



November, 2009

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The aim of our regular Sunday morning workshops is to give you the chance to access our latest acquisitions and delve into the many useful reference books not able to be searched on the internet, journals and CDs in our library. As we subscribe to a few websites and bring our laptop, we are able to help in that way too.



*New member, Barbara Ford, delighted with the information that Peter Nash has found for her online.*

I am pleased to report that members often find new information in our workshops, so don't forget this as a helpful resource in doing your research. We are easy to find, being at the North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, a few minutes' walk from Lindfield Station. If you can't make it on Sundays, we run a Monday morning workshop a week later. Dates of the workshops are below.

On Sunday 18th October our member Daniela Torsh gave us a fascinating talk on the 1793 Bohemian Census and its history, and brought her rare copies of the Census to show people how to find their families in the hundreds of Bohemian villages and in Prague.

We participated in B'nai B'rith's Day of Jewish Culture and Heritage on 25th October by inviting visitors into our library, and enjoyed a successful morning.

Our next event will feature Polish research, with a talk by member Gregory Sachs about his recent trip to Poland to discover his father's forebears. This will be held in the Wilson Hall, North Shore Synagogue, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th November. Greg's experiences and practical tips will be worth hearing.

We have pleasure in welcoming four new members, Heather Brown, Gregory Goldstein, Barbara Ford and Derek Wolfson.

### Workshop dates

Sunday: November 8, December 6, January 10

Monday: November 16, December 14, January 18

As this will be the last e-report for 2009, we wish you and your families a happy and successful 2010.

Jeannette Tsoulos  
President

## JEWISH ROOTS IN MOROCCO AND GIBRALTAR

By Dr John Stanhope

On a recent study period in the Salt Lake City Family History Library, I accessed some hard-to-get resources which have clarified the background of Jewish ancestors. Gibraltar was Spanish territory until captured by the British in 1704. Britain enjoyed good relations with the sultanate of Morocco. Tangier was a Portuguese possession, brought to English control as part of the dowry of Catharine of Braganza on her marriage to King Charles II in 1662. In 1684 Charles and the sultan of Morocco agreed on the transfer of Tangier to Moroccan sovereignty. In 1728, a trade agreement between Britain and Morocco allowed Jewish traders to trade and travel to Gibraltar. In 1749 Jews were allowed to own property, and to build a synagogue. Gibraltar became a portal of entry for Jewish families originating in Mediterranean countries, to reach Britain in the later 18th century.

Population (census) counts in Gibraltar by religion/ethnicity were reported as shown:

Description	1767	1770	1787	1791
'British'=Anglican	467	506	502	672
'Catholic'=Spanish	1460	1832	2098	1538
Jews	753	863	776	666
Total	2680	3201	3376	2874

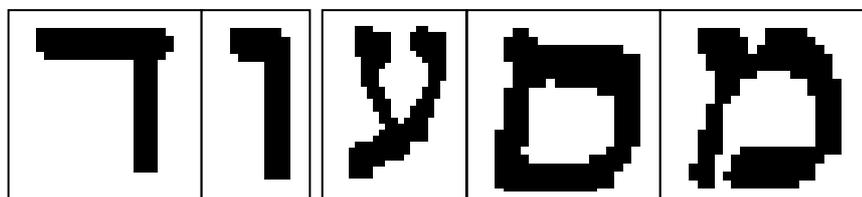
The 1770 and 1791 lists of names arranged in households survive<sup>i</sup>. The surnames of the 'British' are typically British, the 'Catholics' typically Spanish or Portuguese, the 'Jewish' a mixture of patronymics in Arabic (*ben X*) or Hispanic (*X-es*). In 1777, 30% of Jews were born in Gibraltar, other birthplaces included Tetuan, Tangier and other North African places, and 'Mahon' (Minorca). The proportions of 'British' and 'Catholic' were 46% and 43% respectively, suggesting that young Jews born in Gibraltar were moving to Britain.

The influx of Jews into Gibraltar in the second quarter of the 18th century led to the building of places of worship. Four synagogues were established<sup>ii</sup>:

1. *Sha'ar Hashamayim* commenced in 1749, in Engineer Lane.
2. *Es Hayim* commenced in 1759, in Irish Town.
3. *Abudarham* commenced in 1780, in Parliament Lane.
4. *Nefusot Yehuda* commenced in 1790, in Line Wall Road.

A Jewish cemetery is situated in Jacob's Road, Jew's Gate.

