



Etz Chaim

עץ חיים

The Quarterly Journal of the
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

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Summer 1995

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR

Tues., 13 June 1995

REGULAR MEETING, 7:30 p.m., COMPUTERS & GENEALOGY: from Beginners to Advanced, Ervin A Patrick. A serious genealogist for the past 10 years, he will discuss and demonstrate various genealogy packages, setting up forms, and publishing. Members and non-members are welcome to this special meeting. Bring a guest. Refreshments. Meeting will be held in the SENIOR LOUNGE of the Jewish Community Center, 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland.

Sun., 18 June 1995

JGS LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE, 1-3 p.m. at the Holocaust Memorial Center. Experienced JGS genealogist will help members with computer programs, microfiche readers and library materials. Size of group will be limited so phone Sheila Reback (332-7758) for reservations.

Sun., 25 June 1995
thru 29 June 1995

NATIONAL SUMMER SEMINAR, Washington, DC, Hotel Washington. Still time for last minute plans to attend.

Tues., 11 July 1995

REGULAR MEETING, 7:30 p.m., PUTTING OUR SUCCESSES TOGETHER, sharing personal genealogy success stories, tell your experience, bring your technique to share. Members and non-members are welcome to this special meeting. Bring a guest. Refreshments. Meeting will be held in the SENIOR LOUNGE of the Jewish Community Center, 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland.

Tues., 8 August 1995

REGULAR MEETING, 7:30 p.m., Special Speaker: MICHAEL BRENNER, past president, New York City JGS, and chairman, NYC Genealogy Workshops. Bring a guest. Refreshments. Meeting to be held in the SENIOR LOUNGE of the Jewish Community Center, 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland.

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GENE STARN, Editor



*The Jewish Genealogical Society
of Greater Orlando*

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and is a member of the

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Federation of Genealogical Societies*

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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 941332, Maitland, FL 32794.

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

From the President . . .

It is hard to believe that almost a year has gone by since I became President of JGSGO. It has been a primarily a year of successes and growth, if not in numbers then certainly in genealogical resources and expertise. I want to thank all the members of the Board for their help and assistance, and particular attention to the following.

Sheila Reback and her committee, have done an outstanding job in developing informative programs and enticing excellent speakers from the community. Just look at the covers of the *Etz Chaim* issues for the past year. And there is lots more to come. Look at the cover of this issue to get a glimpse of the future. They also ran a most successful Beginner's Workshop in January--and welcome to the attendees who have now joined our Society!

Greg Kolojeski and his committee have set up our library in the Holocaust Center so that it is available and accessible to all during the hours when the Center is open. Now that we have the space, many books that were on our wish list have appeared on the shelves. Greg generously donated a computer with CD-Rom and the disks to further research. We have purchased the entire Avotaynu fiche collection and there are 2 microfiche readers for use by all. The library is there, USE IT!!!!!!!

This report would not be complete if I did not acknowledge that there are some things we can do better. I dropped the ball on the cemetery project but hope to get that group back on stream real soon. The Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies worldwide has a project to catalogue the burials in as many Jewish cemeteries as possible. So far, only 40,000 names have been placed in the data base, but I know that several societies are just getting to their local cemeteries this spring. Please call me if you are interested in working on this project which will provide a wonderful resource for all Jewish genealogists. Also, although our total membership is about the same as last year, we lost some long time members who failed to renew their membership--for various reasons. Expanding our membership will enable us to expand our resources through added expertise as well as increasing our financial resources. Anyone interested in helping Bud Whitehill in the membership area, please call him. I am sure that there is more that could be done to keep all of our members interested and active.

I know that several members, including me, are planning to attend the seminar in Washington, DC, at the end of June. I hope that a few others will make some last minute plans to attend, if only for a day or two--there is daily registration available. For others, you will have to wait for our September meeting for a report on the seminar.

I have saved my thanks to Gene Starn for the last. He has been an unending source of help and support and has made this year much easier than it would have otherwise been. In addition to that, he continues to outdo himself with our wonderful *Etz Chaim*. I am writing this on the day of our dinner meeting so Gene won't see it until after we present him with a plaque as a token of our appreciation. For those of you who will be unable to attend, it says "*Presented to GENE STARN--Our Founder, Our Mentor and Always Our Head Genie*".

Come to the next meeting--and bring a friend!

GLADYS
President

PICTURE Your Genealogy Records!

by Sil Horwitz

Fellow, Photographic Society of America, (husband of Polly, the genealogist in the family)

Notebook pages, loose sheets, computer records -- genealogists have almost as many different methods of documenting the information they collect as there are individuals doing the work. A much better way is to keep your records in a good computer program, preparing a page for each person's records, including a **photograph of the person.**

Photographs in a computer record? Are you kidding?

That takes a lot of expensive equipment, doesn't it?

Well, actually, no -- and while you're making the computerized pictures you are also preserving those old faded, stained, often miserable-looking pictures. As you know, photographs do not last forever (particularly color prints and slides); surely many of the pictures you have are of very poor quality because of the conditions under which they were stored.

