



The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

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

Phone: (612) 9958 6317 or (612) 9427 6075 Fax: (612) 9967 2834

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EDITORIAL

It's nearly Passover again, the time to eat matzah and to have a family Seder. Perhaps also to ask family history questions from one's elders...Our year started with two excellent workshops on Sundays 1 February and 1 March, and some interesting speakers programmed for later this year. Our workshop on Jewish genealogical resources on Poland attracted forty people, several from Canberra and a visitor from South Australia.

The expressed desire of some of our Canberra members for an active group, with which to network in Jewish genealogy has already borne fruit and resulted in plans to hold workshops in Canberra, hopefully at the National Jewish Centre in the library under the direction of Sylvia Deutsch and Earle Hoffman. Sylvia will contribute a regular Canberra Corner to this journal, advising Canberra members of dates and places. She has already this month circularised them with details of the Society's holdings in Canberra. We will endeavour to augment these.

Our great Australian genealogical expert Nick Vine Hall is moving back to Sydney, and on Sunday 10 May, 1998 at 7.30 pm at the Jewish Folk Centre, 23 Saber Street, Woolahra will speak to us on "Finding Evidence of Your Family's Arrival in Australia". Then, on Tuesday 28 July at 7.30 pm Peter Landé of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., an expert on nominal lists of the Holocaust, lists of both victims and survivors from ghettos, camps, labour camps, will speak to us in a lecture we have arranged to share with the Sydney Jewish Museum at 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst. Peter Landé is German-born and came to USA with his parents before World War II, and became an American diplomat. He is probably the world expert on Holocaust lists.

We have been invited to participate at the annual SHOWCASE of the Society of Australian Genealogists on Friday 22 May, 1998 at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Sydney from 10 am to 5 pm. While several committee members will

(continued on page 10)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

News from Victoria	<i>Lionel Sharpe</i>	3
News from the South Australian Branch	<i>Klee Benveniste</i>	4
Canberra Corner	<i>Sylvia Deutsch</i>	4
Family Tree of the Jewish People		5
New Books in Our Library		6
A Family Reunion Through Kosher Koala	<i>Peter Frybort</i>	6
Jewish Burials in Vienna, Austria		7
More About That Mysterious Photograph	<i>Lionel Sharpe</i>	8
Offer of Translations	<i>Gary Luke</i>	8
Forebears		9
The Jewish Records Indexing - Poland		10
Australian Data Base - Surname Index	<i>Rieke Nash</i>	12

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Australian Jewish Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 154
NORTHBRIDGE SYDNEY NSW 2063
AUSTRALIA
E-mail: rieken@zeta.org.au

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SYDNEY WORKSHOPS 1998

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

April 5	May 3	June 14
July 5	August 9	September 6
October 4	November 8	December 6

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.

"FINDING EVIDENCE OF YOUR FAMILY'S ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA"

with

NICK VINE HALL

on

Sunday, 10 May, 1998 at 7.30 p.m.

at

Jewish Folk Centre, 23 Saber Street, Woollahra
(Cnr Rowe Street)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New South Wales

<i>Charles & Valda Barton</i>	<i>Kym Morris</i>
<i>Philip Cohen</i>	<i>Michael Rosenthal</i>
<i>Naomi Goldrei</i>	<i>Frances Stark</i>
<i>Jonathon Herrman</i>	<i>Ruth Thornton</i>
<i>Terry & Jane Hielman</i>	<i>Stephen Tosler</i>
	<i>Peter Wagner</i>

Australian Capital Territory

<i>Sara Dowse</i>	<i>David Rosalky</i>
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Victoria

<i>Susie Barsiv</i>	<i>Pamela Broadbent</i>
<i>Rabbi Ronald Lubofsky</i>	<i>Joel & Ruth Solomon</i>

NOW ON THE INTERNET

JEWISH GENEALOGY IN AUSTRALIA
<http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/jozgen.htm>

THE HOME OF JEWISH GENEALOGY
<http://www.jewishgen.org>

NEWS FROM VICTORIA

by **Lionel Sharpe, Chairman**

Already our program for 1998, in association with Makor Library, has got off to a good start.

Our first meeting for the year on February 10 was a fascinating talk by Ephraim Finch, Executive Director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha titled, "Tu-B'Shvat - New Year for Trees". Ephraim is engaged in collecting extensive family data not only from those purchasing burial plots but also from the relatives of recently deceased persons. He talked about the importance of keeping a record of Hebrew names. The audience was very impressed by the growing database on computer for research at the Chevra Kadisha.

On Sunday March 1 we held our first Beginners' Workshop for the year at Beth Weizmann Community Centre. A demonstration was given of the recently released genealogical computer program, Reunion 5.

On Sunday March 15 we again have a display at the Expo of Jewish Community Groups in Caulfield Park. This annual event titled "In One Voice" has proved very popular, attracting thousands of people in a celebration of Jewish song, dance and art. Last year people were queuing to ask advice about family research.

On April 8 at 7.30 pm Rabbi John Levi, recently retired Senior Rabbi of the Temple Beth Israel and author of "The Forefathers: A Biographical Dictionary of the Jews of Australia 1788-1830" and co-author of "Australian Genesis", will address the group about his current research.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 5 at 7.30 pm at Beth Weizmann. Well known communal leader Kurt Lippmann is guest speaker and will talk about "Publishing the Lippmann Story". Kurt recently published a family history - "Our Lippmann Family: A Chronicle Spanning Three Centuries and Three Continents".

