



B-J News

The newsletter of the British Jewry mailing list
Wednesday 9th August 2006/15 Av 5766

Welcome to the eighth edition of B-J News

CONTENTS

From The Editor	page 1
From the List	page 2
The Other George Cross	page 3
Step by Step	page 4
A Plea for the Preservation of Our Sources	page 6
Finding my Jewish Ancestors	page 7
How to...Get the Most from Paid Subscription Sites	page 8
I Found My Father	page 10
Cool Connections on the Web	page 11
Diary Dates	page 12

B-J News 8 was brought to you by:
Jill Hyams *Proof Reader*
Mike Joseph *Copy Editor*
Sherry Landa *Editor in Chief*
Barbara Paris *Proof Reader*



FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here we are again. Believe it or not, this is issue 8 and we have been producing B-J News for almost three years. The Tu B'Av issue is always special because it comes at my most hectic time of year. Just as I am rushing about finalising things, nearly meeting myself coming back from where I haven't been yet, trying to clear the decks for summer, up it pops; and I wonder about the wisdom of the choice of issue date. I was recently asked about our publication dates. How did they evolve? Way back, when we first thought about the idea of a "journal" we discussed how often we should publish. The consensus was that, for volunteers with busy lives, often fitting this in between the demands of full time jobs, four times a year was too much. We considered twice a year, but this seemed to leave us with a huge gap between issues. So we compromised: we went for a thrice-yearly publication. Then we considered dates, and hit upon the idea of publishing around Jewish holidays, to mark us clearly as a Jewish journal. Chanukah was a fairly obvious choice, along with Purim approximately four months later. Tu B'Av was a more difficult choice, and I openly admit to loading Kaluach, skipping on four months from Purim, and madly searching for something - anything - that would pass as a Jewish holiday, to become our third publication date.

As a non-Jew I first found out about Purim back in the 1980s, when I worked in Multicultural Curriculum Development. I researched and produced an education pack to explain the festival to non-Jewish children. When I left that job I had to relinquish all rights to my pack, and with that, over the years, I forgot the details of the festival and the story of Esther. Chanukah I knew about because it is always quoted in education circles when trying to draw parallels: many religions have a festival of light. Tu B'Av however, was something that not only I, but most of my friends, had never heard of.

Tu B'Av is the 15th Day of the month Av in the Judaic calendar, beginning, in common with several Jewish holidays, at sunset on the 14th of the month. It is both an ancient and a modern holiday. Originally it was a day of joy, and served as a matchmaking day for the unmarried. In its modern incarnation it is gradually becoming a Jewish Day of Love, slightly resembling St Valentine's Day. There is no way of knowing exactly when Tu B'Av began. The first mention of the date is in the Mishnah, compiled in the second century. One of many explanations is that on this day: "the tribes of Israel were permitted to mingle with each other", or to marry women from other tribes. This seems a little strange, as nowhere in the Bible is there a prohibition on intermarriage among the twelve tribes. For almost nineteen centuries the only recognition of Tu B'Av lay in the omission of the penitence prayer from the Morning Service.

So now you know. If you are in a relationship then send a card, offer a gift or simply say "I love you". If you are not, then get out there and mingle - but not until you have read this edition of the B-J News brought to you with all our love...



Sherry Landa (Salford UK)



FROM THE LIST

Dear All,

Sherry's request for help researching a divorce, and her admission to being "just nosy", remind me of a time when I too was being nosy; ahem, I mean carrying out some academic research.

I spent ten years researching the history of my home town of Edgware, northwest London: who built all the houses and when and why all the streets had the names they had - the usual things people do in these projects.

I was aided immensely by a book entitled "Suffolk Punch", the autobiography of George Cross. He originally came from a Suffolk farming family, but decided, at the turn of the last century when he was growing up, to make his mark in the business of renting rooms, furnishings, etc. This led to home development, and eventually Cross became aware of Edgware: he had been quite successful with his business in nearby Golders Green. In 1939 he retired to a small country estate in Wiltshire, having made several million pounds on his Edgware developments.

His private life was not so successful, as he shied away from romance and the overtures that women made to his self-made status. However, he eventually married a woman who was the daughter of a brickyard manager. They had a son, but as she had married well above "her station" it was not a marriage made in heaven.

Cross decided that there had to be a divorce, but in the 1920s it would have damaged her reputation if he had sued, so he did the honourable thing and went to Brighton with a female acquaintance. A private detective observed them both going into the same hotel room, from which only one conclusion could be drawn, if one's mind worked that way. So it was that Mrs. Cross was able to divorce her husband, and he could ensure, by the financial settlement, that she and his son would be looked after.

Now, I knew none of this until I went to view the divorce indexes and noticed that it was she who divorced him and not the other way around. Nothing is mentioned in the book of course. With my curiosity aroused, I requested permission to view the decree absolute papers and was given a date for an appointment with the "solicitor on duty" on the appointed day.

