



The Kasher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 154, Northbridge 2063, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Phone: (612) 958 6317 or (612) 427 6075 Fax: (612) 967 2834

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

This important seminar has been announced as taking place again in JERUSALEM from 29th April to 9th May 1994 at the Hilton Hotel.

Having attended the Second International Seminar in 1987 in London, I can thoroughly recommend this as a most important event for any Jewish genealogist. Not only will you make gigantic steps forward as far as certain aspects of your research are concerned, but you will make contact with like-minded people from other countries with whom you may develop friendships. If you are planning a trip overseas in 1994, plan it around this seminar!

Further information about detailed programmes, etc... will be provided in future issues.

Previous international seminars were held in 1984 in Jerusalem in 1987 in London and in 1991 in Salt Lake City.

Office Bearers of the Society

President	<i>Sophie Caplan</i>
Vice-President	<i>Rieke Nash</i>
Secretary	<i>Terry Newman</i>
Treasurer	<i>Stuart Shaw</i>
Resources Librarian	<i>Rieke Nash</i>
Membership Chairman	<i>Stuart Shaw</i>
Central Coast Representative	<i>Beulah Gross</i>
Youth Chairman	<i>David Grosz</i>

Committee Members	<i>Phillip Baynash</i> <i>David Landor</i> <i>David Laufer</i> <i>Nigel Meinrath</i>
-------------------	---

Editor of Kosher Koala	<i>Sophie Caplan</i>
------------------------	----------------------

Editorial Committee	<i>Rieke Nash</i> <i>Terry Newman</i> <i>Stuart Shaw</i>
---------------------	--

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 154
NORTHBRIDGE SYDNEY NSW 2063

WORKSHOPS 1993

Our regular workshops will be held at the Reverend Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, LINDFIELD on the following Sunday mornings at 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m

10th October

7th November

5th December

VALE GERALD FALK

Although our society is only 21 months old, we have already suffered the loss of one of our members in early February, 1993. In 1989 when Sophie Caplan first made a public announcement that she intended to found an Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Gerald Falk immediately came forward and said that he wanted to become a member and offered the first membership fee, which was held in trust until the Society was actually founded two years later. This was typical of Gerald's enthusiasm for all worthwhile endeavours in the Jewish community.

Born on 8th July, 1918 in England, the second son of Rabbi Leib Falk, who was a chaplain to the Zion Mule Corps and later came to Sydney with his family as assistant rabbi at the Great Synagogue, Gerald grew up in a home where Yiddishkeit, Zionism and a love of books were paramount. His father was the noted bibliophile whose collection of Jewish religion books forms the basis of the Falk library at the Great Synagogue, Sydney.

There is a famous photograph in "AUSTRALIAN JEWRY'S BOOK OF HONOUR" which shows chaplain Leib Falk and his three sons David, Gerald and Balfour all in uniform, one in the RAAF, one in the AIF and the youngest in the Royal Australian Navy. Gerald emerged at the end of World War II as an army captain. He then studied electrical engineering, married Joyce Lazarus, and made his career in home lighting. Gerald also entered Jewish community life very actively and had a distinguished communal career which included being President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry in the 1960's. At the time of his death on 4th February 1993, Gerald Falk was Chairman of the N.S.W. Jewish War Memorial, Deputy-President of NAJEX, the NSW ex-service organisation, Treasurer of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, and honorary life member of both the ECAJ and the NSW Board of Deputies, both rare honours. He also had an M.B.E. from the Queen.

Although Gerald did not accomplish his ambition of researching the Falk family of Courland, his widow Joyce has taken his place as a member of our society. Our condolences have gone to Joyce, to his daughter Jackie Gluck, and his daughter-in-law Roslyn Falk and to the grandchildren. His son Antony predeceased him.

ABOUT OURSELVES

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society was founded for the pursuit of Jewish genealogy and Jewish family history research, and all our activities seek to further those aims.

Our Society is based in Sydney, but we would welcome the establishment of branches of our Society in other Australian cities. We have members living in Adelaide, Melbourne, Newcastle, North Queensland, and in Birmingham, U.K.

We welcome members who are not Jewish providing their interest derives from a personal motive such as research into a Jewish ancestor, or a genuine scholarly interest.

Our annual membership fee is \$AUS30 per calendar year, or any part thereof. The whole of our income is devoted to acquiring books, microfiches and other research facilities for the benefit of our members and to producing and mailing this newsletter and occasional circulars. We have benefited from the generosity of some of our members in donating books and journal subscriptions. We have joined the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, for which we pay an annual affiliation fee, and we benefit from their access to information and their new initiatives.

All the work done by the officers of this Society is honorary and voluntary. We have no premises of our own and we are grateful to the North Shore Synagogue in Lindfield and its library Committee for letting us use at no cost the Reverend Katz Library for secure storage of our books, journals and microfiches, and for regular use of the library for our workshops and of the Bernard and Lily Wilson Hall for other meetings. We are also grateful to the Great Synagogue for allowing the use of its Israel Green Hall for a series of seminars in early 1992, and to Moriah College for allowing us the use of a classroom for a similar series of seminars in 1993. We aim to hold our Beginners' Seminars in a different part of Sydney each year, if we can get access to suitable communal venues.

Our present membership is 51.

Activities

Our activities include annual Beginners' Seminars, which have been held twice so far, in March-April 1992 at the Great Synagogue Israel Green Hall and in February to April, 1993 at Moriah College, Bellevue Hill. They were led both times by Gael Hammer, with the participation of Helen Bersten, Sophie Caplan, Terry Newman, in 1992 also of Aubrey Schwartz, now back in Melbourne, and in 1993 of David Landor and Peter Nash.

