



שם טוב  
**SHEM TOV**

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

VOLUME XXI No. 2

June 2005 Sivan 5765

## BECOMING CANADIAN: JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO TORONTO 1900-1930

by Ruth Chernia

**O**n 18 May 2005, Professor Irving Abella, Professor of History at York University, spoke about the history of Jews in Toronto.

He introduced his subject by telling us about the first Jews in Canada. At Louisbourg, in today's Nova Scotia, then a colony of New France, there was a family called Rodriguez, and there may have been a street called the "Jews" street. Then in 1742 a young woman named Esther Brandeau arrived in Quebec City disguised as a man. Once discovered to be Jewish, she was offered the choice of converting (France did not permit Huguenots or Jews in its colonies) or returning to France. After a year of refusing to convert, she was sent away.

Some of the traders with the Hudson's Bay Company may have been Jews. Some of these men formed alliances with native women and so there were Jewish Indians (more properly Métis) with the last name of Ferdinand and Jacobs. Interestingly, Jews helped both Wolfe and Montcalm: Abraham Gradis, member of a prominent French Jewish family, sent ships and supplies to Montcalm, and the second-in-command of the British fleet was Alexander Schomberg, also of Jewish ancestry.

After the conquest, the first grant of land recorded in Nova Scotia, in allotment book one, was to a man named Franks. The first synagogue in Canada was the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Montreal, founded by fur traders in 1768. The first Jew elected to Parliament in the entire British Commonwealth was Ezekiel Hart, who was chosen in 1807 by voters in Trois-Rivières, the majority of whom were Francophone Catholics, to represent them in the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada. However, he was unable to take the oath of office and so never sat in Parliament. Once Jews were granted full civil rights in the British Empire in 1832, Montreal's Jews rose to prominence in that city. In the 1840's a Jewish family owned the Hart Bank, three members of the Joseph family were bank directors, and a Jew was dean of medicine, an event that was not repeated until the 1970's. Moses Judah Hayes was Chief of Police in 1849. In fact, when the legislature met in Montreal, a Jew owned the land

on which the building sat.

The 1881 assassination of Czar Alexander II led to repression and pogroms that sparked the beginning of the waves of Jewish immigrants to North America and the development of the modern Jewish community. From the 2500 Jews present in 1882 to the 100,000 in 1914, the community expanded until it was 10 percent of the population. The nature of the population also changed. Just as the mostly German and British Jews were foreign to the early Spanish and Portuguese ones, so the Russian, Polish, Hungarian and Lithuanian Jews were alien to the settled community. These thousands were crammed into the slums of the Ward in Toronto, the Main in Montreal and in Winnipeg, where they experienced lack of privacy and dreadful conditions. Their homes were also their workplaces for many. The established community looked askance at the new immigrants who did not move quickly enough to rid themselves of old habits, such as speaking Yiddish!

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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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### **This is our tentative Schedule for 2005-2006 Meetings**

Wednesday, September 28, 2005  
October 2005 - TBA  
Wednesday, November 30, 2005  
Wednesday, December 21, 2005  
Wednesday, January 25, 2006  
Wednesday, February 22, 2006  
Wednesday, March 29, 2006  
Wednesday, April 26, 2006  
Wednesday, May 31, 2006  
Wednesday, June 28, 2006

*For further information visit our website at  
[www.jgstoronto.ca](http://www.jgstoronto.ca) or watch the "What's New"  
column in the Canadian Jewish News.*

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The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada was founded in 1985 and currently has over 200 members. Membership costs \$36 per calendar year, \$18 for students. (Please note that the out of town reduction has been deleted). 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* and on our website at: [www.jgstoronto.ca](http://www.jgstoronto.ca).

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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However, the established Jewish community did feel responsible for the newcomers and moved to set up institutions to help them. Women were particularly in the forefront of various benevolent societies (e.g. the Ladies Montefiore Society established in 1878) and the Jewish Home for the Aged, which became Baycrest. There was (and is) the National Council of Jewish Women and the Toronto Hebrew Ladies Society. Look for your ancestors — either as members or as people who received help — in the records of these organizations, which kept records of donations and receipts when they gave out money.

The new immigrants needed help with many things, especially finding work or obtaining peddling licenses. And eventually the Communist Party organized the first strike, by Jewish rag pickers who refused to work on Shabbat. These organizations provided a breathing space before the people became Canadianized, an anchor in the New World given by the assimilated who were disturbed by the immigrants' ways. The established ones were determined to anglicize their co-religionists. An editorial in *The Jewish Times* by Alfred Benjamin urged people to give money to help the immigrants abandon their "oriental" customs. Meanwhile the immigrants' organizations included the same range of political beliefs as their uptown neighbours but infused with a vitality and unique spirit.

Many people arrived in Canada, even Toronto, by mistake. All they knew was that they were coming to "Amerika." Many thought that the "brother in Chicago" was just a streetcar ride away.

Another source for your ancestors is in the records of the development of the many synagogues of Toronto. You can trace the waves of immigration through the names, mergers and changes. The newcomers felt that the established congregations at Holy Blossom Temple and Goel Tzedek were too fancy for them. They founded shtieblach, often in a house or over a store, where they could worship and study as they had in the old country. Often people from the same city or region would work together to found and improve these religious institutions (for example, Anshe Minsk). The synagogue was the community centre. As the synagogues were within walking distance from their homes, the congregants could help one another in fraternal and mutual benefit societies: everyone could join, everyone could draw support. All of these institutions had meetings and kept minutes. And as more "greeners" came, these new organizations were there to help.

Records to look for:

- archives
- minute books
- Yiddish newspapers (*The Adler*, *Journal*, *Canadian Jewish News*)
- bookstores' records (the bookstore was also a centre for learning)
- Jewish travel agents' records. The travel agent acted as a lawyer, accountant, marriage broker; helped with city hall (licenses etc.)

