



B-J NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH JEWRY MAILING LIST
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Welcome to the fourth edition of B-J News

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EDITORIAL

Who could have guessed, a year ago when the first issue of this modest little publication hit cyber space, that we would be celebrating our first birthday with such pleasure. It wasn't that we expected to fail – far from it, our hopes were high – but we could never have anticipated the depth of your enthusiastic reception. (Grandma would spit twice at this point, ptu-ptu.)

Lest we be accused of complacency – and to put Grandma's ghost at ease – we have to admit it hasn't all been plain sailing but apart from the occasional little hiccup we're still here, a year older and wiser. The first issue was a challenge, given the facts of personal lives, jobs, and similar distractions. We were finding the groove by the second issue. By the time we had put the third issue to bed – we felt professional enough by then to use real grown-up Journalist-Speak – we looked at each other and realised it wasn't hurting so much any more.

What made our job easier is the surprising way you B-J Listers have participated. We never really know what the final version of each issue will look like until it is ready for transmission to you, which is why we look forward with such interest to what you contribute by way of stories and sage advice. We are always looking for ways to enhance the content of *B-J News* and are pleased to welcome new contributors to our pages. We encourage contributions from any Listers who have the urge to share their research adventures.

What is surprising is the broad scope of the e-mail network we now enjoy. No sooner do we see a request for help than suggestions and helpful hints appear in response on our monitor screens, sometimes within minutes. There seems to be a self-regulating system developing: we don't see those long and breathless paragraphs so often – the trend is towards bare facts which enable helpers to get to the heart of the query. Occasionally good manners are sacrificed in the interest of brevity – you can appear rude – so please remember there is no need to upset well-meaning people by forgetting what your mother taught you. Just say please and thanks. (And Grandma also said never take the last slice of cake.)

Thanks to the marvel of modern communications, unprecedented in history, we can transmit our thoughts over incredible distances almost at the speed of light. So, voila, you suddenly find someone on the other side of the world offering to help you, at no charge, just because they share your interest in genealogy. And, may I add, because they read the *B-J News!*

One caveat though: it is possible that goodwill is not enough: it is essential to verify facts, no matter how tempting it may be to trust the source. There are professional researchers, who charge a fee, and sometimes it is wise to employ someone with the expertise you lack. Even they can make mistakes, though, so investigate before you take that route.

Finally, do share your results! It is important to be kept informed about successes and failures. Perhaps one person's failure might lead to another's success. Nothing is ever wasted in genealogy. Enjoy your matzos, and Happy Birthday, *B-J News!*

June Solntseff

NEW DATABASES...

Thanks to the kindness of Angela Shire we now have Hambro Marriage files available for download in excel format. We are working on other formats such as PDF and a format for Mac users. People having difficulty accessing the file should contact the webmaster who will talk you through the steps you need to make or send you the file in another format.



NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be out in time for Tu B'Av. It will hit the website ready for download on 20 August 2005. Deadline for submissions is Sunday 31 July 2005. Contact Jewish@slanda.fsnet.co.uk with your submissions.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Further to Miriam Margolyes' Top Sites, Miriam included the SSDI supported by Rootsweb. I would agree that anyone researching the death of any US relatives should check this site first but genealogists ought to be aware of a several caveats that weren't mentioned.

The U.S. Government's Social Security Administration could only add a deceased person's details to the list if someone in the family were claiming a death benefit. They would have to provide details of the death, or the family would advise the SSA of the recent bereavement.

As it is the responsibility of the State, not the Federal Government, to issue death certificates, State indices are going to be much more comprehensive. Indeed, William Dollarhide, an American genealogist and author, carried out a survey in 2003 (see *Genealogy Bulletin*, June 2003, pp 1-15) comparing the SSDI with State indices. He discovered that, on average, the SSDI has about 20 percent fewer entries for any given last name. Naturally, he used "Dollarhide" as the example.

The big challenge is that most States have not yet put their indices on line. One State that has, albeit via a commercial organization, is California. Vitalsearch-ca.com has placed online all California deaths from 1906 to 2000. In many instances the mother's maiden name is also recorded as well as the Social Security number.

Something else Miriam didn't mention is that if one has the Social Security number, one can write to the SSA in Baltimore, enclosing a cheque for USD27.00 and receive the person's original application form.

I would suggest that genealogists use a good search engine and enter the State's name plus something like "death index" and see what comes up. According to Dollarhide, a popular commercial genealogy company has placed online a number of State indices, such as Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, just to mention a few.

P.S. I spent my Christmas evening ploughing through the latest B-J News

#3. Once again, it proved to be yet another wonderful “fact packed” issue. Of course it was the stories and the research behind them that brought to life the challenges we all face in our own work. I kept shaking my head as I relived similar problems in my own family research.

Keep up the good work and yes, everyone, please contribute something to the forthcoming issues.

Best wishes,

Jeremy G Frankel

ex-Edgware, Middlesex, England
Berkeley, California, USA



TRANSCRIBERS NEEDED...

The JFS files on the MovingHere website are rather unwieldy. Angela has sent us a simple index to help you out:

We are starting a major new project. We are trying to make a name index for the pupil lists from the JFS which appear in PDF

format on the MovingHere website. List members, who can spare the time, are asked to type up the surname, first name(s), date of birth and file number into a specially designed excel database which will then be accessible to all on our website. This will mean that people can download just the PDF files they need, rather than all of them. If you are interested, please see www.british-jewry.org.uk and follow the links to Members' Area, then databases and finally JFS.



LIVERPOOL HEBREW SCHOOL

Did you attend the Liverpool Hebrew School between 1938 and 1946? If so, please contact me at hyramm@mac.com.

Hy Ramm
Los Gatos, California
USA



A RECIPE FOR PURIM

Hamantashen

The three-cornered filled pastries known as Hamantashen are a traditional Purim treat. The name literally means “Haman Pockets,” but they are also called “Haman’s

Hat.” In Israel they are called “Oznei Haman” -- Haman’s Ears! In Yiddish, the word for poppy is mon. Tash means pocket. A “mon-tash” then, is a “poppy pocket,” which is an apt description of the pastry itself. When the Hebrew definite article “Ha” is added you get “ha-mon-tash.” The fact that the “ha-mon” part sounds like the name of the villain of the Esther story may be the reason that the “hamantash” became associated with Purim. In any case, in the Jewish world of today it wouldn’t be Purim without them, so here’s a recipe so you can make your own:

This recipe makes about 48

Ingredients

450 g butter or margarine, softened

275g white sugar

2³/₄ eggs

120 ml orange juice

20 ml vanilla extract

10g baking powder

750g all-purpose flour

1¹/₃ (12 ounce) cans of poppy seed filling (or make your own, see below)

Method

In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in the eggs one at a time, and then stir in the orange juice and vanilla. Mix in the baking powder, and then gradually stir in the flour until the dough forms a ball. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours. You can leave it overnight.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets.

On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out to ½ cm thickness. Cut into 3 inch circles using a cookie cutter or drinking glass. Place circles on the prepared cookie sheets. Spoon 1 teaspoon of filling onto the centre of each circle. (Any more and it will ooze out) Pinch the sides of each circle to

form a triangle, covering as much of the filling as possible. The cookies may be frozen on the cookie sheets if desired to help retain their shape while cooking.

