



CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

דברי הימים



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REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR CHRONICLES TEAM

The Summer IAJGS Conference in Washington, DC was well attended by JGSGP members, with nearly thirty of us there for at least some of the week-long event.

For most of us, the opportunity to focus foremost on our personal genealogical quests was the main reason to attend. We were excited by the atmosphere, learned from experts, networked with other genealogists and shared our knowledge with others as small mitzvot.

The conference was well organized at the downtown Grand Hyatt Hotel. Volunteers from the host society, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) provided great support by assisting attendees with everything from translations of archival documents to advice on how to use the reading room as well as technical and computer help and guides for trips offsite.

The conference presented opportunities for research, many of which were unique to the Washington, DC area. Some of us took the opportunity to visit the National Archives collections or the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the only repository in the U.S. which offers access to the Red Cross' International Tracing Service (ITS) archives which are also not available online.

JGSGW also arranged opportunities for conference attendees to visit the embassies of Poland, France, Ukraine, and Israel. Embassy staff members gave presentations designed to enhance our understanding of their respective countries and foreign and domestic policies. They also provided insight

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JGSGP MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please make checks payable to JGSGP and mail to the address below. Please include your email address and zip+4 code.

Annual Dues (January 1 - Dec. 31)
Individual..... \$25
Family of two, per household.....\$35
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Submission of articles on genealogy for publication in *CHRONICLES* is enthusiastically encouraged. The editorial board reserves the right to decide whether to publish an article and to edit all submissions. Please keep a copy of your material. Anything you want returned should be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

While email and other electronic files are highly preferred, the editors will be happy to work with you and your material in any form. If you have an idea, please contact Evan Fishman of the Editorial Board by email: editor@jgsgp.org or by phone at 856-667-2077.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - ADDRESS CHANGE

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**WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Susan Neidich
Meryl Rizzotti
Laurie Steuri

Jenkintown, PA
Beverly Hills, CA
Boston, MA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to report that our membership is growing. We have taken many steps recently to increase our membership. Our monthly meetings have been well attended with many new faces attending. We have had a variety of speakers on different topics of interest to our genealogy community.

Our website is now being hosted by our society. You can find us at www.jgsgp.org. We will be adding many new features to the website in the future. You can now find meeting information, current projects and links to many helpful sites. You can also download or view our latest editions of *Chronicles*.

We now have a Facebook page as well. If you are on Facebook you can find us at "Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia." The Facebook group is a great way to communicate with our members. You can ask questions and I am sure you will get a prompt reply.

We now have a "Speakers Bureau" if you wish to have a member of our society speak at your synagogue or other venue on various topics.

We are also moving our meetings to different parts of the city and suburbs. We are also moving some meetings to Sunday afternoons. Our next meeting will be Sunday December 4th from 1:00 - 3:00 at Main Line Reform Temple in Wynnewood, PA. Check our website for more information.

Fred Blum - President

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We would love to hear comments, suggestions and responses to the articles in *Chronicles*.

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to editor@jgsgp.org and should include your name and email address. All letters are subject to editing for length, content, etc. Unpublished letters can be neither acknowledged nor returned.

**COORDINATOR NEEDED
FOR DELAWARE COUNTY
/MAIN LINE AFFILIATE**

After much consideration, I have decided the time has come for me to return to the active pursuit of research into my family genealogy. In order to concentrate more fully on this project, I am retiring as Coordinator of the Delaware County/Main Line Affiliate of the JGSGP effective immediately. It has been a delightful and educational journey for me that covered more than a decade; however, other horizons are waiting to be explored. Anyone who is interested in continuing this Affiliate into the coming years, please contact one of the JGSGP Board members.

See you at the JGSGP general meetings.

Shelda Sandler

(The JGSGP board respectfully but regretfully accepts Shelda's resignation after serving at the helm of the Delaware County/Main Line Affiliate for more than ten years. She's done a fantastic job of arranging and offering quality presentations for residents interested in genealogy from those areas. She'll be happy to guide and assist a new coordinator in order to provide for a smooth transition).

Please contact any officer if you are interested in volunteering to take over or assist in coordinating the Delaware County / Main Line Affiliate.

**JEWISH HERITAGE JOURNEY
FOR ACTIVE ADULTS**

From Poland to Israel June 3 - 20, 2012

Cost: \$5650 p/p Double Occupancy

Initial \$500 Deposit to reserve your spot today!

Package includes:

Airfare, 7 nights Poland/8 nights Israel (4 star and boutique hotels, 28 meals, entrance fees, guide, driver, portage and Trip Tik.

Complete itinerary and further details at JCC adult office located across from Sanders Memorial Library.

Contact Gilah Lewis Sietz, Adult Department Satellite Coordinator at 856-795-1678 or gert@infosheet.com for further details.

WWW.KATZJCC.ORG



(Continued from Page 1)

into the past and present situation of Jews there. Since the German Embassy was undergoing renovation, a representative made a presentation at the conference hotel.

Other attendees took walking tours of “Jewish” Washington, which opened our eyes to the historical organized Washington Jewish community; its synagogues, businesses, contributions and presence in our nation’s capital from the beginnings of the 19th century.

We look forward to receiving articles from attendees describing your experiences and sharing your successes with our readers. Please consider writing about where you did research, what you found, with whom you connected, and what directions your research is taking you in light of your experience. ❖

JGSGP MEMBER ORGANIZES TRIP TO EASTERN EUROPE

As you know, I have become a travel bug in the last few years. After traveling to Europe three times in the past four years, I have decided to utilize my knowledge of European history, the Holocaust, genealogy and the region in a fun way. I have joined with an educational tour company called EF Tours to offer a really cool vacation trip.

David and I traveled with EF to Italy in July and have teacher friends in other states who have run very successful trips through EF.

My trip will run in late June 2012 and basically mimics the one I took in 2008, and from which I returned a convert to the joys of traveling in Europe. It includes Berlin, Prague, Krakow (including a side trip to Auschwitz) and Budapest. If you have ever thought about visiting Europe but have never had the chance, here it is, all inclusive (air, hotel, 2 meals/day, tours, ground transportation) and is offered at an excellent value. The link fo my trip is www.eftours.com/1051900 Please check it out and let me know if you are interested or have any questions!

I hope to have a good turnout for this and can't wait for you to see the castles and cobblestoned streets that I fell in love with. Hope to hear from you! ❖

Felicia Mode Alexander (fmode@verizon.net)
(JGSGP has no connection with either the tour companies or organizers; this serves only as a notice about private tours for your information)

NEWS FOR GENEALOGISTS

2011 FALL GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOPS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT PHILADELPHIA
Located on Chestnut Street between 9th and 10th Sts.
All events are free and held from 12 noon to 2:00 pm
Register by email: philadelphia.archives@nara.gov or by calling: 215-606-0100.

Friday, November 4, 2011 - Presentation by Anastasia Harman, the lead family historian for Ancestry.com. Let us know what you would like Anastasia to cover!

Wednesday, December 14, 2011 - with Beth Bensman
Genealogical Resources on the Internet
This class will be taught by an instructor; students will not have computer access. ❖

1940 U.S. CENSUS RECORDS TO BE FREE

The 1940 U.S. census records will be released by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration on April 2, 2012. That’s less than five months from now. Best of all, the more than 3.8 million original document images containing 130 million-plus records will be available to everyone free of charge.

To be sure, not everything will be available on April 2. Not only are the records unavailable to genealogists prior to April 2, [but] those records are also unavailable to indexers and unavailable to the companies that host the records online. EVERYONE gains access on April 2. The companies involved in making the records available online will require several months to digitize and index the records and then to make them available online. I would look for the records to become available online within days but without indexes. The indexes will probably be added around June or July. If you are looking for ancestors in any town or city of significant size, you will want the indexes.

Ancestry.com has already pledged to make the 1940 census records available online free of charge through the end of 2013. One will be able to search more than 45 fields, including name, gender, race, street address, county and state, and parents’ places of birth.

Other online sites also will offer the same records online, although with different indexes and with different search cri-

THE SEARCH FOR THE NAME OF MY GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER

by Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler

Part I – Background Information

Much of the fun of searching for our ancestors is detective work and putting together the pieces of the puzzle. Sometimes, it can be easy. At other times, it seems to be impossible to find that missing piece of the puzzle. I am facing that frustration now.

