

שם טוב

Shem Tov

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

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Jewish Records Indexing - Poland 1929 Business Directory Project

by Stanley M. Diamond

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland is creating a new, searchable source of 20th-century genealogical data on the Internet, using the Polish business directory *Księga Adresowa Polski (Wraz z w.m. Gdanskim) dla Handlu, Przemysłu Rzemiosł i Rolnictwa* [Directory of Poland (including Gdansk) for trade, industry, handicraft and agriculture], Warsaw, 1929. *Shem Tov* readers are invited to participate in this massive indexing project.

This directory has almost 3,000 pages of information about people in Poland in 1929. Note that inter-war Poland includes regions now part of the Vilna area of Lithuania, the Grodno area of Belarus, and parts of the western Ukraine. These listings not only tell us how our families earned their living, but often they are the only accessible source of 20th-century information about our relatives.

The directory is organized by province, then town, then by occupation within each town. Entries typically include the name of the business or proprietor, and the address or street name. The directory has an occupation section with translations from English to Polish, French to Polish, German to Polish, and Russian to Polish. Within the directory pages, occupations are listed alphabetically in Polish with a French translation, and range from doctor and banker to midwife and stall-operator. Each town listing starts with information about the town - the larger the town, the more comprehensive the description.

Information in Business Directory Searches

As sections are completed, the Business Directory database will be searchable online, using Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex on the following fields or combinations of fields:

Surname	Street/Town
Given Name	Wojewodztwo (province)
Surname with Given Name	Powiat (district)
Occupation	

A *województwo* (voivodie) was a geographic designation of Poland, used between World War I and World War II, roughly equivalent to a state in the United States or province in Canada. *Powiats* were districts, similar to U.S. counties. *Powiats* were divided into *uchastoks*, more or less equivalent to U.S. townships.

There were 16 *województwo*: Białystok, Kielce, Krakow, Lublin, Lwow, Lodz, Nowogrodek, Polesie, Pomorze, Poznan, Stanislawow, Slask, Tarnopol, Warszawa, Wilno, and Wolyn

Table of Occupations

Using the official translations provided in the directory, JRI-Poland has created a Polish/French/English "Table of Occupations" with more than 2,400 different occupations. The table may be downloaded for personal research or used for the data entry referred to below.

Data Entry Procedures

The JRI-Poland Business Directory project depends upon volunteers, and participation from a large number of researchers will be necessary to complete the work. The process is as follows:

- JRI-Poland will e-mail each Business Directory Project volunteer graphic files of 10 or 20 pages, along with a template for data entry into a spreadsheet file.

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Upcoming Events

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

Wednesday, May 3, 2000 at 8:00 pm
"North African Sephardic Jewry"
Speaker: Sarah Taieb Carlen, Professor
of Sociology, York University

Please mark the following dates on your calendar:
Wednesday, May 31, 2000 at 8:00 pm
Wednesday, June 28, 2000 at 8:00 pm

We Welcome These New Members to Our Society

Mitch Cowitz
Howard Driman
Dorothy Forbes-Johnston
Penny Gross
Batyá Hebdon
Joanna Perełmutter
Frances Song
David Teschner
David Trost



KSIĘGA ADRESOWA POLSKI

(WRAZ Z W. M. GDAŃSKIEM)
DLA
HANDLU, PRZEMYSŁU,
RZEMIOSŁ I ROLNICTWA

1929

ANNUAIRE DE LA POLOGNE

(Y COMPRIS LA
V. L. DE DANTZIG)

WYDAWNICTWO:
TOWARZYSTWO REKLAMY MIĘDZYNARODOWEJ
SP. Z O.O.
JENER. REPREZ. RUDOLF MOSSÉ
WARSZAWA
DRUKIEM ZAKŁADÓW GRAFICZNYCH „BIELIŹNKA POLSKA” W BYDGOSZCZY

1929 Polish Business Directory cover

Volume XVI, No. 1

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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 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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(JRI-Poland 1929 Business Directory continued)

- Volunteers enter **all** the information on each page. The data is to be double-checked prior to submitting the file to the Business Directory Project. The policy is to include every individual listed in each town. Incomplete lists will not be accepted.
- Completed files are to be submitted to the Business Directory Project database manager. After verification by quality control, files will be uploaded to the Business Directory database.

Data Entry Template

A template in Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format was developed to simplify data entry. While it includes all occupations listed in the directory (see "Table of Occupations"), most towns and villages will only have a small number of occupations represented. There will also be headings for Business Directory data unique to each town. A Microsoft Access version of the template is also under development.

The Initial Contributions

The JRI-Poland Business Directory Project was announced at the Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy in July 1998. However, due to unanticipated administrative difficulties and associated costs with the original plan, the decision was made - following the Jewish Genealogy Conference in August 1999 - to create a more efficient distribution system by converting the microfilms of the directory to CD-ROM, from which the graphic files can be created and sent to volunteers. This will eliminate the need for costly and cumbersome photocopying and snail-mail distribution of pages to volunteers around the world.

