



זכרונות ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

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Finding Family Historical Documents in Museums and Private Collections

Larry Burgheimer and Daniel Bing discover a common ancestor whose beautiful 18th century handwritten haggadahs can be viewed in museums.

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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 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
Abundance of Jewish-Related
Activities in the SF Bay Area

By Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

I know that it is all too easy to spend many evenings with your face in front of the computer working through all your genealogical family lines. But while searching other people's lives you should not neglect your own. And I don't mean genealogical research, but getting out and enjoying the richness that the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish community has to offer.

There are almost nightly offerings of the many regional Jewish Community Centers and Jewish Community Federations; book-readings, international cinema, music, exhibits, Yiddish and Hebrew classes and so much more. And don't forget our own congregations; these, too, provide communal events. Then there are various film festivals; the upcoming Latino Film Festival (to name one example) will screen three Jewish-themed films.

The JCC East Bay hosts an annual Jewish Music Festival in several Bay Area locations. And of course there is Israel in the Gardens in San Francisco and the Palo Alto Street Fair. You want more? Well, don't neglect the Judah L. Magnes Museum, the third largest Jewish museum in the United States — right here on our doorstep. The Magnes is about to move into a new location in downtown Berkeley in 2009. As an aside, several Society members are helping the Magnes to identify, enter data and digitize documents for a brand new online family history project. If you would like to be a part of this project, contact me at jfrankel@lmi.net.

"Is there even more?" I hear you ask. Yes! At UC Berkeley there is a Jewish Studies Program with evening lectures, and the Journalism School holds events including a recent evening discussion entitled "Questions of Jewish Identity," moderated by Joan Bieder, Assistant Dean, who recently wrote a book on Shanghai Jews (she has also lectured to our Society).

Just up the street from UC Berkeley is Lehraus Judaica, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. LJ holds classes in Berkeley and other sites on many subjects relating to Judaica. It was founded by Fred Rosenbaum, an author who has spent most of his life studying the San Francisco Bay Area.

Over in San Francisco I know that several Society members enjoy the weekly offerings at the Jewish

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SOCIETY NEWS

Welcome, New Members

Dede Meyer, Berkeley.....dz@meyercrest.com
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In order to receive the SFBAJGS e-zine, please send e-mail updates to galleto@pachbell.net

One-on-One Help Sessions Start for Fall

Genealogy help sessions begin with brainstorming with experienced genealogists from the SFBAJGS and continue with individual attention and research using the Jewish Community Library's extensive reference collection and Internet connection. Sessions are conducted by longtime Jewish Community Library volunteer staffer Judy Baston.

Sessions are generally the first Sunday of the month. Dates for 2008-2009 include December 7, January 4, February 1, and March 1. One-on-One Help sessions take place from noon to 2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco. For information call (415) 567-3327, ext. 704.

Sellers Is New Publicity Chair

Janice Sellers has accepted the post of Publicity Chair for the SFBAJGS. Janice has been an avid genealogist for 33 years. Her areas of interest include general USA, California, New Jersey, New York, Texas and Russia. In the course of her research she has learned to read and speak Russian! Janice has also volunteered her time at the Oakland Family History Center for the past eight years.

Professionally she is an editor, indexer and translator. Janice's experience includes over 30 years volunteering for non-profit organizations, plus eight years of working at a non-profit membership organization and ten years as a webmaster.

Janice brings a wealth of knowledge, both of genealogy and of non-profit organizations, to the Society's Board of Directors. We are indeed fortunate to be the beneficiary of her experience.

Names Project: How You Can Help

At the Society's first meeting in 2009 Bobbi Bornstein, Volunteer Coordinator, Peninsula Region, of the Jewish Family & Children's Services, will discuss The Names Recovery Project, in which JFCS partners with the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Israel. This vital effort to recover the names of all 6 million Jews who died in the Shoah is growing ever more urgent as time passes.

JFCS is in the process of seeking more volunteers to help them. They offer training and hope to reach out to as many Holocaust survivors as possible who can add to the listings in Yad Vashem's central database. There are now about 3 million names listed, about half the estimated number of victims. Come learn how you can help! The meeting takes place in San Francisco on Sunday, January 18. See below for details.

See Back Cover for Calendar of Upcoming Meetings of SFBAJGS

Please note: Unless otherwise indicated, the SFBAJGS 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. JCC East Bay, 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley.



Jewish Genealogy Month

30 October through 27 November, 2008
1 through 29 Cheshvan 5769

*Researching our past
helps us to better
understand the present
and prepare for the future!*



**San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society**

www.iajgs.org

Submitted by JGS OF IL
Created by Harriet Rudnit

Finding Family Historical Documents in Museums and Private Collections

By Larry Burgheimer and Daniel Bing

Larry Burgheimer is Membership Chair of the SFBAJGS. He has been researching his family for 40 years, and he became acquainted with his distant cousin Daniel Bing the course of his research. Family names Larry is researching include **LEVI-BURGHEIMER, GEISMAR, WURMSER, DUKAS-HAAS, RIS, WEIL, GREILSHEIMER/GREILSAMMER, KREIELSHEIMER, BLOCH, LEVI-WACHENHEIMER, MAAS, GUNDELFINGER, DREIFUSS, MEIER,** and **SEGAL** from numerous towns in Germany and Alsace, France.

Getting the story started

Many of us know the value of the JewishGen.org website, and we often check the Family Finder (JGFF) to see if anyone new is searching our family names and towns. I have about six family surnames and 10 towns in Southwest Germany that I check about once a month. One town that a couple of mid 18th century relatives passed through is Ihringen near the Rhine, in the Breisgau region of Baden, Germany. I had not listed my family names there because I considered it so obscure, but I still check the town to see if anyone is searching there. Until last Spring, only a few people were searching Ihringen besides David Blum, who is one of the earliest people to be listed on JewishGen before it was a website. David is also the expert on Jews of Southwest Germany.

