

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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

Vol 15, No 3 and 4
September and December 2013

Melbourne, Australia

www.ajgs-vic.org.au

DECEMBER 2103 MEETING

The AJGS (Vic) in association with the
Makor Jewish Community Library

invite you to hear well-known New Zealand genealogist

CLAIRE BRUELL

**Reconstructing the past: the lives and times of
the Neue Freie Presse and Moriz Benedikt**

Tuesday, 3 December 2013, 7.30 pm

The talk will focus on the *Neue Freie Presse* and should interest anyone with a connection to pre-war Vienna or those with a research interest in Moravia. It will also give researchers an idea of what to do with the mountain of data they may have collected and left sitting in boxes after many years of research.

Claire has been researching her family history in Moravia for 25 years. More recently, she has turned her attention to the Galician families of her husband's family and is using her research and a little imagination to write about their 16 great grandparents. Like many Jews in post-Holocaust Australasia, the tentacles of her family are spread worldwide.

Claire has also been a founder of the oral history project in Auckland, interviewing Holocaust survivors, ex-servicemen and others in the Jewish community as well as writing and speaking on Jewish genealogy. She is also a founding committee member of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy.

Lamm Jewish Library of Australia
306 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South, Victoria 3162

Members: \$5. Non-members: \$10.

Enquiries: 9523 6738. Email: sharpe@aapt.net.au.



New
Zealand
genealogy
researcher
Claire
Bruell.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial

by Lionel Sharpe 2

Articles

My first international Jewish genealogy conference, by Myra Waddell 3

Visiting my famous ancestor (born 1215), by Liz James 4

The JCCV honours Max Wald 5

Building your own family tree while helping others, by Max Wald 6

Sharing the 'mishpachology' 7

A journey to Dĕčín, by Daniela Torsh 8–9

Columns

Research tips: Finding information on emigrant relatives to Australia, by V. Duggan 10

E-news; Postings 11

Notices; People Looking for People 12

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

is published quarterly by the
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc.
PO Box 189, Glenhuntly, Victoria 3163

Editor

Lionel Sharpe (+61 3 9523 6738)

Assistant editor

Kaye Quittner

Email

sharpe@aapt.net.au

AJGS (Vic) Inc. website

www.ajgs-vic.org.au

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

President	Allan Jankie
Vice-president	Debbie Jurblum
Secretary	Lionel Sharpe OAM
Treasurer	Rene Eisner
Committee	Rodney Eisfelder
	Liz James
	Bernie Kuran
	Kaye Quittner
	Ian Samuel OAM
	Bubbles Segall
	Max Wald

Makor Library Liaison

Leonie Fleiszig

Australian Jewish Genealogy Internet Discussion Group:

www.ajgs.org.au (online forum)

AJGS (Vic) Inc. membership fees (for 2014)

Individual	\$35
Family	\$50
Concession	\$18

New members

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

- Lyndon and Harry Phillips
- Sam Zalcman

EDITORIAL

I sometimes speculate as to how many AJGS (Vic) members utilise the wide range of resources for researching family history by reaching beyond the well-known databases of JewishGen, Yad Vashem, the National Archives of Australia and many others.

For those of us with a serious interest in family history research, a subscription to the 'Avotaynu Anthology of Jewish Genealogy' is a rare opportunity. A small subscription fee offers the possibility to read and, if required, print out a few of the 2900 articles published in their flagship journal AVOTAYNU (for details see page 11).

I point the reader to the lead article in the recent Spring 2013 issue of this International Review of Jewish Genealogy to illustrate how one person's quest led to an unbelievable contribution to genealogy.

The article is written by Stanley Diamond, the executive director of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland (JRI-Poland). Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus, the editor of this journal, writes: "It is difficult to overestimate the magnitude of what Diamond has done with JRI-Poland. One man, and the volunteer army he has amassed, has created the largest genealogical index database on the web. It has more names than even the massive Yad Vashem database."

Diamond writes that his indexing proposal goes back to December 1994, and now 18 years later an early dream is now a distant memory.

In his four-page historical outline, Diamond describes how the germ of an idea started with his search through LDS microfilms at Salt Lake City. He was in search of records of relatives who might be carriers of his family's beta thalassemia genetic trait, when he realised that what he was doing was what so many others had done in the past.

He writes: "A better way to do such research had to exist." He then goes on to spell out the contribution JRI-Poland has made to genealogy, and he offers a challenge to future genealogists to deal with the task of indexing and image-linking hundreds of thousands of additional records as they become available each year.

He points out that it will "need the continued support of both individuals and organisations, friends and devoted volunteers and researchers who share the vision and feel so passionately about the importance of both preserving and sharing JRI-Poland's data and ensuring that the indexing mission will continue."

Stanley Diamond's example has been emulated by some of our committee members. Max Wald, for instance, has recently been honoured by the Jewish Community Council of Victoria for his contribution to an Australian Jewish records indexing project (see page 5). Rodney Eisfelder and former Victorians Gilda and Russell Feldman have also received accolades for their indexing work over many years.

Through AVOTAYNU's anthology we have an opportunity to witness the creative energy of others, and hopefully this may also motivate us to contribute to the collective pursuit of family research.

Lionel Sharpe
Editor

My first international Jewish genealogy conference

by Myra Waddell, Adelaide

My interest in attending my first IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (4–9 August 2013) was sparked by my attendance at the Second Australian National Genealogy Conference, hosted by the AJGS (Vic) and held in Melbourne in 2010.

I began my preparations – travel and accommodation bookings – last December, and my excitement grew as the time for my new experience got nearer. I joined the conference website and eagerly read all the information and comments from those thinking of attending.

