

שם טוב

SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

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FINDING LIVING RELATIVES THROUGH YAD VASHEM ARCHIVES

by Henry Wellisch

When the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority, better known as Yad Vashem, was founded in 1953, one of the tasks of the newly created organization was to establish the Pages of Testimony Department. Each victim of the Holocaust would be inscribed on a separate page. The information given on these pages, such as name, age, place of residence, etc., would be supplied by surviving relatives and friends who would also provide their own names and addresses. With a wide distribution of the forms since the mid-50s in Israel and in many other countries, over 2,000,000 Pages of Testimony have been recorded.

Several years ago a Professor David K. Wellisch from Los Angeles (no relation) mentioned in a letter to me that he had seen a thick file of pages with the Wellisch name in the Yad Vashem Archives. This came as a surprise to me since I knew of only one of my closer relatives with the name of Wellisch (a cousin) who had perished. I therefore decided to write to Yad Vashem and ask them to send me all the pages with the Wellisch name.

The answer that I received was that they had 72 pages and that I could get copies at \$2 per page. It did not take me too long to decide to send \$144 to Jerusalem, and shortly thereafter the 72 pages arrived. After a careful study I could not find any relatives. The distribution by country of residence was as follows:

Poland	32
Austria	25
Czechoslovakia	6
Hungary	5
Germany	2
No Country Given	2
TOTAL	72

My family comes from western Hungary and a considerable number moved to Vienna during the 19th century. I also know of Wellisch families from Lackenbach in Austria, Boskovitz in Czechoslovakia and from Budapest. Among the 25 "Austrians" I found 18 from Lackenbach, and I promptly sent those copies to one of the relatives of these people.

With the help of a recently discovered third cousin, Hans Wellisch, I was eventually able to identify one relative,

Wilhelmine, a second cousin once removed. More recently, after discovering some relatives in California, I realized that Marcel Wellisch, a second cousin once removed, had inscribed a page for his mother Leonore Wellisch. While crosschecking the Totenbuch Theresienstadt, I discovered that she had been deported from Vienna to this "model ghetto" on July 11, 1942 and from there on September 26, 1942 to the death camp at Maly Trostinets near Minsk (of the 2004 deportees, none survived).

I was really surprised to find 32 pages from Poland, with most of these people coming from smaller towns in the Rzeszow region of Galicia. Since this area was once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, it is quite possible that some of the Hungarian and Slovakian Wellisches had moved there from Galicia during the 18th and 19th centuries. I have recently discovered the names of several Wellisches in the yizkor book of Stryzow, which is about 17 miles from Rzeszow.

In 1994, I again asked Yad Vashem to check the register of the Pages of Testimony, this time for the names of Kestler and Ehrenwerth. The Kestlers, from my mother's side and the Ehrenwerths are both interrelated with the Wellisches. When I was in Jerusalem in May of 1994 for the Jewish Genealogical

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☞ UPCOMING MEETINGS ☞

at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
470 Glencairn Avenue

Monday, April 24 7³⁰ p.m.
Wednesday, May 31 7³⁰ p.m.
Wednesday, June 21 7³⁰ p.m.

For programmes please refer to the "What's New"
column in the Candian Jewish News

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to rising costs, the JGSC Executive Committee has decided to introduce a \$3.00 entrance fee for non-members at our regular monthly meetings. For members and their guests (maximum two per member) there is no charge.

NEW MEMBERS

Ronald Cohen	Ollie Ferda	Judith Ghert
Pearl Hermant	Ben Kachuk	Alan Kaplan
I. Keltz	Joyce Lieberman	Jacob Rabinowitz
Karen T. Sanders	Jules M. Samson	Myrtle Stone

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Seminar, I was contacted to go and collect some material from Yad Vashem. They had found eight pages with the name Kestler and three pages with the name Ehrenwerth.

I immediately recognized my uncle Victor Ehrenwerth, his wife Jolan and their son Julius. Their pages had been submitted in 1957 by Ilana Tauber, who was then living in Bnei Brak near Tel Aviv. Who was Ilana Tauber? Since my wife and I were leaving for Prague within a few days to meet Victor's granddaughter, I thought we might get more information about Ilana Tauber from her. As it turned out she had never heard of her. More about this later.

Among the eight Kestler pages, I recognized the names of Sandor and Iren Kestler nee Rosenberg, who were distantly related to me. Their nephew Moshe Kestler had inscribed their pages in 1956 when he was living in Haifa. On our last day in Israel, while staying with my in-laws in Ashdod, I discussed my problems with my brother-in-law. He thought we should try to find Moshe Kestler in Haifa by checking the telephone listings.

That same evening after establishing that there were four Moshe Kestlers listed in Haifa, my brother-in-law arbitrarily phoned one and sure enough it was the right one. In my somewhat rusty Hebrew, we were discussing our relationship, when Moshe asked me where I was living. When I told him that I was living in Toronto, Canada, he said that he had two sisters living there. He gave me their names and phone numbers and I have been in touch with both of them since our return to Canada.

