THE HOOPER-DRISCOLL FAMILY OF EARLY TORONTO

by Ruth Chernia

When I was growing up in Port Credit (a small town just outside of Toronto) in the 50s and 60s, one of the two pharmacies was Hooper’s Pharmacy. We didn’t shop there because it was the other end of town from where we lived. But I remember my mother telling me that it was owned by a Jew. I always found that strange because I never considered Hooper a “Jewish name.”

It turns out that my mother was wrong. But the Hooper family did have a fascinating connection with the Toronto Jewish community. Edward Hooper (1808-1900), who owned several drug stores in nineteenth-century Toronto and whose company survived into the mid-twentieth, erected a monument in the first Holy Blossom Temple Cemetery to his wife and two other women. The Hebrew inscription is very hard to read. The English below it on the front of the marker reads: “Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Catherine beloved wife of Edward Hooper, died April 11th 1892.” Below that in large letters is simply “HOOPER.” The back of the stone reads “Sacred to the memory of Amelia Driscoll died July 2 1886 and to Priscilla Driscoll died February 25 1898.”

I visited the cemetery and photographed the stone, in part, because the March 2004 issue of Shem Tov had reprinted an article by N. Shemen, translated from the Yiddish and edited by Ben Kayfetz, editor of The Jewish Standard, which appeared on 1 October 1959. The writer of the article was visiting the cemetery at Pape and Gerrard and commenting on how the gravestones reflected changes in the community through the years. One stone particularly struck him. It listed the names of four members of a family with un-Jewish sounding names: Hooper and Driscoll. He wondered about the story of the family and how they ended up in the cemetery.

This article pricked my curiosity because, while editing Glen Eker’s book listing the Jews resident in Ontario according to the censuses of Canada during the 1800s, I had noticed the same family showing up in four censuses. In the 1861 Census of Canada, town of York (not yet Toronto), are entries for three women who live in the same home and state their religion as Jewish (the spellings are as the enumerator recorded them): Driscoll, Pricella, age 22 and born in Upper Canada; Driscoll, Elizabeth, age 21 and born in Upper Canada; and Hooper, Elizabeth, age 50 and born in Lower Canada. Enumerated as living in the same home and listed as husband and other family member are Hooper, Edward, age 52, born in England; and Hooper, Charles, age 28, also born in England. The occupation of both these men is druggist and both men’s religion is Church of England – Anglican.

In 1871, after confederation and the renaming of the provinces, we find three members of the household living in York Township and two living in Toronto. The indexed 1871 census makes finding the non-Jewish members of the family easy. Driscoll, Prescilla, now 30, born in Ontario; and Hoppe, Catherine, now 60, born in Quebec are both of German origin. Catherine’s husband is Hoope[r], Edward, now 60, born in England, of English origin and still a chemist and druggist. His religion is recorded as Church of England. According to a directory, they lived on Yonge Street, in Farnham Lodge, north of Walker Avenue. In Yorkville village, we find Driscoll, Emilia,
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, April 26, 2006
(programmes at 2 pm and 6:30 pm)
Topic: Tour of Genealogy Resources at North York Library
Place: Canadiana Department, 6th floor, North York Central Library, 5230 Yonge Street. (The closest subway stop is the North York Centre and parking is available in several lots nearby.)
Members: free; guests: $5.00
Experienced librarians provide an introduction to the collections of the Jewish Genealogical Society as well as the holdings of Ontario genealogical groups. Following the tour there will be a question and answer period and an opportunity to do hands-on research. The librarians are eager to assist individual researchers.
You have your choice of an afternoon or evening programme. Please note that each tour (2 pm and 6:30 pm) is limited to a maximum of 20 people, so register early, by contacting Linda at 416 787-2029 or linda.offman@utoronto.ca.

Sunday, April 30, 2006, 1:30 to 5:00
(there will be a break for light refreshments)
Topic: Workshop on “Building a Family Web Site”
Place: Shaarei Shomayim, Brotherhood Hall
Members: free; guests: $10
One of the best ways to disseminate family information is to build a web site. This can vary from a single page with relevant surnames and places of interest to a full-fledged site containing detailed information, photographs, and GEDCOM files. At this 3-hour, "non hands-on" workshop you will learn free or low-cost and low-tech ways of building and finding a place to mount your family web site. Other topics include: good versus bad web design, privacy and copyrighting of information, and advertising your web site. Handouts will be provided.
Marian Press gave an excellent presentation to our Society last year on "Using Internet Search Engines Effectively." She is a librarian at the Ontario Central Library, 5230 Yonge Street. (The closest subway stop is the North York Centre and parking is available in several lots nearby.)

cont’d on Page 3
Upcoming Events  Cont’d from page 2

Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), where she works in the rapidly expanding universe of electronic access to information. She has co-taught a series of courses on “Designing and Maintaining Web Sites” for the Professional Learning Centre at the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto. She teaches a six-week online course for the Ontario Library Association on “Using the Internet for Genealogy.” She also teaches a variety of courses on the internet and genealogy for the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

Wednesday, May 31, 2006
T.B.A.