As I discovered names of other Australians who were planning to attend, I sent emails to them and suggested we each write about ourselves so that we could all get to know each other a bit before we met in Boston. Some of us also Skyped each other – and emails and Skyping were also opportunities for first-timers to ask about things we needed to know. I also contacted a couple who, having been to previous international conferences, were able to give me several helpful tips.

As soon as details of the various sessions were put online, I copied and pasted them into a Word document so that I could sort out which of them were of most interest to me. Because there were so many sessions of interest, it took me

several days to choose but, eventually, I managed to make my decisions.

With advice from another of the Australian attendees, I put all my sessions onto a spreadsheet, which I printed so that I would know where I wanted to be each day. I had also chosen an alternative session for some of the times, in case I changed my mind or a session was full by the time I arrived at the correct room. I booked a 'Breakfast with experts', a 'Bessarabia computer workshop' and, of course, the Banquet – all of which cost extra but turned out to be well worth the expense.

I'd chosen to arrive at the conference hotel in Boston a couple of days before the start and found that worked well, as I was able to take a good look around in advance.

The Share Fair on the day prior to all the sessions was an excellent way to meet other attendees and also to meet people on the various stalls who had information about the countries in which my ancestors lived.

The first session each day started at 8.15 am, unless one went to a breakfast session, which was at 7 am. The breakfasts were great as I not only got the opportunity to listen to words of wisdom from an expert but also chatted over a bowl of cereal with others who had an interest in the same countries I was interested in.

Continued on page 5.



Photo courtesy of Rodney Eisfelder.

Australians attending the 33rd IAJGS conference on Jewish genealogy include (back row, from left) Rodney Eisfelder (Melbourne), Robyn Dryen (Sydney), Judy Tovah Wilkenfeld (Sydney), Myra Waddell (Adelaide) and Eli Rabinowitz (Perth); (front row, from left) Suzie Eisfelder (Melbourne), Evelyn Frybort (Sydney), Esther Kahn (Melbourne), Rieke Nash (Sydney) and Naomi Bloch (Melbourne). Australians also at the conference but not present here: Jenni Buch (Melbourne), Sara Elkas (Melbourne) and Pam Karp (Sydney).

Visiting my famous ancestor (born 1215)

by Liz James

In June this year, I took part in a study tour organised by the Jewish Museum of Australia, where we traced the footsteps of Ashkenazi Jewry in Germany.

We began our tour in the three SchUM cities: Mainz, Speyer and Worms, which rose to prominence as the leading centres of Jewish learning and scholarly activity in medieval Europe.

In Worms, we visited the Holy Sands cemetery, the oldest preserved Jewish burial place in Europe. It was here that I visited the grave of my 29th X great grandfather, Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg.

Meir of Rothenburg was born in Worms in about 1215. He was a German Rabbi and poet, and a major author of the tosafot on Rashi's commentary on the Talmud. He is also known as Meir ben Baruch, the Maharam of Rothenburg.

Rabbi Meir became universally acknowledged as the leading Ashkenasi authority on Talmud and Jewish law.

After studying in Mainz, Würzburg and Paris, he took up residence in Rothenburg ob-der-Tauber where he opened his own school, and among his disciples were many scholars who later became leading Talmudists and codifiers.

Rabbi Meir wrote no single major work, but many notes, commentaries, expositions, and poems, as well as 1500 responsa. His responsa are of great importance to students of Jewish life and customs of those days, especially for the picture which they give of the condition of the German Jews, and of their sufferings.

In 1286, King Rudolf I instituted a new persecution of the Jews, declaring them servi camerae ('serfs of the treasury'), which had the effect of negating their political freedom.

Along with many others, Meir left Germany with his family and followers, but was captured in Lombardy and imprisoned in a fortress near Ensisheim in Alsace. Tradition has it that a large ransom of 23,000 marks silver was raised for him, but Rabbi Meir refused it, for fear of encouraging the imprisonment of other rabbis.



Liz and Ron James with pictures drawn by their grandchildren.



Liz James and tour leader Paul Forgasz.

He died in prison seven years later on 2 May 1293. Fourteen years after his death, a ransom was finally paid for his body by Alexander ben Salomon Wimpfen, who was subsequently laid to rest beside the Maharam.

With more than 2500 graves, the Holy Sands cemetery is the oldest Jewish cemetery in Europe. The earliest gravestone is dated 1076 and can be found in the Valley of Rabbis.

The graves of Rabbi Meir of Rothenberg and Alexander ben Salomon Wimpfen, which stand at the front of the cemetery, are undoubtedly the most frequently visited in the whole cemetery.

After a visit a few years earlier, I had hoped that my next visit to the cemetery would be with my five grandchildren. This was not to be, but their time will come. Instead they each did a drawing, and so armed with their drawings and a stone (bought from Penhalluriack's hardware store in Hawthorn Road), I was once again able to say Kaddish at the gravestone and could place my messages at the headstone alongside the other slips of papers, stones and candles that were placed on top and around the matzevah by previous visitors.



The graves of Rabbi Meir ben Baruch of Rothenberg and Alexander ben Salomon Wimpfen.

The JCCV honours Max Wald – an outstanding contributor to the community

Max Wald, a committee member of both the Australian Historical Society (Vic) and the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic), has been recognised for his service to the community by the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV).

He was among more than 250 people from across the Jewish community to be honoured by the JCCV during the Remembrance Day 2013 Community Recognition Awards.

The awards were presented by retired Supreme Court Justice The Honourable Howard Nathan.

Nina Bassat AM, President of the JCCV, said: "Our volunteers demonstrate the best in human behaviour. We thank you."

