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by Prof. Ladislau Gyeament, Prof. of Jewish Studies, Univ. of Cluj-Napoca, Romania

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...and other news and information about Romanian genealogy

Volume 3, Number 2
Winter 1994-95
... but first, a word from your editor

It seems that with each issue we pass another milestone. This issue is filled with names ... names of our ancestors ... taken from memorial tablets, from books and other sources. But they are names that add another link to our historical gathering of information about our families. Look through them closely. You may find that a name you were searching for has found its way into one of the lists of names you will find in this issue. And it could be a name you weren't expecting to find, one that makes your puzzle grow even larger.

Our own name -- ROM-SIG NEWS -- came in for some comments recently. Some thought our newsletter should be changed to something more synonymous with Romania, like the old Yiddish favorite of a past generation, Rumania! Rumania! More than one member, but especially one from England, told us that the song has no meaning for him or her, never having been brought up with it. Still others told us, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." So the name stays the same.

But we have changed the layout of the cover page slightly to emphasize the fact that we are genealogists seeking information about our Jewish Romanian ancestors.

We also made the pages of Atlanta's JGS journal, Yichus, Y'all, thanks to member Col. Irving Schoenberg. In the publication he wrote "if you're looking for connections to relatives who are living, or lived, or who emigrated from Romania or Bessarabia, let me recommend to you the best source of information that I have discovered." A few days later we had received at least one new member from the Atlanta area. Thanks, Irv.

A heartfelt WELCOME to the tremendous influx of new members since our last issue. This increases our exchange of information about Romania. You will see some of the inquiries and new tidings from a few of these newcomers in this very issue. Remember, we are an informal group and try to help wherever we can. So just ask away. And please send us your contributions.

I would call your attention to a continuing article that begins in this issue by a new contributor, Dr. Ladislau Gyemant, professor of Jewish studies at the University of Cluj-Napoca. He begins a history of the Jews in Transylvania on Page 3. Here is a hands-on researcher, who not only has agreed to bring us personal archival material, but also a better insight into the lives our ancestors led in old Romania. Our thanks again to member Steve Rosman of the Detroit area for “discovering" Dr. Gyemant.

We also welcome new Advisory Board member Marlene Zakai whose specialty is Bessarabia (Moldova). Some of her contributions appear in this issue along with some other materials that you may find helpful in discovering new sources of data.

One last word about ROM-SIG NEWS. Because we are still a youngster taking its first steps in the world of genealogical publications, faced with limited resources both financially and informationally, we are open to any and all suggestions for improving our humble presentation. Speaking personally, it is a labor of love putting your input into a form hopefully that you will find enjoyable, but more importantly is helpful in your search for family information. In order to improve RSN, I welcome criticism. But even more I welcome contributions -- yours -- as small and insignificant as you feel it might be. Please let me hear from you, tell me what you like or don't like about RSN. And with it tell me something about your Romanian family or research that we can share with our readers.

Gene Starn
In order to conduct genealogical researches concerning the Jews of Transylvania we consider it useful, as a first step, to review the administrative-territorial structure of this province as well as its juridic-constitutional status, and to survey the demographic evolution of the Jewish population in the course of centuries.

At the beginning of central European Middle Ages, Transylvania appears as a particular administrative and judicial entity, becoming in the 11th century an autonomous province within the Hungarian Kingdom. As a follow-up of the disastrous defeat at Mohacs (1526) in the war with the Turks, the kingdom was divided in three parts: the western and northern areas were taken by the Hapsburgs, the central part formed the Turkish Pashalik of Buda, whereas Transylvania became an autonomous principality under Turkish sovereignty.

After 1690, as part of the Hapsburg Empire, the present area of Transylvania was divided into three different administrative entities: the western regions (the counties of Arad, Bihor, Maramures and Satu Mare) were integrated into Hungary, the south-western part was made into a part of the Hapsburgs, the central part formed the Turkish Pashalik of Buda, whereas Transylvania became an autonomous principality under Turkish sovereignty.

After 1690, as part of the Hapsburg Empire, the present area of Transylvania was divided into three different administrative entities: the western regions (the counties of Arad, Bihor, Maramures and Satu Mare) were integrated into Hungary, the southern-western part was made into a province named Banat, governed directly from Vienna, which in 1780 was also integrated into Hungary (as counties of Caras, Timis and Torontal), subordinated to the Court of Vienna, but with its own government and representative assembly (the Diet). The principality was divided into 11 counties (Alba de Jos, Arad, Bihor, Bistrita-Nasaud, Brasov, Caras-Severin, Cluj, Fagaras, Hunedoara, Maramures, Mures-Turda, Odorhei, Satu Mare, Salaj, Sibiu, Solnoca-Dabica, Timis, Tarnava Mare, Tarnava Mica, Torontal, Trei Scaune and Turda-Aries). This system was in action until the end of World War I, when Transylvania was united with Romania and was introduced to the Romanian administrative system based on jurisdictions named "judete".

Between 1940-44, Northern Transylvania was annexed to Hungary as a result of the Vienna Diktat of Nazi Germany and Italy. After the defeat of the Fascist powers, the Paris Peace Treaty (1947) recognized the entire Transylvania as part of the Romanian state.

As for the Jewish population in this area, the Jews were randomly mentioned in Transylvania with the beginning of the 14th century, mostly as merchants and creditors in towns like Cluj, Brasov and Sibiu. The first juridical regulation referring specially to the Jews from Transylvania goes back to 1623, a privilege being issued by Prince Gabriel Bethlen, privilege which guaranteed the Jews freedom of movement and protection.
The Jews of Transylvania
Continued from the previous page

settling, of traveling in the country, of trading, juridical equality and the free practice of religious cult. But there appeared soon certain restrictions (the right to settle only in Alba Iulia) confirmed by the laws of the Principality adopted at the middle of the 17th century, which remained valid until the 1848 Revolution.

EVOLUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION AND FAMILIES IN TRANSYLVANIA BETWEEN 1785-1866

With the Austrian rule (after 1690), statistical data is available concerning the evolution of the Jewish population, as a result of the tax conscriptions and the census conducted by the new authorities, as well as from the writings of the geographers and statisticians of the 18th and 19th century. The first general conscription of the Jews from the Great Principality of Transylvania recorded for 1770, 221 Jewish families with 461 children who paid taxes in amount of 1,119 florins.

The Josephine census of 1785-1786, recorded a number of 394 families and 2092 Jewish individuals. In the following decades the demographical evolution was relatively slow until the years preceding the 1848 Revolution when about 700 families with 3000-3500 individuals are recorded. About 1848 the number of families doubled to about 1,450 with 7,000 individuals due to a massive Jewish immigration to Transylvania. After the Revolution, the first Austrian census (1850-1851) recorded another doubling of the Jewish population to 15,500 individuals, after which the evolution was again slow until the juridical emancipation of 1867.

EVALUATION OF JEWISH POPULATION AND FAMILIES IN TRANSYLVANIA BETWEEN 1785-1866

After the act of emancipation, the population growth is recorded as follows: according to the census of 1869, 23,536 individuals, then tripled up to the census of 1910, when 64,074 Jews were recorded in historical Transylvania (the ancient Great Principality), and 223,082 on the present territory of Transylvania (including Banat, Arad, Bihor, Satu Mare and Maramures).

The 1930 Romanian census recorded, according to ethnic criterion 178,799 Jews and to the confessional criterion 192,833, in Transylvania, Banat, Bihor and Maramures.

The tragedy of the Holocaust reduced dramatically the Jewish population; out of the 170,694 individuals recorded in northern Transylvania in 1940, 131,633 perished in the Holocaust.

In 1947, 90,444 Jews were recorded as living on the present territory of Transylvania, which the 1956 census recorded only

Continued on the next page

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<td>Sighisoara</td>
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<td>Nasaund</td>
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<td>174</td>
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<td>3,544</td>
<td>3,088</td>
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43,714 Jews due to massive emigration to Israel. Nowadays the latest official census, that of 1991, records 9,000 Jews on the whole territory of Romania.

Obviously these figures that record the total number of the Jewish population as well as the detailed presentations in Tables I-VI of the demographic evolution in the jurisdiction and towns of 19th century Transylvania, constitute but the starting point for our research which has in view the study of the economic, socio-professional, institutional and cultural structure of the Jewish population of Transylvania. We consider that the knowledge of the administrative-territorial structures as well as the demographic evolution in broad lines is a necessary prerequisite in reconstructing the microcosms of the Jewish family life by means of genealogical researches which will be started in a very near future.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reference notes to the above article are available upon request. Prof. Ladislau Gyemant (LAD-iz-law GEE [as in geese]-ah-mahnt) has offered to do research for a fee in any part of Transylvania for our members. Contact him directly at:

Ladislau Gyemant, Ph.D.
Str. Tarnita 1
BL. B5, SC.III, Ap 28

A follow-up on Iasi documents: Hungarogens research Romania

Films to be translated; Bukovina trip planned

According to the latest word from Paul Pascal, he now has possession of the microfilms he ordered this past summer from the Iasi central archives. They cover the index to the Sudit census of 1824-25, covering all of Moldavia and the complete census of Tirgu Ocna and Moinesti, where Pascal's grandparents are from.

A preliminary look shows that much of it is written in Slavonic letters, however in the Romanian language. The index portion is written in Latin letters. At least one ROM-SIG member has volunteered to help with the translation.

On another note, correspondence was received from a Hungarian genealogical research firm that has agents working in Romania. Hungarogens, claims to have "a very well-known Jewish scientist among our members, who is a specialist in Jewish genealogy and history, being the leader of the Jewish archives and professor at the university." (ED.NOTE: could this be Prof. Gyemant in Cluj?)

In addition, say the Hungarogens, "we have a partner in Romania, another Jewish historian and academician."

They say their rates average vary between $300-$600 depending upon circumstances. Our members should contact them directly at the following address:

The Hungarogens
Genealogical Research Bureau
Dr. A. Alexander Harmath, manager
H-1085 Budapest VIII., Jozsef krt. 50.
Tell him you heard about them from ROM-SIG.

Another note of interest comes from Phyllis Simon who is bellwethering a two week archival trip to Western Ukraine and Poland in the beginning of August 1995.

Larry Krupnak, a tour operator and member of the Galicia special interest group, suggests they fly into Kiev then travel west, visiting towns, cities and other sites along the way. The Western Ukraine portion would end in Warsaw.

Much of the trip will cover the Bukovina area of former Romania, especially the archives at Chernovitz.

If you are interested, you might contact:

Phyllis Simon
19 Earl Road
Melville, NY 11747-1313

Please keep us informed of your contacts so we can let others know of your results.
I am looking for relatives of my father's family Schoenberg (Schonberg or Scheinberg). His aunt, Rotsa Schonberg, married Moshe Kauschansky. On 8 Sept. 1896, they had a son named Shieka (later he went by the name of Issa), born in Chisinau (Kishinev), Bessarabia, Russia (now Moldova). Issa may also have had a brother, Motel Kauschansky. Issa went to Cuba from Bessarabia and lived there until Castro took over. He and his wife, Lisa, then moved to Caracas, Venezuela (c. 1960) and lived there until she died in 1990 and he in 1993. Both lived at the Jewish old age home called Bet Avot in Caracas.

