

# Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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Society  
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International Jewish Genealogy Month aims to foster Jewish genealogy organisations and activities all over the world.

Each year, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) holds an annual design competition for a poster or flyer to help announce and celebrate the event.

This year's winning artwork, designed by amateur genealogist and artist Jillian Beroza (Brzoza), was unveiled at the recent IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington DC.

## *New Year Greetings*



*The President, Allan Jankie, and the  
Committee of Management of the Australian  
Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) wish all our  
Jewish members and friends peace, health and  
happiness for the coming Jewish New Year and  
wish you all well over the fast.*

## ***Jewish Genealogy Downunder***

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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.

### **AJGS (Vic) Inc. Committee of Management**

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### **Makor Library Liaison**

Leonie Fleiszig

### **Australian Jewish Genealogy Internet Discussion Group**

Website: www.ajgs.org.au (online forum)

### **AJGS (Vic) Inc. membership fees**

Individual	\$30
Family	\$35
Concession	\$15

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## **EDITORIAL**

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Genealogy enthusiasts and those interested in researching Jewish themes and issues will welcome the announcement of the release of a scholarly publication by well-known Melbourne author Dr Serge Liberman. This third edition, titled *A Bibliography of Australasian Judaica 1788–2008*, from Hybrid Publishers, has expanded the early editions to 864 pages.

The first edition of this bibliography appeared more than 20 years ago, and this long-awaited latest edition brings up to date all traceable books, monographs, pamphlets and chapters from books which in some way pertain to all aspects of Jewish themes relating to Australia and New Zealand in the past 120 years.

These include history, culture, communal life, education, the Jewish press, architecture and the arts. It opens doors for family historians wishing to seek out information relating to the social context of the lives of our ancestors.

Dr Liberman is a medical practitioner with an impressive publication record of short story collections. His writings have won him a number of awards, and he is to be commended on this latest contribution to Australian Jewish scholarship. With all the anxiety surrounding the demise of the traditional bookshop and the shift to electronic books, I believe that there is still a central place in our libraries for bibliographies such as this one in hardcopy format. Ordering information can be found on the web at [www.hybridpublishers.com.au/the-bibliography-of-australasian-judaica-1788-2008.html](http://www.hybridpublishers.com.au/the-bibliography-of-australasian-judaica-1788-2008.html).

This current issue of *JGD* again brings to the reader's attention the meticulous research skills developed by some members of our committee. Allan Jankie, our President, focuses on his family research in Poland, while Rodney Eisfelder offers us insights into the resources and processes he followed to help an enquirer locate the descendants of the mayor of a rural township on the occasion of its 150th anniversary celebration.

In our June issue, Debbie Jurblum outlined her research into her husband's missing family, and in July Bernie Kuran shared with us his step-by-step approach to answer a question posed by a professor in New York city about his maternal grandmother.

We are fortunate to have such a great team, and the addition of nine new members in recent weeks is testimony to the energy and commitment of the AJGS (Vic).

Shana Tova U'metukah.

**Lionel Sharpe**  
**Editor**

### **NOVEMBER MEETING**

Lionel Sharpe will give an illustrated talk on the topic

#### **Dating 19th Century Family Photographs**

on Wednesday, 2 November 2011 at 7.30 pm  
at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre  
306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Victoria 3162

All welcome. Members \$4; non-members \$8.

## Genealogical and historical resources to be relocated

The genealogical and historical resources of the AJGS (Vic) and the AJHS (Vic) will soon be relocated to a new facility at 304 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, in the property next to the Beth Weizmann Community Centre.

The new facility, to be known as the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia, will see the merger of the Makor Jewish Community Library with the communal libraries of Kadimah, the Jewish Holocaust Centre and the Jewish Museum of Australia.

The newly expanded library will provide improved access to all library collections and increased programs for the community. It will also serve as a hub for communal educational and cultural activities.

Melbourne has had the good fortune over many decades to have a unique Jewish community library in the Makor Library. It has served not only as a resource centre for research and learning but also as a facility to encourage and teach members of the community to write and publish their own autobiographies.

It has also been a valuable asset for those wishing to engage in research on Jewish topics and for those in the wider community wishing to access the Jewish community in a congenial environment.

While the space on the ground floor of the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre has served the community well, in recent years other organisations, including our own AJGS (Vic) and the AJHS (Vic), have utilised space at the library. We have been fortunate to be able to house our resource collections, microfilm readers and archival material in the additional space that became available with the closing of a coffee shop on the street frontage.

On 7 June, the Zionist Council of Victoria, which operates Beth Weizmann, welcomed the news that Rafi Lamm, together with his parents Drs Danny and Rolene Lamm, had generously agreed to become the community's major donors to the new Jewish library of Australia.

The Victorian State Government, under former premier John Brumby, gave its seal of approval to the JLA project in November last year when it presented the Zionist Council with a \$1 million dollar grant for the expansion of the current Makor Jewish Community Library to 304 Hawthorn Road.

The grant was conditional upon matching funds being provided, and the generous donation by the Lamm family has more than met that condition.

### New members

The AJGS (Vic) extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

- Michael Able
- Ben Chodziesner
- Viv Bayer
- Laureen and Alan Hall
- Susanne Braun
- Elena Martin
- Tamara Briskin
- Emmie Schmul



Leonie Fleiszig, director of the Makor Jewish Community Library, is looking forward to having more space for the growing resources of the library.

Dr Danny Lamm, past president of the Zionist Council of Victoria (ZCV) and current president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said the new library was poised to become a cornerstone of Jewish communal life.

“Our family is delighted to be directly involved in its foundation and future development,” he said. “The Jewish Library of Australia is a major project that has been several years in the making and we can now secure its completion.”