So there I was in this solicitor's room, me in my jeans and tee-shirt, with her sitting there, dressed all in black, her hair pulled back in a bun, all proper and prim, and in her hands the sacred papers. I could not look

at them, she said, but I could ask questions and she would see if the answers were there and paraphrase them back to me.

Looking down over her black-rimmed glasses, she said in a stern voice "You're just being nosey aren't you?" I stammered back, "No, I thought that knowing about his private life would help me understand his professional life. I know all about his public life, but nothing about his personal life". She was unimpressed.

Somehow I was able to ask all the right questions and get all the answers I needed. Now I knew the other side of the story.

Of course, I wasn't being nosey, this was academic research.

Jeremy G Frankel
ex-London, England
Berkeley, California, USA



THE OTHER GEORGE CROSS

Harry Ehrengott was born in Soho on 29 August 1910. His parents were Baila and Shepsel, Jewish immigrants who had arrived in London from Poland in 1908, and later became Bella and Solomon Errington.

Harry went to Westminster Jews Free School, and won a trade scholarship that gave him the opportunity to train as an engraver. He had to abandon that ambition however, when the nitric acid fumes affected his health. He then went to work as a cutter in his uncle's Savile Row tailoring firm, Errington and Whyte, and steadily progressed to the summit of his trade: a master tailor. He stayed with the firm for the rest of his working life - with the exception of an enforced interlude lasting a long six years!

It was in 1940 that Harry earned true celebrity status. Having joined the Auxiliary Fire Service at the outbreak of the Second World War a year earlier, he was one of several firemen on duty in a basement rest-room during an air raid, when the building collapsed. An enemy bomb had scored a direct hit, and twenty people died, including six firemen; Harry was lucky: he was only knocked out! When he came round, the building was on fire. He could have escaped with little difficulty, but two of his comrades were trapped under rubble: how could he leave them? He wrapped a blanket round his head against the flames and, digging with his bare hands, managed to free one of the men. He dragged him to safety, upstairs into the street, and then, although he was already badly burned, went back and rescued the other man.



Harry was awarded the George Cross, Britain's highest civilian honour; no other London fireman earned such recognition during the War. The medal was conferred by King George VI personally.

Harry stayed with the Fire service throughout the War, only resuming his tailoring career when London was no longer under threat from bombs. He became active in the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, and served for a time as secretary of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association. He kept in touch with the London Fire Brigade, and was feted on his 90th birthday with a surprise party given by Soho Fire Station.



Harry Errington, the last surviving Jewish holder of the George Cross, died on December 17th 2004 aged 94. His medal was donated to the Jewish Museum, where it is now proudly on display.

Mike Joseph
Ashford, Middlesex, UK

*Pictures from the George Cross database
Research: Sherry Landa and Mike Joseph*



STEP BY STEP

A research journal illustrating how we can go from
“nothing” to “something”.

How it started...

Jeremy Frankel had emailed the list with a story centred on the divorce of a man named George Cross, and had agreed to its being reproduced in B-J News. (see page 2) Mike was editing it and asked if Jeremy had any photographs we might use. He had none, and I asked Mike if there was anything on the internet. He searched, and came upon an article about the Jewish Museum receiving the George Cross medal awarded to a Jewish fireman called Harry ERRINGTON. (see page 3). He suggested this might make an interesting companion piece. Reasoning that Harry had probably died, for the medal to pass to the museum, he had looked at the 1837 online site (see page 9), but had not found a death record up to the end of 2004. This was my starting point: pay close attention! I suggest you keep pen and paper to hand.

I went to the JC Archives site (see page 9) and typed in: ERRINGTON 2004-2006, display earliest first. Harry's obituary was the first entry on the “hit list”, and several death notices for him followed.

These gave his date and place of death and burial, and his age at death. He left a sister Freda, and had two brothers who predeceased him: David and Mark, one of whom was married to Fay. He also left cousins Robert, Shirley, Betty and Sandra.

My interest was piqued. Which brother was married to Fay? Was Freda married and if so to whom? Who were his parents?

I checked our own website surname list. There was no entry, so no list member is researching Harry. I went back to the JC Archives and pulled up the 1941 report of his award, where it said he had been at Westminster Jews Free School. I then started looking at all ERRINGTON entries.

I found that a Mark ERRINGTON and his wife Doris, née KUTNER, had the following children:

Robert Norman born 14 Nov 1946

Judith Pauline born 23 Feb 1951

Also, a David ERRINGTON and his wife Sylvia, née MOSS, had the following children:

Paula Susan born before 1951

Laurence Harry born 15 May 1951

Next, I found an engagement announced in January 1955 of a Freda Estelle ERRINGTON, daughter of Mr and Mrs S EHRENGOTT, to an Alfred TROPP.

