



# ATSMI USVARI

"MY BONE AND MY FLESH"

עצמי ובושרי

Volume 1 Number 1

Winter 2003

Best Website:

[www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)

by Marelynn Zipser

There are many special interest groups [SIGs] based on geography or other categories (rabbinic, sephardic, etc.). You can subscribe to the daily digest of messages from JewishGen plus any number of SIGs. Take advantage of the Family Finder where you can register surnames of interest to you.

For this you need to establish a password, and they do want the current name of your place of interest. You may have to use the ShtetlSeeker feature to determine that. There is no charge associated, but contributions are welcomed! There is a "mall" that vends books.

Another good newsletter is e-mailed every two weeks: "Nu?What's New?" from Avotaynu. You may subscribe online (at no cost) at: [www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm](http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm). They have discussed the use of the Ellis Island Database in past issues. I believe you can access them through this site. ☆

## In this issue:

*The First Jew in Utah* – page 1

*Robert Neu's genealogy story* – page 1

*DNA genealogy* – page 3

*Meeting notes* – page 4

*Tips and helps* – page 1, 5 & 6

*Editorial: Who Are We?* – page 3

**SPECIAL FEATURE: Daniel Schlyter's guide to the FHL** – page 6

Thanks to all who helped get this issue off the ground. We couldn't have done it without you! ☆

## *Talis and Prayer Book of the First Jew in Utah Returned*

by Robert Neu

On September 11, 1982, Mrs. David W. Hermann wrote: "This Tallis . . . has been in our family since my great-grandfather *Emil Boukofsa(y)* was Bar Mitzvah[ed], and [it] came with him to the U.S.A. in 1845.

"It traveled by covered wagon to Utah and San Francisco and was given to his son Louis who gave it to my grandma Lena Steinberg. In turn she sent it to me in Scarsdale (Westchester County, New York) for the Bar Mitzvah of my son Laurence Murray..."

Last September, Lawrence Hermann presented it to the Museum of Church History and Art along with the Prayer Book of Emil Boukofsa(y). It will be available to Congregation Kol Ami.

According to family tradition Emil arrived in Salt Lake in 1847, and was a friend of Brigham Young. He was involved in trading in the valley. He died on August 26, 1908. His wife Flora died on December 12, 1914. They are both buried in Salt Lake City. ☆

## *MY BONE & MY FLESH*

*Atsmi Uvsari* is published quarterly by the Utah Jewish Genealogical Society. All copyrights are retained by the authors where named, or by the UJGS. While we strive to ensure the accuracy of everything we publish, neither the editor nor the Society are responsible for any errors.

**We welcome comments and submissions!** Please send them to the editor, Don Fallick, on line at: [d.fallick@mstar2.net](mailto:d.fallick@mstar2.net), or by mail to 1399 S. Emery Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84104. ☆

# *Jewish Genealogy and Me*

by Robert Neu

For most of us genealogy, or as it is also called, "Family History," starts as the history of our family. As Jews though, especially European Jews, it answers some special needs.

As I grew up I came to the realization that I was not a citizen of the country where I was born and grew up. Simply said: "I was not French." Indeed, both my parents were *stateless*, whatever that meant, and therefore so was I. The why is a story by itself, that I will share some other time.

I was not French. I was not German though my father was born in Berlin. I really don't think that I wanted to be German, though I could not totally reject the idea as I had half siblings who were. I was not Hungarian, though my mother was born and raised in Hungary. What was I?

It was the aftermath of World War II. My parents were talking of having lost 50 to 70 per cent of their family. I understood that my father's parents were killed as well as one of his brothers. After the war my mother never heard again from her three sisters that had remained in Hungary. I still need to find out more about them.

When my father started to do some genealogical research, there was not much to go on. The records were thought to have been destroyed in the war or unattainable because of the Iron Curtain. My father wrote to two of his brothers, one who had remained in Hungary, and one who at the time was in Brazil.

