

# שרשרת הדורות

## SHARSHERET HADOROT

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Israel Genealogical Society

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### Editorial

Our newsletter "Sharsheret Hadorot" has been warmly received in Israel and in the bulletins of Genealogical Societies abroad.

Beginning with this issue, we shall publish information about our activities in Hebrew and in English.

In Hebrew only, we shall give a selection of items from the bulletins of Genealogical Societies abroad.

New sections in "Sharsheret Hadorot"

1) Members on their methods of research

Joseph Ben Brith of Moshav Chibat Ziyon inaugurates the section.

Other members are cordially invited to write about their family research.

2) Miriam Weiner's column

Miriam Weiner is a certified Genealogist whose columns are published in 60 papers. She has been kind enough to make them available to us. Many thanks !

#### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dr Paul Jacobs will speak on "The Karto (Kara) Family"  
Dr Jacoby has recently published two studies of this family.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, Robin Naftalin will speak about his family research.

Both meetings will take place at 7:30 p.m at 22 SDEROT AGNON  
JERUSALEM.

#### MAY 1988 MEETING.

At our meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>, we had the pleasure of welcoming Dr.  
Sallyann Amdur Sack, of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater  
Washington, editor of Avotaynu. She spoke to us about the Summer  
Seminar on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Washington DC from June 26-  
July 1<sup>st</sup>.

BATYA UNTERSCHATZ of the Missing Relatives Department of the Jewish  
Agency described the work of her department, the records at its  
disposal and the kinds of help it can give. The new address of her  
office is Hamaalot str. 8, Telephone No. 231746. Office hours 8 - 12.  
Our member GERDA HOFFER, author of "The Utitz Legacy", gave a lively  
account of her research for the recently published book. She told us  
of trail and error and of the obstacles she encountered, and the  
unexpected rewards of her work. "The Utitz Legacy, a personalized  
History of Central European Jewry" is published by posner sons,  
Jerusalem ISBN 965-219-010-1. The price is 22 New Israel Shekels.

#### VISIT TO THE ZIONIST ARCHIVES

On may 16<sup>th</sup> a group of our members spent an exceptionally  
interesting morning at the new building of the Zionist Archives in  
Jerusalem.

we were welcomed by the director, Dr Michael Heymann, and addressed by his deputy, Yoram Mayorek who described and categorized the holdings in the archives, and the kinds of material that researchers would (and would not) find there.

The following materials may be of interest to genealogists:

- 1) List of legal immigrants into Palestine, 1912 - 1948.
- 2) List of immigrants exiled by the British to Cyprus & Mauritius.
- 3) Files of the Jewish Agency Aliyah Department and Youth Aliya.
- 4) Pinkas ha-Boqrim (Register of Adult Members of Knesset Israel during the mandate) in Jerusalem.

We toured the archives building, and left with the feeling that we had gained valuable insights into this storehouse of history and research possibilities.

#### MEMBERSHIP LIST OF ISRAEL JGS WITH THE FAMILIES THEY RESEARCH

- Shalom Goldshmidt Bayit Vegan str. 49 Jerusalem 96425  
researching Wigderowitch, descendants of R. Salmen Schneor from Lady and Seligson.
- Walter Cohen 1301 W. Lynn # 202 Austin Texas 78703  
researching Dan (Dem, Dinn), Salomon Cohen and Drefen from Lithuania
- Rivka Ziskin Ibn Schaprut 20 Jerusalem 92478  
researching Descendants of the Gaon of Vilna R. Eliyahu ben Shlomo Zalman her great grandfather was R. Haim Halevi Volpo b. 1820 and his wife was Rikle Shmerkowitz. Both were from Keidan.
- Len Yodaiken, Kfar Hanasi, Chevel Korazin 12305  
researching families: Jodaiken, Judeikin, Edeikin etc. from the Baltics.  
Gavronsky, Klikolei Elian, Jackson, from Lithuania  
Milgrom, Bratow, Wexler, from Poland.