We hold regular Sunday morning genealogy workshops in the Rev. Katz Library of the North Shore Synagogue from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. every 4 to 6 weeks, where our resources, books, journals and microfiche are available for reading and research. Experienced members are present to help beginners, and they will also

bring books and archival material from their personal collections, if previously requested through Rieke Nash, our resources librarian at 02-427-6075. On 8th August, 1993 our regular workshop included a special exhibition featuring computers and genealogical programmes, with the numerous computer buffs among our members displaying their favourite programmes and software.

Lectures

We have been fortunate in having lectures given by several well-known visiting and local experts in various genealogical areas:

- Dr ANTHONY JOSEPH and his wife JUDITH JOSEPH were present for one evening of our 1992 Seminar for beginners and gave us the benefit of their vast knowledge of Anglo-Jewry.

- KINGSLEY IRELAND of Angaston, South Australia, a leading member of the South Australian Society of Australian Genealogists and author of several books, talked to us during a short visit to Sydney on "SOME EARLY JEWISH FAMILIES OF ADELAIDE"

- Rabbi MEIR WUNDER of Jerusalem, author of four volumes on "GALICIAN RABBIS AND SAGES", alas still only available in Hebrew, and a staff member of the National Library at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, talked on "Sources on Galician and Polish Jewry", and was able to help direct several members in their research.

- Dr ALEXANDER MIRVIS, a recent immigrant from St Petersburg who has had a book published on the genealogy of the Romanov dynasty, spoke to us through the intermediary of his nephew Arkady Mirvis on "JEWISH GENEALOGY AND RUSSIA". Dr Mirvis is also preparing an article for us on the topic of his talk.

Due to time constraints and other factors of seizing opportunities which presented themselves for hearing speakers who were in Sydney for short visits, these lectures have often been held at the home of our President.

- At our first Annual General Meeting in November 1992 our member MARK TEDESCHI, Q.C., gave a lecture on "DOING CHASSIDIC RESEARCH BY MAIL FROM AUSTRALIA" which was most interesting.

Newsletter

We shall aim to publish this newsletter four times yearly. It will be free to members. Rates for overseas subscription are being investigated but will probably be of the order of \$US7-7.50 per copy or, of \$US28.30 for yearly subscription by mail.

Contributions of interesting articles are invited. Please submit your material to the Editor P.O. Box 154 NORTHBRIDGE, SYDNEY, NSW, 2063, AUSTRALIA or fax to 61-2-967 2834.

(continued on page 9)

THE STORY OF EMMA

by **Hilda Hines**

The father of my husband Gus Hines was Jacob Heinsfurter, born in NIEDERSTETTEN, Germany in 1876 and who died at the age of 49 in 1925. When I started doing my family history research I wrote to the town of Niederstetten and received without any difficulties the relevant information regarding Jacob's parents and siblings. There had been seven children in all, but only two survived to adulthood, Gus's father, Jacob, and a sister, Emma, with the Hebrew name Esther, born in 1872. Emma and Jacob's mother died a few months after Jacob was born. Their father Sigmund married a second time a year later.

All that we knew about Gus's aunt Emma Heinsfurter was that she had left for America as a young girl. Occasionally she sent a small amount of money to her brother Jacob's children for their birthdays. We knew that she had lived in ITHACA in the state of New York.

By chance I found some papers, correspondence between Emma and her brother Jacob regarding a house which they had inherited jointly after the death of their father. The correspondence between Emma and her brother Jacob was quite acrimonious, each complaining that the other had not bothered about the father during his life time. However each letter was signed with "your ever loving brother/or sister". From the letters which Emma had written I found out that she had two children, and also that her first husband had died tragically, and that she had married again. Her first husband's surname had been Mackey and the second one's Curtis. I wrote to the city authorities in Ithaca, N.Y. but without success. By chance on a trip to England I met someone with connections to Ithaca. On my return home to Adelaide I contacted this woman and, through her kind efforts received the following information.

- Emma Heinsfurter had arrived in the United States in 1888. She must have married Henry Mackey before 1910, because Emma was listed as Mrs Henry Mackey in the 1910 USA Census.

- Emma Heinsfurter's son, Harry Mackey, graduated from Cornell University in the class of 1928, and her daughter Theodosia from Ithaca High School in 1919.

I was able to forward a letter to Harry Mackey's widow through the Cornell University Alumni Office, as he had died in 1986, and I received the following information from her:

"I was intrigued by your letter requesting information about Emma Mackey Curtis. Emma was dead when Harry and I were married in 1943, so I never met her. There were two children by Henry Mackey, Harry and Theodosia, usually called "Theo". Theo had a son, Robert Mackey Mearian, who is now living in New York City. Theo died in 1984, and Harry died in 1986. We

had no children, so Robert is the only descendant of whom I know.

I do remember Harry saying that Emma would never say how old she was; that she had destroyed her birth certificate. Harry and Theo thought that she might have been between 13 and 16 years old when she came to the US. I am not sure whether Emma met Henry Mackey in Ithaca or in Olean, New York state, where they lived after they were married. Theo was born in Olean in 1901 and Harry in 1906. Henry worked as an Adams Express agent and was accidentally shot at work. After he was killed, Emma and the children moved to Ithaca where Emma worked in Rothschild's department store. She met William Curtis in Ithaca. He was on the Ithaca police force and they were married.

After Theo was divorced, she and her son lived with Emma in the house in Ithaca. Upon Theo's death the house and its contents were left to Robert. It is possible he may be able to give you more information, or correct any mis-statements I may have made. I am sending a copy of this letter and your letter to Robert. We call him Mike, the name he uses in his stage and T.V. work. I enjoyed hearing from you, so please keep in touch."

