



Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future

Jewish Genealogy Society
of Southern Nevada - West

Vol. 5, No. 1 Winter 2002

Heritage Quest Releases 1910 Census Index for New York

November 2001 saw the release by Heritage Quest of the long awaited 1910 Census Index CDs for New York City (all five boroughs) and New York State (excluding New York City.)

The CD for New York City lists more than 2,725,000 individuals. Searches can be made by name, age, sex, race, birthplace, locality and country. The CD for New York State lists more than 1.55 million individuals. Searches can be printed. The film number (National Archives), and page number are included. With this information the census page can be located on microfilm. The Family History Library in Las Vegas, located at 9th and Clark, houses the entire 1910 census on microfilm.

Though immigrant ancestors came from everywhere and settled everywhere in the United States, most Jewish genealogists spend at least some time researching New York City records. These CDs are especially helpful because the United States Federal Census for 1910 is not soundexed for New York City or State.

Both CDs are available for purchase from the JewishGen Mall at www.jewishgen.org or from Avotaynu at www.avotaynu.com

The CDs offer additional benefit to subscribers of Ancestry.com. For several months Ancestry.com has been adding images of the census pages to their site. The images can be accessed by paying a subscription fee. Ancestry has the complete 1910 census on line for New York City and New York

State. However, Ancestry does not have an index to the census. Many researchers spent hours slowly searching census images in hopes of locating family.

Fortunately for Ancestry subscribers there is now a shortcut to locating the exact census page needed. Edward Rosenbaum has created shareware (to solve the problem. You can try the software and if you use it, send him a small fee, in this case, \$10.00. If you are an Ancestry.com subscriber with access to the online census images, Rosenbaum's shareware is a wonderful timesaver.

Using the shareware is easy. Rosenbaum's shareware, [Shortcut to the Ancestry.com 1910 United States Federal Census Images](#), can be found at <http://erosenbaum.netfirms.com/1910census.shtml> Download the program to your computer. Open your web browser. Click to open the Shortcut program. Here you enter the information you found in the 1910 census CDs. In easy fields you enter the T624 number, the part number, the page number and the sub page letter. Click on the images button and you are transported to the Ancestry.com census image. You can then print out the census page containing your family.

Both of the 1910 New York Census CDs and the Shortcut shareware have made it easier than ever to accomplish research in New York.



Project Update

Jewish Migration to Las Vegas

By Mary Barkan

2001 saw the completion of work on the Hadassah, Las Vegas Chapter, archives. Records from 1964 through 1971 were given to the Jewish Genealogy Society Southern Nevada West for organization prior to their donation to the University of Nevada Las Vegas Special Collections Department.

The archives contained calendars, loose papers, banners, loose photographs, award plaques and scrapbooks. To make the collection useful to future genealogists 95% of the items were indexed. Two databases were created. The first covered the calendars for the year 1974-1975 and the years 1993-2001. The 1993-2001 index contains 3,891 entries. Those entries include ads, tributes, birthday and anniversary dates, and other surname entries.

From the first Hadassah, Las Vegas Chapter,
Scrapbook, 1964, page 1
Original Chapter Planning Luncheon



Ella Wohl, So. Pacific Coast Region Pres,
Muriel Stevens, Ruth Rabin, Madelyne Posin,
Reggie Sickle, Seated—Ethel Losabnick, Past Pres.,
So., Pacific Coast Region, and Fran Cohen

The Hadassah scrapbooks required the most volunteer hours. Each scrapbook (1964-1971 excluding 1966) was indexed individually and then the indexes were compiled into one overall database containing 6,880 entries.

Each item on each scrapbook page was scanned. Then names were extracted from each item. The compiled index includes fields covering: surname, given name, record type (newsletter article, photograph, newspaper article, letter, etc.), page (scrapbook page), scrapbook (i.e. Hadassah Scrapbook 1968), and comments.

