



GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

1990 20th Ave. San Francisco, Calif. 94116

Nov. 1989

Editor: Martha L. Wise

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, November 20, 1989

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Sutro Library
480 Winston Dr.

PROGRAM: Short business meeting, speaker, refreshments

SPEAKER: Barbara Hill, Library Asst. Acquisitions Dept. Doe Library U. of California

TOPIC: Materials Available for Genealogical Research at the Library and How to Find Them.

PERIODICALS RECEIVED

DEC 5 1989

Allen County Public Library

Realizing that a library of this size and stature can be intimidating to some researchers, Barbara Hill will attempt to provide a "roadmap" through the various holdings.

A genealogist herself, Barbara Hill, has been associated with various local genealogical societies, including the California Genealogical Society. She is chief editor of the book, *Genealogy - A Guide to the University of California Library*. 1984 Currently she is involved with a new project, The Genealogical Interest Group, which she is designing and will help teach. It is planned as a series of workshops, lectures and demonstrations to make it much easier for the family historian to use the Library.

PENINSULA GROUP MEETING

The Peninsula Group announces their Monday, Decemebr 18th meeting which will have Elene Danielson, Associate Archivist at the Hoover Inst. Library as speaker. Her topic will be Holdings at the Hoover Institution Library of Interest to Genealogists. There will be emphasis on the Russian Consular records in possession of the library. The time is 7:30 P.M. The place Congregation Kol Emeth, Palo Alto.

RUSSIAN RESEARCH HOPES

Avotaynu for Summer 1989 included several items relating to Russian research. There is an interview with Dr Don Wilson, Archivist of the U.S. by Sallyann Sack in which the subject was Russian research, where it stands now and what may be in the future. There is also an article by Paul Goble on Ukrainian Jewish research, and Sallyann talks about an effort she made to get information. She filled out a form and got an answer informing her that after a day's search they had found nothing and if she wanted a further search they needed more information and \$25.00. Sallyann is not holding her breath but she took a chance, followed all their instructions for forwarding the required sum and promises to let everyone know if anything results. So far even if you go to Russia in person and can speak the language it is not an easy matter but there are rays of hope for the future.

MORE AVOTAYNU

Avotaynu also includes an article by David Einsiedler on the holdings of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, an article by Edward Luft concerning Posen (Poznan in Polish) research. A translation of articles from Misjpage, the newsletter of the Dutch JGS. There is much information on Holland and its current and past rules and regulations which should be of importance to those researching in the Netherlands. Misjpage is a very good publication.

There are many more articles as well. If you do not take Avotaynu you might want to borrow a copy from someone who does.

NETHERLANDS JGS PUBLICATIONS

Although one of the newer JGSs the Dutch society has undertaken the publication of what are surely very valuable books for those researching in Holland.

Already available is a translation of a register of Portuguese-Jewish marriages in Amsterdam 1650-1911 which has been translated from the Portuguese and is now available for \$35.00. The original register is part of the Municipal Archives and contains the record of some 600 Sephardic marriages.

For those seeking Ashkenazic ancestry or possibly both Ashkenazic and Sephardic there is a new volume in the works. This volume again will contain information from the Amsterdam Municipal Archives. The book will contain a summary of the data contained in all issues of intended Jewish marriages, both Ashkenazic and Sephardic, from about 1550 to 1811 when an official registry office for vital statistics was established. It will cover about 15000 documents. In addition to the names of the couple there are names of parents, witnesses, places etc. The price has not been set since it will depend on the demand. They request that anyone interested in acquiring this volume write to them at Vereniging Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie, Secretariaat: da Costalaan 21, 3743 HT Baarn, The Netherlands. The volume of possible sales will determine the price so if you want this volume say so. If you are interested in the Sephardic marriage records you may order that book by writing to the same address and sending a check for \$35.00. Now if someone would just compile the same thing for one of my ancestral towns!

POLAND, A HISTORICAL ATLAS

Lineage included a review of this atlas which would seem to be much more than an atlas. The reviewer felt that its greatest value lay not so much in its maps which like so many maps, show only the larger cities and towns, but in its 1000 year chronology, outline of Polish history, extensive narrative accompanying nearly 700 maps and diagrams and an essay on the political, geographic and cultural forces that affected the country. The author, though Jewish, seems to be so deeply Polish that he is anxious to defend Poland against charges of anti-semitism. Nevertheless the reviewer feels that it is worthwhile for the Jewish researcher with Polish roots. The price is \$27.95 from Hippocrene, New York. The author is Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski.

