

זכרון ZichronNote

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XIV, Number 4

November 1994

LOCAL GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Fri Nov 4
9AM-1PM Workshop. *Military Records Part I—An Overview of Types of Available Records and How to Access Information*, The National Archives Pacific Sierra Region, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, \$15.00. Contact Rose Mary Kennedy at 415-876-9009.
- Sat Nov 12 Workshop. Hank Z. Jones, Jr., San Mateo County GS. Call 415-591-1797.
Sat Nov 12 Workshop. Christine Rose. Marin County GS, \$25 fee. Call 415-892-6676.
- Sat Nov 12
1:30 PM Regular Meeting. *Land Records*, Judy Svoboda, California Genealogical Society CGS Library, 300 Brannan, Suite 409, San Francisco
- Sun Nov 20
1:00 PM **Regular Meeting. [tentative program]** *Gaucher Disease in Ashkenazi Jews*, Kim Hart, Genetic Counselor and Seymour Packman, MD, UCSF School of Medicine Holocaust Center of Northern California, 14th Ave. at Balboa, San Francisco.
- Mon Dec 19
7:30 PM **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto. Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road, Palo Alto
- 1995**
- Sun Jan 15 **Regular Meeting.** San Francisco. Jewish Community Library, 14th Ave. at Balboa, San Francisco
- Mon Feb 20 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.
- Fri Mar 10 Family History Fair. *Following Paper Trails Across the Continents*
Sat Mar 11 Fashion Center, 8th Street between Brannan & Townsend, San Francisco.
We'll have a table at this annual genealogical fair.
- Sun Mar 19 **Regular Meeting.** San Francisco.
- Mon Apr 24 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.
- Sun May 21 **Regular Meeting.** San Francisco.
- Mon Jun 19 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.
- June 25-29 Fourteenth Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, Hotel Washington, Washington, DC. Details JGS of Greater Washington, P. O. Box 412, Vienna, VA 22183-0412
- Sun Jul 23 **Regular Meeting.** San Francisco.
- Mon Aug 21 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.
- Sun Sep 17 **Regular Meeting.** San Francisco.
- Mon Oct 23 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.

THE SOCIETY PAGE

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Lynn Berlad-San Francisco, **Lillian Bernstein**-Walnut Creek, **Sam Burd**-Oakland, **Lois Carter**-San Mateo, **Paul Kapiloff**-Berkeley, **Irwin Keller**-San Francisco, **Irving Koppel**-Fremont, **Merle Krantzman**-Moraga, **Gayle Leyton**-San Francisco, **Harvey Posert**-St. Helena, **Jacob & Ruth Rubin**-Palo Alto, and **Randy Stehle**-San Mateo

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

In the few years since the implementation of the new policies of *glasnost* and the subsequent disintegration of the Soviet Union, genealogists around the world have been interested in the availability of records from the Eastern European countries of their ancestors. Frequent questions center around what records may still exist, their availability, and the genealogical use to which they may be put.

Our feature "foldout" this issue attempts to add to the body of our knowledge in this area. Local Jewish genealogist Bert Oppenheim returned from a visit to the Lithuanian Historical Archive in Vilnius, where he contracted for extensive abstractions of information on six of his ancestral lines from the synagogue record books of the town of **Vistytis, Lithuania**. We publish the information he brought back and, as a case study, we derive a four-generation branch of his **Openheim** family tree.

Also for our "Litvak" readers we adapt a newspaper article from the *San Jose [California] Mercury News* on the history and culture of **Lithuania**.

Some of our members are actively cruising the information highway and bringing back some worthwhile information. The subjects are diverse. Member Dan Leeson writes about Jewish tombstones. Zach Baker, YIVO Librarian in NYC posts a message on the state of the Jewish community and YIVO collections after the recent bombing in **Argentina**. Yale J. Reisner, Director of Research and Archives, Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, currently on a research trip in Warsaw, Poland, makes an offer to provide information to researchers of **Lomza** and **Kalisz**, Poland. And Stanley Diamond of Montreal, Canada appeals to genealogists to help in tracking down unaware carriers of **Thalassemia**.

Our library is growing, and we describe our new acquisitions, as well as other books available to members in our area. Substantial discounts are available for volume purchases through our Society.

Our thanks are extended to our members for their donations of books and money for our library, and articles for *ZichronNote*.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

We are in the process of applying for exemption from federal income taxes under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In order to be compliant with Federal regulations we must modify the wording of our By-Laws in the areas of organizational objectives, allowable activities and disposal of assets.

Pursuant to our By-Laws we intend to present the proposed amendments for approval by a majority of the membership present at our November 20th San Francisco meeting, and we are announcing the proposed amendment in this issue of *ZichronNote*.

The following are the proposed changes to the wording of Articles 2, 3 and 11 of our By-Laws. Deletions are indicated by ~~Strike-throughs~~, and IRS-suggested additions are indicated in **bold type**.

ARTICLE 2 NON-PROFIT STATUS

This Society shall operate as a non-profit organization, no part of the net earnings of which will accrue to the benefit of any individual. **The Society is organized exclusively for cultural, historical, and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.**

ARTICLE 3 OBJECTIVES

~~The above purposes are understood to be within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future tax code.)~~

ARTICLE 11 DISSOLUTION

~~Upon the In case of dissolution and winding up of this Society the Board of Directors shall, after payment of all outstanding debts and obligations of the Society, distribute the dispose of all remaining assets for the purpose of, and in such a manner as to further the aims for which this Society was founded. Upon dissolution any assets shall be distributed to a non-profit fund, foundation, corporation, or organization with similar goals and objectives similar to those of the Society, organized and operated exclusively for the purposes specified in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and which has established its tax-exempt status under that section.~~ No assets shall be distributed to any individual, including anyone who has ever been an officer of the Society.

NEW ACQUISITIONS IN OUR SOCIETY LIBRARY

Title	Author or Publisher	Date	Pages	Publisher
Catalog of Memoirs	American Jewish Committee	1978	145pb	American Jewish Committee, New York
Descendants of Herz Anschell of Bonn	Auerbach, Siegfried M.	1964	57x	S. M. Auerbach, London
Auerbach Family, The	Auerbach, Siegfried M.	1957	172x	Perry Press Productions, London
Juden in Brühl	Becker-Jakli, Barbara	1988	366x	Stadt Brühl
Film Catalog, Gussack Video Library	Beth Hlatfutsoth	1993	44pb	Museum of the Diaspora, Tel Aviv
America's Secret Aristocracy	Birmingham, Stephen	1987	343pb	Berkeley Books, New York
Temple Sinai, Oakland Ca. 1875-1975	Broude, Rabbi Samuel G.	1975	76hc	Temple Sinai, Oakland, CA
Adass Yeshurun of Cologne	Carlebach, Alexander	1964	180x	William Mullan & Son Ltd., Belfast
Die Familiennamen der Juden... in Baden	Dreifuss, Dr. E. M.	1927	143x	J. Kauffmann Verlag, Frankfurt a. Main
Abba Eban, An Autobiography	Eban, Abba	1977	628hb	Random House, New York
Childhood in a Shtetl	Gannes, Abraham P.	1993	202hc	Ganton Books, Cupertino, Ca
Catalog of Resource Materials	Historic Resources, Inc.	1993	150pb	Historic Resources, Inc., Bountiful, UT
Geschichte der Juden in Frankfurt a. M.	Kracauer, I.	1927	557x	Stadt Frankfurt a. M.
The Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln	Lowenthal, Marvin, trans.	1977	295pb	Schocken Books, New York
The Handy Book to English Genealogy	Mellen, Rachel	1990	218pb	Heritage Books, Bowie, MD
Totenbuch Theresienstadt		1971	160hb	Jüdisches Komitee für Theresienstadt, Wien

ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

We have been actively acquiring reference and research materials for our library. Some of this material is purchased from your dues, but much of it is from member donations. An update to the Society's holdings appears above. Call our Librarian Dana Kurtz prior to a Society meeting if you wish to use or borrow any reference.

Highlights of the new materials are summarized below, with credits given to our donors.

- *The Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln*, a classic diary of a German Jewish widow from the seventeenth century illustrates Jewish life of the times, donated by **Martha Wise**.

- *Catalog of Memoirs* is a catalog of the oral history holdings in the American Jewish Committee's Wiener Oral History Library.

- The Auerbach and Anschell family histories were donated by **W. David Stern**

- *Juden in Brühl*, *Die Familiennamen der Juden ...in Baden*, and *Geschichte der Juden in Frankfurt am Main* relate the history of German Jews from those regions, were donated by **W. David Stern**

- The film catalog of the video library at the Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv was donated by **Marian Rubin**. It is useful to know what videos may exist that describe your ancestral town. Many of these videos are available locally. The catalog of resource materials from Historic Resources, Inc. covers that vendor's stock of hard copy and microform materials.

- The Temple Sinai centennial book donated by **Ruth Milsner** has a history of Oakland's oldest Temple. The Adass Yeshurun centennial book, donated by **W. David Stern**, celebrates an old Cologne, Germany synagogue.

- The Abba Eban autobiography was purchased with Library funds.

- *Childhood in a Shtetl* by Dr. Abraham Gannes was the subject of talks at our Dec. 93 Palo Alto and Sep. 94 San Francisco meetings, and was reviewed in the May 1994 *ZichronNote*. It was purchased with library funds.

- The Theresienstadt death book is a listing of the Jews who perished from that infamous concentration camp donated by the **Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society**.

- *The Handy Book to English Genealogy*, Third Edition, by Rachael Mellen, **Heritage Books** publisher's review copy.

PUBLICATIONS AT A DISCOUNT

One of the advantages of membership in your Jewish Genealogical Society is the ability to take part in quantity discount rates for many Jewish genealogical reference books. If we order *Avotaynu* publications in lots of 5 or more we can obtain a 20% discount and receive the book postpaid. Net prices are as follows: *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* - \$60.00, *Where Once We Walked* - \$55.60, *A Biography of Canadian Jewry* - \$28.00, *Following the Paper Trail* - \$23.20, *Jewish Personal Names* - \$12.00 etc. Orders are prepaid.

We can also get a 10% discount if we order 10 copies of the reprinting of Arthur Kurzweil's *From Generation to Generation*. (until December 1 only).

John Wiley & Sons offers 50% off the cover prices of \$16.95 and \$24.95 respectively for orders of 10 or more copies of *Jewish Heritage Travel* and *Upon the Doorposts of Thy House* by Ruth Gruber.

