

שם טוב

SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

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Biblical Genealogy of Eker

by Paul M. Eker

The Old Testament and The New Testament of the Holy Bible offer a great amount of genealogical information. For example, in Genesis, the first Book of The Old Testament, there are at least 200 named persons whose family relationships it is possible to convert into one family tree. Other books of The Old Testament can provide similar clarifying, useful and additional information, as do Books of The New Testament such as in chapter 1 of The Gospel According to St. Matthew, the first book.

It was one of the Books of The Old Testament, the first Book of Chronicles which in chapter 2 verse 27 refers to EKER, that prompted me to further research into the progenitors of the biblical person bearing that name. The results of the search are illustrated in the following table.

Column A of the table sets out the generation number for each member of the lineage listed in column B which shows the descent of EKER through 28 generations from Adam, the first generation.

All information derives from the King James version of the Bible with the assistance of Smiths Bible Dictionary. Not all the sources are referenced in column C. Abram (generation 20) is also known as Abraham. Jacob's name was changed to Israel (gen 32:20).

Submitted by Glen Eker, a vice-president and veteran member of our society.

A	B	C
28 EKER	son of Ram	I Chron 2:27
27 RAM	Do JERACHMEEL	I Chron 2:25
26 JERACHMEEL	Do HEZRON	I Chron 2:25
25 HEZRON	Do PHAREZ	I Chron 2:25
24 PHAREZ	Do JUDAH	I Chron 2:3
23 JUDAH	Do JACOB (ISRAEL)	I Chron 2:1
22 JACOB	Do ISAAC	I Chron 1:34
21 ISAAC	Do ABRAHAM	Gen 25:19
20 ABRAM	Do TERAH	Gen 11:26
19 TERAH	Do NAHOR	Gen 11:26
18 NAHOR	Do SERUG	Gen 11:22
17 SERUG	Do REU	Gen 11:20
16 REU	Do PELEG	Gen 11:18
15 PELEG	Do EBER	Gen 11:16
14 EBER	Do SALAH	Gen 11:14
13 SALAH	Do ARPHAXAD	Gen 11:12
12 ARPHAXAD	Do SHEM	Gen 11:10
11 SHEM	Do NOAH	Gen 6:10
10 NOAH	Do LAMECH	Gen 5:28, 29
9 LAMECH	Do METHUSELAH	Gen 5:25
8 METHUSELAH	Do ENOCH	Gen 5:21
7 ENOCH	Do JARED	Gen 5:18
6 JARED	Do MAHALALEEL	Gen 5:15
5 MAHALALEEL	Do CAINAN	Gen 5:12
4 CAINAN	Do ENOS	Gen 5:9
3 ENOS	Do SETH	Gen 5:6
2 SETH	Do ADAM	Gen 5:3
1 ADAM	Do G-D	Gen 1:27

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Upcoming Events

organized by the Jewish Genealogical Society
of Canada (Toronto)
at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
470 Glencairn Avenue

Wednesday, March 24, 1999 at 8:00 pm
"Jewish Vienna - History and Genealogy" by Henry Wellisch

Henry, who was the president of our society from 1993 to 1998, comes from Vienna. He has researched his family and the history of the Jewish community of his former hometown for many years.

Wednesday, April 28, 1999 at 8:00 pm
"Immigration and Resettlement Patterns of Holocaust Survivors in Canada" by Paula Draper



Please note that our monthly meetings for May and June had to be set for a date earlier than the usual last Wednesday of the month.

Wednesday, May 19, 1999 at 8:00 pm
Program to be announced

Sunday, May 30, 1999 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
The 5th workshop organized by our society for beginners and advanced researchers.
Program to be announced

Tuesday, June 22, 1999 at 8:00 pm
"Breakthroughs of the Past Year" - reports by some of our members

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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 outside the City of Toronto. 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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Yad Vashem - the "List of Lists"

Yaacov Lozowick, director of the Yad Vashem Archives in Jerusalem, met with JGSGW members on December 3, 1998, between sessions of the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets. Mr. Lozowick is coordinating a project to catalogue and index all of Yad Vashem's materials relevant to the Holocaust period. The focus is on materials from which names of those affected by the Holocaust can be extracted. The project was begun in reaction to inquiries from accountants and officials connected with claims inquiries. It is remarkable in part for the 40 languages and various alphabets used to record the 10,000 lists expected to be included. The working title is the "List of Lists." The quantity of carefully documented lists and personal testimonies will serve to memorialize the size of the Holocaust and discredit Holocaust deniers.

