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The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc

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WORKSHOP DATES 2007

Sunday 9.30 a.m.
January 7

Monday 10 a.m.
January 15

Sunday 9.30 a.m.
February 4

Monday 10 a.m.
February 19

Sunday 9.30 a.m.
March 11

Monday 10 a.m.
March 19

For Your Diary

Annual

General

Meeting

Sunday

March 25

Guest Speaker
Rabbi John Levi

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rieke Nash

It is now fifteen years since the Society was formed in 1991 and it is pleasing to see that all the hard work by many members has resulted in a flourishing Society that provides worthwhile support to researchers by way of an extensive collection of resources and a team of knowledgeable colleagues who willingly share their expertise.

The highlight of our year was the visit of Sallyann Amdur Sack who has inspired many of us to expand our genealogical horizons, not only to aid our own research but also to support the broader genealogical community. It is unfortunate that so few speakers of Sallyann's calibre pass this way and that we must attend the overseas conferences to experience her kind of inspiration

After nearly six years as Treasurer and attending Committee meetings since March 1998, Gary Luke has found someone to take over his job as Treasurer! On behalf of all members, I thank him for his loyalty and dedication and for the many hours he has given us. Gary remains the research contact for the Society and continues to support our Discussion Group, AJGen. We know that he will continue to contribute to the fund of knowledge on Jewish genealogy in Australia for the benefit of all.

It is with great pleasure we welcome Greta James to the Committee as our new Treasurer. Greta brings enthusiasm, talent and fresh ideas to the group.

Volunteers are always welcome for various tasks and, in particular, we are hoping to find someone to understudy Miriam Shifreen to help with the compiling of Koshers Koala.

With this issue we have included information for updating the AJGS Database. Members' research interests, usually found on the back page of the Koshers Koala, have been collected since the inception of the Society and the database is now quite substantial and is a useful resource for alerting members to relevant new resources or news items. It also seems that members who have submitted their database form retain their membership longer!

We welcome your continued support and look forward to a productive year again next year.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and successful 2007 and a happy Chanuka.

Rieke Nash, President
president@ajgs.org.au



EDITORIAL

By Miriam Shifreen

I feel very fortunate to have been the first to greet the charismatic Sallyann Amdur Sack, director of the Project to Reconstitute the Destroyed Communities of Europe, editor of *Avotaynu* and chair of the Founding Committee of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center on her recent lecture tour to Australia. She will be long remembered for her amazing memory, engaging smile and warm personality by all who met and heard her speak. Read about her visit on page 3.

When Australian Wildlife personality Steve Irwin died the words of Dr Nigel Starck struck a chord with me. He said in his recently published book *Life after Death: The art of the Obituary*, 'The idea is to capture life...so that if someone's name didn't mean much to you, you'd think afterwards, I didn't know her/him but I wish I had!'

When you read Myra Waddell's story *Researching English Ancestors* on page 5 and from Judy Shapira *There's More To Genealogy Than Names And Dates* on page 11, you'll see their stories have 'captured life'.

This issue of the Koshers Koala should keep you busy throughout the summer holidays, reading and researching. Don't miss out on the Review of Rabbi Dr John Levi's latest book on page 8, the London Jewish Chronicle by Rieke Nash on page 9, the State Genealogy Conference at which Jeannette Tsoulos and Kim Phillips spoke on page 12, New books in our Library on page 13 and a whole host of new Websites for you to explore on page 14.

Don't forget to check out our Database on page 16. Someone in our society could be researching the same names as you.

And this is the time to consider a volunteer job. Volunteers are wanted to help inscribe Pages of Testimony for Yad Vashem. See page 10 to find out how you can help. Or contact Rieke, our President, and tell her you'd like to be more involved with our Society. And of course I am always looking for a good genealogical research story.

2006 has flown so time is of the essence.

Once again Happy Chanuka and a happy and rewarding 2007.

Miriam Shifreen, Editor
editor@ajgs.org.au

THE VISIT OF SALLYANN AMDUR SACK TO SYDNEY, October, 2006

At our major function this year over 50 Society members were delighted to welcome Sallyann Amdur Sack on her first visit to Sydney on Monday, October 16 at the North Shore Synagogue.

Sallyann has supported our Society from its beginnings and she noted that in the first edition of *Avotaynu*, *The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, in January, 1985, the very first article was written by the Rabbi of the Great Synagogue, Sydney, Rabbi Dr Israel Porush, on the History of the Jews of Australia.



Sallyann spoke about one of the initiatives of the newly created International Institute for Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem, *Reconstituting the Destroyed Communities of Europe*, an ambitious and worthwhile project requiring the synthesis of numerous data sources. A pilot study for Zdunska Wola and Ostrow Mazowiecka in Poland and Pusalotas, Lithuania has commenced, supported by volunteer help.

Thank you to Gwenda Harris and Katherine Israel of the Synagogue's Ladies Auxiliary for supplying a delicious supper.

On Tuesday, October 17 at the Society of Australian Genealogists, Sallyann's presentation focussed on the differences between Jewish and Christian research. Question time covered a wide range of topics and provided many with ideas for expanding their research possibilities.

One of her many outstanding talents is her marvellous memory for people, some of whom she had only met once at a Jewish genealogy conference. From the comments below it can be seen that she has left a lasting impression on everyone who met her on her visit Down Under.



The task that Sallyann is taking on- of merging disparate data sources into a unified yet global genealogical set of family trees - will require substantial technical innovations. It is delightful to see a "golden oldie" capable of such innovative and far-sighted thinking.

Vernon Kronenberg

I found Sallyann to be enthusiastic and passionate about her research. Her personality inspired the audience but at the same time, she was extremely approachable and helpful in answering individual queries. I was particularly impressed by her current research: her focus is not just about the collection of information but the construction of many family trees to show the connections within the gathered material.

Dianne Johnstone



Sallyann was most impressive, approachable and charming. Her latest project is very exciting. Discovering that we were connected to the same family tree was just amazing.

Sunny and Michael Gold



Vicky Rogut and Sonia Robinson with Sallyann

I listened with great interest to Sallyann's talk on 17 October. Her knowledge of Jewish family history and its sources was impressive as was her ability to communicate this and useful other information to her audience. As my paternal grandparents emigrated from Russian Poland via Bremen about 1900 and I have been searching unsuccessfully for the relevant shipping records it was particularly helpful (but also disappointing) to hear from Sallyann that all the Bremen shipping records were destroyed during WW2.

