

# KOSHER KOALA

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society Inc.

[www.ajgs.org.au](http://www.ajgs.org.au)



July 2015



*Papercut, early 20th century, unknown artist*

*Center for Jewish History, NYC - Flickr photostream*

## Information requests

### Search for Otto Frank's letters

The Sydney Jewish Museum and Holland's Anne Frank House are searching for a series of typed and hand-written letters from Otto Frank, father of Anne Frank.

The father of the famous diarist received a large amount of correspondence in the years following the English publication of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Most were written by girls the same age as Anne or older. While the Anne Frank House has retained all the letters sent to Otto, his replies were not copied or archived.

If you, or someone you know, wrote to Otto Frank and you still have his letters, please contact Anne Slade on 0418 670 352 or email: [anne@styletto.com.au](mailto:anne@styletto.com.au)

### Solf Tea Group – search for survivors or their descendants

Johanna Solf was the wife of Dr. Wilhelm Solf, first Governor of German Samoa and later, German ambassador to Japan under the Weimar Republic. After her husband's death in 1936, Johanna presided over the *Solf-Kreis* – a circle of anti-Nazi intellectuals – in her salon in Berlin. Solf and her daughter, the Countess So'oa'emaelagi "Lagi" von Ballestrem-Solf, were responsible for hiding many Jews and providing them with documents to emigrate to safety.

Most members of the Circle were arrested and executed after attending a tea party at the residence of Elisabeth von Thadden in Berlin, on 10 September 1943. The guests had been betrayed by Paul Reckzeh who was a spy for the Gestapo. The Solfs were interned in Ravensbrück and narrowly avoided death because of delays in the trial and the subsequent approach of the Red army which led to their liberation.

Now, New Zealand author Michael Field is seeking survivors or descendants of survivors who escaped the Holocaust through the Solf Tea Group. Michael wants to tell the story to a wider English-speaking audience and is seeking more information.

Anyone with information should email [lagi@jwire.com.au](mailto:lagi@jwire.com.au)

### Macclesfield Hebrew Congregation, UK

Basil Jeuda is researching the short-lived Macclesfield Hebrew Congregation, which flourished from 1941 to 1946, following the arrival of evacuees, refugees and firms which moved up from the London area.

These firms included Belmont Textiles (the Belmont/Lazarus families), Osband Knitwear, Offenbach, BJ Friend, H&I Franklin, V&E Friedland, A. Goldstein, and possibly Halle. The Congregation was the most northerly outpost of the United Synagogue, and had its own Minister as well as its own WIZO Branch.

It is hoped to mount an Exhibition in 2016, to celebrate Jewish life in the Macclesfield area during WWII.

If you have any information – photos, memories, or other memorabilia – please contact Basil Jeuda: [basil@jeuda.com](mailto:basil@jeuda.com) or write to:

Basil Jeuda  
Sandringham Road,  
Macclesfield SK10 1QB  
United Kingdom

## American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

By Linda Cantor

*This article first appeared in Shemot, newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, Vol. 23(1), May 2015, pp.23-5. Reprinted with the kind permission of the JGSGB and the author.*

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (or JDC, or as it is often known colloquially, 'the Joint') is one of the best known Jewish humanitarian assistance organisations. It was founded in 1914 in order to aid the Jewish victims and refugees of World War I and has gone on to help people through the horrors and vicissitudes of World War II, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, the flow of Jewish immigrants worldwide to Israel, and refugees from such places as Shanghai, Tangiers, Algeria, Yemen, and the Soviet Union. Today, it continues to assist Jews in danger world-wide, those in need in Israel, and to provide non-sectarian disaster relief and development assistance across the world.

There is a long list of people who were helped by the Joint over the years. As a genealogist, I want to know if there are records of these activities and, if there are, are they accessible to us? How do we see them? How can we use them? I first met Linda Levi, the JDC Director of Global Archives, at an IAJGS conference and got involved in the volunteer indexing project that they were just setting up at that time. And I have worked with them for several years now as a volunteer, so can share with you some of the wonderful records that exist and are easily accessible to us on-line, as well as records that are yet to come.

