

שם טוב
SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

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December 2006 Kislev 5767

THE CARLEBACH RABBINIC DYNASTY

By Rachel Schlesinger and Ben Schlesinger

We recently spent two weeks in Germany, with the aim of examining the Jewish roots of our families. In particular, as Rachel is a descendant of the famous Carlebach rabbinic dynasty, we wanted to visit the Ephraim Carlebach Foundation in Leipzig.

The train ride from Berlin to Leipzig takes two hours. On arrival we found the largest train station in Europe, with 120 shops in the station. Leipzig has a population of 500,000, and was the second largest city in East Germany. During the middle ages it was an important market town, and today hosts annual trade fairs. In 1925, Leipzig had 13,000 Jews, most originating from Eastern Europe; there were 17 synagogues. After the Second World War only 35 Jews remained. Since 1990, there has been an influx of Jews from former Soviet Union countries. The Jewish community today consists of 1200 persons, most of Russian origin. There is a 100-year-old synagogue, the *Braude shul*, which is still in use today.

Once in Leipzig, we met Martina Wilke, the curator of the Foundation. The Foundation has already published twenty books on various topics related to Jewish life in Leipzig (in German), including *The Carlebachs: A Rabbinic Family in Germanv*. Here is a brief summary of what we have been able to discover about the recent generations of this prominent family:

Joseph Zwi Carlebach (1802-1881) married Cilly Stern (1811-1883). He was a cattle dealer in Heidelberg. They had nine children. Among them was Solomon Carlebach.

Solomon Carlebach (1845-1919) married Esther Adter (1853-1920). They had twelve children. Five sons became rabbis, two daughters married rabbis, three sons were bankers, and two were in trades. The Carlebach rabbis served congregations in Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg, Leipzig and Lübeck. Solomon became the rabbi of Lübeck.

The children of Solomon and Esther, and their descendants, are as follows:

Alexander Carlebach (1872-1925) became a banker in Lübeck, and married Sonja Persitz. They had two children.

Emmanuel Carlebach (1874-1927) was a rabbi in Memel and Cologne. Among his four children, Alexander became a rabbi and served in London, Belfast and Jerusalem.

Simson Carlebach (1875-1942) became a banker. He married Resi Graupe, and they had three children. Their son Felix Carlebach (1911-), born in Lübeck, was a rabbi in Manchester, England. He led the South Manchester Synagogue during the 1947-1984 period. He is also a musicologist and conducts symphony orchestras on various occasions.

Bella Carlebach-Rosenak (1876-1960) married Rabbi Leo Rosenak, the rabbi of Bremen. They had three children. One of their daughters, Hanna, married Rabbi Felix Aber, who succeeded Rabbi Rosenak in Bremen. Rachel Schlesinger is one of their three daughters (the others are Miriam and Lisl).

Ephraim Carlebach (1879-1931). In 1900, at the age of 20, he

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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 (exception: spouses accompanying members)

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Speaker: Bill Gladstone
Topic: Roots and Remembrance
Plus: JGS Elections

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Speaker: Eli Bahar
Topic: The Jews of Turkey

Eli Bahar, an executive with IBM, moved to Toronto with his family in 1994. Born to a Sephardic family in Turkey, Eli grew up in a modern but conservative Jewish environment, went to Turkish, French and American schools and made aliyah to Israel, where he studied engineering at the Technion and met his wife Geni.

Geni and Eli made a presentation to our group, earlier this year, on their journey to Poland, where they were looking for Geni's family roots in Ostrowiec. We are now bringing Eli back to tell us about the history and culture of the Jews of Turkey.

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Ontario Jewish Archives, 4600 Bathurst Street,
Room 421

7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7:00 p.m.

JGS Members: Free. Non-Members: \$5.00 at the door.

Speaker: Ellen Scheinberg
Topic: Toronto's First Synagogues

This presentation will provide a visual demonstration of the "Toronto's First Synagogues" web site, <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/TorontoSynagogues/>. The site began with three shuls: Kneseth Israel, the First Narayever and the Kiever. In the winter of 2007 (just before this presentation) two more shuls will be added: Beach Hebrew Institute and Anshei Minsk. The presentation will take people through the site and describe, in general terms, the structure of the site and the history of the shuls, and will reveal some of the unique and important artifacts, photographs and documents that are highlighted on the web site.

Ellen Scheinberg, who oversees the "Toronto's First Synagogues" site, has been Director of the Ontario Jewish Archives

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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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Upcoming Events Cont'd from page 2

since October 2002. Prior to that she was archivist at the University of Toronto and the National Archives of Canada. Ellen is currently completing her Ph.D. in history at the University of Ottawa (her dissertation is entitled "Canadian Deportation Policy and its Impact on Women, 1946-1956"). She has had many articles published in the areas of women's history and archival studies.

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

T.B.A.

Sunday, April 15, 2007

Details T.B.A.

Speaker: Marian Press, Librarian, OISE

Workshop: Building a Family Web Site (Beginners' Workshop)

One of the best ways to disseminate family information is to build a web site. It can vary from a simple, 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. It will also cover issues such as good versus bad web design, privacy and copyright of information, and advertising your web site. Handouts will be provided.

In 2005, Marian gave an excellent presentation to our Society on "Using Internet Search Engines Effectively." She is a librarian at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), and 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," as well as a variety of courses on the Internet and genealogy for the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

T.B.A.

