

SA-SIG

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<http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/>

Southern African Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For many of us who grew up in South Africa, the Holocaust was something we knew about, many had relatives who were murdered, but it was a topic that was seldom spoken about. During and after the war the establishment Jewish community, as in many other countries, appears to have done little to assist survivors. In South Africa it seems that between 300 – 400 survivors eventually were permitted to enter.

The positive aspect now to Holocaust education is important. Under the umbrella of the South African Holocaust foundation, the Cape Town Holocaust Centre has been operating for 10 years, Durban for a year, and construction is commencing on a centre in Johannesburg. The importance of their work, not only as a memorial to the six million murdered, but as an educational force teaching about genocide, racism, prejudice, and discrimination, is receiving world-wide recognition. Owing mainly to the efforts of the founding director, Myra Osrin, Holocaust and Genocide studies are now on the national curriculum. Many workshops are being run in urban and rural areas. Facilitators are being trained. In addition survivors are brought in to speak and assist with education. Top international scholars are invited each year to lecture in South Africa.

The current issue of *Avotaynu* (vol. XXV no. 3, Fall 2009) has a number of articles on recent advances in Holocaust research. Rose Lerer Cohen (Parow-Jerusalem) has written a very interesting article on the Children's Archive at the International Tracing Service, Arolsen, Germany. This is an archive based around inquiries from parents about child survivors and from children about their parents. Peter Lande, a retired US diplomat who works as a volunteer at the USHMM, has written a Holocaust Geographic *How To* for genealogists. Few researchers are aware of the three online major geographic resources: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) Name List Catalogue, Yad Vashem's Shoah-Related Lists Database, and the International Tracing Service's (ITS) Inventory Search or *inventar*. The latter has over 50 million name citations, identifying about 17.5 million persons, Jews and non-Jews, survivors and victims. Peter describes in detail the pros and cons of each of these databases and how best to access them.

For more details, see www.its-arolsen.org.

The Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group (SA-SIG)

The purpose and goal of the Southern Africa Special Interest Group (SA-SIG) is to bring together Jewish genealogy researchers with a common interest in Southern Africa and to provide a forum for a free exchange of ideas, research tips and information of interest to those researching Jewish family history in the communities of South Africa, Lesotho (Basutoland), Botswana (Bechuanaland), Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia), Zambia (Northern Rhodesia), Swaziland, Mozambique, Kenya, and the former Belgian Congo.

The SIG has been producing a quarterly Newsletter since 2000 in which is included articles on personalities in the Southern African Jewish community, religious congregations, communities – past and present and general news about the lives our Southern African families led.

Further information on how to subscribe to the Newsletter can be found at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/newsletter/index.htm>

If you would like to contribute articles to the Newsletter, accounts should include descriptions of families of the community, aspects of local Jewish life, its institutions and particular character. Jewish involvement in the community at large, its history, business life and development could be featured as well.

Articles for printing in the Newsletter should be sent to Colin Plen, Editor, at colplen@iafrica.com

General enquiries about the Newsletter can be sent either to Colin or to Mike Getz at MikeGetz005@comcast.net

The SA-SIG maintains a set of Web Pages that can be found at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica>

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At the USHMM, refer to:

<http://resources.ushmm.org/itsinventory/home.php>

For Yad Vashem see www.yadvashem.org and near the bottom of the page click on *Shoah Related Lists Database*. Or go directly to:

<http://www.yadvashem.org/lwp/workplace/listoflists>

Holocaust research is an essential part of any Jewish genealogy and the relevance of newer material cannot be overemphasized.

Saul Issroff

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EDITORIAL

By the time this issue of the SA-SIG Newsletter reaches your computer, the long awaited Muizenberg exhibition will be on at the Jewish Museum in Cape Town and we hope that it will be thronged with people reminiscing about those good old days. We will give you a good report on it in a future newsletter.

Our past Editor, Bubbles Segall unearthed a book written by her uncle, Eli Kellner, titled *Looking Back*. His memories of Europe, the War, South Africa, are well worth reading.

Prior to World War II, or virtually as soon as the nazis took power in Germany, the laws were instituted to ensure that Jews could not claim German ancestry by using German names. An article in this issue explains how Jewish names were forced on to, in some cases, unwilling Jews.

(Note: It is a mishugas of mine to spell nazi with a lower-case "n". It is the only form of protest that I can still make.)

Ivan Elion was the founding spirit of the JGS Johannesburg about 16 years ago. He wrote this interesting article about the Geniza of Cairo and as far as I know it was never previously published. Ivan died a few years ago.

My Facebook friend, and also a longtime associate is Rufina Mausenbaum. She was born and raised as a Catholic in Johannesburg and it was only when she turned 16 that her mother explained to her that

she was a secret Jew. This secret had been carried through that family from Mother to Daughter for 550 years. She began studying Judaism and converted in the Orthodox *Shul*. Subsequently she married a Jewish man. She has taken on the task of informing Portuguese people of their possible Jewish heritage, and assisting them to convert back to Judaism where they can. These people are called *Anusim* (the forced ones), in Hebrew, as opposed to *Marranos* (swine), as they were known by the Catholics. I have been able to produce a list of surnames and the crimes they were burned for in Portugal.

Chag Sameach! I hope you had a *kosher* and happy *Pesach*.

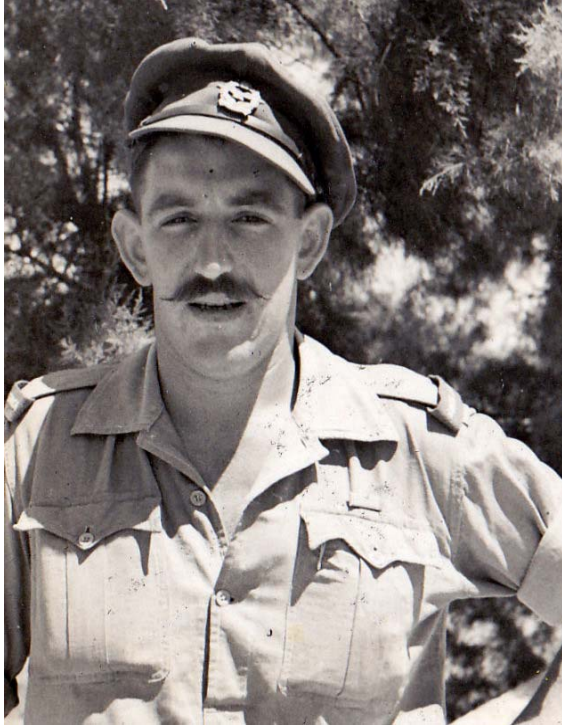
Colin Plen

Editor

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ELI KELLNER LOOKS BACK



Eli Kellner was the uncle of Bubbles Segall, the previous editor of the SA-SIG Newsletter. He died in 2002 at the age of 79. In 2000 he wrote a book about his life for family and friends titled Eli Kellner Looks Back. Here are some excerpts from his book.