Keep in mind that JDC records are not vital records and were not created for future use by genealogists and historians. Rather, they are the business records of the work that JDC was involved in on a daily basis. However, they often offer invaluable information about the people who were conducting that business, many of them our ancestors. To see a complete list of records currently indexed and available on line, go to <http://archives.jdc.org/explore-the-archives/searchable-lists.html>. The amount of information is mind-boggling but fortunately much has been indexed for you. You can search in the Names Index, the Text Collection, and the Photograph collection at *Search the Archive* at <http://archives.jdc.org/archives-search/?s=archivestopnav>. And you can search by town name rather than family name by clicking on 'expanded search options' in the left hand column. When you locate a record of interest, click on it and then click on 'View Document' and you will see the actual document.

For example, there are many remittance lists, created when people in the West, aware that the situation for Jews in Eastern Europe was quite bad during World War I and the years that followed, sent money to their families with the assistance of JDC. The 1919 Remittance List for Poland<sup>1</sup> tells us the name and address of the person providing the money, the amount of the remittance, and the name and address of the person it was going to (the wonderful aspect of these records is that they connect two parts of the family for you, one in the West and one in Eastern Europe). There are similar lists for those years for Russia, Romania, and Palestine.

Additionally there are quite a few lists for the World War I era other than the remittance lists, including lists of people who received food and clothing from JDC, people seeking help from their relatives in the west via JDC, and information about prisoners of war.

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<sup>1</sup> JDC Archives, *Records of the New York office of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee*, 1919, file #60, Remittances for Poland; 01/28/19

**JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, NEW YORK**

REMITTANCES FOR POLAND

RECEIVED BY ETL.

January 31, 1919.

NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REMITTER	DISPOSITION
14245/801	Mrs. Sarah Brans, Kowalska #17, Warschau, Warschau Gub. (age 60)	25.00	Max Davidson, 817 Broadway, New York City.	
14256/801	Mrs. Rivka Zaloman, c/o Chana Rachel Zaloman, Bregka Str. #41, Kobrin, Grodno Gub. or c/o Fugitive Camp, Brest Litowsk, Siedletz, Siedletz, Siedletz Gub. (age 34) (1 child)	50.00	M. Saltzman, c/o Rudnik, 307 Madison Str., New York City.	
14259/801	Mrs. Gitle Golifarb, Kolno, Kolno, Lomaha Gub. (age 50) (3 children)	50.00	Louis Goldfarb, 488 Lenox Ave., New York City.	

*List of remittances to Poland, January 31, 1919. JDC Archives, New York Collection 1919-21, File # 60*

The years prior to, of, and following World War II provide us with much data, including lists of refugees and lists of people seeking financial help, from such varied locations as Poland, Lithuania, Shanghai, Australia, Spain, Latin America, Italy, the Soviet Union, and North Africa.

Let's just look at one example of these many lists, the *Refugees in Zbaszyn, Poland, 1938-1939*.<sup>2</sup> In 1938 Germany deported over 17,000 Polish Jews to Zbaszyn, now known as Bentschen, a German-Polish border town, but the Poles refused to allow them entry. They stayed there in deplorable conditions for many months till the Polish government allowed them to enter the country and while there received assistance from the JDC. This incredible list provides a great deal of information including the name, date of birth, place of birth, profession, former address, where they were living now, name and address of a relative in the U.S., and the name of husbands, wives, and children. What a treasure trove of information!

