



Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future
Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, Inc.

1930 Census Counted Twice

By Mary Barkan

I always start research on a new family line with the U.S. Census. The census can track family members across decades and provide valuable clues for research. However, it isn't always easy to find families in the census records. Years ago there were two basic ways to locate people in the census. The first was to use the Soundex system for the years and locations available. The second was to search a part of the census line by line. I have been known to whine and then whine some more when I haven't been able to locate a family in the census. I've joined the chorus more often than I'd like to admit when it sang the census dirge - "they were afraid of the government and hid from the census takers," "they were using some other name and I can't find them," "I don't know the name of the head of household in 1920 so I can't find them on the Soundex," "I'm sure that they landed by alien space ship right after the census was taken," etc. etc.

With all these missing people the advent of new indexes for the U.S. census was greeted with joy. For a subscription fee Ancestry.com soon had the 1930 census on line and boasted an every name index that grew to include census data for other years. If you knew the name of anyone in the household it was theoretically possible to locate the family in the census. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints also contributed to the new ease of census searching. The LDS (www.familysearch.org) put on line an

every name index to the 1880 U.S. Census. Access to this index is free.

Researchers have had great success using these indexes to locate families on the census. All indexes have shortcomings because data is entered by people who sometimes make mistakes. However, these indexes have been a great boon to researchers.

So humming a happy tune I advanced on the 1930 index on Ancestry.com looking for a name JGS member Jack Oliver and I were tracking. As I sat down to research the family of Samuel Oliver I was confident of success.

I was soon humming a duet. I was soon confronted with two entries for the family of Samuel Oliver. Not only was he counted on the 1930 census, he was counted twice!

How could this happen? Well Samuel Oliver lived in New York City. It often took several days for the census takers to collect data from one area of the city. On 5 April 1930 the Oliver family was living at 170 East Fifth Street (Manhattan) New York City. The census taker counted them at that address. Then the Oliver family moved to 189 Fifth Street where another census taker counted them on 7 April 1930. The Oliver family in search for a better apartment, cheaper rent, a new job, etc. had moved to a new location just in time for another census taker to count them.

We now need to be aware that not only may we find our family on the census but we may find them twice!

Samuel Oliver in 1930

The family of Samuel Oliver: wife Tillie, daughter Annie and son Harry H., counted in the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, New York, ED 31-180, Sheet 7A on 5 April 1930 at 170 East Fifth Street in the 6th Assembly District.

Samuel Oliver in 1930 Again

The family of Sam Oliver: wife Tillie, daughter Annie and son Harry, counted in the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, New York, ED 2131-176, Sheet 10A, on 7 April 1930 at 189 Fifth Street in the 6th Assembly District.

Spring Cleaning

Spring is almost here and Summer not far away. Time to do some genealogical Spring cleaning?

Complete the photo labeling project you began in the Fall. Your resolve to label the back of every photo was a good idea. Now is the time to make the big push to finish the project.

Write and mail all the letters you intended to send to relatives during the Winter. Post them now in hopes of replies before everyone scatters for summer travel.

Update your "ToDo" List. You might use this list to plan genealogy trips during the Spring and Summer.

If you plan to attend a family Seder or a Summer family reunion, organize the information you plan to take. Make copies of photographs to hand out to relatives—maybe some of those unidentified photos would be good to take. Make copies of original documents (citizenship papers, birth certificates, etc.) to take. Copies allow you to give the copies to relatives and prevent woe if they are lost.

If you forgot in December to make an end of the year 2003 backup copy of your email addresses, your address book stored on your computer, and/or your genealogy program, do this now.

Did you forget in January to make arrangements for off-site storage of your backed up files? Now is the time to contact a friend or relative and ask them to hold a copy for you. A copy at your place of work would be a good idea too. No, backup copies of your files stored next to your computer or in your desk drawer do not count as stored off site.

Think about organizing your paper files, books, magazines, etc. Actually organizing all of that stuff would be real work—maybe save this task for next Winter!

JGS and Israel Independence Day

Marilyn Barkan and Davida Handler have marshalled dedicated JGS volunteers to staff a booth at the annual Las Vegas Israel Independence Day celebration. Interest at last year's event has prompted an expanded booth for 2004.

