



זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVI, Number 4

November 1996

LOCAL GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS Meetings of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Please note: Unless otherwise indicated, the meeting schedule is as follows:

- San Francisco:** **Sunday, Doors open 12:30 p.m., program begins 1 p.m.**
Fort Mason Center, Marina Blvd. at Buchanan Street
Building C, Room 205 (or as indicated below)
Free to members, \$3 for non-members, applicable towards membership
- Palo Alto:** **Monday, 7:30 - 10 p.m. (Please contact Dana Kurtz if you need directions)**
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road)

- Sun. Nov. 17** **San Francisco:** *11th Annual Jewish Genealogy Workshop*. Special four-hour program **beginning at 12 p.m.** will feature small working groups with expert leaders, a beginner class, translators and more. (See page 4)
- Mon. Dec. 16** **Palo Alto:** *Travels Back to The Old Country*. Share the experiences of those who have made the trip back to the towns of their ancestors. Speakers will bring photos, maps, stories and suggestions for making your own journey.

1997

- Sun. Jan. 19** **San Francisco:** Regular meeting
- Mon. Feb. 17** **Palo Alto:** Regular meeting
- Sun. Feb. 23** **Berkeley:** *Resources for Jewish Genealogy at the University of California at Berkeley*. **Special East Bay Meeting**, Congregation Beth-El Library, 2301 Vine Street, Berkeley. Phone: (510) 848-3988. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., program begins at 1 p.m. (See page 12)

Sun. Mar. 16	San Francisco	Mon. Apr. 14	Palo Alto [Note date change]
Sun. May 18	San Francisco	Mon. Jun. 16	Palo Alto
Sun. Jul. 20	San Francisco	Mon. Aug. 18	Palo Alto
Sun. Sep. 21	San Francisco	Mon. Oct. 20	Palo Alto
Sun. Nov. 16	San Francisco	Mon. Dec. 15	Palo Alto

Other Genealogy Meetings of Interest on Page 4

ZichronNote
Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

ZichronNote is published four times per year at the beginning of February, May, August and November. Deadline for contributions is the 10th of the month preceding publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submittals. Submissions may be made on 3-1/2 floppy disks in DOS, Windows 3.1 or ASCII format, or e-mailed to <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com>.

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Family Finder queries are free to society members. Non-members may place queries for \$5 each, limited to 25 words not including searcher's name, address, phone number and e-mail.

Correspondence relating to publication items or requests for back issues should be addressed to the SFBA JGS at the address below.

Display advertising is accepted. The rate for a 2-column-inch (3-1/2 x 2 inch, business card sized) insertion is \$10 per issue, quarter-page ad \$20, half-page ad \$35, full-page ad \$60. Ads must be camera-ready, relate to Jewish genealogy and be in good taste.

Membership in the SFBA JGS is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$20 per calendar year. The Society is exempt per section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Make check payable to "SFBA JGS" and send to: Sherrill Laszlo, Treasurer, 34 Craig Ave., Piedmont, CA 94611.

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Meetings: **Odd-numbered months**-3rd Sunday of each month, 1 p.m. at Fort Mason Center (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco. **Even-numbered months**-3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue (near Arastradero & Foothill), Palo Alto.

SFBA-JGS Web Site: www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

President's Message

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With this issue of *ZichronNote* we mark a transition. For many years *ZichronNote* has been edited by Bob Weiss who has helped to establish it as one of the best JGS newsletters around. Over the course of the past year, Bob has taken on new adventures and challenges: He is in his second term as president of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, recently became a grandfather and he retired - which as many know - means he has less "free time" than ever. With these things in mind, Bob feels the time has come to pass the editor's red pen.

And so, I have taken on the editing chores beginning with this issue. On behalf of the SFBA JGS, I would like to thank Bob for his dedication to the Society, and his achievements with *ZichronNote*. I hope we can continue to produce a publication worthy of its reputation. I encourage JGS members and other *ZichronNote* readers to submit material for publication. Articles about resources, methodology, personal experiences and observations are welcome. Your comments on the content and design of *ZichronNote* will be appreciated.

This issue also reflects the changes taking place in how we pursue our genealogy. The convenience of computers and the growth of the Internet, has made it possible to research from the comforts of home. The lure of resources at our fingertips makes it easy to neglect conventional repositories. Additionally, the sheer volume of material available on-line is enough to fill one's every waking hour - so, when is there time for the library?

In our membership survey last year we asked why people were interested in researching their family. Of the nine choices given, the second most popular was "I enjoy the research." This digging we do is a significant part of our enjoyment of genealogy.

The Consolidated Jewish Surname Index, once available only on microfiche, is now searchable on-line. In his article, Roy Ogus explains how to use this database and provides examples from his own research. A number of other databases located on the JewishGen World Wide Web site are also described in this issue.

Using today's technology does not require an Internet connection or even computer ownership. Many universities and libraries offer free access to computers and the on-line world. In her article, Sherrill Stern Laszlo observes the integration of technology with our traditional library system, noting how computers can help us identify physical resources we might otherwise miss.

SOCIETY PAGES

Member News

Welcome New Members

Nadine Brown	Livermore
Heather Campbell	Benecia
Joel Deretchin	The Woodlands, TX
Donna Dubinsky	Menlo Park
Howard and Carol Feiner	San Mateo
Jeffrey and Susan Friedman	San Anselmo
Saul and Rhoda Goldstone	Saratoga
Ellen Huppert	San Francisco
Norman and Helene Laefer	Los Gatos
Les and Enid Malkin	Roseville
Ramsey Oppenheim	San Mateo
Ivan Schatten	Palo Alto
Jerrie Wacholder	San Mateo
Milo Zarakov	Walnut Creek

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Karen & Gerald Apell
Rhoda and Saul Goldstone
Michael Goloff
Antoinette Gordy
Eva Joy Lamm-Rubin
Gail Lowenthal
Ben Weinstein

Please send corrections to Dana Kurtz at <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com>.

*If you have an e-mail address but have not been receiving occasional SFBA JGS e-mail messages, let us know so we can keep you up to date.

The Jewish Community Library in San Francisco is one such facility with a wide range of valuable holdings. Judy Baston familiarizes us with the collection, and reminds us that many useful materials are likely to be found only on bookshelves. Stating the case for "getting into the trenches" is Lauren Davis' article on the use of alternate surnames. Her fascinating insights could only have been achieved through hands-on research - in this case pouring over Russian and Polish language microfilms at a Family History Library.

I cannot imagine completely replacing on-site research with computerized information. (How can you computerize your aunt's attic?) Each avenue offers unique opportunities, but the nature of the material found through each is qualitatively different. Computers offer instant communications, and the ability to search massive databases such as world-wide telephone directories, that would be otherwise unavailable. Enter a surname into a search engine, and in moments have a list of many **BABCHUKS** in Argentina. Post a query on JewishGen and find

someone who will knock on your long-lost cousin's door in Paris - this afternoon.

Computers inhibit spontaneity however, and cannot bring you face to face with that human touchstone, where you can hear (and record) a voice, watch facial expressions or spark a memory. Holding a marriage certificate in your hands gives you handwriting; a signature. After hours of cranking through reel after reel of passenger list microfilm you finally find your great-grandfather - and guess what? Others on that ship are from the same small town, and one of those names is vaguely familiar. You would rarely if ever, stumble across such a find through a computer search, yet we have come to rely on such fortunes.

An avid computer and Internet user myself, I hope never to lose sight that technology is a tool to help us place our hands on the genuine article we are searching for - our family. The Internet is not (yet) a requirement for genealogical research, but on-site research, in a home or repository, always will be.

CALENDAR, cont'd.

More Genealogy Meetings

Sun. **Nov. 17**, 10 a.m. JGS of Sacramento; *Networking - sharing resources, experiences, names and places*. Albert Einstein Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento, Arts & Crafts Room. Call Jane Paskowitz (916) 633-9557.

Thu. **Nov. 21**, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society (SCCHGS); *Our Periodicals*. Santa Clara City Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara.