My great-great-grandfather's name was Aron Isak ("Itsche"/"Arnitcha") Aptowitzer. His mother's name was Feige; however, there are neither documents nor oral history which record the name of his father. Aron Isak was married to Rojze, surname unknown. The Aptowitzer family lived in Zborow and various nearby towns/villages in Tarnopol Wojewodztwa, Galicia in present-day Ukraine. Aron Isak and Rojze Aptowitzer were the parents of my great-grandfather, Eljukim Aptowitzer, who was the father of my maternal grandfather, Simon. My grandfather was born in 1888 in the town/village of Tzetziv (Cecowa), near the town of Zborow.

An abundance of documentation can be found on JRI-Poland to confirm the family's history from the late 1800's to 1900. My problem is going back to the early part of the 19th century where there is no oral or documented history. Oral history also tells us that Aron Isak had a brother named Benzion and at least seven other siblings...names unknown. I believe the names of these "unknown" siblings are imperative to help with the search. This is part of my dilemma. I'm stuck and need documentation which, to date, I have not been able to locate.

Part II – DNA Testing

Now I come to another part of my dilemma. Some of my information is documented; some of it is oral history; much of it is speculation. I have become acquainted with an Aptowitzer family that could be another branch of my Aptowitzer family. That family also lived in Tarnopol, Galicia; however, they do not know whether their ancestors are from the town of Tarnopol or from a town in Tarnopol Wojewodztwa. Their grandfather, Yitzhok Aptowitzer, was born in 1887, which makes him a peer of my grandfather. They can trace back one more generation to Yitzhok's father, whose name was Chaim Nute Aptowitzer. Chaim Nute Aptowitzer lived in the generation of my great-grandfather, Eljukim Aptowitzer.



teria. FamilySearch will have the records available free of charge forever.

Having different indexes is a great benefit as errors are common in all indexes. Having two or more versions of the records available makes it easy to compare one version against the other version(s), greatly increasing the probability of finding the information you seek.

You can find more information about the release of the 1940 census on the National Archives and Records Administration's website at www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/index.html

You can also find 1940 census Enumeration Districts, a census street finder, and more at Steve Morse's One-Step Genealogy site at <http://stevemorse.org/> ❖

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

There is also a Chaim Nute in my Aptowitzer family, a first cousin of my grandfather.

Because the “paper trail” has apparently ended, I delved into a new phase of genealogical research. I turned to DNA testing to help determine whether there can be a relationship between the two families, and, if so, would we be able to find the common ancestor.

My mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA) already had been tested; however, as a female, I am not a candidate to test for Y-DNA. When I spoke with the people at Family Tree DNA and told them neither my mother nor I have brothers, I was asked about my grandfather. I told them my grandfather and his only brother are deceased. I was then asked if his brother had any sons. Yes, he had two sons. They, too, are deceased. However, each of those sons had a son. Either one of them would be a candidate for Y-DNA testing.

I contacted one of my male cousins, a grandson of my grandfather’s brother; and I explained about DNA testing for genealogy and the possibility of DNA identifying another branch of our family tree. My cousin (who, for the purpose of confidentiality, I’ll refer to as “R”) agreed to be my “stand-in.” The results of his Y-DNA test would become the standard for comparison. My next step was to contact (“M”), a male member of the other Aptowitzer family. After explaining about DNA testing to help us determine whether we are related, he also agreed to submit a sample of his DNA.

When the results of the 12-marker Y-DNA tests came back and were compared, we found that the Y-DNA of both men were close but not exact matches. Family Tree DNA recommended an upgrade to the 25-marker test, which was done with the consent of “R” and “M.” The results of the additional 13 markers showed the probability of a relationship; however, the chance of us finding a common ancestor within a genealogical time frame is relatively small. Even so, I am determined to continue my search with the premise that somehow these Aptowitzer families are related and will perhaps lead me to the name of my great-great-great-grandfather.

Part III – A Death Document

While searching JRI-Poland after the latest update of birth, death, and marriage records, I figuratively “stumbled upon” the death record of a Benzion Abtowitz (sic). Because spelling was not an issue in that time and place, and because the letters “b” and “p” sound similar, the glitch in spelling was of no concern to me. Could this be the death record of Aron Isak’s

brother? I ordered the record, translated what I could, and got help for the words I could not understand. I learned from the document that Benzion was from Zborow (the town of my ancestors). He died in Zloczow in 1902 at the age of 74 years and was buried in that town. I did the math. Benzion was born circa 1828. Based on the year of birth of my great-grandfather, Eljukim, and considering thirty years per generation, I can place Aron Isak’s birth circa 1819. The nine-year difference between the siblings is realistic. Had I actually found the death record of Aron Isak’s brother?

On the death record, Benzion Abtowitz’s mother’s name is recorded as Feigi (sic). My great-great-great-grandmother’s name was Feige. Feige, however, is too common a name for me to automatically believe that Benzion’s mother and Aron Isak’s mother is the same person. On the same document, the name of Benzion Abtowitz’s father is recorded as Nathana Nuty (sic). Could Nathana Nuty and Chaim Nute be the same person? The oldest Chaim Nute to whom I can trace, as previously noted, is my maternal grandfather’s first cousin, born in Zborow in 1883. Was my grandfather’s cousin named in memory of a relative in his mother’s family (the Aptowitzer family), or was he named in memory of someone in his father’s family? Are Benzion Abtowitz who died in Zloczow in 1902 and Aron Isak brothers? If so, is the name of my great-great-great-grandfather Nathana Nute (or perhaps Chaim Nute)? Have I found the missing piece of the puzzle? Has my search come to a successful conclusion?

I contacted my cousin Nathan, whose great-grandmother was a sister of my great-grandfather, Eljukim Aptowitzer. Nathan’s Hebrew name is Chaim Nute. He told me he is named in memory of his grandfather, my grandfather’s first cousin. I asked him if he knows for whom his grandfather is named. His response was that he thought, but he is not positive, his grandfather was named in memory of HIS grandfather. That does not “work” on the Aptowitzer line, because the grandfather of Chaim Nute is Aron Isak. Could Nathan’s grandfather have been named in memory of his paternal grandfather? Perhaps there was someone on the paternal side who was named Nute or Chaim Nute! Up to this time, I had been concentrating on Chaim Nute’s maternal line (the Aptowitzer family). My next step was to search JRI-Poland using the paternal surname. I found four Nutes who were born between 1874 and 1895. That did not help me.

So far, the documentation I have leads to more questions with no answers. I have oral history which may be incorrect. To add to the dilemma, while searching JRI-Poland for the “umpteenth” time, I came across a birth record for a Chaim Nathan Lina, born 1879 in the town of Kozlow in Tarnopol Wojewodztwa. His

mother, Malke Aptowitz, was from Plaucza Mala, also located in Tarnopol Wojewodztwa. On that document, Malke's parents are recorded as Abraham and Sara Brana Aptowitz. I do not know who these people are. It is the baby's given name which intrigues me. Malke could be one of the "unknown" siblings of Aron Isak. I have no way of knowing if that is so.

Aptowitz is not a common surname, and the given name Chaim Nute appears in both families whose Y-DNA was tested. If the records were to go back even one more generation, and/or if I could locate a census record from the early 1800's with the name of Aron Isak's parents and siblings named, perhaps I would find some answers. However, queries to archives in Warsaw and Ukraine proved futile. It seems that I have hit the proverbial brick wall.

What I do have for certain are three similar given names of people who lived in the same area of Galicia and either had the Aptowitz surname or came from an Aptowitz line on the maternal side: Nathana Nuty, Chaim Nute, and Chaim Nathan. Is this merely coincidence, or is there a familial relationship between them? At this point in time, I have a hypothesis and need the all-important proof to back it up! ❖

[Author's note]

Does anyone have suggestions about where or how I might locate Galician documents from the early to the middle years of the 1800's? To date, my efforts have proved fruitless.

Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler, an active member of JGSGP can be contacted at stanshel@msn.com

THE SMALL WORLD OF JEWISH GENEALOGY

by David Mink

When I first started to build my family tree, about five years ago, I was constantly searching JewishGen for Mink, Minkowsky, Menkovski, etc. Most of the hits led nowhere, but I did meet a Ron Mink from South Africa online. This contact would later reveal a side of my mother's family that lives in Philadelphia and had survived the Holocaust.

After a few email exchanges with Ron Mink, we established we were not related. His family name was always Mink and was not shortened from Minkowsky as was mine. His ancestors originated in Latvia, mine in the Kiev Gubernia.

Turn the clock to June 2009. Preparations are in full gear for the 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Philadelphia. I am also busy helping my son reopen the Oyster House after a year of renovations. There is a knock on the restaurant door and in walks Ron Mink and his wife. Their son-in-law had just joined the University of Pennsylvania Hospital and moved to Philadelphia from Johannesburg. We chatted over coffee about who we were and what we knew about our ancestors. Our one dimensional internet relationship became three dimensional. Ron regretted that he could not attend the conference in August because, as director of his Hebrew School, he had to prepare for the upcoming school year. We parted marveling how Jewish genealogy had brought together, face to face, two unrelated Minks- one from Philadelphia, one from Johannesburg.

