



B-J News 18:

The newsletter of the British Jewry mailing list.

Sunday 28 February 2010/ 14 Adar 5770

Welcome to the eighteenth edition of B-J News

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B-J News 18 was brought to you by:
Jill Hyams *Proof Reader*
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FROM THE EDITOR:

Our editorial is very short this time, with two appeals to our readers.

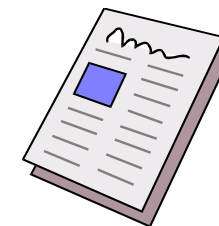
The BJ Newsletter is still alive but not well. We have been able to gather enough articles to publish another issue and for that we are grateful. However, if we do not continue to receive articles on a consistent basis, it won't be very long until the newsletter folds. Please keep that in mind and consider submitting articles, no matter how small, if you think they would be of interest to our readers. Send them to Mike Joseph - pampah@btinternet.com - in a Word document, whenever you like: you don't have to wait for a publication deadline.

As you know, our website is in transition and coming along nicely. We do appreciate your patience. However, we need some help in the tech support department from someone who can write html code and has experience with the next generation software. With such a volunteer, we can finish the website at a faster pace. Also, please feel free to submit ideas and/or information you would like to see included on the website.

Sherry in Oxford and Jackye in Carlsbad, CA, thank you all for the support you give us in so many ways. Happy Purim!

NEXT ISSUE

Subject to the above, the next issue, B-J News 19, will be available to download from the website on or before Monday 26 July 2010. The submission deadline is therefore Sunday 4 July 2010.

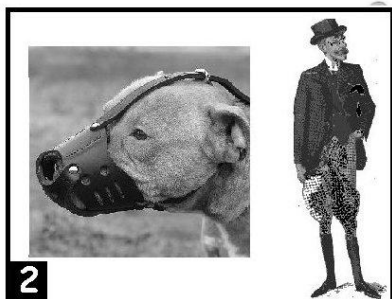


PUZZLE BREAK

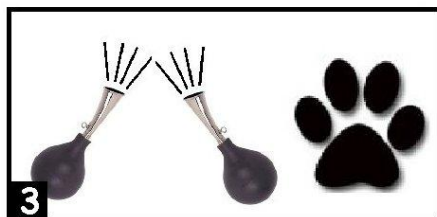
Each of the pictograms below represents a Hebrew or Yiddish word.
How many can you identify? *Answers on page 17*



1



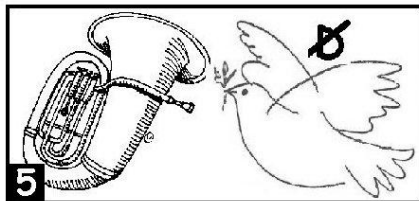
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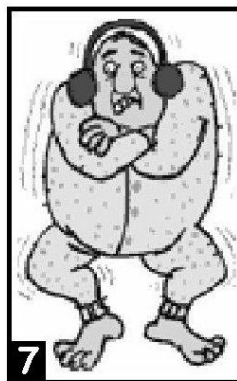
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FINDING A STRAY- PART 2

In the Chanukah 2009 edition (B-J News 17 page 6) I recounted the story of my sad life devoted to genealogical explorations of a random kind, namely my search for further records relating to a couple - Edward GOLDSCHMIDT and Maria GUTMAN - the note of whose 1866 marriage, in Nottingham, had caught my eye in the Karlsruhe records. Their youngest daughter, Alice, had married a Gustav EMDEN, and my closing paragraph referred to my lack of success in finding either Gustav or his father Moritz in the UK or USA censuses. I concluded my piece with the following note: If anyone knows what happened to this family perhaps they would write the Next Chapter for the next edition of B-J News. The e-ink had hardly dried *on the e-publication* when I got an email from Barbara Zimmer in Norfolk, Virginia, who was unlucky enough to have heating problems and was reading B-J News whilst waiting for the repair man. It must have been quite a long wait because she decided to see what she could find out about the family.

Barbara wrote:

*I think I may have found Gustave and Alice in NYC in the 1900 census, both listed with "other" given names... (or someone else reported their names) Their ages and nationalities match, however. The handwriting on the census is not very clear but it could well say EMDIN. They may have lived in the US in 1910 or Mary/Alice may have died by then.... She is **not** listed on Gustav's application for a passport in 1915 (at which time he says that he has been in Switzerland since 1911 and intends to stay there until his children's education is complete.)*

G Emden travelled from NY to England May 1899 (to get married??) as a single male.

UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960 about G EMDEN

Name: G EMDEN Birth; Date: abt 1863; Age: 36; Port of Departure: New York, New York, United States; Arrival Date: 3 May 1899; Port of Arrival: Southampton, England; Ship Name: Kaiser Friedrich; Shipping Line: Norddeutscher Lloyd; Official Number: [No official number listed].

Anna's birth is recorded at Ancestry.com

Anna M. EMDEN 15 Jun 1900 23948 Births Reported in 1900. Borough of Manhattan New York City Births, 1891-1902

1900 United States Federal Census about Mary ENDIN

Name: Mary ENDIN [Mary ENDER]; Home in 1900: Manhattan, New York, New York; Age: 22;

Birth Date: Jun 1877; Birthplace: England; Race: White; Ethnicity: American; Gender: Female;

Immigration Year: 1899 [1877]; Relationship to Head of House: Boarder; Father's Birthplace: Germany; Mother's Birthplace: Germany; Marriage Year: 1899; Marital Status: Married; Years Married: 1; Residence: New York City, New York, New York

1900 United States Federal Census about Edward ENDIN

Name: Edward ENDIN [Edward ENDER]; Home in 1900: Manhattan, New York, New York; Age: 35; Birth Date: Apr 1865; Birthplace: Switzerland; Race: White; Ethnicity: American; Gender: Male; Immigration Year: 1883; Relationship to Head of House: Boarder; Father's Birthplace: Switzerland; Mother's Birthplace: Switzerland; Marriage Year: 1899; Marital Status: Married; Years Married: 1; Residence: New York City, New York, New York

When Gustav EMDEN applied for a passport extension for himself and his children in 1916, he said that he intended to live in Switzerland until their education was completed. The following pages of his affidavit say that he had been in Switzerland since 1911, had retired from his business in 1912, and that his 75-yr old mother lived in St Gall. He did **not** say that he was accompanied by his wife!

There was an Alice EMDEN who arrived in the US (by herself) in April 1910 (no age given, but she was listed as a US citizen, which would have been the case since Gustav was a citizen.)

Gustav, Anna, Paul and Anna travelled from Antwerp to the US in 1909 aboard the Lapland.

Gustav EMDEN; 5 Sep 1909; abt 1866; Antwerp, Belgium; American; Lapland

Alice EMDEN; 5 Sep 1909; abt 1880

Anna EMDEN; 5 Sep 1909; abt 1900

Paul EMDEN; 5 Sep 1909; abt 1906

Moritz Philip is incorrectly recorded on a passport app as Minty < sigh > . (I sent in a correction) But it does say that he is age 28 (hooray for that!). So he travelled **from** the US where he was already a citizen, in 1854, to Europe where he may have stayed for a while, fathered Gustav in Switzerland, maybe returned to the US. Gustav's mother was in St Gall in 1911.....

This may be Moritz in 1890... New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 about Mr. MEMDEN

Name: Mr. MEMDEN; Arrival Date: 16 Dec 1890; Estimated birth year: abt 1826; Age: 64;

Gender: Male; Port of Departure: Le Havre, France; Destination: New York; Place of Origin: Switzerland; Ethnicity/Race?/Nationality: Swiss; Ship Name: La Normandie; Port of Arrival: New York; Line: 21; Microfilm Serial: M237; Microfilm Roll: M237_560; List Number: 1848 Port Arrival State: New York; Port Arrival Country: United States

Moritz arrives in Baltimore in 1853??

Baltimore Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1820-1872 about Moritz ENDEN

Name: Moritz ENDEN; Arrival Date: 16 Feb 1853; Age: 26; Gender: Male; Port of Departure: Bremen; Occupation: Smith; Ship: Goethe; Ship Type: Ship; Port of Arrival: Baltimore; Place of Origin: Finsterwalde; National Archives' Series Number: M255; Microfilm Roll Number: 9; List Number: 6.

My thoughts: It looks like Paul EMDEN did not return to the US.

Second, I wonder what Gustav's mother's name was.....

Third, I wonder what happened to Alice (could not find her initial entry into the US in 1899-1900. I think this may have been the period of time where first-class passengers were **not** listed on manifests...).

Barbara Zimmer

Many of Barbara's questions had also crossed my mind as I read through her email: could I find the answers?

