

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 21, Number 3

Spring 2000

Upcoming Programs

Sunday meetings begin at 2:00 PM and, unless otherwise noted, are held at B'nai Zion, 136 East 39 Street, New York, NY (between Lexington and 3rd 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.

Ancestors, Relatives, Genes and Jews — March 19, 2000

Dr. Robert Burk, a professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University and a board certified Medical Geneticist, will explain the basic concepts of genetics, inheritance and disease as they relate to the Jewish people.

The Changing Face of Central and Eastern Europe — April 16, 2000

Gary Mokotoff, co-author of *Where Once We Walked* and co-publisher of *Avotaynu* will talk about the map of Europe before World War I, during which time most of our ancestors came to the United States. He will discuss the techniques and resources available to identify towns of origin. The *postscript* session will be on the Salt Lake City conference (see the insert in this issue).

To Be Announced — May 21, 2000

At press time, the May program was not finalized.

Holocaust Research — June 11, 2000

Jeffrey Cymbler, former JGS Executive Board member and Program Chairman for last summer's Conference, will talk about techniques and resources

for finding Holocaust survivors and obtaining information about victims of the Holocaust.

Look for additional program information on the JGS web site and watch for the postcard mailings.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

NGS 2000 Conference in the States — May 31-June 3, 2000, Providence, Rhode Island

The annual National Genealogical Society Conference in the States will be held in Providence, Rhode Island with the New England Regional Genealogical Conference as the local host. Contact the NGS for further details: 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399; 800-473-0060; www.ngsgenealogy.org.

Twentieth Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy — July 9-13, 2000, Salt Lake City, Utah

This year's conference, to be held at the Double Tree Hotel, will include the usual extensive range of over 80 lectures as well as breakfast sessions with experts and other counseling to help maximize use of the unique facilities of the Family History Library. New features include grouping the business meetings of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on Sunday, and luncheons sponsored by six of the SIGs (Avotaynu, Belarus, Galician, German, JewishGen and Latvia). See the centerfold insert in this issue of *Dorot*. For up-to-date information on-line, look at the conference web site: www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/slcy2k.

FGS/UGA Annual Conference — September 6-9, 2000, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Utah Genealogical Association have titled their conference, to be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center, "A World of Records." There will be over 130

presentations by more than 60 speakers, lectures geared to all levels of expertise, over 150 exhibitors, and special workshops and lectures for professional genealogists and society managers on opening day. For more information, contact FGS at 888-FGS-1500; email fgs-office@fgs.org; or visit either organization's web site: www.fgs.org or www.infouga.org.

DOROT

The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

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President's Corner

We are grateful to all our wonderful JGS members who have volunteered these last few months to help with JGS projects and with the day-to-day operations of a large Society such as ours. Hats off to Fred Shaw and Claus Hirsch, Beyond the Basics Seminar Chairpersons for the outstanding job in planning and arranging the 6th Annual Beyond the Basics Program. Their very able committee included Ada Greenblatt, who prepared the syllabus, Lucille Gudis, Hospitality & Catering, Gerry Dunsky, in charge of vendors, Steve Siegel and John Paul Lowens, Registration and Paul Silverstone, Finances. Many thanks also to Risa Axelrad, Diane Raphael, Mark Adams and Susan Landau for their assistance in getting the year 2000 membership cards and Beyond the Basics flyers out in the mail.

Work continued this quarter on proofing the Brooklyn Naturalization data base with the help of Jane Foss, Sewart Drexler, Claire Cohen, Lucille Wright, Corinne Coleman and Lori Wenig. The State

of New York has contracted with a vendor to microfilm the remaining indexes. When this phase is completed, we will continue the computerization of the index. Many of you have volunteered for this project and we will be contacting you soon (we hope).

The Yizkor book collections in NYC libraries have grown since our 1992 publication, and Mildred Redman and Mark Adams are at work searching the catalogs of NYC libraries for new acquisitions and call numbers.

A notice was sent to all 1999 Conference attendees advising them of the status of the JGS' book on genealogical resources in New York. We are assigning a group of volunteers to get this daunting task done in order to produce the best possible edition of the next book for use by all. It will take some time to visit all the repositories and archives and get the necessary changes and updates as well as incorporate them into a new book. Many of you have come forward to offer your assistance. More are needed. If you would like to volunteer, send an email to Estelle Guzik at JGSNY@aol.com or contact us at (212) 330-8257.