Fast forward to this past fall. I get a call from the restaurant that a Len Huber wants to speak to me. Huber was my maternal grandmother's maiden name. My genealogy antennae were twitching. I knew of no Hubers living in the United States. I called him back and we made plans to meet. Len has been living in Philadelphia for over 60 years. I asked him how he came to call us - He said, "Well, it happened at a malfunctioning coffee maker at University of Pennsylvania Hospital's Pain Management Clinic." His wife, Rhea was being treated at the time, and Len started talking to a man trying to make a cup of coffee. Len was intrigued by his accent and after asking some questions, found out that his name was Ron Mink. Len asked if he knew a David Mink and surprisingly he said "Yes". Len knew it was time to contact me. It was *bashert*. Although I felt strongly that there was a family connection, Len was not sure. He knew my grandmother as Doby Pseny and had no knowledge that her maiden name was the same as his.

Our first meeting uncovered some very interesting facts:

1. Len and his family immigrated to the US from a DP camp in Germany in 1949.
2. My grandmother had sponsored them and they lived with her for a few weeks after their arrival.
3. HIAS served as the agency to facilitate the immigration.

The most startling moment happened while we were going through a box of my grandmother's photos. There were lots of pictures from Poland, Argentina, Mexico, and many contain Yiddish inscriptions on the reverse side. We were going through them to see if we recognized anybody. Then Len looked at a picture in amazement and said, "Where did this come from?" It was a picture of Len with his parents taken

in 1947 at the DP Camp. The inscription on the back (in Yiddish) was “This photo is sent to you as a remembrance of our son’s 9th birthday from the Huber family. I am sending this to our beloved Pseny family. [Neu] Freiman [Germany] March 15, 1947.

We are definitely related!



Now I needed to have all the inscriptions translated. This was accomplished for a small fee by Rita Ratson, a Yiddish language teacher at Gratz College. The results were unbelievable. There was a picture of my grandfather’s two nieces taken in 1938 with an inscription pleading for him to send a ticket to America. I don’t know what happened to this family. There were pictures from Velvl Huber of his mother, sister and brother who all perished in the Holocaust. He sent them from the DP Camp Neu Freiman in 1947.

Names were now put on several faces. Three different branches of Hubers came to light. And now I am researching these branches to connect them to the family tree. Len and I are still working on finding our common relatives but

at least our families are reunited. And this whole discovery of my grandmother’s side came about by two unrelated Minks, a pain clinic, a broken coffee machine, and of course, Jewish genealogy. ❖

David Mink is a member of JGSGP and served as Co-Chair of the 2009 IAJGS Conference hosted by JGSGP in Philadelphia. Contact David at: daminker@aol.com



David Mink (l) and Len Huber

ONE FABULOUS FAMILY REUNION

by Fred Blum with Jane Jasner Emanuel

Back in August 2003 Jane Jasner Emanuel (4th cousin-in-law) and I double-handedly created a one-of-a-kind family reunion! We’re a great team by virtue of our past experience as reunion planners: Jane had organized the first ever adult reunion for her old summer camp (Indian Lake, Bushkill, PA), and I had put together Northeast [Philadelphia] High School Class of 1967’s reunion. We also enlisted the help of our cousin Allan from Winnipeg who did the writing and developed the website.

Jane and I had worked together for years assembling the SCHRAGE family tree, and I was anxious to gather the clan. Our situation was somewhat unique in that many of us had never even heard of each other, so we wanted to en-

tice people scattered across the U.S. and as far away as Canada, Australia and Israel with interesting activities as well as plenty of visiting time. Here's what we did...

1) Why and What. We decided our reunion was probably a one-time event. We hoped people would learn more about their family and find a few new cousins. When planning a reunion, it's important to consider your objectives carefully, such as frequency and location, all of which affect many planning decisions.

2) Where and When. Philadelphia was too hot and Winnipeg too cold, but San Francisco seemed just right... A great city to visit and Jane was there to handle local logistics. We decided on a 3-day weekend in August since most attendees would be traveling long distances and could bring children for a vacation.

3) Timeline. We started planning almost a year in advance. Plan early to reserve a block of hotel rooms and private rooms in restaurants, schedule printing and mailing dates, etc. Make early financial projections and keep revising. Be prepared to front some money and add enough costs to your event tickets to cover extras such as souvenirs, programs, goody bags, etc.

4) We sent a reunion announcement/survey to our mailing list ten months ahead to determine if there was enough interest to continue. We asked recipients: a) if they were a "yes/no/maybe" for the reunion, b) if they were interested in several envisioned events; c) explained hotel rates; and d) asked how many rooms they would need. We also asked for suggestions for activities, updates in each branch of the family, and what memorabilia they might be able to bring. We urged them to respond, (even if they weren't planning on attending), with an update of family members and email addresses. We asked for a response in thirty days and enclosed a return envelope. Email contact was main-



tained.

5) Invitations and reservation forms were mailed in early June with a July 30 deadline. Another email, with finalized activity plans, contact phone numbers, directions to the hotel, etc. went out the first week of August. A welcome letter, with times and places to meet, was distributed at the first meal.

6) Main event and mementos: 126 people attended including six from Israel! Our Saturday night banquet was a sit-down dinner. We assigned seating by age range.



Our Schrage family logo was designed by a family member and featured the Hebrew shin (for "S" in Schrage); because "Shraga" means "candle" we affixed a logo decal to a votive candle at each place setting. We also had a printed program and a complete Family Treemaker descendants outline for each person. I produced a 35 ft. continuous paper printout of our entire family tree, which we taped along a very long wall in the banquet room, and we provided pencils for people to make additions and corrections. (That turned out to be a great icebreaker!)

We had games for the kids, including a family bingo game. Speakers outlined our family history. Awards were given for longest marriage, most grandkids, same given names as the oldest ancestors, etc. We had a scanner on hand to scan photos people brought to share for our family story CD.

7) Other events: A motorized cable car tour of San Francisco, a trip to Alcatraz, dinner at a restaurant at Fisherman's Wharf, and a Sunday casual breakfast.

8) What would we have done differently? Not a thing!❖

We are happy to share more ideas, letters, games, etc., and we recommend you order Louise St. Denis' book, *Planning a Fabulous Family Reunion*, at www.genealogystore.com

Fred Blum currently serves as President of JGSGP. Contact Fred at: fred@brservices.com and cousin Jane Jasner Emanuel: jmanuel10@yahoo.com

PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY PHOTOS

by Marge Farbman

Did you inherit a large box of old photos from your parents or other family member? Or, have you amassed your own box of photos covering the last 20 or more years? Do you have those quick and easy photo albums from the 70's? . . . Just place your pictures on the sticky page and smooth down the plastic cover, and now the photos have faded to nothingness when you want to show your grandchildren what their parents looked like at the same age? I have all of the above! But, I've done some simple things to help preserve the life of those photos and to integrate them into my family so that they will not be thrown away, unloved, in the future.

Perhaps the easiest group of photos to work with is the current one... maybe the last 5-10 years worth! Most of mine are grandchildren's pictures. The older children's pictures are in traditional boxes, filed by year and labeled by child, event or at least date and place. I invested in photo-safe boxes of acid-free, buffered, archival heavy weight cardboard or inert, heavy weight, black plastic. They were on the expensive side, but I wanted the photos to last, and I wanted to be able to retrieve them when the kids called the night before the project was due, frantic for pictures of themselves as babies, at a particular holiday, with their siblings, etc,etc,etc!

My recent pictures are all digital. Their box is flatter and electronic. . . my laptop or my external backup hard drives. With eight grandchildren whose parents are all electronic geeks, you can imagine how many photos come across the internet. How wonderful to see that pumpkin smile just minutes after the tooth falls out, or how the birthday outfit that I searched for is just perfect and being worn to school immediately or the winning swing of the bat at softball. But, there are thousands of photos. How do I manage them? I found a relatively simple photo management program and I catalogue them same as the cardboard box system... date, place or event, child.

