



B-J News

British Jewry © 2004

The newsletter of the British Jewry mailing list
Monday 5 April 2004/14 Nissan 5764

Welcome to the first edition of B-J News

CONTENTS

Editorial	page 1
Bits and Pieces	page 2
Recipes	page 3
Genealogy Leads to Unexpected Family Reunion	page 3
Brick Walls	page 4
From the List	page 7
The Stolsky Story	page 8
Six of the Best	page 9
Think Outside the Box	page 10
How to Research Naturalisations	page 10
Demystifying The National Archives	page 11
TNA News	page 12
From the Provinces	page 13

EDITORIAL

If anyone has ever had any doubts about the usefulness of the computer, this first issue of the British-Jewry Newsletter should serve to convert them right away. Remember the days, not so long ago, of the manual typewriter with carbon paper and painstaking corrections - surely there are no pangs of nostalgia about them? When newspaper editors used a red pencil and sent copy-boys flying around the newsroom, shouting, "Hold the press!", and when aspiring authors sent voluminous manuscripts through the post at huge cost. Remember?

Now, at the flick of a finger on keyboard, as we prepare this newsletter for your delectation, first and second drafts zoom within minutes through cyber-space between staff members on different continents. Sherry Landa, our hard-worked Managing Editor, and Richard Sinclair, Computer Whiz, are in Britain, Jackye Sullins, Co-Owner, is in the USA and the Copy Editor with the funny name, June Something, who hacks your deathless prose into a shape you don't recognise, lives in Canada.

There is no physical B-J Editorial Board Room table, and executive decisions are made, revised, re-made or rejected, all through this magic medium, of which our grandparents never dreamed. Be not misled into thinking that everything flows with great efficiency this way, though. Oh no, sometimes lines get sadly crossed, and then there is virtual panic: who said what; I thought we decided this; are you really insulted or just joking? And, worst of all, why did I receive an email dated last week? The advantage of this kind of abstract mayhem is that one can simply close down one's computer until the vexations sort themselves out, with no risk of losing one's job! Well now, we are a genealogical organisation, are we not? Until the recent past, research was done in person at records offices or by time-consuming exchanges of letters which often went unanswered,

and expensive trips to foreign countries. Genealogy used to be a mysterious, somewhat arcane and costly study. One quickly discovered that money had to be spent in order to get results.

Now, barely 10 years have passed and, thanks to the computer, Genealogy is said to be the fastest growing hobby in the world, with a network of tentacles all over the globe. Often within hours, and for little or no cost, one might receive leads and help with vexatious problems which challenged family members for years. Such questions are called Brick Walls in this newsletter, and the cost of placing your query is zero, as long as you have the use of a computer and can hunt-and-peck on the keyboard.

The B-J Newsletter Board plans to produce its offerings three times a year, and you may expect to see it appear on your computer screen in a form that can be printed for your future reference. There is no cost to you but, as with any volunteer-run enterprise, a modest financial demonstration of your support is warmly welcomed. Many B-J Listers have already been generous enough that we are in good shape for this year, but next year will be another story.

So, fellow Genealogists, enjoy the first issue of what we fondly expect will be a hugely successful publication. We hope you will not find anything to complain about and, if you do, don't bother to let us know - no, just kidding, please send Sherry an e-mail and we'll do better in future.

June Solntseff (june@solntseff.ca)

BITS AND PIECES

JC Snippets on-line: One of our listers, Margaret Solomon in South Africa, has been looking at back copies of the Jewish Chronicle. She is not scan reading pages to find instances of her ancestors' names, but she looks for articles and snippets which provide a bit more background on our ancestors' lives. What were their working conditions like? What were the political, social and economic phenomena of the time? We have written to obtain permission from the JC to publish these extracts on our site. At the time of print we are awaiting that permission. We will post to list as soon as we have permission and a URL for these snippets.

Surname List Changes: You have expressed interest in our Surnames List and we are now in the process of opening it up. We are making it a fully searchable database, due to be on-line by the end of this month. Once it's working you will be asked, through the list, to submit additional surnames, or to extend your search area outside the UK. For example: **LANDA Leeds c1866 onwards** can become **LANDA Vishtenitz Lithuania and Leeds UK, from 1866**. Watch the list for the launch of this service!

Names to Faces: This is a new project, similar to digital view. Many of us are faced with a collection of photos we cannot begin to identify. Often this comes shortly after bereavement and heightens our sadness because we realise that we may now never know who the people are. Names to Faces gives you a chance to show these photos to the outside world in the hope that someone else might help you identify your heirlooms.



