



זכרונות *ZichronNote*

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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The Unhappy Story of an American Family

Many of us reach out during our research and try to contact people we believe are related to us. But what if we don't know the whole story? See page 5.

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Historic photo of the Great Synagogue of Paris (Synagogue de la rue de la Victoire) decorated for a wedding

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Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

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President's Message
Parisian Delights

Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

A month or so ago during my usual weekly call to my mother, I asked her what she might be doing on Tuesday, 10 July. Uncharacteristically she responded with, "Nothing, why?" Oh, I said, just that we were thinking of "popping in" for tea. For those of you who don't know, my mother, who recently turned 81, lives in London. Yes, I continued, Victoria and I are going to the genealogy conference in Paris, so we thought we'd swing by. "That's nice," she said, "I'll make a cake."

Originally I hadn't intended to go to this year's conference, but then I was persuaded it might be fun. It's been a quite few years since I was last in Paris. That was in 1985, when I had "motored" up the Seine on my friend's barge. We began the journey at Valenciennes, on the French-Belgian border (we had inadvertently arrived the day before Bastille Day, but that's another story), and journeyed down the Oise, a Seine tributary. We passed many World War I battlefields, each marked by a large white cross on a nearby hilltop.

My paternal grandfather was a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps during that awful time. A horse-drawn wagon carried all their supplies. The medics followed behind the fighting, "mopping up" after each bloody battle. During one occasion the horses were startled by the sounds of gunfire, took off, and ended up in the nearby canal, wagon and all. It was only many years later when I had retrieved the unit's history that I realized I had traveled along that very same canal.

The Oise meets the Seine at Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, which I recall was like a huge parking lot for French barges, or *péniches* as they are called. (Looking at the Google satellite view today, not much appears to have changed.) Reaching the watery intersection, we hung a left upriver, meandering our way through the countryside of northern France. The land's pretty flat around there and not much penetrated the horizon. After a day or so, we noticed a small, dark blip that, as time went by, grew taller and taller.

Eventually we entered the environs of Paris, and just like the other European canal voyages I had been on, the crew were busy snapping away at the wonderful scenery. After a few more bends in the river, that "blip" had by now grown to become the Eiffel Tower. We reached the fork in the river where the Île de la Cité was and we turned right, chugging slowly along the rive gauche. Soon we were passing Notre Dame

Continued on page 4

SOCIETY NEWS

Updated E-mails

Anna Blank samannbl@comcast.net
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In order to continue to receive the SFBAJGS e-zine and *ZichronNote*, please send e-mail updates to newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

Yad Vashem Request for Photos of Holocaust Survivors

Yad Vashem wishes to receive family photographs from around the world of survivors together with their families, spanning 1950 to 2012. The photographs will be used by Yad Vashem for research, education, and commemoration in Israel and abroad. They want color or black and white photographs scanned at 300 dpi, A5 size. Please send photos along with as many details about the survivor as possible (name and surname in the Holocaust and after, place of birth, Holocaust stations, place of residence after the Holocaust, and place and date of the photo). If you know only partial information that is okay.

Contact Yad Vashem at collect@yadvashem.org.il to send photos or for further information. You may also call (+) 972-1-800-777257 or (+) 972-2-6443888 with queries.

Yad Vashem reserves the right to use the photographs in various projects and at its discretion.

They appreciate you telling other people about the project. They are also collecting pictures of Holocaust survivors with their children and grandchildren for a different project. The pictures will be displayed in Auschwitz in a new exhibition.

Member Steve Morse in the News

SFBAJGS member Steve Morse was very popular with the media when the 1940 census was released. Not only was there much discussion of the One-Step Website and the tools he and his team created for the census, he was interviewed by the Bay Area NBC affiliate (<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/video/#!/news/local/Steve-Morse-Leaves-His-Mark--Twice-147850195>) and by KQED. He had warned everyone his site would crash on 2 April, the day the census was released to the public, but it didn't, even though the site, which typically gets between 100,000 and 200,000 hits, got more than 2 million hits. (The National Archives site did crash, however.)

In addition, Steve's One Step Website was ranked #47 on *Genealogy in Time* magazine's list of 100 Most Popular Genealogy Websites: <http://www.genealogyintime.com/NewsStories/2012/Q1/top%20100%20most%20popular%20genealogy%20websites%20page1.html>.

SFBAJGS on Facebook

SFBAJGS has a Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/San-Francisco-Bay-Area-Jewish-Genealogical-Society/54214774804?ref=ts>. Friend us and visit often for updates between meetings.

Stories Wanted for *ZichronNote*

Have you had a breakthrough in your family research, solved a family mystery through painstaking research, discovered a better way to use resource materials, or walked where your ancestors walked as part of an interesting family history trip? Have you had success or made progress at the Genealogy Clinic with the Mavens?

We want to read about it in *ZichronNote*. Please submit materials to newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

Meeting Times and Locations

Unless otherwise indicated, the SFBAJGS meeting schedule is as follows
NOTE: We have a new time and location for the San Francisco meetings.

San Francisco: **Sunday. Doors open 1:00 p.m. Program begins at 1:30 p.m.**
Rhoda Goldman Plaza, 2180 Post Street.

Oakland: **Sunday. Doors open 12:30 p.m. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.**
Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue

Los Altos Hills: **Monday. Doors open at 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.**
Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road Room 5/6

See Back Cover for Calendar of Upcoming SFBAJGS Meetings

CALENDAR

Genealogy Events

Local and Regional

Thursday, 14 June. **California Genealogical Society.** Every Thursday through mid-August, CGS will be open 9:00 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Informal discussions on a range of topics will take place from 6:30-8:15 p.m. 2201 Broadway Lower Level, Oakland. <http://californiaancestors.org/>

Saturday, 16 June. **California Genealogical Society.** Michael Nolan, Julie Lagarde, and Marty Combs, “**On the Street Where We Live: A Case Study Using the 1940 U.S. Census.**” 2201 Broadway Lower Level, Oakland. <http://californiaancestors.org/>

Monday, 18 June. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento.** Glenda Lloyd, “**City Directories: A Problem-solving Approach.**” Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/>

Wednesday, 30 June. **Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society.** Rick Hanson and Ramon Gomez, “**Back Up Your Data!**” Country Squire Estates Clubhouse, 5720 Oak Hill Drive, Sacramento. <http://www.rootcellar.org/>

