



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

Volume XXVI, Number 2

May 2006

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.**
Jewish Community High School, 1835 Ellis Street. Jewish Community Library open on second floor. **Free parking: enter parking area from Pierce Street.**
- Los Altos Hills:** **Monday, Library opens at 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.** Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road.
- Berkeley:** **Sunday, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.** Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley.

Sun. May 21, San Francisco: *One-step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools.* Dr. Stephen Morse brings us up to date. The One-Step website started out as an aid for finding passengers in the Ellis Island database. Shortly afterwards it was expanded to help with searching the 1930 census. Over the years it has continued to evolve and today includes more than 100 web-based tools divided into eleven separate categories ranging from genealogical searches to astronomical calculations to Israeli phone book lookups. This presentation will describe the range of tools available and highlight each one. Visit Steve's Web Site at stevemorse.org to access his efforts.

Sun. June 18, Berkeley: *How to Make Your Own Family History Video Using Your Personal Computer.* Mark Heckman tells how to unleash your inner Spielberg and make an Oscar-worthy documentary about your family. In this talk you will learn to use moderately-priced and easy-to-use computer software and hardware to create your own family history video — incorporating still pictures and documents, home movies, other video, music, narration, and titles — and how to share your work on videotape or DVD.

Mon. June 19, Los Altos Hills: *My Recent Genealogical Trip to Poland - What I Learned.* Phyllis Bismanovsky discusses her trip to Poland on a family heritage tour, specialized to visit her family's towns of origin, Wyszcow and Kaluszyn. She will discuss where she went, what she saw, her feelings about being in Poland, how the travel guide enriched the experience and how it has changed her life.

Sun. July 16, San Francisco: *To be determined.*

Sun. August 27, Berkeley: *Review of the 26th Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.* Panel discussion. This year's conference in New York City is sure to offer exciting news about resources and other new developments in the world of Jewish Genealogy. If you can't make it to New York, be sure to come hear all about it! If you did attend, please join the panel and offer your highlights.

Mon. August 28, Los Altos Hills and Sun. September 17, San Francisco: Same topic as above with different panel members and insights.

For the latest program information visit www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

More Genealogy Events of Interest on Page 4

ZichronNote

Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

~ 25th Anniversary Year ~

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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 e-mail address.

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

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Membership is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$23 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: SFBAJGS, Membership, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147.

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President's Message

What Started You on Your Search for Your Family Roots?

by Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

At this time of year when we celebrate Passover, I always take a minute to quietly say "thank you" to my late grandfather, Hanzel Levy, later Israel Leader, who, unsuspectingly, started me off on that murky trail to find my ancestors. It was Saturday, April 6, 1985, the Second Seder night, and we had finished the service and the meal. My family always had my grandparents (my mother's parents) and my uncle (her brother) over for both nights.

My mother and Bubbe were in the kitchen washing up. My two younger brothers were upstairs in their bedroom, swapping stories. My father and his brother-in-law were in the living room, probably talking about cars or some other mutual interest. That just left me and my Zaida, sitting opposite each other, munching on left-over matzoh and whatever else was at hand. We weren't the kind to leave left-overs going begging. I have memories of my Bubbe never wasting anything — saving rubber-bands and lengths of string. I can still see that jam jar of hardened shmaltz sitting on her kitchen counter.

My grandfather was born in London in 1908, the youngest of four children; of course, the story is never that simple. His parents, brother and twin sisters were all born in Kalisz, Poland. In 1907 they traveled across the country for a new life in London.

Somewhere along the way — so the story goes — the twins fell off the train. That's all I know. An awful story, and probably one I can never substantiate.

On this Seder Night, Zaida may have been deep in thought, thinking back to his own family's personal "passover" and their fleeing to a new "promised land." I know I wasn't thinking about anything in particular, and I'm only guessing what may have been going through Zaida's mind at that time. More moments passed; then he looked up and asked if I knew that his brother, my Uncle Charlie, had been married before he married Aunt Kitty.

All through my life (so far) a myriad obscure things had intrigued me, such as canals, the London Underground, and wondering about and then spending ten years working out who had built every house in my home town and when they had been built, and why every street had its particular name. I probably had the world's only collection of photographs of the cast-iron inspection covers that reside in Edgware's front yards. (Local builders often had their names cast in them.) But I had to confess

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SOCIETY NEWS

Welcome, New Members

Ellen Barnett Cleary, San Francisco.....
.....ellencleary@comcast.net
Kathy Horner, W. Hartford, CT.....hornerdk@cs.com
Barbara Klein & Stan Schrier, Stanford
.....Kleinpa@aol.com
Dave Lewak, Berkeley.....dave@krozeja.net
Kaye Miller, Berkeley.....kk_miller@pacbell.net
John Odenheimer, Menlo Park.....
.....johnoden1@comcast.net
Kaye Miller, Berkeley.....kk_miller@pacbell.net
Judy Schlosser, Richmond...ruddyduck@comcast.net
See updated Family Finder Information on page 6.

E-mail Updates

Judith Berlowitz.....judigenie@yahoolcom
Walt Firestone.....shinbet8@comcast.net
Burton Meyer.....burtonmeyer8@comcast.net

E-mail Bounces

E-mails for the following people have been bouncing: Lois Clauson, John Odenheimer, Rebekah Sachs, Gerry Wagger, Eugene Zauber. Wagger needs to "approve" dlkurtz at address below as a sender in order to receive Society e-mail. Please send updates to dlkurtz@ix.netcom.com

Yizkor Books at Sutro Library

Jeremy Frankel, President, SFBAJGS

One doesn't normally associate the Sutro Library with yizkor books, so it was certainly a surprise when looking at the "new books" shelf to see a yizkor book of the Jews of Cluj-Kolozsvár, which is in Transylvania.

The book was edited by Dr. Moshe Carmilly-Weinberger, the former Chief Rabbi of Kolozsvár and Professor of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva University. It was published in 1970, so it may already be known to those who have an interest in this area. The book was written in English, Hebrew, and, I think, Hungarian.

