



שם טוב

SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TORONTO

Volume V - No. 3

September 1989 - Elul 5749

Library Holdings

Our negotiations with the North York Public Library have now been concluded and we are pleased to announce that the holdings of the JGS of Toronto are to be housed at the North York Central Library in the Gladys Allison Canadiana Room, 5120 Yonge Street, North York, which already has extensive and much-used genealogical resources, not to mention the most helpful staff and some of the most modern microfilm/fiche readers.

The Library Hours are:

Mon. - Thur. 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

* Sunday 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

* (Late Sept. to mid May)

Two orientation tours of these new facilities will be conducted for our members on October 11, and on November 8, 1989. The meeting place is the Canadiana Room on the 6th floor and the tours will begin at 7:00 p.m. sharp. As attendance will be limited to 15 persons for each tour, we shall inform all local members of the dates and shall have a pre-registration form for the tours at our next meeting on September 20.

While preparing for the placement of our own materials, an inventory of our holdings was completed. In addition to our holdings of books, newsletters and journals, we wish to invite members to donate family trees, old maps (always so vital in the early stages of anyone's research!) and reference material pertinent to more successful future Jewish genealogical research for all.

It also became apparent that numerous issues of other JGS's newsletters were missing.

Most of our members, along with genealogists elsewhere, have long since recognized the value of a genealogical newsletter exchange, such as it exists among all JGS's so far, and one is occasionally irritated by a missing issue with allegedly pertinent information. These gaps in our collection could be due to mail strikes, when some items may have been lost or returned to sender, or to the fact that not all societies have always done general mailings. Another reason for missing issues could be that our members may have borrowed them at some stage in the past.

WE WISH TO APPEAL TO EVERYONE TO PLEASE CHECK THEIR BOOKSHELVES FOR ANY SUCH ITEMS!

* * *

As we continue to delve into the personal histories of our ancestors we also begin to realize that there is indeed a bright future in the past! Jewish genealogical resources worldwide are expanded at a steady pace, doors in Eastern Europe begin to open, much optimism abounds. The beginning of a new year may also mark the start of a new initiative in one's research efforts, a new strategy to tackle that interview-project, the final indexing we so often postponed...

May the New Year bring more successes to all our members, genealogical and otherwise, and may it bring contentment and joy.

L'shana tova!

Kaila Cramer

Kaila Cramer,
Librarian, JGS of Toronto

At our meetings:

Many of those who attended the May 31, meeting seemed well acquainted with the intriguing maze of Sigmund Freud's own genealogy, as presented by Dr. Rolf Lederer. This topic invited particular interest and speculation for many a researcher. Freud's family background holds extraordinary fascination, not only because he is an historic figure but because his very ideas centred around the influence of formative family relationships. Historians have sought information from archives, from autobiographical material and from letters. However, they found that many dates were not accurately recorded or remain unavailable, and researchers were left to piece together the puzzle as best as they could... A most interesting subject, leaving the audience with much food for thought.

* * *

The following dates have now been set for future meetings in 1989/1990:

SEPTEMBER 20, OCTOBER 20, NOVEMBER 29,
DECEMBER 20, JANUARY 31, FEBRUARY 28,
MARCH 28, APRIL 25, MAY 23, JUNE 20.

Topics are to be announced.

* * *

The third 'WORLD CONFERENCE ON THE JEWISH FAMILY' will take place in Tel Aviv on June 25, 1990. This conference is organized by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research of the Jewish Family Heritage, in collaboration with the Nahum Goldman Museum of the Diaspora, Beth Hatefutsoth, Israel's major Universities and many of the central Jewish organisations in Israel and the Diaspora (B'nai Brith, WIZO, Yad Vashem, etc.). Coinciding will be a World Jewish Family Reunion, including the EGER, JAFFE and HOROWITZ families. As Jewish Genealogy will be a major part of the programme it is hoped that the heads of many JGS's will be able to attend this event, possibly leading to the formation of a World Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Further information on the conference can be obtained from: Prof. Yizhak Halbrecht,

M.D., at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research of the Jewish Family Heritage,
P.O. Box 121, Petah-Tikvah, Israel.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our society:

Mr. MORRIS ROITMAN, Ms. MARY SLOMEN,
Mr. HENRY WELLISH and Mr. NORMAN WHITE,
- all from the Toronto area, and Mr. WALTER WINSHALL from Massachusetts, USA.