Wednesday, June 28, 2006
Annual general meeting and member breakthroughs. The programme committee wishes to hear from the general membership about their most recent success stories. If you have developed new strategies, created successful research techniques or discovered unique sources, you could share your experience by giving a brief, 5 - 10 minute talk to the members on June 28th. Those interested in sharing their work, please contact Linda at 416 787-2029 or linda.offman@utoronto.ca, to be included in the June 28th programme.

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

ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by May 2006 for the Summer issue. Please indicate how many insertions you would like. As the chart indicates our basic rate is discounted for advertisements placed in four consecutive issues (one year) instead of a single issue only. By placing an ad in SHEM TOV, you are reaching a growing number of readers in Toronto, across Canada and internationally, and helping to support a unique and vital journal.

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

What Canadians Need to Know About Completing the 2006 Census

Compiled by Carolynne Veffer

May 16, 2006 is Census Day in Canada. As you may already know, there is a critical change in the 2006 Canadian census of great importance to genealogists.

For the first time in Canada's census history there is an "informed consent" requirement for information in the census that will be released in 92 years. As genealogists and people interested in family history, it is imperative that all Canadians "check off" the box YES, so that their family history may be released in 2098 to their descendants and for posterity. Everyone in the family listed in the 2006 census, even infants, must have a YES next to the informed consent question – leaving it blank or saying no will mean that person's information will be forever sealed and not released.

The informed consent provision was part of a compromise by the Canadian Parliament to get the 1911 and later censuses released after 92 years. The "informed consent" provision is to be studied for two census cycles to see what impact it has. There are many in Canada that hope the new law will be modified, but at least for the 2006 census, everyone needs to sign the informed consent provision in the affirmative.

Please complete the "informed consent" provision and remind everyone you know to do the same.

For more information about the 2006 Census go to the Statistics Canada web site:  http://www22.statcan.ca/ccr_r000_e.htm

A further note from an IAJGS correspondent also suggests the simple expedient of photocopying your filled-in census form (and encouraging all your relatives to do the same). The information will thus be at hand for any future genealogists in your family.

We Welcome These New Members to Our Society

Sy Baltman       Lindy Goodman
Rebecca Fisch    Linda Levenstein
Ruth Frankel     Ferne Phillips
Judith Goldstein Melvin Starkman

In 1881 we once again find living in York West, Driscoc, Pris, ten years older at 40, born in Ontario of Jewish origin; and Hooper, Lucy, now 70, born in Ontario (but the census taker could have made an assumption), also of Jewish origin but religion for both recorded as Church of England. The husband of Lucy Hooper is Hooper, Edward, now 65, born in Ontario of English origin, still working as a druggist. It was the combination of names in the same household, despite the age differences, that convinced me that this is the same family.

In 1891, in Toronto, the same three are still in the same household: Driscoll, Pricilla, 50; Hooper, Kate E., 75; and husband, Hooper, Edward, 83. They lived at 46 Gerrard Street East (according to the 1890 Directory of Toronto). The 1895 Directory of Toronto revealed that Charles Hooper had two sons, Charles and Edward, and that he was still involved in the family business.

By the 1901 Census, no one with the name of either Driscoll or Hooper appears in the listings of Jews. I had assumed that, given their ages in 1891, Edward and Catherine (Kate, Lucy) had died, but was curious about the two women I had assumed were their daughters — Pricilla (Pricilla, Pris, Pescilla) and Elizabeth (Amelia/Emilia). And why do the daughters have a different last name than their mother? Did Elizabeth/Catherine (born in Lower Canada) marry twice? And what became of the son, Charles?

The visit to Pape cemetery had provided some of the answers to my questions. Confirmation of some of the details came from the York County Death Registers: Amelia Driscoll (Jewish, place of birth not noted) died 2 January 1886, age 50, of pneumonia. Elizabeth Catherine Hooper (Hebrew, born Germany) died 11 April 1892, age 94, of senile decay. Priscilla Driscoll (Hebrew, born Canada) died 25 February 1898, age 65, of La Grippe. And Edward Hooper (English Church [Anglican], born England) died 21 April, age 92, of bronchitis. But I still had questions.

According to the ages found in the censuses, Priscilla was born in 1839 (21 in 1861), she was about 59 at death, but the registration says 65. If, as I had assumed, Amelia is Elizabeth (20 in 1861), she was about 46 at death, but it appears they were two different women and Amelia was 50 at death. The woman I assumed was their mother was either 81 or 94! Had it been vanity that had taken more than a decade off her age?