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

Speaker: Stanley Diamond

Topic: JRI-Poland: What's New

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland (JRI-Poland) is a vital resource to any Jewish genealogists with roots in Poland. It is continuing to expand its online searchable database to the indices of available Jewish records from current and former territories of Poland. The presentation, by the founder of JRI-Poland, will outline the new developments in the project as well as the many other initiatives being launched and planned by JRI-Poland. It will include examples of the family connections that have resulted from using the JRI-Poland database. It will also introduce recent developments in the JRI-Poland Order Processing System. This point-and-click "shopping basket system"

enables researchers to order records from the Polish State Archives via JRI-Poland's Order Processing Center and credit card facilities. Handouts will be available and will detail up-to-date database contents, existing and newly formed Shtetl Co-ops, and step-by-step instructions for Shtetl Co-ops.

Stanley M. Diamond, winner of the 2002 IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award, is founding president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal and Executive Director of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland. His interest in genealogical research related to genetics ultimately led to the creation of JRI-Poland. He is the genealogist for the international team doing research related to his family's novel mutation of the beta-thalassemia genetic trait and is co-author of a scientific paper related to the project. Stanley's journey in the world of family history research was featured in an episode of the documentary series "Past Lives" on Canadian television in 2004.

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Annual General Meeting and Member Breakthroughs

Non-Member Fee Clarification



To avoid inconsistencies and confusion, here is the current Society policy regarding our General Meetings:

All paid-up Society members and their spouses may attend our general meetings for free. Everyone else will be charged \$5 (unless otherwise stated).

ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by February 2007 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 91006, 2901 Bayview Ave., Toronto, Ontario M2K 1H0.

The Carlebach Rabbinic Dynasty Cont'd from page 1

became the head of the religious school in Leipzig. The Eitz-Chaim synagogue was built in the 1920's, and Ephraim became its rabbi. He died in Palestine in 1936. The Foundation in Leipzig is named after him.

Sara (1880-1928) lived in Berlin. She married Moritz Stern, and they had six children.

Moses Carlebach (1881-1939) was a merchant in Leipzig; he married Recho Cohn and they had four children.

Joseph Zwi Carlebach (1883-1942) was born in Lübeck. He married Charlotte Preuss, and they had 9 children. He studied secular topics in various universities. In 1905, he went to Palestine, to teach for two years in a teachers' seminary in Jerusalem. He returned in 1908 to Berlin. In 1915 he volunteered to serve in the German army as an officer-chaplain. From 1919 - 1921, he was the rabbi in Lübeck. He became the director of the Hamburg Talmud Torah in 1921, and in 1926 he was appointed chief rabbi of Altona-Hamburg. In December, 1941, he and many members of his family were deported to a concentration camp near Riga; they were murdered on March 26, 1942. Miriam Gillis Carlebach (1922-), a daughter of Joseph and Charlotte, now lives in Israel. She is in charge of the Joseph-Carlebach Institute at Bar-Ilan University.

Cilly Carlebach- Neuhaus (1884 -1968), another daughter, married Rabbi Leo Neuhaus and moved to the U.S.A Rabbi Neuhaus officiated in a synagogue in New York.

David (1885-1915) became a rabbi. Not much is known about his life.

Miriam Carlebach-Cohn (1885-1962) married Wilhelm Cohn and moved to Israel. They had four sons. Among them was Justice Haim Cohn, the respected Supreme Court Judge of Israel and former Attorney General of Israel.

Hartwick Naphtali Carlebach (1889 -1967), the youngest son of Solomon and Esther, was a rabbi in Berlin and New York. He married Paula Cohn, and they had a daughter and twins, Eli Chaim and Shlomo (1926 -1994). Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach became the well-known "singing rabbi." Many of his songs are available on CDs, and his melodies are sung in synagogues all over the world. He married Neila Glick of Toronto, and one of their daughters, Neshama, carries on the tradition of performer-singer in her career all over the world.

One of the few "secular" cousins in the Carlebach generations is Emil Carlebach (1914-), now a journalist living in Frankfurt. He spent many years in concentration camps as a Communist political prisoner; in an interview found in the above book, he discusses in detail the situations he has faced in these camps. He is the author of books dealing with various aspects related to the Holocaust.

For Rachel, this trip was also a voyage of discovery to visit the cemeteries where members of her family had been buried over a century ago. In Lübeck, we saw an exhibit devoted to the history of Jews of that city, dating back to 1650, when the cemetery was established. Although some of the gravestones were hard to read, one still could see the Carlebach name on various stones. An exhibit featured the life of Rabbi Joseph Carlebach (1887-1942) and his contribution to the life of the city.

Another interesting feature of this cemetery became clear as we walked along the graves. In 1947, the British had interned 4400 Jews from the ship "Exodus" in a camp called Poppendorf. Some had died in the camp and are buried in the Jewish cemetery of Lübeck.

As the two-week journey came to an end, we felt that we had connected to our past, and are pleased that we can share our findings with our extended family.

We have mentioned only some of the members of the Carlebach family, who are direct descendants of Solomon and Esther Carlebach. The complete genealogy can be found in THE JOEL-ADLER-CARLEBACH FAMILIES, published in 1996 by the family. Copies are available from Daniel Y. Carlebach, 5101-17th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, 11204, USA.

The contact information for the Foundation in Leipzig is: The Ephraim Carlebach Foundation - Lohrstrasse 10, Leipzig 04105 Ph. 211 5280, Martina Wilke, curator.

