

# זכרון ZichronNote

## The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XX, Number 1

February 2000

### CALENDAR OF GENEALOGICAL 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 at 1 p.m.**

Fort Mason Center, Marina Boulevard at Buchanan Street, Building C, Room 205

**Palo Alto:** **Monday, 7:30 p.m.**

Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road)

**Mon. Feb. 21**

**Palo Alto:** Welcome speaker Zachary Baker, former Senior Librarian at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, now the Reinhard Family Curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections at Stanford University Libraries.

**Mon. Mar. 19**

**San Francisco:** *Clothing Clues in Family Photographs.* By popular demand, we've invited Melissa Leventon, Curator of Textiles, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco to reprise her presentation on dating photographs based on the clothing worn by the subjects. Members are invited to bring ONE photograph each for Ms. Leventon's review.

**Sun. Apr. 16**

**Palo Alto:** *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jewish Genealogy Workshop in Palo Alto.* To be held at Congregation Beth Am. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., Programs begin at 1 p.m. (See page 3 for details.)

Note day and  
date change

#### San Francisco

Sun. May 21

Sun. Jul. 23

Sun. Sep. 17

Sun. Nov. 19

#### Palo Alto

Mon. Jun. 19

Mon. Aug. 21

Mon. Oct. 23

Mon. Dec. 18

#### Upcoming classes offered by the National Archives Pacific Sierra Region

1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. Cost: \$15. To register or for information, call: (650) 876-9009

**Fri. Feb. 11**

*Beginning Genealogy: Using Census Records, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**Fri. Mar. 10**

*Passenger Arrivals and Naturalization Records, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**Fri. May 12**

*Military - Part I: Pre-Revolutionary War to War of 1812, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**Fri. Jun. 22**

*Military - Part II: Civil War to World War II, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**More Genealogy Events of Interest on Page 4**

**ZichronNote**  
**Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area**  
**Jewish Genealogical Society**

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**People 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, telephone number, and email address.

**Back Issues** are available for \$5 per issue. Requests should be addressed to the SFBAJGS at the Society address below.

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

**Membership** is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$20 per calendar year. The Society is tax-exempt pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Make your check payable to "SFBAJGS" and send to: Sita Likuski, Membership, 4430 School Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

**Society Address:**

SFBAJGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147

**President:** Rodger Rosenberg

(415) 666-0188, eandr@ix.netcom.com

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Leeson1@attglobal.net

**Recording Secretary:** Jim Koenig

**Corresponding Secretary:** Carol Feiner

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**Founder:** Martha Wise

**ZichronNote:**

**Editor:** Dana L. Kurtz, dLkurtz@ix.netcom.com

**Copy Editor:** Gordon Fine, gordonfineantiques@att.net

**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 and Foothill), Palo Alto.

**SFBAJGS Web Site:** www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

## President's Message

by Rodger Rosenberg

Happy New Millennium everyone! The world as we know it has not ended, so it is time to look at the future as genealogists and toward our research.

But first, we should look at the past and how it has helped us. Thanks are due to those who have made this Society what it has become, and specifically to two vital members of our board who have retired from their elected positions. Both Dana Kurtz (Vice President) and Marian Rubin (Recording Secretary) have brought much to the Society, and have helped so many of us, including me. Thank you for your dedication and hard work. Our sincerest hope is that they will remain actively involved in the Society.

A hearty welcome is extended to our new board members, Rosanne Lesson (Vice President) and Jim Koenig (Recording Secretary). Welcome back to our continuing Board members: Sita Likuski (Membership Chair), Marc Seidenfeld (Treasurer), Carol Feiner (Corresponding Secretary), Jerry Jacobson (Publicity Chair), Judy Baston (Librarian), Dana Kurtz (Newsletter Editor), and Gordon Fine (Board Member at Large).

The new millenium has much to offer. And it is not too early to begin planning. This year's International Summer Seminar in Jewish Genealogy will be held in Salt Lake City, July 9-14. Nicknamed the "mountain of records," Salt Lake City promises many things. Complimenting the always excellent speakers on Jewish genealogy, key persons at the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library have agreed to lecture on their areas of expertise.

Closer to home, the California Genealogical Society Family History Fair 2000 will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, in Pleasanton, on April 28 and 29. Our Society will host a table and we will be looking for volunteers to help.

As always we are eager to see many members actively involved in our Society. There are many ways to do this. You could contribute to the newsletter ZichronNote; staff our library; help organize a program; or even bring a nosh to a meeting. Please feel free to contact me or any of our Board members should you wish to volunteer and become more involved. Your participation is what matters most!

*Rodger*

**SOCIETY NEWS**

**E-mail Address Updates**

Please note the following updates to e-mail addresses listed in the SFBAJGS Membership Roster.

Michael Feiler	mfeiler@pacbell.net
Jeremy Frankel	jfrankel@lmi.net
Judy Kelly	jkelly@wwtr.com
Suzanne S. Waxman	sswnola@earthlink.net

If you have an e-mail address but have not been receiving occasional SFBAJGS messages, or your e-mail address has changed, send a message to dLkurtz@ix.netcom.com so we can keep you up to date.

**In Memoriam**

We are saddened to note the passing of SFBAJGS member Ingeborg Cambell in November 1999. A long-time member of the SFBAJGS, Ingeborg was researching her Warhaftig family from Brest-Litvosk, Belarus, and Alpern family from Lodz, Poland. We extend our condolences to her family and friends.

**Welcome New Members**

Bert Berson	Palo Alto
bberson@mediacity.com	
Marla Deutsch	Campbell
foxtrot@follower.com	
Hillary Farkas	Cupertino
104334.705@compuserve.com	
Vicky Furstenberg Ferraresi	Belmont
vickyfer@earthlink.net	
Dale Friedman	Berkeley
drfriedman@juno.com	
Helen Ginsburg	San Mateo
Rochelle M. Goldman	Foster City
rmgmmg@gateway.net	
Stephen Harris	Berkeley
ccchs@healthed.net	
Ruth Parker	San Francisco
Susan Rosenthal	Santa Cruz
rosenths@jps.net	
Leslie Shipnuck	Berkeley
shipnuck@mccliersf.com	

**The Second Annual SFBAJGS Spring Workshop  
Sunday, April 16 – Los Altos Hills**

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society and Congregation Beth Am of Los Altos Hills are co-sponsoring the Second Annual Spring Genealogy Workshop. We hope the day will be enlightening, rewarding, and fun for all. (Note: there will not be a Monday night SFBAJGS meeting in Palo Alto in April.)

**Time:** 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills, very close to our regular meeting location at Congregation Kol Emeth.

**Cost:** Free to members of the SFBAJGS and of Congregation Beth Am. Guests – \$3.

**Program:**

12:30 p.m. Doors open, registration, and research. Translation facilities available 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

1 p.m. **Resources in the Bay Area** – SFBAJGS members will describe their personal experiences using the major resources for Jewish genealogy in our community. These include: LDS Family History Centers, National Archives branch in San Bruno, Stanford University, Hoover Institute, UC Berkeley, California State Libraries (Sutro and Sacramento), Santa Clara Public Library Genealogy Room, Jewish Community Library and the SFBAJGS library at the Masonic Institute, both in San Francisco.

2 p.m. **The Internet Resource** – SFBAJGS members will describe and illustrate (off-line) a set of successful Internet searches, discussing their objectives, approach, and results.

3 p.m. Parallel Sessions:

**Tracing Women Ancestors  
Northeast Europe**

**Southeast Europe  
Genealogy for New Immigrants** (presented in Russian)

A bibliography of publications and other Jewish genealogical resources, and their availability in the Bay Area, will be distributed at the Workshop. Questions? Call Jerry Delson at (650) 493-0404.

## CALENDAR, cont'd.

### More Genealogy Events

#### Local

Thu. March 9, **Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, What Goes on in the Coroner's Office? Speaker Captain Tom Moore, CCC Coroner.** 7:30 p.m. Community Room, Concord Police Station, 1350 Galindo Ave, Concord. Contact: Barbara Edkin, aedkin@aol.com.

Fri. March 10, **East Bay Genealogical Society, Taking Genealogy On a Trip, Speaker David Abrahams.** 10 a.m. Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. Contact: Barbara Parkin, President. Tel: (510) 482-2479; e-mail: dancerbe@earthlink.net.

Sat. April 15, **Sonoma County Genealogical Society, All-Day Seminar - Finding Family History: Records and Methods, Speaker Curt B. Witcher.** Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, Santa Rosa. Pre-registration \$18 (\$20 at the door). Contact: Lois Nimmo, Tel: (707) 537-1684; e-mail: Loism@aol.com.

Fri. - Sat. April 28-29, **California Genealogical Society, "Routes to Your Roots," the Annual Family History Fair.** Alameda County Fairgrounds. Fri. - Noon-8 p.m., Sat.- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Pre-registration \$20/one day, \$30/two days. Admission at the door \$25/one day, \$35/two days. Exhibits only - \$10 per day. Sessions for beginners and experienced researchers, vendor tables, workshops. Contact: CGS, 1611 Telegraph Ave., Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94612. Tel: (510) 663-1358; e-mail: library@calgensoc.com; Web site: www.calgensoc.com/.

#### Regional

Sun. February 27, **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento, Internet Research - A Hands-On Experience, Speaker Mark Heckman.** 10 a.m. Woodcreek High School, 2551 Woodcreek Oaks Blvd., Roseville. Tel: (916) 486-0906, ext. 361. www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/jgs-sacramento/.

#### National/International

Sun. March 12, **Beyond the Basics, A Full Day Genealogical Seminar.** Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, 1 West Fourth St., New York, NY. Hosted by the Jewish Genealogical Society, NY. P.O. Box 6398, New York, NY 10128. Tel: (212) 330-8257.

Sun. - Thu. July 9-14, **Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.** Salt Lake City. Web site: <http://iajgs.org/slcy2k>. (See page 11)

## Are Your SFBAJGS Dues Overdue?

Have you paid your dues? Membership dues for 2000 were payable on January 31, 2000. If you have not yet sent in your renewal, please do so as soon as possible.

A yellow stripe across the mailing label of this issue means we have not yet received your payment. The May issue of *ZichronNote* will be sent only to members in good standing.

Please send your check for \$20, made payable to "SFBAJGS," to:

Sita Likuski, Membership Chair  
SFBAJGS  
4430 School Way  
Castro Valley, CA 94546-1331

## Correction

In the November 1999 issue of *ZichronNote*, Jeremy Frankel wrote about making a Koenigsberg family connection. Key to his success was finding fellow Koenigsberg researcher Doreen Berger. An astute *ZichronNote* reader e-mailed the following correction:

I am reading your latest issue with great interest as usual. In reading Jeremy Frankel's Success Story, I found an error that I think Doreen Berger would appreciate your correcting. Her book *The Jewish Victorian* contains information gleaned during the late nineteenth century, i.e., "Victorian Era." Jeremy's article says it's from "1771-1781" which would be the eighteenth century.

