



שם טוב

SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

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THE JEWS OF MERTHYR, WALES AND WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO

by Henry Wellisch

Our society receives inquiries from time to time from Canada, the US, and overseas. Most inquirers are trying to trace their relatives, who came to or passed through Canada. They often supply only a common family name but not destination, time period or method of arrival. Last September we received a letter that was different, Here is a condensed version:

"I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Wales, currently researching the history of the Welsh Jewish communities. I recently came across an entry in the minute books of the Jewish Board of Guardians for 13 June, 1904, describing how the board on behalf of the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA) had organized the emigration of a group of Jewish workmen from Merthyr Tydfil to Canada. I am eager to find out where these people came from and where they emigrated to in Canada. I realize it would be almost impossible to trace these people in official records. I believe my only hope is that perhaps one of your members had a grandparent who was among the group who emigrated to Canada and that they have recounted their story in the pages of the JGSC magazine "SHEM TOV."

Yours sincerely, David Morris

Enclosed with the letter were photocopies of four news items in the Western Mail and one short dispatch in The Times of London. They were dated 3 September to 11 September 1903. (See figure 1 on page 4).

Analyzing these newspaper reports revealed that over a period prior to the summer of 1903 several hundred Jews had arrived in the city of Merthyr Tydfil from Eastern and Central Europe. Most of them were working as unskilled labourers at

the nearby Dowlais Iron Works. The relations between the Jewish and other labourers, mostly Irishmen, was not very good. The local Jewish community with the help of the London Board of Guardians was making preparations to send these foreign Jews to Canada and the US.

At the beginning of September 1903 the situation deteriorated further. There was fighting in the streets, several Jews were beaten up, and a number of Irish labourers were charged with assault. Large crowds congregated in the streets and several houses occupied by Jews were hit by stones. The local police forces were reinforced, but no further disturbances occurred. To relieve the tension, the charges against the Irish labourers were withdrawn when they assured members of the Jewish congregation that such assaults would not happen again. At the same time the Jewish organizations, the London Jewish Board of Guardians, the Baron de Hirsch

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Institute and the ICA seemed to have succeeded with their efforts to get the foreign Jews to Canada. (A certain number also decided to return to Russia, Poland, Romania and Germany.) The latest dispatch dated September 11 reported on their impending departure, but no date or name of ship was given.

After considering all the information contained in the various news reports, I thought I would attempt to find out what I could about the fate of perhaps some of these immigrants.

First of all, it seemed to me that since this event was mentioned in *The Times* of London, surely the *Jewish Chronicle*, the principal organ of British Jewry, would have covered this event in greater detail. I knew that microfilm copies of this paper were available at the Robarts Library of the University of Toronto, and I had no trouble finding three articles concerning this matter. The most informative one was dated September 18, 1903. (See Figure 2 on page 4). From this article I obtained the name of the ship, the *Lake Erie*, the approximate date of departure and the destination of the emigrants leaving for Canada. The Canadian port of arrival was not given.

The ships' manifests for arrival of passengers to Canada are found in Toronto at the North York Central Library. I checked the port of Halifax and immediately found that the

Lake Erie had arrived there on September 25. There were 47 Cabin and 705 Steerage passengers on board, and amongst the latter were about 200 Jews, 40 of whom continued directly to the US, while the rest gave various places in Canada as their final destination. After looking over all this material, I was struck by the fact that, according to the *Jewish Chronicle* dated September 18, 1903, 28 persons had given Woodstock, Ontario, as their destination.

This was confirmed by the ship's manifest and, based on this, I now had the names of 24 persons who belonged to the group from Wales (See list on page 3). It seemed to me that Woodstock being a smaller place, there would be a better chance to find some of the descendants of these people. I now had to find some sources in Woodstock.

At the Ontario Archives I found that Woodstock had a daily newspaper, the *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*, and on the front page of the September 28, 1903, issue there was a lengthy article entitled "Citizens from Europe - Whose arrival in City excites Interest." The article did not give any names (See Figure 3 on page 4). I now knew that these people had actually arrived in Woodstock. When I contacted the district archive and the Woodstock public library, I was directed to a local genealogical study group and they kindly checked the *Woodstock City Directory* for 1912 (the closest date available), but not one of the names on my list was found. I was now getting discouraged but decided to try one more

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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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thing; The Toronto Telephone Directory.

Looking over my list, only a few names seemed to offer any hope. There was no GORWITZ listed in Toronto but there were two listings for KALMANSON. To cut a long story short, after a few calls I finally spoke to Naomi Kalmanson-Rosenberg, the granddaughter of Henry Kalmansohn. She had not known that her grandfather had ever been to Woodstock; the family had settled in London, Ontario. Henry (Chiel) who died in 1939 was married to Anna Orenstein, who was a respected personality in the London Jewish community (See Figure 4 on page 4). As far as Woodstock is concerned, Dr. Speisman of the Ontario Jewish Archives told me that no organized Jewish community ever existed there.

