



# **The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area** Jewish Genealogical Society

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# **Coast to Coast**

A hard-core East Coast genealogist discovers early West Coast connections. See page 4.

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Solomon Rogers, the great-granduncle of the author, who provided her a claim to the West Coast. See page 4.

## ZichronNote Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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# **President's Message**

# The New Year's Resolution Everyone Must Keep

Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

We've read it a million times. It's been exhorted to us over and over: You must test with every DNA company and transfer your results everywhere. Why? Because you never know in which DNA "pool" your potential cousins might be swimming!

A major case in point is me. After a number of years, having tested only with AncestryDNA and FTDNA, and having transferred my results to GEDMatch and MyHeritage, there was just one holdout—23andMe.

Several weeks ago I waved my debit card at my laptop and a few days later a little box from 23andMe arrived. I duly spat into the tube and sent it back. I kept receiving e-mail updates as the little vial made its way down the conveyor belt with thousands of other test tubes. Then one day I got the magic message: "Jeremy, welcome to you! The 23andMe results for Jeremy Frankel are in. A world of DNA discovery is waiting."

I couldn't click the button fast enough. The first three names were not only familiar to me, they were already in my tree. But the next name, Michèle King, was new to me. She had sent an introductory message that stated, "Hi, I am Michèle. I am 73 years old and live in Miami, Florida. Both of my parents are deceased. I was an only child and I am single and do not have children. It would be great to connect with relatives."

But as I pored over my family tree, I couldn't see where she might fit in. My guess was that being a King, the link could be to my Koenigsberg family. I then doublechecked the Koenigsberg family plot in the Old Montefiore Cemetery in Queens, New York. Something jumped out at me immediately: Michael Koenigsberg's headstone (to my previous knowledge, he had never married) had incised on the top "FATHER." Whoa, how come I had never noticed that before?

Long story short, her parents had married in 1943, Michèle was born in 1945, and her parents divorced five years later. Her mother was the youngest, only surviving sibling in her family, and Michèle was estranged from her father's family. Her mother passed away in 2003; hence, for nearly twenty years Michèle has been bereft of any family connection—until now.

Continued on page 10

Note: All URL's are valid as of the time of publication.

# **Society News**

#### **New Members**

Harold Lips	hlips@sbcglobal.net
Robert Rothfarb	rob@hiddenline.com

In order to continue to receive *Zichron*Note and SFBAJGS News, please send changes in your e-mail address to **newsletter@sfbajgs.org**.

# **SFBAJGS 2022 Election Results**

The voting for our four elective offices concluded on 31 December 2021. Eighty-seven (87) ballots were cast. Eighty-six (86) members voted for the full slate of President Jeremy Frankel, Vice President Preeva Tramel, Secretary Shellie Wiener, and Treasurer Jeff Lewy. One (1) member voted for only the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Forty-two (42) paper ballots and forty-five (45) electronic ballots were received. No invalid ballots were cast.

# Your Story Belongs in ZichronNote

Have you had a breakthrough in your family history, solved a family mystery through painstaking research, discovered a better way to use resource materials, or walked where your ancestors walked? Have you had success or made progress at the Genealogy Clinic with the Mavens? Do you have a brick wall you want to discuss? Did you meet a cousin at the annual conference, or make contact with a "tenuously, absurdly distant" cousin or a "relative of the heel?"

Tell us your story, share your discovery! We want to read about it in *Zichron*Note. Please submit materials to newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

## Member in the News

**Fred Cohn**'s son and daughter traveled to Görlitz, Germany for a program created for descendants of Jews who formerly lived there. He was unable to make the trip, but *The J* wrote about him and the event in a recent article: https://jweekly.com/2021/12/28/return-to-gorlitz-survivorsdescendants-lay-memorial-stones-in-germany/.

# It's (Still) Renewal Season!

You definitely should have received your membership renewal by now. Please don't forget to send it in, and update your family names and contact information (especially e-mail address)!

# **SFBAJGS Board Meetings**

SFBAJGS board meetings are open to members to attend, and we welcome you to do so! The next board meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, 5 June, **online via Zoom**. If you are interested in attending and learning more about how your board reaches decisions for the society (or possibly about serving on the board?), contact the editor at newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

# **Research Scope of SFBAJGS**

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society does not limit its scope to the San Francisco Bay area. While our meetings take place in various locations in the Bay Area, our research and pursuits include the entire world, as that's where our ancestors came from. Our members have extensive experience with genealogical research in every corner of the globe and with all types of historical records.

# SFBAJGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest member are listed below. This database is maintained for the benefit of our membership. If you have a correction or update, please write to SFBAJGS at familyfinder@sfbajgs.org or at P.O. Box 318214, San Francisco, CA 94131-8214.

Surname	Town, Country	Member
Cohn	Minsk, Belarus; Russia	Robert Rothfarb
Hassan	Egypt; Italy	Robert Rothfarb
Lederberg	Poland; Russia	Robert Rothfarb
Rothfarb	Poland; Russia; Ukraine	Robert Rothfarb
Sachs		Robert Rothfarb
Tornheim	Poland; Russia	Robert Rothfarb

# New York City to San Francisco

Mimi Kim Klausner

Mimi Klausner is a retired archivist and filmmaker who worked at a number of community-based archives, including the Western Jewish History Center, Labor Archives, and GLBT Historical Society. When she turned 60 she decided to go by Mimi, a nickname given to her by her oldest son when he was a toddler, rather than Kim, her name at birth. She apologizes to any future genealogists for making their job harder. She researched the Eastern European origins of her family and took a trip to those places in 2016, information about which can be seen on her site, http://mimiklausner.net/. You can contact Mimi at kimklausner@comcast.net.

I am a dyed-in-the-wool New Yorker. I was born in New York City and lived on the Upper West Side until I was 18. My roots there run deep. Seven of my eight greatgrandparents, half of my 16 2x-great-grandparents and one set of my 3x-great-grandparents crossed the Atlantic from what are now Belarus, Poland, and Lithuania and settled in New York City, primarily Manhattan but also Brooklyn. Except for my great-grandparents Mayer and Sarah Klausner and their children, who moved to Jersey City within 10 years of their arrival, all the rest stayed in New York.

That said, I have lived in San Francisco for more than half my life since arriving here in 1985. I am a proud San Franciscan, but I am always aware that this is not my native land. For many thousands of years members of the Ohlone tribe lived here. Spanish invaders in the 18th century took possession of San Francisco. In 1848 the United States got control of it, a year later gold was discovered in the Sierras, and people from around the world came to settle here.

When I worked as an archivist at the Western Jewish History Center of the Judah Magnes Museum in Berkeley, I knew that my people were not the ones whose stories we preserved there. My people were from New York. Well, I learned in the recent past that's not entirely true. About 1884, at around 10 years old, my great-grandfather Mark Rycerzewski (later Rogers), three of his sisters, and their mother traveled from Kłodawa, Russia, now Poland, to New York to join older sister Mary, who lived with their mother's sister Deborah Seligman Alexander in New York City after her own arrival several years earlier. Solomon Rogers, their oldest brother, had arrived a year before Mary and made his way out to San Francisco.