I looked through Sutro's online catalog for "memorial book" and the only citation was for the town of Kaminitz-Podolsk and its environs:



Save the Date: Anniversary Celebration Planned for October

To celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, the Board of Directors is planning an anniversary party, to be held either on Sunday, October 22 or Sunday, October 29. The event will probably be a gala luncheon. San Francisco has been selected as the location because it is centrally located in relation to all three SFBAJGS meeting places. This anniversary event will be an opportunity to meet early members of the society, and for some, a reunion of long-time friends.

Watch for more details by e-mail and in the next issue of this journal.

"A memorial book of the Jewish communities in the cities of Kaminitz-Podolsk, Balin, Dunivits, Zamekhov, Zhvanets, Minkovitz, Smotrich, Frampol, Kupin, and Kitaygorod annihilated by the Nazis in 1941 / edited by Abraham Rosen, H. Sarig, & Y. Bernstein; translated from the Hebrew by Bonnie Schooler Sohn. Bergenfield, N.J.; Avotaynu Foundation, 1999."

Bay Area Resource Guide, Second Edition, Now Available

The SFBAJGS recently published the Second Edition of "Jewish Genealogy Basics and Resource Guide for the San Francisco Bay Area." This edition totals 22 pages of useful information and could be a valuable addition to your genealogy resource library. Cost to members is \$3. The book can be purchased at any SFBAJGS Meeting. If you prefer to receive it by mail, add \$1 for postage. (Cost to non-members is \$5 plus \$1 postage.) Send your check, payable to "SFBAJGS" to SFBAJGS Resource Guide, PO Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94117.

CALENDAR, cont.

More Genealogy Events

Regional

Sat., May 13, 1:30 p.m. **California Genealogical Society. What's Free on the Web for Genealogists?** Ron Filion. 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Ste.100, Oakland. For more information call (510)663-1358 or visit www.calgensoc.org.

State and National

Mon., May 15, 7 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento. Oral Interviewing and Videotaping.** Les Finke. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento, CA. For more information visit www.jgss.org, email jgs_sacramento@yahoo.com, or call (916) 486-0906 ext. 361.

Mon., May 15, 7 p.m. **Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor in Census and Passenger Records.** Presented by SFBAJGS member Dr. Stephen Morse. Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Drive, L.A. For information call (818) 771-5554 or visit www.jewishgen.org/jgsla/

Mon., May 15, 7 p.m. **Breaking Through Brick Genealogical Walls.** Presented by Hal Bookbinder. Jewish Federation, 6505 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. For information call (818) 771-5554 or visit www.jewishgen.org/jgsla/

August 30 to Sept. 2, **Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference. Boston, Mass.** Speakers from U.S., Canada, Ireland, Scotland and England. 350 sessions. For more information visit www.fgs.org.



August 13 to 18, **26th International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference on Jewish Genealogy**, sponsored by the Jewish Genealogical Society of New York. Takes place at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York City. For more information and to register, visit www.jgsny2006.org/

One-on-One Help:

Two More Sessions in May and June

Two more opportunities remain this year to take advantage of the one-on-one help to Jewish genealogists offered by the Jewish Community Library and the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society. Sessions will be held Sunday, May 7 and Sunday, June 4.

Longtime Library volunteer staffer Judy Baston and other veteran researchers from the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, including Ron Arons, Jeremy Frankel, Beth Galleto, Steve Harris, Dana Kurtz and Marian Rubin, will help with brainstorming and problem-solving. Bring your materials and questions. Then take advantage of the Jewish Community Library's extensive reference collection and Internet connection to countless searchable databases.

Sessions take place the first Sunday of each month, February through June, from noon to 2 p.m., at the Bureau of Jewish Education Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco.

Parking is free. The entrance is on Pierce between Ellis and Eddy. Registration is requested but not required. For registration or information call (415) 567-3327, ext. 704.

NARA Workshops

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will present workshops in May, June, August, and September.

All workshops will be held at NARA - Pacific Region 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The workshops cost \$15.00, payable in advance. To register and reserve a space, call Rose Mary Kennedy (650) 238-3488.

The schedule is as follows:

Military - Part I: Revolutionary War to the Civil War - Friday, May 12.

Federal Land Records - Friday, June 21.

Military - Part II: Spanish American War to the Vietnam War - Friday, August 18.

Federal Land Records - Friday, September 15.

Census Records Search - Friday, September 22.



San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society: Celebrating 25 Years

Looking Back: Articles From SFBAJGS' Past

Visiting and Revisiting the Gdańsk/Danzig Jewish Cemetery

By Jan M. Engel

*Reprinted from ZichronNote, Volume XI, Number 2,
Summer, 1991*

Prior to World War II, I lived with my parents in Danzig, which was, at that time, an independent "Free State," and now is the city of Gdańsk, part of Poland. As a young boy, actually on the day of my scheduled (and postponed) Bar Mitzvah, my mother died from cancer. I have very intense memories of my first major loss, including the funeral, and later the placing of the monument, etc., at what was then known as the "Judischer Friedhof, Stolzenberg."

After surviving the war in England, I returned to Gdańsk for a visit in 1966. I hired a taxi (which in those days was much cheaper than renting a car) and asked the driver to take me to the Jewish cemetery, only to be told that he was quite sure that there was no such cemetery and none was indicated on any maps or city directories at the time. Although it had been some 28 years since I had last visited there, I felt that I could direct the driver to the cemetery from memory, and he obliged. However, when we arrived at what I believed was the location of the cemetery, there was no sign of it, only an empty field with waist-high weeds growing on it. I asked the driver to park his cab, and I walked into the field looking for any sign of what I clearly remembered as a beautiful cemetery with many tombstones, monuments, etc. I suddenly stumbled over a rock and fell to the ground. The rock clearly was a piece of black granite, polished on one side. Further search, on my hands and knees, produced several small pieces of granite, scattered within the weeds, some clearly marked with Hebrew letters. I knew I had found the right place. Unfortunately, that is all that appeared to remain of the once extensive Jewish cemetery. Subsequent enquiries all claimed that the Germans destroyed the cemetery, when they occupied Danzig during the war.