The hope is that in three years visitors to Yad Vashem will be able to use the archives more efficiently. Access to the lists themselves may remain restricted, as the archives include numerous records for which Yad Vashem does not hold the dissemination rights. Meanwhile, other research projects at Yad Vashem have been put on hold.

The foregoing article appeared in the fall 1998 issue of MISHPACHA, the newsletter of the JGS of Greater Washington (JGSGW).



We Welcome These New Members to Our Society

*Leya Aronson
David Futerman
Hartley Gershowitz
Garry P. Stein*



*The Jewish Genealogical Society
cordially invites you to attend
the 19th Annual Conference on
Jewish Genealogy
Marriott Marquis Hotel
Broadway and 46th Street
New York City, August 8-13, 1999*

Please join us for an exciting week of educational programming, research opportunities, networking with genealogists from around the world, and a grand time in a great city.

For more information:

Visit our web page:

<http://members.aol.com/nyc99conf>

E-mail: nyc99conf@aol.com

Write: Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.
600 West End Avenue, Suite 10F
New York, NY 10024

SEARCH AD

GELWACH/GELBWACHS, Dwoira/Deborah, daughter of Mendel Gelbwachs of Glogow, Galicia, Poland.

Born approx. 1900-1910, resided in Toronto about 1930 to 1940s; may have married (possibly SOLOMON) and moved to the U.S. Anyone having information is asked to contact:

Monique Charlebois
Legal Counsel, Office of the
Public Guardian and Trustee
595 Bay Street, 8th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2M6 CANADA
Fax: (416) 314-2781

Ancestors in Bohemia

by Nora Freund

For some years now, I have been researching my family roots. Both my husband and I have all our ancestors in Bohemia, now the western part of the Czech Republic. On the one hand this is a great advantage, as our research is limited to a small area. Research materials have been preserved to a large extent, and because it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the records were usually well organized. This does not necessarily mean that they are always correct. Nor were they always preserved. Some were destroyed during the war, or by neglect, but most of the Czech records are available in the state archives in Prague, as well as in Brno. Local archives also exist but are more difficult to access. On the other hand, since this is a small area with few survivors, there is not much in the way of other people who are also searching. Both my husband and I have been able to trace our families back four or more generations.

Although I have been researching our families for some years, my husband has not been very interested. However, recent events have sparked his enthusiasm. These events would likely not have taken place, had it not been for the Internet. Nevertheless, coincidences still played a major part, as did taking a chance and giving more information than might have been necessary.

Incident number one involved the formation of a Bohemian-Moravian SIG as part of the German SIG on Jewishgen following the seminar in Los Angeles. This SIG is quite small still and is for the most part not really relevant to those searching Bohemia and Moravia. But sometimes names do come up, and after all it is where the Bohemian researchers should be contacting each other.

Responding to a letter mentioning the name Bergmann, we discovered that all of the following: the letter writer (a), my husband (b), a man in Denmark (c), a friend of my husband's in Prague (d), and the late Professor Hugo Bergmann of Hebrew University (e) are all descendants of children of Alexander Bergmann of Zbenice, Bohemia, who was given the surname Bergmann in 1787. Alexander Bergmann was the ggggrandfather of my husband. As you can

see, these five branches, not all known to each other, resulted in the tying together of several branches and a great expansion of the combined family tree. Three of these people are genealogists. This branch of the family, the Bergmanns, are on my husband's paternal grandfather's side.

The next discovery involved an almost miraculous coincidence. Carla Wittes of Toronto is writing a book about correspondence during the Holocaust. In looking for this type of correspondence she has placed a number of notices in newsletters around the world. My husband has been assisting her with translations. One day, she showed him a picture she had just received and he exclaimed, "Those are my relatives."

