



Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future

Jewish Genealogy Society
of Southern Nevada - West

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1930 U. S. Federal Census Released

The 1930 U.S. Federal Census was released to the public in April 2002. Researchers welcome this new resource for information about families living in the United States.

During the years 1900 to 1910 the greatest number of immigrants came to the United States, and by 1930 many families had settled into their adoptive country. The 1930 census adds to family information already found in earlier census records. Surnames may have become "Americanized" and children born in the United States often were given "American" first names as well. Therefore, names, especially surnames, may have changed from earlier census records.

The 1930 census asked 32 questions. Many of the answers could lead researchers to additional or new family information. The following questions should be of particular interest:

Name of each person, including middle initial.

This provides a tool for distinguishing between people with the same given name and surname.

Age at last birthday.

Though ages across several census records can vary wildly, this can be a clue to help estimate the year of birth.

Place of birth including parents' birthplaces and the name of the country if foreign born.

Answers to this question may help narrow the place of foreign birth.

Year of immigration to the United States.

The year can provide a "window" of entry which can be used to search the Ellis Island database or microfilmed

passenger arrivals at other U.S. ports. The year of arrival can also indicate which family member immigrated first and the order in which other family members followed.

Naturalization.

This information should inform whether or not a family member was naturalized by 1920 and can narrow a search for citizenship papers.

Occupation and industry; Employment.

The 1930 census was taken just months after the stock market crash of 1929. The effects of the coming depression were barely beginning to be felt by workers. Possibly the occupation given on this census would soon give way to temporary employment, a different career, or even unemployment. Coupled with oral history from family members, it may be possible to begin a study of the family's survival through this difficult time, the Great Depression.

Whether a veteran of U.S. military or naval forces; if a veteran, of what war or expedition.

Answers to this question can lead to military records. Often veterans have draft registration files, service files, pension and/or medical files.

The 1930 census can provide clues to new records for family researchers. This census on microfilm is available at the National Archives and National Archives branch offices. It should be available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City by early fall, 2002. Most states are not indexed by surname. For unindexed states, the family's 1930 street address is needed to locate the correct enumeration district within their city of residence.



AUTHOR - AUTHOR

By Samuel M. Showel

The family had always known that our Grandfather had written some books. His headstone even listed that he was an author of three books. It was a revelation to find that he listed his occupation on the ship manifest as "author".

Grandfather was Rabbi Benjamin Balzak who came to the United States in June, 1911. Born in Berdichev in the Ukraine, and a scholar in the Yeshiva. At some point he left for London and spent some time there before coming to his daughters in America..

I decided that instead of just researching dates and names, it would be a great idea to find copies of his books so our children and grandchildren would have a tangible item of family history to look at. Now the search started and of course the first place to begin was with Jewish Genealogy and the daily digest. We wrote asking if anyone can help with our search and there was an outpouring of response.

We found that three of his books were in the National Library in Jerusalem and we were informed that he had actually written five books and were given the names of the books he had written.

Pesukei Binyamin (The Judgements of Benjamin)
1927

Torat Ha'Adam (The Laws of Man) 2 volumes 1910
(reprinted 1946)

Hilcheta Demeshiha (The Redemption) 1910

The Laws Governing Transactions and Possessions
(publishing date unknown)

Yudenthum Gegen Kristenthum (Judaism and Christianity) 1912

Several wonderful people suggested various web sites to contact for rare and out of print books and we tried them all. We finally found one of the books through an organization on the web National Yiddish Book Center and the Stephen Spielberg Digital Yiddish Library. Their web address is www.yiddishbikher.org. It was through them that we were able to obtain a copy of the Yudenthum Gegen Kristenthum book.

Another outstanding web site is operated by a Gentleman by the name of Yasher Koach and he is determined to preserve these rare books written by Rabbis. His web site is www.hebrewbooks.org and he spent long sessions with me on the phone. Through his contacts a search has begun to try to find copies of the books for us.

