
Jewish Genealogy Downunder

Quarterly Newsletter of the **Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc.**

Melbourne, Australia

Vol. 7, No. 4, November 2005

**Les Oberman, President, and the Committee of Management of the AJGS (Vic) wish
all our members a healthy and peaceful New Year for 2006**

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Ballarat Hebrew Congregation (see story page 3)

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic)

in association with Makor Jewish Community Library invite you to an evening:

Sharing your Family Research Issues

Every year we devote a few meetings where members share their EUREKA moments ("You would not believe it but...!"). These range from discovering a convict ancestor, finding a previously unknown relative, to finding a new on-line database.

We are repeating this opportunity for the last meeting of the year in December. So come and learn how others have tackled their research - the resources they have used - how to organise documents and photos - finding your way around the JewishGen databases. There is also the opportunity to peruse recently acquired books, newsletters and more.

Wednesday, 14th December 2005 at 7.30 pm

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre, 306 Hawthorn Rd, South Caulfield 3162

All welcome: Members \$4.00 Non-members \$6.00

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

is published quarterly by the
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc.
(Melbourne)
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Editorial Policy

We welcome contributions from members which will help others further their research. This might include sharing recent findings or the discovery of interesting resources. The Editor has the right to accept or reject any material submitted or edit as might be appropriate. Material appearing in this newsletter may be reprinted by other newsletters as long as proper attribution is given.

'Jewish Genealogy Downunder' is free to all members of AJGS (Vic) Inc.

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A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

EDITORIAL

Another year is coming to an end and we are already programming for 2006. It is difficult to gauge the kind of events which might attract members and other interested people to our regular meetings on a Wednesday evening. We have attempted to provide a balance between guest speakers informing us about their own research, specialists addressing specific topics such as the records at the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha or the Public Records Office of Victoria and meetings where members can share their problems.

Then, of course, there are the quarterly workshops for beginners, usually held on a Sunday afternoon, but occasionally in the evening. These, by and large, have been very disappointing in that they are not attracting those new to ancestral research. Please give us your feedback.

Certainly we receive a number of enquiries around those times when children are required to hand in a Roots Project. Attempts in the past to organise a workshop through the Jewish day schools have failed. In order to encourage teachers and parents to take an interest in genealogy we decided to present each of the 8 Jewish senior schools with a copy of the new edition of Arthur Kurzweil's 'From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History'. Already two schools have approached us for assistance to run seminars in 2006. I am currently working with one school to revise their instruction booklet concerning preparing a Roots Project.

Throughout the past year we have received numerous enquiries to trace living relatives or descendants of ancestral settlers from overseas. Thanks to the magnificent work of Gilda and Russell Feldman we now have a database of over 35,000 names from family trees made available from the collection of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. This database is being enlarged with additional family trees from members. Thank you for your ongoing commitment.

We congratulate our committee member, Liz James who has accepted the position of honorary secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Victoria. Rhona Rosenberg has stepped down because of other commitments. A close relationship is being developed between the AJHS and the AJGS with both Dr David Cohen and myself serving on both committees.

I personally wish all our readers a happy and healthy New Year and, safe travelling, if you are off interstate or overseas.

Lionel Sharpe

BALLARAT a vanished Jewish community

Every year the AJGS receives requests to participate in local and family history expos. This year an invitation came from the Central Highlands Historical Association for their full weekend EXPO in Ballarat at the end of September. We accepted.

The City of Ballarat is situated 110 kilometres north-west of Melbourne, about a 75 minutes drive. Today it has a population of over 84,000. Only a handful of Jewish residents or descendants of early Jewish families still live in the city or its surrounds. The synagogue only holds services on the high holidays or special occasions, largely attended by families whose ancestors settled there in the 19th century during the period of the gold rush, as well as other visitors.

The theme of this year's local history expo was: 'Communications - From carrier Pigeon to Computer' and it was held in the spacious grounds of the Aquinas Campus of the Australian Catholic University.

Eight of us made the two hour trip to attend our display table and to sight see. Our group from the AJGS Vic. comprised, Gilda and Russell Feldman, Liz and Ron James, Sonya and Les Oberman and Annita and Lionel Sharpe.



Liz James and Lionel Sharpe (Hon. Secretary)

Dr June Factor, guest speaker at the opening and caught up with some of us. among those who visited our table were some descendants of Jewish early settlers such as Dennis Spielvogel, grandson of the well known writer Nathan F. Spielvogel whose father Newman Spielvogel, was one of the founders of the community.

Dennis told us that Judaism in his family was lost a generation ago but he proudly informed us that he spoke at the launch of the re-publication of his grandfather's writings and broadcasts. The three volume - *The Spielvogel Papers*, now on sale from the Ballarat Historical Society.

Nathan Spielvogel was born in Ballarat in 1874, and was a country schoolmaster who wrote fictional stories about Ballarat Jewry from the age of 22 years.

Another enquirer asked about Rev. Moses Rintel, who arrived in Melbourne as a Rabbi for the Bourke St Synagogue in the 1850s. She is acquainted with a great granddaughter and asked for his photo and other historical information.

For the amateur Jewish genealogist a visit to the Jewish section of the cemetery is always a must if only to see the name, Edward 'Teddy' Thonen, on the memorial obelisk. German born Thonen, age 24, was the only Jew, to die in the 1854 Eureka Stockade and rebellion. About 150 miners stood their ground in protest against the oppressive methods of Gold License fee collection and corruption among goldfields officials.



Other Jews played a part in this historic rebellion. Charles Dyte, Henry Harris and W. Levy, played a role in drafting the resolutions to resolve the dispute. Regrettably, Dyte's tombstone is in a very poor state of disrepair.