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, until light golden brown. These are best undercooked slightly. Cool on the baking sheet for a few minutes before removing to wire racks to cool completely.

Poppy Seed Filling

Ingredients

450 g poppy seeds
250 ml water
125 ml honey
60 g sugar
Pinch salt

Method

Bring water to boil in a small saucepan. Put seeds in a sieve and pour the boiling water over them.

Drain thoroughly. Grind the seeds in a mortar or food processor. Place the ground seeds in a medium saucepan and add the honey, sugar and salt. Cook over a low heat until thick, stirring continually.

Taken from the web and adapted (use a search engine such as google and type in hamantashen and see what you get)

COMING SOON...

British Jewry is proud to announce that we will soon have the Great Synagogue Marriage Registers 1791-1850 files for your delectation. This is the digital version of Angela Shire's famous book. Watch the list for a further announcement.

...COMING LATER

ALD is nearing the point where it will be uploaded. As with all genealogical work of this kind it is a project I feel will probably never be complete and it is getting towards the time when I am going to have to upload what I have and just keep tweaking it. I hope to have it on-line by the next edition of the B-J Newsletter so, by mid-August. SL



SIX OF THE BEST

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/militaryhistory/>

The National Archives has military records (mostly under the class WO-War Office). This is the Military History home page with links and a search facility. You can find medal lists, records of soldiers, etc. on this site.

<http://www.cwgc.org/cwgcinternet/search.aspx>

Search page of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. This is where you go to find out if ancestors were killed. There are details of cemeteries and monuments as well as photographs.

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

The home page of the Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women. They have a museum where you can often find army chaplains' cards for most service people.

<http://battlefields1418.50megs.com/>

Website giving you everything you ever wanted to know about the battlefields of the First World War. This site includes some photos and information about each battle.

<http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/Military/GREATWAR.html> Email list for questions about the Great War (World War I).

<http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/Military/WORLDWAR2.html> Email list for those wanting to know about the Second World War.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/britregiments/>

Email group (including databases) for questions on all aspects of the British Army. Please note this is NOT a genealogical list.



SEARCHING FOR PUZZLE PIECES

For many of us, Genealogy is like trying to fit together pieces of a puzzle which, when completed, would provide the whole picture of ones' family tree. I have been trying to fit together both my husband's and my own family tree for over fifteen years. I encountered many misshapen pieces which seemed not to fit, and some perfectly shaped pieces that formed portions of what we hoped would become the completed puzzle.

Relatives tell various stories of what they can remember, or think they remember. For example, my American mother told me that in her early years she met her English relatives living in Manchester, and that she had always wanted to know more about them. She knew that her mother had arrived in the USA from Manchester at the beginning of the 20th century. I have tried to find information about my mother's parents and their arrival in the States; I searched books, websites, and visited archives. I have worked with a younger second-cousin who is also searching for his family's roots. We call ourselves the Detective Team of Sherlock and Holmes, researching everything available.

Together with what I remember and some papers I found, we have traced some relatives who went to America, and have made numerous calls to first- and second-cousins. Unfortunately, the details of my mother's parents' arrival in America seem to have slipped their minds. Census records were found for them for 1920, but their daughter, my aunt, had birth and death certificates which indicated different family names and birth dates from those we knew. With a puzzle piece like that, where do you begin to solve the mystery? I decided to put it on hold for a while; I was hitting too many brick walls and my husband and I were planning to move.

We went to Vienna, Austria, in May, 1998. We thought we would have an opportunity to trace our families and to visit some of the towns they had mentioned. As many people are aware, looking for one's roots is no easy task. In Vienna I met another Jewish woman who was also

interested in genealogy. We started exploring different ways to formulate a search which would be of help to both of us and she recommended some web sites that deal with Jewish genealogy. I joined some of them and usually just read the information in my emails but I also followed some of the advice. I decided to write to *Bialystok Digest*, *Avotaynu*, *British-Jewry and Jewish Gen*. Many individuals wrote back to me with helpful hints about how to enhance my search.

First I asked for help for my husband's maternal grandfather Max FROLICH, because my husband's uncle remembered his father had said he came from a town in Poland that still existed: Glogow Malopolski, in Galicia and the Polish part of Austro-Hungary. Glogow was 13 kms north of Rzeszow and about 175 kms east of Krakow. Rzeszow, was a relatively large town with a ghetto set up by the Nazis in the late 1930s. It also housed the State Archives for the area. Through a lead provided by my email correspondents, my husband and I contacted a very nice young man, Jacek Proszyk. Over the course of a few months, with Jacek's help we found documents suggesting that my husband's grandfather and great-grandparents probably came from Glogow. It was exciting to open another chapter which we hoped would add some substantial knowledge about my husband's family history.

We made our second trip to Krakow, and went further east to the town of Rzeszow to meet Jacek, who would take us to visit the former synagogue which had become, by permission of the Rzeszow Jewish community, the State Archives. There we met people who specialized in Jewish genealogy.

We also travelled to Glogow Malopolski and walked on the streets my husband's relatives had used in an earlier era. Jacek interviewed (in Polish of course) people in Glogow to see if any of the town elders had any knowledge of the FROHLICH family, unfortunately with no success. But the previous location of the temple and the remains of what used to be the Jewish Cemetery were located, and we took photographs to show to our family back in the States.

We had visited Krakow before, and our plan this time was not to sightsee and visit such places as Auschwitz and Birkenau, but actually to stand on the soil of our relatives and to gain important information about our ancestors. While we were excited about our journey as we traveled to Glogow, we were saddened to find monuments marking the mass graves of 5,000 Jews put to death by the Nazis at grave-side in the woods mid-way between Glogow and Rzeszow. We were able to purchase Polish books about the Ghetto of Rzeszow, illustrated with pictures of naked Jews lined up in front of the mass graves, soon to be executed. We were certain that these graves were the burial places of our relatives and many other Jews from the nearby towns. Notwithstanding our sadness, some pieces of the puzzle which made up some of my husband's and son's roots could now be put in place and could be shared with the family.

Following this success on my husband's side, and after years of searching the Manchester records, I finally found the marriage of my grandmother's sister. With the help of a lovely woman at the town office and through a friend in England I obtained a copy of the marriage certificate. This gave me some more pieces of the puzzle.

One day I wrote to all the genealogy web sites and the Roots column of *The Jewish Telegraph*. I went on line and read all the columns over the past year, hoping that someone was looking for me. I sent an email to *The Jewish Telegraph* telling anyone who would read it about my family. I checked my emails every day for about two weeks and I finally struck gold. When I received a response from two relatives I actually screamed and jumped up and down for joy. I was so happy to hear from them, although at first they were sceptical about who I was and what I wanted. I explained my family relationship to them and mentioned who I was looking for, which allowed family bonds to form.