ZCV president Sam Tatarka thanked the Lamm family for their generosity: “Dr Danny Lamm has been at the forefront of the Zionist community for many years and was the driving force behind the acquisition of 304 Hawthorn Road and the establishment of the Jewish Library of Australia. Rafi and Rolene have now joined together with Danny to support his vision and in doing so the Lamms have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the community and its future.”

Construction of the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia is expected to be completed in mid-2012.

### Donation to Makor Library

Allan Jankie has kindly donated a copy of *In Two Worlds: The Jacobs, Liebers, Glotzers and Coopers*, by Robert Cooper Jacobs, to the genealogical collection in the Oberman Room of the Makor Library.

The book has been written by Allan's new-found cousin in the US. Allan assisted his cousin with some research and is mentioned on page 42.



# The Washington DC report

by Liz James

I was among a group of more than 1200 people who registered to attend the 31<sup>st</sup> International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies conference, held at the Grand Hyatt in Washington DC from 14 to 19 August 2011.

## Registration

On arrival on Saturday evening at 9 pm, I literally threw my suitcase into my hotel room, then rushed downstairs to join one of the long queues (or 'lines' as they call them in the US) to register and collect my conference bag and material for the coming week. The first person I saw was a relative from Canada who is connected to my SAMUEL family and who had traced this very successful family in their business and philanthropic ventures after they left England and set sail for Canada and the US in the 1850s.

The next half hour saw me in vigorous debate with two well-known identities in Jewish genealogy arguing the pros and cons of a very popular genealogy program that one of them was connected to, so that the time that it took to reach the head of the line seemed to pass relatively quickly. When I finally made it to the head of the queue, there was Bubbles Segall, an AJGS (Vic) committee member, sitting on the registration table! Bubbles was one of the many people who had volunteered to help at the conference. There was a large team of volunteers (all wearing red T-shirts) who were to assist in a multitude of ways throughout the week.

In my conference bag was a book with well over 200 pages, listing the following:

- Conference registrants
- Family Finder by SURNAME
- Family Finder by TOWNS
- Family Finder by DNA
- Where in the world we live



Another small booklet in my conference bag was the Daily Planner where, at a glance, you could see a brief summary of each event.

To save vast amounts of paper (not to mention the excess weight in my return luggage), we were each given a USB stick which included more than 500 pages of the following:

- Program in Brief
- Programs and Presenters
- Biographies
- Handouts (by session #)
- Capital Collections, and
- IAJGS 2011 Yearbook

## Conference program

The conference actually began on Friday, 12 August. There were scheduled 'Walking Tours of Jewish DC', various meetings and a Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Shmuley Boteach.

Since returning from the conference, I have been asked many questions, including the following:

*"What did I attend at the conference?" "What was the highlight?"*

To answer that, let me explain. There were eight Australians attending the conference, six of us from



Australians attending this year's IAJGS conference in Washington DC included (from left, standing) Harry Stuart with his partner (both now living in Florida), Enid Yoffa-Elton, Peppy Wald, Max Wald, Liz James, Vernon Kronenberg, Bubbles Segall, and Kim Phillips (front). Sara Elkas (not pictured), from Melbourne, also attended the conference.

Melbourne, one from Sydney and one from the ACT. Such was the enormity of the conference syllabus that there were literally days when I didn't see any of the other Australians. Just imagine, there were more than 115 different speakers (some speaking at up to five different sessions).

*What sessions were the most interesting, invaluable or informative?*

As you would expect, the sessions that I attended covered a vast array of research areas. At times it was almost impossible to make a choice, given that there were often 12 to 16 topics scheduled simultaneously. Areas covered included 15 sessions for beginners, eight on genetics, 24 on the internet and software applications, 11 on the Holocaust, 17 on research skills, four on publishing, three on maps, four on JewishGen, and lectures covering geographic areas such as Africa, Argentina, Asia, Australia, Austria-Czechoslovakia (4), Belarus, Belgium, Bukovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba (2), Denmark, France (3), Galicia (6), Germany (13), Holland, Hungary (5), Israel and Palestine (5), Latvia (3), Lithuania (10), Moravia, Poland (20), Romania (3), Russia (3), Sephardic (11), United States (36) Ukraine (11) and United Kingdom (3).

*What else did I do at the conference other than attend lectures?*

I spent quite a few hours in the Resource Centre, working on one of the 35 computers which, for the full week, provided us with access to a large amount of programs and databases. (These included free programs and databases along with many others usually accessed by subscription only.) There were another five PCs dedicated purely to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) Central Names Index (CNI).

The books and maps in the resource centre also helped me discover more information on the ancestral towns that I was searching.

I made an appointment at the Free Translation centre and was very excited to have some documents from the Hambro Synagogue records from my SAMUEL/EMANUEL family translated for me. I now know the names of another generation of my English ancestors who arrived in the late 1700s.

I wandered around the Vendor Showcase and visited various stands including Family Tree DNA, Ancestry.com, My Heritage, Family Search and Avotaynu.

Other activities that I attended and some that I simply didn't have the energy or time to attend included: visits to various embassies, walking tours, minyans (both Orthodox and Egalitarian), PC and MAC workshops, SIG breakfasts and lunches, dinners, theatre performances, concerts and more than 25 films.



The conference venue, the Grand Hyatt in Washington DC.

As one would expect, I met many of my so-called DNA cousins, as well as a relative from Baltimore with whom I spent many hours comparing genealogical data.

After the conference ended, I spent two full days at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. As well as spending many hours viewing the various exhibitions, I searched the archives of the ITS (International Tracing Service) to see if there were any more records to be found since my visit to Bad Arolsen in 2008. I visited the museum's library on the fifth floor, where I searched through records and books and managed to find many resources and testimonials including, sadly, those of some of my relatives. (Even though we have access to the Spielberg collection of interviews in Melbourne, I also looked at them here.)