On May 27 at 7.30 pm, Jo Ferguson, chairperson of the National Trust of Australia (Vic) Cemeteries Advisory Committee and a CAE lecturer will speak on "Finding Your Way Around the Victorian Public Records Office in Laverton".

We extend our congratulations to a very active founding member of our Society, Ester Csaky, who has edited an autobiographical history written by her mother, Doba-Necha Cukierman. A huge crowd attended the launch of a 218-page book titled "A Guardian Angel: Memories of Lublin" on Sunday, February 8 at Beth Weizmann Community Centre. Ester had taken leave of absence from the committee last year to complete this magnificent book. This is another contribution from Australian writers to first hand personal accounts by Holocaust survivors and should encourage others to undertake this important task.

At least four Victorian members have indicated an interest in attending the international seminar in Los Angeles in July. Others interested in attending are asked to contact the Secretary. Sonia and Les Oberman are participating in the two-week genealogical river trip in the Ukraine in June. We look forward to hearing about this adventure on their return and seeing a video of the trip.

Following a successful meeting with AJGS President, Sophie Caplan and the Victorian Branch committee on December 17 the Victorian committee has decided to propose incorporation as a voluntary organisation at the AGM in May. More about this in the next Koshers Koala. Membership fees are currently being collected by the Victorian Secretary, Rhonda Lasky.

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

Postal Address: P.O. Box 189,
GLENHUNTLY VIC 3163, AUSTRALIA

Internet contacts:

Leslie Oberman oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Dr Albert Braunstein sbr@bbs.ausom.net.au

Enquiries: Rhonda 03-9578 6456

Lionel 03-9523-6738 Fax: 03-9532-7797

"HOLLYWOOD CHAI"

**18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
July 12-17, 1998**

Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles

The Jewish Genealogical Society
of Los Angeles

invites all those with Jewish roots
from around the world to come join us for the
18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy.

You will be able to take advantage
of a wealth of genealogical resources,
learn from experienced genealogists,
librarians and archivists,
and

enjoy the warm Southern
California sun and other wonderful
recreational opportunities.

For registration forms contact Rieke Nash,
P.O. Box 42, Lane Cove, NSW 2066

or

on the web:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsla/seminar.htm>

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

by Klee Benveniste

Our December speaker was Marjorie Luno, who spoke about the contribution that the Boas and Solomon families made to the Adelaide Jewish community. Her grandfather Reverend Abraham Tobias Boas was spiritual leader of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation for over 50 years (from 1870 to 1923). Marjorie gave a historical presentation about Reverend Boas, his origins in Holland, and that of his wife Elizabeth Solomon and the extended Solomon family. We were also entertained by a reading from the biography of Casanova about his visit to Tobias Boas, a Court banker of the Hague (not necessarily an ancestor).

Apart from outstanding and devoted ministry to the Jewish congregation, and participation in many humanitarian causes, Reverend Boas was Senior Vice-President of the University Shakespearean Society and his eloquent letters to the Press in 1899 resolved a dispute between Catholics and Protestants.

Marjorie explained the relationships between various Solomon families; at one time there were so many people called Solomon in the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation that it became customary to address them without surnames, for example, as "Mrs. Moss". The contribution of Emanuel Solomon included building the first mainland theatre, which is currently being restored, and also being involved in the formation of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation 150 years ago. Members of the family were elected to government, and one became Premier of South Australia briefly. Descendants of both the Boas and Solomon families are spread all over Australia and numbered many hundreds.

Our next quarterly meeting will be in March. 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.

ARE YOU A HOARDER?

A Plea from Hilde Hines

If you are, like me, then you have in your possession letters and papers referring to your parents and ancestors, or happenings in the past.

You may have kept them for sentimental reasons and your children and grandchildren may not be as interested in these matters as you have been.

PLEASE MAKE SURE all these articles are kept in a separate container and are marked clearly that in the event of your demise these are not to be thrown out as

CANBERRA CORNER

by Sylvia Deutsch

This is the first appearance of a regular column for Canberra AJGS MEMBERS. Through the generosity of AJGS President Sophie Caplan and the Society in Sydney there is already the kernel of a collection of material on Jewish genealogy in Canberra. Presently it is held in the home of local AJGS member Sylvia Deutsch. It is hoped that arrangements can be made for this ever-growing material to be held at the National Jewish Centre in Forrest, with open days convenient to members to allow access.

The Canberra branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) has for some years included a session on genealogy in its annual programme, and local AJGS members will recall that they were notified last year when it was hoped that Sophie could come to Canberra. It is planned that in future this column will include information about forthcoming AJHS functions, which all are cordially invited to attend whenever they wish, irrespective of whether they are AJHS members or not.

Rather than list the current holdings in this column, local member Sylvia Deutsch - in whose home they are currently held - will send a letter to all Canberra members with a complete list. In brief, there are 9 books, some small journal holdings, and a number of pamphlets and similar material.

The column will also list forthcoming AJHS functions, which all AJGS members are welcome to attend. Forthcoming AJHS functions:

Monday 16 March, 1998 Visit to Yass

Monday 15 June, 1998 Blooms Night

Thursday 10 September, 1998 Genealogy night

Monday 30 November, 1998

Visit of Rabbi Raymond Apple

Meetings are usually held at the National Jewish Memorial Centre, cnr Canberra Avenue and National Circuit, Forrest, Canberra, at 8.00 p.m. (except the Yass trip obviously!)

Enquiries to Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra.

Tel/fax: 02-6248-6196 Email: deutand@ozemail.com.au

useless but handed over to the Jewish Museum, or similar. What may appear as useless trivia now may be of utmost importance to future historians or genealogists.