I still had questions. Where was Edward Hooper buried? And who was Amelia? Is she the younger daughter called Elizabeth in some census records?

David Hart, archivist of Holy Blossom Temple, provided a few answers. He had read about Edward Hooper in the synagogue’s newsletter. Recently I obtained copies of these Bulletins from 1971. Thanks to research done by Dr. D. Eisen (the then archivist), I can finally shed more light on this interesting family.

According to his obituary, Edward Hooper was born in England in 1808 and came to Canada in 1832, living first in Kingston and then in Dundas, Ontario. He moved to Toronto in 1838. After working for another pharmacist, he went into business for himself in the 1840s. Eventually there were several Hooper’s Pharmacies and Charles was involved in the management. Edward was also a director of the Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Co. (along with Samuel Nordheimer, a prominent member of Holy Blossom at the time), eventually becoming Vice-President and President, and was one of the four founders of Confederation Life.

What is fascinating about Mr. Hooper is that his wife and two “nieces required three seats in the synagogue” (Holy Blossom Temple) as early as 1858. The Hoopers were members of Holy Blossom Temple almost from its founding in 1856; Mr. Hooper became involved in the “burying ground” (Pape Avenue), and donated funds for the new building on Bond Street, opened in 1897. All these details Eisen gleaned from minutes of meetings of the board of Holy Blossom. And he asked himself the same question that I did: Was Edward Hooper Jewish?

Eisen did not have access to the census indexes that I quote from where it clearly states that Edward Hooper was Church of England, Anglican. Eventually Eisen found the date of Hooper’s death from the Registrar General’s Office, and then read contemporary obituaries in the Mail and Empire and the Toronto Daily Star April 22 and 23, 1900. Frank D. Benjamin, soon to become president of Holy Blossom, was one of the pallbearers. Hooper was buried in St. James Cemetery (clearly indicating his Anglican faith).

What about the two or three sisters, Priscilla and Amelia/Elizabeth? It appears that Priscilla never married, lived at home and died two years before her father. In Mitchell’s Toronto directory of 1864, Amelia is a homeowner, running a boarding house at 254 Wellington Avenue West. By 1871 she is living back with the family. Dr. Eisen speculated that Amelia was a maiden aunt to Priscilla and not the unnamed other sister mentioned in the minutes and obituaries.

But Eisen did more sleuthing and discovered that one of the sisters had married an Alfred Myers, a prosperous member of Holy Blossom. He also had contributed to the building of Bond Street, and worked for a chemical company. Eisen eventually found a descendant who confirmed that the Myerses had travelled between Canada and the US and had not died in Toronto, so there are few records here of them. There are references in the Holy Blossom minutes to a Mrs. Alfred Myers but Eisen did not know who she was – only her maiden name: Lizzie Driskol.

In the final installment of his articles Eisen addresses the mystery of “Lizzie Driskol.” He had originally written about Lizzie Driskol’s marriage in Toronto on November 13, 1862, to Alfred Meyer. Citing details from minutes, Eisen states Lizzie’s parents are Jonas and Rebeca Driskol. I found out that according to the 1862 registry of marriages, Lizzie (age 24, born in Toronto) and Alfred (also 24, born in London England, living in New York) married on 3 December 1862. Her parents
appear to be Thomas and Rebecca Driskel; Rabbi Heilbroom was very careful in registering all this information in the York County Marriage Register. Eisen felt he had solved the mystery. Lizzie Driskol was born in 1838, the same year as one of the Driscoll girls. There are no birth records from 1838 to confirm this fact. In 1858 she would have been 20 and as yet unmarried when her adoptive mother Elizabeth Hooper asked for three seats in the synagogue.

The 1891 census of Toronto, St. James Ward, provides details that Eisen did not have. Listed there in the same sub-district and same page of the census as the Hoopers and Priscilla Driscoll are Myers, Alfred, 50; born in England; occupation, manager chemical works; Myers, Elizabeth, 50; born Ontario; and Myers, Fannie; 20; born in the United States.

Eisen concludes that Elizabeth Driscoll was Jewish by birth, that Driscoll was a misspelling of her original name. Priscilla and Elizabeth may even have two of the first Jewish children born in Ontario and surviving to adulthood. Priscilla and Amelia left no descendants but Alfred and Elizabeth did have grandchildren, some of whom were living in Quebec in 1971 and had memories of visiting their grandparents and “aunt Lizzie.”

