



שם טוב

SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

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Jewish Genealogy on the Internet

By Ruth Chernia

On January 28, 1998, one of our members Neil Richler, a computer science graduate student at York University, presented a real-time demonstration of Jewish Genealogy and the World Wide Web (the Web or WWW).

Because discussing the Internet in general, the Web, and how to get connected would take up an entire evening on its own, Neil began by assuming that most of those present were already somewhat familiar with the Internet and the Web.

He reminded us that the Internet is a network of networks, computers all around the world talking to each other, all of which may have interesting information. To get at that information, you need a computer, modem, Internet connection, and web browser software such as Netscape or Microsoft Internet Explorer. The cost depends on the amount of time you spend "surfing the Net." To find an Internet service provider, look in the Yellow Pages or in computer newspapers; some providers are Interlog, ACC and CompuServe.

Think of the Internet as a combination of telephone and television, and the Internet addresses (universal resource locator)--those addresses that often begin www--as the telephone number you need to connect to it. What you will find can be text, pictures, sounds, videos or any combination of them. What makes the Internet or the Web different from television is that you can interact with the information you find. Once you get to a web site, you may find certain words or phrases underlined and highlighted in blue. These are links. If you click on the words or phrases, you are taken to another site or page.

Web browsers use a command called "bookmark" or "favourite." Think of this as the speed-dial feature of a telephone, or as real bookmarks that mark a place you want to go back to in a book. Neil demonstrated several of the dozens of bookmarks he has set up in order to research his extensive family. (Yes, he is related to that other Richler; he's a third cousin, listed in his family database as a famous

author.)

JewishGen is a site set up by a non-profit organization to collect information and provide links to other sites, and Neil began the demonstration from that site. JewishGen provides access to databases for searching, information files like a virtual library, special-interest discussion groups (SIGs), JewishGen College where you can take genealogy courses by e-mail, and numerous other sites. You can search the databases by topic, country and name.

One should be cautioned that the SIGs can be compared to a magazine whose articles are contributed by its readers. The SIGs hold discussions called mailing lists, and one can register to get on the mailing list and talk with other people interested in researching the same country or area. Some of these discussions have been archived so you can catch up on past discussions. Another service of JewishGen is a volunteer translation service; this would be for brief items of 300 words or less. Also, one of the new databases is the Holocaust Registry.

JewishGen also has links to search engines; these are

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powerful indexing programs that allow the searcher to look for information by keying in a keyword or combination of words. Family Finder is one; you can type in a name or a town or both. There are three types of searches:

standard - exact information is typed in;

wild card - searcher uses the beginning of the information;

soundex - uses the Daitch-Mokotoff soundex to look for information.

You can add the family names and places you are looking for and use a password to protect and modify that information; then it is available for anyone else searching the Family Finder.

There is also a link to Shetl Seeker, and the searches there work in the same way. Once the place is located, you can even see it on a map. However, you have to realize that this information is keyed in by human beings and errors do occur. All these links and web sites were searched by examples called out by the audience, and fascinating results came up on screen.

Yad Vashem has a web site but it is not yet searchable in real time; however, there are plans to make it so in the future.

At Families Database one can upload one's own family tree for others to search, and Neil took us to his family page. Other sites are Avotaynu, which also has links to other sites; the United States Social Security Index, where one can search for anyone who has died and for whom the family benefit has been claimed. There are telephone books on-

line; for instance, Canada 411 has all Canada except Alberta. The latter province's phone books can be searched at <www.infospace.com>.

Neil has kindly provided a site at his web page with links to all these and several other sites of interest, such as Jewish Toronto and Virtual Jerusalem. They can be found at: <www.yucc.yorku.ca/~richler>.

Definitions:

Internet - a network of networks connecting computers all round the world.

World Wide Web or **Web** or **WWW** - the graphic part of the Internet; information is displayed using text, pictures and sounds. Computer users with a modem and an Internet account can search the Web using web browser software with a graphic user interface (GUI) such as Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Universal Resource Locator (URL) - the address you type into the browser to locate the site you want.

Site - the home computer where information may be stored. Usually an organization will have a site or web page that you get to by typing in an URL. Think of it as dialing a particular phone number to reach a particular person or company; each is unique. ☆

*Our member Ruth Chernia reports from
time to time on our meetings.*

Volume XIV, No. 4

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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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Austrian Victims of the Holocaust; Registration by Name

The Austrian Resistance Archive, a Viennese non-profit organization, supported by the Austrian Government started the above named project several years ago. The report on the project shown below is an excerpt from the 62 page booklet "Expulsion and Extermination - The fate of the Austrian Jews 1938-1945" by Florian Freund and Hans Safrian (It is now in our library). On page 12 of the current issue of SHEM TOV you will find a form to be used by relatives and friends of Holocaust victims from Austria to supply further information to the project.

