Sam Elpern (1930-1998)

This issue is dedicated to our beloved leader of the past several years

In this issue ...

Sam Elpern: His life, his tributes ........................................ 3-9
ROM-SIG gets a new Coordinator ........................................ 10
Where to find Jewish research sources in Romania ............. 11
From Transnistria to Israel ............................................. 19
Genealogy: mystery or puzzle .......................................... 22
How e-mail helped find a first cousin thought lost .............. 25
1892 All Russia Business Directory - Soroki .................... 29
Two indexes from Stanestheic ......................................... 31
... but first a word from your Coordinator ....................... 2
... but first a word from your Coordinator ...

This is probably the last time you’ll be hearing from me in this capacity. I have a few words to say, if I may.

First, I want to thank you for allowing me to take over. The tragedy that hit us all just before the Seminar, struck me especially hard. There is little I wouldn’t have done for Sam, as I believe he would have done for me. We were two workhorses from the same breed: we liked to organize, we liked people, and we both loved ROM-SIG. So again, I say “thanks” for allowing me the pleasure and honor of filling in for Sam.

This issue, as you may have gathered, is dedicated to Sam’s memory. Aside from his own family, this newsletter, the organization it represents and the people he intended it for — you — mattered most to him.

During my brief term as “transitional coordinator” (that’s my own title) I’ve tried to set ROM-SIG’s goal as Sam would have wanted it. I’ve pored over the diskettes of much of his recent correspondence, I’ve read the proposed by-laws, I’ve read and re-read his outline for ROM-SIG’s future (see Vol. 6, No. 1), and I’ve talked to many of you who were in close contact with him. Elsewhere in this issue (on Page 14) you will find the names of “Interim Officers” (again my choice of titles) who will administer ROM-SIG until the official by-laws are voted upon and a regular election is held, hopefully very soon. I have asked the Interim President (or Coordinator) to name four Interim Directors to help guide ROM-SIG until the new by-laws are adopted.

I have also tried to put in place what I think is a tremendous team of volunteer members who will carry out the many, many jobs that Sam himself took care of. And I’ve also tried to outline a “job description” for each of these duties, so that there will be no interruption of ROM-SIG activities. Again, these are just “interim” assignments. The new officers and board will make more permanent choices. So if any of you are interested in any of these positions (all voluntary), we can certainly use you. Make your desires known to the new people.

I have also taken the liberty of making a few changes in this newsletter. They are minor ones, I believe, like changing the nameplate (but not the name) of our organization to be more inclusive of the areas we actually cover. There are some style changes in the format, but the material is still basically the same as it was.

My job will continue for just a few more weeks as I prepare turning over the organization’s material and records to the new president or coordinator. And I especially want to thank Sam’s family, who have been so kind and helpful during their crises and ours...

I have met a great many ROM-SIGers during my brief term. In the years to come, I hope to meet more of you through the pages of the newsletter, via the Internet, at Seminars and ROM-SIG meetings. I have never found a ROM-SIGer I didn’t like. I wish many future personal successes to each of you, and only the very best of luck for ROM-SIG.

Gene Stam
genes@iag.net
Sam Elpern spent his life giving to his family and ROM-SIG

by Gene Starn

The most admired man in Jewish Romanian genealogy is no longer with us.

Sam Elpern, the coordinator of ROM-SIG, died of a heart attack while jogging to strengthen his heart on Wednesday, July 8, 1998. He was 67 years old.

He was the third child of seven siblings, the only male born to Jacob A. and Annette Abramovitz Elpern, on Dec. 27, 1930, in Greensburg, Pa. He was named Samuel Norris Elpern, Shlomo Nayich in Hebrew, after his mother's brother and his father's father. His mother was the Romanian connection in the family, having been born in Bucecea. His father was born in Greensburg. Neither parent was living at the time of Sam's death.

He is survived Joy Livingston Parris whom he married in 1954. They have one daughter, Elizabeth Swenson, who resides in Denver.

Of his six sisters, all but Elaine, the eldest, survived him. Barbara Bookhalter and Sorale Fortman live in Tuscon, Shirley Goldberg is in the San Francisco area, Zita Fortman and Lois Bojarano live in southern California. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Sam graduated from Greensburg High School where he was one of the more active students in the class, editing the Greensburger, was president of Forensic and manager of the baseball team among other things.

Sam was one of those who mastered the technology of computers. Although he graduated from the University of Arizona in 1954 with majors in political science and public administration, he once wrote that "I wandered up and down the East Coast for 40 years as a computer analyst/programmer." He returned to the University of Arizona in 1988 for a Master's Degree in Library and Public Information Science. He recently retired to Thornton, Colo., from his own consulting firm, The Elpern Group, Inc.

Most of us knew Sam only through the ROM-SIG newsletter and his e-mail or phone conversations. When Gertrude Ogushwitz and Paul Pascal decided to organize a special interest group devoted to Romania, past and present, during the 1992 Summer Jewish Genealogical Seminar in New York, Sam was quick to volunteer his and his wife's services to have the newsletter printed and mailed. When Gene Starn took over as editor of the newsletter in 1993, Sam's duties expanded to that of business manager. And when Starn resigned two years later, Sam began his one-man show of running ROM-SIG, with Marlene Zakai as editor.

Sam became the majordomo of all things involving Romanian Jewish genealogy during those years, as the membership leveled off to about 350 world-wide. Although he introduced ROM-SIG to cyberspace with pages on JewishGen, produced a Romanian family finder both in print and interactive on the Internet, negotiated the procurement and translation of the Iasi Jewish censuses of the 19th century, among other things, he continued to personally mail the issues of the ROM-SIG newsletter each quarter.

Prior to his death, he began planning for further expansion of the Romanian special interest group by naming a 15 member advisory group for counseling on new by-laws leading to incorporation as a not-for-profit organization, arranging for a forum-discussion on JewishGen especially for Jewish Romanian researchers on JewishGen, leading to the translation of vital information on the Jewish population of Romania. The night before his death, Sam was talking to various individuals regarding a meeting with the new chief archivist of Romania about easing the access to Jewish records in the archives.

But it was only recently that he began to see the need for spreading his duties to other members. In last year's Winter Issue he outlined an expanded future for ROM-SIG including research from all parts of old Romania -- Bukovina, Besarabia, Moldova and other areas -- as well as concentrated efforts to improve the access to the
as concentrated efforts to improve the access to the Romanian national archives. He also arranged for the appearance at the 1998 Los Angeles Summer Jewish Genealogy Seminar of Dr. Ladislu Gyement, of Cluj, Romania.

Just before the conference he became aware of a more liberal regime in Romania, one willing to improve access to the archives by Jewish genealogists. He asked Sallyann Sack, editor of Avotaynu and president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, and Harold Rhode, former president of the Washington JGS, to represent ROM-SIG in an audience with Romanian embassy officials. They were so well received the Romanians at first asked to meet with the leaders of Romanian Jewish genealogy in Los Angeles but later changed their plans.

In a phone conversation with Starn on the Tuesday before the Seminar, Sam arranged for a dinner meeting with Gene and others to discuss the strategy for approaching the Romanians. The next day, Sam, who had taken up long-distance running as a means of building up his heart’s resistance to a hereditary problem, was out jogging when he was fatally stricken.

More than 80 persons jammed into the late Tuesday afternoon annual meeting of ROM-SIG. Roseanne Leeson and Joyce Childs co-chaired the meeting until Gene Starn volunteered to act as transition coordinator to get the group’s business in order, publish the current issue of the newsletter and find someone to take over as Interim Coordinator until new by-laws as proposed by Sam, were in place.

Three weeks later, Starn announced the establishment of a Sam Elpern Memorial Research Fund, sponsored by ROM-SIG, with the money to be used to further research in Jewish genealogy, especially as it pertained to Romania, old and new, as envisioned by Sam.

Also in Sam’s name, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) gave a total grant of $2,500 to Batya Unterschatz’s work at Search Bureau for Missing Persons and to Yale Reisner of the Jewish Institute, gathering materials on the pre-Hitler era of Poland.
Sam’s other loves...

marathon running...

Sam took up marathon running to counter a hereditary heart condition. Among his races: the New York Marathon and, his last race, in Boulder, Colo., near his home and his family!

From his high school yearbook:

“Sam ... takes a hop, a skip and a jump ... and he’s still five minutes late ... but he is the dynamo of the senior class ... editor of the Greensburger, president of Forensic, manager of the baseball team... etc...etc.”

1937: young Sam with his sisters in Greensburg, PA

1961: with his daughter, Elizabeth

Sam and his wife, Joy, with one of their grand nieces

Sam’s last family event, Passover 1998, with his living sisters: Barbara, ‘Sorkey’, Lois, Shirley and Zina.
Sam's nephew, Brian Fortman, looks back ... and ahead

An e-mail message shared by Gene Starn

I last saw Sam at our home in Tucson for Passover. Sam was very dedicated to his family (past and present) and liked to come in for as many family occasions as possible.

Because two of Sam's sisters live in Tucson (my mom and my aunt) and at various times in his life Sam lived there and went to college there, he often visited Tucson for events (holidays and marathons).

This year it was a special surprise though, because with his wife being in such failing health we didn't really expect him to come. While in Tucson, Sam also joined my father and me at a semi-pro baseball game and we all had a wonderful time. He and my father drove me to the airport straight from the game and that would be the last time I saw Sam.

I don't know if those in the ROM-SIG had a chance to experience Sam's sense of humor. He was best known in our family for being the one brother among six sisters, for always being there to help (as ROM-SIG certainly knows) and for his humor. Some might have called it corny, but when all of us were growing up we all loved Uncle Sam's crazy jokes and wisecracks.

Perhaps as another commentary to Sam's ability to carry the burden, none of those in the family did much genealogical study because we knew that Sam had it in such amazing order. I guess that none of us ever expected that he would leave us so abruptly and without being able to really sit down with him and appreciate the immense amount of knowledge that he had built and that those in ROM-SIG were able to utilize.

I know that Sam is enjoying himself as he is finally getting the chance to meet and visit with all of the relatives whom he worked so hard to learn about in his time with ROM-SIG. These days people are so busy worrying about themselves and what others can do for them. Sam was one of the few who cared for others and gave of himself and his time tirelessly. I hope that those who take advantage of all that ROM-SIG has to offer will also volunteer some of their time to giving back so that ROM-SIG can thrive and be a source for everyone.

Those are some of my thoughts. I don't know Sam's birthdate off the top of my head, but he wanted to be cremated so that no one would feel obligated to go to a funeral or be sad, and to have his ashes scattered in Sabino Canyon in Tucson. Once the heat subsides, our family expects to get together around October or November to have a memorial service to spread the ashes. In the meantime, those of us in the area here in Los Angeles got together the Sunday after his passing and had a very nice memorial among ourselves discussing our memories.

Relatives and friends from out of the area sent in faxes for us to read and called in on speaker phones to share their own thoughts. Sam would have enjoyed that and we all felt him smiling down on us.

As to whom will carry on his work in our family, it seems that it will probably be me somewhat, but my aunt who collected the information from his home after his passing is supposed to review what she collected and discuss it with me first.

I expect that I will need MUCH help trying to figure out what to do. Of course, I am extremely busy with my work as an attorney so I do not know how much time I have to continue the searching for now. As I told you in the meeting, I appreciate that you were willing to assume the post of chairman, if only as a transition.

Again, Sam would have really appreciated that.
The World of Jewish Genealogy Mourns Loss of Sam Elpern

by Gene Starn

"I never met Sam, but ...." appeared in most of the letters of condolence. Because Sam was known to almost everyone researching relatives from Romania, Moldova, Transylvania, Bukovina and Bessarabia. He was helpful, kind, considerate, and knowledgeable. Young and old adored him.

I had the pleasure of knowing him personally, while I was editor of the ROM-SIG NEWS for two years and afterwards as a member of the advisory board. Our friendship continued and we were always asking each other's advice because we knew our problems were similar, I having taken over coordinating the Kielce-Radom (Poland) SIG.

Just a few days before I was to leave on a vacation and the LA Seminar, Sam had alerted me to a major development in Romanian genealogy. It seems the new Romanian government was looking favorably toward loosening their tight hold on the material in their archives. They seemed to be willing to open the archives more freely. Sam wanted me to be among a handful of Romanian researchers for dinner on the opening Sunday evening of the conference to plot a strategy for approaching them. I gave him my itinerary in case there were any new developments.

When I arrived in Los Angeles on Tuesday, July 7th, there was a message for me to call Sam at his daughter's home. I feared that his wife, Joy, who had been critically ill, had taken a turn for the worse, and that Sam would not be attending. But those fears were allayed. All he wanted was to make certain I would be there and we arranged to have dinner together the following Sunday night. I was probably the last Jewish genealogist to talk to Sam.

My next few days were spent away from computers and genealogy altogether. Elaine and I spent a few restful days with her brother. It was Sunday afternoon, July 7th, the first day of the Seminar, when I first learned of Sam's sudden death. I had checked in at the registration desk and asked if Sam Elpem had checked in yet.

A young man told me, matter of factly, "Oh, he won't be at the seminar. He died last Wednesday of a heart attack."

I couldn't believe what I was hearing, but the room suddenly began spinning and I felt the blood being drained from my head. I suddenly felt Elaine's arms around my waist to steady me."

Someone else at the table began deriding the young man for being so blunt, but it didn't matter. I realized I had lost a dear, dear friend.

The first the Jewish genealogy world knew of Sam's death came in an unsigned e-mail posting to JewishGen on Weds., July 8, 9:42 p.m.

My uncle, Sam Elpem, who serves as the webmaster or something for one of the Jewish genealogy groups on the internet, died earlier today of a heart attack while jogging near his home in Colorado. He was scheduled to go to the convention this weekend in LA and I don't know if he was to speak or just be a participant so I figured I should inform someone. Please pass this along to whomever might need to know. Thank you.

