KOSHER KOALA

Samara Choral Synagogue - Samara (formerly Kuibyshev) Russia

SPRING 2018

AJGS
L'dor V'dor

FRONT COVER

CHORAL SYNAGOGUE, SAMARA, RUSSIA

SAMARA

Formerly Kuibyshev, Samara is located in the south-east of European Russia at the confluence of the Volga and Samara rivers. Samara was outside the Pale of Settlement so Jews only began to settle there late in the 19th century.

Jewish Population:

1853: 8 Jews – mostly retired Cantonists (former conscripts)
1862: 92
1871: 339
1878: 515
1897: 1300+
1900: 1550
1926: ~7000
1959: 17167
1971: 15922
1979: 14185
1989: 11464
2003: 10000+
(35000 in the wider region)

Reference: Jewish Community of Samara – Beit Hatfutsot

CHORAL SYNAGOGUE, SAMARA RUSSIA

Architect: Selman Weniaminowitsch Kleinerman, born 1867, Białystok, Poland

The Choral Synagogue in Samara was built in 1908 in the Moorish style and seated well over a thousand worshippers.

Communities with Choral synagogues embraced ideas from the Jewish enlightenment, or Haskala. These congregations often featured male choirs and sermons were delivered in local languages (German, Russian, etc.). The buildings had highly decorative interiors, and the pews were placed facing the eastern wall where the Torah ark was positioned.

After the 1917 revolution, the building was confiscated and converted into a bread factory. It eventually fell into disrepair.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Governor of the district of Samara, Konstantin Titov, announced he would return the synagogue to the Jewish community. This was finally achieved in 2003 and Chabad pledged several million dollars to restore the building. Unfortunately, that restoration work still does not appear to have happened.

FEATURES

At the recent AGM AJGS President Robyn Dryen stood down after 5 years at the helm. Long time member Sunny Gold was unanimously elected the new president.

With the adoption of a new constitution at the AJGS AGM earlier this year, our society converted from calendar-year reporting to financial-year reporting. This necessitated holding a second AGM to report on the half-year: 1 January 2018-30 June 2018 . The meeting was held on October 7.

Much to everyone's disappointment, society president Robyn Dryen announced she would not be re-nominating for the committee. Long-time AJGS stalwart Sunny Gold was unanimously elected president, with Kim Phillips remaining as vice-president and Kym Morris as treasurer. Jeanette Tsoulos, Annette Winter and Evelyn Frybort are joined by Nigel Meinraith on the committee. As the society is now required to have a committee of 7 people, the position of editor of Kosher Koala and webmaster, currently filled by Dani Haski, will be an ex-officio member of the committee.

The committee would like to express its enormous gratitude to Robyn for all her hard work while president. She has worked tirelessly for members, implementing a new constitution and updating processes and procedures in the organisation. Robyn will remain involved in AJGS, helping with research enquiries and workshops.

Incoming president Sunny Gold (left) and outgoing president Robyn Dryen (right).
Photo: Dani Haski ©

A WORD FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT ROBYN DRYEN

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as president of AJGS. With assistance from a supportive committee we have made incremental changes to AJGS and the manner in which we serve our members and the community. From the change of logo and re-vamp of the website, to moving to electronic-only communication and making our presence known among the international Jewish genealogical community, it has been a productive time.

I am particularly pleased that we have extended our presence to Sydney's East, with a very productive partnership with Waverley Library.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to lead the society, to have made new friends among our members, and to have learnt far more about Jewish genealogical research than I ever imagined.

I wish the incoming committee every success for 2018-19 and beyond.

A WORD FROM INCOMING PRESIDENT SUNNY GOLD

My interest in genealogy was sparked by the extensive research conducted by my late father, El Altshuler, an early member of the Society. My paternal ancestors were the Mordohovich and Dobisoff families. On my mother's side, I uncovered a connection to the Kaganovich family when I discovered that my grandmother was a cousin of Lazar Kagonovich, Stalin's infamous henchman.

I joined the AJGS in 1995, and became a committee member in 2004 under the Presidency of the late, Rieke Nash. As a result of helping Rieke with various administrative tasks over the years, I was eventually appointed as Secretary, a role I have held for about ten years. This also led to a warm and close friendship between Rieke and I, a bond that lasted for many, many years.

The National Council of Jewish Women of Australia also plays a major role in my life. I have been a member for over 40 years and have served on the Board of the NSW Division, the National Board and as Honorary Secretary for the International Council of Jewish Women.

As President, I aim to make a lasting contribution, as others have done, and perform my duties for the benefit of the Society and its members.

A WORD FROM PAST PRESIDENT JEANETTE TSOULOS

I owe Robyn heartfelt thanks for taking over the presidency from me at the end of five years! And more so for bringing the Society into the 21st century with all her changes. To enumerate these - she organised a new Constitution, tapped the expertise and enthusiasm of Dani Haski to set up a new website and modernised our banking. She made sure that our Society participated as a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), and at one of their conference "Share Fairs" we presided at an Australian table together with AJGS (Vic).

Robyn also ran every workshop we held, and increased the number of Waverley workshops to 4 a year, which are always well attended. To balance this she streamlined the Monday workshops to four or so a year, as they were sparsely attended. She also continued as editor of *Kosher Koala* for part of that time.

On top of that she has fielded the numerous emailed queries from people wanting to know about their Jewish background – several every week at the very least. And we are delighted that she has offered to continue in that role.

Greta Davis was one of the few Australians to deliver a talk at the IAJGS conference in Warsaw in August 2018. She recently repeated her talk for AJGS members at the AGM in October.

For the first time, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) annual conference was held in Eastern Europe, once home to so many millions of Jews. As it was to be in Poland, where three families of my mother's ancestors came from, I decided to go.

There was quite a large group of Australasians at the conference including Nigel and Sarah Meinrath and myself from Sydney. The group from Victoria consisted of Bubbles Segall, Max and Pebbie Wald, Martin and Debbie Jurblum, Rene and John Eisner, Liz and Ron James and Amanda Samuels. Rounding out the group was Myra Waddell from South Australia and one Kiwi, Helene Ritchie.

Much of the joy of the conference was meeting new people and renewing old friendships, both with the other Aussies and with people that I'd met over the years, including at two previous IAJGS conferences I had attended.

There is always a lot to learn at these conferences. Much of the time there were eight or even more concurrent sessions so the challenge was to pick the most interesting session and still allow a bit of free time. Sessions started at 8am and ran pretty much continuously until 7:30pm most days. There's no point in running yourself ragged and so not enjoying this unique experience.

Until this conference, my genealogy research was almost entirely focused on discovering information on my own ancestors. But during this trip, my interests broadened to getting a better understanding of the geo political and social environments that would have affected them. Hal Bookbinder, a former president of the IAJGS, gave an interesting presentation on *The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe*. As Hal said in the summary of this presentation

> An ancestral town may have been under the rule of several countries over time. Recognising which governments were in control at various times can help in understanding the environment in which ancestors lived, events that stimulated migration, languages in which records were kept and likely locations where these records might be found.

The Australian contingent at the IAJGS conference in Warsaw, Poland.   Photo: Greta Davis ©

Most evenings at 6pm there was a keynote presentation. On Monday evening it was about the Polin Museum. This award-winning museum in Warsaw traces a thousand years of Jewish history in Poland. The presentation was an inspiring introduction to the museum. After the conference, I spent a day and a half there and found it fascinating.