JDC has many records from 1956 onwards but fewer of these records have been indexed and placed on line for privacy reasons. However that will change with time. One of the indexed lists is the *Hungarian Refugee*

INDEX CARD AJDC VIENNA. <b>LINZ</b>		File No. ....
Last Name <b>BOROS</b>		Registration Date .....
First Name <b>Miklos</b> Sex <b>M</b>		Transfer from: .....
Address <b>Jegermayer Lager</b>		To: ..... on: .....
Birth Date <b>1.12.09</b> Birth Place <b>Budapest</b>		Date of arrival in Vienna .....
Former address: .....	Former Nationality: <b>Hung</b>	Accompanied by: .....
Occupation: <b>plumber</b>		
Date of arrival in Austria .....		
Date of departure <b>3.1.57</b> Country of destination <b>USA</b>		
<b>3.1.57 Linz</b> <b>HIAS LIST</b>		

*Registration card of Miklos Boros. JDC Archives, Records of the JDC Vienna office, Hungarian Refugee Registration Cards, 1956-57*

<sup>2</sup> JDC Archives, *Records of the New York office of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 1933-1944*, file #879; List of refugees classified by a number of categories; 08/24/1939

*Registration Cards, 1956-1957*<sup>3</sup>, completed by almost 20,000 Jews who escaped the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 and went to Vienna. They provide the following information: the name of the head of the refugee family, his or her place and date of birth, address in Vienna, and the names of accompanying family members. Some cards include the places and dates of birth of the family members, including maiden names of wives, as well as the occupation of the head of the family. Most cards indicate where the family emigrated to and some cards have notes that indicate help from HIAS or other agencies.

JDC is very excited to start working on a new project, digitising and indexing the records of the JDC Warsaw Office, which remain in Warsaw at the Jewish Historical Institute. The records cover from 1945 to 1949, after which time the office was closed down by the Polish government. At that time, the records were confiscated by the Polish government but were eventually turned over to the Jewish Historical Institute.

The *JDC Warsaw Office Collection 1945-1949* has recently been digitised by JDC and is now available online at <http://archives.jdc.org/>, re-connecting this material with the rest of the JDC records. These records cover help to survivors (food, clothing, medicine, and money), help to Jewish cultural and academic organisations, help in the search for lost persons, and help for those survivors who wished to emigrate from Poland. Many of the important lists in this collection will be indexed and eventually appear in the on-line JDC Archives Names Index.

One such record is a list of children brought from Poland to France by the Children's Rescue Committee. The cover letter states that JDC should have this list in case they receive inquiries from surviving parents of the children. The list includes the name and the date and place of birth of the child.<sup>4</sup>

Because indexing of the many JDC records is an ongoing project and new material constantly appears, one must continually check the indexes. And you never know what they might include, as they are generally records that are unique to JDC. But whether you hit the jackpot or not, you will appreciate the depth and breadth of these wonderful records and the great effort and expense that JDC is going to in order to make them easily available to all.



*The Transmigration Bureau line snaked out the door of the JDC main office. New York, c. 1917.*

*Courtesy of the JDC Archives*

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<sup>3</sup> *Records of the JDC Vienna office, Hungarian Refugee Registration Cards, 1956-57*

<sup>4</sup> JDC Archives, *Records of the American Joint Distribution Committee: Warsaw office, 1945-1949; file #55; List of unaccompanied Jewish children in Germany; 02/12/1947*

## Book Review

### *If this is a woman*

*Inside Ravensbrück: Hitler's Concentration Camp for Women*,  
by Sarah Helm

Little Brown, London, 2015. 748 pages. Bibliography and Index (20 pages)

#### Reviewed by Daniela Torsh

This is a doorstopper of a book, but I was gripped by every page. Though my Czech aunt, Zuzanne Poetsch, died at Ravensbrück, I have never been able to confirm when and how she died.

Now I realise that the Nazis burned papers and records in the frantic last days as the Russians closed in. Though I had read some German books about the camp at the Jewish Community's library in Berlin in 2000, I hadn't realised it housed women who were not Jewish. Most were prisoners of war, political enemies of the Nazis or Resistance fighters or so called *asocials* – prostitutes, criminals or Gypsies. The Nazis dubbed them “useless mouths”.

