

BABIAK - WHAT HAPPENED
by Wolf Karo

My father's hometown was Babiak, a very small village in what was called Congress Poland. After World War I, it was part of Poland.

In the early 1930s, when I was a boy, I visited Babiak. To get there from Germany was not simple. The train from Berlin dropped you off in Bedzin. From there, you took a bus to Kolo, which I think was the county seat. In Kolo, you hire a droschke (a wagon drawn by three horses) and a driver. From Kolo, it was only 18 kilometers to Babiak. Later we heard that there was talk about construction of a railroad to connect the city of Gdansk (Danzig) with Warsaw by way of Kolo.



The town square of Babiak sported a huge cross. It's Jewish population probably consisted of 300 or so souls. Actually, I suspect that the non-Jewish population was not much larger.

My step-grandfather, Avraham Hanc, owned the large Poznanski General Store on the main street. The two-story residence was attached to the store. In back was the outhouse and I can still remember the aroma of the chloralkalai (for my fellow chemists, the disinfectant used was calcium hypochloride). On a more pleasant note, around the corner was Kuczynski's kosher bakery. The smell of breads, chalabs, and bagels as they came out of the gigantic oven was wonderful. And, to a small city boy like me, it was a surprise to see that milk did not come from a factory pre-packed in bottles.

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Annual Membership Dues – Jan. 1 to Dec. 31:

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Fred Blum

Dear Fellow Members:

I hope everyone had a Happy Hanukkah. Over the past few months, we have been busy with plans to organize the 2009 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy that will be held August 2 to August 7, 2009. The Hotel contract has been signed with the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel at 17th and Race Streets. We hope to have over 1,000 attendees from around the world. Many Society members will be involved in planning some great events for the Conference. As of this writing, we are in negotiations with the IAJGS as to what duties our Society will be handling. Many of you have volunteered to help. Within a short while, we will be contacting you to discuss in what areas we will need your help. Steve Schecter has put together a group of volunteers who will publish a guide of Genealogical Resources in the Greater Philadelphia Area. If you are interested in helping, please contact Steve at stevewhltd@aol.com or (856) 273-0850 or myself at fredb@fredb.cnc.net or (215) 947-7161.

I would like to thank Steve Schecter, Evan Fishman, Joel Spector and Bernie Cedar who developed a great

beginner's workshop program. The first program was held at the Cherry Hill Library on November 11th. If you know of any group, such as Synagogues, schools, social clubs that would like to hold a beginners workshop please contact Steve or myself and we will plan a time.

The past few months we had some very informative meetings with Bennett Greenspan of Family Tree DNA and Professor Arthur Kiron from the University of Pennsylvania. In the New Year, David Mink and Steve Schecter, our new programming chairs, are planning some very good speakers as well.

The Philadelphia Jewish Archives are looking for collections that anyone would like to donate. They are also looking to interview Philadelphians who were born before 1930 to obtain oral histories of their lives and life in Philadelphia at that time. These interviews will be archived for future generations. PJAC can be reached at 215-925-8090.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday February 10, 2008 at 1:30PM.

I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Fred

UPCOMING GENERAL MEETINGS

All Meetings at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, PA

Our Co-Chairs of the Program Committee for 2008, David Mink and Steve Schecter are working on programs for the first half of 2008. There is no meeting in January

Date	Time	Speaker	Topic
Sunday Feb. 10, 2008	1:30 PM	Harry Boonin Author and Founding President of JGSGP	"The Life and Times of Congregation Keshet Israel" and More .. Pushcart markets, Zionism, Jewish boxers, Gamblers
Monday Mar. 10, 2008	7:30 PM	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
Monday Apr. 14, 2008	7:30 PM	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
Monday May 12, 2008	7:30 PM	To Be Announced	To Be Announced

UPCOMING DELAWARE COUNTY AFFILIATE MEETINGS

All Meetings at Martins Run Lifecare Community, Media, PA

Date	Time	Speaker	Topic
Sunday Apr. 6, 2008	1:30 PM	Donald Wittenberg	Old School Records: Where to Find Them and What They Tell Us
Sunday June 1, 2008	1:30 PM	To Be Announced	To Be Announced

UPCOMING RUSSIAN INTEREST GROUP MEETING

**Meeting at Cherry Hill Public Library
1100 Kings Hwy North, Cherry Hill, NJ
<http://www.chplnj.org>**

Date	Time	Speaker	Topic
Sunday January 20, 2008	1:30 PM	Discussion led by David Brill	Routes out of Russia: Migration Routes of our Ancestors -- Part II

**WELCOME NEW AND
RETURNING MEMBERS**

Sissy Carpey	Ardmore, PA	Jack Muchnik	Media, PA
Carrie Chein	Cherry Hill, NJ	Mark Pinzur	Cherry Hill, NJ
Merle Kastner	Montreal, Quebec, Canada	Ann Rudnick	Philadelphia, PA
Jack Lieberman	Glenside, PA	Richard Selznick	Haddonfield, NJ
Bill & Beth Litvin	Reading, PA	Mark Shulkin	Bala Cynwyd, PA
Thomas Aquinas College Library		Santa Paula, CA	

THANKS TO CONTRIBUTORS

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Mark Halpern	Jerome Ruderman
Isador & Myra Kranzel	Carole Strickland
Fran Litvin	

IN MEMORIUM

On December 6, 2007, JGSGP lost long-time member, former Board member and Webmaster, Marvin Brooks. Marvin passed after a long battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Marvin was searching his BRUCH and GUREVITZ families from Mogilev, Belarus, LIPSCHITZ from Wysokie Mazowieckie, Poland, and WEIN from Lida, Belarus. Marvin was a frequent contributor to the Belarus SIG. He was the Coordinator and major benefactor of the restoration of the Wysokie Mazowieckie Jewish Cemetery. His article about the restoration appeared in the May 2007 edition of *Chronicles*.

The following message was received from the director of the Polish Foundation responsible for Jewish Cemetery restorations in Poland:

*On behalf of the Board of Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland I would like to express deep sorrow for passing of dear Marvin Brooks z'l"b. He was the coordinator of Wysokie Mazowieckie landsmen and without him renovation of Jewish cemetery in Wysokie would not be possible. We recognize therefore and honor his great contribution into the restoration of Jewish heritage in Poland. We share the feeling of loss of his family and friends, especially those of us who were in direct contact with Marvin. Truly, his deeds shall serve us a blessing. More about Wysokie Jewish cemetery and photos at www.polin.org.pl (please print "Wysokie Mazowieckie" in search).
Monika Krawczyk, Adv. CEO - dyrektor*

The family asks that donations in his memory be made to:

The ALS Association , Greater Philadelphia Chapter, 321 Norristown Road, Suite 260, Ambler, PA 19002 or Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Philadelphia, P.O. Box 335, Exton, PA 19341-0335.

May Marv's wife Susan, daughter Sheryl, and son Paul and their families be comforted among those who mourn, and may the memory of Marvin Brooks be for a blessing.

NOTES FROM JGSGP MEETING PROGRAMS

September 2007 -- JGSGP Members provide feedback from 27th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy at Salt Lake City

Speakers were: David Mink speaking on his observations of his first conference and DNA presentations; Mark Halpern updating the JRI-Poland project and the opening of the ITS Archive; Selma Neubauer speaking about the USCIS Genealogy program and Footnote.com; and Bernard Cedar speaking about his experience at the LDS Family History Library.

Many of these topics were covered in the September 2007 edition of *Chronicles*.



David Mink, Selma Neubauer, Bernard Cedar, Mark Halpern

November 2007 -- 12 23 14 10 14 17 11 17 12 13 11 29 (otherwise known as Bennett Greenspan), Founder and President of Family Tree DNA, providing a Jewish Genetic History Tour



12 23 14 10 14 17 11 17 12 13 11 29

Our speaker introduced himself as 12 23 14 10 14 17 11 17 12 13 11 29, the twelve markers of his Y

chromosome. Bennett Greenspan is an entrepreneur and a Genealogist since his teen years. This passion for genealogy and his entrepreneurial spirit led to the creation of *Family Tree DNA* in 1999.

When the ancestral paper trail leads to a dead end, *Family Tree DNA* to the rescue. Although DNA testing cannot create a family tree or define familial relationships, this testing can verify that family relationships exist. It can provide probabilities of how many generations back the two people tested had a common ancestor. However, it cannot tell you HOW you are related. Also, it is important to know that DNA testing can only determine relationships for your all-male ancestral lineage (father's father's father ... for men) and your all-female ancestral lineage (mother's mother's mother ... for both men and women). Or, put another way, the use of DNA testing can only verify relationships of 2 of 4 grandparents, 2 of 8 great grandparents, 2 of 16 great great grandparents, etc.



Each of us inherits 46 chromosomes from our parents – 23 from our father and 23 from our mother. Twenty-two pairs are autosomal (non-sex chromosomes) and two – X and Y – determine sex (XY in men and XX in women). The Y chromosome passes from father to son with virtually no change. Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is passed down from females to both sons and daughters, but sons do not pass down their mother's mtDNA to their children.

The first DNA study was the Cohanim study that identified that 50% of Ashkenazi men who identified themselves as a Cohen had the same DNA signature and 60% of Sephardic men identified as Cohen had the same DNA signature. For more information, see the list of relevant webpages at the end of this article.

Also in the headlines was the discovery through DNA of a relationship between Sally Hemmings, a slave at Monticello, and Thomas Jefferson or a male relative

of Jefferson's. For more information, see the list of relevant webpages at the end of this article.

Bennett also talked about events in the history of the Jewish people that may have determined a person's Haplogroup -- a genetic population group associated with early human migrations and which can today be associated with a geographic region. These events were migration, such as the banishment of Jews from Eretz Yisroel by the Romans, migration to Southern Germany and the Iberian Peninsula, migration to Poland and Lithuania; conversion, such as Khazars and forced conversions in Spain and Portugal; and so-called bottleneck events that reduced populations such as the Crusades, the Black Plague, and the Chmielnicki pogroms in Ukraine.

Family Tree DNA has many group projects – surname, geographical, SIG (Special Interest Group), and Heritage projects. See this list of projects at the JewishGen website at <http://www.jewishgen.org/DNA/>.

If you are interested in identity and DNA of our people, Bennett recommended a newly published book, *Abraham's Children: Race, Identity and the DNA of the Chosen People*, written by Jon Entine. Read more about the book at:

<http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com/2007/10/abrahams-children-and-jon-entine.html>.



Paul Rosenberg shows his Family Tree DNA Certificate

If you are interested in DNA testing, Family Tree DNA offers JGSGP a special group rate. An order form with pricing and more explanation is provided on the next two pages. ✨

Jewish Genealogy by Genetics Websites of Interest

Family Tree DNA Homepage: <http://www.familytreedna.com/>

Family Tree DNA Projects: <http://www.familytreedna.com/surname.aspx>

Family Tree DNA FAQ: <http://www.familytreedna.com/faq.html>

Family Tree DNA "DNA 101": <http://www.familytreedna.com/dna101.html>

Family Tree DNA "What Do I Get?": <http://www.familytreedna.com/CertReports.html>

Family Tree DNA PowerPoint presentation: http://www.familytreedna.com/ftdna_reunion.pps

Family Tree DNA Privacy Info: <http://www.familytreedna.com/privacy.html>

Family Tree DNA SiteMap: <http://www.familytreedna.com/sitemap.html>

JewishGen Genealogy by Genetics: <http://www.jewishgen.org/DNA/>

Cohanim DNA Study:

http://www.aish.com/societywork/sciencenature/the_cohanim_-_dna_connection.asp

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/israel/familycohanim.html>

Jefferson/Hemmings DNA Study:

http://www.monticello.org/plantation/hemingscontro/hemings_resource.html

Since its inception, in April of 2000, Family Tree DNA has been associated with the Arizona Research Labs, led by Dr. Michael Hammer, one of the world's leading authorities in the field of genetics. Having other renowned scientists in its advisory board, Family Tree DNA is the world leader and only organization in the field of Genetic Genealogy that has been constantly developing the science that enables many genealogists around the world advance their families' research.

That is why 9 in every 10 genealogists choose to test with Family Tree DNA.

With over 160,000 individuals tested and having helped facilitate over 4,400 DNA Surname Projects, we are happy to be given the opportunity to be present at your meeting, and to introduce you to the use of DNA for genealogical purposes. Please find below a partial list of Surname Projects that are in course. A complete list with over 4,400 Surname Projects can be found at our web site: www.familytreedna.com.

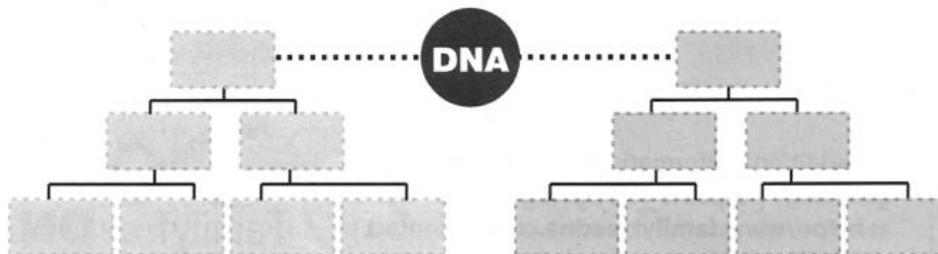
Beal	Duerinck	Howery	Mumma
Benton	Dyas	Jarman	Roper
Boone	Franklin	Kaminker	Rose
Bowling	George	Kincaid	Shelton
Claiborne	Graves	McCabe	Steadman
Crow	Guggisberg	Mitchell	Walker

Family Tree DNA Allows You To:

- Determine if two people are related
- Determine if two people descended from a common ancestor
- Confirm your family tree
- Find out who with your surname is related
- Prove or disprove a research theory
- Find and confirm new individuals in your family tree

Could these be two branches of the same family?

DNA - the "gene" in genealogy can answer this question when there's no paper trail.



ORDER A DNA TEST

Please mail to Family Tree DNA - Genealogy by Genetics Ltd., 1919 North Loop West, Suite 432 Houston, TX 77008, USA

Check
 Money Order
 Credit Card
 Visa
 Mastercard
 American Express

Name on Card _____
 Card Number _____
 Expiration _____
 Phone number _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ e-mail _____
 Surname Project _____

Options: Y 12-marker (\$99)
 Y 25-marker (\$148)
 Y 37-marker (\$189)
 mtDNA (\$129)

Please include shipping: \$2.00 (inside the USA), \$4.00 (outside the USA)

Management Tools for Research Projects

Family Tree DNA provides a full spectrum of management tools both for individuals and project coordinators that are focused on a surname or subset of a surname to determine who is related to whom. Being the largest company in the world offering these services, we are able to provide the lowest prices for the suite of services and results that we deliver to both Surname Projects and individual tests. In addition to that, we have also streamlined a routine based on our experience dealing on a one-to-one basis with the hundreds of Project Coordinators.

Results

Family Tree DNA makes results available to our customers both electronically and by regular mail. When we receive your kit and check it in, a personal page is created and an e-mail is sent with your password, so that you can track the progress of your test. When the lab completes a test, we upload the results to our database and notify the customer via e-mail that the results are available online. A certificate and a report are also sent by regular mail.

Ordering a DNA test

You can order a DNA test in different ways, and one of them is to simply fill out the form on the left and mail it to us. Alternatively, you can either call us or fill in the form at <http://www.familytreedna.com>. If you are interested in joining a Surname Project, please call us to inquire about Surname Projects.

Y-DNA Universal Male Test

- verify if 2 males are related
- suggested **geographic origins**
- **Native American** origins
- **Cohanim** origins
- **Western European** origins
- **African** origins
- **deep ancestral** origins

mtDNA Universal Female Test

- verify if 2 females are related
- suggested **geographic origins**
- **Native American** origins
- **Western European** origins
- **African** origins
- **deep ancestral** origins

my
FTDNA



For additional information on DNA testing for genealogy purposes you can log into our web site at <http://www.familytreedna.com> or contact us at info@familytreedna.com or 713 868.1438

JGSGP Initiates Program of Beginner's Genealogy Workshops

On Sunday November 11th, JGSGP sponsored the first in a series of Beginner's Workshops at the Cherry Hill Public Library in New Jersey. Organized by JGSGP members Steve Schecter and Evan Fishman, this two-hour program was a great success.

Participants attending this interactive, hands-on presentation were introduced to the research questions and techniques that underlie family history research. They gained a greater appreciation for their ancestors' lives, challenges, and triumphs in the larger context of recent Jewish history and experience. After the two-hour classroom session, a one-hour, more individualized coaching session was offered.



The Society's objective is to promote interest in exploring family history amongst people of all ages having Jewish heritage. This short introductory workshop is the perfect way to introduce groups to the joys of genealogical research.

JGSGP members affiliated with Jewish organizations of any kind (Synagogues, Mens' Clubs, Haddasah groups, Hebrew Schools, etc.) should recommend that such a workshop be held with their organization. For more information, contact either Steve Schecter at SteveHWLTD@aol.com or Evan Fishman at ebf2001@comcast.net.

The American Genizah Project

By the time this issue of *Chronicles* reaches your mailbox, our December program featuring Dr. Arthur Kiron from the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Advanced Judaic Studies will have taken place.

Dr. Kiron is a leader of the Penn sponsored **American Genizah Project**. The objective of this project is to make thousands of rare documents from 18th and 19th century American Jewish life available and searchable online. The project was named after an earlier project where thousands of documents from the *Genizah* (or storehouse) of Cairo's largest synagogue were made available online.

Rabbi Lance Sussman, spiritual leader of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel and author of *Isaac Leeser and the Making of American Judaism*, is on the advisory board of the American Genizah Project.

Not coincidentally, the subject of the first Genizah project collection of documents to be scanned and placed online will be those related to Isaac Leeser. Leeser was a Philadelphia Jewish institution who served as chazzan at Congregation Mikveh Israel, is credited with introducing the English language sermon into the

service, founding the Jewish Publication Society, translating the Hebrew Bible to English, and starting the first US Rabbinical school.