I then found an engagement entry from 1966. From this I gleaned that David, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. EHRENGOTT, was married to Fay, née SOOK. This proved that David was sister to the Freda Estelle mentioned in 1955, but cast doubt over who Sylvia MOSS was. The 1966 entry said that Marsha Linda was the only daughter of David and Fay. Did this mean that David and Sylvia were a different couple, or that David was married twice and actually had two daughters, only one of whom was Fay's? I had to keep looking. David and Fay celebrated their pearl wedding: congratulations were posted in December 1969, so they would have married in December 1939. Sylvia née MOSS died early in 1970 and Doris, Mark and Robert put a notice in the JC; Judith had predeceased her aunt. This confirmed that Mark was brother of the David who was husband of Sylvia MOSS. So far I had two pairs of siblings, but not a threesome. In August 1971 Mark passed away; the list of relations was long, and confirmed the surname EHRENGOTT. There was no mention of a sister Freda though, so David and Sylvia were not the right couple.

Our David's death announcement appeared in the JC of 29 April 1988. It confirmed the surname EHRENGOTT, and that he was the brother of Mark, Harry and Freda. Mark died on 4 Jan 1997. To get this far had taken me about 3 hours. I was still confused about the relationships, and

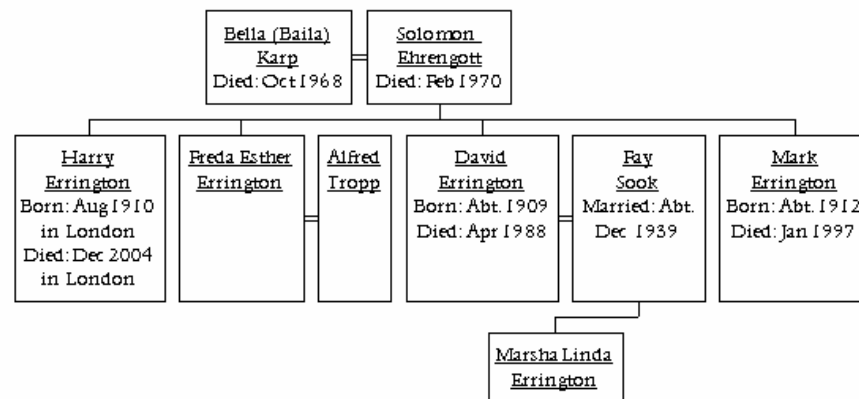
Free BMD was not being very helpful, so I decided to go back over the JC entries. This time I went in reverse order, starting from the known - the death of Harry in 2004 - and working backwards, and I used a family tree programme to be able to see where people were the same, or not.

I started by searching for EHRENGOTT entries. The first told me the following, which I put into the programme: Born 1910 London, Harry was one of three sons and a daughter born to Solomon and Bella EHRENGOTT who came to London from Lublin in 1908. Next I found a death entry for a Henry LEWIS where it said that he was brought to London by Baila and Shepsel EHRENGOTT, parents of Harry; the notice was submitted by cousins Freda and Harry ERRINGTON. This confirmed that Harry's parents were Bella (Baila) and Solomon (Shepsel); it also looked as if, despite the engagement announcement, Freda never married Alfred TROPP. Then I found a 1988 interview with Harry where he stated that his brother David, aged 79, was married, his brother Mark was 74 and unmarried, and his sister Freda looked after her two bachelor brothers. A memorial notice provided Solomon's and Bella's dates of death. Solomon's death announcement revealed both that he had a sister, Annie, whose married name was BOXMAN, and that Freda did marry Alfred TROPP. To gather this information took me a further hour.

I wanted to find out Bella's maiden name. My research so far had told me that Mark was born about 1912. Therefore, the GRO Index should show his mother's maiden name. I went to FreeBMD and searched for the birth of a Mark EHRENGOTT between Mar 1911 and Dec 1913 inclusive, using phonetic search. This failed to find the entry. I tried ERRINGTON but that returned no matches either. I went to 1837 online, choosing to start searching at 1911 and look for EHRENGOTT first, as that seemed to be the name his parents were using originally. I found the birth, registered in the third quarter of 1913, mother's maiden name KARP. If this had been my family, I would have double checked this name against the birth entry of one of the other children.

It had taken me about 20 minutes and cost me 11 credits to get this information. I still didn't know when Freda was born, or died, and there were unanswered questions about all the cousins I had found. Who were their parents? Were the other Mark and David somehow related to Harry?

Nevertheless, at this point, I decided that I had spent enough time and effort on this particular project, and I stopped.