- Yiddish theatre playlists, etc. At one time there were five groups in Toronto putting on plays in Yiddish. Former archivist for the Canadian Jewish Archives Stephen Speisman says the theatre charged "5¢ a catharsis."
- education: names of teachers, lists of students. The system was transplanted from the shtetls. The teachers were often of poor quality. It was not until community schools/Talmud Torahs were opened that education could really begin.
- unions. Once people were more established the unions helped to support workers. The community was worried about a "new class" in the ghetto. In the early 1900's politically more radical immigrants, supporters of the Bund, felt that socialism was the answer to their problems, not Zionism. Groups such as the Workman's Circle felt this was the remedy for being exploited in the workplace, where the owners were surviving by cutting costs. By the 1920s the garment industry was dominated by Jewish labor unions, which provided a spiritual home for new immigrants and their first introduction to Canadian life.



### **Wanted: Volunteers to Index Naturalization Records**

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal is asking for volunteers to index names of immigrants who received Canadian naturalization certificates from 1933 to 1952 (approximately 400,000 entries). Volunteers will work from printed pages that will be made available on a web site, so that they can work at home whenever time permits.

In the first phase of this project, under the auspices of JGS Montreal and JGS Ottawa, volunteers indexed 200,000 Canadian naturalizations from 1915 to 1932. This index is now available on-line at Library and Archives Canada ([http://www.genealogy.gc.ca/index\\_e.html](http://www.genealogy.gc.ca/index_e.html)) then click "Databases," or from the JGS Montreal web site at <http://www.jgs-montreal.org/>.

For more information, please contact:  
<[volunteers@jgsmontreal.org](mailto:volunteers@jgsmontreal.org)>.

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# Ontario Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

By Henry Wellisch

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**P**lease note that in Canada, the provinces and territories look after the collection of vital records. The Canadian Federal Government is not involved in this. The information shown below applies only to Ontario, where the Office of the Registrar General holds information on:

- Births that occurred during the past 95 years
- Marriages that occurred during the past 80 years
- Deaths that occurred during the past 70 years

Records for events occurring after 1868, but prior to the years held by the Office of the Registrar General, are available from the Archives of Ontario. Inquiries about these records should be directed to:

The Archives of Ontario

77 Grenville Street Toronto ON, M7A 2R9

Attn: Vital Statistics Reference Archivist or:

Telephone the Vital Statistics Hot Line at 416-327-1593

For vital records of other Canadian provinces and territories see this web site:

<http://www.cbs.gov.on.ca/mcbs/english/4UBMCE.htm>

## How to Obtain a Birth Certificate for a Deceased Person

**For deceased persons only, certified copies of birth certificates are available.** The cost is \$35.00

The Registrar General will also undertake a 5 year search at the cost of \$15.00. If the search is successful, one can then apply for a birth certificate. Only next of kin and executors of wills are entitled to receive these birth certificates. Next of kin includes: spouse, mother, father, son, daughter, sister, or brother. In circumstances where the closest surviving next of kin is not available, the next closest next of kin may apply for a certified copy. Proof of death is required along with an affidavit swearing the applicant is the closest surviving next of kin (cousin, niece, nephew, grandparent, aunt or uncle).

## How to Obtain a Marriage or Death Certificate

There are two types of marriage and death certificates, the regular form and the long form.

**Please note that ONLY THE LONG FORM DEATH CERTIFICATE shows the place of burial, if it is available.**

If the entitlement/authorization section (4) of your application is not completed in full it will be returned to you. There are restrictions as to who may obtain a certificate or certified copy of a marriage or death registration. The following individuals may obtain a certified photostatic copy or certificate of:

### Marriage:

- a) either party to the marriage as named on the registration
- b) children of the marriage if either party to the marriage is deceased
- c) parents of a deceased party to the marriage
- d) if either party to the marriage is deceased, the closest next-of-kin, executor, or estate trustee

### Death:

- a) no restrictions on death certificates
- b) certified photostatic copies of registrations are restricted to next of kin or their authorized representative

### Fees for Marriage and Death Certificates:

Certificate (includes basic information, such as name, date and place of event) - \$15.00 each

Long Form (Certified Copy) (contains all registered information, including signatures) - \$22.00 each

Confirmation letter (a letter providing results of a search of records) - \$15.00 each

### How to Pay for Certificates

If you are sending your payment from anywhere other than Canada or the US, you must pay with an international money order in Canadian funds drawn on a Canadian clearing house, or by VISA, MasterCard, or American Express. US applicants may submit a US Postal money order in US funds.

The Office of the Registrar General does not accept post-dated cheques. A fee of \$35.00 will be charged for dishonoured cheques.

### Mail the Completed Application and Payment to:

Office of the Registrar General

P.O. Box 4600

189 Red River Road

Thunder Bay ON P7B 6L8

**Fax In Service:** You can fax your application (with credit card payment only) to **807-343-7459**.

**Expedited Service:** If you require urgent service, take the completed request to the public counter of the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. There is an additional fee for this service and some restrictions apply. Call the enquiry number below for locations throughout Ontario.

### In Toronto the location is:

Macdonald Block, Room M2-49

900 Bay Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (Bay and Wellesley)

Toronto, ON M7A 1Y5

Tel.: 416-325-8305

### For telephone enquiries:

from the 416 area code, dial 325-8305

from the rest of Ontario, dial 1-800-461-2156

from outside of Ontario, dial 1-416-325-8305

**For further information, including application forms for birth, marriage and death certificates, see the web site of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Business Relations at:**

<http://www.cbs.gov.on.ca/mcbs/english/4ULUQT.htm>

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### Year-End Review, September 2004-June 2005

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In addition to celebrating our 20th anniversary in March of this year, we enjoyed another great selection of speakers and topics in 2004-5, including: Bill Gladstone: "The How, What & Why of Canadian Naturalization Records"; Marco Carynyk: "Ukrainians, Jews & Poles in Eastern Galicia, June-July 1941"; Judy Wagman and Elaine Cheskes: "Unlocking the Secrets of the Past - from Korystiv to Kensington" ; Roberto Stopnicki: "In Search of Bedzin, Poland"; Henry Wellisch: "The Austro-Hungarian Empire, Conventional and Unconventional Resources" ; Marian Press: "Using Internet Search Engines Effectively for Genealogy Research"; Anna Shternshis: "Jewish Families in the Soviet Union"; Dr. Rolf Lederer: "Jewish Genealogy During the Last 30 Years"; and Professor Irving Abella: "Becoming Canadian: Jewish Immigration to Toronto 1900 - 1930. " We also arranged a tour of the Toronto Archives. Some of our members (particularly Neil Richler, Gord Meslin and Henry Wellisch) provided presentations on genealogy topics for various groups in the Toronto area.