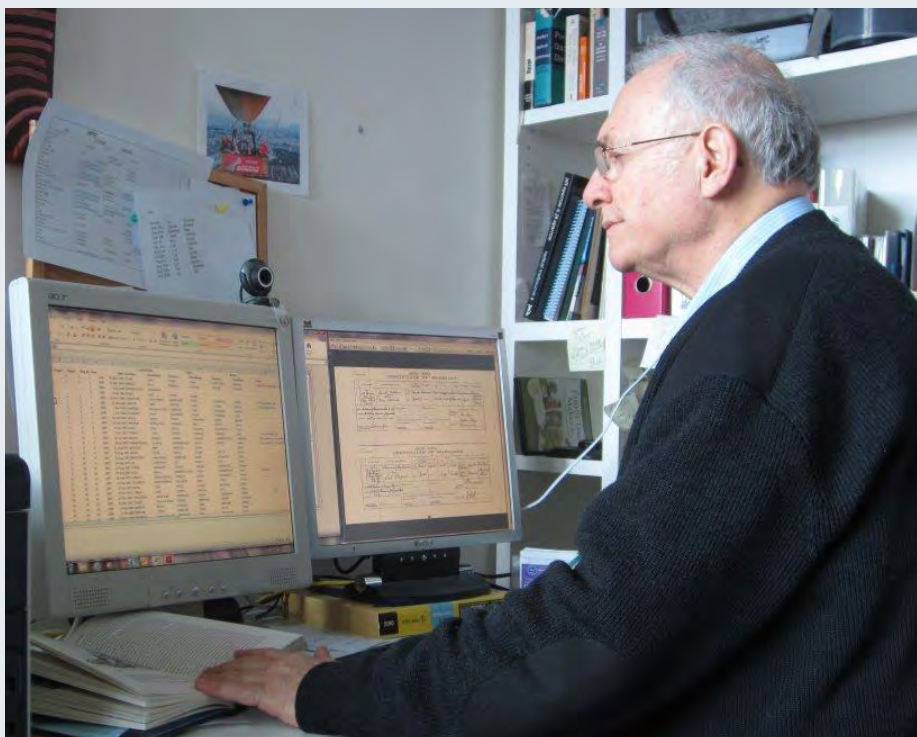
Volunteers from 26 Jewish community organisations were recognised for their contribution, selfless devotion and commitment to the community.

In presenting Max with his award, the JCCV offered the following citation to describe his outstanding contribution to the Jewish community:

Max Wald is a committee member of the AJHS (Vic) and AJGS (Vic).

Max has been working as part of a small team to transcribe Australian Jewish Marriage records dating from 1840 onto spreadsheets, ready to be included in a database of all Jewish marriages in Australia. Nearly every congregational marriage record in Victoria has been recorded as well as congregations in other states of Australia and New Zealand.

Max has done the bulk of these transcriptions, over 18,000 marriages so far.



Max is an expert researcher and regularly helps the public with their family history queries on Sundays at the Lamm Library. He is an expert researcher in Polish and Holocaust records.

Max is also a volunteer at the Holocaust Centre in the Archives collating and indexing historical Holocaust-related newspaper articles. In the previous four years, he assisted in organising fortnightly activities and talks for a group of Holocaust survivors who were involved with the Holocaust Centre who had retired from volunteering. All were previous guides and volunteers who were prominent in setting up the centre from its inauguration.

For Jewish Records Indexing – Poland (a Polish database), he has extracted all Jewish records, ie births, marriages and deaths (BMD) from Polish parish records which have not yet been included in their database and transcribed major details onto spreadsheets. He is also involved in copying scans from family history films, then dispatching them to the world wide Jewish Records Indexing program.

Max shares some of his genealogical research experiences on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

My first international Jewish genealogy conference (continued from page 3).

As for the sessions themselves, I took with me my pencil and notebook and, although most speakers had handouts, I still managed to fill many pages with information pertinent to my research. At the end of each session, attendees were invited to ask questions of the speaker.

I learned so much during the conference – which records would appear online in the near future, the names of website links where one could find necessary information, little bits of history which helped me to understand why my ancestors moved from country to country, all sorts of things which I had never even thought about. Most speakers also

mentioned that we were welcome to contact them if we thought they could assist in solving a particular problem.

Although the days were long (and I am no longer young!), adrenalin kept me going and I found it quite sad when it all ended and I had to say *au revoir* to my new-found friends.

I would have loved to go to next year's conference, which is to be held in Salt Lake City – just think of all those lovely records stored there! – but, alas, I will have to give that one a miss. I shall, however, set as my next genealogical goal my attendance at the 2015 conference to be held in Jerusalem, where I also hope to meet my many Israeli cousins, some of whom I only know through my research, as I found them online.

Building your own family tree while helping others

by Max Wald

My interest in genealogy began in 2004 while preparing for a visit to Poland with the first Adults March of the Living (MOTL) program from Australia.

Knowing that a 'shtetl' visit was possible during our stay in Poland, I, along with my wife Pebby, decided to visit my parents' towns, namely Bialystok for my mother and Biala Podlaska for my father. We only spent a short time in Biala Podlaska, but retrieved many family records.

During this time, we found that the only other town where my original family name (Perkelwald) appeared was in Miedzyrzec (Mezritsch in Yiddish) – about 35 km away. In fact, out of more than 200 listings on JRI-Poland, 190 were from Miedzyrzec. I then discovered through further applications for records that my great-grandfather was originally from Miedzyrzec (Mezritsch).

Bialystok was disappointing genealogy-wise, as most of the records were destroyed, and my mother's house address was in the middle of a new main road, although I did find her parents' marriage record.

