

JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



KOSHER KOALA



WINTER/ AUGUST 2021

AJGS
L'dor V'dor

IN THIS ISSUE



FEATURES

PAGE 4 - SIBLINGS REUNITED WITH LOST FAMILY PHOTOS

AJGS President Barbara Simon and VP Dani Haski reunite two Sydney siblings with family photos lost over a decade and a half ago.

PAGE 8 - CENSUS TIME CAPSULE PRESERVATION PROJECT

With the Census upon us *Kosher Koala* takes a look at why we don't have access to genealogical data from the Australian records.

NEWS 11

Goulburn cemetery receives heritage listing

Genealogy Indexer announces major updates

AJGS (Vic) VP honoured with an OAM

Görlitz Synagogue restored

Salvaged Brest *matzevot* to be digitised

Ancestry beats lawsuit over yearbook photos

Sephardic Genealogy Society formed

IGRA marks a milestone

KK wants your memories

Last Minute Links

BOOK REVIEW 20

The Miracle Typist by Leon Silver

DIY 21

Image Copyright - Tips & Traps

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS 24

EDITORIAL

AJGS
L'dor V'dor



Kosher Koala is thrilled to announce that AJGS has received the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) 2021 award for Most Outstanding Publication.

Kosher Koala has been recognised for:

its efforts to promote passion for Jewish Genealogy, recognise and encourage engagement in research and educate its members.

As editor, I was thrilled and honoured to accept this accolade on behalf of the society.

The Kosher Koala was first published in September 1993. Our distinctive logo, which we still use to this day, was designed by Robert Klein, son-in-law of past President, Sunny Gold. The first edition included this stirring editorial by inaugural AJGS President Sophie Caplan:

Vol. 1 No. 1

September, 1993

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of the newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, founded in November 1991. A number of copies of each issue will go to fraternal overseas genealogical societies which have been sending us courtesy copies of their newsletters. This showed us that all the most likely Hebrew names for a Jewish genealogical journal (Avotaynu, Dorot, Shemot, Mishpachah, etc...) were taken, so we decided to walk a different track, an Australian bush track, with a name reflecting that we are Australian, we are Jewish, and that we live up a familiar gum tree, a menorah with pungent eucalyptus leaves. We also inform our overseas readers that this winter 1993 issue appears in September, our southern hemisphere present season and that we will not use the patronizing phrase Down Under. Down Under from what?

Our aim is to inform our members of all the possibilities of Jewish genealogical research both here in Australia and overseas. We will try to teach some of the basics of Jewish genealogy for the benefit of those of our members who are beginners, and at the same time to inform you of the latest developments overseas, such as archives and research facilities opening up in Eastern Europe. We will also try to bring our readers material available only in Australia. We will print stories of successful research, of problems solved, of archival material discovered written by our members and other contributors. Ideally we will try to build a bridge between our members and the vast world of Jewish genealogical research. Our beginnings are humble, our footsteps hesitant, but we are launched on our way.

Sophie Caplan, Editor

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of the newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, founded in November 1991. A number of copies of each issue will go to fraternal overseas genealogical societies which have been sending us country copies of their newsletters. This showed us that all the most likely Hebrew names for a Jewish genealogical journal (Avotaynu, Dorot, Shema, Mithpachah, etc.) were taken, so we decided with a different track, an Australian bush tree, a name reflecting that we are Australian, we are Jewish, and that we live up a familiar gum tree, a tree with pungent eucalyptus leaves. We also inform our overseas readers that this winter 1993 issue appears in September, our southern hemisphere present season and that we will not use the patronizing phrase Down Under. Down Under from what?

Sophie Caplan, Editor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	1
Officer Bearers of the Society		2
Vale - Gerald Falk	Sophie Caplan	2
About Ourselves	Sophie Caplan	3
The Story of Emma	Hilda Hines	4
Did You Know?	Shari Shaw	5
Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf	Sophie Caplan	6
Preserve Your Heritage	Beulah-Rose Gross	8
What's Happening in Special Interest Groups	Sophie Caplan	9
Sydney Data Base - Surname Index	Rieke Nash	10

The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc
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Volume 12 No. 1 ISSN 1322-6401 March, 2005

Inside This Issue

Page	Coming Events
President's AGM Report By David Nash	2
Editorial By Miriam Shifreen	2
Visit By Chairman of The Netherlands Society By Michael Lubin	3
Researching in England By David Nash	4
Research at Salt Lake City By Peter Nash	6
Winter Journey, A New Novel By Diane Armstrong	7
Being a Jew in Finland By Rafael Wark and Edited by Ravich Green	8
Our Ten Year Member: Rabbi Segal	10
Some New Resources in Our Library	11
Our New Canberra ACT Representative: Verna Kounberg	12
News from the Australian Jewish Historical Society	14
Assistance from the Israel Genealogical Society (IGS)	14
The 25th IAJGS International conference on Jewish Genealogy in Las Vegas, Nevada	16

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - REPORT

www.ajgs.org.au

November 1993



November 1993

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The aim of our regular Sunday morning meetings is to give people the chance to discuss our latest acquisitions and share in the many useful reference books available to members on the internet, research and other resources. As we continue to be a vibrant and active group, we are able to help in many ways.



On Sunday 18th October our member, Verna Kounberg, gave a fascinating talk on the 1913 Bechamun Census of its history, and brought her own copy of the Census to show people how to find their families in the hundreds of Bechamun villages and in Prussia.

We participated in the World Day of Jewish Culture and Heritage on 28th October by visiting visitors into our library, and enjoyed a successful meeting.

Our next event will be a Sunday morning, with a talk by member, Gertie Sachs, about her research in Poland in the early 1900s. This will be held in the Wilkes Hall, North Sydney Synagogue, at 7.30pm on Sunday, 14th November. Our programme and program tips will be available online.

We have pleasure in welcoming four new members, Rieke Nash, Gregory Goldstein, Barbara Ford and David Wolfson.

With love and
 Sunday: November 8, December 6, January 10
 Monday: November 15, December 14, January 18

As this will be the last report for 2003, we wish you and your families a happy and successful 2004.

January 2004
 President

1 of 7

Sophie edited quarterly editions of *Kosher Koala* for a decade, and was succeeded as editor by the indomitable Rieke Nash, Miriam Shifreen and Robyn Dryen. I took the helm in 2018.

With huge changes in technology and increased accessibility to online resources over the last 28 years, *Kosher Koala* still strives to entertain and inform members, and the wider genealogical community, of the latest trends, collections and innovations in family history research. And we continue to invite members to tell their stories in our pages, so other researchers can be inspired by the success of their peers.