After the conference, and before it was time to fly home to Australia, I found time to visit other museums and art galleries, the Library of Congress, the State Archives and many war memorials, all in Washington DC.

On the day of my departure, just as I was going through the airport security, there was an eerie silence, followed by movement of the floor which lasted numerous seconds. Momentarily, nobody quite knew what was happening. As a departing memory of Washington DC, I had experienced my first earthquake, which measured 5.9 on the Richter scale!

Luckily, I flew out of Washington just before the arrival of Hurricane Irene!

And now?

I have a list of hundreds of websites that I wish to explore, a list of people with whom I am corresponding by email, and many new friends and relatives who I hope to meet in Paris in 2012, Boston in 2013 and Salt Lake City in 2014.

*Liz James is a committee member of the AJGS (Vic) and Honorary Secretary of the AJHS (Vic).*



# RESEARCH – POLAND

## by Allan Jankie

While I've had some success in tracing my father's maternal family over the past few years, I have had little success with his paternal family, until recently.

My father was the only survivor of his immediate family, and before he passed away (in 1996) he told me the following information about his family:

- His parents were Aron Isaac JANKIELEWICZ and Regina Masza ENGEL.
- He was born in Lodz, Poland, and so were they.
- The family always came from Lodz.
- Jankielewicz was only (and always) spelled that way.
- He had no relatives.

With a little research, I managed to establish that his grandparents were:

- Chaim Dawid JANKIELEWICZ and Maryem (no maiden name)
- Szlama ENGEL and Judessa (no maiden name)

## My father's maternal family

After a little more work, I discovered that his ENGEL grandparents came to Lodz in the 1890s from the towns of Radomsko and Nowa-Brzeznicza. Using JRI, I found out quite a lot about them and then discovered a research group that concentrates on that area of Poland called CRARG (Czestochowa Radomsko Area Research Group).

CRARG has its own researcher in Poland who drives around the towns of interest and obtains records. It then adds those records to its database. For my annual \$100 membership, I am entitled to get as many reports (each report is actually a file) on any name of interest from their database of records. With their help, I have discovered thousands of relatives (some even alive!) and have taken that side of my family tree back to around 1712 to my g-g-g-g-grandparents.

## My father's paternal family

A few years ago, I had found my g-grandfather's 1927 death record in Lodz which stated that he was 67 years old when he died. I found via Yad Vashem a listing of the Lodz Ghetto inhabitants which showed that my g-grandmother Maryem died in the Ghetto in 1943. I could not find any record of my grandfather's birth in Lodz, even though records I received from Bad Arolsen (ITS) gave me his birth date as January 1900.

I went back to FTJP (Family Tree of the Jewish People) on JewishGen to see if anybody had submitted a family tree that included the name 'Aron JANKIELEWICZ'. The result of that research brought up four records, one of which was an 'Aron Ajzyk JANKELEWICZ' from Piotrkow, born in 1831 and died in 1889.

Now I knew this wasn't my grandfather but the name was too similar to ignore. I emailed the submitter of that particular family tree and it turned out to be someone I had corresponded with a few years earlier regarding the name JANKIELEWICZ. Back then we couldn't establish a connection, especially since my family 'came from Lodz' (according to my father) and his from Piotrkow.

Since that time, the researcher had discovered quite a deal more information about his family but had forgotten about

the contact with me. As we exchanged emails, it became apparent that we were talking about the same family. He even had my g-grandfather (Chaim David) on his database.

This was the first discovery I had made about this major branch of my father's paternal family.

Sure enough, when I searched on JRI, I found my grandfather's birth record, along with his siblings. He had been born in Piotrkow, not Lodz as my father had recalled – family genealogical myth #1 debunked!

My new-found cousin (he is the grandson of my g-grandfather's brother) sent me scans of some of the Piotrkow records he had ordered in from both the LDS microfilms and PSA archives. A few of them happened to be older siblings of my grandfather and they disclosed that my g-grandmother Maryem's maiden name was JAKUBOWICZ.

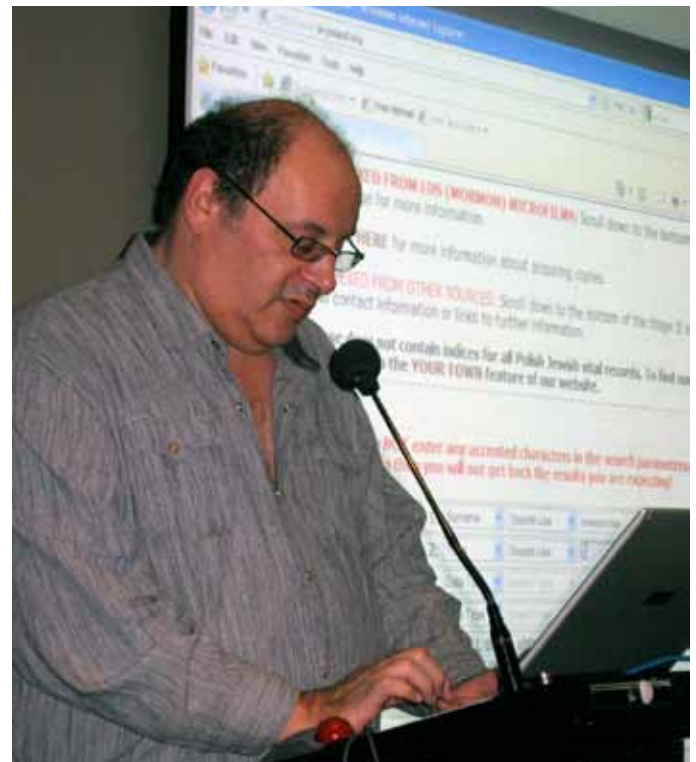
And there were the following spellings of the surname:

- JANKELEWICZ
- JANKELOWICZ

So another family myth (the surname is only spelled JANKIELEWICZ) is debunked!

