

זכרון ZichronNote

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XIV, Number 1

February 1994

LOCAL GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sat Feb 5 Commodore Sloat Chapter, DAR & FHC of Santa Cruz, *13th Annual Genealogical Seminar*, Seaside, CA. (Call 408-394-1124 or 408-624-0571 for details.)
8:00 AM-4:00 PM
- Sun Feb 20 Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento, *Reviewing the Basics*. Share questions and answers while covering basic research techniques. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento.
7:30 PM
- Mon Feb 21 **Regular Meeting. History and Records of the Jewish Cemeteries in the South Bay, Wayne A. Rose**, Administrator, Home of Peace Cemetery, San Jose. Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue, near Foothill Blvd. & Arastradero Road, Palo Alto.
7:30 PM
- Sun Mar 20 **Regular Meeting. Finding a Fortune in Your Family Tree, Loren Bialik**, Heir Tracer. Jewish Community Library, 14th Avenue at Balboa, San Francisco.
1:00 PM
- Sat Mar 26 San Mateo County Genealogical Society & Everton Publishers, *A Beginning Genealogy Workshop not just for the beginner*, Ampex Cafeteria, 401 Broadway, Redwood City. \$28.00 per person includes 1-year subscription of *Genealogical Helper* (Call 415-329-9941 or 415-366-4825 for further information.)
8:00 AM-4:00 PM
- Fri Apr 15 California Genealogical Society *Ninth Family History Fair*, Fashion Center, 699 Eighth Street, near Brannan, San Francisco. **Visit us at our table.**
Sat Apr 16 (For information call 415-777-9936)
- Mon Apr 18 **Regular Meeting.** Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue near Foothill Blvd and Arastradero Road, Palo Alto.
7:30 PM
- April 29- 13th Summer Seminar/4th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
May 5 Jerusalem, Israel. (Details on page 3.)
- Sun May 22 **Regular Meeting. Recap of the Israel Seminar**, by a panel of members who attended, Jewish Community Library, 14th Avenue at Balboa, San Francisco.
1:00 PM
- Mon Jun 20 **Regular Meeting. Recap of the Israel Seminar**, by a panel of members who attended, Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road, Palo Alto.
7:30 PM
- Sun Jul 24 **Workshop. 4-Hour Workshop.** Get help in solving your research problems. Jewish Community Library, 14th Avenue at Balboa San Francisco.
11:00 AM
- Mon Aug 18 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.
Sun Sep 25 **Regular Meeting.** San Francisco.
Mon Oct 17 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.
Sun Nov 20 **Regular Meeting.** San Francisco.
Mon Dec 19 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.

Please mark your Calendars

THE SOCIETY PAGE

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

William Ellenberg, Walnut Creek
Rachel Friedman, Napa
Thomas High, San Francisco
Virginia Mathiesen, San Jose
Ruth Mayo, Mountain View
Marcia Nord, Walnut Creek
Peter Schattner, Foster City

SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING, NOV 21

The following is a summary of the topics discussed at the Board of Directors meeting of November 21.

•Urgent Organizational Needs

- Program Chair
- Publicity Chair

•1994 Calendar

- San Fran: 1/16, 3/20, 5/22, 7/24, 9/25, 11/20.
- Palo Alto: 2/21, 4/18, 6/20, 8/15, 10/17, 12/19.
- The 1/16 meeting will be a "start the year, get to know the Board and new members" workshop.
- At least one Palo Alto meeting this year should be an informal workshop meeting.

•1994-5 Elections

- Current officers agreed to run for additional term
- Mailing to members in December
- Votes all due by December 21 meeting by mail or

in person

•Membership

-Agreed to recommend to the general membership a change to the Society By-laws to make memberships, including out of town and *ZichronNote* subscriptions \$20.00

•Status of Active Projects

- Cemetery listing
- Oral testimony indexing
- Local resource directory
- Indexing of back issues of SFBA JGS

Newsletter: W. David Stern agreed to do the indexing. Bob Weiss completed the indexing of *ZichronNote* and sent all back issues to the LDS Family History Library for filming.

•Distribution Policy: *ZichronNote*

- Freebies will be exchanged only with reciprocating organizations.
- Distributions to archives and libraries will be by subscription only.
- Film copies of the back issues will be sold when they are available from LDS.

•Ad policy/rates for *ZichronNote*

-Advertising will be accepted in *ZichronNote* at a rate of \$32.00 for a business card-sized ad.

•Publication Subscriptions

- Avotaynu* : Start 1994. Fill in missing back issues.
- Forum* : Current, Part of FGS membership

•Volume Discount for New York Guide

- Volume discount price \$24.00 incl shipping.
- Regular price \$29.95 + \$4.50 s&h

•Yizkor Books for Sale at the HCNC

- See list on page 12 of this issue

•Update on Israel Seminar

-Those who don't want the standard flight arrangements can take "land-only" package and make flight arrangements with any travel agent. Or call Isram World Travel (Dubi Leshem), 1-800-843-9728.

-Arrange add-on trips eg: Europe or Egypt thru your travel agent, or call Isram World Travel

-If third party in a room is under 18, deduct \$150 from third person rate on registration form

-Tour days for tours after the Seminar are:

Fri. May 6: Full-day tour of Jerusalem

Sat. May 7: Tour of Masada & Judean Desert

Sun. May 8: 2-Day tour of Northern Israel

Sun. May 8: 2-Day tour of Southern Israel

-Registration fee is \$300 for those not staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Banquet is subject to 17% value added tax.

•Volunteers Needed

- SFBA JGS activities
- National Archives in San Bruno
- Stammbaum* Editorial help

ELECTION RESULTS

Current officers were re-elected for two-year terms of office. The recommended by-law change deleting special out of town memberships was approved.

ADVERTISING POLICY

The Board of Directors has agreed to accept display advertising in *ZichronNote* to help defray the costs of publication. More of our dues could then be used to purchase reference materials for our library as well as materials for local archives and libraries. The initial rate for a 2-column inch (3-1/2 x 2 inch) insertion will be \$10.00 per issue, a quarter-page ad \$20.00, half-page ad \$35.00, a full-page ad \$60.00. Ads must relate to Jewish genealogy, and must be in good taste. Please submit camera-ready material.

IN MEMORIUM RABBI MALCOLM STERN

We are very sad to report that the "Father of American Jewish Genealogy" Rabbi Malcolm Stern died of a heart attack on January 5, 1994 in New York City. Rabbi Stern, historian of American Judaism, was the author of "First American Jewish Families", an important compilation of the genealogies of Jewish families whose first generations settled in the U.S. between 1654 and 1840. This reference, listing over 50,000 names, stands as a monument to his memory.

4th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy Jerusalem, Israel April 29-May 5, 1994

The Israel Genealogical Society and Avotaynu are jointly sponsoring the 13th Summer Seminar and 4th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy. This seminar will take place at the Jerusalem Crowne Plaza (formerly the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel) from Friday, April 29th through Thursday May 5.

SEMINAR SUMMARY

Initial arrangements and seminar highlights announced in the Fall, 1993 issue of *Avotaynu*, are summarized here. This is an incomparable opportunity to conduct research on family not only in Israel, but in all parts of the diaspora. The program includes lectures from leading international experts on Jewish genealogy, history, culture, and sources. The seminar location is central to many of the archives and record sources (see November 1993 issue of *ZichronNote* for map). As part of your registration you will be able to submit five names each to the Search Bureau, Yad Vashem, State Archive, and Central Khevera Kadisha. Researchers in Israel will do preliminary research which will be ready for you when you arrive. Guided tours are planned during the week of the conference, as well as the week after, for those unfamiliar with Israel. If a trip to Israel is in your future this may be the best time!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, April 29. Pre-Shabbath wine and cheese welcome reception. Reserved tables for Shabbath dinner at the hotel with fellow registrants.

Saturday, April 30. Celebrate Shabbath in Jerusalem, attend services, visit family, take a walking tour of the Old City, or attend discussions at the hotel. Opening session after Shabbath.

Sunday, May 1-Wednesday May 4. On-site research at the many archives, libraries and museums in Jerusalem during mornings and early afternoons. Late afternoon and evening presentations by leading international speakers on Ashkenazic and Sephardic genealogy.

Wednesday May 4. A trip to Tel Aviv will be offered where research may be conducted at the Dorot Genealogy Center at the Beth Hatefutzoth, and at the Diaspora Research Center.

Thursday, May 5. Program at Yad Vashem and research at various sites in the morning and early afternoon. Final lectures on Thursday afternoon. Closing banquet in the evening at the conference hotel.

For full information, reservations, and questions, contact Avotaynu, P.O. Box 900, Teaneck NJ 07666, Tel. 201-837-8300.

LECTURERS AND TOPICS

Dr. Paul Jacoby, Scholar-in-Residence, renowned researcher of Ashkenazi rabbinic families will be available for individual consultations.

Dr. Philip Abensur, editor of the French *JGS Review*, will chair a panel on North African Jewish research.

Prof. Gabriel bar Shaked, Yad Vashem's Hungarian expert will discuss his Hungarian Names Project and access to Holocaust-era and earlier databases.

Dr. Alexander Beider, discussing his second book, *Jewish surnames of the Kingdom of Poland*.

Sophie Caplan, President of the Australian JGS will talk about your Australian cousins.

Lyn Carson, head of the LDS European office will discuss European Jewish records and filming plans.

Rivka Dorfman, synagogue photographer, will present a slide show and report on interviews and Jewish archival holdings in the areas she visited.

Chaim Freedman, professional genealogist and literary executor for the late Rabbi Shmuel Gorr will describe little-known resources for Ashkenazic roots.

Prof. Ruth Kark, will explore the Amzalak family biography, and the process of collecting and sorting family history material.

Prof. Yitzhak Kerem will discuss Greek and Turkish genealogical research.

Prof. Dov Levin, Editor of *Pinkas HaKehillot* project for Latvia and Lithuania will describe genealogical resources for these countries.

Dr. Arno Parfk, Jewish Museum of Prague

Prof. Mina Rosen, head of the Diaspora Research Institute will discuss application of her research on Turkish-Jewish cemeteries to genealogical research.

Jürgen Sielemann, Hamburg City Archivist.

Jerzy Skowronek, Head, Polish State Archives.

Rabbi Meir Wunder, author of *Encyclopedia of Galician Scholars and Rabbis* will discuss his research on the Margoliot family history.

SUMMARY OF FEES

Full Package	\$1645.
Air Fare (RT New York-Tel Aviv)	
7 Nights at Jerusalem Crowne Plaza	
Seminar Registration	
Separate Arrangements	
Land Only (7 Nights + Registration)	\$700.
Seminar Registration Only	\$300.
Single Supplement at Hotel	\$250.
Non-Registering Family Member	\$1560.
Non-Registering Member Land Only	\$625.
Banquet May 5	\$45.
Shabbath Dinner April 29	\$29.
Additional Nights at Crowne Plaza	\$69.
Transport to New York Gateway	additional

RECENT SOCIETY MEETINGS

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH ON GREEK JEWRY—YITZCHAK KEREM

We were honored to have the distinguished scholar Professor Yitzchak Kerem, Hebrew University Department of Humanities address us for our Oct 18 meeting in Palo Alto. His talk covered the three subcultures comprising Greek Jewry [Greek (Romaniot), Italian and Spanish] and spanned the ancient, Middle Age, and modern periods. This review is a synthesis by Robert Weiss of a review in *Sharsheret Hadorot*, handwritten meeting notes by Yitzchak Kerem, and the tape recording of the lecture.