This is not true of a digitized picture saved on a computer disk. Because a digital image can be copied as often as you want, you always have an exact copy that does not age. In addition, once your pictures are digitized and stored in the computer, you can enhance the image so it is actually better than the original.

The reproduction in this newsletter may not show perfect renditions, but you should get an idea of how a fairly poor original can be simply enhanced into a very usable photograph. Also, by manipulation in the computer, you can remove a single face, unwanted backgrounds or other distractions in the photo, and have a specific portrait of the relative you're recording.

All right, you say, so far so good, but how do I do this?

First, of course, you need a computer and a program to set up the information. Many of you already have these, and those



Original photo



Enhanced photo



Individual

of you who don't would make life a lot easier if you make arrangements to get the items and instructions you need. Help is available; just bug your officers to set up sessions on computerizing genealogy. The Society has several experts who can help and others can be invited to explain what to do. (ED. NOTE: Just such a meeting is scheduled for June 13.)

Computerizing pictures requires a scanner and a "photo" program. Scanners are available in hand and flatbed (like a copier) models, at prices from around \$100 for a gray scale hand scanner to \$800 for a full color flatbed with true photographic quality.

Programs range from "shareware" (try it to see if you can use it, after which you are expected to pay for it) to expensive professional programs like Photoshop. The shareware programs, costing about \$40 if you decide to pay, are limited in scope, but can computerize the pictures well enough for genealogical records. The more expensive flatbed scanners usually come with a photo program, so you normally need nothing extra.

After you scan the picture and get it into your computer, putting the portrait into your genealogical record depends on the program you are using.

Just as a suggestion, if enough members are interested, and each contributes a small amount, the Society could get a "community" flatbed scanner (about \$500 new) for all contributors to use. The cost would be considerably less than having the scanning done professionally, and each user would have complete control over the results.

If the Society-owned scanner becomes a reality, I will be glad to run training sessions for its use and integration into genealogy records. If you decide to get your own, call me if you need help; I'm a glutton for punishment!

Mormons agree to stop baptizing of Jewish Holocaust victims

The next time you look at the Mormon Church's International Genealogical Index, called the IGI, it could be as many as 380,000 names smaller. That's the estimate of Jewish Holocaust victims who have been posthumously baptized by proxy by the Church.

Early last month, the Mormons reached agreement with five major Jewish groups to reissue a four-year-old order prohibiting church members from including Jewish Holocaust victims and to removed an estimated 380,000 such victims from its IGI which lists 147 million names. "It is counter to our doctrine," said Elder Monte J. Brough, adding, "we ask people to be respectful of other families."

The five major Jewish groups involved in the agreement were the United States Holocaust Memorial Council in Washington, A Living Memorial to the Holocaust-Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City, the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem and the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

The issue came to the group's attention when a Jewish newspaper mentioned that a Jew killed in the Gurs, France, concentration camp had been baptized posthumously into the Mormon Church.

"I was incensed when I found out about it," said Ernest W. Michel, chairman of the World Gathering group. "I am a Holocaust survivor and I found my grandmother, uncles, aunts and friends had been baptized. That, to me, I found totally unacceptable."

Gary Mokotoff, president of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, said the agreement provides the following:

- "1. That all posthumously baptized Jewish Holocaust victims who are not direct ancestors of living members of the Church will be removed from the IGI;
- "2. The Church will reaffirm the policy and issue a directive to all officials and members of the Church to discontinue any future baptisms of deceased Jews, except if they are direct ancestors of living members of the Church (or the Church has written approval of the family.)
- "3. The Church will confirm this policy in all relevant literature produced by the Church.
- "4. The Church will remove from the IGI in the future the names of all deceased Jews who are so identified if they are known to be improperly included counter to Church policy.

His statement continued: "Note that the agreement refers to 'Jews, not 'Holocaust victims.' It means it will be the future policy of the Church not to posthumously baptize ANY Jew who is not a DIRECT ancestor of a Mormon without permission of the family; a historic decision in Mormon-Jewish relations.

"I would like to thank all those in the Jewish genealogical community who were very upset about the Mormon practice for their restraint in this controversial issue. I knew that once the Church fully understood why so many Jewish persons reacted emotionally to this situation, they would reevaluate this practice and the final negotiations were done quietly rather than in the public forum.

"The implication to Jewish genealogy can be significant. For those who have had reluctance to share their genealogy information with the Mormons for fear of their using it for religious purposes, this agreement further emphasizes their policy not to allow it. However, remember the one exception would be if a Mormon and you share a common ancestor (note it cannot be a collateral relative--a Mormon cannot posthumously baptize, for example, a Jewish uncle). Some years ago, I submitted my family history in book form to the LDS Library and as a GEDCOM file to the LDS Ancestral File database based on their policy of not allowing the information to be used for mass extractions. This new agreement just reinforces my comfort. And if some third cousin twice removed baptizes our common Jewish ancestor based on my research, it may seem strange to some, but I will feel that I have done a mitzvah in helping a person fulfill a religious obligation."