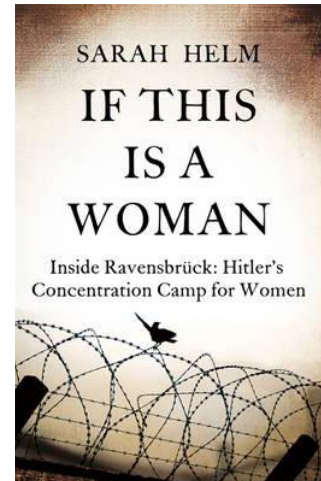
Nor had I previously understood that it was really Himmler's job to set up and run the camps and that he had tried, at the end, to make a deal with the Allies by releasing many prisoners, including a woman he thought was a relative of Winston Churchill's, as well as the niece of General de Gaulle – his brother's daughter Genevieve. The so called *Prominente*, like the many Polish Countesses and Milena Jesenska, the Czech journalist and lover of Franz Kafka, got special treatment, with better quarters and food and less arduous work. But many still died, were shot or gassed, or were worked to death. Estimates of deaths range between 30,000 and 50,000 of the 130,000 women who entered its gates.

What Helm shows is that inmates could be beaten to death or even shot at any time by the *Kapos*, the *Blockovas* or the camp leaders. Opened in 1939, Ravensbrück was a slave labour camp but had gassing stations and it supplied prostitutes for prisoners at other camps like Buchenwald, Mauthausen and Dachau. Himmler thought this could invigorate the male prisoners at those camps. The author also details the many personal stories of female prisoners who came to Ravensbrück from Russia, Holland, France, Poland, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Britain, America and Scandinavia.

I found the story of Count Folke Bernadotte, a relative of the Swedish Royal family, who rescued many women in the dying days of the war, totally sensational. I didn't know that the Swiss made a competition out of who could be the most humanitarian by rescuing the prisoners from their hellish existence – starving, freezing and exhausted. Only one Swiss rescue operation got through, but many of Bernadotte's did, so the Scandis won this sad 'race to rescue' in the spring of 1945. Helm explains the scandalous failure of the International Red Cross to act on the information they were given and to help the prisoners. The German Red Cross played a huge role in blocking any international efforts for aid. But a courageous Norwegian student working with the Resistance, Wanda Hjort, bullied and faked her way into the camp and eventually played a major role in delivering food and aid and telling the world about the atrocities.

The stories of the so called Polish rabbits who were the subjects of experiments by the German doctor Karl Gebhardt, a sadistic surgeon, are completely shocking. And the way that the many babies and children in the camp were treated is breathtaking and ghastly. Helm writes often of the lesbians in the camp. Those dressed as men were nicknamed the Jules. Women formed strong friendships and relationships across nationality and sexual orientation in these extreme circumstances.

This is an extraordinary book that was only able to be written now that the Russian and many eastern European archives are opening up. Although it is seriously gruesome, I couldn't put it down. What makes it so extraordinary is the comprehensive narrative that combines the political and the



personal. For example, Helm connects the camp to the operations of Auschwitz which also had a women's section that was run by guards specially trained at Ravensbrück. The sub-camps and the labour camps for Siemens and other major German companies are also scrutinised. I feel like I need to re-read this book many times to savour all its aspects and layers. It certainly stands out amongst the many books about the concentration camps and the Shoah.

And finally, its research marks the book as a rarity. Helm, a former *Sunday Times* journalist, started with British material she found as she was researching an earlier book about a British SOE officer Vera Atkins. Through material in Atkins' files which had been kept by her sister-in-law in Cornwall, Helm found references to British women in the camp. Some had survived and still lived in England. She read the secret Hamburg 1946 war crimes trial's evidence about Ravensbrück, which had only recently been opened to public access. She discovered witnesses who were still alive in Belorussia, France, Israel, Austria, Russia, Holland and America. She travelled to the camp's anniversary celebration of liberation in the spring of 2006 in the former eastern Germany, where she met survivors and children of survivors. They were keen to talk to her and share their mothers' experiences and documents. Her interviews uncovered unknown facts and memoirs in many languages. Like Daniel Mendelsohn, author of *The Lost*, she journeyed far and wide to gather the evidence and then wrote about it. It's a mitzvah that she did.