The Jewish Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History is taking shape. The JGS collection of newsletters and books will serve as the core of the collection which we hope will grow. Many thanks to our members Gertrude Ogushwitz, Madeleine Okladek and Paul Silverstone for the books and newsletters they donated.

Finally, I want to thank Rhea Plottel, who served as the JGS Administrator for the last 3 years for a job well done! We welcome Madeleine Okladek who has enthusiastically taken over this responsibility.

Estelle M. Guzik

Past Programs

December 19, 1999 – Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research

At the December meeting, Warren Blatt, the webmaster of JewishGen and author of *Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area*, provided a comprehensive overview of Polish-Jewish genealogical research. Mr. Blatt himself has traced six of his eight great grandparents back to the 1700's, and he encouraged others with Polish-Jewish ancestry to try to do the same. Mr. Blatt's lecture was aimed at beginners and advanced beginners, such as those who have conducted research in United States

records and are now ready to take their research back to the “Old Country.” After an introduction that reviewed the many border changes Poland experienced in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, Mr.

The name of an ancestral town can be found in several sources, including oral history, naturalization application papers, passenger lists, social security applications, vital records, the 1920 census (which often provides the province), alien or draft registration records, and probate records. Once the name of a town is learned, it is critical to locate the town on a map. Of course, *Where Once We Walked* is the best resource for this task. Keep in mind, Mr. Blatt suggested, that spellings of town names can vary greatly, so that the name Hinchin, written on a naturalization application, for example, might actually be written Checiny. Since *Where Once We Walked* uses a soundex code, variant spellings should not cause too much confusion. After finding the town on a map, it is wise to research an historical atlas to learn what nations held dominion over the town at what period in history.

Ancestors names are learned from many of the same sources as town names, including oral history and vital records. In researching Polish vital records, Mr. Blatt said, it is absolutely necessary to bring a copy of the Polish alphabet and its English correspondences. Among the many examples of why this is important, Mr. Blatt gave the following: the name Katz, in English, is spelled Kac in Polish, and the name Shayna in English might be spelled Szejna in Polish. For reading vital records, it is best to simply learn the Polish versions of those words that are most likely to appear in vital records (such as mother, father, son, daughter, year, etc.). In Poland, different regions began recording vital information at different times. The Kingdom of Poland, for example, began keeping vital records in 1808 after Napoleon established the Duchy of Warsaw; while the Bialystok region, which remained under Russian control, began much later. Mr. Blatt displayed translations of some of the vital records he found, which gave a wealth of information in a narrative style. Many of the records have two dates, the Julian and the Gregorian (in that order), because both were in use at that time and place.

Mr. Blatt noted that there are four ways to obtain vital records: write to the archive in Poland, travel to Poland, hire a researcher in Poland, and search the Church of Latter-day Saints Family History Library through your local Family History Center. The Jewish Records Indexing – Poland Project, available through JewishGen, has begun indexing the LDS microfilmed records, and has completed over 600,000 records from over 100 Polish towns, so it is wise to check there first. However, the Mormons do not possess all of the vital records from Poland, by far, so it

Blatt discussed the basic areas of Polish-Jewish genealogical research: finding ancestral towns, learning ancestors’ names, and locating and reading vital records.

is often necessary to obtain records from Poland, through the Polish archives or a local researcher.

Mr. Blatt provided a handout that included an overview of the different periods for Jewish vital records in Russian Poland. From 1808-1825, the records were entered along with other denominations in the books of civil registers kept by the Catholic church. From 1826 onwards, the records were kept by the Jewish community in separate registers: in Polish until 1867, in Russian from 1868 to 1917, and then again in Polish thereafter. Records older than 100 years are generally kept in the Polish State Archives, and many of these have been filmed by the LDS. Records less than 100 years old are typically kept in each town’s Civil Records Office, (Urząd Stanu Cywilnego), and these have not been filmed by the LDS. Miriam Weiner’s book *Jewish Roots in Poland* provides detailed information about these records in a town-by-town inventory that can help narrow a search. Further details are available in the online version of Mr. Blatt’s handout, which can be found in the info files at JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/polandv.html).

Other sources of useful information for Polish-Jewish genealogical research include Special Interest Groups, most of which are listed on JewishGen, Polish business directories (about which there is an article in the Spring 1997 *Avotaynu* by Jeffrey Cymbler), *yizkor* books (see Zachary Baker’s bibliography, reprinted in Arthur Kurzweil’s *From Generation to Generation*), and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem, which has a *Guide to Sources for the History of the Jews in Poland*. Mr. Blatt’s thorough and informative lecture was well received by a large audience, and JGSNY thanks him for sharing his knowledge.