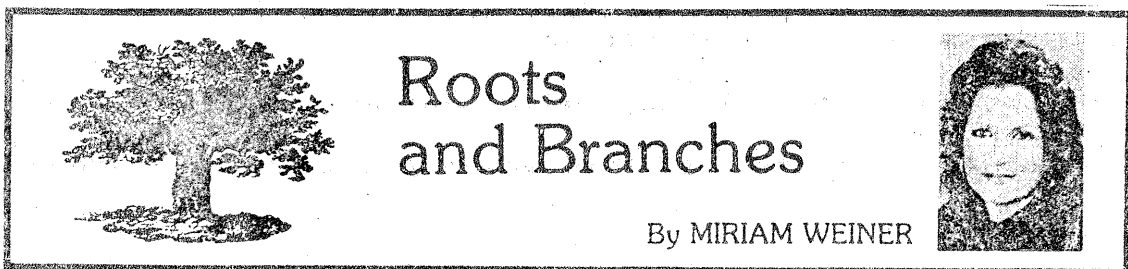
## HELP SOUGHT FROM ABROAD

Temple Shaare Tefilah 556 Nichols Street, Norwood Mas. 02062 look for survivors of Kolin in Czechoslovakia.

Richard Olderman 5410 Harwood Road, Bethesda, MD 20814 USA

researching: Elterman/ Alderman from Uinsk, Smorgen, Ozmyani, Kurnetz or Radoskovitz.

His part of the family immigrated to New Haven Connecticut.



### "RESERCHING RUSSIAN ROOTS IN MOSCOW BY PHONE"

The phone books from six Soviet cities enabled Miriam Weiner to "reachout and touch someone" and locate far-flung kin in the Soviet Union from Central Asia to Siberia.

Miriam Weiner began her search into her family roots fifteen years ago when she went to visit relatives in New York City and her mother suggested she look up some "cousins". As a result of the meetings with these new "cousins", she began constructing a family tree, delving into the history of her family and their origins in the Ukraine while becoming a pioneer in the development of professionals in Jewish Genealogy. The pursuit of her Jewish roots has fulfilled a sense of family and historical continuity and awakened a resurgence of pride in her Jewish heritage.

(Since the phenomenon of Alex Habey's Roots, millions of Americans

have begun the search for their own origins). We are motivated for different reasons. For some, there is an inborn need to go back and find out where our ancestors came from -- not just the name of the country, which they probably already know, but the exact place in that country -- the name of the "shtetl". They want to know what they did, how they earned a living, and why they left.

No one can predict how far back one's search will lead, as so much depends on the information available within each family and on the records still available in the "old country".

The frustration of researching family roots in the Soviet Union is shared by many Jewish Genealogists and in an attempt to bridge that gap, Weiner wrote to the Library of Congress requesting a search for her grandmother's family name through their collection of Russian telephone books. She received a reply which included photo copies of the pages from phone books in six cities of the Soviet Union listing twelve people with the name she requested. She had a letter written in Russian to all twelve, carefully explaining how she obtained their names and then waited anxiously for a reply. A long year passed with no response.

Meanwhile, she located a member of this same family who had emigrated from the Ukraine in the 1960's. He now lives in Holland and invited her to visit immediately in order to interview his mother who was old and in failing health. Within a few weeks, Weiner was on a plane and while in Holland was able to accomplish something far beyond her expectations. For three days, Weiner and her cousin placed calls to the people listed in the Russian phone directories although these listings were all over ten years old. The first step involved calling directory assistance for each city to verify that the numbers were

still correct. This procedure was handled through a central telephone operator in Moscow. Her cousin spoke with nineteen members of this family, all of them indicating roots in the same small town in the Province of Poltava. The Russian operators were generally not cooperative, but persistence paid off and Weiner returned home armed with a wealth of new information, invitations to visit her "cousins" and a lead on a cousin who had immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1970's. Thereafter, she requested assistance from HIAS and within a few weeks she received a call from a cousin in Colorado who is enthusiastic about her research and has offered his assistance in communicating with their mutual relatives in Russia.

