

שם טוב

HEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

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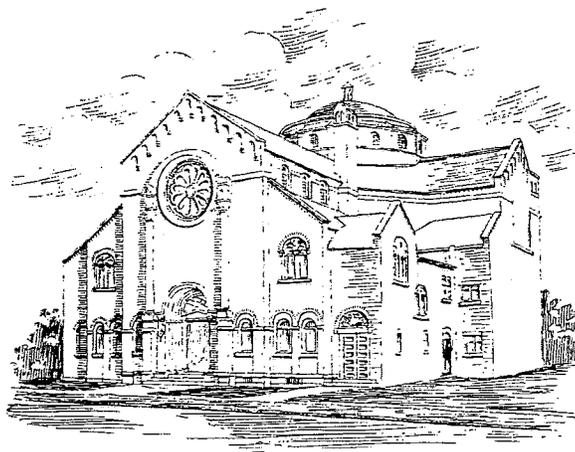
JUNE 1998 SIVAN 5758

Jewish Vital Records Research in Québec by Stanley M. Diamond

Genealogical researchers in Québec are the beneficiaries of the Province's extraordinary religious and civil records system dating back to 1616. It is not uncommon for families of French Canada to trace their ancestry back to the shores of France as well as document the vast percentage of the earliest forebears' progeny. In his monumental work *Dictionnaire genealogique des familles du Québec*, Dr. Jetté has created immense family trees for most of the old families of the province. Thus, in addition to the usual genealogical societies, Québec has many family societies with thousands of members. Entire hotels and sports stadiums are necessary for family reunions. It is said Québec probably has the most genealogists or family society members per capita than any other place in the world.

Québec's vast vital record resources have also been the key ingredient for major scientific research projects. For example, a genealogical reconstruction of families of carriers of the Tay-Sachs genetic trait in the Rimouski region shows direct ties to ancestors in Europe from which the mutation could have descended. The French-Canadian mutation is unique to that population and has yet to be identified in any Ashkenazi Jewish patient with Tay-Sachs disease (implying that this is not a "Jewish" mutation).

Until the end of 1993, Québec was a genealogical heaven - for Jew and non-Jew alike. But, January 1, 1994 was not a red-letter day for those researching their Québec families. That day, government Bill 68 - with the tightest privacy laws in North America - took effect and all post-1899 vital records were effectively closed to researchers. For long-time genealogists, the new law was an irritant, something to increase the difficulty of both rounding out information about known family members and chasing after remote or parallel branches which sprung up in the 20th century. For new researchers, it became a wall of silence, one requiring



TEMPLE EMANU-EL, MONTREAL

ingenuity and perseverance to try to get around or, at best, peek through.

In June 1997, Québec's Privacy Commissioner deposited a report recommending greater flexibility for genealogists and archivists. At the hearings, the

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**We Welcome These New Members
to Our Society**

Danny Dagan
Rami Dishi
Carol Foster
Gabriella Svatos
Howard Weinroth



Wappen des Baron de Worms.

Upcoming Events

*The Jewish Genealogical Society
of Canada (Toronto)*

*Wednesday, June 24, 1998 - 8:00 p.m.
at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
470 Glencairn Avenue*

*Breakthroughs of the Past Year
Reports by some of our members*



*We wish you a pleasant summer.
Please watch the "What's New" column in
the Canadian Jewish News for the date
and program of our September meeting.*

Volume XIV, No. 2

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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 180 members. Membership costs \$30 per calendar year, \$20 for persons living beyond 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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courtesy of the Joseph Shapiro Fonde, Vilnius*

Contributors to this Issue

STANLEY M. DIAMOND
HENRY WELLISCH

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Comité Conjoint, the Federation of Genealogical Societies of Québec, and the Association of Archivists of Québec presented papers pointing out that the information of interest is already in the public domain (i.e. births, marriages and deaths) and thus there is no reason to restrict access to the records. It was hoped these hearings would result in the loosening of restrictions, and preferably a modification of Article 37 of the Québec Civil Code such as - but not restricted to - allowing members of recognized genealogical societies and other approved groups to obtain full genealogical information on Births, Marriages and Deaths. In April 1998, the Access to Information Commission tabled a report in which the Cultural Commission stated that "the general public is not aware of the implications of this debate and thus it should be made the subject of a special government study."