The most difficult boxes to work with are the really old photos, the ones that were kept in a basement or attic where the heat and humidity and possibly leaky pipes or dust and insects have begun to destroy the images. In our families the tradition developed that as we sat shiva, someone would get the boxes of photos from their hiding place and we would all sit around the table and go through them. Usually

I was assigned the job of writing who the people were on the back with a pencil. If one of us knew where the picture was taken or what the occasion was, I added that too. Then there were the pictures of people whose names we couldn't remember. Those we put in a separate pile and asked everyone who came over the following days for help in identifying them. In the end, we catalogued by decades and person in envelopes and boxes, and each of us took the ones we wanted. I can't speak for my cousins, but more than 75% of my boxes have been put into albums that we all look through from time to time.

Here are some tips for getting a handle on your photos to preserve them for future generations and for adding them to your family tree whether on the computer or on paper.

- Bring "the Box" into your living space. Get it out of the basement or attic and store in a dry, temperate, dark closet or drawer.
- For photos on your computer, back up those files! Get an external hard drive and load them onto it. Get several if you have tons of photos. Rotate or permanently store the hard drives to another location like your office or bank vault.
- We, well, my husband, also puts photos onto a CD when we download from our cameras or the kids send the latest photo or two via the internet. Some of my friends store their photos on "the cloud" with services that give you off-site storage, just in case. Fees are inexpensive but the uploading is slow. It is another layer of preservation.
- Don't save the blurry or not very good photos. They are not going to improve with age, and you will never use them in a photo album or digital album. And really, how many shots of the same scene do you really need to keep. Be ruthless. Get rid of the bad pictures.
- Here's a novel idea for pictures on your computer! The ones that make you smile and make your heart happy; print them. Put them in a frame, on the wall or a table where you will see them every day. . . and smile. My favorite pictures of the grandchildren are on a shelf at the top of the stairs, and every time I go down or come up, I smile. There they are at all different ages; I see how they are growing, maturing, growing to look like each other... the family genes popping up across all four families, and my heart smiles.
- The old photos: sort them by decades or longer. Use clothing, cars, and buildings in the background to help you place them in time. You might want to sort before and after a certain date. As we get more distance from the time in a photo, it is not so critical that we get the date exactly right! In Europe – in America; before they lived in "X" and after "X".
- Take the opportunity of any family gathering to record the family stories. Ask the elders to tell you about the people

and incidents shown in a photo. The who, what, when, where, why, & how, to be passed down with the photos. Let the children listen and comment, ask questions, and ask for more stories. Take a “digital voice recorder”/DVR formerly known as a “tape recorder!” and get those stories.

Besides the damage done by heat and humidity, dirt and insects, chemicals and acids in papers, perhaps the biggest foe of photo preservation is “the Box” itself. That overwhelming pile of photos, unidentified and undated keeps us from beginning; each succeeding generation becomes more disconnected, more liable to be thrown out. If you can identify and date and file them in photo-safe boxes, even if you never do another thing with them other than look at them from time to time and tell the stories, you will do much to preserve your family history. The next generations will be able to find the faces of the past and discover just who their precious child looks like, where his cleft chin or the red hair came from. We finally have four or five generations of family who have lived in freedom in America. Preserve those faces along with the faces from the old country and the stories to help your children and future generations appreciate how lucky we are. Let the kids of all ages help to sort and organize and learn the stories, the history. It is fun and a great way to pass on the family history. If you need help getting started with your box, let me know. I will help you preserve your family faces. ❖

New JGSGP member, Marge Farbman is a specialist in the care of photographs and memorabilia. She offers classes in caring for your material.

Contact Marge at: margefarb@aol.com or 610-291-8988

WHAT'S NEW AT JRI-POLAND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON, DC IAJGS CONFERENCE

by Mark Halpern

Cooperation with Polish State Archives

The Board of JRI-Poland is really encouraged with the news from Poland. We expect to be signing new agreements with the Polish State Archives (PSA) later this year. These agreements will re-start indexing and renew the order processing system - one that will be even more efficient than the one we had in the past.

Some of you may not be familiar with what had transpired in the past five years that has made this news so exciting.

In September 2006, Slawomir Radon was appointed Director General of the Polish State Archives. Two months after taking office, Radon unilaterally cancelled both the JRI-Poland 10-year indexing agreement and the 3-year old order processing agreement.

JRI-Poland took a number of steps to try to save the relationship, starting with an immediate trip to Poland to meet with Director Radon. At that point it seemed the new director's decision was final. Still, JRI-Poland concentrated on the positive steps we could take that might help to change the situation.

We contacted the U.S. Embassy, who willingly took up our cause working through diplomatic channels. This led directly to a meeting in June 2007 of U.S. Embassy officials with Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture Tomasz Merta and PSA General Director Radon. That very day, Director Radon called the JRI-Poland Warsaw-based representative and indicated that he was ready to re-open a dialogue with JRI-Poland

Just prior to the 2008 conference in Chicago, we received a long-awaited letter from the PSA inviting us to meet. Michael Tobias and Stanley Diamond represented JRI-Poland at the meeting in Warsaw in early December. Director Radon presented us draft agreements covering both indexing of vital records and re-starting the order processing system. This was very encouraging. While most parts of these agreements were quite straightforward, a few conditions made acceptance absolutely impossible.

In April 2010, a plane crash impacted the JRI-Poland situation. This plane was carrying Polish dignitaries to Katyn, Russia to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the killing of 22,000 Polish military officers by Stalin's secret police. Culture Ministry Undersecretary Merta was one of the victims. Now, JRI-Poland no longer had a high-ranking official in the Polish Ministry to champion our cause.

JRI-Poland spent almost two years, both before and after the passing of Undersecretary Merta trying to resolve the few key issues that made the agreements offered by Director Radon impossible to accept. We made one last attempt in November 2010, which was followed by silence.

It turned out that silence was due to Director Radon's health. He tragically passed away in February 2011.

In early March, Deputy Director Andrej Biernat, the man with whom JRI-Poland had worked closely and success-

fully during the 10-year life of the prior agreements, was named acting General Director. Director Biernat immediately demonstrated his goodwill to JRI-Poland by inviting our Warsaw-based representative to a meeting at PSA headquarters to discuss plans for moving forward with the agreements. In August 2011, Dr. Wladyslaw Stepniak was appointed to the position of General Director of State Archives. His appointment has not changed the tone of cooperation between JRI-Poland and the PSA.

As of today, the new indexing and order processing agreements, based on drafts provided by JRI-Poland, are being reviewed by PSA staff, lawyers, and regional Archive directors. JRI-Poland was always aware of the support of key officials in the Polish government and behind the scenes support from Polish State Archives staff in headquarters and in branches around the country who expressed frustration at the inconvenience of operating without JRI-Poland's partnership.

JRI-Poland will start indexing as soon as the agreements are signed. JRI-Poland will also launch an all-new online Order Processing System as soon as possible. This will be a totally new system where researchers will be able to pay for orders online and orders will be transmitted to the Archives almost immediately.

Books of Residents

In the last few years, JRI-Poland has indexed Books of Residents and Census Registers from 32 towns. These projects are mainly for towns formerly in Congress Poland. For example, the Radom Books of Residents have entries for almost 30,000 individuals, the earliest born in 1811. Of significance is that more than 4,600 of these individuals were NOT registered at birth. We know this because the date of birth column states only a year and these individuals cannot be found in the birth registers. If a family was lax in registering births, and many families were, entries in Books of Residents could be the only source of information about family members, some who may have perished without being memorialized.

Where they have been identified, these sources appear in the Polish State Archives database of "Population Registers" known as ELA.

See: <http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/pl/data-bases.html>.

However, others have been discovered from time to time usually in one of the various municipal offices of a town. Last year we learned that two series of the Miedzyrzec

[Medrich] Podlaski Books of Residents survived in one such office.

Not all discoveries of record books are made in archives, civil records offices, or other official repositories. Each year we've added both knowledge of and data from sources that were not publicly documented. In most cases, these turn up when the JRI-Poland representative or other professional researchers in Poland are touring with clients and use the opportunity to ask questions about possible resources.

New Galician Census Projects

Census type records are a great resource for family historians as they provide a picture of the family and their neigh-

Imię i nazwisko	Okres życia	Miejsce urodzenia	Okres pobytu	Wzrost	Wzrost w 1857	Wzrost w 1869
2250	1811	Radom	Radom	1811	1811	1811
2251	1812	Radom	Radom	1812	1812	1812
2252	1813	Radom	Radom	1813	1813	1813
2253	1814	Radom	Radom	1814	1814	1814
2254	1815	Radom	Radom	1815	1815	1815
2255	1816	Radom	Radom	1816	1816	1816
2256	1817	Radom	Radom	1817	1817	1817
2257	1818	Radom	Radom	1818	1818	1818
2258	1819	Radom	Radom	1819	1819	1819
2259	1820	Radom	Radom	1820	1820	1820
2260	1821	Radom	Radom	1821	1821	1821
2261	1822	Radom	Radom	1822	1822	1822
2262	1823	Radom	Radom	1823	1823	1823
2263	1824	Radom	Radom	1824	1824	1824
2264	1825	Radom	Radom	1825	1825	1825
2265	1826	Radom	Radom	1826	1826	1826
2266	1827	Radom	Radom	1827	1827	1827
2267	1828	Radom	Radom	1828	1828	1828
2268	1829	Radom	Radom	1829	1829	1829
2269	1830	Radom	Radom	1830	1830	1830

Figure 1

borhood. Regrettably, there are few surviving enumeration documents for Galician towns.