Weiner recently completed her B.A. in History (Judaic and Holocaust Studies) in Albany, New-York, where she was allowed to develop her own course outline as part of the degree program of Empire State College, a division of the State University of New-York. During this same period she became the first professional Jewish Genealogist to be certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists in Washington DC through a lengthy process requiring extensive documentation of her research capabilities and work.

"There are many reasons for Jews to engage in Genealogical research", Weiner said. "I believe we have a historical obligation to remember and record the past for future generations".

Jewish Genealogy Societies have grown throughout the U.S. and at the present time, there are over twenty-five with membership in the thousands.

In addition, the societies have sponsored annual conferences in New-York, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Jerusalem, Chicago and Salt Lake City.

Most Jews think it is difficult or impossible to trace their roots because: 1) their name was changed at Ellis Island (or before); 2) they are unsure of the exact location of the "shtetk: of their grandparents; or 3) all the records of the town were destroyed in the Holocaust. This myth has been refuted through genealogical research.

A number of Jewish "how to" books have been published and all emphasize the point that the researcher needs to first establish the family name -- as it was rather than what it became in the United States. Even within a few generations of a family, the spelling of a name as well as the actual name itself often changed which makes our research even more difficult.

Upon arrival in the United States, names were changed by immigration inspectors, by school teachers, and even by the immigrants themselves.

"Relatives don't always remember dates when incidents occurred, but can often tell of some major incidents at the same time. Many family stories evolve around politics, pogroms, edicts and laws passed. Many times i have consulted history books to try and pin down a date or to understand why a person might suddenly leave town or change names. The continually changing borders of the countries in Eastern Europe caused me to spend hours looking for small towns in maps and gazetteers".

"My interest in Jewish Genealogy has led me to book fairs, library sales and used books stores throughout the world. My library at home now exceeds 1.500 volumes relating to Genealogy, Jewish History, and Eastern European History, along with a large section on the Holocaust. Additional reference material occupies ten file drawers -- all of which threatens to topple the ceiling of the room below because of the weight".

"It is unlikely that most American Jews can trace their roots without

coming to the realization that they lost family members in the Holocaust. This becomes very evident when you realize that one out of three Jews in Europe alive in 1939 had been murdered by the end of World War II".

Weiner was formerly employed by the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors -- the national organization representing Holocaust Survivors throughout the country. Her extensive knowledge of archival sources and her vast personal collection of reference material and books serves her well by enabling her to provide answers to the many inquiries she receives from Holocaust Survivors and others who are looking for sources of information regarding family members and towns in Europe.

Miriam, Weiner currently writes a column entitled "Roots and Branches" which appears nationally. She lectures throughout the country on the subject of Jewish Genealogy. In addition, she is co-authoring a book with Arthur Kurzweil entitled "The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy".

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A Beginner's Kit (55 pages) on how to start researching your family history which includes charts, list of archives and libraries, bibliography, maps, family group sheets and more can be ordered from:  
Miriam Weiner, 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094 (Cost: \$10)

**TAIL PIECE — GENEALOGISTS DISEASE**

WARNING: This condition is very contagious to adults.

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaint as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind except feverishly looking through records at libraries and Record Offices. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at postman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls, mumbles to self. Has strange, faraway look in eyes.

TREATMENT: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend Family History Workshops, subscribe to Genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner of the house where he, or she, can be alone.

The unusual nature of the disease is — the sicker the patient gets, the more he, or she, enjoys it ....