Monday, 16 June. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento.** Tamara Noe, “**Names: What Are You Missing?**” Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/>

Thursday, 19 July. **California Genealogical Society and Oakland Family History Center.** “**Best Genealogy Websites.**” Seven weekly sessions. 2201 Broadway Lower Level, Oakland. <http://californiaancestors.org/>

Monday, 10 September. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento.** Maria K. Sakovich, “**Angel Island Immigration.**” Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/>

Saturday, 15 September. **Sonoma County Genealogical Society.** Steve Morse, “**One-Step Website: A Potpourri of Genealogical Research Tools.**” Finley Community Center, 2060 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa. <http://www.scgs.org/scgs.html>

State and National

Thursday–Saturday, 12–14 July. **Eastern European Research Workshop.** Plaza Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. <http://feefhs.org/>

Tuesday–Friday, 31 July–3 August. **2012 Conference on Family History and Genealogy.** BYU Convention

Center, Provo, Utah. <http://familyhistoryconferences.byu.edu/cw/cwgen/>

Wednesday–Saturday, 29 August–1 September. **Federation of Genealogical Societies 2012 Conference.** Birmingham Convention Center, Birmingham, Alabama. <http://www.fgs.org/conferences/>

Saturday, 13 October. **14th Annual History Day at the California State Archives.** California State Archives, Sacramento. Free. <http://fhdnewsline.blogspot.com/>

International

Sunday–Wednesday, 15–18 July 2012. **32nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.** Hotel Marriott Paris Rive Gauche, Paris, France. <http://www.paris2012.eu/>

Monday–Wednesday, 29–31 October 2012. **Jewish Life in the 19th and 20th Century Austrian-Hungarian Border Region.** Andrassy Gyula German-speaking University, Budapest, Hungary. ursula.mindler@andrassyuni.hu, <http://www.andrassyuni.eu/mitteleuropische-studien/aktuelles/judisches-leben-im-ungarischosterreichischen-grenzraum-des-19-und-20-jahrhunderts.html>



IJGM Poster Contest

International Jewish Genealogy Month (IJGM) falls during the Jewish month of Heshvan, which this year will be from 17 October to 14 November 2012 on the secular calendar. To help promote International Jewish Genealogy Month, IAJGS is again holding a poster contest. This year’s submission deadline has been extended to **15 June 2012**. Look for more information on the IJGM home page, <http://www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html>, where you can see past poster contest winners.

President’s Message, continued from page 2

Cathedral and, magically, right opposite was the perfect mooring for our boat. We moored there for three days while we made daily forays to explore the sights.

Well, it’s been far too long, so I really am looking forward to acquainting myself once again with the “City of Lights.” While the conference will certainly have its attractions, the city will also be beckoning us with its very special delights. I look forward to seeing many of you there this July.



The Unhappy Story of an American Family

Anonymous

This cautionary true story reminds us that we must consider the feelings of living people when we do our research. The author requested anonymity because of the unexpected unhappy results of this search for relatives.

On a spring day in 1998, I telephoned an elderly widow in Florida of whom I knew almost nothing except her name. The call ended badly, with me apologizing and promising never to contact her again. Yet from that inauspicious beginning grew a trail of contacts that enabled me to solve a family puzzle and within that puzzle to uncover a tragedy that affected at least three generations.

My father had a cousin named Al. Al was about three years older than my father. He was born in Russia and given the Hebrew name Eliahu, and in Russian called Ilya. He was approaching his teens when he came to America with his parents and most of his siblings. In America, Eliahu became Elias, and later Al. My father recalled him as being handsome in a dark and rather rough-hewn way. Al worked at a variety of jobs—salesman, mechanic, security guard—and married while in his early twenties a Jewish woman named Hanna who was a year older than he.

My father wasn't particularly close to his siblings and certainly not close to his various aunts and uncles. He wasn't at all close to his Uncle Hirsch or to Hirsch's children; indeed, he could hardly recall their names when asked about them. Not surprisingly, at some early date he lost contact with Hirsch's son Al.

He didn't know that Al and Hanna had a child named Milton, born in 1917, and a second child, Manny, the following year. I've seen the birth certificates for both boys, and the 1920 death certificate for baby Manny. In the 1920 census, Hanna is listed as being separated from her husband and, with surviving son Milton, living as a housemaid in the Manhattan apartment of a non-Jewish family. After that, I lost track of Hanna and Milton. It puzzled me, especially that there was no further record of Milton—no death certificate, no record of military service, no marriage license, nothing.

I also could find very little about the rest of Al's life. He was listed as surviving his father, Hirsch, when my grand-uncle died in 1942. But that was all.

Our surname probably is unique to our family. So when a search of the unified United States-Canada telephone directories revealed a grand total of four persons so surnamed, I determined to contact each of them. One turned out to be a recent Russian émigré, distantly connected to my family. Another, a young

man living in Vancouver, is a third cousin; our great-grandfathers were brothers.

The third call, the one referred to above, reached the widow of a man with the given name George. George's widow told me, quite curtly, that her husband never discussed his family and that she never asked. She knew nothing about his father, but she believed his stepfather to be of French-Canadian origin. She also, grudgingly, told me that George had had a brother and a sister, but that George hadn't been in contact with them for several years before his death. She asked that I not contact her again because she wanted nothing to do with "that family."

It was with reluctance that I made the fourth cold call. I was put through to a private detective named Ed. He was Edward Junior, he told me, and his son was Edward III, sort of like English royalty. I was visiting in Philadelphia at the time, some 40 miles from where Ed was living, and to my pleasant surprise he invited me over for coffee and a chat. I accepted and showed up on his doorstep, in a solidly middle-class neighborhood, the next evening. Ed and his family were Roman Catholic, but not strongly observant. Ed acknowledged with a rueful smile that it was his aunt with whom I had recently spoken. "Not an easy person to deal with." I had to agree.

Ed went on to tell me that his father, Edward Senior, was the middle of three children, George being the youngest, and Elizabeth (Betty) the oldest. He told me that his father had been born in St. Louis in 1922 and that the family had broken apart some years later as the result of a squabble over a piece of property. Edward Senior hadn't spoken to George or Betty for years, and Ed Junior didn't know if his Aunt Betty was still alive. Additionally, Ed told me, he wasn't on speaking terms with his own father. He didn't want to tell me even where Edward Senior lived.

