

# IS THE GOLD OF THE EXODUS IN SAUDI ARABIA?

(see page 18)



ATSMI UVSARI  
"MY BONE AND MY FLESH"

עצמי ובשרי

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**Etymology of Names**  
Report from a Presentation at the  
IAJGS Conference – Las Vegas  
July 2005  
*By Rochelle Kaplan*

So You Want to Be An Onomastician?

One of my favorite presenters was Alexander Beider, a brilliant onomastician. For crossword puzzle fans, an onomastician is someone who studies proper names and their origins. Beider is the author of *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames From the*

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**Bingham: A Real Hero**  
**(See Article in Atsmi Uvsari**  
**Number 2—Spring 2003)**

Just a little more evidence of the bastardly behavior of the Roosevelt administration toward the Jews during WWII ----- A few months ago, the (then Secretary of State, Colin Powell, gave a posthumous award for "constructive dissent" to Hiram (or Harry) Bingham, IV.

For over fifty years, the State Department resisted any attempt to honor Bingham. For them he was an insubordinate member of the US diplomatic service, a dangerous maverick who was eventually demoted. Now, after his death, he has been officially recognized as a hero.

Bingham came from an illustrious family. His father (on whom the fictional character Indiana Jones was based) was the archeologist who unearthed the Inca City of Machu Picchu, Peru in 1911. Harry entered the US

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**Family Tree Loses Genetic**  
**Defect Genealogy Blog**  
*By Kimberly Powell,*

[Your Guide to Genealogy Stay up to date!](#)

**June 20, 2005**

Family Tree Loses Genetic Defect David Brinson has CADASIL, a genetic condition that causes him to have migraine headaches and mini-strokes. The condition, unfortunately, also has a 50-50 chance of being passed on to his children. Instead of playing the odds, however, David and Toni Brinson turned to IVF (in-vitro fertilization) and genetic testing to help eliminate the disorder from their family tree.moremore

Through an Internet search, Toni Brinson learned about preimplantation genetic diagnosis, or PGD, a test that can detect a single-gene defect in an embryo before it is implanted into the uterus during in vitro fertilization. Although PGD had never been used to test embryos for CADASIL, geneticists at Genesis Genetics Institute in Detroit were able to create a specific marker to identify David Brinson's abnormality. The healthy embryos were identified, and the rest destroyed.

Although the Brinsons expect some people to question the ethics of their decision, they look at it as practicing "preventive medicine" by avoiding the potentially high health-care costs of caring for a child with health problems. Their first child is expected to arrive the first week of August.

Read more about the Brinson's in the Charlotte Observer. Or chart your own family's medical history to learn if you may be at risk of an inherited medical condition.

## Moritz Hegyessy Agent and Factor

by Carolyn Hegyessy Manwaring

My great-great grandfather, Moritz Hegyessy, is still a main focus for me in my family history research. What I know about him is interesting and what I do not yet know intrigues me. Moritz and his wife Katalin Steinmetz lived in Budapest, Hungary, raised their family, and contributed to their community.

This article will show the different sources and tools which have benefitted our research on this family.

1. The tombstone for Moritz Spitzer Hegyessy is located in in the Rakoskereszturi cemetery, Israelite section, in Budapest. The tombstone was located for our family by a Communist KGB agent who accompanied my Uncle Jim Hegyessy on a tour of Budapest in the early 1960s.



My father, Harold M. Hegyessy Jr., had hired a researcher in Vienna who was able to cross over the border into Hungary. Uncle Jim was given special permission by the US State Dept. and the officials in Hungary to go into Budapest and corroborate the findings of the researcher. Jim was met at the airport by a KGB agent who kindly drove Jim around to various sites, took him to an opera, took him home for dinner, and showed Jim the tombstone. Because Jim was not permitted to carry a camera into Hungary, Moritz's Tombstone

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## "After Long Silence"

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Book Review

by Robert Neu

The book is entitled "*a memoir*". It is both a memoir and a story. It is a memoir, as the writer recounts the journey of the discovery of her roots and identity. It is a story, to the extent that she finds out and tells the life of her father and mother, which she finally learns about in her thirties. The book progresses alternating between the memoir and the life of her parents.

It is known by now that Holocaust survivors are forever affected by their ordeal, and that they are not the only ones. They pass on to their children a mark as well. All survivors have a story. To survive required an overwhelming desire to "live" and a good dose of, short of another term, "luck". The events are not easy to live with, never mind to "talk about or share with anyone", maybe especially with your children.

Living in the same family with parents means, as time goes on, knowing them and their life. No matter how hard one tries, one cannot avoid one's past. Hiding it creates gaps, as what one reveals unwittingly does not make sense and is disconcerting to children who need to get all or as many pieces of the puzzle together as they can.

After Long Silence is trying to hide the past carried to the extreme. It is intensified by the magnitude of the events that the parents lived through. The secret actually continues to live on as the "real names" of many of the persons involved have been changed, which makes you wonder what else has been changed or not been revealed. Indeed the

(Continued on page 4)

author remarks: "To this day I don't even know what my mother's real name is."

The Jewish parents of Lara and Helen were determined never to reveal to their children that they were Jews. They changed their name. They became practicing Catholic, after a fashion. They isolated themselves from any old friends or family. The only family as far as they knew is a sort of matriarch "Zosia" married to an Italian count and living in Rome, the sister of their mother. She and her sister had vowed not to raise Jewish children.

Nevertheless doubts set in, questions are raised, but get no answer. Slowly it becomes a need to know. All the little things, not taking communion, the new friends that are mostly Jewish survivors, some of the family food, the absence of any real information, remarks from school, then college friends motivate Lara. Helen finally comes to the conclusion that it would all make sense if they were Jewish. Even when questioned the parents hold their ground. The father says nothing. The mother evades the questions giving no information.

The last postcard written by the grandmother during the war is too "Catholic" and for the sisters is a giveaway that they are Jewish, but the parents still don't give in.