Last October I visited Gdańsk again. While giving a friend a tour of the city, I thought I'd show her where

the Jewish cemetery was once located. This time, though I was driving a car, I made an incorrect turn, and wound up on a street behind the original cemetery site. I saw an old man walking on this street and asked him whether there was a shortcut that would take me to the front of the cemetery. His answer surprised me. Sure, he could show me how to get there, but if I wanted to see what was left of the cemetery, the only way to see it was to park my car where it was, follow him to his house, and to take a path from there. My friend and I took his advice, walked the quarter mile to his house, and then followed him along a path winding steeply up a hill behind his home. Sure enough, at the top of the hill we came upon remnants of the Jewish cemetery. The graves had monuments that were lying on the ground, almost even with it, and dated from the late 18th century. This, obviously, was a much older part of the original cemetery, and adjoined the newer section, which I knew and which would normally be approached from the opposite side.

On returning to his home with our guide, we learned that he was a resettled Pole from the Ukraine, who had been living in this house since late 1945. He also told us that the cemetery survived the war without any significant damage. It was only some time after his moving to Gdańsk, possibly in 1947 or 1948, that there were some anti-Jewish demonstrations, and that the cemetery was destroyed by Polish Communist hooligans.

Current street maps of Gdańsk now identify the location of this cemetery site. It is at the intersection of the Stoczniowców and Cmentama (prewar, Grundgasse) streets.

Batya

By Dana Kurtz

*Reprinted from ZichronNote, Volume XIV, Number 1,
February, 1994*

Like many of us, I had been told that there was no other family, just those who left the Shtetl before

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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 please write to SFBAJGS at P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147, or send an e-mail to Dana Kurtz at dlkurtz@ix.netcom.com

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
ACH/AH	Buhl, Baden, Germany	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
ALLMEYER	Hottenbach, Germany	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
ANDERSON	Anywhere	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
AUSPACHER	New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
BOGEL	Kurland, Riga, Latvia; Lynn, Boston, MA; New York	Klein, Barbara & Schrier, Stan
BARNETT	Golub, Prussia; Berlin, Germany; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
BRESIN(SKY)	Liskiava, Lithuania	Miller, Kaye
DE CASTRO	Curacao, West Indies; Galveston, TX; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
DIAMOND	New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
FINKELSTEIN	Balbieriskis, Lithuania	Lewak, Dave
FLAKSMAN	Luninets, Lyubashevo, Pinsk, Belarus	Lewak, Dave
FLICKSTEIN	Balta, Ukraine	Lewak, Dave
GERNSBACHER	Buhl, Baden, Germany; New Orleans, LA; Texas	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
GOLDBERG	Drogichin, Belarus	Lewak, Dave
GOLDSMITH	Atleinigen, Carlsberg, Bavaria, Neunkirchen, Rhine, Germany; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
GOLDSTEIN	Russia/Poland; England	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
GRABENHEIMER	Diedelsheim, Baden, Germany	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
GRADWOHL	Germany; Cincinnati, OH	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
GRINSPAN	Lomza, Poland; Boston, MA	Klein, Barbara & Schrier, Stan
GROSS	Czchow, Galicia	Lewak, Dave
GUGENHEIM	Breisach, Baden, Germany; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
GUTHERZ	Hilsbach, Baden, Germany	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
HOFSEOF	Lomza, Poland; Boston, MA	Klein, Barbara & Schrier, Stan
ISAACS	Poland; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
ISAACSON	Vilnius, Lithuania; London, England; Boston, MA	Klein, Barbara & Schrier, Stan
KIER	Drogichin, Belarus	Lewak, Dave
KLEIN	Germersheim, Speyer, Bavaria, Germany	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
KOHN	Baiersdorf, Germersheim, Neuleinengen, Bavaria, Germany; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
KUSHNEVICH/KUSHEVITCH/ KUSZNIIEWICZ/KUSZNEWICZ	Russia/Poland	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
LAUFER	Vilnius, Sirvintos, Lithuania	Miller, Kaye
LAVIN(E)	Vilnius, Sirvintos, Lithuania	Miller, Kaye
LEIZEROWITCH	Balbieriskis, Lithuania	Lewak, Dave
LEMLE	Rulzheim, Bavaria, Germany	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
LEVIN	Vilnius, Sirvintos, Lithuania	Miller, Kaye
LEVY	Russia/Poland	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
LEWAK	Drogichin, Belarus	Lewak, Dave
LIEBERMAN	Balbieriskis, Lithuania	Lewak, Dave
LOEB	Kaiserslauten, Kallstadt, Rheinpfalz, Germany; Reichshoffen, Alsace-Lorraine, France; Montgomery, AL	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett

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World War I Alien Registration Records in Great Britain: A Genealogical Treasure Trove!

by Naidia Woolf

Naidia Woolf left England for the U.S. in the late 1950's and has lived in California ever since (apart from three years in Montana in the 1970's where she taught drama at the university in Missoula). She is a volunteer proofreader for *ZichronNote*. Naidia can be reached at rnwoolf@earthlink.net

World War One alien registration records — wherever they still exist — provide a wealth of information about ancestors who immigrated to Britain prior to the first world war from the European continent. I consider myself one of the fortunate ones, having access to the still extant records for the City of Birmingham, England at the old Police Station on the Stratford Road, walking distance from where my father operated his retail clothing business — “Woolf’s Retail Clothing” — near the old Piccadilly cinema on the Stratford Road.

Although I’ve lived in the United States for nearly a half a century, I still have a large, closely knit family in Birmingham whom I visit every two or three years. A few years ago I was thrilled to receive an email from a woman in Chicago advising me of the existence of the WWI alien registration records at the West Midlands Police Station Museum in Birmingham. Prior to my next visit to my home town (in late 2000), I arranged with the museum curator, David Cross, to spend time inspecting the records, contained in 27 or 28 volumes. Special permission first had to be obtained from the Police Superintendent.

