



# שרשרת הדורות

## SHARSHERET HADOROT

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### FROM THE EDITORS

This issue of Sharsheret Hadorot is the second to be published in the enlarged format.

In Our Members At Work, Zvia Rabinowitz tells how her family tree came into being. Miriam Weiner's Column tells the story of a Holocaust survivor who found her roots.

The new section on Sources of Surnames is inaugurated by our member Shaul Even-Or, who delves into the origins of his numerous family surnames.

We are eager to receive readers' responses to the material published in Sharsheret Hadorot. And we would like our readers to write for the newsletter. Do YOU have something interesting to share? Send it in!

The present issue contains also helpful supplementary sources of genealogical information, and projects to aid and promote genealogical research.

Esther Ramon and Ruth Rigbi

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

1. Professor Meir Riqbi: The Hirschfeld Family: commemorating the 100th anniversary of Aliyah from Riga to Rishon-le-Zion. On Wednesday December 21st, 1988.
2. Diana Sommer: "Dorot" - the genealogical centre at Beth Hatefutsoth, Tel Aviv. On Wednesday January 18th, 1989. Meet at 16.45 at the entrance to Beth Hatefutsoth.
3. Harold Lewin: How the history of a family in London was investigated. On Wednesday February 22nd, 1989.
4. Abraham Hatal:
  1. Ketuboth from the city of Tunis and their significance for genealogy.
  2. How I studied my family. On Wednesday March 15th, 1989.
5. Ezry Uval: A journey to East Germany (Halberstadt) in the footsteps of my forefathers. On Wednesday April 12th, 1989.

All the lectures (with the exception of the meeting at Beth Hatefutsoth) will take place at 19.30 in the hall of Congregation Mevakshei Derech, 22 Shai Agnon Boulevard, San Simon, Jerusalem. The hall will be open from 18.30 and books, news letters & Family Finders will be available for consultation. Everybody is welcome.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF ALL THE ABOVE DATES, AS PERSONAL INVITATIONS WILL NOT BE SENT.

### LECTURES DELIVERED AT OUR MEETINGS THIS YEAR

October: Professor Dov Levin on research into Baltic Jewry, and impressions of the Seminar on Jewish Genealogy held in Washington D.C. this summer.

November: Esther Ramon on her research into the history of the Homburger family of Karlsruhe, and on links with genealogical societies abroad.

### OUR MEMBERS AT WORK

#### COLLECTING MATERIAL FOR THE FAMILY TREE by Zillah Rabinowitz

It began by pure chance, for I had never taken any interest in past generations.

I knew that our family was descended from a line of rabbis in Lithuania. I also knew the names of Father's grandfather and grandmother and their seven children, who make up the seven branches of the family tree. But my sisters and I were content with the thought that "Father knows", and pursued the subject no further.

Then, about six years ago, as I went through the family album with my sister, I realized that she could not clearly identify all the grandparents and uncles.

I thought to myself: "our elder sister Rachel and almost all the older generation are gone. When I go, all that knowledge about the family will go too."

The next day I sat down and wrote names and relationships by each photograph in the album. From that beginning I went on to make lists of all the family members, arranged by branch and generation. Luckily I had memories to draw on: I had known one of my father's uncles in my childhood, and after he settled in Israel and I also remembered many of my father's other who uncles passed through Minsk, our birthplace, during the First World War, when I was a small child. Those memories were the basis of our family tree.

I tried to work on the tree by myself, using a different coloured label for each generation, but there were too many names, and I failed. I knew just how I wanted the tree to look, but I lacked the necessary graphic talent to produce it. Fortunately, a young and gifted relative from one of the branches came to my aid and took on the job. After a number of experiments, we agreed on the final form, and the tree was printed in 300 copies, which we distributed to all the branches of the family and to the Archives of Jewish History, Givat Ram, The Zionist Archives, Yad Ben-Zvi and the Museum of the Diaspora. We received enthusiastic acknowledgements.