On returning to Australia, I felt I would like to spend more time in my father's birthplace and find his place of residence, and so on. Thereby, we returned to Poland the following year on the MOTL trip, marking also the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Again, we visited Biala Podlaska, and with the assistance of a local historian, we were able to locate and visit my father's home.

We also made a short visit to the Mezritsch Jewish cemetery, where many headstones still remain.

I gathered much of my ancestors' information over the last few years, ordering documents from Poland, getting them translated through the use of the JewishGen website,

and creating an extensive tree using Family Tree Maker software.

While attending the IAJGS conference in Los Angeles in 2010, I discovered that all of the LDS (Latter Day Saints) films were available to attendees. I managed to make copies of about 120 'Perkelwald' records and progressively had them translated with the use of 'Viewmate' on JewishGen.

This process of searching, collecting and translating took many long months, but I succeeded in adding many names to the Wald (Perkelwald) family tree.

Since retiring, and after catching the genealogy 'bug', I offered to volunteer my time and assist town leaders on JRI-Poland.

Initially, I was involved in transcribing early business directories from Bialystok. Although I had no Polish language at the time, I have since trained myself and built up a knowledge of Polish words using Google Translate, and as the directories were printed (c 1920s) it was a much easier task than I had anticipated.

As that project petered out, I put out a call to the town leader, Robinn Magid, of Miedzyrzec (where my father's ancestors were from) to offer my services. This was partially through self-interest, as I thought I may have been able to increase my knowledge of that town.

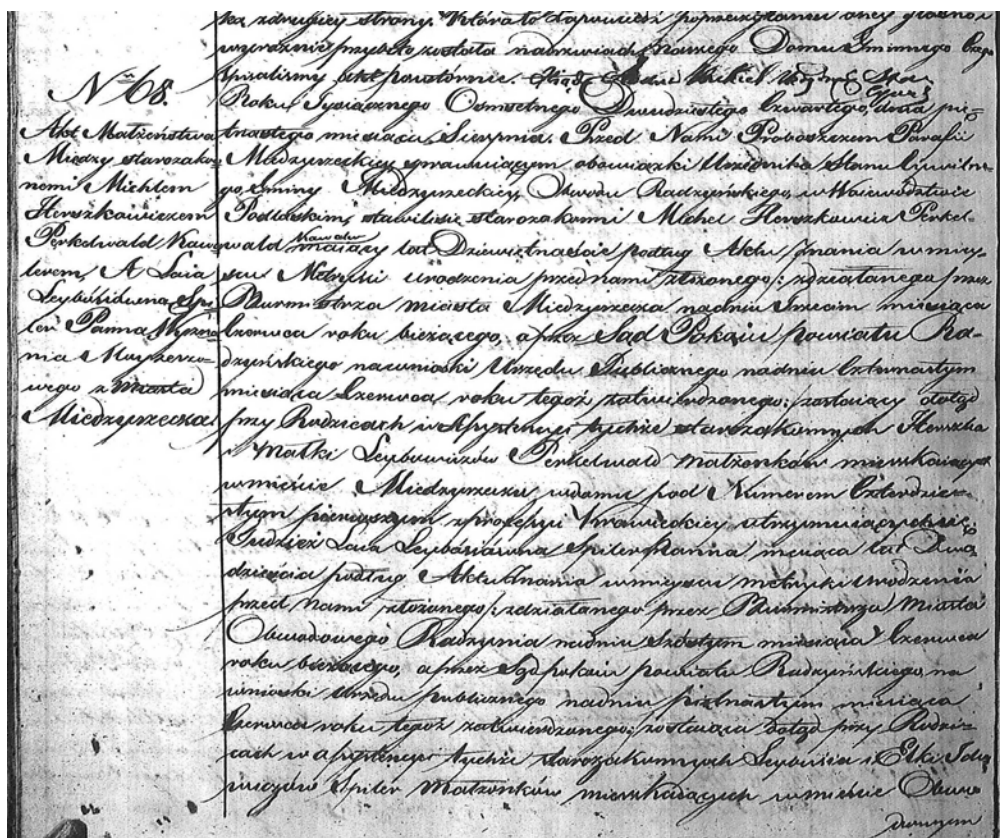
Robinn promptly emailed me a list of films to order from the LDS covering births, deaths and marriages from 1810 to 1825, from church parish records. My job was to extract Jewish records from these films as before 1826, the only 'civil registrars' were the Catholic church and sometimes

the Greek Orthodox church.

After 1826, all denominations (including Jewish and Protestant) were permitted to become civil registrars.

The films were sent from the LDS archival collections based in Salt Lake City to an LDS Family Research Centre in Fairfield, Victoria, where I was able to search through them and extract Jewish records and copy them onto a memory stick, as they were listed either as Mojeszowego (of the Mosaic faith) or Katalickiego (Catholic). This categorisation made it easy to identify Jewish records, but the names also provided a major indication.

This was a much more difficult project, as all the records were scans of old ledgers, which were hand-written, and often difficult to read as the writing style changed as the scribes changed.



Sharing the 'mishpachology' ...



Eli Rabinowitz, originally from South Africa and now living in Perth, Western Australia, addressed members of the AJGS (Vic) on Wednesday 9 October 2013 at the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia. He likes to describe his passion for genealogy as 'Mishpachology'. He recently attended the 33rd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Boston, USA.

Eli illustrated his talk with photographs of his trips to Central and Eastern Europe in the past few years and demonstrated how relevant research, reporting and sharing, using Kehilalinks, Facebook, blogs and social networks are used in bringing us closer to our heritage and increasing the chances of better outcomes in discovering our family history and connections.