While I had some incorrect information, for the most part I was correct on my family lineage. It seems that my long-lost relatives had not heard of my grandmother Rachel Lena JOSEPH and her husband Abraham

MARNOWITZ. We communicated by email over the next few months and formed a nice relationship with each other. I also received a lovely email from another cousin in London who I learned was a member of the House of Lords. We were sorry that we had not known about him when we were in London the previous year, and we shall visit him at his flat when next we go to England.

Our time in Vienna was drawing to a close after five wonderful years, and we planned to stop in Manchester to meet my newfound family on our way back to the States. I was nervous about how they would welcome me, would I look like anyone, and would they have any information for me. All my apprehension was for naught. They were the warmest and kindest people who greeted me with open arms and I felt as though I were visiting relatives I had known all my life. We had high tea [sic] at a lovely hotel in Manchester and spent the afternoon talking and laughing. I resemble some of my older cousins and, looking at their faces, I saw my mother and her sisters. I had never met my grandmother so I imagined her face in theirs.

We have kept in contact; unfortunately I was not able to attend family functions this past year, but hope to do so in the near future. My older son had the opportunity to meet some of our English cousins in Florida last year, and it is hoped we will meet them again this winter in Florida.

It has been a long and happy journey for me, since I have discovered important information on both sides of our families. These successes in finding pieces to fit the puzzle, which at times seems to be an endless quest, have provided me with the motivation to continue the journey, and one day I hope to put all the pieces of the puzzle together.

Roberta Eichenholz





HOW TO: FILL IN THOSE SEARCH FIELDS

As I see it, there are several challenges now looming over the digital information horizon as genealogists become totally enmeshed in the computer age. It has been said that we are currently living in an era that is mostly concerned with creating indices for many record series. That is to say, many individuals, genealogical societies and commercial genealogical companies with an online presence are either reformatting existing indices, or creating new ones from scratch.

These records had either inadequate indices or no index at all. One obvious example is the conversion of the British quarterly indices to one all-embracing index. The days of ploughing through a British civil record Quarterly Marriage Index to find a spouse should be behind us, but recently I had to suggest that course of action to a fellow genealogist because the quarter he was interested in had not yet been fully indexed. The Ellis Island Database is an example of a record series which has never had an all-embracing Passenger Name Index.

However (of course there had to be a “however”) many of the online indices today contain search forms with a varying number of fields into which one enters all the known data. This is where life can become just a little bit tricky. It is a well-known fact that one has to know quite a bit about someone in order to find them in any record series; however (there it is again) this doesn’t mean that all the information can be usefully divulged to the search engine employed by a web site that supports the database one is searching. What do I mean by this?

Well, another obvious example is the US Census indices, which can be searched online. The people who created these indices also estimated a person’s date of birth based upon the age given in the census. It helps to know when the census was taken. Some censuses were carried out in January and others in April. In all cases, the census creators simply took a person’s age and deducted it from the census year.

Another problem is caused by filling in all the fields, thus submitting too much information, hoping for a perfect match, which in many cases won’t happen. If there are five fields and you can fill them all in, but the database only has four pieces of information, you will never make a match. As for

the possibilities of spelling errors creeping in, one hardly needs to labour that point. Again, the Ellis Island web site has shown how first and last names could so easily be misspelled or misinterpreted. It is better to be less forthcoming with information and cast the net over a wider set of possibilities, and deal with a slightly larger dataset of results. In other words, the maxim “less is more” can prove to be rewarding.

With this in mind, it is advisable to start the search by entering just the last name to see how many hits there are, and to get a sense of how much one is dealing with overall. Then, enter a first name, and then perhaps a locality.

Jeremy G Frankel
San Francisco



BOOK FOR SALE

Great Synagogue Marriages 1791-1850 by Angela Shire, is available to list members, who are quick on the draw. A few copies remain of this excellent resource, so hurry. The cost is a bargain, £12.00 including postage and packing to anywhere within the UK or £17 including airmail for overseas. Original price for this 226 page book was £19.95. In addition Angela is offering it free to bona-fide libraries, resource centres etc. but they will need to pay the postage and packing. For further details of how to order please contact Angela Shire by email jashire@aol.com



PLANNED SITE CHANGES

During the next few months I am going to start making as many files downloadable as I can. I am trying to get away from pages which are slow to open because they contain tables of names, etc. I would rather people have the opportunity to download what they want and “play with it” off line. I will notify list members of any changes, through the list email system. SL

BOOK REVIEWS

The Jewish Victorian *Genealogical Information from the Jewish Newspapers* *1861-1870*

Transcribed and edited by Doreen Berger

Robert Boyd Publications

Reviewed by Paula Listzwan



Those of us who own Berger's first book, *The Jewish Victorian. Genealogical Information from the Jewish Newspapers 187-1880* have eagerly awaited the arrival of the second volume. It lives up to all expectations. The information is arranged like the first volume with names in alphabetical order, much like an index, with details such as birth, marriage and death in date order. Anyone researching British Jewish ancestors will appreciate the fact that at the end of each entry is a cross-reference to family members, including in-laws. The Thanks for Condolences entries are particularly useful in uncovering family relationships.

This book offers so much more than the opportunity to research one's family. What I love about it are all the little stories, such as the alleged abduction of Esther Lyons: "*An infamous prosecution has taken place at Cardiff. Esther Lyons, age 18, daughter of respectable parents, has, it is alleged, been induced to leave her home through machinations of a Baptist minister named Thomas, and his wife. All efforts of the parents to recover their child have proved fruitless.*" The story covers several pages. Accounts such as this are what make the history of this period come alive.

A drawback, in this reviewer's opinion, is the tiny type set, but the book is already 404 pages long, and any larger type set would have made its size unwieldy. Many people were disappointed when they were unable to obtain copies of the first volume, so be sure to order this new book before supplies are exhausted.

Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy

Edited by Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff.

Published by Avotaynu, Inc, Bergenfield, New Jersey, USA.

ISBN 1-886223-17-3. \$US 85.00 plus (approx.) \$13.50 shipping to NZ (about \$NZ 140). (www.avotaynu.com/books/guide.htm)

Reviewed by Nigel Isaacs

If you are tracing Jewish ancestors then this is the one book you need to read. An impressive book, it comprehensively covers the entire world where Jewish communities existed; it runs to 624 pages, almost A4 size, and weighs in at about 2 kg. Over 100 chapters from more than 60 authors provide real knowledge about tracing our forefathers.

Avotaynu was established by Sack and Mokotoff in 1984 to publish an international journal on Jewish genealogy. Since then it has expanded to reference books, an electronic newsletter and a valuable web site (www.avotaynu.com). This book brings together material from a wide range of sources, some of which has been previously published in the Journal.

Once outside the family – its memories, myths and memorabilia – the major sources of information are the records left by bureaucracy. Religious society has always documented life's important events – birth, circumcision, bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah, marriage and death. Over time, many synagogue records have been misplaced, lost or just become unusable through age. Gravestones record not the knowledge of the person who died, but the memories of those left behind, so they are not uncommonly inaccurate.

Since the early 1800s secular society is supposed to have formally documented all its members – the official births, marriages and deaths records being the most obvious. However in many places around the world, Jews have been subject to the hand of official records for far longer. The records of taxation and oppression provide a rich source of knowledge of the names and lives of our ancestors. The records of the Inquisition cover a wide geographical spread – far beyond Spain and Portugal to their distant colonies of the Canary Islands, Mexico and Peru.