BACK COPIES OF AVOTAYNU AND SEARCH

Member Milton Fleischman has back copies of these two publications which he is willing to give to any newer member who does not have them and would like them. What he has to offer goes back approximately three years. His address is 100 Thorndale Dr. #314 San Rafael, 94903.

FUTURE SEMINARS

The dates for the 1990 seminar in Los Angeles will be June 24-29. The hotel chosen is the Westwood Plaza Holiday Inn on Wilshire Blvd. No rates have been given yet. The 1991 seminar is planned for July 9-14 in Salt Lake City. The hotel is the Doubletree Hotel. Tentative rate \$48.00 per room per night. It will not be as close to the library as the hotel in 1986 but Gary Mokotoff wanted more meeting room space. Apparently this is set up with more convention facilities even though it is several blocks from the library rather than just around the corner. It is also much cheaper.

MARRYING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

It is often assumed that people in the past tended to marry within their own village or at most someone from a nearby village. At times this was the case but despite distances that must have seemed enormous a century or two ago, people often married to far distant places. It is always a mistake to assume that anything applied universally, other than that taxing Jews far more than anyone else was popular everywhere until Jews were finally granted full citizenship by countries in which they had lived for centuries.

Poor families may not have been able to marry their children to anyone at a great distance but well-to-do families could and did. Families often had relatives in cities at opposite ends of the country or in other countries. A family that lived in Hamlin (the town of the piper) in the 17th century had a son living in Frankfurt, another in Hamburg, a daughter in Hannover, a son in Hildesheim and apparently only one offspring still living in Hamlin. The father of this family had gone to Stadthagen for his wedding and lived there for a time before he and his bride moved to Hamlin. Later they moved to Hanover where they spent the rest of their lives. They had grandchildren living in Hamburg, Hildesheim, Hanover, Berlin, Amsterdam and Copenhagen, to name only a few of them, and this was only one family. Of course in the 17th century marriages were arranged. The bride and groom were usually very young and had not even been consulted about the matter. When you consider that travel was uncomfortable and often dangerous and with only horse power, trips that today would take only a matter of hours, were long and arduous, it is amazing that they travelled as they did. Whether they married close to home or at a great distance depended on many factors.

THE NAME ON THE COVER

If there is a published genealogy that includes your family the name on the cover may not be a familiar one at all. It may be the name of an ancestor you didn't even know you had. With luck the volume will be indexed, probably by surname only but it pays to check the names out if the family involved lived where you had ancestors.

VORONOVA PINKASIM

Joe Feibel of New Rochelle, N.Y. tells us that Moshe Berkowitz, one of the few survivors of this town close to Vilna and even closer to Lida, had been the keeper of the Pinkas for about twenty years before WWII. After the war sitting in a displaced persons camp in Austria he did his best to recollect and record as much as he could. He had a prodigious memory and was able to reconstruct something that otherwise would have been lost forever. A grandson, a relative of Harriet Fibel, has had this book translated from Yiddish into English. Many residents of surrounding towns are also included. Joe Fibel has just finished indexing the names. If anyone had relatives who might be included if they will send a sase to Joseph Fibel, 94 Beverly Rd. New Rochelle, N.Y. 10804, he is willing to check all their family names as well as providing the text of any reference to them that may be in the book.

DIE GESCHICHTE DER JUDEN IN JEBENHAUSEN AND GOEPPINGEN

This History of the Jews of Jebenhausen and Goepingen is reviewed in Mishpacha by Hans Hirsch who reported that this volume contains the family trees of fifty Jewish families from these adjacent communities in the 18th and 19th centuries. In reviewing the book he was struck by the number of those who had emigrated to this country. He counted the names of 342 people who emigrated chiefly in the 19th century. That is quite a few people for a small area and the 19th century is not so far back that researchers are not likely to know about ancestor if they had someone who came at that time. If you had anyone who did, this book with fifty family trees could be worth its \$46.00 price. Originally published in 1927 this volume by Aron Taenzer has been expanded and contains summaries in English and Hebrew. The German price is DM 68 or you may send \$46.00 for a copy postpaid. The address is P.O. box 1206, 7912 Weissenhorn, West Germany (or Federal Republic of Germany if you prefer to be formal) however the west Germans do not object to that title. It is the east Germans who object to the term East Germany insisting on either German Democratic Republic, Deutsches Demokratisches Republik or simply DDR. both east and west Germans use DDR. It is like USA. We don't object to that and they don't object to DDR. They use it themselves.