To volunteer for data entry, contact Deborah Baseman, the JRI-Poland Business Directory Project Data Coordinator at:

dbaseman@ix.netcom.com

While efforts will be made to provide volunteers with pages that include at least one town of their interest, groups of ten pages will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Please help and participate in this effort. ✧

The foregoing article previously appeared in The Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal, Volume 4, Number 1, Winter 2000. Reprinted with permission of the author.

Stanley M. Diamond is Project Co-ordinator of Jewish Records Indexing - Poland, and President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal.

Exciting Announcement For All Litvaks

On January 3, 2000 a momentous and history-making endeavor began in the Historical Archive in Vilnius, Lithuania. A project to microfilm all of the Jewish vital records stored in the archive got underway. As a result of an agreement between the Lithuanian Archive Administration and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, the archive is doing the actual filming with the use of microfilm equipment furnished by the Mormons.

When completed, the microfilm will contain over 500,000 Jewish vital records. It is estimated that it will take approximately 18 months for the completion of the project. After that, it usually takes 18 to 24 months before the Mormons have the rolls of film available to the public.

If at all possible, some of the film containing the vital records will be available to the attendees at the 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 9-14, 2000. If and when that becomes possible, it will be announced on the IAJGS conference website <<http://iajgs.org/slcy2k>>. In the meantime, learn how to recognize your ancestral surname written in Russian cyrillic as that is the language the vital records are written in. The vital records are also repeated in Yiddish, so if you cannot read the Russian cyrillic but you can read Yiddish, you are in luck. Stay tuned for further announcements.

Avotaynu Launches Internet Newsletter for Jewish Genealogy

AVOTAYNU has launched an Internet newsletter for Jewish genealogy entitled "Nu? What's New?." It will be published bi-weekly providing subscribers with recent-breaking news of interest to Jewish genealogists. The first edition will be published Sunday, February 9. The publication will supplement the AVOTAYNU quarterly, giving advance information of what will become feature articles in AVOTAYNU, as well as smaller items that might not make the quarterly. Co-owners Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff are in almost daily communication with officials at many of the institutions holding Jewish genealogical data throughout the world. This Internet magazine will provide a pipeline for sharing what AVOTAYNU has uncovered.

Subscriptions to the Internet newsletter are free. To subscribe, go on the Internet to <http://www.incor.com/avotaynu.htm>

Alternately, you can send a plain text e-mail message to <list@incor.com>. The subject line should be left blank. The body of the message should say: join avotaynu.

20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy Salt Lake City, Utah July 9 - 14, 2000



here can you be among hundreds of Jewish genealogists and have access to:

- * More than 80 lectures on Jewish genealogy
- * Luncheons with fellow genealogists
- * Breakfast with experts
- * Birds-of-a-Feather meetings
- * Special Interest Group meetings
- * Camaraderie

Where can you have access to:

- * 2,000,000 microfilm reels
- * 700,000 microfiche
- * 270,000 books
- * Census records
- * Vital records
- * Passenger lists
- * and much, much more

Answer: It is the 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, hosted by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies to be held July 9-14, 2000 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Conference Program

The complete program for the 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy has not been established yet, but portions of the planned lectures and other educational events are known. The conference planning committee has already received commitments from a number of key persons at the LDS (Mormon) Family History Department to lecture on their area of specialty.

David E. Rencher, Director of Library Services, will give the keynote speech at the opening session of the conference on Sunday night. As the new head of the Family History Library and overseer of all the Family History Centers throughout the world, he will give us insight into what innovations we can expect from the library system in the new millennium. Mr. Rencher is also president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the umbrella group of genealogical societies in the U.S. FGS currently has some 550 member societies (18 are Jewish genealogical societies) with a combined membership exceeding 500,000 genealogists.

Wayne Metcalf, Director of Acquisition and Field Service Division, will give a lecture surveying the current state of Jewish record acquisition and also describe the process of deciding how, where, and what to microfilm.

Other staff members of the Family History Library

will give lectures on the 1897 All-Empire Russian Census, how to read/understand microfilmed Russian vital records documents, Polish, German and Hungarian vital records.

Basic Structure of the Conference Lecture Program

Although individual speakers are still in the selection process, the basic structure of the conference has been determined. Sunday daytime will be devoted to registration and meetings of Special Interest Groups. There will be a four-hour Beginners Workshop Sunday afternoon. A wine-and-cheese party at 5:00 pm will be the prelude to the Opening Session that starts at 7:30.

The Monday through Thursday template provides for three concurrent one-hour lectures during the day. Midday, there will be a break for luncheons (cost \$19.00) sponsored by interest groups. The luncheons will allow a midday break from the rigorous schedule. They will feature a speaker on some light topic of interest to genealogists. The evening will focus on lectures by noted members of the genealogical community. For example, we will all want to hear from Wayne Metcalf of the Family History Department about the Library's plans for acquisitions in the near future. It is likely such a session will be a single lecture in one of the time slots.