Carol Skydell, a moderator for JewishGen blinked as she read the message. She knew Sam lived in Thornton, outside Denver, so she called the police there. Not long afterwards she received a confirmation. The next morning at 9:24 a.m. was the JewishGen message:

In great shock and sadness, this is to share with you the news of the untimely death of our good friend Sam Elpem on Wednesday July 8th, somewhere between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. Because the email which came into JewishGen's support desk was unsigned, I confirmed the information with the police department in Thornton, Colorado, Sam's home.

I had the pleasure of meeting Sam's nephew, Brian Fortman, the following Tuesday at the ROM-SIG meeting. He came up to me after the meeting to introduce himself. He is an attorney in the southern California area and came to represent the family and learned first-hand how well-loved and respected his uncle was in the field of Jewish genealogy.
And now the messages of condolence began pouring into JewishGen. They represented a cross-section of the feelings people had for Sam.

It is with disbelief and abject sadness that I inform you that Sam Elpern died yesterday afternoon while jogging near his home. All of you know what a terrible loss this is to Jewish genealogy in general and to ROM-SIG in particular, therefore, I will not indulge in any platitudes. I am so glad that Sam and I had a chance to meet in Denver last month for a great afternoon of talk and schmoozing. We were looking to more meetings in L.A. I will be in L.A. for the seminar but I have no idea how the ROM-SIG meeting will progress.

--Joyce Field (jfield@nlei)

As a member of Rom-SIG, I will greatly miss the dynamic leadership of Sam Elpern. He worked hard and made it look easy. His passing is a great sadness to us all.

--Helene Kenvin (0005734940@mcimail.com)

This is truly unbelievable and shocking. I had just talked with Sam briefly a couple of days ago about incorporating the group, and he was full of enthusiasm for the recent progress that has been made with Romanian archival material. I won’t be at the LA seminar, but I know those of you who are there will be organizing a tribute and a commitment to carry on the work Sam has done so well for all these years. Let’s all regroup afterward.

--Don Solomon (dms@gis.net)

What terrible news and what a great loss. What can we do for his family and to show our gratitude for what he has done for ROM-SIG’s cause? Contributions sent to what charities? Please keep me informed.

--Irv Schoenberg (irvs@pop.mindspring.com)

I will deeply miss Sam Elpern, my respected colleague, advisor and friend. Sam was always there when we needed him the most. Sometimes with innovative ideas, often with constructive criticism - always with encouragement.

--David Hoffman (dbh12345@aol.com)

This has been a really horrendous personal loss to all of us. I have spoken with Sam’s daughter, Liz Swenson, twice, and today she informed me that she has had a double loss this week: not only did she lose Sam, but her mother-in-law also passed away. She is trying very hard to sift through Sam’s ROM-SIG materials for us, as she said, to honor Sam, who loved this organization so much. This morning she was going to the funeral of her mother-in-law and so her assistance today will be limited. To all of you who have been graciously pitching in, thank you. We will some how carry on--in Sam’s memory. To all who have asked how we can honor Sam, I honestly don’t know now. I am sure that many worthy ideas will be brought up in L.A. All I can think of is to volunteer for all the tasks ahead of us that Sam gladly shouldered.

--Joyce Field (jfield@nlci)

What a shock! Please keep me informed as well.

--Nat Abramowitz (lucynat@juno.com)

My heartfelt sympathy to the family of Sam Elpern. He will be sorely missed by all of us in the Jewish genealogical world.

--Betty Provizor Starkman (bettejoy@aol.com)

I just heard that Sam Elpern, ROM-SIG Coordinator passed away Wed or Thurs. He had a massive heart attack while jogging. I had been looking forward to meeting him at the Seminar because he always answered my messages and had a lot of well thought out comments. He’ll be missed. I’m sending a sympathy card from Gesher Galicia.

--Shelley Pollero (rpollero@maigret.umd.edu)

I am so sad I just can’t tell you.

--Marlene Zakai (zakai@aol.com)

Sam Elpern’s work has been, is and will be appreciated.

--Les Berman (mx%ebii@aol.com)

In Sam’s memory, I would like to volunteer to help Rom-SIG News. Since I live here in Colorado, I can do any on the spot errands necessary, or just help in general. Whatever you wish.

--Sandra Greenberg (sanggreenb@aol.com)

It’s really a shock to say the least. Such a wonderful man, Sam was.

--Nora Banner (bannern@juno.com)

I was grieved to hear about Sam Elpern’s passing away; it is a very sad news for me. He was very kind to me; he always encouraged me to do research, recommending me to ROM-SIG members, publishing my name and sending me every issue for free. I express my sympathy to his family and to all ROM-SIG member. He will remain a good friend to me.

--George
Sam was a great manager and approached his ROM-SIG responsibilities with great enthusiasm and dedication. His efforts on behalf of ROM-SIG are appreciated by all of us and he will be truly missed.

--Bruno Segal (brunosegal@worldnet.att.net)

It is my own sadness that I feel the last two days as I lose my Romanian ROM-SIG buddy, Sam Elpern. Sam was always there to help and answer any question that came up. Although we had never met personally, I knew him through e-mail. He was a major force in getting ROM-SIG going and did all he could to support this wonderful group. I will miss Sam’s emails and I will miss not meeting him in person for the first time, as we head off to the Seminar on Sunday. My deepest condolences and respect to the Elpern family.

--Arlene B. Edwards (glezmah@aol.com)

I am shocked to hear about Sam’s death. I never met him but spoke to him several times on the phone and via e-mail. In fact, I had told Sam that I would visit him on my next business trip to Denver. I think Romnet is super and the scholarly journal is excellent.

--Ed Berkowitz (eberkowitz@worldnet.att.net)

Sorry to hear about Sam. I have not been a member long enough to get to know anyone.

--Manfred Goldstein (mannyg@spa.net)

We are all devastated by the sudden loss of Sam, and so untimely right before the Seminar. His assistance and guidance to us with our research was invaluable. We express condolences to his wife and family.

--Robert & Ena Jacobs (enabob@worldnet.att.net)

I just returned from a 2-week holiday and found your e-mail. I am speechless! I feel a personal loss - how could this have happened? And, to think that Joy is herself very ill - what a sad situation. I e-mail the family with my condolences.

--Merle Kastner (merlekast@videotron.ca)

Although Sam and I had been in e-mail contact over the year, I only had the opportunity to meet him once in Boston. He was always helpful to me. I was living in Romania for awhile and I guess I helped him a little from time to time.

--Sandi Goldsmith (sand3410@aol.com)

I never met Sam, but we had a fair share of communication about ROM-SIG and research in Romania. He helped me negotiate an awkward situation with Professor Gyemant and research, and was an advisor on some of my genealogy questions. So I would say we had an internet acquaintance, at least. Needless to say I too am shocked and saddened by this news.

--Erica Abel (rikaabel8@msn.com)

I was most saddened to hear of Sam Elpern’s death. Ever since he contacted me after I posted a query to JewishGen, I have been “off and on” contact with him whenever I wanted to voice my opinions about ROM-SIG or ask for some of his expertise on aspects of Romanian or Bukovinian genealogy (which he gladly shared). It is difficult for me to imagine ROM-SIG without him. Unfortunately, ROMNET #30 was the first time I learned of Sam’s sudden death, as I am a month behind in my JewishGen digests, partly due to the two weeks our computer was down. I think it would be appropriate for a tribute to him (perhaps the one to be published in the upcoming ROM-SIG News to be added to the site. ROM-SIG has lost a great leader and lovely friend.

--Brent Harris (age 15) (cara@adan.kingston.net)

It was with sadness that I read your e-mail about Sam Elpern’s passing. I did not know him personally - only through communications related to RomSig. Please express my condolences to his family.

--Ken Kalstein (kkshadow@sirius.com)

Sorry to hear about Sam Elpern’s passing. He certainly was dedicated.

--Jeffrey Gorney (gorneyja@aol.com)

I am too stunned. I have also been communicating frequently with Sam over the past year and especially over the past couple of weeks. He had offered to share his room with me at the LA seminar—I decided only a couple of weeks ago that I couldn’t make it. I’m willing to step in and take on more responsibility with RomSig as necessary.

--Rick Bercuvitz (rberc@strategicapproaches.com)

Your ROMNET mailing was the first news I had of Sam’s death. It came as quite a shock. Although I didn’t know him personally we exchanged e-mail several times and his input was always appreciated. If you can, please extend my deepest sympathy to his family.

--Phil Kornstein (beltsy@worldnet.att.net)
ROM-SIG gets a new coordinator; Rick Bercuvitz agrees to take over the job

Rick Bercuvitz, an original member of ROM-SIG, visitor to his ancestor’s homeland several times, and chief officer of the Institute for Nonprofit Enterprise, has agreed to take on the interim coordinator’s role of leading the organization to the heights foreseen by the late Sam Elpern.

Bercuvitz said, “I have been particularly affected by Sam’s sudden death” and agreed “to undertake the task of coordinating ROM-SIG. “Although I maintain a very busy career,” he said, “I will be depending on you, the ROM-SIG members, to contribute your volunteer energies to our endeavors.”

Bercuvitz was especially selected by Gene Starn who had volunteered to keep this Jewish genealogy special interest group going until Sam’s successor was chosen. He also named Don Solomon as Interim Secretary and Peter Genter as Interim Treasurer.

“I pored over the list of members, especially those I knew from years past, and had few doubts that Rick was the man to lead us, if only he could be convinced to take the job,” said Starn. “There was little hesitation on his part,” he continued, “except for one caveat that he insisted upon.”

In an e-mail to Starn, Bercuvitz wrote, “I would be willing to take on the responsibility of a coordinating role if you can assure me that you have a solid work commitment from all of the people you’ve spoken to.”

Starn assured him that the team of people who have volunteered to carry on Sam’s work were outstanding as well as being committed.

The word “interim” will disappear from the titles after an official set of by-laws is accepted by the membership and general elections are held. Sam had been working with Solomon on adopting by-laws and was about ready to present them for approval when he died suddenly near his home outside Denver on July 8. Sam foresaw three officers and at least four directors as the governing body of ROM-SIG.

Bercuvitz, commenting on the organization’s progress since Sam’s death, said, “Gene Starn graciously stepped in to try to pick up the pieces and has done a marvelous job pulling everything together. We owe him our gratitude.”

Starn also had high praise for all of the people who stepped in to help. Listed below are those who either undertook or continued their jobs during the past month or so:

Rae Bernat, Membership Chair — gathers in the membership application and checks and disburses the information to the proper sources.
Joyce Field — although burdened with duties in other genealogical organizations, she managed to locate and transfer ROM-SIG funds to a proper location.
Roseanne Leeson — leads a new team of volunteers that monitors the JewishGen forum for inquiries pertaining to ROM-SIG areas of expertise. Assisting her so far are Sandra Goldstein and Sandi Goldsmith.
Irene Goldstein, who took minutes at the hectic ROM-SIG meeting at the LA Seminar, and Fred Schwartz, both offering sage advice during the transitional period.
Irving Oppman — Editor, the newsletter. Although away on an Alaskan vacation while this latest issue was being put out, said he’d take over upon his return. He will find a huge staff of production people who helped put out this issue, including:
Gay Lynne Kegan — a new member experienced in producing newsletters who did all of the formatting for this issue.
Rita Margolis and Roberta Solit — who take care of the printing, mailing labels, envelope prep work and post office mailing of the entire issue.
Helen Kenvin — who restores and enhances the photos that appear in the newsletter,
Ruth Gavis, Carol Shkolnik, Art Kress and Jeff Gorney — who act as copy editors making certain all is correct in the articles submitted,
Mark Heckman — continues as master of our Web pages,
And others, especially those who have submitted the articles that appeared in this past issue and are working
on material for upcoming issues of the newsletter. You’ll read their stories in the days ahead.

Starn will continue to work with ROM-SIG in sorting through Sam’s papers and computer disks to learn of the many projects that Sam was working on. Although he is the coordinator of another Jewish genealogical SIG — the Kielce-Radom (Poland) SIG — he will continue to be available to the ROM-SIG membership.

He has already received more than a dozen storage boxes of material from Sam's daughter, Elizabeth Swenson, with more reportedly on the way.

Where to find Jewish genealogy research materials in Romania

By Dr. Ladislau Gyemant

Professor of Jewish History, University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania

In this article I will focus on the archival sources available for Jewish genealogy research in Romania and the way these archives are organized.

The Romanian National Archives central office is located in Bucharest. However, vital records registers, the most valuable sources for genealogical research, are located in the counties. Registers more than one hundred years old are located in the respective county capitals and may be researched or copied. Registers less than one hundred years old are kept at the Registry Offices of the Town Halls. Requests for information written in English will be accepted. Registry clerks will do the research and provide the information at no charge.

Examples of other essential sources include census lists, fiscal censuses, known as catagrafii, fiscal records, cemetery registers, individual Jewish community archives, roll books, and army rosters. I will talk about these sources for each province and will mention the differences among the counties.

Today's Romania includes the following provinces: Moldavia, Wallachia, Transylvania, Dobrudja, Maramures, Bihor, and Banat.

I will talk about Moldavia first, since it had the highest concentration of Jews in the last three centuries. Between 1803 and 1899, the Jewish population in Moldavia increased 17 times to 200,000. Total Jewish population in the former Romania was 260,000. The 1930 census found that 157,000 or 21.5% of the total Jewish population of 728,000 were living in Moldavia. Only Bessarabia, which I will not discuss, with its a Jewish population of 206,000 Jews, surpassed that number.