On Tuesday evening, the keynote was a lecture titled *Overcoming the Dark Past in Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine* delivered by Antony Polonsky. Polonsky is a distinguished academic who holds the posts of emeritus Professor of Holocaust Studies at Brandeis University and Chief Historian of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw. This presentation discussed the diverging views in Eastern Europe about the mass murder of Jews by the Nazis including the current populist reaction. It was a thought-provoking session.

The keynote on Wednesday night described JewishGen's numerous achievements over the past year – including adding more information to the website databases, allowing more flexible retrieval of information and upgrading the underlying technology. This was mostly presented by Avraham Groll, the director of JewishGen, who spoke rapidly and convincingly for almost the entire ninety minutes. It was most impressive!

Another feature of IAJGS conferences is get togethers for various organisations and people with interest in particular places. I went to the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) lunch which was well organised and interesting. I had previously been the JRI-Poland coordinator for the Płock regional archive for a number of years and, since the conference, have resumed that role. I also attended Birds of a Feather (BOF) sessions for two of my ancestral towns in Lithuania, Telsiai and Klaipedia, during which I picked up more useful information.

Greta Davis repeated her conference presentation for members at the recent AGM. Photo: Dani Haski ©

My presentation, *Polish Jews In Australia in the 19th Century - My Ancestor's Experience*, was on the Friday morning, the last morning of the conference. I wasn't expecting a big audience but, in the end, I was delighted with the number of people that turned up. The presentation looked at the reasons Jews came all the way to Australia in the 19th century, how they got here and, once they arrived, how they earned a living. Several of my ancestors emigrated from Poland in the 19th century and I illustrated the story with their experiences. I was honoured to have the opportunity to give the presentation again at the recent AJGS AGM in October.

Before the conference, I had visited my two ancestral towns in Lithuania and, after the conference, I went to Kutno, Płock and Krakow where my three Polish families had lived. In Klaipedia (Lithuania), there was no evidence of earlier Jewish life. The same was true for Kutno although it is a charming town centred on a market square. There is a regional museum in Kutno which might mention its Jewish history, but it was closed when I was there.

Płock is about 50km from Kutno. It is really a city because a refinery is located there. However, the old town where I stayed has its charms including a square where a man plays a bugle from the clock tower at noon every day. Płock is on a ridge overlooking the Vistula River. There is a museum in the town which relates the history of Jews in the Mazovian region of Poland which I found fascinating as it described Jewish life there in the 19th century.

Pre-holocaust Telsiai had been the site of a distinguished yeshivah but, with two exceptions, I found little remaining evidence of Jewish life there. One exception was a street named Sinagogos (but without the synagogue). I also stumbled across an old Jewish cemetery in Telsiai and looked at some of the tombstones. However, three teenagers were there drinking from a bottle in a paper bag. From a distance, they weren't at all threatening but, as I was by myself, I thought it prudent to keep my distance. In any case, sadly, my Hebrew is not good enough to make sense out of tombstone inscriptions so I didn't explore the cemetery in great detail.

Kazimierz, the old Jewish quarter of Krakow, is now very trendy. Nevertheless, you can still visit a number of old synagogues and there is a museum on the history of Galician Jews. So the Jewish past of this district is very much on display. As I was there in the peak tourist time, it was bustling with tourists. There are numerous outdoor restaurants in the main square of Kazimierz. Many of them had musicians playing klezmer music, which I adore.

I had expected all the towns, except Krakow, to be unattractive but all of them had their charms. I now feel much more connected to my ancestors.

I would encourage anyone who can, to go to at least one IAJGS conference. Whatever your level of expertise you will learn a lot and will meet many of the people who make Jewish genealogy so vibrant. I also found visiting ancestral towns a most positive experience and would heartily recommend that too.

Top Left: The Vistula River at Płock. Bottom Left: Telsiai Jewish cemetery. Right: Kutno Town Square Photos: Greta Davis ©

Sarah and Nigel Meinrath also visited one of Sarah's family's ancestral towns while in Europe. In a FaceBook post in August Sarah reflected on what turned out to be a highly emotional visit. The post is reprinted here with permission.

Pultusk Poland is where my mother and her family came from. We visited the town today [Ed note: August 9, 2018], our second visit–the first being 20 years ago. It was September 1939 when the Germans overtook Pultusk and gathered all the Jews into the courtyard of the Dom Polonia, now a convention hotel. The Jews were forced across the then wooden bridge over the wide and fast-flowing River Narev towards the forest on the other side. Those poor souls were being shot at while at the same time the bridge was bombed and many people fell into the river and drowned. Twenty years ago I tried to cross the ("new") bridge but couldn't because the further I tried to walk the more pressure I felt in my chest. And so I turned back. Today we visited Pultusk again. The bridge is again renewed. I managed to cross to the other side and back again. This time I felt no pressure in my chest, only anger. I told Nigel that the river flows with blood and that Pultusk is dead for me. I never want to see it again. I feel I have honoured the memory of my mother and my grandparents who so bravely fought to live. My heart weeps for them.

The proliferation of commercial DNA and online genealogical websites has led to a profusion of ethical dilemmas facing practitioners. What do we need to think about in this brave new world?

In the year 2000 the *Human Genome Project*, an international scientific research project tasked with the goal of mapping the molecular blueprint inside every human cell, released the first draft of their map of the human genome. In 2003 they declared their work complete and published as close to a full human genome as was possible to sequence. In the decade and a half since, technology has advanced to the point where commercial DNA testing is fast becoming a standard part of the health, nutrition and genealogical research landscapes.

Genomic data, when decoded with enough accuracy, may yield intimate details about an individual–including ethnic origin, physical appearance — hair, eye and skin colour — and potential to develop particular diseases.

The consumer genealogy DNA test market has exploded in the last couple of years. Ancestry, MyHeritage and 23&Me advertise aggressively on TV and online. Competition is fierce but none of the advertisements answer legitimate data-privacy questions asked by critics.

DNA tests analyse specific SNPs (single-nucleotide polymorphisms)–small variations in a single nucleotide (the essential building block of DNA) that occurs at a specific position in the genome. With genealogical tests, selected data can be compared to another individual's genomic data to determine if the two are related. Until recently the main application of this was paternity testing. But, as is often the case when technology is commercialised, there have been some novel uses discovered and therefore, unforeseen consequences.

DNA analysis has been used in law enforcement for several years but, in a highly publicised case, data used in a genealogy database was deployed as a forensic tool, cracking a cold case for which there was little other evidence.

Early in 2018 law enforcement officers in Sacramento California solved a decades old serial rape and murder case, in part, by using the genetic genealogy site GEDmatch to try and identify a suspect. Investigators uploaded data from DNA collected at a crime scene and used the site to narrow down their suspect pool. There was no instant match as the killer himself had not uploaded DNA data to the site, but investigators identified 10-20 close relatives of the unknown suspect. Finally, using more traditional investigative methods, including the services of a local genealogist to construct a family tree from the matches gleaned on GEDmatch, they zeroed in on a viable suspect. On April 24, 2018 police arrested retired policeman Joseph James DeAngelo, *The Golden State Killer*.

While the fact that police solved a murder was a great outcome, the use of GEDmatch was seen by some privacy advocates as the thin edge of the wedge. Many commentators wrote op-eds questioning the potential negative consequences of this type of investigative tool on the privacy of innocent people. There are no easy answers to these concerns.

GEDmatch does not sell DNA testing kits. It is a site where users voluntarily upload their data, downloaded from their testing service, and compare it to a different database to improve the chances of finding potential matches–i.e. more potential relatives.

