

That you might recount it to a future generation

למען תספרו לדור אחרון

Psalms 48:14

DOROT דורות

תהילים מ"ח:יד

The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume 22, Number 1

Fall 2000

Upcoming Programs

Sunday meetings begin at 2:00 PM and, unless otherwise noted, are held at The Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY (between 5th and 6th Avenues). A *schmooze* session starts at 1:30 PM to swap genealogical problems, solutions and anecdotes. *Postscript* sessions are short "how-to" presentations on a specific topic offered after the main program.

Reminder: non-members will be charged \$3 for admission. Please bring your membership card.

Family History Library Research — October 26, 2000

This meeting will take place on a Thursday evening at 6:30 PM, at the Family History Library of the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons), 125 Columbus Avenue, New York (corner of West 65th Street). Michael Brenner, past President of the JGS, will talk about using the Family History Library microfilms to research both European and United States records. *Postscript*: Several JGS members will report on the Twentieth Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy held at Salt Lake City this past summer, and special guest George Rigal from England will describe plans for the next Annual Conference in London to be held July, 2001.

Yizkor Books, Shtetl Coops, and The Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute — November 19, 2000

Gloria Freund will talk about Yizkor books and Shtetl Coop groups. Rachel Fisher, coordinator of genealogy at the Center, will introduce the JGS to the Center's new genealogy division.

Census Research — December 17, 2000

This Sunday meeting will be held at the New York Regional Branch of the National Archives, at 201

Varick Street (#1 to Houston Street). Roger Joslyn will talk about important aspects of the Federal and New York State Censuses, and will highlight techniques for searching the mostly unindexed 1930 Federal Census, to be released in 2002.

Future meeting dates in 2001 are January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20 and June 17. For additional program, check the JGS web site: www.jgsny.org

SPECIAL JGS EVENTS

Researching Your Family History — November 2 & 16, 2000

Two Thursdays, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA at 1395 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY.

A joint JGS/92nd Street YM-YWHA program, similar to the successful programs given in the last two years. Discover the wide range of library and archival resources available locally and elsewhere, and learn how to gather information from your relatives.. Topics include naming traditions, vital records, cemeteries, computer technology, census and naturalization records, passenger lists, yizkor books, Holocaust research, finding survivors and researching in Eastern Europe. Two sessions, \$40. Pre-registration required. Register through the Y, either in person, by mail or telephone (212-996-1100).

Investigating the Past: Where Did We Come From? — December 14, 2000 & January 11, 2001

Two Thursdays, starting 7:00 PM at Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 7 West 83rd Street, New York, NY.

A joint JGS/ Jewish Community Center (JCC) on the Upper West Side program, co-sponsored by

Rodeph Sholom's 36-Plus Group and similar to the program at the YM-YWHA. Facilitators from the JGS will help attendees who want to discover their Jewish roots learn how to get started and how to take advan-

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Web site: <<http://www.jgsny.org>>

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Community members, otherwise \$10. Register through the JCC; call 212-580-0099 to ask for a form or go to their web site at www.jccnyc.org.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Preservation for the Family Historian — November 29, December 6 & 13, 2000

A Workshop, presented by the Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, on preserving the physical evidence of family history. In the state-of-the-art conservation laboratory at the Center, participants will be introduced to basic archival methods of stabilizing, reformatting, storing and organizing deteriorating documents, photographs and three-dimensional objects. Participants will practice preservation techniques. The workshop will be held on three successive Wednesdays, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street (between 5th Ave. and 6th Ave.), New York, NY 10011. The registration fee (covering the cost of supplies used to practice preservation techniques) is \$75.00. Space is limited to fifteen participants, and registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, call (212) 294-8324 or e-mail gi@cjh.org,

tage of the various resources that exist here and around the world, in print and online. 15 West 65th Street, New York, NY. Two sessions, free to JCC

and leave your name, mailing address, and phone number.

London2001 — July 8-13, London, England

The 21st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel at Hyde Park Corner in London next July. See the end insert in this issue for details. For those who want to plan ahead, the Annual Conference sites the following three years will be Michigan in 2002, Washington, DC in 2003, and Israel in 2004.

JGS and CJH News

As of mid-September, over 80% of the Brooklyn Naturalization indexes (185,000 names) had been entered into the database, which can be accessed from the JGS web site (www.jgsny.org). Also new to the JGS site is a link to several New York State naturalization index databases, and a link to the Hebrew National Orphan Home Alumni which includes a directory of United States Jewish orphanages. The New York State links include naturalization databases for Albany, Westchester, Rockland, and Suffolk Counties, as well as a link to the Manhattan fee-for service site for 1907-1924 naturalizations (see, however, the note on the Ancestry.com index to this database under "Notes From All Over"). Some of these sites also provide other indexes (for additional information, see the note on this subject in "Notes From All Over").

The CJH (Center for Jewish History), at 15 West 16th St., New York, NY 10011, is now home to all its constituencies. The *Leo Baeck Institute* has reopened at the Center; their phone number remains the same, 212-744-6400, as does their fax number, 212-988-1305. Their email address is lbi1@lbi.com. The two-level Lillian Goldman main reading room, which serves all the collections, is wired with power jacks for computer use at all work stations. The Genealogy Institute is also open (see the following article by Rachel Fisher). The *American Jewish Historical Society* has completed an agreement with Hadassah to transfer the latter's archives to the Center. The *Leo Baeck Institute* has transferred the first forty volumes of their *Year Book* (1956-1995) to a single CD-ROM, searchable by key words such as place, subject or organization. The *YIVO Institute for Jewish Research* archives has acquired the papers of Professor Samuel Abrahamsen, which include extensive documents on the history of the Jewish communities in Scandinavia. Abrahamsen was the author of *Norway's Response to the Holocaust* (published in 1991).

The Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute

It is my pleasure to introduce Dorot readers to the Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute. As many of you know, The Center for Jewish History emerged from a vision of a unique central repository for the cultural and historical legacy of the Jewish people. The Center embodies the unique partnership of five major institutions of Jewish scholarship, history and art: the American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. The Center serves the worldwide academic and general communities with combined holdings of approximately 100 million archival documents, a half million books, and thousands of photographs, artifacts, paintings and textiles - the largest repository documenting the Jewish experience outside of Israel. The Center will work closely with the Jewish genealogy community to offer family history researchers at every level excellent reference services, access to the collections at the Center, and opportunities to learn about the history our ancestors experienced. Thus, the primary mission of the Center Genealogy Institute (CGI) is to help people learn about their family histories.

As I write, construction on the CGI office and patron space is underway. The CGI is adjacent to the Center's Reading Room, the public computers, and the microfilm readers. The CGI area holds bookshelves with a genealogy reference collection, a reading area, and a consultation area where staff and volunteers can help patrons. Patrons who visit the Center for family history research and who request assistance are directed to the CGI, where they can use the reference

materials, access web sites on the public computers, and learn about the resources available through the Reading Room. Once researchers are ready to access primary materials like yizkor books, they do so through the Reading Room.

CGI volunteers and I work with the staffs of the five partner institutions to answer the genealogical inquiries that flood into the Center, by directing researchers to specific sources of information inside and outside the Center. We provide access to family history reference materials, answer questions about family history research, orient family history researchers to the Center partners, and create programming on family history research. The JGS of New York and its Board, particularly President Estelle Guzik and Board member Steve Siegel, have provided both formal input and informal mentoring as the Institute's services have developed. The JGS has also generously donated genealogy reference materials. I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the JGS of New York, as we cooperate to further the shared objective of promoting Jewish family history research.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like further information, please contact the CGI at gi@cjh.org or (212) 294-8324. The website for the center is www.centerforjewishgenealogy.org.

Rachel Fisher

Rachel Fisher is the director of the Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute. She wrote her doctoral dissertation on family history research and its impact on Jewish identity, and she writes regularly for Dorot.