On Mark Rogers' 1915 passport application he stated that he had resided in "New York City, San Francisco, Cal, Tacoma, Wash. then New York City." Apparently, as an adolescent he had lived with his brother Sol in San Francisco but had returned to New York City by age 20. I knew that Sol had established himself as a tailor, at one point with his own shop on Market Street, and married San Franciscan Eva Bella Abrams before relocating to Tacoma about 1890. He had resided in various locations, including Tehama Street, south of Market; on Octavia near Jefferson Park; and on Sanchez in Noe Valley.

Toronto-based Jeffrey Stutz, a long-lost 3rd cousin of mine whom I found doing historical research, is the greatgrandson of Solomon Rogers. He is also a family historian, who had heard that Sol relocated from New York City to San Francisco because some of his Seligman relations were here. I was a bit skeptical, because the renowned Seligman family of banking fame came from Bavaria, not Poland. These were the people whose history was preserved at the Western Jewish History Center. Not only were my family New Yorkers, but they were Yiddish-speaking Eastern Europeans.

Recently, I was writing up my family history when I circled back around to Mark's time in San Francisco with his brother Sol. I decided I'd do one more search for Rogers in San Francisco, as it had been a while since I'd done the original work, to discover anything else I could about their time here. And, lo and behold, using the California Digital Newspaper Collection hosted by UC Riverside at https:// cdnc.ucr.edu/, I came across this notice from *The Call* in 1899, the first piece of evidence linking the Rogers family with the Seligmans.

# Personals.

Mr. and Mrs. Sol Rogers of Seattle, Wash., are visiting their aunt, Mrs. D. Selegman, at 3105 Washington street.

#### San Francisco Call, 20 August 1899

Now the question was, who was D. Seligman? Did the D refer to the aunt or the uncle? It could be either, as I recalled seeing many envelopes addressed to my mother in the 1950's and '60's as Mrs. Robert Klausner. I quickly determined that there was no one with a name starting with D in the famous Seligman family. And searches for "Selegman" with an "e" resulted in not much else, so I chalked up that spelling to a typo.

A bit more searching retrieved an article from the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* in August 1901 that reported on the death of 55-year-old Mrs. D. Seligman, a native of Poland, at her daughter's house while visiting from San Francisco. The reference to her Polish roots confirmed that this was the "right" Seligman. But I still had no idea what the D stood for. I then went



to FamilySearch and entered D Seligman, born in 1846, resident of San Francisco and found Dora, wife of Frank or Falk Seligman! From there it was easy to piece together the story of how my great-grandfather Mark Rogers ended up in San Francisco.

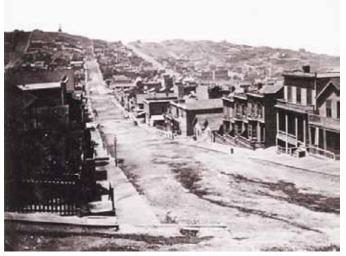
Falk Seligman was a native of Prussia, according to his tombstone. He landed in New York City about 1855 and found a wife named Henrique, an immigrant from Hamburg. In 1857 their daughter Mary was born. Within the year the three of them moved to San Francisco, where Falk obtained work as a drayman and lived on Geary Street between Powell and Mason, according to the city directory. Falk, Henrique, and their baby daughter may have made the long trip to San Francisco because it had a growing economy based on the gold rush that had started nine years earlier.

Over the next decade Falk supported his growing family (Hannah in 1859, Elizabeth Bertha in 1860, and Solomon in 1863) as a drayman, either working for Fonda & Gray, importers of groceries and provisions, or hiring out with his own "job wagon." In 1867 he was naturalized as a U.S. citizen. Sadly, "Ricke" died of "nervous fever" (according to her *San Francisco Chronicle* obituary in January 1869) or typhus (based on the San Francisco mortuary record found on Ancestry.com), as it was more commonly known. Within a year Falk had married Dora Harris, another immigrant from Poland. They soon had a daughter, Jennie, and were living across the street from his furniture store at 1226 Dupont (now Grant).

By 1875 Falk had moved his furniture store to Broadway, a block away from where City Lights stands today. The family lived on the second story of the frame building. A *Chronicle* article from June of that year about a fire there describes the area. The third fire, which was the largest and most disastrous one of the day, broke out in a small furniture store on Broadway street near Kearny, and opposite the County Jail. The locality is one of the most disreputable in town, and as a natural consequence the houses there are of the most combustible character.

The article went on to say that Falk lost most of his inventory, which was estimated at \$1,500 in value (\$37,000 in 2021 dollars). Two small houses of "ill fame of the lowest character", a cigar and cigarette stand operated by a "crippled Spaniard", a candy store, another house of ill repute, and the apartment of "a negress of disreputable character" were also burned.

The family found housing nearby on Green Street between Dupont and Kearny. By this time the family included Samuel (1872), Lillie (1874), and then Shyer (1877). And it was there that Solomon Rogers stayed when he arrived in San Francisco about 1880. By that time Falk (Frank) was a dry goods merchant, according to the U.S. 1880 census. As Sol had been just a toddler when his Uncle Falk left Poland, it was probably not much of a reunion, but Sol would have brought up-to-date news about the family back home.



The block of Green Street on which the Seligmans and Rogers brothers lived, looking west from Kearny, 1860–1870. http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/kt0h4nc25d/?order=1

It was 1885 before Solomon was listed in the city directory, and by 1890 he was off for Tacoma, Washington with brother Mark in tow. My great-grandfather Mark returned to New York City for unknown reasons after living a few short years on the West Coast, cementing my future identity as a New Yorker. But I feel better having solved the Seligman mystery and knowing that I have San Francisco roots dating back to the 1850's.

# A Place to Call Home: Researching Your Orphan Relatives

Dvorah Lewis

Dvorah Lewish joined the California State Library in June 2017 as the Genealogy and Local History Librarian at Sutro Library. Her passion for archives and genealogy was inspired by an interview with her Aunt Essie, which revealed that Essie and her siblings grew up in America's first Jewish orphanage, located in Philadelphia. This article was originally published on the Sutro Library blog, *The Sutronian*, on 1 June 2020 at https://thesutrolibrary.wordpress.com/2020/06/01/researching-your-orphan-ancestor/.

Several years ago, when I first started my genealogical research, I only knew a few sentences about my greatgreat-grandmother Ida (Gross) Cohen: She immigrated to America (Philadelphia to be exact) from Russia by herself with her family's locket stitched in her skirt to prevent it from being stolen (this locket is now under my mother's guardianship); she sang in the Yiddish theater (still trying to prove this one); and she died from an abortion, her four children becoming orphans. The term "orphan" usually now refers to someone who has lost both parents, but historically it has encompassed children with only one deceased parent. Even though Ida's husband was still alive at the time of her death, he could not provide care for the children and placed them in a Jewish orphanage.



