



# The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

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## EDITORIAL

Since our last issue we have held another successful Beginners' Seminar at Shalom College in early March. We are flattered that some of our far-flung members from country NSW make this seminar an annual event. It's a good occasion for them to look over the new books and other resources we've acquired and for the committee to meet these members. The presence of Hugo and Chava Agmon, our overseas speaker, and her stimulating presentation of her researches on the dispersed Caro/Karo family made this a memorable occasion.

On 13th April we held our fifth Annual General Meeting, again enjoying the hospitality of David and Diana Laufer. There were some changes in the distribution of jobs on the committee: Rieke Nash took on the additional position of honorary secretary, while Terry Newman became treasurer, and Phillip Baynash assistant treasurer and membership chairman. David Laufer has become minutes secretary and Gary Luke is officially our Web site organiser.

Our foundation treasurer and membership chairman Stuart Shaw has retired from the executive to do some studies. We presented Stuart with three books in recognition of his hard work and dedication. Nigel Meinrath continues on the committee without portfolio, and Sophie Caplan as president and editor.

While the dedication of past and present committee members is reassuring, it is disappointing to see so few other members of the Society attending our AGM. They are pleasant and civilised affairs where members can hear annual reports from the president, the resources librarian, the treasurer and the honorary auditor, and ask pertinent questions about the management of the Society. It appears that everyone is perfectly happy with the way the Society is run since so few members come to question their office-bearers.

The Society is making a major effort to get our constitution finally completed and to obtain incorporation in N.S.W. Your president has been remiss in letting this matter languish for so long, and now we are calling a Special General Meeting

(continued on page 8)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Victorian News	<i>Lionel Sharpe</i>	3
South Australian News	<i>Klee Benveniste</i>	3
Finding Family from a Piece of Scrap Paper	<i>Peter Nash</i>	4
Whatever Happened to Great Great Uncle Emanuel	<i>Phillip Baynash</i>	8
My Trip to Russia and Lithuania (continued)	<i>Selma Jackson</i>	9
S.S. Sagittaire Reunion		13
Forebears		14
Australian Data Base - Surname Index	<i>Rieke Nash</i>	15

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## Office Bearers of the Society

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Vice-President & Secretary	<i>Rieke Nash</i>
Treasurer	<i>Terry Newman</i>
Honorary Auditor	<i>Helena Rule</i>
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Victorian Representative	<i>Rhonda Lasky</i>
Western Australian Representative	<i>Ross Trobe</i>

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## SYDNEY WORKSHOPS 1997

The Society will hold its usual workshops at the North Shore Synagogue, Lindfield in the Rev Katz Library on the following Sunday mornings, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

July 6    August 3    September 7

October 12    November 16    December 7

The library is occasionally open at other times. If you would like to be notified when a day or evening session is planned, please contact 9427-6075.

## OUR CENTRAL COAST OPEN DAY

will be held on

Sunday, 24th August, 1997

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please contact Beulah on  
Tel: 043-69-5855 (h) or 043-69-1486 (w)  
Fax: 043-63-1522  
Email: [rachi@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rachi@ozemail.com.au)  
**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH**

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### New South Wales

Robert Barrois	Stephen Mednick
Zilla & Michelle Day	John Norris
John Dodds	Lorraine Ross
Claire Feurtado	Liesel Scholem
Virginia Hayes-Kruse	Doreen Scully
Stephen Kary	William Wallace
Morris Klibansky	Lorna Zelunzuk

### Victoria

Eva Boyum	William Grafen
Peter de Angelis	Lili Katz
Louis de Vries	Bernadette Polak
John Goldman	Vera Ray

### United Kingdom

Jacquey & Alfred Oppenheimer

### Western Australia

Robert Fraser  
Eva Smith

## NOW ON THE INTERNET

### JEWISH GENEALOGY IN AUSTRALIA

<http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/jozgen.htm>



## NEWS FROM THE VICTORIAN BRANCH

by Lionel Sharpe, Chairman

The Victorian Branch held its second Annual General Meeting at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre on Tuesday April 8. Following reports and elections Shmuel Rosenkrantz, President of the Holocaust Centre (Melbourne), spoke about the work of the Centre in educating the wider community about this tragic event. He also gave an overview of records and resources at their library.

The following committee was elected at the AGM.

Chair and Publicity	Lionel Sharpe
Secretary and Membership Officer	Rhonda Lasky
Treasurer	Sam Leon
Internet Co-ordinator and Publicity	Leslie Oberman
Internet Co-ordinator	Albert Braunstein
Publicity	Richard Reisner
Catering and Publicity	Enid Yoffa-Elton
Makor Library Liaison	Ros Collins
Committee Members	Bettye Susskind Rodney Eisfelder

Special thanks were extended to two retiring members of the committee, Ester Czaky and Leone Engel who had greatly assisted in the Branch's formative stage.

On May 6th, Rabbi Phillip Heilbrunn, Chief Minister of the St Kilda Hebrew Congregation spoke on the topic "Am I a Descendant of Casanova?" tracing his own family history.

## NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

by Klee Benveniste

The South Australian branch has increased to seven financial members as we welcome new member Jeanie Susman.

At our May meeting, guest speaker Dr Arie Hefgott spoke about using the Internet for family history research. He presented the problems and benefits of using extensive American Jewish genealogical resources available on the Internet. He also described how to develop detective skills to observe family characteristics, develop a memory for details, take notes and search for small physical details in enlarged family photos. His fascinating presentation was accompanied by examples of computer searches and captivating family portraits. We lingered late into the evening listening to his adventures in cyberspace.

Members also appreciated having our own branch copy of the JewishGen Family Finder which was eagerly passed around for members to search for others researching their family.

Our next meeting is due to be held in July.

Further 'Beginner's Workshops' are scheduled for Sunday afternoon June 1st and September 14th. To build up the resources for these workshops the Branch has purchased a complete set of nineteenth century maps and sets of microfiche from Avotaynu.

A great deal of press attention has been given to the recent launch of Mark Raphael Baker's book "*A Journey Through Memory - The Fiftieth Gate*", the story of his parents' experience in the Holocaust. Mark, a lecturer in Modern Jewish History at the University of Melbourne, was assisted in his research for the book by Krystyna Wyszogrodzki, a young Ph.D. student who recently commenced a private practice in genealogical research called "*Lost Histories - Eastern European Research*". Krystyna will address the Branch on Wednesday, 18 June at 7.30 p.m.

A number of members who are currently researching their ancestry will be given an opportunity to share their successes and failures on 23 July at 7.30 p.m..

The Victorian Branch meets at the BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne. Tel: 03-9273 5611.

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The contact address for the South Australian branch is

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### THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

**JULY 13-17, 1997**

**PARIS**

Hosted by the Cercle de Genealogie Juive,  
14 rue Saint Lazare, 75009, Paris, France.  
paris97r@jewishgen.org

Registration forms and information  
are available locally from

Tel: 61-2-9427-6075

Fax: 61-2-9427-7530

Email: ricken@zeta.org.au



## FINDING FAMILY FROM A PIECE OF SCRAP PAPER

by Peter Nash

Typically I got interested in my family tree when I realised that my parents were ageing and that being an only child, without even a first cousin, I wanted to know more about my ancestors. So I started asking them questions as well as going through their old letters, photos, certificates, etc.

I came across a piece of scrap paper on which my father, Herbert NACHEMSTEIN, had written two names (see copy). My father could not remember why he had written that note with the names of his grandfather's brother, Nathan NACHEMSTEIN and grandfather's sister's daughter, Anny LEVY. The note mentioned Nathan's place of origin, a town called Lessen in Germany, his approximate year of birth (1846) and that he had two to three sons and one daughter and lived in New York. But there was no approximate date of arrival or other information. Anny Levy originated from Osterode in East Prussia, and apparently lived in Chicago.

For several years I put this information to one side. Then about five years ago my wife and I became members of the newly formed Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. With the help of some of our resources and in particular the "Jewish Genealogy Beginner's Guide", 3rd Edition, published by the JGS of Greater Washington, I became aware of where to write in the United States for all kinds of records. In this case I wrote to the National Archives, Northeast Region in New York and requested details of Nathan Nachenstein's naturalization record, if it existed. They responded promptly and sent me a copy of Nathan Nachenstein's (spelt with an 'n' not an 'm') naturalization index card.