Gregory Sachs

Sallyann Sack impressed me, not only with her formal presentations but also in direct conversation, with her knowledge, authority and enthusiasm for Jewish genealogy. Sallyann was clearly the right person at the right time and place to drive the many vital Jewish genealogy projects.

Frank Atkinson

I attended her presentation at SAG. I was impressed with her awareness of Australian issues, considering the smallness of the Australian component in world Jewish affairs.

John Stanhope



Miriam and Joe Shifreen

Sallyann Amdur Sack



Sophie Caplan, Peter Nash and Sallyann at Taronga Zoo

I enjoyed Sallyann's talk immensely, and was most impressed by her sense of humour and her determination to proceed with the project, no matter how difficult. We saw first-hand how she draws people into being part of the project. She is a force difficult to resist.

Jeannette Tsoulos

I was very impressed by Sallyann's encyclopedic knowledge of genealogy. In her talk she covered everything from Sephardic naming traditions to the consanguinity rules in Jewish marriages. She suggested a few new leads to follow in my own genealogical research.

Stuart Shaw

It was a pleasure meeting with Sallyann again having been at the International Jewish Genealogy Seminar (as it was then called) in Los Angeles, July 1998. We also all had lunch at "Nate n Al" - remember! I found Sallyann's talk at the Society of Australian Genealogists in Kent Street very interesting and informative; only sorry it was not taped. It was also a pity more of our members were not there to hear all the information she 'rattled off the tip of her tongue' -so interesting!

She is "A STAR"
Selma Jackson



Miriam Pollak with Selma Jackson

RESEARCHING ENGLISH ANCESTORS

By Myra Waddell

I am still amazed at the information I have managed to discover about my ancestors when, at the beginning of my research, all I knew were the names of both sets of grandparents. I have discovered several second cousins, some of whom I've managed to meet and others with whom I am in email or postal contact. The more I find out, the more I want to find out. Genealogy is a fascinating subject bringing one in touch with hitherto unknown relatives all over the world.

In 1998, I decided that, since I was 12,000 miles from the majority of my relations, sooner or later my descendants were going to want to know where their ancestors came from. So, I started to compile two family trees, beginning with the names of all my aunts, uncles and cousins, and later I decided to add their dates of birth, marriage and death. I began by contacting each of my cousins, asking them for whatever information they could give me. This was sent to me, after many reminders and a fair bit of nagging.

When I heard of the Jewish Genealogical Society in Adelaide, I decided to join in January 1999.

A whole new world opened as I realised there was help available on the Internet and where I might find certain records. I went to the Adelaide State Library and found they held English birth, marriage and death records. There I searched for the birth dates of my mother and her siblings and made the discovery that their surname had been spelt Ouzner and Osner for each child and that my grandmother's maiden name was spelt differently on each of the children's birth certificates! I discovered that my father and his siblings had all been registered as Borkovsky and not Samuels as I had previously thought.

My paternal grandfather had originally spent a few years in New York where he had married and had three boys – my father's half brothers. Sadly, his wife, Freda, died giving birth to twins. My grandfather then decided to go to Paris to learn Parisian tailoring, leaving the boys in an orphanage.

Among the photos a New York cousin sent me was one of my grandmother (grandfather's second wife) taken in New York. I had no idea that she had gone to New York and, when I queried this, I found out that *both* my grandparents had gone there to collect the boys. They must have gone sometime between 1901, when their second child was born and 1905 when my father was born – the longest of the gaps between the births of their children. Online, I

managed to find the name of the ship (SS New York) and the date of arrival in New York – 12 September, 1903. But, strangely I can only find grandpa and not grandma as having sailed to America from London. I've looked for her under Samuels, Borkovsky and even her maiden name, Goldenberg – all to no avail.

I have entered all the various spellings of my family names and possible places where they had lived into the Family Finder on the Jewishgen website: www.jewishgen.org/familyfinder

For about eighteen months, I had no positive reply. Then I received an email from a lady in Israel wondering if we could be related, as her father had had an uncle with the surname of Borkovsky, who lived in Berne, Switzerland and who had been a clock-maker. Since *my* father had also had an uncle living in Switzerland, a watchmaker and jeweller by trade, it did seem quite possible that we *were* related. I didn't know his given name but I *did* remember my parents discussing my great-aunt Maria, to whom he was married. We were both very excited telling each other little bits of information which did seem to tie up a possible relationship. She emailed me the names of all of my paternal grandfather's siblings, their descendants, *and* the names of his parents, none of which I had previously known. Her great-uncle Moshe's wife was called Maria. We were sure this was a match.

All I knew about that side of my family was that my great-grandmother Borkovsky was buried on the Chinese side of the Russian Chinese border! What on earth had she been doing in China! My newly-found cousin told me of cousin Dina, born in Hailar, China, now living in Melbourne and whom I discovered was a first cousin of my father.

In February, 2003, complete with trusty cassette recorder, we went to Melbourne to meet Dina. She had been in Australia since 1958. I arrived in 1959 and my parents in 1968. What a shame we hadn't known of each other's existence before 2003. And, without the Internet, we probably would *never* have met, nor even heard of each other.

She told me about the horrific time she and her family had suffered during and immediately after World War II. They had been living in the north of China, in Hailar, when the Japanese arrived. She told me of imprisonment, torture and murder of family members by the Japanese.

The first family photo Dina showed me was one of my grandparents and when I took a photograph out of my folder to show to Dina it was a copy of the same photo!! Her family came from Irkutsk in Siberia, before some of them moved to Hailar.

I started to collect photographs and birth and death certificates of various relations and entered all the details into my trees.

My father had a photograph of his older brother, Morris, holding a violin. Uncle Morris was a talented violinist who was killed in World War I. Apparently my grandparents were informed that he was missing, believed dead. My grandmother went to France after the war, visiting many hospitals in the hope of finding him, but was unable to discover any news of him. It wasn't until Morris' violin was returned to them, that they finally understood that he must be dead. They never knew where he was buried or exactly where and when he died. In November, 2001, I decided to see what information I could find about Morris and typed his name into the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website www.cwgc.org/ where I found that he had died on Monday, 27 May, 1918, at the age of 19. He is remembered on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France.

