



Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future

Jewish Genealogy Society
of Southern Nevada - West

Vol. 2 No.1 Winter 1999

A Picture from the past

By Carole Montello

I was a young girl when both of my grandfathers died, but my memories of them have not faded. They died within a year of each other and although they came from very different backgrounds they were so much alike in so many ways. Both were small in size but large in heart and both left a lasting impression on all whose lives they touched.

One came from a small shtetl with the unpronounceable name, Koslovsczyzna in Russia and was the youngest of ten children. At the age of 25 he boarded the Russian Fleet ship Smolensk in Libau and headed for America. The other was the oldest of ten children and lived his entire life in the city of his birth. Both had very ethnic surnames, the Russian, Remeschnitsky and the Italian, Marino. And, the name on each birth certificate is not the name as it would appear on their death certificates.

At the outbreak of World War I, both were required to register for the draft. My Russian grandfather was struggling to learn to read and write a new language and my Italian grandfather was giving his Jewish girlfriend a "promise ring" - a ring I wear today. One grandfather went off to war and one stayed home with his young family. At the end of the war my Italian grandfather married his Jewish sweetheart very much against the wishes of both families involved. In the early 1920s he became a Jewish convert and was circumcised, almost losing his life in the process.

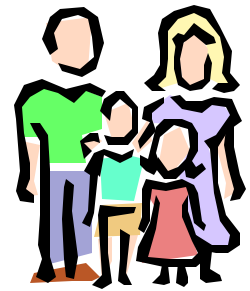
Both grandfathers worked hard all their life, one as a carpenter, a trade he learned in his native Russia and the other as a barber as his father had been before him. When their son and daughter married they looked forward to enjoying the grandchildren that were sure to come. Unfortunately, each died from severe illnesses, - the Russian from the effects of diabetes and the Italian from cancer. They should have lived longer lives. My Italian great grandparents outlived their first born by many years and my Russian great grandmother lost her life in a fire in the local shul when her youngest son was less than ten years old.

Pictures of my grandfathers adorn my walls along with my Russian grandfather's naturalization certificate. More importantly, the memory of them stays with me each day of my life.

In Memory Of

Avrum Remeschnitsky
Born 3 December 1884
Koslovsczyzna, Belarus
Died 14 July 1955
as
Abraham Rhams in
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Josef Marino
Born 14 April 1896
Elizabeth, New Jersey
Died 16 August 1956
as
Clarence Albert Marino in
Elizabeth, New Jersey



Family Stories

By Mary Barkan

Have you written or recorded your family stories? Remember, what may seem absolutely ordinary to you, may be fantastic to your family members. Not too long ago one of our children asked me "What's a turntable? How does it work?" I realized that in the world of CD players we hadn't had a turntable in the house since this child had been born!

Your children and grandchildren would love to hear or read memories you have about growing up, jobs you've had, places you've traveled - anything at all!

Don't delay - start today! Begin by jotting down topics you'd like to cover. Then, perhaps once a week, write a couple of paragraphs on the topic of your choice. Your family is waiting for your stories!



Opinion

Name Changes, Papers, and Family Legends

Ralph Komives

I am a bit hesitant to send this email as I, for one, know how important legends are to my family. It is also important to realize how easily one of these legends can misdirect a research project. Approach family stories with a bit of caution, there is probably some truth in the tallest tale but some of the story may not be exactly true. As a document searcher I have many opportunities to work with the passenger lists here in Washington, DC at the National Archives (NARA). Many of my clients have reported that their surname was changed at Ellis Island, usually by a fiendish immigration official.

I have pursued this topic with several staff members at the NARA and I have found no proof that there ever was a process in place, in which immigration workers would or could change a name. In fact, their primary job was to make sure that the person listed on the "ship's list" was indeed the person standing in front of them. In addition, it must be pointed out that the law required name changes to happen in a court in front of a judge, That law dates back to our earliest legal records. When your grandparents became naturalized very often the actual ship's passenger list was checked for name and physical characteristics as proof that the person applying for citizenship was who they said they were.

By the late 1800's immigration laws were clearly in place and ship owners made sure that their passengers had proof (papers) of who they were and where they were from. The ship company was required to provide return passage for rejected immigrants. Some ship lines actually gave passengers physicals as they got on the ship. Remember that the laws and regulations changed so saying "always" is hard to do with immigration issues. Passengers had to have a specific destination in the states, often complete with a name of who was at that destination. The immigration officials where very much afraid of

letting in people who could not be employed, were sick, criminals, or socially unacceptable.