I was greatly excited by this, but how could I be sure that this was my great-grandfather's brother? This Nathan had emigrated to the United States in 1869 from Germany, approximately aged 23, and his occupation was shown as junk man! The fact that he was a junk

man was very significant, since many of the Nacheinsteins were in the scrap metal business in Prussia, Germany, including my father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncles and cousins. It seemed to be like a 'birthmark' in our family. The fact that Nathan's family name was spelt with an 'n' and not an 'm' I am sure is simply because when he arrived in New York his name was misspelt due to poor pronunciation! In any case the family name 'Nacheinstein' always seemed to be a very unusual name. The card also gave Nathan's Manhattan NYC address and date of naturalization, namely 1890.

I then requested a copy of his Naturalization Certificate

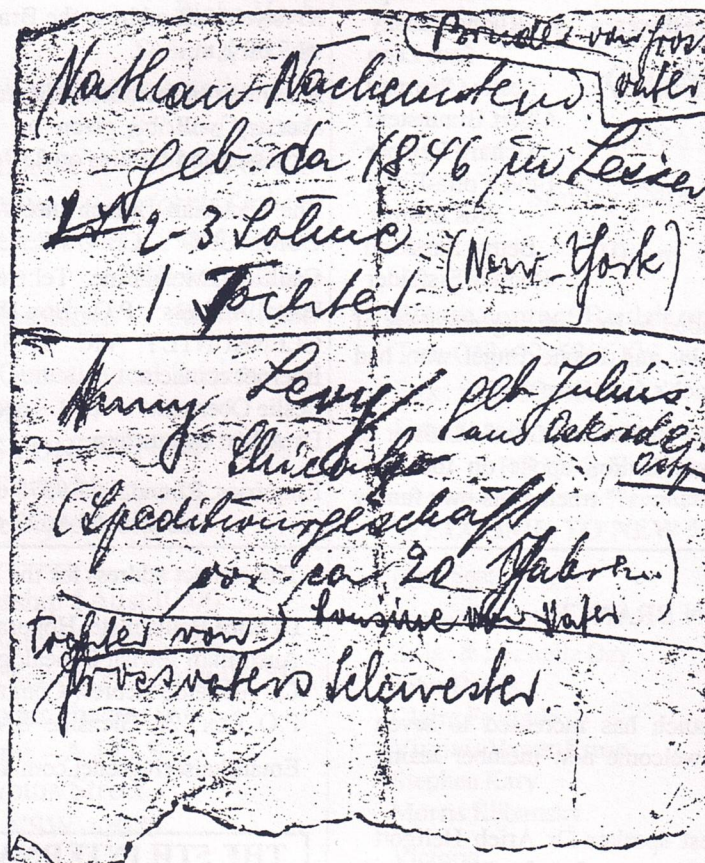
and after sending the required money I duly received it, but was quite disappointed as it did not mention what I had hoped for, any of Nathan's family names.

With the help again of the Beginner's Guide I became aware that the 1890 US Census had largely been destroyed by fire but that there was a New York Police Census for Manhattan for 1890, the year of Nathan's naturalization. As the index card also gave me Nathan's street address, I requested and soon obtained the 1890 Police Census for 294 Cherry Street and now found out the name and age of his wife, Flora, as well as each of their five children. It showed that Nathan was born in 1848. I was greatly excited by this com-

pletely new information about my great-grandfather's brother's family and so was our Society.

My next and more difficult step was to find living descendants of any of these cousins. Fortunately I visited New York City soon after and was able to go to the National Archives at 201 Varick Street where I viewed the microfilm for the Federal Census for 1900 starting at 294 Cherry Street. However, I could not find any of Nathan's family at that address and thought my luck had run out. But I casually flicked the film reel over and suddenly found that Nathan and his family were listed at 308 Cherry Street. This was obviously a lucky break which would not have come about unless I had been 'on the spot'. But as is often the case in genealogy you make your own luck. (Note: the Trow's

### THE PIECE OF SCRAP PAPER





NY City Directory could also have led me to Nathan's address at 308 Cherry Street. See further on).

As shown on the Census abstract, this gave me the names of five of the children as well as month and year of birth and their occupations. It also showed that the eldest had changed his name from Assia Nachenstein (1890 Police Census) to Charles A. Nack. The others were Annie, George, Morris and Louis (born October, 1887). In actual fact Flora had given birth to eight children, but only six were still alive in 1900.

As the 1910 Federal Census was not available I also checked the 1920 Census, but could not find any Nachensteins or Nacks at 308 Cherry Street. As I had no idea when (and where) Nathan died, it was suggested that I go to the New York County Surrogate Court at 31 Chambers Street to see if a Probate was filed for Nathan Nachenstein or any of his children. This I did and found that a Probate was granted for Nathan in 1921 which meant that he died in 1921 or possibly earlier. (Refer also to author's paper on the use of Probate records in Kosher Koala Vol.2, No.1, p.5). This led me to check the microfilm for deaths in 1921 which are on film in alphabetic order. Thus I found his death certificate and immediately paid for and received a certified copy. This now gave me his last address and so I went back to Varick Street to check the 1920 Federal Census for this address and of course found Nathan, and surprisingly also another son Joseph who was the sixth child.

Due to my limited time in New York I could not obtain Nathan's Probate File for perusal as it usually takes about seven working days to retrieve an old file. So I had to leave this for another opportunity.

While I was still in New York I scanned the then current telephone directories to try and trace possible descendants of Charles A. Nack. I also checked for the name Nash especially if associated with a junk business.

(Two other branches had also independently changed the family name from Nachenstein to Nash). I made quite a lot of phone calls, however I did not succeed with either approach.

I also checked the Trow's New York City Directories (alphabetically indexed names with occupations and addresses) and was able to follow Charles Nack's occupations over the years up to the last available directory year which was 1933/34. At that time he was a 'City Marshall' which I was told was the official name for a debt collector! So while still in New York I contacted the association with whom City Marshalls had to be registered and after explaining why I would want to enquire about someone registered sixty years earlier I was told : "Yes, we have a card for Charles A. Nack and his Badge Number was 102". I was instantly overcome with great emotion as this made my Charles A. Nack a "living person". Not unexpectedly, they did not have any information about a wife or family, only his address.

After returning to Sydney, I kept 'niggling away' at other possible leads to trace Charles Nack and any of the other Nachensteins. For example, I followed up a Family Finder advertisement in AVOTAYNU with someone who was researching the name 'NACK'. Although there seemed to be no connection, the other researcher voluntarily referred my search to an Irwin Nack who was himself researching the name 'Nack' and had become familiar with the name Charles A. Nack and in fact confirmed that he was a City Marshall. But Charles had no connection with Irwin's Nack because the original family name that he was researching was not Nachenstein. By this stage I was communicating by email.

Irwin Nack also referred me to Steve Zedeck (associated with the REIPP Project) who in turn referred me to his cousin Murray Zedeck, a medical doctor. From all this it turned out that Charles Nack's wife Dinah was a

N 252

Family Name		Given Name or Names	
NACHENSTEIN		NATHAN	
COMMON PLERAS COURT of NEW YORK COUNTY.			
Date of Naturalization	Volume or Bundle No.	Page No.	Copy of Record No.
MAY 9 1890	681	—	118.
Address of Naturalized Person			
294 CHERRY ST. N. Y. C.			
Occupation	Birth Date or Age	Former Nationality	
JUNK MAN	—	GERMAN	
Port of Arrival in the United States		Date of Arrival	
—		AUG 1869	
Names, Addresses and Occupations of Witnesses To Naturalization			
1	CORNELIUS DONOVAN 609 WATER ST. ✓		
2	N. Y. C.		

Naturalization Index Card



patient of Murray Zedeck and in fact related to the Zedecks by marriage. Murray knew of and gave me the name and address of the niece of Dinah Nack, namely Eleanor Garz. I phoned Eleanor and even though she was not a blood relation she was overjoyed that someone was trying to connect with 'her very dear Uncle Charlie' who had died about thirty years earlier. Unfortunately Eleanor knew nothing about any of Charles' siblings. Nevertheless, this episode clearly demonstrated the power of 'networking'.

