



Etz Chaim

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The Quarterly Journal of the
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

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Fall 1993

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR

Tues., Sept. 14

REGULAR MEETING. 7:30 p.m., in the Senior Lounge of the Jewish Community Center, 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL. "What's New in Jewish Genealogy?" a report on the newest sources available in finding the clues to your past, including the best ways to get information from the former Soviet republics, a report on the 12th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy held this summer in Toronto ... PLUS, your own progress report. Refreshments will be available. Guests are welcome.

Sun., Oct. 10

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP MEETING, to the PRICE JUDAICA LIBRARY at the Univ. of Florida. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in the JCC parking lot and car-pool to Gainesville. After a stop for lunch we will go to the library for a briefing and then hands-on use. We will be back at the JCC parking lot before dark. Members only. SEE PAGE 3 for more details.

Thurs., Oct. 14

Central Florida Genealogical Society meeting, 7:30 p.m., Marks St. Senior Center auditorium, 99 Marks St., Orlando. Guests welcome.

Mon., Oct. 25, and
Tues., Oct. 26

"Voyages to Freedom: 500 Years of Jewish Life in Latin America and the Caribbean." Dr. Earle Joiner, Prof. Emeritus of Religion, Stetson Univ. (Mon.) 1:00 p.m., "39ers Club"; (Tues.) 7:30 a.m., "Breakfast Beginnings," both in the Senior Lounge, JCC.

Tues., Nov. 9

REGULAR MEETING. 7:30 p.m., Senior Lounge, JCC. "How to Preserve Your Vital Documents," featuring guest speaker Dewayne J. Lener, manager of the Preservation Emporium, Dallas, Tex. SEE PAGE 3 for more details.

Thurs., Nov. 11

Central Florida Genealogical Society meeting, 7:30 p.m., Marks St. Senior Center auditorium, 99 Marks St., Orlando. Guests welcome.

Tues., Nov. 16

"Anne Frank in the World," opens a two-month exhibit, cosponsored by the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center, at the Orange County Historical Museum. SEE PAGE 11 for more details.

Feb. ??, 1994

Beginner's Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, JCC Auditorium, 12:30-5:00 pm.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ... Helen Greenspun's views of Polish cemeteries (Page 6) ... First Report: Jewish Cemeteries in the Orlando area (Page 7) ... What WAS Your Name? (Page 9)

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P.O. Box 520583
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Phone: (407) 788-3898

GENE STARN, Temporary Editor



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*The Jewish Genealogical Society
of Greater Orlando
is sponsored by the
Central Florida Jewish Community Center*

Etz Chaim is free to all members of JGSGO. Back copies may be obtained for \$5.00 each. Regular membership dues (September to August) are \$20 per year for JCC members, \$25.00 for non-members. Out-of-town membership (more than 50 miles) is \$15.00 per year. Please make checks payable to JGSGO and mail to JGSGO, PO Box 32752.

JGSGO meetings are held monthly, usually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Lounge of the Jewish Community Center, 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL.

From the Head Genie . . .

This is the beginning of what promises to be a very exciting fourth year for our genealogical society.

Appropriately enough, we begin with our first meeting falling on the night before Rosh Hashanah begins, Tues., Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. in the Sr. Lounge of the JCC. "What's New in Jewish Genealogy" is the topic and Sheila Reback and myself will fill you in on what we learned at the international seminar last summer in Toronto. And there is a lot of "fill in."

Our October meeting is one you ALL will want to attend. There is a date change you should note: SUNDAY, OCT. 10th. It will be our first out-of-town meeting, to be held at the Price Judaica Library at the Univ. of Florida in Gainesville. Bibliographer Robert Singerman is opening this enormous source of Jewish genealogical information for our perusal and use. Planning is underway to make this field trip one of the most fulfilling for all Jewish genealogists, new and old.

November, December, January, February, etc., also promise to be exciting with important info on preserving our papers, a visual program on immigration, researching for German, Polish and Sephardic ancestors, and so much more in the works. Stay tuned! You won't want to miss a thing!

Sometime during the coming year, we expect to open our new research library with reference books, two microfiche readers and the index to the Mormon FHL Jewish genealogy availabilities, plus other fiches with information we can use.

Genealogy, especially Jewish genealogy, is growing by leaps and bounds. New resources are springing up everywhere. What used to be "dead ends" are suddenly opening to an unending stream of information about our ancestors.