Later, when I was trying to find information on my paternal grandmother's Goldenberg siblings, I typed the male siblings' names into this website and found that my great-uncle Jack, Grandma's youngest brother, had been killed, on 17 December, 1918 in Kantara, Egypt. He, too, was only 19. His certificate online, gave the names of his parents *and* their address at the time of his death.

I knew that a paternal uncle, Hymie, had gone with his second wife to South Africa. I searched online, discovering, not only that they had died in Durban, but also the plot and cemetery where they were buried. I then emailed the South African Digest through the Jewishgen website, asking if someone with a digital camera, living in Durban, was going to the cemetery and who would photograph their headstones. To my amazement and delight, I received a reply from a gentleman whose late grandmother had been friends of my uncle and aunt and who agreed to go and take the photographs. He also remembered seeing a plaque that my aunt had put up in the Jewish Home for the Aged in memory of my uncle. He took a photograph of that as well and emailed it to me. The headstones and the plaque had their dates of birth and death and aunt Esther's maiden name.

I searched through the Free BMD website and, finding that my father's older brother, Morris, was born in London in March, 1899, I ordered a copy of his birth certificate online which gave me the name of the street where he was born. I had previously believed that the family had landed in Liverpool.

Meanwhile, I had a reply to my query on whether someone with access to the 1901 British Census

would be prepared to look for my maternal grandparents and my mother and to see whether my father's parents had arrived from Paris before the Census. A lady found the Goldenberg family – my paternal *great*-grandparents and their children - living in London. I now had their names, and, what was even more helpful, all their ages and place of birth, Romania for the parents and Paris, France, for the children - and their address at the time of the Census. The Goldenberg great-grandparents were the parents of my father's mother. I knew that my paternal grandparents were married at the time of the census. But my newly-found friend also discovered that my grandmother, her husband, Samuel Borkovsky (registered as Berkovsky in the census – no wonder it was difficult to trace them!) and their first-born were living very near to her parents' home. She was the oldest child and her youngest brother, Jack, was only a year older than her own son, Morris (the two 19-year-olds who died within six and a half months of each other, right at the end of World War I).

While we were visiting one of my cousins in England in 2002, she showed me a French prayer book which had belonged to our grandmother, Rochelle Goldenberg who had written, under prayers for the dead, the names of her parents – Chaim and Deborah - her father's father – Gedalia, and her mother's father - Aran. What was really strange was I had called one of my daughters, Deborah, and *she* had called *her* daughter Rochelle.

My friend was unable to find my mother and her parents until I gave her a couple of possible addresses where the family might have been living at the time of the Census. She found them registered as Uzenia, not Osner!

Back to the paternal family. The next Borkovsky child was a daughter, Bluma, born in London in May, 1901 (her surname was given as Bokowsky). My father, Joseph, was born in Cardiff, Wales in April, 1905, so I knew they had moved from London to Cardiff between 1901 and 1905 and then to Liverpool, between 1905 and September, 1907, when and where the next daughter, Sarah, was born. I knew the Borkovsky family (then known as Samuels) had lived for some years in Liverpool as the next two daughters, Perle and Eva were born there in June, 1910 and January, 1913, respectively.

I had found Perle on the Free BMD website.
<http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>

The only Borkovskys I found in Liverpool had been family and so I decided to send for Perle's birth and death certificates in the hope that she was *one of ours*. My grandparents were named as her parents

and I discovered that Perle had died of pneumonia at only three months of age.

I wondered whether my great-grandparents and their family had also lived in Liverpool and so posted yet another query – this time in the British Jewishgen digest - to ask whether anyone knew of a Goldenberg family living in Liverpool sometime after 1905. One of the replies mentioned a Jewish regional newspaper which was published in several cities, including Liverpool, which would publish my query with a photograph, at no charge. Email - roots@jewish-telegraph.com

I emailed the question and my great-aunt's wedding photograph and within a fortnight, I received several emails from excited second cousins, living in Liverpool, Manchester, America and even Sydney, Australia! I have now traced all but one of my grandmother's siblings. My husband and I had booked to go to England last year and I arranged a weekend in Liverpool to meet these newly-found second cousins, some of whom still lived in Liverpool, Manchester and Westcliff-on-Sea, to swap information and photos.

Two of my newly discovered cousins had a photograph of their grandparents' wedding in 1913. In it, were my father, some of his siblings as children and, my grandparents, great-grandparents and – probably – my great-great-grandparents.

When I had emailed the family history to my new Goldenberg cousins, they discovered two of their very good friends were actually distant cousins. They had had no idea that they were related!!

While in London last year my husband and I spent several days searching the Records Office at Kew, the National Archives and the London Metropolitan Archives. Before we left Australia, I had searched the naturalisation records online to find whether my paternal grandfather and his Goldenberg father-in-law had been naturalised. I found that *he* had but unfortunately, none of the Goldenbergs had or, if they had, I haven't traced their records.

Four years ago, a cousin on my mother's side of the family, told me that our grandfather had applied for naturalisation in 1930 and, on a previous visit to Kew, I had looked this up in a large book and taken a photocopy of his certificate of naturalisation, which gave his parents' names and where he was born.

When I asked to see my *paternal* grandfather's naturalisation papers, much to my delight, it was his actual application, full of information, names dates, places, etc. Most exciting. But when I applied to see my maternal grandfather's application, I was informed that because of the

privacy act, it wouldn't be released until 2030, 100 years after the original application, although, I could apply to the Home Office to get an early release. I was back in Australia before I received notification that I would be able to see the document, and ordered it online. The naturalisation application gave the date and place of his marriage and the date of arrival in England. It provided that elusive surname of my maternal grandmother – spelt differently on each of her children's birth certificates – but which I now know is Borziansky.

At the National Archives, in Kew, I found *British Jewry Book of Honour World War I*. There was no mention of Morris, even though I knew which regiment he had been in. However, when I looked through the index, I found Jack's name and, on page 244 a photograph of Private Jack Goldenberg, Lancashire Fusiliers and 38th Royal Fusiliers. The latter regiment was formed from Jewish volunteers.