Ancient Beginnings

Greek Jewry has its roots well in antiquity, centuries prior to the destruction of the Second Temple. Judeo-Greek culture began perhaps as early as the Phoenician times. Jonah's visit to Crete is mentioned in the Bible. Aristotle had a dialogue with a Jew in Greece. More tangible examples of early Jewish settlement are the presence of two synagogues in Salonika in 142 B.C.E.—Etz HaKhayim and Etz HaDaat. These are typical names of Judeo-Greek synagogues. In antiquity there were also Jewish communities in Chalcis, Paramithias, and on the island of Delos. When Jesus' disciple, Paul, travelled in Greece, he met opposition from the Jewish communities of Salonika, Veroia and Athens.

Middle Ages

In the Middle Ages, this area was called "Romania, the Second Byzantium." The Greek Jews developed a distinctive Judeo-Greek culture and were known as "Romanios." Benjamin de Tudela found Greek Jewish communities in Thessalonika (Salonika), Arta, Chalcis and Rhodes during his visit ca. 1169. Epirus, Attica and the Peloponnesus were populated by Romaniot Jews. Epirus and Peloponnesus also had Apulian communities. Peloponnesus was also a place of refuge for Sephardic Jewry after the various expulsions from the Iberian Peninsula. The Sephardim settled in Thrace, Macedonia, Thessaly, and Rhodes.

Jews arrived in Solanika after they were freed from the slave market in Crete. Salonika rapidly became a major center for Sephardic Jewry after the various expulsions from the Iberian Peninsula [Spain (1492), Calabria and Portugal (1497), Provence and Apulia, Moltranto (1502), and Portugal (1506).] Some 20,000 Jews arrived and formed independent *kehillot* (communities) based on regional origin, eg: Castillia, Aragon, Catalonia, Galacia, Majorca, Lisbon, Otranto, Poulia, Calabria, Sicily and Provence.

The Romaniot Jews were complemented by Ashkenazic Jews from, Germany, Hungary, and Central Europe fleeing the Black Plague. Prominent families like the Delmedigos and the Ashkenazis arrived at this time. These Jews made a distinctive mark on the life of the Salonikan Jewry. They established an Ashkenazi community which existed until its members were deported by the Nazis and annihilated with the rest of Solonikan Jewry in the death camps. Salonika had an Ashkenazic synagogue from the 15th century until the Holocaust. Salonika had numerous illustrious rabbis like Adarbi, de Medina, Yosef Karo, Taitazak, Shlomo Alkabetz, Ben Haviv, and de Boton.

Other Communities

Aside from Salonika, there were prominent Jewish communities in Thebes and Chios. There was a yeshiva in Chios, one of whose Rabbis maintained a dialog with the Rambam. It is believed that the 14th century writer Rabbi Jacob ben Asher, known as the "Ba'al HaTurim" was buried in Chios. At the beginning of the Venetian period there was Jewish settlement in Crete, in the Ionian Islands (Corfu, Zante, and Kefulonia). Most of the territories of present-day Greece were under Ottoman sovereignty. The Ionian Islands under Venetian rule were a noted exception. Turkish rule included the regions of Thrace, Macedonia, Epirus, Thessaly, Attica, and the Peloponnesus.

Jewish Community in Salonika

In the beginning of the 16th Century Salonikan Jewry had a prosperous textile industry. The Jews also worked in shipping, fishing, dying, metalworks, money lending, commerce, and mining. The Salonikan community absorbed the "Marranos" arriving around 1520 and were able to find the proper framework within *halakha* (Jewish law) to re-accept them into the Jewish community. When the individual *kehillim* could no longer finance education within their ranks, the entire community united to establish a communal *talmudtorah*. Not only was this an advanced form of Jewish education, but the *talmudtorah* complex included a synagogue, fabric factory, a printing press, bank, and other industries. It was the center of the community for about 100 years. Torah study was so intense and Messianic anticipation so high that Salonika became a center for mysticism and fanaticism.

Messianism and Conversion

Salonikan Jewry's massive support for the "false Messiah" Shabetai Zvi reached such a point that Shabetai Zvi amassed a great following of 3,000 students from the 20,000 Jewish families in the community. After Shabtai Zvi's forced conversion to Islam by the Sultan, and his exile to

Albania, many of his supporters withdrew their support. However, some 300 Jewish families converted to Islam and became known as the "Deunme" (Moslem crypto-Jews). By the beginning of the 20th century there were 15,000 Deunme in Salonika, who were sent to Turkey as Muslims in the 1922 Greek Orthodox-Turkish Muslim population transfer. They settled in Istanbul and Izmir, Turkey. Today, some 3000 are found in Istanbul. Some 50 Deunme remaining in Salonika were deported by the Nazis as Jews in the Holocaust.

A lesser-known part of Greek Jewry are the former Jewish communities of the Peloponnesus, which hosted Romaniot, Sephardic, Ashkenazic, and Apulian Jews. Most of the more than 5,000 Jews of the Peloponnesus Jewish communities of Modon, Coron, and Mistra were massacred at the beginning of the Greek War of Independence in 1821.

distress, thousands of Jews left the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century. Diaspora communities formed in the USA and South America as well as in Europe. Rhodian Jews formed communities in the Belgian Congo, Rhodesia, and later in South Africa. The Salonikan Jewish community retained its identification with synagogues based on former Iberian and Italian origin until they were destroyed in the large scale fire in 1917. Pre WWII Salonikan Jews numbered 56,000, 98% of whom died in the concentration camps. In the whole of Greece, only 10,000 out of 77,000 survived the Holocaust.

Archives and Sources

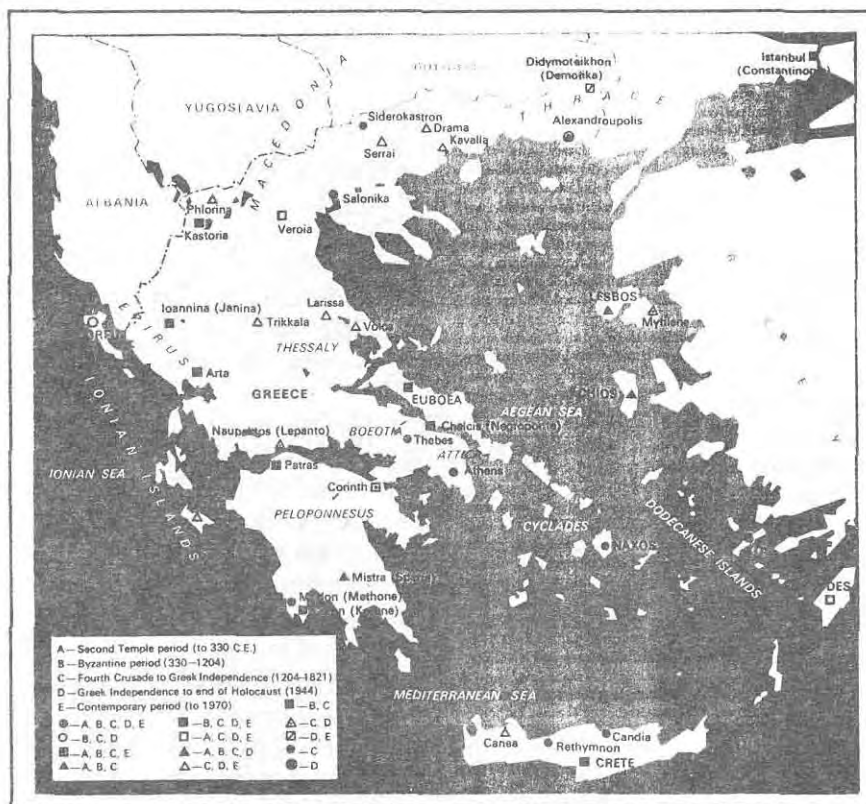
The key archives for researching Greek Jewry are the Alliance Israelite Universelle (Paris), the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People and the Central Zionist Archives (Jerusalem), the Center for the Research of Salonikan Jewry (Tel Aviv), the diplomatic archives of the Foreign Record Office (London), the Quai d'Orsay (Paris), and the Greek National Archives (Athens.) Key libraries are the Benaki Library in Athens, the YMCA in Thessaloniki, and the Ben Zvi Institute and the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem. For researching the Holocaust period, one can consult Yad Vashem, the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz (Germany), and the Centre Documentation Juive Contemporaine.

Some general works include David Recanati, *Zichron Saloniki* (Vols.1&2); Michael Molho, *Beit HaAlmin Shel Yehudei Saloniki*; Itzhak Emmanuel, *Matzevot Saloniki* (2 Vols.); Joseph Nehama, *Histoire Des Israelites De Salonique* (7 vols.), *Saloniki, Ir VeEm BeYisrael*; David Benveniste, *Kehilot HaYehudim BeYavan*; Rae Daiven, *The Jews of Ioannina*; and Marc Angel, *The Jews of Rhodes*.

For information on Greek Jewish names consult, Sari Mayer, "A Study Tracing Salonikan Surnames To Spain"

in the Jewish Museum of Greece Newsletter, Number 31, Spring/Summer 1991; Joseph Matsas, "Ta onomata ton Evraion sta Yannina" in Afieroma is tin Ipeiron (Athens, 1955); and Asher Moissis, "eonomatologia ton Evraion tis Ellados" (Athens, 1973).

The recording of Professor Kerem's talk has more detailed information on Sephardic naming conventions, archives, newspapers, and available records. Society members call our Librarian to borrow the recording. Copies may be purchased for \$6.75 (including U. S. postage & handling).



Map of Greece showing cities of major Jewish settlement from ancient to modern times. Map copied from Encyclopedia Judaica, © 1971 by Keter Publishing House, Ltd., Jerusalem.

Modern Times

A period of prosperity began for the Salonikan Jewish community in the 2nd half of the 19th century through the influence of European education and industrialization. The Alliance Israelite Universelle established schools throughout the Ottoman Empire and Greece, and the Hilfsverein opened a school in Salonika. Due to economic

HOLDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
PACIFIC SIERRA BRANCH
OF INTEREST TO JEWISH GENEALOGISTS
ROSE MARY KENNEDY

Our November 21 meeting featured Rose Mary Kennedy, Archival Technician at the National Archives in San Bruno. Her lecture was timed to augment and update our review of the book *The Archives* which appeared in the November 1993 issue of *ZichronNote*. See also related articles in *ZichronNote* Vol. XI No. 3 and Vol. XIII, No. 4.