Hearthstone Bookshop offers 10-15% and free shipping, and annual subscription to *FGS Forum* is \$9.00 per year instead of \$15.00.

BOOK REVIEWS

RESEARCHER'S GUIDE TO UNITED STATES CENSUS AVAILABILITY 1790-1920

Ann B. Hamilton

A basic source of genealogical information are census records. This reference covers the availability of federal census information on a county-by-county basis for all available federal censuses. This 1992 revision of the author's book adds information on 1920 federal census availability. Valuable information is presented on other censuses such as state and city censuses, veterans and indian censuses, slave censuses, and census indexes.

Data are arranged in chart form for each state, showing census availability by county for each census. Codes indicate if complete or partial census data are available, if data were destroyed or lost, which data are indexed or soundexed, and where reconstructed or substitute data may be available. The charts include columns for recording which records have been searched by the researcher.

Introductory material presents a short introduction to the records, how they were collected, and their use in genealogical research. A useful feature is the listing of the specific information found in each federal census. This information may be used to prepare, prior to your research, input forms (manual or computer) on which the data may be recorded. A Soundex guide and lists of abbreviations commonly found in census and other records are included in the introduction.

The 165-page paperback *Researcher's Guide to United States Census Availability, Second Edition, 1790-1920* is available from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540 Pointer Ridge Place, Suite #300, Bowie, MD 20716, Tel 301-390-7709. The price is \$26.50 plus \$3.50 shipping and the order number is H054.

Reviewed by Robert Weiss

JEW IN THE WEST

Browsing through the fine library of Congregation Kol Emeth, where our Society meets every second month, disclosed three interesting books on the Jews in the Western U.S. They can be made available for your perusal during our Palo Alto meetings.

• *The Jews in the California Gold Rush* by Dr. Robert E. Levinson, KTAV Publishing House, New York, 1978. Fascinating history based on public records, extensive references, and interviews. This scholarly work is extensively footnoted and indexed. It is "required reading" for those researching ancestors who came to California to participate in the gold rush of 1849.

• *Comrades and Chicken Ranchers — The Story of a California Jewish Community* by Kenneth L. Kann, Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, 1993. Story of the Jewish community of Petaluma, California, thirty-five miles north of San Francisco, where Jewish chicken ranchers and political radicals enjoyed a vigorous Yiddish cultural life. The book is a work of oral history, where over 200 interviews are edited and arranged to paint a picture of life in this fascinating California "shtetl".

• *Guts and Ruts—The Jewish Pioneer on the Trail in the American Southwest* by Floyd S. Fierman, KTAV Publishing, New York, 1985. Stories of a number of the Jewish families who braved the dangers of the Western frontier in the mid-nineteenth century for a chance to profit from its opportunities. Family trees are presented for the **Spiegelberg, Staab, Bibo, Zeckendorf, Steinfeld, Floersheim, and Schwartz** families.

HISPANIC GENEALOGY

Last year at the annual genealogical fair, our booth faced the booth occupied by the authors of *A Beginner's Guide to Hispanic Genealogy*, Norma Flores and Patsy Ludwig. This 80-page book provides addresses of the important archives and libraries in the U.S., Mexico, and Spain for the researcher of Hispanic roots. It provides necessary Spanish-to-English translations of terms found in Spanish-language documents likely to be of value to genealogical researchers, and indicates where one might find the documents. The book includes a guide to the Hispanic holdings of the Family History Library and maps of Spain and Mexico.

The beginners guide may be ordered from the authors. Write to Hispanic Genealogy, c/o Patsy Ludwig, 3345 Jarvis Avenue, San Jose, CA 95118. Send \$9.95 + \$.82 sales tax + \$1.50 shipping and handling for each copy.



LOST BOOK APPEAL

We attempt to acquire and make available to our members the important Jewish genealogical reference books. Currently, we use a card checkout system to track the borrowers of our books. But prior to the initiation of this system we largely relied on the conscientiousness of our borrowers to return our books. Some of our books have not returned, and we are making an urgent appeal for all members to search their bookshelves for JGS property so that others can share in their use. Please look especially for *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* by Kurzwil & Weiner (3/4-inch, large format, blue binding) and *Addresses for Germanic Research* by Thode (1/2-inch, large format, yellow paperback.)

U. S. & CANADIAN RESEARCH

US LINES BOOKLET

Ellen Weiss Cagen, 1213 Oakmont Ave, Flossmoor, IL 60422, (708)799-8464, has the passenger list of the SS Washington, US Lines which departed Hamburg Nov 30, 1938, Havre Dec 1, 1938, Southampton Dec 2 1938, Copenhagen Dec 3, 1938 and arrived in NY Dec 8, 1938. Book also shows all ships of US Lines and dates of departure from Europe to US East Coast and East Coast to Europe from Nov 1938-July 1939. This is the booklet given to passengers on board, with all passengers listed. To obtain a copy, please send \$7.50 includes mailing. (Illiana, Spring 1994)

US DEEDS

Usually a deed that is sold will be found in the index under the name of the owner who sold it ("grantor"). If the land was sold to settle a lien, the owner's name will not be in the index, but under the commissioner's name (the person whom the court appointed to handle the sale) as the grantor. (San Mateo County GS, Vol 12, Issue 6).

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL

According to an article summarized in *Diablo Descendants*, newsletter of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, Vol. 9, No. 1, Jan, 1994 a memorial was dedicated in Washington, DC which contains the names of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty throughout America's history. A booklet is available which contains all the names on the memorial. "National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, Roll Call of Fallen Officers," is published by the Memorial Visitors Center, 605 E. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004-2204.

WORLD WAR II DRAFT CARDS

According to an article from CSGA newsletter 12:3 summarized in *Diablo Descendants*, newsletter of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, Vol. 9, No. 5, May, 1994, the National Archives Great Lakes Region has in its possession World War II draft cards for men born between 28 April 1877 and 16 Feb 1897 who registered in April 1942. These cards are for the states of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. [It seems odd that men who would have been 65 years old in 1942 would have registered for World War II. We have not been able to confirm the original citation, but we publish this information for its potential value to mid-west researchers-Ed] Write to NAGLR, 7358 S. Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60629.

ARKANSAS RESEARCH BOOKLET

The Arkansas Genealogical Society has compiled a 47-page booklet which lists printed material and services for researchers about the state. The directory includes information about genealogical societies, historical societies, state and county maps, courthouse addresses, county information, libraries, periodicals and books of interest. To order a copy, send check for \$5.00 to the society at PO Box 908, Hot Springs, AR 71902-0908. (San Mateo County GS Newsletter, Vol 12 Issue 5, May 1994)

CALIFORNIA PROBATE REGISTERS

The CA Genealogical Society, 300 Brannan St, Suite 409, San Francisco has recently acquired 180 volumes of "Registers of Actions" from the City and County of San Francisco. These registers cover probate numbers from 1 to 900,000 for the years 1906 to 1940s. They are currently being indexed, starting with the earliest records. (San Mateo County GS Newsletter, Vol 12 Issue 5, May 1994)

FLORIDA JEWISH HISTORY

The Index to Florida Jewish History in the *American Israelite* 1854-1900, by Yael Herberman provides abstracts of all references to Florida Jewry published in the *American Israelite* from 1854 to 1900. Abstracts are listed chronologically. Indexes to personal names, place names, organizations and congregations are cross referenced to appropriate abstracts. For each book, send \$31.50 to UF Foundations, Inc., American Israelite Index, 204 Library West, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. (Yichus Y'All, newsletter of the JGS of Georgia, Vol. 2 No. 2, Winter 1994)

GEORGIA MARRIAGE RECORDS

A brochure "Documenting Marriages in Georgia Through 1900" is offered free of charge by the Georgia Dept. of Archives and History, PO Box R, 330 Capitol Ave. SE, Atlanta GA 30334 (San Mateo County GS Newsletter, Vol. 12 No. 5, May 1994)

ILLINOIS RECORDS ACCESS RESTRICTED

Restrictions on access to vital records have been reduced. For genealogical purposes, search of a death index costs \$10 per name for a 5-year search plus \$1 for each additional year. If the request is found, one uncertified copy of the certificate will be issued without additional charge. **Birth** information that is 75 years or older and **death** info that is at least 20 years old is released upon written request and stamped "FOR GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES ONLY." There is an additional charge for a certified copy. **Marriage** information is not mentioned. (Morasha, JGS of Illinois N/L, Vol. X No. 1, Spring 1994)

LOUISIANA SURNAME INDEX

The State of Louisiana is beginning a genealogical surname index. You can add names to the index or get information from it by writing to the Louisiana State Archives, PO Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-0125. (*San Mateo County GS Newsletter*, Vol 12 Issue 5, May 1994)

MASSACHUSETTS DRAFT RECORDS

The Winter 1993/4 issue of *Mass-Pocha*, newsletter of the JGS of Greater Boston provides a lengthy article on WWI draft records and provides draft board numbers for Boston and 25 other cities. The article also explains how to figure out the draft board from a Boston street address.

The same issue of *Mass-Pocha* also provides a detailed description of the holdings of the Hebrew College Library (including a map of the library collections).

NEBRASKA VITAL RECORDS

Birth records are \$8; death, marriage records are \$7. Request from Vital Statistics, 301 Centennial Mall. PO Box 5007, Lincoln, NE 68509. (*San Mateo County GS Newsletter*, Vol 12 Issue 6, June 1994)

NEW JERSEY CEMETERIES

Yichus, newsletter of the JGS of North Jersey, Vol. 9, No. 2, Winter 1993-94 lists Jewish cemeteries of New Jersey and their phone numbers.

ROCHESTER, NY BIOGRAPHIES

The Winter 1994 issue of the Rochester JGS newsletter includes a listing of the 103 biographies with birthplaces that were originally published in 1912 in *The Jews of Rochester*. The book contains biographies of a number of prominent families in the Rochester Jewish community along with portraits. There is also a brief history of the community and some of the community groups. (*Family Finding*, Newsletter of the Wisconsin JGS, Vol. 4 No. 3, April 1994)

NEW YORK CITY SOCIETY BURIALS

Volume 2, Number 2 of *Shemot*, the newsletter of the JGS of Great Britain, lists burials in the NYC area from the landsmanschaft societies of **Lysyanka** and **Tagancha**, UKR and of **Raciaz** (**Racionz**), **Sokokla** and **Kuznica**, POL.