Lara writes to Yad Vashem which sends them a file with "testimonies" by friends and family that confirms that they are Jewish. They find other corroborations from relatives and friends in this country. It should be the end, but it isn't. It takes a long time to get the story of the parents. The mother's escape from Poland disguised as an Italian

soldier, reaching her sister in Rome who was able to get out before it was too late. The years in a Siberian gulag of their father and how he was able to get back to Rome and marry their mother. But, as poignant as these stories are, they are, even if it is not the right word, "just" added testimony of the Holocaust. What is unique is the fifty years of denial and the impact on Helen and Lara.

When Helen tells her Italian cousin, a count, of his Jewish ancestry it is Zosia's turn to be angry and retreat as if nothing has ever happened.

Another dimension of the book is Helen's personal psychological journey including revealing her gay sexual orientation which is

"The last postcard written by the grandmother during the war is too "Catholic" and for the sisters is a giveaway that they are Jewish, but the parents still don't give in."

also glossed over by her mother. As for Lara she has become a psychiatrist ...

The book ends up with a family reunion in Brooklyn, without their parents, where Lara and Helen get to know their Jewish family and family tree.

Though this is an extreme case, most if not all children of survivors have experienced part of the same trauma, for their parents have not and cannot tell it all.

I can add my personal testimony to that as well.

P.S. You may also want to go to and read the story: SILENT WITNESS - The Story of Lola Rein & Her Dress <http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/silentwitness/lola/flash/index.htm>

*President's Message:*  
**About Research, Meetings,**  
**Conferences et al**

*by Robert Neu*

What does attending meetings, doing research, going to conferences do for you or anyone else?

Well, of course if you have no interest in genealogy, probably not very much. For those of us who have caught the bug, while we realize that we are a minority, we don't understand those who don't have it.

However back to our topic. I have said many times that doing genealogy is a little bit like searching for a needle in a hay stack. Actually it is actually even more daunting than that. The problem is that first we need to find the haystack.

Being in Salt Lake City we have access to quite a few haystacks, probably too many to always know which one to look into.

You probably have looked for and searched the appropriate and available birth, marriage, deaths records haystacks. You have been introduced to the Census haystacks? Also the land deeds, wills and probate haystacks, then the obits haystacks, the military haystacks, the passport and naturalization records haystacks, the arrival/departure ship haystacks, the voting record haystacks, the tax records haystacks, and I could probably go on.

Well, where did you find out about these haystacks? I would venture, research, meetings, conferences.

In my case I had discovered the 1848 Hungarian Jewish Census about 25 years ago, and I was able to confirm and com-

plete some of the family groups for which I had only family knowledge.

Though the 1869 Hungarian Census is not available for the birthplaces of most of my family, by deduction, I found them living in a town where they were not born.

By looking at tax records of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century I did find a family name (first and last) in 1780 where family tradition says they are from (records for that town are not available.)

I know from attending a lecture where one of the family names listed comes from. Until then the name Smelke was a bit baffling. Well, it simply means "little Samuel".

I will have to become familiar with the Magnate Records of the "Zichy" family who owned, among other places, the city of (Var)palota in Veszprem county in Hungary up to 1848 where my family is from. The first e-mail to that town has, so far, remained unanswered. By the way, any help in this regard is welcome.

Of course one also acquires knowledge on items that don't necessarily concern, at least right then, your own research, but can be of help to others. Genealogy cannot be a lonely quest. We need each other. None of us speak and read, French, Hungarian, German, Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, Slovak, Polish, Szerbo-Croat, Moldavian, though more than likely most of us have need of knowledge of most if not all of these languages in our research, not to mention location and availability of records for specific areas where these languages are or were used.

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That's what research, meetings and conferences is all about. "No man is an island" certainly applies to Genealogy.

It also means that, if at all possible, we should be involved in "some genealogy community project." Many require but a couple of hours here or there. At some point in our life, certainly before it's too late, we can find the time to do it.

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**Robert Neu**

First of all I want to thank all the members of UJGS for the opportunity to learn a little more about each of you and your interest in genealogy as I gather information for the spotlight. In trying to decide who to spotlight I decided might as well start at the "top" and share a little bit about Robert Neu, our president. I personally would like to thank him for taking the initiative of starting a Utah chapter of Jewish Genealogy. I would also like to thank each of you members for helping this very "beginning" genealogist, I appreciate all of the suggestions that I have received in looking for ancestors.

*By Denise Kleinfeld*

Robert Neu was born on April 1, 1940 in Paris, France and grew up there, he came to New York in 1959. Robert attended (at night) and graduated from the City College of New York in French Literature and History. He completed some graduate studies but did not pursue a career in Liberal Arts as it was not a promising area in the Vietnam war era.

Robert worked for Air France for 41 years in various capacities, starting as a

part-time mail clerk and worked his way up to Assistant to the General Manager and Director North America for Air Inter, the Air France domestic subsidiary at the time.

Robert married his wife Clara in New York in 1963 and together they raised seven children. Five are currently married and they presently have sixteen grandchildren with two on the way.

Robert's interest in genealogy was sparked by his father when he was about ten or twelve years old. When asked to share his earliest researched family members he said on his mother's side the earliest Schlesinger is a Markus Schlesinger from Duna Szerdahely in Nyitra (now Duna Streda, Slovakia) not too far from Pozsony (now Bratislava, Slovakia) who was born around 1782. He said he also has information on others from the same generation in the same area. On his father's side the Neu's are from Varpalota, Veszprem, Hungary. The earliest certain is a Jozsef Neu from that town born in 1813. He has found a taxation record of 1780 for a Jozsef Neu near Varpalota. Other lines are around Tata, Komarom, Hungary to about 1790.

His most interesting experience doing genealogy is finding original entries or ancestors. Robert said he considers his greatest accomplishment is self publishing the life story of his father. Also transcribing for Jewishgen.org where he is the coordinator for the 1848 Hungarian Jewish Census. He says that currently 65,000 records of about 80,000 are on line. And last but not least establishing the UJGS, began 3 years ago, and hopefully getting it to the point that it will continue even if he isn't there.