The other day while looking at the Woodstock list again, I suddenly realized that our society had a member by name of Stephen Albert. On the Woodstock list are Barnett Albert and Taube Albert. In addition one of the newspaper reports from September 1903 stated that one of the Jews assaulted in Merthyr was BARNETT ALBERT. When I phoned Stephen, he immediately told me that his grandparents had come to Canada via the US; however, after checking his records he found the following: According to the Toronto Jewish Directory for 1925 there was a BARNETT ALBERT listed at 267 King St. East., who was not his relative.

When I checked the 1908 Toronto City Directory I found a listing of BARNET ALBERT, Pedlar, 161 Centre Ave. The next listings were in 1911 and 1912 under BERNARD ALBERT, 263 King St. E., Sec. Hd. Gds. [Second Hand Goods]. From 1913 through 1958 BERNARD (sometimes BARNETT) ALBERT was listed at 261 King St. East, Sec. Hd. Gds. Tel: Em4-3958. This may be our Barnett Albert from Woodstock, but it would have to be documented.

Over the last few months I was also in touch with the Archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress, where some of the records of the ICA are stored. I was told that some of the records for this period are on microfilm with the Canadian National Archives in Ottawa, and I am trying to obtain these through an Inter-Library loan.

During the last few months I have also continued my correspondence with Mr. David Morris, and I have sent him copies of the ship's manifest and the Woodstock Sentinel-Review article. He in turn was kind enough to donate to our library a very interesting book entitled "The Jew of South Wales." That is where we stand now, but this may not be the end of the story... ☆

LIST OF JEWISH PASSENGERS ON THE S.S. LAKE ERIE; WHICH ARRIVED IN HALIFAX ON SEPT. 25, 1903. THEY GAVE THEIR FINAL DESTINATION AS WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO

First Name	Last Name	Age	Profession or Occupation	Nation or Country of Birth
Simon	Gorwitz	24	Laborer	Russia Jew
Ester	"	21	Wife	"
Annie	"	3	Child	"
Benjamin	"	11/12	Infant	"
Isaac	Bercowitz	34	Tailor	Austria Jew
Nache	"	24	Wife	"
Lewis	"	4	Child	"
Davis	"	3	"	"
Rebecca	"	6/12	Infant	"
Chaim	Kramer	26	Miner	Russia Jew
Barnett	Feinstein	22	Pedlar	Romania Jew
Solomon	Henny ?	22	Tailor	"
David	Schuster	26	Laborer	"
Henry	Kalmansohn	21	"	"
Albert	Barnett *	24	Pedlar	Russia Jew
Albert	Taube *	24	Laborer	"
Leon	Wischek	19	Tailor	"
Mendel	Weltman	27	Laborer	"
Chave	"	26	Wife	"
Rijka	"	20	Servant	"
Scholem	"	3	Child	"
Israel	Papky	28	Tailor	"
David	Withers ?	21	Laborer	Romania Jew
Sender	Amitz ?	23	"	Russia Jew

Note: These * could perhaps be a mistake (see below)

Barnett	Albert	24	Pedlar	Russia Jew
Taube	"	24	Laborer	"

Family Groups are denoted by "[]"

ATTACK ON FOREIGN JEWS AT DOWLAI.—A body of Rumanian and Russian Jews, numbering about 200, engaged at Dowlais works, have become the object of hostility on the part of Irish and other labourers. On Tuesday night several Jews were maltreated in High-street, but the police intervened for their protection. Yesterday morning the foreigners, being terrorized, abstained from work, but on being sent for by the management they resumed under strong police protection. Feeling in the neighbourhood is very excited, and a movement has been set on foot amongst the Jewish residents to send the immigrants to Canada. They are regarded as steady men, and work at the same rates as other labourers.

Figure 1 - From The Times of London
September 3, 1903

The Jewish Workmen at Dowlais.

With reference to the action of the Jewish Board of Guardians in emigrating some of the Jewish workmen employed at the Dowlais Iron-works, we understand that the Board was acting as the agents of the Jewish Colonisation Association as regards those cases which have been sent to Canada, and the few cases sent to the United States were from funds at the disposal of the Board for such purposes. The general funds of the Board are not available for the relief of cases outside the Metropolis.