Coming Soon: The ALD (All Leeds Database) will be coming. It is long, slow and painful work at times but it's hoped that the usefulness of its data will outweigh the work involved. I would like to say it'll be ready for the summer, but realistically the end of the year seems more manageable. Perhaps we can hope for Chanukah. Mail me off-list for specific help until it's on-line. SL



SIMPLE RECIPES FOR PESSACH

Chrain (horseradish & beetroot sauce)

150g/5oz grated fresh horseradish
2 cooked beetroots (beets) grated
15ml/1tbs sugar
15-30ml/1-2tbs red wine vinegar

Mix the ingredients together with some salt to taste (adjust the vinegar and sugar to suit). Stored in an air-tight container this will last up for up to 2 weeks if refrigerated.

Charosset (fruit paste)

3 apples, cored but not peeled, and grated
or finely chopped
100g/4oz/1 cup walnut pieces
5-10 ml/1-2 tsp ground cinnamon
75-90ml/5-6tbs sweet Pesach red wine
Sugar or honey to taste



Mix all the ingredients well. Eat as a snack or as part of a meal, usually spread on matzos. This will keep in the refrigerator for the duration of the Passover festival. *SL*



GENEALOGY LEADS TO UNEXPECTED FAMILY REUNION

I always thought we were sixteen first-cousins, seven siblings and sixteen offspring. I also thought I was the youngest. When I first decided to try to find my roots and my relations I begged my known cousins for anything they could tell me, and then I carefully researched and verified things. Cousin S told me that Uncle X had been married twice and apparently had family in North America, "Oh you know, in a town in the mountains of Canada". I racked my brain for reasonably large towns in Canada, preferably in the Rockies, and finally Cousin remembered the town's name - in a very flat part of the landscape! Never mind, she also remembered the second wife's first name.

I went through street directories and indeed found Uncle's second wife but could not identify her, as she was just listed as Mrs X, no first name. Then I was able to get information about their divorce from the Province and this time I got her maiden name, but I was unable to find any living people called X in their town. I also had no idea if my cousins were male or female. It was rather like looking for a needle in the haystack: searching for a man called X, an extremely common name, or a woman whose last name could be anything.

One evening we were visiting a group of friends at the end of the earth, in Victoria, British Columbia. In the middle of a business discussion I got this strange urge to ask, right then and there, "Does anyone here know anyone from YYYYY?", Uncle's little town, thousands of miles east of Vancouver.

The friend who had brought us to the group said he came from there and he would phone someone in Vancouver who used to board with his aunt in YYYYY. Five minutes later he was back from the phone with the news that my cousins' aunt indeed lived in Vancouver. I phoned her the following day: she was unsure if Barry would want to talk with his father's

family but she would tell him I had called.. Twenty minutes later Barry and I began a long conversation. He was pretty shocked to discover he had a whole gang of first-cousins and, more importantly that he had several half-siblings.

A few weeks later we flew for several hours, and Barry and his wife drove several hundred miles, so that we could spend a weekend together. I recognised him as soon as I saw him, because of the family resemblance, but he had various painful reasons for being unenthusiastic about meeting his half-siblings.

Meanwhile, I too had never met my first-cousins, Barry's half-siblings. No one knew exactly where they lived, though it was somewhere in New York. Fortunately, one of the family had recognised one of them in the supermarket and had had a distant sort of contact with her. I was able to get her phone number and we had a long chat when I mentioned the existence of a half-brother.

Time passed and apparently some letters sent to me went astray. People thought other people were snubbing them. Then, one day I got word that the eldest half-sibling, Lionel, was very eager to meet Barry. I phoned him and it was very emotional to talk with this elderly gentleman. As a child, I had heard so much about him and yet had never met him, nor had I been able to find him, because he had changed his last name from X to something less Jewish but equally common. He wanted to talk with Barry and I simply phoned Barry and persuaded him to talk with the brother he had never met and only recently heard about.

The rest is history. Barry and Lionel, and Lionel's sisters, met in New York and had Shabbat dinner and a wonderful family reunion. Barry had asked me to accompany him, but I was unable to do so as I had prior commitments. Barry and his wife, Cathy, made the trip again to spend a longer time with them and, as soon as I could find a free weekend, I flew to visit the New York family, to try to bridge the gap of sixty years since their father left their mother. They were teenagers and neither Barry nor I was born.