Thinking that she was also born in Piotrkow, I searched on JRI for her birth record (I knew she was born around 1860–1865) to no avail.

I then received some information that the Polish State Archives held some records titled 'Books of Residents', which are akin to a census, of the population that lived in Piotrkow. I emailed the relevant archive in Piotrkow, in English, asking them to check their archives to see if they could find my family listed there. A few days later, I received



Allan Jankie, President of the AJGS (Vic), speaking on Accessing Polish Jewish Family History Records at a meeting of the society on 17 August 2011 at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre. His two-hour presentation to a large audience focused on the well-known online database Jewish Records Indexing – Poland (JRI-Poland).

**Rozprza BD 1826-47,49-88 M 1826-30,32-47,49-75, 77-88**

Piotrkow Gubernia / Lodz Province

Located at 51°18' 19"38"

Last updated October 2010

Surname	Givenname	Year	Type	Akt	Age	Town	Father	Father_age	Mother	Mother_age	Mothersurn	Status	Comments	Film
BORENSZTEIN	Ruchla	1863	M	9										718,797
JAKUBOWICZ	Szaja	1863	M	9										718,797

a reply from them, in Polish. Unable to read Polish, I just stared at my computer screen trying to figure out a way to translate this email.

I sent a copy to my niece living in Israel, hoping she could translate it for me as she had previously worked for three months in the Jewish Museum in Cracow. Her response was swift – no she couldn't. But she did tell me to try 'Google translate'. I had never heard of this tool, but when I 'googled 'Google translate', up popped the site. Following the instructions, I copied/pasted the email into the 'translator' and sure enough the English translation appeared on my screen.

Their email was telling me that they had searched the Piotrkow Books of Residents and had found 10 pages of records. If I sent them 120 zlotys (or 30 Euros) they would send me copies of the pages. They gave me their bank details, and I opened my personal internet banking account (CBA) to see if I could do it from my computer. Sure enough, there is an 'International Money Transfer' section. I followed the instructions of how to arrange such a transaction – trying to send 120 zlotys to a Polish bank account.

The first thing I was told was that there is a charge of \$25 for each wire transfer. OK, it was expensive but I wanted the records! Then the bank tells me there is a minimum amount they will transfer – 100 Euros. So I decided that even though I only needed to send them 30 Euros (120 zlotys) I would send those 100 Euros and be 'in credit' for 70 Euros. I emailed them back (in English) that I had arranged the transfer of 100 Euros, and asked if it would be possible to get the 'scans' on a CD rather than in hard copy. They replied (in Polish, which I translated using Google translate again) that they could send me the scans via email if I wished. I quickly replied 'yes', and the next day I had the 10 documents emailed to me. Less than a week had gone by since my first email to them.

I now had the 10 documents, and to my horror they were handwritten in Russian!

Using my Jonathan Shea book (*Following the Paper Trail*), I commenced the laborious task of translating the documents, letter by letter. I managed some of them and was able to identify the page where my g-grandparents were listed. From the headings in the columns I could see that each person had their parents listed – including my g-grandmother Maryem JAKUBOWICZ.

But I couldn't translate it – the handwriting was too unclear for me to read. A couple of nights later we had a AJGS (Vic) workshop at the Makor Library, so I brought the document with me in the hope that someone might be able to assist me in translating it. Sure enough, a first-time attendee was able to tell me that Maryem's parents' names were Szaja and Ruchla B..... : she couldn't read Ruchla's surname. The document also stated that Maryem was born in 1864. So I did a search on JRI for the names Szaja and Ruchla together. The search produced several results, including an 1863 marriage in the town of Rozprza (South of Piotrkow)

for a Szaja JAKUBOWICZ and a Ruchla BORENSZTEIN. This had to be the correct couple.

When I did a subsequent search in JRI for JAKUBOWICZ in the town of Rozprza, there were only two records – that marriage record and a birth record in 1864 for Maryem JAKUBOWICZ. I was now certain that I had my g-grandmother and her parents, but how could I prove it? I could order in the microfilm from the LDS, but I was impatient.

One of the features of JRI is that you can search all the towns/cities of Poland and get in contact with the person who is 'in charge' of indexing that town's records. The person listed for Rozprza is someone I have corresponded with irregularly over the past few years, a fellow member of the CRARG research group I mentioned – Leah Jordan Bisel.

I emailed Leah with what I was looking for, and the next day she sent me scans of both the marriage and birth records. The records confirmed my thoughts, but even better! They gave me the names of Szaja and Ruchla's parents – Lewek and Ewa JAKUBOWICZ; Szaja and Zeld BORENSZTAJN.

So from knowing nothing other than my g-grandmother's given name (Maryem) and her approximate year of birth, I've now found all four of her grandparents.

I tried searching in JRI for records about Lewek and Ewa JAKUBOWICZ, as well as Szaja and Zeld BORENSZTAJN, but could not identify anything that I was confident about for any of them.

Given that their children married in Rozprza, I concentrated on looking in the area surrounding that town. And given its location, I decided to contact Dan Kazez, the person who runs the research group CRARG for advice. He suggested I look in Radomsko records for them. I couldn't find anything in JRI for Radomsko that seemed to fit. Dan had previously sent me a CRARG 'file' for the surname BORENSZTAJN when I was looking for another branch of my father's family tree (on his maternal paternal side). Many of my past 'finds' have come from these CRARG files.

So I went back to this BORENSZTAJN-CRARG file and sure enough found the couple Szaja and Zeld BORENSZTAJN.

