



The Gatherers

VOLUME 3 - ISSUE 1 - SPRING 2002

Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Bergen County, NJ

SHARING INFORMATION TO AID THE SEARCH FOR OUR ANCESTORS

JGSBCNJ OFFICERS

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Membership Dues- January to December
\$20 individual; \$25 family (2/household)

A MESSAGE TO NEW MEMBERS

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Bergen County was formed in 1998 to help develop, support, and foster the growing pastime of tracing our family's roots. We are one of over 70 member organizations of the International Assoc. of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Our membership includes amateur genealogists that have been researching their families for decades and others that are just starting on their journey. Every month we meet to share our latest discoveries, talk about ways to solve our most recent puzzles and to discuss one topic in depth. Past topics have included Holocaust research, passenger ship manifests, geography of the old country, and using the NY Public Library.

We meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month, starting with a 12:30pm schmooze session at the Bergenfield offices of Avotaynu (which has a 400-book library about Jewish genealogy that you can browse). The main

meeting starts at 2pm and is held at the JCC on the Palisades.

If you have further questions, please call me at (201) 384-8851, visit our web site at <http://erosenbaum.netfirms.com/jgsbc>, or email me at erosenbaum@yahoo.com

Edward L. Rosenbaum, President

For copies of the newsletter please contact Phyllis Cole - PhyllisCole@hotmail.com

SAVING YOUR NEWSLETTER

Click "Save As" on the File menu, and then type a unique name.

TORONTO CONFERENCE SITE DEBUTS

www.jgstoronto2002.ca

That is your GATEWAY to the 22ND IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY where aficionados from beginner to expert will gather to learn, study, meet, and plan. This year, the conference will be meeting in Toronto, Canada, August 4-9, 2002. No effort is being spared to build on the successes of past conferences. We are assembling the most informative and skilled lecturers ever gathered together to address the accomplishments and challenges of Jewish genealogical research.

All of this will take place in a comfortable, conducive environment. Toronto is a safe, beautiful, clean city, and the Sheraton Centre

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NEWS: TORONTO CONFERENCE WEBSITE DEBUTS

SCHMOOZE:

CLUES:

Toronto is a wonderful hotel whose facilities and location are ideal for hosting our programs and activities. The favorable Canadian exchange rates and travel and accommodation discounts also make this conference very affordable.

Meticulous thought has been given to the design of the Toronto 2002 Conference Web site. Visit it yourself at:

www.jgstoronto2002.ca

You can learn about the hotel accommodations and the programming, sample some of what Toronto has to offer genealogists and tourists, and actually register online, if you wish to do so. Online registration and downloadable forms will be available shortly. Effortlessly, find the answers to FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS. Peruse the vast information on speakers and programs, which we will be updating continuously.

We urge you to register for your accommodations and travel arrangements as early as possible. Toronto is a very popular summer destination, and while every effort has been made to ensure the availability of rooms, we cannot guarantee availability in the conference hotel for those who procrastinate. Friday and Saturday are particular problems because of the ending of a major Caribbean Festival in Toronto. Ideally, we recommend arrival Friday August 2, 2002 to ensure a spot in the conference hotel. For those who arrive on Saturday, we are making alternative one-night arrangements if the Sheraton becomes overbooked.

Register and book early for special conference rates and free hotel night and airline specials. For further details see the Conference Web site.

Please visit www.jgstoronto2002.ca NOW and learn how to register for this exciting event. You will not want to miss a moment of it.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to seeing you.

**Belarus Website--Jerry Tepperman
Public Relations & Marketing Chair
Toronto2002**

JEWISHGEN INTRODUCES VIEWMATE

Advance your research with ViewMate! a JewishGen tool to help with analysis or translations of your graphic files, photos, letters, documents, book pages, maps, etc.

Do you have a need for analysis or translations of book titles, letters or gravestone photos? Do you have questions about old family photos, maps or book pages? Viewmate is JewishGen's newest tool, designed to supplement the written query, and help you to solve graphic riddles.

