



# Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future

Jewish Genealogy Society  
of Southern Nevada - West

Vol.3, No.4 Fall 2000

---

## Dublin Records

---

### An Unusual Source for Family Information – Dublin Ireland Alien Registrations

By Marj Gruzen Green

marjgreen@mindspring.com

I've been researching the GRUZIN/GRUZEN/GRUSIN/GRUSON family lines who came from Dankere (also called Glazmanka, Stockmanhof, or Gostini), Latvia. One branch immigrated to Dublin, Ireland. This summer I had the chance to go to Dublin and found a wonderful resource called the Alien Registration taken in Dublin during WWI.

Between 1914-1918, each non-Irish citizen had to report to their local police district to prove their identity, show the passports (if any) they used when they came to Ireland, and provide information on themselves and their families. Some of these records were destroyed, lost, or damaged, but many have survived and are available to researchers.

Here's what they contain:

The head of the household's name, nationality, occupation, and address

Birth date and place

Date of arrival in Ireland

Previous residence before coming to Ireland

Particulars of family, including name and ages (or birth dates) of spouse, children, and others living with the family and where each was born

Spouse's date of arrival and previous residence before coming to Ireland

There is even a column for 'Remarks.' This is a real treasure trove of information. For example:

"Served in Russian army in 1899 for 12 months; was discharged for ill health."

"Deserted from Russian army."

"Passport #9 issued at Dvinsk by President of the Military Tribunal, on 31 July 1902."

Many of the Jews who went to Dublin in the early 1900s came from Lithuania and Latvia. I found quite a few registrations from my family's hometown of Dankere/Glazmanka/Gostini, Latvia, and many from the province of Kovno, Lithuania.

If you have relatives who were in Dublin, Ireland in the period 1914-1918, you might want to look at this resource. The records are housed at the National Archives in Dublin. When you get there ask for the Dublin Alien Registrations for World War I, Entry #96/11/1&2, Shelf 3/123/3. Ask them both for the original books and the xeroxed pages of the 1914 records of Chancery Lane Police Registration District, Dublin.

You can also get access to the information via email from a genealogist in Dublin, Stuart Rosenblatt. Email him at: [masterc@medianet.ie](mailto:masterc@medianet.ie)

Stuart has been collecting records of Jews from Dublin. In addition to the Alien Registration he also has many of the synagogue records of marriages, midwife records of birth, cemetery records, etc. He was extremely helpful to me in providing much new information on the Grusons. All he asks is that in exchange, you share with him any information you have on your Dublin relatives.



## **Imperial War Museum London Holocaust Exhibition**

By Mary Barkan

The Imperial War Museum in London, England, records the history of war and wartime life from 1914. The museum has a tradition of excellent displays. In the Summer of 2000 the museum opened their new permanent Holocaust Exhibition. During a visit to London I made plans to visit the new exhibition.

The museum is located in Lambeth which is on the “other” side of the Thames. More and more visitors are attracted to the area of generally working class neighborhoods. Many come to visit the reconstructed Old Globe Theatre and the new Tate art museum. However, a visit to the Imperial War Museum involves a bit of walking. The nearest underground stations are Lambeth North, Waterloo, and Elephant and Castle. I walked to the museum from Waterloo.

Interest in the Holocaust Exhibition was high. The museum has a procedure to insure that the exhibit area does not become too crowded. I paid my admission fee and followed directions to a special desk for the exhibit. One must request an admission ticket to the exhibition. Tickets are time stamped. I requested a ticket for 3pm and made my way to the exhibit area. With a few moments to wait I chatted with the museum attendant. He said that interest in the exhibit had been high with almost capacity crowds every day since the opening three weeks previous. Though the museum is open daily from 10am to 6pm, he said that afternoon tickets were most desirable because groups of school children were usually booked in the mornings. Advance publicity for the opening resulted in visitors from all over the world.

The museum recommends two hours to see the exhibit which covers two floors. Displays center on the destruction of the Jewish people in Europe and also cover elimination policies of Gypsies, people with disabilities, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, prisoners of conscience, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and homosexuals. I found the video taped interviews with survivors most moving. Their memories of pre-war and the start of

Nazi persecution were personal and chilling. Extensive areas are devoted to Nazi propaganda and life in the concentration camps. There is mention of Jewish refugees sheltered in Britain and a description of British controlled Palestine which restricted Jewish immigration.

Great care has been taken with the various displays. The museum uses many media—print, film, videotape, audio tapes, photographs, models, display of artifacts etc.—to present the story. As visitors wind through the two floors, the story of persecution is presented chronologically. There is an outstanding large model depicting the selection of 2,000 Hungarian Jews from the Berehevo ghetto at the Auschwitz II-Birkenau death camp in May of 1944.