Rachel Schlesinger is a senior scholar, York University. Ben Schlesinger is a Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto.

***We Welcome These New
Members to Our Society***

Ted Bluestein	Janet Bruch
Jeanette Harris	Marilyn Lebenfish
Louis London	Irving Rother
Shoshana Schapira	Elaine Singer
Elaine Slavens	Joan Solway
Richard Wesfield	Zoh Zav

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.

It is fitting that the person who came up with the great idea of having a *Shem Tov* Spotlight has at last agreed to be featured in this column. **Carolynne Veffler** will be reaching the end of her tenure as **JGS Toronto President** this December. Though she claims, "As President, I don't do very much," she is actually a fount of great ideas and genealogical research techniques, particularly when it comes to the Internet. (See, for example, her articles on Holocaust research and Western Canada research in the *Shem Tov* issues of June 06 and September 06.)

Carolynne has been a member of our Society since 1993, and began serving on its executive in 1997 (as Treasurer, as Vice President, and then as President since 2004.) She has been, and continues to be, a member of various committees (including phoning, programming and cemetery). Besides contributing to *Shem Tov*, she writes for the KR-SIG journal, and was responsible for the syllabus at the IAJGS Conference held here in 2002. And in her "spare" time she replies to the inquiries the Society receives at info@jgstoronto.ca.

Carolynne's genealogy projects are numerous. She is JRI-Poland Shtetl Coordinator for Ilza and PSA Coordinator for Zwolen, did Ilza birth record extractions for 1850 to 1865, is a member of the Ilza Cemetery Restoration Committee and went on a trip to Poland in May 2006 which included the rededication of the cemetery. And, of course, there is her involvement in various JGS projects: "I'm pleased with the projects we've done and are doing: Rotenberg Ledger, and especially the {JOWBR} cemetery project. I think it's one of the main benefits of having a genealogy society - the opportunity to select projects and complete them - providing information to so many other genealogists who might not otherwise have access to it."

In her own research, Carolynne can trace an amazing nine generations of the Veffler family tree. "It goes back to Jacob Isaac Veffler, born 1764 and died in 1826 in Amsterdam. Dutch civil records started in 1811 so anyone who died after 1811 can usually be traced back to the 18th century. Technically I can add a tenth generation, since I know his father was Isaac (from Jacob's middle name). Last names also started in 1811." Here is part of her search technique: "All the records were at the Amsterdam archives, neatly maintained on microfiche (Birth, Marriages and Deaths) with 10-year and 1-year indices. So once you found a birth you just looked in the 10-year marriage index around his/her 18th birthday. Once you found the marriage you looked in the 10-year index around that date for births and looked for births every two years. It's amazing how 'predictable' it was. I discovered all Vefflers are related. My descendant tree in Family Tree Maker is now 17 pages long. Pretty amazing since there aren't very many Vefflers left in the world (sadly very many Vefflers were killed in WWII). Now there are Vefflers primarily in Canada, Holland and a few in the U.S. and a couple in South Africa."

Carolynne says that she looks forward to a long and happy

association with JGS (Toronto) as past-president. "I hope," she states, "my successor has as fulfilling a time as I've had as President." This "retirement" will obviously include continued involvement in the volunteer projects she has encouraged and inspired throughout her tenure. "It's the volunteers who do all the work and make the society such a success. And I'd like to thank them all (too many individual names so I'll do it by group/function): the Executive; the Shem Tov Committee; the Programming Committee; the Cemetery Project Committee; the Rotenberg Project team; the Phone Committee; our Librarian; our Webmaster; our Membership person; our AV guys; the people at the door; our Refreshments person and anyone else I've forgotten."

And thank you, Carolynne.

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

Time to Renew! (As Early as Possible, Please!)

It's time to renew your membership for 2007. Membership is valid on a yearly basis from January to December. Our membership renewal period will be January to March.

Membership dues remain at \$36.

To renew, please do the following:

- Make your cheque out to "Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)" with a 2007 date.
- Mail the cheque to:
Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)
P.O. Box 91006
2901 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, ON M2K 2Y6
Canada

or

- Bring the cheque to a meeting and give it to Michael Keleman (at the front desk), or Sid Disenhouse, Neil Richler, Henry Wellisch or Carolynne Veffler.

If you want to pay your membership before December 31, 2006, please date your cheque January 1, 2007.

In early 2007 you will receive your tax receipt for 2006 (if you haven't already received it). We will issue 2007 tax receipts in early 2008.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact info@jgstoronto.ca.

Thank you!

Canadian News From Over a Hundred Years Ago

Selections from Dr. Joseph Bloch's *Oesterreichische Wochenschrift*,
translated and annotated by **Henry Wellisch**

Dr. Joseph Bloch was a rabbi living in Vienna in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was a member of the Austrian Imperial Parliament, representing a district in Galicia, and he also published his own newspaper on Jewish affairs, *Dr. Bloch's Oesterreichische Wochenschrift* ("Dr. Bloch's Austrian Weekly"). This paper is available in digitized form on the Internet, and includes articles and news reports of Jewish interest from all over the world.

Dr. Bloch was very active inside and outside Parliament defending Jewish interests, and did not refrain from taking anti-Semites to court, where he won most of the time. Here is a selection of news items referring to far-off Canada.

