



# Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future

Jewish Genealogy Society  
of Southern Nevada - West

Vo1 3, No.2 June 2000

---

## Database 2000 Indexes Temple Bulletins

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West has joined with the Special Collections Department of the University of Nevada Las Vegas to produce a database of surnames from temple bulletins published by congregations in Las Vegas for the year 2000.

The database will contain:

Surname

Given Name

Name of temple bulletin

Month in which the name appeared

Congregations in the data base include:

Adat Aril El—Traditional Reform

Ahavat Torah—Traditional Reform

Chabad of Southern Nevada—Traditional

Chabad Summerlin—Traditional

Midbar Kodesh Temple—Conservative

Ner Tamid—Reform

Bet Knesset Bamidbar—Traditional Reform

Temple Beth Am—Reform

Temple Beth Sholom—Conservative

To date, bulletins from the first quarter have been indexed. Over four thousand five hundred names are included in the first quarter. Upon completion a copy of the database on CDROM will be sent to each participating congregation and the library of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West. The Special Collections Department at the University of Nevada—Las Vegas will receive a copy of the CD and the paper copies of the bulletins. A paper copy of the database will be housed in the Special Collections Department. Special Collections will also receive a database for each individual bulletin.

Completion date is projected to be February 2001. After that date researchers may access the database at the University library or by contacting the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West.

Volunteers on the database project include: Nadine Kaufman, Ella Perla, Mildred and Henry Yellowitz, Jo-Ann and Howard Geller, Mary and Barry Barkan, Jack Oliver and Earl Malkin.



## **Born in New York City But Not A U.S. Citizen!**

By Mary Barkan

It's interesting how locating one record can lead to more and more research. I encountered this when researching the family of Lena Lehman. Lena had left an interesting paper trail.

Lena Lehman was born in New York City on 25 April 1897. She was the daughter of Max Lehman and Freda Shuster. Both of her parents were born in Milnitz, Austria. Lena was very proud of being born in the United States—she was an “American” baby. Most likely her three older siblings, Mildred Lehman, Albert Lehman and Hyman Lehman were born in Europe. Her older sister Rebecca Lehman was the family's first “American” baby when she was born in New York City in May of 1895. Several years after Lena's birth her brother Isadore Lehman born about 1910 in New York City was the family's last “American” baby.

The 1900 Federal Census for New York, Borough of Manhattan lists Max Wolf Lehman as an alien employed in the fur trade. The 1920 Federal Census for New York, Bronx lists him as an alien employed as a finisher of furs. No record has been found to indicate that Max Wolf ever became a citizen of the United States.

Lena grew up in New York City and married George Emanuel Winter on 18 May 1918 in the city of her birth. George worked in the garment industry in New York City. He had been born on 4 June 1895 in Krifich, Austria/Poland. In 1909 he emigrated from Austria via Liverpool, England and arrived aboard the Carmania in the United States at the Port of New York. On 9 December 1930 he filed a Declaration of Intention to become a citizen in the U.S. District Court of New York. His Petition for Citizenship was granted in the U.S. District Court, Southern District, New York, New York on 21 February 1933.

Lena and George Winter had a family of two daughters. Both children were born in New York City. In 1955 George and Lena moved to Tucson, Arizona. They enjoyed the change of climate and made Tucson their final home.

In 1963 the Winters planned to take a trip to Israel. They were looking forward to visiting the country and eagerly filled out their application for U.S. passports. At that time a husband and wife were issued a joint passport. George submitted his citizenship papers from New York

City. The application hit a snag.

Unknown to Lena, she was not a citizen of the United States. This came as a shock. She had been born in the United States and had always considered herself an American. Before she could receive a U.S. passport she would have to become a citizen! How had this happened?

When Lena married George Winter in 1918 there was a law which said that if an American born woman married an alien she automatically lost her U.S. citizenship. Though the law was later changed, many people did not realize that citizenship was not automatically restored.