So, of course, I wrote to Emma's grandson, Mike Mearian. His letter to me is very interesting and fills in the portrait of Emma Heinsfurter.

"I knew from Emma and from Theo, my mother, that Emma was born in Nuremberg (Author's note - Incorrect), that she came to America and lived with an aunt in Ithaca NY whose name I've forgotten, that her cousins, the Dobrins, saw to it that she was apprenticed as a milliner at Rothschild's Department Store, whose co-founder, Jacob Rothschild, was married to Emma's cousin, Rebecca Dobrin. Theo and Harry (Harry Sigmund Mackey, given as a real name the nickname of his father, Henry) also worked there. Theo worked as secretary to Dan Rothschild, Harry on the trucks and loading docks, when they were younger. Like their mother they were hardworking people.

Theo was named for her paternal grandmother Theodosia Minturn, who married Linus S. Mackey in 1862. Their son Henry Linus Mackey, my mother's father married Emma Heinsfurter on August 18, 1900. Henry died on January 6, 1909. Later Emma married Wilson H. Curtis of Lansing N.Y., whose marriage and death are not recorded in the family Bible. He was swell to me and to Theo and Harry, and a most respected police officer. He was patrolman No. 1 for many years in Ithaca.

I lived with Theo and Emma after Theo and my father Gordon John Mearian were divorced in 1930, in the family house which Emma and Will bought when they married, and which stayed in the family until I sold it some few years ago.

Emma, in my memory, was a strong hardworking lady who loved to read aloud to me and my friends, and I have fond memories of some tough 'run-ins', as well as

memories of her fine baking skills. We knew, of course, about the Jewish heritage of the Rothschilds and other relatives by marriage, but there was no knowledge or practice of it in the family. I never knew of Emma's connection till after her death. A neighbour remarked that Emma had been her 'good German Jewish friend'.

I now have copies of obituaries from Ithaca newspapers about the death of each of her husbands.

Summing up Emma's story, it is obvious that her coming to America was meant to be in her best interest, sending her to relatives, probably from her mother's side. But she must have resented this and felt as if she were being sent away from her home and her family into exile. Possibly this feeling of resentment stayed with her all her life, not helped in any way by the acrimonious correspondence with her brother. This is a very strange matter, for Jacob Heinsfurter was a well-known and respected as a man of high integrity, an honourable and kind man who helped many people. He was a kind of "bush lawyer"¹ obviously with a lot of knowledge about legal matters.

I have translated the interchange of letters between Jacob and Emma and am keeping them, as well as all the other relevant information.

Obviously Emma's life was not an easy one, and she must have worked very hard to bring up her children and to send her son to university. Her negation of her Jewishness in another fascinating aspect of her complex and sad story.

Unfortunately Gus never met his only cousins on his father's side, Theo and Harry, even though he travelled many times to the U.S.A.....but by writing it all down Emma's story is recorded in our family archives.

Another puzzle in the family history is solved!

Addendum ¹. "Bush lawyer" Australian term for a person who has not been trained in legal studies but who has a broad layman's knowledge of the law and whose advice is sought on legal issues.

Hilda Hines nee Guckenheim is the widow of Gus Hines, for many years the distinguished elected leader of Adelaide Jewry in South Australia. She is a foundation member of our Society.

The next International Seminar on
Jewish Genealogy
will be held from
April 29th to May 5, 1994
at the
Jerusalem Hilton

DID YOU KNOW?

by Stuart Shaw

- 1) The Society of Australian Genealogists has a computer user group which meets on the last Sunday of every month at "Rumsey Hall", 24 Kent Street, Sydney from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. These meetings are open to non-members of the Society.
- 2) Mr Rudi Cortissos, president of the Dutch Jewish Genealogical Society advises that they can assist anyone who is needing Jewish genealogical information from Holland. His address is: R.S.Cortissos, Kanteel 104, 1083 DC AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS.
- 3) Russian Research. I have found that a good source of information on the towns and cities of the former Soviet Union is the Great Soviet Encyclopedia, published in 27 volumes. I was able to find quite a bit of information about one of the towns in Byelorussia which I am researching (Gorki) which I could not find from any other source, including the Encyclopedia Judaica. This Encyclopedia can be found in the reference section of the Markets Library, University of Technology, Quay Street, Haymarket.
- 4) NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages now has an "Inspection of Records Service". This service allows the researcher to personally search the registrations in order to identify which is the actual one being sought. This service costs \$27 for a 20 minute session, in which up to 8 registrations may be checked.
- 5) Encyclopedia Judaica (EJ) is a good source of information about people and places of interest to Jewish Genealogists. Several libraries in Sydney have the EJ in their reference collections:-
Waverley Library, Ebley Street Bondi Junction
Moriah College Library, Vivian Street, Bellevue Hill
The Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield (where our Sunday morning workshops are held).
Fisher Library, Sydney University. If you need to do any photocopying from the EJ, the best place to consult it is the Fisher Library, Sydney University, as the cost of photocopying is a lot cheaper (approx. 9c per copy).
- 6) Maps. A good source of detailed maps of most European countries is the Rex Map Centres which can be found at a number of locations:
City: Shop 2, Prudential Arcade, Cnr Martin Place and Castlereagh Street Tel: 235 3017
North: 388 Pacific Highway, Lane Cove Tel: 428 3566
South: 68a Princes Highway, Tempe Tel: 559 1665
West: Cnr Parramatta Road & Good Street, Granville Tel: 637 9763

JEWISH GENEALOGY BOOKSHELF

by Sophie Caplan

We intend to make this a regular column in which we will keep our members informed of what books are available in Australia for their research. Some of these books are still in print, and can be purchased from the publishers, generally overseas, for the members' personal use. Others are out of print, but are available in some libraries. Those books which have been acquired by the library of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society and are available for perusal by members will be marked by an asterisk (*) in front. Country and interstate members can ask Rieke Nash, our vice-president and resources librarian, to do a certain amount of research for them free of charge.

