

CHAI

From Colorado

Winter 2007

Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado

Founded in 1995, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado is a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (iajgs.org)- a nonprofit organization with 80 member societies in 16 countries. Membership is open to anyone interested in researching Jewish roots. Guests are welcome at free monthly meetings.

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What To Do With The Genealogical Information You've Collected?

We, genealogists, are often so consumed with the process of learning about new resources and collecting documents for our ancestors, that we forget about preparing the material to pass onto our families and libraries. Following, are suggestions for how to proceed.

Write everything you know about each parent, sibling, grandparent, and other significant relatives in narrative format. This need not be lengthy and if your knowledge is based on family lore, rather than in documents, that's okay. Make photocopies of what you write down and distribute them to descendants and cousins. Also, consider leaving copies in a local genealogy library collection.

Buy a genealogy software program such as Family Tree Maker. This is best for documenting straight facts like the names, dates, and places of events and for printing family tree charts. Citations for source material and scanned images can be included.

Consider a more ambitious "book" project such as the kind Mike Karsen outlines on page 3 incorporating data from a genealogy software database, family tree charts, photos, and short narrative.

And what about those of you who don't get around to any of these projects? Try organizing your files and leaving instructions for your next of kin on how to navigate through the piles of research you painstakingly collected during the life of your hobby. If you don't have a designated genealogy heir, then consider sending your files to a library that might be interested. The American Jewish Archives in New York is one such place, as is the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society housed at the University of Denver, or even the JGSCO library collection at Congregation Emanuel.

Registering Holocaust victim names at Yad Vashem is important too. Visit www.yadvashem.org and click on The Shoah Victims' Database.

From The President

It's a shame that so many of you missed the last meeting. Our speaker, Mike Karsen, just happened to be visiting friends in Boulder and contacted me. No one was lined up for the December meeting, and it probably would have been cancelled without Mike's offer. He's a prominent speaker in the field, so I welcomed his offer. Luckily, the blizzard didn't arrive until the next day.

I'm sure each of you has records of the history of your family, photos, and other memorabilia. I hope you will treasure them and keep some sort of archive of family history so that future generations will find the search simpler and more rewarding in terms of learning about the people that preceded them. It's the memories of those who know us that give us some immortality,

In fact, why don't you do what Mike Karsen suggested and get all you have on paper and share it with other family members who are not as knowledgeable. He had wonderful suggestions on how the job could be simplified using various charts available in computer software programs such as Family Tree Maker and The Master Genealogist as well as how the cost could be kept minimal by using printing sources like Kinkos and Office Depot.

This could also jog memories and bring others forward to add additions and corrections to the material already in hand. He stressed the importance of making your presentation interesting to your audience, using photos, and making sure that no family member was given greater coverage than others. He also recommended not overwhelming with footnotes but listing sources at the end of the book.

Mr. Karsen suggested distributing these books, or booklets, if you prefer, as wonderful gifts for the honorees and other family members at a wedding, reunion, bar mitzvah, or anniversary. The outline from his presentation follows on page 3.

Please support our newsletter editor, Ellen Kowitt, by submitting articles for *Chai*. JGSCO members Alan Gass, Bernard Spilka, Myndel Cohen, and myself have done just that in this issue. Send stories with a length of no more than 400 words detailing genealogical discoveries, experiences, and tips. This would be a great way to start writing a lengthier family history.

I wish you a happy new year with good health, happiness, and fulfillment in your genealogical endeavors.

Anne Fendrich
President, JGS of Colorado

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*Contributing
articles are
welcome!*

Write Your Family History *NOW!*

by Mike Karsen

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Why Publish Now?

- Need to share information
- Stimulus for corrections/additional information
- Prevent your work from being lost
- Encourages you to publish in manageable pieces
- Bring your relatives back to life/give them immortality
- Give a gift that will last a lifetime and beyond

Start Simple

- Define the family of each grandparent as *one* family
- Set a limited goal
- Work with the end in mind
- Publish as soon as you have something worthwhile to share (aka **NOW**)

A Basic Book

- Introduction/Overview
- Descendant Tree
- Family Groups Sheets
- Outline Descendant Tree

Add More Flavor

- Biographies
- Social Histories
- Family photos/documents

Additional Flavors

- Timelines
- Story of writing this book
- Visits to the homeland
- Wedding gallery

Please send me feedback on this talk and information about progress you make on publishing your family histories to: MikeFamHistorian@aol.com

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Editor's Note: Email grapevynwest@comcast.net for a 4-page handout of this program.