New Jewish Genealogical Societies

JGS of Kansas City

Steven B. Chernoff
14905 West 82nd Terrace
Lenaxa, KS 66215

JGS of Montreal

Stanley M. Diamond
5599 Edgemere Avenue
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H4W 1V4

JGS of New Orleans

Jacob & Vicki Karno
25 Waverly Place
Metairie, LA 70003

Other Societies are in the process of formation, including one in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

3 WAYS TO TRACE YOUR FAMILY TREE!

- 1) Spend endless hours doing research.
- 2) Paying a large sum of money to let someone else do the research for you.
- 3) Run for political office, and it will most definitely be done for free!

--Gary Falgon, JGS of Atlanta, GA
author - *Genealogical Resources in the Atlanta Area, 1994*

Bring a friend to the next meeting!

Searching the South

ARKANSAS

by RACHEL B. HEIMOVICS

Seventh in a Series

In this *Searching the South* column, we will look at some Jewish genealogical resources in Arkansas. The idea behind the *Searching the South* column began with a compilation of Southern Jewish genealogical resources that I prepared for a program presented to the JGSGO in November 1992. One disclaimer: The list below has been gathered and researched over several years. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers may not reflect recent changes.

This is one of those never-ending projects. I invite readers and those who have already contributed to share with me their additional and updated information. If you have expertise about a particular community anywhere in the South and would like to be a genealogical contact for that area, please request my questionnaire.

Louisiana, Mississippi and North Carolina will be covered in the next column. Do you have special genealogical contacts or success stories for those states? Send the information to me as soon as possible, c/o ETZ CHAIM, P.O. Box 520583, Longwood, FL 32752.

Did you miss the last issues? Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, Virginia-Maryland-Washington, D.C., and Texas have been featured in past columns. Copies of past issues are available by contacting ETZ CHAIM at a cost of \$5.00 apiece.

To all those people who have already helped me -- whose names and information will appear in this and future columns -- I send warmest thanks. Please keep in touch.

HOW TO READ THIS COLUMN

Any name that is preceded by an asterisk (*) is a person who agreed to receive genealogy queries from the public. The source for information supplied through the questionnaire is identified by initials in brackets []. The key to the bracketed initials can be found at the end of the column. Information that has no identified source comes from a variety of directories and listings, some of which may be out of date.

ARKANSAS

General genealogy research in Arkansas, see Dillard, Tom. W. and Valeries Thwing, *Researching Arkansas History: A Beginner's Guide* (1980) [ESC]

History of the Jews of Arkansas, see LeMaster, Carolyn Gray, *A Corner of the Tapestry: A History of the Jewish Experience in Arkansas, 1820s-1900s* published in 1994 by the University of Arkansas Press.

ARKANSAS: Two best general contacts

- * Dr. Carolyn Gray LeMaster [CGL]
24424 Maranatha Lane
Little Rock, AR 72211
501/821-3644

Contact for Little Rock, Pulaski County, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Pine Bluff, El Dorado, and Southeast Arkansas (McGehee, Dumas, Dermott, Lake Village, Eudora)

Historian, photographer Arkansas's Jewish communities.. Author of book cited above.

- * Alan Barasch [AB]
P.O. Box 1251
Bentonville, AR 72712
501/631-7158 or 501/277-7058 (office)
For northwest Arkansas including Fayetteville and Bentonville.
Source for history and demography of area Jewish communities.

BENTONVILLE

- * Alan Barash
P.O. Box 1251
Bentonville, AR ;72712
501/631-7158 or 501-277-7058 (office)

Benton County Genealogical Society
c/o Bentonville Library
125 W. Central
Bentonville, AR 72712
Has general genealogical information; none Jewish
[AB]

Searching the South ARKANSAS

DUMAS

Elsie H. Philips
209 S. Elm Street
Dumas, AR 71639
Best general genealogy contact in Southeast Arkansas.
[CGL]

EL DORADO

Temple Beth Israel
712 Camp Street
El Dorado, AR
Contact: Joe and Janet Stuart

FAYETTEVILLE

Temple Shalom (for possible archives)
P.O. Box 3723
Fayetteville, AR 72702
501/631-7158
Contact: Alan Barasch

Washington County Historical Society
118 E. Dickson
Fayetteville, AR 72701
501/521-2970 [AB]

FORT SMITH

United Hebrew Congregation Temple
126 N. 47th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901
Contact: M.B. Marks, Jr., 1018 S. 23rd St., Fort Smith,
AR 72901 (For archives of local Jewish community.)
[CGL]

HOT SPRINGS

Congregation House of Israel
300 Quapaw Street
Hot Springs, AR 71901
Contact: Dr. Joe and Susie Rosenzweig, 166 Peninsula
Point, Hot Springs, AR 71901 [CGL]

LITTLE ROCK

Charles Elias, Archivist
Temple B'nai Israel
3700 Rodney Parham Rd.,
Little Rock, AR 72207
501/225-9700 (temple), 591/753-8651 (home)
For archives of Little Rock Jewish community. [CGL]

Jewish Federation of Arkansas
2821 Kavanaugh Blvd.,
Little Rock, AR 72207
501/663-3571

Best source for history, demographics of local Jewish
community [CGL]

* Dr. Carolyn Gray LeMaster [CGL]
24424 Maranatha Lane
Little Rock, AR 72211
501/663-3571

Historian, photographer Arkansas's Jewish communi-
ties.