◆◆◆

*The past always looks better than it was;
It's only pleasant because it isn't here.
Finley Peter Dunne, 1867 – 1936*

My Early Childhood

I was born in Dvinsk, Latvia. It previously belonged to Poland and was taken over by Sweden, Russia, Germany and finally by the Letts. Dvinsk had a population of 90,000.

My father was born in Wojslawice, Poland, and my mother whose name was Schwartz, was born in Rakishok, Lithuania. They both settled in Dvinsk. There he manufactured rubber raincoats, and he was also in partnership with two others manufacturing buttons. Their business was known as *Kisin Kelner Gordon*. Our surname was originally Kielner, then Kelner and now Kellner.

My godfather was Rabbi Meir Simcha Hakohen and was known only by the name of 'Ohr-Someach' (see *Men of Distinction* by Rabbi I. Frenkel). So beloved was he, that when the Jewish community of Jerusalem invited him to become Rabbi of their city in the Holy Land, the people of Dvinsk raised such an outcry that Rabbi Meir Simcha decided to stay there with them. When he died the funeral was attended by many of the greatest Talmudic scholars and Jewish men of letters from all over the world. On the day of the funeral all the shops and businesses of Dvinsk were closed and the entire Jewish population including Gentiles attended the funeral. I still have a large photograph of him in my possession.

During those years anti-Semitism was prevalent and there was incessant talk of Pogroms. The Jews began to emigrate and in 1927 America closed its doors. In 1929, legislation in South Africa reduced the possibilities of immigration considerably. My father arrived in Cape Town in 1928 and my mother followed in 1931. I was the third of four children.

An incident worth mentioning, something prior to our emigration, was the flight of the Graf Zeppelin over Dvinsk. Everyone in the town including myself marveled at this great spectacle.

On the way to South Africa, we stayed with relations in Chelm, Poland, for a few weeks, and we also spent a week with my grandfather on my father's side. We then embarked on the German ship the *Usarama*. The fare to South Africa for the five of us amounted to 25 pounds. The British subsequently sank the ship during the Second World War.

I recall a story my parents related to us many years later. During the occupation by the Russians, the Tsar Nicholas dispatched Cossacks on horseback armed with sabers and guns to search every Jewish home. Those who were found in possession of money were shot by a firing squad and their money confiscated.

At the time, we lived in a double-storey house, and my mother happened to be holding one of her children in her arms when by chance she glanced out of the window and saw Cossacks demounting from their horses. She made a dash for her secret hiding place which was a brick in the wall, and threw quite a large bundle of money out of the side

window into the street as the Cossacks were running up the stairs.

During the First World War all Jews under the age of 43 were conscripted to serve on the Eastern Front, and my father had the misfortune of spending five wasted years in the army.

Arriving in Cape Town

The more I delve in the past, the more my memories are awakened. When we arrived in Cape Town my father was reasonably well established. He provided a five bedroom house at 4 Glynn Street, Gardens. One room was used as a workroom, equipped with three sewing machines and three employees manufacturing women's garments. Some years later, he purchased a building in Buitenkant Street, and employed about 50 employees. My father was always anxious to find an opportunity to perform charitable deeds for all religions, and in fact Bishop Lavis of Cape Town attended my sister's wedding.

I vividly recall an occasion when a widow whose destitute daughter was about to be married, my father approached his business friends, collected sums of money without disclosing the woman's name, not wanting to embarrass her, and handed over a tidy sum for the wedding.

On another occasion, he provided transport for the children of the Jewish Orphanage to be brought to the factory. He had them measured-up, and presented all the girls with overcoats and dresses and the boys with shirts and trousers. In those days there were a few hundred boarders living at the orphanage. My father passed away in 1969 and was buried in Jerusalem. My mother passed away in Cape Town.

In South Africa I spent most of my life in Cape Town. When I began school I did not know a word of English. My home languages were Yiddish and Russian. I also spoke Hebrew and later studied French for many years. My parents insisted that their children should not forget the Yiddish language, and in later years I taught myself to read and write Yiddish, hence my publications of *Yiddish for All* and *Yiddish with a Smile*.

Whenever *Yom Kippur* came near, I recall my mother's insistence of the ritual of *Shlog'n Kappores (Kaporot)*. As children we shrank from this ordeal. My father was ambivalent about this,

but my mother's insistence prevailed. This ancient custom has been denounced by some Rabbinic authorities as superstitious, in which a live fowl is waved over one's head while reciting verses.

Those were the days when petrol was one and four pence a gallon; every Jewish home had a JNF Blue box; the cinemas were called bioscopes; the *Blue Moon* was a popular dancing place; Bobby Breen achieved fame singing *Rainbow on the River*; George Formby and his ukulele made a hit with his song *When I'm Cleaning Windows*; bananas were 40 for a shilling. All this, long before the material known as plastic, conquered the world.

A popular *Barmitzvah* present was a fountain pen. I recall a story about a *Barmitzvah* boy who received so many fountain pens, when he was called upon to make a speech, was so confused that he began his speech with the words *Today I am a fountain pen*.

World War II

My Jewishness was very important to me and in 1939 when war broke out, regular anti-Semitic meetings were held on the Grand Parade by the Grey Shirt movement, the main speaker being Weichardt who on every Sunday evening delivered a tirade against Jews. Needless to say there were regular fights with bicycle chains and knuckle dusters used freely by the hooligans.

We weren't short of tough guys. I recall some names like Jack Rubin known as the Russian Lion, Donny Yosvoin, and many others. Seeking to defend myself against the aggressive anti-Semites influenced me to join the Maccabi Wrestling Club, which was held in a room at the Long Street Baths. In later years I wrestled as a light heavy-weight, strictly for charity, at the Cape Town City Hall, Woodstock Town Hall, The Victory Fete at the Green Point Common, and several other venues.

I recall proudly the years I spent in the South African Air Force. I was under-age, and felt a compulsion to do my duty. I approached my father and told him I wished to join the forces. At that time there was a concerted drive against the Jews by the Germans, and the situation was getting worse by the day. My father told me that I was doing the correct thing, and signed my documents there and then. My mother appeared anxious, but this did not dissuade me from joining.

I enlisted on the 8 May 1941. I departed by train, which was packed with volunteers at Mountain Station (now Foreshore). I clearly remember my family waving their damp handkerchiefs until the train gathered speed and was out of sight.

A brutal occurrence took place one day at the army camp at Robert's Heights, Pretoria. After being fitted out with uniforms, boots, rifles, blankets, eating utensils etc, young corporals of the Permanent-force 'Kirbes' started harassing the soldiers the moment we set foot on the parade ground. This upset me. After all, I was a volunteer. I wasn't conscripted and couldn't understand how they could humiliate me like this, but there was little I could do about it. I simply had to accept the abuse. I realized later that their actions were basically intended to make boys into men.

For once in my life I had to make my own bed every morning without fail, and lay out my folded belongings for inspection. I shared digs with all types. I remember one soldier telling me that prior to enlisting he was charged with murder. This made me uneasy, as I was young mixing with shady types and also some of the men were old enough to be my father. But at least they all in their own way contributed to the war effort.