Best regards,  
Jackye Sullins, President  
San Diego JGS

## Family Finder

Searching cousin Sarah **RUBIN** nee **RACHLIN** born in *Timkovich, Russia (Lithuania)* 1896; parents David and Zuchu Hankin Rachlin; family name changed to **Rich** in U.S. Siblings Rabbi Jacob Rich, Chicago; Sylvia **MONNESON**, N.J.; Abraham Rich, NY. Lived in Oakland, CA beginning 1920s; had 2 sons including Julius, a doctor. Please reply to Sheri Meisel, 4412 Underwood St., University Park, MD 20782, or send e-mail to: [sm106@umail.umd.edu](mailto:sm106@umail.umd.edu).

## My Search for San Francisco Naturalization Records

by Arlene Swartzberg Weiss

Arlene contributed an informative article "How to Obtain a Veterans Administration Claim Number" to the May/August issue of *ZichronNote*. We are pleased that she has offered to share her experience with Bay Area resources, and delighted that her search has a happy result. A resident of Chicago, Arlene can be contacted at [balbec@worldnet.att.net](mailto:balbec@worldnet.att.net).

My father, Benjamin **SWARTZBERG**, arrived in America at the age of 15 from the shtetl of Panemunok, now Panemunelis, located today in Lithuania. I have not been able to locate his name on passenger arrival indexes. I therefore began a search for his naturalization records, hoping that they would reveal the date and place of his arrival to this country. I had always known that he became a United States citizen through his service in the U.S. Army. I assumed that his naturalization took place in Brockton, Massachusetts where he settled after his Army service in 1920. Having read that naturalization information is to be found on voter registration cards, I ordered a copy of my father's voter's registration card from the Brockton Board of Elections. In about one week I received a copy of a voter's card dated October 13, 1920. On the card was the following: "Naturalized in the District Court of San Francisco on April 24, 1920." This meant that my father had been naturalized immediately following his discharge from the U.S. Army, which took place in San Francisco. No petition number was provided on my father's voter's card, but I was happy to learn the place and date of the naturalization.

Since he was naturalized through Army service, I assumed that the naturalization took place in a federal court. I first e-mailed a request to the National Archives branch in San Bruno, California for a search of their naturalization indexes. The response from the Archives was that my father's name did not appear on the index of naturalizations for the U.S. District Court, California Northern District (National Archives microfilm #M1744). This was quite disappointing! I decided to look into the matter further. This index is available through the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library (film #1852274 ff). I looked on the FHL online catalog and discovered that the roll in which my father's name should appear, **SWARTZBERG**, states the following:

Stok, J.F. - Taga, C.B. 1860-1989 (Stok, - Szym/cards missing from Index File, i.e. intermittent cards from this series are missing as noted by missing cards target).

Does this mean that the index card containing my father's name may be "missing"? Or were "military naturalization" records indexed separately? I called the San Bruno Archives. I was informed that a "declaration of intent" was not required of those naturalized through military service, but that all of the naturalization petitions were indexed together

including those that were granted to U.S. soldiers. I was told that if I came in person I could search the petitions themselves in the hopes that I might locate the records. As I live in Chicago, this seemed impractical. However, the Archives felt that the records probably existed at the "county level."

From the book *Guide to Naturalization Records* by Christina Schaefer (1997), I discovered that the following San Francisco *County* Records, microfilmed by the Mormons, exist in the City Archives of the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL):

Restoration of naturalization record, judgement book: aliens, ca.1870-1942; and index film #1405752 ff.

I proceeded to call the San Francisco Public Library History Center (415-557-4567) for more information on these records. I was informed that these records are not the *complete* San Francisco County naturalization records. The SFPL records were those that were damaged by the 1906 earthquake and restored upon request for proof that the naturalization occurred. Therefore my father's 1920 records would not be among these records. The SFPL suggested I request a search of the complete county records from the San Francisco Superior Court located at 400 McAllister Street, Room 103 (415-551-3808). A written request to the San Francisco Superior Court produced yet another negative response: "Benny Swartzberg is not in our records."

The Superior Court suggested I try contacting the Office of the Clerk of the U.S. District Court, California Northern District, located at 450 Golden Gate Avenue (415-522-2000). A call to this court revealed that their naturalization index is the same one (M1744), which was searched to no avail by the National Archives. The frustration was becoming extreme. This was a true wild goose chase!

At this point I went back to Schaefer's book on naturalization records and noticed that the following microfilm was available from the National Archives as well as from the LDS Family History Library:

Index to Declarations of Intention and Petitions, 1906-1928 in the U.S. Circuit & District courts, Northern, & Southern districts of California (National Archives film #T1220, Mormon film #0940177 ff).

Here was another index of federal naturalizations that took place in San Francisco, but these were

*Continued on page 16*

## SFBAJGS Elects Officers for 2000 - 2002

The newly elected officers for the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society are:

*President:*        **Rodger Rosenberg**                      *Corresponding Secretary:*    **Carol Feiner**  
*Vice President:*   **Rosanne Leeson**                      *Recording Secretary:*        **Jim Koenig (write-in)**  
*Treasurer:*        **Marc Seidenfeld**

In accordance with the Society bylaws, they will be joined on the Board of Directors by the following members who are committee chairs or have been voted at large members by the Board:

*Membership:*     **Sita Likuski**                                      *ZichronNote Editor:*        **Dana Kurtz**  
*Librarian:*        **Judy Baston**                                      *At Large:*                        **Gordon Fine**  
*Publicity:*        **Jerry Jacobson**

Many thanks to our membership for participating in this election and supporting your Society. If you would like to know more about the activities of the Board or any of the committees, please contact anyone listed above. Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on the masthead of this issue.

## SFBAJGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest members are listed below. This database is maintained for our membership. If you have a correction or update you would like us to know about, contact: SFBAJGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147, or send e-mail to: dLkurtz@ix.netcom.com.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
Aryudes	Bobruysk, Belarus	Goldman, Rochelle
Bronfenbrenner	Odessa, Herkuleyev, Ukraine	Berson, Bert
Chelemsky	Ukraine	Rosenthal, Susan
Dunde (Donde)	Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine; Israel	Goldman, Rochelle
Eisenberg	Brookline, MA	Rosenthal, Susan
Friedland	Riga, Latvia	Goldman, Rochelle
Frystadt	Berlin, Germany; Shanghai, China	Ferraresi, Vicky F.
Furstenberg	Gdansk, Poland; Berlin, Germany; Shanghai, China	Ferraresi, Vicky F.
Gassberg	Odessa, Herkuleyev, Ukraine	Berson, Bert
Goldman	Russia	Rosenthal, Susan
Heyman	Israel; Switzerland; Shanghai, China	Ferraresi, Vicky F.
Kakhan (Kagan)	Kharkov, Ukraine	Goldman, Rochelle
Levine	Russia	Berson, Bert
Prochownik	Bydgoszcz, Poland; Berlin, Germany; Shanghai, China	Ferraresi, Vicky F.
Quiatowsky	Berlin, Germany; Shanghai, China	Ferraresi, Vicky F.
Radavilsky	Palestine/Israel	Goldman, Rochelle
Rauch	Berlin, Germany; Shanghai, China	Ferraresi, Vicky F.
Ravinovitch	Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine	Goldman, Rochelle
Rogachevsky	Russia	Berson, Bert
Rosenthal	Brookline, MA	Rosenthal, Susan
Shinder	Kremenchug, Kharkov, Ukraine	Goldman, Rochelle
Shmase	Ukraine; Brookline, MA	Rosenthal, Susan
Silver	Chicago, IL	Ferraresi, Vicky F.
Silverstein	Gdansk, Poland; Berlin, Germany; Shanghai, China	Ferraresi, Vicky F.
Yawnick, Yavnick, Yavnik	Odessa, Herkuleyev, Ukraine	Berson, Bert
Zagory (Zagoryeh)	Lithuania; Courland, Latvia	Goldman, Rochelle

## **“First in the Path of the Firemen” The Fate of the 1890 Population Census**

by Kellee Blake

This article originally appeared in *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration*, Spring 1996, Vol. 28, No. 1. It can also be found at the NARA Web site, [www.nara.gov/publications/prologue/1890cen1.html](http://www.nara.gov/publications/prologue/1890cen1.html). It is reprinted here with permission.

Of the decennial population census schedules, perhaps none might have been more critical to studies of immigration, industrialization, westward migration, and characteristics of the general population than the Eleventh Census of the United States, taken in June 1890. United States residents completed millions of detailed questionnaires, yet only a fragment of the general population schedules and an incomplete set of special schedules enumerating Union veterans and widows are available today. Reference sources routinely dismiss the 1890 census records as “destroyed by fire” in 1921. Examination of the records of the Bureau of Census and other federal agencies, however, reveals a far more complex tale. This is a genuine tragedy of records—played out before Congress fully established a National Archives—and eternally anguishing to researchers.

As there was not a permanent Census Bureau until 1902, the Department of the Interior administered the Eleventh Census. Political patronage was “the most common order for appointment” of the nearly 47,000 enumerators; no examination was required. British journalist Robert Porter initially supervised the staff for the Eleventh Census, and statistician Carroll Wright later replaced him.<sup>1</sup> This was the first U.S. census to use Herman Hollerith’s electrical tabulation system, a method by which data representing certain population characteristics were punched into cards and tabulated. The censuses of 1790 through 1880 required all or part of schedules to be filed in county clerks’ offices. Ironically, this was not required in 1890, and the original (and presumably only) copies of the schedules were forwarded to Washington.<sup>2</sup>

June 1, 1890, was the official census date, and all responses were to reflect the status of the household on that date. The 1890 census law allowed enumerators to distribute schedules in advance and later gather them up (as was done in England), supposedly giving individuals adequate time to accurately provide information. Evidently this method was very little used. As in other censuses, if an individual was absent, the enumerator was authorized to obtain information from the person living nearest the family.<sup>3</sup>

The 1890 census schedules differed from previous ones in several ways. For the first time, enumerators

prepared a separate schedule for each family. The schedule contained expanded inquiries relating to race (white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian), home ownership, ability to speak English, immigration and naturalization. Enumerators asked married women for the number of children born and the number living at the time of the census to determine fecundity. The 1890 schedules also included a question relating to Civil War service.<sup>4</sup>

Enumerators generally completed their counting by July 1 of 1890, and the U.S. population was returned at nearly 63 million (62,979,766). Complaints about accuracy and undercounting poured into the census office, as did demands for recounts. The 1890 census seemed mired in fraud and political intrigue. New York State officials were accused of bolstering census numbers, and the intense business competition between Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, resulted in no fewer than 19 indictments against Minneapolis businessmen for allegedly adding more than 1,100 phony names to the census. Perhaps not surprisingly, the St. Paul businessmen brought the federal court complaint against the Minneapolis businessmen.<sup>5</sup>

In March 1896, before final publication of all general statistics volumes, the original 1890 special schedules for mortality, crime, pauperism and benevolence, special classes (e.g., deaf, dumb, blind, insane), and portions of the transportation and insurance schedules were badly damaged by fire and destroyed by Department of the Interior order.<sup>6</sup> No damage to the general population schedules was reported at that time. In fact, a 1903 census clerk found them to be in “fairly good condition.”<sup>7</sup> Despite repeated ongoing requests by the secretary of commerce and others for an archives building where all census schedules could be safely stored, by January 10, 1921, the schedules could be found piled in an orderly manner on closely placed pine shelves in an unlocked file room in the basement of the Commerce Building.