Past Programs

Twentieth Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy — July 9-13, 2000

The over six hundred persons who attended the Twentieth Annual Conference, held in Salt Lake City, found a congenial setting that made getting from event to event easy, and allowed for an intimate atmosphere. Events began and ended right on schedule, and the registration system and other administrative aspects of the event functioned very smoothly.

The Conference Program included lectures ranging from basic techniques to highly technical lectures. As might be expected, given the lure of the wealth of resources at the Family History Library, many of the

conference attendees spent a good part of their time in Salt Lake City doing research in the Family History (LDS) Library. Of special interest were the 50 new rolls of microfilms containing the first Jewish vital records filmed by the LDS at the Vilnius, Lithuania archives. Also available was a new research aid prepared by a Library volunteer, listing all the books and microfilms with Jewish content held by the Family History Library, in both compact disk and hard copy versions.

Those who took the time to also do some research in the resource room at the hotel found some unique items, including an English-language copy of the remaining 1897 All-Empire Russian Census for Vilna gubernia (JewishGen will be posting this list; see "Notes From All Over" for additional details).

Some of the highlights of the Conference, discussed in more detail in the Summer, 2000 issue of *Avotaynu*, were a demonstration of Yad Vashem's new name database; Dr. Alexandre Beider's analysis disproving both the Khazar theory of Eastern European Jewish origins as well as the conventional assumption of Germanic origins; and a new plan unveiled by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service to better serve genealogical researchers. One interesting impromptu event, unfortunately attended by only a few people, was a video on the personal experience of an observant Jewish woman raised in Iowa, shown by a conference attendee. The film, "Gittel in the Middle," is an amusing and profound work. The film-maker is now living and teaching in Cambridge Mass.

New York's groundbreaking inclusion of speakers on the convergence of genetic and genealogy research continued in Salt Lake City. Evidence presented by Dr. Harry Ostrer and Michael Hammer reinforced Beider's conclusion about the minor role of the Khazar influence on Eastern European Jewry, and showed that Ashkenazi Jewry could be traced to a common Middle Eastern origin some 5000 years ago. As in New York, the geneticists collected DNA from volunteer attendees with which to conduct further research (see "Notes From All Over").

An interesting innovation was the inclusion of a "Night Owl" social gathering. Rafi Guber's songs and commentary showed a previously unknown side of this well-known Jewish Genealogist. Another innovation was the scheduling of the special interest group (SIG) sessions on Sunday, prior to the regular scheduled speaker sessions, so as to avoid conflicts with the latter.

The headline events included an opening session and a banquet. The banquet speakers, Eileen Douglas and Ron Steinman, talked about making their film "My Grandfather's House," which documented Ms. Douglas' personal quest for her roots in eastern Europe.

Six annual awards were announced at the banquet. The award for best publication by a member of IAJGS went to the JGS of Michigan; the award for best programming by a member society went to the JGS of Greater Washington; and the award for outstanding contribution via the Internet was given to the LitvakSIG for its All Lithuania Database. The JGS of Canada (Toronto) won an award for its project to develop and implement a high school curriculum for the teaching of Jewish genealogy. The award for best

book was given to Miriam Weiner for *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldava*, and the Lifetime Achievement

Award was presented to *Avotaynu* editor Sallyann Amdur Sack.

Michael Brenner, past president of the JGS of New York, was elected to the IAJGS board at their annual meeting at the Conference. Other new board members include Dr. Anthony Joseph (England), Michael Posnick (Minneapolis), and Daniel Schlyter (LDS Family History Library).

The opening session lecture was given by Richard E. Turley, Jr., Managing Director of the LDS Family and Church History Department. Billed as "The Family History Library: Its Past, Present and Future," the lecture consisted of two parts. The first part was a presentation accompanied by a slide show describing the history of the Mormon faith and people.

This history, like that of the Jewish people, includes many instances of persecution from outside.

The second part of Mr. Turley's talk dealt with the future of the LDS Family History library and archives; This part of the presentation presented a fascinating window into the future of genealogical information. Turley spoke of emerging data storage technology techniques that hold the electronic images of tens of thousands of documents per square inch of storage space. Mr. Turley spoke of this work again later at another conference; for those interested, the text of that speech is available on line at: www.lds.org/news/article/1,5422,116-1954,FF.html

Navigating the Revolving Doors of the Former Soviet Union — September 17, 2000

During this delightful and informative presentation, renowned genealogist, author, and speaker Miriam Weiner expanded her already considerable contribution to the world of Jewish genealogy. Ms. Weiner, just back from a lengthy trip to Eastern Europe, presented updated information on how to access archives in the former Soviet Union and Poland, and told of her plans to create a database of information about the holdings of these archives in Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Moldova.

While in Eastern Europe, Ms. Weiner met with officials from archives in Poland, Ukraine, and Belarus. In Poland, she met with Daria Nalecz, director of the Polish State Archives in Warsaw. In Ukraine, Ms. Weiner met with Ruslan Pyrih and Hennadii Boriak, director and deputy director, respectively, of the Ukrainian State Archives in Kiev. In Belarus, she met with Alla Golubovich, director of the Minsk Historical Archives, and Vladimir Adamushko, vice-director of the Belarus State Archives in Minsk. Ms. Weiner found that some research policies and procedures of each archive have changed since the publication of her books, *Jewish Roots in Poland* and *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova*. She explained clearly each country's policies for visiting researchers, research requests by mail, and people hiring a researcher.

For those who did not attend the Conference, a second printing of 200 copies of *Yearbook 2000*, the Syllabus of the 20th Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, was due to be available for distribution by the end of September. *Yearbook 2000* includes descriptions of the speakers and presentations offered at the conference in Salt Lake City in July, reference handouts provided in support of each presentation, helpful information about getting the most out of the Family History Library, the 150 year story of the Jews of Utah, a bibliography of 1,000 North American Jewish Community books, and updates on 100 organizations involved in Jewish Genealogy.

The book costs \$35, including shipping. To order the Yearbook, send a check made out to the IAJGS for \$35 (US funds), or authorization to charge a Visa or Mastercard account for that amount, to Marilyn Natchez, IAJGS Treasurer, PO Box 251683, West Bloomfield, MI 48325-1683. The credit card authorization should identify whether it is a Visa or Mastercard, the name and address as it appears on the card, the card number, and its expiration month and year. Orders will be honored on a first come, first served basis until stocks are exhausted.

John Paul Lowens

Poland

For those visiting personally, the director of each branch archive can grant permission for work in the archive, after the researcher has completed an application stating the research purpose and research needs. Permission is obtained at the district archive: For example, to conduct research in Sandomierz, obtain permission at the district archive in Kielce. If a researcher has been hired, he or she must have a legalized and notarized letter of permission to present to the archive director. For written requests, Professor Nalecz is now encouraging written requests to the individual archives holding the desired records, rather than addressing them to her in Warsaw, as had been the previous practice. To learn what records exist and where, consult Ms. Weiner's *Jewish Roots in Poland*. For the most recent list of archive addresses, see the new book by Shea and Hoffman (see the review later in this issue of *Dorot*, or go on-line to <http://ciu.warman.net.pl/alf/archiwa/archiwa/korzystanie.eng.html>.

Belarus

For those visiting personally, knowing the fond, opis, and file numbers of the desired documents will reduce the time to retrieve documents to several hours, after an application has been completed. File descriptions are in Russian, so lacking this information, much research time will be spent reviewing the file descriptions rather than researching

the actual documents. However, there is a computer index for Jewish vital records for the city of Mogilev. The cost for research consists of a \$10.00 consultation fee (good for a one-year period); an \$80.00 non-refundable deposit to open the file; \$2.00 - \$4.00 per book for research, depending on what is found; and \$0.50 per page for copies

When writing to the Minsk Historical Archives, send letters to Alla K. Golubovich, Director, Minsk Historical Archives, 55 Kropotkina Street, Minsk 220002 Belarus. Their website is www.president.gov.by/gosarchives/EArh/E_naz_ist.htm.