The internet has revolutionised genealogy – for example, instead of slowly working through many microfilms of enumerator reports ordered by street address in a library, it is now possible to search from the comfort of your home the English Censuses for 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 for a specific name, spelling errors excepted and expected! [*Ed: Earlier censuses are becoming available as we speak.*] Even so, this guide provides information that is just not available on the internet. Many historical records will be of interest to only a small number of people; many archives hold large quantities of material that is not even catalogued, and some ideas cover more than just one computer screen.

This book, by its comprehensiveness, gives many ideas and threads to follow. It is divided into four main parts, and a series of informative Appendixes. The first part provides an introduction to Jewish genealogical research, the second part is a series of special topics, including the Holocaust and modern Jewish migrations. The third part deals with research using American facilities, but the main value is in the fourth part which provides fifty-seven different country chapters, from Algeria to Yugoslavia.

Each of the country chapters typically has a brief history of the Jewish presence in the country, a summary of what records are available and how to access these records. Addresses for the repositories and other institutions, a bibliography, and internet addresses complete the chapter.

The different chapters provide brief history lessons – the adoption of surnames occurred at different times in different places, reflecting the influence of wars, changes of rulers, or just gradual changes in Government. The people or town may have remained unmoved for hundreds of years, but the government may well have changed – the Poland of today was once part of today's Germany, Russia, Ukraine or Austria; depending on the place and time, the historical records may well be in the archives of any those countries or even in Israel or U.S.A.

No book of this size and complexity can avoid some problems. The large number of different authors gives an uneven coverage. There is perhaps an over-emphasis on the world of American Jewry and there are some annoying typographical errors, possibly due to conversions from material prepared in different word processors. There are a small number of maps

provided, which on first reading seemed inadequate. However, this is a book best read with an open atlas, as understanding the history of the Jewish people is often closely linked to understanding geography.

These are minor problems, and this is a book that will not remain on the shelf, but will provide guidance and ideas for many years to come. I cannot recommend it too highly.

Footnote: Thanks to Claire Bruell, the author of the NZ chapter, there is a copy in each of the Auckland community libraries.



SEARCHING FOR OLD ALIENS

Hope springs eternal in the heart of the genealogical researcher that there is just one more piece of information hidden somewhere, that will fill out an otherwise incomplete story. My adventures so far have, like many others, had many wonderful successes and at least as many failures. This is my tale of hope searching for some old aliens.

ISAACS Siblings

In about 1841 Louis ISAACS (born about 1817) and his brother Benjamin ISAACS (born about 1819) arrived in London. In about 1844 they were joined by their younger brother Barnard ISAACS (born about 1828). This information was in their various naturalisation papers – discovered in the National Archives through the use of the indexes on microfilm in my local LDS Family History Centre

There was at least one more brother (Jacob – born about 1840) and a sister Esther (later COHEN – born about 1843). They were all born in Milaslow (near Posen, Prussia – now Poznan, Poland), but all five siblings lived much of their lives in London.

With the help of other British Jewry researchers, I found from a professional researcher in Poznan that the Jewish records for Miloslaw have not survived in that area. The result is that it is unlikely that further details of siblings or the family's location at, or prior to, their births will be found.

Aliens Act 1836

But there was still one hope. Mark Herber's book *Ancestral Trails* reported that: "The Aliens Act of 1836 required aliens to sign and file certificates of arrival, specifying their name, port of entry, (and date of arrival), nationality and profession. Certificates for 1836 to 1852 are in class HO 2, arranged by port of arrival. An index for 1836 to 1849 is in pieces HO 5/25-32".

Sitting in Wellington, New Zealand – the other end of the world – it seemed unlikely that I would ever get to search these records, so I spent my time looking through National Archives computer indexes, and working out what to ask for if I should ever make it to Kew.

Working in Kew

I was fortunate in early September 2004 to visit London for work (work, the curse of the genealogical classes – as Oscar Wild might have put it), and to have time to make a visit to Kew. The National Archives at Kew is truly a national treasure. Staff are helpful, material is quickly provided, the facilities are excellent, the security omnipresent but not overwhelming.

I had pre-registered through the web site for my 'Readers Ticket', and after a few minutes had gained access to the sanctum of the 'Readers Room'. Sitting at one of the many terminals, using the same arcane computer index available through the web site, I worked out how to order the first index. Confident of the material in the naturalisation records – and after all everything about the ISAACS family around that period had been very close to the book so far – I expected an hour or so later I would have everything I wanted.

A brown cardboard archives box soon arrived – HO 5/30 Aliens Register commencing 1 July 1838, and the adventure could begin. The index volume was heavy (about 2 kg, I guess) bound in brown leather, with thick card covers. Handwritten, in beautiful Victorian copperplate it was not easy to read, but the gentle smell of old paper, old ink and old bindings made this a true experience of the senses. I carefully put it onto the foam supports, and began my search.

Like other indexes, these are in nominal alphabetical order – the surnames are entered under the alphabetical order of the index letter, with the names then in date order. The order relates to the certificate number and the arrival port, so it is necessary to review the entire index letter to ensure that your name has not got hidden. Sometimes two or more index letters are combined – in my case 'I' and 'J' are combined under the index letter 'I' – and frankly impossible to distinguish in the copperplate writing, so it is only by surname knowledge

could I work out that was 'Jackson' not 'Jackson'.

This volume covered the period from 1 July 1838 to 31 December 1840. There were six pages of 'I' entries, with 41 entries per page – about 303 entries over the 30 months. After 25 June 1840 there was no more space under the main letter, so entries for 'I' were continued at the end of letter 'L' for the last 1½ pages.

Each page has column headings giving the 'Name', 'Port of Arrival', 'Date', 'No.' and 'Date of Departure', although the last column was completed for only 5 'I' entries.

The majority of the 'I' entries seemed to have entered at London, but many other ports were also named, including Dover (next largest number), Southampton, Portsmouth, Goole, Leith, Hastings, Hull, Dartmouth, Newcastle, Grangemouth, Ramsgate, etc. 'I' also included a reasonable number of possibly Jewish names – including 'Jacob', 'Jacobi', 'Israel', etc.

Futile Searching

Surprise – there were no ISAACS listed. Perhaps the name had been confused, so I looked under 'L' (LOUIS, Isaac) – about 450 entries, under 'B' (BENJAMIN, Isaac) – about 630 entries, and even under 'Y' (YITZHAK) – only 8 entries. But no luck. No matter how careful the family seemed to have been about registering for naturalisation, marriage or births of children, they didn't seem to have registered under the name ISAACS as aliens in 1840.

On to the next volume – HO 5/31 Aliens Register commencing 1 Jan 1841 – 31 December 1845. Physically a similar volume, the only difference seemed to be that the column for 'Date of Departure' had been dropped. Again no luck.

Perhaps the next volume? HO 5/32 Aliens Register commencing 1 January 1846 again proved to be unhelpful. No point going further, as by that stage the brothers had naturalised claiming to have been in England since 1841.