The upshot was that Ed knew nothing about any possible Jewish ancestry, knew nothing about his father's father, and had very little interest in reuniting with any of his father's family. However, he and his wife treated me with cordiality and wished me well in my quest.

His wife walked me to the door. As I turned to thank her and wish her good night, she handed me a scrap of paper. "Don't say anything to Ed," was her parting instruction. The scrap contained the phone number for Edward Senior.



If I had felt trepidation in making the earlier cold calls, the feeling was magnified at the prospect of calling Ed's estranged father. But I made the call.

Edward Senior had served in an Army intelligence unit and later in a local police force. It may have been those careers that imbued him with a deep-seated suspicion that bordered on paranoia. "I can spot a con man fifty yards away, and I can tell a scam by the tone of a man's voice on the phone," were his opening words after I had introduced myself. He asked me a dozen questions—my age, where I lived, why I was calling, was I selling anything, was I soliciting money for any cause, was I married, where was I calling from—and I answered all of his questions honestly, except for one. I didn't tell him that his daughter-in-law had slipped his number to me without his son's knowledge.

"Oh, it's easy to get anyone's phone number if you know how."

He accepted that answer and proceeded first to amplify what Ed Junior had told me about the family split, and then to tell me that he had never met his real father. "Skipped out when I was about three." His mother had remarried, and his stepfather had become his true father in every way except one: Edward, George, and Betty had kept their original family name. They had been raised as Roman Catholics.

We chatted for some while in an increasingly amiable fashion. He knew nothing about a Jewish family connection but allowed that anything was possible in a world like this one.

Before we said good-bye, he gave me the Florida phone number for his sister Betty. "Don't tell her you got the number from me."

I had just about concluded that this "twig" didn't belong on my family tree, that somehow there was another family, a wildly dysfunctional family, having our unusual surname, one with roots in the Roman Catholic faith rather than in Judaism. Maybe I should just drop the matter.

But I made the call.

Before I did, however, I visited the New York Public Library and searched their collection of city directories. I had done that once before, tracing a branch of the family in Berlin, Germany, during the first three decades of the 20th century. In the library I found an entry in the 1924 St. Louis directory for a dealer in scrap metal with our surname. No first name was given. There was no other information, and no similar entry in years previous or subsequent. At least it tallied with Edward Senior's statement about being born in St. Louis.

Yet, when I contacted the City and County of St. Louis and the State of Missouri, there was no record

of any such birth. An earlier inquiry to the Social Security Administration had yielded the result that Edward Senior's brother George had been born in The Bronx in 1924.

Could it be that Edward didn't know where he had been born? In a disintegrating family anything was possible.

A pleasant-voiced woman answered my call. I gave my name, told her where I was calling from, and explained my genealogical quest. Yes, she told me, that had been her maiden name, and yes, she had two brothers, Edward and George. But when I asked the name of her birth father, the pleasant voice turned into a wail of bitter anguish. She demanded to know if her father had remarried and was I one of his children. By what right did I intrude into the most agonizing of past memories?

I apologized deeply and let her sever the connection.

So much for that family, I told myself. Truly, I had no right to interfere, to dredge up an unhappy past. The next day I was to return to California. Business matters there were becoming pressing. I would give up genealogy for the time being. And I would never bother any of them again, especially Betty.

So it was with considerable surprise that just before I left I received a message: Please phone Betty.

This time it was she who apologized. "I'm ashamed of being so rude to you. I'm not like that normally." But I had pushed the hottest of her hot buttons: the abandonment of her family by her birth father. She had been about five at the time. Only once thereafter had she seen him. He had come to her grade school when she was about eight and had tried to hug her. She had been frightened and had run from him. When she was seventeen, he had asked her mother for permission to attend Betty's high school graduation ceremony. But her mother had refused.

"You have forced me to do something I have been afraid of for almost seventy years. You have made me look at my past."

Betty had dug into a suitcase that contained family memorabilia. One of these was her baptismal certificate. Another was her birth certificate. She had been born in 1920, the daughter of a Catholic mother and a Jewish father. His name was Elias. He was my father's cousin Al.

Betty had the impression, gained probably from some casual remark made by her mother, that Al had remarried after abandoning her family and may have had more children by his next wife. She had thought I was one of them.

I didn't have the heart to tell her that hers was the second family that Al had abandoned, after Hanna

and baby Milton. Or that she had been conceived in the year of the death of Al and Hanna's infant son Manny. There had been too much pain already.

Was there a third family? Certainly there was no additional family under that original surname. Al had at a later time modified his surname, just as he had done with his given name. But Al's new name is fairly common. I haven't checked the 1930 census or New York birth records or the Social Security Death Index under that name. I doubt if I ever will. Al had emerged briefly—caused terrible pain to several people—and disappeared again.

Years later, almost by accident, I found out that Al's first wife, Hanna, had remarried. And thus I learned what became of son Milton, born in 1917. He had been adopted by Hanna's non-Jewish husband and given that man's English surname. Then he had been baptized with a new first name, William. No one would ever recognize his Jewish origins.

Betty, Edward Senior, George, and Milton are my second cousins. Betty and her brothers lived and died without ever knowing of their half-brother Milton, nor he of them. It's even possible that there were others, born of a third marriage. If there are, I've often wondered if Al abandoned them also.

(I have deliberately omitted all surnames, but the given names are in every instance correct. All of the individuals named are dead.)



The Galitzianer **Request for Submissions**

The Galitzianer is the quarterly journal of Geshet Galicia. Submissions may be articles and/or graphics, both original and previously published, relevant to Jewish genealogical research in Galicia: articles about recent trips to Galicia, reports on your own research, research techniques, historical and recent pictures relevant to these matters, lists, book reviews, etc.

Electronic submissions are preferred, though not required. Submissions are accepted from both members and nonmembers of Geshet Galicia.

Though submissions are accepted year-round, the deadline for the September 2012 issue is **7 August 2012**. To send a submission or if you have any questions, contact Janice Sellers at janicemsj@gmail.com. For more information see <http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/newsletter.html>.

San Francisco History Expo 2012

Jeremy Frankel

This year saw the second annual San Francisco History Expo, held once again in the Old Mint. It was hosted by the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society (not to be confused with the San Francisco History Association).

Last year's event was very successful and featured nearly all of the San Francisco neighborhood preservation groups, transportation-related societies, and some government agencies. For those of us who attended, however, it was glaringly apparent that a major piece of the jigsaw which was missing were any genealogical societies.