This further delay is hardly welcome news to genealogists anxious to move forward in their efforts to document the 20th-century history of their families in Québec. For the vast majority of Jewish researchers, this is the only time-period of interest. This document is intended to aid researchers in doing just that. It is a substantially revised and updated version of the "Montreal" InfoFile initially posted on the JewishGen Internet site in August 1995. Readers are urged to closely examine the section "Alternative Sources for post-1899 Birth, Marriage and Death information." Many of these are unique to the Jewish community and can provide leads to otherwise unobtainable answers. An electronic version of this document is available as an InfoFile ("Montreal") on the JewishGen Internet site <www.jewishgen.org/infofile>. The InfoFile will be updated as new information becomes available, particularly as related to any hearings being held by the Québec Government's Privacy Commission.

Where are the records?

To locate a birth, marriage or death certificate in the Province of Québec, it is necessary to have some idea of where the individual lived. While the major centres of Jewish life were in the principal population centres of Montreal, Québec City, Sherbrooke and Three Rivers, until the Second World War there were also

Jewish families in most larger towns around the province. If your family arrived before or around the turn of the century, do not discount the possibility that they may have settled in an outlying town. Often, the local haberdasher, ladies' shop or scrap yard were owned by immigrant Jewish families.

From 1621 to January 1, 1994, the churches were responsible for the registration of all births, although starting in 1926, births could also be registered in civil registers. Civil marriages were not permitted by law until 1980. The churches prepared the death certificates until January 1, 1994. (These are not the same as Burial Permits which are the principal source of genealogical death information in Montreal.)

The churches prepared two registers each year. At the end of the calendar year one register was deposited with the Prothonotary's Office of the Civil Archives. The registers are held by this department for approximately 100 years. After 100 years the records are transferred to the appropriate Regional Branch of the Archives Nationales du Québec. The same rules applied to Jewish records except that families living in towns without synagogues registered in nearby towns or, in some cases,, in Protestant or Catholic registers.

Research Guide

The material that follows, "Sources for researching Jewish Vital Records in Québec" is primarily focused on research of vital records and information relating to Montreal, home to the vast majority of the Jewish population in this province.

Postscript

Through an unusual sequence of events, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal will be acquiring the microfilms of Jewish vital records in the private Drouin Genealogical Society collection. While the films include most Jewish "parish" (synagogue) registers of the Province of Québec up to 1942, some years and a few congregations are missing. Research is very difficult as a large percentage of the records are not indexed and the format, quality and handwriting of the records varies widely from synagogue to synagogue.

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A letter from
The Leo Baeck Institute in New York

Dear Friends,



As you may have heard, the Leo Baeck Institute will relocate next year to West 16th Street, to a new facility that will be called The Center for Jewish History. The center will be the new home not only of the LBI, but also of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, the

American Jewish Historical Society, and the Yeshiva University Museum. By having the resources of all three research institutes in one location, students and scholars will have access to virtually the entire spectrum of Jewish history.

The plans for this partnership were first discussed in the mid-1980s when Fred Grubel was still the director of the LBI. LBI President Dr. Ismar Schorsch and the trustees of the institute agreed that the concept of the organizations coming together to facilitate historical research was a unique idea, very much worth pursuing. A suitable site was found on West 16th Street, between 5th and 6th avenues, extending through to 17th Street. The final structure will incorporate four existing buildings as well as new construction, for a total of 125,000 square feet.

All of the participants will maintain their independence and autonomy and will occupy separate floors. There will be a joint reading room and shared space for document conservation and art storage: an entire building of eleven stories will be devoted to temperature and humidity-controlled stack space for books and documents. There will be an auditorium, classrooms, and exhibit areas, in addition to the space occupied by Yeshiva University Museum. Throughout the buildings there will be state-of-the-art technology linking computers and networks.

The LBI is widely regarded as the foremost repository for original materials pertaining to German-speaking Jewry before its destruction by the Nazis. The memoirs, documents, genealogical records, books, photos, and images in our library and archives constitute the most comprehensive documentation of their kind. The careful preservation of these precious holdings by the LBI ensures that the historical evidence of a great past will be available for study and analysis for generations to come.

