IT’S OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

It is my great pleasure to be President at the 20th Anniversary of our Society.

When I joined the Society in the early 90s I wanted to learn more about Jewish genealogy principally to trace my Veffer family tree. I attended the general meetings and remember going to one day of the 1993 Conference in Toronto. Little did I think that a dozen years later I’d have held the positions of Treasurer, Vice President and now President. Or that at the next Toronto conference I would be responsible for the Syllabus. That wasn’t in the plan.

Nor did I realize that the main benefit of joining the Society would NOT be to help me do my own research on my own family. Attending some meetings has done that (e.g. just this year - Bill Gladstone's meeting on Naturalization Records or Marian Press's presentation on Using Search Engines Effectively). Reading issues of Shem Tov and schmoozing with fellow members has provided me with great tips and new resources to try.

But more importantly, being part of the Society allows us to share, face to face, our common passion for family research, our culture, our history, our ancestral shtetlach. It expands our knowledge outside our own narrow research. It allows us to work together on common projects that benefit genealogy as a whole - for instance, the current cemetery project which will provide worldwide access via JOWBR to cemetery records for all Toronto Jewish Cemeteries, or the Copy Centre project which was a great benefit to JRI-Poland.

With the advent of the internet, SIGs, Jewishgen etc., people are questioning the purpose of local Jewish Genealogy Societies. But I am convinced they will continue. Personally, I would hate to have missed my phone calls from Henry Wellisch who was kind enough to call me every time he found the name Veffer in a source. Or participating on the programming committee with Penny Gross, Linda Offman and Les Kelman. Or working with the current dedicated members of the Society Executive.

Or seeing the amazing progress of the Cemetery committee. Or receiving my quarterly issues of Shem Tov (in PDF format) - which is the only newsletter that provides a local/Canadian slant to Jewish genealogy. Or chatting about genealogy with Henry, Gert, Neil, David, Gord, Peter, Penny, Garry, Harold etc., etc. These are definitely all an important part of my being a Jewish genealogist.

I cannot begin to cover 20 years of monthly meetings and speakers, workshops, tours; almost 20 years of Shem Tov articles; 20 years of Society projects; 20 years of members who have made significant contributions to the Society and to Jewish genealogy in general. I can only offer my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the ongoing success of our Society.

And again, I state how happy I am to be President of a Society which was so well-established by my predecessors.

Carolynne Veffer

In This Issue
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Programs organized by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)

Unless otherwise noted, programs take place at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue - 470 Glencairn Avenue
Doors open at 7:30, program begins at 8 p.m.

Non-member fee: $5.00 per meeting

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**Wednesday, April 20, 2005**
Tour of Toronto Archives

**Wednesday, May 18, 2005**
Speaker: Professor Irving Abella, York University
Topic: Becoming Canadian: Jewish Immigration to Toronto 1900 - 1930

**Wednesday, June 29, 2005**
Annual General Meeting and Member Breakthroughs

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

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We Welcome These New Members to Our Society

Miriam D. Beckerman    Lorne Miller
Marta Drassinover       Gail Sussman
Dorothy Harper          Zvi V. Wainstein
Two New Board Members

Sid Disenhouse, CA and tax specialist, has taken on another stint as Treasurer; his first was between 1991 and 1993 (though he claims he is too old to remember the dates), and he has also helped out the accounting function informally. Sid has been a member of JGS Toronto for over 15 years. His main areas of interest are the Kielce area of Poland (his father’s family) and the trans-Dniester area of what is now Ukraine (his mother’s family).

Shelley Stillman has taken on the position of Member-at-Large. Shelley is also the Chair of the Cemetery Committee, which has been making much progress in the digitizing of Toronto Jewish burial records on JOWBR. She is currently researching her mother’s family (Horowitz, Galecia) and her father’s family (Hailman, Lodz).

CD of Jerusalem IAGJS Conference

A CD of lectures from the most recent IAJGS conference in Jerusalem is available for borrowing. Please see Gert Rogers at the monthly meetings.

