



שם טוב
SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

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**TWO GREAT LECTURES ON EASTERN EUROPE
BY VLAD SOSHNIKOV**

Summarized by Ruth Chernia

Exploring your Jewish Past: Travelling through Eastern Europe to Discover Your Roots (September 25, 2005)

Vlad Soshnikov has extensive experience in the travel aspect of searching for Jewish roots, as well as familiarity with and training in archival research. He graduated with a degree in history and archival science from the State Institute for History and Archives in Moscow. His work in the Russian government enabled him to make contacts with the heads of the various East European archives. He has spoken at numerous genealogical conferences and published many articles on Jewish genealogy and the archives of the former USSR. Of special note, he authored chapters on the Russian Empire, Russia and Belarus in the *Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy*. He is also an experienced photographer and has organized trips to Eastern Europe for genealogists and also acted as guide.

Soshnikov's itineraries and research efforts cover the territory of the former Russian empire including Belarus, Ukraine [Moldova?] — large cities such as Odessa and places that have the features of modern life and smaller cities and villages that have remained essentially as they were during Soviet times. The prices for services may exceed European and U.S. ones for hotel and car rental. As well, the traveller should be prepared for extensive ecological damage such as that near Chernobyl.

Soshnikov recommends the traveller use a smart travel agent, one familiar with the area, and a local guide. Why should you even bother to visit? Well, it is important to understand recent history, to understand the evil, to learn about the Holocaust. Millions died and the state persuaded the people [to collaborate in] atrocities.

The people are gone, the towns have changed or disappeared, but the scenery is still there, and remnants remain. Archival documents remain in local archives. You'll see what your ancestors saw, walk where they walked and have incredible emotional and intellectual experiences. There's the ever-present contrast between old buildings and McDonald's.

All tourists should visit Moscow and St. Petersburg.

These are the most attractive cities with their museums and theatres. Then plan on one week in the local capital of the guberniya (now oblast) where your ancestors lived. This allows time for visits to local archives and for general research and, perhaps, a drive into the countryside to visit "your" shtetl.

An itinerary including Minsk would be about US \$3,000 including the flight. As well as a valid passport, you will need a visa (about \$100). Then there are tickets, hotels, transportation, meals, health insurance and souvenirs. Soshnikov suggests it is better to visit during the warmer seasons.

Using a regional centre as a base, and where you are more likely to find a modern hotel, you can rent a car or travel by train between various capitals. Train travel is reasonably priced and comfortable with sleeping compartments and good service. For example, you could go to bed [in the train] in Warsaw and wake up in Minsk. But to visit small towns and villages a car is a must. The roads are pretty good except in Bela-

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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

Wednesday, January 25, 2006

T.B.A.

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

T.B.A.

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

T.B.A.

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

T.B.A.

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

T.B.A.

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

*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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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.

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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Two Great Lectures cont'd from page 1

rus. You should use a local guide. Many guides concentrate on showing post-WWII history. Therefore it's important to find one who can help you find information in archives and museums from earlier times.

There are still Jews in these countries, but Belarus has only 22,000. Most survivors left after 1972. In Zhlobin, for example, we went to a local museum where one old man helped us find the other five or six Jews who live there. The director of the museum showed us pre-war photos of groups of school children. Some people have taken on the project of preserving the local Jewish cemetery and include it in the inventory of surviving cemeteries. In Belarus and Ukraine, people (mostly visitors from abroad) are more knowledgeable than the locals about these cemeteries.

In Zhlobin, we were discouraged from taking photos of old houses. The current owners are afraid that family of the previous owners will try to claim them. These pre-war houses are not brick but mostly wooden. When we began to talk about the war [with the old people], the tears began. They pointed out that everyone suffered. The speaker's uncle was forced to serve with the Germans. In Belarus every village has a war memorial in the centre of town.

In Minsk, the main squares still have statues of Lenin. Belarus is still a restricted country. You cannot photograph government buildings. McDonald's is still considered the best food. There are lots of big and cheap buildings. The largest synagogue (about 150 years old) is now a theatre. Before the war there were 18 synagogues. Now there is only one – a new one.

When you go to visit archives, be aware that they were not built and planned with researchers in mind. There are no research rooms. In small towns often the largest building, apart from religious institutions, was a barn. This has often been converted to an archive. Photographs of cemeteries are filed with all other photos. Cemeteries are hard to find. The stones, even the graves themselves, were dug up by people looking for "treasure."

You would be wise to do advance research on the Internet through JewishGen and other sites before you travel.

The Archives and How to Deal with Them: Current Status of Genealogical Research in the Archives of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine (September 26, 2005)

The first archival records in Russia were created during the era of the Empire. Records of the former Polish province of the Russian Empire are now in Warsaw [so it's important to know where your ancestor lived and when]. Russian class structure had the nobility at the top followed by the clergy and merchants, then craftspeople and town dwellers. Jews were "Russian citizens of foreign faith." Christian documents were kept separate from other documents. Each class had its own body under the Tsarist government.

Primary sources:

Sporadically before 1858 censuses were taken. There are revision lists (poll tax lists), family and local residence lists, class lists and lists of professionals, such as pharmacists, medical staff, tradesmen, military and land and property owners.

In 1835 "crown" (appointed by the Tsar) rabbis began making community records. This continued until 1917. Civil registration also continued until the Soviet state declared an end to religion in the 1920s. These records were deposited in state [provincial] archives. In the western USSR (Poltava and Kharkiv) many records were destroyed during WWII. Occasionally, knowledgeable people saved or reconstructed records.

