germany lost at the end of World War I including East Prussia, Memel, West Prussia,

Brandenburg, Posen, Pomerania, and Silesia. Therefore, it also includes a small number of towns in today's Lithuania and Russia. When you locate a town of interest, click on its name and a display appears that includes the German name, Current name, German Kreis (county), Current province, and location. It even includes a list of people doing genealogical research for the town and the surname being researched.

The other name-change Internet sites are:

• Poland. German names for Polish towns. <http://www.kaszubia.com/de/geschichte/namen/>. While this is a small subset of the Kartenmeister site, it has the advantage that you can browse the list.

• Poland. German names for towns in Silesia. Again, the advantage is that you can browse the list. <http://www.genealogienetz.de/reg/SCI/orted.html>

• Romania. German and Hungarian names for towns now in Romania. <http://www.ars-transylvanica.de/versch/Ortslisten/A-li.htm>

• Czech Republic. German names for Czech Republic towns. [http://www.ckrumlov.cz/uk/region/histor/t\\_cnslop.htm](http://www.ckrumlov.cz/uk/region/histor/t_cnslop.htm)

### **Stephen Morse Now Has A SSDI Website**

Stephen Morse has done it again. He has added yet another portal to a major Internet database--this time, the U.S. Social Security Death Index. His site provides a portal to search the SSDI at any one of the following four sites: Ancestry.com, Genealogy.com, Lineages.com or RootsWeb. Consult: <http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ssdi.html>. Some advantages are:

1. You only have to fill in the form once and then can try it on each of the different sites.

2. It's the same interface for all four sites so it is easier to use.

3. It lets you jump into the middle of the results without having to step sequentially through them. For example, if you have already looked at results 1 to 1000 and want to resume at 1001, you can specify 1001 as the starting point.

Morse's FAQ page gives a very good comparison of the options at the Four sites. This allows the user to make an informed decision as to which search engine to use based on the known information.

### **New York City World War II Draft Registrations**

Volunteers at the New York regional branch of the National Archives have discovered a collection of World War II draft registrations from the fourth draft call in 1942. It was known as the Old Men's draft registration because it applied to men who were born in 1877-1897 (ages 45-65). The purpose of the draft call was to identify men who might have occupations vital to the war effort. The area covered by the records at the branch archives includes all boroughs of New York City, state of New Jersey and Puerto Rico. This age group is significant to Jewish genealogists because many of the registrants were immigrants who came to the U.S. in the early part of the 20th Century and settled in New York.

The records for Manhattan are in alphabetical order; those for the other boroughs are in alphabetical order by draft board. The New Jersey records are alphabetical by county.





## US Research

### Forgotten Streets Of New York

Debbi Korman, JGS Los Angeles newsletter Roots-Key.

If your family lived in New York City or Brooklyn in the early part of the 20th Century, but you can't find the street where they lived on a map, there is now a resource on the internet that will help you find out not only where your street was located, but what happened to it and when. The website is <http://www.forgotten-ny.com>.

The links on the website take you to pages which have old maps and photos and discussions of all of the streets that have disappeared or changed names. There are also historical facts and stories about many of the streets. The website also has links to information about old, hidden cemeteries in New York City, and much more. There are also links to information about streets in New Orleans, Baltimore and Nashville.

### New York JGS Web Site

The New York City JGS announces that the Brooklyn Naturalization indexing project has been completed and is on their website. Be sure to check their website also for the Landsmanshaftn lists, New York cemetery information, World War I draft registrations, and more. The New York Society has begun a project to index the HIAS case files in YIVO's collection, and to index the Industrial Removal Office records in the collection of the American Jewish Historical Society. The New York JGS web address is [www.jgsny.org](http://www.jgsny.org).

## Norfolk, VA Jewish History

JewishHistoryUSA.Com announces the publication of *Norfolk, Virginia: A Jewish History of the 20th Century*, the first comprehensive history of the Jews of Norfolk, Virginia. The book includes 250 pages of text, more than 100 photos, and an index of more than 2000 names. Based on original documents, contemporary newspaper articles and personal accounts, the book, by Irwin M. Berent, covers the famous seaport's entire Jewish history dating back to the 1700s, and focuses especially on the first half of the 20th century, which was the Jewish community's most vibrant period. The book (\$19.95 plus \$3. shipping) may be purchased online at <http://JewishHistoryUSA.com> (phone 757-855-1272) or send payment to Irwin Berent, 560 Roland Drive, Norfolk, VA 23509. Mr. Berent is the founder of the Jewish Genealogical Club of Tidewater Virginia.