At about five o’clock on that afternoon, building fireman James Foster noticed smoke coming through openings around pipes that ran from the boiler room into the file room. Foster saw no fire but immediately reported the smoke to the desk watchman, who called the fire department.<sup>8</sup> Minutes later, on the fifth floor,

*Continued on page 8*

**1890 Census, cont'd. from page 7**

a watchman noticed smoke in the men's bathroom, took the elevator to the basement, was forced back by the dense smoke, and went to the watchman's desk. By then, the fire department had arrived, the house alarm was pulled (reportedly at 5:30), and a dozen employees still working on upper floors evacuated. A total of three alarms and a general local call were turned in.<sup>9</sup>

After some setbacks from the intense smoke, firemen gained access to the basement. While a crowd of ten thousand watched, they poured twenty streams of water into the building and flooded the cellar through holes cut into the concrete floor. The fire did not go above the basement, seemingly thanks to a fireproofed floor. By 9:45 p.m. the fire was extinguished, but firemen poured water into the burned area past 10:30 p.m. Disaster planning and recovery were almost unknown in 1921. With the blaze extinguished, despite the obvious damage and need for immediate salvage efforts, the chief clerk opened windows to let out the smoke, and except for watchmen on patrol, everyone went home.<sup>10</sup>

The morning after was an archivist's nightmare, with ankle-deep water covering records in many areas. Although the basement vault was considered fireproof and watertight, water seeped through a broken wired-glass panel in the door and under the floor, damaging some earlier and later census schedules on the lower tiers. The 1890 census, however, was stacked outside the vault and was, according to one source, "first in the path of the firemen."<sup>11</sup> That morning, Census Director Sam Rogers reported the extensive damage to the 1890 schedules, estimating 25 percent destroyed, with 50 percent of the remainder damaged by water, smoke, and fire.<sup>12</sup> Salvage of the water soaked and charred documents might be possible, reported the bureau, but saving even a small part would take a month, and it would take two to three years to copy off and save all the records damaged in the fire. The preliminary assessment of Census Bureau Clerk T. J. Fitzgerald was far more sobering. Fitzgerald told reporters that the priceless 1890 records were "certain to be absolutely ruined. There is no method of restoring the legibility of a water-soaked volume."<sup>13</sup>

Four days later, Sam Rogers complained they had not and would not be permitted any further work on the schedules until the insurance companies

completed their examination. Rogers issued a state-by-state report of the number of volumes damaged by water in the basement vault, including volumes from the 1830, 1840, 1880, 1900, and 1910 censuses. The total number of damaged vault volumes numbered 8,919, of which 7,957 were from the 1910 census. Rogers estimated that 10 percent of these vault schedules would have to be "opened and dried, and some of them recopied." Thankfully, the census schedules of 1790-1820 and 1850-1870 were on the fifth floor of the Commerce Building and reportedly not damaged. The new 1920 census was housed in a temporary building at Sixth and B Streets, SW, except for some of the nonpopulation schedules being used on the fourth floor.<sup>14</sup>

Speculation and rumors about the cause

of the blaze ran rampant. Some newspapers claimed, and many suspected, it was caused by a cigarette or a lighted match. Employees were keenly questioned about their smoking habits. Others believed the fire started among shavings in the carpenter shop or was the result of spontaneous combustion. At least one woman from Ohio felt certain the fire was part of a conspiracy to defraud her family of their rightful estate by destroying every vestige of evidence proving heirship.<sup>15</sup> Most seemed to agree that the fire could not have been burning long and had made quick and intense headway; shavings and debris in the carpenter shop, wooden shelving, and the paper records would have made for a fierce blaze. After all, a watchman and engineers had been in the basement as late as 4:35 and not detected any smoke.<sup>16</sup> Others, however, believed the fire had been burning for hours, considering its stubbornness. Although, once the firemen were finished, it was difficult to tell if one spot in the files had burned longer than any other, the fire's point of origin was determined to have been in the northeastern portion of the file room (also known as the storage room) under the stock and mailroom.<sup>17</sup> Despite every investigative effort, Chief Census Clerk E.M. Libbey reported, no conclusion as to the cause was reached. He pointed to the strict rules against smoking, intactness of electrical wires, and noted that no rats had been found in the building for two months. He further reasoned that spontaneous combustion in bales of waste paper was unlikely, as they were burned on the outside and not totally

## Census Data of 120 Years Ruined by Fire and Water

### Irreplaceable Records Stored in Basement of Commerce Building Destroyed—Two Firemen Overcome by Fumes.

*The Washington Herald and other newspapers reported the events of January 10, 1921, and decried the loss of valuable records.*

*Continued on page 9*

*1890 Census cont'd. from page 8*

consumed.<sup>18</sup> In the end, even experts from the Bureau of Standards brought in to investigate the blaze could not determine the cause.<sup>19</sup>

The disaster spurred renewed cries and support for a National Archives, notably from congressmen, census officials, and longtime archives advocate J. Franklin Jameson.<sup>20</sup> It also gave rise to proposals for better records protection in current storage spaces. Utah's Senator Reed Smoot, convinced a cigarette caused the fire, prepared a bill disallowing smoking in some government buildings. The Washington Post expressed outrage that the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were in danger even at the moment, being stored at the Department of State in wooden cabinets.<sup>21</sup>

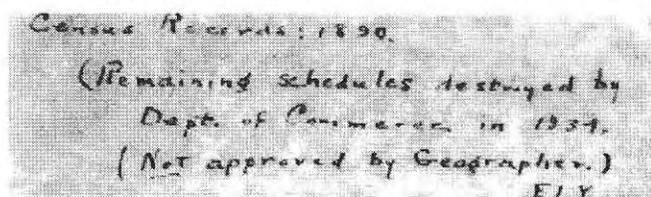
Meanwhile, the still soggy, "charred about the edges" original and only copies of the 1890 schedules remained in ruins. At the end of January, the records damaged in the fire were moved for temporary storage. Over the next few months, rumors spread that salvage attempts would not be made and that Census Director Sam Rogers had recommended that Congress authorize destruction of the 1890 census. Prominent historians, attorneys, and genealogical organizations wrote to new Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, the Librarian of Congress, and other government officials in protest. The National Genealogical Society (NGS) and Daughters of the American Revolution formally petitioned Hoover and Congress, and the editor of the NGS Quarterly warned that a nationwide movement would begin among state societies and the press if Congress seriously considered destruction.<sup>22</sup> The content of replies to the groups was invariably the same; denial of any planned destruction and calls for Congress to provide for an archives building. Herbert Hoover wrote "the actual cost of providing a watchman and extra fire service [to protect records] probably amounts to more, if we take the government as a whole, than it would cost to put up a proper fire-proof archive building."<sup>23</sup>

Still no appropriation for an archives was forthcoming. By May of 1921 the records were still piled in a large warehouse where, complained new Census Director William Steuart, they could not be consulted and would probably gradually deteriorate. Steuart arranged for their transfer back to the census building, to be bound where possible, but at least put in some order for reference.<sup>24</sup>

The extant record is scanty on storage and possible use of the 1890 schedules between 1922 and 1932, and seemingly silent on what precipitated the following chain of events. In December 1932, in accordance with federal records procedures at the

time, the Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Census sent the Librarian of Congress a list of papers no longer necessary for current business and scheduled for destruction. He asked the Librarian to report back to him any documents that should be retained for their historical interest. Item 22 on the list for Bureau of the Census read "Schedules, Population ... 1890, Original." The Librarian identified no records as permanent, the list was sent forward, and Congress authorized destruction on February 21, 1933. At least one report states the 1890 census papers were finally destroyed in 1935, and a small scribbled note found in a Census Bureau file states "remaining schedules destroyed by Department of Commerce in 1934 (not approved by the Geographer)."<sup>25</sup> Further study is necessary to determine, if possible, what happened to the fervent and vigilant voices that championed these schedules in 1921. How were these records overlooked by Library of Congress staff? Who in the Census Bureau determined the schedules were useless, why, and when? Ironically, just one day before Congress authorized destruction of the 1890 census papers, President Herbert Hoover laid the cornerstone for the National Archives Building.

In 1942, the National Archives accessioned a damaged bundle of surviving Illinois schedules as part of a shipment of records found during a Census



*Even after the outcry in 1921, thirteen years later the Census Bureau destroyed the remaining 1890 schedules.*

Bureau move. At the time, they were believed to be the only surviving fragments.<sup>26</sup> In 1953, however, the Archives accessioned an additional set of fragments. These sets of extant fragments are from Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and the District of Columbia and have been microfilmed as National Archives Microfilm Publication M407 (3 rolls). A corresponding index is available as National Archives Microfilm Publication M496 (2 rolls). Both microfilm series can be viewed at the National Archives, the regional archives, and several other repositories. Before disregarding this census, researchers should always verify that the schedules they seek did not survive. There are no fewer than 6,160 names indexed on the surviving 1890 population schedules. These are someone's ancestors.

***To be continued in the next issue of ZichronNote***

*See footnotes on page 19*

## NATIONAL RESOURCES

### Helpful Naturalization Information

Shoshana Arnold, *JewishGen*

The following information may prove very helpful when trying to determine what naturalization documents may be available for your relative.

- 1790 – Citizenship required a two-year residency in the U.S. and filing must be performed in a court of record.
- 1795 – Three-year residency requirement for filing of a declaration of intent was added as well as a five-year residency to file final papers. This law also provided citizenship to wives and minor children.
- 1804 – Widow and children of an alien who died before filing final papers were granted citizenship.
- 1855 – An alien female who married a U.S. citizen was automatically granted citizenship (this was repealed in 1922). Naturalization papers were not filed for a spouse with derivative citizenship.
- 1862 – Aliens over 21 years of age who were in the military could become citizens after one year of residence.
- 1891 – Office of Immigration was established. Polygamists and those convicted of certain crimes or who carried certain diseases were excluded from citizenship.
- 1906 – Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization was established. Alien registration was required. Residency requirements were changed to two years prior to filing declaration of intent and

five years for final papers. Wives and minor children were still naturalized under the 1855 law.