I am thankful for all the help and suggestions that came in and I know that soon I will be able to hold all the books my grandfather wrote. I especially want to thank JewishGen because without them there wouldn't have been any place to turn for help.

Online Hamburg Emigration Index Now Covers Nine Years

The Hamburg City Archives will be expanding its online index to emigrants who departed from the Port of Hamburg to include the period 1890-1898, some 640,000 people. It covers both the direct and indirect passengers.

The index provides basic information about the emigrant: name, approximate age, and date of departure. For a fee, you can receive an abstract of the entire entry from the ship's manifest. The cost is \$20 for 1-3 persons; \$30 for 4-10 persons; \$40 for 11-20 and \$50 for 21-30. Because it is an abstract rather than the actual manifest, individuals on a specific page each have their own abstract and, therefore, a family of three would count as three persons if you requested information on all of them.

The search engine includes wildcard ability to assist in handling spelling variations. An additional portion, 1899, should be added soon.

The website is at
<www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/start.htm>
Remember that you can order the microfilms of the indexes and original lists from the Family History Library (catalog online at <www.familyserach.org>) or at the St. Louis County Library.

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Why Didn't They Come?

By Jack Oliver

It's not too difficult to look back on the past to understand why our forefathers gave up their lives in the old country to come to a new land called The United States of America. But why didn't all the Jews leave Eastern Europe? We've heard the horror stories of pogroms and other overt anti-Semitism acts in countries like Poland and Russia and of the stories about America, the land of the free where the streets are paved with gold. It would have been enough for me as I would have been on one of the first boats.

I know almost nothing about the paternal side of my family in Europe. On my mother's side I know there were five brothers and a sister. My grandfather Hyman Boikiss and one of his bothers, Alexander, were the only family to leave Russia. As my grandfather was the first to leave, I'm sure he must have written glowing letters back home, things like running water, indoor plumbing, employment, the plentiful food available, among other things, things that we all take for granted today. Think what a difference my grandparents lives must have seemed to them. My great uncle Alex arrived here about ten years after my grandfather. What took him so long in making his decision?

Perhaps the lack of funds stopped some from making the journey. My grandparents owned and operated several small businesses at various times. I don't believe any of them made much money. However, Alex started a button business, later adding a women's pocketbook line that did extremely well before World War II. He certainly had the means to provide not only the transportation expenses to bring the rest of his family here, but probably enough money to have supported them during their time of need.

Possibly those members of my family that stayed in a country that didn't want Jews, could have worried about leaving the known for the unknown. Maybe they hesitated to leave every

thing for an unknown place where they couldn't even speak the language. We must remember that times were different then. Communication and transportation, are just couple of things that have changed drastically since their time. My family would have had to leave all their friends and relatives. (My great grandparents weren't a factor as they passed away before my grandparents left Russia). Then, of course, there was a deep attachment for Mother Russia.

Hitler and World War II didn't come as a surprise to anyone. As war clouds continued to form in the late '30's, why didn't my family in America try to get the remainder of the family out? It's a question that probably will never be answered.

A quote from the book, "The War of the Rats," by David L. Robbins (1999 Bantam) might shed some light on the question. A granddaughter from New York, visiting her grandparents just before the Nazis invaded Russia, pleaded with them to leave. They argued, "There was work to be done. There was family for them to protect and there was family history in Minsk, graves and relics and memories. Stalin was too strong for Hitler."

Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society Completes 1862 Nevada Census Database

The Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society has completed their work on the 1862 Territorial Census of Nevada. This project which was done for the Nevada State Archives has been completed, checked, uploaded and is now available on the society's website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/nvccngs/>



A Quick Start For Beginners: The PPCP Plan

On Monday, October 20th, 1997, Steven Kitnick was asked to give the opening remarks at a meeting of the JGS of Sacramento. The topic of the meeting was "Beginning Your Family Research," and Steve's presentation was titled "A Quick Start Program For Beginners: The PPCP Plan." The following is an abridged text of Steve's talk.