Over the next few months, I tried to find Mrs. Kathleen Schiltzer nee Weisz who had submitted the pages for Albert Kesztlar, his wife, Jolan nee Weisz and their daughter Agnes. All three had been deported to Auschwitz from Gyor in

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Contributions are invited. Submit material c/o The Editor, P.O. Box 446, Station A, North York, Ontario, Canada M2N 5T1.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada was founded in 1985 and currently has about 150 members. Membership costs \$30 per calendar year, \$20 for persons living beyond both Metro Toronto and its adjacent suburbs. Meetings are held September to June, usually on the last Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:30) at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto (unless announced otherwise). Guests are always welcome. Details are usually printed in the *Canadian Jewish News*.

The goals of the Society are to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and information through meetings, outings, workshops and guest lecturers, and thereby to promote an awareness of genealogy within the Jewish community of Canada. The Society is affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto and is registered as a non-profit charitable organization.

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GLEN EKER
HOWARD SHIDLOWSKY
STANLEY DIAMOND

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Hungary, which is only about 25 miles from my parents hometown of Mosonmagyaróvár; there could be a relationship. Mrs. Schiltzer had submitted the pages in 1979 giving an address in London, England. When I discovered that there was no listing in the current London telephone directory, I initially thought there was not much more I could do. However, could it be that Mrs. Schiltzer had passed away between 1979 and 1994? The page on Jolan Kestler who was born in 1912 showed that she was Mrs. Schiltzer's sister and one could therefore assume that by 1979 Kathleen would have been an elderly lady.

I then sought the advice and assistance of Dr. Anthony P. Joseph, who is the President of the Jewish Historical Society of England and one of the leading Jewish genealogists of that country. He not only agreed with my assumption but was kind enough to check the register of probated wills in England, where he found that Mrs. Schiltzer had passed away on June 14, 1987. Her last address was a place called Heinrich Stahl House in London which sounded institutional to me. Could it be a retirement home? I then wrote my cousin in London and asked her to phone this place and find out if they knew any relatives of the late Mrs. Schiltzer. Within a few weeks I had an answer and the name and address of Mrs. Schiltzer's daughter. My cousin also wrote as follows: "It is funny that you explain to me about Heinrich Stahl House. It is one of the retirement homes founded by my "uncle" (Dr. C. Kapralik) and he spent the last 12 years of his life there. So far for the last 12 years I have visited Heinrich Stahl House at least once a week. I often had lunch there and I may very well have seen your Mrs. Schiltzer, but I only used to speak to those residents who sat at the same table as my uncle."

I now wrote to Mrs. Burman, who is Mrs. Schiltzer's daughter, to find out if she knew anything about her late uncle's family. Mrs. Burman was very cooperative; she even sent me a family tree but could not add anything further.

She did, however, refer me to her two uncles who survived the Holocaust and are now living in Montreal. I called one of them, but he was also unable to give me any more information, so I had to let this matter rest for now.

There remained six pages whose "submitters" I tried to find: first of all the three pages for Victor, Jolan and Julius Ehrenwerth; two pages for Dr. Ernst Kestler and his wife Irma and one page for Frieda Cipora Kestler. I wrote to Mrs. Batya Unterschatz of the Search Bureau of the Jewish Agency enclosing some of the pages and asked her assistance in finding the people who had submitted these pages.

After about a month, I received the address (still in BneiBrak) and phone number of Ilana Tauber, who had submitted the Ehrenwerth pages. Nothing was found for the three Kestler pages.

I immediately wrote to Ilana Tauber and when I did not get an answer for over six weeks, I asked my cousin Perez Amir, who lives in Rehovot, Israel and who had also become quite active "genealogically," to phone her. In his reply he told me that he had contacted Ilana Tauber but she was not the one I had been looking for. Perez then found that there were several other Ilana Taubers around, and eventually he discovered the

right one in Tel Aviv. She told him that she did not know too much about the family and referred him to her cousin Mrs. Goldstein, who also lives in Rehovot.

Mrs. Goldstein, a charming lady, did indeed know a lot about the family and explained that Jolan Ehrenwerth nee Stern was her aunt. She also said that she had a sister living in Toronto. It became clear now that we had discovered the family of Jolan Ehrenwerth whose maiden name was Stern. Since this discovery I am in touch with all of these ladies who are part of the Stern family.

This description of my efforts shows that with some perseverance and luck the Pages of Testimony may help not only to find some living relatives, but also may make it possible to confirm or expand information obtained from relatives or other sources.

The ultimate aim of Yad Vashem is to inscribe victims of the Holocaust. To quote from Isaiah 56:5 "...even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name...that they shall not be cut off." ☆

For existing Pages of Testimony write to:
Yad Vashem-Department Pages of Testimony
P.O.B. 3477 Jerusalem 91043, Israel
There is a fee for this service.

To obtain the acid-free forms to inscribe a victim of the Holocaust contact:

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem
2180 Highway 7, Unit 12A, Concord, Ontario L4K 2S9
Tel: (905) 660-6028, Fax: (905) 660-6029

For help in locating residents of Israel write to:

The Jewish Agency Search Bureau for Missing Relatives
c/o Mrs. Batya Unterschatz
P.O. Box 92, Jerusalem, 91920, Israel

This service is free, but a donation will be accepted gratefully.

ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by June 1995 for the fall issue. Please indicate how many insertions you would like. As the chart indicates our basic rate is discounted for advertisements placed in four consecutive issues (one year) instead of a single issue only. By placing an ad in SHEM TOV, you are reaching a growing number of readers in Toronto, across Canada and internationally, and helping to support a unique and vital journal.