There are still a few mysteries about this family. What exactly was the relationship of Elizabeth Hooper to the two girls, Priscilla and Elizabeth? And who was Amelia Driscoll? All three were born in Ontario but, because there are no early birth or census records, we may never know when or where or even what their name was originally. The death records reveal that Elizabeth was probably quite a bit older than Edward Hooper. She was born in Lower Canada (Quebec), so further research might reveal more about her. She’s probably not Charles’ mother because he was born in England within a year of his father’s emigration. Where and under what circumstances did Edward and Elizabeth meet? When did they marry? How did she end up taking care of two of her nieces? And what was Amelia’s relationship to the family?

This family complex reveals a lot about nineteenth-century Toronto. We now imagine it to have been quite a stuffy, socially conservative place. But the Hoopers and the Driscolls all retained their original faith; the parents lived together for at least 40 years in a mixed marriage. And Holy Blossom Temple, which was then an Orthodox synagogue, nevertheless welcomed Edward Hooper’s membership and contributions.

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**Renewal Reminder**

For 2006, we have slightly changed our JGS membership renewal process. The renewal period will be January to March, rather than November to March. Membership renewals were started in January 2006. We will issue 2006 tax receipts in early 2007.

Membership dues remain at $36. Membership is valid on a yearly basis from January to December.

If you have not already done so, please remember to mail in your renewal. Make your cheque payable to "Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)," and mail it to:

Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)
P.O. Box 91006
2901 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, ON M2K 2Y6
The Rotenberg Ledger
by Harvey Glasner and Carolynn Veffer

[The Jewish travel agent was more than just a ticket seller, according to Irving Abella: "...he acted as a lawyer, accountant, marriage broker, employment bureau and political influence pedlar. His store was the centre of much traffic as workers came in to put weekly deposits on passages....While there, they arranged for the agent to deal with the police or city hall over their business license or their housing problems." (A Coat of Many Colours, 1990, p. 125).

Harvey and Adena Glasner have photographed the records of one such Toronto agent. Here is a description of the material:]

We are pleased to provide you with a very valuable Toronto resource for Jewish genealogical research. The Rotenberg Ledger provides passenger information for people, usually of Jewish origin, traveling between Europe and Toronto between 1911 and 1917. Previously, access to the information in this fragile document was available only by going to the Jewish Archives in Toronto.

History
The Rotenberg Ledger, prepared by Rotenberg’s Ltd. (bankers and steamship agents), is a handwritten record of steamship passengers.

The Toronto Jewish City and Information Directory of 1925 indicates that Louis Rotenberg Sr., President of Rotenberg’s Ltd., resided at 118 Spadina Ave. The other family members in the business were: Louis Rotenberg Jr., Treasurer and Manager (99 Kendal Ave.); Max Rotenberg, Vice President (532 Christie, then in 1931 at 334 Rushton Rd.); Meyer Rotenberg, Secretary (118 Spadina, then in 1931 at 138 Douglas Drive).

Each of the over 800 pages of this document was photographed by Harvey and Adena Glasner with a digital camera. They then entered the index of names into a spreadsheet, which you can now access to find possible family members.

How to Access the Information
1. The index is provided on-line in Excel format. It lists the name of the passengers and ticket purchaser, with related page numbers. Search this spreadsheet for information of interest. (In the future we hope to provide a self-serve database search.)
2. If you find a name in which you are interested, send an e-mail to: info@jgstoronto.ca including the name or names and related page numbers.
3. The CD containing photographs of the Ledger pages will be searched for you, and information sent to you in a return e-mail. This data may include: date, shipping line, city of origin, city of destination (usually Toronto), address and amount paid.

NOTE: The spelling of names is according to the actual written entries (as accurately as could be interpreted from the varied/frequently unclear cursive writing entries). Cross-reference to the information page(s) did not always help with clarification of spelling, in addition to the fact that names often do not appear on one or more of the many page numbers referenced in the index. Also, several names are listed in the Ledger without any page number reference.

If the Ledger information significantly helps you in your research, please let us know at info@jgstoronto.ca.

We would like to thank Harvey and Adena Glasner for the long hours they spent taking digital photos of hundreds of pages and also entering the data into spreadsheets. This valuable resource would not be available without their dedicated effort.

New Acquisitions to Our Library Collection
North York Public Library
(Gladys Allison, Canadina Room, 6th Floor)

by Elaine Cheskes


Look for book reviews elsewhere in this issue.
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.

For most of us, an interest in genealogy begins when we are in our 30s or 40s, if not later. Neil Richler, who is JGS Toronto’s membership coordinator and resident computer maven, was already an accomplished genealogist when he was 17. He explains:

“I think I was always interested in genealogy, when I was younger, I just didn't really know that people did this as a hobby. When I was 17, I found an early genealogy computer program and began to play with it. I put in what I knew and then talked to my parents and grandparents. This was in the fall of 1991, and while talking with a family friend, I found out about the society and went to the beginner’s session in April 1992. I was the youngest person at this program (by far!) and I’m pretty sure that I met Bill Gladstone, Gert Rogers and Henry Wellisch that day. I was encouraged to join and come to meetings (which I did).

