



Vol. 7, No. 3 2004

Family Legacies

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

The FBI Plans To Visit Us

Join members of the JGS Southern Nevada for their regular meeting on September 19th at 1 pm at the Sahara West Library.

A representative from the Federal Bureau of Investigation will present a program on requesting FBI files under the Freedom of Information Act. This program was scheduled in response to questions, confusion, and suggestions from our members. There will be special information presented covering the FBI files on members of the Workmen's Circle in New York City.

Everyone is welcome to the smooze luncheon before the meeting. Bring your brown bag lunch to the meeting room at 12:15 and enjoy conversation with fellow Jewish genealogists.

Bloom Southwest Jewish Archives

Family researchers seeking records of ancestors and relatives who traveled to or settled in the American West and Southwest should visit the internet site of the Bloom Southwest Jewish Archives located at <http://dizzy.library.arizona.edu/images/swja/welcome.html>. The archive is housed in the Special Collections Department at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona.

Many Nevada residents traveled and settled in other Western states before arriving in Nevada. For example, the Jewish agricultural settlement in Wellington, Nevada (1896-1902) was composed of settlers who first lived in California. Most returned to California after the failure of the enterprise. Information in the Bloom Archive can be very helpful in understanding both migration and settlement.

The website welcome page provides links to Finding Aids, Pioneers, Synagogues, Crypto-Jews, and Oral Histories. From the welcome page you can navigate to a suggested readings list. The books, articles, and pamphlets listed are divided by state and include histories of towns, Jewish organizations, and biographies.

There are numerous links to other web sites. This resource is divided into sections:

Tucson and Arizona Sites—including Shema Arizona: The Arizona Jewish Historical Society Oral History Project,

Related Web Sites in the U.S. West—which includes a link to the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Denver,

Jewish Genealogy Websites—including a link to JewishGen,

and National and International Sites on Judaism and Jewish resources—which includes a link to the Dartmouth Jewish Sound Archives.

The archive is open to the public. Hours of operation are listed on the website. There is a link to a map of the University of Arizona campus showing the parking options available to visitors. The archive will answer specific questions via email if requests take no more than one half hour to process.

**Win Your Early Registration to the
25th IAGJS Conference on Jewish Genealogy
July 10-15, 2005
Las Vegas, Nevada**

**The drawing is limited to 300 tickets at \$5.00 per ticket
The winning ticket will be drawn in January 2005
The winner will be notified by 1 February 2005
If the winner has already registered for the conference a refund of the fee will be
issued to the winner.**

For further information contact:
Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada
Marilyn Barkan at marilynbarcan@cox.net

**Fall Seminar
Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society
2 October 2004
Gold Coast Hotel Conference Center (Flamingo at Valley View)
8:30 am—3:00 pm
Registration and information at www.rootsweb.com/~nvccngs**

**John Colletta
Author of *They Came in Ships:
A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record***

Four Lecture Topics
**County Courthouse, An Enormous Trunk in the Attic for Family Historians
Passenger Arrival Records, Advanced Problem Solving
Lesser Used Federal Records, A Sampling for Fresh Research Ideas
European Research, Preparing for Successful Research of Records**

A Visit to the Virginia City Cemetery

By Daniel Miller

Upon arriving in Virginia City this past summer, my brother and I hopped on a local tram to listen to a very brief 20 minute narration relating to the history of this very famous old mining town. In its glory days during the second half of the nineteenth century, Virginia City boasted a population in excess of 30,000 people.

The town is now quite small, no more than a half mile from end to end with a population of only 800, and right on the northeast periphery of the town sits a number of cemetery plots grouped together over a number of acres. The tour guide on the tram piqued our curiosity when he remarked that there is a Jewish cemetery among the tombstones "located way back in the canyon." Unfortunately, he could provide directions to this site only with a wave of his hand to indicate a good distance away.

At the conclusion of the tram ride my brother and I walked to the local bookstore, named after Mark Twain, where I found a number of short pamphlets on the local cemeteries. Only one, titled , The History of Virginia City Cemeteries (2001) by Barbara Hague, makes any mention of the Jewish resting grounds.

This author states that there were four Jewish burials in Virginia City by August 1863 and that the Hebrew Benevolent Society had 85 members by 1864. According to the author only one tombstone is now standing, and she remarks that much vandalism has occurred at the Jewish burial grounds. Unfortunately, the pamphlet fails to pinpoint the Jewish burial grounds on the cemetery map printed in this short treatise.