Thank you and welcome. Someone once said, "Genealogy begins as an interest... becomes a hobby... continues as an avocation... takes over as an obsession... and in it's final stage is an incurable disease..." I'm in the final stage... and by looking around the room... I know I'm not alone... I want to begin by asking you, why are you pursuing genealogy and family history? I want you to think about and clarify your reasons. What is your goal? To publish a book? To send data to the Dorot Genealogy Center in Israel? To visit relatives in Florida? Whatever your reasons... make it a reasonable and achievable goal... in my case... my initial project was to document my family's history in the United States. My PPCP Plan is predicated on author Arthur Kurzweil's admonition, "the libraries will wait, the people won't."

PEOPLE... real... live ... living people... send all your relatives a brief letter... tell them who you are... how you're related... and why you are doing this.... for example... to preserve family history... to give your children a sense of rootedness.... to honor your parents... to solve a mystery... or "to save lost love ones from oblivion," as Dan Rottenberg once said. Be sure to include a Family Group Record Sheet with some information about their immediate family already filled in... send a self-addressed stamped envelope as is customary... however... be prepared to follow up with a phone call... don't worry about documentation right now... get all the raw data... talk to the oldest relatives first.... if possible go visit all your living relatives....

PHOTOGRAPHS... go through your photo albums... make sure you know who everyone is... identify them on the back of the photo by using an archival pen or pencil... when and where the photo was taken... identify the person who took the photo... put any maiden names in brackets... for example... my mother... Marjorie [Lovett, nee Orelovich, Orlovitz] Kitnick... if you don't recognize someone in a photo get on the horn and meet with relatives to identify the people in your album as well as theirs... If we don't do that now when will we? Do your children and grand-

child know the people in your photo albums? If not, who will tell them? When you visit relatives photocopy and/or scan their photos... go for a ride to a local Kinko's... I even color copy black and white photographs... the process brings out the richness and clarity...

CEMETERIES... Find out where relatives are buried? Start with the ones in the United States... don't worry about the "old country" now... if possible... visit all the cemeteries and take photographs of the headstones... if you can't... ask a relative to do it... if they ask why.. tell them there's valuable genealogical information on the head stone... volunteer to send them money for film, development, and postage. If they offer to pay... say "Thank you." If you don't know where someone is buried... find out where and when they died... and obtain a death certificate...

PLACES... visit old neighborhoods... interview an old neighbor that may still be in the area... take photographs... start attending postcard shows... buy old postcards that have pictures of your ancestral cities and towns... go to local libraries... write to historical societies... seek out books and other materials that give a feeling about what life was like for your family... find out about Yizkor books... and Landsmanshaften... Finally.... subscribe to Avotaynu: The International Journal for Jewish Genealogy... subscribe to JewishGen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy on the Internet, join your local Jewish Genealogical Society... attend the Annual International Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy...

Steven J. Kitnick first presented his "PPCP Plan" on September 14th, 1995 when he gave his first "electronic lecture" to the Jewish Special Interest Group, which meets weekly in the AOL Genealogy Forum's Golden Gates Conference Hall.

Steve's interest in genealogy dates back to his early childhood, when he enjoyed reading the Torah's account of the genealogy of his early ancestors. In 1979, at the age of twenty seven, Steve began to "plant" his own family tree. In 1992, Steve began an intensive effort to trace the genealogy and family history of his maternal and paternal grandparents. He now has documented over 2,400 living and deceased relatives. More importantly, he has personally met with hundreds of relatives. The biggest push coming during the summer of 1993, when he travelled around the United States to interview them. Before embarking on his "Trip Across America," Steve developed his "PPCP Plan." He is Past President of the JGS of Sacramento, having served three consecutive terms, and has also served as Chairperson of the IAJGS Nominating Committee. He can be reached at Kitnick1@aol.com.