	One Issue	Four Issues (1 year)
Full Page	\$60	\$200
Half Page	\$30	\$100
Quarter Page	\$18	\$ 60
Eighth Page	\$10	\$ 32

Search ads are also available. Rates are \$5 for the first 25 words and 25¢ per word thereafter, your name and address are free. Please write advertisement clearly with family surnames you are researching in UPPER CASE letters. Make your cheque payable to Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada and mail to: JGS of Canada, P.O. Box 446, Station A, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5T1.

GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION IN THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

by Glen Eker

Newspapers in general and Jewish newspapers in particular provide a wealth of information for the Jewish genealogist. Apart from the birth, marriage and death announcements, they include a record of the concerns, problems and events of the day. Glen Eker demonstrates here just how much information one can find if one takes the time to look.

The Jewish Chronicle is an English language newspaper and the oldest Jewish periodical in existence. It first appeared on November 12, 1841 and, except for the period between 1842 and 1847, has been published weekly in London to this day. The Jewish Chronicle soon established itself as the leading source of news and information for the Anglo-Jewish community. It was noted for its efficient news service and reporting of personal and social events concerning the Jewish community. It also provided an avenue for local business advertising. Extensive cultural, historical, literary, and religious articles were also a common feature of the Chronicle.

The Jewish Chronicle, however, has a value that goes far beyond being simply a news and information service for the Anglo-Jewish community. It is a valuable source of genealogical information for those interested in genealogy within the Anglo-Jewish community and in Jewish genealogy in general. The classified section of the paper presents extensive reporting of births, bar mitzvahs, fiances or engagements, marriages, silver wedding anniversaries, deaths, and in memoriams (notices in memory of a loved one). These notices are valuable in that they often list information such as dates, locations, residences, maiden names, and names of parents. While most pertain to the British Isles, ones from other European and overseas Jewish communities can be found. For example, a typical birth announcement from August 5, 1932 reads:

EKER, On Sunday, the 31st of July 1932 at Sussex House, Sutherland Avenue, Maide Vale, to Bertha (nee Freeman), wife of Samuel Eker of 91 Chatsworth road. Brandesbury, N.W.T. a son.

Other classified advertising includes listings for Jewish-run private schools both in England and continental Europe, real estate listings, situations wanted and situations vacant, auctions, congregational (synagogue) notices, charitable societies, lectures, musical recitals, and dances. Through Jewish school and real estate listings it is possible to determine specific Jewish educational institutions and areas of Jewish population. Furthermore, principals and owners of these institutions are often identified. For example, the January 12, 1900 issue identifies Rev. S. H. Harris, former headmaster of the Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum, as principal of

Ramsgate School, Townely Castle, Ramsgate and Mrs. A. Solomon as principal of the Laurels High School College for Young Ladies, 4 Brondesbury Road, London.

An advertisement for the Soup Kitchen For The Jewish Poor, 6 Fashion Street, Spitalfields presents a list of executive officers and individuals who have made new donations. Classified advertising provides the historian with a look at the needs and wants of the community. It provides the genealogist with a way of tracing both names and occupations.

New Years Greetings are a special classified supplement to the fall issues of the Chronicle. These provide pages of alphabetical listings from London and all over the British Isles, as well as continental Europe and overseas. Their value to genealogists is important when trying to trace an ancestor who may have advertised. Addresses are often provided. There are two sections to these greetings: personal and trade greetings. Personal greetings appear in a standard classified size format. They may provide a home address.

A trade greeting usually appears in larger format and may provide both home and business addresses. A trade greeting from September 25, 1925 reads as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. I. Eker and Family wish their parents, sisters, brothers, relatives, friends, and all their customers and staff a happy and prosperous New Year and well over the Fast. 129, Hanbury Street, E.1 and 3-5-7 Leman Street, E.1.

These ads allow the genealogist to both locate and trace residential patterns of individuals and families. The 1932 ad by the J. Eker family shows that they now live at 259 Chamberlayne-road, Willesden, N.W. 10.

Advertisements provide the genealogist with a look at both the products and services available to the consumers of the day, as well as the names and addresses of merchants and tradesmen, both Jewish and non-Jewish, serving the Jewish community. The Passover advertisements appearing in the issue of March 30, 1906 include Alex, Williams, and Sons, Westminster, Fine Kosher Rum; J. Cohen, Passover Confectionary and Restaurant, Aldgate; Welford and Sons, Milk for Passover, Maida Vale; The Original Wine Co., Whitechapel, London; Hawkins and Son, Groceries, Whitechapel, London; J. Cohen and Co., Wines, Spirits, and Liqueurs, Manchester; and Levy Brothers, Passover Cake Manufacturers, Bishopsgate, London. The advertisement states that the Levy Brothers were established in 1710 and have a reputation of nearly 200 years.

Charitable lists are another important feature of the Chronicle and a valuable source of genealogical information. These appear on both the classified and non-classified pages of the Chronicle throughout the year. They refer to a wide

variety of Jewish charities. They print the names of the executive officers and lists of hundreds of benefactors for each charity. For example, in 1900 and 1906 some of the many charities whose executive officers' and benefactors' names were printed included: Board of Guardians for the Relief of the Jewish Poor, Jews Infants Schools, Passover Relief Fund, Soup Kitchen for the Relief of the Jewish Poor, and the Anglo-Jewish Association Dinner. These lists also provide the amount that each benefactor donated to the particular charity.