Ukraine

For a personal visit, obtain written permission first from the Main Archival Administration in Kiev (fax 38044/277-2666). Researchers need a letter from a research institute or university stating the affiliation and purpose of the research. Then, apply directly to the director of the archive where you wish to work. For written requests, also write directly to the relevant archive. The archival inventories in *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova* indicate where to apply, and addresses are in Appendix 2 of the book. The cost of research varies from archive to archive. Write first to request the payment scale. Be sure to disregard a response from any other source if you wrote to the archive itself. Expect an initial response within a month

The audience was extremely appreciative of Ms. Weiner's willingness to share the information she has culled over years of work, travel and research in Eastern Europe. In this tradition, Ms. Weiner spoke of the database she hopes to create, with archival information for towns in Eastern Europe, which would combine and amplify the material in her books and include new material. Meanwhile, the Jewish genealogy community continues to benefit greatly from the fruits of her labor.

Rachel Fisher

Portions of the foregoing were excerpted from a copyrighted article provided by Miriam Weiner to attendees at the meeting, and are reprinted here with the permission of the author.

Notes From All Over

United States Census Available On-line

Two separate and competing Internet sites have announced the availability on-line of the entire collection of United States Census records, from 1790 to 1920. This is an extraordinary step forward for on-line genealogy resources that will redefine the role of the Internet in genealogical research, and will surely tip the balance for those genealogists who have not yet obtained access to the web. It also probably represents the largest single database on the Internet,

of the archive's receipt of your request, though the research itself may take several months.

While each country has different policies regarding archive access, all the officials with whom Ms. Weiner spoke had similar general suggestions. Each official warned genealogists in the United States to be very careful about hiring "professional" researchers; the archives do not take responsibility for the truthfulness or accuracy of research done by independent contractors. When writing to the archives, keep inquiries brief and to the point. Include all relevant information, such as names and dates, but present the information clearly and schematically, rather than in a complex story (even if it is a fascinating story).

If visiting the archives in person, expect the research process to be lengthy. Finding aids will not be in English, so bring a hired translator. Copying services may be limited or nonexistent. Whether visiting in person, writing an inquiry, or hiring a researcher, prepare by studying all available information, such as the inventories in *Jewish Roots in Poland* and *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova*, so you are able to focus your work and provide useful information to the people helping you. Finally, do not expect the same working environment as in the United States.

with approximately 10 million images representing 450 to 500 million individuals, comprising 3.5 Terabytes of images and data according to one of the two announcements. By way of comparison, Heritage quest notes that in July 1999, Nature Magazine estimated the basic data in the entire World Wide Web to constitute roughly 15 terabytes.

SierraHome's Generations and Heritage Quest will house their version of the census database at GenealogyDatabase.com. In addition to the census pages, Heritage Quest is also working on indexes for each year, which will link directly to the digitally enhanced image pages. They have already completed 1790, 1800 and 1870. It was determined that existing indexes were filled with errors, hence Heritage Quest is completing fresh extractions for their indexes. Other years are in the works, to be added at the rate of 500,000 per week. GenealogyDatabase.com will also be accessible through both HeritageQuest.com and SierraHome.com. The site will be subscription-based, and will also feature (although not at first) a "sticky note" technology where members can leave messages behind for others looking at the same page of the census.

Ancestry.com is doing the same thing, as part of their new Ancestry.com Images Online(tm) service. The original census records will be viewable and printable online with an Ancestry.com Census Subscription, which will cost an additional \$39.95 if combined with the regular \$59.95 annual subscription

to their other databases, or \$59.95 if taken by itself. The database is currently incomplete (indeed, as of late September, only the 1790 census was on-line here), but by early next year Ancestry claims that it will be complete for all census years through 1920. Check their web site for further information, or call 800-262-3787.

Ancestry.com also recently began an innovative project to reconstruct the information lost when a 1921 fire destroyed nearly the entire 1890 census. Ancestry.com is using remaining fragments of the original 1890 census, 1890 special veterans schedules, several Indian tribe censuses for years surrounding 1890, state censuses (1885 or 1895), city and county directories, alumni directories, and voter registration documents to construct a census substitute. More than 20 million records have been identified for inclusion in the census substitute.

England and Wales 1901 Census to be On-line

The release date for census information in England is much longer than in the United States: 100 years vs. 72 years. The flow of Jewish immigrants into England increased significantly in the late 19th century, hence the release on the first working day of January, 2002 is awaited with great interest by Jewish genealogists. The Public Record Office (PRO) has announced that the 1901 census will in fact be

Volunteers have been entering the information at home on their personal computers and then uploading the results to a mainframe computer in the Secretary of State's office. The site is easy to use and returns results quickly; it can be searched by surname or for specific marriages, and provides the names of the bride and groom, the county, date of marriage and the record citation (normally license number). There are links to obtain copies of the records. The Internet site is www.sos.state.il.us/depts/archives/arc_home.html.

The index can also be purchased on CD-ROM from the ISGS, P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195. The cost is \$47.00 postpaid, and the disk includes the Acrobat Reader software needed to use the index. A more expensive version is also available on fiche.

California and Texas Vital Records Indexes On-Line

The RootsWeb site now has excellent searchable indexes for varying time spans, provided by the Department of Health in both states. The California indexes are for 24.6 million births from 1905 to 1995, and for 9.3 million deaths from 1940 to 1997. The birth indexes include the birth date, mother's maiden name and location. The death indexes include the birth date and place, mother's maiden name, father's surname (for married women), date and place of death, and social security number. There are no marriage indexes from California on-line at this time.

released in digitised format, available on the Internet.

Work is currently underway on this project, which will include not only images of the entire census but also indexes searchable by given name, surname, soundex code, and place name. The index search will be free and will contain links to the actual images, with a probable charge of about 50p to view a transcription of an individual's information or 80p to view and download the actual page. There will also be a fiche version of the actual census available at the PRO and for purchase by libraries. To follow the progress of this project, go to the PRO website: www.pro.gov.uk.

Illinois Marriage Index On-Line and on CD

Several sources have reported this year on the results of a project started fifteen years ago by the Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS), which has been working with the Illinois State Archives to create a state-wide index to Illinois marriages prior to 1901. There are now more than one million marriages indexed by both bride and groom, with 43 of the counties completed and another 41 partially completed. Cook County (Chicago) records currently span the period 1833 to January 1894, although records prior to 1871 in Chicago were destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of October, 1871 and are thus taken from secondary sources.

The Texas indexes are for over 15 million births (in two parts, 1926 to 1949 and 1950 to 1995), over 5 million marriages from 1966 to 1995, almost 4 million deaths from 1964 to 1998, and about 2.5 million divorces from 1968 to 1997. The information provided in the deaths, and in births prior to 1950 is somewhat more than the later births, but less than that provided in the California indexes - basically only the date of birth or death, and county, is shown. For marriages, name and age of both parties, the date of marriage and the county are shown. Birth and death indexes from earlier years (beginning in 1903) are available from the Texas Department of Health, but only on microfiche.

Each database has a separate and lengthy web address, but the easiest way of accessing the information is to go to the RootsWeb site (www.rootsweb.com) and either do a global search for a surname (if there are any hits in any of the above databases, each will be listed with a link that can be clicked on), or to go to the list of searchable databases and then chose the one of interest.

World War I Draft Registrations Indexed On-Line

The above mentioned RootsWeb site also has indexes to the 1917-1918 registrations, but only for a handful of selected states: Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Mississippi and Nevada. There are also "some" records indexed from California, Kansas,

Nebraska, New York City and Utah. Indexing of the Texas records is underway.