Typical Daily Schedule (Monday-Thursday)

7:15-8:15 AM	Breakfast with the Experts
8:30-9:30 AM	Three concurrent lectures
9:45-10:45 AM	Three concurrent lectures
11:00-12:00 AM	Three concurrent lectures
12:15-1:45 PM	Two concurrent luncheons
2:00-3:00 PM	Three concurrent lectures
3:15-4:15 PM	Three concurrent lectures
4:30-5:30 PM	Three concurrent lectures
7:30-8:30 PM	One or two concurrent lecture sessions
9:00-10:00 PM	One or two concurrent lecture sessions

About the Family History Library

Salt Lake City is home of the Family History Library (FHL), a five-story building devoted to genealogical research. There are more than 2 million reels of microfilm, 700,000 microfiche and 270,000 books. You might say, "Why go to Salt Lake City when I

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My Trip to Ukraine and Russia

by Sarah Faerman

My mother used to tell many nostalgic tales about "her" shtetl Pavolich (100 km. sw of Kiev). She proudly remembered performing in a children's mandolin orchestra before the czar. My father was disdainful of her positive memories of Russia. He had early become disillusioned with the broken promises of the revolution. Initially he had been drawn into the political arena with the enticements of "freedom and equality for all." At a young age he was a union representative of the Odessa Workers' Council, a founder of the Poale Zion Socialist party and eventually a member of the first Jewish collective farm.

In his diary he described the following momentous event:

"On November 2, 1917 news came to Odessa of the Balfour declaration (Britain's endorsement in principle of a Jewish state in Palestine). A quarter of a million Jews assembled joyously in a great procession to celebrate and express their hopes that a return to Zion would be possible in their lifetime when the war with Germany (World War 1) would end. All school children took part, dignitaries (Gruezenberg, Ussiskin) rode at the head in an automobile, and with the blowing of the shofar the procession began."

The jubilation was short-lived. As always in times of crisis, Jews became scapegoats and targets of the various frustrated populations faced with the upheavals of the time - namely, civil war, World War 1, confiscation by Germany and Austria of the wheat and produce in the Ukraine, re-occupation by Russia, and so on. In the course of two years, various bands terrorized the land and a quarter million Jews were murdered. In 1920, convinced that Bolshevism was an admirable ideology but doomed to failure because it relied on brute force and dictatorship, my father, at the age of twenty-one, left illegally and made his way to Canada.

For me, Russia has always been a subject of great fascination. My impressions were formed by both my mother and my father: my mother's legacy of music, dancing the "kozatchka," a mishmash of Russian and Ukrainian words; and my father's idealism, cynicism and political analysis. Events in later years added to the mystique, with the Soviet-sanctioned terror, the bravery of dissidents and finally Perestroika.

When I became involved in Jewish genealogy, the abstract notion of "Russia" suddenly began to take on more concrete parameters. Using the Jewish genealogy websites and links on the computer, I soon discovered that my parents' hometowns were no

longer in Russia. My mother's Pavolich was now in Ukraine; my father's Grigoriopol, Tyrospol and Dubassar were now in Moldova.

For years I was searching for a Jewish-oriented tour that could combine visiting ancestral hometowns with exploring the famous sites of the former U.S.S.R. Several tours seemed promising and even included visits to the local archives. However, in each case the cost in U.S. dollars was too high for the limited amount of time spent there. Eventually, in May 1999 I went with Elderhostel for two weeks in Ukraine and one week in Russia. They had assured me in advance that we would visit sites of interest to Jewish participants (i.e., Babi Yar - the Holocaust memorial to Kiev's 138,000 murdered Jews). They had local guides who took some of us on brief, individual trips. I had also emailed the Jewish Preservation Committee in Kiev who were available to provide guides, translators and short trips. Our guides were uniformly excellent and spoke perfect English.



In the year 1900 the great classical author Sholom Aleichem lived in this house in Lvov.

Our Ukrainian guide told us how she had become aware of the disaster at Chernobyl. Working for Intourist, she was guiding a group of Japanese. The leader of the group received a phone call from Japan and immediately had his group pack up and return to Japan. Next, the guides noticed that high government officials were sending their wives and children out of the country. By this time some news had filtered through but they were told "It is not serious." The guides formed their own conclusions. This frankness was typical of the open discussion which we repeatedly encountered.

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(Trip to Ukraine and Russia continued)

The benefit of travelling with Elderhostel was the communication we had with local people and the lectures that mostly took place in universities in each city.

My preconceptions of Ukraine (they do not like to be called "The Ukraine") and Russia were completely inaccurate. Anticipating drab, shabby, agricultural-type surroundings, I found cities that were colourful and impressive. Odessa prides itself on being international. Constructed and designed largely by a Frenchman named Richelieu, palaces rivalling Versailles housed royalty during the Russian empire and are now museums and art galleries. The sidewalks are wide, the storefronts colourful, and everywhere there are beautiful trees. The chestnut is the national tree of Ukraine, whereas Russia's is the birch. The love of nature is evident in the splendid parks. Sixty percent of Kiev is comprised of parks; Moscow - twenty percent. (Should you find yourself in Earl Bales park, notice how many Russians you will find there).

Another passion of the two countries is the reverence for culture. There are numerous statues of Pushkin, Shevchenko, Gogol and, yes, even Sholom Aleichem tipping his hat at the entrance of Kiev. Strikingly absent were statues of Stalin, although here and there one could find a "Lenin."