About a hundred Jewish emigrants, consisting of Dowlais workmen and their families, left Merthyr on Monday for Birkenhead, en route for America. The party left by special Great Western train from Merthyr Station for Liverpool, whence they sailed in the steamship "Lake Erie" for various parts of Canada and the States. Their destinations in Canada are as follows: Ottawa, 10; Quebec, 5; Amhurst, 18; Woodstock, 28; Toronto, 4; Ludburg, Ontario, 1; Montreal, 2. There was a scene of great excitement at the station, nearly all the compatriots of the emigrants who are still left behind at Dowlais assembling to bid them "Bon Voyage." The travellers went away in high spirits, and as the train steamed out they cheered lustily, the women waving their handkerchiefs and the men their hats and caps. It may be added that the Jewish workmen have, by their sober habits and exemplary conduct, won the commendation of their employers, Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettelfolds, Ltd. Amongst the members of the Merthyr Hebrew Congregation present on the platform to witness the departure of the party were the Rev. I. Raffalovich (Minister), Mr. Marcus Levinsohn and Mr. G. Goodman.

In view of there having been no renewal of the disturbances, the charges of assault preferred against a number of Christian workmen, which were to have been heard at Merthyr Police Court on Thursday week, were withdrawn, an act of grace which was not without its effect in relieving the tension previously prevailing.

Mr. Geo. Goodman has received a letter from a large number of the emigrants, expressing their gratitude for the kindness shown them by him during their stay at Merthyr.

We have received the following letter:—

A WARNING.

SIR,—I am requested by Mr. Levinsohn, Treasurer of this Congregation, to warn Jewish working-men who may be allured by the prospect of finding work at the Dowlais Iron Works that they will find themselves in the direst distress if they come here. It was with great exertions that he succeeded in having a number of the Jewish labourers sent away to Canada by the London Board of Guardians, and it was a touching scene to witness the anguish of those who were not fortunate enough also to leave, and were left to endure the indignities and the threats of the Irishmen on the works.

Those who ignore this warning, and still come in search for work, should know that they do so on their own responsibility, and will have no one to blame but themselves for the consequences.

Yours, obediently,

Synagogue Chambers, Merthyr,

September 15, 1903.

I. RAFFALOVICH.

Figure 2 - From The Jewish Chronicle
September 18, 1903

CITIZENS FROM SOUTH OF EUROPE

Whose Arrival in City
Excites Interest

BROUGHT OUT BY MR. HAY

To Work in His Factory—
Now Quartered in Tent
at East End

Considerable interest was manifested yesterday in the arrival in Woodstock of a party of foreigners. The party, which comprised nine single and six married men, were met at the depot by James Hay, manufacturer of this city.

Figure 3 - From The
Woodstock
Sentinel-Review
September 28, 1903



MRS. ANNA KALMANSON, London, Ont., comes from Berditchev, Russia, and received her education in Cheder. In 1907 she emigrated to Canada, and settled in London. It was there that she married Mr. Chiel Kalmanson, in 1908. For a number of years Mrs. Kalmanson was the supervisor of the Sanitorium for T. B. patients, which was founded by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Hurton Street Synagogue in London. She was on the executive of that organization for a long term and lately she was elected chair-lady. She has three children: Alice, Harry and Samuel.

Figure 4 - From
"Canadian Jewry"
Toronto, 1933

JEWISH YOUTH GENEALOGY PROJECT

The Action Committee for Jewish Continuity of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto has awarded 17 grants to Jewish organizations to develop innovative programmes dealing with Jewish continuity, assimilation and intermarriage. One of the recipients is the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto).

The Jewish Genealogical Society will develop a beginners guide to Jewish genealogy for teenagers with an emphasis on genealogical resources in Ontario. The guide will include the following topics,

- Collection, cataloguing and storage of photographs, documents and other family memorabilia
- Conducting interviews with family members
- Obtaining documents (e.g. marriage certificates, citizenship papers) from municipal, provincial and federal levels of government
- Conducting genealogical research in libraries and archives
- Genealogical resources available on the Internet
- Genealogical software
- Writing a family history

The guide will be sent to schools, camps, synagogues and community centres, enabling them to include genealogy in their curriculum.

By exploring their family roots, teenagers will become more aware of their families' heritage and experiences. Hopefully, this will lead to an increased identification with the Jewish community. ☆

FAMILY LEGENDS, GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

☪ ☪

Government documents provide information about WHO, WHEN and WHERE while family stories tell about HOW and WHY. The Guide to Jewish Genealogy will cover both of these topics.

Have you ordered government documents? The following information is requested - document ordered, name and address of government agency, information needed to order document, amount of time for document to be sent, information contained in document.

Were you told a family story which helped you in your research? Did your research solve any family mysteries?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please bring your contribution to the next meeting or send it to the following address - Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto), P. O. Box 446, Station A, North York, Ontario, M2N 5T1. ☆

☪ UPCOMING EVENTS ☪

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Professor John Garrard of the University of Arizona in Tucson, on "**Revelations From Newly-Opened Soviet Archives**". This event is co-sponsored by the Holocaust Remembrance Committee.