For my basic training I was posted to Milner Park, Johannesburg. It was built for the Empire Exhibition in 1936, and the whole area was in disrepair. The beautiful large fishpond in the centre of the grounds was covered with weeds and green slime.

An incident which took place there remains vividly in my mind. A stocky and vociferous soldier who was slightly larger than me named Van Zyl had a habit of provoking me. I warned him on several occasions to desist from bothering me but to no avail.

At tea break, one day, while hundreds of soldiers were milling about, for no reason, he suddenly began to push me around. I couldn't stand it any more, and without hesitation I lifted him bodily and dumped him into the fishpond. I guess my wrestling talents came to good use on this occasion. When he surfaced, he looked grotesque, with green slime and weeds covering his body. The soldiers were hilarious, and needless to say, I had no more problems with him. We remained good friends thereafter.

On my first weekend pass to Johannesburg, I was aghast at a sight which took place in Eloff Street. Something I had never experienced before, soldiers were shoving blacks off the pavements. I watched this ugly scene with growing revulsion. This upset me terribly, especially as a Jew. I felt for those poor souls. When I enquired about this terrible deed, I was told that this practice had been going on for years in the Transvaal.

**WRESTLING
CITY HALL
Tomorrow (Wed.)
At 7.45 p.m.
*In Aid of Tuberculosis Funds***

**RUSSIAN LION vs. FREE FRENCH
CHRIS LOWE (W.P. Wartime Champ) vs.
B. SMITH (Ex W.P. Champ)
B. Levin vs. E. KELLNER (SAAF)**

Newspaper Clip – Wrestling

Wadi Halfa

Eli was posted to Wadi Halfa, a communications post for Allied forces in North Africa. He flew to Cairo and spent a few months in Almaza and Heliopolis before departing for Wadi Halfa.

Wadi Halfa in the Nubian Desert is situated on the Nile on the second cataract, midway between Cairo and Khartoum in *Aleh dreden* which loosely translated means 'in the middle of nowhere'. The temperature often exceeds over 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade. This is General Gordon's territory, where he was beheaded by the Mahdi during the fall of Khartoum in 1885. Spent cartridges could still be found scattered in the sand from that war.

Our unit was known as the 22nd Staging Post, and our task was to service and repair all planes flying to Cairo and South Africa. Our base was also used to refuel the United States Air Force from time to time.

Captain R. G. Taggart was my commanding officer once again and he often asked me to accompany him in his Jeep to hunt for crocodiles. However, we never encountered any, the nearest reptiles

resembling crocodiles were Leguans (water lizards which attain a maximum length of three meters).

The majority of the planes arrived in the morning. My duties were to enter the planes before anyone could disembark, and spray the inside with an aerial spray as a safeguard against the spread of malaria. The soldiers were then allowed to disembark. They would enter a large tent and be treated to sandwiches and tea. We refuelled and checked the planes for mechanical faults whilst they tucked in. I was also in charge of other military duties; which included signals, all mail incoming and outgoing.

In October 1944, a plane landed from Palestine. Chained prisoners in their twenties and thirties disembarked for snacks. British soldiers guarded them and no one was allowed near them. I made discreet inquiries into their predicament. I was told that they were suspects of belonging to a Jewish terrorist organization and were being deported to Eritrea, East Africa. I felt an obvious urge to speak to them but the British soldiers firmly prevented anyone to get near them. I found myself in a conflict of loyalties as here I was serving my country and my brethren were in chains. It upset me terribly to think such a situation could exist, taking into account we were fighting for the same cause.

SOME NOTES ON THE GENIZA

Ivan Elion

Editor's note: Ivan Elion, of blessed memory, began the Jewish Genealogical Society Johannesburg about 15 years ago. He wrote this article meaning to publish it in the Society's newsletter but did not get around to it, and Mo Skikne, the current Chairman, tells me that he has not yet published it either.

As a rule, our knowledge of individual Jews and even of whole Jewish societies, from the second century AD to early modern times, is fragmentary. The Jews had stopped writing history and their disturbed wanderings and often persecuted existence meant that few documents survived.

As it happens, however, we know a lot about Maimonides and his background in 12th century

Egyptian Jewry. All synagogues contained a room called a Geniza. This room was used to store old ritual objects and prayer books which were no longer usable, but which, under Jewish law, could not be destroyed because they contained G-d's name. In some cases these semi-sacred dumps also contained masses of documents, including secular ones. Damp and rot made them unreadable in a generation or two. But Egypt, with its amazingly dry climate, is famous among scholars for its propensity to preserve fragments of paper and papyrus going back to the first millennium BC and beyond.

At Fustat, Maimonides worshipped and taught at the Ben Ezra Synagogue, built in 882 on the ruins of a Coptic church sold to the Jews. Its Geniza was in the attic, and there vast quantities of medieval documents remained virtually undisturbed until the end of the 19th century, when the great Jewish scholar Solomon Schechter began their systematic recovery. About 100,000 pages went to the Cambridge University Library, and another 100,000 pages or more are deposited in academic centres across the world. The information they reveal is almost inexhaustible. The great scholar S. D. Goitein has already used them to brilliant effect to recreate the 11th- and 12th-century society which formed the background to Maimonides' work and ideas.

The Cairo Geniza contains at least 1,200 complete business letters, which show that Egyptian Jews, including Maimonides' younger brother David, travelled immense distances and handled a remarkable variety of products. Dyes were a Jewish trading speciality, but they also concentrated on textiles, medicaments, precious stones and metals, and perfumes. The immediate trading areas were Upper and Lower Egypt, the Palestine coast, and Damascus in Syria. One big Fustat trader, Moses ben Jacob, who dealt in dried fruit, paper, oil, herbs and coins ranged through this region so frequently he was known as 'the Commuter'. But a note in the handwriting of Maimonides' son Abraham shows that Fustat traders went as far as Malaysia, and he also handled the case of a man who died in Sumatra. The scale of trade too could be impressive: the great 11th century merchant Joseph ibn Awkal handled one shipment of 180 bales, and his network allowed him to act as official agent of the two big Babylonian academies, carrying their rulings throughout the Jewish world. Thus a small Jewish

community in the Indies could keep in touch, even if a decision took a long time – Cairo to Sumatra took four months in those days.

CEMETERIES ONLINE

To assist donors who are interested in submitting data and/or photos to the JOWBR database, JewishGen has developed a series of “How To” screencasts (short online movies). When you watch these screencasts, you will be able to watch and hear an explanation of how to make a complete and successful JOWBR submission. (Even if you’re not making a submission, the first two and the last screencast will give you background and a walk-through the JOWBR site.)

The screencasts can be found at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/Screencasts/>

The screencasts cover all the questions we typically receive, from “How do I know if my cemetery is online?” to “What will my data look like when I’m done?” And of course, the majority of the screencasts describe how to properly complete the standard JOWBR excel template by making specific entries in the Cemetery Info tab and the Burial Template.