I communicated this to Kurt Nystrom, the President of the SFMHS, who agreed it was a poor oversight. It was therefore remedied this year with the inclusion of the SFBAJGS and SFGenealogy.com; it was good to see Ron and Pam Fillion (the owners). Also there and kind of "riding our coattails" was the California Genealogical Society, which ended up having a table of its own. It was good to see Jane Lindsey and Nancy Peterson (upcoming speaker at our July meeting) there as well.

All three organizations occupied the last room situated at the far right end of the main floor corridor, and it all worked out very well. I was there for Saturday, aided by Janice Sellers and (from lunchtime onward) Jeff Lewy. Sunday saw Shellie Weiner and Avner Yonai in attendance with Janice.

A surprise visitor on Saturday morning was our "very own" Steve Morse, who dropped by and chatted with us for a while.

There was much interest from many attendees, nearly all of whom were apparently ignorant of our existence. One preconception we have to amend, however, is the thinking that the organization is only for people who have roots in San Francisco. A simple look around the composition of the board is proof enough that hardly anyone has roots in this city. Or, as we prefer to say, we're all from somewhere else. How can we best accomplish this?

In short, I think that the Expo is a good place to "advertise" ourselves—it's cheap (free actually!) and easily accessible. Next year we can literally build upon the display to make it even more meaningful and relevant.



Come to the Paris Conference!

Rosanne Leeson

The 2012 IAJGS Conference to be held in Paris 15–18 July 2012 should be an exceptional one! You can check the large number of sessions, and the list of films, by going to the conference site at <http://www.paris2012.eu/>.

You will have access to archivists and speakers, many of whom have never come to conferences held in the U.S. For example, Zsuzsanna Toronyi, chief archivist in the Hungarian Jewish Archives; Dan Jumara, former archivist in the State Archive in Iasi, Romania, and now Deputy Director of the Museum of Romanian Literature in Iasi; Albert Stankowski, responsible for the “virtual shtetl” project, Museum of the History of Polish Jews; Alexandrs Feigmanis, historian and an expert in genealogy and history of the Jews in Latvia; Yale Reisner, from the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw; Denis Vasilevich Lisejchikov, head of the department of scientific use of documents and the information of National Historical Archive of Belarus; Grzegorz Zamojski, head of the Research Center on Jewish History at the Polish State Archive in Rzeszów; and Alla Chastina, researcher at the Moldovan State Archives in Chisinau, have accepted our invitations to speak.

Marc Fellous, professor of genetics at Paris VII University, will moderate a roundtable discussion about genetic versus cultural traits with Henri Atlan, professor emeritus of biophysics and director of the Center for Research in Human Biology at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem, director of studies at École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), and former member of National Consultative Ethics Committee; Joshua Feingold, Director of Research Emeritus at Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM); Joel Zlotogora, Department of Community Genetics, Israeli Ministry of Health, Jewish disease specialist; and Dr. Doron Behar, senior physician at the Department of Critical Care Medicine at the Rambam Medical Center, Haifa.

The subject of “Genealogy and the Holocaust” will be covered in a variety of presentations. Among the speakers is Patrice Bensimon, who will talk about the archives of Yahad-In Unum Association (Father Desbois’ organization). Philippe Landau, responsible for the Consistorial Archives, will speak about the Jewish genealogies required by the Vichy government. Jürgen Sielemann, of the



State Archives in Hamburg, will compare German Holocaust memorial books and databases with the Yad Vashem database and memorial books of other countries. Nathalie Zajde, associate professor in psychology at University of Paris VIII St Denis, will speak on “Transgenerational Transmission of the Holocaust Trauma.”

Sara Valentina de Palma, research associate in Contemporary History (Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Siena University, Italy) will discuss “I and My Name: Names and Identity among Children in the Holocaust.” Jean Laloum of CNRS will also speak.

An additional event will be the talk by Father Desbois of Yahad-in Unum, author of *The Holocaust by Bullets*. He will be the guest at the final gala.

Many tours of important sites in Paris are planned. To learn about the genealogical travels proposed by Joubert Voyages (Hungary, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Baltic countries, Portugal, and Normandy), go to <http://www.joubert-voyages.com/cercle-genealogie-juive.php> and then click on “Programme français” or “English program.” You can now register online. You can also contact Laura at +33-1-48-74-30-12 or laura@joubert-voyages.com.

Joubert Voyages can organize flight and hotel reservations for people who want to travel by themselves to these countries and explain how conference attendees can obtain special rates on French railways (SNCF) and Air France flights. Contact Gilbert at gilbert@joubert-voyages.com or +33-1-42-81-32-00.

You can also book a transfer airport/hotel/airport by sending your flight numbers and the dates and times of arrival and departure to celine@joubert-voyages.com or by calling +33-1-48-74-30-12. It will cost 20 Euros each for a group transfer, or 125 Euros for a private transfer.

If you are interested in a postconference in London visit <http://www.jsgsb.org.uk/iajgs-conference-paris-2012>. In addition, the groups from Belgium have organized a postconference in Antwerp and Brussels. More information about this will be available soon.

These are only a small sample of the vast number of sessions and events planned. These are most unusual and rich offerings! And the rates are exceptionally good! Hope to see you there!



Researching the Frankel Name as Derived from Statistics Retrieved from the English and Welsh Decennial Censuses

Jeremy Frankel

Surname analysis can be a useful tool, particularly when the name is not very common and the numbers are not overwhelming.

The United Kingdom has carried out a census every ten years since 1801. The censuses from 1851 onward, however, have the most value for genealogists, as beginning in that year family names and relationships were stated. Prior to 1851 only the head of household was named, and only the ages and sexes of other people living in the household were recorded.

With the incredible interest in genealogy today, commercial companies have been scanning, digitizing, and then creating searchable indices for census records, making more available on the Internet on an almost daily basis. One such company, FindMyPast, has created online indices for the censuses of England and Wales. It is now possible to simply type in a last name and see how many people were recorded with that name. Within the United Kingdom, Ireland and Scotland carried out their own censuses, whereas England and Wales were commingled.

The thought occurred to me that it would be an interesting exercise to carry out a simple experiment to plot the growth of my family name in England using the census as a snapshot for each decade. I included variant spellings in my searches.