Sherry Landa, Salford UK



A PLEA FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR SOURCES

The pundits tell us that for a true and reliable understanding of our histories, we must always go to the primary source. This is a fine precept but, the Sephardic community apart; early Anglo-Jewry has no such comprehensive repository. There is virtually nothing for the period between re-admission in the mid 17th Century and setting up the earliest available records circa 1791 and, as far as London is concerned, I have noted fewer than twenty New Synagogue birth records, with none for the Great. Myer Solomon lists ten circumcisions and there are a few burial records and tombstone transcripts. I have just one marriage record: a photocopy of a Great Synagogue Ketubah of 1766 recording the marriage between my husband's ancestors, Israel Samuel and Suzy, daughter of Jonas Phillips. A most serendipitous find, this very poor quality photocopy was lodged in the Archives at Lewes, but the location, or even the continuing existence, of the original remains unknown.

For those of us whose London ancestry pre-dates 1791, particularly those whose families bore common tribal or patronymic surnames, and for a variety of reasons left no personal paper trail, it's a well-nigh impregnable brick wall. In so far as Anglo-Jewish genealogy is concerned, the IGI, an otherwise useful source, is not to be trusted. Many who submit genealogies do not appear to have understood the limited range of both family and forenames at this period (1656-1790), and have incorporated unsourced links which are at best questionable, and at worst quite untenable. The internet is awash with 'false', improperly sourced, histories, which is probably why we get so over-emotional at even the thought of some new archive coming to light: therein will be the answer to the mystery that is our history. A Synagogue record will take us back another generation and will prove or demolish at least one family myth; a pound for every Anglo-Jew who sincerely believes their family was expelled from Spain or Portugal and arrived in the UK shortly after the readmission, would pay for a year's subscription to Ancestry!

However, even a documented record can be contentious. During my recent work on the Great Synagogue Burial Records I came across a couple of entries which seemed to have some relevance to a family I was researching. This was how the transcripts read in Dr. Susser's unfinished original

Page 257: Nefel (stillborn child) of **Anshel b. Michel LEMON MAN** 3 Jan 1813 A **Fireball Court**, Houndsditch; Aldgate Parish **Simmons, Angel's** stillborn child

Page 258: Nefel of **Anshel b. Michel LEMON MAN** 12 January 1813 A **Fireball Court**; St Botolph, Aldgate **Simmons, Angel's** st. chd.

Page 265: stillbirth of **Anshel b. Michel** 24 May 1813 'A' **Fireball Court**, Houndsditch; Parish of St Botolph, Aldgate.

[Nefel = Stillbirth; 'A' relates to the Ground, or the position therein, where the person was interred]

Firstly we have the improbability of three stillborn children in the space of five months. It is possible that the first two were twins, stillborn some ten days apart. It is also possible that the poor woman fell pregnant immediately after these births but, surely, the May birth would then have been designated 'Mapil', which Dr. Susser translates as 'abortion', and which I think we can take to mean an aborted foetus. A post-it note, attached to a page of burial records sent to me by Dr. Susser, defined a 'nefel' as a stillbirth or a child under 30 days old, but I do not know if this definition was universally applied.

However the main focus of my interest lay in the father's patronymic, **Anshel ben Michael Lemon-man**. In **1806, Angel Jonas (Anshel ben Michael Lemon man)** marries Nancy Michel at the Great Synagogue. In **1841 Angel Jonas** is living in **Fireball Court**. I have over 18,000 names in my database of English Jews to circa 1850; of these, two with family name **SIMONS/SIMMONS** are shown as being **sons-in-law** of a Pais

(Feiss) **Lemon man**, but I cannot find a single SIMON/SIMMONS/SIMMONDS etc. with the English forename **Angel** and the Hebrew name **Anshel**.

Has there been some slippage in Dr. Susser's transcript? Without the original, I cannot tell. Did the Secretary make an error? Does the answer lie in some ledger lying unnoticed in the bowels of the Beth Din offices? Worse still, could it be buried in a cupboard in some long disused premises due to be sold off for development, or in the home of some retired elderly official or cleric who does not remember that he once took it home for personal study? Where, for example, are the ledgers containing the Membership of the Great Synagogue? They are listed in the Roth's catalogue of Jewish Records at the LMA but their whereabouts appear unknown. Hyamson's transcriptions can be seen in the libraries of The Society of Genealogists and the JGSGB. However, not all Jewish Genealogists live in London, and not all are members of these societies. I have recently transcribed some photocopies of BMD data for the South of England communities, but cannot publish on B-J because I do not know where the originals are lodged. So, if anyone out there knows..... The Beth Din holds burial data for the New Synagogue which would be invaluable. Why cannot that and other similar records be scanned and made available in their entirety? Furthermore, whilst I admire the efforts of those responsible for JCR-UK, it does not provide a satisfactory method of search. I have submitted many of my databases, which they have thus far incorporated, but I will not be doing so in the future; genealogists should not be dependent on a very limited search engine, but should be able to search the records for themselves

Tombstones crumble and old buildings fall into disrepair; the movement to make available all records of the Anglo-Jewish community has never been more vital, but how and where these records are displayed is of equal importance. They contain *our* histories and, even if they may ultimately raise more questions than answers, they are all that we have.

