



Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future

Jewish Genealogy Society
of Southern Nevada - West

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Standards For Sharing Information With Others Sound Genealogical Research

Standards For Sharing Information With Others

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Conscious of the fact that sharing information or data with others, whether through speech, documents or electronic media, is essential to family history research and that it needs continuing support and encouragement, responsible family historians consistently—

- respect the restrictions on sharing information that arise from the rights of another as an author, originator or compiler; as a living private person; or as a party to a mutual agreement.
- observe meticulously the legal rights of copyright owners, copying or distributing any part of their works only with their permission, or to the limited extent specifically allowed under the law's "fair use" exceptions.
- identify the sources for all ideas, information and data from others, and the form in which they were received, recognizing that the unattributed use of another's intellectual work is plagiarism.
- respect the authorship rights of senders of letters, electronic mail and data files, forwarding or disseminating them further only with the sender's permission.
- inform people who provide information about their families as to the ways it may be used, observing any conditions they impose and respecting any reservations they may express regarding the use of particular items.
- require some evidence of consent before assuming that living people are agreeable to further sharing of information about themselves.
- convey personal identifying information about living people—like age, home address, occupation or activities—only in ways that those concerned have expressly agreed to.
- recognize that legal rights of privacy may limit the extent to which information from publicly available sources may be further used, disseminated or published.
- communicate no information to others that is known to be false, or without making reasonable efforts to determine its truth, particularly information that may be derogatory.
- are sensitive to the hurt that revelations of criminal, immoral, bizarre or irresponsible behavior may bring to family members.

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Going to America

By Carole Montello

My grandmother decided when she first set foot on Ellis Island that she would become an American. Dobke Pisetzner disembarked from the S.S. Carmania and stepped into the Great Hall at Ellis Island on July 16, 1908. From that moment on it was “Hello America, goodbye Russia”. Letters from her parents and siblings to other family members attest to this fact. Over and over the letters note, “Dobke has not dipped a pen in years”. Why? The only one who can answer why would not when she was alive and cannot answer now that she is dead.

I often asked my grandmother where she came from and she brushed me off with a quick answer, “Minsk, now go out and play.” Growing up I never knew why she left home, alone, at the young age of 18 to make her way to a new life. The answers I look for are buried forever.

How did this young woman get from her ancestral shtetl, Mir, to the lower East Side of New York? Did her family send her away with their blessings and hopes for a better life? Probably not. Did she run away to meet up with the man who would become her husband? Possibly. Did she even know this man? Family stories say they were distantly related, but as a genealogist I haven’t found even a remote link that would connect the two families.

So, how and why did Dobke Pisetzner, an 18 year old, single woman get from there to here? Based on translated letters from her parents and siblings to a brother who would soon follow, Dobke’s departure wasn’t cause for celebration. Okay, now that Dobke has made up her strong willed mind, how did she get from Mir to Liverpool? Given that this was 1908 we can safely rule out that she didn’t go down to the local Greyhound Station and hop on the bus. She probably didn’t take the train either. She was a pretty tough Grandma so I figure she hitch-hiked. Now the thought pops into my head, did she stand along the side of the dirt road heading out of the shtetl with her thumb out, or did she show a little ankle a la Claudette Colbert in “It Happened one Night” and wait for the next donkey cart to give her a lift?

Donkey cart to donkey cart, shtetl to shtetl until she finally ended up, where? I don’t know. What I do know is she didn’t donkey cart her way from the coast of Europe to England. She couldn’t swim over, so I guess somewhere she caught a ferry and sailed into England on her way to the promised land. Did she land in Dover, London, Liverpool? I don’t know, but she was going to American and that was all that mattered.

On July 8, 1908 she walked on board the ship that was to take her to freedom via steerage class. Did she stand on the bow with her waist length hair blowing in the wind and claim she was “Queen of the World” not likely. Did she have any of her girlfriends along to keep her company, did she even have any girlfriends? Don’t think so, she didn’t need anyone, she was going to America.