In both the 1851 and 1861 censuses no Frankels were recorded at all. The 1871 census listed a scant ten people. By 1881 that number had almost tripled to 27. Ten years later the 1891 census showed that number had doubled to 54; it then swelled again, so that the 1901 census recorded 129 Frankels. By 1911 the number of Frankels had almost doubled again to 252. As 196 of them lived in London, my study focused on the London Frankels.

The 196 London Frankels break down into forty-four separate "subsets": that is, families, or single people living with a family with another last name. In a few instances, Frankel mothers-in-law were living with their married daughters.

Of the forty-four subsets in the 1911 census for London, one was a single male. Six were women who were widows, four women were married but had no husband living with them (two of them had children), one woman was single, and one woman was a visitor (possibly from abroad?) with no marital status listed. This left thirty-one families with a husband and a wife in the household. Included in this latter group was

my Frankel spelling. (I realize that it is folly to think that only those with "my" spelling could be related to me, but to date I've not come across any relatives with different spellings.)

Of these thirty-one two-parent families and two married women with children, twenty-one of them had three children and thirteen had four children. It then drops off very quickly; eight families had five children, and only three families had nine children.

Ironically, I was to discover that my own Frankel family was the largest, with two parents and ten children. They were living in only three rooms at 196 Rothschild Building in London's East End. All the children survived to adulthood and all married and had children of their own.

Of the thirty-one husbands listed, twenty-two stated "Poland", "Russia", or "Russia-Poland" as their birthplaces. As most Jews were NOT actually born in Russia, I assume that all these Frankels were born in Poland. Three stated they were of German descent; two stated London, one said Roumania, and two stated Austria as their birthplaces.

Looking at the first names of the husbands, the names ran the usual gamut from Abraham to Zadek. There was little duplication, merely three Harrises and four Morrisises.

The women's names ranged from Annie to Victoria. There were four Annies, four Fannies, two Leahs, three Millys, and four Roses.

Of the 196 Frankels living in London 110 (56 percent) were children living at home with their parents. Their names too ran the gamut, from Aaron to Zelda. The most popular names were Annie (5), Ada (3), Esther (3), Fanny (3), Harry (4), Israel (3), Millie (3), Samuel (3), and Sarah (5). They ranged in age from 4 months to 45 years! Thirty-three of them were "of age", that is, over 18.

One anomaly was Hyman and Esther Frankel, apparently married for twenty-one years with no children! (The 1911 census asked how many children had been born and how many were alive.)

As mentioned above, in 1911 252 persons whose last name was Frankel were recorded as living in England. Of course, I am not saying that any of these were related to each other or to me, or even that they were Jewish. (Even today, some twenty-five years

after I began pursuing my family research, I know of no other Frankel family in England that is related to me other than those descended from my immigrant progenitors.)

With the ease of computer analysis, I realized this would also make a useful opportunity to look at alternative spellings of Frankel. Only 23 persons had the last name of Frankell, and 21 persons were spelled Frankle. Another 23 were Fraenkel; of these only three lived in London, while the rest lived in Lancashire. No one with the last names of Fraenckel and Frenkel were listed as living in England in 1911.

Additionally, according to FindMyPast and its migration database, some 1,301 Frankels (including variant spellings) emigrated from England between 1890 and 1960. Of these some 897 (69%) stated the United States as their final destination.

In closing, while the above project doesn't tell me anything new about my own family, one can see that with a name that's not very common, this makes for an interesting demographic study to carry out in order to get a sense of context regarding the family name, and demographic information such as family size, composition, and places of origin. With the availability of computers and the ease of generating these numbers I hope this encourages other family historians to research their own family names in this way.



Continued from the column at right

freighter on which his family was traveling passed under the Golden Gate Bridge. The sight made quite an impression on his family, who had fled Nazi Germany and made it to California after a difficult journey across Russia and China. At the time Harry was only 11 years old. His father kept a diary that detailed their travels, and at the meeting Wong passed around a copy of a translation of the diary.

This and other stories are posted on the AIISF Web site. Names connected with stories of Jewish immigrants include Haskin, Loebel, Gluckman, Marbach, Marill, Rohr, Schott, Schrimmer, Schwarz, and even the pianist and composer Sergei Prokofiev. Read their stories at <http://www.aiisf.org/>.



AIISF is looking for volunteers who are interested in continuing this research. "We are seeking individuals who have research skills and a desire to conduct oral history interviews," says Wong. For more information contact him at ewong@aiisf.org or (415) 262-4430.



Foundation Preserves Stories of Jewish Refugees at Angel Island

Beth Galletto

Several hundred Jews desperately fleeing Nazi Europe in 1939 and 1940 managed to escape to the east, making their way across Russia into China and Japan. Many of them crossed the Pacific and entered the United States through the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay.

At the SFBAJGS meeting on 18 March at Rhoda Goldman Plaza, Eddie Wong, Executive Director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF), told the stories of some of these Jewish refugees. AIISF has restored some buildings connected with the station and is actively pursuing the Angel Island Legacies Project, researching stories of immigrants who entered the U.S. through Angel Island.

Wong explained that Angel Island opened its immigration facilities in 1910, after the site had been used for about 50 years as a military installation. The vast majority of immigrants who came to the U.S. through Angel Island came from China and Japan, and hundreds of thousands of them were detained as a result of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. This law decreed that no Chinese were to be allowed into the country, but it made an exception for family members of Chinese men who were already here.

Detainees were interrogated over weeks, months, or even years to determine whether they really were who they claimed to be. Wong said that only 5 percent were actually deported after appeal. He also mentioned that he had seen the records of his own father's interrogation. Amazingly, the Chinese Exclusion Act was not repealed until 1943.

The detainees spent their days locked in dormitory rooms at the Immigration Station, and many carved poignant poems into the walls to memorialize their time there. Dozens of these poems can be seen today, with translations, at the restored station.

While a few Jewish refugees came by this route earlier, most arrived in 1939 and 1940. Many were held for medical inspection and questioning at the Angel Island Immigration Station. AIISF is researching immigration files from the National Archives in San Bruno and is interviewing refugees and their descendants. Wong showed photos and detailed some of their stories.

One example was the tale told by Harry Gluckman, who remembered being awakened by his father at 5:00 a.m. on the day in late 1940 when the converted

Continued on the bottom left

Now Online

Marilyn Dornhelm and Janice M. Sellers

Juicy Bits of Jewish Genealogy

In this column I share what's new in online indices, digitized archival material, and tools. The following are from February–May 2012. The main sources for these are JewishGen and many SIG digests. Comments are welcome. Send them to mdornhelm@yahoo.com.