In 1907 Statutes at Large, 34, sec. 3 provided that a woman lost her United States citizenship if she married an alien. Alterations to the statute were made in 1922 and 1936. In 1940 Congress provided relief for women who had lost citizenship through marriage to an alien who had not terminated their marriage. Citizenship was restored if the woman appeared and swore an oath of allegiance before a naturalization court or a legation or embassy secretary. Through the years citizenship laws and modifications to the laws were confusing to many people. Some women did not realize that they had lost their U.S. citizenship. Some women assumed that their citizenship was automatically restored in 1940.

Lena had lost her citizenship in 1918 when she married and didn't recover it until 1963. Alerted to her status, she appeared in Court in Tucson, Arizona in 1963 and swore an Oath of Repatriation. She was granted a U.S. passport and had a wonderful trip to Israel.

Lena's citizenship story was discovered by researchers when the Winter's passport application was re-searched. Originally the application was requested to double check the place of birth for George Winter. Along with that information came a record of Lena's citizenship problems.

Lena and George Winter lived in Tucson, Arizona until their deaths—George in 1969 and Lena in 1975. While George had left the standard paper trail for U.S. citizenship, Lena provided an interesting study in immigration and citizenship law. None of Lena's children had any idea that their mother had faced citizenship difficulties. Her citizenship story provided fascinating information for the Lehman-Winter family history.



## **President's Message**

This issue of Family Legacies begins our third year of publication and it amazes me that stories or articles in our newsletter are recognized worldwide. Of course I'm very pleased with the recognition as is our membership.

Our newsletter strives to bring the family stories so many of us grew up with to print - in a way, to honor our ancestors. Each member is encouraged to write something for Family Legacies. So often I hear "I'm not a writer". To that I say "neither am I". Just write your story and our editors will suggest any corrections if needed. Share your experiences with the world, you never know who might read your article, perhaps, even an unknown relative somewhere in the world.

Las Vegas is a desert, but as we are beginning to find out, it is not a desert when it comes to research. As Mary Barkan's articles have pointed out, even in fun filled Las Vegas there might be some new research facility to check for the long lost relative.

Las Vegas is also a favorite vacation destination and retirement community. I would like to encourage researchers who visit our city to contact us, meet with us, and talk genealogy with us. Our meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month and we are usually in a position to change a meeting program to accommodate a visitor who would like to speak to our group. Only our November 2000 program cannot be changed since we will have Mr. Bill Doty, Archivist, Laguna Nigel Branch, National Archives as our guest speaker.

Keep us in mind when you visit Las Vegas, and keep us in mind when you want to share a family tradition or legacy.

*Carole Montello, President*

Join Members of  
Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West  
At the

**20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy**  
**9—14 July 2000**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**

For additional information:

Contact Carole Montello at [carmont7@juno.com](mailto:carmont7@juno.com)

Write IAJGS Conference, P.O. Box 99, Bergenfield, NJ 07621

On the Web <http://iajgs.org/slcy2k>



## From our Photo Album

### My Grandparents

By Jack Oliver

I was fortunate in one regard, that I was blessed with four grandparents until I was seven years old when I lost my paternal grandfather. On the other hand, factors prevented me from really knowing any of them.



Rachel Oliver

My paternal grandparents, Rachel and Harry Oliver, (Oliva), were born in Poland. Harry arrived in New York in the early 1900's and settled on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. As so many immigrants, his immediate goal was to earn enough money as a tailor to pay the passage for Rachel and children. It is rumored that he returned twice since there were additional children to contend with before he had enough money for their fare. An unfortunate incident occurred about the time that he had saved almost enough money. He was mugged and had to start saving all over again.

On June 26, 1912, Rachel arrived with three children ranging in age from 13 to 2 ½. I suspect this was not an easy passage for her. She was a small

woman, only 4 foot 2.

There was a fourth child born May 1913. It would appear Harry was happy to see Rachel once again.