Not to be crass here but the word WOP stands for "With Out Papers". When someone was rejected at Ellis island, for lack of documentation, the letters WOP were entered after their name. The "passenger lists" available at the National Archives, to my knowledge, were filled out on the ship and later checked and verified at Ellis Island. The only lists of names created by Ellis Island immigration workers (that I have ever found) are the many lists of "persons detained" at Ellis Island frequently included after the regular ship's passenger list. The names on the "detained lists" are spelled exactly as they are on the accompanying ship's list.

The government's avid concern about immigrants is clearly displayed in the early FBI files. (available at the National Archives) During the early years of this century immigrants were not nearly as welcome as you would expect. In one research project I discovered a local NY postmaster who transcribed the mailing list names for a Hungarian Language newspaper and sent them to the FBI. The FBI files contain many newspapers with names underlined and reports written by undercover agents of activities of foreign language societies.

I have a page on my web site concerning naturalization and how tho write the INS for post 1906 records.

members.aol.com/RalphK/DocumentSearch.html

Ralph Komives, Genealogy Document Searches
Email: ralphk@aol.com
Document Searches in Washington, D.C. Area and Annapolis, MD. Problem searches a specialty
Research at: DAR Library, National Archives, Library of Congress, MD State Archives

This piece originally appeared on the Jewishgen Discussion Group and is reprinted with permission of the author.



Another Good Reason To Attend The 1999 New York Seminar!

JGSSouthern Nevada-West member Steven J. Kitnick will present a program during the 1999 Seminar in New York City.

"Ethics in Jewish Genealogy & Family History"

Steven J. Kitnick

Manny has been married six times and wife # 6 doesn't want his former wives on the family tree. You lied to the Bureau of Vital Statistics to obtain a copy of a marriage certificate. G-G-Grandma was a murderess. You've downloaded data from the Internet and passed it off as a primary source of evidence. Two siblings don't know that their fathers are their uncles; their mothers their aunts; and that they're siblings, not cousins.

Steve Kitnick will lead a discussion based upon his collection of actual and hypothetical case studies from his "Ethics in Jewish Genealogical and Family History Research." Set against the backdrop of National Genealogical Society's Standards For Sound Genealogical Research; For Using Records Repositories and Libraries; and For Use of Technology in Genealogical Research, and the late Rabbi Malcolm Stern's Ten Commandments for Genealogists, this class will explore an area that many genealogists have been ignoring and taking for granted far too long. Guaranteed to be useful, provocative, interesting, and entertaining.

Steven J. Kitnick is the Immediate Past President of the JGS of Sacramento, having served three consecutive terms. He's a member of the JGS of Southern Nevada- West. He's currently serving as Chair of the IAJGS Nominating Committee. Steve's published articles and poems include: I Hit the Jackpot on JewishGen, The PPCP Plan: Quick Start for Beginners, A Father's Interest in Genealogy Makes a Daughter's Dream Come True, Why Genealogy, You Planted a Tree, and I Scored at a Jewish Singles Mixer: Genealogically Speaking.

Winner! Winner! Winner!

Sandra Greenberg, of Denver, Colorado, who says she has never before won anything, is the winner of the JGSSN-West raffle. Sandra's prize? Her early registration fee to the Summer Seminar in New York City will be paid for by JGSSN-West.

Thanks to all who supported this fund raiser. The proceeds will help fund the Family Legacies newsletter.

Research Hints

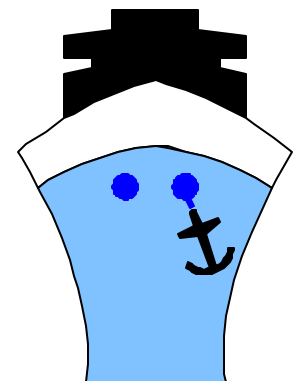
Arrival Records - Port of New York

Contributed by Charlotte and Sam Showel

When trying to find an ancestor's date of arrival into the Port of New York by using the NARA Soundexed cards; you will have to look through various types of informational cards. It will help if you have an approximate year of arrival. To assist in the search and to help better pinpoint which reels of film you should consider, there is a hint given by the Volume Number. The Volume number directs you to a particular microfilm and it indicates a particular span of time.

