THE HORWITZ AND STRACHMAN FAMILIES IN TORONTO
Part One: A Genealogy and History
By Glen Eker

This article is Part One of an examination of my maternal family line: the Horwitz and Strachman families. It will provide the reader with an overview of the families, what genealogical and historical information is known, and what further research needs to be conducted. The next article on the Horwitz and Strachman families will be Part Two and will show how the Toronto Star Pages of the Past database was used to find important information on the family. It will show the importance of this database for genealogical research.

The history of the Strachman family, as I know it, begins with the birth of my great grandmother Chaya (Eva) Markowitz in 1875. She was born in a town called Vaslui in the province of Moldavia in Romania. Her father Mordechai was born in Russia and later moved to Romania where he met his wife Esther. When Eva was around 18, her father arranged a marriage for her to a man much older than herself. He was apparently deformed in some way. I suspect that this deformity was that he was bent over from what is now called osteoporosis, a genetic condition that runs through her descendants.

Eva had to move out of town to his home. They had one child together, a daughter, Bracha, who was my grandmother Rebecca. She was born around 1895 either in Vaslui or her father’s home town. Eva divorced her first husband soon after the birth of her daughter because of his height, which was doubt the deformity caused by osteoporosis. She made her way back to Vaslui.

The stated information on Eva and her first husband was given to me a number of years ago by my Aunt Elizabeth, my grandmother’s eldest daughter. Soon afterwards, however, she provided a second version. In this version Eva also divorced her husband because of his height. However, instead of being bent over and deformed, he was tall, a giant she apparently was embarrassed to walk beside because she was so tiny. She complained that the gypsies laughed and ridiculed her. Thus there are two versions from the same person. I lean towards the first one on the basis of the genetic problem that has carried through to Eva’s descendants.

In both versions Eva apparently could not stand her first husband. She grabbed her baby and made her way back to Vaslui. She insisted on a divorce, but her father did the same trick again after she was divorced. He soon arranged a second marriage for her. She was an embarrassment to him, a divorced woman with a child. He arranged for her to marry a widower, Alter Vitzhok/Issac Strachman. I’ve found the stated, three different first names for Mr. Strachman. Issac Strachman had two sons, Gustav and Samuel. He pushed her out by force to again marry an older man. She then became a slave to his extended family. The marriage took place in Vaslui, probably between 1896 and 1898. She had two daughters, Devora (Dora) and Chaya (Clara) with Issac Strachman. They were born in 1899 and 1903 respectively in Vaslui. A book entitled Family Who’s Who published by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem provided some basic information on Issac Strachman. His grandson Dr. Irwin Strachman donated to the university and provided a small genealogy to the book. This genealogy states that Issac Strachman was born in 1861 in Punjest, Romania (also in Moldavin) and died in 1913 in Toronto. His first wife was Channah. Issac’s son Samuel was born in April 1890 in Punjest. In 1922 he married Ethel Levine who was born on April 18, 1898 in Zivotov, Russia. Samuel and Ethel’s son Irwin, his wife Mary Lawrence, and

In This Issue
1. The Horwitz and Strachman Families in Toronto
2. Upcoming Events
6. Johann Strauss, "The Waltz King’s"
   Jewish Connections
10. "No! What’s News?"
10. New Members
11. JewishGen

(continued on page 3)
UPCOMING EVENTS
Programs organized by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)
at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
470 Glencairn Avenue

Wednesday, January 29, 2003
Speaker: George Bolotenko, Ph.D., National Archives of Canada
Title: “Archival Documents as Tobacco Paper: Genealogical Research in the Ukraine”

Wednesday, February 26, 2003
Speaker: Professor Piotr Wrobel, University of Toronto
Title: “Between the East and the West: The Jews of Galicia, 1772-1918”

Wednesday, March 26, 2003
Speaker: Leslie Kelman
Title: “Visiting Ancestral Shetls in Ukraine & Russia: A Trip Through Time”

For further information visit our website at
www.jgstoronto.ca or watch the "What's New" column in the Canadian Jewish News.

Doors open at 7:30, program begins at 8 p.m.
All members will receive further details either by e-mail or by telephone.
their five children are listed in the book.