State of The Project, March 1997

The basis for The Austrian Resistance Archive research were the deportation lists concerning the mass-transportations from Vienna and the index cards of the deported held in the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde (Jewish Community) in Vienna.

At present we have at our disposal data on ca. 55,000 victims of the Holocaust in roughly 180,000 entries. For example, the deportation lists and index cards mentioned above are now computerized. Smaller computer files were assembled for smaller transports or groups of people. By the end of 1997 the 120,000 files for those victims who received some form of compensation or pensions (Opferfürsorge) from Austrian authorities will be put on a database and all those who perished noted. We still have to work through a whole series of sources before beginning to research the individual fates of victims.

Our cooperation with other research and documentation projects proved to be very fruitful. From Verein Shalom (see SHEM TOV, Sept. 1997, p.10), for example, our team received information about those urns now in Jewish cemeteries which originally came from the concentration camps. A research group under Thomas Albrich at Innsbruck University gave our group a database on Jews from Tirol and Vorarlberg. We also intend to increase the cooperation with staff at memorial sites, for example, in re-issuing the "Totenbuch Theresienstadt" (A list of approx. 16,000 Austrian Jews who were deported to this ghetto and never returned). In this way extra information on Austrian victims of the Holocaust will be gained and integrated into our research. We are also planning intensive cooperation with the US Holocaust Museum (USHMM) and intend to look through the documents held there for information on Austrian victims.

As our work progresses the problems involved become clearer: e.g., the spelling of the victims' names varies according to source: one person may have anywhere up to five different surnames. There are conflicting data on the

date and place of birth too. We, therefore, cannot automatically link our databanks, but have to do it by hand. Providing that the research is financed further we believe that it will take at least three years to complete the project.

The Jewish Population of Vienna according to the 1939 Census

Stateless	5,926
Formerly from Poland	3,908
Protectorate (Bohemia and Moravia)	1,221
Romania	695
Slovakia	461
Hungary	1,120
Other European countries	543
Non-European countries	93
Total of foreign Jews in Vienna	13,967
Total of domestic Jews in Vienna	<u>77,153</u>
Total of all Jews in Vienna (1939)	105,087

In March 1938 at the time of the "Anschluss" there were about 175,000 Jews in Vienna and about 10,000 in the Austrian provinces. By 1939 practically all Austrian Jews were concentrated in Vienna. ☆

The Jewish Genealogical Society, Los Angeles
proudly invites you to attend

"HOLLYWOOD CHAI"

The 18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles
July 12-17, 1998

Lectures & workshops led by experts. Exciting research opportunities throughout L.A. Networking and sharing with other genealogists. Tours of Jewish sites and museums in Los Angeles. Comfort and luxury of the Century Plaza Hotel. Closing banquet with special guest Theodore Bikel.

For more information, visit our web site at:
www.jewishgen.org/jgsla/seminar.htm
or write to:

18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
P.O. Box 55443
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413 USA

Genealogical Research Problems in the 1921, 1935, and 1945 Censuses of Newfoundland

by Glen Eker

There are three censuses of Newfoundland and Labrador available on microfilm for genealogists to trace their ancestors and to conduct research. The census of 1921 provides information on name, age, place of birth, year of immigration, year of naturalization, nationality, religion, and occupation. The census of 1935 provides information on name, age, place of birth, place of birth of father, place of birth of mother, year of immigration, year of naturalization, nationality, religion, and occupation. The 1945 census provides information on name, age, place of birth, place of residence in 1935, racial origin, religion, occupation, and occupation in 1935. All three censuses also provide street addresses for those enumerated in certain locations such as Corner Brook and St. John's.

There are also books of census summary statistics available for each of these censuses. These books may be problematic for the researcher who is searching for individuals of a particular racial origin or religion. The 1921 census has no racial origin question and presents overall island religion totals only for the island's five or so major religions. These include Church of England, Congregational and Presbyterian, Penticostal, Roman Catholic, and Salvation Army. The smaller religions on the island are simply grouped together as Other and not stated. There are specific location totals only for the major religions; thus there is no way of determining how many Jewish or other smaller religions are in each location on the island. The 1935 census also has no racial origin question. The census now presents overall totals by sex for all of the island's religions whether large or small. For example, the census shows that there are 215 Jews on the island. There are still only specific location totals for only the island's major religions. The 1945 census presents overall racial origin and religion totals by sex for all of the island's racial origins and religions whether large or small; for example, the census shows that there are 145 individuals classified as Jewish by racial origin and 205 individuals classified as Jewish by religion on the island. There are specific location totals only for the island's major racial origins and religions; these major racial origins include English, Irish, Scottish Welsh, and French. The major religions are basically the same as in 1921 and 1935.