I looked in the 1911 UK census to see if Paul was in UK at that time. I searched under various spellings etc. but could not find him, so have to assume he stayed in Switzerland or went elsewhere.

However, I did find something in the Jewish Transmigration Bureau Deposit Cards. They give a depositor of Alice EMDEN of 470 West End Ave., Apt 7E, NYC (a handwritten note says *at 625 Frost? St Long Beach... . During July & Aug*) now 333 Central Park West, NYC beneficiary Helene EMDEN of Buergerstrasse 20 Frankfurt/M. So, was Helene a sister of Gustav or another relation on Moritz EMDEN's side of the family?

I tried finding Swiss records for EMDEN in St Gall/St Gallen. After a bit of a struggle I stumbled across the city of St Gallen website, so I wrote to them, asking for the birth registration of Gustav, to find out his mother's name and then her death registration - since I was not able to find any EMDEN burials in the Jewish records for St Gallen on-line. I got an email back, almost by return, from the city archives in St Gallen:

The parents of Raphael Gustav Emden (born on December 16th 1864, died on February 14th 1935) were: Moritz Philipp Emden (born on July 26th 1826, died on February 24th 1907); Emma Gerstle (born on October 7th 1840, died on December 21st 1926). I have found those informations in the register of the citizens of St-Gall, vol. IIa, page 267-268, mrs. 1 and 4.

So, I can partially update the information I started with, and now throw down the gauntlet again for anyone with further information to come forward and write Part 3 of this article.

Sherry Landa, Oxford, UK

PREPARATIONS FOR PASSOVER

My great grandmother Rachel Friedman came to Leeds from Vishtinetz in Lithuania in 1859. Her brother Jacob brought her over to marry his friend, Samuel Manham, who had been living in Leeds since 1853. She brought her essential possessions with her, some of which still survived in my childhood.

Among them were candlesticks, jugs, perenies - duvets - and a heavy copper based preserving pan.

The preserving pan was brought out before Passover to make eingemachts, an essential part of Pesach. The recipe my grandmother followed is the one in Florence Greenberg's *Jewish Cookery*. I don't know which edition, because the first few pages have fallen out, but I was given it the year I got married, 1953. The recipe appears in the chapter *Passover Cookery* as "Beet and Lemon Preserve".

It was brought to mind by the article in B-J News last March. Ann Rabinowitz wrote about her search for a recipe for Ingber and related her disastrous experience trying to make eingemachts for her father. I can't explain what went wrong for Ann, but I have been making it since I was eleven years old and it has always been a success.

We loved eingemachts. We ate it on matzos, with butter; never on bread, never after Pesach: it was a delicacy for the eight days of Passover, neither earlier nor later.

You need uncooked beetroot - nowadays I buy organic beetroot in the local market. You have to scrub them and peel them while they are raw and then cut them into match like sticks. Put in a preserving pan and add enough cold water to cover, and cook gently until tender. Add sugar - 3lb of sugar to 4lb of beetroots - then the grated rind and juice of three lemons and two teaspoons of ground ginger. Stir until the sugar is dissolved, then bring to the boil and cook gently for about an hour until thick and clear. Turn into warm dry jars and cover with jampot covers.

With smaller families, you need smaller quantities; I usually buy 2lb of beetroots and divide everything else by two. Florence G. added nuts, but we didn't; we did pour in a small glass of cold water at the end of the cooking. Oh, and my great grandmother brought her mother with her as well; in the days before Florence Greenberg, that must have helped!

Theresa Stewart, February 2010

THE PLASHET PUZZLE

As an amateur genealogist, I find that I can become quite obsessive about an idea or a proposition - almost like a dog with a bone.

Last year after moving to London I decided that I should visit my relatives' graves: nothing too unusual about that. I knew that my great-grandparents were buried at East Ham so I jumped in the car and off I went. However, I didn't know the grave references and it had been about twenty years since I had last visited. You can imagine: I got there and wandered up and down trying to find the area from memory - but had no luck. This time there was no open welcoming office in which to ask some kind person - it had all changed.

Back home, I felt let down and angry with myself; East Ham is a good hour's drive from where I live and I felt stupid for not having checked the grave references before I went. Looking back, I can see it gave me the 'kick' that I needed. A week later I went with the cemetery reference details - that is, those that I could find - and discovered that my memory had not been that bad after all: they had removed the trees that I had remembered.