INSTRUMENTS OF FAITH: TORONTO'S FIRST SYNAGOGUES

Photography by ROBERT BURLEY

3 February - 21 May 2005
The Eric Arthur Gallery
230 College St.
Tel: 416-978-5038

Toronto-based photographer Robert Burley explores downtown synagogues built in the early part of the 20th century. Burley surveys six buildings which have played an important role in the history of Toronto’s Jewish community as well as the development of downtown neighbourhoods, including the Annex and Kensington Market. This exhibition is an extension of a joint project Burley has been working on with the Ontario Jewish Archives. For background information, visit collections.ic.gc.ca/TorontoSynagogues/
My father made three attempts to return to his village in Russia (now Belarus) but was unsuccessful for political reasons. On one trip he was actually driven past the city of Rechitsa where he had spent some of his childhood living with his mother and her father, but he was not allowed to enter. This was, of course, prior to the opening up of Eastern Europe.

On his 1977 visit he did see family in Minsk, where they all had gathered to be reintroduced to him after 54 years. It was a memorable visit with sharing of gifts and photographs. He heard stories of how they survived WWII; his Russian relatives could not believe the lifestyle he described in Canada.

In the years since then my father has often remarked that, if he could have one wish granted, it would be to visit the cemetery in Rechitsa to see the tombstones of his maternal and paternal grandfathers. For health reasons he could not make the trip. A few years ago I started investigating the status of the cemetery on the internet and it was unclear how many old stones remained. The cemetery had been destroyed during the war and even in the last decade stones had been toppled by vandals. A relative from Russia sent a friend to investigate whether there were any old stones with the names Rabinovitch and Levin, but found there were none.

My father and I talked about Rechitsa and the small village where he grew up, Kozye. I heard stories similar to those that have been written by others. It was a time of turmoil during his youth. Having been born in 1913, he experienced WWI and the Russian Revolution right on his doorstep. He was under constant threat from various armies; attacks on Jews and hunger and poverty were the norm. His father left for Canada in 1913, while he remained in Kozye, and later Rechitsa, with his mother Leah and maternal grandfather Yacov until 1923.

He is now 91 and I knew how much he wanted to see what remains of Rechitsa and Kozye. I saw an advertisement in Avotaynu by a private company. One of their services offers to have a professional photographer take photographs in Eastern European countries. I e-mailed them and their response was immediate. I could tell that I was dealing with a responsible outfit. The communication was in English and at a high intellectual level.

First I checked references, which were excellent in terms of the quality of the work. When I agreed that they should proceed with the project we discussed what pictures I wanted, from what places, and the cost. I am pleased to say that the researcher/historian in Moscow followed through on everything he said he would.

I asked for photos that would show what these two areas were like now, plus anything Jewish remaining, such as the cemetery and synagogues if there were any, my father’s house or what was in its place, the Dneiper River in Rechitsa, and anything old that would bring back memories.

Within a month or so the 64 photos were e-mailed to me and I was thrilled. It wasn’t quite like being there, but the photos showed a great deal of what it is like now in Rechitsa and Kozye. Accompanying the photos was a brief description and a short summary about Rechitsa and Kozye. Actual prints and a CD are to follow shortly.

For my father this was the best thing we could have done. He identified with the old houses and was excited to see the road signs with the name of his small village, since no one has ever heard of it. I found it listed on Jewishgen, but it is not mentioned in any of the classic genealogical reference books.

He remembered the church in the main square in Rechitsa. He said whenever he and his mother passed by she told him he had to spit. He identified the small river in Kozye by name without being told.

For my father, who is slowly losing his past, it was like a light turning on, and brought joy to both of us. Sadly, Rechitsa was badly affected by Chernobyl, and what used to be a beautiful town is now very poor and run-down. Kozye is still a little farming community.

The cemetery had some old stones, which were included in the photographs, but none of my ancestors were there. The house where my father lived had been torn down long ago.
down and only a brick cellar remains, open to the ele-
ments.

The pictures were worth the cost, and the people I
dealt with were intelligent and cooperative, understood
what I wanted, spoke and wrote perfect English and were
themselves well-educated. I consider this a wonderful
way of seeing without being there. I did not investigate
the possibility of video, which may have provided even
more information.

My father will never be able to visit; but I am now
even more inspired to go on his behalf. The company I
used for photos also arranges visits, and if those are as
good as the results of their first project for me, it should
be an exciting trip.