Those in our Society are in on the ground floor of what is the fastest growing hobby in the world. We just want to be in a position to provide you with all the tools and information you need to happily add to the knowledge of your family history.

Gene Starn
President

JGSGO affiliates with National FGS, Forum available at reduced price

Our society has recently become a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, based in Salt Lake City, UT.

As a member, our society received a set of organizational guides to further the progress of our group. Also, each individual member may now subscribe to the FGS quarterly, *Forum*, (cost is \$9 a year) which highlights news in the world of genealogy as well as other member societies throughout the world.

Gary Mokotoff is a member of the Federation's board of directors. He and Rabbi Malcolm Stern are frequent contributors to *Forum*.

Make checks payable to "FGS Forum". Include your name, address and phone number, together with the name of the FGS member society to which you belong. Mail to FGS Business Office, *Forum* Mailing List, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385.

Copies of *Forum* are available in our library.

Finding Polish roots course to be offered in spring

"Finding Your Polish Roots," a course offered this summer at Dr. Phillips Community School by genealogist Marcella Glodek Bush, will be repeated again in the spring. The dates have not yet been announced.

Some 14 attended the summer session.

Those interested in receiving notice of the spring class dates should phone Ms. Bush at 352-4040, ext. 5.

Recent additions to our library

The following have recently been added to our library:

"A Dictionary of Russian Surnames from the Russian Empire," by Alexander Beider, 752 pp., Avotaynu. A compilation of more than 50,000 Jewish surnames, including the meaning of every name, spelling variants and precise geographic distribution of that name within the Russian empire.

"Jewish Gravesites in Ontario," including non-Jewish locations. Compiled by the JGS of Canada (Toronto). Work is still in progress on the completion of this report.

BRING A GUEST TO THE NEXT MEETING!

October 10 meeting

Car pool to bring members to Gainesville for library tour

Our meeting next month takes us to the Univ. of Florida's world-acclaimed Price Library of Judaica, where Robert Singerman will give us an overview of the collection.

Then it's time for some hands-on research among the thousands of volumes of genealogical resource books in the library.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Jewish Community Center on Sunday, Oct. 10. REMEMBER THIS CHANGE IN MEETING DATE, TIME AND PLACE. Then, we will motor pool it to Gainesville. At least a half-dozen volunteer pool drivers will be needed.

We will leave the JCC no later than 9:15 a.m., drive to Gainesville (about a two-and-a-half hour trip), eat lunch, go to the library, and hopefully, will have everyone back in the JCC parking lot before dark.

This will be a meeting both newcomers and veterans in Jewish genealogical research won't want to miss. The library is filled with resource materials.

The Price Library was recently the subject of a photo/story in the *Tampa Tribune* in which Singerman, who spoke at our JGSGO meeting in June 1992, told of the 50,000 volumes in the library, most of which concentrate on the 19th and 20th century.

The library is a major library of Judaica in the country, and probably the largest in the southeastern United States.

* * *

November 9 meeting

Dewayne Lener has 17 years experience as conservator

Our November speaker, Dewayne Lener, an author, lecturer and instructor, has been a professional genealogist and conservator of paper, photographs and books for the past 17 years.

He will talk to us about the best methods of preserving our important documents and priceless photographs. He comes to us from Dallas, TX, where he runs The Preservation Emporium.

This meeting will be held in the Sr. Lounge at the Jewish Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

New SIG groups, new societies organizing as family research grows

The phenomenal growth of genealogical interest, especially Jewish genealogy, has brought about a multitude of new special interest groups -- called SIGs -- and new Jewish genealogical societies throughout the world.

Following is a sampling of the latest news about these organizations.

Lithuania organizing new society, Offering to share knowledge

A letter from Rokas Oginski, a student in Vilnius, Lithuania, says a Society of Jewish Genealogy in Lithuania, now being formed, "intends to unite people with an interest in the rich history of Jewish families in and around" the capital of Lithuania.

"In addition," Oginski writes, "we hope to discover new sources of information and new points of access to the surprisingly vast quantities of information on Jewish history that have been unearthed in recent years in Lithuanian archives, libraries, private collections and government institutions for the benefit of Jewish genealogists both within Lithuania and abroad."