Canadian Ship Arrival Index On-Line, 1925-1935

The National Archives of Canada and the Pier 21 Society in Halifax have made available a searchable index to immigrant arrivals at Canadian ports for this one ten year period. The index lists the name, age, nationality and year of arrival. Each entry has a link to a more complete index entry that includes the port, name of ship, microfilm reference numbers and some other details. This site has a long and complex direct web address, but as with the RootsWeb site, it is much simpler to go to the home page of the National Archives of Canada (www.archives.ca), choose English as the language (unless you prefer French) and then go to the on-line research link and choose the immigration index.

New York Supreme Court Petitions On-Line, 1907-1924

Ancestry continues to expand their list of databases, mostly with either very early records, obscure counties in non-urban regions or very recent obituary indexes; but it is worth perusing their holdings periodically to find new gems such as this. Many readers of *Dorot* have probably visited the room at 31 Chambers Street where the card indexes and bound volumes of Supreme Court naturalization petitions from this pe-

The Albany County Hall of Records is creating an index to the naturalization records from 1821 to 1906.

Their on-line searchable database so far includes all the records up to 1906. Earlier indexes only show the surname, given name and page number; after 1858, the intention date, nativity and date sworn are shown.

Westchester County has indexes to both naturalizations and declarations of intent, from 1808 to 1927, in scrollable alphabetic format rather than a searchable entry format, and with less information. The Westchester County site also has an index to marriages from 1910 to 1927. Rockland County (1812-1991) and Suffolk County (1853-1990) naturalization indexes have been put on-line as well. All these sites can be accessed via links from the JGS web site (www.jgsny.org).

New or Expanded Databases at JewishGen

The JRI-Poland database, now over 800,000 records strong from over 150 towns, includes a growing component from the Warsaw Cemetery project. Over 10,000 of the gravestones are now included. For more information on the Warsaw Cemetery project, check the separate link on JewishGen. The All Lithuania database now has over 200,000 records including revision lists. The All Belarus database has over 80,000 records from sources such as vital records, voter lists and directories, and a new All Latvia database has some 25,000 records from voter

riod are kept. The card indexes are now on-line in a searchable index that provides the information necessary to look up the actual volume. The name, address, date, volume and page number are given. This index was offered for sale as a CD-ROM earlier this year, but is currently "unavailable" in that format. Use of this database, like many at Ancestry, requires an annual subscription. Ancestry is also beginning to add city directories from the 1890's (cities such as Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, Detroit, Los Angeles and New York are included), and their obituary indexes for some major city newspapers now span about 8 to 10 years up to the current year. There is a link to this database from the JGS web site (www.jgsny.org), or go directly to www.ancestry.com.

Beider Dictionary On-line

Ancestry has also placed Alexander Beider's *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*, published by Avotaynu in 1993, on-line. It looks like the 550 page Dictionary of Names section II of the book is presented in the form of a searchable data base. The dictionary may be searched for free at www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/3173.htm

Naturalization Indexes for Albany, Westchester and Rockland Counties

and tax lists, newspaper notices and residence permits in Courland and Livland. The Vsiia Rossia database has been updated and now includes 26,000 entries from business directories between 1895 and 1911, for selected parts of the Russian Empire: 11,000 of the entries are from four gubernias in north-central Ukraine from 1895; another 6,000 are from four directories from Odessa between 1895 and 1911; and most of the remaining entries are from two Belarus directories from 1903 and 1911. There is a Krakow Ghetto database with over 18,000 names from 1940.

An updated South African Jewish Year Book database now has over 1000 biographies from 1929 and 1945. Closer to home, the Boston Jewish Advocate indexes now include 21,000 obituaries from 1905 to 2000 and 10,000 marriage notices from 1960 to 2000, while the Cleveland Jewish News obituary notice database is up to 22,000 entries from 1968 to 2000. All these databases can be selected from the list of databases at the JewishGen site (www.jewishgen.org).

JRI-Poland has also announced a new project in cooperation with the Polish State Archives to index the vital records for towns in the Lomza Archives not filmed by the Mormons. The towns include Andrzejewo, Czyzewo, Grajewo, Lomza, Nowogrod, Nur, Radzilow, Rajgrad, Sniadowo, Szczuczyn, Tzianne, Wasosz, Wizna, Wysokie Mazowieckie,

and Zambrow. Copies of 967 index pages for these towns have been received and JRI-Poland's Warsaw-based team is already doing the data entry. In addition, the Polish State Archives has given JRI-Poland approval to enlist the aid of the archivists in Lomza to do the data entry for years for which indices were not created by the 19th century town registrars.

Researchers contributing a minimum of \$50 per town will be eligible to receive an Excel file with the indices for that town in advance of public release. Lomza, because of its much larger database, requires a minimum contribution of \$100. Indices to records for each town will be released to the JRI-Poland database as soon as the work for that town is funded, but the Excel files will allow more detailed examination of the index entries (for example, sorting by first name, or looking for alternative spelling of surnames). Contributions should be mailed to Jewish Records Indexing - Poland c/o Sheila Salo, Treasurer, 5607 Greenleaf Rd., Cheverly, MD 20785. Visa contributions may be phoned to Sheila at (301). All contributions should be marked "For the Lomza Archives/ Rajgrad Project."

Updates on the JRI-Poland/ PSA Lomza Archives project will be available at www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/psastat.htm. Click on "Status Report: PSA Projects Underway."

PolishRoots Website

This Internet site, although established by Polish, rather than Jewish, genealogists, has several useful Indexes of birth, marriage and death notices published in the *Jewish Chronicle* are being gradually put on-line by Jeffrey Maynard. These are alphabetical lists for each group of years, rather than a searchable index. There is a list for entries up to 1869, another for the period 1880-1889, and another for the period 1890-1895. Other interesting databases at Maynard's site include Contributors to the Society for the Aged Poor (1891, includes the addresses of the contributors), and Members of the Central Synagogue (London, 1909). All can be accessed at www.jeffreymaynard.com.

An extensive article on the use of the University of California Berkeley Libraries in the May, 2000 issue of *ZichronNote* (San Francisco Bay Area JGS) includes a detailed description of the kinds of information of genealogical interest found in the *Jewish Chronicle*. The article also describes some other lesser known books on London that contain references to individual Jewish personalities and businesses in London at the end of the 19th century, and a resource for detailed maps of London during that period. Back issues of *ZichronNote* are available for \$5 from the SFBAJGS at P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147.

databases and links of interest (including a link to the JewishGen 1891 Galician Business Directory database). There is a searchable index to the 1835 Posen city directories, various informational forums, and an ambitious project underway to translate the entries from the *Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego...*, the Polish gazetteer published between 1880 and 1902 (this is described in more detail by Donald A. Szumowski, President and founder of PolishRoots, in an article in the Spring, 2000 issue of *Generations* (Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan). Jonathan Shea, well known to many New Yorkers both as the President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast and as the author of an important translation guide (see also his new book in this issue of *Dorot* under *In Print*), has made several contributions to the site. The website can be accessed at either PolishRoots.com or PolishRoots.org.

Avotaynu Launches Internet Newsletter

Avotaynu is publishing a bi-weekly Internet newsletter titled *Nu? What's New?* The newsletter is a supplement to their quarterly magazine, and contains recent-breaking news of interest, advance information on future feature articles in *Avotaynu*, and smaller items that may not appear in the quarterly. Subscriptions are free; to subscribe, go to www.incor.com/avotaynu.htm; or send an email message to list@incor.com with the subject line left blank and the text "join avotaynu."

London Jewish Chronicle Indexes British Archives Database Index

The National Register of Archives (NRA) in England has a web site which allows searching for various types of collections at archives outside of public records offices. The database includes information on documents and manuscripts of some 150,000 families, businesses, organizations and individuals. Searches are possible by personal or family name, place name and corporate name. Among the items found in a search of this site are a number of marriage registers for synagogues. Some of the links are to privately held collections, but the site gives contact addresses and/or phone numbers to obtain more information. The NRA site is at www.hmc.gov.uk/nra.