“The whole bunch of us were gathered around, talking about our research. When comparing how many names we had researched, I must have had several hundred at the time - one of the most of anyone in the group - they were all quite surprised!”

In addition to all this research, Neil has been on the JGS executive since 1997, and has also been involved in just about every computer-related or technical work the Society requires. Among many, many other projects, he has conducted programmes on using the computer and the Internet for genealogy, has worked with Terri Rothman in creating the Society’s web site, and is the Cemetery Committee’s “link” with the JOWBR project at JewishGen. And, of course, he was involved in the 2002 IAJGS conference held in Toronto:

“The greatest project that we all worked on was the 2002 conference. Never before have I worked so hard, but the reward was seeing how well the conference turned out. I spent a lot of this time with Harold Nissenthall, who managed the facilities and all sorts of technical aspects of the conference. We really miss his presence in the society today.”

On top of his many commitments to family, work and volunteering, Neil continues to make amazing progress in his research. He feels that starting young has given him a great advantage:

“If you include my family, as well as those of my wife and brothers-in-law, I have over 4500 names. The Internet has made a huge difference in finding information and family members who I might have never otherwise found. The most valuable element of my research has been time. When I started at age 17, all four of my grandparents and one great-grandfather were still alive (my dad’s parents are still going strong today). Talking to them and the many other relatives of their generations has given me a wealth of information and a perspective of what their lives were like. It’s reached a point now where my older relatives come to me now when they have questions!”

Some of the names/towns Neil is researching: RICHLER/REICHLER from Ravarushka, Ukraine; GOMBERG/GELLER from Shpola, Ukraine; SMITH/SMUTZ from Kolomyya, Ukraine; LESSER/LESSIK from Klevan, Russia; VEINISH/HAIMOVICI/TAMMER from Romania; FOX/FUCHS from Kovel, Ukraine.

If you have a volunteer experience you’d like to share, please contact shemtov@jgstoronto.ca.
New Canadian Web Site and a One-Step Portal to the 1911 Canadian Census

A new Canadian genealogy web site has been launched by MyFamily.com, at www.ancestory.ca. Among its searchable databases are a fully indexed version of the 1911 Canadian Census; an Ontario Marriage Index, 1858-1899; an Ontario Birth Index, 1869-1907; an Ontario Death Index, 1869-1932; a British Columbia Death Index, 1872-1979; a Canadian Genealogy Index, 1600s-1900s; Canadian Address and Phone Directories, 1995-2002; and Ontario and Nova Scotia Census Records, 1800-1842.

You will recall that the release of the 1911 Census data was the subject of prolonged debate (see http://www.globalgenealogy.com/Census). This Census covered the nine provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) and two territories (the Yukon and the Northwest Territories) that were then part of Confederation. The “official” site for the Census data is http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/index-e.html. There is one drawback to this site, however: it allows searches by geographic area only, and not by surname.

Here is where the Census database at ancestry.ca offers advantages. First, this site allows searches by surname. Second, Steven Morse has created a one-step portal to this database (like his one-step portals to the Ellis Island and Castle Garden collections), and through this portal you can search by additional parameters such as first name, middle initial, last name sounds like, last name starts with, year of birth, etc.

The one drawback in this case is that you first require a subscription to ancestry.ca to search any of its databases. Once you have arranged this, you can then go to the Morse site at http://stevemorse.org/census/canada1911.htm to set up your search of the 1911 Census.

Downloadable Genealogy Charts and Forms

From Eastman’s On-Line Genealogy Newsletter comes the following list of sites from which you can download and print, for free, various forms to assist you in your genealogy research:
http://www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html
http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/anchor.htm http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/frameset_rhelps.asp?Page=/research/type/Form.asp&ActiveTab=Type (includes Canadian census extraction forms)
http://genealogy.about.com/od/free_charts/
http://misbach.org/pdfcharts/

On-line British Genealogy Directory

The British web site http://www.192.com/Genealogy allows you to search more than 300 million registered births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales since 1837. It also has information from the 1861 Census, which includes details of occupations.

Pre-1983 data has been collated using scanned images of registry documents, while post-1983 data is available electronically. Both sets of records provide a specific code for each individual registration, which can be submitted to the General Registry Office (GRO) to receive a copy of the original birth, marriage or death certificate.

The site allows you to search by name. However, to obtain details for a particular name you must pay a fee. For a minimum payment of £34.95, you receive 100 “credits”; one credit is generally good for one “view,” which provides the details of the relevant birth, marriage or death.