As our curiosity was raised by these references to the Jewish cemetery grounds in both the pamphlet and on the tram tour, my brother and I set out to locate the Jewish burial site. Much to our dismay, our efforts were not successful. We could not find any reference to this site on a hand drawn map provided in a letter box at the cemetery gates. Moreover, many of the burial plots at this cemetery were in very poor condition. After walking around the graves for close to one hour in search of a Jewish tombstone, we gave up in frustration and exhaustion.

Needless to say, we were not only disappointed by our inability to find the Jewish section , but were also disturbed to see the vandalism of the non-Jewish graves at such a historic site . We described our dismay at this desecration to a local entrepreneur who remarked that it is a major ongoing problem in Virginia City. Truly a blot to witness this desecration.

I anticipate returning to Virginia City next summer and meanwhile will do research to pinpoint the exact location of the Jewish cemetery. Hopefully, the sole remaining Jewish tombstone will escape desecration in the interval.

Additional Information on the Jewish Cemetery at Virginia City, Nevada

Dramatic photographs copyright 2002, by Neil Mishalov neil@mishalov.com on 5 July 2002. Can be found at:
<http://www.mishalov.net/virginiacity602/virginiacity602.html>

From JewishGen <http://www2.jewishgen.org/cemetery/northamerica/nevada.html>

Temple Sinai Jewish Cemetery: (10831 contour map with the city and cemetery, as well several scenes of the cemetery. The 1862 cemetery is located more than a half-mile north of the Protestant cemetery. The road is washed out, making it necessary to walk in. The fence is gone; and cattle graze through. The inscriptions were copied and checked in November 1958 and compiled in Feb. 1959 by Verna Stumpf Paterson (Mrs. Chester A.), a member of the DAR who gave permission to use this information received 11/05/1999. In February 2000, Dr. Malkin wrote that "Apparently, there was a deed in 1864 or 1865. There are only two remaining stones not yet stolen from the cemetery. Pictures from Dr. Leslie Malkin, e-mail: lesmalk@ix.netcom.com. Only two grave markers still stand; and a few have fallen over or broken. It was always a small cemetery but apparently many stones have been taken. Difficult to find, the site is not connected with the large cemetery conglomerate in Virginia City and is not really visible from any roads. Source: Anita Howard. See: Postal & Koppman. *Jewish Tourist's Guide to U.S.* Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publ. Soc., 1954, p.297-298". See: Temple Sinai and Virginia City, Nevada Correspondence of Alfred Barnston concerning efforts of the Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries. San Francisco, CA, Aug. 19, 1963 and Sacramento, CA, Nov. 21, 1963. Typescript. 2 pages. Typescript copies in Correspondence file at AJA. American Jewish Archives, 3101 Clifton Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-2488. 513-221-1875 (tel); 513-221-7812 (fax). E-mail: AJA@cn.hc.edu.

World War II Military Records; A Family Historian's Guide

By Mary Barkan

World War II Military Records; A Family Historian's Guide, Debra Johnson Knox, 2003, 360 pages MIE Publishing, PO Box 17118, Spartanburg, SC 29301, 800-937-2133, www.militaryusa.com, \$23.95 U.S.

This is an especially interesting book for those researching WWII records. My father, Eugene Flynn had served in the Pennsylvania National Guard and at the onset of WWII enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He retired twenty years later proud of his service to his country. I have often thought of how to collect the documents that must have been created by his military career. Knox's book details what military records are available for WWII and how to access them.

First on a researcher's list are individual service records. Knox includes chapters on Individual Military Records, WWII Draft Records, WWII Casualty Records, WWII Medals, and Veteran's Death Records. In the very first chapter I discovered something new to me. I was surprised to learn that a standard request on form 180 probably did not result in a copy of all the paper contained in an individual's file. Since I had requested my father's records on form 180, I will now follow up with a private researcher as recommended in this book. Knox offers two research facilities and suggestions on how to contact others. I was also surprised to learn that there is a difference between a request for military records on form 180 and a request for military records under the Freedom on Information Act. For researchers just starting their research into WWII records this information would be invaluable.

Knowing that the destructive 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center has discouraged researchers to request records, Knox explains what alternative records are available and how to request them. Researchers often confront the problem that in order to request a record you need to know the very information you are seeking. To this end Knox explains how to find military serial numbers. Serial numbers were used in WWII and later replaced with the Social Security Number of the individual. A fascinating appendix explains what the numbers in a military serial number represent.

