

KOSHER KOALA

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society
www.ajgs.org.au



August 2014



*Peace Bells, Jindo-no-oka
Yaotsu, Japan, June 2014*

Photo: Kaye Schofield

AJGS News

- ❖ John Stanhope and Rieke and Peter Nash attended the IAJGS conference in Salt Lake City. The conference syllabus has been added to our Resources Library. This year, those sessions which were recorded will have the slide presentations as well as the audio recording. This collection is on order and will be added to the Library as soon as it arrives. We will have more reports from the conference in the next issue of *Kosher Koala*.



The Australian contingent at Salt Lake

- ❖ Dr Ivor Epstein gave a wonderful talk on Researching Sephardi Origins, at our 6th July workshop at Lindfield. He prepared a useful handout of contacts and websites for further research. This is now available in our Resources Library.
- ❖ The National Library of Israel has requested permission to digitise all issues of *Kosher Koala*, to add to their free collection of online historical newspapers and journals. We have provided the files, and will advise when they have been uploaded. You will be able to search the entire collection by keyword.
- ❖ Sunny Gold, our Secretary, has recently been re-elected Vice President, NCJWA NSW.
- ❖ Committee Member, Dani Haski, used her considerable genealogical expertise to reunite Eileen Franklin with a long-lost bracelet. The story appeared in the *Australian Jewish News*, 22 July 2014, together with a great plug for AJGS. Well done, Dani!

Our “brick wall” challenge

AJGS member, Harold Berman, is the only one of our readers to have requested assistance.

He wrote

I have for many years been trying to trace my ggfather who, according to family lore, was a ‘famous’ rabbi in Vidzy.

His name was Rav Dovid of Vidzy. According to an uncle’s South African naturalisation papers, Rav Dovid’s daughter’s surname was SUDANSKY. Apparently he was the Rabbi as well as the Rosh Yeshiva in Vidzy.

I have found an article on p. 142 of the Vidzy Yizkor book which recounts the story of a Reb Dovid'l of Vidzy. I cannot be sure that this is my ggfather as the dates are a bit vague, but I assume that it is about him. My grandmother was born in 1864.

I have been in touch with Eudice Harris, who was responsible for the publication of the Vidzy Yiskor book, on several occasions, but she could not give any further help or advice.

I am a member of the Litvak-SIG and diligently scrutinise the website for any new information, and I also look at the Belarus database. I have posted requests on the Litvak-SIG, Belarus-SIG, Rav-SIG and JewishGen Digest on numerous occasions.

Harold is a regular at our Lindfield workshops and he has also exhausted the collective wisdom of our regular mavens.

Do you have any suggestions for further research?

Please send them to: society@ajgs.or.au

The trip to Yaotsu

By Robyn Dryen

In late 2007, I was planning my second trip to Japan. In those days, QANTAS flew to Nagoya. As I avidly read my Japan guidebook looking for adventures around Nagoya, the following paragraph caught my eye:

Yaotsu, where Sugihara Chiune was born, is a train ride away. Japan's consul in Lithuania in World War II, Sugihara saved around 6,000 Jews using transit visas via Japan. He is commemorated by a monument and museum at Yaotsu's Hill of Humanity Park.¹

I had come across Sugihara just prior to this, as there had been a TV documentary about him. I thought Yaotsu might be an interesting place to visit. On that trip, the weather conspired against such an adventure. The rains came and we did not fancy standing about in the mizzle waiting for uncertain bus connections.

I have since been to Japan several times, but have never again been in Nagoya. Over the years, my interest in Sugihara has grown in proportion to my knowledge of him and his deeds. The desire to get to Yaotsu became something of an obsession. It seemed important to me that, if Japanese officialdom had finally recognised Sugihara's humanity to desperate Jewish refugees, then it was equally important that we Jews show the Japanese that we appreciate the gesture. Planning each trip, I looked for an opportunity to take a side-trip to Yaotsu – none presented until April this year, when I finally realised that we could make a long day-trip from Kyoto.

Before leaving Sydney, I ascertained that the trip would be complicated, two trains and two buses in each direction. The trains presented no problem, the Japanese rail system is superb; but I could not get the necessary information about the final bus legs – from Gifu to Yaotsu, and from Yaotsu up to the Hill of Humanity and the Sugihara Museum. I decided that the Kyoto hotel concierge could ascertain the timetables and connection places.