Australian Jewish Genealogy Forum

An internet discussion group for Australian Jewish Genealogy has been established. The forum will serve as a "meeting place" for Australian researchers, help with access to records and assist overseas researchers with Australian connections. For information or to subscribe go to www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy (the first link on the contents page), or send a blank email to AJGen-subscribe@listbot.com.

Central Zionist Archives On-Line

The Central Zionist Archives has one of the more useful web sites among Israeli archives. It has a fairly detailed Guide to Holdings, broken down by categories of interest. Under Jewish communities in Israel are found such entries as the 1939 Census of the Jews of Jerusalem. There is a separate category allowing searching for archived collections by surname. The site is at www.wzo.org.il/cza.

Yad Vashem Seeks Volunteer Translators

Yad Vashem Archives continues to need volunteers to help translate their database from Hebrew to English, with the goal of placing it on the Internet. Volunteers should be proficient in English, comfortable in reading Hebrew, and able to work in Word on their own personal computer. The Archives will supply files of Hebrew descriptions of archival material and guidance. Interested persons should contact Ms. Elisheva Shaul at Yad Vashem Archives, P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034 Israel, or send an email message to archives@yad-vashem.org.il.

1897 All-Russia Census Records in Lithuania

The original copies of this census that were in St. Petersburg no longer exist, and most of the duplicate copies stored in district archives have been destroyed over the years. But Howard Margol, President of the

As attendees at the 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy already know, the Family History Library (FHL) has already catalogued and made available to their branch centers some of the Lithuanian vital records that were microfilmed beginning this past January. The project is expected to continue until sometime next year. A list of the first 50 rolls now available has been posted by Avotaynu on the Internet at www.avotaynu.com/LithuaniaList.htm. These rolls generally cover records from series 1 and 2, and part of series 3, of fond 728 of the Vilnius Rabbinate (see Harold Rhode and Sallyann Amdur Sack, *Jewish Vital Records, Revision Lists and Other Jewish Holdings in the Lithuanian Archives* for details on these and other fonds). The Avotaynu web site index will be updated periodically, but The FHL catalog will allegedly be updated more frequently (although at this writing, the FHL online catalog is only current to August 1999 and contains none of the Lithuanian records). The FHL catalog can be found at www.familysearch.org/Search/Searchcatalog.asp.

Internet Sites for Sudlikov, Zolynia

The on-line landsmanshaft site for Sudlikov is <http://members.xoom.com/sudlikov>. According to Paul W. Gindsburg, the site includes a searchable and indexed list of Sudlikov Jews murdered in the Holocaust. Michael Miller has announced a new web site memorializing the former Galician Jewish

IAJGS, has discovered portions of this census for some Lithuanian localities filed in the State Historical Archives in Vilnius. In an article in the Spring, 2000 issue of *Generations* (JGS of Michigan), Howard describes how he has arranged for the translation and entry into a computer database of these records, funding the project through contributions to the American Fund for Lithuanian-Latvian Jews, Inc. (a non-profit charitable organization). Donors will receive the records for one town, for a minimum of \$25, or a district, for a minimum of \$100. The records will become freely available after the donors have had them for a minimum of six months.

A complete inventory of the extant records (about 2800 families from seven districts) is contained in his article. Most of the records are from the Vilkomir (Ukmerge), Novo-Aleksandrovsk (Zarasai) and Vilna (not including the city itself) districts. There are also from 100 to 300 families each recorded in the Panevezys, Rasenai, Telz (Telsiai) and Siauliai districts. Donations should be made payable to the Fund and sent to the Fund c/o Howard Margol, 4430 Mt. Paran Parkway NW, Atlant, GA 30327-3747. Include a note specifying the town and/or district of interest, and an email address.

Lithuanian Records Microfilms at Family History Centers

community of Zolynia. The site, located at www.michaelmiller.com/zolynia.html, includes summaries of over 300 headstones in three cemetery plots, listings from the 1891 and 1929 business directories, and photographs.

Family History Library Announces New Indexes, 1880 Census and PAF 5.0

During his keynote address at the Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference in Salt Lake City in September, Richard E. Turley, Jr., managing director of the Family and Church History Department of the Family History Library, announced three products and services newly published or nearing completion: Vital Records Indexes for Western Europe, Mexico and Scandinavia, the 1880 United States Census, and Personal Ancestral File in additional languages.

The Vital Records Indexes for Western Europe, Mexico and Scandinavia include 12.5 million birth, christening and marriage records on 21 CDs. The records were extracted from LDS microfilms of civil registrations and other sources in France, Italy, Germany, the Benelux countries, and some Alpine and Spanish regions. They cover portions of the 19th century; for example, the Italian records are from 1809 to 1860. The database is searchable by surnames, names of parents, and locations, and also includes some death records. For each record, a

citation is provided to the source microfilm. The cost is \$27.00. A similar index for all five Scandinavian countries will be available in the next few months. The 1880 United States Census is a complete extraction and digital publication of the census. It has been in production for many years and represents the work of thousands of volunteers. Personal Ancestral File (PAF) 4.0 is currently available on disk in English, Spanish, French, German and Portuguese or as a free download. The new 5.0 version of PAF will be available in Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Swedish. PAF 5.0 also allows users to type information from essentially any language including Russian, Arabic, Hebrew and Korean.

The FamilySearch Internet site has also received a facelift, with a new look and new capabilities. The interface has been updated to allow for future growth to better accommodate translation into other languages, and to make features more visible to users. More information on the above products can be found at the site (www.familysearch.com); orders can also be phoned in to 800-537-5971.

Lubavitch Town Square Restoration

A project for restoring the square in the Lubavitch, Russia, is underway. Lubavitch is the place where the great Lubavitch rabbis lived and where thousands of Chassidim came to visit, to learn and to seek guidance and blessings. It is also the site where the first Lubavitch Yeshiva was established. Today there are over 3,000 centers around the globe that are named after the original town.

Two inventories of surnames, one extracted from over 133,000 burials in the five Ashkenazic cemeteries in the greater Buenos Aires region and the other from over 19,000 burials in six Sephardic cemeteries in the same district, can be found in the April, 2000 issue of *Toldot* (JGS of Argentina). The Ashkenazic inventory lists 560 surnames, in descending order of frequency, from 575 burials for Feldman to 25 burials for Zak. The top five surnames, with over 2000 burials, are Feldman, Katz, Fridman, Rabinovich and Goldstein. The Sephardic inventory lists 334 surnames, with the two leading contenders (Cohen and Levy) accounting for almost 1600 burials. Contact the Asociacion de Genealogia Judia de Argentina at Juana Azurduy 2223 Piso 8° (1429), Buenos Aires, Argentina; 54-11-4701-0730; genarg@infovia.com.ar.

The Y Chromosome in Genealogical Research

This is the title of an extensively footnoted and scholarly 22 page article by Thomas H. Roderick in the June, 2000 *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. The article includes several very helpful diagrams, and uses examples of specific family lines as well as theoretical case studies. There are separate sections on the Jewish Priestly Y

The square where all this activity took place was recently purchased and one building is currently in the middle of construction. The Lubavitcher Rebbe advised that this should be in the form of a museum where people would come and learn about the leaders of this sect and their teachings (something like Williamsburg, Virginia). According to Rabbi Noson Gurary, Executive Regional Director, Chabad Lubavitch of Upstate New York, who is coordinating this project, it would be the first replica of a Chassidic Shetel.

Anyone who has any lineage to the Lubavitch or other Chassidic group who would be interested in joining in this project should contact Rabbi Gurary at 716-688-1642; email town_of_Lubavitch@yahoo.com.

Oswiecim Exhibition Seeks Memorabilia

An exhibit on Jewish religious and secular life in pre-World War II Oswiecim (Auschwitz/ Oshpitzin) is being sponsored by the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation (AJCF). The AJCF is restoring the surviving synagogue there, and is seeking photographs, artifacts, postcards, personal accounts and similar materials for the exhibit. All material will be photographed and returned. Contact Nadine Greenfield or Jill Vexler at 36 West 44th Street Suite 310, New York, NY 10036; 212-575-1050; exhibit@AJCF.org.