YEAR OF ARRIVAL VOLUME NUMBER

1900	166 THROUGH 272
1901	273 - 397
1902	398 - 550
1903	551 - 789
1904	790 - 1064
1905	1065 - 1416
1906	1417 - 1848
1907	1849 - 2346
1908	2347 - 2602
1909	2603 - 3070
1910	3071 - 3557
1911	3558 - 3964
1912	3965 - 4496
1913	4497 - 5126
1914	5127 - 5505
1915	5506 - 5661
1916	5662 - 5836
1917	5837 - 5986
1918	5987 - 6117
1919	6118 - 6334
1920	6335 - 6665
1921	6666 - 6990
1922	6991 - 7399
1923	7400 - 7856
1924	7857 - 8219
1925	8220 - 8588
1926	8589 - 8964
1927	8965 - 9346
1928	9345 - 9739
1929	9740 - 10142
1930	10143 -10588





THE WIDE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE JEWISHGEN INTERNET OR WWW.JEWISHGEN.ORG

By Charlotte Showel

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies has an outstanding web site that should be used by everyone researching their families. There are all sorts of aids and information that cannot be found anywhere else.

There are Discussion Groups where information and resources are shared with other researchers. There are also "Special Interest Groups" or SIG's, where the information and resources are on specific locations or topics. There is a "Family Finder" and "Shtetl Seeker" which is being researched by over 13,000 genealogists worldwide and with over 100,000 entries and growing.

Also included are special documents and archives that were translated such as "The Yizkor Book Project", an 1895 business directory from some major towns in the Ukraine, plus much more from all over the world. A program to assist in calculating "Soundex Codes", "Hebrew/Gregorian Calendar Dates" and other tools to aid the genealogist in their research.

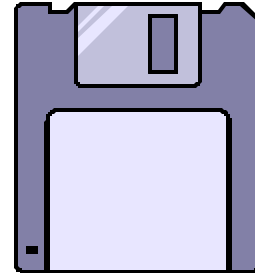
We should all be using this site – and it really is easy:

When you connect to the Internet enter the letters www.jewishgen.org and just click on "search". Your Internet browser will take you to the home page of the web site. Once you are there, scroll down the page (you can do this by the down arrow on your keyboard). When you get to a title that is of interest to you, just put the cursor on the item and click the left mouse button, or hit enter. This will take you directly to the subject of interest to you.

Let's take an example of the "Family Finder". This would be under the heading of JewishGen Family Finder. You have clicked on the mouse button and gotten on the Family Finder page. Scroll down a little way and you will see four squares. One says "search" the next one says "enter" and the last two are "List" and "Modify". The first thing you want to do is to search out your family name and see if anyone else is looking for that name, so we'll put the cursor on "search" and click or hit enter.

The page you will get will have instructions on the use of the Family Finder, and there will be blank lines where you can put in the family name you are looking for. You'll enter the name, and again that click on search and if anyone is researching that name, you will get a list of the researchers. This list will give you their names, addresses as well as e-mail addresses and you can contact them directly for more information.

Don't hesitate to use any and all of the resources. They are there for us to use. It truly is a Wide Wonderful World on JewishGen, so happy hunting and bon chance.



Do You Know Where Your Disk Is?

It's always exciting to enter new data into your genealogy software. It is just as important to safeguard that data.

Here are some reminders about disk storage:

1. As you end your work session, always back up your data to a floppy disk.
2. You should have more than one back up disk - three is recommended. Rotate them as your back up disk.
3. Depending on how much data you enter and how many times you back up to disk, you may want to use new disks every few months.
4. Store your back up disks in a cool, dry place out of sunlight. Do not store your disks on top of your computer.
5. Every few months send a copy of your back up disk to a friend or relative. In case of absolute disaster you will have a back up copy of your work off site.
6. The Las Vegas Family History Library at 9th and Clark has a cabinet where you can store a back up disk. If you use this free service remember to replace the back up disk with your most recent back up every few months. The disk is filed under your surname.



Free Genealogy Classes!

LDS Chapel 3300 North Buffalo 7pm
Dress: Business Casual
Register by email at: Lvmerrills@aol.com

23 March – Introduction English/Wales Research

27 April - Introduction to Scottish Research

25 May – Introduction to Irish Research

Upcoming Seminar

Saturday, 8 May

10am - 1pm

“How To Get

Prepared For Research

Trips”



Did You Miss the International Seminar in L.A.

Did you miss the seminar in Los Angeles this past summer? Not to worry. Most of the sessions at the conference were taped by Repeat Performance. Fifteen tapes of various sessions, including the beginner's workshop, were donated to the JGSSN-West library. If you would like to borrow one, contact Librarians Jeannie Epstein (Jeepstein3@aol.com) or Gerry Pavey (JimNGerry@aol.com).