Each screencast addresses a specific topic or type of entry. You can watch the entire series or just the ones you have questions on, and like all online videos, you can pause or replay them as desired. (An alternative to watching the screencasts is the written “Submitting Data to JOWBR page at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/Submit.htm>)

The following is a list of the screencasts available and their length:

1. JOWBR – An Introduction (0:57)
2. Getting Started (3:55)
3. The Cemetery Info Tab (4:34)
4. The Burial Template – Overview (2:12)
5. Entering Names (4:48)
6. Entering Place Names (2:09)
7. Entering Dates (2:34)
8. Entering Plot Locations and the Comments Field (1:13)

9. Linking Photos to Your Records (2:41)
10. Putting it all Together – Viewing Your Output (3:09)

We hope this submission aide will help you see that submitting records to JOWBR is not at all difficult. The ability to share data with researchers and family members around the world is invaluable and we hope that you’ll consider making a submission of your own.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Nolan Altman
NAltman@JewishGen.org
JewishGen Vice President, Data Acquisition

MEANING OF THE SURNAME BENDIX

Colin Plen

I commented in the last Newsletter that I had seen a tombstone with the name “Walter Bendix”. There was an American named Bendix and he was an Edison type of brilliant inventor, but he was not Jewish. I am still wondering about the origin of the surname. I must point out that there are hundreds of car parts made by Bendix in the USA.

A reader, Jocelyn Stoch has written telling me that I had seen the gravestone of the Walter Bendix whose story is included in the Cape Town Holocaust Centre’s travelling exhibition titled *Seeking Refuge: German Jewish immigration to the Cape in the 1930s*. She kindly included the following resume of his life taken from the exhibition materials.

WALTER BENDIX

In 1936 seventeen-year-old Walter Bendix and his nineteen-year-old brother, Bernhard, boarded the Stuttgart in Bremerhafen leaving behind their mother Regina and their sister Friederike. Regina remained in their hometown of Dülmen and Friederike had left for Holland two years previously.

Walter had planned to emigrate to Palestine and had gone on Hachshara to learn appropriate skills. In the interim however, he obtained a visa for South Africa and a berth on the Stuttgart. The necessary one hundred pound guarantee money for each of the two

brothers had been provided by the Jewish community in Cape Town and they were allowed to disembark.

Walter found employment as a storeman and Bernhard, who was a qualified electrician, worked in the Cavalla cigarette factory. The brothers initially shared a room in a boarding house in the Gardens and once they were settled, Walter proceeded in vain with efforts to bring his sister and mother to Cape Town.

In a letter to her sons Walter and Bernard dated May 1939, Regina expresses her hope to see them in South Africa. She wishes them luck for their future and tells them to trust in G-d adding that she will do her best to make them comfortable once she comes to join them in South Africa.

A bureaucratic muddle of names however, resulted in endless delays and Regina perished in Auschwitz.

Even as late as 1945 Walter was still trying to trace his sister Friederike (he calls her Friedel) who he believed was still in Holland

Having heard nothing from her, he writes via the Red Cross to express his deep concern for her welfare. He is very anxious to hear from her because he wants to bring her out to South Africa and prays that she has been spared by the Nazis

The letter was returned to Walter unopened and in February 1946 he received notification of Friederike's fate from the South African Red Cross.

IAJGS International Conference

LOS ANGELES CONFERENCE

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles looks forward to welcoming you to Los Angeles from July 11 – 16 for an extraordinary series of presentations by renowned scholars, archivists and research specialists from around the world. We'll also offer enlightening films, methodology workshops, evening musical and dramatic performances, and opportunities to network and schmooze with a friendly, global community of

Jewish genealogists. Our resource room will be staffed by representatives from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the *Shoah* Foundation, the Steven Spielberg Visual History Archive, the Jewish Genealogy Learning Center in Warsaw, and Yad Vashem, ready to provide you with one-one-one assistance with your research.

Right now you can sign up for SIG lunches and dinners, with Breakfast-with-the-Experts, Midnight with the Mavens, computer lab and tour schedules coming soon. JW Marriott reservations are also open.

Anyone planning to arrive early can join us for two pre-conference, all kosher, welcome dinners, with thought-provoking speakers and a special Shabbat-friendly learning session on *Kabbalah* with author, Arthur Kurzweil, on Saturday afternoon, July 10.

At the gala Thursday evening (July 15) IAJGS awards banquet, Canadian singer Mitch Smolkin will perform *Rexite on the Radio: Live from the Golden Age of New York's Yiddish Broadcasts*. He'll croon the songs of the "Yiddish Frank Sinatra," accompanied by Russian concert pianist, Nina Shapilksy. You'll experience classic Yiddish tunes along with the great Broadway hits of the 20th century as they were heard on thousands of radios across the country (in Yiddish!). You'll never listen to Oklahoma the same way again.

The Call for Papers has just ended and the full conference program and schedule is now available on the Conference web pages, and we'll be offering sneak previews and coming attractions on our listserv and via our "Announcements Newsletter." If you haven't signed up for it yet, you don't know what you're missing! The link is on our website home page.

And remember to also subscribe to our JewishGen discussion group *Los Angeles 2010*, where you can ask questions, get answers, *kvetch* and quibble about what's in store for July. You can join the discussion group at:

www.lyris.jewishgen.org/listmanager

Pamela Weisberger
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FAMILY NAMES FROM THE INQUISITION ARCHIVES OF PORTUGAL, TORRE DO TOMBO

This material was extracted from the book Raizes Judaicas No Brasil, edited by Flavio Mendes Carvalho, and compiled by Benjamin Bnahman. The information can also be found on the web site: http://www.saudades.org/Inquisition_archives.htm, and is reprinted here with permission.

If your family name is listed here, you may be a descendant of Jewish Portuguese who lived during the time of the Inquisition, and whose fates included being burned alive, garroted and burned, galley slavery, perpetual imprisonment, torture, and an occasional remission of sentence. Many individuals of the same family suffered these sentences. (For example, the Cardoza name comprises some 200 members of that family who were tried and convicted).