In Odessa we made an excursion to the synagogue, newly refurbished in Moorish style. The Bima was in the centre, the women's balcony had many arches, and there were beautiful chandeliers.



Interior of the Odessa synagogue

We arrived on Shavuot, locally called "Torah Day," and had just missed the davening crowd who were to return that night to study. Two men in their

forties who were still there explained this to us. I was wearing a button with the Yiddish words "Red tsu mir in Yiddish" (speak to me in Yiddish). One of the men understood when I spoke Yiddish to him, but he could not speak it. He pointed to my button and said, "These are Yiddish letters, not Hebrew." Either he did not know that both have the same letters or else he meant that he could discern that it was Yiddish, not Hebrew.

We visited synagogues in other cities as well. In Kiev the main synagogue is used as a puppet theatre five days a week, while on Fridays and Saturdays it is open for synagogue services. In St. Petersburg the great Choral Synagogue is being restored to its former magnificence and is open daily for two Jewish schools, two kindergartens, Hebrew classes, meals for the poor, programs for the elderly, twice-weekly consultations with a psychologist(!) and match-making services, among other things.

In Lviv three of us hired our local guide to take us to Jewish sites not on the group itinerary. In fact, if we had not been knowledgeable about Lviv having been a great Jewish centre, none of this would have been mentioned in our tour. Under Polish occupation, Lviv was known as Lvov; and under the Germans, Lemberg. We visited Rapaport Street (of interest to me as my maternal grandparents were Rapaports) and what had once been a Jewish hospital, now a general hospital. A memorial to the Jews murdered in the Lvov ghetto was not far from the actual ghetto - now an outdoor marketplace. We also visited the Sholom Aleichem community centre, the focus here being secular. The centre is housed in an old chassidic synagogue. Of the 6,000 Jews in Lviv, 1,200 were members at the centre where various activities took place, including children's Sunday school and a weekly "veteran's" meeting. There had been a theatre group but the entire company moved to Germany. The three men who spoke to us seemed suspicious of our motives and were initially quite cool. They did not want to speak Yiddish and preferred Ukrainian via our Russian guide. When I asked, "How is it for Jews here?" they answered, "Not good." When we left, our guide said, "They (Ukrainians) don't like Jews here. They don't like Russians. They don't like anyone."

Again, as in the stories of my parents, I am left with both positive and negative impressions.

Sarah Faerman, a member of our society, is a retired social worker. She edited and published "If Not Now..." a newsletter for individuals and agencies working with Holocaust survivors and their families.

A Story of Amazing Mazel

*and how requests to archives might be followed by replies
that are totally unexpected and bring incredible results...*

by Merle Kastner

November 17, 1998: At 6:30 this morning the phone rang, the familiar three long-distance rings. Surprised, I jumped to answer. It was a man by the name of Reinhardt Quirsfeld who spoke French with a Romanian accent, calling from Cimpulung Moldovenesc, Bukovina. Having an early business meeting to attend, I really couldn't afford the time to converse with him, so I promised to return his call that evening. With seven hours time difference, this is rather difficult to do. He called back twice, leaving messages to make sure that I had the right telephone and mobile phone numbers. I must admit to having felt a little uncomfortable about this call.

I arrived home from work and still had my coat on when the phone rang. I ran to answer. It was Reinhardt again. He had found my name on letters which I had written in Romanian some months ago in the archives of the city halls of Vatra Dornei, Cimpulung Moldovenesc, Fratauti, Radauti and Roman. He was convinced that I had made an error and that the name Ostfeld that I was searching for was really Quirsfeld! Oddly, I had not received replies from any of these city halls (except Cimpulung Moldovenesc, which informed me that no records were available), but here was a stranger in a foreign country who knew not only how to reach me but also a good portion of my family history - unnerving, to say the least.

Researching his family, he had already found 44 Quirsfelds in the Catholic Siret cemetery, although he noted that "there are no archives left in existence in Siret." In Vatra Dornei, he found six Quirsfelds with Hebrew names! This perplexed both of us. Had there been intermarriage? Or was the family originally Jewish? He related that among others he had found in the Jewish cemetery of Vatra Dornei were Samuel Quirsfeld (married to Maria Zimmerman) and Maria Quirsfeld (married to Karolina [sic] Venzel).

He had found both Protestant and Catholic tombstones for his family, and thought that his family could perhaps have had Jewish origins. However, he was completely unaware of the phenomenon of the Napoleonic decree ordering the adoption of surnames by the Jews, and of the many and haphazard methods by which they chose these names.

Quirsfeld's family had lived in Bukovina since 1800 and was originally German and Austro-Hungarian, with some members even from Hungary.

The call lasted over half an hour, as though money were no object. I asked if I could return the favour and help him with his research. His only request was to ask me to see if there were any Quirsfelds in North America, particularly in Canada.

December 17, 1998: Having had no answer to my subsequent snail-mail letters since receiving a neat, hand-written list of his Ostfeld findings, I became uneasy. I phoned his home and talked to Mrs. Quirsfeld; her husband would not be returning until Christmas, but he would phone me. Reinhardt's wife was familiar with my correspondence with her husband and spoke and wrote English very well. This must have accounted for the almost-perfect letters he sent in English. Upon his return, Reinhardt phoned me.