NEW YORK COURT ADDRESS CHANGE

The US District Court, Southern District of NY, has relocated its Naturalization Division to Room 2905, 26 Federal Plaza, NY, NY 10278. Their phone is the same: 212-264-5884. (*Illiana JGS newsletter*, Winter 1993/4)

PENNSYLVANIA WILLS

The Register of Wills office, 182 City Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19107, has announced that research work performed by employees of that office will now cost \$15 per estate for mail order requests. A smaller fee is charged for work done in person over the counter. The Philadelphia Recorder of Deeds Office charges \$2 per page for deeds and an additional \$2 for certification. The address for the Recorder's office Room 163, City Hall Philadelphia, PA 19107. (*San Mateo County GS Newsletter*, Vol 12 Issue 6, June 1994)

TEXAS VITAL RECORDS

The cost of birth and death records is \$14 from the Bureau of Vital Statistics. The Bureau has marriage records since 1966; prior records are located in the county clerk's office in the county where the marriage took place. (The Texas State Library has indexes to births and deaths from 1903-1976. The index for 1903-09 is an alphabetical list; 1910-78 are separate lists for each year.) (*San Mateo County GS Newsletter*, Vol 12 Issue 6, June 1994)

WISCONSIN VITAL RECORDS

Birth records are now \$10. Marriage and death records are \$7. Additional copies of the same record ordered at one time are \$2 each. (*San Mateo County GS Newsletter*, Vol. 12 No. 6, June 1994)

An index to deaths reported in the *Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle* from 1921 through its first 40 years has been completed by Manning M. Bookstaff. Listed are 5,700 Milwaukee and Wisconsin Jewish obituaries, maiden names where shown, cemetery and publication date and page. Copies of the index are available for \$23 including postage and handling. Write Mr. Bookstaff, 2820 W. Mill Road, Unit G, Milwaukee, WI 53209 or call (414)352-1782. (*Family Finding*, Newsletter of the Wisconsin JGS, Vol. 4 No. 3, April 1994)

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JEWISH TOMBSTONES

By Daniel Leeson

PART 1: Origin of Tombstones

In the biblical age, the ordinary Jew was as anonymous in death as he or she was in life. Plain folk, unlike patricians, notables, the rich, etc., were laid in common and unmarked graves. In fact, burial grounds of common people were treated with open contempt by the ruling classes. For example, in Jeremiah (26:23) there is a reference to the slaying of a prophet by the king of Judah who "cast the dead body into the graves of the children of the people."

When inscribed stones (Hebrew: *matzevot*) began to mark the graves of ordinary Jews is unknown. Furthermore, when these inscriptions began to give the names of the deceased and the dates of that person's passing is equally unknown. While biblical records record such information with respect to the rich, nothing whatsoever is said to indicate the practice for other classes. For example (Genesis 35:30), there is reference to the fact that "Jacob set up a pillar on [Rachel's] grave; the same is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day." However, the character of this pillar bears hardly any relationship to a tombstone of today. In fact it sounds rather idolatrous. Sacred stones and sacred trees were often to be found at the site of ancient Jewish tombs and some anthropologists believe they were primarily for ritualistic purposes and represented practices closely associated with primitive religions.

Such stones, which were little more than rude alters, were anointed with oil and worshiped; the blood of animal sacrifices was burned on them in order to appease invisible powers and gain protection therefrom.

Another view is that the ancient tombstone was erected solely as a warning marker that declared the burial spot to be sacred or taboo to all passers-by.

When, during the period of the Maccabeans, as Judea fell under the cultural influence of Hellenism, the Jewish ruling class followed the then contemporary Greek style of building ornate family mausoleums for the dead. Such a place is described in Maccabees (13:27-29) when Simon Maccabeus put up an imposing monument for his father and brothers at Modin, presumably their place of burial. It consisted of seven pyramids bearing bas-reliefs of ships and weapons of war, sculpted in polished marble.

Such ostentatious displays were completely unheard of in previous Jewish mortuary customs. It resulted in a comment on such practices in the Talmud: "The Jewish tombs are more beautiful than royal palaces." Furthermore, it even gave rise to a

second-century comic making what must have been a thigh slapper in those days. Simeon ben Gamaliel says that, quite understandably, the affluent dead should feel offended because the splendid monuments that adorned their graves seemed blatantly to proclaim that it was only because of their magnificence that the memory of the deceased would be preserved (i.e., what they did in life was worthless). That was a funny line in Hellenic times. It required a stand-up comic to deliver it effectively, however.

After the destruction of the second temple, it became the Jewish custom to raise tombstones that seem in hardly any physical detail, to depart from their Greek and Roman models. The stones for Jews were inscribed in Greek with the conventional eulogy of the dead, and only one distinctive feature set them apart: Jewish epitaphs ended with three fraternal words "Shalom al Yisrael." Such tombstones might be adorned with characteristic religious symbols such as a menorah, shofar, lulav, laver, or a palm branch. Occasionally the Greek or Latin epitaph was accompanied by a Hebrew translation.

PART 2: Tombstone Styles

It appears to be the case that Jewish tombstones have always varied from region to region. Their style was affected only by taste and the fashions of the local Gentile environment. However, there were certain Jewish tombstone traditions that came from various geographies and periods that were transplanted in whatever places to which Jews migrated. Thus the Greco-Roman custom of interment in a stone sarcophagus with the lid bearing the identifying epitaph (a form of burial that wealthy Jews of Hellenistic times had adopted) was carried over into the early middle ages in Europe. In the ancient Jewish graveyard of Sarajevo may still be seen such Hellenistic style tombs.

The custom of providing individual graves and of raising headstones became traditional among the Jews during the early middle ages. The Ashkenazim made it traditional to set the headstone in an upright position. The Sephardim laid the tombstone flat over the grave. The latter fact is explicitly noted in Longfellow's poem about the Jewish cemetery of Newport, RI laid out by Sephardim in 1677.

"And these sepulchral stones, so old and brown,
That pave with level flags their burial-place,
Seem like the tablets of the Law, thrown down,
And broken by Moses at the mountain's base."

The most interesting of all Jewish burial grounds in Europe is the Prague cemetery. Its oldest stones dating from medieval times, are simple slabs of sandstone, Gothic in design, and with epitaphs cut in quaint Hebrew letters.

During the Renaissance, the style of the tomb-

stone underwent a transformation: it was cut in portal form, had a pointed gable, and was ornamented with animal symbols and tribal signs chiseled in the stone. If the deceased was a male and a Cohen, his tombstone would be depicted with carved hands, upraised, and with fingers outspread in the familiar priestly benediction. If he was a Levi, his stone bore on it the representation of a jug or laver to indicate the Levite role of pouring water.

The Baroque period, which smothered Christian art and architecture in Europe in a great deal of ornamentation also left its impression on the tombstones of the Jews of Prague. Instead of the unadorned upright stele of previous centuries, the tombstone became a florid sarcophagus - a tent. It had 4 walls and was hollow within. However, this was only a formal memorial because the body of the deceased reposed beneath the sod. In such a tent, the almost legendary Rabbi Judah Low ben Bezalel (1520-1609) (creator of the Golem) lies interred. His stone is flamboyant in ornamentation and in the Biblical Hebrew inscription.

Most imaginative was the way the name of the deceased was often treated; it was graphically illustrated on the tombstone according to its literal meaning. If the Hebrew name of the departed was Yehuda, for example, a lion of Judah was carved on the stone; if Dov, a bear; if Zeb, a wolf; if Zevi (or Tsvi), a stag or deer. If a woman's name was Chavah (Eve), her stone was adorned with a scene from the Garden of Eden; the surname of Hahn was represented by a rooster; that of Meisl, a mouse.

The Jewish stonecutter, sort of a folk artist in his way, found inspiration for his creative imagination in the callings and professions of the deceased. A tailor was represented by the carving of a pair of scissors on the stone; a doctor by medical pincers; an apothecary by mortar and pestle; a goldsmith by a crown and two chains, a musicians, by a violin; a printer by a book; and a dealer in etrogim (Succoth citrons) by an etrog.

PART 3: Tombstone Formats

Aside from information giving the name of the deceased, the date of his death, his father's name, and, in the instance of a wife, the name of her husband, the verbally overloaded gravestone also carried, more often than not, elegies and eulogies for the departed.

These were composed in Biblical Hebrew and were characteristically flowery and fulsome. The eulogy for Elijah Levita, the famous Hebrew grammarian and Yiddish troubadour of Venice during the Renaissance, is an excellent example:

"The stone cries out from the wall, and mourns ... for our rabbi who has departed

and ascended into heaven. Elijah is gone to the L-rd in a whirlwind—he who shed light on the darkness of grammar and turned it into light. He ascended at the end of Shevat in the year 5309 [i.e., 1568 C.E.] and his soul is bound up in the bond of Eternal Life."

Even more pathos and extravagant metaphor is lavished on the tombstone of a Prague Jew who was buried in 1586:

"With bitterness and grief I cry: 'Ariel—he has gone to G-d! Weep and lament, mourn, and shed bitter tears. He hastened to perform deeds of piety like a stag to the waterbrook."

PART 4: Modern Tombstones

Today's tombstones over Jewish graves are quite simple and matter of fact. Except, perhaps, for the symbol of either a menorah or a Star of David and a few characteristic Hebrew words inscribed on them, many are no more traditionally Jewish than were those of Hellenistic times whose epitaphs were carved in Greek.

Cemeteries of Conservative and Reform Jews display tombstones that, in shape and design, seem to be little different from those that may be found in Protestant graveyards. However, the stones over the Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox graves, while to the beholder they may seem scornful of external beauty, nevertheless, strive to maintain some of the characteristics of the past, if not in the design of the stone, at least in the epitaph.

Whatever the manner of the religious adherence of the deceased, most Jewish tombstones follow tradition in a few details. On top are carved the Hebrew equivalent of the letters P and N, which stand for Poh Nikbar, "Here lies buried ..." At the bottom are inscribed the equivalents of the consonants T N Z B H (pronounced "Tenatzayboh"). This is an acronym made up of the first letters of the Hebrew supplication recited at the funeral service: "May his soul be bound up in the bond of Eternal life."

Custom dictates that, around the time of the first anniversary of the death of the departed, the family of and friends of the departed gather at the graveside for the unveiling and dedication of his or her tombstone. Since the Talmudic age it has been a Jewish folk-belief that it is good for one's soul to pay a visit to the graveside of a beloved person. It teaches humility and recalls to mind the emptiness of some of the values of the world and the need of devoting oneself to ideal goals and to the doing of good.

References include the *Jewish Encyclopedia*, and the *Book of Jewish Knowledge* of Nathan Ausubel.

