

CHAI

From Colorado

Winter 2005-2006

Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado

Jewish Genealogical Treasures in Our Backyard

Novice genealogists often conduct research at only the most basic levels using the U.S. Federal Census, state vital records, gravestones, and immigration resources such as passenger ship manifests and naturalization papers. Jewish genealogists find guidance and camaraderie online utilizing JewishGen or by attending local Jewish Genealogy meetings. But then what? To truly advance to intermediate levels of research, a Jewish genealogist must be resourceful and sometimes seek out material that is specialized, possibly in a foreign language, not widely publicized, or even indexed in some cases.

A genealogical treasure should contain an index to a list of names linking families or individuals to a significant event or period in history. The material should contain further information that proves a familial connection such as the inclusion of parent or sibling names, a birthdate, birthplace, maiden name, or marriage date.

Most every member of JGSCO is now aware of the ongoing project at D.U. to create a names index to the patient records of the Jewish Consumptives Relief Society (JCRS), but it wasn't widely known even as recently as five years ago, that the records survived and contained significant personal, and yes, genealogical data. This is the kind of Jewish genealogical treasure that can slip through the cracks.

Another great resource is available at the Glendale branch of the Arapahoe District Library. Although completely in Russian, this seven volume reference translated as "Book of Memory 1941-1945" includes the names of thousands of Russian Jewish soldiers who died during WWII. Paragraph listings are alphabetized within each volume and include birthplace,

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Founded in 1995, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado is a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, a nonprofit organization with 78 member societies in 16 countries. Membership is open to anyone interested in researching Jewish roots. Guests are welcome at monthly meetings.

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*Contributing
articles are
welcome!*

- Jewish Genealogical Treasures in Our Backyard *continued*

birthdate, military service, death place, death date, cause of death, and more.

The official transliterated title is "Kniga Pamiati Voinov-Evreev, Pavshikh V Boiakh S Natsizmom, 1941-1945" with a call number of D810.J4K595 1994. I did a search on WorldCat to see where this unusual book is held. It appeared in prestigious universities, museum collections, the Library of Congress and at one think tank. But interestingly, it only appeared in the collections of five public libraries including the NY Public Library, the Brooklyn Public Library, the Alameda County (California) Library, the San Jose (California) Public Library and our own Arapahoe County (Colorado) Public Library branch in Glendale. This is a Jewish genealogical gem in our backyard! Russian Collection Librarian Galina Derevyanko <gderevyanko@ald.lib.co.us> is willing to do a lookup of surnames. Keep in mind, this series is not complete. It was compiled in Moscow beginning in 1993 and is not comprehensive. I know the exact Ukrainian location where two of my relatives died in 1941 while serving in the Russian military and neither name appeared in this resource to date. [Another Russian language book of genealogical value held at the Glendale Library is titled "Jewish Russians in America."]

Avotaynu Publishing is planning to publish a state-by-state, province-by-province guide to Jewish genealogical resources in North America, I have agreed to compile the chapter for Colorado and will need help in identifying other unique Jewish genealogical treasures held in this state. I created a basic resource list for our website a few years ago. It will serve as the basis for the material I will ultimately submit and already includes a list of historic synagogues still in operation, Jewish cemeteries, funeral homes and stonecutters, the JCRS online index, a link to the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society, and information on access to historic IJN and Jewish Outlook newspapers. Take a look at <www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/resources.html> and if you see that something is missing, please let me know.

I'll also be contributing chapters for Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and New Mexico, so if you have any knowledge of Jewish genealogical resources in those other states, I'd love to hear about them too.

-Ellen Shindelman Kowitt, Editor

JGSCO to Present "Beyond The Basics Seminar"
With Internationally Recognized Speaker Gary Mokotoff
Sunday, February 26, 2006 9 am - 4:15 pm

JGSCO's first "Beyond The Basics Seminar" will be held Sunday, February 26, 2006 at the Denver Public Library Central Branch Conference Center, 10 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy, Denver. This seminar is open to the public.