Some books whether in or out of print, are not in our society library, but in the personal library of some of our members for perusal at certain workshops if requested. They are often very heavy and cannot all be brought at once, so please let Rieke or Sophie know if you would like to see one of those books at a particular workshop. Country and interstate members can ask Rieke or Sophie to look up something in these books. They will be marked with two asterisks (**) in front.

None of these books may be borrowed since they are often very expensive and soon go out of print.

Books marked with a ☆ can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

BASIC BOOKS

The first post-World War II major publication on Jewish Genealogy was * ☆ **DAN ROTTENBERG "FINDING OUR FATHERS, A GUIDEBOOK TO JEWISH GENEALOGY"**, 1977, Random House, New York, which created a sensation and filled a gap by providing for the special needs of Jewish genealogists. It covers many topics and is a wonderful inspiration to beginners. Among other features, a select list of about 200 Jewish surnames listed as entries in encyclopaedias, and short histories of those families and individuals. But, if one checks on the section one knows best, i.e. p. 91 on sources of Jewish Genealogy in Australia, it is full of inaccuracies within the half-page devoted to Australia. This makes one doubt the accuracy of the sections with which one is not familiar.

In 1980 a second book for Jewish genealogists appeared * ☆ **ARTHUR KURZWEIL "FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, HOW TO TRACE YOUR JEWISH GENEALOGY AND PERSONAL HISTORY"**, 1980, William Morris, New York. This book covers most of the basic topics and it has not been superseded. The information is also accurate. It is

available in paperback from most good Jewish bookshops. A basic investment.

* **"THE JEWISH GENEALOGY BEGINNER'S GUIDE"**, edited by Irene Saunders Goldstein, now in its Third Edition, Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, is another basic text for new and not so new Jewish genealogists which gives good information on a host of topics. It can be ordered from the publishers C/o MICHAEL MARGOSIS, 6412 N 26th Street, ARLINGTON, VA 22207, USA.

The international quarterly * ☆ **AVOTAYNU** (our fathers), must be included among basic books because it keeps one up to date about Jewish genealogical research everywhere. It can be ordered from AVOTAYNU Inc. PO Box 1134, Teaneck, NJ 07666, USA. For \$US32 annually for four issues, and \$US62 for two years.

A book researched and written by the editor of AVOTAYNU Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack and its publisher Gary Mokotoff is * ☆ **"WHERE ONCE WE WALKED, A GUIDE TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES DESTROYED IN THE HOLOCAUST"**, 1991, Avotaynu Inc., a gazetteer of 21,000 Eastern European Jewish communities, giving all possible spellings of names of towns and villages, their census figures of Jewish inhabitants at the last census, in 1920 for the smaller places and 1930 for the big towns, their latitude and longitude, distance and direction from the nearest large town. It has received the accolade of major prizes for outstanding reference book for 1991. It is still available for \$US 76 including postage.

PERSONAL NAMES

Another Avotaynu publication is the late Rabbi Schmuel Gorr's * **"JEWISH PERSONAL NAMES, Their Origin, Derivation and Diminutive Forms"**, 1992, edited after Rabbi Gorr's untimely death in September, 1988 by his friend Rabbi Chaim Friedman, also from Melbourne as was Shmuel Gorr. It can be ordered from Avotaynu Press for \$US 18 including postage.

These and other Avotaynu Press books are specifically written to meet the needs of the Jewish genealogist, and are highly recommended. Our society has some order forms for the above and those from Avotaynu Press mentioned below.

* ☆ **ALFRED KOLATCH "THE NAME DICTIONARY"**, 1967, New York, Jonathan David publishers, gives comprehensive lists of both masculine and feminine first names, English and Hebrew, and their equivalents in meaning in the other language. This is a book obviously meant for the North American reader for the synonyms in Hebrew are rendered with "aw" for the "a" sound and "ee" for the "ie" sound, which is confusing and gives the Hebrew names the appearance of being North American Indian names e.g. Chaveevaw for presumably Chaviva and Dawveedaw for Davida.

JEWISH GENEALOGY BOOKSHELF

(continued)

BOOKS ON JEWISH FAMILY NAMES

A number of books exist which give some background on the meaning, typology and origins of Jewish family names. * * ☆ **BENZION C. KAGANOFF "A DICTIONARY OF JEWISH NAMES AND THEIR HISTORY"**, 1977, Schocken Books, New York, and also 1978, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, was the first book published on that subject in the English language and tells the history of the acquisition of names by Jews in various countries, as well as giving the meaning and origins of a few hundred specific names.

It also refers to a previous book on the same subject in German, **LEOPOLD ZUNZ "DIE NAMEN DER JUDEN"** (The Names of the Jews) published in 1838. We would like to hear from anybody who has a copy of that book or has seen it.

Last year * **HEINRICH W. GUGGENHEIMER AND EVA H. GUGGENHEIMER's "JEWISH NAMES AND THEIR ORIGINS, AN ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY"**, 1992, Ktav Publishing House, New York, appeared. It is a heavy tome with thousands of names, each with many variations and one would be unlucky not to find a name one was researching, if it is Jewish. Explanations given are rather short, although Hebrew, and Arabic as well as Latin alphabet renderings of names are given.

The latest arrival in our Society's Library is

* **ALEXANDER BEIDER "A DICTIONARY OF JEWISH SURNAMES FROM THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE"**, 1993, Avotaynu Press, Teaneck, New Jersey. It is said to be broader in scope than anything of its kind ever before attempted and will even give the towns or district in which a certain name found distribution in Russia. Perhaps you can discover whence your grandfather came by following up your original family name...