The story, according to my aunt, is that my grandmother never knew her real father. Her mother ran off with her and never let her see him and refused to tell her much about him. My aunt, however, also stated that she may have known more as her mother Rebecca and her grandmother Eva were always keeping secrets of which she was never told. She said that my mother Dorothy, was also in on these secrets of which she was kept out. My mother always said that she knows nothing of the father.

The Strachmans' came from Romania via England to Canada. Eva Strachman's naturalization papers, which I obtained from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, gave the ship and date of sailing. They had relatives in Manchester and went to live there for a number of years. Neither my aunt nor my mother know the names of these relatives or anything about them so finding them is a very difficult task. The Strachman's did not like Manchester so they left for Canada. Based on the information in Eva's naturalization records, the passenger manifest was found in the Canadiana Room of North York Central Library. The Strachman family embarked from Antwerp and then made their way to England where they stayed. The SS Royal George sailed from Bristol on September 15, 1910 and arrived in Quebec on September 21, 1910. My aunt said that the only city the European's heard of in Canada was Montreal which was the largest Jewish city. Everyone wanted to go there. But unless you had a definite sponsor the Canadian immigration officials shipped you where they wished at the time and where they could use more settlers. Usually they sent the Russians to Winnipeg because the cold Russian climate was similar to the Canadian west. Toronto was more like Romania. The Strachmans wanted to go to Montreal because all the Romanian Jews were there. Canadian immigration however sent them to Toronto which was a Polish Jewish town. They arrived there in late September 1910.

The passenger manifest presented some interesting information. Isaac Strachman is listed as Alter Strachman. The Family Who's Who lists him as Isaac, his Toronto estate file lists him as Alter, and my aunt referred to him as Yitzhok or Jack. A variety of first names for one individual. The passenger manifest gives my greatgrandmother Eva's birthyear as 1870 as opposed to 1875 in her naturalization papers. My grandmother Rebecca's as 1892 as opposed to 1895 in her naturalization papers and on her marriage certificate. Also listed was a daughter Annie born in 1894. The Toronto Star database was used to prove what I suspected, that Annie was a daughter of Isaac Strachman and his first wife Channah. This will be discussed in Part Two of this article.

In Toronto the family initially lived at 116 Centre Avenue. My grandmother Rebecca worked at T. Eaton Company and then E.G. Hachborn and Company. Dora and Clara were too young to work. The Strachman sons had apparently come to Toronto before Isaac and Eva and the girls. Isaac Strachman was a merchant. My aunt said that he died of the flu shortly after coming to Canada. I located his estate file in the Archives of Ontario. He died on March 11, 1913 in Toronto. There was however no listing for him in the Ontario Vital Statistics Death Index. Apparently his death was not recorded.

When Isaac died, great grandmother Eva had three daughters to look after: Rebecca, Dora, and Clara, as well as the Strachman children, Gustav, Samuel, and Annie who were related to Clara and Dora. The Strachman children walked out on the family and left greatgrandmother Eva to starve with the kids. The Strachman children apparently had no interest in fostering any responsibility towards their stepmother, stepsister, and half-sisters and completely abandoned them. They were considered unmentionables by Eva and her daughters and never talked about them again. There has never been any contact with them or their descendants.

My grandfather Joseph Horwitz was born Yosef Garwitz in Korna, Byelorusia in 1892. His father Syman was a baker and ran a family bakery. Syman was first married to a woman with the last name of Polovitz or Polowitz. He had a number of sons with her. These sons would later move to Montreal and keep the Garwitz name. My grandfather never had any contact with them. When Syman's first wife died he followed an old Jewish custom. If a man's wife died he usually married his younger sister. Syman married the younger sister Basya Polowitz/ Polowitz, my greatgrandmother, sometime in the 1870's. Basya had three children: Valya, born, 1879, Yosef, my grandfather, born 1892, and a younger sister, Anna, who was born sometime in the 1890's.