Jewish life in Morocco has been described<sup>iii</sup>. During 1700-1900, Morocco was ruled by the 'Alawi dynasty (also known as 'Sherifi'=descendants of Mohammed). They superseded native Berber dynasties. Jews lived under the restrictive 'Dhimmi' laws. From 1790, they inhabited the 'Mellah', an enclosed quarter where the sultan protected them from Muslim zealots. When travelling, Jews relied on protection from Berber tribal chiefs with whom they enjoyed good relationships. However, many Jews took the opportunity to migrate to Gibraltar. Moroccan Jewish arts and traditions are well illustrated in another book<sup>iv</sup>. On page 121, picture 234 shows a tomb inscription for 'Chamcha, epouse de Mes'ud 'Amar', which is of interest to me because it gives the Hebrew version of the forename of my wife's earliest traced ancestor, known in London as Meshod or Messo. The name is variously repeated among his descendants as Masa'od or Masa'ot.



This is the name written in Hebrew. Does it have an English meaning? Assistance would be appreciated.

<sup>i</sup> Family History library film 1729538 items 7 and 8.

<sup>ii</sup> Abecassis, Jose Maria. *Genealogica Hebraica Portugal e Gibraltar – Indicese Adenda* vol 5. Lisbon, 1991. Family History library book 946.9 D2a.

<sup>iii</sup> Dshen, Shlomo. *The Mellah society – Jewish community life in Sherifian Morocco*. Family History Library book 964 F2d. University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1989.

<sup>iv</sup> Mailler-Lancet, Aviva. *La vie juive du Maroc*. Family History library book 964 F2v. Musee d'Israel 1986.

*John Stanhope has been a member of our society for 14 years and has contributed in the past to Kosher Koala.*

### **A JOURNEY TO POLAND – LOOKING FOR MY FATHER’S FOREBEARS: A TALK BY GREGORY SACHS**

This talk proposes to enlighten the audience on our first visit to Poland with the main intention of finding information on my father’s Jewish forebears. This visit was integrated into a major overseas holiday so early planning was a very important factor that we had to address. The talk will cover, inter alia, our planning, travel arrangements, documentation to take, use of local expertise, visits to archives, access to records, our “fortunate coincidence”, some costing details and the resultant translation & follow-up activities. There were successes and some non-successes, so there are lessons we learnt for a future visit to Poland. Tuesday night, 24 November, 2009, 7.30 p.m.  
North Shore Synagogue, 15 Treatts Road, LINDFIELD. Enquiries: 9427-6075

### **SECOND AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE, 7 TO 9 MARCH, 2010**

#### **Conference Website**

The all-new conference webpage will be completely ‘live’ very shortly. To access it, go to the new AJGS (Vic) website, which will be found at: [www.ajgs-vic.org.au](http://www.ajgs-vic.org.au) Follow the link to the conference webpage, where you will find useful information, including the ‘Conference registration form’.

#### **Accommodation**

We are pleased to advise that we have arranged for discounted corporate room rates at our conference hotel: *The Urban Hotel, Fitzroy Street, St Kilda*. This recently refurbished four-star hotel is situated at the beach end of Fitzroy Street and set within the vibrant and eclectic area of St Kilda. It has public transport (tram) to the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre, or is a short 10-minute car ride away. Our special conference room rate is \$155 per room (king/queen) without breakfast, or \$170 per room including breakfast.

#### **Avotaynu**

Avotaynu Inc. is offering us a special conference discount rate for their publications. We are taking orders from conference attendees and will ship the publications to Australia in time to be picked up by purchasers at the conference in March. To meet the shipping deadlines, we will need all orders to be placed (and paid for) by 10 December 2009. A copy of Avotaynu’s current catalogue, with the discounted purchase prices in Australian dollars, is available on request. These prices represent a significant discount from what you would expect to pay if you were ordering directly from Avotaynu. (I’m sure that Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus, our keynote speaker at the conference, will be more than happy to autograph any of the books she has authored/co-authored for those who decide to purchase them!). It is our intention to only import the exact number of books/maps that are ordered by attendees, so please avail yourselves of this great opportunity.

#### **Cocktail Party**

We will be holding a conference Cocktail Party on the Sunday night, so please make sure that whatever arrangements you make for that evening you leave 6.30–8 pm free. It will be an informal affair with lots of opportunity to mingle and chat with others.