Well-known Jewish personalities who died previous to an issue's publication are accorded extensive biographical obituaries in the paper. These detail every important event in the person's life along with much genealogical information on the person and his family.

Especially interesting is the detail given to society weddings in the paper's late nineteenth and early twentieth century issues. These present names and photographs of the couple, names of parents, officiating ministers, and members of the wedding party, description of clothing worn by the wedding party, and place of marriage. These reports also present the names of the wedding guests and the presents they gave. The marriage of Mr. Jules Phillipson of Belgium and Miss Lydia Mocatta of London as reported in the Chronicle of January 12, 1906 lists hundreds of guests and their respective presents. These lists present a who's who of upper class Jewish and Gentile British society. For example, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Sebag-Montefiore gave an Irish lace d'ovievs (decoration cover); Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sassoon and Misses Sassoon, a leather fitted handbag; Sir Samuel and Lady Montagu, a silver trinket box; and Baron and Baronne Lambert de Rothschild, a china vase. Many more prominent people are noted in this and other wedding reports. They provide a useful way for the genealogist to trace the personal, social, and business contacts of Britain's elite.

The Chronicle was published during the period when Britain was involved in three wars: the Boer War, World War I, and World War II. The paper gives extensive coverage to each. This includes both reports of the wars themselves and reports of Jewish participation in these wars. The Chronicle's specifically Jewish-oriented reports are of great value to genealogists. These include lists of Jews serving in the British services, lists of Jews killed, wounded, and missing in action who served in the British services, names of Jews who served the country in a civilian capacity such as with the Home Guard, detailed articles about specific Jews in the British services, and personal accounts by Jewish servicemen and civilians of their experiences serving in war zones. Issues published during these periods often included photographs. For example, during the Boer War a regular page entitled "Yeomanry and Volunteer Contingents Some of the Jews on Service" appeared in the paper. This pages presented names, ranks, and photographs of Jewish soldiers. During World War II a weekly column entitled "Jews in the Forces" appeared. This column presented biographies and photographs of Jewish servicemen. One column in the September 21, 1940 issue discussed the Kersh (Kershaw) family of Manchester who, in the war of 1914 - 1918, had seven of nine sons serving in the forces. In World

War II the family had the other two sons serving and a daughter serving as a nurse. One of the sons who served in World War I was serving as a Home Guard.

The Chronicle was also published during the period of Britain's General Elections. These reports were also geared to discussions of issues pertinent to the Jewish community. The Chronicle published sections during these periods providing biographies of Jewish candidates. For example, the issue of September 28, 1900 provided biographies of over 15 Jewish candidates. Photographs are provided for some. These include such well known names as Sir Samuel Montagu (Liberal) and Hon. Lionel Walter Rothschild (Liberal Unionist). Among the items discussed for these and other Jewish candidates is their history in politics, involvement in the Jewish community, family background, and business and personal interests. For example, both men previously sat in Parliament and came from wealthy business-oriented families. Both had a strong involvement with the Jewish community and were members of a variety of Jewish associations. Mr. Rothschild was also interested in natural history and philately and was a builder of a natural history museum in Tring Park and the author of a number of books on the subject. These articles on Jewish servicemen and Jewish politicians in Britain show the valuable contribution that Jews have made to the military and political life of the country.

Many other columns of an important genealogical nature have appeared throughout the years in the Chronicle. The Chronicle originally provided only occasional reports of Jewish crime in East London, the main area of Jewish settlement in the nineteenth century. However, in the 1920's and 1930's the Chronicle began publishing a regular column providing details of all reported crimes involving Jews as both the perpetrators and the victims. This column was eventually eliminated when a change of management took place. The Chronicle has published a regular column since the early twentieth century entitled Enquiries for Missing Relatives. This column lists inquiries from individuals, usually residing outside of the British Isles, who are seeking relatives in England. The Chronicle has published throughout the years,

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JEWISH GENEALOGICAL PEOPLE FINDER

There will be an update to the Jewish Genealogical People Finder in time for the 1995 Seminar. Persons who have not submitted their computerized family trees in GEDCOM format should do so immediately. Send them to AJGS, P.O. Box 900, Teaneck, NJ 07666. Persons living outside North America can send the datafile via Internet to <gmokotoff@delphi.com>. The file should be sent as an ordinary E-mail letter. The current edition of JGPF has some 230,000 entries. We already have an additional 100 family trees to post. With an average of 500 persons per tree, we should top the 300,000 mark in the new addition.

From Gary Mokotoff, President of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

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lists of individuals, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who were naturalized by the Home Office in a particular period prior to the issue's publication. The Chronicle has also published lists of wills of Jews that have been probated, often giving extensive details of their contacts, as well as names of relatives.

There are many other articles published in the Chronicle that are of value to the genealogist. There are weekly articles and news on centers of Jewish population throughout the British Isles. There have also been special supplements with detailed historical and news reports on the Jewish communities throughout the British Isles. For example, the February 23, 1906 issue, in a section entitled The Provinces, provides news from 21 centers in the British Isles. The July 23, 1906 issue has a special supplement entitled Jewish Communities in Yorkshire that provides a detailed history of all communities in that area. The Chronicle also provides news of Jews in foreign lands. This includes overseas news of world events involving Jews, including news from the large Jewish community in South Africa as well as other European and overseas centers. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century the Chronicle was one of the first newspapers to report on the problems Jews faced in Russia. There were detailed weekly reports from Russia by their own correspondents. Prior to 1940 the paper frequently featured in-depth historical articles. For example, in 1906 there were issues providing histories of Jewish communities in Ireland, India, Morocco, and China. After WWII the focus shifted to more current news items.