Provinces (Gubernias [Russian Empire] or Oblasts [USSR and afterwards]):

In the Kiev Archives there are 1.3 million records from the 1800s to about the mid 1950s. These papers are handwritten in old Russian. After 1917, when certain records became a national responsibility in Belorussia and Ukraine, the state languages were used more and records were typed. The most recent records from the last 75 years are in the civil departmental archives under the ministry of justice.

Archives Pre- and Post-Soviet Union:

Traditionally, archives were not open to the public but only to scholars, who were limited to studying specific subjects. Genealogy was not considered a scholarly subject. Genealogical research was taught in the past to allow research on "famous, noble families" but not "ordinary" people. With the collapse of the Soviet system, the archives were opened to the public in the early 1990s. I had to learn a new way of dealing with the public and the value of doing genealogical research. Because of this I have had articles published in *Avotaynu*, for example.

The years from 1993 to 1995 were taken up with creating inventories. Now the archives allow free access for all citizens, with a certain chronological limit: no access to state security records of the last 30 years or individual records for the last 75 years.

In Ukraine the archives may withdraw records to repair damaged files. However, some records have been damaged beyond repair. There are no photocopies or microfilms and in the past people were not asked to wear gloves. Because of the



fear that records would not be used properly or be sold, hand scanners, laptops and digital cameras were banned. You are allowed to personally copy records of persons who are related to you.

Gaining Access:

You need to be prepared to develop a relationship with people who work in the archives. Set the proper tone. The director or other staff will have a conversation with you; they want to demonstrate their hospitality and will search out the "spirit" of the person seeking access. The conversation might turn personal over a cup of tea and some candy. You might bring candy or flowers when you go to meet archive staff. This will be an occasion for a traditional tea and presentation of gifts. The director will invite close workers. All will be happy to see friendly visitors. You might say that you like the building. Many have been changed from their original purpose, for example, the archives in Odessa was a synagogue. If the building is new, ask about recent improvements to services. You don't have to bring your own copier but you might be asked to sponsor the purchase of a new and faster one than the machine currently in the building.

The files are almost all volumes of old papers – some beautiful, some filled with broken, old pages. A friendly director might want to show you the most beautiful file, whether it is relevant to your research or not. The archives might have a collection of old torahs from the time of the dissolution of synagogues.

In any case, expect to establish a special contact and to be asked to provide support in the future. You should plan for at least three or four days for the beginning of your research because you might be allowed to see only about five to 10 files a day (and never on the day of your arrival, only afterwards). Therefore, you should prepare for your visit in advance by writing a request letter to the archives. If you know the specific numbers from an inventory, you can request specific files. The staff might be impressed by your knowledge. But, if you demand immediate delivery, you may provoke the opposite reaction: the files are being repaired and are not available, for example. Even financial incentives will not speed your request if it is couched as a demand.

Be aware that complete records are often not released. Directors need to learn that researchers are putting together the pieces of a puzzle. Zaparozze and Melitopol are two archives where the director is friendly to genealogists.

[There were, of course, numerous questions. The following paragraphs are framed from Soshnikov's answers.]

- If your research is centred on Moscow, you should engage a researcher to help you, because while vital statistics are filed in Moscow, it is hard to get results there. You can rely on the recommendations of *Avotaynu*. Records are filed strictly by place of residence, so if you

had family on both sides of a river that marked the boundary between two guberniyas, some records might be in Kaminets-Podolsk and some in Kishinev, for example. If you need to research records in Vinnitsia, some records might be in Romanian from the time in the 1920s what that area was briefly part of that country. The records of Kovno are in Kovno. Most records regarding Volynia are in Zitomir. Records from Mogilev are in Minsk. Go to JewishGen, and under Belarus you will find a link for the national archives' official web site.

- Acquaint yourself with the history of Jewish immigration into Ukraine in the late 1700s to early 1800s under Tsar Alexander I, when the need to secure newly gained territory prompted the Tsar to allow immigrants such as Jews and ethnic Germans to settle in agricultural colonies in the southern part of that area.
- After WWII, the Soviets gained records they took from the Nazis, which they kept, without inventorying, in a "special archive." Although some of the records are military, others are general. In the 1990s some western researchers did gain access, but since the middle of the decade access has generally be denied.
- Soldiers' records are filed in the central archives in Moscow under Ministry of Defense, but you will probably only find records if the person you are researching was an officer, or died. Or you might find a record of yourself [this was the answer to one questioner who was drafted into the regular army].
- If you write a letter to an archive [in this case, specifically, Grodno] requesting a metrical record, you will eventually get a reply. The archives have a duty to answer these letters.
- The answer to a person inquiring about records from Lemberg [the former name of Lviv, Lvov], Galicia, was that some records might be in Vienna if early enough. An early Austrian census record would show the age and possible family members of the person in the census.

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Naturalization Irregularities

by Bill Gladstone

The *Toronto Star* reported on November 15, 1910 that some irregularities had occurred regarding the processing of at least 136 naturalization files, requiring the "foreigners" to apply again. Many of them were Jews, as apparent from the published list reproduced here. As practically no naturalization material is available from the government before 1919, and no naturalization indexes are available before 1915, this list can help a select group of researchers pinpoint the whereabouts of their ancestors in 1910. Many were likely enumerated at the same address in the national census of 1911.

IRREGULARITIES DISCOVERED IN NATURALIZATION PAPERS

The Name of Jacob Cohen Signed to Them by His Secretary, Without
His Knowledge or Consent—Over a Hundred Foreigners
Will Have to Submit Themselves Again.