Ida Cohen and the locket she carried with her when she immigrated to America

Orphanages have been part of American history well before the country declared its independence. Nuns founded the first orphanage here in 1729 after many adult settlers were killed in the Natchez Revolt in modern-day Natchez, Mississippi.<sup>1</sup> In response to illness, poverty, urbanization, and immigration, more orphanages were established in the mid-19th century. Prior to that, reformatories known as poorhouses or almshouses could shelter anyone who suffered from poverty, including criminals, the sick, and orphans. Because of the poor conditions and the minimal rations of food, diseases spread quickly.

Another option that was considered in handling a city's orphans was the orphan trains, which transported children from overpopulated cities on the East Coast to the Midwest, where they were taken in by potential foster parents. Orphans were usually given to Christian families, so if the child was Jewish then conversion was (almost) inevitable.<sup>2</sup>

This leads to the reason Jewish orphanages were created: to help foster and preserve the children's Jewish heritage. For this reason, Rebecca Gratz (a well known Jewish Philadelphian and philanthropist) cofounded the first Jewish orphanage in America: the Jewish Foster Home and Orphan Asylum. Later known as the Foster Home for Hebrew Orphans, this same orphanage was where my great-grandmother and her siblings were admitted in 1927.



Jewish Foster Home and Orphan Asylum circa 1905

You might be wondering how a researcher continues tracing family history if a relative was an orphan. For my personal research, the first relevant document I came across was the 1930 U.S. census, which confirmed that my greatgrandmother and her siblings lived in an orphanage, and it identified where in Philadelphia the home was located.

Another place to look is local histories and city directories (which sometimes have mini local histories in them) and learn about how the poor, specifically children, were being ZichronNote: Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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1930 Census of the Foster Home for Hebrew Orphans in Philadelphia, where Dorothy Cohen (4th name down) and her three siblings were enumerated. [Image has been edited.]

taken care of. In a local history of Philadelphia from 1868, the Jewish orphanage isn't mentioned (perhaps the name wasn't known by the author at the time of publication), but quite a few other homes are cited in the text, along with illustrations of different city buildings and business ads, which are always interesting to see.

City directories might provide only a confirmation of the address. The 1927 Philadelphia City Directory lists the Jewish orphanage in the business pages at the back of the directory under "Homes, Asylums, and Day Nurseries" and in the alphabetical section under "Jewish."

In addition to local histories and directories, Sutro Library has other resources that can help you with your search. While we don't focus on one particular orphanage, we do have works on a variety of different institutions, and sometimes we are the only library in Northern California, or in some cases all of California, to have a copy, which means these are ineligible for InterLibrary Loan and can be viewed only in the Reading Room.

Some examples include Philadelphia Guardians of the Poor: Bonds for the Support of Illegitimate Children and Other Indigent Persons, 1811–1859 by Jefferson M. Moak (https:// csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CSL\_INST/kjolsn/ alma990010903240205115); The Jacob Engelbrecht Property and Almshouse Ledgers of Frederick County, Maryland by Jacob Engelbrecht, Edith Olivia Eader, and Trudie Davis Long (https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CSL\_INST/ kjolsn/alma990010938060205115); The Children's Friend Society: Juvenile Emigrants to Western Australia, South Africa and Canada, 1834–1842 by Geoff Blackburn (https:// csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CSL INST/kjolsn/ alma990010044490205115); and History and Records of the Charleston Orphan House by Susan L. King (https:// csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CSL INST/kjolsn/ alma990004034970205115).

After you've exhausted your search at your local genealogical library or online through a genealogy site, the next best step is to identify local history organizations where the orphanage was located and which repositories might have original records. If ithe orphanage does not come up in an online search or by searching through archival finding aid (AKA inventory) catalogs such as those for the Online Archive of California (https://oac.cdlib.org/) or Archive Grid (https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/), then local genealogical and historical societies may be able to point you in the right direction. For my research, Temple University houses the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection, which has the records of the orphanage my relatives grew up in.

The next part of this article discusses the different types of records that may be available to you once you are able to locate them.

# **Admission and Discharge Records**

Admission ledgers from an orphanage can contain information on when the child was admitted, birth date, reason for admission, and date of discharge from the home.

# **Court Records**

Court report summaries can provide information similar to that of the ledger, the main difference being that they can also include the address of where a surviving parent lived and presumably where the children lived prior to admittance in the home.

# **Annual Reports**

While these may not provide information of genealogical value, they can provide contextual information and allow you to understand the current state and goals of the institution. Keep in mind that one of the functions of an annual report is to increase funding, so it might not provide the most accurate representation of the home.

#### ZichronNote: Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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Page in admission ledger that lists Dorothy Cohen and her siblings along with their birth and discharge dates. Note the children were discharged on four different dates. (Courtesy Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection)

COURT HERVER FOR MER MADING NOVEMBER 18, 1927.

Justich delinguent and dependent cases heard on Honday 11/14, Wednesday 11/18 and Friday 11/18/27, also Thursday 11/17/27, Judge Glass presided on Honday, Thursday and Friday and Judge Brown on Wednesday.

Conmitments: 9 Discharges : 1

DOBLITICATION-

Cohen, Dorothy, Jack, Bells and Estner, 2510 2. Seese Streat. Once was in court in 11/18 on a dependent potition filed by the father. Judge Glass committed all four children to the J.F.H. with an order of \$25.50 a week doch on the G.G. and a temperary order of \$3.00 a week each on the father.

Painstein, Lillinn and Gerbert, 5608 5. Garnock Street. Case was in sourt on 11/16 continued from 11/8 for apparance of father. Judge Glass committed Lillian and Merbert to the U.S. with an order of 35.40 a week on the C.C. and a Mike order on the father; also an order of \$5.50 a week such on the father to may directly to the .S.T. From S/19 to 11/18.

Seppl. Morton and Saran, 5443 5. farsy Street. Game may in court on 11/18 on a motion for assemblent filed by the Bureat. Judge Glass granted a temporary order on the C.C. of 55.50 per work each from 5/5 to 11/10/27 as the paramis requested that both children be discharged to thes.

Summary of court report committing Dorothy and her siblings to the orphanage. It also lists the address where they lived prior to admittance into the home. (Courtesy Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection)

#### Newsletters

Records may also exist from the perspective of the home's residents themselves. The Jewish Foster Home offered many clubs for its children, and some of these clubs created records of their own. For example, the Journalism Club published a newsletter. The content of these newsletters included reports on events within the home, from arrivals of new residents and birthdays to interviews with the staff and even gossip columns. Even if your ancestor is no longer a resident during the time of publication, newsletters also often provided updates on residents who had been discharged from the home.

rdie 20 Orchids to: Cur girls for their splendid spirit and sportsmonship shise are helping to make excellent backstball ployers of Tohnw Jump-aps to: Molly Forry who is trying to heighten herself by taking frequent stretching exercises. Succession for the last been buying a bag of candy, daily. It's for Zether to cut in school. delay. It's for Action to be the result. <u>Annorise to:</u> Noy false, the ecome once bud : girlfrishi and is ne-gletting her sommefully. <u>There is mathing thrilling enough to give to:</u> <u>Wharlotte Berger</u>, whose boyfriend conde her "caust <u>isothings</u> written in Hebres. <u>Look allbrg</u>: <u>"Reke" Ourbil</u> and ELL Abner-----Auto Solid and EL Abber-"Ruth Milner - "Are you really"" Sather Coben- "You mane, you." Gerron Garbiel- "It could be." Louis Kestler - "Who me "

From the May 1934 issue of The Caribou, the Jewish orphanage newsletter. The "Birdie Toldmeso" section of the newsletter covered gossip. It includes a line from my Aunt Essie under favorite expressions: "You mess, you." (Courtesy Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection)

#### **Personal Accounts**

Another way to understand life in the home is to hear it, or read it, straight from a resident. Maybe even from someone who lived in the home with your ancestor? Oral histories and published accounts may exist. I had the opportunity to interview my grandaunt Essie (Esther, the youngest daughter of Ida and oldest member of my family at the time of the interview). Another helpful source was an account of the home written by an alum, Jules Doneson: *Deeds of Love: A History of the Jewish Foster Home and Orphan Asylum of Philadelphia, America's First Jewish Orphanage.* 

Alongside annual reports and newsletters, memories of the home make it possible to analyze and compare the ideals of the home with the realities and help contextualize your family's experience.