Cemetery project update

The newly formed cemetery project committee, chaired by Gert Rogers, comprises seven members and has met several times over the past two months. The compilation of a comprehensive list of all Jewish cemeteries in Toronto is in progress; letters are being sent to all burial societies in order to establish the extent and format of existent documentation. Very little documentation is available so far. It is hoped that some of the individual burial societies and Landsmanshftn will consider documenting their own sections. Several of our members have also begun to systematically photograph the graves of Dawes Road Cemetery, - a mammoth task, but well worth the effort.

More Library News

A boon to researchers and genealogists is the increasing computerization of library holdings. The Leo Baeck Institute in New York has recently joined other research libraries in taking steps toward computerization. The ultimate goal would be to link up with one of the major library networks, thus connecting small, specialized collections with large university libraries, here and abroad.

* * *

New in our library: '**Annals and Deeds in family History**', (Research and Sources, No. 2, May 1989), published by the Israel Genealogical Society, this English and Hebrew edition contains a comprehensive article on Wills and Bequests as genealogical research sources, as well as family histories of the Ornstein family, the Homburger

family of Karlsruhe/Germany and the Dannon family in Eretz Israel. For individual copies @ US \$10 write to: Israel Genealogical Society, 50 Harav Uziel Street, Jerusalem, 96 424, Israel.

* * *

The first batch of a series of new databases on microfiche, with particular interest to Jewish genealogical research, have now been added to our own library:

1. Gazetteer of Eastern Europe - Alphabetic Sequence. (8 fiches)
2. Gazetteer of Eastern Europe - Soundex Sequence. (8 fiches)
3. Jewish Genealogical Consolidated Surname Index. (3 fiches)
4. Black Book of Localities Whose Jewish Population Was Exterminated By The Nazis. (2 fiches)
5. Index to 'Memorial to the Jews Deported from France'. (1 fiche)

New Books

Angus Baxter: 'In search of your Canadian Roots'. Genealogical Publishing Co. 1989; 350pp. Paperback US \$ 14.95

The book's early chapters contain information about genealogical research, immigrant groups in Canada, and types of records, followed by eleven chapters on sources in each province and territory. This is perhaps the most comprehensive handbook on Canadian genealogical research ever written. The author is known for his earlier books: 'In search of your European roots', 'In search of your British and Irish roots', 'In search of your German roots'.

Computer update

Bulletin-board fans will be pleased to learn about the appearance of a 'Jewish Genealogical Echo Bulletin', a free 24-hour/day, seven-day/week service.

On file: 'Jewish Text'

- > Information on Holocaust research
- > Israel Genealogical Society
- > Jewish genealogy
- > Letter write (samples on how to write for information)
- > YSKOR Text
- > Addresses of JGS's in North America

Call: KINTRACERS 969-8717; to locate and leave messages, go to message area 16. Message area 15 has National Genealogical Society Echo, - 500 files available free to download.

Cartons - filled with

(as reported in 'AUFBAU', June 23, 1989)

An astonishing find has recently been reported from Berlin. Two old biscuit cartons, filled with more than 500 mainly used passport photos, were discovered and handed over to the 'Society for a Jewish Museum' in Berlin.

The back of each photograph bears the name of the person whose identity document this was torn from. Incredibly, the former chief accountant of the armaments factory Ehrich & Graetz AG., Berlin, which employed Jewish slave labour and who deported all of them in early 1943 to Auschwitz, Riga and other places, had torn these photos off their documents and retained them for personal reasons in 1945, even though the identity documents should have been handed back to the authorities at the time. Nothing but these 500 photos are left, - all their names appear in the 'Gedenkbuch'.