Abreu, Abruñhosa, Affonseca, Affonso, Aguiar, Ayres, Alam, Alberto, Albuquerque, Alfaro, Almeida, Alonso, Alvade, Alvarado, Alvarenga, Alvares, Alvarez, Alvelos, Alveres, Alves, Alvim, Alvorada, Alvres, Amado, Amaral, Andrada, Andrade, Anta, Antonio, Antunes, Araujo, Arrabaca, Arroyo, Arroja, Aspalhao, Assumcao, Athayde, Avila, Avis, Azeda, Azeitado, Azeredo, Azevedo

Bacelar, Balao, Balboa, Balieyro, Baltiero, Bades, Baptista, Barata, Barbalha, Barboza, Barbosa, Bareda, Barrajas, Barreira, Baretta, Baretto, Barros, Bastos, Bautista, Beirao, Belinque, Belmonte, Bello, Bentes, Bernal, Bernardes, Bezzera, Bicudo, Bispo, Bivar, Boccoero, Boned, Bonsucesso, Borges, Borrvalho, Botelho, Braganca, Brandao, Bravo, Brites, Brito, Brum, Bueno, Bulhao

Cabaco, Cabral, Cabreira, Caceres, Caetano, Calassa, Caldas, Caldeira, Caldeyrao, Callado, Camacho, Camara, Camejo, Caminha, Campo, Campos, Candeas, Capote, Carceres, Cardozo, Cardoso, Carlos, Carneiro, Carranca, Carnide, Carreira, Carrilho, Carrollo, Carvalho, Casado, Casqueiro, Casseres, Castenheda, Castanho, Castelo, Castelo Branco, Castelhana, Castilho, Castro, Cazado, Cazales, Ceya, Cespedes, Chacla, Chacon, Chaves, Chito, Cid, Cobilhos, Coche, Coelho, Collaco, Contreiras, Cordeiro, Corgenaga,

Coronel, Correa, Cortez, Corujo, Costa, Coutinho, Couto, Covilha, Crasto, Cruz, Cunha

Damas, Daniel, Datto, Delgado, Devet, Diamante, Dias, Diniz, Dionisio, Dique, Doria, Dorta, Dourado, Drago, Duarte, Duraes

Eliate, Escobar, Espadilha, Espinhosa, Espinoza, Esteves, Evora

Faisca, Falcao, Faria, Farinha, Faro, Farto, Fatexa, Febos, Feijao, Feijo, Fernandes, Ferrao, Ferraz, Ferreira, Ferro, Fialho, Fidalgo, Figueira, Figueiredo, Figueiro, Figueiroa, Flores, Fogaca, Fonseca, Fontes, Forro, Fraga, Fragozo, Franca, Frances, Francisco, Franco, Freire, Freitas, Froes, Frois, Furtado

Gabriel, Gago, Galante, Galego, Galeno, Gallo, Galvao, Gama, Gamboa, Gancoso, Ganso, Garcia, Gasto, Gavilao, Gil, Godinho, Godins, Goes, Gomes, Goncalves, Gouvea, Gracia, Gradis, Gramacho, Guadalupe, Guedes, Gueybara, Gueiros, Guerra, Guerreiro, Gusmao, Guterres

Henrigues, Homem

Idanha, Iscol, Isidro

Jordao, Jorge, Jubim, Juliao

Lafaiá, Lago, Laguna, Lamy, Lara, Lassa, Leal, Leao, Ledesma, Leitao, Leite, Lemos, Lima, Liz, Lobo, Ledesma, Lopes, Loucao, Loureiro, Lourenco, Louzada, Lucena, Luiz, Luna, Luzarte

Macedo, Machado, Machuca, Madeira, Madureira, Magalhaes, Maia, Maioral, Maj, Maldonado, Malheiro, Manem, Manganes, Manhanas, Manoel, Manzona, Marcal, Marques, Martins, Mascarenhas, Mattos, Matoso, Medalha, Medeiros, Medina, Melao, Mello, Mendanha, Mendes, Mendonca, Menezes, Mesquita, Mezas, Milao, Miles, Miranda, Moeda, Mogadouro, Mogo, Molina, Monforte, Monguinho, Moniz, Monsanto, Montearroyo, Monteiro, Montes, Montezinhos, Moraes, Morales, Morao, Morato, Moreas, Moreira, Moreno, Motta, Moura, Mouzinho, Munhoz

Nabo, Nagera, Navarro, Negrao, Neves, Nicolao, Nobre, Nogueira, Noronha, Novaes, Nunes

Oliva, Olivares, Oliveira, Orobio

Pacham, Pachao, Paixao, Pacheco, Paes, Paiva, Palancho, Palhano, Pantoja, Pardo, Paredes, Parra, Pascoa, Passos, Paz, Pedrozo, Pegado, Peinado,

Penalvo, Penha, Penso, Penteado, Peralta, Perdigao, Pereira, Peres, Pessoa, Pestana, Picanco, Pilar, Pimentel, Pina, Pineda, Pinhao, Pinheiro, Pinto, Pires, Pisco, Pissarro, Piteyra, Pizarro, Pombeiro, Ponte, Porto, Pouzado, Prado, Preto, Proenca

Quadros, Quaresma, Queiroz, Quental

Rabelo, Rabocha, Raphael, Ramalho, Ramires, Ramos, Rangel, Raposo, Rasquete, Rebello, Rego, Reis, Rezende, Ribeiro, Rios, Robles, Rocha, Rodriguez, Roldao, Romao, Romeiro, Rosario, Rosa, Rosas, Rozado, Ruivo, Ruiz

Sa, Salvador, Samora, Sampaio, Samuda, Sanches, Sandoval, Santarem, Santiago, Santos, Saraiva, Sarilho, Saro, Sarzedas, Seixas, Sena, Semedo, Sequeira, Seralvo, Serpa, Serqueira, Serra, Serrano, Serrao, Serveira, Silva, Silveira, Simao, Simoes, Soares, Silva, Siqueira, Sodenha, Sodre, Soeyro, Sueyro, Soeiro, Sola, Solis, Sondo, Soutto, Souza

Tagarro, Tareu, Tavares, Taveira, Teixeira, Telles, Thomas, Toloza, Torres, Torrones, Tota, Tourinho, Tovar, Trigillos, Trigueiros, Tridade

Uchoa

Valladolid, Vale, Valle, Valenca, Valente, Vareda, Vargas, Vasconcellos, Vasques, Vaz, Veiga, Veyga, Velasco, Velez, Vellez, Velho, Veloso, Vergueiro, Viana, Vicente, Viegas, Vieyra, Viera, Vigo, Vilhalva, Vilhegas, Vilhena, Villa, Villalao, Villa-Lobos, Villanova, Villar, Villa Real, Villella, Vilela, Vizeu

Xavier, Ximinez

Zuriaga

SHARED SURNAMES OR COUSINS?

Colin Plen

When my sister made *aliyah* to live in Jerusalem, one of the first observations she related to me was that every now and again she saw people on the streets of Jerusalem who looked like people she knew from her growing up in Germiston in South Africa. She postulated her thesis about this as saying that there are Jews all over the world who came from the same gene pool and when she sees a face in Israel that looks like a person she knew in

South Africa, it is just a case of the Jewish gene pool providing twin copies.

What that leads up to is that I found in Cape Town, a South Africa different to the Transvaal / Gauteng South Africa I had always known. One of the differences is the preponderance of Coloured people and the resultant and comparative liberalness of the political atmosphere.

In 40 years of working in the Transvaal, I had never spoken to a Tea Lady. In Cape Town the Tea Lady came around with a tray of cake and told us it was her birthday and she had baked the cake for us. Some of the people hugged her. (Not me, I'm still too *verkrampt*.)

It was the first time I had ever been aware that Tea Ladies have birthdays!