Today, Moldavia is made up of the following counties: Botosani, Suceava, Iasi, Neamt, Bacau, Vaslui, Vrancea, Buzau and Galati. The National Archives has a County Department in Botosani, Suceava, Iasi, Piatra Neamt, Bacau, Vaslui, Focsani, Buzau and Galati.

The County Department in Botosani keeps the civil registers of the former Botosani and Dorohoi counties, where almost 50,000 or 25% of Moldavian Jews were living in 1899. Other main Jewish centers and their Jewish population were Botosani (16,600), Dorohoi (6,900), Darabani, Frumusica, Bucecea, Saveni, and Radauti to Prut. Civil registers begin in 1865 and, up to 1895, are in the County Department in Botosani. They are written in Romanian, and include births, marriages and death records listed chronologically. In Botosani, where Jews made up almost a third of the county's population, an alphabetical index of births and marriages is available for 1865 to 1939.

But there are problems using these records. The
Registers of burials kept by the administration of the Jewish cemetery of Botosani are a significant additional instrument. They include the names of those who died between 1906 and 1986, the date of death, and the topographic position of the grave. For other localities of the county, there are no finding aids, so research can only be done by going through the registers, page by page. For 1865 to 1895, in localities such as Darabani or Frumusica, the number of registers varies between 70 and 90. Before 1865, records of births, marriages and deaths of each denomination were kept separately in "mitrice" registers. This system functioned poorly and the only registers that came down to us were from Botosani for 1857 to 1864; from Bucecea for 1860 and 1864; and Sulita for 1859 to 1865. Research is also hindered by the fact that they were written in the Cyrillic alphabet or a transliteration to the Latin alphabet.

The situation is more complex for fonds of the Suceava County Department. There one may find registers of the former Suceava county, part of Older Romania, which had a Jewish population of about 10,000 in 1899. There are also records from Bukovina, a province in northern Moldavia, which was annexed to the Austrian Empire between 1775 and 1918. Today, the southern part of Bukovina, including Suceava, Radauti, Siret, Vatra Dornei, Câmpulung, Gura Humorului belong to Romania; while the northern part, with its capital in Czernowitz, belongs to the Ukraine. The Austrian civil registers for the part of Bukovina in today’s Romania are at the Suceava County Department and are available for research. There are separate registers for each denomination, written in German. We have such registers listing the Jews of Suceava from 1843 to 1894; Radauti from 1857 to 1887; Gura Humorului for 1857 to 1877; Câmpulung for 1857 to 1893; Vatra Dornei for 1877 to 1887; and Burdujeni for 1860 to 1861. There are seven ample registers for Suceava, which has a well-done alphabetical index in order by family name. Besides the name, the index includes the year, page and registration number. The same County Department keeps the registers of other significant Jewish centers, such as Falticeni or Dolhasca, which belonged to Older Romania. These registers are for all denominations, are written in Romanian and cover the period between 1865 to 1895. In the case of Falticeni, we also have two previously drafted denominational registers including the period between 1862 to 1864.

The County Department in Iasi preserves the civil registers of another area, thickly populated with Jews, the county and town of Iasi, inhabited by 46,000 Jews in 1899, among whom 39,000 were living in the town of Iasi itself. Other important Jewish centers were Podul Iloaiei, Hârlau, Târgu to Frumos. The civil registers of Iasi have an index arranged alphabetically by family name, and includes the name, date and document number. The index refers to the births, marriages and deaths occurred in the period between 1865 to 1895. For the period between 1840 to 1865, the "mitrice" also have a special index, whose perusal is rendered more difficult by the Cyrillic writing.

At the County Department of Iasi is a significant quantity of fiscal censuses or catagrafi, for the entire Moldavian territory. The oldest such census dates from 1772 to 1774 and was published in Izvoare si marturii referitoare la evreii din România, Sources and Testimonies Concerning the Jews in Romania, on pages 104 to 132, in volume II, issue 2, published in Bucharest in 1990. An 1808 catagrafie of Iasi was published in the first volume of Documente istorice privitoare la orasul Iasi, Historical Documents Concerning Iasi Town, edited by Ioan Caprosu and Mihai to Razvan Ungureanu, Iasi, in 1997. The same volume also contains that part of an 1820 general fiscal census of the town of Iasi in Moldavia. These sources supply only the name, family members, and occupations. However, the census of the suditi, people under the protection of a foreign power, taken between 1824 to 1825, provides the same information, as well as birthplace, date of
Where the Romanian Jews lived in 1930

Census lists from 1831 to 1832, 1838, 1845, 1851 and 1859 have all come down to us. They provide details including the name of the head of the family and of the family members, their ages, the date of the parents' marriage, their birthplace, the date they came to Moldavia, the domicile, economic resources, occupation, fiscal category, distinctive marks, and moral
profile. Using these sources is even more difficult due to the lack of indexes and by the Cyrillic alphabet. Their translation would be very expensive but would provide Jewish genealogy researchers with valuable source material.

The Neamt County Department of the National Archives in Piatra Neamt possesses registers of the former Neamt and Roman counties, where in 1899 about 25,000 Jewish inhabitants lived in important Jewish centers, such as Piatra Neamt (8,500 Jews), Roman (6,100) and Târgu Neamt (3,500). As is typical for the registers covering 1890 to 1895, there is a list of names at the beginning of every volume, which considerably facilitates the researcher's work. The archives of Piatra Neamt at the Registry Office of the Roman Town Hall has an index of the marriages celebrated between 1865 to 1907, as well as an alphabetical index of births between 1912 to 1944. The Jewish Community archives in Roman at 131 Sucevei Street has a register of deaths beginning with the year 1892 which only covers the letters A to C. It also has two censuses of the Jews of Roman, taken in 1941 and 1942, which include names, ages, and date and place of birth. The Jewish cemetery of Roman has burial registers from 1905 to 1990, which records the name, date of death, age and topographic position of each grave.

The County Department of the National Archives in Bacau has civil registers of the town of Bacau, where there were about 15,600 Jewish inhabitants in 1899. The main Jewish centers were Bacau proper (7,850 Jews), Moinești and Buhusi. Like in Piatra Neamt, researching the registers for 1890 to 1895 is facilitated by an alphabetical and chronological list of names at the beginning of each register. In the archive of the Jewish Community at 11 Gh. Apostu Street is a register of deaths and burials in the Jewish cemetery of Bacau.

The most important Jewish centers, whose civil registers are to be found at the Vrancea County Department in Focșani, are Focșani (6,000 Jews), Târgu Mureș and Panciu. The Focșani register has an index of children born between 1867 to 1899; marriages between 1866 to 1885; and deaths between 1868 to 1875.

The other County Departments in Moldavia (Vaslui, Buzau, Galati) have no additional sources except for registers of births, marriages and deaths that occurred between 1865 and 1895, which have come down to us.

Wallachia in what is today's southern Romania, also consists of two distinctive constitutive elements: Wallachia proper in the West, and Oltenia in the East. This province was much later and less densely populated with Jews, except for the capital of Bucharest, where a Sephardi Jewish community was present since the sixteenth century. In 1860 there were only 9,000 Jewish inhabitants, or .44% of the total population, in Wallachia, of whom almost 6,000 were living in Bucharest. Until the end of the nineteenth century, their number was about 69,000, of whom 44,000 were living in Bucharest. The 1930 census recorded 87,500 Jews in Wallachia and Oltenia, which represented only 12% of the Jewish population in Greater Romania.

The most significant Jewish center in this part of the country was naturally Bucharest. The civil registers from 1865 to 1895 are at the Bucharest City Archive on Vacaresti Road, and those from the last hundred years at the City Hall Registry Office on Kogalniceanu Boulevard. These were classified by their former districts: Red, Yellow, Green, Blue and Black. Each district has an index of births, marriages and deaths. For some districts and periods, there are two additional finding aids indexing some by the family name and others by the given name. Beginning with 1885, there is a single chronological index for all the districts in order of the registration number of the birth, marriage or death.

The Federation of the Jewish Communities in Romania preserves the most valuable Jewish archives in the country at on No .3 Mamulari Street. Also present are archives of many communities all over the country, including Alba Iulia, the oldest community in Transylvania. Unfortunately, this valuable source material is still being inventoried and are not yet available for genealogical research. Another useful source is the list of Jewish males born in Bucharest between 1892 to 1906. This list was used between 1941 and 1944 for sending men to forced labor. The list includes names, dates of birth, occupations and addresses at time of registration. In the same archive is
the Romanian Jewish census taken between 1941 and 1942, and the 1941 census of the Jews in northern Transylvania, under Hungarian administration from 1940 on.

The Central Office of the National Archives in Bucharest has the Wallachia fiscal censuses catagrafii taken in 1831, 1838, 1845, and 1860. The 1838 census, for example, provides the following details for each Jewish family: names, ages, occupations, domiciles, welfare standard, jurisdictional status, vaccination status, and moral profile. The information in these fiscal censuses taken in Bucharest will soon be published in the third volume of the collection Izvoare si marturii referitoare la evreii din România, Sources and Testimonies Concerning the Jews in Romania.

Other counties with significant Jewish populations were Braila where more than 10,000 Jews lived 1899; Ploiesti, almost 3,000 Jews; and Craiova, 3,300 Jews. There are no indexes to the registers of the other localities in the area, except for Ploiesti, for which there is an index of the births from 1832 to 1865 and 1881 to 1900, but only for females.

Dobrudja, the historical province located between the Danube and the Black Sea, became part of Romania after the War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire that took place between 1877 and 1878. At the County Departments of the National Archives in Tulcea and Constanța, the civil registers begin with the year 1879, and go to 1891 in Tulcea, and to 1895 for Constanța. Registers for the years that follow are held at the Registry Offices of the respective Town Halls. The number of the Jews in this part of the country amounted to 4,000 in 1930, representing only a half percent of Romania's total Jewish population.

Transylvania, the central and western part of today's Romania, is also made up of several distinct sections. The central part, known historically as Transylvania, was an autonomous principality under Ottoman rule until the end of the seventeenth century, a principality from 1690 to 1918, and a Great Principality in the Austrian and Austro to Hungarian Empire. It was annexed to Romania after the WWI. Until 1918, the counties of Maramures, Satu Mare, Bihor and Arad West-Northwest to historical Transylvania, were under the jurisdiction of the Hungarian administrative institutions. This was the Austrian Empire, Austro to Hungarian since 1867, which later became part of Greater Romania. The Banat, i.e. Caras, Timis and Torontal counties, located southwest of historical Transylvania, was freed by the Austrians from the Turkish rule in 1716. It became an autonomous province of the Austrian Empire until 1779, when it passed to Hungary until 1918, when it became part of Romania. From 1940 to 1944 the northern part of present-day Transylvania was re-annexed to Hungary, and after WWII ended, it came back to Romania.

This part of the country which had such a tormented history had a significant Jewish population, which increased from 105,600 people in 1869, to over 230,000 in 1910. According to the 1930 census, the Jews of Transylvania, Banat, Crisana and Maramures represented 25% of Romania's total Jewish population.

Like the other historical provinces already analyzed, in present-day Transylvania, including the aforementioned historical constitutive elements, civil registers up to 1895, the main source for Jewish genealogy research, are gathered at the County Departments of the National Archives: Baia Mare (Maramures county), in Satu Mare; Oradea (Bihor county); Arad, Timisoara and Caransebes (Banat county), Zalau (Salaj to Crasna and Solnocol de Mijloc counties); Cluj (Cluj, Solnocol Interior and Dabâca counties), Alba Iulia (Alba county), Deva (Hunedoara county), Sibiu, Brasov, Târgu Mureș (the Seat of Mureș and Târnava county), Sfântu Gheorghe and Miercurea Ciuc (the Szeckler Seats Trei Scaune and Ciuc), and Bistrita (northeastern Transylvania).

Maramures county was among the area most densely populated with Jewish presence since the eighteenth century. The Jewish population increased from 26,000 in 1869 to 65,700 on the eve of WWI. Then the Jewish population was over 18% of the total population of the county. After WWI, the part of the former Maramures county south of the Tisa river came back to Romania, while the area north of this river was annexed to Sub to Carpathian Ukraine. It was later passed to the administration of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the Soviet Union, and is now part of the Ukraine. Almost all the
civil registers, drafted separately for each denomination, were initially written in German. Between 1867 and 1918, they were written in Hungarian. Two copies of the registers are now at the County Department in Baia Mare. One copy is in the form of a register of each locality, including the registers of Sighetu Marmatiei and of the surrounding localities between 1851 to 1909. The other consists of loose sheets of paper, representing for each year the births, marriages and deaths of listed separately for each denomination. These were forwarded to the county authorities in every administrative district between 1854 to 1895.

Another fundamental source for Jewish genealogy research is in the archives of Baia Mare, where there is a significant quantity of censuses of the Jews taken from 1773 to 1843. Most of them were related to the tolerance tax, a special tax paid by the Jews in Hungary, and only mention the locality, name and the sum paid or debt. They also have the fiscal censuses taken in 1773, 1784, 1793, and 1820 to 1821, to determine the taxes due to the state. These supply richer information, including the name of the head of the family, family members, domestic personnel, the occupation, economic resources, and annual income. The documents of an inquiry made by the county authorities in 1815 provide numerous details about more than eighty Jewish families, who immigrated to the county after 1790. Although the part concerning Maramures county was only fragmentarily preserved, the general census of the Jewish population in Hungary taken in 1848, at present in the Hungarian National Archives of Budapest, include the name and age of the heads of the family, their birth place, the date of settlement in the locality and the authorities' notes concerning their morality and behavior.