Much to my surprise I discovered that I already had them on my family tree because their son Szysia had married a member of my father's maternal GOLDBERG family. I never knew until now that he was my g-g-grandmother's brother! I'm now busy adding in all the 'branches' of my BORENSZTAJN family.

### Postscript

I now think I've found the marriage record of Lewek and Ewa JAKUBOWICZ, in 1835 in Czestochowa. The record has been ordered in and I shall soon see if this is the right couple! If so, hopefully the names of their parents will be listed and I'll have another generation to add to my family tree.

# Dating old photographs

by Lionel Sharpe

A five-page article, titled *Photo Identification: The Process of Finding and Interpreting Clues in a Photograph*, by Ava Cohn, caught my attention in the Fall 2010 issue of *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*. Ava Cohn describes herself as a photo genealogist, one who specialises in the dating, identification and interpretation of Jewish family photographs.

She poses four questions that everyone should ask when analysing Jewish family photographs: who are the people in the photograph, where and when was it taken and why was it taken? To seek the answers to these questions, she suggests a combination of documentation and interpretation.

The article systematically takes the reader through a number of steps in bringing to life an interesting family group photo that was given to her by a client. In essence, these steps are:

- (a) Begin with what is known.
- (b) Use a second photograph to help identify those in the first.
- (c) Use written documents as evidence.
- (d) Use clothing cues.
- (e) Use a third photograph to check out facial likenesses.

Unlike most Australian Jewish families whose forbears arrived here as refugees after World War II and where all or most early family photos were lost, my own maternal ancestral family photo collections have been handed down over 150 years, or, in some instances, they were discovered by sheer accident in recent years.

I am fortunate that my earliest maternal ancestor, David Lobascher, arrived in Melbourne on 13 May 1855, with his wife, Rosalie, and two children, Matilda and Natalie. Another six children were born in Australia. By the outbreak of World War I, the numerous descendants of this early settler were rapidly adding to the family photo collection.

The earliest photograph, mounted on a small card measuring two-and-one-half by four inches, was taken of my gggrandfather, David Lobascher, on 17 July 1877 at the studio of A W Burman, Bourke Street East, Melbourne. How do I know these facts? The printing and the handwriting, even his signature, on the rear of the card, known as the popular *Carte de Visite* in that era, provide me with the answers to at least three of the above questions posed by Ava Cohn. Other photos need careful research.

Whether the top hat and the long warm jacket were borrowed for the occasion we cannot know, but what I do know is that this mounted photo (see top of the next column) was posted to members of his extended family who were still living in Posen, a province of Prussia, in the late 19th century.

This photo, among other family photographs taken in Melbourne over 100 years ago, remained in Germany until 1939. Distant descendants of the family fleeing Nazi



Germany brought these photos to Melbourne. The story of the discovery of these treasured photographs, which only emerged from obscurity in 1999, was documented in an article in the Winter 2000 edition of *Avotaynu*.

I recall as a young boy visiting the home of my grandparents and being fascinated by a cupboard packed with old leather-bound books, usually prizes awarded at Hebrew school, among other family treasures. In particular, there was a box containing photos, many mounted on cardboard bearing the name of the photographer either on the back of the mount or printed beneath the image. Curiosity remained with me until many years later when I became interested in identifying these unknown faces and motivated enough to seek out cues for identification.

Some years ago, I visited a specialist photography bookshop in Richmond and purchased two books, *Dating Old Photographs* and *Understanding Old Photographs*, by Robert Pols (1995). The first-mentioned book is very helpful in that it offers nine charts for dating photographs covering the decades 1840 to 1915. The author describes changes at various periods:

- Kinds of photograph (eg photographic processes and materials used).
- Non-image details (eg mounts with square or rounded corners; printing on the back of the mount was sometimes elaborately scrolled, and sometimes included in gold leaf the name of the photographer and the business address).
- Non-costume aspects of image (eg drapes, balustrades, arches, windows).
- Women's clothing: general line and decoration (eg tight corsetry, the 1872 Dolly Varden dress craze).
- Women's clothes: bodice, sleeves and skirt (eg epaulettes often braided).
- Women's fashions: head and neck (eg bun high on head, small white indoor caps).
- Men's clothing: trunk and limbs (eg matching waist coats, knickerbockers).
- Men's clothing: head, neck and feet (eg homburg, the boater, spats, squarish toed shoes).
- Children's clothes (eg sailor suits, smocked yokes, dressing sisters alike).





This *Carte de Visite* of Adelaide Lobascher was taken in 1878. These pocket-sized mounted photographs (6.3 x 10.5 cm), used as visiting cards, were popular from about 1857 to 1890.



Gladys Davis (1902–1975) taken about 1905. 'Christmas Greetings' – possibly a card sent to non-Jewish friends.



This photo of Simon David Davis (1853–1931) features an embossed mount. The style of his beard and moustache was made popular by King George IV.



This photo of Victor Visbord (1888–1973), circa 1890, features clothes provided by the studio. It is a cabinet-size print (16 x 22 cm), for wall or cabinet display, from Vandyck Studios, 3 Bourke Street, Melbourne (1866 to 1905).



Ethel Joseph (1883–1975), photographed at The Crown Studios, George Street, Sydney (cabinet-size print). Ethel married Henry Levy in 1902.



First cousins Adelaide (1902–1998) and Gladys Davis (1902–1975) were photographed at the Grouzelle and Co studio, Royal Arcade, Melbourne, which operated between 1884 and 1887.

I also purchased two Australian publications, *Dating Family Photos 1850–1920*, by Lenore Frost, and *The Mechanical Eye in Australia: Photography 1841–1900*, by Alan Davies and Peter Stanbury (1985). Both are excellent for Australian research.