- 1907 – A female citizen who married an alien lost her citizenship and took the nationality of her husband. This was repealed in 1922 but citizenship was not restored until 1936.
- 1918 – Aliens serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War I could be naturalized without any residency requirements (although they still had to go to a court to become a citizen).
- 1921 – The first immigration act to establish quotas of immigrants based on national origin was enacted.
- 1922 – Women 21 years of age and over were entitled to citizenship. Women could no longer claim derivative citizenship when their husbands were naturalized.
- 1940 – Alien Registration Act required registration and fingerprinting at a local post office within 30 days of arrival.
- 1952 – Immigration and Nationality Act Amendment abandoned the national origins system of setting quotas on ethnic groups.

Here's an example of how this information can be put to good use: My husband's great-grandfather, Bernard Hugo Arnold, filed a declaration of intent in April 1892, and final papers in April 1895. What we don't know is when he entered the U.S., although we believe he came to New York. According to the 1795 law, he had to be in the U.S. for three years prior to filing his declaration of intent. So, he must have immigrated prior to April 1889. This information helps to narrow down my search.

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### Before Looking to the New Millennium, Be Sure to Check the Past

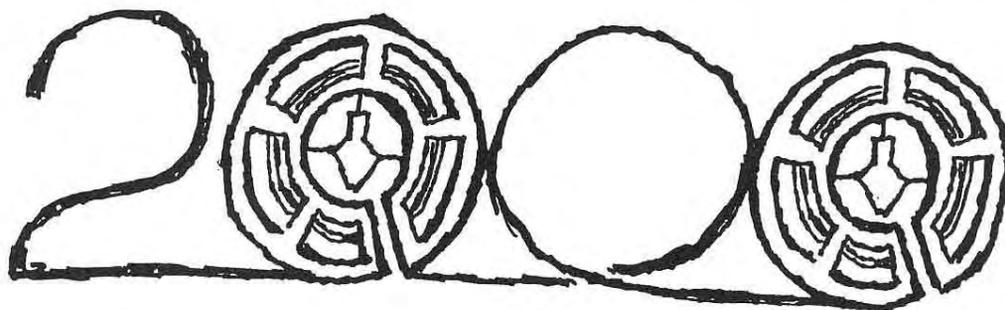
by Rodger Rosenberg

A recent discovery has taught me a very important lesson. Several months ago, I was chatting with our Society Librarian, Judy Baston, about our families and possible connections. In comparing notes, she asked if I had checked the JRI-Poland database on JewishGen for records of my great-grandparents. I admitted I had not. For those of you unfamiliar with this valuable database, JRI-Poland is the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland project. This growing, searchable database provides transliterations of indices to 19<sup>th</sup> century Jewish vital records from current and former territories of Poland. Judy offered to check JRI-Poland as well as a few other sources. One day later she sent me an e-mail describing data from JRI-Poland, which included a reference to my

great-grandparents' 1867 marriage license. I was aghast! This 'treasure' had been just sitting there waiting for me! I submitted a request for a copy of the record and after two months, it arrived. The record also provided the names and birthplaces of their parents, my great-great-grandparents!

The lesson of this story is to check, then periodically re-check everything! How many of us regularly check JewishGen for the new databases available? Or even to go back and review the places in our research where we have 'hit a brick wall'? A good lesson to learn from my experience, is to take any new information you get and check it against every possible source you can find. And if you don't find anything, go back to it several months later and check again.

SLCY2K • SLCY2K



**Where can you be among hundreds of Jewish genealogists and have access to:**

- More than 80 genealogy lectures
- Birds of a feather meetings
- Special interest group meetings
- Luncheons with fellow genealogists
- Breakfast with experts
- Networking with hundreds of genealogists

**Where can you have access to:**

- 2,000,000 microfilm reels
- 700,000 microfiche
- 280,000 books
- Census records
- Vital records
- Passenger lists
- and much, much more

**Answer:**

The 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, hosted by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies is to be held July 9–14, 2000, in Salt Lake City, Utah, home of the Family History Library.

**Program**

Several key persons at the LDS (Mormon) Family History Department will speak to the group. **David E. Rencher, Director of Library Services**, will give the keynote speech at the opening session of the conference on Sunday night. As the new head of the Family History Library and overseer of all the Family History Centers throughout the world, he will give us insight into what innovations we can expect from the library system in the new millennium. **Wayne Metcalf, Director of Acquisition and Field Service Division**, will give a lecture surveying the current state of Jewish record acquisition and also describe the process of deciding how, where, and what to microfilm. Other staff members of the Family History Library will present lectures on their specialties.

Although individual speakers are still in the selection process, the basic structure of the conference has been determined. Sunday daytime will be devoted to registration and meetings of Special

Interest Groups. There will be a four-hour Beginners Workshop Sunday afternoon. A wine and cheese party at 5:00 p.m. will be the prelude to the Opening Session that starts at 7:30.

The Monday through Thursday template provides for three concurrent one-hour lectures during the day. Midday, there will be a break for luncheons sponsored by interest groups. It will be a perfect time to get together with people in a relaxed environment to share your successes and discuss your brick walls. The luncheons also will feature a speaker talking on some light topic of interest to genealogists.

The evening will focus on lectures by noted members of the genealogical community. We all will want to hear from Wayne Metcalf of the Family History Department about the Library's plans for acquisitions in the near future. It is likely such a session will be the only lecture in one of the evening time slots.

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### Typical Daily Schedule (Monday-Thursday)

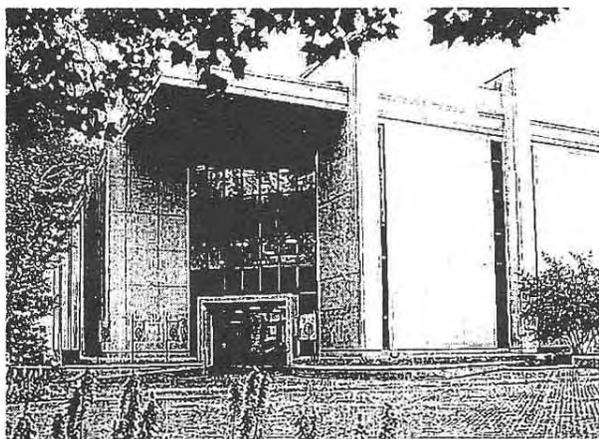
(Thursday evening will be the banquet)

7:15-8:15 a.m.	Breakfast with the Experts
8:30-9:30 a.m.	Three concurrent lectures
9:45-10:45 a.m.	Three concurrent lectures
11:00-12:00 a.m.	Three concurrent lectures
12:15-1:45 p.m.	Two concurrent luncheons
2:00-3:00 p.m.	Three concurrent lectures
3:15-4:15 p.m.	Three concurrent lectures
4:30-5:30 p.m.	Three concurrent lectures
7:30-8:30 p.m.	One or two concurrent lectures
9:00-10:00 p.m.	One or two concurrent lectures

Friday morning (9:00-12:00) wrap-up session and focus on the future

### About the Family History Library

Salt Lake City is the home to the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library (FHL), a five-story building devoted to genealogical research. Here you have access to more than 2 million reels of microfilm, 700,000 microfiche and 280,000 books. You might say, "Why go to Salt Lake City when I can just stay home and go to my local Family History Center?" Answer: Everything is right there at your finger tips. You can accomplish more in four days at the FHL in Salt Lake City than you can in four years at your local FHC. Additionally, you can access collections in SLC that cannot be obtained in your city of residence. This is especially true of countries outside of North America. Special arrangements are being made in order for us to have maximum access to the Jewish records.



The Family History Library is an "open stacks" library where the vast majority of films of interest to you are located in file drawers on each floor. You just remove the film from the drawer, take it to your microfilm reader, locate the items of interest, take the microfilm to a film copier, make a copy of the record(s), and then return the film to the drawer where you found it.

Hundreds of microfilm readers on three of the floors provide a comfortable working environment including:

- subdued lighting for better viewing
- a lit work space next to each reader for your papers
- an outlet to plug in your laptop computer

Each floor has a Help Desk manned by professionals and trained volunteers to help you with your problems. On the European floor, the personnel can help you translate documents in German, Polish, Russian and other European languages.

Copying equipment is located on each floor to copy microfilm, microfiche and paper documents. Film/fiche copies are 20 cents each; paper copies are five cents each. Change machines in the copying rooms make it unnecessary to bring rolls of coins with you.

#### Library Hours

Tuesday-Saturday: 7:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.  
Monday: 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Closed Sunday.

### Hotel Accommodations & Travel

See accompanying registration form.

SLCY2K • SLCY2K

**20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy  
9-14 July 2000 • DoubleTree Hotel • Salt Lake City, Utah**

**Conference Registration Form**

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Companion:

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Web Page URL \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration**

**REGISTER ONLINE AND SAVE! EARLY REGISTRATION VIA INTERNET: <http://iajgs.org/slcy2k> \$135**  
Charge your registration using MasterCard or Visa. We will not charge your account until late April.

**EARLY REGISTRATION (Must be postmarked by April 30, 2000) \$140 \_\_\_\_\_**  
Register before April 30 to receive a copy of the 40-page *Making the Most of Your Research Trip to Salt Lake City* in late May. Late registrants will receive it at the conference.

**EARLY REGISTRATION FOR SPOUSE/COMPANION (no printed materials provided) \$65 \_\_\_\_\_**

**LATE REGISTRATION (After April 30, 2000) \$165 \_\_\_\_\_**

**LATE REGISTRATION FOR SPOUSE/COMPANION (no printed materials) \$90 \_\_\_\_\_**

**DAILY ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION (no printed materials included)**  
[ ] Sun [ ] Mon [ ] Tues [ ] Wed [ ] Thur @ \$60 per day \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL SYLLABUS ORDER \_\_\_\_\_ number of copies @ \$25 each \_\_\_\_\_**

**Special Events**

**LUNCHEONS (number of reservations):**

Monday: \_\_\_\_\_ German SIG \_\_\_\_\_ JewishGen @ \$19 each \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday: \_\_\_\_\_ Latvia SIG \_\_\_\_\_ Galicia SIG

Wednesday: \_\_\_\_\_ Belarus SIG \_\_\_\_\_ Avotaynu

Select meal: \_\_\_\_\_ Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian

**BANQUET • Thursday evening, July 13, 2000 \_\_\_\_\_ number of tickets @ \$35 each \_\_\_\_\_**

Select meal: \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ Kosher

**TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**

## Conference Registration Form – Page 2

Print your name as you wish it to appear on your name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Print up to 4 ancestral surnames and towns that you are researching. These names will appear in the conference Family Finder. Be sure to use the modern spelling as listed in *Where Once We Walked*.