We arrived in Kyoto, and I posed the problem to the concierge. She called the Yaotsu town hall for information. The first question was whether the visit was to the Sugihara Museum – I thought this was promising – at least it was a known destination. Much chatter ensued, back and forth, but no timetable. The concierge was referred to the museum. She called the museum. After a very long conversation, she put down the phone, sadly shaking her head. "Is very difficult ..." followed by a deep intake of breath. The advice from the museum was that buses do not run to a regular timetable, the most reliable

¹ *Japan*, DK Eyewitness Travel Guides, London, Revised edition 2007, p.143

transport was to take a taxi from Gifu – they thought a one-way trip would cost around \$A50. I immediately had visions of being stranded on top of a hill outside Yaotsu, waiting for a non-existent taxi to take us back to Gifu.

Realistically we had two options – to hire a car and drive (at least the Japanese drive on the left), or to hire a car and driver. The latter seemed preferable and was only marginally more expensive than the public transport option. We booked the car and driver for the following day. All the advice indicated it was a little over 2hrs drive away.

In fact, it was a three hour trip each way, and our driver seemed unaccustomed to such an extended drive. I am an appalling passenger at the best of times, and despite “reviver stops”, I was never confident that the regular slow drift to the centre lane was a planned move, and not a micro-nap! Japanese politeness appears to extend to the roads and so we were never honked or abused, and we tootled along, in relative safety, to our destination.

From the time we passed Gifu, to the time we passed by it on the return journey, I did not see a single bus, nor a single taxi. I was so pleased that we had a car.

The museum sits proudly on a hill overlooking the town of Yaotsu and the valley floor. It became apparent, once we arrived at the museum, that it is primarily a destination for school excursions, self-drive Japanese tourists, or those on organised coach trips. As we arrived at lunchtime, the morning visitors were all departing, and we had the place to ourselves.

The exhibition chronicles Sugihara’s life, re-creates his diplomatic office in Kaunas and – surprisingly for a Japanese institution – is extensively curated in Japanese, English and Hebrew. On the day we visited, the lone attendant did not speak English and my Japanese is tourist-basic, so I was unable to discover anything about the number and composition of visitors.

We were treated to a video screening of Sugihara’s life before moving through the museum. The displays chronicle not only Sugihara’s diplomatic career, but also recognise the assistance given to Jewish refugees by other consuls of the day, such as Jan Zwartendijk (acting Dutch consul in Kovno) and Raoul Wallenberg (Swedish Special Envoy in Budapest). I was also interested to learn a whole lot more about the Japanese and the Jews.

I had not previously known that the Japanese government despatched officials to accompany many of the boats bringing Jewish refugees from Vladivostock to Tsuruga, nor that they ran a press campaign requesting residents to accept and assist the foreign newcomers.

The final exhibit I recognised immediately – a recreation of Sugihara’s office in Kaunas – so familiar from the photos taken by our members on their travels to Kaunas.

My overwhelming impression was that the museum is sorely in need of an injection of funds. The coloured displays are slowly turning blue as the early digital reproductions fade. I had learnt from my pre-trip research that Sugihara’s wife, Yukiko, and his son Hiroki, were the chief promoters of the museum. Sadly, both have now died, and surviving descendants are US-based. The town is proud to



The Sugihara Museum, Yaotsu

recognise its famous son, but short of the cash to revitalise this commemoration. There were originally plans for on-site accommodation and a convention and research centre, to be added to the museum. In 2014, these seem destined to be unrealised dreams.

We took a stroll to the adjacent grounds of *Jindo-no-oka* – the Hill of Humanity Park. On one side, the three peace bell towers representing the stacks of visa applications. The bells are inscribed *Spirit*, *Courage* and *Charity*. Their clarion call can be heard for miles by walkers in the surrounding hills. On the opposite side of the road is a beautiful semi-circular installation of pipes looking like bamboo, surrounded by a pond – a place for quiet reflection.

This whole experience provided much to ponder. Sugihara is enigmatic – or perhaps the inconsistencies arise in the telling of his story. In 2007, a Google-search for Sugihara produced a handful of hits, today it produces over 71,000!