Marian Press on Using Internet Search Engines

Internet genealogy maven Marian Press shared her
expertise at the January 26th meeting, giving many sug-
gestions on how to use the internet effectively for geneal-
ogy research. Here are just a few of her suggestions:

1. Use several search engines, as each will index differ-
ent web pages, and each will index different parts of a
page. In addition to the larger search engines, such as
Yahoo and Google, you can try http://www.alltheweb.
com (this is just another version of yahoo with a sim-
teoma.com, and http://www.gigablast.com

   There are also specific genealogy search engines
   you can try, which attempt to limit their searches to
genealogy web sites (e.g. http://www.originsearch.
   com and http://www.treezy.com

2. Read the Help sections of each search engine to learn:
a) how to limit your search criteria, or expand them
   by searching for synonyms
   b) how to limit your results to a particular language
   c) how to limit your results by date
   d) how to search for images
   e) how to do advanced searching
   f) how to access translation tools

3. Even if you have limited your search criteria, the
search engines may return many pages of results. As
some engines rank their results in order of popularity,
it is important to remember that smaller web sites,
such as personal genealogy pages, will likely be far
down the list. Be persistent, therefore, in looking over
each page of results.

   Remember, you can use the “Find” option under the
Edit menu of your browser to look for specific words
on the results pages.

4. Major search engines do not search databases, such as
those found at JewishGen and RootsWeb. Both these
sites offer their own search facilities; for RootsWeb,
genealogylinks.net, which has links to many data-
bases worldwide.

5. Repeat your searches regularly. To this end, keep
good records of when and where you last searched,
and what search criteria you entered.

For further information on using Google, see the
JewishGen Plus section.

Penny Gross is JGS Toronto’s Program Coordinator. She
is hoping to making a visit to Belarus within the next few
months.
In hindsight, the Society’s inception seems to have involved the fortuitous matching of one person’s good idea with a number of very talented individuals who were willing to share their expertise. As Rabbi Rayzel Raphael explains,

There was no Jewish Genealogy group in Toronto at the time. I was the Hillel director at York University and was good at organizing and I was tracing my family tree. I believe I put a notice in the Canadian Jewish News saying a group was forming.

One of the very talented people who joined the group was Dr. Rolf Lederer. Rolf had been doing genealogy research since 1976, and had attended several conferences, at which he seemed to be the only Canadian present. (A Jewish Genealogy Society had existed in Montreal, but fizzled out; it was reorganized much later by Stanley Diamond). Rolf had become something of a resident genealogy resource, answering queries channeled to him through the Canadian Jewish Archives, when he learned of Rayzel’s interest in a group meeting.

Thus was born “The Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto.” In an announcement sent to the Canadian Jewish Historical Society Journal in the spring of 1985, the Society’s first secretary, Selma Sacrob, described the new group as follows:

This letter is to inform you and the society of the formation of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto. We are a very new group, having just started up this past spring. To date, our membership is 25 avid genealogists, so avid in fact, that one of our group has had the results of his work put into “book form.” We have monthly meetings and I, being the secretary, am in the midst of corresponding with other genealogical societies in the United States and the other society here in Canada....

Rayzel recalls:

We had very congenial meetings. Rolf Lederer really spearheaded the group.

She adds, tongue-in-cheek, I think they made me president because I was the youngest one who showed up - I was in my twenties.

The primary focus of the group, then as now, was communication. As Rolf explains:

Our aim, as we set out in a flyer, was basically to get individuals together to share information, regarding research and where to find the information we needed. There wasn't much direction, except for Arthur Kurzweill's book. Many sources were still behind the Iron Curtain, and were basically inaccessible. And of course, it was pre-net. So we decided to hold meetings once a month, except July and August, and to publicize the meetings in the Canadian Jewish News. In this regard Miriam Herman was most helpful. And we tried to keep expenses to a minimum.

How exactly was research conducted pre-Internet? “Verbal interviews, tracking down people, playing detective,” say Selma and Rayzel. And these “people skills” remain relevant, despite our addiction to surfing. According to Rolf:

Some of the methodology is still the same today. It is most important to talk to the older members in the family, to get as much information as possible from them. Also, they are often the repository of documents and photographs and other memorabilia. The Mormon collection in Salt Lake City was and perhaps still is an important resource.

Still, the Internet is a mechayeh for genealogy researchers. Rolf explains:

The most frustrating aspect was having to write to distant Archives and then having to wait 6 months to a year or longer for a response. They would then ask for a fee before submitting the requested information. A lot changed after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but it took a few years before the Archives in those countries became organized and came to the realization there was money to be made.