Lenore Frost outlines a dating guide to changing fashions in costume for each decade in Australia from 1850 to 1920. Each period is illustrated with relevant photographs.

Analysing changes in men's attire and appearance, Frost describes changes in fashion styles for the following: coats and jackets, waistcoats, collar and tie, trousers, hair and whiskers, hats, boots and shoes.

For women, she describes changes in dress styles, skirts, the bodice, sleeves, hair styles, hats and bonnets, coats, jackets, shawls and accessories. Sixteen pages are also devoted to describing fashions for girls and boys.

Frost also provides a list of 64 Australian photographers, noting business addresses, where available, for the period 1857 to 1920. Note that early business directories can be useful in determining the years of operation of the photography business (in cases where the location of the studio is known).

Information gathered in your photo research should be entered in your family tree program for further scrutiny.



Lady with bun: One of a number of hair styles that were popular between 1910 and 1920.

# Tracing families

by Rodney Eisfelder

The committee of our society deals with a stream of requests for help. Some are easily dealt with, however some are much more difficult and need the resources of several members of the committee to chase down all the aspects of a problem.

In late 2010, the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation passed on a request from David Matthews, President of the Jamieson Community Group, who were about to celebrate the 150th anniversary of their township. They were seeking descendants of their first mayor, Bear Rapiport.

The Melbourne Chevra Kadisha had already supplied information on the burial of Henry Alexander Rapiport, son of Bear and Marie Rapiport, who was buried in Brighton Cemetery, and indicated that the parents were buried in Carlton Cemetery.

Liz James distributed the request to the committee and the search was on.

I used a variety of sources to find out about this family – the Beverley Davis Burial Database; the Victorian Birth, Death and Marriage Indexes; synagogue marriage records; the New South Wales Birth, Death and Marriage records; Rookwood Cemetery's website (for Sydney burials); and the National Library's Trove database, which includes the text of millions of newspaper articles and advertisements.

I reported back to Liz (by email) after an hour or so:

This is probably Bear RAPIPORT who is buried at Carlton, died 1 May 1898 aged 64 (82 according to the Victorian Death Index), husband of Maria Louise (nee) MARKS (died 7 August 1913 in Sydney aged 72), also buried at Carlton.

They were married at Melbourne Hebrew Congregation on 4 August 1858. They had at least five children:

Flora RAPIPORT, born Melbourne 1859, died aged 1 day  
William Casper RAPEPORT, born Melbourne 1861  
Flora RAPIPORT, born Melbourne 1864, died aged 4 days  
Henry Alexander RAPIPOT, born Melbourne 1865  
Julia Jenetta RAPIPORT, born Collingwood 1868  
(Note: three different spellings of the surname for these five children.)

Henry Alexander Rapiport is buried at Brighton. He died 30/12/1913 aged 46. No trace of any marriage.

It seems likely that Walter C Rapiport, who died 9 June 1931 and is buried at Rookwood (Sydney), is the same person as William Casper. The inscription indicates that he was married to Bertha who died 23 October 1948 aged 72. Walter C Rapiport married Bertha Schindler in Sydney in 1911.

The NSW Birth Index only goes to 1909, so I am stuck searching for children.

Julia Jeanette RAPIPORT married Ernt. LANDSBERG in Victoria in 1892. I couldn't find this marriage in MHC, STKHC or EMHC. I couldn't find any trace of children for this couple. For Julia, see below ...

It looks a lot like Henry did not have any children. But the death certificate would need to be checked to be sure (Victoria 1913 #15159 in the name of Hy RAPPEPORT). It is harder to be sure about Walter/William, but again the death certificate (NSW 6649/1931) should answer the question.

By the way, a search for Rapiport on the NLA Newspaper site soon brings up a big scandal in 1896:

*The Criminal Court was crowded to-day when Bear Rapiport and Allan Baxter, ex-justices of the peace, appeared on a charge of conspiracy to defeat the ends of justice.*

*Ah, here is something: Sydney Morning Herald, 1 January 1914:*

*Death notice for Henry Alexander Rapiport 'at Melbourne, ... brother of Walter Rapiport and Julie Van Lier'.*

Julie Van Lier died 14 August 1953 at St Kilda and is buried at Fawkner. No stone. Where Julie's first marriage ended is still a mystery to me. But her second marriage is recorded in the *Argus* of 2 November 1899:

*VAN LIER-RAPIPORT – On the 4th October, at Cape Town, by the Rev Mr Bender, Maurice, son of E Van Lier, advocate, Amsterdam, to Julie, daughter of the late Bear and Mrs M, Rapiport, Melbourne.*

On 4 October 1924, the *Argus* has a Silver Wedding Announcement for Marice Van Lier and Julie Rapiport: Present Address: 6 Raleigh St Yeoville, Johannesburg.

The *Argus* of 5 September 1870 reports the death in Cracau, Austria of Joseph Rapiport, beloved father of B Rapiport, JP, of Jamieson.

So it looks very much like the children were unproductive, but their death certificates would need to be checked to be sure.

After this report was sent to the rest of the committee, Bubbles Segall, our South African expert, was able to add several details:

I found a burial of a Mauritz van Lier in Johannesburg. Date of birth 1871, date of death 2 August 1943, aged 72 and buried in the Westpark Cemetery in Johannesburg. The plot in the cemetery is E 266.

And then a few days later, also from Bubbles:

Hi everyone! Found some info on Julie Van Lier:

1. There is no estate file for Maurice in the South African Archives.
2. Julie is listed as a spinster on her marriage certificate to Maurice Van Lier, which I have attached. According to previous research from you, it states that this was her second marriage! This photo isn't too good but I can read it.
3. Couldn't find any information about children of Maurice and Julie.

If we want to find out, we could put an ad in the Johannesburg Jewish newspaper.