Please convince all your friends to act similarly so that we make sure that nothing gets lost. Rather err in sending too much than leaving one piece of paper unattended.

I URGE YOU TO GIVE THIS MATTER YOUR ATTENTION BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

Hilde Hines is president of the South Australian branch of the Society in Adelaide.

FAMILY TREE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

In a major new initiative, the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (AJGS) has announced plans to create a Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP) in order to disseminate Jewish family tree information worldwide. To participate, Jewish genealogists are invited to submit their computerized family trees to a common database that will permit easy access to information about millions of individuals. This new system is an outgrowth of the AJGS's Jewish Genealogical People Finder (JGPF) that was published on microfiche from 1991 to 1995 and which now has more than 300,000 names. Data from the JGPF will be included in the new database.

The AJGS will distribute the FTJP on CD-ROM to member societies of the AJGS at the 18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Los Angeles, July 12-17, 1998. Plans also call for the database to become part of the computer system at the Center for Jewish History in New York City when it opens to the public in 1999. The goal is to reach one million names within one year. This is not unreasonable given the number of Jewish genealogists whose family trees are already computerized.

All Jewish family trees will be accepted with no prior conditions, except that the data must be in GEDCOM-compatible format on IBM-compatible 3 1/2" diskettes or Macintosh 1.4MB diskettes. GEDCOM is a standard interface between genealogical software systems that was developed by the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library. All modern genealogical software systems support the GEDCOM interface.

Send family trees on diskette to:

Family Tree of the Jewish People
P.O. Box 26
Cabin John MD 20818,
U.S.A.

or you can send the GEDCOM file as an attached e-mail file to vhwc10c@prodigy.com

To appear in the initial distribution at the July conference, diskettes must reach AJGS by March 31, 1998. There is no charge for submission.

A submitter may update previous information at any time by sending a new disk of their entire family tree with a statement that it is an update.

You can also submit family trees in GEDCOM format as a Zipped file to speed up transmission. It will be unzipped at our end. If you have more than one tree, submit them all. If you submit more than one tree and certain persons appear on more than one of the trees, we will eliminate duplicate records as long as they exactly match.

For deceased persons, each entry will indicate (if provided) the individual's family name, given name, sex, date and place of birth, date and place of death, father's name, mother's name, spouses' name(s). For living persons, only the name, sex and linkage to parents and spouse(s) will be provided. For purposes of FTJP, a deceased person is one for whom there is a death date or whose birth date is more than 100 years ago. All other information present in a GEDCOM file will be ignored.

All family names in the complete listing will be arranged according to the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System, to allow spelling variants of identical surnames to appear together. The submitter's name and address will be available to permit those finding matches to contact potential relatives. This is the only way that additional information will be obtainable for living persons.

Prior to submitting trees, family historians may wish to edit out family secrets or information they consider sensitive. Annulled marriages not normally known outside the immediate family or, in the case of deceased individuals, children born prior to the marriage of their parents, are possible examples. Such editing is not a requirement; however, the database will not release information other than the items listed above.

The FTJP will only contain each person's name, sex, date and place of birth, date and place of death, and the links to mother, father and spouse(s). For living persons, the dates and places of birth and death will not be published.

All other submitted information will be ignored, so if your GEDCOM export program has the ability to ignore other information such as notes, provide the AJGS with the smaller file.

Mother's maiden name will be on the tree, a casual security check used in the past by banks and other institutions to confirm you are the individual you claim you are. Recent experience is that banks are no longer using this fact as the sole proof of a person's identity because it has become so commonplace it is no longer a secure method of identifying an individual.

Computer databases of family trees are not new. Two of the best known already established systems are the Ancestral File™ of the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library and one at the Douglas E. Goldman Genealogy Center at Beth Hatefutsoth (The Museum of the Diaspora) in Israel.

Broderbund Software, a commercial company, sells CD-ROM's containing family trees. Contributions to the Broderbund database have been so great that the company has already produced fourteen volumes of CDs. Other family tree databases exist on the Internet.

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

Our friend Kingsley Ireland from Angaston, South Australia, recently visited Sydney and was entertained at dinner by some of his old friends in the Society. On returning home he sent us a copy of **"BIRMINGHAM JEWRY, More Aspects 1740-1930"** edited by Zoe Josephs, and published in 1984 by the Birmingham Jewish History Research Group, a welcome addition to our library, especially for those doing research on Great Britain. This is the second volume of a series.

The Society has purchased CHAIM FREEDMAN's major book **"ELIYAHU'S BRANCHES"**, published by Avotaynu, on the descendants of the Gaon of Vilna. It is an excellent compilation, whose user-friendly index makes it easy to use. There are many Australian descendants, particularly in the KOMESAROFF/KOMISAROOK families, but also our New South Wales member Jenny King and Northern Territory member Lily Segall. However one of our more knowledgeable members says that some dates in our Australian HAIM PHILLIPS descent are not quite accurate. But this is a tiny flaw in a very scholarly work. Highly recommended.

"THE JEWS OF JAMAICA, Tombstone Inscriptions 1663-1880" by RICHARD BARNETT AND PHILIP WRIGHT, edited by ORON YOFFE, recently published by the Ben Zvi Institute in Jerusalem, has been donated by Sophie Caplan. This is an excellent compilation with a most outstanding indexing of all elements of a name which also makes it very easy to look up an ancestor. But the binding leaves a lot to be desired, one section of our copy coming out of its binding on first opening. And it is too expensive to send back.