We successfully revived our cemetery committee, and received an enthusiastic response to our request for volunteers. The committee determined as its goal to provide information from all the Toronto area Jewish cemeteries to JOWBR at JewishGen. In 2004 over 13,000 records were added to JOWBR from the Dawes Road Cemetery. The committee is currently working on preparing the cemetery records for Jones Ave., Pardes Shalom and Roselawn, and these will be added as soon as possible in 2005. JGS (Toronto) established agency agreements with JewishGen and JRI-Poland, which allows us to issue Canadian tax receipts for Canadian donations to either organization. We hope this will encourage more donations from Canadian genealogists. And in furtherance of our Society's mission to support genealogical research locally and globally, we sent donations to YadVashem and JewishGen. An electronic version of Shem Tov, in PDF format, is now offered to our subscribers. Our library, located in the Canadiana Room of the North York Central Library, was further expanded through both purchases and generous donations by members. General elections were held in December, with Sid Disenhouse becoming treasurer and Shelley Stillman a new Member-at-Large. Thank you to all our volunteers, members and friends for making this year another success.

#### Programming Committee

**Penny Gross** has decided to step down as Chair of the Programming Committee. Many thanks are due to her for the successful programs she has organized, on her own and then with the able assistance of her committee (**Linda Offman**, **Les Kelman** and **Carolynne Veffler**) in 2004-2005. Penny will continue on as a Member-at-Large on the Executive and Linda will become Chair. The Committee is also seeking new members, who would participate in planning the list of upcoming speakers and programs and take responsibility for the logistics of a few

meetings. If you are reliable, fairly organized and interested in participating in the committee, please send your name to <info@jgstoronto.ca>.

#### Cemetery Committee

Update on **Roselawn**: This project is one of the earliest of the JGS, and has continued, off and on, for about 12 years. It has included many dedicated volunteers, who would gather at the cemetery every Sunday when there was reasonably good weather and walk up and down the rows transcribing data from the tombstone inscriptions (first by hand, then by photography, and most recently by digital photography). There were various obstacles to overcome: in addition to the size of the site, there are few, if any, extant maps of any of the sections. Many of the stones have fallen over, while others are barely readable due to the effects of age and acid rain. We managed nonetheless to lay out our own maps, and to read many of the inscriptions using methods that would not further damage the stones. We have collected the names of the deceased in Hebrew and English, parents' names, and death dates, and, where available, birth dates, references to whether the person was a kohen or levi, and towns of origin. The information collected (some 7000 burials, the earliest dating from 1904 ) is being entered into a computer database, some of which will soon be submitted to JOWBR, along with our maps to use as finding aids. Some of the sections continue to be used; our information is current to the end of 2004 in most cases. The finding aids will include the following sections: Adath Israel, Adath Israel/Moldaver, Anshei Lubavitch, Anshei Minsk, Apter, Beth Lida, B'nei Abraham, Chevra Kadisha-Agudas Achim, Judean Benevolent Society, Machziki Hadas, Mozirer Sick Benefit Society, Ostrovtzer, Ostrovtzer north west section, Pride of Israel, Shaarei Zedek, Shomrei Shabbath, Stashover, Talmud Torah Eitz Chayim, Torah Emes, Toronto Hebrew Benevolent, Toronto Independent Benevolent, United Jewish Welfare Fund, Weber Family, Workmen's Circle, YMHA.

#### Photograph Credits

Thank you to **Dr. Rolf Lederer** for providing the photos of JGS Toronto members and speakers that appeared in the March issue. And thank you to **Steven Lederer** for the photos taken at our March anniversary celebration that will appear in the next issue.

*We Welcome This New  
Member to Our Society*

Melvin Zwaig

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## Spotlight on Members and Friends

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**A**re you interested in volunteering on a genealogy project? Would you like to get some ideas for a project of your own? In this column we will profile some members and friends of our Society, who, in addition to researching their own family trees, are undertaking projects of interest to the general community.

All of us who have searched JewishGen and other databases have had occasion to be grateful to the volunteers who collect and transcribe the lists of names. In this issue, we turn the spotlight on the amazing **David Price**, who is involved with not one but several such projects for the **Jewish Records Indexing - Poland** project - as a town head, fund raiser, shtetl co-op coordinator, and transliterator. David has also contributed several articles on BMD records to the journal of the **Kielce-Radom SIG**, transcribed a tremendous amount of data for the **Roselawn cemetery project**, volunteered his time to do translations for others, and, to top it off, is **JGS Toronto's librarian**, in which capacity he has provided us with finding lists that we can search by subject, title, and author.

In his own words, he gives us a most insightful (and entertaining) view into how he approaches these volumes of data:

"My father, of blessed memory, who died last year, was the shy one in a family of 4 sisters (and a younger brother who died in childhood). They came to Canada from Kielce in 1924 when he was 11 (but mysteriously listed as 13). He never told me anything about the extended family of his cousins, aunts, uncles or grandparents. As years went by, people kept coming up to me in Toronto telling me they were PRICES related to me. Finally, at age 40, I decided to interview these people and make a family tree. It turned out that there were 3 PRICE branches and one VARGA (BERGER) branch all represented in Toronto. One senior in particular had tried to hand write a PRICE tree on a sheet of paper. I took a copy and produced a family tree, not with the latest family tree maker but with a tree diagram program from my math software (I am a math teacher). I got it to fit on one large poster, colour-coded the branches and spent a year making 50 copies for all the relatives. Some used it for their Hebrew school project.

"Then one day my wife, Marilyn, spotted in the CJN a membership ad for the JGS of Toronto. To her later regret she told me about it, I joined and Marilyn has almost never seen me since. I soon learned about LDS films and decided to look up my grandfather from Kielce, born about 1880. It turned out that they filmed the Kielce records only up to 1870, so I looked up my grandmother's birth record from Chmielnik instead. I found it, much to my surprise. Only one problem: records for Poland are in Cyrillic for the years 1867-1920. Shockingly I found out that Cyrillic is mostly the Greek alphabet that I knew from being a math teacher. I obtained a copy of the handwritten Cyrillic alphabet and decided to extract all the 5000 BMD records for JRI-Poland (Stanley Diamond's project), which was in its infancy then, and the Kielce-Radom SIG Journal (under

Warren Blatt).