As Irwin Nack was aware that I was basically tracing the name Nachenstein he alerted me to the date of death [April 4, 1942] of a George Nackenstein. Even though the spelling was with a 'k' and not an 'h' I was sure that this was one of Nathan's sons. I paid for and obtained his death certificate and, lo and behold, the informant was his brother Louis Nack, not Nachenstein! So now I knew that the youngest brother Louis had also changed his name to Nack! This led me to my next breakthrough. Namely one evening when our Society had a guided tour of the Mormon record facilities at Greenwich, Sydney, I found a Social Security Death Index No. for a Louis Nack and also the year (1966) and state where he died (Florida).

Just prior to that evening at the LDS Library we had a visit in Sydney from the President of the JGS of Miami, Art Chassman and his wife Caryl. So I wrote to Art and Caryl and asked if they could get me the death certificate for Louis Nack. Being an efficient President, Art delegated Caryl to this task which she gladly did. The certificate showed that Louis died in Miami and where he was buried, but not his wife's name. The signature of the informant was quite unreadable but the address was clearly legible because it was typed. I wrote back to Caryl and asked if she could check if by chance the informant was still living at the given address, that is, thirty years later. Caryl wrote back and said that the person who answered the door, Sue Zeichner, was at first quite suspicious about this enquiry on behalf of 'someone in Australia'. However Sue confirmed that she was the informant and 'yes', her father was Louis Nack, but, said Caryl, it was the 'wrong' Louis Nack because his family came from Germany and the family name was 'Nachenstein'. Somehow I had either not told Caryl that my birth name was Nachenstein or she had forgotten this fact. I was ecstatic that I had finally found a living descendant, the granddaughter of my great-grandfather's brother!

I immediately obtained Sue's phone number from directory assistance and called her. She also was extremely thrilled that there was 'other' family as she had no inkling of this. Sue is eighty-two and childless, and also has an eighty-year old sister who has a son and daughter with whom I have already made contact. Meanwhile I wrote back to Caryl Chassman to tell her the happy news and Caryl was very proud to have helped in this 'detective work'.

Last month I was able to confirm from the LDS microfilm for Lessen that Nathan Nachenstein was indeed the brother of my great-grandfather, Leiser Nachenstein. So, a piece of scrap paper has now become a thick file. And now to find Anny Levy in Chicago.....?

*Peter Nash is an active member of our Society together with his wife, Rieke. We would hazard a guess that when Herbert NACHEMSTEIN wrote down those names, it was in an effort to seek contact with relatives in the USA, who might have been able to send the family an affidavit to emigrate to the USA from Shanghai.*

## SEPHARDIS IN HAMBURG

When the Jews left Spain, as well as settling in the countries of the Ottoman Empire around the Mediterranean Sea, many of them settled along the port cities of the eastern Atlantic Ocean in Bordeaux, Bayonne, Rouen in France, Antwerp and Amsterdam then both in Holland, and in Hamburg, Germany, and its satellite towns of Altona and Wandsbeck. A new book of essays has appeared on the Jews of Hamburg with essays in German, Spanish or English, on such topics as "The Storied Stones of Altona, Biblical Imagery in Sefardic Tombstones at the Jewish Cemetery of Altona-Koenigstrasse", "Some Episodes of Sefardic History As Reflected In Epitaphs of the Jewish Cemetery in Hamburg-Altona", "The Spanish and Portuguese Golden Age Parnassus in Hamburg", "The Family de Lima between Hamburg, Curacao and Chili", etc.

Published 1996 by HELMUT BUSKE VERLAG,  
Richard Strasse 47, 22081 HAMBURG.

Tel: 49-40-2999-580 Fax: 49-40-299-3614.

Cost DM 98.--, possibly plus postage.

A previous title on the Sephardim of Hamburg, title not known, has also been published by this firm.

Translated from MAAJAN DIE QUELLE,  
December, 1996

## NEWS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In our enthusiasm to mention the exciting possibility of a branch in Perth, in our last issue we said that Chava Agmon's talk on the Caro family was the very first time there had been a Jewish genealogy lecture in Perth. This was, of course, untrue. Not only did our Birmingham member, Dr Anthony Joseph, speak on the links between Anglo-Jewish history and its genealogies at a meeting hosted by the Western Australian Jewish Historical Society in March, 1996, but there were probably other lectures on like topics over the years. Your editor apologises for this inaccuracy.

But now our representative in Perth, Ross Trobe, and our member, Michelle Urban, are striving to establish a branch in Perth. We hope to bring you news of its establishment in our next issue. For news of meetings called, Western Australian readers should consult THE MACCABEAN, the Perth Jewish monthly.



## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GREAT UNCLE EMANUEL?

by Phillip Baynash

I had known for a considerable time that my great grandmother had a brother who had gone to New Zealand. For many years, we were happy to live with this limited knowledge, assuming that he had married out, or that there were no identifiable descendants left. This attitude didn't change even when we migrated to Australia in 1977.

Then I was bitten by the genealogy bug and discovered that there were interesting New Zealand records in the Family History Service of the NSW State Library. I got as far as finding out where and when he had died (Dunedin, 1920) and obtained his gloriously flowery application for naturalisation, and then my curiosity and enthusiasm went back into hibernation.

It wasn't until a third cousin in Manchester badgered me to enquire about this branch of the family that I acted. I wrote to the New Zealand Jewish Chronicle in January 1996 and asked about placing an advertisement calling for descendants to contact me. I received a charming reply from the editor, Anna Veritt, suggesting that she run my enquiry as a letter at no charge. This was my introduction to the kindness and helpfulness I encountered from almost everyone during my New Zealand researches.

The letter drew an immediate response. Exciting phone calls and letters arrived from New Zealand. They told of a large family still substantially Jewish and spread all over the country with representatives in Australia and Israel as well. Over the past twelve months, I have identified a total of over four hundred people spread over seven generations. Unfortunately, I have met very few so far.

From what we know, Emanuel Levy was the second of four children born to Yehuda and Channah Levy near Lodz in the western part of Poland. The whole family came to England over a considerable period during the middle of the 19th century before dispersing literally to the four corners of the earth. Newman, the eldest, married Betsy Cohen in London and emigrated to the US in 1867. His son Abraham and grandson, also named Newman, became well-known lawyers in New York.

Emanuel, as we shall see, arrived in New Zealand in January 1875. Rachel, who had married Isaac Peterskie in Poland, settled in Manchester and my great grandmother, Esther, married Samuel Abrahams in Manchester in 1872 and lived for sixteen years in New York, before returning to England and finally emigrating to South Africa in the closing years of the 19th century.

One of the fun parts of trying to track down Emanuel is that everywhere one turns, he seems to have a different female! And we thought they were more staid in those days!!

He seems to have married Golda Moses in Poland and to have had two children with her. The eldest, Amelia, was born either in Poland or London. The second, Abraham, was born in London in June 1861. This doesn't explain why the 1861 UK Census conducted earlier the same year has Emanuel living at Goulston Street in Whitechapel with a wife shown as Saria.

The next we hear of Emanuel is when he arrives in Lyttleton, New Zealand in January 1875 accompanied by the newly married Amelia and her husband, Myer Morris, the fourteen year old Abraham and Leah (aged 28) and Rachel (aged 5). "Who on earth are they?", I hear you ask. I am still trying to discover the answer. The New Zealand National Archives say that the way their names are listed, Leah must be his wife and Rachel his child. Yet I cannot find evidence in the UK of Golda's death, Emanuel's marriage to Leah or the birth of Rachel. Nor can I find what happened to them after they arrived, and no one in the family has ever heard of them.

Amelia went on to have nine children and died in 1932 in Newcastle, NSW, where she and several of the children were involved in running hotels. Abraham married into an even larger Levy family, had eight children and died in New Zealand in 1918.

In 1889, Emanuel married again in Dunedin a young non-Jewish girl named Hannah Tubman whose father was a farmer in the Dunedin district. Emanuel claimed to be aged forty-eight but was more like fifty-five at the time, and she claimed to be twenty-two and was apparently only nineteen. The marriage certificate states that he had been a widower since 1880 but Hannah later wrote that Emanuel's previous wife had died in 1876. Regardless of the date, no one who has been following this story will be at all surprised to hear that I have been able to find no trace of a relevant female Levy death during this period either in New Zealand or England.

Emanuel and Hannah had a son and two daughters, and he left her around the birth of the youngest in 1901. Hannah adopted the name of Moag-Levy (Moag being a family name) and, for good measure, changed her first name to Anna. She died in 1944.