The Satu Mare County Department holds the civil registers of the Jews of this traditionally Jewish area, an important center of Hasidism in this part of Europe. The number of Jews in Satu Mare county was about 30,000 people on the eve of WWI, the main centers being Satu Mare (7,000 Jews) and Carei, the first important colonization center of the Jews in the eighteenth century. Satu Mare has the rabbinical civil registers of the town of Satu Mare and the surrounding areas, dating from 1850 to 1921. From 1895 on, the state civil registers, recording citizens of all denominations, are at the Registry Offices of each locality's town halls. The registers of the other localities in the county, including Carei, have many gaps, because during the Holocaust the copies held by the communities were moved to Budapest, where their trace was lost. In contrast, the 1848 Satu Mare county census was well to preserved and is available at the County Archives of Nyiregyháza in Hungary.

Documents of the Jews of Bihor are at the County Department in Oradea. In 1910 there were over 70,000 Jews in Bihor county. The main center was the town of Oradea, whose Jewish population represented over 23% of the population. Jewish genealogy researchers should consider the fact that there were two main communities in this area, the Neolog and the Orthodox communities, and each kept its own civil registers. The separation occurred after the 1848 Congress of the Jews of Hungary, held shortly after the legal sanctioning of their civil emancipation, when they adopted a series of reforms in Jewish institutions and in education. Those who rejected the changes gathered in separate Orthodox communities, whereas the supporters became Congressist or Neolog congregations. The archives of Oradea reflect these historical events. Registers of births, marriages and deaths of the Orthodox Jews of Oradea for 1842 to 1899 were kept with their corresponding Neolog registers, dating from the period between 1870 to 1949. Like the Jews of Satu Mare county, from 1814 to 1895 only fragments of the registers from Bihor remain, except for Beiu, for which there is a register of births between 1907 to 1946 which is in the Archive of the Jewish Community of Oradea. In the same place is a register of Jewish cemetery burials from 1880 to 1990. At the Registry Office of the Oradea Town Hall is also a very good alphabetical index of the civil state registers, in which they had started to list all the citizens, regardless of denomination, beginning with 1895.

Several eighteenth century were published in Izvoare si marturii referitoare la evreii din România, or Sources and Testimonies Concerning the Jews in Romania, volumes II/1 and 2. In 1995 I published the 1828/29 in the review "Crisia" (Oradea). The census provides the surname, family given names, assets, incomes and taxes paid by the Jews of Oradea and the twenty surrounding
localities. The Jewish census of Oradea, taken in 1848 (2,447 people), and the census of the Jews living in the surrounding localities (863 people) may be consulted at the Hungarian National Archives of Budapest.

The County Department of the National Archives in Arad keeps the civil registers of the Jews of Arad county, who amounted to about 10,000 people prior to WWI. These archives have the oldest civil registers introduced by the famous Chief to Rabbi Aaron Chorin, one of the first promoters of institutional reform, changes in the divine service, and improvement of Jewish education in central Europe. The censuses began in 1794 and were initially written in Hebrew. Beginning in 1830, they were written in German, until 1867 when they started using Hungarian. The Jewish Community of Arad has a rich archive with valuable source material. These include a collection of marriage and divorce papers, wills, records of the Chevra Kadisha association, and lists of the community members.

The civil registers of the Jews of Banat, with a population of about 18,000 people in 1910, are in Timisoara and Caransebes at the County Departments of the National Archives. There are censuses of the Jews of Timisoara taken in 1743, 1744, 1750, 1798 to 1799, 1820, 1821 and 1822. These include the name of the heads of the family and other family members, and their ages, welfare standard, and fiscal duties. There is also a rich archive of the Jewish Community in Timisoara, that includes, among other documents, the 1815 census of the Jews of Timisoara taken in 1815. It also includes lists of community members, marriage and divorce papers, and wills. The 1848 Jewish census of of Caras county is in the Hungarian National Archives of Budapest.

In historical Transylvania, or the Great Principality of Transylvania, the Jewish population increased from about 2,100 people, recorded in the 1787 Josephinist census, to 15,000 after the 1848 Revolution. That population increased to 23,000 in 1869 and to 64,000 prior to WWI. The 1930 census recorded 77,000 Jews in Transylvania, representing about 10% of the total Romanian Jewish population.

Three general censuses were taken in Transylvania in the first half of the 19th century. They are available at the Hungarian National Archives of Budapest. Those 1813 and 1819 censuses are fiscal. The former recorded 3,792 Jews in twenty-one administrative units; the latter recorded 727 family heads in sixteen administrative units. Both indicate for each locality the name, assets, income and taxes. The census taken between 1835 and 1845 recorded 3,629 people in eighteen administrative units. It indicates for each locality the name, age, birth place, occupation, and date of immigration to the respective locality. In historical Transylvania, the 1848 general census of the Jews in Hungary provides information only on the Jews of Crasna and Solnocol de Mijloc counties.

Regarding the records preserved in the County Departments of the National Archives, the County Department of Zalau possesses the civil registers of all denominations, including the registers of the Jews in Crasna and Solnocol de Mijloc counties, where about 10,000 Jews lived in 1910. The main centers were Zalau, Simleul Silvaniei, Cehul Silvaniei, and Nusfalau. The Zalau Archives has civil registers covering 1823 to 1942, written in Hungarian and with many gaps due to losses during the Holocaust. In 1895, they started to keep civil state registers for citizens of all denominations. These were written in Hungarian until 1918 when use of Romanian began. These registers are now available at the respective Town Halls.

The Cluj County Department has civil registers of the Jews of the former counties of Cluj, Solnocol Interior, Dabâca and Turda, where about 28,000 Jews lived in 1910, including 7,000 in Cluj town proper. The archives in Cluj contain birth registers kept by Orthodox congregations for 852 to 1922; marriages from 1853 to 1930; and deaths from 1852 to 1902. They also have the birth, marriage and deaths death registers for 1886 to 1950 that were kept by the Neolog communities. Other significant Jewish centers and surrounding rural localities whose civil registers are also in Cluj are: Dej, Gherla, Turda, and Aghires. The Jewish community archives of Cluj has is a register of Jewish cemetery burials for 1900 to 1998.

The Alba County Department, with the residence in Alba Iulia, is in the possession of the confessional civil
registers of the Alba de Jos county and of the Alba Iulia town, where there was the oldest Jewish community in Transylvania and the only one legally acknowledged until 1848. Alba Iulia was also the seat of the Chief Rabbi, who was the spiritual leader of all the Jews in the principality up to 1879. In 1910, in Alba county there were about 4,000 Jews. In the archives of Alba Iulia one may find the civil registers of Alba Iulia, Aiud, Blaj, Ighiu, Vintu de Jos, Ocna Mures from the period between 1850 to 1895, but in the case of Alba Iulia town they continue up to 1937. The archive of the Jewish Community of Alba Iulia, now in Bucharest, in the archives of the Federation of the Jewish Communities in Romania, has not been inventoried yet, but in the future it may turn out to be an extremely valuable source for the researchers of Jewish genealogy.

At the County Department in Deva one may find the civil registers of Hunedoara county, where there was a Jewish population of 5,700 people in 1910. The registers of this archive come from Orastie and they concern the period between 1853 to 1918. At the County Departments in Sibiu and Brasov one may find the registers of the so-called Royal Lands, namely the areas inhabited and administrated by the Transylvanian Saxons, where the Jewish population was much less numerous due to the obstacles they had met when attempting to settle these lands. Consequently, on the eve of the first world war, the percentage of the Jews in these parts of the province did not even amount to 5% of the total Jewish population in Transylvania. In the Szeckler areas in the East of Transylvania, the Jewish presence was more significant in the Seats of Mures and Trei Scaune, especially in Târgu Mures and Sfântu Gheorghe, whose civil registers are at the County Departments of the National Archives in Târgu Mures, Sfântu Gheorghe and Miercurea Ciuc.

Finally, the Bistrita County Department is in the possession of a consistent collection of Jewish civil registers concerning the Jews of north to eastern Transylvania, where over 7,200 Jews were living in 1910. The main Jewish centers were Bistrita, Nasaud, Beclean, Rodna, whose registers kept between 1851 to 1895 have all come down to us.

Now for a list of special sources, which may provide significant details, adding to the information supplied by the civil registers or the statistical sources (censuses, registers, fiscal censuses). First, we should take into account the documents issued by the educational institutions of all the levels of schooling. As concerns the academic education, the records of the Universities of Iasi and Bucharest begin with the year 1864, and those of the University of Cluj, with 1872. They comprise: the students' records, including personal data and achievements (marks, scholarships, applications etc.); the records of the faculties; of the departments (including annual statistical data, certificates attesting the parents' welfare status, the correspondence with the Ministry of Education and other institutions). The documents drafted up to 1950 may be investigated at the County Departments of the National Archives in Iasi and Cluj, whereas the documents of the last decades may be found in the archives of the respective University. The archive of the Iasi University has a good inventory drafted in 1982, which describes each file. In Bucharest the archive is kept in three different buildings, it was not inventoried and was partly destroyed during the two world wars. A part of the archive sources concerning the Medical School of Cluj was moved to Târgu Mures, where there is a Medical School teaching in Hungarian. At the County Department in Oradea one may peruse the funds of the former Law School, which had carried on its activity in the last century until 1918. The data provided by these archive sources are supplemented with the information supplied by the academic yearbooks, published beginning with the years 1891 to 1892, which also comprise the annual list of students, graduates, scholarships, Ph.D's (including the title of their thesis).

As concerns the secondary education, the County Departments are in the possession of the archives of the secondary and high schools of the respective county, comprising lists of pupils, roll books etc. They are accompanied by yearbooks and commemorative volumes, which publish comprehensive lists of pupils, mentioning their religion or nationality, locality of origin, social status. The archives of the elementary schools, including the Jewish ones, have also come down to us: for instance, the archives of the Jewish boy's school of Arad set up in 1832, whose roll books are in the archive of the Community. The documents issued by the school
inspectors in the inter to war period also supply valuable information, such as lists of Jewish pupils, certificates of ethnic origin etc.

The documents issued by the military authorities are another category of special sources. They are deposited in the archives of the Ministry of Defense, in Pitesti, which, beginning with 1878, contains the record of each recruit, on contingents, with biographical data, medical records, the place where they fulfilled their military service, decorations and punishments, moral profile and promotions. As concerns the Holocaust period, the source material comprises tables, instructions and reports concerning the status, concentration and deportation of the Jews. A part of this archive was microfilmed by the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. At the County Department in Iasi one may consult the documents issued between 1900 to 1920 by the Courts martial of each army corps, throughout the territory of the Older Kingdom. They deal with cases of desertion, espionage or any other offenses committed by the enlisted men. The Cluj County Department contains the archives of the Police, which provide information on the Jews until 1950.

Finally, at the Iasi County Department there is a consistent collection of records concerning the emigration between 1895 to 1913, which supplies information on the organization of the Jews’ emigration and on the financial support for this undertaking.

The opening up of these valuable treasures of information, such as the censuses and fiscal censuses ("catagrafii"), will require a significant financial effort, but this will certainly lead to a considerable expansion of the resources available for Jewish genealogical research, far beyond the standard information supplied by the civil registers.

Hoping that the detailed and technical review of the available sources for investigating Jewish genealogy in Romania would be an invitation and encouragement for the development of the research in the future, I would like to end by wishing good luck to those who dedicate themselves to this exciting and stimulating field of Jewish history, seen from the perspective of the evolution of family life, and, at the same time, I would like to assure them that I am ready to give them all the support they might need.

---

**From Transnistria to Israel**

**An Interview with Sali Glaubach Regenstreif**

*submitted by Nick Martin (4accord@bendnet.com)*

I was three years old when they sent us to the camps. My mother and I went together. First we had been sent to the ghetto in Czernowitz, but now we were told to pack a few belongings and that, like at Auschwitz, work would make a better life for us. There I was with my little suitcase, in my white fur coat and my hand muff— and we were sent to Transnistria. (When we came back, they wouldn’t even let us in the house; Russian soldiers had taken it over).

When they sent us to the camps, we started walking. They didn’t give us transportation. Soon we came to the Dnestr River. We had no way to cross, so the people started making rafts out of branches. My mother carried me on her back. Another woman had a baby who was crying, and it upset one of the soldiers. She was carrying the baby in front of her, so the soldier took his bayonet and ran it through the child and on into the mother, and then he threw them into the water. After that, my mother carried me, but she always carried the suitcase out in front.

The soldiers set out barrels, and we were told to put all jewelry in the barrels. “If we find anyone with jewelry, we will kill you.” If people couldn’t get their rings off, they would cut off their own fingers. The people
marched for miles and miles, and Mother got tired and fell. The others kept walking.

A Ukrainian woman who was Jewish took us in, and put us above the mantle of the fireplace so we could keep warm. But she took everything from my mother. Then the Germans came with a loudspeaker and told us that all the Jews must get out of town, and that if any Jews were found, the family that was keeping them would be killed. So the lady threw us out at night. She was afraid for her life.

We started going but we didn't know where. They didn't even give us transportation to the camps, and when we got there they gave us nothing, not like in Auschwitz where they gave you soup. Here you had to provide for yourself.

And if you wanted transportation to the camps, you had to pay. There was a truck with people on their way to the camps, but they wouldn't let us get on because we had no money. But an SS officer saved our lives. We were standing outside in the cold, and the officer said, "Junge Frau, warum sind Sie draussen?" [Young woman, why are you outside?] And my mother said, "We have no money, and they told us they had no room." He said, "You have no money?" And my mother said, 'No." So he said, "Come back in the morning; we'll have room.

The next morning, the officer told the people in the truck, "You let her up or I'll take you all down." All my mother had left now was a bar of soap. A bar of soap was very valuable, and she offered it to the officer. But he said, "No, you keep it. You need it more than I do." So my mother said, "What then shall I wish you?" And he said, "Wish me well so I shall come back and see my wife and child." Even there, there was a human being. That SS officer saved my life. He told the driver of the truck, "You stop in Murafa." It was easier than the other camps.