Angela Shire, June 2006



FINDING MY JEWISH ANCESTORS.

My name is Fred Pendlebury and I live in a small rural community about 50 kilometres from Sydney in the state of New South Wales.

When I started my research in 1997 I had no idea that I had Jewish origins, as neither my father nor my grandmother had ever spoken of them. In fact, when I confirmed those origins, my father denied the facts, and insisted that I remove any reference from my project. Such a demand only made me more determined to find out more!

I approached my aunt, Father's sister, about the family, and she gave me three photographs, together with the name of a lady in Manchester who, she said, could help me further.

I wrote to Manchester and received an invitation to visit the lady, which I took up during my trip in early 1998. The information I obtained was nothing short of spectacular.

On my return, armed with birth certificates and other details, my father had no option but to confirm the undeniable, but he still advised me to be circumspect in what I wrote. Shortly afterwards he gave me a 28 page document written by his second cousin, now living in Israel. It was only when I delved into that information that I was able to come up with answers. My second cousin (once removed) was more than happy to tell me all about my Jewish ancestors - and that can be the basis for future contributions to B-J News.

My research includes the names of HOPPE (HOPE) BOOKIN, HYAMS (HYAM) and RUBINSTEIN.

Fred Pendlebury
New South Wales, Australia.



HOW TO...GET THE BEST OUT OF SUBSCRIPTION AND PAY-PER-VIEW SITES

I am not a great fan of subscription sites: these are just personal views on a few of those that are out there.

More and more of us are now choosing to research from the comfort of our own homes. In terms of time it is certainly easier: most on-line services are open 24 hours a day, and you can research at 3 o'clock on a Sunday morning if you want to! In terms of economics it also makes sense, at times. Even though not a lot out there is free, paying a subscription is often cheaper than paying the costs of travelling, parking, copying etc.

ANCESTRY

My first foray into paid sites came when Jackye bought me a 3-month subscription to Ancestry. They often run promotional trials, and I tried it and was hooked – enough to treat myself to a full year, at discount, on the UK databases. You do this by credit or debit card. The indexes on Ancestry are those used by other major providers (1881 index is from LDS, 1901 index from the PRO, and BMD from GRO). You therefore find the same flaws as you would on other sites, and often need some very creative thinking to anticipate how something might have been misspelled or misread. Despite this, I quite like Ancestry; I find it easy to use and it saves my log-in details and recognises me every time I log in. You do need to keep your user name and password however, in case you want to access the site from a different machine. One annoying drawback is that, even when you are quite precise with your search criteria, Ancestry throws up a lot of variations.

I have found very many records on there. It has enabled me to look at the original 1881 census returns, which is not always possible even in libraries here, because many places only keep the LDS fiche. The first year it was really good value, but the second was much more expensive

and I did think about giving up the subscription. Then I considered how little I spend on myself and how useful it is, and treated myself. You need to remember that, unless you cancel your subscription before its renewal date, it is automatically renewed on your purchase card.

www.ancestry.com

SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE

I use the Scotland's People website a lot, even though the system is not straightforward. You buy credits, using your credit or debit card, and the site remembers you - but not your card details - for future visits. When you register you are given a password which is almost impossible to remember, but you can change it immediately to something of your choice. Using the credits is pretty easy; as a safeguard, the server double checks by asking "Are you sure?" before you spend anything. However, this does make the site slower than some others: a problem if you are paying per minute or have limited time on-line.

You buy credits in multiples of thirty, valid for a limited period, and costing £6. To see the listed results of a search costs one credit per sheet, and then to view an actual record you pay five credits. Thus, if you find what you want straight away it costs £1 for a birth, marriage or death or census page. Some searches throw up too many results for one page, and then you might use a lot of credits checking the results before finding what you want. If a family is split over two census pages it costs five credits to view each page, and the credits can melt away very quickly. If you have a few odd credits left when your time expires, as long as you buy more at some future date, those expired credits are revived and added to the new ones. Your searches and viewed images are saved, and you can see them again at no further charge, so there is no need to download unless you want to. www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

1837 ONLINE

1837 Online is a reasonable site for those who want the GRO indexes. You need a special viewer program called DJVu, which you download; the instructions to do this are quite clear, and it does not take long. This site works in a similar way to Scotland's People, in that you buy credits and use them to view pages of the indexes. You enter the first three letters of the surname you want, and then pay to view each page of results. This may mean paying to discover that some pages contain no entry for the surname you want. Conversely, a common name such as COHEN may throw up twenty pages of hits, and it can be hard to find "your" Joseph COHEN entry without viewing every page from Aaron to the end of the Josephs. www.1837online.com

JC ARCHIVES

Despite its many faults, I have found JC Archives really useful. You pay an annual subscription which includes a copy of the JC delivered to the door. You need Acrobat to access the pages, and there is a link to download it, if you do not already have it. Since they have indexed the archives using OCR, a reference on the index may often direct you to a page containing something quite different. I also find it very slow to load the pages, but I do have dial-up "narrow band" and broadband users would probably not have this problem. The search engine is not the best ever and you need to be careful what you ask for. I find that using the option to display "earliest first" works best for me, rather than working through records all jumbled together. You need to pay extra to be able to save, print or email a copy of a page: I find this an appalling rip-off.