Volunteers will assist with surname look-ups and distribute handouts to help guide new researchers. Several basic books from the JGS library will be on display and available for browsing. Decorating the booth will be large boards displaying the types of records a researcher might find including passenger arrival records, citizenship papers, census sheets, ketuba, and family trees.

The JGS booth has always been very popular at this celebration. If you would like to volunteer contact Marilyn Barkan at marilynbarkan@cox.net

Las Vegas celebrates
ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY
on Sunday, May 2, 2004
From 11 am to 4 pm

In the BELLAGIO HOTEL Grand Ballroom

Save Time-Register online TODAY at www.jewishlasvegas.com

Young People Go On a 'Mini Mission' to Israel with Arts & Craft Projects & More!

Fabulous variety of Foods & Beverages, including a strictly kosher selection of delicacies

Rides & Games

Shopping Galore

Israeli Art, Music & Dancing

CELEBRITY APPEARANCES

Community Relations Council (CRC)

For more info call 732-0556

Beginner's Workshop

23 May 2004

The 2nd Annual Beginner's Workshop will be offered by the JGSSN on Sunday, May 23, 2004 at Temple Beth Sholom from 1 to 5 pm.

In addition to answering questions about how to find Passenger Records, Census Records and Vital Records for our parents and grandparents emphasis will be placed on using computers in research.

Specific talks will be given on techniques to use in online searches of the Ellis Island databases and the multitude of data on Jewishgen.

Join JGSSN for an afternoon of learning

Beginner's Workshop

Sunday May 23, 2004
Temple Beth Sholom

Advance registration of \$20.00 will include a syllabus.
Registration at the door will be \$25.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____
for _____ reservations

Make checks payable to JGSSN, Inc.

Mail to: JGSSN, Inc.

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Las Vegas, NV 89134

Member of the Year

At the December 2003 meeting the JGS Southern Nevada Board of Directors honored Jack Oliver as the 2003 Member of the Year. Jack was presented with a certificate by past recipient Mary Barkan.

Jack is a dedicated JGS member. He helps with the set up and tear down of equipment for the regular meetings held at the Sahara West library. He often attends the pre-meeting smooze lunch and comes armed with questions, discoveries, and jokes. He has presented programs on video taping family memories and stands ready to help members with video questions. As he researches his Oliva/Oliwa/Oliver ancestors his unfailing optimism makes him a great asset to the JGS.



Jack Oliver, 2003 Member of the Year

Thank You

Thanks to Marion Anderson for her donation to our society for research conducted for her in Salt Lake City.

Googling Genealogy Style - Learn How to “Google” as You’ve Never “Googled” before

If you know what you are doing, you can use Google to search within web sites, locate photos of your ancestors, bring back dead sites, and track down missing relatives. Learn from these twelve Google search tips for genealogists that are recommended on the following website: <http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/aa052902a.htm>

- 1) **Search with a Focus:** Use a plus sign before words that are absolutely critical to your search. Use a minus sign before words that you want to be excluded from the search. Use quotation marks around any two word or greater phrase to find results where the words appear together exactly as you have entered them. Use OR to retrieve search results that match any one of a number of words. To get really fancy you can combine these options together to achieve truly focused search results. For example, `crisp +surname -apple genealogy OR genealogy OR +will OR "family tree"` will return sites with the terms `smith AND surname`, combined with either `genealogy`, `geneology`, `will`, or the phrase `family tree`.
- 2) **Search Without Stops:** Stop words are small, common words that many search engines ignore, or don't stop for, when searching for documents that match your query. This is because these words are either too common to generate meaningful results (i.e. where, how, about, and, if, be, the...).
- 3) **Search Suggested Alternate Spellings:** The search engine's self-learning algorithm automatically detects misspellings and suggests corrections based on the most popular spelling of the word.
- 4) **Bring Sites Back From the Dead:** How many times have you found what looks to be a very promising Web site, only to get a "File Not Found" error when clicking on the link? Genealogical Web sites seem to come and go every day as webmasters change file names, switch ISPs, or just decide to remove the site because they can no longer afford to maintain it. This doesn't mean the information is always gone forever, however. Hit the Back button and look for a link to a "cached" copy at the end of the Google description and page URL. Clicking on the "cached" link should bring up a copy of the page as it appeared at the time that Google indexed that page, with your search terms highlighted in yellow. You can also return Google's cached copy of a page, by preceding the page's URL with 'cache:'. If you follow the URL with a space separated list of search words, they will be highlighted on the returned page. For example: `cache:genealogy.about.com surname` will return the cached version of this site's homepage with the term `surname` highlighted in yellow.
- 5) **Find Related Sites:** GoogleScout can help you find sites with similar content. Hit the Back button to return to your Google search results page and then click on the Similar Pages link. This will take you to a new page of search results with links to pages containing similar content. You can also access this feature directly by using the related command with the URL of the site that you like related: `genealogy.about.com`.
- 6) **Follow the Trail:** Once you've found a valuable site, chances are that some of the sites which link to it may also be beneficial to you. Use the link command along with a URL to find pages which contain links pointing to that URL.