He pointed out that despite online searching the experience of travel adds a special dimension to your genealogy, especially when you can share your discoveries and experiences on the run with others!

I downloaded sample documents from the internet to assist me in becoming familiar with various formats of old records. Using Google Translate and other sites, I was able to become fairly proficient in extracting the necessary information for the spreadsheets in preparation for listing on JRI-Poland.

During this exercise, I was pleasantly interrupted by Liz James, who asked if I would like to assist in a local project of the AJHS (Vic) and AJGS (Vic) to transcribe Australian Jewish marriage records for a searchable name index. This involved viewing and transcribing scans of many of the very early records of Melbourne and interstate-based synagogues, some dating from the 1840s.

This ongoing project is subject to funding, as these marriage records must first be digitised (scanned) by an external company before a volunteer such as myself can begin the transcription process. To date, we have completed digitising most of the early marriage records.

I have recently completed the Miedzyrzec project, retrieving more than 3000 records from Catholic parishes. During this process, I uncovered many more 'Perkelwald' records (an example can be seen on page 6) to add to my family tree. There are a further two films from Greek Orthodox churches that I will investigate to see if there are any further Jewish records.

I have now been invited to become town leader on JewishGen for Mezritch, which I am considering.

A journey to Děčín

by Daniela Torsh

When my cousin Vivian Schushinski and her husband Luis arrived in Prague on 8 October for a one-week visit, genealogy researcher Julius Meuller was on hand to help us locate the much-loved home in Děčín that Vivian's family had fled during the early years of the Second World War.

Julius had already gathered some research about the LEDERER and KONIRSCH families in Děčín. This included the 1921 census, which is now on the Mormon Family Search website (www.familysearch.org). Vivian had previously sent me her mother's birth certificate, which had a lot of data not just about her but also about her parents, and this provided us with the information we needed on our journey to find the LEDERER house.

According to the birth certificate, Karel and Francis (Vivian's grandparents) married in the Děčín synagogue in 1917, and Eva was born in house number 805 (see 'Research tip' below).

We decided to visit Děčín the day after my cousins had arrived in Prague, and Julius arrived at the hotel where they were staying to pick us up in his car. The trip took about two hours, as there was a great deal of traffic on the road to Dresden. The town of Děčín is very close to the German border, and we passed near the concentration camp Terezín on the way.

It was autumn, and many of the trees we passed were shedding their yellow and red leaves in the emerald green fields.

Our first stop in Děčín was at the white stuccoed castle that stands on a huge black rocky outcrop above the river Elbe, which flows out of Hamburg to the North Sea. The area had had historic floods in May and June, said Julius, and the river had risen 10 metres in places. Now, some months later, there were no traces of the flooding.

The castle is the latest repository for the State District Archives in Děčín (sokadecin@soalitomerice.cz), and Julius told me the rooms where the archives now reside used to be the local Jewish prayer rooms, before the Děčín synagogue was built in 1907. Originally built for the Austrian military as a fortress in Habsburg times to guard the town against invaders, the castle was later used by the Nazis and in the 1950s by the Communists as a store room. Such is life in Eastern Europe.

Inside the archive, we were greeted by Mr Antonin Votapek, who had prepared some marriage and burial registers of the Jews of Děčín for us to look at in the reading room (*badatelna*). Vivian and Luis were delighted to be able to speak Spanish with him, and I was equally pleased to be able to converse in German. Anton and Julius spoke Czech together, of course.

I began with the marriage records from the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde (Jewish community) 1922–26 and found a few KONIRSCH family names but none I thought were related to Vivian's mother, Eva LEDERER. Her mother was



Luis, Julius and Vivian at Děčín Castle.

Franziska (Francis or Francoise) KONIRSCH before she married Karel LEDERER, my great uncle.

The 1891 burial register was a real find, said Julius, as it listed the burials at the Rosawitz cemetery, which was destroyed in Nazi times and there were no stones left there anymore. This cemetery had served the Jewish community in Děčín. He took a lot of photos of the register and later emailed them to Vivian for her family history. We discovered in the burial register a sister to Francis named Margaret, who had died as a young child and of whom Vivian had never heard.

After the inspection at the archives, we had an excellent lunch at the cafe in the castle, which is used to train the disabled, and enjoyed our meal very much. The hot pear drink was a marvel on a cold day. The service and food were impeccable.

We drove to the street in Děčín where the KONIRSCH family patriarch Heinrich (Henri) had lived and found his house has disappeared and become a bank. Nearby, and still standing, is the house his daughter Franziska was born. Vivian and Luis had their photo taken out front. She was elated to have seen her grandmother's birthplace.

We walked around the corner to the market square to find the house of one of the KONIRSCH brothers but it too had gone.

So we drove to Karel's house in Luzicka Street, which was listed in the 1934 address book for Děčín. We had seen this document earlier that day at the archives, and the street was listed as 'Lausitzerstrasse 8'. In those years, Děčín used German names but no more. Lausitz, said Julius, is a town near the Czech border. Děčín lies in what the Nazis called *Sudetenland* – the part of Czechoslovakia where Hitler claimed the ethnic Germans were being persecuted by the Czechs. This was his rationale for the invasion of Czechoslovakia, despite the so-called Munich agreement of late 1938.