YIVO preserves the archival history of Eastern European Jewry in the same way that the LBI documents Central European Jewry; the American Jewish Historical Society captures the Jewish experience from colonial times through the various immigrations of Jews to the United States over the centuries.

From the beginning, the trustees of the LBI agreed that the concept of a Center for Jewish History was compelling - the question was how to make it happen. Mr. Bruce Slovin, YIVO's Chairman of the Board, became the driving force behind the funding and the construction. He has devoted himself to pursuing corporate, professional and personal contacts, to raise close to \$30 million. About \$5 million more is needed to complete construction, plus additional funding for an endowment to help pay the center's operating costs. The LBI contribution to the center will be the proceeds from the sale of its current headquarters - our townhouse on East 73rd Street - estimated to be worth about \$3 to 4 million.

The LBI will, of course, have to continue to seek support to carry on its own important work. In anticipation of the relocation to 16th Street, the institute has been preparing its collections to ensure that fragile documents are microfilmed and safeguarded, that special treasures are examined and protected, and that delicate bindings are renewed and repaired. These procedures are very costly. The institute's ongoing expenditures will in-

crease in the new location even as it benefits from the greatly improved conditions. Every effort will be pursued to minimize the LBI's budgetary deficit. Indeed, funding for the LBI within the new center will be more essential than ever to preserve the history of our own heritage.

The fact that the Center for Jewish History is becoming a reality is a very exciting prospect for the entire Jewish community in America and around the world. The plan is for the LBI to relocate to 16th Street by the spring of 1999, where it will continue its increasingly vital mission of preserving the pre-Holocaust history and culture of German-speaking Jewry.

Sincerely,
Carol Kahn Strauss
Executive Director

From The Leo Baeck Bulletin

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Southampton University's Jewish Archives

A five-page article by Karen Robson under the above title appeared in the March 1998 number of Shemot, the newsletter of the JGS of Great Britain. Since these archives are of some significance for genealogists, I felt it would be important to bring this information to our readers. Following is a synopsis of the article, together with some excerpts.

Henry Wellisch

The collection of Jewish-related material in the University of Southampton Archives Department started in the 1960s. However, the arrival in 1990 of the Anglo-Jewish Archives really turned Southampton into a significant Jewish repository. It is in fact composed of more than 400 individual collections, covering mainly the 19th and 20th century. These collections relate mostly to British Jewish organizations, individuals, communities and other subjects.

Communities:

The archives hold material for various Jewish communities, but the periods they cover and the depth of their coverage vary widely. London is the locality for

which by far the greatest concentration of material can be found.

Congregations:

The largest holdings in this group are the papers of the West London Synagogue, which cover the years 1841-1946. Apart from administrative records, there is information on membership in the synagogue, on applications for seats and records of births, marriages and deaths. Further material for the years 1929 to 1957 is also available. There are some records for the following Jewish congregations: Plymouth (1829-1837), Cheltenham and Canterbury (1800-1896), Dover, Deal and Ramsgate; the birth, marriage and death records of the Sephardic congregation of Jamaica (1800-1960) and Malta (1846-1884).

Circumcision:

There are records of a number of doctors referring to Hampstead, Kensington, Islington, Woburn Square, Chelsea and other areas of London. These records cover mostly the latter part of the 19th century.

Burials:

There is a survey of the Aldemey Road Jewish cemetery in London, a list of burials in the Jewish section of the Ipswich municipal cemetery, a plan of gravestones of the Falmouth Jewish cemetery and a list of gravestones at Nevis in the West Indies.

The archives have some records on Jewish schools such as the Jew's Free School and the Jewish Secondary School Movement, as well as on relief organizations such as The Jew's Hospital, The Board of Guardians for the Relief of the Jewish Poor and others.

Search for individuals who migrated to Great Britain:

The Plymouth aliens register (1798-1803) lists 58 Jewish aliens, which includes some personal details. There is a great deal of material from the Chief Rabbi's Emergency Council pertaining to help for refugees from the continent. There are not just lists of refugees present in Central and Eastern Europe, but of those

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brought over to Great Britain, and of those given accommodation and assistance, and who were helped to emigrate overseas. These often quite detailed lists contain much more information besides the names of the individuals, such as their dates and places of birth, their addresses, family details and, in some cases, their occupations.