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

"The Way We Were - In Spain" by **Professor Mark Meverson** of the University of Toronto's History Department: a description of the Jewish community of 13th-16th century Sagunta, Valencia, Spain.

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

To be announced

Wednesday June 26, 1996

"Breakthroughs of the Past Year" and the Annual General Meeting.

at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
470 Glencairn Avenue - 7:30 p.m.
Non-members are asked to contribute \$3



☪ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ☪ ☪ STARTING IN MAY ☪

Jewish Cemeteries throughout the world are being repaired and documented. Most of you already know that your Genealogical Society has been working on documenting the Roselawn Cemetery in Toronto for the last number of years.

The Cemetery Committee for the documenting of Roselawn is putting out an urgent appeal to volunteers. We have decided that we must finish Roselawn Cemetery in the summer of 1996.

In order to do this quickly and efficiently the committee has decided (with the approval of the executive committee) that we photograph the balance of the tombstones.

We urgently need volunteers with cameras who will come out and commit to photographing a **minimum of four rows** throughout the summer.

We will supply the film and pay for the processing.

Please call Gert Rogers at (416) 588-2318, and leave your name and phone number, and someone will contact you. ☆

HOW MY COUSIN FOUND LONG-LOST DESCENDANTS OF MY GRANDMOTHER'S BROTHER IN BIRODIJAN

by Deborah Pekilis

My father's first cousin, Mitchell Ortenberg, has been researching the history of my father's family since he was young. While my great-aunt and great-uncle, Shava and Nissel Ortenberg, his parents, were alive, Mitchell asked them questions about their history in Ukraine, where my father's parents and other relatives came from, and about their experiences as immigrants, and recorded the answers. Over the past twenty years, following his parents' deaths, Mitchell has taken courses in genealogy at the Jewish Public Library in Montreal, where he lives, and is currently a member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal. He is working on a computer generated family tree.

My paternal grandmother, Baila Spector Pekilis, had two sisters who left Ukraine in 1905 to come to Canada. After they settled in Canada, the two sisters, Chana and Shava Spector, married two brothers, Isaac and Nissel Ortenberg. During the 1920s, they brought their younger sister, my grandmother, to Canada, where she married the brothers' nephew, my grandfather, Solomon Pekilis. The three sisters' brother, Aaron Spector, stayed in Ukraine.

Chana and Shava have been dead for over twenty years. My grandmother, Baila, has lived to 95.

In 1927, Shava and Chana received a letter from their brother, Aaron, asking if they could send him \$300. He didn't say why he needed the money. According to Mitchell Aaron must have needed the money to go to Birodijan.

Where is Birodijan? Located in south-central Asia, Birodijan was supposed to be a homeland for Jews that was

started by Josef Stalin in the 1920s. Stalin's purpose was to establish a socialist Jewish national homeland in Russia with Jewish ethnic and cultural values. When it was first set up Birodijan had a Jewish theatre, Yiddish language schools, books, newspapers, and publishers. However, Jews never went there in large numbers and never constituted more than half the population. Russia's Jews considered Birodijan to be a bleak and desolate area, and they stayed in their established settlements in the Russian Pale.

Mitchell's sister Charlotte Huberman, has two sons, Irwin and Ronald. Around 1989, Irwin and Ronald interviewed my grandmother, their great-aunt, about her experiences in both the Ukraine and Canada, as part of a project sponsored by the Montreal office of the Canadian Jewish Congress, to record and preserve the immigrant experience. They taped Baila's answers, and each kept a copy of the tape. One of the items that Baila mentioned on the cassette was her assumption that her brother, Aaron, had used the money that his sisters had sent him to go to Birodijan.

After listening to his copy of the cassette, Irwin decided to try to find out if Aaron Spector had actually ended up in Birodijan. He telephoned his Uncle Mitchell, and asked where he could find information on Birodijan. Mitchell told him, "You're

looking for a needle in a haystack," but when Irwin insisted that he wanted to find Aaron, Mitchell told him that information on Birodijan could only be found at YIVO. Located in New York city, YIVO is a Yiddish institution known in English as the Institute for Jewish Research.



THE AREA IN THE FAR EASTERN PART OF RUSSIA, WHERE BIROBIJAN IS LOCATED. THE OFFICIAL NAME OF BIROBIJAN IS: YEVREY AUTONOMOUS OBLAST. (JEWISH AUTONOMOUS REGION)

Irwin went to YIVO in New York, but found that the room containing books and periodicals on Birodijan had material only in Yiddish and Russian. Unable to read or communicate in Yiddish, Irwin consulted the librarian. The librarian gave him the telephone number of a professor from Birodijan, who was staying temporarily in Brooklyn and lecturing at the City University of New York. Irwin telephoned the professor and requested his help in locating Aaron. The professor also told Irwin that he was looking for "a needle in a haystack." When Irwin persisted, the professor said that he would need a copy of Irwin's family tree. Irwin has a rough copy of the family tree that Mitchell is working on which he faxed to the professor.