Sure enough, a young woman, daughter of a Kindertransport child now living in Australia, had responded to Ms Wittes. These were cousins with whom my husband had not had contact with since before the war. We are now engaged in a lively correspondence with them, and are busy exchanging information about previous and new generations. This branch of the family is my husband's maternal side. The family name is Jung, not a very common Czech name. Even our children are interested in this "new" branch of the family, and we are corresponding almost daily, finding out about each other's lives.

And now comes the strangest part. In our correspondence with the Australian group we noted that the mutual great-grandparents had had ten or eleven children, but we only knew of three, and even then, knew nothing about the third. These siblings were on my husband's mother's side. Writing to the Danish branch, and filling in blanks, we mentioned that John's mother's maiden name was Jung. This led to the information that the Danish cousin's grandmother had been Jung as well, and that he had known a Major Jung as a child. This Major was my husband's grandfather!! Not only that, but the Danish cousin had a primitive family tree listing almost all the siblings. So now we find that John is related to this cousin on both sides of the family. Not only that, but we found names

(continued on page 5)

of cousins we thought we would never trace. Now we have to see if they survived the Holocaust and if we can find out where they are. So there is lots of work to look forward to and people to find.

This is just to illustrate the wonders of technology and the joys of genealogy. You never know where and when the next adventure will be found. ☆

Nora Freund is a long-time member of our society.

The Etobicoke Family History Centre Record Collection

The centre is located at 95 Melbert Road. There is no fee for using the FHC. There are fees for any microfilm and microfiche obtained by loan from Salt Lake City. The following records are on site and can be viewed there. Appointments are mandatory. Tel. (416) 621-4607

CIVIL REGISTRATION INDEXES

ENGLAND

Births: 1837-1906 microfilm
1907-1980 microfiche
Marriages: 1837-1903 microfilm
1904-1980 microfiche
Deaths: 1837-1903 microfilm
1904-1980 microfiche

IRELAND (microfilm)

Births: 1864-1921
Marriages: 1845-1921
Deaths: 1864-1921

NORTHERN IRELAND (microfilm)

Marriages: 1922-1958
Deaths: 1922-1958

ONTARIO (microfilm)

Births: 1869-1898
Marriages: 1873-1913
Deaths: 1869-1922

SCOTLAND (microfilm)

Births: 1855-1920
Marriages: 1855-1919
Deaths: 1855-1920

CENSUS RECORDS

1881 Census indexed by surname on microfiche. England, Scotland, Wales

1891 Census microfiche. Various places in England (not a complete set)

Jewish Archives in Canada

We recently received Volume III -1995 of Canadian Jewish Studies/Etudes Juives Canadiennes. It contains, among other things, a 22-page article by Janice Rosen entitled "Jewish Archival Holdings in Canada II." The article lists the names of the archivists, addresses, phone and fax numbers, email addresses and websites, where applicable. It also describes in some detail the holdings of the following institutions:

Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives, Montreal
The Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia
Nemetz Jewish Community Archives, Vancouver
The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta, Calgary
The Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada, Winnipeg
The Jewish Public Library Archives, Montreal
The National Archives of Canada, Ottawa
The Ontario Jewish Archives, Toronto
The Ottawa Jewish Historical Society, Ottawa
The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum Archives, Saint John

Advertising Rates

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by May 1999 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 (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.

Solomons of Cooktown, Australia and the Internet

by Valerie Miller Fox

I never realized the effectiveness of the Internet until I stood in front of the grave of Lewis Solomon in Cooktown, Australia. He is not related to my husband or me and in fact to anybody that I know. As a Jewish genealogist, I am interested in knowing where Jewish graves or cemeteries are located. For example, for five years I have been searching for the graves of my two great-uncles who died in 1913 and 1914, in their teens, in Hawkesbury, Ontario, not far from the Canadian capital, Ottawa. On the other hand, I have located and have taken more than 40 photos of my relatives' tombstones, including my four great-grandparents, four grandparents, and numerous other relatives in Montreal, Canada (my birthplace). From the late-1970s until the mid-1980s I lived in Sarnia, Ontario (which looks onto Lake Huron), with a population of 50,000 people, of which 35 were Jewish families; but it has no Jewish cemetery. The Jewish Sarnians are buried in nearby London (a one-hour car ride) or in Toronto (a three-hour car ride). So just imagine my amazement when I learned that Cooktown (15 28/145 15), Australia, a town of 1300 people¹ on the Great Barrier Reef had a consecrated Jewish cemetery. It was there that I stood in front of the graves of Lewis Solomon and his wife, Esther.