There are finding aids available for these censuses. Some finding aids list only districts and subdistricts along with the section numbers and microfilm reel numbers where they appear. The cities, towns, and villages within each district and subdistrict are not listed. To locate a specific place, the district in which it appears at the time the census was conducted must be known. Some districts and the locations included in them changed in the periods between the three censuses. The newer finding aids lists all cities, towns, and villages within each district and subdistrict along with the page numbers, volume numbers, and microfilm reel numbers where they appear. Street names within some cities, towns, and villages and their location within the censuses for 1921, 1935 and 1945 are also provided.

One of the major problems with the Newfoundland censuses is missing returns. For the 1921 census there are no returns for Bonavista district and Labrador district, and many cities, towns, and villages within the other districts are incomplete. For example, Corner Brook, which is located in St. George's district, has only a few pages of census returns. There are also missing or incomplete districts and locations for the 1935 and 1945 censuses; many of these are indicated in the finding aids.

Another problem with the Newfoundland censuses is the quality of the census returns and the microfilming. Light and illegible writing along with poor quality microfilming are common throughout the 1921 and 1935 censuses. Some areas of the censuses are extremely hard to read. The 1935 census does not have these problems to the same extent that the 1921 and 1945 censuses do; in fact, the quality of the 1935 census is generally very good.

There is a major problem with the 1945 census that makes genealogical research very difficult, that of mismatched census pages. Each census page consists of two halves. The first half provides information on name, relationship, age, birthplace, place of residence in 1935, and nationality, and there is a stamped number on the corner of the page. The second half provides information on racial origin, schooling, religion, occupation, and occupation in 1935, and there is a written number on the corner of the page. The information and the numbers on

both halves of the pages in many cases do not match, so much of the information recorded does not appear to make sense in parts of the census. For example, adults may be listed as being students for occupation; children may be listed as having occupations; male adults and both male and female children may be listed as being housewives for occupation; racial origins and religions may not coincide with each other and with other information in the census. When these mismatched census pages appear, the correct mating page is usually found close by. The first half of the page is usually found two pages ahead of the second half of the page. When mismatched census pages occur, most information on the page will not make sense, and the researcher must then look before and after the page to find the correct matching half. Even after the census information is matched correctly, the numbers on each half of the census page will usually still not match; the stamped number on the first half of the census page is the one that is used to indicate the page number. The written number on the second half of the census page can be ignored.

These mismatched pages of the 1945 census are especially prevalent in St. John's. This can be seen by examining the census recordings for a small religious group. The census shows that there were thirty-five families with individuals recorded as Jewish; the census pages for nineteen of these families were mismatched. Thus for nineteen of these Jewish families religion appeared as a Christian denomination, along with other information such as occupation being recorded incorrectly. These mismatched pages thus caused information for twenty-five non-Jewish families to be recorded incorrectly, with the religion of some of their members appearing as being Jewish, along with other information such as occupation also being recorded incorrectly. All other families on the mismatched census pages would also have their census information matched incorrectly; however, when the proper first half and second half of the census pages are matched, the problem is rectified.

The following is a typical example of mismatched information in the census and how the information then appears when the census pages are correctly matched. The information listed is name, age, place of birth,

racial origin, occupation and religion. In St. John's City, East in volume 44, page 105, on microfilm reel M8079 the following family is found:

Noseworthy, George; 39; Harbour Grace; English; _; Roman Catholic
Noseworthy, Angela; 35; Norman Cove; English; _; Roman Catholic
Noseworthy, David; 12; St. John's; English; __; United Church
Noseworthy, Maxwell; 8; St. John's; Hebrew; Tailor; Hebrew
Noseworthy, Maria; 7; St. John's; Hebrew; H Wife; Hebrew
Noseworthy, Valerie; 4; St. John's; Hebrew; Student; Hebrew
White, Katherine; 63; Norman Cove; Hebrew; M Mechanic; Hebrew
White, Frederick; 67; Norman Cove; English; Domestic; United Church

On page 107 the following listing occurs:

Sidel, Maurice; 47; Poland; Irish; Domestic; Roman Catholic
Sidel, Ida; 43; Poland; English; Technical Engr; United Church
Sidel, John; 21; Poland; English; H Wife; United Church
Sidel, Donald; 18; Poland; English; Student; United Church

These examples show questionable census recordings. In the first example the parents are listed as Roman Catholic; one child is listed as United Church, and three others as Hebrew. The mother and father-in-law are listed as Hebrew and United Church. Occupations are omitted for the parents, while the young children are listed as being a tailor and a housewife; a very young child is listed as a student; the mother-in-law is listed as a mechanic and the father-in-law as a domestic.