In addition to listing names, I compiled a history of the family, aiming to interest the younger generations - the grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren of our parents. Seeking written sources, I obtained from the Jerusalem Hevra Kadisha a detailed map of the cemetery on the Mount of Olives, with the exact location of the graves of Father's parents and grandparents, and the dates of their decease.

From the book "Helkat Mehokek" we photographed the inscriptions on their tombstones. The younger generation was much impressed by this authentic evidence: here was proof, not just stories and memories that might be inaccurate.

I added various documents from the Minsk period of our family's Hebrew bookshop (founded by our maternal grandfather, R. Meir Heilperin, author of the Notarikon).

This summer we also sorted the archival material that survived the blowing up of the Daron bookshop in Jerusalem on February 22nd, 1948. This archive had been kept in storage, looked after devotedly by my sister and brother-in-law who took down the cartons every year, sprayed them and put them back. This year we decided to present the archive to the Department of Manuscripts and Archives of the Jewish National and University Library. It will be preserved there for the use of students and scholars.

#### SOURCES OF SURNAMES by Shmuel Even-Or

ORNSTEIN, our family name, goes back to our ancestor Uri who arrived in Palestine with his family in 1830, and chose a new name. He added the suffix-stein (stone in Yiddish) and inserted the letter nun in the name, for reasons known to himself.

For many years the family was called ORINSTEIN; they only called themselves ORNSTEIN in my grandfather's time. The original name was VALABRINKI, which comes from the river Barinki in White Russia.

Other family surnames may be categorized as follows:

## SURNAMES OF GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN

FRANKENTHAL - A small town in Saxony, Germany.  
KOENIGSBERG - East Prussian city.  
HOROWITZ (HURWITZ) - The small town of Horovice in Czechoslovakia.  
HAMBURGER - The city of Hamburg in Germany.  
SHAPIRO, SHAPIRA - The town of Speyer (Spiro) in Germany.  
HEILBRUNN - The German town of Heilbronn.  
ETTINGER - A town in Russia, or the Prince of Ettingen (Hebrew Encyclopaedia vol. eleven, p. 504).  
BRISK - The Lithuanian town of Brisk. (Today Brest-Litovsk in White Russia).  
SALANT - Russian town of Salant.  
SLONIM - Town in White Russia.  
MONESTER - The town Moinesti in Romania.  
SCHNEITUCH - The small Bavarian town of Schneitach.

## "COLOUR" SURNAMES, APPEARANTLY GIVEN BY AUSTRO - HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES

BLAU, BLOI - Blue. This was Hebraized to Tcheleth by one family member.  
ROTH, RATHE - Red.  
WEISS - White.  
SCHWARZ - Black.  
BRAUN, BRON - Brown. Hebraized Bar-On.  
HELLER - Bright, light, lighter.

## SURNAMES BASED ON PROFESSIONS OR TITLES

MUELLER - Miller.  
DRUCK - Printer, printing works.  
LEHRER - Teacher.  
WEINSTOCK - Vine, Vintner.  
HADDAD - Fitter, iron frame maker (Arabic).  
SAFRA - Clerk of the Rabbinical court (Aramaic Safra Rabi Dayana).  
The name was formerly Sharlin.  
KOENIG - King.  
KAHN - Cohen, priest.  
KATZ - Cohen Zedek (righteous priest).

## SURNAMES FROM MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES

RALBAG - Rabbi Eliezer, abbreviated from Eliezer ben Gavriel.  
MICHAELSHVILI - Son of Michael, today called Michaeli.  
DOBNER - From the plant Zwebner. Pronounced Dobner in the Israeli army, the name remained in this form.  
ZEDERBAUM - Cedar tree.  
SAMET - Silk.

STEINER - Stone.

MARGALIT - Precious stone.

RIVLIN - From Rivkash (son of Rivka), with variations such as Riveles and Rivlin.