Issa is the youngster (bottom left); Rotsa, his mother, is seated beside him; his father, Moshe (sitting); his wife, Lisa (standing behind Moshe's right shoulder); and a man believe to be Issa's brother, Motel (standing behind Moshe's left shoulder). The other woman is unknown, might be either a sister to Issa or Lisa.

This picture is believed to be Motel and his wife, their daughter and her family, taken in March 1957, possibly in Venezuela or some other Spanish-speaking country.

Issa (third from left) and his family, all on the bride's right side, taken 1952 possibly in Venezuela.

If I knew where these photos were taken I would have some clues, but I don't. They could have been taken in Russia, Cuba, Florida, Venezuela or elsewhere. I wish I knew. Can anyone help?

--COL. IRVING SCHOENBERG, 1018 Winding Ridge Ct., Dunwoody, GA 30338
In December 1993 I spent time researching my Romanian roots in the State of Israel. I thought I had prepared myself well, by reading Sallyann Sack's *Genealogy Resources in Israel*. I also combed through back issues of *Avotaynu, Mishpacha* (newsletter of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington), and, of course, *ROM-SIG NEWS*.

In my limited time I wanted to get to the places that seemed most likely to have information I would be interested in. Therefore I selected the following places in which to do research: Yad Vashem and the Bessarabian Archives in the Institute for Diaspora Research at Tel Aviv University.

I had some limited success at both. However, on both accounts my findings were not the result of diligent research but of happenstance.

**Tel Aviv University, Institute for Diaspora Research**

I called Dr. Yoel Raba, the contact for the Bessarabian Archives, following the information in the Sallyann Sack book. We set up a time to meet in his office. The building is easy to find. It sits off to the left side, next door to the Diaspora Museum. Dr. Raba's office is a small, cluttered university office, and the archives are stored somewhere else. It takes time to retrieve them and make them available to a researcher. He patiently explained in detail about the holdings of the archives, its collection of documents all relating in some way to Bessarabia Jewry. They are not indexed by names or even by towns. Most material would be relevant only to a genealogist who knows about the daily life of his or her ancestors and what organizations or endeavors they were involved in.

The collection I was most interested in was the meeting minutes of the Jewish Colonization Association in Bessarabia. My family had been actively engaged with the JCA. By the time I had heard a complete description of the holdings of the archives, two hours had gone by and I was out of time. As a final note, Dr. Raba mentioned to me that many of the JCA files I was interested in were in French. Here I am in Israel, fluent in Hebrew, accessing files that may have important genealogical information for me, and they're in French!

From this I learned that many more questions should have been asked over the phone. Perhaps I could have had specific files waiting for me. As we parted I asked Dr. Raba about the library of the Diaspora Research Institute. The answer was less than friendly. Apparently there is some sort of conflict between the archives and library, both belonging to the Institute for Diaspora Research, both housed in the same building.

The library is in the basement and there are no open stacks. There isn't even a computer so a visitor can access the holdings. One must work through a librarian.

**Yad Vashem**

At Yad Vashem I had a generally disappointing experience. In the Hall of Names there was no access to a list, only the clerk could check to see if your family had deposited Pages of Testimony. Once again the clerk was less than interested in helping. I was interested in any testimony from the town of Dombraven. There does not seem to be a geographical cross reference between names of people and names of towns.

Next I visited the library where there were a few books on Bessarabia that I was interested in seeing. The librarian was very
busy and I had to ask repeatedly for help (the book I wanted was not in the open stacks). I finally secured the book I was interested in, *The History of the Murder of the Jews of Bessarabia* by Theodore Lavie (call #59-1825). The book has almost no mention of individual's names, but does tell a graphic story of the destruction of communities.

In the hall I was talking with another librarian asking if anyone on the staff was a specialist in Bessarabian Jewry. She didn't seem to know, but someone else overheard my question and stopped to chat. He said he knew someone who was researching Bessarabian cemeteries and he soon returned with an older gentleman who was a recent immigrant from the area once known as Bessarabia. He was involved in documenting the history of Jews in the area, possessed a great number of vital records and original documents, and had other information he collected on his frequent trips.

He told me that most of his information was at home and he would gladly look for me if I could give him some specific names, years and types of documents I might be interested in. I gave him some information and we parted, he with my phone and beeper number and I with his address and phone number.

He later phoned, but I was unavailable, being responsible for a large group of tourists (part of my job) and I didn't have an opportunity to get back to him. A year has gone by and I have just recently written him an extensive letter, requesting some information and inquiring about his willingness to do research for us. I will keep you informed as to the progress of this request.

**Meeting with relatives**

By far the most interesting experience was meeting four sets of cousins that I had discovered just a year earlier. They welcomed me with open arms and spent an entire evening telling stories about their ancestral town of Dorohoi. They gave me a copy of one of the three volumes of the Dorohoi remembrance book. (EDITOR'S NOTE: An index of names from the region, taken from the Dorohoi book, appeared in ROM-SIG NEWS, Vol. 3, No. 1, Fall 1993.)

While I was expecting to find more in the way of formal documents, I had quite a satisfying trip. I learned some very valuable lessons. First, I learned to use every opportunity to tell people what I am doing. Israel is a very small country. Many people know one another and this can lead to new finds. Also Israelis frequently get involved in conversations with strangers (like my experience at Yad Vashem). One must be prepared to take advantage of these opportunities.