Gary Mokotoff is one of the foremost lecturers and authors on Jewish and Eastern European genealogical research. He has lectured at virtually all annual Jewish genealogical conferences and at most Federation of Genealogical Societies and National Genealogical Society national conferences in the past ten years. He is the first person to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). As past president of IAJGS and publisher of *Avotaynu*, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, <www.avotaynu.com/>, Mr. Mokotoff is in the forefront of developments in access to genealogical records in Central and Eastern Europe as well as Jewish records in general. He is the author of *Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*, *How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust* and *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy*. Gary lives in northern New Jersey with his wife Ruth. While here, they look forward to visiting one of their daughters who lives in south Denver.

Schedule:

9:00-9:15	Registration
9:15-10:30	Holocaust Research: Documenting Victims, Locating Survivors
10:45-12:00	Recent Advances in Jewish Genealogical Research
12:15-1:15	The Human Interest Side of Genealogy: Three Interesting Stories
1:30-2:45	The Changing Geography of Central & Eastern Europe
3:00-4:15	Fundamentals of Researching Jewish Families

For more information, contact Anne at (303) 759-9824 or AFENDRICH@msn.com.

To register, make checks payable to JGSCO and send with this registration form to:
Rita Jo Tensly, 3460 S. Poplar St., #304, Denver, CO 80224.

Name(s)

Address

Phone

Email

Full Day:	<input type="checkbox"/> Members @\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members @\$30
Half Day:	<input type="checkbox"/> Members @\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members @\$20
Box Lunch (optional) \$10 Each:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey <input type="checkbox"/> Beef

A \$10 fee will be charged for registration at the door.

Total Enclosed = _____

LDS to Put Microfilm on Internet Huge Effort Planned to Index Family History Data

-excerpted from an article by Carrie A. Moore, Deseret Morning News

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is working toward allowing anyone with Internet access to learn more than they've ever known before about the information contained on 2 million-plus rolls of microfilm housed high inside the granite walls of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Currently, the church is compiling searchable indexes to that information and will eventually make it available for free through an automated database on the Internet.

"The goal is to create (Internet-accessible) indexes to all the films we have in the vault. That's a long-term process and that's a lot of films," according to Paul Nauta, manager of public affairs for church's FamilySearch.org Web site. "We've not announced when people will begin to start seeing" the indexes.

"We're showing people how we'll be creating indexes from those films. Sometime in the future we'll ask people to help us create the indexes and make them publicly available, and little by little we'll start to index the films from the vault like we did with the 1880 (U.S.) Census.

"The challenge now is it takes a lot of people and a lot of time" to create such an index. "Currently, you have to look at images on paper or burn them on a CD and distribute those to index the data. We're moving the whole process to the Internet.

New advances in indexing software utilities mean the LDS Church "now has the ability to produce lots of indexes faster," than it did with previous databases it has digitized, including the 1880 U.S. Census. Making that database available online was a 12-year project, using tens of thousands of volunteers. In the future, the new technology "will provide automated indexing" for an ever-increasing number of microfilms "so people can readily search it from their homes."

How much time will it take to digitize all the films in the vault?

"Let's put it this way, it will depend on how much volunteer help we get," Nauta said. "I think we can digitize the films to be indexed to stay up with demand, but much will depend on how many volunteers we can generate worldwide to index their records of interest. If, in a couple of years, we could get a million indexers worldwide, we could put a big dent" in the massive undertaking.

The new developments won't make more than 5,000 small family history centers housed in LDS chapels worldwide obsolete. Previously, those looking for information contained on the microfilms stored in the church's Granite Mountain Records Vault had to request that copies of information on the films be sent to their local center. At some point in the future, that likely won't be necessary any longer, he said, but "that will continue to be a role for a long time.

As more of those records become digitized and indexes become available, the role of the local centers, he said, "will probably change. Some people have no Internet access, and they'll use them for that. The role of the family history centers will evolve over time to help people get started" with their research because "many people don't know how to do that.

"It's an exciting time for family history," Nauta said. "Those just developing this kind of research as a hobby will never have any appreciation for how far this industry has evolved, even in the past 10 years."

**26th IAJGS
INTERNATIONAL
JEWISH
GENEALOGY
CONFERENCE**

www.jgsny2006.org/

The next annual international conference on Jewish genealogy will be held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City's Times Square August 13th-18th 2006. Register soon and reserve hotel accommodations as space is limited and rooms are filling!