Knox also covers the existence of WWII military records on the state level. She lists resources state by state in a very comprehensive appendix. Another appendix lists National Cemeteries state by state. There is also an explanation of the American Battle Monuments Commission, the entity charged with the care of United States Military Cemeteries located outside the United States.

Once military records have been found, there remains the general information so important to understand what the individual records factually state. Here Knox offers several ideas for adding an additional level of understanding through chapters covering Locating Veterans, Preserving the Past, Military Museums, and Military Reunion Associations. I confess that I had never before considered these resources. Knox outlines the procedure for attempting to locate others who served with your relative. Other information covers how to locate records for the unit in which your relative served. In the section detailing Military Reunion Associations, Knox includes not only reunions for specific units or specific ships broken down by service (Army, Marines, Coast Guard, etc.) but those reunions for specific events such as the Berlin Airlift Vets. A chapter is devoted to Military Institutional Records. Should I discover the names of the ships on which my father served I would be able to search histories of the ships, units, and/or engagements.

Other sections of the book cover medals of WWII, how to obtain replacement medals, forms and worksheets, and sample letters to request information.

I found much of the information in this book interesting, helpful and practical. I recommend it to anyone researching the WWII military history of their ancestors.

This book is available in the JGSSN library to members. Contact Charlotte Showel at lvsamchar@yahoo.com for information about borrowing the book.

What is a Timeline?

Genealogists sometimes see a reference to the term “timeline” in articles on researching family history. A timeline is a tool used to check research. Ancestry.com has several articles in their online library that explain how to construct a timeline and also presents examples of timelines created by researchers.

Constructing a timeline is easy. Genealogists use word processing programs, spreadsheets or 3 x 5 cards to outline research on one person or one family. List family events in chronological order. For each event list the source of your information. . When you have your timeline completed you should be able to evaluate your research. What might the timeline tell you? Looking at the dates in a timeline can illustrate research problems and suggest research plans.

Your timeline can help you spot errors. One of the most common errors to spot concerns birth dates. If a mother is in her 60s it is doubtful that she gave birth to a child. You may actually be looking at a record where the mother should actually be listed as a second wife/stepmother instead of the birth mother of the child. Military service records are another area where your timeline may present a puzzle. If you have an ancestor who served in the military, your timeline may show that to do so he/she would have had to enlist with a false birth date. Many underage children enlisted during war time. If you spot this possibility then when requesting military service records you will need to list a range of years instead of a specific birth date to obtain an individual’s service records. When information given by family members is compared to your timeline you may have questions. If you have an ancestor who is supposed to have been named after a grandfather but according to your timeline the grandfather was still living at the birth of the ancestor, then you have a puzzle to unravel.

Your timeline may have several dates listed for one event. For example you may have a birth date listed for an ancestor born before 1920 derived from an estimate from several census records, a date deduced from the death date from a vital records index, and/or information from family members. Listing all of your sources may help you determine the most probably date and/or may point out that you need more “official” records (death certificate, cemetery record, will, etc.) to help determine the actual date.

Your timeline may also give you hints on research avenues to pursue. If you have carefully recorded the name of your ancestor as it appears on your source information, you may soon have a list of the time periods when ancestors used certain names. For example, an ancestor may have been born with the name Pesach Brandt. After settling in New Orleans, Louisiana, he may have used the name Peter Brand for several years until he finally used the name Peter Brandt continuously until his death. Knowing the year span when each “name” was used is valuable information when searching records.

Your ancestors may have arrived in the United States, got off the boat and never moved. If that is not the case then a timeline can help you sort out who was where at what time. Knowing that the family was located in New York City from 1900 to 1931 and then was in New Jersey from 1931 to 1952 pinpoints locations for you to search.

Your timeline can help you spot gaps in your research. Perhaps you never noticed before that you don’t have the 1910 census records for a family. Maybe you now notice that school records would be important to your family history. Perhaps you forgot to list a death record for an individual who died in childhood on your To Do list.

Your timeline can help you determine what additional information you may want for your family history. If your family lived in Trenton, New Jersey during the Great Depression you may want to search Trenton newspapers for articles that describe what it was like to live there during the Depression years. If your ancestors were members of a synagogue and you have listed the years of membership on your timeline you may want to include some history about the synagogue.

Timelines can be as elaborate or simple as you choose to make them. They are another tool to help you begin or further your research. When you have studied your timeline hand it to a friend or family member and see what research suggestions they have for you.

National Yiddish Book Center Yizkor Books

Yizkor books are a valuable resource for genealogists. Not only do they contain records of people and communities but they also present an image of European Jewry destroyed in WWII.

