



שם טוב Shem Tov

VOLUME XVIV No. 1

March 2003 Adar 5763

KEY MOMENTS IN SOVIET ARCHIVAL HISTORY

By Ruth Chernia

This article is adapted from a presentation by George Bolotenko of the Library and Archives of Canada given at the January meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada. His talk focused on three areas: The surviving archival records of the Russian Empire and Soviet Union, the OJGS's plan to access the (police) records of the IIIrd Department in Moscow and the Chernivsti cemetery project.

If one investigates the fate of Russian/Ukrainian archives during the Soviet era, one can be forgiven for wondering how any substantial body of records survived at all, in the central repositories in the capitals and major cities, let alone county and regional capitals in the far-flung provinces. Upheaval, dislocation and destruction characterized the Empire/Soviet Union – the two Revolutions of 1917, the Civil War (1918–1920), collectivization (late 1928–through the 1930's) and World War II with its colossal dislocation and death – all took a heavy toll on the archival legacy of the polity.

Revolutions of 1917

During the first days of the March Revolution, “in Moscow and St. Petersburg great bonfires flamed up almost at the same time in the courtyards of the buildings housing the police and gendarmierie, recently dissolved by the new authority.”* Documents and files were heaved out of windows, hauled out in sacks and bags and burned both by former officials and angry masses.

New ministries were formed, old ones dissolved and the archival records of the old ministries were moved from building to building. Much was lost or the heads of new ministries simply heaved out the “paper refuse” of the old authorities. Archivists wept as they witnessed this catastrophe, this “death from which there was no return...of defenceless, living things – the witnesses of the past and present..”

The October Revolution brought even graver consequences. New people came to replace the old, and the carousel of destruction only whirled on at an increasing speed. Destruction occurred because of strife. For example, it was a one-week struggle to take Moscow during which the Communists even burned the record of their own Military-Revolutionary Commit-

tee in the battle for the Kremlin, not to mention records going back to the 16th century. The new people were against any historical tradition (at best they were neutral) and usually very distant from a cultured respect for the records of the past. Archival fonds seemed to them “irrelevant paper garbage.” If archival fonds were not wholly and ignobly trashed, they were carelessly handled and re-handled. Fonds were intermixed; internal order was destroyed. If the fonds were left in their previous institutional homes and not moved, they were left untended and unguarded. Ruination often followed because of human mishandling or from natural causes (rain, snow, etc.). “With the coming of winter cold, archival papers fed area heating stoves, were torn up for use as wrapping material, rolled for handmade cigarettes, and so on.”

In keeping with the ethos of the new managers, it was “Destroy the old order!” thus, logically, “Destroy the paper garbage created by the old order.” These new managers were drawn from “the people,” the “leaders of the working class” and especially the politically motivated military, the sailors of the Baltic fleet. In St. Petersburg, a sailor, made Commissar of a large departmental archives, declared simply that archival records were “unneeded garbage.” This was happening in the centre. It is impossible to conceptualize what was transpiring in the provinces and counties.

(continued on page 3)

In This Issue

- 1 *Key Moments in Soviet Archival History*
- 2 *Upcoming Events*
- 5 *The Eker-Louis B. Mayer (Canadian) Family Connection*
- 6 *“Nu? What’s New?”*
- 7 *JRI-Poland’s New Procedure for Ordering Records from Polish State Archives*
- 8 *Ukrainian Archives*
- 10 *JEWISHGEN*
- 11 *New Members*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Presenter: Ellen Scheinberg, Director, Ontario Jewish Archives

On site tour of the Ontario Jewish Archives

Please note that participants will have to register for this event in advance. There will be a further announcement by E-mail, phone and on our website (www.jgstoronto.ca) sometime in March

Programs organized by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue - 470 Glencairn Avenue

Doors open at 7:30, program begins at 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 08, 2003

Presenter: Edward Anders, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago

Title: *"Recovering Lost Names of Holocaust Victims: A New Method Applied to a Town in Latvia"*

Wednesday, May 28, 2003

Presenter: Lisa Foucault, Senior Conservator Archives of Ontario

Title: *"Practical Tips on Preserving your Personal Collections of Certificates, Documents, Diaries, Scrapbooks, Photographs, Albums and Audio-Visual Media"*

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Presenters: Members of our society

Sharing new strategies for successful genealogical breakthroughs

*For further information visit our website at www.jgstoronto.ca
or watch the "What's New" column in the Canadian Jewish News.*

Volume XIV, No. 1

SHEM TOV is published quarterly by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) and is distributed free to members. Current and back issues are available for \$4 per issue.

Contributions are invited. Submit material c/o The Editor, P.O. Box 446, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2N 5T1.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada was founded in 1985 and currently has over 200 members. Membership costs \$36 per calendar year, \$18 for students. (Please note that the out of town reduction has been deleted). Meetings are held September to June, usually on the last Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:30) at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto (unless announced otherwise). Guests are always welcome. Details are usually printed in the *Canadian Jewish News* and on our website at: www.jgstoronto.ca.

The goals of the Society are to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and information through meetings, outings, workshops and guest lecturers, and thereby to promote an awareness of genealogy within the Jewish community of Canada. The Society is affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto and is registered as a non-profit charitable organization.