I used to sell Life Assurance. Amongst my Coloured clients I have Cohens, Abrahams, Isaacs, which come to mind immediately, and a Sobotker which might be of Jewish origin. The name actually means 'one who was converted on the Sabbath'. There are similar names in Cape Town Jewish lists.

There are many other Jewish named Cape Coloured people. Question: how did they come about?

The obvious facile answer is that Jewish men took black or Coloured girlfriends and mistresses and their offspring took on the surname of the father. While this did occur, I think that this answer is too simple. There were definitely men who were legally married to people of colour before it became illegal in the 1950's. The political climate after the 1950's however was such that those men could not legally retain those relationships.

Another source of Coloureds with Jewish names is that if a man ran a farm or a business and he employed people of colour, many of them did not *have* surnames which were acceptable to the Administration, so they claimed their employers' surnames as their own when the time came for registration of any kind.

I worked with a man of Coloured descent whose name is Snyder. He has no clue as to his history. Nor has Patrick Newman or Belinda Feldman or others with Jewish seeming names.

Note: I am aware that the term “Coloured” is no longer acceptable for politically correct writing. However, I did not know how else to discuss this subject.

Book

OCHBERG’S ORPHANS **by David Sandler**

David Solly Sandler grew up in Johannesburg in the care of Arcadia, the South African Jewish Orphanage, from age three to 17, and is now is a semi-retired Chartered Accountant who lives in Western Australia and has compiled two books on Arcadia. He published Ochberg’s Orphans booklets, each a 92 page compilation of the life stories of children who lived in the orphanage, in July 2009, November 2009, February 2010, and April 2010. He has been working on his third book which will document the life stories of as many as possible of the Ochberg’s Orphans. David hopes to complete the book by year-end 2010, and is appealing to the descendants of all Ochberg children to contact him at his e-mail address sedsand@ca.com.au to share their parents’ (or grandparents’) history for this book. He provided the following information on his project.

In 1921, Isaac Ochberg, representative of the South African Jewish Community, travelled to Poland and the Ukraine and brought back with him to Cape Town 167 “Russian, Ukraine, and Polish War and Pogrom Orphans” plus 14 “attendants and nurses,” mainly older siblings. Half these children were placed in the care of The Cape Jewish Orphanage (later called Oranjia), and half the children went up to Johannesburg and were placed in the care of The South African Jewish Orphanage (later called Arcadia). Many of these children were adopted by members the Jewish Community who contributed most generously to a fund to bring the children out to South Africa and to look after them.

I (David Sandler) am 18 months though the 27 month I’ve set aside to record the life stories of the Ochberg Orphans. Of 181 children, the stories of 90 have been compiled, contact has been made with a further 30 and contact still has to made with a further 60.

For the 60 children where no contact has been made, if we consider that on average that each child was born around 1910 and was married and had three children, and nine grandchildren and twenty seven great grandchildren we very quickly exceed the 2,000, the estimated number of descendants mentioned.

Many of these descendants would not even know that they were descendants of Ochberg’s Orphans. It was not something these children readily spoke about and indeed many of them would have tried to hide the fact from their children. There was a shame attached to being an orphan.

One descendant wrote, “The general attitude of the community was that it was a *mitzvah* to have adopted one of those poor orphans, a good deed in a dark world, but you really wouldn’t want one of them to marry into your family, would you? After all, you knew nothing of their parents and extended family, their health history and their genetic background. This is a generalisation that isn’t true of all the adopters but it was certainly true of a fair number, nervous, insecure, only to do nothing that would jeopardise their increasing prosperity and emergent social solidity.”

As with the South African Jewish Community in general, half these 2,000 descendants would have left South Africa and be spread around the world in Israel and in the English speaking countries: Australia, Canada, NZ, UK, and USA.

If you had an ancestor in your family tree, born ~1910 with one of the following names (or similar) then there is a good chance you might be a descendant of one of Ochberg’s Orphans.

BARMATCH Sara, BARUCH Leya, BERNFELD Hersch, CWENGEL Saul, ELMAN Blume, ELMAN Jentl/Izzy, ELSHTEIN Abo, ENGELMAN Jakob, FREMD/FRIEND Max, GARBUS /GOLDSTEIN Shmul, GAYER Chawa, GEBENCOLC/GOLZ Rochel, GERYNSHTEIN Abram, GINSBURG Mintcha, GUBER/GEIBER/GRUBER Tcharna (Charlotte Odes), H/GURWITZ Rosa, ISRAELSON Chaim, JUDES Rubin, KAHAN Channe, KAHAN Golda, KAHAN Morduch/Mordche, KAHAN Shachna, KAILER Rywka, KAUFMAN Cypora, KAUFMAN Soloman/Shlama, KAWERBERG Mayer, KAWERBERG Mees/Moshe, KIGIELMAN Jacob, KNUBOVIZ Zlata, KREINDEL Rejsel, KRUGER Rejsel, KRUGER Abram, KRUGER

Jacob, LIPSHIS Moische, LIPSHYTZ Perel,
 MARGOLIN Sara, MILER Braindel,
 MORDOCHOWITCH Gutro,
 MORDOCHOWITCH Estel, NUDEMAN Gdalia,
 OCHSHTEIN Salomon, ORLIANSKY Abram,
 PERRCHODNIK/PERECHODNIK Ussr,
 PINSKY/PINSKA Faywel, PINSKY/PINSKA
 Feyga (Birdie Glaser), PINSKY/PINSKA Maisha,
 PINSKY/PINSKA Zlata, REICHMAN Abram,
 REICHMAN Chaim, REISENDER Rubin,
 REKLER Leya, RINSLER/RINZLER
 Chaskiel/Chaykel, ROSENBAUM Leon,
 ROSENBLIT Gdalia, ROSENBLIT Szamay,
 Y/J/SAGOTKOWSKY Jacob/Jacov,
 SCHTERN/SHTERN Szlema/Solomon,
 SCHWARZ Josef, SHTEINER/STEINER Chaskel,
 SHTEINER/STEINER Hersh,
 SHTEINER/SZTEINER/STEINER Isaac, SMITH
 Morduch/Mordche, SHTRASNER Feyga,
 STILLERMAN Hersh/Harry, TREPPEL Jacob and
 WEIDMAN Sheindel.

PG at year end we will have collected the life stories of ~130 of the children and they will be collated in a book to be published and sold around the world with all proceeds going to Arcadia and Oranjia much the same as the Arcadian Memory Books.

Please make contact with David Sandler at sedsand@ca.com.au for any more information or if you are a descendant and want to send in your parent's or grandparent's story.

Note: The website www.arcadia.ca.com.au provides more information about the *Arcadia Memory Books*, on sale worldwide to raise funds for Arcadia and now also Oranjia.