Those In September Sessions.
List of names submitted for September Sessions when irregularity was discovered:

1—Max Aarons, 140 Grange avenue, operator.
4—Harry Aulter, 97 Chestnut street, operator.
8—Baruch Borschkowsky, 103 Walton street, operator.
15—Isaac Diamond, 28 Albert street, presser.
21—Costa Dimitroff, 83 Queen, merchant.
32—Max Finkleman, 10 Baldwin street, operator.
42—Henry Gold, 97 1-3 Agnes street, fish merchant.
55—Max Heller, 1720 Dundas street, jeweler.
60—Isaac Horonyeck, 140 Grange avenue, tailor.
83—Zolna Jacob, 28 Alice street, peddler.
76—Isaac Larkin, 181 Centre avenue, laborer.
78—Benjamin Lampert, 63 Elm street, operator.
85—Dattolo Luciano, 9 Henry street, laborer.
88—Morris Moller, 28 Albert street, merchant.
88—Albano Minuto, 9 Henry street, laborer.
88—Caruso Roberto, 112 Chestnut street, laborer.
103—Louis Rosenfelt, 188 Chestnut street, peddler.
131—Abraham Steinworzel, 51 Agnes street, presser.
132—Israel Strashuner, 123 Portland street, tailor.
135—Harry Swaman, 188 Chestnut street, peddler.
139—Michael Thomas, 44 Teraulay street, presser.
142—Joe Wurga, 131 Elizabeth street, operator.

Last May's List.
Names of those who received naturalization papers last May, and who will have to take out new ones:

2—David Aaron, 66 William street, tailor.
3—Charles Altor, 187 William street, printer.
7—Cosmos Apostolos, 66 Richmond west, fruit seller.
11—Abraham Benjamin, 187 Centre avenue, operator.
15—Henry Bernstein, 8 Armory street, operator.

18—James Bugerman, 97 St. Patrick street, cloak operator.
21—Louis Bograd, 9 Ontario street, operator.
23—Abraham Brownstein, 388 Queen east, furniture.
28—Charles Bruner, 26 Trinity square, driver.
29—Dave Celfetz, 187 William street, cloak operator.
48—Louis Goldofsky, 10 Walton street, operator.
51—Abraham Cooper, 141 Wellington west, cloak operator.
63—Louis Dubulsky, 383 Queen west, operator.
65—Schlem Dworkin, 94 Elizabeth street, merchant.
66—Sam Basser, 108 Peter street, machinist.
67—Morris Eaton, 26 Cameron street, coal dealer.
68—Yechmiel Elowitz, 9 Chestnut street, machinist.
72—Dave Fine, 339 Adelaide west, presser.
76—Morris Fine, 339 Adelaide west, bricklayer.
80—Abraham Fishelowitz, 29 Cameron street, cabinetmaker.
82—Joseph Fox, 28 Walton street, egg candler.
83—Morris Fox, 55 Chestnut street, tailor.
87—Naoum George, 617 Queen west, restaurateur.
88—Marks Geteles, 454 Richmond west, buttonhole maker.
89—Julius Gibbs, 132 Agnes street, presser.
91—Sam Glass, 81 Agnes street, operator.
95—Jacob Gold, 127 William street, tailor.
94—Lazarus Goldberg, 163 Teraulay street, presser.
97—Osher Goldman, 154 Spadina avenue, shoemaker.
98—Louis Goldstein, 36 Cameron street, fur dresser.
99—Ben Goodman, 76 Louisa street, furrier.
100—Max Goodman, 114 Agnes street, baker.
103—Sally Grossman, 243 Yonge street, furrier.
104—Ab. Gruber, 79 Elizabeth street, butcher.
116—Louis Judkin, 289 Spadina avenue, presser.

Those In May Sessions.
121—Ab. Kersner, 124 Centre, cloak presser.
123—Max Kittle, 111 Baldwin, laborer.

123—Louis Korn, 442 Wellington, manufacturer.
129—Julius Kramer, 103 Teraulay, operator.
131—Harry Krehm, 81 Kensington avenue, furrier.
132—Jos. Kritgler, 71 Chestnut, presser.
135—Jos. Kronick, 111 William, machinist.
136—Morris Kutter, 46 Walton, operator.
138—Israel Labofsky, 29 Maria, West Toronto, operator.
140—Morris Langbord, 188 Baldwin, machinist.
142—Joe Latter, 26 La Plante avenue, cigarmaker.
147—Dave Levy, 330 Adelaide west, operator.
150—Harry Lopster, 93 Teraulay, operator.
159—Jos. Maclean, 289 Adelaide west, shoemaker.
161—Sam Margolin, 146 1-2 Queen west, jeweler.
163—Harry Margolin, 41 Huron street, presser.
164—Phillip Marjols, 70 Agnes, butcher.
168—Max Melzini, 22 Elizabeth street, operator.
169—Max Mendel, 92 Elizabeth street, bookbinder.
170—Jas. Metropoulos, 83 Queen west, restaurant.
172—Joe Michaelson, 35 Bulwer, traveler.
181—Ab. Messnevitich, 187 Elizabeth street, operator.
188—Lewis Otis, 133 Queen west, painter.
189—Vangel Ouzounoff, 335 Yonge, restaurant.
190—Christie Ouzounoff, 338 Yonge, laborer.
191—Nicholas Ouzounoff, 338 Yonge, laborer.

192—Ab. Papernitch, 53 Kensington ave., presser.
196—Joe Pekales, 46 Dundas, shoemaker.
206—Oscar Potashin, 29 1-2 Cameron, tailor.
206—Rubin Potashin, 20 1-2 Cameron, locksmith.
208—Ab. Robinowitz, 12 Hagerman, printer.
209—Geo. Rankin, 49 McCaul, tailor.
212—Max Richmond, 4 Earnbridge street, laborer.
213—Jack Rosenberg, 113 1-2 Elizabeth operator.
214—Adolf Rosensteln, 85 Chestnut, tailor.
219—Sam Roth, 187 University avenue, tailor.
222—Ab. Salkovitch, 79 Louisa, butcher.
224—Davies Sandler, 35 Bulwer, action maker.

