

The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc

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WORKSHOP DATES 2006

**Sunday
5 February,
from 9.30 a.m.**

**Sunday,
5 March
from 9.30 a.m.**

**Sunday,
2 April
from 9.30 a.m.**

DUTCH RESOURCES

**3 p.m.
Sunday,
15 January, 2006
at Lindfield
(See page 17)**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rieke Nash

Around the world some Jewish Genealogical Societies are complaining about falling membership numbers. I am happy to report that this is not our problem. We are growing. We must be doing something right!

Our focus on helping the individual, buying resource materials for our library and publishing the newsletter, Kosher Koala, seems to be an appropriate formula to satisfy most of your needs.

The enthusiastic response to our request for volunteers to help with our GEN-EXPO last November is an indication of the support we often receive for special events. These members were rewarded with a most enjoyable day, helping others, sharing their expertise and experience, networking and even discovering some new leads for themselves. Thank you to all volunteers for your time and effort.

Our only problem seems to be finding people to help with the routine tasks of running the Society.

The monthly workshops continue to be well attended and now, with our online facility, we are able to assist with accessing relevant databases. Our library's resources for researching overseas is growing thanks to financial support from members, and a special thanks to members who have given Society membership as presents to friends or donated books in honour of special events.

Recently there have been a number of successes through our Discussion Group, AJGen, where out-of-town and overseas researchers have been helped by some local knowledgeable members. Instruction for joining this (free) group can be found on our website at www.ajgs.org.au. The Links page on this site has been updated and is also well worth a visit.

Any member who is planning to go to the conference in New York next August, please contact me.

With the 2006 membership due on January 1, we look forward to your joining us again and, if possible, to seeing you at one of our meetings.

A Happy Chanuka and may you have a happy and successful 2006.



Rieke Nash
President
president@ajgs.org.au



EDITORIAL

By Miriam Shifreen

Our Chanuka present to you this year is the biggest, most entertaining Kosher Koala we have published. It is so full of stories, research ideas, and interesting reading to keep you busy as you while away those summer holidays.

We have had some interesting functions this year and it is always a pleasure to meet members. At the GEN-EXPO hard-working enthusiastic members gave of their expertise to help newcomers to the wonderful world of Jewish Genealogy. Volunteers always get back more than they give. And to prove it? Someone was researching his family from Nikopol, that tiny unknown shtetl in the Ukraine where my mother's family came from! I think he was more surprised than I was, when I reeled off the names of the families in Perth who arrived in that chain-migration from Nikopol. The report of our successful day is on page 3, and the photos are on pages 10 and 11.

Find Michael Abrahams-Sprod's talk *Sources for European Research* on page 4 and Michael Taub's talk on *Family Records in Hungary* on page 9.

Fiddler On The Roof drew large crowds at its latest production at the Capitol Theatre in Sydney. And while I loved every moment why did I cry through most of the performance? Certainly, I get up every day and say *Thank God I was born in Australia, and that my mother was able to flee from Russia*. So what draws us to the past lives of our parents and grandparents? What draws us back to visit those villages in which our families once lived? Claire Bruell recalls her visit to Moravia on a quest to discover her family places on page 5.

Check out all the new resources in our Library on pages 14, 16, 17 and 18; look up all the new websites on pages 12 and 18; inspect our new members' Database on page 20.

And if you are looking for a new way to store your family data, see page 13 for a review of the *Master Genealogist* by John Norris.

Finally Myer Samra has a treasure trove for those of Sephardi background on page 16.

And after all that, if you have any time over, think about writing a story, a review, a research success for the Kosher Koala; OR make an impact and see what you can do as a volunteer in our society.

HAPPY CHANUKA AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS
Miriam Shifreen,
Editor
editor@ajgs.org.au

GEN-EXPO 2005: "Journey of Discovery into Jewish Ancestry" at the SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM

Our Society held a highly successful Genealogy Day jointly sponsored by the Sydney Jewish Museum on 27 November, 2005 with over 100 enthusiastic visitors and Expo volunteers.

What an exciting day it was for all who attended! From 11 am to 4 pm those members who came either to help or to do research, found the day interesting and absorbing. Non-members were introduced to the wonderful world of Jewish Genealogy. No one went away without a discovery, some new lead or the satisfaction of a day well spent helping others to experience the potential excitement of making genealogical connections.

The facilities provided by the Museum were excellent. All the genealogy activities were on the lower ground floor level with close and ready access to the Resource Room, the Auditorium, four on-line internet terminals and the Museum Library with its wide range of Holocaust Memorial and Yizkor Books.

Volunteers manned the reception and registration desk where everyone received a folder of 'goodies' containing the program of Special Interest Sessions, timings of five Guided Museum Tours, a Guide for *Starting Your Jewish Family History Research*, information about our Society, the Museum and various other material for genealogy research follow-up.

The Resource Room was the 'nerve centre'. Five tables were available with each allocated to a particular geographical region, for example, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, etc. The tables were manned by those in the Society with the most expertise for that region. To guide visitors to the correct table, world maps were displayed with each of the five regions colour-coded, as well as the corresponding colour hanging in banner form above each table (provided by the Museum).

All the Society's important resources (books, CDs, microfiche) were available for research assistance. Most of the time one-on-one research assistance was provided with queues sometimes forming. Some of our members brought their own laptops which were then internet connected and also came with uploaded databases for easy assistance. Each table was provided with a folder for a specific country with all the important archival resource contact details, websites, research publications, published articles, etc. Photocopying was also on hand.

Grateful assistance in the Resource Room was provided all day by Terry Newman, Ian Nicol, Greta James, Michael Taub, Kim Phillips, Alex and Gwenda Charlson, Marcelle Marks, Diane Johnstone, Peter Keeda, David Laufer and Peter Nash.

A variety of detailed regional maps from earlier periods to modern times were hung up to assist anyone in finding that elusive town or shtetl.

Another constantly busy area was the on-line internet access using four terminals. Guidance in the use of all the important Jewish databases provided our visitors with new areas for research potential. David Laufer and David Landor spent a lot of time assisting visitors.

Throughout the day there were nine very well-attended Special Interest Sessions on a variety of topics, starting with a ten minute overview followed by twenty minutes of questions and answers. Featured presentations included Helen Bersten from the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Myrna Kangisser who gave an emotional report on her recent trip to Lithuania and Myer Samra on Sephardi groups, naming traditions and migration patterns. Presentations from Rieke Nash, David Laufer, Gary Luke, Michael Taub, Peter Nash, David Landor and Maurie Swarts were also well received.

For those that had never been to the Museum or may not have seen the newest Exhibitions, five conducted tours were arranged. Each of these was led by a current Museum Volunteer Guide and included Olga Horak (Through Australian Eyes), Miriam Shifreen (Australian Jewish History and Judaica), Paul Drexler (Children and the Holocaust), Charles Feldman (The Long Journey to Freedom), Eva Engel (The Rise of Nazism and Pre-War Migration). All except Olga are also Society members. Perhaps there were too many other attractions, because the tours were not so well supported.

Overall the event was a great success and full credit must be given to Rieke Nash for her detailed planning and coordination, and Gary Luke for his invaluable assistance in the planning and layout of the resources. Ken Lipworth was as usual on hand to photograph the event and Annita Newman made sure that the 'cup was always full'.

Our thanks go to all the volunteers who turned up to help make the day a success and to the Museum staff, in particular, Matthew Smithies and Margaret Gutman, for the professional advice, publicity and support for this very productive and enjoyable event.