Synagogue Donor Lists from VISTYTIS, 1837-1866

Part 1 - Abstracted Data

by Robert Weiss from material provided by Bert N. Oppenheim

Member Bert Oppenheim recently completed a trip from San Francisco to Vilnius, Lithuania. Jerry Delson provided him with a contact at the Lithuanian Historical Archives who located 30 years of synagogue, bris, and mikvah donation records from his ancestral town of **Vistytis, Lithuania**. The records are written in Russian, Lithuanian, and one year in Polish. Records are available for the years 1837 through 1866. Document numbers are F. 1073-1-504 for years 1837-63, F.1073-1-325 for 1856-66, and F.1273-1-527 for 1864-66. The lists were too voluminous to copy. Bert contracted for abstracts from the books of his family names **Aronsdorf, Dembovsky, Kamionsky, Maryvilsky, Mitenthal, and Oppenheim**. The records were transliterated into English and the lists sent to Bert, who entered them into his personal computer. We are publishing these abstracts in the interest of illustrating the type of records available at the Lithuanian Historical Archives and illustrating how three to four generations of family information may be derived by applying a little knowledge of patronymic naming conventions. Part 1 presents the lists as abstracted. Part 2 will show how this raw data may be used by the genealogist, and some of its limitations.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation (if listed)</u>
<u>1865</u>	01	Aronsdorf Josel	a merchant
	13	Kaminski Yedyde Icko	
	15	Kaminsky Yedyda	
	57	Marwilsky Zelik Hirsh	
	58	Yudel Zelik	
	60	Openheim Leizer Berko	a second hand dealer
	89	Dembovsky Movsha Volf	a worker
	111	Openheim Boruch	a second hand dealer
	112	Shlom Berko	a baker
	113	Tanchel	a worker
	141	Aronsdorf Movsha	
	164	Kaminsky Movsha Yankel	
	194	Aronsdorf Orko	
	258	Kaminski Ezro Hirsh	
	259	Leib Hirsh	
	263	Mones	
	282	Mittenthal Efroim Josel	a second hand dealer
	283	Aron Aizyk	
	284	Josel Peisach	
	290	Yudel Mordechai	
	291	Lieb Peisach	
	292	Leib Mordechai	
	293	Shymel Peisach	
	294	Shymel Mordechai	
	297	Openheim Shlom Leibovicz	
	341	Witshtein Elko	
	353	Berko	
<u>1866</u>			
		(this title page is in Polish)	
	01	Aronsdorf Josel	a merchant
	07	Kaminsky Yedyda Icko	a merchant of horses
	09	Yedyda	a worker
	47	Maryvilsky Zelik Hirsh	
	49	Yudel Zelik	
	52	Openheim Leizer Berko	a second hand dealer
	53	Boruch	
	80	Dembovsky Movsha Volf	a worker
	99	Kaminsky Nochim Ovsei	a merchant of horses
	107	Openheim Shlom Berko	a baker
	108	Tanchel	a worker
	140	Aronsdorf Movsha	
	194	Orko	
	246	Helshtein Fishel	a baker
	254	Kaminski Ezro Hirsh	
	255	Leib Hirsh	
	259	Mones	
	277	Mittenthal Efroim Josel	
	278	Aron Aizyk	
	279	Josel Peisach	
	286	Leib Peisach	
	287	Leib Morthai	
		a second hand dealer	
	290	Shymshel Peisach	a worker
	291	Shymshel Mortchai	
	296	Openheim Shlom Leibovicz	
<u>1837</u>			
	02	Movsh Volf Dombovsky	
	67	Aron Mordchaiovicz	
		Aronsdorf	
	83	Hirsh Zundel Dembovsky	
	101	Ovsei Nochum Kamiansky	
	107	Zundel Hirsh Dembovsky	
	136	Movsh Yankel Kamionsky	
	137	Yankel Nochum	
	156	Ezro Hirsh	
	220	Martchai Shymshel Mitenthal	
	232	Yankel Josel Kaminsky	
	244	Srol Benjamin Holshtein	
	257	Movsh Hirsh Kamionsky	
	268	Leib Hirsh	
	269	Hirsh Nozel	
	272	Yedyda Hirsh	

275 Leib Boruch
 280 Mordchai Aron Aronsdorf
 286 Nochim Hirsh Marwitsky
 287 Hirsh Nochim
 288 Meyer Zelik
 294 Mortchai Lieb
 323 Lieb Icko Openheim
 357 Icko Boruch Openheim
 359 Berko Icko
 376 Shymel Peisach Mitental
 393 Paisach Shymel
 432 Movsh Hirsh Kamionsky
 433 Shlom Berko Openheim
 465 Zelik Hirsh Marwitsky
1838
 02 Movsh Volf Dembovsky
 67 Aron Mortchai Aronsdorf
 83 Hirsh Zundel Dembovsky
 101 Ovsei Nochum Kamionsky
 107 Hirsh Zundel Dembovsky
 136 Mowsh Yankel Kamionsky
 137 Yankel Nochum
 156 Ezro Hirsh
 203 Meyer Kopel Nozel
 204 Zelik Hirsh Marwitsky
 220 Mortchai Shymshel Mitental
 231 Yankel Josel Kamionsky
 244 Srol Benjamin Holshtein
 257 Movsh Hirsh Kamionsky
 268 Hirsh Nosel
 269 Lieb Hirsh
 270 Monas Hirsh
 272 Yedyda Hirsh
 276 Lieb Baruch
 281 Mortchai Aron Aronsdorf
 288 Nochum Hirsh Marwitsky
 289 Hirsh Noshum
 290 Meyer Zelik
 296 Mortchai Leib
 355 Icko Boruch Openheim
 356 Leib Icko
 357 Berko Icko
 398 Peisach Shymshel Mitental
 399 Shymshel Peisach
 400 Josel Peisach
 455 Nochum Chackel Ovsejevicz Kamionsky
1883
 12 Aron Mordchai Aronsdorf
 34 Berko Icko Openheim
 82 David Hilel Kamionsky
 97 Hirsh
 119 Hirsh Yudel Dembovsky
 129 Hirsh Nosel Kamionsky
 130 Hirsh Nochum Marwitsky
 148 Yudel Mortchai Mitental
 164 Josel Paisach
 177 Yankel Nochim Kamionsky
 233 Yedyda Hirsh
 258 Leib Hirsh
 260 Leib Boruch
 263 Lieb Icko Openheim

279 Leizer Yankel Kamionsky
 286 Movsha Volf Dembovsky
 296 Movsh Yankel Kamionsky
 300 Movsh Hirsh
 318 Mortchai Shymshel Mitental
 320 Mortchai Aronsdorf
 337 Meyer Zelig Marwitsky
 339 Monas Hirsh Kamionsky
 347 Nochim Hirsh Marwitsky
 358 Ovsei Nochim Kamionsky
 369 Peisach Shymel Mitental
 386 Shlom Berko Openheim
 394 Shymshel Peisach Mitental
 432 Yudel Hirsh Dembovsky
 438 Zelik Hirsh Marwitsky
1840
 13 Aron Mortchai Aronsdorf
 34 Berko Icko Openheim
 99 Ezro Hirsh Kamionsky
 121 Hirsh Zundel Dembovsky
 131 Hirsh Nozel Kamiosky
 132 Hirsh Nochim Marwitsky
 151 Yudel Mortchai Mitental
 166 Josel Peisach
 178 Yankel Nochim Kamionsky
 189 Yankel Josel
 234 Yedyda Hirsh
 259 Leib Hirsh
 261 Leib Boruch
 264 Leib Icko Openheim
 298 Movsh Yankel Kamionsky
 302 Movsh Hirsh
 320 Mortchai Shymshel Mitental
 322 Mortchai Aron Aronsdorf
 323 Mortchai Lieb Marwitsky
 341 Meyer Zelig
 343 Monas Hirsh Kamionsky
 354 Nochum Ovsei Kamionsky
 362 Ovsei Nochum
 372 Peisach Shymshel Mitental
 389 Shlom Berko Openheim
 397 Shymshel Peisach Mitental
 398 Shymshel Mortchai
 435 Tundel Hirsh Dembovsky
 441 Zelik Hirsh Marwitsky
1843
 11 Aron Mortchai Aronsdorf
 14 Aron Leib Kamionski
 39 Berko Icko Openheim
 105 Israel Hirsh Kamionsky
 125 Hirsh Tundel Dembovsky
 134 Hirsh Nosel Kamionsky
 154 Yudel Mortchai Mitental
 169 Josel Peisach
 208 Yedyda Hirsh Kamionsky
 215 Yankel Josel
 262 Leib Hirsh
 264 Lieb Boruch
 268 Lieb Icko Openheim
 294 Morsha Wolf Dembovsky
 302 Morsha Jankel Kamionsky
 306 Morsha Hirsh

326 Mordchai Shymel Mitental
 328 Mordchai Aron Aronsdorf
 346 Meyer Zelik Marwitsky
 348 Movas Leizer Hirsh Kamionsky
 361 Nochim Chackel
 370 Ovsei Mochim
 381 Peisach Shymshel Mitental
 393 Srol Benjamin Holshtein
 397 Shlom Burko Oppenheim
 407 Shymshel Peisach Mitental
 408 Shymshel Mortchai
 444 Zuendel Hirsh Dembovsky
 451 Zelik Hirsh Marwitsky
1847
 11 Aron Mordchai Arnsdorf
 39 Berko Icko Openheim
 105 Ezro Hirsh Kamionsky
 125 Hirsch Tundel Dembovsky
 134 Hirsh Nosel Kamionsky
 154 Yudel Mortchai Mitental
 169 Josel Peisach
 170 Josel Notko
 171 Josel Yudel
 196 Icko Yedyda Kamionsky
 208 Yedyda Hirsh
 215 Yonkel Josel
 262 Lieb Hirsh
 264 Lieb Baruch
 268 Lieb Icko Openheim
 294 Mowsh Volf Dembovsky
 302 Mowsh Yankel Kamionsky
 306 Mowsh Hirsh
 326 Mortchai Shymshel Mitental
 328 Mortchai Aron Aronsdorf
 346 Meyer Zelik Marwitsky
 361 Nochim Ovsei Kamionsky
 370 Ovsei Nochim
 381 Peisach Shymshel Mitental
 393 Srol Benjamin Moshtein
 407 Shymshel Peisach Mitental
 408 Shymshel Mortchai
 444 Tundel Hirsh Dembovsky
 451 Zelik Hirsh Marwitsky

The following persons donated in honor of a Bris (Milah)