For me genealogy is a fascinating patchwork quilt which will never be complete, as I keep adding bits and stitches gathered with care from around the world, but uniting Barry and Lionel will undoubtedly be the most wonderful moment. Two brothers who did not know of each other's existence until a few months before now love each other as brothers should. (Anon)

BRICK WALLS

I am still trying to trace portrait artist Isidore **DONN**, my great uncle(?). His last known residence (from Jewish Year Book 1897) was St. John's Terrace Studio, St. John's Wood, London. I have not found him in censuses, though I have found his presumed sister's family in E. London, 1880. He had paintings exhibited in Manchester City Art Gallery, 1893. He supposedly painted a portrait of Duke of Clarence found in Queen's Private collection. He also painted portrait of Mayor of Bradford.

The story is he went to university with Duke of Clarence and became a friend. Eventually he was knighted by Queen Victoria. I have not found evidence for any of these stories. According to another family story he succumbed to fever on a painting expedition to Palestine when he was aged 44. Other than the references quoted above, I have found no evidence of his existence, not to mention his supposed claims to fame. I have followed up all these leads without success.

Shimon Fraiss

Shimon@icq.com

Does any reader recognise anything about the following?

I am searching for the heirs of Mr Jan (Ian) Hanus **MULLER** (with a continental umlaut, i.e. **MÜLLER**), so could also be **MUELLER**, whose last address, we believe, was 5 Grosvenor Court Mansions, London, W2. He was originally from Czechoslovakia, and his father was Sigmund **MULLER**, a Lawyer also in Czechoslovakia.

Jan Hanus **MULLER** died on 6 Feb 1963 at University College Hospital in London. At that time his address was 515 Endsleigh Court, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1. His Probate documents show that he had a daughter, Doris Leonora **EDER**. We have failed to find any trace of her so far.

Apart from talking to every **EDER** who came my way, I have also tried Trace Line. They failed as well. Thank you for any suggestions.

David Lewin

davidlewin@btinternet.com

My brick wall relates to where my **DAVIS** family came from and when. They were in London in 1790's at least. I have lots of information which I have obtained from JewishGen regarding occupations and addresses, but these days, for me, genealogy has to be done from home. Getting down to London now, is not an option, so my passion for old documents to search, is no longer available to me, unless it is on the net.

Most of their information for this period is not on the web, yet. 40 years ago we went to Beth Din, but nothing there, nothing apart from Freemanship records in Guildhall Library. I have a photo of a grave in West Ham cemetery, but it is so collapsed I doubt it could be read, anyway it relates to 1870's.

Late in 19th century my branch of the family married out, as a result, that member of the family lost contact with all his family. Up until then, they were members of the Gt. Synagogue. Do I have to employ researchers or

are there other ways?

Joy Dunicliffe

JoyD@hillswood-109.fsnet.co.uk

I recently received a copy of my grandfather Louis **RAMM**'s Marriage Certificate. He was married March 30th 1890 at the Princess Road Synagogue in Liverpool. It also records his father's name as Mordecai **RAMM**. The 1891 UK Census records my grandfather's name as Lewis **RAMM** and his birthplace as Codena, Russia.

I am interested in any information about Mordecai or Louis **RAMM**, also about Robert **RAMM**, born in Liverpool, January 20th 1900. Can anyone inform me about the location of Codena in Russia, please? Did Louis **RAMM** have any siblings?

Thank you for your support with my research.

Hy Ramm, Los Gatos, California

hyramm@mac.com

I am looking for my great aunt, Olga **LISMAN(N)** daughter Gerson **LISMAN(N)** and his wife second wife was Josephine **GROSS**. Olga, Anthony Albert, and Frederick were born in the 1860's in Budingen, Hesse, Germany. Anthony (my great grandfather) and Frederick went to America around 1880? and Olga went to England at that time. My mother was named for her.

Anthony was involved with the Mt. Vernon Trust Company in New York. He married Elizabeth Ethel **OCHS** in 1888. He became sick on an ocean trip back to Germany and was put off in Plymouth, where he stayed at a hospital and then was buried there. I think he was taken care of by Olga and buried by her. He died November 15, 1920.

Frederick was involved with railroads and married Leonora **COHEN**. He died in Manhasset, Long Island, NY in 1940. I believe they had one son

but I don't know anything about him. I am also trying to find his family. Leonora was from the **DA SILVA** and **MENDES** families.

Gerson took the family when they were younger to St. Petersburg, Russia to be the Superintendent of Schools there. I don't know why.