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOURCES FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH

A Presentation by Michael Abrahams-Sprod

The Society hosted a well-attended talk on September 18, 2005 by Michael Abrahams-Sprod. Claiming to be only a 'de-facto genealogist' his professional academic and teaching skills came through with ease as he described documents on Jews that he had found and researched in unorthodox locations, particularly in Germany, Israel, USA, the former Soviet Union, France, Poland as well as New Zealand and Australia. He believes that history and genealogy interact to fill in the jigsaw puzzles of each discipline.

He first outlined the basic aims of any research and then discussed some of the sources, techniques and repositories that can be used to achieve these aims.

Initially deciding exactly what it is that you want to research e.g. which family, what region and what period, will give an important focus to your task.

Some of the sources he recommended for acquiring information are oral histories (living persons, diaries), archival material, primary sources, artefacts (books, photos, trophies, artwork) and film (documentaries, Spielberg collection).

Each source needs to be located, its access determined, the relevance and quality of the information assessed and then, where appropriate, collected. The importance of referencing the source for each piece of information was stressed so that if necessary the information can be checked again at a future date.

The best way to communicate varies as one way could be better than another (phone, fax, email). Letters to archival places, etc. mostly yield best results, but could take time, and if not answered, then the local Consulate office should be approached to demand an answer. Statutory Institutions are committed to providing answers to requests received by mail (preferably in the local language). Personal visits to European Archives by Jewish researchers are currently regarded positively by their staff but care should be taken to make prior arrangements and respect sensitivities.

He discussed some of the problems in sourcing primary materials from various countries such as uncooperative staff and forced, long delays. Sometimes the accuracy of the information is suspect so that data verification is vital.

With oral history, memories can be coloured by anger, emotional reactions and the omission of

specific events but the benefits can be significant when trust and interest in the research increases.

Michael found that even for small communities, a surprising amount of information has survived and often unexpected material is obtained.

Jewish repositories have excellent resources and provincial Jewish communities should not be overlooked. Large organisations such as YIVO Jewish Institute for Research, New York, the Leo Baeck Institute, New York and Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem, have extensive archives. Other centres of learning such as Archives and Universities can hold unexpected treasures.

In Australia there are many smaller local community organisations such as JewishCare, the Archives of Australian Jewaica, Australian Jewish Historical Society and State Archives.

Non-Jewish sources include libraries (local and State), Museums, Government Departments (e.g. Foreign Affairs), Police Records, Chambers of Commerce, taxation, bankruptcy and court records and newspapers. On-site visits such as to the Society of Australian Genealogists and contact with special interest groups can also be rewarding.

Making contacts around the world and networking with other researchers is another productive strategy and finally hiring a professional researcher should probably be a last resort.

One amazing resource were original Nazi files (OSSOBI) captured by the Soviets and taken to Moscow, copies of which have now been deposited in Yad Vashem. They consist of a large amount of archival material and documentation stolen from Jewish communities in Europe.

Maybe his most valuable advice was *knowing when to stop* and start writing up what you have already collected. Completing the task of following up promising leads can be left to someone else but making sense of all your notes may not be possible.

Members who attended this presentation came away with many new ideas for improving their research skills.

Michael Abrahams-Sprod is a doctoral candidate at the University of Sydney. He lectures in Modern European Jewish History in the Jewish Studies Program at the University of New South Wales and in Russian, German and French at the University of Technology, Sydney. Michael's current area of interest is an in-depth doctoral study of the Jews of Magdeburg under Nazism for which he has accessed and documented an amazing collection of material.

MORAVIA REVISITED

By Claire Bruell

Last June, my husband Peter, and I had the opportunity of going to the Czech Republic for six days. We planned to visit Brno, where Peter's father's family and my mother's family had lived before escaping the Nazis to find refuge first in London then in Auckland, New Zealand. Other towns in Moravia resonated to us with the names on our family tree and we were keen to explore.

Preparation

The key to maximizing what could be achieved in such a short visit was to do as much research as possible beforehand and to be clear in what we wanted to do. I had been collecting information about my parents' families for many years but still there was information which I could not access without local help, mainly because of the time involved in searching at the archives and then if I did find something, the difficulty in reading the old German or Czech script. Some years ago I had enlisted the help of Ing. Jaroslav Klenovsky at the Brno Jewish community, as well as Jíří Osanec a researcher from Olomouc and they had supplemented the information I had already obtained. Both are listed on the Austria-Czech SIG website.

Planning our time

Our approach was to draw a circle around Brno, on a radius of 1-2 hours' drive from the city. Then we divided up the circle into four segments so that we could spend a day in each area. We hired a car and asked Ing. Klenovsky to be our guide. He knew before we came what we hoped to achieve each day and prepared for our excursions by arranging access to cemeteries and synagogues where necessary. We based ourselves at the Hotel Amphone, recommended by the Jewish Community office in Brno.

Day One – Jevicko (German Gewitsch), Lomnice (Lomnitz) and Boskovice (Boskowitz), North East of Brno (German Brünn)

Ing. Klenovsky had found for me the document whereby Peter's great great great grandfather Sallomon Jacob Lob had taken the name Sallomon Bril (ben reb Judah Leib) and his brother Daniel Jacob Lob had taken the name Daniel Bril. Later this became Brüll. Name Adoption lists for Moravia are very difficult to find as they are scattered in many different places. This precious document led to the town of Jevicko where the Brill/Brull family had lived.

Jews were first mentioned in **Jevicko** in 1620 and almost 1000 Jews were residing there by the mid 19

century, but by 1930 only 86 Jews were recorded. See www.jevicko.cz/ and search for *synagoga*.

Peter's great grandmother Luise Hofmann had been born in **Lomnice**, not far from Jevicko. The Prague Jewish archives had little information on the Hofmann family in Lomnice and the information I had been able to get was confusing because of repetition of first names within the family. The information in the Prague Jewish archives is often incomplete due to losses during the World War 2. Finally, I pieced together research from a number of sources which referred to Lomnice and the Hofmann family: from the Blansko District Archive (Archive of the town of Lomnice), Rajhrad District Archive (19 century census records for Lomnice) and in the State Archive in Brno at a branch in Kunstat (Estate records of the Tisnov Area which covered Lomnice). The Land Register of the Jewish town of Lomnitz 1788-1880 in the Moravian Landesarchiv Brno also had Hofmann records on the transfers of property.

Before pinpointing Luise Brüll, née Hofmann's family, I found Luise herself mentioned in Hugo Gold's book *Die Juden und Judengemeinden Mährens in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart (The Jews and Jewish Communities of Moravia in the Past and Present)*. In the chapter on Znojmo, I had found a mention and even a photograph of Luise Brüll. Her importance had been due to her activities in the welfare organization which was established in 1881 to care for Jewish women and she had been active and president for 40 years. It is quite unusual for a woman to be recorded amongst the many men in the book so she must have been a very highly regarded person.