Argentine Cemetery Surnames

Chromosomes and the Jefferson Y Chromosome. One example shows how Y chromosome analysis linked an Amish family named Beiler that immigrated from Switzerland in 1737 to a non-Amish family named Beyeler that immigrated from Switzerland in 1900. The article also points out that, notwithstanding the fact that the Y chromosome passes basically intact from father to son over many generations, descendants with the same surname are not genetically more closely related; "the tiny bit of genetic material we get from our Y chromosomes is not sufficient to convey any special physical or behavioral similarity, other than maleness, even a few generations back." And apart from the Y chromosome, "humans inherit only minute fragments from any ancestor who is, say, eight to ten generations back. From some forebears of about that time or ones more remote, there is a good chance one inherits nothing at all." For back issues of the *Quarterly*, contact the NGS Bookstore at 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399; email bookstore@ngsgenealogy.org.

Donors Sought for New Genetic Study

A study to analyze the distribution of Jewish matrilineal and patrilineal genetic markers at the

village level in 1800, 1850 and 1900 is now underway. The goal is to understand the patterns of Jewish migration that formed these historical communities. The study is called "Genetic Analysis of Jewish Origins," and the sponsors hope to obtain participation from 1000 individuals. A presentation was made at the Annual Summer Conference in Salt Lake City as well as at meetings in Washington, D.C. and Boston. Participants fill out a questionnaire about family background, supplying names and places of birth and residence going back four or five generations. A mouthwash sample will be supplied by each participant to be used for extracting DNA that can be analyzed for genetic markers. The sample will be secured, and not analyzed for disease markers. Contact Harry Ostrer, M.D., Director, Human Genetics Program, NYU School of Medicine, 550 First Avenue, MSB 136, New York, NY 10016; 212-263-7596; ostreh01@popmail.med.nyu.edu. More information is available at their link in the JGS of Greater Washington web site: www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw.

Book Reviews

The Litvaks: A Short History of the Jews in Lithuania. By Dov Levin. 2000. 300 pp. hardcover, 8.5" x 12." \$40.00 plus \$14.00 shipping from Yad Vashem Publications, P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel; 972-2-6443505 (fax 6443506); email publishing@yad-vashem.org.il.

This is a very well written and comprehensive survey of the economic, social, political and religious his-

There are also a number of photographs scattered throughout the book, many of them identifying groups of persons in particular localities. Some of these photographs have never been published before and bear captions such as "Gershon the Butcher and Shilem the Shamash listening to the Maggid in Varniai (Vorne)," "Jewish soldiers at a Passover Seder with a Jewish family in Utena (Utyan)" (which shows an older couple and their son with seven soldiers), "A group of Jews from Obeliai (Abel) enjoying themselves" (showing 13 young men and women in a boat on a lake with the town in the background), and "The Ichilchik brothers, the tailors in Ukmerge (Vilkomir)." The one color photograph in the book, on page 95, is an extraordinary "map of the borders of Eretz Israel as drawn by the Vilna Gaon ("Hagra")."

Unfortunately, the individuals in the photographs are almost never identified, the photographs have no dates, and there are no credits that identify the sources for these fascinating portraits. The only reference Levin makes to the source of these photographs is on his Acknowledgments page in the Introduction, where he thanks the director of the Central Historical Archive of the Association of

tory of Jews and Jewish life over five centuries in both current day Lithuania and adjoining areas that were part of Lithuania during at least some portion of the historical period covered. The author, acting director of the Oral History Division of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has published a number of books and articles on the subject of Eastern European and Baltic Jewry, including a comprehensive introduction to *Pinkhas Hakehillot Lita* (Yad Vashem, 1996-1997), which was the basis for this book which is in large part an English language version of the introduction to the *Pinkhas*. Levin was born in Kovno (Kaunas), and during the War was a member of the anti-Nazi underground movement in the Kovno ghetto and a partisan fighter.

The book is divided into four sections. The first section is a brief 20 page summary of the history of Lithuania from the late 13th century to the present. This is followed by three sections, each containing between 60 and 70 pages: "The Jews of Lithuania from the Middle Ages to the End of World War I" (1569-1918); "The Jews in Independent Lithuania During the Inter-war Years (1918-1939); and "World War II, the Holocaust, and the Jewish Survivors." Each section contains many useful statistical tables, typically on population and/or occupations by regions and time periods, with much of the detailed material referring to Kovno Province (As Levin explains in his introduction, he has retained the names of the three largest cities of Lithuania "in the form that was accepted over generations of Lithuanian-Jewish historiography.").

Lithuanian Jews for allowing him to choose "several rare photographs and documents, which, in part, appear here for the first time," and refers later also to one Reuven Cooper, "who compiled the photographs and prepared them for publication." The one exception is the wonderful framed oval cover photograph showing 21 individuals at a wedding in Dusetos (Dusyat), which is identified on the flyleaf as "courtesy of Sara Weiss-Slepp, Haifa."

There is a similar problem in identifying the origin of information used for the statistical tables, some of which might have been taken from sources of genealogical interest. In fact, there are no sources quoted for any of these tables, and almost no footnotes or endnotes anywhere in the text. It would be interesting to know, for example, the source of the table on page 134 which lists the destination of Jewish emigrants from Lithuania, by year from 1929 to 1939. The table shows that in those ten years, of over 12,000 emigrants, the largest number (7,500) went to South Africa and Israel; another 1,304 went to the United States; and the remainder were divided amongst Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Uruguay and other countries. Similarly, the source of the table on page 203, showing the destination of over 5500

Jewish evacuees from Lithuania during World War II to 31 Soviet oblasts, republics and regions, is not identified. The same problem exists for textual descriptions citing numbers from unknown sources: for example, the breakdown by destination to twelve named towns in Lithuania of over 2,400 Jews from the Suwalk district of Poland who were driven from their homes in October, 1940 by the German forces and were smuggled across the border by groups of young Jews from the Lithuanian towns (page 189).

There is a name index that appears to cite all references (*except* photographs) in the book, including individuals with no surnames, and family names with no given names. However, there is *no other index* to the material in the book, either by place name or subject (the 15 page place index beginning on page 268 is not to *this* book, but rather to the *Pinkhas Hakehillot Lita*). Perhaps many of the sources and indexes missing in this book were included in the *Pinkhas*, but since the intent was to make the material in the *Pinkhas* available to English-speaking readers, it would have been nice if the author and publisher could have included some level of source detail and indexing in what is otherwise an important addition to the literature on the history of the Jews in Lithuania.

Alex E. Friedlander

In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents. Volume I: Polish. By Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman. 2000. 400 Pp. softcover 8.5" x 11". \$35 including shipping from Language and Lineage Press, 737 Hartfield Drive, North Aurora, IL 60542-8917; www.langline.com.

Parts three and four, which comprise 44 pages on locating records in America and translating Polish language records originating in America, will be of minimal value to Jewish genealogists. Part five, on the other hand, contains 30 pages alone on Polish, German and Russian language gazetteers, including the *Slownik Geograficzny*. This is new and very useful material, with such helpful aides as an extensive list of the abbreviations and archaic measurements used, and translations of sample entries. Part five also includes a section on writing to institutions in Poland, with an address list for all regional archives, and a short section on reading letters from Polish archives. The latter includes a nine page vocabulary list with terms likely to be found in letters from the Polish State Archives.

The core of the book, Part VI, is 112 pages on translating birth, marriage and death records. Similar to Frazin's use of "section locators," Shea and Hoffman use "key words" that typically start a section of a document. Frazin has less section locators for each document than this book's key words, but each of

This is the most comprehensive and detailed book to date on translating and understanding Polish language records and other material. Unlike Judith Frazin's classic (*A Translation Guide to 19th Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents*), it uses for most of its examples non-Jewish documents; but the differences between Jewish and non-Jewish documents are not significant. Some of the examples used - one birth record, one marriage record, a population register - are Jewish records. There is much to be gained by having this book as a companion reference volume to Frazin's book, or Shea's earlier work (*Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide*). In addition to the greater level of detail, there are aides to translation for sources such as published gazetteers or revision lists, and expanded vocabulary lists, not found in earlier works.