Sat. **Nov. 28**, 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society; Computer Interest Group. Mormon Church, 950 Mocho Street, Livermore. Call Doug Mumma (510) 447-5164

Tue. **Dec. 10**, 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society; regular meeting. Congregation Beth Emek, Livermore. Call Jolene Abrahams (510) 447-9386

Sun. **Dec. 15**, 10 a.m. JGS of Sacramento; *Judaic Traditions from the Reform Perspective*, with Rabbi Marvin Schwab. Albert Einstein Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento, Arts & Crafts Room. Call Jane Paskowitz (916) 633-9557.

Thu. **Jan. 23**, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. SCCHGS; *The Santa Clara County Recorder's Office* with Karen Hodskins. Types of records held and their proper use. Santa Clara City Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara.

Sat. **Jan. 18**, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. SCCHGS; *Portugese Research* with Rosemarie Capodocci. Mountain View Community Center, Rengstorff Ave. (Between California and Central Expwy.) Fee TBD.

July 14-17, *Fifth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy*, Paris, France. Hosted by the Cercle de Généalogie Juive, 14 rue Saint-Lazare, 75009 Paris, France.

Ride Sharing

Many JGS members have indicated their desire to attend JGS meetings, but feel the drive is too long, too difficult in the dark, or otherwise inconvenient to be undertaken alone. We would like to help members make a connection for sharing rides.

If you are interested in attending a meeting and would like a ride, or can occasionally offer a ride, please call Dana Kurtz at (415) 921-6761 or e-mail <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com> to make arrangements.

Upcoming Programs

On **Sunday, November 17** we will hold our **11th Annual Jewish Genealogy "Brown Bag" Workshop**, from 12 to 4 p.m. (*Note earlier starting time*), at Fort Mason Center, Building C, Room 205, in San Francisco.

Expanded library resources and two microfiche readers with our complete fiche collection will be available. Maps will help you locate your ancestral towns. The JGS librarian will be present to help you use the materials.

We also expect to have translators available through the day to help reveal the secrets of documents and photographic inscriptions. Languages tentatively include: Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, Polish, German, French, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Georgian, Serbo-Croatian, Solvenian, Macedonian and Mongolian! (Sign-up details at the meeting.)

Classes and "Birds of a Feather" groups will be lead by a JGS expert. Experienced genealogists will be available throughout the day to assist researchers at all levels of experience.

Tentative Schedule

12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

- * Beginning Jewish Genealogy Class
- * "Birds of a Feather" Groups:
 - Bay Area Resources for World-Wide Research
 - Foreign Research
 - Identifying your Ancestral Towns
 - Computer and On-Line Genealogy

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

- * Immigration & Naturalization Class
- * "Birds of a Feather" Groups:
 - Galicia/Austria-Hungary/Romania
 - Eastern Europe/Russian Empire (Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Baltics, etc.)
 - Germany
 - One-on-one Assistance

Bring your "Brown Bag" Lunch and Explore!

You are encouraged to review your research needs prior to the workshop. Check for all your surnames in the on-line Consolidated Jewish Surname Index and see which resources contain the names you are researching. (See article page 9.) Then, you will be ready to use the references (books or fiche) you need.

Free to members, guests - \$5 applicable towards membership. Bring your questions, papers and your curiosity!

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Alternate Surnames in Russian Poland: Lecture Notes

©1996 Lauren B. Eisenberg Davis

In July at the Summer Seminar in Boston, Lauren spoke about her research of family from Checiny, Poland. Using microfilms from the Mormon Family History Library, Lauren was able to identify many family members and recognized that multiple surnames may be used by the same individual.

Inconsistent Surnames

Surnames were not always fixed or permanent in the way we consider them today. This discussion involves the manifestations of alternate surnames in the towns of Checiny, Poland and Krasnystaw, Poland, with an illustration of a case study from Krasnystaw. Refer to the Summer 1996 issue of *Avotaynu* for further discussion of Checiny examples.

During my quest to find my MANELA ancestors in Checiny, I discovered the notation MANELA v KWART. "v" stands for "vel", the Latin word meaning "also known as". Most cases of 'vel' represent a transition between two names. It is important to recognize that records will exist with only one of these surnames as well. The notation "vel" is not the only indication of a variant surname, but it is the most easily identified.

Other instances found in Checiny include:

- A husband may take on his wife's surname, particularly if she is from a more prestigious family.
- Records may identify people by occupation rather than surname. This is actually an error, not a variant surname, but leads to the same type of confusion in research.
- Identification by patronym (father's given name) rather than surname. Confusion can arise for names that qualify as either a surname or given name. For a woman identified as Haia Manela, is Manela the father's given name or surname?
- Adoption of a new surname with no transition period.

The last manifestation is the most difficult to trace. It becomes crucial to consider all facts on vital registrations, including patronyms, ages, occupations in order to match families of seemingly different surnames. One branch of the Manela-Kwart clan began to use the surname Goldrat around 1822. The concrete connection was only possible due to the family of a married sister of the man whose children's registrations reflected this surname change. Although most Checiny women registered by patronym, this woman used her maiden names of Manela and Kwart, and eventually Goldrat as well. She was much easier to identify than her brother, because she remained married to the same man, for whom I was able to identify a stable occupation, surname and patronym.

Mandatory Surnames

The changing regimes of the region may help explain this phenomenon of sudden acquisition of a new surname at this time. In 1795, Checiny fell under Austrian rule in the third partition of Poland and became part of West Galicia. The Jews of Checiny were required to adopt surnames under the Austrian regime in 1805. In 1809 Austria ceded West Galicia to the Duchy of Warsaw. The Kingdom of Poland (Congress Poland) was established in 1815 by the Congress of Vienna, and fell under the leadership of the Tzar of Russia.

Surnames were mandated for Jews in Russian Poland in 1821. Consequently, some families, or even just certain branches of families, reverted to their prior surnames from the Austrian mandate, while others took on new identities.

Alternate surnames were rampant in Krasnystaw, but were of different forms than in Checiny:

- Variations on a root: GOLDBERG, GOLDEN, GOLDMAN
- Similar sounds: WILENSKA, WILKENSZTAJN
- People intermittently used their fathers' surnames, mothers' maiden names, and stepparents' surnames.
- Women who married multiple times used any of their current and prior surnames, often in an inconsistent manner.

Examples

The family of Marya Cukierman and Jankiel Goldman introduced two mysteries to my family research. In addition to the marriage of Marya and Jankiel, and the births of their two daughters, I found a second marriage for Jankiel, however I had not found a death record for Marya. Additionally, Jankiel had different parents on his two marriage registrations:

1845 Marriage

Groom: Jankiel Goldman, son of Herszek (deceased) and Sura Goldman
Bride: Marya Cukierman, daughter of Lipa (deceased) and Perla Cukierman

1856 Marriage

Groom: Jankiel Goldman (widower), son of Herszek and Sura Cukierman
Bride: Fajga Klarman, daughter of Szloma Klarman and Chana Szajn

Why did Jankiel's parents have different surnames on the two records? Herszek Goldman was dead by 1845; did Sura remarry a Herszek Cukierman by 1856, and if so, why was he listed as Jankiel's father?

I began to perform complete vital records extractions in Krasnystaw, which at first only served to confuse the issue further:

1833 Birth

Father: deceased

Mother: Sura Rywa Cukierman

Child: Herszek Lipa

No identity was provided for the deceased father. Was Cukierman Sura Rywa's married or maiden name, or did she perhaps remarry prior to the registration of the baby's birth?

I hit the jackpot with the 1855 death records:

1855 Death

Decedant: Marya Goldt

Father: Lipa Cukierman

Husband: Jankiel Goldman

This accounted for one part of the mystery. Marya's death was registered under an abbreviated surname.

1855 Death

Decedant: Sura Rywa Goldman, widow

Father: Herszek Cukierman

Mother: Fajga

Sons: Icyk Goldman, Jankiel Goldman

Daughter: Mendla Stycer, widow

This was quite an unusual death record for Krasnystaw, which normally provided no survivors' list, and often no parents. It is interesting to note that Sura Rywa's parents are the grandparents of Marya Cukierman. Hence Marya and her husband Jankiel Goldman were first cousins. Therefore, Jankiel's parents were listed under their correct surname on his 1845 marriage, but under his mother's maiden name in 1856. Furthermore, the fatherless baby of 1833 was the son of Sura Rywa Cukierman and Herszek Goldman.