AJGS also congratulates the new IAJGS board, including Immediate Past President Ken Bravo and new IAJGS President Jane Berenbeim, as well as other IAJGS awards winners for 2021, including:

- Lifetime Achievement: Nolan Altman
- Society Member of the Year: Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island, Bonnie Birns, President
- Outstanding Project: JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR)



Outstanding Publication 2021

IAJGS President Ken Bravo announces the award for Outstanding Publication 2021 at the IAJGS AGM August 5, 2021 (screenshot)



KOSHER KOALA

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 www.ajgs.org.au



February 2012



AJGS Turns 20!



AJGS members enjoying the 20th birthday party at Lane Cove, 12 November 2011

KOSHER KOALA

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 www.ajgs.org.au



October 2015



Rieke Nash
 1988 - 2015

KOSHER KOALA

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



October 2015



AJGS would like to wish all our members a safe and happy start to 2018.

SUMMER 2018
 AJGS
 L'etiv V'dor

KOSHER KOALA

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



October 2015



WINTER/ JULY 2020
 AJGS
 L'etiv V'dor

FEATURES

SIBLINGS REUNITED WITH LOST FAMILY PHOTOS

DANI HASKI

In May this year AJGS had the huge pleasure of reuniting two Sydney siblings with family photos that had been missing for over a decade.

NB: The family have asked us not to use their names to preserve their privacy.

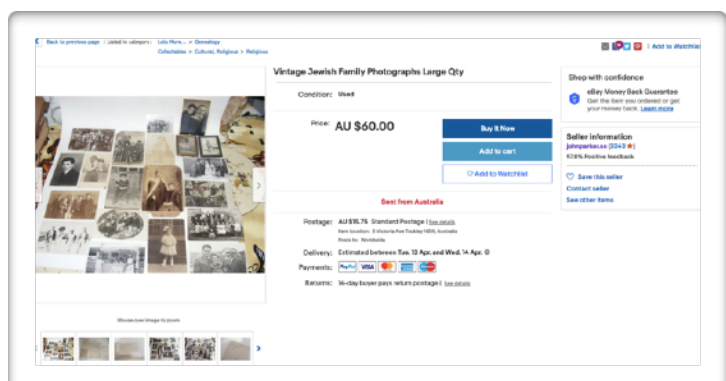
As she was preparing the meal for first night seder, earlier this year, Barbara Simon, President of AJGS, received an email from a stranger. It read:

I have just discovered on eBay a listing titled “Vintage Jewish Family Photographs Large Qty”. Some of the photos appear to have writing on the back but the camera focus isn't clear enough... I dislike the idea of a family's history being sold to strangers, so I felt the need to try to do something.

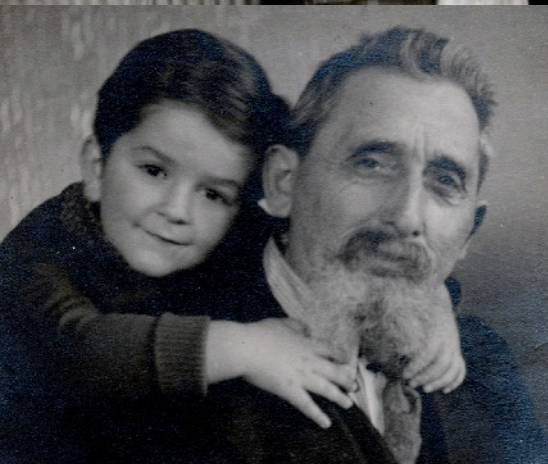
The writer was based in Victoria and not Jewish. Since the vendor was on the Central Coast of NSW, the writer thought AJGS was the appropriate organisation to approach, to try to restore this collection to the family.

Barbara contacted the vendor, who had no personal connection to the photographs. He couldn't quite remember where he had acquired them —perhaps an estate sale his friend had cleaned out years before— but they had been sitting under his desk for over a decade and it was time to clear them out. She asked if she could see a few to assess the possibility of finding the owners. The vendor's response was immediate. She could have them - for free. He even paid the postage costs to send them to Sydney.

The box arrived. Barbara and I carefully went through the contents to try and find some clues to the identity of the rightful owners.



The original eBay listing



The collection consisted of three photo albums and an envelope full of loose photos. They looked like they dated from the end of the 19th through to the mid 20th Century. Some had annotations written on the back but there were few full names, just some tantalising first names and nicknames.

The first album was an eclectic collection of family photos, but with no captions under any of them. The second album was a baby book with the age of the child and a few dates, but again there were no details to identify the family. The third album chronicled the holiday of a group of young women.

Finally, we found something useful: a carefully cut out newspaper clipping regarding the death in 1952, of a prominent academic who had studied in the US and South Africa. This clipping gave us a surname to work with. It was a start.

We started to notice this surname pop up on the back of a few other images. We also confirmed a South African connection through a couple of school photos — one had all the children's names were written on the back; two of the children had the surname we were tracking.

One photograph intrigued us. It was of someone we recognised in many of the photos, and it had an unusual nickname written on the back of it. Unfortunately, we were unable to connect this nickname to a real name using any of the available public databases or genealogical resources.

Another curiosity concerned a couple of photos with the inscription "Uncle Chatzkel..." written on the back.

Uncle Chatzkel is the name of a wonderful documentary released in 2000 by South African born, Sydney based filmmaker Rod Freeman. Could there be a connection? I figured Chatzkel was a common Yiddish name, so I put the thought aside.

From the top: The mysterious photographic collection as it was received; holiday snaps from Mozambique, school photo dated 1925, the face we saw several photos; Uncle Chatzkel with his father.

Soon after receiving the photos, I went to a meeting at AJHS. I mentioned the mystery in passing to Peter Philippsohn OAM, president of AJHS, who showed me a list of South African emigres going back several decades. I was thrilled to see there on the list, that distinctive nickname and the surname we were tracking. The entry also had the name of the man's wife and their residential address from the 1960s. There was also an indication that the family had changed their surname. I could not believe our luck!!

After further investigation I confirmed the first name of the man in the photo. Publicly available records helped me clarify his date of birth and that he had died in 2005. His wife passed away the following year. The family had lived in Sydney's eastern suburbs for several decades, had two children and travelled back to South Africa a few times.



Street photo of a close relative

To my surprise, delight and with some relief, I discovered that their daughter, now in her 80s, had an association with Emanuel Synagogue. We understood we needed to be sensitive in our approach to the family, given the preponderance of scams online. Being introduced by a trusted intermediary meant this person could verify our bona fides with the Rabbi, who knew both Barbara and me. I reached out to Rabbi Ninio to ask if she could facilitate an introduction via email.

A couple of weeks later I received an email from the woman. She was intrigued and not aware of any missing photographs. She remembered that her brother had cleared out their parents' home when they had gone into care, but she was certain he would not have thrown away any family photos. We subsequently spoke over the phone, and I sent her some scans. Yes, this was indeed her family.