A complete list of names is given, as well as the address of the official at the 'Society for a Jewish Museum', who would be willing to send a copy of any photograph to anyone who might recognize a name as being a relative.

(Send a SASE to JGS of Toronto to obtain further information or a copy of the complete list of names.)

Passengers of the 'St. Louis'

A complete set of index cards which were prepared for every passenger on the ill-fated 'St. Louis' prior to their arrival in Cuba, containing such information as occupation and date and place of birth, was recently donated by HIAS to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 717, Washington, DC 20036.

* * *

"People will not look forward to posterity, who never look to their ancestors."

(Edm. Burke, 1729-1797)

Four Hours in San Francisco

By Dr. Rolf Lederer

I had some of the facts, numerous letters and several photographs. But to be 'on location', - what priceless moments might await me...

Survivors of natural catastrophes often seem larger than life, and more so to generations long after the events, - distant as they may be.

Sophia Steiner, née Lederer, was one of the survivors of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire and died in 1912 shortly before her 93rd. birthday! She had lived a long and, presumably interesting life. Born in Austria on September 16, 1819, - she was one of three daughters. Her father was my great-great grandfather's brother.

Sophia preceded her father to North America, marrying another Austrian, Joachim Steiner. Their eldest son Albert was born in Lowell, MA, where the Steiners first settled, son Theodor was born in Cleveland.

With some detective work I had already succeeded in locating a Railroad Passenger list in the San Francisco Public Library, disclosing that Sophia, by then presumably a widow, had migrated to San Francisco in 1870 together with her two sons! I had then been able to obtain death certificates for Sophia and her two sons and two grandsons, showing that they were all buried in the "Home of Peace" cemetery in Colma, CA (just south of San Francisco).

Temple Em-aniel is the synagogue in San Francisco which maintains the cemetery in 239 El Camino Real, Colma, CA. A telephone call to their offices promised that a forty minute bus ride from downtown would take me to the very gate of this necropolis. The cemetery's most helpful staff located the requested and extremely well maintained records for me, revealing among other details on her index card a 77-year-old newspaper death notice, informing the reader:

"In this city, August 9, 1912, Sophia Steiner - mother of Theodor and the late Albert Steiner, a native of Austria, aged 93 years.

The family especially requests that no flowers be sent. Interment strictly private."

I was then guided to three different locations:

Sophia is buried on her own; the original marker, which seems to have been replaced, only gives her name and dates of birth and death, though her son, daughter-in-law and grandson are buried together. Son Theodor and wife Rose, née Englander, rest in, what was described to me by the cemetery staff as, an 'underground vault'. This gravesite covers two standard lots and is the final resting place of many of Rose's family as well, - the unadorned flat stone simply announcing "Englander" on the east and west.

Needless to say that I didn't miss the opportunity to photograph the various gravestones and recorded their inscriptions. In the excitement of the moment one can easily overlook some minute, but vital detail.

Collecting 'things', and genealogy, by their very nature, go hand-in-glove. My well stocked collection of memorabilia includes already such priceless items as letters of Sophia's husband Joachim Steiner, sent in the 1850's to his wife's family in Europe; not to mention photographs of the couple as well as of Sophia's sister and spouse. A recently obtained newspaper clipping contained the obituary of Sophia's son Albert.

Networking has its merit in genealogy too, and I am indebted to many a fellow genealogist for invaluable 'leads' in this particular case. Arlene Blank Rich later provided information revealing that Sophia's husband was possibly a victim of the American Civil War and is buried in the Willet St. Cemetery, Cleveland, OH, having died July 16, 1866, - adjacent to his third son, Herman...

Only four hours in San Francisco, - and a relatively brief journey to the past, filling some of the small gaps in my research..., - but a voyage worth travelling.

Genealogical Society in the sun

By Bernie Morris

That great stretch of desert sheltering in the San Jacinto mountains of South California is known by western sunseekers as the Coachella valley. Bounded on the north by hot springs it encompasses Palm Springs, Ranch Mirage and other resort cities until it reaches Indio at its southernmost tip - here the palms are laden with dates and every other store is an outlet for the 147 varieties of this heavenly fruit.