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publishers. Views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of SHEM TOV or the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto). ISSN 0843-6924. All rights reserved. ☆

Officers of the Society:

President	GARRY STEIN	president@jgstoronto.ca
Vice President	CAROLYNNE VEFFER	vp@jgstoronto.ca
Secretary	LUCY SADOWSKY	secretary@jgstoronto.ca
Treasurer	HARTLEY GARSHOWITZ	treasurer@jgstoronto.ca
Membership	NEIL RICHLER	membership@jgstoronto.ca
Program	PENNY GROSS	program@jgstoronto.ca
Library	DAVID PRICE	library@jgstoronto.ca
Immediate Past President	GERT SOLNIK ROGERS	
Past Presidents	HENRY WELLISCH BILL GLADSTONE DR. ROLF LEDERER RAYZEL ROBINSON-PAULL	
Hon. Life President		
New Board Members:	PENNY GROSS HAROLD NISSETHALL GORD MESLIN NEIL RICHLER	

Shem Tov Staff:

Editor	JOAN BASSETT	
Managing Editor	HENRY WELLISCH	shemtov@jgstoronto.ca
Contributing Editor	RUTH CHERNIA	
Layout and Design	DULCEY HOFFMAN	
JGS Copy Service	STAN ZEIDENBERG	

Contributors to this Issue	RUTH CHERNIA GLEN EKER HENRY WELLISCH	
----------------------------	---	--

E-mail address of the society:

info@jgstoronto.ca

Telephone number of the society:

(905) 882-2259

Civil War Era

The 1919 Report of an archival administrator noted:

“The Perm provincial administration was powerless to stay the destruction of archives...The local county executive officers, in need of clean paper for their operational activities, find this paper by the simple expedient of tearing it out of archival files, at which point the files themselves, treated as waste, go for heating, for use as envelopes and wrapping paper...The local executive official announced to me, with some pride, that in Soviet Russia nothing is wasted...The threat of charges and trial have no effect.”

Housing and paper shortages, recognized as “crises” at the time, constituted a lethal threat to the Russian/Soviet archival inheritance. During the housing crisis, archives were forced to re-locate into inappropriate buildings, often into storage sheds and barns where the paper often rotted. During the paper crisis, archives were ravaged for usable paper; the new Soviet commissars would “rip out clean paper and then send off ruined archival files by the wagon-load, to be re-pulped at paper plants or sold for all sorts of household needs.”

Such destruction, it seems, continued for three or four years, until 1921 or 1922. In 1921, three National Commissars (Ministers), in a coordinated national decree, created a special paper agency to overcome the “raw material crisis” of the paper industry. Under it, an extraordinary commission was established that “received the authority throughout the whole of the RSFSR, to gather up rags, archival materials, old paper and cuttings, which have no historical or operational value.” Despite the caveat of “no historical value,” many administrators continued their attack on archives. In fact, two schools developed: those with some respect for the records, the “savers,” and those who had absolutely none, the “utilizers.” Archival administrators were so insignificant in the structure of the administrative pyramid that they failed to stem the attack of the utilizers until the mid-1920’s, especially given that the utilizers received “premiums, promotions and other benefits for successful paper collection.” The loss was incalculable.

Collectivization Era (1928–1930’s)

In Voronezh province, Ordonetskii County, two accountants turned over all current operational and archival records for the period 1929–1933 to the village paper depot, and for the money received enjoyed much wine. In the same area, in 1932–1937, bureaucrats “sold all archival materials for tobacco, and used them to paste over all window frames in winter.” Nonetheless, the report continued, “all these officials succeeded 100 percent in the work of inspiring all local archives to compete in the building of socialism.”

World War II

Again this era saw incalculable losses. Some accounts place them at 87 million files, over 67 percent of the entire archival fonds of the USSR. The NKVD ran the archival system from

the mid-1920’s on. There were very poor preparations for evacuation as war neared. When it began, the execution of the evacuation was shoddy. For example, in one case 20 tons of records were shipped from Viaz’ma to Kuibyshev. The receiver reported that only three to four tons arrived. Of this, 15 to 20 percent were in full disorder with torn or loose bindings. The rest were bound, but stripped of their protective covers. And these, according to the NKVD, were “especially valuable documents.”

Due to acts of war, “almost all regional and municipal archives in the front area were destroyed.” Much was destroyed intentionally by special NKVD groups themselves to preclude their falling into Nazi hands. Much was destroyed by Soviet ministries themselves, who, per directives, burned 26.5 million files (96.7 % of all their holdings) as war broke out. Much was destroyed in battle operations. And much was willfully destroyed by Nazis, who saw the Slavs as Untermenschen (less than human) whose culture was not only not worthy of preservation, but also constituted simply clutter in the way of future plans. Thus, in every town and city, to destroy public buildings, monuments, libraries and archives was, if not *de rigueur*, at least acceptable for most. The Nazis directly “destroyed, stole or removed 35 million files,” or 45% of the total, in territory they controlled. Thus, given NKVD/ministerial destruction, exigencies of combat, and Nazi policy, in those territories where the front had played back and forth from 1941 to 1945, only 5 million files out of a total of 70 million survived the war. It was indeed a very lethal, brutal time for Russian/Soviet archives – what treasure was lost, both in the centre (the capitals) and in the regions!

Bolotenko asks, after so much destruction, is there anything left for genealogists, one might wonder? Strangely enough, yes, much. You’ll see that there is still a great treasure left there, both locally and, what I have always liked to stress, in the centre. I have often, when addressing genealogical groups, stressed the centre – that is where the true gold lies and that is where genealogists, too given to burrowing in local records, fail to go.

Records in the Centre: The Police Records Project of the OJGS

According to the archival guide, *Documents on the History and Culture of the Jews in the Archives of Moscow*, Moscow, 1997, there are more than 200 fonds (collections of records), from large to massive, some dating back several hundred years that are replete with valuable genealogical information regarding Jews in the Russian Empire/Soviet Union. These are records from 1263 onwards, though most from the 1800’s and 1900’s. These constitute hundreds of fonds, containing millions of pages. They deal with the peripheries as much as with central agencies, because all information was rolled into the centre during both Tsarist and Soviet Russia.

The next big project for the Ottawa JGS is to negotiate an agreement with GARF (State Archives of the Russian Federation) on the card catalogue of the IIIrd Section of HIM Own

(continued on page 4)

Chancellery. I may have spoken to this association on the IIIrd Section five or six years ago. In brief, it was part of the Department of Police from the 1880's on. This department was charged with monitoring internal political opposition and, later, the various revolutionary movements of all stripes. It built up a massive archival record for the period 1880–1917. Access into this record is by way of a card catalogue containing close to 2 million cards. Of these, 70–80% deal with Jews (prominent not only in the Bund and other movements, for example the various Zionist organizations, but also central to most of the mainline revolutionary parties and various offshoots: even in the pro-peasant Socialist Revolutionary Party, Jews were a prominent force).