Barbara and I invited the woman and her brother for afternoon tea so we could return the photographs to them. We met at the Ritz Carlton in Double Bay, and they spent an hour or so pouring over the images of their childhood. We were all quite emotional. While both siblings had copies of some of these images in their own collections, they were nonetheless grateful to be reunited with their parents' photo albums.

In a subsequent email the woman wrote:

We so much appreciate all the work you have so diligently and graciously done to unexpectedly reunite us with the sizeable collection of family photos we hadn't even realised we had lost! The whole family will now get much joy from this windfall, thanks to you both.

Her brother believes the collection may have been in one of the countless boxes of books his parents had in their home. It was necessary to throw out a lot of stuff, including multiple volumes of his own travel photos taken over the decades. He believes the family photos may have inadvertently been among them. The boxes were sent to charities or left out for the council cleanup.

Barbara and I were privileged to be able to do such a mitzvah and return these photos to their rightful owners, so they can preserve the memories of their parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Oh, and that mystery photo of Uncle Chatzkel? Well, turns out it was **THAT** Uncle Chatzkel!! The families **ARE** related. What a small world!

A selection of historic photographs from the collection.



NOT ALL MYSTERIES WERE SOLVED

There were a few images that the siblings didn't recognise. This picture of a couple lighting the Shabbat candles looks to be from the 1940s.

Do you recognise these people? If you do [please email us](#)



For centuries authorities have needed a way to enumerate their populations. Democratic governments run regular population census to work out where best to spend taxpayers' money and to provide services and resources where they are needed. According to the ABS website:

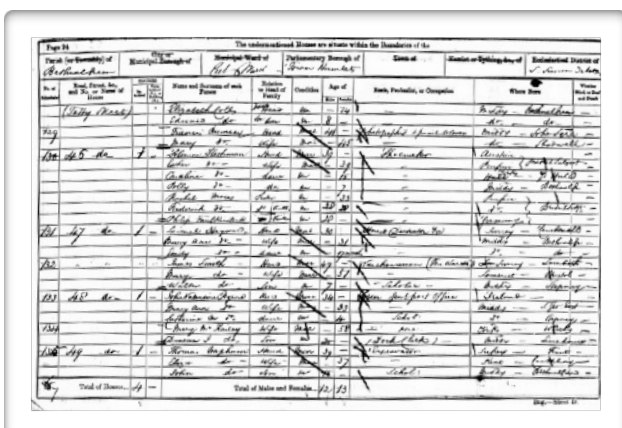
The first known census was taken by the Babylonians in 3800 BC, nearly 6000 years ago. Records suggest that it was taken every six or seven years and counted the number of people, livestock, quantities of butter, honey, milk, wool and vegetables.

According to the Roman Jewish historian Josephus, upon taking control of the kingdom of Judea for the Roman Empire, the Legate (governor) Publius Sulpicius Quirinius, was assigned to carry out a census of the new province for tax purposes.

Revision lists, tax lists and census have always been critical data sources for genealogists and modern technology now allows us access to data from across the world. Historic census records are a goldmine and often help us identify family units, countries of origin and the migration patterns of our ancestors. Modern censuses collect a huge amount of information. Imagine how valuable they will be to the next generation of genealogists — if they are available.

Census data in the UK and US is usually released 100 years after the enumeration took place (although there is already a 1940 US census and a redacted 1939 Register for England and Wales available on some subscription sites).

The UK government is currently working with Find My Past on the 1921 census for



A page from the 1861 English Census



Mary and Joseph register for the census
before Governor Quirinius -
Byzantine mosaic c. 1315.
Master of the Church of the Holy Saviour
in Chora, Istanbul - Public Domain

England and Wales, which will be available to search (via the subscription site) some time in 2022. Unfortunately, the equivalent Australian census records, with identifying data have not survived.

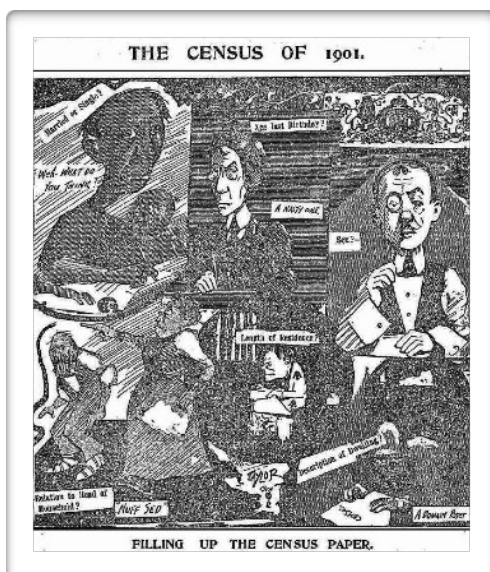
The very first census in NSW was taken in 1828. NSW State Archives hold the



The 1841 NSW Census - Records NSW

original census books, which have been inscribed on the *UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register*. You can [browse the list of names on the Records NSW website](#) or [search the list on FamilySearch](#). Tragically, a huge collection of original census records up to and including the 1881 census were lost when the census office building, Garden Palace (located where the Conservatorium of Music is today), caught fire and burned to the ground in 1882. Records NSW do hold census records from 1891 and 1901, however only the names of the heads of households are listed. The names of anyone else resident at the address is not identified.

When planning for the 1901 census, Federation was just around the corner, so a uniform census schedule was developed to synchronise data collection for each colony. In 1905, the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia passed the *Census and Statistics Act 1905 (Cwlth)* and the following year the *Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics (CBCS)* was created — the precursor to the *Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)*.



The first Australian national census was conducted at midnight between 2 and 3 April 1911. Over 4 million submissions were counted and tabulated by hand.

In 1921, census workers used automatic machine tabulation equipment, hired from England. The 1931 census was held in 1933, delayed due to the Depression. The census due to be held in 1941 was delayed by World War II and not conducted until 1947. As a consequence, the government decided to run the fifth census in 1954, as a

compromise between 1951 and 1961. The 1961 census put the 10-year cycle back on track but the government ran another census in 1966 to ensure they had accurate data.

Under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, the ABS is legally bound to not release identifiable Census data. In the 1970's, the privacy of personal data in the census records sparked public debate. According to *Yearbook Australia 2005*:

By 1976 the Treasurer had asked the Law Reform Commission to investigate and make any recommendations it thought necessary. One of the key elements under question was the inclusion of names. Excluding names was found to reduce the accuracy of the data, as individuals were more likely to leave questions blank and post-enumeration surveys would not be possible.

Regrettably, following an order issued by the Government in 1971, all Census forms from 1901 to 1996 were destroyed. As a result, no information about individual people is available for any of those years.

In 1998 the federal government held an enquiry entitled *Saving our Census and Preserving our History* examining the issues around the preservation of census identity data. Based on recommendations from the report, in 2001 the ABS initiated the *Time Capsule Project*. Australians were finally given the opportunity to opt-in to have personal details preserved for release in 99 years' time.