KLONSKY - KLEONSKY - Kleon in Russian is the name of a tree. Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Kleonski, head of the family, who lived in Nikolaiev in the Ukraine, owned forests of these trees.

TALER - German and Austrian coin.

BERGMANN - Mountain man in German. In Eretz-Israel translated into Bar-Tura, Bar-Hai, Min ha-Har.

WEISSENSTERN - White star in German.

### SURNAMES ABBREVIATED, CHANGED OR TRANSLATED INTO HEBREW

From FRANKENTHAL - Talmor, Orgil, Eyal, Gur-Aryeh, Tadmor Eshet.

From ORNSTEIN - Even - Or, Oren, Aran.

From BERENSON - Beeri.

From BRENNER - Bar-Hana.

From GRATZ - Gadot.

From GOLDBERGER - Gal.

From GROGAN - Golan.

From DUCHLEITER - Dior.

From LIFSCHITZ - Liff.

From SA'AT (Iraqi) - Sa'ad.

From KORNHEISER, KORNHAUSER - Koren.

From VIZKI - Ron.

From EISENSTEIN - Shaham.

From SHAKALNOSKI - Shekel.

From SURETZKI - Sarid.

### SURNAMES SELECTED FROM BIBLE, TALMUD AND HEBREW LITERATURE

EGOZI, GAVISH, GIV'ATI, DVASH, DORON, HADASH, YARON, CANA'AN, CARMEL, MA'AYANI, MESHI-ZAHAV, NAFTALI, NAHORAI, ZVI, ZIDON (SIDON), RAM, REEM, SALMON, SHEMA'IAH, SHAKED, SHARON, SAR-SHALOH.

### SURNAMES WITH A STORY

'ALFFI, ALFI, From the story of a group of Jews who left Iran to settle in Iraq. They set out in a caravan through the desert, but on the way robbers fell upon them, stripped them of all their property and abandoned them to their fate. They wandered lost for a long time, subsisting on wild herbs, until they finally reached Iraq. When asked what they had eaten in the desert, they replied "we ate "a lif" (fodder in Arabic). Thereafter they were called 'Alffi.

### Bibliography

Ornstein family tree.

Kaganoff, Ben-Zion- A Dictionary of Jewish names and their History, Schocken, N.Y. 1977.

Editorial note: Readers are invited to relate the origins of their own family surnames.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People were first established in 1938 as the Jewish Historical General Archives.

Over the years, the C.A.H.J.P. have succeeded in collecting the archives not only of hundreds of Jewish communities, but also those of local, national and international Jewish organisations and the private papers of many outstanding Jewish personalities.

The Archives now hold the most extensive collection of documents, pinkassim (registers) and other records of Jewish history from the Middle Ages to the present day. This material is now classified and available for historical research.

From their very inception, the Archives have also undertaken to complement their holdings by making extensive microfilms in Jewish and non-Jewish archives abroad.

Another major aspect of the Archives' work is the systematic surveying of the national and local archives of many countries in order to locate records concerning Jews. It is thereby intended to compile a central comprehensive catalogue of sources for Jewish history, a great part of which have hitherto been unknown, and to place this at the disposal of scholars.

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People are unique in that their collections include Jewish historical material from all over the world: from Western, Central and Eastern Europe, the Islamic countries, North and South America, South Africa, Eastern Asia and the Land of Israel. The Archives thus manifest in their collections the unity of Jewish history - the history of one people.

#### HOW TO SEARCH FOR GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION IN THE CENTRAL ARCHIVES FOR THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Most of the material in the Central Archives is catalogued geographically, according to the political boundaries that existed between the two World Wars.

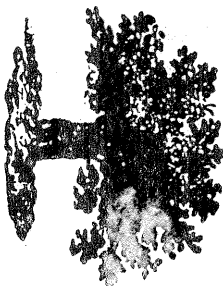
Each country has a section, and within each country the material is arranged by communities, in alphabetical order (the Latin alphabet). In most of the communities there is no distinction between purely genealogical sources such as registers of births, marriages and deaths, and other material such as minutes of meetings, correspondence, rules and regulations etc.