Here is an example of how it works. Follow along now with Jack, our demonstrator:

Jack finds an unidentified family photo with an inscription on the back, written in what appears to be Hebrew script.

He scans it on his home computer system, creating a graphic file.

Then he goes to the ViewMate (VM) website.

Using the easy upload feature, he uploads his graphic file to VM. Jack soon received an e-mail.

He then posts a notice to the JewishGen Discussion Group (or SIG of his choice) stating that he has uploaded a photo to VM.

He requests someone knowledgeable in Hebrew to visit the VM website, view his graphic (File No. X) and translate it for him.

An eager reader will be quick to provide feedback. Eager reader responds with translation. Riddle solved. Jack adds new info to his tree.

It's as easy as 1-2-3.

- 1- Scan on your home computer system.
- 2- Upload to ViewMate.
- 3- Request feedback.

You are invited to visit us today to make use of this newest JewishGen tool. The site has FAQ and full ViewMate website:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/viewmate>

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www.jewishgen.org.

The Kosher Koala, Vol 8. No. 1, March 2001

RABBINIC GENEALOGY SIG ONLINE!

Under the energetic leadership of an internet-connected illustrious steering committee made up of Dr. Neil Rosenstein (USA), Rabbi Philip Heilbrunn (AU), Dr. Robert E. Heyman (AU), Mr. Ronald M. "Ron" Landau (USA), Dr. Perets Mett (UK), Mr. Leslie Reich (UK), Shirley Rotbein Flaum (USA), and Mr. Tom Venetianer (BR) – who also serves as the talented webmaster, we are very pleased to announce the availability of the JewishGen Rabbinic Genealogy SIG.

This SIG will answer the long felt need for a central clearinghouse providing researchers of rabbinic ancestry and rabbinic genealogies with a forum for the exchange of information.

The group's prime objectives are:

- to provide an Internet discussion group forum for the exchange of information on rabbinic genealogy,
- to maintain an Internet web site on JewishGen providing a permanent home for information, research techniques, links to searchable databases, and resources on rabbinic genealogy, and
- to encourage and support the discovery of sources of rabbinic genealogical data.

Recognizing that rabbinic ancestry is a major part of Jewish genealogy and because we saw the need for the study of rabbinic ancestry to be represented by a presence on JewishGen, this SIG has been created in record time. Rabbinic genealogy transcends geographic areas, vast time periods in Jewish history, and designations such as Ashkenazic or Sephardic.

For most Ashkenazic Jews, surnames are a relatively recent invention – less than 200 years old. Rabbinical families seem to have been the exception to this rule. The use and adoption of surnames for these families dates back to as early as the 15th century if not earlier, thus preceding all other family names by about 350 years.

Some authorities estimate that perhaps as many as one in fifty Jews alive today have a rabbinic ancestry. Many may not be aware of such an ancestry, nor, if awareness exists, how or where to locate resources to begin a

search of this unique aspect of their Jewish ancestry. We believe that providing the means for researching one's rabbinic ancestry, whether for the novice or experienced researcher, is a great service to the entire JewishGen community.

In addition to a website already online at <http://www.jewishgen.org/rabbinic/> the discussion group mailing list is now accepting subscriptions either through e-mail or via the webform online at <http://www.jewishgen.org/listserv/sigs.htm> where you click on Subscribe and the webform will take you through the process. Be sure to scroll down to the bottom and click on the "submit my request" button.

If you prefer to subscribe via e-mail address an e-mail to: listserv@lyris.jewishgen.org and just say: subscribe ravsig (insert first name) (insert last name).

Using either method, webform or e-mail you will receive a message requesting you to confirm the subscription. This message **must** be returned in order for you to complete the subscription process. Easy to do... just hit the reply button on your e-mailer and it should be properly addressed to the subscription robot. You'll know that you have done it all correctly when you get the Welcome Document sent to you automatically by the Rabbinic Genealogy SIG.

If you have any difficulty, please contact support@jewishgen.org and somebody there will help.