The Chronicle has consistently printed cultural and literary items throughout the decades. These include reports of events, commentaries and reviews of books, and articles and interviews with prominent personalities. For example, the issue of November 9, 1906 provided a special supplement on an Exhibition of Jewish Art and Antiquities that was held at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. The issue of May 25, 1906 provided a discussion of noted writer Sholom Aleichem's visit to London. There are also articles on religion and a weekly column listing the rabbi and the weekly sermon in each London synagogue.

The Jewish Chronicle is an important source of information for the Jewish historian and genealogist. In Toronto the Chronicle is available on microfilm at two locations. The University of Toronto Robarts Library has the Chronicle for 1841-1990. At York University, Scott Library has the Chronicle for 1841 - 1994. ✧

Glen Eker, a member of our Society, has published a number of articles on Candian Jewry in SHEM TOV.

Professional researcher will search census records, passenger lists, assessment records, city directories, indexes, archives & libraries and other available resources in Canada for your ancestors.
Glen Eker, 46 Brady Lane, Guelph, Ontario Canada N1L 1A5 (519) 836-4747

UPDATED SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX AT FAMILY HISTORY CENTRES

All LDS Family History Centres should now have an updated copy of the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) on CD-ROM, for use with the *FamilySearch™* computer. The SSDI is an index of deaths of U.S. residents who had Social Security Numbers, and whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration.

This new edition of the SSDI covers deaths from 1962 through December 1993. The new edition covers 60 million deaths, and now fits on two CD-ROMs, thanks to computer compression technology.

The SSDI can be searched by surname, and is available free of charge at all LDS Family History Centres. For each individual, the SSDI will tell you the date and place of death, so you can then write to the state for a death certificate. It also provides the Social Security Number, which you can use to send for a copy of that person's original Social Security application (Form SS-5). Write to:

**Freedom of Information Officer
4H8 Annex Building
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235
Telephone: (410) 965-3962**

You will be billed (usually \$7.00 if the Social Security Number is provided, \$16.50 if it is not). You will receive a photocopy of the original SS-5 form, which contains the applicant's date and place of birth, as well as both parents' full names (including mother's maiden name). Social Security Applications were filed out beginning in 1937.

If you have a CD-ROM drive on your home computer, you can purchase the SSDI CD-ROM discs for use at home, from either Automated Research, Inc., 327 East 1200 South, Suite 8, Orem UT 84058 (800-244-1776); or from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Bowie, MD 20716 (800-398-7709). Cost is \$45 for the two Cd-ROMs.

Mass-pocha, Winter 1994/1995

SOURCEBOOK FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY

David Zubatsky, author of *A Sourcebook of Family Histories and Genealogies*, a bibliography of published and manuscript Jewish genealogies found in libraries around the world, is preparing to publish a third volume. The first volume (422 pages, 1984) and second volume (452 pages, 1990) were edited by Zubatsky and Irwin Berent and were published by Garland Publishing Company (New York).

If you have donated or sold any genealogies to libraries or other repositories since 1989, please send this information to David Zubatsky, 308 Church St., Lancaster, PA 17602-4202; E-Mail: DZubatsk@MU3.Millersv.Edu, for inclusion in the new volume.

Mass-pocha, Summer, 1994

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL IS A REALITY

by Stanley Diamond

Finally, Montreal has a Jewish Genealogical Society.

First, a brief history; at the Summer Seminar in Toronto in June 1993, Henry Wellisch suggested I try to get a Montreal JGS started. The Catalyst for getting things off the ground came in the form of the Jewish People and Peretz Schools of Montreal decision to have a genealogical workshop in conjunction with their annual Klezfest on November 13th.

To attract serious genealogists and budding family history mavens, I decided it would be important to have an expert lead the workshop. I turned to Henry Wellisch for advice and he recommended Dr. Rolf Lederer. The 35 attendees were not only treated to Dr. Lederer's expertise but, just as important, his love of family history and good humour. He opened the eyes of both experienced Jewish family researchers and the casual and curious. The ball was rolling.....

On December 15th, with less than 10 days' notice and minimal publicity, there were 23 at the first meeting of the JGS of Montreal "in formation". Then, with more planning and public relations, we drew 60 attendees to a mid-winter (January 9th) meeting featuring Gary Schroder, Vice President of the Quebec Family History Society.

With this amazing show of interest, the steering committee voted February 2nd to announce ourselves to the Jewish genealogical world and take the necessary action to register the JGS of Montreal! The founding executive, while short on genealogical research experience, is a solid and competent cross section of our 100,000 strong Montreal Jewish community.

The February 20th meeting was the official kick off of our membership campaign.