Ms. Kennedy started the meeting with an explanation of the mission of the National Archives Field Branches, and what information one is likely and not likely to find in any given branch. The area covered by the Pacific Sierra Region (formerly named the San Francisco Branch) is Northern California, Western Nevada, Hawaii, Guam, and the Pacific Territories. Certain record groups, such as Record Group (RG) 29—Federal Census Records, are found at every Field Branch.

The most-used records are the census records, and Ms. Kennedy discussed the various years and the unique information to be found in each census. Only heads of households were included in the 1790-1840 censuses. The 1820 census listed separately 16-18-year old white males, for the first military draft. Soundex indexes were generated for the 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses. (The bulk of the 1890 census was lost in a fire). But only families with children younger than 10 years were soundexed in 1880, and only 10 states (not New York) were soundexed in 1900. For non-soundexed searches, finding aids exist to find the enumeration district if you know the address. One of the 1890 census substitutes found at the Archives is the Schedule of Widows and Orphans of the Civil War for the states of Kentucky through Wyoming.

Census information for years more recent than 1920 is available for certain "legitimate" reasons such as passports, social security, medical purposes but these requests are expensive. [The \$25.00 fee per name per two censuses will obtain age, place of birth and citizenship. An additional fee of \$6.00 will obtain the complete one-line entry for the requested person. Use Form BC-600 for requests.]

During Ms. Kennedy's discussion of the maritime records at the Archive one of our members added that there are some maritime records to be found at the National Maritime Museum in San Francisco that are not at the Archives.

One interesting ongoing project at the Pacific Sierra Branch is the listing of Jewish/Russian immigrants arriving through Angel Island, San Francisco Bay between 1914 and 1940 based on the Immigration Service case studies. 50 such files have

been listed. The Angel Island records may be seen by appointment only.

The National Archive-Pacific Sierra Region (NA-PSR) is currently purchasing Microfilm M237, Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, N.Y. 1820-1897. These lists are not yet indexed. The films are being purchased for \$10.00 each as donations are received. If you wish to support this acquisition send your check to our Treasurer, Sherrill Laszlo. We were given the option of designating which rolls should be purchased with our donation, and we will probably start with the most recent films and work back in time.

The Archive is currently in need of volunteers to help field genealogical requests. Training will be given and volunteers may make copies of documents for their own use free of charge. The volunteer time is in four-hour blocks during the hours of 8AM-12 and 12-4 PM. Volunteers to work on the preservation of documents are also being sought to work two-hour blocks. Contact Rose Mary Kennedy at the Archive, 415-876-9009.

Ms. Kennedy left us with many useful handouts which are available at meetings upon prior request to our Librarian, Dana Kurtz. Titles are listed below. (Mail requests will be filled at \$4.00 to cover postage and handling. The set weighs one pound!)

- Census Forms-1790, 1820, 1850, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 showing information available each year
- 1920 census form and package of maps of Europe showing boundaries in 1911 and 1918
- Mickey & Minnie Mouse Patents and Walt Disney Census example
- Levi Strauss Patent Infringement Complaint
- Lists of Passenger Arrival Lists, Military Records, and State Census Records at the NA-PSR
- Example of Passenger Arrival Record with list of information to be found on such lists
- Examples of alien detention lists
- Examples of case files on Jewish/Russian passengers arriving on Angel Island, and lists of Jewish/Russian files identified to date
- List of Roll Number-to-Date for Microfilm M237, Passenger Lists, New York, NY, 1820-1897
- Example of Citizenship Application
- Example of records found in Microfilms T82 and T992 (RG 242, Foreign Records Seized and RG238, WW II War Crimes Records, respectively)
- List of Microfilm Publications in the NA-PSR
- List and inventory of microfilm M1486 holdings, Imperial Russian Consulates, San Francisco and Hawaii, Rolls 100-160.
- Daitch Mokotoff Soundex

The National Archives-Pacific Sierra Region is at 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, and is open 8:00AM-4:15PM Weekdays, and until 8:15 PM on Wednesdays. (Call 415-876-9009 about Saturdays.)

SOVIET ARCHIVAL ACCESS

The following items describe recent agreements between researchers and Soviet archives which may eventually result in additional access to Soviet records. As beneficial as these arrangements may be, however, they illustrate the ad hoc nature of current archival access, and point to a need to coordinate such activities.

SHARING ARCHIVAL TREASURES ANN VAN CAMP, HOOVER ARCHIVES

On September 20 the Stanford Historical Society sponsored a talk by Ann Van Camp, archivist at the Hoover Institution, who gave a progress report on an archival exchange program launched in 1992 between the Hoover Institution Archive and the Russian State Archives Service. This program is of interest to Jewish genealogists in light of our current activities to gain access to the archival resources of the Commonwealth of Independent States (the former Soviet Union).

The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace was established in 1919 by President Herbert Hoover to promote research into social sciences and public policy on domestic and international affairs. It is one of the largest repositories of materials on 20th century social, economic, and political change, and holds a vast collection of East European materials of potential interest to Jewish genealogists. (See *ZichronNote* Vol. XI, No. 2 and Vol. XII, No. 4.)

The Hoover Institution was invited in May 1991 by the Russian State Archivist Dr. Pikoya to discuss three matters:

1. The exchange of archival finding aids,
2. Mounting of joint exhibits,
3. Sharing of catalog data.

These discussions continued through the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union, and in November 1991 a joint meeting was held in Moscow. During the visit, American archivists visited the new archives in the old Party Building, the provincial Archive in Lobnya, a few miles north of Moscow, and the Institute for Marxism and Leninism.

The initial project was to mount a joint exhibit on Russian-American economic relations between 1900 and 1930. The exhibit toured Moscow, Washington DC, and Stanford during 1992 and 1993. This project was the icebreaker, but the serious projects followed.

Filming has been started of the Hoover records of the Communist Party, expected to comprise 25,000 reels of microfilm. A committee of six archivists identified the major record series to film. The first 5,000 reels have been completed and sent

to Moscow. This 5-year project is expected to cost \$5 million. The filming will also include finding aids. The Chadwick-Healy publishing firm is doing quality control on the film and is marketing the films.

Further meetings will take place between Russian and American archivists to establish protocols and definitions for a joint catalog project. The scope of the catalog are the 2500 collections in State, Provincial, and Local archives. A pilot program has been instituted to implement an RLIN (research library information network) type database.

Since reorganization of the Soviet Union many of the archives have new directors who are committed to equitable open archival access. There is a lack of funding, and morale is low among archival workers.

Additional information resulted from the question and answer period that followed Ms. Van Camp's talk. Good finding aids apparently exist, but they are not oriented toward open access. There will be restricted access to military and KGB records, but Communist Party records will be open. The KGB Archives are not open. Some records captured during World War II are being discovered and opened. A large cache of Dutch records has been located in Moscow.

In response to questions on whether this exchange, record selection, and filming is being coordinated with other organizations doing similar work, Ms. Van Camp indicated that the Library of Congress is kept apprised, but there is no coordination with genealogical groups since they are filming different materials. Similar archival exchange discussions are going on with Poland, but not with any other of the former Soviet republics.

(by Robert Weiss)

STANFORD RESEARCHER DIGS INTO SOVIET ARCHIVES

Steven Zipperstein, director of Stanford University's Jewish Studies Program, went to Russia last spring to teach and do research. He returned home with a trunk of documents from a lost archive that could provide insight into Jewish life before the revolution.

Zipperstein came across the extensive files of Piotr S. Marek, a Russian-Jewish historian and school inspector who died in 1920. He found 282 sections of Marek's work, a remarkable amount since a section often contained 10,000 pieces of paper. There were diaries, maps, personal reflections, book manuscripts, correspondence between Russian-Jewish historians, photographs and records of Marek's inspections of Jewish schools.

Zipperstein photocopied 3,000 pages which are now stored in his Palo Alto home. Next month he

will take them to Israel's Hebrew University, where he will spend the winter and spring using the material for *Reimagining Russian Jewry*, a 1995 book and lecture series at the University of Washington.

The fall of communism has opened archives throughout the republics that made up the USSR, one result being the discovery of reams of documents from the land that once had the largest Jewish population in the world. From the early 1880s through 1924, about 2 million Jews left Russia and Eastern Europe, most of them emigrating to the United States.

Zipperstein spent three days at the Brodsk Synagogue in Odessa, before the revolution one of the greatest Jewish houses of worship in the world, which had been converted into a state archive. He found records of Jewish bankers and of government relations with Jews.

He spent most of his time in Moscow in what once was called the Archive of the October Revolution, a complex 3-blocks square with rotting trucks and car motors sitting in the courtyard. "It looks like London after the blitz," Zipperstein said.

While Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree last year opening the archives of the former Soviet Union, researchers don't expect easy access to the material. Research often is released to embarrass politicians or improve relations with other countries. And in a country where day-to-day life is a constant struggle for necessities, the archives may charge Westerners outrageous prices for copies, that is, if the copying machine hasn't broken down.

Zipperstein spent two months deciding which of the Marek files to bring back, and the next month personally copying them. He reviewed tens of thousands of pages, almost all hand written in Russian, although a few were written in Yiddish or Hebrew. He searched the documents in a small room the size of his Stanford office. Fifteen to 20 others shared the room, many of them scientists who would duck into the archives for an hour or two at a time looking for information on Stalinist crimes or the nuclear accident at Chernobyl.

Having spoken to other researchers who had delved into Soviet archives, Zipperstein was prepared for some of the travails. So he brought a photocopying machine and paper. Often it was the only functioning machine in the archive.

Until he was on the plane homebound, Zipperstein was worried that because of the vagaries of today's Russia, someone would prevent him from taking his copies out of the country. "I felt I was racing against the clock," he said. "I wanted to get as much done before someone pulled the plug and said, 'No! This is enough'."

(adapted by R. Weiss from a *San Jose Mercury News* article by Jeff Gottlieb—*SJMN* staff writer.)

SHTETL ROOTS

An article describing our activity of helping immigrants find their relatives and friends was published in the December, 1993, issue of VSTRECHA, the Palo Alto Russian language newsletter for emigres. Current searches:

COOPER, Michael, born 1905 in Polonnoye, Ukraine. His name at birth was Motel MOSENZHNIK.

DARON (DORON), Semion (Sam), son of Yakob. Born in Russia in 1886, he probably died in New York.

DUNSKY (DUNSAY, DOUNSEY), Isaac, George, Jacob and Albert (Abraham) left Kherson, Ukr. in late 1800's or early 1900's, settled in Chicago. Their mother, Sore Leje, joined them ca. 1920.

KADISH (KADYSH), Elijah son of Morduch, born 1890-1898 near Nezhin, Ukraine, moved to U.S. 1914-1918.

KLEIMAN (KLEIN), Shmuel, wife Malka (born ca 1870) emigrated from Vinnitsa, Ukraine to N.Y. in 1920s. Five children. Daughter Mica married Yosef ROITMAN.

KOGEN (KAGEN, CAGEN), Yosef (born ca. 1886), son of Mordo. He left Mogilev, Byelorussia, entered U.S. at New Orleans in 1914, moved to Seattle, Washington, and worked as a tailor. Last correspondence in 1937. Family name had previously been Kuhn.