In the second example, the family is listed as being as born in Poland but of Irish and English racial origin. The husband is listed as a domestic, the wife an engineer, and a son as housewife. The family is probably of Jewish origin but has religion listed as Roman Catholic and United Church.

In order to match these families correctly it is necessary to search the census pages, comparing the first and second halves of each page with each other. The first half of page 105 matches with the second half of page 103. The following correct match is then made:

Noseworthy, George; 39; Harbour Grace; English; Truckman; Church of England
Noseworthy, Angela; 35; Norman Cove; English; H Wife; Church of England
Noseworthy, David; 12; St. John's; English; Student; Church of England
Noseworthy, Maxwell; 8; St. John's; English; Student; Church of England

(Continued on page 6)

Noseworthy, Maria; 7; St. John's; English; Student; Church of England

Noseworthy, Valerie; 4; St. John's; English; _____; Church of England

White, Katherine; 63; Norman Cove; English; H Wife; Church of England

White, Frederick; 67; Norman Cove; English; _____; Church of England

The first half of page 107 matches with the second half of page 105.

The following correct match is made:

Sidel, Maurice; 47; Poland; Hebrew; Tailor; Hebrew

Sidel, Ida; 43; Poland; Hebrew; H Wife; Hebrew

Sidel, John; 21; Poland; Hebrew; Student; Hebrew

Sidel, Donald; 18; Poland; Hebrew; M Mechanic; Hebrew

Thus in order to obtain correct information in the 1945 census of Newfoundland it is necessary to match the first half and the second half of the census pages correctly. ☆

*This is another article on Canadian genealogy,
focusing on the Jewish Community,
by our member Glen Eker.*

We Welcome These New Members To Our Society

Susan Barksdale Edwin A. Goodman

Dr. Max Himel Peter Jassem

Janis Katz Harold Nissenthall

Alan M. Portis Inez Rudman

Shirley Shnier Rhoda S. Sion

Betty Provizer Starkman

UPCOMING EVENTS

❧ ❧

The Jewish Genealogical Society Of Canada (Toronto)

Wednesday, April 29, 1998 - 8:00 p.m.

at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
470 Glencairn Ave.

❧ ❧

Wednesday, May 27, 1998 - 8:00 p.m.

at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
470 Glencairn Ave.

❧ ❧

Please watch the "What's New" column in
the Canadian Jewish News for the program
of this meeting.

SEARCH AD

AGNES KASTNER (nee HERZOG)

born in SATU MARE, Transylvania, Romania in 1941; graduated from High School in Satu Mare, came to Canada between 1958 and 1967, and by 1967 was living in Toronto and was already married to (?) Kastner.

Please contact :

MERLE KASTNER

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Also looking for AGNES KASTNER is a former classmate
ILDIKO SZABO, who is living in Ottawa.

Software programs for the Jewish Genealogist

Seth Jacobson

Recently much attention has been focused on the special problems of the Jewish genealogist regarding demands for genealogy software. Here is an attempt to sum up the present situation.

No program specifically aimed at the Jewish genealogist exists today.

The special demands of the Jewish genealogist can be divided into three categories:

- 1) The need for Hebrew characters and fields
- 2) The need for special or altered fields
- 3) Special Jewish related demands

The need to record, display and print Hebrew characters can today be solved in a very limited way by running an existing regular (i.e. non-Hebrew) program under Hebrew Windows. This solves some problems for the Israeli user, but in a primitive way. Results vary according to program and configuration. Typically the non-Israeli user does not install Hebrew Windows for a range of reasons.

Some thought has been given during the last few years to develop a comprehensive Jewish genealogy software program for home use. The development costs for such a program with the necessary qualities are formidable. Until now none of these plans have materialized.

There is some light at the end of the tunnel. for two reasons:

- 1 The Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv Museum ("Beit Hatefutsoth") has announced that they are going to sell a partly "converted" shareware program to the Israeli market within a very short time. It will enable users of Hebrew Windows to enter and print text in Hebrew, but will at this stage not help non-Israeli users.
- 2 It also remains to be seen what genealogical features it will offer the user.