They had done some genealogical research in the twenties because of a "*numerus clausus*" law in Hungary that affected the Jews, at the time. So they answered. Their letters – I still have them – were our genealogical sources. The uncle from Hungary wrote on the back of a drawing, made by his daughter in school, as paper was scarce. One of his comments in the letter was, addressing himself to my father, "If you have time for this, all must be well in your life!" How times have changed!

My next encounter with genealogy was during a visit to Hungary in the summer of 1966. We went to the archives of the city of Veszprém, and visited with the curator, who was of Jewish descent himself. He told us, with tears in his eyes, that he had seen the records for Várpalota, the ancestral town for my paternal line, burned in a bonfire, by the *Nyilas* ("the killers") at the end of World War II.

On the main street, my father addressed a small group of mature men, and asked them if they were still any **Neus** in town. The answer was negative. The man who answered stepped out of the group and with some emotion said,

"It was a sunny day like today. They (the **Neus** and the Jews) were marched down in the middle of the street, right here. We could not do anything. None of them came back." Then, he asked: "Are you a **Neu**?"

My father answered "Yes, and this is my son, daughter-in-law, and grandson." He saluted us, as if it was a miracle or a small victory, that we were alive and there. In the back of my mind I wondered if I was the offspring of generations of shadows.

My next encounter was in the newly-opened branch of the LDS Family History Library in New York City, in the late 1970's. After all, "they" were not shadows or phantoms!" The family had really existed! I found some of them in the 1848 Jewish Census for Hungary. I found them in the registers of births, marriages, and deaths of the local congregations. I found the marriage entry for my maternal great-grandparents.

Some other joys have come in the last two years, as I renewed my interest, thanks to being retired. Partly through *JewishGen*, I learned that more records were available: muster rolls, 1869 census, and some post-1895 vital statistics.

The muster rolls made my maternal grandfather and his twin brother more "real" to me, though I still don't have his birth records. The entry gives their description: height, hair and eye color. On my father's side, "they" are real too. They lived in Naszvad (Nasvady, Nitra, Slovakia). They had an address, ages, professions, etc. Also after all these years, the great great-grandfather, whom the uncles had named Benjamin in their earlier-mentioned letters, in that record is shown as "Joseph." Was he also Benjamin? At this point, who knows?

Next time I'll talk about sharing information on *JewishGen*, and discovering relations in the United States who are descendants of late 1800's immigrants. ☆

## Calendar :

UJGS meets bi-monthly on Tuesday nights at Congregation Kol Ami, 2425 Heritage Way, Salt Lake City, Utah, on the third Tuesday of the month as follows: March 18, May 20, July 15, September 16, November 18. Meetings start at 7:30. Call Robert Neu for information: (801) 484-0772. ☆

# DNA and Genealogy

by Robert Neu

We all know that we have 46 chromosomes. Males inherit their Y chromosome from their father. Males and females inherit an X chromosome from their mother called “mitochondrial DNA”.

In theory the inherited chromosome should be exactly the same from parent to child. In practice there are slight mutations from one generation to the next. Yes, we are all mutants, and that’s no science fiction. Over the generations, the greater the number of generations the more mutations you have. So starting with the DNA sample of two people, you can estimate, calculate, or guess (it used to be called the “swag method” for “Sophisticated Western Aged Genealogist method.”) how closely they are related. In simple terms the more similar the Y or mitochondrial DNA of two people, the more likely and the more recently do they have a common ancestor.

Based on this theory Bennett Greenspan at the University of Arizona developed the idea with researchers and created a service offering the possibility for individuals to submit a DNA sample (using a swab from the inside of your cheek) to either be part of studies and, if so desired, be notified when someone else who submitted their sample is likely to be a relative within “x” generations.

Greenspan made a presentation at the IAJGS in Toronto called *Genetic Genealogy: Another Tool in the Arsenal*. There were two other presentation at the Conference on the topic: *DNA, the Ultimate Genealogical Record*, by Dr. H. Chaim Birnboim, and *Genomic Approaches to Jewish Genealogical Research*, by Dr. Karl Shorecki.

JewishGen is associated with the service of Bennett Greenspan and the service is described on the web at: [www.jewishgen.org/dna](http://www.jewishgen.org/dna). Greenspan’s website is: [www.familyreedna.com](http://www.familyreedna.com).