PIKUS, Arij, his wife Anna, and son, Maikl (born ca. 1920), left Russia ca. 1922-23, settled in Vienna Austria and then fled to America ca. 1935-36. Arij, a furrier, died 1943-44 and was buried in New York. Son Maikl inherited fur shop in New York.

RABINOWITZ, Simca, a baker, emigrated to NY from Ukraine in the 1920's.

RIVKIN (RIFKIND), Semi-Yehuda and brother Nohim, sons of Wolf RIVKIN emigrated from Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, to Chicago ca. 1920 and worked in the hat business.

ROSEN, Joseph and wife Adel emigrated from Yaltushkov, Ukraine, ca. 1921 to New York, probably Brooklyn. Adel was the daughter of Eshya and Rodya FISHTAIN.

SILBERBERG, Maier and wife Perel emigrated from Yaltushkov, Ukraine, ca. 1921 and were living in New York in 1947. They came with two daughters, Musya and Pesya (born ca. 1916). Perel (born prior to 1893) was the daughter of Eshya and Rodya FISHTAIN.

YUDELOVICH, Hanoch (Genach) and Leib, sons of Wolf, emigrated from Riga in 1914, lived in Washington, DC.

To help, contact Jerry Delson sfba@mcimail.com or (415) 493-0404.

REGISTER AND RECORD BOOK (PINKASSIM) HOLDINGS
JEWISH NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, JERUSALEM
 by Robert Weiss

A list of record books, or *pinkassim*, at the Jewish National and University Library was published in Alsberg's *Guide to Jewish Archives* in 1981. To my knowledge it has never been updated. In 1984 while attending the First International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy I was able to obtain a photocopy of the index cards in the Manuscript Department under the heading "*Toledot Yisrael, Pincassim*". These cards represented an update to the 1981 list, and the composite list is presented here. Those items marked with an "x" in the New column represent an update to the JNUL holdings as of 1984.

Locations are according to the modern spelling and current national boundaries. Parenthetical city names are given when these are or were commonly used. Question marks indicate some uncertainty and the inability to verify the information.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Acces</u>	<u>New</u>
Pinkas	Belt Din	Almuswada, YEM	1790-1865	280	8°3281	
List	Khevr Kadisha "Agudah Yeshara"	Altona, GER	1796-1856	13	8°4032	
Pinkas	Refugees from Hamburg	Altona, GER	1814	37	4°882	
Pinkas	Memorial	Alzey, GER	1685-1839	30	4°928	
Pinkas	Community	Ballenstedt, GER	1793-1931	364	4°931	
Pinkas	Khevr Kadisha	Bendary, MOL	1793	119	4°129	
Pinkas	Community (handwritten fragments)	Berlin, GER	1720-1809		8°2138	
Pinkas	Khevrat Shas	Bialystok, POL	1871	5	8°461	
Pinkas	Khevrat Linat Zedek	Bialystok, POL	1885	15	4°22	
Pinkas	Gemilut Khasadim	Bialystok, POL			4°1512	x
Pinkas	Khevrat Ner Tamid & Shiva Keruim	Bolshaya Berestovitsa, BYE	1800-1810	29	4°58	
Pinkas	Gemilut Khasadim, Kobrin Shule	Brest (Brisk), BYE	1905-1909	17	4°826	
Pinkas	Khevr Kadisha Khesed VeEmet	Brovary, UKR	1859-1908	10	8°1431	
Pinkas	Khevrat Gemilut Khasadim	Bucuresti (Bucharest), ROM	1856-1876	100	8°2254	
Pinkas	Memorial	Budesheim (near Bingen), GER	1738-1909	56	8°2423	
Pinkas	Khevr Kadisha	Bukachevtsy, UKR	1750-1840	33	4°83	
Pinkas	Khevr Kadisha	Choroszcz, POL	1702-1870	246	8°671	
Pinkas	Accounts of Ashkenaz Community	Darmstadt, GER	1732-1735	113	8°2749	
Pinkas	Community	Dubno, UKR	1715-1843	135	4°349	
Pinkas	Khevr Kadisha	Dubossary (Kherson Reg.), MOL	-1832	73	8°651	
Pinkas	Khevrat Tanakh	Dzerzhinsk (Koydanow), BYE	1824-1840	324	8°574	
Pinkas	Jewish Moneylender	Firenze (Florence), ITY	1540-1554	153	4°377	
Pinkas	Community	Frankfurt am Main, GER	1552-1802	399	4°662	
Memorbuch		Frankfurt am Main, GER	1629-1907	537	4°1092	
Pinkas	Memorial, Hekdesh Synagogue	Frankfurt am Main, GER	1691-1852	213	8°1465	
Pinkas	Marriage, Death, Homeowners, Widows	Frankfurt am Main, GER	1750-1830	91	8°3212	
Notebook	Money, Business, Israel b. Yekhiel	Frankfurt am Main, GER	1770-1781	274	8°3476	
Pinkas	Community	Fuerth, GER	1719-1722	32	4°879	
Pinkas	Community	Gorki, BYE	1685-1911	186	4°920	
Pinkas	Khevr Lomdei Mishnaiot	Grodno (on the Neman R.), BYE	1767-1884	73	4°192	
Pinkas	Khevr Shas	Grodno (on the Neman R.), BYE	1830-1868	50	4°193	
Pinkas	Khevrat Bikkur Kholim	Grodno, BYE	1779-1890	123	4°8	
Pinkas	Community	Halberstadt, GER	1793-1809	209	4°1152	
Pinkas	Refugees from Hamburg	Hamburg, GER	1814	37	4°882	
Pinkas	Memorial Book	Hanau am Main, GER	1609-1925	186	8°3222	
Pinkas	Khevr Kadisha	Hanau am Main, GER	1718	93	8°486	
Pinkas	Khevr Kadisha	Hanau am Main, GER	1746-1902	130	8°2846	
Pinkas	Khevr Kadisha, Gemilut Khasadim	Hanau am Main, GER	1766-1837	115	4°969	
Pinkas	Community	Hanau am Main, GER	1774-1800	216	4°926	
Pinkas	Community	Hanau am Main, GER	1797-1830	156	4°830	
Pinkas	Income & Expenditures	Hildesheim, GER	1754-1759	222	4°665	
Pinkas	Khevr Kadisha of Gravediggers	Holesov, CZE	1733-1767	41	4°743	
Pinkas	Community	Holesov, CZE	1737-1771	100	4°742	
Register	Taxes	Holesov, CZE	1784	19	4°738	
Accounts	Khevr Kadisha	Holesov, CZE	1810-1833	102	4°737	
Register	Birth	Holesov, CZE	1893-1914	40	M.V. 218	
Pinkas	Gemilut Khasadim, Hakhnasat Orkhim	Ivano-Frankovsk (Stanislav), UKR	1813	20	4°348	

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Pinkas	Accounts, Sephardi Kollel	Jerusalem, ISR	1772-1806	117	4°1037	
Accounts	Meyukhas Family	Jerusalem, ISR	1828-1855	49	8°4113	
Pinkas	Gabbaim Yeshiva Toldoth Yakov	Jerusalem, ISR	1851-1861	34	4°91	
Pinkas	Sephardi Kollel	Jerusalem, ISR	1851-1880	385	4°95	
List	Charity, Sephardi Kollel	Jerusalem, ISR	1854-	27	8°259	
Pinkas	Vilna Kollel	Jerusalem, ISR	1867-1874	121	4°94	
Pinkas	Bikkur Kholim, Ashkenasi Community	Jerusalem, ISR	1869-1886	200	4°376	
Pinkas	Beit Haknasat Orkhim, Hurva	Jerusalem, ISR	1884-1914	37	8°1251	
Pinkas	Accounts, Kollel Grodne	Jerusalem, ISR	1891-1904	54	8°4285	
Pinkas		Jerusalem, ISR	1891-1907	877	4°1205	
Pinkas	Yeshiva Shevet Akhim	Jerusalem, ISR	1891-1908	165	8°1532	
Pinkas	Hospital, Misgav Ladakh	Jerusalem, ISR	1893-1898	291	4°102	
Pinkas	Va-ad Mishmeret Hakodesh	Jerusalem, ISR	1898-1902	20	4°769	
Pinkas	Synagogue of R. Shmuel Bakhar	Jerusalem, ISR	1902-1919	213	4°914	
Pinkas	Shaarei Khesed Society	Jerusalem, ISR	1909-1926	5	8°3396	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha	Kamen, BYE	1783-1899	64	4°824	
Pinkas	Khevera Lomdei Shas	Karlin, Pinsk, BYE	1832	11	8°321	
Pinkas	Khevera Mishna & Shulkhan Arukh	Kaunas (Kovno), LIT	1844-1929	35	4°717	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha of Gravediggers	Kedainiai, LIT	1678-1926	494	4°921	
Pinkas	Poalei Zedek	Kedainiai, LIT	1803-1818	80	4°1093	
Pinkas	Khevrat Talmud Torah of Podol	Kiyev (Podol suburb), UKR	1821	11	4°919	
Pinkas	Memorial	Kleve, GER	1693-1831	57	8°2398	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha	Kobrin, BYE	1850-1880	35	Phot 227	
Lists	Memorial, 8 lists	Koenigsberg, GER	1799-1842	55	8°2338	
Pinkas	Khevrat Ner Tamid & Shiva Keruim	Komarno, UKR	1736-1785	43	4°42	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha	Kopyl Kapulya), BYE	1805-1928	237	4°1019	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha	Kozlow, UKR	1815-1948	30	4°1126	
Book	Synagogue Pulpit Book	Krakow, POL	-1919	16	8°2417	
Book	Memorial	Krakow, POL	1631-1787	32	8°2382	
Pinkas	Memorial	Krakow, POL	1713-	14	8°2130	x
Pinkas	Talmud Torah	Ladyzhin, UKR	1813	39	4°100	
Pinkas	Memorial	Lublin, POL	1713-	14	8°2130	x
Pinkas	Memorial	Mannheim, GER	1685-1839	30	4°928	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha & Bikkur Kholim	Mattenbuden ?, GER	1814-1876	big	4°397	
Accounts		Metz, FRA	1733-1751	70	8°4341	
Pinkas	Gemilut Khasadim	Mikulov (Nikolsburg), CZE	1789-1829		24°5713	x
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha, Gomlei Khasadim	Minsk, BYE	1727-1779	186	8°3250	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha Shiva Keruim	Minsk, BYE	1763-1818	69	8°2395	
Pinkas	Khevera Talmud Torah	Minsk, BYE	1806-1861	101	4°1	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha Shiva Keruim	Minsk, BYE	1823-1902	143	4°922	
Pinkas	Khevera Shoavei Mayim	Minsk, BYE	1830-1863	124	4°974	
Pinkas	Synagogue, Klibner Street	Minsk, BYE	1834-1863	16	4°828	
Pinkas	Synagogue	Minsk, BYE	1837-1928	80	4°886	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha Gomlei Khesed	Minsk, BYE	1840-1888	71	4°980	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha Beit HaMidrash	Minsk, BYE	1862-1912	93	4°925	
Pinkas	Khevera Tehillim VeTanach	Mozyr, BYE	1848-1907	24	4°983	
Pinkas	Synagogue. List of Aliyot to Torah	Mozyr, BYE	1906-1907	24	4°860	
Pinkas	Birth, Brit, Charity Donors	North Africa (Morocco?)	1902-1907	68	8°5246	x
MemorbuchCommunity		Nürnberg, GER	1291-1777	104	M.V. 278	
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha	Nyirbator, HUN	1896-1934	100	M.V. 320	
Pinkas	Memorial	Offenbach am Main, GER	1796-1856	13	8°4032	
Pinkas	Memorial, Beit Din, Witness Accounts	Offenbach am Main, GER	1800-1869	38	8°2079	x
Pinkas	Khevera Kadisha	Ozarichi (Polesie?), BYE	1792-1919	94	4°973	
Pinkas	Bet Din	Ozarichi (Polesie?), BYE	1829-1879	9	4°973	
Pinkas		Perregaux, ALG	1917-1945	50	4°1164	
Pinkas	Khevera Ner Tamid	Petrikov (near Minsk), BYE	1832-1914	80	8°2832	
Pinkas	Community	Piltene, LAT	1805-1910	30	4°975	
Pinkas	Khevera Safa Berurah	Pinsk, BYE	1890	38	Phot 263	
Pinkas	Khevrat Talmud Torah of Podol	Podol, Kiyev, UKR	1821	11	4°919	
Pinkas	Financial Accounts	POL	1807	49	4°97	x
Pinkas	Death, Birth-Jews in Lithuania & Poland	POL, LIT			8°5550	x
MemorbuchCommunity		Portenheim, Rheinhessen, GER	1737-1912	57	8°3510	
Pinkas	Old Synagogue	Poznan, POL	1688-1858	43	8°2469	