USA

GENERAL

Avotaynu Article Index

<http://www.avotaynu.com/indexsum.htm>

An index to articles that have appeared in *Avotaynu* from 1985–2008 is available online.

Leo Baeck Institute Digital Collection

<http://www.lbi.org/digibaeck/>

The Leo Baeck Institute has digitized about two thirds of its archival holdings. Included is the entire Rudolf Jakob Simonis Collection, which has “genealogical notes for four hundred Jewish families from Sweden, Berlin, and northern Germany, covering” the 16th through the 20th centuries.

Online Directories

<http://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home>

This site is trying to list all online city, alumni, business, social, and other directories. The listing includes whether the directory site is free or requires payment.

WWII KinderTransport to U.S.

<http://www.onethousandchildren.org/> and <http://yivo.org/>

YIVO has acquired the archives of the One Thousand Children Organization. This effort to rescue Europe's Jewish children is less known than the KinderTransport. For information go directly to the OTC site above. Search the YIVO catalog for “One Thousand Children” and you will find at least one digitized book on this subject: <http://opac.cjh.org/F>.

1940 Census Undercounted by 7.5 Million

http://news.yahoo.com/1940-us-census-records-show-black-undercount-175820718--spt.html;_ylt=A2KJ3CVXOLIPqEQAgXDQtDMD

This Associated Press article states that while the largest part of the underreported population was black, the non-black population was undercounted by 5%, or 6.3 million people.

Finding Naturalization Information from Ship Manifest Notations

<http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Manifests/>

Not a new link, but worth reposting. Marian L. Smith's “Guide to Interpreting Manifest Markings” on JewishGen is an excellent guide for checking the meaning of all those markings on manifests!

Archival Research Guide

<http://www2.archivists.org/usingarchives>

The Society of American Archivists has published a free guide on how to locate archives that have materials relevant to your research, how to use tools such as finding aids and databases, and how to plan a visit to an archive. You can use the guide online or download a PDF version.

“Tracing Your Roots” Program

<http://tracingroots.nova.org/info.htm>

Several episodes of a public access program from Fairfax County, Virginia are available for viewing free online. Topics have included Jeff Malka discussing Livornese Jews and the Medicis, Steve Morse talking about his One-Step Website, Sallyann Sack and Arline Sachs on getting started in genealogy, and Colleen Fitzpatrick explaining how small clues can help date a photograph.

NEW YORK

Name Changes in New York State in 1904

<http://books.google.com/>

Some name changes can be found in “General index to the laws of the State of New York, 1902–1907, both dates ... By New York (State), Archie Easton Baxter.” Search on the book first and then the surname. Searching on the surname first may give you too many hits. This book should be available on Google Books for different years as well.

Westchester County Archives

<http://archives.westchestergov.com/online-indexes>

The Westchester County Archives indices include naturalizations from 1808–1955, wills, marriages, and more.

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

Vienna Jewish BMD Registers

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://familysearch.org/searchapi/search/collection/2028320>

Registers of births, marriages, deaths, and some burials for the Jewish Community of Vienna (Israelitische Kultusgemeinde [IKG] Wien). The records can be browsed but are not yet searchable. If you look up the name of the person you are searching for on <http://www.GenTeam.at/>, however, you will get a number. Listings in the IKG books within specific years are in order by these numbers. You can try to get within a few pages of the desired entry.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

General

Czech Registers Are Online

<http://www.Badatalna.cz/fond/1073>

The first batch of Jewish registers from Bohemia and Moravia are available online. The English-language guide to the registers is available at http://www.nacr.cz/Z-Files/zm/zm_english.pdf.

Prague

Prague Town Directories

<http://genealogyindexer.org/>

Logan Kleinwaks has added two new Prague directories to his search engine. By including {d424} or {d425} within your search terms, you can limit your search to these two directories:

1896 Prague (City + Suburbs) Address and Business Directory {d424}

1884 Prague (City + Suburbs) Address and Business Directory {d425}

Each of these directories also includes a section which lists “new” house numbers, *i.e.*, by number and street names, and correlates them with what is called the “old” house number (the cadastral c.p. house number). This is useful for those who have found addresses only given by the cadastral house number and Prague district, as is very common in the Prague Conscriptions (household registrations) at <http://www.nacr.cz/english/conscriptions.aspx>.

Identifying House Numbers and Streets

<http://maps.fsv.cvut.cz/praha/maps.html?loc=KV>

A large number of street names have changed in Prague over the last 150 years. Visit this Web site for a series of Prague maps from various dates, mainly for Vinohrady district at present. For a useful list of name changes for streets in Prague Vinohrady see <http://maps.fsv.cvut.cz/praha/vinohrady/nomenclature.htm>.

FRANCE

General

European Network of Jewish Libraries

<http://www.rachelnet.net/rachelnet/E/index.htm>

The online catalog of the European Network of Judaica and Hebraica Libraries contains more than 200,000 entries.

Paris

Paris BMD Certificates from 1903–2005

<https://teleservices.paris.fr/etatcivil/jsp/site/RunStandaloneApp.jsp?page=formengine&form=naissance>

A step-by-step example of using this site to find a birth record from 1920 is in the JewishGen archives

at <http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg-jgsys~archiveview~192213~arrondissement~2160;14>.

GERMANY

Holocaust Survivors and Descendants' Right to Reapply for German Citizenship

<http://www.germancitizenshipproject.com/members-of-the-firm>

Under Article 116 of Germany's constitution, known as the Basic Law, anyone who had citizenship revoked during the Nazi regime for “political, racist, or religious reasons” is eligible to reapply for German citizenship. The provision makes allowances for descendants of Nazi victims and does not require them to give up the citizenship of their new home countries. Having German citizenship can open a lot of doors for those wishing to live, work, and/or study in Germany and other European countries. Contact your local German consulate for more information.

A law firm in New York is assisting applicants for a fee. Contact Nathalie Tauchner at (646) 468-7316 or n.tauchner@germancitizenshipproject.com.

Update on Germany and Prussia Address Books

<http://www.adressbuecher.net/>

Old address books for hundreds of locations in Prussia and Germany and some other countries too. You can now search by name, and all records for that name in all locations and years will be listed.