Liz James and Lionel Sharpe locating family graves

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From the very first discovery of gold in the area Jews were involved in the management of a potential goldrush. A sixteen person 'Gold Committee' was established in May 1851 to offer a reward for the discovery of gold within 200 miles of Melbourne. Asher Hyman Hart and his cousin Henri John Hart served on this committee.



The synagogue, consecrated in 1861, is always on the agenda, if it is open for inspection. Then there is the gold menorah at the Jessica and Paul Simon Pavilion at the Gold Museum. The seven branch menorah is made wholly of solid gold which Paul Simon prospected around Ballarat - yes, there are many places to visit to remind us of a once thriving Jewish community.

Jewish life in Ballarat commenced about 1851 with the discovery of gold. At the time the Jewish population of the whole Port Phillip District, as it was known then, numbered 364. Ten years later in 1861 the Jewish community grew to 2,903. 850 Jews had migrated to the goldfields, predominantly to Ballarat and Bendigo. Many came from England and Germany and of course there was internal migration from Hobart, Launceston and Sydney.

The first religious services were held in Ballarat in 1853 at the Clarendon Hotel, a wooden synagogue which was consecrated in 1855 with seating for 200 and was relocated, after much controversy, with a new building in 1861.

Descendants of the 19th century Jewish settlers are now dispersed across Australia. Their ancestors created a very vibrant community which can even boast the first Beth Din outside London under the authority of the Chief Rabbi of the British Empire.

The only specific publication outlining the story of Ballarat is - *Formula for Survival: The Saga of the Ballarat Hebrew Congregation*, by Ballarat born, Newman Rosenthal (1979).

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The Ballarat Historical Society Inc.

**The Spielvogel Papers (Volumes 1, 2 and 3)**

Republished with an index and photographs.

The set: \$45.00 plus \$8.50 postage and packaging.

Write to: The Ballarat Historical Society Inc  
P.O. Box 2292, Bakery Hill, Victoria, 3354

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Charles Dyte, President of the Ballarat Hebrew Congregation in 1861, died 1895.



Russell Feldman, Ron James and Liz James, Gilda Feldman and Sonya Oberman ( Les has gone shpatsir-ing)



## Harrods and the Jewish Connection

by Simone Beyfus

In 1956 London's Daily Mirror newspaper published an article on the American entertainer Liberace. It said in part:

*"He is the summit of sex- the pinnacle of masculine, feminine and neuter. Everything that he, she and it can ever want.*

*I spoke to sad but kindly men on this newspaper who have met every celebrity coming from America for the last thirty years. They say that his deadly, winking, sniggering, snuggling, chromium-plated, scent-impregnated, luminous, quivering, giggling, fruit-flavoured, mincing, ice-covered heap of mother love has had the biggest reception and impact on London since Charlie Chaplin arrived at the same station, Waterloo, on September 12 1921.....*

*He reeks with emetic language that can only make grown men long for a quiet corner, an aspidistra, a handkerchief, and the old heave-ho. Without doubt he is the biggest sentimental vomit of all time. Slobbering over his mother, winking at his brother, and counting the cash at every second, this superb piece of calculating candy-floss has an answer for every situation....."*

Liberace instructed his lawyers to sue the Daily Mirror for libel. However, the British court system would not allow American attorneys to defend Liberace in this action. So an English barrister Gilbert Beyfus K.C. was hired. Gilbert Beyfus is a 1st cousin of my grandfather.

The case did not come to trial until 1959. Liberace was alarmed by Gilbert Beyfus, who was 76-years-old and constantly mislaying his papers. When Gilbert Beyfus had his client on the witness stand he asked him,

"Are you a homosexual?".

"No Sir", replied Liberace.

"Have you ever engaged in homosexual practices?".

"No Sir, never in my life".

As Darden Asbury Pyron put it in a biography on Liberace, "The plaintiff lied".

However, the plaintiff also won and Liberace was awarded US\$22,400. In 1987 Liberace died of an aids-related illness. The Daily Mirror asked for its money back!

Gilbert Beyfus died in 1960. He had achieved a degree of fame from the Liberace and other prominent cases. In 1963 author Iain Adamson wrote a biography on Gilbert Beyfus that formed the basis of my investigation into the family tree. From this book and articles in the London newspaper 'The Jewish Chronicle', I was able to outline the life of my G-G-G-Grandfather, Gotz Beyfus (1788-1845).

Gotz Beyfus migrated from Germany to England in around 1800. He worked at a number of British schools including the Jews Free School where he was Headmaster for six years. He was also a pioneer of pulpit lectures delivering sermons in the St Albans and Birmingham synagogues.

Gotz had an ambition to open his own school in Bath. He found an investor, gathered some desks, and had some students ready to enrol. What he needed was a benefactor to support the venture. Gotz decided to approach the biggest financier of them all- Nathan Rothschild.



There is no evidence that Rothschild took advantage of the investment opportunity as presented to him by Beyfus. He may not have replied to the letters carefully penned in German that Gotz Beyfus sent to him. But what he did do is keep the letters, and they were found last year in the Rothschild Archives.

Gotz Beyfus and his wife Cippy had two sons, Philip and Solomon. Both boys trained as cabinetmakers and opened up a warehouse in the East End of London where they stored furniture imported from Germany and France. At the age of 25 and 23 respectively Philip and Solomon Beyfus went bankrupt. Sketchy details of this were recorded in 'The Times' newspaper.

Solomon and Philip were able to get themselves back on their feet, re-establishing their furniture selling business, expanding into the diamond trade and eventually expanding into property speculation. When in 1870 the Federation of London Ashkenazi Synagogues was formed by an Act of Parliament, Solomon Beyfus became a member of the General Council of the United Synagogue.