I arrived at the Police Museum around 11 o’clock on a cold, rainy day, armed with a ruler, pencils, and erasers, prepared to spend the rest of the day (until I was told I had to leave, that is), examining these precious records. From then on, until five o’clock, with only a welcome cup of tea and chat with curator Dave Cross, I jotted down all of the data under the name Isaacs, in particular those for my paternal great grandparents, Solomon and Sarah Isaacs, and any adult children who were not British nationals. (During my tea break Dave, a former policeman, regaled with me amusing stories of his days on the force. His most amusing story — which I will never forget — was about an afternoon when dozens of sheep were found walking down the main road, in the middle of traffic!) In less than six hours, I managed to examine 21 of the volumes, large, worn and dog-eared ledgers, each containing 200 or more records for the period 1914 to 1916. Many of the names I encountered were recognizably Jewish; some, however, especially those for individuals from

countries such as France, Switzerland and the Netherlands, were probably not.

Solomon and Sarah Isaacs arrived in England from a town near Warsaw in Poland circa 1870. Apart from a few years in London, the family lived in Birmingham and at the same address (47 Thorpe Street), for many years. Thorpe Street was part of a predominantly Jewish quarter in Central Birmingham. Solomon and Sarah’s house was located in one of the hundreds of back-to-back courts, most of which were demolished during the post-World War II slum clearance program up to the late 1960’s. (“Courts” comprised terraced, brick houses with blind backs — i.e., no doors or windows in the rear — constructed during the Industrial Revolution that shared a common yard, privy, and a wash house.) Today a modern office building stands where my great grandparents and their five children once lived and worked. Standing in front of that office building and looking at the old Edwardian houses still visible in the background gave me an eerie feeling; it was if the ghosts of my long-departed ancestors were still present. Last year, the remaining back-to-backs, the ones fronting on Inge and Hurst streets, were converted into an educational center and museum by the National Trust.

At the beginning of the first world war in Britain, all resident aliens were required to register with the police. Those considered a security risk included individuals who were from Austria or Germany, or from territory that was part of the Austro-Hungarian or Prussian Empire at the time of their birth — in other words, from enemy lands. Those deemed the biggest potential threat to the safety of the nation were interned in prison camps on the mainland and the Isle of Man (off the coast of England).

History, which includes often harsh, mean-spirited government policies, tends to repeat itself. At the beginning of the second world war, thousands of individuals, some of whom had lived and worked in Great Britain for decades and had raised families there, were interned. (In 2002, I wrote an extensive article on the subject of internment in both world wars that appeared in *Shemot*, the Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain’s quarterly magazine.)

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Alien Registration, cont. from page 7

Prior to my visit to England in 2000, Dave Cross had sent me a listing of the WWI alien registration entries under the name of Woolf, a list of a dozen or so names he had compiled on my behalf. Upon examining the records, I was outraged to learn that my grandmother Annie Woolf (nee Isaacs) had her British nationality revoked because she was married to an alien. I recently learned that she wasn't the only one to be so penalized. Another researcher's British-born grandmother had her nationality revoked for the same reason, despite the fact that her husband was in the British Army and became fully naturalized in 1919, five months after receiving his military discharge. Someone else's father spent several months in prison for failure to register with the police.

The Alien Registration records from the First World War provide detailed information (handwritten and often hard to read) about each registered alien, including nationality and place of birth (town/country); resident and business address (if any); trade and employer (if known and applicable); date of birth/sex; whether a house owner (or if not, lodger or servant); particulars concerning family (married or single, and — in the case of married men — name of spouse, number and/or names of minor children including if "British born." Entries even include information as to date of arrival in Birmingham and number of years in England.

In some cases, but not all, the alien registration records included the total number of aliens per national origin: for example, on the title page of one of the ledgers it was noted that xx number of aliens were from France, Belgium, or Holland — a real time saver for anyone wanting to find Jewish ancestors from, say, Poland or Russia. I should add, however, that Dave Cross suspects that during WWI, a number of aliens from enemy territory (Germany and Austria) gave their country of origin as Belgium to avoid the risk of being either deported or interned.

I learned a great deal about my great grandparents, including their physical description — Solomon was only "5' 1", grey hair and mustache and beard (cropped); brown eyes, stout build, mole left eyebrow"; wife Sarah was "4'6", dark hair/going grey, bro eyes, stout build, wear[s] earrings." My reaction at the time was: *boy*, were they *short*! Great grandfather was a householder and self-employed tailor, had been in England 44 years, had no military service; had been issued an ID book in 1914. Son Isaac (who had been born in England but had immigrated to America and become an American citizen and therefore was classified as an alien) was "4' 11", sallow complexion,

black hair, bald on top, clean shaven, brn eyes, wears specs."

He was also a self-employed printer, bachelor, and lodged with his father (Solomon). According to the records, Isaac had taken out naturalization papers. (I assume that means that he had had a change of heart and wanted to be British again.) The "Remarks" column often revealed some surprising, at times (for me) wryly humorous tidbits: one Jewish alien had been apprehended after being found "wandering too close to a military installation" and was packed off to a camp! (I wonder, was he lost or being plain nosy?)

The records at the West Midlands Police Museum have been digitized and are now available to the public for a fee. For more information, write to David Cross, Curator, at the West Midlands Police Museum, Police Station, 641 Station Road, Birmingham B11 4EA, England.

On my last visit to Birmingham (in November 2005), my niece Sharon and I stopped by the Police Station on Station Road. We were hoping to find Dave Cross there and obtain copies of the alien registration records for the Isaacs family. Upon arrival we were disappointed to discover that the building no longer functioned as the local police station. (There was a notice on the door announcing that police services had been moved to another location.) Lights were on, however, on the second floor and there were cars in the parking lot. After several minutes of knocking loudly and repeatedly on both doors to the building, when we were about to give up and go away, the side door was flung open and there stood Dave Cross. (Dave later explained that the second floor was occupied by the CID!) Dave took us into his office and did a search for the name Isaacs on the Police Department computer. Within just a few minutes he was able to produce copies of the original alien registration records for Solomon and Sarah Isaacs and their son Isaac.

Our visit to the Police Station Museum turned out to be a gratifying and rewarding experience, one I'll never forget. (My niece also came away with the WWI alien registration record of her paternal great grandfather whose name was Yellowitz and who had died long before she was born.)

I have been informed that the government authority in Greater Manchester (in northern England), which includes the City of Manchester and parts of Salford, loaned the Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain (JGSGB) their boxes of (individual) index cards. At last report, the Salford Aliens register had been indexed and is now online.