For refugees brought over to Great Britain by the council, further information can be found in the form of photographs, biographical profiles, correspondence and refugee fund assistance cards. Landing and identity cards complement the block passports and other mass travel documents which exist for child refugees who travelled with the council. After the arrival of refugees in Great Britain, there are further council papers relating to their support, such as refugee fund assistance cards or a file of registration forms from the North London Refugee Home, 1938-40. Finally, there are lists, forms, photographs, travel documents and other papers relating to those who emigrated from Great Britain. Complementary to the material within the Chief Rabbi's Religious Council's papers are the files and related papers of other refugee organizations such as the Polish Jewish Refugee Fund Archive. This archive is composed of case files relating to several hundred individuals. Included are details of each individual's name, place of birth, family, address in Great Britain, date of arrival in the UK and place of origin, education and qualifications.

Papers of soldiers in both world wars:

There are some records on Jewish soldiers who served in the German army during the First World War, and also lists of Jewish casualties from October to December 1914. A copy of *Der Schild* (1928-29) contains a casualty list of 8,680 German-Jewish soldiers, with their date of birth, occupation and the date they were killed or wounded.

For the Second World War there are records of Jewish service personnel who received assistance from the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council. A booklet *Sources for Research* has been published and is available free on application to the archives. Written enquiries about the collections are a good way of finding out about relevant materials. The address for

both correspondence and visits is:

Archives and Manuscript Department
Hartley Library
University of Southampton
Highfield
Southampton SO17 1BJ
England

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The Jewish Historical Society of the Yukon

A Jewish historical society has been established in the Yukon in this the centennial year of the Klondike Gold Rush. The society is working to preserve the Jewish cemetery and is undertaking other initiatives. For further information, people are asked to contact:

Rick and Joy Karp 867-668-3502

fax: 867-668-4601

Howard and Susan Kushner

larskursh@yknet.yk.ca

Arthur and Nancy Mitchell

mitchell@yknet.yk.ca

*From OUTREACH, the newsletter of
the Canadian Jewish Congress
Communities Committee*

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***Lists of Russian Passengers
Arriving at US Ports***

Ira A. Glazier has edited a series of four volumes covering arrivals at US ports from January 1875 to May 1889. Our member Judi Ghert has purchased volumes 3 and 4 covering the period May 1886 to May 1889. Each sailing lists the name of the ship, points of departure and arrival, arrival date in the US, and a list of passengers, including name, sex, occupation, country (Russia, Poland, Finland), city, town or village, and destination in the US.

If you are researching ancestors who may have immigrated to the US during those years, Judi will be pleased to check her books, and if relatives are found she can make a copy of the relevant pages. She can be reached at (416) 447-9246.

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The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal will undertake the massive project to fully index the records and consider various alternatives for making them available to researchers around the world.

There are also civil registers of births for Montreal and other cities and towns that contain many registrations of births for individuals of Jewish descent without synagogue affiliation. In addition, the City of Montreal civil birth registers contain numerous re-registrations. These are references to Superior Court of Montreal judgements recreating records of birth which were destroyed by water seeping into the vault during a fire at the old court house on March 11, 1915. Microfilms of these civil registers of birth are also part of the Drouin Collection but the extraction and indexing of the Jewish records may not be part of the initial indexing project by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal.

The Drouin Collection microfilms are currently available in Montreal at the Municipal Library and the libraries of the Société généalogique canadienne-française and the Franco-American Society, Woonsocket, RI. However, until the above-mentioned index is available, meaningful research of the Jewish films in the Drouin Collection will be almost impossible.

Sources for researching Jewish vital records in Québec

Birth, marriage and death records are the building blocks of genealogical research. The following table provides researchers with a guide to sources for Québec records with particular emphasis on Montreal, home to the major part of the Jewish population in this province. In addition, alternative sources for vital record information are suggested.