There are at least two other organizations involved with DNA genealogy. One is The Center for Genetic Anthropology of University College London. The other is Brigham Young University's Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation. Their web sites: [www.moleculargenealogy.byu.edu](http://www.moleculargenealogy.byu.edu) & [www.smgf.org](http://www.smgf.org).

We may have a presentation or video from the latter at one of our meetings. They will also have a booth at Utah Genealogical Association meeting to be held April 24-26 (details on the web). A few web pages that you may find of interest:

-Terms associated with DNA Genealogy:

[www.blairgenealogy.com/dna/dna101](http://www.blairgenealogy.com/dna/dna101).

-Cohanim sharing the same male ancestor:

[www.familydna.com/nature97385.html](http://www.familydna.com/nature97385.html)

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/israel/familycohanim.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/israel/familycohanim.html)

-The Jewish connection of the Bubas of South Africa:

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/familylemba.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/familylemba.html)

-Jews sharing DNA with people from the Middle East:

[www.pnas/cgi/content/abstract/97/126769](http://www.pnas/cgi/content/abstract/97/126769)

-The Jefferson/Hemings connection:

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/israel/familyjefferson.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/israel/familyjefferson.html)

If you want more you are on your own. There is plenty. ☆

## Editorial

# Who are We?

by Don Fallick

Members of the UJGS are a diverse lot. We are practicing Jews who have just discovered genealogy, practicing genealogists who have just discovered their Jewish roots, expert genealogists and rank beginners, and their spouses, who may be neither Jewish nor genealogists, but are nevertheless “married” to Jewish genealogy. We are native Utahns, native Europeans, and native Israelis. We speak many languages, and have families and ancestors all over the world.

A previous attempt to start a Jewish genealogical society in Utah failed, largely because of exclusivism. Some practicing Jews made converts and those with partly-Jewish ancestry feel unwelcome, while some gentile “experts” acted as if they had a monopoly on genealogical experience. We get along despite our diversity by emphasizing our common interests, instead of dwelling on our differences.

For most members of Western civilization, our first exposure to genealogy comes from the “begats” in the Torah. The Holy Scriptures tell us that we are all descended from one ancestral family. If we keep this in mind, studying our individual genealogies can help us grow closer together, as Jews and as one human family. The very existence of the UJGS is proof that this works. ☆

# Meetings' Summary

by Rochelle Kaplan

## August Meeting:

- This was a small exploratory meeting initiated by Robert Neu to see if there was interest in the Utah community in forming a Jewish genealogical group.

## September Meeting:

- Robert Neu, interim president, distributed application forms, described the Toronto IAJGS annual meeting he attended and outlined his efforts to gauge local interest in forming a Jewish genealogical chapter in Salt Lake. Rochelle volunteered to be the secretary, Marelynn to be the membership chair, Shane the activities chair and Daniel the acting web page chair.
- The goals of our group are to conduct local research, help each other with genealogical sleuthing and perhaps become a chapter of IAJGS. To become a chapter, we must have at least ten regular members, meet quarterly at the minimum, produce a newsletter, require minimal dues and apply for membership.
- Robert read an article he wrote, which appears in this newsletter.
- We set the agenda for the November meeting and established next steps. One regular feature agreed to was the presentation by two individuals of genealogical issues they are grappling with, so that the rest of our group can brainstorm possible solutions. Rochelle was to explore the possibility of using Kol Ami as a meeting site.
- Shane spoke about his ongoing cemetery project, which aims to collect and organize the records of Jewish folks buried in the Salt Lake City area.
- In the future, we hope to list Utah's genealogical resources, prepare and distribute a UGJS brochure, and summarize Jewish practices useful for those exploring Jewish genealogy.