Rachel Eskin Fisher

Computers and the Internet in Jewish Genealogy — January 16, 2000

David Kleiman, a former board member of the JGS, and founder and chair of the Computers and Genealogy Group in New York, ably stepped in for the originally scheduled speaker, Suzannah R. Juni, who had to cancel because of illness. David spoke about new developments in computer applications for Jewish Genealogists. Mr. Kleiman began his lecture by remarking that this has been a great century for computers. Computers revolutionized the way we work with genealogy by helping to organize genealogical data collected by genealogists.

Mr. Kleiman spoke first on software used at home to compile one’s own genealogy. Most of this software consists of lineage link databases available in

commercial packages. All of the major packages have a family page in which the user enters vital data, and all of these pages have buttons connected to other family members. Some packages print books and organize footnotes, some make charts, and some have better research reports. To select the program which best meets your genealogical needs, look at the packages, see what they offer, and compare them windows and Mac versions. It is the number one seller with a 70/80% share of the market. Perhaps the easiest package to start with, it produces excellent charts but has some weaknesses in creating family books.

Generations from Sierra. This windows program, in David's opinion, may be the best all around package. It has good charts, better book creating capacity and produces good research reports using a database. The Mac version of this software is called Reunion (Leister Software, Mechanicsburg, PA).

Ultimate Family Tree (previously known as **Roots**) from The Learning Company. This windows program produces the most sophisticated books and reports; however it lacks many of the chart making capabilities found in other programs.

Personal Ancestral File from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. This program is available in both windows and Mac versions. It is the cheapest of the programs (\$15) and can be downloaded free from the LDS website (www.gensoftsb.com/paf.html).

All of these programs have their own Web sites on the Internet, and all do family group reports. The commercial lineage programs are typically available in several versions: basic, standard, and deluxe editions. The main difference in the various versions is the number of CDs included in the package. All of the basic packages include a CD with the US Social Security Death Index. Many of the other CDs included in these packages have little relevance for Jewish Research as they mainly include early American data and records from periods prior to the late 19th century, the period of the greatest concentration of Jewish emigration to America. There are more programs available for the PC than for the Mac. In order to use these programs, the user needs to have a computer, a printer and (for online searches) a modem which gives access to the Web (Internet).

The latest versions of these genealogical programs allow the user to control how much information to put into each box on standard charts (pedigree, descendants, hourglass, etc.); can incorporate family pictures, sound bytes, and digitized video; and produce scrapbooks which can connect to records of an individual by scanning in photos and other documents such as letters, certificates, and citizenship papers. To incorporate these documents into your genealogical data, you can scan them

with your own experience and needs in terms of what the program gives you back. Ask yourself, what do you want to get out of the software?

Some Currently Available Major Software Genealogical Packages:

Family Tree Maker from the Learning Company.

This program is available in both

yourself, use a scanning service, or use rental equipment available for on site use at hourly rates at service centers such as Kinko's.

New from Family Tree Maker, in their recently released version 7, are both an Hour Glass chart showing both the ancestors and descendants of a particular couple; and an All-in-One chart, which will pick up every individual in a database and show the relationship of that individual with every other individual in that database. Also incorporated in the newest version of Family Tree Maker is a Mapping program which can be used to show the location of family members both in the United States and Europe. The user can choose the significance of the place to be marked on the map, i.e. birthplace, place of residence, etc.

All these packages will generate reports in modified prose (NEHGS Register or Modified Register format) for data and notes entered into the program. They also allow research done by others in a different program to be imported, or your own research to be exported to a different program, by converting the data into a GEDCOM file. GEDCOM is a special file protocol imbedded in the software package. The newest versions allow the user to transfer document source information along with links to individuals, and some genealogical programs allow the user to change the names of the fields in the course of importing data. Do not use a genealogical package lacking GEDCOM.

David discussed other new advances in computers and genealogy, including the use of laptops and the installation of outlets in libraries and archival facilities which allow the researcher to enter data as it is collected. He also discussed the websites maintained by all the major genealogical software producers, which have at least some of these features:

- research tools
 - advertisements for commercial packages
 - genealogical software including utilities not included in the lineage linked packages
 - CD research sets which can be purchased.
- These typically contain indexes to early Census, Birth, Death and Marriage records. Use of many of these CDs and the records they contain are also available on line, via the Internet, for a small fee for one time use or a membership fee for ongoing use.