One month after his visit to YIVO, Irwin received a telephone call from the professor who gave him the name and address of one Anatoli Spector who lived in Birodijan. Anatoli's grandfather was Aaron Spector. Irwin wrote to Anatoli and apparently began a correspondence with him.

The scene of research now moves to Hawaii at the end of November, 1995. A Ukrainian lady who had immigrated to Seattle, Washington, and become a successful businesswoman, was vacationing in Hawaii, and overheard two men talking in Russian on the beach. They were brothers, sons of Anatoli Spector. One of the brothers was Vitaly. She began talking to them, and Vitaly told her that he had come to Hawaii in the hopes of finding Irwin Huberman. The brothers had been able to get visas to Hawaii only. To visit mainland United States, they would have to be invited. The Ukrainian woman then invited the brothers to stay with her for a week in Seattle. Vitaly accepted her invitation. His brother returned to Russia, thinking that Vitaly was looking for, as everybody had thought Irwin was doing, "a needle in a haystack."

In Seattle, the Ukrainian woman took Vitaly to the Canadian Consulate. What follows next is a long story of telephone calls and visas, which culminated in a successful search and resulted in a visit by Vitaly and the Ukrainian woman to Irwin at his home in Edmonton.

Irwin took Vitaly and the Ukrainian woman to Montreal to visit Mitchell and Baila. My grandmother lives in a nursing home and is both blind and suffers from Alzheimer's disease. She doesn't recognize any of our family anymore. However, when Vitaly spoke to her in Russian, he awakened her long-term memory and she perked up. They had an affectionate reunion. Mitchell was happy that his aunt, who had been very close to Aaron when they were children, had lived long enough to see the shredding of the Iron Curtain and to be visited by Aaron's great-grandson.

Vitaly told his cousins, and mine, through his "interpreter" that all Jewish religious and cultural activity

had been banned from Birodijan during the 1950s, contrary to Stalin's promise that Judaism would be preserved there. Vitaly and his family are completely assimilated, though they know that they are Jewish. At the height of its glory, Birodijan boasted a Jewish population of 10,000; now the population is 250. Vitaly returned to Russia the last week in November, 1995.

[Ed note: Birodijan is one spelling for the area now called Yevrey (Jewish) Autonomous Oblast (Region) in the far East of Russia.] ☆

WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS TO OUR SOCIETY

Toba Aizenstat	Michael Benyacar
Judy Cohen	Lily Feder-Rooz
Sylvia Fleischer-Rayworth	Bernard Goffenberg
Winston J. Herzenberg	Stephen Izen
Elaine McKee	David Naiman
Rudolph Philipp	Beverly Rosenberg
Moshe Rojek	Gail Rudolph
Marci Trachter-Shane	Dale E. Zilbert

ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by May 1996 for the Summer 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 (Toronto) and mail to: JGS of Canada (Toronto), P.O. Box 446, Station A, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5T1.

CANADIAN NATURALIZATION RECORDS AS SOURCE OF GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION

By Glen Eker

Canadian naturalization records are an excellent source of personal information on particular individuals for the genealogical researcher. They can provide both proof that the individual is a Canadian citizen, as well as valuable genealogical information that can lead the researcher to other potential sources for discovering his family history. Prior to 1947, an individual was required to be a resident of Canada for a period of three years before obtaining Canadian citizenship. The Canadian Citizenship Act of 1947 increased this period to five years; this was reduced to three years by the Citizenship Act of 1977.

There is no master index available for the Canadian naturalization records from Confederation in 1867 to the present. There is, however, a partial index available in selected issues of a government newspaper called *The Canada Gazette*. This is the official paper of the Canadian Government and is published weekly in Ottawa. The purpose of the paper is to make or place statements that are legally required by Canadian law. The paper has been published weekly since 1867. A typical issue provides information on bankruptcies, divorces, military announcements, government appointments and promotions, economic and political news, etc.

Issues between 1918 and 1938 provide, at various intervals throughout the year, lists of aliens who have been naturalized by the Secretary of State. Another section shows aliens with their children who automatically became citizens when their parents did; the children are also named. There are lists of people reclaiming Canadian citizenship and of individuals who became citizens with their spouses. Included were persons granted citizenship whose claim to be British subjects had been in doubt.