The comments field lists specifics about the item. If the item appeared in the local chapter bulletin the comments field will note the volume and date i.e. Hadassah Herald, Vol. III, No. IV, December 1966. If the item is a photo the comments field will note the newspaper and publication date i.e. Las Vegas Review Journal, March 23, 1970.

All names in each scrapbook are indexed. Thus the database includes not only the members of the local chapter but members of the regional group, local dignitaries, entertainers, businessmen, husbands, and children of members and others. Obviously, many names appear many times. Names of the most active members and officers of the chapter appear most often.

There are 767 scanned photos from the scrapbook to which names have been attached. Many more photos are scanned but those pictures are not listed by name.

Photos and articles are in varying condition. Color photos are fading and newspaper articles are deteriorating.

All items and copies of the database are now housed at the University of Las Vegas Special Collections. A copy of all scanned items and databases is held by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West. The contact person for this project is Mary Barkan who can be reached at marybarkan@mindspring.com



Search JewishGen

The JewishGen website offers several ways to discover information about your family. There is no better place to search for information on the internet than JewishGen. After you have gathered basic information from your family members, set aside time to visit JewishGen.org

Searches

Search This Website

Log on to the JewishGen website at www.jewishgen.org

Scroll down and on the right side of the page click on "Search This Website"

The search page appears

From here you can type in surnames, topics, locations, etc.

JewishGen Databases

Log on to the site at www.jewishgen.org

Scroll down to Research

Find the line JewishGen Databases

Click on Databases

From here you have access to many databases. To access a databases click on the name i.e. The JewishGen ShtetleSeeker.

Though there are dozens of databases to choose from make sure you search:

The JewishGen Family Finder—search for surnames, towns, and other searching the same topics.

The Family Tree of the Jewish People—contains family information submitted by over 1,5,000 Jewish genealogists worldwide

The JewishGen Discussion Group Archives—search over 1000,000 postings to the discussion group.

Soon you will be branching out to the other databases offered by JewishGen!

Henry Yellowitz Member of the Year 2001

At the December meeting Henry Yellowitz was named Member of the Year for 2001. He was presented with a framed certificate by Mary Barkan, Member of the Year for 2000.



Henry Yellowitz

Henry serves on the board of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West as Vice-President. For the past year he has greeted each person as they arrive at society meetings. He checks in members and offers information to non-members. Unfailingly gracious and helpful, he is the perfect start to any meeting.

Since the formation of the society in 1997 Henry has missed only one meeting. He and his wife, Mildred, are important members of the Jewish Genealogy "family" in Las Vegas.



So Why Did They Come...

By Jack Oliver

How many of us take the time to reflect on what our parents, grandparents or great-grandparents did for us? Most of our ancestors traveled to the United States from Eastern Europe. The area doesn't usually matter as it was pretty much all the same, bleak. I look at what my life is like in this country and what it would probably be if I had been born in Europe, and I am very grateful to my grandparents.

Three of my grandparents arrived within three months of each other. My maternal grandparents, Sarah and Hyman Burkes (Boikiss) arrived together in December of 1911 from the Ukraine, while my paternal grandmother, Ratzel Oliver (Oliva) along with her three children, Vigdor, Brandel, and Moishe, disembarked at Ellis Island from Poland/Russia in March of 1912. Her husband, my paternal grandfather Hershel (Harry), had arrived earlier in order to earn the passage money required in order to bring the rest of his family here as was the custom at the time.

I believe it's correct to assume that my paternal grandparents were poor; otherwise, why didn't they travel together? They were probably separated for several years at least as my grandfather was mugged about the time that he had saved most of the required fare and had to start over. They settle in a dingy tenement on the lower east side of Manhattan where they spent the remainder of their years; a possible clue that money was scarce. Most immigrants had never experienced indoor toilets or even running water. I'm sure that they would not have assumed any change in their lives if they hadn't made the trip. In retrospect, it's quite possible that they did this selfishly for their own comfort and safety but maybe they also thought about their children and perhaps other future generations. So I like to think that this set of grandparents came here to make a better life for their descendants.