A decade ago my husband and I decided to visit Australia. As Canadians, we were both fascinated with the island-continent, which we consider to be "on the other side of the world," where the seasons are opposite to ours, the home of kangaroos and wallabies; famous for its Outback, the Flying Doctor Service Stations, and the Great Barrier Reef. We saw the grey kangaroos in their natural environment; but we opted for a cruise on the Great Barrier Reef in favour of Ayres Rock and the Flying Doctor Station. We were not disappointed. Australians are rightly proud of their country.

During our cruise the ship docked at Cooktown, Queensland, in northern Australia. This was the place where Captain James Cook repaired his ship, *Endeavour*, when it ran aground on the coral reef. We took a bus tour of Cooktown and our guide told us about another person who figures prominently in the history of the region. Her name was Mary Watson. While

her husband was away, Mary Watson with her infant son and her Chinese houseboy set off in a "large, square ship's tank" to escape the invading Aborigines. Unfortunately, they drifted for five days (October 2-7, 1881) but died of thirst because they could not find fresh drinking water. According to Rosemary Oram (rjoram@dynamite.com.au), Mary's diary of her ordeal did much to make the story part of the history of North Queensland.² She died at the age of 21.

Our tour guide drove us to Cooktown's desolate-looking cemetery to show us Mary Watson's grave. It was the beginning of Australia's summer. It was hot and humid. There was barely any grass in that section of the cemetery. As the guide was giving his talk, I asked if the different religious denominations were buried together in the cemetery. "No," he replied, pointing, "This is the Catholic, over there is the Protestant, there is a Chinese and there is a Jewish section." A Jewish section! I was intrigued. I never imagined Jewish people living in this remote place. I had flown 20 hours by plane from Toronto, Canada to Sydney, New South Wales; I had flown from Melbourne, home of the famous Melbourne Cup, to Cairns; I had cruised up the Great Barrier Reef and docked in Cooktown, made famous by Captain James Cook. I was definitely going to trek a bit further to the edge of the cemetery to locate the Jewish burial grounds!

Quietly I left the group standing in front of Mary Watson's grave and headed in the direction of the Jewish cemetery. I saw a wooden pointer with the words: "Jewish cemetery 800 meters." It pointed in the direction of a "forest of trees" along a narrow path. At the end of the path in a small shaded tree clearing, I came across two tombstones that I could recognize as Jewish ones. The graves were that of Lewis Solomon and his wife, Esther. I later learned that Esther was not Jewish but Protestant.

As I stood in front of their graves situated in the shaded bush, I was overwhelmed with the thought that there I was, a Canadian, in a remote spot facing the Great Barrier Reef, standing in front of Jewish graves. I wondered who lay there, when they came to Australia, what was Lewis Solomon's occupation and

why did they choose such a remote place to live. Did Lewis Solomon have descendants who were trying to locate his final resting-place? According to ancient Jewish custom, I placed stones on their tombstones. It was then that I decided to find out more about Lewis Solomon and his wife, Esther. Perhaps someone out there in cyberspace was related to them!

We genealogists are a group of inquisitive, dogged, determined detectives. I am positive you can come up with adjectives of your own to describe yourself. But by what means are you pursuing your leads or hunches? Are you using conventional methods such as snapping pictures to put them in albums, are you visiting government institutions and libraries to look at microfiche, view microfilm, scan newspapers for birth and obituary notices? Or are you taking advantage of the newer technological methods in genealogical research? I found that both methods can complement each other.