The cards are not systematized, but each will have four or five elements out of the following fields: name, patronymic surname, date of birth, place of birth, confession, profession, place of employment, place of residence, political leanings/membership in political group, etc. We have commenced negotiations to do a pilot project on, perhaps, 100,000 cards, to enter all the information they hold in a digital format, and then have this partial database mounted on the Web. Once done, genealogists can then search the DB; if they find a likely hit, they will then deal directly with GARF, which will perform searches and provide copies. With the income generated from searches and record copies, we hope that GARF will see fit to process the remaining cards and mount them on the web.

Chernivtsi Project

Bolotenko also acquainted us with a project that the OJGS society did locally in Chernivtsi, the gem of Bukovina. It began as a dream, back in 1993, when he and Lawrence Tapper visited Chernivtsi (for him, it's roots county). The OJGS raised money for several years so that during the summers of 2001 and 2002 it could send over teams (three people each time) to photograph the headstones in the main Jewish cemetery on Zelena Street in Chernivtsi, the summer capital of the Habsburgs in foothills of the Carpathians.

The Jewish community of Chernivtsi was very progressive and wealthy. On the eve of World War I, over 70 percent of the city was Jewish. Despite the hardships of the war, the city and community survived relatively intact. After the war, because of the redrawing of borders, the city became part of Romania and life got more difficult. During World War II, there was colossal destruction of the Jewish community (although the city itself was again relatively unscathed).


During the first year, the team managed to photograph 15,000 gravesites. In the second year, photographs were taken of another 5 to 7,000 graves at Zelena and 5,000 sites at a newer cemetery in Chernivtsi, Sadhora. Also the team commenced work (which is only partially done) at the old Jewish cemetery at Khotyn. Presently there are close to 30,000 images. Also, negotiations have obtained from the Chernivtsi civilian administration of Necropoli, the release of burial lists for the main cemetery. The lists were maintained in German (before 1918), Romanian (1918 to 1943) and, finally, Russian (1944 to

the present). There were burials right through to the 1980's, perhaps 1990's, although Zelena is now closed to further burials.

The intent is to link images of gravesites (geographic location identified when photo taken, based on the cemetery plan that is divided into sections, rows and places) with the lists (that also indicate location based on section, row and plot number), then mount all of it on the Internet. The big task now is the transliteration of names. The local rabbi of Chernivtsi helped; he has put the Russian-language entries into a database. There now remains the transliteration of these names, as well as of the German and Romanian. The process entails sending these records out to volunteers conversant with the requisite language to enter into a database, and provide English-language equivalents. Then the images with the transliterated names linked to them, will be mounted on the Internet, freely accessible to all.

As a side project, recently, ZAGS, the Civil Registry office in Chernivtsi, has transferred all records (birth, marriage and death), up to 1950, to the Provincial Archives in Chernivtsi where they are presently being filmed. There is an offer for the right of first purchase, and the Mormons have not yet gotten to this material!

* All of the quotes in this article come from T. Khorkhordina, *Istoriia otchestva i Arkhivy 1917/1980*, [The History of the Fatherland and Archives 1917-1980s], Moscow, 1994.



Kee the memories alive
by going to print
with your own customized

FAMILY & TREE FAMILY HISTORY

Beautifully designed
and produced in colour,
this makes a lasting
and much loved family gift.

For more information,
contact:
Kinny Kreiswirth
519-439-4180
kinink@rogers.com

THE COHDA FAMILY

The Eker-Louis B. Mayer (Canadian) Family Connection

by Glen Eker

(for Part 1, see Shem Tov, December, 2002 issue)

I have often wondered if there was any validity to the observations made by my father's first cousin, Rose (Zilbert) Title, who always claimed that the Eker's are related to the famous movie producer, Louis B. Mayer of Metro Goldwyn Mayer movie studio. Because of this, as we shall see, her life could have been different.

What was the connection? Her claim, based on personal knowledge, indicates that a sister, Lottie Eker, of my great-grandfather Rubin Eker, who resided in Glace Bay with his family, was married to Louis B. Mayer or a relative of his. She was unclear on the latter point.

My exploration of the family relationships has shed light on the relevant connection as follows:

1. (a) Rubin Eker (1861-1938) and his wife Sophie Shore (1862-1939) had five children: Libby (1885-1947), Lillian (1889-1925), Lottie (1891-1919?) Morris (1892-1947), and Benjamin (1894-1948), left Tulchin Ukraine for Hamburg, Germany and sailed on the Hamburg America Line ship, the *Siloia* on October 7, 1900 for London, England. They sailed from England to St. John, New Brunswick. The passenger lists for St. John for this period are missing so I am unable to get an exact date.

(b) Lottie Eker and Benjamin Eker were two of Rubin Eker's children. This Lottie Eker married Morris Zilbert in 1910 in Glace Bay and was the mother of Rose Title. Benjamin Eker married Bella Bishinsky in 1921 in Montreal and was my grandfather.

2. There was, however, another Lottie Eker, which I discovered when I searched the California Death Index on ancestry.com and rootsweb.com. In that search a listing was found for a Lottie Myers, born December 25, 1863 outside of the U.S.A. and who died on March 22, 1951 in Los Angeles. Her maiden name was listed as Eker. This was clearly Rubin Eker's sister.

Previously, a search of the 1901 census of Glace Bay had only revealed the names of Rubin Eker and Sophie Eker and their children. The book *Merchant of Dreams* which details the life of Louis B. Mayer makes no mention of anyone named Eker. It describes the life of Louis, his parents, his siblings, and their families. It does however, state that the Mayer family was from Dymier/Dumier, Ukraine and traveled first to London, England then to New York City and from there to St. John, New Brunswick in 1892.