### Boston HIAS records 1882-1929 Available for Researchers

Howard Margol, IAJGS Special Projects Coordinator, [HOMARGOL@aol.com](mailto:HOMARGOL@aol.com)

Many of our immigrant ancestors entered the United States through the Port of Boston, and many of them were helped by HIAS - the Hebrew Immigrant Aide Society (<http://www.hias.org/home.html>).

HIAS, a private social service agency, had agents in Europe who would contact HIAS in Boston and give them the name of a family coming to Boston, the name of the ship they would arrive on, and the date of arrival. A HIAS representative would meet the family at the dock and would help them on their way. If the family did not have contact with a HIAS agent in Europe, they probably would not have been met at the Boston dock by a HIAS representative and no arrival card for them would have been generated.

If the arriving immigrant had a problem with immigration officials, HIAS would get involved and do everything possible to help solve the problem on behalf of the immigrant. In this case, an arrival card would be filled out even though prior contact in Europe had not occurred.

Recently, the HIAS Boston Individual Arrival Cards, 24,000 in all, covering 1882 - 1929, have been microfilmed, and are now available for viewing at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and can also be ordered in to any Family History Center around the world. The records are arranged alphabetically which makes it very easy to select the correct roll of film of interest. In many cases, additional information is on the arrival cards that is not included on the ship passenger manifest.

The original records, including case files, can be accessed at the American Jewish Historical Society at Hebrew College in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. The microfilm can be viewed (on a microfilm reader) at the American Jewish Historical Society at the Center for Jewish History in New York City (<http://www.cjh.org/>).

#### **Michigan - Index to Naturalization Records in the State Archives**

The following indexes have been created by the generous efforts of volunteers at the State Archives of Michigan. Counties indexed so far include Allegan, Kent, Mackinac, Marquette, Newaygo and Sanilac. Each has been transcribed from the original hand-written index. An attempt was made to include all possible spellings of a particular name, however, misspellings and variations of names appear in these indexes. New indexes will be added to the web site as they are completed: [www.michiganhistory.org/archive/naturalization](http://www.michiganhistory.org/archive/naturalization).

(Reprinted from Generations, JGS of Michigan, Summer 2002).

#### **Illinois - State Death Certificate Index**

The Illinois Statewide Death Index at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/idphdeathindex.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/idphdeathindex.html) contains records from 1916 through 1950. Certificates for 1916-1947 can be ordered at no charge from the Illinois State Archives through the website.

(Reprinted from Morasha, JGS of Illinois, Summer 2002).

#### **State Vital Records**

When available, vital records can play an important role in locating our ancestors. Because availability, restrictions, fees, and request procedures vary from state to state and change periodically, it is a good idea to check with the appropriate agency for the state of interest to make sure you have the most current information. JGSGW's web site has a list of links for each state in the U.S. for requesting vital records. Go to: <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw/members/vitalrecords.htm>

#### **Ancestry 1930 Census Every-Name Index**

Ancestry.com recently added an every-name index to the 1930 Census for the State of New York, bringing to 31 the number of states so indexed.

#### **Entire U.S. 1930 Census Now Online**

Ancestry.com has announced that their project to place the entire U.S. 1930 census online is completed. In just six months after the census' release by the U.S. government, 2,667 rolls of microfilm representing 137 million individuals were digitized and are now available at Ancestry's fee-based service.

In order to use the information, for most states, you must know the Enumera-



tion District in which the family resided. Various finding aids have been developed to assist in determining the ED. One was developed by Stephen Morse and is located at <http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census>.

### **1930 Census Street Index**

Joel Weintraub, Dana Point, CA - Oct. 18, 2002

This is probably my last post on the project to transcribe the name of every street in every census district for large cities for the 1930 US Census.

It's been an interesting 14 months since I started down this road. During that time Dave Kehs and Steve Morse joined the effort and made things a lot easier. This post is to inform you that all our target cities are now on the website (<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/>) to help you find an enumeration district number if you have a 1930 address. The last city, Chicago, was added today and was transcribed from NARA film M1931. We have 258 cities up, and can make the claim we have \*every\* city over 45,000 on the website, and quite a few of the "smaller" ones as well. That includes cities that are in soundexed states and cities on address indexes on NARA's M1931 series.

We probably cover about 36-37% of the people's addresses on the 1930 census. There is still work to be done on revising files, etc, but we have met our goals.

### **Long Island, NY Naturalization Index**

Indexes to Long Island naturalizations are now online at the Italian Genealogical Group's website: <[www.italiengen.org/databases.stm](http://www.italiengen.org/databases.stm)>. These records contain 65,000 names, 1899 to 1986, from the Nassau County Clerk, and 67,000 names, 1853 to 1990, from the Suffolk County Clerk.