Censuses of all the population of the Austrian Empire were taken in 1857, 1869, 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910. After the information was compiled, the enumerations were destroyed. Only the statistical data from these censuses sur-

vived with a few exceptions. A few of these exceptions have been indexed by JRI-Poland.

Figure 1, (page 12), is an image from the 1910 census of the Tarnopol Jewish population. The entire census is found at the Oblast Archive in Ternopil. JRI-Poland has acquired images privately and will be indexing this important genealogical tool.

This census includes surnames, given names, date and place of birth, district of registration, occupation, and relationship to head of household.

After Poland was reconstituted as a country following World War I, all-Poland censuses were taken in 1921 and 1931. Similar to the Austrian experience, the family enumerations were destroyed and only statistical data has survived. JRI-Poland has found no exceptions.

However, starting after World War I and up to World War II, each community, including those formerly in Galicia were required to maintain census-like records of all legal residents of the community. Kseigi Ludnosci or Books of Residents were huge volumes organized by house number or address that recorded the comings and goings of the members of that community. These Books of Residents had been maintained from the 1850s in Congress Poland and were now expanded to all of Poland.

Through a dedicated researcher from Australia, JRI-Poland was notified of the existence of two such volumes at a museum in the town of Zaleszczyki, in Southeast Galicia near Kolomyja. The Jewish vital records for this town have not survived, so this find is a real mitzvah for Zaleszczyki researchers.

This was the first time that JRI-Poland has heard about such volumes being available for Galician towns. A search of the

holdings of the Polish State Archives found more such records. You can search the holdings of the Polish State Archives for vital records and population registers. Since any metrical records held in Poland that are 100 years old or less are protected from public use by strict privacy laws, JRI-Poland does not know whether we will be able to access these Books of Residents. This does not apply to books found in Ukraine.

As far as we know, no other books from towns in Ukraine have survived. We will be reaching out to our friends in Ukraine and the AGAD Archive to find out if other such volumes exist. You can all help. When you travel in Ukraine or Poland, ask at archives, local civil registration offices, museums, cultural societies, etc. about such records. If you locate any, let JRI-Poland know and we will arrange to acquire images. These books are a treasure trove of genealogical data.

There are two complete volumes of the Zaleszczyki Books of Residents, but we think that these represent only part of the population of the town. In addition to the information mentioned in the Tarnopol census, these books contain maiden names, names of mother and father, and other details of the family's property. ❖

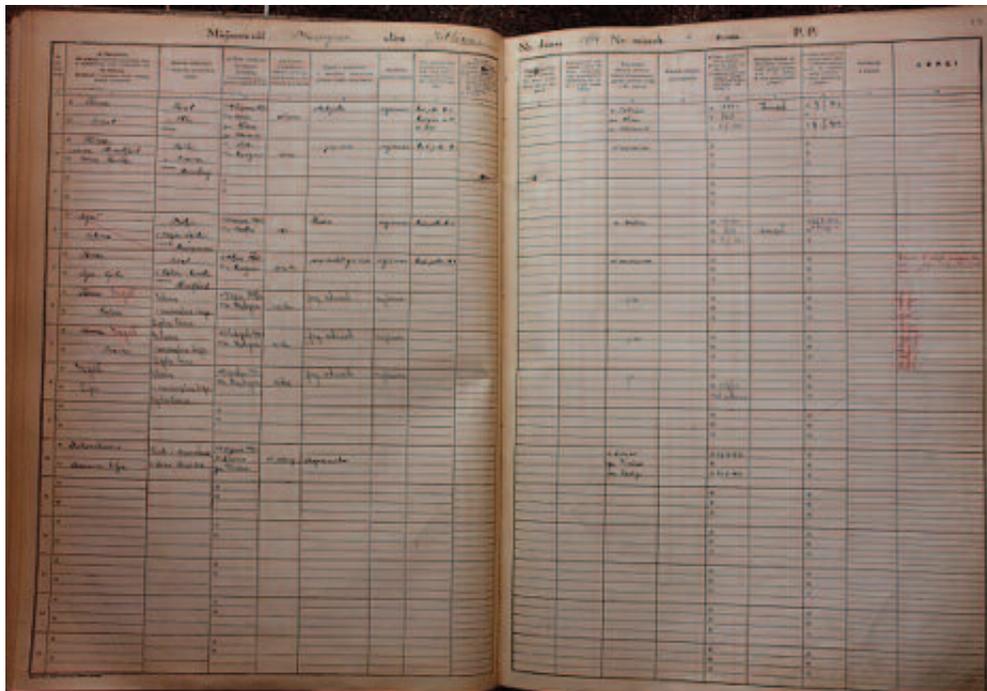


Figure 2 - A Volume of the Zaleszczyki Book of Residents

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JGSGP AT THE WASHINGTON, DC IAJGS CONFERENCE



SHARING PLANS & CHALLENGES, RESEARCH AND SUCCESS



FRESH FROM THE CONFERENCE CAPSULES, HIGHLIGHTS, REVIEWS CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES AND PRESENTATIONS

by Gayle Miller

The Washington, DC conference was my second IAJGS conference. One of the classes I found very interesting was Naturalization and Immigration. I was very excited coming out of this session learning that if a person naturalizes, his children and spouse are naturalized under him.

I was looking for both my maternal and paternal grandfathers' naturalization papers and was not successful finding either of them. Now I know why. Both of my grandfathers were naturalized under their fathers. I have both of my great grandfathers' naturalization papers. Search over.

The other class that I found amazing was taught by Crista Cowan from Ancestry. The class was about researching family on Ancestry. It was a complete eye opener with tips and techniques to cut down the amount of time and wrong data to sort through. The biggest emphasis she made was on the webinars that are free to everyone on almost every topic. You can stop and start them at your own pace. The best part is they are free.

There was so much learned, that I am hoping we can have her come and teach a seminar so that everyone at every level can have the opportunity to learn from her.

I spent one entire morning at the GENI booth and was able to learn how to better utilize their site and clean up my tree as well. I have made two amazing contacts and hope to have one of them speak at a monthly meeting. I love this site because it allows information on those who are living to be viewed by others. GENI allowed me to have an opportunity to get in touch with relatives whom my family actually met in while staying in DC. My family did this with four different sets of relatives, all for the first time.

I found my experience, although very limited, extremely worthwhile. I look forward to attending the conference in Boston in 2013. For those of you who have any hesitation whether or not to attend the conferences: It is in my opinion the best financial and genealogical decision you will ever make.❖

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by Steve Schechter

Neville Yosef Lamdan is a research fellow at the Truman Institute and the Center for the Study of Christianity, both at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Born in Scotland, he received his doctorate from Oxford University in 1965 and entered the British Foreign Office. He moved to the Israeli Diplomatic Service in 1973 and served as Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva from 1994 to 1998 and at the Holy See from 2000 to 2003. He has written on Arab-Zionist relations before World War I and studies on Jewish genealogy. Since January 2006 Lamdan has served as director of the newly created International Institute for Jewish Genealogy at the Jewish National and Hebrew University Library in Jerusalem.

Dr. Lamdan researched Jews of Minsk Gubernya and found that 25% - 33% lived in villages not shtetls. Shtetls were larger gatherings administered by a *kahal* administration and run by a baron who owned the land, sometimes advised by elders. Villagers, known by the pejorative *yeshuvniks*, lived different lives than we often ascribe to the Pale. While they shared the general plight of all Jews, it was always with a village nuance and with some significant differences.

Villagers did not keep records, avoided revision lists and were able to stay "below the authority's radar." They could lease land for more secure business -- at one point controlling the liquor and innkeeper trades. They shared subsistence living with local gentiles and led Sholem Aleichem to observe, "In a town a goy speaks Yiddish; in a village Jews speak goyish."

Most of the barons were Polish who resisted Tsarist control. The village Jews became pawns in the efforts of various tsars to cower the barons. Jews were registered and more carefully accounted for, their names were mainly topographic (after the village) and their registration counted against the village forever even if they lived elsewhere. May Laws and other attempts to increase Jewish insecurity were also an attempt to bring barons in line.