German Jewish Urologists

<http://museum.dgu.de/biographien.html>

The Museum and Archives of the German Society of Urology states that “early research suggests that in 1933 about one in four urologists was of Jewish origin in Germany.” The URL above has biographies of many Jewish urologists; <http://museum.dgu.de/opferliste.html> is a list of victims and survivors. The site is in German.

Leipzig Fair Visitors, 1675–1764

<http://genealogyindexer.org/>

Jewish visitors to the Leipzig Fair from throughout Europe are in Rabbi Dr. Max Freudenthal's *Leipziger Messegaeste: die juedischen Besucher der Leipziger Messen* (1928), viewable at <http://sammlungen.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/freimann/content/titleinfo/607022>. You can search just this book at GenealogyIndexer.org/ by appending {d487} to your search term. The book is organized alphabetically by town. Although most people are listed without surname, there is a surname index at the end (or you can search for a surname). Most of the towns are now in Germany, but listings also include Amsterdam, Belgrade, Copenhagen, Kraków, Lemberg, London, and more.

ITALY

1841 Census of Livorno Jews

<http://www.sephardicgen.com/databases/Livorno1841CensusSrChFrm.html>

Livorno was an important center of Sephardic Jews.

LATVIA

State Archives Inventory Listing Online

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Latvia/holdingsAtLSHA.html>

A complete inventory of Jewish records held at the Latvian State Historical Archives is now online.

LITHUANIA

Kaunas

1919–1943 Kaunas Small Business Owners

<http://kaunas.shutterfly.com/>

New collection of small business owners, which also lists the files that are held in the Kaunas Archives relating to these enterprises.

Vilnius

Vilnius Jewish Cemetery Photos

<http://vilnius.borda.ru/?1-13-0-00000003-000-0-0-1309501820>

About eleven pages of photos and comments. The site is in Russian, but some text is in Polish. I could not get Google Translate to work on the page, but you can cut and paste text from the page into Google Translate.

POLAND

General

World War I Soldiers' Graves

<http://91.205.75.101/~forgen/polegli/index.php?lng=en>

This Polish site lists thousands of World War I soldiers' graves by surname and town. The data for each soldier include surname, given name, military rank, nationality, date and place of death, date and town of birth, and other notations. The site can also be accessed in Czech, Russian, German, French, Portuguese, and English.

Some Less Obvious Polish Genealogy Resources

Chelm mailing list: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Chelm>

Hrubieszow mailing list: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Hrubieszow>

Krasnik mailing list: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Krasnik>

Krylow mailing list: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Krylow>

Zamosc mailing list: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Zamosc>

Remember Jewish Hrubieszow: <http://chelm.freeyellow.com/hrubieszow.html>

Remember Jewish Zamosc: <http://chelm.freeyellow.com/zamosc.html>

Facebook group for Southeast Poland researchers: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/SEPolandJewishGen/>

Facebook group for Warsaw researchers: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/322719724439038/>

Kielce

Kielce Ghetto Records

<http://www.geni.com/projects/Kielce-Ghetto/11805>

Kraków

<http://mbc.malopolska.pl/dlibra/publication?id=71468&tab=3>

At the bottom of the page are two items listed with “obcy”, which are the indices to the census. One is A–L, the other M–Z. Following are the images to enter that will take you to the specified letter of the alphabet. For A–L (746 images): A 2, B 18, C 138, D 186, E 240, F 249, G 293, H 388, I 432, J 438, K 482, L 677. For M–Z (749 images): M 2, N 113, O 150, P 174, R 277, S 345, T 537, U 575, V 585, W 587, Z 691.

Leszno

Leszno Jewish Property Owner and Tax Lists

http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/53/4314/0/-I_512

http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/53/4314/0/-I_614

Jewish property owners from 1793–1808, and Jews with tax arrears 1701–1869 (in Hebrew). Click “Digital copies (61)” to view thumbnails of the images, click a thumbnail to enlarge it, and click the square icon on the bottom right of the enlarged thumbnail to enlarge further.

Lublin

World War II Lublin Victims

<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/35/891/0/6/179>

Correspondence from the Lublin Judenrat about victims who perished 1940–1941. Click “Digital copies (61)” to view thumbnails of the images, click a thumbnail to enlarge it, and click the square icon on the bottom right of the enlarged thumbnail to enlarge further. Many documents list birth and death dates, and some include other details about the deceased.

Tarnopol

Video of Liberation of Tarnopol in 1944

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/the-fall-of-tarnopol/>

Footage shot by the Red Army in April 1944. Select the “Fall of Tarnopol: First Pictures from Russia.” It is a 3.5 minute clip, scored and narrated, and the “brilliant victory” and “unstinting admiration

for the Russian Armies” are reported in detail. Many overviews of the residential parts of the city are included. Search for other towns or subjects of interest in the 90,000 historic clips database.

Warsaw

Searchable Warsaw Jewish Merchants' Association Reports

<http://genealogyindexer.org/>

The 1874–1930 Warsaw Jewish merchants' association annual reports include lists of members; the earliest and latest appearances of members might provide clues to estimate dates of birth or death in some cases. (Only 30 of the years are currently available; if more are found they will be added.) All search results link directly to scans of the annual reports. To view the images, you need a DjVu plugin installed for your Web browser (one is available at <http://www.caminova.net/en/downloads/download.aspx?id=1>).

RUSSIA

New Map Site

<http://marnitz.eu/Karte/>

“General map of the Russian Baltic provinces of Livonia, Estonia, and Courland.” The site is in German.

The Jewish Cemetery

<http://toldot.ru/urava/cemetery/>

This site has burial listings for about 40 cemeteries in what was once the Russian Empire. The site is in Russian; you can search in Cyrillic.

Bialystok Pogrom

<http://www.forum.j-roots.info/viewtopic.php?f=62&t=773>

A member on the Jewish Roots Genealogy Forum posted names found in a book, *Sketches of Modern Executions* by Vladimir Vladimirov, about the Bialystok pogrom.

1906 List of Voters from Sokiryany

<http://www.ukrkovcheg.org.ua/%D1%96%D1%81%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%87%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B9-%D1%81%D0%BF%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%BE%D0%BA-%D1%81%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%80%D1%8F%D0%BD%D1%81%D1%8C%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%85-%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%B1%D0%BE/#more-553>

There are more than 400 names, most of which are Jewish. It lists names and property values in rubles. The site is in Ukrainian.

Encyclopedia of Families from Kharkov Gubernia

<http://old.mediaport.info/spezproekts/family/index.php?page=titul>

Alphabetical listings of Jews and non-Jews. The site is in Russian. Click on the page for a specific letter and then run that page through a translator.