A search of the 1901 St. John census revealed the names of Boris and Lottie Meyers/Mayer and their five children. The listing in the census for Dufferin Ward is as follows:

Myers, Boris; b. April 1861 Russia; Dry Goods Merchant

Myers, Lottie; b. 1865; Russia

Myers, Lillie; b. 1888 U.S.; Student

Myers, Ike; b. 1890 New Brunswick; Student

Myers, Maurice; b. 1892 New Brunswick; Student

Myers, Benjamin; b. 1894 New Brunswick; Student

The search of the 1901 St. John census also revealed in Dufferin Ward the names Jacob and Sarah Myers/Mayer and their four children:

Myers, Jacob; Lt. 1854 Russia; Merchant

Myers, Sarah; b. December 25, 1856 Russia

Myers, Ida; b. February 15, 1882 Russia; Clerk

Myers, Louis; b. July 12, 1894 Russia; Clerk

Myers, Rubin; b. April 1, 1888 United States

Myers, Jeremiah; b. April 12, 1891 United States

The 1901 census listed the year of immigration for Boris, Lottie, and Lillie as 1891 and for Jacob, Sarah, Ida, and Louis as 1890. These years are questionable. In *Merchant of Dreams* it states that Jacob and Sarah and their family were in England from 1886-1887 and then in New York from 1887-1892 before they came to St. John in 1892. There was another daughter, Yetta b. 1878, who married Abraham Reider in Manhattan in 1896 and remained in the U.S.A.

The evidence is that my great-grandfather, Rubin Eker's sister Lottie Eker married Boris Myers/Mayer, brother of Jacob Myers/Mayer, who was the father of Louis B. Mayer.

Boris and Lottie's five children: Lillie, Ike, Maurice, Benjamin, and Susie were first cousins to Jacob and Sarah's five children: Yetta, Ida, Louis, Rubin, and Jeremiah. Boris Myers/Mayer and Lottie Eker were, therefore aunt and uncle of Louis B. Mayer.

Boris and Lottie's five children were also first cousins to Rubin and Sophie Eker's five children, on their mother's side, i.e. Lottie Eker's side.

Rubin and Sophie Eker would be an aunt and uncle once removed to Jacob and Sarah's five children including Louis B. Mayer. Ruben and Sophie's five children would be first cousins once removed or second cousins to Jacob and Sarah's five children. Thus my grandfather, Benjamin Eker was a first cousin once removed or second cousin to Louis B. Mayer.

Rose (Zilbert) Title's nephew John Touchings of North Sydney, Nova Scotia, who is the son of her sister Lillie Zilbert and Cecil Touchings, informed me that Boris and Lottie Myers/Mayer moved from St. John to Glace Bay and lived at 3 York Street which was near 17 York Street, "The Eker Block", where Rubin and Sophie Eker lived. Rubin Eker also had apartments, ran a Kosher butcher shop, and had a farm. John is researching when Boris and Lottie and their family left Glace Bay for California.

The California Death Index shows that Boris and Lottie's son Benjamin died on August 7, 1954 in Los Angeles and that their son Maurice died on March 25, 1975 in Los Angeles. Tracing them and their siblings requires further research.

As for Jacob and Sarah Meyers/Mayer and their family, *Merchant of Dreams* details that Louis left for Boston in 1904 where he married Margaret Shenberg and set up a junk business. In 1907 he became involved in motion pictures and the rest is history. By 1921 the rest of his family had left St. John for the United States.

But what about Rose (Zilbert) Title's life that could have been?

Rose informed me that Boris and Lottie resided in Los Angeles, were quite wealthy and lived in a big house. Boris was involved in the movie business. She said that when she was a young girl, Uncle Boris and Aunt Lottie came from Los Angeles to Glace Bay to visit. They wanted to take her back with them and possibly get her into movies because she was a very attractive young blonde. Unfortunately her father, Morris Zilbert, a widower by that time, would not allow her to go. As a result, she missed the chance of a lifetime and even at the present age of 89 years she is sad about the lost opportunity and a life that would have been. ☆

“Nu? What’s New?”

News about Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu

YIVO Photo Collection on Internet

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research has placed a portion of their photograph collection, some 17,000 photos of Jewish life in Eastern Europe, on the Internet at <http://yivo1000towns.cjh.org>. Titled “People of a Thousand Towns”, it provides a visual record of thousands of communities where Jews lived before the Holocaust. Most of the pictures are of people, and in some cases they are identified by name. There is a search engine that allows you to isolate pictures by town or by keyword. By using the keyword feature and entering the various surnames I am researching, it is likely that I identified a picture that includes a collateral relative named Hyman Tarre from Chicago, a visitor to Bialystok at the time.

It is fascinating to read the captions of the pictures, which demonstrate that as recently as the early 20th century, Jews referred to themselves colloquially by nickname rather than using the surnames they had adopted less than 100 years earlier. A typical caption was one of a studio portrait that read “the revolutionary tanners” caucus [of Bialystok] (right to left) Fayvl the Odesser, Itske the boot fuller, Hymen Tarre (now in Chicago), Mordkhe Roznoyer, Shloyme Yitskhok the Vitebsker, and Shlomo Yitskhok the fuller. (“Forward,” 1932.) Note that Hymen not only used a surname but had already abandoned his European surname of Tartacki in favor of a more Americanized “Tarre.” My records indicate that he arrived in America less than one year before this picture was taken.

The pre-World War II Jewish communities are located in Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. They span the late 19th century to the early 1940’s and document the lives of large Jewish centers as well as many smaller towns and villages. The online presentation covers only a small fraction of YIVO’s extensive photographic holdings, one of the world’s foremost collections of photographs of Jewish life around the world. Most of the pictures used in Avotaynu’s “Where Once We Walked: Revised Edition” come from YIVO’s collection.

You have to register in order to do a search, a minor inconvenience.

Inventory of Polish State Archives Now Online

The State Archives of the Republic of Poland now has an Internet site located at <http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/index.eng.html>. It includes a full-word search engine. The database identifies holdings at the fond level. It covers all holdings of the archival

system, not just metrical (vital) records. For example, searching for one of my ancestral towns, Otwock,--where Jewish vital records apparently have been destroyed--uncovered a fond of a Jewish tradesmen organization (1919-1932).

Using the keyword “Zydow” the Polish word for “Jewish”, identified 303 fonds. Using the partial word “Mojzesz”, another term for “Jew”, uncovered 155 more fonds. I discovered there is yet another term that might identify Jewish records--niechrzescijanskiego-which means “non-Christians.” This keyword revealed an additional 5 fonds. It is wise to have a Polish dictionary handy to translate the descriptions.