## News

### Member Kudos

At the 2015 AGM of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSG), AJGS member Miriam Pollack was awarded the Rabbi Dr Bernard Susser Award for her book *Plasht? Gone but not forgotten: 1896-1900*. (See *Kosher Koala*, December 2013 for a review)

Mazel Tov to Miriam – an award well deserved!



### IAJGS conference, Jerusalem 2015 – On-Demand!

<http://www.iajgs2015.org/>

Over fifty programs from the 35th IAJGS Conference in Jerusalem, 6- 10 July 2015, will be streamed On-Demand. They can be viewed over the internet – on computer, tablet or smartphone – within a few hours of presentation. Almost all the talks selected for streaming are in English, some are in English and Hebrew,

and six are in Hebrew only.

To see the lecture schedule, go to the IAJGS 2015 webpage <http://www.iajgs2015.org/>, select the On-Demand menu, and go to Lecture Schedule.

On-demand access will be available for 3 months after the conference (until 10 October 2015), and resource handouts (where provided by speakers) will be available for download.

Cost:

- \$US149 for the entire package of ON-DEMAND! sessions
- \$US55 for accessing one day's sessions
- \$US30 for Friday's half-day sessions.

You can register for ON-DEMAND! up until 10 October.

ON-DEMAND! is being presented in co-operation with FamilySearch.

## Compensation for child victim survivors

In a landmark agreement with the German government, Jewish survivors who were children at the time of the Holocaust may now receive compensation payments. The Claims Conference fund will issue one-time payments of €2,500. This payment is in addition to any other compensation payments received.

Applications can be submitted by survivors only. If the child survivor applies, is eligible, and subsequently dies, the surviving spouse is entitled to payment. If there is no surviving spouse, the child(ren) of the eligible child survivor is/are entitled to the payment.

Eligibility for the Child Survivor Fund is open to survivors born on, or after, 1 January 1928 and who were persecuted as Jews in a concentration camp or ghetto (or similar place of incarceration, in accordance with the German Slave Labour Program); or who lived in hiding or under false identity or illegality for at least six months in Nazi-occupied or Axis countries. Full eligibility criteria are available at [www.claimscon.org/childsurvivor](http://www.claimscon.org/childsurvivor).

The Claims Conference has distributed application forms to survivors believed to be eligible for this new payment. Individuals who did not receive an application form by mail from the Claims Conference but who wish to apply to the Child Survivor Fund can obtain additional information, including full eligibility criteria and application forms, at [www.claimscon.org/childsurvivor](http://www.claimscon.org/childsurvivor).

## Polish restitution payments

Until recently, Polish Holocaust survivors living outside Poland were unable to receive restitution pension payments from the Polish government. This has now been changed and payments can be made to foreign bank accounts. However, there remain some hurdles to claiming this pension. The application form must be completed in Polish, there is a requirement to designate someone to receive communications from the Polish government and forward them to the applicant, a requirement to submit an endorsement letter from an association of survivors, a requirement to provide documentation of persecution, and a requirement to provide documentation of Polish citizenship. To provide access to the funds and limit the barriers a number of organisations have offered to facilitate claims by providing a proxy address, supporting documentation etc.

For detailed information see: <http://polishrestitution.com/pensions/>

For assistance with making a claim from Australia contact

- Jewish Care Sydney: [c.laurence@jewishcare.com.au](mailto:c.laurence@jewishcare.com.au),
- Jewish Care Melbourne: [MKaplan@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:MKaplan@jewishcare.org.au), or
- COA: [J.Golding@coasydney.org](mailto:J.Golding@coasydney.org)

## Updated Polish records translation guide

[http://jgsi.org/Polish\\_translation\\_guide](http://jgsi.org/Polish_translation_guide)

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois has just published a third edition of *A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents*, (including Birth, Marriage and Death Records) by Judith R. Frazin.

