



# Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future

Jewish Genealogy Society  
of Southern Nevada - West

Vol.2, No.4, 1999

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## A Surprise in Salt Lake City

By Charlotte and Sam Showel

We recently had the opportunity to pay another visit to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for more research. On our first day there an announcement came over the intercom system stating that five Ukrainian Archivists were visiting the center and would be available for a “questions and answer” session in one of the meeting rooms. We didn’t hesitate a second and practically flew to the meeting.

The session was well attended by library patrons and library staff. We took the only available seats in the back of the room. There were five Ukrainian archivists as well as several Russian/Ukrainian speaking LDS representatives who made themselves available to translate the questions and the answers. Among the archives represented were three that were of particular interest to us – those from Belarus, Podolsk and the Kiev Oblast.

During the discussion, we found that there was no defined year in which a census was taken. In the United States the census is taken every ten years. In the Russian Imperial Empire a so-called census was taken irregularly. These were also called Revision Lists by the archivists and they related that their records go back to about 1720 on these lists. The archivist from Kiev also stated that they held city directories for 1899, 1901, and 1915, but that this could differ for other regional archives.

All military records, including conscription records, are held in Moscow. They suggested that you write for information to: State Military Historical Archives of the Russian Empire, St. 2 Baymanska, 3 Moscow.

The archivists stated that the various archives did not hold any passport records or any police register information. The question was asked about how best to access the information. All the archivists agreed that the most productive way would be to visit the archives yourself. They related success stories of visitors to the various archives. The second best method would be to write to the regional archive nearest the town where a family lived. If this archive did not hold the records to that town, it has been their practice to send it on to the correct facility.

All of the archivists agreed that to expedite work on a request, it would be best to send the letter in Russian, to include as much background information as possible, and to include an International Reply Coupon of about \$1.00 to cover the cost of a response. There would be no fee involved if no information was located. A letter would be sent explaining that there was no information available. If information was found, a letter would be sent explaining what material was available and the fee involved. Apparently, each archive has different fee standards and these could run anywhere from \$15.00 to \$100.00. The funds would have to be in American dollars. The archives have arrangements with financial institutions for deposit of the funds. We were interested in the area around Zhitomyr and the Kiev archivist said that the Zhitomyr Archive would hold all these records. It was suggested that everyone should make themselves aware of the addresses for all the regional archives to facilitate getting the request to the correct archive.

After the session was over, we had an opportunity to speak to one of the LDS members who was working on filming the archival material in the Ukraine. His answers to our questions were very discouraging. He stated that many of the records were in very poor condition and the primary concern of the Ukrainian Archive was to preserve what remained of the collections. He also indicated that the records being copied now were church records, and the Jewish records would probably be among the last to be copied. This could mean a fairly long wait.

We found the session was a fascinating insight into the archival situation in the Ukraine.



## Latkes From The Peace Corps

By Joshua Barkan

### Grandma Frieda's Potato Latkes

For all you tribes people out there who will be achingly missing your Bubbe and Zeda this Hanukah, here are some tasty treats to remind you of home. For everyone else... well, this is the stuff that the one Jewish kid in your elementary school brought every year for the Christmas, I mean, "winter season" party.

Grate (slice and dice reeeaaalll fine) 1 medium onion

Grate four medium to large potatoes, place in water, drain before using

Mix the potatoes with the onion (Grandma Frieda told me that this keeps the potatoes from getting brown)

Pour off the potato juice

Beat two eggs and add them to the mix

Add 1/4 Cup Flour or Matzo meal

Add pepper and salt

Make into pancake shapes and drop them into a frying pan (preferably with some oil in it) until they're crispy brown. Serve them with apple sauce (if you have ganas to lay out some cash) or powdered sugar.

Using the same mixture (1 onion: 4 potatoes: 2 eggs) also makes the filling for Grandma Frieda's Famous Potato Kugel. For those of you who have never tried Kugel (or even heard of it, for that matter) it is a cross between pudding and a casserole. Just stick the mixture in a baking dish and cook the sucker until it's brown. Grandma Fri makes all kinds of other funky kugels that if you're feeling adventurous you can experiment with: Frieda' Noodle Kugel with Some Kind of Miscellaneous Fruit (I think they were peaches) or Frieda's Always Flavorful, Though Occasionally

Running to the Dry Side, Matzo Kugel. This is a Passover concoction that I never really enjoyed, but hey, what are you going to do? Well, you can try your luck if you so desire. As Grandma Frieda always said (especially in regard to her root beer-apple juice-Manichevitz-and motor oil fruit drink), "it's not so bad, even if I don't remember what I put into it." Thanks Grandma!! And good eatin'!!