## November Meeting:

- Announcements included these: The next annual International Jewish Genealogical Conference will be held in July, 2003 in Washington, DC. Robert's syllabus of the 2002 Toronto IAJGS was to be left at the Family History Library for perusal by interested parties.
- Robert gave the first half of his basic genealogy

talk. He used a CD from the Heritage Learning Library. Recommended steps include:

(1) Writing everything you know and documenting what you can. (2) Interviewing family members. (3) Using forms such as pedigree charts, family group sheets and descendent charts – all available from the Family History Library. (4) Using estimating/calculating tools. (5) Using myriad research tools. (6) Evaluating the evidence and trying to resolve discrepancies. (7) Not getting hung up by spellings of names. (8) Remembering that borders change. Working from smallest jurisdiction to largest. (9) Starting with a specific question about one person. (10) Using women's maiden names.

- Don Fallick presented his quandary. Due to a family split, Don knows little about his grandfather's siblings. The group provided suggestions.
- Carolyn and Mercedes presented their issue. They were trying to get information on a Jewish ancestor and needed help with transcription of the gravestone. Individuals offered suggestions.
- Don spoke about the newsletter, for which he will serve as editor/printer.
- We planned the agenda for the January, 2003 meeting.

## January Meeting:

- Announcements: (1) JewishGen became a division of New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage, effective January 1, 2003. (2) Copies of Avotaynu's current issue were made available for perusal.
- Shane and Ralph presented their updated maps of local Jewish cemeteries. Kol Ami maintains all three cemeteries. 1228 names out of approximately 1500 folks buried are identified. Meeting dates were established. They will continue to be held bimonthly, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, in Kol Ami's media room, at 7 P.M.
- Made assignments for the first newsletter.
- We set the agenda for the next meeting.
- Rochelle gave a presentation on JewishGen.
- Robert concluded his presentation on Basic Genealogy.
- Rochelle handed out her genealogical puzzler for feedback via email. She awaits more replies. One task is to find the birthplace of the Weinberg sisters, one of whom is her husband's grandmother, and the dates and places of their arrival in the US; her second task is to find more

information about her Kaplan ancestors from Slutsk. ☆

## Helping Each Other

by Marelynn Zipser

Don Fallick is unable to find some of his Fallick ancestors because a bitter divorce split the family. His grandfather had brothers, but he knows little of them. New York had a State census in 1915. City directories and naturalizations papers may help “get a line” on living relatives.

Carolyn Manwaring and Mercedes Woolsey have a Hungarian Jewish ancestor, a Rabbi Cohen, and need help translating the Hebrew inscription on a gravestone photo. Viewmate, a JewishGen service, might be used. Members observed that some words are in Esperanto and others might be in Yiddish, but not Hebrew. ShtetlSeeker and 1877 Hungarian Gazetteer could be useful in identifying the location. Usage of “rabbi” has changed over the years and may be indicating teacher at that time.

Rochelle Kaplan outlined her search for the ship manifest pages for the six Weinberg sisters, who may have come from what is now Belarus. She has interviewed many descendants to no avail. Wives became naturalized with their husbands so there is no separate trail. All of the Ellis Island One-Step formats (see JewishGen home page) have failed to find any or all of the Weinbergs.

Rochelle has been able to track her Kaplan ancestors back to Slutsk (Belarus), but has been unsuccessful so far in getting information from the Belarus archives and from hired genealogists. Third World countries often hold Jewish records “hostage” in the mistaken belief that “all Jews are wealthy and will pay large sums for them.” ☆

## GOOD BOOKS:

### *The Last Eyewitnesses: Children of the Holocaust Speak (Jewish Lives)*

Edited by Wiktoria Sliwowska, translated by Julian & Fay Bussgang. Northwestern University Press, 1998. 432 pages. Rating: ★★★★★

Yes, the title is a mouthful, though it's worse in Polish. And it's not even about genealogy. Instead, it's a collection of original autobiographies of Polish adults who survived the Holocaust as children. Their stories are amazing, heart-rending, and inspiring by turns. With good reason, reviews on Amazon.com **average** “five-star.”

It's also pricey and hard to find. Salt Lake City/County library system does not own a copy, though they are purchasing several. Local book stores are out, but can special-order one for you, for \$30.00 (paperback) or \$65.00 (hardback). Even on the Amazon.com website, the paperback version costs \$21.00, and it requires two to three weeks to ship. I found my review copy in the East High School library. University of Utah Library also has one.