There are also notices of those whose citizenship had been revoked. A typical entry in these indexes includes name, country of birth, date of oath of allegiance, occupation, residence, and number and series of certificate. *The Canada Gazette* for these years is available on microfilm and can be found in many Canadian university libraries, as well as the National Library in Ottawa.

There are basically two types of naturalization records available: those before 1918 and those from that year to the present. Prior to 1918, naturalization was handled locally in Canada by provincial courts. The basic information in these

early records was forwarded to the Secretary of State and placed on index cards which have since been microfilmed. The original records held by the provincial courts have, in most cases, been destroyed. Those index cards contain only the name of the person naturalized, residence at time of naturalization (city, town or village, and province), occupation, former residence (country), date, place, number of naturalization, and name of court.

These entries provide only basic genealogical information, but are valuable if the country of birth and place of residence in Canada are not known. However, at a period after 1918, if the individual had further correspondence with the Secretary of State, this data would be in the file and would be included with the original information on the index card file. An example of this further correspondence would occur if the individual, at a period after the original naturalization, applied to be renaturalized or made an application for a new naturalization certificate. When this occurs, full records are available.

Naturalization records issued after 1918 are complete and contain vast amounts of genealogical information. A typical naturalization record from 1918 and later may consist of an Application for a Decision, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police Report, a Petition for Naturalization, an Affidavit Providing Petition, an Oath of Allegiance and other documents and correspondence.

Information provided on these documents may include name, date, and exact place of birth, address, occupation, details of entry into Canada, marital status, physical description, information on relatives such as husband or wife and children, reasons for wanting naturalization, and names and addresses of persons who can vouch for the character and reputation of the applicant.

Naturalization records may be obtained by writing to:

Janet Brooks, Director
Information Management
Public Rights Administration
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
140 Promenade du Portage, Phase IV, 4th Floor
Hull, Quebec K1A 1L1

The cost is \$5.00 for each naturalization record being searched. The cheque, money order, or postal order sent should be made out to the Receiver General of Canada.

The letter sent should state that the application to obtain these records is made through the Freedom of Information Act. The following information should be provided to aid in the search: name at the time of naturalization (include original and new name, if known); approximate year of birth; exact place and country of birth if known; approximate year of naturalization if known; naturalization certificate if known; and proof that the person has been dead at least twenty years. For individuals born over one hundred years ago, proof is not necessary but should be provided if easily available. When stating year of birth, an approximate time span of five or more

years may be given. Other identifying information such as the names of an individual's parents, siblings, wife, and children should be provided if they are known.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada will send copies of all documents contained in the file. This will include all of those made out by the applicant. Information should include the applicant's exact date of birth, exact place and country of birth, and an exact date and method of arrival in Canada. The information found in these records should allow the genealogical researcher to seek out other records that will help him or her in their research. ✪

196-30

THE NATURALIZATION ACT

APPLICATION FOR A DECISION

To the Court of the Board of General Sessions of the
Peace in and for the County of York

I, Sam Strathman housekeeper
of 479 Palmerston Ave., Toronto, Ontario.

do hereby certify that I am the person named in the above application and that I have read and understand the contents of the same.

I was born at Yaglow in the Prov. of Yassy
of Roumania on the 10th day of September 1875

I am a widow of ROUMANIA

I am married widow widow
widow

I came to Canada from AGONY under the name
of EVA STRATHMAN and arrived at the port of Quebec
on or about the 10th day of September in 10.

Dated at TORONTO this 20th day
of September 1918

Sam Strathman
Applicant

APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION BY GLEN EKER'S GREAT GRANDMOTHER

LITTLE BITS

Finding lost relatives in the USA

Send an unsealed letter to the "lost" relative with a cover letter to the Social Security Administration (SSA) that explains your relationship with the person to whom the letter is being sent and the reason you want the letter forwarded. Include in your cover letter as much as you know about the person: name, Social Security number, birthplace, birth date and names of the person's parents. If the person you are seeking is listed in the SSA files, the letter will be forwarded to the person and it will be up to the person to contact you. Be sure to give your address and phone number. Mail to: Social Security Administration Letter Forwarding Unit, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235. Be sure to write the name of the person you are seeking on the unsealed stamped enclosed envelope. This report appeared in BRANCHES Jan. 1996 and was reprinted from *Generations*

Russian Era Indexing of Poland Project

A group of about 70 volunteers headed by Steven Zedeck has undertaken the task of transliterating post-1868 Jewish vital records from Poland. Records for the years before 1868 were written in Polish and were somewhat readable, but the records for post-1868 were in Cyrillic and very difficult to read.

To date there is an index of over 22,000 Jewish vital records within a computer database. The group is working with JewishGen to make this data available to anyone with access to the Internet.