One evening in February 2008, I checked on Ihringen, and a new person was searching several surnames, one of which was BLUM. I remembered that my ancestor Alexander LEVI, who selected our surname of BURGHEIMER in 1809, had a first cousin in Ihringen who was LEVI and selected the name BLUM.

I contacted this new person, Daniel BING, and we were pretty sure we were related. I knew nothing of his family and he knew nothing of my link. I told Dan about David Blum and his data and we began passing family tree and reference data back and forth.

My first relative came to the U.S. in 1855 and my grandfather came alone in 1884. Dan's family arrived New York in the mid 1850s and early 1860s. While passing information, I told Dan that David Blum had told me that one of my relatives who was a Sofer (scribe) had written and illustrated several Haggadot in the mid 18th century. I wasn't sure if it was Abraham RIS or Abraham LEVI, but either way I was related, because their grandchildren married — forming a direct link to both men. David Blum had given me an article in French that referred to Abraham the Sofer of Ihringen.

I don't read French but was able to determine that Abraham had three Haggadot that still existed — one in London from 1756, one in Jerusalem from 1732

and one in Paris from 1740. Dan was very interested in this find and I sent him a copy of the article.



1732 Haggadah, in Israel Museum in Jerusalem, shows Abraham the Sofer's detailed work.

Dan then told me that he was planning a trip to Germany in two months with his wife, two sons and a daughter-in-law. One of the places he planned to visit was Ihringen, where he hoped to confirm some cemetery references. Since I went to a Geismar conference in Breisach three years ago and Ihringen is only a few kilometers from Breisach, I told Dan of my connections there in several of the surrounding towns. I also told him about Werner Frank in Los Angeles, who is actively searching these towns. I also found out that Dan, who is my exact age, is a retired professor of ancient history from the University of Tennessee. He is skilled in doing research and more knowledgeable than I am in the languages needed for research (German, French, and Hebrew).

Continued on next page

Historical Documents, cont. from page 5

The search begins:

Dan's search focused on whether or not Abraham the Sofer of Ihringen was actually our common ancestor Abraham Levi (see the proof of this in the last section of this article). His initial search was to find the specific location of the three surviving Haggadot. He learned that the 1756 Haggadah is owned by the London Jewish Museum; the 1732

died in Ihringen about 1764. Dan found the marriage, birth, and death records of the descendants of Abraham Levi who continued to live in Ihringen and who had adopted Blum as their family name. These records (on LDS microfilm) date from 1811 to 1870, but often involve ancestors who lived much of their lives in the 18th century.

In the process of this primary search for the identity of Abraham, the scribe of Ihringen, Dan received images of 14 pages from the 1756 Haggadah from the London Jewish Museum. The images are not very high resolution. I wrote to the museum curator and asked for high resolution copies. The curator gave us a reasonable price on making copies, since Dan and I are direct line relatives and we are not using the copies for commercial purposes. We received the 14 pages on a CD. They were not willing to copy all of the pages for obvious reasons. I printed four copies of the pages on high quality 8 ½ by 11 photographic paper, and the results were wonderful. I gave a set to Dan, one to my sister, and one for Dan to take to Germany. Meanwhile, Dan obtained photographic images of four pages of the 1732 Haggadah from The Israel Museum, and we also had those printed on photographic paper. Through various contacts, Dan was able to make an appointment with the

private owner of the 1740 Haggadah, whom he met while Dan and his family visited Paris after their stay in Germany. Dan and his son photographed several of the pages of this Haggadah, which is not as well preserved as the other two Haggadot.



1740 Haggadah by Abraham the Sofer, in a private collection in Paris

Haggadah is in The Israel Museum in Jerusalem. He later learned the identity of the private collector in Paris who owns the 1740 Haggadah. Meanwhile, I had already provided Dan with a black and white copy of the 1740 page with colophon (bibliographic information) which I had obtained from David Blum. This page along with the similar pages of the 1756 and 1732 Haggadot revealed the same limited information: the creator of the Haggadot was Abraham the Sofer STaM (of Soferim, Tefillin [and] Mezuzot) from Ihringen near Old-Breisach.

Dan finally found the evidence that established that Abraham Levi was indeed the Torah Scribe by means of an electronic scholarly article on the Internet and correspondence with its author, a historian at the University of Bern, Switzerland, who had found a document in the Generallandesarchiv in Karlsruhe referring to Abraham Levi as the Zehngebotschreiber (Torah Scribe; literally "Ten Commandment Scribe") at Ihringen. Abraham Levi was born about 1694 and

Presenting the Haggadot

While in Germany in May 2008, Dan visited the Blaue Haus in Breisach. This structure is a building painted blue that was once housed the rabbis and cantors of the former synagogue (the synagogue was burned to the ground on Kristallnacht). A group of dedicated non-Jewish Germans has created a cultural learning center in this building to promote Breisach's Jewish past. Dan presented his information on the Haggadot to a small local audience. He also met the mayor of Ihringen, and showed him photocopies of the pages of the 1756 and 1732 Haggadot. In September 2008, Dan was invited back to present a paper on his research to the people

of Ihringen on the occasion of European Day of Jewish Culture. This event began in Alsace, France, in 1996, and now is observed in 27 European countries. The following is a copy of his presentation. (The German portions of the presentation have been translated into English for this article.)

Dan Bing's presentation on September 7, 2008:

Honorable Mayor, citizens of Ihringen and guests,

I am honored and pleased to be invited to speak to you this evening. I am also rather amazed to find myself speaking to you here in this hall, in this town, on this occasion— "Europaeischer Tag der Juedischen Kultur" (*European Day of Jewish Culture*).