#### **Computer Workshop**

We have arranged for a dedicated computer room to be set up during the conference, and you will be able to ‘trial’ various online sites as well as genealogy computer software. If you have been experiencing ‘problems’ in these areas, make sure you take the time to speak to the experts, who will be on hand to answer your queries.

For further information and expressions of interest email [ajgs2010@gmail.com](mailto:ajgs2010@gmail.com)

*Allan Jankie,*  
Conference Convenor

### **30th IAJGS CONFERENCE, LOS ANGELES, July 11-16, 2010**

Click on [www.jgsla2010.com](http://www.jgsla2010.com) to check out the latest. With the strength of the Australian dollar and LA generally being the closest venue of the International Conferences, it will be tempting to attend.

### **THE ROOKWOOD JEWISH CEMETERY TRUST**

*Gary Luke*

The Trust has just updated the online collection of about 43,000 photographs of headstones and graves of burials at Rookwood. [www.jctrust.com.au](http://www.jctrust.com.au) Note that these do not include the Old Ground. The best source for these is the CD produced by AJGS. See [www.ajgs.org.au/rookwoodflyer/rookwoodflyer.htm](http://www.ajgs.org.au/rookwoodflyer/rookwoodflyer.htm)

As well, the Trust is putting a small headstone with an engraved plate on unmarked graves. It’s a slow job which gets done between the more essential work of the grounds staff. The plates include the name and date of death in English and

in transliterated Hebrew.

There are hundreds, but we don't have records of the Hebrew names for the great majority of unmarked graves. We would appreciate any help with their Hebrew names. The cemetery sections we're doing are Sections 1 to 13, with burials between 1907 and about 1957. If you're not sure whether a grave is unmarked you can check for a photo via our website at [www.jctrust.com.au](http://www.jctrust.com.au) If you are unsure, please send me names or surnames and I'll let you know their status or full names etc. Contact: [gary@feraltek.com.au](mailto:gary@feraltek.com.au)

### **CENTENARY BAT MITZVAH REUNION**

On Sunday 13 December, the Great Synagogue, Sydney, is planning an exhibition of photos and memorabilia of their Confirmation/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies held between 1910 and 2009. Contact the curator with information or memorabilia at [admin@greatsynagogue.org.au](mailto:admin@greatsynagogue.org.au)

### **DNA DISCUSSION**

An interesting website from Ray Montanjees of Great Britain gives an excellent summary of the current state of research into Jewish DNA. The Society has many of the references noted in the article which was published by The Journal for the Study of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jewry.

[http://sephardic.fiu.edu/journal/March%202009/Lavender\\_March.pdf](http://sephardic.fiu.edu/journal/March%202009/Lavender_March.pdf)

### **GERMAN-JEWISH RESOURCE**

Stammbaum, the Leo Baeck Institute's German-Jewish Genealogy Journal, is no longer being published. However all the 31 editions can now be read and/or downloaded online from [www.lbi.org/Stammbaum](http://www.lbi.org/Stammbaum) Hosted by the Center for Jewish History, New York, their catalog can be searched at [www.cjh.org](http://www.cjh.org)

### **HISTORY OF JEWS IN UKRAINE**

There are two sites:

- 1) from a Jewish perspective: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/ukraine.html>
- 2) from Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies .<http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/pages/J/E/Jews.htm>

### **RESEARCH GUIDES AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, U. K.**

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/researchguidesindex.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/researchguidesindex.asp)

This comprehensive collection of guides to the holdings of the National Archives in the UK includes topics such as Jewish History 18th-20th Century, Passengers In and Out of the UK and Consulate Records for cities around the world.

### **JEWISHGEN**

#### **New Home Page**

Visit the new look homepage for JewishGen at: [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)

To make the most out of this site, registering for an Id and Password is recommended and donating \$US100 will allow access to all their pages. With the Australian dollar so strong, now is a good time to show appreciation for the existence of this wonderful facility.

#### **JewishGen Success! Stories Announces Re-Launch**

<http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/testimonials/> as a more-or-less monthly webzine, featuring edited stories of ancestor and family connections made through JewishGen. This time around we're highlighting the kinds of success stories that we read about almost every day on the JewishGen mailing lists and discussion groups.

Be sure to read the story-in-an-email by Israel Pickholtz. Be inspired by these stories and send Meredith and Nancy your own success stories for possible future publication (their email is [success@lyris.jewishgen.org](mailto:success@lyris.jewishgen.org)).