January 29, 1897

(This is obviously a reference to the Holy Blossom Synagogue.)

Canada.

In Toronto, Bond Street, a very nice synagogue is being erected, which will be opened in the spring. The temple, which is built in Moorish style, will cost about 75,000 florint. On the ground floor there will be room for 300 children, while the temple itself has room for 800 pious people. The rabbi hopes that the whole Jewish community will be concentrated in the new temple. There is another temple with a strict orthodox ritual and also a chevra of Russian and Polish Jews. It is to be noted, the Christians contributed considerable sums to the building of the temple; and no Jews excluded themselves. Messrs. Benjamin, two brothers, donated 20,000 florint. The local newspaper *Toronto World* is talking in a highly appreciative way about the rabbi, Mr. Lazarus, a former student of Jews College in London, and emphasizes that heterodox people, in short all persons who come in contact with him, also have the highest respect for him.

August 30, 1897

(Note the strong comments on both traditional Judaism and Zionism.)

Montreal.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis, which this year was held in Montreal, was opened on Tuesday evening by Rabbi Dr. J. M. Wise of Cincinnati. Rabbi Wald of Montreal made the opening speech and the governor of Quebec, Sir Joseph-Adolphe Chapleau, as well as the Hon. Joseph-Israel Tarte, Minister of Public Works, welcomed the guests to Canadian soil. The mayor of Montreal, R. Wilson Smith, as well as James Querin, a member of the Dominion government, also made speeches. The president in his message made the following proposals:

1. The establishment of a publishing house for the distribution

of works of a religious nature.

2. The publication and promulgation of an encyclopedia of Hebrew, biblical and rabbinic learning in English, similar to the one in German, which was published by Dr. Hamburger, the rabbi of Strelitz-Mecklenburg.

He also drew attention to the Zionist movement, and he stated:

"Politicians have seized an opportunity, and one of them, a certain Dr. Herzl, has come up with a proposal for the establishment of a Jewish state. He tried to make this proposal appear to be realistic and many people were thrilled by it.

"We want freedom, equality, justice in government and in administration of countries, states and municipalities. This we have in full measure, and the messianic movement on the other side of the ocean does not concern us."

Interviewed by a Montreal paper he said:

"We – the conference – represent modern and liberal Jewry, and that is all. Our teaching is about the same as the one of orthodox Jewry, but we do not believe that we have to use the prayers that were in place a thousand years ago, when Jews were an oppressed and persecuted race and their only hope was the reconstruction of Jerusalem. We differ mainly in the practical studies. Sometimes we are called rationalists and to a certain extent this is correct. The first church was rationalistic, when it protested against paganism. We are rationalists when we refuse to follow certain ceremonies, which in no way correspond to modern life and experience. We believe in Moses and the prophets, but we demand the right to a personal interpretation. We believe in different things in a different way. Christians are looking at the bible differently from the way they did 15 years ago.

"And we Jews are no more enclosed in a ghetto; we are free citizens with all the privileges of civilization, which is a mosaic in its own way."

March 3, 1899

Montreal.

The number of Jews in Canada, although residing here since 1760, is still rather small and consists of only 6414 souls. Of those, 73 are living in the province of New Brunswick; they recently erected there a synagogue in St. John. Since there is now a continuous immigration of Russian/Polish Jews there is hope for a rapid growth of this small community.

April 14, 1899

Canada.

The chamber of commerce of Quebec elected Mr. Joseph Montefiore as its president. The new president comes from a family that played an important role in Quebec's history. His grandfather was the first Jew who settled there, his father was also president of the chamber of commerce and Belgian consul. This

Abraham Montefiore was especially active in aiding poor Jewish immigrants, for whom he hired a *shochet* at his own expense until the community was able to take over. The oldest son is Mr. Joseph Montefiore, the current president of the chamber of commerce, the second son Andreas is the Belgian consul.

July 28, 1899

Montreal.

At the examinations of the university of Quebec two Jews, the brothers A.T. Josef and E. C. Josef, won first prize, one for achievements in modern and the other in classical philology. Both prize-winners are the sons of Josef Montefiore, who is known as a philanthropist beyond Canada's frontiers.

October 20, 1899

Canada.

There are favorable reports from the Jewish settlements; the harvest is in full swing and promises to be the best the colonists ever had. Unfortunately a prairie fire broke out on Sept. 15, which caused a lot of damage. The houses and the harvest in the barns were saved, but the country was wasted over 8 English miles, all the hay was burnt and the pasture ground for the cattle was destroyed. It will not be easy for the colonists to obtain fodder for the animals.

The schools in the settlements are now open and according to the intention of the Jewish Colonization Association they were to be free of charge; however the government determined that a school fee of two dollars would be charged to each colonist who owns a house. The schools are under the direction of Mr. S. A. Goldstone, who was also appointed to be the justice of the peace for the district.

(Around this time there were some terrible pogroms in Romania, and thousands fled. This item discusses the conditions that would be faced by Romanian Jews trying to emigrate to Canada.)

August 17, 1900

Montreal.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* reports:

The emigration of these pitiable people will probably be directed to Canada, as happened in some cases, but that country will not offer them that which they expect. Immigration into Canada can take place without sufficient funds, as long as the people concerned are not criminals or insane. Otherwise the position is that this country, which urgently needs a large immigration, is more liberal than its neighbor, which is beginning to suffer from an "embarras de richesses." There, the unwanted elements who collide with the flexible immigration laws are simply being returned, for one reason or another, to their port of embarkation, at the cost of the shipping companies.