"I developed a shorthand of Jewish given names and common surname suffixes that still allowed me to spell the name the original way but still allowed me to computerize the complete extracts of records of an entire film a lot faster. At my best I could copy out 120 births per hour and 40 marriages per hour. The next town I chose was my wife's grandparents' town, Opole-Lubelski. Helen Reiss encouraged me to do her town next, Ozarow. Hadassah Lipsius of JRI-Poland asked me to help out Shirly Flaum and Morris Wirth with the Lodz records. Eventually I did more towns on my own, but other people contacted me to do their towns of Poland since they had no chance with the Cyrillic. The following is a list of them:

Zwolen (Fern Phillips),  
Ilza (Carolynne Veffter),  
Ciechanow (Stan Zeidenberg),  
Zawichost (Tova Ajzenstat),  
Opatow (Warren Blatt),  
Annapol (Harold Nissenthall/Jim Feldman),  
Bialobrzegi (Penny Gross),  
Chelm, Stopnice, Belchatow, Lowice and Ujazd (ordered through Hadassah Lipsius of JRI-Poland),  
Drzewic (Gil Melin),  
Bobruisk (Nancy Holden),  
Czemierniki (Mila Begun),  
Ostrow Mazowiecka (Stanley Diamond),  
Daniel Kazez's towns  
Plawno, Lelow, Janow, Krzepice, Nikolayev, Opoczno, Konstantiinow and Bugiem, Piotrkow Tryb., Rozprza, Szczerkociny, Przyrow, Nowy Mstow, Pabianice

"Stanley Diamond and Stan Zeidenberg asked me to do the photocopying of the BMD index lists of LDS films for the Toronto Copy Centre of JRI-Poland as people ordered them from around the world. By now I have done 225 of the 2300 films made of Jewish records. The photocopying was done at the Toronto Reference Library in the Toronto Star room on \$20 000 machines reserved for newspaper purposes. It takes about an hour to finish a film. I would photocopy three films at a time (my record was 9 films). The library recommended only 20 minutes on a machine. I would leave the machines in need of repair so often that the library had an emergency meeting about me. They finally gave in and put the machines on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor where the genealogy desk is.

"In the last few years I have translated Russian records people requested on the Discussion group on JewishGen posted on Viewmate. I also saw requests for volunteers for Russian translators for projects. I typed out "10 000 people shot by the Gestapo in the forests of Stanislav (Ivano-Frankivsk)" for Joyce Field, and "20 000 people buried in the Chernovits Cemetery" for the Ottawa JGS. The largest project I have taken on (3 years to do) is 70 000 BMD records of Kishinev for the Roumania SIG (under Bob Wascou).

"My biggest thrill was running the resource room at the IAJGS convention in Toronto that our group sponsored in 2002,

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along with Gord Meslin and his 93 year-old father-in-law. I put up a sign "Free Russian translations of BMD records." People came out of the woodwork to have their documents translated. I also put out my translations of the records for towns I was working on but had not typed up yet. One person saw the binder for her town, Zwolen, and her family tree grew instantly by 200.

"The saddest thing was the premature death of Harold Nissenthall, whom I helped find and translate his grandfather's record from Annapol. Harold made the convention "work." I dedicated the Kishinev records in his name.

"The irony of it all is that I can do everyone's genealogy but my own. Without the name of my great-grandfather's town of birth I cannot break the "1880 barrier." His Canadian nationalization paper says he was born in Bialiny near Bodzentyn but all I could find were his two brothers on the film and no PRAJS's before that date in this town. My grandmother's family, on the other hand, stayed put in Chmielnik. I cannot afford to purchase all the GORLICKI records.

"Famous people I am related (not closely) to: Sandy Koufax the ballplayer, Tony Kushner the playwright, and Chaim Weizmann the first president of Israel. I once read in an *Avotaynu* article by a mathematician who claimed that all Ashkenazi Jewish people are at least 10<sup>th</sup> cousins and possibly 6<sup>th</sup> cousins of each other.

"Interesting surnames that I have seen:

Musical: KLEZMER, FIDLER, MUZIKANT

Cheap: BABKIS, TSYATSKIS

Famous: TROTSKY, BRONFMAN, ROTSZILD, MOSES, FRANKENSZTAJN, EINSZTAJN

Religious: SZNEERSON, KATSENELEBOGAN, TWERSKY, KANTOR, RABINOWICZ

Intelligent: MUDRICK (wise), GROYSKOPF (big head)

Rich: MILLIONSZCHIK, GELT

Edible: KNYSZ, KISZKA, FARFEL, SZMALTS, SIMIS, BEJGEL, FLIGEL, FLISZFISZ (river fish)

Unusual: FARTSECHNER (register), TITINSZNAJDER (tobacco cutter), SZTUKMEJSTER (juggler)

Unmentionable: (sorry, I would be expelled in school if I wrote these in English but I assure you that the descendants, whom I hope have survived, would certainly have changed their names).

"Warren Blatt once told me to let people know that they can translate Russian documents with little or no prior language experience. He said that 90% of the meaning can be extracted by any beginner with a wordlist of less than 100 words. I was once asked to do a seminar on how to translate Russian BMD records at one of our group's beginners' Sundays. No one came. I guess that it was too advanced a topic for beginners. The number of translators of Jewish records in Russian who also computerize the records I can count on one hand. It is too advanced a topic even for the advanced.

"I am also the librarian of the JGS of Toronto's library collection on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Central Library, North York. If you have any questions contact me at [dprice@sympatico.ca](mailto:dprice@sympatico.ca)

"When Deborah Eker (nee Pekilis), the former JGS

librarian, got married she moved to Hamilton. The JGS of Toronto executive was looking for a new librarian. I used to come to the meetings, and since the school where I teach is located next door to Central Library where the JGS collection is kept, I volunteered to do the job until a qualified librarian could be found. I figured that all that would be needed was to put a few books into the library once or twice a year with little loss of personal time. Then I asked Debbie what one has to do to catalogue a new book. It was not so easy. One had to print a call number and tape it onto the spine of a book somehow, type up an author, title and subject listing, make 3 copies of them and put them into the binders (no easy feat). One book is no problem but when people donated 20 books at a time it took many hours to catalogue. I have since recruited Stephen Creed as a co-librarian who has generously volunteered his time.