Any help would be gratefully accepted. Thank you.

Joanne S. Griffin
jgriff1152@aol.com

I found my **DAVIDOVITCH** family on the Jewishgen Ald Lithuanian family database. Hatskel **DAVIDOVITCH**, son of Lieb **DAVIDOVITCH**, early 1800s, married and had at least ten children, whose Hebrew names are Issac, Leyser, Essel, Yankel (Jacob), Abraham, Chana, Chaya (Annie), Chasa, Dobra (Dora) and Casa? My g-grandfather Yankel (Jacob) married Aida **ZAPOROWSKI** and I have been unable to locate their marriage certificate. It is believed they came to the United Kingdom in late 1890s or early 1900s, when Yankel would have been 19 years old.

On the ALD, the family are fully listed in 1897, just before they dispersed from the shtetl Rozalimus Volost (Rokiskis). Yankel aka Jacob would have been born in 1881. Evidence from the Kaunas archives suggest that this family were wealthy land-owners with roots in the Panaveys area of Lithuania, with some connection with neighbouring village of Pusoltas.

I believe Jacob/Yankel lived in London when he first went to England; there are several Jacobs listed on the 1901 census. They settled in Liverpool from 1902, perhaps because they found a possible **ZAPOROWSKI** aunt and uncle of his former wife Aida. Between 1907 and 1915 they had four children, Dora, Alec (my grandfather), Shirley (survivor of twins) and Solomon.

The story goes that Jacob/Yankel was unhappy in Liverpool, as he had a very strong bond with his siblings from the shtetl and they were all supposed to meet again in either Canada or Boston, USA. He left Aida around 1925 and went in search of his siblings, never to be seen again. During the Great Depression, my grandfather Alec, the oldest of the children, went out to work at the age of 12 in order to support the rest of the family. This is possibly where the name, "Lord Alec", came from, as he became successful in the fancy goods industry in Liverpool and the rest of the UK. He supported all his family, buying them property and houses. He was also a major contributor to the Merseyside Jewish community. His business still exists today in Liverpool but is a mere shadow of what it had been in its hey-day in the 1950s and 1960s. Both Solomon's son and my aunt run the business today. Alec was an entrepreneur.

I have not yet been able to locate Jacob/Yankel and have no idea where he went. I have yet to check all the ships' passenger lists from Liverpool. But I did manage to locate a Jacob DAVIES living in London with another woman from Liverpool.

I believe that all the ten siblings were supposed to be reunited, which is why my Jacob went off to find them. The Ellis Island database shows proof that in the 1920s Aida went to Boston, USA, in search of her husband, but I think but it was in vain. No one from the DAVIES family had seen him and they left her and her four children in the freezing snow. She returned to Liverpool and never spoke of him again. This is the story my late grandfather Alec told my mum & her sisters.

I have searched for Jacob in Canada by posting this story in the Montreal newspapers and various Quebec papers. I received a huge response, but no **DAVIES/DAVIS** descendants contacted me.

Does this story in some way ring any bells? Alec, my grandfather, Solomon, Shirley and Dora are all buried in Rice Lane cemetery, Liverpool. Danielle Freedman, Liverpool, England.

Advertisement!!

We need mentors to help listers who experience computer/genealogical related problems. It is hoped that listers would volunteer to help other listers when they have specific problems. For example, someone might offer operational help such as Windows 98, or they might offer help with Apple Mac systems. They can offer to help generally or specifically with software such as Family Tree Maker version 10 or Tree Draw or whatever. You need a certain amount of know-how but don't think that you have to be an absolute expert on the programme/system before volunteering. Most of us learn the hard way by working out our own PC problems. If you think you can help by offering to be a mentor for someone on any aspect on computing for family history then we'd love to hear from you. Please send an email to <Jewish@slanda.fsnet.co.uk> Use the subject line "Mentor" and give me your name and email address and what you feel confident to help others with. We'll try and collate all these offers and put something up on the Web by about April. In the meantime, anyone facing a problem can mail me and I will check the list and pass on details of mentors who might help!



FROM THE LIST:

In this issue we feature Richard Sinclair's request for help with an unidentified document. On 14th February Richard mailed in:

"Now I am seeking help with the translation, and an explanation, of the writing of the document which I think might be a Ketubah, and which you can see at:

<http://www.british-jewry.org.uk/digitalview/documents/dvd13a.htm>

<http://www.british-jewry.org.uk/digitalview/documents/dvd13b.htm>

and

<http://www.british-jewry.org.uk/digitalview/documents/dvd13c.htm>."