We were thrilled to find the LEDERER house still standing, a large and handsome construction matching the old photos from my mother's album that I had printed out and brought with me. It had exactly the same window shutters, and the decoration above the windows matched those appearing in the photos. We gaped at the two-storey house and walked up and down the street, and Julius pressed each of the three buzzers but no-one emerged. They were all out. The garden

Research tip

Each house in the Czech Republic has a town number (on a coloured plaque) that describes when it was built and a second number (on a different coloured plaque) for its street address. For example, Karel LEDERER owned house 805 (built earlier than house number 806) and its street address was Lausitzerstrasse 8.

at the front and sides was expansive and well kept, and there was a large garage door under the house as the land sloped downwards towards the river. Eva and her older sister Margit, who was a close friend of my mother's, and their little brother Hansi (Honza) must have had a terrific childhood in this marvellous house. It sits in a beautiful street with lots of tall trees and gardens and other grand two-storey houses; however, many are not in good condition now.

Vivian says the house once had a tennis court but there was no sign of that. The original photo we have shows the family standing on the steps of the patio, and in the background Greek columns are holding up a semi-circular roof. Karel, Francis and their two little girls, Margit and Eva, together with Karel's mother, Clara LEDERER, and Francis's father, Heinrich KONIRSCH, are wearing thick winter coats and hats looking very cold. In another photo, Francis holds two-year-old Hansi by the hand as he walks down the steps. It is warmer in this second image as she is wearing only a dress and no coat hat or gloves.

We returned to the house later that day to see if we could find someone at home, but again there was no answer. As we drove away, after turning left into another street on our way back to Prague, I caught sight of the back of the house with the semi-circular patio and columns that matched exactly the images I had from our family album. It was definitely the same house. But unfortunately we could not see inside. Not far away was the school that Eva walked to with her *Kindermädchen*, or nanny, each day.

When we passed her mother's high school (Gymnasium), Vivian leapt out of the car and Julius took a photo of her in front of the building that Eva was refused entry to by the Nazis after 15 March 1939, when they invaded Czechoslovakia.

Our last stop in DĚČÍN was at the huge and newly painted yellow and blue Moorish-style synagogue, perched on a hillside above the town. There we met the head of the Jewish community, Mr Vladimír Poskocil (www.zidovskaobcedecin.wz.cz), who opened the doors and took us inside. In the foyer was a large plaque with the names of the founders of the synagogue, and there before us was the name Heinrich KONIRSCH, Vivian's great



Daniela and Vivian at the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague.

grandfather. Inside, stuck to the wall, was a photocopied picture of Heinrich and his wife, Marie, and a personal tribute to them from their grandson John KONIRSCH, who lives in Paris. The tribute provides the details of their deaths and transports as well as those for one of Heinrich's brothers.

Ten or so years ago, when I visited Vivian's mother, Eva, in New Jersey, she had shown me a letter from John. He had written about his visit to the DĚČÍN synagogue and his discovery of the plaque with their grandfather's name on it. But Eva had never spoken of this letter or of the existence of her cousin to Vivian, who was shocked to discover that she had a previously unheard of relative.

Later, through Eva, I met John KONIRSCH in Sydney when he was on a Pacific cruise, and over breakfast in Chinatown he told me about his visit some years earlier to the synagogue at DĚČÍN. It was pretty incredible to go there and see that he had visited it again in the meantime.

It was a most successful visit to DĚČÍN, and my cousin, her husband and I followed it up with a private visit to Terezín a few days later. Many of the LEDERER family either died there or were deported from there to their deaths in Auschwitz and other camps in Germany and Poland.

We visited the Jewish ghetto in Josefov in Prague, and we walked through the old Jewish cemetery and went to the grave of our great grandfather Bedrich LEDERER (1858–1902) and his wife Clara's parents, Ignaz and Marie FUCHS nee SCHULHOF. We recited the Kaddish for all four of our ancestors as a mark of respect, though there were just three of us and it was not their Yahrzeits. It felt right to say the prayer. In the same cemetery, we visited the grave of Franz Kafka and near it our ancestor, the writer Dr Eduard LEDERER (1859–1942), who is included in a plaque on the cemetery wall for well-known writers who died in the Holocaust.

Julius Mueller's company Toledot, based in Prague, undertakes genealogy research and guides people on roots visits such as ours. Vivian and Luis were so moved by the experience that they invited Julius and his wife to dinner that week. We ate a typical Czech meal of roast duck (me), roast goose (Julius) and a beef dish known as Sviečková, which is beef in a sour cream sauce with red currants and dumplings. Alice, Julius's wife, had the fish. The restaurant was in Nam republiky, a stone's throw from Vivian's hotel. And we drank a lot of very good Czech beer.

Thanks to Julius Mueller for his guidance and driving skills.

Thanks also to Mrs Jitka Nemcova, wife of Archive Director Manager Jan Nemec for sending me her husband's photos of Karel's house.

Vivian's family's story

In 1939, Vivian's mother Eva (then 18), Eva's younger brother Hansi and their mother Francis left DĚČÍN in the big family car one day to 'ski in Switzerland'; the children believed they would return but of course they never did.

Later, Eva met her husband, Albert Tiano, in Biarritz, and they married in Paris during the war. In 1942, from Lisbon, they fled to Cuba, where Vivian was born.

Francis and Hansi made it to the USA to be reunited with Karel, who happened to be there on business during the Nazi invasion. He lived in north Jersey and worked from home with John, his son and youngest child.

My family's story

Karel LEDERER's sister was my grandmother, Olga LEDERER. She met Victor POLLAK and they married at the Jerusalemska synagoga in Prague in 1913. After 1939, Olga never again met her brother Karel. She and Victor, along with all three of their children and their husbands and wives, and her mother Clara LEDERER were deported to Terezín. My mother, Annemarie (Mimi), and my cousin Tomi, then a six-year-old child, and his German Catholic father, Rudi, were the only survivors.