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Clark County Unclaimed Property List Published In Newspapers and On Line

On April 17, 2002 Brian K. Krolicki, State Treasurer for the State Of Nevada published the names of persons and businesses appearing to be owners of unclaimed property in Clark County, Nevada. The list appeared as a special insert in Las Vegas in two newspapers—the Las Vegas Review Journal and the Las Vegas Sun.

In Krolicki's cover letter, also printed in the newspaper inserts, he states that "The State Treasurer's Office in the last eight months has identified more than 10.4 million dollars and over 9000,000 shares of various stocks, bonds and mutual funds for 30,864 owners whose names are being advertised statewide this month." The list does not include real estate, vehicles or boats. Names on the list have \$50 or more waiting for them.

The newspaper published list is in alphabetical order by Nevada city then by individual name within that city. The article states that "Unclaimed property may be held in many forms, including, but not limited to, unnegotiated payroll checks, checking and savings account balances, utility refunds, insurance policy payouts, stocks, bonds, and safe deposit box contents." Towns included in the list are: Alamo, Amargosa Valley, Blue Diamond, Boulder City, Bunkerville, CalNevAri, Caliente, Echo Bay, Galena, Goodsprings, Henderson, Hiko, Indian Springs, Jean, Las Vegas, Laughlin, Logandale, Mercury, Mesquite, Moapa, Nellis AFB, North Las Vegas, Overton, Pahrump, Panaca, Pioche, Primm, Sandy Valley, Searchlight and The Lakes.

The current published list contains the names of the most recent unclaimed property owners. A complete list containing both current and past owners can be found at NevadaTreasurer.com/unclaimed. You may also contact the office by phone in Las Vegas at 486-4140. Those outside the Las Vegas Valley or Clark County but within the State of Nevada should call 1-800-521-0019. There is no phone number for those outside the State of Nevada

Janet Farino, Librarian for our society holds a copy of the recent printed list in the society library. Contact Janet at janfar@wizard.com

Hits, Misses, Success!

By Frances Ross

Thomas Wolf said "you can't go home again" but my rabbi in Madison, Wisconsin said Frances 'you return from whence you came.'" True. I wanted to find information about my Grandfather Ruderman. Not knowing too much about genealogy, I looked for help everywhere. I did use the LDS Library in Las Vegas and received good advice about researching from the library volunteers.

Things started to come together when I showed Charlotte Showel, a member of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West, a document my brother sent me. Was it my father's birth certificate as my brother thought? No! Charlotte discovered that it was a passport. With Charlotte's help I was able to find my paternal grandfather's home town in Belarus. He had come to America from the town of Radaskovici.

Charlotte got more information for me when she entered "Roderman" into the computer and received many responses. I even received phone calls. One important call was from Jerry Ruderman who had a Yiskor book. He told me about the town of Radaskovich/ Radoshkovitz/Radaskovici.. Everyone named Ruderman in that town was related. Just how we were related we're still finding out as we keep in touch.

Then one of my neighbors said "Bill's wife is Russian." Bill's wife happened to be at the pool with us and said "Sure I can read Russian." I brought my material but forgot to bring a pencil! She started reading so fast I couldn't keep up. One name opened my eyes. She read "Abraham Ruderman" and some other names. Abraham was my grandfather. I'm still searching for information on Abraham.

When Charlotte started working on the computer I started working with my memory. Little by little bits and pieces of family information have come back to me. I don't have a computer so I am grateful for Charlotte's help – she is a real genii.



JGS Website News

Brooklyn (Kings County) Naturalization Project

The JGS is pleased to announce the completion of the Brooklyn Naturalization project, including petitions and declarations filed in State Supreme Court, Kings County, 1907—1924. The 253,400 records now on-line can be searched at www.jgsny.org

A new feature of the database, the Comments column, will provide information on name changes and alternate names appearing on declarations, petitions and certificates of arrival, as well as other genealogically useful information. Please read the updated FAQ before using the information in the Comments column.