RANDY WASSERSTROM **"THE OLD COUNTRY AND THE NEW: A WASSERSTROM FAMILY HISTORY, 1780-1930"** about some intermarrying Wasserstrom and Schlesinger families in Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, has also been donated by Sophie Caplan. Published and distributed by the author.

"JFS, THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS' FREE SCHOOL, LONDON SINCE 1732" by Gerry Black, 1998, Tynsder Publishing, London, provides an interesting account of the school attended by many of our members' ancestors who migrated to London in the late nineteenth century.

"HAMBURG PASSENGERS FROM THE KINGDOM OF POLAND AND THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE, Indirect Passage to New York, 1855 to June, 1873" by Geraldine Moser and Marlene Silverman, 1997, Landsmen Press, Washington. This is a valuable addition to our resources as it lists migrants' towns of origin as well as their surnames, first names and ages. The names of the boats and dates of departure are also listed. Also beautifully indexed.

A FAMILY REUNION THROUGH KOSHER KOALA

by Peter Frybort

Great News!! The Kosher Koala was instrumental in connecting two people on opposite sides of the earth. Rosemary Shonfeld's search for her aunt Aurelia Nelly Shonfeldova finally ended when Evelyn Frybort, a new member, picked up the Kosher Koala for the first time. Her eyes nearly popped out of her head as she read the name, remembered that Schonfeld was my (Evelyn's husband's) mother's first married name and recognised the very brief life history which was offered to identify Aurelia. (We had copied this from a Theresienstadt survivor's quarterly. Ed)

My mother, a healthy 82 year old, now named Relly Bell, shed a few tears when she was shown the message as the memories of her first husband came flooding back. Her marriage in 1937 to Moritz Shonfeld terminated with Moritz's demise at Auschwitz. Since then Relly has moved from Czechoslovakia to Israel, where I was born, and then to Australia in 1956.

Rosemary was born to Moritz's brother who escaped to England and married there. Rosemary is thankful for any details which Relly can give her of her ancestors because her father, deceased since 1985, was unwilling to reveal any details concerning his pre-war life in Europe. She in fact only discovered that her father was Jewish in recent years.

My mother is able to relate stories and descriptions of Rosemary's grandparents and relatives and has the only remaining work of art produced by Moritz. Since our initial discovery of Rosemary's message, several photos and letters have passed between us, bringing great fulfillment to Rosemary as she finds some answers in her search for her roots.

In the future, we will probably meet her when we travel to England. I hope our story has inspired you to continue enthusiastically with your search. Don't lose heart. Our story is proof that the Kosher Koala is helping to fill in missing links.

*Peter Frybort, is the husband of Evelyn, a member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Sydney.
Any enquiries 61-2-9427-0072.*

We are also looking forward to the arrival of Miriam Weiner's new book **"JEWISH ROOTS IN POLAND: PAGES FROM THE PAST AND ARCHIVAL INVENTORIES"** published jointly by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and the Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, 1998. The book details for the first time the holdings of the Polish State Archives which include not only civil records but also other documents such as censuses and school records. With hundreds of photographs and other details it is a must for anyone planning a research trip to Poland.

JEWISH BURIALS IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

From Shem Tov, Sept 1997

An edited version of an article by Gudrun Sailer which appeared in February 1997 in the official Austrian "Wiener Zeitung".

The "Schalom" society started five years ago with the rehabilitation of the largest Jewish cemetery of Vienna. Today the initiator, Mr. Walter Pagler, is looking through the window of his modest trailer, which is located at the central cemetery, and surveys with pride the work of helpers. Many of the 60,000 graves in the Jewish section have been restored, access is again possible, gravestones have been re-erected and inscriptions have been repainted in white or gold. Visitors from all over the world can, thanks to the EDV-database, find the location of the graves of their Viennese ancestors. A large filing cabinet contains the many letters of thanks which Walter Pagler has received from Vienna, Tel Aviv, Melbourne, Sao Paulo and New York.

Without the initiative of this 68-year-old former businessman, foreign visitors would not have been able to find what they were looking for after half a century. In the databank are contained more than 50,000 hours of voluntary labour, and its origin came about by accident. The Viennese police agreed in 1991 to restore the graves of their Jewish colleagues at the central cemetery, but who amongst the dead was a member of the police force? The death registers and the cemetery file index contained some information.

Finally the following was established: a list of 250,000 Jewish citizens with name, age, profession, address, date of burial and location in the cemetery. The list goes back to the year 1750 and includes 44 Jewish cemeteries in Vienna, Lower Austria and the Burgenland. Hundreds of volunteers, mostly women, transcribed the handwritten (often difficult to read) information into the computers of the Economic University of Vienna and also into some personal computers.

This largest death register in the world can be inspected either at the Vienna Cemetery Department, the offices of the Vienna Jewish Community and at the office of the "Schalom" society at the central cemetery.

A series of newspaper articles and television programs have publicized the "Schalom" society and its work in a number of larger Jewish communities. "These days many young people from America are knocking on our door and want to find the graves of their ancestors. They are looking for their roots and often they bring along family trees," explains Walter Pagler, chairman of the "Schalom" society.

The second group of visitors consists of Jews who emigrated and who remember being present when they were children at the funeral of a relative. Sometimes they don't even remember the name of the relative. The

investigation in such a case can take hours, but the Schalom members can often help. There was the case of the elderly gentleman who knew only the profession of the departed and the address which was near a hospital.

Many Jewish visitors told the Catholic Pagler their life stories and the passing of their relatives. "And then they are standing in front of the grave which they unexpectedly found and for the first time they have the opportunity to bid farewell to their long-lost family". Even if a search is unsuccessful, "We do not let anybody go away without consolation," says Walter Pagler.