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Pinkas	Beit Din	Poznan, POL	1815-1841	124	4°741	
Pinkas	Memorial	Poznan, POL	19 Cent.	7	8°2479	
Pinkas	Memorial	Poznan, POL	19 Cent.	3	8°2480	
Pinkas	Khevrat Mishnaiot & Talmud Torah	Radoshkovich, BYE	1764-1890	94	4°636	
Pinkas	Khevrat Khessed VeEmet	Reggio, ITY	1742-1778	40	8°985	
Pinkas	Khevra Soed Kholim	Reggio, ITY	1840		M.V. 319	
Book	Memorial, Hebrew-speaking organization	Riga, LAT	1902-1904	21	8°3221	
Pinkas	Khevra Kadisha	Romanovo, BYE	1758-1921	72	4°883	
Memorbuch	Community	Rüdesheim, GER	1809-1850	46	8°2884	
Pinkas	Memorial	Sandomierz, POL	1713-	14	8°2130	x
Pinkas	Beit Din	Sebezh, RUS	1772-1806	65	8°3228	
Pinkas	Accounts	Sefrou, MOR	1887-1896	65	8°4117	
Pinkas	Khevra Kadisha	Sighet, ROM	1895-1925	185	4°1419	x
Pinkas	notes from Tailors' Organization	Skidel?, BYE			4°1512	x
Pinkas	Community	Sklov, BYE	1671-1687	3	4°920	
Pinkas	Khevra Kadisha	Slonim, Grodno, BYE	1759-1871	28	4°84	x
Pinkas	Khevra Kadisha	Slutsk, BYE	1679-1924	714	4°927	
Pinkas	Memorial	Smigiel, POL	1813	102	4°740	
Pinkas	Khevrat Lomdei Torah	Smilovichi, BYE	1864	40	4°700	
Pinkas	Khevra Bikkur Kholim	Snyatyn, UKR	1866	7	4°45	
Pinkas	Community	Sroda Wielkopolska, POL	1780-1835	60	4°667	
Pinkas	Khevra of Yeshiva Students	Szerdahely, HUN	1841-1846	76	4°541	
Pinkas	Khevra Beit HaMidrash	Telsiai, LIT			4°1512	x
Pinkas	Births	Thessaloniki (Saloniki), GRE	1917-1924	96	4°851	
Pinkas	Help to the Needy	Thessaloniki (Saloniki), GRE	1919-1940	122	4°853	
List	Dead	Thessaloniki (Saloniki), GRE	1934-1940	77	4°701	
Pinkas	Beit Din	Thessaloniki (Saloniki), GRE	1935-1937	149	4°861	
Pinkas	Official Certificates	Thessaloniki (Saloniki), GRE	1938-1940	44	8°852	
Pinkas	Community	Tire, TUR	1814-1843	10	4°400	
Pinkas	Judge of Karaite Community	Trakai (Troki), LIT	1540-1824	24	4°834	
Pinkas	Karaites	Trakai (Troki), LIT	1714-1795	50	4°1094	
List	Deaths	Transnistria, UKR	1941-1943	72	M.V. 413	
Pinkas	Memorial Book	Trebitz, CZE	1732	22	8°2334	x
Pinkas	Khevra Kadisha	Trzcianka (Schönlanke), POL	1822-1883	102	4°901	
Pinkas	Beit Din	Tsna, BYE	1790-1865		38°3281	x
Pinkas	Khevra Kadisha	Turets (near Minsk), BYE	1762-1915	223	8°3225	
Pinkas	Rabbis of Ashkenaz Charity	Tykcyn, POL	1678-1690	55	8°3310	x
Pinkas	Khevra Shas of the Big Shule	Uman, UKR	1856	22	4°1020	
Register	Ketuboth & Contracts	Verona, ITY	1539-1544	228	4°555	
Pinkas	Gemilut Khasadim	Verona, ITY	1576-1802	118	4°560	
Pinkas	Community	Verona, ITY	1593-1639	92	4°567	
Pinkas	Ghetto	Verona, ITY	1599-1600	17	4°558	
Pinkas	Ghetto	Verona, ITY	1599-1639	134	4°564	
Pinkas	Community	Verona, ITY	1600-1642	180	4°563	
Pinkas	Community	Verona, ITY	1610-1653	195	4°554	
Pinkas	Community. Tax/Collections lists	Verona, ITY	1612-1682	28	8°1810	
Pinkas	Khavurat Rakhamim	Verona, ITY	1615-1779	111	4°561	
Pinkas	Khevra Shomrim LaBoker	Verona, ITY	1640-1755	100	4°559	
Pinkas	Community	Verona, ITY	1653-1706	295	4°551	
Pinkas	Community	Verona, ITY	1545-1610	298	4°552	
Pinkas	Ashkenazi Community	Verona, ITY	1653-1737	171	4°553	
Pinkas	Community	Verona, ITY	1658-1660	43	4°569	
Pinkas	Community	Verona, ITY	1660	86	4°568	
Pinkas	Accounts, Community	Verona, ITY	1678-1679	73	8°1811	
Register	Ketuboth	Verona, ITY	1700-1712	51	4°562	
Pinkas	Community	Verona, ITY	1738-1760	183	4°556	
Pinkas	Community	Verona, ITY	1738-1803	280	4°557	
Pinkas	Khevra Gomel Dalim	Verona, ITY	1742-1865	50	4°565	
Pinkas	Community, Beit Din	Vilijampole, LIT	1780-1860	202	4°146	
Pinkas	Va-ad	Vilnius (Vilna), LIT	1623-1761	133	8°3175	
Pinkas	Va-ad	Vilnius (Vilna), LIT	1623-1761	212	8°1063	
Pinkas	Beit Din. Book of Encumbrances	Vilnius (Vilna), LIT	1755-1878	247	4°190	
Pinkas	Beit Din, Rabbinic Dispute	Vilnius (Vilna), LIT	1768-1790	190	4°346	

Pinkas	Khevre Kadisha, important men	Vilnius (Vilna), LIT	1836-1908	49	4°880	
Pinkas	Regulations, Khevre Shas Torah Or	Vilnius (Vilna), LIT	1916-1940	39	4°889	
Pinkas	Khevre Mishnaiot	Viseu De Sus, ROM	1824-1906	196	8°5338	x
Pinkas	Community	Vlodawa, POL	1761-1810	120	4°149	
Pinkas	Beit Din	Wegrów, POL	1782-1804	128	4°2	
Minute Book	Zionist students' Organization	Wien (Vienna), AUT	1896-1908	30	M.V. 243	
Pinkas	Memorial	Worms, GER	1600-1839	54	4°656	
Pinkas	Community	Zabludow, POL	1646-1816	284	4°103	
Pinkas	Khevre Mishnah & Gemorrah	Zagare, LIT			4°1512	x
Pinkas	Community	Zambrow, POL	1847-1860		8°5256	x
Pinkas	Khevrat Khakhnasat Orkhim, Bikkur Khol.	Zarechanka (Lanchkorun), UKR	1868-1870	20	4°844	
Pinkas	Charity	Zvenigorodka, UKR	1889-	216	4°133	x

ALG=Algeria, AUT=Austria, BYE=Belarus, CZE=Czechoslovakia, GER=Germany, GRE=Greece, HUN=Hungary, ISR=Israel, ITY=Italy, LAT=Latvia, LIT=Lithuania, MOL=Moldava, MOR=Morocco, POL=Poland, ROM=Romania, RUS=Russia, TUR=Turkey, UKR=Ukraine, YEM=Yemen.

RECENT SFBA JGS LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

We have been actively acquiring new reference material for the use of our members. The following is a list of the references acquired since we circulated the cumulative holdings list last year. Major new acquisitions are the name dictionaries by Beider and Guggenheimer and *The Source* by Eakle & Cerni. Most materials are available for loan by Society members in good standing for up to one month. Please call our librarian Dana Kurtz 415-921-6761 at least 48 hours prior to any meeting to have your requested volume brought to the meeting.

We also maintain a file of current and back issues of the newsletters of other societies (not complete). We are now exchanging newsletters with the JGSs in Australia, Canada, England, France, Israel, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. Indexes of our audio tape and newsletter collections will be forthcoming as soon as we get a volunteer. Our thanks in advance to W. David Stern who has volunteered to index our society's newsletters from 1981 to 1990. If each member takes on a small assignment we can provide greatly expanded services to our members. Call Bob Weiss, 415-424-1622 if you have a few hours to spare. Most work can be done at home.