The participation rate was high, with over half the Australian population taking up the chance to have their identifying information preserved and released by the National Archives on 7 August 2100. In the 2006 Census, 56.1% or 11,256,886 Australians selected YES for the *Time Capsule Project* question and will have their name identified information securely stored by the National Archives for release in 2105.

August 10, 2021, is Census night in Australia, so we once again have the opportunity to tick the YES box to preserve our information in the *Time Capsule Project* for family history researchers in the 22nd century.



Jewish

2021 CENSUS 10 August
You count to us. Let us count you.
Write Jewish in next month's census and
take the guess work out of the future.

NEWS & VIEWS

GOULBURN CEMETERY RECEIVES HERITAGE LISTING



A decade after securing heritage listing for the Jewish cemetery in Maitland, AJGS stalwart Gary Luke has achieved a long-held dream with the recent announcement that Goulburn Jewish Cemetery, two hours south west of Sydney, has been added to the NSW Heritage Register.

As free settlers moved into rural Australia during the 19th century, Jewish migrants set up as shopkeepers, tavern owners and traders. By 1840 Goulburn was home to the third largest Jewish community in NSW, with Jews holding prominent positions in public life. The first Jewish burials in the area took place in 1844, when sisters Sarah and Hannah Moses perished while crossing the Yass River. The last interments were of two Jewish WWII refugees in 1943. The land for the cemetery was donated by Samuel Benjamin and Elias Moses, who ran the only shop between Sydney and Melbourne at the time.

Much of the Goulburn Jewish Cemetery site remains intact, including the foundations of the caretaker's cottage, the well and various monuments. There are around 30 known burials, with 10 headstones still visible.

Praise for Gary's efforts have come from all quarters with Shadow Minister for the Arts and Heritage Walt Secord paying tribute alongside AJHS president Peter Philippsohn OAM and NSW Jewish Board of Deputies president Lesli Berger.

Lauding the Jewish community's contribution to NSW, Heritage Minister Don Harwin told the *Australian Jewish News*:

Jewish sites of importance are underrepresented on the heritage register. I'm very pleased that this historic cemetery is now on the State Heritage Register.

Goulburn Jewish Cemetery (screenshot: Google Streetview)



GENEALOGY INDEXER ANNOUNCES MAJOR UPDATES

Genealogy Indexer *Genealogy Indexer* is a website created in August 2008 by genealogist Logan Kleinwaks, who is determined to keep it free from advertising and free to use.

In 2012 the site received the *IAJGS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product* and is cited as one of *Family Tree Magazine's* 101 Best Websites for 2015–2021.

Nu? What's New recently highlighted some major record updates on the site, with hundreds of new collections added.

Users can now search 1,928,000 pages of 3,443 historical directories; 159,000 pages of 364 yizkor books; plus, tens of thousands of pages from military lists, school sources, and community and personal histories.

Notable new records include *Vienna Homeowners Directories*, *Sofia Telephone Directory*, *Jewish Census* from Berounsko, Caslavsko and Kourimsko (1724/1811) amongst others from Belarus, *Index to the Case Files of the AJDC Emigration Service*, Prague Office (1945-1950) (as mentioned by Daniela Torsh in our previous KK), *1898 Saxony Business Directory, Vol. I & II*, *Wilno Business Directory* and many more.

Unlike other genealogy search sites, *Genealogy Indexer* does not have indexed tables of data. Instead, they use Optical Character Recognition (OCR) scanning to “read” sources and then host the text files, which contain all the words from the source in a searchable format.

The words are not identified as being surnames, given names, towns, etc., and the fact that certain words pertain to the same person is also not indicated. They are just the sequence of words appearing in the original source.

When you search, the system tells you which sources match and on which pages the matches occurred. They also show the surrounding text and provide links to view the scanned images of the original source. In this way, you can see the context in which your search term appears. Searching is done via keyword or keyphrase, which can be anything. Most people tend to search surnames or town names of course.

To view scans, you will need to have DJVu installed. I found the easiest option was to use the Chrome browser with the DJVu extension installed

AJGS (VIC) VP HONoured WITH AN OAM

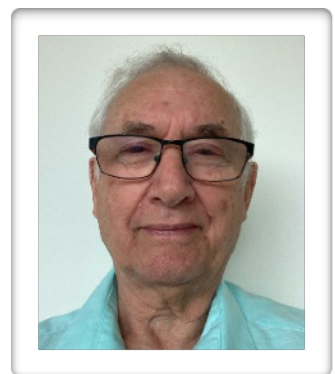


AJGS (Vic) vice president, Max Wald, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) at the Queen's Birthday Honours in June. Max received his award for distinguished service to his country and the broader Jewish community.

Max has been VP of AJGS (Vic) since 2019, and on the committee since 2011. For more than 25 years he has been a contributor to JRI-Poland, the Jewish Marriages Database, and the Melbourne School Roots Project. He's been a volunteer at The Jewish Holocaust Centre since 2006 and has interviewed Holocaust survivors for the Shoah Foundation.

Speaking to J-Wire, Max said:

The idea is very simply to help people with their memories because it is important to find your roots and look back. I get pleasure doing what I do and am humbled as I have never looked for or expected such publicity.



Max Wald OAM

Congratulation Max. A well-deserved honour.

GÖRLITZ SYNAGOGUE RESTORED



Jewish Heritage Europe reported on the restoration and reopening of the former New Synagogue in Görlitz, which is close to the Polish border in eastern Germany. The building will now serve as a cultural centre — the Kulturforum Görlitzer Synagoge.

It has taken almost 30 years and €12.6 million to restore the distinctive building, one of the few Art Nouveau buildings of its type in Germany.

Built in 1911, from a design by the Dresden architects William Lossow and Max Hans Kühne, the synagogue, with an ornately decorated interior and a 26 metre-wide domed ceiling, was one of the first reinforced concrete buildings in modern Germany and as such represented a huge innovation in construction. The building



Görlitz Synagogue (Vintage Postcard)

housed two spaces for worship - one for 500 people, the other for 50. Despite being set alight during the *Kristallnacht* pogrom of November 1938, it is believed to be the only synagogue in Saxony to have survived.

After WW2, the building was assigned to the remnants of the Jewish community in Dresden but fell into disrepair under East Germany's communist regime. It was eventually sold to the city in 1963. At risk of demolition, the building was saved thanks to an intervention by the Institute for Monument Preservation. In 2012 the German Government certified the building as a monument of national standing.

In a ceremony on 7 July 2021, to open the centre, speakers expressed the hope that the Kulturforum Görlitzer Synagoge would develop into a meeting place for cultures and social dialogue. The event was broadcast live on www.mdr.de.