During the start-up period, we had the benefit of help and sage advice from a number of experienced leaders in the JGS movement. These include; Bruce Kahn, President of the Rochester Society, whose October 22, 1994 JewishGen Internet post "Fostering Interest in Jewish Genealogy" and private words of encouragement were so helpful; Jonathan Smith, the AJGS "start-up man" who provided some excellent hand out material; Gary Mokotoff, the Publisher of Avotaynu and President of the American Jewish Genealogical Society, whose knowledge and experience were always readily available; Gene Starn, President of the Orlando Society, who shared some of his experiences; and Warren Blatt, of the Boston JGS, whose professionalism was an inspiration.

Our Society is particularly fortunate to have the Montreal Jewish Public Library invite us to make our home in their outstanding facilities. Zipporah Shnay, the executive director, and the entire staff have been supportive and helpful right from the start.

We will be filling a void and we recognize that many SHEM TOV readers will be delighted to have fellow genealogists to help with Montreal-related research questions. In fact, because of the historic ties between our communities, we also believe that the relationship between the Montreal and

Toronto Societies will be a special one among JGS's around the world.

Members of the JGS of Montreal already have some projects in mind which we believe, as time and developing skills permit, will contribute to genealogical research on a world-wide basis.

Meetings are planned for the third Monday of each month (except July) in the auditorium of the Jewish Public Library of Montreal, 5151 Côte St. Catherine Road; a warm welcome awaits all SHEM TOV readers when they are in Montreal. ☆

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal may be contacted through Stanley Diamond, 5599 Edgemore Avenue, Montreal, Quebec Canada H4W 1V4.

Telephone: (514) 484-0100 Fax: (514) 484-7306.

Email: stanley.diamond@F117.N167.71.fidonet.org ☆

DOCUMENTING ROSELAWN FINAL SEASON

Join us on Sunday April 30th at 10:00 a.m. as the cemetery committee begins its final season at Roselawn Cemetery. No knowledge of Hebrew or Yiddish is needed. If you have any questions, call Howard Shidlowky at (416) 783-3558 or Gert Rogers at (416) 588-2318. Otherwise, we will see you there. Just look for the sign.

GUIDE BOOKS FOR POLAND

A series of eight guidebooks to "Jewish Poland" - A Guide to Jewish Warsaw, a Guide to Jewish Cracow, A guide to Jewish Lublin, A Guide to Jewish Lodz, A Guide to Jewish Galicia, Bialystok and its Surroundings, Places of Jewish Martyrdom in Poland and A Guide to Jewish Poland - is available from Culture, Art & Business Jewish Publishing Agency, Imma, 111/10 Grojecha St., Warsaw Poland. Send a cheque for \$4.50 each plus \$1.50 postage for each or \$40 (including postage) for the entire collection to Dr. Piotr Kowalski, 01-652 Warsaw, Potocka SM121, POLAND.

BRITISH NATURALIZATIONS 1902-1906

Between June 1902 and November 1906, the *London Jewish Chronicle* published lists of persons obtaining naturalization in Great Britain. The lists are not complete, and a few months are missing; but a database has been created with details of more than 3,000 people. The database includes addresses shown in the *Chronicle*, country of origin, and the issue and page numbers from which they were extracted. The January 1994 *Shemot* (JGS of Great Britain) states that searches will be made upon request, with inclusion of a SAE and international postal coupon. Write to Ian Melville, 58 Strensall Park, Strensall, York YO3 5SH, England.
Dorot, Spring 1994

COMPUTER COMMENTARY

by Howard Shidlowky

My first evaluations of genealogy programs were based more on my experience as a computer analyst than my knowledge of genealogy. Over the next few years, I gained more experience both in researching my family's history and in designing programs. During that time I saw many programs aimed at genealogists, ranging from the truly amazing to the utterly horrible. In all of this, what struck me most was how alike all these programs were. Certainly there were differences, but for the most part, they all kept track of the same data. Given the nature of our pursuit, this is inevitable to some extent. But it isn't just the data but the fact the names of many fields were virtually constant. As an example, out of 14 programs, only one had a field labelled surname. That kind of homogeneity bothers me. Why? Well, it suggests that far too often the developers are studying other programs, not their users' needs.

More bothersome was the fact that all these programs omitted the same data, all related to marriages. Yes, they all had some way of recording the bare facts of a marriage - date and place. Place almost always went begging for more room. Few programs had space for more than city or town and country. Am I that unusual in wanting to record the synagogue or house where the wedding took place, who officiated and the names of witnesses? Even those programs that offer me lists of sources don't seem to include invitations, an overlooked resource.

We all want to note how a marriage ended. This usually means death of one partner, divorce or annulment. But most programs don't include death, the most obvious of these options. Roots IV doesn't. Neither does Brother's Keeper, although it does list separation. And is this the end of the marriage? In the real world I would say yes. But not legally. How are we as genealogists to decide? For that matter, should we even record separation?

On the other hand, all this examines only the end of a marriage. What about its beginning? I am not thinking of how long the people knew each other, but how or if I should note that 2 people lived together for some length of time before they married. And we should indicate the type of ceremony used - civil, religious or both.

And what word do we use to say that 2 people live together? English has many words to define such a relationship. Marriage is not always one of them. We could use "common-law marriage" but this term means different things in different countries and even provinces. In Ontario, it is a legal term, meaning the couple have lived together for a minimum of 3 years. (The legal implications include the possibility of such couples divorcing each other.) And how or should we include this information if the couple in question were later married?