Recently, reading through back issues of *Kosher Koala*, I contacted Peter Nash who had researched widely the available resources for tracing the former Jewish communities of China. He directed me to a website www.jewsofchina.org

I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw on this site a cousin who was looking for family. We now communicate through another cousin in Israel who has translated all my questions into Hebrew and all the answers back into English for me. Since then, my three Israeli cousins have met.

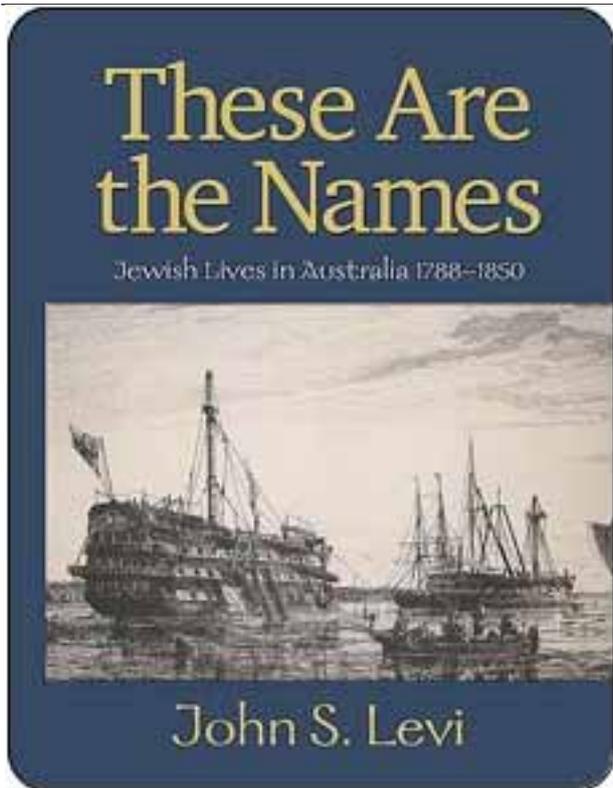
Just as I think that's it, I'll never be able to get any further, more turns up or I think of another way to search for something or I read about some research someone else has done.

Recently, looking through my photos on the computer I noticed the Hebrew on my maternal grandparents' tombstones. I emailed the photograph to one of the rabbis in Adelaide and asked whether there were any names – apart from those of my grandparents, of course! Back came the reply that my grandmother's father was called Chaim Fishel!

I have discovered that there are several qualities one has to have to do family research

1. patience
2. persistence (never give up)
3. the ability to think laterally.

Myra was born in England but has lived in Australia since 1959. As well as genealogy, which takes up a fair bit of Myra's time, she enjoys her various volunteer works, acting and reading. Myra has three children, three step-children, fifteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.
myra@waddell.id.au



THESE ARE THE NAMES

By John S. Levi

Between 1788 and 1850, more than 1500 Jewish men and women were either transported to Australia as convicts or arrived as free settlers. *These Are the Names* chronicles their stories. This important biographical dictionary presents the details of these pioneers.

Rabbi Dr. John Levi's painstaking research through the fragmentary and often contradictory colonial records has culminated in an invaluable reference work and resource. A wealth of information can be found in this volume, including birth names, aliases and maiden names, together with details of marriages, children, occupations and contributions to religious life. Names of ships, arrival dates, physical descriptions and details of sentencing, punishment and the issuing of certificates of freedom are also included. *These Are the Names* is a major contribution to an important but little-recognised aspect of Australia's settlement history and this earliest generation of Jews to settle in Australia is named and remembered.

John Levi was the first Australian to be ordained as a rabbi and to return to work in the land of his birth. He was named Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne in 1997, served as Senior Rabbi of the Victorian Union for Progressive Union from 1974, and was elected Vice President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry in 2005. He

is a Patron of the Council of Christians and Jews, an organization he helped to found in 1963, and a member of the governing body of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, 1974 to 1998.

Rabbi Levi was one of the founders of Melbourne's King David School. His publications include *Australian Genesis* (1974), *The Forefathers* (1976), *Rabbi Jacob Danglow: Uncrowned Monarch of Australian Jewry* (1995), *The Musical Tradition of the Berlin Reform Synagogue* (1998) and *A Passover Haggadah* (2002). He is a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). Monash University awarded Rabbi Levi the degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) for his contribution to the community and to Australian Jewish history in 2006.

The Miegunyah Press \$79.95, 876pp
ISBN: 0-522-85158-4

The book is available from the shop at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Tel: 02-9360-7999

Rabbi Levi has been a great supporter of the Society over the years and we are pleased to announce that he will be our guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 25, 2007.

His publications, *The Forefathers* (1976) and the two editions of *Australian Genesis* (1974, 2002) have been valuable resources for many of our members. There will be many mysteries solved with the publication of *These Are the Names*.

2006 IAJGS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AT THE NEW YORK CONFERENCE

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Stephen Morse, in recognition of his body of work that facilitates the searching of databases, in particular the US immigration records; a significant achievement considering that Steve has only been active on the genealogical scene for five years.

Other awards went to:-

- JGS of Greater Philadelphia for the indexing of records created by Philadelphia's "ethnic bank" relating to the financing of steamship tickets for immigrants
- JGS of Greater Boston for their publication *Masspocha*
- Ada Green for the recording of 36,000 gravestone inscriptions in the New York area
- the Stern Award to support a project for the digitizing of Prague Jewish Familiant registers by the organisation, Toledot, the Jewish History Center of Prague.

LONDON JEWISH CHRONICLE

The website www.thejc.com continues to be a valuable source for members. (Refer KK Vol 13 No 3 September 2006 p. 10)

The Society has recently been given a collection of original editions of the London Jewish Chronicle. Their condition is very fragile and access needs to be limited to prevent further damage. About half have been bound but being newspaper quality, the paper has deteriorated with time.

Even though the collection is not complete, the coverage extends over a century. The years covered are:-

1869 to 1872

1887 to 1908 (excluding 1904)

1929, 1930 and some of 1934, 1935

1939 to 1949

1951 to 1957

1959 to 1965 (some of 1964) and

from 1965 to 1977, the sets are not complete.

Interestingly, the State Library of New South Wales has copies of 1908 to 1922, 1964 to 1971.

However, the Society faces a significant dilemma about the handling, storage and access to these fragile volumes. A decision about access and storage will have to be made shortly on whether the Society can retain this wonderful resource.