*Isaac
Leeser*



Also, as part of this project, interested researchers will be able to electronically search more than 20 years of the *Occident and the American Jewish Advocate*, a periodical founded by Leeser and considered the first such publication in the US.

For more information about this project, read <http://www.jewishexponent.com/article/14213/>, a recent article in the *Jewish Exponent*.

RESERVE THESE DATES OF FUTURE CONFERENCES

**28th IAJGS International
Conference on Jewish Genealogy**

CHICAGO

Chicago, Illinois, August 17-22, 2008

<http://www.chicago2008.org>

**Co-Sponsored by the IAJGS, the JGS of Illinois and the Illiana JGS
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile**



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OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA
&
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES
WILL CO-HOST**



**29TH IAJGS CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY
PHILADELPHIA, PA
AUGUST 2-7, 2009**

**FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES
CONFERENCE**

www.fgs.org

September 3-6, 2008



Philadelphia
Convention Center

PHILADELPHIA  2008

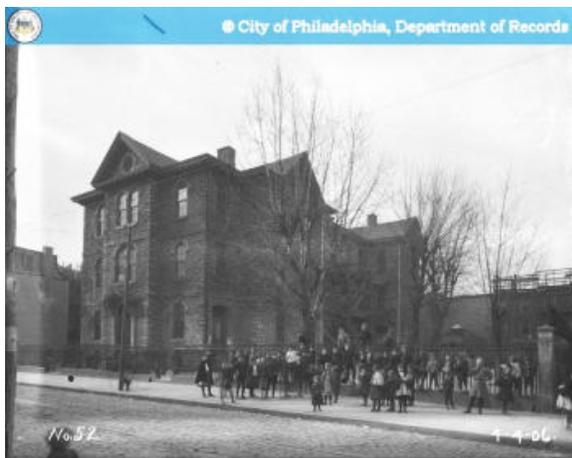
LOCAL NEWS AND FEATURES FROM PHILADELPHIA AND ENVIRONS

PhillyHistory: Online Collection of Historic Philadelphia Photographs by Harry D. Boonin

The Philadelphia Department of Records holds one of the country's largest municipal archives of historic photographs, totaling an estimated two million images. Dating from the late 1800s, the photographs "paint a stunning portrait of Philadelphia and its industry, architecture, culture, and people from all walks of life." Until last year, the collection of negatives and photographic prints was stored in the depths of the City Archives. But now, through the website www.phillyhistory.org, over 47,000 of these images are currently available on the site and 2,000 new images are added each month. Sales from the site help fund the ongoing costs of maintaining and adding new photographs to the site. The photos may be copied from the site for personal use if a lower resolution image is satisfactory for your purposes, like a school paper or report.

Unique features of the site allow users to search for images based on a specific address, a neighborhood (there are 158 neighborhoods listed - I didn't know Philadelphia had so many), by keyword and year.

This article will explain what is available and how the site can be used. I have selected the corner of 3rd and Catharine Streets to use as an example of an address search. During the immigrant era, this was a very busy area as the Hebrew Literature Society was located at 312 Catharine Street, the central Talmud Torah was located at 314 Catharine Street, and the Mt. Vernon public school was directly across the street from these two immigrant organizations.



Mt. Vernon Public School - 1906

The home page of www.phillyhistory.org displays a typical set of features. It is broken down into the following pages: Search; Blog; Featured Photos; Fine Art Collection; Newsletter and Links.

In order to conduct a search of the photographs on the site, click on the 'Search Now' button on the home page or on the 'Search' tab on the menu bar at the top of the page.

On the left side of the search page, you will see several options for searching through the photographs. The first search field is a '**Keyword**' search. If you type a keyword in the textbox and hit enter, it will search the titles and descriptions of each photograph for that keyword. If you want to search photographs by location, I would recommend not filling in the Keyword search.

The next search field is '**Topics**'. Topics are categories or 'tags' assigned to each photograph by the managers of the site. For example, if you want to find a "Theatre" or a "Restaurant", you may want to use the 'Topics' search to find photographs in those categories. For searches on a residential property, I would leave both blocks blank. Many of these topics may not be as helpful as the geographic searches for Jewish genealogists. I believe that by completing either the Keyword or Topic searches you may be unnecessarily limiting your search.

The next search field is '**Time Period**'. I would use this field only if you are searching for photographs from a specific year or range of years. Below these search fields is a map with navigation buttons. The three most important search functions are located on tabs at the top of this map. The three terms are '**Address**', '**Neighborhood**' and '**City**'. These are the keys to the site, especially the word 'Address'.

Click on the Address button and an entry field will drop down. If you know the address you are looking for, type it in and hit 'Go'. If you do not know the exact address, type in what you know. You do not need to know an exact address! This is one of the beauties of the site. For our example, I have chosen to enter an intersection. I have inserted "3rd and Catharine Streets" in this field. This, of course, is an intersection and not an exact address. After clicking "Go," the resulting photographs from my address search populate the main screen.

To the right of the word 'Keyword', you will see how many photos, if any, the computer found. For my search of 3rd and Catharine, the site returned 70 photos. The results default to display 12 images on a page although you can select to view more images on a page. You can navigate through the pages of search results by clicking on the desired page number located at the top of the results page.



4th and Fitzwater - 1926

How does the website display the resulting images? The search results display as 'thumbnail' (small) images and are organized from 'Nearest to Farthest' geographically from the address or intersection. However, if you do not want to use this default display setting, you can select to display the photos by 'Oldest to Newest', 'Newest to Oldest' or 'Recently Updated'. Each thumbnail image in your results screen will be tagged with a letter and the location depicted in that photograph will be noted on the map using the assigned letter. Using our example, 3rd & Catharine Streets (indicated by a green star) will now be displayed as the center of the map on the left side of the page. The map displays an area of several blocks around this central point.

Now, looking at the map, you may see that there are no images flagged. Do not despair! The website knows what it is doing. The photos found may not be within the one or two blocks displayed on the map and therefore are not visible. You have to click on the north, south, east or west arrows on the map (or click on the map and drag it to your desired location) to find the location of the photos. Sometimes they may be two or three blocks away but typically no farther.

The photos are identified on the map and on the thumbnails by letters from A to L (the first 12 letters of the alphabet). On this particular search, all of the first 12 photos were taken at or very near the corner of 3rd & Catharine Streets - most unusual. Do not expect this every time. Let's examine the 12 photos. They were all

taken between 1906 and 1938. This is exactly the time period we are interested in. This is also unusual. More likely, you will find photos from the 1950s (many photos are from 1954 and 1959) rather than from earlier years. But I have used 3rd & Catharine to demonstrate that many photos do exist from the immigrant years.

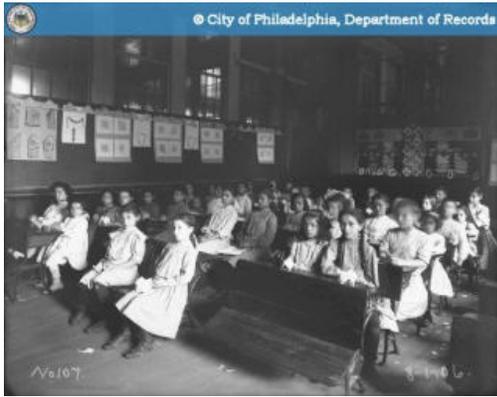


Mt. Vernon Schoolyard - 1909

A most interesting photo is photo E, the school yard at the Mt. Vernon school. It was taken on August 18, 1909 and is of the schoolchildren in the yard located on Catharine Street, about 100 feet west of 3rd Street. The photo shows about two hundred school children, lined up for what looks like the first day of school. From *The Immigrant Jew in America*, we learn that in 1905, the Mt. Vernon School, "Catharine above 3rd," had 1,200 students and 1,070 (89%) were Jewish. As the photo was taken several years after the statistics were gathered, I would guess that the percentage of Jews at the school in 1909, the height of Jewish immigration into Philadelphia, was higher. Another interesting feature of this photo is that in the background the building of the Hebrew Literature Society can be seen.

Other photos on the first screen show houses being constructed on what looks like the same site in 1938, possibly meaning that the Mt. Vernon School had been torn down and the houses replaced some of the land previously occupied by the school. Today, the school is no longer there.

If we click on the balance of the 70 photos, we can see other properties near the intersection. Among other photos available are shots of the students at the Mt. Vernon school in their school rooms. Some shots show ink wells on the desk (I remember in grade school our ink wells were "in" the desk, rather than "on" the desk.). This is the level of detail you can get immersed in, if you want to. A number of shots clearly show faces of the school children. I imagine that most, if not all, of these children, were Jewish.



Mt. Vernon School Room - 1906

Some of the other photos are of the Henry Burk school, about a block and a half from the Mt. Vernon school, south on 3rd Street. Since some of the schools were small, and the neighborhood was crowded with new immigrants pouring in daily, schools existed, unlike today, almost on top of each other.

You can also use the Neighborhood search to find photographs taken in a particular area of the city. The Neighborhood search is located next to the Address search right above the map. If you click on the arrow next to Neighborhood, it will open a drop-down menu with a list of neighborhoods. Select one of the neighborhoods and it will show you the photographs taken in that area.

You may not receive many images for all of your searches. Sometimes there are no photos of a fairly large area. Sometimes, it just means that the interns at the archives have not come around to scan them yet. The good news is that there are still tens of thousands of images that have not yet been scanned. The bulk of the photos are still hidden away in the City Archives. Additionally, there are some areas of the city that were simply never photographed by the photographers employed by the city. Good luck in using www.phillyhistory.org, a friendly site indeed. ☆

Contacting Mount Carmel Cemetery

JGSGP member Annette Ravinsky provides the following information for folks who want information about burials at Mount Carmel Cemetery, Frankford and Cheltenham Avenues, Philadelphia 19135.

I called Goldsteins's Funeral Home and spoke to a funeral director there who said that all responsibilities

for Mount Carmel Cemetery are being taken over by Har Nebo Cemetery.

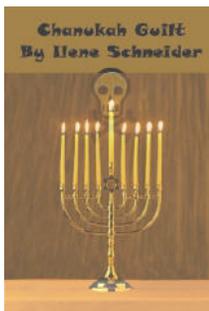
He advised me to contact Richard Levy of Har Nebo at 215-535-1520.

Out of curiosity, I asked if burials still take place at Mount Carmel anymore and he said they do infrequently. Coincidentally, they had a funeral the day I called. ☆

Member Notes

Chanukah Guilt

by Ilene Schneider (Rabbi Ilene Schneider is the wife of JGSGP member Rabbi Gary Gans)



Rabbi Aviva Cohen is a 50-something, twice-divorced rabbi living a rather uneventful life in South Jersey. True, she has a family that is rather unconventional. And her first ex-husband is moving to her town. But her life takes a truly interesting - and sinister - turn when she agrees to officiate at the funeral of an unpopular land developer. She doesn't expect to be told by two different people that he had been murdered. Nor does she expect that the first funeral will result in a

suicide. Her search for the story behind the suicide (or was it murder?) will lead her to discover the truism "appearances can be deceiving" is accurate, while putting her life in jeopardy.

The book is available at <http://www.amazon.com/> or <http://www.swimmingkangaroo.com/>.

Dear JGS

I am a member of the JGS of Great Britain. I recently found an entry of a Philip Kammermacher born in Philadelphia 1892, son of Harris and Sarah Kammermacher.

My family name was Kammermacher and my late Father came from Biala Podlaska in Poland.

I would be most grateful for any information about this family.

I wish you a Happy and peaceful New Year.

Ida Lawrence
London UK

ida.lawrence@btinternet.com ☆

Notes from America, Part III

A Description of Bank Records that Reveal how and when Relatives Arrived in the United States between the Years 1890-1935

by Harriet Kasow

Harriet Kasow lives in Israel and is a member of the Israel Genealogical Society. Harriett spent some time in Philadelphia and worked with JGSGP volunteers indexing the Rosenbaum Ethnic Bank records. Upon her return to Israel, Harriet wrote about her experience in the US, including this article about her use of and discoveries in the Ethnic Bank records at PJAC.

This article was first published in Sharsheret Hadorot, Vol. 21. No. 2 and is published in Chronicles with permission of the author.

The bank records under discussion are housed at the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and information about them can be found at <http://www.jewisharchives.net>.

Some of them are searchable online and you can request a copy of the entry in the bank records. Currently online are the Blitzstein and Lipshutz Bank Records (*Rosenbaum Bank records now also online*). This project of creating online databases of the bank records won the 2006 IAJGS award for Outstanding Project Award. The award cited Selma Neubauer for heading the project and the Philadelphia branch of HIAS and the PJAC for preserving these documents.

I am writing about this topic as I have spent the past year as a volunteer entering data in an excel format from one of the bank records that are not online (*now online*). These are the Rosenbaum bank records. What I wish to describe are the joys of transcribing Jewish family names and surnames and observing the comings and goings of our brethren. It is interesting to note the change of names during the course of saving money for passage to the United States.

The data included in the excel database is as follows: day, month, year, the last and first name of the purchaser who is paying the passage and his local address, the last and first name of those being sent for (including all children and infants), European addresses where the tickets are to be sent, ports of embarkation and debarkation, expected date of arrival, and payment. The final column contains various notes such as cancellations, references to other dates, etc. The online databases include only dates and names. One does a name search and you then have to request the complete record to see the other information that is contained in these records. These lists not only contain Jewish names but many other nationalities as well in particular the

countries Ukraine, Poland and Italy. They also include data of those traveling back to Europe. This latter information contains only the names of those traveling and the date they opened the account.

The records from this bank are from the years 1890-1935. Following are some samples of the names of those paying passage and those being sent for. Examples of no name change and a name change in each of the years listed are provided.

Date	Purchaser	Passenger
4/14/1899	Birger, Nathan	Malke, Lea, Moische, Josif, Salmen
5/3/1899	Schoichet, Schmucl	Schoichet, Golde, Dwosel, Chaim
5/30/1899	Noodle, Louis	Nottel, Lea
1904	Zorow, Yossie	Zorow, Chaje Taube, Chassie Riwe
1904	Elkins, Baruch	Elkis, Dowid
1/28/1906	Schirak, Henech	Schirak, Pessie, Dobe, Aron, Elke
1/31/1906	Kavnet, Mordche	Kawnator, Sore Lea, Jankel Welwel, Benjamin, Chaim, Infant
2/15/1910	Krapiwinsky, Abram	Krapiwinsky, Libe Sara, Jose, Chane, Masche, Welje, Alte, Feige
3/7/1910	Becker, I.	Peker, Arje, Scholem

By working on several years, I noticed that, in the early years, almost all the spelling of the names were the same in families, but in the later years, more names started to change after the sender (usually the father) had been in the United States for several years.

During my immersion in the names, I was particularly interested in Yiddish first names. My impression is that the first names were adapted for the most part from Hebrew names and it was interesting to see the variations.

Following is invaluable information I found about my grandfather, Hersch Sadownik in the Lipshutz bank records.

On August 14, 1906, Dawid Weisman of 535 North Arrcona St, Philadelphia paid \$550.25 for Hersch Sadownik's passage. He was 29 years of age. He was to arrive on November 17 on the steamer Statendam by way of Vienna and Rotterdam to Philadelphia via New Jersey on the Holland American Line. The tickets were sent to Leiser Kriwoshei, G.Chotin, Gub. Bessarabia. On the same date Dawid Weisman paid for the passage of Rivke, Ester L, Meyer G., Udi (3 years old) and Infant. The address for the tickets is the same as the above. The last column has the notation (B.B.) whose

meaning I cannot explain .

I know my Grandfather did not come to the United States until 1913 based on his Declaration of Intent. I do not know who Dawid Weisman was or his relation to our family. Leiser Kriwoshei was his stepfather as his mother had remarried. But this has been a real eye-opener of an actual transaction that took place 100 years ago. In addition, I have an address where my grandmother lived and which I can search for when I can make the trip back to the old country. ✨

Proposal for Pennsylvania Death Records Online

Records Preservation and Access Committee

A joint committee of the Federation of Genealogical Societies & the National Genealogical Society

If you live in Pennsylvania, please contact your state representative and request that death certificates prior to the last 50 years be available online. For more details and a sample letter see <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/RPAC/Death> or contact timarg@rcn.com at *People for Better Access to Pennsylvania Historical Records* (PBAPHR).

Extracts from a letter received from PBAPHR follows:

Requesting Genealogists/Researchers/Historians Lobbying Participation

We are asking for your help in a grassroots lobbying campaign to make older Pennsylvania state death certificates available on-line. As you may already know, all death certificates recorded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 1906 have restricted access and require the knowledge of when and where the person died, the expenditure of \$9 and a wait of 5 weeks or longer for each and every death certificate, regardless of how long ago the person died. Because of the restrictions, the public is not able to use these historic records as much as they should be able to. And we're sure many of you have experienced the frustration of either being told they couldn't find the death certificate or being sent the wrong death certificate.

We understand the concerns about privacy, identity theft and terrorism. However, there is no reason to keep all of these records restricted indefinitely. Therefore, our basic proposal is that the death certificates that would be accessible on-line would have to be at least 50 years old (and if necessary for extra security, persons born more than 100 years ago). Currently that would mean only persons who died before 1957 (and, if necessary, were born before 1907) would be made accessible on-line. As each year passes, the next year in line would be added to this on-line database.

Several other states have already made their older death certificates available on-line including Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Utah and West Virginia. But Pennsylvania continues its outdated and costly process of issuing these older death certificates one at a time.

Federal census records are available after 72 years. The Social Security death index (with dates, places and numbers) is very recent. There are already numerous other records available on-line that are far more worrisome than our proposal could ever be.