A search engine can be found at <http://baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/index.eng.php>. In the field identified as “Fond Name” place any keyword, for example, a town name. A description of the search engine can be found at <http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/index.eng.html>. Plans call for updating the database on an annual basis.

CRUISE WITH YOUR ANCESTORS from just \$150* per person

Whether you're just starting to grow your family tree or are a seasoned genealogist, you are sure to benefit from the first International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies' cruise, round-trip from Miami, from December 1-5, 2003.

- 4-day cruise to Key West and Cozumel.
- "How to Get Started" searching on the Internet.
- Guest lectures and "Ask the Experts" sessions to address your genealogical questions.
- A great networking opportunity.

**Call 1-888-840-5240 or visit
www.iajgs.org**

*Plus port charges, government fees and IAJGS Registration fee. All starting at less than \$464 per participant, or \$394 for accompanying family members not participating in the genealogical aspects of the cruise.

Please note: All amounts above are in US dollars

JRI-Poland's new procedure for ordering records from Polish State Archives

Published by The Board of Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland is pleased to announce that an agreement has been signed with the Polish State Archives (PSA) to launch a new online system for processing orders for copies of records.

The first step in introducing this system is a two-month pilot project with the Bialystok and Lomza branches. The new system is now operational for these branches and you can use this system to order records immediately from the Bialystok and Lomza Archives. After the pilot project is concluded, this system will be available for other branch Archives.

The new online order system will eliminate problems both for you, the researcher, and for the branches of the Polish State Archives. You will now be able to pay by credit card and the branches will no longer be faced with high transaction fees charged by local banks for depositing bank / cashier checks from outside of Poland. JRI-Poland will accept researcher payments and periodically arrange for grouped bank-to-bank transfers to PSA Branches.

Features of the new online order system:

- ✧ Records are selected and orders are created on-line using a "Shopping Basket" format. After identifying a record you want, you simply point and click and the desired record is added to your shopping basket.
- ✧ If your shopping basket includes orders for more than one branch of the archives, separate orders are automatically created for each branch.
- ✧ Researchers print and snail mail the order(s) with their payment by credit card, personal cheque (drawn on a U.S. bank), or US\$ international money order (cleared through a bank in the US) to the "JRI-Poland Processing Center" in Merion Station, Pennsylvania. (At present the credit card form must be mailed; we are not accepting credit card payment electronically.)
- ✧ As soon as your order(s) and payment are received, the Processing Center emails your order(s) to the PSA branch (es).
- ✧ The archive branch will mail the copies of the records directly to you by registered air mail within 30 days of receiving the order.

Benefits:

- ✧ Payments: the system will eliminate the often irritating and costly procedures to arrange payment as well as the high cost of transaction fees charged to PSA Branches by their local banks for depositing bank / cashier checks from outside of Poland.
- ✧ Price: a standard \$10 price per record will apply. However, there is a minimum charge per branch of \$15. (Therefore, if you order one record from the Lomza branch and one record from the Bialystok branch, the total charge will be \$30.)
- ✧ Accuracy: the shopping basket format will ensure that

only those records indexed as part of the PSA project can be ordered from the PSA.

- ✧ Promptness: the JRI-Poland agreement stipulates that branches will mail the records within 30 days.

Ordering records during the "Test Period":

The Bialystok and Lomza pilot project is expected to run for two months. If all goes according to plan, the Shopping Basket system will be extended to all branches in early 2003. This applies only to branches holding records for which there are indices in the JRI-Poland database.

In the interim, there will be three separate systems, each applicable for *different* archive branches. Here is how it breaks down:

- ✧ Bialystok and Lomza Archives: Shopping Basket trial. For instructions, see www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/psabasketinst.htm
- ✧ AGAD Archives: Current system of batched orders handled by Mark Halpern remains in place until the shift to the Shopping Basket. For instructions, see www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/psaagadinst.htm
- ✧ All other Archives: Request for Quotation system, now in place.

For instructions, see www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/psainst.htm

The Search Page results include links to the three sets of instructions referred to above.

During this test period, we urge researchers with an interest in records from towns in the Lomza and Bialystok Archives to place orders immediately. A thorough test of the Shopping Basket format is needed before it can be extended to all branches.

The following additional indices to records have been released to the JRI-Poland database:

Bialystok Archives:
Bialystok City, Births and Deaths, 1900

Lomza Archives:
PSA data for the following towns is now live or will be available within the next two weeks: Andrzejewo, Czyzewo, Grajewo, Jablonka, Nowogrod, Nur, Radzilow, Rajgrad, Sniadowo, Szczuczyn, Trzciannie, Wasosz, Wizna, Wysockie Mazowieckie, Zambrow. (Records for the Town of Lomza were previously available.) We ask for your patience as we learn from your comments and suggestions.

Please write us at pilotproject@jri-poland.org

Ukrainian Archives

by Henry Wellisch

This survey is based on an unsigned article which appeared in: *EAST EUROPEAN JEWISH AFFAIRS* (formerly known as *SOVIET JEWISH AFFAIRS*), Vol. 30, No. 1, 2000. It is entitled: *MATERIALS RELATING TO EAST EUROPEAN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION*.

The archive referred to is the Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Kiev (TsGIA-U) and as one might expect large parts of the material surveyed is more of historical than genealogical interest.

The main collection of this archive consists of documentary material from different institutions in Kiev gubernia, from various institutions in Ukraine, as well as from political, communal and private collections. The archive was created in 1944 and contains the holdings of the former Central Archive of Ancient Acts in the City of Kiev, the Kiev Central Historical Archive and the Central Archive of the Revolution in Kharkov.

The TsGIA-U has a rich collection of materials which deal with the history of the Jews of the Russian Empire and a large part of the documents relate to the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth. There is however some material tied to the earlier period from the fourteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

Collections of Specifically Jewish Interest (Selection)

Jewish Historical-Archeological Commission of the Historical-Philological Section of the Academy of Sciences (1919-1929)

Documentation: Legal position of Jews in the Empire, Hasidim, Zionism, Pogroms, correspondence with Sholem Aleichem, etc.