The human and physical activity of Schalom has paid for itself in the true sense of the word. Those who have found the graves of their relatives have made arrangements for their upkeep. "We have restored 2,500 graves at the request of visitors. Only one person has not paid for the full amount of restoration." Schalom is totally dependent on voluntary contributions.

The address is as follows:

Schalom,
Verein zur Wiederherstellung und
Erhaltung der Jud. Friedhöfe in Wien
1110 Wien, Zentralfriedhof 1.Tor, AUSTRIA

NEW FAMILY HISTORY

Our long-time member Kim Phillips recently presented us with a copy of her desk-top printed ONE FAMILY'S STORY pertaining to her paternal Sephardi family. Her story encompasses the CRABB, TOLANO and PHILLIPS families all originating in London and coming to Sydney, some as sentenced convicts and others as free settlers.

Emanuel Crabb was the first honorary secretary of the York Street Synagogue, the first purpose built in Australia. He died in Sydney in 1878, his wife Francis nee Davis having predeceased him. Their daughter Elizabeth married Raphael Tolano, a former convict who became the first gold buyer in the Bathurst area during the gold rush, and later a publican and then a theatre manager. His daughter then married Louis Phillips, and the Phillips family then became closely associated with the stage.

The most famous was Phillip Nathan Phillips who from an acrobat became a vaudevillian chiefly known for his association with the comedian Roy Rene (Vandersluis) better known as Mo. Nathan Phillips, Nat, became known as Stiffy in Stiffy and Mo, a partnership that lasted until Nat's death in June 1932, and which still resonates sixty-five years after Nathan Phillips' death. He was Kim Phillip's great-uncle.

Members interested in Australian theatrical history can read ONE FAMILY'S STORY at our regular monthly workshops.

Sophie Caplan

MORE ABOUT THAT MYSTERIOUS PHOTOGRAPH

by Lionel Sharpe

In the December, 1997 issue of the Kasher Koala I wrote about a mysterious nineteenth century photograph found among the possessions of my great-grandmother, Natalie Lobascher, who migrated with her parents to Melbourne from Schwedt-an-der-oder in 1855. It was a family group photo taken in Schwedt in front of a shop with a sign out front, "Hermann Maass".

A search on JewishGen Family Finder led me into contact with a Canadian living in Toronto who was a descendant of Hermann Maass. He informed me that the wife of Hermann Maass was Frederike Lobatz.

I corresponded with this Canadian researcher trying to make a connection between the names Lobascher and Lobatz. We wondered whether we were descendants from the same family. Our research ran into a block until last month when a breakthrough occurred.

I had been invited to talk about the work of the AJGS on the Jewish program on SBS radio one Sunday morning in January. Uri Palti, the interviewer, asked me to give an example of the use of the internet for genealogy research. I related the story about the 1890's photograph in the family archives. My phone number was given to the listeners for further information about our Society.

On arriving home I received a call from a Melbourne resident Miriam Heymann who informed me that her former name was Miriam Lobatz, that she was born in Berlin and that she had a large collection of photos, documents and a diary relating to her late father and his family. I informed her that I had a photo of her father, Walter Lobatz, taken in 1904 when my great-grandmother, Natalie Lobascher visited Germany on an overseas trip.

A mere twelve minute drive from my home a few days later brought us in face to face contact. An amazing story emerged.

My great-great-grandfather David Lobascher (1825-1895), who was born in Obrzycko near Posen, had a sister Adelheid who married Myer Lobatz, the great-grandfather of Miriam Heymann. A comparison of family trees, photos, letters and other records allowed us to piece together our common ancestry. I was delighted that she had a photo of David Lobascher still in excellent condition which had been sent to her ancestors from Australia in possibly 1880-1890.

To my surprise I also learnt that my mother's cousin, Dr Wolfe Davis, had sponsored Miriam and her parents to escape from Nazi Germany to Australia in 1939. Furthermore, Miriam's first job was in my paternal uncles' department store in Melbourne and my own father had employed her father, Walter Lobatz, during the war years.

To make the connection between my Canadian correspondent and Miriam Heymann needs further work, namely, to find the family connection between Frederike Lobatz and Myer Lobatz. But we have come a long way.

This confirms my belief that genealogical research can be an exciting adventure. To think that with some lateral thinking, the use of the internet and, with a little bit of mazel, some missing pieces of a nineteenth century puzzle was found in a nearby suburb.

Lionel Sharpe is the Chairman of the Victorian branch of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. He will be a speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in Sydney.

OFFER OF TRANSLATIONS

by Gary Luke

Translations for a few Eastern European languages are available to members of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society through the Sydney Jewish Centre on Ageing. The COA is a self-help organisation for older people, based in Bondi Junction, Sydney. Among other activities they distribute Kosher Meals on Wheels to many homebound elderly Jews, and help with transport when needed. They hold weekly discussion groups on current affairs, and regularly invite guest speakers on a range of other topics.

Quite a few of their members migrated from Europe and still speak and read their original languages. However, the writing in some older documents can be difficult to decipher, and not many have a direct interest in genealogy themselves, so are not well-versed in the type of content of old family records.

Simon Sekel from the COA attended our recent workshop on Polish research, and managed to assist a number of members with documents they brought with them. A few COA members are currently having an interesting time deciphering and translating some documents from one AJGS member written in Yiddish in Rashi script.