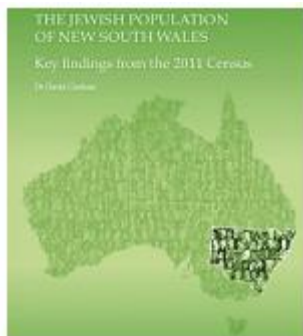
My journey started with a conviction that I should pay some respect to the Japanese prefecture that belatedly honoured its own Righteous Among The Nations. My journey concluded with the knowledge that the tardiness was not due to covering up the deeds of one who had helped Jews, but in large part due to an unassuming man who had quietly retired from public life. Along the way, I also learnt of many actions, by Japanese government officials and civilians, which protected Jews, and of numerous other international diplomats who provided transit visas to Jewish refugees fleeing the advancing Nazis.

As with all genealogical adventures, the narrative is never straightforward.



Hill of Humanity Park, Yaotsu

Who are we? – findings from the 2011 census



JCA in Sydney collaborated with the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University in Melbourne, to produce three booklets analysing the Jewish population data revealed in the 2011 Australian census. The three titles are – *The Jewish Population of Australia*, *The Jewish Population of New South Wales* and *The Jewish Population of Victoria*. These analyses provide a fascinating insight into the composition of our community.

Sections report on geography, demography, Jewish households, intermarriage, immigration, socio-economics, the non-commercial economy, and care and welfare.

Interesting findings include:

- ❖ approximately 50% of Dover Heights residents were Jewish – this was the area with highest concentration in NSW, and represents 11% of all NSW Jews. In Caulfield North (Melbourne), the estimated Jewish population was 51.6% of the total population.
- ❖ 48% of Jews in NSW were born in Australia, 19% in South Africa and 19% in Europe
- ❖ 1,636 of the Jews in Victoria reported speaking Yiddish at home, but there were only 192 making this claim in NSW! Do we need a Yiddish Book Centre?

For an interesting snapshot of the Jewish community, read all three reports which you can download from the JCA website at:

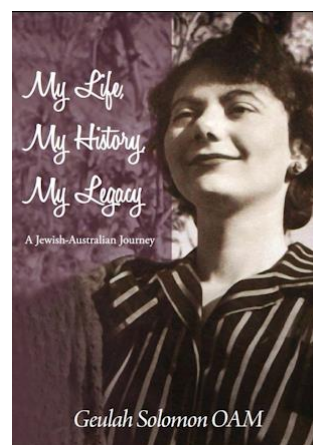
<http://www.jca.org.au/photos-and-news/publications/2011-census-reports.cfm>

Book Review

My Life, My History, My Legacy by Geulah Solomon, Makor at Lamm Jewish Library of Australia, 2012, ISBN 0980702844, 9780980702842

Reviewed by Sunny Gold

This autobiography by Geulah Solomon OAM, traces the history of her family from 1895, the year of the birth of her father, Zoltan. He was born in what was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; later it was Czechoslovakia. Having finished a degree in Biochemistry in France, he travelled throughout Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, and eventually to Australia, where he married Nellie Spitzer in Melbourne in January, 1929.



Geulah was born in October of that year and her brother Raphael (Ray) followed in 1933.

Her story does not focus so much on her amazing achievements, but instead concentrates primarily on her family, to whom she was utterly devoted.

Spanning five generations, the book contains numerous details about the people in Geulah's life from her early years. Divided into twenty-three brief chapters, it is an easy read.

There is a large collection of photographs contained in this publication. It is, however, difficult to match them with the text, partly because the family tree is so complex.

The family was impoverished, moving frequently around the Victorian countryside and also around Melbourne. As a result, Geulah often had to change schools. From these humble and unsettled

beginnings, she rose to great heights to become a renowned student, teacher, academic, activist and a committed volunteer for the Jewish and the wider community.

Her lengthy CV is impressive and the wealth of material in the Appendices is almost as interesting as the story itself. It should be noted that Geulah bravely managed to complete this book while suffering a terminal illness.

At the end of this autobiography, there is a section in which there are effusive messages by her family on the occasion of her 80th birthday. These are heart-warming and emotional.

There are also wonderful tributes about Geulah, delivered at her funeral on 24 May 2010, by prominent members of the Jewish and wider community. Her long-standing associates and friends in the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia and the International Council of Jewish Women, for which Geulah worked tirelessly for a great many years, expressed their deep sadness at her passing.