Luise Brüll
1841 - 1926

From the Brno marriage records in the Jewish archive in Prague I saw that Eleonora Hofmann of Lomnitz, daughter of Marcus Hofmann, had married Simon Brüll in Brno on 23 June 1867. On the marriage record she was referred to as Eleonora Hofmann as she was in the Estate record. However in the Hugo Gold book chapter on Znojmo she is referred to by the name Luise and I knew that Luise and Simon had lived in Znojmo. I concluded that Eleonora and Luise were the same person. From the Tisnov record I knew the names of her siblings and parents. Witnesses to the marriage had been M. Hofmann and Tobias Brüll whom I knew to be the bride's father and the groom's brother. Her

Hofmann family had been weavers and dealers in the woollen trade. In Lomnice we could gain a real picture of the Jewish families and life there. In the town square we found the old mikvah (ceremonial bathhouse), the former schoolhouse next door as well as the restored synagogue. See the synagogue on www.lomnice.cz/html/pamatky.htm

Last stop that day was at **Boskovice**, a place of some importance to Jews in the 19 century and a town where a number of Brülls had lived. We visited the beautiful restored synagogue. There is a small exhibition on the history and buildings of the Jewish quarter in the synagogue. See: www.boskovice.cz/temata/pamatky_historie_muzeum/o_meste/zidy/zidy.htm

Day Two – Znojmo (German Znaim), Trebic, (German Trebitsch) South West of Brno

After their marriage Peter's great grandparents, Simon Brüll (born in Jevicko in 1833) and Luise/Eleonora Hofmann (born in Lomnice in 1840) settled in **Znojmo**. In 1996 the Statní Okresní archiv ve Znojmo (District Archive in Znojmo), South Moravia, had written to me detailing the Brüll family from Peter's great grandfather Simon Brüll, through to Peter's father's generation. The archive had sent me copies of many census records from which they had put the information together. From the Jewish Museum in Prague I had information from a list of Jewish families in Jevicko/Gewitsch in 1788 and 1799. From the State District Archive in Kromeriz, census information, from which a six generation family tree had been drawn of Peter's paternal Brüll family going back from Simon Brüll two generations to the Sallomon born in 1750, who featured in the name adoption list mentioned above.

If Simon and Luise had lived in Znojmo, perhaps they might be buried in the Jewish cemetery there. I enquired about the Znojmo Jewish cemetery from Ing. Klenovsky. Apparently three quarters of the cemetery had been liquidated but the names of those remaining were on a web site. Imagine my amazement when I accessed the site:

[//jab.wz.cz/hrbitov/seznam.html](http://jab.wz.cz/hrbitov/seznam.html), typed in the names and up came the record of Simon and Luise's burials in 1918 and 1928.

At the cemetery, tripping over fallen and broken headstones we realized this was not the logical way to find a tombstone. We went to visit the young man who had placed the burial names on the web site. As luck would have it David Grossman, art historian turned journalist was home in Znojmo for the weekend. He directed us to the graves, up against the wall on the perimeter of the cemetery. We could barely make out the names and dates of

death on the headstones, but saw the remaining part of the inscription "unsere geliebte Eltern" (our beloved parents).

We continued on to **Trebic**, where we had no connections, but we knew it to be an important restored ghetto and synagogue. With the restoration of the rear synagogue and Jewish Quarter and the area's inclusion as a UNESCO cultural heritage site, Trebic has also become something of a tourist centre. As we walked through the ghetto we passed the hospital, school and other old community buildings but we hurried on to the cemetery where a Magen David (Star of David) is described in the cobbled-stone ground. For more information on the Jewish Ghetto in Trebic restoration look at www.mkstrebic.cz

Day Three – Breclav (German Luntenburg) Strážnice (German Strassnitz) and Uherský Brod (German Ungarisch Brod), to the South and South East of Brno

At **Breclav** where my grandfather Isidor Löwy had lived after completing his medical studies I had only the address of the former German street name and we were unable to find out the Czech equivalent in use today, so could not locate my grandparents' home. However, I had obtained Isidor's military record from the Czech Military Archive in Prague which had rounded out my mental picture of the grandfather I never knew – green eyes, brown hair, broad nose, mouth in proportion, spoke and wrote German and Böhmisch, 1.7m tall, size 10 shoe (!). I'm told he had a lust for life and food which probably contributed to the heart condition which led to his early death in 1934 at the age of 52. Interestingly, the details first recorded when he began his military service in 1902 were in Czech and he is described as a medical student and was in the 3rd regiment of the Tiroler Imperial Hunters. Later information is in both Czech and German languages. During World War 1 he had served as *Regimentsarzt* (Doctor to the regiment), in the Austrian army. We looked at the lovely Breclav synagogue, Romanesque in style and restored in 1997-9 with a lovely interior, it is now used for cultural purposes. Once again we found a small exhibition featuring the Jewish history of the town. The former ceremonial hall in Breclav, built in neo-Gothic style with an impressive red brick exterior, is in dire need of restoration inside.

Heading north east we made a stop at **Strážnice** where the 1804 synagogue is currently being restored. Workmen were busy high up on the scaffolding and it was exciting to see this *work in progress*. With the original bright blue geometric

patterns of the design re-emerging on the ceiling and walls. You can view the interior of the synagogue: www.bh.org.il/swj/country.php?country=3&places=3, by scrolling down on the right hand side to "synagogue" The sundial on the front of the building is an unusual feature of this synagogue.

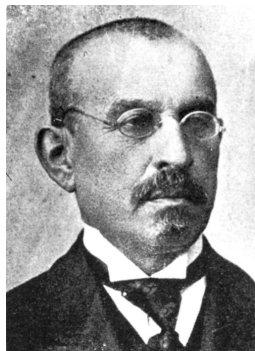
Uhersky Brod was our final destination for Day Three. On a fleeting visit during a day trip from Vienna in 1991 I had located the graves of my mother's paternal grandparents Hermann and Betti Löwy (my great grandparents) in Uhersky Brod.

There had been no record of their deaths in the Prague Archives so it had been a great discovery to find their headstones. I had also located a photograph of great grandfather Hermann Löwy in Hugh Gold's book. Together with the finding of the evidence of their presence in this town I had also discovered another lead, the maiden name of my great-grandmother Thorsch. I had found a Thorsch family online project to document all the information on the origins of the family (www.thorsch.com) and received valuable census information and some photographs of the graves of my great-great-grandparents (born 1826 and 1827). The census records I had obtained covered the censuses in 1880, 1890 and 1900, showing the household of my great grandparents and the comings and goings of their 16 children. Most of the descendants of this large family died in the Holocaust. The census information came from the Statní Okresní Archiv Uherske Hradiste which has the records for the area.

The web site, www.uh.brod.cz/kever, for Burials in the Jewish cemetery in Uhersky Brod has been put together by students from the local high school who identified every grave they could and put the names together in a list, together with photographs of the cemetery.

Day Four – City of Brno

It came as something of a surprise to Peter and me after some years of marriage to find that both our grandfathers were buried in the Jewish cemetery in Brno. I had downloaded from the internet the database of Jewish burials in Brno to get the precise location of the graves. This was important as there are some 11,000 Jewish burials in this second largest city in the Czech Republic. Looking for two graves amongst the many would be like searching for a needle in a haystack and a waste of time. We



Hermann Löwy

had arranged to meet Mr. Spunar, the caretaker, who first took us to the grave of Otto Brüll who had died in 1915. I had a photograph of the grave of Isidor Löwy, my grandfather the doctor who had lived in Breclav but had died in 1934 in Vienna. He had been cremated and his remains had been brought to the Brno cemetery.

I had wanted to visit the building owned by my grandmother Marta and her siblings from where she and her widowed sister Adele had been deported. I had always remembered the letter that had been sent to us after the war by a cousin who had talked to the caretaker of the building opposite as he watched the two ladies being taken away. He said: *The ladies carried themselves bravely and with dignity and were taken to the schoolhouse which was the collection pool.* It had been the 28 January 1942. When I saw the dirty and rundown building No.2 Jiraskova, it was hard to imagine the scene.

Day Five - Holesov (German Holleschau), Valasské Mezíříčí (German Wallachisch Meseritsch), Prerov (German Prerau) – North and North East of Brno

Holesov. My great grandmother Rosa Berger had been born here and the census record I had from the archive in Holesov gave information on her parents, grandparents and siblings. When Rosa married my great grandfather Samuel Berger she moved to his home in Val. Mezíříčí where he was involved in the leather business started by his widowed mother Anna Berger (nee Singer). Once again, Hugo Gold had yielded a photograph of this great grandfather Samuel Berger.