Apart from the thousands of personal notices giving vital genealogical clues, it is fascinating to read about the life and times of the London Jewish scene, the United Kingdom provinces, the colonies and reports on the conditions being experienced by European and Middle East Jewish communities.

The issues covering the outbreak of World War 2 and news from the Boer War in Africa are also of great historical interest and even items like '*Dr Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People*' are entertaining.

Also included with the donation were a few copies of two other publications; one volume of *The Jewish Record* Volume 1 No 1 June 5, 1868 to Volume 1 No 33 June 15, 1869, and four years of *The Jewish Guardian* 1928 to August 14, 1931. While not as extensive as the Jewish Chronicle there are family notices in the Jewish Guardian.

The accompanying extract gives some of the flavour of the interests and writing style that can be found in a 1900 Jewish newspaper.

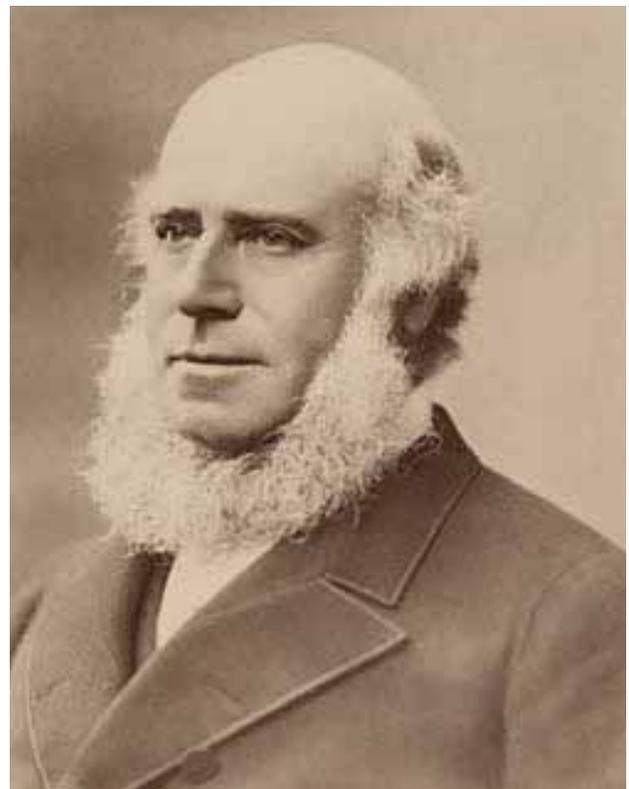
An Extract from the Jewish Chronicle
August 31, 1900, page 9

Death of Sir Saul Samuel, Bart.

Sir Saul Samuel, Bart., K.C.M.G., C.B., a distinguished member of the constantly growing band of eminent Colonial Jews, passed away on Wednesday last, at his residence, 34, Nevern Square, S.W.

He had reached the advanced age of eighty years. As Colonel Goldsmid put it, at a banquet given in Sir Saul's honour by the Maccabeans, in February, 1876: "When George IV was King, Sir Saul Samuel was born, a cockney like so many of us, and when William IV was King he went out to Australia." One can gain some idea of the length of his career from the remarkable fact that it was far away in the early thirties that, as a mere stripling of twelve summers, he sailed for the Southern Seas. Sir Saul was the posthumous son of the late Mr. Sampson Samuel, and was born on November 2nd, 1820. Though a cockney by birth however he was an Australian by up-bringing, by training, and by political interests, career, and connections. His career may, in fact, be said to have unfolded itself in strict association with the advance of Australasia, and the progress of the man and the Colony to have kept step together.

Etc.....



**URGENT CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS
WORLDWIDE TO HELP INSCRIBE
PAGES OF TESTIMONY FOR YAD
VASHEM**

www.yadvashem.org

**From Cynthia Wroclawski
The Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project
Yad Vashem, Jerusalem**

This year over 17,000 new Pages of Testimony have been submitted to Yad Vashem, together with some 1,500 photographs.

Volunteers are needed to help survivors complete Pages of Testimony for families and friends who were Holocaust victims. Yad Vashem in Jerusalem hopes to recover as many additional names as possible, before the generation that best remembers them passes. Jewish organisations such as synagogues, Holocaust centres, senior centres and social service agencies are being urged to reach out and assist families with completing the forms.

See their website for more information:-
www1.yadvashem.org/names/whyCollect.htm

To date around half of the six million victims have been recorded. Millions more victims may be forgotten forever. You can ensure them a place in history by filling out Pages of Testimony, or by assisting others with this vital and urgent task.

The forms can be downloaded from the website or by contacting AJGS.

And from Martha Lev-Zion

In the past two years, the Israel Genealogical Society [IGS] has received, to date, over 800 requests for help in finding relatives who submitted Pages of Testimony (POT) to Yad Vashem. We have been able to provide definite information on contacting the submitter of the POT for 205 queries; possible information that needed to be followed up by the researcher in 113 queries; and alas, no information could be tracked down for 508 submitters.

You might be interested in knowing the statistics regarding queries. The IGS was requested to track down people from the following areas: Poland 500, Lithuania 95, Ukraine 47, Czech 27, Germany 27, Belarus 28, Romania-Bessarabia 32, Hungary 17, Austria 12, Slovakia 10, Latvia 6, Russia 6, Belgium 4, Bukovina 3, Yugoslavia 3, Holland 2, France 2, Greece 1, Netherland 1, Uzbekistan 1 for a total of 824.

The POTs were submitted from these years: 1950s - 463, 1960s - 1, 1970s - 34, 1980s - 42, 1990s - 224 and 2000s - 35. (The totals don't

match because not everyone filled out all the information on the POTs).

The IGS is dedicated to trying to reunite families and we also translate POTs written in Hebrew, Russian, French, German, Italian and Spanish; and we can usually find someone for other languages.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to remind your members that Yad Vashem is campaigning for a last push to get survivors and other people to fill in Pages of Testimony. Please encourage them to do that before there is no one left with the knowledge to do so. Every murdered Jew deserves a memorial to his name. Not one of us should die in obscurity without a name. Help your members, if they need the help, to fill out a Page of Testimony at tinyurl.com/y9gupf

Everyone should be encouraged to search the database, since new pages are submitted daily.