## **Military Reference Sites**

Looking for the final resting place of a veteran? Contact the American Battle Monuments Commission at [www.abmc.gov/abmc4.htm](http://www.abmc.gov/abmc4.htm) or at Commission Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500, 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201 or (703) 696-6897. The ABMC also arranges for floral tributes to be placed at gravesites and provides letters authorizing fee-free passports for members of the immediate family traveling overseas to visit a grave or memorialization site. And the commission can provide photographs of headstones or, in the absence of a gravesite, Tablets of the Missing.

The National Personnel Records Center is the repository for all branches of the armed services that served after 1900. For assistance, call the center at (314) 538-2050 or write to National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO or visit [http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st\\_louis.html](http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis.html).

### **Michigan Military Records**

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The Library of Michigan maintains a large database of military records. The site is found at <http://www.libraryofmichigan.org> and titles can be located by searching "Answer," the Library's online catalogue. The easiest way to locate military resources is to enter the name of the war, followed by the type of record. Adding a specific geographic location will also help refine your search. For example, "militia AND Pennsylvania" will retrieve records of Pennsylvania militia units.

## **National Archives II Can Provide Detailed Information About Soldiers Killed in Action**

by Barbara Corff

While visiting the National Archives in Washington DC this fall, I also decided to do research at The National Archives II in College Park, Maryland. I was familiar with these archives and knew that they had World War I Army burial files. Most genealogy researchers are familiar with the main archives in Washington DC, but they don't realize what a treasure is housed at Archives II.

A free round trip shuttle to Archives II originates at the National Archives in downtown Washington DC. The Archives at College Park have floors devoted to maps, photographs, and military information.

On this trip I was successful in finding a file about a relative's WWI death because he was buried in France while serving in the U.S. Army. The alphabetical files allowed me to find this relative by his last name, Grossman. The file included his serial number, his company and division, and that he was killed in action at the Madeleine farm in the Meuse. Considering how many men died in France, I was impressed with the detailed care that the Army showed in their documentation. Samuel Grossman's final resting place is the huge Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery. The cemetery has an informative website and will send you a photo of your relative's grave for free

In Samuel's file, I was pleased to find that his mother Lena was able to visit his gravesite in France. The U.S. government organized and funded this trip in 1930. These women were called "Gold Star Mothers." I viewed a photo of Lena, her handwritten letters and documents arranging her trip, including the full itinerary, and personal information. I was able to find out that Samuel's brother Nathan was also in the service.

Nathan was notified of his brother's death by telegram. Addresses from the Winter 2002-03

1930's were provided. I was very pleased with the variety of information I gathered from this visit. I was also pleased to recognize and honor the life of this long lost son. I had a little extra time and was able to find hundreds of photos of my father's WWII Marine War Dog platoon, as well as war photos of my father.

In order to find the burial file, I met with a specialist in a separate part of the library. This required separate pass badges and quite a bit of time. The files are only retrieved or "pulled" each hour. The staff are very strict about only allowing one item at a time to leave the file for viewing on your desk. Items for photocopying must be previewed by the staff, with a five minute limit on the use of copy machines. All aspects of security are taken seriously at these archives, so be prepared to spend some time learning their process in order to have a rewarding search.

On my return to San Francisco, I spent time getting unpacked and recovering from a cold. When I finally sat down at my computer to enter Samuel Grossman's name in my family tree, I made a mistake and entered his burial date as his death date. When I retraced my steps to find the correct date, I realized that I was doing this on the actual anniversary of Samuel's death, October 13, 1918! I had the feeling that somehow he knew I was thinking of him.



**Lists Of Military Casualties:  
Consult The World's Largest On-Line  
Military, Veteran, And Military Family  
Registry. Over 29 Million Listings.**

The Worldwide Military Personnel Registry at <http://members.aol.com/veterans/> is a growing list of military casualties that can be invaluable in your research.

## Overseas Research



### Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Introduces New Index

One of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland's new projects is the Aliyah Passport Project, an index created from nearly 4,000 passports from the 1930s by which Polish Jews were able to escape Europe to what was then British Mandate Palestine. The passports are filled with genealogical information and many include photos. They are currently in the holdings of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Most of the applicants were from towns in current-day Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, and Ukraine.

A list has been developed that correlates each surname in the Polish Passports file to the towns of birth and residence associated with that surname in the file. You can find this new Surname/Town list at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/jhi/jri-jhi-aliyah-passport.htm>

The file will eventually be searchable by surname through the JRI - Poland database.

Because data in JRI-Poland's database is organized by town, only surname searches of the database are possible for the foreseeable future. Working with an Excel file containing partial extracts of passport holder information will be the only way for a researcher to sort the file by town and to discover all landslaid from a town who may have made aliyah during this historic time. To obtain an Excel file of this information, you must make a donation of at least \$54 to the project. For more information, contact Judy Baston, Project Coordinator at <JRBaston@aol.com>

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## Polish Map Site

From "Nu? What's New?"