Some of the languages known to their members are Hungarian, German, Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Yiddish (in Rashi script) and Hebrew. Any documents that Australian Jewish Genealogical Society members wish to have translated should be sent to:-

The Hon. Secretary
Sydney Jewish Centre On Ageing
23 Saber Street
Woollahra NSW 2025

Send copies only. Please do not expect them to take responsibility for original documents. Make sure you include your name and return address in a cover letter. They accept donations.

be manning our table, we could do with some extra help from members who could give us a few hours.

From 12 to 17 July several members from Melbourne and Sydney will attend the 18th U.S. Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, dubbed "Hollywood Chai", in Los Angeles, at which Lionel Sharpe is presenting a paper. Anybody else still interested in attending, please contact Rieke Nash, or take the application form from the Internet.

A proposal made last year in Paris that the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies become the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, thus recognizing that it is now a worldwide grouping, is due to be voted on in Los Angeles.

Also shortly after we told you of the existence of REIPP (Russian Era Indexing of Poland Project), the project changed its name to JRI-Poland for Jewish Records Indexing - Poland. This project pioneered by Stanley Diamond of Montreal envisages translating the indexes of the Jewish vital records in the LDS (Mormon) microfilms and even microfilming some records overlooked by the Mormons, or not yet microfilmed by them. There are separate sections called Shtetl Co-ops for some of the former major Jewish communities in Poland, Lodz, Warsaw and Bialystok, and Stanley Diamond is looking for more volunteers to help co-ordinate the translation and indexing of yet more shtetl vital records.

The decision made last trimester that the Victorian branch should become autonomous and administer its own finances has worked well. We continue to share the costs of the Kosher Koala and to publish the Victorian News, as well as inviting Victorian members to continue to contribute articles. Melbourne has a vigorous group of workers and runs a very active programme. We are about to be incorporated as a society in NSW at last, and the Victorian branch will follow shortly with their own incorporation in Victoria.

On 17 December 1997 I flew to Melbourne for a talk on the Paris conference, as well as my trips to Poland, to Belarus and to Ukraine to the Society in Melbourne. It is always stimulating to be with the interstate groups and new matters always come up. The hospitality given by Lionel Sharpe and his committee are always heartwarming. We look forward to being able to reciprocate a little during Lionel and Anita Sharpe's visit to Sydney.

We hope that a good cross-section of the membership will attend our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 22 March at 7.30 at the Wilson Hall of the North Shore Synagogue, 15 Treatts Road, Lindfield.

Sophie Caplan, Editor



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 \$US5 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.

00061 BEULAH GROSS, Shop 1, Shopping Village, Saratoga NSW 2251, Australia. Tel:02-4369-1486 (Office hours) 02-4369-5855 (after hours) Fax: 02-4363-1522. Email: rachy@ozemail.com.au. Any information about Max Perlman's Yiddish Theatre Company which toured the world. Particularly interested in the group's activities and movements in 1930's. At some time Ilya Ryss was the manager and he died in Buenos Aires in January 1934 while the company was performing there.

00062 BEULAH GROSS (As above). Any information about LEON FELDMAN who arrived in Melbourne on 16 February 1908, aged about 23. He found a job with a cigarette maker and later became a cigarette manufacturer himself. He married the daughter of the owner of two tobacco shops in Melbourne in 1910 or 1911.....

00063 BERNARD F. MUELLER, 98-01 Avenue, Apt 3V, REGO PARK, NY 11374, USA. Looking for MARTA MANDELIK, born 10 April 1914, who arrived in Terezin on 8 July 1943 and survived the war. Any information welcome.

00064 JOANNNA MILLAN, 4 Court Close, St John's Wood Park, London NW8 6NN, ENGLAND. Tel: 44-171-586-5509. Looking for relatives or descendants of following: LEO and LARLIE BECHNER who in 1935 lived in Berlin at 4 Fehrberliner Strasse; KURT ROSENTHAL, born 1899 in Meseritz, Warthegau; BELLA SCHWARTZ, née SCHALLMACH circa 1890, who emigrated to USA and was a step-sister of JOANNA ELSE ROSENTHAL, who died in Terezin on 31 May 1944 and who was Joanna Millan's mother.

00065 ROBERT S. GREENE, 115 East 90th Street, New York, NY 10128, USA. Looking for anyone who knew VERA and MAX RENNER from Prague, and daughter LIANA RENNER, born 29 March 1926. She arrived in Terezin on 15 May 1942 from Prague, and was sent to Auschwitz on 1 October 1944. Not known whether she died there or was then sent elsewhere.

JEWISH RECORDS INDEXING - POLAND and the SHTETL CO-OP PROJECT

For full and up-to-date-details about Jewish Records Indexing - Poland refer to the website at:
<http://www1.jewishgen.org/jri-pl>
or send a blank e-mail to
jri-pl-2@mail.jewishgen.org

For researchers with ancestors from Poland, vital records are gradually becoming more accessible. Until recently the main source was the Family History Centres of the Mormon church. The article "Polish-Jewish Records at the Genealogical Society of Utah" Avotaynu, Vol 2, No.1 January, 1986 contained a listing of the 1,735 microfilms available from this source. In the Summer, 1995 edition of Roots-Key, the newsletter of the JGS of Los Angeles, Ted Gostin has listed nearly 400 additions to the original 1986 list. These Polish records were mainly pre 1890's.

The main problem with this source was that films had to be ordered in from Utah, and then each index searched for a possible prospect. A further complication for the less experienced researcher was that the records were in Polish up to 1863 after which Russian was compulsory for vital record registrations. It was a very time consuming and sometimes expensive task but more importantly it became apparent that individuals all over the world were duplicating efforts to access this information.