For those of Sephardi ancestry * * **ABRAHAM I. LAREDO "LES NOMS DES JUIFS DU MAROC"** (The surnames of Moroccan Jews), 1978, Institute B. Arias Montano. This book, although printed in Spain, is in the French language with some Hebrew included in the text.

GENERAL TEXTS ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

Many books on Jewish genealogy are specific to one country, but some cover topics which embrace many countries and are worth examining to see if the surnames you are researching are listed in the index of the contents. Among these are the two editions of * **NEIL ROSENSTEIN "THE UNBROKEN CHAIN"**, in one volume 1976, Shengold Publishers, New York, and in two volumes 1990, CIS Publishers, New York. The

books deal with the innumerable and remarkable descendants of Saul Wahl, the Jew who was allegedly chosen king of Poland for a day. The descendants were mostly rabbinical families, with Karl Marx, Helena Rubinstein, and many others also included over 16 to 20 generations.

* **GEORGE SACKHEIM "SCATTERED SEEDS"** in two volumes, 1986 Chicago, self-published. These volumes trace descendants of two Jewish martyrs from Rozhanoi, Lithuania, in very detailed family trees. The descendants are scattered world-wide, including Australia, as are indeed the descendants of Saul Wahl included in Neil Rosenstein's book, and others not mentioned in the book, including a member of our society.

* * ☆ **THE ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA**, 1972, Keter, Jerusalem and Macmillan, London, has entries for many large and small towns where Jews once lived. It has a number of entries of family trees under the alphabetical entry for the family name, short histories of certain notable families, and of course many entries for individuals. It is worthwhile to spend some time perusing the Encyclopedia Judaica for the towns and family names you are interested in. It is available in many Jewish and general libraries.

Not only the Encyclopedia Judaica, but also other books which tell the history of a community or of a country are useful adjuncts to the Jewish genealogist, particularly books on a specific community where members of your family originated or sojourned and which focus on the Jewish community, because it will give you clues on major industries or agricultural products, decline of a region, or destruction of a town in war, or growth due to a new industry, a gold rush, a change of government. All these can be clues to settlement in or emigration from an

Mazeltov to our member Joyce Falk, and to Jackie and Joe Gluck on the timely birth of Akiva Yedidya Gluck, who was named after his grandfather and our late member Gerald Yedidya Falk.

Mazeltov to Gael and Joe Hammer on the marriage in New York of their elder daughter Viva Hammer to a prominent young Rabbi, Moshe Bleich of Brooklyn, son of Rabbi & Mrs J. David Bleich.

Our condolences go to Peter and Rieke Nash on the loss of Peter's father Herbert Nachemstein who died at the age of 88 after living in Gnesen, Poland, Berlin, Germany, Shanghai, China and Sydney, Australia.

JEWISH GENEALOGY BOOKSHELF

(continued)

area. In further instalments of JEWISH GENEALOGY BOOKSHELF, we will treat in turn the topics of books available on various countries of the Diaspora. Some books come under various headings, but will be dealt with only in one specific category.

HOLOCAUST RELATED BOOKS

Strangely the memorialisation of the Holocaust has spawned a large number of books which can be an aid to the Jewish genealogist. Their writers have been inspired by the need to recapture that which was lost when whole communities were destroyed and to memorialise their family, their town or the Jewish community of their country.

Dr David Jakubowicz "History of Chaim Schenker, his sons, his sons-in-law and their families", 1981, Tel Aviv, privately printed is an example of a book memorialising an extended family of Southern Poland. The many Yizkor books (see below) published since World War II and the books by Christian-Jewish friendship societies are attempts to memorialise towns, and the three volume history of Jews in Czechoslovakia, published in New York about a decade ago is an attempt to memorialise a whole country's Jews.

YIZKOR BOOKS are books which were put together from the late 1940's until the late 1970's by survivors of

Jewish communities about their specific town or area. They are not the work of professional writers, in general, but of people doing a labour of love in reconstituting the history and the remembered Jewish community of their town. Unfortunately for most of us, the bulk of the writing in most Yizkor books is in Hebrew or in Yiddish, with some parts of the book also in Polish, Hungarian, or Czech, according to the country in which the community was situated. Very occasionally a Yizkor book contains one or two English articles, though the Yizkor books on large towns like Lodz and Kalicz also have English editions.

The Society has appealed through the Jewish press to owners of Yizkor books to let us know the titles of those held in Australia. In the next issue of the Koshers Koala we will publish the list of those Yizkor books known so far to be held in Australia. We would appreciate hearing of any Yizkor book held by any of our readers, and would consider buying any being offered for sale. Donations of any Yizkor books to our library would also be appreciated.

Yizkor books usually have a list of those Jews from the town who perished in the Holocaust printed in both Hebrew and English. Unfortunately those for the larger towns do not. Probably the task of finding and assembling all their names was too daunting.

TO BE CONTINUED

PRESERVE YOUR HERITAGE

by **Beulah-Rose Gross**

Do you have documents and photographs pertaining to your family history? Are they fading, brittle, torn or disintegrating? Do you shed tears of frustration watching them fade and flake away? Do you wonder if these precious items are worth keeping at all?

Well, weep and wonder no more. Help - and help of the highest calibre - is at hand.

The Conservation Access Department at the State Library of New South Wales in Macquarie Street, Sydney is staffed by dedicated professionals expert in the art of treating, repairing, restoring and preserving all types of paper items.

When appropriate they remove all acidic backings from items, repair documents after removing Sellotape, brown tape and boxes with acid-free interleaves. They repair documents such as old ketubahs, naturalisation papers, birth and death certificates and newspaper articles and then they may encapsulate them in special, acid-free plastic which does not hinder photocopying or photographing.