Additional information in this edition includes

- Using old Polish census records
- Resources to help you find your town on a modern map
- New vocabulary words and phrases

Cost is \$US35 + postage. To get details for international postage and payment, email [<TheGuide@JGSI.org>](mailto:TheGuide@JGSI.org)



## Latest JewishGen success stories

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jewishgen/testimonials/index.htm>

The latest stories about successful research using JewishGen's Family Finder are now online and include

- *From Kreuzburg to Hollywood: Finding Walter Wicclair* by Peter Vanlaw
- *A Hundred Year Journey: Searching the Past, Finding the Future* by Stella Saperstein
- *The Family from Slavuta: Finding Sam Bloom* by Carol Clingan

Read these stories and be inspired to update your Family Finder listings, and see who is new to the list of researchers for your family names and towns.

## Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) – 2015 Croker Prize for Biography

<http://www.sag.org.au/collections/croker-prize-biographies.html>

The theme for the 2015 Croker Prize is *My Immigrant's Story*. SAG received 22 entries for the competition and they can all be read online at the above url. If you want to download the full set for later reading, go to:

<http://www.sag.org.au/croker/2015/2015%20Complete%20Croker%20Entries.pdf>. The entries include at least two stories about early Jewish immigrants.

If you are a member of SAG, you can vote for the entry you think best deserves the Members' Choice award of \$1000, but don't delay as voting closes at midnight on 31 July.

## 29-30 August 2015 – Sydney Jewish Writers Festival



If you are wrestling with writing your family history or your own memoirs, or even just thinking about how to begin – attending a writers' festival can often be a great place to start.

The Sydney Jewish Writers Festival organisers have just announced an exciting line-up of speakers from Australia and overseas for the 2015 festival. The Festival venue will be Waverley Library.

Weekend and Day passes can be purchased now. The program will be released on 23 July and single session tickets will then be available.

See details at <http://www.encounters.edu.au/SJWF/Home>

## Useful and interesting websites

### FamilySearch adds NSW 1891 census images

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2317858>

This collection of images is not yet indexed by name, but it is arranged according to town or district/sub-district. Only the householder's name is given, along with the numbers of males and females living at that address. If you know where your family was in 1891 it is interesting to browse through the district to see which other relatives were close by.

This census doesn't help to identify which house your family occupied as there are few street numbers outside of central Sydney and smaller towns do not even have street names.

### Genealogy Gophers

<https://www.gengophers.com>



*Genealogy Gophers* is a database for searching for your ancestors in digitised books, records, city directories etc. It's like *Google Books*, but specifically for genealogy. The site plans to add about 1,000 books per month. The books are either out-of-copyright works or works for which the authors have given permission for online posting. At present, content is primarily American. The books have been digitised by FamilySearch.

The site is subscription-free, but makes money by showing ads and Google Consumer Surveys. Once a day, you will be shown a survey before you can see a book. By answering the survey, you get to see the book and the site receives a small payment from Google or the advertiser.

You can opt out of a particular survey if you don't want to answer the question. Find out more by clicking on the *Learn more* link in the lower-right corner of any survey.

Thanks to Jan Meisels Allen for this alert

### Getting more from FamilySearch

<http://tinyurl.com/oeddv69>

Jan Meisels Allen recently advised us of an article about how to find more records of relevance when searching the LDS FamilySearch databases (<https://familysearch.org>)

This article (link above) explains that many collections are not yet fully indexed, but many of those not indexed have been digitised. It explains how to search individual collections and possibly retrieve that vital information you have been looking for.

### Royal Library of Belgium – digital newspapers

<http://opac.kbr.be/belgicapress.php?lang=EN>

The *Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique* (The Royal Library of Belgium) has uploaded digital images of newspapers dated from 1831 to 1918. Access is free. The newspapers can be searched by keyword and/or date or browsed. The website is in French, Dutch and English (the link above is for the English webpage). Some of the newspapers are in German.