January 21, 1999: At 8 am Reinhardt phoned again. He wanted to know if I had received the second instalment of the comprehensive information he had sent me. "Yes," I informed him. Was it helpful? Indeed it was!

He asked if I would want him to obtain any more information the next time he went to research the cemeteries in other towns in Bukovina. I couldn't believe my ears! Yes, I would most certainly like to have more information, particularly from the middle and latter parts of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century; I would like to find any existing records of my great-grandmother, Shaindel (nee Ostfeld) Kastner, who passed away in Radauti around the year 1920. He said he would try to find these for me.

Since I was unable to locate anyone bearing his family name in Canada, I tried the United States, where I managed to find a small number. However, he already knew all of the Quirsfelds, whose information I sent him, as they formed a branch of his family with whom he had been in touch: Edward J. Quirsfeld and his aunt, Mrs. Lindsay (nee Quirsfeld), among them.

From our conversations I learned that Reinhardt, about 45, was a mathematics professor who taught at a college with campuses in Iasi and Arad (near Timisoara). He commuted between the two campuses, staying at each for two-week periods. He took pains to tell me that his sister is a doctor, and to list the professional credentials of his family. Very pleasant on the phone, he had a terrific sense of humour

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(A Story of Amazing Mazel continued)

and infectious enthusiasm. An avid genealogist, he seemed to be enjoying this long-distance genealogical relationship, and sent me a photo of himself and asked me for one of myself.

In early March, three more letters arrived, accompanied by photographs of tombstones, lists of more records, a few taken from official vital records, and other information about the cemeteries in Siret, Cimpulung, Radauti and Fratauti, bringing the records he had found for me to a total of 75, almost entirely comprised of Ostfelds, but a few Kastners among them. This is a genealogist's dream!

In a recent letter, he writes: "I am sending some new data about your family. I have been in the cemetery at Cimpulung and I have taken the following photos of your family graves which have inscriptions also in Latin, not only in Idisch [sic]. There may be also others, but I don't understand Idisch and I can't take photos of them all, as there are very many." This from a man who doesn't speak English! He explained that he writes the letters with a dictionary beside him. And, of course, his wife helps him.

Then came a phone call in which Reinhardt talked excitedly about how he had succeeded in tracing his family even further - to 1700, in Gollnitz, Germany, and had found four new branches. I suggested to Reinhardt that he would benefit greatly from a computer; he answered by saying that he is "conservative." He said that he had looked at his friend's laptop and was impressed, but prefers communicating by letter and doing his work manually.

Finally, I was asked to reciprocate, however small the effort. He asked if I would look in the library for a book, *German Emigration from Bukovina to the Americas*, published by William Keel and Kurt Rein in 1996, saying, "You might find some information about my family Quirsfeld."

Unfortunately, there were no Quirsfelds mentioned in the book, although I was able to find some potentially helpful information which I photocopied and mailed to him. He also asked me to contact a specific researcher in Ottawa whose name he found on a list in a library book - Richard Carruthers-Zurowski. Not a difficult request to fulfil, I succeeded in talking with Mr. Carruthers-Zurowski, who regularly submitted messages to the Bukovina Genealogy Mail Group. He had already received the email I sent and had made initial contact with my friend "Hardy," as Reinhardt liked to be called.

After cataloguing the records that Hardy had sent me, I realized that these, as well as his photographs of certain cemeteries, would amount to a little bonanza for certain Bukovina researchers. So, after consultation with my cousin, co-researcher and good

friend, Bruce Reisch, the innovator of the JewishGen Radauti Shtetlink Website, I arranged to have Hardy's consent to publish them on the site:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/shtetlinks/radauti/radautz.html>

I am now at the point where two of the unconnected branches of Ostfelds, of which I have seven, are linked, thanks to his work. Others are filled out much more than they had been before. There is every indication that most of these fragmented branches will eventually work themselves into some connection. I have still not ascertained the names of the siblings of my great-grandmother, Shaindel Ostfeld Kastner, nor those of her parents, but that is coming - with time, hard work, networking and...patience, lots of patience. And I have found a new, equally committed and enthusiastic genealogical friend. ☆

Merle Kastner is Membership Chairman of the JGS of Montreal. 4858 Cote-des-Neiges, #904, Montreal, Qc H3V 1G8 Merlek@vif.com

STRANGERS IN THE BOX

(Author Unknown)

*Come, look with me inside this drawer,
In this box I've often seen,
At the pictures, black and white,
Faces proud, still, and serene.*

*I wish I knew the people,
These strangers in the box,
Their names and all their memories,
Are lost among my socks.*

*I wonder what their lives were like,
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways.*

*If only someone had taken time,
To tell, who, what, where, and when,
These faces of my heritage,
Would come to life again.
Could this become the fate,
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories,
Someday to be passed away?*

*Take time to save your stories,
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours,
Could be strangers in the box.*

can just stay home and go to my local Family History Center?" Answer: Everything is right there at your fingertips. You can accomplish more in four days at the FHL in Salt Lake City than you can in four years at your local FHC. Additionally, you can access collections in SLC that cannot be obtained in your city of residence. This is especially true of countries outside of North America. Special arrangements are being made in order for us to have maximum access to the Jewish records. Library hours are 7:30 am-10:00 pm, Tuesday-Saturday, and 7:30 am-6:00 pm on Monday. It is closed Sunday.