Books such as diaries and prayerbooks are fully restored and rebound, although it is sometimes recommended that little or nothing be done in the interests of preserving a particular item's character and history.

Conservation Access also runs teaching courses in the care of collections and the staff is always ready to give freely both information and advice.

I have had my special photographs, passports, naturalisation papers and the like preserved for what I hope is posterity. Certainly, they are now much safer from the ravages of time, because all materials used by Conservation Access are of the highest archival quality.

The staff of Conservation Access will examine your treasures and give you a detailed quote on what they consider needs to be done and will only begin work after you accept their advice and quote.

For further information please contact Marion Roubos-Bennet, the co-ordinator of Conservation Access on (02) 230-1676 or fax her on (02) 232-4316. You will find her and her happy band of experts helpful, friendly and keen to advise you on how to prevent your family heritage from fading away.

Beulah-Rose Gross is our member from Green Point on the Central Coast of New South Wales

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS?

These are exciting times for Jewish genealogists, with new special interest groups (SIG.'s) being created and putting out quarterly newsletters.

LANDSMEN

In early 1991 Marlene Silverman of Washington created the SUWALKI-LOMZA INTEREST GROUP FOR JEWISH GENEALOGISTS by publishing LANDSMEN, which concentrates on the area of North-east Poland encompassed by Lomza Gubernia and of south-west Lithuania, which is Suwalki Gubernia, including towns like Lomza, Ostroleka, Ostrow, Makow, Szczuczyn, Sokolow, Wegrow, Suwalki, Augustow, Mariampol, Kalwarja, Sejny, Tykocin, etc... Members of the SIG who have translated Jewish records in Mormon microfilms for certain towns in their entirety get them printed in LANDSMEN. Tourists tell of visiting a former shtetl in the area, and what they found. Alex Friedlander tells of identifying 70 Jewish taxpayers of the early 19th Century for one town in a Warsaw archive. This is really good value if you are researching a family from that area.

Annual subscription is \$US28.00.

Address: Suwalki-Lomza Interest Group, Apt 228, 3701 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA.

They have a Family Finder column and a Research Exchange section.

STAMMBAUM

In early 1993 a new newsletter for German-Jewish Genealogy in English was inaugurated in USA. Called STAMMBAUM and subtitled AHNENFORSCHUNG IN ASCHKENAS (ancestral research in Germany) it only uses German language for headings, so those with a German-Jewish heritage, but few German linguistic skills, can still get a lot out of STAMMBAUM. The editor is Bill Firestone of Santa Cruz, California.

Annual subscription is \$US28.00

Address: STAMMBAUM, C/- Harry Katzmann, 1901 Cougar Court, Winter Springs, FL 32708-3855 USA.

You can write for a sample copy, obligation free.

MAAJAN-DIE-QUELLE

This organ of the Swiss Society for Jewish Genealogy was established in 1985 in Zurich and is still going strong after eight years. Its title means "the source" in both Hebrew and German, and it publishes exclusively in German. The editor is Raymond M. Jung and the publisher Rene Loeb, president of the Swiss Society for Jewish Genealogy. Very generously they have put us on their mailing list since 1987. It has transcribed whole Swiss, German and Alsatian Mohel books (circumcision registers), as well as family trees of Swiss, German and Alsatian Jewish families.

Annual subscription is Sw Frs 50.-- for four issues.

Address: MAAJAN-DIE-QUELLE, Scheuchzerstrasse 154, CH-8006 Zurich, Switzerland. Telephone and Telefax: 01-361 71 54.

GESHER GALICIA

A new SIG with the name GESHER GALICIA - Bridge to Galicia has just been announced, to start publishing THE GALIZIANER, a quarterly newsletter in September. Your editor, who hails from a long line of Galicianers on her maternal side, is delighted, since she called for such a group in a letter published in Landsmen a few issues ago. For those who don't know, Galicia was the part of southern Poland occupied and governed by the Austrian Empire from 1792 to 1919, when it reverted to Poland upon the creation of the Polish Republic in 1919. In 1939 it was divided, the western part of Galicia coming under German control, and the eastern under USSR control, until June 1941 when the Nazis invaded the USSR. Since March 1944 when the Russians regained control, it has been a part of Russia, renamed Western Ukraine, with some town names changed e.g. STANISLAWOW is now IVANO-FRANKOVSK. Since 1991 it is part of the republic of Ukraine in the CIS. The initiator of GESHER GALICIA is Suzan Wynne.

Annual subscription is \$US15.00

Address: Suzan Wynne, 3128 Brooklawn Terrace, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, USA.

There may be a group tour to former Galicia in 1995.

CIRCLE DE GENEALOGIE JUIVE

Since 1985 there has been a quarterly publication of the French Jewish Genealogy Circle which concentrates on French Jewish Genealogy. Some of its members have ancestry elsewhere, and so it also occasionally encompasses family trees with roots in Czarist Russia or in 19th century Poland, and quite frequently Turkey, and the North African countries of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. It prints members' family trees and has loads of information on how to research family history anywhere in metropolitan France, and particularly in Alsace. The editor of the Revue du Cercle de Genealogie Juive is Philip Abensur.

Annual subscription is Fr FF200.-- plus Fr FF45.- if you want questions answered or personal help with research.

Address: Cercle de Genealogie Juive, B.P. 707, 75162 Paris, CEDEX 04, France.

ABOUT OURSELVES

(continued from page 3)

At the moment articles should be submitted in typescript with double line spacing. Later we will accept articles typed on disk. All contributions are subject to editing and, if printed, become the property of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. No fees are paid for anything printed.