There is evidence that within ten years of their bankruptcy Philip and Solomon Beyfus had standing within their local Jewish communities. The winter of 1851 was particularly harsh and there was a large influx of Jewish migrants into London from Russia. The community decided to open up a Soup Kitchen to provide "soup, bread and meat twice a week, for necessitous Jews of all classes". Philip Beyfus was the inaugural President of the soup kitchen, a position he held for fourteen years. Solomon Beyfus held the position of Secretary.

As President, Philip Beyfus would have needed to ensure the soup kitchen had financial support from the community. Part of his strategy was to publish articles about the soup kitchen in 'The Jewish Chronicle'. What follows is an extract of an article written by Philip Beyfus in 1852.

*I can only say, that having witnessed the immense benefit that was afforded to the starving and famished poor of our community, I shall be delighted to see the charity again in operation. Much has been said of the aid that was afforded, but few can really picture to themselves the joy expressed by the miserable objects who presented themselves for the relief of even a bason of soup and a morsel of bread.*

Solomon Beyfus and his wife Charlotte were able to ensure that all of their ten children married Jewish spouses from respectable families. One of Solomon's daughters' Ada married a sponge merchant called Edgar Cohen when they were both in their early twenties. I found the announcement of the marriage which took place in 1876 in a book by Doreen Berger.

*Ada Beyfus and Edgar Cohen*  
*Married on 12th January 50 Bedford Square, the residence of the bride's parents by Rev. Dr. Adler, Chief Rabbi, assisted by Revs. A.L. Green and S. Lyons of 37 Bedford Square.*

The Cohen family lived in a large house in Hall Road St. John's Wood set in extensive gardens. Edgar and Ada's daughter Hilda Brighten described the family's lifestyle in a book that I found in the British library.

*The entire artistic, literary and musical set in London knew what was meant by "going to Hall Road", as Edgar and Ada kept an open house to the world. The garden at Hall Road was unique even by country standards. Green turf and flowerbeds led from the front door to the real garden and a huge lawn, and down one side by conservatories, was an enormous oak tree in the centre.*

Edgar was the son of Israel Cohen who worked in the family business of I. & M. Cohen. The Cohens' sold sponges from their base in Houndsditch, but also had an office on the island of Hydra in Greece. Sponges would be harvested from the sea to be used in baths. I. & M. Cohen was a large operation and they were the sole supplier of sponges to the Admiralty. Edgar Cohen built up an extensive business portfolio. The most important of these was his connection to societies favourite store Harrods. The following is a quote from the book; Harrods Knightsbridge: The story of society's favourite store.

*Surprisingly for such a disciplined man, Harrod occasionally forgot to take any coins with him, and one day in 1882 he found himself stranded on a bus with no money. In acute embarrassment, he asked the man sitting next to him to lend him the amount of the fare, handing over his business card as a guarantee. The stranger was Edgar Cohen, a sponge importer, who readily obliged with half a sovereign. The two men chatted about business for the rest of the journey, and the next day Harrod sent a messenger with the cash.*

From there a friendship grew between the two men. Charles Digby Harrod owned a small but well-patronised shop in Brompton Road Knightsbridge that had been established by his father. So tiny were the original premises that a hole had to be dug out of the back to store a barrel of apples. Charles Digby Harrod introduced new products such as perfumes, stationery, patent medicines confectionery, cooked meats and china. Harrod expanded the business by taking on the lease of the neighbouring buildings and offering a mail-order service. By 1880 he had introduced a range of Harrods label goods.

The following year after Edgar Cohen and Charles Digby Harrod met there was a fire at the Harrod's store that almost destroyed the entire building. Edgar Cohen helped out by approaching a store in Haymarket and asking them to fill Harrods orders by putting Harrod's labels on the parcels and mailing them to customers. Cohen also found temporary premises for Harrods, moving the store to nearby Humphrey's Hall, which had been recently closed after

housing a Japanese Exhibition. They remained there for nine months until a new and improved store was built.

In 1889 Charles Digby Harrod decided to retire, so he asked Edgar Cohen for advice on the sale of the business. Cohen suggested that Harrods be floated and that Harrod take his payment in shares. Charles Digby Harrod did not want to own shares in Harrods, as he wanted to retire and not be concerned with the store any more. So Harrod took his payment in cash, whereas Cohen purchased thousands of Harrod's founder shares. A few years later Charles Digby Harrods had to pay 400 times more for Harrods shares than what they were offered to him at the time of his retirement.

Although Edgar Cohen had a large portfolio of business interests, he devoted himself to all the details connected with Harrods Ltd. Edgar walked daily through every department, admiring, advising and discussing innovations. He would go through the daily figures and compute the takings in Harrod's yearly sales.

In 1894 Edgar Cohen was appointed as a Board Member of Harrods Ltd. He would go to the Board meetings, recount his observations, outline new schemes, comment and criticise. When Harrods experienced a downturn Edgar Cohen convinced Charles Digby Harrod to come out of retirement and turn things around. In 1929 79-year-old Edgar Cohen resigned his position of Board Member of Harrods. When he died a few years later an obituary of his life was published in 'The Times'.

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Simone Beyfus is a member of the Committee of Management of the AJGS (Victoria)

#### HOROWITZ CONVENTION

The Horowitz Families Association is glad to inform that our 21th National Convention will take place at Dizengoff House, 16 Rothschild Blvd., Tel Aviv on Tuesday, the 2th day of Hanukkah, 27.12.05 at 5:00 pm. Its full agenda can be found at our website at <http://www.geocities.com/horowitzassociation/Agenda-Kenes21.htm>  
Shlomo Gurevich

#### Have you joined ?

**The Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group on the internet**

**Visit: <http://www.ajgs.org.au>**

**(Click on the On-Line Forum to register - its free)**

**Share your problems with others and help others to solve their problems.**

**Nu? What's New?**

**The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy**  
**Gary Mokotoff, Editor**

Vol. 6, No 17, Nov. 27, 2005

To be added to this mailing list, go to the Internet site  
<http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm>.