In the camps, there was a little shack where they took out my mother's teeth. She had beautiful gold caps -- it was very fashionable then. They had no Novocain. She spent the whole war with no teeth.

In the camp, my mother used to work for the Germans doing their laundry and their black boots. I'll never forget their black boots. The camp was run mostly by Ukrainians, with a few Germans. The Ukrainians wanted to show the Germans that they were better than the Germans. When I would cry, if I didn't feel well, my mother would put her fist in my mouth so that I shouldn't be heard because the soldiers didn't like it. She would go through the garbage to take out the potato peels to make a soup, and this is how we stayed alive.

Most of the parents in the camp died. So the others made it like an orphan home. The children lay on straw which was used to make a bed. A pair of twins -- five years old -- died, so a lady brought candles to place by their heads. But the candles started a fire, and most of the children died. I ran out.

One day, there was a man lying down and begging for a little water. Someone got him some water but soon he died. My mother put me to sleep on his body so I wouldn't be on the hard cold floor. In the camps, they were fighting over the bodies and sleeping on them till they began to stink.

Let me tell you a little about my family and how we were reunited and got to Israel. My mother was Rosa Halprin. She was born to Leb Halprin and his wife, Sure. I don't know my grandmother's name before marriage. She was from Kitov near Kolomea. Sure was an orphan by the time she was two years old. She was raised by her Tante Malke [Aunt Malke], who owned a hardware store. Leb was a widower, 50 years old, and they were married when Sure was 12. Imagine such a young girl with the alte kacker! They had ten children; my mother, Rosa, was the youngest. They all died in the Holocaust except my mother.

My father was Tobias Glaubach. When he was eight, he was apprenticed to a bookbinder, and he worked as a bookbinder all his life. During the five years of the war, my father was a Russian soldier. He was taken for five years by the Russians -- before they left Czernowitz, they took all the men for the army. During the war he was wounded and had a bullet in his lung. After the war ended, he was in Siberia and wrote a letter to a postal
worker in Czernowitz to ask about his family. The postal worker wrote back: "No, your wife and daughter are dead -- they never returned from the camps." But later my father heard from someone's wife that we weren't dead - that we were living in Czernowitz again. So he took a train to come back. He had no money to pay for a ticket, so he rode on the roof for six weeks, all the way from Siberia, and whenever the train would go through a tunnel, he would get black like a Negro from the smoke.

Finally, he arrived in Czernowitz and he came to find us. One day, this old man who had no teeth asked me, "Madele, weisi du wo die Glaubachs woynt?" (Little girl, do you know where the Glaubachs live?) I was scared. He looked awful without teeth. He had only his Russian army coat and he carried a wooden suitcase. But in the suitcase, he had brought me a present, two red pomegranates. I had never seen a pomegranate before.

In Czernowitz we made a living selling salt to the Russian soldiers. We would scrape paint and mix it with the salt, to make it seem as if there was more, and then wrap it very carefully in paper as if it was diamonds. But it was illegal to sell to the soldiers and I would be chased by the police.

Then the Russians told us we all had to leave Czernowitz. They took us to the border and we started walking. We went to Sibiu. One day, I heard someone say there were oranges in Palestine. At that time, if you saw someone with a chicken or an orange, you would ask, "Wer ist krank?" [Who is sick?].

So one day, at eight years old, I got on the bus to Bucharest. I didn't tell my parents. And when I got to Bucharest, someone took me to an orphanage. My mother went looking for me everywhere, crying. Someone had seen me get on the bus to Bucharest, so my mother went begging for money to get a ticket for the train. She didn't speak Romanian, but she had the address of a cousin in Bucharest. When she got there, this cousin didn't even offer her a glass of water. And when my mother asked her to help her, she said, "I can't help you to find your daughter, because a lady is coming to do my nails."

I was at an orphanage managed by a rabbi. We stayed in a stall, and there was a horse trough where we could wash ourselves and drink. I was washing some underwear when my mother arrived. She had brought me a present, five or six dried prunes. I didn't want to go back with her to Sibiu. I told her I wanted to go to Palestine, so she left me at the orphanage with the rabbi.

The rabbi started getting documents for the children at the orphanage to go to Palestine, but because of the British, the children were being sent to camps in Cyprus instead. Then he heard that the Queen of Holland was adopting 500 children from different orphanages, and I was one of eighteen from this orphanage who were adopted by the Queen.

A week before I could leave, I had to write my mother, in case she didn't want me to go. I was now nine years old, and I mailed my postcard at the train station as I was leaving; I didn't want her to come and get me. By the time she got the postcard, I was in Belgium.

I remember we would stand with our hands out the windows and the American soldiers would throw things into the train. I remember the chocolate and the canned milk. We went to Apeldoorn, and the religious relief organizations provided schools for us. So I started school in Holland in 1946. I had never been in school before.

From the Joint Distribution Committee, I got clothing and care packages. There was a room with lots of clothes hanging from the walls, and there were shoes. You could pick whatever you wanted. Some children were lucky and found a dollar or some chewing gum in the pockets, or an address of some people who would come to get them. But I wasn't so lucky. However, now whenever I give to the Salvation Army, I put something in the pockets so someone finds it.

I was in Holland from 1946 to 1948. One day the Queen came to visit. She brought everyone a present. I got a shawl from her. Then the British left Palestine. Some people got a ship, the Negba, to take the children
to Palestine. But they wouldn't let any children go who were under twelve, because of the war with the Arabs. So overnight we all became twelve.

I went on a ship and arrived in Palestine, now Israel, on the 10th of October, 1948. It was during the Succoth holiday. They couldn't take us off the ship, but at night they took us on a brown bus, with curtains for windows, and on top of the bus lay soldiers with guns. The soldiers were 16 or 17 years old.

How I brought my parents from Romania to Israel is another story. What a twelve-year old child can do! And in spite of everything, and in spite of Hitler, I have a wonderful family, wonderful children, wonderful grandchildren. This I want everyone to know.

---

Genealogy: Mystery or Puzzle?

Connecting the Pieces – Two Trees Joined

by Irving Schoenberg <irv@mindspring.com

Anyone who has labored in the vineyards of genealogical research sooner or later arrives at one or two conclusions. The first is that constructing a family tree is a fascinating mystery which motivates the researcher to continue looking for clues, no matter how much of a time lapse there may be between any of those clues. The second conclusion is that constructing a family tree is a demanding challenge to try to piece together a very large and complicated puzzle, composed of an amazing variety and assortment of names and places. Maybe genealogy is both a mystery AND a puzzle. Whatever it is – experiencing the thrill of uncovering genuine clues that may help solve the mystery, or the thrill of connecting pieces of the puzzle -- those thrills are what drives the researcher to keep going. The rewards are the thrills, and they are absolutely worth the time, the trouble and the cost.

I experienced one of those thrills when my wife Ann and I visited Israel in May, 1998. But let me go back a few years and lay the groundwork of the story.

Every beginner in Jewish genealogy should know that one of the first places to look for clues is the yiskor - book for his/her family shtetl. Discovering that there is a book for "your shtetl" is a great leap forward into the heart of the research that lies ahead.

Many years ago, I queried YIVO (the Institute for Jewish Research) to determine if there were a book for Telenesht, my own shtetl, located in the former Romanian province of Bessarabia, now the Republic of Moldova. "Yes", the YIVO staffers told me, "there is a yiskor book for Telenesht." But where to get a copy, that they could not tell me. My several letters to book stores in Israel did not produce any results. Finally, after more looking and asking, I learned that a Lubavicher rabbi and his wife, who had left Telenesht and gone to Israel, had assembled the testimonies, the stories and the available photographs and then edited the book. I got their address, wrote them asking for a copy and finally got a reply. The cost was reasonable and certainly worth the price. When the book arrived from Israel, I was not surprised to find that about half of it was written in Hebrew and the rest in Yiddish. Now came the need for translation.

Hebrew teachers in Atlanta were not interested in taking on the tedious task. Similarly, finding someone who could translate the Yiddish and was willing to devote the necessary time was equally daunting. I was facing a tough barrier, but I could not stop there. Then I came up with a wonderful idea. I remembered Rabbi Iser Levine, the lovable man who had prepared me for my bar mitzvah back in St. Joseph, Missouri, many, many years before. I knew that his daughter, Ruth Levine Saffir, was living in Israel. Ruth had always considered herself a member of our large Hochman family ever since her father had come from Lithuania in the 1920’s to be the rabbi in our synagogue. In fact, Ruth had been my Hebrew teacher at the Talmud Torah in St. Joe. Ruth's husband, Milton, a professor at the University of
Climaco had died, and Ruth made aliyah to Israel where her three children and their families lived. I knew that Ruth was conversant in both Hebrew and Yiddish. What I had to do was gather up enough chutzpah to ask Ruth if she would do a partial translation of the yiskor book for me; that is, would she just take some time to look through the book to see if she could spot the names of any of my maternal and paternal relatives, i.e. Hochman (Goichman or Oichman), Schoenberg and Fishman (Fichman)? I did not expect her to do a complete translation. That would be asking an awful lot of her.

Happily, Ruth agreed. There proved to be another obstacle: it would take some diplomacy, "nudging" and time to get the editing rabbi in Israel to send Ruth a copy of the book, paid for, of course, by me. Finally, Ruth had the yiskor book in her hands, and before too long she sent me the product of her work. It consisted of several pages of translation which contained the name Hochman or Goichman or Oichman. (I've since learned that there is no "H" in Russian, which explains the variations in the name).

One passage from those pages struck me as ripe for further investigation. A man named Chayim Hochman had left Telenesht in 1936 as a young pioneer (halutz) and had settled in a small town in northern Israel called Pardes Hanna. Again, with Ruth's help, I wrote to Chayim in 1992, and explained that my grandparents had also come from Telenesht and had settled in St. Joseph, Missouri, with all ten of their children. I was one of their 25 grandchildren. It did not take Chayim very long to respond to that letter (with Ruth's translation from the Hebrew). In fact, he was pleased to hear from me. He wrote that he too was looking for his relatives. Along with the letter, he sent me some photos of himself taken at the Memorial Plaza in the Jewish Cemetery of Pardes Hanna. The memorial was largely his idea and his doing. The memorial was dedicated to those Jews of Telenesht who did not survive the Holocaust. He told me how each year on May 5th there was a yiskor (memorial) service held at the plaza. Jews from other communities in Israel and even from other countries gathered on that date to remember the lost ones, their friends and/or relatives from Telenesht. Each of the stones which made up the wall of the Memorial bore the name of a person who had perished in the Holocaust. Another photo he sent showed how large was the gathering at one of the May services.

Then misfortune struck. Chayim died and I was left with a broken connection. I set about to locate a member of Chayim's family in Pardes Hanna. I knew only that he had a son named Israel, but I had no address. So I wrote to the mayor of Pardes Hanna, asking for help. I got that help in the form of a letter from Israel Hochman and it contained names which I felt were definite clues to our relationship. It proved to be a few years before we were in Israel again, and I did not meanwhile take the action I should have taken to get more information from Israel Hochman.

The mystery took another and unexpected turn. In one of the photos of the Memorial, I spotted a plaque on the wall of stones. But the inscription was not easily read. Using a magnifying glass, I was able to make out the message and learned that the Youkilis family of Cincinnati, Ohio, had contributed money to help build the Memorial. In a 1997 article which appeared both in Yichzis Y'all and ROM-SIG News, I wrote of not only finding the Youkilis family in Cincinnati, but of traveling with six members of that family to Telenesht in June-July 1996. It was a marvelous adventure, an unforgettable experience and the beginning of a strong and lasting friendship with the Youkilis family.

That "sentimental journey" to Telenesht generated an effort on the part of our Group of Seven and others in the ROM-SIG to locate a translator and commission him to do a complete translation of the yiskor book of Telenesht. All of us who contributed to that effort and who have a copy of the translation in our possession consider it a genealogical treasure.

While planning for our visit to Israel in May 1998, Ann and I determined that we would go to Pardes Hanna to find Israel Hochman and his family. Soon after our arrival in Israel, good Israeli friends, Shimuel Goren and his wife Hedva, invited us to see the new house they had recently built in Givat Ada, which very coincidentally
and conveniently was only a few kilometers from Pardes Hanna. Shimuel and Hedva's house was attractive and cozy. We heard many fascinating stories about the village of Givat Ada where Hedva's relatives, the Tishbi family, had lived for several generations. Family members still own and operate one of Israel's finest wineries. After Hedva served us an excellent lunch, I asked Shimuel if he would call Pardes Hanna and try to locate the “missing” Israel Hochman. It took Shimuel only a couple of minutes before he got Israel Hochman on the telephone and invited him to come meet us at the Gorens' house.

Within the hour, in walked Israel Hochman. He is 51 years old, and my wife described him as "very handsome", which indeed he is. With a little imagination one could say that he had some resemblance to members of my Hochman family back in Missouri. His English was excellent and far better than my Hebrew. For the next half hour we probed to see how we might be related. He was short on time and apologized for having to leave, but he needed to keep a business appointment. He is a builder of houses, he told us. He asked us if we would be willing to come back to Pardes Hanna in a couple of days. He said he would like us to meet his family, especially his 83-year-old mother, Emma, who also came from Telenesh. We accepted the invitation without hesitation, and set the time and date for our next meeting at his house in Pardes Hanna.

If you’re wondering what Pardes Hanna means, I’ll tell you. "Pardes" is Hebrew for vineyards, and Hanna was the sister of Baron Rothchild. Many years before, sometime in the 1880's, the good baron had purchased a sizable piece of land from the Arabs, and in honor of his sister established Pardes Hanna as one of the first settlements in Palestine.