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Colin Plen

The ancient city of Ebla

In the early 1960's a farmer at Tel Mardikh in Northern Syria hit his plough against a large stone object. When it was dug out the object turned out to be a bin for storing cereal dating back to about 1800 BCE. An Italian group of archaeologists dug in the area and found a large town of which parts date back to the 3rd Millennium BCE. The best part of the dig was that they found what amounts to a library

with up to 150 000 clay tablets, initially stored on shelves but later over the years scattered on the floor. These tablets include 'dictionaries' showing three or four languages explaining a picture, and lists of words, many in two or more of the languages.

One of the main languages used was very similar to Hebrew and many of the concepts written about coincide with Biblical matters. Names used in the tablets include Abraham, Ishmael, Israel, Esau, Saul, Michael, and David. Towns written about in the *Tanach* are mentioned. These include Damascus, Jericho, Jerusalem, Sodom, and Gomorrah.

This is not truly part of genealogical study, so why I am telling you this? I am sending out a hook hoping that that one of our readers can assist me. Because of the close associations with Hebrew history, the Syrian government limited the amount of information being allowed out of that country. A senior researcher in the early days, Dr David Freedman, was totally barred from returning to the site because of his Jewish connections. Several books were written and were excitedly devoured by the world but since about 1981 no more has been published in the popular press. I have searched libraries and the Web and have been unable to find anything newer than 28 years old. The main researchers are Italian Catholics who are it seems acceptable to the Syrians but they have not published any new material for many years.

If you have heard or read about this, or you want to discuss it, please contact me at:

colplen@iafrica.com.

Family relationships

First cousins are the children of a person's uncle or aunt. The aunt or uncle's grandchildren are the person's first cousins once removed, and the aunt or uncle's great grandchildren are the person's first cousins twice removed. Children of first cousins are second cousins to each other and children of second cousins are third cousins to each other.

Let us imagine a brother and sister, say, Charles and Anne. Their children William and Sarah, respectively, are first cousins. When William and Sarah, and their respective spouses, have children, Charles' and Anne's grandchildren, let's call them Mary and Margaret, will be first cousins once

removed. Charles' and Anne's great grandchildren, Mary's boy Martin and Margaret's son Merton will be first cousins twice removed.

Children of first cousins are second cousins to each other. William's daughter Mary and Sarah's daughter Margaret are second cousins to each other.

Children of second cousins are third cousins to each other. Martin and Merton are third cousins to each other.

Now, put that in your family tree.

Secret police

People looking for information about their relatives in the old Soviet Union had better hope that their *mishpocha* were involved in anti-Government work because then all their deeds were watched by the Secret Police, and fully annotated. All that they have to do now is find a way to get hold of those old documents. When it was announced that the USSR had fallen apart, there were high hopes that these would be available. One wonders if they did surface.

Similarly in South Africa, at the Rivonia Treason Trial, of the fifty-odd white trialists, 23 were Jews. I suppose that in years to come their children and children's children will be looking up old police records for the secret information on them.

Jewish names of roads

We received some more Jewish names of roads. In King Williams Town there are two places named for Jewish Mayors: Ginsberg Location and Henry Alperstein Street.

In Cape Town (there is probably repetition here from our last issue): Abram Katz Street in Montana to commemorate a soldier killed in Israel (Palestine as it was) in 1938. In Montana there are some roads which possibly were named after the Jewish developers' family members:

Lena, Rose, Janey, Chaim.
Sam Gordon Drive
Leslie Crescent
Friedman Road in Browns Farm
Fritz Sonnenberg in Greenpoint
Froom Road Rugby
Lewin Road Foreshore
Berman Road Peerless Park

Ruth First Street, Weltevreden Valley
(Ruth was the wife of Joe Slovo and was killed by a SA Government agent's bomb)
Galilee
Galena: Belthorn Estate
MH Goldschmidt
Sher Street: Durbanville

Jewish mayors of Cape Town included Liberman, Kreiner, Gradner, and Gelb.

Meaning of surname Shorkend

Thanks to Bubbles Segall who found this meaning for me for someone in my community who did not know the origin of his name.

"When I looked up Shorkend it took me to the surname Sorin and it then gave a whole column on different variations on the name Sorin. This is what it said:

Sorin (Gomel', common in Mstislav') From the given name Sora ('Sore') in Yiddish) (Sorinov, Sor, Sorkind (Sorkin), Sores (Sor' es) Soresman, Sorezon, Sarazon, Sorazonov, Sorzon, Sarinson, Sorits). The original Hebrew form of this given name is Soroh (Genesis 17:15)."

Useful site on Jewish DNA

Look this one up. My daughter claims that it proves her children (my grandchildren) are really very bright.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTJFziTzOeg>

Old Durban

We received some pictures of Durban in the 60's and I thought that we should balance Muizenberg against Durban, where the less affluent Jews who could not afford the expensive train fare from the Transvaal, went for their holidays.

The Cuban Hat was the seafront café where the North Beach crowd met.



The Killarney Hotel, later oddly painted in a garish green colour, was one of the more popular places for younger people to stay, to meet, and to have fun at.



Book

NEW HISTORY OF JEWS WHO FOUGHT ON THE SIDE OF THE BOERS, 1899-1902

by David Saks

The book's ISBN number is 978-0-620-46112-2

During the Anglo-Boer war of 1899-1902, an estimated 300 Jews served in the Boer armed forces. These ranged from those fighting in the commandos through to medical officers, POW guards, commissariat officers and town guard members. Individual Jews were involved in nearly all of the war's best-known incidents, including the famous battles of Magersfontein, Colenso, and Spioenkop; the sieges of Mafeking, Ladysmith and Kimberley; the capture and escape of Winston Churchill; and

throughout the guerilla campaign. Many were interned for lengthy periods in POW camps on St. Helena, Bermuda, and elsewhere.

While a number of shorter articles on this subject have appeared over the years, no attempt to date has been made to write a full history of this still little-known aspect of South African Jewish and Anglo-Boer War historiography. A new book, entitled *Boerejode – Jews in the Afrikaner Freedom Struggle, 1899-1902*, by South African journalist and historian David Saks, has now filled this gap.

Boerejode is based on original research conducted by the author in the State Archives, the archives of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and the library of the SA Museum of Military History. It further builds on the extensive original research conducted by Rabbi L I Rabinowitz and well-known authors like Eric Rosenthal and SA Rochlin in the 1930s and 1940s. These include the reminiscences of some of the Jewish *Oudstryders* (veterans), which provide compelling and unique perspectives of the war from Jews who devoted themselves to fighting for the Boer cause.

An appendix provides an annotated Nominal Roll of all Jewish participants in the Boer military. Photographs and documents from the SAJBD Archives are included.

About the Author

David Saks is a writer, historian and Jewish communal professional. He has written extensively on South African Jewish, political and military history for a wide range of local and international publications. He is editor of the journal *Jewish Affairs* and the Associate Director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

Copies of the book are obtainable from the author, who can be contacted at david@beyachad.co.za.