Valya came to Canada sometime between 1901 and 1905 and settled in Toronto. His name was changed upon arrival in Canada, either personally, or by Canadian immigration officials to Wolf Horwitz. I found a marriage certificate for him at the Archives of Ontario. It shows that on December 24, 1905 in Toronto he married Sanya/Sadie Polowitz. He apparently married a cousin of some sort. The old Jewish custom followed at that time was that the family would pool their resources and send one child over, usually the eldest. That child would bring over others, by sending passage money for the next one, and so on down the line. Wolf some time later brought over his mother Basya in 1912, his brother Yosef in 1910, and his sister Anna later. Basya's brother Morris and his family also came over. My grandfather and his sister's names were also changed. They used the last name Horwitz.

My aunt said that Basya died shortly after coming to Toronto. I found a death certificate for her at the Archives of Ontario dated February 6, 1913. It stated that she died at age sixty from senility at the Hospital For The Insane, 999 Queen Street West. I obtained her hospital records from the Archives of Ontario. They stated that she arrived in Quebec on the Ionian on August 9, 1912. She apparently was admitted to the hospital in early November and committed suicide by starving herself.
Wolf had a grocery store on Augusta Avenue in the Kensington Market district. The family lived behind the store and perhaps above it too. In the early 1900's it consisted of Wolf, his wife Sadie, his children Morris, Samuel, David, and Sarah. Basya, Joseph, and Anna and the family of Morris Polowitz consisting of his wife Gertie, his children Benjamin, Louis, and Betty, and a niece of Morris's Jennie. Benjamin and Louis would later become musicians and used to play at weddings and Bar Mitzvahs. Morris was a leather worker for a short time around 1916 and was also in the grocery business with Wolf. All Polovitz/Polowitz families in Toronto were related to the Horwitz family. Apparently some members later changed their name to Paul. Wolf later moved his store to College Street near Brunswick Avenue and his wife and children lived behind the store and above it. The grocery business did not do well and Wolf changed the store into College Delicatessen at 348 College Street. Again the family lived on the premises. My grandfather Joseph apparently had an argument with his brother some time after Basya died. They never spoke to each other again and all contact was lost with Wolf's family and the Polovitz/Polowitz families.

Anna Horwitz had an arranged marriage to Max Fagen of Montreal. Their marriage certificate which I obtained from Quebec Vital Records showed that they were married at Beth Joseph in Montreal on February 19, 1918. Max Fagen was also from Korna. Anna gave birth to their only child Benjamin in Montreal in 1920. Shortly after giving birth she had a tonsil operation and instead of resting, as she was supposed to do, she started to wash windows. She had a hemorrhage which killed her. Max Fagen remarried to Annie Ostrofsky in Montreal on January 29, 1922. They had a daughter but later divorced. For a number of years when he was young, Benjamin would come every summer to visit with his grandparents Joseph and Rebecca and their family because he had no one to properly take care of him. Apparently in Montreal he was being looked after by a very old paternal grandmother who could not cope with the ordeal of looking after a growing boy. He was a nice boy and my grandfather felt that it was his duty to look after his sister's child.

My grandfather was infatuated with my grandmother Rebecca's beauty. She was a blue-eyed, golden-haired woman with peaches and cream complexion and an extremely shapely figure. Everyone would wait for her to come home from work to catch a look at her. Being a shy, quiet woman she was almost frightened. But one day he introduced himself and they began dating. The courtship led to marriage. Their marriage certificate was located at the Archives of Ontario. They were married in Toronto on March 17, 1916 by Rabbi M. Kaplan at 166 John Street. The name entered for my grandmother Rebecca's unknown father reads only as Harry.

My grandfather Joseph Horwitz and my grandmother Rebecca Strachman (her name had been changed prior to marriage) did not have much money when they married and they lived in rented rooms. My grandfather was an extremely affable and friendly man. He could converse with anyone and make them feel comfortable. He was a tailor and apprenticed at the trade when he was a young boy in Russia and when he came to Canada. Eventually he was able to start his own business, High Class Tailors, at 11 Boustead Avenue in Toronto. Although uneducated and unable to read or write basic English, he was clever. He was brilliant to the point that he ran his business entirely from his computer-like mental abilities. Keeping no written records, he was a walking computer holding all records by memory.