The best catalogue of surviving aliens' records is in Appendix 2 in Kershaw & Pearsall, "Immigrants

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Records Accessibility Updates

By Jan Meisels Allen, Director IAJGS
and Chairperson, Public Records Access and
Monitoring Committee

Latest Alerts On-Line

The IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee (PRAMC) monitors legislation that impacts access to vital genealogical records (birth, marriage, death) and census. An update on the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee legislative "Latest Alert" is now posted on the IAJGS website.

The webmaster of the IAJGS website has modified the location where you will find all the information on PRAMC activities. Go to www.IAJGS.org. In the center left of the home page you will see "New." You can then click on "Latest Alerts", The PRAMC page, or a link to legislative websites for Canada and the US. The "Latest Alerts" will be updated as needed. When there is a need for action, a notice will go out on the JewishGen email list.

Kentucky Birth Indexes

In accordance with a request from the Kentucky Department of Library and Archives, the Kentucky birth indexes were removed by Ancestry.com due to a glitch in the index records sent to them.

The Kentucky Birth Index 1911-1999 has now been replaced and updated and is back on the Ancestry site. Ancestry.com is a paid service site; however some public libraries and Family History Centers have subscriptions the public may access.

Missouri Death Records On-line

The Missouri State Archives has made death certificates from 1910-1955 accessible on-line. Death records after 1910 that are at least 50 years old are available in a searchable index that links to a digitized image of the original death certificate. The index can be searched by first name, last name, county, and month and year.

This is an ongoing project and not all records have been digitized. Only 1910 to 1920 images are available at this time. If you're unsure of the name, click Advanced Search to choose "starts with", "ends with" or "contains" options.

To order copies of post-1920 records click on a link to generate a form. Fill it out and mail it with one dollar per request (the limit is five). For more information go to: www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/

Colorado, New York and New Jersey

A recent "Latest Alert" includes new items about legislation in three states. For more information go to the IAJGS website.

Colorado: Both the House and Senate have passed H 1357 with the genealogical community's amendments permitting release of information on marriage applications after 50 years. This could not have occurred without the great efforts of genealogists contacting the Colorado Senators and Representatives. We thank you for your excellent efforts!

New York: A 9996/S 6766 prohibits access to electronically disseminated vital (B, M, D) records if the Social Security Number is included in the record.

The two bills may have a negative impact on vital records and naturalization documents if they are electronically posted with Social Security numbers. The genealogical community would like the bills amended in committee to redact the Social Security numbers rather than to eliminate access to these records. A fact sheet with information on the two bills, background as to the legislation, the list of sponsors and committee chairpersons with contact information and suggested model letters are included on the website.

New Jersey: The author of A 1390 has agreed to the genealogical community's amendments for release of vital records. The language will be available for review in May.

Canadian Census in May: Just Say Yes

Canadian census day is May 16. Everyone should be aware of the necessity to respond affirmatively to the "opt-in" question. As genealogists and people interested in family history, it is imperative that all Canadian residents check the YES box so that their family history can be released in 2098 to their descendants and for posterity.

Everyone listed in the 2006 census, even infants, must have a YES next to the informed consent question. Leaving a blank or checking NO will mean that person's information will be forever sealed and never released. In addition to the obvious genealogical interest of adding ancestors to one's family trees, this is important for the following reasons:

1. To determine age eligibility for pensions, etc., where no other sources such as birth certificates are available.
2. To determine descendency to settle estates where no will has been found.

Continued on page 10

Accessibility Updates, cont. from page 9

3. To provide clues regarding genetically inherited diseases and disabilities.

Australian Census in August: Opt In

Australia will be conducting its census on August 8, 2006 and there will be an "opt-in" provision to retain the individual census information. While the retention question is a major genealogical success from the past when censuses were disposed of, it is an "opt-in" provision. Therefore it is imperative that ALL Australian residents click on "YES" for question # 60.

The retention question, # 60 reads: "Does each person in this household agree to his/her name and address and other information on this form being kept by the National Archives of Australia and then made publicly available after 99 years?"

EACH Australian must affirmatively respond to this question, not just the head of household. If this question is ignored it will be considered a "NO" and none of the information will be retained for future family history or other genealogically relevant purposes. As with all censuses, persons completing the census forms should keep copies for their family files.

Background: The Census Information Legislation Amendment Bill (2005) was introduced into the House of Representatives of the Australian Parliament in November 2005 and passed unopposed. It was passed by the Australian Senate on 27 February 2006 and awaits Royal assent to become law.

The Bill amends the Census and Statistics Act (1905) and the Archives Act (1983) relating to the retention of identified census information by the National Archives of Australia. The Bill ensures that name identified information collected in all future Australian censuses will be preserved for future genealogical and other research. Retention only applies to information supplied by those households that provide explicit consent on the census form.

Fifty-one percent of Australians answered "YES" to the retention of their forms in the 2001 census survey. This was in effect a national referendum of the Australian people and a majority voted that Australia's history matters. Australia can do even better this year. A major educational campaign is being waged to inform all Australian residents to respond affirmatively to question 60. An intense 20 year political campaign by the Australasian Federation of Family History Organizations (AFFHO) prior to the 2001 survey, resulted in a complete reversal on a long standing Federal Government policy to destroy Census returns and publish

numerical statistics only. Prior to 2001, no census survey of national coverage in Australia had survived since 1828. As with the 2001 survey, during the 99 year period, the name-identified information will not be released by the National Archives under any circumstances.

The AFFHO is working closely with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the National Archives of Australia to assist in the national public education campaign prior to census night. Please support the AFFHO by encouraging as many Australians as possible to answer YES in the census question concerning the retention of this vital record of the Australian culture. Unless question #60 is answered YES, the census form will not be retained in the archives.

Alien Registration, cont. from page 8

and Aliens" is in the PRO National Archives, 2000, ISBN 1-873162-94-4. Registers of aliens survive locally at the County Record Offices in Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Essex, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, and Staffordshire counties. For full contact details, see ARCHON at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/

The National Archives - formerly the Public Record Office - hold the alien registration cards issued from 1914 in the series of records MEPO 35. By the end of 2006, the PRO hopes to have these digitized and available to upload to its website.