#### **JewishGen Blog**

<http://www.jewishgen.blogspot.com>

This site has some interesting articles that could keep you occupied for hours. For example, the 1894 publication of *A Commercial Directory of the Jews of the United Kingdom* is discussed in detail, with comments about some of the entries. (Also see "A Serendipitous Discovery" below).

#### **History Of Jews Of Harbin**

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/harbin/index.htm>

## NU? WHAT'S NEW?

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy by Gary Mokotoff, Avotaynu  
Volume 10, Number 17, August 30, 2009

### CJSI to be Updated

Avotaynu plans to update its Consolidated Jewish Surname Index (CJSI) in the next few months. CJSI is the gateway to information about 700,000 surnames, mostly Jewish, that appear in different databases. These include most of the JewishGen surname databases, all surname books published by Avotaynu and other databases such as the Poor Jews Temporary Shelter, Sephardic surname databases, and Holocaust memorial books such as Gedenkbuch and Memorial to the Jews Deported from France. The database is sequenced phonetically rather than alphabetically using the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System. Therefore, spelling variants of a name that sound the same are grouped together.

<http://www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi-home.htm>

### A Serendipitous Discovery: Archive.org

A posting to JewishGen reported that an 1894 *Commercial Directory of the Jews of the United Kingdom* has been placed online at <http://www.archive.org/stream/commercialdirect00harfiala#page/n230/mode/1up>. The site has a full-word search engine that permits searching the content of the book. The search argument can be a partial word. Searching for "Mok" produced a lot of butchers who dealt in **smoked** and salt beef.

This led me to explore the overall site of <http://archive.org>. It is a remarkable resource, not only for information valuable to family history research but other pursuits. I spent more than two hours at the site and only got a taste of what it has available.

Wayback Machine, located at this site is the home of billions of web pages from the past so that former versions of web pages can be found. *Nu?* reader Ellen Morosoff Pemrick gave a practical application of the site. JewishGen had a broken link to an offsite web page and using Google, she could not locate the site. Apparently it had been removed from the Internet. Using Wayback Machine, she found a 2001 version of the site, and she was able to get the information she was seeking.

### Kielce-Radom Index To Be Part of JRI-Poland Database

For many years, the Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group has been indexing Jewish vital records from that area of Poland, publishing the data in their printed *Journal*. (Ed: the AJGS has all back copies of this Journal). There are plans to merge all of their indexing effort into the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland database which now contains more than 3.7 million records. It is estimated that the Kielce-Radom data will add more than 50,000 records.

A list of all the towns indexed and which years and record types, can be found at [http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/krsig/krsig\\_town\\_records\\_in\\_all\\_issues.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/krsig/krsig_town_records_in_all_issues.htm).

### Geographic Distribution of Names in Italy and France

Jean-Pierre Stroweis

The Italy site is at <http://gens.labo.net/it/cognomi/genera.html>

The French site at <http://www.geopatronyme.com/> The French site has an unusual feature. After searching for a surname, the results show the number of occurrences in four time frames: 1891–1915, 1916–1940, 1941–1965 and 1966–1990. For example, it showed there was a person living in Paris named Mokotoff during the period 1916–1940, a person named Mokotow in the period 1941–1965 and numerous persons named Mokotowicz during the last three time periods.

## NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY RESOURCES

*2008-9 Jewish Population Survey*, the recent survey of the Australian Jewish Community, *GEN08* is available in our library. Prepared by a team from Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, their preliminary findings examine some of the characteristics of the Melbourne and Sydney communities.

*Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians* by Rosemary Wenzerul, Pen and Sword Books, Ltd. UK, 2008. Another addition to our many publications on English Research, beginners will find it a useful starting point.

*World of Our Fathers: The Journey of the East European Jews to America and the Life They Found and Made* by Irving Howe. (A re-published edition of the original 1976 publication.) New York University Press 2005. Reviewed in the Spring, 2009 edition of Avotaynu, this is a detailed exploration of the experiences of the East Europeans who settled on

the Lower East Side of New York, describing their *yiddishkeit*, their Socialist backgrounds and the pressures on their family life. This book has been donated to the Rev Katz Library so that it is borrowable.

### **Newsletters**

When you visit our Library, ask to see the latest collection of International and local newsletters. Some of the useful articles are listed below.

#### **1) Avotaynu**

##### **Vol 25 No 1 Spring 2009**

Articles cover topics ranging from the Jews of Rhodes, Aleppo, Moravia and Vilnius to an in-depth look at Migration to Britain. The article, *Just How Were Passenger Manifests Created* by Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus, buries forever the long-standing myth about name changes by Customs officers at ports of entry.