Today with the Internet one can send an enquiry to an organization and receive a reply almost instantane-
ously. Or with the help of the various Special Interest Groups, fellow genealogists will be glad to share information. I was unable to get anywhere with tracing descendants of my great-great-great grandfather's niece (a LEBER married to a MAYER) until I posted a note on Gersig. I am now in touch with this branch of the family in San Francisco and have met them several times.

The lure of the search remains for these “originals,” together with the pleasure of finding and meeting one’s extended family. Selma has had great success with her research (including finding a connection to Theda Bara), and this very friendly lady now spends her time communicating with her newfound relatives. Rolf still maintains amazingly complex research interests: Bohemia, where the Lederers lived in the 18th century; Germany in the 19th and 20th centuries; Holland, on his mother’s side, in 18th century; holocaust research for the family members who were massacred; and early US research (his great-great-grandfather’s brother came to the US in 1853, and another one arrived in 1845). Rayzel, like many of us, is still waiting for that “break” overseas, including finding the link to the Vilna Gaon mentioned by her father. Her husband Simcha Raphael has put his family tree on computer as a bar mitzvah gift to her son. As Rayzel reminds us, however, it is important to “plant and water and nourish the tree,’ not just trace it!”

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After 20 years, the Society can look back on an impressive set of “public” milestones. Among them:

Founding of Shem Tov in 1988 by its first editor, Peter Cullman, who also gave it its name.

Incorporation of the Society in 1990 as a charitable organization called “The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto).” (At the time it was thought that other Canadian JGSs might like to incorporate as branches of this Society; this being Canada, other JGSs have chosen to go their own ways.)

Hosting of the extremely successful 12th International Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, in June 1993.

Establishment in 1999 of a connection with the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

The Society’s “Jewish Youth Genealogy Project” winning the 2000 IAJGS award for Outstanding Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy.

Hosting of the equally successful 22nd IAJGS Conference in August 2002 (a feat that was accomplished within 18 months, as opposed to the usual 3 years allotted for planning).

In 2004, the culmination of the cemetery project, one of the earliest of the Society’s ventures, with the submission of the first group of Toronto Jewish burial data to the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry at JewishGen. (Interestingly, one of the earliest mentions of JewishGen in a Shem Tov article was in 1994, and the term “Internet” had to be defined there.)

Equally important, though less visible, is the infrastructure that has been built up over 20 years, through the efforts of presidents Rayzel Raphael, Rolf Lederer, Bill Gladstone, Henry Wellsich, Gert Rogers, Garry Stein and Carolyne Veffer, and all those who worked with them. We have come to take for granted the excellent lectures and articles (often by members of the Society), the workshops, the library holdings (enriched by Bill Gladstone’s donation of part of his own library), the web site, and the myriad details that have gone into planning 20 years of Society business.

Finally, there is the most outstanding feature of the Society: the generosity of the many members who have been willing to share their time, expertise, and stories.

And what of the next 20 years? In the first newsletter of the Society (pre-Shem Tov) Goldie Honey Wallen-sky extended an eloquent wish for success to the new group. It’s a statement that bears repeating: Anything can happen once you start your generational trip through the past. Good luck, fellow explorers, and remember when you are done traveling through time to greet us back at our headquarters. Otherwise you will be missing out on the most thrilling part of all, which is the closeness that we all will be feeling when we explain and relate the information that we searched for. Don't talk too much, save your energy for other journeys on which you might be assisting the new members who are interested in beginning. Well, I have said enough and I know that all of my readers are eager to enjoy all the good times and surprises that this organization has in store for you, so I will end my first newsletter by saying finally that I hope that the Genealogical Society will prosper and flourish with a good feeling for all who partake of it.

Clockwise from top -
Bill Gladstone, Henry Wellsich, Sheryl Erenberg, Scott Meyer, Gert Rogers
New Online “Wikipedia” of Genealogy

Dick Eastman, of Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter, has announced the creation of an impressive new genealogy resource: an online Encyclopedia of Genealogy. The site is at http://www.eogen.com, and there is a list of Frequently-Asked Questions at http://www.eogen.com/FAQ.