McGEHEE

Temple Meir Chayim
410 N. 4th Street
McGehee, AR 71654

Contact: E. M. Dreidel, 502 N. 3rd St., McGehee, AR
71654. (For archives of local Jewish community.)
[CGL]

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Dreidel, Mannie "Temple Meir Chayim: A Century Old
Need" in *Programs*, Desha County Historical Society, pp.
29 ff. [CGL]

PINE BLUFF

Temple Anshe Emeth
40th and Hickory Streets
Pine Bluff, AR 71603
Contact: Selma Golden

CROSS REFERENCE/ABBREVIATIONS

AB = Alan Barasch (Arkansas: Bentonville)
CGL = Carolyn Gray LeMaster (Arkansas: Little Rock)
ESC = Wilson, Charles Reagan and William Ferris *Encyclo-
pedia of Southern Culture*, Univ. of North Carolina
Press, Chapel Hill, 1989.

ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

Greg Kolojeski, Society Librarian, announces the following
additions to our library, located in the Holocaust Center.

Jewish Genealogical Family Finder, March 1995
In Search of Your German Roots, 3rd Ed., 1994, Angus
Baxter
Polish Roots, 1993, Chorzempa
Olschwanger Journal, No. 3, 1993, Anna Olschwanger
International Vital Records Handbook, 3rd Ed., Fall 1993,
Thomas Ray Kemp
Guide to Jewish Books, 1992, Barry W. Holtz
Directory of Physicians in the U.S., 33rd Ed., 1992
A Century of Judaism in New York, 1930, Israel Goldstein
History of Brooklyn Jewry, 1st Ed., 1937, Samuel Abelow

BIG APPLE GENEALOGY

by Robert W. Marlin

By almost any standard, New York is one of the world's most exciting cities. The Big Apple has the Empire State Building, Lincoln Center, Yankee Stadium and the Brooklyn Bridge. There is also the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall and dozens of other sports, cultural and tourist attractions.

For the genealogist it is a record center without parallel. It has more records than most major cities combined. The exception is Salt Lake City which houses the largest genealogical collection in the world. However, even most of this collection is readily available through local LDS Church libraries in the New York City area. I was born and raised in New York City. It still excites me when I return to do genealogical research.

The Port of New York was the entry point for millions of our immigrant ancestors. Many simply passed through on their way to dozens of other American cities. Many stayed for a few years and then moved on. Millions of others settled down and raised families, lived out their lives and then died in the area.

One way or another, millions of them made a mark on historical records which still exist today. It might be in a passenger arrival list or a single entry in an Ellis Island log. In some cases, it is a listing in a city directory of census.

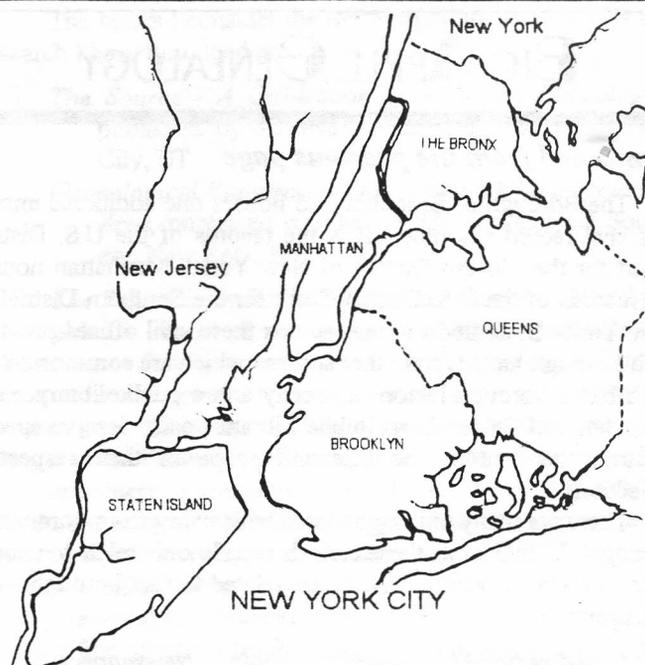
I can trace my maternal great-grandparents back to the time of their arrival in New York in the 1850s and from there to the time of their deaths in Brooklyn in the 1890s. My paternal grandparents arrived in New York at the turn of the century. Tracing them through the early 1900s was easier. By then, most vital records were better kept and contained more information.

When doing research it is a good idea to start by having some basic knowledge of the physical layout of the city. It also helps to know some city history. New York City has a good public transportation system. The subway system can get you from the tip of Manhattan Island to the outskirts of Queens in less than an hour. You can travel from the furthest part of The Bronx to the outskirts of Brooklyn in less than two hours. For research this type of trip is seldom necessary. In addition to many subway lines, there are dozens of bus lines. All research facilities are within walking distance of public transportation. It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the various public transportation routes available. The map included here is only meant to give you some idea of the physical and divisional layout.