1843
 Berko Icko Openheim

1844
 Zelik Hirsh Marwitsky

1846
 11 Aron Mortchai Aronsdorf
 39 Berko Icko Openheim
 105 Ezro Hirsh Kamionsky
 134 Hirsh Nosel
 154 Yudel Mortchai Mitental
 169 Josel Peisach
 196 Icko Yedyda Kamionsky
 208 Yedyda Hirsh
 215 Yankel Josel
 262 Lieb Hirsh

264	Lieb Boruch	120	Yankel Ovsei Kamionsky	213	Movsha Hirsh
268	Lieb Icko Openheim	a worker		219	Movsha Dembovsky
294	Movsh Wolf Dembovsky	148	Yudel Mortchai Mittental	239	Nochim Kamionsky
302	Movsh Yankel Kamionsky	157	Ovsei Nochim Kamionsky	248	Fishel Holenshtein
306	Movsh Hirsh	174	Icko Kamionsky	277	Sholom Berko Openheim
326	Mortchai Shymshel Mitental	179	Yedyda	282	Shymshel Peisach Mitental
328	Mortchai Aron Aronsdorf	a merchant		284	Shymshel Mortchai
346	Meyer Zelik Marwilsky	193	Lieb Boruch	372	Lieb Hirsh Kamionsky
361	Nochim Ovsei Kamionsky	an owner		a worker	
370	Ovsei Nochim	207	Lieb Hirsh	323	Ezer (Ezra) Hirsch
381	Peisach Shymshel Mitental	222	Movsh Yankel	339	Movsha Wolf Dembovsky
393	Srol Benjamin Holhtein	a worker		354	Hirsh Tundel
397	Shlom Berko Openheim	227	Movsh Hirsh	<u>1856</u>	
407	Shymshel Peisach Mitental	a Merchant		03	Arnsdorf Josel
408	Shymshel Mortchai	232	Movsh Wolf Dembovsky	44	Dembovsky Movsha
444	Tundel Hirsh Dembovsky	a Worker		93	Helenshtein Fishel
451	Zelik Hirsh Marwilsky	233	Movsh	108	Kamionsky Yankel
<u>1848</u>		255	Nochum Ovsei Kamionsky	111	Icko
26	Baruch Icko Openheim	249	Shymmel Mittental	113	Yedyda
39	Berko Icko Openheim	a merchant		114	Lieb Boruch
71	Wolf Movsh Dembovsky	<u>1853</u>		117	Movsha Yankel
78	Yedyda Hirsh Kamionsky	40	Boruch Openheim	120	Nochum
95	Josel Peisach Mitental	56	Borko Openheim	143	Mitental Orko
142	Srol Benjamin Holshtein	87	Zelik Maravilsky	148	Marwilsky Zelig
156	Lieb Boruch Kamionsky	95	Josel Mitental	149	Mitental Josel
195	Movsh Wolf Dembovsky	99	Josel Aronsdorf	153	Yudel
196	Movsh Yankel Kamionsky	110	Yankel Ovsei Kamionsky	158	Lieb Peisach
204	Movsh	135	Yudel Mitental	159	Lieb Mordchai
212	Fishel Josel Holenshtein	158	Icko Kamionsky	161	Shmuel
236	Shlom Borko Openheim	164	Yedyda	162	Shymshel Peisach
238	Shymshel Peisach Mitental	181	Lieb Boruch	163	Shymshel Mortchai
<u>1849</u>		189	Lieb Peisach Mitental	165	Yankel
18	Borko Icko Openheim	190	Lieb Mordchai	166	Orko
56	Fishel Josel Molenshtein	207	Movsha Yankel Kamionsky	174	Openheim Leizer
101	Icko Yedyda Kamionsky	213	Movsha Hirsh	175	Openheim Boruch
107	Israel Benjamin Holshtein	219	Movsha Dembovsky	176	Openheim Shlom
109	Yedyda Hirsh Kamionsky	239	Movsha Kamionsky	177	Openheim Berko
112	Josel Mortchai	248	Fishel Helenshtein	<u>1857</u>	
119	Josel Peisach Mitental	277	Shlom Berko Openheim	03	Aronsdorf Josel
125	Lieb Boruch Kamionsky	282	Shymshel Peisach Mitental	a merchant	
153	Movsh Wolf Dembovsky	284	Shymshel Mordechai	07	Arnsdorf Orko
156	Movsh Yankel Kamionsky	312	Lieb Hirsh Kamionsky	a worker	
165	Movsh Hirsh	323	Ezro Hirsh	147	Helenshtein Fishel
191	Shlom Berko Openheim	354	Hirsh Tundel Dembowsky	a baker	
199	Shymshel Peisach Mitental	a worker		151	Yankel Josel
223	Boruch Borko Openheim	<u>1854-1855</u>		175	Kamionsky Yankel Ovsei
229	Wolf Movsh Dembovsky	19	Aron Aizyk Mitental	a second hand dealer	
231	Yudel Mortchai Mitental	a merchant		176	Esro Hirsh
278	Shymshel Mortechai	24	Leizer Berko Openheim	a worker	
<u>1852</u>		40	Baruch Openheim	179	Icko Yedyda
24	Aron Aiizyk Mittental	56	Berko Openheim	a merchant of horses	
a worker		87	Felik Marvilsky	181	Yedyda
43	Boruch Berko Openheim	95	Josel Mitental	182	Lieb Hirsh
60	Berko	99	Josel Aransdorf	a worker	
a butcher		110	Yankel Ovsei Kamionsky	183	Lieb Baruch
82	Wolf Movshovicz Dembovsky	135	Yudel Mitental	a merchant of horses	
a merchant		158	Icko Kamionsky	185	Movsh Yankel
95	Zelik Marwilsky	164	Yedyda	a second hand dealer	
a worker		181	Lieb Boruch Kamionsky	186	Nachum Ovsei
104	Josel Mittental	189	Lieb Peisach Mitental	a merchant of horses	
107	Josel Aronsdorf	190	Lieb Mortchui	233	Mitental Aron Aizyk
a merchant		207	Movsha Yankel Kamionsky	234	Josel Peisach

241 Marywilsky Felik Hirsh
248 Mitental Yudel Mordchai
254 Lieb Peisach
255 Lieb Mordchai
259 Shymshel Peisach
260 Shymshel Mordchai
264 Yankel Joselewicz

a weaver

265 Orko Josel
276 Openheim Leizer Burko

a worker

277 Boruch

a baker

278 Shlom Burko
279 Burko Icko
280 Shlom Liebowicz

a worker

281 Yankel

1858-1859

The same names as 1857 with the following exceptions:

66 Dembovsky Movsha Wolf Stam

a worker

143 Helenshtein Shlom Fishel

a baker

274 Openheim Tanchel

a worker

417 Mitental Efroim Joselevicz

a weaver

1860

04 Aronsdorf Josel

a merchant

08 Orko

a worker

64 Dembovsky Movsha Wolf Stary

a worker

136 Helenshtein Fishel

a baker

137 Shlom Fishel

a worker

140 Yankel Fishel

165 Kamionsky Yankel Ovsei

a second hand dealer

167 Ezro Hirsh

a worker

170 Icko Wedyda

a merchant of horses

171 Lieb Hirsh

a worker

173 Movsha Yankel

a second hand dealer

174 Nochim Ovsei

a merchant of horses

182 Mones

a worker

220 Mitental Efrim Josel

a worker

222 Aron Aizyk

223 Josel Peisach

229 Marywilsky Felik Hirsh

236 Mitental Yudel Mardchai

242 Lieb Peisach
243 Lieb Mortchai
247 Shymshel Peisach
248 Shymshel Mortchai
252 Yankel Joselewicz

a weaver

253 Orki Josel

a weaver

264 Openheim Leizer Berko

a worker

265 Boruch

a baker

266 Shlom Berko

a baker

267 Shlom Liebowicz

a worker

268 Tanchel

409 409 Kamionski Wedyda

a merchant of horses

415 Marywilsky Yudel Zelik

a worker

1858-1860

Part I. These persons donated in honor of a Bris.

1858

Tanchel Openheim

Boruch Openheim

Zelik Marywilsky

1859

Tanchel Openheim

Dawid Kaminski

Efrom Mitental

Wolf Movsh Goldshtein

Yankel Fishel Melenshtein

Aron Josel Mitental

Aron Aizyk

Baruch Burko Openheim

Part II. These persons donated in honor of marriage

1858

Yudel Marywilsky

1859

Yudel Marywilsky

Aron Kamionsky

1860

Elko Shymel Mitental

Part III. These persons donated in memory of their ancestors.

1859

Boruch Openheim

Shlom Openheim

1860

Leizer Berko Openheim

Nochim Ovsei Kamionsky

The following persons donated for the public Jewish bath (Mikvah) in the years 1849-60

15 Leizer Berko Openheim

21 Orko Aizyk Mitental

22 Orko Josel

29 Efraim Josel

36 Boruch Berko Openheim

72 Zelik Marywilsky

80 Josel Mitental

84 Josel Aronsdorf

93 Yankel Helenstein

110 Yankel Mitental

119 Yudel

121 Yudel Marywilsky

137 Icko Kamionsky

143 Yedyda

159 Lieb Mortchui Mitental

174 Movsh Kamionski

209 Nochim

216 Fishel Helenshtein

235 Shmuel Aizyk Mitental

249 Shlom Openheim

255 Shymsko Mortchai Mitental

257 Tanchel Openheim

1862

04 Aronsdorf Josel

a merchant

08 Orko

a worker

65 Dembovsky Movsha Wolf Stary

a worker

141 Helenshtein Fishel

a baker

142 Shlom Fishel

a worker

145 Yankel Fishel

193 Kamionsky Yedyda

230 Mitental Efroim

232 Aron Aizyk

233 Josel Peisach

239 Marywilsky Zelik Hirsh

247 Mitental Yudel Mortchai

249 Shmuel Aizyk

a second hand dealer

255 Lieb Peisach

a worker

256 Lieb Mortchai

259 Shymshel Peisach

260 Shymshel Mortchai

264 Yankel Joselewicz

a weaver

265 Orko Josel

270 Marywilsky Yudel Zelik

a worker

278 Openheim Leizer Berko

279 Baruch

a baker

280 Shlom Berko

281 Shlom Leibowicz

Synagogue Donor Lists from VISTYTIS, 1837-1866

Part 2 - Use of the Data Lists

by Robert Weiss from material provided by Bert N. Oppenheim

Part 1 presented abstracts from 30 years of synagogue, bris, and mikvah donation records from the town of **Vistytis, Lithuania**. The records are written in Russian, Lithuanian, and one year in Polish. Records are available for the years 1837 through 1866. Document numbers are F. 1073-1-504 for years 1837-63, F.1073-1-325 for 1856-66, and F.1273-1-527 for 1864-66. Abstracts were made for family names **Aronsdorf, Dembovsky, Kamionsky, Maryvilsky, Mitenthal, and Oppenheim**. The note appears on the bottom of the list "In Jewish names, most often the second name of the person in the lists is the name of the father. For example: Marywilsky Zelik Hirsh, Zelik is the father's name. That would make the son Zelik ben Hirsh. (ben meaning son of)." Part 2 is a case study which uses the data to derive genealogical information on the Oppenheim family as an illustration of the type of genealogical information derivable from these name lists.