My Adventure in Liverpool

by JGSCO member, Alan Gass

I knew, from my father and his siblings, that my grandfather Joseph Gass had called himself, “an henglishman.” My own recollection of him (although he died when I was 12), however, was that he spoke with an Eastern European Accent. I found that his origin was in the area of southern Ukraine/northern Bessarabia (now called Moldova), possibly in the region of Moghilev Poldolskij, Soroki, or even Odessa. He was raised in that area, but at some period, I surmised in the 1880’s, sometime, he and some of his family emigrated to Britain. I knew that at one point they had resided in Liverpool and that he had, indeed, immigrated to the USA from Liverpool. I had not been able to find any evidence of his immigration, although he had proudly framed his naturalization certificate which I found in my aunt's house in the 1980s.

In 1999, five or six years after I had begun serious genealogical research, my wife and I planned a driving trip through Britain and planned to make a day trip from Chester into Liverpool and make a single stab at locating the family of Joseph Gass and his half-siblings named Pellish in the Liverpool Central Library’s collection of city directories and census data. I knew I was taking a chance, but I thought that I would get only one opportunity like this, so I took it.

We arrived at the Library in the early afternoon. I had previously been warned that in order to do research, one had to reserve microform readers. That, I had dutifully done before we left the USA.

Just guessing at a time frame for their stay in Britain, I pulled the city directories for the period of 1887 – 1895 and started looking for the names Gass and Pellish. Lo, and behold! In the Liverpool Directory of 1891, I found Harris Pellish, my grandfather’s half-brother, a draper, living and working at 5 Great Orford Street. When I went to that address in the Liverpool census of 1890, not only did I find Harris, but I found several of his brothers and sisters, as well as Samuel and Joseph Gass, all living in the same house.

An incredible triumph of genealogical sleuthing, I believe.

Dealing With a Family Secret

by JGSCO member, Bernard Spilka

Genealogical research usually begins with one’s parents. Since in my family the previous generation is gone, I first searched for certificates—birth, death, and marriage. What a surprise! My mother was married before she met my father. The name of her spouse was classically Irish, hence unlikely Jewish. A search yielded nothing more. Why? My brother and I conjured up this scenario. My mother’s family was orthodox. This marriage was surely unpopular. Fantasy looked at two of my mother’s brothers, both big and tough. One was less than affectionately called the “Gorilla”; the other was a professional fighter. Could they have made husband number one an offer he couldn’t refuse? We think that was likely. It’s a tantalizing hypothesis.

Supporting Our Research by JGSCO member, Myndel Cohen

Authors like to acknowledge the people who supported them in the writing of their book. Having just authored two more generations for my family tree, I feel like I need to do the same. So thank you Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado, Ancestry.com, StevenMorse.org, Jewishgen.org, JRI-Poland, Family History Library at Monaco and Yale, and my manicurist (who is Russian born).

I ought to also thank my husband, Herb, for putting up with my attention this past summer to my paternal side, the Kupetz family and their town Krosnobrod. Spellings of the Kupetz name include: Kupiec, Kupyetz, Rupitz, (no kidding) and Kupec.

My grandfather, Abram Icek Kupiec, born 1873 in Krasnobrod, his wife Simma, his sons Chaim Shmiel, Moishe, Duvid, Yankel and Ben are all buried in Colorado cemeteries. No reference was ever made to other family members and like so many of us we didn't take the time to ask about these people. However, in my search, the names of Abram Icek's four sisters and three brothers came up.

JRI-Poland was my first real break-through. It gave me the names to search for on film I rented at the Family History Library. There were Abram Icek's parents, Josef Hersz Kupiec and Ita Dychterman, married Jan. 22, 1854 and their parents Leyba Kupiec and Matla who were married about 1831. This means Leyba was born in about 1812. Wow! I can't believe it. I am now going to broaden my research on the Cohen family; that ought to be fun.