**Help Grow the Shoah Victims' Names Database**

The six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust were more than a statistic. They were individuals and the Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names located at

[http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY\\_HON\\_Welcome](http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY_HON_Welcome)

demonstrates that fact. It contains information about more than three million Holocaust victims on "Pages of Testimony". Each Page represents one life.

It ties the victim to a family: a spouse, a father, a mother and sometimes children. It links the person to the living remnant of the family through the submitter of the Page of Testimony, invariably a relative.

**It is time for the genealogical community to add to the database all the names of victims that appear on our family trees.** Over the years, I have submitted 82 Pages of Testimony, but there are now nearly 300 Holocaust victims on my family tree. A check of the Shoah Victims' Names Database demonstrated that very few of the persons I have not submitted are named on Pages of Testimony. I have a data entry task to do over the next few months. We all do.

You can get a list of all the Pages of Testimony you have already submitted by locating the Page of Testimony for any one of the victims, and then clicking on the link "Pages of Testimony by submitter with the same name." This will display the names of all of your submissions.

New entries can be submitted in two ways. Submit directly online at  
[http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/!ut/p/\\_s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_9M](http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_9M) or download a form at  
[http://www1.yadvashem.org/remembrance/index\\_remembrance.html](http://www1.yadvashem.org/remembrance/index_remembrance.html) and complete it by hand. (Available in several languages)

There is even a method for correcting the extracted information that is the basis of the site's search engine. After bringing up a page for a specific victim, click the "More Details" button to view the extracted information. On the Detail page is a link "Correct Our Deciphering" which permits a message to go to Yad Vashem for review.

One of the more emotional aspects of the Yad Vashem Shoah database site is the pictures of people on the Basic Search page and the underlying story behind the pictures that can be read by clicking on the image. It puts a face behind each Page of Testimony. To a certain extent, the 2 million Pages of testimony are just 2 million pieces of paper. Adding

pictures to the documents of the members of your family humanizes them. To add pictures for Pages of Testimony already submitted, bring up the initial web page for an individual and click the link that says "Attach Image or Documentation." It must be done through this process, because the submission screen includes the victim's record number; therefore, the image can be automatically linked to the Page of Testimony.

Yad Vashem is also seeking individuals and organizations to assist in recovering names on a local level. For more information and a free resource guide to initiating a names recovery campaign in your community, contact  
[names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il)

Gary Mokotoff

**Fall Issue of AVOTAYNU**

The Fall issue of AVOTAYNU is at the printer. It is an unusually good issue. There are three lengthy articles that rigorously cover their subjects.

Nancy Arbeiter offers a seven-page article on Port of New York immigrant arrivals before Ellis Island, giving detailed descriptions of the early 19th-century practices, then Castle Garden and the Barge Office.

Chaim Freedman, who has devoted his life to researching the descendants and ancestors of the Vilna Gaon (1720-1797), writes nine pages about his major breakthroughs in uncovering the ancestors of the Vilna Gaon. Freedman is the author of "Eliyahu's Branches: The Descendants of the Vilna Gaon and His Family" published by Avotaynu. This book identifies more than 20,000 descendants of the Gaon. Information about the book can be found at  
<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/gaon.htm>.

Freedman has informed me that he has also made breakthroughs in understanding the immediate descendants of the Gaon which he hopes to publish soon. The final large article is by Leon Taranto on how he found his ancestry. There is nothing more boring than an article about "how I found my ancestry" unless. The unless is if the article focuses more on the resources used than on who ones ancestors were. Taranto does exactly that. For eight pages, Taranto discuss genealogical resources in Turkey and Rhodes interwoven with how it applied to his own research.

Avotaynu editor Sallyann Amdur Sack and I have written the two lead articles. My contribution is a report on the status of genealogy with respect to the Jewish community as a whole. Sallyann gives an update on the Mormon/Jewish controversy regarding the Mormon practice of posthumous baptism.

Other articles cover naturalization records in the British National Archives, research in The Netherlands, HIAS records that describe their help to Jews fleeing Europe during the World War II era, vital records of Vienna and the familiant records of Bohemia.

You can subscribe to AVOTAYNU at  
<http://www.avotaynu.com/journal.htm>. There is a special six-issue offer that provides the last two issues of this year with all four issues for 2006.

## KROTOSCHIN: RETRIEVING THE PAST and the Sir John Monash connection

Jews have lived in Krotoschin, Provinz Posen (now Krotoszyn, Wielkopolska) since 1423, possibly even longer.

The first census after the Prussian annexation shows that in 1793/4 Jews made up more than a third of the population. Yet in 1945, after the Nazi occupation of Poland, no trace of this important German-speaking community remained.

The synagogue had been torn down, the school turned into apartments and the cemetery totally obliterated. The last Jewish residents had been murdered. So effectively had the Nazis done their work that a Poznan (Posen) University history lecturer, Dr. Rafal Witkowski, himself of Krotoszyn origin, knew only that there had once been such a community but had never heard of the man who was perhaps its most widely known member.

He stumbled upon him while surfing the web in New York. The name of B.L. Monasch. came up time and time again. This was the 19th century printer and publisher of Jewish books – prayer books, books of devotion, the Jerusalem Talmud and, for many years, of the *Monatsschrift fuer die Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums* which had been edited for many years by Monasch's son-in-law, the historian Heinrich Graetz.