Places to Find Genealogical Information Online

David provided information on a number of useful web sites:

www.FamilySearch.com Operated by the Genealogical Society of Utah, this site allows the researcher to browse and search for family on the Internet and was developed in conjunction with IBM.

www.Genealogy.com A not for profit site operated by Broderbund. This site operates similarly to FamilySearch. It also allows one to create a family tree online and a home page.

www.JewishGen.org Of special interest to Jewish Genealogists, this site allows searches for

- Discussion and Special Interest Groups;

- Projects and Activities — including Yizkor Book Project, Holocaust Global Registry, Web Links, Meetings, Family Links, Publications;

- Hosted Organizations — including Jewish Record Indexing Poland and the IAJG Cemetery Project;

- Regional Special Interest Groups — featuring Web pages for SIGS focusing on historical regions of origin.

http://catalog.loc.gov the Library of Congress On Line Catalogue. The library collections include over 110 million items

www.nara.gov/genealogy NARA (National Archives and Record Administration). This site includes Genealogical Research Guides, Genealogical Data, Microform catalogs and finding aids, lists of publications available for purchase, and allows the printing of forms to be used in ordering NARA records (ie. Military and Family history records)

www.cyndislist.com Cyndi's List is a long standing must in Internet genealogy. The site is newly sponsored by the people who publish Generations. It provides over 58,000 links to separate pages and sources

www.Ancestry.com this site includes a social security death index, Ancestry World Tree, census databases (fee for use), and links to United States, Canadian and European telephone and address listings.

Other sources include online telephone books and city directories. Some are free, some charge a usage fee. The New York Public Library also has subscriptions to the New York Times and the London Times which can be used online at the library.

Mr. Kleiman closed by telling his audience to "learn how to use the search tools of your Internet provider. Genealogy is the only disease that feels better the worse it gets."

Lillian Faffer

Notes From All Over

American Jewish Historical Society Reopens and Relocates

people, places, maps and towns. The home page has links with sites for:

- Learning — includes JewishGen Frequently Asked Questions; InfoFiles, a comprehensive directory of information resources, and JewishGen Tools, calculation aids including Soundex, calendar, distance and e-mail courses;

- Research — including the JewishGen Family Finder, various databases including the ShtetlSeeker, Vsia Rossia - 1895 Russian Business Directories which include Jewish names from the Ukrainian region, and Family Tree of the Jewish People;

The American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) reopened its library and archives to members and the public on January 4, 2000. The Society successfully completed moving many of its manuscript collections, photographs, and library materials to its new location in the Center for Jewish History in New York City and will be able to serve researchers and visitors at both facilities in Waltham, Massachusetts and New York.

The Waltham center holds, among other materials, the Society's Boston and New England-related archival collections. For questions, inquiries or specific information on these materials, please call 781-891-8110 or e-mail reference@ajhs.org. The majority of the Society's processed collections of national significance and its library are now housed at its new facility at the Center for Jewish History. For inquiries or specific information on materials held at this location, call 212-294-6160 or e-mail reference@ajhs.org. Until further notice, opening hours at both locations will be Monday to Thursday, 9:30 - 4:30 PM. For both centers, the AJHS strongly recommends that researchers and visitors schedule appointments.

All inquiries regarding loans and the museum collection should be directed to the Waltham Center. Mailing Addresses: 2 Thornton Road, Waltham, MA 02453; 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011. Web site: www.ajhs.org.

Local History and Genealogy Division Relocates

The Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy at the New York Public Library opened on January 4, 2000, in Room 121. The new location has open book stacks; computers for reading CD-ROMs; computers for using CATNYP, the library's online computer catalog; a fiche reader for the photographic collections; and a self-service photocopier. Room 119 holds a variety of microfilms important to genealogists, including the federal and state census records; a number of microfilm readers and reader-printers; and issues of current periodicals. A welcome change is that much of the microfilm collection is now housed in cabinets directly accessible by the user. The division is again open six days

a week and is open two evenings. The new hours are: Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 10 to 6; Tuesday and Wednesday, from 11 to 7:30.

New York State Archives Curtails Mail Searches

The New York State Archives has discontinued its mail search service for the microfiche indexes to vital records, due to staff reductions. The microfiche indexes to the older birth, marriage and death records can be used in person at the State Archives research

Notices recently posted at the Archives announce some other changes. The 11th floor of the Cultural Education Center will be undergoing a major renovation starting in the fall of 2000. Holdings of the New York State Archives and New York State Library - Manuscripts & Special Collections are now being moved to alternate storage. Retrieval of some materials will be subject to delay. Consult with the archivist or librarian on duty about the availability of materials you need. When the research room closes, an alternate location elsewhere in the building will be posted.