# Alumni Records

Residents often kept in contact long after leaving the home and sometimes created alumni organizations to stay in touch after they were discharged. The Jewish Foster Home had an alumni group which went by a few different names: Home Guys, the Pop Weiser Group, and 700 East Alumni Association. The Philadelphia Jewish



Dvorah interviewing Aunt Essie about her life, especially in the home, while eating lox, cream cheese, and pumpernickel bread. (Spring 2012)

Archives Collection recently made a finding aid available for this collection, and it includes a roster, mailing list, correspondence, video and photos from the home, and more. Whenever I return to Philadelphia, this is definitely a collection I want to consult!

# **Records of Other Relief Organizations**

Similarly to many immigrants during this time, my great-great-grandparents struggled to support their family. Fortunately, organizations existed to help immigrants. If your relative ended up an orphan, there's a chance she or her parents needed financial assistance prior to admittance into an orphanage. Because of this, it's important to look into other aid organizations that existed during the relevant period. The Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection also houses records for local Jewish relief organizations. My ancestors received assistance from United Hebrew Charities. In one of their collections is a case file relating to my family that is nine pages long and is one that I constantly go back to reread, as it has tremendous genealogical value. It was created when concerned neighbors (or perhaps family or friends) requested UHC to become involved and provide assistance. Meticulous notes were taken, documenting each time the agent interacted with the Cohens (or tried to).

When a name was mentioned, an address was often listed with it. On the first page of the file, I found the addresses of family, an employer, and a landlord. More are in the rest of the file. All of these names allowed me to expand Ida's "FAN Club."

Date	Name Cohen	Case No. 14077
	a few relatives in Ca uncle by the name of Sokoloffsky, paper-ha to do anything for fa	goes to work. Also states that she has quite nden who are able to help her. Mr. C. has an nger, does not know his address. Is not able mily, either is Mr. C. Will let us know the re with landsmen sbout his brother. MML
4/27/2D	Saw letter mich Dr. door work. Mr. C. me approred of. Later v She is out of bed but aunt Mrs. Isreal of 1 ing business, but is (address not known). house as she owes rem brother-in-law and th Sunday. Promised to	capital spoke to Miss Laison, Dr. Wolf busy, Wolf gave to Mr. C advising him to do out- ntioned huckstoring which Dr. Wolf highly isited home and interviewed Mrs. C. is still feeling weak. Baid she has an 010 Kaighn Ave., Canden, is in paper-hand- not able to help her, also counn Mrs. Meddles Mrs. C. is afraid to be thrown out of the t for two months. Told her about visit to at sister-in-haw will call to see her on send hubband to our office on Bunday morning like us to help him start the huckstering
	Name Cohen	Case No. 14077
Date		

Examples of detailed descriptions found in the UHC Cohen family case file, including information on other family members. The report for 28 April 1920 has the corrected address of Ida's aunt, Sarah Israel, and also what the family thought of Ida and her husband. (Courtesy Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection)

FAN Club is a term coined by renowned genealogist and author Elizabeth Shown Mills; it means Friends, Associates, and Neighbors. When we expand our search to include not just our family members but also those people associated with them, we often find out more information about our relatives. For example, the summaries written on 27 and 28 April 1920 in this case file mentioned an aunt by the name of Mrs. Israel in Camden, New Jersey. Because this document is dated 1920, I then searched the 1920 census hoping to find a match, and I did! The address in the census matched the address in the case file. This find, like many others from this file, led me to other documents regarding Sarah Israel's relationship to Ida.

Finding this case file as well as other records might not have happened if I hadn't consulted the archivist of the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection. On my own, it was hard to wrap my head around all of the mergers and name changes that happened between the various relief organizations. Because of this situation, many different finding aids exist. An archivist (or librarian) can help you navigate finding aids and may be able to point you to other collections that could be of genealogical value. Similarly, the librarians at Sutro Library are here to assist you in any way. Feel free to reach out to us via e-mail at sutro@library. ca.gov, or give us a call at (415) 469-6100.

#### Summary

Here are steps to researching your orphan relative:

• Start your research with the census, especially if your ancestor lived at an orphanage during a census year.

• Find a city directory or local history and learn more about how the children were cared for.

• Once you have identified the orphanage, try searching online and in archival catalogs such as ArchiveGrid in order to locate surviving records of the orphanage, if they exist.

• Contact local genealogical and historical societies if you need further assistance.

• Once the records have been located, don't just look at admission records. Also look at records that may not be of immediate genealogical value, such as annual reports and newsletters, to gain a greater understanding of the orphanage.

• There's a good possibility that other relief organizations provided assistance to your family prior to your ancestor becoming an orphan, so consult with your local archivist to identify those records too.

These examples are just a few of the records you may be able to use when researching an orphan ancestor, leading you one step closer to learning more about him and the place he once called home.

# **Further Reading**

**Tracing orphan relatives:** Check out Jessica Naeves' blog post, https://www.heritagediscovered.com/blog/how-to-research-your-orphan-ancestors.

The history of orphanages in America: Second Home: Orphan Asylums and Poor Families in America, Timothy A. Hacsi (1998), https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/260071413

Jewish orphanages: These Are Our Children: Jewish Orphanages in the United States, 1880–1925, Reena Sigman Friedman (2002), https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/1102217934 **The Jewish Foster Home in Philadelphia** (later known as Foster Home for Hebrew Orphans):

The History of the Jewish Foster Home and Orphan Asylum of Philadelphia, 1855–1905, Samuel M. Fleischman (1905), https://google.com/books/edition/The\_History\_of\_the\_ Jewish\_Foster\_Home\_an/9jTLAAAAMAAJ

Deeds of Love: A History of the Jewish Foster Home and Orphan Asylum of Philadelphia, America's First Jewish Orphanage, Jules Doneson (1996), http://www.worldcat.org/ oclc/36734819

*Germantown Crier*, published by Germantown Historical Society, volume 60, number 1, Spring 2010, https:// freedomsbackyard.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ JewishFosterHome2010.pdf

Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection [PJAC] at Temple University, https://library.temple.edu/collections/ philadelphia-jewish-archives-collection

Sutro Library has copies of the **PJAC periodical**, http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/36734819, https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CSL\_INST/kjolsn/alma990012772330205115

Please note: If any of the Sutro Library materials state the location is in the "Vault", we ask that you please give us at least two business days advance notice before your visit by e-mailing us at sutro@library.ca.gov or calling us at (415) 469-6100.