The Family History Library is an "open stacks" library where the vast majority of films of interest to you are located in file drawers on each floor. You just remove the film from the drawer, take it to your microfilm reader, locate the items of interest, take the microfilm to a film copier, make a copy of the record(s), and then return the film to the drawer where you found it.

Hundreds of microfilm readers on three of the floors provide a comfortable working environment including:

- * subdued lighting for better viewing
- * a lit work space next to each reader for your papers
- * an outlet to plug in your laptop computer

Each floor has a Help Desk manned by professionals and trained volunteers to help you with your problems. On the European floor, the personnel can help you translate documents in German, Polish, Russian and other European languages.

Copying equipment is located on each floor to copy microfilm, microfiche and paper documents. Film/fiche copies are 20 cents each; paper copies are five cents each. Change machines in the copying rooms make it unnecessary to bring rolls of coins with you.

Registration

You can now register online at <http://iajgs.org/sley2k>, download the forms or obtain copies from your society. Early registration (by April 30, 2000) via the Internet will be \$135.00 (plus 65.00 for spouse or companion). To encourage early registration, participants will be mailed a copy of the 40-page pamphlet, "Making the Most of Your Research Trip to Salt Lake City." This will be a valuable tool for planning your trip to the conference and the Family History Library.

Hotel Accomodations

The DoubleTree Hotel, site of the 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, is located in the heart of downtown Salt Lake City just two blocks from the Family History Library. Special conference rates are: \$125 per night double occupancy; \$140 per night triple occupancy. When making reservations, be sure to state you are attending the "Jewish Genealogical Conference" to get the special rate.

You may contact the hotel by any of the methods described below. Do not make a reservation through the DoubleTree's Internet site - they do not have the conference information.

DoubleTree Hotel Salt Lake City
255 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Phone: (801) 328-2000
Fax: (801) 359-2938
Toll free: 1-800-222-TREE



Advertising Rates

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by May 2000 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.

The New, Expanded, Wonderful RootsWeb

by Marian Press

In terms of the lifetime of the Internet, and especially of genealogy on the Internet, **RootsWeb** <<http://www.rootsweb.com>> can be said to have been around "forever." Begun in the spirit of the early Internet that believed that information should be free, the husband-and-wife team of Karen Isaacson and Brian Leverich quickly saw their creation grow beyond their abilities to cover all the costs. Instead of beginning to charge for the data that was housed at RootsWeb, they initially hoped that a large percentage of the thousands of genealogists who visited their site and heavily used the resources there would give small voluntary donations to enable them to keep the site freely available for all. Unfortunately, although genealogists on the Internet happily paid subscription fees to such sites as **Ancestry** <<http://www.ancestry.com>> not enough of them were willing to donate to RootsWeb.

Their recent solution has been to accept sponsorship from advertisers and to open up the site to other hobbyists, such as gardeners and knitters, and it is this infusion of funds that has allowed the recent expansion to the site. RootsWeb is now acknowledged to be one of the best sites available to genealogists. Today, "in a typical month, RootsWeb serves more than 50 million page views to 1.5 million users," making RootsWeb one of the most visited sites on the entire World Wide Web.

So, what is there at RootsWeb for the genealogist? First, the **RootsWeb Surname List**, a registry of surnames founded in 1988 that now contains over 782,000 surname entries. Associated with each surname are dates, locations, and information about how to contact the individual who submitted it. You can also choose to see a list of all the surnames submitted by this individual, which can give you additional clues as to whether you have the right branch of a family. The list is searchable by exact spelling or by Soundex or Metaphone. If you don't know the Soundex code for a name you are searching, use one of the helpful tools hosted at RootsWeb, the **Soundex Converter**. As with all the surname sites, there is not only the ability to search the list, but also the invitation to add your own surname(s).

A recent, spectacularly successful addition to the site has been the **WorldConnect Project**. This is a set of tools that allows users to upload, modify, link, and display their family trees as a means to share their work with others. This software is free and easy to use and available to anyone who has been entering family information into a genealogical computer program that supports GEDCOM. There is a choice to (1) just search the **WorldConnect** files, or (2) add your own as well. It is wise to remember that you will make more contacts by disseminating your own information as well as searching that prepared by others. You can change or remove your GEDCOM files at any time and RootsWeb guarantees not to issue it on a CD-ROM or charge others to use it. When you view the files at **WorldConnect**, you see

each person in the context of their birth, marriage, and children. You can follow links to ancestry and descendency, download the complete GEDCOM file to your own computer, add a "post-em" note with additions or corrections, and email the person who submitted the information.