Brodsky Family Archive (1873-1914)
Industrialist engaged in sugar production

Bramson, Leontii M. (1869-1941)
Jewish communal activist.
Documents: Beilis affair etc.

Central Jewish Aid Committee to Victims of Pogroms (1905-1920). Materials relating to pogroms, American Relief Administration, maps etc.

Vital Statistics of Jewish Communities

Beginning in 1835 the Russian government required Jewish communities to maintain registers of births (circumcisions), marriages, divorces and deaths. These registers known as *metricheskie knigi* were kept in Russian and Hebrew on facing pages. Later in the 19th century these lists became the responsibility of government approved rabbis. Marriage records contain the ages of the couple and the names of respective parents. Death records provide the age of the deceased and the cause of

death. The TsGIA-U collection has some but certainly not all records of Jewish communities in Ukraine.

Berdichev rabbinate (2 items: 1845-1851). Vital statistics of Jewish community of district town of Berdichev, Kiev province.

Boguslav rabbinate (1 item: 1848). Vital statistics of Jewish community of *shtetl* Boguslav, Kanev district, Kiev province.

Buk rabbinate (2 items: 1848-1853). Vital statistics of *shtetl* of Buk, district, Kiev province.

Cherkasy rabbinate (1 item: 1853). Vital statistics of Jewish community of district town of Cherkasy, Kiev province, for 1853.

Chernobyl rabbinate (34 items: 1852-1862). Vital statistics of Jewish community of *shtetl* of Chernobyl (Czarnobyl), Radomysl district, Kiev province.

Gornostaipol rabbinate (45 items: 1851-1862). Vital statistics of Jewish community of *shtetl* of Gornostaipol, Radomysl district, Kiev province.

Ivan'kov rabbinate (39 items: 1854-1862). Vital statistics of Jewish community of *shtetl* of Ivankov, Radomysl district, Kiev province.

Khabno rabbinate (57 items: 1849-1862). Vital statistics of Jewish community of *shtetl* of Khabno, Radomysl district, Kiev province.

Kiev rabbinate (second half of nineteenth century-early twentieth century) (510 items: 1850-1910). Record books containing vital statistics of Jewish community of city of Kiev.

Korostyshev rabbinate (second half of nineteenth century-early twentieth century), (203 items: 1840-1916). Record books containing vital statistics of Jewish community of *shtetl* of Korostyshev (Korostoszow), Radomysl district, Kiev province.

Lipovets rabbinate (nineteenth century), (8 items: 1851). Only one year of vital statistics of Jewish community of district town of Lipovets, Kiev province, has survived.

Malin rabbinate (second half of nineteenth century), (55 items: 1846-1862). Vital statistics of Jewish community of *shtetl* of Malin, Kiev province.

Pereiaslavl rabbinate (10 items: 1851-1915). Vital statistics of Jewish community of district town of Pereiaslavl, Poltava province.

Radomysl rabbinate (80 items: 1855-1893). Vital statistics of Jewish community of district town of Radomysl, Kiev province.

Skvira rabbinate (7 items: 1854-1876). Vital statistics of Jewish community of district town of Skvira, Kiev province.

Tarashcha rabbinate (10 items: 1850-1874). Vital statistics of Jewish community of district town of Tarashcha, Kiev province

Uman rabbinate (21 items: 1844-1850). Vital statistics of city of Jewish community of district town of Uman, Kiev province.

Vasilkov rabbinate (15 items: 1848-1874). Vital statistics of Jewish community of district town of Vasilkov, Kiev province

Zvenigorodka rabbinate (44 items: 1846-1866). Vital statistics of Jewish community of district town of Zvenigorodka [Dzwinograd, Zwinogrodek], Kiev province.

Administrative Institutions (Selection)

The General Military Chancellery (Mid-seventeenth century-1764) Jewish inn-keepers and leaseholders

Chancelleries of the Left-Bank Ukraine (1700-1782)
Expulsion of Jews; mandatory exchange of gold for copper coins.

Little Russian (Ukraine) Provincial Administration (1796-1802)
Jewish communities; Jewish/Christian relations

Kiev Provincial Chancellery (1708-1782). Conversions from Judaism to Greek Orthodoxy, Imperial decree forbidding Jews to enter Russia.

Chancellery of the Kiev Military Governor 1799-1832). Jewish religious observance; ritual murder accusations, conversions, documents on expulsion of Jews from Kiev.

Chancellery of the Governor General of Kiev, Podolia and Volhynia (1796-1914). Statistical information on Jewish population, benevolent organizations, religious life, election of rabbis, administration of synagogues, political parties, pogroms, writers etc.

Police Institutions (*Selection*)

The Kiev Provincial Gendarmerie Administration (1827-1917)
Documents on pogroms, Jewish political parties (Bund, Zionists), Jewish population in general during WWI.

Kharkov Provincial Gendarmerie Administration (1867-1917)
Pogroms, Jewish political parties.

Kovel Office of Kiev Gendarmerie (1867-1917)
Zionist organizations

Nikolaev Criminal Investigation Office (1904-1917)
Pogroms, Jewish political parties.

Kherson Provincial Gendarmerie Administration (1867-1917)
Jewish political parties.

Odessa Gendarmerie Administration (1827-1917)
Pogroms, Jewish self-defence during 1905 revolution, Jewish political parties.

Chernigov Provincial Gendarmerie Administration (1867-1917)
Pogroms, Jewish political parties.

Volhynia Provincial Gendarmerie Administration
Town of Zhitomir (1827-1917)
District of Zhitomir, Ovruch, Starokonstantinov (1867-1917)
Districts of Lutsk, Kovel and Vladimir-Volhynia (1867-1917)
Districts of Rovno, Dubno and Kremenets (1867-1917)
Districts of Novograd-Volhynia, Ostrog and Zaslavl (1867-1917)
Jewish political parties, ritual murder accusations, arrests of Zionists

Assistant Head of the Bessarabia Provincial Gendarmerie, Izmail (1867-1917). Pogroms, Jewish political parties.