UNITED KINGDOM

General

Application for Probate Search

<http://hmctsformfinder.justice.gov.uk/courtfinder/forms/pa1s-eng.pdf>

Association of Jewish Refugees

<http://www.ajr.org.uk/>

Archive of journals from 1946–present is at <http://ajr.org.uk/pdfjournals>.

Deceased Online

<http://www.deceasedonline.com/>

Described as “UK’s Find-a-Grave equivalent” but “not very complete.”

General Register Office

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>

After finding people in the UK BMD index, you can order records online and receive them generally in about a week.

The JewishGen & JGSGB United Kingdom Database

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/UK/>

London Gazette

<http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/>

The *London Gazette* is the official newspaper of record for the UK. Notices of naturalization, name changes, and probate are published in it.

Medical Directories

<http://books.google.com/>

The “Medical Directory, London, Provinces, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Abroad, Navy, Army and Air Force” is available for numerous years.

Moving Here

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/>

Includes the index of “Internees at Liberty in UK” (1939–1942). These were refugees who were exempted from internment as enemy aliens.

UK National Archives

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

The site has an index to, among other things, naturalization applications and certificates.

London

IAJGS Jewish Cemetery Project for London

<http://www.iajgsjewishcemeteryproject.org/london/index.html>

Federation of Synagogues

<http://www.federationofsynagogues.com/>

United Synagogue Burials (Orthodox)

http://www.theus.org.uk/support_services/find_your_family/burial_records

Western Marble Arch Synagogue

<http://www.marblearch.org.uk/>

Merged with Western and West End Great Synagogues and has their burial registers. London's Jewish cemeteries are all administered by synagogues or synagogue organizations, among them Federation, United, and Western Marble Arch, and also Liberal, Masorti, Reform, Sephardi, etc.

UKRAINE

Mariupol Cemetery

<http://www.jewishmariupol.com.ua/cemetery.php>

The site has four sections for different sectors of the cemetery. Each section has photos of headstones, names of the interred, and birth/death dates. You can enlarge photos by clicking on them; some headstones include photos of the deceased.

Article on Odessa Higher Education

<http://www.migdal.ru/migdal/events/science-confs/6/17449/>

The article mentions many individuals involved in Jewish higher education. The site is in Russian.

Founders of Priluki Jewish House of Prayer

http://starapryluka.com.ua/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18:2010-05-06-10-15-24&catid=12:2010-05-06-08-30-55&Itemid=37

Names and some occupations of 50 founders of the Jewish prayer house. The site is in Ukrainian.

WORLD

ISRAEL

Israel War Veterans League

<http://veterans.haifa.ac.il/>

1939–1946 volunteers in the British Army. This new site is in Hebrew and can be searched only in Hebrew.

Pages of Testimony Submitters in Yad Vashem

Anyone having difficulty regarding Israeli telephone numbers, especially those given many years ago, or with Pages of Testimony that give only an address, can contact wilsonettess@yahoo.com.

Theatre Archives in Israel

<http://lib.haifa.ac.il/collections/dita/index.php/en/about-eng/database-eng>

Database for Israeli Theater Archives (DITA), Younes & Soraya Nazarian Library, University of Haifa.

<http://arts.tau.ac.il/departments/index.php/lang-en/theatre/idcpa>

The Israel Documentation Center for the Performing Arts at Tel-Aviv University. Does not have an interface in English.



Determining Birthdate from Age

Jeremy Frankel

It's obvious to all of us by now that genealogy is both a fascinating as well as (sometimes) frustrating pastime. It's a "one two" punch that hits us on occasions.

One of those occasions, at least for me, is when I am traipsing around a cemetery looking at the headstones, and there it is, not only the complete date of death, but also the person's age right down to the day!

So, there I was, facing the headstone of one Joseph Shannon. Yes! He was not only a Jew, born in England, but in 1853 he was elected City Treasurer for San Francisco. (Surely someone worthy of further research!)

His headstone proclaimed that he died in this city (San Francisco) on May 26, 1872, at the very reasonable age of 73 years, 11 months, and 9 days. There I am trying to subtract his age from his date of death to work out when he was born. I'm always off by a day or so when doing this because I keep running out of fingers.

I thought there had to be a better way to do this, so I searched the Internet and sure enough a very kind soul by the name of Ben Buckner created a free program whereby one can enter the complete date of death and age, click a button, and hey presto, there is the date of birth!

So now no longer will you have to guesstimate the date! Here is the URL which will save your brain cells from going crazy!

<http://www.progenealogists.com/birthfromdeath.htm>

(Keep in mind, of course, that the age might not be entirely accurate. But at least you now have a starting point for the birthdate.)



The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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Calendar of Events

Sunday, 10 June, Oakland: *Caring for Your Documents and Photos: Better Now than Never.* All genealogists accumulate many documents and photos over the years, and we want those documents to last for generations to come. Nancy Zukor, a paper conservator, will discuss how to take care of your documents and what to avoid.

Monday, 18 June, Los Altos Hills: *From Fancy Gloves to Boxing Gloves: A Case Study of Curiosities.* SFBAJGS President Jeremy Frankel will talk about his research on Sol Levinson, a project taken on for no other reason than it tickled his genealogical funny bone.

Sunday, 15 July, San Francisco: *Researching When Records Are Gone.* Nancy Peterson, author of *Raking the Ashes*, will discuss research techniques to use when records have been destroyed or are missing, whether in San Francisco or Eastern Europe.

Sunday, 19 August, Oakland: *Using Spreadsheets in Genealogy.* Cat Nielsen will demonstrate ways in which using spreadsheets can help you analyze the data you already have and help answer research questions.

Monday, 20 August, Los Altos Hills: *Google and Genealogy.* Learn how to use the many features of Google to make better, more focused searches. Google has additional tools besides its search engine which can also help your research.

Sunday, 9 September, San Francisco: *A Torn Family Reunited through Discovery of an Ancestor's Diary.* A Jewish man who immigrated to the United States in 1884 wrote a semifictional diary about the family's life in Latvia and their first 30 years here. The diary was lost to his descendants for more than 50 years but rediscovered in 2009. One of his descendants will talk about the diary, its revelations, and their plans to publish it.

Also see pages 3 and 4. For detailed program information visit <http://www.sfbajgs.org/>.