Living as a village Jew was difficult in other ways. Traveling teachers and rabbis were needed, *minyans* were sometimes difficult, and the Jewish women had to become proficient at kosher slaughtering. Villagers were dependent

on nearby shtetls for cemeteries, arranged marriages and yeshivas.

Conversely, by having good relations with the locals, being self-sufficient, having transferable skills and being adept at blending in, village Jews were often the first to migrate. They were skilled at living by their wits, making do, and eking out a living, all of which made them well suited for carving a new life in America.

The story of villagers enriches our current view of life in the Pale and shows the diversity of its Jewish population. It also begins to explain why some genealogical records may not exist. ❖

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FACEBOOK AS A RESOURCE FOR LOCATING RELATIVES

by James Gross

Many genealogists would agree that a practical option for genealogy research is to locate and contact living relatives. I'm sure that most of us have a whole list of genealogy questions which we just can't answer. Wouldn't it be great if we had the opportunity to pose it to a living relative? But, as we lose touch with distant relatives, this idea is can be a difficult if not an impossible task. Fortunately, with the advent of today's social networking sites there are online networks, such as Facebook which can help. In this short article we will take a brief look at how Facebook can help you reconnect with your long lost living relatives.

What is Facebook?

Facebook is an online social networking directory that connects people with friends and others who work, study, and live around them (1).

People use Facebook to keep up with friends, relatives, and learn more about the people they meet (2).

How does one get or subscribe to Facebook?

Facebook is an online website. It requires free online registration. The website is: <http://www.facebook.com>. Upon registering, you can logon and search for people using their first and last names.

Who uses Facebook?

Facebook is an avenue by which users interact with their

friends. It seems to be very popular with ages ranging from 18 - 25 (27 million users) and 26 - 34 (21 million users), with a respectable number of users in the 65+ age bracket as well (3).

One senior user (Vikki Woods) commented, "Too bad the data didn't mention those over 65!! There are a lot of us!!!! We use it to keep up with grandkids 'doin's', children scattered across the world..." (4). Generally speaking, although there are Facebook users in many age groups, it is understandable that locating a relative is contingent on their active usage of the computer. Based on my Facebook searches, I have had better success at locating younger, college age relatives, as opposed to locating someone in their parents' age group.

What does Facebook have to do with genealogy?

Good question. At the beginning of this article I referenced the desire to locate living relatives. I suggested that sometimes there are questions which you want to pose to a living relative. The reality is that any questions you might have would be better if directed to an older relative.

So, why bother trying to contact a relative on Facebook?

In my experience, there are multiple benefits to contacting any known relative on Facebook. If the relative is in a younger age bracket, he or she will be a future source of family information. And they can refer you to one of their parents or aunts or uncles. If you are lucky and locate one of your older relatives, then you can exchange pleasantries and ask them a question about the family. How does one locate a new relative on Facebook? This is where the main challenge exists. Facebook utilizes a name field to locate users. Now, if you have unique surnames such as Ehrenfeld or Godansky, chances are there won't be too many "hits" when you engage in a name search for your relative.

But if you have a more common surname, such as Goldstein or Goldberg, you may want to try and limit the search by using a Facebook search filter such as their city and state. The other option is to look for members of the family with unique spellings. I try to narrow my search results by searching for those relatives, or related family, with the unusual names. If the men have a common surname, one can try searching for the women if their married names are known.

There are two search locations on Facebook. The primary one (below) is located within one's Facebook homepage:



This search box is convenient for casual searches. There is another search box (below) which appears to return a more substantial number of returns or “hits.” It has a separate link within Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/srch.php>

And, if one is stymied with too many returns or hits, there is the option of filtering by city and state.



Once you locate a potential relative, use the “message” button on the screen (same link as above) to send them a short message. Explain your family connection, and include your name and email address. For security purposes, I would suggest omitting your phone number until a relationship is confirmed.

In summary, one can make use of social networking websites such as Facebook as a tool to help locate far flung relatives. While there is no guarantee that your relative is a registered Facebook user, I have been extremely successful with using Facebook to locate relatives around the world. In my opinion, Facebook searches can be a very worthwhile supplement to one’s existing family tree research. ❖

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James Gross, a JGSGP member, coordinates its Jewish Exponent Obituary Indexing project which is available at Jewishgen.org. He is presently working toward his Masters in Library Science. He can be reached at: navistar96@yahoo.com

SUPPORT REQUESTED FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE

In late September the Pennsylvania State Senate unanimously passed Vital Records Bill SB-361. This legislation, if also approved by the House, would enable those who do research in Pennsylvania to have easier access to birth and death records after 105 and 50 years respectively. Currently, these records are restricted, and a limitation is placed on who may access them—genealogists ARE NOT included in this select group.

The bill was scheduled to have its first hearing in the House Health Committee on November 15. Approval by one chamber, however, doesn’t insure approval in the other; there have been many instances in which a bill passed by one body unanimously died in committee in the other.

In other words, we still have to keep up the pressure. We need to urge the committee members, particularly the chair **Matthew Baker** (who decides if and when a bill is voted on) and the House leaders to bring the bill up for a committee vote and pass it. **State Representatives. John Myers, Vanessa Brown, Mark Cohen, John Sabatina, Kevin Boyle, Pamela A. DeLissio and Ronald Waters** from the Philadelphia area are also on the Health Committee.

IAJGS sent letters to each member of the House Health Committee in early October asking them to hold a hearing and pass the bill. Hearing from organizations within their districts, constituents and others (including out of state residents) could prove decisive in getting the bill brought up for a vote and passed by the Health Committee. We strongly urge JGSGP members and their friends to do likewise.

1. Click onto the following link to access a complete listing of PA House members: http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/representatives_alpha.cfm
2. Click on the name of the specific representative to access his/her contact information (snail mail, phone, fax) which will appear in the left hand margin of the page, below.
3. Compose an immediate message by clicking on the envelope icon under the “Stay Connected” section beneath the respective representative’s photo. Refer to: <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm> which includes a sample letter for genealogists.

Collectively we can impact legislation that will enhance our research capability. ❖

MEETING SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2011

Our speaker, Nathan Reiss, presented his research on
“Cousins Marrying Cousins in Eastern Europe”

Dr. Reiss spoke about the custom of Jewish in-marriage and gave examples of how this practice, while traditionally condoned and even encouraged, could cause genetics issues. He showed translations from the Talmud that permitted in-marriage and one section that actually encouraged it by declaring that marriage between an uncle and niece was a mitzvah. He spoke of population bottlenecks. If a mutant gene does not affect reproductive fitness, its frequency of occurrence should remain constant from generation to generation. Currently 1% of Ashkenazi women carry the BRCA1 gene mutation. If the gene does not affect reproductive capacity, then the percentage should be about the same as it was when the mutation first occurred, presumably in one person's genes. For one person to constitute 1% of the population, the population would have had to be about 100. Since the BRCA1 gene is predominantly an Ashkenazi phenomenon, the mutation (and hence the bottleneck in population) must have occurred sometime after the Ashkenazim and Sephardim became distinct groups.

Dr. Reiss also showed the Rothschild family tree as an example of how in-marriage was prevalent and how it was employed to preserve wealthy families' resources. He then demonstrated what happens if each generation causes a doubling of ancestors (you have 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great grandparents, 16 great great grandparents, etc.). Within several hundred years this yields more ancestors per person than the earth's total population. Since this is impossible, somewhere in the chain there must have been substantial in-marriage and bottlenecks.

As a last point, the moderator pointed out how these facts have increased the incidence of genetic disorders in the Ashkenazi Jewish community and makes recording and disseminating causes of death and chronic conditions critical for Jewish genealogists. ❖

Steve Schechter is VP Programs of JGSGP. You can reach Steve at: programs@jgsgp.org

WHERE DID PHILADELPHIA'S RUSSIAN JEWS COME FROM AND HOW DID THEY GET HERE? THE REGIONAL ROOTS OF PHILADELPHIA'S RUSSIAN JEWS

*Summarized by David Brill
from his presentation at our October 10, 2011 meeting.*

Considerable anecdotal evidence suggests that a large plurality, if not a majority of Philadelphia's "Russian" Jewish immigrants came from areas of the former Russian and Austrian Empires that lie within today's Ukraine. In his 1999 book, *The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia*, Harry Boonin notes: "Although no statistical analysis demonstrates where the Russian Jews who settled in Philadelphia lived in Russia, several avenues of investigation are open. A preliminary review of approximately 750 charters - issued to Jewish *chevras*, *landmanschaftn* and *fareyns* in Philadelphia by the Courts of Common Pleas - indicates that an overwhelming number of these charters were issued to organizations that included in the name of the organization the name of a town, area or political sub-division in the south of Russia."