continued on page 5

- 7) **Search Within a Site:** While many major sites have search boxes, this isn't always true of smaller, personal genealogy sites. Google comes to the rescue again, however, by allowing you to restrict search results to a specific site. Just enter your search term followed by the site command and the main URL for the site you wish to search in the Google search box on the main Google page. For example, military site:www.familytreemagazine.com pulls up 150+ pages with the search term 'military' on the Family Tree Magazine Web site. This trick is especially useful for quickly finding surname information on genealogy sites without indexes or search capabilities.
- 8) **Cover Your Bases:** When you really want to make sure you haven't missed a good genealogy site, enter allinurl:genealogy to return a list of sites with genealogy as part of their URL.
- 9) **Find People, Maps and More:** If you're searching for U.S. information, Google can do so much more than just search Web pages. The lookup information they provide through their search box has been expanded to include street maps, street addresses, and phone numbers. Enter a first and last name, city, and state to find a phone number. You can also do a reverse lookup by entering a phone number to find a street address. To use Google to find street maps, just enter a street address, city, and state (i.e. 8601 Adelphi Road College Park MD), in the Google search box. You can also find business listings by entering the name of a business and its location or zip code (i.e. myfamily.com utah).
- 10) **Pictures from the Past:** Google's image search feature makes it easy to locate photos on the Web. Just click on the Images tab on Google's home page and type in a keyword or two to view a results page full of image thumbnails. To find photos of specific people try putting their first and last names within quotes (i.e. "laura ingalls wilder").
- 11) **Glancing Through Google Groups:** If you've got a bit of time on your hands, then check out the Google Groups search tab available from the Google home page. Find info on your surname, or learn from the questions of others by searching through an archive of over 700 million Usenet newsgroup messages going back as far as 1981.
- 12) **Narrow Your Search by File Type:** Typically when you search the Web for information you expect to pull up traditional Web pages in the form of HTML files. Google offers results in a variety of different formats, however, including .PDF (Adobe Portable Document Format), .DOC (Microsoft Word), .PS (Adobe Postscript), and .XLS (Microsoft Excel). These files appear among your regular search results listings where you can either view them in their original format, or use the View as HTML link (good for when you don't have the application that is needed for that particular file type, or for when computer viruses are a concern). You can also use the file type command to narrow your search to find documents in particular formats (i.e. filetype:xls genealogy forms).

If you still aren't successful in your search after trying these tips, Google provides one more option - a new service known as Google Answers which allows you to ask a question and set the price you are willing to pay for an answer. A Google Answers Researcher will search for the answer and send you the information you're seeking, as well as useful links to Web pages on the topic. If you're satisfied with that answer, you pay the amount you specified. If not, then you may petition for a full refund.

This article is reprinted from Mishpochology, the Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida, Volume 9, Number 1, March 2004.

Research Tips

Is your research stuck in a rut? Everyone runs into brick walls, stalled momentum, dead ends, etc. when researching family history. Here are some suggestions that may help get your research back on track.