GEDENKBUCH 2006 EDITION

From www.jewishgen.org/infodfiles/de-gednk.txt

Germany has published a new edition of its citizens that were killed in the Holocaust. The new four-volume register updates the first edition, from 1986, which listed only victims from the former West Germany. The new version includes all of Germany in the borders of 1937 (i.e. with Silesia and East Prussia, which are now part of modern Poland and Russia, but not Austria) and contains 150,000 names.

An included CD-ROM contains all the data of the four volumes. One may search by birthdate if name spelling is unsure or by any of the other data: first name, surname, maiden name, birthplace, last residence, date of deportation. Umlauts are required for the searches.

TITLE: Gedenkbuch. Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der national-sozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland 1933 - 1945; Bundesarchiv; Koblenz, 2006, 3820 pp
ISBN: 3-89192-137-3; 4 volume edition
CONTACT: Bundesarchiv, 56064 Koblenz, Germany Fax: (0049)261505226
E-Mail: koblenz@barch.bund.de

PURCHASE INFO: 149,39 Euros plus shipping. Send an email or use the fax number. They will send you the four volume paper edition including the CD-ROM in the back of the first volume and bill you for the amount stated plus the costs for shipping. The CD-ROM is not sold separately.

(2006 Edition information provided with assistance from Fritz Neubauer, Germany)

THERE'S MORE TO GENEALOGY THAN NAMES AND DATES

By Judy Shapira

My mother's first cousin died recently, at the age of 95. When she turned 90 of course her family arranged a celebratory party to honour the occasion and the nonagenarian. Our families had always been close (she had been my mother's bridesmaid about 80 years ago) and I realised I knew her life story better than anyone else around at the moment. Her surviving two siblings were mostly too involved with the business of surviving themselves to be able to remember the ins and outs of their sister's life, especially the details. Her children may have known some of the details, but were all involved with organising the party, so I decided I would provide some of the entertainment, as my gift to her.

Sylvia Mendels' (nee Hertzberg) life has not been outstanding in many ways, but in family spirit and caring (Chessed and Yiddishkeit) it has been. Born in England in 1910, with her parents and older brother Bernard she sailed to Australia, arriving in 1912. (My mother's family, Hyman and Bessie Portrate (the parents) and four children, were on the same boat). The Hertzberg family settled in Sydney, and made their homes mostly in Bondi and Bellevue Hill, while the Portrates became stalwarts of the Brisbane community. The Hertzberg family grew to seven children, and all went their several ways. Two became professionals, two or three had businesses, and the girls worked as secretaries or dressmakers.

Remember this was an Australian Jewish family in the first half of the 20th century. When World War 2 came, six of the seven were in the Services in some form, the single exception being Sylvia herself.

In 1940, Sylvia married a German-born Jew, Ludwig (later Leon) Mendels who had the foresight to leave Germany in 1938, and managed to sponsor thirty-six of his family and bring them into Australia. On her marriage, she became a German citizen, an enemy alien who had to report weekly to the local police station, and who lost her right to vote in Australian elections. A most uncomfortable few weeks were endured until her British citizenship was restored. Two of her brothers were at this time serving overseas in the Australian armed forces!

The picture of family togetherness in the celebration of Seder night in which I participated as a child will last all my life, as my family was always included, and I always had to recite the Mah

Nishtanah. As the grandchildren arrived, to a large extent the family split up, no home was big enough for the fifty-odd who now belonged. Particularly after the sudden death of her mother Annie, Sylvia's home became the centre for all her family of brothers, some of whom had had unhappy marriages, or whose wives were unwilling or unable to participate. Her own children brought their spouses and children "home to mother" for Yomtov and Shabbat as is the tradition, and Sylvia welcomed them all and presided over an enormous table, loaded with magnificent food, for she was an outstanding cook.

I put much of this story into "verse", a narrative poem with good rhyme but uncertain rhythm, to which I added a page of footnotes. The poem was read and copies distributed at the birthday party, for all to keep. One copy I know will go into the family tree file of my family, as the details are so interwoven.

Unless the details of the historical facts are elucidated in such family histories they will be lost. Genealogy does not have to be purely dry and factual, it can be fun, spiced with family jokes too. They all loved the poem, especially Sylvia.

Judy Shapira a hitherto quiet but interested genealogist has been a member of our society for ten years.

judyshap@bigpond.net.au

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, SYDNEY

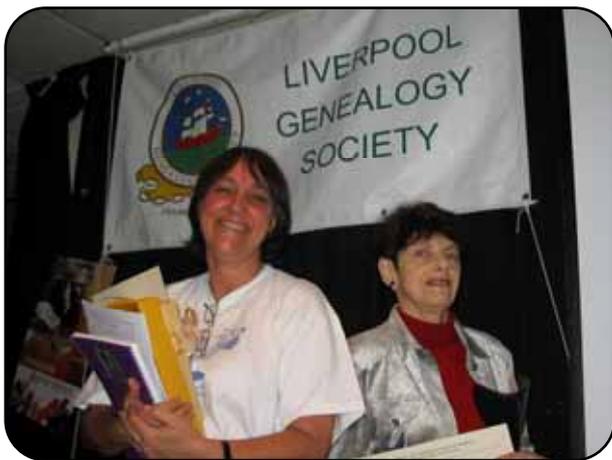
Researchers have been accessing the National Archives through their website at www.naa.gov.au and, through the *RecordSearch* facility, requesting documents through their digital service. When a document is not located in Canberra then it is possible to view it at the location stated.

Researchers are welcome to visit the Archives' reading rooms which are located in each capital city. These offer the facilities, services and specialist reference staff needed to assist with your research inquiries. Advance notification of visits is not required but it is suggested that you telephone before you visit to confirm that they hold the records relevant to your inquiry.

The Sydney reading room of the National Archives has announced that the new opening times of 9 am to 4.30 pm are for Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Saturday will remain open as usual (see their website for dates and times. They are now no longer open on Mondays and Tuesdays.

120 Miller Road
Chester Hill NSW 2162
Tel: 02-9645-0100

STATE CONFERENCE OF FAMILY SOCIETIES, Liverpool, 2006



Kim and Jeannette

Two of our members, Jeannette Tsoulos and Kim Phillips gave a presentation at the New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory Association of Family History Societies' State Conference in Liverpool in September, 2006. Their presentation, entitled, *Jewish Research Australia and Overseas* was well received and attracted a lively question time.