My maternal grandparents may have come here for the same reasons but there are a few more

clues that give a little more insight into their lives. They lived in a small shtetl in the Ukraine before making the trip to America. As far as I can determine, they were the first from their family to do so although records indicate that they had a place to go in Brooklyn upon arrival. I'm not sure if it was a friend or a relative. My grandmother was seven months pregnant with my mother who weighed twelve pounds at birth. Sarah was only about five feet tall, so she must have been quite large at the time of their passage to America. They traveled in steerage and I can only imagine how uncomfortable she must have been. The big question is why travel at that time, winter weather in the Atlantic and very pregnant? The answer might lie in some information I learned just last year. I was told that my grandfather was shot in his left thumb during a pogrom. Although I don't know how long ago it had happened, I can visualize how much he might have wanted to leave because of this attack and others like it. Perhaps they just wanted their firstborn to be born a United States citizen. For whatever reason, I am eternally grateful.





Agent or Relative?

By Deborah Dworski

Lately I have been following the thread about determining if an ancestor, when arriving in the U.S., was going to stay with a relative or an agent. For those unfamiliar with U.S. Passenger Arrival Lists, immigrants (beginning sometime in the 1890s?) were required to provide a final destination, including an address and name. This data is genealogically significant because it can yield the identity and address of a previously-unknown relative or pinpoint the whereabouts of a family member who is not listed in city directories.

The problem arises when the immigrant provides destination information which the researcher is not able to put in any sort of familial context. The surname and address are unfamiliar. This may be a newly-discovered branch of your family. However, it may be that your relative did not know anyone in the U.S. and therefore arranged to stay with an agent (a paid professional who housed newly arrived immigrants until they settled into life in America).

For my own research, I have found census data very useful for assessing whether the final

destination was an agent. Agents often had many boarders or "relatives" (other than the nuclear family) living with them. One of my relatives arrived in Boston in 1902, the destination an unknown name "X" and address in the city. Next I found the 1900 U.S. Census entry for name "X" which indicated that he had eight or nine boarders residing with him at that time. So, I concluded that name "X" was most likely an agent rather than a family member.

Also, consider the time frame and circumstances of an immigrant's arrival. If he was the first family member to emigrate, perhaps he did not have any relatives or friends with whom he could stay, in which case an agent seems plausible. As time elapsed and immigrants flooded into the country, there was greater likelihood of having a family member or friend already in the U.S. to help one settle into life in America.

This article was originally posted to the JewishGen Discussion Group. Deborah Dworski is a professional genealogist and free-lance writer residing in suburban Washington, D.C. Ddworski@hotmail.com

On The Day You Were Born

By Dick Eastman

What were the popular songs, news headlines, the price of bread, or the top TV show on the day you were born? You can find out at dMarie. Once at this Web site, you simply enter a chosen month, day, and year, and this free service will offer a choice of either a "quick" time capsule page or an "advanced" page that has more in-depth information, including the names of famous people born on that day of the year, typical consumer prices from that year, Academy Award winners, and more.

The available data online includes the years 1800 through 2001, although the Web site cautions that data for the years 1800 – 1875 is probably "spotty." I don't normally reveal my age, but I will tell you that the average American new car cost \$1,250 when I was born. Gee, I guess it really was a long time ago!

You can check out auto prices and a lot more on the day you were born at: www.dmarie.com/timecap



Occupational Titles

Family research can produce listings for unusual occupations. Some of the job descriptions appearing on the U.S. census or passenger arrival records can give a researcher pause. For information on some occupations (old and new) visit the website at www.stepfour.com/jobs/titles. This site states that "JobGenie is the Dictionary of Occupational Titles and your gateway to all 12,741 job descriptions in the government's authoritative manual. They're indexed alphabetically, and the service is free."