I had known of this second (or was it third?) marriage but didn't know the bride's identity and couldn't think how to find out. While I was wondering how to tackle the problem, I received a phone call in September 1996 from Frank Moag who introduced himself as Emanuel's grandson. He had contacted the Australian Jewish Historical Society who had put him on to Rieke Nash, the secretary of our Australian Jewish Genealogical Society who had remembered that I was looking for Levys from Dunedin.

Frank, now over 80, had been a career naval officer. He went to sea in the ranks of the Royal Australian Navy, became a gunnery specialist, rose to the rank of Lt. Commander and was awarded an MBE. He had several



tours of duty aboard the cruiser, HMAS Australia, including his war service, but was not on board this ship during her major action at Lingayen Gulf in January, 1945.

He had fascinating stories to tell of his father, Hyman Levy, the eldest child of Emanuel and Hannah. Hyman, who was a merchant service officer, had changed his name to Roger Moag-Levy and then to Roger Moag, claiming imaginatively that "Roger" was an English version of "Hyman".

He worked for several shipping lines and met his future wife, Lucy Moyse, on a voyage to Norfolk Island. The couple surprised and discomfited her mother by going off and getting married on 8 July 1913. They settled in Sans Souci, Sydney, where Biddy (Bridget) was born in 1914 and Frank in 1915.

At the outbreak of WW1 Hyman/Roger, then a second mate on the South China coast, joined the battleship HMS Triumph claiming to be a Sub-Lt RANR and was "lent" to the destroyer HMS Kennet for the bombardment of Tsingtao (now Qingdao) on 21 August 1914. For some reason Hyman/Roger then left the navy and returned to Sydney. Was this because they were checking on his claimed rank in the RANR?

He enlisted in the army in Sydney, was quickly promoted to Sergeant and subsequently to Lieutenant and was shipped to a camp in Egypt. On his return from Gallipoli, he was court martialled on 10 February 1916 on a charge of drunkenness, found guilty, discharged and sent back to Australia in March 1916.

He later went to Canada, where he became a first or second mate on a troopship, HMT Halifax. His second "wife" received a postcard from him from the Azores dated 11 December 1917, and the ship then vanished without trace.

Like so many of his personal papers, his army record is riddled with obvious inaccuracies, almost certainly the result of his grandiose fantasies. His application for a commission states that he was born in Ireland in 1880. The truth was that he was born in New Zealand in 1889, but he often claimed Irish birth and usually exaggerated his age by ten years. His service record produced at the court martial describes him as being thirty-eight years old and the holder of an incredible array of decorations such as a Distinguished Service Order (typically awarded only to much more senior officers) and other decorations which are obviously not true, such as Boer War medals dated 1899, 1900 and 1901 (when he was in reality ten or twelve years old!) and a Royal Humane Society medal in 1914.

His personal life was messy to say the least. He had two children with Lucy and then left her when Frank Moag, the younger, was six months old. In New York he married a Canadian woman named Mary Miley (without, it appears, the benefit of a divorce from Lucy). Mary was in the early stages of pregnancy when he was lost at sea

in December, 1917 and the child was born in New York in June, 1918. He was named Roger John Moag and became a Roman Catholic priest in Louisiana!

Most of the hard information was obtained through the New Zealand National Archives which are extremely helpful and the Registrar-General, though a lot of pointers to research directions came from members of the family. I made contact with the synagogues at Dunedin and Wellington and received a lot of assistance from committee members and others.

I would be most remiss if I did not mention two New Zealanders whom I have never met face to face, but with whom I made contact through Internet newsgroups and who have dug and delved for me obtaining certificates on my behalf, all out of the goodness of their hearts. Pauline Sigglekow and Trevor Reeves have been fantastic friends. One day I hope to meet them in person.

*Phillip Baynash is a member of the society in Sydney and has been on the committee as publicity officer and recently became membership chairman and assistant treasurer.*

#### **EDITORIAL** (continued from page 1)

to adopt a constitution on Sunday evening 17th August, 1997 to be followed by a report on the Paris International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, together with reports on trips to Belarus, to Poland and to Ukraine. We hope that a large number of members will attend this important meeting.

It is hoped that later in 1997 a new scheme to help our members and others can be inaugurated. This is known as ONE NAME groups. Certain surnames surface repeatedly in Australian and English Jewish genealogy; **BARNETT, COHEN, HARRIS, HART, ISRAEL, ISAACS, JACOBS, JOSEPH, LEVY/LEVI, MOSES/MOSS, NEWMAN, PHILLIPS**, etc. We would like members who are researching one of these names to come forward to take charge of whatever information exists on their particular name, and to take responsibility to help others researching the name by answering queries, and in effect becoming an expert on families with their chosen name.

So far we have held special workshops on Lithuanian Jewish genealogical research, and recently had a workshop on English Jewish ancestry. Late this year we hope to hold a special workshop on Polish Jewish genealogy, and on Sunday 24th August Beulah Gross will host an all day workshop on the Central Coast.

An Australian Federation of Family History Societies Congress has been announced for September 2000 in Perth. As long as it does not clash with the Yamin Tovim, this may be a good opportunity for overseas genealogists to combine with a visit to the Olympic Games which will take place in Sydney in September 2000.

Chag Sameach for Shavuot.

Sophie Caplan, Editor



## MY TRIP TO LITHUANIA AND LATVIA

(continued from Vol. 4 No. 1)

by Selma Jackson

**Monday, July 1.** The boys wanted to visit the Vilna Gaon's tomb, as we had arrived back too late the previous afternoon when arrangements had been made to meet the gabbai of the Shul, who had the key. The Gaon, Elijah ben Solomon Zalman, died in 1487, and when the first cemetery was closed in 1832, at the end of the 19th century his remains were moved to another cemetery, which was destroyed in the 1950's, prior to which, he was moved to the present cemetery, which is on a hill! Today there is a memorial stone where the Gaon was first buried. We drove to the Krakai fortress, and on to Trachai (Troki), the district capital, which is surrounded by five lakes. Steven and Gordon paddled across Lake Galia to the Trakai Castle, and when they got back, Valera was handed a parking ticket. We hadn't seen the "No Parking" sign! It was in this area that the Karaites used to live. They were Turkish speaking, said "not to be nice Jews", even though they lived by the Torah. In 1897 there were 880 Rabbinic Jews and 424 ordinary Jews, of the 2390 population, who were engaged mainly in vegetable growing.

Regina had arranged to fetch a Jewish guide in Kaunas (Kovno), Frieda Prieskin, who accompanied us to the Dransy Camp, today a museum, but which used to be the 9th Fort, one of the way-stations where, from 1941, the 10,000 French Jews were taken on their way to Auschwitz. Seven, then-millionaires, were interned in Dransy. There are only a few of the prisoners' names scratched into the walls e.g. Max Stein of Paris 18.5.44, A. Steinberg, Herskovetz of Monaco 19.5.1944, as the Germans and Russians had removed most of the names. It was raining on the Monday we went to the camp, and inside the floors were very wet, the cells very damp with the metal beds hanging from the walls. That was how the inmates lived while they were there. We walked up a bricked walkway, towards a huge impressive monument to the inmates of Dransy Camp that were killed there, and on the side below the road, was a wall full of bullet holes with the inscription "THERE NEAR THIS WALL NAZIS SHOT AND BURIED PEOPLE IN 1943-1944".

We then went into Kaunas, and then on to Taurege, where one Jew, Judelis, a forester has cleared the forest to show the trenches where the Jews were shot. Today there is a memorial on the edge of the Antsunija woods to the 3000 Jews killed there in 1941.

When we arrived at the only 'hotel' in Taurege, Regina suggested I go with her just to see if the hotel was all right! Just as well. The receptionist took us to see the three rooms and bathrooms, which we declined.

On to the next shtetl, Silale, on the Lokysta River, which wasn't much better, but at least there was a

restaurant of sorts, Medvegalis, across the road from the Ashutis Hotel. It cost 150 Lats for the three rooms! According to cousin Luba, it was four kms from Silale, after Tulein, (maybe "Tubines Forest") that the Jews of Kvederna were taken to be killed and buried in a big grave. We put our luggage in the rooms, and walked along the main street. The scene from our bedroom window was of old grey corrugated iron roofs. A few had TV aerials. The one and only shop was busy with the locals buying food and groceries.