We are asking you to contact certain Pennsylvania state officials, preferably in writing or in person since it will have the most impact, but at least by phone or email. As we understand it, only the Pennsylvania State Legislature can change the law. The Governor would have to approve this change and the Pennsylvania Department of Health would have to implement any change. If you live in Pennsylvania, please contact your Representatives in the State Legislature in person, by letter, by phone or at the very least by email. Everyone, including out of state residents, should write, phone or at the very least email to the Governor and even the Division of Vital Records. Naturally the more letters and other forms of contact that are made and the more people involved the better.

Contact information for Pennsylvania State Representatives can be found at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/find.cfm> or (www.legis.state.pa.us) (Find Members By)

Contact information for Governor Ed Rendell can be found at:

<http://www.governor.state.pa.us/governor/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=437853&governorN> or (www.governor.state.pa.us/governor) (Contact the Governor)

Contact information for Pennsylvania Vital Records Division:

Pennsylvania Department of Health
Division of Vital Records
101 South Mercer Street
PO Box 1528
New Castle, PA 16101
Telephone: 1-877-PA-HEALTH or (724) 656-3100
Facsimile: (724) 652-8951

Talking points:

1. In the long run, having older death certificates available on-line would be a cost savings to the State and the State gets away from the

antiquated system of searching for each record one at a time.

2. The public would be much better served and easier access would allow far greater utilization of these historic records by the public.
3. Year of birth and death guidelines will prevent identity theft and guard against terrorism.
4. There is no practical reason all of these records should be kept confidential indefinitely especially after a fairly long lapse of time.

Other states have already made death certificates available on-line. Why not, Pennsylvania? ☆

STATE LIBRARY OF PENNSYLVANIA Invitation to Visit

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia
Post Office Box 335
Exton, PA 19491

Included with this letter are brochures describing the collection in detail. Please share them with your staff members. To request additional brochures please contact:

Have you ever envisioned having most of your genealogical needs met without traveling to multiple destinations? The State Library of Pennsylvania takes great pride in maintaining a wealth of available genealogical resources for public access. The Genealogy Collection includes:

Mr. Marc Bender
333 Market Street
220 Forum Building
Harrisburg, PA 17126-1745

- One of the largest collections of Pennsylvania newspapers in existence
- Newly digitized necrologies including selected Civil War veterans obituaries
- Ship records and passenger lists for ports in Philadelphia and New York
- Federal Census for all 67 Pennsylvania Counties (1790-1930), with indexes or Soundex
- Compiled church, cemetery and court records
- Published family histories
- Numerous Pennsylvania City Directories
- Subscription databases Ancestry and Heritage Quest

Sincerely,

Richard L. Lindberg
Genealogy and Local History Librarian
Pennsylvania Department of Education,
Office of Commonwealth Libraries
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-1745 ☆

As you can see, the State Library of Pennsylvania has the information you need for your genealogy research. Visit the Library for an orientation conducted by one of our professional librarians, a guided tour of the facilities or to dig in and do research. Contact Mr. Marc Bender at marbender@state.pa.us or (717) 705-6272 to schedule a visit.



Remembering Max "Boo Boo" Hoff by Parry Desmond

*Parry Desmond is doing research for a book on Max "Boo Boo" Hoff, who was born in 1892 in South Philadelphia, a son of Russian-Jewish immigrants. Before he retired in 2001, Parry Desmond was a newspaper and magazine reporter and editor for nearly three decades. During much of his career, Parry worked for Chilton Publishing, where he was executive editor of **Commercial Carrier Journal**. Parry and his wife, Becky, live in Downingtown. If you have any information on "Boo Boo" Hoff, his gambling and bootlegging cronies, or his boxing stable, kindly contact Parry Desmond at parry37@aol.com or 610-269-8037. Sensitive information can be handled discretely.*

Max "Boo Boo" Hoff was born in 1892 in South Philadelphia, a son of poor Russian-Jewish immigrants. After quitting school, Boo Boo worked for several years in a cigar store where the service also included gambling. His salary was raised from \$12 a week to \$15 after the proprietor noticed how his amiable personality appealed to customers.



But Boo Boo wanted to be his own boss. So, in 1917, he packed up his charisma, left the cigar store, and started his first gambling operation in the section of Philadelphia now known as Society Hill. There was a poolroom on the first floor and a dice game usually was going full blast upstairs.

Boxing played a big role

Boxing was more than a front for his other activities; it played an important role in Boo Boo's life. In the late 1920s, he had a large stable of prizefighters, and staged boxing matches for many years at several Philadelphia sites. None of his boxers won a world championship, but several were highly ranked contenders in a period when boxing was a widely popular form of sports entertainment. In 1928, Boo Boo's stable became Max Hoff Inc., the first group of fighters in the nation to be incorporated.

One of Boo Boo's most publicized ventures in boxing was the \$500,000 lawsuit he filed against Gene Tunney and his manager, Billy Gibson, in 1927. The suit was based on a disputed agreement, which Hoff claimed was signed by Tunney and Gibson the day before Tunney's first fight with heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey in 1926. Tunney won the historic battle, fought in a rainstorm before a crowd of more than 120,000 fans — including several governors and U.S. cabinet secretaries, a bevy of Hollywood and Broadway stars, and captains of industry — at Philadelphia's Sesquicentennial Stadium (subsequently known as Municipal Stadium and JFK Stadium before it was razed) in South Philadelphia.



Billy Gibson, Gene Tunney, Tex Rickard

Boo Boo said he loaned Tunney and Gibson \$20,000 to bind the contract. The deal called for Boo Boo to receive 20 percent of Tunney's boxing earnings and to be joint-manager, with Gibson, in exchange for the loan.

Hoff and Gibson signed the contract, but Tunney wrote "Eugene Joseph Tunney" on the document. His real name was James Joseph Tunney.

Despite his insistence that he had a strong case, Boo Boo mysteriously dropped the suit in 1931, without discussing a possible settlement with Tunney's lawyers.

Making a fortune during Prohibition

Boo Boo kept a lower profile with his other activities until the late 1920s. Although he made his first million from small-time gambling operations while he was still in his twenties, it wasn't until the Prohibition Era, 1920 to 1933, that he and his cronies made a fortune by taking advantage of opportunities offered by the Volstead Act and corrupt police, politicians and banking officials. His bootlegging operations included an office with 175 phones and a weekly payroll of \$30,000 in 1920s dollars.

Illegal booze manufacturing and distribution operations were netting Boo Boo's syndicate an estimated \$5 million annually by the late 1920s. Transposed into current dollars, those profits would add up to more than \$60 million today.

Boo Boo enjoyed the good life that went with being one of the nation's richest gangsters. He hosted elaborate parties, where stars of the sports and entertainment worlds partied with his cronies. One New Year's Eve, he rented a hotel ballroom for a party in honor of Al Jolson, a top Broadway entertainer at the time and the star of "The Jazz Singer," the first "talkie" moving picture. The doors to the ballroom were opened to anyone in evening clothes, and Boo Boo reportedly didn't know half of the hundreds of guests.

Boo Boo never smoked or drank. His idea of fun at parties was to shoot tiny tinfoil pellets at guests with a rubber band. He paid a boy to keep him supplied with the pellets. Some said he could hit a target from as far away as 50 feet.

Grand Jury investigation

Philadelphians found out about his bootlegging operations when they read newspaper accounts of a Grand Jury investigation, conducted over a seven-month period in 1928 and 1929. Boo Boo, who wore a different outfit each of the eight times he was called to the stand, was one of 748 witnesses who testified. Although Boo Boo insisted that he "was never connected to the liquor industry in any way, shape or form," Philadelphia District Attorney John Monaghan characterized him as "King of Philadelphia's Bootleggers."

Despite mountains of circumstantial evidence against him, Boo Boo wasn't indicted because he "had scrupulously avoided signing any documents connected to the undercover operations," according to a *New York Times* reporter.

Luck runs out

A *New York Times* reporter noted that Boo Boo "was often arrested but never jailed; often accused but never convicted." However, Boo Boo's luck ran out, especially after Prohibition was repealed in 1933. The IRS sued him for \$21,000 in unpaid income taxes; his home in the Cobbs Creek Park area of Philadelphia was sold by the sheriff for \$1,500, and his car was sold to cover \$240 in back garage rent. It had a bullet hole in it.

Also, he was arrested at Philadelphia's 30th Street Station for attempting to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill. Although he also was accused of tearing up several thousand-dollar bills and washing them down a drain in the station's lavatory, he was acquitted.

And hard luck forced him to sell his last entertainment venture, an ice cream parlor known as the Village Barn near the University of Pennsylvania campus.

Boo Boo died broke on April 27, 1941, at the age of 48. His second wife found his body in the bedroom of their West Philadelphia home. His death was initially suspected of being a suicide because an almost-empty bottle of sleeping pills, which he had been taking for three years, was found on a table near the bed. However, an autopsy determined that he died of a heart ailment. ✪

FEATURE ARTICLES

Babiak - What Happened by Wolf Karo *Continued from page 1*

Even though Babiak was small, it had a nice synagogue, *cheder* and a *melamed*, cemetery, *Chevrah Kedisha*, Rabbi, *Chazan*, *Shochet*, bakery, a *Mikveh* and all the other things that a well-ordered *kehillah* needed. In fact, I think that one of the jobs that the *shames* had was to go around every morning with a special little hammer and knock on the doors of every Jew to wake him up for *shacharith* (morning services).

Not far outside of town was a forest. My father had told me that when he had been a boy, he had lost his way there, and that I should pay attention where I walked when I was in the woods. While I didn't pay much attention to his admonition, I never did get lost. But I did find a patch of wonderful small strawberries. This was very important to me. Later, when the family got involved in producing a huge quantity of whipped

cream, what could be better than wild strawberries and whipped cream?

When we were in Babiak, my uncle Max was about to be married. His bride, Adele, was, even by today's standards, a real beauty. A problem that needed to be resolved was that this girl was very proud of her hair, and she'd be damned if she was going to have the hair shaved off for a *sheitel* like the old-fashioned orthodox ladies wore. I'm not sure how she managed it. Perhaps the fact that my mother's name also was Adele, she came from a very *Chasidic* family and yet had her natural hair, and, in fact, never covered it, was part of her defense. In any case she maintained her beautiful hair.

The preparations for the wedding seemed to take forever. The whole community seemed to be involved. There was cooking and baking, making special desserts.

A good-sized basin was filled with cream and a committee of three ladies whipped this cream (this was great with my strawberries). Since there was no refrigerator, in retrospect, I wonder how all of this whipped cream was stored for the wedding.

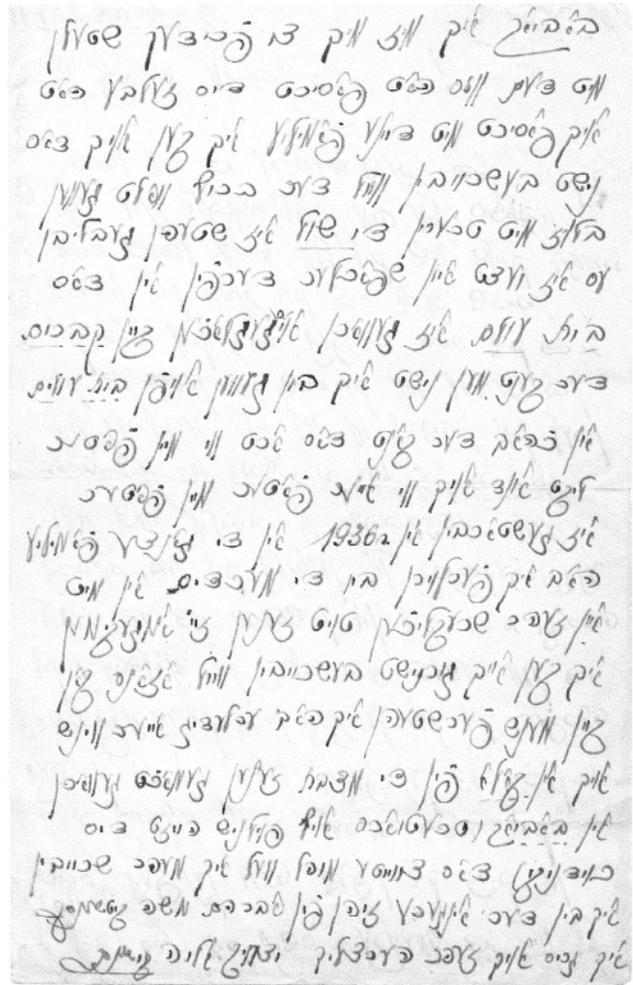
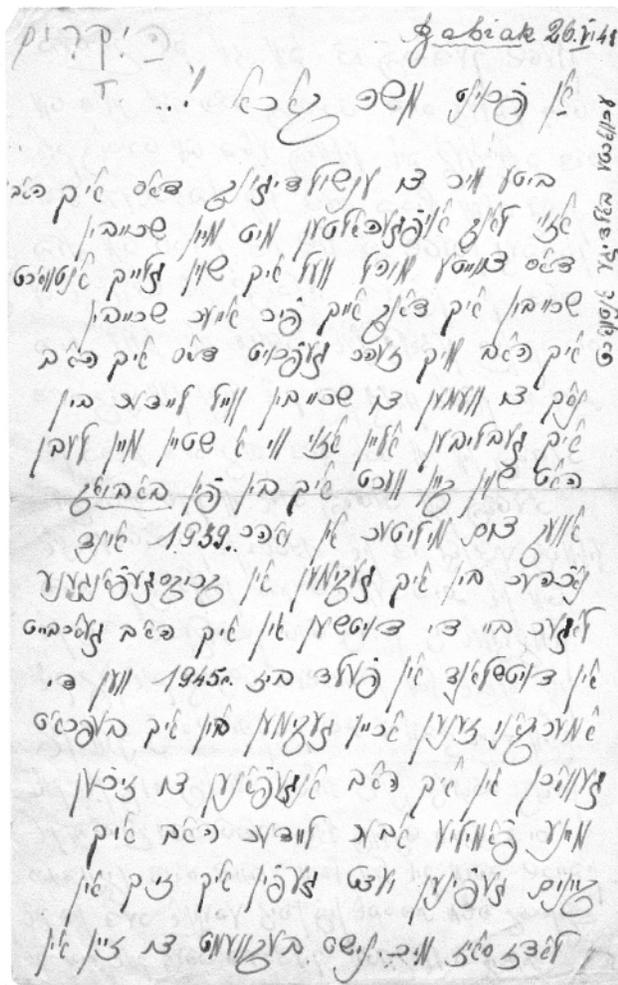
Sugar cones had to be broken up for sugar cubes – how else were you going to drink gallons and gallons of tea? Cigarettes had to be made. This was my job.

The wedding celebration was non-stop for three days, although the kids did have to sleep at night.

My father had written a speech for me in Polish and my mother had rehearsed with me day-in, day-out. When my moment in the limelight finally came, I did my thing. It must have gone over very well because there was much laughter (at the right places), much clapping of hands, and slapping of my back. In other words, I wowed them.

Those were some of my memories of my family in Babiak. My father, mother, and I migrated to America. Many of the Polish Jews that had lived in Germany in 1938 were deported, but Poland did not want them back so they were in a Polish concentration camp in Bedzin. Then the war came, and we lost touch with those members of my family that had not left in time.

Looking over the material that my father had left me, I found a two-page Yiddish letter dated 1948. I could not read it. When Mr. Yale Reisner of the Lauder Foundation in Warsaw spoke at our JGS meeting, I arranged with him to look at this letter. He sent me the following translation. It is from Itzhak Elia Kuczynski, the brother of my aunt, Ester Kuczynska Karo. The translation is self-explanatory as to what had happened to a very nice little Jewish community in Poland during the Shoah. ☆



This two page letter was written in Yiddish in May 1948 by Aleksander (Itzhak Elia) Kuczynski, born in Babiak on 21 February 1914, the youngest son of Abram Moshe Kuczynski and Dora Winter, to Charles Morris Karo -- Wolf's father. Like the Karos, the Kuczynskis appear to have been in the textile (dry goods) business in Babiak and also had a bakery there. Aleksander (Itzhak Elia) was living in Lodz in 1948. Translation follows.

To [My] Friend Moshe Karo!

Please forgive me that it has taken me so long to write. Next time I will answer at once. I thank you for writing. I was very happy that I still have someone to whom to write, as I have been left alone like a stone. My life has no value. I left Babiak for the army in the year 1939 and then I ended up in a German POW camp and I worked in the fields in Germany until 1945 when the Americans came in. I was liberated and began looking for my family, but, as I was unable to find anyone, now I'm staying in Lodz since it's no longer comfortable to be in Babiak. I have to deal with what has happened to my family just as you have to deal with what happened to yours. I can't even describe it or the letter will be covered in tears. Only the steps of the synagogue remain; there's only one row left in the cemetery. It's been leveled and you can't even recognize any graves. I was at the cemetery; I recognized the place where my father's buried and also where your father lies. My father died in 1936 and I lost my whole family to the murderers and they all died a terrible death. I can't write anything to you because no man can comprehend [what took place]. I carried out your wish in Kolo, too; they made sidewalks – what they call "chodniki" in Polish – from the gravestones in Babiak. Next time I'll write more. I am the younger son of Abraham Moshe Kuczynski.

My heartfelt wishes to you,

Icchok Elia Kuczynski
I await a prompt response.

Coming to America Through Hamburg and Liverpool by Harry Boonin

During the 26th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, I attended the inaugural Lucille Gudis Memorial Lecture given by Nicholas J. Evans. He spoke on "Jewish Transmigration Through Britain." His lecture, which I found fascinating, was a real wakeup call. I have had the story of the Boonin family trek through Hamburg and Liverpool for years, but have done nothing with it. Nicholas J. Evans got me thinking — and moving. I would like to share the story of the Boonin family's journey from a place my uncle Laibel called "dark and miserable Russia," through Hamburg and Liverpool, to a ship that would take them to a place called the "Goldene Medina."