Six months ago I was completely ignorant about my ancestors who came from Ihringen. I had been searching for the birthplace of my great grandfather, Leopold Levi Blum, for many years. My father could tell me very little about him. He said that the Blum family came from Alsace; that they had family connections extending from Belgium to Switzerland; and that Leopold Blum on arriving in New York City in the 19th century became the owner of a wine import business.

Now that I know his birthplace is Ihringen, Leopold's occupational choice in America makes perfect sense to me, having myself tasted "the fruit of the vine" from Ihringen and the Kaiserstuhl.

Six months ago I discovered that my great grandfather was born at Ihringen. This evening I want to tell you a little about my great grandfather's great great grandfather, my five times great grandfather, Abraham Levi, the first member of the Levi-Blum family to live and work in Ihringen.

I first heard of Abraham Levi when I submitted a query to the Jewish genealogical website asking if anyone had information about the Levi Blum family from Ihringen. Among several responses was one from Larry Burgheimer, my first cousin five times removed.

Larry sent me a Descendant Report of the Levi-Blum and Levi-Burgheimer families which led back to Abraham Levi, the earliest known ancestor, who was born about 1694 and died about 1764. A note attached to Abraham Levi said that he possibly was the Scribe of Ihringen who created three surviving Haggadot: one Haggadah dating to 1732 now in a museum in Jerusalem; another dating to 1740 in a private collection in Paris; and another dating to 1756 in a museum in London.

I was surprised and excited by this revelation. I began to search for more information about Abraham

Levi. I contacted the London Jewish Museum, and its curator informed me that the museum did in fact own the 1756 Ihringen Haggadah. She sent me 10 digital images. I also received a faxed copy of the museum's catalogue entry describing this Haggadah and assessing the ability of its creator: Abraham, the scribe from Ihringen.

I was astonished by the beauty of the colored



1756 Haggadah, in the Jewish Museum in London

illustrations and the floral designs decorating the pages of this book. And I was impressed by the museum's catalog description of the work and skill of its creator. The following summarizes some of the museum catalog entry:

The Haggadah is 12 1/4 by 8 1/4 inches.

It contains 27 pages made of parchment. It has contemporary leather binding with gold lettering and blind toolings.

Its author is a very efficient professional scribe who is also the illustrator and illuminator of the entire book.

Different portions of the text are in Hebrew, German, and Jewish German (that is German mixed with some Hebrew words or phrases), all in Hebrew script.

The scribe used a wide range of water-colors for the illustrations, especially pastel shades. All illustrations have captions in German rhymes. Many initial letters are illuminated.

The scribe also wrote a brief advertisement in Jewish German rhyme using Hebrew script, which appears after the title page. The first lines of the advertisement read as follows:

Wer Solche Haggadah will kaufen / Der soll zu Avraham Sofer von Eiringen laufen; / Er gibt sie fuer

Continued on next page

Historical Documents, cont. from page 7

ein billigen Preis / Er hat auch angewand sein besten Fleiss.....

I later obtained four images of pages from the 1732 Ihringen Haggadah, which is owned by the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The more writing and artwork of the Ihringen scribe I saw, the more intense became my desire to discover his identity. Was my ancestor Abraham Levi, who lived at Ihringen from about 1730 until his death in about 1764, the scribe of Ihringen whose surviving Haggadot all date to the same period? This question arose because in all three surviving Haggadot, its creator refers to himself only as Abraham the scribe from Ihringen near Old-Breisach. He gives no patronym; no last name.

I had no idea how to resolve this historical puzzle. I knew that there had to be records somewhere identifying who the scribe of Ihringen was — but how was I to find them? I lived thousands of miles from where any of the relevant archival records might be stored.

In an act of desperation, I went to the Internet, and typed into the Google search window the following three words: “Abraham Levi Ihringen”

To my astonishment I found a footnote in an article, in a book of articles published in 1999. The title of the article is “Bitten um den Schutz: Staatliche Judenpolitik und Lebensfuehrung von Juden im Lichte von Schutzsupplikationen aus der Markgrafschaft Baden(-Durlach) im 18. Jahrhundert.” (*Requests for Protection: State Jewish Policy and Living Conditions of Jews In Light of Petitions for Protection In the Duchy of Baden [-Durlach] in the 18th Century.*) The author is Andre Holenstein, a historian at the University of Bern, Switzerland. Footnote 103, on page 127, cites two examples illustrating how difficult it was during the middle of the 18th century for Jews to receive the right of protection in Baden. The second example is the following:

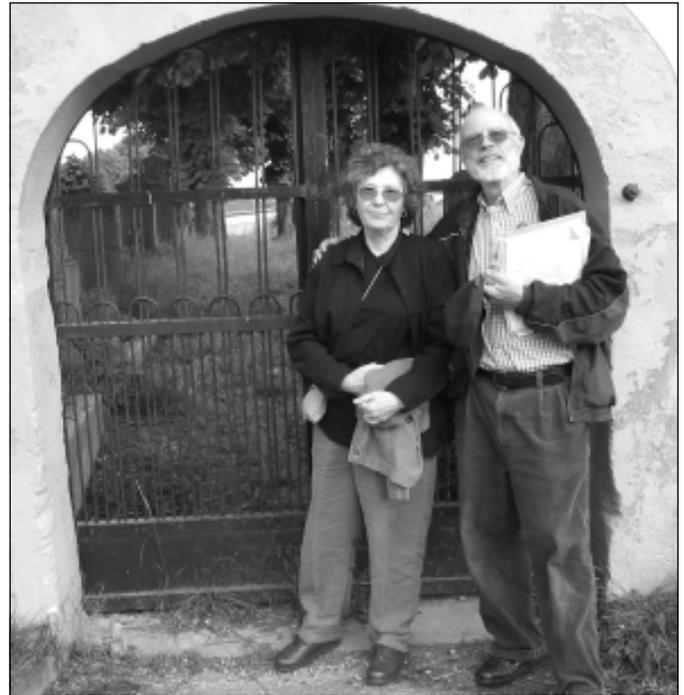
“1756 wurde Aaron Levi aus Ihringen, der seinen ueber 60 jaehrigen alten Vater unterhielt und fuer diesen das Schutzgeld entrichtete, bis zum Tod seines Vaters in den Schutz aufgenommen; Aaron Levi hatte bereits vier oder fuenf Mal vergeblich um den Schutz suppliziert; seit 6 1/2 Jahren war Levi im Handel aktiv. Nach dem Tod des Vaters sollte er aber sogleich fortgeschafft werden (137/168).”