Witkowski's discovery was the beginning of a move to revive this lost history undertaken by him and other like-minded Krotoszyn citizens. First they had a plaque commemorating the printer-publisher fixed against the building that had once housed the Jewish school.

It was unveiled in June 2002 by Caroline Durré, the great-granddaughter of General Sir John Monash\*, commander of the Australian Forces in World War I. The general had himself been a grandson of the Krotoszyn publisher. By a coincidence Miss Durré is a lecturer at the Australian university that bears the general's name.

Next the Society of the Friends and Researchers of the Krotoszyn Region published the memoirs of the printer-publisher in a trilingual edition – the original German text, an existing English translation and a new Polish translation by Witkowski himself. The only previous publication of these rare memoirs had been a severely abridged English version in the Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook of 1979.

Mayor Julian Joks of Krotoszyn had copies of the new book distributed to every school in the district.

Now the Society wishes to mark the site of the ancient cemetery with a wall incorporating some of the broken gravestones. These stones, belaboured with sledgehammers, were discovered built into a low wall surrounding a historic wooden church which, during the Nazi occupation of Poland had been reserved "nur für deutsche Gläubige".

They have been lifted, photographed and stored. Legal hurdles over land rights are still being cleared with the Warsaw rabbinate. The cost of the memorial is estimated at

\$5,000 or more. The Krotoszyn town council has agreed to bear half. The organisers hope that descendants of the vanished community – spread throughout the world – will contribute towards the other half.

Contributions should be sent by bank transfer

Swift code: WBKPPLPP

International Bank ACCOUNT Number (IBAN)

PL28109011570000000015015572

The Krotoszyn community's bank account is held at **Bank BZ WBK O/KROTOSZYN**. Contributions should be marked *Lapidarium*.

The English-speaking community official handling contributions is Grzegorz Galicki, e-mail [HYPERLINK](mailto:HYPERLINK)

"mailto:skabnik@um.krotoszyn.pl"

[skabnik@um.krotoszyn.pl](mailto:skabnik@um.krotoszyn.pl) Phone 0048-509 327 460

\*Sir John Monash (1865-1931) was born in Melbourne and educated at Scotch College and University of Melbourne. In May 1918, towards the end of World War I, Monash was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Army Corps and in that year he led some significant attacks by Australian troops in the final stages of the war. Monash University, a freeway are among sites that carry his name. In 1927 he became the first honorary president of the Australian Zionist Federation. A number of descendants of the Monasch family live in Melbourne.

## Online Survey aims to Research e-Genealogy

A PhD study is underway at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, examining Internet family history resources and their users. This will investigate the users themselves, how users view both e-genealogical resources and libraries, and how these resources are used within the research process. One of the eventual aims of the project is to highlight methods of promoting the "added value" of UK Local Studies Library Collections, increasing their visibility to users online. The research also aims to identify, categorise and examine the available resources: developing specific evaluative criteria and promoting increased awareness and understanding within the library community in order to maintain a quality level of service for genealogical researchers in libraries.

The first stage of the project is a 5-minute online survey, which hopes to gather more information about anyone accessing UK information online for their family history research. This can be found at: <http://www.researchinggenealogy.co.uk>

For further details contact KateFriday <[prs.friday@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:prs.friday@rgu.ac.uk)>

## Hamburg Emigrant Index Now Extends to 1910

The Hamburg Emigration Index now includes the years 1890-1910. They represent 2,219,339 emigrants from this important port of departure. The index is located at <http://www.linktoyourroots.hamburg.de/>

The index provides basic information about the emigrant: name, country/state of origin, approximate age, and destination. The search engine does not allow soundex searches. Use the wildcard feature which is explained on the search page to find name variants. For a fee, you can receive an abstract of the entire entry from the ship's manifest. The cost for an abstract is \$25 for 1-3 persons, \$35 4-10 persons, \$45 for 11-20, \$60 for 21-30 persons. Because it is an abstract rather than the actual manifest, each member of a family of three on a specific page would have his/her own abstract. Therefore, they would count as three persons if you requested information about all three. Funds are used to support the Internet site.

From: Nu? What's New? November 13, 2005

**JewishGen announces the addition of  
37,000 new records to the  
JewishGen Holocaust Database**

**The JewishGen Holocaust Database is a  
collection of nearly 100 different datasets,  
containing over one million entries about  
Holocaust victims and survivors.**

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

The 13 new datasets are:

- \* "Lodz Transports to the Chelmno Extermination Camp":  
Names of 7,168 individuals from Lodz who were transferred to the death camp at Chelmno, June-August 1944.
- \* "Gyor Victims at Auschwitz":  
Names of over 3,000 victims from Gyor, Hungary, deported to Auschwitz, made by a Jewish communal organization.
- \* "Jewish Physicians From Czechoslovakia":  
Names of 1,668 Czechoslovakian physicians who died during the Holocaust, from an unpublished yizkor book manuscript.
- \* "Hannover-Ahlem Prisoners":  
Names of 257 prisoners, mostly Polish Jews, who perished in a subcamp of Neuengamme, located in Ahlem/Hannover.
- \* "Jews of Des (Dej) in the Ghettoization of May, 1944":  
List of 3,250 Jewish residents in Des, Hungary (now Dej, Romania), just prior to their deportation, May 3-10, 1944.
- \* "Kisvarda, Hungary - Records Before Deportation, 1944":  
3,516 residents from Kisvarda (Kleinwardein), Hungary ghetto prior to their deportation, April 10-13, 1944.
- \* "Jews From Iasi (Jassy) Who Survived the Transports":  
List of over 1,600 Jews who survived two transports by train from Iasi (Jassy) Romania.
- \* "Kozienice Ghetto Census (Lista), 1939 - 1942":  
4,023 inhabitants from the census of Jews in the Kozienice ghetto, made by the Jewish Council of Kozienice.
- \* "Holocaust Survivors Claiming American Citizenship":  
Applications of 621 individuals claiming American citizenship, processed in Zurich by the U.S. State Department.
- \* "Subotica Jews, Victims of the Fascist Occupation, 1941-45":  
1,993 names of victims from Subotica, now in Serbia (formerly Szabadka, Hungary, before WWI).
- \* "Balta Ghetto":  
2,817 Jews from the Balta Ghetto, Transnistria, as of 1941.
- \* "Balta Orphans":  
List of 220 orphaned children in the Balta Ghetto.
- \* "Balta Battalion":  
List of 507 Jewish men in Battalion 120 - Romanian forced laborers in Transnistria, 1941-1944.