If your program allows you to define your own events, you could create a field for this data. What could you call it if not

"common-law marriage"? Some social services use "LTP", a "living together partner". Other possibilities include "lifemate" or "longtime companion". "Significant other" does not connote that the couple live together. The United States census uses "unmarried partner".

You may be wondering why I bother with this whole subject. Surely, you say, I could just use the "marriage" field and get it over with. The answer is "Yes. But..". And the "But.." really is important. We are trying to be as accurate as possible about the information we collect. If the relationship didn't include marriage why should we present it as if it was a marriage. Besides, we all know people who lived together before marriage. Should we ignore that as well. To rephrase, if no marriage record is found or evidence suggests that no marriage took place or it occurred after the people were living together, genealogy programs should allow us to reflect the situation. It is time we, and the programs we use, reflected the current state of the world.

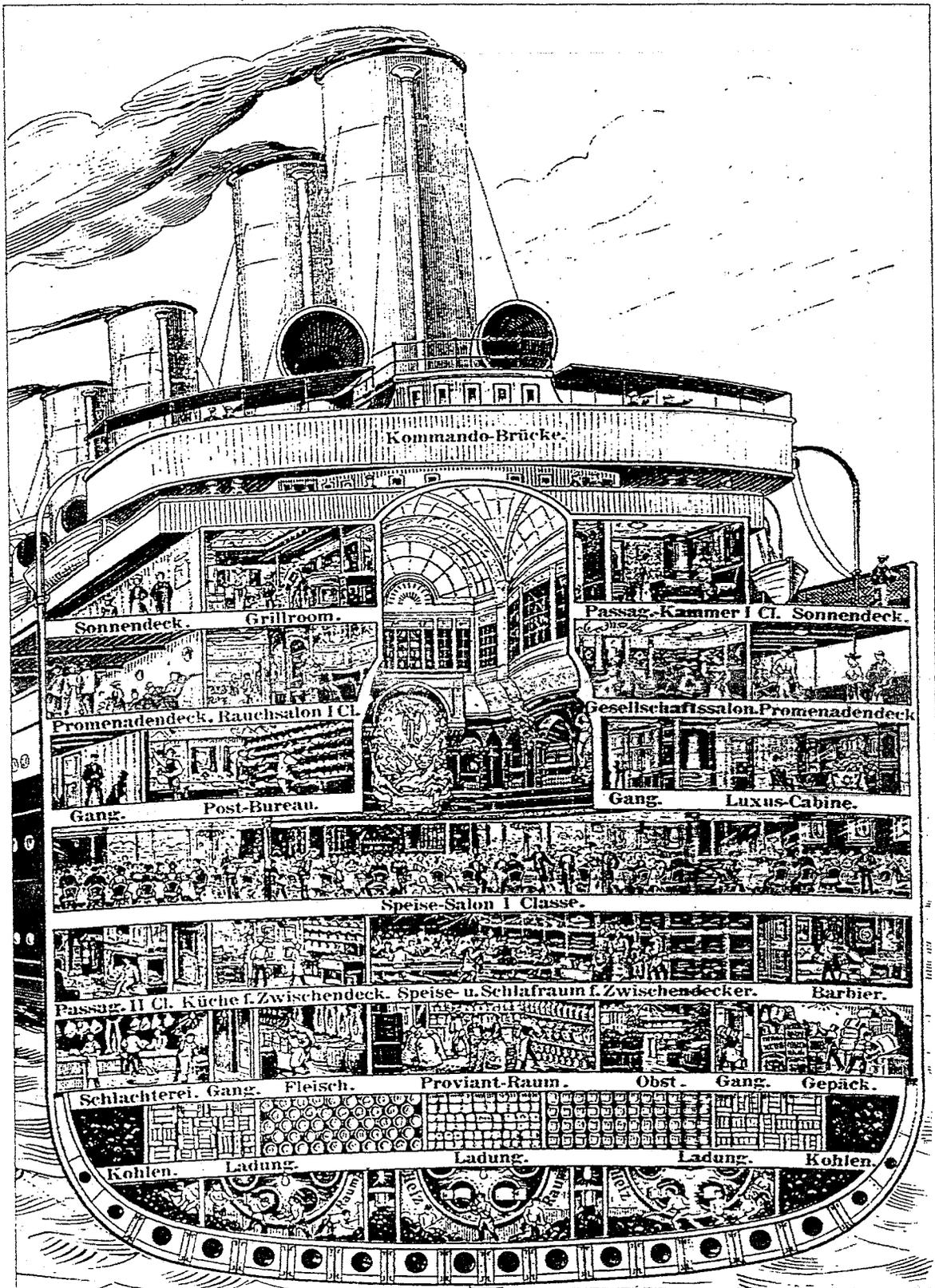
Some software requires adding an entire family, not individuals who are then linked together. But why start with the husband? And why do some also restrict the order in which the fields can be filled? It isn't hard to modify programs to support this flexibility that should already be there.

My brother was born in Toronto, lived in Israel for 14 years and moved back. Outside of the notes, this is apparent only because his children were born in Israel. But he didn't live in either Rehovot or Jerusalem where my niece and nephew were born. Is it really asking so much to make some room for this? It is certainly as important, if not more so, than some of the other supported fields.

Adding children to the tree is always a delight. But why do some programs insist that only married couples have children? This is certainly not an accurate reflection of the world I live in. I can create a dummy spouse and always elect not to include this fictitious person in various charts. But I shouldn't have to.