He asks that those interested in Lithuanian Jewry should feel free to contact the new SJGL.

Oginski's address is: R. Oginski, Didlaukio 40-11, 2057 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Telephone is 370-2-768901; Fax is 370-2-223451.

New Galician SIG forming

A special interest group (SIG) for people with roots in Galicia is being organized by Suzan Wynne, a founder and former president of the JGS of Greater Washington.

Galician, the territory which today is southern Poland and western Ukraine, was a province of the Austrian Empire between 1772 and 1919.

Members can share information about travel, towns, family names, obtaining records from Poland and Ukraine, location of hard-to-find *yizkor* books for sale, ideas for projects, stories about families, etc. A SIG family finder is also planned.

Membership will be \$15 to cover reproduction and mailing costs of a quarterly newsletter.

If 25 people join by September, the first issue of the newsletter will be issued in late September or early October.

Send a check or money to Suzan Wynne, 3128 Brooklawn Terrace, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Jewish Czech, Slovakia, Hungary interest group being formed

A new special interest group is being considered if enough interest is shown in Jewish Czech and Slovakia and Hungarian-Czechoslovakian researchers are interested.

Mindy Gottsegen, 733 Juniper Walk, Apt. B, Goleta, CA 93117 is the organizer and should be contacted.

She may also be reached by phone at 805-685-3324.

Both Mac and DOS users can join 'Family Roots' users group

Users of "Family Roots" and its GEDCOM buddy, "Links", can join the users group that includes both DOS and Macintosh members.

The Quinsept Users Group has some 1,500 total members with 200 of them using Mac versions of "Family Roots."

Membership is \$18.00 a year that includes a bi-monthly newsletter. For more information, contact Quinsept Users Group, 102 Broadfield Lane, Spotsylvania, VA 22553-1815.

IF YOU EXPECT AN ANSWER ... ENCLOSE A
SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE!

Several Washington JGS members form new scholar-guide tour group

A new tour group that includes Sallyann Sack, Ellen Epstein and Suzan Wynne of the Washington, D.C. JGS, have joined with Linda Gordon Kuzmack, US Holocaust Museum director, will specialize in family search assistance. This new enterprise will organize tours led by scholar-guides.

For prices and further information, contact Linda Gordon Kuzmack, 4710 41st St., NW, Washington, DC 20016, or phone 202-362-6105.

Book lists Polish physicians

Joseph Rubinstein, Hartsville, S.C., tells us on the Jewish genealogy bulletin board on *PRODIGY*, that he has a book that lists the names and brief biographical information for 2,500 Polish Jewish physicians who perished in the Holocaust.

You can ask for information by having a *PRODIGY* subscriber contact member #RTJC03A.

1994 weeklong Jewish seminar to be held in Israel, Apr. 29-May 5

Start making your plans now. The dates have been set for the 1994 Jewish Genealogical Seminar to be held in April 29 through May 5 at the Jerusalem Hilton.

Costs will be about \$1500 per person, double occupancy for six nights, plus round-trip El Al to/from Kennedy airport in New York.

There will be many other options, including land-only rates (about \$550), air-only, extra days before/after at the Hilton (about \$70 per night, double occupancy), extra days before/after at a more economical hotel, organized tours of Israel before/after the conference, spouse programs, and more.

There will be on-site research at such places as Yad Vashem, Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Israel State Archives, Hebrew Univ. Library, Search for Missing Relatives, Beth Hatefutsoth and others.

Lecturers will be primarily from Israel and Europe. More detailed particulars will be disclosed later and you can expect to personally receive all the details to be mailed in Sept./Oct.

Czechoslovakian postcard views available on request

If you are interested in acquiring postcard views of your ancestral town in Czechoslovakia, Nancy J. Deutsch-Sinderbrand may have yours.

She tells us that the prices are reasonable. She will send you a full description of available stock if you send her a SASE with your town names to Nancy J. Deutsch-Sinderbrand, 111-32 76th Ave., Forest Hills, NY 11375.

The views are in black and white, some in color, and cover Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia.

'Searching the South' *A NEW column!!!* *... beginning next issue*

Genealogical resources throughout the American South will be the subject of a new column beginning in the next issue of *Etz Chaim*.

"Searching the South" is an outgrowth of a JGSGO program presented by Rachel B. Heimovics in November 1992. The column will be a roadmap for investigating Jewish roots on a state-by-state basis.