4. If they owned property in Yeoville, Johannesburg, the Johannesburg Deeds Registry may have more information on the couple.

Sometimes, our work has side-effects that we cannot anticipate, as Bubbles reported a little later:

I received an email from the Chevra Kadisha in Johannesburg as follows:

*Good day.*

*We have received an enquiry about the late Mr Maurice Von Lier. As you can see from our response we are unable to supply any information as the deceased has never had a tombstone erected. The Torah speaks of placing a marker where a person is buried and if the family however distant are able and willing to erect a small tombstone it would be a great honour to the deceased.*

*If you and the family are able to assist in putting up a basic tombstone this would be a great mitzvah. Should you wish to pursue this we would be able to direct you to a number of stone masons who could assist.*

*Shabbat shalom*

I didn't contact the Chevra Kadisha directly, someone else must have. I will reply and tell them that I am not family.

I added one more piece to the puzzle with a report on the disappearance of Julie Rapiport's first husband:

Regarding Julie Rapiport's first marriage, I can understand why it did not last, and why she tried to forget about it. It looks like number one husband took the money and ran. The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 30 December 1892 reports:

*SUPREME COURT – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29*

*In Bankruptcy  
CREDITORS' PETITIONS  
LARK, SONS, AND CO., V. ERNEST LANDSBERG*

*Mr Pigott appeared for the petitioners, and asked for an extension of time and leave to serve respondent at his last known place of business. Counsel stated that an affidavit had been filed stating that respondent, it was believed, had gone to Victoria and could not be found. Before leaving he drew £185 from the bank, and obtained a sum of money from the United Australian Insurance Company for loss sustained by fire, and he also obtained an advance from the bank which he had not provided for. As far as petitioners knew, Howlong was the respondent's last place of abode. It was ordered that the notice should be advertised once in the Albury Banner and a registered letter sent to respondent's last place of abode. The time was extended for a fortnight.*

So, we were unsuccessful in finding any descendants for Bear Rapiport, but we did locate the final resting place of his three adult children and their spouses in Sydney, Melbourne and Johannesburg.

Case closed.



# POSTINGS

## UPDATES ON THE ALL GALICIA DATABASE FROM GESHER GALICIA

Gesher Galicia proudly announces the launch of the new All Galicia Database (AGD) at <http://search.geshergalicia.org/>.

This search engine currently features 172,954 records from 41 different data sources, covering everything from birth, death, marriage and divorce records to phone books, school and landowner records, all from the former Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia.

The majority of this data exists nowhere else online and major kudos goes to Gesher Galicia board member and programmer extraordinaire Brooke Schreier Ganz for its creation.

Although Gesher Galicia's primary focus is on helping people research their Jewish roots in this region, the diverse community records in this database contain names that span all of the ethnic and religious groups who lived in Galicia. If you know people who are researching their Galician ancestors of Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Polish or German background, encourage them to take a look. Although many Galician communities are represented, with myriad records, those with an interest in Jewish vital records for Drohobycz, Sambor, Brody, Zbarazh, Mikulince, Bialy Kamien and Lviv will be especially pleased.

The launch of this database is an admirable accomplishment for our small organisation and huge kudos goes to everyone who coordinated the indexing projects that are included. The volunteers who worked tirelessly doing data entry are mentioned on the website, but the following individuals deserve special accolades: Eric Bloch, Tony Hausner, Max Heffler, Mark Jacobson, Ada Green and Ami Elyasaf.

We are in the process of indexing more landowner, property and voter records, so keep checking back for updated entries. We also welcome submissions of new data sets for inclusion in the AGD. Do you (or does someone you know) have copies of records that could be helpful to genealogists and historians researching Galicia? Examples are school yearbooks, landsmanschaften records, Chevra Kaddisha books, mohel records, tax lists, census records etc. If so, please contact me.

To find out more about Gesher Galicia's work, see [www.geshergalicia.org](http://www.geshergalicia.org).

Pamela Weisberger <[pweisberger@gmail.com](mailto:pweisberger@gmail.com)>  
President and Research Coordinator, Gesher Galicia

## DEPORTATIONS FROM VIENNA

According to an announcement in the newsletter of the Dokumentationsarchiv des Oesterreichischen Widerstandes (DOEW) [Documentary Archive of the Austrian Resistance], the database of Jews deported from Vienna has been extensively revised and more than 1000 data have been added. There are now more than 63,200 names on the list.

The databank lists family name, forename, date and place of birth, date and end location of deportation transport, date and place of death [if known].

The address is [www.doew.at/ausstellung/shoahopferdb\\_en.html](http://www.doew.at/ausstellung/shoahopferdb_en.html). This is the English version.

Henry Kelwel <[henry.kelwel@gmail.com](mailto:henry.kelwel@gmail.com)>

## INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

### Personal effects Holocaust victims

The International Tracing Service at Bad Arolsen has long had a collection of Holocaust victims' personal effects found after liberation at Dachau, Neuengamme and a few other places. It has finally placed on the web a searchable database of the names of the owners, where these could be determined.

There are 2400 names from Neuengamme, 330 from Dachau and a scattering from other places. The database can be searched at [www.its-arolsen.org/en/archives/effects/index.html](http://www.its-arolsen.org/en/archives/effects/index.html).

Peter Lande <[pdlande@starpower.net](mailto:pdlande@starpower.net)>  
Washington, DC

## SYNAGOGUE SCRIBES SITE UPDATE

More than 1000 Will abstracts are now available on [synagoguescribes.com](http://synagoguescribes.com) under our secular records section at <http://synagoguescribes.com/blog/secular-records/>.