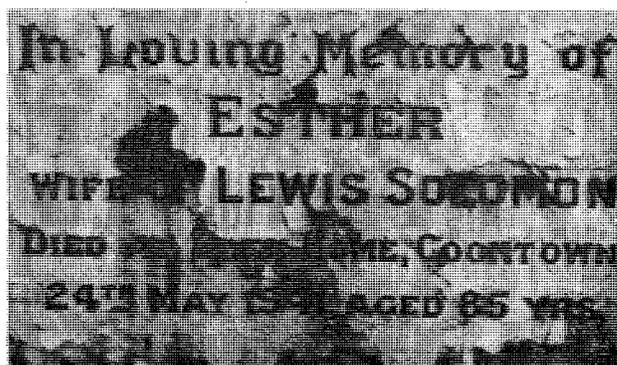
As I stood at the foot of Lewis and Esther Solomon's graves, I remembered that the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is in the process of documenting all existing Jewish cemeteries throughout the world. The project is known as the International Jewish Cemetery Project (www.jewishgen.org/cemetery). I decided when I returned home, I would email the JewishGen Discussion group: (www.jewishgen.org) to find out if Cooktown's graves were entered in the database. So I snapped a few pictures of their tombstones with my non-digital 35 mm. camera. I felt that if I located the descendants of Lewis and Esther, then perhaps they would like a picture of the Solomons' tombstones.

I had firsthand knowledge of trying to document graves. Last summer, after five years of patient, methodical, conscientious work, my society, the JGS of Canada (Toronto) had finally completed recording Toronto's Roselawn cemetery. There are countless stacks of notebooks as a testament to the members' hard work. However, in the last year of recording the stones, the members opted to photograph the stones instead of recording them with "pencil and pad." In the last year of phase one of the project, I volunteered to photograph a section of the cemetery. I used my 1970's camera. Our society preferred black-and-white film. Nobody in our society suggested that we use digital cameras or scan the photographs into digital images.

Digital cameras and digital images are among the newer methods for genealogical researchers. Photofinishers can develop the film and then transform them into digital images. They can put these images onto floppy disks or special CD-ROMs or on the Web. Also, those using scanners can have their photographs developed, scanned, edited, and put their digital images to a range of uses. Another option is to use digital cameras. By turning your photographs into digital images, you can then share your favourite "photos" with other people over the Internet.

Elliott Terman and I had hoped that his Davidofsky family from Nesvich and my Davidovsky family from Novya Mysh (53 08/25 54) near Baranovici, Belarus were related as the towns are so close to one another. He used newer technology by sending me digital images of his relatives as an email attachment. I had no scanner at the time, so I mailed him a copy of a family picture which included my great-grandmother, Raizel Davidovsky Gallay. He edited the photo I sent him and emailed me a digital "photo" portrait of my "alta bubba." Newer technological devices do have their advantages.

JewishGen or posting to newsgroups makes sleuthing much simpler than conventional methods. I emailed the JewishGen Discussion Group (jewishgen@lyris.jewishgen.org) on November 19, 1998 under the subject heading: SOLOMON, Cooktown, Queensland, and Australia. I wrote: "If you believe you are a relative of this SOLOMON I would love to hear from you. I am interested to know how this couple came to live in Cooktown, and what they did for a living. I will gladly send you a copy of the photo if you wish. Hope to hear from you."



(continued from page 7)

Within three days I had emails from England, Toronto, and Australia! Gary Luke of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society's website is: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/>) answered my email. He offered to "check the set of AJ Historical Soc [sic] Journals."³ True to his word, a month later by mail I received a photocopy of a six-page article from *The Journal of the Australian Jewish Historical Society* about the Jews of Cooktown. The author, Morris S. Ochert, writes: "In many cases the only reminder today of the existence of these small Jewish communities is the Jewish gravestone in the local cemeteries. One such country town is Cooktown, situated in northern Queensland, where a few Jews lived at the turn of the century. The cemetery retains to the present day a consecrated Jewish section."⁴ Ochert goes on to say "the details of the Jewish people buried in the Cooktown Cemetery...have been taken from the Cemetery Register and from the meagre data in the Shire Library."⁵ The article points out that Lewis Solomon was a Commission Agent. At one time he was the Mayor of Cooktown. His wife, Esther, who is buried alongside him, was not Jewish. The electoral rolls for the Cooktown Municipality [does not indicate the year of the electoral roll]. The article states the following: Solomon, Lewis: Commission Agent: Bailiff Cottage, Palmer Rd. Solomon, Esther: Protestant, Dressmaker's Shop, Charlotte St.⁶