"I once dreamed of putting the entire collection onto Excel after the JGS of Toronto obtained a web site. I finally did it. Have you ever tried to copy the inside cover of a book giving the subject details, ISBN number, publisher, year, number of pages, etc.? Multiply this by a thousand. At least once done, you never have to do it again.

"John Jakobson is the Canadiana librarian on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of Central Library who protects our collection like a mother/child relationship. He will inform me if new journal boxes are needed, help me find a book I misfiled, and even directs patrons to me if there is a question that he cannot answer. John is an expert on Canadian genealogy matters such as the Canadian boat passenger lists and immigration records.

"Best references of our JGS genealogy library collection:

*Where Once We Walked* by G. Mokotoff

*Jewish Roots in Poland* by M. Weiner

*Jewish Roots in the Ukraine and Moldova* by M. Weiner

*A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland* by A. Beider

*A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* by A. Beider (donated by the late Leonard Green)

*From Generation to Generation* by A. Kurzweil

*Guide to Jewish Genealogy* by Sallyann Sack/G. Mokotoff

*From a Ruined Garden* by J. Kugelmass

*Shniatyn, Shtetl Memoirs* by Schoenfeld

*Memories of Ozarow* by Hillel Adler (donated by Moishe Gold)

*Konin* by T. Richmond

*The 50<sup>th</sup> Gate* by M. Baker

*Encyclopaedia Judaica*, 1974 (donated by Syd Birnbaum)

*Unbroken Chain* by Dr. N. Rosenstein

*Avotaynu* as well as the journals from over 20 JGS societies around the world

Holocaust references (Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, Hungary, Palestine, Shanghai, Austria, Germany, Dachau, Breslau, Bavaria...)

Canadian cemetery lists

Canadian Jewish Census by province (Glen Eker's amazing works)

"Our collection was displayed at the 2002 IAJGS convention. Some references were signed out 30 times.

"Unfortunately, we have misplaced some books and

Cont'd on page 9

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## Of Landsmanshaften and Ice-Cream Parlours: Self-Help Groups in the Toronto Jewish Community

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In an address given some years ago, Madame Justice Rosalie Abella defined just what it was that distinguished our Canadian ethnic mosaic from the “melting pot” of our American neighbours. Canada, in her view, has accommodated integration, rather than the assimilation noticeable in the US.<sup>1</sup> This allows for groups to maintain their separate identities and cultures, while sharing in common aspirations and goals.

Given the pressures on all newcomers to adapt to the mainstream, our multiculturalism is a rather remarkable accomplishment. How did we get to it? One factor must surely have been the variety of self-help and mutual aid associations that immigrants of all nationalities have formed upon arrival in this country - associations such as sick benefit societies, free loan societies, co-ops, credit unions, fraternal organizations, and, among Jews, the landsmanshaften, groups of people from the same shtetl or area.

A 1979 article in *Polyphony* (the journal of the Multicultural History Society of Ontario) describes the most pressing socio-economic needs facing immigrants at the turn of the 20th century, beyond food, shelter and employment: providing for a family whose breadwinner was injured or killed, and providing proper burials. Beyond these were all the long-term problems of adaptation: illiteracy in both one's mother tongue and English or French; the harsh climate and isolation; and, interestingly, exposure to unregulated capitalism.<sup>2</sup>

Jewish immigrants to Toronto, like many other immigrants, responded to these needs with a great spirit of public welfare. The Toronto Hebrew Burial Society, formed in 1906, took care of any Jewish immigrant who died without belonging to a synagogue or burial group. The G'Milath Chasodim Association operated as a free loan society.<sup>3</sup> There is record in the early 1900's of a dispensary and orphanage at 218 Simcoe Street under the auspices of Mr. Joseph Gurofsky and Mr. S. Fremes, and a Jewish public kitchen on Teraulay St., associated with Mrs. Tucker and Mrs. Solway, who undertook the cooking, Mr. David Levine, the Shomrai Shabos Synagogue on Chestnut Street, the Kiever landsleit, Mr. Hershel Wilder, Mr. Ben Zion Nussbaum and Mr. S. Weber.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to these community enterprises, there arose those groups characterized by a “consciousness of kind”<sup>5</sup> - whether place of origin or ideology - and taking the form of mutual benefit societies (which could offer sick or accident benefits, and burial plots), fraternal organizations (which could offer life insurance), and landsmanshaften, which might be a mixture of synagogue and mutual benefit society. Steven Speisman notes that landsmanshaften were usually formed by Jews from Russia, Galicia, and Roumania; Poles tended to form synagogues representing towns. Aside from the landsmanshaften, he identifies non-ethnic societies united by ideology (such as Workmen's Circle) and non-ethnic, non-partisan groups (such as YMHA).<sup>6</sup> A report in the Ontario Jewish Archives on Jewish mutual benefit societies by Louis Rosenberg, then research

director at the Canadian Jewish Congress, identified the formation of over 35 such Jewish groups between 1896 and 1945, of which 18 were landsmanshaften. Interestingly, though Rosenberg noted Jewish precedents for mutual help societies (for instance, *chevra kadisha* societies mentioned in the Talmud, as well as the Jewish artisans' guilds in east and central Europe in the 17th-19th centuries), he believed the real precedent for such societies in North America and the UK were the mutual aid and fraternal organizations formed in England after the Industrial Revolution.<sup>7</sup>

The first such society formed among Jews in Toronto seems to have been the YMHA (not to be confused with the community centre of the same name), in 1896, followed by the Toronto Hebrew Benefit Society (1899), the Pride of Israel Sick Benefit Society (1905), which grew to be the largest of its kind, the Mozirer Sick Benefit Society (1905), organized at the home of Mr. Bregman, Hebrew Friendly Society (1907), First Romanian Ahavot Achim (1907), Grand Order of Israel (1908), Nova Radomsk (1909), Toronto Independent Benevolent Association (1909), Workmen's Circle (1910), Hebrew Sick Benefit (1910), Linitzer Sick Benefit (1913), Kieltzer Sick Benefit (1913), Csenstochover (1914), Polish Young Men's (1915), Berditchever (1916), United Hebrew Benevolent (1918), Sons of Jacob (1918), Stashover (1918), Sons of Abraham (1919), Independent Hebrew (1919), Judean Benevolent (1919), Canadian Hebrew (1920), Ostrovzter Independent (1925), Labour League (1927), Sons of Israel (1928), Warsaw-Lodzer (1929), Ivansker (1931), Stashover Young men's (1931), Sons of David (1932), Radomer (1935), Driltzer Young men's (1934), Radomer (1935), Beizetchiner Bnei Jacob (1937), Ozerover (1937), Progressive (1938), All for One (1945).<sup>8</sup>