Surname	Town and Country
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Print spouse/companion's name as it should appear on his/her name tag

Surname	Town and Country
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

How many years have you been researching your family history? \_\_\_\_\_

How many previous annual conferences on Jewish genealogy have you attended? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a disability that requires an accommodation? If so, please describe?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know your needs by June 1, 2000

### ***Do you need a roommate?***

For assistance in finding a roommate, fill in the appropriate information below.

Male OR  Female

Smoking OR  Non-smoking

Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Departure \_\_\_\_\_

### **RETURN YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

#### ***Mail registration form and payment to:***

International Conference on Jewish Genealogy  
P.O. Box 99; Bergenfield, NJ 07621

#### ***If you have any questions:***

Call 201-387-2892, fax 201-387-2855,  
e-mail seminar@iajgs.org

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:** Persons in the U.S. should pay by check or money order payable to "IAJGS, Inc." Others may pay by check on a U.S. bank or by Visa or MasterCard (include account number and expiration date).

**REFUND POLICY:** A full refund will be made upon written request postmarked by June 15

Between June 15–July 9 a refund will be made less a \$30 administrative charge

Thereafter there are no refunds

**Hotel Reservation Information:** To receive our group reservation rate, call the DoubleTree Hotel reservation system at 1-800-222-TREE and indicate you are attending the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The conference rate is \$125 per night single/double or \$140 triple. Rate for Friday and Saturday nights is \$79. You must make your reservation by June 15, 2000 to get this rate. Make your reservation early to assure the room block is not sold out.

**Travel Arrangements:** Special discounts for air travel, both domestic and international, are available through American, Delta and Continental airlines. For quotes and reservations, e-mail Evan Stolbach at <estolb7395@aol.com> or call Oakland Travel at 800-462-4105 and ask for the IAJGS Salt Lake City conference discount.

## Changing My Approach

by Lauren B. Eisenberg Davis

Lauren Davis has been the Research Coordinator for the Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group and was a Research Project Coordinator for the 15<sup>th</sup> Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Boston, in 1996, where she presented a program on Alternate Surnames in Russian Poland. Her articles have been published in *Avotaynu* and the *Kielce-Radom SIG Journal*.

Lauren has also published *Autumn Leaves*, a 400-page, unique family history book comprised of a genealogy journal, a family history and tree, and appendices which include discussion of immigration, name changes, a pronunciation guide, town locations and points of reference. For more information, contact Lauren Davis at P.O. Box 784, Reisterstown, MD 21136.

Over the course of time, I learned that a standard method of genealogy research was insufficient to produce a comprehensive picture. Searching index lists of vital event registrations (birth, marriage, and death), and then examining those records, was simply not good enough. Too many important pieces of the puzzle were slipping through the cracks.

The index, if one exists, may be incomplete or not alphabetized. Worse, it is often not an accurate reflection of the simple facts transcribed from the records. The very name of the person whose event is the subject of the registration may be misidentified on the index due to a clerical error made more than one hundred years ago. An index is simply not a primary source document.

Additionally, the spelling of names varied greatly from record to record, or even within a single document, and I also discovered that families did not always maintain the same surname, causing great difficulty in identifying which index entries represented the people whom I was seeking.

Under the tutelage of Warren Blatt, (co-author of *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy*), I'd learned the importance of extracting basic facts from every record for a town in order to study the pre-surname period (1810 to 1820, and often beyond). In May 1995, after Warren pointed me toward Chęciny, Poland to find my **MANELA** ancestors (whom I'd erroneously believed had come from Radom), he sent me his vital record extracts for Chęciny 1810-1819. He explained that it was very difficult to use the 1810-1825 microfilms, in which Jews were intermixed in the Roman Catholic civil register, and often had no surnames. His extract document had isolated the Jewish records, and assigned conjectural surnames to many of the families therein.

I was amazed at the work he had done. I wanted the remainder of the Chęciny pre-1826 Jewish records extracted from the Roman Catholic microfilms as well, to aid in my research. Understand that in my mind, at that time, this meant that I wanted Warren to complete the project he had started. Unfortunately, Warren was completely immersed in his work as chairman of the 1996 Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, and additionally, Chęciny was no longer

at the top of his personal research priority list. He had every intention of returning to complete the project ... eventually. However, "eventually" was not good enough for my needs. I was writing a family history book, and needed the 1820-1825 data for my own family research. I came to a frightening realization. I had no choice but to attempt to extract the Jewish records from those years myself. I was, at the time, a six-month-old genealogy infant.

And so I embarked on this monumental adventure, which, I can honestly say, in retrospect, completely shaped my genealogy "career." It was a formidable task. Chęciny had a fairly large Jewish population. The handwriting of the Chęciny clerks was particularly horrible. Additionally, I did not have the luxury of determining my own extract style, or deciding to proceed slowly and only extract the very basic items from the records. I was completing an existing project, which had been started by a genealogist with very high standards and many years of experience behind him. I had to complete the project in the same detailed style that Warren had begun it.

Fortunately, I had Warren looking over my shoulder, correcting my errors, and offering advice as I struggled along. He constantly pushed me to my technical limits, and beyond. At one point, early on, he mentioned that he noticed that I had not extracted the town names for the 1824 and 1825 marriages (the only two years I had completed at that time). "Geography is not my strength," I told him, wondering if indeed I had any strength at all in this venture. "The towns are just so hard for me, too hard," I admitted. Warren patiently explained to me that the towns are one of the most crucial bits of information buried in the marriage registrations. They identify prior towns that our ancestors came from, origins of out-of-town brides and grooms. Insurmountable as it seemed, I added towns to my list of extract information for marriages, double checking my work with an Eastern Europe localities book, *Where Once We Walked*, to verify that I had indeed copied a name a legitimate location.

As time progressed, I made a startling discovery. This enormously frustrating project had become much easier. At the most exasperating moments early

*Continued on page 16*

**Changing My Approach**, *cont'd. from page 15*

in the extraction, my only wish was to be done. Warren had told me that he actually enjoyed extracting, a concept that I found to be ludicrous. And yet, the longer I struggled, the less I struggled. It was an adventure, a journey, and I learned to love it.

I became familiar with the residents of Chęciny, and could recognize their surnames, if they had any, and most of the nearby towns from which spouses were imported. When surnames were not present, I often recognized particular groupings of given names that identified specific families. I began to relax and enjoy the challenge and discovery of the project, and gained the confidence to personalize the work I'd done apart from Warren's portion of the extracts.

Once the extractions were complete\*, I performed a variety of analyses on the data: conjectural surnames for many families that had none, multiple surnames for a number of families, mortality study, occupation distribution, and correlation of birth and death records. I was able to see my ancestors not as isolated Jews, but as part of a larger community. I could find the origins of naming anomalies that would otherwise have prevented me from tracing certain branches of the family.

I made many exciting discoveries about my family, and about life in the Chęciny region. I began to realize that for many towns this was a necessary technique for a much wider range of years: the full scope of the LDS microfilms of the Jewish records for the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

I decided to apply this technique to the Krasnystaw records. My original research in Krasnystaw yielded a handful of ancestors for my tree. Once I studied the complete town, I realized that nearly 10 percent

\*The Chęciny vital record extractions are serialized in the *Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal*, a quarterly publication of Jewish genealogical research in the Kielce and Radom gubernias of the Kingdom of Poland, along with other towns from the region.

of all vital events registered in Krasnystaw were for my family! Many of the connections were difficult to discern. A lengthy analysis process slowly helped me to identify large undiscovered factions of my family.

I expanded my extractions to encompass Radom, Turobin and Izbica as well. In doing so, I was able to make meaningful observations about certain aspects of life in my ancestral towns. In addition to juvenile deaths and occupation distributions, I observed naming patterns, cousin marriages, and literacy rates. I could see how the trends and patterns differed from town to town.

It was an important jump for me. My research had taken on new dimensions, new proportions of importance. I not only knew who my ancestors were, but had gained a clearer picture of their way of life.

**SF Naturalization Records**, *cont'd. from page 5*

performed at the *circuit court* level. I had wasted enough money on phone calls and decided to spend \$3.50 and order this microfilm through my local Family History Center in Chicago.

The microfilm arrived and within two minutes I found my father's name: Benny Swartzberg, petition: Volume 8M, page 1737. So my hunch was correct – only one of the National Archives indexes for San Francisco federal naturalization records was searched upon my initial request to the San Bruno Archives. I called my old friends at the San Bruno Archives, supplied the information I had found, and after charging my credit card \$10, the record was put in the mail to me.

The record arrived and from it I finally learned that my father arrived in America on August 15, 1906. No ship name or port was provided, however it is safe to assume the he arrived in New York. My search is finally over!

Congratulations!

You have completed your genealogical research and writing!

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## Homesteads in California: Federal or State

by Nancy Morebeck

This article was previously published in *Diablo Descendants Newsletter*, Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, November 1999 and *SCGS Root Digger Quarterly*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1999.

For those lucky people doing California genealogical research, a new resource has hit the Web – the California Land Patents Database at [www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ca/ca-land.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ca/ca-land.htm). This site lists all Federal land claims indexed alphabetically by surname for each California county. It includes homesteads, cash sales, desert land acts, Indian patents, mining claims, and others. The database, derived from General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) information, contains deeds (primarily patents) issued by the United States in the State of California between 1856 and 1995. The National Archives keeps the files while the BLM maintains diagrammatic plats, known as master title plats, which are owned by the United States and lands which are now patented.

The Web site is a boon for those of us doing California research. Before this database was developed, the Federal records were obtained from the county recorders offices' deed books by sheer luck (if the recorder recorded it as a "patent" in the land record book) or through the BLM office in Sacramento. These homestead records should not be confused with California-registered as homesteads, which were not necessarily purchased from the Federal Government and were not Federal homesteads.

The California State Legislature passed its own Homestead Act in 1851, which was revised and approved in 1860. These homesteads were properties that were recorded to protect their owners from the loss of their property in the event of a lawsuit or claim against the owner. The land was already under the ownership of the property holder (through previous purchase from a private party or, in some instances, from the Federal Government). Many California counties have homestead registers that record land protected under the California State Legislature Homestead Act, not land purchased from the Federal Government.