INDEX / RECORD TYPE	YEARS	STATUS	LOCATIONS (NOTES) ¹
Indexes to, and registrations of Births, Marriages and Burials	Up to and including 1899	Open	1,2
Indexes to Statistical Returns of:			
Births	1926 to early 1990's	Closed	
Marriages	1926 to early 1990's	Open	1(a), 2(a)
Deaths	1926 to early 1990's	Open	1(a), 2(a)
Statistical Returns of Marriage	1926 to early 1990's	Open	1(b)
Indexes of Vital Records, formerly held at various local courthouses:			(c)
Montreal, non-Catholic			
Births	1900 - 1992	Open	1, (c1)
Burials	1900 - 1925	Late 1998	(c)
Deaths	1926 - 1992	Open	1, 5 (c2)
Marriages	1900 - 1925 1926 - 1992	Late 1998 Open	(c) 1
Quebec City, non-Catholic Births, Marriages, Deaths	1800 - 1899 1900 - 1992	Open	1
St. Jean, non-Catholic Births, Marriages and Death	1900 - 1968	Open	1
Certificates of birth, Marriage and Death	1900 - 1997	Closed	4 (d)
Genealogical Certificates Births, Marriages, Deaths	1990 - 1997	Under Discussion	(e)

¹See following for "Keys to Locations and Notes"

KEYS TO LOCATIONS AND NOTES

Locations:

1. Montreal Municipal Library (Bibliothèque Municipale de Montreal - Salle Gagnon) 1210 Sherbrooke St. East, Montreal, PQ H2L 1L9. Tel: (514) 872-1616.

No mail requests; on-site research only. Access to microfilm/microfiche collections is only available to holders of a Montreal library card. Cards are free for Montreal residents; for non-residents the membership fee is \$44.00/year or \$28.00 for people age 55 or over. A free Visitor's Card is available to individuals residing outside the 97 municipalities comprising greater Montreal.

2. Québec National Archives (Archives Nationales du Québec) Montreal Branch: 1945 Mullins Street, Montreal, PQ H3K 1N9 Tel: (514) 873-6000. Mail response available for simple research requests only.

3. Family History Centres; see Note (c) next page.

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4. Direction de l'Etat Civil (Department of Civil Status): Information: 1-800-567-3900 or 2050, De Bleury, Montreal, PQ H3A 2J5 Tel: (514) 864-3900. Applications for copies: 205, rue Montmagny, Québec City, PQ G1N 4T2 Tel: (418) 643-3900, Fax: (418) 644-0476
5. Paperman & Sons Inc., funeral home. See Note (c2) below. 3888 Jean Talon St. W. Montreal, PQ H3R 2G8 Tel: (514) 733-7101, Fax: (514) 733-1775

Notes:

- (a) Indexes to Marriages and Deaths at the Québec National Archives end at 1985.
- (b) Statistical Returns of Marriage do not contain all the same information normally included on marriage certificates but do have valuable genealogical data.
 - * Up to mid-1970's: Date and place of marriage; full names of bride and groom, occupation, date and places of birth and residence, place of birth of father.
 - * Mid 70's to date: Date and place of marriage; full names of bride and groom, names of parents with dates and places of birth.
- (c) Indexes were microfilmed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) in late 1997. Availability at LDS Family History Centres is unknown. However, films are likely to be available at the Montreal Municipal Library by late 1998.

Note: while the Montreal and Québec City records are indexed, court houses in some of the smaller towns did not make indexes. Jewish records are typically located in non-Catholic indices.
- (c1) Birth index cards contain full name and year of birth and usually the synagogue where registrations took place. They may also include parents' names, and mother's maiden name; the information varied from year to year.
- (c2) Paperman & Sons Inc. have handled the majority of Jewish burials in Montreal. Some records go back as far as 1913. Dates will be provided by telephone. Requests for copies of Burial Permits should be made by regular mail and, as a matter of courtesy, a SASE should be provided. Do not send U.S. or other foreign stamps! Use an Inter-

national Reply Coupon or include one or two U.S. dollar bills. For special services, it would not be out of order to send a dollar for postage as well as a cheque with a donation to a worthy cause of "Paperman's choice."