225—Harry Sandler, 80 Bulwer, shoemaker.
226—Phillip Zaretsky, 142 Richmond w., presser.
227—Spiro Saroff, 95 Queen west, store-keeper.
231—Charles Champagne, 263 Cadieux street, Montreal, presser.
233—Benny Shapiro, 181 William, furrier.

234—Morris Shaplo, 26 Walton, presser.
235—Sam Shapiro, 26 Walton, presser.
236—David Shatz, 29 Trinity square, presser.
237—Max Shepper, 108 Chestnut, tailor.
239—Harry Shindler, 22 1-2 Agnes, tailor.
240—Joseph Schneiderman, 77 Agnes, tailor.

241—Sam Shorsár, 113 1-2 Teraulay presser.
242—Kusiel Shuster, 63 Elizabeth, shoemaker.
243—Wm. Stamps, 63 Queen west, restaurateur.
248—Phillip Smith, 45 Widmer, presser.
250—Ab. Solomon, 181 William, tailor.
253—Ab. Stein, 71 Centre ave., butcher.
254—Joe Stein, 341-2 Agnes, baker.
255—Louis Steinman, 154 Teraulay, cap block.
257—Aaron Swaiter, 78 Walton, cloak operator.

259—Pinchos Tis Proff, 43 Huron, presser.
260—Pando Tso Groff, 206 Adelaide, white laborer.
261—Morris Tuskis, 14 Agnes, fitter.
271—Dave Walker, 365 1-2 Queen west, presser.
272—Nathan Waxman, 76 Gerrard, operator.
274—Sam Weinsin, 67 Walton, presser.
276—Soloman Weinstein, 57 Walton, operator.
278—Hyman Weinstraub, 106 William, presser.
277—Phillip Werwick, 28 Kensington, carpenter.
278—Jos. Wergin, 21 Patrick square, printer.
282—Michael Yevitch, 126 Teraulay, barber.
287—Solomon Zilwira, 63 Walton, tailor.
288—Solomon Zilwira, 63 Walton, tailor.

Treasure Trove of German-Jewish Journals On-Line

by Henry Wellisch

I recently discovered that on the web site <http://www.compactmemory.de/> there are many historical German-Jewish journals in digitized format. There is also a search engine. When you punch in Canada or Kanada you get over 20 hits on different Journals. Many of these reports, dating from the 19th and early 20th century, are about the Zionist movement, but there are also a few articles on Jewish immigration. The following is my translation of an article in the Journal *Sulamith* from the year 1811 (see also the facsimile below):

Mr. John Lambert describes in his report (Travels Through Lower Canada 1807 and 1808, 3 Vol. 8, London 1810) the following circumstances on the Jewish family HART, whose father emigrated during the American war from England to America and who settled in the city of Trois Rivieres (City of the Three Rivers), where he died about 6 or 7 years ago, and who left a considerable fortune to his sons.

Three of his sons are well established in the above-noted city, where each has his own business; the fourth lives in Montreal.

Nearly the whole fur trade with the natives is in the hands of the brothers HART, as well as the whole trade of the city of Trois Rivieres, which would be of no significance without them. They have a number of manufactures, among them an Ale and Syross beer brewery; they are very wealthy and own many houses and real estate. The wealth and their decent and dignified conduct has bought them general respect and great trust. The eldest, EZECHIEL HART, was even elected to be a member of the Canadian parliament.

Juden in Kanada*).

Herr John Lambert giebt in seiner Reise (travels through lower canada 1807 and 1808 3 Vol. 8. London 1810 T. 2. p. 24 u. f.) folgende nähere Umstände über die jüdische Familie Hart, deren Vater im amerikanischen Kriege aus England nach Amerika wanderte und sich in der Stadt Trois Rivieres (Stadt der drei Flüsse) niederließ, wofür er vor ungefähr 6 oder 7 Jahren starb und seinen 4 Söhnen ein bedeutendes Vermögen hinterließ. Drei dieser Söhne sind in der genannten Stadt geblieben, ein jeder hat dafür ein eigenes Geschäft; der vierte wohnt zu Montreal. Fast der ganze Pelzhandel mit den eingebornen Stämmen ist in den Händen der Gebrüder Hart, dergleichen aller Handel der Stadt Trois Rivieres, welche ohne sie höchst unbedeutend sein würde. Sie haben mehrere Manufakturen, unter andern eine Ale- und Syross-Bier-Bräuerei; sie sind sehr reich und besitzen viele Häuser und Grundstücke. Das Uebrigste des Vermögens sind ein ansehnliches, würdevolles Fugzeug hat ihnen die allgemeine Achtung und ungemein viel Vertrauen erworben. Der älteste, Ezechiel Hart, wurde sogar zum Mitgliede des Parlaments von Kanada erwählt u. s. w.

*.) Entnommen von dem Herrn Bischof und Senator Gr. v. Gregoire in Paris.

D. H.

I also found an early article from August 1900 in the Zionist newspaper *Die Welt*, which was founded by Theodor Herzl. Here is my translation:

Prospects for Immigrants in Canada

Information received by the Frankfurter Zeitung from Montreal

Immigration of newcomers into Canada can occur also without the required financial resources unless the persons concerned are criminals, insane or if their settlement is opposed by the authorities.

Otherwise it is the general view that the country needs a sizable immigration, more liberal than our neighbours, who feel that they suffer from an "embarrass de richesse" and are beginning for one reason or another to return unwelcome elements to the port of departure at the cost of steamship companies.