The site also logs you off after so long, and you have to log in again. This is a pain and unnecessary in my opinion. There is an on-screen indication of whether or not you are logged in, but whilst searching you don't always notice your status. Then, after you have waited perhaps two or three minutes for a page to load, it comes up with grey lines all over it

because the computer thinks you are not subscribed and you have to start all over again. It is so frustrating! www.thejc.com

HINTS AND TIPS

Now, here are some tips that you may find helpful if you do decide to go for a subscription or use a pay-per-view site.

Plan your research. If credits are time-limited, save your research up until you have a block worth tackling.

Think what else is out there free. For example, do not use 1837 before checking FreeBMD and the local BMD sites. If you get a hit for an event on one of those sites, use the dates given to narrow down a search for an announcement in the JC Archives. These often give precise dates and places so that you may not need the actual certificate.

Save everything: you have paid for it and you never know when you might want it again. If a site offers a save option, try using it. Take care what you call a file or image, and where you save it, as you need to be able to find it again. I also make sure to include the date somewhere in the file name, so that I don't lose it if I edit the file. Be careful, too, how you save, as file extensions are really important and you might find you can't open the file again.

For hard copies, try the print option on the site. Alternatively, copy - or use PrtScr - and paste into either a Word-type programme or a Paint-type programme. The latter will allow you to crop off the unwanted parts of a screen, or any other image. Right-clicking on an image may offer you more options.

Share: either split the cost of a subscription and share the password and user name, or get together with a group of friends, each person buying one subscription and all doing look ups for each other.

This does come with a warning: you need to be careful with sharing, because there may be copyright restrictions, so read the small print carefully. You also do not want to pay £100 for something you hardly use and, while you're inundated with other people's requests, end up constantly needing to use a friend's £20 subscription for all your own look-ups!

Happy Spending!

Sherry Landa (Salford UK)

INFORMATION REQUESTED

Sean Curley is looking for information on any Irish Jews for a project he is undertaking.

In particular he is looking for the following:

Louis/Lewis WELSKY who went to the USA in 1905 and changed his name to Simon LEWIS

Rev. Abraham PERCORSKY who served in Derry 1902-1908 (previously in Sheffield)

Moses KALBASAOR who is in an old school register for the 1890s; nothing more is known

Mr/Mrs SCHEMBELSKY who appears on the Jewish Colonial Trust website; nothing more is known

Any information (apart from that which appears in The Jewish Chronicle) would be greatly appreciated, and can be sent to Sean direct at member@scurley7.wanadoo.co.uk



I FOUND MY FATHER!

After years of searching, I finally had a hit. I knew my father's date and place of birth - 1890, in Sutton, Surrey - and I thought I knew his name. For years I searched for George Asher James, a.k.a. Godfrey Asher James, or George Godfrey James; he was naturalised in the U.S.A. as Godfrey George James. I thought his parents were Alfred James and Eliza Warren, but this proved to be only partly correct.

I scoured the records. At 16 years of age my father travelled to Canada with his sister Marion, aged 24: a long search of passenger lists found them on a vessel bound from Liverpool to Halifax.

My father served three years as an apprentice printer, in Toronto, and then moved to Duluth, Minnesota. In 1914 he married Rachel Genevive McCleod, in Minneapolis, Minnesota; she died three years later. He then married my mother, Gladys Maybelle Wickland, in 1918; they divorced in 1938, when I was 8 years old. In 1946, Irma Marie Smith became my father's third wife.

I married Geraldine (Jeri) Haag in 1953. She was interested in family history, and "interviewed" my mother, seeking information about my father's life. In his latter years he suffered from dementia, so it became increasingly difficult to learn anything more. However, he would talk to Irma about his siblings, and she sent me their names. I had reviewed Jeri's notes and they gave a little insight, but nothing that might help me to find his family records - or so I thought. I had ignored my mother's comment that my father thought "someone in the family divorced and married a Jacob". With nothing to lose, I searched the birth records for a Godfrey Asher Jacob - and that was the answer! His birth certificate showed his parents as Alfred (Alexander) Jacob and Eliza Ann Jacob, née Evans. Their 1884 marriage certificate revealed that Alfred was a widower. I obtained the certificate of his first marriage, and hence the death certificate of his previous wife, Ann Marks. To my surprise, the marriage certificate states "married in the above dwelling home according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Jewish Faith". We were excited to learn of the Jewish heritage in our family, and called our Jewish friends to share

the news of the discovery.