- (d) All post-1899 civil register records were closed to the public as of January 1, 1994 and access is restricted. While close relatives may be able to obtain extracts of records, these contain sparse information and are of little genealogical value. Prior to 1994, photocopies of the full original document were available. Note: the local synagogue or church should have a duplicate copy or other documents/files with information, but they may be reluctant to provide the information until the provincial government signals the rules can be relaxed.
- (e) In 1995, Québec genealogical and family history societies formed a committee (COMITÉ CONJOINT des sociétés d'histoire, sociétés de généalogie et associations de familles du Québec) to coordinate efforts to persuade the Québec Government to provide recognized genealogical societies with "special genealogical certificates" of Births, Marriages and Deaths. The Québec's Privacy Commissioner deposited a report in June '97 recommending greater flexibility for genealogists and archivists. The Comité Conjoint, the Federation of Genealogical Societies of Québec, and the Association of Archives of Québec presented papers pointing out that the information required by them is already in the public domain (i.e. births, marriages and deaths) and thus there is no reason to restrict access to the records. In April 1998, the Access to Information Commission tabled a report in which the Cultural Commission stated that "the general public is not aware of the implications of this debate and thus it should be made the subject of a special government study." No further information is available at this time.

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Alternative sources for post-1899 Birth, Marriage and Death information

Paid Newspaper Announcements:

Information on life cycle events is also available through research of these announcements. While most families inserted Birth and Death announcements, middle- and upper-class Jewish families also advertised Engagements and Weddings. Typically, these were accompanied by photographs. Most Jewish families used *The Montreal Star* to publicize family events. The *Star* ceased publication September 25, 1979 and everything shifted to *The Montreal Gazette*. In the earlier years, *The Gazette* also had some Jewish Birth and Death announcements, and some Engagement/Wedding ones as well. Both *The Gazette* and *The Star* are available on microfilm at McGill and Concordia universities in Montreal and other major universities and public libraries across Canada. The major repository for newspapers and publications in the province is the branch of the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, Aegidius Fauteaux Building (Revue-journeaux et publications gouvernementales), 4499 Esplanade Avenue, Montreal, Québec H2W 1T2, tel: (514) 873-1100. To research these sources, see "Professional Genealogical Research in Montreal" below.

Another source is the *Canadian Jewish Eagle* ("Keneder Adler"), a Yiddish language daily published in Montreal, (1907-1980). Obituaries are listed on page one. Microfilms are available at the Jewish Public Library of Montreal. For names of professional researchers prepared to study these films, send a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to the Reference Librarian, Jewish Public Library of Montreal, 5151 Côte St. Catherine Road, Montreal, Québec H3W 1M6, tel: (514) 345-2627, ext. 3001.

Reference Books*

Family Who's Who (2 volumes), published by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Vol. 1, 1969, approximately 600 pages; Vol. 2, 1979, approximately 550 pages; hardcover, printed in Canada. Alphabetical by surname.

While intended to record endowments to Hebrew University, these volumes contain names

of individuals, with spouses, forebears and progeny of several thousand families. Hebrew names, places of birth, occupations and Hebrew tribes are also recorded. Most entries are from Canada.

Who's Who in Canadian Jewry by Dr. Eli Gottesman, published by Jewish Institute of Higher Research, Central Rabbinical Seminary of Canada, 1965; 525 pages, hardcover. Alphabetical by surname.

Contains biographies of over 2,500 Canadian Jewish individuals active in all areas of communal, civic and business life. Includes date and place of birth, home and office address, degrees, religious affiliation, offices held and organizations. Parents, spouse and children usually included.

A Biographical Dictionary of Canadian Jewry 1909-1914, from The Canadian Jewish Times by Lawrence F. Tapper, published by Avotaynu, Inc., P.O. Box 900, Teaneck, NJ 07666, 256 pages. (US\$35.00 hardcover). ISBN 0-9626373-0-0

Includes births, bar mitzvahs, marriages and deaths, as well as information concerning communal and synagogue activities of Canadian Jewry. Extracted from the pages of *The Canadian Jewish Times*, 1909-1914. (See following section for access to 1897-1909 data.)