Title	Author	Date	Pages
1492: The Life and Times of Juan Cabezon of Castile	Aridjis, Homero	1985	285hc
A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire	Beider, Alexander	1993	783hc
The Grandees: America's Sephardic Elite	Birmingham, Stephen	1971	318hc
Remember This Time	Broder, G.K. and B.	1983	325hc
The Jews of San Francisco & The Greater Bay Area, 1849-1919	Cogan, S. G.	1973	127hc
Judaica Reference Sources, A Selective Annotated Bibliographic Guide	Cutter, C. & Oppenheim, M. F.	1993	224pb
Ebrei in Italia: Deportazione, Resistenza	Donati, Guilianna	1980	64pb
The Source—A Guidebook of American Genealogy	Eakle, A. & Cerni, J.	1984	786hc
Jüdische Friedhöfe in Berlin (Jewish Cemeteries in Berlin)	Etzold, Alfred, et al	1979	65pb
A Guide to Jewish Boston	Greenfield, E. R., Ed.	1977	124pb
Jewish Family Names & Their Origins	Guggenheimer, H. & E. H.	1992	925hc
World of our Fathers	Howe, I. & Libo, K.	1976	714pb
Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto	Mark, Ber	1975	209pb
Library Microfilms 40th Anniversary Issue	Robertson, Nancy	1993	230pb
Survey of Historical Jewish Monuments in Poland	Schneier, Rabbi A.	1993	95pb
Spandau, The Secret Diaries	Speer, Albert	1976	463hc
The American Jew as Patriot, Soldier and Citizen	Wolf, S., Levy, L. E. Ed.	1895	586hc
Life Is with People	Zborowski, M. & Herzog, E.	1952	452pb
The Hebrew Union College Monthly	Zigmond, M. L., Ed.	1929	38pb
American Jewish Committee, 21st Annual Report		1928	184pb
American Jewish Year Book—Local Organizations Section		1908	309x
Jewish Publication Society of America, 10th Annual Report		1898	133pb
Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 62nd Annual Report		1936	157pb
United Synagogue of America, Sixth Annual Report		1919	72pb
Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly (V. XI, No. 2,3)			var. pb
Catalog of Memoirs of the William E. Wiener Oral History Library	American Jewish Committee	1978	145pb
Catalog of Resource Materials, Fall 1993	Historic Resources, Inc.	1993	150pb

pb=paper back, hc=hard cover, x=photocopy

HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

YIZKOR BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Holocaust Center of Northern California is selling duplicate copies of yizkor books from its 550+ collection. The following titles are currently available for \$50.00 each from Holocaust Center of Northern California, 601 14th Avenue, San Francisco CA 94118. These books are subject to prior sale, and it would be advisable to call the HCNC at 415-751-6040 to verify availability of any particular title.

• **Miechów, POL:** *Sefer yizkor Miechow, Charsznica, Ksiaz* [Memorial book for Miechow, Charshnitsa, and Kshoynge] 1971, 314 pages. (Hebrew and Yiddish)

• **Berestechko, UKR:** *Hayta ayara...Sefer zikaron leKehelot Berestecko ...veHaSeviva* [There was a town...memorial book of Beresteczko...and vicinity] 1961, 555 pages. (Hebrew and Yiddish)

• **Dunajska Streda, CZE:** *Sefer zikaron leKehelat Dunaszerdahely* [A memorial to the Jewish community of Dunaszerdahely (Dunajska Streda)], 1975, 429 pages. (Hebrew, Hungarian)

• **Ternovka, UKR:** *Ayaratenu Ternovka-Pirkei zikaron* [Our Town Tervovka, chapters of remembrance and a memorial], 1972, 103 pages. (Hebrew)

• **Pinsk, BYE:** *Pinsk Sefer Edut veZikaron leKehillat Pinsk-Karlin* (Pinsk book of evidence and memory for the community of Pinsk-Karlin), 1966-77, 3 volumes. (Hebrew, Yiddish)

• **Czyzewo, POL:** *Sefer zikaron Czyzewo* [Memorial book of Tshijewo], 1961, 1206 columns. (Hebrew, Yiddish)

• **Berezhany, UKR:** *Brzezany, Narajow veHaSeviva —Toledot kehillot sheNehrevu* [Brzezany Memorial Book: Brzezany, Narajow and vicinity history of a destroyed community], 1978, 500 pages. (Hebrew, Yiddish, English)

• **Wieruszów, POL:** *Wierusow; Sefer yizkor* [Wierusow Memorial Book, 1970, 907 pages. (Hebrew, Yiddish)]

• **Wadowice, POL:** *Sefer zikaron lekehillot Wadowice, Andrychow, Kalwaria, Myslenice, Sucha* [Memorial book for the communities of Wadowice, Andrychow, Kalwaria, Myslenice, Sucha] 1967, 454 pages. (Hebrew, Yiddish)

• **Molchad', BYE:** *Sefer zikaron lekehillat Meytshet* [Memorial book for the community of Meytshet] 1973, 460 pages. (Hebrew, Yiddish)

• **Cluj, ROM:** *Sefer zikaron leYahadut Kluzh-Kolozsvár* [Memorial book of the Jews of Cluj-Kolozsvár] 1967, 459 pages. (Hebrew, English, Hungarian)

• **Rokiskis, LIT:** *Yizkor buch fun Rakishok un umgegent* [Memorial book of

Rakishok and vicinity] 1952, 626 pages. (Yiddish)

• **Miedzyrzecz-Volyn, UKR:** *Mezeritsh Gadol beVinyana uBeHurbana* [Mezhiritch-Wolin: in memory of the Jewish community] 1955, 422 columns. (Hebrew, Yiddish)

• **Borshchev, UKR:** *Sefer Borszczów* [The book of Borstchoff] 1960, 341 pages. (Hebrew, Yiddish)

• **Leczyca, POL:** *Sefer Linshitz* [Leczyca] 1953, 223 pages. (Hebrew)

• **Sochaczew, POL:** *Pinkas Sochaczew* [Memorial book of Sochaczew] 1962, 843 pages. (Hebrew, Yiddish)

• **Lenin, BYE:** *Kehillat Lenin —Sefer Zikaron* [The community of Lenin—Memorial book] 1957, 407 columns. (Hebrew, Yiddish)

• **Czestochowa, POL:** *Tshenstokhover Yidn* [The Jews of Czestochowa] 1947, 404 pages. (Yiddish)

YIZKOR BOOKS DONATED TO HCNC

The Holocaust Center of Northern California is on an active campaign to acquire and shelve as complete a collection of memorial book as is practical for the use of Northern California researchers. At my last count in 1991 they had over 550 volumes, one of the largest collections on the West Coast. We encourage members to donate yizkor books or copies of yizkor books to the Holocaust Center of Northern California. Two yizkor books have recently been donated to the HCNC by our society members.

Donated by **Shirley Wasserman-Hausafus**

• **Sokiryany, MOL:** *Skurian (Bessarabia) beVinyana uBeHurbana* [Securen: in building and in destruction] 1971, 260 pages. (Hebrew)

Donated by **Rachel Friedman**

• **Baden-Württemberg, GER:** *Ein Gedenkbuch—Die Opfer der nationalsozialistischen Juden in Baden-Württemberg 1933-1945* [A Memory Book- the Jewish victims of the Nazis in Baden-Württemberg] 1968, 480 pages. (German)

Thank you both
for your generous donations.

AUSCHWITZ REUNION

Holocaust survivor Michael Mielnicki, a witness at the trial of accused Nazi war criminal Heinrich Kuhnemann in Duisberg, Germany (see *Response*, Fall 1991), was recently reunited with his brother Aron in the Ukraine. Mielnicki, who had last seen his brother as he was being carried away on a stretcher at Auschwitz, believed that Aron had perished there. He tracked down his brother with the aid of information he received at the Auschwitz Museum. (adapted from *Response*, Wiesenthal Center World Report, Vol 14 No 2, Summer 1993)

EUROPEAN RESEARCH

SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH

The June, 1993 issue of the *Cleveland Kol* contains an article on one genealogist's successful search for family in South Africa. Paul Klein writes about how he tracked his family down and includes copies of letters received from archives, a list of private researchers in the Transvaal, a death certificate, and information on how to find vital records in South Africa.

BRITISH RESEARCH

The Spring, 1993 issue of *Shemot* (the newsletter of the JGS of Great Britain) has several articles of interest to those with British roots (or branches). There is an article on the Leeds Jewish community with bibliography, and an article on tracing family history. Part of this second article specific British information on the topics of trade directories, telephone directories, history libraries, rate books (tax records), the Jewish Chronicle, masonic records and insurance policies.

NORTHAMPTON CEMETERY LIST

Michael Jolles is compiling a list of people buried in Northampton Jewish Cemetery and is hoping to cross-reference details in the local Borough Council records with the inscriptions on the tombstones. His address: 78 Greenfield Gardens, London NW21HY, UK.

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE JEWS' CONGREGATION, LONDON

The Spring, 1993 issue of *Shemot* also lists publications (and prices) of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation. See the article for a list. Enquiries can also be sent to Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation, 2 Ashworth Road, London W91JY, Tel: 071-289 2573, Fax: 071-289 2709.

POOR JEWS' SHELTER, LONDON

The Summer, 1993 issue of *Shemot* includes an article on The Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter. The article discusses the annual reports, registers and other documents related to the shelter from May, 1896 to August, 1914. Over 40% of those registered went to Africa. 90% of those were Litvak. The registers contain names, ships arriving on and leaving on, places of origin. For more information, refer to the article (we're not allowed to reproduce it in whole or in part). The article is 3 pages. Unhappily, no addresses are provided for more information. Perhaps, when all the records are entered in the computer, more names and addresses will be forthcoming.

GERMAN PASSPORT & VISA RECORDS

The German passport and visa records covering the period of 1845-1920 have been filmed by the Family History Library.

POLISH RESEARCH

An article in the Summer, 1993 issue of *Shemot* discusses the research trip of Janina Hochland to Polish archives. She discusses how the records are organized in the archives and how she obtained information. The archives she mentions are the States Archives in Warsaw, the archives in Poznan, archives in Kalisz, the archives of Lodz and Tomaszow.

Jewish Poland research aids are listed in the Spring, 1993 issue of *Shemot*. There are eight volumes in a series *A Library of our Roots*. The volumes are: A Guide to Jewish Warsaw, A Guide to Jewish Cracow, A Guide to Jewish Lublin, A Guide to Jewish Lodz, A Guide to Jewish Galicia, Bialystok and its Surroundings, Places of Jewish Martyrdom in Poland, A Guide to Jewish Poland. Price per volume is \$4.50 (+\$1.50 postage). If you order the whole collection, the price is \$3.50 per volume (+\$1.50 postage). Publisher Culture, Art and Business Jewish Publishing Agency, Imma, 111/110 Grojecha Street, Warsaw, Poland. Tel.. 48 22 6590871, 424275. Tlx: 813593, Fax: 200556. Checks to: Dr. Piotr Kowalski, 001-652 Warsaw, Potocka 8M121.

Useful address (also from *Shemot*): Jewish Information and Tourist Bureau, 12/16 Grzybowski Square, 00-104 Warsaw. Tel. 4822 200556. Housed in the premises of the Jewish Theatre.

MORE ON RUSSIAN CONSULAR RECORDS

So, you've gone through the Index to the Russian Consular Records and you've found some records that you want to research. What next? According to an article in the Spring, 1993 issue of *Shorashim*, you can either request microfilms of the records from the LDS Family History Library or send a mail request to the US Archives: Milton O. Gustafson, Chief, Civil Reference Branch, NNRC, Room 11--E, National Archives, Washington, DC 20408. You must provide all the information you found in the index: code number, name, consulate and box number, book or file number and page or document number. A positive reply usually asks for a check or money order of \$5.00. Upon receipt of the check or money order, the Archives will make a copy for you. They will reply whether or not they find the item (allow at least 2-3 weeks). The Fall, 1992 issue of *Avotaynu* has more information on the consular records.