I thought that perhaps my father was too young to know when his family changed their name to James. However, they were still listed as Jacob in the 1901 English census, when he was 11 years old. The census matched the list of siblings supplied by Irma, so there was no doubt that this was my family. I wrote to the Jewish Genealogical Society, in London, who forwarded my letter to board member Anthony P. Joseph in Birmingham. Anthony provided some information on the Birmingham family of Ann Marks. He also suggested that we find the book *The Making of Manchester Jewry, 1740 - 1875*.¹ This includes information about Godfrey's parents and grandparents, and their children. Alfred's parents were Alexander Jacob and Julia Asher, who married in about 1832. His grandparents were Aaron Jacob and Leah Solomons; they married in about 1800. This part of the family was resident in Salford, Lancashire, from the early 1800s. We have found others in Liverpool, Birmingham and the London area.

Anthony Joseph had records of the names of the children of Alfred's first marriage, to Ann Marks; they were Julia, Charles and Louis Edward, and we have been in contact with two of the grandchildren of Alfred and Ann. Unfortunately, the children of that branch of the family lost contact with Alfred, so they have little information that might help with the search for ancestors or descendants. Alfred and Eliza were married in 1884; their children were Morris, Josephine A., Marion Louisa, Lionel Alfred, Alexander Joseph, Marguerite Ray, Godfrey Asher and Raphael W.

As further evidence that the Alfred Jacob married to Eliza Ann, and the Alfred Jacob married to Ann Marks, are one and the same, I have a marriage certificate of Louis Jacob, son of Alfred and Ann. Alfred's occupation is given as "electrician", while in the 1901 census my grandfather Alfred lists his profession as "electrical engineer."

I would very much like to locate descendants of my father's siblings, as well as ancestors, and will be happy to share information.

Lynn James, Utah Email: jamesgen@aol.com

¹ In addition to the *Manchester Jewry* book, another good source I found was the Mordy Collection at the Mormon Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.



COOL CONNECTIONS ON THE WEB

It was a Saturday: a hot - a very hot - Saturday, and there I was, working on spreadsheets, with nothing much else to look forward to other than World Cup football. Then Sherry's email about members submitting their websites arrived. It didn't take me long to decide that filling in the form with details of my site would be far more interesting, and possibly more rewarding, than plodding through accounts.

I filled it in, managed to save it, send it - and crash my PC at the same time; I blame heat exhaustion, but whether mine or the PC's I can't be sure!

Sherry wrote pointing out very gently that I had sent her my accounts... oops! I re-sent the right file, and thought no more about it.

My mum's family lived in the UK from 1870 - not since Cromwell's time, as she had believed! As to my dad's family, well, he was the first to live here. The family originated in Zutphen Holland, probably not a place that many outside that country know of; I certainly didn't until I started my research.

I had never considered posting on British-Jewry for Zutphen relations, so you may imagine my surprise when I received an email from a B-J member whose ancestry included people from there.

I have long admired the work that Angela Shire has done to help researchers. I bought a copy of her book on Great Synagogue marriages, just in case it included any of my mum's family - before I knew that they hadn't arrived under Cromwell's regime - and because I love looking at lists of names and dates and the like. I never expected to discover that, way back in time, Angela and I were very distantly connected. That's cool - even on such a hot day!

So, I strongly recommend that everyone looks through the websites listed on B-J ¹ and, if you have your own site, be sure you add it to the list ². You never know what connections may await discovery.

My sincere thanks go to Sherry & Jackye for making this service available to us all.

Gaby Laws

¹ You can find the list of websites at:

<http://www.british-jewry.org.uk/New%20Member%20Area/Surnames/memberswebsites.htm>

² If you haven't already submitted details of your website, and would like to do so, go to:

<http://www.british-jewry.org.uk/New%20Member%20Area/Surnames/listerswebsites.htm>

and follow the instructions.



NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be out in time for Chanukah. It will hit the website ready for download on 16th December 2006. Deadline for submissions is Sunday 21st November 2006. Contact

Jewish@slanda.fsnet.co.uk with your submissions.