I want to always include adopted children in my charts. After all, I consider them family. I would like to see this stored in an initialization file with the directory paths and other default settings. Roots IV tried to do this through Track A, which follows blood links, and Track B, which follows family events. But what if the event, such as a marriage, never took place? And please allow me to include these individuals as cousins and aunts and uncles. If my family includes them, so should the software. ☆

*Howard Shidlowky, one of our veteran members,
also heads our Cemetery Committee.*



Cross section through a German Trans Atlantic Liner before World War I.
 Please note at arrow, three-tiered bunks and dining facilities for steerage passengers.

HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR BUBBE'S SHIP?

Do you know the name of the ship Bubbe and Zaide came on to America? Do you have a photograph of that ship? Do you know where or when it was built, where it travelled, or how it ended its days? For example, the Vaderland, the ship on which my grandfather sailed to America in 1910, was the second ship with this name. It was built in 1900 in Glasgow, Scotland, sailed from Antwerp, Belgium, to New York for the Red Star Line, carried 1140 passengers, 600 of them in steerage, and was converted to a troopship, torpedoed and sunk in WW1. If this type of information intrigues you, then read on.

There are several excellent sources for obtaining information about, and photos of, these ships. Write to the following sources, asking if such photos are available for your family's ships. Be sure to provide the exact name of the ship, ports travelled to and from, and the date of the voyage (successor ships sometimes get the same names and you want to be sure to get the correct one.)

Peabody & Essex Museum, Ms Kathy Flynn, Dept. of Photography, East India Square, Salem, Massachusetts 01970, (508) 745-1876. They will send you a photocopy of the photograph they have, along with some information about the ship, and the cost. (An 8 X 10 black and white photo costs from \$12 to \$20 plus \$2.50 postage, and \$10 more if a negative must be made.)

Hapag-Lloyd A.G., Postfach 102626, 2000 Hamburg 1, Germany. If the ship you are researching belongs to Hamburg-American Line or the Lloyd Line, the successor company, Hapag-Lloyd A.G. might be able to help you obtain a photo of the ship.

Deutsches Schifffahrts Museum, Van Ronzelen Strasse, 285, Bremerhaven-Mitte, Germany. They may be able to help with information about ships of other German flag lines.

Lloyd's Shipping Register, Lead Librarian, Lime Street, London EC 3M 7Ha, England. Some of the Lloyd's Shipping Register is in the New York Public Library as well.

The Mariners Museum, Ms Charlotte Valentine Archivist, Research Library & Archives, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, Virginia 23606-3759 (804) 595-0368. If they have the photograph you're interested in, they will reply to your inquiry with a catalog number and a price list. The price of an 8 X 10 black and white photo is \$12; if you have to order, add \$35 to the cost.

Mishpacha, Winter 1994

LITHUANIAN TOWNS

The Lithuanian American Genealogy Society of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture will send information on towns in Lithuania for a \$5 charge per town. Be sure to tell them that you are interested in Jewish life in your town. Send requests to the attention of Jessie Daraska, Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 South Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60629 U.S.A.

Morasha (JGS of Illinois), Summer, 1994

JEWISH GENEALOGY ON BULLETIN BOARDS

Further to Bruce Kahn's lecture on this subject, one of our members Mr. Mike Klugman has the following information on Bulletin boards in Ontario:

1. At the moment OGS Kintracers has 2 nodes, however they do not carry TMS and JFF.
 - a) Node 1: 416 750-9767
 - b) Node 2: Will be available soon, with some genealogical systems.
 - c) Node 3: 416 288-9268
- 2.a) A well run BBS located in Vitoria BC is called SUNSET YEARS. Call long distance: 1-(705)-534-6359.
- b) In the Kitchener Waterloo area is a Ham Radio BBS, which also carries some files of interest call: (519) 578-9314.
- c) The newly established Toronto Free-Net is available at: (416) 780-2010 (standard BBS setting). ☆

LIBRARY NEWS

by Deborah Pekilis, JGSC Librarian

Our longtime member Mrs. Elizabeth Plaut kindly donated the following items:

SEARCH, The International Journal for Researches of Jewish Genealogy. Vol 1 - 11 (1981 - 1992).

TOLDOT - The Journal of Jewish Genealogy. 9 issues.

STAMMBAUM - The newsletter of German-Jewish Genealogical Research. 3 issues.

FINDING OUR FATHERS - by Dan Rottenberg

THE JEWS OF CINCINNATI - by J. Sarna and N. Klein
Several German/Jewish Family Histories.

Miscellaneous Newsletters

We also received from Ms. Anna Olswanger:

THE THIRD OLSCHWENGER JOURNAL

Interested individuals can purchase their own copy by sending a cheque for \$40 US (which includes postage and handling) to Anna Olswanger, 7117 Harp Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27615-5323.

CANADIAN VETERANS

If you are looking for information on members of the Canadian Armed Forces, try these addresses: Veteran's Affairs, Access to Information, PO Box 7700, Charlottetown, PE C1A 8M9, phone (902) 566-8607 and Personnel Records Centre, National Archives of Canada, Tunney's Pasture, Goldenrod Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0N3, phone (613) 954-4138. Provide salient details and they will supply what information they can from whatever records they can find. Replies take a month or more.

Contra Costa Genealogical Society, November, 1993