Holesov was a significant community in Moravia with 1700 Jews in mid 19 century. Peter also had connections with Holesov. His great great grandparents Moses Benedikt (born c.1780) and Gütl Stern had lived there but their son Marcus Benedikt and his wife Katrina Juli Herzka are both buried in Vienna. They had married in Holesov in 1841 and the 1869 census for Holesov shows them still living in Holesov with a number of children. They and their children seem to have moved around at various times to Uhersky Ostroh and nearby Uhersky Hradiste His grave has an interesting annotation stating that he had died in Ung. Hradisch on 25 March 1883 and his remains had been taken to Vienna on 20 March 1902. Julie's details, on the same headstone give her date of death in Vienna as 1891. Their daughter Karoline died in 1916 and is buried in the family grave in Vienna with her parents. Some of their descendants died in the Holocaust and others escaped to Israel and Australia.

The web site www.volny.cz/smocik/Holesov.jpg shows how the synagogue looked before restoration. This building was one of the first to be restored in the Czech Republic. There was also a moving film which had been taken when the Germans set fire to the Jewish quarter and synagogue.



Val. Mezíríci Cemetery

Further to the east, **Val. Mezíríci** had been the home of my great grandparents. I wondered in which of the pastel pink, yellow and green buildings Samuel and Rosa Berger had had their household and had brought up their four children. The synagogue had been demolished in 1950 and very little of the cemetery is now left. The 17 remaining tombstones are, symbolically assembled into the shape of a Magen David. The unusual thing about this cemetery is the proximity of a section where German soldiers from World War Two are buried and next to them, bounded by a line of trees on the perimeter of the cemetery lie the graves of some Turkish soldiers from the First World War.

Prerov had been the home of my father's Briess family in the 18 and first half of the 19 centuries. They had lived in the ghetto there. After 1848, the family gradually moved to nearby Olomouc, the second largest city of Moravia, after Brno. The first cousin of my great grandfather, Ignaz Briess Snr had written a book *Images from a bygone Ghetto-Life from the year 1838 to 1848, together with highlights from later years* which described intimately life in the ghetto at that time. Later Ignaz had studied at a yeshivah, had progressed to study commerce and become a well known figure in the commercial world of Moravia.

Reflections

Since returning home I have had the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of this trip for me. Memorials to the Holocaust are evident in every town we went to. There is a great deal being done by local councils and central government to restore, preserve and document what remains of Jewish life in Moravia which are proving to be great tourist

attractions. In many cases the restored synagogues are in use for exhibitions, concerts and other public functions. Nevertheless when I visit, the only evidence of my family, and in fact most Jewish families whose roots are in the Czech Republic, now lie in the cemeteries. The tragedy is that there are simply very few Jews left. With the exodus and death of so many thousands in the Holocaust, a culture and a way of life has been all but lost. The fate of my family, and of Peter's family is typical of the history of Jews living in the lands of the Habsburg Empire.

The Jewish communities of Brno and Olomouc have out of necessity assumed the responsibility of caring for most of the Jewish cemeteries in Moravia. As in most places in Europe, there are no longer any Jews in most small towns to carry out this task. The struggle against deteriorating gravestones and encroaching weeds is never ending.

I wonder about the place of serendipity in all of this. That Peter and I should marry in Auckland, New Zealand, at the other end of the world and then find all these years later, that on one side of our families we have common ancestors in the small town of Holesov in Central Europe and in another connection both of our grandfathers lie buried in the same Jewish cemetery in Brno, just a few meters apart.

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KLENOVSKY, Jaroslav *Zidovské památky Moravy a Slezska: Jewish Monuments of Moravia and Silesia* by published 2001 by ERA, Lidická 9, 602 00 Brno

Claire Bruell has been researching her family's history in Central Europe for about 20 years. A regular contributor to 'Avotaynu' she wrote the chapter on New Zealand to the 'Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy'. She has also been involved in a project interviewing Holocaust survivors in Auckland. Claire contributed a chapter to 'Mixed Blessings: New Zealand Children of Holocaust Survivors Remember' published by Tandem Press 2003.

This Story was adapted by Claire from her article in 'Avotaynu' Vol. XX No. 4, Winter 2004

HUNGARIAN RESEARCH



On Sunday October 23, 2005 **Michael Taub** spoke on "How to Conduct Hungarian Jewish Research". He detailed his research to a very large and interested audience of members and non-members who enjoyed his presentation at the Jewish Centre On Ageing in Bondi Junction.

Outlining the very complicated history of the Jews in Hungary, he emphasised the significance of the changing borders on the archiving of the records from this area of Europe and its impact on researching Jewish genealogy in Hungary.

Based on his impressive research into his own Hungarian family, Michael described the extensive range of resources available to researchers and how to access them, not only for beginners, but also for the more experienced. The talk was illustrated with overheads from his own collection of documents.

At the end of the talk, the Hungarian resources available in the Society's library were avidly inspected by members and new eager researchers.

RESEARCHING FAMILY RECORDS IN HUNGARY

By **Michael Taub**

Ordering Vital Record Microfilms from the National Archives of Hungary

Up to 1 October 1895 the birth, death, and marriage registers, known as vital records, of each Jewish community was the responsibility of a designated religious community leader, generally a Rabbi, who recorded all these events and submitted them to the authorities as Religious Registrations.

On 1 October 1895 Hungary established a secular governmental agency responsible for keeping all vital records in the country. From this time Jewish vital records were incorporated with the other religious groups as Civil Registration.

The Jewish Religious Registration records for the territory of modern day Hungary were microfilmed long ago by the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library (FHL). Recently, some Civil Registration records became available for particular cities and towns. See LDS website: www.familysearch.org.

Copies of these microfilms are available at every FHL centre for study and data recording and in Budapest at: Magyar Orszagos Leveltar, that is, in the National Archives of Hungary.

However, these microfilm rolls produced by the Mormons may be purchased directly from the National Archives of Hungary. The cost depends on the length of the microfilm roll.

The actual process of ordering is as follows:

1. Determine the locality and ancestral home of your ancestor.
2. Type in the National Archive website: www.mol.gov.hu.
3. Request the English version of the website.
4. Click on *Data Base, finding aids* on left side of the screen.
5. Click on *Parish Registers*. A Hungarian screen will appear.
6. Click on *A keresett vallas(religion):* Insert Izraelita(Jewish).
7. Click on *A keresett egyhaz(synagogue):* Insert the town you are searching.
8. Click on *Kereses(Search)*.
9. *Anyakönyvi Kereses appears with the town you are searching listed. If not available, an '0' will appear.*

If you want the full list of available microfilms, leave the "*A keresett egyhaz*" blank.

This is a complete list of Hungarian, Austrian, Slovakian, Slovenian, and Romanian towns with Jewish vital records.

Each of these towns has a Frame No. and Film No.

1. Look for the town you are after.
2. Note *Frame number* and *Film number*.
3. Send an e-mail to: info@mol.gov.hu quoting the Frame and Film number/s and request a quote.
4. Order microfilm/s.

You may have difficulty in locating the ancestral home. There could be two reasons for this problem:

a) Small villages quite often did not have their own registers, but from an administration point of view they belonged to a large Jewish community. For example: villages like Tallya, Dombrad, Karasz, Petrehaza, etc., are listed in the register of Kisvarda which was a town with a large Jewish community.