Eight days later, with the Statue of Liberty in sight she gets off this great ship to be “processed.” According to the passenger arrival list Dobke can read and write and she claims she is a dressmaker. As a child I wore a so-called dress Dobke made and she was no dressmaker, but at least she would be able to support herself in the new land, if only her older brother, Toderes, now Teddy would come and get her. I don’t know what Teddy had going on that day, but he didn’t make it to the pier on time and Dobke had to wait, and wait, and wait to start her life in American. Finally, ten hours later Teddy shows up. What was that man thinking leaving a young, single woman waiting for so long. Teddy is another story for another time. Does older brother Teddy take Dobke home with him? Not my Uncle Teddy; he takes her to some tenement and drops her off with the family where she will board. Off he goes to do whatever it is that Teddy does, and believe me, the family says Teddy does quite a lot.

Now that Dobke has finally reached the land of her dreams—did she dream about the lower East Side of New York? Who knows—she gets herself a job and starts to learn English.



Going To America

Continued from page 3

Right off the boat she begins citizenship classes although along the way marriage, a baby, a move to New Jersey, and another baby get in the way. Finally, on September 28, 1916 Dobke Pisetzner, now Dora Remeschnitsky can proudly say “I am an American.”



Dobna

From that day forward she never looked back. She never attempted to contact her family in Mir again. Oddly enough, after World War II she contacted a nephew who had survived the war, made his way to Israel and brought her up to date on the fate of her family. Shortly before I was born she insisted that if my parents were to have a daughter they had to name her in honor of the mother she left behind. My parents had that daughter and I was named for Dobke's mother. My genealogy has taught me that Dobke didn't even give me the right name. How could she not know her mother's correct name? Had she been gone too long? Did guilt finally get to her? I don't know. I have half a name, and where the other half came from is anyone's guess.

I made a vow several years ago—When I get to heaven I'm going to find Dobke and make her tell the real story of her journey to America.

Seeking

Sam **MANDELBAUM** (MemphisBelle3608@cs.com) seeking information about Marcus **MANDELBAUM** b. Krakow, lived in Berlin in 1900s as _____ **Manoli**, the Cigarettes King. His nephews Simon/Sam and Moses **MANDELBAUM** arrived in U.S. in 1913. Moses married Ethel **TALMUD** in NYC in 1919.

We Remember

Evelyn Rhams , mother of our president **Carole Montello** died 22 October 2001 in Florida and was buried in Beth Israel Cemetery, Woodbridge, New Jersey

Member **Shirley Cudish**, wife of **Bennet Cudish** died 4 November in Las Vegas. Born 1934 in Massachusetts, she was a ten year resident of Las Vegas. She was a member of Hadassah. Her funeral was held on 7 November 2001

Irving Hulnick, father of our secretary **Marilyn Hulnick Barkan**, died 6 November in Las Vegas. He recently moved to Las Vegas from Tucson, Arizona where he had lived for forty-five years, and where his funeral took place on

Edward Kaufmann, husband of our publicity director **Nadine Kaufmann**, died 6 November in Las Vegas where his funeral took place on 9 November 2001. Born in 1921 in Brooklyn, New York, he was a nine year resident of Las Vegas, member of the Jewish Community Center of Southern Nevada, Temple Bet Kneset Bamidbar, and Summerlin Shriners

Member **Rita Bornfled** born 1923 in Bronx, New York, died 7 November in Las Vegas. She was a three year resident of Las Vegas, a member of Hadassah and Congregation Ner Tamid Sisterhood. Burial was in New Jersey.



Our Trip To The Past -Part Four—Conclusion Back to Lviv to Rzeszow and Home

By Joan Adler and Bobby Furst

We were sorry to leave the beautiful countryside. So many of the villages hadn't changed since our ancestors had lived there more than 100 years before. Every house has its individual garden with corn, sugar beets, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, cucumber, peppers, potatoes, beans and the like, planted there. Everyone has apple, plum, peach and cherry trees and grapevines. Everyone has a least one cow, goats, chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks and some have pigs. Many have horses to pull their carts. They fish in the rivers, tend to the fields, grind their grain in the local mills. Their lives are hard. But they are a proud and beautiful people, so ready to share what little they have.

The ride back to Lviv took about four hours. Lviv is a bustling city with many old and beautifully restored buildings, cobblestone streets and trolley cars. There aren't many individually owned cars here but the general feeling is of a busy city with many people rushing about.