CAHJP Needs Financial Help

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem needs additional private funding. They must vacate their current quarters in a few months, and will have to pay an additional $60,000 a year in rent and as well as about $100,000 to move the archives and adapt their new quarters. The Ministry of Education will only cover a portion of the costs, and the rest must be raised from private contributions.

You can learn more about the Central Archives and their collections at their web site: http://www.isragen.org.il/ROS/ARCHIVES/archive-CAHJP-2.html

Distribution of Hungarian Surnames

Tom Klein of Toronto, a frequent contributor to the Hungarian SIG at JewishGen, has brought our attention to a very interesting (commercial) site for Hungarian genealogy at www.bogardi.com. Mr. Klein is researching, among other things, the distribution of Hungarian surnames. He notes: “The site has a good mapping function, so you can display hits from the database on a map of ‘Greater Hungary.’ This is a great way to look for towns, etc., but you can also look up surnames from the 1891 trade directory, and produce a very nice distribution map, where more hits for a town are represented by bigger red dots, etc. My initial impression is that certain names are more common in distinct regions, rather than being uniformly distributed. (I am initially experimenting with names like KOHN, which was *the* stereotypical Jewish surname, as well as KATZ, WEISS, GROSS, and LEVI, and of course, KLEIN.)”
**List of Aliyah Bet Ships**

A complete list of the Aliyah Bet ships is now on Paul Silverstone's web site at [http://www.paulsilverstone.com/immigration/Primary/index.html](http://www.paulsilverstone.com/immigration/Primary/index.html).

The ships carried about 125,000 Jewish men, women, and children to Palestine from 1938 to 1948. "Aliyah Bet" is the Hebrew term for the clandestine immigration of European Jews into Palestine at a time when the British were rigorously limiting or completely forbidding it. Data given in the tables includes name of ship, date and place of departure from Europe, date of arrival in Palestine, number of refugees on board, organizer, and notes. Many entries are illustrated with a picture of the ship. Space limitations allow only a very brief outline for any one ship, but this does not mean that no more information is available. Aliyah Bet was a principal contributor to the establishment of the State of Israel. Mr. Silverstone remains interested in acquiring copies of photographs and additional information from anyone able to provide them. Please contact him at <paulh@aya.yale.edu>.

**News from Montreal**

The Library and Archives of Quebec (BAnQ) have placed City Directories of Montreal from 1842 to 1940 online; this news comes from Gordon Watts of the The Global Gazette (Canada's Online Family History Magazine at [http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazgw/gazgw-0083.htm](http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazgw/gazgw-0083.htm)). The web address for the Directories is [http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/bna/lovell/index.html](http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/bna/lovell/index.html). Information on the web site indicates that this is a work in progress and that they expect to add remaining Directories up to 1999.

While the links on the web site are in French, the Directory pages themselves are in English. Each Directory is individually accessible by year of publication. Pages of the directories have been scanned and grouped in sections as they appear in the originals. Clicking on the partial images shown in each section opens the pages.

The Directories include alphabetical directories of individuals and businesses, a street directory, and some classified advertisements.

The JGS of Montreal also reports that it has recently contributed over 6,500 Montreal burial records to JOWBR (the on-line collection of Jewish burial records at JewishGen).

**New Book on Jewish Genealogy in the United Kingdom**

Reviewed by Elaine Cheskes

*A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in the United Kingdom.*


The first section of this guide explains the meaning and usage of public records. For example, census records, electoral registers, passport registers, naturalization records, shipping records, trade records etc. are clearly explained. Although these resources pertain to the United Kingdom the descriptions are not restricted to the UK. The information about these resources is useful as a general guide to the genealogical researcher, for many countries, including Canada, have similar public records.

The second portion of this valuable tool includes data on research resources such as marriage records, hospital records, Yizkor books, computers in genealogy, and burial records for London and surrounding areas. A full list of Jewish cemeteries in the UK is given with a detailed explanation of each.

The third section provides specific resources in London and Home Counties, and includes resources organized by town in the rest of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Resource centers for Jewish holdings throughout the UK include Archives, Libraries, Museums, Record Offices, and Synagogues.

An extensive bibliography of the towns in the UK is included, as well as a somewhat limited bibliography of non-UK reference books.

Those resources that are valuable and those that provide little information, and may be difficult to access, are discussed candidly and honestly. Rosemary Wenzelur has edited a concise, precise, and easy to use guide for the experienced or novice researcher.