[1756 Aaron Levi from Ihringen, who has supported his over 60 year old father and has paid his Protection Money for him, will receive protection-status until the death of his father; Aaron Levi has already petitioned unsuccessfully for Protection-status four or five times; for 6 1/2 years Levi has been active in

his trade. After the death of his father he must Immediately be removed. (137/168)]

This was interesting new information, but not quite enough to answer the question which I sought to resolve.

I wrote Professor Holenstein, telling him that I had read his footnote in his article, and that I was directly descended from Aaron Levi and his father Abraham Levi from Ihringen. I then said:



Dan and Pat Bing at the cemetery in Ihringen, Germany in 2008

“....I am writing to you in hopes that you might still have your notes concerning the ‘Schutzsupplikationen’ of Aaron Levi, and that you might be able to provide me with details those petitions might contain concerning either Aaron Levi or his father....”

Six days later I received the following message: (*see addendum for Holenstein’s letter*)

The archival evidence is conclusive: Abraham Levi, whose descendants at Ihringen took the family surname Levi Blum, was the creator of the beautiful Ihringen Haggadot of 1732, 1740, and 1756.

I have only a few additional comments.

The archival petitions of Aaron Levi reveal the impoverished circumstances of the Levi family in Ihringen in the middle of the 18th century. Although Abraham Levi was a highly skilled and professional scribe, he was extremely poor. We do not know how much time was required for him to create a single

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Now Online

By Marilyn Dornhelm

Juicy Bits of Jewish Genealogy

In this column I will share what's new in online indexes, digitized archival material and tools. The main source for these will be JewishGen and the many SIG digests that I check out daily.

(Editor's Note: In *ZichronNote*, URL notations are in boldface and the "http://" notation is omitted to save space.)

Review for July - November 7, 2008 In the USA

FLORIDA

www.deathindexes.com/florida/index.html

I don't know if this is new, but it is new to me and an amazing resource for genealogy. More than just vital records (see the bottom of the webpage), search results can take the form of images of legal documents, obituaries, and cemetery records.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans, Louisiana, Indexes for Obituaries

obits.gno.lib.la.us/nopl/obitindex.htm

obits.gno.lib.la.us/nopl/orderingobits.htm

www.usgwarchives.org/la/orleans/obituaries.htm

"For anyone doing research in New Orleans the above websites are very helpful. Both indexes are incomplete and ongoing projects but between the two you will find the date of obits for many years. The library site provides date of death as well as page number and sometimes spouse. Both may include maiden name. You may then order obits from the library at two dollars per obit with a citation and three without. See their website for additional information." From Carolyn Lea JewishGen newsletter.

Louisiana Vital Records

www.sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/638/Default.aspx

Click on one of the headers in red for death/marriage/birth records, to get to the specific search page.

ILLINOIS

Vital Records indexes online

See *ZichronNote*, Aug/Sept 2008, p. 6, for article in depth with links.

NEW YORK

Queens, New York Cemetery Database

The Mt. Lebanon Cemetery website and searchable database can be found at

www.mountlebanoncemetery.com.

On the cemetery website, just click on the link at the top of the page that says "Interment Search/Genealogy" and search away. The searchable fields are First Name, Last Name, Date of Death (Month/Year), Block, Reference, and Society (Name). Source: JewishGen, 11/8/08, Steve Lasky.

Other Countries

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires, Argentina, Cemetery Database

www.amia.org.ar:80/register/sepelio.aspx?sid=128

Not new, but improved and relocated website for Buenos Aires cemetery listings. You just type the name in the top box and then press BUSCAR. The English version is under construction. IMPORTANT: You can search on maiden and married names. Both are displayed.

AUSTRIA/CZECH

Vienna, Austro-Hungarian and Hapsburg Empire

Vienna/Galician Jewish Obituaries

Online Vienna Historical Newspapers, "Neue Freie Presse"

anno.onb.ac.at/anno.htm

Click on Neu: [Neue Freie Presse](http://anno.onb.ac.at/anno.htm) 1864-1937, near the bottom center of the page.

"It was one of the favorite papers for Jewish death notices/obituaries in the Habsburg Empire, If you know the date of death of the person you are looking for, click on the year and then look at several of the newspaper editions after that date, for the Partezettel. If you click on an edition layout you will soon see where the obituary notices are located — in little black-lined boxes. The beginning is usually a short eulogy about the bereaved, the end gives funeral arrangements. . .The main problem is that the site is not searchable — you have to do the searching. The pages can be enlarged via the little rectangles on the top line." See for example 17 June 1916, p.17 for a bumper number of Partezettel. From Austrian-Czech SIG, Celia Male.