Several Solano County genealogists using the California Federal Land Records site on the Web found that names on the Web site were not listed in the book of homesteads in the Solano County Archives in Fairfield. This was because the Web listed Federal homesteads while the Solano homestead volumes listed California State Homesteads. Be aware that in researching California land records at the

county level, there are two types of homesteads. Documents recorded in a book labeled "Homesteads" or "Abandonment of Homesteads" are not the same as Federal homesteads.

California homestead records under the state legislature acts of 1851 and 1860 are found at county recorders' offices throughout the state. The California State Archives in Sacramento also has some of the homesteads in their microfilm collection. The LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City has microfilmed many of the Homestead registers, which can be obtained through inter-library loan service to your local Family History Center.

The Federal land entry file numbers for California can be found at the Web site listed above, or through the Bureau of Land Management at:

California State Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
2135 Butano Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 978-4400

The genealogical records of the California homesteads are not as rich as those of the Federal homesteads. The California homesteads tell the date of filing for the homestead and county location of the land owner. It may also list his spouse's given name if married. In Federal homestead research, if one proceeds to the final step of requesting the land entry file from the National Archives and Records Administration (using NATF Form 84), the researcher is rewarded with a wealth of information that varies in each packet. The land entry files give the description of the house, barn, crops, orchards, fences, etc. that the entryman called his own. There may also be biographical information on the entryman such as marital status, number of children, if any, and possibly place of birth. There is also the possibility of finding a naturalization record included in the files if the ancestor was foreign-born. In order to obtain a Federal homestead, a non-citizen had to have filed a declaration of intent to become a citizen. The entry files also have affidavits by neighbors certifying that the claimant resided on the property. Sometimes these neighbors are relatives of the Federal homestead recipient. Honorably discharged veterans were granted residency credit based upon length of service

## LOCAL RESOURCES

### Three Local Resources “Discovered” by SFBAJGS Members

by Jerry Delson

It is possible to search for leads in Jewish genealogy at a variety of libraries, and that's what we did on three field trips in January.

#### Stanford University's Green Library

One of our group remarked, "I have lived in Palo Alto for 40 years, but this is the first time I stepped foot in Green Library." It is a huge library with an outstanding collection of Judaica. Our guide, Stanford's gifted Judaica Librarian and Curator, Zachary Baker, told of interesting material to be found on each floor and in both library wings.

The Judaica collection is catalogued by subject, locality, or event, which does not make for an easy search for a particular family. However, this is a superb general research library of particular interest because of its Judaica, the collection of maps and gazetteers, and microfilms of back issues of many newspapers that might be valuable for the genealogist. The library is open to the public, free for the first six visits each year. Our group, from the SFBAJGS and Congregation Beth Am, totaled 25 researchers. Although there is metered parking on campus, we chose to park at the edge of Stanford's campus and use their free shuttle bus. The shuttle runs frequently, and this worked out quite well.

#### Santa Clara City Library

A group of nine had an enjoyable lunch together before visiting an impressive collection of American and international genealogy – including immigration data – at the Genealogy Room of the Santa Clara City Library. Mary Hanel, Santa Clara librarian, arranged for three members of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, to tell us about the collection and guide us in our searches. It was a very friendly reception and although the resources are appropriate for general genealogy, they had specially printed a four-page list of their Jewish-oriented references for us. We received a list of their CD-ROM databases and other descriptive material, and tips on using the computer catalog, which we took the opportunity to search. For those living on the Peninsula, the Santa Clara Public Library is quite accessible. The library and Genealogy Room are open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

#### California State History Room

The third excursion was more adventurous. Eight of us drove about 150 miles to Sacramento, but it was

### Upcoming SFBAJGS Excursions: SFBAJGS Library, Sutro, the National Archives

Jerry Delson invites you to visit the SFBAJGS library, housed at the Institute for Masonic Studies, and Sutro Library, both in San Francisco, on Thursday, March 9. We will leave from Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills at 9:30 a.m. We'll be at the Masonic Institute to review our Society's collection from 10:30 a.m. to noon, then stop at Nordstrom's at Stonestown for lunch and continue to Sutro Library from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, March 29, we'll go to the National Archives at 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. We'll leave Congregation Beth Am at 1:15 p.m. We plan to stay at the Archives from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., take a supper break and return to the Archives from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you can only join us in the evening, be sure to arrive as early as possible, as Wednesday evenings at the Archives are crowded.

Questions? Call Jerry at (650) 493-0404 or send e-mail to [j.delson@ieee.org](mailto:j.delson@ieee.org) (note the "." after the "j").

well worth it. The genealogy library in the California State History Room, in the Court II building, at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and N Streets, contains the premier collection of material on individuals who lived in or visited California. The library is one of the most attractive and gracious sites we've seen for genealogical research. Supervising Librarian Kathleen Correia arranged for several librarians to meet us. They were eager to show off their holdings and point us to material they thought would be helpful for Jewish genealogy. Those with California relatives were blessed! The library has up-to-date microfilm readers, photocopiers, and computer equipment. Less "modern" but very impressive, were the hundreds of index card drawers with several *million* index cards that catalogue the course of California history news items by name of individual.

One of our group suggested that when her family goes skiing at Lake Tahoe, they can just drop her off at the library! We spent most of our day on the road, but it was a great opportunity to chat. We had lunch with Rabbi Brad Bloom of Sacramento's Congregation B'nai Israel, and learned of their progress in recovering from the arson of their sanctuary and library.

The group visits were fun, sociable, and part of our effort to compile a Bay Area resource guide for Jewish Genealogy, to be published by the SFBAJGS. It will provide a detailed description of these and other resources. To volunteer for the resource guide, contact Jerry Delson at: [j.delson@ieee.org](mailto:j.delson@ieee.org).

1890 Census, cont'd. from page 9

## Notes to: "First in the Path of the Firemen" The Fate of the 1890 Population Census

1. Daniel P. O'Mahony, "Lost But Not Forgotten: The U.S. Census of 1890," *Government Publications Review* 18 (1991): 332; Margo J. Anderson, *The American Census: A Social History* (1988), p. 106.

The Census Bureau was established as a permanent organization in 1902; before that date, the work of the bureau was carried out on an *ad hoc* basis pursuant to Congressional authorization. In February 1903 the Census Bureau was transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Commerce and Labor and in 1913 to the newly separated Commerce Department. See Kellee Green, "The Fourteenth Numbering of the People: The 1920 Federal Census," *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives* 23 (Summer 1991), pp. 131-132.

2. O'Mahony, "Lost But Not Forgotten," pp. 333, 335; Anderson, *The American Census*, p. 102; W. Stull Holt, *The Bureau of the Census: Its History, Activities, and Organization* (1929; reprint, 1974), p. 30.

Municipal governments could request copies of information (names, age, sex, birthplace, and color or race) of their residents from the superintendent of the census at a cost of twenty-five cents for each hundred names. See Sec. 23, An Act to Provide for Taking of the Eleventh and Subsequent Censuses, March 1, 1889, Records Relating to the 11th (1890) Census, 1889-1893, Records Relating to Decennial Censuses, Patents and Miscellaneous Division, Records of the Office of the Secretary of Interior, Record Group 48, National Archives (hereinafter, records in the National Archives will be cited as RG \_\_\_\_, NA); Carroll D. Wright and William C. Hunt, *The History and Growth of the United States Census* (1900), p. 73.

3. There were four general schedules relating to the population, agriculture, manufactures, and mortality; eight supplemental schedules, for the defective, dependent, and delinquent classes; and a special schedule enumerating the survivors of the War of the Rebellion. Secs. 9, 19, An Act to Provide for Taking of the Eleventh and Subsequent Censuses, March 1, 1889, and Robert V. Porter to Eugene Hale, Feb. 21, 1890, Records Relating to the 11th (1890) Census, 1889-1893, Records Relating to Decennial Censuses, Patents and Miscellaneous Division, RG 48, NA; Richard Mayo Smith, "The Eleventh Census of the United States," *Economic Journal* 1 (March 1891): pp. 45-46; Wright and Hunt, *History and Growth*, p. 70.

4. Holt, *The Bureau of the Census*, p. 28; Sec. 17, An Act to Provide for Taking of the Eleventh and Subsequent Censuses, March 1, 1889, and Robert V. Porter to Eugene Hale, Feb. 21, 1890, Records Relating to the 11th (1890) Census, 1889-1893, Records Relating to Decennial Censuses, Patents and Miscellaneous Division, RG 48, NA.

On the population schedule there were fourteen inquiries common to the schedules of 1880 and 1890, while in 1890 there were ten additional points of information:

(1) whether a soldier, sailor, or marine during the Civil War (United States or Confederate), or widow of such person; (2) mother of how many children, and number of these children living (for all married, widowed, and divorced women); (3) number of years in the United States (for all foreign-born adult males); (4) whether naturalized (for all foreign-born adult males); (5) whether naturalization papers have been taken out (for all foreign-born adult males); (6) ability to speak English (for all persons ten years old and upward); (7) whether home lived in was hired, or owned by the head or by a member of the family; (8) if owned by head or member of family, whether the home was free from mortgage incumbrance; (9) if the head of the family was a farmer, whether the farm which he cultivated was hired, or owned by him or by a member of his family; (10) if owned by head or member of family, whether the farm was free from mortgage incumbrance.

In 1890 a further subdivision was required by the law concerning Negroes of mixed blood as to the number of mulattoes, quadroons, and octoroons. See Robert Porter to Hon. J. H. Gallinger, ordered to be printed Jan. 5, 1898, 55th Cong., 2d sess., Document 46.

5. Introduction to File Microcopies of Records in the National Archives: No. 123, Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890, Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War (1948), p. ii; Wright, *History and Growth*, p. 76; Smith, "The Eleventh Census," p. 49; Anderson, *The American Census*, pp. 106, 108; Report of the Operations of the Census Office for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 1892, Records Relating to the 11th (1890) Census, Records Relating to Decennial Censuses, Patents and Miscellaneous Division, RG 48, NA; U.S. v. Stevens, et al., Criminal Case 105, U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota Fourth Division (Minneapolis), Records of District Courts of the United States, RG 21, National Archives-Central Plains Region.

6. Anderson, *The American Census*, p. 109; Wright and Hunt, *History and Growth*, p. 78. In his annual report for 1937, the Archivist of the United States, reporting the accessioning of farm schedules from other census years, noted: "The agricultural schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 have been distributed to societies and libraries throughout the country; those for 1890 have disappeared." See Third Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1937 (1938), pp. 141-142.

7. C. S. Sloane to Edward McCauley, Nov. 24, 1903, folder "Census of 1890," Alphabetical Subject File, Records of the Bureau of the Census, RG 29, NA.