Rumanian Jews will not have these difficulties here and landing can be expected without formalities. It should, however, in the interest of those who want to come here, be pointed out that mainly agricultural labourers and, for females, maid servants are required. The first-mentioned will lose their jobs

after the harvest and they will have to scrape through the long winter by working on the railroad etc. There is certainly a lot of free land available in the Northwest, 160 acres per person, but to cultivate it requires considerable funds.

July 4, 1902

Montreal.

On 20 May the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Minto, opened a Jewish school which was erected at the cost of Baron de Hirsch. At the celebration several ministers, judges, representatives of the Catholic and Protestant clergy, McGill University, the city, as well as the consuls of France and Russia were present.

After the daughter of an immigrant Jew had welcomed the guests with an excellently recited poem, the Minister of Public Works Tarte gave a speech, where he remarked, among other things:

"You our Jewish fellow-citizens and we French-Canadians may be in the minority, but in spite of this we consider ourselves to be just as good as the biggest Englishman. Here in Canada descent and title do not count, but honesty, talent and diligence do, and it does not matter to which religion one belongs."

Yad Vashem Needs Volunteers

Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Israel, is seeking to expand its Shoah Victims Database. Volunteers are needed to encourage submissions of Pages of Testimony, which are the principal documents of this database.

Volunteers should be willing to contact local institutions and individuals. With the aid of promotional materials Yad Vashem has developed, volunteers will reach out to survivors and their families and assist them in registering the names of Jews whom they know were murdered in the Shoah. This will be done through synagogues, Holocaust centres, Jewish Community centres, Jewish student organizations, seniors centres and social service agencies.

The Shoah Victims Names Database currently identifies about three million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, but millions of victims remain unidentified. As the Yad Vashem web site states: "Unless we assume collective responsibility for completing this vital mission, some of [these names] may be lost forever. **This is a race against time**, before those who remember them are no longer with us."

To volunteer, send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il with the subject heading "Names Volunteer." You can also find information on the Yad Vashem web site at http://www1.yadvashem.org/names/whyCollect.htm?WT.mc_id=yvscommunityguide

Who Knows Whom You'll Find in the Rotenberg Ledger?

Our members **Harvey and Adena Glasner** recently photographed and indexed 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). This resource is proving to be invaluable. Several people who have used the ledger have kindly written to the Society to thank the Glasners for making this document accessible, and to relate their own researches.

Marvin Goodman writes:

"I learned that my father had purchased tickets for four members of his family. It was July, 1918. I am certain that they were not used, because of the timing of World War I a part of my family history, unknown to me previously. I was born 1933.

"It was an unusual experience, reading about people I never knew, yet a part of my history. Thank you to all those who contributed to making the project into a reality."

Ellen Monheit writes:

"I would love to be able to say a few words about the Rotenberg Ledger so that other people might be inspired to use it to augment their search resources. I found my father's ship's manifest first on the Ellis Island database purely by luck, and a creative spelling of the surname. Many months later when I was doing research for our "Ivansk Project," a member of our committee (a Rotenberg descendant) provided me the opportunity to look through the Rotenberg Ledger in the Toronto Jewish Archives, at which time I found an entry pertaining to the purchase of my father's steamship ticket by my great-uncles in Toronto, and it stated their names as well. Had I seen the Rotenberg Ledger entry first, I would have known how my father's surname was spelled back then (1913). I felt that the Rotenberg Ledger was an important genealogical resource and mentioned it at one of the meetings. I'm glad that I did and that the Glasners made this important resource available to all.

"Because the Glasners photographed the pages and created an index, I was recently able to find information relating to my husband Sonny's family, i.e. Malka Monchait, but unfortunately I have not had the time yet to follow up.

"Sonny and I will be going to Poland in two weeks time as part of a 50 member tour ("The March of the Living Ivanskers"), to rededicate the cemetery in Ivansk, Poland. The shtetl of Ivansk is where my late father was born in 1898. My grandfather, my great-grandmother and a great-uncle are buried there, as well as countless others, of course. Nothing remained of the cemetery, and the farmers' fields were encroaching. Because of the enormous efforts of the members of our committee - all Ivansker descendants and spouses - in Canada, in the States, and in Israel, the project is near completion. The cemetery has been cleaned up, an enclosing wall built, an iron gate constructed, and we will witness the memorial obelisk when we are there for the rededication ceremony. The *matzevot* shards that were found or returned in the dead of night have been incorporated into the wall and gate. There will even be a

documentary movie associated with all this that is being prepared by one of the Ivansker descendants who is a professional film maker in Israel. I believe that a scholarship fund has been established for the high school students of Ivansk, encouraging interfaith education and tolerance. The Jews of Ivansk were taken to Treblinka to be "exterminated" on 4 Cheshvan 5703, corresponding to Oct. 15, 1942. Part of our tour will involve visiting Treblinka, as well as Auschwitz. A memorial service will be held in Ivansk on Oct. 26, 2006, corresponding to 4 Cheshvan 5767, the 64th anniversary of the evacuation. We'll be spending three days in Warsaw, three days in Sandomierz, and three days in Krakow. We plan on taking many pictures, and making copious notes, so that we will be able to do a presentation for the Jewish Genealogical Society in Toronto at some future date."