This project came to fruition under Estelle Guzik's leadership, thanks to more than 100 volunteers who keyed the data and proofread every entry against the original records. Kudos to all for an amazing job! Instructions for ordering copies of the records are found on the website.

Landsmanshaftn Incorporations

Ada Greenblatt has contributed another important database listing more than 3,000 Landsmanshaftn and other town-and-country-related organizations incorporated in New York County (1848-1920). Copies of these incorporation papers are available on microfilm at the Center for Jewish History in the American Jewish Historical Society's Incorporations Collection (I-154). The database can be accessed on the JGS website www.jgsny.org or at <http://home.att.net/~jgsnyCem/ajhs.htm>

World War I Draft Registrations

JGS member Carole Glick Feinberg has contributed a new 13,000-name database-World War I Draft Registrations for three Manhattan draft boards: #150 at Public School #151, 91st Street and First Avenue; #151 at 240 E. 105th Street; #152 at 231 E. 104th Street. Check out this source at www.jgsny.org/database/WWIdraft1.html.

Reprinted from Dorot, Summer-Fall 2001

The Nansen Passport

This information about the Nansen Passport was posted on the Latvian SIG in March of 2002 in response to a question by Marj Green regarding Latvian Nansen passports.

“The so called ‘Nansen passport’ was the passport for persons without citizenship. After WW1 Fridtjof Nansen (a Norwegian explorer, author, athlete, scientist, statesman, and a laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize, 1861-1932) tried to enlist the League of Nations in helping starving Russians. “Parallel to the famine project Nansen also organized and led another major one; that of aiding the 2 million hapless Russians who had fled both revolution, and counter-revolution and were being shuttled from country to country like cattle. So many countries close to the USSR were involved that a central leader was needed who could negotiate with many different governments. The League asked Nansen to act as High Commissioner for Refugees, with the task of coordinating all the relief organizations. The cardinal task was to provide the refugees with an accepted means of identification. This would not only give them status, but the possibility of procuring a passport. Nansen proposed that certificates be issued giving the most important information on the holder. Many governments agreed to recognize the ‘Nansen Passport’.” From the Norwegian Govt. server: <http://odin.dep.no/odin/engelsk/norway/history/032005-990458/index-dok000-b-n-a.html>

Nansen passport of Sore-Gital Gruzin nee Jankelowitsch





From The Old Country

By Charlotte Showel

KOSHER DILL PICKLE RECIPE

1 Quart Jar recipe

Scrub pickles thoroughly and pack in clean canning jar.

Add 1 whole clove of garlic, 1/4 teaspoon of pickling spices, 1-1/2 tablespoons of coarse or kosher salt, 1 tsp white vinegar and fresh dill and ordinary tap water almost to the top.

Add 1 dried red pepper, cap it tight and turn it over and let it stand at room temperature for 24 hours. Then turn right side up and let stand at room temperature until pickles reach your desired degree strength. Once they have gotten to the state you want, refrigerate to stop pickling process.

Cemetery Research

Summer is a wonderful time for outdoor genealogy. Many researchers will be taking "genealogy" vacations to ancestral homes or family reunions. One stop on the genealogy vacation will most certainly be a cemetery.

Plan before you go! There are internet sites that can help you plan your visit. One of the most complete sites can be found at Cyndislist.com. Under the cemetery section you will find articles on locating cemeteries, Jewish Funeral Homes, how to do a gravestone rubbing, cemetery lore, how to prepare to combat weeds and bugs at cemeteries, and links to other sites to visit.

Let members of your genealogy group know which cemeteries you plan to visit. Perhaps you can take a tombstone photo for them during your trip.

A little planning can go a long way to make your research trip to a cemetery yield valuable family information.

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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Calendar 2002
JGSSN-West Meeting Schedule
Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara

July 21st – The History of Ellis Island
August 18th – Every Picture Tells A story
September 15th – Genealogical Correspondence

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International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
Toronto, Canada
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