The transliterated data for the following towns have been compiled: Czyzewo, Grajewo, Jablonka, Izbica, Lomza, Nowgorod, Nur, Ostrow Maz., Plock, Radom, Radzilow, Sniadowo, Szczuczyn, Tykocin, Wasosz, Zambrow. The following towns are currently in progress: Punska, Przerosl, Filipow, Bakararzewo, Suwalki, Wizajny, Sejny, Wizna, Wysocki Maz., Zareby Kosc., Wyszogrod, Predborz, Krasnystaw.

For additional information on this project write or send email to: Steven A. Zedeck, 25 Cathedral Circle, Nashua, NH 03064 USA. Email: saz@nh.deteck.net.

This report is condensed from an article which appeared in *YICHUS Y'ALL*, Fall 1995.

Special Interest Group for Galicia

Gesher Galicia (Bridge to Galicia), the Special Interest Group for Galicia, is now in its third year of operation. Membership now numbers over 400 individuals from all over the world.

Galicia was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire from 1772 until WWI. It encompassed present-day southeastern Poland and a large chunk of western Ukraine.

Gesher Galicia publishes a quarterly newsletter and a family finder of surnames and towns of interest to members. Membership is US \$20 (Sept. 1 to Aug. 31) for U.S. and Canadian residents and the equivalent of US \$27 for others. Send cash in \$US or a personal cheque in one's own currency to Gesher Galicia.* Checks are made payable to Gesher Galicia. Paid-up members will receive all publication issued within the program year.

Send your payment and the surname and towns you are researching to: Shelley K. Pollero, Membership Chairman, 549 Cypress Lane, Severna Park, MD 21146 USA.

* This is the exact wording from the letter we received
- Ed.

Faxes to G-d

If traditional methods of genealogical research are not working for you, try prayer. The Israeli Telephone Company accepts faxes to be placed in Jerusalem's Western Wall. Telephone company employees fold them immediately upon receipt and transport them to the Western Wall. The Fax number when dialing directly from Canada and the USA is: 011-972-2-612222. The secondary number is: 011-972-2-235555.

Jewish Records from Belarus at the LDS Family History Library
as of February 1995

Town	Type	Years	Microfilm #	Town	Type	Years	Microfilm #
David-Gorodok	B	1893/1898	1,794,311	Mogilev	D	1883-1886	1,920,799
David-Gorodok	B	1899-1910	1,920,791	Mogilev	D	1883-1886	1,920,800
David-Gorodok	BMD	1874/1892	1,794,310	Mogilev	D	1887-1890	1,920,802
David-Gorodok	BMD	1874/1892	1,794,311	Mogilev	D	1891-1894	1,920,802
Gorodok	D	1860-1863	1,920,792	Mogilev	M	1857/1879	1,920,796
Gorodok	M	1913	1,920,795	Mogilev	M	1880-1892	1,920,801
Ivenets	D	1857	1,920,794	Mogilev	M	1880-1892	1,920,802
Kamen	B	1866	1,920,794	Mogilev	V	1877/1890	1,920,796
Kamen	B	1891/1911	1,920,795	Ostroshitskij G.	D	1872-1917	1,794,308
Kamen	D	1860	1,920,792	Ostroshitskij G.	D	1872-1917	1,794,309
Kamen	V	1908	1,920,795	Pinsk	B	1882, 1922- 1929	1,794,309
Karolin	B	1860-1872	1,794,309	Pinsk	B	1924-1926	1,794,310
Kojdanov	B	1896	1,920,795	Pinsk	D	1930-1939	1,794,310
Kojdanov	D	1867	1,920,794	Rakov	B	1869	1,920,794
Lakhva	M	1879/1915	1,920,792	Rakov	B	1877/1889	1,920,793
Lepel	Members	1841	1,920,795	Rakov	B	1897/1917	1,920,795
Minsk	B	1840, 1847	1,920,793	Rakov	D	1860/1864	1,920,792
Minsk	B	1852/1869	1,920,794	Rakov	D	1903	1,920,795
Minsk	B	1882, 1895	1,920,795	Rakov	M	1908	1,920,795
Minsk	B Doc	1899-1907	1,920,793	Rubezhevichi	B	1904/1912	1,920,795
Minsk	BMD	1836/1839	1,920,792	Rubezhevichi	D	1861, 1864	1,920,792
Minsk	D	1840, 1846	1,920,793	Rubezhevichi	M	1860	1,920,792
Minsk	D	1861	1,920,793	Rubezhevichi	Taxes	1839	1,920,793
Minsk	D	1861	1,920,794	Samokhvalovi chi	B	1865	1,920,792
Minsk	M	1857	1,920,794	Samokhvalovi chi	D	1859	1,920,794
Minsk	School	1906-1916	1,920,793	Samokhvalovi chi	D	1860, 1864- 1865	1,920,792
Minsk	V	1840	1,920,793	Senno	B	1861-1864	1,920,795
Mogilev	B	1837-1838	1,920,796	Stolin	B	1911	1,794,309
Mogilev	B	1854/1883	1,920,796	Stolptsy	B	1860	1,920,792
Mogilev	B	1864/1893	1,920,800	Stolptsy	D	1860-1864	1,920,792
Mogilev	B	1870/1875	1,920,797	Zaslavl'	D	1856-1857	1,920,794
Mogilev	B	1872-1875	1,920,798	Zembin	M	1905	1,794,309
Mogilev	B	1876-1880	1,920,798				
Mogilev	B	1879-1880	1,920,799				
Mogilev	B	1881-1882	1,920,799				
Mogilev	B	1883-1886	1,920,800				
Mogilev	B	1887-1889	1,920,800				
Mogilev	B	1887-1889	1,920,801				
Mogilev	D	1853/1857	1,920,796				
Mogilev	D	1870-1874	1,920,797				
Mogilev	D	1875-1878	1,920,798				
Mogilev	D	1879-1882	1,920,799				