The overseas component covered particular factors that distinguished Jewish research from non-Jewish research, including mobility, naming patterns, the problems of name-changes and the importance of knowing the place of origin while the Australian section discussed specifically Jewish records that are available.

Their Power Point presentation was very professional. The attendees were particularly impressed with the features of the CD for the Rookwood Cemetery, Old Jewish Section, published by our Society. One of the attendees was able to identify at last the burial plot of a relative. As there was no head-stone she had been unable to find it in the past.

Kim, a committee member, is one of the principal authors of the Rookwood CD and of the CD of the first ten editions of *Kosher Koala*. She has given presentations and workshops at conferences including the International Jewish Genealogical Conference in Jerusalem in 2004 and for SAG and other societies.

Jeannette is Vice-President of both our Society and of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Her duties for both Societies involves helping researchers with enquiries.

NICK VINE HALL 1944 – 2006

The genealogy world has recently lost a well-known and well-loved personality with the death of Nick Vine Hall on October 31, 2006.

As Director of the Society of Australian Genealogists for ten years from 1978 he was able to follow his passion for genealogy from which we have all benefitted with the publications of books, CDs, charts and articles. His interests and expertise was wide ranging and, in particular, included Maritime History and his Huguenot heritage.

Since 1979 his enthusiastic appearances on ABC Radio encouraged many Australians to pursue their family heritage.

His invaluable publication, *Tracing Your Family History in Australia*, will remain a comprehensive resource for researchers with Australian interests.

And in the last few years he achieved probably his most long-lasting legacy to Australians as Chairman of the Australasian Federation of Family History Association's Census Working Party. His inspired campaign, *Save the Census*, led to the parliamentary decision that all name-identified census data could be retained if consent was given by the respondent.

In August, 2006 the Council of the Society of Australian Genealogists elected him as an Honorary Member of the Society in recognition of his services to the Society.

His interest in Early American and Canadian residents in Australasia led to a collection that has just become available on the website of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies.

www.aigs.org.au/Nick_Vine_Hall_files/framer.htm

Nick was always interested in our Society and we enjoyed a wonderful evening with him in 1998 when his topic was *Finding Evidence About Your Family's Arrival in Australia*. We have lost a good friend.

MIGRATION HERITAGE CENTRE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au

The Project, *Belongings*, presents the memories and journeys of some post-World War 2 migrants to Australia.

One of our members, Peter Nash, was interviewed for this project and his story can be seen on www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/belongings/nash/

NEW RESOURCES IN OUR LIBRARY

REVISED EDITION OF AVOTAYNU ON CD-ROM 2006

Every article that has been published in the International Review of Jewish Genealogy from 1985 to 2005 can be searched on this CD.

GUIDEBOOK FOR SEPHARDIC AND ORIENTAL GENEALOGICAL SOURCES IN ISRAEL

by Mathilde Tagger and Yitzchak Kerem, published by Avotaynu 2006 412 pp.

The two authors, both experts in Sephardi research, have documented the wealth of resources on Sephardic Jewish history and genealogy available in Israel. Even though research can be conducted abroad, the essential sources and collections are located in Israel. It encompasses important archival collections such as the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, the Central Zionist Archives, the Jewish National and University Library and other repositories.

The book is organised according to the countries where Sephardi and Oriental communities had resided around the world, listing important references and includes detailed appendices. All members with any interest in these research areas will value this English-language publication.

THE SEPHARDIM OF MANCHESTER

Pedigrees and Pioneers

by Lydia Collins, published by Shaare Hayim, The Sephardi Congregation of South Manchester 2006 383 pp.

This book on the large Sephardi community in Manchester discusses more than 100 families, listing their pedigrees with over 10,000 names. The author has arranged each family group under its original locality. The pedigrees are indexed but unfortunately there is no index to individual names. The detailed background information and wonderful photographs give a valuable insight into an English Sephardi community.

GERMAN NAME-CHANGE GAZETTEER

(Deutsch-fremdsprachiges Ortsnamenverzeichnis)

[German-Other Language Gazetteer]

by Otto Kredel and Franz Thierfelder
2 vols. 1172 pp.

Printed originally in 1931 and reprinted by Avotaynu in 2005, this name-change gazetteer in two Volumes identifies virtually every town, village and place in pre-World War I Germany and Austria-

Hungary that was ceded to other countries or to new countries such as Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Thousands of names are presented in two sequences: old German name to new name, and new name to old German name. Importantly the associated district or regional name is given as an aid to exact locality identification.

Volume 1 includes Italy (Northern), Switzerland, Alsace-Lorraine (France), Luxemburg, Belgium-Holland, Denmark, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Soviet Union and Poland (including former East and West Prussia, Posen and Upper Silesia).

Volume 2 covers Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Southern Slovakia, Romania, then German names for selected towns in Albania, Bulgaria, Finland, Greece, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

In the Preface the authors discuss the need for this name-change gazetteer in the 1920s which stemmed from a scientific as well as a practical stand-point of direct interest to German geographers. The scientific aspect was associated with the need for reliable atlases and maps. Practical aids were required for commerce and international traffic. The name-changes resulted from myriads of border changes after World War I amongst many of the European countries combined with the accompanying change of language from German to other foreign languages.

JEWISH ANCESTORS? A GUIDE TO JEWISH GENEALOGY IN LATVIA AND ESTONIA

2nd Edition 2006

by Arlene Beare

Another useful publication by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain has been added to our collection. It is also available for purchase from the Sydney Jewish Museum.

A TRANSLATION GUIDE TO 19TH CENTURY POLISH-LANGUAGE CIVIL-REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS

(Birth, Marriage and Death Records) 2nd Edition, by Judith Frazin, published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois 1989 311 pp.

This publication has been an essential reference to aid with the deciphering of Polish Birth, Death and Marriage documents.

NEW MAPS

Additions to our collection of maps include new road maps for areas covering Eastern Europe, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia, Hungary and Germany.

NEW WEBSITES

Researching British Links

www.british-jewry.org.uk

Dutch Jewry Discussion Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dutchSIG/>

"dutchSIG" is the international home for discussions on genealogy and the special interest group on family history for all those around the world with a Dutch Jewish ancestry.