*The Last Eyewitnesses* is more than just a good read. The authors' stories and names have never before seen print in the West. The book is a genealogical gold mine of names of Holocaust victims and survivors who have been lost for half a century. I know, because my own long-lost relative surfaced in its pages, and I was able to re-unite her with her first cousin in Australia, also a Holocaust survivor. But that's another story.

The book itself has an interesting history. Wiktoria Sliwowska (pronounced: “Victoria Slivovska”) tracked down Holocaust survivors and convinced or pressured them to tell their tales in writing, with varying degrees of success. The book was published in Polish, and languished internationally until Julian Bussgang found it while working in Poland for the US government. Recognizing its immense value, and unable to find a translator, the Bussgangs decided to undertake the job themselves.

It's hard for me to give this book less than a five-star rating, but it's not really intended to help genealogists. Four is the best I can do: one each for importance, readability, format, and general usefulness. If you don't read it now, you'll kick yourself later.

– Don Fallick ☆

## *Here's a Tip – Check Sweden!*

*by Robert Neu*

JewishGen is a horse of many colors. I have a distant cousin, about whom, all I knew/know is that after the war she went to Sweden. Not the most obvious destination. In my mind, my ancestors are from Hungary, so my resource is H-Sig. [Hungary Special Interest Group – ed.]

This search got revived, when an H-Siger from England queried, having seen my email and last name, whether I was related to this cousin. She indicated that she had known her, and had been a close friend of her mother. She gave me information about my cousin, including her married name, that she has/had two daughters, and she even sent me some pictures.

I have not found her yet. She is not, as far as I can tell, among the living or the dead in Sweden.

However, she has given me a new venue. She got it from the Galician Sig. They too have had people emigrating to Sweden. The bottom line is, there is an archive division in Sweden where visas, passports, residence permits, applications for citizenship, arrivals and departures from Sweden are stored. The contact is:

**Riksarkivet**

**Box 12541**

**S - 102 29 Stockholm**

**Sweden**

**Phone: 011-46-8-737-6350**

**Email :** [riksarkivet@riksarkivet](mailto:riksarkivet@riksarkivet.se)

<mailto:riksarkivet@riksarkivet.ra.se>.

I just sent my request. I'll keep you posted as to what happens. By the way, English is fine. ☆

## **SPECIAL FEATURE:**

# **JEWISH RECORDS AT THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

by Daniel Schlyter

The Utah Jewish Genealogical Society is based in Salt Lake City, the home of the most impressive genealogical facility in the world. The Family History Library is located at 35 North West Temple Street, just west of Temple Square. The Library is run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and serves the genealogical needs of the that religion. But the Family History Library collection has always been made available to all genealogical researchers with no strings attached. The use of any Family History Center is free, and the public is welcome. It is not a proselyting place, with missionaries out to convert you. There are missionaries there, but they are service missionaries, not proselyting missionaries. That means they are there to answer questions and lend assistance. These volunteers can help you get started researching your ancestors and to use the library's remarkable collection of genealogical source materials.

But what good could this "Mormon" library do for a Jewish ancestor searcher? Well let me tell you! The library, among its other genealogical material, has an excellent collection of records pertaining to both American and European Jews. But, most genealogical sources you will use at the library include Jewish people along with the rest of the general population. These would include such sources as census, vital records, naturalization, court records, passenger lists, etc. You can determine whether the library has specific records by using the Family History Library Catalog. The catalog is available on the internet: [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org). Also, the IAJGS has a database called "Jewish Records at the Family History Library." You can access it online at JewishGen [www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC/](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC/) or you can purchase a CD-ROM from the IAJGS [www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/fhindexcd.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/fhindexcd.html).