When a person buys a commercial DNA test or uploads DNA data to a third party site, such as GEDmatch, they readily accept the *Terms of Service*, but few people actually read them. GEDmatch actually has a relatively short, two-page plain English *Terms of Service and Privacy Policy* (at time of writing the revision log indicated it had been updated on May 20, 2018).

The policy explicitly states that the DNA being uploaded must belong to one of 7 categories, including:

> DNA obtained and authorised by law enforcement to either: (1) identify a perpetrator of a violent crime against another individual; or (2) identify remains of a deceased individual;

> NB. 'Violent crime' is defined as homicide or sexual assault.

So it appears to be legal for law enforcement organisations in the US to use the service to try to catch the perpetrators of violent crime.

Another use of online genealogical, although not specifically DNA, data that rang alarm bells for some people came to our attention in 2017 when newspapers around the world got very excited about a paper written by a team of data scientists, published on the website Science, entitled *Quantitative analysis of population-scale family trees with millions of relatives*.

One of the authors of the paper was Yaniv Erlich, a self-described *white hat hacker* and geneticist at Columbia University; and recently appointed Chief Scientific Officer at MyHeritage (the owner of GENI). Many of the press reports highlighted that Erlich and his team had used de-identitfied public profile data from GENI to create a dataset that included, amongst other things, a 13-million-person strong family tree.

As Erlich described in the abstract of the paper:

> ...we collected 86 million profiles from publicly-available online data shared by genealogy enthusiasts. After extensive cleaning and validation, we obtained population-scale family trees, including a single pedigree of 13 million individuals. We leveraged the data to partition the genetic architecture of longevity by inspecting millions of relative pairs and to provide insights into the geographical dispersion of families.

As someone with a tree posted in GENI, I do not recall being sent an email requesting my consent to contribute my data to Mr Erlich's research. Profiles of deceased people automatically become "public profiles". While it has become clear that no identifying information was utilised for his research would it not have been courteous of GENI to at least ask users if they had any objections?

In his role at MyHeritage Erlich and his team have begun to expand on this work with the establishment of *MyHeritage: Health Family Tree* and *MyHeritage Surveys*, laying survey information and DNA data volunteered by MyHeritage members over family trees, this time with informed consent and opt-in programs.

MyHeritage Health Family Tree is an "Opt In" layer in MyHeritage family tree data where you can record medical and health related information. They even give you the option of sharing the data with your own health professionals (not unlike the *My Health Record* service currently being debated in Australia).

The Informed Consent document for *The MyHeritage Health Family Tree Research Project* states that it is:
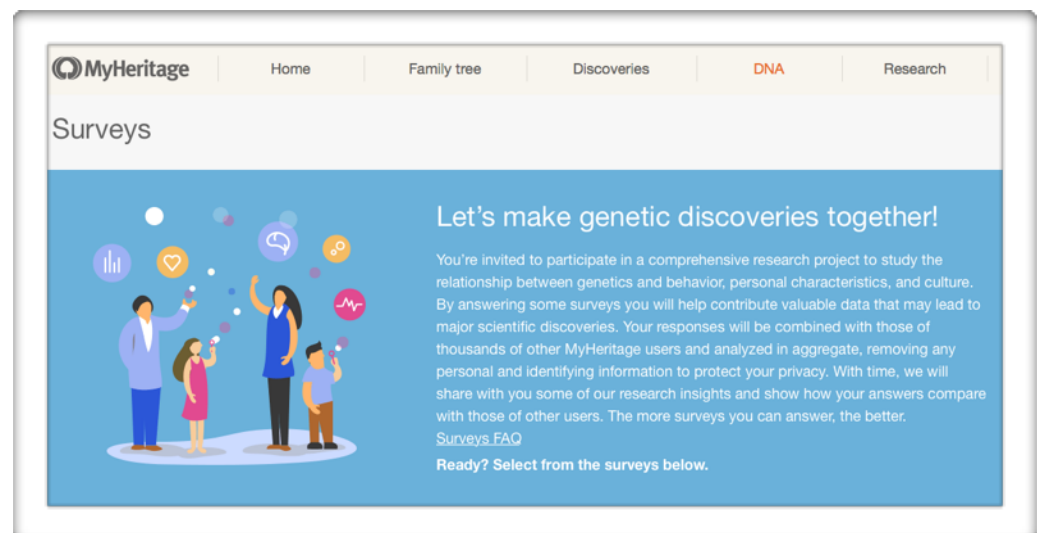
> designed to facilitate research (both internal and

through third-party organisations) with the aim to make and support scientific discoveries and publish some of those discoveries in scientific journals. Any user who uses the optional Health Family Tree feature on the MyHeritage website (the **"Website"**) may voluntarily participate in the Project...

...The Project collects and analyses self-reported information concerning health conditions, physical traits and other personal traits about the user and their immediate family members, superimposed on a subset of the user's family tree (collectively **"Research Information"**) in order to assist researchers to better understand the human species, learn or confirm certain facts and make predictions about future trends.

The data participants add is harvested by MyHeritage and used for their own research, but the data is potentially available to third party researchers. MyHeritage does indicate in their Terms and Conditions that if anyone wishes to use specific data for studies outside the broad parameters of the stated T&Cs, participants will be contacted individually for specific consent.

MyHeritage Surveys is another opt-in program extended to those who have done a MyHeritage DNA test or have uploaded their DNA data to the site. The aim is, once again, to gather information on health and lifestyle of participants and to correlate this data against DNA profiles. While the data is explicitly de-identified, the researchers hope to gain insights into the human condition across national and cultural boundaries. Surveys include subjects covering demographics and family health, diet, career and hobbies... even media consumption habits.

Another DNA testing organisation, FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA), also invites members to include their DNA in research projects. Adam Brown, managing editor of *Avotaynu Online*, is conducting historical studies in conjunction with FTDNA participants who choose to share their results. The purpose of these studies is to analyse the Y chromosomes of 6,000 Jewish men all over the world to illuminate the origins and migrations of the Jewish people over the last 3,000 years.

In an email exchange with *Kosher Koala*, Adam Brown wrote:

Although we are an historical study, and not a medical study, we nonetheless designed our study to the high academic standards of the Technion from the very get-go, so the privacy/ethical issues and the new European rules are of no particular concern to us. We run it with all the protections of a NIH-based clinical study.

When we obtain a sample from a participant, we remove all identifying information such as first name, address, contact information before sending it to the lab for processing. We keep all the personal information on our own non-Internet based system so WE know who everybody is, but we are not in possession of the DNA sample.

So we have created an impenetrable brick wall: the lab has the sample, but does not know who it is. And we know who it is, but do not possess the sample.

The only thing we receive is the lists of numbers that describe the genealogical results, that contain nothing of medical interest, and we know the FTDNA matches of our samples. But people on FTDNA who our participants match do not know who our participant is, nor does the lab.

On top of all this, we never publish the detailed data for our participants, nor do we mention them by name without each participant's specific written consent.

I asked Adam what he thought about some of the privacy concerns brought up by the aforementioned law enforcement case:

My general thinking (as a lawyer for 40 years) is that you have a legal right to control what one can force you to say about yourself that might be legally incriminating, but you cannot control what others reveal about you in talking about themselves or about you. When one of your relatives submits a sample to MH and a tree to Geni, there is not much you can do about that, other than to have yourself removed from the Geni tree which one is most welcome to do (*Disclosure: Adam has been a volunteer Geni curator for 11 years and participated in a small way in Yaniv Ehrlich's study mentioned*).