The Letters

My Boonin grandparents died in 1909 and 1910 in Slutsk, White Russia, leaving their eight children orphans. At the time, two of the children — my uncles Mendell, who immigrated to the U.S. in 1903, and Abraham, who immigrated in 1905 — lived in the United States (one was a student at Ohio State University and the other a pharmacy student in Philadelphia). The six younger children lived in Slutsk, including my father. Between 1908 and 1911, the family corresponded with each other. During this four-year period, many letters were written: 198 letters have survived. A total of 83 letters were written from Slutsk (in Yiddish, Russian and Hebrew, but mostly in

Yiddish). The balance were written in English in the U.S. No letters from the U.S. to Slutsk have survived. Letters were written by all members of the family except my father who was the youngest (born in 1905.) The letters describe the heartaches, disappointments and love of a separated family. In the early 1940s, my uncle Laibel (Leon in America), the oldest child living in Russia when his parents died, wrote a memoir of the trip to America. As the basis for this article, I have used the letters, the memoir and additional documents I have acquired. I hope the story will help you understand your own family's decision to immigrate and obstacles they may have had to overcome.



Abe & Mendell Boonin (September 1907)

Oldest Letter

The oldest letter, dated August 18, 1908, is from Slutsk. It was sent by my grandmother to her sons in the United States. My grandmother wrote about an “agricultural exhibition” taking place in Slutsk (a photo of this exhibition is contained in the Slutsk Yizkor book). She wrote: “We received your letter long ago, but couldn't answer because we were very busy working. We are in the fields at this time of year. Now let me tell you about our business; cucumbers bring a high price and we sell it reasonable. But in order to make money we have to work hard and there is no time for writing letters.” (In his memoir, Laibel wrote: “We were also engaged in fresh vegetable gardening which was flourishing well at that time.”)

The contemporaneous letters tell a darker story. When the same story is told in letters contemporaneous with an event, and in a memoir written years later, the memoir dulls the sharp edges and bad times of earlier years. The family grew cucumbers, potatoes, cabbage and other field vegetables the peasants did not want to grow because of the hard work involved. (The family had to rent land outside of town and carrying water from their well to the *gorten* was backbreaking work, eventually killing my grandmother and grandfather.) The letters from Russia continued in this vein until the summer of 1909 when my grandfather died. In a letter dated July 21, 1909, my grandmother wrote to her sons in America, sons she would never see again:

I don't know how to begin this letter and describe to you the tragedy that happened in our family. We lost our dear father. Sometimes it seems to me that he just left for business and will be back soon. But the reality comes back to me and I feel terrible about the fact that he'll never come back to us. I am desperate because of the thought that little Jacob will never know the image of his father. He was a highly devoted father to his children. He loved you all so much. Bailke doesn't yet know what she has lost. Maybe Lippe will remember his father because he is the one who will say *kaddish* (prayer for the dead). But he is too small to understand the meaning of being an orphan. Sarah understands more and she feels so bad among her fortunate friends being without a father. Shmeril is suffering a lot. He is going to remain a plain worker because there is no father to be a teacher to him. So far he is helping Laibel work because I am not able to do anything. I had hoped to go out of town this summer to improve my poor health. But now our creditor is demanding the money that we owe him and this is killing me. Father asked us before he died to pay the people in order not to be remembered in hatred. He was a very honorable man and his death made a deep impression on everybody who knew him.

Upon learning of his father's death, Mendell, the oldest son, left his studies at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, and quickly started to send money

home to Russia. Abraham did likewise. Between the summer of 1909 and the spring of 1910, letters flew back and forth across the Atlantic, sometimes almost daily. The letters discussed the family's financial condition, sending money home, buying cows and horses, work in the fields at harvest time, adjustment to life without a father and husband, concern for their mother's health and their mother's fears and hopes. Unsaid was the thought of reuniting. The older children wrote that sending money to Slutsk was a short-term solution that benefited no one. Even Laibel in Slutsk — who benefited greatly from his brothers generosity — did not think much of sending money to Russia because it denied his brothers in America the opportunity to learn.

In the Spring of 1910, their mother died. The six children in Russia were now on their own — except for their two brothers in the United States. In Russia, the oldest was 21 years old; the youngest, five. The letters now take on a tone of urgency, bitterness, indecision and a longing to re-unite. The children missed the guidance of loving parents. Who should they now rely on? In America, relatives were well meaning, but unable to make up their minds as what should be done. It was a big responsibility to bring six children from Russia to the U.S.

In Philadelphia, Abraham met Isadore J. Cooper, a sympathetic seller of ship tickets whose office was on Delaware Avenue near the Immigrant Station where the steamers docked. Abraham liked the man. Cooper advised Abraham that when dealing with the American authorities he should always tell the truth. But in the later letters even Cooper realized that bringing the children here was paramount and telling the truth was a lofty standard not that easy to meet in practice. Cooper appears to have been a good man and, in the end, made wise decisions.

On the other side of the ocean, the family was given advice by men who had agreed to assist many Slutskers secretly to cross the Russian-German border on their way to Hamburg. There was money in this for Cooper in the U.S., and money in this for agents in Russia. (Laibel called the agents in Slutsk, *schlimazels* — inept persons.) The young family had to be careful. In Russia, the family was alternately advised to split up and travel separately, or not split up and to never travel separately. At first, relatives in Russia were not supportive of the idea of six children traveling alone to America. In the end, the optimism of the American Boonin boys convinced even the fearful in the Old Country that the risk of leaving was a risk that they should take.

Planning the Trip to America

Extended family lived on both sides of the Atlantic; well meaning uncles and aunts gave advice but the children soon realized that a decision had to be made by

them alone. Ideas were explored. The younger children could be sent ahead with another family; uncles in Russia could accompany the family to Liverpool; the children without trachoma in their eyes could start out; all six could travel together and if trachoma was found along the way, no one wanted to think too much about that. They talked about going to Canada; suggestions were made to travel through Germany to Liverpool and then to Philadelphia; much discussion centered on the pros and cons of leaving from Libau (located in the Russian Empire). Timing became a big topic of discussion. When should they sell the house? When should the animals be sold? When should creditors be paid? When should they cross the North Sea?

Laibel, the oldest son in Russia, became subject to the draft in the fall of 1909. At the *prisiv* (military draft) that fall, Laibel's name was called. He was neither rejected nor accepted for military service, but put in a government hospital to clear up an eye disease. Eventually, Laibel was rejected. Many letters discuss doctor visits to Kletz to help cure trachoma. Much correspondence had to do with Bailke (next to the youngest) who had a leg problem and a limp (may have been polio).

They constantly worried about Bailke. If she were denied admission into the United States, what would they do? Would they leave her? Would all the children stay wherever her leg or limp was determined to be a condition that would deny her admittance into the U.S.? But perhaps the biggest problem the children worried about was going through Liverpool. They thought it too complex to take trains across Russia and Germany, a ship across the North Sea, another train across Britain and then find their ship in Liverpool. They finally opted to leave from Libau. The ship from Libau would take them directly to the U.S. Sailing from Libau was simple; sailing from Liverpool was not, at least that was the mindset of the young Boonins in Slutsk in late 1910.

At this point, they had much time to ponder their lot. Laibel wrote to his aunt and uncle in Philadelphia on September 2, 1910:

It is boring to live here in Slutsk. People are weaker than their ideals and not always able to fulfill them. This happened to our parents. They left us alone with their dreams. The biggest one was leaving this dark and miserable Russia and going to America, the land of freedom. I do hope that you, dear friends, will help us on our way to make the dream come true.

Sarah, the oldest daughter, also wrote to her aunt (Sarah was 14 and in charge of running the house and taking care of her four brothers and Bailke after her mother died):

Please aunt, write me everything about American housekeeping. They say I'm not skilled enough to handle an American kitchen. That's why I want you to

write to me what it is all about. Also I'd like to know what we have to take along.

On October 14, 1910, Sarah wrote to her brothers:

Let me tell you that we are alright. Thank God, and I wish the same to you. All we are looking forward to is to be together with you and never be alone again. Forgive me for not writing to you lately. There is no excuse because I am always at home. I don't go places. I am taking care of the children. They sure miss their mother. They need her badly. But there is no use in complaining. She is gone forever. And now we are going to leave the place where she is buried. We put up tombstones and I was at the cemetery before the Holidays with Aunt Sarah. I did not want to go back home. But nothing can help, neither tears nor complaining. Besides this is the reason I don't like to write letters. It hurts so much to think of the loss of our mother.

Leaving Russia

To leave from Libau, they needed a Gubernskii passport since Libau was part of Russia. At first, the fact that Mendell, the oldest who left for the U.S. in 1903, had not repaid a loan he made from the Russian Government, was an obstacle to getting the passport. Finally, tickets were sent via Libau for all six children. These tickets were purchased by Abraham from Cooper in Philadelphia. When the tickets arrived, the children learned that the Russian law, which imposed a 300 ruble fine on the family of a person who evaded the Russian draft, would be enforced. Laibel wrote to his brothers in America on April 18, 1911:

The law, not to issue passports to those who cannot pay 300 rubles as a penalty, has been in existence for a long time. But in several Guberniyas it was not strictly enforced. Therefore, it used to be easy to obtain a passport in those Gubernias for a few extra rubles. But now an order has been issued by the Russian Government, naturally, that the law should be strictly observed everywhere. We are therefore in a great predicament.

Mendell left Russia in 1903 to avoid the draft; now his orphaned brothers and sisters were denied their exit passports to leave Russia legally unless the penalty was paid, not for their actions or inactions but for his action. Russian law made one person responsible for another's actions. After the sale of the family house (they received 1,200 rubles for the house), and the sale of the animals, there was enough money to pay the fine, but the children thought it a waste of money to do so. At this point (April 18, 1911), they decided to send the tickets back to Abraham in Philadelphia and asked him to get another set of tickets via Liverpool. This was done, but it took time. Winter crossings of the North Sea on a small steamer bound for Grimsby, Britain, was not recommended. They worried it would soon be fall and they would have to cross the North Sea in rough weather.

The 1911 letters end in June. The rest of the story is told by Laibel (by then Leon) 29 years later in a memoir. In the 1930s, Laibel's cousin wrote a memoir of his life in Russia and Laibel was so impressed with the memoir that he decided to write one about his own experiences in Russia and his immigration. Laibel's memoir was typed by my cousin Miriam Davidon (in English) between 1940 and 1944. A good part of it is devoted to

and try and join the rest of the family somewhere across the border in Germany.

But a family incident at that time was used by Laibel as a way to get around the problem. Laibel's cousin Elias Boonin (who lived in Slutsk), against the judgment and without the knowledge of his parents, took family cash and left for America. Elias, who was Laibel's age, had a passport. A few days later, Elias' mother learned of his



Laibel Boonin's Class at National Farm School

coming to America. One final note about the letters. Mendell saved another 300 letters written between 1911 and 1918. They concern, in the main, life in immigrant Jewish Philadelphia although a number of letters from Slutsk do discuss the lives of the extended family that remained there. The German army occupied Slutsk during World War I.

Laibel's Memoir

Although not expressly stated in the memoir, the family left Slutsk for Hamburg in the beginning of August 1911. They traveled to Hamburg with their uncle Alter, their mother's brother. Initially, Laibel made plans to travel by himself. He explained:

Our uncle Alter had agreed to become the legal trustee for the family, not including myself, as I was not allowed to leave the country unless I paid the fine of three-hundred rubles, as a penalty for Mendell's absence from military service. This was considered a very large sum then, and to pay the fine was out of the question. So I was faced with the probability of not being able to travel with the rest, as I should have to "skip" the country and cross the border by illegal means,

secret departure, gave chase via a *potcht*, a light carriage with two fast horses and a driver, the horses worked in relay and fresh horses were ready at each stop. She caught up with her son and brought him back to Slutsk. Laibel wrote:

The whole incident was hushed up and kept a secret. However, I learned of it and approached cousin Elias about his foreign passport. I offered to reimburse him all that he had spent on obtaining it, and asked him to give me his passport to use for my trip to America. It was understood that I should travel under his name and would return the passport to him by registered mail as soon as I had crossed the Russian border.

Laibel goes on to explain that both youngsters were "quite ignorant" of the fact that the passport would not be valid if returned by mail.

Our ignorance in the matter did not help my cousin later on. After he learned what he had done it caused him a great deal of trouble and his parents much anxiety. He was obliged to cross the border secretly from Russia and then return legally and have his passport properly stamped. Naturally, I felt very sorry

for the trouble I had caused my cousin Elias and I wrote and expressed my regret.

Leaving Slutsk

Uncle Alter Boonin and the six Boonin children — including Laibel on his cousin's passport — left Slutsk and traveled to the nearest railroad station by bus, “about a six hour ride.” They boarded a train in Russia and crossed the border into Germany. Upon entering Germany, they were detained for 24 hours for quarantine, or as it was then called, *The Bath*.

The men and women were separated and placed in different quarters. Our clothes were fumigated and we were inspected by a doctor. Uncle Alter, who rode with us all the way, tried to be affectionate as this was to be his last day with us. We were stationed in a very large barrack-like room with all the men. We awoke at daybreak and gathered about our uncle while yet in our underwear. Uncle Alter always appeared to be in good spirits in our company. Perhaps this was due to the fact that he had five daughters in his family and no sons.

Laibel wrote that they all felt sad when Alter departed, “but the excitement of travel and my pre-occupation with my increased responsibility helped me to forget my grief temporarily, but we always remembered him [Alter] as a companion and pal.” From there they traveled by rail to Hamburg, to wait for a steamer to “cross the English Channel [The North Sea] to Hull, England. We did not experience any difficulty with the German language and were able to make ourselves understood whenever we tried to buy things, etc.” They stayed in Hamburg four days.

At this point in the memoir, Laibel reflects on the differences he experienced on the Russian train and the German train. “Although we were eager to leave Russia and felt a sense of relief when we had crossed its border, in traveling through the country [Russia] we felt quite at home. We rode in regular passenger coaches and could purchase tea and other items at the railroad stations in the same manner as all the other passengers. But in Germany we were made to ride in freight cars marked “for immigrants only.” We had to sit on our baggage as there were no benches and no other passenger facilities.”

Passage to England

After four days in Hamburg, on August 12, 1911, they boarded the steamer *Bury* for the crossing of the North Sea. The Hamburg records indicate that Laibel traveled under the name Boonin, the others under the name Bunin. About this experience he wrote:

At Hamburg, we were made to walk about two miles carrying some of our light luggage with us from the immigrant station to the wharf to get aboard the ship. We were marched in single file together with many women and children. The youngsters continued asking how much farther they would have to walk. Many children had to be carried. I remember having to carry my sister Jean [Bailke] for about a mile. The anxiety of

not being told how far we were to walk added much to our discomfort.

They finally arrived at the ship.

We were greatly relieved when we reached our destination and boarded the small steamer which was to take us across the channel. We all felt tired and hungry and ate heartily when the meal was served. The crossing was very rough and we soon got sea sick and regretted that we had eaten the hearty meal as we made quick work of it over the deck's rail.



A curiosity is encountered in reading the Hamburg records of this crossing on the *Bury*. The listing for Laibel is not found with the rest of the family, but separately on another page. Also, Laibel's name is spelled Boonin, and rest of the family, Bunin. The *Bury* manifest (Hamburg records) indicates that they came from Minsk. If this is Minsk Guberniya, it is correct. If this is the city of Minsk, it is incorrect.

They reached Grimsby and traveled by train to Liverpool. There the family had to load their baggage onto large express wagons because of a strike of the longshoremen (the famous Transportation Strike of 1911). Leon wrote:

Some of our baggage was very heavy. We had two large sacks each of which required two men to handle, and also a number of heavy suitcases. We were all taken, together with our baggage, and brought to a poor section of the city and deposited in a large courtyard shaped like a horseshoe with only one large entrance gate. The large yard was paved with cobble stones, and the buildings were old and had corrugated iron awnings in front of them, which gave the whole place a dreary and shabby appearance. Under those awnings they put our baggage and we were placed inside the buildings. Our beds consisted of iron cots fixed in three tiers, one above the other. The food was also very poor, but we paid little attention to all the inconveniences as we expected to remain there only the customary few days while awaiting the boat. However, we very soon learned that the sailors and longshoremen were on strike and began to get uneasy about the possible delay in our sailing.

There were a couple hundred immigrants in the courtyard, the majority of whom were women and children. The men formed a group and located the office of the steamship company. They promptly went there to learn about the sailing date for the *S. S. Dominion* going to Philadelphia. The balance of this article is taken from pages 117 to 125 of the memoir.



Liverpool Landing Stage

“The officials of the company at first gave evasive answers, but as we continued to come in groups every day to bother them, they informed us that we might leave soon, if we were willing to travel to the port of New York. This we positively refused to do and resolved to remain there until the strike should be over. We feared to go by way of New York as there were rumors that the immigration requirements were more strictly enforced there. I was especially concerned not to have to travel via New York because all our arrangements with Mendell and Abe and the legal papers prepared by them with Uncle Goldberg, who was to sign our bond as our trustee, all lived in Philadelphia and might not be valid in New York.

“We were then slowly beginning to get used to our surroundings and located a Jewish grocer where we bought some food to supplement the poor meals served to us by the company. We also became frequent visitors in a museum of arts and science which we found very interesting. We next discovered a subway which crossed a river and greatly enjoyed the novelty of crossing the river and returning by surface car or ferry boat, as such wonders could hardly be grasped by our small town folks. We experienced the novelty of having to learn the different monetary values. Everywhere people constantly offered to exchange our money for English or American simply as a favor or courtesy. But their eagerness put me on my guard against them. My brother Sam [Shmeril] was very quick to learn the different rates of exchange and could not easily be cheated.