#### Endnotes

1. Orphanges: An Historical Overview / A Discussion of the Role of Orphanages in Child Welfare Policy, Family and Children's Services Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services: March 1995 (https://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/pre2003/other/950265.pdf; accessed 16 February 2022).

2. Timothy A. Hacsi, Second Home: Orphan Asylums and Poor Families in America, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1998.

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President's Message, continued from page 2

Amazingly enough, of her six first cousins, one survives, Bill, who is five years older but remembers her from childhood—and he lives just 250 miles north of her in Orlando, Florida. I've now put them in touch, and I've Facetimed with Michèle. I have also alerted other cousins on this side of the family to their new cousin. Michèle is beyond overjoyed, and as a therapist in Miami, she knows only too well the problems of family isolation—but no more. I'm more than happy to have performed my first family *mitzvah* for 2022. Will you be next? Make sure you have tested with every company and transferred your DNA results to other companies wherever possible. Your next new cousin could be just a swab or spit away!

# Discovering the German Home Town of Some Early Immigrants to Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

Dr. Ted Bainbridge has been a genealogical researcher, teacher, speaker, and writer since 1969. His genealogical and historical articles are published frequently throughout the United States and in several foreign countries. He is a member of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies Speakers Bureau and has served as president of his local genealogical society.

[Ed.: While this research is not for a Jewish family, it has some of the same obstacles that we are accustomed to, including multiple spellings of names, multiple versions of given names, identifying one's immigrant ancestor, and the difficulty of finding a family's town of origin. The thorough research that was conducted on the family members during their time in the United States made it relatively easy to identify them in European records when those became available and is an excellent example of being well prepared.]

Identifying my Reicherdt immigrant ancestors was quick and easy. Finding their home town in Germany took almost half a century.

One of my grandmother's prized possessions was her father's christening certificate, which was created in Lycoming County in 1864. That document says John Adam was the son of Cristian Steiber and his wife Angeline, who was the daughter of John Reichert.

Cristian was unmarried in Lycoming County's 1860 census, so I hunted for all Angelines and similar first names. Only one Angeline had a last name anything like Reichert. She lived in the household of John Reighard, whom I presumed to be her father and who was born in Wertemberg [*sic*]. I had found my immigrant ancestor!

# The Immigrant's Father's Family

In that same household is Jacob Reighard, 31 years older than John and also born in Wertemberg. Presuming that he is John's father is as reasonable as presuming that John is Angeline's father.

That census gives Jacob Reichard a computed birth year of 1783. The 1850 and 1860 censuses of the county show no other person with a similar name and born within 18 years of 1783. The 1850 census shows his wife was Dorathy [*sic*], born in Germany and 70 years old. That makes her computed birth year 1780.

Lycoming County's 1840 census shows only one family that was headed by anybody with a name similar to "Jacob Reichard." It has a male born between 1771–1780 and a female born between 1781–1790. No other individuals were enumerated in that household.

John Reighardo	16	m	Farmer	3000	500	Worlenderg
Susanna .	28	F				Pa.
John Rughand	22	m	Farm Laborer,			+
Henry "	20	n				5
George .	18	m				e
Angeline	16	1	*			7
Charles .	Gu	3				"
Peter .	12	2	Ŀ			"
Dacol .	77	h			(	Werternterg
Sarah monawall	34	F				Pa

The John Reighard household in the 1860 census of Lycoming Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Susanna was neither John's daughter nor Angeline's mother. Family tradition (related to the author in 1972 by several of my oldest relatives) and the 1850 census of the same township indicate that Angeline's mother died, then John married the housekeeper, Susan Maneval (per family) or Susanna Manewalt (per censuses).

The county's 1820 and 1830 censuses show this head of household with a likely spouse and children who have sexes and age ranges that match information gained from later extensive research about this family.

The 1800 and 1810 censuses show no families with a reasonably similar name for the head of household, a male of the correct age, and a female of the correct age. In 1790 Jacob Reichard would have been about 7 years old, so there is no way to identify him in the census even if he were there.

Combining information from the censuses for 1820–1870 provides the following description of my ancestors' household. The name is spelled Reichart in 1820; Richard in 1830, 1840, and 1850; Reighard in 1860; and Reichert in 1870. Members of the family with their computed birth years are:

Jacob (father)	born 1782–1783, Württemberg
Dorathy (mother)	born 1780, Germany
daughter	born 1810
John (son)	born 1814, Württemberg
son	born 1815–1820
daughter	born 1815–1820
another woman	born 1775–1790

The usual caveat applies: These relationships are assumed but are the most logical as a starting point.

Extensive research during the decades following the above discoveries allowed me to add and refine details as follows:

Jacob (father)	born 1782–1783, Württemberg
Dorathy (mother)	born 1780, Germany
Mary (daughter)	born 1810, Württemberg
John (son)	born 28 January 1814, Württemberg
Jacob (son)	born 1815–1820, Württemberg
daughter	born 1815–1820, Pennsylvania
another woman	born 1775–1790

# **A Naturalization Document**

Lycoming County's records include "Jacob Reighart's Declaration to become Citizen U. States", dated 2 September 1828. In that document, Jacob says he was born in 1783 in the Kingdom of Stutgard [*sic*], whence he emigrated in 1819. That explains why he appears in the 1820 and later censuses but not in the 1810 and earlier censuses.

Jacob Rnifroit.

Jacob's signature, written in an old Germanic script, reads Jacob Reicherdt.

That was all I knew about Jacob Reicherdt in the early 1970s. After that, I made no progress on his origins or ancestry for 45 years. Then I got lucky.

# **German Family Registers**

Genealogists know that new discoveries are made continually, thus creating more resources for research. Therefore, we know that abandoned projects should be revisited from time to time in hope of finding something that will answer questions and solve puzzles. Thinking of new ways to investigate Jacob Reicherdt's origins, and hunting for new materials that might be helpful, were fruitless until quite recently.

Exploiting German records and comparing them to American records requires an understanding of German naming customs. For centuries, and still today, it was common-but not universal-for German parents to give all their sons the same first name, unique middle names, and the father's surname. They did the same thing for their daughters. These were called the Vorname, Nachname or Kallname, and Familiename. The first name was often used for important matters, but the middle name was used for casual matters and friends and family. Some Germans used only their first names when they came to America, while others used only their middle names as though they were first names. Some continued the tradition of using the first name for formal matters and the middle name for casual matters. Therefore, when hunting in Germany for a name that was used in America, we must search for both first and middle names and might expect to find the correct person using either name or both names in either order.