Indio also houses the Coachella Valley Genealogical Society which deals in dates of a different genre - those of the arrival in the USA of the ancestors of its over one hundred enthusiastic members. So we discovered when attending the February meeting of the Society. It was held in a heavenly air-conditioned room in the local library - the outside temperature being close to 40 ° C. We introduced ourselves as members of the Toronto JGS and a hearty applause made us feel part of a great international organization, all bent on discovering their individual roots.

The agenda was little different from that we normally pursue in Toronto: - Minutes, Correspondence, Dues, Donations, etc. Announcements were made about a number of organized bus tours to various sites of interest genealogical: cemeteries, old buildings, places where records (baptismal, marriage, death, etc.) were kept; the most popular trip was a seven day trip to Salt Lake City to the Mormon headquarters. Indeed most of this society's efforts were involved with and centered around the Mormon Church. This was emphasized in the lecture and computer demonstration which a most erudite guest speaker gave. His main theme was how computers tied into the Mormon Network, a main source of tracing family trees back to the immigrant days of the 18th to 20th centuries.

Sample books on various aspects of genealogy were displayed. One, "Genealogy for everyone" proved quite popular as a number of members ordered it. Others, such as "Virginia's Colonizers and Soldiers", a complete book of immigrants into the US 1807-1860, published by Peter Wilson. A book

called "The tracer" with instruction on how to track down family. It seems that genealogy is big business in the US and hundreds of books, tons of software and a thousand other gimmicks, all purporting to help find forebears, are available at the drop of another Dollar, or more.

We came away from that meeting feeling good that we had participated in a forum familiar to us. On reflection we also realized that a close interchange of ideas between genealogical groups is vital and will result in increasing activities that in turn will result in better investigative methods being utilized. To this end we felt that the recently formed Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies very much fills a need. After all, the common goal: who are we and where do we spring from, is shared by all. -

Who knows one...?

Four issues of SHEM TOV,
part of a one-year membership in the
Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto,
make a splendid gift to a friend..!

Lost cousins?

Your **first cousin** is your aunt's or uncle's child. However, a first cousin's child is not your second cousin, as is often assumed, but your 'first cousin, once removed'. His child is your 'first cousin twice removed'; his child, in turn, is your 'first cousin thrice removed'.

Your **second cousin** is your mother's or father's first cousin's child. That second cousin's child is your 'second cousin once removed'; his child is your second cousin twice removed', and so on, to thrice removed, etc.

Third cousin? It's your great-grandparent's brother's or sister's great-grandchild. The third cousin's child is your 'third cousin once removed', his child is your 'third cousin twice removed'.

My street...?

By Peter Simonstein Cullman

Appreciating the custom, and often the honour, of having been named after a dear relative who preceded us, I extended that train of thought and became intrigued about the custom of naming a street. Without the effort of leaving no stone unturned, I felt genealogical research doesn't seem to have been exploited to its fullest. To question the mundane, to seek where others dare not tread, - what new avenues could be discovered... (pun intended.)

I contacted the Markham District Historical Museum, just north of Toronto: The close resemblance of Simonston Blvd. to Simonstein, my late mother's maiden name, had piqued my curiosity. A mere ten days elapsed before I received, what must have been the fruit of many laborious hours: an extensive report by the curator, outlining the various historical sources she had examined on my behalf. With efficiency she had consulted the 'Abstract Index of Deeds', a land record of the owners of property in Markham Township (prior to 1900); the 'Farmer and Business Directories for the years 1837, 1847, 1866, 1892 and 1918'; the index of the 'Markham Economist and Sun', indicating births, marriages and deaths listed in the paper between the years 1856 - 1900; the 'Marriage Records for the Home District'; and finally the cemetery listings which were created from transcriptions made of the stones present in each cemetery within Markham Township.

An astonishing array of research sources, representing a potentially veritable mine of information!