**We've also updated the following two datasets:**

- \* Dachau Indexing Project: Over 7,000 records added, for a total of over 135,000 records.
- \* North Bavarian Jews: 1,200 records added; now over 7,400.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have made these possible, especially project coordinators Nolan Altman and Mike Kalt. Warren Blatt, JewishGen Editor-in-Chief

[<wblatt@jewishgen.org>](mailto:wblatt@jewishgen.org)

**YNETNews - an online arm of Israel's  
Yediot Ahranoth**

Well known genealogy writer and expert Schelly Dardashti is back with a Jewish genealogy section on YNETnews!

After a hiatus since early 2005 ---Schelly had written, since 1999, "Its All Relative" for the Jerusalem Post for six years, she has just been named Jewish Genealogy contributor to Ynetnews, the English sister site to the Hebrew Ynet site - the online arm of the Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahranoth. Schelly will be writing regularly for YNETNews about stories of reconnections, reunions, community histories, relevant books, events around the world, new resources in genealogical research...and more!

For insight into the skills genealogists pick up along the research road, see Schelly's first column, Linking, Past, Present and Future, which shows how, by studying our roots and researching our family history these skills can help us in other areas of life.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3148172,00.html>

**Czestochowa-Radomska Area Research Group**

**Search: Poland Holocaust Records**

The Czestochowa-Radomsko Area Research Group is pleased to share **more than 1/4 million Holocaust records** via the search engine below, focusing on Jews who lived in Poland before the war or who were in Poland during the war. The database covers hundreds of towns across Poland. About 50% of these records are the result of professional research in Poland, 40% are the result of wonderfully diligent volunteer typists around the world, and 10% are from other sources. We hope that you will find this data useful.

**CRARG's new Holocaust search engine.**

It includes nearly 100 different databases, including (just as examples) 20,000 records for persons from Lodz, 15,000 for persons from Warsaw, 14,000 for persons from Radomsko, and 2000 for persons from Plawno. It includes records for persons from many hundreds of towns throughout Poland.

<http://www.benkazez.com/dan/crarg/search.php>

or  
<http://tinyurl.com/dhxjd>

## People looking for People

The following notices are published as a community service to our readers and others. They come to us via discussion groups on the net or by direct mail and email contact with the Society.

### WINSTON/WEINBERG/ADLER

I am seeking information about the family and descendants (if any) of Ralph WINSTON, born in London about 1895. His parents were Charles WEINBERG and Amelia ADLER. His brother David, and possibly other siblings, may also have lived in Australia. Ralph was an Australian citizen and fought in World War I in Europe.

David Conway, London <smenus@blueyonder.co.uk>

### LESSMAN

I am looking for any members of my father's family, originally from Lodz, Poland, the surname is Lessman.

I believe that after World War 2 some members went to Melbourne. Many thanks

Zilda Collins <zilda.collins@bopenworld.com>

### HIGHMAN

I am trying to trace family in Australia - has anyone come across the surname Highman in their research/travels?

Rebekah Highman <rholt@thinfilm.co.nz>

### SINGER/RUGOWSKY

I had a great aunt named Pearl Singer of Russian/Jewish extraction probably born in Manchester, England some time between 1870 and 1880. She immigrated to Australia, possibly by way of Boston, Massachusetts. I assume before 1900 and married an Australian. I am not certain whether she immigrated to Australia or married first and then immigrated. A professional postcard/photo I found was taken in Prahran. So I assume my great aunt lived in that area.

I believe Pearl (I am not certain of her married name, it may have been Rugowsky (sp.?), or that may have been the name by marriage of her daughter Ruth). She also had a son named Sam. Charlene Rosen, Lenox, Massachusetts, USA  
<crosen1@adelphia.net>

### FOLDES

My grandfather's uncle Dr. Aladar FOLDES (b.1895 Szentes, Hungary) emigrated to Lane Cove (near Sydney) in 1945 with his wife Ella and son Peter (b. 1924, Budapest). They were sponsored by Ella's sister Irene MEDAK and her husband George. The MEDAK's had a daughter named Veronika (b~1933) who may have become a doctor.

From the death index it appears that Aladar died in 1967, but I have not been able to determine what became of his wife and son. Does anyone have knowledge of this family?

Gabriela Svatos, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada  
<gsvatos@hotmail.com>

### BLUMBERG

I need some help again from "Down Under" to locate family information. Thanks to the help I received in the past I found a lot of family records but I need some more help now.

Based on some information I found three brothers named BLUMBERG arrived in Australia in 1882 and I am told they are

cousins but I do not know how they fit on to the tree.

What I need is help to figure out who these brothers' parents were and where they came from. I already have read the article entitled The Blumbergs of Blumbergville in the AJHS Journal and it does not do what I need. Here's what I know in shorthand to help guide the research (hopefully).