The response was almost immediate. Cathy Glatt replied:

"I came across a site with old German script and this letter seems to have been written in a classic hand!

<<http://www.genealogienetz.de/misc/scripts.html>> I think the last page says: 'The dear Mother at Rosh Hashanah (it's written Raush - hashonoh) from your ever (?) loving son Wolf.'

Do you think he wrote the poem on page 2 himself?"

The next day Joe Isaacs further enlightened us:

"This is a New Year card produced by the Berlin Community, or possibly a society for studying Mishna or Talmud of that community. It has a date which reads as 5613, which would be September 1852. It may have been sent at a later date. as in the Hebrew date, the custom is to leave out the thousands (first five). The remaining 613 has some significance as being the total number of commandments. It was sent by Wolf to his mother."

By now Cathy had been working overtime to produce a loose translation of the whole poem. Richard, of course, was thrilled:

"Thanks to all those who looked at my posting and the images of this New Year card. I am delighted with the information provided, which sets down new areas of research for me. This document was amongst my Grandmothers papers, although, given what you have told me, I believe it to be connected with my Grandfather."



THE STOLSKY STORY



By Margaret Metcalf Stoll

After a lot of enquiry and investigation, it seems likely that Lewis, his wife Eva and daughter Emmy were never naturalised. I've not found anything to suggest that they were.

Lewis and Eva had six children after their arrival in London. His first wife Eva, formerly BALACHI, who was also known as Millie, died in 1931 when they were living in Henley Buildings, Bethnal Green. At the time of the 1901 Census the family were living in Irene House, Flower and Dean Street, Whitechapel, where all the six younger children were born.

I haven't found out why or when Lewis, Eva and their baby left Russia, or from where in Russia. They may have left so that Lewis could avoid military conscription, as was the case with many other young men. He must have been about 26 or 27 years old when they left. Their names are not recorded as having passed through the Jews' Temporary Shelter in London. As Lewis was 38 years old in 1901, and his daughter Emmy, aged 11 was born in Russia, and next child, Florry aged 6 was born in London, it follows that they must have arrived between 1890 and 1895 and Shelter records were kept only from 1896.

In 1932 Lewis married again, to Betsy ROSENBERG in the Great Synagogue, Fournier Street, Spitalfields, which was previously a French Huguenot (Protestant) church, and is now the London Jamia Mosque. Betsy died in 1948. His third marriage, in 1948, was to Rebecca CARMEL and this time they married in the Great Garden Street synagogue, Stepney. Lewis was in his mid-80s by this time, and he died in June 1953 aged 90, survived by Rebecca.

I found this link:

<http://www.pro.gov.uk/pathways/census/pandp/places/spit.htm>

enormously interesting and helpful, especially as it describes the area around Flower & Dean Street. It also mentions the Great Synagogue at Fournier Street. It seems that Lewis never moved very far from those few streets. He died in Hunton Street, but was living in Davis Avenue, Stepney, when he married Rebecca. He seems to have moved in with her, because that was her address as a widow in 1948.

If the financial centre of London, properly named the City of London, is known as the "Square Mile", Lewis' life from his arrival in London to his death some 60 years later, must have been bounded by a square half-mile at most, or even a quarter-mile! I don't know where either he or Eva are buried.

My husband Barry remembers his grandad, but he's not very complimentary about him. Apparently he was a little man who walked with a stick, and when his grandson Barry tried to help him across the road he would lay that stick across Barry's shoulders - he was black and blue! Barry threatened that if he didn't stop hitting him he would hit back! Then of course, he was told he was a bad grandson. This is almost all Barry remembers about his grandad, except that they closed the street for his funeral - Hunton Street, that would be. Because of the crowds wanting to pay their respects?

As far as I know, there were no other relatives in London at the time. Lewis' father Asher, and presumably the rest of the family, stayed behind in Russia. This brings up horrible images of the likely fate of the rest of Asher's extended family.

So Lewis and Eva had seven children and there are several other cousins on the Stolsky/Stoll side of the family. It is possible that some of them may have more information, but we are not in touch with any of them because, you see, we are now the non-Jewish branch of the family. My husband, I believe the saying is, "married out", had two children by his first marriage, and I'm his third non-Jewish wife. Although his first two

weddings were in a register office, he and I were married in church. His brother later took us to task about this, saying he couldn't have attended a church wedding, although a cousin from his mother's side of the family was happy to be his best man.