Another source of data on immigrant origins is naturalization petitions from Philadelphia courts. For example, National Archives Microfilm Publication M1522 covers petitions for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which includes Philadelphia, from 1793 through 1931. The scanned documents are now searchable online through Ancestry.com. The petitions are ordered sequentially and are therefore easy to analyze systematically; in addition, a high percentage belonged to Jews. However, only the petitions after 1906 include specific place of birth information (i.e., a name of a town that can be identified using a resource such as the JewishGen Communities Database. Series M1522 includes 369 microfilm rolls covering 106,828 petitions between 1906 and 1931. As this was still far too many petitions to examine them all individually, I took a random sample of one tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the total, or 107 petitions. Of the 107 randomly selected petitions:

- 29 petitions (27%) were for Jews.
- Jews were the 2nd largest ethnic group among the petitioners after Italians (28%).
- 7 (6.5%) were for women (all after 1920), including 2 Jews.

Moreover, of the 29 Jewish petitions:

- 23 (79.3%) were born within present-day Ukraine (including Ukrainian Galicia)
- Another 4 (13.8%) were born in either Romania or Bessarabia (present-day Moldova).
- All but one had addresses in the Philadelphia city limits.

A second random sample of 150 petitions concentrated on the 11,135 petitions on rolls 068-097 (dated 1906 through 1913). Of the second sample, more focused on early arrivals, a higher percentage (46%) were Jewish, though only 54% of the Jewish subgroup was from present-day Ukraine. (Another 17% were from present-day Romania, Moldova or Hungary). Comparison of the 2 samples suggests that later immigrants to Philadelphia (that is, those after 1913) were less likely to be Jewish, but the Jews among them were somewhat more likely to be from Ukraine. Some additional observations from the naturalization data are:

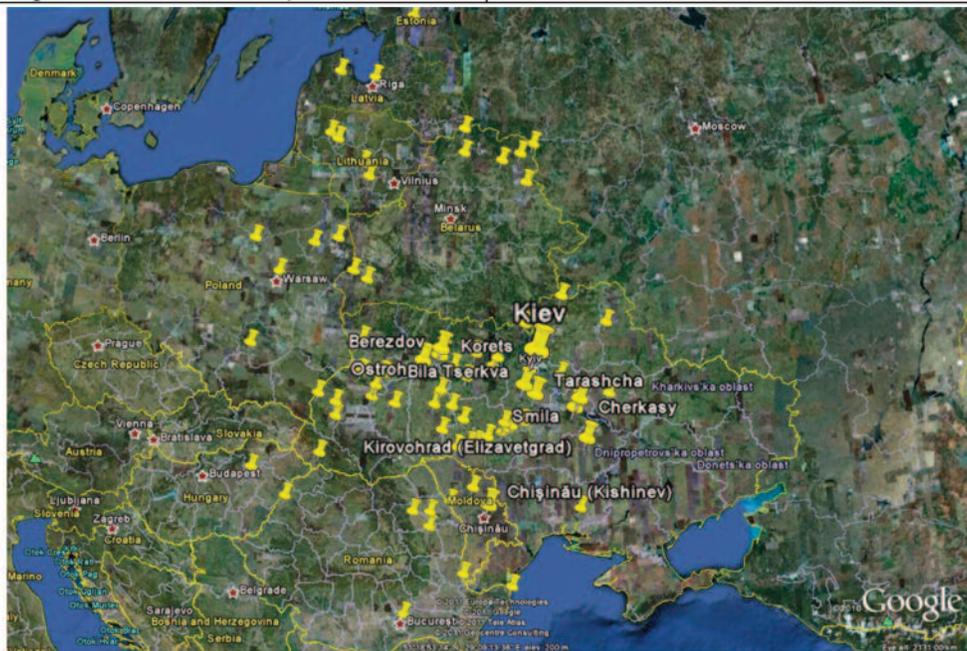
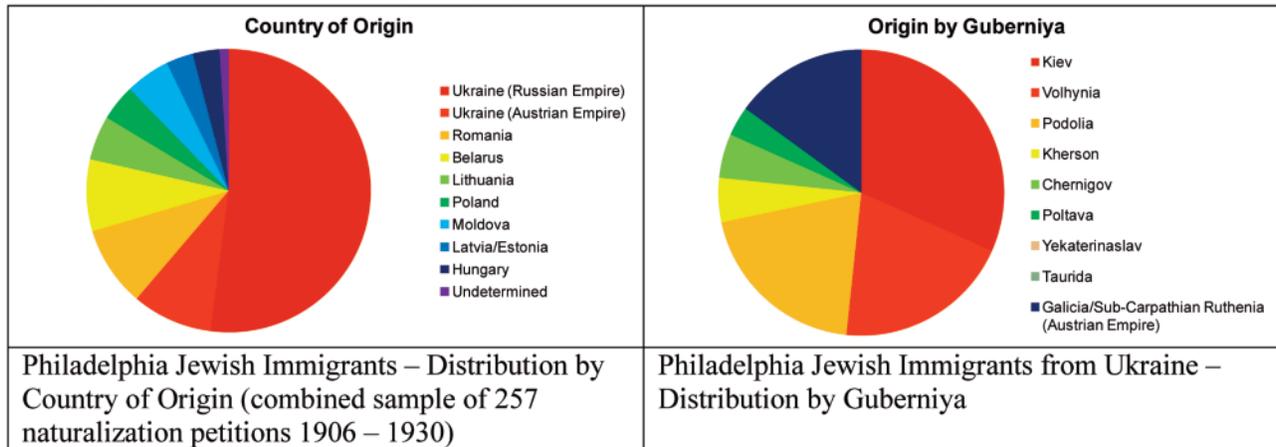
- On a gubernia (provincial) basis, the highest proportion

of Jewish immigrants was from Kiev Gubernia.

- Relatively few Jews immigrated to Philadelphia from the Kingdom of Poland.
- Belarussian Jews in Philadelphia were most likely to be from Vitebsk Gubernia.
- Combining the two samples, 61% of the Jewish immigrants came from some part of the Ukraine. Estimating a margin of error of 10%, we can still be 95% sure that the “real” percentage of Philadelphia Russian Jews from Ukraine was more than 51% - an absolute majority.

David Brill, chair of JGSGP's Russian Special Interest Group, can be reached at: brilldr@comcast.net

Source information: Ancestry.com. Selected U.S. Naturalization Records - Original Documents, 1790-1974 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2009. Original data: Naturalization Petitions for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M1522, 369 rolls); Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 21; National Archives, Washington, D.C.



Location of towns of origin for Philadelphia Jewish immigrants (combined sample of 257 petitions). A large pushpin marking a town means that more than one petitioner came from that place. Note that a large number of immigrants came from Ukraine and Moldova, relatively fewer from Poland and Belarus.

JDC RELEASES OVER 500,000 SEARCHABLE HOLOCAUST-ERA NAMES AND HISTORIC PHOTO COLLECTIONS

For the first time in its history, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is making a collection of its historic records and photographs from the Holocaust period available online.

The website – www.jdc.org/sharedlegacy/ enables the public, especially Holocaust survivors and their families, to perform searches for themselves or others they know on a database of more than 500,000 names and to view and identify photos from 14 countries where JDC operated during and after the war. This will help JDC — known to millions as "The Joint" — fill in the blanks about its impact during this tumultuous time in Jewish history.

"I cannot express the profoundly deep connection I felt to my past and now to JDC when out of nowhere my young face popped up on the screen," said Claus Hirsch, a German-born Shanghai Ghetto survivor who found a photo of himself in the Ghetto during his search on the system. Hirsch's family was helped by JDC in China during the war, and he found two lists on which his family members' names appear. Hirsch now lives in Manhattan.

The website will allow users to search the names database compiled from historic documents and JDC client lists from operations in Barcelona, Shanghai, Kobe, Vilna, Australia, South America, and the JDC Emigration Service in Vienna and Munich. A group of volunteer genealogists helped the JDC Global Archives create the database and are adding new names each week. JDC's website is being launched at a time when a number of leading organizations and museums are making newly-digitized Holocaust era records available online, allowing broad public access for the first time ever.

"For six decades, the vast majority of this data has been available only to professional researchers," said JDC CEO Steven Schwager. "Now, thanks to technology, survivors

and their descendants can directly engage with our shared history."