1. Always review your research at least once a year. Your ongoing research may give you new insights to information contained in records you have gathered in the past. Keep a list of records you would like that are missing—for example do you have all the available census records (Federal and State) for each of your ancestors?
2. Try to research the correct record. If you are looking for a place of birth determine which record might contain that information. For example, it is wonderful to find the passenger arrival record for your ancestor. However, if you are looking for an arrival record from 1891 don't expect it to tell you the place of birth. It may give you other information like the name of the ship, the departure port, others traveling on the ship, etc. which could be good clues for further research but it probably won't tell you the place of birth.
3. Don't give up on the internet. Set aside one day each month (maybe the day of the month on which you were born) to re-visit websites. New records become available all the time. Read the FAQs for each new database you search. This will save you time and help make your search focused and more productive. If you locate a valuable database share the information with others.
4. Be persistent with the U.S. government. If you believe that a file exists keep requesting the record. Follow through on any appeal process available. Keep a file of correspondence with the agency.
5. If you are writing to relatives requesting information, always conclude with a request that if they can't help you to please hand your letter on to someone who might. (Mary Barkan made contact with a relative in 2004 who reached her from a letter Mary sent in 1991! It had been handed around until it reached the right person.)
6. Start an orphan (Carole Montello has her file labeled "strays") file. Use this to organize and save information you collect about people who might be relatives. If you find a connection in your research your data will already be organized. You can use this file to save print outs of messages you receive from others researching names of interest to you. Review it occasionally to look for new leads.
7. Don't assume that because you didn't find a record that the record doesn't exist. Ask members of your JGS about the record or post a query on the JewishGen Discussion Group (jewishgen.org). You may be looking in the wrong place, wrong archive, wrong library. Search under all possible spellings/ misspellings of the surname. Don't automatically discount "close matches." Your ancestor may have been using a different surname from the one you usually research or may have used a middle instead of a first name on a record.
8. Read everything—on-line newsletters, print newsletters, the JewishGen Discussion Group postings, genealogy magazines, etc. All can offer hints to help further your research. If you have an interesting genealogy story to tell, outstanding success with a particular record group, or a suggestion on how to overcome brick walls in research consider submitting an article to any of the above.
9. Keep a "To Do" List. Include not only records you wish to search but people you want to contact. If you have sent letters to relatives, having a correspondence log will help keep track of when you sent the letter and allow you to estimate when a reply should arrive. These genealogy forms can be downloaded and printed from Ancestry.com for no charge.
10. If you have posted queries on message boards or listed your family information on JewishGen, etc. remember to update your email address if you change your ISP. It is a good idea to keep a list of where you have left or requested information. Many people forget to update their email addresses and may miss making valuable research contacts.

New Databases Online at Las Vegas Clark County Library

New member Shelly Weiner notified JGS that new databases are online for holders of a Las Vegas Clark County Library District library card. To access the databases you will need to take your library card to any district library and get a PIN number. With your library card and PIN you can access the databases from your home at www.lvccld.org From the home page click on "research" then "research databases." Databases of genealogical interest include:

Heritage Quest

Search for your family history in one of the largest resources available online. Includes census material back to 1790, 7267 family histories, 8737 local histories and 167 primary sources.

Digital Sanborn Maps

Search more than 660,000 large-scale maps of more than 12,000 American towns and cities. Because these maps are in electronic form, one may easily manipulate the maps, magnify and zoom in on specific locations, as well as layer maps from different years.

Newspaper Source

Access to articles from *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *USA Today* beginning in 1995.

Historical New York Times

Search for full-text and full-image *New York Times* articles from 1851-2001. The collection includes digital reproductions of every page from every issue - cover to cover - in downloadable PDF® files.

Las Vegas Review Journal

Search articles from 12-2-1990 to the present.

National Newspaper Index

Click on "Newsbank" to go to— America's Newspapers

America's Newspapers

The electronic editions of record for valuable local, regional, and national U.S. newspapers--all in one easy-to-search database. Each paper provides unique coverage of local and regional news, including companies, politics, sports, industries, cultural activities, and people in the community. Paid ads are excluded.

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The largest and most comprehensive newspaper collection of obituaries and death notices with an easy-to-use interface. Search by name, date range, or text such as residence, occupation, hobbies, family members, or other personal information.

Membership Application

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Telephone_____

EMail_____

_____ \$20.00 Family Membership

_____ \$15.00 Individual Membership

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Calendar 2004
JGSSN, Inc. Meeting Schedule
Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara 1pm

April 18th–Vital Records–Carole Montel Io
May 16th–Ask An Expert
June 20th –Poppy Productions presents “That’s Life”

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