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When asked what he would currently like to "find the answer" to he said he is still working on Varpalota, Veszprem, Hungary as so far he has not found any local records (apparently they were destroyed in a bonfire by the local nazis in WWII.) His next venture in this regards is to find what Mag-nate records may or may not exist as Varpalota was the property of the Zichy noble family up to 1848.

I asked Robert to share some advice with members and he said "Don't give up. Get to know ALL the records from the area you are researching. Help others as you gain knowledge."

Thanks Robert for sharing a little of yourself with us and especially for making it possible for us to meet together and further our genealogy.

### **Exhibit focused on Bulgarian Sephardim**

04-14-2005 13:08:46 ET

The foreign ministers of Bulgaria and Germany inaugurated an exhibition based on research conducted for a project focused on European Jewish life. On 27 April, Germany's Joschka Fischer and Bulgaria's Solomon Passy opened the exhibit of items from Centropa's Bulgarian archive. The archive is made up of more than 700 privately owned photographs and 50 interviews with elderly Sephardi Jews living in Sofia, Plovdiv and other cities. The exhibition is sponsored by the German embassy in Bulgaria. As a Jew, Passy's grandfather was persecuted by the Nazis. At a conference in Berlin last year, the Bulgarian foreign minister presented Fischer with the Yellow Star his grandfather had to wear at the time in a gesture of thanks to his counterpart for the latter's efforts to eradicate anti-Semitism in Europe.

### **Zip Tip** *by Marelynn Zipser*

#### **Subject: World War II ("Old Timers") draft cards for NYC microfilmed**

I see that there's been very little conversation here about the World War II draft registration cards. Commonly known as the "Old Timers' Draft."

The Fourth Draft Registration covered men born between April 28, 1877 and Feb. 16, 1897 -- men who were between 45 and 65 in April 1942, when the registration was held. Citizens and aliens alike were required to register, including men who had served in prior wars.

Each registrant was asked his full name, residence, mailing address and telephone number, birth date, birth place, age, name of employer and place of employment, name and address of a person who would always know his address, and physical description. In many cases, a town of birth is included. Note that the government had no intention of drafting these middle-aged men for active military service. The registration was held to document their occupational skills for possible use in the war effort.

Over 900,000 cards for the five boroughs of New York, as well as cards for New Jersey and Puerto Rico, are housed at the National Archives-Northeast Region, 201 Varick Street, Manhattan ([www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/new\\_york.html](http://www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/new_york.html)).

They were originally organized by draft board, making access difficult, but were alphabetized about three years ago by volunteers from Long Island's Italian Genealogical Group and other local organizations. The NYC cards are alphabetical within each borough; the NJ cards are organized by county. More recent news about the cards held at Varick Street is that they have been microfilmed by the Family History Library in Utah and are now available

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through Family History Centers.

For film numbers of the NYC cards, search for the keywords \*\* Selective Service New York \*\* in the library catalog, [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset\\_fhlc.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp) . At this time only the microfilms for Manhattan (118 rolls), Brooklyn (119 rolls) and Queens (63 rolls) appear to be listed in the library catalog, but according to "informed sources," the Bronx (30 rolls), and Staten Island (9 rolls) have also been filmed.

In the past, the National Archives on Varick Street responded to mail requests for searches of Fourth Registration draft cards (up to three names at one time for \$10). I've tried to find out from NARA whether this service is still available but haven't received an answer to my email. I also don't know whether NARA staffers will still bring out the boxed cards for researchers' use or if we're now expected to use the microfilm. Maybe someone who has been at NARA NY recently can shed light.

For other localities, "Old Timers" registration cards may be at one of the 12 other National Archives branches around the country ([www.archives.gov/facilities/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/facilities/index.html)) and some have been filmed by the Family History Library. Substitute other place names for New York in your keyword search of the FHL catalog for additional results, including records for many New Jersey counties.

According to Leslie Corn's excellent article, "World War II Fourth Registration Draft Cards: A Newly-Released 20th-Century Resource for 19th-Century Research," originally published in the Winter 2002 newsletter of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, registration cards for many cities and towns, including the rest of New York State, are still with the Selective Service in Washington ([www.sss.gov/records.htm](http://www.sss.gov/records.htm)). To see that article and others on the subject, search Google.com for the words \*\* World War II draft cards \*\*.

From: Renee Renee Stern Steinig Dix Hills (Long Island), NY  
"Rsteinig@suffolk.lib.ny.us"

## Minutes of UJGS Meeting July 19, 2005 (selection)

Submitted by Rochelle Kaplan

Attendees: Rochelle Kaplan, Miriam Hall Hansen, Marelynn Zipser, Mark & Denise Kleinfield, Stephen and Dawnette Cohen, Mercedes & Perry Woolsey, Gerald and MaryAnn Jacobs, Paula Paradise, Ruth and Richard Stone, Rebecca Fleischman, Carolyn & Michael Manwaring, Robert Neu

Introductions

Announcements

1901 Canada Census released.

Avotaynulls, *What's Nu?* E-zines distributed, also passed around were Rochelle's copies of *Jewish Ancestors? A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia and Estonia*, *The Last Eyewitnesses: Children of the Holocaust Speak*, edited by Wiktorja Sliwowska, *Family Tree Magazine* for Aug. 2005 and *A Translation Guide to 19<sup>th</sup> Century Polish-language Civil-Registration Documents*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition by Judith Frazin. Rochelle bought the books at the IAJGS Conference in July. Also passed around were the IAJGS Conference Syllabus & Yearbook.

-The Manwarings gave a PowerPoint presentation on court Jews, especially as related to their Hegyessy ancestors (see article on page .)

Moritz Hegyessy was the great-great-grandfather of Carolyn Manwaring and great-grand father of Mercedes Woolsey. The Manwarings and Woolseys will now pursue horizontal genealogy..They said that the registers were found in Hungary

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See article on Pages 3 and 15

by professional genealogist. Someone suggested city directories available at FHL and university libraries. Censuses have been incomplete.