THE MICROFICHE RECORDS

As we have already told you we came back from Philadelphia with microfiche produced by Gary Mokotoff. One set is at Sutro Library, another is in our own library. Now we have a list of what is included in these microfiche records. The projects included are 1. Index to the Russian Consular records 2. Palestine Gazette, a list of 28,000 persons who changed their names legally during the British Mandate 1921-1948. These changes were published in the Palestine Gazette, an official publication of the British Government. 3. Jewish Genealogical Family Finder 4. Emergency Passport Index (names of 6,000 persons living in Europe who were entitled to American citizenship and were issued emergency passports 1914-1926. List of 6,000 Russian refusniks compiled in 1986 by the ADL. 6. List of 3,000 persons who after becoming US citizens emigrated to Palestine for the period of about 1840-1929. 7. State Dept. index of persons, chiefly of Russian birth, who wrote to the State Department on behalf of persons living in Europe around WWI 8. Index of Jews deported from France to WWII concentration camp (primarily to Auschwitz). 9. Gedenkbuch (Memorial Book) compiled by the West German State Archives listing about 128,000 German Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

The Daitch-Mokotoff soundex system has been used. The rules for using this system are explained. This is the same system that has been used for the Russian Consular Index so if you have mastered that you will know how it works.

GERMAN EMIGRATION RECORDS

Member Connie Vaughn tells us a team is in the process of locating records of those who emigrated from the Swabian area of Bavaria from 1800 to 1914. The project, financed by the German Research Council and the Bavarian Academy of Science, is expected to be completed by 1990. The report will be published in English although not all the emigrants went to America. The majority did, but all are included. The Franconia area is scheduled to be the next study to be followed in due course by the remainder of Bavaria.

MORMON COURTHOUSE MICROFILM

Diablo Descendants reminds people that if you are searching Mormon courthouse records on microfilm you should bear in mind that the Mormons microfilmed only orderly files. Jumbled or loose material may not have been copied so Diablo Descendants suggest that if you have not been able to find what you are seeking in the Mormon records you might ask the courthouse if there are any loose, old papers that might be of help.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Many of us know via family tradition that they descend from someone such as a famous old time rabbi, we may know there is ancestry provided for that person, although usually only for the paternal side, but the problem is bridging the gap between the present generation and the ancestor. These ancestors tend to have lived either prior to civil records or in a country where civil records did not exist as early as in some countries or where there is currently no access to records. However a number of people have let it be known that they are attempting to compile as complete records as possible for these families so if you descend from such a family let it be known that you are seeking your tie back to it and the individual who has undertaken the task of compiling records of all descendants of that individual may add you to the list and someday come up with something for you. Those who are undertaking the compilation of all the descendants of of some important person often ask that their quest be given publicity in newsletters. If you are lucky your ancestor may be one that someone else who is luckier and does know his or her own way back to that ancestor is compiling a genealogy, a full family genealogy, for.

MAIMONIDES/RAMBAM

Most people know one or the other of these names, some know both but not all of us are aware that both names apply to the same person. Rambam is an acronym for Rabbi Moses ben Maimon. Maimonides is Greek for son of Maionides. This famous twelfth century sage was a scholar, a famous physician and a man who left his mark on the Jewish world for genera-

tions and generations. Maimon may seem like a very unJewish name but there was a time when many Jews did have Greek names. Maimonides father, R. Maimon, was a rabbi from a long line of rabbis and scholars despite his Greek name. As for Maimonides himself, he used Arabic very often as his daily language although he could write scholarly Hebrew as well as Arabic and the alphabet in which he wrote, no matter which language he was using was the Hebrew alphabet. You know until almost modern times Jews used the Hebrew alphabet for whatever language it was that they might be using, Spanish, Italian, German, all written in Hebrew characters. We have acquired a little book on the Rambam which is now in our library. If you descend from him you might be interested in borrowing it, or even if you do not you might be interested in this well known individual. The little book offers only a minimum of information, written and published by religious people there is almost more on what Maimonides wrote than on his life, and there is no family tree included, but for what it is, it is available for borrowing.

SEARCHING IN ENGLAND

The Cleveland Kol reported that they had been informed the Jewish Chronicle, 25 Furnival St. London EC 4A 1JT, England is quite receptive to requests to publish family finder type ads. No mention has been made of fees so we do not know the cost of an ad or whether they publish them free, but if you are searching in London it would pay to inquire.

NAME DICTIONARIES

Name dictionaries are fascinating. Most of us would very much like to know the meaning of names, but do bear in mind that no one dictionary can supply information that is beyond question. If you check name dictionaries you may come up with two or three different meanings for the same name. If several sources give the same meaning that may be the correct one, or then again it may not. Where names are concerned those who write books on the subject, like those who write books on other subjects, do research by reading earlier books. If those books are accurate then the new book will be accurate as well, but at times errors are carried forward for so long they become accepted as true. Some names have unmistakable roots but others can be ascribed more than one meaning. Over time some of those meanings become garbled through interpretation by later generations not fully cognizant of the language, of the root language, of a particular name. Enjoy your name dictionaries but try to find the same names in other dictionaries as well for a clear meaning of each name.