The Russian Era Indexing of Poland Project (REIPP) was formed to address this problem. As the Project developed, interest was so great that it soon outgrew its initial objectives and a broadened mandate evolved. As a result the REIPP was renamed the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland (JRI - Poland). The new name now reflects the project's interest in all Jewish vital records, not just Mormon microfilms, and irrespective of whether they are in Polish, Russian (Cyrillic), German or Latin. Any related database that contributes to the ability of researchers to pinpoint and research the location of their Polish families will be included, for example, Voter Lists, Business Directories, etc.

The areas included in JRI-Poland database are classified by the Gubernias which existed between 1867-1917 or the Provinces between 1945 and 1975. The ten gubernias of Russian Poland between 1867-1917 were Kalisz, Kielce, Lomza, Lublin, Piotrkow, Plock, Radom, Siedlce, Suwalki and Warszawa. The five bordering Gubernias which were part of the Pale of Settlement were Galicia, Grodno, Prussian Poland, Vilna and Volynia. The Provinces between 1945 and 1975 were Bialystok, Bydgoszcz, Gdansk, Katowice, Kielce, Koszalin, Krakow, Lodz, Lublin, Lwow, Olsztyn, Opole, Poznan, Rzeszow, Szczecin, Warszawa, Wroclaw and Zielona Gora.

This main aim to create a searchable database of indexes to all available Jewish vital records has resulted in an index to over 200,000 records. The number of towns for which there are records in the database is now 80. This growth has been encouraged from an initiative called the "Shtetl CO-OP" where people researching the same towns, areas, and records can coordinate their efforts and minimize overlap or duplication. The JRI - Poland coordinates and assists these volunteer groups who through the Internet, can interact efficiently even though they may be spread across the whole world.

For each town with its own Shtetl CO-OP, a group of volunteers have come forward to offer their services and some funding to expedite access to information of interest to them. Each town CO-OP has a Project Leader who has agreed to coordinate the entire effort to index all their town's records in the LDS microfilms. Funds are used to cover costs of sending index pages around the world for JRI volunteers to enter data and, where necessary, transliterate the index listings. (JRI used professionals where volunteers are not available for the difficult-to-translate Old Russian index entries). Other volunteers who live near Family History Centers have assisted by ordering films and photocopying their indexes.

The coordinator of the Warsaw Shtetl CO-OP, Barbara Krasner-Khait, writes in February, 1998 that there are over 40,000 vital records on nearly 50 microfilms for Warsaw. Together with the Douglas E. Goldman Jewish Genealogy Center (DOROT) in Israel, this CO-OP has undertaken to extract and translate into English this amazing resource. So far 1,387 birth records have been added to the JRI-Poland database and can be searched on-line.

From the Board of the JRI - Poland.

Judy Baston
Stanley Diamond
Barbara Khait
Hadassah Lipsius
Michael Richman
Vlady Rozenbaum
Sheila Salo
Michael Tobias
and
Webmaster, Steven Zedeck.

SIG'S FOR POLAND

There are now five Special Interest Groups for districts in Poland. They are:-

Grodno,
Kielce-Radom,
Piotrkow Tribunalski,
Lomza- Suwalki and
Galicia.

See <http://www/jewishgen.org> for more information.

JEWISH RECORDS INDEXING - POLAND

AS AT FEBRUARY 21, 1998

Provided by Steven Z. Zedeck

Here is a detailed listing of the index data accumulated so far towards the project.

The Gubernias of Russian Poland between 1867 -1917

Ga Galicia	Gr Grodno	Kl Kalisz	Ki Kielce	Lo Lomza	Lu Lublin	Pl Plock	Pi Piotrkow
Pr Prussia	Ra Radom	Si Siedlce	Su Suwalki	Vi Vilna	Vo Volynia	Wa Warszawa	

The Provinces of Poland between 1945-1975:

Bi Bialystok	By Bydgoszcz	Gd Gdansk	Ka Katowice	Ki Kielce	Ko Koszalin	Kr Krakow
Lo Lodz	Lu Lublin	Lw Lwow	Ol Olsztyn	Op Opole	Po Poznan	Rz Rzeszow
Sz Szczecin	Wa Warszawa	Wr Wroclaw	Zi Zielona Gora			