*This article originally appeared in Alli No Mas, A Publication of Honduras Peace Corps Volunteers December 1997/January 1998. **With revision** it is reprinted here with permission. Joshua Evdasin Barkan, born in Tucson, Arizona, served as a volunteer in the United States Peace Corps from September 1996 to November 1998 in Honduras. Since the original publication of this piece, he and his grandmother Frieda Koren Barkan have discussed the article several times! Joshua is now a post-graduate student in American Studies at the University of Minnesota.*

### Photos Of Family Lots and Gravestones

New York City, Queens, Long Island

Photographer Barbara Field

\$20 Per Hour Including Travel Time  
Plus Film Developing and Postage.

Contact: RitaBarb@aol.com  
Barbara Field  
6 Wooleys Lane  
Great Neck, NY 11023



**Members Janet and Al Docton  
Complete One Year of Volunteer Work  
At  
The Family History Center, St. George, Utah**

By Janet and Al Docton

Al and myself have just completed a year of volunteer work at the St. George, Utah, Family History Center; it has truly been a great learning experience. We learned that the St. George FHC ranks sixth out of the 3600 FHCs throughout the world. They are very well equipped because they have so many “snow birds.” Having a lot of visitors naturally gives them a larger budget. They have the most modern computers, are setup for the Internet and FAX and have a very extensive library of Family Tree Maker CDRoms. Also they are constantly giving classes on research, the Family Tree Maker program, the Internet and anything else that the patrons seem to be interested in. The director is a computer person and is always adding new programs.

I also learned a lot about microfiche and discovered that there is a wealth of information on them. In fact, I was looking up JEWS-HUNGARY and found quite a store of information. At the present time I am just starting to do research on Hungary, so this was most welcome news for me. Also in the fiche area, I discovered fiche of the WWII concentration camps. Now I have a list of films to look up when I go to Salt Lake City next year.

The FHC has a lot of information in all areas; books, fiche, and films. Additionally, I discovered that the St. George FHC library was very extensive. Most of their books have been donated by their patrons and they cover all parts of the world. Of course, they do not have much on Jews. However, if a FHC were in an area with a large Jewish population chances are that there would be more books on Jews.

Al and I also worked at a satellite branch of the library, but they are not as well equipped and do not have the most experienced people. Therefore, whenever possible, I would suggest using the main FHC unless you are doing only computer work.

We learned how valuable the library catalog is for research purposes. It is so easy to use and helped my search quite a bit. It is always important to know AHEAD OF TIME where your documents will be located in Salt Lake City. Also, never overlook maps for research purposes. Again, St. George had some great maps of the 1880s which helped me for my Hungary research and also more updated maps with the present day names.

Whenever a Jewish patron came into the library, they were always referred to Al and myself—in this way, we helped several Jewish patrons. In fact, we told the library that we would always help the library with any Jewish patrons. They have only to contact us for research help.

Good hunting to you all!

## **LDS Sources On Line**

You can search the catalog of the Family History Library located in Salt Lake City, Utah on line at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) Be sure to type org at the end of the address not com!



## **A Trip To Salt Lake Is Not A Cruise**

By Jo-Ann Geller

The streets are so clean, was my first impression upon arriving in Salt Lake City. We were finally going to visit the Family History Library and spend several days there with a group of fellow genealogists from around the country. The week's visit was sponsored by Avotaynu's Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff. They would be at our disposal for the whole time!

We arrived Thursday afternoon and got settled into our hotel across the street from the Salt Palace and next door to the library. We started off with an orientation session from 6:30 to 9:45 PM which whetted our appetite for the coming week. Friday at 8:30 AM we attended a Beginners Workshop after which the group walked over to the library to begin research. There is a main floor and two floors above, two floors below, for a total of five floors. My husband, Howard and I were wide eyed and amazed at the rows of readers and film available at our fingertips. What a difference from the library in Las Vegas! There is no waiting for film to be sent. If you need the film before or after the film you select.... just walk to the cabinet and pull it out. There was expert guidance from Gary and Eileen. Our own Mary Barkan was there as well. She was additional support and a delight to be with.

Sunday the library was closed. We all went to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir live broadcast which was beautiful and very special. The rest of the day we were on our own, and across the street was a Mall and Nordstrom...soo needless to say between all the copies of information and the shopping we were glad Howard thought to bring an extra piece of luggage. (Howard always brings an extra, he is a boy scout!)