There is some encouraging news for genealogists with Polish roots. There is an excellent site at <http://www.pilot.pl> that provides detailed maps of Poland. Key in a town name, press the Enter key, and displayed is that portion of Poland containing the town. There are zoom in and out buttons. On the right side of the page are links to information about the history of the town, places to visit, schools, organizations, a list of printed maps and train schedules, etc. The site displays detailed maps of many towns.

At the lower left are buttons that allow display of information in Polish, English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, and Ukrainian. However, only a limited amount of information is displayed in languages other than Polish. Most useful are translations of the links noted above, but the content of these links are always in Polish.

### 1935 Krakow Directory

Reprinted from Roots-Key, Summer 2002

Shtetlinks Krakow has announced a new listing of names from the 1935 Krakow Directory. The 1935 Krakow Directory has an extensive listing of house occupants, both Jewish and non-Jewish, for most of the city of Krakow. Its importance lies in the fact that this was one of the last Directories issued prior to the Holocaust, and that the names of all family members are usually listed. It can be assumed that the vast majority of Jewish individuals listed in this Directory perished during the Holocaust. Over 2,300 Jewish surnames and about 4,000 first names have been extracted from the directory and can be seen by following the "What's New?" link on Shtetlinks Krakow at: <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/krakow>

## **New Warsaw Jewry Website**

Reprinted from Shem Tov, June 2002

A new website on the history of Warsaw Jewry was launched recently by the City of Warsaw and the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland. It provides historical information about Warsaw Jewry, including a chronology of events, maps, photographs, and other information. The site is [www.jewish.sites.warszawa.um.gov.pl](http://www.jewish.sites.warszawa.um.gov.pl).

### **Working with Polish Ancestors?**

Other Internet sites that might be useful:

An online Polish text translator: <http://www.poltran.com>

Tips on translating, with lists of Polish and German words: <http://www.polishroots.org/translating.htm>

Polish geographical words: [http://www.polishroots.org/slownik\\_geograficzny.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/slownik_geograficzny.htm)

Guide to reading letters from Polish Archives: <http://langline.com/StateArchGuide.htm>

### **Polish Directories On-Line**

From Ronald Bachman at the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress has digitized two important Polish telephone directories: 1) a 1923 commercial directory for the entire country, including Gdansk (Danzig) and 2) a 1939 white pages for Warsaw.

Eventually these items will be linked to their entries in the Library of Congress online catalog (<http://catalog.loc.gov/>). The presentation is via "page-turner" display. They are now available for immediate use at the following permanent URLs.

1) Handlowa ksiega adresowa Polski i Gdanska (1923). <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/scd0001.20020613002po.2>

2) Spis abonentow warszawskiej sieci (1939). <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/scd0001.20020611001wa.2>

Carlos Glickson adds the following helpful suggestions:

A little additional help for faster access to (1) above:

These are the three first letters of the English words listed and the image numbers for the Branches and Goods in English in the 1923 Directory:

Acc to Bru - 126

Buc to Dep - 127

Dia to Gin - 128

Gir to Lux - 129\*

Mac to Pla - 130

Pla to Sto - 131

Sto to Win - 132

Win to Zin - 133

Some people have already searched JRI-Poland's wonderful 1929 Polish Business Directory on-line at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/bizdir/start.htm>

Some researchers may have an English list of terms to search, and want to have an approximate idea of the list and its alphabetical order or its equivalents in Polish. Other may have made notes of branches and goods in French from their previous research in this Directory of Poland, including Gdansk, for trade, industry, handicraft and agriculture (1929).

The 1929 Polish Business Directory Project developed an Excel file on-line containing a Polish/French/English Table of Industry/Business types which may be linked from <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/bizdir/start.htm>

Hope this helps in your searches!

Carlos Glickson  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
e-Mail [cgliskson@ciudad.com.ar](mailto:cgliskson@ciudad.com.ar)



## Lithuanian Jewish Vital Records Microfilms

Ten additional microfilms of Jewish vital records from Lithuania are now available at the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library.

I'm pleased to announce an updated locality index to these new microfilms of Jewish births, marriages and deaths in Lithuania, now available on the JewishGen website.

These records were microfilmed at the Lithuanian State Historical Archives in Vilnius, Lithuania, between June and October 2002. This updated locality index adds the records which were microfilmed during this period. (The previous index included records microfilmed Jan 2000 through May 2002).

The updated Locality Index can be found at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC/VilnaMicrofilmsIndex.htm>.