RESEARCH TIPS – AUSTRALIA

Finding information on emigrant relatives to Adelaide (1830 and 1870)

Earlier this year, I decided to devote some of 2013 to researching genealogical records on the Irish side of my family.

I visited the South Australian Maritime Museum at Port Adelaide (Lipson Street, Port Adelaide) for some context and discovered a great book called *Migrant Ships for South Australia (1836–1866)* by Ronald Parsons (published by Gould Books, PO Box 126, Gumeracha 5233).

This book provides an insightful account into the appalling journeys our Irish forbears endured on their way to a new life. The other very helpful aspect is that this book provides a description of all of the ships and their travel times between 1836 and 1866.

During this period, thousands of Irish migrants came from various English ports to Port Adelaide. Ships carrying many other nationalities (for example, German and Chinese) also arrived from Mauritius, various European ports and Hong Kong. Many of the arrivals used Port Adelaide as an entry point to make their way to the Victorian goldfields. Some of these ships that came from European ports may have carried Jewish people (albeit likely to be small numbers). According to the Australian censuses at the time, it is estimated that there were 420 Jews living in South Australia.

When the alert SA Maritime Museum guide discovered my interest in arriving Irish family members, he quickly called up a summary of emigrants to South Australia and, amazingly, I discovered some relevant family members and the ships they had arrived on. There was no charge for this very valuable shortcut. While the museum has this summary, the source document is The Ships List at www.theshipslist.com.

This is an extensive site with all sorts of treasure, but check the blue 'Passenger Lists' box at the top, then 'Immigrants to SA (UK, assisted passage) 1847–1886' below for access to 240 passenger lists. In addition to passenger names and family constellations, passenger ages, male occupation and place of birth are provided.

The State Library of South Australia, at the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, has indexed copies of the passenger lists, while the very efficient and helpful State Records of South Australia at 26–28 Leigh Street, Adelaide 5000 (telephone +618 8204 8773) has full reports of each journey, including tender and contract details, travel times and a report of the ship's so-called 'surgeon' (person responsible for medical services).

After the 1849 Passenger Act, the medical report was supposed to provide details of passengers dying in transit. As it happened, two of my relatives died in transit, but no details were reported.

Many passengers died at sea, so it is worth checking the annotations on the passenger lists to check that your relatives survived the journey.

Once you have an arrival ship and its date, the South Australian Register accessed via Trove (www.trove.nla.gov.au) is another valuable source. The arrival of these ships was quite newsworthy and often generated a news article about the ship and its passengers and journey.

The Port Adelaide Library is home to the local history group (telephone +618 8405 6580) for this area (where relatives may have resided before possibly taking the two-day journey by horse and cart to Adelaide).

South Australian BDM certificates don't provide as much information about parents, as do the Victorian ones. They can be ordered at Consumer and Business Affairs, Chesser House, 91–97 Grenfell Street, Adelaide (131882). However, they are relatively expensive at \$43–\$50 each. Unless you want the actual certificate, by and large, the South Australian BDMs accessed via Digger will provide most of the information you will need.

The Adelaide Archdiocesan Archives (telephone +618 8210 8115 and email archives@adelaide.catholic.org.au) has a well-indexed register of local Catholic baptisms, marriages and various other information for between 1842 and 1920. Use of archives is by appointment only, and it is cheaper to conduct your own searches at \$16 per certificate at their rooms at 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide. These baptismal records include only date of baptism, child's date of birth, parents' name and abode, father's occupation and sponsor. Marriage records include only location, respective abodes, ages (full age) and witnesses.

I imagine *Migrant Ships for South Australia* will be difficult to access in Victoria, so if you have the name of the vessel your relatives emigrated on, I'm happy to look up its travel details.

Vaughan Duggan <vaughan@duggan.jp>



E-NEWS

From Avotaynu

Avotaynu Anthology of Jewish Genealogy

We have taken the more than 2900 articles published in our flagship journal AVOTAYNU from 1985–2011 and placed them on the internet. The scope of the articles covers virtually every aspect of Jewish family history research, as can be seen from 'Number of articles by topic' shown below. We then had Google Custom Search do a full-word index of the more than five million words. Searching the database uncovers the relevant articles, which can then be read and/or printed.

- 27 years
- 105 issues
- 2900 articles
- 7000 pages

Subscribe now. Within 48 hours of subscribing, you will receive an email with a unique registration number and instructions on how to register and use the system.

Important: How It Works. A subscription is tied to a single computer location. If you have a network, any computer in the network can use the service. With wireless capability, any computer within range of the computer can use the service. A second computer location requires a second subscription.

Cost for access is \$35. For further information, visit the website at <http://avotaynu.com/books/Anthology.htm>.

Gary Mokotoff

HaChayim Hayehudim Jewish Photo Library

I stumbled across this website which has photos of headstones in hundreds of cemeteries worldwide including Australia.

The site is at www.jewishphotolibrary.com/?page_id=97 and is called HaChayim Hayehudim Jewish Photo Library.

Bubbles Segall

New resource for Jewish family research

The Hebrew Standard of Australasia (NSW: 1895–1953) has been added to Trove (digitised Australian newspapers).

This Jewish newspaper was first published as *The Hebrew Standard of Australasia* in 1895 and has also been published as *The Australian Jewish Times*.

The weekly (formerly semi-weekly) publication had been, for many years of its existence, the nation's only print news publication aimed specifically at a Jewish readership and assumed the responsibility of covering local as well as national and international events.

Go to <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>, then go to Advanced Search, add your parameters and then select 'The Hebrew Standard' from the newspapers listed (it is filed under NSW).