Hebrew University Website Provides Genealogy Links

Theo Graff, SFBAJGS

In the current issue of "The Marin Kin Tracer" I found a reference to a good website for Jewish genealogy, from the Dinur Center for Research in Jewish History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The site can be found at jewishhistory.huji.ac.il/internetresources/gen.htm.

The site includes links to information on communities including Sephardic/French, Australian, Dutch, Middle East, Eastern and Central Europe, America and Great Britain, along with links to Avotaynu, Beth Hatefutsoth, JewishGen, and other resources. Check it out.

Using NUCMC to Find Family Information

By Beth Galletto, Editor, *ZichronNote*

The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) is a catalog, created by the Library of Congress, of collections in various repositories throughout the United States that are unable to perform their own cataloging.

Pamela Dallas shared her expertise on the NUCMC, which she called "an underused gold mine of information for genealogists," in a presentation on March 22 to the Marin County Genealogical Society .

The collections include material on all subjects, in a wide variety of forms. Of interest to genealogists are oral histories, diaries, photographs, personal papers, research papers, genealogies, biographies, maps, journals, and much more.

Indexes from the 1959 to 1993 are compiled in blue volumes indexed every three years. Volumes covering 1959 to 1993 are available at the Sutro Library. U.C. Berkeley has a subscription to Archives USA which includes all of these listings. There is no cumulative index, so each volume must be checked. The catalogs are indexed by topics and by family, corporate and geographical names.

Indexes from 1993 forward can be found on the Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html. Two types of databases, RLG and OCLC, are listed. Dallas suggests searching both, because they are different.

RLG (Research Libraries Group) includes 700,000 records; OCLC (the Online Computer Library Center) database includes 300,000 records describing archival and manuscript collections. A number of different search terms may be entered. Many of the listings include a large amount of descriptive material along with information on where the documents themselves may be found. It is necessary to contact the repository in which the documents are kept. NUCMC does not house any collections, it just catalogs them.

Dallas noted that NUCMC makes it possible to find collections of records that have been moved from their original location to places such as university libraries, making it difficult for researchers to find them. She gave an example of a tax list from Indiana she found in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

To see what NUCMC could do I tried a quick search for one of my family names, "Bolker." The search yielded information on a folder of photographs from the war crimes trial of *US vs. Alfons Klein et. al.*, depicting, among other things, autopsies performed by Dr. Hermann Bolker. I had previously heard that Hermann Bolker, a relative for whom I do not yet know the exact connection, had testified at the Nurenberg trials. This listing of materials held at the U.S. Holocaust Museum has provided me with more details for this story.

Dallas can be reached at pbdallas@earthlink.net.

Germany Approves Release of International Tracing Service Records

Germany has announced that it now favors opening the record collection of the International Tracing Service (ITS) located in Arolsen, Germany. The agreement would permit the eleven countries that make up the ITS committee to copy the ITS material and make it available through their national archives in accordance with national laws. This decision will be formally approved at the May 17 meeting of the ITS Council and then ratified by member countries.

Even before formal approval, work will begin to get the material ready for copying, particularly the large part which has already been digitized. The new German position was approved by the German cabinet and was announced at a news conference at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum by German Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries.

Until now, Germany resisted public access to the records, citing privacy considerations. The member countries can now obtain copies of the records and make them available to the public based on each country's privacy laws. Ironically this will be least useful for German scholars since German law is far more restrictive than the laws of other countries.

The holdings of the International Tracing Service are one of the most valuable sources of information about the fate of people, both victims and survivors, caught up in the Holocaust. Their records place an individual at a specific place and time during the Holocaust period. They claim to have 40 million such pieces of information. Their sources, to name a few, are deportation lists, concentration camp death lists, ghetto records and post-war refugee records.

Reprinted from "Nu? What's New?" the e-zine of Jewish genealogy.

PAST MEETINGS

Finding Ancestors Through Tax Censuses from 18th Century Lithuania

An audience of about 60 gathered at the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center in April to hear Sonia and David B. Hoffman Ph.D., founders of the Jewish Family History Foundation, discuss the Foundation's Grand Duchy of Lithuania Project (GDL). The lecture was a special presentation in honor of the 25th anniversary of the SFBAJGS.

David Hoffman is the President of the Jewish Family History Foundation and serves on the Board of the JGSLA. He co-founded and is past-president of the LitvakSIG. Sonia Hoffman is President of the JGS Los Angeles and coordinates the GDL project of the Jewish Family History Foundation. She has also served as coordinator of the Bialystok Shtetl Co-op for JRI-Poland. The two speakers have published numerous articles in *Avotaynu* and *Roots-Key* and have spoken at five IAJGS annual conferences and at meetings held by other societies.

According to the Hoffmans 80 percent of today's Jews have ancestors who lived in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The project focuses on translating and analyzing thousands of pages of census-tax records from the latter half of the 18th century, for the Commonwealth of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy and Kingdom of Poland, areas which are now in Lithuania, Belarus and parts of Poland.

The Commonwealth was formed by the Union of Lublin in 1569 and ended after the third partition of Poland in 1795, when the three larger empires of Russia, Austria-Hungary and Prussia divided this territory. The largest portion became a large part of the Russian Empire's Pale of Settlement.

The primary documents discussed in the Hoffmans' presentation are census-tax lists from 1784 and 1785. The GDL Project has obtained the 2000-plus page 1784 list, made to collect a general head tax. The geographical area included in this list consists of today's Lithuania, most of Belarus, eastern border areas of Poland and the northern (Volhynia) part of Ukraine. Many kahal lists for the 1765 census have also been acquired. (A kahal was a Jewish community governing body.) The 1765 census, taken

before the first partition, covers a larger territory, including what is now Poland, Belarus and Ukraine.

The political districts during the Grand Duchy period are different from those that existed during the Russian Empire period, so the first task has been to construct an inventory of districts and the kahals in each district. As detailed transliterations of each kahal are completed, the names of the smaller towns and villages within the kahals will reveal a detailed picture of the places where Jewish families lived during the latter half of the 18th century.