Carol Skydell, Vice President JewishGen Operations
"Shem Tov", JGS of Toronto, Canada- June 2001

JGS WEBSITE OFFERS NEW SOURCES

The JGS website www.jgsny.org has new look, thanks to Executive Council Member Adam Bronstein who maintains the site. Thanks to the diligence of member Ada Greenblatt, the website has much new data about landsmanshaftn and cemetery resources. And thanks to the continuing efforts of JGS president Estelle Guzik, the

Brooklyn naturalizations database continues to grow.

“Burial Societies in the New York Metropolitan Area” is the result of a 10-year JGS-NY effort to identify Jewish burial society plots in the New York City area. The database contains over 10,000 entries – landsmanshaftn, synagogues, family circles, fraternal organizations, labor unions – from almost 100 cemeteries in New York City, Long Island, Westchester and Putnam Counties and northern New Jersey. Be sure to read the introduction and frequently asked questions page before beginning a search of the burial societies database. Accompanying this new database is an update listing of Jewish cemeteries in the metropolitan New York area, including addresses and telephone numbers.

The following lists pertaining to New York landsmanshaftn and other Jewish organizations have been added to the JGS website:

Landsmanshaftn collections (918 organizations) in the YIVO Archives, with Record Group (RG) numbers for easy access by researchers. For smaller collections included in RG 123, the appropriate box number is also provided.

Works Progress Administration (WPA) Yiddish Writers’ Group Study (1938), English-language list of 1,487 organizations. (A Yiddish-language list of 2,145 organizations will be added in the future.)

American Jewish Year Book: 1900-1901 edition, 294 organizations; 1907-1908 edition, 1641 organizations; 1919-1920 edition, 2,302 organizations.

Works Progress Administration (WPA) Federal Writers’ Project, Survey of State and Local Historical Records: “Church Records Jewish – Synagogue” 1939): 2,092 organizations (New York City only).

Jewish Calendar, Lodge and Society Directory (1905), compiled and edited by Alex Eli Jacobs: 1,301 organizations.

Lodges listed in *The Jewish Communal Register of New York City* (1918-1919): 293 organizations.

Translations of common Hebrew and Yiddish words in landsmanshaftn and burial society names.

JGS of New York, “Dorot” Spring 2001

ASHKENAZIC GIVEN NAMES

Introducing a dictionary of their origins, structure, pronunciation, and migrations

If you are a fellow bibliophile, you really have to experience this book! I would love to have it on my bookshelf at home. The author, Alexander Beider, presents a 682-page world of discovery about our Jewish given names.

The title *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names* is far too humble. The dictionary represents only 60% of the book. The remainder consists of the origins, structure, pronunciation, and migrations of Ashkenazic given names. Alexander Beider introduces us to a general history of Ashkenazic Jewry, including Jewish migrations in Europe since the Middle Ages. He also presents an analysis of names borrowed from Gentiles, shedding some light on the relationship between Jews and non-Jews in the Middle Ages.

The dictionary of names portion of the book is quite thorough. In addition to the etymology, each name is written in Cyrillic and Hebrew. Variations of the names are presented, as well as Christian versions or translations of the name.

Technically, at first glance, the book seems complicated, discussing *the historico-philological aspects of given names*, and further along, the *protovowels* and the *spirant consonants*. “Huh?!” was my first thought; but Mr. Beider gives us a glossary that smoothes the way, and actually delights us with an, “Oh, is that what that’s called?” feeling.

This book takes us through history with our Eastern European ancestors, travels the lands they traveled and speaks to us with the beautifully blended vernacular of their speech.

A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names by Alexander Beider: Published by Avotaynu, 2001

Reviewed by Chris Flesor, Special Collections Department: St. Louis County Library, “Generations” newsletter of JGS of St. Louis, MO, October 2001 Issue

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Symbolism/Acronyms/Abbreviations and The Like.

The discussion continues of surnames and how symbolism, acronyms, synonyms, abbreviations, and the like developed into names. Please keep in mind that some surnames were adopted due to the sound, the secondary meaning, or for other purposes.

FRIEDMAN, FRIED These names have the idea of peace and are symbolic forms of Shelomo (Solomon) or Shalom. Again we must note that many countries disallowed the use of Hebrew names as family names and Friedman and Fried are good German words.