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THE TEAM

*Peter Arnold
Frank Atkinson
Helen Bersten
Alex Charlson
Gwenda Charlson
Diane Drexler
Paul Drexler
Eva Engel
Charles Feldman
Sunny Gold
Glenda Goldberg
Olga Horak
Selma Jackson
Greta James
Dianne Johnstone
Myrna Kangisser
Peter Keeda
David Landor
David Laufer
Rosa Leventhal
Ken Lipworth
Gary Luke
Marcelle Marks
Debbie Nash
Peter Nash
Rieke Nash
Annita Newman
Terry Newman
Ian Nicol
Fay Nissen
Kim Phillips
Myer Samra
Paula Seligman
Stuart Shaw
Miriam Shifreen
John Stanhope
Maurie Swarts
Michael Taub
Judy Traurig
Annette Winter
Paul Winter*



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(continued from page 9)

Therefore you may need to search in the vital record register for a large town nearby.

b) The “*keresett egyház*” on the web site may not recognise the name of your ancestral home because the English spelling does not correspond to the Hungarian spelling, due to the difference in Hungarian vowels in the Hungarian alphabet. In this case you will have to use a Hungarian word processor.

Michael started actively researching his family history in 1999 and has done extensive research of Hungarian Jewish birth, marriage and death records as well as Polish and American records. He found that he was descended from the Modtitz Rabbinical Dynasty and discovered his paternal ancestor was a student of the famous Baal Shem Tov.

WEBSITES FOR HUNGARIAN RESEARCH

Hungarian Special Interest Group (H-SIG):
www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/

JewishGen All Hungarian Database
www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary

Hungarian Jewish Homepage:
www.interdnet.hu/zsido/english/

National Archives of Hungary:
www.mol.gov.hu

Radix: Genealogy Research in Hungary
www.bogardi.com

Austrian State and War Archive:
www.oesta.gv.at

Hungarian Labour Battalions:
www.hadifogoly.adatbanyaszat.hu

Jews Conscripted to the Forced Labour Battalions:
www.neveklarsfeld.org

ProGenealogists Family History Research Group:
www.progenealogists.com/hungary/

FHL Microfilm Numbers for the Counties Listed in the 1828 Wealth Census:
www.medlist.com

Eastern Slovakia Genealogy Research Strategies:
www.iabsi.com

Translation Guide for Vital Records:
www.bmi.net/jjaso/

Note: If you have trouble accessing some of these sites, using the title in Google sometimes helps.

Family History Library
www.familysearch.org

SOME USEFUL ADDRESSES

Magyar Orszagos Leveltar
(Hungarian National Archives)
1014 Budapest
Becsikapu tér 4
Hungary

Magyar Zsido Leveltar
(Hungarian Jewish Archives)
1085 Budapest
József Korut 27
Hungary

Slovak Ministry of Interior and Environment
Archívna Správa
Križkova 7
811 04 Bratislava
Slovakia

Magyar-Zsido Okleveltar
(Jewish Museum and Archives of Hungary)
Dohány utca 2
1077 Budapest
Hungary

Kriegsarchiv
(Military Archive)
Nottendorfergasse 2-4
A-1030 Wien
Austria

RESOURCES

The library of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society has the following resources.

See the chapters on Hungary and neighbouring countries in:

Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff, *Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy*, 2004, Avotaynu, Bergenfield NJ, USA

Jared H. Suess, *Handy Guide to Hungarian Genealogical Records*, 1980, Everton, Salt Lake City, Utah

Dr Gabriel Bar-Shaked, *Names of the Deported Jews from Hajdu County, Hungary*, 1989, Yad Vashem, Bnei Brak

Dr Gabriel Bar-Shaked, *Names of Jewish Victims of Hungarian Labour Battalions*, 1992, Yad Vashem

Jordan Auslander, *Genealogical Gazetteer for the Kingdom of Hungary*, 2005, Avotaynu

There are also many Avotaynu and Kosher Koala articles as well as some copies of the periodical, *Magyar Zsido*. In particular, George Eotvos “Resources for Jewish Genealogical Research in Hungary”, Avotaynu Volume XIII, Number 4, pages 17-20, Winter, 1997.

Yizkor (Shoah memorial) books

There are Yizkor books for many Hungarian towns and cities. *JewishGen* has an extensive website on www.jewishgen.org/yizkor where all the initiatives of this important project have been listed, including where the books are available and on-line translations for some of them. The Sydney Jewish Museum also has a collection of Yizkor books. Contact their library on: library@sjm.com.au Another source for Yizkor books is the New York Public Library. See their website at: www.nypl.org/research/css/jws/yizkorbooks_intro.cfm

Other useful references

William O. McCagg "Jewish Nobles and Genuses in Modern Hungary", 1972, Columbia University Press.

Charles Fenyvesi "When the World was Whole", 1991, Penguin Picador, London.

THE SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM SHOP

148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst
www.sydneyjewishmuseum.com

has stock of the excellent publications produced by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

A Guide to Organising Your Family History Records

A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents

Jewish Ancestors? A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia And Estonia

Jewish Ancestors? A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Germany And Austria

Jewish Ancestors? A Beginner's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Great Britain

All of the above are priced at \$20 each.

Jewish Ancestors? A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Lithuania

Genealogical Resources within the Jewish Family Home and Family
(See review on page 18)

These two titles cost \$25 each.

These books can be purchased from the Museum in person or by mail order. This is a very convenient way of buying without all the foreign currency hassles.

Contact 02-9360-7999 or
email: shop@sjm.com.au

THE MASTER GENEALOGIST VERSION 6

Reviewed By John Norris

Version 6 is a recently released updated program for storing your family information, from *Wholly Genes Software*.

Each time I examine the program, I realise I am not using it to its full potential. Meant for the *novice researcher or seasonal professional*, it has great power and flexibility, whether you are using the standard three windows layout or the fully operational tool bar. Using the F3 key gives fast manoeuvrability.

There is the ability to create a slide show, scan in a Will, include DNA or even indicate illnesses such as diabetes or leukemia as I have done.

The *focus person* window is divided. The small top section gives full name, database number, year of birth, if deceased, year of death, and details of parents. The bottom section of the window shows the details of date and place of birth including State or Country, date and place of marriage, and if a woman, a married name, the birth dates of children and if deceased the date of death, place and date of burial. This bottom section of the window is quite big, and in one of the data bases I have used up twenty-three lines with two marriages, fifteen children and still have some space, making it ideal for large families.

An important provision allows for turning *on* or *off* someone's age, when sharing information although I personally have age turned *on* so any dates I enter on the *focus person* will show the age they are when events took place. There is provision for sources of information and witnesses' names.

Clicking on any person makes that person the new *focus person* and all windows alter to the new focus person.

Information can be coloured, for example, females in pink and males in blue; use one colour for the direct line that you descend from and different colours for living and deceased or for a country of birth.

Other programs can be imported directly without using a gedcom file and, with more than one researcher in the family, each researcher can use a different screen layout. A relationship calculator can compare people and indicate relationships.

Try it for yourself by downloading a trial version at: <http://www.whollygenes.com/>

John Norris, a member of our Society, has been researching his family for several years.

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

A DICTIONARY OF GERMAN-JEWISH SURNAMES

By Lars Menk

Published by Avotaynu, NJ, USA, 2005

Reviewed by Peter Nash

This is Avotaynu's latest major work acquired by the AJGS and contains a massive 832 pages (to order go to www.avotaynu.com). After many years of research and hard work German-born Lars Menk compiled a genealogical and etymological dictionary with about 13,000 German-Jewish surnames found in the German territories during the first half of the 19th century when family name adoptions were compulsory. Often earlier dates are also evident.