Independently a group of Israeli/US investors are negotiating with a local Israeli software house in order to set up a joint venture for a comprehensive Jewish Genealogy software program. This is aimed at answering the many special needs of the Jewish genealogist. When a decision has been made to go ahead, a press release will probably be published on the JewishGen Discussion Group by the new venture.

Phone Directories on the World Wide Web

By Simon Hoffenberg

Argentina: telecom.com.ar/guia/index.html
Australia: www.whitepages.com.au
Austria: www.infospace.com (english), www.atb.at
Belgium: www.infospace.com (english), www.infobel.be
Brazil: www.telesp.com.br (only Sao Paulo area)
Canada: www.infospace.com, canada411.sympatico.ca
Chile: www.chilnet.cl (english)
Czech Republic: iol.telecom.cz/TLF/tlf.htm
France: www.epita.fr:5000/11/english.html (english)
Germany: www.infospace.com (english),
www.teleauskunft1188.de
Israel: www.144.bezek.com; <http://www.bezeq.co.il>
Italy: www.infospace.com (english)
Luxembourg: www.infospace.com (english)
Netherlands: www.infospace.com (english),
www.Telefoongids.ptt_telecom.nl
New Zealand: www.telecom.co.nz
Slovenia: tis.K2.net
Sweden: www.gulasidorna.se
United Kingdom: www.infospace.com
USA: www.switchboard.com, www.four11.com, etc.

*directories are in the native language unless otherwise noted

At this time, several countries with sizable Jewish populations or significant Jewish history (the Baltic countries, Belarus, Brazil, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, and the Ukraine) do not have country-wide White Pages accessible via the internet.

Poland does have several business directories (www.polandbusiness.com.pl, www.wonet.com.pl, etc.) which are in English; there are also business directories for South Africa and parts of Russia (Moscow and St. Petersburg).

Track the progress of International Phone Directories on the web by viewing the following websites on a periodic basis:

www.contractjobs.com/tel/
www.worldpages.com/global.html
www.infobel.be/infobel/infobelworld.html

Yivo Guide to Landsmanshaften Archive

Rhoda Gordon

The Yivo Guide to Landsmanshaften Archive is now available from the FHC in Salt Lake City. Order #6088444. Hope this information is useful.

JEWISHGEN

ROM-SIG announces new web site

Sam Elpern, Coordinator

ROM-SIG, the Romanian Jewish genealogical society, is pleased to announce that we now have a "full service" home on the Worldwide Web, under the umbrella of JewishGen. This new ROM-SIG site can be reached via JewishGen's Info Files (go to Romania, click on ROM-SIG).

However, you can go directly there:

<http://www1.jewishgen.org/romsig/> These pages were built by myself, and Mark Heckman, ROM-SIG's webmaster.

They contain:

- ✧ a complete table of contents for each of the 21 issues of ROM-SIG NEWS, our quarterly journal (Also a Subject Index linking to travel reports, book reviews, etc.).
- ✧ full text of ALL articles in 1995-96 and 1996-97
- ✧ full text of selected articles in the 3 previous years
- ✧ description of our Family Finder (3,300 entries), and a link to its search engine at the JGS Rochester website.
- ✧ a database of all towns in Romania, Moldova, and southern Ukraine, showing latitude/longitude, alternate names and all towns within a selected distance of a specified town; you can also link to MapQuest for a map of your town and its surrounding region.
- ✧ a list of professional researchers in these areas, with basic information on their services and addresses, as well as links to articles about them in issues of ROM-SIG NEWS.
- ✧ information about ROM-SIG, including how to join
- ✧ and more.

This is, we hope, just the start in building a site useful to anyone with an interest in Romania, Bessarabia and Bukovina.

We invite you to browse at:

<http://www1.jewishgen.org/romsig/>

Book Search Hot Sites

Margot Feiner Conte

Any new books (and used book search):

<http://www.amazon.com>.

General new and used: <http://www.powells.com> Used Judaica books, etc.:

<http://www.hollanderbooks.com>.

Any used books: <http://www.abebooks.com>.

Judaica books:

<http://www.abebooks.com/home/jewishbookmaven>

Judaica book search: ezra@ezrabook.com Shoen Books: Schoen@trisco.jp.com - All of the books that the Schoens carry are Judaica, however; he and his wife Jane, specialize on books about the Holocaust.