**Tuesday, 2 July,** the director of the museum, Rita Durskevena, took us to the Silale Jewish cemetery, which had ONE tombstone left! Finally we were on the outskirts of the shtetl I had most looked forward to going to, Kvederna. Dad used to say "Chveidan" and that is what is written on my grandparents' tombstones on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. At 10 am we stopped at the road sign, "KVEDERNA". This was where my Dad, Nathan Horwitz, my grandparents and family had lived. On entering the shtetl, Regina had Vallera stop the car, when she saw an elderly woman in the yard of the first house on the right. Regina spoke in Lithuanian, and asked if she had always lived in Kvederna, which she hadn't and she called her husband, Jurhus Juozas, who had. Regina asked him if he remembered the name "David Horwitz" and he said "Yes, he had an old grocery shop in the main street" and so we thanked them and went into the centre, where Regina and I went into the municipal offices, hoping that there would be a map and names, as we had found in Anyksciai, but we were sent from one office to another. Regina began talking to a very officious type of lady who was in an office with three other women. Regina explained that my father and grandparents had lived in the town and I was hoping to find the house. They got very excited, or thinking about it now, maybe it was agitation, but they were very nice. When a gentleman came out of the office next door wanting to know what the commotion was about, plenty of Lithuanian talk followed. The gentleman was introduced to us as The Mayor, Nikolajus Sevcenko. He locked his office door, said goodbye to his two gentlemen visitors, and told the ladies he would show us Kvederna! Mr Sevcenko is Ukrainian.

He took us to see Bronia Busheckiene, who lived at 30 Silali Street, and who he thought would remember. She took some time to come from her vegetable garden, and we went into her wooden house. Inside was worse than the outside! She must have told the Mayor something,

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because he then made a telephone call. She had had strawberries and cream for breakfast, as they were still on the table. I called Steven and Gordon in, so that they could see what the inside of a Lithuanian house was like! She did not remember David Horwitz or Hurwitz! Mr Mayor then took us to the hospital, where, he said, was the only Jewish lady who had survived the concentration camp! He went in on his own, saying he would call us when he had spoken to her, which must have been about 10-15 minutes later. Thinking about it now, they must have been cleaning her and the room, and maybe all the rooms we had to pass by, as there were no other people in the rooms. When I walked into her room, she was sitting in bed, and she looked at me and started crying, calling "Luba, Luba", and I said "No, Luba is my cousin and she lives in Israel" "Yes I know", she says! Evidently Barbara Stasynaite born in 1923, used to work for Luba's parents, Shmuel and Sheina Gita Rachmel. Barbara and Luba were in the concentration camp together, and have remained friends and correspond to this day! There was a very nice blonde lady there, whom Regina said was introduced as Barbara's daughter, but when I finally spoke with Luba when I was in Tel Aviv, two weeks later, she said Barbara has no daughter, or anyone else for that matter! Barbara, Luba and Rose (Luba's sister who lives in Chicago USA), were the only ones who survived the concentration camp. Barbara went back to Kvederna after being liberated, whereas Luba found her husband and went to Israel, where she knew other members of the family lived. The Mayor then drove with us to the town centre, where we parked the car in the main street, on the corner opposite the town square, which is today the Square of Remembrance to those who lost their lives in the concentration camps and Holocaust. I took a photograph of a brick two-storey house across the road from where we were parked, saying "Maybe it was my Uncle Naftoli's house!" The Mayor and I walked to an open grassed plot of ground that he said was where the synagogue used to be. Only when I got to Tel Aviv, did I find out from Luba, that the brick building now the butcher shop, outside which we parked on the corner of the main street, Silale Street, had in fact been my grandparents' brick shop with flat upstairs, where they lived with their son Shmuel Meier, my uncle, his wife Chia and sons, Meishe and Chaim, and their son Naftoli and his wife. Rivka and her daughter lived across the road in a big brick house.

We drove to the outskirts of the shtetl, to the Jewish Cemetery, where a black memorial has been placed where the Ohel once stood. There are not many tombstones standing in the cemetery, but those still there were all tall narrow tombstones, quite different from those in Anyksciai. I took details of a few; 1936 Mordechai ben Rav Aharon; 1905 Shrage ben Jacov; one white stone 1927 Yehuda ben Avraham, remembered by daughter and son in Johannesburg, South Africa. In each shtetl, wherever we went to the

cemetery, Steven and Gordon said Tilim, but here in Kvederna, they said quite a few Psalms. I think even at their young age, HERE they felt an affinity with Gerald and me! I felt very drained and sad here. We took the Mayor back to the civil buildings, where I wanted to buy a postcard or photograph of Kvederna, but there were none, so I asked the postmistress to stamp the back of a postcard I had bought in Anyksciai. She even forgot to change the date stamp. Just as we were leaving, the Mayor came running back. We had already taken our leave of him, and thanked him for his help, when he arrived and presented me with a baked clay medal showing the town memorial square, commemorating the Holocaust, Concentration camps and survivors. All this and it was only 11.55 am!!

We then drove to Tytuvėnai, (Tzitivjan) which I think Regina said meant "to the river", where my paternal grandmother's Berman family originated. There had been sixty Jewish families before World War I, and had the well-known Yavne school for girls. On approaching Tytuvėnai, Valera pointed out a stork family sitting on their nest on the top of a pole. We drove into the town and stopped at a very pretty Baras-Kavine decorated with wood, for a late lunch, leaving at 3.40 pm for the drive to Klaipėda. Eighteen kms from Tytuvėnai, as we were passing Kelm, in the Rasin District on the Krazhianta River, I asked Valera to drive into the town so that I could take a photograph to send to a relation, Gerald Kane in Delmar Heights, San Diego. He had written prior to my leaving on my trip, that his grand-father, Naftoli, a cousin of my father, came from Kelm. The area is full of forests, lovely scenery, flat fields, vegetable patches and no fences, such as we had seen in other nearby areas. To all our questions, Valera kept replying "Da, Da" which means "Yes". Unfortunately postcards are not available in any of these pretty shtetls. We passed Rietavas, and on to Klaipėda (Memel). I was visualising the story which my Dad used to tell me about going with his mother Esther by horse and cart from Chveidan to the wholesalers in Memel to do buying for their shop. The Viesbutis hotel in Klaipėda was big and basic. In my diary I have "hotel terrible", although it was busy with lots of tourists arriving. Gerald wasn't feeling well, so Regina and I went walking around the old part of the city, where the Jews used to live, to the Jewish Community Centre and saw concrete monuments made from broken-up Jewish tombstones, also pieces of different tombstones that had been saved and embedded into the surrounding walls of the centre. After the war, 300 mostly old Jews came to live in Klaipėda. From Klaipėda the ferry goes to the Spit, neighbouring ports, and even across the sea to Russian ports.

**Wednesday, July 3,** I walked around near the hotel on my own, while Regina took Gerald and the boys to see where we had been the previous evening. There are quite a few shops near the hotel with many banks and



financial institutions, with a market place nearby which is very busy. We drove around the city to the "Turgeviete" market, and then to a walk through a beautiful park, on the way to the Amber Castle, but as Gerald had a bout of gout, he and Regina sat at the edge of the lake, while Steven, Gordon and I went into the castle to see the story of amber, how and where it is found, and also saw beautiful pieces of amber jewellery. Then off to Palanga, a seaside resort north of Klaipeda, which in the 15th Century used to be a Jewish centre with 12,000 people. On arrival at Palanga, we had to get petrol. One has to pay first for as many litres as one thinks one may require, and also pay the 20 Litas (US\$5) tax before one could drive into the sea-side resort. There were lots of women standing around the Palanga office begging, offering accommodation in their homes, and bartering with the tourists. We saw two young tourists walk away with one of the ladies offering accommodation! We walked over the dunes to the beach, and I went to the water's edge to put my hands into the sea water.