Canadian Passenger Lists 1865-1922

www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/passenger/01045-130-e.html. For a specific search, click the "Search" button in the top left portion of the screen. It also can be reached at www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/passenger/01045-100.01-e.php.

New Zealand Shipping and Passenger Lists

www.yesteryears.co.nz

For 1800 to 1900 shipping this is a useful addition for New Zealand research. We liked "*Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress!*"

Polish Cemeteries and Synagogues

An interesting web site (all in Polish) lists Jewish cemeteries in Poland. The data seems to contain the following Location/Town, Date Range, Area of the Cemetery, Number of Graves, Types of Graves (headstones, monument, fences etc) and Condition of the Cemetery. The same web site has a link to a list of Synagogues in Poland.

www.izrael.badacz.org/zydzi_w_polsce/obiekty_cmentarze_spis.html

My Heritage

www.myheritage.com

Based in Bnei Atarot near Tel Aviv, this dedicated search engine will let you download Family Tree Builder with free genealogy software for putting together your family tree. It's completely free, and free of ads and spyware, with easy-to-use pages that let you grow your family tree visually. It runs in 12 languages (English, Hebrew, Yiddish, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Dutch, Russian, Greek and Turkish).

Tracing The Tribe

Something new from Schelly Talalay Dardashti <http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com>

New postings include Roots Television, Crimea resources, fixing errors in Pages of Testimony, Sephardic Website and millionth visitor, Hawaii's Jews, Czech discoveries and restoring Polish cemeteries. Books include researching Latvia and Estonia, the Jewish Victorian and the new Sangre Judia with 6,000 Sephardic names, cities and dates of documents located.

THE JEWISHGEN SHTETLINKS

PROJECT has added the following web pages to JewishGen ShtetLinks.

Brzozow, Poland

Created by Deborah Raff

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Brzozow/

Dubiecko, Poland

Created by Phyllis Kramer

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/krosno/krosnodubiecko.htm

Jasienica Rosielna (Yashnitsa), Poland

Created by Phyllis Kramer

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/krosno/krosnojasionica.htm

Kletsk, Belarus

Created by Henry Neugass

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kletsk/index.html

Kurkliai, Lithuania

Created by Dora Boom

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kurkliai/

Mazeikiai (Mazheik), Lithuania

Created by Raymond Ravinsky, Ilan Ganot, and Benzi Kahana

Webmaster: Raymond Ravinsky,

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/mazeikiai/

Seduva, Lithuania

Created by Dora Boom

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Seduva/

Velky Meder (Nagymegyér), Slovakia

Created by Yehoshua Weiss

Webmaster: Carol Robinson

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Nagymegyér/NagymegyárShtetlink.html

Drohobycz / Drogobych, Ukraine

Shtetlpage adopted by Valerie Schatzker

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/drogobych/drogobych.html

Chisinau (Kishinev), Moldova

Shtetlpage adopted by: Peter MacDonald

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/kishinev/

Kopatkevichi (Kopatkevich), Belarus

Shtetlpage adopted by: Dr. Martin Blank

Webmaster: Ted Hochstadt

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/kopatkevichi/

Przemysl, Poland

Shtetlpage adopted by: Sheila Schneider

Webmaster: David Sotkowitz

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Przemysl/

Polonnoye, Ukraine

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/polonnoye/

**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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**The Editor:
P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595, Australia
or by email: editor@ajgs.org.au**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New South Wales

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Jane Grassl
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Gregory Sachs
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FUTURE IAJGS CONFERENCE DATES

Salt Lake City 15 - 19 July, 2007

With registration before May 1, 2007 at \$US230 and Hilton Hotel accommodation at \$US119 per night, this is an affordable conference. It will be a great opportunity to catch up with all the latest in Jewish genealogy as well as having access to the Family History Library with its vast holdings. <http://slc2007.org>

Chicago 17 - 22 August, 2008

The hotel and dates for the 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy are set. The hotel is the Chicago Marriott, downtown magnificent Mile. More details will be announced as they are available. The Chicago conference is being hosted by IAJGS in cooperation with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois and the Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATABASE

Names being researched by our new members

December, 2006

Id	Surname	Old name of Town	Current name of Town	District	Country	Dates
429	CHARIG		LONDON		ENGLAND	1850+
598	HART		LONDON		ENGLAND	1800s
594	KIRSCHBAUM		ZGIERZ		POLAND	To 1900
569	LIFSCHITZ	LADA	LIOLIAI		LITHUANIA	
569	LIPSIC	LADA	LIOLIAI		LITHUANIA	
429	MOSES		LONDON		ENGLAND	c. 1820+
429	MOSES		AMSTERDAM		HOLLAND	Pre 1802
429	MOSES		HARTFORD	CT	USA	1860+
429	MYERS		AMSTERDAM		HOLLAND	Pre 1800
429	MYERS		MELBOURNE		AUSTRALIA	1880+
429	POLLOCK		LONDON		ENGLAND	1820+
594	PORTEK		DOBRA		POLAND	To 1900
429	SHUTER	LISSA	LESZNO		POLAND	Pre 1850
429	SHUTER		JOHANNESBURG		SOUTH AFRICA	1880+
429	SHUTER		NEW YORK		USA	1860+
598	SOLOMON		LONDON		ENGLAND	1875
598	SOWTER			NSW	AUSTRALIA	
597	UNGAR		SKOLE		UKRAINE	Late 19 Cent
597	UNGAR	RAWA RUSKA	RAVA RUS'KA		UKRAINE	Late 19 Cent
598	WATSON		LONDON		ENGLAND	1800s
594	WEINSTEIN		DOBRA		POLAND	To 1900
588	WINTER		KOPCANY		SLOVAKIA	1839+
429	WOOLF		LONDON		ENGLAND	1790+
429	WOOLF		CHELSEA	MA	USA	1890+
429	WOOLF		MELBOURNE		AUSTRALIA	1884+
594	ZAKLIKOWSKI		ZGIERZ		POLAND	To 1900

AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT AT THE 2006 NEW YORK CONFERENCE



Peter Nash, Rieke Nash, Greta James, Phil Lipshut, Debbie Jurblum, Martin Jurblum