Alas, the letter ended with a polite conclusion and regret, that evidently neither of the families Simonston nor Simonstein had ever resided in Markham Township for any length of time in the 19th and early 20th century to be connected with the naming of this Blvd.

I had to rest my case.

Although mildly disappointed, my inquiry left me enlightened and grateful to a most efficient, helpful and sympathetic official.

An idea worth copying? The odds can only be in one's favor...

'Unfamiliar'

By Dr. Rolf Lederer

Unusual genealogical inquiries I have encountered in recent times: all have the fact in common that the enquirer was trying to establish that the ancestor was Jewish.

The first request came from the great-granddaughter (living in Quebec) of Jacob Maier Hirshfelder, tutor in Hebrew at Kings College (Toronto), 1844-1888 [Speisman S. 'The Jews of Toronto' p.15] Hirshfelder was thought to be of Jewish origin, but apparently lived as a non-Jew in Toronto and was buried in the Anglican Cemetery. His descendant seemed rather anxious to 'solve the mystery' of his origins.

As this lady is aware that her ancestor was born in Baden, Württemberg, my advice to her was to write to the 'Standesamt' in Baden for a copy of his birth certificate, - given the infamous Teutonic bureaucracy, a fairly simple task when beginning one's search...

The second inquiry was from a lady in Toronto, whose grandchildren were living in England and who wanted more information about her mother (i.e. their great-grandmother). They suspected she may have been Jewish, and although the enquirer could not confirm their ideas, she was willing to acknowledge that it could be a possibility. In this instance too, a copy of a birth certificate could lead to solving this case, as I directed her to the appropriate repository in England where I have often encountered the staff to give prompt service.

A third case was a request by a gentleman, while now living in Toronto, was born and raised in New York. The 'mystery' surrounds his mother who came from England to live with an uncle and finally married this enquirer's father. Here too, the answer lay obviously again in finding the roots in England.

Many years of research into the branches of my own family let it be second nature to me to give advice of this kind, having experienced the immense joy of discovering a positive first lead in countless instances.

In Search of...

SHEM TOV, the first Canadian Jewish Genealogical Newsletter, introduces what has developed into one of the most popular services for genealogists anywhere: search columns in which readers may advertise their personal field of research in terms of names and localities of families they are seeking, thus discovering others in pursuit of similar or identical families.

Although the enthusiastic proliferation of Jewish genealogical news bulletins all over North America may result in duplications, we feel very strongly, that in spite of this, much ground can still be broken in Canada. We may also consider that a newsletters such as this will inevitably become a permanent source of reference, a collectors' item in any Genealogical Library.

A search ad in which you can list surnames, towns, geographic areas and other personal information may contain up to 25 words at a cost of \$ 5.00, each additional word will be charged at \$ 0.25; abbreviations will be counted as words. Your own name, address and Tel. No. are free, of course.

(As a courtesy to others we strongly suggest to reply to any written inquiry, even if not able to assist.)

Please submit your entry printed or typed, showing all SURNAMENES underlined in CAPITAL LETTERS

Cheques are payable to: Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto. P.O.Box 446, Station 'A', Willowdale, M2N 5T1, Canada.

The deadline for our Winter issue of SHEM TOV is October 31, 1989

A-1/fa89

ABBEY, David
943 Downey Crescent,
Regina, Sask. S4N 5Y6
(306)789-4717

.....Seeking descendants of MENACHEM MENDEL LEVINTER. In Toronto 1870's/1880's from Galicia. Information siblings of SIMON FORMAN, born 1876 Latvia, married FRUMA LEAH LEVINTER Toronto around 1898/99.

C-1/fa89

CULLMAN, Peter
99 Yorkville Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario, M5R 3K5
(416)964-2196

.....Seeking any descendants of my second cousin HERRMAN LEWIN. He was the 'Shammes' of the Jewish community of Schneidemühl until their destruction in 1940. Also seeking any descendants of my great-aunt DORA KALENSCHER, née SIMONSTEIN, married 1895 in Schneidemühl to Dr. ISIDOR KALENSCHER. Descendants believed to be in USA.