To access the Ledger information, go to the Society's web site at www.jgstoronto.ca, and click on "Resources" and then on "Rotenberg Ledger." The index is provided in Excel format. It lists the name of the passenger(s) and ticket purchaser, with related page numbers. If you find a name/names in which you are interested, send an e-mail to info@jgstoronto.ca including the name or names and related page numbers. The CD containing photographs of the Ledger pages will be searched for you, and information sent to you in a return e-mail.

Sharing Your Experiences of Trips to Your Ancestral Towns

One of our Society members, Lorne Miller, would like your help with a very interesting project. He was inspired by our September 27 meeting, where members shared their trips to their ancestral towns. He saw a need, and, with his experience in writing and publishing books, he would like to fill it. Here is his request:

As part of your genealogical search have you traveled overseas to find your ancestral roots?

Would you like to share your experiences with others who are considering undertaking a similar journey?

This winter I will be writing a book describing journeys such as these. I am very interested in interviewing people who have made such a trip as well as receiving any trip logs or other writing that you have.

Please contact me to be part of a book that will be of great value and interest to many others who are contemplating a similar trip.

Lorne Miller, author and publisher
416 226 1022 (telephone)
416 225 5715 (fax)
info@mystories.ca

JEWISHGEN PLUS

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

Canadian Ships Manifests Now On-Line

Certain Canadian passenger lists are now on-line courtesy of Library and Archives Canada. The lists appear to be searchable, **but not by passenger name**. In other words, to find a name it is important to know the port, date of arrival and name of the ship.

- If you know only the year and port of arrival, you may find that, for instance, during the year 1900, 232 passenger ships arrived at Halifax.
- If you know the name of the ship, the year and port of arrival, but not the date, you may find that, for instance, the S.S. Carthaginian arrived six times in Halifax during the year 1900, which means that you have to go through the passenger lists.
- If you know only the name of the ship, you may find that, for instance, the S. S. Carthaginian arrived in Canada (Halifax or Montreal) 185 times between 1885 and 1916.

Here is the web site with the database:

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/passenger/index-e.html>

Passenger lists (RG 76) were the official immigration documents from 1865 to 1935. The lists contain information such as the name, age, country of origin, occupation and destination of each passenger. The lists are organized by port and date of arrival. This database provides access to passenger lists for the following locations: Ports of Quebec (1865-1921); Halifax (1881-1912, to 1922 shortly); Saint John (1900-1912); North Sydney (1906-1908); Vancouver (1905-1912); Victoria (1905-1912, shortly)

The current version of this database does not include the references for the ports of Victoria, New York or the eastern American coast.

It should be noted that there is a **searchable data base where you can search by name** persons arriving in Canada during the period 1925 to 1935. Here is the web site with the database:

http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/02011802_e.html
(there is an underscore _ after the figure 2).

Birth and Death Notices in Toronto Newspapers

For *The Globe and Mail* visit their web site at <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/> Then click on "Births and Deaths." The on-line database starts on January 1, 2000.

For death notices that ran in the *Toronto Star* in the past year, go to www.starclassifieds.com and click on "Deaths" in the left side-bar. In the right side-bar, under "Search for Deaths," type in the surname under "Name." If it is no longer

the first day for the death notice, you need to uncheck the box marked "Today's Ads Only." Click on "Search for Ads" and a list of death notices with that surname will appear.

Death notices that ran up to 2002 are archived on "Pages of the Past" found on the *Toronto Star* web site. Go to the web site www.thestar.ca and click on "Pages of the Past" (found to the lower left). Choose the "click here to search" option. The link that you can go to for information on subscriptions, which range from 1 hour to 1 month, is:

<http://thestar.pagesofthepast.ca>

For death notices between 2002 and late-2005 it will be necessary to go to the Metro Toronto Reference Library (at Yonge and Bloor) and look up the *Toronto Star* on their microfiche; your local library may also have the *Toronto Star* on microfiche. You could call the Reference Library at 416-393-7131 or go to www.tpl.toronto.on.ca

New Montreal Cemetery Listings

Alan Greenberg, <alan.greenberg@mcgill.ca>, Vice-President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal, reports: "Several months ago I announced that the 6,521 Montreal burials at the Back River Memorial Gardens Cemetery were online at JOWBR. Last week, an update to these records was submitted and the entire Baron de Hirsch (de la Savane) cemetery has been added. In total, there are 52,200 burials from about 1889 until 2006.... Note: There are now 6578 burials listed in the Back River Cemetery. This includes a number of Hebrew-only stones that we have now translated, new burials since the original data was received, and the deletion of eight records for plots that would have been in the space occupied by a small walkway. They were previously listed as being the burial locations for 'Chemin CHEMIN' (a rather uncommon Jewish name). For those who don't speak French, I suggest checking a dictionary. ;-)"

Index to Jewish Quebec Vital Records

More news from the JGS of Montreal: they have developed a surname index to Jewish vital records for the province of Quebec. It is available on-line at <http://www.jgs-montreal.org/vital/search-frame.html> This includes an extraction of the so-called Drouin collection (1841-1942), and over 10,000 entries from the 1917 to 1954 records of Rabbi J.L. Colton and those of Rabbi Nathan Mendelson.

JGS Montreal will get copies of the records from the Drouin collection for \$15. The order form is on their web site.

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More New Web Sites, Databases and Indexes On-Line

(Most of these are subscription sites; some will allow you to do searches for free, but charge a fee to view any documents).