“One morning right after our breakfast, six large express wagons with two rough looking express men on

each wagon drove into our courtyard, scattered to different sections of the yard, and began loading the people's belongings onto the wagons. We immediately became suspicious and demanded to know where they were trying to take our luggage. After some difficulty in understanding the English language, we learned that the company had sent them to take our baggage by force, if necessary, in order to force us to travel by way of New York. Their plan was that we would all surely follow our precious belongings and thus be compelled to agree to it.

“We were all taken by surprise and did not quite know how to act. Our first impulse was to prevent the express men from taking our baggage. But we did not know how to go about it. We were all scattered about the large semicircular yard and every one ran to protect his own belongings. This kind of action served the express men nicely as it prevented concerted action as a group on our part, and they continued loading the baggage onto the wagons. Many people, especially the women and children, tried to hold on to their baggage by simply climbing on the sacks and bundles and sitting on them. This injected a rather humorous note into our desperate situation, as the express men got hold of the end of the sacks and gave a strong and sudden pull and the women and children who were on them rolled to the floor.

“I left my brother Sam with the rest of our children to watch our bundles and ran toward the gate where a group of men were assembling. Everyone was talking and suggesting ideas about preventing the express men from taking away our baggage. Suddenly one of them called out, ‘Let's close the gate.’ This simple idea seemed to electrify us and we all ran to the gate. The massive gate was built of wood and opened on the inside of the yard. We closed the gate with a bang and began calling everybody to come to the gate. The youngsters immediately took up the alarm and began yelling loudly, ‘Run to the gate.’ The women and children, whose baggage had already been loaded, responded quickly and all flocked to the gate. But soon the rest also left their bundles and rushed toward the gate.

“As the large crowd assembled, a form of organization began to take shape. The women and children were ordered to come up right against the gate to block it with their bodies from being opened. The men and boys formed in a line in front of them facing the express men who might come to fight their way to open the gate. It was surprising how the same crowd who had just been pleading with the express men not to take their belongings had now become bold and full of fight as they found strength and courage in numbers and organization.

“The express men had, for a while, continued loading their wagons unmolested although at a much slower rate. Then a couple of our men placed their two fingers in their

mouths and let out a shrill whistle (Russian style) which served to attract the express men's attention and also served as a warning. They stopped loading and gathered around their leader. Apparently they sized up the situation and a couple of them came over to talk with us. Our militant crowd proved convincing enough evidence for them. As they soon agreed to unload all our baggage, if we promised to let them get out the gate with their empty wagons. After this incident, we were afraid to leave the courtyard, and organized in groups who remained on watch while the rest might be out. However, we were not bothered again.

“Several days after the above described incident, we were notified that the strike had been settled, and were ordered to report to the official doctor for the examination of our eyes, which usually meant that we were to sail within three days. The eye disease called trachoma was then prevalent and considered contagious, and one with any symptoms of trachoma was barred from entering the country of the United States. The ship companies were held responsible for passengers who could pass the entrance examinations and were compelled, by law, to return them to their places of embarkation free of charge. This caused the official doctor of the company to be very strict with their examination. We were all cheered by the good news of our prospective final journey and very soon appeared at the office of the ship company's doctor for the examination. Everyone felt in a holiday mood as they came out from the office waving their steamship tickets containing the doctor's red stamp of approval.

“The six of us were in line with the rest and shared the happy atmosphere. We were admitted together as a family, but the doctor seemed to care little that we remain together as a family, as he examined us all and passed only three of us, stamping only three cards. I pleaded with him but to no avail. If I remember correctly, Jack, Jean and Sam were the ones rejected. This rejection by the doctor took me completely by surprise because we had seen to it that our eyes were in good condition when we left Slutsk and had twice since been examined and passed by eye doctors (once in Germany and on entering England).

“We then had several plans to consider. One plan was to break up the family and have the three who were rejected remain in Liverpool to have their eyes treated and to allow the others to go on to America. Or whether it would be better for all of us to remain in England, some of those whose eyes were passed on by the doctor might later be rejected, if we were detained any length of time. The time was entirely too short for communicating with Mendell and Abe in Philadelphia.

“I talked to a number of people among our immigrants, but they could offer me no constructive advice. However, I did not despair nor give up seeking

advice and just when the situation was growing desperate, I happened to think of the Jewish grocer from whom we often bought things for the children to eat. I went there at once, told him my story, and asked for his advice. He was very sympathetic as he listened to my troubles and advised me to take the family to a local eye doctor for examination, also to get the eye doctor's personal advice as to what course to follow. The grocer gave me an address and explained how to get there. He assured me that the doctor to whom he was sending me was known to be a very honest man.

“This small incident of the sympathetic grocer and his simple advice can be really appreciated only by those who have at one time or another found themselves stranded in a foreign land, unable to speak a strange language, and faced with the prospect of a possible forced return to a country where they were grossly mistreated and abused when they had felt themselves to be well on their way to a place of liberty. What a coincidence that I, some years later, should myself be engaged in the grocery business, there to play the role of listener to other people's troubles. At such times I always tried to offer constructive advice.

“The remark of the Liverpool grocer that he was sending me to an ‘honest’ doctor greatly lessened my anxiety, for I realized that a less scrupulous doctor could have had us remain there for eye treatment for a long time and so have extracted a good deal of money from us. The doctor listened to our story and gave our eyes a thorough examination. Then he gave us an eye wash and instructed us to wash our eyes before bed time, in the morning, and during the day, to get plenty of sleep and not to worry. Finally he advised us to disregard the fact that some of our steamship tickets did not have the company doctor's stamp on them and to board the ship with the other passengers. He explained to us that everyone would again have to undergo an eye inspection as they were coming on board ship and that the ship's doctor might pass us by together with the others.

“We followed our doctor's instructions and were all shoved aboard ship together with the others as the ship company's doctor could not possibly be very strict because of the great crowd, and, at last, we found ourselves on board ship and on the last lap of our journey to America.”

Thus the ship left Liverpool for Queenstown, and then for the open ocean. As they headed westward, they must have all dreamed the dreams that all immigrants dream. Perhaps, AVOTAYNU will allow me to write about their voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, documented by Laibel in his memoir, with humor, understanding and only the wonders that beginnings hold.

Miscellaneous Data

The story is unusual, not only because it is partially documented with contemporaneous evidence, but also

because genealogical-type documents corroborate the story, fragile documents that usually have not survived the vagaries of time. For example, my aunt Jean (Bailke) saved her own and my father's Inspection Cards from Liverpool. On the front of the Inspection Card is a large "G" printed in red, perhaps the "doctor's red stamp of approval" mentioned by Laibel in his memoir. In addition, the Inspection Cards indicate that Jacob and Bailke were vaccinated by Dr. W. H. Luggar; it is not clear whether this occurred in Liverpool or later in the journey. These documents further state that the *S. S. Dominion* sailed on August 30, 1911; the purser's manifest indicates that the actual sailing was the following day. The ship stopped in Queenstown on September 1, 1911.

Prior to the trip, Abraham sent Leon a note from Mr. Cooper in Philadelphia. The note, composed by Cooper and memorized by Abe, stated:

Dear Mr. Linderman. Kindly see that the bearers of this note are well cared for during their voyage. They are orphans and are bound to an uncle and two brothers, which relatives are personal friends of mine. Any courtesy shown them will be greatly appreciated by yours truly. I. J. Cooper

This note was quoted verbatim in a letter from Abe to Mendell dated January 19, 1911. Whether the note was ever given to Mr. Linderman — and who Mr. Linderman was — is not known. Perhaps Linderman worked at Louis Scharlach & Company in Hamburg, or was employed by the American Line in Liverpool. Laibel does not mention the note in his letters or the memoir.

Perhaps the most fragile of the documents were found among Bailke's papers. These are three receipts (in German) from "Louis Scharlach & Co., Bahnhofstr. 9, Hamburg. Telephon 2270." Karen Franklin at the Leo Baeck Institute was kind enough to have them translated for this article. I would not think many families saved such flimsy receipts from almost 100 years ago. They

are small forms, the blanks filled in with pencil 96 years ago. These documents, dated August 12, 1911, are receipts for tickets for the *Bury*, and for three nights food and lodging in Hamburg. They include the contract ticket number for the six tickets for the *Bury* and the money Laibel paid to Louis Scharlach & Co. in Hamburg. The Nos. on the Hamburg receipts are Nos. 37-424 and 38665. The cost of lodging for three days in Hamburg was 34.40 marks. The cost of transportation from the train in Hamburg to the dock area was 4.50 marks (we know from Laibel's story that this cost did not provide transportation all the way to the ship). The cost of transporting their belongs on the *Bury* from Hamburg to Hull was 47 marks.

The purser's passenger list is found at NARA, Philadelphia, for the *S.S. Dominion* (microfilm No. T-791, roll No. 10). It indicates that the Contract Ticket No. for the *S. S. Dominon* for Laibel was G214. The Contract Ticket No. for the other tickets was 20051.

I have looked through the surviving Passage Order books for the four Jewish Immigrant Banks in Philadelphia (located at the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center), and, so far, have not found information about the tickets purchased in 1910 and 1911. The Passage Order books do reveal the ticket purchased for Mendell when he immigrated in 1903 and who the purchaser was. I do not know where Cooper bought the tickets for the six children in 1910 and 1911.

The ages of the children when they boarded the *S. S. Dominion* in Liverpool on August 30, 1911, were: Laibel, 23; Shmeril, 17, Sarah, 15; Lipe, 11, Bailke, 9 and Jacob (Yankel), 6. At that time Mendell was 25 and Abraham was 21.

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The Eight Boonin children reunited in March 1912



Routes Out of Russia
Compiled by David Brill
Russian Interest Group Coordinator

The following was a handout at the Society's Spring 2007 Russian Interest Group Meeting

Timeline 1880-1906

March 1881	Alexander II assassinated; Alexander III becomes Czar.
April 1881	Pogroms in Elizavetgrad, Kiev, Odessa and other cities.
Summer 1881	First mass emigration; refugees from pogroms gather in Brody, Austria (now Ukraine).
January 1882	Count Ignatyev states: "The Western frontier is open for Jews," setting off an emigration panic in the Jewish population.
March 1882	Pogrom at Balta (Podolia).
May 1882	"May Laws" further curtail Jewish rights. Banned Jews from all rural areas and towns of fewer than ten thousand people, even within the Pale of Settlement.
Summer 1882	Second wave of emigrants assemble at Brody.
1888-1891	New emigrant holding facilities built at Hamburg, Germany.
1891	Expulsion of Jews from Moscow.
1892	Ellis Island opens. Direct passenger service from Odessa and Riga to New York begins.
January 1892	Tightening of border controls between Russia and Germany. Emigrants required to have passenger ticket to Hamburg or Bremen, as well as steamship passage.
August 1892	Cholera breaks out at Hamburg Port; border crossing temporarily closed.
October 1894	Alexander III dies; Nicholas II becomes Czar.
1901	New emigrant hall opened at Hamburg with direct rail link.
1906	US Naturalization Act. Direct steamship passenger service from Libau to New York begins.

Points of Emigration from the Russian Empire in 1882

Major land border crossings Russia to Austria-Hungary

Radzivilov, Russia / Brody, Austria -- frontier on the Dubno to Lemberg rail line

Podvolochisk -- frontier on the Proskurov to Tarnopol rail line

Czernowitz, Austria (now Chernivitsi, Ukraine)

Major land border crossings Russia to Germany

Kibarty, Russia / Eydthuhnen, Germany (now Kybartai, Lithuania / Chernyshevskoye, Russia)
-- frontier on the Vilna to Konigsburg rail line

Tilsit, Germany (now Sovetsk, Russia)

Prostken, Germany (now Prostki, Poland)

Seaports

Odessa

Riga

Libau (now Liepaja, Latvia)

Websites

Ballin Stadt (Hamburg emigration museum): <http://www.ballinstadt.de/en/index.php>

Jewish emigration links: <http://jewishwebindex.com/emigration.htm>

Historical Map Collection: <http://www.davidrumsey.com>

FEEFHSMap Room: <http://feefhs.org/maps/indexmap.html>

The Constitution of the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society of Philadelphia 1858

Editors Note: In Volume 25, No. 1, January 2007 edition, we published an article entitled Researching Philadelphia in Israel by Rabbi Shalom Bronstein. Rabbi Bronstein graciously provided the Society a number of lists he found during his research for that article. This is the third. This list was copied at the Jewish National and University Library, Givat Ram Campus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Officers for 1858

First Directress – Mrs. Rebecca C. Hart
 Second Directress – Mrs. Myrtilia Florance
 Treasurer – Mrs. Anna Allen
 Secretary – Miss Rebecca Gratz

Managers

Mrs. Rebecca C. Hart	Mrs. Matilda Cohen
Mrs. Myrtilia Florance	Mrs. Miriam Wolf
Mrs. Anna Allen	Mrs. Hannah Florance
Mrs. Esther Samuel	Mrs. Martha Reinhart
Mrs. Abigail Newhouse	Miss Louisa B. Hart
Mrs. Rachel Leiber	Miss Ellen Philips
Miss Rebecca Gratz	

Page 10 – Subscribers Names for 1858 –

Column I – Name; II – Annual Subscription; III – Donations; IV – Life Subscriptions

I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Mrs. Anna Allen	\$2.00			Mrs. L.J.Cohen (NJ)	\$2.00		
Mrs. Jos. M. Asch	\$2.00			Mrs. Abm. Cohen	\$2.00		
Mrs. Moses Abraham	\$2.00			Mrs. L.J. Cohen	\$2.00		
Mrs. Mayer Arnold	\$2.00			Mrs. A.J. Cohen	\$2.00		
Mrs. Lewis M. Allen	\$2.00			Mrs. E.P. Cohen	\$2.00		
Mr. Joseph Andrade	\$5.00			Mr. A.J. Cohen	\$2.00		
Mrs. Wm. Bowers	\$2.00			Mrs. S. Dreyfus (NJ)	\$2.00		
Mrs. Leon Berg	\$2.00			Mad'e D. Lambert, Paris	\$5.00		
Mrs. C. Bloomingdale	\$2.00			Mrs. Eve Elkin	\$2.00		
Mrs. J. Binswanger	\$2.00			Mrs. Benj. Etting	\$2.00		
Mrs. Geo. Cromelien	\$2.00			Mrs. Edward J. Etting	\$2.00		
Mr. Henry Cohen		\$3.00		Mrs. David Eger	\$2.00		
Mrs. Henry Cohen	\$2.00			Miss R. Etting (Balt)	\$2.00		
Mrs. Marcus Cauffman	\$2.00			Miss Josephine Etting (Balt)	\$2.00		
Mrs. David Cromelien	\$2.00			Mrs. J.L. Florance	\$2.00		

I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Miss Blanche Florance	\$2.00			Mrs. E.L. Moss	\$2.00		
Mrs. W.Z. Florance	\$2.00			Mrs. Grace Marks	\$2.00		
Mr. W.Z. Florance	\$2.00			Mrs. Abm. Minis	\$2.00		
Mr. Florian Florance	\$2.00			Mrs. Ed Mawson	\$2.00		
Mrs. Wm. Florance	\$2.00			Mrs. S. Morais	\$2.00		
Mrs. Abm. Finzi	\$2.00			Mrs. M. Moyer	\$2.00		
Miss Rebecca Gratz	\$5.00		\$30.00	Mr. Ed. A. Moses	\$2.00		
Mr. Joseph Gratz			\$30.00	Mercantile Club		\$25.00	
Mrs. Solm. Gans	\$2.00			Mrs. Jos. Newhouse	\$2.00		
Mrs. Goldsmith	\$2.00			Mrs. Isaiah Nathans	\$2.00		
Miss Louisa Gratz	\$2.00			Mrs. Philip Nathans	\$2.00		
Miss Elizabeth Gratz	\$2.00			Mrs. E. Nusbaum	\$2.00		
Mr. Abm. Hart	\$5.00			Mrs. J. Oyslerman, Texas	\$2.00		
Mrs. Abm. Hart	\$5.00			Mrs. Hyman Pollock	\$2.00		
Mr. B.B. Hart (N.O.)		\$10.00		Mrs. Rachel Phillips	\$2.00		
Mrs. Richea Hays	\$2.00			Mrs. A.J. Phillips	\$2.00		
Mrs. Isaac Hays	\$2.00			Mrs. Sarah Phillips			\$30.00
Mrs. Pheneas Hart	\$2.00			Mrs. Leah Phillips			\$30.00
Mrs. Sarah Hart	\$2.00			Mrs. Jos. Phillips	\$2.00		
Mrs. Reb. Hyneman	\$2.00			Miss Ellen Phillips	\$2.00		
Mrs. Leon Hyneman	\$2.00			Miss Emily Phillips	\$2.00		
Mrs. L. Hecht	\$2.00			Miss Clara Phillips	\$2.00		
Miss L.B. Hart	\$2.00			Mrs. David Peson	\$2.00		
Mrs. Solomon Isaacs	\$2.00			Mrs. R.C. Piesotta			\$30.00
Mrs. R. Jackson	\$2.00			Miss Sincha Piesella	\$2.00		
Mrs. A. Kurshedt	\$2.00			Mr. G.D. Rosengarten		\$20.00	
Mrs. R. Kahnweiler	\$2.00			Mrs. G.D. Rosengarten	\$2.00		
Mrs. Abm. Kahn	\$2.00			Mrs. M. Reinhart	\$2.00		
Mrs. Hetty Levy	\$2.00			Mrs. S. Rothschild	\$2.00		
Mrs. L.J. Levy	\$2.00			Mrs. S.K. Rosenfeld	\$3.00		
Mrs. D. Levine	\$2.00			Mrs. P.S. Rowland	\$2.00		
Mrs. Leon	\$2.00			Mrs. David Samuel	\$2.00		
Mrs. E.P. Levy (S.C.)	\$2.00			Mrs. H. Simpson	\$2.00		
Mrs. B. Leiber	\$2.00			Mrs. B. Spatz	\$2.00		
Mrs. D.C. Levy	\$2.00			Mrs. Soln. Solis	\$2.00		
Mrs. L.J. Leberman	\$2.00			Miss Esther Solis	\$2.00		
Mr. Lippman (NY)	\$2.00			Mrs. E. Simpson	\$2.00		
Mrs. H. Levy (Mobile)	\$2.00			Mrs. David Solomon	\$2.00		
Mrs. Abm. Lazarus	\$2.00			Mrs. J. Vieller	\$2.00		
Mrs. Rebecca Moss		\$5.00	\$30.00	Mrs. S. Weil	\$2.00		
Mrs. Jos. L. Moss	\$5.00			Mrs. Abm. S. Wolf	\$2.00		

The following information about Jewish female philanthropy in Philadelphia and the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Philadelphia can be found in the **Jewish Encyclopedia** under topic **Philadelphia** written by Cyrus Adler and A.S.W. Rosenbach. The website <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com> contains the complete contents of the 12-volume **Jewish Encyclopedia**, which was originally published between 1901 and 1906.