DIARY DATES for around the UK

The list below is taken from GENEVA <http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>
Dates to note 9 August to 31 December 2006

August	14	SoG, LND	Routes to Roots
August	15	FRC, LND	Searching The National Archives Online: A New Global Search - a free talk
August	17	Poole, DOR	Using Maps for Family History /Non C of E Records Workshop
August	19	Toronto, CAN	Exploring Irish Ancestry
August	26	TNA	Closed for August Holiday
August	28	SoG, TNA & FRC	Closed for August Holiday
August	30	SoG, LND	A to Z of Occupations
September	1-5	Northampton, NTH	Putting Flesh on the Bones: a study of the common man incorporates FFHS General Meeting
September	2	Llandudno, GWN	North Wales Family History Fair – <i>Cancelled</i>
September	2	SoG, LND	What you need to know about Scottish Ancestry
September	3	Northampton, NTH	Family & Local History Fair & Time Village
September	6	SoG, LND	Using PAF Software
September	7	SoG, LND	Family History Skills Course: Beginners
September	9	Gateshead, NBL	The National Family History Fair
September	9	SoG, LND	One-Name Study Day
September	13	SoG, LND	SoG Databases Online
September	16	Malton, NRY	Family History Fair
September	20	SoG, LND	Bridging the Gap - 17th Century Sources

September	22	Poole, DOR	Military Records Workshop	October	7	London, LND	Family History Conference
September	23	Canterbury, KEN	Heraldry for Family Historians	October	7	Dumfries, DGY	A Route to Your Roots
September	23	SoG, LND	Using Family Tree Maker Software	October	8	Hastings, SSX	Hastings & Rother 20th Anniversary Family History Fair
September	23	Rotherham, SYK	Rotherham FHS - Local & Family History Open Day	October	11	SoG, LND	What did your ancestors do? Occupational records
September	23	Southport, LAN	NWGFHS Annual Fair	October	14	SoG, LND	Where there's a Will there's a Waiting Relative
September	23	Sherborne, DOR	Open Day and AGM	October	14	SoG, LND	Using Family Tree Maker Software Advanced
September	24	Horndean, HAM	Open Day & AGM	October	14	Warrington, CHS	30th Annual Conference LSWLFHS
September	25-30	Belfast, ANT	Belfast: Past, Present and Future Ulster Historical Foundation 50th Anniversary Conference	October	14	Alpheton, SFK	The Bunting Society AGM, Research and Talk
September	26	Canterbury, KEN	Introduction to Family History 6 week course	October	15	Eastleigh, HAM	The Eastleigh Family History Fair
September	27	SoG, LND	Using the Society's Library	October	18	SoG, LND	Using Family Historian Advanced
September	29	SoG, LND	Making the most of the SoG Library	October	19	Poole, DOR	Poor Law & Poor Law Unions Workshop
September	30	Exeter, DEV	Devon FHS 30th Anniversary Conference and AGM	October	21	Kidlington, OXF	Oxfordshire FHS Open Day
September	30	SoG, LND	What you need to know about Pre-1834 Poor Law	October	21	SoG, LND	What you need to know about Town Records
September	30	SoG, LND	Researching the Irish in England	October	21	SoG, LND	Using Family Historian Practical
October	1	Hampton, MDX	West Middlesex Family History Society Open Day	October	22	Cheltenham, GLS	The Cheltenham Family History Fair
October	4	SoG, LND	What you need to know about Rope Making	October	28	Canterbury, KEN	Kent Sources
October	7	Exeter, DEV	<i>Devon FHS 30th Anniversary Conference and AGM Date changed to September 30, 2006</i>	October	28	SoG, LND	Starting your Family History Online
October	7	Birmingham, WMD	Further Steps	October	28	London, LND	FFHS Publicity and Marketing Seminar
				October	29	Liverpool, LAN	The Aintree Family History Fair
				October	29	Toronto, CAN	A Day Devoted to English Genealogy
				November	1	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Freemason

November	4	Woking, SRY	West Surrey Family History Society Open Day
November	8	SoG, LND	Child Migrants
November	10-12	Canterbury, KEN	Tracing the History of a House Residential Course
November	11	SoG, LND	The Master Genealogist
November	11	SoG, LND	Using Family Tree Maker Software Practical
November	11	Scarborough, NRY	The Yorkshire Coast Family History Fair
November	11	Oxford, OXF	The Pedigree/PediTree Users Group Annual Meeting [inc AGM]
November	15	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Coal Miner
November	17	Poole, DOR	Organising Your Family History/Writing & Presenting Your Research Workshop
November	19	Norwich, NFK	The East Anglia Family History Fair
November	22	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Quaker
November	25	SoG, LND	Latin Workshop for Beginners
November	25	Hull, ERY	Hull Family History Fair
December	1-4	TNA	<i>Closed for Stocktaking</i>
December	2	SoG, LND	Introducing Palæography
December	5	London, LND	Archives in Conflict at the Imperial War Museum
December	6	SoG, LND	Using Roots Magic
December	9	SoG, LND	Advanced Palæography
December	23	TNA	<i>Closed for Christmas Holiday</i>
December	25-27	SoG , TNA & FRC	<i>Closed for Christmas Holiday</i>
December	30	TNA	<i>Closed for New Year Holiday</i>