The German section, however, contains collections of purely genealogical sources, in addition to the community collections (which in themselves sometimes contain genealogical information).

Sources recorded by surname are few, and are to be found in the catalogues of archival material labeled 'Families' and 'Genealogy'.

The library of the Central Archives contains a group of genealogical studies arranged by surname.

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People,  
Sprinzak Building, Givat Ram Campus, Jerusalem.  
Mail: P.O.B. 1149, Jerusalem, 91010, Israel.  
Telephone: (02) 635716



# Roots and Branches

By MIRIAM WEINER



## A Survivor Discovers Genealogy

For survivors of the Holocaust, precious family photos and documents are seldom found in old shoeboxes. Most mementos and family records were left behind and ultimately lost forever.

When Emmy Moglensky of Baltimore left Germany on a children's transport for England, she was 14 years old. She and her brother survived while their parents and other relatives perished. When conversations turn to one's extended family, she becomes silent. However, her children are full of questions about her childhood and their grandparents.

"I have no graves to visit. There is a huge hole and pain where my past should have been," she says.

While living in Albany, N.Y., Emmy, spoke frequently throughout the community about her experiences during the Holocaust. One day, following one of her lectures, a genealogist came up to her and there began a friendship that was to affect each of their lives in different ways.

As Emmy learned more about the various sources for documenting her family history, she became further motivated to seek out one surviving aunt and, through conversations with her, was able to locate a few old photographs from her mother's family.

Early in the 17th Century, Emmy's family, the Huberts, settled in the small village of Cronheim in Bavaria, Germany.

Her paternal grandparents died when she was young and her recollections about them were vague.

"I knew virtually nothing about my father's side of the family until one day when I received a package containing photostats of pages in the official Cronheim records." These records, dating back to 1783, listed many Hubert relatives, giving such details as date, occupation and reason for the entry. Suddenly, she was linked to generations of family members whose lives were duly noted and recorded.

### Jewish Records on File

In Emmy's case, her roots are in Germany. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah,

has German-Jewish records on microfilm, including births, marriages, deaths, divorces, cemetery and census records, circumcisions, family names and school records. The listing for Cronheim include birth, marriage and death records dating back to 1810.

In addition to Germany, Jewish records are available for Poland, Hungary and France. These records are available throughout the world in branch libraries of the Family History Library and can be obtained within six to eight weeks of the request.

To date, the Soviet Union has not allowed its records to be filmed by any libraries in the West.

The records Emmy received documented one branch of her family going back 200 years. "Can you imagine what this gift means to my children? At first, they simply stared in disbelief at entry after entry. By touching the names of those long ago Huberts with their fingertips, they touched their past — their heritage — that part of themselves which had been missing."

### A Precious Legacy

As we walk in the footsteps of our ancestors, that link with the past becomes a precious legacy

for future generations. For survivors, even more so. The records are waiting there for you — now is the time to look for them.

"When my grandchildren are older, they, too, will appreciate the meaning of these records," Emmy says. "They, too, will read, touch and feel a unity with family members long gone, but not forgotten — not now!"

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Emmy Moglensky lives in Baltimore, where she is on the staff of the Jewish Historical Society of Maryland. In addition, she serves on the executive committee of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and is a member of the New York Holocaust Memorial Commission. Moglensky is an adviser to the New York State Holocaust Resource Center in Albany and is on the advisory committee that developed the Human Rights Series, Volume II, titled "Teaching About the Holocaust and Genocide," which is used in schools throughout New York State.

In 1981, she was the subject of a documentary, "Emmy," that focused on her during the 1981 World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Jerusalem.

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Miriam Weiner, a certified genealogist, has prepared a beginner's guide (55 pages) on how to research family history that includes charts, list of archives and libraries, bibliography, maps, family group sheets and more. It can be ordered for \$10 plus \$2.50 postage/handling by writing to her at 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094.