As to the ... California case, the key item was how they obtained the suspect's DNA. Here he certainly might have had a right against self incrimination, but he left the evidence of his DNA in the trash at the curb and it is settled US Supreme Court law that one has no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding things left in public so they are fair game.

One final area of concern for some are the implications for things like future insurance coverage. In this case it's important to understand that the areas on genes tested for genealogical data are different to the areas tested for health and wellbeing information. For that reason the tests conducted specifically for genealogical purposes by companies such as Ancestry, MyHeritage and FTDNA do not include health data.

Some testing companies are starting to sell tests specifically designed to show health and wellbeing potential. This is predicted to be a huge growth area. These specific tests may certainly have some impact on insurance policies, something with which consumer advocates and insurance companies are grappling.

In July, the *Future of Privacy Forum* (FPF) released details of *Privacy Best Practice for Consumer Genetic Testing Services*—a Best Practice agreement for genetic testing data supported by many of the leading consumer DNA testing companies, including 23&Me, Ancestry and MyHeritage. In a press release the FPF states:

The *Best Practices* provide a policy framework for the collection, protection, sharing, and use of Genetic Data generated by consumer genetic testing services. These services are commonly offered to consumers for testing and interpretation related to ancestry, health, nutrition, wellness, genetic relatedness, lifestyle, and other purposes...

The *Best Practices* establish standards for genetic data generated in the consumer context by making recommendations for companies' privacy practices that require:

- Detailed transparency about how Genetic Data is collected, used, shared, and retained including a high-level summary of key privacy protections posted publicly and made easily accessible to consumers;
- Separate express consent for transfer of Genetic Data to third parties and for incompatible secondary uses;

- Educational resources about the basics, risks, benefits, and limitations of genetic and personal genomic testing;

- Access, correction, and deletion rights;

- Valid legal process for the disclosure of Genetic Data to law enforcement and transparency reporting on at least an annual basis;

- Ban on sharing Genetic Data with third parties (such as employers, insurance companies, educational institutions, and government agencies) without consent or as required by law;

- Restrictions on marketing based on Genetic Data; and

- Strong data security protections and privacy by design, among others.

While the major consumer DNA testing companies have committed themselves to upholding the *Best Practices*, the proof that they take their responsibility for data safety seriously, will be in the practical application of this standard.

The ease of access to DNA testing technology has opened a Pandora's Box of unintended consequences, both legal and ethical. Privacy and data ownership are live issues, not just for genealogists, but for society as a whole. It's incumbent on all of us to be cognisant of our rights and responsibilities for our own and other people's information. For those of us who use online family tree platforms and/or have uploaded family member DNA data to multiple sites, it's important for us to be aware of the issues and do our best to respect the privacy of relatives who do not wish to have their data publicly available.

It's also important for businesses to ensure their privacy, security and data-use policies are written in plain English and are easy to understand. It's critical that users read these terms of service and understand the privacy and security policies and settings of the platforms they use. That way we can all continue to reap the rewards while minimising the risks of this important technology.

In my article *A Day with Doris*, published in the Winter edition of *Kosher Koala*, I made an error of fact.

At the end of the article I referred to Milada Horáková, who was executed by the Communist regime in June 1950. I wrote that she was a devout Communist but this is incorrect. Horáková was actually a fervent <u>anti-communist</u>.

During the Second World War Horáková was imprisoned by the Nazis in the small fortress of Terezín for her work in the underground resistance. She was subsequently sent to various other German prisons, before being tried in Dresden and sentenced to 8 years in prison. The Americans freed her in Bavaria at the end of the war.

In 1946, Horáková was elected to the National Assembly, to represent the region of České Budějovice in southern [Bohemia](). After the Communist takeover in February 1948, Horáková resigned from parliament in protest. On 27 September 1949, she was arrested and accused of being the leader of an alleged conspiracy to overthrow the Communist regime.

Along with 12 other defendants, Horáková was tried in a show trial orchestrated from Moscow. This actually happened <u>before</u> the Slánský trial. Horáková and three of her co-defendants were sentenced to death. Milada Horáková was executed by hanging in Prague's Pankrac prison on 27 June 1950; at the age of 48.

The verdict was annulled in 1968, during the Prague Spring, however Horáková was not fully exonerated until after the Velvet Revolution in 1989, when she was pardoned by the new Czechoslovak Government. A street in Holešovice, Prague 7 was named for her in 1990.

Mea culpa.

Colourised Screenshot: Milada Horáková
CC_3.0 Cassius Chaerea

NEWS AND VIEWS

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE CHANGES MOOTED

Gould's Genealogy has reported that the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department is inviting feedback on proposed changes to the Notice of Intended Marriage form. The government proposes removing 4 questions from the form, the answers to which are currently automatically transferred to marriage certificates.

These questions are:

5. Usual occupation
6. Usual place of residence (full address)
11. Father's name in full
12. Mother's maiden name in full

Removing these questions will have a marked impact on the information subsequently available to researchers of the future. How many of us have discovered the identity of a relative's parents from the information on their marriage certificate?

Mother's maiden name is also uniquely important if attempting to establish long-lost Jewish roots.

The department invited feedback from Marriage Celebrants, but it may be prudent for family historians to weigh into this debate too. The submission period has closed but to view the draft form and/or email the AG's department check the Submission Page.

JEWISHGEN LAUNCHES UNIFIED SEARCH

One very welcome announcement at the IAJGS conference this year was that *JewishGen* had finally created a Unified Database Search Before this, one needed to have an idea of the general geographical location of the records you were looking for. Of course, we don't always know exactly where our ancestors were from and it's now possible to do a global search across all the JewishGen databases.

This search covers more than 26 million records, including:
• 8 million records from the Family Tree of the Jewish People;
• 5 million records from Jewish Records Indexing - Poland; and
• 13 million historical records from 750+ datasets created by JewishGen.

Unified search also allows two search fields for those who have not donated to the JewishGen general fund (4 fields for those who have).

Obviously, a search like this will return a large number of results so the more you do know, the easier it will be to find useful records.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATED IN CANBERRA

After years of effort a memorial has been dedicated to Jewish servicemen who died in war while serving in the Australian forces. The Australian Jewish War Memorial is located in the grounds of the Canberra Jewish Centre (ACTJC) in Forrest. The dedication, in August, comes in the same year as the 100th anniversary of Jewish General Sir John Monash receiving his Knighthood from the Queen. Monash was a key architect of the allied successes in France that led to the end of World War I.

Special guests at the ceremony included Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove, Defence Force chief General Angus Campbell and Jules Hoffman. Mr Hoffman's brother, Adolph–a 22-year-old navigator and bombardier was shot down over Belgium on Anzac Day in 1944– and is included on the memorial, alongside 340 other Jewish Service personnel. Mr Hoffman's other brother, Earle, initiated the campaign for an official memorial but sadly did not live to see the fruits of his efforts.

ACTJC President, Yael Cass, was overseas for the ceremony. MC Dr David Rosalky, ACTJC Treasurer, read a message from her expressing hope that the Australian Jewish War Memorial would stand as a symbol of Jewish contribution to the broader Australian community.

The ACTJC hosted the event in partnership with the Centenary of Anzac Jewish Program, the Federal Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men & Women, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the Australian Jewish Historical Society and the Sydney Jewish Museum.

Julian Leeser MP read a message on behalf of then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the dedication address was given by Dr Keith Shilkin, President, Federal Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women. Dr Shilkin noted that while Australia has a number of Jewish war memorials in the various states, until now there has been no national Jewish war memorial.