Last week we tried phoning a female cousin of my husband, who lives in Amhurst Park, Stamford Hill, London. She is about his age; they all played together as kids when the London relatives used to descend on them in South Bucks to escape the bombing. But her immediate response was, "I've nothing to say to you! I don't want to talk to you," and she put the phone down. Now, if a cousin of mine had phoned me even after several years of non-contact, I'd have at least been curious to know what it was about! But she didn't want even the briefest of conversations.

Margaret has written a book called "All My Father's Children", a story of her own upbringing and family tree. If you would like details please contact Margaret at <margaretc@metoll.co.uk>



SIX OF THE BEST

Sherry Landa's top 6 web sites (plus British -Jewry of course!)

<http://www.british-jewry.org.uk/>

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/default.htm>

<http://www.census.pro.gov.uk/>

<http://www.jeffreymaynard.com/>

<http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/cemetery/>

<http://www.pro.gov.uk/>

If you'd like to submit your top 6 websites for this feature please contact us!



Another Advertisement!!

As you know, last June we moved our website from Free Space to our own domain. The move was designed to make sure

that, a) we could put up whatever we wanted without fear of our "sponsors" objections, b) that you were not bombarded by advertising when you came to our site and, c) that we would be able to continue to improve our website. There are, of course, running costs associated with having our own domain. Jackye and I have always said that this list is FREE and it will remain so. We have also said that the buck literally stops with us and, if no one else wants to donate, we will find the money. Our concern is that at some point, one or both of us might find it hard to meet this commitment and we really want you to have some ownership of the list and site.

We, therefore, requested listers considered helping out with the running costs. For 2004-2005 the costs are approximately £80 and we have asked 8 kind listers to contribute £10 each. The cost for 2005-2006 is estimated to be in the region of £100 allowing for price increases and renewal bi-annually of the domain name.

If you think you might want to pledge for 2005-2006? You'll get nothing back - no power, no glory - you can have your name up on a webpage on the site, if you so wish, but that is it. The website will remain the property of B.J. Jackye, Richard and I will continue to decide what goes up, and when and how. You can opt to make a payment, in GBP, Euros, USD, by cheque or Money Order, whichever is convenient. If you think you'd like to make a pledge for next year, you need to mail webmaster@british-jewry.org.uk in the first instance. There will be no formal book-keeping, no tax write-offs for donations. Richard and I will monitor offers and come back to people at a later date to discuss their individual offers.

I reiterate this is VOLUNTARY. At NO TIME will anyone be charged anything for receiving the email list, the newsletter or visiting the site. At NO TIME will anyone be charged to access any of our materials, either those on-site or those offered as part of our site (with the exception of costs as laid out on Look Up Exchange). SL



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

One of the most valuable lesson I've learned concerning genealogy is to "think outside the box" when I hit a brick wall. When I've exhausted all available normal means, I shift into overdrive to try to find some bit of information, or some person or document. I make a list of all possible alternative scenarios and start tackling them one by one. For instance, when searching indexes, I look for all the different spellings I can imagine, and even look for the first name instead of the surname, thinking the indexer could have got it wrong. I leave no stone unturned and pursue all variations I can.

To illustrate my point, let me tell you about a current quest. Right now, I'm trying to find Leah LEWIS. She and her husband went to Chicago from Leeds in 1905. What happened to Leah after her husband, Lazarus, died in Chicago in 1915? Did she die there, did she re-marry there or in England, did she die in England? I did locate her returning to the USA over a year later. The ship's manifest lists her sister's address in Chicago as her final destination and her last permanent residence in Liverpool. In the place on the manifest which should have stated whom she left behind in Liverpool, the writer inserted her Chicago sister's name and address instead.

I have tried to find Leah in the US Censuses for 1920 and 1930, using all possible variations of Leah and LEWIS. I have called the cemetery where her husband is buried but she's not buried there. I am hampered without a death date and I have consulted all available Chicago indexes up to 1950. The Chicago marriage indexes are available only up to 1916, so I can't search for a re-marriage.

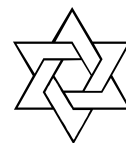
I am now working on the English re-marriage option: I have contacted someone with access to such information in Liverpool and am hoping he can find a re-marriage or a death for her, since this is where I last placed

her. At the same time, I've been attacking the GRO marriage index beginning in 1917, but that's gruelling work considering how common a name I have to work with. I have contacted someone with access to the Bradford cemetery records where her sister, Jennie SOLBERG, is buried. Without a death date and, as a last resort, I will start with the GRO death index in 1917. The point is to try everything!