Also, I would go better prepared. For the next trip, I will photocopy all of the relevant articles describing research in Israel. I found my notes and my memory were just not enough to direct me to what I was looking for.

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**Taken from Dombraven Yizkor Book**

**Families from Bessarabia village listed in street-by-street index**

The families living in the Bessarabian town of Dombraven are listed in the back of its Yizkor book in Hebrew. Listed below are their names by the street they lived on.

Occasionally, in parentheses, will be the nickname or the profession of the individual. Where only a family name appears, that is all that is listed. In some cases an individual is listed more than once. We can only surmise that the individual owned two residences, maybe renting one out.

**Street of the Post Office**

- Ephraim Weinshtein *(Froika melamed, Froika the teacher)*
- Isaac Seltzer
- Aharon-Moshe Feldman
- Velvel Vendutschansky
- Pesach and Batya Fuchs
- Moshe Shimshovitz
- Yitzchak Ghuzman
- Isaac Shmukler
- Aharon-Shmuel Charast

**Talmud Torah Street**

- Yitchak Zatz

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<th>Street of the Post Office</th>
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<td>Isaac Sorotsky</td>
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**The Back Street**

- Liba Shlimovitz
- Moshe-Hirsh Kentzis
- Yosef Kozimensky

**The Main Street**

- Levi Hertzenshtein
- Shaya Berkovitz
- Noah Derman
- Zalman Oxenfeld

He later phoned, but I was unavailable, being responsible for a large group of tourists (part of my job) and I didn't have an opportunity to get back to him. A year has gone by and I have just recently written him an extensive letter, requesting some information and inquiring about his willingness to do research for us. I will keep you informed as to the progress of this request.

**Meeting with relatives**

By far the most interesting experience was meeting four sets of cousins that I had discovered just a year earlier. They welcomed me with open arms and spent an entire evening telling stories about their ancestral town of Dorohoi. They gave me a copy of one of the three volumes of the Dorohoi remembrance book. (EDITOR'S NOTE: An index of names from the region, taken from the Dorohoi book, appeared in ROM-SIG NEWS, Vol. 3, No. 1, Fall 1993.)

While I was expecting to find more in the way of formal documents, I had quite a satisfying trip. I learned some very valuable lessons. First, I learned to use every opportunity to tell people what I am doing. Israel is a very small country. Many people know one another and this can lead to new finds. Also Israelis frequently get involved in conversations with strangers (like my experience at Yad Vashem). One must be prepared to take advantage of these opportunities.

Also, I would go better prepared. For the next trip, I will photocopy all of the relevant articles describing research in Israel. I found my notes and my memory were just not enough to direct me to what I was looking for.
HIAS needs help in trying to locate descendants of Romanians

Since the late 1800s, hundreds of thousands of Jews have left their home and loved ones to find freedom in America, an exodus that has caused many to lose touch with friends and family members. Established during the early 1900s, HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, has helped reunite long-lost relatives and friends. Today HIAS continues to receive and respond to hundreds of requests from people around the world who seek clues to their loved ones.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the persons listed below are asked to contact HIAS Location Service at: 1-(800)-HIAS-714. For those in the New York metropolitan area, call (212) 613-1424. Or write: HIAS Location Service, 333 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10001-5004.

# # #

Cema FISHMAN (nee TSIRULNIK) of Israel was born in Shargorod, Ukraine. The daughter of Saul and Saiva, she is searching for descendants of Hinca KLOPOVICI (nee SANGLER) of Chororo, Romania. Hinca, who had a daughter named Khava, arrived here in 1920 and lived on Burnett St. in Brooklyn.

# # #

Iziaslav KNIZHNICKI of Israel is searching for descendants of great-aunt Haika SCHOIBELMAN, who arrived here in 1920 from Soroka, Bessarabia.
Published by a kibbutz in Israel, this book contains a name index in the back together with their connection to the agricultural village of Ungravka, alternately called Lambravka in Bessarabia. If the information is available on their present day whereabouts, it is also included.

**Settlers in Ungravka:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alik Veinrov (son in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reuben Hutinsky</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shmuel Veinrov (son in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yosef Kleinman (daughter in Israel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Weissman</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meir Weissman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asher Reznik</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yonah Berkovitz (daughter in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yosef Mariasin</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gershon Budeisky (son in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naftali Budeisky (son in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yisrael Blank</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yosef Opshovsky</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Tzuker (2 daughters in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rafael Haiken (daughter in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Haim Vereta</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moshe Yoroshinsky (son in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gershon Yoroshinsky</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mordechai Tranovsky (in-law in Israel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aharon Tranovsky</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Itzik Prokopetz</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>David Mintz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moniah Utzital (son in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moshe Greenfield</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raphael Haiken (2 daughters in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itzik Kaminer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Itzik Veinroib</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Itzik Prokopetz</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rafael Itzkovitz (son in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Droh (Berl) Lifshutz (in Israel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yosef Krol</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Itzik Veinroib</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Droh (Berl) Zvirotzky (in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yisrael Zvirotzky</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Zelig Krol (2 sons in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alik Haiken (2 daughters in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosef Nathanson (daughter in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Zeev (Wolf) Ozlosky</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Itzik Feinshtein (son in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yaakov Gurevitz (son, daughter in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shimon Shusterman</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yaakov Sobol</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moshe Shishiglob</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moshe Kopman (son in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moshe Mariasin (in Israel with 4 sons)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girsch Tzvirotzky</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gedaliah Morotchnik</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avraham Sverdlik</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuvia Benoim (daughter in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aryeh (Lieb) Kopman (son in Israel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mendel Veinroib</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mishe Bshhtein (in Israel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tovah Librant</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yehiel Mariasin (in Israel)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mordechai (Motel) Gershkovitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zelig Gershkovitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Settlers transported to Siberia in 1941**