New York City is subdivided into five boroughs. Each borough is also a county in itself, as follows:

<i>Borough of Manhattan</i>	.....	<i>New York County</i>
<i>Borough of the Bronx</i>	.....	<i>Bronx County</i>
<i>Borough of Brooklyn</i>	.....	<i>Kings County</i>
<i>Borough of Queens</i>	.....	<i>Queens County</i>
<i>Borough of Staten Island</i>	.....	<i>Richmond County</i>

Early New York City records are difficult to locate without some knowledge of the political history of the city. Before 1898



New York City consisted of Manhattan and parts of the Bronx. During that year the Bronx became a separate borough. Queens County also became the Borough of Queens. At the same time, Kings County became the Borough of Brooklyn and Richmond County became the Borough of Staten Island. The new Borough of the Bronx remained a part of New York County until 1914.

Special attention is needed when researching Brooklyn and Queens records which predate the year 1898. The early records for these areas are sometimes a little difficult to locate because of the many political and geographical changes. At the end of this article I have included a short list of books which you should consult. They can provide most of the information needed to get started.

The central record offices for most recent New York City birth and death records are located in Manhattan. Birth and death records are probably the only civil records which are not available in each borough. Birth records before 1910 and death records before 1948 are stored at the New York City Municipal Archives, located in downtown Manhattan.

All five of the boroughs have civil record offices which basically contain the same kind of records. These include:

- Board of Elections* - voter registration records,
- City Clerk's office* - marriage licenses,
- Civil Court, City of New York* - records of all name changes,
- City Clerk's office, State Supreme Court* - records of New York state censuses, naturalization, business and corporate names, military discharge records, name changes, various court cases, divorces, separations and annulments,
- Surrogate's Court* - wills and probates,
- City Register's office* - deeds, mortgages and other real estate transactions.

On Staten Island, the County Clerk's office performs the function of the City Register's office.

BIG APPLE GENEALOGY

Continued from the previous page

The Borough of Brooklyn also houses one additional important civil record resource. It is the records of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Manhattan houses the records of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. In addition to the records these civil offices provide, each borough has several other sources which are common to all. Each has a borough historical society and a public library. The Brooklyn and Queensboro Public Libraries each deserve special attention because of the size and scope of their respective collections.

There are many existing records which vary from borough to borough. In each case, these records usually only relate to people or events which occurred in, or are related to that borough. For example:

<i>City directories</i>	<i>Telephone books</i>	<i>Newspapers</i>
<i>Obituaries</i>	<i>Church records</i>	<i>School records</i>
<i>Synagogue records</i>	<i>Cemetery records</i>	

There are just a few of the additional records which I feel are of use to most researchers. There are dozens of others.

Manhattan Island is the most famous island in history. No piece of real estate purchased for the equivalent sum of \$24 has produced the same return. Over the years it has evolved from a tranquil paradise to a solid mass of concrete set in bedrock. The solid concrete mass consists of thousands of skyscrapers housing everything from the United Nations to Lincoln Center. However, it is only this bedrock which keeps the island from sinking into the surrounding rivers. Manhattan is just about 12.5 miles long and about 2.5 miles wide at its widest point.

The area at this widest point is known as the Lower East Side. This area is important to many genealogists. Many ethnic groups have immigrated to America during the last 150 years. Most of them have spent some time living on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. This includes German, Jews, Italians and many others. The records pertaining to this area have provided many genealogists with the first clue to their past.

Manhattan is a researcher's dream come true. Here is a list of some of the various types of records available:

<i>Birth</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Marriage</i>
<i>Divorce</i>	<i>Voter registration</i>	<i>Ethnic records</i>
<i>City directories</i>	<i>Foreign city dir.</i>	<i>U.S. maps</i>
<i>Foreign maps</i>	<i>Passenger lists</i>	<i>Naturalizations</i>
<i>U.S. newspapers</i>	<i>LDS Church records</i>	
	<i>Foreign newspapers</i>	

Generally, these records are of most value and importance to genealogists. The following is a list of the records facilities located in Manhattan, which I feel have the most to offer:

New York Public Library
National Archives - Northeast Region
New York City Municipal Archives

U.S. District Court - Southern District of New York
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The holdings of the New York Public Library are vast. It would take a separate article to describe their records in detail. Here is a list of most of the various divisions in the library and a short description of their contents:

The Annex - Holdings include hundreds of back dated telephone directories from all over the world. Also, a collection of city directories from all over the country. An extensive collection of newspapers, both foreign and domestic.

Central Research Division - This division has more than 36,000 books on open shelves. Of special interest to genealogists are a vast collection of biographies. Also available are current phone directories for most major American cities and many overseas foreign cities. Some foreign city directories are included. New York City Voter Registration Index Lists for selected years are also on hand.

Jewish Division - Contains more than 250,000 books, microfilms, manuscripts, newspapers and periodicals from all over the world.

Map Division - More than 375,000 maps and 14,000 atlases and books of all world areas.