Difficulties in this respect are not expected here by Rumanian immigrants, who can land without further formalities. But in the interest of those who want to come here, it must be stressed that mainly agricultural labourers and for females maidservants are required; the former will be without work after the end of the harvest and then they will have to sustain themselves during the long winter by working on the building of the railway.

There is however a lot of free government land available in the Northwest, 160 acres per person, but to work this land considerable capital is required.

Finally, here is an article about the 1911 Canadian Census, taken from the May 1914 issue of *Zeitschrift für Demographie und Statistik der Juden (Journal for Demography and Statistics of Jews)*.

Results of the Census in Canada from the Year 1911

The final results of the census of Canada were published recently. They show a strong growth of the Jewish population during the decade 1901 – 1911. At the beginning of this period there were 16 411 Jews, while in 1911 there were 74 563. These figures show the intensity of the Jewish immigration into Canada and the table below shows the distribution of Jews throughout the provinces.

See census results next page

Sent in by Mr. Bischof and Senator Gr. v. Gregoire in Paris D.H.

Spotlight on Members and Friends

Are 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.

Harvey Glasner has moved from the world of geography at large to photographing and mapping the intricate little world of the **Roselawn cemetery**. He has also been photographing the **Rotenberg Ledger**. (Rotenberg was a travel agent in Toronto at the turn of the 20th century, whose company did the steamship bookings for many Jewish families coming to Toronto and Southern Ontario between 1911 and 1917.) Here Harvey gives us a most interesting account of his work on these projects, the benefits of the digital camera, and his own family research:

“My wife Adena and I went to the Jewish Archives and digitally photographed over 800 pages of the Rotenberg Ledger. We are presently working on entering the index on to a database that can be searched once the photos have been put up on the JGS web site.

“I became interested in genealogy nine years ago during a trip to Israel. We bumped into a young man at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv who shared our surname. On returning home I joined the JGS. A month after joining I received a letter from a cousin in Buffalo whom I did not know. She was a member of the JGS Toronto and a founding member of the Buffalo JGS. She read Shem Tov and saw my name as a new member.

“My cousin, Ferne Mittleman, had done a great deal of research on my mother’s family (Fineberg, Feinberg, Fienberg, Foster, Dembe) and I decided to get more involved with genealogy after meeting her. Subsequently we organized two successful family reunions.

“I got started using digital photography after a trip to mainland China. My 35 mm SLR broke down so I bought a digital camera to replace it. I immediately saw the advantage of digitizing for cataloguing purposes. After joining the JGS

Cemetery Committee, it seemed to me to be the most efficient way of expediting the completion of the Roselawn Cemetery Project.

“Digital photography is being used in many ways by genealogists. There are many historical documents that are on Jewishgen.org in Viewmate format. These are documents and photographs that prior to the advent of this technology would not have been so easily accessible to researchers.

“Presently I am doing research on my father’s family (Glasner). My grandfather, Hyman Glasner was born in 1877 in Neusandtz (Nowy Sacz) Galicia. He married Ette Ostereicher (b. 1878) from Przyemsl Galicia. In addition I am working on my wife’s mother’s family - Isaac Goldfeld (later spelled Goldfield) born 1888 in Sawichost, Radom Russia-Poland. His wife was Malka (Mollie) Shifrovitz, born in Rachow Poland (birth date uncertain).

“Just a little anecdote about my wife Adena's father's family (Kapatz, Kopatch) now Kay. We have a close relationship with her distant cousins in Israel all as the result of a family member here in Toronto who, in the 1950s, bought a fish in Kensington Market that had been wrapped in a Jewish newspaper. The paper had an ad looking for Kapatz/Little/Binder/Gilson family members in Toronto. How is that for serendipity?

“Another JGS member, Dr Cyril Gryfe, a cousin by marriage, has taken this information to build his own family database with over 7000 entries.

“So this hobby can be addictive.”

If you have a volunteer experience you'd like to share, please contact shemtov@jgstoronto.ca.

CANADA	Total Population	Jews
Alberta	374,663	1,207
British-Columbia	392,480	1,384
Manitoba	455,614	10,635
New Brunswick	351,889	998
Nova Scotia	492,338	1,170
Ontario	2,523,274	26,767
Prince Edward Island	93,728	36
Quebec	2,003,282	30,268
Saskatchewan	492,432	2,060
Yukon	8,512	38
Northwest Territories	18,481	0
TOTAL	7,206,693	74,563

ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by February 2006 for the Spring 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.

JEWISHGEN PLUS

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

Czestochowa-Radomsko Group Puts 250,000 Holocaust Records On-Line

Gary Mokotoff reports in *Nu? What's New?* on a new Special Interest Group called the Czestochowa-Radomsko Area Research Group, which has put on-line a database of 250,000 Holocaust records. These records are derived from nearly 100 different databases. The records are searchable by surname. According to their web site, the records focus on "Jews who lived in Poland before the war or who were in Poland during the war. The database covers hundreds of towns across Poland. About 50% of these records are the result of professional research in Poland, 40% are the result of wonderfully diligent volunteer typists around the world, and 10% are from other sources."

This group, according to the web site, also has "a vast database of pre-Holocaust records for Czestochowa, Radomsko, Przedborz, and many smaller towns nearby, covering the late 1700s to the early 1900s." Access to this material is gained by joining the group.

Check the web site at <http://www.benkazez.com/dan/crarg/search.php> or write to the group at Czestochowa-Radomsko Area Research Group
Daniel Kazez
1930 Audubon Park Drive
Springfield, Ohio 45504-1213 USA

Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship

The Alberta Family Histories Society announces the availability of the Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship of up to \$500 to be awarded annually to a Canadian resident, towards the cost of tuition and books, for the recipient to study the field of genealogy and family history in a recognized educational or accreditation program.