Alex (our guide) brought us to the Grand Hotel. After unpacking and settling in, Alex took us to an artisans market so that we could buy souvenirs. He was concerned about pickpockets and clucked around us protectively like a mother hen. Neither of us are shoppers but we each bought a few small items for our children. We walked around the area and saw some of the beautiful buildings. We arranged to meet Alex at noon the following day for our drive back to Rzeszow. After dinner, we walked around Lviv on our own. The central promenade reminded Bobby of a mini Champs Elysee with couples strolling hand in hand and very well behaved children holding the hand of a parent. There are benches on the sides of one path and older men were seated there playing chess, checkers or dominoes. We watched some of the games and realized that these men challenge passersby to games, which are played for money. At the end of the pathway, in front of the opera house, there is a large plaza.

Next to a sculpture, a large crowd had

gathered. We were curious about what was happening but we were a little leery of getting too close. Our preconceptions were, once again, taking hold. We'd been told there was anti-Semitism, anti-American sentiment and violence in Lviv. Although we'd seen no evidence of it, we were still cautious. We sat on a low wall at the side of the plaza. There was singing coming from the group and, after watching awhile, we realized that an informal songfest was in progress. We sat for about an hour, listening to the folk melodies being sung and watching as people walked by, met friends and chatted, joined the group to sing for a while, and then walk on. It was so peaceful. It was a wonderful way to end our trip.

We saw no people with tattoos, body piercing, green or blue hair, slovenly dress or threatening manners. Except for the babushkas, most of the people wear very fashionable dress and looked very much like Americans, but better dressed. Most people seem calm and they smile. Although we did see some people wearing jeans, which surprised us, high-heeled sandals accompanied the jeans on the women, and shoes, rather than sneakers, were worn by the men. Many women in Ukraine dye their hair, even in the countryside. There are a disproportionate number of blondes and red heads. They let the color grow out for a very long time before recoloring. So there are many blondes and red heads with four to six inch roots. For people who are otherwise so meticulously groomed and well dressed, we found this curious.

At noon the next day we left for Rzeszow. At the Ukrainian border we were required to open our suitcases, but the customs man seemed to be disinterested and never really looked inside. We had only to go through the Polish side and we would be back in Poland. We did this quickly, showing our passports. They were stamped and we were permitted to drive on. We felt a certain relief. Something about the border crossing is scary. We were very sad to leave Ukraine and to think that our trip was almost over.

Continued page 5



Our Trip To The Past

Continued from page 4



The border crossing. Inside the first gate but still on the Ukrainian side.

The change from the Ukrainian side to the Polish side is immediate and dramatic. When we first arrived, we didn't know anything about what we would find on the Ukrainian side and could not appreciate the difference. In Poland, the farms are divided into small sections, each planted with a different crop. They almost look like patchwork quilts. In Ukraine, the farms have huge fields of all one crop that seem to go on for miles.

On the Polish side, there were many signs on the side of the road advertising stores, cars and products. In Ukraine, there are almost none. There are more houses, stores, cars, trucks and farm vehicles and better roads.

Rzeszow is a big city. We checked into the hotel, dropped off our bags, and decided to walk around Rzeszow. We saw three buildings that used to be Jewish buildings. Two are now used for the Polish archives and the third is an art gallery. There is a plaque on the outside of one building commemorating Jewish history but we saw no other

acknowledgment of any Jewish presence in Rzeszow, especially since it was such a large and important presence.



The former synagogue in Rzeszow. The only indication of its former use is a plaque on the wall outside the building, not indicating it was a synagogue, but at least a memorial to the Jews killed in the war.

We were beginning to shift gears. We had a more wonderful trip than we can ever describe. We'd experienced more than we expected and were very moved by what we saw and learned. We felt grateful to the warm and generous people in our shtetls that welcomed two American strangers into their lives and homes and shared their stories and their time.

And, we could not have asked for a better guide than Alex Dunai. We are truly indebted to him. This trip could have been quite a different experience if our guide had not been Alex. There was nothing he wouldn't do for us. There was no request too trivial or too large. He opened doors all over Ukraine and won the hearts of the people with whom he interacted, including us.