**Vital records.** Vital records are records of births, marriages, and deaths made by government officials. In the United States, marriages and divorces were usually recorded by a county officer. Births and deaths were sometimes recorded by a county officer, but the state Department of Health has custody of the records for some areas. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under the heading VITAL RECORDS. The library does have a few records created by Jewish communities. Synagogues sometimes kept account books, birth and circumcision records, Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah records, marriage, and burial records. These are listed under the heading JEWISH RECORDS. The library has a very impressive collection of European records, such as registers of birth, circumcision, marriage, death, or burial kept by congregations or European civil authorities. A few towns and congregations started keeping records as early as the eighteenth century, but others did not keep records until the early twentieth

century. The quality and preservation of Jewish records varies from country to country. A country by country listing of what the library has is included here below.

**Census.** The United States has conducted censuses every ten years since 1790. Early censuses listed heads of households and statistical summaries of other members. Since 1840 the censuses list the name, age, and birthplace (state or country only) of each member of a household. More recent censuses give more information. For example, the 1900 census lists name, month and year of birth, state or country of birth, birthplace of parents, occupation, year of immigration, and whether that person was naturalized. The Family History Library has U.S. census from the 1790 up to 1930.

**Naturalizations.** These records may give the place and date of birth, date of emigration, port of entry, and date of arrival. The Family History Library has microfilmed naturalization records and indexes from many areas of the United States.

**Passenger Lists.** Passenger lists generally show people's names, ages, and countries of origin. There are two kinds of passenger lists: Arrival records and departure records.

**Arrivals:** The Family History Library has microfilmed copies of passenger records for all the major U.S. ports. Your Jewish ancestor may have arrived at any of the U.S. ports, but the greatest numbers arrived at New York. The arrival records of most U.S. ports are indexed, but the records of New York, the most important port for Jewish immigration, are **not** indexed for the years 1847 to 1897.

**Departures:** The Family History Library has a complete set of the Hamburg passenger lists for 1850-1934. These are an excellent source for genealogical research and for determining exactly where in Europe your ancestors came from. Many Central and Eastern European Jews on their way to America departed through the port of Hamburg, Germany. This list of passengers included information about age, occupation, and place of origin for all passengers. They are indexed, but you must generally know at least the year of immigration in order to use the indexes.

**Gazetteers.** Although you can often find information about the town your ancestor came from on the Internet, you may find the information to be inaccurate or incomplete. Spelling problems can make it difficult to find the specific place. The internet may provide nice maps and pictures, but what about the keeping of records. The Family History Library has an excellent collection of gazetteers (locality listings) for areas of Jewish emigration; Austria, Hungary, Russia, Poland, Germany, etc. These provide data about the town as it was when your ancestor lived there and often list the jurisdictions for the keeping of birth, marriage and death records. Search for gazetteers in the Family History Library Catalog by name of the country or province.

**Holocaust.** The Family History Library has several sources for Holocaust research. The library has several published lists of Holocaust victims, including the German *Gedenkbuch* [Memorial book], *Totenbuch Theresienstadt* [Theresienstadt deathbook], and others. The only Nazi concentration camp record in the library are the death registration records of Mauthausen, Austria (on microfilm numbers 812876 and 812877).

**Jewish Records.** For some countries the Family History Library has an excellent collection of Jewish records. Use the Family History Library Catalog to find specific records or books. Jewish records of birth, marriage, and death are cataloged under the name of the place and the heading JEWISH RECORDS. Materials about Jews, such as Jewish histories or books about Jews, are cataloged under the country, county, or city and the heading MINORITIES or JEWISH HISTORY

**Country of origin.** The following paragraphs describe the records found in various countries and generally indicate which records are available in the Family History Library.

**Austria** Before the 1918 boundary changes at the end of the First World War, the Austrian Empire included areas now located in the Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy and the Republic of Austria. Austrian Jews were required to keep vital records beginning in 1788 but few records exist before the 1830s and 1840s. The Family History Library has only a few Jewish records from the Polish area of Austrian Galicia, but is acquiring Jewish materials from the Ukrainian part. Also, the library has detailed maps and gazetteers of the Austro-Hungarian Empire on microfilm. They can help you locate the exact place in Austria from which your ancestors came and determine what country it is in now.