He was a tailor of the old school. A skilled and highly accomplished tradesman whose complete product was excellence to the last stitch. He was his own designer, cutter, sewer, finisher, etc. He produced a garment that brought customers from across Canada, the United States, England, and Scotland. My grandfather's business was his pride and joy. He particularly delighted in his association with customers. He began his day at six-thirty in the morning and continued past
midnight. Despite warnings he never slowed down. Consequently his workload ruined his health and killed him in 1959.

In the early years of my grandparents' marriage, the family consisted of my Aunt Elizabeth, my uncle Irving, my great grandmother Eva, and my grandmother's sisters Dora and Clara. My mother Dorothy was born in 1925. Clara was the youngest Strachman sister and married at a young age around 1922. She married a furrier, David Kasdan, who ran Alter and Kasdan furs and later Kasdan Furs at 850 Yonge Street. They had two children, Edwin, who became a lawyer and who was murdered in 1986, and Irving, who became a pharmacist. When the family moved to 459 Palmerston Avenue in the early 1930's, my great-grandmother Eva and my grandmother's sister Dora were still living with them. Dora was considered a spinster when she married with the aid of a matchmaker. She married Edward Swartz and they ran Bloordale Cleaners on Bloor Street West. Dora's first child was a boy named Eric Marshall. He died of strep throat before the days of penicillin. Her second child was a daughter named Myrna.

My great-grandmother lived with my grandparents until the early 1950's. She then went to live with the Swartzes. She died in Baycrest Nursing Home in 1960. My grandmother was apparently very upset when her mother left to live with her sister and her husband. There was also apparently some other disagreement between her and her sisters. They apparently never spoke to each other again and all contact was lost with the Kasdans and Swartz branches of the family.

My Aunt Elizabeth was born in 1917 and in 1939 married Percy Gordon, a druggist. They had one daughter, Wanda, who was married, divorced, remarried, and then separated from Fred Wintrobe. They had two children Juliette and David. My Uncle Irving was born in 1920. He was a gold medallist in Pharmacy at the University of Toronto. He opened Bayview Pharmacy and the House of Chan restaurant which still exists under different ownership at 876 Eglinton Avenue West. He was a nice man but he never married and died in 1989.

My mother Dorothy married my father Paul Eker in 1949. My father was in law school at the time, he graduated in 1952. My parents initially lived with my grandparents at 459 Palmerston Avenue. They then moved to 513 St. Clements Avenue in Forest Hill Village. My father worked for many years as the Director of Security and Land Transfer Tax with the Province of Ontario. The department was closed in 1967 and we moved to Hamilton where my father was Assistant City Solicitor and then City Solicitor. He is retired today. ☺

From left to right: Irving Horwitz age 10, Dorothy Horwitz age 5, Bessie Horwitz age 12, Grandma Strachman, Irving Kasdan age 4. Taken in the backyard of 459 Palmerston Blvd., April 20, 1930.
Johann Strauss, “The Waltz King’s” Jewish Connections

By Henry Welsch

It is generally not well known that Johann Strauss was partly of Jewish ancestry. According to documentary evidence his ancestors Wolf Strauss and his wife Theressa were Hungarian Jews who lived in Buda, now known as Budapest.

The marriage register of the Catholic St. Stephens parish in Vienna shows that their son Johann Michael who married Rosalia Buschinin on February 11, 1762, resided in Vienna and converted to the Catholic faith prior to his marriage. Here is the relevant sentence from the marriage register translated from German:

The honorable Johann Michael Strauss, servant with His Excellency Fieldmarshal Count von Roggendorff, a baptised Jew, single, born in Buda [often in German], legitimate son of Wolf Strauss and Theressa, both Jewish and deceased.

There is another Jewish connection of the Strauss family. The great grandson of this couple, Johann Strauss “The Waltz King” was married three times. His first wife died, he then divorced his 2nd wife and married Adele Strauss nee Deutsch. Adele came from a Jewish family from Gyor in Hungary. In 1874 she married Anton Strauss (a Jew, no relation to the Waltz King) who died three years later. In 1887 she married the Waltz King, Johann. Since Johann was a Catholic and Adele was Jewish they were not allowed to marry in Vienna. They both converted to the Protestant religion and became citizens of the German state of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

In 1938, Austria was occupied by Germany. Enter the Nazis. Something had to be done to make one of the most popular composers of all time into a 100% Aryan. The partly Jewish ancestry of the Waltz King was known by only a few genealogists and in 1938 they were summoned by the police and told to keep quiet about this. However, this was considered not safe enough and eventually in 1941 the marriage book No. 60 (years 1761-1762) of St. Stephen’s Parish was seized by the race office (Reichssippenamt) which produced a photocopy that was stamped: Certified correct. Berlin, Feb. 2, 1941.