Local & U.S. History, Genealogy and Microfilm

Division - Most U.S. Census Soundex and Schedules are available. Also some old New York State Census schedules. A large collection of New York City directories of all boroughs, some as early as 1786 and some as late as 1933/34. Also, various city directories for more than 300 other American cities (edition available is not always current). Many early New York City telephone directories for all boroughs, as early as 1878, as late as 1976/77. Indexes for births, deaths and marriages in New York City.

Birth Index 1888 - 1982

Death Index 1888 - 1982

Marriage Index 1888 - 1937

Special note: Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island not included until 1898. An extensive collection of Passenger Arrival records and indexes. There are thousands of volumes of personal family genealogies and an extensive collection of volumes on genealogy "How to."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES - NORTHEAST REGION

Schedules and Soundex for all available U.S. Censuses for all 50 states. Immigrant and Passenger Arrival Lists for Port of New York, 1820-1952. Not all schedules are indexed. Passenger List for Atlantic and Gulf ports, 1820-1873; Canadian port entries, 1929-1949. Also, various military records. There are index cards for all naturalization which occurred in all New York courts from 1792 to 1906. Also, naturalization records - U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York-Kings-Queens-Richmond-Nassau and Suffolk counties. Naturalization, 1865-1957. Declaration of Intention, 1865-1959.

BIG APPLE GENEALOGY

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NEW YORK CITY MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES:

Birth Index and Records to 1909
 Death Index and Records to 1937
 Marriage Index and Records to 1937
 Voter Registration to 1922
 City directories, Manhattan/Bronx and Brooklyn, latest is 1933.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT - SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, Naturalization Division:

Naturalization records - U.S. District Court - Southern District of New York-Manhattan-Bronx and Westchester County. Naturalizations, 1824-1929. Declaration of Intent, 1842-1940
 Naturalization records - U.S. Circuit Court, Southern District of New York (this court is now defunct); naturalizations, 1906-1911; Declaration of Intent, 1845-1911; U.S. Court for District of New Jersey: various records and dates; U.S. District Court for Puerto Rico, 1917-1929.

NEW YORK FAMILY HISTORY CENTER, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:

Social Security Death Index
Family History Library Catalog
International Genealogical Index (IGI)

One visit to any LDS Library will convince you that without the help and dedication of the Mormon Church, genealogical research would be far more difficult and must more costly. The Compact Disk (CD) containing their catalog items is a marvel in itself. It is possible to spend several hours just browsing through the various indexes and records. This index represents hundreds of thousands of rolls of microfilm stored at their headquarters in Salt Lake City. All of this material can be ordered into any branch of the church in under two weeks. The cost is minimal and the service first rate.

The research facilities I have listed and the records I have described are only a fraction of what is available in the Big Apple. There are dozens of other facilities and hundreds of other records which can be utilized.

You could easily spend a month just doing research and barely scratch the surface. There are many advantages to doing research in a large city like New York. The ease of mobility from one location to another is just one important consideration. There is also the ability to go from one type of record to another without leaving the room you are in. For example, at the Municipal Archives it is possible to check birth, death and marriage records. You can try to locate the individual in city directories. At the New York Public Library it is possible to find the year of immigration of your ancestor in a Federal census. You can then check the passenger arrival index for that year. Few facilities anywhere have all these various records in one location. This makes it possible to check one source against the other without having to visit separate facilities. All the facilities which I have described

are less than 15 miles distance from midtown Manhattan. This includes those located in the outer boroughs.

The books I consider the most important as an aid for the research I have described are:

The Source - A Guidebook of American Genealogy, published by Ancestry Publishing Co., Salt Lake City, UT.

Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area, published by The Jewish Genealogical Society, New York, NY.

The Source is by far the most comprehensive general genealogical book I know of. After almost 10 years I still refer to it at least four or five times a week. It is not the type of book you read from cover to cover. It is a true learning experience which requires your full attention. When you want to know more about any aspect of research, just read the sections concerning that particular subject. I guarantee you will come away with a far better understanding of the subject. If you want to learn or improve your general knowledge of American genealogy, I can't recommend it highly enough.

Genealogical Sources in the New York Metropolitan Area is also a fine reference book. As the title implies, it deals only with New York City and the surrounding area. This includes the outer counties which I have not covered. It also covers the eastern New Jersey shore. Many of our early ancestors eventually settled in nearby New Jersey and commuted to Manhattan by ferry boat. This volume contains most of the record sources for all of these areas. There are dozens of research areas I have not mentioned which are included. Along with the index of the records that are available, there is also a list of the years available. There are also many references to local history designed to make your search a little easier.

These two books are part of my permanent home library. Both are hard cover reference books which are somewhat expensive. I sincerely believe that anyone does research should own a copy of each of these books. Between them they have saved me dozens of trips to the library. The information they contain is invaluable to any serious researcher.

Welcome New Members

ROSALEE BACH
 Longwood, FL

LORRAINE BOTWIN
 Orlando, FL

BERNICE & ZOLTAN HEISLER
 Altamonte Springs, FL

PENNY WALZER
 Longwood, FL

SAVE THE DATE - SUN., JUNE 18
JGS LIBRARY - OPEN HOUSE - 1-3 p.m.