H.J. Tucker (3071)

*Received from Rema Gooch*

*Gottschalk*

*through Chava Agmon*



## OUR MEMBERS AT WORK

### HOW I RESEARCHED THE FAMILIES OF MY FATHER AND MOTHER

#### THE BUNDHEIM-GLUECKSTADT FAMILIES

By Josef Ben-Brith

I will begin with two basic facts:

- 1) I received no information from my late father, who perished in the Holocaust, about the family past. I did not know my grandfather (his father), and my grandmother told us nothing about her family when we were small children. In recent years my mother has told me about her parents, but very little about her grandparents.
- 2) I left Hamburg, my birthplace, at the age of 13, after the Kristallnacht. I reached Palestine at the age of 19, after six years of wandering, having survived and escaped the fate of most of European Jewry. There was no place for the past in my spirit, no room for all the family history that should have interested me. I pushed the past into the back of my mind, and thought only of the future. It is only in recent years, roughly in the last decade, that I have felt the desire to make the connections to get in touch with parents' family history.

FAMILY NAMES, AND THE ORIGIN OF NAMES were the approach to my research. I began by writing to the town of Glueckstadt in Schleswig-Holstein, northern Germany, and to the town of Bunde in Eastern Friesland near the German-Netherlands border. I was referred to people who volunteered to help me in my search, and through them to city and regional archives in Emden and in Hamburg.

Very interesting facts came to light on the beginnings of Jewish settlement by Portuguese Marranos in the two above-mentioned regions

and in Hamburg. I received some information about names of family members I had never heard of in these regions. My files began to fill with information. The crowing moment came when I discovered the Central Archives of the Jewish People, in the Sprinzak building on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

For six or seven years I spent a good part of my vacations in the track of people named Bundheim in Emden and in Hamburg, and people named Glueckstadt in Schksswig-Holstein, Copenhagen and Hamburg. I worked through all the researches on the communities of Emden and Altona-Hamburg-Wandsbek (AHW), and the coming of the "Portuguese" to the coastal areas of Holland and northwest Europe. I was able to record scores of names and work out family pedigrees.

I was especially interested in people named Henrigues, as I had found out (from conversations with scattered relatives) that by family tradition we are descended from a Portuguese family of that name. I recalled having been told as a child that father and mother came from the same family. There was also the conspicuous fact that both father's and mother's family used to say one of the Grace after Meals according to the Sephardi tradition and not portion according to the customary local Ashkenazi tradition.

By going over than 10,000 names of people deceased and buried in the community of AHW, I managed to find scores of Glueckstadts, from about 1715 onwards. In Emden I found Bundheims from the year 1811.

After working for many months on the names, I was able to construct family connections. I used the first names of children and their connection with the generation of possible grand parents. My "Portuguese" families were well-known at the time. I discovered brothers and sisters of the same generation who called their sons and

daughters by the same first names, in memory of grandfathers and grandmothers.

I used boards on which I stuck labels with names and worked on a "Lego-Like system". When I saw that I was unable to fill a certain space with definite, or plausible information, I made a note of it, and so drew up a list of unknowns.

In 1985 I decided to pay a personal visit to all the cemeteries where I knew (theoretically) that my ancestors were buried. In the sole Jewish cemetery at Emden I discovered an ancient tombstone that confirmed my theoretical assumption about the grandfather of the first family member in Emden to call himself Bunshheim, under French law, in 1811. This grandfather was buried in 1782 with the inscription ". . . of Bunde". Hence he must be connected with the only Jewish family (under the protection of the local prince in this place from 1671 onwards) whose name I knew from books of research and from the archivist of the Ditch town of Groningen. This was a confirmation of a previously undocumented assumption of mine.

The same thing happened to me in the northern town of Glueckstadt.

I discovered tombstone from the years 1691, 1730 and 1741 that certainly must have belonged to the Henriques family' even though only their Hebrew names were inscribed.

I succeeded in clearing up doubts and questions of non-Jewish researchers who were unacquainted with the practice of naming a son in memory of his father or grandfather or both. I was also able to fill in blanks in the notebooks of researchers studying late Jewish tombstones, who did not know how to connect the Hebrew names with the Portuguese and Danish names of this community, and their later descendants in Hamburg.