Users can also explore and identify people they know in photo galleries of 1,500 photos from Austria, Belgium, China, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, the Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Lithuania, Portugal, and Spain. JDC is also inviting the public to tag photos and to share their JDC stories from this period in history. JDC was responsible for caring for hundreds of thousands of Jews in places from Cuba to Portugal during and after the Second World War.

"Whether you were a little Jewish child we aided in Barcelona or one of the Jews we supported in Displaced Persons camps after the war, by putting faces, names, and stories together, you will benefit generations to come," said Schwager.

With tens of thousands of documents and photographs from the Holocaust era drawn from JDC collections in New York and Jerusalem, this website aims to add personal stories to JDC's vast international archive. Every year, hundreds of Holocaust survivors, genealogists, academics, filmmakers, and journalists conduct research in the JDC Global Archives. JDC will launch its Global Archives website in spring 2011 and will make available huge collections of newly-digitized documents and its significant

photo collection from the organization's founding in 1914. The JDC Archives website and digitization project were made possible through a lead gift from Dr. Georgette Bennett and Dr. Leonard Polonsky.

About JDC: The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is the world's leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization. JDC works in more than 70 countries and in Israel to alleviate hunger and hardship, rescue Jews in danger, create lasting connections to Jewish life, and provide immediate relief and long-term development support for victims of natural and man-made disasters. ❖

To learn more, visit www.JDC.org

This article was provided by the JDC Media Center

Our Shared Legacy:
World War II and "The Joint"

Welcome to our extraordinary collection of documents and photographs from the World War II era. Explore our shared legacy of "The Joint's" work rescuing and providing relief during and after the Holocaust.

<p>Explore Our Photo Galleries</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Search images from the countries where "The Joint" operated during and after World War II.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Click Here to Explore Our Photo Galleries.</p>	<p>Search Our Names Index</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Is your name among the over 500,000 in our extraordinary collection of historic documents?</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Click Here to Search Our Names Index.</p>	<p>Tell Us Your JDC Story</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Were you touched by JDC? We want to know your story.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Click Here to Tell Us Your JDC Story.</p>	<p>Create a Family Legacy</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Honor our shared history by partnering with us to ensure that wherever in the world a Jew is in need, JDC is there.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Click Here to Create a Family Legacy.</p>
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RANDOM ACTS OF GENEALOGICAL KINDNESS

Questions posed by genealogists from around the world, who cannot come to the Philadelphia area to do genealogical research. These genealogists have asked our members to try to assist with answers or information.

Responses should be made by individual members directly to the person inquiring. A copy of your email to the editor of *Chronicles* will be appreciated, as a way of gauging our success in assisting others.

Hi: I am Kathy Argo and live in Ross, OH 513/738-1843. I am looking for any information about relatives of Isabella Oppenheimer, born 1836. The 1850 Census said she lived in North Mulberry Ward, Philadelphia, PA.

I have an old needlepoint sampler that she made in 1847, at 11 years old, that I want to return to a living relative. Can you please help me. Thanks for your time.

Kathy
kargo@fuse.net

Hello,

My name is Maurice Newborn and I am trying to find out information about my great grandparents. They were Jacob and Sarah Newborn and arrived here from Russia around 1887. My grandfather, Morris (Maurice) Newborn who was born in Philadelphia on Sept. 17, 1907, did not share much information about his family, so we know little more than their names, and some of his siblings' names. Do you know whom I could contact to get more information? I have tried unsuccessfully to use ancestry.com. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Maurice Newborn
Milton Hershey School
Math Instructor/ MD boys head soccer coach
717-520-2732
newbornm@mhs-pa.org

Dear Madam or Sir,

Re: Possible Membership – Mr Lawrie Winning

I am hoping you may be able to help me make contact with (or pass on a message to) any family members related to Mr. L. Winning**. He was a cousin to my wife's grandfather. Lawrie Winning lived in Philadelphia and died there in the mid-eighties (i.e. 1980's), he had Jewish roots and may have been a member of your society. Lawrie was born in Kharkoff (then Russia, now Ukraine) in 1915 and immigrated to the USA in 1928. In the 1930 US census his native language is recorded as Yiddish. Thanking you in anticipation.

Kind Regards

David S Hobby
Bunbury, Western Australia
dhobby54@optusnet.com.au

*Note ** - I am not sure that Lawrie has any surviving family in the US*

A gentleman from Israel is searching for descendants of Beatrice and Raymond Polish. He is a relative of Beatrice. They would be Charlotte Polish, or Gail Polish Gross and/or her son, Andrew. Their last known address is 1225 Robbins Street, Phila. 19111."
Harriett Polish Herscher hpherscher@yahoo.com

From your *Chronicles* editorial board:

We have always prided ourselves on the fact that *Chronicles* contributors are primarily JGSGP members; this was acknowledged when we received the 2005 award for best Jewish genealogical society publication. We are continuing that tradition in this issue, but in order to remain a Philadelphia-centric journal we need you, our faithful readers, to submit articles.

Take a look at the scope of the content covered by our journal:

- Personal family accounts
- Valuable tips to facilitate your research
- Articles on the use of modern social networking tools to aid in genealogical research
- Historical perspectives on immigration and settlement in Philadelphia and adjacent areas
- The IAJGS Conference Roundup
- Breaking developments in both the Jewish and general genealogy community

We also anticipate covering Eastern Europe, Germany and other geographic areas in future issues.

Please give serious consideration to sharing your respective genealogical journeys with the broader JGSGP community. Help us insure that *Chronicles* remains a vital, timely, and compelling publication. Contact Evan Fishman at: editor@jgsgp.org or phone: 856-667-2077 to discuss your ideas for articles. Thank you.



Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia Membership & Renewal Form

Enjoy *Chronicles*, Our Award Winning Quarterly Publication

Please print, complete and mail this form with your check to:
JGSGP, PO Box 335 • Exton, PA 19341-0335

Membership Categories and Contributions	Amount
Individual - \$25	\$
Family - \$35 (2 Members Same Household)	\$
Sponsor - \$50	\$
Patron - \$100	\$
Non-Resident \$15 (more than 100 miles from Phila.)	\$
Overseas \$21	\$
Voluntary Gift to the JGSGP Library / Digitization Fund	\$
Voluntary Gift of the JGSGP Program Fund	\$
A check is enclosed for the amount of:	\$

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(Dues cover the calendar year, January 1-December 31. Contributions and dues are tax deductible within the limits of the law.)

What are the most important surnames and their associated ancestral towns that you are researching? Provide up to six surnames, towns and countries, which will be shared with other members in upcoming editions of *Chronicles*.

Surname	Town	Country



Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia

PO Box 335 • Exton, PA 19341-0335

www.jgsgp.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JGSGP CALENDAR REMINDER

Complete and most current calendar details will be on our **NEW** Web Site: <http://www.jgsp.org>
SUNDAY AFTERNOON MEETINGS ON THE MAIN LINE ARE SCHEDULED TO GAUGE INTEREST AND ATTENDANCE
COMPARED WITH MONDAY EVENING GET TOGETHERS. PLEASE LET OUR BOARD KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

Sunday, December 4, 2011 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Main Line Reform Temple - Beth Elohim 410 Montgomery Ave, Wynnewood, PA 19096

Speaker: Dr. Theodore G. Schurr - Associate Professor, Anthropology - The University of Pennsylvania,

Dr. Schurr specializes in human evolutionary genetics, mitochondrial biology and diseases and ancient DNA. The genetic studies he's personally conducted and those of the National Geographic Genographic Project (of which he's a consortium member) have given him familiarity with the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In addition he's the Director of the North American Regional Center for the Genographic Project. He is extremely knowledgeable and uniquely qualified to present the basic ideas underlying the use of DNA to trace lineage, focusing on:

- *The paths taken by our Jewish ancestors as they developed and migrated*
- *The impact of various genetic "chokepoints" on today's Jewish population*

Dr. Schurr's dynamic yet understandable presentation will be supplemented with a lively Q&A.

Sunday, February 12, 2012 1:00 - 3:00 pm Main Line Reform Temple - Beth Elohim

Speaker: Dr Rakhmiel Peltz, Director of Judaic Studies & Professor of Sociolinguistics - Drexel Univ.

Dr Peltz is well versed in Yiddishkeit. His fluency in speaking and understanding Yiddish coupled with his interest in its impact on the world Jewish community gives him a unique perspective. A native New Yorker, Dr Peltz has lived in Philadelphia for many years and been active in the Yiddish speaking centers of the city including the recently closed Stiffel Center. He has both a depth of knowledge and the hands-on personal perspective unique in today's Jewish community.