-Robert and then Rochelle spoke about the IAJGS Conference, held earlier in July. Several UJGS members and visitors were there – Daniel who presented, Robert, Rochelle, Banai and the Kleinfelds. Robert was impressed by Gary Mokotoff's presentation on Holocaust records. Daniel presented *Reading the Vital Records of Russian Poland, Eastern European Spelling & Grammar and their Effect on Jewish Genealogical Research*, and *Jewish Holdings of the FHL*, Rochelle's favorite presentations were: Beider's talks on Etymology and Surnames, Gostin's *Reading Russian Records for the Non-Russian Speaker*, Muzychuk's *Jewish Genealogy in the Ukrainian Archives*, Frazin's *How to Find 19<sup>th</sup> Century Polish Language Civil Registration Records*, *Making the Most of Your Polish Resources* by H. Lipsius and Mark Halpern, Colletta's *Your Ancestor's World Revealed*, Busgang's *Best Kept Secrets of Polish Genealogy*, Blatt's *Jewish Given Names* and Mokotoff's *How to Document Victims & Survivors of the Holocaust*.

-Rochelle summarized Beider's *How Can We Find a Reliable Etymology?* (See Article page )

-Rebecca Fleischman told of her progress at the FHL and thanked FHL volunteer Paula Paradise.

-Robert suggested: using -Magnate Records, which were kept up to WWI. They are not at the FHL but are held in various E. European archives. Gayle Riley presented on this at the IAJGS Conference. Her email is [Key2pst@pacbell.net](mailto:Key2pst@pacbell.net)

- the American Red Cross, local or main Baltimore affiliate, to start a search on relatives lost or missing during the Holocaust. This is faster than using the International Tracing Service in Arolsen, Germany.

The next meeting will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 20 at Kol Ami. The agenda is as follows: PBS film about Jewish Ancestors (about 20 minutes), IAJGS Conference highlights from the Kleinfelds, Banai, Rochelle, and genealogical puzzler from Banai.

News

## **Utah honors senator for rescue efforts**

04-08-2005 09:00:48 ET

The state of Utah has honored a former US senator's efforts to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. Friday was designated "Elbert Thomas Day" to honor the man who led Senate efforts to convince then-president Franklin Roosevelt to establish a War Refugee Board during World War II. The board helped save some 200,000 European Jews, including those saved by Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest, according to the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies. Thomas was a Democrat who served in the US Senate from 1932 to 1950. He witnessed conditions in Nazi Germany before the war and spoke out against restrictive immigration policies that kept Jews from entering the United States. During the war, he advocated military and political efforts to rescue Jews, opposing his own president and party who said that winning the war was the best rescue effort.

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diplomatic service and, in 1939, was posted to Marseilles, France as American vice-consul.

The USA was then neutral and, not wishing to annoy Marshal Petain's puppet Vichy regime, President Roosevelt's government ordered its representatives in Marseilles not to grant visas to any Jews. Bingham found this policy immoral and, risking his career, did all in his power to undermine it.

In defiance of his bosses in Washington, he granted over 2,500 USA visas to Jewish and other refugees, including the artists Marc Chagall and Max Ernst and the family of the writer Thomas Mann. He also sheltered

Jews in his Marseilles home, and obtained forged identity papers to help Jews in their dangerous journeys

across Europe. He worked with the French underground to smuggle Jews out of France into Franco's Spain or across the Mediterranean and even contributed to their expenses out of his own pocket.

In 1941, Washington lost patience with him. He was sent to Argentina, where later, he continued to annoy his superiors by reporting on the movements of Nazi war criminals. Eventually, he was forced out of the American diplomatic service completely.

Bingham died almost penniless in 1988. Little was known of his extraordinary activities until his son found some letters in his belongings after his death. He has now been honored by many groups and organizations including the United Nations and the State of Israel.

PLEASE honor his memory and resend this

## About GENOGRAMS

by Robert Neu

Most of the information for this article comes from Genograms by Emily Marlin © 1989 Contemporary Books - Chicago New York.

I suppose that aside from finding out about our ancestors meaning place names and dates we whether consciously or not try to find ourselves in them. This probably applies to even a greater degree to Jewish Genealogy because we think we know how they lived their life, what they believed, how they worshiped, what they ate etc... We also feel like a great family and that we are probably related before too far back.

... genealogists lean towards "nature" rather than "nurture" in the great debate between heredity versus environment."

Recent findings such as the Cohen haplotype among others certainly reinforce such mind set.

What I am trying to say is that a genealogical bend would probably make genealogists lean towards "nature" rather than "nurture" in the great debate between heredity versus environment.

Whichever side you are on, "Genogram (ology)?" deserves some attention. It does use the pedigree charts and, short of another word, with a "purpose".

It usually limits itself to a 3 generations pedigree (you, your parents, your grandparents) and occasionally to a four or five generations one. The main reasons for the limitation are two fold. In most cases three generations is all what people can put together, and it is also sufficient to show what is desired.

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What do I mean by put together? Yes, you can get birth, marriage, death information going back a number of generations. What is harder to do is to find out what was their occupation, their nature, such as: abuser or abused, care giver or care taker, artistic or not, responsible or irresponsible, their parent/child relationship, their sibling to sibling relationship, their poor or rich status, the way they handled money, the impact of alcohol or other substance, specific medical conditions, etc... I could go on, but I think that you get the picture. For each individual one would also look at: the age of their parents when they were born, their place with their siblings (first, middle, last), tragedies in successive generations etc. Special stories whether heroic or family secrets; myths can also be examined.

While some of this information is "nature/ hereditary" or genetic/genealogic, in almost all the cases it concerns itself with "social", or if you prefer "nurture/ environment" issues.

I am sure you have guessed it "Genograms" deals with the implications of the behavior of one's most immediate environment, his family, on an individual. For this purpose people who had a strong influence on an individual, even if not blood related, are included (half siblings, live ins, step children, step parents, substitutes, adopted siblings, ever present aunts/uncles/cousins etc...)