Town	Gubernia	Province	Town	Gubernia	Province
ANDRZEJEWO	LO	WA	PIOTRKOW TRYB.	PI	LO
BAKALARZEWO	SU	BI	PLOCK	PL	WA
BELCHATOW	PI	LO	PRZEDBORZ	KI	KI
BIALYSTOK	GR	BI	PRZEROSL	SU	BI
BLASZKI	PR	PO	PUNSK	SU	BI
BROK	LO	WA	RACIAZ	PL	WA
BRZEZNICA	PI	LO	RADOM	RA	KI
CHECINY	KI	KI	RADOMSKO	PI	LO
CIECHANOW	PL	WA	RADZILOW	LO	BI
CIECHANOWIEC	LO	BI	RAJGROD	LO	BI
CZYZEWO	LO	BI	RUTKI	LO	BI
DABIE	KL	PO	SARNAKI	SI	WA
FILIPOW	SU	BI	SEJNY	SU	BI
GOLINA	KL	PO	SLESIN	KL	PO
GRAJEWO	LO	BI	SLUPCA	KL	PO
IZBICA	LU	LU	SNIADOWO	LO	BI
JABLONKA	LO	BI	SOMPOLNO	KL	PO
JEDWABNE	LO	BI	STAWISKI	LO	BI
KLECZEW	KL	PO	SUWALKI	SU	BI
KODEN	SI	LU	SZCZEBRZESZYN	LU	LU
KOLNO	LO	BI	SZCZUCZYN	LO	
KOLO	KL	PO	TOMASZOW LUBELSKI	LU	LU
KONIN	KL	PO	TOMASZOW MAZOWIECKI	PI	LO
KOZIENICE	RA		TUSZYN	LO	PI
KRASNYSTAW	LU	LU	TYCZYN	GA	RZ
KROTOSZYN	PR	PO	TYKOCIN	LO	BI
KRZESZOW	LU	RZ	WARSAW	WA	WA
LODZ	PI	LO	WASOSZ (WONSOSZ)	LO	BI
LOMZA	LO	BI	WAWOLNICA	LU	LU
LOSICE	SI	WA	WIDAWA	PI	LO
LUBLIN	LU	LU	WIZAJNY	SU	BI
MARIAMPOL	SU	BI	WIZNA	LO	BI
NOWE MIASTO	WA	WA	WLOSZCZOWA	KI	KI
NOWOGROD	LO	BI	WYSOKIE MAZ.	LO	BI
NUR	LO	WA	WYSZKOW	WA	WA
OLKUSZ	KI	KR	WYSZOGROD	WA	WA
OPATOW	KI	KI	ZAMBROW	LO	BI
OSTROLEKA	LO	WA	ZAREBY KOSCIELNE	WA	LO
OSTROW MAZ	LO	WA	ZYCHLIN	WA	LO
OZAROW	KI	KI			

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATA BASE

Names being researched by our new members

March, 1998

Id	Surname	Town	Country	Dates
407	AARON	BIRMINGHAM	ENGLAND	Prc 1877
407	BARON	WROCLAW	POLAND	Up to 1939
272	BAUMBERG	WARSZAWA	POLAND	Prc 1939
272	BAUMBERG	ANY	USA	
295	BAUMHORN	ZILINA	SLOVAKIA	
295	BECK	MYJAVA	SLOVAKIA	
297	BERMAN	GLASCOW	SCOTLAND	c. 1850+
298	BERNBERG	WIEN	AUSTRIA	1836-59
295	BINETTER	BATOROVE KOSIHY	SLOVAKIA	
272	BRUKARZ	WARSZAWA	POLAND	Prc 1939
235	COHEN	CHICAGO	USA	b.1890
284	FELDMAN	LODZ	POLAND	
284	FLAMBAUM	LODZ	POLAND	
277	FLOHM	SUWALKI	POLAND	Prc 1862
100	FRAENKEL	RACIBORZ	POLAND	1820+
406	GORZHALKA	PLOCK	POLAND	1850-1890
100	GRAETZER	RACIBORZ	POLAND	1820+
277	HARRIS	LONDON	ENGLAND	c. 1854
277	HARRIS	PLONSK	POLAND	Prc 1850
298	HENRY	LONDON	ENGLAND	1830's-60's
216	ISRAELSON	BAUSKA	LATVIA	Prc 1895
272	JOEL	LONDON	ENGLAND	1832-1910
407	JONES	LONDON	ENGLAND	Prc 1877
277	JOSEPH	KINGSTON	WEST INDIES	Prc 1850
277	JOSEPHSON	PLOCK	POLAND	1810-1850
214	KATSCHINSKI	HAGENAU	FRANCE	Post 1871
214	KATSCHINSKI	BYTOM	POLAND	
89	KELLNER	ANY	POLAND	
277	LAWRENCE	LONDON	ENGLAND	c. 1816
235	LIMTLOM	TALLINN	ESTONIA	Up to 1905
297	LIPERT	ANY	POLAND	Prc 1870
297	LIPERT	ABERDEEN	SCOTLAND	1895-1902
277	MARKS	LONDON	ENGLAND	Prc 1836
259	MEDNICK	LONDON	ENGLAND	Post 1910
259	MEDNICK	KALIUS	UKRAINE	1880-1910
277	MENDELOWITCH	TOLOCHIN	BELARUS	1830's
297	MILITZKIA	ANY	POLAND	1850's
299	MONDSCHIEIN	KASSEL	GERMANY	Prc 1938
295	POLLAK	STRANSKE	SLOVAKIA	
235	ROSENBLATT	KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	Up to 1860-70
214	RUDIN	DUBROVNO	BELARUS	1870-1930
259	SACHS	LONDON	ENGLAND	Post 1910
259	SACHS	KALIUS	UKRAINE	1880-1910
259	SACKS	LONDON	ENGLAND	Post 1910
259	SACKS	KALIUS	UKRAINE	1880-1910
297	SAMSON	GALICIA		1800's
297	SAUNDERS	CZESTOCHOWA	POLAND	c. 1816+
297	SAUNDERS	LONDON	ENGLAND	1830-1852
297	SAUNDERS	VIC & SA	AUSTRALIA	1852-1879
297	SAUNDERS	JERUSALEM	PALESTINE	1879-1895
100	SCHOTTLAENDER	RACIBORZ	POLAND	1820+
284	SEGAL	LODZ	POLAND	
89	SHARFANOVICH	ANY	ANY	
277	SOLOMON	ANY	ENGLAND	Prc 1850
297	SOLOMON	LONDON	ENGLAND	1826-1849
297	SOLOMON	ADELAIDE	AUSTRALIA	1849-1889
406	SZEDWAJWA	CIECHANOW	POLAND	1840-1870
100	VON OOSTEN	RACIBORZ	POLAND	1820+
277	WOLLFF	TOLOCHIN	BELARUS	1830's