My Grandmother by JGSCO member, Anne Chason Fendrich

My grandmother, Molly Dziegecki Gilberg, had a reputation for being strong-willed, even rebellious. Molly hid under the table when her father, a malamud, taught young boys and learned to read Hebrew. She resisted her parents' efforts for her to marry at sixteen, but finally succumbed to their insistence at nineteen. After marriage, she pursued her interest in learning and coaxed a local woman who read Yiddish to teach her how. Molly also indicated that she resented her father's restrictiveness, by expressing dismay that he had humiliated her brother, Chil. He publicly reprimanded his son while they were both in the synagogue in Sokolov, for wearing the more worldly garb of one who lived in the big city of Warsaw. My mother, as the little girl she was, also noticed that her mother had let her hair grow even before they left for America.

My grandfather, Noah Gilberg, came to this country first, via Liverpool. He sent his family tickets to come to the United States via China, but Molly, with advice she had gotten from an American cousin, sold her green velvet wedding dress and her wedding brooch. With the added funds, she traded the tickets from Noah and purchased tickets via Antwerp.

I have come to truly admire my petite grandmother. She hungered for learning and fought to get it. When her husband was no longer able to work, she supported her family with a small dry goods store. One son became a lawyer and the other a dentist. Two of her children are still living and there are grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren scattered over this country, which she adopted with great eagerness and in which her family prospered and grew.

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) Announces Launch of “Traces of the Past”

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/immigrants>

Research tools include digitized images of the following documents:

Passenger lists (RG 76) 1865 to 1935. The lists contain information such as the name, age, country of origin, occupation and destination of each passenger. The lists are organized by port and date of arrival. This database provides access to passenger lists for the ports of Quebec (1865-1921); Halifax (1881-1912, and soon to 1922); Saint John (1900-1912); North Sydney (1906-1908); Vancouver (1905-1912); and Victoria (1905 to 1912 shortly).
<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/passenger/index-e.html>

Ward Chipman the Elder (1754-1824), a Massachusetts lawyer, was also an army administrator in the State of New York between 1777 and 1783. In 1784, he settled in New Brunswick where he served as solicitor general until 1808. The Ward Chipman Papers contain muster rolls of Loyalists, and their families, who were members of demobilized regiments and who settled in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This research tool provides access to nearly 19,000 references to Loyalist families. <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/ward-chipman/index-e.html>

The Likacheff-Ragosine-Mathers collection (LI-RA-MA) contains documents created between 1898 and 1922 by the Canadian consular offices of the Tsarist Russian Empire. The series on passports and identity papers (many with photos) contains approximately 11,400 files on Jewish, Ukrainian and Finnish immigrants who came to Canada from the Russian Empire. Also included are passport applications and questionnaires containing general information. Nearly half the database is now available online, with the rest to be added soon. <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/li-ra-ma/index-e.html>

For more information, contact Project Manager Angele Alain at webservices@lac-bac.gc.ca.

JCRS Project Continues

by JGSCO member, Myndel Cohen

JGSCO volunteers proudly announce their progress indexing JCRS records. This dedicated group began its work about four years ago. The earliest medical records are dated 1904 and as of December, 2006, up to almost one half of the 1929 records have been completed. Indexing allows researchers to go online and alphabetically search the patient records index by surname. A wealth of information including age, occupation, marital status, birth country and additional family names and addresses can be retrieved. Copies of the original documents, pictures and other enclosures can be obtained by contacting Dr. Jeanne Abrams or Thyria Wilson at D.U., Penrose Library, Ira M. Beck Memorial Archives. To view the JCRS Online Surname Index, go to the JGSCO homepage www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado and click onto "JCRS Index OR visit directly at <http://library.du.edu/about/collections/SpecialCollections/JCRS/search.cfm> .

You may not know that your ancestor was admitted to JCRS as a tubercular patient, but a search may prove otherwise. Mine did. For further information call 303-756-6028.