Rachel and Harry remained on the Lower East Side for the rest of their lives. Rachel never learned to speak one word of English and I was foolish enough to never take the time to learn Yiddish. I was never able to communicate with her except for the interpretation assistance of my many cousins who lived in the same tenement.

When speaking to my father shortly before his passing, I mentioned that his father, Harry, scared me when I visited him. I remembered how he always sat by the window, usually had a two-day-old stubble and never spoke to me. I assumed he didn't speak English either and probably didn't like me. My dad was surprised by this impression I had and told me that he was a very friendly person. He went on to explain that Harry had suffered a stroke before I knew him and couldn't speak. He was mostly paralyzed so even shaving was a problem and certainly, not a priority.

Although their marriage was an arranged one, I was told there was a lot of love between them. Harry died at the age of 70. Rachel was 77 when she passed in 1951.



Harry Oliver

Editor's Note—The photo above of Harry Oliver was taken by accident. Jack Oliver at age seven picked up a camera and pretended to snap a picture of his grandfather. When he realized that there was film in the camera, Jack was too frightened to tell anyone. The blurred photo of Harry Oliver sitting by a window is the enduring image Jack Oliver has of him. It is also the only known photograph of Harry Oliver.



## **Family Reunion Tips**

Are you hosting a family reunion this summer? Are you planning a family reunion for next summer? Your big event can be a great source of information for your family history.

Most family reunions take place during a weekend. Send a packet to everyone who will attend containing scheduling information, a map, a local contact person, information about the host hotel (with any special rates you have negotiated), costs of each reunion activity, time, location, and cost of reunion photograph. Remind people that they do not need to purchase the reunion photo but that you would like everyone to be in the picture. Most family reunions charge a per person fee. This fee covers reunion expenses. Plan carefully so the reunion fee will cover all costs. You can detail reunion costs in your cover letter.

Remember to include information about religious services in the area, options for special foods, and information about dealing with hotel purchases during Shabbat.

Try these tips for your reunion—

- Appoint or elect a family historian. Make sure that everyone knows their name and address. Encourage families to contribute information to your historian. A family historian consolidates family information and agrees to share it with all family members.
- Rent a photocopier or a computer with scanner. You'll want to copy the family photos relatives hand around and all the family papers they bring to share.
- Provide a laptop computer for the use of the family historian. Family information can be entered during the reunion.
- Arrange for at least one meeting to take place in a room with tables for displays. Encourage people to bring family photos, family trees, newspaper clippings, copies of original family papers (citizenship, passenger arrivals, etc), photos of family heirlooms, etc. Allow enough time and space for browsing.
- Arrange to have a reunion photograph taken. This group photo is priceless family history. You can hire a local professional or canvass your family for someone with the expertise. Make provisions for everyone to order a copy. After the photo, don't let anyone move! Send a pad through the group and let each person print their name in order in each row. This will insure that you know the name of everyone pictured. Arrange to send a typed copy of this to each person who purchases a photo.
- If you schedule an afternoon meeting to share family news, arrange to have each participant stand and tell a little about themselves and how they are connected to the family. Video tape this!
- Award prizes. The gifts don't need to be expensive. Give awards to the oldest family member present, the youngest present, the one who traveled the greatest distance, most years married, newest citizen, etc. Take photos of the award winners.
- Use name tags that hang from neck strings—no one likes tags with pins that can damage clothing. Make the font clear and big.
- Praise everyone who helped with the reunion—thank everyone, often.
- Announce tentative plans for the next reunion. If possible announce the next reunion chairperson. Arrange to hand over all reunion planning materials to the new chairperson—including mailing lists.
- Plan to send a reunion follow up letter, perhaps with the reunion group photograph. Include tentative plans for the next reunion, the next reunion chairperson with address, phone number and email address, and the name, address, phone number and email address of the family historian. Thank everyone again.

For more information on planning a great family reunion contact your local library for books. Use your computer to access <[family-reunion.com](http://family-reunion.com)> This site has great ideas and planning tips.