On the way to Plunge, we drove through Kretinga, where Regina showed us a beautiful palace with a magnificent atrium which used to belong to a wealthy Jewish family. In Plunge we went to the flat of Dalia and Josel Jakov Bumka. Josel, now aged 73, who was in the Russian army, brought out his army jacket with all the many medals and insignia, and enjoyed telling us of his wartime experiences, and for what he won the various medals! Josel is a woodcarver, and all his figurines are on the piano in the lounge. Gerald ordered and paid for a figurine for Lisa, his daughter. Josel took us to where the Russians destroyed the synagogue and built a Russian school, gymnasium, and where he has managed to save eighty-eight Jewish tombstones. A symbol of resistance, he said. He has placed these tombstones in a semi-circle, but says once he is gone, there will be no one to look after the stones. He has managed, together with an American, to get permission to transport the Wasserman grandmother's tombstone to New York. Aga, daughter of Mordecai Kirsh, died in 1918. Plunge was the only shtetl in Lithuania which had surnames on the tombstones. He then told us to drive into the country, where we saw beautiful woodcarvings that he had carved, depicting scenes of what the Jews went through. With the help of the America Joint Distribution Committee, he has cleared and built pathways up to the mass graves. The masterpiece is of a Rabbi looking over the four mass graves, which are sixteen steps down, saying "Var Vos?" Indeed "Why?" He has also put a memorial stone, in English, showing the place where "in this place 15/16 July 1941, the Nazi Assassins and their local collaborationists murdered ferociously about 1800 Jews from Plunge, children, women and men". We then went back to the Bumka's flat, where Mrs Bumka had laid out a wonderful afternoon tea with yellow and red cherries, strawberries, homemade biscuits, rye bread, cheese and honey, tea and coffee.

From Plunge, we drove to Telsiai (Tels) on Lake Mastis. No one we know comes from Tels, but once we were there, Gerald said we should go and see! The old Jewish gymnasium, school, still stands, and there is a mass grave for the 7,000 Jews who perished there. We drove to the Laukova cemetery. My uncle Shmuel Meier's wife Chai's family, Katin, came from Laukova where they all perished with their family. The stones in the cemetery date from 1800 to 1850. We drove on to Siauliai (Shavli), and after driving around to see the different hotels, we stayed the night at the Siauliai Hotel. We ate at the hotel that evening, but it wasn't good!

**Thursday, July 4**, the boys are fasting until 11.49 pm, as it is the Fast of Tammuz. There used to be 17,000 Jews out of 35,000 inhabitants in Siauliai, 20 survived, and only about 5 or 6 are still there! Jakob Frankel gave his elegant house, near the old shul, for a school, and it is being restored as a Jewish museum. We met Avigal Sidenkor, who took us to the Jewish Community Centre, which they rent from the owners, as the Jewish properties have not been given back to the Jews. (Avigal sent regards to Gerald Kleinman of Cape Town). We had lunch at a very popular restaurant, with red velvet curtains, and then we walked along the paved main street mall, with shops on both sides. With 4 Litas = US\$1, oranges cost 5.50; apples 4.00; cucumbers 2.00. Regina left us for a few minutes, and I think she must have bought the Anyksciai wine here, that she gave Gerald and me as gifts. The old synagogue is on Vilnius street corner of Varpog. From the petrol station we saw new modern houses being built.

As we were approaching Gruzdziai, Gerald decided to go into the shtetl, as his sister-in-law, Cynthia's father came from Gruzdziai. We took a few photographs and enquired where the cemetery was. Regina asked a lady on a bicycle the way to the Jewish Cemetery, and she told us we had to go through someone's farm on the outskirts of the town. The farmer opened his gates to allow us to get to the Jewish cemetery, but on the way from the cemetery, we found that there was a proper road to the cemetery! The very first grave I looked at was "1919 Lea Gruzdz, daughter of Josef" - Cynthia's Great Grandmother no doubt! While Gerald and the boys walked among the tombstones, Regina and I collected wild strawberries along the outer wall. We walked to the back wall of the cemetery, where we found the wall riddled with bullet holes, and opposite was the mass grave.

We left Gruzdziai at 12.30 pm, and on the way to the border of Latvia, on a very bad 16 km road back in the direction of Siauliai, Valera tried to get the necessary Lithuanian sticker "LT" for the car, without which he would not have been able to take the car back into Lithuania, but without success. At the garage we used the toilets. The sign for the "ladies" we found out was an inverted triangle, and again the toilet was a hole in



the ground! Just south of Joniskis, we saw in the distance, the Hill of Crosses, a Christian pilgrimage site, with thousands of wooden crosses, swords and rosaries piled high, going back hundreds of years, but evidently Christians today still lay their rosaries there! We reached Joniskis at 1.45 pm, where before the war there were 600 Jews of the 2,500 population. We went to see the two large synagogues which stand next to each other, the Knesset, still with the Magen David at the centre near the top, and the Beit Midrash.

Having bought the "LT" sticker from the road service office in Joniskis, we were expecting to spend at least an hour in the queue at the border, but with only three cars ahead of us, it took ten minutes at the Lithuanian customs and Latvian immigration. Once again Gerald and the boys did not get their passports stamped, but they were informed that they were the first South Africans to cross the border there! Again we saw a family of storks in the nest on top of a pole, and it seems that they nest near houses on the outskirts of villages. We passed Jelgava, a Latvian palace. The cost of petrol was 26 centimes for 1 litre petrol = US 50c. The Latvian LAT = US\$2.00 (Litas, centai and centu).

On the highway we passed the village of Juan Olaine, about 10 kms from Riga. I don't remember what the significance of this village was, but I will find out! Apartment blocks house 1 million people, the trams are old Russian ones. We drove into Riga across one of the three bridges over the Dogaba River, one is for trains only. We arrived at the Eurolink Hotel, 22 Aspazijas Boulevard, where we found Roman Blumenthal waiting for us. Regina and Valera were keen to return to Vilnius by that evening, so they did not wait to have lunch with us, and we said our goodbyes, having spent seven wonderful days together.

Riga - we were back in civilisation! The Eurolink Hotel is a good business class hotel, on the third floor of the Riga Hotel, with its own dining area, lovely bedrooms and bathrooms, security card to get into the room, hairdressing salon on the second floor! As there were no Kosher restaurants, the boys decided to go to the Synagogue, the Riga Choral Synagogue at 6/8 Pietavas-iela, to make arrangements with the Rabbi, and Gerald, Roman and I took ourselves to the "Shalom" restaurant, Jewish owned, the cooking done by the owner and her family, where we ordered gefilte fish for starters, chicken soup and kneidel (Gerald had his borscht), and Tzimmes, with taiglach (nothing like my Mother's) to finish with black coffee! Later it was a pleasure being able to watch CNN on TV, and see what was going on in the world!

(To be continued)

*Selma Jackson is a member of the Society in Sydney to which she emigrated from Cape Town, South Africa about 8 years ago.*

## YOUTH AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in cooperation with the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland, is preparing for publication some Jewish Youth Autobiographies written in the 1930s. The editorial board is looking for any information about the authors.

**Zygmunt Horowitz**, born in 1912 in **Zakopane**, Poland. We know that he survived the Holocaust.

**Wilhelm Kittenplon**, born in 1917 in **Sambor**, Ukraine. He lived in **Drohobycz**.

**Maks Lieber**, born in 1914. He lived in **Krasne by Busk**, Poland.

**Dawid Mlynarski**, born in 1918 in **Sulejow**, Poland in the Ger Hassidim family. He attended the "Metivta" Yeshiva in Warsaw.

**Abraham Rotfarb**, born in 1921 in **Warsaw**; his pre-war address: Nalewki 45 Apt 37. He now lives in Israel and is looking for information about the fate of his brothers and sisters: Perec (b. 1923), Fajga (b. 1925), Chaja (b. 1927), Lejb (b. 1929).

**Ludwik Stockel**, born in 1914 in **Zofiewka by Biala Czortkowska** (Ukraine). He lived in **Tluste**. In 1933 he studied in Lvov University and was active in "Poale-Zion"

**A. Szac**, born in 1915 in **Pinsk**. He lived in **Bereza Kartuska**.

**Hersz Wolf Sztolcman**, born in 1912 in **Lazy near Sochaczew**. He lived in **Warsaw** and **Sochaczew**. We know that his brother, Aron Sztolcman, born in 1925, survived. According to the Yad Vashem Archive, Hersz Sztolcman, born October 1st, 1912 in **Gabin**, emigrated to Australia in 1951, possibly Melbourne.

**Malka Szwarc**, born in 1911 in **Vilna**. According to Yad Vashem, Malka Szwarc was born July 5th, 1912 and was living in the Displaced Persons' Camp in Bergen-Belsen in 1947.