FROIKIN The name Ephraim became abbreviated to Froim which then evolved to Froike and Efroike. Froikin means "descendent of Ephraim." Also appears as Efroikin.

FROMEL An adoption of Avraham (Abraham) which becomes Avrum, which becomes Avromel, which becomes Vromel, which becomes Fromel. Also appears as From, Fromkin, Frommer, Fromer.

GEDULD From the old German vernacular, which means peace. When Warsaw was occupied by the Prussians from 1794 to 1806, the Prussians imposed German sounding names on the Polish Jews and used "Gedul" as a translation of Solomon.

GERSTEIN Another form of Gershon. Also appears as Gerstner.

GITTELSON Son of Gittel.

GLICK A Yiddish derivation of a Middle Ages popular name, Gluckel, and was associated with the meaning of "luck." The German equivalent of Glick is Gluck. Also appears as Glickman, Glicksman, Glickstein, Glickberg, Glicksberg, Glickstern, Glickselig, Glickin, Gluckman, Glucksman, Gluckstein, Gluckberg, Glucksberg, Gluckstern, Gluckselig, Gluckin.

GOLOMB The Polish for Yonah (Jonah) - "dove." Also appears as Golub which is the Russian translation of the Czech or Ukrainian "Holub."

GOMPERTZ From the old German name Gundbert. Gumpert/Gompert was frequently

added to the Hebrew names Ephraim and Mordecai as far back as the 14th century and first appeared as a family name in the 16th century. Also appears as Gomperz, Gompers, Kompert, Kumpert, Gumpertz, Gumprecht, Gumpel, Gimpel, Gimbel.

GOODMAN An English version of Gutman which is a translation from the Hebrew name "Tuviah." Goodman may also be derived from the name Gute or Gittel and, in this form, may also appear as Guter, Gutter, Gutterman, Gutfield, Gutfreund, Gutreich, Gutstein.

HAAS Joseph (Yosef) often had "Has" or "Hase" as a nickname. In Yiddish it is "Hoos." The name is not to be confused with the Dutch or German for the animal, the hare. "Has" or "Hase" is "hare" in German; "Haas" is "hare" in Dutch.

HAFFKIN Means "a descendent of Havah." Also appears as Havkin, Chavkin.

HALEVY The Hebrew for "the Levite." Also appears as Halevi.

HARRIS Jews with Herz, Hirsh, or Aaron (nickname in Yiddish is Haare or Horre) often adopted the name Harris in English speaking countries. In English, Harris means "son of Harry" or "son of Henry."

HART, HARTMAN Hart and Hartman were selected as derivatives of Naphtali whose nickname Herz/Harz/Hirsh means "deer" or "hart." Also appears as Hardt, Hartog, Hartwig, Hartwick, Hartig.

Incidentally, Hart is an English name that refers to a stag, deer, or hart. Hartman is a German name which means "strong man." Neither is the Jewish interpretation.

HEIFETZ A family name derived from Hefetz which means "desire" or "delight." Also appears as Keyfetz.

HEYMAN An acronym where the first four letters indicate the name Hayyim. Also appears as Heiman, Heimann.

HELFGOTT The German translation of Azriel which means "God's help."

To be continued.

Rabbi Kaganoff, Arthur Kurzweil and Eli N. Evans, many, many thanks.

*Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis
"Generations" March 2002, Vol.8, Issue 3
Article by Chuck Jackson*

MY SEARCH FOR ILITZKYS

My maternal great-grandfather, Israel ben Nuchem Ilitsky, came from Nezhin, Ukraine not far from the Belarus border. Since Ilitsky is an unusual name, I have been searching for other Ilitskys.

Using the Internet, I discovered that the Bloom Southwest Jewish Archives at the Arizona University Library in Tucson had some material on Ilitzkys. A neighbor's son was a student there, and was able to procure two articles for me. One was a reference to U.S. government legal proceedings against an Isador Ilitzky for shipping ammunition across the Arizona-Mexican border during the Mexican Revolution 1912-1914. And the other article was an obituary of Isador's daughter Bess, listing her siblings including their married names.