The majority of members in such groups were married males between the ages of 20-55, and employed primarily as wage-earners in the manufacturing sector. The primary benefits provided to members were coverage of medical costs and coverage of burial costs. Contractual arrangements would be made with local doctors to provide certain medical services to members. (The Central Medical Bureau was set up in Toronto in 1939 to regulate such contracts with “society” doctors.) Many of the societies also acquired land for burial plots, a factor, according to Rosenberg, in the “excessive” proliferation of Jewish cemeteries in the Toronto area.<sup>9</sup>

As all these groups matured, their public-spiritedness was extended beyond group members to benefit the Jewish and non-Jewish communities at large. Schools and camps were established, credit unions and loan societies set up, support offered to trade unions and the Zionist movement, and philanthropy extended to victims of pogroms and to refugees, as well as to local hospitals.<sup>10</sup>

Last, but not least, newcomers also collected in groups to satisfy political and social needs. A common forum for such



activities was the ice-cream parlour - the "Jewish soft-drink pub." Besides ice cream, one could purchase a meat sandwich, a cup of tea, cigarettes or a glass of siphon water. In addition to games of cards or dominos, a favourite activity was political discussion, often heated. There is record of one such store at the corner of Louisa and Elizabeth streets, run by Mr. Rosenfield and Mr. Koldofsky; another at 64 Elizabeth, run by Chana and Boris Dworkin, and apparently favoured by bundists, anarchists and anti-Zionists; one at 102 Agnes (now Dundas) run by Yitzchak Herman; one at Armoury and Chestnut, run by Mr. Greisman; and one at 97 Agnes, run by Mr. Michaelson and a favourite of Romanian Jews and those interested in theatre.<sup>11</sup>

Just as the landsmanshaften and mutual benefit societies, according to Rosenberg, often came to replace the synagogue as the focus of Jewish community life,<sup>12</sup> they in turn have been affected by other changes - universal health insurance, the movement of Jews out of low-wage manufacturing jobs, and a movement away from social gatherings as a form of entertainment.

Interestingly, however, many landsmanshaften do continue to flourish. The web site "Doing Jewish in Toronto" lists among current landsmanshaften: All-For-One-Mutual Benefit Society, Apter Friendly Society, Chenstochover Aid Society, Chmelnick Charitable Society, Driltzer Young Men Society, Farband Of Lithuanian Jews, Ivansker Mutual Benefit Society, Keltzer Society, Lagover Society, Linitzer Benefit Society, Maramoresher Society, Mosaic Masonic Lodge, New World Club, Ostrovitzer Independent Mutual Benefit Society, Ozrower Benefit Society, Piotrovkov Tomashov Belchatov Society, Pultusker Landsmanshaft, Shedlitz Lokow Society, Shedlover Young Men Society, Sons Of Jacob Shalom Lodge, Stashiver Young Men & Ladies Society, Stopnitzer Young Men's Benevolent Association, Tzosmerer Friendly Society, Warshaver Lodzer & Mutual Benefit Society, Weirzblicker Friendly Society, and the Zaglember Society Of Toronto. (For links to these societies, go to <http://www.jewishtorontoonline.net/index.jsp>, select "Community Directory," then "Organizations by Subject," then "Societies -Landsmanshaften")

We hope to feature a write-up of these societies in future editions of Shem Tov. It will be most interesting to discover how they have maintained their identities over the years, what functions they now serve, and what part they now play in the Canadian ethnic mosaic.

Special thanks to Chris Halonen, The Ontario Jewish Archives, Toronto

#### Sources

- <sup>1</sup> Rosalie Silberman Abella, "Human Rights in the Twenty-First Century; A Global Challenge" *The Law Society Gazette*, March 1991, pp. 48-9.
- <sup>2</sup> *Polyphony* (Multicultural History Society of Ontario), 1979 Winter, pp. 1-3.
- <sup>3</sup> Arthur Hart, ed., *The Jews in Canada*. Toronto: Jewish Publications Ltd., 1926), p. 221.
- <sup>4</sup> *Polyphony*, 1984/6, pp. 59-63, at pp. 59, 61; on-line at <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/magic/mt44.html>

- <sup>5</sup> Louis Rosenberg, "Jewish Mutual Benefit and Friendly Societies in Toronto. The First Fifty Years 1896-1945" (Ontario Jewish Archives), p. 11.
- <sup>6</sup> Stephen Speisman, *The Jews of Toronto. A History to 1939* (Toronto: McLelland and Stewart, 1979), pp. 100-110.
- <sup>7</sup> Rosenberg, pp. 3-7.
- <sup>8</sup> Rosenberg, pp. 45-47.
- <sup>9</sup> Rosenberg, pp. 23, 30-37
- <sup>10</sup> Rosenberg, p. 38
- <sup>11</sup> *Polyphony*, 1984/6, pp. 60-1.
- <sup>12</sup> Rosenberg, p. 35.

### ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by August 2005 for the Fall issue. Please indicate how many insertions you would like. As the chart indicates our basic rate is discounted for advertisements placed in four consecutive issues (one year) instead of a single issue only. By placing an ad in SHEM TOV, you are reaching a growing number of readers in Toronto, across Canada and internationally, and helping to support a unique and vital journal.

	One Issue	Four Issues (one year)
Full Page	\$60	\$200
Half Page	\$30	\$100
Quarter Page	\$18	\$ 60
Eighth Page	\$10	\$ 32

Search ads are also available. Rates are \$5 for the first 25 words and 25¢ 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.