Nobody has yet claimed to be related to Lewis Solomon. I have not dug deeper. I have not discovered why Lewis Solomon, a Jew, had come to live in such a remote part of northern Australia where there were not ten Jewish souls to form a minyan. Yet he remembered his roots and was buried in consecrated Jewish ground.

Beverly Davis, Honorary Archivist and Research Officer of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Victoria, Melbourne (bdavis@interconnect.com.au) emailed me on November 26, 1998. She informed me that "there are four other Jewish burials in this area, but only one other remaining gravestone."⁷

We genealogists still rely on records, whether they are first-hand, second-hand, or in this case third-hand. The information mentioned above about Lewis and Esther Solomon

was taken from the Cooktown's Cemetery Register and from the town's electoral roll. Tombstones are another conventional method of finding information; albeit occasionally the information is incorrect. Until the time comes when we can sit at our computers and scan the databases for census records, tombstone records, vital statistics, Holocaust records, etc., we will have to turn to our government's institutions and its archives and to our libraries to locate the correct microfiche or microfilm.

In spite of advancements in technology, the most conventional method of all is the most basic one. People have always had a desire to forge bonds with like-minded individuals. We connect at some level with others we never met, probably never will meet; yet we help each other by exchanging knowledge and information. Technology is fascinating, but the human desire to impart knowledge surpasses technology in every way. ☆

Sources:

- ¹ Baedeker, *Australia* (New York: Macmillan Travel Inc., 1995), p 277.
- ² Rosemary Oram, email, November 25, 1998
- ³ Gary Luke, email, November 22, 1998
- ⁴ Morris S. Ochert, *Jewish People of Cooktown*, in *The Journal of the Australian Jewish Historical Society*, Volume XI, Part 6 (Sydney: 1993), p 950.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 951.
- ⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 954.
- ⁷ Beverly Davis, email, November 26, 1998.

Valerie Miller Fox is vice-president of the JGS of Canada (Toronto) vfox@sympatico.ca



Lithuanian Names Project: Recording and Remembering Lithuanian Shoah Victims

by Rose Lerer Cohen and Saul Issroff

It is estimated that between 200,000 and 240,000 Lithuanian Jews were murdered during the Shoah in Lithuania. Approximately 175,000 were murdered between the start of operation Barbarossa on June 22, 1941 and November 1941, regardless of age, gender, occupation and suitability for work.

The Jager report of the Einsatzkommando 3 dated December 1, 1941 states that there were some 4,500 Jews in the Shavli (Siauliai) ghetto, 15,000 in the Kovno (Kaunas) ghetto, and 15,000 in the Vilna (Vilnius) ghetto. The inmates of these ghettos were either murdered in Lithuania during the liquidation of the ghetto, or taken to work camps in Latvia and Estonia and then transported to concentration camps (Dachau, Stutthoff and others).

Many were killed on the roads and in the forests. Some died in the partisan and resistance movements and in the Red Army, while others perished of starvation and disease. There were Jews who were brought from Central and Western Europe to Lithuania to be killed.

Seeing the numerous sites of mass murder during several visits to Lithuania, inquiries were made in various Holocaust archives around the world seeking the names of those murdered. It became apparent that no complete record exists of the names of the Lithuanian Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. As a result, we have embarked on this private project with the aim of compiling a comprehensive listing of the names of those killed in the form of a Memorial book.

We have investigated the following sources: Yad Vashem Archives, Yad Vashem Library - Yizkor Book Collection and the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (YIVO, New York), The Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum, Soviet Archives, archival material at Beit Lochamei HaGettaot (The Ghetto Fighter's House, Israel), the Association of Lithuanian Jewry, Israel, Beit Vilna, Tel Aviv, and the Latvian and Esto-

nian archives. We have received many private lists and eyewitness reports.