The book is divided into eight Parts followed by a short bibliography, and an index. The first two parts comprise 28 pages on phonetics, grammar and derivation of words or phrases that may seem to be of less interest to most genealogists, but can in fact be very helpful in understanding the subtleties of grammatical construction and alternative variations of time, date and relationship expressions that sometimes puzzle genealogists working with 19th century Polish records. The list of occupations in this section is much more complete than Frazin's, although Frazin has some items missing in this book, mainly under subcategories, for example types of *handlarz* (merchants). Note that whereas all the vocabulary lists in Frazin's book are both Polish to English and English to Polish, Shea and Hoffman only have Polish to English lists. Frazin's locators is further broken into subsections with "guide words."

The primary difference in format is that whereas Frazin relies exclusively, for each type of record, on showing the translation (broken into sections), Shea and Hoffman have annotated discussions of each phrase. Often this discussion deals with grammatical nuances that will seem superfluous to most genealogists; but at times these discussions can be helpful, especially if a modern Polish speaker or modern dictionary is being used as a translation aide. This is particularly true when distinctions are shown between the archaic form of a term used in the record as opposed to the modern form (for example, *iedynastego* vs. *jenestego*), and when non-grammatical issues are discussed.

Some readers will find Frazin's method easier to use; others will prefer the method used in this book. The approach used by Shea and Hoffman can be useful in dealing with otherwise hard to translate phrases, as well as in separating out a given name or surname from the alternative spellings triggered by grammatical declensions (see, for example, the

discussion of *Jankiel vs. Janklem* on page 221). It can also be helpful in clarifying to whom a residence or occupation refers, i.e. the individual or his/her parent. Shea also gives examples and translations of columnar formats of records, both Galician and non-Galician, which are not found in Frazin.

An interesting feature unique to this book is a short (three page) list of causes of death terms. These are not found in Frazin, nor are many found in the 19th century format in current dictionaries. The authors credit as their source for much of the list a booklet by Rosemary Chorzempa, *Morbus: How and Why Our Ancestors Died* (Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1991). Also unique to this book are short sections on revision lists (*Revizhskie Skazki*), population registers, school registrations, passport applications and documents, address books and directories, each with translated examples. The brief section on revision lists actually deals with Russian language documents; one hopes that a more detailed treatment of these important documents will be found in the future volume of this series on Russian.

The last two important sections of the book are a 60 page vocabulary list, and a very useful 19 page index of first names that includes Jewish names, with vari

ants, and with alternative spellings in Russian for each name. In the bibliography that follows, the authors credit Alexander Beider's *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland* as a source for this information.

Jonathan D. Shea is well known to many Jewish genealogists for his previous publications and his presentations at conferences, as well as for being Reference Archivist and past President of the Polish Genealogical Society for Connecticut and the Northeast, and the long-time editor of the Society's journal *Pathways & Passages*. He is an instructor of foreign languages in the Connecticut State University system. William E. Hoffman, an author and desktop publishing specialist (he and Shea co-authored *Following the Paper Trail*), is Publications Editor of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, and editor of *Pro^o viai*, the Journal of the Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society. Their expertise is clearly in evidence in this important addition to genealogical reference works.

Alex E. Friedlander

In Print

Of Jewish Interest

Hirsz Abramowicz. *Profiles of a Lost World: Memoirs of East European Jewish Life before World War II*. 1999, Wayne State University Press and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. 448 pp. \$39.95.

This is a translation of a book by the father of the late Dina Abramowicz of YIVO. Hirsz Abramowicz was a former Vilnius resident who died in 1960 at the age of 79; he thus writes from a personal perspective of the period ranging from the late 19th century to the Holocaust, focusing on the lives of both ordinary and well known Jews in the historical context of the events taking place.

Among the personalities included are the librarian Chaikel Lunski, the rabbi and politician Isaac Rubinstein, doctors Tzemach Shabad and Jakov Vygodski, A. Grodzenski, and H. Kruk. Some unusual historical events are described, including the establishment of a work therapy program for intellectually handicapped people near Valkininkai, and the founding of the first Jewish agricultural school in Veliu_ionys.

The book, part of the Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology, was edited by Jeffrey Shandler and translated by Eva Zeitline Dubkin, both working with Dina Abramowicz, who provides an introduction to the book. There is an index, bibliography and endnotes are provided. Available at major bookstores or at Amazon.com.

Gerald Gamm. *Urban Exodus: Why the Jews Left Boston and the Catholics Stayed*. 1999, Harvard University Press. 384 pp. \$39.95.

The author, an Associate Professor of Political Science and History at the University of Rochester, traces the movements of Jewish communities and their synagogues and institutions, first from the North and South End to Roxbury and Dorchester, and ultimately out of Boston to suburbs such as Brookline and Newton. Much material is provided on the history of many synagogues, community centers and educational institutions with extensive source notes referencing a wide variety of records. Maps and statistics, based on census and other records, show the distribution of the Jewish population over time. An extensive review of the book can be found in the Spring, 2000 issue of *Mass-Pocha* (JGS of Greater Boston, P.O. Box 610366, Newton Highlands, MA 02161-0366; 617-796-8522; www.jewishgen.org/boston). The book should be available in major bookstores or at on-line booksellers such as Amazon.com.

Rachel Fisher. *Genealogy: The Family History of the Jews*. 2000, American Friends of Beth Hatesfutsoth. 95 pp. This general survey of Jewish history and genealogy basics was created for a fund raising dinner in honor of Harvey Kruger and Douglas Goldman, two philanthropists who support the Beth Hatesfutsoth Museum of the Diaspora.

The author is DOROT writer, and Director of the new Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History, Rachel Fisher (see the article earlier in this issue of DOROT). It includes a section on the dispersal of Jews throughout the world after the destruction of the first and second Temples, with some references for researching records from these areas. The book is not a detailed study guide; it has brief sections with references, suggested readings, web sites and recent literature, but no index. Supplies are limited. Order from Gloria Golan at the American Friends of Beth Hatesfutsoth, 212-339-6034.

Of General Interest

Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman. *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin and Russian Documents. Volume I: Polish*. 2000, Language and Lineage Press. 400 pp. softcover, 8½ x 11". \$30.00 plus \$5.00 shipping.

This new, comprehensive guide includes over 60 documents and extracts analyzed and translated, including vital records of various formats, revision lists, population registers, gazetteer entries, passports and military service records. There are sections on Polish grammar and how to locate records, a chapter on gaz

etteers, maps showing Poland's changing borders, and a 50 page vocabulary list. Jonathan Shea, President for many years of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, is the author of the widely used translation guide *Russian Language Documents from Russian Poland* first published in 1985. (See the review of this book, above). Order from the publisher at 737 Hartfield Dr., North Aurora IL 60542-8917; WFHoffman@prodigy.net; or on-line either at www.langline.com or through the link from PolishRoots.com.

Genealogical Publishing Company has announced three re-issued titles of interest to researchers with ancestors from Germany:

•Ernest Thode. *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*. 1992, 4th printing 2000. 318 pp. 8½x11", paperback, \$29.95. Designed for researchers with little or no knowledge of German who need to translate German language documents, the book emphasizes simplicity of use but includes many genealogical words or phrases not found in standard dictionaries. There is also a key to dialect pronunciations, samples of German handwriting and Fraktur type, and a guide to German genealogical symbols.