- Gershon Nathanson
- Itzik Kaminer
- Itzik Veinroib
- Itzik Prokopetz
- Moshe Mariasin
- Yonah Berkovitz
- Shimon Shusterman
- Zeev (Wolf) Ozlosky
- Haim Vereta

**Killed in WWII by Soviet Army**

- Yonah Berkovitz
- Naftali Budeisky
- David Blank
- Gersh Kopman
- Gary (Gershon) Nathanson
- Haim Prokopetz
- Avraham Sverdlik
- Rafael Haiken
- Muniah Utzital
- Haim Weissman

**Jewish Colonization Staff (Kishinev):**

- Emanuel Trachtman
- Shmuel Magin
- Shimon (Simeon) Bzunsky
- Moshe Friedman
- Yosef Blik
- Yaakov Mogilsky

**Outside workers employed by JCA**

- Haim Vereta
- Emmanuel Abramovitz
- Avram Kutler
- Moshe Applebaum
- Aharon Shwartzman
- Haim Kvitsky
- Nahum Magin
- Greenberg

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**Index of Avotaynu articles on Romanian research in Israel**

One of the best resources for research information is *AVOTAYNU, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy*. Editors index all of the articles by subject. The last published index of Avotaynu articles was in the Winter 1989 issue. Recently I updated the index of articles on Romanian research in Israel to include all issues since the last index.

Back issues of *AVOTAYNU* are available at $7.00 each from the publisher at their new offices: 155 N. Washington Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621, phone 1-800-AVOTAYNU (286-8296).

Listed below is a selection of those articles I felt specifically relevant to Romanian research in Israel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Article</th>
<th>Vol./No./Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Genealogy Center Opens in Tel Aviv</td>
<td>X/1/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research in Israel: Echoes from a Vanished World</td>
<td>X/1/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More News on Israeli Resources</td>
<td>X/4/71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Jewish National and University Library - Another Israeli Resource</td>
<td>IX/3/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genealogically Useful Records at the Israel Labor Archives</td>
<td>IX/3/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romanian Holdings in the Diaspora Research Inst</td>
<td>VI/2/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected Sources on Romania at the Central Archives of the Jewish People</td>
<td>VI/1/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel Trip Yields Additional Finds</td>
<td>VI/1/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Genealogical Trip - Sources of Information</td>
<td>III/3/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinkasim Hakehilot - Encyclopedia of Destroyed Communities</td>
<td>II/1/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genealogical Items at Jewish National and University Library</td>
<td>I/2/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Hatefusoth opens Genealogy Center</td>
<td>I/2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tombstone Inscriptions of Cemetery at Mt. of Olives</td>
<td>I/1/13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HAS GRANDFATHER'S FRENCH WORKING PAPERS
BUT CAN'T FIGURE OUT NAME OF TOWN

Above is my grandfather's working papers from Paris, France. I'm trying to find out more information about Ancel Fried and Moshe Fried and Esther Kisselewsky. We can't figure out (the name) of the town in Romania. Can you help?

Len Friedman,
471 Edens Lane,
Northfield, IL 60093

MAYBE THEY DID WIN THE ROMANIAN LOTTERY!

My husband's maternal great grandfather, LOUIS SAKTER, was from Cotu Lung and Braila. The family began immigrating to the U.S. in 1901.

As the story goes, my husband's great uncle and aunt, Isa- dore and Heide BERCOCVICI, had won the lottery. They were afraid the government would take this great sum of money from them. So they quickly booked passage to America for themselves and their daughter, Heide's parents and several brothers.

I had heard this story at least eight years ago and though I recorded it I thought it an unlikely story.

Imagine my surprise this summer. While going through the index to the photo archives at Beth Hatefutsoth Museum in Jerusalem on Braila, when I found a listing for a picture of a "Lottery Card" issued by the Jewish Sports Society and Loja Pei jotto Society, 1901.

While this was not our lottery ticket it did reinforce to me the rule: Never discount folklore; there might be a seed of truth to it!

Judith Goldfarb Rabinovitz
10 Homestead Rd.
West Simsbury, CT 06092

UKRAINIAN BORDER GUARDS SNICKERED
AT AMERICAN PASSPORT, WRITES STATE DEPT.

I made my second trip to eastern Europe in June and tried to get to Bustyna in western Ukraine but to no avail. We got a real hassle at the border crossing. No explanation. I have since written to the Secretary of State since the border guards snickered at our American passports. So far, I have not heard back from the Secretary.

However I did take a picture of my parents' marriage license which was in Sapinto and was told that the remaining records were in the town of Tecel Mare which is now in the Ukraine. I now have someone trying to secure any records but to date haven't heard anything.

For now I think my trips to eastern Europe are over unless I get some exceptional news that could warrant my going over.

Lena Sidelnick
1075 Highway 315
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

GETTING INFORMATION FROM OTHERS CAN HELP

The only information I ever received re. Romania was 1)from Carol Clapp saddle in Israel who sent me a Chevra Kadisha list dated, I believe, 1887, from Fogaras, Brasov County, Transylvania, which listed a couple of family members. She obtained it from Central Archives, I believe, and mentioned having spoken with elderly members of the Israeli Romanian community, who now live in Israel, but originated in Fogaras.

We are no longer pursuing this research (husband's grandfa- ther roots) because we have become bogged down with having found family in Bosnia-Herzogovenia (husband's grandmother's family). My husband and I have been there twice (late '80s) and my son once. While it has been an exciting find, we have now become very involved with these eight families and their plight.