If you know anything about any of the above persons, please send the information to:

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## S.S. SAGITTAIRE REUNION

by Leslie Oberman

On the 29th September 1947 the ship Sagittaire docked in Sydney, Australia, carrying amongst its passengers Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. The National Council Of Jewish Women (Dimona Group) Melbourne, Australia will be holding a reunion to be held on Sunday the 14th. September 1997. Any person knowing the whereabouts of passengers who arrived on this ship or their descendants, would they please contact Alice Tiomkin at <oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au> or our Society.

The following is a list of passengers:-

**AURBACH** Beryez      **BARASZ** Lejzer  
**BAUMANN** Rolph      **BEKKER** Mira  
**BERLINER** Erich  
**BOMZOM** Israel, Bella, Lionel  
**BRANDENBERG** Dina  
**BUCHBINDER** Lejzner, Ziva, Savari  
**CHARAK** Kisel      **CSILLAG** Tibor  
**DAVID** Zisla, Pineu      **DESSAUER** Julius, Klara  
**DREZNER** Shulem, Hania, Jankow  
**ECKSTEIN** Maxmilian      **EISNER** Maria, Peter  
**FINDER** Samuel, Ida, Felicia  
**FINK** Heinrich, Irma  
**FINKELSTEIN** Joseph, Frida, Michel, Adam  
**FINKELZTEIN** Leib, Zipa, Aron  
**FISCHL** Frederic      **FRANK** Luba  
**FREIBERG** Gus/Cecil, Eva  
**FRUCHTER** Tibor, Juliana, Josepha, Georges  
**FUCHS** Elsa  
**GOLDSZTAT** Mojszes, Bronia, Lajba  
**GRECHOWSKI** Choma  
**GRUNSEIT** Benno, Cilly      **GUTVACH** Evelyne  
**HAMMERMESZ** Szlama, Pawel, Leckadia,  
Edwards, Kasimir  
**HEILIKMAN** Alfred, Ita  
**HERCHTAL** Rosa, Julius, Ludwig  
**HOSENBALL** Jenkil, Chana, Luba,  
**ILLIN** Efroim, Sonia, Bella  
**JELLINEK** Paul, Rudolphine, Jacki, Jonas Paul  
Margarete  
**JOSKOWITZ** Hesich, Lola  
**KANE** Abram, Basia      **KAUFMAN** Moses, Ele  
**KIRSCHERBLATT** Szlamak, Ryma  
**KEMPINSKI** Rudolph, Berta, Sophie, Liliane  
**KLEIN** Georges, Madeleine  
**KNOSSOV** Cyla, Anulka      **KRAUS** Franciska  
**KREIGER** Babara      **KUPPERT** Ingrid  
**KURCBERG** Szyra, Hinda, Wolf  
**KUTNA** Mari, Barbara      **LEW** Leo, Genia  
**LAEMNITZ** Ern, Jutta      **LIPSYC** Herman, Raya  
**LEWKOWICZ** Hersz, Roza, Chaja, Cheskiel, Lipa  
**LUCHS** Adam, Rizenda  
**MANDEL** Katelen      **MARGULIES** Gabriel

**MAYERTHAL** Arnold/Aron  
**MIKE** Margaret      **MOSER** Eugenia  
**NEUSTEIN** David, Regina  
**ORENSTEIN** Jankiel, Chana, Lew, Sara  
**PINCZEWSKI** Mordhai, Karela  
**POLICER** Alice  
**PRUZANSKI** Tewel, Chana, Genia  
**RABINOWICZ** David, Leia, Gruna, Mareta  
**REICH** Heinz, Betty      **REUTER** Fritz, Selma  
**ROSENSTRAUCH** Max  
**ROSENTHAL** Theodore, Liesl, Evelyn  
**ROSENSTRAUSS** Samuel, Naftalie, Chaja  
**RUBINLICHT**, Sara, Alexandra,  
**RUTKIEWITZ** Chaim, Mendel  
**SCHENK** Emil, Hildegard, Gustav  
**SCHREIBERSDORF** Arthur, Bronislawa, Ilza, Rita  
**SCHULTVATER** Klara      **SCHWARZ** Eva, Thoma  
**SPECTOR** Sender Szejja, Jankiel, Espir  
**TRADELIUS** Erna  
**TUREK** Isak, Anna/Nusia, Josef  
**WALLIGURA** Chana      **WIENER** Clara  
**WURZEL** Josef, Helene, Alexandre  
**ZELAZO** Gerson, Luba, Rachela  
**ZERMAN** Isac, Wanda

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The Messageries Maritimes ship "Sagittaire" transported cargo as well as passengers and called at all the French colonies on its way from Marseilles to Sydney via the Straits of Gibraltar and the Panama Canal. It was July, 1947 and already Arab states were at war with the Jews and Jewish passengers were not allowed off the ship in Algiers, the first port of call. While we travelled over the Atlantic Ocean and then the Pacific, the ship's bulletin board daily carried news of another more dramatic sea voyage, that of "Exodus 47" which was attempting to run the blockade by the British navy to the shores of Palestine, and was then returned to a German port.

Meanwhile we had a smooth voyage to Pointe a Pitre (Guadeloupe), Fort de France (Martinique), Colon (Panama) where the local Jewish community gave a banquet for the Jewish passengers, Papeete (Tahiti), Vanuatu and Noumea (New Caledonia). Conditions were steerage and very difficult for couples with young children, but for young teenagers it was an enchanted voyage, dolphins leaping alongside, no sea pollution, a clear starry sky, and dancing on deck each night to the piano accordeon of one survivor, with his wife singing the lyrics.

Fifty years later, many of the older and even younger passengers have died, but many led productive lives in Australia and left children and grandchildren. Even some of the then teenagers like ANNA TUREK and MARI KUTNA have died. And I also was a passenger on that voyage of S/S "SAGITTAIRE".

Editor



## THE SEARCH FOR THE MILLIONAIRE'S HEIRS

by Dr Klee Benveniste

A South Australian newspaper recently included an article on the search for relatives of the late Mr Aaron Feldman. The article in the Sunday Mail in Adelaide (April 13, 1997, page 3) announced that a seven-year worldwide search has failed to find the heir to \$A2.5 million, South Australia's largest unclaimed inheritance. The inheritance will probably be transferred to the State Treasury if it cannot be claimed by his relatives. The newspaper article explains:

*"Aaron Feldman, formerly of Butler Crescent, Glengowrie, died in May, 1990 without a will after amassing a small property empire on Jetty Road, Glenelg. His wife died some years earlier in Melbourne and with no children, his estate passed to the Public Trustee to seek his heirs".*

The search by staff genealogists at the Public Trustee office in South Australia has included Europe and Canada and currently centres on England where they believe he spent some time.

*"It is believed Mr. Feldman was born in Austria in 1903 but may have changed his name amid the turmoil of World War II. Information gleaned from his marriage certificate suggests he spent time in England before arriving in Australia around 1950".*

This arrival date contradicts information I have found in Adelaide Jewish archival records. The article does not mention his Jewish ancestry but I have determined that, under the name Mr. H. Feldman, he and his wife came to Adelaide from Broken Hill in New South Wales where he had lived in the 1950's. Adelaide Hebrew Congregation had links with the Broken Hill congregation and a number of Jewish families moved to Adelaide when the Broken Hill community decreased. Other Broken Hill families dispersed to the eastern states of Australia. Although Mr Feldman was Jewish, the Adelaide congregation was not aware of his death until after he had been buried, so he did not receive a Jewish burial. Maybe, even after his death, we can do something to help.

There may be members of the dispersed Broken Hill Jewish community who remember him or might know where he originally came from and could assist in the search for cousins. By all reports, he was quite a character. In South Australia he was a landlord of shops rather than a retailer.

Jewish genealogists would have access to more specific resources to help to trace Mr. Feldman's ancestry and closest living relatives. For example, another congregation may have recorded his Hebrew name which could assist in determining his father's name which is currently not known. I have already been



## FOREBEARS AUSTRALIAN FAMILY FINDER

Our Family Finder column will be charged for at the rate of \$AUS 8 for 25 words plus address, telephone, fax or email number of inquirer. For overseas advertisements \$US 5 if sent in cash OR for cheques \$US15 due to new high bank exchange rates for cheques in other currencies. Please communicate directly with inquirer, but kindly inform us if this column has helped you to advance in your research.