The brothers arrived on a ship called Gauntlet and settled in Queensland in a rural area near Dugandan. The town that grew up was first called Blumbergville and later became Boonah. From the research the three brothers, Levi (Louis) married June 29, 1890 in Rockhampton, had two children, and died April 23, 1896 in Roma, Queensland and was buried in Toowoomba Jewish Cemetery in Brisbane. Bother Abram (Adolphe) married before 1893 in Ballarat and had five children and died in 1902 and was buried in the Old Boonah Cemetery. Mendel (Max) never married and all I know is he died in 1938.

Wondering if the marriage records, death records, cemetery records, children's birth records, arrival records or what would give me a clue to the brothers' parents?

Allan Jordan, USA <aejordan@aol.com>

### MOSES/JONES

Lois Kaufman lois@seagull-solutions.co.uk has asked me to post this message on her behalf.

She is looking for descendants of Moses Moses, son of Raphael, and Elizabeth Jones, daughter of Yehiel Michael, who married in the Great Synagogue London in 1821. I am also looking for information on Moses Moses' sister Catherine Moses who married Barnet Emanuel in the Great Synagogue London in 1830. He was widowed and remarried in 1853. Catherine was born in the UK in about 1801.

Miriam Shifreen <mirshif@hotmail.com>

### BENJAMIN

I am looking for the family tree history of Benjamin Benjamin Bb.c. 1826 d. 21/7/1889 at "Lindon", Dalgety St. St. Kilda. Buried St. Kilda cemetery.

He married Julia Marks b.c. 1825 d. 13/5/1897 Dalgety St. St. Kilda. Buried St. Kilda Cemetery. Her father is a "Moses" Marks, spelling unknown.

They married in London m.c. 1849. First child Henry b.c. 1850, Rachel b.c. 1851 London, Moses b.c. 1853

By 1854 they had arrived in Melbourne. Elizabeth b. 1854, Mark b.c. 1854, Caroline b. 1857, Sarah b.c. 1858, Benjamin, then Nellie b.c. Nov 1, 1868.

Rachel married Alfred Levi 1869. Sarah married Solomon Miris 1873. After his death, she married Frederick Blacker 1894.

Nellie married Eugene D. Patterson 1892. They had one son, Benjamin Stanley Patterson b. 1893. Nellie divorce Eugene Patterson 18/5/1898. She married James Keith Macfarlane 10/9/1898. Macfarlane adopted Benjamin Stanley Patterson, changing his name to Stanley Benjamin Macfarlane date unknown. Nellie's second son Daniel Keith Macfarlane b. 13/5/1902 Elsternwick. By 1906 the Macfarlane family left Australia and were in California. James Macfarlane is listed on their marriage certificate as lumber dealer. On son's birth records as owning Macfarlane's Royal Hotel in Hastings. Shirley Rienecker <burgrieneck@aol.com>

## PERKINS/JOSEPHSON/HAYMAN/ISRAEL

I am looking for descendants of Jewish Perkins in Australia (or anywhere). My great aunt Amelia Josephson married a Barnett Perkins and after he died she married his brother Myer Perkins. There were numerous children including a Josh Perkins who was born in Melbourne.

I am researching the Josephson family tree, Melbourne Sydney. I am looking for relatives of Marcus, Leon and Diane Hayman who are descendants of Rebecca Hayman, nee Josephson. Also looking for relatives of Samuel Israel (NSW).

Aviva Goldman <avivagoldman@yahoo.com>

## CHAITOVICH, Manchester, England

I am trying to research my great-grandmother's family who had branches in Manchester, England, Australia, and South Africa. My grandmother was Katie Chaitovich Genkin (Hankin). She had several brothers, which all immigrated to different areas of the world. My great-grandmother came to Brooklyn, NY, one of her brothers went to Albany, and another brother went to England. Other family members are located in South Africa and Australia, but I am not sure if these were my great-grandmothers siblings or descendants of the English branch. The head of each of these branches would have been born in the 1880's, and would have probably been siblings.

On the Manchester branch, I have been told that one of the family members was a prominent rabbi in Manchester, or possible London. Another family member was a barber on the Cunard line's Queen Mary. My grandfather wrote letters home while stationed in England. He mentions in his letters that anytime he goes to "town", Manchester, that he has a "dozen and one" homes to go to. I have been told that their name was Chaitovich, but over the years, this name may have been changed or recorded incorrectly.

Any help, would be greatly appreciated!

Stacy Hankin, Maryland, USA, <stacyhankin@gmail.com>

## NSW DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

The dates of indexes of NSW deaths and marriages available to the public have just been extended - deaths to 1974 and marriages to 1954.

<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/familyHistory/search.htm>

## NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

The National Library has digitised newspapers from the 1840s from NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and London.

There is a list at:

<http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/browselist.html>

It includes:

The Voice of Jacob (Sydney 1842)

<http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/issn/1440334X.html>

The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade list.

<http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/issn/14403897.html>

Gary Luke (Sydney)

## SUCCESS STORIES

### AUGUSTOWSKI

*We received the following feedback:*

*The excitement continues. We have talked to our two cousins David and Sylvia in Melbourne. And we are in email contact with a daughter of Sylvia. We have found the family. Thanks for your kind help. Best Regards, Jerry*

### LIPERT of South Australia

I am making enquiries on behalf of my 80 year old mother who lives in London. She heard from someone that a person resembling her brother was seen on the Adelaide Museum's website under the section 'Roll of Honour Board at the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation. I checked it out myself and sure enough there is a photograph of :

'PRIVATE LEWIS LIPERT UNDERAGE ENLISTEE WHO FOUGHT ON THE BATTLEFIELDS IN FRANCE. VOLUNTEER DEFENSE CORPS AND INSTRUCTOR THE THE AIR TRAINING CORPS IN WW2. PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION'.