Along with the opportunity to share your family history files comes the offer of free, unlimited web space, so that you can build one website or multiple websites to expand the information available on the lives of your ancestors beyond merely names. You may link from these pages to your GEDCOM files. And your site will be free of the advertising windows that are now a feature of the most well-known of the free website hosts.

RootsWeb also hosts and sponsors a wide array of databases and volunteer genealogy projects such as the **Social Security Death Index**, the **Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild**, **Surname Helper**, **Free BMD** (Births, Marriages, Deaths), and **Historical and Genealogical Society** home pages.

Many of the sites that I have featured in this column in the past are housed at RootsWeb, including **Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites on the Internet**, the **Olive Tree Genealogy Home Page**, and **GenConnect at RootsWeb**. To search all of these web pages at RootsWeb there is a search engine, **Genseeker**, an essential tool to avoid missing any of the information to be found on the ever-expanding site.

Another new feature is the **RootsWeb Guide to Tracing Family Trees**, a series of well-designed lessons for the genealogist. Much of this information is aimed at those with American ancestors, but as the lessons are developing, more are being focussed on general topics such as "Finding Italian or Hispanic Ancestors."

To keep up-to-date with what is happening at RootsWeb, subscribe to the two free e-mail E-Zines, along with the 370,000 others who receive them weekly. **RootsWeb Review** keeps you up-to-date on the site, provides tutorials on using its resources, and includes fascinating stories from people who have made genealogical connections through RootsWeb. **Missing Links** provides genealogical tips, new and interesting websites, and genealogical anecdotes and stories.

Every genealogist on the Internet should make RootsWeb a regular stop, and all who use it and find it valuable will, I hope, think seriously of making a small donation to keep it up and running and its information freely available to all.

From the January/February 2000 issue of Toronto Tree, the newsletter of the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Marian Press is a member of the society. Reprinted with permission of the OGS.

NEWS ABOUT JEWISH GENEALOGY FROM AVOTAYNU

Online Registration for the Annual Conference

You can now register online for the 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Salt Lake City from July 9-14. The program will feature more than 80 lectures; Breakfasts with the Experts; luncheons sponsored by Special Interest Groups; Birds-of-a-Feather meetings; and time to research at the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library, the largest genealogy library in the world. The library holds some 2,000,000 microfilm reels, 700,000 microfiche and 270,000 books. The Home Page of the conference is <http://iajgs.org/slcy2k>.

Jewish Genealogy Month

Avotaynu once again is sponsoring Jewish Genealogy Month which this year will be April 6-May 5, 2000. Caroline Guillot of the French Jewish Genealogical Society, GenAmi, has done a beautiful poster that is located at <http://www.avotaynu.com/poster.htm>. The theme this year is "The Family Tree of the Jewish People." The poster shows a family tree depicting all Jews as being descended from Abraham and Sarah. The tree trunk divides into the four main branches of the Jewish people: Ashkenazim, Sephardim, Oriental and Ethiopian. Each major branch then continues with the sub-branches of the Jewish people. Caroline is a very talented commercial artist. Some of her work can be seen at her Web site: <http://www.chez.com/genami/divers/cguillot.htm>.

Beth Hatefutsoth Develops Virtual Museum on Internet

Beth Hatefutsoth, the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, has created a virtual exhibition on the Internet about Jewish life in Romania. The URL <http://www.bh.org.il/V-Exh/Romania> pays tribute to Jewish life in Romania during the last century, emphasizing different aspects of history, family and community life, religion, traditions and cultural achievements.

Hamburg Emigration List Database

About a year ago, the Hamburg City Archives announced plans to index the Hamburg Emigration Lists. Original plans called for the initial version of the database to be on the Web by October 1999 (see story in AVOTAYNU Summer 1999 issue). The initial phase has now been rescheduled for April 2000. When done, researchers will have access to the data on five million emigrants who exited Europe via the port of Hamburg during the period 1850-1934. The goal is to add one year's worth of information every month. The entire project will take four years to complete. Information about the project can be found at: <http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm>.

(The foregoing from Vol. 1, No. 1, February 6, 2000)

Ancestors Series to Air New Programs Starting in June

Ancestors, the PBS series of TV shows about genealogy, is developing an additional thirteen 30-minute shows that will start airing in June. The initial series, which received much public attention, was devoted to demonstrating it was possible to trace your family history. This new series is devoted to instructing people already into genealogy in the techniques of genealogy. Their Web site <http://www.ancestors.com> has a number of useful features including:

- * Resource guides for each state of the United States
- * Downloadable forms such as pedigree and family group sheets

Need the E-mail Address of a Jewish Genealogist?

Do you need the e-mail address of a Jewish genealogist? Try a trick I have been using for years. Attempt to find the person in the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) database at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff>. This is a database of surnames and towns being researched by more than 35,000 Jewish genealogists throughout the world. Virtually all active Jewish genealogists have posted to JGFF. Just key in the surname of the person as the search word; everyone (or almost everyone) is researching their own surname. Yes, if the person's name is Cohen, or another common Jewish name, you are in trouble because you will get hundreds of hits.