Family Records Centre, London Certificates of Births, Marriages, Deaths & Adoptions

John Weiss

If you need a certificate but cannot visit the Family Records Centre in person, please telephone 0151 471 4800 or e-mail: certificate.services@ons.gov.uk

For further information and details of fees or look at the following web pages at the Office for National Statistics' web site:

Certificates of births, marriages and deaths:

<http://www.emap.com/ons/certificate.htm>

Adoption certificates:

<http://www.emap.com/ons/adoption.htm>

According to Basil Samuels from London, postal enquiries for Birth, Marriage, Death or Adoption certificates should be sent to the following address: (not the address in London) OPCS

Smedley Hydro

Trafalgar Road

Birkdale

Southport England PR8 2HH

Tel: +44 151 471 4200

Canadian Genealogy Website

Roni Liebowitz

I just found a wonderful website for research in Canada. You can get there from:

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/4051/>

In the section about Ontario, there is a link to Jewish Archives, 1871 Census index, and a cemetery database. I was able to find where two of my Canadian branches are buried. A reference number directs you where to write for the records. The white pages are also listed. I sent a post to the manager this morning and already received a response. Hope this helps someone else.

New links to SJG Belgium and Institute For Research on Dutch Jewry

Webmaster Netherlands Society for Jewish Genealogy

We have recently been extending the information available on our site. If you are researching Belgian and Dutch backgrounds this is for you! We are happy to announce two particularly interesting new links we have just added to our site: <http://www.nljewgen.org> and <http://www.nljewgen.org/dutlinks.html> via our Links page. Please find:

- ✧ extremely interesting information about the Belgian Society for Jewish Genealogy
- ✧ the Institute For Research on Dutch Jewry at Hebrew University of Jerusalem

10,000 Hits on Netherlands Society Site

Menno Nykerk, Webmaster Netherlands Society for Jewish Genealogy

Dear friends:

Many of you have found our site and we have recently had our 10,000th visitor since we opened our website in September last on the day of our 10th anniversary.

If you are looking for information for your research on your ancestors from the Netherlands please come and see for yourself what we have available. However, do keep in mind that we cannot do research. Practically everything that we have been able to find in the field of Dutch Jewish Genealogy, both virtual info and details are shown or signposted on our pages, which we are continuously updating. Some questions can, at the discretion of the editor, be posted on the Forumpages. So have a look at those too and bookmark them for regular visits to see what questions and answers are posted there.

We hope you'll find what you are looking for. Please visit our site: <http://www.nljewgen.org>

Jewish Community of Poland web site!

Piotr Kadlcik

The Jewish Community of Poland recently launched its own web site! Composed by young Polish Jews, the site contains information on all Jewish organizations in Poland and current community activities. Web surfers can explore the Polish Union of Jewish Students' April agenda, the Social and Cultural Organization's activities, and the

Jewish Religious Community of Poland's mission, among many other organizations. The site also provides extensive information about the current Jewish revival taking place in Poland, in Polish and English.

For information and comments, please contact our webmaster, Piotr Kadlcik at:

[<piotr@kehillah.jewish.org.pl>](mailto:piotr@kehillah.jewish.org.pl)

Suggestions will be tremendously appreciated.

More on International Reply Coupons

By Angus Baxter

I was interested in the note from Stanley Diamond in your December issue referring to International Reply Coupons (IRAs). I have been buying mine from the US Postal Service for the past two years. As an author of six books on Genealogy published in three countries you can understand I make great use of IRCs in correspondence with archives and libraries. There is no need, as he suggests, to find someone in the USA to buy them for you. All you need to do is to write to the US Postal Service, 1200 William Street, Buffalo, NY 14240, enclose a \$20 US bill and ask for the equivalent value in IRCs. You will get them in a few days. You can, of course, do this with any US Post Office but I happen to pick on Buffalo. Remember our postage to the USA is 52¢. You can send less or more than \$20 US according to your requirements.

Angus Baxter, one of our members, is the author of numerous books on Genealogy; amongst them: In Search of Your European Roots. (This excellent book was donated recently to our library by Bill Gladstone).

Scottish-Jewish Database

The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre announces a new Historical Database of Scottish Jewry prior to the end of 1918. The Centre is located in Garnethill Synagogue. They do not conduct genealogical research however.

The Director is available on a private freelance and fee basis. Contact Harvey L. Kaplan MA I/L Millwood Street, Glasgow G41 3JY, SCOTLAND

*Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS Newsletter
Nr.46, Summer 1996*

Two Coincidences Lead to a Discovery of Family Connections!

By Merle Kastner

Two and a half years ago, I began researching my family history, leaving the KASTNER side, intimidating in its size, to the last. Several months later, I started work on this huge clan.