**Britain** The modern Jewish community in England dates from 1656. London had congregations of both Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews, but Portuguese Sephardic Jews predominated until the nineteenth century. Synagogue records date from the end of the seventeenth century. These were written in Portuguese or Yiddish. Marriage

records seem to be complete, but many births were not recorded. Civil registration of all births, deaths, and marriages was introduced in 1837. The Family History Library has microfilmed some synagogue records and the index to the civil registration. The actual civil registers, however, are available only in England. The library also has a collection of pedigrees and indexes of Jews in England from the mid-1800s and earlier, compiled by I. Mordy. See microfilms 1279240 through 1279250.

**France.** The government of the French Republic introduced civil registration of all births, marriages, and deaths in France, including Jews, in 1792. French civil registration records of births, deaths, and marriages have been microfilmed by the Family History Library for many departments (counties) of France.

**Germany.** Civil registration of Jewish births, deaths, and marriages began at various times in different parts of the German empire. Many places began keeping records on Jews in the early and mid-nineteenth century, and some areas even before 1800. But registration was not consistent throughout Germany until 1874. The Family History Library has microfilmed many German Jewish records in Germany (including areas now in Poland), and is continually adding to the collection. Further information about genealogical research in Germany is provided in the library's *Germany Research Outline*. The German government conducted a census in 1938. Information on Non-Aryans (principally Jews) was extracted from the cities and put into a special supplement to the census. The Family History Library has acquired this census supplement on microfilm. For further details and a register of film numbers, see FHL fiche 6001716.

**Greece.** The library has microfilmed the civil registers of Thessalonike (1870-1941) which includes the Jewish inhabitants..

**Hungary and Slovakia.** Modern Hungary is much smaller now than it was before the end of the First World War in 1918. The former kingdom of Hungary included areas now in Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Croatia, Yugoslavia (Serbia), and Austria. The Family History Library has filmed all available Jewish vital records up to 1895 for localities now within the borders of modern Hungary. These include birth, marriage, and death records of individual Jewish communities. The library is presently acquiring Hungarian civil registration records from 1895 up to 1910 (and some later). A majority of the Jewish records of what is now Slovakia are also represented in the Family History Library collection; and more are being acquired. The library has general Hungarian census records (including especially Slovakia) - 1828, 1857, 1869. And, the library has also has the 1848 Jewish census for several old Hungarian counties (FHL film nos. 719823 through 719828). some of these are for places in the Ukraine.

**Netherlands.** After 1811, Jewish births, marriages, and deaths in the Netherlands were included with other religious groups in local civil registers. Prior to this, each congregation was responsible for its own records. The Family History Library has filmed all civil registers up to 1882 and some as late as 1912. Many early congregational records have also been filmed. Jews in the Netherlands were required to adopt fixed surnames in 1811-1812. The registration of these name adoptions often includes the names and ages of all male family members, original names and the new fixed name. Although not available for all places, these names adoption records [*Naamaannemingsregisters*] are often grouped with the civil registration records of the specific town. They may also be listed in the Family History Library Catalog under NAMES, PERSONAL.

**Poland.** The earliest registration of Polish Jews was in the former Austrian territory of Galicia in 1787. Austrian laws required the Catholic clergy to make records of Jews and Protestants, but it was not enforced until the mid-nineteenth century. The Duchy of Warsaw, which later constituted the Russian territory of Poland, began civil registration in 1808. At first, Jews were included in Catholic civil registers. After 1826, separate civil registers were kept for Jews. In areas under Prussian rule, Jews were required to prepare transcripts of vital records beginning in the early 1800s. The Family History Library has an extensive microfilm collection of Jewish vital records from Poland especially from the former Russian and German areas of Poland, making it a significant resource for Jews with ancestry in these areas. The library has microfilmed very few Jewish records from the areas formerly ruled by Austria.

**Romania and Czech Republic.** Jewish vital record keeping in the former Austrian provinces of Bohemia and Moravia started in 1784 when laws required the Catholic clergy to make records of Jews and Protestants. Most Jewish congregations were recording births, marriages and death in accordance with the laws by the 1840s. The Family History Library has not microfilmed the Czech records, but they are readily accessible by correspondence. Modern Romania consists of territories with varied historical backgrounds.