Vienna Archives of the Jewish community

www.jewishgen.org/austriaczech/ikgarchive.html

A comprehensive article that points to the archival locations for the records for the Vienna Jewish

Continued on next page

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Community 1794 -1945. "Before WWII Vienna with its 175,000 Jews was the third largest Jewish community in Europe. The official body representing Vienna's Jews was the Israelite Religious Community, known as the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien (IKG). This was a large organization with many departments, including registration of births, marriages and deaths (BMD), upkeep of synagogues and cemeteries etc. Fortunately for us the huge archive of the IKG survived the war more or less intact, and since the re-established IKG was unable to look after it, a large part was transferred in the 1950s to the Archive for The History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem. The BMD records remained in Vienna with the IKG and in the 1980s these were microfilmed by the Family History Library. In recent years the Holocaust Museum in Washington started to microfilm some of the records pertaining to the period 1938-1945 and this project is still going on." With the cooperation of people from various institutions Henry Wellisch has compiled a short list of the type, location and accessibility of the records. From Austrian-Czech SIG, Henry Wellisch 18 Oct 2008.

BRAZIL

Immigrants

www.memorialdoimigrante.sp.gov.br/servicos/pesquisa/pesquisa.asp

Immigrants' registration upon arrival in Brazilian ports: Enter surname in "sobrenome" box and click on "enviar".

This is an archive related to a museum of Brazilian immigration. You can get further help from the archive. Paper copies of records have a fee. The years go back as far as 1890 or farther and extend post WWII. The exact years were not given on a cursory look. Source: Latin-American SIG 8/8/08 Svea Ilium.

BOHEMIA-MORAVIA

Brunn/Brno, Moravia 1578-1878 Class Lists Staats-Obergymnasium

forum.ahnenforschung.net/archive/index.php/t-8407.html

The full 1878 class lists are given. "I am sure many of you will find interesting links in the Gymnasium class lists. I still have to work out whether the earlier lists contain staff and/or pupils and staff. I have found many names of interest." From Celia Male, 23 Oct. 2008.

HUNGARY

Beautifully illustrated brochure on Jewish Hungary, history and culture.

Download the brochure at

www.ungarn-tourismus.de/shalomE05.qxd.pdf

From Vivian Kahn, 17 Oct 2008, Hungarian SIG newsletter

Worldwide Genealogy

Family History Library worldwide databases

pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=0

Similar to Ancestry.com but free. Search window plus list of all the databases it can search worldwide. Includes Social Security Death Index, Ellis Island and some rarer sites (such as Florida Divorce records). Amazing results for my brief effort.

HOLOCAUST/WWII

Hitler's Art Collection database

www.dhm.de/datenbank

In German. You can search on name, place, type, etc. Results often have photos of the object.

This virtual museum is a joint project of the German Historical Museum and Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues. It was established to help locate the legal heirs of stolen works, as well as to provide research material on the National Socialist abuse of art for political purposes, according to officials and Berlin historian Hanns Christian Lohr, who worked on the project.

Source: Holocaust Reparations Discussion Group

Theresienstadt Concentration camp Database at Czech Site

www.holocaust.cz/cz2/victims/victims

In the Czech language; "Pøijmeni": Surname or partial surname. "Jméno": First name. "Datum narození" : Date of birth.

A database of victims of the Theresienstadt concentration camp. It sometimes includes photos of the victims as well as copies of documents, including death records. According to Alex Calzareth, who posted a message to the Austria-Czech SIG site of JewishGen, the website indicates that the Theresienstadt death records are copies of the records held in multiple volumes in the Czech National Archives in Prague. Most records contain the individual's birthplace, occupation, citizenship, last address, address in Theresienstadt and cause of death. In a few cases, they may also include the names of the decedent's parents, the names of relatives living in Theresienstadt, along with their address and dates of birth. There may be information on the individual's last marriage, such as date and place and number of children from the marriage.

Now Online, cont. from page 10

Calzareth notes that much of the data about the individual is also available at the Shoah Victims Names database of Yad Vashem at

www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY_HON>Welcome

“The Institut Terezinske Iniciativy runs an ambitious digitization project and attempts to scan as many archival documents (and photos) relating to Holocaust victims as possible. At the moment, the whole surviving death certificates from the Terezin ghetto (more than 20 thousand) are available at the website. Finally, first results of the Terezin Album project are already published along the database of victims: we systematically search for, analyze and digitize files of Prague police that relate to the victims. This collection contains a huge number of photos (mostly taken from passport or ID-card applications), but also a number of documents interesting for families or historians. While we have already digitized these files for people whose surnames begin with letters A-H, and T, due to our thorough verification and annotation process, most of these scans aren’t yet available for the public. We will, however, keep constantly adding them. Any comments regarding the database or suggestions for

Historical Documents, cont. from page 8

Haggadah, nor do we know what the “billiger Preis” was that he charged for his beautiful books. Moreover, his overhead was high: parchment, leather, gold-tooling, were not cheap. We must also keep in mind that, despite the beauty of his scribal and artistic hand work, he was competing with the much cheaper mass-produced Haggadot manufactured by printing presses, using much cheaper materials such as paper, by the 18th century.

Perhaps further archival research would tell us how Aaron Levi was able to live in Ihringen following his father’s death. I have read the civil records which clearly show that Aaron, and his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren lived and died in Ihringen through the 19th century.

As for the meaning of the occupational term, Zehngebotsschreiber: this was a Christian term which was used to refer to Jewish scribes of sacred texts. Abraham Levi refers to himself in his Haggadot as Sofer Sofrim, Tefillin, Mezuzot, or “A scribe of books, phylacteries, and mezuzahs.” We know that at least some of his books were Haggadot. Phylacteries (Tefillin) were worn by men at special times such as when praying their morning prayers. Mezuzahs are best known for their being placed in

improvement can be directed to database@terezinstudies.cz or to my email michal.frankl@terezinstudies.cz.” From Alex Calzareth, Austria-Czech SIG newsletter.