We have numerous types of lists in various languages.

Since November 1997 around 90,000 names have been collected. It has become apparent that a great deal of additional information may be available. There are numerous books on the Holocaust where names have been mentioned. In due course these will have to be extracted.

We have recently begun entering the information onto an extensive database, but at this stage we are not in a position to answer individual inquiries. We have also set up a non-profit organization in Israel.

The questionnaire herewith has been circulated widely to reach as many individuals as possible who lost family in the Shoah in Lithuania. Please assist us in completing this form.

Consultants on the project are Professor Dov Levin (Center for Contemporary History, Hebrew University, Jerusalem) and Advocate Yosef Melamed. We have received enormous help and guidance from Alex Avraham, Director of the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem, and Peter Lande at USHMM.

Rose Lerer Cohen is a South African of Litvak descent. She lives in Jerusalem and does professional genealogical research, specializing in Holocaust research in archives in Israel. She is on the board of the IGS, Jerusalem.

Saul Issroff is South African-born of Litvak descent and based in London. He is currently secretary to the board of the AJGS, on the council of the JGS of Great Britain, and on the editorial board of SHEMOT.

This article in different form first appeared in Sharsheret Hadorot, Vol. 12, No. 3, December 1998. Reproduced with the permission of the Israel Genealogical Society.



***Lithuanian Names Project
Name Submission Form***

Submitter source details:

Name:

Address:

Tel number:

Fax number:

Email:

Names to submit: (Please submit in groups of 5)

Name 1

Name 2

Name 3

Name 4

Name 5

Surname:

Firstname:

Father's name:

Mother's name:

Maiden name
or Formername:

Nickname:

Occupation:

Birthplace:

Birthdate:

Age:

Residence pre WWII:

Deathplace:

Deathdate:

Notes:

Please submit form to:

Rose Lerer Cohen, P.O. Box 11456

Jerusalem 91114, Israel

Fax: +972 2 6450379

Email: roseron@shani.net

saul@swico.demon.co.uk

Our society made a pledge to donate \$750 each to the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw and to the Search Bureau of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem. Our member Peter Jassem, who is our "ambassador" to Poland, recently received the following letter from Yale Reisner:

Dear Mr. Jassem:

I am sorry that you haven't heard from me lately, but the piles grow faster than I can possibly keep up and I am always fighting a Sisyphean battle to help as many people as I can to the extent that I can. Your letter of December 17th arrived only today (presumably due to the holiday mails), but it brought good news indeed!

I am most grateful to you and the JGSC Executive Committee for your generous grant of Can\$750 in support of this Project and in support of the preservation of Jewish documentation in Poland. It can and will be put to good use. It is the policy of the Project not to use donor funds for overhead or for handling charges, so the funds - in full - will be applied to preservation and cataloguing here in Warsaw.

In order to get the most "bang for your buck," I would recommend that your check be made payable to "The Javne Fund," 767 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4600, New York, NY 10153 USA. The Javne Fund is the fund incorporated in North America to support our programs here. In conveying your funds, please address your correspondence to Ms. Rachel S. Laufer, Vice President, and be sure to indicate clearly that these funds are intended for the Jewish Historical Institute Archives or the RSLF Genealogy Project. In either case, you can be assured that the full sum will reach me here. (Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Laufer at 1-212-521-0117.)

If I may, I would also compliment you all on your support of our highly valued colleague, Batya Unterschatz, of the Jewish Agency Search Bureau in Jerusalem. Batya continues to work miracles and has been of crucial assistance to this Project, as well as to countless individuals worldwide, in reuniting families and friends, all this despite deep Jewish Agency budget cuts and repeated physical relocation of her tiny office.

It is particularly heartwarming for me to receive a grant from the Toronto-based JGS, for Toronto is a city in which I personally have roots. My mother grew up on Palmerston Boulevard, I spent many a vacation in

Downsview or in the cottages of Belle Ewart, and my great-grandfather z"l, Joseph Weinreb, was Toronto's (and Canada's) first Orthodox rabbi at the turn of the century. So my Toronto connections are strong and I still have an uncle and "cousins by the dozens" in Downsview and North York.