As Eastman puts it, this resource will provide “reference information about everything in genealogy except people”. In other words, you would not search for individual ancestors on this site; rather,” the Encyclopedia of Genealogy serves as a clearinghouse of genealogy techniques: where to find records, how to organize the data found, what the terminology means, and how to plan your next research effort.” The site is intended to be of use to both beginning and experienced genealogists, and to become “the” standard genealogy reference manual.

The Encyclopedia is also unique as a genealogy resource in that it uses wiki software, which allows any person to edit any page, or to add pages. (This software has already been used to build an online encyclopedia and dictionary: for more information, see http://www.wikimedia.org) It is thus intended that the Encyclopedia will grow through the contributions of users. Users can also correct errors that they find in any page. Among the types of articles wanted, Eastman lists:

a) Information about local genealogy societies
b) Immigration records explained
c) The details of each decade’s census records explained
d) Individual articles on how to research Italian, German, Polish, French-Canadian, Jewish, Black, Indian, and other ancestors
e) Any other subject that users feel to be pertinent and useful to other genealogy researchers.

It is intended that all users have free access to any Encyclopedia of Genealogy content. Under the principle of “copyleft,” the content can be copied, modified, and redistributed, so long as the new version grants the same freedoms to others, and acknowledges the authors of the Encyclopedia of Genealogy article used (usually by a direct link back to the article).

New Rules for Mailing to Canada

Stanley Diamond has alerted us to the fact that stricter rules are now being implemented for any mail coming into Canada. These rules would apply, for instance, to self-addressed stamped envelopes that you send in with application forms or queries. All such mail must contain the full name and address of both the sender and recipient, printed in ink or typewritten. The last line of the address must show only the country name "CANADA" and the Canadian postal code, written in full, in capital letters. Incorrectly addressed mail may not be allowed into the country. These changes are due to tighter Canadian security measures.

Genealogy through Google

Joan Parker, Immediate Past President of JGS of Greater Miami, reports:

“There are so many things that Google can do to help genealogists. ‘Search by location’ along with many other Google specialized searches are available on one page at Easy Google Genealogy Searcher, http://searchforancestors.com/google/searcher.html Click on the ‘How is this Useful’ to learn how each type of Google search can be used for genealogy.

Learn the Google tricks to:

a) Search for surname web sites
b) Search for definitions (even for old-fashioned words)
c) Google calculator (converts terms found in old wills e.g. ‘rod’)
d) Search by location (current US) for cemeteries, churches by denomination, historical societies, libraries
e) Search for images: photos of ancestors, images of documents (wills, military papers), tombstones, ancestral hometown, immigration ships.)”

Online Guide to Genealogical Resources in Israel

Gary Mokotoff (editor of Nu? What’s New?) notes that the Israel Genealogical Society has placed information on its web site about some of Israel’s genealogy resources and archives. The site is at http://www.isragen.org.il
More Tips on Using Google for Genealogy Research

An article by Kimberly Powell, “Googling Genealogy Style: Twelve Google Search Tips for Genealogists,” gives detailed instructions on how to refine and expand your Google searches, how to retrieve “File Not Found” files, how to do reverse lookups of U.S. names, how to set up a Google search of a particular web site, and much more. The site is at http://www.genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/aa052902a.htm

U.S. Maps on Google

A new Google site at http://maps.google.com allows you to type in any location in the U.S. and get a map of the area. You can then type in a keyword, such as “cemetery,” and any cemeteries in the area will also be identified.

Unfortunately for Mac users, the site currently works only with Windows.

Google to Add Contents of Library Books to its Searchable Index

According to an article in Business Wire, Dec. 14, 2004, Google has announced that it will work with the libraries of Harvard, Stanford, the University of Michigan and Oxford University, as well as with the New York Public Library, to digitally scan books from their collections and thus allow them to be searched online.

This project is an expansion of the Google Print program, which assists publishers in making books and other offline information searchable online. The new project will ultimately allow users to search library collections, including out of print and rare books.

A Google search results page will show links to any book titles that are relevant to the search. Clicking on a book title delivers a Google Print page, which will show the user the full text of public domain works and brief excerpts and/or bibliographic data of copyrighted material.

For more information and examples, see http://print.google.com/library.