Perhaps, retrospectively, it is amazing that a fire did not occur sooner, as a 1916 report notes that the area in the vault nearest the boiler room could not be kept below 90 degrees while the heating plant was in operation, making it too hot for a clerk to work in the vault for more than a few minutes and causing the records to rapidly deteriorate. Report of the Secretary of Commerce 1916, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, General Records of the Department of Commerce, RG 40, NA.

8. "Report Concerning the Fire in the Basement of the Department of Commerce Building on the Afternoon of January 10, 1921," Jan. 20, 1921, and Testimony of James E. Foster, Fireman, Testimony of John Parsons, Chief Engineer and Electrician, Office of the Solicitor's Inquiry Concerning Origin of the Fire in the Department of Commerce Building on January 10, 1921, made January 11, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3; Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA; *Washington Star*, Jan. 11, 1921; *Washington Post*, Jan. 11, 1921.

9. The January 20 report of Libbey and the *Washington Post* state 5:30 as the time the fire was discovered. "Report Concerning the Fire in the Basement of the Department of Commerce Building on the Afternoon of January 10, 1921," Jan. 20, 1921, and Report, E.M. Libbey to the Secretary of Commerce, Jan. 20, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA; *Washington Post*, Jan. 11, 1921; *Washington Herald*, Jan. 11, 1921.

10. *Washington Post*, Jan. 11, 1921; *Washington Star*, Jan. 11, 1921; Testimony of William M. Lytle, Chief Clerk, Bureau of Navigation, Testimony of Chancellor, Watchman, Office of the Solicitor's Inquiry Concerning Origin of the Fire in the Department of Commerce Building on January 10, 1921, made January 11, 1921, and Report, E. M. Libbey to the Secretary of Commerce, Jan. 20, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA.

*Continued on page 20*

**1890 Census, cont'd. from page 19**

11. Washington Post, Jan. 11, 1921; Washington Star, Jan. 11, 1921; Washington Herald, Jan. 11, 1921; J. W. Alexander, Secretary of Commerce, to Harry Wardman, Jan. 22, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA; New York Times, Jan. 11, 1921, quoted in O'Mahony, "Lost But Not Forgotten," p. 335.

Chief Engineer Parsons claimed the water was 14-16 inches deep when he inspected it on January 11. See Testimony of John Parsons, Chief Engineer and Electrician, Office of the Solicitor's Inquiry Concerning the Origin of the Fire in the Department of Commerce Building on January 10, 1921, made January 11, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA.

12. Washington Herald, Jan. 11, 1921; Sam L. Rogers to the Secretary of Commerce, Jan. 11, 1921, and Testimony of John Parsons, Chief Engineer and Electrician, Office of the Solicitor's Inquiry Concerning the Origin of the Fire in the Department of Commerce Building on January 10, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA.

Other later estimates place the destruction at 15-25%. See Evangeline Thurber, "The 1890 Census Records of the Veterans of the Union Army," NGS Quarterly 34 (March 1946) pp. 8. G. M. Brumbaugh, editor of the NGS Quarterly, claimed in April 1921 that the fire destroyed records of about 6,000 enumeration districts and badly charred about 2,000 other districts out of some 41,000 districts, although he does not provide the source of his data. See G. M. Brumbaugh, M.D., to Senator Miles Poindexter, Apr. 8, 1921, and G. M. Brumbaugh, to Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, Apr. 8, 1921, folder "Census of 1890," Alphabetical Subject File, Records of the Bureau of the Census, RG 29, NA.

13. Washington Post, Jan. 11, 1921; Washington Star, Jan. 11, 1921; New York American, Jan. 11, 1921.

14. Rogers reported the following "number of bound volumes and of portfolios of census schedules which were damaged by water in the vault in the basement of the Commerce Building during the fire of January 10": census volumes from the 1830 census (6 states, 53 volumes), 1840 census (7 states, 65 volumes), 1880 census (20 states, 211 volumes), 1900 census (17 states and the Indian Territory, 633 volumes), and 1910 census (48 states and the District of Columbia, 7,957 volumes). He noted that it would be impossible to tell the extent of the damage until the schedules were taken out of the vault, dried, and examined. Sam L. Rogers to the Secretary of Commerce, Jan. 11, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA; Washington Herald, Jan. 11, 1921.

15. J. W. Alexander to Hon. Wesley L. Jones, Feb. 2, 1921, "Report Concerning the Fire in the Basement of the Department of Commerce Building on the Afternoon of January 10, 1921," Jan. 20, 1921, and Testimony of John Parsons, Chief Engineer and Electrician, Office of the Solicitor's Inquiry Concerning Origin of the Fire in the Department of Commerce Building on January 10, 1921, made January 11, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA; Washington Star, Jan. 13, 14, 1921.

Mrs. J. C. Drysdale noted that there had been fires in the three most critical sources of her heirship evidence: in the Census Bureau, in the Capitol at Virginia, and at the Old City Hall in Columbus, OH. "Another fact that makes these three fires appear as the work of an incendiary is the fact that they were almost simultaneous, just enough time between for one man to travel from Va. to Washington, and from there to Columbus, and then to Cleveland to get his reward." Mrs. J. C. Drysdale to T. G. Fitzgerald, Mar. 31, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA.

16. Washington Star, Jan. 11, 14, 1921; Washington Post, Jan. 11, 1921; Washington Herald, Jan. 11, 1921; Congressional Record, 66th Cong., 3d sess., 1921, vol. 60, no. 29, p. 1320; "Report Concerning the Fire in the Basement of the Department of Commerce Building on the Afternoon of January 10, 1921," Jan. 20, 1921, Report, E. M. Libbey to the Secretary of Commerce, Jan. 20, 1921, and Testimony of Edward M. Chancellor, Watchman, Office of the Solicitor's Inquiry Concerning Origin of the Fire in the Department of Commerce Building on January 10, 1921, made January 11, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA.

17. "Report Concerning the Fire in the Basement of the Department of Commerce Building on the Afternoon of January 10, 1921," Jan. 20, 1921, Testimony of John Parsons, Chief Engineer and Electrician, Testimony of Walter Pumphrey, Chief Watchman, Testimony of W. S. Erwin, Clerk in the Supply Division, Office of the Solicitor's Inquiry Concerning Origin of the Fire in the Department of Commerce Building on January 10, 1921, made January 11, 1921, E. M. Libbey to the Secretary of Commerce, Jan. 20, 1921; General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA; Washington Star, Jan. 13, 1921.

18. Report, E. M. Libbey to the Secretary of Commerce, Jan. 20, 1921, E. M. Libbey to Charles E. Stewart, Chief Clerk, Department of Justice, Apr. 16, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA.

19. Washington Star, Jan. 24, 1921.

20. William C. Redfield, to J. W. Alexander, Jan. 12, 1921, and Washington Star, Jan. 11, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA; J. Franklin Jameson to Hoover, May 11, 1921, Hoover to Jameson, May 14, 1921, Jameson to Hoover, May 21, 1921, Hoover-Jameson Correspondence, Herbert Hoover Library, West Branch, IA.

21. Washington Star, Jan. 13, 16, 17, 1921; Washington Post, Jan. 11, 1921; General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA.

22. Washington Star, Jan. 24, 29, 1921; S. W. Stratton [?], Bureau of Standards, to Secretary of Commerce, Jan. 26, 1921, General Correspondence 68636/3, Office of the Secretary, RG 40, NA; various correspondence, G. M. Brumbaugh, M.D., editor, NGS Quarterly, to Senator Miles Poindexter, Apr. 8, 1921, National Genealogical Society Resolutions to Save the Population Census of 1890, Washington, DC, Apr. 2, 1921, Resolution, Apr. 22, 1921, signed by Emma L. Strider, Register General of the Daughters of the American Revolution, et al., folder "Census of 1890," box 9, Alphabetical Subject File, entry 160, RG 29, NA.

23. Herbert Hoover told inquirers that there must be some "mis-impression about this matter as I have no notion of destroying any records." He also noted that the records were in constant jeopardy, placed as they were in a temporary war building. Herbert Hoover to Burton L. French, May 6, 1921, and sheet, "Census of 1890," n.d., folder "Census of 1890," Alphabetical Subject File, entry 160, RG 29, NA.

24. W. M. Steuart to the Secretary of Commerce, May 3, 1921, folder "Census of 1890," box 9, Alphabetical Subject File, entry 160, RG 29, NA; Annual Report of the Director of the Census to the Secretary of Commerce for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1922 (1922), p. 26.

25. Disposition of Useless Papers in the Department of Commerce, 2d sess., No. 2080; Thurber, "The 1890 Census," p. 8; Note, n.d., signed E.L.Y., folder "Census of 1890," box 9, Alphabetical Subject File, entry 160, RG 29, NA.

E.L.Y. is presumably Evelyn L. Yeomans, on the staff of the Geography Division from 1899 to 1941, who "apparently maintained the Division files and answered requests for information from and about the old census schedules." See Katherine H. Davidson and Charlotte B. Ashby, comps., Records of the Bureau of Census: National Archives Preliminary Inventory 161 (1964), p. 53.

26. A few schedules from Illinois are reported accessioned in the Eighth Annual Report of the Archivist of the United States for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1942 (1943), p. 71. See also Final Report on Transfer, Accession No. 947 Recommendation on Transfer, by Robert Claus, Acting Associate Archivist, Job 42-154, Jan. 22, 1942, Accession 947 Dossier, NA.

COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

## Guberniya District Maps for Kiev, Minsk, Vitebsk, and Volhynia

Michael Steinore, *JewishGen*

Michael Steinore has published five guberniya district maps from the 1899 edition of *Vsia Rossiia* ("All Russia"). Although not extremely detailed, they do provide an excellent guide to guberniya boundaries for the period, and are easily readable. These maps, for the guberniyas of Grodno Kiev, Minsk, Vitebsk and Volhynia Guberniya, are available at [www.angelfire.com/or/yizkor/gubmaps.html](http://www.angelfire.com/or/yizkor/gubmaps.html).

Be sure to read Michael's discussion of the accuracy and conversion process of the materials. Additional information regarding the *uzed* (district) boundaries and how to place your town on the maps is also provided.

(Michael notes the small pop-up advertisements that appear and suggests they can be "summarily dismissed.")

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## Bielsko-Biala, Poland, Website of the Jewish Community

Alexander Sharon, *JewishGen*

The Web site of the Bielsko-Biala Jewish Community can be found at [www.pik-net.pl/ariel/index.html](http://www.pik-net.pl/ariel/index.html). Researchers of Bielsko-Biala and surrounding areas will find the site interesting, informative, and perhaps valuable to their research. Information is provided in Polish, English and German.

As noted on the site, the Department of Documentation and History operating at the Jewish Community in Bielsko-Biala has its own library and archives. "We search databases and conduct genealogical research for people whose ancestors come from the region covered by the Jewish Community in Bielsko-Biala." There is no charge for the search service, although donations are accepted.