PSST! WANNA BUY YOUR NAME???

DON'T LET THEM TAKE YOUR NAME IN VAIN!

A variety of companies sell mass-produced items for thousands of surnames. Among these are one-page "surname histories," products showing a coat of arms, and books that feature addresses of individuals who share the same last name. These items are offered by direct mail, sold in airports and shopping malls, and advertising in magazines.

Millions of people buy these products, hoping they will learn something about their own family histories. However, people with the same last name do not necessarily belong to the same family or share ancestors. Those who suggest that a mass-produced item is part of a customer's individual family background are misrepresenting genealogy and family history.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies, of which our JGS is a member, together with the National Genealogical Society, believe that there are four things you can -- and *should* -- do when you encounter any of these products.

BE ALERT!

Read the offer carefully. Then -- think twice!

- ◆ Was the letter you received also sent to thousands of other people with the same last name?

Do you know many people who can afford to print and mail thousands of letters to sell a book on their family history?

- ◆ Does the letter offer a family history, or

Does it merely offer a list of addresses of people who have your surname, suggesting that you write to them to learn about your ancestry?

- ◆ Does the advertisement offer a coat of arms for your last name? Coats of arms were first granted to individuals--not to surnames. Then, as now, the right to use these arms was inherited from one's father.

How could a company that has not researched your family tree know whether you have inherited the right to display a particular coat of arms?

RETURN IT!

If you bought a surname product that you realize has nothing to do with you or your family, you have the right to return it for a refund. Here's how to do that:

- ◆ If you ordered it by mail, you can **return it** for a refund.
- ◆ Be sure to enclose your name and address, as well as a statement that you **request a refund**.
- ◆ At the Post Office, you should **buy a "return receipt for merchandise."**
- ◆ If you paid for the product by credit card, **ask your card company for help** getting a credit.
- ◆ If you have not received a refund within six weeks, call **The National Consumers League at 800/876-7060** (10 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST) for advice. Or, you can write to them at:

National Consumers League
815 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

COMPLAIN!

It is illegal to conduct schemes or devices to obtain money through the U.S. mails by means of false representation. The legal citation is 39 U.S.C. ?3005.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service will investigate any company that uses the U.S. mails to misrepresent mass-produced surname books or coats of arms. But the Service needs to hear from you before it can take action!

If you receive a solicitation that you believe misrepresents the products being offered, you should write to the Consumer Protection Division, describing the ways in which you believe the company that contacted you has engaged in false advertising.

If you don't have time to write, simply replace the contents in the envelope, reseal it, and cross out your name and address. Then, forward it to:

U.S. Postal Inspection Service
Consumer Protection Division
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-1100

TELL OTHERS!

It is important to let others know what genealogy is ... *and what it is not!* Here are some ideas to use:

- ◆ Keep a file on products that misrepresent genealogy.
- ◆ Contact the consumer news columnist of your newspaper, suggesting that he or she feature an article on this topic.
- ◆ Sponsor a program on surname solicitations. Ask your members who have purchased surname products to give a short talk on their experiences.
- ◆ Offer to speak to local service clubs about products masquerading as genealogy. You will not have to worry about libel if you stick to the facts and avoid specific name calling..

Following the Paper Trail

by Doug First

In genealogy it is particularly important to remember to "follow the paper trail" -- a never ending procedure. Persistence pays off, sometimes in the form of serendipity. Some recent examples:

EXAMPLE 1:

In 1992 I obtained a copy of the 1897 marriage record of Salomon BENESON and Rosine DUCHMANN from:

Bureau des Mairies 4
rue LOBAU 75196
Paris, France

It contains many pieces of information: Names and ages of all the attendees, where they lived, what they worked at, relationships of all the people, and signatures of the attendees. I became interested in the addresses of the family members.

Since I could not find the streets on the Paris maps I had, I wrote to the Library of Congress and received copies of detailed street maps for 1895. On one of the streets that the family lived there was a synagogue. Looking at current maps, which I can now examine because of the info received from the LOC, I found that this synagogue still is shown.

We had known that Rosine's father was a cantor. Since the synagogue was in the same block on which the family lived, we became interested in this synagogue. By chance, about a month ago a writer from France wrote to the JEWISHGEN board (the computer/modern Jewish genealogy network) for the first time. Through the E-mail Internet connection I wrote to him about the addresses shown and received a reply in two hours--much better than the responses I generally receive from local connections--all this at no cost except for my time. I have since written to him again and he will correspond for more family details.

Also, this same street contained a "Conservatoire". We know that Salomon studied piano while in Paris. Could this have been the place? Interestingly, one of the streets on which a relative of Rosine lived in 1897 was called Rue de Juifs, a very small street. Today it is Ferdinand Duval. It turns out that my French Internet friend lived on that very street 15 years ago!

EXAMPLE 2:

For a number of years we were trying to obtain information about the life of Roger BENENSON who had been a Senator for the Paris area and who we knew had died in an annex of the Neuengamme concentration camp in Germany in 1945, only weeks before the war ended.