During the rest of the week, we spent countless hours looking through endless rolls of film, microfiche etc. Information we were sure we were going to uncover we did not find. We did however make some new, unexpected, and exciting discoveries. One day we were in the library from 8 AM to 10 PM with just a break for a container of milk and a

chocolate chip cookie for lunch. We were there until they turned on the lights at the microfilm readers (a signal to leave!) which was our initiation. We now know our way around the library, and we realize there is so much more to find. It was a great experience and we met a lot of wonderful and interesting people. We plan to go on our own sometime in the late spring for a few days of research. There are those tidbits of information locked up in Salt Lake waiting for us to

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### **The Death of Las Vegas Jewish Urban Legend**

Along with dead bodies found under hotel beds, people kidnapped for a kidney, and drugs in candy for children, Las Vegas has a special Jewish urban legend. The legend even has a genealogical twist. Years ago a Las Vegas family historian researched a set/several volumes/one book of Russian business directories in the basement/bottom floor/Special Collections Department of the library at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. During the last ten years no genealogist/researcher/curious person has been able to relocate this Russian research source at the library. The book/books do not appear in the UNLV library catalogue. Undaunted, Jewish genealogists continued to avidly talk about these elusive volumes. In September, during a talk to the JGSSouthern Nevada West, Special Collections Director, Peter Michel, sadly announced that, after an exhaustive search, if the directory/directories ever existed at UNLV, they are no longer there because no one can find them/they were sold because they were not being used/they were accidentally tossed out/or they were stolen. Please do not call the library requesting the book/books. The books are gone along with an interesting Las Vegas Jewish urban legend.



## **Standards For Using Records Repositories And Libraries Recommended by the National Genealogical Society**

Recognizing that how they use unique original records and fragile publications will affect other users, both current and future, family history researchers habitually –

- are courteous to research facility personnel and other researchers, and respect the staff's other daily tasks, not expecting the records custodian to listen to their family histories nor provide constant or immediate attention.
- dress appropriately, converse with others in low voice, and supervise children appropriately.
- do their homework in advance, know what is available and what they need, and avoid ever asking for "everything" on their ancestors.
- use only designated work space areas, respect off-limits areas, and request permission before using photocopy or microform equipment, asking for assistance if needed.
- treat original records at all times with great respect and work with only a few records at a time, recognizing that they are irreplaceable and that each user must help preserve them for future use.
- treat books with care, never forcing their spines, and handle photographs properly, preferably wearing archival gloves.
- never mark, mutilate, rearrange, relocate, or remove from the repository any original, printed, microform, or electronic document or artifact.
- use only procedures prescribed by the repository for noting corrections to any errors or omissions found in published works, never marking the work itself.
- keep note-taking paper or other objects from covering records or books, and avoid placing any pressure upon them, particularly with a pencil or pen.
- use only the method specifically designated for identifying records for duplication, avoiding paper clips, adhesive notes, or other means not approved by the facility.
- unless instructed otherwise, replace volumes and files in their proper locations, before departure, thank the records custodians for their courtesy in making the materials available.
- follow the rules of the records repository without protest, even if they have changed since a previous visit or differ from those of another facility.

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### **Library News**

Janet Farino is the librarian for the JGS Southern Nevada West. Recent donations include the *Syllabus – 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy, August 1999 New York City*. This large notebook contains information on the lectures presented in New York City. Also included is valuable information about researching in New York City. Janet also has the recent newsletters from societies around the United State and the world. To borrow the New York notebook or any other book or newsletter contact Janet at [janfar@wizard.com](mailto:janfar@wizard.com)



## Twentieth Century Research

# Letters

For the family historian, letters offer clues to vital family information. Cherished letters may also provide background to family life. Letter writing may have declined as the telephone became more popular in American life. Computer email may become the next type of "letter" family members exchange to keep in touch.

Member Janet Farino has letters written to her father Richard Holt from his good friend Peter Woodbury. Poor health forced Richard to remain at home in Vermont during World War I. Peter wrote to let his friend know about the war from his perspective as a Private.

6 June 1918, M.G. Co., 107 U.A. Inf., American, Ex. Force

Dear Dick: We had a very quiet trip over. All we did was sleep and eat. The ship did not roll hardly any except on two days. On one of the rough days a lot of coffee and a pup, the ship's mascot, fell overboard.

When we landed we hiked about six miles from the port and pitched our pup tents. We messed about then that night and broke camp at three the next morning and hiked back to the port where we entrained in freight cars. For the next two days we rattled and bumped through some of the most beautiful country I have ever seen. A lot of the country looked like New England except that this country is flatter. The houses of course are a lot different.

After we detrained at about nine-thirty P.M. we hiked eight miles to camp. At noon the next day set out again and hiked until about eleven P.M. when we reached our billets.

You remember a certain night spent in the boat house of the Lake Mansfield Trout Club. Well, I am sleeping on the floor of the upper story of a shed now. However, we get so tired during the day we don't mind it, and I have learned how to make my bed so it is not so bad.