A TALE OF TWO LIVES

Illiana mentions that their speaker for September, Harold Gershowitz, authored a novel, "Remember This Dream", a story about two sisters one of whom emigrates while the other remained behind in Poland. No mention was made of the publisher or of price but if this sort of fiction with a valid base intrigues you no doubt any bookseller can check books in print for you.

FLESHING OUT FAMILY DATA

Illiana quotes Mature Outlook as suggesting that 3x5 cards be provided to those attending family gatherings with a request that they write a description of the oldest relative they remember. A variation would be to ask each to write down what they remember hearing about the most interesting deceased family member described to them by older family members who knew him or her. One can see room for endless variations such as asking that each write what they remember of a particular family member known to all or most of them, for example. All in all it would seem to offer a chance to get a more fully rounded picture of family members one never knew or knew, but not too well.

WRY COMMENT

Illiana quotes a bit of advice Dear Abby once offered someone asking how to trace a family tree without spending a great deal of money. Her advice, "Run for public office". It would not take you very far back but it certainly would uncover any skeletons in the family closet.

COOK COUNTY ILLINOIS

Cook county, Illinois charges \$5.00 for certified copies of birth, marriage or death certificates including a three year search period. No refund if no record is found.

HELP WANTED FOR BUDAPEST RECORD

Professor Carmela Patrias of the University of British Columbia is preparing a project on the development of the Jewish community of Budapest and would be grateful for any information about individuals or families who lived in that city between 1840 and 1914. She is interested in places of residence, places of origin, migration from the city, occupations, age at marriage, family size, level of education, degree of orthodoxy in short any and every detail available. If your family lived in Budapest during this period please write to the professor at the Department of History, 1297-1873 East Hall, University of British Columbia, Vancouver V6T 1W5, British Columbia, Canada. from Dorot

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF FRANKFURT

Karen Franklin reviewing this English version of Alexander Dietz's well known Stammbuch der Frankfurter Juden for Dorot says Leo Baeck Inst. has a copy and possibly other libraries have it too, however probably not too many in our area. It would be wonderful if we could contribute this work to Sutro but it is far beyond our means. The cloth covered edition is \$180.00. The deluxe leather bound copy is \$380.00 which I do not believe includes postage. The cloth bound version weighs four pounds which is not surprising since the period covered is 1349-1849. Even though your family never lived in Frankfurt to your knowledge if they lived in Germany for centuries when you get far enough back you may find that someone did indeed live in Frankfurt, if not an ancestor, then a collateral, thus the volume can be very valuable although it is known to contain errors. Some of these are addressed by annotations in the English version. Karen also says Leo Baeck owns a copy of Ele Toledot, a compilation of Frankfurt death records from 1349 to 1830 in a series of volumes. Using both together Karen was able to fill out information on some of her distant ancestors. The Dietz book, of course, like most of the old books, pays scant attention to women. It was quite annoying to her to read the statement "This family has not survived" when she herself is a descendant through a female line.

SUWALKI

Dorot says there is a book called Sefer kehilat Suwalk u-benoteha (Jewish Community Book) Suwalki and vicinity. It is available from J. Robinson & Co. P.O.B. 4308 Tel Aviv for \$40.00. Others may carry it as well, the problem is that it seems to be in Hebrew which most of those who would be interested cannot read, other than that it would appear to be a book that would be valuable to the many who had ancestors from the Suwalki area.

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

As you probably remember a fire did very serious damage to the big Central Library. Luckily the genealogical collection was not one of the most seriously damaged but it had no home. Now the library is in temporary quarters at 433 So. Spring St. That means that collection will be available to the seminar attendees next summer. Last time it was one of the places on the list of places we could choose to go. In Los Angeles transportation is arranged, you do not have to find your own way by public transportation.

ELDRIDGE STREET SYNAGOGUE

This synagogue, the first built by lower east side immigrants, is undergoing restoration and at the same time the Eldridge St. Project is also endeavoring to contact descendants of congregants. They would like anyone with memories, memorabilia or any information to contact Beth Edberg, Eldridge St. Project, 83 Canal St. New York, N.Y. 10002. They are currently computerizing congregant names drawn from synagogue minutes dating back to 1886. If requested they will search for a family name. Since this was an east side synagogue no doubt many immigrant families attended. If your family fits this category they may be able to find something for you, or you may have something to offer them.