On a personal note, I had a childhood memory that my maternal grandfather lived in England for a short period of time after emigrating from Russia and prior to coming to Canada. It was only after I read this guide that I received this enlightened revelation. Within the section entitled “Computers and the Internet,” the web-site [www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk/) was included. Although I did not know the year of his arrival in the UK, I thought it might be worthwhile to check this site. I was amazed to find his name listed in the census with vital statistics regarding his address, relationship to the head of the family, marital status, age, occupation, and country of birth. It was totally unexpected and exciting to find information about my ancestor in *A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in the United Kingdom.*
According to Speisman and others, the main mass of Jewish immigration from Eastern Europe started in the last two decades of the 19th century. (1) Most such immigrants to Canada came to the established communities in Montreal and Toronto; those who came via New York were more likely to go to Toronto, while those who docked at Halifax or Quebec would more likely head to Montreal. Though there was not the same clash as there was in the US between early German Reform immigrants and later Eastern European Orthodox arrivals, there was still a gap between the newcomers and earlier immigrants. As well, cultural, ideological and religious differences tended to separate the newcomers into different groups. (Such divisions were apparently acute with respect to the matter of hiring a Rabbi or shohet; one historian speaks of an ad for a shohet put into the New York Jewish Gazette by a Quebec congregation, specifying that this person “must not be a Litvak.”) (2) Lithuanian immigrants to Toronto were particularly associated with the Goel Tzedek synagogue, the Hebrew Ladies’ Aid Society, and the Simcoe St. Talmud Torah. (3)

Though there seems to be little documentary evidence, the Toronto Farband apparently had its origins in the 1930s, when a group of Lithuanians joined with an already existing Latvian group. Like many such early groups, the Farband functioned as a mutual benefit society (a role it continued to play at least into the fifties), and also purchased cemetery land (at Bathurst Lawn). Post-WWII, its concerns broadened to assisting the remnants of Jewry in Eastern Europe, and to an increasing focus on Israel. In 1963 a monument to Lithuanian holocaust victims was put up at Bathurst Lawn. As fortunes improved, and as Jewish identity became increasingly associated with community-wide institutions, the group moved increasingly away from its self-help focus to function primarily as a fundraising and social club, contributing to various local foundations.

The above information comes from the Ontario Jewish Archives; its major holding is a 1948 yearbook. (4) This book contains a wealth of detailed information regarding post-WWII Lithuanians in Toronto and elsewhere, including the names, addresses, businesses and birthplaces of many well-wishers, and numerous pictures, and would well repay detailed study. (Be aware, however, that the yearbook is almost entirely in Yiddish.)

One final point: given the frequent political changes in Eastern Europe, with parts of Lithuania at various times being claimed by Germany, Poland and Belorus, who exactly is a “Litvak”? According to the group’s current vice-president, Mr. Pupko, it all depends on the Yiddish you speak. And in Toronto this means that if Polish Jews think you are speaking Lithuanian Yiddish, you are a Litvak.

On Latvian and Lithuanian Jews generally, see the following books in our library at North York:
LOZANSKY, Riva. If I Forget Thee…The Destruction of the Shtetl Butrimants.
ELIACH, Yaffa. There Once Was a World…
SCHOENBURG, Nancy. Lithuanian Jewish Communities.
RHODE, Harold. Jewish Vital Records, Revision Lists and Other Jewish Holdings in the Lithuanian Archives.
ROSIN, Josef. Preserving our Litvak Heritage: a History of 31 Jewish Communities in Lithuania.
LEVIN, Doiv. Litvaks, A Short History of the Jews in Lithuania.

References:
(3) Speisman, pp. 97, 146, 172.

Thanks to Chris Halonen, Ontario Jewish Archives.
Speakers will be coming from many countries, including Australia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, the US and Uzbekistan. A preliminary list of speakers and topics is now online; the list is searchable and gives a short abstract of each presentation and a biography of each speaker.

The program will include material on Ashkenazi and Sephardi genealogy and Russian genealogy; panel discussions on cemetery restoration in shtetlakh, genealogy education, genetics and genealogy, and travel for the genealogist; and lectures from librarians and archivists from New York City repositories as well as from repositories in the countries from which our ancestors emigrated.

The conference website also gives information on New York City genealogical resources and cemeteries, as well as on sightseeing and kosher dining. You may also sign up at the site to receive e-mail updates.


Register Now for New York IAJGS Conference

On-line registration is now available for the 26th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be held in New York City on August 13-18, 2006, at the Marriott Marquis hotel in Manhattan. The conference website is at http://www.jgsny2006.org.

Early registration is $215 and must be submitted by May 15, 2006. Additional early registration for a spouse/companion is $150 (syllabus not included). Regular registration after May 15th is $250, and $175 for your spouse/companion. There is a daily rate available at $75 per day (no syllabus provided). Separate registration and payment are required for the banquet and for special events, including SIG meals, cemetery visits, courses, workshops and tours. You can also order Genealogical Resources in New York at the greatly reduced price of $35, including tax and shipping, on your conference registration.

Please note that all conference-rate rooms at the Marriott Marquis are already booked; arrangements for additional rooms are now being made with other hotels.