I am having a fine time over here. The wether has been fine, the food good, most of the time, and the work is getting interesting. The bugler of the company was born and raised in the Aderondack Mountains and is quite a hunter and fisherman. He is a fine chap and we get along A1.

Of course I cannot do anything about the camp,

but you keep your eyes and ears open. I am just as eager as ever for it. Please remember me to your Father, Mother, Bobby, Chet and every one else I know up in Vermont. Your old pal, Pvt. Peter Woodbury (Censored, No. 1987) Passed by Paul H. Gadebusch 2nd Lt. Inf.

June 23, 1918

Dear Dick: If I remember correctly this is the day that we were to start our hike over Camel's Hump. Well, I am three thousand miles from Camel's Hump (VT) but not any wheres near so far from hiking. I suppose you and Chet will take the hike this sumer some time, and when you get back please write and tell me all about it. I should like very much to know if the old "bump" is still there.

Last night I went out in the barnyard and sat in a wheelbarrow, smoking "Will Woodbine" cigarettts while our ex-New York policeman cut my hair. He did a good job though. What little hair I did not get in my eyes and mouth went down my neck. Beware of "Wild Woodbine" cigarettts though. As far as I can see there is no difference between them and wild "skunk cabbage," but as the French say "C'est la guerre." We get an issue of forty cigarettts a week. They are small and round and hard, but they are "not so worse." I have some "cigs" now that are not so bad, they are called "Abdulas."

The machine gun we have is a peach. It is not so good as the Browning, but it is a fine gun. It gets off five or six hundred shots a minute and does not jam very often. I have no job assigned me on the gun yet, but probably it will be filling belts. The gun weights 28-1.2 lbs., and the tripod 48 lbs. When the gun is full of water it weights ten pounds more. We have been drilling with them for about two weeks and it is very interesting work.

If you have any extra prints of the pictures that you took on our last "beer party" I wish you would send them along. Beside me here a fellow called "Dingy" is taking the heel off an old pair of trench shoes. The other fellow has his shoes on and he is using an in-trenching tool and a brick for tools. It is a wonderful job. Your old pal, Pvt. Peter Woodbury, Infantry (Passed by Censor #6523, E.L. Allen)

continued on page 7



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July 12, 1918

Dear Dick: Believe me, we are having some time over here. The life is rough, but it is the great experience. I would not miss it for an awful lot. Just now our "home, sweet home" is a pup tent, and the weather is rainy. We have a little trench around the out side and some straw on the ground so we are fairly comfortable. I don't care what happens now though, because I got some real American tobacco yesterday. An American Y.M.C.A. man came around with a Ford and I got a can of P.A. (Prince Albert)

I have been assigned to my place on the gun crew. You see, there is one gun to a squad and six men to a squad. From the squad three men are picked for the gun crew. I am number three on the gun crew and my job is to carry ammunition from the place where the rest of the squad is leading belts to the gun.

That leather photograph case and the pictures came the other day, and I thank you very much indeed. There is nothing much better to get than a letter with pictures in it, and a case to carry the pictures in is doubly welcome.

Don't forget to keep your eyes and ears open for a good location for that camp of ours. I am looking forward to that about as much as anything else, after this little difference of opinion is settled over here. I was not allowed to keep that little camera that I had so I cannot send you any pictures of this country, but I will tell you all about it. Don't worry that I will forget anything about it either. It is ground into my brain so hard that I could not forget it if I tried.

I must stop writing now and sew up the bottom of my pants. Please remember me to your family and to the folks in Worcester.

Your old pad, Pvt. Peter Woodbury  
M.G. Co., 107 U.S. Infantry, American E.F.  
(Passed by Censor #6461) Kenneth Gaw

Old letters should be preserved in acid free sleeves. They should be unfolded and stored flat away from direct sunlight. Don't forget to also store the envelope. If it would not be clear to whom the letter was written or the identity of the writer, a note with the information can be affixed to the outside of the sleeve. And, once again, don't forget to preserve email correspondence—our letters of the future.

## Membership Application

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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

JGSSN-West membership runs from  
September to September

JGSSN-West Information:  
Carole Montello at: [carmont7@juno.com](mailto:carmont7@juno.com)

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## **Calendar 2000**

### **JGSSN-West Meeting Schedule**

Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara 1pm

**January 16 –Passenger Arrival Records**

**February 20 – Judge Irene Weiss**

**Immigration Laws**

**March 19 – Family Tree Maker–The Genealogy Program For You?**

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Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada - West

P.O. Box 29342

Las Vegas, NV 89126

**Don't miss the March meeting! A special program will be presented on one of the most popular genealogy programs available today—Family Tree Maker 7.0**