Speakers catalogued the long and distinguished record of service of the Australian Jewish Community, from the Sudan Campaign of 1862 until the present day. During World War 1 some 1800 Jewish men and women served, with almost 200 paying the ultimate price. The last Jewish soldier to be killed on active service was Pte Gregory Sher, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009.

LUFTWAFFE PHOTOGRAPHS HELP PRESERVE JEWISH HERITAGE

Cemeteries are very important to genealogists. We glean crucial information from burial records and headstones. But in Europe, the attempted extermination of the Jewish population during WWII has led to hundreds of cemeteries disappearing either through plunder or neglect.

In 2015 the German government provided 1M Euros as seed funding for ESJF– European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative–a not for profit project charged with the mission to find and preserve Jewish cemeteries throughout Europe.

According to the ESJF website:

> There are about 10,000 known Jewish cemetery sites across the 46 member states of the Council of Europe. Of these, around three-quarters are located in Central and Eastern Europe… The initial priority for protection work involves the construction of walls around the boundaries of cemetery sites, with a placement of a locking gate within the wall structure and a general cleaning of the site. It is not within the remit of this project to renovate or replace gravestones.

Recently, Philip Carmel, a British former journalist and the ESJF's CEO since its inception, found a surprising resource to aid in their work: aerial photographs taken by the Luftwaffe during the war.

As he explained to *Times of Israel*:

> "Obviously they [the prints and negatives] were taken to help the German war effort. But they were accurate enough to help us identify some Jewish cemeteries right before the destruction ... Our objective is to fence as many Jewish cemeteries as possible in as little time as possible for the lowest cost..."

More recently the ESJF has begun using drones to map cemetery locations. This is considerably more cost effective than hiring a team of surveyors. ESJF takes pride in the prudent use of funds and the reporting standards of the German treasury department demand a high level of transparency.

The ESJF is working to educate communities with cemeteries but no Jewish community to maintain them, to take pride in the history they represent. They avoid getting involved in controversies, such as the dispute over the Lithuanian Government's plans to build a conference centre on the location of the old Jewish cemetery in Vilnius.

They've had success with this collaborative approach. Dozens of local schoolchildren helped with the cleanup and fencing of the cemetery in Frampol, Poland. And in the Ukraine village of Derazhne, Katy Kryvko, a 17-year-old high school student, contacted the ESJF about a Jewish cemetery behind her home. Researching the cemetery led Kryvko to uncover the tragic history of the area's Jewish communities. ESJF helped clean up and fence off the cemetery. Kryvko has pledged to take care of it.
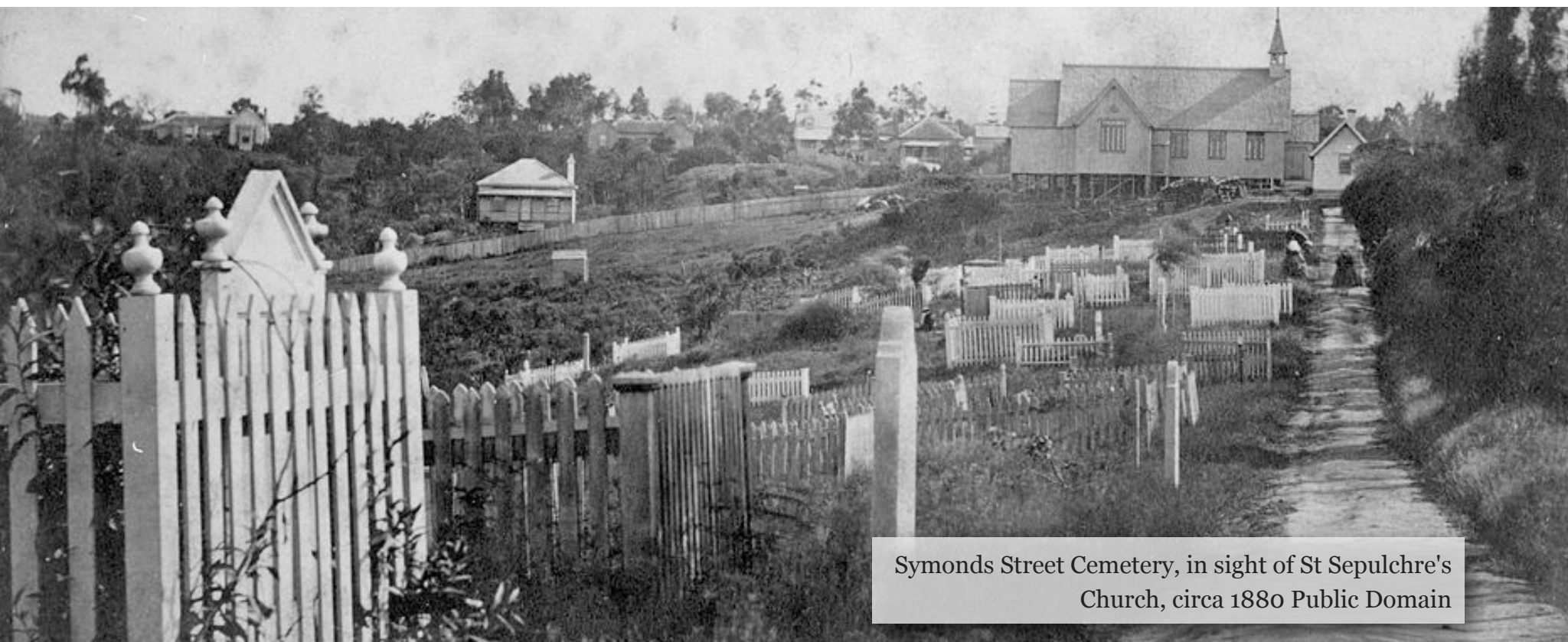

STUDENT DOCUMENTS NEW ZEALAND'S OLDEST JEWISH CEMETERY

Radio New Zealand published a video story about University of New Zealand anthropology student Richard Myburgh, who has embarked on a project to document and translate the 80 odd Jewish headstones in the Symonds Street cemetery in Auckland.

Auckland's oldest cemetery, Symonds Street was consecrated in 1842, and contains around 1200 graves. Records for the interments were lost in a building fire in the 1940s so, while the council had been working on a database of the headstones, no one had done the work to translate the Hebrew inscriptions on the old Jewish headstones.

21-year-old Myburgh, who has Jewish heritage, can read Hebrew. He took it upon himself to document and translate each headstone. This is not an easy feat as many have worn down and some were damaged in an anti-Semitic attack in 2012.

Symonds Street Cemetery, in sight of St Sepulchre's Church, circa 1880 Public Domain

The local council is actively assisting Myburgh. Another local researcher, retired detective Gary Lambert, has also stepped up as he has extensively researched the stories of many of the people buried at Symonds St. The Hebrew was a frustrating obstacle for him... until now.

Myburgh told NZR:

> I think because there are so few Jewish people in New Zealand there is a lot of mischaracterisation and misrepresentation that is just born out of not knowing. I think that probably the main source of all the vandalism is that people don't really know who Jews are. So I think having the very mundane day to day information about the lives and deaths of ordinary Kiwi people in such a public setting is really important.

GERMAN ARCHIVE SHREDS MILLIONS OF DEATH RECORDS

Earlier this year, in an action decried by many, the *Hamburg State Archives* shredded an estimated 1 million death certificates dating from 1876 to 1953. *Jta.org*, citing the *Hamburg Morgen Post*, reported that the director of the archive since 2001, Udo Schäfer, now admits he made a mistake, but tried to defend himself by stating that he believed "almost all the information" contained in the files could be found in other archived documents, like death registries and in files from jails or hospitals.