In 1819 several ladies organized the still-existing Female Hebrew Benevolent Society, the first Jewish charitable organization in Philadelphia and the first one in the United States controlled exclusively by women. In 1820 it elected its first board of officers, consisting of Mrs. Rebecca J. Phillips (first directress), Mrs. Belle Cohen (second directress), Mrs. S. Bravo (treasurer), Miss Rebecca Gratz (secretary). Mrs. Abraham S. Wolf has acted as its president for the past thirty years. In 1822 the United Hebrew Benevolent Society was organized. The oldest Hebrew Sunday-school in America was formed in Philadelphia. On Feb. 4, 1838, a number of

ladies met and resolved "that a Sunday-school be established under the direction of the board" of the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society; the school was formally opened on March 4, 1838; and it was about this time that the Ladies' Hebrew Sewing Society was founded.

These facts attest the early activity of the women of Philadelphia in the cause of religion and education. Rebecca Gratz (1781-1869) was, perhaps, the best-known American Jewess of her day. Not only was she one of the organizers of the Hebrew Sunday-School Society, but she was identified with nearly all the charitable organizations in the city. Another woman prominent in the life of the city at this time was Louisa B. Hart (see Michael Hart), who was untiring in her devotion to the religious education of the young. Others prominently identified with the Hebrew Sunday-School Society were Simha C. Peixotta, Ellen Phillips, and Isabella H. Rosenbach. The attendance at the various schools of the society, of which Mrs. Ephraim Lederer is president, now numbers over 3,000. ☆

Rebecca Gratz: Champion Of The Unfortunate by Dr. Yitzchok Levine

This article first appeared on November 30, 2006 in *The Jewish Press* (<http://www.jewishpress.com>) as Part 21 of *Glimpses Into American Jewish History -- a monthly series of articles by Dr. Yitzchok Levine*. Dr. Levine is a professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey. It is re-published here with permission of the author.

Unless otherwise indicated, all quotes are from *The Jewish Woman's Archive*: (<http://www.jwa.org/exhibits/wov/gratz/>).

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the lives of most women were centered on family matters. Rebecca Gratz took a very different course. She never married, but instead "devoted her adult life to providing relief for Philadelphia's underprivileged women and children and securing religious, moral and material sustenance for all of Philadelphia's Jews.

"An observant Jew living in a predominantly Christian nineteenth century culture, Gratz integrated her American experience and Jewish identity to establish the first American Jewish institutions run by women, including the first Hebrew Sunday School and Jewish Orphanage. She believed that women were uniquely responsible for ensuring the preservation of Jewish life in America and worked to create an environment in

which women could be fully Jewish and fully American."



The seventh of twelve children born to Miriam Simon and Michael Gratz, Rebecca Gratz was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on March 4, 1781. Her mother was the daughter of Joseph Simon, a preeminent Jewish merchant of Lancaster, while her father was descended from a long line of respected rabbis. Miriam and Michael were observant Jews and active members of Philadelphia's first synagogue, Mikveh Israel.

"Well educated for her day, Gratz attended women's academies and read in her father's extensive library stocked with works of literature, history, and popular science. As an adult she added Judaica, seeking original

new works in English and works recently translated into English, as well as requesting new books and early readings of works-in-progress from knowledgeable American Jews such as hazan Isaac Leeser and educator Jacob Mordechai.” [i]

“In her late teens, the lively, beautiful, and articulate Rebecca took her place among the social and literary elite of Philadelphia. She came to know many of the important thinkers of her era and corresponded regularly with British educator and novelist Maria Edgeworth, American author Catherine Sedgwick, British actress Fanny Kemble, and Jewish-British theologian Grace Aguilar. She was also familiar with many of the nation’s leading artists....”

Over the years Rebecca focused her efforts on a variety of chesed and educational activities. She spent the major portion of her life providing succor to underprivileged women and children in the Philadelphia area, with a special focus on the needs of the local Jewish community.

“With her mother, Miriam, and older sister Richea, Gratz at twenty helped to found a charitable society for women, the Female Association for the Relief of Women and Children in Reduced Circumstances. Early on Gratz became the organization’s executive secretary, an office she grew to love and sought in most of the organizations she established. Fourteen years later in 1815 she worked with other Philadelphia women in establishing the city’s first orphan asylum (The Philadelphia Orphan Asylum), remaining its executive secretary for forty years.” [ii]

Gratz grew more religious over the years; after her sister Sarah’s death in 1817 she intensified both her study of Judaism and involvement in the lives of the other women congregants at Mikveh Israel. [iii]

“In response to the burgeoning Christian Sunday School movement and increased religious fervor, Gratz began to perceive a need for Jewish education among women and children. In 1818, she began a small religious school for her siblings and their children. Although this early experiment did not expand beyond her family members, it convinced Gratz that this kind of training was essential for Jews living as minorities in a Christian world. Bar mitzvah preparation and private tutorials were the only avenues of formal Jewish education available for boys, and there were none at all for girls. The family school became the prototype for the Hebrew Sunday School that Gratz would establish twenty years later.

“Gratz’s experience with the Female Association and the Philadelphia Orphan Asylum had led her to believe that women, because of their aptitude for domestic duties, were particularly equipped to take care of the greater ‘house of Israel.’ Because her work with nonsectarian charitable organizations had convinced

Gratz that even the most well meaning Christians were often eager to convert others, she became concerned about the growing number of needy Philadelphian Jews. In 1819, she helped establish the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society to create a Jewish presence in the benevolent community....”

Always concerned with the welfare and future of Philadelphia’s 750-member Jewish community, Gratz in 1835 “urged the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society to address ‘that most pressing need – the mental impoverishment of those who are rising to take their places among the thousands of Israel scattered throughout the families of the earth.’ Her solution was a Jewish educational program modeled on the Christian Sunday Schools which had successfully taught thousands of children all over the United States the fundamentals of reading and Christianity.

“In 1838, the Society resolved that ‘a Sunday school be established under the direction of the board, and teachers appointed among young ladies of the congregation.’ The school opened three weeks later, on Gratz’s fifty-seventh birthday, with sixty students enrolled. Gratz became the school’s superintendent and served for more than twenty-five years. The model spread quickly and Gratz advised women in Charleston, Savannah, and Baltimore on establishing similar schools in their own communities.”

In March 1840, Gratz, much to her dismay, received news that Charleston, South Carolina’s old Sephardic Jewish congregation had become Reform, bringing an organ into its new sanctuary and renouncing the ancient Jewish claim to Eretz Yisrael.

“An implacable foe of Reform, Gratz ... told her niece Miriam that Charleston’s Jews were ‘selling their birth-right for a mess of potage. Even the greatest enemies of the Jews never denied their claims on the country inherited from their fathers or doubted they would be restored to it.’

“From Gratz’s perspective, Charleston’s Jews rejected the meaning of Scripture and the special relationship between God and Israel that it described. She was flabbergasted that Jews would take such a position and could only express her thoughts by a series of rhetorical questions. ‘Where is the [truth] of prophecy? Whence the fulfillment of promises? What is the hope of Israel? Of what does the scattered people bear witness? Alas, we may ... weep for the spiritual destruction of Jerusalem when her own children are content to sing the songs of Zion in a strange land and deny the words of God so often repeated by the prophets.’” [iv]

“Rebecca Gratz died on August 27, 1869. She remained actively involved on the boards of the Philadelphia Orphan Society, Female Hebrew Benevolent Society, Hebrew Sunday School and Jewish

Foster Home well into her eighties. Gratz's enduring legacy can be measured by the success and longevity of the many institutions she founded. The Philadelphia Orphan Society and Female Association provided material sustenance to thousands of women and children. The Jewish Foster Home thrived until it eventually merged with other institutions to create the Philadelphia Association for Jewish Children. The Female Hebrew Benevolent Society and Hebrew Sunday School continued their work for almost 150 years."

The historian Dianne Ashton, whose work we've quoted throughout this article, summed up the legacy of

Rebecca Gratz: "By training younger Jewish women in administering the agencies she founded, Gratz ensured that the FHBS, HSS and JFH would continue to flourish long after her death. In their work, these organizations continued to provide Jewish women and children a way to be both fully Jewish and fully American." ✨

[i]Rebecca Gratz, *Women and Judaism in Antebellum America*, Dianne Ashton, Wayne University Press, 1997, page 13.

[ii]Rebecca Gratz, *Women and Judaism in Antebellum America*, page 16.

[iii]Ibid, page 19.

[iv]Rebecca Gratz, *Women and Judaism in Antebellum America*, pages 178-179.

Beyond Hitler's Grasp **Bulgarian Jews saved during World War II** **An Anonymous Internet Posting**

This posting is reproduced below in its entirety. The posting has a few factual errors that are noted by parenthetical Editors notes.

The story of the saving of the Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust is real and many of us are not aware of it.

The book about the events in Bulgaria is Beyond Hitler's Grasp: The Heroic Rescue of Bulgaria's Jews by Michael Bar-Zohar.

A great many Jews know the story of how the Danes rescued 8,000 Jews from the Nazi's by smuggling them to Sweden in fishing boats.

Very few Jews know the story of how all 50,000 Bulgarian Jews were saved. Not a single Bulgarian Jew was deported to the death camps, due to the heroism of many Bulgarians of every walk of life, up to and including the King and the Patriarch of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

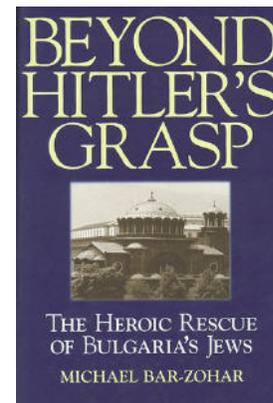
In 1999, Abraham Foxman, the National Director of the Anti Defamation League flew with a delegation to Sophia to meet the Bulgarian Prime Minister. He gave the Prime Minister the first Bulgarian language copy of a remarkable book, "Beyond Hitler's Grasp," written in 1998, by Michael Bar Oar [Editor's Note: Author's name is Michael Bar-Zohar], a professor at Emory University. (A Bulgarian Jew who had migrated to Israel and then to the USA).

This book documents the rescue effort in detail. The ADL paid for and shipped 30,000 copies to Bulgaria, so that the population could partake in the joy of learning about this heroic facet of their history.

This story is clearly the last great secret of the Holocaust era. The story was buried by the Bulgarian Communists, until their downfall in 1991.

All records were sealed, since they didn't wish to glorify the King, or the Church, or the non Communist parliamentarians, who at great personal risk, stood up to the Germans. And the Bulgarian Jewish Community,

45,000 of whom went to Israel after the War, were busy building new lives, and somehow the story remained untold.



Bulgaria is a small country and at the outset of the War they had 8 million people. They aligned themselves with the Nazi's in hopes of recapturing Macedonia from Yugoslavia and Thrace from Greece. Both provinces were stripped from them after W.W.I.

In late 1942, the Jews of Salonika were shipped north through Bulgaria, on the way to the death camps, in sealed box cars. The news of this inhumanity was a hot topic of conversation. Then, at the beginning of 1943, the pro-Nazi Bulgarian government was informed that all 50,000 Bulgarian Jews would be deported in March. The Jews had been made to wear yellow stars and were highly visible.

As the date for the deportation got closer, the agitation got greater. Forty-three ruling party members of Parliament walked out in protest. Newspapers denounced what was about to happen. In addition, the Patriarch of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Archbishop Krill, threatened to lie down on the railroad tracks. Finally, King Boris III forbade the deportation. [Editor's Note: There is not agreement on the role of the King.] Since Bulgaria was an ally of Germany, and the

Germans were stretched militarily, they had to wrestle with the problem of how much pressure they could afford to apply. They decided to pass.

Several points are noteworthy. The Bulgarian Jews were relatively unreligious and did not stand apart from the local populace by virtue of garb, or rites. They were relatively poor by comparison to Jews in other countries, and they lived in integrated neighborhoods. Additionally, the Bulgarians had many minorities, Armenians, Turks, Greeks, and Gypsies, in addition to Jews.

There was no concept of racism in that culture. The bottom line here is that Bulgarians saw Bulgarian Jews as Bulgarians, and not as Jews.

And, being a small country, like Denmark, where there was a closeness of community that is often missing in larger countries.

So, here was a bright spot that we can point to as example of what should have been.

The most famous of those saved was a young graduate of the Bulgarian Military Academy. When he arrived in Israel, he changed his name to Moshe Dayan..... *[Editor's Note: The information about Israeli military leader Moshe Dayan is not correct. He was not from Bulgaria. He was born on a kibbutz in Israel and his parents were immigrants from Ukraine.]* ✨

**In the Matter of
The Memory of Chaim Mendel Pickholz vs.
Assicurazioni Generali S.P.A.
by Israel Pickholtz**

In the words of the website of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), "ICHEIC was established in 1998 following negotiations among European insurance companies and United States insurance regulators, as well as representatives of international Jewish and survivor organizations and the State of Israel to collect and facilitate the signatory companies' processing of insurance claims from the Holocaust period." These claims resulted from the fact that many Holocaust victims held life insurance policies that were never paid after their deaths or for which payment of premiums was discontinued due to "the events of the Holocaust."

During the course of 2003 and as the 31 December deadline for filing claims approached, I learned that ICHEIC maintained a searchable online database with names of policy holders and that this database had a Pickholz listed. The man in question was Chaim Mendel Pickholz and the only information listed was that the policy was issued in Czortkow, by the Italian insurance company Assicurazioni Generali S.P.A. (Generali).

I did not have a clue who this man was. Czortkow is in the general area of Skalat (east Galicia), where the main branches of the Pikhholz families lived, but we knew of no Pikhholz who actually lived in Czortkow. Mendel is a very rare Pikhholz first name and of course I had no way of knowing if Chaim was originally part of his name, or if it had been added later due to illness - a common phenomenon. In fact, my own grandfather, born Mendel Pickholz, had Chaim added to his name around the time I was born.

To tell the truth, my interest in pursuing this lead was more to identify the man himself, rather than any insurance benefits, but things do not always end up the

way they begin.

While I was at it, I searched for additional Pikhholz descendants in the ICHEIC database, using variant spellings and wildcards and eventually turned up two others: Chaim Pickholz Muhlrak (sic) and Izrael Isser Pickholz vel Kupferschmied, both of whom bought their policies from Generali in "Skala." The fact that both these men were listed with double surnames made it impossible to find them without a wild card search, because a simple "Pickholz" search was not considered a match. But those same double surnames made it easy to identify the men themselves and to contact their nearest surviving relatives.

Chaim Pickholz of Skalat (not Skala, of course) was the son of Moses Pikhholz and Chancie Muhlrak and I know the six grandchildren of his brother. There was no one closer who survived the Holocaust. I helped them file a claim and after considerable hemming and hawing about non-payment of premiums, Generali offered the cousins a settlement of \$3354.34, which I believe they accepted and received.

Izrael Isser Kupferschmid had a Pikhholz mother and a Pikhholz wife, so the identification was easy. In his case, I know the two granddaughters of his wife's brother. I helped them file a claim and Generali acknowledged that he had had two twenty-year policies with them, both issued in 1929. One they claimed was invalid and for the other they offered the princely sum of \$51,462.16. I believe that the sisters took what was offered and did not appeal the decision regarding the second policy.

In neither case did ICHEIC play any role that we could discern. The claims were filed with ICHEIC but all the subsequent correspondence came from Generali.

But Chaim Mendel was entirely another story. We simply had no idea who he was. One Pikhholz descendant in the United States knew that her grandmother had a brother Shoil ben Aryeh Leib Pikhholz - who lived not far from Czortkow and that this uncle had made aliyah sometime after World War I, leaving two grown sons in Galicia. No one knew anything about these two sons, so I suggested she file a claim, because if this Chaim Mendel was Shoil's son, it would be easy enough to prove the relationship. I also filed a claim, based on the possibility that Chaim Mendel was part of the Pikhholz family in neighboring Budanow and I thought at the time that this Budanow family might be closely related to my own. We have never been able to find living descendants of the Budanow family itself.

These two claims were pretty weak, but our purpose was to get a file open and to learn who Chaim Mendel was. ICHEIC's rules stated that even if the insurance company rejected a claim, they had to show documentation and that, we figured, would tell us who Chaim Mendel was.

So on 9 December 2003, I filed my claim and on 17 November 2004 ICHEIC in London informed me that it had been submitted to Generali for their attention. On 9 August 2005, twenty months after my filing, Generali informed me that they had no life insurance policy that fit the information I had given them. Generali invited me to appeal to ICHEIC.

By this time, I had learned that there was likely no Mendel in the Budanow Pikhholz family and that this family was not closely related to my own, so the entire basis for my original claim was invalid. But I still wanted to identify Chaim Mendel, so I pushed on.