The search was on to find Mendla Stycer. Naturally that was not her actual name, but she was rather easy to identify. Numerous records existed for a young widow named Mindla Stancygier, who registered children under the maiden names of Cukierman and Goldman. However, for each mystery solved, more always seemed to surface. Mindla Stancygier's most predominant maiden name was Fliswaser.

There was only one Fliswaser family in Krasnystaw, and as a result of my thorough study of the town, I had come to know all the residents quite well. Josef Fliswaser, a glazier, and his wife Dwojra, had numerous daughters prior to Dwojra's death in the early 1830s. I returned to

the records of the 1830s searching for clues.

1835 Birth

Father: Josef Fliswaser

Mother: Sura Herszkowiczow

Child: Fayga

Following the deaths of Herszek Goldman and Dwojra Fliswaser, Josef Fliswaser married Sura Cukierman. Mindla was still a child, and grew up in the home of Josef Fliswaser, apparently causing her to use his name as her primary means of identity.

Conclusions

This single case study illustrates many of the naming anomalies in Krasnystaw:

- Herszek Goldman and Sura Rywa Cukierman were identified on Jankiel's 1845 marriage as Goldman and on his 1856 marriage as Cukierman.
- The 1833 birth of Herszek Lipa Goldman did not identify his surname. The only surname on the record was the maiden name of his mother, Sura Rywa Cukierman.
- The 1855 death of Sura Rywa Goldman was registered under the surname of her first husband, rather than her most recent husband, Josef Fliswaser, and she was identified as the widow of Herszek Goldman.
- The 1855 death of Marya Goldman was registered under the variant name of Goldt.
- The 1855 Death of Sura Rywa Goldman identified her daughter as Mendla Stycer, while in actuality, Mendla's married name was Stancygier.
- Mendla Stancygier used three different maiden names: Goldman - her father's name, Cukierman - her mother's maiden name, and Fliswaser - her stepfather's surname.

In conclusion, you can piece together the full picture only by examining EVERY record, not just every record of your surname(s) of interest. Full vital records extractions are the best solution.

Special thanks to Warren Blatt and Alexander Beider for their help and encouragement on my alternate surnames research.

Test your Surname-Spelling Flexibility

The spelling of our ancestors' names varied from document to document, often depending on the transliteration made from Hebrew, Yiddish or the national language.

To find our families' names, we should keep variations in mind when researching. How many variations can you think of for the following?

Shonwald

Hirshhorn

Piascik

Bisgaier

Mokotoff

answers on page 19

Israel: The Shortest Detour to Your European Ancestors

by Marian Rubin

SFBA JGS Secretary, Marian is a descendant of the RUBIN and WOHLFELD families who arrived in San Francisco in the 1860s. She is also researching the NISSENBAUM and SHONWALD families, all from Galicia.

Everyone Has Family in Israel

"I would claim that there is nobody in this room, who, if you are Jewish, won't find a cousin in Israel, if they do the right things and look hard enough." That was the message of Sallyann Sack's talk entitled, "Israel: The Shortest Detour to Your European Ancestors," presented at the Boston seminar in July.

Ms. Sack, the editor of *Avotaynu* and author of *A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel*, (published by Avotaynu), believes you will find cousins in Israel. Her conclusion is partly based on our ancestors' immigration patterns before the Second World War. Ms. Sack's experience in her own family, is that one or two relatives emigrated to Palestine/Israel for every 15-20 relatives who emigrated to the U.S. She believes that this holds true for most of our families. Having found two previously unknown families in Israel in 1994, I agree with Sack's premise.

In addition, most survivors of the Holocaust went to Palestine/Israel. Some later emigrated to other countries, but there is a trace of them in Israel. Sack unequivocally stated,

"We all lost family in the Holocaust. They were the aunts, uncles and cousins of our relatives who came to the U.S. There is no such thing as all my people came over."

Ms. Sack's point is that we all had family remaining in Europe, even though we have no knowledge of them, and the survivors are/were our relatives, and if we can find them or their children, or their landsmen (others from their shtetls), we will find either a direct family connection or people who might be able to tell us about our families.

Where to Begin: Search Bureau for Missing Relatives

With these thoughts in mind, how do you begin to research family in Israel? First, you must have at least one of these pieces of information: the family name in Europe or the town.

Perhaps the best place to start is the Search Bureau for Missing Relatives, P.O. Box 92, Jerusalem. This office was established after WWII to answer letters sent to Palestine by Jews all over the world asking if the relatives they named had survived the War and if they had emigrated to Israel. Those letters have been computerized by

name and by town, and the responses sent by the Bureau have also been computerized. Batya Unterschatz, the director and only staff person of the Bureau also has access to the current Israel Population Register. Letters can be sent asking Ms. Unterschatz to check to see if inquiries were made after the War about your family. Send as much information as you can, including approximate birth dates, names of parents, spouse, children, siblings, aunts, uncles and related families, and the towns, or at least the province.

If the person emigrated to Israel and is no longer living, Unterschatz may be able to find the children. If you know only the town and it was a very small town, the Bureau may be able to provide you with a list of some Israelis from the town who you could then contact. The first names of your relatives, their occupations, old photos and other information, may enable someone to recognize the family and provide family information.

Yad Vashem and Other Resources

Ms. Sack listed other resources in Israel, including Yad Vashem's Pages of Testimony. Each page memorializes one person who perished in the Holocaust and names his or her town and may name other family members. The 3,000,000 pages are signed by the persons who submitted them, usually a relative or friend, and the pages include the submitter's address. Most pages were submitted in the late 1940s or 1950s.

The Israeli State Archives holds applications for Palestinian citizenship for the period 1934-1948. These documents are in English. At the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People you may find family records organized by region of origin. Their strongest collection covers Germany and Central Europe. Among other holdings, the Jewish National and University Library at the Gvat Ram campus of Hebrew University has the Montifiore Census which is particularly valuable for researching those who immigrated during the 19th century.

Ms. Sack's book, *A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel*, is invaluable for obtaining a complete picture of the research possibilities in Israel and to planning your research strategy. Contact our society librarian, Judy Baston, (415) 285-4616, to make arrangements to borrow the book.

NATIONAL RESOURCES

World War I Draft Registrations

The National Archives - Southeast Region holds more than 24 million World War I Selective Service records, filed by state and draft board. Draft registration cards provide a wealth of information. They typically include the then current address, date of birth, town, and country of birth, citizenship status, occupation, employer, work address, height, build, eye and hair color.

NARA can provide a form for you to submit requesting a search of this large file. However, it is possible they will process a search request if you provide the necessary information in a letter. For each card you request, (each individual), send a separate form/letter and \$6. Make check payable to: National Archives Trust Fund, and send to: National Archives Southeast Region, 1557 St. Joseph Avenue, East Point, Georgia 30344.

Be sure to include the date, your name, signature and address. Provide as much of the following information as possible:

- Full name of registrant
- Birthdate
- Birthplace (complete)
- Home address at time of registration (complete)*
- Draft board Location (county, city, street address)
- Registration date
- Name of wife or nearest relative at time of registration
- Occupation

*A street address or other specific information is required for the following cities:

CA: Los Angeles, San Francisco. District of Columbia. GA: Atlanta. IL: Chicago. IN: Indianapolis. KY: Louisville. LA: New Orleans. MD: Baltimore. MA: Boston. MN: Minneapolis, St. Paul. MO: Kansas City, St. Louis. NJ: Jersey City, Newark. NY: Albany, Buffalo, New York City, Syracuse. OH: Cincinnati, Cleveland. PA: Luzerne County, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh. RI: Providence. WA: Seattle. WI: Milwaukee.

City directories from 1910 are especially useful for determining a street address if 1910 census records are not soundexed.

If you know the age of your ancestor, you can determine whether he should have registered. Registration was required, and draft registrations were held on the following dates:

- June 5, 1917. All men between 21 and 31 years of age.