A few days after our first meeting, Ann and I kept our appointment and were back in Pardes Hanna. Our first stop was at the Jewish Cemetery where we found the Telenesht Memorial. There we could see, touch and photograph the individually-named stones, the pylon-type center-piece monument, and the Youkilis plaque. It was all strangely familiar, like *deja vu*.

Per our arrangement, we drove to the bus stop in Pardes Hanna and found Israel waiting for us in his car. We followed him to his house. His house, we believe may be one of the most beautiful houses in all of Israel. Of course, we were pleasantly surprised, but perhaps we should have expected something special since Israel’s a builder. Inside we met his wife Tova, his mother Emma, the oldest son Nir and his wife Gita, and Guy, the youngest son, and Guy's girlfriend. Soon we were gathered around the table looking at the printouts of the Hochman family tree, hearing about the history of their family and comparing dates and places of birth, death, etc. The evidence mounted and we all became convinced that Mordecai, Chayim's grandfather, Israel's great-grandfather, was indeed a younger brother of my maternal grandfather, Velvel Hochman. The dates of birth were a fit. The odds were heavily in favor of the relationship being valid. After all, Telenesht was a small shteił and the chances were good that the Hochmans who lived there were related.

But then came the real surprise. I had set aside the printouts of the Hochman family tree, and began to show Emma the printouts for my father's family, the Schoenberg/Fishman family. Suddenly, Emma stopped and pointed to the name Dina, on the printout. "That", she said, "is my mother." With that statement, she had confirmed that indeed her mother and my grandmother, Raisel Fishman Schoenberg, were sisters!

A large part of the mystery had been solved and a large
piece of the puzzle had been properly fitted into place. We all looked at each other, acknowledging that we were related not just through one branch of the family, but through two branches. I am sure that what we now have is only the beginning of a long-term association between the family in Israel and the family in the U.S. The signs are extremely positive. Members of my family on both my mother's side and my father's side have been informed of this amazing discovery. They too are sharing in the joy of our significant find.

Ann did not waste the opportunity to spend time with her own cousins in Israel. She got many of them to come to our hotel for a party and a session of filling in missing data from her own family tree. It too was a happy reunion.

Genealogically speaking, this our fourth trip to Israel, was perhaps the most rewarding and satisfying.

---

**How E-mail Helped Find a First Cousin Thought Lost in the Holocaust**

*Merle Kastner (merlekast@videotron.ca)*

When, little over a year ago, I first started using a computer to do family research, I was fascinated by the facility of communication which Email provided. What would have been impossible before, or would have taken many months or even years to accomplish, could now be done within a much shorter period. It is now possible to have instant and cost-free contact with people half-way around the world. Little did I know how it was to furnish me, in a short time, such a poignant and rewarding discovery.

For two and a half years, I have been documenting my father's family, enormous in its size. There were some gaps in the information amassed so far. There were some Holocaust survivors, others that had perished, and a number of question marks. After careful thought, I have decided that this story would best be related by listing the letters and e-mails, according to their sequence, and by showing the original words of the players involved.

Anyone seriously interested in genealogy becomes used to regularly receiving unexpected Emails from those who think they might possibly have a connection to his or her family, or who would like to exchange information. Therefore, when I received the following Email, I was curious, but couldn't imagine the unexpected discovery that would eventually unfold:

March 26, 1997 – from Bob Leiser (Glasgow. Scotland) to Murray Kastner, Montreal

You were pointed out to me by one Kurt Kastner, Karlsbad, near Karlsruhe, Germany, who saw your posting in soc. culture. Israel (on the Internet). The reason he told me about you was because he knows that I have Jewish ancestors by the name of Kastner. He had not been aware of Jewish Kastners in all his extensive research of the family name, so he thought there may be some connection.

Intrigued, I replied:

March 27, 1997 - to Bob Leiser

Murray Kastner, my second cousin, forwarded your letter to me; I am the family genealogist - I have been working on the Kastners for 18 months, compiled quite a bit so far and would like to investigate this further.

Within a day, I had been in contact with Kurt and then again with Bob. We all agreed to stay in touch, and pursue any possible connections. Then, with sadness and resignation, I read:

June 21, 1997- from Kurt Kastner to me

This may be interesting for you. There is a Klara Kastner from Radauti in the following list:

Subject Druker's List - My Lost Tribe (2); from Saul Issroff, London, England; 'Diagrammatic Evidence of Annihilation of Romanian Jews in Moghilev, Transnistria'

An article by Y. Maschiach, (April 25, 1997 Haaretz weekend supplement, in Hebrew) describes an unusual document about the fate of Romanian Jews deported to Moghilev, Transnistria. The article includes part of a photocopy of a cemetery diagram used for the burial of
Romanian Jews in the Transnistria deportation period, 1941-44. The schematic consists of small quadrangles with names and towns of origin of the buried ... and there the list is only partial. According to Maschiach, the document was made by one Yacob Druker, during the Holocaust. Mr. Druker, a 25-year-old accountant, was one of 27 gravediggers, employed by the Jewish Community in Moghilev. They were collecting corpses of the dead from houses, shelters and streets and buried them in graves dug by them.

So, here was our confirmation of their fate: Klara Kastner was the wife of Yankel "Janku" (Jacob) Kastner, the son of Srul and Malca Kastner. Janku was the brother of Avrum Kastner; these two brothers married sisters, Klara and Edith Schwamenthal. I had been led to believe that all four of them, and also Srul and Malca, had died in Transnistria, and I knew nothing about the existence of any possible children. What had happened to the others? Well, this is what friends are for.

July 7, 1997, from Kurt Kastner to Professor Mihai Pinzaru, Institutul Bucovina Basarabia, Ridauti

Dear Prof. Pinzaru,

Thank you very much for your help. I will send a copy of this Email to Merle Kastner, whose family emigrated from Radauti to Canada. I assume that she will contact you.

Regards, Kurt Kastner, Karisbad, Germany

Urgently wanting to learn more, I was delighted when this email arrived:

July 30, 1997: From Professor Pinzaru to me:

Dear Mrs. Kastner,

I received your letter and you will have all my help. An old Jews (sic) woman from Radauti (Kofler, 80 years old), survivor from Moghilev, tell me today that she knows in Radautz 4 Kastners families (in period 1930-1940) ... more informations about a Klara Kastner you can obtain from an other survivor from Moghilev Mina Schachter, Kiriat-Bialik Israel. She emigrated from Radautz (sic) in 1991 (she is about 80 years old)... Best wishes, Mihai Pinzaru

With mounting excitement, I wrote to Bella, on Oct. 22, 1997:

Dear Mrs. Anker,

I received a letter from Mina Schachter, of Kiriat Bialik, Israel, telling me that you are the daughter of Klara and Janku Kastner of Radauti. Janku was a cousin of my father. I have been researching the Kastner family for two years, in order to put together a family tree and have been looking for your family for a long time wishing you L'Shana Tovah, good health, happiness, and peace.

Sincerely, Merle (Malka Basha)

October 22, 1997 Bella Kastner Anker replied by regular post (translated from German)

Dear Malka,

I am very happy to hear about my family, and that is why I want to write a few lines about myself: As you know, we were deported to Transnistria. We were told that it would only be for 3 days, but it was for 3 years. My parents died there, in 1942, and after the War, I went back to Radauti. I was only 6 years old when my dear mother died and not too much later, my father. I was raised by my aunt and grandmother, on my mother's side, and I married at 18-1/2 years.

In 1959, my husband and I went to Israel, where I spent
the best time of my life. There, my son Jakob was born. A few years later, in 1970, we moved to Frankfurt-am-Main. Every year I went back to Israel. Lately I haven't gone; but am homesick and can hardly wait to go back.

I would like to tell you also, that I have a small grandson called Gabriel. I myself am 61 years old, born in 1936. I worked as a bookkeeper, then did translations and now I am retired. I know that a large part of my father's side of the family went to Montreal. I am sorry that my parents didn't do it - and they paid with their lives.

My brother, Osias Kastner, born in 1930, in Radauti, now lives in Israel. My uncle Abraham, and my mother's sister Edith, had a daughter Schanika, who also died in Transnistria. Their son Maurice, with whom I grew up like a brother, lives in Jerusalem.

I wish you L'Shana Tovah.

Deine cousine (your cousin), Bella

Overjoyed, I immediately mailed some family photos to Bella - one photo of our mutual great-grandparents (whose picture she had never seen) and some of myself and my three children.

Again from Bella, by regular post, in January, 1998

Dear Cousin!

I just received your 2nd letter with the lovely pictures and I was very happy to see those nice faces. You can write to me in English; I understand almost everything. I find it hard to write in English as I learned it more than 30 years ago and that is why I write in German.

My Aunt Coca tried hard to bring us to Canada, but she never realized it. My late mother, Clara Schwamenthal Kastner, born in Seletin (today Moldavia), died on 18-3-42, in Transnistria. My late father, Janku (Jacob) Kastner, born on 17-3-1903, and died shortly after my mother, in April or May, 1942. His brother Avrum ("Buum") died about the same time. Their sister Sophie didn't want to be deported with them, and remained all alone. We heard later that she died in Radauti, in the hospital, but nobody knows for sure, or where she was buried.

My grandmother Malca became crazed, not knowing what happened to her daughter, and perished on her way to Transnistria. I never told Aunt Coca about these events, because she always asked about her mother. She was the only survivor of her family and suffered a lot.

Dear Cousin, it's very hard for me to write about all this and I cried a lot writing about those tragic events, but I feel that you have a right to know.

February, 1998: from Murray Kastner, the son of Joseph and Rose "Coca" (nee Kastner) Kastner

I just received a copy of the letter you sent to Merle, here in Montreal. I am Murray, Coca's youngest son, born in Montreal. Since I was born late in my parents' life, I am afraid that I am also the most ignorant of my family. My mother was quite disturbed by the effects of losing her family during the war. I wish I knew my relatives in Israel as I have had a longstanding relationship with the country. I know almost nothing of my mother's family.

In March, 1996, Murray took the last of a planned series of trips to Germany, and there, with natural anticipation, he arranged to meet his new-found cousin, Bella and her husband, Samy Anker. He stayed at their home in Frankfort-am-Main for several days. They communicated easily in Yiddish, some English and some German. Murray was struck by the strong resemblance of Bella to his late mother Coca, "especially around the eyes, and her gestures are so similar that it is uncanny!" Bella is, of course, Coca's niece. She is also understandably bitter, as a result of the terrible wartime experiences during her formative years, in which both of her parents, as well as her grandparents, uncles, aunt and cousin perished.

Bella and Samy, so happy to meet her first cousin for the first time, couldn't do enough to please and welcome him. They took pains to make him comfortable, and to show him around the city of Frankfurt. They talked about the family. Bella plied him with her best culinary specialties, lovingly served in generous quantities. It was a rich and happy experience for them all, rewarding in many ways. Since that time, Bella and I have been writing to one another. To Montreal with Murray, she sent several family pictures for me to have, and also three priceless and irreplaceable photos of her grandparents, sister Sophie, their father, and their home, as well as the home of another cousin, in Radauti. These precious photos were somehow salvaged from the ruins of the family's devastating three years in deportation.

It is heart-wrenching to see the large and beautiful home that her grandparents and Aunt Sophie had lived in, and the smaller, but elegant one that her proud father purchased from a cousin who, ironically had moved to Canada, when Bella was small. This was an ordinary Jewish family whose lives were destroyed for no other reason than that they were Jewish.
In 1938, Rose ‘Coca-’ took her second son Sidney (Murray’s older brother) with her to Radauti for a visit. With the war clouds looming, the main purpose of her trip was to strongly urge them all to leave Europe before it was too late. Unfortunately, it was already too late - Jewish immigration to Canada was all but closed, and emigration from Romania was next to impossible. On the train leaving Radauti, the Romanian Iron Guards came aboard and demanded passports of all the passengers. Rose, never one to mince words, retorted “You can’t do anything to me - I’m an American citizen! She and Sidney were not bothered again.

Joseph Kastner and Rose “Coca” Kastner were 2nd cousins who married.

Acknowledgement: My sincere thanks to my neighbour and friend Mr. Baruch Cohen, member of the Board of Directors of the Montreal Memorial Holocaust Museum, where he is also a docent and speaker; member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research; and an independant writer. He was instrumental in helping me to expand my knowledge and understanding of the enormous tragedy of the Romanian Holocaust, until very recently largely unknown and denied by the Romanian Government.