MEMORIES OF MUIZENBERG



Memories of Muizenberg Exhibition is open in Cape Town at the SA Jewish Museum through 11 June, 2010

More than 120 people attended the opening of this long-awaited reminder of the village of Muizenberg on March 8, 2010. Dr Mervyn Rosenberg was the guest speaker and he invoked many memories with his stories of old Muizenberg.

The following are some images of the exhibition.



The SA Jewish Museum is located at 88 Hatfield Street, Gardens, Cape Town.

Email: memoriesofmuiz@gmail.com

Phone: (011) 728-8378 Fax: (018) 468-5895

Postal address: P. O. Box 117, Klerksdorp 2570
South Africa

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forced Additional Given Names for Jews in Nazi Germany 1938

Naidia Woolf wrote: "Some time ago I read (I don't recall where) that the Nazi Authorities *amended* German Jews' vital records (birth and marriage records) by inserting an additional, obviously *Jewish* given name: for Jewish men the name was *Israel*; for Jewish women, Sarah. The underlying reason must be immediately apparent."

My question to this subject is why in the "Familienbogen" in Mainz in a same page "Sara"

and "Israel" were added to some of the persons and not to others. Obviously it is one family and it doesn't matter if the persons were still alive after 1933, or if they were already dead.

My comment: The additional given names "Israel" (for men) and "Sara" (for women) were proscribed on August 17, 1938 in the *Zweite Verordnung zur Durchfuehrung des Gesetzes ueber die Aenderung von Familiennamen und Vornamen* (Second Edict about how the Law about the changes of surnames and given names is to be executed) that was published in the *Reichgesetzblatt*, page 1044 for 1938.

Paragraph 1 (2) says that it is not valid for Jews who have another citizenship than German.

Paragraph 2 (1) says that the additional given name for German Jews has to be used by January 1, 1939. The addition was not automatic, Jews had to send an announcement of the addition of the appropriate name to the registry offices of birth and marriage and residence within a month after the introduction date.

A failure to do was punishable with prison up to six months or a fine.

That means that the addition of the names was only undertaken in the files if the appropriate announcement was made: No announcement, no entry in the files.

And it had to be done at the place of birth or marriage. In reality, even German Jews from abroad complied with this new regulation and sent in their announcement from places like Shanghai, the USA, Great Britain or the Netherlands. And, naturally, in records of Concentration Camp or ghetto lists you can find the additional names.

The law was repealed on May 9, 1945. Any court punishment through this law was officially repealed on September 1, 1998 (!). When after the war, individuals asked for the annotation to be deleted in their birth and marriage documents, the registry offices did so. When in December 1945 the local Westphalian head of the governmental district asked for all these annotations to be deleted in that area, the additional given name was not to be mentioned any more in ID documents.

Perhaps this clears up some of the questions and also allows finding the exact source for this matter.

Fritz Neubauer
North Germany

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Searching for Dubow/Dubovsky family in South Africa

I am now 88 years of age but when I was younger, living in Baltimore, Maryland, my father, Theodore Dubovsky (Tevya) and his brothers Max (Mendel) and Morris (Moshe) often discussed members of their family from Kovarsk, Vilkomir, Anikst, Kovno, and Wilna, Lithuania. One in particular whom they mentioned was a cousin who migrated to South Africa and settled in Bloemfontein. If they ever mentioned his name, I have forgotten what it was. Anyway, after I retired from the Military Archives Division of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) on October 31, 1987, I began a genealogical research project on the Dubows and Dobuvsyks of Baltimore. More recently I attempted a search for records of those who had remained in Europe without success, as well as the cousin who went to South Africa. I made contact with some people with this surname in South Africa but was never able to establish a relationship between us.

Can anyone assist me in identifying this cousin?

Thank you,

Sylvan Morris Dubow
Glenn Dale, Maryland, USA

Editor's Note: If anyone can provide help to Sylvan, he can be contacted through Mike Getz, at mikegetz005@comcast.net

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DNA Shoah project

The DNA Shoah Project is a non-profit, humanitarian effort at the University of Arizona aiming to reunite families disrupted by the Holocaust. We are building a database of genetic material from *Shoah* survivors and their immediate descendants in an attempt to match displaced relatives, provide wartime orphans and lost children with information about their biological families and eventually, when the database has reached sufficient

size, assist in the identification of Holocaust-era victims whose remains continue to surface. The project contains an educational component as well, employing current science and technology to teach the Holocaust in our schools. There is no cost to participants.

The project's cofounders include Syd Mandelbaum, a scientist with a background in genetics and the son of two Holocaust survivors, and Dr. Michael Hammer, a renowned research scientist at the University of Arizona who specializes in human population genetics.

The success of our work depends on the creation of as large a database as possible and we are actively seeking DNA samples from survivors and second- and third-generation family members. We are traveling extensively to promote the project and, when travel is not possible, we will send a kit, free of charge, to anyone who requests one. We hope to use this window of opportunity to gather as many DNA samples as we can from survivors and their descendants around the globe, thereby creating a genetic testimony and legacy for victims of the Holocaust. We have not yet begun outreach aimed specifically at the South African Jewish Community

I invite you to visit our web site for additional information and I encourage you to view the short video found there, as it provides an excellent introduction to the project. [Our curriculum materials, employing genetics & forensic science to teach lessons of the Holocaust (aimed at high school biology classes) can be found on the web site.] There is also an article on our project on the Museum of Family History website and one recently published in the New York Times.

I hope you will see fit to share this information with your readers (and let them know that we will again be presenting and exhibiting at the IAJGS Conference this summer). Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, or to request additional materials.

Lynn Davis
<http://www.dnashoah.org>

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Jewish Pirates

Readers who were intrigued by Professor Glick's article "The Jewish Pirate," which appeared in your January 2010 issue, may be interested to know of two books which deal comprehensively with the subject. They are Haim Finkel's book *Shodedei Yam Yehudi'im* (Jewish Pirates), Dvir Publishers, 1984, and Edward Kritzer's *Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean*, Doubleday, 2008. The late Professor Finkel was a pioneer in exploring this topic, but although he wrote his book in English (I had the privilege of reading the original English manuscript), it unfortunately only appeared in Hebrew, which has limited its accessibility. Ed Kritzer is a journalist, with extensive knowledge of Jamaica and the Caribbean. Jewish connection with the sea is of course much more extensive (but perhaps less romantic) than piracy, as I noted when I contributed a chapter entitled *A View of the Sea: Jews and the Maritime Tradition* to a recently published collection of essays, *Jewish Topographies: Visions of Space, Traditions of Place*, Ashgate, 2008.

Professor Gilbert Herbert
Haifa, Israel
herbert2@bezeqint.net

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Origin of names

Very interesting article on origin of names. I often read the notes from your SIG because I have family from South Africa – Grundleger – we were originally from the Felstyn-Sambor area. I'm not sure of the origin but the name Grundleger translates to "pioneer" or "foundation layer". Ironically the company I work for is named Pioneer!
Mel Grundleger
Des Moines, Iowa

SURNAMES APPEARING IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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The numbers in brackets refer to the page numbers where the surname appears:

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