Recently I searched Ancestry.com's card catalog for Wurttemberg and found Württemberg, Germany, Family Tables, 1550–1985 (in German). My search request for Jacob (exact, sounds like, and similar), Reicherdt (exact, sounds like, and similar), born 1783 (exact) produced eight hits. Only one of them showed a name similar to Dorathy in the "Relatives" column. That record image has the source title "Verfilmungsstelle: Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart -Landeskirchliches Archiv Stuttgart – Kirchenbücher des Kirchenbezirks Herrenberg - Herrenberg" ("Filming location: Main State Archive Stuttgart - State Church Archive Stuttgart - Church books of the Herrenberg church district - Herrenberg"). Ancestry's label at the top of the screen is "Württemberg, Germany, Family Tables, 1550-1985 for Jacob Friedrich Reichert - Haslach, Herrenberg u. Oa - Familienregister u. Index 1808-1896."

Reading the page proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that this is the ancestral family I had sought for nearly half a century:

i Copulations. Geburts Geburts Lag, Lag, hausmutter. Lag, ater. à 11 5 Monat und Monatund Monatund Jahr. Jahr. Jahr. 31. Jul. 10. Jen 1 Lallarin Jacob Diaroid La 14 Jun 1808. 4780 1783. Die ganze Familie int i.S. na on Nordamerica aufe 2 Facol Reichtel nd vio Bater. ceb. Bater. r m's Farman. 3 gah nozzalin. alia Maria galy Dutter Mutter. In 1 3461 Confirmation Der Ramen. Geburt. 4 oter Berehelichung. Tob. Rinder Erfte Communion. 14. febr. 1810. man Sa 7 Sept. 1811. 1.17 Jan. 1816 30 Jan. 1814. d. 23 Maj. 1876.

Family table for Jacob Friedrich Reichert, Haslach, Herrenberg. See page 14 for descriptions of the numbered sections.

# The Reichert Family Table

1. Heads of household. The husband was Jacob Friedrich Reichert, born 14 June 1783. The couple married 31 July 1808. The wife was Catharina Dorothea, born 19 September 1780.

2. The notation reads *Die ganze Familie irt i. j.* 1819 *nach Nordamerica ausgewandert,* which translated is "The entire family emigrated in 1819 to North America."

3. Husband's parents: Johann Jacob Reichert and Christina Noppalin. Wife's parents: Johannes Zeeb and Anna Maria Steher.

4. Children. Christina Magdalena, born 14 February 1810. Jacob Friederich, born 7 September 1811, died 17 January 1816. Johann, born 30 January 1814. Jacob Friedrich, born 23 May 1816.

#### Conclusions

The names of the parents and their birth years match. The list of children is the same, and their names and birth years

match. The year of emigration matches. The document was created within the Kingdom of Württemberg, of which Stuttgart was the capital. Everything in Germany agrees with the American information, and nothing disagrees. The German information includes a child I didn't know about because he died in Germany. Last of all, the German information does not include the child I believed was born in America. This is the ancestral family I hoped to find.

Ancestry's label identifies their location as Haslach (in the Herrenberg district; https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Haslach\_(Herrenberg), in German). It is in the middle of Baden-Württemberg, about 20 miles from the city of Stuttgart. Haslach is about half a mile wide in any direction, with a current population of about 31,000.

# But Wait . . . There's More!

The fact that the family page also shows the husband's and wife's parents leads to another story, which will be explained in a sequel to this article.

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# I Knew They Didn't Fly!

Janice M. Sellers

Janice started researching her family history at the tender age of 13 and still has her original notes from interviewing her relatives then. When she isn't working on genealogy, either professionally or on a volunteer basis, she does freelance editing, indexing, and translation. She is the SFBAJGS director of publicity and programming, and editor of *Zichron*Note. She is also the president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon. This story, which has been updated, was originally published on the Ancestral Discoveries blog on 3 January 2020 at http://www.ancestraldiscoveries.com/2020/01/i-knew-they-didnt-fly.html.

I had been looking for the arrival of my great-greatgrandmother Ruchel Dwojre (Jaffe) Brainin and her three youngest children to the United States for about 20 years. This was the closest I had to a brick wall. I don't count research questions as brick walls unless I have exhausted every single possibility, and I hadn't quite done that. And that was the key to solving the problem. This is a story of a lot of forgetting and dropped clues, but also of how things went wrong in the first place.

Ruchel Dwojre Jaffe was born about 1866–1871 in the Russian Empire (possibly in modern-day Latvia; she and other family members claimed to be from Kreuzburg [modern Krustpils], but I have no European records confirming that). She married Mendel Hertz Brainin

about 1880–1884 in Russia and died 9 November 1934 in Manhattan, New York.

When she emigrated from Europe, I was pretty sure she would have been traveling with her three youngest children: Welwel/Velvel (William), born about 1891; Pesche (Bessie), born about 1892–1895; and Binyamin (Benjamin), born about 1896. I was told their Jewish names by family members. I knew those were the names I should be looking for on passenger lists.

The chain migration of the family began with the oldest son, Nachman, who arrived in New York on 21 August 1904 on a ship from Southampton, England. Next were siblings Chase Leah, Sora Leibe (my great-grandmother), and Dovid, who came on 4 August 1905 from Liverpool to New York. Patriarch Mendel Hertz came 5 April 1906, also to New York, having departed from Bremen.

I knew that Ruchel Dwojre and the children were in the United States by 1910, because they were enumerated in the census in Manhattan with Mendel Hertz.

My beginning hypothesis was that they had come into New York, as did the previous family members, so I focused my searches there. When discussing this once with my grandmother, however, she said that she remembered her grandmother saying something about coming into Watertown, which led me to research Boston records. I later discovered that there is a Watertown, New York which was a border crossing, so I searched Canadian border crossing



Ruchel Dwojre (Jaffe) Brainin, Mendel Hertz Brainin, and Kosriel [Benjamin] Brainin, c. 1906, New York City

records.

I looked for Ruchel Dwojre and the children in the Ancestry New York passenger record collection; the Ellis Island database, using the Steve Morse interface; microfilmed Ellis Island index cards at the Family History Library; the Ancestry Boston passenger record collection; the Ancestry Canadian border crossing collection; and the FindMyPast outbound UK passenger list collection. I searched using their Jewish names and looked under Brainin and Jaffe. I found no one who even closely approximated them.

I looked for naturalization paperwork for the four. I determined that my greatgreat-grandmother had not become a citizen at all. Bessie became a citizen by marrying an immigrant who naturalized a year later, in 1915, so she had no file of her own. I searched for Benjamin in multiple naturalization indices but didn't find his name.

The one person I had overlooked was William. I simply forgot to check on him, probably because I knew he had died young (in 1920). This was brought to my attention when I was teaching an intro to genealogy class at the Sacramento Public Library. I had chosen Willie's World War I draft registration as an example of a military-related document that one should search for, and as I was going through the information on the card, I read aloud that it said he was naturalized, which I simply had not noticed before. I stopped dead and stared at the screen, then turned to the attendees and told them this was a great example of why it's good to look over older documents that you've had a while, to see what you can glean from them now that you have more information or what you missed the first time. After the class I made a note to myself to check on his naturalization, but as he had been in the Army I later thought it was probably a fast-tracked military one and didn't pursue it at the time.