#### **2) Jewish Genealogy Downunder**

**Quarterly Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (VIC) Inc.**

##### **Vol 11 No 2 June 2009**

Congratulations on the informative, new-look newsletter and logo!

The AJGS (Vic) Committee has begun a new project: The Photographic and Image Index of the Australian Jewish People. This index collects information on the availability of already existing material.

#### **3) International Settlers Group**

**A Service Group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria**

##### **Vol 26 No 3 July 2009**

The State Archive are placing Latvian Jewish Records online. Register at: [www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en.html](http://www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en.html) (where l=L)

#### **4) Venturing Into Our Past**

**The Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County, CA, USA**

##### **Vol. 4 Issue 12 September, 2009**

Ancestry.com has made agreements with American Joint, Jewishgen.org, American JHS, Miriam Weiner's Roots to Roots to add to the Jewish content on their website: <http://www.ancestry.com/JewishFamilyHistory>

##### **Vol. 5 Issue 1 October, 2009**

Google adds Yiddish to its online translations.

#### **5) Descent**

**The Journal of Australian Genealogists:**

##### **Vol 39 Part 1, March 2009**

Book Review of *Marine Officer, Convict Wife. The Johnstons of Annandale* by Alan Roberts.

If you haven't read about this Jewish Convict wife, Esther Abrahams, (one of 16 Jewish convicts in the First Fleet), and who finally married George Johnston, then reviewer Ken Knight, recommends this new biography.

##### **Vol 39 Part 3, September, 2009**

The Ryerson death and Obituaries index to Australian newspapers <http://www.ryersonindex.org/>

The Fromelles project - update on the discovered remains of 400 World War 1 soldiers.

Index to Coroners' Inquests 1796-1824

#### **6) SA-SIG**

**Southern African Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group Newsletter**

[www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/newsletter/index.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/newsletter/index.htm)

One of our members, Bubbles Segall, has been editor of this newsletter for a number of years, operating from Darwin.

She has now moved down to Melbourne and the editorship has been taken over by Colin Plen. The following articles can be viewed on their website.

##### **Vol 9 Issue 2**

Insights into Southern African Genealogical and historical holdings and a Review of the Sydney Jewish Museum South.African exhibition *It's Not all Black and White*

**Vol 9 Issue 3**

South.African Jewish Emigrants to America and Jewish Americans who died in South Africa.

7) *Dorot***The Journal of the Jewish Genealogy Society of New York**

This Journal was the winner of the 2009 IAJGS Award for Outstanding Publication by a Society.

8) *Shemot***The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain****Vol 17 No 2, July 2009**

This issue includes articles on families from Plymouth, Hull and Dudley, with lots of hints for English research.

**We welcome updates on your research, new discoveries and new finds.**

**Miriam Shifreen**

**Editor**

**ed@ajgs.org.au**

## AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATABASE

Update of the Surnames being researched by our members

November, 2009

<b>Id</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Old name of Town</b>	<b>Current name of Town</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Dates</b>
660	CYPRES		KRAKOW		POLAND	1800s
660	ROTHBAUM		KRAKOW		POLAND	1800s
660	DARVAS		GOLUB-DOBRYN		POLAND	1800s
660	DIAMOND		AKMENE		LITHUANIA	
660	MANDELSTEIN		ZAGARE		LITHUANIA	
660	SLONIMSKI		CAIRO		EGYPT	
660	POPPEL		CAIRO		EGYPT	
660	HASKI		CAIRO		EGYPT	
661	SZYMONOVSKY		KAUNAS		LITHUANIA	1800s
661	SHIMANOVSKY		VILNIUS		LITHUANIA	
661	SHIMANOVSKY		VELIUONA		LITHUANIA	1816
661	SYMONDS		SYDNEY		AUSTRALIA	1901-1905
664	LEMANOWSKI	MARIENBURG	ALUKSNE		LATVIA	
664	BOEHME		PLAUEN	VOGTLAND	GERMANY	
665	WITKOWSKI		WITKOWO		POLAND	
665	WITKOWSKI		GNESEN		POLAND	
665	WITKOWSKI		BERLIN		GERMANY	
665	WITKOWSKI		SYDNEY		AUSTRALIA	
666	SLAPAK		SVISLACH		BELARUS	
666	DAVIATSKY		ANY		ANY	