The next day we began our journey back to the United States already thinking about where we wanted to go on our next trip.



Researching in Salt Lake City Part Four—Conclusion

All of Salt Lake City and surrounding areas are in high gear preparing for the Olympics in February 2002. The Family History Library has almost finished their preparations. Remodeling has taken place on each floor, resulting in some wonderful changes.

Perhaps the most important change in the library involves computers. Each floor now had many more computers for researchers. The computers have high speed connections to the internet. Researchers can access popular genealogy sites like jewishgen.org and cindislist.com. The Ellis Island database is now at a researcher's fingertips. The new computers enable researchers to instantly follow leads. There is also access to CDs sold by the library like the 1880 Census Index.

Along with the new computers are new chairs on every floor of the library. They are ergonomically designed and can be raised or lowered.

Because hundreds of people are expected to visit the library, there is a posted policy concerning time at microfilm readers. A forty-five minute limit has been placed on any unoccupied reader. At the end of forty-five minutes, if no researcher has appeared, the papers and microfilms will be collected and held at the desk.

At the end of your research trip it will be hard to leave the research-friendly library. But with your departure comes new research duties.

When you return home it is a good idea to empty your suitcase of all the paper you collected during your trip. Since you probably cleaned off your dining room table to get ready for your trip you can now use it to sort and stack your papers.

Here are some suggestions for post research:

Sort all of your papers into stacks according to your filing/computer entry system. The most common way to sort is by family surname.

Consult your research log and make sure that each piece of paper has a reference to the source of the information. Researchers who make regular trips to the library indicate the LDS microfilm number on the back of each photocopy. If it becomes necessary to consult the microfilm again, you will have the number.

You probably didn't have time to look up everything. Take your to do list, retype it to include only those items you didn't finish, and place it in a file for your next trip. If you use Family Tree Maker's To Do List, edit out those items accomplished. Many researchers have a file, box or briefcase where they can place research questions for their next trip.

Enter your new information into your genealogy software program. Be sure to indicate the source for each entry.

As you enter information make a stack of documents you need to copy to send to relatives. Attach a post it note to photocopies listing the names of relatives who should receive a copy.

If you scan documents for safe keeping, scan them as you enter the information they contain.

As you enter your information take the time to list new research questions that occur to you. Add them to your to do list.

If you looked at vital records indexes and need to order certificates, set aside the document for photocopying. If you send a copy of the index page with your request it may help speed up the retrieval process.

Sit back and plan your next research trip!



Clark County Ghost Towns

Recently Eastman's Online Genealogy mentioned a web site devoted to ghost towns. The easy to navigate site is located at www.ghosttowns.com. Click on a map of the United States, select a specific state and then a specific county and the locations of known ghost towns is displayed. Clark County sites include: Potosi, St. Thomas, Nelson, Goodsprings, Sunset, Searchlight, Crescent and Juan.

Most Clark County ghost towns have a connection to mining or railroads. Some, like Searchlight, still have an existing town. Others, like St. Thomas, which was flooded by the construction of Hoover Dam, can be seen only when the water level of Lake Mead is low enough to reveal the town's remains.

Though the original settlers of some ghost towns were Mormon, mining and railroads brought many others to Clark County. Mine owners, newspaper editors, shop keepers, saloon owners, railroad workers and others contributed to the pre-ghost town.

Ghosttowns.com is sponsored by Nevada Magazine. Click on any ghost town site in Clark County and information about that location appears. Much of this appears to have been contributed by individuals with an interest or research project for each town. Among the information found for each ghost town is: location, climate, best time to visit, what remains of the settlement, photos and a history of the location. For the more previously prosperous towns the history can include a list of newspapers once published at that location. Research possibilities abound when you encounter an entry like the one for Juan. This settlement was claimed by both California and Nevada. Both states imposed taxes on the town until a survey determined that Juan was definitely in Nevada. Two possible tax lists!

It is easy to browse and browse this interesting site.

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

January 20th–Landsmanshaften and Yiskor Books
February 17th - Hal Bookbinder–
The Changing Borders of Europe
March 17th–Janet Farino–
Treasures in our JGS Library

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International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
Toronto, Canada
August 4-9, 2002