The Locality Index is an alphabetical listing of towns, which allows you to find the microfilm ordering numbers for the specific place, date, and event type you need. The microfilms are available for borrowing at any local LDS Family History Center. The records are written in both Russian and Hebrew.

Kahlile Mehr of the Collection Development Dept. of LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City prepared the index. From Warren Blatt, JewishGen Editor-in-Chief, <[wblatt@jewishgen.org](mailto:wblatt@jewishgen.org)>

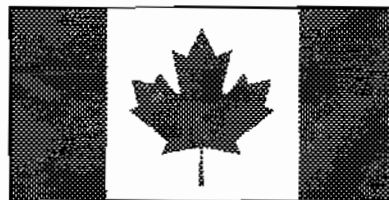


## Ancestry's Next Census Project

Starting with the 1891 England Census, Ancestry.com plans to post images and every-name indexes for the census years of 1841 through 1891 for England, Wales, Channel Islands, and Isle of Man.

Winter 2002-03

## Spotlight on Canada



### Researching your Canadian Ancestors

The National Archives of Canada has developed on-line services that allow Canadians to conduct research, consult documents instantly, and ask specific questions to obtain information. The entry point to all these services is [http://www.archives.ca/02/0201\\_e.html](http://www.archives.ca/02/0201_e.html) (in English). Specific databases include the Census of Ontario, 1871; Immigration Records (1925-1935); and Canadian WWI military records. Users can borrow copies of microfilms, and submit requests electronically.

Genealogists can now access the 1901 Census of Canada on the National Archives of Canada website. There is no name index. Access the census at [http://www.archives.ca/02/020122\\_e.html](http://www.archives.ca/02/020122_e.html).

The Canadian Genealogy Centre will go on-line in early 2003, the result of a partnership between the National Archives of Canada, the National Library of Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, and a network of user groups from the genealogical community. The Centre will provide a unique point of access to Canadian genealogical resources on the internet, offering its clients authoritative content, research tools and other services: <http://cgc-ccq.archives.ca>.

In addition, the National Archives of Canada has revised their publication *Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada*. The new version is 48 page long and covers topics including published sources, census, military and naval records, aboriginal peoples, records of citizenship and naturalization, and much more. Free copies may be

obtained by calling the National Archives toll free at 1-800-578-7777.

(Reprinted from Dor L'Dor, The Jewish Genealogical Institute of British Columbia, Nov. 2002.).

### **Release of Post-1901 Canadian Censuses Moves a Step Closer to Success**

After years of stalling, holding public meetings, ignoring the issue, and legislative red tape--but constant prodding from the Canadian genealogical and historical communities--the Canadian government may be on the verge of releasing post-1901 censuses to the public. In the next session of Parliament, a bill will be introduced to release 92-year old census records "for historic research purposes." I questioned Gordon Watts, one of the leaders of the committee to make these censuses available, whether "for historic research purposes" might exclude use by genealogists. He stated that the committee seeks the same unrestricted access to post-1901 census records as is currently enjoyed for records up to 1901--no strings attached.

Canadian censuses of 1901 and earlier have public access. Statistics Canada, holder of the post-1901 censuses, claims that these censuses were taken with the assurance to the information providers that it would be kept confidential. Watts and his committee claim no confidentiality was promised beyond that which existed for prior censuses.

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### **Jewish Lore Online**

An expansive resource for studying Jewish religion, history and culture was introduced recently by philanthropists Edgar M. Bronfman and Lynn Schusterman, with Hebrew College and online publisher Jewish Family & Life. <http://www.MyJewishLearning.com> is a free interactive site for use by the general public. Winter 2002-03

### **Hebrew Alphabet Guide Available**

Sandy and Don Hirschhorn, Managers,  
JewishGenMall

The Hebrew Alphabet Guide (JewishGenMall #MBE101), made available to us by Michael Bernet, Ph.D., is one of the most useful items we have come across so far in the genealogy world.

The Guide is in a sturdy, laminated, four-sided, loose-leaf punched format, which can be readily transported "into the field." For example, it's easy to take it with you to the cemetery when preparing to read tombstones, or, to an archive, which may have material in Hebrew that you would ordinarily be unable to translate.

The four pages are packed full of information. The Guide begins with a brief history of Hebrew writing and goes on to offer Font Descriptions, Hebrew Letters as Numbers and Dates, and abbreviations frequently used on older texts and monuments. And this is just the first page! Pages 2 and 3 are devoted to recognizing Hebrew letters with helpful hints for each letter and including all possible written variations. Page 4 covers Hebrew Vowel Signs (Nikud) with complete explanations and a chart showing "Latin" letters and their transliterations into the Hebrew alphabet.