I made regular progress, but there was one perplexing gap - my great-grandmother's maiden name. We knew that it was "Shaindel AUSFELD" and that she was born in Fratautii, a shtetl only a few kilometers from Radauti. This I learned from a cousin, born in 1910 in Radauti, who had emigrated to Canada in 1928. However, it must be taken into account that his pronunciation was affected by the fact that the languages spoken by the family at that time were Yiddish and German. Then, too, it was a long time ago and Shaindel, his grandmother, had died around 1920 when this cousin was only 10 years old. He could not remember ever having seen the name written. We knew nothing else about her family.

It was about a year ago that my friend, Baruch Cohen, knowing that my family's roots were in and around Radauti, Bukovina, suggested that I buy a copy of the book "Shattered - 50 Years of Silence, History and Voices of the Tragedy in Romania and Transnistria" by Dr. Felicia Steigman Carmelly. Dr. Carmelly had just sent 35 copies of her book to Baruch in the hope that he could market them for her. On returning home with the book, I immediately checked the names of those fifteen survivors whose personal testimonies were included to see if anyone from my extended family was among them. The name, "Klara Pesate OSTFELD" struck me. Very similar, but not the same, but who could tell if it was not just a spelling or pronunciation difference? The name itself is so unusual.

I quickly drafted a letter to Mrs. Ostfeld, who has lived in Caracas, Venezuela since 1953, outlining my family history and asking if she thought that her husband's family could be connected to us. This letter was obligingly translated into Romanian for me by Baruch, as I assumed that Mrs. Ostfeld would have a knowledge of German, Romanian, Hebrew, Yiddish and Spanish. Not having a mailing address, I sent the letter to her in care of the publisher in Toronto.

Two weeks later, I received a telephone call from a woman speaking in softly-accented, flawless English, asking me why I had written to her in "Romanische." It was Klara! We talked animatedly for one half hour. She was, as I am, convinced that all the OSTFELD/AUSFELDS are one huge family, all originating from the same shtetl. Some members of Hillo's family even spell their name "Ausfeld." We also discussed physical features - the Ostfelds are all blond, blue-eyed, with fine features and very light "pinkish" skin. The only photograph that anyone has of my great-grandmother fits in perfectly with this description!

Klara informed me that their family owns a country home in Stowe, Vermont - only 2 and a half hours drive from Montreal, where I live! This was wonderful news. She also said that she and her husband usually come to the Vermont house two or three times a year and promised that she would phone me the next time they planned to do so. We spoke once or twice more on the

telephone and also corresponded by mail. Last October my husband and I went to Stowe for the day to finally meet Klara and her husband, Hillo Ostfeld, who resembles a typical Ostfeld!

Very warmly received, we had the most wonderful day. Klara, an accomplished cook who has published two cookbooks, made us a generous lunch of typical Bukovina foods: a delicately herbed potato soup, a salad, and Malai served with sour cream, finished off by a magnificent dessert of her own invention and strong espresso coffee. During and after the meal, we talked of their family and their lives in Bukovina, later in Israel and now in Caracas.

Tragically, their second child, a son of 29 years, had died eleven years earlier. During her mourning period, trying to escape her overwhelming grief, Klara had written a book about her life, beginning with her childhood and ending with that painful period. This book, "Luz y Sombra demi Vida" (Light and Shadow of my Life) became a runaway bestseller in Spanish. It has been translated into English, and Klara is currently trying to have it published in North America. Child Holocaust survivors both, Klara's experiences (and those of Hillo's) in Transnistria, as recounted in Dr. Carmelly's book, are but a small portion of her story, which she condensed for the purpose. This book provided me with a wealth of information for my family research.

There is another coincidence related to this story. In the 1970s, Klara, Hillo and their children were spending several days at a San Francisco hotel. Ben OSTFIELD, a Minneapolis lawyer, was staying at that same hotel. A natural kibbitzer, Ben went to the desk one day and, not expecting any messages, jokingly asked if there were any for him. To his surprise, the clerk handed him one. Glancing at it, Ben saw that it was for Mr. "OSTFELD." He telephoned the room and was invited to Hillo and Klara's suite to have a cocktail. After a very congenial visit, they all agreed that they were indeed related, the name difference being insignificant, and their ancestors all coming from the same shtetl! Ben's extended family members also bear the same physical traits as Hillo's; blonde, blue-eyed, fine featured and very light skin.

I have been in contact with Ben Ostfeld and have documented his entire family tree, starting with his grandfather, Meyer Leib OSTFELD (or "OSTFELT" on his immigration documents), born in Fratautii in 1865. I have done the same for Hillo's family, beginning with his great-grandmother, Shaindel Ostfeld, who must have been born circa 1850. The Hebrew names in Hillo Ostfeld's family are very similar to those in my own family. However, I am sure that the three OSTFELD/OSTFELT/AUSFELD families are related. Therein lies my genealogical challenge!