- June 5, 1918. All men who had become 21 years of age since June 5, 1917. A supplemental registration was held on August 24, 1918 for men who had become 21 years of age since June 5, 1918.
- September 12, 1918. Registration of all men between the ages of 18 and 21, and 31 to 45 years of age. This was the third and last World War I registration.

Personal Name Index to the New York Times

Indices to the *New York Times* can lead you to death notices, obituaries, marriages and other articles about your ancestors. The first set of surname index volumes covers the period 1851-1974. The second set covers 1975-1993.

Note that these indices do not include obituary or marriage notices unless an article about the event was published.

The *Personal Name Index* will provide a year and page number. A "d" before the year identifies a death notice. Armed with this information, check the *Subject Index* volume for that year and page number. The entry in the *Subject Index* includes the month, day, page and column where the item appeared; you already have the year. You may find a cross-reference to another subject entry in the same subject index.

The surname and subject indices are found on the same set of shelves on the 5th floor of the new San Francisco Main Library at Larkin and Grove in the San Francisco Civic Center. Microfilm copies of the *New York Times* are stored in the same area, on the back side of the first row of film cabinets toward the windows. Microfilm readers are located in back of the adjacent reference desk. Copies can be made on most of the readers for a small fee. Should you require assistance, the staff is available. Please remember to rewind the film when you are done and leave it in the box at the reference desk.

Submitted by Stan Judd

California Gold Rush Settlers

Citing a "nice article on early Jewish settlement and life (1850-1890) in Nevada Co., C.A. in an old local historical society bulletin," Rusty, at <Rusty6356@aol.com>, has offered to look up names and references for anyone with ancestors in the Grass Valley/Nevada City area. He warns, though, that "the article is not complete by any means."

The Avotaynu Consolidated Jewish Surname Index (CJSI)

by Roy Ogus

A SFBA JGS member for two years, Roy finds the access to online resources using his computer to be indispensable for Jewish genealogy research. He is currently researching the surnames **OGUS**, **ALPERSTEIN**, **RODKIN** and **PERLOFF**.

Index to 23 Databases

The Consolidated Jewish Surname Index (CJSI) is a database that provides access to information on more than 200,000 Jewish surnames appearing in more than 23 different databases. These combined databases include more than 1,000,000 entries. Using the CJSI, one can determine which of the referenced databases includes information on a particular surname of interest.

The actual information found in the referenced databases is not itself stored in the CJSI. The CJSI is an index that includes for each surname, a list of databases that contain reference to the particular name. To obtain the actual information, one needs to obtain the relevant database(s) as a second step. (More details are provided below on which databases are included in the CJSI, and how to obtain a copy of these databases.)

The CJSI is published by Avotaynu, Inc., the largest publisher of information and products of interest to Jewish family history researchers. The Index was originally published by Avotaynu in 1992 in microfiche format. (The SFBA JGS owns a copy of this microfiche.) In addition, Avotaynu has recently provided access to the CJSI on the World Wide Web (WWW), thus providing an extremely powerful and immediate method of searching the contents of the CJSI database. Using the WWW version of the CJSI requires Internet access from a computer, and a WWW browser such as the Netscape Navigator or that available from an on-line service such as America On Line.

Using the CJSI

In order to find references to both the specific surname of interest as well as any spelling variants, the CJSI is sequenced using the Daitch-Mokotoff soundex rather than alphabetically. Using a soundex system, the "sound" of the name is coded, thus enabling the various spelling alternatives of the surname to be grouped together under a single soundex code. This method addresses the problem of catching misspellings or alternate spellings of the surname, as well as the surname itself. (For more information on soundex coding, refer to the JewishGen InfoFile titled "soundex". Send an e-mail message to the address <soundex@jewishgen.org>, leaving the subject field and body of the message blank.)

Access to the different CJSI databases varies. Some are in published books, others on microfiche. A few are accessible on the World Wide Web. The SFBA JGS owns copies of those databases available on fiche, as well as some of those published in book form. Local libraries with large genealogical collections (such as the Santa Clara Library and the Jewish Community Library in San Francisco) may have copies of the books in their reference sections. Finally, almost all of the books and all microfiche are available for purchase through Avotaynu, Inc.

How to use the CJSI

The CJSI database can be accessed on the WWW at the Avotaynu home page: <www.avotaynu.com>. Selecting the CJSI reference will lead you to the CJSI WWW page, which provides information about the database, as well as an entry box to fill in the surname for which you wish to search. To initiate the search, key in the surname of interest and click the "Search" button. The system will first convert the surname to its soundex code, and return the code for your confirmation. Click the "Continue" button to commence the search.

The CJSI search engine will then return a list of surnames that encode to the same soundex code as your surname. Attached to each is a list of identification letters for those databases that contain information for the surname.

An example of a CJSI query is shown below, as well as a description of how I plan to use the information returned by the search for my research. (A listing of databases included in the CJSI can be found on page 10.)

CJSI Example Usage

I keyed in my own surname "OGUS". The database first returned the Daitch-Mokotoff soundex code of 054000 for confirmation. After clicking on the "Continue" button, the following search result was returned (a partial list):

<u>Soundex</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Databases</u>
054000	EJGIES	E
054000	EKGAUZ	D
054000	EKHAUS	L
054000	EKHOUS	N
054000	EKHOZ	E
054000	EKUS	E
054000	EYGES	C
054000	ICAZA	C

<u>Soundex</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Databases</u>
054000	IGAS	C
054000	IGSA	J
054000	OAKES	CGH
054000	OAKS	C
054000	OCHS	ABCFGHIJKP
054000	OCHSE	K
054000	OCKS	G
054000	OGOUS	I
054000	OGOUZ	K
054000	OGUS	ABCDEI
054000	OGUSH	C
054000	OGUTSCH	J
054000	OGUTZ	A
054000	OGUZ	DEGI
054000	OJKS	D
054000	OKASHI	C
054000	OKS	DEGIJKL
054000	OX	G
054000	UKAZ	D

As can be seen, the name OGUS is present in a number of the databases (e.g. A, B, C, D, E, I), as is the common variant spellings of OGUSH, OGUZ and OGUTSCH. A number of other surnames, with the same soundex code as OGUS also appeared but did not interest me.

How the CJSI search helped me with my research

Some of the databases that contained information about the name OGUS were already known to me, such as Beider's two books (D and E), and the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF). However, the CJSI showed me that the name was also present in some databases that I was not aware of, including the Jewish Genealogical People Finder (C), and the Palestine Gazette (I). The SFBA JGS has both of these databases, and I plan to consult them at the next JGS meeting.

Secondly, the CJSI search turned up some new variant spellings of the name OGUS, which may refer to families related to my family. The spellings of OGOUS, OGOUZ, OGUTZ are new to me, and I plan to research the databases that contain information about these names as well.

Conclusions

As can be seen, the CJSI is a very powerful search method to identify efficiently which, of a large number of databases containing information on Jewish surnames, include references to a particular surname of interest. Now that access to the CJSI has been provided directly on the World Wide Web, the power of this tool has been significantly increased.