Effective Thurs. Feb. 17, 2000, the New York State Archives will institute a schedule for retrieval of records from their various storage locations in the Cultural Education Center. Paper records requested by 2:00 PM will be retrieved by 3:00 PM the same day; paper records requested after 2:00 PM but before 4:00 PM will be retrieved by 9:00 AM the next business day. Archives staff will continue to retrieve microfilm, bill jackets, and certain other easily-retrievable records on request during the course of the day. Retrieval of Archives records stored in off-site locations, outside of the Cultural Education Center, must be requested one to two weeks in advance.

For more information about access to records in the New York State Archives, phone 518-474-8955, or email archref@mail.nysed.gov.

Locating Jewish Funeral Homes

Family History Newsline, a free on-line daily genealogy news service from Everton Publishers, recently carried an article about the use of funeral homes as a genealogical resource. In some cases these records have been maintained in the family running the funeral home for generations. The article noted that if the current funeral director is approached politely, he or she will usually be helpful. The task can be made easier if one has some prior assurance that the funeral home was the one used for an ancestor's funeral, such as being mentioned in an obituary.

There is an online directory of Jewish funeral homes in the United States. The web site of the Jewish Funeral Directors of America (www.jfda.org) contains more than just a listing of the addresses and phone numbers of Jewish funeral homes. There is

room in the Cultural Education Center (11th floor) in downtown Albany, and are available at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Northeast Region facility at 201 Varick Street in Manhattan.

NARA now has birth indexes to 1923, and marriage and death indexes to 1948. Uncertified copies of the actual records can be ordered from the New York State Department of Health, Vital Records Section, Corning Tower Building/ESP, Albany, NY 12237-0023; 518-474-3077; www.health.state.ny.us.

also a listing of current and past officers, a calendar conversion program, and short information on several pamphlets designed to help those who are planning a funeral or who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

For more information on Family History Newsline, contact Everton at www.everton.com.

Lodz JRI Project Seeks Volunteers

An effort is underway to obtain all of the indexes to the late 19th century Jewish records held in the Lodz Branch of the Polish State Archives (PSA). These include the indexes to records of the city of Lodz and 38 area towns, which have not been microfilmed by the LDS (Mormons). The Lodz PSA project is the largest undertaken by JRI-Poland so far, with 50,000 late 19th century records for the city of Lodz alone. A listing of all the towns included in the project may be viewed at: www.jewishgen.org/JRI-PL/psa/psastat1.htm. So far, this effort has successfully raised enough funds to index a good portion of the city of Lodz records: marriages from 1878 to 1890 have already been transcribed and will be added to the JRI-PL database in the near future. Zgierz will be the next town to be indexed, after Lodz.

Shirley Flaum, Coordinator of this project, is looking for volunteer "Town Leaders" to assist in creating inventories of the birth, marriage and death records for each year on existing LDS microfilm for several towns. The inventories will identify years that were skipped by the LDS in the microfilming process, which can then be included in the order to obtain the late 19th century indexes from the Polish State Archives. LDS microfilm is on permanent loan at the Family History Center in New York for three towns: Jezow, Rawa Mazowiecka and Strykow. A template in Excel format will be provided for completing each inventory.

Shirley can be contacted at Seflaum@aol.com.

Bialystok Epitaphs, Vital Records Sources

A list of translations by Monika Krajewski of the genealogical information on 69 tombstones in the Bialystok Jewish cemetery was recently published in the Winter, 1999 issue of *Generations* (JGS of Michigan). The information, provided by Betty Provizer Starkman, includes the names of the deceased and their father, usually with surname, sometimes also the

name of the spouse, and the date of death in both the Jewish and secular calendars. Contact the JGS of Michigan at P.O. Box 251693, West Bloomfield, MI 48325-1693; www.jgsmi.org.

The Jewish Records Indexing-Poland database has added indexes to birth records for Bialystok from 1888 to 1898. More than 11,650 birth records from this period that have not been filmed by the Family History Library are now indexed at this site, with not

Howard Relles of Schenectady, New York, has been indexing immigrants who arrived in New York during the year 1890 and who responded (when questioned upon boarding their ship in Europe) to the "Citizenship" question as: Austria, Poland, or Galicia. He has been working on this at the Pittsfield, Massachusetts branch of the National Archives since October of 1998, and as of December, 1999 had indexed over 38,000 names (and full microfilm references) through mid-November of 1890. The index should be completed this Spring, with an estimated total of 45,000 names. In addition to donating copies to the National Archives, Howard is hoping to give the index to an Internet site so that anyone can search it freely at their leisure. He then plans to move on to the 1891 arrivals. In the meantime, he would be happy to look up a couple of names, without charge, for anyone interested. Contact him at rellesh@earthlink.net.