While the best source for Yizkor books in translation remains the Yizkor Book Translation Project at JewishGen.org (www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations), the National Yiddish Book Center is another source. The Center sells Yizkor books. These books are digital reproductions of the actual Yizkor book. Most are written in Yiddish or Hebrew. A list of available books can be found at the Center's website at www.bikher.org.

The home page offers two search options. The first is Countries and Regions A-Z. The second is Cities and Towns, A-Z. The home page also contains information on the Center, costs for the books, and how to order.

An interesting link on the Center's home page navigates to the New York Public Library. Here you will find Yizkor books that can be read on line. Remember, the books are written in Yiddish or Hebrew. Currently the Yizkor books listed below are available to be read on line.

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Augustow | Kikol |
| Bisk | Lipno |
| Bolechow | Losice |
| Bolekhiv | Lubicz |
| Borshchiv | Niasvizh |
| Borszczow | Nieswiesz |
| Breziv | Skepe |
| Brzozow | Tshekhanov |
| Busk | Yagistov |
| Ciechanow | |

If you are interested in books written in Yiddish, the National Yiddish Book Center has a catalogue of more than 11,000 Yiddish reprints. The center can be contacted by email at orders@bikher.org

Are We Having Fun Yet?

By Marilyn Barkan and Marilyn Brenner

Research can be very rewarding and/or frustrating. Here's a fun page – take a break!

Word Scramble (genealogy related, of course)
Unscramble the letters to make a word - example:
YOLGA NEGE (GENEALOGY)

1. **ESNDTCANNED**
2. **SSPIH**
3. **USNCSE**
4. **DOCRESR**
5. **LAURTANINOZTAI**

Trivia

- The first Jewish Genealogical Society in the US was founded in New York City in October 1977.
- The first Genealogical Conference was held in New York City in 1981.

Cryptoquip: One letter stands for another. If you think “P” stands for “V”, it will stand for “V” throughout the puzzle. Single letter and short words give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error. Here's a clue to get you started: W = S

**AYB HBNWQF DYQ WKSE: “WBBR KFE LB
WYKOO MSFE” DKW FQA K TBFBKOQTSWA!**

Solutions below

Solutions—
Word Scramble
1. descendant
2. ships
3. census
4. records
5. naturalization

Cryptoquip
The person who said: “Seek and ye shall find” was
not a genealogist!

2004 IAJGS Awards

The following awards were presented in Jerusalem this year at the 2004 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

Outstanding Contribution: to Alexander Beider in recognition of his major contributions to the specialized science of the origins and forms of proper names and surnames of persons as applied to the field of genealogy. His books give information, not only on surnames and given names, but also frequently provide clues as to the location of the family's ancestral home. His four published works have become indispensable to genealogists worldwide.

Outstanding Publication: To JGS, Inc. (NYC) in recognition of its "Genealogical Resources New York" (2nd Edition), the most comprehensive guide available about genealogical resources in New York City and Albany. This meticulously researched and edited book provides a detailed description of the holdings of each repository, the geographic scope and the time span of its collection and its finding aids. The book has quickly become an essential tool for both Jewish and non-Jewish researchers. Its structure and layout established the standard and has been emulated by numerous subsequent genealogical resource guides.

Outstanding Project: to David Fox in recognition of the numerous projects undertaken within the Belarus SIG that have generated seventeen databases containing over 250,000 individual entries. Under David's leadership and guidance, his cadre of volunteers has worked successfully with archives, translators and organizations to create a significant repository of Belarus records, documents and other information. The "All Belarus Database" is an outstanding, growing and readable accessible resource used by thousands of individuals researching their Jewish roots.

Lifetime Achievement: To Warren Blatt in recognition of his ongoing devotion to building the field of Jewish genealogy. Along with his development of software supporting Jewishgen's vast network of Internet-accessible databases, he has contributed to the dynamic growth of Jewish genealogy. He has organized conferences and educational programs, produced journals, written books and articles, lectured extensively and has generously provided individual guidance to novices and experienced researchers alike. His efforts have encouraged and motivated genealogists worldwide

Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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_____ \$15.00 Individual Membership

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CALENDAR 2004
JGSSN, INC. MEETING SCHEDULE
SAHARA WEST LIBRARY 9600 W. SAHARA 1PM

OCTOBER 17TH—ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE RECORDS
NOVEMBER 21ST—CENSUS RECORDS
DECEMBER 19TH— ME AND MY GENEALOGY

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