Two 1924 Romanian Documents

On the left is the Certificate of Citizenship issued to Sulem Osterer, a bachelor, born on 29 May 1905, acknowledging that he has the rights of a full citizen of the community of Stanesti de Jos. On the right is a letter of consent by his mother and guardian granting permission for him to depart for America or Canada. Submitted by Irving Osterer
Soroki District, including Soroki town, is 176 verst [133 km] from Kishinev. Situated in a deep valley on the right side of the Dnestr River, the town had 26,523 inhabitants and 2 fairs, a district college, a railway, and a telegraph. Soroki District contained 211,877 inhabitants, mostly Moldavian, Russian and Jewish. (The list of City Hall functionaries was not translated because surely they were not Jews)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Trade Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adesman, Moisei &amp; Sharlota</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aizman, Benjamin</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Haberdashery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antman, Jos Baruch</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antsenzo, Angel Abram</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Iron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Averbuch, Mosheko Duvid</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berg, Shlomo Neechov</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beker, Mosheko Shliom</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Bread/Grain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berndaschi, Musko Shloka</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Printing Cryptography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blitshtein, Michel Shmul</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyko, Aba</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Gold-Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazer, Mshuli-Gersh Chaim</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Gold-Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronshtein, G.B.</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronshtein, Mordko Srul</td>
<td>Vad-Rashkovo, Sorolci County</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronshtein, Mordko Srul</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Tobacco/Tabac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charast, Kiva</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daichman, Shulim Meer</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derkoutsan, Shmul Zanvel</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dlugatch, Zsuz Abrahm</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faivinski, Pink Chuakov</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frayberg, Michel Abram</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Tobacco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gelfman, Aron Istokov</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Haberdashery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gendi, Shlomo Berkh</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goichman, Meer Gersh</td>
<td>Ataki, Soroki Country</td>
<td>Textile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldenberg, Srdl Abow,</td>
<td>Ataki, Soroki Country</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldenberg, Sura Nel</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldenfield, Yanke Moskov</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Wine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldenfield, Yanke Moskov</td>
<td>Kosherntisa, Vaskouktor. Soroki</td>
<td>Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gouchkhtein, Shlomo Yeliov</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grabowsky, Ljudv</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grinberg, Is Chaim</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Foodwear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iolis, Gersh Morduch</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Haberdashery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kagan, Malaka Nachman</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kagan, Shaya Shmul</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katserman, Chaika Srulev</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiforok, Alter Josif</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Textile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolker, Avrond-David Meer</td>
<td>Vad-Rashkovo, Soroki District</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koninolovitch, Abr</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Textile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kontrient, Mosloko Srul</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Textile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kopeman, Perla Avram</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korol, Gav Ruv</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Textile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krivovits, Rivka Ovsh</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Grocery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kruxnik, Chaim Zilman</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Crockery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lando, Iosef Simchov</td>
<td>Soroki County, District Town</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1892 All Russia Business Directory -- Soroki District, Bessarabia

Translated by Yackov Berkun <mshlen@isuc.hji.ac.il> and supplied by Marlene Zakai
[see Marlene Zakai's article in ROM-SIG News, Vol.6, No.1, Fall, 1997]
### Just a gentle reminder...

It is time to renew your membership in ROM-SIG for 1998-99.

Please send your renewal checks for $25.00 U.S. and Canada, or $28.00 all others, payable in U.S. funds, to:

**ROM-SIG**  
c/o Rae Barent  
4257 Saline St.,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
Two Indexes of Names from Staneshtie de Zhos (Ukraine)
Contributed by Irving Osterer

MEMORIAL LISTS from the anniversary book of the Unter Stanestie Bukowinaer Circle

1930-1950, Twentieth Anniversary and Banquet, Unter Stanestie Bukowinaer Circle, Inc., Saturday, November 25, 1950, Broadway Central Hotel, 673 Broadway, New York

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTE: This anniversary book, published in the wake of the Holocaust, contains a list of those who perished as well as survivors. Since the book was published in 1950 - well before Shapiro's Die Juden in Unter Stanestie, which follows these lists, I would venture to say that the lists are in all likelihood more accurate, since they were compiled by a group of people closer to the actual historical events. By the time of Shapiro's book, many of the witnesses would have already passed away.

I have recorded things exactly as they were printed - in other words, not quite in alphabetical order. The original is in English, so no translation was needed.

It would seem that if people are seriously searching for mishpoca, that they must be aware that a firm spelling for many of these family names is not really possible and that the recording of names in parallel books/documents could offer a different rendition. (ie. Gruenberg, Greenberg, Greenburg)

"IN MEMORIAM" NAMES OF OUR LANDSLEIT
who were brutally murdered or perished in Concentration Camps and those murdered in Unter-Stanestie.

ADLER, Leon & Son - killed in Stanestie
ADLER, Mrs. & 2 daughters - died in Transnistrien (Barsad)
ALTMANN, Seide & wife & child - died in Transnistrien (Barsad)
BIRNBAUM, Hertz & wife - died in Transnistrien (Barsad)
BIRNBAUM, Benj. & son - killed in Stanestie
Bimbaum, Mrs & daughter - died in Transnistrien
Bimbaum, Seide - died in Transnistrien (Barsad)
BIRNBAUM, Judel with wife & child - died in Transnistrien
BIRNBAUM, David & wife - died in Transnistrien
BAUM, Beri - killed in Stanestie
BAUM, Mrs. - died in Transnistrien
BRUCKSTEIN, Jankel & Wife - died in Transnistrien
BRUCKSTEIN, Daughter & husband - killed in Stanestie
BRUECKSTEIN, Moische & wife - died in Transnistrien
BUECHLER, Moische & wife - died in Transnistrien
BUECHLER, Scheindel - died in Transnistrien
BRAUN, Mrs. Peter - died in Transnistrien
DERMER, Fischel & wife - died in Transnistrien (Jediner)
DRUCKMAN, Baruch - killed in Stanestie
DRUCKMAN, Mrs. - died in Transnistrien (Moghilov)
DERMER, Pinkus' daughter - died in Transnistrien
DRUCKMAN, Mrs. Nute - died in Transnistrien
EISMAN, Leiser with wife & children - killed in Stanestie
EISMAN, Chane Marien - died in Siberia
ENGLER, Rafael & wife - died in Transnistrien
ENGLER, Slimche
ENGLER, Hersch with wife & children - killed in Stanestie

ENGLER, Jacob - killed in Stanestie
ENGLER, wife & 2 children - died in Transnistrien
EINHORN, Jente - killed in Stanestie
FRIEDLANDER, Bernard Rabbi & 2 sons, - killed in Stanestie, wife & 1 daughter - died in Transnistrien
FINKELTHAL, Gedali & son - killed in Stanestie, wife - died in Transnistrien (Copaogorod)
FINKELTHAL, Mendel & son - killed in Stanestie, wife - died in Transnistrien
FINKELTHAL, Jossef with wife & daughter & sister - died in Transnistrien
FINKELTHAL, Sara - died in Cernowitz
FAKTO, Baruch & 1 child - died in Transnistrien
FEDER, Jankel & wife
FLEISCHHAKER, Abraham with wife, daughter & 2 sons - died in Transnistrien
FRIMETH, Mrs. Chaim - died in Transnistrien
FALKOWITZ, Ezra & wife & children (Shoichet) - died in Transnistrien

GABOR, son-in-law of Mendel Sonntag - killed in Stanestie
GRILL, Myer Ber - - died in Transnistrien, 2 sons killed in Stanestie
GELLER, Fishel - killed in Stanestie
GRILL, Chaim Srul, wife & grandchild - died in Transnistrien
GRUENFELD, Ber - died in Transnistrien
GRUEN, Froim's son - died in Transnistrien
GRUENFELD, Schleime & wife - died in Transnistrien
GOLDHAGEN, Wolf - killed in Stanestie
GRILL, Chaim Srul, wife & grandchild - died in Transnistrien
GRUENFELD, Berl - died in Transnistrien
GRUEN, Froim's son - died in Transnistrien
GRUENFELD, Schleime & wife - died in Transnistrien
GOLDHAGEN, Wolf - killed in Stanestie

HUEBNER, Leiser with wife, 2 sons, 2 daughters - died in Transnistrien
HOFER, David with wife nee DERMER - died in Transnistrien (Moghilov)
HAGER, Edel, husband & child - died in Transnistrien
HAGER, Peissach - killed in Stanestie
HIRSCH, Jossel, wife & children - killed in Stanestie

KIELSTOCK, Lea - died in Transnistrien
KIELSTOCK, Froim, daughter & grandchild - died in Transnistrien
KIELSTOCK, Ethel - died in Transnistrien
KIELSTOCK, Moses & wife - killed in Stanestie
KIELSTOCK, Judel - killed in Stanestie
KEISCH, Hersch - killed in Stanestie, wife & 3 daughters died in Transnistrien

KRAMER, Dr. - died in Transnistrien
KIRMAIER, Srul, wife & 2 children - died in Transnistrien
KARPEL, Eisig - died in Siberia, his daughter (her) husband & children killed in Poland
KLEIN, Taige - died in Transnistrien
KREISEL, Chaim - died in Transnistrien
KATZ, Mordko - killed in Stanestie
KESSLER, Jacob, son-in-law of J. Hager - killed in Stanestie, wife and child died in Transnistrien
KLEMMER, Jacob & wife - died in Transnistrien
KATZ, Feiwel & wife - died in Transnistrien
KEISCH, Shloime, wife & daughter - died in Transnistrien

LAUFER, Feiwel - killed in Stanestie
LIEBSTER, Morko Hersch - died in Cernowitz, his son Fritz
LOBEL, Rosa, Leiser - died in Transnistrien

MUELLER, Anczel - died in Transnistrien, daughter Berta & child died in Transnistrien
MAIMAN, Jente - killed in Stanestie

NEUMAN, Abraham & wife - died in Cernowitz
NEUMAN, Chancze - died in Transnistrien, grandson died in Transnistrien

OSTERER, Judel's daughter & son-in-law - died in Transnistrien
OSTERER, Jetti - died in Transnistrien
OSTERER, Schulciu, son of above - killed in Stanestie
OSTERER, Marcus, son of above - killed in Stanestie

PRUCZ, Leb - killed in Stanestie, his wife & 3 children died in Transnistrien
PRUCZ, Abraham & sister - killed in Stanestie
PRUCZ, Hersch - died in Transnistrien
PASTERNACK, Hersch, Mendel - died in Transnistrien

PASTERNACK, Mrs. Jankel - died in Transnistrien
QUELLER, Selig, wife & 3 children - died in Transnistrien
ROSENZWEIG, Netti, nee DERMER - killed in Stanestie
RAUCHWERGER, Leb, 2 daughters - died in Transnistrien
RAUCHWERGER, Moses, son of above - killed in Stanestie
RUEBNER, Judel - killed in Stanestie
RENNERT, Joel, wife - died in Transnistrien
RENNERT, Moische Leb, wife & child - died in Transnistrien
ROSENBURG, Baruch & son - killed in Stanestie
RENNERT, Moishe (Zacharies), wife & children - died in Transnistrien
RENNERT, Cheiwed, wife of Uren
RUEBNER, Meier - killed in Stanestie, wife & child - died in Transnistrien
ROBINSON, Eisig & wife - died in Transnistrien
ROSNER, Chaim - killed in Banila p-Cz.
REISCH & wife - killed in Stanestie Vivoz

SCHULMANN, Pesach - killed in Stanestie, wife died in Transnistrien (Bersad)
SCHULMANN, Meier, wife Jente nee MAIMAN - killed in Stanestie
SCHULMANN, Dr. Hirsch, son of Pesach - killed in Stanestie
SUSSMAN, Hersch, son of Naftalie - killed in Stanestie
SCHNEIDER, Jacob, son-in-law of Froim Jossel Dimfeld - killed in Stanestie
SANDLER, Mrs., wife of Fischel - died in Transnistrien
SCHAECHTER, Mendel & son - killed in Stanestie, wife died in Transnistrien
SURKIS, Henje & 2 daughters, son-in-law & child - died in Transnistrien
STRAUSS, son-in-law of Moses Held - died in Transnistrien
SUSSMANN, Chaje Sure - died in Transnistrien
SOBEL, Dr. Philip, wife & daughter - died in Transnistrien
SCHWARTZ, Abe - died in Transnistrien
SCHNEIDER, Jacob, wife & 2 children - died in Transnistrien
SCHWARTZKOPF, Seide, wife & daughter - died in Transnistrien
SCHWARTZKOPF, Anthel - died in Transnistrien
SCHWARTZKOPF, Meier - killed in Stanestie, wife and 2 children died in Transnistrien
SCHWARTZ, Tailor - killed in Stanestie
SCHNEIDER, Jossel, wife & son-in-law - died in Transnistrien
SUSSMAN, Hersch, son of David, wife - died in Transnistrien
SCHAEFFER, daughter of Mordko SCHWARTS - died in Transnistrien
SPINNREICH, Czame, son-in-law & 2 children - died in Transnistrien
SCHAECHTER, Chaje, wife, daughter, son-in-law & 2 children - died in Transnistrien
SINNEREICH, Abraham Itzi, wife - died in Transnistrien
SONNTAG, Ruchel - died in Transnistrien
SCHIFFER, Dola, wife of Dr. SHIFFER & son Heini - died in Transnistrien
SUSSMAN, Naftalie - died in Transnistrien, 1 daughter, 1 daughter-in-law killed (at) Sostesti
SILBER, Schulem, wife Udel, daughter Cili - died in Transnistrien
TELLER, Benjamin, with wife & daughter - died in Transnistrien
TAUBER, wife of Paul ARON, daughter and son - died in Transnistrien
TAUBER, Chaim Hersch - died in Transnistrien
WOLLOCH, Jossel & son Bubi - killed in Stanestie
WAGNER, Nathan - killed in Stanestie
WOLLOCH, Chaje, wife of Meschulim - died in Transnistrien
WEISSMAN, Scheine - died in Transnistrien
WEBER, Schleime, wife & daughter - died in Transnistrien
WEININGER, David, grandson of Menzel KAIS - died in Transnistrien
ZIMMER, Nussen with wife & 2 children - died in Transnistrien