What is the purpose of all this, and when is it used? It has been used by therapists when a person comes to them and wants to know why they behave a certain way. It has also been suggested that individuals do it on their own for the same reason. It can

also be done as a group exercise.

A long time ago I remember reading about a genealogy of a Swiss family where there was a father to son M.D. line for twelve generations, and a hereditary predilection was suggested. The same was suggested for musical talents such as the Bach and the Strauss families.

Reviewing the data suggested in "Genograms", it is quite possible that social conditioning may have played at least as large a role as heredity in those and many other cases. It clearly comes through that having teachers in ones families helps the next generation to do the same. It seems to be definitely the case, as an example, with one of my daughters- in -law.

In the same way it is said that we marry our mothers (for sons) and our fathers (for daughters) (again I have such an example in my family). If you were the money person in the family more than likely there is such a tradition in the family. If you were the "bad child" or the "preferred" one , probably the same tradition is in your family. If you don't show emotions probably again it is a family social heritage from the relative that you emulate. One probably more disconcerting finding is the frequency of the negative influence of alcohol in successive generations.

You don't need to believe me. Learn about how to do your genogram and you will be surprised. There is at least one genogram that is hereditary, it is your medical genogram. Trace the cause of death and major medical conditions in your family including (great)aunts and uncles, and see if there is some health issue that

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you need to have checked.

Mercifully I was checked for colon cancer before it was in full bloom. One of the surgeons I consulted simply remarked "someone wants you to live longer." Thinking about it afterwards, and doing a genogram just mentally, I realized that in each of the past three generations of my paternal family, one of the siblings died of colon cancer. I could have been the one for this generation.

Other Resources: Bowen Murray. *Family Therapy in Clinical Practice*. New York: Jason Aronson, 1978

McGoldrick, Monica and Gerson, Randy. *Genograms in Family Assessment*. New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1986

News

**The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) is disappointed by President Bush's decision, for the 8th time, not to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, citing "US national security interests." A law allowing the transfer was voted in 1995 by the US Congress.** (Guysen.Israëel.News June 26,2005)

"It's really disappointing and unacceptable that the will of the Congress and the American people is still postponed every six months. The President needs to remember that Jerusalem is mentioned around 700 times in Jewish sacred texts, and never mentioned in the Koran, and that throughout the 19 years that the city was under Jordan's control, no Arab leader never came to visit it, that it was abandoned and became slums, only a few houses having electricity or running water, and that it never was the capital of any other state other than Israel" said ZOA Chairman Morton A. Klein.

(Continued from page 2)

*Russian Empire, A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames From the Kingdom of Poland, A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names: Their Origins, Structure, Pronunciation, and Migrations, and Ancient Ashkenazic Surnames: Jewish Surnames from Prague (15th 18th Centuries).*

I summarize his presentation: "How Can We Find a Reliable Etymology?" here.

Beider outlined seven principles of etymology. These are:

- 1) The surname should exist.
- 2) Determine when and where the surname was assigned.
- 3) Explain the difference between the source word and the surname. Explain why this source was chosen.
- 4) Find variants of the name.
- 5) Distinguish between direct and indirect sources. (Beider called this an observation rather than a principle.)
- 6) Use genealogical data.
- 7) Study the general historical background.

### The first principle

Beider noted that genealogists searching Jewish names often have trouble finding a particular surname. This is due to typos in printed material, misinterpretations when reading handwritten materials, or misinterpretations when transcribing names from Hebrew sources. Beider stated, for example, that a quarter of Ellis Island Database names were misunderstood, so that Aisikwicz became Aisikowoz, Golubczek became Gohibezck and Kuropatwa became Europatwa. Although Yad Vashem generally did an excellent job, its database also contains errors. Thus, Pinchuk became

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Finchuk, Paley became Palai and Aron became Aharon. Errors sometimes occur in translating Yiddish Yizkor books into English. Beider also noted errors made in Guggenheimer's *Jewish Family Names and Their Origins*.

### **Principle two**

Beider noted that Middle High German words cannot be the source for surnames taken in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Furthermore, he said that the final element "is" in Shcherbelis & Vaykis is not Lithuanian; the names are found in Ukraine.

Similarly, Makogen and Mukomel are not derived from Arabic; they are found in Ukraine and Belorussia (now Belarus) and come from Slavic occupational words. Schottlander is from Alt-Schottland, near Danzig, formerly in Germany, and is not from Scotland.

Dvinsky is not from Dvinsk since Dvinsk was called Dunaburg till 1893 and the surname Dvinsky dates from 1793. The surname derives from the River Dvina.

Beider thought that the surname Sudzon, found near Odessa, was derived from sud + sohn. He later realized the surname was found in Telshi, in Northern Lithuania and comes from the village Sudzyany, near Telshi.

Regarding Spector/Spektor, Beider wondered if the name was monogenetic or polygenetic. Were all bearers of the surname related to one ancestor or were there many branches? Since the name is common in Ukraine and Belorussia, it is a polygenetic name. Originally the surname was thought to be from the word for inspector, but that means there should be a real word that existed. In fact, in an early eighteenth century dictionary, the now obsolete word spektor is a Jewish occupation, meaning teacher's assistant in a Jewish

school. A variant is szpektor.

### **Principle three**

Beider gave various examples. Pevzner can't be from pevets (singer.). Barankin can't be from Baran (ram) because there is no explanation for the "kin" suffix.

Similarly, Talalay can't be from tal (dew) because the suffix "alay" is not explained. Talalay, in fact, means chatterbox.

Sverdlov is not from Sefard, since it is common in the Vitebsk region. This is a phonetic coincidence. Sverdlov is derived from the village of Sverdly.

Sibirsky does not mean from Siberia but rather is from the village Sibir, near Bialystok.

Some names can't be from Christian surnames; thus, Tarasyuk cannot be derived from Taras since no Jew would be the son of Taras. (Taras is not a Jewish name). Jews might borrow the name as a ready-made name but this occurred rarely. For Jews, the explanation is that the surname is a village based name which itself is based on an earlier Christian person's name. For Ashkenazi Jews, surnames were taken in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Often, Austrian Christian clerks invented Jewish surnames.