Best of all, this item has a very low selling price of only \$6.50. How to find it? Go to <http://www.jewishgenmall.org> and scroll down to "Browse By Title". Type in MBE101, Click on "Search" and the item will appear.





## **IAJGS Ethics for Jewish Genealogists** **An ethics statement approved by** **the IAJGS Board of Directors**

Preamble: all human endeavors are capable of corruption and it is therefore appropriate to institute mechanisms to safeguard against behavior that is inimical to the common good. It is felt that the IAJGS should give the lead in setting standards of behavior as applied to the world of Jewish genealogy. It is at least arguable that the study of genealogy itself, if not an "ethical" activity as such, it is a mitzvah in accordance with the Torah principle of teaching knowledge of the people, their tribes and "remembering the days of old". This document is intended to set out guidelines for such standards. It is also offered as a code of "good practice" which may inform readers. Finally, it includes an updated version (in more modern English) of the late Rabbi Malcolm Stern's "Ten Commandments in Genealogy", which remains as relevant today as when they were penned years ago.

### **Code of Conduct**

Information acquired should be factual and where doubt exists as to the accuracy of a purported pedigree, the questionability and limitations of the data should be expressed.

All original sources should be stated to allow other enquirers the opportunity of verification of the data.

The examination of all documentation should be undertaken with sensitivity for the quality of the source used. Records in the public domain should be replaced, after examination and any annotation required, in the condition and order that they were found. They should never be retained or handled carelessly.

If data presented relies on work already previously undertaken, the credit

for such work should be given to the originator, which also acts as a disclaimer in the event that it may encompass error(s).

Should there be financial implications of working in genealogy, the purveyor of services should state the likely costs involved to the client and should only charge the agreed quantum for the research undertaken.

If data is acquired that seems to contain the potential for harming the interests of other people, great caution should be applied to the treatment of any such data and wide consultation may be appropriate as to how such data is used. A confidential discussion with an ethical authority (e.g. a respected Rabbinic Beth Din) or reference to ethical principles already placed in the public domain (e.g. by a regulating body such as the [British] Association of Genealogists and Record Agents) may be helpful in such circumstances.

Regarding the "right to privacy" versus the "freedom of information" area of potential conflict:

◆ Data more than seventy-five years old should be regarded as sufficiently historical to be available, without restriction.

◆ More recent data should be evaluated in the light of sensitivities of the living versus the importance of disseminating information.

◆ Generally, a request from an individual that certain information about themselves or close relatives be kept private should be respected.

◆ If it is decided not to publish any particular piece of information, there should be a clear statement to that effect so that the reader is not misled by the omission.

## Adaptation of the late Malcolm Stern's "Ten Commandments in Genealogy"

I wish only to obtain true knowledge about any family I am researching.

Family traditions must be interpreted with caution and only used as clues.

All information must be assessed and not given automatic credibility.

Claims to exalt a family for increased status must be verified.

Unverifiable data must be labeled as such (see commandment 1).

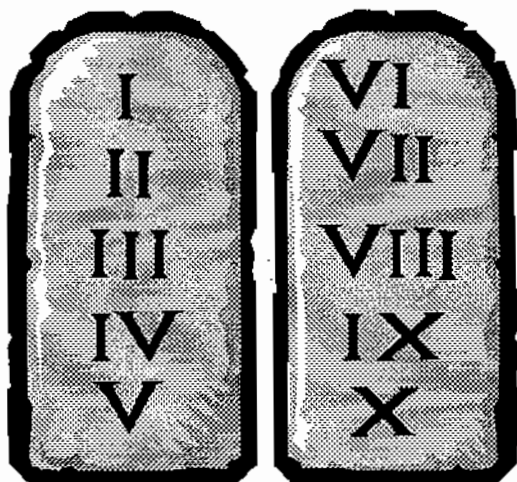
All records must be handled with care and replaced for the next user.

Attribution of sources is essential and permission obtained for use of other researchers' work.

If verifying data involves costs to others these should be reimbursed.

The sensitivities of living people must be respected and the memory of the deceased likewise, but for the latter it is permitted to record the objective facts about them.

You should not claim expertise or become a genealogical teacher without appropriate training and accreditation. [In this context, "accreditation" should not imply holding a formal qualification, although such is an asset, but simply, as it says, sufficient training and experience to confer expertise.]



*A Capital Conference*

## 23rd IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy July 20-25, 2003 JW Marriott Hotel Washington, DC

### Registration begins February 1, 2003

See the website for tours,  
information about Washing-  
ton, DC, programming, ven-  
dors, hotel, restaurants,  
and more...

<http://www.jewishgen.org/dc2003>

### Come to DC in 2003!

(continued from page 1) The tour was to include Odessa on the Black Sea, and L'viv. Elderhostel would handle all travel accommodations including obtaining visas.