The Scholarship will be awarded in the Spring 2006. The deadline for applications is 31 December 2005.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.afhs.ab.ca/scholarship/> or by writing to: Alberta Family Histories Society 712 -16 Avenue N.W., Calgary AB T2M OJ8 Attention: Scholarship Committee.

The Brian W. Hutchison Scholarship is funded by an endowment to the Alberta Family Histories Society from Brian W. Hutchison, CG, FSA (Scot), principal of GEN-FIND Research Associates, Inc.

It is Mr. Hutchison's wish to encourage Canadians to pursue formal study of genealogical analysis, research, evaluation, and documentation methodologies and standards. The head office of GEN-FIND Research Associates is located in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada.

Volunteers Sought to Index Canadian Passenger Lists

There are a number of different groups on-line who volunteer to index various ship passenger lists. One of these is The Nanaimo Family History Society. Their current index, taken from Canadian ship passenger microfilms, is at <http://members.shaw.ca/nanaimo.fhs/>. This covers Quebec ports (including Montreal) for the periods 2 Jul 1908 to 5 Jun 1909, 25 Jul 1909 to 26 Apr 1910, and 17 Sep 1910 13 Oct 1910. Pdf files in alphabetical order provide name, age, country of birth, arrival date, name of ship, port of entry, and the microfilm number and page number that contain the information. The site gives instructions on how to get copies of the original microfilms, once you have found an entry of interest.

The Nanaimo Family History Society is also seeking volunteers, to help them index all passengers at Halifax and Quebec from 1900 to 1921.

New Ontario Adoption Information Law

The recently enacted Bill 183, the Adoption Information Disclosure Act, 2005, is intended to improve both rights to information and privacy for adoptees and birth parents. The new law will provide easier access to information sealed in adoption records, as well as new privacy protections.

According to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the legislation will give adoptees the same rights as non-adopted individuals, while allowing those who wish to maintain their privacy to do so.

The full text of the legislation is available at http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Source/Statutes/English/2005/S05025_e.htm

Scanning Documents With Your Phone

Dick Eastman reports on a new service called **scanR** that allows you to make copies of documents using a camera-equipped cell phone. (The camera must have one megapixel or greater resolution.) After using the camera to photograph your image, you create a picture message (also called multimedia or MMS), and address it to <go@scanR.com>. Your phone then sends the message to scanR. Within a short while, you receive a copy of the scan at your regular e-mail address as a pdf attachment, which can be printed or saved.

The service is free (for the moment), and information can be found at <http://www.scanr.com>

JEWISHGEN PLUS

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On-Line Genealogy Dictionaries and Lists

Also from Dick Eastman: he has collected web addresses of various dictionaries and lists that are useful to genealogists in decoding foreign or obsolete words. Here are his comments on several of these sites:

“The **Encyclopedia of Genealogy**: <http://www.eogen.com>
(Disclaimer: This is a site that I created but the data has been created by many different people. In fact, you can also add date to the Encyclopedia of Genealogy.)

Abbreviations Found in Genealogy: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/abbrev.html> and also <http://www.uq.net.au/~zzmgrinl/abbrev.html>

UK Genealogy, Common Acronyms & Jargon: <http://www.oz.net/~markhow/acronym-uk.htm>

A List of Occupations, many of which are archaic. Find a person listed with an occupation of “AFFEEROR?” You can discover what he really did at: <http://cpcug.org/user/jlacombe/terms.html>

Archaic Medical Terms: <http://www.paul.smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm>

Glossar: Die Familie: An annotated English-German glossary of terms frequently found in genealogy research: <http://german.about.com/homework/german/library/blfamilie.htm>

Meanings and origins of first names - an etymology (the origin of words) and list of the most popular names: <http://www.behindthename.com>

Cemetery Junction Directory - A directory of more than 20,000 cemeteries, arranged by state. Search by cemetery and family name. Links to obituaries and genealogical societies in the U.S., Australia, and Canada: <http://daddezio.com/cemetery>

Where to Write for Vital Records - Addresses and guidelines for contacting each U.S. state or territory for vital records and documents: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>

(Copyright Richard Eastman 2005)

Digitized Images of Passenger Manifests

On a related note, Hazel Boon, president of the Hamilton and Area JGS, reports on a plan by the National Archives of Canada to create an on-line database of passenger lists from all Canadian ports, starting with those from 1865 to 1921. This will make on-line searching even easier; once you have checked the on-line indexes (such as that of the Nanaimo Family History Society) for names of interest, you will be able to view the actual passenger list on-line.

Success at Archives Canada

Katie Sobol reports on JewishGen: “I contacted a librarian at the Reference and Genealogy Division of the Library and Archives Canada, and received a reply from her with the information I requested. It was more than I could ask for, and I wanted to share this with the group. There is obviously an abundance of valuable information there, and I am thankful to other Genners who have suggested I contact them. For those who are interested, you can contact the Reference and Genealogy Division Library and Archives Canada by e-mail: <reference@lac-bac.gc.ca>. (The information requested was on a certain street in Montreal).”

“Queering the Family Tree”

An article by Victoria Ahearn (<http://www.365gay.com/Newscon05/11/111505familyTree.htm>) notes a new poster launched by the Queer Parenting Initiative: a family tree with the words “heterosexual,” “bisexual,” “queer,” “lesbian,” “straight,” “intersex,” “transgender,” “questioning,” “gay,” “transsexual,” and “two-spirit.”

The Queer Parenting Initiative is a joint venture of several community groups. In calling their poster project “Queering the Family Tree,” the organizers wanted to “broaden the notions of what a family tree can look like and what families can look like.” Many families, gay or otherwise, do not fit the traditional family model of mother, father and children, and this can cause discomfort to school children who are preparing their family trees, a project that is now required of all Grade 2 students in Ontario. The organizers state: “We ask the question, ‘Who’s in your family tree?’ and really leave it open for people to define.”