Continued, please turn to Page 20
SCWARTZ - BRAVERMAN

My maternal grandparents came from the town of Botosani. My mother's maiden name was Schwartz. Her father's name was Nathan Schwartz (1873-1926) and her mother's name was Celia Schwartz nee Braverman (1876-1941). It has been very hard to pinpoint when they arrived in England. However, I have the marriage certificates of my eldest aunts. The eldest is now dead and the other is still alive, approx. 88 yrs. old and living in the U.S.

The eldest was married in 1930, aged 27, and the younger was married in 1926, aged 20. There is no English birth certificate for either of them. This would mean that they didn't arrive in England until approx. 1905-07. The first of their children born in England were two uncles in 1908 and 1910 respectively.

My mother thinks that they may have gone from Romania to Argentina before coming to England. She remembers as a young child some relatives visiting from Argentina and hearing that my eldest aunt was born in Buenos Aires. It would seem that my grandfather returned to Romania in the early 1920s. I have an exit document dated 1923. Perhaps he may have lost the original and returned to get a duplicate in order to secure residency in the UK? After he returned from Romania two more children were born. This made a total of seven children, three girls and four boys.

After my youngest uncle emigrated to the U.S. he put advertisements in the Argentinian Jewish press in order to trace any relatives there but was unsuccessful.

The exit document is the only hard piece of evidence I have. Hopefully more will trickle in over time.

TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT

This is an Identification Certificate, issued by police station in the village of Botosani, released on 22 Jan. 1923. Romania at that time was a kingdom under King Carol who was of Austro-Hungarian origin. Botosani is a part of Moldavia and this region at the time was greatly inhabited by Greek and Jewish people.

The named person in the document appears to be Jewish and his name is pronounced Shfartz. The name of Start is a typical Jewish name but of German origin. The Jewish people, by and large, were traders and they use to have small shops where they would sell almost anything - these small shops looked very much like the one you can see in a sook anywhere in the Middle East.

Neil Weiner
1 Pages Hill
London N10 IPX
U.K.

BUCHWALD

My Buchwald family originates from Bukovina. My great-great-grandfather, Benneth BUCHWALD (b. abt 1840) moved from Bukovina to Turda, Kolosvar, Hungary (Turda, Cluj, Romania) at a very young age. He married Ester SOLOMON and together they had seven children.

Isaac Buchwald, my great-grandfather was born in Turda in 1861 and attended rabbinical school in Vilna, Lithuania. He later became a merchant, selling meals to the nearby towns and during WWI to the military. He married Rochelle Schwartz who died in 1922 before Isak immigrated to New York in 1924.

Gary Palgon
2700 Claridge Court,
Atlanta, GA 30360

ROM-SIG still needs your help!

Our many thanks to those who have told us about their genealogical adventures or have written us about their resources or sent us old photos of relatives or anything that proves interesting and helpful to our readers.

Remember, ROM-SIG NEWS is a contributory journal that exists only upon the material that its members submit. So don't be bashful. And who knows, you just may stumble upon a good lead as a result.

Next issue's deadline is: March 25, 1994...
From our Readers

IS THERE LIST OF PEOPLE OFFERED 'THE RIGHT'?
   Does anyone know if there is a list of people who were offered the right? My 2nd ggfather, I am told, was offered the right but refused it, since not all Jews were given the right to become Romanian citizens.

   The article by Paul Pascal was terrific. I wonder if all immigrants (especially Jews) were considered Sudits since they were not allowed to become Romanian citizens. Or did they have to have a special document saying they were still under the protection of their original country in order to be classified as Sudits? What would Jews who did not have citizenship in their country of birth be classified?

   Mel Weintraub
   8307 Harding Ave.,
   Skokie, IL 60076-2712

ANCESTORS MAY HAVE WANDERED INTO ROMANIA
   The family name I am researching is SCHLUGER or SHLUGER. All I know is that my ancestors were from the Ukraine and may have wandered into Romania at around the turn of century.

   I would be very interested in Paul Pascal's microfilm list of Jewish residents of Romania. For your information, the sources I got from the Romanian Jewish History Research Center in Bucharest were Carol Marcusohn in Bacau and Prof. Eugen Gluck, Arad. (See story on Page 3).

   Richard Schluger
   183 Sullivan St., Apt. F6
   New York, NY 10012

PASCAL'S ARTICLE 'EXCITING'
(Received via e-mail through Internet)
   I was very excited to learn about the existence of the Catagraphy of Sudits in Romanian Moldavia. Since I do speak Romanian fluently I am ready to help ROM-SIG NEWS or Mr. Pascal with any translation. Is the copy of the death records in the article from the Chevra Kadisha register book? How many pages do they contain? Can we obtain copies of these pages?

   As we become more successful in obtaining genealogical information from Romania, perhaps we should consider categorizing and storing this information on a central database. I would be willing to discuss with you how we can implement this.

   Bruno Segal
   4021 North 40 Ave.
   Hollywood, FL 33021

LIKES 'RUMANIA, RUMANIA' FOR RSN NAME
   'Rumania Rumania' certainly is a more lively name than ROM-SIG NEWS and might add a little more character to the publication.

   Gary Fitleberg
   24106 Kittridge St.,
   West Hills, CA 91307

KEEP NAME AS IS, NO WORD YET FROM JAMURA
(Received via e-mail through Internet)
   Regarding the name, keep it as it is. It says just what the group is and what the newsletter is.