Sources for Research in Hungary

by Sherrill Laszlo

Books, publications- list on request write:
 MTA Judaisztikai Kutatocsopot
 (Center for Jewish Studies)
 Budapest
 P.O. Box 107
 H-1364, Hungary

Archives under the auspices of the
 National Rabbinical College
 Dob utca 35
 1074 Budapest
 Hungary

Jewish Cemetery at Rakoskeresztur
 Kozma utca 6
 Budapest X
 Hungary

Martyr's Memorial - inquire here to see if they have the original records from which the names were listed.

Vital Statistics

Housed in one of 22 administrative district city halls in Budapest. You must know where in the city your ancestor lived in order to inquire at the correct city hall. All other towns in the country have only one. Officially you apply through the embassy in Washington, D.C. unofficially if you know someone within the country they can walk in and get the document or they can send an internal money order and request it.

Jewish cemetery at Komarno, Czechoslovakia

No indexes of who is interred in the cemetery; inquiries directed to caretaker may be answered especially if you make arrangements to send a little long green - \$10.00 should do it. He will look around for you. It is a large cemetery - over 20,000 people buried here.

Tibor Viszlai
 945 01 Komarno
 Zateho Muza c. 12
 Czechoslovakia

FAMILY FINDER

C-6 Gail Call, 19684 Glen Brae Dr. Saratoga, Ca. 95070 (408) 867-7554

Seeking ancestors and siblings of Aaron Silslvitch and his wife, Kate Rosaler from Odessa, Ukraine, who came to this country around 1889. Lived in New York. they were parents of eight children. In this country the name Silslvitch became Levenson. Aaron died in 1926 in Brooklyn, Kate in 1941. Kate and her sister, Fanny Fliederman were daughters of Eli Rosaler and Rachel Usiff.

Also sought are ancestors and parental siblings of Gabriel Soffer born in Stanislav/Stanislowow, Galicia. Arrived in this country around 1907 and settled in New York. Gabriel's father, Reuben Soffer/Soifer was born Kosiner but acquired a new name by virtue of his being a scribe. His wife was Sosie Zweifler.

Wanted in addition are the ancestors and siblings of Morris Oxenhandler and his wife, Ida Hytha/Chatha. Morris was a son of Beryl/Benjamin Oxenhandler and Tobe Shamis (sp.?) Came here from Kamenets Podolsk in the late 19th century.

H-1 Walter Hertzmann, The Sequias, Box 8134, 501 Portola Rd. Portola Valley, Ca. 94025 (415) 424-4469

Searching for Samson Maier (Meyer) born in Mainz, Germany, May 10, 1815. Believed to have died in San Francisco in 1893. Known children, Rosalie 1849, Martin Samson 1852, Abraham 1854, Flora 1856, Julia 1858, Alexander 1861, Isador 1863, Clara Leontine 1869, and Leon birthdate unknown. It is not known if all children were born in California.

S-10 Mallory Schoen, 341 Alcatraz Ave. #4, Oakland, Ca. 94618 (415) 655-6462

Searching for ancestors and descendants of Zalman Zirin/Tzirin and his wife, Ruhama (also Rachel) Nachom who lived in Gomel, Russia in the mid to late 19th century. Their children were, Morris, Libbe(Luba) who married Meir Shoulman and emigrated to Israel, Genia (Eugenia) Ita (Ida) and two brothers, names not known, who left Gomel at the turn of the century. Also any information on relatives of Louis Schoen and his wife Jennie(Shaindel) Goldman, daughter of Abraham, who lived in Budapest in the 1880s and emigrated to New York around 1890.

BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL CALANDAR

Bob Weiss has made up a list of genealogical meetings and lectures around the area. If you are interested in this he can tell you what events there are and where.

HOLOCAUST CENTER

The Holocaust Center needs a volunteer to translate one chapter from German to English of a book on the holocaust by a Czech survivor.

NEW NAME BOOK

Speaking of name dictionaries as we were, we have received a flyer for a new book on names, What's in a Name by Leonard R. N. Ashley. The author is a professor of English, twice president of the American Name Society with numerous other qualifications. The book is \$18.95 plus postage and handling of \$2.50. One dollar additional for more books. It is extremely doubtful that this book will address any old Jewish names other than biblical names however if you are interested in names in general as your editor is, you too may be interested.

Officers SFBAJGS

Pres. Armand S. Cohn
V.P. Martha L. Wise
Secty: Robert Weiss
Treas: Sherrill R. Laszlo

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society
1990 20th Ave. San Francisco, Calif. 94116



Allen County Public Library
900 Webster St.
Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46802
Attn: John Beatty