The Lord Mayor of Görlitz, Octavian Ursu, said:

With the Kulturforum Görlitz Synagogue and Star of David in the heart of our city, we as a city are committed to our Jewish history and to Jewish life in the European city of Görlitz / Zgorzelec. ... The Kulturforum Görlitzer Synagogue should be filled with the spirit of tolerance and the coexistence of cultures and religions. This is what defines our peaceful and liberal Europe and our European city of Görlitz / Zgorzelec.

The Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony Michael Kretschmer said:

The Görlitz Synagogue is an impressive cultural monument of our German and Saxon history. We are all called upon to preserve the Jewish heritage and enable Jewish life. The renovation of the synagogue and its future use as a meeting place are an important sign of this.



Görlitz Synagogue today;
Left: J.-H. Janßen Right: SchiDD - Wikimedia CC-SA4

SALVAGED BREST MATZEVOT TO BE DIGITISED



The Together Plan is a charity that grew out of a Synagogue grass roots program in London. Its focus is empowering Jewish communities in Belarus. One of the projects it has undertaken

is to assist the community of Brest-Litovsk to collect the broken shards of *matzevot*, tombstones, that keep surfacing around the city. Their ambition is to create a Holocaust memorial on or near the site of the former Jewish cemetery.

Before the Holocaust, Brest had a Jewish community of 26,000. When the Nazis occupied the area in 1941/42, they completely destroyed the Jewish cemetery. In the 1970s Soviet authorities built the Lokomotiv stadium and playing field on the site.

Construction work in the area in 2014 unearthed over 1500 fragments and some unbroken *matzevot*. More have been collected from other areas around the city where they were used as building material.

In June, The Together Plan announced they had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Mayor of Brest, saying on their website:

With thanks to a number of donors and the support of Stephen Grynberg based in the USA, the son of one of the few survivors of the 26,000 who perished [sic] between 1941 and 1943, we are now able to move this project forward. Last Thursday, 17th June, in spite of many challenges, our Belarus Country Director, Artur Livshyts, and the Mayor of Brest, Alexandr Rogachuk, signed an exclusive agreement giving us the green light. A truly historic moment.



Every headstone, complete or broken, will be photographed, and where possible, read and translated. A lapidarium will be designed and installed on land that was once part of the cemetery which means that a lasting and timeless memorial will finally mark this place of enormous historic significance.

Together Plan CEO Debra Brunner told *Jewish Heritage Europe*:

The stones will be digitised and put online through The Together Plan's website... We have the team ready to go to photograph each piece and for each piece to be read – whatever can be read. Each piece will also be weighed and measured so that the designers know for the purposes of designing the memorial.

TTP are working with a Rabbinic team who will advise on the halacha regarding the land where the memorial will be placed, as the location was part was of the cemetery and is therefore consecrated ground. They have also engaged a Brest heritage specialist and archivist – a member of the Brest Jewish community – to work alongside Belarusian historians and researchers.

Volunteers have now started working on site and TTP expects the work to take around three years. For more information about the project visit [The Together Plan website](#)



Previous page: From top: Brest Cemetery as it was; Salvaged *Matzevot*; collected fragments; sorted fragments; Brest Municipal leaders .

This Page: Volunteers began the vital work of sorting, preserving, photographing and cataloging each fragment in July.

All images courtesy of The Together Plan
Reproduced with permission.



ANCESTRY BEATS LAWSUIT OVER YEARBOOK PHOTOS



In December 2020 [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) faced a class action, filed by the Northern District of California, for posting old Yearbook photos to their website. In March 2021, the court dismissed the case for “lack of standing”, but gave the plaintiffs a chance to amend their complaint.

According to a report in *The National Law Review*:

Although the plaintiffs added allegations of emotional harm, lost time, and theft of intellectual property, that didn’t sway the court. U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler said that the new allegations “do not change the analysis in this court’s earlier order...

Justice Beeler also determined that:

...Ancestry obviously did not create the yearbooks. Instead, it necessarily used information provided by another information content provider and is immune [from liability] under (the CDA).

She dismissed the case again, with prejudice. Lawyers for the plaintiffs intend to appeal.

SEPHARDIC GENEALOGY SOCIETY FORMED



Maria Sanchez, a therapist from New Mexico, has traced her ancestry back to Ancar III, who died in 902. Her seven-times great grandfather is Bartolomé Romero, a Spaniard of Jewish descent who settled in New Mexico in the 1500s. Maria has collated a genealogical pedigree record of over 250 pages. Despite this, her request for Spanish citizenship has been rejected by the Spanish Government. She’s one of several thousand people who have had their claims rejected, as recently reported by the *New York Times*. Ms Sanchez is now mounting a legal case against the Spanish Government.

There is no doubt that the opportunity for Spanish and Portuguese citizenship opened up a whole new interest in Sephardi genealogy. But according to a Facebook Post from the newly formed Sephardic Genealogy Society, it has also “spawned a whole unregulated industry”. Their intention is to introduce a voluntary Code of Conduct for those working in the field.

The Sephardic Genealogy Society has been established by Ton Tielen of Netherlands and David Mendoza of the United Kingdom. Expanding on the work of the Sephardi World website, they explained that:

Sephardic genealogy has taken great steps forward over recent years. Following the pioneering work of Jeff Malka and others, the Sephardic Diaspora Facebook group launched in 2014 to provide a home for serious discussion of Iberian Jewish genealogy. Over the last eighteen months, the Sephardic World meetings have made a useful contribution.

The society will raise funds and present lectures via zoom through their Patreon site. Patreon is a platform that invites members to financially contribute to an artist or project on a regular basis in exchange for privileges. They also have a YouTube Channel and a Facebook Page that can be accessed for free. You are invited to subscribe to the YouTube channel to receive alerts when lectures are going live!

IGRA MARKS A MILESTONE



The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) recently announced it has reached a major milestone with two million records now in its database.

Since 2012, IGRA has been collecting and indexing records from over 60 archives around the world, with entries dating back to Ottoman rule of Palestine, the British Mandate period and the early days of the State of Israel.

The announcement also mentioned a significant initiative for Mizrahi ancestry:

In 2019 IGRA decided to widen its focus to include materials of genealogical interest for North African Jewish communities and the Jewish communities in countries of the Middle East such as Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and others. This additional material will be mainly based on materials in archives in Israel such as the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP), the Central Zionist Archives (CZA), the Council of the Sephardi and Oriental Communities of Jerusalem (part of the Jerusalem Municipal Archives), the National Library of Israel, the Historical Archive of Rehovot, Yad Ben-Zvi as well as the Montefiore Endowment in London, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC),

and databases donated by Jeff Malka from SephardicGen, Dov Cohen, Nagi Georges Zeidan, and Sarina Roffe.

In the last decade over 100 volunteers have worked on the IGRA collection, scanning, transcribing, transliterating, and proofing records.