Many of the lost certificates date from World War II and Holocaust researchers are devastated by the loss. As JTA reports:

> Historian Sybille Baumbach, who has worked on reconstructing the life stories of Jewish Holocaust victims for the Yad Vashem memorial in Israel, told reporters that the death certificates contained information that — if recorded elsewhere at all — would be difficult to find, such as cause of death and the name and signature of the doctor who made the determination. She said that in many cases these certificates provided important clues in cases of so-called euthanasia murders, because such deaths were far from natural and merciful, and the doctors who signed off on them often were the murderers themselves.

The decision has been criticised by many groups including politicians, historians and associations representing survivors of the Nazi regime.

> Rainer Nicolaysen of the *Hamburg Historical Association* called it a "serious loss." He told the *Morgenpost* that Schäfer had admitted to him in early August that he had wrongly thought the documents were duplicates.

State Archives of Hamburg
Wmeinhart CC BY-SA 3.0 from Wikimedia Commons

THE MUSLIM CARETAKERS OF KOLKATA SYNAGOGUE

Atlas Obscura posted a short film on their Facebook page about the Muslim caretakers of a beautiful synagogue in Kolkata, India and their relationship with the few remaining Jewish residents.

From a community of around 4000 before the partition of India and Pakistan in 1948, the Jewish community of Kolkata dwindled and today, just like in Cairo, the community numbers a few dozen elderly people. Those interviewed in the film affectionately describe their memories of the congregation in its hey-day and how they and the Muslim children of the caretaker's family would play together. The affection and respect each of these individuals have for one another is well represented.

Using a series of slow and soaring drone shots, in and around the stunning old building, and an equally hypnotic soundtrack, the film provides a brief glimpse of an old world in danger of disappearing.

Magen david Synagogue Kolkata
By Rangan Datta Wiki CC BY-SA 3.0
Wikimedia Commons

THE HOLOCAUST CHRONICLE WEBSITE

The Holocaust Chronicle website is an online version of *The Holocaust Chronicle* book, initially published in 2000 by Chicago-based Publications International, Ltd. This project is a not-for-profit endeavour and a passion project of the CEO of Publications International, Louis Weber. The mission of *The Holocaust Chronicle* is to report the facts of the Shoah, clearly and free of bias or agenda.

The content has been meticulously researched and fact checked and features more than 2000 photographs carefully selected from the collections of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, as well as from other archives and private collections around the world. Essays at the beginning of each chapter contextualise the key years of the Holocaust and its immediate aftermath. The parallel timeline encompasses almost 1000 years of history to set the events of the Holocaust in their full historical context. Hundreds of sidebars detail significant people, places, issues, and events and more than 30 full-colour, specially commissioned maps illustrate where those events occurred.

The website allows users to read the book page by page, browse by chapter, use the index to find specific references or search by keyword.

Contributors include professors of religion, history and philosophy such as Marilyn Harran, Ph.D., Professor of Religion and History at Chapman University (CA), Robert Ashley Michael, Ph.D., Professor of European History at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and John K. Roth, Ph.D., the Russell K. Pitzer Professor of Philosophy at Claremont McKenna College (CA).

Technically the site is fairly simple and quite old-fashioned looking by today's standards; for example, the page size is fixed and does not dynamically resize to the browser window. This may turn off a younger audience used to shinier digital bells and whistles. It's a shame because the way the content is organised lends itself to a much richer digital experience than that presented here.

Nonetheless, this is a seminal work on the subject and will certainly help family historians contextualise the stories of relatives lost in this horrific event.

SLEDGEHAMMER
STORIES OF BRICK-WALL BREAKTHROUGHS

Sledgehammer is a column where you can share how you managed to break through a brick wall. A brick wall is a seemingly insurmountable barrier in your research that seems to be unbreakable. By sharing your demolition story I hope other members will be inspired to try different tactics to knock holes in their own walls and move their research forward. Have you broken through a brick wall lately? Share your story! Email it to ed@ajgs.org.au

CLOSER THAN YOU THINK	ROBYN DRYEN

Nearly 50 years ago, my father began to assemble a family tree – the old-fashioned way. With pencil and ruler he drew up the box chart and wrote to all known relatives requesting corrections and details of the recent additions to their families.

30 years later I inherited this precious A3 sheet of paper and began my own search – the new way – with computer databases, access to digital images from near and far archives, email and other mod-cons. And yet, there remained one really troubling brick wall. My grandfather's cousin Leon was the last of the Dryen family to arrive in Broken Hill. His son George told my father that he thought Leon had two sisters who remained behind in Russia – names unknown.

Over the last 20 years, I have returned to the "unknown" sisters many times. I have learnt that the Dryens' "Russia" was Ukraine, and that the surname was DRUYAN, which I can now recognise in Cyrillic script. Whenever a new document or lists of Ukraine records appear, I have searched for these Druyan sisters – in vain. Not a trace. My clever computer-generated trees all still show Pinchus DRUYAN, his wife Rachel HERSHOV, their son Leon, and "daughter 1 remained in Russia", "daughter 2 remained in Russia".

George gave me a copy of a photo we agreed was most likely Leon, his parents and two sisters – but we were never certain.

George was orphaned by the time he was 17 – too young to have acquired a detailed knowledge of his father's family. His mother, Sarah (nee GOULD) died in 1929 just before George turned 8. His father Leon died suddenly in 1938. Foolishly, I assumed that there was probably no will.

I was recently perusing the NSW State Records list of probate packets for another Dryen relative, and noticed there was a packet for Leon. I headed out to Kingswood to view it and several others. I was still so sure it would merely contain the details of Leon's possessions and property (he owned Dryens stores in Broken Hill), I read at least five of the other files before Leon's.

I opened Leon's packet, and there in the centre of the folded bundle was a will!

From its date, it was apparent that Leon had moved pretty quickly after his wife's death to make a new will that would take care of their son should Leon die. Apart from making provision for young George, Leon made two bequests:

1. To my sister ANNA EPSTEIN the wife of Isaac Epstein of Rostoff Ondon Russia the sum of One hundred and fifty Pounds (£150/-/-) to be paid to her as soon as conveniently may be after my death.

2. To my sister GITEL DRYEN of Rostoff Ondon Russia the sum of One hundred and fifty Pounds (£150/-/-) to be paid to her as soon as conveniently may be after my death.

In two sentences, I had the sister's names, the married name of one of them and a 1929 location – Rostov on Don – and it was in Russia after all!

Sometimes those distant answers are a lot closer to home – you just have to keep chipping away, as I will now do to find out what became of Anna and Gitel.

Vintage Postcard - Rostoff on Don
Public Domain

D.I.Y

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR PROTECTING AND PRESERVING PRECIOUS MEMORIES

D.I.Y. is an occasional column where we'll share practical ideas, tips and tricks for protecting and preserving photographs, documents and family heirlooms. It's a 'How To' column so if you have discovered a great way to organise and share your archives, preserve your photos or keepsakes or can share a link to a useful website please share it with us.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

The National Archives of Australia (NAA) came into its own with the passage of the *Archives Act 1983 (The Act)*. The organisation itself as been around in one form or another for decades, having split from the National Library of Australia in the early 1960s. It took on its modern moniker in 1975.