World Wide Web Research

A Biographical Dictionary of Canadian Jewry 1897-1909, from The Canadian Jewish Times by Lawrence F. Tapper, published electronically by Ancestry, Inc.; website address: <<http://www.ancestry.com>>

Data is similar to that described in 1909 - 1914 hardcover edition in preceding section. Available only to subscribers to the Ancestry service. Details available on the Ancestry website.

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* All these titles are available at The Jewish Public Library of Montreal. In Toronto the first two volumes are available at the Robarts library and the third title is in the JGS Toronto collection.

On-site visits are required; exceptions are limited to research of pre-1900 vital records by the Québec National Archives and burial certificate information from Paperman's. There are no professional genealogists in the JGS of Montreal. However, the Québec Family History Society (QFHS) will provide names of experienced researchers who can access the "open" items, newspaper announcements, etc. Contact the Québec Family History Society at P.O. Box 1026, Pointe Claire, Québec H9S 4H9, telephone: (514) 695-1502 or see list of researchers on the QFHS website <<http://www.cam.org/~qfhs/index.html>>. Mail enquiries must include a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) or letters will not be answered. When Canadian stamps are not available, include a U.S. dollar bill.

Acknowledgements

Appreciation is extended to Québec Family History Society President, Gary Schroder, and Lorraine Goselin, Recording Secretary, for their help in documenting the history and current status outlined in this paper.

□ □

Stanley M. Diamond is founding president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal, and Project Coordinator of Jewish Records Indexing - Poland. Diamond has a particular interest in genealogical research relating to genetics which ultimately led to the creation of JRI - Poland. He is the genealogist for the international team doing research on his family's novel mutation of the beta-thalassemia genetic trait and is co-author of a scientific paper in regard to the project, "Probable Identity by Descent and Discovery of Familial Relationships by Means of a Rare Beta-Thalassemia Haplotype" Human Mutation 9:86-87 (1997). As part of his research, Diamond is documenting the rare incidence of the beta-thalassemia trait in Ashkenizic Jewish families of the Diaspora.

J E W I S H G E N

Canadian 1919-1935 Immigration Records

Harry Dodsworth

Canadian passenger arrival manifests have been available from National Archives (Canada) on microfilm from approximately 1865 to 1919 and it has been necessary to use Access to Information requests for later arrivals. However the following information comes from the National Archives website <http://www.archives.ca/www/svcs/english/ImmigrationRecords.html>

Records from 1919 to 1935 have been transferred to the National Archives, but they are not yet accessible for research. Processing of the 728 reels of microfilm should be complete by the end of April 1998. Microfilm copies will then be available for consultation at the Archives and through interlibrary loan. The lists of reel numbers will be posted on this site.

I understand that indexing will differ from the old series; in particular there will be a nominal index (index by name) for the period 1925 to 1935. The records have been filmed and are currently being duplicated for public release and distribution. There will likely be a period of adjustment while staff and researchers get used to accessing the new information.

Advertising Rates

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by August 1998 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 (one 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 cents per word thereafter; your name and address are free. Please write advertisement clearly, with family surnames you are researching in *uppercase* letters. Make your cheque payable to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) and mail to: JGS of Canada (Toronto), P.O. Box 446, Station A, North York, Ontario, Canada M2N 5T1.

The Family Tree of the Jewish People

Susan E. King, President JewishGen, Inc.

Over the past many months JewishGen has been in development with Lineages, Inc. and Palladium Interactive, producers of the Ultimate Family Tree genealogical software program, to establish the capability to provide an online product which will be of value for preserving and searching files of the family trees created by Jewish researchers.

It is now with great excitement, pleasure and pride that we announce an agreement in principal has been reached to exchange data between JewishGen, the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (AJGS) and Beth Hatefutsoth in bringing the Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP) to the largest readership possible. Based on discussions held earlier this year and with the support and generous sponsorship of Lineages Inc. and Palladium Interactive, JewishGen will take on the role of bringing the FTJP to the Internet.

The concept simplifies submissions of family tree data by designating JewishGen as the single source of distribution while still allowing each submitter to identify which of the three participating organizations is to receive the information. All researchers who have previously submitted family trees to either AJGS or Beth Hatefutsoth will be asked by the respective organizations if they want to participate in the JewishGen online version. Similarly, all who submit their family trees to JewishGen will be able to choose whether or not to have the data placed with the other two organizations.