So after many hours searching through these volumes I had no further information on the ISAACS. So ended my search, except there were plenty of other interesting aliens.

But some interesting characters

A lot of people had come to British ports during this time, and their entries were as fascinating as anyone's family. Princess, opera singers, musicians and

merchants were all recorded. In the following examples, the certificate is referenced by the port, the year and the certificate number:

- BEAUMONT-ROCHEMURE, Countess of and her sister, Dover, October 21, 1841 # 1280
- YANSE, Joseph & 9 other musicians, Dover February 6, 1844, #85'
- LEBRECHT, Joseph and 106 other performers of the German Opera, London 27 April 1842, #1342
- LEICHTENSTEIN, Prince & Princess & Lucite, London, August 28, 1842, #949
- LEVY, Michael Brighton, October 12 1844 #472

In some cases only the main person is listed by name – those accompanying merely recorded as an anonymous number. This may explain why some people who arrived as aliens are not visible – they are hidden in the numbers.

Certificates reveal more

For some of the names I obtained the actual certificates – neatly torn or cut from the bottom of the main document that would have been provided to the named person. Now the certificates are bound neatly into volumes about 300 mm by 100 mm, with cardboard covers. They too are in Victorian copperplate, although the in less precise handwriting of the port official as they would have been completed at the port of entry. Sometimes the one physical certificate covers more than one person, so the additional people are given additional certificate numbers. The number(s) is (are) written by hand in a space on the top left of the Certificate, which has printed the name of the port across the centre-top. The certificates include the signature of the alien – assuming the person was literate, for some are signed with an 'x'.

They are under Class HO 2 bound by port and year. For example HO 2/129 is for the port of London for the year 1844, certificates numbered 1 to 1000. As large ports may have a number of volumes for a year, the correct certificate number is critical. My time was limited, but the excitement of exploration too great. The following are some examples from my ISAACS interest, even though none are of my family.

The certificate from London 1842 #3948 lists 'Joseph ISAAC' as merchant and native of Turkey, who arrived from Boulogne 'per Magnet' (probably the name of the ship, but difficult to read), and signed his name in Hebrew

characters. The same certificate page also includes one 'Kolad LABAK' but he is numbered # 3950 – he also signed in Hebrew characters. Remarks on the certificate noted 'FA' – or Foreign Alien. The certificates are also signed by the official – in this case (as for many others in London around these years) by 'Port Officer – P. Fabian'

The details on the certificates vary from very little to a lot. The certificate from London 1838 #5695 is for 'Joseph ISAACS', a shoemaker from Holland who had travelled from Rotterdam on the ship 'Batavier'. He had previously been in England earlier, as he was noted as 'Left 9 weeks'. Again the Port Officer was 'P. Fabian'

Other certificates revealed that mis-indexing does occur. The entry for Dover 1843 # 1281 is for one 'Isaac-Olivier FLORENTIN', but in the index he is listed under 'I' (from the first name) even though his surname begins with 'F'. He was a merchant who travelled from France.

Aliens are interesting

After a long day in the Reading Room I was no closer to finding out any more about my ISAACS. If they had registered under the Aliens Act 1936 when they arrived in England about 1841, they may have registered under a different name or even simply been mis-indexed. Or perhaps they just never registered – who knows, and who will ever find out. It was certainly an exploration worth making, and full of excitement nevertheless. If I found another family member who might be listed, I would certainly go back to the Aliens Act indexes – perhaps they hold a story for someone else.

My only regret is that I didn't understand till too late that it was possible to obtain photocopies of material – that would have provided me with some physical memories to look at now I have returned to the other side of the globe.

Nigel Isaacs
Wellington, New Zealand





The LANDAU/KUTCHINSKY London Connection

This story begins in Poland. My great-grandparents, Schlomo and Ruhel LANDAU, were mill owners. Their seven children were all born in Leczyca in the area of Lodz: Daniel, Rafael, Max (my grandfather) and Munya moved to England around the end of the 19th century. While Daniel and Rafael remained in England, Max and Munya moved to Canada at the beginning of the 1900s, and Munya eventually moved to the United States. Mahul, Roisa and Rutsa perished in the Holocaust and our last contact with any LANDAU relatives in the United Kingdom was in the early 1950s, when my late brother David and his wife Phyllis lived in Rugby.

About four years ago I posted a letter on the Jewishgen Discussion Group searching for information about my grandfather Max LANDAU's brother Daniel's family, who had remained in England. Some three years later I heard from a London genealogist who was searching for some members of this family as well. He was not directly related to me but we had relatives in common.

What a revelation it was to have some details of my long-lost family! We shared our information and my new genealogy friend provided the telephone number and address of a hitherto unknown grandson of Daniel's, also certificates of evidence of marriage for both Max LANDAU and his sister Munya. In addition he took pictures of the tombstones of Daniel LANDAU and his wife Leah SHALOFKY, who was his relative.

I sent my newfound cousin, Daniel's grandson, a copy of our family tree and as much family history as I had in my possession. I did not know if he would reply but about a month later, to my delight, I received an email from him, saying that I was certainly related to him! I told him that his grandfather Daniel and my grandfather Max were brothers who had owned a company which used Reese machines to produce buttonholes; apparently this type of equipment was very innovative at the end of the 1800s.

A couple of months later, my newfound cousin's son-in-law sent me a surprise package containing, to my delight, a picture of our great grandmother Ruhel KUTCHINSKY; I had not known her surname, let

alone what she looked like. In addition, it contained new family data as well as some other documents.

According to family history, Daniel LANDAU lodged with relatives of his mother Ruhel KUTCHINSKY when he arrived in London from Poland. Over the years, he prospered and owned several businesses, including the buttonhole factory in Pelham Street (now Woodseer Street), a watch repair shop at 45 Charlotte Street W.1, rented out a shop, sold crockery, and then opened a bridal veil and lace company in Berwick Street called *Landau Lace*. He and his wife, Leah SHALOFKY, had three children, Becky b.1897, Beattie b.1898 and Sydney b.1900.

Other facts stated that Rafael LANDAU married Zelcha (surname unknown) and had four daughters, Dora, Yetta, Celia and Ray, and participated in the buttonhole factory with his brothers Max and Daniel. Evidently Rafael left Poland for England around the same time as three of his siblings and I had been under the assumption he perished in the Holocaust.

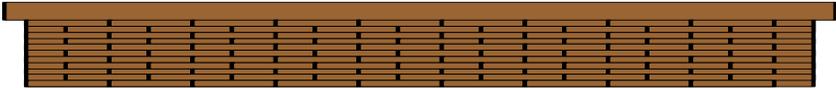
New information revealed that my great grandmother Ruhel KUTCHINSKY was the aunt of Moses Aron KUTCHINSKY, a well known London jeweller to the Queen. His father Hersh/Harris and Ruhel were brother and sister.

I have been in touch with a KUTCHINSKY family from Israel who are also related to Moses Aron, though the exact connection is not known at present. A copy of the family tree and additional facts were sent to direct descendants of Moses Aron, but they never responded.