The poster has met with great demand from across Canada.

JEWISHGEN PLUS

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LDS to Put Indexes to Microfilms on the Internet

An article by Carrie A. Moore in the *Deseret Morning News* reports that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is compiling searchable indexes to its 2 million-plus rolls of microfilm, and will eventually make these available for free through an automated database on the Internet.

These microfilm rolls are contained in secured vaults in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The vaults were excavated in the 1960s, providing a safe repository during the height of the Cold War for birth, marriage, death and census information the church considers essential. The records come from 110 countries.

The indexing is of course a long term project, and there is no indication as yet as to when the first indexes will appear. New advances in indexing software, however, mean the work will proceed much faster than did the church's other digitizing projects, such as the 1880 U.S. Census, which was a 12-year project that used tens of thousands of volunteers.

Currently, researchers looking for information contained on the microfilms stored in the church's vaults must request that copies of information on the films be sent to their local family history center.

JGS Research Publications

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington publishes a research guide to the Washington-Baltimore area called "Capital Collections," edited by president, Sharlene Kranz. This resource is available in print for \$12 from the society, and there is also an online guide on their web site, under Other Resources > DC Area Repositories.

JGS (New York) publishes "Genealogical Resources in New York," updated in 2003 from their 1989 guide. It includes descriptions of holdings, finding aids, copying services, and restrictions on use at more than ninety Jewish, governmental, public, and private libraries and archives in the five boroughs of New York City as well as Albany. It is 412 pages long, including maps, appendices, and subject, name, and place indexes. The book costs \$49.95 plus shipping.

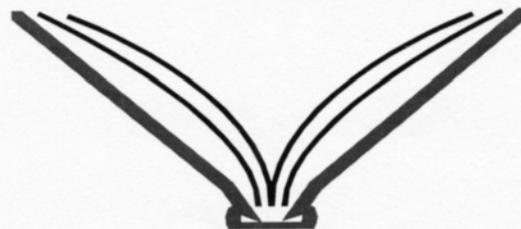
The on-line ordering form and more detailed information can be found at <http://www.jgsny.org/newbook.htm>. A summary is at <http://www.atlasbooks.com/marktplc/00937.htm>. The table of contents is at <http://www.atlasbooks.com/marktplc/00937contents.pdf>.

Searching Alternate Spellings of Names in Ellis Island Database

Gary Mokotoff, editor of *Nu? What's New*, has discovered a useful search feature of the Ellis Island database (<http://ellisland.org>) - the ability to search for alternative spellings of a name. The search engine will take into account the fact that certain letters (for instance, "t" and "l") look very similar in script form, and will provide a list of 30 possible alternate spellings of a surname. In contrast, Steven Morse's widely used portal to the Ellis Island database (<http://www.stevemorse.org>) only provides a list of sound-alike names.

Mokotoff explains that accessing this list of alternate spellings is somewhat circuitous: "First go to <http://ellisland.org> and request a search for any surname. After it displays the results, click on "Refine Search". This opens a search form. Leave the surname as is but request a First Name of "XXXX". Clearly there will be no hits and the search engine will default to providing the list of 30 surnames that might be alternates."

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Finding Genealogy Gems Online

by Richard Eastman

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2005 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

A while ago I had an enjoyable experience: I introduced a casual acquaintance to genealogy research. When I mentioned that she should research her family tree, she first replied, "Oh, I could never do that. My parents and grandparents are all deceased. Nobody in my family knows anything about their origins. All four of my grandparents were Jews from Russia, so there won't be any information available. They all immigrated around the year 1900. Besides, the family names were changed at Ellis Island."

WRONG!

While she stood and watched, I went online and quickly found immigration records for three of her four grandparents, as well as the 1920 and 1930 U.S. Census records for all of them and the village of birth in Russia for one of them. In the census records I uncovered the names of their children who were living with them, including one child who was an aunt that my friend had never heard of. (I suspect that the child died young although that is not yet proven.) I also was able to show my friend that one grandfather was named Rupert in several records, not Robert, as she had been told. I also found the original immigration records in the Ellis Island online database and showed her that the family names certainly were NOT changed at Ellis Island, as she believed. I found her grandparents' occupations and also uncovered the fact that one of the four was illiterate.

I then instructed my friend on how to go back another generation. She can obtain the names of her great-grandparents by writing to the Social Security Administration and paying a fee. I even printed out four letters to the Social Security Administration, one for each of her four grandparents. All she had to do was write checks, put the checks and letters into envelopes, and attach postage. She did that later the same afternoon, noting my caution that she will not receive a reply for several weeks.

My friend is now hooked. Every day since this discovery she tells me about a telephone conversation she has had with an elderly aunt or some other record or old photograph that she has discovered. She is eagerly waiting for responses from the Social Security Administration. She will visit a local LDS Family History Center next week. She also obtained a genealogy program for her computer. Not bad for someone who claimed four days ago that she would never be able to research her family tree!

This was so easy and the rewards so great, I feel like an ice cream vendor at an August Red Sox game. My total time expended was less than 30 minutes. You could do the same.

To be sure, I am experienced at using these online resources. If you have less experience, you might need more than 30 minutes. I also pay for access to Ancestry.com in order to

look at their census records and other sources of genealogy information. If you do not pay for that access, you still can view the same records for free or nearly free by looking at microfilm copies at a genealogy library or at a Family History Center near you. That excursion will take you more than 30 minutes, but you will still find it easy to uncover similar information.