Ancestry.ca (www.ancestry.ca): complete **index for the 1851 Census for all of Canada**. More information may be found at <http://allcensusrecords.com/canada/census-news.shtml>; images of the Census can be viewed at <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1851/index-e.html>.

Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com):

- **index of the complete U.S. Census records** from 1790 to 1930, along with images of the original records.

- **birth, marriage and death notices, 1851 to 2003**, obtained from eight major U.S. newspapers: the New York Times, Boston Globe, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Defender (Big Weekend and National Editions), Chicago Tribune, Hartford Courant, the Washington Post and Atlanta Constitution (<http://www.ancestry.com/s26734/t8613/rd.ashx>).

- more than 100 million names on all readily-available **U.S. Passenger Lists from 1820 - 1960**; includes the complete Ellis Island collection, as well as records from over 100 other U.S. ports of arrival.

Ancestry.co.uk (www.ancestry.co.uk): **British phone books, 1880-1984** (the contents of British Telephone's historical phone book collection).

WorldVitalRecords.com (www.worldvitalrecords.com): This is a new genealogy site. Users can now access 77 million geo-coded records, including the Death Master File (DMF), also known as the **Social Security Death Index**. The site states that it will offer international record databases, references to top genealogical resources, a blog planet, podcasts, videocasts, webinars, expert advice, training and user-generated content.

Massachusetts State Archives (<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/vitalrecordssearch/VitalRecordsSearch.aspx>): **index of deaths** from 1841-1990

Genealogy Bank (<http://www.genealogybank.com>) now offers free searches of its on-line collections, including **historical books, documents, newspapers, American obituaries and Social Security Death Index**. (To view the full document, you will need a subscription). These databases are updated very frequently.

AncestorsOnBoard (<http://www.findmypast.com/aobd/>): This is a new site that plans to feature **BT27 Outward Passenger Lists for long-distance voyages leaving the British Isles from 1960 back to 1890**, for destinations including Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and USA, featuring ports such as Boston, Philadelphia and New York.

Dick Eastman describes the importance of this data in his *Newsletter*: "Many European trans-migrants ... began their journeys in continental Europe and came to Britain to catch a cheaper sailing to their final destination, such as the USA. ...These are records that have never before been available online or even on microfilm. ...

"The records are indexed by UK port of departure and by date of departure, but not by name. This means that it is almost impossible to find a particular individual unless you already know exactly when they traveled and from which port. ...If you already know the date when an ancestor arrived at Ellis Island or some other port, you probably can find the matching and possibly more detailed information about that person if you look at English departures two or three weeks earlier. In many cases, the information in the English records is more detailed than the records from New York."

More from Library and Archives Canada - A New Exhibit, and Passports Documents of Immigrants from Tsarist Russia

LAC has a new virtual exhibit called "Traces of the Past," a component of "Moving Here, Staying Here: the Canadian Immigrant Experience," at: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/immigrants>. As part of this launch, LAC states: "...you are encouraged to find your own family's history through the databases of digitized documents ... such as passenger lists and muster rolls ... that are provided."

In addition to the newly digitized Passenger Lists, these research tools include The Likacheff-Ragosine-Mathers Collection (LI-RA-MA), <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/li-ra-ma/index-e.html>

This collection contains documents created between 1898 and 1922 by the Canadian consular offices of the Tsarist Russian Empire. The series on passports and identity papers (many with photos) contains approximately 11,400 files on Jewish, Ukrainian and Finnish immigrants who came to Canada from the Russian Empire. Also included are passport applications and questionnaires containing general information. Nearly half the database is now available online, with the rest to be added soon.

For more information, you can contact Project Manager Angele Alain at: <webservices@lac-bac.gc.ca>.

JEWISHGEN PLUS

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New Database for Holocaust-Related Material

Robert Friedman, Director of the Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute in New York, announces the launch of a new on-line database of previously unpublished Holocaust-related materials. "CJH Holocaust Resources: An Annotated Bibliography of Archival Holdings" at the Center for Jewish History contains over 2,000 entries representing records in 32 different languages, and includes 3,000 personal names, 300 organizational names, and 700 geographic locations with alternate languages and spellings.

The database is accessible through the Center for Jewish History web site at www.cjh.org/collections/genealogy and can also be reached directly at www.holocaustresources.cjh.org

List of Jewish Genealogy Society Guidebooks

The International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies has announced a new part of their web site at www.iajgs.org - a listing of guidebooks published by IAJGS member organizations. Once you are at the home page, go to "Resources" at the left side of the page and then click on "Publications." For now there are descriptions of the guidebooks put out by the JGSs of Washington DC, New York City, Oregon, San Francisco Bay area and Palm Beach County FL. This list will continue to be updated as societies submit their information.

Genealogy and Food for Thought

A very interesting tool for genealogy research has been launched by African American genealogists searching for their African roots. This is a cooking forum, found at <http://www.afrigeneas.com/forum-food/>. The idea is that food and how it is prepared can provide important clues about where African Americans' ancestors came from on the African continent; and the traditions forged in different places after their arrival in the Americas can help them determine more recent origins.