These abstracts cover the 18th and 19th centuries, from towns across the United Kingdom and places as far afield as New York, Jamaica and Australia and cover everything from the wealthy slave owners to the humble general dealers, silversmiths, quill dressers, book sellers, publicans, orange merchants and cattle salesmen. These abstracts offer an extraordinary insight into the diversity of Jewish life across two centuries as well as a massive amount of genealogical information.

Further burial records have also been added to the main SynagogueScribes database at <http://synagoguescribes.com/blog/advanced-search-3/>.

Our sister site, CemeteryScribes.com, now has photos of tombstones from various cemeteries in East Anglia.

Gaby Laws <[gabylaws@gmail.com](mailto:gabylaws@gmail.com)>  
Co-owner with Angela Shire of SynagogueScribes and CemeteryScribes, London, UK

## REGISTRY OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

The Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is seeking the names of all survivors of the Holocaust and Nazi-era persecution – whether or not currently living – to record their experiences for future generations, assist survivors and their families in attempts to trace missing relatives and friends, and provide reference to scholars of the Holocaust, genealogists and the public.

Established in 1981 by the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors as a national registry to document the lives of survivors who came to the United States after World War II, the registry now includes more than 200,000 records related to survivors and their families from around the world.

The museum honours as survivors any persons, Jewish or non-Jewish, who were displaced, persecuted or discriminated against due to the racial, religious, ethnic, social and political policies of the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Inclusion in the registry is voluntary and contact information will not be made public. Family members can register survivors posthumously.

Further information can be found at [www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry/](http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry/).



## PEOPLE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE

*The following notices are published as a community service to our readers. They come to us via internet discussion groups or by mail and email contact with the society.*

### RAINER

I am looking for descendants (as far as I know, a son, who must be in his 50s) of Dr Zenek Rainer and his wife, Steffa. They moved to Australia after World War II from Poland. Members of our two families survived the war together, and I would love to find additional answers to some of my questions. With many thanks for any possible help.

Denise Israel (b. Stieglitz), Israel <stieglitzd@mac.com>

### YAFFEY/YOFFE

I am trying to obtain information about my grandfather's brother who migrated to Australia sometime between 1880 and 1900. I know almost nothing about him, including his first/given name, which complicates my task.

The following facts are all that I know about my great-uncle and his family. His family name was 'Yaffey' (brother to my grandfather Sam Yaffey).

He migrated from Lithuania (Russia), with family, apparently from a shtetl called Toroskove (Russian for Truskava or Dvariskiai) in the province of Kaunas/Kovna. He and his family probably came to Australia between 1880 and 1900.

He may have come to Australia through Edinburgh, Scotland, and the family settled in Sydney or Melbourne. He may have been trained as a rabbi/teacher and sent to Australia by a Rosh Yeshiva to serve a nascent congregation.

The names of his parents were William (Zev Wolf) and Miriam Yaffey and they had a daughter named Miriam, who regularly corresponded with my mother until her death in 1947. The name 'Yaffey' could have been 'Yoffey', according to one document I have. Other variants might be Yoffee, Yaffe, Jaffe etc.

Stanley Baldinger (respond to admin@ajgs-vic.org.au)

### Yizkor Books in Print

I am extremely excited to announce the 'kick off' of a new Yizkor Book Project initiative called Yizkor Books in Print. The idea behind this project is to make hard copies of books that have been completely translated in the Yizkor Book Project and make them available for purchase by the descendants of these communities as well as university and synagogue libraries and museums.

This project could not have come into existence had it not been for Joel Alpert, who has kindly agreed to be the project's adviser. The next stage is to look for people to fill the tasks required in the project. If you have a background in editing and graphics or if you have had previous experience in preparing books for publishing, we'd be very pleased to hear from you.

If you are interested in receiving further details about the roles required for the project, visit [www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html).

Lance Ackerfeld <lance.ackerfeld@gmail.com>  
Yizkor Book Project Manager

### JewishGen ShtetlSeeker now the JewishGen Gazetteer

On 16 August, at the recent IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington DC, Warren Blatt announced that the JewishGen ShtetlSeeker was being renamed the JewishGen Gazetteer. The name was chosen to more accurately reflect the contents of the database.

The JewishGen Gazetteer is based on data from the US Board on Geographic Names and contains the names of one million localities from 54 countries throughout Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Along with the name change, a number of significant improvements have been made:

(1) The geographic scope has been expanded to include Scandinavia: Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland; Iberia: Spain, Portugal, Luxembourg, Kyrgyzstan and Yemen.

(2) Improved search functionality: names in non-Latin alphabets (such as Arabic and Cyrillic) are now displayed (extremely useful when trying to locate towns based on old documents).

(3) Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching, a more advanced and accurate form of Soundex coding, has been implemented.

(4) Search results are now displayed in order of relevance, with the most likely matches appearing first.

The JewishGen Gazetteer has helped thousands of people identify the places where their ancestors lived. The new name of the database, along with the technical improvements, will enable JewishGen to continue helping amateur and professional genealogists as they research their Jewish family history and heritage.

Queries can be directed to [info@JewishGen.org](mailto:info@JewishGen.org).

Avraham Groll for JewishGen

### IAJGS announces achievement awards

The IAJGS Achievement Awards were announced at the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference Gala by Mark Halpern, Chairman of the 2011 Awards Committee.

The committee also included Jan Meisels Allen, Michael Brenner, Paul Cheifitz and Laurence Harris.

The award for Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy was given to The Columbus Jewish Historical Society for their "Legacy 2010: 170 Years of Jewish Life in Central Ohio" project.

The award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product was given to Phyllis Kramer, JewishGen Vice President, Education, for her role with the JewishGen Learning Center.

The IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Michael Tobias, JewishGen Vice President, Programming and co-founder of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland for his role in development and improvement of online database systems.

The 2011 award for Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS was not presented as there were no nominations in this category.

On behalf of the Awards Committee,  
Mark Halpern