In my appeal, dated 26 August 2005, I reminded ICHEIC that according to their own rules, the claimant is entitled to see any relevant documents and protested that this rule was not being honored. On 21 September, ICHEIC sent the appeal to Generali and on 24 October Generali rejected the appeal, once again without showing any relevant documents. This time they said I had thirty days to request an arbitrator.

In my request for arbitration dated 7 November, I reviewed all that I knew about the eleven Pikhholz descendants named Mendel born before 1920, and suggested that the best candidate would be Mendel Liebergal, the son of Sara Pikhholz and Moshe Liebergal of Skalat, who was born in 1890. In my petition I reminded ICHEIC that according to their website "ICHEIC's mission is to identify, settle, and pay individual claims" and I pointed out that if they would simply tell me when and where Chaim Mendel was born and who his parents were, I could help them fulfill their mission.

On 15 December 2005, Generali informed ICHEIC

that they rejected my claim once again and "there is nothing further to add." On 21 December, ICHEIC informed me of Generali's decision and on 13 January 2006 I wrote back, telling them what I thought of them and their charade.

On 2 March 2006, Generali wrote that "all possible explanations regarding this claim have already been provided" and that again they "have nothing further to add with respect to the appeal in question." On the matter of showing relevant documentation, I may as well have been talking to the walls.

The arbitrator saw the material on 19 June 2006 and on 23 June I was informed that I had fourteen days to reply to Generali's "last word."

On 20 July 2006, Mark Halpern of JRI-Poland sent me a sneak preview of the newest Skalat records, births for 1902-05, in the form of an Excel file, this in my capacity as town leader for Skalat for JRI-Poland. And there in 1902 was the birth of Chaim Mendel Pikhholz, born in nearby Kaczanowka to Josef Pikhholz of Kaczanowka and Bertha Schwebel of Czortkow.

I knew that Josef and Bertha had three sons. Abraham who was born in 1900 and died in 1901, Yitzhak (1906-1977) who was buried in New Jersey and Munio, whose name I knew from a submission to JewishGen's Family Tree of the Jewish People by a Schwebel relative. Munio must be Chaim Mendel. I had assumed that Munio was a nickname for Moshe, because that was the case with another Skalat-area Pikhholz. I learned later that I was not the only one who made that mistake.

Yitzhak - who went by the name Irwin in the United States - had no children, but as recently as 2000, his wife was still living. Back then, I had found Else Pikhholz in the phone book and wrote to see who she was. I received a response from her nephew, Len, who said that she was Irwin's widow, that they had no children and that Irwin had a brother killed in the Holocaust, but she knew nothing more about the family. Or more likely, she no longer remembered anything about Irwin's family.

But this was 2006 and Else was no longer in the phone book. So I called the cemetery in New Jersey, where I learned that the other half of Irwin's double grave was unoccupied. They would not tell me more, but gave me the number for the burial society. The woman at the society found my inquiry rather suspicious, but promised to pass a message to the family. Soon after, I had an email from Len, telling me that Else was ninety-five years old and that he was handling her affairs. He too regarded me with a bit of suspicion at the outset.

I faxed ICHEIC with all this news and advised them that from here on, they should consider Else to be the claimant, although I would continue working with them (or perhaps against them) on her behalf.

Of course, I immediately ordered Chaim Mendel's birth record from Warsaw. In the meantime, Len provided Irwin's birth certificate and marriage certificate showing the same parents as Chaim Mendel and demonstrating Else's relationship. On 7 August I faxed Len's documents and power of attorney to the arbitrator, together with Irwin's application for Social Security (SS-5) which showed his parents' names and his birthplace in his own hand - a document which I had acquired some years earlier.

When I left for the Conference in New York, I had not received an acknowledgement from ICHEIC's arbitrator for any of my new material. During the Conference, I consulted with others on the subject, particularly with Sidney Zabłudoff, who had extensive ICHEIC experience and who thought I had a good chance for a hearing and a favorable ruling, despite the fact that I was presenting new material after the appeal process had formally ended.

By now, things were falling into place. I did a search on my database for Czortkow and found two Pages of Testimony submitted in 1956 by Mrs. Genia Stock of Kiryat Motzkin. Mrs. Stock had taken it upon herself to submit Pages for everyone she could remember from her hometown of Probuzhna, including Moshe Pickholz, his wife Sarah and their three children - Freide, Josef and Avigdor. I had a copy of these Pages from the very first days of my Pickholz research and in fact in my file of 325 Pages of Testimony, the one for Sarah is numbered "1." I had spoken with the eighty-year-old Mrs. Stock at the time (1998) and she told me that she knew little of this Moshe, except that he had come from Czortkow, but his wife was from Probuzhna, so she remembered her family. She did recall that he had a brother someplace outside Galicia - maybe Vienna. My strongest impression of my conversation with Mrs. Stock was that she was sorry that she was able to submit Pages of Testimony for only 975 of the nearly twelve hundred Jews of Probuzhna, and in that she felt that she had failed the others.

I suspected that Mrs. Stock had known "Munio" Pickholz and had assumed him to be Moshe, just as I had. She had the 1902 year of birth and his father's name Josef.

Sarah's maiden name was not listed, but her parents were identified as Avigdor and Miriam. Mrs. Stock had submitted two other Pages for people with these same parents, both with the surname Klinger, so I guessed that Sarah may have been Klinger as well.

Mrs. Stock testified that the family was killed in Belzec in 1942.

On 17 September, I notified the arbitrator that I now had Chaim Mendel's birth record in hand and informed him the precise date and house number. I also told him

that I believed he lived in Probuzhna and that his wife and children were Sarah Klinger and Freide, Josef and Avigdor. I also reminded him that ICHEIC had not acknowledged receiving any of my new information since July.

On 19 September, I received an email message from ICHEIC telling me that the arbitrator needed further information and clarifications, particularly regarding the changes I had made in the claim - a fully reasonable request, under the circumstances.

My 21 September faxed reply summarized the entire claim from beginning to end and included a copy of the birth record - all of which ICHEIC duly forwarded to Generali for comment on 24 October, advising them that they had ten days to respond.

On 13 December I reminded ICHEIC that Generali's ten days had long passed.

On 27 December Generali sent me a copy of the policy, confirming that Sary Klinger was Chaim Mendel's wife, and offering a low five-figure settlement in the name of Else Pickholz for a twenty-five year policy issued in 1937. They said that I had three business days to advise them if I was withdrawing the appeal. ICHEIC was closing their London offices on 31 December and it was suddenly urgent to close all their files.

I checked the math with Sidney Zabłudoff. Len accepted Generali's surrender on his aunt's behalf and I withdrew the appeal. Len received the check in February 2007.

Sometimes the good guys prevail. I would be remiss if I did not mention the moral support and advice I received along the way from Tom Venetianer of <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/h-justice>.

I have not been successful in locating Mrs. Genia Stock to tell her the full story and I suspect she has passed on.

On this occasion, we pause to remember Chaim Mendel (Munio) ben Yosef and Beile Pickholz, his wife Sarah bat Avigdor and Miriam Klinger and their three young children, Freide, Josef and Avigdor. May God avenge their blood. ✨

Israel Pickholtz was born in Pittsburgh. He has been in Israel for thirty-four years. His interest in genealogy began as a child, but he did not do much about it until about thirteen years ago. For the last nine years, he has been working on a project to identify and connect all Pikholtz families everywhere. The Pikholtz Project web site is at www.pikholtz.org.

This article was first published in Sharsheret Hadorot, Vol. 21. No. 3 and is published in Chronicles with permission of the author.

U.S. News

Cook County Records Going Online

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, September 9, 2007, and is copyright 1996 - 2007 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>.

Genealogists researching Cook County, Illinois, ancestors will be interested to learn that many of the records they seek will soon be available online. This beats the old method of ordering by mail or traipsing down to a musty office in Chicago's Loop. If all goes as planned, newly digitized versions of county records such as birth and death certificates and marriage licenses will be available beginning in January.

The Web site is part of a massive, yearlong effort to digitize the county's 24 million vital records, which date to 1871, when record-keeping began after the Chicago Fire wiped out previous stockpiles.

Scanning and indexing each record was completed in June, and the county is uploading about 1 million files per week into a server, a process that is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Documents available online will include birth certificates that are at least 75 years old, marriage certificates more than 50 years old, and death certificates more than 20 years old. No Social Security numbers will be available on the online documents.

Editor's Note: There is no mention of this digital service on the Cook County Clerk's Office website at http://www.cookctyclerk.com/sub/vital_records.asp.

JGS of Illinois reports that services are planned to commence in January 2008 covering births over 75 years old, marriages over 50 years old, and deaths over 20 years old. Existing Illinois State Archive searchable databases can be found at:

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>

National Archives Announces Changes in Copying Fees

A final rule published in the *Federal Register* August 17, 2007, amends the fees for reproduction of archival materials in National Archives facilities nationwide. This rule will become effective on Monday, October 1, 2007. This is the first fee increase in 7 years.

As of October 1, 2007, fixed-fee reproductions of commonly-requested genealogical records using the National Archives order forms will be:

<u>Type of Record</u>	<u>Order Form</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Passenger Arrival Lists	NATF Form 81	\$25.00
Federal Census Requests	NATF Form 82	\$25.00
Land Entry Records	NATF Form 84	\$40.00
Full Pension File more than 75 years old (Civil War and after)	NATF Form 85	\$75.00
Full pension file (pre-Civil War)	NATF Form 85	\$50.00
Pension Documents Packet	NATF Form 85	\$25.00
Bounty Land Warrant Application Files	NATF Form 85	\$25.00
Military service files more than 75 years old	NATF Form 86	\$25.00

Self-service copies will be \$0.25 per page in the Washington, DC, area, and \$0.20 per page at regional archives and Presidential libraries. NARA-made copies will be \$0.75 per page.

New York Times' Archives Available Free of Charge

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, October 14, 2007, and is copyright 1996 - 2007 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>.

In a major turnabout, the New York Times is making its archives from 1851 to 1922 and from 1987 to the present available on the web at no charge.

The material from 1851 to 1922 has long been out of copyright and was available elsewhere for modest fees. However, the Times used to charge to access those editions as well as the newer ones since 1987 on the Times' own web site. Other sections of the site have also been behind a "pay wall," generating more than \$10 million a year in revenue. Now the paper is opening up most of its web site, although not everything.

The announcement says there will be charges for some material from the period 1923 to 1986, and some will be free. However, the announcement does not give details of what remains available only to paid access.

Details may be found at <http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/09/18/business/18times.php>.

Library of Congress: Photo Collection

From Tracing the Tribe by Schelly Dardashti, August 13, 2007.

Reader Ann Rabinowitz supplies great research tips. Her latest is the free, searchable online Library of Congress Photo Collection (1840-2000), which includes some 340,000 prints, useful for tracing immigrant ancestors to America.

Search it at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html>. Search categories include names, towns, occupations and more.

Using the term "news-boys," Ann found an April 17, 1912 photo from Washington, DC, of a group of boys who sold extras into the late hours of the night and early morning. Some were Jewish, identified as Israel Spril, 9, 314 I Street, NW; Harry Shapiro, 11, 95 L Street, NW; and Eugene Butler, 310 (rear) 13 Street, NW.

There were 117 more photos in the same category. Others mentioned include Abraham Jachnes (1908), Newsboys Lodging House, 14 Chambers St., NY; Harry Ahrenpreiss, 30 Willet St., Brooklyn; Abe Gramus, 37 Division St.; Alice Goldman, Besie Goldman and Bessie Brownstein, Hartford, CT (1909).

Readers might be shocked at the young ages represented, she says, adding that the youngest she saw was only 4 years old. Special lodgings were sometimes provided and there were protective associations. Although primarily a male domain, girls also worked in the trade.

US Passport Collection at Ancestry

From Tracing the Tribe by Schelly Dardashti, November 21, 2007.

Ancestry has released a new collection: U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925.

The US government has issued passports to American citizens since 1789. For the most part,

passports were not required of US citizens for foreign travel until World War I. A 1915 Executive Order followed by a 1948 Act of Congress established passport requirements for traveling citizens. Although there have been several permutations of laws, passport requirements were set in 1941 for all US citizens.

This database contains passport applications (1795-1925), emergency passport applications (passports issued abroad) (1877-1907), passport application registers (1810-1817, 1830-1831, 1834-1906), although passports issued March 4-5, 1919 (numbers 67500-67749) are missing from the NARA collection from this database.

For more information and to search see <http://content.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=1174>

Ancestry is a fee-for-service online facility.

American Jewish Year Book Online

Google Books at <http://books.google.com/> has amongst its collection the American Jewish Year Book 5675 (1914-15). If you enter "American Jewish Year Book" in the "Search Books" box, the first result will be the full text of the 5675 Year Book, which can be searched by keyword.

Searching Google Books for other titles could provide other valuable research resources.

Lincoln and Jews Online

"Abraham Lincoln and the Jews," a self-published book by Isaac Markens in 1909 is available online also at Google Books [<http://books.google.com/>].

The book covers the incident of the 1862 order by General Ulysses Grant expelling Jews from Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee and Lincoln's rescinding of that order.

LDS Family History Library News

New Jewish resources

From Tracing the Tribe by Schelly Dardashti, May 24, 2007.

During the past year, some new Jewish resources have been added to the Family History Library.

- Canada: The 1911 Canadian census films have been cataloged and will be available during the conference.
- Boston: Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society card files for Boston (1882-1929) are on nine microfilm reels.
- Lviv: In 2006, some major Jewish record groups were filmed in the Lviv archives, including metrical records (birth, marriage, death) for many Galizianer

communities. A 33-reel set covers more than 60 places (1820-1939); a 10-reel set covers Lviv records (1801-1889); six reels cover Brody (1815-1871). An archival register has 376 files of Jewish congregational records in Galicia. For more information on these holdings, search the Family History Library Catalog at www.familysearch.org and type in "Lviv Jewish."

- Vienna: The Vienna archive of Jewish metrical books (B,M,D) includes 398 reels (1826-1943). For more information, type in "Matrikel 1826-1943, Judische Gemeinde."

LDS Church Announces Three Online Resources for Jewish Genealogical Researchers

FamilySearch added to its substantial Jewish genealogical collection with the addition of its new Jewish Family History Resources online. From the homepage at [www.familysearch.org], click on "Jewish Family History Resources."

The new web page includes a new Jewish genealogy database, the *Knowles Collection*, as well as a new research guide, *Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors (Finding Jewish Records)*. The new features can be accessed for free at FamilySearch.org.

The *Knowles Collection* contains information for thousands of Jews from the British Isles.

The *Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors (Finding Jewish Records)* guide is an excellent, free reference tool for anyone with a Jewish ancestor who came to the United States from Europe.

Also there is an updated Jewish Genealogy Research Outline.

New Family History Website from LDS

From a posting to the IAJGS Leadership Forum by Joan Parker on September 23, 2007

The Family History Department in Salt Lake City has developed a new research tool [www.familysearchwiki.org]. This resource has been developed to help make family history research advice easier to find and share. There are two ways to search the site: Keyword search or Browse by country.

FamilySearchWiki is intended as an online community for family history researchers and those interested in learning how to be more successful in the search for their ancestors. This site includes all research outlines published by the Family History Library and many other articles never published.

Holocaust Research and Information

International Tracing Service Archive Open with Completion of the Ratification Process

From United States Holocaust Memorial Museum November 28, 2007 Press Release

All 11 countries overseeing the International Tracing Service (ITS) archive located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, have ratified the agreement that officially opens the massive Holocaust archive. This marks the conclusion of a long diplomatic process led by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to open this archive to help survivors and their families obtain information about their loved ones.

The Museum, the American repository for the archive, is in the process of receiving a complete digital copy of the archive and is working to make the documentation accessible in January 2008, so that it can begin responding to survivor requests for information. The archive is being transferred in installments, and the Museum expects to have a complete copy of the material by 2010.

In August 2007, the Museum received the first installment of material, containing 18 million images of arrest, camp, prison, ghetto and transport records, and the Central Name Index (the primary finding aid for the collection) arrived in November. The remainder of the collection, relating to slave labor and displaced persons camps, will be transferred in installments between 2008 and 2010.

The Museum will announce through its Web site and the media when it can begin responding to survivor requests for information. Beginning Monday, December 3, survivors can submit requests to the Museum via the

Museum's Web site, www.ushmm.org/its, or by calling the Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors toll-free at 866-912-4385.

Together with ITS, the Museum has created an inventory of the more than 21,000 separate collections of material that are contained in the ITS archive. The inventory provides brief descriptions of the collections at ITS that will help users understand the kinds of records that are — and are not — contained in the archive. It does not list the names of individuals found in the archive, nor can it access individual documents in the collection.

USHMM Creates an Online Inventory of the ITS Collection

At <http://resources.ushmm.org/itsinventory/> is a search page for this inventory. The International Tracing Service (ITS) and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) have prepared this *On-Line Inventory of the Archives of the International Tracing Service* in order to provide Holocaust survivors, their families, and other interested researchers with an overview of the more than 21,000 separate historical "collections" of documentary material that are contained in the archives of the International Tracing Service.

Currently, this inventory of collections is the only comprehensive listing of the historical collections in the ITS archives. Because of its origins as a registration tool, the inventory offers only a summary sketch of the contents of the archive, and regrettably not an in-depth view into the contents of every collection. It is not

a complete catalog in the traditional sense, but rather a tool to begin exploration of the archive for the purpose of determining whether the information you seek or on the topic you wish to investigate may be contained there. This inventory does not identify by name all of the victims of National Socialism about whom the ITS archive contains information; searching this inventory for an individual victim's name is unlikely to produce a result.

Despite its limitations, this Inventory represents the only comprehensive listing that exists today of the historical collections in the ITS archives.