Now, here is a short success story using the same technique. I am trying to connect my family to the Jacob and Morris WINOKUR families, and am ordering Chicago death certificates for them one by one. The only person I could not find was Jacob's wife, Esther. I ordered a certificate for an Esther WINOKUR but it was the wrong one. What could I do? I called the cemetery where Jacob was buried and asked who was buried nearby. Lo and behold, there were Esther AND Jacob's sister-in-law, Anna, as well! I had been unable to find Esther because she had re-married, and died two years later as Esther KIPNIS. Luckily, the cemetery had her listed as Esther WINOKUR KIPNIS! Puzzle solved except, of course, that I momentarily went off at a tangent to learn what I could about her second marriage.

So, remember, thinking outside the box is generic and can apply to every country and every situation. Be open to all possibilities and suggestions, and reject nothing until you are sure it's an impossibility

Jackye Sullins, San Diego CA



HOW TO: RESEARCH NATURALISATIONS

This comes up as a regular topic of debate on list. Naturalisations, up to some time in the 1930s-40s, are at the National Archive (formerly known as the Public Record Office, <www.pro.gov.uk>) in Kew, a suburb of London.

The National Archive is the only place which holds naturalisation papers and certificates, which they are starting to upload as part of their on-line catalogue. There is an index. Papers are filed as they are returned from the Home Office, which can sometimes be years after the naturalisation took place. Closure rules apply: you can't just order a naturalisation, even if you know the date. You need to know the reference numbers and the only ways to get those are either to visit in person, employ a researcher, beg a favour, or try the Mormon index film. They are on microfilm, numbered 8224514 and 824515.

It's not that easy to get the numbers, even though there is an index. You have to look up the name and then look up the numbers in a separate file to get the full reference. You should get two numbers, one for the papers and one for the certificate. Each number has three parts: the first part starts HO and is two or three digits, the next part is a few digits and the final part is the original number from the name index and may be digits preceded by a letter. From there you try to order them on the National Archive ordering computer (I say try because half the papers don't exist so even having a reference isn't a guarantee that the papers/certificate survived).

If you can get as far as a reference number BEFORE going to The National Archive, then you can advance-order the papers to be ready for viewing when you arrive. Otherwise there is a wait of about 30 minutes or so for them to bring the papers up, and then you can take them for copying. The certificate can be done whilst you wait but the papers are normally done on their one hour service (as there are a dozen or so pages). If you are using a researcher you will need to allow about 2 hours of time for the full thing, and the copying cost will be about £5-6 plus postage. You can get The National Archive to copy for you IF you have the reference numbers (see their ordering section on the above web site). Their minimum charge is £10, which should include all copies and the postage. Please note that children born in Britain were British and had no need to naturalise. *SL*



DEMYSTIFYING THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Your first visit to the National Archives can be a confusing and frustrating experience if you don't fully understand how to retrieve the PRO reference of documents you wish to consult. To help to demystify the procedure, I shall explain how to find Home Office naturalization files. As an example I shall concentrate on Mendel Hart.

Family legend has it that Mendel Hart came from Russia to England in the 1880s and became a British Subject. You searched the National Archives Catalogue for evidence, but because the online index may not cover the years you need to search, you cannot find him. So you have to search the paper catalogue.

The paper catalogue is contained in red binders in the Main Enquiry Room on the first floor. Find the set of binders INDEX TO DENIZATION AND NATURALIZATION located on shelves in section C-KY. Identify the binder that covers the probable years that Mendel Hart could have applied for naturalization.

There is one entry for Mendel Hart from Russia
Date of Certificate 5 November 1897
Place of Residence London
Number of Certificate A9935
Number of Home Office Paper B24671

The certificate contains brief genealogical information. It is the Home Office Paper, file B24671 that provides valuable background detail. To order the file for Mendel Hart, the next step is to build the document reference number composed of three parts HO144/??/B24671. To find the missing number, you have to search the 'Packing List'.

Locate the binder entitled HO144 INTRO/PACKING LIST 1879-1919. You will find it on the shelf just to the right of where you found the index binders. Find the section with 1879 to 1900 at the top of the page. On

the left side of each page you will see a column headed 'Reference H.O.144' with 'piece' numbers below. Each 'piece' number has thirty-six ascending 'file' numbers arranged in four columns. Search for file number B24671. You will find it in piece 412.