Judicial Institutions (Selection)

Kiev Chamber of Civil Courts (1781-1796, suspended 1796, reactivated 1831). 1835 Statute of Jews

Kiev Judicial Chamber (1880-1919)
Pogroms, Jewish political parties.

Kharkov Judicial Chamber (1868-1920)
Pogroms of 1905-1907

Kharkov Military District Court (1868- 1888)
Pogroms of 1881-1882

Odessa Judicial Chamber (1868-1920)
Pogroms, Jewish political parties.

Educational Administration

Administration of Kiev Educational District (1832-1919)
Statistical information on Jewish population in various towns in Ukraine, state and private Jewish educational institutions, Zhitomir Rabbinical Seminary and Jewish Teacher Training Institute.

Institutions of Municipal Self-Government (Selection)

A number of statutes of the Russian Empire (1785, 1804, 1835) specifically allowed Jews to participate in the institutions of municipal self-rule, including the local courts. These files contain extensive information on the economic life of East European Jewry.

Bogoslav Magistracy (33 items, ?-1861)
Information on the Jewish community of Bogoslav

Kamenets Magistracy (157 items, ?-1861)
Information on the Jewish community of Kaments-Podolsk.

Kovel Magistracy (37 items, ?-1861)
Information on the Jewish community of Kovel

Vinnitsa Magistracy (89 items, ?-1861)
Information on the Jewish community Vinnitsa.

Kremenets Land Court (55 items, 1566-1795). Inquest by
Kremenets authorities on Massacre of Jews of Zaslav

Kiev Municipal Court (185 items, 15th century-1795)
Census of Jews in Kiev province (1765-91)

Military Occupation Authorities during the First World War

Staff of the Military Governor-General of Galicia (370 items, 1914-1917)
Pogroms, expulsion of Jews from areas of the front lines.

Gendarme Institutions of the Provisional Military Governor-General of Galicia (451 items, 1914-1915)
Information of size of Jewish population, reports on Zionist organizations and their members.

General information for users of TsGIA-U

The archive has a card catalogue (*kartoteka*) arranged by topic, geography and personal name, using Soviet-era categories. There is a published guide, *Tsentral'nyi Istoricheskii Arkhiv USSR v Kieve* (Kiev, 1958), a supplement to the guide, a thematic listing of large individual collections and a list of *fonds*.

ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by May 2003 for the Summer issue. Please indicate how many insertions you would like. As the chart indicates our basic rate is discounted for advertisements placed in four consecutive issues (one year) instead of a single issue only. By placing an ad in SHEM TOV, you are reaching a growing number of readers in Toronto, across Canada and internationally, and helping to support a unique and vital journal.

	One Issue	Four Issues (one year)
Full Page	\$60	\$200
Half Page	\$30	\$100
Quarter Page	\$18	\$ 60
Eighth Page	\$10	\$ 32

Search ads are also available. Rates are \$5 for the first 25 words and 25¢ per word thereafter, your name and address are free. Please write advertisement clearly with family surnames you are researching in UPPER CASE letters. Make your cheque payable to Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) and mail to: JGS of Canada (Toronto), P.O. Box 446, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M2N 5T1.

JEWISH GEN

Shtetls Online

Hazel Dakers, London UK

Genners may be interested to read a report in yesterday's UK newspaper the Guardian on Centropa a web project based in Vienna to re-create a sense of life, rather than death, in the shtetls. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,867784,00.html>
<http://www.centropa.org/mainpage/main.asp>

London Synagogue Marriage Registers - Indexing Project

Harold Lewin, Jerusalem

The London Synagogue Marriage Registers Indexing Project has completed computerization of the following registers:
Great Synagogue Marriages: 1791-1875.
Hambro Synagogue Marriages: 1797-1837 & 1862-1867

Old Encyclopedia Online

Tom Venetianer

If you are looking for aged information, around the turn of the 20th century, here is an interesting online source: The 1911 Encyclopedia Online <http://76.1911encyclopedia.org/>
Try to search your surname, you may find some unknown ancestor.

List of Archives in Israel

Tom Venetianer

Excellent list of archives in Israel: <http://www.tiigrs.org/Resources-eng.htm>

Canadian Genealogy Site - Searchable

Adelle Weintraub Gloger

While searching <accessgenealogy.com> website I came across a "Canadian Surname Search" link. It took me to: <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/test/canada.cgi>

The page is "Canada Genealogy Search". All you need to do is enter a surname. The search is free. The 'hits' can be accessed in text form. There is a link by which you can order a digitized copy of the document requested for a fee.

The Sir Moses Montefiore Census

Yocheved Klausner

1. The censuses of Erets Yisrael Jewish population ordered by Sir Moses Montefiore have been conducted in the following years: 1839, 1849, 1855, 1866 and 1875. There was no census in the 18th century.
2. The censuses are handwritten. The originals are kept at the British Museum in London. The Jewish National and University Library (JNUL) has microfilmed copies. They are part of the collection of the Institute for Microfilmed Manuscripts of the JNUL, where anyone can look at them.
3. In 1989, the first census, that of 1839, has been deciphered and published in a book form by the Shazar Institute in Jerusalem. The book is in Hebrew and its text exactly follows the original. That is to say that one has to read it from page 1 till its end in order to find a person.
4. Mathilde Tagger, a member of the Israel Genealogical Society, has translated to English and indexed nearly half of the 1839 census, the part dealing with the Sephardic population of Erets Yisrael. It is posted at: www.sephardicstudies.org. Scroll down till you find the chapter on the "Holy Land". The index is arranged alphabetically, town by town.

Jewish Communities & Records in the United Kingdom (JCR-UK)

Laurence Harris, JGS Great Britain

As one might expect about 5%-10% of all messages posted to this discussion group relate exclusively or mainly to UK Jewish Genealogy.

Just a reminder for those making postings - you may obtain better results if you post your queries about the United Kingdom and the Jewish families who lived there, to the JCR-UK discussion group instead of, or in addition to, your postings to this general JewishGen discussion group.