Important Updates

Check these websites for many important additions

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org

Many more shtetl websites.

www.dbhd.org/search.php?PHPSESSID=70d0e42f54baa66c9acfe3d66a3ddbdkalter.org ???

Historical Directories with portals by Logan Kleinwaks. Many more new historical directories for Lwow, Poznan, Krakow, Warsaw, South America, UK, Poland, Bialystock, Silesia, Kielce etc. which can be searched by name or keyword doing a regular, OCR adjusted, Daitch-Mokotoff, or sensitive search. WOW!

stevemorse.org/

More amazing online tools including Chicago vital records.

www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/translations.html

Many more translations completed.

doorways and entrances to Jewish homes. These religious items contain Hebrew scriptural passages which did not include the 10 Commandments.

I want to conclude by saying that I am proud of my Jewish heritage. I am proud of the artistic achievement of Abraham Levi whose beautiful Haggadot not only represents the Jewish culture of Baden in the 18th century, but also represents the general culture of the upper Rhein region: Alsace and Baden. I recently showed photographs of the 1756 Ihringen Haggadah to a friend of mine in Knoxville, Tennessee. His ancestry goes back to 18th century Pennsylvania Germans. He was very impressed, and he said that the floral designs in that Haggadah reminded him of the floral decorations on walls and hope chests made by the Germans of Pennsylvania in the 18th century. So, I believe that the artistic achievement of Abraham Levi, the Jewish scribe of Ihringen, is a heritage which we all share and can be proud of.

Thank you very much.

The search goes on

Dan and I will continue our search for records of our ancestor’s past in Baden and Alsace and will use the copies of the Haggadot at future family seders.

Continued on next page

Historical Documents, cont. from page 11

Addendum:

“Dear Mr. Bing

“I received your e-mail few days ago and I would like to apologize for my delayed answer. It took me some time to find my old notes dating back to archival studies I undertook ten years ago.... Fortunately, I could find some more details concerning your ancestors in my notices and I will try to summarize them as accurately as possible in German language in the following lines. They are all to be found ... in the Generallandesarchiv in Karlsruhe...”

English Translation of the Holenstein's German notes:

“10 August 1756: Report of the Regional Office at Emmendingen to the Baden Court Council in Karlsruhe: Aaron Levi from Ihringen is the son of the “Hebrew Scribe” Abraham Levi. Father Abraham is between 60 and 70 years old, a poor man, and in no condition himself to pay one “Kreuzer”. He is supported by his son, who lives with him. The son pays the Schutzgeld (Protection Tax) for himself and for his father. The son Aaron asks for that reason, to receive Schutz [permission to live and pursue his business at Ihringen] or the sanction to be allowed to pursue the trade from now on because of the payment of the Protection Tax, which he pays for his father.

14 August 1756: Decision of the Court Council in Karlsruhe: Aaron Levi will be permitted to reside with his father from now on because of the payment of the customary Protection Tax. After the death of his father, Aaron Levi must immediately be removed [from Protection].

4 April 1757: Report of the Local Court of Ihringen to the Regional Office at Emmendingen: In Ihringen reside 12 Jewish households with Protection status, among which is to be found also Abraham Levi, who because of his modest means and age can no longer himself pay [for Protection Status]. His son Aaron pays the Protection Tax for his father and has himself also modest means.

29 April 1757: Report of the Ihringen Local Court to the Regional Office at Emmendingen: Abraham Levi still has 2 children. He pursues no trade. He writes

only occasionally Hebrew texts [literally “the 10 Commandments”]. There is nothing about his behavior to take objection to. Aaron Levi has no more than 2 children and has a household of 5 persons. He works as a cattle dealer mostly in the Austrian neighboring regions. There is nothing regarding his behavior to take objection to.

These are all the supplementary informations I could draw from my notices. Probably you might find other informations in the archives in Karlsruhe.

Kind regards,

André Holenstein”

Holenstein's German notes:

“10 August 1756: Bericht des Oberamts Emmendingen an den badischen Hofrat in Karlsruhe: Aaron Levi aus Ihringen ist Sohn des Zehngebotsschreibers Abraham Levi. Vater Abraham ist zwischen 60 und 70 Jahre alt, ein armer Mann, und nicht im Stande, selber einen Kreuzer zu verdienen. Er wird von seinem Sohn unterhalten, der bei ihm lebt. Der Sohn bezahlt das Schutzgeld für sich und für seinen Vater. Der Sohn Aaron bittet darum, von der Herrschaft den Schutz oder die Bewilligung zu erhalten, den Handel weiterhin gegen Entrichtung des Schutzgelds, das er für seinen Vater entrichtet, ausüben zu dürfen.

14 August 1756: Beschluss des Hofrats in Karlsruhe: Aaron Levi wird gestattet, sich weiterhin gegen Bezahlung des gewöhnlichen Schutzgeldes bei seinem Vater aufzuhalten. Nach dem Tod des Vaters soll Aaron Levi sofort fortgeschafft werden.

4 April 1757: Bericht der Ortsvorgesetzten von Ihringen an das Oberamt Emmendingen: In Ihringen besitzen 12 jüdische Haushaltungen den Schutzstatus, darunter befindet sich auch Abraham Levi, der wegen seines geringen Vermögens und Alters sein Schutzgeld nicht mehr selber entrichten kann. Sein Sohn Aaron bezahlt das Schutzgeld für den Vater und hat selber auch wenig Vermögen.

29 April 1757: Bericht der Ihringer Ortsvorgesetzten an das Oberamt Emmendingen: Abraham Levi hat noch 2 Kinder. Er treibt keinen Handel. Er schreibt dann und wann die 10 Gebote....Aaron Levi hat nicht mehr als 2 Kinder und hat eine Haushaltung von 5 Personen. Er treibt Viehhandel meist in österreiche Nachbargebiete....”