Due to copyright issues, newspapers from 1919 to 1950 are indexed, and show up in search results, but these digital images are not available free.

## Avotaynu online – *The Jews of the Crimea and their Names*

<http://www.avotaynuonline.com/2015/06/jews-of-crimea/>

Avotaynu has adapted and updated the article *The Jews of the Crimea and their Names*, which was first published by Igor Kotler in the Spring 1989 edition of AVOTAYNU. If you have families originating from this part of the world, this is an excellent article on the derivation of *Krymchak* surnames.

## Krakow 1850 and 1870 censuses online

For 1850: <http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/29/84/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

For 1870: <http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/29/86/0/str/1/100?ps=True#tabJednostki>

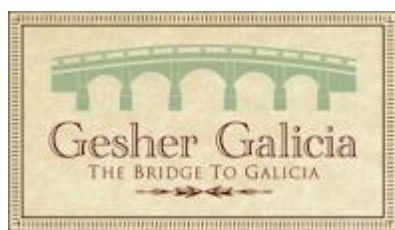
Thanks to Poland's National Archives in Krakow and National Digital Archives, the Krakow Censuses of 1850 and 1870 are now freely viewable online, with (handwritten) name indices.

If you are already familiar with Krakow censuses and with navigating *szukajwarchiwach.pl*, you can go directly to the collections of images.

If you need assistance, Logan Kleinwaks has posted instructions for finding households in the censuses at <http://genealogyindexer.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=5010>.

With this update, Krakow censuses for 1850, 1870, 1880, and 1900 are viewable online.

## Improved All Galicia Database search engine



In addition to searching by given name, surname and geographic location, *All Galicia Database* researchers can now search by house number within any town where there are more than 25 records.

This means that analysis of events taking place in the same house over almost one hundred years – based on any type of record where a house number was noted (birth, death, tax, school, landowner, notary, etc.) – can now easily be made with the data on the site.

Go to: <http://search.geshhergalicia.org> and enter a house number and town name. You can add a surname, but no names are needed if you want to see results based on the house number only. The search engine should pull up any record details where the town and house number are the same.

Keep in mind that, in some towns, the houses were re-numbered over time, and that some children were born in houses which were not occupied by their family.

Note that Lviv/Lwow/Lemberg house numbers mostly have fractions which indicate the district (quarter) of the city. This produces more results than just searching a simple house number.

The search engine now has the capability to filter search results to show only those records added within the past few months.

## Hamburg Vital Records

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60505>

A posting to the Ger-SIG of JewishGen notes that a collection, *All Hamburg, Germany, Selected Deaths (1876–1932)*, is available at the above link. If you find a relevant record, you can view the original death certificate.

**Note:** A follow-up comment on the Discussion Group stated that this ancestry.com collection represents only a small part of all registers. Name indexes to Hamburg civil registration records (births, deaths and marriages) can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/hamburgcivilreg>. These are

indexes only – no images. The files are separated into year(s), and sections of the alphabet. They are huge files and slow to download – so be patient!

This web page is in German. Do not hit the English (Union Jack) button on the top menu bar, as it will take you to the home page and *not* to the indexes. You will need to use Google Translate, or similar, if you don't read German.

## Russian army service search

Miriam Bulwar David-Hay recently asked for assistance on various Polish Discussion Lists. She was looking to find where her grandfather was killed in 1941 while serving in the Russian army. As a terrific example of best practice, she listed the sites she had already consulted.

Because her searched websites comprise a very valuable list for others, it is re-printed here. Some sites are in Russian; for these you will need to use something like *Google translate* and Cyrillic lettering to search.