Though two hours is recommended to see the exhibit, visitors may actually stay as long as they want. Information about the museum and the Holocaust Exhibition can be found on line at [www.iwm.org.uk/](http://www.iwm.org.uk/) The museum shop contains books related to the exhibit. It takes a little effort to reach the museum but it is well worth the effort.

### **Viewmate on JewishGen**

*Nu? What’s New* recently posted this notice about a new service available at JewishGen.

Do you have a document you want translated or a photo that needs interpreting? JewishGen has added a new feature to its site that allows patrons to post graphics and ask for help in translation, analysis, or identification. You can also post photos (for identification of people, clothing, buildings, scenes, objects, artifacts, etc.) or letters, documents, book pages, maps, etc. for analysis or translation. A description of the process is at <http://www.jewishgen.org/viewmate/purpose.html>. You can view items already posted at <http://www.jewishgen.org/viewmate/toview.html>. There is a time limitation of 168 hours (7 days) for each posting.



## Zayde Stories

By Charlotte Aisuss Showel

Everyone talks about "Bubbe Meizehs" or Grandmother Stories, but there are Grandfather stories too.

Our children never had the pleasure of knowing their paternal Grandmother, Sadie Showel who died while they were too small to remember her. To their delight, they did get to know and love their Grandfather, Max Showel, and they had the great joy of listening to some of his stories.

When we visited him the children would sit at his feet and listen to all his stories about his life in Europe and his adventures in America. He never saw any humor in the stories, and in actuality he was relating the hardships he suffered. The children on the other hand couldn't realize that some of these incidents were the product of a very difficult age in history and they only saw the humor. They would ask him again and again to repeat the stories.

He told them of the terrible journey he took escaping from Kremenitz in the Ukraine, and how sick he was on the boat crossing the ocean to the United States. He described how he never understood the distance between landing in New York and how long the train ride was to St. Paul, Minnesota. He had the ticket to go on the train, but didn't speak English or know how to make the journey. A man he met on the boat spoke a little English and the two of them traveled together.

His father, Morris Showel, met him at the train station and took him to their home in St. Paul. He arranged for the boy to work for a butcher in St. Paul. The boy had a delivery wagon and an old stubborn horse and used this for delivering meat. When the horse didn't want to move, it would get the heaves and throw up. One time while the stubborn horse stopped to throw up, the wagon hit a cobblestone and tipped over and all the meat spilled out on the street. The children roared with laughter at this, but Grandpa would shake his head and tell them it wasn't funny. Out of the few pennies of pay

that he had been saving to bring his mother over to the United States, he had to pay the butcher for the spoiled meat and he lost his job too.

He told of how his father divorced his mother, Hannah Showel, and then his mother married a butcher who had no children. The butcher only wanted the boy to promise to say "kaddish" for him in the event that he died without other children. When he did die, the boy went to the local Rabbi and told him that he wanted to say "kaddish" for his stepfather. The Rabbi wanted to know what happened to his real father, and found that he had remarried and moved to the United States. The Rabbi told the boy he couldn't say "kaddish" while his real father was alive and this frightened the boy since he made a promise and was afraid to break it. The Rabbi then took the boy to the cemetery and they went to the grave of the butcher where the Rabbi begged the butcher to forgive the boy, and then told the grave that the butcher did a bad thing in asking the boy to say this prayer for him.

I'm so glad the children heard these tales. There were many more tales of adventures as well as the difficulty of being a newcomer in the United States. The children are grown now and they still talk about the stories they heard, relaying them to their children. Now they re-tell the stories with a smile, but at the same time there is more understanding of what difficulties their adored grandfather experienced.

### Patent Search

Confirm family stories about United States patents/inventions at [www.uspto.gov/patft/](http://www.uspto.gov/patft/)  
Find out if Uncle Alfred really did invent an important part for airplanes or if Cousin Ida made significant patented improvements to the pool table. This informative site lists U. S. Patents from the 1700s to present with weekly updates. Searches return 50 hits at a time.



## **Volunteer, It's The Right Thing To Do**

By Carole Montello

The basis for any genealogical research is diligent hours spent in front of a microfilm reader pouring over less than perfect films. However, with the explosion of the Internet and the hundreds upon hundreds of searchable databases we genealogists now turn our weary eyes to our computer monitors searching for our ancestors. Not many people stop to think about how all of these databases landed on our favorite sites, but somewhere there are groups of dedicated volunteers culling the information from numerous sources and entering that information into the program. This information eventually ends up as searchable databases for the world to access.

This past summer I volunteered to work on the project to index the Brooklyn Naturalizations from 1907 to 1924. This index can be accessed through the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.'s website at [www.jgsny.org](http://www.jgsny.org) or through [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)

When I decided to work on the project I e-mailed Estelle Guzik, President of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. ([jgsny@aol.com](mailto:jgsny@aol.com)) and offered my services. Within days my pages and instructions arrived by mail. I was amazed at what I received. My 10 pages began with surnames beginning GI and ending at GO. Of course the first order of business was to scan the pages for family names and I actually found a distant cousin. The pages were written in the most exquisite handwriting imaginable. I'm sure they were carefully entered into the original ledger books when having good penmanship was an asset.