The locations where each of these families or individuals lived, and the year or period in which the name was initially found are specified. Spelling variations and misspellings are also listed, as are many name changes that ensued after the family's or individual's emigration from Germany. So I found my family name Nachemstein in the town Lessen (region Graudenz), and the change to Nash.

The dictionary is not only important but extremely valuable for finding German-Jewish genealogical leads. By reducing to a short list of place names where a surname was found, one can then focus on places not previously thought of as a connection possibility. This is of great advantage when documents for an ancestral emigrant merely record the origin as Germany or perhaps Prussia.

The portion of the book dealing with the surnames covers 670 pages and each entry includes etymology (origin or source of the name), and also references to where a name appeared before and also after 1800 in the 19th century. Full explanations of abbreviations used for etymological categories and districts are given.

An interesting feature is the inclusion of a figure representing the number of times a surname appeared in the 1998 German telephone directory, that is, in modern Germany. This can help to distinguish specifically Jewish surnames from those shared by Jews and Gentiles.

This is a very welcome addition to our collection of dictionaries covering Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jewish surnames.

Peter Nash's article "Navigating Berlin Resources to Solve a Family Puzzle" was published in three parts in Kosher Koala Vol.9 Nos 2,3,4 (2002).

DICIONARIO SEFARADI DE SOBRENOMES / DICTIONARY OF SEPHARDIC SURNAMES (REVISED SECOND EDITION)

By Guilherme Faiguenboim, Paulo Valdares and Anna Rosa Campagnano

Sao Paulo: Editora Fraiha, 2004, 528pp.

ISBN 85-85989-20-3

Reviewed by Myer Samra

This is a beautifully presented reference work. With its many outstanding illustrations, its quarto format and the fact that one can dip into it to look up a particular surname of interest, it can also take pride of place on any coffee table. We are fortunate that the Brazilian publishers have released this book in English as well as Portuguese, making it accessible to a wider readership.

After two chapters which trace the long history of the Jews in Spain and Portugal and their subsequent dispersal, the book proceeds to record the surnames of

- Jews who lived in Spain and Portugal prior to the edicts of expulsion respectively in 1492 and 1496;
- their descendants in colonies as far apart as Tangiers, Izmir and Panama;
- Jews in Spain and Portugal who had accepted Christianity – whether as sincere or nominal converts – along with
- names found in inquisition records; and
- communities such as Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Hamburg and London, founded by ‘conversos’ who reverted to Judaism when they were free to do so, that is when they could escape the clutches of the Spanish and Portuguese empires and the inquisition.

All of the above groups had lived at one time in the Iberian Peninsula and could be counted as *true* Sephardim. The authors have also included names from “certain communities and individuals who in a strict sense would not be Sephardis, but culturally are” (p. 108), such as the Jews of Italy, North Africa, Iraq, Yemen and Aleppo in Syria, with whom *pure* Sephardim had frequently intermarried.

The inspiration for this book has come from a *Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* by Alexander Beider, which was published in 1993 and has become an essential resource in the examination of Ashkenazi surnames. While Beider was able to base his work on voter registration records in the Russian Pale of Settlement from 1906, 1907 and 1912 and was able to identify most of the names of Ashkenazi Jews, the authors of the

present work report that they found their task far more complex. They report having used 335 different sources (p. 20) for the "16,914 names, presented under 12,087 entries" (p. 102) in the book, with names appearing from languages as diverse as Spanish Portuguese, Hebrew, Italian, Arabic, Berber, French, Turkish, Bulgarian and Dutch. And yet even so, they acknowledge that this is a fragmentary listing, given the fact that the 335 sources do not represent every community where Sephardi Jews or conversos had settled.

This complexity is related to the wide dispersion of Sephardi Jews and the fact that Jews in Spain and Portugal were already using surnames in the 14th century prior to the formalisation of the Spanish and Portuguese languages and standardisation of their orthography [Austrian Jews were the first Ashkenazi group to adopt hereditary surnames in 1787]. As well Sephardi names might be spelt in accordance with the spelling conventions of different languages.

'The letters *f*, *x* and *j*', we are told, 'had other phonetic values in the past' (p. 136). *F* was associated with *h*, leading to names such as Fernandez and Hernandez, Ferrera and Herrera. *X* was frequently sounded like *s*, giving names such as Xarafi and Sarafi, Xuarez and Suarez. By the 16th century, it was pronounced like English *sh*, in names such as Ximenes. 'The letter *j* may have the sound of *y* (Jehuda = Yehuda; Jachia = Yachia), or of the aspirated *h* (Jazan = Hazan; Jalfon = Halfon), or of the *dzh* (Javes, Jamal)' (p. 138).

This orthographic "anarchy" is intensified when bearers of the one name pass through countries using different spelling rules. Thus *Amariglio*, *Amarillo* and *Amarilho* sound the same if read obeying, respectively, the Italian, Spanish and Portuguese rules (p. 140).

Leafing through the book, I was struck by the fact that virtually every conceivable Spanish or Portuguese name appears to be recorded here. In many cases, these would be names used by Jews living as Jews in Spain and Portugal. Others, particularly names such as *Cruz*, *Santos*, *Santangel*, *Santa Maria*, *De Los Reyes* (and) *Ramos* which have Catholic religious referents would have been adopted after conversion to Christianity.

A valuable feature of the dictionary is the information concerning the original meaning of the name given alongside many entries, and the placing of the names in categories such as Toponymic (having a geographic referent), Patronymic (from the personal name of a male ancestor), Occupational, Biblical and Rabbinical. I have no

doubt that the authors are likely to be correct in regard to most of the Spanish and Portuguese names that appear in the dictionary, and found it fascinating to learn of the origins of such names.

However, my personal familiarity with Iraqi Jewish names leads me to question the accuracy of their categorization of names from Arabic. My surname, Samra, appears in the dictionary on account of the fame of David Samra, the leading judge of Iraq's Court of Cassation for over quarter of a century. The name appears without an explanation of its source or meaning. In fact, the name is both a word in Arabic (dark-skinned female) and the name of a female ancestor. Perhaps it would have been appropriate to include a category for "matronymics".

Loulou/Lulu is identified as a toponymic name, after an oasis known as *Ain Loulou*. Yet *Lulu* is Arabic for *pearl*, and is commonly used as a girl's name; one could surmise that some families with this surname might be named for an ancestress, or possibly for an ancestor associated with the pearl industry. The name *Sa'atchi*, for which no explanation is given, means *watchmaker* in Iraqi Arabic, and so should be identified as an occupational name.

The name *Kadoorie*, a common Iraqi name made famous through Baron Lawrence Kadoorie of Hong Kong, is also shown as toponymic, the source supposedly being a place called Kadur in South India, not known to have ever had a Jewish community. However, many Iraqi Jews who had no connection with India bore *Kadoorie* or *Khadhurie* as either a personal name or a surname. This name is associated with the Arabic word *Khudher* meaning *green*. The prophet Elijah was popularly known as *Elias al-Khudher* in Iraq, so that the name would be a substitute or nickname for *Elias* or *Elijah*.

This quibble over Arabic names aside, the book as a whole is a valuable resource for anyone interested in Sephardi history and culture. The list of names does not immediately assist with tracing members of a particular family, as it is clear that members of different lineages, originating in separate locations, may bear the same surnames. It would, however, be useful in genealogical research by identifying a large number of Sephardi names, pointing to the range of locations where a particular name has been found, and indicating alternative forms of a name which might be pursued to advantage.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM DR MYER SAMRA ON THE REPORT OF THE SEPHARDI MEETING AT OUR AGM IN MARCH

(See Kosher Koala Vol 12 No 2, June 2005)

The term Sephardi is often used to describe not only Jews of Spanish origin, but also Middle Eastern Jews, though Sephardi is primarily used to mean "Spanish". Dr Myer Samra, himself a Jew from Baghdad, explained the connection: Middle Eastern Jews, along with Jews in Spain and Portugal, were for centuries part of the Arabic empire, and consequently had numerous cultural links with one another. They also shared a common system of Hebrew pronunciation (with regional variations) which was significantly different from Ashkenazi and Yemenite pronunciation.