The 1983 Act legislated the archives' responsibility to collect, collate and preserve government records–from momentous moments to the everyday interactions of the public with the bureaucracy. Today the archives holds millions of individual records and hundreds of collections that can be of great value to family history researchers including military, immigration and intelligence records, amongst others. But there are just so many records that sifting through this huge pile of treasure can be quite daunting!
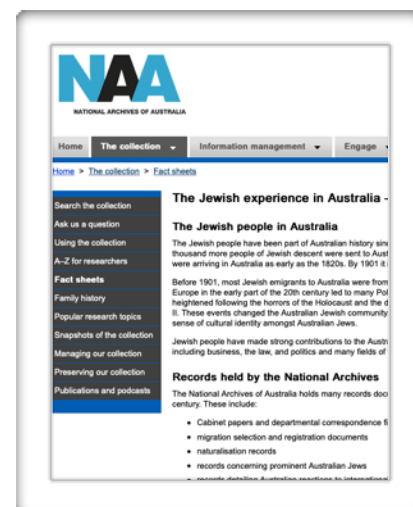
Thankfully, the NAA have a set of useful resources that can help you find exactly what you're looking for.

FACT SHEETS

National Archives Fact Sheets are a great starting point. They contain snapshots of collections organised by subject areas and link to selections or records and more information. Two fact sheets that may be of specific interest to Jewish family history researchers include:

The Jewish experience in Australia - Fact sheet 217

The foundation of the State of Israel, 1948 – Fact sheet 158

SNAPSHOTS

Snapshots link to records of interest on a particular subject.

One useful snapshot for Jewish researchers is *Internment camps in World War II*, where relevant photographs and records have been gathered to tell the stories of Australian internment camps such as Cowra and Hay in NSW, Tatura (Rushworth) in Victoria and Harvey and Rottnest Island in Western Australia.
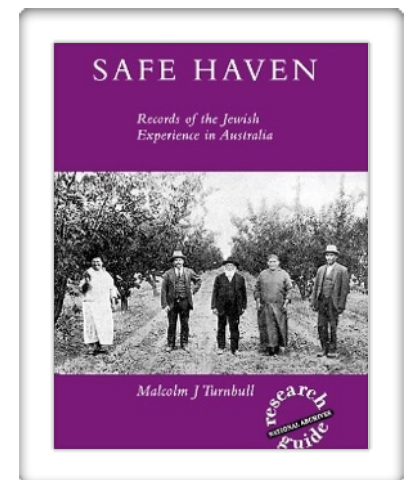
Service and Sacrifice is a collection that highlights the different records available relating to military service. Further details on how to trace Australian military service records can be found here.

The NAA also holds many Military Service Records where Australians served, from the Boer War through to the present.

RESEARCH GUIDES

Research guides are small books published to assist researchers find relevant records in the collection. Researchers can browse or download electronic copies for free from the NAA website or purchase physical copies from the NAA online shop.

Safe Haven: Records of the Jewish Experience in Australia is a research guide written by academic Malcolm J Turnbull (not to be confused with former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm B Turnbull). This research guide catalogues the many records in the archives that may be relevant to Jewish researchers and gives a brief outline of the history of the Jewish community in Australia.

FEATURED RECORD COLLECTIONS

Featured collections are online exhibitions collecting together elements to highlight a particular theme.

A featured collection that may be of particular interest to Jewish Australians is Destination: Australia - a collection of images taken by street photographers. Between 1946 and 1999 government photographers snapped 22,000 images of people arriving and living in Australia. You might recognise someone in a photo!
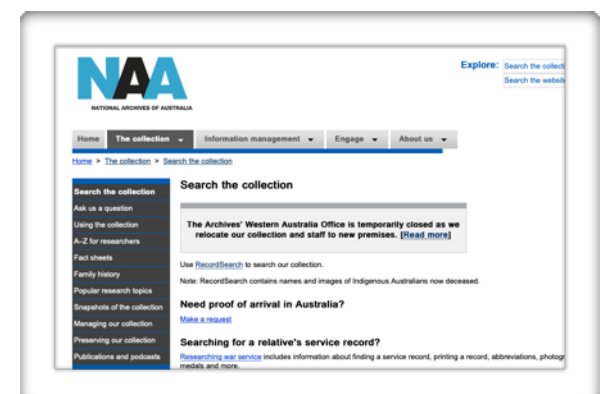
Through the site you can share your own family story, read about other migrants' memories and explore the collection.

SEARCH

To search the collection with a specific set of parameters you can go to RecordSearch. Here you can do a basic search with a keyword and date range, a name search for an individual or specifically search passenger arrival lists.

FAMILY HISTORY HELP

The Archives also has comprehensive resources specifically for family history researchers on their Family History page, with resources on how to use the archives, case studies and tips on how to care for your own collection of historical documents and artefacts.

If after all that you still can't find what you're looking for you can contact the archive and ask an archivist for help. Tell them as much as you can in your request and they will do their best to help you.

LINKS & WEBSITES

FAMILYSEARCH ADDS "COMPARE-A-FACE" FEATURE

Nu What's New reported on a new feature launched by Familysearch that may help answer a fundamental question for Genealogists "Do you look like your relatives?"

FamilySearch has added a *Compare-a-Face* feature where you can submit a photo of yourself (or any person) and compare against another photo.

To use the feature you are required to accept their standard Content Submission Agreement. This can be problematic for some people as it requires users to:

"...grant FamilySearch an unrestricted, fully paid-up, royalty-free, worldwide, and perpetual license to use any and all information, content, and other materials (collectively, 'Contributed Data') that you submit or otherwise provide to this site (including, without limitation, genealogical data and discussions and data relating to deceased persons) for any and all purposes, in any and all manners, and in any and all forms of media that we, in our sole discretion, deem appropriate for the furtherance of our mission to promote family history and genealogical research. As part of this license, you give us permission to copy, publicly display, transmit, broadcast, sublicense and otherwise distribute your Contributed Data throughout the world, by any means we deem appropriate (electronic or otherwise, including the Internet). You also understand and agree that as part of this license, we have the right to create derivative works from your Contributed Data by combining all or a portion of it with that of other contributors or by otherwise modifying your Contributed Data."

Even though image copyright remains with the original owner of the photo this is an extremely broad right to give to a corporation so think carefully before you decide to test the service as images cannot be deleted once they've been uploaded (I learned this the hard way!!). And be aware if you post images of living people without their explicit consent, it could also be highly problematic.

STATE ARCHIVES & RECORDS NSW WEBINARS

State Archives and Records NSW have launched a webinar portal. Webinars are seminars delivered over the internet (aka the web). The webinars cover how to access major collections in the archives including NSW Colonial Secretary's correspondence (broadcast October 18), marriage and divorce records in the NSW archive (broadcast November 7)

Register to watch the webinars live or they can viewed on-demand after the initial broadcast without registration.

Jewish Places is a collaborative website being developed by a conglomerate of Jewish and secular organisations in Germany to collect and collate photos and information about the Jewish history of Germany – both institutional and personal. The website is actively seeking input from registered users to expand the information on their interactive map.

The map highlights four subject areas – places, facilities, people and walks–indicated by different icons. Individual icons have information about a person, a place, a synagogue or a cemetery. There are also icons for social organisations, residential and commercial buildings and educational and cultural institutions. Some of the entries include photographs. You can also filter by the aforementioned subject areas.

Through the site you can explore Jewish life across Germany, learn more about the project and participate by sharing photographs and information. As this is essentially a crowdsourced resource it appears that entries are now moving outside the borders of Germany, into Austria and Poland. If you have information and images of locations you would like to share with the site it's worth taking a look.