•Ernest Thode. *Address Book for Germanic Genealogy*. Sixth edition, 1997, 2nd printing 2000. 196 pp. 8½x11", paperback, \$24.95. The sixth edition, significantly larger than previous editions, updates and adds addresses in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and other German speaking areas of central and western Europe. The addresses range from libraries, repositories and archives to publishers, newspapers, religious organizations and archives and genealogists.

•Raymond S. Wright III. *Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs*. 1912-1913, reprint with translated and additional material, 2000. 2,500 pp. in 3 volumes, \$300.00. This gazetteer describes approximately 210,000 cities, towns and villages in the German Empire prior to World War I. This reprint contains a researchers guide and translations of the original introduction and instructions by Professor Wright of Brigham Young University. The third volume consists of an often omitted appendix and a scarce supplement from 1913, as well as numerous maps. Locality reference tools enable the researcher to determine where specific records might be held, and if they have been microfilmed by the Family History Library.

Order from the publisher at 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; 800-296-6687; www.genealogybookshop.com. Add \$3.50 shipping for the first title (\$6.00 for the *Meyers*), and \$1.25 for each additional title. Maryland and Michigan residents add sales tax.

Judith Prowse Reid and Simon Fowler. *Genealogical Research in England's Public Record Office: A Guide for North Americans*. Second edition, 2000. 168 pp. hardcover. \$22.50 plus \$3.50 shipping.

This book identifies important Public Record Office (PRO) records available at large North American institutions such as the Family History Library and the Library of Congress, and provides information on the PRO's progress in making its services and records available on the Internet. The PRO, akin to the United States National Archives, holds records on emigration and immigration, censuses, vital records, naturalizations and military service. The book also helps researchers to make effective use of their time if they choose to go to England to do research. Updated information is provided on new finding aids, the latest transfers of records to the PRO, and the latest addresses, telephone numbers and web addresses, including the new telephone exchanges introduced in 1999-2000. Order from Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. (see previous listing).

Roger Kershaw and Mark Pearsall. *Immigrants and Aliens: A Guide to Sources on UK Immigration and Citizenship*. Public Record Office, 2000. 130 pp. paperback. £9.99 plus £4.50 shipping.

Outlines resources at the Public Record Office (PRO) and how to work with them, with references to material held in other archives. Includes a section on "Jewish Refugees from Nazi Germany" that describes records being transferred to the PRO from the Home Office, as well as collections at the London Metropolitan Archives and the Jewish Refugees Committee. The distinction between naturalization, denization, memorial and background papers is described, and how to work between them is explained. The appendices include a list of immigration records held in county and local offices. Reviewed in the *Shemot*, Volume 8,2 (June 2000, JGS of Great Britain). The PRO address is Ruskin Avenue, Kew Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU; or go to their web site at www.pro.gov.uk/bookshop.

Laura Pfeiffer. *Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places*. Ancestry Books, 2000.

Discusses more than 100 less common sources of genealogical information, including coroner's inquests, orphan asylum records, court records, licenses, patent records, Holocaust records, neighborhood collections, and farm records. The book also includes insights for gaining valuable information through non-traditional use of the most common sources of information. There are illustrations showing how to use and understand particular sources of information. The book also contains lists of specialized books and Web sites. Order through the Ancestry.com online store at www.ancestry.com/shop/main.htm.

Betty Jean Morrison. *Connecting to Connecticut*. Connecticut Society of Genealogists (CSG), 2000. 350 pp. \$24.95, including shipping (Connecticut Residents add 6% Sales Tax). A guide to the holdings of vital records, probate records and other sources for each of Connecticut's 169 towns. Includes addresses, telephone numbers and hours of operation. Order from the CSG, P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033-0435; 860-569-0002.

Avotaynu Publishers has announced a new microfiche set, of Liepaja (Libau, Latvia) Business Directories. The 8 fiche contain 12 business directories from 1910-1930. The first four are in Russian, and the balance are in Latvian, except for the 1927 directory which is in German. \$20.00 plus \$3.00 shipping from Avotaynu, Inc., P.O. Box 99, Bergenfield, NJ 07621; 800-286-8296; www.avotaynu.com/catalog.htm.

Family Tree Maker has announced new upgrades for two of their genealogical software products.

- Family Origins 9.0 (previously published under the Parsons Technology label) incorporates some of the features previously included in Family Tree Maker, such as the timeline chart, bookmarking, and a link to the FamilyFinder Report on the Internet. It also includes a relationship chart, the ability to link images to sources, events and places, and letter writing templates.

- Family Tree Maker 8.0 includes a publishing center that facilitates creation of a Family Home Page on the Internet (and also adds some book creation features), an improved Family Finder Report that shows the oldest individual in each source, a help feature called Family Finder Tips, a more versatile find and replace function that allows editing of names and places throughout the file (including in notes and books), and more Family Group Sheet template options. It also includes the features added to the 7.5 upgrade that came out in March, notably the ability to customize and save trees with moveable boxes and pictures, and the ability to add captions to boxes and pictures. However, whereas the 7.5 upgrade came with an 11 page supplement, the 8.0 upgrade comes with neither supplement nor manual.

Both products are priced at \$19.99 as upgrades from the most recent versions (Family Origins 8.0 and Family Tree Maker 7.5), or \$29.99 for a full version (there are also "deluxe versions that include such things as bundles of FamilyFinder disks or a short-term subscription to GenealogyLibrary.com), plus \$5.00 shipping, and sales tax for selected states. Order from Genealogy.com, P.O. Box 22295, Denver, CO 80222; call 800-548-1806; or go on-line to www.FamilyTreeMaker.com/famo.

JGS Friends

JGS members are encouraged to patronize our "friends" listed below.
Make use of your current JGS membership card
and take advantage of the special offers we have arranged for you.
If you have suggestions for new partners, please let us know.

The Jewish Museum

1109 Fifth Avenue, at 92nd Street
www.Thejewishmuseum.org

Hours

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday & Thursday,
11:00 AM - 5:45 PM

Tuesday, 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Closed Friday, Saturday and Jewish holidays

JGS members may bring a guest along. Your signed Membership Card entitles you to free admission for a companion along with your paid entrance fee.
\$7 adults, \$5 students and seniors

Special Exhibitions

July 30 to November 5, 2000

· Drink and be Merry

September 24 to February 11, 2000

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Muslim Land

December 10, 2000 to March 25, 2001

· Charlotte Salomon

The New York

Genealogical and Biographical Society

122 East 58th Street
(between Park and Lexington Avenues)

JGS members get a 30% discount on the daily fee requested for use of the NYG&B Library. For \$7, you have access to tens of thousands of genealogies, histories, biographies, bibliographies, newsletters, indexes, compiled records and journals, many useful to the Jewish genealogist. (Note: The manuscript, microform and CD-ROM collections can only be used by NYG&BS members.)

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
212-755-8532
www.nygbs.org

The Museum of Jewish Heritage

One Battery Park Plaza
212-968-1800

Hours

Sunday - Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday, 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM; Friday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

JGS members receive a \$2 discount on the regular admission price (\$7 adults and \$5 students/ seniors)

The Judaica Experience

208 West 72nd Street, west of Broadway
212-724-2424 www.judaicaexperience.com

· Ketubot · Mezuzot · Talitim
· Chupah Rental · Benchers & Kipot · Silver
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JGS members are entitled to a 5% discount on purchase of books and gifts of Jewish interest.

Hours

Sun., 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM Fri., 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday - Thursday, 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM (7:30 Friday)

Lower East Side Tenement Museum

97 Orchard Street
(between Broome & Delancey Streets)

JGS members and a guest receive a 25% discount on tours and combination tickets. These include the original apartment tour, the Confino family apartment tour and the neighborhood walking tour. Purchase tickets at the Museum Gallery, 90 Orchard Street. Free parking.

Hours

Gallery open: Tuesday - Friday, Noon - 5 PM
Saturday and Sunday, 11 AM - 5 PM

Check with the Museum for the schedule of apartment tours and the walking tour of the neighborhood

Call for special events: 212-431-0233
www.tenement.org