In February 2004, my husband Jerry and I went to England to attend a TOBE family wedding (the other side of my family). We were fortunate at that time to meet my newfound cousin and his family, another cousin, and my genealogy friend. It was wonderful to see the faces of the people I had been corresponding with.

The moral of this short story, which ends in London, is, "Keep going! Never give up, as there is more information out there than you can possibly imagine".

Marilyn PLATNICK GLASS
Toronto, Ontario, Canada



In Search of Louis Ramm

I am searching for information about the family of my paternal grandfather, Louis RAMM. The 1891 British Census records his birthplace as Codena, Russia. In his application for British citizenship in 1898 he recorded his birthplace as Luberwitz, Russia, in 1870. At age 21 he married Sarah JACOBSON, aged 22, on March 30, 1890, at Toxteth Park, Liverpool. The ceremony was at the Princes Road Synagogue, Liverpool. The marriage certificate records his father's name as Mordecai RAMM. And his wife's father's name is recorded as Hyam JACOBSON.

If you have any information about the RAMM family, please contact me at hyramm@mac.com.

Hy Ramm
Los Gatos California
USA



A JOURNEY INTO CANADIAN JEWISH HISTORY

Once upon a time there was a small group of people nestled comfortably in an English country manor. It was January 1946, and a few nuns newly returned from wartime evacuation were using the house and grounds as their base for a school. There were just 40 students, seven of whom were boarders. Then along came a new girl whose background was totally different from anyone else's in that community. She was an orphaned Polish Jewish girl who had been rescued and sent to England for a better life than could be given her as a displaced person after the Liberation of Europe. The nuns gathered the boarders together and told them about the new girl who would be joining them, explaining that while it was true that the English people

had lived through many dangerous and difficult times during the recent War, this new girl had experienced worse horrors than could ever be imagined.

The nuns sensibly left the frightened young Polish girl in the surprisingly capable hands of her fellow boarders, and slowly she began to realize that not all people were cruel. These Catholics surrounding her encouraged her to live amongst them as a Jew, and to share aspects of her past life with her new friends, so that all the children could understand.

How do I know all this? I was one of those boarders lucky enough to share living quarters with this girl, who was a few months younger than my 11 years. My life up to that point had been deeply entrenched in a Catholic lifestyle, practiced with discretion since Catholics were regarded with caution by the Protestant English. This girl was the first Jew I had ever met, and although of course I did not recognize it at the time, I am now convinced that it was during these days that the first seeds of my growth towards Judaism were sown in my mind. I continued to live my life deeply involved in Catholicism for many more years and yet, in the fullness of time I not only became a Jew, but I married one, and am absorbed in researching the history of my husband's family – the JOSEPH family.

To be honest, I didn't pay much heed to the story of patriarch Henry JOSEPH until my husband, Bill, was approaching his 70th birthday in 1990, at which time I wrote a small booklet which Bill could give to each of his children. I have always loved history, and so writing about Canadian Jewish history, appropriately punctuated with key happenings in Bill's family's life, became a labour of love, designed to give the children and grandchildren a sense of the role their pioneer Jewish ancestors played in the development of the country they call home.

Henry's parents were Naphtali JOSEPH and his wife, the sister of Aaron HART, the man who arrived in Montreal with the Army of Jeffrey Amherst in September 1760. How sad, though, that no one seems to have bothered to record Naphtali's wife's first name. Two of

Henry's older brothers, Judah and Abraham, also went to Quebec, and it is highly likely that the three young men travelled across the Atlantic together, either directly to Quebec, or maybe via New York. Brother Judah crossed the Atlantic many times on business, and died in London in 1838. He married a Catholic, Catherine LAZARE, and some of their descendants still live in the Montreal area. Brother Abraham married Hannah, maiden name unknown, which turned out to be a childless marriage. Abraham died in Quebec in 1815, and Hannah died, also in Quebec, in 1837. Both brothers and their wives signed as witnesses to Henry's marriage.

Henry's first stop in Quebec was at his Uncle Aaron HART's home in Three Rivers, but he soon moved on when he obtained a post with the Commissariat directly across the river at Fort William-Henry (Sorel). He stayed there until 1794, and then he again crossed the St. Lawrence River and took up residence in Berthier. Even though Henry later established a secondary residence in Montreal, Berthier remained his home for the rest of his life. From this locale, he set about establishing extensive trading areas, and since this included shipping merchandise back and forth between England and Canada it soon became necessary to conduct business in the port cities of Quebec and Montreal. By 1800 or 1801, Henry became the first person to charter a ship to be used exclusively for Canadian trade with England. In this manner he became one of the founders, perhaps even the founder, of Canada's merchant marine. The collection of business enterprises continued to grow, and for the next 162 years five generations of the family remained at the helm of Joseph & Company until its dissolution in 1956.

Still in his mid-twenties and already well on his way towards becoming one of the most successful businessmen in Lower Canada, Henry married the 22-year old Rachel, daughter of the late Levy and Rebecca (Franks) SOLOMONS on 28 September 1803 in Berthier. Both Rachel's father and her maternal grandfather, Abraham FRANKS, had been charter members in Montreal of The Corporation of Portuguese Jews, Shearith Israel, which was the first Jewish congregation to be founded in Canada.

For both Henry and Rachel, adherence to an Orthodox Jewish lifestyle was of paramount importance, and it is noteworthy that as the children grew with their characters solidly imbued with Jewish values, they mixed easily and comfortably with their Christian neighbours, without alienating themselves from their Jewish heritage. Indeed all the Joseph children maintained adherence to Judaism throughout their lives, and the five who married all chose Jewish partners.

At the outbreak of the War of 1812, Henry Joseph saw active service with a battalion of the military forces near the Richelieu. But once the conflict was over, Henry set about solidifying and enlarging his business interests. He added at least one more ship to the Atlantic run, as well as smaller ships to ply the inland waters of the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, all servicing his ever-expanding and ever-diversifying commercial enterprises. In the fullness of time his eldest son, Samuel, gradually took over more and more of the management at the Berthier store, supplying the agricultural community in the St. Lawrence River valley.

Disaster struck in 1832. When Henry received word that Samuel had fallen victim to the cholera epidemic, he hastened from Montreal to Berthier. All too soon it became obvious that Henry himself had also contracted the disease, and he died just a few days after his son.

By Anne Joseph

(To be continued.)

Ed: In 1995, Editions du Septentrion of Quebec City published Anne Joseph's book, Heritage of a Patriarch: a fresh look at nine of Canada's earliest Jewish families. ISBN 2-89448-029-6. This book recently became out of print, but the Author still has a few extra copies.



**Joseph House in Berthier.
Inset: Henry Joseph**



FINDING PRIVATE BERNSTEIN

Joseph BERNSTEIN was born in Bradford, West Yorkshire in December 1894, the third of four surviving boys born to Aaron George and Leah BERNSTEIN. Leah was the child of my great-grandmother's first marriage, to Isaac CHMELNICK. She and her mother arrived in Leeds in the 1870s. After her marriage to Aaron George she moved to Bradford where she lived, worked and died.