A family reunion can be a big project. Have fun planning your reunion and remember that you are planning for an event which will become family history!



## **Background Notes**

### **Organizations**

#### **Hadassah**

Did your ancestors belong to one of the many Jewish organizations popular in the past and present? Background information can enrich your family history project. Would you like to learn more about the organization?

The women's organization Hadassah has a website where you can read about the organization and its history. The following mission statement and other information can be found at [www.hadassah.org](http://www.hadassah.org)

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer women's organization, whose members are motivated and inspired to strengthen their partnership with Israel, ensure Jewish continuity, and realize their potential as a dynamic force in American society.

Founded in 1912, Hadassah retains the passion and timeless values of its founder, Henrietta Szold, Jewish scholar and activist, who was dedicated to Judaism, Zionism, and the American ideal.

Committed to the centrality of Israel based on the renaissance of the Jewish people in its historic homeland, Hadassah promotes the unity of the Jewish people. In Israel, Hadassah initiates and supports pace-setting health care, education and youth institutions, and land development to meet the country's changing needs.

In the United States, Hadassah enhances the quality of American and Jewish life through its education and Zionist youth programs, promotes health awareness, and provides personal enrichment and growth for its members.

*Hadassah, 300,000 members strong, continues to change people's lives in Israel, the United States, and across the globe.*

## **Family Tree Maker**

### **Altering the Facts Page**

The Family Tree Maker genealogy program is one of the most popular programs on sale today. It is very good for beginning genealogists. However, some parts of it should be modified for Jewish genealogy.

One part of the program which can be altered for Jewish genealogy is the Fact Page. To do this:

Open the program

From any family page click on the More button next to any person

From the next screen click on Facts

In the box above the drop down menu listing the types of facts available type in your fact

A screen will appear telling you that this is a new fact and asking you if you want to add the fact to the list. Indicate yes.

This process allows you to add facts you may need to record Jewish events

Some facts you might consider adding include:

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Naming

Named For

Hebrew Name

After you add your new facts they will appear as options on each fact page for each of the individuals in your program.

Remember to fill in the date and place for facts as you enter them. The location box should include specific information. For example, for a Bat Mitzvah you would add the date, then the location. The location should include the name of the synagogue, the city, the county, and the state. If the Bat Mitzvah took place outside of the United States, the country should also be included.



## Background Books

By Myrna Adler

Are you looking for a picture of what it was like to be a Jew in the "old west"? Here are some books of interest:

*Reformer's Apprentice* by Harriet Rochlin describes life in San Francisco around the turn of the last century.

*The Jew Store* by Stella Suberman is a delightful book about a Jewish merchant in the South.

*Forgotten Pioneer* by Harry Golden is a collection of stories about Jewish peddlers.

*Pioneer Jews, A New Life in the Far West* by Harriet and Fred Rochlin describes the lives of Jews in the far West. Most of the people described are famous or infamous; however, you can still get a feeling for what the average Jew must have gone through.

**Also from Myrna Adler**

### Midwest Jewish Women

You can access an incredible web site showing Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest a hundred years ago at:

[www.jewishwomenexhibit.com/journey.asp](http://www.jewishwomenexhibit.com/journey.asp).

### We Remember

Charter Member Sam Harry Pachter who died in Las Vegas, Monday, 7 Feb 2000

Samuel Gruzin, husband of member Sylvia Gruzin and father of member Linda Gruzin who died in Las Vegas, Saturday, 5 Feb 2000

## 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

JGSSN-West membership runs from  
January to December

JGSSN-West Information:

Carole Montello at: [carmont7@juno.com](mailto: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 2000**  
**JGSSN-West Meeting Schedule**  
Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara 1pm

**July 16th—Every Picture Tells A Story**  
**August 20th—Planning a Family Reunion**  
**Sept 17th—Immigration and Citizenship Records**

---

**Officers and Board of Trustees**

President - Carol e Montel I o  
Vice-President - E I I a Per I 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