Paul Shapiro Explains ITS Holdings

From Nu? What's New?, Volume 8, Number 22, November 11, 2007

There is an excellent Washington-based television program called *Tracing Your Roots* that is hosted by Arlene Sachs and Sallyann Amdur Sack. Recently they interviewed Paul Shapiro, director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. Shapiro is credited with leading the effort to make the International Tracing Service records accessible to the public.

The interview is available at <http://tracingroots.nova.org>. In the interview, Shapiro describes the vast collection found at ITS which includes more than 50 million pages of documentation of people persecuted by the Nazis — mostly Jews.

ITS Accepting Online Requests

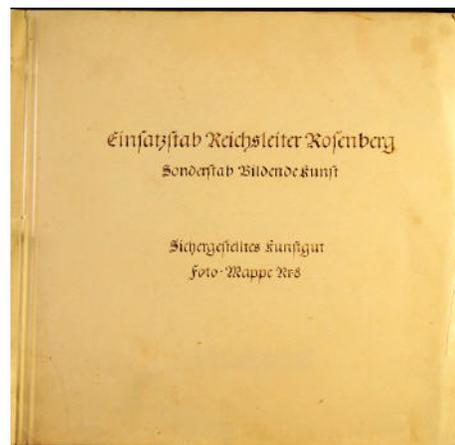
The International Tracing Service is now accepting online inquiries. There are three potential application forms: (1) tracing inquiry for reuniting persons, (2) information on detention/employment/stay and (3) historical research request.

Access to these forms can be initiated at http://www.its-arolsen.org/en/key_activities/index.html.

National Archives Announces Discovery of "Hitler Albums" Documenting Looted Art

From US National Archives Press Release of November 1, 2007

The National Archives announced the discovery of two original leather bound photograph albums documenting art that was looted by the Nazis during World War II.



These albums were created by the staff of the Third Reich's Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR). This special unit was organized in the summer of 1940 under Reich Leader Alfred Rosenberg, initially to collect political material in occupied countries for exploitation in the "struggle against Jewry and Freemasonry." The ERR established its base of operations in Paris in July 1940 and on November 5, Hermann Goering assigned the ERR the responsibility for the confiscation of "ownerless" Jewish art collections.

These two photographic albums were in the possession of heirs to an American soldier stationed in the Berchtesgaden area of Germany in the closing days of World War II.

<http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2008/nr08-22.html> for more information.

European News

All Hungarian Database Update

JewishGen posting on October 17, 2007

I am pleased to announce that the All-Hungarian Database (AHD) has been updated with approximately 90,000 new vital records. The AHD, which now contains nearly 700,000 records, includes 100,000 birth, 35,000 death, and 12,500 marriage records.

Included among the new records are the vital records for Bercel, Chropo, Debrecen, Galszecs, Gyor, Homonna, Kiskunfelegyhaza, Kisvarda, Mandok, Nagykallo, Nyirbator, Nyirkarasz, Szinyer-varalji,

Tarcak, Tokaj, and Tolcsva. In addition, Budapest births through 1864 and the majority of births for Miskolc have also been completed.

There are a great many people who contributed their time and effort to make these records available to researchers now and far into the future. These people deserve our appreciation and admiration and gratitude. We are now working on the records for Budapest, Eger, Gyongyos, Kosice, Miskolc, Moson, Presov, and Stropkov.

We are in continuing need of transcribers, in that our

philosophy is to utilize as many transcribers as possible, so that no individual workload is too great. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact me. If you would like to know more about H-SIG and /or the All-Hungarian-Database, again, please contact me.

Sam Schleman

Project Coordinator

Hungarian Vital Records Project

Samara99@comcast.net

Lithuania Internal Passport Records, 1919-1940

JewishGen posting on September 24, 2007

An additional 8,010 records have been added to the Lithuania Internal Passport Database. This increases the total number of records in the database to 38,643.

Only parts of Lithuania have been translated thus far. However, the records that have been translated contain very valuable information in most cases. With approximately another 100,000 records to be translated, we still have a long way to go. Additional financial support is needed in order for more records to be translated.

The introduction to the Internal Passport database has also been updated. A breakdown of the 38,643 records is included in the introduction. Go to -

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Lithuania/InternalPassports.htm>

Howard Margol

Coordinator, Internal Passport Project

Latvian Cemetery Database Now Online

From Nu? What's New?, Volume 8, Number 19, October 14, 2007

Alexandrs Feigmanis, a professional genealogist in Latvia — and AVOTAYNU Contributing Editor for Latvia — has posted to his web site, <http://www.balticgen.com>, a Latvian cemetery database. It includes about 70 percent of Latvian Jewish tombstones from the period 1760 to 1950. The database includes more than 4,200 Jewish tombstones from Aizpute, Auce, Balvi, Bauska, Cesis (Wenden), Daugavpils (Dvinsk), Demene, Jaunjelgava (Friedrichstadt), Gostini (Dankere), Griva, Grobin, Ikskile, Jekabpils (Jakobstadt), Karsava, Kraslava, Krustpils, Kuldiga, Piltene, Limbazi (Lemsal), Livani, Ludza (Lutzin), Piltene, Preili, Rezekne, Riebini, Riga, Rujena, Sabile, Saldus, Skaistkalne (Schoenberg), Smiltene, Subate, Talsi, Tukums, Valdemarpils (Sassmaken), Valka, Valmiera, Varaklani, Ventpils (Windau), Vilani and Zilupe. The tombstones from the large Liepaja (Libau) Jewish cemetery are not included in this list, but are available on the website <http://www.liepajajews.org>.

Online gravestone inscriptions: Frankfurt, Prague

From Tracing the Tribe by Schelly Dardashti, October 4, 2007.

Frankfurt, Germany

Rabbi Marcus Horowitz's 1901 Die Inschriften des alten Friedhofs der israelitischen Gemeinde zu Frankfurt a. M., containing thousands of gravestone inscriptions from Frankfurt, is viewable at

<http://books.google.com/books?id=PkUOAAAAIAAJ>

Prague, Czech Republic

Gal-Ed. Grabsteininschriften des prager isr. alten Friedhofs mit biographischen Notizen, ed. Koppelman/Kalman Lieben (M. J. Landau, Prague, 1856), containing gravestone inscriptions from Prague, is viewable at

<http://books.google.com/books?id=vWALAAAAIAAJ>.

UK phonebooks 1880-1984 now online

From Tracing the Tribe by Schelly Dardashti, October 4, 2007.

Ancestry.UK has spent three years transferring 1,780 phone books to the Internet. The updated collection went online this morning, covering 1880-1984.

An extra benefit in addition to the alphabetical listings, are the advertisements on the pages, adding information on the lives of our ancestors.

The collection now includes some 280 million historic names, addresses and numbers from across Britain.

While the most recent UK census accessible today is 1901 (1911 won't be released until 2012), the books go through 1984.

<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/> is a fee-for-service website.

UK: Inbound immigration records coming online

From Tracing the Tribe by Schelly Dardashti, September 26, 2007.

The records of 18 million UK immigrants will be available online in mid-2008, according to an announcement by Ancestry.co.uk, which detailed that the National Archives granted it a license to digitise, index and house online the UK Inbound Passenger Lists 1878-1960.

The collection is known as the Board of Trade Passenger Lists, Inwards 1878 to 1960 or BT26.

The lists hold the names of 18 million immigrants and tourists who arrived in the UK over nearly a century from destinations outside Europe and the Mediterranean. Some one million pages are organised by port of arrival and may offer the passenger's name, age, occupation, intended UK address, purpose of journey, ship's name, owner and port of origin.

UK Emigration Lists 1890–1939 Now Online

From Nu? What's New?, Volume 8, Number 18, September 23, 2007

The British firm, *FindMyPast.com*, has now expanded its index of people emigrating from the UK to include the years 1890–1939. Plans call for including all passenger lists up to 1960.

It is a fee-for-service site. At no charge, the site displays the passenger's name, sex, year of departure, departure port, destination port and country. A transcript of the entry for a specific passenger costs five units. To get a copy of the actual page from the passenger list costs 30 units. You can purchase a minimum of 60 units for £6.95 (about \$14). There are discounts for larger purchases.

A transcript adds to the basic information the exact date of departure, age, marital status, occupation, names of other persons traveling with passenger, name of ship and other information about the ship. The actual page from the manifest yields no additional information, but certainly is of value to provide details for all persons on the page and is also of interest for historical purposes. It also might disclose errors in the transcription.

FindMyPast.com has a number of other databases, such as 1841-1891 census data, military records, and vital records index books.

Two UK Newspapers Now Available Online

From JGSLA Dates and Updates, December 2007

The UK daily newspaper *The Guardian* and its sister newspaper, *The Observer*, the world's first Sunday newspaper, are going digital. So far, issues of *The Guardian* from 1821 to 1975 and *The Observer* from 1900 to 1975 are available. In early 2008, both of the newspapers will be online in their entirety (from 1821 to the present for the former and from 1791 for the latter). Both newspapers are searchable. Searching is free, but you must buy a timed access pass to view the entire articles. For more information, check <http://archive.guardian.co.uk>.

Update Web Site Created for Where Once We Walked

From Nu? What's New?, Volume 8, Number 9, May 13, 2007

It is unlikely that there will be another edition of *Where Once We Walked*, the award-winning gazetteer of Central and Eastern Europe published by *Avotaynu*. It was initially published in 1991 and then a revised edition was published in 2004. Since then, we have received some additions and corrections to the book. *Avotaynu* has established a web site to identify these changes. It is located at:

<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/WOWWUpdate.htm>.

We invite users of WOWW to send us additional changes.

Additional information about WOWW including a sample entry and statistics about the number of towns within each country can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/WOWW.htm>.

YIVO to Publish Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe

From Nu? What's New?, Volume 8, Number 20, October 28, 2007

YIVO Institute will publish in 2008 a *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*. The Institute calls it the definitive reference work on all aspects of the history and culture of Jews in Eastern Europe from the beginnings of their settlement in the region to the present time. It is a multi-volume encyclopedia, comprising approximately 2 million words, more than 1,000 images and more than 100 maps. The editor-in-chief, Gershon David Hundert, is Leanor Segal Professor of Jewish Studies and Chair of the Department of Jewish Studies at McGill University. He has assembled an internationally recognized group of scholars to serve as editors and contributors.

The work will be published by Yale University Press. Additional information, including the ability to view the sample topics shown above can be found at <http://www.yivoinstitute.org/publications/index.php?tid=109&aid=269>.

Poland: Jewish Museum Plans

From Tracing the Tribe by Schelly Dardashti, July 5, 2007 and November 13, 2007

The recent groundbreaking for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews was held in what was the Warsaw Ghetto, next to the monument to those who resisted the Nazis in the 1943 uprising, and close to the train siding where many were deported and perished.

Although Holocaust exhibits will be included, the multimedia museum will celebrate the Jewish community that lived in Poland for a thousand years and produced a vibrant culture and leaders in many fields.

The German government signed an agreement to provide 5 million euros for the Museum's construction.

The contribution is meant as an additional contribution to redress the suffering of Jews caused in the name of Germany and on Poland as well.

The agreement was signed in an office building which was the site of the Grand Synagogue before the war. It was blown up by the SS commander who quelled the Warsaw ghetto revolt.

Jewish Life in Poland through Photographs

At <http://www.tachna.com/jlp/> is a photographic exhibit of 80 pre-War photos from the book, *Image Before My Eyes - A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864-1939* by Lucjan Dobroszycki and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett.

Hamburg Emigration Exhibit Now Open

From Nu? What's New?, Volume 8, Number 17, September 17, 2007

BallinStadt, the Hamburg, Germany, tourist attraction located on the site where more than five million people emigrated from Europe is now open. It not only includes exhibits showing the emigrant experience but it also includes a Family Research Center, jointly established with Ancestry.com, where visitors researching their family history can find professional assistance. It is also possible to make copies of the passenger emigration lists.

The 7-acre BallinStadt is named for Albert Ballin, who was a General Director of the HAPAG shipping line. Between 1901 and 1907, Ballin, who was Jewish, had a city constructed specially for emigrants which, in addition to sleeping and dining facilities, also offered businesses, churches, a synagogue, shops, a hairdresser and a music pavilion. He is also given credit for inventing the concept of cruising. In order to make better use of his ships during the winter months, he organized cruises to warmer destinations with the sole purpose of traveling in a relaxed atmosphere.

Additional information about BallinStadt can be found at <http://www.ballinstadt.com/en/index.php>.

There are some excellent articles at the site including the history of Hamburg as an emigration port, the cause of the massive European emigration, and a description of the new Hamburg Family History Center. There is a booklet that includes numerous photographs of the Port of Hamburg emigration facility. The booklet is on the Internet at

http://fhh1.hamburg.de/fhh/internetausstellungen/emigration/englisch/emigration_index.htm

France: New president 's Sephardic ties

From Tracing the Tribe by Schelly Dardashti, May 7, 2007

An excellent source for European Jewish information is the European Jewish Press at <http://www.ejpress.org/>.

Here we learn that Sarkozy's mother is a member of one of the oldest Jewish families of Salonika, the MALLAH (Hebrew: messenger or angel) family. The family escaped the Spanish Inquisition, settled in Provence, France and moved a century later to Salonika, where family members became prominent Zionist leaders and were active in all facets of life.

Sarkozy's great-grandfather was a jeweler in Salonika, had seven children and died in 1913. His eldest child, Sarkozy's grandfather Aron "Beniko" Mallah, was born in 1890.

When Beniko was 14, he and his mother moved to France where he studied medicine and served as a WWI French Army doctor, where he met his future wife, Adele Bouvieux or Bouvier, depending on the source. To marry her, he converted to Catholicism and changed his name to Benedict.

Interesting Resources

Genealogy Videos on the Internet

Two online websites have collections of videos that may be of value and interest to Jewish genealogists.

Tracing Your Family Roots, a Virginia based public access TV show with hosts Sallyann Sack and Arline Sachs is at <http://tracingroots.nova.org/>. Recent shows include interviews with Paul Shapiro (ITS records) and Bennett Greenspan (DNA testing) and can be viewed online.

Roots Television is by and for avid genealogists and family history lovers of all stripes and is found at <http://www.rootstelevision.com/>. Videos include interviews with Steve Morse and Jon Entine, author of *Abraham's Children*. Click on Program Guide and you can search by name, topic, or keyword.

Top Genealogy Websites

Family Tree Magazine recently published their annual list of the 101 best web sites. Find this at

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites/2007/index.asp>.

Included in the lists are both free and fee-based sites and include JewishGen, Steve Morse One-Step site, and Roots Television.

The Photo Detective

Maureen Taylor is one of the foremost historical photo detectives and a genealogist. See the Wall Street Journal article about her at:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119214969916756801.html>

She has her own website at www.photodetective.com and a Blog at <http://photodetective.blogspot.com>. The website has many resources to help you with your photos

and also explains Ms. Taylor's professional services.

FamilyTreeMagazine.com accepts photograph submissions for the exclusive online feature "Identifying Family Photographs." Not every entry will be chosen, but if your submission is selected for identification, *FamilyTreeMagazine.com* will post the picture and Maureen's professional analysis on our site. See more at <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/photos/photohelp.htm>.

Preparing, Protecting, Preserving Family Treasures

The Library of Congress provides simple instructions, as well as links to more comprehensive information, for protecting valuable information, documents, photos, and other family treasures.

www.loc.gov/preserv/familytreasures/index.html

Archaic Medical Terms Online

From Nu? What's New?, Volume 8, Number 12, June 17, 2007

A list of several thousand archaic medical terms can be found on "Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms" at <http://www.antiquismorbus.com>. The web site provides lists of medical terms, diseases, and causes of death in English, German, French, and 19 other languages. It also includes the medical terms in the original Latin terminology.

Malka updates Sephardic FAQ

From Tracing the Tribe by Schelly Dardashti, May 7, 2007

Award-winning author and Sephardic researcher Dr. Jeffrey Malka has updated the Sephardic genealogy FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) on his comprehensive Sephardic Genealogy website at <http://www.sephardicgen.com/>.

This should be the first stop for new researchers of Sephardic families and will also help more experienced researchers with its wealth of resources.

SURNAMES AND TOWNS BEING RESEARCHED BY MEMBERS

JGSGP no longer maintains the *Registry of Roots* for our members. We encourage all members to register their ancestral surnames and towns with the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/>. In lieu of the *Registry of Roots*, we will list the Surnames and Towns provided to us by members in most editions of *Chronicles*. We hope this will bring some of our families together.

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The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia, founded in 1979, gives members opportunities to meet and share experiences in genealogy. Expert guests are invited to speak at meetings. Mentoring is provided to new members.

Meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m on the second Monday of each month (except January, July, and August) at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Old York Road (PA 611) and Township Line Road (US 73) in Elkins Park, PA. Free parking is available.

Affiliate Meetings: The South Jersey affiliate meets periodically at Congregation Beth Tikvah, 115 Evesboro-Medford Road, Marlton, NJ.

The Delaware County-Main Line affiliate meets 4 times a year at Martins Run Life Care Community at 11 Martins Run, Media, PA.

The Russian Interest Group specializing in areas of the former Russian Empire meets 4 times a year.

JGSGP Website, www.jewishgen.org/jgsp, has the calendar of meetings, a description of JGSGP, links to Jewish genealogy websites, and local genealogical resources.

JGSGP Library, a reference collection, has a dedicated area in the Tuttleman Jewish Public Library at Gratz College, Old York Road in Melrose Park, PA. It is available during normal Library hours. Call (215) 635-7300 ext. 169 for the schedule. The JGSGP library catalog is available on our website, via a link to the Tuttleman computerized library catalog, marked either JGSP or JGSGP. Donations of books, tapes, etc. to the JGSGP Library are welcome.

The Tuttleman Library is available as a reference library. JGSGP members and the public have access to the Tuttleman computers, microfilm and microfiche readers, and a copying machine (fee).

Index to *Chronicles* is available in the JGSGP Library and on our website.