SYDNEY DATABASE

A list of the surnames and places being researched by members of the
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

August, 1993

Surname	Name Town Was Known As	Current Name of Town	Province	Country	Relevant Dates
ABRAHAMS		LONDON		ENGLAND	1828c
ABRAHAMS		LONDON	MIDDLESEX	ENGLAND	C18-C19
ALLEMAND			VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA	1850'S
BALTSTEIN	LEMBERG	LVOV	GALICIA	UKRAINE	1850'S
BARTEL		NEW YORK		USA	1950's
BEINASHOWITZ		RIGA		LATVIA	1900-1906
BEINASHOWITZ		PASVALYS		LITHUANIA	To 1900
BENJAMIN		TALSH		RUSSIA?	
BERMAN	TZITIVYAN	TYTUVENAI		LITHUANIA	To 1941
BERNSTEIN		LONDON		ENGLAND	1890+
BIENENSTOCK		PRAGUE ?	BOHEMIA	CZECHOSLOV.	Before 1875
BLACHOWICZ		OSTROLEKA		POLAND	1850'S
BLAT				ISRAEL	1930+
BLAT		LVOV	GALICIA	UKRAINE	1850+
BRAUN	PROSSNITZ	PROSTEJOV	MORAVIA	POLAND	Before 1870'S
BRITZ		MIAMI		USA	1950's
BRODY		LONDON		ENGLAND	1862-1891
BROGMAN		WISLICA	KIELCE	POLAND	17-20th Cent
BUBB	LEMBERG	LVOV	GALICIA	UKRAINE	1850'S
BUBB		MANCHESTER		ENGLAND	Late 1800's
BUCHMAN		WISLICA	KIELCE	POLAND	17-20th Cent
BUCHMAN		NOWY KORCZYN	KIELCE	POLAND	17-20th Cent
CAPLAN		POROZOVO	BIALYSTOK	BYELORUSSIA	19th Century
CAPLAN		SVISLOCH	BIALYSTOK	BYELORUSSIA	19th Century
CHAIMO	LIBAU	LIEPAJA		LATVIA	1850-1902
CHAIMO				ENGLAND	1902+
CHOTZEN		VIENNA		AUSTRIA	1880-1910
CHOTZEN				GERMANY	Before 1885
CHRANZ				FRANCE	1900+
CHRANZ	LEMBERG	LVOV	GALICIA	UKRAINE	1850'S
CZOLLEK		BERLIN		GERMANY	1930's
DE SOLA		LONDON		ENGLAND	
DIAMOND		RIGA		LATVIA	1800'S
DIAMOND		AKMENE	VOLMAR	LITHUANIA	1800'S
DITZ		KEDAINIAI	KOVNO	LITHUANIA	Late 19th Cent
EIZENBERG		WYSZKOW		POLAND	1800's+
EIZENBERG				ISRAEL	1913+
EIZENBERG		LONDON		ENGLAND	1870+
ESKANASI		CONSTANTINOPLE (IS		TURKEY	Up to 1835
FELDMAN		MELBOURNE	VIC	AUSTRALIA	1908+
FRYDMAN		WISLICA	KIELCE	POLAND	17-20th Cent
GABRIEL		LONDON		ENGLAND	Pre 1827
GABRIEL		LONDON		ENGLAND	1835c
GOLDMANN		VIENNA		AUSTRIA	1890+
GRADNIK		GRODNO	PINSK	BYELORUSSIA	Late 19th Cent
GROSZ		SATU MARE		ROMANIA	To 1975/80
GUBBAY		LONDON		ENGLAND	
HALPERIN	HOLYN	KOTYATICHE GOLYNSTANISLAWOW		UKRAINE	19th Century
HART			VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA	1845
HASSAN		VIENNA	NIEDER-OSTER.	AUSTRIA	1830-1900
HASSAN	CONSTANTINOPLE	ISTANBUL		TURKEY	Up to 1835

SYDNEY DATABASE (continued)