- OBD, the Russian Defence Ministry site, which lists over a million fallen Red Army soldiers: <http://www.obd-memorial.ru/html/index.html>
- Alexander Zaslavsky's Book of Electronic Memory, which lists more than 100,000 fallen Jewish Red Army soldiers: <http://jmemory.org/>
- Benjamin Meirchak's partial list of Jewish military casualties in WWII: <http://www.zchor.org/meirtchak/volume5.htm>
- The Pobediteli website, which provides a multimedia history of the Eastern Front and lists over a million surviving (in 2005) WWII Red Army veterans: <http://english.pobediteli.ru/>
- The Israeli Museum of the Jewish Soldier in World War II, which lists soldiers and partisans who fought for the Allies: [http://www.jwmww2.org/show\\_item.asp?levelId=65021](http://www.jwmww2.org/show_item.asp?levelId=65021)
- The Martyrology list of Jewish soldiers killed in the Siege of Leningrad: <http://nameandglory.spb.ru/>
- The Kresy Siberia Virtual Museum, which lists people deported or persecuted in the pre-war eastern borderlands of Poland, but also contains complete listings of Polish military unit personnel: [http://kresy-siberia.org/won/?page\\_id=3&lang=en](http://kresy-siberia.org/won/?page_id=3&lang=en)
- The Toldot website listing people buried in Jewish cemeteries in Russia: <http://tinyurl.com/toldotcem>
- Assorted lists and partial lists from Marilyn Robinson's JewishGem blog: <http://yourjewishgem.blogspot.co.il/>

## Archives in Israel

<http://tinyurl.com/israrchives>

The National Library of Israel has compiled a list of over 600 archives in Israel. Where known, they have included a link to each website, the name of the Archives Manager, email address, telephone number and Facebook page. The site is multi-lingual. The link above is to the English-language version. Although still in Beta version, it works well, if slowly.

There is also an interactive map, so you can locate a town of interest and see which archives might have relevant information. Click on one of the green dots and the archive information and links appear. In addition to state and municipal archives, there are archives which belong to kibbutzim, educational institutions, and those belonging to various organisations.

## Dates for your diary

### 12 July 2015 – A town called Brzostek

3:00pm at the Sydney Jewish Museum, \$10 general admission

A film by Simon Target about Jonathan Webber, the restoration of the Jewish cemetery of Brzostek in Poland, and the ceremony which followed.

### Workshop Dates for the rest of 2015

The Society will hold workshops on the following dates at:

Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield:

Sunday workshops 9.30am to 12.30pm	Monday workshops 10.00am to 1.00pm
5 July	20 July
2 August	17 August
30 August	21 September
11 October	19 October
1 November	16 November
6 December	21 December

## The Last Word

I have long been skeptical about the wisdom of placing family trees on the web. I worry about privacy and I worry about ownership of data. I know that one cannot copyright facts, but I'm concerned here with who 'owns' the data and determines its use, once it is on a publicly accessible website.

With these concerns in mind, I have placed very little of my family tree online, and none of it includes me. I have, however, given permission to a cousin to include me and my partner on his 'private' tree on one of the commercial websites. I know that this tree remains private as a search on my partner's name does not get a result for that tree.

Imagine my surprise when I recently received a notification that a 'match' had been identified for me and a similar person on another tree – the alarm bells started ringing when, on investigation, this other person turned out to be me – but with my partner's surname!

I have never been married, my surname has never changed. So I immediately emailed the 'owner' of this new tree and asked where the

information had originated and requesting that at least I be returned to my own name.

I was impressed that a reply came swiftly, but dismayed at the response: *Fixed ... I don't know where the information came from ...* This suggests that there had been no request to a third party for information sharing.

I checked immediately for both variants of my name and no results were obtained. Either I have been removed from the tree, or the tree has become 'private' – with or without corrections. Due to the rules of the website which use a 'blind' email and message process, I have no way of verifying which is true.

I learnt a couple of things from this incident:

- Don't ignore and bin those pesky little messages that new 'smart matches' have been found – they need to be checked for accuracy
- Continue to be skeptical about the privacy settings on commercial websites

**Robyn Dryen**

Editor

Email: [ed@ajgs.org.au](mailto:ed@ajgs.org.au)