All this bears testimony to a remarkable, resolute and revered woman.

News

Michelle Urban awarded OAM

In the Queen's Birthday Honours, Michelle Urban was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community, particularly to historical and genealogical groups.

Michelle is a founding member, and Vice President, of the Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of Western Australia. Mazel Tov, Michelle!



More Matzevot found in Warsaw

1,000 Jewish headstones were recently identified as the building materials for a pergola and stairs at a recreational facility in the Praga district of Warsaw. Jonny Daniels, of the *From the Depths* organisation led negotiations. The city of Warsaw has agreed to dismantle the construction, preserve the headstones and return them to the Brodno Jewish Cemetery in Warsaw.

Read more at <http://www.jta.org/2014/08/15/news-opinion/world/warsaw-to-restore-1000-jewish-tombstones-used-for-construction>

There is also a very moving film clip of Jonny Daniels and the search for matzevot on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W39eG2uprfQ>

IAJGS Conference – Salt Lake City 2014

The Annual Awards

- ❖ **The IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award** – Dr. Alexander Beider “... in recognition of his many significant contributions to the specialised science of the origins and forms of proper names and surnames of persons as applied to the field of Jewish genealogy, as well as for the scholarly works that he has authored that have become over time, indispensable reference resources for genealogists and families who are researching their ancestors.”
- ❖ **The IAJGS Program Award** – Montefiore Census Digitisation, a project which created a database of all five 19th century censuses of the Jewish population of Eretz Yisrael between 1839 and 1875.



- ❖ **Outstanding Publication Award** – *Lineage*, the newsletter of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island New York.
- ❖ **Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet** – Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, for its searchable online indexes of Jewish records and for its recent ground-breaking multi-year agreement with the Polish State Archives (PSA) to digitise all vital records in more than 30 regional archives.
- ❖ **The Stern and Stedman Grants**
 - **Jewish Colonies in South America** – to digitise, index, and make available the Jewish Colonisation Association’s census and passenger lists of those assisted to the agricultural colonies in South America.
 - **Odessa Document Acquisition and Translation Projects** – to obtain copies of the indexes of the Jewish vital records stored in the State Archives of Odessa, Ukraine, and to translate these indexes and make them available in a searchable format.

Future IAJGS Conferences

July 6-10, 2015 – Jerusalem, Israel

August 7-12, 2016 – Seattle, Washington

July 23-28, 2017 – Orlando, Florida

2018 possibly in Eastern Europe

Interesting websites and updates

Archives New Zealand – WW1 defence personnel files

<http://archives.govt.nz/world-war-one>

Archives New Zealand holds the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Personnel Files for all known New Zealanders who served in the First World War. Digital copies of these files are now available on the website. These files contain very similar material to those of Australian AIF personnel.

Importantly, some of the attestation forms have additional questions about the birthplace and citizenship status of the enlistee’s parents; some files contain details of birth-date and -place of dependent children. At least one file contains a copy of the deed poll for the enlistee’s name change; another contains a copy of the birth certificate of a child born after the father’s enlistment.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has added new documents to its website. You can now find details of headstone inscriptions and burial arrangements for the deceased soldiers. If you find one of your Jewish relatives buried with a cross, please let us know. Email: society@ajgs.org.au

WW1 PoW files

<http://grandeguerre.icrc.org/>

The International Red Cross (IRC) has placed some records of WW1 PoWs online.

In 1914, the IRC established the International Prisoners-of-War Agency in Geneva. The Agency received lists of prisoners’ names and records of capture, of transfers between camps and of deaths in detention – primarily from the Western, Romanian and Serbian Fronts.

These indexes also contain enquiry cards, from the written requests for information submitted by relatives of the missing. The original correspondence was destroyed.

The site is not intuitive to use, but online help is available by clicking the question mark, which will guide you step-by-step through the search process.

Kehilat Middlesbrough, UK

<http://kmbro.weebly.com/>

This site includes downloadable spreadsheets of marriages which took place in Middlesbrough Synagogue between 1871 and 1984, burials with headstone photos from Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool cemeteries, community photos and some family histories.

Thanks to Jeremy Frankel, GBJGS for this tip

UK Naturalisation Certificates and Declarations, 1870-1912

<http://www.ancestry.com.au>

ancestry.com has added a new collection which includes naturalisation certificates, declarations of British nationality, and re-admissions to British nationality, for the years 1870–1912. The certificates typically list the name of the immigrant, residence, birthplace, age, parents' names, occupation, and the names of any underage children.