The collection is accessible through the IGRA website. The site is free to register and search but a paid membership is required to access the records themselves. Records can be searched using Roman or Hebrew characters, with all records transliterated.

KOSHER KOALA WANTS YOUR MEMORIES OF AJGS



November marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of AJGS. Your committee are busy planning a celebration, Covid restrictions permitting.

Kosher Koala is planning a special 30th anniversary edition, so we're calling for your thoughts and memories of AJGS over the years and your stories of breakthroughs made with the help of fellow members.

- What have you discovered as a result of being a member of AJGS?
- How have other members helped you break a brick wall?
- How have you helped someone discover something wonderful?

Send you memories (up to 300 words) to *Kosher Koala*

LAST MINUTE LINKS

A note from the editor: Sometimes interesting things come into my inbox as I'm finalising Kosher Koala for publication. While I will not always have time to follow them up in depth, I'll try and include links to things that look particularly interesting.

SCOTTISH JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER - GLASGOW

Jewish Heritage Europe reports on the July 27 opening of the new Scottish Jewish Heritage Center (JHC), at Glasgow's historic Garnethill synagogue.

SALE OF 18TH CENTURY CHEVRA KADISHA LEDGER HALTED

J-Wire reports: Following international requests... an auction house in Israel has agreed to cancel the sale of the sacred Ledger of the Chevra Kadisha of Tomashvar (Timisoara), until the issue of ownership can be resolved. The ledger is from one of the oldest Jewish communities in Transylvania and documents the society's activities between the years 1781-1829.

BOOK REVIEW

THE MIRACLE TYPIST: *Leon Silver*

Published by Simon & Schuster, 2020, Australia. Reviewed by Jeannette Tsoulos

The Miracle Typist is the true story of a Holocaust survivor and his family. The typist of the title is Tolek Klings, who survived the war thanks to his conscription into the Polish Army. Tolek, a law clerk living in Bóbrki, near Lwów, was married with a two-year-old son when the Nazis defeated Poland in September 1939, and his wife, Klara, persuaded him to stay with the army rather than desert in order to look after them.

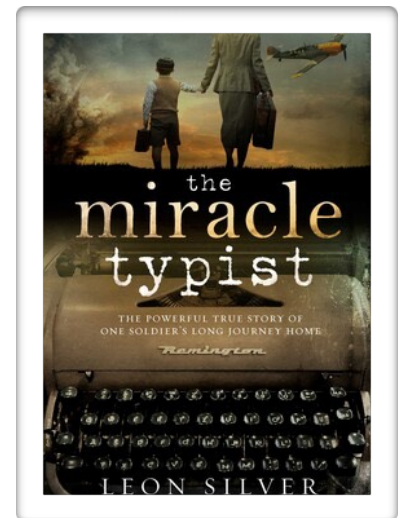
The story traces the events of the war as Tolek moved with his now exiled army through Hungary, Yugoslavia, Beirut, Palestine, Egypt and Italy, attached to the French and later the British Army, while his family back home lived under Russian occupation, followed by the Nazi invasion in June 1941. His ability to touch type gained him work in the office and a break from the front line, as well as the nickname “the miracle typist.”

Threaded through the story is deep Polish antagonism to Jews. There is no lessening of the antisemitism even when the Jews are fellow soldiers fighting side by side with their Polish colleagues. This made Tolek’s life so unpleasant that he was sorely tempted to defect and remain in Palestine, however the hope of returning to find his family after the war kept him going.

Tragically, his hopes were never realised. Like so many Holocaust survivors, having lost all but one of his family, Tolek eventually rebuilt a successful life with a new family in a new country – Australia.

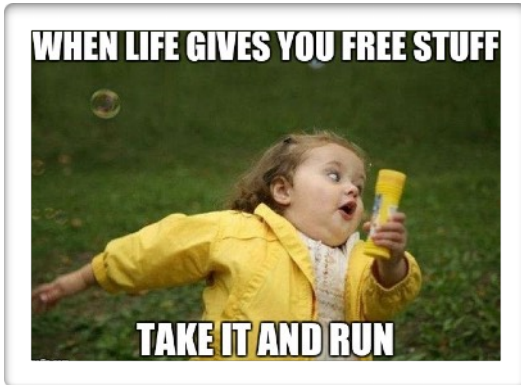
His story is written by his son-in-law – Leon Silver. It took the author 30 years to bring this book to fruition, working from notes, recollections, memorabilia, documents and endless conversations with Tolek.

It is an inspiring and deeply emotional story, and an engrossing read.



DIY

IMAGE COPYRIGHT - TIPS & TRAPS



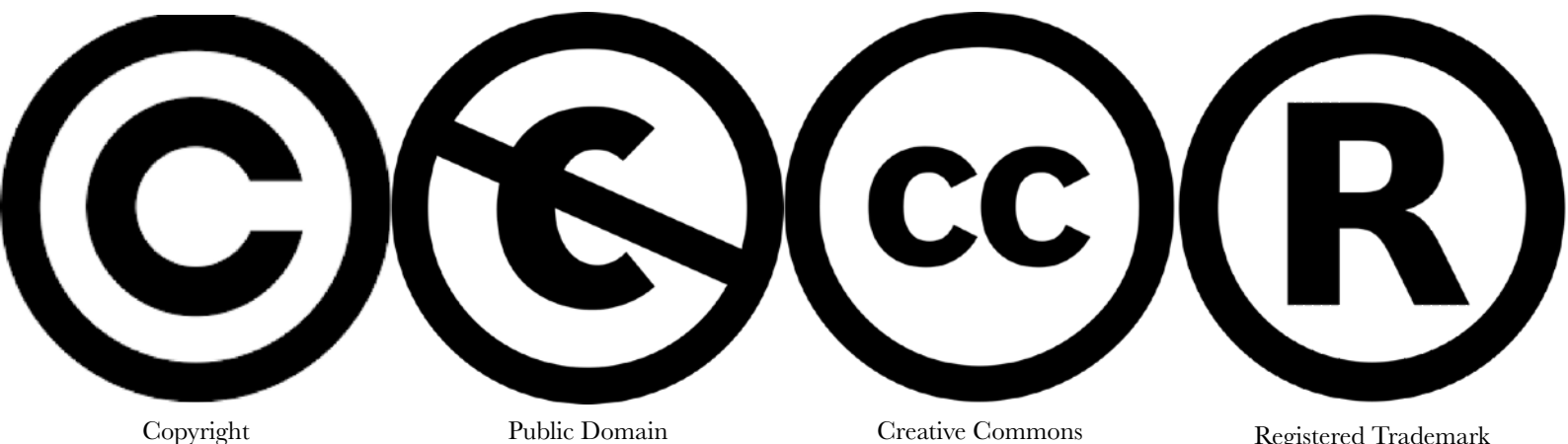
In July AJGS ran an online workshop entitled *Fabulous Freebies*, highlighting many of the free resources available to help you research your family history. One of the topics we covered involved sourcing images to illustrate your family history narratives. It highlighted the issue of copyright in the pursuit of family history.