No, Your Ancestor Didn't Swim Across: Creative Searching Is the Key

By Beth Galletto

Sometimes when I am overcome by the amount of work I have to do, I become contrary and do something else entirely.

One day, while looking for a document I needed, I ran across some information about the SHAGAN family that a cousin had sent me a few years ago. At that time I searched for the family in the 1930 census and in the Ellis Island manifests and found nothing. It was frustrating, but I set it all aside, thinking maybe they came under someone else's name—or they swam across—or?

This particular day, having too much to do but wanting to procrastinate, I tried researching the family again. This time I found them.

I knew from my cousin's information that Aaron, Rose, and Frances SHAGAN were living in Virginia in 1930 after coming to the U.S. in about 1923, so I started with the 1930 census. Again, I couldn't find any appropriate SHAGAN, nor SCHAGAN, CHAGAN, CHAIKEN or many other spellings. "Sounds like" SHAGAN gave too many possibilities. I searched on first name Frances or Feige, first name Rose, Rosa, or Reise, and first name Aron or Aaron. Nothing.

Then I got creative. Using stevemorse.org, I searched for first name "starts with Fran" in Virginia, born 1920 to 1924, last name "sounds like" SHAGAN. Lo and behold, I came up with a listing in the index for Francis SHOSZON of Wise, VA. When I looked at the actual census sheet I saw that what was written was SHASGAN, another version of the name I would have been unlikely to guess.

There were Archie, age 31, proprietor of a dry goods store; Rosa, 31; Francis, 7 years; Este, 5; Lillie, 3 and 10/12; Morris, 1 and 8/12, and mother-in-law Este Abrahams, 69. According to the census they immigrated in 1923. Archie and Rosa were first married at age 23. Archie had applied for naturalization papers.

So I looked for the naturalization papers, which I don't think were available online at the time of my earlier search. I easily found the 1929 naturalization petition for Aaron SHAGAN, in Appalachia, VA. Unfortunately the scan was reversed, and I couldn't figure out how to turn it around. But by holding a mirror up to the computer screen I was able to discern that Aaron was born in Zukevicho, Poland, July 15, 1894, which is also what Ancestry's transcription said. Also listed were Rosa, Fannie, and Esther, Lillian and Leonard (who I think were

actually born in the U.S.) It said the family arrived in November, 1923. I couldn't make out the ship name but it looked like Garland, and I could see that it came from Antwerp.

I wanted to find a ship from Antwerp with a name that looked like Garland, but the Cimorelli online ships list was down for some reason, and I was raring to go. So I tried to find the manifest on Ancestry.com.

I looked for the name SHAGAN and didn't find it. After trying a number of other searches I finally searched for ships going from Antwerp to New York in 1923, narrowing the search by looking for all children less than two years old who were listed as race "Hebrew." I found Fejga SRAGAN. This turned out to be the manifest for Aron and Roza as well. They arrived on the Zeeland, sailing from Antwerp October 31, 1923 and arriving November 10. Aron's nearest relative was listed as father, Chaim SZAGAN of Grodno. Their last residence in Poland was listed as Koninchy. The manifest said they were going to San Diego, to be with brother-in-law Efron Ania (not sure which is first and which is last name) of San Diego.

I then found Aaron's World War II draft record, but the only new information on it was that he lived on Main Street in Appalachia, VA in May 1942, was 65 inches tall and weighed 140 pounds, had a light complexion and brown eyes and grey hair.

I also found Rose SHAGAN's listing in the Social Security Death Index, born 27 January 1890, died April 1968, last residence Knoxville, TN.

I tried to find Aaron's birthplace (as listed in the manifest), Zukevicho, and Fran's birthplace, Koninchy, using the shtetl finder function on JewishGen.org. I came up with two likely places, near Grodno, today spelled Zhytkavichy (about 63.1 miles ENE of Grodno) and Konyukhi (about 11.5 miles NNW of Grodno).

Then I tried to find the family in indexed records on Jewish Records Indexing Poland (JRI-Poland) but by then my luck had run out. They didn't come up under the name SZAGAN or SHAGAN, nor under ABRAHAMS or ABRAMS. There are other names that appear when soundex is used, but I couldn't tell if any of them were the right family. I'll have to continue the search on another day when I feel like procrastinating by doing a little creative web searching.

SFBAJGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest members are listed below. This database is maintained for the benefit of our membership. If you have a correction or update, please write to SFBAJGS at P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147 .

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
BLEICHMAN	Proskurov, Ukraine	Newton, Connie/Lisker, Barry
BLOCH	Anywhere	Newton, Connie/Lisker, Barry
COSGROVE	Anywhere	Newton, Connie/Lisker, Barry
FLOTSHER	Mogielnica, Lodz, Poland	Marks, Richard
GOLDBERG	Anywhere	Newton, Connie/Lisker, Barry
JACOBSON	Soliel, Lithuania	Newton, Connie/Lisker, Barry
LISKER	Proskurov, Ukraine	Newton, Connie/Lisker, Barry
MARKOWITZ	Mogielnica, Poland	Marks, Richard
MARKS/MARKUS	Labiszyn, Novrochin/Nowroclin, Poland	Marks, Richard
MARKS/MARKUS	Berun, Germany? Poland?	Marks, Richard
MORTKOVICH	Mogielnica, Poland	Marks, Richard
NORTON	Anywhere	Newton, Connie/Lisker, Barry
PLONTZER	Mogielnica, Lodz, Poland	Marks, Richard
SIMMONS/SIMONS	Lomza Gub., Poland; London	Marks, Richard
WEINBERG	Lomza Gub., Poland	Marks, Richard

New Topics at Museum of Family History

Steven Lasky, Museum of Family History

Go to www.museumoffamilyhistory.com to experience this virtual museum. Recent additions include:

1. Zionism in Europe: a series of 12 pages dealing with the various Zionist youth movements that existed in Europe pre-World War II, e.g. the Betarim, Hashomer Hatzair, the Gordonia, Maccabi Hatzair (sports), Yugen Freiheit, Poalei Zion, Hapoel Hatzair, and the Hachalutz pioneering movement.