In the photocopy, the entry of the marriage of Johann Michael Strauss to Rosalia Buschinin simply disappeared from page 210 and on the index page. The Strauss reference to page 210 was erased.

The photocopy was then returned to St. Stephen’s Parish while the original was transferred to a locked archive in Vienna. The result was that the ancestry of Johann Strauss’ father’s family was apparently unknown. After liberation the original manuscript was returned to the archive of St. Stephen’s Parish.

This article is based on the book: Johann Strauss, Der Waltzerkoenig – Familiengeschichte, Urkunden by Hanns Jaeger – Suntenau, Vienna 1965.

(continued on page 7)
National Archives of Canada Improves 1901 Census Site

The following announcement is from Marc Houle of the National Archives of Canada:

Since the month of May, the National Archives of Canada has endeavoured to resolve the various issues, technical and otherwise, that researchers have faced using the Census of Canada, 1901 Web site at http://www.archives.ca/02/020122_e.html.

On August 1, 2002, the National Archives implemented a new version of the MrSID viewer technology. Most problems encountered with the first plug-in (including problems faced by Mac or Netscape users or those who had downloaded another version of the MrSID viewer plug-in) should be resolved by the automatic installation of the new version.

The National Archives invites you, over the next few months, to visit the improved Census of Canada, 1901 Web site often and be on the lookout for new features. If problems persist, please do not hesitate to send your inquiries to 1901@archives.ca.

The National Archives of Canada would like to thank you for your interest in its products and for your support of its digitization program.

From The Eastman newsletter

Benjamin’s Funeral Home Records

By Neil Richler

Benjamin’s has archived most burials that they have performed since around 1970. Go to http://www.benjamins.ca/search.asp and search for someone whose funeral was at Benjamin’s. This could prove to be a VERY useful tool!
The original page from the marriage register of St. Stephen’s Parish in Vienna. There are three marriages shown, the one in the centre is the marriage of Johann Michael Strauss to Rosalia Buschinin.
The same page, No. 211, as falsified by the Nazi Race office. Note that the marriage of Johann Michael Strauss to Rosalia Buschinin, in the middle of the page, has been removed and the marriage at the bottom has been moved up.
1915-1932 Canadian Naturalization Index

An article in the Fall 2002 issue of AvoTaynu announces the unearthing of an important Canadian source for genealogists. Several members of the Jewish Genealogical Societies of Montreal and Ottawa -- including Stanley Diamond, Donna Dinberg, Alan Greenberg and Lawrence Tapper -- have worked together over several years to make this new source accessible to all. Every year between 1915 and 1932, the Canadian Government published lists of people who acquired Canadian citizenship. The lists included other family members, country of origin, occupation, place of settlement in Canada, date of naturalization, and the file number of the naturalization records (which may be obtained using an Access to Information request). The two Societies digitized the lists and created accompanying finding aids, all of which will be made available on the website of the newly-established Canadian Genealogy Centre (a joint project of the National Library and the National Archives of Canada). Expected release date is February 2003.

For further details see AvoTaynu, which is available in the JGS of Toronto library in the Canadiana Room of the North York Central Library.

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Ukrainian Archives Now Has English-language Web Site

At the encouragement of Miriam Weiner, the State Archives of Ukraine has posted the English version of major portions of their website that includes contact information for archives throughout Ukraine, a very useful "Q&A" section and a special section for "Genealogy." The Home Page is at http://www.search.kiev.ua/. Subsections include:

- About Us
- News / Announcements
- Contacts
- List of Archives
- Genealogy
- Programs & Projects
- On-line Resources
- Archival Guides
- Ukrainica Abroad
- Q&A
- Useful Links

The Contacts list includes the e-mail addresses of members of the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine, Ukrainian Research Institute for Archival and Records Studies, and Society of Ukrainian Archivists.