Learning that L'viv was a mere sixty kilometers (37 miles) from the village of Mostiska, I called Elderhostel's toll-free phone number and booked reservations to begin my search for the fate of Abraham Dann. If no snags developed, I would walk the streets of my mother's village.

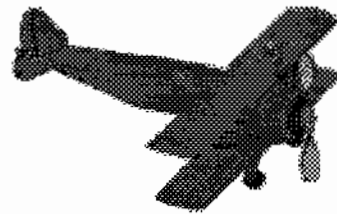
A week later, I received a phone call from a survivor of Mostiska who had received my letter. He said that he was only five years old at the time of the war, and he didn't remember very much, but he suggested I call his cousin Sol Eisler, who lives in Baltimore. Sol was older and might have more recollections.

Mr. Eisler, speaking with a Galitziana accent reminiscent of my mother's, confirmed that he knew my grandfather. Sol said his own father was a trader in various merchandise, including slaughtered animal parts. Sol said that he delivered horses' manes, animal pelts and tails which Dann could make into brushes. He said that everyone in the village wondered how Dann could dress so well on the pittance he earned from brush making. Sol's father had guessed that Abraham Dann must be getting money from his family in America. Sol also remembered my Uncle Hersh as they sang together in the shul choir.

I met with Sol and his wife on a Sunday afternoon at his apartment in the Park Heights section of Baltimore. He talked about my grandfather and my uncle and how he, Sol, managed to survive the German occupation. Mr. Eisler, as if in disbelief, asked me repeatedly, "So, Avraham Dann was your zaydie? (Grandfather). You know, I think I can see a resemblance. You look a lot like your uncle Hersh." Sol described the relative locations of the railroad station at the northern edge of the village and the court building and jail which

were a few streets from the town square. He said that my grandfather lived halfway up the block, across the street from the courthouse. I drew a map on notebook paper as Sol described the village as he remembered it fifty-eight years earlier.

Vadim Altskan, a researcher at the Holocaust Museum gave me the name and address of a man in L'viv, a Professor Rudolf Mirsky. The professor headed an organization named The Galician Jewish Association. I called Prof. Mirsky, who spoke very understandable English. I learned that he taught at the L'viv Polytechnic Institute. He said he was confident that between himself and his associate Juli Shterenberg, they might personally take me or arrange for me to have a driver and a translator.



My wife gave me a "bon voyage" kiss with the reminder "Don't let anybody hurt you!" Soon I was aboard Lufthansa Airlines headed to

Frankfurt, Germany, to transfer to a plane bound for Odessa, Ukraine's southern-most city, on the Black Sea.

When we arrived in Odessa, our tour leader Elenya Reznick, a native of Kiev, met us. She spoke idiomatic English in a familiar eastern European cadence. During our first four days, we would stay at the Victoria Hotel, situated a few hundred meters from the sandy beach of the Black Sea. For a building that was said to have been modernized only a decade earlier, the plumbing was primitive and the non-air-conditioned rooms were tiny.

After breakfast we attended classes at the Odessa State University, and had a hearty dinner complete with borscht served around 1:00 p.m. In the afternoons, we took bus and walking tours to places of historical or cultural interest. The old

Jewish cemetery, which had occupied land within the city, had been plowed under, making it into a park, which faced onto a highly trafficked street. The head stones have all disappeared; the only vestige of its past is a Star of David chiseled on a black onyx monument standing vigil at the end of a row of newly planted trees.

After leaving Odessa, we traveled by bus to Lviv. I felt my excitement grow as we rolled into the city in which my mother was born. The City of Lvov, as my mother pronounced it and what many of its current inhabitants still call it, was the cultural capital of the old province of Galicia, rich in educational institutions, noted for its opera house, and famous for its composers and writers.

For the next four days our group was lodged in the new Dnister Hotel, named for the Dnister River, which runs through the city. As soon as I became situated in my room, I called Dr. Shterenberg. He said that he would meet me in the morning and bring with him a driver and a translator.

True to his promise, Dr. Shterenberg arrived at 9 a.m. We embraced as though we were long time friends. He introduced me to Luda, who was to be my translator; and to her brother Alexander, my driver, who is also known as Sasha. With Sasha standing six feet-four inches tall and built like a football lineman, I felt that I was in safe hands.

Sasha's car was an aging, diesel fueled, Volkswagen mini-van. In a few minutes we reached the city limits of L'viv driving on a macadam road. The view of the rolling countryside seemed much like the rolling piedmont terrain of western Maryland where the land rises up toward the Catocin Mountains.