Taking into consideration all the previously expressed concerns with making family data public, and before placing data on our website, JewishGen will utilize specially designed software enabling the removal of all information from living persons - living being defined as born within the past 100 years - for whom there is no death information. For deceased individuals, only dates and places will be displayed. Additionally, no source information or notes will be displayed for any individual at any time in the JewishGen online version. The tree will then retain the integrity of demonstrating family relationships but will not invade the privacy of people who do not wish dates of births, marriages, or deaths revealed. We wish to emphasize that while

submission in GEDCOM format is still a requirement, only certain extracted data will be made available.

Additional provisions have been put in place to insure maximum security of the data to the highest degree possible. In order to search the database for a surname of interest, researchers will need to register first, using their JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) researcher code number and password. Since the system will not be retaining the originally submitted GEDCOM files, the only way to retrieve additional information will be by contacting the submitter similar to the way the JewishGen Family Finder is structured. This is one other protective feature which has been built into the JewishGen online search engine.

All access to the FTJP will be carefully monitored to insure that the same level of privacy afforded other successful JewishGen projects (the JGFF and the JewishGen Holocaust Global Registry) will be part of the online version. The sponsors of this effort, Lineages and Palladium Interactive, will have no rights to distribute the data and will only have a link from their sites to the JewishGen site. Therefore, the JewishGen online database will in no way be used for commercial purposes.

For the untold numbers who have previously sought to place their complete family trees online with JewishGen, we can only say "Hold that thought"... We're almost ready to say, "Yes, can do!"

If you have any questions, please address them to: FTJPhelp@jewishgen.org. Your questions will be the basis of the FAQ still to be written and when completed will appear on the test site presently being fine-tuned. There is much work going on behind the scenes to get this information online and available as quickly as possible so we can only say...stay tuned, folks. To any JewishGenner out there experienced in, and having FTJP capability coupled with knowledge of GEDCOM, please consider volunteering some time to this effort. An e-mail to support@jewishgen.org expressing your availability and willingness to help is all it will take. Broadening the base by joining with other organizations in this collective effort to assist Jewish researchers is just one more way JewishGen is accomplishing its long-range vision...providing Jewish continuity to our generation and future generations to come. ☆

New Additions to Our Library Update by Henry Wellisch

When our member Dr. Larry Gaum published his excellent family history, *From Belarus to Cape Breton and Beyond* (a copy of which he donated to our library), members of his family were so impressed that they decided to make donations to the charity of his choice. This choice turned out to be our society, and we used the funds to acquire the following books relating to Jewish genealogical research:

Guide to the YIVO Archives, compiled and edited by Frumah Mohrer and Marek Web
Eliahu's Branches: The Descendants of the Vilna Gaon by Chajim Freedman
Some Archival Sources for Ukrainian-Jewish Genealogy by Alexander Kronik and Sallyann Sack

Zsido Lexikon [Hungarian-Jewish Encyclopedia], edited by Peter Ujvari
Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories by Miriam Weiner
(see comments below)

"This impressive reference book is of great importance to all those wishing to discover the Jewish past of Poland."

Elie Wiesel, author of *Night*

"Miriam Weiner has produced a monumental work of research into primary sources on pre- and post-World War II Polish Jewry. In a volume replete with pictorial and map material, she not only provides the scholar with hitherto undiscovered data, she also offers rich material to those who wish to engage in private quests for family origins."

Chaim Potok, author of *The Chosen*

"Miriam Weiner, through her vital book, *Jewish Roots in Poland*, has given credence to the proposition that a civilization gone and its people destroyed will never be forgotten. Ms. Weiner has painstakingly reconstructed Jewish Poland, town by town, unearthing documents and haunting archives. With hundreds of color photographs, this book is an extremely important one and a must for every Jewish library."

Leon Uris, author of *Exodus*



Bill Gladstone, a former president of our society, recently donated the following titles:

In Search of our European Roots by Angus Baxter (a member of our society).
Jews in Small Towns: Legends and Legacies by Howard V. Epstein
Middletown Jews: The Tenuous Survival of an American Jewish Community, edited by Dan Rottenberg



Joseph Shapiro Fonde
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