In 1784 many families lived in rural villages where one family occupied a tavern, inn or mill. The documents often show that the families later moved to a nearby larger town, where some took surnames based on the name of the small villages of their origin.

Each kahal list has signatures in Hebrew of the elders of the community, usually including rabbis. The names of landowners of a town, manor, estate, or house are often included. Those names, especially if the landowners were members of the nobility, provide leads to other documents about the nobility and estates which are held in the archives.

Analyzing the given names used in each town and comparing the frequency of use from one town to another has provided new data to enlarge the body of knowledge about given names used by our ancestors during this period.

Historians have written about these records; most of them have asserted that the Jewish population was under-counted, particularly in the later 18th century lists. Based on comparisons of different lists, the Hoffmans agree.

The speakers also cited a number of researchers who have had success using these lists to trace their families back to the 18th century. For more information, visit www.jewishfamilyhistory.org.

Note: Much of the above information was reprinted from the materials distributed at the Hoffmans' presentation.



David Hoffman speaks to a capacity crowd at the Berkeley-Richmond JCC.

The Challenge of Archival Preservation

Preserving accumulated records, photographs, and family documents is a challenge to genealogists, and SFBAJGS members learned how to meet this challenge from an expert: Susan Goldstein, City Archivist for the City and County of San Francisco.

Goldstein manages the San Francisco History Center, on the sixth floor of the Main Public Library, where she is responsible for the archives, photograph and book collections, including their physical organization, storage and preservation, cataloguing, digitization and access. She previously served as the archivist for Senator Alan Cranston and as an archivist for the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University.

Goldstein stressed three basic rules of archive preservation:

1. Store materials in an environment you would find comfortable, not in an attic or basement.
2. Don't do something you can't undo. (Never laminate or use tape or glue.)
3. Acid free paper is one of the most important preservation tools. She suggested going to an art store and buying a ream of acid free paper. This paper can be used to separate objects to stop acid migration from one to another.

Heat and light cause archival objects to age, she said, so they should be kept or displayed in an environment that limits exposure to ultraviolet light, and keeps humidity in a mid range (not too wet or too dry). "Keep them in a stable environment that doesn't fluctuate too much," she said. "We keep the archives colder than the rest of the library."

The more barriers between an object and its environment, and between an object and other objects, the better.

Goldstein noted that there is a range of treatments for archival collections. What you end up doing depends on how much time and money you are willing to spend. She emphasized that lamination is bad because it cannot be undone. Instead of lamination she advised encapsulation in mylar. However, she noted that there are different kinds of mylar. She recommended buying it from suppliers known to carry archival products. If a material is folded, open and flatten it. If it is rolled, steam it and slowly unroll it.

Never have food or drink near archival materials. Keep them dust free. Goldstein said that the most damaging objects in archives are paper clips, staples, and rubber bands. If papers must be clipped, buy plastic paper clips.

She said that sometimes she receives materials in a such a deteriorated condition that they can only be thrown out. "Sometimes you have to cut your losses and get rid of them before they destroy others."

Goldstein explained details of the best treatment for common types of objects.

Store negatives in negative sleeves and acid free envelopes and folders. Handle them with clean hands. Store them separately from photos. Acid free paper should be folded around glass plate negatives.

Store papers in archival file boxes. Make sure all papers are supported so they don't slide or bend. Loose leaf binders can be used if papers are in mylar pages. Mold can be brushed off with a soft brush.

Store photos in an even cooler place than other materials. Store photos made with the same photographic process together. To label photos use a number 2 pencil. You can get a special pencil for color photos.

For slides, write on the frame with special thin markers. Keep slides in mylar. Types of mylar that are good to use include polyester, propylene, and polyethylene, but not polyvinyl chloride or acetate.

Other suggestions include: don't mark anything with ink. Don't store anything with damaged objects. Hold photos at an edge or wear acid free gloves. "Albums are the bane of our existence, and magnetic albums are the worst," she said. She suggested putting acid free paper between album pages.

Light is particularly damaging to old types of photographic processes like albumin prints. Do not display such prints, daguerreotypes or tintypes. Display copies instead. If you must display the original, use acid free ultraviolet filter glass or plastic, and use safety hangings with an extra clamp.

For audiovisual materials, floppies, and so on, she suggested printing out the material.

Asked how to protect against fire, she suggested storing another set of copies in a different location.

To copy photos, use a color copier — one time — or scan. She said that light from copy machines is more damaging than light from scanners. Since we don't know what technical platforms will survive, keep your documents in more than one. Make the first copy "read only."

Scanning and digitizing are not considered a permanent medium yet. "Hold on to your paper and wait 50 to 100 years," Goldstein said.

Family Finder, cont. from page 6

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
MAYER	Anywhere	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
MENDES	Kingston, Jamaica; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
MILLER	Vilnius, Sirvintos, Lithuania	Miller, Kaye
MISHURIS/MISHURISMANN	Balta, Ukraine	Lewak, Dave
NADLER	Canada; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
NEWMAN	Anywhere	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
OESTERMAN	Galveston, TX; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
OPCHITSKY/OPCZYCKI/ OPCZITSKI/OPCZYTSCKI	Golub Dobrzyn, Poland	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
OBCZYCKI/OBCZTSKI/OBCZYTSKI	Golub Dobrzyn, Poland	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
OSEICKI	Golub Dobrzyn, Poland	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
SHUP(P)ER	Russia; Latvia; Lynn, Boston, MA; New York	Klein, Barbara & Schrier, Stan
SIMON	Ebertsheim, Bavaria, Germany; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
SOUPER	Russia; Latvia; Lynn, Boston, MA; New York	Klein, Barbara & Schrier, Stan
STERN	Czchow, Galicia	Lewak, Dave
STRAUS(S)	Vilnius, Sirvintos, Lithuania	Miller, Kaye
SUPER	Russia; Latvia; Lynn, Boston, MA; New York	Klein, Barbara & Schrier, Stan
TOBERMAN	Balta, Ukraine	Lewak, Dave
WEIL	Oberlustadt, Otterstadt, Bavaria, Germany; New Orleans, LA	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
WINZELBERG	Czchow, Galicia	Lewak, Dave
WIRTHAIMER	Czchow, Galicia	Lewak, Dave
WOHLGEMUTH	Attleiningen, Carlsberg, Neunkirchen, Rhine, Germany	Cleary, Ellen, Barnett
ZOGERSKY	Liskiava, Lithuania	Miller, Kaye
ZOOPER	Russia; Latvia; Lynn, Boston, MA; New York	Klein, Barbara & Schrier, Stan

President's Message, cont. from page 2

that researching my family hadn't figured as something important in my life at that time. After all, family was so close to me. We often visited our Frankel, Leader and Gold relatives; we visited my grandparents every weekend. The thought had never crossed my mind to actually research them. So I had to say to Zaida, "No, I never knew that Uncle Charlie had been married twice."