Letters to the government and to Paris newspapers turned up nothing--even though he had been an active member of the government and came to New York with several other Senators to open the French Pavilion in 1939. This was during the administration of Leon Blum. We found writeups and pictures of the visit in the New York newspapers by searching the Orlando Public Library files.

While we were in Salt Lake City in 1991 we met two of the people from the Jewish Genealogy Society of Paris. Having

failed to get anything from the Paris government or the newspapers, I decided to write to one of these individuals to see what he could do. Very quickly he sent me copies of two documents he located in a Paris archive center. These documents supplied useful information about Roger and the letter accompanying them suggested four other addresses to write to for more information.

One of these was the Communist Party which Roger had belonged to, but which he renounced and left when the pact between Russia and Germany was signed. In May 1994 we received a letter and five pages of information from the Communist Party of France detailing both his history and his record in the national assembly. The writer also promised to try to obtain more details from Roger's "comrades."

We don't expect too much in this connection since they would be well into their nineties by now.

As an aside: from many documents we discovered that Roger died in Druttee, Germany, in what was an annex of Neuengamme. We couldn't locate this on any local maps of Germany--again the LOC sent a map of the location and from this we also know that the annex was at, or near, the "Herman Goering Works."

EXAMPLE 3:

We have known for a long time that family members went to Israel and Egypt in 1925 to visit some of the BENENSON tribe. None of our current connections know who these relatives were. From Batya Unterschatz, who runs the Search Bureau of Missing Relatives in Israel, we learned the addresses of several Benensons who may be the descendants of the people we were trying to locate. A couple of letters I wrote to them have gone unanswered.

Not able to speak Hebrew or Yiddish, we asked Batya to try to contact them by phone on our behalf. She tried a number of times but only got an answering machine and never a reply.

Again on the JEWISHGEN board we found a number of messages from Isar Steinhardt in Israel. I sent him an E-mail message on Internet to see if he could get a response. He finally reached the son of the man we were trying to connect with, and the son promised a reply from either his father or an uncle.

We are awaiting this reply. We are counting on an old family expression that "all Benenson's are related."

EXAMPLE 4:

I frequently use the computer PhoneDisc we have in our JGS library to try to find family members. This works well as long as the names being searched are "unusual." For example, there are thousands of FIRSTs listed; not too good. However, I am interested in the SEEGMAN name, but only with that spelling.

I found just one couple in the U.S. I wrote to them and am awaiting a response. Again, I have been trying to locate a Phyllis Seegman, who wrote books for children, who we understand from her father's obituary, was married to a man named SALZMAN. I located only one Phyllis SALZMAN on the PhoneDisc. So a letter has been sent and are awaiting a reply.

To be continued !!!

Items of interest you'll find in the latest issues of

JGS Quarterlies

Copies may be found in our genealogy library
in the Holocaust Center

The Quarterly journals of all JGSes from around the world are kept on file in our library in the Holocaust Center.

All of these journals have information of interest to all genealogists depending, of course, upon their own interests, but the articles listed below were deemed to be of special interest to our readers.

Sharsheret Hadorot - Israel January 1995

Indexing of London Synagogue Registers, p. XVII

Kol - Cleveland - April 1995

Membership list of Cleveland JGS, pp 16-20

1919 Hadassah, membership list, pp 61-62

Hungary 1848, list of towns

Index of past articles appearing in *Kol*

Shemot - Great Britain - February 1995

Struck Gold in Sonora (Calif.), p. 5

Do Not Neglect Family Photographs, p. 7

The Jews of Northern Bavaria, pp. 10-13

Yichus Y'ALL - Georgia - Winter '95

Jewish Genealogy Down Under, p. 5

Jewish Genealogical Resources in Atlanta, pp 10-12

Roots-Key - Los Angeles - Winter '94-'95

Resources Used by (U.S.) Holocaust Museum, pp 8-10

Accessing the JewishGen Bulletin Board, pp. 16-17

Index to Root-Key, Spring 1990 through Winter 1994-1995

Mishpacha - Washington, DC - Winter 1995

German Holocaust Records, p. 3

Deportations from France, pp. 3-4

Lithuanian Survivor Lists, p 4

Three Ways to JewishGen, p. 7

Shomrim Societies: Unusual Sources of Research, pp. 15-17

Mishpacha Index 1994, p.26

Lineage - Long Island - Winter 1995

Der Bay, a monthly Yiddish newsletter, p 5

Sources, Services, Supplies, pp. 5-6

Internet Resources, p. 7

Mass-Pocha - Spring '95

How to Produce Your Own "Instant" Family History, pp. 1, 6-8

The Castle on the Hill: The New York Jewish Orphanage System, pp. 1, 10-11

Research Experience in the Archives in Warsaw, pp 12-13

Hebrew Abbreviations for Genealogists, Part II, pp. 14-18.

ZichronNote - San Francisco - May 1995

Conscription of Jews into the Russian Army, pp.9-12.

Computers in Genealogy, pp. 14-17

Morasha - Illinois - Spring 1995

Eastern European Archival Research Updated, pp. 4-5

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