Since I took over *Kosher Koala*, I have used lots of beautiful images to illustrate the stories we've told. Sourcing good images online is not simply a matter of "google and you will find". If you're considering publishing your family history in any kind of public forum, it's important you understand copyright and the rights status of the images you are thinking of using.

The [Australian Copyright Council](#) has a [useful set of fact sheets](#), explaining every aspect of copyright - they even have [one specifically for family historians](#) which deals with what you can use from other people's narratives and how you can protect your own research.



The use of images in your narrative is covered by a specific area of copyright. Here are the key points you need understand when using other people's artwork and photographs to illustrate your family history narrative.



Copyright

Public Domain

Creative Commons

Registered Trademark

What is copyright?

In its simplest form, copyright is a legal right assigned to the creators of certain works such as written material, music, films, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures and even computer programs.

Copyright:

- is assigned automatically at the point of creation, so there is no need to register a work for copyright protection;
- does not protect ideas or simple information;
- has a term limit — usually the life of the creator plus 70 years;
- can be assigned or transferred by the creator to other people.

Copyright covers both “moral” and “economic” right in a work. The creator of a work holds moral rights, but they may not necessarily hold the economic right if they have assigned this to another person or organisation.

Moral rights give three specific rights to a creator. The right:

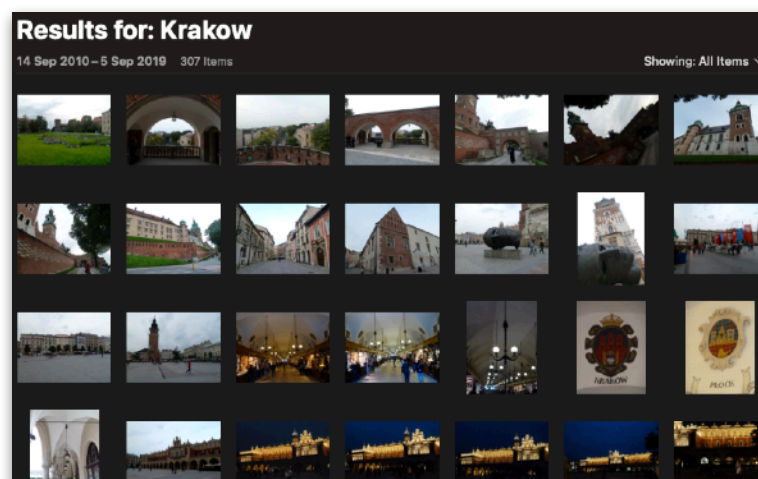
- to be credited for their work (this is called attribution);
- not to have their work falsely attributed; and
- not to have their work treated in a derogatory way (What constitutes derogatory is up to the rights holder.)

In an exception, work created while in the employ of an organisation often means that copyright may be held by the employer.

So which images can I use?

When you’re searching for images to illustrate your stories on the internet, it’s crucial you try to understand where the image originated.

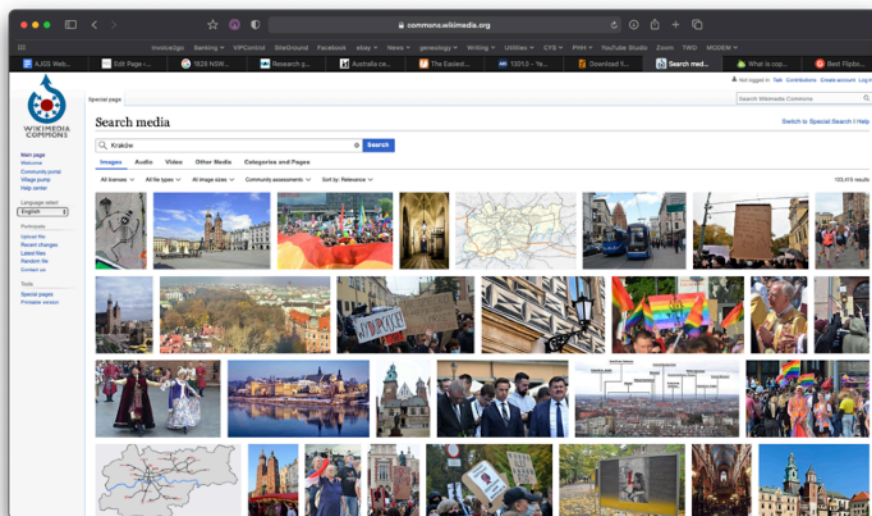
If you have travelled to your ancestral village and taken loads of photos, then you are the copyright holder of those photos and you may use them as you wish.



Some of my personal photographs of Krakow

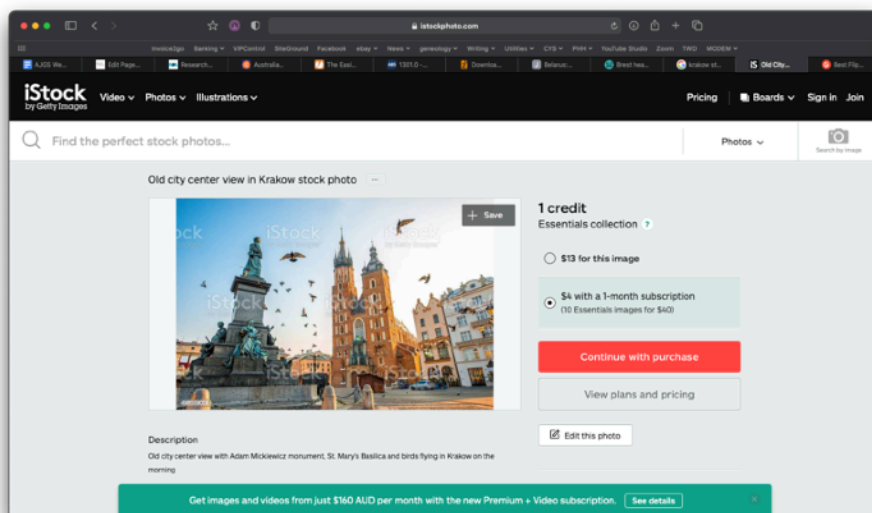
Images where copyright has expired are said to be in the Public Domain. They can also be used freely. Given that copyright expires 70 years after the death of the owner, a huge number of historic photographs from the 19th century are now in the public domain. Sites like [Trove](#) and public institutions with image collections will note copyright details in the captions.

Some sites, such as [Unsplash](#) and [Wikimedia Commons](#) aggregate royalty free images — many in the public domain, some donated by photographers under a Creative Commons (CC) licence. Images with a CC licence can usually be used for non-commercial purposes, as long as they're properly attributed to the creator.