The three eldest BERNSTEIN boys served in the Great War. I can find no service records of Julius, the oldest. Felix lost a leg but I can't find any pension records for him, though I know he lived in Bradford into the 1940s, and is buried there. But Joseph went to war and never came home. The youngest, Roland, was born in 1904 and was too young.

It is always touching to learn about ancestors who gave their lives for us. My maternal grandfather was a Regular Army man; members of my immediate family served in World War II and, with a lot of help from friends, I have spent some time looking into my family's military past. I have used several sources of information (see Six Of The Best in this issue).

The CWGC website was my starting point, and provided information about Joseph BERNSTEIN's service records. This in itself took some doing. The Medals on Line at The National Archive works well for unusual names but of course there are many Joseph BERNSTEINs. Too many, and I needed help to see who was who, and what was what. To cut a long story short, TNA sent me a CD with photographs of my Joseph's papers. I know when he joined up and where, what his "manoeuvres" were – where his battalion was on given days. But I don't know about Private 23334 Joseph BERNSTEIN.

Unless you keep a research diary it's hard to remember how you started a project, and what you did and when you did it. I have some abiding memories in the search for Private BERNSTEIN. When I first met my cousin Clive and my second cousin (Julius' daughter), I was offered a photo of the BERNSTEIN family; from the ages of the boys, I would guess it was taken around 1910. I worked out, mostly from their height, which boy would have been which. When I mounted my private Roll of Honour, I pasted the head of Joseph onto that page.

I heard of a CD resource which lists men who served in the Great War and someone kindly sent me a disk with Joseph's details. This search has involved me emotionally, given the horrible circumstances of the time, and I was upset when I read, "Surname: BERNSTEIN, and Christian Name: JOSEPH". Perhaps irrationally, I wondered why this young Jewish man, who died for his country, had to be known by a Christian name. However, I realise that it was a generic term which would not be politically correct nowadays and, of course, the disk reflected primary source material which cannot be amended.

I also obtained Joseph's death certificate, which provided no more information than I had already seen on the CWGC Roll of Honour; in fact they included a print-out of it because they said the death certificate was so skimpy. In WWI particularly, countless numbers of soldiers were killed and maimed at the Front, the situation was chaotic, records were confused and it seems that no one knew exactly what was going on. I didn't expect anything too precise, but to read "KIA Flanders Field" was so vague, and very sad. Millions of men giving their lives and we can't even say exactly where any of them fell? Perhaps it's better that way.

I went to Bradford to see the graves of Aaron George, Leah, Felix and Roland BERNSTEIN. Between the stones of Aaron George and Leah there is a plaque commemorating the death of Joseph.

One day I decided to go to Ypres. For anyone who has not visited those parts of Belgium and France which saw so much action, I will try to set the scene. There is a kind of melancholy hanging in the air. In that area many days are grey, misty and damp – ethereal. It is not a nice place even when the sun shines. I saw coaches from all over the world, with tourists and their cameras, but somehow it's still one of the saddest places I have ever been – and I have been back several times. At first I did not really understand what it was about, this odd atmosphere, but as time went by and I visited the place again and again, it was as though its purpose was to remind us of the pointlessness of war.

The Menin Gate, a memorial to the dead, is huge. Nothing prepares you for the sheer scale of the loss of life. Even though you can read how many names are there, you can't imagine what that is like unless you stand there. The whole site is well-maintained but some names are fading here and

there due to the effects of weathering. The panels are clearly marked and regimental emblems appear in places. There are the names of over 54,000 soldiers of every faith and colour and nationality on that monument. And there are wooden crosses for sale.

It was not difficult to find Joseph's name. I walked around the gate and bent down and picked up a stone. I put a scarf over my head, even though the sun was shining. I went back to the monument and laid the stone on a tiny ledge below the panel where Joseph's name is inscribed. I found myself sobbing. I sobbed not only for Joseph and all the men who died so pointlessly, but for my one lonely little stone amidst all those crosses.

Not all the soldiers who died in the Great War were Christian. I'm not Jewish and I don't know if others would understand the depth of my feelings – perhaps even Joseph wouldn't care if his Jewishness didn't count, but it matters immensely to me. He is not here to speak for himself, so I will speak for him.

I want to change things. I don't want Joseph segregated – I just want who he was to be recognised. I want it noted that men of all religions died for us. I want, in this Twenty-First Century, for us to do what our ancestors did not even consider, to give all the Josephs the honour they deserve by at least getting their names and their religions right!

Of course, there is one place where they got Joseph's religion right. Stan Rose has the *British Jewry Book of Honour*. In December 2004 when I finally got time to work on that section of the British-Jewry site which is to stand as a permanent memorial to Jewish service men and women, Stan emailed me a photo of Joseph. It's from the book. This is a grown Joseph, but he was still only in his early 20s. At last, I can see who Private Joseph BERNSTEIN was.



In Memory of
Private 23334 JOSEPH BERNSTEIN
10th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regt.)
who died on
Thursday, 7th June 1917

Sherry Landa, Salford, UK



BETWEEN TODAY AND YESTERDAY.... IS LIKE A MILLION YEARS

I decided that I would obtain my father's army records after he died in March 2004. Godfrey Sydney LANDA, my Dad, was in WWII from the start. He said he had been in Dunkirk, France, and then in North Africa. He was captured in 1941 when Crete fell to the Germans and spent the years in three different prisoner of war camps, tried to escape twice, and was finally liberated in 1945 by the Americans.

Most readers will know by now that my father was in the habit of embellishing; he knew I knew that not everything he had told me about his life was strictly true. For this reason, I did not want to break the uneasy truce we had, and I never asked him for permission to obtain his military records. Some years ago when he had his stroke and I cleared out the house, I had found his Army Paybook with some snapshots with German stamps on the back and *The Little Bible, Active Service Edition*. The bible also contains a Stalag stamp, and the date of Sept 1942 in my father's handwriting. I had used the photos and the bible to find out where these camps were.

Last summer I requested my father's papers from the Ministry of Defence in Scotland. Demand for these records has increased tremendously over the last few years and the average wait is about eight months. I waited slightly less time, perhaps because I could be precise about his name, rank, serial number, regiment, service dates, etc. The current fee is £30 and what they sent me was not much for the money, but it was interesting to me.

My father joined the Territorial Army Reserve on 12 April 1939 and enlisted in the regular Army on 1 September that same year, two days before war was declared. I find this interesting because his brother was married on August 29 at Hackney Synagogue and my father had said his brother married a few days before he, himself, "joined the mob". My father was posted to Edgware for his initial training and then mustered into the 64th Medium Regiment (Royal Artillery). His service record

gives no details about where he was from that entry at the end of October 1939 and the next entry, which is “embarked UK for overseas 14/11/40”. It is possible he was in France, as he said, but the records do not show that. He disembarked in Egypt at the end of 1940. He was posted missing in June 1941 (from Crete) and was confirmed a POW almost immediately. There are no other entries until April 1945, when it says he had been released by allied forces and returned to Britain. He was then in Kent and Exeter before being demobilised in March 1946.