Suzanne Rutland has written an excellent early history of the Jewish press, 'Pages of History: A Century of the Australian Jewish Press', 1995. It includes a high-quality, reduced replica of Volume 1 No. 1 and it is well worth a visit to the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia.

POSTINGS

New Yizkor Book Translations (Belarus)

14 November 2013

The Yizkor Books in Print Project now has 22 books in English available for purchase, including hard-cover versions of Yizkor books from these towns:

Brzeziny, Poland
Buchach, Ukraine
Ciechanow, Poland
Czestochowa, Poland
Dzialoszyce, Poland
Jaslo, Poland
Jurbarkas, Lithuania
Navahrudak, Belarus
Orhei, Moldova
Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
Podhajce, Ukraine
Rozhnyativ, Ukraine
Ruzhany, Belarus
Telekhany, Belarus
Yampol, Ukraine
Zgierz, Poland

These are translations of books originally published in Yiddish and Hebrew in the 1950s and 1960s by survivors and former residents of these towns and give an excellent picture of the environment our families came from.

In addition, we have published three books on Lithuanian Jewish communities containing histories and information on 102 Litvak communities by the noted Litvak historian Josef Rosin. Further, we have published two memoirs dealing with Czestochowa Poland: 'Flight to Survival' and 'The Maple Tree Behind the Barbed Wire'. Both are fascinating personal memoirs worth reading.

Details on ordering our books can be found at www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html. This project is part of the Yizkor Books Project of JewishGen. We publish books that are fully translated by the Yizkor Books Project. We publish the books at as low a price as possible, so as to be a service to the Jewish community in retaining the history of our ancestral towns in Europe.

All work is done by volunteers.

Watch for books on these towns in the near future:

Antopol, Belarus
Horodenka, Ukraine
Dokshitz, Belarus
Bacu, Iasi and Podu Iloaiei, Romania
Korczyn, Poland
Drohiczyn, Belarus
Lyubitch and Delyatich, Belarus
Osiek and Novy Zmigrod, Poland
Kamenets, Belarus

Donald and Sandra Hirschhorn <sdh2381@comcast.net>

Belarus SIG email <belarus@lyris.jewishgen.org>

Belarus SIG webpage <www.jewishgen.org/Belarus>

Newsletter: <www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/newsletter/bnl_index.htm>

NOTICES

AJGS (Vic) adopts new AIR Act

On 6 November 2013, AJGS (Vic) members agreed to adopt the Model Rules under the new Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) (AIR Act).

The new Act, which came into effect on 26 November 2012, relates to all Victorian incorporated associations. It replaces the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Old Act). The AIR Act includes 23 Scheduled Items that must be covered by an association's rules (there were 17 in the Old Act).

All Victorian incorporated associations must have a set of rules. Some groups refer to their rules as their 'constitution' or 'articles of association'. The AIR Act has changed the laws that apply to incorporated associations and to their rules.

The AJGS (Vic) resolved to adopt the new Model Rules and retain the exact wording of our purposes set out below.

1. The inclusion of the name of the incorporated association namely, Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Incorporated.

2. The financial year of the Association shall be each period of 12 months ending 30 June.

3. The purpose of the Association shall be:

1. To collect, preserve and disseminate knowledge and information regarding Jewish genealogy, family history and other related subjects.

2. To promote the study and knowledge of and interest in Jewish genealogy, family history and other related subjects.

3. To foster careful documentation and to promote scholarly writing and publication in Jewish genealogy, family history and other related subjects.

4. To promote the collection and presentation of Jewish genealogical and family history records and resources.

5. To establish and maintain a resource centre and reference library of printed, electronic and other works relating to Jewish genealogy, family history and other related subjects.

6. To conduct courses in Jewish genealogy, family history and other related subjects for the instruction and education of members and the general public.

7. To conduct tours and excursions relating to Jewish genealogy, family history and other related subjects.

8. To render assistance to and do research (whether remunerated or not) for members and the general public either within or outside Australia.

9. To print and publish any publications that the Association may think desirable for the promotion of its objects.

10. To form sub-branches of the Association within Victoria.

11. To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and the exercise.

NOTICES

Future international genealogy conferences

The IAJGS Board has announced that all future international conferences will be either hosted by the IAJGS, or by the IAJGS in partnership with a local Jewish genealogy society.

Forthcoming international conferences will be held as follows:

- 27 July to 1 August 2014 – Salt Lake City, USA
- 6–10 July 2015 – Jerusalem, Israel
- 7–12 August 2016 – Seattle, USA
- 2017 or 2018 – Eastern Europe

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.

Levy family

I am a descendent of the Moses Hirsch LEVY/Jeanette Levy (COHEN) family and would like to contact other members of the family.

The family arrived in Australia from Prussia in the mid-1800s. Moses and Jeanette lived in Melbourne for the rest of their lives.

Family names from a photo taken in 1907 include:

- LEVY (Charles, Elizabeth, Leo, Oscar, Alice, Haidee, Clarence, Blanche-GROSS, Gladys)
- MARKSON (Ernest, Cecil, Roeschen, Helena-LEVY)
- FINN (Boda, Jean, Edmund, Florence, Louisa-BURROWS)
- McISAAC (William, Jeannie, Connie, Isa)
- FULLER (Bea)
- CONLON (Fanny-BURROWS)
- WARNER (Walter)

Please contact me if you are a relative of the family or have any information.

Jenny Bowen <jenny_bowen2004@yahoo.com.au>



Giving you choices

A Jewish funeral in keeping with Jewish custom and tradition, your practices and beliefs.

Pre-arranged or pre-paid funeral options.

Please call Rhonda Nirens JP on 9883 6237 (24 hours, seven days).