New South Africa Database on JewishGen

The first South African Jewish database is now available to researchers on JewishGen. The database is a compilation provided by Ann Rabinowitz from the 783 entries contained in the "Who's Who Section" of the 1929 South African Jewish Year Book. The Year Book was a novel first creation of the South African Jewish community to document their achievements and contributions to their own community and that of South Africa in general. It is a valuable research tool that has long been neglected, as it has generally not been available in most libraries and archives. The new searchable on-line database fills this gap and enables the researcher to locate the following information from the Year Book entries: the name of an individual, their parents' names, their town or country of origin, present town of residence, date of birth, date of arrival in South Africa if born elsewhere, date of marriage and their spouse's name, their occupation and place of business, and whether they had a photograph provided with their entry. Clues for further research and where the Year Book may be accessed in the United States are given. The database can be accessed at: www.jewishgen.org/databases/sayb.htm. Further information on researching Southern African roots can be found at the Southern African SIG web site: www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica.

only the name of the child but also the name of the father and often the grandfather. The JRI-Poland database can be found at www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/bialy.htm.

Index to Immigrants from Austria, Poland, or Galicia

Book Reviews

Prima's Official Companion to Family Tree Maker Version 7. By Myra Vanderpool Gormley, C.G. with Rhonda R. McClure. 1999. 526 pp. softcover. \$24.99 plus shipping from Prima Tech at their web site, www.prima-tech.com; or from Prima Publishing, P.O. Box 1260BK, Rocklin, CA 95677-1260; 916-632-4400.

Family Tree Maker has become, by a wide margin, the most popular genealogical software, with something like a 70-80% market share. Emulating the practice of publishing independent guides as alternatives or supplements to the manuals issued by the producers of popular word processing, spreadsheet, database and other types of software, Prima Tech has been publishing a "companion" guide to Family Tree Maker, starting at least with version 5.

The corporate relationship between Prima Tech and Brøderbund (the company that produces Family Tree Maker, most recently folded into "The Learning Company") is somewhat unclear. The first version of this book in 1998 had a Foreword by the General Manager of the Banner Blue Division of Brøderbund that "presented" the book, and Family Tree Maker both endorses and advertises the book. The current version of the book omits the Foreword, but has a quote on the cover - which displays both company logos - from the VP and General Manager of Banner Blue citing "This official book..." while the promotional material states that "this is the only book on Family Tree Maker 7, fully endorsed and technically reviewed by Broderbund, Inc." The comma in that sentence may be deliberate: there is not, to this reviewer's knowledge, any other book on Family Tree Maker other than the software manual.

The manual that comes with Family Tree Maker (hereafter FTM), newly revised for Version 7, is of similar size and heft (554 pages), hence the key question facing the user of this program is whether the Prima book contains the same material, or whether the information in the Prima book is in some way additive to the software manual - more detailed, better presented, and/or with additional topics. Those users who have an earlier version of the Prima book will also want to know whether the new edition is significantly revised.

The Prima Companion is divided into four parts. Three of the four chapters in the first part, comprising about 75 pages, provide a general discussion about, and advice on, genealogical research. Although there are brief pointers threaded through these chapters to tools within the FTM program, or at the FTM online site, the content is primarily how-to text (and not found in the FTM manual). Where FTM tools are mentioned (and sometimes illustrated), there is no cross reference to detailed treatments later in the book. For example, a discussion of how to set up "scrapbooks" in the computer does not refer to the much more extensive instructions in a later chapter. The final chapter in the first part is on basic data entry techniques for FTM.

The second half of the book focuses on the actual use of the FTM software. Part III contains four chapters: one with more details on entering different types of information; one detailing how to use the index, search and error correction features; one explaining the new maps feature; and the largest chapter on creating, working with and printing various trees and reports - with the exception of the all-important "genealogy report," which is separately discussed in a later chapter. Peculiarly, there is not a single reference in this chapter to the existence of, or later treatment of, the genealogy report. Part III has been significantly expanded from the earlier version of the book to present the new types of trees in FTM (the vertical ancestor and all-in-one trees) and to present ways of enhancing the format and appearance of the trees, including the use of background features.