### Spotlight on Members and Friends cont'd from page 7

journals in our collection. If anyone wishes to donate the following books (or any other genealogy-related references) please feel free to do so by contacting me or Stephen. Here is a list:

*Life is With People* by Mark Zborowski (donated by Bill Gladstone along with 100 other books in memory of his father, Russell Norman Gladstone of blessed memory)

*Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia* by Alexander Beider (accidentally offered as a giveaway at our February meeting)

Some *Avotaynu* journals

*If you have a volunteer experience you'd like to share, please contact [shemtov@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:shemtov@jgstoronto.ca).*

# JEWISHGEN PLUS

News from JewishGen and Jewish Genealogy Newsletters,  
Compiled and Annotated by Henry Wellisch

## Reprint of the Morton Allan Directory of Steamship Arrivals

Dick Eastman's *On-Line Genealogy Newsletter* (April 19) notes that the Genealogical Publishing Company has reprinted the *Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals For the Years 1890 to 1930 at the Port of New York, and for the Years 1904 to 1926 at the Ports of New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore*. This means that the book, originally published in 1931, is now more readily available.

Eastman writes: "The Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals is exactly what its name implies: a listing of ships by port of debarkation, steamship line, and date of arrival.... [Many] ships stopped at still other ports [besides New York]. The Uranium Steamship Company sailed from Rotterdam, stopped in Halifax, and then went on to New York. The Russian-American Line departed Libau (Latvia), stopped in Rotterdam, and then stopped in Halifax before going on to New York. The Red Star line sailed from Antwerp, stopping in Boston and Philadelphia but apparently not in New York. The French Line (also known as Compagnie Generale Transatlantique) apparently sailed a circular route: Havre to Vigo to Bordeaux to New York to Halifax to Plymouth (England) and back to Havre. There are many, many other steamship lines listed in this book.

"You can often find the ship that an ancestor traveled on from his naturalization papers and occasionally from other documents. This book will help you find which dates she or he possibly arrived. This allows you to look up the passenger lists and immigration documents that are on microfilm (and some have been transcribed to computer databases). In turn, the passenger lists and immigration documents often give many details about the person's origins in the old country, often listing the exact place of birth, parents' names, marital status, possibly the names of siblings and more.

"[The book] sells for \$25.00 and is available directly from Genealogical Publishing Company at [http://www.genealogical.com/item\\_detail.asp?ID=80](http://www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?ID=80). It should also be available from other bookstores if you specify ISBN#: 0806308303.

"The Morton Allan Directory can also be searched online using Steve Morse's "One Step" tools: <http://www.stevemorse.org/ellis/cimorelli.html>  
(c) Dick Eastman 2005)

See also the web site "Finding Passenger Lists 1820-1940s (arrivals at US Ports)" at <http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/passengers.html>

## Did Your Ancestors Work in the Garment Trade?

The Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives at Cornell University's Catherwood Library announces a new on-line collection of more than 1,000 photographs documenting the ninety-five year history of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. The images in this database may be browsed or searched at <http://www.laborphotos.cornell.edu>. Users are able to save selected images for later review and to order reproductions as digital files or photographic reprints.

The Center's message states: "The Labor Photos database consists of images of work, union activities and important events in American 20th Century labor history, and is regularly augmented with photographs from the Center's varied collections. ...The Kheel Center (<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/library/kheel>) is Catherwood Library's special collections unit and is one of the country's leading archives of industrial and labor relations holding nearly 28 million historical items.

"Strengths include the definitive historical records of fourteen international unions including those of the ILGWU, its sister union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, and their ultimate successor, UNITE HERE (<http://www.unitehere.org>). Center collections are also rich in background material on pioneering federal regulatory and state protective labor legislation. Also available at the Center are the records of professional organizations in related fields as well as the papers of over 500 individuals prominent in the field of industrial relations.

"We welcome your inquiries, comments and suggestions. Please contact BarbMorley at <[kheel\\_center@cornell.edu](mailto:kheel_center@cornell.edu)>."

## Identifying People in Photographs

A web site with the intriguing name of "Dead Fred Genealogy Photo Archive" (<http://www.deadfred.com>) allows you access to its database of over 49,000 photographs to search for relatives. Ancestral photographs that are older than 1960, of subjects who are deceased, can also be submitted to the database.

In addition to allowing various kinds of searches of the database, the site provides services such as discussion groups, school annuals, the ability to upload and manage one's own photo records, and a monthly e-newsletter.

The site has been named by Family Tree Magazine as one of the 101 Best Genealogy Web Sites.

You can submit photos online, or send photos as donations to the following address: Dead Fred, P.O. Box 6937, Springdale, AR 72766-6937. (Such photos become the property of the Archive.)

# JEWISHGEN PLUS

News from JewishGen and Jewish Genealogy Newsletters,  
Compiled and Annotated by Henry Wellisch

## A New TV "Reality" Show: Researching Your Ancestors

Canada's History Television channel announces the creation of a new series called "Ancestors Search." It will be based on the stories of people tracing their family histories.

Quoting from the television show's web site: "History Television wants your help in developing a new series that will help you unravel dramatic, personal family mysteries and take you on a worldwide quest for answers. Tell us what you know about the person in your family whose story most intrigues you. It can be a grandparent, parent, uncle or aunt - anyone whose life has left you with questions and a drive to answer them. Or, if you've made an unexpected or startling discovery while researching your family we'd like to know. Submissions should be 500 words or less and sent to the e-mail address: <Ancestors.Search@allianceatlantis.com>."

For more information, go to <http://www.historytelevision.ca/microsites/ancestorssearch/default.asp>.

## Searching UK Naturalizations

In his *Nu What's New* (March 27), Gary Mokotoff reports that the *London Gazette*, a primary source of UK legal notices, is now on-line:

"*The London Gazette* is one of the official newspapers of record in the United Kingdom. In it are published legal notices. Of greatest interest to genealogists are notices of naturalizations. All copies of the *London Gazette* from 1900 to 1997 are now available on the Internet with a full-word search engine at <http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk/generalArchive.asp?webType=0>. The actual naturalization documents are also identified online at the National Archives Catalogue at <http://www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search.asp>. If privacy laws permit, you can request the actual documents."

## More U.S. Databases On-Line at Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com announces some additions to its searchable databases:

- four more US censuses
  - U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-80
  - Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1883-1945
  - WWI Draft Registration Cards (1.3 million names added from various states)
  - Titanic Survivors, Carpathia Passenger List, 1912
- NB: access is by subscription. but a free trial is offered.