A search for information on "pocketbook framer" produced the information below:

Handbag Framer

739.684-090

Alternate Job Titles: framer

Attached hinged metal frames to leather or fabric handbags: Spreads grooves in frame, using automatic opening device or pliers. Brushes cement into grooves. Trims edges and corners of bag fabric, using scissors. Clamps frame in frame-tightening device, and pushes edges and corners of bag into grooves with fingers and punch. Depresses pedal of tightening device to pinch sides of grooves around edges and corners of bag fabric. May record production. May be designated according to type of handbag framed as Coin-Purse Framer (leather prod.); Pocketbook Framer (leather prod.); Purse Framer (leather prod.).
GOE: 06.04.23 STRENGTH: L GED: R2 M1 L1
SVP: 2 DLU:77

Obscure and obsolete jobs may not be found at the site. However, if your ancestors worked in the needle trades you may be able to find an exact description of their work.

What You Need Are Cousins

At the December meeting it has become traditional for members to describe their genealogy successes and failures for the year. At the December 2001 meeting it became obvious that a trend is developing among the members.

Several described hitting a brick wall when tracing direct line ancestors. To break through many turned to cousins for family information. Members described locating and then contacting long lost cousins. While a few were rebuffed most contacts led to new family information, new family members, and/or new family contacts.

The consensus of the group was that re-searching collateral lines is important but even more important is locating the many cousins any family tree contains.

Distinguished Women in Southern Nevada 1997

Biographical information on the following Jewish women can be found in *Distinguished Women In Southern Nevada 1997*, published by Distinguished Publishing Company, Las Vegas, Nevada:

Shelley Berkley
Lori Lipman Brown
Frances-Ann Fine
Carolyn G. Goodman
Karen Gordon
Barbara Joan Greenspun
Ramona Luckman
Paula Quagliana
Esther R. Quisenberry
Sonja Saltman
Gloria Sherwood
Jessica Stockman
Ruth Pearson Urban
Shellie Varon-Magda
Myrna Williams



FROM THE OLD COUNTRY

By Charlotte Auisse Showel

Now that winter is here and the cold weather seems interminable, my mind turns back to the days when there was no bus service for primary school and there was a long cold walk home for lunch. Before the can opener and canned soups became the way to go, (yes, I'm that old) there was always a pot of hot home made soup on the stove. Grandma and Grandpa were from the Ukraine around the Chernigov area and Grandma made the spiciest Cabbage Borscht that warmed the insides immediately. I was able to get the list of ingredients, but the spice measurements are still done "to taste". This recipe is not the pre-sweetened type of cabbage borscht you get in restaurants or grocery stores. This one has a real kick.

INGREDIENTS:

One head of cabbage
About a 1/2 pound of chuck
A small knuckle bone
1 large or 2 small onions
1 whole garlic clove
dried red peppers (like the kind found in pickling spices)
2 or 3 tomatoes
salt
white pepper
sour salt (citric acid)

Wash the cabbage and pat dry. Remove the core of the cabbage (the core makes a wonderful addition to a salad. Just cut in small pieces and mix in) cut the cabbage into long narrow shreds and put into soup pot.

Trim as much fat off the chuck as you can and add to soup pot. Wash & dry knuckle bone and add to soup pot. Fill the pot with water, bring to a boil, turn down to simmer slowly and skim the froth that arises several times until clear.

Dice the onion and add to soup pot. Peel and cut garlic clove in half and add to soup pot. Start with one dried red pepper and add to soup. Peel tomatoes then cut them in half and remove seeds and add to soup. Season with salt, white pepper and sour salt to taste.

Let simmer covered until meat is tender. Takes about 2 hours.

Be sure to taste about half way through the cooking. You may have to add one or two dried peppers for a zingy hot and sour borscht. The same with the sour salt.

The meat of course can be saved for Kreplach.

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

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.

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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 2002
JGSSN-West Meeting Schedule
Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara 1pm

April 21st–Canadian Border Crossing Records
May 19th– The History of Ellis Island
June 16th–Finding aids for the 1910 & 1930 census

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