Piyyutim, (religious songs) composed in Baghdad, Cordova or Kairawan in North Africa, would make their way into the liturgy of the Jewish communities throughout this region, and would be seen by the communities there as their very own. The Spanish Jews accepted the authority of the Goenim (the heads of the Academies in Baghdad which had compiled the Babylonian Talmud) and during the golden age of Spanish Jewry built on the learning of the Baghdadian academies.

After the expulsion of the Jews from Spain and Portugal, Joseph Caro sought to unite all Jews by codifying all the halacoth from the Talmud in his monumental work, the Shulchan Aruch. This was accepted readily by all the Middle Eastern Jews apart from the Yemenite Jews, who followed the halachic rulings of Maimonides. Initially, the Ashkenazim condemned the Shulchan Aruch, until a leading Ashkenazi rabbi, Moses Isserles (called "Rama" or "High" by Ashkenazis, and referred to in Sephardi texts as "Moram", "Their Teacher") saw that it was very useful, and produced an edition which identified where Ashkenazi practice diverged from Caro's rulings.

Dr Samra provided some fascinating glimpses into Sephardi and Oriental Jewish history. One concerned a Portuguese converso, Garcia de Orta, who had written a treatise on Indian medicinal plants in the 1500s, and was given the island of Bombay by the Portuguese authorities in the area in appreciation for his medical services. After his death, however, Garcia's sister and brother-in-law were seized by the Inquisition and under torture, confessed that they and Garcia had been secretly practising Judaism.

Even though Garcia de Orta was already dead, the Inquisitors sought to punish him for his "crime".

They therefore exhumed his body and burnt it in an *auto-da-fe*, the punishment that Garcia himself would have faced had he been alive when he was discovered to be a secret Jew.

In the nineteenth century, Jews from Iraq, set up a vast trading empire which stretched right across the continents of Europe and Asia, with Iraqi Jews settling in such places as Bombay, Calcutta, Rangoon, Shanghai, Singapore, Surabaja, Vienna, Paris, London and Manchester, taking goods from each of these centres and trading them across the various countries where they were stationed. David Sassoon, the head of the most famous of these trading families, assured the success of his trading empire by stationing his seven sons in different cities along the trade route.

Dr Myer Samra works as solicitor with the Department of Community Services. He also holds a PhD in anthropology from Sydney University and has conducted research on Sephardi/Iraqi Jews in Australia, and the Benei Menashe community from North East India.

JEWISH ANCESTORS? A GUIDE TO JEWISH GENEALOGY IN LITHUANIA

by Sam Aaron, JGSGB, LONDON, 2005

In this latest publication in the series, Jewish Ancestors?, the Society in Great Britain has supplied us with another great reference book. As many of our members from South Africa have Lithuanian roots, this is a welcome addition to our Library. (The booklet is available for purchase from the Sydney Jewish Museum, Sydney for \$25 – see page 13 for details).

The author, Sam Aaron, is the Co-ordinator of the LitvakSIG's Raseiniai District Research Group.

'The book describes in a logical way what information exists in Lithuania, such as census returns, vital records, various tax lists and how to access Lithuanian data through your computer. Several databases are listed and examples of some search screens are shown. The author suggests other sources in the UK, South Africa and the USA which may well yield valuable information. At the end of the book is a clear map of Lithuania with all the shtetls marked, followed by a list of shtetls with their former and current names and the district and region where they are located.

Both beginners and experts can benefit from this book: it is well written and researched with a section on further reading'.

*From Judith Samson,
Shemot, Vol. 13 No. 4, December, 2005*

DUTCH RESOURCES IN THE LIBRARY OF THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, SYDNEY.

Members are reminded about the special Dutch Resources Day to be held at the Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield on January 15, 2006 at 3 pm .Many British ancestors arrived in England via the Netherlands and these references should not be overlooked by British researchers. The Chairman of the Netherlands Jewish Genealogical Society, Simon Italiaander, will be present to answer queries and help researchers with their problems. Our newly purchased Dutch resources will be available .

Acquisition of Names in the province of Gelderland 1811-13 and 1826

Acquisition of Surnames in Rotterdam in 1811

Adoption of Surnames Ashkenazim in 1811

Banns and Marriages in Rotterdam 1621-1811

Banns of Jews in Holland and West Friesland 1710-1794

Circumcisions & Births in Amsterdam 1697 to 1811

Circumcisions and Births of the Sephardi-Jewish Community in Suriname 1662-1866

Circumcisions in Amersfoort 1753-1811

Circumcisions in Friesland incl. Leeuwarden. 1757-1828, Weddings in Leeuwarden 1771-1811

Circumcisions in Rotterdam 1737 to 1811

Circumcisions in the Province of Friesland including Leeuwarden 1760-1822

Deceased members of the Portuguese Jewish community in Suriname 1777-1865

Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames

Handbook for Jewish Genealogical Research in Holland

In Memoriam - Dutch Yizkor Book

Index of Marriages of Ashkenazi Community of Amsterdam 1723-1812

Index of the Jewish cemetery Muiderberg 1812 to 1850

Jewish Cemetery in Elburg 1803 to 1974

Jewish First Names in Amsterdam 1669 to 1850

Jewish Genealogy of the Inhabitants of Meerson

Jewish Inhabitants in Gelderland province between Rijn and IJssel rivers

Jewish Inhabitants in the Province of Drente up to 1813

Jewish Inhabitants in the Province of Friesland up to 1813

Jewish Inhabitants in the Province of Friesland, middle of the 19th Century

Jewish Inhabitants in the Province of Zeeland up to 1813

Jewish Inhabitants of Leerdam up to 1900

Jewish Marriages in the Hague 1681-1811

Jewish Population of Overijssel 1813

Jewish Surnames in Amsterdam 1669 to 1850

Jews of Jamaica, The Tombstone Inscriptions 1663-1880

List of Jewish Inhabitants who died in Amsterdam 1806-1811

Members of the Dutch-Jewish Community of the Hague in 1811, born post 1765

Oldest Burial Ground and Death Records from Rotterdam 1640-1812

Portuguese Jewish Marriages in the Hague 1711-1714 and 1730-1778 and Burials in the Hague
1697-1724 and Circumcisions and Births (Sephardi) 1755-1818

Register of Sephardi-Jewish Marriages in Amsterdam 1650-1911

Register of Taking of Names in Amsterdam 1811-1826

The Burial Books of Muiderberg 1669-1811

The Burial Books of Zeeburg 1714 to 1811

The Jews of Lieden Part I including Indexes and Sources

Tracing Your West Indian Ancestors - Sources in the UK Public Record Office

Trowen in Mokum - Jewish Marriages in Amsterdam 1598-1811

Other relevant books include the publications from the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation (six volumes) of the early Bevis Marks records in London.

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE JEWISH HOME AND FAMILY

By Rosemary Wenzerul

FFHS Publications Ltd, England, 2002, 112pp.

Reviewed by Frank Atkinson

In this book Rosemary Wenzerul directs our attention to important but sometimes overlooked sources of information already available in our homes, how to extract the relevant details from them and how they can leave interesting information for future family history.

For those just starting out on their genealogy quest, she advises not only where to find records of our ancestors in our homes (including those sources we might have overlooked) but how to preserve them for our descendants, including recording and photocopying many records that illuminate the social context of our family lives.