## How to Track Frequently Changing Information on Web Sites

If your genealogy research includes searching on-line databases, you know that it is necessary to redo your searches periodically to see if any data have been added or changed. This means keeping track of when you made your last search and what search criteria you used.

Dick Eastman's newsletter (May 3) reports on a new web protocol called Really Simple Syndication (RSS) that tells you when specific parts of a web site have been updated, rather than you having to search each part yourself. For now, it seems that this technology is being used mainly by on-line news media sites, but is getting more popular, so perhaps it will soon be a feature of database sites such as JewishGen. Eastman has written an article on the subject, "RSS Feeds Explained," at: [http://eogn.typepad.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2004/08/rss\\_feeds\\_expla.html](http://eogn.typepad.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2004/08/rss_feeds_expla.html).

## Access to Bad Arolsen Holocaust Records

Hal Bookbinder, President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies (IAJGS), reports:

"No doubt you are aware of the issues with the International Tracing Service in which tens of millions of Holocaust records are locked up at Bad Arolsen, Germany. The IAJGS has taken a strong position demanding the opening of these records for family research. I have had communication with the German Interior Minister who expressed his support for making the records more available. Letters to our own [US] State Department, however, have gone unanswered. Unfortunately, virtually no progress has been made in making these records more available."

## First English Census, 1841, Now On-Line

The Origins Network, which specializes in British and Irish genealogy, announces that the 1841 census, the earliest name-inclusive census of England, is now on-line. The database may be accessed at <http://www.originsnetwork.com> (this is also a paid subscription site, and a free trial is offered).

This site provides access to much English genealogical information, including marriage registers, wills, valuation records, emigration passenger lists, court and apprentice records. They also have images such as original survey maps and vintage photographs. Through their partnership with various societies they provide on-line access to many primary source records.

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## New Book on Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents

### A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents

Author Rosemary Wenzel

Published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain,  
PO BOX 180, St. Albans, Herts AL2 3WH, England, U.K.,  
May 2005

Paperback, 56 pages

JGS Great Britain announces the publication of this useful guide, aimed particularly at those who have difficulty reading or understanding Hebrew. You will be able to compare the Hebrew on an inscription, photograph or document with the information in the book. All the Hebrew in the book has English explanation, translation and transliteration.

In addition to examples of Hebrew documents and inscriptions, the book includes the Hebrew alphabet, Hebrew vowels, numerical values, Jewish calendar, conversion tables, formula to convert a Jewish year to a Gregorian year, how to read headstones, symbols on headstones and their meanings, frequently used Hebrew words with abbreviations found on tombstones, Hebrew given boys' and girls' names, Hebrew letters which are liable to be misread, and a glossary of Yiddish terms. Reasons behind some of the inscriptions, as well as an explanation of Jewish customs, are also included.

The book may be ordered by writing to the publishers, or from their web site at [www.jsgsb.org.uk](http://www.jsgsb.org.uk).

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## Wanted: Information on Grey County

Do you or does anyone you know have a connection to Grey County, Ontario? Beth Ezekiel Congregation in Owen Sound and Grey Roots, The Museum of Grey County, are preparing an exhibit about the Jewish presence in Grey County, which goes back well over 100 years.

Besides Owen Sound, the other large towns in Grey are Dundalk, Durham, Hanover, Markdale and Meaford. Some of the very early families were Bernstein, Bloch, Faiht, Fishkin, Goldblatt, Topp and Tugenhaft.

Please contact <[kfoster@greycountry.on.ca](mailto:kfoster@greycountry.on.ca)> if you have information, photos or artifacts to contribute to this exhibit, which will open in the fall of 2006.

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## IAJGS Conference News

The Daily Planner for the 2005 IAJGS conference in Las Vegas is available at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs/jgs-southernnevada/Shelley/planner.htm>.

Looking ahead, the Board of the IAJGS has selected Salt Lake City for the location of the 2007 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The target dates are July 15-20, 2007.

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## New Book on Lithuanian Jews

### Preserving Our Litvak Heritage. A History of 31 Jewish Communities in Lithuania

Author Josef Rosin

Introduction by Professor Dov Levin

Edited by Joel Alpert

Published: JewishGen Inc., Leage City, Texas, 2005

736 pages

JewishGen announces the publication of this "encyclopedic collection of archival material, public records, personal memoirs and over 500 photographs." The book includes an introduction by "one of the preeminent contemporary international scholars of the history of Eastern European Jewish communities." Detailed histories of the following communities are given up to World War II: Alytus, Birzai, Jurbarkas, Kaimiadorys, Kapciamiestis, Klaipeda, Kudirkos Naumiestis, Kybartai, Lazdijai, Lygumai, Marijampole, Merkinė, Panevžys, Pilviskiai, Prienai, Sakiai, Salantai, Seirijai, Seta, Stakliškes, Sudargas, Taurage, Tauragnai, Telsiai, Utena, Varena, Veisiejai, Vilkaviskis, Virbalis, Zeimelis, Zemaiciu Naumiestis.

Our Society has purchased this book. For related material, our librarian David Price notes the following resources that we have in our JGS library:

ELIACH, Yaffa. *There Once Was a World* (on Eishyshok). 1998. Call number 947.93.

LEVIN, Dov. *Litvaks, A Short History of the Jews in Lithuania*. 2000. Call number 947.9300492.

LOZANSKY, Rival. *If I Forget Thee... The Destruction of the Shtetl Butrimantz*. 1998. Call number 947.045.

RHODE, Harold. *Jewish Vital Records, Revision Lists and Other Jewish Holdings in the Lithuanian Archives*. 1996. Call number 929.3438088.

SCHOENBURG, Nancy. *Lithuanian Jewish Communities*. 1991. Call number 947.5004924.

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## Jewish War Veterans of Canada Database

A new web site being developed by the Jewish War Veterans of Canada will include a comprehensive directory of Canadian Jewish war veterans from all branches of the service and from every conflict in which they took part. The group states that their mission is to help educate the wider public, as well as to preserve the heritage of Jewish military service in Canada.

We have added a link to the directory through our web site. You can also access the site directly at:

[Http://www.yorku.ca/cjv/index.html](http://www.yorku.ca/cjv/index.html); sample entries may be viewed under "Directory of Veterans," and there is an online page through which you can contribute a veteran's name and/or photos to the directory.