Among their activities is the cataloguing of Jewish cemeteries (photographing, translating inscriptions from Hebrew, and preparing indexes of the dead based on information from tombstones). More than 4,500 names have been entered into a searchable database for the towns of Bielsko-Biala (Bielitz, Biala), Skoczów (Skotschau), Oswięcim (Auschwitz), Zywiec (Saybusch), Milówka, and Zator.

Histories of the Jewish communities is available for Bielsko-Biala (Bielitz, Biala), Skoczów (Skotschau), Oswięcim (Auschwitz), Cieszyn (Teschen), Wschowa (Fraustadt), and Cieszyn Silesia. Photographs of 13 towns are also posted.

## Denmark Special Interest Group

Elsebeth Paikin, *JewishGen*

Last fall, a new JewishGen special interest group was established, the Denmark SIG. The SIG is a forum for researchers with interest in Jewish genealogy and history primarily in Denmark. But because of the close ties and significant mobility between the Scandinavian countries we encompass the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the Danish West Indies, which was a Danish colony from the 17<sup>th</sup> century until 1917.

The Denmark SIG Web site at: [www.jewishgen.org/denmark](http://www.jewishgen.org/denmark) has a mailing list discussion group to which you can easily subscribe. Information on the site includes discussion of immigration from the area, genealogies, cemeteries, and repository contacts.

To subscribe, go to: [www.jewishgen.org/listserv/sigs.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/listserv/sigs.htm) or send an e-mail addressed to: [listserv@lyris.jewishgen.org](mailto:listserv@lyris.jewishgen.org). In the body of the e-mail type "subscribe Denmark <your first name> <your last name>" (no quotes).

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## Halifax Pier 21 Web Site

Dorot, Fall 1999, New York JGS

Halifax's Pier 21 was Canada's equivalent of New York's Ellis Island: not the only entry port to the country, but probably the best known. Over the years hundreds of thousands of immigrants were greeted into Canada's heart through the facilities of Pier 21. Now, like the restoration efforts at Ellis Island, the facilities of Pier 21 are being preserved for the future. A Web site, [www.pier21.ns.ca](http://www.pier21.ns.ca), has been established, devoted to the history of Pier 21, the immigrants who entered Canada through its doors, the volunteers who eased their entry, and the history they made together. The Web site includes immigrant stories and photographs of diverse types of immigrants, including "war brides" from World War II, "guest children" who were sent to safety in America during the war, refugees from the European war theater, and soldiers who left Canada through Pier 21.

There is a bibliography of printed and online resources, and an as yet incomplete list of ships that departed from or arrived at the port facilities in Halifax. This list is arranged by topic (displaced persons, evacuees, war brides, soldiers, etc.), then alphabetically by the name of the ship. Some of the ships' names are linked to separate pages with a picture of the ship, a physical description, and a short summary of its service.

## Brooklyn Naturalization Indexes Online

As reported in the November 1999 issue of *ZichronNote*, the Jewish Genealogical Society, NY has undertaken a project to computerize the indexes to Kings County (Brooklyn), New York naturalizations, 1907-1924. A database of the first records available is searchable at the JGSNY site, [www.jgsny.org/kingsintro2.htm](http://www.jgsny.org/kingsintro2.htm).

"This database currently includes more than 67,000 names, or greater than 26% of the total declarations and petitions filed in Brooklyn during this period, and more than 30% of all declarations. The indexes to the first 105 declaration of intent volumes (1907-1915) have been entered into the database and are accessible here. In addition, for the 1923/24 period, we have completed surnames beginning with "A" through "Da," "E," and "L." Surnames beginning with "G" and "M" are included but incomplete. For the 1921/22 period, surnames beginning with "A," "E," and "L" have been completed. Proofing of this database against the original records is underway."

A search can be made by surname or soundex code, with or without a first initial. A frequently-asked-questions document is also provided, which addresses not only this database but the naturalization process in general. The Brooklyn records are located at:

County Clerk's Office  
State Supreme Court, Kings County (Brooklyn)  
360 Adams Street, Room 079  
(cross streets: Johnson, Court and Joralemon)  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

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## New York Area Jewish Cemeteries

Adelle Gloger, *JewishGen*

The JGSNY Web site includes a map and listing of cemeteries in the New York metropolitan area, at [members.aol.com/jgsny/cemeteries.htm](http://members.aol.com/jgsny/cemeteries.htm). The map shows the location of more than 50 cemeteries.

The site acknowledges that the map does not include a complete list of Jewish cemeteries in the area. Mention is also made of numerous Jewish cemeteries in the Newark and Elizabeth, New Jersey area, as well as other Jewish cemeteries in Long Island, Staten Island, New Jersey, Westchester and southern Connecticut, including Congregation Shearith Israel's first three cemeteries (pre-1850) located in Manhattan. Nonetheless, this site is a great reference for anyone with a New York connection.

## Illinois Statewide Marriage Index

*JewishGen*

A searchable database of Illinois marriages prior to 1901 is online at [www.sos.state.il.us/depts/archives/marriage.html](http://www.sos.state.il.us/depts/archives/marriage.html). Compiled by volunteers, some have included marriages through 1915 for some counties. More than one million marriages are included, from sources such as original county clerk's marriage records (registers and licenses) as well as publications of county genealogical societies and private individuals.

"For each marriage, the index includes the names of the groom and bride, the date of the marriage or license, the name of the county where the marriage took place, and the citation to the original record (i.e., volume and page numbers of register or license number). When source material lacked volume, page or license number information, none is provided in the index."

Tips for getting the most out of the index are provided, as is information for obtaining a copy of the original record. Volunteers for the project are welcome.

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## Michigan Death Records 1867-1882

Haran C. Rashes, *JewishGen*

The Genealogical Death Indexing System, Michigan (GENDIS) is made available by the Michigan Department of Community Health. GENDIS, at [www.mdch.state.mi.us/gendis/](http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/gendis/), currently lists more than 150,000 Michigan deaths from 1867 through 1882. The records include most of the data that would have been listed on the death certificate.

The search is by surname: entering "Stein" in the surname field results in more than 75 records from "Stein" to "Steinweigh" The database will continue to grow as volunteers from Michigan's local genealogical societies transcribe the microfilmed death ledgers.

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## Web Search Tools in One Place

Bernard I. Kouchel, *JewishGen*

Looking for someone? From the All One Search page at [www.allonesearch.com](http://www.allonesearch.com) you can use the search engines of many Web sites including Ancestry.com, the Social Security Death Index, Yahoo!s People Finder, white pages, e-mail addresses, reverse directories, telephone numbers, and more.

Some of these search engines are well known to genealogists, but a few such as "Find A Grave" are unfamiliar but intriguing. There are links to the home pages of the search engines where you can learn more about the composition of the database being searched and can often search on more than one parameter.

## JewishGen Databases

### Sinai Congregation, Chicago, Marriages Database

At [www.jewishgen.org/databases/sinai.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/sinai.htm) you can search 526 marriages for the period 1861-1905 from Sinai Congregation, Chicago, IL. The records are taken from two small books with handwritten notations attributed to Rabbi Bernhard Felsenthal. The database was compiled by Fran Loeb Luebke and is published on JewishGen with permission of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio, which holds the original materials.

Noted a JewishGen reader: "This database includes marriages performed before the Chicago Fire of 1871—government records of which were destroyed in the great fire. So, this provides information not found elsewhere anymore!"

### Chicago Tribune Obituary Index

Richard Hoffman, *JewishGen*

More than 8,800 entries from the Chicago Tribune Obituary Index, December 1994 through September 1998 are searchable on JewishGen at [www.jewishgen.org/databases/chicago.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/chicago.htm). Compiled by Richard Hoffman, each entry includes the name of the deceased, date of death, and other information such as the deceased's age, birthplace, maiden name, and occasionally the name of the cemetery. Searches can be made by exact surname, Daitch-Mokotoff soundex, or by a global search for a surname in all text fields.

### 1929 Polish Business Directory – Nowogrodek Province

As described on *JewishGen*

A new JewishGen database contains entries for Nowogrodek Province from the 1929 Polish business directory *Księga Adresowa Polski (Wraz z w.m. Gdanskim) dla Handlu, Przemysłu, Rzemiosł i Rolnictwa* [Directory of Poland (including Gdansk) for Trade, Industry, Handicraft and Agriculture]. Nowogrodek was a province of inter-war Poland, but today is in western Belarus and southeastern Lithuania. Prior to World War I, the area was in Vilna, Grodno, and Minsk guberniyas of the Russian Empire.

The database contains 15,122 entries which include the following fields:

- Town name (latitude and longitude, if known)
- Powiat (district) of Nowogrodskie province in which the town was located
- Surname of the listed person or business owner
- First name, usually an initial

- An "x," if the business was registered
- Street address, if noted
- Occupation/Business
- Notes—Usually the amount of land and/or names of the estate owned by a "landowner," a rare telephone number, or a hamlet of the town listed.

The occupations were written in both Polish and French and a translation guide is provided. The entire 1929 directory is available on microfilm in the New York Public Library's Slavic and Baltic Division, call number [Slav. Reserve 96-7788].

It is anticipated that these data will be incorporated into the JRI-Poland Business Directory Project on JewishGen.

### Emigrant Savings Bank Database

Dorot, Fall 1999, *JGS New York*

Monica Bennett has upgraded the New York Emigrant Savings Bank web site, which can be found online at the Genealogy Exchange and Surname Registry site: [www.genexchange.com/esb/](http://www.genexchange.com/esb/). The records often contain information about an emigrant's birthplace, military history, street address, next of kin, and much more. The data cover individuals from 14 states. Although originally established by and for Irish immigrants, the records include German, Jewish, English, Scottish, and French surnames, among others.

The site features a new, improved look and vastly improved search functionality. In addition to expected search functions such as full or partial surname and first name, the new search engine offers some surprising capabilities. One is the ability to map out an entire city block of people that had bank accounts. Simply fill in a street address, city, and state in the appropriate search fields and retrieve a list of all persons that lived in a given city street. A simple search of "Orange Street" in "Manhattan" "NY" will bring up all records currently registered in the database for that street. A new "how-to" guide is also featured.

### Coaxing Information From Old Gravestones

Sue Seales, *JewishGen*

The Connecticut Gravestone Network has posted a Web page that addresses the issue of how to handle old fragile headstones. Located at [members.aol.com/ctgravenet/dosdents.htm](http://members.aol.com/ctgravenet/dosdents.htm), subjects such as the cleaning of stones, taking rubbings, and how to make the stones more readable are discussed. The discussion considers the ease with which stones can be damaged as well as the desire for information.

# ZichronNote

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## The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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