One state will be featured in each issue of *Etz Chaim*. Look for "Searching the South -- Tennessee" in the next issue.

Heimovics, a past president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, used questionnaire returns to prepare her presentation of 1992.

"We had hoped and planned for my presentation lists to be the basis of a publication by JGSGO," she said. "After discussions about the best way to disseminate this information and ways to open the material to new information, we decided to create the quarterly column. We also

invite readers to submit their own contacts for information to add to future columns."

According to Heimovics, "Southern states has been loosely defined to include the states of the former Confederacy as well as the border states, especially Maryland and Kentucky, and the District of Columbia. Also, we are interested in non-Southern resources that pertain to communities in the South."

Each column will include names and addresses of people who have offered either to be on-site contacts or to assist in genealogical research, names of places that hold archival and other records, and bibliographic references pertaining to the featured communities.

Anyone with information to submit for the Tennessee column -- or elsewhere for future columns -- send it to Rachel Heimovics, c/o JGSGO, P.O. Box 520583, Longwood, FL 32752. The deadline for the next issue is Nov. 5, 1993.

Helen Greenspun shows us some of her views of Poland

These photographs, taken during the summer of 1992, give you some insight to the conditions of some of the cemeteries in Poland. Helen, with her sister, Sonia Nathman, West Broomfield, MI, revisited her home town of Chmielniku, as well as other areas of Poland.



The cemetery in Chmielniku, or what's left of it. Helen and her sister look around in dismay.

Helen visits the grave of Tess Wise's grandfather in Warsaw.



The Jewish cemetery in Cracow, apparently in fairly decent condition.

WANTED: Copies of old photos or other pictures to reproduce in future issues.

A Preliminary Report on Cemeteries in the Orlando Area

by Sheila Reback

(EDITOR: Our Society is part of a nationwide project by the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies to tabulate information about all cemeteries where Jews are buried. Eventually a census will be made of all the cemeteries and indexed for genealogists world-wide.)

The following report is the result of Sheila Reback's work on our Cemetery Survey Committee.)

- All Faiths Memorial Park**, 331-1910. "Garden of David", 1390 Park Drive, Casselberry. Under auspices of Baldwin-Fairchild, site purchased in 1978.
- Chapel Hill**, 898-1111/671-391?. 2400 Herrell Rd., Orlando. Auspices of Baldwin-Fairchild.
- Glen Haven**, 647-1100. off Temple Dr., Winter Park. (Beth Am). Under auspices of Baldwin-Fairchild.
- Greenwood Cemetery**, 246-2616. City of Orlando; office open daily, 7:30-4:00. Began in 1880. All files are open. Go to name file first; next to Property Cards file, to see what persons are buried on the site owned by someone. Files do not designate Jewish. Directions: Take I-4 to Anderson St., travel east on Anderson to Mills. Turn right on Mills. Go down Mills; sign to Greenwood Cemetery will be on Mills, turn left onto Greenwood St., follow to cemetery.
- Highland Memory Gardens**, 869-1188. 3329 E. Semoran Blvd., Forest City. Under auspices of Baldwin-Fairchild. See below.
- Ohev Shalom**, 298-4650. Old Winter Garden Rd. On computer, see Cher in the office. Plots and numbers on plots. Probably can get a computer printout from Cher if she has enough time ahead. Don't know what the earliest date is. Ohev as a congregation began in 1918. (Ron Shader is in charge of cemetery.)
- Oaklawn Cemetery**. 898-8111. Lake Mary. Auspices of Baldwin-Fairchild.
- Pleasant Hill**. St. Cloud (Fisk Funeral Home). Recent burials (Manny Adams).
- Rose Hill Cemetery**. Kissimmee. Recent burials (Manny Adams).
- Temple Israel**, 647-3055. Woodlawn "Beth Israel" section. Julien Meiten, leave message. Call at his business. First burials in 1959. Consecrated land. Records are in file cabinets somewhere in the synagogue. There are ordered alphabetically, by purchaser. Sometimes someone else purchased the site. Would be glad to go

out to cemetery with any of us. Go on East-West Expressway, western extension. Get off at Good Homes Rd, which goes into Old Winter Garden Rd. Go one block to Woodlawn Cemetery. Go along the left side, which is Cemetery Rd. Continue to the first clay road, Morton-Jones Rd. About one-quarter mile on the left is the cemetery.