With thanks to Gary Mokotoff

Databases Included in the CJSI

- A. AJGS Cemetery Project Burials. 100,000 Jewish burials in various locations throughout the world.
- B. Jewish Genealogical Family Finder. 10,000 different surnames being researched by some 2,500 Jewish genealogists.
- C. Jewish Genealogical People Finder. 300,000 persons who appear on family trees being researched by Jewish genealogists.
- D. A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire. 50,000 surnames from the Pale of Settlement.
- E. A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland. 32,000 surnames from the Kingdom of Poland.
- F. Source book for Jewish Genealogies and Family Histories. 25,000 surnames for which there is published information about family history.
- G. Index to Russian Consular Records. 70,000 persons who transacted business with the Russian czarist consulates in the United States from about 1849-1926.
- H. First American Jewish Families. 50,000 descendants of Jewish-American families who arrived in America in the period 1654-1838.
- I. Palestine Gazette. 28,000 persons, mostly Jews, who legally changed their names while living in Palestine during the British Mandate (1921-1948).
- J. Gedenkbuch. 128,000 German Jews murdered in the Holocaust.
- K. Index to Memorial to the Jews Deported From France. 70,000 Jews deported from France during the Holocaust.
- L. National Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. 35,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States and Canada.
- M. Emergency Passports. 3,000 Jewish applicants for emergency U.S. passports, 1915-1924, processed by U.S. State Department.
- N. Index to State Department records found in the U.S. National Archives containing Jewish names in the section on protection of interests of U.S. citizens in Russia. 5,000 records.
- O. Index to State Department records found in the U.S. National Archives which is a registration of U.S. citizens in Jerusalem, 1914-1918. 1,000 records.
- P. Index to State Department records found in the U.S. National Archives which is a list of Jewish names in protection of interests of U.S. citizens category in Rumania, Germany & Poland (1910-1929). 4,500 records.
- Q. Index to State Department records found in the U.S. National Archives which is a list of Jewish names in protection of interests of U.S. citizens section in Austria-Hungary (1910-1930) (1,602 entries). 2,000 records.
- R. Refusniks. 7,000 Russian-Jewish citizens refused emigration from the Soviet Union in 1985.
- S. Jewish Surnames from Morocco. 4,644 different Moroccan surnames.
- T. Jewish Burials in Hartford County Connecticut. 13,000 burials.
- U. Jewish Surnames from Prague. Ancient Ashkenazic surnames from the 15th-18th centuries.
- V. Cleveland (Ohio) Burials.
- W. Obuda (Hungary) Census of 1850.

PAST MEETINGS

Russian Business Directories

Dr. Gordon McDaniel, a Slavic Cataloger at the Hoover Institution Library introduced us to the Russian business directories, *Vsia Rossiia*, and other valuable resources for researching family in the former Russian Empire. At the August meeting in Palo Alto, Dr. McDaniel stressed the importance of having a sense of history and geography. The Russian Empire extended into modern-day Finland, Poland, the Baltic States, Ukraine, Siberia and beyond. Keep in mind that as events transpired (World War I, World War II, the fall of Communism etc.), borders changed and therefore the geographical extent of records kept changed. For example, if your family lived in Galicia in 1895, it is worth checking Russian records. The Hoover Institution specializes in Eastern European resources but does not have materials such as census records or civil registration lists. However a variety of secondary materials may offer great rewards.

Published Materials

Many of us are familiar with yizkor books which can provide not only lists of names but insights into the culture and daily life of a town or region. Less familiar are the sociological books of an era. For example a work on the Jews of Irkutsk offers a study on Jewish education and the economic impact of Jewish prayer houses.

Merchant guild registration lists for cities are worth reviewing, while encyclopedias published during the time period of interest offer descriptions of towns and regions. To locate places of interest to us, we have often used *Where Once We Walked* by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack. Gazetteers published in Europe focused on specific geographical areas and may provide alternative town names and spellings we should be aware of.

Business Directories

The *Vsia Rossiia*, or "All Russia" business directories purportedly cover the entire Russian Empire. Inclusion of one's name required signing up or some form of approval. The volumes themselves contain many different types of information including:

1. administrative rosters;
2. "Trade and Industrial Calendar of Russia";
3. List of factories and manufacturers, with a description of the most important products and producers;
4. an almanac; and
5. agricultural/land owner information.

The directories are first organized geographically, not alphabetically, then by industry and finally by surname. Also remember, the directories are in Cyrillic - consider the possible Cyrillic variations for the surname(s) you are researching. Similar business directories exist for particular guberniyas and larger towns.

Libraries

Located on the Stanford campus, the Hoover Library is a public library, open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Materials should be requested from the circulation desk and used only in the reading room. The on-line catalog is called "Socrates", although the entire catalog is not yet on-line and not all items have been cataloged. To search on-line by subject, enter:

[placename] directories

or

Jews [placename]

To search by title word for example, use "ves/vsia" (masc./fem. meaning "all") "adresno-spravochnaia kniga" (address-almanac books). Using the Library of Congress classification system, books are cataloged according the current political boundaries at the time of cataloging. The term "Russia" was used until the 1950s, then "Soviet Union" and today the "Russian Federation." You can telephone ahead on the day of your visit and request that a book be for your arrival.

You may also wish to check the OCLC - a national bibliographic database to see if volumes you are interested have been cataloged elsewhere.

A copy of the handout, including book references, provided by Dr. McDaniel is available in the SFBA JGS library.

Sinai Memorial Chapel

Gene Kaufman of Sinai Memorial Chapel spoke at our September San Francisco meeting. Although established in 1901 as the Hebrew Burial Society, Sinai's records for 1917-24 are sketchy, but post-1924 records exist for almost every case handled. No records are extant for the period 1901-1917. If someone died outside of San Francisco but was buried in the area, it is possible Sinai will have some information about them.

Sinai is a non-profit organization. Its revenues are distributed to various Bay Area organizations including synagogues, Jewish youth and educational organizations.

For burial or disposition, a permit must be issued by the state which means a funeral home is usually involved. Therefore mortuaries are potentially good sources of information. If a funeral home is sold, the fate of its records is usually determined in the sale agreement. If the mortuary closes, there are no policies regarding the placement of records.

Available Information

The information collected by the mortuary is determined by State of California requirements. The current form has been in use for at least nine years, with two recently added questions: 'number of years of formal education' and 'number of years living in county'. (A copy of the current "Pre-Need Vital Statistics Information form can be found in the SFBA JGS library.) Each state determines what specific information is to be gathered. Among the thirty questions asked by California are:

- Place of Birth - California requires only country of birth. If a son says "My father was born in Russia," Sinai will not ask for the town. If the reply is 'he was born in Russia? Poland? Germany?', Sinai will ask for a "best guess." If the relative still does not specify a particular country, "unknown" is entered on the form - not Russia/Poland.
- Employment - If the individual was retired, Sinai will make an effort to identify what the occupation or business was, and how many years were spent in that industry, not the number of years with a specific employer.
- Informant - This may provide a lead to a living individual. Next of kin is only asked for when the burial arrangements are made in advance.

Whatever information is provided by the family is entered onto the form. No effort is made to determine the accuracy of the information.

Death certificate information becomes public record and certificates are held by the State of California. Sinai has many, but is not required to keep them. To obtain a copy of the death certificate from the State, you must provide a name, approximate date of death and as much additional information as possible to help identify the correct record.

Sinai's records are not cross-referenced in any way, so information cannot be retrieved by family-group. All records since approximately 1990 are computerized. The SFBA JGS hopes to work with Sinai in developing a system for volunteers to assist in computerizing older records for easier retrieval.

Cemeteries

The old San Francisco cemeteries were located near the old Sears store at Geary and Masonic. They were moved to Colma sometime in the late 1800s-early 1900s as the City grew. Some of these tombstones are in Colma cemeteries today, but no related records are known to exist.

The four major Jewish cemeteries in Colma today are: Home of Peace - affiliated with Temple Emanuel, Hills of Eternity - Sherith Israel, Salem - Congregation Beth Israel Judea and Eternal Home - owned by Sinai. No one is available on the premises at Salem. Temple Beth Israel holds most of the records. Sinai has burial information and perhaps a newspaper source.

Sinai's San Francisco office holds the original book recording burials and locations for Eternal Home. Each record includes name, date of death and age at death. Eternal Home has tombstones that pre-date Sinai's involvement. Gene felt it unlikely that any information on these burials exists.

General Information

Most U.S. and Canadian mortuaries are members of the fifty-year old Jewish Funeral Directors of America, which publishes a directory. Gene suggested that the best way to get information is to obtain the name of an individual at the funeral home and telephone. You may be asked to identify yourself and your interest in the information, but you are likely to get some assistance. Please remember though, as with Sinai, people resources are often limited.

Gene Kaufman had additional advice about other sources of genealogical information: Sinai may help a family draft an obituary notice, but the words are up to the family. This procedure should be considered when assessing the accuracy of the information. Landsmenshaftn are generally found only east of the Rocky Mountains.

Upcoming Programs, cont'd. from page 4

East Bay Meeting, Sunday, February 23.

We are very excited to bring the SFBA JGS to the East Bay and hope you will join us for this special event. If enough interest is expressed, we will pursue additional meetings in the East Bay for the convenience of our members.