   Glenn Gorelick
   76675.1562@compuserve.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our thanks to the many members who sent us so many complimentary remarks along with their membership renewal checks. Your words of praise are compensation enough to continue trying our best to give you a publication worthy of your readership.

   Gene Starn, for the entire Advisory Board

NEEDS CORRECT SPELLING, LOCATION
(Received on Jewishgen, via Internet)
   Can anyone provide me with correct spelling/location of the town FARESHIET in Bessarabia? My ggfather Jacob David SIFER, b.1885, son of Isaac Joseph Schafer and Sarah RAPOPORT lists "Fareshiet" as place of birth on his US papers in a scrawled hard-to-read handwriting. In an old encyclopedia map of Bessarabia I found a town called "FARESHTY". Could that be the same place? And what gubernia was this town part of in 1895? Any help appreciated!

   Deborah Schafer
dvorahSV@aol.com

'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS' AUTHOR IMPRESSED WITH ROM-SIG NEWS
(Received via e-mail through Internet)
   Received the copy of ROM-SIG NEWS you snail-mailed. Very impressive! Fascinating main article. I knew that research in Romania was difficult, but didn't realize how much so. The map of the front cover is very helpful. Very professionally produced. Nice job! I'll tout it where I can in the FAQ/JGS contexts.

   Warren Blatt
warren@warren.vis.com

NEW MEMBER LOOKING FOR GUIDANCE
   I am a neophyte and I could use some guidance in the following: I know that my ggfather lived in Rudacaneni with my ggmother who came from Podul-Iloaiei. This was around 1895. Can you tell me how to work backwards from there?

   Melvin Lubin
   250 Sunset Ave.
   Englewood, NJ 07631

MAP NEEDS EXPLANATION, CORRECTIONS
Please allow me to make the following corrections to the last issue's map:
   Continued, Please turn to Page 19
FAMILY FINDER

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Please add or correct these names to your ROM-SIG Family Finder. A complete list will be published in the next issue.

FAMILY NAME | TOWNS
--- | ---
SEGALL | Matea (Matei), Pascani
JOSEPHSON, JOSEFSON | Pascani, Bucharest
FRIEDMAN | Podu Iloaiei, Galati
POSNER | Podu-Iloaiei
FEINBLATT | Bucharest, Sinaia
KUPFER | Bucharest, Iasi, Podu Iloaiei
EISENBERG | Bucharest, Podu Iloaiei
EISENBERG | Ellen S. Renck, 10 Overlook Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583
PRAICE (Press) | Birlad, Constanza
Arnold R. Tolkin, 7 Aerie Ct., North Hills, NY 11030

OXENHORN (OXEN GORN) | Belci, Kamenka (Bessarabia)
ROISNER | Balti, Azamitz (Bessarabia)
GOLDENBERG | Balti, Rashkov (Bessarabia)
ENTIN | Balti, Azamitz (Bessarabia)

Jay Freeman, 799 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021

GROSSMAN | Iasi
SKLAR | Iasi
Glenn A. Gorelick, 360 Toyon Rd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

ENGEL | Siret
Ted Klein, 85 East India Rd., #39P, Boston, MA 02110

FARKAS | Szibo, Bunfihumyad, Nemes Kosze, Chuj
WEITZNER | Toho
MARKOWITZ | Nagy Noszabu

Richard Farkas, 3647 Radcliffe Dr., Northbrook, IL 60062

BUCHWALD | Turda, Chuj (Kolozsvar, Hungary)
SOLOMON | Chuj
GRUBER | Chuj
DASKEL | Chuj

GOTTLIEB | Chuj

SCHWARTZ | Chuj, Mardsujvar, Sincraiv Coyoona, Meszko
Gary Palgon, 2700 Claridge Court, Atlanta, GA 30360

ROVNER | Falesti (now Moldova)
LOVINSKY | Falesti (now Moldova)

Miriam Weiner, 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094

IMBERG | Husi, Bucharest, or elsewhere
Irving Imburg, 4709 Foxhall Crs, NW, Washington DC 20007

INDIANER | Bukovina
EISENSTEIN | Iasi
Marcia Meyers, 6537 Kansas Ave., Hammond, IN 46323

BLUM | Hirlau, Frumusica
SEGAL(L) | Hirlau
CATZ | Hirlau
ROTTSTEIN | Botosani
Dr. Jack H. Bloom, 23 Sherman St., Fairfield, CT 06430

BERKOWITZ | Vissulia
BESSLER | Piatra-Neamt
SAN EANCU (JACOBS) | Iasi, Falcu
Joe Bessler, 6716 Bestwood Ct., San Diego, CA 92119

MILBERG | Raducani
LEMBERG | Podu-Iloaiei
Melvin Lubin, 250 Sunset Ave., Englewood, NJ 07631

DEUTSCH | Sapinta
SHILOVITZ | Vojnag (now Ukraine)

Ted Klein, 85 East India Rd., #39P, Boston, MA 02110

MOZES, KLEIN, ROTH | Halmi, Cidreag
BLIER | Halmi, Cidreag

Hillary Radovich, 25942 Hitching Rail Rd., Laguna Hills, CA 92653

GROSS | Braila
KALMANOWITZ | Iasi
Shirley Davidson, 100 LaSalle St, 15C, New York, NY 10027

RENNERT | Staneste de Jos
KIELSTOCK | Staneste de Jos
Esther Rennert Zucker, 15 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10014

MOSKOWITZ, MOSKOVICI | Bucharest
SILVERMAN | ?

Lynda Misericchi, 8006 Espanola Tr., Austin, TX 78737

KIRSHEN | Constanta
Charlotte M. Curlin, P.O. Box 9246, Auburn CA 95604

ALTMAN | ?
WINAKOR | ?