Surname	Name Town Was Known As	Current Name of Town	Province	Country	Relevant Dates
HAUSMANN		STRYY	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
HAUSMANN		DOLINA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
HAUSMANN		NOVITSA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
HAUSMANN		BOLEKHOV	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
HEIMAN		LITTLE ROCK	ARKANSAS	USA	1852
HERSKOVITS		BEREGOVO		UKRAINE	To 1920/30's
HIRSCHL		VIENNA		AUSTRIA	1881+
HIRSCHL		STINATZ=ZDANICE?	BURGENLAND,CZECH	AUSTRIA	1881+
HOLLANDER	APT	OPATOW	KIELCE?	POLAND	Late 19TH Century
HOROWITZ		STRYY	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
HOROWITZ		DOLINA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
HORWITZ-HA'LEVI		KVEDARNA		LITHUANIA	Up to 1941
ISRAELSKI		MODESTO		USA	1950's
JAKUBOWICZ		WISLICA	KIELCE	POLAND	17-20th Cent
JOSEPH		BERTHIER		CANADA	
JULIUS		CHICAGO		USA	1950's
JULIUS		OSTRODA		POLAND	
KAHANE		LVOV	GALICIA	UKRAINE	1850+
KARPINSKI	VILNA	VILNIUS	VILNA	LITHUANIA	19th Century
KARPINSKY					
KLAINER		WISLICA	KIELCE	POLAND	17-20th Cent
KLEEMANN		GDANSK	DANZIG	POLAND	1800
KLUSKY		WLOCLAWEK		POLAND	1800'S+
KLUSKY		LUBRANIEC		POLAND	1800's+
KODESH		VILEYKA	VILNO	BYELORUSSIA	Before 1914
KORPINKUS	KOVNO	KAUNAS	KOVNO	LITHUANIA	19th Century
KOZAK		KUTNO		POLAND	To 1900
KUTNOVSKY		GOSTYNIN	LODZ	POLAND	Mid 19th Cent
LANDAU				SOUTH AFRICA	
LANDAU				ISRAEL	
LANDOR					
LAUFER		PRAGUE	BOHEMIA	CZECHOSLOVAK	Before 1875
LAUFER	APT	OPATOW	KIELCE?	POLAND	Late 19TH Century
LAUFER		VIENNA		AUSTRIA	1870-1920
LEVI		MANCHESTER		ENGLAND	Mid 19th Cent
LEVY		MELBOURNE	VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA	1861
LEWIN		OLSZTYNEK	POSEN	POLAND	1800
LEWIN				USA	1851
LOWE		GLEIWITZ	SILESIA	POLAND	Up to 1840
LOWE		GLOGAU	SILESIA	GERMANY	Up to 1840
LOWE		VIENNA	NIEDER-OSTER.	AUSTRIA	1850-1900
LYONS		LONDON		ENGLAND	1830-1884
MAHLER		VIENNA	NIEDER-OSTER.	AUSTRIA	1875-1911
MAHLER		?	BOHEMIA	CZECHOSLOVAK	Before 1880
MARGOVSKY		LONDON		ENGLAND	
MARKS		LONDON		ENGLAND	1810c
MAU	LIBAU	LIEPAJA		LATVIA	
MAU				ENGLAND	1902+
MELDOLA		LONDON		ENGLAND	
MEYER		GRODNO	PINSK	BYELORUSSIA	Late 19th Cent
MEYER		ELMSHORN	SCHLESWIGHOLST.	GERMANY	1900+
MEYERS		STADTLOHN	WESTPHALIA	GERMANY	1900+
MOLLER	RAAB	GYOR		HUNGARY	Before 1875
MOLLER		PAPA		HUNGARY	Before 1875
MOSES			ALSACE-LORRAINE	FRANCE	1800's
MROZ		LODZ		POLAND	To 1930's

SYDNEY DATABASE (continued)

Surname	Name Town Was Known As	Current Name of Town	Province	Country	Relevant Dates
MROZ		LONDON		ENGLAND	1906-1908
MROZ		WLOCLAWEK		POLAND	To 1930's
MROZ		KUTNO		POLAND	To 1930's
NEUHAUSER		SAVADKA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
NEUHAUSER		NOVITSA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
NEUHAUSER		DOLINA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
NEUHAUSER		STRYY	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
OSTERREICHER		BUDAPEST		HUNGARY	Before 1885
OSTERREICHER		VIENNA		AUSTRIA	1880-1920
PEREIRA MENDES		BIRMINGHAM		ENGLAND	
PINTO		LONDON		ENGLAND	
PRUSSAK		GRODNO	KOVNO	LITHUANIA	19th Century
PRUSSAK	KOVNO	KAUNAS	KOVNO	LITHUANIA	19th Century
REDL		ARAD		ROMANIA	Before 1880
REDL		VIENNA		AUSTRIA	1875-1938
REITER		NOVITSA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
REITER		DOLINA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
REITER		STRYY	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
REITER		SAVADKA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
RHEUBEN		LONDON		ENGLAND	Pre 1827
SALAMSON		VILNA		LITHUANIA	
SCHNEIDER	ANYKST	ANYKSCIAI		LITHUANIA	
SCHWANDKE				SPAIN	1937
SCHWANDKE		BERLIN		GERMANY	1900's
SELEROWICZ		WISLICA	KIELCE	POLAND	17-20th Cent
SHANNON		LONDON	MIDDLESEX	ENGLAND	C18-C19
SIEGELLACK		SIGHET		ROMANIA	To 1930's
SINGER		VIENNA		AUSTRIA	1930'S
SIRKES				POLAND	17-20th Cent
SMITH					
STEIN		SAVADKA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
STEIN		DOLINA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
STEIN		STRYY	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
STEIN		NOVITSA	STANISLAWOW	UKRAINE	19th Century
STEINHARDT		SHANGHAI		CHINA	1939
STERN		STADTSCHLAINING	BURGENLAND,CZECH	AUSTRIA	1850
SUTTNER			KURLAND	LATVIA	1850-1900
SUTTON		LONDON		ENGLAND	1837-1861
SZULMAN		LUBRANIEC		POLAND	1800'S+
SZULMAN		WLOCLAWEK		POLAND	1800'S+
TELTSCHER		LONDON		ENGLAND	1970
TELTSCHER	NIKOLSBURG	MIKULOV		CZECHOSLOVAKIA	Pre 1900
TEMPLINSKY		RAMATAIM		ISRAEL	1930'S
TEMPLINSKY		SLUZEWO		POLAND	1800's
TEPER	LEMBERG	LVOV	GALICIA	UKRAINE	1850'S
TINTNER				GERMANY	1930's
TOPER		TIENTSIN	MANCHURIA	CHINA	19-20th Cent
TOPER		IRKUTSK	SIBERIA	RUSSIA	19-20th Cent
TOPF		WISLICA	KIELCE	POLAND	17-20th Cent
TOPF		DZIALOSZYCE	KIELCE	POLAND	17-20th Cent
VON SUTTNER			KURLAND	LATVIA	1850-1900
WANTOCH		VIENNA	NIEDER-OSTERREICH	AUSTRIA	1870-1938
WANTOCH		PRAGUE	BOHEMIA	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	Before 1875
WEICHMANN		PAKOSC	POSEN	POLAND	1800
WEITHORN	LEMBERG	LVOV	GALICIA	UKRAINE	1850'S
ZEFF		MODESTO		USA	1950's