Directions: Take route 80/880 to Berkeley and exit at University Ave. At the end, turn left onto Oxford St. to third stoplight, and turn right onto Cedar St. Take first left onto Spruce St., then first right onto Arch St. Congregation Beth El is on the corner of the next block at Arch and Vine. The side entrance on Vine Street will be open. The library is down the hall on the right.

Jewish Community Library Resources for Genealogical Research

by Judy Baston

Society Librarian, Judy is a long-time SFBA JGS member. Her current research is focused on the surnames **JASKOLKA, SERWETARZ, STOLOWITZ and KAGANOVICH.**

Many Reasons for a Library Visit

Whether you're seeking information about your ancestor's shtetl, or you want to embark on a journey to find out just how your family's history is part of Jewish history, chances are you'll find what you're looking for among the 30,000 volumes at the Jewish Community Library, 601-14th Avenue (at Balboa) in San Francisco.

Basic books on Jewish genealogy, such as Arthur Kurzweil's *From Generation to Generation* and Dan Rottenberg's *Finding our Fathers* are part of the JCL's circulating collection. You may take out most books for four weeks, but some others are reference works.

If you're trying to pinpoint the towns from which your ancestors came – and then find out more about these towns – the JCL has Gary Mokotoff and SallyAnn Sack's *Where Once We Walked* (WOWW) as well as the *Where Once We Walked Companion*, which enables you to discover other towns near yours. Also on the shelves is Chester Cohen's *The Shtetl Finder*, which pre-dated WOWW and occasionally lists names of people in some towns.

Researching Your Family Names

The JCL has several volumes that will help you learn more about your ancestors' names – both surnames and first names. From Alexander Beider there is the new *Dictionary of Jewish Surnames in Congress Poland*, as well as the *Dictionary of Jewish Surnames in the Russian Empire* and *Surnames in Prague*. Other surname references include Heinrich and Eva Guggenheimer's *Jewish Family Names and their Origins*, and Ben Zion Kaganoff's *A Dictionary of Jewish Names and their History*. First names are the subject of Shmuel Gorr's *Jewish Personal Names*, as well as Alfred Kolatch's *Complete Dictionary of English and Hebrew First Names*, and *The Name Dictionary*.

For more information on Jews in your ancestral town or country, the JCL has a collection of encyclopedias that can be of help. The *Encyclopedia Judaica* (EJ) is referenced in WOWW, and contains information about a number of once-Jewish cities and towns. Also on the reference shelves are the *Jewish Encyclopedia* and the *Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*.

If your search is taking you through American

Jewish history, the JCL has hundreds of volumes that can be of help. Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner's *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* lists state-by-state the archives and repositories that may contain documents from your family's past. A complete set of the *American Jewish Yearbook*, from 1899 through 1996, is in the JCL's collection, including the volumes from 1907-1908 and 1919-1920 that list local organizations and name hundreds of landsmanshaften (hometown societies) and their officers. You may also want to refer to Geoffrey Wigoder's *Dictionary of Jewish Biography* and the 1980 edition of *Who's Who in American Jewry*.

Some Surprises Among U.S. Titles

The JCL's collection of books about Jews in the U.S. range from some you might expect – Malcom Stern's *First American Jewish Families* and *Americans of Jewish Descent* (1971 ed.) and dozens of books about Jews in the West and the New York immigrant experience – to a number of surprises, such as the three volume set on *West Virginia Jewry* by Abraham Shinedling or *Crossing Lines*, by Judith Goldstein, about Jewish life in Bangor, Calais, and Mount Desert Isle, Maine.

Bibliographies on the JCL's reference shelves can take you to other books that might have specific information about the families you seek, or general information about the lives they led. Among these volumes are *Jews of San Francisco and the Greater Bay Area, 1849-1919*, by Sara Cogan; *Jewish Genealogy: a Sourcebook*, the first of several volumes by David Zubatsky and Irwin Berent, and *Jewish Autobiographies and Biographies*. The latter, among other things, may lead you to proof of whether those famous people who hover over our family trees really are *mishpoche*.

If you're planning a trip to Israel, check out SallyAnn Sack's *Jewish Genealogical Resources in Israel*, to help plan your research time there, as well as the JCL's collection of 1992 and 1993 Israel phone books, in Hebrew.

Avotaynu: the International Review of Jewish Genealogy is now on the JCL's periodical shelves, and current and back issues of such journals as *Western States Jewish History* and *American Jewish History* may also aid your genealogical search.

Downstairs in Holocaust Center

If one of the references for your town in WOWW is Simon Wiesenthal's *Every Day Remembrance Day*, you can use this volume at the JCL to discover the dates, and other basic information, about how your *landsleit* met their tragic fate in the Holocaust. **(Of course, the Holocaust Center of Northern California, which is downstairs from the JCL, has hundreds of Holocaust references, including many towns' memorial books, and the various volumes of *Guide to Unpublished Materials of the Holocaust- GUM in WOWW.*)**

Several hundred books on the JCL's shelves cover the histories of Jewish life in other countries. Will you find a mention of your family name? Or even your town? Perhaps. But even if you don't, you'll discover information about customs or political and social conditions that can provide the answers to key questions. For example, if you're of Hungarian origin, you may not find your name in Raphael Patai's *The Jews of Hungary: History, Culture, Psychology*. But the book may offer crucial insight into the conditions in that country that led members of your family to emigrate around 1848.

The JCL's collection of Jewish literature can also provide a rich sense of background. Just because my father's family lived near Vilna, are they likely to be mentioned in the works of the great mid-20th century Lithuanian Yiddish writer Chaim Grade, five of whose works in translation are at the JCL? Of course not. But the lives he depicts could easily have been theirs, and for

those of us who are seeking not only names but windows into lives and memories that were lost, this literature certainly can provide such a view.

Books for Children

Many of us also want to interest our children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews in family history, and to help them make a connection to the countries from which their ancestors came. In its children's section, the JCL has dozens of circulating titles about the voyage to America, the immigrant experience, and life in shtetls and Jewish villages in other countries.

There is a Music Room with many circulating items of Jewish music from other countries and from the American immigrant experience. Films from the Jewish Heritage Video Collection, may also be of interest, and may be borrowed for three days for three dollars. All full-time staff at the JCL are familiar with Jewish family history research. In addition, I work there on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2-6 p.m., as well as some Sunday afternoons. If you want to make sure that someone will be available to help you with books on genealogical research, you may call the JCL at 415/751-6983 ext. 106.

The Library

Part of the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Jewish Community Library is located at 601-14th Street, San Francisco. Hours are Sunday from noon-4 p.m.; Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday from noon-6 p.m.; Thursday from noon-8 p.m. Closed on Friday, Saturday and Jewish holidays.

SFBA JGS Library

As always, all microfiche and the most popular books are brought to every meeting. If you would like to insure that a particular book will be brought to a meeting, please contact Society librarian Judy Baston at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Telephone Judy at: (415) 285-4616 or send an e-mail to <jrbaston@aol.com>.

Additions *(Many thanks to those who have contributed books to the library.)*

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author/Publisher</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Donations			
In Search of Your European Roots [Barry Klezmer]	Baxter, Angus	1994	292
Holocaust Calendar of Polish Jewry [Marcia Nord]	Shepansky, Rabbi Nathan	1974	88
A History of Sinai Memorial Chapel in San Francisco [Gene Kaufman]	Bernstein, Abraham		263
New Arrivals			
Cemetery Project disks for PC computers	Sachs, Arline		4 floppy disks
A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland	Beider, Alexander	1996	570
Documents of Your Ancestors	Meshenberg, Michael J.	1996	138
Sourcebook for Jewish Genealogies & Family Histories	Zubatsky & Berent	1996	456
Jewish Vital Records, Revision Lists and Other Jewish Holdings in the Lithuanian Archives	Rhode & Sack	1996	149

The Library--Is It Obsolete?

by Sherrill Stern Laszlo

Sherrill has been researching her family history since 1986 and has documented one Jewish family line to the 16th century. A professional researcher since 1991, Sherrill is affiliated with the Committee of Professional Jewish Genealogists. She has been a member for many years of both the SFBA JGS, the JGS of Cleveland and more recently the Hungarian SIG.