Manfred/Bernice Lindner, 32 Corte Nogal, Danville, CA 94526

SCHACHER | Siret
WAGNER | Khotin
Carol Skydell, P.O. Box 443, Chilmark, MA 02535

SCHWARTZ, SFARTZ | Buhusi, Nicoresti, Tecuci
TINNER | Buhusi, Nicoresti, Tecuci

Fred Schwartz, 2 San Miguel Ct., Manhattan Bch, CA 90266

ALTMAN | Khotin (Bessarabia)
SHUSTER | Khotin (Bessarabia)
WINAKOR | Khotin (Bessarabia)
COHEN | Khotin (Bessarabia)

Bernice A. Lindner, 32 Corte Nogal, Danville, CA 94526

FRIEDMAN | ?
FRIED | ?

Leonard Friedman, 471 Edens Lane, Northfield, IL 60093

Continued on next page
FAMILY FINDER

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Continued from previous page

FAMILY NAME TOWN
SCHWARTZ ............ Botosani
BRAVERMAN ............ Botosani
Neil Weiner, 1 Pages Hill, London N20 2PX, United Kingdom
KAUFMAN ............. Dragomuresht
LENDER ............. Visul de Jos (Alsoviso)
Samuel Lender, 700 NW 32 Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33443
ABRAMOVICH, ABRAMOWITZ ... Botosani
HIRSHKOVITZ, HERSHKOVITZ .. Botosani
PRAJAN, PREGON, PRAGEN ...... ?
BERNSTEIN ............ Braila
SCHWARTZ ............ Braila
COHEN ............ Braila
RAIHER, REICHER ... Kamerec-Podolski
MARCUS ............ Chotin
CAESAR ......... ?
Debra Bernstein, 443 Peakham Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776

PRAGER ............ Braila
BERCOVICI ............ Braila
BERNARD ............ Braila
PLATZMAN ............ Braila
HENICK ............ Braila
SPACHNER ............ Braila
ASKENASY ............ Braila
SEGALL, SEGAL ...... Botosani, Croiova, Bucharest
SAMUEL, SAMUELS ... Bucharest
BACHER ............ Bucharest
KAFLER ............ Bucharest
FELDMAN ............ Bucharest
SOPHIER ............ Bucharest
KREIS ............ Bucharest
SCHIFFMAN ............ Bucharest
GREENBERG, GRUENBERG .... Bucharest
Rothbaum ............ Bucharest
SHOHET ............ Bucharest
LOPATIN ............ Bucharest
SCHWARTZ, SCHWARZ ...Bucharest
RIGBERG ............ Bucharest
GREENWALD ............ Bucharest
NEWMAN ............ Bucharest
ZUCKER ............ Bucharest
BERMAN ............ Bucharest
ROSEN ............ Bucharest
SCHAFFER ............ Bucharest
Phyllis Janis, 425 Garden City Dr., Monroeville, PA 15146

From our Readers

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♦ The district or territory of Maramures is northeast of Satu Mare and not between Oradea and Arad. The main city in Maramures is Sighet, the home town of Eli Wiesel, the Nobel Prize recipient.

♦ Arad is in Transylvania, not in Banat.

♦ For simplification, Moldova is a country, and Moldavia is the province of Romania. Since 100 C.E. the country was in Dacia, the initial Romanian territory. In 1812 the Russian Empire took the territory between the Dniester, Prut and Danube, known as Bessarabia. Until then Bessarabia was part of Moldova and not Moldavia, the ancient Romanian principality. This territory came back to Romania in 1918, but was taken by Stalin in 1940 being divided between Ukraine and the Moldavian Socialist Republic. After the crush of the Soviet Union, it became Moldova.

♦ What is now Ukraine in the southern part of Moldova was originally part of Romanian Moldova, than the Russian Empire, then again to Romania and after 1940 to Ukraine (for the first time in history).

♦ The northern shaded area with the city of Cernauti (Romanian), Cernowitz (German) and Cernovsky (Russian) which is now Ukraine was Romanian until 1770, then taken by Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1919, retaken by Romania until 1940 and again taken by Stalin and integrated into the Socialist Republic of Ukraine, now known as Ukraine.

All these territories are important for Jewish people, but sometimes they were known as Romanian, Russian, Austro-Hungarians or now even Ukrainians.

I might also add that it is very important that the names of Romanian cities be spelled correctly both for our own accuracy but also in case we write to any of the local offices for information.

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Hamden, CT 06514

EDITOR'S NOTE: Both Dr. Bratu and Bruno Segal, native Romanians, have offered to proofread for the correct spelling of Romanian placenames, beginning with the next issue.
We're still getting Mamaliga recipes.
Here's one Gary Fiteberg remembers from his grandmother Regina "Ray" (nee Kastner) Hilman. Bubbe Rae was from Radauti, Bukovina.

1 quart of water
1 tablespoon of salt
1 box of yellow cornmeal

In a deep pot, bring water and salt to a fast boil. A handful at a time, sift the cornmeal slowly into the boiling water, stirring constantly with a large wooden spoon. Continue adding cornmeal until you get the desired thickness. Be careful when adding the cornmeal to lower the heat when it begins to boil again. There is a tendency to boil up suddenly.

Continue to heat and stir until the mush is very smooth. Cover the pot and let it cook slowly for 10 to 12 minutes or longer.

Wet a long knife in cold water and cut around the sides of the pot, loosening and pushing away the mush from the side. Turn the pot over onto a wood cutting board. Then cut slices with a white thread. Serve instead of bread with meat, stews, soup, etc.