BOOK REVIEW

Jewish Family Names & Their Origins: An Etymological Dictionary Heinrich W. & Eva H. Guggenheimer

1992 was a significant year for students of Jewish names. Avotaynu published Alexander Beider's landmark study *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*, and KTAV Publishing House published this Guggenheimer study of the etymology of Jewish names. We will review Guggenheimer in this review, but comparisons with Beider are inevitable because of the complementary nature of the two books.

Description of the Book

The introduction to Guggenheimer is a broad discussion of the origins and changes in Jewish names in light of Jewish history, geography, and languages. The introduction is followed by a necessary list of abbreviations, a bibliography, charts of non-Roman alphabets (Cyrillic, Arabic-Farsi, and Hebrew) and a chart of non-Roman symbols in the Polish, Czech, Romanian and Turkish alphabets.

The geographic scope of this work is largely complementary to Beider. Beider covers mainly Ashkenazic surnames in the western portion of the Russian Empire by using Russian-language lists from the first decade of the 20th century as the source of his names. Guggenheimer uses name lists predominantly from Germany, together with lists covering world-wide, Italian and Hebrew lists. The Guggenheimers include Sephardic, Hebrew, and Oriental, as well as Ashkenazic Jewish names in their volume. The Sephardic references cover the 17-18th Centuries and the German lists are mostly 19-20th Centuries including a number of *yizkor* books.

The Guggenheimers take a linguistic approach, as evidenced by the 22 dictionaries listed in their references. There are, however, no Yiddish dictionaries listed, and Yiddish roots are cited as middle-middle-German augmented by Sorbic (old Czech). There is no specific attempt to link names with the area where the name originated or was prevalent.

The dictionary is alphabetized by Roman alphabet. Names are listed under the root form of each name with family names related by patronymic, diminution, or by translation into other languages. Compound names are usually listed by the first root part. The listed names are also shown in their original characters, eg: Hebrew, Arabic, Cyrillic, Polish with pronunciations given in some undefined diacritical system.

Evaluation

This etymological dictionary takes only the first of the two steps necessary to produce a reference useful to genealogical researchers. The first step is the gathering of similar names under the root name and defining the probable origin of the name and its derivatives. The second, untaken, step would have been the contrasting of the forms the name takes and the attributing of different versions to a specific time and place. It helps the genealogist very little to know the thirty forms his name can have without being given the knowledge of where his particular form originates. [The particular strength of Beider is that he takes the second step.]

On first glance Guggenheimer seemed to have a very valuable feature—the printing of many names in Hebrew characters. This is very desirable for non-Hebrew or -Yiddish speaking researchers. On closer look this feature turns out to have some negative aspects. The Hebrew characters spell the name in Hebrew without vowels. Very few of the names, even those that are clearly Yiddish in origin, are written in Yiddish, and Hebrew may be ambiguous.

Take the listing of my surname Weiss. There is over a page of information and misinformation on the root name **Weis**, **Weiss** and its derivatives and compounds. (The name is pronounced “vise” and means “white” in German and in English.) It is not the same name as **Wiese**, which is pronounced “veese” and means “meadow”. It is confusing to have this different name included in the citation.

The Hebrew is given in Guggenheimer as וויס. [This would be pronounced “vees” or “vays” in Hebrew instead of “vice”. The name is Yiddish and is spelled ווייס in Yiddish and וייס in Hebrew. See any Israeli phonebook]. It would be preferable to spell Yiddish names in Yiddish and Hebrew names in Hebrew.

This strange denial of the Yiddish language and representing names in a somewhat ambiguous Hebrew raises other problems. In a note on misvocalization the name **Pinkwas** is attributed to a misvocalization of the Yiddish name פֿינקװס, which is pronounced “Pincus” in Yiddish. I wonder if the name **Pinkvas** shows up on any references, or if the issue arises only because of omission of the Yiddish in this book.

Jewish Family Names & Their Origins by Heinrich Guggenheimer and Eva Guggenheimer is an ambitious attempt to shed light on the meanings and origins of a wide variety of Jewish family names, but users should be prepared to verify information with other sources. The book is available for \$99.50 from KTAV Publishing House, Inc, 900 Jefferson Street, Box 6249, Hoboken NJ 07030-7205, 201-963-0102.

(Reviewed by Robert Weiss)

U.S. AND CANADIAN RESEARCH

NEW YORK STATE VITAL RECORDS INDEX

The New York State Health Department index to vital records outside of New York City may be consulted for marriages and deaths 1880-1943 and births 1881-1918 (except beginning in 1914 for Yonkers, Buffalo and Albany.) The index may be viewed at the New York State Archives in Albany, Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM. 518-474-8955.

It is now possible to have this index searched by mail by the New York State Archives, Research Services, Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230. A separate search is \$5.00 for up to 3 years and must be made on a vital Records Index Search Request Form. Applicants requesting a search of birth or marriage indexes must sign a statement that the individual named in the request is now deceased.

The response to a request will indicate the date, place and Department of Health certificate number for each event found in the index. Multiple events for the name searched will be indicated on the response, as will findings of no events. There will be no refunds for unsuccessful searches.

The State Archives does not have the actual birth, death and marriage records. Abstracts or copies for genealogical research are available, for a fee, from the local registrar of vital statistics or the New York State Department of Health.

Plans are underway to open a branch of the New York State Archives in Manhattan later this year. It is possible-but not guaranteed- that a copy of the vital records index will be made available at that time in New York City. Stay Tuned! (*Dorot*, Vol. 14 No. 3, Spring 1993)

NEW YORK CITY BIRTH INDEX TIPS

An article by Frederick A. Kolbrener in the Spring, 1993 issue of *Mishpacha* provides tips for searching the NYC birth indexes. The LDS Family History Library contains microfilmed indexes up to 1938 and microfilmed certificates up to about 1897.

The indexes are "soundexed, semi-alphabetic lists of names. The births are listed by SOUNDEX code, but certain similar sounding letters are mixed together.... Letters combined are C & K, I & E, J & Y, and S & Z." Kolbrener states that "all the births in a given SOUNDEX code are listed choronologi-cally by date of birth with multiple births on a given date being in certificate number order. Births that occurred at the end of a year often were numbered as a part of the following year. [For example, a July birth might have certificate number 27003 and an end of December birth might have certificate number 990 and the certificate would be found in the next year's records.] Be prepared for creative misspelling of your ancestor's name."

BOOK REVIEW

The Source

A Guidebook of American Genealogy Edited by Arlene Eakle & Johni Cerny

Although published in 1984, this large (786 pages) book is a valuable reference work that can guide the beginning genealogist to a more efficient use of record sources and suggest overlooked lines of inquiry to the more advanced researcher.

There are three main sections. Chapters within each section are written by one or more of sixteen professional genealogists. Each chapter has an extensive bibliography.

Part I, Major Record Sources, includes census, vital records, American court records and the like; Part II, Published Genealogical Sources, is a guide to city directories, newspapers, genealogical tools and indexes; and in Part III, Special Resources, the chapters titled *Tracking Immigrant Origins*, and *Jewish-American Research* are the most relevant to the Jewish genealogist.

In *Tracking Immigrant Origins* special collections and bibliographies are listed for many countries. For example, Eastern Europe includes the Hoover Institution at Stanford University for its East European collection, and the American Russian Institute in San Francisco for "manuscripts, printed volumes, maps, photographs and slides in Russian and English." Addresses are listed, but unfortunately phone numbers are not included.

Jewish-American Research starts with an overview of Jewish history and immigration patterns. There are then descriptions of Jewish synagogue records — minute books, account books, religious school registers, birth and circumcision records, Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation records, and marriage records. There are many reproductions of actual records, such as pages from the 1848-49 circumcision records of Temple Rodeph Shalom (Philadelphia) and from the 1885 Religious School Register of B'nai Jeshurun (New York City).

In the section on death, burial, cemetery and mortuary records, Jewish burial practices are explained. The author points out that there may be two kinds of records, cemetery association records as well as mortuary committee reports to the congregation's board of trustees.

There are brief discussions of many other subjects: Hamburg passenger lists, Jewish aid societies, yiskor books, and printed genealogies, as well as census records, naturalization records and ships' passenger lists which are covered in depth in other sections of the book. There is a table listing U.S. Jewish archives and their holdings. Again phone numbers are not included.

The lists at the end of the chapter of Jewish German, Polish and Hungarian record films available at Mormon libraries is out of date as filmings have been made since these lists appeared in *Toledot, The Journal of Jewish Genealogy* in 1977-8 (Polish records updated in 1984). Nevertheless, they are still useful as they include the numbers for the hundreds of films listed. The bibliography for this section indicates which books themselves have bibliographies.

The Source is a one-volume encyclopedia of genealogical information—a unique mixture of record sources listed and explained, guide to the research process, with helpful suggestions and bibliographies for American research from colonial times to 1910.

The Source is available for \$39.95 (\$34.95 for Ancestry Research Club members) plus \$3.50 S&H from Ancestry, P. O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. Orders may be placed to 800-ANCESTRY, or by FAX to 801-531-1798.

(Reviewed by Sita Likuski)

THE TRADITION OF ARRANGED MARRIAGES IN JEWISH FAMILIES Ralph G. Bennett, M.D.

Ralph G. Bennett, M.D. is a physician in Hayward, California. He first became interested in his family's history when he discovered that his wife's ancestors were among the first Dutch Jews who settled in Suriname, South America in the 1660's. From genealogy, his interests have broadened to involve scholarly studies in a number of other areas. Dr. Bennett has published over three dozen articles on medical subjects, history, Jewish genealogy, art history, anthropology, and economics.

A paleontologist is often called upon to decide upon the relationships among long-gone species, based solely on a fossil record that is often incomplete. In a similar manner, those of us interested in genealogy often have to reconstruct our ancestral family trees based on information that has come down to us, although that data may have a lot of holes in it. In such a case it is necessary to make use of every clue at our disposal to help fill in the blanks.

Numerous articles have been written about such topics as the naming traditions used by our ancestors. These naming patterns often provide the present-day researcher with a "logic" on which to base the assumption of who begat whom, even in the absence of definitive hard data. However, there is another almost universal past tradition that is rarely discussed in the context of tracing one's ancestors: arranged marriages. A closer study of

these contrived unions can prove invaluable in helping one to fill in the lacunae in a family tree. In fact, even in today's world, among people of East Indian origins, arrangement of marriages by the parents of the bride and groom is the accepted norm. "Marrying for love" seems definitely to be a 20th century institution created by Western culture. Therefore, knowledge about the factors that went into the making of arranged marriages in the past can prove essential in helping explain why some old branches of our family trees have come out the way they are.