Hmm, how does one begin? I approached the font of all knowledge — my father. My father's parents had both died of natural causes during the second world war, so I never got to meet them. My father inherited his father's printing business and began working there after his national service in the early 1950s. Since he was "in the business" it was natural that everyone in the family — in all of the families — would ask my father to print the bar mitzvah and wedding invitations whenever one of these family events took place, which seemed to happen on an almost weekly basis.

My father shook his head, saying "No" he never knew Uncle Charlie had been married twice. So what was I to do? It was that evening that the dreaded genealogy bug first infected me and I have yet to find a cure for it 21 years later.

A few weeks afterwards I sat my father down and extracted from him the basic family tree of who our living relatives were, who was married to whom and who were the children. This was to be followed by many visits to the General Register Office in central London to wade through all the national indices of births, marriages and deaths. As one would say (no pun intended) — the rest is history!

That is how I got started; how about you? Was there some epiphany or defining moment you recall that got you interested in genealogy? In this our 25th year, I'm sure that many of us would like to read about what got you started. And I'm sure that our editor, Beth Galleto, would love to hear about it from you, too.

Batya, cont. from page 5

the Holocaust. Then I found five letters written in the early 1950s to my grandfather, David Kurtz from Manes Babchuk. They were postmarked Ramat Gan, Israel, and written in Yiddish. My great grandmother's maiden name was Babchuk. I knew only of her siblings who immigrated to the U.S. from Berezna, Ukraine, before 1918, and their father's name, Haskel Babchuk. Translations of the letters told me that Manes had a sick, young son, and was in need of money for doctors and household goods. As my grandfather died before I was born, I had no one to answer, "who was he?"

I had read of Batya Unterschatz in Jerusalem, whose Jewish Agency-Search Bureau for Missing Relatives tries to reconnect families. On recommendation of Bob Weiss, I wrote her, with the lowest of expectations, enclosing copies of the letters and the only tenuous clue I had: Another Babchuk had emigrated from Berezna to Argentina in 1933. Who was Manes? If he was still alive, he had to be past 80 years of age. His letters had indicated that his son was very ill, perhaps he did not survive. Was there any trace of this family?

I mailed my letter on October 8, 1993. On October 22, I received a note from Batya saying, "I spoke to Manes and Hanna Babchuk. They are the people you are looking for. Manes remembers David Kurtz and he is from Berezna." She included their address and telephone number in Jerusalem. I wrote that afternoon, trying not to ask too many questions while eager to understand our connection. In my zeal for a response, I suggested they write back in Hebrew, if it would be easier, and I would find someone to translate for me.

It has been difficult to keep myself from running to the mailbox each day. I frequently remind myself that six weeks is a very short time and patience is the hallmark of a genealogist. Saturday, January 8, a blue aerogram arrived with the return address of Lea Babchuk Sharon, Jerusalem. It was written in Hebrew, and after "L'Dafna Hadassah, Shalom," I recognized few words. My good fortune placed the parents of a friend in San Francisco for a visit from Tel Aviv. With their help, I have "met" my third cousin once removed, daughter of 82 year old Manes, grand nephew of Haskel. She has a daughter in the army and a son in school. Her brother, who survived his childhood illness, has four daughters. Manes had been conscripted into the Russian Army and escaped the massacre of the Jews of Berezna. Sadly, he has begun to forget many things and my direct link to Berezna may be fading.

I hope to meet a group of Berezna survivors in Israel

who meet annually for a Day of Remembrance and learn more about a town of which I now so little. The most wonderful outcome will, of course, be getting to know Leah and my long lost cousins, who know nothing of their extended family. They will be surprised to learn of the 317 relatives I track.

I cannot fully express my gratitude to Batya. She charges no fee, asking only donations to defray her costs. Her attention, interest and devotion are unique and often facilitate miraculous results. Even when connections are not completed her efforts are remarkable. (I also sought a "Tobie" Babchuk, born about 1898, who married a "Bilenko" and moved to Israel. She found a Zelda and Michael Bilenki, from Berezna, born in 1895, died childless in 1964 in Tel Aviv. Not a definite identification, but worth pursuing. This took Batya only two weeks.)

I learn over and over never to ignore passing comments and sweeping assertions as they often hold clues to puzzles we thought had no solution. I am thankful for the opportunity Batya Unterschatz has provided me, offer my deepest appreciation, and wish her only the best.

Family History Website Adds Holocaust Memorials

Steven Lasky, JewishGen

I have now added more than two dozen Holocaust memorials (in New York and New Jersey) to my current exhibition. The towns/cities that are newly represented are Mizoch, Polonnoye, Gvardeyskove and Vinkovtsky. There are now 58 Holocaust memorials in this exhibition, representing towns in today's Ukraine, more than 150 in all. The main link to this exhibition is www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/hm-main.htm.

Editor's Note: Lasky's website, the Museum of Family History (www.museumoffamilyhistory.com), is a remarkable on-line collection. Among the contents of the site is information about 35 Polish towns including lists of immigrants who went through Ellis Island from each town, lists of surnames in sections of U.S. cemeteries connected to burial societies from those towns, and links to other websites of interest connected to those towns and to translations of Yizkor Books.

The site also contains intricately detailed maps from the 1930s and photographs of families from Poland and other areas (Postcards from Home). In addition, look for historical descriptions of life as it was in Eastern Europe, on the voyage to America, on the Lower East Side of New York, and more. This site is well worth a visit.

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ZichronNote

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