Woodlawn, 293-1361. Congr. of Liberal Judaism section. Beth Israel. Woodlawn has all the records. Liberal was formed in 1950. Speak to Ed Kennedy. Haven't gotten back to him yet. See Temple Israel for directions. It is opposite Temple Israel Cemetery.

UNIV. of CENTRAL FLA. LIBRARY: Special Collections Division, 5th floor; Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. See Dr. Lee. Records from Carey-Hand Funeral Home, which was THE only funeral home in central Florida until the late 1930s. They are accessible, include date of death, place buried, funeral accouterments; parents' names. RELIGION WAS NOT STATED, BUT THE NAME OF THE REVEREND IS INCLUDED AND WHETHER THE BODY WAS SHIPPED OUT OF TOWN. Includes these counties: Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake, Brevard. (Courthouse in Orlando was destroyed in the 1900s and these are the only records.)

Funeral records June 15, 1891 - Dec. 30, 1952. June 15, 1891 - Dec. 31, 1918, include undertakers memoranda, entries by date. Records show burial in Orlando, Tavares, etc., but not the designated named cemetery, e.g. Orlando, Section A or B. State age of deceased, cause of death, if known. Jan. 1, 1919-Dec. 30, 1952. These are bound volumes with an alphabetical index in the front. By checking the number of the 'ledge' page, more information can be gleaned, such as funeral items, reverend, cause of death, parents' names, where body was to be shipped, etc.

For example: Book #23: #416: Morris Goldberg, body shipped, parents born in Russia, a Wolf Goldberg.

Cremation records: June 1925-Dec. 1949 are typed in alphabetical order (two lists), name, address.

One bound volume veterans and Orlando Air Base records: Jan. 10, 1938-Mar. 18, 1952. Names entered on a daily basis; not indexed. Carey-Hand was the only funeral home until the 1930s. A Guy Black started another one in 1930s. His widow, Mrs. Eiselstein, a member of the Methodist Church, is still living in downtown Orlando. Mr. Franklin bought it. He still works for Carey-Hand.

Continued on next page

Initial survey of Orlando cemeteries (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Carey-Hand. 647-1941. Keep current files on premises. Older files are stored. We can, with permission, go in to the files and get information. See Les Dyer.

Baldwin-Fairchild. Nancy Garlanger, Director of Administration, 301 N.E. Ivanhoe Blvd., Orlando, FL 32804. They own two cemeteries (see above). All information about cemeteries is privileged. If we were to write a formal letter, and/or contractual agreement, they would carefully consider our request for information, probably negotiating some kind of agreement. They do have all graves marked, and maps, but for anyone to get that information, a formalized agreement needs to be reached. During the 1970s and 1980s Nancy estimated they were involved in 70 to 80 percent of all Jewish burials. (I told her that we were gathering information only at this point, and that she might not hear from me for even another year. Her concern was for the "kooks" in this world, and to verify that we are, in fact, the Jewish Genealogical Society.) Nancy emphasized that Orthodox burials were under Ohev Shalom or Temple Israel.

FUNERAL HOMES

from information supplied by Mr. Franklin of Carey-Hand, Colonial

About 1885, there was a Richards and Hand Embalmers, which became Hand when Richards left. The records from Carey-Hand began in 1890 and are at the UCF library. Elijah Hand died in 1915.

About 1890 there was an Armstrong which didn't stay too long. They were in the area until the 1920s.

The original Hand business was furniture and embalmers. The building was built across the street from the furniture store. Some time later the building was

up on Pine St. It remained there until it was sold to the City of Orlando for a parking garage. At that time it became Carey-Hand Colonial and Cox-Parker, in two locations. (Mr. Franklin mentioned a date of 1946, maybe that was when some of the name changes came, uncertain.)

Carey Hand took over the Garden Chapel which had been owned by Olden G. Fairchild.

Sometime in the late 1930s there was an Eiselstein-Wigginton, which existed first in St. Cloud and then came to Orlando. They were taken over by W. Guy Black and it became known as W. Guy Black Funeral Home, about 1958. They lasted until six years ago, about 1986. Carey Hand took over the pre-arrangements that W. Guy Black had at the time Black closed. The whereabouts of the records may or may not be known. (Suggestion: speak again to someone in charge at Carey-Hand ... see Les Dyer).