The New York JGS, who is hosting the event, notes that speakers will be coming from many countries, including Australia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, the US and Uzbekistan. A preliminary list of speakers and topics is now online; the list is searchable and gives a short abstract of each presentation and a biography of each speaker.

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Sources on Polish Jewry at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People.

In 1988 the Central Archive for the History of the Jewish People published a guide to sources on Polish Jewry, held at the Central Archives in Jerusalem. Since then many more records have been added to the collection, especially since the Soviet Union opened its doors. This guide has material on over 1000 cities, towns and villages of Poland, where Jews lived between the 14th and 20th centuries. Most of the material consists of documentation created by non-Jewish authorities, since few of the records of Jewish communities and organizations have survived. Some of these records found their way into public archives in Krakow, Lodz and others, and some have been microfilmed for the Central Archives.

The guide is organized by locality and it is to be noted that there is an almost total absence of birth, marriage and death records. Each town is accompanied by the district (powiat) and province (województwo) to which it belongs. The material consists of originals, photocopies and microfilms.

The borders of Poland by which the material is arranged in the guide are those which were in effect between the two world wars. Thus, prominent cities such as Wroclaw (Breslau), Szczecin (Stettin) and Gdansk (Danzig), which were filmed for the Central Archives. The guide is organized by local ity and it is to be noted that there is an almost total absence of birth, marriage and death records. Each town is accompanied by the district (powiat) and province (województwo) to which it belongs. The material consists of originals, photocopies and microfilms.

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Here are a few typical examples of some smaller places; the entries for larger towns such as Lwow or Warsaw are huge. I have underlined those parts of interest to genealogists.

DZIKOW (pow.Tarnobrzeg, woj. Iwowskie) 1682-19th century
Microfilms:
1. Files on Jewish debts to a Catholic monastery, 1682-1701.
2. Extracts from municipal records on Jews, among them contracts, deeds of sale, promissory notes, wills, 1698-1830
3. Contracts and other records on arendas; a list of Jewish taxpayers; permission for Jews to establish a craft guild; a bill of sale of a plot of land to a Jew, 18th-19th century.

NOWY SACZ (woj. Krakowskie) 1685-1942
Originals:
Invitation to a wedding [Hebrew], 1931
Microfilms:
1. A copy of a royal charter by King Jan III for the Jews, 1685 (Latin); a list of voters and community members, 19th century (German).

2. Evidence from a criminal case involving a Jew, 1751.
3. Confirmation by King Stanislaw August Poniatowski of a charter granted to the Jews, 1765.
4. Records, charters and inventories of the Jews, 1785-87
5. Correspondence with the government concerning arenda and financial matters, 1814-18; statutes of the Talmud Tora society, 1891; statutes of the Gmilus Chasodim society 1893-1912.
6. Proclamations, reports and correspondence concerning chadorim and private Jewish schools, 1878-8.
7. A list of 156 Jews decorated with a silver medal for the battle near Sacz, 1914.
8. Minutes of the Association of Jewish Craftsmen and a register of apprentices, 1925-42.

RADOM, surroundings (woj. Kieleckie) 1766-1915
Microfilms:
1. A letter by Rabbi Isaac of Lubartow, instructing how to collect taxes for Jewish debts in the area Lublin and Radorn, 1766.
2. Information about corruption in the Radom gubernia, 1848-56; files on division of the gubernia into Jewish communities, a list of the towns and villages and respective communities, 1853-57.
3. Lists of communities and localities, rabbis and melamdim, salaries of rabbis and various communal taxes, 1851-58; a file on a court case about unauthorized propinacja, 1858-1871; a list of community councils in various towns, accounts and payments to the Jewish hospital in Radom, 1859-66; a list of synagogues and prayer houses in the gubernia, 1860; a petition concerning the Society for the Spread of Enlightenment among the Jews of Russia and the status of a similar association in Radom, 1907-14.
4. Lists of Jews living in various communities, 1887-98; files on community elections, including lists of voters in various communities, 1896-1904; information on synagogues and prayer houses; a conference of a rabbinical commission and a conference of delegates of Jewish communities, a list of distinguished personalities and electors from the Radom gubernia.
5. Statistical data about synagogues and rabbis in various towns of the Radom gubernia, 1908.
6. Information about the pro-German orientation of Jews, correspondence about release of Jews from arrest and abolition of other repressive measures, 1914-15.

The question then is: What is the best way for people in North America to get material of interest from the archives? According to information received from knowledgeable people in Israel it is not practicable to contact the archives and ask them to make copies of documents. They don't have the staff to handle these requests. The only other thing is to visit the archives personally or have someone in Jerusalem do this.

Book Reviews
By Henry Wellisch

12 March 2006 Shem Tov