The site is in German but opening it in Chrome or Google Translate will translate it into English.

The system still has a few frustrating quirks that may need to be ironed out. When you initially go to the map, the system asks to geolocate you. The map then "flies" to where you are. If you're not in Germany you have to zoom out and move the map back to the northern hemisphere. This happens frequently enough to be an annoyance. Plus, depending how far out you zoom the map, the icons smother the whole country. It's good if you know the precise location you're researching so you can zoom right in.

JOODS MONUMENT COMMEMORATES VICTIMS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Crowdsourcing also underpins the Joods Monument (Jewish Monument), an online memorial to the more than 104,000 Dutch Jewish victims of the holocaust.

The website states that its aim is:

…to provide a multilayered view of the Jewish community of the Netherlands before and during the period of World War II (1939-1945). It is a living archive which invites family members, friends, historians, editors and visitors to share and document their memories and stories.

While not specifically a genealogical site, this creative endeavour may have some relevant information for researchers, including family tree data for individuals. Registered users are encouraged to contribute and the site will grow in usefulness as people update each entry. Navigation is quite organic, with search and browse capacity. It's visually striking too, with the home page containing a wall of purple squares, each containing a single name. If a photo of the person has been uploaded, a shadow of it can be seen behind a transparent purple filter.

When you click on a square a small tab pops up with the person's name, date of birth and date of death. If you click on the tab their individual page opens. Again, this is a stark, simple page with the individual's details. When you scroll down, other contributions are revealed including stories, photos, known addresses, a list of other residents known at that address (useful if you don't know the names of other family members) and relevant links.

DUTCH CIRCLE DIGITISES MISJPOGE

And in more Dutch news, Schelly Tallalay Dardashti posted on Facebook recently:

The Dutch Circle for Jewish Genealogy has published over the years a number of indices to Dutch sources, on paper. With the help of the *Stichting Collectieve Maror-gelden* all of these publications have been digitised and are now available to everyone. ...I would like to draw attention to the publication of some indices concerning The Hague/Den Haag, Amsterdam and Middelburg but above all those of the community in Surinam! At one stroke we now have access to a wealth of information about the Surinam community... The Dutch Circle for Jewish Genealogy deserves a huge shout out for this opening up of its publications.

Unfortunately, it does appear that one has to be a member of The Circle to access this resource (membership is €40 for non-residents).

JEWISH CEMETERY EPITAPHS IN SURINAM INDEXED

And speaking of Surinam... The former Dutch colony, located on the Northeastern Atlantic coast of South America, has a Jewish heritage going back to 1630, when a small group of Jews of Portuguese descent settled there and established sugar plantations.

The oldest Jewish cemetery in the country, The Cassipora Cemetery, is located in the jungle about 50km from the capital, Paramaribo. To date 216 tombstones, out of an estimate of over 400 burials, have been discovered. The oldest tombstone dates back to 1666 while the latest is from 1873. Other cemeteries are located in Jodensavanne and Paramaribo.

Avotaynu Online reports that AvotaynuDNA team member Rachel Brown has compiled an alphabetised index of surnames found in *Remnant Stones: the Jewish Cemeteries of Suriname: Epitaphs* by Aviva Ben-Ur and Rachel Frankel (book available via Amazon).

ROOTSTCH 2019

Registration has opened for Rootstech 2019 and Familysearch, conveners of this annual genealogical tech fair, are publishing a video series called Road to Rootstech to help participants make the most of their conference experience. Episode 1 tackles some apparent problems with long lines experienced last year, with Rootstech event director Jen Allen assuring participants that organisers have learnt some valuable lessons.

The annual conference is in Salt Lake City from February 27-March 2, 2019, and FamilySearch have also announced an inaugural Rootstech London from the 24th to 26th of October 2019.

Keynote speakers are yet to be announced but organisers have already posted a preliminary schedule with a diverse range of workshops to choose from including such diverse topics as Jewish Genealogy–How to Start, Where to Look, What's Available presented by Lara Diamond, Managing global collaboration in a One-Name Study presented by Paul Howes and Creating a DNA Triangulation Table–a two and a half hour workshop on how to use GEDMatch to narrow down DNA matches–presented by Andrew Lee.

TIPS FOR SEARCHING AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTES

In a blog post in October, the National Library of Australia laid out some very useful tips for searching Government Gazettes in Trove. Trove is an essential resource for family history researches, with searchable access to the vast repository of historic newspapers, books, journals, photographs, diaries, letters and maps stored in the National Library.

Government Gazettes, produced by all levels of government in Australia, are an official publication used to notify the public of government business.

Information published in government gazettes include:

- Appointments and employment (includes transfers and retirements)
- Budgetary papers (reports relating to government budgets)
- Freedom of Information (only for years covered by Acts)
- Index and Contents (cumulative indexes and content listings for individual issues)
- Government notices (including registers of medical professionals, licensing, honours, electoral notices, trade registrations and population statistics)
- Private notices (legal notices including bankruptcies, company registrations and local government matters)
- Proclamations and legislation (includes some Acts and regulations)
- Tenders and contracts (including requests for tender and notifications of approved contracts)

There are almost 3.5 million pages of gazettes digitised in Trove. These records, like the newspaper archive, are divided into categories

LITVAK SIG JOURNAL AVAILABLE ONLINE

Bagel Shop, the journal published by Litvak SIG - the Lithuanian Jewish Special Interest Group - and selected articles, are now available online.

The collection is searchable and will yield results that include links to videos and relevant pages within the website.

Zagare Cemetery Lithuania - Photo: Dani Haski ©

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

EASTERN SUBURBS WORKSHOP

SUNDAY NOV 18
2.00PM - 4.45PM
Waverley Library,
32/48 Denison St
Bondi Junction
RSVP: society@ajgs.org.au
November 15, 2018.

HOLOCAUST RECORDS
AND WHERE TO FIND THEM -
PRESENTED BY ROBYN DRYEN

Many of our families did not speak of the Holocaust. First-hand experiences were too painful to detail, second-hand information was possibly not reliable, but mostly they wanted to protect children and grandchildren from the stark reality of horrendous suffering.

We now wish to know more – sadly, it is often too late to ask.

- Can we find the names of immediate and extended family who did not survive?
- Can we find out what happened in our parents/grandparents/great-grandparents towns during the war?
- What records and testimonies exist and how do we access them? What else can we find?

Robyn Dryen will outline the many available collections and databases for attempting to reconstruct your family's experiences in Europe and elsewhere during WW2.

Please RSVP to society@ajgs.org.au so that we have numbers for seating and catering.

The Berlin Holocaust Memorial
Loulou3945 CC BY-SA 1.0 via Wikimedia Commons

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

AJGS runs regular workshops where you can access resources, websites and the knowledge of other members.

Monthly Sunday and quarterly Monday workshops are held at The Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield. Quarterly Sunday workshops are also held at Waverley Library, 48 Denison St, Bondi Junction.

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
SUNDAY	NOVEMBER 18	1400-1700	WAVERLEY LIBRARY
MONDAY	NOVEMBER 19	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 2	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	JANUARY 13	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 3	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 17	1400-1700	WAVERLEY LIBRARY
MONDAY	FEBRUARY 18	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	APRIL 7	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	MAY 5	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	MAY 19	1400-1700	WAVERLEY LIBRARY
MONDAY	MAY 20	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	JUNE 2	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE

Check out The Calendar on the AJGS website for details or see below for dates, times and locations.