A Robert Fisk at the Fisk Funeral Home in St. Cloud is a nephew of Eiselstein, and he had a written history of some of this information. (Also track down Mrs. Eiselstein, see above.)

Fairchild began in the 1940s, but later Olden Fairchild was killed. It is now known as Baldwin-Fairchild.

CEMETERIES

These were mentioned by Mr. Franklin as being significant. Need to be looked into.

Palm Cemetery, Winter Park

Winter Garden

Beulah (?)

Oakridge

Old Cemetery in Christmas, FL

It's that time again. Yearly dues are due again in September!

Membership in the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando (JGSGO) is a bargain if there ever was one. Where else can you get so much information and help regarding genealogy, while associating with so many nice people who have similar objectives?

JGSGO dues for the fiscal year that begins 1 Sept 1993 through 31 August 1994 are as follows (no change since we began in 1990):

**Regular: \$20.00 for JCC members,
25.00 for non-JCC members.**

**Out-of-town (more than 50 miles from JCC):
\$15.00.**

Make your check payable to JGSGO and mail it to P.O. Box 520583, Longwood, FL 32752, or better yet, bring it to our first meeting of the fall on Sept. 14.

The name of the game is . . .

What WAS Your Name?

by Robert W. Marlin

Oh, what was your name over there?

Was it Goldberg or Epstein or Baer?

Did you badmouth the Tsar?

Or flee from your wife to afar?

Say, what WAS your name over there?

The words above were lifted and rewritten from an American pre-Civil War folk ditty. Its title was, "What Was Your Name in The States." The song was sung in hundreds of frontier dance halls and saloons across mid America in the mid-1800s.

Most of the audiences were transients who were headed west, out of what was then the western border of the United States, and into what was then known as the territories. They had hundreds of different reasons for their decisions to go west. Many were legitimate pioneers, but an equal number were fugitives. Nobody cared. They simply changed their name and started a new life. The song simply poked some fun at what prompted them to change their names.

Although the words have changed, the thought behind them is the same. What was YOUR name where you came from? When the mass exodus of Jews from eastern Europe headed west 50 years later, they also had dozens of reasons for doing so.

They also changed their names, or in many cases had this done for them at places like Castle Gardens and Ellis Island.

As genealogists it is our job to find out what that original surname was and, if possible, how it was originally spelled. As far as I am concerned, tracing the evolution of family surnames is by far the most difficult part of genealogical research. The initial problem of everyday misspelling is compounded by translation and transliteration of several languages and alphabets. Also the everyday customs of the area that your ancestor came from. Add to that the ignorance and apathy of record transcribers and record keepers and the problem become monumental. By the time you factor in the reasons that your ancestor may have had for changing names and the problem becomes ALMOST insurmountable.

One of the first things you must sort out is which changes in a surname are voluntary and which was done

by the ancestor himself. I use the masculine pronoun because almost all of the changes of the voluntary type were done by men. It was usually done because of an irrational fear of being sent back to Europe to face charges relating to such things as political crimes or draft dodging.

A significant number of men changed their names to escape demands for support by wives who had been left behind in Europe and Russia. Many wives and families were deserted in areas like New York City, while the husband moved on to Philadelphia or Detroit and remarried without the benefit of civil divorce ofget.

For many years the Jewish *Daily Forward* printed a column called "The Bintel Brief." It was the forerunner of "Dear Abby." Over the years it printed thousands of letters from women whose husbands had simply changed their names and disappeared. This type of voluntary change is the most difficult to discover because usually an effort has been made to cover up the change.

The involuntary changes occurred at Castle Garden and Ellis Island where names were changed to suit the whim and caprice of the immigration inspectors who decided whether or not an immigrant was going to be allowed to remain in America.

After landing and establishing life in America, along came other involuntary name spellings and changes. Early census takers were instructed to write down what they heard. They were not required to verify spelling of names or accuracy of dates. This policy included state as well as federal censuses.

The Federal census started in 1790 and has been held every 10 years since then. Most state censuses were held at 10 year intervals, usually during the fifth year after a federal census. In addition, most major cities had city directors which were published yearly and were loaded with misspellings and misinformation. In spite of the errors, we can be thankful that they existed. Without them the job of the genealogist would be a lot harder.