You now have the document citation to enable you to order Mendel Hart's file for viewing. HO144/412/B24671. Behind you is a computer terminal. Having chosen your seat, you are ready to enter the reference number...

Department: HO
Series: 144
Piece/Item: 412/B24671

The file will then be delivered for you to examine in about forty minutes.

Pauline Eismark, London

TNA NEWS from The National Archives, Kew, Surrey, TW9 4DU, UK:

VISITORS CAN NOW USE SCANNERS: Copying documents was once a lengthy and arduous process. Scribes often spent hours copying just one document.

Now copying historical documents couldn't be easier. The Record Copying Department has introduced another new service at Kew. Readers can copy documents themselves using state-of-the-art overhead digital document scanners.

To ensure that documents are handled carefully a member of staff will be on hand to advise on using the copiers. See <http://www.pro.gov.uk/recordcopying/default.htm>

A2A: Access to Archives - a2a - holds 6.3 million catalogue references. It covers 345 record offices, libraries, museums and other repositories throughout England.

Among the catalogues now online for the first time are details of 53,000 insurance policies of the Sun Fire Office, 1816-1824. See <http://www.a2a.org.uk/default.asp>

TNA EVENTS DIARY:

April 19 a2a taster session: Taster session on the a2a Access to Archives website. 2.15pm, TNA, Kew Free.

April 26 Computer taster session: Training for technophobes - basic training for those who feel less confident using the Internet. 2:15pm, TNA Kew. Free.

April 28 Pathways to the Past taster session: Taster session on Pathways to the Past, at the adult learning section of The National Archives; 2.15pm. Free.

May 4 Heroes of D-Day: Learn more about the heroes of D-Day through operational records and gallantry awards; Lecture at 2.00pm. D-Day and the Resistance: Recently released SOE papers show the activities of individuals and their relevance. Lecture at 3.15pm. TNA, Kew. Free but call 020 8392 5202 or 5323 to book.

NEXT ISSUE

Do you know what Tu B'Av is? If you do, good for you, then you'll know that our next issue will be out on 2 August 2004. If you do not know what it is then you will have to wait and find out in the next issue. Deadline for submissions is Sunday 18 July 2004. Contact Jewish@slanda.fsnet.co.uk with your submissions.



FROM THE PROVINCES

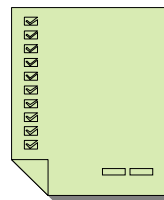
Manchester - The Joint Hebrew Burial Board are creating a database. It will be a chargeable search to help raise funds for the maintenance of Manchester cemeteries for which they are responsible. Watch this space!

Liverpool - Liverpool Jewish Genealogy Service website is now, back, on line. A great resource at <http://www.ljgs.org/>

UK BMD Project – These sites are regularly updated. The advantage of these sites is that they are using local registrars' indexes. They also allow you to contact the local registrar directly. You often get service by return and you pay the lower certificate fee of £7. Cheshire and Yorkshire are now doing very well with coverage. Lancashire is also rapidly growing. In addition there is a site for North Wales and one for Staffordshire. Next to come on line will be Bath. There are all sorts of links from this site - this is why it has made my top 6. <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>

Directories On-Line - The University of Leicester has a digital library of 18th, 19th and early- 20th century local and trade directories from England and Wales. <http://www.historicaldirectories.org>

Scotland – The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre is available at the following web address <http://www.sjac.org.uk/> Edinburgh's Newington Cemetery has web pages with name lists and even stone photographs www.newingtoncmy.fsnet.co.uk/ Also there is the Glasgow Digital Library Subject Index at <http://gdl.cdli.strath.ac.uk/subjects/jews.html> RS & SL



FEEDBACK

We would like to hear your views on our first issue. Please copy and paste the form below into an email and send it to feedback@slanda.fsnet.co.uk mark the subject line B-J NEWS Feedback, please.

Rate each answer on the following score:

1-excellent, 2-very good, 3-good, 4-needs improving, 5-very poor.

First impressions:

Content of articles:

Variety:

Layout:

Now please answer these questions in more detail.

Which article did you like the best?

Did you read everything? Yes/No

If you did not read some of the newsletter, please tell us why.

What would you like to see in future issues?

Would you consider submitting an article? If so, please tell us what you'd write about.

Thank you for taking part in the survey. Your views and opinions are truly valued and we will try to make the newsletter a reflection of what you want to read. SL