If you would like to purchase tapes, use the information below to write for the catalogue.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE -- For a catalog of more than 1,000 titles of genealogy cassette tapes available for purchase, send \$2 to: Repeat Performance, 2911 Crabapple Lane, Hobart, IN 46342, or contact the company at 219/465-1234. Repeat Performance offers tapes of lectures presented at various recent National Genealogical Society and Federation of Genealogical Societies conferences, the Jewish Genealogy Seminar, GenTech, and the Third Irish Genealogical Congress in Kildare, Ireland.

Family Memories

The Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles, California was home to many Jewish families. Member Maxine Avery Muse was born in Los Angeles. Her aunt Ethel Miller Davis, one of nine children, wrote a family history in the 1950s describing the Miller family's life in California. The Miller family produced three prize fighters – Abie, Bennie, and Hymie Miller. Hymie Miller participated in the Olympic Games.

From **It Couldn't Happen Now: The Story of The Great Miller Family**

An Unpublished Memoir, By Ethel Miller Davis (1907-1979)

Reprinted here with the permission of her children, Walter Davis and Deanna Davis Zucker

... Those were the days of silent movies. MGM was a king of the movie studios. They were going to cast great mob scenes for the first version of the “Ten Commandments.” The Jewish community was not very large then, and there was a lady by the name of Mrs. Levine who was asked to gather all of the old-time Jewish folks she could find, and bring them over to the studio. Mrs. Levine was a very good friend of mother's, and she told her of the picture which was to be taken on the Mojave Desert. Mrs. Levine knew how much mother needed financial help on account of dad being in and out of the hospital all the time, so she got mother a good part in the movie. This meant going away to the desert for almost six weeks, and all expenses paid. Mother came home with five hundred dollars. That was a lot of money to us.

...Mother was a very smart woman. She could not read or write, but she could make an X as good as anyone. That's what was required at the bank for mother to sign papers, and, with the money she made working in the picture, “The Ten Commandments,” she bought her first home. She bought a home on New Jersey Street, just one block off Brooklyn Avenue.

...In our own home we had the best days of our lives. The house had only two bedrooms, just as all the other houses had, but it was our home and we could fix it up for ourselves. Mama bought a davenport, the kind which closes up during the day but makes a bed at night. We had three bedrooms this way. ...In the years to come, our new home was to be the meeting place of many celebrities as my three brothers, the Fighting Millers, began their fighting careers.



Twentieth Century Records

Finding Private Dougherty

By Mary Barkan

Ok, I know that Dougherty is not a common Jewish name. In fact the Private Dougherty in this article was not Jewish but Roman Catholic. However, the process used to locate information about him can be used by any family historian researching twentieth century records.

I had only a family group sheet for the Dougherty family when I began my search for Private Dougherty. Husband Patrick J. Dougherty born Aug 1873 in Ireland, died Sept 1921, Wife Bridget Agnes Gilmartin born July 1875 in Scranton, PA, died Nov 1939 in Scranton, PA. Their children: Jerome born Mar 1897 in Scranton, PA; Edward born Aug 1898 in PA, Sadie born Oct 1899 in PA, Clair born about 1904 in PA, Grace born about 1905 in PA, Alice born about 1906 in PA, Helen born about 1908 in PA, Frank born about 1912 in PA, and Lousie born about 1916 in PA.

Searching the U.S. Federal census records for Scranton, PA 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 produced more information about the family. Then I received the obituary for Bridget Agnes (Delia) Gilmartin Dougherty and began my search for Private Dougherty.

In the obituary from the *Scranton Times*, 29 November 1939, two items caught my attention: first, Delia Dougherty was listed as a member of the Gold Star Mothers and, second, her oldest son Jerome was not listed in the obituary.

I knew that the designation "Gold Star Mother" indicated a woman who has lost a child to the Great War - W.W.I. Could Jerome have been a causality of that war? Where had he served? Where was he buried?

I remembered an advertisement placed in *Everton's Genealogical Helper* and searched my last issue of the magazine. Sure enough, for \$10.00 Mr. Arlynn G. Gantz would search a name to see if the person was a causality of W.W.I.(1) I mailed off my request.

Within a week I had a reply from Mr. Gantz. He enclosed information from *Soldiers of the Great War, Volume III (2)* which contained information about men from Pennsylvania who served in W.W.I. There was Jerome Dougherty. His name, Jerome Francis Dougherty was listed. Also his residence - Dunmore - (a small town outside of Scranton, PA) and his service occupation - Cook. Another column noted that his rank was that of a private and another page noted that he had died in an accident. This was wonderful information and I began to think of Jerome as Private Dougherty. I was curious to learn more about him.