Perhaps a few actual examples would be helpful.

My grandmother, Hilda Korris, and my grandfather, Meyer Margolin, were married in New York City in 1904. Their wedding license listed her mother's maiden

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The name of the game is ... What WAS Your Name?

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

name as Pessie Budiansky. The ceremony was performed by Rabbi Meyer Budinoff. The two witnesses (both male) were Peter Boudin and Isaac Segal. Later research confirmed that Peter Boudin was actually Peter Budinoff, an uncle to my grandmother. On other papers, Meyer Budinoff was listed as Meyer Budiansky, also part of the same family.

Ike Segal had married my grandmother's sister several years before. The witnesses at his wedding were Meyer Margolin and Meyer Budinoff. Later on I located the Siegal in the 1900 Census, not under the Sounded Code S-240 for Siegal, but under the code S-245 which included Siegelman. They had voluntarily shortened their name. Rarely were names made longer. Almost always they were shortened and Americanized.

My grandmother had an aunt named Libbe Budiansky who married a man named Jacob Summerfield. When their first child was born in 1891 in New York City, the father's name was listed as Jacob Sommerfield and the mother's maiden name was Lizze Majunsky.

The birth certificate of child #2, born in 1933, listed the father as Jacob Sommerfield and the mother as Libe Sommerfeld. In this case, the mother was from Russia and the father from Germany which means that one name probably was translated, while the Russian name probably had to be translated and transliterated.

Another family name I have been working on recently is Sunshine. A cousin in California recently advised me that she is certain that one of my grandmother's other sisters married a man named Sunshine sometime around the turn of the century.

My research has already shown me that Sunshine can be found in censuses as Sonshone, Senschien, Sonschene as well as other similar sounding names. Thank goodness for Soundex, which groups them all together. The only point I am trying to get across is that you must spend some time establishing what the surname evolved from here in America, before you can possibly trace it back to Europe and Russia.

Most European and Russian Jews didn't adopt surnames until they were ordered to do so. In 1787, Emperor Joseph II of Austria issued an edict ordering the Jews of Galicia and Bucovina to adopt family names. In less than 100 years most European and Russian Jews were also required to assume fixed family names. The Jews of Russia were required to do so about 1845.

The names taken were varied both by locality as well as means. In some areas the wealthy were able to buy

nicer sounding names than the poor, while in other areas the names were assigned by the will of the local politicians. In many cases the German and Slavic suffixes added confusion. The suffices *-witz*, *-ev*, *-er*, *-ski*, *-sky*, *-off*, *-mann*, *-son*, *-sohn* are just a sampling of the name endings which generally referred to the area when the individual resided.

The translation of a name from German to English can sometimes be simple, with the surname looking somewhat similar in both versions. However, so letters in the German alphabet are pronounced differently than their English counterparts. *Winter* in German is spoken as *vinter*. *Wine* is spoken as *vine*. It is possible for surnames to be filed under totally different letters of the alphabet than you are used to.

When dealing with the transliteration of alphabets the problem is compounded. In some cases the other language alphabets do not have a duplicate sound in English. The Hebrew alphabet doesn't have the same number of letters.

Remember, you are usually only dealing with a few surnames, and therefore do not have to become an authority to figure out a few names. However, due diligence is demanded in order to find what you are looking for.

It is impossible within the scope of this article to provide any in-depth detailed information regarding what form different surnames take when translated and transliterated into German, Russian, Hebrew and Yiddish. At this point it becomes extremely difficult because you are dealing with many variables.

As an example, my own surname was originally *Margolin*. The suffix *-in* is also seen as *-ies*, *-is*, *-ias*, *-iot* and numerous other endings. The surname *Margol* means "Pearl" in Hebrew. My own family research has shown that my grandfather Meyer left Russia with the same surname he arrived here with.

Maybe you might get lucky, too. But once again, the bottom line is discovering all this for yourself. Isn't this what genealogical research is all about? There is no barrier that can't be overcome by a dedicated genealogist.

Please turn to Page 12 for a list of reference books pertaining to the subject matter of this article.

BRING A GUEST TO THE NEXT MEETING!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Gleaned from other periodicals and sources

(copies of all JGS quarterlies are available at our library in the Holocaust Center)

"How to Collect Your Family Anecdotes," by Ralph G. Bennett.