Now I was ready to begin. I opened my Access program and started setting up my columns. Once I started entering the information it was fairly easy work. I encountered a few minor glitches along the way, but even though it took me longer than it probably should have, after two months I was finally ready to send it off. Since I've never sent an e-mail attachment I called upon the expert assistance of Mary Barkan who also helped me fix the glitches. The database was sent and received without a hitch, and my

portion was completed.

I look upon my work as a mitzvah. I like to think that my small part in this project, now numbering 240,000 names, as my good deed. This is my small part in helping bring this important database to researchers worldwide.

I would urge all genealogists to offer their time to work on projects such as this. The reward in doing so is self-satisfaction in doing a mitzvah. Maybe you will find a relative, maybe you won't, but surely you will have helped someone somewhere who may in turn lead you back to your long lost ancestor.

You can volunteer for this or any other indexing project, or you can volunteer your time and talents within your local Jewish genealogy society—but, please volunteer.

---

### **Looking for Volunteers to help with Warszawa LDS Films Data entry**

Once again the Douglas E. Goldman Jewish Genealogy Center (DOROT) has provided the Warsaw Shtetl CO-OP with extract pages from the LDS Microfilms. The recent shipment contains Birth, Marriage and Death Records from 1836, 1840-43 and 1851. Miriam Segali, the volunteer at Dorot, has translated the records and hand written the information onto large ledger sheets. Volunteers are needed to enter Miriam's handwritten information onto Excel Spreadsheets. You don't have to know any Polish to do this work. If you would like to volunteer contact

Hadassah Lipsius  
Kew Gardens Hills, NY  
Warsaw Shtetl CO-OP coordinator  
JRI-Poland

### **JGS Southern Nevada West Cemetery Project**

Cemetery Project volunteers are needed to survey Las Vegas cemeteries as part of the IAJGS Cemetery Project. The Veterans Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada has been surveyed. Efforts are now focused on the older cemeteries in Las Vegas. For more information or to volunteer contact:

Jo-Ann Geller at [hagnjag@aol.com](mailto:hagnjag@aol.com)



## My Bubbie and Zaddie - Sara and Hyman Levingston

By Henry Yellowitz

People do not realize how lucky they are, when they have all their grandparents when they are young. I feel lucky to have known and still remember the only grandparent I ever met. Both my grandfathers died before I was born and I was named after my mother's father. My father's father died when Pop was a little child. My father's mother lived in Lithuania and died during the war, about 1936, and never came to America.



Hyman Levingston and Sara Yellowitz

My grandfather, Hyman Levingston died at the approximate age of 56, in 1921. At the time, he lived at 121 No. Main Street, Concord, N.H., a house in which I remember visiting my grandmother as a child. He was about 1 year older than Bubbie who passed on, I believe, in the early 1940's. They both came from Russia and their native tongue was Yiddish. They were both able to speak English, at least my Bubbie did. They lived in MA where they had their first 4 children before moving to Concord, NH, where the next 5 children

were born. Zaddie was a cobbler (shoemaker) and started a family department store in Concord.

I was told by one of my second cousins that Zaddie could not spell or speak English too well, which is the reason for the misspelling on the



The shoe store sign with the Levingston name spelled as Levengston

sign on his shoemaker store window.

My mother was one of nine children born between 1892 and 1908 and I was fortunate to know seven of them. Their eldest child (Dora) died in 1918 at the approx. age of 26.

I remember my Bubbie as a very kind person and never had heard a bad word about either one of them. I also remember her being diabetic and talking about some day being able to eat ice cream and cake and lots of other goodies.



## Background

### Organizations

#### **B'nai B'rith International A Record of Innovation**

Since its inception, innovation has been a hallmark of B'nai B'rith International. In October 1843, twelve German-Jewish immigrants met on New York's Lower East Side to help others like themselves. Pooling their ideas and their funds, they founded what would become the most enduring service organization in the United States. Its name – B'nai B'rith, “Children of the Covenant” – mirrored its idealistic mission: uniting Jews in service to their community and the world.

The organization soon would influence national events. During the Civil War, B'nai B'rith members played leadership roles in opposing Gen. Ulysses Grant's attempt to expel Jews from several states under military rule. President Abraham Lincoln revoked the order.

In 1870, with violence against Jews sweeping Romania, another United States president heard B'nai B'rith speak out. A chastened Grant chose former B'nai B'rith President Benjamin Peixotto as honorary U.S. consul to the troubled nation, where he served for five years without a salary. This set the state for decades of advocacy by B'nai B'rith International for Jews around the world.