The List of Archives is a complete list of all archives in Ukraine. Many of those located in the larger cities, such as Kiev, have e-mail addresses. Even some of the oblast archives now have e-mail.

An excellent Question & Answer section covers such questions as:
* What is your policy regarding access to archival material by foreigners?
* What is the relationship between the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine and the oblast archives?
* Is there a specific time period after which records are transferred from a ZAHS (ZAG) office to the state archive?
* Are there any restrictions or requirements for genealogists who want to research records in Ukrainian archives to discover their ancestral past?
* What procedures should be followed by someone who wants to obtain information from Ukrainian archives by correspondence?
* What is the fee structure for research conducted by archives?
* What is the present situation regarding methods of payment?

From: "NU? WHAT'S NEW?" News about Jewish genealogy from AvoTaynu

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We Welcome These New Members to Our Society

Sidney Aster
Reuben Cipin
Sue Diamond-Gardner
Victoria Heftler
Claudia Kugelmass
Sandy Stern
Iris Weverman
Henry Blumberg
Brenda Dales
Malka Green
Milly Kirsh
Lynn Levy
Haskell Zabitsky

10 December 2002 Shem Tov
Your Roots in Canada
Shel Bercovich, Calgary

Those interested in your Canadian roots might find the following site of some interest: "Our Roots: Canada's Local Histories Online" http://www.ourroots.ca/ehome.asp

The digitization is far from complete (my ancestral towns in Alberta are not included yet, for example), but I found one reference to one of my families that I didn’t know existed.

Soldier’s Burials in Israel
Merav Schejtmann, Jerusalem

When you can't find a grave in Israel, consider the fact that burial records for soldiers are kept separately and in many places the local Chevra Kadisha doesn’t have that information available. The upside on this is that the government has a searchable website for soldiers’ burials at izkor.

The site can be found at http://www.izkor.gov.il/izkor11b.htm. It is only in Hebrew.

And please remember that the State has existed only since 1948, so you won’t find 1920’s deaths there. But, one can find any person who died in the struggle for the state of Israel from about 1870 onward, and not only from 1948. The site can be searched either by name or by date.

Leeds and the 1901 Census
Murray Freedman, mpfreed@bigfoot.com

For those with Jewish roots in Leeds, England, I have just completed a list of its Jewish residents (retailing 14,000) taken from the 1901 census. Contact me privately.

The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem
Tom Venetianer

One hundred and twelve films have already been posted on the archives Internet site.

The online titles were divided into subject groups, such as Jewish communities, the Holocaust, pre-state Israel, Israel since statehood, and the Hebrew University. To watch the films, log on to the Spielberg Jewish Film Archive at:

http://www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il

Links to Public Records Databases
Hilary Henkin

<http://www.searchsystems.net/> My local newspaper uncovered this website, which has links to hundreds of online public records databases. The website is searchable by locality or keyword. (Note - this website does NOT have the actual data - it has links to other databases.) Hope it helps!

Another Search Engine
Howard Sedlitz, New York

This might fall into the category of useful search hints & was very helpful to me in recently locating some distant relatives. By using the Search Engine: www.Ussearch.com it makes it a bit easier to help locate people in any state even with not so rare family names as it also supplies the persons age & current (and not so current) city of residence, which then allowed me to often find the correct person in the Online White Pages.

Yahrzeit on Line
Lisa Brahin

There is a site online in which one can easily determine a loved one’s yahrzeit date. (It is a 50-year yahrzeit calculator).

http://shamash.org/ub/yahr

Sydney Death Index 1985-2002
Mike Bee

Online Searchable Sydney Australia Death Indexes 1985-2002
Free, no user or pass required. Made for the Genealogy Community. Currently indexing 338,998 records. Please also add your Genealogy Links for everyone to share.

Current value of USS 3000 in 1898
Jane Berenheim

For comparative values, consult the website: www.ch.net "How Much is That" – it contains a variety of tools for translating historical dollar amounts into current ones.