### **Principle four**

Beider says to find variants of the name. Kelsen, for example, is a small German town but the name is from Brody, in Galicia. Variants in Brody are Kelsohn and Kelson. Kele is a Yiddish woman's first name, so Kelsohn, Kelsen, and Kelson mean son of Kele. Lewko, found in Bialystok, is not a Polonized version of Leib (lion). Instead, the name derives from Lewki, a village near Bialystok. Variants include Lewke and Lewki.

The surname Messite and its variant Messute are found in Galicia. Beider figured the name must come from Messute,

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originally with an umlaut, lost over time. Messite is the phonetic equivalent; Messute is the orthographic equivalent. Galicia was more Polish than German in orientation. The Polish Yiddish sound has no configuration for the “oo” sound; the closest is “ee”. Only the roundedness changes the sound. Still this seems an unreasonable explanation. More plausible, Beider decided, is that the word was German in origin, made up of the compound words “mess” and “hutte”, and the h was dropped. One then gets messhutte or messinghute, meaning brass works.

### **Principle five**

Popovski is not from “pop” meaning orthodox priest. This makes little sense for Jews. Instead, it derives from Popovska, a village. Margolis is not from the Hebrew pearl but from a female given name that came from the word for pearl. In the fifteenth century, there were no artificial names. Similarly, Seligman is not derived from “blessed man” but from a male’s first name, which in turn came from the Hebrew for blessed one.

### **Principle six**

Bernitz, Lippert, Danemann and Lewenstein most likely come from the father’s first names of Behr, Lippman, Daniel and Lewin. Lippert was a common surname and first name for German Christians. Names became Germanized in Courland (now in Latvia), where German was the high status language and culture.

### **Principle seven**

Beider commented that in Russia, Jews were allowed to self-administrate, so there were more Hebrew derived names and fewer derogatory names. A large number of Jews lived in the countryside and were

expelled from Russian villages and towns; thus many surnames were derived from place names. In Courland, German was the official language so Jewish names were often Germanized. Beider explained that one of my ancestral surnames from Courland, Gersohn, probably is the Germanized version of the Hebrew name Gershon.

Beider concluded his lecture with an exercise in which he listed surnames and had audience members guess where the surnames were geographically found. In response to queries, he said that derogatory surnames for Jews were assigned by Austrian Christians. Thus my maternal surname, Shreckinger, from Galicia, was probably assigned. Shreck means scare or fright. The suffix “inger” was adopted by Jews to mimic place names that often ended in “ing”, and then the “er” added to denote person from. In Poland derogatory surnames were assigned, especially for Jews who still hadn’t adopted a surname three years after the law was passed mandating surname adoption. Beider has found about twenty derogatory surnames, mostly from Galicia.

### **Newsbit:**

**An auction in Montreal of four sketches made by Adolf Hitler and two greeting cards signed by his own hand provoked indignation within the local Jewish community.**  
(Guysen.Israëel.News July 07,2005)

The Canadian Jewish Congress declared that the "15 000 Holocaust survivors living in Canada, including 8 000 in Quebec, are outraged by this auction."

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at that time, his escort took several photos of the tombstone. Friends tried to translate the inscription, but they were not familiar enough with Hebrew to give a complete translation.

At the IAJGS conference in Salt Lake City in 2000, my cousin Mercedes and I met two participants from Tel Aviv, Israel who gave us a more complete translation. They asked us if Moritz was a rabbi. We had no idea! The fact that Moritz was Jewish had only been made known to the family by the researcher from Vienna. The two new acquaintances told us that the inscription says Moritz was a rabbi and a kohen. We were surprised and delighted and even more curious about our ancestor.

2. Death registers gave more information. Moritz died in 1872. The Israelite death register states he was an "eskudt agent". The Izraelite Kultusgemeinde published a one-line obituary which states Moritz resided at Ellbogengasse #9 and that he was an "Agent". It further states he was born in Tarnow, and he died at Konyok utca #9. (This address may have been his daughter Regina's residence as her marriage record gives Konyok utca #9 as her house.) The death register for his wife Katalin states she was "the wife of the factor" and that she died at Szerecsen utca #23. Her place of birth is written Petye, Transylvania.

3. The official name change document was found and copied and translated for us by the researcher. The document officially changes the last name Spitzer to Hegyessi, and further states Moritz made his living as

a broker. Robert Neu copied a page from a book at the Family History Library which lists the name changes done at the Ministry of the Interior. A very brief account is written. More interesting, however, are the several Spitzer families who also changed their name to Hegyessi (or some version of this spelling). We do not yet know how they are related to Moritz.

4. An 1873 Budapest directory in the FHL lists many agents in Budapest. Moritz is not listed with the agents as he died in 1872, but he is still listed at his residence as "Moricz Hegyesi, Agent". (The list of agents shows his next-door neighbor, Simon Grunwald of Ellbogengasse #10, Agent.)

5. These descriptions of his vocation puzzled me until I stumbled onto some websites defining and describing a "Court Jew". These articles, combined with family accounts of him, led me to the conclusion that

Moritz Hegyessi was indeed an agent, a factor, a wealthy court Jew. The following quotes are taken from [www.jewishtribalreview.org/06money.htm](http://www.jewishtribalreview.org/06money.htm). "[The Court Jews] became," says Lewis Coser, "the rulers' instrument for destroying feudal forces, estates, and guilds restricting his power. They were his financiers and bankers and collaborators...." [COSER, p 575] "In their capacity as bankers and money lenders," says Selma Stern, "[Court Jews] often participated in political councils, in secret diplomatic missions, in the negotiation of peace treaties, and in military conferences." [STERN, p. 115] Eva Hoffman calls similar Jews in the Polish empire "court servitors." "One such servitor," she observes, "a man known as Becal, paid a large sum to the king in return for a license to collect royal tolls in Ruthenia and Vol-

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## Two Photos of Moritz and Katalin with Family