The old Romanian principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia were under Turkish domination until the mid 1800s. The area of Transylvania was under Austro-Hungarian rule until 1918. Civil registration of births,

marriages, and deaths was introduced in the Romanian principalities in the [Continued next page] 1830s, but it is not clear when Jewish communities began keeping records. In the former Hungarian area of Transylvania, Jewish registers began in the 1830s and 1840s in accordance with Austro-Hungarian law. The Family History Library has not acquired any Jewish records from Romania.

**The Russian Empire.** The record keeping of Jews in Russia was inconsistent: in some areas, Jewish birth, marriages, and deaths were recorded as early as the first decades of the 1800s; other areas started much later or not at all. In many cases, Jews avoided keeping records that might later be used against them. The records kept were not always accurate or complete. The Family History Library is now acquiring records from the republics of Russia, Belarus (Byelorussia), Ukraine, Lithuania, Estonia, Moldova, and Armenia. The intent is to acquire record of all religions and ethnic groups, but it may be several years before substantial numbers of Jewish vital records are available. Use the Family History Library Catalog to determine whether the records of any specific place have been microfilmed.

**Other Countries.** The Family History Library has Jewish vital records from some localities in Western Europe not noted above. The Family History Library Catalog lists specific holdings for each country.

### Some books in the Family History Library collection of interest for Jewish Research:

*Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy.* Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu, 1985 +. Published quarterly, 155 North Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621 (FHL book 296.05 Av79)

*A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* Beider, Alexander.. Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu 1993. (FHL book 947.2 D46b)

*Encyclopedia Judaica.* 17 vol. Jerusalem: Keter Publishing House, 1972-1982. (FHL book 296.03 En19j)

*The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy; vol. 1 - Sources in the United States and Canada.* Kurzweil, Arthur and Weiner, Miriam, ed. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 1991. (FHL book 929.1 En19e)

*Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy.* Rottenberg, Dan. New York: Random House, 1977. (FHL book Ref 929.1 R747f)

*First American Jewish Families.* Stern, Malcolm H. Cincinnati: American Jewish Archives, 1978 and later editions. (FHL book 973 F2frs)

*From Generation to Generation.* Kurzweil, Arthur. New York: William Morrow Press, 1980. Also in paperback, New York; William Morrow Press, 1980. Also in paperback, New York: Schocken Press, 1982. (FHL book 929.1 K967f; film 1059468, item 4)

*Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area.* Guzik, Estelle, ed. New York: Jewish Genealogical Society, 1989. (FHL book 974.71 A3ge; fiche 6100654)

*A Guide to Genealogical Research in Israel.* Sack, Sallyann A. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1987. (FHL book 956.94 D27s)

*History of the Jews in Russia and Poland* Dubnów, S. M.. Translated from Russian by I.Friedlander. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1916. (FHL book 940 F2d; film 1183537, item 2; fiche 6000774, item 6)

*Jewish Family Names & their Origins: an Etymological Dictionary.* Guggenheimer, Heinrich W. and Guggenheimer Eva H. [Hoboken, NJ]: Ktav Publishing House, 1992. (FHL book 296 D46g)

*Jewish Genealogy: A Sourcebook of Family Histories and Genealogies.* Zubatsky, David and Berent, Irwin M. 2 v. New York: Garland, 1984, 1990. (FHL book 929.1 Z81j)

*Jewish History Atlas* Gilbert, Martin. New York: MacMillan, 1977. (FHL book 911G374 1977)

*Memorialbook: Victims of the Persecution of the Jews under the National-Socialist Regime in Germany 1933-1945* [Gedenkbuch: Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland 1933-1945]. 2 v. Koblenz: Bundesarchiv Koblenz und der International Suchdienst Arolsen, 1986. (FHL book Europe Q 943 V4g; also on microfilm nos. 1857848-1857849).

*Shtetl Finder* Cohen, Chester G. Los Angeles: Periday, 1980. (FHL book area 947 F24s; FHL film 1206428, item 4)

*Where Once We Walked; A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust.* Mokotoff, Gary and Sack, Sallyann Amdur. Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu, 1991. (FHL book 940 E5ms) ✧