For example, many of my wife's Jewish forebears came from The Netherlands, and I have found the Dutch, true to their stereotyped reputation, have lived up to their noted propensity for being extraordinarily neat. Therefore, old Dutch records have been meticulously preserved in many cases extending back to the 1600's. My wife Sherry's maiden name is Gomperts and, in reviewing the data I had assembled about her ancestral family tree, I found myself wondering why three of the children of her five times great grandfather, Gomperts Uziel, had married three of the children of a fellow townsman named Goedschalk Ruden. Another two of Gomperts Uziel's children married children of a man named Zublin. Why were there these multiple marriages among these three families? The answer was provided by an antique map, dated 1787, which showed that the three patriarchs of these families owned adjoining farms. Apparently, operating according to the old maxim that "the devil you know is better than the angel you don't know," Gomperts Uziel married off as many of his children as possible to the families of his neighbors, feeling that he was providing his progeny with spouses who were "a known quantity."

Another interesting fact that comes to light when one considers the tradition of arranged marriages is that, in bygone days, marriages between cousins was not only common, but often the preferred "way to go." In fact, since in olden times, couples often had as many as a dozen children, there was often a range as wide as 20 years between the oldest and youngest siblings so that marriages between aunt and nephew and niece and uncle were also common. These arrangements were made based on the belief that a marriage to one's relatives helped keep "the noble characteristics" in the family, to say nothing of preserving the family's wealth! Today we find this notion to be quite different from modern genetic counselling, which advises us not to intermarry closely with our own kin in order to avoid the possibility of recessive diseases among our offspring.

When one realizes that the tradition of arranged marriages was prevalent in the past, deducing past family relationships with previously

unusable information becomes more obvious. An illustration of this manipulation of knowledge can be shown within another branch of my wife's family. In this case, the parents of my wife's great grandfather, Salomon Israel Levie had migrated to an obscure old outpost of the Dutch colonial empire in South America known as Surinam. Surinam, also known as Dutch Guiana, was one of the many colonies that were a part of Holland's presence in the Caribbean region in earlier centuries. The Dutch Jewish community there was always small, but many of the records, unfortunately, have not survived, so piecing together the relationships among the families in this fairly isolated community has proved to be something of a puzzle.

In any case, I know that my wife's great grandparents, Salomon, the son of Israel Levie, married his bride, Sara, the daughter of Marcus Samson, in Surinam in 1752. Because the pool of young people available for marriage was small in this community that was so far off the beaten track, the old Jewish families of Surinam were intertwined like a braid. And, yet, although I had bits and pieces of records that extended back almost 200 years, there was no evidence of the Levie's and Samson's having intermarried before (although both families had been present in Surinam since the early 1700's). Therefore, I was wondering how it was that the marriage between these two happened to be arranged.

Also adding another piece to the puzzle is a portrait of Sara Marcus Samson, one of the prized possessions that has been passed down through the family, finally winding up in our possession. The inscription on the back of the painting indicates that it was made in Amsterdam by a rather famous Dutch artist, Harmanus Slothouwer, although the date is not given. The portrait, made in pastels, shows Sara as a young girl of about 20 richly dressed in a beautiful black lace formal gown. I had an intuitive feeling that the portrait bore some relationship to Sara's marriage to Salomon, but I couldn't, at first, figure out exactly what the connection was.

The portrait of Sherry's great grandmother has been hanging in our house for ten years, and during all this time I have been trying to figure out how it came to be painted. Recent genealogical evidence has come to light that seems to have provided the answer. Sara had an older brother, Salomon Marcus Samson (born in 1819) who was married in Surinam to an Annie Levie (born in 1821). Annie was the daughter of one Nathan Hartog Levie. In the 1840's this couple decided to go to Holland, and it seems clear that they took along Salomon's kid sister Sara.

In Holland, the teenage Sara must have gone to finishing school to acquire all the graces of an educated, wealthy, young Dutch lady of the time.

Perhaps she even stayed there as a student for a number of years. Eventually, with Sara approaching her 20th birthday, negotiations must have been in the works for her marriage. What more logical choice than her sister-in-law's first cousin, Salomon Israel Levie? Salomon's father, Israel Hartog Levie, had died in 1843 at the age of 78, and so the patriarchy of his family now belonged to his younger brother, Nathan Hartog Levie.

In 1850, when Sara was 19 years old and of the age to be considering marriage, her family, following the customs prevailing at the time, was looking within its own ranks to find a suitable fiancé for her. Sara's brother, Solomon Marcus Samson, was already married to Annie Levie. Thus, it would be only natural for the Samson family to turn to Annie's father, Nathan, to find their young lady a mate. According to tradition, Nathan Hartog Levie chose his nephew, Solomon Israel Levie.

The portrait of Sara Marcus Samson may have been painted to send back by ship to Surinam in order to show the Levie family what the grown-up Sara looked like. Salomon Israel Levie, as the Hazzan of the Jewish community, was obviously the apple of his family's eye, therefore, his relatives wanted to make certain that he was going to be getting a presentable looking bride. It follows that the picture was an engagement token, and probably a part of the complex ritual of arranged marriages prevalent during that period.

This example once again shows the "logic" that lay behind all of the arranged marriages of the time. Each family tried its best to contract unions for its younger generation that were advantageous financially and either matched their own status or exceeded it. Almost always a family would look first within their own ranks, believing that this would be, in the long run, the most beneficial to the family as a unit.

If, in your own family tree, you find some blank spots that need filling in, remember to look at the close relatives, in-laws and neighbors of your forebears. You just might be able to "fill in the blank" with a great deal of accuracy by remembering some of the prevailing customs of the time, such as naming patterns and contracted marriages.

COLORADO VITAL RECORDS

The new address to obtain birth and death certificates is Colorado Department of Health, Division of Vital Records, Glendale Office, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado 80222; 303-692-2200. Copies are \$12 for the record or search of record, if none is found. [Colorado Genealogical Society Newsletter 17:1 January 1993] (FGS *FORUM*; Spring 1993 via *Santa Clara County Hist. & Gen. Soc. Newsletter*, Vol. 35 No. 8, May 1993)

READERS' PAGE

BATYA

By Dana Kurtz

Like many of us, I had been told that 'there was no other family, just those who left the Shtetl before the Holocaust'. Then I found five letters written in the early 1950s to my grandfather, **David Kurtz** from **Manes Babchuk**. They were postmarked Ramat Gan, Israel, and written in Yiddish. My great-grandmother's maiden name was Babchuk. I knew only of her siblings who immigrated to the U.S. from **Berezna, Ukraine**, before 1918, and their father's name, **Haskel Babchuk**. Translations of the letters told me that Manes had a sick, young son, and was in need of money for doctors and household goods. As my grandfather died before I was born, I had no one to answer "who was he?"

I had read of Batya Unterschatz in Jerusalem, whose Jewish Agency-Search Bureau for Missing Relatives tries to reconnect families. On recommendation of Bob Weiss, I wrote her, with the lowest of expectations, enclosing copies of the letters and the only tenuous clue I had: Another Babchuk had emigrated from Berezna to **Argentina** in 1933. Who was Manes? If he was still alive, he had to be past eighty years of age. His letters had indicated that his son was very ill, perhaps he did not survive. Was there any trace of this family?

I mailed my letter on October 8, 1993. On October 22, I received a note from Batya saying "I spoke to Manes and **Hanna Babchuk**. They are the people you are looking for. Manes remembers David Kurtz and he is from Berezna." She included their address and telephone number in Jerusalem. I wrote that afternoon, trying not to ask too many questions while eager to understand our connection. In my zeal for a response, I suggested they write back in Hebrew, if it would be easier, and I would find someone to translate for me.

It has been difficult to keep myself from running to the mailbox each day. I frequently remind myself that six weeks is a very short time and patience is the hallmark of a genealogist. Saturday, January 8, a blue aerogram arrived with the return address of '**Leah Babchuk Sharon**, Jerusalem'. It was written in Hebrew, and after "L'Dafna Hadassah, Shalom", I recognized few words. My good fortune placed the parents of a friend in San Francisco for a visit from Tel Aviv. With their help, I have "met" my third cousin once removed, daughter of 82 year old Manes, grandnephew of Haskel. She has a daughter in the army and a son in school. Her brother, who survived his childhood illness, has four daughters. Manes had been conscripted into the Russian Army and escaped the massacre of the Jews of Berezna. Sadly, he has

begun to forget many things and my direct link to Berezna may be fading.

I hope to meet a group of Berezna survivors in Israel who meet annually for a Day Of Remembrance and learn more about a town of which I know so little. The most wonderful outcome will, of course, be getting to know Leah and my long lost cousins, who know nothing of their extended family. They will be surprised to learn of the 317 relatives I track.

I cannot fully express my gratitude to Batya. She charges no fee, asking only donations to defray her costs. Her attention, interest and devotion are unique and often facilitate miraculous results. Even when connections are not completed her efforts are remarkable. (I also sought a "Tobie" Babchuk, born about 1898, who married a "Bilenko" and moved to Israel. She found a **Zelda and Michael Bilenki**, from Berezna, born 1895, died childless in 1964 in Tel Aviv. Not a definite identification, but worth persuing. This took Batya only 2 weeks.)

I learn over and over never to ignore passing comments and sweeping assertions as they often hold clues to puzzles we thought had no solution. I am thankful for the opportunity Batya Unterschatz has provided me, offer my deepest appreciation, and wish her only the best.

FAMILY FINDER

Arthur Golnick, 98 Sycamore Circle, Stony Brook, NY 11790, 516-751-6421, Searching Rabbinic families of **Novogradok**, **Berestovitsa**, **Mir**, **Korelichi**, and **Kletsch**, **Belarus** **RABBI DAVID**, 1769-1836, Rabbi of **Novogradok** 1797-1836, born in **Kletsch**, son of **MOSHE** and **LEAH**, father of **RABBI MOSHE**, Rabbi of **Korelichi**, who died at age 30 and whose wife was the daughter of **MORDECHAI HUROWITZ** of **Minsk**. Rabbi **DAVID** had sons-in-law: **JACOB JOSEPH** of **Vladnik**, **BEN ZION** (who had a son **TZEMACH**), and **YITZCHAK RABINOWITZ** son of **CHAIM** and father of **RABBIS SHMUEL** (1820-1908) and **AVROM RABINOWITZ** of **Novogradok**. **RABBI ELIEAZER** (1735-1828) Rabbi of **Berestovitsa**, father of **RABBI ELIJAH** (1757-1828) Rabbi of **Mir**, and father-in-law of **RABBI DAVID**. **DAVID RABINOWICH**, son of **RABBI AVROM** of **Novogradok**, was in **Moscow** and **Warsaw**.

Anna Olswanger, 7117 Harps Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27615, 919-870-0555 Searching **ALSCHWANGER / OLSCHWANGER** family of **Kretinga**, **Varniai**, and **Kovno**, **Lithuania**, later of **St. Louis**, **MO**. Also ancestors of **BORIS SCHATZ**, founder of the **Bezalel Art Academy**, of **Varniai**, **Lithuania**.

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.

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