Eventually we came to a white painted concrete sign with splotches of red announcing that Mostiska lay a few hundred meters ahead and off to the right. Sasha took the curve slowly, avoiding potholes

and broken paving. The town was invisible until we reached the end of a tunnel of arching acacia trees. To the left was a square-shaped park filled with huge old trees and many benches. In the center of this park stood a stone figure symbolizing the Russian victory over Nazi aggression. On three sides of the park stood one- and two-story stucco buildings. The ground floors contain shops and offices. On the fourth side of the square is a small farmers' market.

Sasha asked where I wanted to go first. My dilemma was I wasn't sure where to begin looking for my grandfather's house. I took out the crude, one-page diagram of the town, which I had sketched at Sols place in Baltimore. The most logical starting point seemed to me to be the railroad station, probably the most permanent of the landmarks. Inside the green painted terminal's dimly lit waiting room two elderly men sat. Sasha and Luda spoke with a woman whose head was covered with a yellow colored bandana. Luda told me that the woman has lived in Mostiska all her life. I requested Luda to ask her if she had ever heard of the "Dann" family. The woman rubbed her wrinkled chin as Luda questioned her, then she slowly shook her head from side to side. At the time the Germans invaded the village, the woman explained, she was only seven years old.

Later I wandered through the stalls where the produce was being sold. Huddled beneath awnings and striped umbrellas stood the stall-owners weighing out cabbages, beets, potatoes and other produce. This early in the spring, most of the food-stuffs had been harvested last fall. One tradesman had rows of small paper brown bags of dried beans and lentils. I watched women wearing babushkas put their purchases into tote bags.

This was certainly the spot where my mother bought food. I could imagine her putting cabbages and potatoes into her shopping bag. My mother had told me that

their weekday meals consisted mostly of kidney beans, lentils, fresh vegetables and cottage cheese. They had meat once a week when she bought a chicken for their Sabbath dinner. I mused at how little time was to pass from her days in Mostchisk until she became a partner with my father in their Washington grocery store when food would be so plentiful.

In the side yard of a brick house covered by discolored and broken stucco stood a woman chopping at the black dirt with a long-handled rake. Luda introduced me, informing her that I was trying to find the house in which my grandfather lived. Her eyes darkened in a frown. Luda quickly assured her that I was not looking to retrieve my grandfather's property. I was only trying to find my family's roots. The woman's lips broke into a smile which exhibited two or perhaps three teeth remaining in her mouth. I asked the woman how long she had been living in this house. She said she had been here since 1951. That would have been about nine years after the Nazis had rounded up the Jews in Mostchisk. I asked her if she knew who the previous occupants of the house had been. She said she was quite young at the time and had little recollection of what had happened in Mostchisk during the war. She recalled only the stories her neighbors had told her. Pointing to the vacant lot next to her house on which she was growing vegetables, she said that a house once stood there. She remembered having heard that during the war the German soldiers had torn it down. She didn't know what had happened to the people who lived there.

We continued to walk the surrounding streets looking at all the houses which might have been built in the late 1800's. I walked up lanes and down unpaved alleys on which houses stood. I photographed every residence which could have conceivably housed, not only my grandfather but also the neighbors where my mother, her

sister and brothers had visited and played. If I had not found their actual house, I was near enough to experience the neighborhood and the setting. I had certainly walked the same streets they once walked. To this day, many of the people of Mostiska, much like the family of Abraham Dann, subsist at near poverty levels and live in houses without indoor plumbing. I had stood on the very railroad platform from which my mother boarded the train on the first leg of her journey to America.

We drove back to Lviv. Dr. Shterenberg later told me that most of the Jews of that area had been rounded up in the fall of 1942 and taken to a camp near the town of Belzec.

According to the Encyclopedia Judaica\*, 600,000 people had died at Belzec. In the spring of 1943, the Germans liquidated the camp, exhuming the bodies and cremating them. Every telltale sign of the camp's existence was removed. German farmers were moved onto the land. Nothing remains there today which marks where the town of Belzec had been or where the graves once existed.

Unlike the disappearance of all traces of Belzec and its extermination camp, Abraham Dann continues to live. He survives through his descendants and their contributions to society.

*William Sher, a D.C. native and JGSGW member, retired five years ago as Chief of the Montgomery County Department of Housing. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Strathmore Hall Arts Centre in Rockville.*

\*The Jewish Encyclopedia of 1901-1906, a 12 volume work of 15,000 articles has been placed on the internet at <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com>.

Its search engine has full-word indexing; therefore it will identify any article in the encyclopedia that includes the key words you specify.



*A Capital Conference*

Join us for the 2003 IAJGS  
Conference on July 20-25, 2003  
at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in  
Washington, DC

For more information:  
[www.jewishgen.org/dc2003](http://www.jewishgen.org/dc2003)

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