In my friend's case, all four of her grandparents emigrated from Russia to the United States as children or young adults between 1900 and 1910. However, the techniques about to be described will work well for almost any ancestors who arrived within the past 100 or so years, whether from Russia, Europe, Central or South America, or even the Orient. Results will vary, but you often can find more than you ever expected.

For immigrants who lived beyond the mid-1960s, the first resource to use is the online Social Security Death Index, or SSDI. The Social Security system was established in the 1930s and started computerizing records in the 1960s. Records for those who died after the mid-sixties while receiving Social Security payments can be found online. Later records include all deaths, not just those receiving benefits. For details, see my "Social Security Death Records Explained" article at <http://www.eogn.com/archives/news0305.htm>.

As its name insinuates, the online SSDI contains only an index with an abbreviated amount of information. It has the following information about deceased individuals:

- * Social Security number (which is omitted on some genealogy databases)
- * Surname
- * Given name
- * Date of death
- * Date of birth
- * Last known residence
- * Address used on the last benefit payment check
- * Date and place of issuance of the Social Security Number

While this information is valuable, it still is only half the story. When your ancestor applied for a Social Security Number, he or she had to fill out an SS-5 form and prove that he or she was the person claimed. In order to prove their identity, each person had to list a lot more information than what is available in the online index.

The application form (SS-5) contains the following information:

- * Full name
- * Full name at birth (including maiden name)
- * Present mailing address on the date the form was filled out
- * Age at last birthday
- * Date of birth
- * Place of birth (City, county, state)
- * Father's full name "regardless of whether living or dead"
- * Mother's full name, including maiden name, "regardless of whether living or dead"

- * Sex and race
- * Ever applied for SS number/Railroad Retirement before?
Yes/No
- * Current employer's name and address
- * Date signed
- * Applicant's signature

As you can see, this is a wealth of data for an individual whose origins have been unknown to you! Your immigrant ancestor's place of birth and parents' names may be unknown to you, but these facts are recorded on a piece of paper stored in a filing cabinet at the Social Security Administration.

The best news is that photocopies of the SS-5 forms can be obtained by writing to the Social Security Administration and paying a fee. For many who immigrated in the very late 1800s or after, this may be the only record you can find to go back another generation.

Some online services will even generate a letter to the Social Security Administration for you. This week, my friend and I used Ancestry.com to find the records in the SSDI. For each record, I clicked on an icon to write a form letter. The next screen that appeared contained the letter, along with the name and Social Security Numbers already filled in. I printed each letter and handed it to my friend. She wrote checks for the fees and then stuffed the letters and checks into envelopes.

The Social Security Death Index is available on a number of online sites, including Ancestry.com, Family Tree Legends at <http://www.familytreelegends.com/ssdi>, FamilySearch.org at http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp?PAGE=ssdi/search_ssdi.asp&clear_form=true, and others.

Actual immigration records can be found at the Ellis Island site at <http://www.ellisland.org>. Many of the records have been transcribed and indexed, although not all. You first search the indexes at no charge, then look at the original handwritten pages after paying a fee.

The U.S. Census records from 1790 to 1930 are available online on HeritageQuest Online and at Ancestry.com. You must pay a fee to view them on Ancestry.com but may be able to use a local library to view either site at no charge. Some U.S. census records are available on other sites, such as the 1880 census record indexes available at no charge on <http://www.familysearch.org>

All of the above records are also available on microfilm and can be viewed at little or no cost if you visit a Family History Center near you. You can find your nearest Family History Center at http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp

Online or off, there is a wealth of genealogy information available to you today, with more being added every month. Please never say, "There won't be any information available" or, "The family names were changed at Ellis Island." Take a look for yourself. You may be pleasantly surprised at what you can learn.

If someone you know ever says, "Oh, we could never find any information about my ancestors," please give them a copy of this article.

Foundation Seeks Holocaust Memoirs

The Azrieli Foundation requests your help in reaching out to Shoah survivors and their families in a CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS OF UNPUBLISHED SHOAH MEMOIRS AND DIARIES. In keeping with the philanthropic vision and commitment of founder David Azrieli, the Azrieli Foundation consistently supports initiatives related to education and research on the Shoah. Some of their well-known initiatives include the establishment of academic fellowships and project endowments both nationally and internationally, such as at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

The Azrieli Foundation has now established a program to collect, publish and distribute hitherto unpublished memoirs and diaries of Canadian Holocaust survivors. This important initiative is being undertaken in partnership with Montreal-based Concordia University's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.

Survivor accounts play an invaluable role in our understanding of the Shoah, and of Jewish and global history more generally. They hold a particularly vital place in education about the Shoah. The Foundation is committed to preserving and distributing these important historical records for the Jewish community and beyond.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

The search for submissions is currently being focused in Ontario. Please lend your assistance in communicating this important initiative.

If you have any questions regarding the Memoirs of Canadian Holocaust Survivors Publishing Program, or require flyers for distribution, please contact Tamarah Feder, Program Manager, at 416-322-5928, or by e-mailing memoirs@azrielifoundation.org.

The address of the foundation is:

The Azrieli Foundation
164 Eglinton Avenue East
Suite 503
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1G4

Register Now for 2006 IAJGS Conference in New York

The Jewish Genealogical Society (New York) is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 26th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be held August 13-18, 2006 (Av 19-24, 5766) at The New York Marriott Marquis Hotel.

You may register at the JGS New York web site at <http://www.jgsny2006.org/> by clicking on the registration link on the left. Instructions for a downloadable version for printing, a link for hotel registration, and details about the conference are on the site. The site will be updated frequently as new information becomes available.

Conference Co-Chairs Linda Cantor, Lucille Gudis, and Hadassah Lipsius are spearheading a dynamite event. They look forward to sharing this exciting experience with all.