FROM MASS-POCHA, FALL 1995

The 15th International Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy

"Boston: Beacon of Heritage"

Boston Park Plaza Hotel
July 14-19, 1996



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston Inc.
P.O. Box 610366
Newton, MA 02161-0366
(617) 283-8003
<http://www.jewishgen.org/seminar.html>

Speakers

Over 50 sessions are being scheduled, ranging in level from beginner through professional. A detailed schedule of speakers and topics will be available at a later date. Presenters and topics will include:

- **Jerome Anderson**, NEHGS, on Canadian Census Records
- **Nancy Arbeiter**, Beginner's Workshop
- **Alexander Beider**, acclaimed author on Jewish names, on Ashkenazic given names, tendencies, and peculiarities, 11th-19th centuries
- **Harry Boonin**, on how to publish your family history
- **Jeff Cymbler**, on Polish-Jewish research and cemeteries in Poland
- **David Dearborn**, NEHGS Reference Librarian, on City Directories and Urban Research
- **Dick Eastman**, Manager, CompuServe Genealogy Forum
- **Dr. Michael Feldberg**, Executive Director, American Jewish Historical Society
- **Judith Frazin**, on how to use an LDS Family History Center, and translating Polish vital records documents
- **ChaeRan Freeze**, on archives in Ukraine; the history of Jewish metrical records, laws and practices in czarist Russia; and unexpected sources for genealogical research in the Pale of Settlement
- **John Garrard**, U. of Arizona, author, *The Bones of Berdichev*
- **Dr. Sol Gittleman**, Provost, Tufts University
- **Ted Gostin**, on using Russian Business Directories
- **Walter Hickey**, National Archives Pittsfield, on Naturalization records
- **Bruce Kahn**, on Internet resources for Jewish Genealogy
- **Susan King**, Founder of *JewishGen*, the computer network of Jewish genealogists
- **Frank Leister**, creator of *Reunion* software
- **Prof. Dov Levin**, Hebrew U., Jerusalem, author of *Pinkas HaKehillot* on Lithuania
- **David Mishkin**, on photography topics for genealogists
- **Gary Mokotoff**, publisher of *Avotaynu*, author of *Where Once We Walked*, creator of the JGFF
- **Richard Panchyk**, on Jewish Marriage and Migration in 19th-Century Austria-Hungary
- **Yale Reisner**, Archives Director, Jewish Historic Institute, Warsaw
- **Jayare Roberts**, LDS Family History Library, on Ellis Island records indexing project, and East European microfilming status
- **Arline Sachs**, on the International Jewish Cemetery Project
- **William Schoeffler**, on US-Canadian Border Crossing records
- **Jonathan Shea**, on translating Russian records
- **Ellen Smith**, Curator, American Jewish Historical Society
- **Marian Smith**, History Office, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
- **Lawrence Tapper**, Canadian National Archives
- **Maureen Taylor**, User Services, New England Historic Genealogical Society
- **Miriam Weiner**, *Routes to Roots*, certified genealogist, columnist, specialist on Ukraine, Bessarabia, Galicia
- **Bob Weiss**, President, Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies
- **John Whittaker**, on CD-ROM databases for genealogists

Hotel reservations: Call the Park Plaza Hotel at 1-800-225-2008 and identify yourself as a Jewish Genealogy Seminar attendee. Reservations must be made by June 14, 1996 to receive the special rate. The Park Plaza offers the following rates: \$109 per room, single or double occupancy (plus 9.7% tax). These rates will be honored for an extended stay on either end (July 11-20). There are a limited number of rooms with two baths, in order to reserve these rooms ask for the "family room accommodations" and CALL EARLY!