Discussion Group for Pultusk (Poland)

Those interested in genealogy research on Pultusk, Poland are invited to join a new discussion group. The group has approximately 60-70 members exchanging information and lively discussions, as well as posting pictures and other material (including some Yizkor Book translations) on their web site.

The web site can be found at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/J-Pultusk as well as http://J-Pultusk.tripod.com

An Interactive Map of Israel

This site is at http://www.emap.co.il Click the bar at top that says “English.” You can search every city and every street. When you type a letter, you will see all the cities, towns, villages and kibbutzim in Israel starting with this letter.

Source: Roots-Key, the newsletter of the JGS of LA

1850’s Toronto Through Tax Assessment Rolls

Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter reports on a new online database that will in effect act as a substitute for the 1852 Toronto census (which is no longer extant). The database, a joint project of the City of Toronto Archives and the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, consists of a searchable index and transcription of 1853 tax assessment rolls. As Eastman explains, the transcription is in effect a head-of-household census because the tax rolls list occupiers as well as property owners, more than 9,000 names in total from a city population of around 30,000.

A book and CD version of the index, transcription and images will provide even more information for researchers, such as maps, descriptions of the wards and streets, a research guide to vital records, religious records and cemeteries, land records, directories, published sources and maps, as well as historical background.

The new census substitute can be found at http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org
ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by May 2005 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.

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Search ads are also available. Rates are $5 for the first 25 words and 25¢ per word thereafter, your name and address are free. Please write advertisement clearly with family surnames you are researching in UPPER CASE letters. Make your cheque payable to Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) and mail to: JGS of Canada (Toronto), P.O. Box 446, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M2N 5T1.

Book Reviews
The volumes listed below have recently been added to the library collection of our Society.

*by Henry Wellisch*

**Historical Atlas of Central Europe**
Revised and Expanded Edition
By Paul Robert Magocsi
University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 2002

The *Historical Atlas of Central Europe* is an extensively revised and updated version of the *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe*, which was published, to great acclaim, in 1993 by the Washington Press and the University of Toronto Press.

This Atlas covers the area from Poland, Lithuania and the eastern part of Germany to Greece and western Turkey, and extends in time from the early fifth century to the present. This new edition incorporates the enormous political changes that have taken place since 1989, taking into consideration comments from seventy-five reviewers from seventeen countries. The final third of the volume has been completely re-conceptualized and reconfigured with new maps, text, and statistical tables. The bibliography has been updated and expanded.

The many articles and maps clearly describe the changes that occurred over time. For instance, the history of the Polish Kingdom, its partition in the eighteenth century and the reappearance of the Polish state after World War I are shown in great detail. Other countries in the area, such as the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Rumania, the pale of settlement in Western Russia and Ukraine are covered just as well. In many cases the different names for certain cities are listed, such as L’viv (Lemberg, Lvow, Leopolis), Bratislava (Poszony, Pressburg, Posonium).

There is even a map showing railway development during the nineteenth century. This will help those people who want to know how their ancestors reached the ports in Western Europe from their home towns on their way to North America.

The chapter entitled “Jews and Armenians in Central Europe, ca. 1900” describes the migrations and settlements of these two groups. Included is a list of the 58 largest “Jewish cities,” ca. 1900. The accompanying map indicates in colour the density of the Jewish populations in the different areas. The map also shows, in the Balkans, the border between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jewish settlements. The chapter entitled “Population Movements 1944-1948” includes statistics on the Holocaust.

An extensive bibliography is provided. All in all, one can say: this atlas is a gold mine.

**A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia**
By Alexander Beider
Avotaynu, 2004

*A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia* is the third major work by Dr. Alexander Beider in the realm of Eastern Jewish surnames. His previous works, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* (Avotaynu, 1993) and *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland* (Avotaynu 1996) established Dr. Beider as a leading authority on eastern European Jewish names. (Both volumes are included in the library collection of our society.)

*A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia* provides information on about 25,000 surnames used by Jews in Galicia. For each name, the author describes the districts within Galicia where the surnames appeared, the meaning of the name (etymology) and the variations found.

The introductory portion of the book follows Dr. Beider’s scholarly style in analyzing the origin and evolution of Jewish surnames in each region. This includes a history of Jewish names in Galicia, basic etymological analysis, spelling and variation of surnames and analysis of surnames in various provinces of Eastern Europe. An extensive bibliography is provided.