Lipert was my Great-grandfather's surname and we had no idea that any relative made it to Australia. However, the photograph is a striking similarity to my uncle. Does anyone know of his descendants? Marilyn Lyons, Israel

### Our Response:

*I cannot believe how small the world is. I just received a letter from the President of the South Australian Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society about Lewis Lipert. It turns out that she knows his daughter. She is one of their members.*

If anyone is interested in viewing this website go to:

<http://www.adelaidejewishmuseum.org/history/lestweforget.htm>

### Joseph Family of London and Sydney

After six years of research have been able to finalise facts on my JOSEPH ancestors and am happy to share knowledge with anyone who is related.

Generation One

Isaac JOSEPH born before 1865, alive 1820 at Drury Lane.

Generation Two - Isaac's known children

Elizabeth 1. ELLIS, 2 KYEZOR, c1784 -1859

Joseph JOSEPH c1790 -1872, Watchmaker, wife Sarah, son Louis/Lewis, Watchmaker, other known descendants BRAUN of London and Sydney. Israel JOSEPH, Jeweller and Silversmith, possibly also a tailor, 113 Drury Lane 1820, (I am looking for more information - wife might be an ABRAHAMS. Israel's sister in law in 1820 was a Sophia ABRAHAMS)

Benjamin JOSEPH (c1791-1838), wife Amelia HARRIS, daughter of Joseph HARRIS, Army Contractor, children included Alfred JOSEPH and Henry JOSEPH, Jewellers and Pawnbrokers of Sydney, Julia KYEZOR, Jane KEYZOR, Bloom HASTINGS and Belle MURRAY of London. The oldest son was Isaac JOSEPH who we have not found.

Julia WATERS 1813- Aft 1839, Isaac's daughter by his second marriage.

Generation Two - Isaac's known step children

Abby POLACK/POLLOCK nee MURRAY c1800-1902

Joseph MURRAY c1807-1881 George, Joseph MURRAY c1808-1887

Keira Lockyer, Australia <keira@netcon.net.au>

## WE ARE THE CHOSEN

*We are the chosen.*

*In each family there is one who seems to be called to find ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.*

*Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but instead, it is breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us, 'Tell our story!' So, we do.*

*In finding them, we somehow find ourselves.  
How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count.  
How many times have I told my ancestors, 'You have a wonderful family, you would be proud of us.'  
How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me?  
I cannot say.*

*It goes beyond just documenting the facts.  
It goes to who I am and why I do things I do.  
It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying, 'I can't let this happen.'  
The bones here are the bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh.  
It goes to doing something about it.*

*It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish, how they contributed to what we are today.  
It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.  
It goes to a deep pride that the fathers fought and some died to make and keep us a Nation.  
It goes to deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us.  
It is of equal pride and love that our mothers struggled to give us birth. Without them we could not exist, and so we love each one, as far back as we can reach. That we might remember them. So we do.*

*With love and caring we are scribing each fact of their existence, because we are they and they are the sum of we we are. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take my place in the long line of family storytellers.*

*That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and restore the memory or greet those whom we have never known before.*

Unknown Author

*This moving piece was brought to our attention by an AJGS member. It appeared in the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc., Victoria, Newsletter, No. 141, Vol. 28, No 5, Oct-Nov 2005.*

## AN INVITATION

NEW YORK - AUGUST 2006

I am delighted to announce that registration is now open for the 26th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The Jewish Genealogical Society (New York) is hosting the conference August 13-18, 2006 (Av 19-24, 5766) at The New York Marriott Marquis Hotel. Register on our website at <http://www.jgsny2006.org/> by clicking on the registration link on the left. Instructions for a downloadable version for printing, a link for hotel registration, and details about the conference are on the site. The site will be updated frequently as new information becomes available.

In addition, for specific questions regarding the hotel or the conference, please sign up for the mailing list for the New York 2006 Conference by visiting <http://lyris.jewishgen.org/listmanager/> Conference Co-Chairs Linda Cantor, Lucille Gudis, and Hadassah Lipsius are spearheading a dynamite event. We look forward to sharing this exciting experience with all of you.  
Roni Seibel Liebowitz, Registration Chair  
[Roni@jgsny2006.org](mailto:Roni@jgsny2006.org)

## THE HOST ORGANISATION

The Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (JGS) was founded in New York in 1977, becoming the first of what are now over 80 such societies worldwide. In the years since its founding, the JGS membership has approached 1,000, with members from both the New York metropolitan area as well as elsewhere in the U.S. and abroad.

The JGS has presented innovative programming and seminars over the years, including monthly meetings with guest lecturers from a variety of disciplines; field trips to cemeteries, libraries and archives; beginner workshops, initiated in the 1980s, which served as a model for other organizations; a daylong annual seminar.

The JGS sponsored the first summer conference for Jewish genealogists in 1981, setting the precedent for annual summer conferences each year since, held in various U.S. cities and in such international locations as London, Paris, Toronto and Jerusalem. The JGS also hosted summer conferences in New York City in 1985, 1991 and 1999 and will be doing so again in 2006.

The JGS has been a leader in disseminating information through its high-quality publications such as Dorot, a quarterly newsletter. The first edition of the highly praised book, *Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area*, an invaluable tool for anyone doing genealogical research in or around New York City, was edited by JGS past president Estelle M. Guzik and published by the JGS in 1989. A new, completely revised edition, titled *Genealogical Resources in New York*, was published in May 2003.