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Another Successful Beginners' Workshop

An Introductory Workshop: Tracing Your Jewish Roots, conducted by **Gord Meslin** and **Neil Richler** (October 22), welcomed 25 attendees to the wonderful world of genealogy. In the words of one participant: "A lot of learning took place." This excellent course included much information on Internet searches, including JewishGen, historical and map reference sites, search engines, as well as sites for American and Canadian immigration, census and other government databases. Genealogy software, to store data and create family trees, was also discussed. Interest was expressed in a second workshop on the use of genealogy software to create a family tree incorporating photographs and other documentation. Thank you to the presenters and to all the participants.

JOWBR Project Proceeding Apace

Shelley Stillman, Chair of the Society's Cemetery Committee, reports that the Committee continues to progress toward its goal of submitting data on all Toronto-area Jewish burials to the JewishGen database. Records will soon be obtained for a majority of the sections at Mt. Sinai Cemetery. Volunteers have completed photocopying of index cards from Beth Tzedec Cemetery; information from the copies is now being entered into a database, under the direction of **David Trost**. Volunteers will also be needed to proofread the information and cross-reference it with a second set of index cards that list burials by section and plot location. Thank you to Shelley, David and all members of this Committee.

Ontario Vital Statistics

According to a notice in *Newsleaf*, a publication of the Ontario Genealogical Society, indexes and registrations for the following are now available on microfilm:

Births: 1869-1909

Marriages: 1873-1924

Deaths: 1869-1934

These records are ready for consultation in the Main Reading Room of the Archives of Ontario at 77 Grenville Street, Toronto. They can also be borrowed through the Microfilm Interloan Service of the Family History Library (Mormons).

IAJGS Conference Lectures and Syllabus Available

Audio CDs of sessions presented at the 26th Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, held in New York City in August, can now be ordered online. The sessions were recorded live and are unedited. A CD of an individual session sells for \$14 (US); a double session sells for \$25. Individual and double sessions can also be downloaded as MP3s for the same cost. An MP3 CD with all of the recorded sessions on it costs \$149 (US) It is not downloadable.

A 10% discount will be applied to orders for individual or double CDs that cost a total of \$100 or more.

Shipping costs: After the order form was programmed to charge Canadians the same shipping rate as residents of other countries, the recording company reduced Canada's shipping rate to a flat rate of \$10. (Canadian customers ordering online will have a 25% surcharge added, and a credit for this amount will be issued to their credit cards.) Canadian orders placed by phone will have the flat shipping rate applied immediately.

MP3 CDs will be shipped with all of the components that need to be installed in computers that do not already have the necessary software. MP3 CDs can only be played on MP3 players, PCs, and MP3-capable CD or DVD players. Place orders through the conference web site at http://www.jgsny2006.org/conference_recording.cfm.

The conference syllabus can also be ordered online.

Included in the syllabus are paper copies of the speakers' handouts, information about doing research in New York City, and a searchable audio CD version. Shipments within North America cost \$45 for the paper version, the CD version, and the cost of delivery. Delivery to Canada is via UPS Surface. For orders outside of North America, paper copies of the syllabus cannot be delivered due to the high cost of shipping; only the CD version of the syllabus is available. The cost is \$10, including air-mail delivery. The syllabus can be ordered at http://www.jgsny2006.org/book_link.cfm.

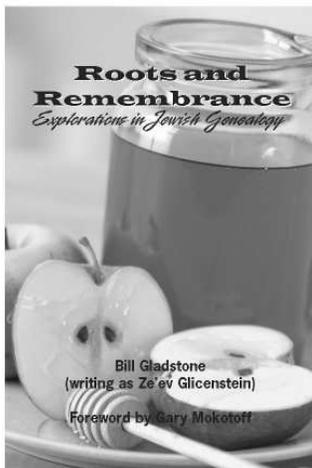
Register for Salt Lake City, 2007

Registration is now open for next year's IAJGS Conference, scheduled for July 15-20, 2007 at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center. Please visit the conference web site at <http://www.slc2007.org> to register, submit speaking proposals, book rooms at the Hilton, plan your travel and learn more about what the conference and Salt Lake City have to offer.

Chicago, 2008

The hotel and dates for the 28th IAJGS Conference are set. The hotel is the Chicago Marriott downtown Magnificent Mile and the dates are August 17-22, 2008. More details will be announced as they are available. The Chicago conference is being hosted by IAJGS in cooperation with the JGS of Illinois and the Illiana JGS.

The Ontario Genealogical Society Presents the
First Canadian Book on Jewish Genealogy!



Roots and Remembrance: Explorations in Jewish Genealogy
Bill Gladstone (writing as Ze'ev Glicenstein)
Foreword by Gary Mokotoff

"Now he has combined the best of [his] columns into this magnificent book. Some of the columns are emotional responses to discovering some aspect of a person's family history, others are informative about how to access information.

Readers will not only enjoy these pieces but also learn much about the process of Jewish genealogical research."

— Gary Mokotoff, Editor, *Avotaynu*

Whether you are just starting out on the study of your ancestors or have conducted research for many years, you will find these articles rewarding reading. The author has built on the study of his own extended Rubinoff-Naftolin family to provide insight into Jewish genealogical research both in Canada and elsewhere.

Gladstone has used the resources of Library and Archives Canada, Yad Vashem, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, YIVO Institute and others too numerous to mention. He also has reviewed many books that provide insight and context for the family historian to explore. Many of the articles are updated to include the latest information and websites. The book contains a bibliography of all works mentioned and an index.

2006 232p index bibliography 0-7779-2160-X \$27.00

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