Vistytis, Lithuania

According to Mokotoff and Sack¹ **Vistytis** (also known as Vishtenitz, Vishtinetz, Vishtinitis and Wisztyniec) is a village 94 km. SW of Kaunas (Kovne). It had a Jewish population of 1600 at the end of the 19th century². Bert Oppenheim's ancestral families lived in Vistytis for seven generations.

Oppenheim Name

The name Oppenheim (Opegejm in Russian) with a single "p" was known in Courland and Dvinsk, Latvia at the turn of the 20th century. The version with a double "p" was known in Cherkassy, Ukraine. The name is related to the German name Oppenheim, known since the 16th century, from the Hessen Germany town of Oppenheim³. The list, as transliterated from Russian, favored the former spelling, but did include the latter. I will use the Baltic version (single "p") in this article.

Oppenheim Citations

The following are the unique (duplications removed) Oppenheim citations taken from the list:

Name	Occupation	Dates
Boruch Icko		
Berko Icko	butcher	1837-57
Boruch Berko	2nd hand dealer	1849-65
Icko Boruch		1837-38
Leib Icko		1837-47
Leizer Berko	2nd hand dealer	1854-65
Shlom Berko	baker	1837-66
Shlom Leibovicz	worker	1857-66
Tanchel	worker	1858-66

There appear to be nine unique persons on the list if one discards inconsistencies in spelling. The first names and their origins are as follows:

¹ Mokotoff, G. & Sack, S., 1991

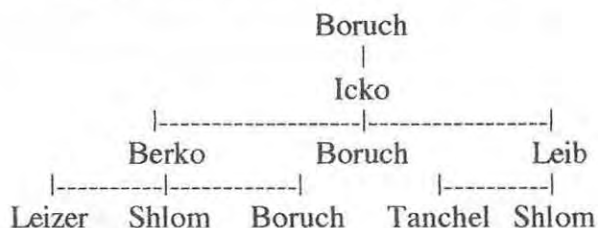
² Kagan, B., 1990

³ Beider, A., 1993

Name	Russian	Jewish Form	Meaning
Berko	Berko	Ber/Berke (Y)	bear
Boruch	Borukh	Borukh (H)	blessed
Icko	Izko/Itsko	Yitzkhak (H)	Isaak
Leib	Leyb	Leyb (Y)	lion
Leizer	Leyzer	Leyzer (Y)	Eliezer
Shlom	Shlojm	Shlomo (H)	Solomon
Tanchel	Tankhel	Tankhel (Y)	consolation

Construction of Trees

Using the patronymic rules of Russian naming in the manner used by Jerry Delson⁴ one can construct part of the Oppenheim family tree as follows:



Some Observations

1. Approximate dates of death of Icko, Berko, and Leib may be established on the basis of the cessation of their regular donations as 1839, 1858 and 1848 respectively. Berko's postulated death date is supported by the observation that Berko's three sons all gave *yahrzeit* donations in 1859-60.

2. No patronymic is given for Tanchel, but based on the timing and grouping of his donations, it is probable that he is Leib's son. Tanchel and his supposed brother Shlom were workers, while butcher Berko's sons Shlom and Baruch were bakers.

3. Berko's *bris* donations in 1843 and 1846 may signify the birth dates of sons Boruch and Leizer.

4. Tanchel and Boruch both donated in honor of *bris milah* in 1858 and 1859, indicating that one or both may have had male offspring in those years.

⁴ Delson, J., "Shtetl Roots Report: The Strashun Family", *ZichronNote*, Vol. XII No. 2 May 1992

THE BALTICS: A SPECIAL REPORT FREEDOM'S UNLIKELY BIRTHPLACE Vilnius, Lithuania

About six miles outside the center of this capital city is a wooded valley. In one corner is a tall red obelisk honoring the 100 Soviet citizens who died here during the Nazi occupation. Not far away is another monument, a marble plaque, also in Russian. But now it's been split in two, and in the center, a new plaque has been inserted. The new addition is in Hebrew, and memorializes the 70,000 or so Lithuanian Jews who were killed in the Nazi concentration camp that once nestled in this valley. The Russian plaque, like the obelisk, takes no note of the Jewish dead. The Jewish monument came to this site, known as **paerial**, about the same time independence came to Lithuania.

Removing Tombstones

Official policy during the Soviet occupation of Lithuania was to remove all signs of Jewish life in Vilnius, particularly in the Jewish quarter of the city's medieval Old Town. Tombstones from the Jewish cemetery were used to pave the city streets. Lithuania, like Estonia and Latvia, was an independent nation between the two world wars. All three countries, like the rest of Eastern Europe, had Jewish populations. But Lithuania, with its 300,000 Jews, was the center of Jewish life in the Baltic region. In fact, Vilnius was called "The Jerusalem of Europe", noted for its large community of Hebrew scholars. The city, between the wars, was under Polish control. The capital of independent Lithuania was Kaunas (Kovne in Yiddish), about 60 miles west. Like its sister republics, Lithuania was ceded to the Soviet Union under provisions of the secret German-Soviet Treaty of 1939. The Soviets killed or deported about 50,000 Lithuanians. (Deportees often ended up in gulags in the Soviet Far East.)

German Occupation

After the Germans attacked Russia, they occupied the Baltics in 1941. During the occupation, the provisions of the Final Solution, the German plan to eradicate all Jews in Europe, were practiced with a vengeance in Lithuania. Lithuanian auxiliary troops called the *Lithuanian Schutzmannschaft* (Protective Detachments) helped the SS and the Gestapo. There were a number of death camps in the country, including Panerai in Vilnius and a place called the Ninth Fort near Kaunas. The Ninth Fort, an old WWI fortification, is now marked by monumental statues and relics from the death camp. It's estimated that about 80,000 people, including most of the Jewish population of Kaunas, died in the camp.

Anti-Soviet Guerrillas

After the defeat of the Nazis, the Soviets re-occupied and then absorbed Lithuania into the USSR, and an additional 200,000 or so Lithuanians were deported or killed. Until 1953, a band of guerrillas, known as the Forest Brothers, continued to fight against the Soviets. Lithuania was the first of the Baltic nations to start making independence noises, and paid the highest price for doing so. In 1988, 250,000 people gathered in Vilnius to mark the anniversary of the secret Nazi-Soviet pact that led to Russian occupation. On August 23, 1989, hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians joined in a human chain of 2.5 million people that stretched from Lithuania to Estonia to protest Soviet occupation of the Baltics.

Mikhail Gorbachev came to Vilnius in January 1990 and was met by 300,000 demonstrators. That March, the Supreme Council of Lithuania declared independence. The Soviets immediately imposed an economic blockade on the country, cutting off supplies of gasoline and heating oil.

A year later, in January 1991, Soviet shock troops assaulted the Vilnius TV headquarters, killing 14 unarmed civilians. Despite Soviet occupation, Lithuanian independence never faltered, and after the failed Moscow coup against Gorbachev in August 1991, the issue was settled. Russia recognized Lithuanian independence on Sept. 6, 1991.

Early History of Lithuania

The region was conquered by Germanic knights in the 13th century. In the 14th century, Lithuania became a partner in a large empire with Poland that stretched from the Black Sea to the Baltic, an arrangement that lasted until the 18th century when Poland was broken up and Lithuania became part of the Russian Empire.

Polish Influence

Vilnius, founded in 1323, was always a center of Polish culture, and upper-class Lithuanians spoke Polish and adopted Polish culture. Vilnius was again made the capital of Lithuania by the Soviets.

The Lithuanian-Polish border is one of the stickiest in Europe. Because of intensive searches and bureaucratic stumbling, a border crossing can take two or three days—or longer. This somewhat diminishes the intent of the Via Baltica, the proposed Tallinn-Warsaw highway system.

Lithuania is the largest of the Baltic republics, both in land mass and population. Unlike in Estonia and Latvia, the ethnic Lithuanian population is a large majority—about 80 percent of the nation's 4 million people are Lithuanian. Major minority groups, especially in Vilnius, are Polish and Russian. (adapted from the *San Jose Mercury News*)

WORLDWIDE RESEARCH

THE LATEST FROM ARGENTINA

The message below was posted by Zach Baker, YIVO Librarian in NYC, to the MENDELE-L (Yiddish) emailing list. Those of you who are now researching Argentinian families, or who may do some work related Argentina in the future, or who are just concerned about the damage created by the recent bombing, will be interested in this account:

> Date: Thu, 28 Jul 94 14:20:58 PDT
> From: BM.YIB@RLG.Stanford.EDU
> Subject: The latest from Argentina

Here is some up-to-date information regarding the fate of the Argentine YIVO collections, as reported by the New York YIVO's Executive V.P., Larry Rubinstein:

I spoke to Shaul Bracher [Brajer] and Avraham Lichtenbaum from Argentina today (Thursday, July 28th at about 1:30 in the afternoon) about the status of things in Argentina. They inform me that:

1. The Central Library of YIVO is 90% recoverable.
2. The archival papers are 90% recoverable -- however, they need to go paper by paper and this will take a very long time since the removal is under the eyes of the police and a judge who must approve everything.
3. The front part of the library was completely blown up -- all of the referral [reference] library, catalogues, video equipment, tapes, records and printed music archives are gone.
4. 15,000 volumes of the masterworks [Musterverk] of Yiddish literature were destroyed.
5. They are still collecting books from the rubble. About 300 youth are working on the rescue operation.
6. Approximately 96 people are dead. The number is not absolute since many of the bodies were blown apart and they are being identified through DNA procedures. They think that there are 10-15 bodies unaccounted for.
7. Their concern at the moment is fund-raising. I asked them if they were doing fund-raising in Argentina and they said they were.