COLUMN NUMBER 5530 REGISTRATION CARD William 2 з 1 s Jan . 7. 10 12

William Brainin's World War I draft registration, where he said that he was a naturalized citizen

In 2013, my cousin Janis, Benjamin's granddaughter, surprised me with the revelation that her mother had just discovered Benny's "immigration papers", which said that he had sailed from Riga and named the ship and date. When I finally received a copy of the document, it was a Declaration of Intention to become a citizen that Benny had filed on 20 April 1926. On that, he stated that he had left Europe form Libau (not Riga) on the *Coronia* and had arrived in New York on 15 September 1906. Woo hoo, I had something to look for! Unfortunately, that ship did not arrive in New York on that date. I searched the ship's passenger lists for other dates in 1906 on Ancestry and through Steve Morse's One-Step site (https://stevemorse. org/), but not exhaustively, because it was tedious, eyetiring work.

Eventually I broke down and paid USCIS for an index search for Benny's naturalization file, referencing the Declaration of Intention number. I learned that all he had ever done was file the Declaration. He never followed up on it and so did not actually become a U.S. citizen. Because he did not file a petition to become a citizen, no Certificate of Arrival had ever been generated, and I was still stuck with not finding him and the other family members on a passenger list.

I sent my question to *Avotaynu* (twice!), for its "Ask the Experts" section, listing what I had done already in my search. I didn't receive a response either time. I even tried speaking with one of the experts at the Trace.com Coaches Corner at RootsTech in 2019. He couldn't come up with any avenues I had not explored, but in speaking with him I realized that I really needed to pursue Willie's naturalization, which I had not yet done, just so I could cross it off the list.

So I did. I coughed up the requisite fee and sent another USCIS request, this one for Willie. And then forgot about it.

About a year later I was looking through some old e-mail messages and realized I hadn't ever received a notice of results from the USCIS search. So I sent a FOIA request and referenced my search request number. A week later I received a letter saying that USCIS had, in fact, actually found a naturalization file for William Brainin, who had become a citizen in New Bedford, Bristol County, Massachusetts on 6 June 1916. The letter included a generous offer for me to pay an additional \$65 for a copy of the file. I made a mental note to follow up on that. And then forgot about it. (Hey, I had a lot on my mind!)

Two days after that Christmas I was noodling around on my computer and found the letter again. I was getting ready to head to the USCIS site to pony up the money when I realized I really should check to see whether FamilySearch might have digitized Bristol County naturalizations from that period. Which it had. After looking through some of the record sets and figuring out where the index pages showed up, I was able to find Willie's naturalization, which was in fact not a fast-tracked military one but a regular one, with a Declaration of Intention, a Petition . . . and a Certificate of Arrival, verifying that he had arrived in New York on the *Caronia* on 3 October 1906.

Oh, and by the way, his name on the passenger list was Wolf, not Welwel.

#### What?

Okay, they are essentially the same name, with Wolf being the German version and Welwel the Yiddish. But no one in my family had ever referred to him as Wolf, so I hadn't considered searching for that name.

But forget that, let's find the passenger list! I jumped onto Ancestry and searched for Wolf (sounds like) Broinen (sounds like) [the spelling indicated on the Certificate of Arrival], arriving in October 1906, in the New York passenger lists database.

And got "Your search for Wolf Broinen returned zero good matches."

Mumble grumble stupid Ancestry fiddle faddle foo . . . . Harumph.

I went to the Steve Morse "Ellis Island Passengers Gold Form" and entered the same information: Wolf (sounds like) Broinen (sounds like), arrived October 1906. Steve's search immediately found one entry: Wolf Broinen, residence "Hangburg", age 17, arriving in 1906. When I clicked on the "Manifest" link, however, I learned that the Ellis Island database no longer allows you to even look at the passenger list for free. For the privilege of paying \$29.99 you can receive something, probably an electronic file (it doesn't state what you get) of that page, without being able to confirm ahead of time that it's the correct one.

I don't think so.



Certificate of Arrival dated 9 November 1915 for Wolf Broinen, arriving 3 October 1906 on the Caronia into New York

The Ellis Island site had confirmed that the ship was the *Caronia*, however, arriving 3 October 1906 in New York. So back to Ancestry.com I went, this time searching for just the last name Broinen in October 1906 with no given name. That brought me one result, Dwoire Broinen. When I clicked on the link for that image, it took me to a "Record of Detained Aliens" page, with Dwoire Broinen plus four children as the first passenger on the list.

This looked like it might be the right people! They were met by husband "Mindel" on 3 October, the same day the ship arrived. Mindel is awfully close to Mendel, and Dwoire is similar to Dwojre. But I was expecting my greatgreat-grandmother to be traveling with three children, not four.

On that page it also indicated that Dwoire and her four children were listed on group (page) 67 on lines 16–20. So going from page 227 in the online database all the way back to page 59, I finally found group 67. And there, on lines 16–20 as promised, are:

Dwoire Broinen Chase Broinen Wolf Broinen Pesse Broinen Kosriel Broinen

<i>S. S.</i>	gozou				an	I rived,	RECORD OF	DETAINED ALIENS	1249	14	R)	L.			1 in
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Record of Detained Aliens for the Caronia (incorrectly listed here as the Coronia) arriving 3 October 1906 into New York. Ruchel Dwoire and her children stayed long enough to have supper before Mendel Hertz arrived to collect them.

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Dwoire, Chase, Wolf, Pesse, and Kosriel Brainin (clearly!) on the passenger list of the Caronia, which departed from Liverpool 25 September 1906 and arrived in New York 3 October 1906.

whom Ancestry has somehow indexed as:

Devorah Branen Chose Branen Coolf Branen Pesse Branen Koosel Branen

even though it's extremely clear that there is an "i" in Broinen and in Dwoire (which looks nothing like Devorah), and that there's no way that is two "o"s in Kosriel. I'll give them Chose and Coolf; if you don't know what names they should be, I can see how those were misread.

And yes, that is my family! (*doing the genealogy happy dance in the living room*)

As a passing note, if I had not already found the family on the Detained Aliens page, the X's by their names on the main passenger list indicates that they were held, so I would want to search for that page.

Okay, so where did I go wrong? Why didn't I find them earlier?

I don't know why I didn't find them in the microfilmed Ellis Island index cards at the Family History Library. I was planning on looking at those films again in February 2020, when I was in Salt Lake for RootsTech, to see if I could find the Broinen family now that I had the information, but I forgot to do it. But in the databases I searched, I can see some obvious problems.

I searched for Dwojre (admittedly a transliteration), which is the spelling I was more familiar with and the one used by family members who gave me information. Even though I routinely used "sounds like" and "similar" for matches, the "j" instead of the "i" would have thrown things off, because it's a consonant instead of a vowel. I also searched for Ruchel, but that's not what she was called on the passenger list, so that clearly wouldn't find her.

I searched for Pesche, again the spelling I am more familiar with and the one used by family. Again, even using "sounds like" and "similar", having an additional consonant, the "h", will throw off matching algorithms. I was looking for Welwel/Velvel and Binyamin/ Benjamin, not Wolf and Kosriel, which are totally different names. I have never heard those names used for my family members. I asked Janis, Benny's granddaughter, if she had ever heard Kosriel for his Jewish name, and got a resounding "no." We are at a total loss there.