Merle Kastner is a member of the JGS of Montreal

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Acquisition by the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (Jerusalem) of the Register of the London Great & New Synagogues

By Esther Ramon

It's a pleasure to announce that after overcoming numerous difficulties in a process initiated several years ago, the microfilms of the Great Synagogue, London, and the New Synagogue, London, Register of Births, Marriages and Burials, have finally been acquired by the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People.

The Registers are contained in eleven microfilms and cover the approximate period 1791-1881. Three films contain birth records, four films comprise marriage records and three are registers of burials. The single microfilm of the New Synagogue Registers contains records of both births and marriages.

These films are a most important addition to the historic diaspora records held by the Central Archives and constitute an invaluable aid for family history enthusiasts researching British roots.

We acknowledge our indebtedness for help given by the following: Michael Abrahams (Thailand), Teddy Isaacs and Anthony Joseph (United Kingdom), for their support and encouragement, Hadassa Assouline, Director of the Central Archives, for processing the application, and Harold Lewin, for initiating, some years ago, the original acquisition request, and persevering through vicissitudes and difficulties, until the films were finally received.

Sharsheret Hadorot, Vol.11, No.3., October 1997

ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by May 1998 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.

A Family Reunited

YIVO regularly receives many calls and letters requesting help with documenting family trees or assistance in locating missing relatives. Unfortunately, it is not always possible for YIVO's limited staff to conduct the personalized research that the large volume of genealogical queries require. Readers at YIVO are guided to the appropriate resources in the Library and Archives and elsewhere. A "Jewish Genealogical Fact Sheet" is available upon request, and has been included in YIVO's web site: www.baruch.cuny.edu/yivo/ The Library staff also refers readers to private researchers and translators who can provide personal assistance.

On occasion, however, it is possible for the staff to provide answers to specific questions. Very recently, for example, the YIVO Library received a letter from Mark Weissenberg in Israel, inquiring about the descendants of his uncle, the prominent Polish/Yiddish writer Y.M. Vaysnberg (1881-1938). "I know that he had two daughters," Mr. Weissenberg wrote in English. "Maybe you know somebody of this branch of the family Weissenberg. Maybe you can help me?" As luck would have it, members of YIVO's staff are in touch with Y.M. Vaysnberg's daughter, Pearl Weissenberg-Axelrod, who emigrated to Canada after World War II. Head Librarian Zachary Baker immediately contacted her and she confirmed that her father's brother had settled in the former Soviet Union during the 1920s, and that she had not been in touch with members of her family there. She was very excited to learn about her long-lost first cousin who apparently is a recent immigrant to Israel. Mr. Baker wrote back to Mark Weissenberg in Israel to provide information regarding his newfound cousin in Canada. A note has just arrived from Israel. It reads: "Thank you for your heart. Sincerely, Weissenberg." YIVO was able to help reunite two members of a Jewish family, torn asunder over the decades.

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is located in New York.

YIVO News, Fall 1997

**Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes
Austrian Resistance Archive**

Wipplingerstrasse 8, A - 1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel. (0043)-1-53436-01779 Fax (0043)-1-53436-99771
Monday to Thursday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bank a/c: Bank Austria 660 237 801

Registration by Name: Austrian victims of the Holocaust

Please assist us in registering, by name and date of birth, as many Austrian victims of the Shoah as possible. We hope to account for all persons who were resident in Austria in 1938 (including those who did not possess Austrian citizenship at the time), and who, on the basis of the anti-Semitic legislation of the Nazi regime, were considered to be Jews and who perished between 1938 and 1945. In addition, it is hoped to register the names and dates of birth of those who survived persecution by the Nazis.

Please fill out a separate sheet for each person about whom you have information. If you run out of space, please use an additional page

Data on the victim	
First name (also maiden name of women):	Family name:
Place of birth (Town, Federal State):	Date of birth:
Mother's name:	Father's name:
Profession/Trade:	
Place of Residence before the World war II:	
Expelled or fled? Where to?	
Places of residence during the war:	
Ghettos:	Concentration camp(s):
Did the victim live to see his/her liberation	
In the case of those deceased / murdered circumstances of death:	
Where did he/she die?:	When did he/she die?
Information on person giving the above information	
Name:	Address
Degree of family relationship with the victim:	
Date:	Signature:

Please enclose copy of documents which confirm your information (e.g. birth certificate, death certificate by court, information from International Tracing Service Arolsen).