Wikimedia Commons

You may choose to pay for the right to use images from a stock photo service, such as Getty Images and Adobe, which have loads of fabulous photographs of places and people. Some of them even have a limited number of free images available.



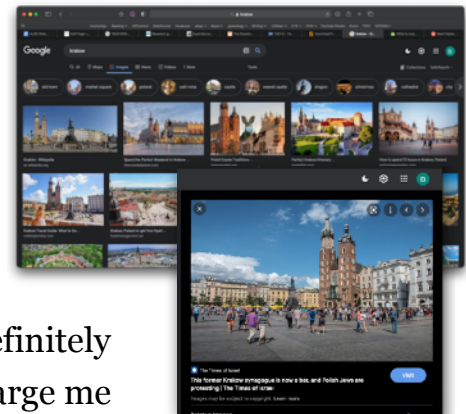
iStock licenses images

The first step to working out the copyright status of an image is to check the attribution on the website where the image resides.

For example: If I do a google image search for Krakow, I get a bunch of great pictures of the city.

The first one in the list is from the Krakow Wikipedia page. Images on Wikipedia are usually sourced from Wikimedia Commons, so I could probably use this image without any problems.

But if I like an image from Times of Israel, I would definitely need to ask for permission to use it, and they may charge me for the right.



Google Image Search: Krakow

How to clear copyright for images?

If you find an image you would like to use that has copyright attached, it's often a simple case of contacting the rights holder and asking for their permission. If you are using it for a non-commercial purpose — say a private family history distributed to only a few people — most people are fine with granting permission and rarely charge a fee. Be sure to describe exactly what you wish to use the image for and then file the email exchange granting you the right to use the image somewhere accessible, in case there are any disagreements in the future.

If you're considering publishing your family history commercially you will need to ensure you clear copyright for each relevant image, and as it's a commercial application, you will most likely be required to pay a rights fee for the privilege. After all, if you're intending to make a profit from it, why shouldn't the rights holder as well? Creative Commons licences do not apply to commercial publication. You will need to contact the photographer directly and request clearance if you wish to use a CC image in a commercial context.

Even if you don't intend to publish your family history commercially be mindful of the images you use. There's an old saying: *it's better to ask for forgiveness than permission*. But in the case of copyright infringement, that's rarely the case. As Clive Palmer discovered, if you can't convince the court of your innocence, it can be a very expensive mistake.



WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

Sydney may be in lockdown but there are loads of online events available to help you stave off boredom and develop your genealogy skills.

Come Tell Your Stories - 8 August, 3:00pm

Moderator: Barbara Simon

You are invited to share a story
or short talk on either:

- Your best genealogical breakthrough, or
- How AJGS has helped you

We are certain that you all have lots of interesting stories you would like to share with us, so please, come and tell your Stories.

Contact Barbara on 0419 417 631 to discuss how much time you would like or may need. We have time and room for several stories so please don't be shy.

Sunday 8th August 2021 Via zoom: 3:00-4:30pm

Meeting ID: 831 4683 9116 Passcode: 247716

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83146839116?pwd=SVZsTTluUW9ENzRYcS9iNUkwSVdmdz09>

Finding Your Eastern European Jewish Family:

Using JRI-Poland's New Tools - 15 August, 2:30pm

Guest speaker Robinn Magid

AJGS (Vic), In Association with the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia

This vast collection of 6.2 million records includes information about towns and families from Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Germany and the former territories of Galicia and Prussia.

For further information [email AJGS \(Vic\)](mailto:email@AJGS(Vic))

Sunday 15th August 2021 Via Zoom from 2.30 pm

Meeting ID: 841 2447 3138 Passcode: 888665

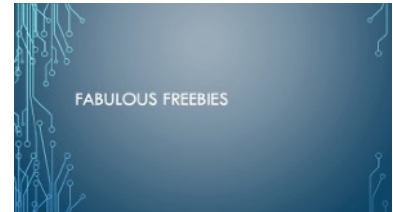
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84124473138?pwd=cytBdzBlSkNLSXJ2YW1DaTFUODZEEZ09>

Workshop Videos

We are recording our Zoom workshops and making them available on our [website video page](#), via [our YouTube Channel](#) or simply click on the thumbnail images below!

Fabulous Freebies - Robyn Dryen & Dani Haski

This AJGS workshop was originally presented on the 25th July, 2021 as an online event.



Is it still possible to find genealogical resources online for free? In this workshop we shared some surprising sources, mostly free and easy to access. We also explored where to find beautiful images of ancestral towns and regions online, how to download them to use in your family history narratives and important copyright issues to take into consideration.
([DOWNLOAD THE HANDOUT](#))

Making the Most of My Heritage - Dani Haski

This AJGS workshop was originally presented on the 18th April, 2021 as a hybrid in-person/ online event.



Take a closer look at the Online Genealogy platform My Heritage. Dani explains the genesis of the company, subscription options and how to build your family tree using their extensive set of tools.

Community History Online - South African Jewish Museum

Session 1 - Preserving the footprint of the Southern African Jewish community online.



The next session will be held Wednesday 4th August (SA Time). The recording will be available on the [SAJM FaceBook page](#) & [YouTube Channel](#) shortly after the event.

AJGS (Vic) is also doing a fabulous job of sourcing and presenting speakers from all around the world. Videos are available on the [AJGS \(Vic\) website](#)

Online Conferences and Webinars

SLNSW Family History Month



August is Family History Month at the State Library of NSW. They have a huge range of events, resources and online guides covering record collection and research techniques, including births, deaths and marriages, Oral History resources and 7 Strategies to get unstuck. Events are generally 10:30 and 2:30 with times and registration details available on their website.

State Archives NSW Online Q&A Sessions



While the Reading Room in Western Sydney is closed, State Archive of NSW are running weekly Q&A sessions on a range of topics from convicts to immigration to school files, inquests and their website:

- 6 Aug - A few of (y)our favourite things...
- 13 Aug - Inquest records
- 20 Aug - Local History
- 27 Aug - Finding things in the NSW State Archives Collection

You can stay up to date by checking back to their Events Calendar.

Webtember: All Genealogy All September



Take your genealogy skills to the next level with this FREE online genealogy conference, held each Friday (US time) in September. While not a specifically Jewish event, there are sessions on analysing and using DNA tools and Schelly Tallalay Dardashti is doing a session on Sephardi heritage.

**Please note: This is a US event so the live broadcast time are not very conducive to Australian viewers. You will however be able to watch the recordings at your convenience — they'll be free to view throughout the month. If you would like to watch live, local AEST times can be set on the registration page.*

[REGISTER HERE](#) or [DOWNLOAD THE FLYER](#) for more information.

The program is sponsored by MyHeritage.