While the full files are only available from the UK National Archives, this index provides a quick and user friendly way of identifying the correct naturalisation record for your ancestor when there are several with the same name.

Irish records

<http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>

There has been some confusion about the online availability of Irish records. Civil records were announced with great fanfare and then removed due to privacy considerations. However, this website still provides great access to census records and various other record indexes such as land valuations and wills. The site also searches external databases, including Ellis Island, Castle Garden, and Irish convicts to Australia.

Keep checking back as they promise an update on civil records.

***findmypast* has changed its search engine**

<http://blog.findmypast.co.uk/2014/how-to-search-findmypast/>

findmypast has a new search engine. This blog shows users how to optimise searching using the new features. If you have British ancestors, or your families passed through Britain, these databases are always worth a browse.

Changes to ancestry.com DNA testing

ancestry.com is retiring its Y-DNA and mtDNA tests ... *to focus resources on providing powerful family history research tools that use autosomal testing...*

The genetic results from these tests will be available for download only until 30 September 2014. If you have been using results from these tests, you would be well advised to export and save your raw DNA data in a .csv file format. This file can be uploaded to other Y-chromosome and mtDNA testing services.

New discoveries of Jewish past in Jamaica

<http://tinyurl.com/jewishjam>

This article describes the on-going discoveries of Jewish *matzevot* (headstones) in Jamaica.

Thanks to Dani Haski for this tip.

New IGRA databases

<http://genealogy.org.il/>

The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) has new databases:

- ❖ United Home for the Aged, Jerusalem, 1823-1903
- ❖ Register of British Subjects, 1863-1913
- ❖ First Settlers of Petah Tikva Colony, 1878-1900
- ❖ Founders of Zikhron Ya'akov & Shefaya, 1882-1912
- ❖ Members of the Zikhron Ya'akov Hospitality Society, 1898
- ❖ First Settlers Petah Tikva, 1900-1904
- ❖ British Subjects Registered at the Consulate (Jerusalem), 1909-1914
- ❖ *Festschrift* of the Hebrew Gymnasium in Jerusalem, 1909-1962

GenTeam database additions

<http://www.genteam.at/>

- ❖ Jewish Cemeteries in Nuremberg

This index of burials in the old and new cemeteries in Nuremberg includes surname, given name, profession, sometimes date of birth, age, date of burial and cemetery. In the new cemetery, the location of the burial plot is also specified.

- ❖ Medical Database: additional 11,750 entries

This database contains basic data from the medical faculty oral examinations in Vienna, 1818-1938. It includes excerpts of the Study Catalogues of only Jewish students, 1862-1938.

- ❖ Oral Exams of the Dean's office for surgeons, pharmacists and midwives, 1751-1880.

- Surgeons 1751-1890
- Pharmacists 1751-1854
- Medical Doctors 1752-1821

Vienna Jewish Records Office (*Matrikenamt*) has moved

The *Matrikenamt* of the Jewish Community of Vienna recently moved and integrated with the Archives of the Jewish Community Vienna at Desider-Friedmann-Platz 1 (around the corner from the main building and in the same block). The new contact details are:

Irma Wulz,

Tel. +43 1 5310 4172

Fax +43 1 5310 4219

E-mail: i.wulz@ikg-wien.at

Thanks to Michael Diamant, Hawaii and Eva Browne for this tip

New Yizkor Books in Print

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html>

Five titles have been added to the Yizkor Books in Print:

- ❖ *Yizkor (Memorial) Book of Lyubcha and Delyatichi* (Belarus)
- ❖ *Korczyna Memorial Book* (Poland)
- ❖ *Yizkor (Memorial) Book of Horodenka*, (Ukraine)
- ❖ *Drohitchin Memorial (Yizkor) Book – 500 Years Of Jewish Life* (Drahichyn, Belarus)
- ❖ *Yampol Memorial Book* (Ukraine)
- ❖ *Brest-Litovsk - Volume II Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora*
- ❖ *Grayewo Memorial (Yizkor) Book* (Grajewo, Poland)

All are available in hard cover, and can be purchased from online booksellers.

Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum Library catalogue

<http://gate.auschwitz.org:7788/biblio/libraopacen.dll>

The Museum library holdings comprise approximately 30,000 volumes and 2,500 periodicals devoted to the history of the Second World War, the Third Reich, the occupation, and the fate of victims in prisons and concentration camps – with special attention to the history of Auschwitz.

The full catalogue of the Auschwitz Museum Library is now available online.

Sachsenhausen Memorial Book

<http://www.stiftung-bg.de/totenbuch/main.php>

Totenbuch KZ Sachsenhausen 1936-1945 is a list of those killed at Sachsenhausen between 1936 and 1945. The website is in German, but is easily navigated with a browser translator. Where known, date and place of birth and death are given.

Dates for your diary

Workshop Dates for the remainder of 2014

The Society will hold workshops at:

Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield on the following dates:

Sundays: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

September 14 October 12

November 9 December 7

Mondays: 10 am to 1 pm

September 29 October 27

November 24 December 15

10 September 2014 at 1pm

Mr Paul A. Shapiro, Director of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Centre for Advanced Holocaust Studies, will give a lunchtime lecture: **The Search for Traces: The ITS (International Tracing Service) and Opening the Bad Arolsen Holocaust Archival Records.**

At: Sydney Jewish Museum, 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst (cnr Burton St)

Booking is essential – email: rsvp@sjm.com.au or call 9360 7999.

12 October 2014

At our scheduled workshop, author Ethel Davis will talk about her journey of discovery and her book: *Latvia's Haunting Secrets*. We will have Latvian and Lithuanian resources for you to browse.

If you intend coming, please RSVP so that we have sufficient seating: society@ajgs.org.au

23 November 2014

We are planning a one-day workshop on conservation of documents, photos, fabric, artefacts and all the other memorabilia you treasure.

Put the date in your diary – more information next issue!

The Last Word

I am now the recipient of emails addressed to society@ajgs.org.au, and have had two wonderful adventures in recent weeks.

The first was occasioned by an enquiry as to whether or not the society had any information about the writer's great-great-grandfather and his descendants. As the surname was familiar, I looked first at my own database.

You guessed it – I was able to reply “Hi distant cousin (by marriage)” One branch of the family had become disconnected from the rest, for reasons long forgotten. I was able to fill in the gaps and, with one email, quadruple the enquirer's known family.

Her excitement was contagious, so I happily dug deep into my archives to unearth a photo of her great-grandfather, taken at a wedding where he was a groomsman and my grandmother a bridesmaid.

This discovery prompted me to go digging on the *Trove* website. I discovered at least three weddings where her great-grandfather and my grandmother (related only by the marriage of their siblings) gave joint presents to newlyweds??? We could only chuckle about what might have been.

The second adventure was the result of an altogether more urgent request. It came from a Ukrainian woman. She was to visit Australia within a week and was wondering if AJGS could assist her to locate long-separated family. Her great-grandmother's brother left Europe shortly after the 1917 revolution. Around 1920, the family story went, he sent money from Australia. Connections were lost when, under communist rule, life became difficult for those who had contact with the West.

The enquirer had a name, his father's name, the name of his siblings, his place and approximate year of birth, and the fact that he married here.

I searched all the usual places based on the information, but found no trace. However, I did find a man who was a close match – similar name, right age, different birth country, same father's name, but he had arrived in Australia in 1926 after 7 years in Palestine, with a wife and son. I asked if this could possibly be the man.

Yes, came the reply, this was definitely the man!

So I set about finding what happened to him and if there were Australian descendants. In Australia, he had three more children and settled in Brisbane. Later, at least one of the children and this man and his wife moved to Melbourne.

I quickly sent off an email to the wonderful Liz James at AJGS (Vic), asking if the family were known to them. I also found one of the family on a tree posted on *ancestry.com*. I knew the researcher and also emailed him for further contact details.

Within 24 hours, I had two reply emails, one from the man's son-in-law, the other from his granddaughter – both delighted to have found missing family they had tried to find some years ago.

The Australian family thought that the rest of the family was in America – they are about to hear of years in the Soviet Union, of life in Ukraine and Russia

I never cease to be amazed at the generosity of our genealogy community and the golden rule to never stop searching. One family – reunited after nearly 100 years and thousands of miles apart!

Robyn Dryen

Editor

Email: ed@ajgs.org.au