F-1/fa89

FALK, Julian
2131 Fifth Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219

.....Searching FALK, FALKENSTEIN, ISRAEL, FEIST, ROSENFELD, GRÜNEBAUM, family of Israel FALK or FALK Israel, born 7/5/1823 Meudt, Westerwald/Germany, died 3/21/1908, Nassau, Rheinland Pfalz, (formerly Hessen), Germany. Lived also in Singhofen, Dausenau and Nassau. First marriage: Johanette ROSENFELD, known children Isaac, Ferdinand, Elise Esther and Karoline. Second marriage: Karoline GRÜNEBAUM, children are: Leopold Israel, Adolf Falk, Moritz and Julius Israel.

C-2/fa89

CULLMAN, Peter
99 Yorkville Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario, M5R 3K5
(416)964-2196

.....Seeking any information on the family of my great-grandmother: LOESSER. Also looking for LESSER, all of Schneidemühl, Posen.

F-2/fa89

FALK, Julian
2131 Fifth Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219
.....Searching HERSKOWITZ, HARRIS, MITTLEMAN. Joseph HARRIS (HERSKOWITZ), born in Austria 1864, married Lena (Leba) MITTLEMAN, born in Austria 1865. Both died in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Children: Harry, Sarah, Jacob (Jake), Ruth, Frank, Rose and Freda.

C-3/fa89

CULLMAN, Peter
99 Yorkville Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario, M5R 3K5
(416)964-2196

.....Seeking all descendants of ERNST BEHRENDT, born 24.5.1910 in Berlin. He is the son of my great-aunt Frieda, née SIMONSTEIN, and Arthur BEHRENDT. Also seeking any descendants of HENRIETTE PURSCH, née SIMONSTEIN, my great-aunt; born 1871 in Schneidemühl, died 1940 in Berlin.

SHEM TOV, the quarterly Newsletter published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto, is free to members; single and back issues are \$4.00. Membership fees are \$25.00 per calendar year. The Society was founded in 1985 and currently has over 40 members. Meetings are held September to June, usually on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto; notices of meetings are also announced in the *Canadian Jewish News* (Miriam Herman Column). Guests are always welcome.

The goals of the Society are to promote an awareness among Jewish community members of the possibilities of tracing their ancestors, to foster an ongoing interest in our heritage, to encourage the sharing of research techniques and to disseminate information on genealogical research to family historians and professional genealogists alike. **SHEM TOV** is dedicated to publish articles of personal research experiences, inform its members of new and tried pertinent research sources and act as part of a growing international network for experienced family historians and beginning genealogists.

The officers of the Society are:

President:	DR. ROLF LEDERER	922-5134
Vice-President	JULES SAMSON	633-4857
Secretary:	SELMA SACROB	223-0192
Treasurer:	ANNETTE OTIS-FROMMER	782-4646
Project Consultant:	ABE GOLDBERG	224-0161
Editor:	PETER CULLMAN	964-2196
Hon. Life President:	RAYZEL ROBINSON	

Contributors to this issue were:

Karla Cramer, Dr. Rolf Lederer, Bernie Morris, Peter Cullman.

If you wish to submit an article to for the fall issue of **SHEM TOV**, please send typewritten material to the editor, PETER CULLMAN, 99 Yorkville Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 3K5, Canada, Tel. (416) 964-2196

Deadline: October 31, 1989

For subscriptions, membership or changes of address please contact the secretary, SELMA SACROB, P.O.Box 446, Station 'A', Willowdale/Ont. M2N 5T1, Canada

No Part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publishers. All unsolicited manuscripts will only be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. All manuscripts and photographs will be handled with responsible care, however, the publishers assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited material. Views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of **SHEM TOV** or the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto. Copyright © 1989 **SHEM TOV** and Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto. ISSN 0843-6924. All rights reserved.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto
P.O. Box 446, Station 'A'
Willowdale, Ontario
M2N 5T1
C A N A D A