00052 SONJA MUEHLBERGER, (nee Krips) Karl-Pokern Str. 14, Berlin 12587 GERMANY, is seeking her former Shanghai childhood friend **DORIS KASWAN** or **KASWHAN**. Doris was born 1939 or 1940 in Shanghai and migrated to Australia with her mother in late 1940's. Would like to hear from anyone who knew her. Please contact directly or through this Society.

### Surname Searches by Alexander Beider

The Dictionary of Surnames  
from the Russian Empire or  
The Dictionary of Surnames  
from the Kingdom of Poland

If your family surnames are listed in  
either of the above, then Dr Alexander  
Beider will provide you with the  
actual names of the persons listed in the  
1906-1912 voter lists. The cost is \$US 21  
for each town/surname pair.

Send a cheque payable to "Avotaynu"  
and post to : Alexander Beider  
8, rue du Dauphiné,  
91300 Massy, France

contacted by Beulah Gross from N.S.W. who had Feldman relatives but we have not been able to demonstrate a connection. If you know anyone who had relatives by the name of Feldman ask if they can demonstrate a link to a Mr. H. (or A.) Feldman who lived in Broken Hill in the 1950's.

The contact address for the South Australian branch is  
Dr Klee Benveniste, Honorary Secretary  
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA branch)  
C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation  
P.O. Box 320, Glenside SA 5065 AUSTRALIA



# **AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATA BASE**

Names being researched by our new members

June, 1997

Id	Surname	Old Name of Town	Town	Country	Dates
219	AARONS		VILNIUS	LITHUANIA	1800-1885
151	ARZT		JAROSLAW	POLAND	1800's
261	BACHMANN		GUTERSLOH	GERMANY	1744-1838
217	BARBER		ANY	ENGLAND	C.1830
165	BARNETT		LONDON	ENGLAND	
238	BARSHMAN		ANY	RUSSIA	
219	BERGMAN		VILNIUS	LITHUANIA	1800-1890
247	BOULCA		ANY	ANY	
151	BRAUNSTEIN		ANY	POLAND	1800's
151	BRAUNSTEIN		ALEXANDRIA	EGYPT	1800's
246	BRONNICK		KIYEV	UKRAINE	Pre 1910
233	BRONSTEIN		MELBOURNE	AUSTRALIA	1926+
233	BRONSTEIN		HARBIN	CHINA	1905-1926
233	BRONSTEIN		TOBOLSK	RUSSIA	1880-1905
247	BULKA		LONDON	ENGLAND	Pre 1937
247	BULKA		ANY	ANY	
223	CASELBERG		RASEINIAI	LITHUANIA	Pre 1820
155	COPPEL		TELSIAI	LITHUANIA	18th Cent+
217	COPPOCK		SHEFFIELD	ENGLAND	1875-1905
164	DUBSKY		ANY	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	
164	DUBSKY		LITSCHAU	AUSTRIA	
164	DUBSKY		WIEN	AUSTRIA	
261	EICH(EN)WALD		BONENBERG	GERMANY	1739-1911
205	EILENBERG		KRAKOW	POLAND	
246	ELLMAN		LONDON	ENGLAND	1913+
246	ELLMAN		KIYEV	UKRAINE	Pre 1910
151	ERDSTEIN		ZEFAT	ISRAEL	1880-1920
151	ERDSTEIN		ALEKSANDROW	POLAND	1800's
236	FALLET		BERLIN	GERMANY	C. 1907
237	FEURTADO		JAMAICA	WEST INDIES	C. 1726
248	FRANKENSTEIN		ANY	ANY	
151	GOLDFARB		LVIV	UKRAINE	1800's
255	GOLDMANN		TIMISOARA	ROMANIA	
261	HEINEMANN		BAD OEYNHAUSEN	GERMANY	
261	HEINS		BAD GANDERSHEIM	GERMANY	1784-1864
237	HENRIQUES		ANY	SURINAME	
237	HENRIQUES		ANY	PORTUGAL	
261	HEYNEMANN		BUDINGEN	GERMANY	1750-1942
261	HEYNEMANN		VLOTHO	GERMANY	1750-1942
248	HILSE		ANY	ANY	
164	HIRSCHKROHN		ANY	AUSTRIA	
205	JAFFE		ANY	ANY	
264	KARY	BRESLAU	WROCLAW	POLAND	
242	KATER		AMSTERDAM	NETHERLANDS	1866+
238	KLIBANSKY		BIALYSTOK	POLAND	
219	KOHANOWITZ		ROKISKIS	LITHUANIA	1800-1900
236	KUEHNE		BRUXELLES	BELGIUM	C. 1917
165	LEMON		LONDON	ENGLAND	Up to 1843
165	LEMON		LIVERPOOL	ENGLAND	Up to 1850
165	LEMON		SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1842+
151	LEMPERT		PINSK	BELARUS	1800's
165	LEOMANS		LONDON	ENGLAND	
151	LURIA		MOGILEV	BELARUS	1800's



**AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATA BASE**  
**Names being researched by our new members      June, 1997 (continued)**

Id	Surname	Old Name of Town	Town	Country	Dates
248	MEYER		ZIELONA GORA	POLAND	1851-1919
248	MEYER	VIANYE		POLAND	1822-1881
241	NEWTON		SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1840-1849
241	NEWTON		MELBOURNE	AUSTRALIA	1851-1853
245	OGUS		UKMERGE	LITHUANIA	
245	OGUZ		UKMERGE	LITHUANIA	
245	OGUZAS		UKMERGE	LITHUANIA	
262	OPENSHAW		MANCHESTER	ENGLAND	1850's
261	PARADIES		HORN	GERMANY	1787-1927
261	PARADIES		LAGE	GERMANY	1747+
241	PHILLIPS		SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1840-1892
155	PIMENTAL FONSECA		ANY	ENGLAND	17th Cent+
155	PIMENTEL DA FONSECA		ANY	ENGLAND	17th Cent+
248	POTSDAMMER		LISSA	POLAND	1857-1907
238	RAFAELOWITZ		ANY	SOUTH AFRICA	
233	RAUTMAN		HARBIN	CHINA	1905-1934
233	RAUTMAN		ANANYEV	UKRAINE	Pre 1905
164	REICH		CHERNOVTSY	UKRAINE	
217	ROBINSON		LONDON	ENGLAND	1830-1916
217	ROBINSON		ANY	ENGLAND	Pre 1830
242	ROSENBOOM		ZEVENAAR	NETHERLANDS	1863-1925
243	RYSZMAN		MSZCZONOW	POLAND	
236	SACHISTHAL		NEUNBERG VORM WALD	GERMANY	C. 1863
236	SACHISTHAL		BRUXELLES	BELGIUM	C. 1808
261	SALINGER		BERLIN	GERMANY	1838-1936
261	SALINGER		ANY	USA	
261	SALINGER		ANY	ISRAEL	
245	SAMUELS		VIEVIS	LITHUANIA	
265	SAUERBACH		FRANKFURT AM MAIN	GERMANY	
265	SAUERBACH		MAINZ	GERMANY	
252	SELECNIK		VILNIUS	LITHUANIA	Late 1800
217	SHARP		ANY	ENGLAND	1828-1927
261	SILBERBERG		BASSUM	GERMANY	1787-1927
253	SILBIGER		OSTRAVA	SLOVAKIA	Pre WWII
225	SIMMONS		LONDON	ENGLAND	1875+
225	SIMMONS		KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	1850-1879
99	SIMONSKY		SIMNAS	LITHUANIA	Pre 1890
99	SIMONSKY		SUWALKI	POLAND	Pre 1890
245	SMOLERIS		VIEVIS	LITHUANIA	
225	SOLOMON(S)		LONDON	ENGLAND	1860+
164	SPERLING		CHERNOVTSY	UKRAINE	
252	TENENBAUM		RADOM	POLAND	Late 1800
242	TOBAR		ANY	ANY	
217	TONKINS		ANY	ENGLAND	Pre 1830
236	VALLET		BERLIN	GERMANY	C. 1907
238	VISHLISKY	ORAN	VARENA	LITHUANIA	
253	VOLKMANN	CZADCA	SADSKA	SLOVAKIA	
225	WOOLF		LONDON	ENGLAND	1840+
205	YOFFA		HEBRON	ISRAEL	Pre 1820
205	YOFFA		KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	Pre 1820
205	YOFFA		ANY	UKRAINE	1820+
205	ZELTNER		KRAKOW	POLAND	