The last part of the book is titled "Computerizing Your Family Tree," an odd choice of title considering that the whole book addresses that subject. There is a sizeable chapter on scrapbooks, i.e. working with images - entering them, manipulating them and incorporating them into the FTM report structure; the new scanning tools in FTM are included here. Another large chapter explains how to create and structure books using the FTM book features. Part IV also has two shorter chapters, one on the World Family Tree project and GEDCOM utilities, and the other on creating web pages.

The chapter that deals with genealogy reports is also placed in this last section, and is one of the more disappointing elements in the book, given the importance of the genealogy report as the only place outside of the family group pages where both the biographical information and text entered in the "notes" pages, and the source notes entered for the "facts," show up in printed reports. As the Prima guide states in the following chapter on structuring a FTM created book, "The Genealogy Report captures the key points people are most interested in. It should therefore be the main section of information in

The second part of the Prima Companion, substantially expanded from 80 pages in the earlier edition to 115 pages in the current version, deals with the use of FTM CD products and FTM online resources; the last 30 pages discuss selected non-FTM web sites such as Cyndi's list, USGenWeb, VitalChek and others. Although there is some discussion of this in the FTM manual, the Prima book treats this area much more extensively and with more illustrations. The book has been updated to reflect new features of the FTM Family Finder and World Family Tree and new FTM CD products; the section also contains a new chapter on online FTM tools and databases, in particular Genealogy.com. Some interesting non-FTM sites, such as the Library of Virginia's electronic card indexes, are covered. the book." Yet it is treated almost as an afterthought in the Prima guide. Nearly half the chapter simply explains and gives examples of the three standard types of genealogy reports; this is followed by eight pages describing options for formatting and including items, and the chapter closes with a few more pages describing the bibliography and documented events reports. Given the author's credentials, one might have hoped for more suggestions on ways of using the genealogy report and the sourcing features - as well as more guidance on dealing with some of the shortcomings of FTM's lack of flexibility (and lack of sourcing ability) in the genealogy report.

Nearly all the material in the second half of the Prima book, as well as those chapters in the first two parts that deal with the software, is covered in equal or greater detail in the FTM manual. However, there are some clear differences in the way in which the information is presented, some in favor of the FTM manual and some in favor of the Prima guide. The latter is far more liberal with the use of illustrations showing on-screen displays, and this greatly enhances the comprehensibility of the explanations in the guide. The Prima guide also more logically groups information about given types of reports or functions. For example, in discussing the genealogy report, the FTM manual does not talk about formatting options; that information must be found elsewhere in the manual, where it applies to a variety of reports. Since the same options are not available in each report, it can be difficult to understand which options apply to a given report such as the genealogy report. Prima, on the other hand, lays out the options and how to use them in that chapter, again with helpful illustrations.

The Prima Companion is also much more likely to note the availability of on-screen icons or other shortcuts, such as the ability to right-click on a screen display to obtain a list of options. The FTM manual often fails to mention these as alternatives to their recommended use of the menu choices. Prima's pointers to these shortcuts are frequently found in a very helpful

device used in the Prima book, a running series of "tips," "notes" and "cautions" inserted as indented paragraphs in italic text with capitalized captions and icons. These insertions stand out clearly and often contain useful advice concerning sometimes less obvious features or alternate possibilities.

On the other hand, the Prima guide not infrequently omits details that can be found in the FTM manual. For example, in the chapter on scrapbooks, there is an incomplete list of the graphic file formats supported by FTM, and a useful piece of advice in the FTM manual on the effects of scanning resolution choice is not included. Steps that may seem obvious in a particular procedure are also sometimes omitted in the Prima Guide but are spelled out more clearly in

Returning to the questions posed at the outset of this review, the new Prima book has clearly been updated and expanded (from 452 to 526 pages) from the earlier edition. It also does have material that is not found in the FTM manual, although most of that is either information on subjects other than the use of the FTM software, or illustrations and tips that enhance the presentation and help the reader to better understand some functions. The Prima guide is not an essential addition for the FTM user, particularly for the experienced FTM user; but it does serve reasonably well as a complement to the FTM manual.