JCR-UK is a joint project of JewishGen and JGS Great Britain. It is free for anyone to join. We discuss Jewish records available in the UK, research techniques, and share information and tips. Anyone who joins the discussion group forum may post a query about general research in the UK geographical area or about their specific Jewish family research in this area.

Even if you are not posting a message but are interested in these topics, you might find joining JCR-UK useful.

To join the JCR-UK discussion group forum use the Special Interest Group sign-up page at http://www.jewishgen.org/listserv/sigs_add.htm and follow the procedure, selecting United Kingdom: Jewish Communities and Records (in step 2).

THIS MESSAGE APPEARED ON THE BOMEIMAN-MORAVIAN (BOHMOR) SIG DISCUSSION GROUP WHICH CAN BE FOUND ON THE JEWISHGEN WEBSITE)

Bibliography - Czech Republic-Jews

Gabriela Svatos [One of our members]

Perhaps there is already a link to this on Bohmor, but here is a link to a wonderful listing of books about the Jews from the Czech Republic:

<http://www.collegium-carolinum.de/doku/lit/juedg/bibl-jud-a.htm>

MODERATOR NOTE: Thank you! This is wonderful. We have a much smaller list also at <http://www.jewishgen.org/bohmor/books.html>

Keren Kayemeth Leisrael - JNF Missing Persons Property List

Ann Rabinowitz

The Israeli property administered by Keren Kayemeth Leisrael-JNF (KKL-JNF) can be found on the following site: <http://www.kkl.org.il/englishMain.asp>

You can then click on Missing Persons List which is on the right side of the main page of the web site. This brings you to: <http://www.kkl.org.il/EnglishGenericStaticTemplate.asp?sid=213>

However, I found that this page which contains the Missing Persons List only comes up partially and I have reported this error to the KKIL - JNF web master. Once you get the actual list and find someone you want to locate information on, you will fill out some information and send it to the KKL-JNF. The legal advisor for KKL-JNF will respond to your inquiry, but it may take quite some time to get a response. They may also tell you that they don't have any records for the person you found on their list and refer you to another agency for further in-depth research.

(continued on page 12)

We Welcome These New Members to Our Society

Maria Benedek

Lawrence W. White

JEWISHGEN

100,000 Soviet-Jewish soldiers in a Book of Memory

Zalman Lazkovich

A very helpful and invaluable book was just published in Moscow. "BOOK OF MEMORY" is honoring a memory of nearly 100,000 Soviet Jewish soldiers during World War II who died defending their country.

It took a group of veterans and researchers 10 years to collect and verify the names, vital data and causes of death for Jewish members of the Red Army and Soviet navy who died during the war. The book is 7 volumes and 500 pages each, and contain 100,000 names.

Full article :

http://www.jta.org/page_view_story.asp?Intarticleid=12197&intcategoryid=5

While there you can find information about the author of the article, his email address. And from there contact can be made with author on how to get these books. I hope JewishGen will check them out, as they are extremely important sources of information for many researchers.

Red Cross Holocaust Tracing Center

Linda Greenman

When anyone in the United States initiates a request for a search for relatives presumed lost in WWII -- there is a strict international protocol that must be followed:

1. You submit your request (form #1609) to your local Red Cross Holocaust tracing office.
2. They review it to ensure that all the mandated information has been filled out and sign off on it.
3. It is sent to the National WWII Tracing Office in Baltimore where the volunteers there will open a file and make a determination, based on what you have written, which European Red Cross office(s) should receive it. A typical example, the person you are searching for was born in Poland, may have moved around in Russia and was then possibly sent to an unknown concentration camp.
4. If Baltimore has a question about any of the information you filled in, i.e., they can find no town in Poland that matches the one you named, they will communicate with your local office who will call or write to you in order to get more accurate information from you.
5. In the above example, after having the forms translated into Polish, Russian and German -- Baltimore will forward your request to the National Office of the Polish Red Cross in Warsaw, the National Office of the Russian Red Cross in Moscow, and the Arolson Archives of Concentration Camp Documents in Germany.
6. According to the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) mandate, the Polish and Russian Red Cross National Offices will then open their own files before forwarding your request to the local Red Cross office(s) in every place you mentioned that your relative might have lived or even passed through.

7. Local volunteers in all of these offices will then begin the incredible time consuming task of going through 60+ year old hand written sometimes crumbling paper records looking for your relative. (None of this has been computerized). As soon as any bit of information is discovered, it is routed back through the Baltimore office to your local office and then on to you.
8. The bad news is that in approximately 35% of the requests, no records are ever found.
9. The good news is that Baltimore never closes your case, and if new information is discovered 10 years after you asked for it, it will still be sent to you. In fact, when you think that 65% of the requests for information receive some sort of response, it is truly amazing.

As you can see, the process is cumbersome and overwhelming. In addition to all of the genealogists who are looking for their family history, there are literally thousands who are looking for a date to say kaddish for a parent -- and many more who are looking for their self documentation in order to apply for slave labor and property reparations.

How long does it take? In the best of cases, a year or two, more often three to five years. I just received records from Bosnia for someone who had requested a search in 1991, when the war interrupted the search. When it was over, the Bosnian Red Cross continued to look and found our inquirer's family records.

You are right that it would be totally useless for anyone else to tell you how long their search took -- since each set of facts are individual. It also depends on whether the local European office has a two day/week volunteer or a full time staff of 10!

One thing is very important. If you move or change your phone number and don't update the information with your local office, you stand a good chance of never receiving any of the information!

So, don't give up. Keep in touch. If the records are there, they'll find them.

Haganah Archives

Ilan Ganot

The formal site of the Haganah veterans:

<http://www.hagana.co.il/>

The Haganah Archives site (in Hebrew):

http://www.hagana.co.il/new/html/archion_text.htm

Short introduction about the Hagana in English:

<http://www.hagana.co.il/new/html/english.htm>

Haganah Archives Contact:

23 Rothschild Blvd.

Tel-Aviv 66882 ISRAEL

Tel +972-3-5603715

Fax +972-3-5661208