-- *Shorashim*, JGS of So. Orange
County, CA, Summer 1993.

"Problems and Techniques in Genealogical Research," by George Rigal.

-- *Shemot*, JGS of Great Britain,
Summer 1993.

"Mapmaker ... Make me a Map!!!" Gary Fitleberg reminds us that *National Geographic* magazine is an excellent source for searching the changing European borders.

"Sources for Archival Preservation Materials," by Ted Gostin.

Balkan archives found in Moscow, as reported from an Israeli weekly.

"The Freedom of Information Act," by Hal Bookbinder

"Jewish Names in South Africa," by Herb Mautner.

"The 1848 Hungarian Census of the Jews by Debbi Korman.

-- *Roots-Key*, JGS of Los Angeles, Summer 1993.

"Going to Salt Lake City to do Family History Research," a book review by Roberta Wagner Berman.

-- *Discovery*, San Diego JGS, Summer 1993.

"The National Council for Jewish Women", the work of NCJW with immigrants to the U.S. beginning in 1893 and where to get find the records.

Explanation of the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center at the Balch Institute.

-- *Chronicles*, JGS of Philadelphia,
Summer 1993.

"A History of Macon (GA) Jewish Cemeteries," by Gus and Marian Kaufman, plus the index of names on tombstones.

-- *Yichus, Y'all*, JGS of Georgia, Summer 1993.

"European Sources," a report on various sources of information for research in the old country.

"Updates on Resources in Israel--Part 1," covering sources in Jerusalem in preparation for next year's international seminar to be held there.

-- *ZichronNote*, San Francisco Bay
JGS, August 1993.

"Guide to Genealogical Research in South Africa,"

"Researching Your Polish-Jewish Ancestry," by Jeffrey K. Cymbler.

-- *Kol*, Cleveland JGS, June 1993

"10 Hot Tips for Better Interviews," by Linden Rees.

-- *Shem Tov*, JGS of Canada, March 1993.

Acclaimed Anne Frank exhibit opens here Nov. 16 for two months

The world renowned "Anne Frank" exhibit is coming to Orlando for a two month stay beginning Nov. 16, thanks to the Holocaust Memorial Research and Education Center, the Orange County Historical Museum and several corporate and individual sponsors for the program.

In addition to the exhibit itself, whose world tour has been limited to only a few selected cities, a sculp-

ture exhibit, the play "Anne Frank", and special programming for area school children and congregations is being planned.

Docent training is being conducted by the Junior League. If you are interested in becoming a docent, call the Holocaust Center for details, dates and requirements at 628-0555.

A special JGSGO group visit is being planned.

'What WAS Your Name': Bibliography

See article by Robert W. Marlin on Pages 9-10.

Overcoming Obstacles to Eastern European Research by Sarah Allen Fleury.

Jewish Family Names & Their Origins, An Etymological Dictionary by Henrich & Eva Guggenheimer.

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire by Alexander Beider.

Dictionary of Jewish Names and Their History by Benzion C. Kaganoff.

The Name Dictionary by Alfred J. Kolatch.

Dictionary of English and Hebrew First Names by Alfred J. Kolatch.

Finding Our Fathers by Dan Rottenberg.

From Generation to Generation by Arthur Kurzweil.

Jewish Personal Names--Their Origin, Deviation & Diminutive Forms by Rabbi Shmuel Gorf.

Where Once We Walked by Gary Mokotoff & Sallyann Arndur Sack.

Socializing and Refreshments
at every JGSGO meeting

Genealogists pray that they have a horse thief in the family, because he will be written up in a newspaper somewhere.

—Sue Morrow

Jewish Family Finder changes format, Will come in looseleaf notebook

We will soon do away with those bulky printouts that usually fall apart when we use the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder.

From now on, the JGFF will be in a looseleaf notebook format. The *Finder* will be updated quarterly, according to Gary Mokotoff, who publishes it for New York's Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

The costs to the submitter is still free for the first 16 entries and \$2.50 per additional 16 entries. However, there is a new charge for updating entries. The cost is \$2.50 for the first 16 adds/changes/deletions and \$2.50 for each additional 16 changes.

A microfiche version of the JGFF is available for \$10 plus \$1.50 for postage/handling.



Jewish Genealogical Society
of Greater Orlando
P.O. Box 520583,
Longwood, FL 32752