And In Conclusion: A Dialogue Between Nazis

We all read about history; it is rare that we get a chance to vicariously participate in it. Shortly after Kristallnacht, the Nazi elite met with a representative of the German insurance industry to decide what to do about all the insurance claims made by German Jews for compensation done by the rioters during Kristallnacht. Attending the meeting were Goering, Goebbels, Heydrich and others. A transcript of the meeting survived World War II. Avotaynu was made aware of it while working on its project to help heirs receive compensation for assets seized during the Holocaust (see <http://www.livingheirs.com>). It is a chilling conversation between members of the Nazi elite that showed how they planned to exclude Jews from their assets and even their rights as citizens of Germany. Avotaynu has reproduced the transcript at: <http://www.avotaynu.com/HolocaustList/nazi.htm>

(The foregoing from Vol. 1, No. 2, February 20, 2000)

Selected entries from "Nu? What's New?," an e-mail news service published by Avotaynu for people tracing their Jewish family history. To subscribe to this free bi-weekly Internet newsletter, go to: <http://www.incor.com/avotaynu.htm>.

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**Books on Jewish Genealogy from Eastern Europe
in the JGS (Toronto) Collection**

The following list presents highlights from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) collection at the North York Central Library, 6th floor, Canadiana Room, located at 5120 Yonge Street, Toronto.

For a complete list of all materials in the collection, see the catalogue at the Deposit Collections kiosk in the Canadiana Room. It is sorted by author, title and subject.

David Price and Henry Wellisch

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland by Alexander Beider. 929.4089924 BEI, JGS

The meaning of Jewish surnames of Poland and the towns in which they were found.

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire by Alexander Beider. 929.4089924 BEI, JGS

The meaning of Jewish surnames of Russia and the towns in which they were found.

Elijah's Branches: The Descendants of the Vilna Gaon (of blessed and saintly memory) and his Family by Chaim Freedman. 296.8320922 FRE, JGS

Among the thousands of descendants listed are some members of our society.

Galician Towns and Administrative Districts [microfiche] 914.386 JEW

Jewish Roots in Poland by Miriam Weiner. 929.3438088296 WEI, JGS

Location of archives with Jewish records in Poland and much more.

Jewish Roots in Ukraine, Moldova by Miriam Weiner. 929.3438088296 WEI, JGS

Location of archives with Jewish records in Ukraine and Moldova.

The Jews in a Polish Private Town; The Case of Opatov in the 18th Century by Gershon D. Hundert. 943.84 HUN, JGS

An important historical study.

Russian-Language Documents from Russian Poland by Jonathan Shea. 929.10720438, SHE, JGS

How to read birth, marriage and death records that are in Russian.

Some Archival Sources for Ukrainian-Jewish Genealogy by Aleksander Kronik and Sallyann Sack. 026.477924 KRO, JGS

A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil Registration Documents by Judith Frazin. 929.10720438 FRA, JGS

How to read birth, marriage and death records that are in Polish.

The Unbroken Chain: Biographical Sketches and the Genealogy of Illustrious Jewish Families from the 15th

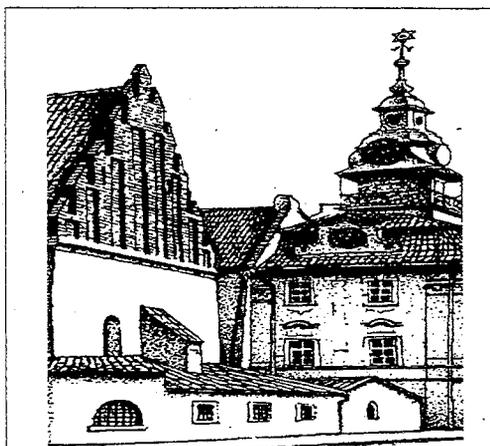
to the 20th Century by Neil Rosenstein. 929.2 ROS, JGS
Primarily rabbinical families from Eastern Europe.

Where Once We Walked by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack. 914.70003 MOK, JGS

How to locate towns and villages in Central and Eastern Europe.

Yizkor Books in Canadian Public Libraries by Henry Wellisch and Peter Cullman. 947.04924027071016 WEL, JGS

A list of Jewish memorial books by town. The Robarts Library, 10th floor, has one of the largest collections.



The Altneuschul synagogue, the oldest in Europe, is on the left, and the Jewish town hall with its famous Hebrew clock is on the right.

"One afternoon I took a stroll into the Jews' quarter, known in the expressive German as the Judenstadt. It is one of their oldest colonies in Europe, and the persecutions and massacres of earlier times and hereditary prejudices at the present have helped to keep them a distinct people. They are now no longer locked up in their own streets at eight o'clock in the evening, and they are even allowed their own schools and magistrates. As in every Jews' quarter, there are the same intelligent, hard faces, and there are the same streets of old clothes and small wares, and now and then, as you saunter carelessly along, you are perhaps half startled at seeing, leaning archly over some little counter, the beautiful form of some bright-eyed and dark-haired Naomi or Rebecca. The Jews of Prague boast of the most ancient synagogue in Europe, it having stood, as they allege, a thousand years... "

Excerpt from Loiterings in Europe, Sketches of Travel by John W. Corson, M.D., published by Harper, New York, 1848. Title available at Robarts Library.