Utilizing the Internet telephone directories, I contacted some of the grandchildren of Isador Ilitzky; and was able to gather some facts about their grandfather's life and his family. I found out that Isador came from Brahin, Minsk Gubernia, Belarus, which is near the Ukraine border; and that his father's name was Nuchem. It is very possible that the two Nuchem's were related, or even the same person.

I also found that the IAJGS Cemetery Project listed the graves of Isadore & Zlate Ilitzky in Douglas, Arizona.

I then contacted Alfred Lipsey who is President of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Arizona, as well as Genealogy liaison to IAJGS. He was able to send pictures of the gravestones to me, as well as procure for me other documents of the Ilitzky family. I shared all my Ilitzky information with him. In February 2001, Al wrote the following article "The Short History of a Jewish Nobody; My Search for Isador Ilitzky of Arizona" for the JHSSA newsletter "The Chronicle".

Meanwhile, I have met and am in frequent contact with Isador's grandson David Shostac, a renowned flutist; as well as several of his other grandchildren. I have also met David's mother, Lillian Ilitzky Shostac, age 93; and Israel's niece Lena Samuels Gilbert, age

90. I am sure that we are all somehow related.

Although I have since found a few minor inaccurate statements in Al Lipsey's article, "it is basically the real history of an ordinary man who helped build Arizona"; and very possibly part of my family's heritage.

by Myrna Lewis, JGSBCNJ member

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MAY 19 –

Sharing and learning session: Each person is asked to bring information on one of their family members who IMMIGRATED to this country and present a case study on how they uncovered their information.

Tell us what you have on this person and what you don't have. We will all put our heads together to help each other with new leads. JGSBC members will be given the first chance to present their information may request that the JBSBC make overhead transparencies of their vital records, so that others can better see their information

JUNE 9 –

Edward Rosenbaum will talk on using the resources of the Belarus SIG website to find your Belorussian ancestors, and locate their shtetls.

Edward Rosenbaum is the webmaster for the Belarus SIG, and is president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Bergen County. Edward has been researching his family roots for the past 14 years, and can trace some of his Belorussian ancestors back to about 1720.

JULY 14 –

Gary Mokotoff will talk on "Using the resources available from Avotaynu to help you research your ancestors."

Gary Mokotoff is an author, lecturer and leader of Jewish genealogy. He is publisher of Avotaynu, the magazine of Jewish genealogy and past president of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. He is the author of a number of books including the award-winning *Where Once We Walked*, a gazetteer which provides information about

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22,000 towns in central and eastern Europe where Jews lived before the Holocaust and How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust.

Mokotoff is also known for his application of computers to genealogy. Among his accomplishments is co-authorship of the Daitch-Mokotoff soundex code; the JewishGen Family Finder; and the Jewish Genealogical People Finder, the predecessor to the Family Tree of the Jewish People. In 1998 he was given the first Lifetime Achievement Award of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. In 1997 he received the David S. Vogels, Jr. Award of the Federation of Genealogical Societies in recognition of career contributions to the Federation and its members.

AUGUST –

No meeting due to the annual Jewish Genealogical convention.

SEPTEMBER –

No meeting due to the Jewish holidays.

OCTOBER 13 –

Mark Halpern will talk about "Jewish Records Indexing (JRI-Poland): 1,500,000 record indices and more."

Many Jews think that Jewish records in the old country were destroyed. This is just not true. Jewish Records Indexing - Poland has indexed over 1,500,000 Jewish vital records from Poland and Galicia.

Mark Halpern, a member of the Board of JRI-Poland and Archive Coordinator for projects in Eastern Galicia, Bialystok, and Tykocin, will explain the JRI-Poland database and describe the many new and exciting projects being undertaken. Mark is also currently Vice President of the JGS Greater Philadelphia.

NOVEMBER 11 –

John Celardo of NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) will discuss the 1930 census, which becomes available in April, 2002.

JGSBCNJ

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