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/mfh-zionism.htm

2. Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger was a 14-year-old poet, a native of Czernowitz, Ukraine. Tragically she perished in a Nazi SS camp in December 1942. Fortunately we are blessed that her many works survived. You can read about her at www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/cz-meerbaum-eisinger.htm

3. Walk in My Shoes: Collected Memories of the Holocaust: Istvan Katona from Kartal, Hungary. www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/wims-katona-istvan.htm. Istvan/Stephen was in Buchenwald and Mauthausen.

4. Yiddish great Maurice Schwartz's biography, next four chapters in the series. www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/mschwartz-ok-ch40-43.htm. Final chapters next month.

5. You might like to visit one of my "works-in-progress," an exhibition devoted to the city of Czernowitz, Ukraine. My suggestion is that you only use the links from the main page, as not all the links on the other pages are functional.

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/czernowitz.htm

6. I recently attended the 12th annual International Association of Yiddish Clubs conference in La Jolla, California. I was able to record more than a dozen lectures. I will be offering transcripts of many of them on my site, as I find the time to transcribe them and get them online. These web pages will include some audio and perhaps video clips from the lectures, all done with the permission of the conference organizer and the speakers themselves. The theme of the conference was "Czernowitz: 100 Years Later," i.e. one hundred years after the first Czernowitz Conference on the Yiddish language. Hopefully, next month I will be able to announce that some transcripts are ready to be viewed, etc. They will all be part of my ERC (Education and Research Center) Lecture Series.

Recent Yizkor Book Translations

Joyce Field, *JewishGen VP, Data Acquisition*

During October 2008 the Yizkor Book Project added one new book and 15 updates. All additions have been flagged at www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations.html to make it easy for researchers to find them. At this site translations are also listed in four categories: regions, communities, miscellaneous, and other languages.

New book:

♦ Kaluszyn Poland: French language version. www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/kaluszyn/kaluszyn_fr.html. It is listed in the “other languages” section.

Updates:

- ♦ Czestochowa, Poland
- ♦ Dusetos, Lithuania
- ♦ Goniadz, Poland
- ♦ Jewish Music in Poland between the World Wars: www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/musicians/musicians.html. It is listed in the “miscellaneous” section.
- ♦ Kamen Kashirskiy, Ukraine
- ♦ Lanovtsy, Ukraine
- ♦ Miedzyrzec Podlaski, Poland
- ♦ Minsk, Belarus
- ♦ Plock, Poland
- ♦ Przemysl, Poland
- ♦ Radzyn, Poland
- ♦ Ryki, Poland
- ♦ Svencionys, Lithuania
- ♦ The Last of the Freiburgs
- ♦ Zelechow, Poland: Polish language version: www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/zelechow/zelp000.html. It is listed in the “other languages: section.

Remember to check the Yizkor Book Database at www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/database.html, a master bibliographic database of most published yizkor books and other books written about particular towns or areas. Another valuable resource is the necrology index at www.jewishgen.org/databases/yizkor/, an index of the names of persons in the necrologies — the lists of Holocaust martyrs — published in our translated yizkor books. The necrologies are also searchable at the Holocaust Database at www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/.

Please contact me if you are interested in starting a new yizkor book translation project. Check the Yizkor Book Database to see if a book has been written about your ancestral town and also check the listings of articles in the Pinkas HaKehillot to see if there is an article about your town. These books are listed under “Regions.” Hundreds of yizkor books remain to be translated. We are still looking for a project coordinator for Lancut, Poland. Please contact me privately if you are interested in coordinating the translation of this yizkor book.

President’s Message, cont. from page 2

Community Library in the Jewish Community High School; we are pleased and honored to be asked to cosponsor some of their book-reading events.

As you can see, there is much going on right here in our backyard. So do take the time and get out and about. Check out the schedules and enjoy some of these offerings, and you never know — you just might be sitting next to your third cousin once removed!

Jeremy G Frankel



Judith Berlowitz entering family tree data as part of the Judah L. Magnes’s Museum’s new Family History Project. The aim of the FHP is to gather together all the genealogical material to scan and digitize family trees, photographs, detailed family information. Do join us to make this cooperative project a success. Email Jeremy Frankel at jgfrankel@lmi.net for more information.

Calendar of Events

Sun. Jan. 18, San Francisco: *The Yad Vashem Names Recovery Project.* Bobbi Bornstein, Volunteer Coordinator, Peninsula Region, of the Jewish Family & Children's Services, will discuss this vital effort to recover the names of all 6 million Jews who died in the *Shoah*.

Sun. Feb. 15, Berkeley: *Using Personal Photographs to Trace Ancestral Roots.* Photographer and photo restorer Jason Rose, a member of the SFBAJGS, will present a "before and after" slideshow and share some tips for photo restoration while preserving the integrity and spirit of the original.

Mon. Feb. 23, Los Altos Hills: *A Potpourri of One-Step Tools.* Presented by Steve Morse, inventor of One-step web searches that have been of immense assistance to genealogy researchers everywhere.

Future Meeting Dates for 2009:

San Francisco: Sundays, Mar. 15, May 17, July 19

Berkeley: Sundays, Apr. 19, June 14

Los Altos Hills: Mondays, Apr. 27, June 15, Aug. 17, Oct. 19

For more information about these and other programs of genealogical interest, see page 3.

For the latest program information visit sfbajgs.org

ZichronNote

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