The Electronic Card Catalog

Sharing the latest website, search engine or e-mail address is the stuff of conversations, the fluff of advertisements and the substance of research endeavors in the '90s. Any information you may want seems to be available using this exciting new medium. It is pretty exciting that you can read your news in electronic print, search for a job on-line or share information with people who may be related to you. There are databases, catalogs and search engines (fancy name for high-speed electronic indices) as well as graphics, advertising and hype.

It is all very cool. As genealogists we are finding even more applications for the technology which allows us to look for our people in ways that are easier than we ever envisioned. Still for the non-computer user or the "unconnected," there is the dilemma: get a computer and spend the next six months trying to understand how to make it work for you, or spend that time working on your research at the library.

There are people who remember that satisfying feeling of opening a small wooden drawer and fingering the index cards, their edges softened by years of caressing, the notations written in their margins, the solid thwack as you shut the drawer of the old-fashioned card catalog. These tall, oak monuments to humankind's desire to record history and thoughts, exist still in places like the Library of Congress, but hidden away in the back and used by scholars with special privileges. The Oakland Family History Library has one, as does the Western Jewish History Archives in Berkeley and the Jewish Community Library in San Francisco. But they are, inexorably, being replaced by electronic or on-line catalog systems and the time is not far off when a researcher will have no choice but to look for books using a keyboard.

Library Resources Offer Depth

Genealogists new to the field are seeing so much information available to them through internet resources that the world of library research seems obsolete. In truth, library sources may silently hold the secrets to your family, and the tools for unlocking these secrets are an accessible blend of

traditional and new techniques. For the electronically connected and unconnected alike, there is a richness in finding more than a name and a date, but a story pertaining to your people in the library.

When you have determined the location of your people here in the United States, it is time to investigate what material has been published about their town or city. There is a good chance that in some publication, book, series, study, or vanity press you will find information about your family. Bear in mind--these are location-based searches. It will work really well in the United States because, well, we read English. The same techniques can be used to research ancestors abroad but then you run into the foreign language obstacle. For purposes of this discussion let's assume we are searching for locations in the United States.

No Internet Connection Necessary

Finding what materials exist is the first step. If you have access to a modem (no internet connection necessary) and terminal software which is included on any machine with a Windows platform, you can direct-dial a local telephone number and work with the on-line catalogs of the major university libraries in the country. Call your nearby university or college library and ask the librarian to mail you a copy of the public access instructions for using their library catalog. These will help you set your modem according to its speed, configuration, etc. Don't panic--this is straightforward.

University libraries participate in a consortium of academic libraries, and the system will allow you to look at the catalogs from any of the participating institutions. Search and exit instructions are given when you access each catalog. The public library access is similar using a local dial-up number, but your searching is usually limited to that library system only.

If you are not electronically connected at home, a visit to either your local public branch library or college library will enable you to use their electronic catalog--all hooked up and ready to "drive." Normally there is someone around who can help you get started.

The on-line catalog is a simple menu selection process which will give you the opportunity to define your search parameters. Once you have requested the subject, say the Jews of Cleveland, a list of titles with call number, author, year published, number of pages, notations about photos and charts, and the location (branch or campus) of the book will be available for you to print out. You now hold in your hand a listing of the relevant material you may wish to examine.

Broaden Your Search Criteria

Let's say, though, that your on-line catalog search reveals nothing about the location of interest. This means that in the collection of this library or library system such as the University of California, there is no material available, using your search parameters. Try varying your search using different keywords; be sure to do your search for series and periodicals as well.

Most major libraries own the 2-volume Library of Congress subject headings and the multi-volume National Union Catalog (NUC). Before you abandon your catalog searching, check the Library of Congress subject headings to be sure that you have searched using those which are listed and cover your topic. At this point you are trying to find out if there are books pertaining to your topic in any U.S. library. Check the NUC which contains entries by title, subject or author in alphabetical order. This bound catalog will tell you which libraries in the country hold the materials listed in its pages.

Interlibrary loan--is a beautiful system and you can get just about any book sent to your local

public library by using it. When you have the call number, exact title, and NUC entry number, the rest is easy. You pay some nominal fee and when the book arrives, you are notified by postcard. Note that the system for using university interlibrary loan requires you to be a student or faculty or staff member at the university. You can search and obtain the necessary identifying information using the university facilities but for those without the necessary affiliation, the public consortium will be the way to go for interlibrary privileges.

The Next Step

So, now that you have a book in which your relatives are mentioned, you need to find out where that author got his or her information on your people. This is crucial because it is going to lead to some interesting research and anecdotal information. There will be footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography. Examine these to determine the source material. You will probably need to go to the on-line catalog(s) again to search for these books. You may have to access some special collections by contacting a reference librarian, or you may need to write to an individual who owns a manuscript. The material will be your guide to the next research step.

The lives of your ancestors will come alive when you acquire this anecdotal information. It may not work with every one of your ancestors but it will work often enough that the effort is well worth the time spent. And you do not need to be a cyberspace cadet to do it.

Map Resources

If you are looking for good maps of Eastern Europe, here are a few:

1. A great map of Lithuania entitled "The Baltic States-1845" by Adolph Steiler. Available from Jonathan Sheppard Books, P.O. Box 2020 Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220. Map #M7, price: 5.95 + 3.75 rolled shipping.
2. Thomas De Claire at the Library of Congress: Send a letter asking for information about WWII maps and/or pre-WWII maps for your town. Supply the town name variants and coordinates. Also ask for any reference information from historical gazetteers. He will send you complete information on your town from their records, including excerpts from old maps. After receiving the free sample copies, you can request a full sized copy upon payment. Write to: Library of Congress, Attn: Thomas De Claire, Geography and Map Division, Washington, D.C. 20540.
3. The National Archives holds both maps and aerial photographs of many towns. Supply the town name variants and coordinates. Write to: National Archives, Attn: Robert Richardson, Cartographic Branch, Washington, D.C. 20408.
4. Genealogy Unlimited is good for maps of Poland. Write for a catalog and send them a large SASE and letter requesting a free copy of the series ME200 map grid of Middle Europe and a copy of the series ME75 map grid of Middle Europe. Telephone: 1-800-666-4363.

Submitted by James Gross

ON-LINE NEWS

JewishGen Searchable Databases

Note: If you do not own a computer or do not have Internet access, most public libraries and college/university libraries have computers with Internet access available to the public.

JGFF Goes "Live"

The August issue of *ZichronNote* reported the availability of an on-line search of the JewishGen Family Finder (formerly the Jewish Genealogy Family Finder). Now anyone with Internet access can easily enter new information or update existing entries "live." Susan King of JewishGen notes that changes and all new submissions received during the last several months by "snail mail" have been entered.

If you have submitted your data prior to JewishGen assuming the JGFF, you must obtain a password to access your data. Volunteers are standing by to look them up. Send an e-mail to: <password@jewishgen.org>.

What You Can Do "Live"

- Search the most up-to-date data available;
- Modify your existing researcher information, including name/address etc.;
- Modify your assigned password to something you can remember;
- Add your email address;
- Add your affiliation (JGS, JEWISHGEN, etc.);
- Select how you want your data viewed both on the Web and in the hard copies which are still planned for distribution by year end. (Choices include "everything" or "name/email" only);
- Modify current surname listings and towns

Currently, deleting a record altogether will be handled by JewishGen volunteers.

Minor Changes To Your Entry May Be Necessary

- All data have been forced to uppercase;
- Some e-mail addresses may be in all capital letters rather than lower case. Please check your entry and make the necessary changes to lower case, if your Internet host requires lower case.
- Some initial passwords entered in lower case might also have been converted to upper case during the transition. If you entered your own data and find this to be the situation make sure you enter your password in both upper and lower case before panicking!

JewishGen Shtetl Seeker

JewishGen is developing this tool which will help you locate your ancestral town anywhere in Eastern Europe, down to the latitude and longitude, and will even map it for you on a current map. JewishGen Inc. has received copyright release from Microsoft Corporation for the use of the extensive mapping in their Encarta Atlas Product.