Gathering this list of documents will give us a new slant on family history, whether we are looking at old Wills, driving licenses, pay slips, tax forms, army records/medals, diaries, or the addresses on old envelopes.

For those who are unable to go back any further with their research, Wenzerul tells us how to leave a record for future generations by collecting lists of people invited to weddings, dinner parties, barmitzvahs, etc. Everything should be annotated to indicate which ones were relatives and how they are related. Some synagogue documents include a person's Hebrew name and this should be noted and preserved. Wenzerul reminds us to confirm information and relationships by tying together two or more documents as necessary validation of records.

There is a list of addresses, websites, and other resources as well as an index at the end of the book.

Frank Atkinson is a member of our Society and has donated this book to our library.

To purchase this publication see page 13.

WHAT IS THE MOST UNIVERSAL JEWISH SURNAME?

From Nu? What's New?

What is the most *universal* Jewish surname? If you use Avotaynu's Consolidated Jewish Surname Index (CJSI) as the guideline, there is only one surname that appears in 38 of the 42 CJSI databases. The name is **Simon**. The next most common surnames are: Adler, Baron, Berger, Blum, Cohen, Gold, Goldberg, Klein, Levy, Miller, Rosenberg, Rubin, Solomon, Stern and Wolf!

www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi-home.html

SOME INTERESTING WEBSITES

Burials in Perth: online at:

www.mcb.wa.gov.au/default.php

New Zealand Archives Search: online at:

<http://archway.archives.govt.nz/>

Latvia SIG Database (previously called the All Latvia Database)

www.jewishgen.org/databases/latvia/databases

contains a family list for 1898 belonging to the Jewish Community of Rezekne, handwritten in Russian Cyrillic Script and forming part of the holdings of the Latvia State Historical Archives in Riga. The original list of 7000 Surnames contains children as well as adults. There is a very large listing of Riga Marriages with over 9000 Groom and Bride given names and surnames of 20,000 given names and surnames in the list.

JewishGen Holocaust Database

On the JewishGen site find 37,000 new records on

www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust

Jewish Roots

Sample the compendium of thousands of links and bits and pieces of information sorted alphabetically by Country and/or Subject.

<http://jewishwebindex.com>

Try these Genealogical Sites:

<http://ftp.cac.psu.edu/genealogy>

<http://www.genealogytoolbox.com/>

www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/

<http://www.genserv.com/>

www.familysearch.org/quarter1.asp

and see the new links page on www.ajgs.org.au

OTTALANGUI UPDATE

From Lesley Goldberg

As a result of the Melbourne reunion, if I were writing the story today I would change a few things. (See KK Vol. 12 Nos 2 & 3). That is family history and, like all history, the story is never finished.

Somehow, the organisers made contact with an amazing number of descendants. For example, for one man in a photograph of four siblings, one of his descendants turned up to inform us that she was the result of an irregular union, and he had had no children from either of his marriages. The family disowned him!

Cousins, David and Aaron, seem to have knocked around the world together finishing up in Dunedin, living in the same street, just as they had done in London in their early lives. Moreover, the rascal convict David has descendants in Australia as well as California, and one of them surprised John Levi by turning up at the reunion. The reunion produced some marvellous photographs.

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

*Our aim is to encourage and assist those with
Jewish ancestry to research their family
histories*

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SYDNEY WORKSHOPS

All workshops are usually held at the Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield, once a month on Sunday mornings, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. See front page for dates.

The Editor has the right to accept or reject or publish in revised form as might be appropriate.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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2006 IAJGS CONFERENCE NEW YORK

The Jewish Genealogical Society (New York) is hosting the 26th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy from August 13-18, 2006 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York.

See their website at www.jgsny2006.org to register for the conference and reserve a room at the conference hotel. On the website you can register for their conference mailing list and see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

This conference is likely to have the largest attendance for any conference so far and will provide outstanding opportunities for research, knowledge and networking.

In 2007 - Salt Lake City

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATABASE

Names being researched by our new members

December, 2005

Id	Surname	Old name of Town	Current name of Town	District	Country	Dates
572	AMDUR				BRAZIL	1900s
573	BLECHER				LITHUANIA	
573	BRENNER	GOLDINGEN	KULDIGA		LATVIA	1900s
566	COHEN		TRIESTE		ITALY	From 1886
566	COHEN				ISRAEL	From 1850
566	COHEN		BETHLEHEM		ISRAEL	From 1881
566	COHEN		JAFFA		ISRAEL	From 1850
566	CONEZ		KYYIV?		UKRAINE	From 1850
575	GERICHTER		BYTOM		POLAND	1860
575	GERICHTER		CZESTOCHOWA		POLAND	1880s-1939
565	GROSSMANN		WIEN		AUSTRIA	
572	HEIMAN	KOLMAR	CHODZIEZ		POLAND	Up to 1800
572	HEIMAN		LITTLE ROCK	ARKANSAS	USA	1850+
565	HIRSCHL		WIEN		AUSTRIA	
572	HYMAN		SYDNEY		AUSTRALIA	1854+
573	KAMENER				LITHUANIA	
572	KARK		KAUNAS		LITHUANIA	1800-1860
572	KESSLER		KALISZ		POLAND	1800s
572	KESSLER		KRAKOW		POLAND	1800s
572	KESSLER		LODZ		POLAND	1800s
572	KLEID		KALISZ		POLAND	1800s
572	KLEID		KRAKOW		POLAND	1800s
572	KLEID		LODZ		POLAND	1800s
572	LASKER		KALISZ		POLAND	1800s
572	LASKER		KRAKOW		POLAND	1800s
572	LASKER		LODZ		POLAND	1800s
575	LENTIN		VARNAI		LITHUANIA	To 1880
575	LIBHABER		WARSZAWA		POLAND	1917-1939
575	LIBHABER		GNIEWOSZOW		POLAND	
473	LICHTENSTERN		FRYDEK		CZECH REPUBLIC	
572	MAGNUS		LONDON		ENGLAND	1800-1860
572	MAGNUS		SYDNEY		AUSTRALIA	1857+
573	MIDDELDORF		BLACKPOOL		ENGLAND	1900s
573	MIDDELDORP				AUSTRIA	1900s
572	MYERS		LONDON		ENGLAND	1800-1860
572	MYERS		SYDNEY		AUSTRALIA	1857+
576	NEUMANN	STARA DALA	HURBANOVO		SLOVAKIA	1833+
473	RATTNER		ISTANBUL		TURKEY	
473	ROSENSTEIN		VITEBSK		BELARUS	
473	ROSENSTEIN		ISTANBUL		TURKEY	
566	SCHOULAL		ZIFTA		EGYPT	From 1881
566	SCHOULAL		SOUSSE		TUNISIA	From 1850
566	SCHOULAL		ORAN		ALGERIA	From 1780
566	SCHOULAL		TLEMCEN		ALGERIA	From 1850
566	SCHOULAL		SFAX		TUNISIA	From 1850
575	SOLOMON		MARIJAMPOLE		LITHUANIA	To 1865
575	TAPULSKI		MARIJAMPOLE		LITHUANIA	To 1865
572	TELG		JERUSALEM		ISRAEL	1900s
572	TELG		KAUNAS		LITHUANIA	1800s
538	UBERREICH		ZAWADA	NOWY SACZ	POLAND	1860-1875
538	UBERREICH		NOWY SACZ		POLAND	1860-1875
575	VARATSIS		VARNAI		LITHUANIA	To 1880
576	WOLLNER	STARA DALA	HURBANOVO		SLOVAKIA	1850-1940