(Adapted from messages by Howard Gershen and Zachary Baker on JEWISHGEN and MENDELE-L BBSs.)

ARGENTINE COLLECTION IN FLORIDA

The S. E. Wimberly Library in Florida Atlantic University near Boca Raton houses one of the largest Judaica libraries (over 40,000 volumes) in the State of Florida. Mark (Majer) Swiatlo, Curator, has added 65,000 volumes, mostly from Argentina, where he lived before coming to the U.S. in 1965.

EUROPEAN RESEARCH

LOMZA & KALISZ POLAND

The following message was taken off the Jewishgen (Jewish genealogy) bulletin board:

I would like to hear from individuals researching families from the towns of **Lomza** and **Kalisz**, Poland. I might have information of use to you. Please provide me with the family names of interest to you, particularly during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Please respond to me directly at:
<reisner@plearn.edu.pl> or
<reisner@plearn.bitnet>

The message is from Yale J. Reisner, Director of Research and Archives, Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, Warsaw, Poland.

SCOTTISH RESEARCH GUIDE

A research outline for Scottish research was published in a recent issue of the newsletter of the San Mateo County Genealogical Society. It includes a map of the counties of Scotland prior to 1974, an outline of Scottish records giving types and sources for each type, lists of Scottish genealogy and family history societies, professional researchers, libraries and archives. Terms found in Scottish documents are translated. The list of sources of church records includes the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, Garnet Hill Synagogue, 125-127 Hill Street, Glasgow. (San Mateo County Genealogical Society newsletter, Vol. 12 Issue 7, July 1994)

BRITISH RESEARCH BOOKLET

The British Tourist Authority in co-operation with the Federation of Family History Societies and the Society of Genealogists publishes a nifty little booklet for anyone thinking about doing genealogical work at home or in Great Britain: *Britain, Tracing your Ancestors..* Copies may be obtained by writing the British Tourist Authority, Thames Tower, Black's Road, London W5 9EL. (*The Family Tree*)

LANDAU/PFALZ, GERMANY BOOK

Ellen Weiss Cagen, 1213 Oakmont Ave, Flossmorr, IL 60422, (708)799-8464, has an 87-page book from **Landau/Pfalz**, W. Germany about the town, Landauer Synagogue and its people. The book contains stories about individual members, listings of synagogue members by name, year, and place of birth, profession, date of departure or deportation and place of arrival. The book includes several photos and contains names with information on over 400 people. Written in German. Copies available at \$13 mailed. (*Illiana*, Spring 1994).

POLISH-JEWISH STUDIES

The American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies (AAPJS) is dedicated to preserving the history and culture of Polish Jews. AAPJS cooperates with the Institute of Polish-Jewish Studies in London in publishing in book form an annual journal called *Polin*. To date, eight volumes of *Polin* have been published. The articles in *Polin* discuss different Polish-Jewish communities, social movements such as Zionism and Bund, governmental interaction, etc. *Polin* also contains many reviews of current books in the field. *Polin* is an invaluable and unique resource for those interested in a serious study of the Polish-Jewish heritage. AAPJS is a non-profit charitable corporation that sponsors publication of books and meetings. For further information, contact: AAPJS, 1583 Mass. Ave, Cambridge, MA 02138. (617)547-7701 (*Mass-Pocha*, newsletter of the JGS of Greater Boston, Vol. III No. 2, Spring, 1994)

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Volume 2, Number 1 of *Shemot*, newsletter of the JGS of Great Britain, provides a review of the book *The Jews of South-West England* by Rabbi Dr. B. Susser. The book presents the results of many years of research on the congregations of **Devon and Cornwall: Exeter, Plymouth, Falmouth and Penzance**. The book is available for £25, University of Exeter Press, Reed Hall, Streatham Drive, Exeter, Devon EX4 4QR.

The same issue of *Shemot* carries an article titled *The Jews of Portsmouth, Sources and Information 1740-1870*, by Henry Roche. The article provides a brief overview of the history of the community and then describes the **Portsmouth Jewish Index (PJI)** by Mr. Roche. This index is a comprehensive card index of pre-1850 Hampshire Jews. (Inquiries can be sent to Henry J. Roche (PJI), 36 Merlbury Gardens, London, SW20 0DJ, United Kingdom.) The article also provides a description of several other sources of information on the community such as minute books and circumcision registers.

The March, 1994 issue of *Shem Tov* has a long article on the history of Jews in **Glasgow**, Scotland. The article covers Jewish immigration, burial grounds, synagogues, resource addresses and a bibliography.

RUSSIAN HISTORIC OVERVIEW

A reprint of an article written in 1907 by Isaac Rubinow, "The Economic Condition of the Jews in Russia," is available. It provides a good historical overview. Send a SASE to Ayer Company Publishers, PO Box 958, Salem, NH 03079. (*Illiana* JGS newsletter, Spring 1994)

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN POSTCARDS

Nancy Deutsch-Sinderbrand has a large collection of color and black and white postcards of communities in Czechoslovakia. Send her your town name and as much location information as possible to learn her rates and whether she has your town. Her address is 111-32 76th Ave, Forest Hills, NY 11375.

If you are researching families in what was Czechoslovakia between the World Wars, including Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, and Ruthenia, then you may be interested in the Society for the History of Czechoslovakian Jews, Inc., 87-08 Santiago Street, Holliswood, NY 11432. The Society publishes the series *Jews of Czechoslovakia* (3 volumes) and annual Reviews. (*Yichus Y'All*, newsletter of the JGS of Georgia, Vol. 2, Issue 2, Winter 1994)

SUCCESSES IN POLAND AND GERMANY

The March, 1994 issue of *The Kosher Koala*, newsletter of the Australian JGS, includes a detailed article by Bernard Orenstein on his research techniques and successes in **Berlin, Poznan, and Przemyśl**. His article includes a table of archives with addresses, samples of correspondence sent and received, samples of results, and fee information.

SEPHARDIC ROOTS

Volume 2, Number 1 of *Shemot*, newsletter of the JGS of Great Britain, provides a three-page article on the **de Sola** family which originated in Spain in the 8th or 9th century, fled to Portugal and on to Holland and many other countries.

Two newsletters/associations may be of interest to those researching their sephardic roots: American Association of Jewish Friends of **Turkey** (*AAJFT Newsletter*), 17 Grenfell Drive, Great Neck, NY 11020, \$35 covers current topics, Holocaust, and Sephardic communities outside of Turkey. *Erensia Sefardi*, 46 Benson Place, Fairfield CT 06430, \$25, focuses on history and culture of Spanish and Portuguese Jews from 1492 to the present.

YIVO NEW YORK TEMPORARY ADDRESS

YIVO's new (interim, for about 2 years) address -- as of mid-September will be: 555 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019. (Cross-street: 11th Ave.) The phone number 212-535-6700 is expected not to change. Details are not yet final, but about half of the library and archives will probably be on premises, and hours of service may be somewhat limited during that period. YIVO has signed a contract for the purchase of a building at 15 West 16th Street, where several organizations are planning to join together to create a Jewish research campus. Details are still to be announced.

HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

DEFINING "HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR"

The American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors defines a "holocaust survivor" for the purposes of the National Registry as anyone who lived under Nazi occupation, or had to flee his or her home and/or country between 1933-45 because of Nazi persecution, regardless of whether they were in concentration camps, ghettos, hiding, forced labor, with partisans, or escaping to allied and/or neutral countries. For further information write to American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, 122 West 30th Street, Suite 205, NY, NY 10001. (Illiana JGS, Winter 1993/4)

ERHARDT, GERMANY LIST

A valuable document from a Kristallnacht file was given to the Yad Vashem Remembrance Authority by the Jewish Community of **Erhardt**, Germany. The file contains a list of the 583 Jews—183 from Erhardt and 400 from neighboring towns—sent to Buchenwald. One entry details the arrest of **Kremen**, a handicapped veteran of World War I, who was "suspected of hiding arms and propaganda material." He was sent to Buchenwald and never heard from again. (From *Martyrdom and Resistance*, Vol. 20 No. 4, March-April 1994)

KINDERTRANSPORT REUNION

An international reunion of Kindertransportees took place in Jerusalem June 6-13, drawing participants from the U.S., England, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Europe, and Israel. The contact point in Israel was Inga M. Sadan, P.O. Box 71105, Jerusalem 91079, Israel.

Mr. Herbert Goldsmith, Chairman of the Pension Subcommittee of the Reunion of Kindertransportees, writes that German pensions are being awarded to Kindertransportees who held German nationality when they emigrated during the Holocaust. Interested persons are asked to write Mr. Goldsmith at P.O. Box 71105, Jerusalem 91079 Israel. (From *Martyrdom and Resistance*, Vol. 20 No. 4, March-April 1994)

SOKOLIEVKA/JUSTINGRAD YIZKOR BOOK

This yizkor book for the Ukrainian shtetl **Sokolievka/ Justingrad** is written in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish. It describes a century of struggle and suffering as recounted in two manuscripts by survivors. It lists names and ages of 230 victims of pogroms. *Sokolievka/Justingrad*, a Logvin Book edited by Leo Miller and Diana F. Miller, was published by Loewenthal Press, New York, in 1983.

LOCAL RESOURCES

PACIFIC SIERRA REGION UPDATE

Our local National Archive branch will not be open on Saturdays this year. They have been hit by budget cuts and cannot pay staff for overtime. They are appealing for volunteers in the microfilm research room on all days. The Archive will be closed on the following Wednesday nights: November 23, December 21 and December 28. The workshop schedule for next year has not yet been completed.

The Archive is actively raising money to purchase New York passenger arrival films. The three microfilm publications they are purchasing are:

-T519 Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897-1902 (115 rolls, \$1150)

-M261 Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1846 (103 rolls, \$1030)

-M237 Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897 (675 rolls, \$6750)

Nearly \$1000 has been contributed by individuals, genealogical societies, and other organizations toward the purchase of the film. The films acquired to date are already in use. Each roll costs \$10.00 and the donor may specify which publication his or her contribution is to support. Donors please specify whether you would like your name or the amount of your donation to appear on the Donors Roll.

CALIFORNIA ROOM REOPENS

The California Room of the State Library in Sacramento was scheduled to reopen October 11 at their new location: Library and Courts Building #2, Room 200, 900 "N" Street (Mailing address P. O. Box 942837) Sacramento CA 94237-0001. (CGS News, Vol. XXV No. 5, Oct 1994). [Holdings of this library were described in a feature article by Dan Peletz ז"ל in *ZichronNote*, Vol. XIII No. 2, May 1993.]