**Index to Life Cycle
Events in the Houston
Jewish Herald-Voice
Now Available**

Posted by Don Teter,
[donte@hal-pc.org], Greater
Houston JGS

Published from 1908-1979,
this index may be found on
JewishGen at:
[www.jewishgen.org/
databases/USA/
HoustonHeraldVoice.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/USA/HoustonHeraldVoice.htm).

Instructions on obtaining
copies of articles are given.

**Canadian Manifests
Online** - Posted by Hazel
Sandow Boon, Pres. JGS
Hamilton & Area

According to Angèle Alain,
Chief, Web Programs, Web
Content and Services, Library
and Archives Canada,
Canada's National Archives
plans to "digitize images of
passenger lists in a database
online for almost every port of
entry, for the years 1865 to
1921 representing approx.
140,000 images. The other
ports and years will be
available in coming years. The
first images should be online
prior to year's end."

NEW YEAR, NEW GUIDE: A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in the UK

Posted by Rosemary Wenzel, Publications Department, JGS Great Britain

The latest in the 'Jewish Ancestor' series will be available beginning of January 2006 for £5.95 plus £80p p&p (UK) £3.00 p&p/US\$16.00 includes postage (Overseas).

This new and enlarged publication updates and augments our previous Beginner's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Great Britain. It is designed specifically with the family historian in mind, (whether or not a beginner) since the majority of information is given under TOWN headings - (invaluable for the tourist to the UK).

The Guide includes detailed information about the (Jewish) holdings of the various resource centres throughout the UK with a large section on London (including archives, libraries, museums, record offices, synagogues etc). It has specific sections on using public records, cemeteries, computers in genealogy, medical records, burial records and marriage records. A full list of Jewish cemeteries throughout the United Kingdom is given with information about each. There is a bibliography; where many of the books relate specifically to individual towns.

Other guides in the 'Jewish Ancestor' series" are A Beginner's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Great Britain, A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Germany & Austria, A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Lithuania, A Guide to Organising your Family History Records, A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents, and Genealogical Resources within the Jewish Home and Family

Payment by PayPal via our website www.jgsgb.org.uk, Mastercard, Visa, cheques with orders payable to Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. Post to: JGSGB Publications, PO Box 180, St. Albans, Herts. AL2 3WH. England. U.K.

From The President

Gary Mokotoff has greatly influenced the growth of genealogical research and the availability of materials in the field. His own family research was his starting point. His published works have become basic texts, and through publications created by Avotaynu, Inc., he has introduced us to the works of other experts in the field. The Association of Jewish libraries has given its "Body-of-Work" Award to Avotaynu, Inc. in recognition of this contribution. Mokotoff has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

What a wonderful opportunity JGSCO will have to broaden our knowledge when he visits our community. He is a prominent speaker at genealogical meetings, seminars and conventions throughout this country and the world.

Gary's "Beyond the Basics Seminar" should not only help with our genealogical research but also increase our understanding of Jewish history. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Fill out the registration form on page three of this issue of "Chai from Colorado." You have a choice of attending for a full or half-day. I look forward to seeing you there.

- Anne Fendrich, President, JGS of Colorado

Other Genealogy Society Events/News in Colorado - Guests Are Welcome

Colorado Genealogical Society - www.rootsweb.com/~cocgs/

The society will present a seminar on March 17-18, 2006 by Mark Lowe, CG, president of APG. Details to be announced. The society continues to host successful education classes on fifth Saturdays of the month, as well as beginning genealogy classes. The CGS membership meeting location has changed to Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2300 S. Patton Ct., Denver.

Computer Interest Group of the Colorado Genealogical Society -

www.rootsweb.com/~cocgs/cigmain.htm

CIG presents software user group workshops on even months of the year, and program presentation meetings on the odd months of the year (except for July, August, December).

Foothills Genealogical Society - www.rootsweb.com/~cofsg/

The society plans a research trip to Salt Lake City for April 11-16, 2006.

Longmont Genealogical Society - www.rootsweb.com/~colgs/

The society has vital records extracted A-N from the Longmont Ledger Newspaper 1880-1935 on their website. The society's book *Longmont Mountain View Cemetery* is on sale for \$50 hardbound, \$35 spiral bound. A CD is also available for \$20.