Other Upcoming Colorado Events

Wednesday, Jan. 3	Aches & Pains Tour at Denver Public Library, 10 am - noon.
Monday, Jan. 8	Computer Interest Group Monthly Meeting, 7-9 pm, "Federal Websites."
Saturday, Jan. 13	Beginning Genealogy Class at Denver Public Library, 5th Floor. Free. 10 am - 3 pm.
Friday, Jan. 19	Colorado Genealogy Society Monthly Meeting, 7 - 9:30 pm. "A Look at Genealogy School."
Monday, Feb. 12	Computer Interest Group Monthly Meeting, 7-9 pm, Workshops.
Thursday, Feb. 15	Ancestry Library Edition Class at Denver Public Library, 10 am - noon.
Saturday, Mar. 10	Beginning Genealogy Class at Denver Public Library, 5th Floor. Free. 10 am - 3 pm.
Monday, Mar. 12	Computer Interest Group Monthly Meeting, 7-9 pm, "Keeping Our Computer Humming."
Friday, Mar. 16	Colorado Genealogy Society Annual Seminar, 7 - 9:30 pm.
Saturday, Mar. 17	Colorado Genealogy Society Annual Seminar, 10 am - 5 pm
Monday, Apr. 9	Computer Interest Group Monthly Meeting, 7-9 pm, Workshops.
Saturday, Apr. 14	Beginning Genealogy Class at Denver Public Library, 5th Floor. Free. 10 am - 3 pm.
Friday, Apr. 20	Colorado Genealogy Society Monthly Meeting, 7 - 9:30 pm.
Sunday, May 6	Denver Jewish Festival at DAT Campus, 1 pm.

DNA Genealogical Resources

Family Tree DNA is a DNA testing service for genealogists and the one promoted on JewishGen. <www.familytreedna.com>

Taken from Cyndi's List, the following are books that cover testing DNA to link genealogy and genetics:

[*Ancestry DNA Toolbox*](#) - A book by Terrence Carmichael.

[*The Beginner's Guide to Interpreting Ethnic DNA Origins for Family History : How Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Mizrahi & Europeans Are Related to Everyone Else*](#) - A book by Anne Hart.

[*DNA for Family Historians*](#) - A book by Alan Savin.

[*Family Diseases : Are You at Risk*](#) - A book by Myra Vanderpool Gormley.

[*Genes, Peoples and Languages*](#) - A book by Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza.

[*Genetic Connections: A Guide to Documenting Your Individual and Family Health History*](#) - A book by Danette L. Nelson-Anderson.

[*The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History of Humanity*](#) - A book by Roy Porter.

[*The Great Human Diasporas: The History of Diversity and Evolution*](#) - A book by Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza.

[*Growing Your Family Medical Tree*](#) - A book by Fran Carlson.

[*The Human Inheritance: Genes, Language, and Evolution*](#) - A book by Bryan Sykes.

[*How to Interpret Your DNA Test Results For Family History & Ancestry : Scientists Speak Out on Genealogy Joining Genetics*](#) - A book by Anne Hart.

[*Past Imperfect: How Tracing Your Family Medical History Can Save Your Life*](#) - A book by Carol Daus.

[*The Seven Daughters of Eve: The Science That Reveals Our Genetic Ancestry*](#) - A book by Bryan Sykes.

[*Surnames and Genetic Structure*](#) - A book by Gabriel Ward Lasker.

[*Unlocking Your Genetic History: A Step-by-Step Guide to Discovering Your Family's Medical and Genetic Heritage*](#) - A book by Thomas H. Shawker.

JGSCO Program Schedule

Note changes to the JGSCO calendar below with an **.

Tuesday, Jan. 9	Utilizing the Stephen Morse Web Site with Terry Lasky Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm
Sunday, Feb. 11	What's New on JewishGen with Ellen Shindelman Kowitz B'Nai Havurah, 1:30 pm
Tuesday, Mar. 13	Q&A About Family Tree Maker with Ed Richard Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm
**Sunday, Apr. 15	Photo Restoration/Preservation with Alan Gass Congregation Emanuel, 1:30 pm
**Tuesday, May 8	tent. The Jews of Cuba with Arturo Lopez-Levy Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm
**Sunday, May 20	Annual Beginner Workshop with Ellen Kowitz & Terry Lasky Congregation Emanuel, 1-5 pm
Sunday, June 10	Panel Discussion on Family and Personal Histories B'Nai Havurah, 1:30 pm
July 15-20, 2007	27th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy Salt Lake City Hilton
Aug. 17-22, 2008	28th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy Chicago Marriott Downtown

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www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/