REIPP

The Russian Era Indexing of Poland Project (REIPP) database, formerly only available as an e-mail search engine, can now be searched "live" on the JewishGen web site. The project features post-1867 indices to Jewish birth, marriage and death records from Russian Poland found in LDS (Mormon) microfilms. Currently, more than 125,000 records are available, and the database is growing rapidly. (See *ZichronNote*, August 1996)

JewishGen Archives Search

A searchable database of almost three years of JewishGen discussion group postings.

Jews of London

Compiled by Jeffrey Maynard, this database was collected over a period of some years and will be continuously updated. The database includes names, addresses and other information on Jews living in London during the first half of the 19th century. This database is useful for anyone researching this part of the world.

Jewish Theological Seminary Goes "On-Line"

The library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America has announced its own World Wide Web site located at <www.jtsa.edu/library>. Here one can use the on-line library catalog or review a listing of newly cataloged books.

Samples of recent exhibitions can be viewed and the most current issues of the Library's newsletter, *Between the Lines* have been posted. Information about the Friends of the Library is available and library publications such as books, posters and notecards may be purchased directly.

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

Research in Israel

Harold Rhode of Washington D.C. advises that Batya Unterschatz of the Jewish Agency's Missing Relatives Search Bureau is now available to do private research. Batya is fluent in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian and Lithuanian, and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Harold states "I've worked with Batya many years and she is one of the best researchers/"sleuths" I have encountered. She has managed to dig out information from all sorts of sources and about all sorts of people I never knew existed."

Services include translation and research in archives throughout Israel. Through her investigations, Batya can often find lost relatives and locate inheritors. Cost is \$25 per hour. Contact Batya Unterschatz via fax in Israel at: 972-2-534-6573.

Beider Offers Surname Search

Dr. Alexander Beider has offered to perform a surname search of the 1906-1912 voter lists he used in authoring *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* and *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland*.

The cost for each surname/town is \$21. Dr. Beider will provide all entries found for each surname, including those that appear in neighboring towns of the same district. If the name(s) is not found, your money will be refunded. Information for Chernigov, Podolia and Vitebsk guberniyas is not available.

Expect the search to take approximately 6-8 weeks. Make checks payable to Dr. Beider and send to: Dr. Alexander Beider, 8, rue du Dauphin, 91300 Massy, France

Kielce-Radom SIG Formed

A new Polish special interest group has been formed. It covers Kielce (Kee-'ELS-a) and Radom (Rah-dahm), two Kingdom of Poland provinces, (ruled by Russia from 1815 to 1917). Three well-known genealogists, Warren Blatt, Lauren Davis and Gene Starn are the new SIG'S advisory council.

The SIG will be a contributory group, meaning its members will share their findings. They will publish their material in a voluminous quarterly journal and will have a presence on the Internet.

The journal will include extracts from archival records now available, indexes from various sources, personal research experiences, photographs, and other materials not available elsewhere.

The SIG is open to all who are researching those areas, whether veteran or novice genealogists. Membership cost is \$24 per publication year for U.S., Canada and Mexican members; \$30 for all others because of additional postage.

For additional information, please contact acting coordinator Gene Starn at P.O. Box 520583, Longwood, FL 32752. Phone: (407) 788-3898, e-mail: <genes@iag.net>.

Research Assistance Offered in Argentina

The August ZichronNote included information about the newly formed JGS of Argentina. Recently they announced the publication of their Spanish-language newsletter and offered assistance to researchers. An index to the newsletter is available in the SFBA JGS library.

Dear Friends:

We are introducing our new Jewish Genealogical Society of Argentina. Founded on July 16, 1996, we issued our first Bulletin (newsletter), in Spanish. We are ready to send a copy to anyone who requests it. Please advise us of your interest by e-mail. (We can also send one or more articles by e-mail, always in Spanish.)

We are organizing the help to every person that wishes to trace relatives in Buenos Aires (and Argentina). We can send you instructions for checking our phone directoros on the World Wide Web. We can also provide some guidelines for doing genealogical research in our country. It is not easy but possible and currently expensive. We can connect you with persons who can provide research services at an hourly fee.

We can do something for you as a courtesy: phone calls to the numbers you send us; sending your e-mail messages by local fax locally to those who do not have e-mail, etc. From our establishment up to today we have helped a lot of persons to find their relatives, including new families not linked until our help. But it is a very hard work for us, and now we preferred to channel it to professionals. Anyway we always assist everyone in their searching. Please contact us and we will do our best.

With kindly regards,

Paul Armony, President
Sociedad Argentina de Genealogia Judia
Juana Azurduy 2223, piso 8
(1429) Buenos Aires, Argentina
e-mail: <camcom@satlink.com>

BOOK NEWS

Lithuanian Metrica

by Stan Judd

The "*Lithuanian Metrica*" in *Moscow and Warsaw: Reconstructing the Archives of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, (1984)* edited by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted provides an English language description of and index to the Grand Duchy government records (1569 - 1795).

The "Act of Union of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania with the Kingdom of Poland" was signed in Lublin on July 1, 1569. The Union was dissolved in 1795 as a result of the final partitioning of Poland between Russia, Prussia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The "metrica" is a set of records, such as chancery records for the Grand Duchy. I had expected to find newer records from the 1800s, but found the book will be more useful if I get back to the 1700s.

Grimsted describes the contents of the *Metrica* and traces what has happened to the records since 1795, including where known surviving records are located. (An annotated edition of an 1887 inventory is included.) The *Metrica* contains government acts. For example, you might find the name of an ancestor who received a grant or some special privilege included in the description of the grant. You will not find individual vital record data such as certificates for births, marriages and deaths. The *Metrica* also includes an interesting map showing the rough boundaries for the duchy and the kingdom in the early 17th century.

(Corresponding records of the Kingdom of Poland are contained in the *Crown Metrica*.)

Note: The book is only an index. Most of the records are text but those interested need to get

the book to learn more. I was able to obtain the book through interlibrary loan: ISBN 089250-340-8, Library of Congress Catalog Number 83-83094. Stanford University Library CD 1735 L54 G75 1984.

Gloversville

by Lillian Wurzel

Was your family in the glove manufacturing business in the early days of this century? Now there is a book about these early day Jewish workers and manufacturers, who plied their trade in Gloversville, New York. Herbert M. Engel, a retired government management consultant now residing in Albany, New York, has written a delightful book entitled *Shtetl in the Adirondacks - The Story of Gloversville and its Jews*. Published in 1991 by Purple Mountain Press.

The book will tell you about the snobbery of the "Handshumachers" - the glove makers and their special talents and artistry. Many families who lived and worked in Gloversville are mentioned. Contact Purple Mountain Press, P.O. Box E3, Fleischmanns, New York 12430 (800) 325-2665 to purchase the book for \$14.50.

**From Generation To Generation
in Paperback**

SFBA JGS member Rochelle Schwartz advises that a paperback edition of Arthur Kurzweil's *From Generation to Generation* is expected in September 1996, at a list price of \$17.95. *From Generation to Generation* should be required reading for anyone interested in Jewish genealogy.

Rochelle also recommends an on-line discount bookstore at <www.amazon.com>. She found a listing for the Kurzweil book at a cost of \$16.20.

Surname-Spellings: some answers

<u>Shonwald</u>	<u>Hirshhorn</u>
Sheinwald	Herszhorn
Schoenwald	Hirshhorn
Scheinwald	Herschorn
Schoenwald	Herschhorn

<u>Bisgaier</u>	<u>Piascik</u>	<u>Mokotoff</u>
Bisgayer	Piaschik	Mokotow
Bisgeier	Pyasczk	
Bisgyer		

Do you have an interesting illustration of this occurrence? We welcome your examples

Submitted by Marian Rubin

Correction

In the August article on the REIPP, the published response to the submitted e-mail search indicated that the records listed were found on LDS microfilm number "(594000)". In fact, this is the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex code for "Kurtz". The correct LDS microfilm numbers are given at the bottom of the returned results. In the sample return shown below, the microfilms of interest are reel numbers 808426-808435:

List of Datafiles, Registration Towns and Researchers (LDS Films)
 OSTRGOLD.DBF Ostrow Mazowiecka Judie Goldstein (808429-808435)

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ZichronNote

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