And I never would have thought to look for Chase (pronounced "ha-suh", by the way, not like the English word "chase"), the oldest daughter in the family: Chase Leah, who went by Lena here in the United States and who had first come in 1905 with my great-grandmother Sora Leibe and their brother Dovid. I had not been told any stories that she went back to Europe at all, much less with her mother, presumably to help take care of the younger children when they came over.

On his Declaration of Intention, Benny had been close to the correct date, but the ship name was actually *Caronia*, not *Coronia*. This probably would not have been a problem if there hadn't also been a ship named *Coronia*, although I still was looking for Binyamin/Benjamin, not Kosriel.

I had focused most of my searches on Benny, because he was the youngest person who would have been traveling with the group. I have found that as people age you find more age variations in records, so I try to look for the younger individuals. The given name being so different made those searches useless.

Another thing that would have thrown off my searches was the ages of Ruchel Dwojre and Willie when I did search for them. I used the ages they later claimed here in the United States, but both are older on the passenger list.

I had tried searching with just a family name, but the number of results was overwhelming, because with "sounds like" and "similar" searches, Brainin easily becomes Brennan, an extremely common name. That was another search like looking through all of the *Coronia* passenger lists: too many pages, too tiring on the eyes. If I had persisted through all the Brennans, I might have found my family earlier.

And of course, the biggest problem was simply not following up on Willie earlier. First I missed the clue from the draft registration, then I didn't immediately pursue it, and when I did I forgot to request the file. So, lessons learned for the future.

And as I always used to say, "I knew they didn't fly here!"

# Invite a Friend to Join SFBAJGS

http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/about.html

# **Genealogy Events**

#### State and National

Wednesday, 30 March 2022. Lars Fischer, "Jews in Old Postcards and Prints." American Sephardi Federation. Zoom. https://tinyurl.com/2wzafk5w

Wednesday, 30 March 2022. Jane Neff Rollins, "Learn Just Enough Russian for Genealogy." Center for Jewish History. Zoom. https://programs.cjh.org/tickets/family-historytoday-2022-03-30

Sunday, 3 April 2022. Jeanette Rosenberg, "A Beginner's Guide to German Jewish Genealogy in North Rhine-Westphalia." Israel Genealogy Research Association. Zoom. https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ tZErdOyorT8qGN3DkW68gdJreO1QcIJUECnb

Sunday, 3 April 2022. Robin Meltzer, "Finding Your Family in Syracuse Jewish History." Jewish Genealogy Society of Central New York. Zoom. https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/ register/tZludOqtrTMqE9xRZPlaY1hmup46a7ik549a

Monday, 4 April 2022. Javier Sinay, "The Murders of Moisés Ville: The Rise and Fall of the Jerusalem of South America." Center for Jewish History. Zoom. https:// programs.cjh.org/event/murders-of-ville-2022-04-04

Wednesday, 20 April 2022. Kate Townsend, "Tips and Tricks to Optimize Your Genealogical Search Net." Monthly series from Genealogical Society of New Jersey. Zoom. https://www.gsnj.org/2022-webinar-series-your-roots-pursuits/

Sunday, 1 May 2022. Todd Knowles, "Making the Most of FamilySearch for Jewish Research." Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society. Zoom. https://neindianajgs.org/ upcoming-events/

Wednesday, 6 July 2022. Jeanette Rosenberg, "Researching Jewish Genealogy Sources for Your One Name Study." Guild of One-Name Studies [UK]. GoToWebinar. https:// register.gotowebinar.com/register/793668596208142096

Sunday-Thursday, 21–25 August 2022. IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Online. http://www.iajgs2022.org/

#### **International**

6 October-4 November 2021 (Cheshvan 5782). International Jewish Genealogy Month. http://www.iajgs. org/blog/ijgm/

For more local, national, and international events, visit http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar/ and http:// www.conferencekeeper.com/.

#### Free Genealogy Webinars (Registration Usually Needed)

Allen County Public Library. https://acpl.libnet.info/events

FamilySearch. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\_ History\_Library\_Classes\_and\_Webinars

Florida State Genealogical Society. http://www.flsgs.org/ cpage.php?pt=253

Georgia Genealogical Society. http://gagensociety.org/ events/webinars

Illinois State Genealogical Society. http://ilgensoc.org/cpage. php?pt=234

Jewish Genealogical Society of New York. https://jgsny.org/ programs-civi/year.listevents/2022/01/24/-

 $\label{eq:legacy} Legacy \ Family \ Tree \ (MyHeritage). \ http://familytreewebinars. \\ com/upcoming-webinars.php$ 

Minnesota Genealogical Society. http://mngs.org/ eventListings.php?nm=38

National WWII Museum. https://www.nationalww2museum. org/events-programs/events-calendar (live); https://www. youtube.com/c/wwiimuseum/videos (recorded)

Ontario Genealogical Society. https://ogs.on.ca/ webinars-2020

Utah Genealogical Association. https://ugagenealogy. org/cpage.php?pt=11

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. http://wsgs.org/ cpage.php?pt=127

#### Some Recorded Webinar Libraries

 $Center for Jewish \, History. \, https://www.facebook.com/watch/centerforjewishhistory/501317183869918/$ 

FindMyPast. https://www.youtube.com/user/findmypast

Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island. https://jgsli. org/; https://jgsli.org/youtube/

JewishGen. https://www.jewishgen.org/live, https:// www.youtube.com/user/JewishGen613/videos

Jewish Lives. https://www.jewishlives.org/podcast

JDC Archives. https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCMbxIm35r4F4kHPhpp-MFSg

Los Angeles Public Library Genealogy Garage. https:// tinyurl.com/3rpfb7yc

*Moment* Magazine. https://www.youtube.com/ playlist?list=PL7oVkadwPksjzJ\_i0J1UZ6ulledRSclx2 (several releant to genealogy)

Sephardic Genealogy. https://www.youtube.com/c/ SephardicGenealogyAndHistory

Sephardic World. https://www.youtube.com/ playlist?list=PLmVEojTkF-DPooNu-\_Jzi4l4t23P0Pweb

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. https://www.youtube. com/user/yivoinstitute

# **ZichronNote**



# The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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# **Upcoming SFBAJGS Events**

Currently all scheduled events are being held online with Zoom.

**Sunday, 10 April:** *Bubbie, Who Are You?: Finding the Maiden Names in Your Family Tree. Zichron*Note editor Janice M. Sellers will celebrate her birthday by sharing many of the types of documents that can help you track down elusive maiden names.

Monday, 16 May. *Adding Historical Context to Your Genealogy Research*. Kate Eakman will discuss how historical information makes your research more interesting and how it can help explain events in your family.

Sunday, 12 June: *Why Did Our Jewish Ancestors Leave a Great Place Like the Pale*? Hal Bookbinder will cover the history of the Pale and why so many Jews decided to leave.

See page 19 for other events of interest. For more program information and to register for a presentation, visit http://www.sfbajgs.org/.