Fortunately, Mr. Gantz had sent me suggestions about further research. He included the name and address of the Military Affairs Department for Pennsylvania (3) and suggested a letter to them requesting information. He also suggested that if I could determine that the soldier died overseas that I should write to the American Battle Monuments Commission. (4)

My letter to the Military Affairs Department brought more information. The cover letter told me "We assume he is buried in France, however, to find the exact burial location you must call the American Battle Monuments Commission."

Private Dougherty's service record was enclosed. Jerome had served in France from 7 April 1918 to 1 October 1918. He had died of "accident by motor cycle collision" in France. His service number, file number, date and place of birth were listed along with the name of the person to notify in case of death - Mrs. Patrick Dougherty, his mother, of Dunmore, PA.

Military Affairs had also sent a copy of a Veteran's Compensation Application for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. From this application dated 1934, I learned that Jerome's father was dead and his mother was applying for compensation for her son Jerome's death. It was noted that Private Dougherty served in the Army and was listed as killed in action in France. His mother received \$10.00 a month for 20 months.

Nowhere in any of the documents received so far was there any notation about the burial location of Private Dougherty. I decided to write the American Battle Monuments Commission to see if I could learn more.

The reply came within two weeks. Though the letter contained much information, for a few minutes I could not move my eyes beyond the heading - "PVT Jerome F. Dougherty, Headquarters Troop 1st Army C, Plot H. Row 15, Grave 6, Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne (Meuse) France, Date of Death: October 1, 1918." Sadly, I had found Private Dougherty.

Along with the cover letter, The American Battle Monuments Commission had sent me a brochure describing the American military cemeteries overseas with the Meuse-Argonne cemetery page paper clipped. Also included was information on arranging for floral tributes overseas, maps of the area surrounding the cemetery, and hours of operation. The cover letter stated that "We have asked our European office to arrange for PVT Dougherty's grave to be photographed. It may take as long as eight weeks for us to receive the photograph. When we do, it will be mounted on a large color lithograph of the cemetery and forwarded to you."

Several weeks later the photograph arrived. It showed Private Dougherty's simply marked grave. A larger photograph showed the hundreds of graves of his comrades who fought in the Great War - W.W.I - the War to end all Wars.

Notes:

- 1 Mr. Arlynn G. Gantz, P.O. Box 795, Windermere, FL 34786
2. *Soldiers of the Great War, Volume III*, Compiled by W. M. Haulsee, F. G. Howe, A. C. Doyle, Soldiers Record Publishing Association, Washington, D. C.
3. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Office of the Deputy Adjutant General, Veterans Affairs, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-5002
4. The American Battle Monuments Commission, Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500, 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22201



Thanks!

To Elizabeth Patrick, PhD for her donation of handouts and catalogues concerning archival storage of materials

To the wonderful men (and some women) who set up and tear down the meeting room at the Sahara West Library for the JGSSN-West meeting each month.

To Celeste Harlow and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District for providing meeting space at the Sahara West Library

To Shirley and Phil Weiner for assistance with the Family Legacies newsletter.

To Janet Farino for proof reading and indexing the Family Legacies newsletter.

Library Acquisitions

They Came In Ships, - donated by Shirley and Phil Weiner

FAQS - donated by Shirley and Phil Weiner

Ancestry and *Heritage Quest* magazines - donated by Mary and Barry Barkan

Contact the librarians of JGSSN-West for information on holdings, to donate materials, or to check out materials. Jeannie Epstein (Jeepstein3@aol.com) or Gerry Pavey (JimNGerry@aol.com)



Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

_____ \$20.00 Family Membership

_____ \$15.00 Individual Membership

Please make checks Payable to JGSSN-West
Mail To: JGSSN
P.O. Box 29342
Las Vegas, NV 89126

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September to September

JGSSN-West Information:
Carole Montello at: carmont7@juno.com

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Las Vegas, NV 89126

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Family Legacies is exchanged with those member societies of IAJGS which provide copies to JGSSN-West of their newsletter.

Calendar 1999

JGSSN-West Meeting Schedule

Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara

April 18th - Scott Gulbransen of the Las Vegas Review Journal - Sun "Newspaper Research"

May 16th "World War I Draft Records"

June 20th "1900 U.S. Federal Census"

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Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada - West

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August 8-13, 1999. For seminar information: <http://members.aol.com/nyc99conf>**