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hynia -- in defiance of a law prohibiting Jews to lease royal customs. Over time, some of the more successful Jews began to identify with the szlachta [the aristocracy], adopting its dress, comportment and sometimes its arrogance." [HOFFMAN, E., 1997, p. 50] During the many wars of Europe, "this situation," says F. L. Carsten, "proved the great opportunity for those Jews who provided the armies with food and fodder, bought the soldiers' booty at advantageous prices and traded in the wake of the armies. Because there were so many princes and because they all needed loans so badly, this was the opportunity not only for a few Jews attached to one court, but for dozens, even hundreds, working for many different princes, to supply them with what they needed, or rather more often what they did not need." [CARSTEN, p. 143]



**Ferdinand, Horvath,**

**Katalin and James**



"Among the branches of trade in which Jews achieved special prominence," underscores Jewish scholar W.E. Mosse, "the outstanding one in the early nineteenth century was, undoubtedly, war contracting. It was this activity which may be said to have laid the foundations of the fortunes of the German-Jewish economic elite. This was, unquestionably, the major source of early Jewish capital accumulation." [MOSSE, W., 1987, p. 386] Court Jew Behrend Lehman, for example, was so wealthy that he owned a castle and thirteen villages. Israel Jacobson owned fifteen estates and other property throughout Germany. [CARSTEN, p. 151 In gleaning from the wars of the non-Jews around them, Court Jews not only kept their lucrative business networking within the local and transnational Jewish community, they even took the self-protective, self-promotive clan ethic to the next extreme.

Although Court Jews were scattered in nations throughout Europe, "virtually all of the many hundreds of Court Jews were related by marriage. This was of considerable advantage for their financial, diplomatic, and dynastic services." [BREUER, p. 112] More broadly across central Europe, "Jewish entrepreneurs [of the Austria-Hungarian power establishment] built the railroads, financed the coal mines, set up the Pilsner beer industry, pioneered sugar refining, developed the iron and steel industries, controlled the leading banks and newspapers, and were prominent in the leather goods, furniture, clothing, and food processing trades." [TIMMS, p. 51]

Other sources on the web are [en.wikipedia.org/Court\\_Jew](http://en.wikipedia.org/Court_Jew) and the Canadian Jewish News at [www.cjnews.com/pastissues/02/mar14-02/features/feature3.htm](http://www.cjnews.com/pastissues/02/mar14-02/features/feature3.htm).

These descriptions fit the story we have heard handed down from our fathers. Other terms, Hofjuden and Hoffactor, are also used to refer to Jewish bankers and businessmen who lent money and handled finances of European nobles. (Arrogant aristocrats also seems to describe some of the family members. Let's hope the rest of us learn from their mistakes!)

6. Sometimes the aristocratic benefactor died and court Jews fell in and out of favor. At the death of a court Jew, the monarch who owed money or favors no longer felt obligated to repay his debts to the Agent's family. This apparently happened to Moritz Hegyessy's family, and his holdings were sold to give an inheritance to his family.

The following excerpts of letters from his son to his grandson shed further light on Moritz' accomplishments. However,

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some family members have thought these statements were exaggerations. \*Excerpts from letters written by James Hegyessy to James Hegyessy Jr. 4/20/25

" My dear boy, there is no secret of your family, who were well-to-do---My father who was a colonel in the Hungarian cavalry and a fidel friend of his emperor, a world's man, speaking about 8 languages perfectly well, with no accent. We had a great rural domain in Hungary Nograd Cy, in Tescny Becske,a Szanda-Varalja, vil-lages which are lost in 1872, my brothers-in-law sold for a song to got the inheritance. I left the country, roaming for myself, leaving my share to my mother, who died shortly after. My father was prominent at court, Don't know anything about my sisters except they are all dead, except my nephew Horvath, who is very rich, had lots of my fathers money, has a now family. Only short time ago wrote me news of his family. His father did away with much of my father's money. My sister, his wife, died of cancer, so was not in regular correspondence with him. His sister, my niece, in Buenos Aires, is well to do-- but ungovernable. I visited her last year." 5/2/25:----- My family name must have been given long ago, as it means Mountaineer or Man of the Mountains, as my ancestors used to own 4 villages at the base of mountains." ----- You are of noble descent, as only nobles write their names with "Y" at the end." 5/8/25:----- "Well, my dear boy I guess that I wrote to you that my folks must have been dwellers of the mountains because the name Hegyessy means mountaineer in the Hungar-



**Partial Map of Buda and Pest**

ian language. My father was a high military officer In the cavalry who spoke many languages and was an highly appreciated connoisseur of horses by his emperor for whom I often heard him say that he would lay down his very life if he the emperor would want it (Of course his boy has altogether different ideas of what an emperor is). Our fortune was divided up by the different sons-in-law, all dying a miserable death, and their descendants are unknown to me; I left my share to my mother whose fortune was gobbled up by them after I left the country, ashamed as I was to accept some kind of a clerk position where I formerly lived in affluence."

My father had the idea that Moritz brokered horses for the monarchy, Emperor Franz Joseph and Queen Elizabeth of the Austrian-Hungarian empire. He thought that is how Moritz became wealthy, but I have not found evidence of this yet.

7. Maps have helped me locate Moritz' residence and the place where he died. The 1873 map of Budapest shows Ellbogen-gasse, but the 1884 and 1903 maps show the street still there but the name is changed to Szerecsen utca and the house numbers are changed. I get my bearings on all 3 maps from Rombach and Landon, two street names which remained the same over that 30 year period. The Konyok utca address is in Buda, on the west side of the Danube. Konyok is Hungarian for elbow and the street was shaped like an "L". Ell-bogengasse is in Pest, on the east side of

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the river. Ellbogen is German for elbow but is also the name of an old Rabbinic family

8. In the films I have researched, I have extracted the data on Spitzer families and discovered something of a family compound on Szerecsen street. Several Spitzer families lived in close proximity to Katalin at her death in 1876. It appears she died in the family home on Ellbogengasse, but the street name and number had changed by 1876. I have not found information on Moritz' or Katalin's parents, but there is still much plodding research to be done in the films and books at the FHL. Rosenstein's "Unbroken Chain" may also hold a clue. The resources and tools at the FHL are amazing, as are the articles on Court Jews. But an especial thanks should be given to my father, who was a professional genealogist who volunteered 20 years at the Family History Library, and to my brave Uncle Jim who entered a Communist held country in search of his ancestors. Thanks also to the members of the Jewish community who have been helpful to this Mormon woman who is definitely surprised but pleased at having Jewish ancestry!