Using the photographs and Bible I can place him at certain points during his time as a POW. His POW number was 10819. In 1941 he was at Stalag IIID, Berlin Steglitz, near Berlin, Germany, until September 1942. By March 1944 he was in Stalag IIIF, Schonbach, Germany. By Liberation Day in May 1945 he was in Stalag IVG, Oschatz, near Dresden, Germany. It is interesting that the date of liberation is slightly different.

I thought that this was probably all I could find out. I have always wondered what it was like for him as he would not speak about it. I asked him once if he was afraid as a Jew, in a German POW camp. He responded as if I was mad. He said he was no more afraid than at any other time and that people who said they were not afraid were either insane or lying! It seemed to me that if you were in UK training, or even overseas fighting, there must have been some respite. At certain times, you must have felt safe, or at least relatively safe. Living from day-to-day under the nose of Nazis must, surely, have been more gruelling. Being a POW was no guarantee that the Germans wouldn't ship you off to a concentration camp if they found out you were Jewish.

In December 2004, Stan Rose, one of our listers, contacted me. He mentioned he was going to AJEX museum and asked if I wanted anything. I asked if he could see if they had a Chaplain's card for my father. They did and I am now the proud owner of a copy of it. During 1939 and 1940 my father was in the UK. He was seen by Rabbi Rubinowitz and Dayan Gollop. He was given a Prayer Book and *The Book of Jewish Thoughts*. The Chaplain's card also contains references to newspaper entries. There is one for *The Times* and two for the *Jewish*

Chronicle. I have contacted the Archivist, Martin Sugarman, to get clarification on abbreviations used and general conditions.

In January 2005, my husband spotted something on BBC TV soliciting war stories. I spent one Sunday searching on line and found BBCi. I knew of it, of course, but not quite how amazing it is. It is not some sort of panacea, but it is a help. Once registered (completely free of charge, you just need to choose a user name and a password), you can post messages and pose research questions. I have also searched the archives and found a reference to a man who was captured in the fall of Greece. I have posted a message to him, asking him which regiment he was with. I have contacted the Army Desk to ask what more I can find out about my Dad's time as a POW. I also found a posting by a man whose father was in Stalag IVG at about the same time as my father. He knows what labour his father did. I have asked him if he knows how I can find out what work my father did.

Despite all my “creative” searching, I have not been able to find a surviving Jewish POW who is willing to share his story. How did they survive? How did you learn to stop doing things you took for granted but which would give you away as Jewish? How did Orthodox young men cope with not being able to keep Jewish law? Why is it so hard to find anyone who is willing to talk about it? What was the reaction of these men upon liberation? I know some ex-POWs saw the concentration camps shortly after liberation. How did a young man return to his family, having lived an unorthodox life? How did the Jewish community in Britain react to returning war heroes? Was the community understanding or were there problems resulting from men being forced to live outside of Jewish law?

Sherry Landa
Salford, Lancashire





FROM THE PROVINCES...

Local BMD project goes from strength to strength with a new feature recently added, so alternative spellings/surnames show up on the marriage search pages. The Local BMD network is growing, and all these sites are regularly updated. There are eight sites using the original Local BMD data search format.

There are a further nine registrars who have their own versions of indexes free to search. Derbyshire's indexes are available on a pay-per-view basis. See <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/index.php> for details or join the project's email list where you will receive update notices as well as being able to ask questions about the project and get involved in transcribing if you wish.

See <http://www.british-genealogy.com/mailman/listinfo/gen-ukbmd>

...FROM THE SMOKE

The Jewish East End Celebration Society may be of interest to people who have roots in the East End of London. They are a registered charity and produce a newsletter as well as having a website.

See <http://www.jeeecs.org.uk> for more details.

DIARY DATES for around the UK

The list below is taken from GENEVA <http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>

Dates to note April-August 2005

April	1-3	Wyboston, BDF	Guild of One-Name Studies Conference and AGM
April	2	SoG, LND	Personal Ancestral File
April	3	Stockport, CHS	The Stockport Town Hall Family History Fair
April	6	SoG, LND	Family History from Objects
April	9	Lambeth, LND	Family History Day Conference

April	9	Bristol, GLS	The Good, the Bad and the Missing – 30th anniversary meeting and FFHS AGM
April	9	SoG, LND	Property Day: title deeds, land registries and other matters
April	10	Wolverhampton, SAL	The West Midlands Family History Fair
April	13	SoG, LND	Cramming for Genealogy Exams
April	16	SoG, LND	What you need to know about the Newspaper Library at Colindale
April	17	Llantrisant, GLA	The South Wales Family History Fair
April	20	SoG, LND	Pauperism, Poverty & the Allowance System
April	23	SoG, LND	What you need to know about Parish Registers
April	24	Worthing, SSX	The South Coast Family History Fair
April	27	SoG, LND	Newest, Unusual and Exciting Web Sites for Genealogists
Apr	29	Westminster, LND	A Taste of Family History: One-day Conference for beginners at RHS New Hall
April	30	Westminster, LND	SoG Family History One-day Show at RHS New Hall
May	4	SoG, LND	Researching Scandinavian Ancestry
May	7	SoG, LND	VE Day Anniversary Study Day
May	8	Kidlington, OXF	The Oxford & Bucks Family History Fair
May	11	SoG, LND	LDS Online and on CD-ROM
May	14	SoG, LND	Births, Deaths and Marriages Online
May	18	SoG, LND	Nineteenth-Century Membership Records of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers

May	21	SoG, LND	Grave Matters: Monumental inscription study day	July	13	SoG, LND	Basic Britain: family history sources for Northumberland & Durham
May	22	Buxton, DBY	The Central England Family History Fair	July	16	SoG, LND	The Census: Online and on CD-ROM
May	22	New Lanark, LKS	Scottish Family History Fair	July	16	SoG, LND	What you need to know about MH12 (records of the Poor Law Commissioners)
May	23	SoG, LND	Open Day at the Society of Genealogists (free)	July	18	SoG, LND	Routes to Roots: two-week summer school
May	25	SoG, LND	Using Family Tree Maker Software (practical)	July	30	Hovingham, NRY	Heritage Fair: Family and Local History
June	1	SoG, LND	Using the Society's Library Catalogue	August	31	SoG, LND	Emigration of women to Australia: forced and voluntary
June	4	Shrewsbury, SAL	Open Day at The Shirehall				
June	4	SoG, LND	Beginners Course				
June	8	SoG, LND	Basic Britain: family history sources for the Diocese of Sarum (Berks, Dorset, Wilts)				
June	11	Cwmbran, GNT	Gwent FHS Open Day				
June	12	Brentwood, ESS	The Essex & East London Family History Fair				
June	15	SoG, LND	Using the Society's Library (free)				
June	18	SoG, LND	Producing your own Family History Website				
June	22	SoG, LND	The Records of the Machine Breakers				
June	25	York, YKS	Yorkshire Family History Fair				
June	25	SoG, LND	Adoption and Fostering: records and practices 1850-1950				
June	29	SoG, LND	Brewery Records for the Family Historian				
July	2	SoG, LND	The Master Genealogist				
July	6	SoG, LND	Using Family Historian (beginners)				
July	9	SoG, LND	Napoleonic Prisoners of War				