Mike Simon
This Web site <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/bu2/inflrateCPI.html> is an inflation calculator from 1913 to 1999. It may give you some idea of the relative magnitude of the immigrant’s fortune.
NY Public Library's yiskor books to go online
Renee Steing

In a message on May 7 ("Digital Yiddish Library Debuts"), I wrote about the new Stephen Spielberg Digital Library at www.yiddishbooks.com and reported that yiskor books will be added to that database in about a year. I subsequently heard from the New York Public Library's Jewish Division.

The National Yiddish Book Center is expected to begin digitization of the 700 yiskor books in the NYPL collection towards the end of the summer. The process should take about six months to complete. After that, the NYPL will offer reprints for sale and the NYPL will put the full text of all the yiskor books on their web site, <www.nypl.org/research/css/jws/yishk.html>.

The digitized images should be available in about a year. To identify yiskor books in the NYPL collection, go to the NYPL catalog <cat.nypl.org> and do a subject search on a town name. Or wait for the list of yiskor books, linked to their catalog records, which should be up and running on the Jewish Division's web site in about a month. If you plan to visit the Jewish Division in coming months to use a specific yiskor book, call or email <freidus@nypl.org> first to make sure it isn't out being scanned.

New Files Added to Holocaust Database
Joyce Field, JewishGen VP, Research

JewishGen is pleased to announce major additions to its Holocaust Database at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust>. 55,000 records have been added to six new individual databases. The first installment of Dachau Concentration Camp Records, an indexing project which began in November 2001, includes 36,927 records. A total of over 120,000 records will be in this database when it is completed. Rather than wait until all the data are entered, we intend to put the data online in large increments. We have an additional 20,000 records which have already been indexed and are waiting for validation. As explained in the introduction to this database, we have two levels of validation to ensure the highest possible level of accuracy. A glossary of abbreviations and terms used in the Dachau material has also been prepared and can be accessed through the introduction.

The Borislav-Drohobycz Water Bills file, containing 5,483 records, is from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. It consists of 120 ledger pages of names of people who had died or been deported and who had not paid their water bills in 1941/42. Of course, many could not pay their bills because they had died or been deported!! This file contains valuable genealogical information—names and addresses of people from Bohemia and Drobobycz and often their fate. Peter Landé prepared two lists. One is Sachsenhausen "Arrivals and Departures" for the period of October 12, 1940 through June 3, 1941. It consists of 4,991 records. Opened in 1938, the Sachsenhausen camp was one of the earliest concentration camps. Initially it was used to hold Jews and political prisoners; later on it was a forced labor camp and most of its prisoners were non-Jews from Germany and all over Europe. This camp prepared daily lists of arrivals and departures. Information on persons in this collection includes name, prisoner number, and, where available, dates of birth and death.

The second list contributed by Peter Landé is "Temporary German Passports for Jews 1938-1940," an extraction of 485 names from a much larger Gestapo collection in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This file is of historical and genealogical interest. Prior to the beginning of mass deportations, and even after war began in 1939, the German Government continued to issue passports to Jews resident in Germany, including "stateless" Jews, mostly of Polish origin.

Two major lists provided by Yad Vashem under the data sharing agreement with JewishGen are from Szombathely, Hungary and Debrecen, Hungary. The Szombathely list consists of 3,115 names of Jews who were forced to register according to a governmental order of 4 April 1944. The registration lists included first and last name, name of mother, place and date of birth, address, name of spouse, name of children, occupation, and subscription of telephone and radio. The list facilitated the concentration of the Jews into a ghetto and their subsequent deportation to Auschwitz.

The second Yad Vashem file, of 3,945 Jews in Debrecen in 1945, is a list of Holocaust survivors registered in Debrecen at the end of the war. An extensive list of Hungarian terms for occupations/professions is available at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/holocaust/HungarianOccupations.html>. This list was compiled from both the Szombathely and Debrecen files and should be used for research in these files as well as for a general Hungarian-to-English translation of occupational titles. For each unique title, the correct Hungarian term is provided along with its English translation.

This work is made possible by the enormous efforts of numerous people -- Rachel Reisman, Technical Coordinator for the Holocaust Database files; the many volunteers who entered and validated the data; the volunteer project leaders; staff from Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum -- primarily Zvi Bernhardt of Yad Vashem and Peter Landé of USHMM; and, of course, Michael Tobias and Warren Blatt of JewishGen, without whose technical skills none of this material would be available.