LIST of SURVIVORS

Hennie Auerbach
Benjamin Birnbaum
Simon Birnbaum
Heinrich Birnbaum
Osiu and Isu Birnbaum
Samuel Brunstein
Shulim Brendler
Brane Buechler
Aron Buechler
Fischel Dermer
Hersch Dimfeld
Feiwisch Einhorn
Edmond Einhorn
Schmuel Eisman
Rifka Faktor
Rubin Frimeth
Rifka Frimeth
Adele Gaber
Sali Gaertner
Marie Geller (geb. Liebster)
Analia Gingold (geb. Teller)
Mrs. Rabbi Hager
Abraham Hasenfratz
Jacob Held
Joseph Held
Tabe Hitzig
Feige Kielstock
Meier Kimayer
Jesek Klein
Maximilian Klein
Avram Klein
Keile Kronenfeld (rect. Rennert)
Ancel Koffler
Eisig Laufier
Anna Laufier (geb. Einhorn)
Rifka Leibovici
M.L. Leider-Neuman
Fritz Leitner
Josef Lehrer
Ernestine Liebster
Mitzie Liebster
Feiwisch Maiman
Haca Maiman
Berta Mayer
Malcza Mehler
Chaim Melzer
Jacob Melzer
Samuel Mueller
Dora Muenzer
Mendel Nachman
Carol Nacht
Huddie Nagler
Henie Nagel
Poldi Nagler
Efoim Neuman
Rifka Neuman
Lotti Ohringer (geb. Schwartzkopf)
Moses Oster
Abraham Osterer
Puppe Osterer
Jidel Osterer
Aron Osterer
Rica Pasternack
Sprince Pasternack
Jona Mechel Rennert
Feige Rennert, daughter of Chaike & Schl. Ribner
Rosa Ribner
Karl Rieber
Josef Rittigstein
Sali Rosenberg
Ella Rosenberg
Hersch Rosenberg
Dr. Morris Runes
Josef Schapiru
Simche Scherzer
Simon Schieber
Rosa Schorliuc
Malvine Schneider
Natan Schneider
Samuel Schorr
David Shuler
Dr. Oscar Schwarz
Henie Schwartzkopf
Osia Schwartzkopf
Jenny
Simoniuc-Rennert
Scheine Ruchel
Sinnreich
Simon Sonntag
Delle Sonntag
Simon Schmuel Weber
Dr. Sidone Stemberg
Golde Sternberg
Ilara Surkus
Karl Sussman
Chaim Hersch Sussman
Mendel Sussman
Marjem Schulman
Jacob Teller
Minnie Teller
Salomon Teller
Meier Tennenbaum
Regina Tillingr
Sali Tillingr
Abraham Mordko
Tresser
Berta Wagner
Adolf Wald
Watter, Jacob, Hude, Sara
Gusta Watter
Abraham Jsac Weber
Dr. Issac Weisglass
Freide Wolloch
Memorial Book of Staneshtie de Zhos (Ukraine)

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following index was translated from German from the Memorial List from Die Juden in Unter-Stanestie (The Jews of Unter-Stanestie), edited by Josef Schapira, published in Tel Aviv in 1965. The translation was made by ROM-SIG member Irving Osterer for the special Yizkor Book SIG of JewishGen, Inc. It is their mission to disseminate information about the Holocaust and the destroyed Jewish communities through the translations of the Yizkor books available from so many now defunct Jewish communities. We wish to thank JewishGen’s generosity in allowing us to reprint this list and encourage our members to avail themselves of JewishGen’s many outstanding research facilities.

JewishGen makes no representations regarding the accuracy of the translation. The reader may refer to the original material for verification.

TRANSLATORS’S INTRODUCTION: Die Juden in Unter-Stanestie a/cz is one of many Gedankbuch or "Yizkor books", in which an author from a community destroyed by the Holocaust attempts to leave some record of the town concerned. Josef Schapira's admirable work chronicles the richness of Jewish life in Unter-Stanestie, complete with personal anecdotes, folklore, religious conventions and a chronological history culminating in the terrible events as witnessed by the author.

On pages 363-367 there is a Yiddish memorial list for residents of Staneshtie de Zhos and the surrounding area that were martyred between 1940-1945. The author also includes those who perished in Transnistria and Siberia. In most instances, Mr. Schapira did not list the names of wives or children. When possible, he did identify the gender of children killed, and in the case of multiple listings of the same family name, he mentions some attribute to distinguish branches of the same family.

I have attempted to make a proper translation of this Yiddish text. In doing so, I have tried to find family names of the deceased in the anecdotal sections of Schapira's prose, so that the translation will be as accurate as possible. I am also indebted to Lauren Azoulai, who provided a xeroxed copy of the Unter Stanestie Bukowinauer Circle's 1950 Twentieth Anniversary program, with its own memorial list as well as a list of those who survived that facilitated this effort.

I have kept the lists in the order in which they appear in the Yiddish manuscript -- so the names are not in alphabetical order, but they do correspond to the Hebrew aleph-bet. I have noted what I believe are typographical errors or inaccuracies as well.

There are several suburban towns/cities also mentioned at the end of the listing for those who perished from Staneshtie. The late Sam Elpern assisted in giving possible identification to these towns. These are Velukah, Kalnivitz, Barbibivitz, Dracynetz and Kostenitz (possibly Kostestie). I did find Dracynetz and cross-referenced in the text, so it is the only town whose identity I can be certain of. Therefore I have included several possible names for each of these stetlach.


-- Irv Osterer
(irvoster@magma.ca)

ALEPH
ADLER, S. L. + wife and 5 children
ALTMAN, Seide
EISMANN, Leiser + wife
EISMANN, Chanah Marien
OSTERER, widow of Mechel Leib Osterer + 2 sons
OSTERER, Mordecai - son of Idel Osterer
OSTERER, Rivkah - married to SELLER
IVANIER, Yanko

BET
BAUM, Berel + wife
BAUER, Muzie (Mutzie, Mezia?)
BEILER, + wife and 2 children

GIMMEL
GABOR, Moshe

DALETH
DAVID, Dr. David + wife and child (a lawyer)
DERMER, Fischel  
DRUCKMAN, Benno (Baruch) + wife  
(Sabine)  
DRUCKMAN, wife of Mila Leibster  
DIRNFELD (DIERNFELD?), Herschel  

HEH  
HAGER, Pesach  
HABER, Joshua + wife and 2 children  
HABER, Abraham  
HALLER, Liebeche + wife and 2  
children, a sister and a brother-in-law  
HIRSCH, Jossel + wife and daughter  
HOFER, David + wife  
HEBNER, Leiser + wife and 5 children  

VAV  
WAGNER, Nazi (Nathan)  
WALDT, Gitel  
WALDT, Nuchim  
WEBER, Shlomo + wife and children  
WEBER, Frimah  
WEISSMAN, Scheindel + daughter  
WOLLOCH, Josef  
WOLLOCH, Bubi  

ZAYIN  
SONNTAG, Ruchel  
SUSSMANN, Hersch (des) David + wife  
SUSSMANN, Hersch (des) Talia +  
mother  
SINNREICH, Abraham Itzi + wife and  
children  
SINNREICH, Mendel + wife and  
children  

TET  
TAUBER, Rivkah Laya  
TAUBER, Chayim Hersch + 3 children  
TAUBER, Meichel  
TELLER, Benjamin + wife and daughter  
TENNENBAUM, Samuel + wife  

YOD  
JUNGER, Velvel + wife and 4 children  

LAMED  
LABES, Yankel  
LABES, Moishe  
LAUFER, Feivel  
LIEBSTER, Mordecai Hersch  

LIEBSTER, Fritz  
LINKER, Yidess - perhaps Judith  
LEAH,  
Mardkis(?)-mem, resh, dalet, kaph, yod,  
samech (this entry may be reversed in  
the text)  

MEM  
MUELLER, Anczel + wife, daughter and  
grandson  

NUN  
NEUMANN, Chancze (Hanzia?)  
NEUBERGER, Chaya Sarah (nee  
SUSSMANN)  

SAMECH  
SANDLER, Luti  
SANDLER, Razeh + 2 children  
SOBEL, (Doctor) + wife and 1 daughter  
SORKISS, Henia + daughter  

AYIN  
ENGEL, Refuel (Refael) + wife  
ENGEL, Hesiah  
ENGEL, Simche  
ENGLER, Willi + wife and 2 children  
ERNST, Wiener (Werner?)  

PEH/FEH  
FAKTOR, Baruch + 1 child  
FLECKWITZ, Ezra + wife and 4  
children  
FLEISCHHAKER + wife and 3 children  
FRIMETH, Frau (this entry is reversed  
in the text)  
FRIEDLÄNDER, Rabbi + wife and 3  
children  
FINKELTHAL, (FÜNKELTHAL) Sarah  
FINKELTHAL, Gedaliah + wife and 1  
son  
FINKELTHAL, Yosef (Josef) + wife and  
daughter  
FINKELTHAL, Mendel + wife and son  
FINKELTHAL, Shimon  
PASTERNAK, Hersch Mendel + mother  
FRITSCH, Leibzie + wife and 3 children  
FRITSCH, Abraham  
FRITSCH, Sarah  
FRITSCH, Freida  
FRITSCH, Hersch  

TZADI  
ZIMMER, Nathan  

KOF  
KATSH, Joshua Jacob + son  
KATSH, Itzig Leib + wife, mother  
and 3 children  
KAISCH (Kaisch), Hersch + wife,  
mother and 3 children  
KAISCH (Kaisch), Shloime + wife and  
3 children  
KARPEL, Hersch + wife and child  
KARPEL, Eissig + wife  
KATZ, Feivel + wife  
KATZ, Mordecai  
KESLER, Schmuel + wife and child  
KIELSTOCK, Leah + daughter  
KIELSTOCK, Ephroim  
KIELSTOCK, Jüdel + wife and 2  
children  
KIELSTOCK, Moses + wife  
KIERMAIER, Srl + wife and 2 children  
KRÄMER, (Doctor) + family  
KREISEL, Chaim (Chayim)  
QUELLER, Selig + wife and 3 children  

RESH  
RAPPPELFELD, Meshulim + wife and 2  
children  
RAUCHWERGER, Golda  
RAUCHWERGER, Leib + 2 children  
RENNERT, Moses + wife and children  
RENNERT (widow of Uren)  
RENNERT, Moses + wife and child,  
on-in-law of Shlomo Rüben  
(Ruebner, Ribner)  
RITTENSTEIN, Meichel + wife and 3  
children  
ROBINSOHN, Eisik + wife  
ROSENBERG, Boruch + wife  
ROSENBERG, Mordecai + wife  
ROSENZWEIG, Rachel  
Ribner (Ruebner, Ribner), Meier + wife  
and child  
Ribner (Ruebner, Ribner), MosesRüben  
(Ruebner, Ribner), Tsarna and son  

SHIN  
SCHÄCHTER(SCHAECHTER)+ wife  
and 3 children - son-in-law of Chayim  
Lecker  
SCHÄCHTER(SCHAECHTER), Chaje  
+ wife, daughter and 2 children  
SCHÄFFER (SCHAEFFER, SCHIFFER)
MEMORIAL LIST FROM SHTETLS SURROUNDING STANESHTIE DE ZHOS

**VOLOKA** (also known as Volkoi, Voloki): Voloka (1) - 11 km south of Czernovitz; Voloka (2) - 6 km west-south west of Czernovitz; Voloka (3) - 28 km west of Czernovitz

HELD, Moses
SHEMENYUK, Hersch + wife

**KALNIVITZ** -likely Kalineshti, Kalinonestic (referred to on page 223 in the text) (Kalinovtsy, Kalinivtsi) at 48-20 25-35

ROBINGER, Rachel
ROBINGER, Mendel
HEBNER, Mecheh
GOODMAN, Yankel

**BARBIVITZ** (possibly Brusnita) - likely Bobovtsy (Bobeshti) at 48-16 25-42

KLETZER, + wife
DRUCKMAN, Yosel
DRUCKMAN, Rachel
KURTZBERG
VINER, Yosel + wife
HECHT, Leib + son
HECHT, Berel + wife and son
HECHT, Mecheh + wife and 2 children

**DRACZYNETZ, DRACHINETS** (17 km. west of Czernovitz)

APPELFELD, Branch
AXELRAD, Shm'ei + wife
KAMIL, Deborah
RENNERT, Fraim (Ephrayim) + wife
SELLER, Chayim + wife
STERNBERG, Feigah
WAHL, Itzig + wife

**KOSTENITZ - KOSTINTSKY** - 24 km west of Czernovitz - likely Kostovtsy, Kosteshi, KOSTESTIE (referred to on page 225 in the text) at 48-17 25-36

AXELRAD, Yisrael + wife and child
AXELRAD, Pesach + wife and children
AXELRAD, Dutzie ghmus + wife and children
ALTMAN, Moses + wife and children
ALPERN, Hersch Leiser + wife and children
ALTMAN, Baruch
BERGSTINE, (siblings)
BERGSTINE, Moses + wife and children
GOTTFRIED, Aaron + wife and children
GRELEH (ZISSER?) Eli + wife and children
SUSSE (ZISSER?) Abraham + wife and children
SUSSE (ZISSER?) David + wife and children
LOYNER, Yosel + wife

MÜHLSTEIN, Pepi + and children
MÜHLSTEIN, Shanie + wife and son
MÜHLSTEIN, Sani + daughter
MÜHLSTEIN, Moshe Leiser + wife and daughter
MÜHLSTEIN, Mitzi + daughter
NAGLER, Sarah
FLEMINGER, Jacob + wife and children
KOLER, Benjamin + wife
KOLER, Meier + wife
KUGLER, Shmuel (Samuel) + wife and children
RAPPFELD, Hersch + wife and children
ROSENBERG, Ethel + daughter
REISS, Moses + wife
REISS, Joshua + wife and children
RUDICK, Chayim Mendel + wife and children
RUDICK, Joshua + wife
REICHER, Mordecai + wife and children
RENNERT, Itzick + wife
SCHÄCHTER, David + wife
SHERER (Schorr?), Absa + wife
SHERER (Schorr?), Leiser + wife
SCHÄCHTER, Rachmiel + wife and children
VINIGER, Yitzchok + wife and children
VINIGER, Chayim + wife
VINIGER, Pulik + wife and children

... and one last word:

Future issues, as well as the future of this group, depends on YOU. Your contribution is sorely needed to keep both ROM-SIG and its newsletter interesting and informative. Please don’t hesitate to volunteer your anecdote, experience, research aid, or other information you think might be of interest to our members.

We are on the threshold of being able to obtain much more valid information about our ancestors from the old country through the efforts of Sam Elpern and others in our group. Your support in the coming months will help determine how well we succeed in opening our entire area to more positive research.