Mesa County Genealogical Society - www.gjmesa.com/mcgs/

A joint effort of MCGS and the Mesa County Public Library to put an obituary card file on the MCPL website is about 65% complete. Current obits are being entered. Old databases of cemetery projects are being converted for placement on the society website. DeBeque Cemetery has been loaded as a trial.

Weld County Genealogical Society - www.rootsweb.com/~cowcgs/

The society maintains a web page that includes the "Weld County Master Index," containing over 394,000 names from 134 Weld County sources, and is updated constantly. This page has had over 5000 hits since April. Society members are indexing the 1920 and 1930 census for Weld County.

D.U. Winter Registration is Now Open for the ALEPH Institute for Jewish Culture Public Education Classes

Classes are limited to 30 students per class and will be held on the DU campus in Sturm Hall, Room #187. Call 303-871-2343 or email jpolliar@du.edu. Classes are \$150.00/ per person per class.

Introduction to the Yiddish Language

Taught by Dr. David Shneer, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Judaic Studies, this fun immersion course will explore the basics of reading, speaking and understanding language that has defined European Jewry for more than 1000 years. Early registration encouraged! Thursdays (9 weeks), 5-6 p.m. 1/5/06 - 3/2/06

Jewish Diasporas/Jewish Homelands

This class, taught by Dr. Caryn Aviv, Marsico Lecturer at D.U. and co-author of *New Jews: The End of the Jewish Diapora*, will examine issues around "Where is home for Jewish people?" The ideas of diaspora and homeland have been central to understanding and creating Jewish identities and people hood, especially in lieu of historical persecution, migrations, cultural adaptation, and the pressures of modernity. This class will also incorporate the films, lectures and concerts that are scheduled as part of the Center for Judaic Studies winter quarter project inspired by the photographs of Frédéric Brenner. Thurs. (9 weeks), 6-7 p.m. 1/5/06 - 3/2/06

Birobidzhan Program at Glendale Library

Galina Derevyanko, Librarian Russian Collection, at the Glendale Public Library presented an informative program during our December monthly meeting. She spoke about the history of the Jewish autonomous district in Russia. The name Birobidzhan actually represents the combination of two river names, Biro and Bidzhan. It occupies a space about the size of New Jersey. The settlement was originally agricultural and after pogroms between 1914-1921, approximately 46,000 Jewish families were relocated there. Funds were raised throughout Russia to establish Birobidzhan in a mandated national lottery. The area was not portrayed as a place to live an observant Jewish life, but rather to live culturally Jewish. In support of this, Yiddish was the vernacular language and appeared in newspapers and on theatre stages. Today, only a few thousand Jews remain.

Galina introduced her lecture with the explanation of two genealogical resources held at the Glendale Public Library (see article pages one and two). She informed us that over 50,000 Russian speakers reside in Colorado and recommended that if any JGSCO member needed Russian language translations, either she would help out in person or refer us to a professional for hire in the area.

JGS Library News

The JGSCO private library collection is housed within the Temple Emanuel library.

New books to the collection are "A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames by Lars Menk" and "A Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames: Second Edition" by G. Faiguenboim.

Hours are: Monday and Tuesday: 9 am to 3 pm;
Wednesday: 4 pm to 8 pm;
Thursday, Friday & Saturday: closed; Sunday: 9 am to 1 pm

For more information, contact JGSCO librarian Sandra Greenberg at (303) 755-8384 or sangreenb@aol.com

Upcoming JGSCO Programming

Tuesday, January 10 "Photo Preservation and Enhancement" with Gary Ratay
 Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm

Sunday, February 26 "Beyond the Basics Seminar" with Gary Mokotoff
 Denver Public Library Central Branch, 9 am - 4:15 pm

Sunday, March 19 "Planning a Trip to the Old Country: Ancestral Shtetl
 Travel Panel"
 B'nai Havurah, 1:30 pm

Sunday, April 9 "Beginner's Workshop"
 Congregation Emanuel, 1-5 pm

Tuesday, April 25 "Jews on the Move: Modern Jewish Migration Patterns
 and Genealogical Research" with Prof. David Shneer
 Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 16 "City Directories: New, Old & Worldwide" with Joe Cahn
 Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm

Sunday, June 11 "Sharing Member Trials & Tribulations"
 Congregation Emanuel, 1:30 pm

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www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/