The author of the Prima guide, Myra Vanderpool Gormley, is a certified genealogist who is a co-editor, contributing editor, or contributor of articles for various genealogical publications online or in print, as well as author of three books on genealogy. She received the National Genealogical Society's Award of Merit for distinguished work in genealogy, and is webmaster for several counties for the U.S. GenWeb project. There is no information listed about the second person listed, ostensibly as an author ("with...") in the new version of the Prima book, Rhonda R. McClure. Perhaps she is a staff person at Brøderbund, but it would be nice if the publisher acknowledged her contribution in the next version.

In Print

Of Jewish Interest

Great Synagogue Marriage Records 1791-1830. 120 pp. £8.00 plus £3.00 shipping (airmail).

Detailed records of marriages that took place at the Great Synagogue, Duke's Place, London, from 1791 to 1830. They include the English and Hebrew names of the bride and groom, and of their fathers. There are nearly 2,000 marriages recorded, with some 5,000 names, and much other information. The records are fully indexed, and printed on archive paper for longevity and durability. Many of the entries are annotated by the editor, with cross-references to other sources.

the FTM manual. Missing from both the FTM manual and the Prima book is information on some hidden but useful capabilities or shortcuts that can be helpful, such as the use of the character map hot keys in Windows to insert special characters into note text; as well as better explanations of strategies for using such FTM features as the Master Source page. These tips and explanations can sometimes be picked up by monitoring the "Using Family Tree Maker Genealogy Forum" as well as by browsing the "how-to" and tutorial articles online, all of which can be accessed through FTM's web site, but one purpose of a "companion" guide should be to obviate the need to search for such information in cyberspace.

Order from the publisher (sterling postal orders, money orders or cheques payable to "Frank J. Gent") at the following address: Frank J. Gent, Culver House, Exeter Road, CREDITON, Devon, EX17 3BH, U.K. Email: fjg@exetersynagogue.org.uk Fax: (+44) (0)870 131 6629. On-line ordering by credit card, for \$13.00 plus \$3.00 shipping, is available for overseas customers at www.eclipse.co.uk/exeshul/susser.

Dov Levin. *The Litvaks: A Short History of the Jews in Lithuania.* Yad Vashem, 2000. 300 pp. hardcover. \$40.00 (\$30.00 pre-publication price until April) plus \$14 shipping. The book's four main sections deal with the history of Lithuania from the late 13th Century to the present; the Jews of Lithuania from the Middle Ages until the end of the first World War; the Jews in Independent Lithuania during the inter-war period; and World War II, the Holocaust and the Jewish survivors. Topics covered include the awarding of certificates of civil privileges, the Lithuanian Jewish Council (1623-1761), the Vilna Jewish community and the Gaon of Vilna, the establishment of the great yeshivas, the Jewish nationalistic movements, and the Hebrew Zionist educational system. Order from Yad Vashem Publications, P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034 Israel; 972-2-6443505 (fax 6443506); or email: publishing@yad-vashem.org.il.

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 One: Polish.* 2000. 300+ pages. Expected price about \$35.00. The author of the previous classic on translation of Russian language genealogical records, and President for many years of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, has announced a new series, the first volume of which should be in print this Spring. Volume One will include analysis and translation of over 60 Polish language documents, including vital records, revision lists, passports and military records; sections on Polish Grammar, phonetics and spelling; information on how

to locate records; a chapter on gazetteers and how to use them; and a 50+ page vocabulary. Further publication information can be obtained by writing to Language and Lineage Press, 737 Hartfield Drive, North Aurora, IL 60542-8917; email WFHoffman@prodigy.net.

Genealogical Publishing Company has announced two re-issued titles, both in their third editions:

•Val D. Greenwood. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. 2000. 676 pp. hardcover, \$29.95. One of the classic guides to research, both a textbook and all-purpose reference book, containing material on both principles of genealogical research as well as information on the location, use and research context of various types of records, grouped into tables and charts. The revised edition incorporates material on the Internet and CD-ROM technology as well as a new chapter on the property rights of women, a revised chapter on the evaluation of genealogical evidence, and updated information on the 1920 census.

•Angus Baxter. *In Search of Your Canadian Roots: Tracing Your Family Tree in Canada*. 2000. 400 pp. paperback, \$19.95. The book discusses ethnic migrations to Canada, including Jewish immigration; describes the national archives in Ottawa with its holdings of various types of source materials; summarizes the holdings of the LDS Church (Family History Library) relating to Canada; and explores nationwide record sources. Also included is a province-by-province survey of sources, with a detailed breakdown of each type of record and resource facility. There are revised listings of finding aids, record repositories, and email and web site addresses.

Both titles can be ordered 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, and \$1.25 for each additional title. Maryland and Michigan residents add sales tax.

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