Today, B'nai B'rith still leads the way in informal Jewish education. From our popular weekend institutes to Lunch and Learn discussion series to Living Room Learning, we're reaching thousands eager to deepen their knowledge of their Jewish heritage.

From the start, B'nai B'rith has served local communities. With floodwaters threatening their area, Baltimore members launched the group's first disaster relief campaign in 1868 – 13 years before the American Red Cross was founded. When the Civil War left children bereft of family, B'nai

B'rith opened the Cleveland Jewish Orphan's Home. In 1899, when a Denver tuberculosis hospital stood empty due to lack of funds, we opened what would become the National Jewish Medical and Research Center – the global leader in lung, allergy, and immune diseases.

From its earliest days, B'nai B'rith has fought the persecution of Jews. After Atlanta, Ga. B'nai B'rith member Leo Frank was framed for murder in 1913 (and later lynched), we launched the Anti-Defamation League, still battling bigotry with matchless effectiveness today.

When teens sought a group to call their own, beyond denominational boundaries, B'nai B'rith was there. We pioneered outreach to young people through our B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, begun in 1923. B'nai B'rith Hillel, founded in the same year, has become the campus address for tens of thousands of young Jews at colleges and universities across the United States and 16 other countries.

Today, after more than a century and a half of innovation, B'nai B'rith International – with members in 58 countries – is still serving, and helping to shape, a changing world.

This information and more can be found at the B'nai B'rith website at [www.bnaibrith.org](http://www.bnaibrith.org)

### **European Patent Search**

Dick Eastman, who writes the genealogy column *Dick Eastman Online* at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), recently listed a web address for European Patent searches. To search go to [www.european-patent-office.org/](http://www.european-patent-office.org/)



## Seeking

Information on Marco/M./Marcus/Max/Mordecai **FOND** b. 1850 Romania d. 1924 Los Angeles, California; m. Sarah **Schwartz** 1913 in Los Angeles. Children, some born in Moinesti, Romania, include: Harry b. 1876; Chra b. 1887 m. Pyser **Gratz**; Rachel b. 1889 m. Sam **Bercovitz**; Mollie b. 1890 m. Jack **Shapiro**; Morris b. 1892; Celia b. 1895; and Lottie b. 1899. Mary Barkan at marybarkan@mindspring.com or by mail at 3894 W. Spring Mt. #8, Las Vegas, NV 89102

Information on Meyer **HULNICK** born 1876 in Russia. Father Lazer **Agulnik**. In 1900 Meyer, a cap maker, was living in New York City with his brother Hyman Hulnick. Later Meyer may have changed his name to **Fried/Freed/Frid**. Contact Marilyn Hulnick Barkan at Marilynbarkan@mindspring.com or by mail at 10253 Queens Church Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89135

## Reunion

Members of the Gruzin, Gruzen, Gruson, etc. family plan their second reunion. Tentative date is the weekend of May 20th. Place—Toronto, Canada. Interested? Contact the Gruzen Family Historian, Marj Gruzen Green at Marjgreen@mindspring.com

### JGS Southern Nevada West Library

Members of the JGS Southern Nevada West may borrow books, newsletters, microfiche and videos from the society library. Librarian Janet Farino has prepared a listing of all materials for loan which is available at each meeting. For assistance with the collection contact Janet at Janfar@wizard.com

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

EMail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$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  
January to December

JGSSN-West Information:

Carole Montello at: carmont7@juno.com

**Family Legacies** is printed four times each year - Summer, Winter, Spring, and Fall. Articles, manuscripts, notable news may be submitted to: Editor Mary Barkan

JGSSNWest

P.O. Box 29342

Las Vegas, NV 89126

Queries are printed on a space available basis at a cost of \$2.50 for 50 words, then 25 cents for each additional word, excluding name and address.

JGSSN-West does not endorse or recommend any services or product advertised or mentioned in Family Legacies.

Family Legacies is exchanged with those member societies of IAJGS which provide copies to JGSSN-West of their newsletter. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year. Back issues \$3.50 each.

---

**Calendar 2001**  
**JGSSN-West Meeting Schedule**  
Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara 1pm

**January 21st–Planning a Family Reunion**  
**February 18th - TBA**  
**March 18th–Immigration and naturalization**

---

**Officers and Board of Trustees**

President - Carol e Montel I o  
Vice-President - E I I a PerI a  
Secretary - Shirl ey Kl eiman  
Treasurer - Sam Showel

Trustees:  
Henry Yel I owitz, Janet Farino,  
Jack Ol iver, Charl otte Showel

---

Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada - West  
P.O. Box 29342  
Las Vegas, NV 89126

**International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy**  
**8-13 July 2001 London, England**  
[www.jewishgen.org/london2001](http://www.jewishgen.org/london2001)