P.S. Anyone who recognize common elements with their family are welcome to contact Carolyn.at:

"Manwaring, Michael and Carol"  
<[michaelmanwaring@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelmanwaring@hotmail.com)>

## **The Gold of the Exodus**

© 1998 by Howard Blum published by Simon & Schuster

*Book Review by Robert Neu*

A very inviting title. Fact or fiction? History or legend?

First let us look at the set of characters.

Larry Williams a treasure hunter since childhood who has done well on the stock market and ran twice for Senator in Montana. Bob Cornuke a former police SWAT team officer in search of adventure.

The starting point is a letter received from a "Fassold" who claims that he went to a mountain, "Jabal al Lawz", in Saudi Arabia, the real Mount Horeb, and had located there the gold of the Exodus but was kicked out by the Saudis and sworn never to return at the peril of his life.

Cornuke is recruited by Larry Williams, but before setting out they do some research to substantiate the plausibility of the story. As it turns out the traditional location of Mt. Horeb/Mt. Sinai by the St Catherine Monastery in the Sinai peninsula is unlikely to be the real one. That tradition only goes back to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. when the monastery was built by the mother of the Emperor Constantine.

Jewish tradition, rabbis and scholars do not place Mt Horeb anywhere, it is a mystery. Consultation with a well known scholar simply confirms the biblical text indicating that it is in the the "land of Midian", which everyone seems to point as being the northern part of Saudi Arabia, across the golf of Eilat/Aqaba, with Mt.

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Jabal al Lawz, being the highest point there.

The onus is upped by the existence of “Operation Falcon” which is the secret plan of the Saudis to have missiles and a nuclear capability with the help of the Chinese. Obviously this touches on the sensitive relationships between the USA on one hand and separately China, Saudi Arabia and Israel. Communicating CIA information about all of this to the Israeli is what got “Pollard” sentenced to life in prison where he still is. The special non public relationship between the USA and the kingdom is no longer a secret for anyone.

The main reason the Sinai peninsula cannot be the place is that in the days of Moses it was a heavy Egyptian outpost to protect the mines that were there, and stop any invasion from the East. Moses fleeing would not have gone there to evade the Egyptians, and it is clear that he took the children of Israel to the place where he had been for forty years.

All this was enough to convince our odd pair to try their luck. This was more easily said than done. All attempts to get a visa to go into Saudi Arabia seemed to be in vain. As time went by they became more anxious, and they went to London to see if they would have better luck from there.

After again getting nowhere fast, a “connection” shows them how he can get them a visa which even if phony, and that’s not clear, will work as well as a real one, and they are off to Saudi Arabia. There are a few strange things that they should have investigated, but the excitement of the adventure was too compelling.

What do they discover? That the straits

can almost be crossed walking even today. What else? Jethro’s cave, the twelve boulders marking the limit as to how far the twelve tribes could approach Mount Horeb, the altar of the golden calf, the plain where the battle with the Amalekites took place and many more corroborations of the story of the Book of Exodus.

Oviously the cap of the adventure is getting unnoticed into the military restricted area that Mt Jabad al Lawz has become. In any case they manage to get to the top of the mountain avoiding detection by the Saudi guards. One last surprise is that despite all the precautions taken to have an operational metal detector, somehow it is inoperable, as the batteries were taken out. So no treasure verification, though everything seems to indicate the there is or could have been one, as there have been excavations by the Saudis. Have they discovered the gold? We will not know, or will we one day?

No problem on the way in, but they got caught on the way out? They were interrogated, but in the end let go and flew back to the America. No gold, but the knowledge that the story of Exodus was true and they knew where the Israelites had crossed, where they had camped, and they had walked where Moses spoke with God.

The meaning of all of it came clear on TV, at the ceremonies following the assassination of Itzak Rabin, there, on the back row, a face, yes, the man who had interrogated them in Saudi Arabia. They had been spies for the State of Israel!

Operation Falcon never got completed. The Saudis never got either the Iraqi or the Chinese nuclear bombs.... There is a

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powerful Saudi radar detection system centered on Mt. Jabal al Lawz, but the Israeli feel confident they can destroy it should the need arise...

Believe it or not. In any case Larry Williams, Bob Cornuke, Howard Blum and others do. Of course the Saudis have, will, and would deny it: Mt Horeb in Saudi Arabia ! ridiculous ! Nevertheless an Encyclopedia published by Harper-Collins in 1997 does give Mt. Jabal al Lawz as one of the two possible sites for M. Sinai.

Newsbit:

### **Tel Aviv: a suburb of Jerusalem**

*Guysen Israël News (April 11, 2005)*

During the Jerusalem conference, which took place on Monday, the mayor of the town, Uri Lupolianski, declared that, thanks to the train, Tel Aviv was going to become one of Jerusalem's suburbs. He mentioned the arrangement of a new line which will connect the two towns in 28 minute.

### **Artifacts from First Temple**

Archeologists discovered objects dating backs to the time of the First Temple in a dump where Muslims had transported rubble extracted during the mosques enlargement works, started six years ago. (Guysen Israëli News April 17, 2005)

## Who are We?

Utah Jewish Genealogical Society is a Non-profit Organization.

It is organized to bring together all Utah People interested in Pursuing Jewish genealogy, Regardless of Faith.

UJGS meets bi-monthly at 7:00 PM on the Third Tuesday of the month at congregation Kol Ami Synagogue in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Remaining Meeting for 2005 is November 15

## ***My Bone & My Flesh Atsmi Uvsari***

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