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GENEALOGICAL COMPUTING

Dear Friends -

I am on a voyage of discovery and urgently need the input of readers of the Jewishgen echo.

You may have read the message I posted in mid-August regarding my research into the origin of the recently discovered novel mutation of the beta-thalassemia genetic trait carried by my family and another family in Jerusalem. Thalassemia, a.k.a. Cooley's Anemia or Mediterranean Anemia is well known to Greek and Italian families but is extremely rare in Ashkenazic Jews. It is not usually found unless physicians are specifically looking for it!

This research project, as well as my efforts to alert all unaware carriers of the potential dangers, is being done in conjunction with The McGill University-Montreal Childrens' Hospital Medical Research Institute and Hebrew University-Hadassah Hospital, Department of Hematology, Jerusalem. The project was written up in the Jerusalem Post and the International Jerusalem Post and reprinted in *Avotaynu*.. The title of the article was "Using a Rare Mutation to Find a Relative".

This is an exciting and important challenge because, according to Dr. Ariella Oppenheim of Hebrew University, the initial family tree I presented provides researchers with the largest number of generations of carriers ever reconstructed for thalassemia gene investigations. This was just a start; I am now faced with the giant task of constructing family trees for, tracing and communicating with many more families/branches than would be required in a personal genealogical effort. If I am to succeed, I will need considerable help - particularly the assistance of fellow genealogists, their friends, relatives and physicians. As a result, this message is to make the following requests:

1. Everyone reading this message carefully review the list of names below for possible matches.
2. Anyone with ideas, no matter how far out they may seem, let me have your thoughts.
3. If you are, or know an Ashkenazic carrier of beta-thalassemia, contact me immediately.
4. Please give a copy of this request to your physician, and ask him/her to mention it to their hematologist, pediatric and other medical associates. These are the people who may know other Ashkenazic carriers! (More detailed information that may be of specific interest to the medical community is available on request.)
5. Anyone involved or in touch with the Jewish press in their area or country, please bring this research project to the attention of editors/writers. I am also wondering if this would

be an appropriate item for Jewish content radio programs which include announcements of various types.

6. Anyone reading other echos where they think this message should be posted, kindly re-post. If you do so, please post a message on Jewishgen to eliminate duplications. Thank you.

Family names/towns involved in the project are:

ALTERMAN (Bobruysk; Minsk, Belarus)
BRONSTEYN (Wyszkow)
CANTOR/KANTOR (Bobruysk)
FISHMAN (Poreba-Koceby)
FROIMOWICZ (Ostrow Maz.)
GECOW (Ostrow Maz.)
KRAVETSKY (Bobruysk, Belarus)
MAJMUDES/MAYMUDES (Ostrow Maz.)
MANCHICK (Bobruysk; Minsk, Belarus)
NOWES/NOVIS (Ostrow Maz.)
OFFMAN (Ostrow Maz.)
PLAUCH or PEARLMAN (Ostrow Maz.;

Wyszkow; Poreba-Koceby)

VIDELock/VIDYLKA (Grodno, Belarus)

WIDELC/WIDELITZ (Ostrow Maz.; Poreba-Koceby; Wyszkow) [Rachel Friedman: Widletz: Tarnopol, Grodna, Poland]

ZALCBERG (Ostrow Maz.)

ZELMANOWICZ (Ostrow Maz.)

My other family names/towns are:

ARKER/ARKIER (Ostrow Maz.; Sniadowo; Lomza)

CHOROST/CHURUST (Janow Sokolski)

GENENSKY (Knyszin; Massachusetts)

GONIADZKI (Jasionowka)

GONIONDZKI/GONIANSKY (Janow Sokol)

GONONSKY (U.S.A.)

LEIBOWITZ/LIEBOWITZ (Janow Sokolski)

LEVINE (Janow Sokolski)

RUBINSZTEJN (Ciechonow; Wyszkow)

I can be contacted as follows: Stanley M. Diamond
5599 Edgemore Ave. Montreal, Quebec, Canada
H4W 1V4 Tel: 514-484-0100, Fax: 514-484-7306
E-mail: stanley.diamond@qgo.mtl.net.org

Dear Bob,

As a member of the SFBA JGS, I read with interest your reprint from the San Jose Mercury News by Mike Langberg on the use of Family Tree Maker (FTM) software program. It gave me a lot of new information, as I had missed the original article in July, and have been using FTM Version 1 for the past four years. I am now using Version 3 and find it very useful. Hopefully, one of these days, I can include CD ROM on my computer. Thanks for reprinting the article.

B'Shalom, Jane Schwartz

SHITEL ROOTS

In the February and May, 1994, issues of *ZichronNote* we listed 24 individuals whom recent immigrants were trying to find. We turned to some genealogical sources and here is what we learned:

1) BLUMKIN - HEITIN - LEVENSON.

All being searched by the same applicant, who gave us some addresses from the 1960's. The national telephone directory on CD-ROM and the *Social Security Death Index* gave us no clues, but our member, Dana Kurtz, started tracing the chain from the old phone directories in the Sutro Library. The 1991 directory was the most recent one there, and the families were found by dialing the telephone directory service. Lesson: the CD-ROM directory is quite incomplete, it is missing the two families that are listed in Worcester. Our search is a free, volunteer effort, but here is our reward:

"Dear Sir: This letter is to sincerely thank you for your assistance in the search for our relatives. Your priceless help helped us succeed in finding our loved ones. You helped us realize that we are a part of the Jewish Community and that we should treasure our friends and family more than anything else. Thank you so much for making this possible."

2) COOPER (MOSENZHNİK) from Polonnoye. This seemed to match Mesonznick from Polonnoye listed in the current *Jewish Genealogical Family Finder*, and indeed it did! The reward was the following letter, written in Russian:

"Dear Mr. Delson: I am glad to tell you that you did me an invaluable good turn. Ms. Jaclyn Brody, whose address you gave me, is my brother's daughter and was named in my father's honor (his name is Jacob). She called me yesterday returning my letter and we cleared everything. Can you imagine my joyfulness in my old age (I am 75). From all my heart I thank you very much. I wish you health and success in your noble activity."

We are still, however, looking for relatives of the applicant's wife (descendants of Samuel **SHECTER**, who went to Brooklyn in WWI - see the May, 1994 issue of *ZichronNote*).

3) ROVINSKY, jewelers in Philadelphia. At Sutro Library, Dana traced Morris and his sons, listed as Nathan and Theo (instead of Nehemia and Tevia) from 1925 to 1961. With this lead, the applicant called listings in Philadelphia, made a contact, and is planning a get-together. The family in Philly said, "If you had reached us two weeks earlier, we would have invited you to a family wedding."

4) **DARON**. We are still looking, but I think we are getting close. At the Sutro Library, member Mary Hudson found in listings in the 1960's that Semion DARON was a physician. From the 1963 *American Medical Directory* at Stanford Medical School and the *Social Security Death Index* we learned that Semion DARON was born in 1886, graduated as an ophthalmologist from the Odessa Medical Institute in 1911, practiced in Newark from the 1920's to the 1960's and died in December, 1967 in Riverdale, Bronx, New York. We hope to find family members.

5) **PIKUS**. Still looking, but at Sutro Library Dana Kurtz verified that an Ariel PIKUS was a furrier in New York through 1946 with the last listing for his son in the 1973-74 directory: M. A. PIKUS, 307 7th Ave. Furs.

Contributed by Jerry Delson

ZichronNote and *SFBA JGS Newsletter* are now available on microfiche. The complete collection of our Society's newsletters from the start of publishing in 1981 through the end of 1993, completely indexed, has been filmed and is available at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City. Ask for Fiches #6075936 & 7.

FAMILY FINDER

Sharon Fingold, 751 Sunshine Ct., Los Altos, CA 94024-3154, 415-988-1403. Searching for descendants of Louis **Epstein** and his wife Lena **Berman**, married in Chicago, raised 10+ children in LA including: Minnie, Milton, Jack who married Anna, Lilly who married Jimmy **Barbanell**, Benjamin who married Gertrude, Annie, Herman, Sidney, Mollie, Ruth who married Al **Plotkins**, Jeannette who married Ray **Goldstein**, and Sylvia who married Sydney **Gelber**.

Sharon Fingold, 751 Sunshine Ct., Los Altos, CA 94024-3154, 415-988-1403. Searching for descendants of Joseph **Golden** and wife Annie **Sipkins** who married and lived in St. Paul, MN. Children: Ronald, Manuel (per *SS Death Index*, died in San Mateo County in 1977), Herbert, Ilene, and Selma.

Sharon Fingold, 751 Sunshine Ct., Los Altos, CA 94024-3154, 415-988-1403. Searching for descendants of Samuel **Reid** and his brother Isaac **Robins** (first cousins of my GGGrandmother Bertha **Schneider/Epstein Alperstein**). Bay Area descendants of Samuel and Isaac include Harold **Reid**, Natalie **Reid**, Sadie **Stern**, Milton Stern, Deborah H. Stern, Mildred **Sklar**. If anyone knows these or other family members, please call!

***ZichronNote*—Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society**

Family Finder queries are free to Society members. Non-members may place queries for \$5.00 each limited to 25 words not including searcher's name, address and phone number.

Correspondence relating to items for publication, and requests for back issues @\$5.00 should be addressed to Bob Weiss, 3916 Louis Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4541.

Meetings Odd-numbered months— 3rd Sunday of each month, starting at 1:00 PM at the Jewish Community Library, 601 14th Avenue (at Balboa), San Francisco.

Even-numbered months— 3rd Monday of each month starting at 7:30 PM at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue (near Arastradero & Foothill), Palo Alto.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$20.00 per year. Make checks out to "SFBA JGS" and send to S. Laszlo, Treasurer, 34 Craig Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.

Production Note: This issue of *ZichronNote* has been composed on an Apple® Macintosh™ LC III, ClarisWorks™ V2.1v4 software, and printed on an Apple® Stylewriter II printer. Contributions may be submitted on 3-1/2-inch floppy discs in either DOS or Macintosh format.

Advertising: Display advertising will be accepted in *ZichronNote*. The initial rate for a 2-column inch (3-1/2 x 2 inch) insertion will be \$10.00 per issue, quarter-page ad \$20.00, half-page ad \$35.00, full-page ad \$60.00. Ads must be camera-ready, relate to Jewish genealogy, and be in good taste.

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ZichronNote is published four times per year at the beginning of February, May, August, and November. Contribution deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. The Editor reserves the right to edit all contributions.

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