Lastly, having been reminded, I am mailing you a better-fixed copy of the Statter page from the 1937 Zakopane phone book. As regards the Silberings whom I mentioned during your visit, they are from Kurow, WNW of Lublin; does that sound connected to you?

I have looked for more information on the "Bata" shoes distributorship in Krakow, but nothing yet. We have some wartime records related to the confiscation of Jewish businesses in Krakow (Stadthauptmann Krakau, nr 71), but, due to the current move of our materials into newly rebuilt storage, I cannot physically get to that material for another two or three weeks, most likely. If you remind me then, I'll see if we have anything on this firm in Krakow.

With gratitude, respect and appreciation for your patience,

Yale J. Reisner
Ronald S. Lauder Foundation
Genealogy Project at the Jewish
Historical Institute of Poland
Warsaw, Poland
reisner@plearn.edu.pl



YIDDISH TRANSLATOR

Miriam Beckerman
7 Broadway Avenue, Suite 211
Toronto, Ontario Canada M4P 3C5
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Canadian Jewish Congress Website

Montreal's Canadian Jewish Congress Archives website now has an online genealogy timeline, which links to relevant collection information. I suspect the dates will line up differently on various computers. Hopefully we can fine-tune the quirks as we become aware of them.

The address:

http://www.cjc.ca/genealogy_resource_timeline.htm

Can also be reached through the Archives' main page:

<http://www.cjc.ca/archives.htm> under genealogy, and from the (just-enhanced) genealogy page:

<http://www.cjc.ca/cjcarcgen.htm>

Janice Rosen (janicer@cjc.ca)

Canadian Jewish Congress Archives

www.cjc.ca/archives.htm

1590 Ave. Docteur Penfield

Montreal, Que. H3G 1C5, Canada

Tel: (514) 931-7531

Fax: (514) 931-0548

U.S. Social Security Death Index on Line

Howard M. Rensin

I thought you might all like to have the web address for a free Social Security Death Index on line. The other nice thing is that if you click on the last column, it automatically creates a FOIA letter to Social Security for the person you are interested in and covers all the legal points for the letter and the money for the search. The site is as follows:

<http://www.ancestry.com/ssdi/advanced.htm>

Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada

The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada is the result of a merger between the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada, the Marion and Ed Vickar Jewish Museum of Western Canada and the Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre. The merger took effect on January 11, 1999. Their new website is: www.jhcwc.mb.ca

Index to Avotaynu available on Web

Gary Mokotoff, Publisher, Avotaynu

An index to all *Avotaynu* articles from 1985-1998 is now available on the Web. It identifies the more than 2,500 articles that have appeared in *Avotaynu* to date categorized into some 60 countries and nine topical sections. The topical sections are Book Reviews, Computers, General, Holocaust, LDS (Mormon) Family History Library, Methodology, Rabbinic, Seminars, Sephardic. The data can be viewed at <http://www.avotaynu.com/indexsum.htm>. There is the option to download the index.

Website for information on

Russian Archives

Michael Steinore

For those seeking detailed information on archives in today's Russia and the Ukraine, the following websites provide excellent profiles compiled by Dr. Patricia Grimsted. Each profile includes a summary of holdings, who has access, and contact information. Some archives can be contacted via email addresses given here. There are also informative papers, such as one by Dr. Grimsted on the effect of the Russian economic crisis on the archives.

These sites are well worth exploring.

<http://www.iisg.nl/~abb/>

<http://www.sabre.org/huri/abbukr/>

Manchester Jewish Telegraph

Leslie Reich

The Manchester-based *Jewish Telegraph*, which serves several UK northern provincial communities including Leeds, has launched a new column for those seeking Jewish roots. A recent edition carried an announcement: If you would like help tracing your family, contact the *Jewish Telegraph* Manchester office at: Telegraph House, 11 Park Hill, Bury Old Road, Manchester M25 0HH, England. Tel: + 44 (0)161 740 93 21 (The 0 is for inland use and the 44 for overseas.)

E-mail: jaytel@demon.co.uk