**A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia**

**Historical Atlas of Central Europe**

**A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia**

**By Alexander Beider**

**Avotaynu, 2004**

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**By Alexander Beider**

**Avotaynu, 2004**

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As far as I am aware, there is no direct resource to research Ukraine ancestors on the web. Not only are very few Ukraine documents digitized, there are many archives where the material is not even catalogued.

However, here is a list of Ukraine web sites that may be useful. In addition, I would start with Miriam Weiner's Routes to Roots web site at http://www.jrrfoundation.org

**Overviews of available government resources:** Archives (in English) are at http://www.search.kiev.ua/Eng/ You can search a database at http://www.jrrfoundation.org/search.asp for a town-by-town inventory of available archival documents. For an overview of the administrative divisions, search the map at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/europe/ukraine_adm93.jpg

**Holocaust data:** A variety of “unique” holocaust data has been collected by a member of the All-Ukrainian Archivists' Association at http://genexp.by.ru/index.html Annex 2, for instance, has a list of names of 1051 Jews who had precious metals and stones confiscated by the Nazis during occupation of the Ukraine during WWII, 1941-1944. This list comes from the Main Archives Department of the Ukraine, and has never been published before.

**Yizkor (memorial) books:**
1) Many yizkor books can be found at Robarts Library at the University of Toronto http://www.library.utoronto.ca/index.html
2) The Family History (Mormon) Library also has some yizkor books, as well as other reference books on Ukraine genealogy (see, e.g. under author Herasy-mov). Their catalogue can be searched at http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC(frameset_fhlc.asp

**Ukraine Special Interest Group at Jewishgen:** http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine/

**Modern Kiev:** A commercial site listing businesses etc. can be found by going to www.jewroots.com and entering Kiev in the search line.
Restricted Access to U.S. Birth Data?

IAJGS President Hal Bookbinder warns that recently passed U.S. legislation may prevent genealogists from obtaining copies of U.S. birth certificates for research purposes. House Resolution 10, Chapter 2, Section 3063, Paragraph (d)(2) directs States to restrict access to birth certificates. U.S. residents are being encouraged to request an amendment to this bill that would exempt non-certified copies of birth certificates (which would in most cases be adequate for research purposes).

To read the bill or follow its progress, go to http://www.house.gov/, click on "Find a Bill or Law," and enter H.R.10.

Recipes, Stories and Photographs Wanted for JIAS Project

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (JIAS) has launched production of a commemorative cookbook. This unique work will document the history of JIAS in Canada since its inception in 1922, and will feature recipes brought to Canada by former and recent Jewish immigrants. Each recipe will be accompanied by a story about the donor, including, for example, what life was like in his/her country of origin, what foods were enjoyed around his/her holiday or everyday table, or what memories the dish evokes. It will also include some background on each immigrant’s new life in Canada. Where possible, photographs of the families from their countries of origin, early days in Canada and/or today will be included.

If you have a recipe and/or story to contribute to this special record of Canadian history, JIAS would very much like to hear from you. Their dedicated volunteers will also be happy to help write your story and put your recipe into a proper format. Please contact them at:

JIAS CANADA,
4580 Dufferin Street, Suite 306m
Toronto, M3H 5Y2
Tel: 416 630 9051 Ext. 33
Fax: 416 630 9029
E-mail: national@jias.org

IAJGS Update

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada (JGSSN) invites you to the 25th Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be held at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas.

You are encouraged to register soon, to take advantage of the very good hotel rate of $61 per night. Conference registration rates are $200 for Early Registration (through May 1), and $230 for Regular Registration (after May 1).

Conference information can be found at the JGSSN web site: go to www.jgssn.org and click on the link to the Conference. The programming has now been posted, and promises a most interesting assembly of speakers and topics. There will be lectures on specific geographical areas (Argentina, Belarus, Finland, France, Galicia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russian Empire, Ukraine and the U.S.); on the how-to of genealogy (Computer Resources, JewishGen, Libraries/Archives, Media, Methodology, Records); and on specialized research (Holocaust, Immigration/Emigration, JRI-Poland, Rabbinical, Sephardic). There is even a lecture on the Jewish “connection” to the Flamingo Hotel.

You will also find detailed information on the fun spots of Las Vegas (Jewish and otherwise) and arrangements for tours.

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