Following on from this I decided to visit my great-great-grandparents who, I knew, were at Plashet Cemetery. They had arrived from Holland in the 1850s and made London their home. I suspect that they never had much in the way of money or possessions: after all my g-g-grandfather had been a street hawker, selling picture frames. However, they managed to raise four boys and two girls, and they all went on to have families of their own.

The first visit to Plashet cemetery was another disappointment - I didn't know that the cemetery was 'closed', and that I needed to make an appointment to gain access. The next time I went I had an appointment, a list of graves to photograph for other people, and the grave references for my g-g-grandparents.

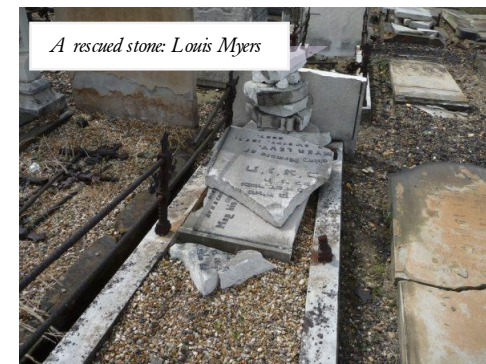


Plashet from the entrance

For those who have never been to Plashet Cemetery I will try to paint a picture. The entrance is via a pair of green metal gates set into the wall between a shop and a house on

High Street. There is no sign that this is a cemetery, and from the street it is very hard to see any stones, as there is a wall blocking the view. Inside, however, the sky opens up and you can see that the cemetery covers a big expanse.

Many of the stones lean at odd angles, because the local wildlife has dug under them to form burrows or tunnels. Some stones have just settled into the earth, also at odd angles. Then there are the numerous stones that have been vandalized - over 500 at last count! Many of these are in the far end sections of the cemetery. It is so sad to see these stones, broken into bits; and yet, there are others that have been standing for over a hundred years and are still in good condition. The United Synagogue has tried recently to gather together the bits and pieces of the broken stones so that they can still be read.



I found that I kept on thinking about Plashet long after I had gone home from my visit. It is a cold and windy place, yet it is also a place that is a memorial to our ancestors. I don't believe that there is a single famous person buried there - the people were just the normal run-of-the-mill Jewish people. They were the tailors, the salesmen, the butchers and the bakers - the people who supported their families in the new world of England.

Following a discussion with my mum, who had asked me what I wanted to do - and until that moment I had not realized - I said that I wanted to create an audit of the Cemetery.

I decided that I wanted a four-pronged approach. I wanted to delve into the history of the purchase of the land for the cemetery in 1888, because of the shortage of burial spaces at West Ham. I also wanted to create an inclusive listing of all burials. Then I wanted to have a complete set of photographs of all existing readable tombstones. Lastly I wanted, if possible, some

genealogical information about each person buried at the cemetery. I can hear people say that this is a very big project, and I agree.

So I started to work, just by myself and quietly at home. When I began, I knew the grave references for a handful of people; that number has now grown to over 6,000. I have been told that there are about 33,000 burials, so I still have a long way to go. I also have about 900 photographs, mainly from Sections A and B at the rear of the cemetery.

Where do I go from here? That's a very good question to ask! I am still trying to get permission from the United Synagogue to access their records and registers. I've spoken to Melvyn Hartog who is the Head of the Burial Society and he has expressed interest in the project. I've also had discussions with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, of which I am a member. They keep on telling me that the United Synagogue will block any attempt to do what I want to do. Needless to say, I don't want to believe them: as I said at the start, I can be quite obsessive - I might even say pig-headed!

What do you think? Should the US allow access so that the cemetery records will be available for our descendants? Should our ancestors' information be allowed to disappear into the dust of Plashet? It is a puzzle!

Miriam Pollak

MY FAMILY HAS A MYSTERY

I think I should state right at the start that I am not Jewish - well, not that I know of - but I understand the hereditary principle of Jewish descent.

My mother would talk about growing up in the house she returned to live in as an adult; her memories of her childhood were quite clear. She remembered that there were two or three gentlemen who would call to visit. Mum as a very young child considered them to be very strange: they dressed in black, with big black hats, and they had rather long hair; the youngest one she saw had thin plaits. It was explained to her that they were Rabbis, or Elders of a Church,

and they had come to visit Grandpa, but even after Grandpa had gone - he moved to a house nearby - they continued to visit.

Mum said her mother was an excellent kosher cook; there was a cupboard containing saucepans and various other items that she was not allowed to use.

So my mother grew up with the thought that her mother was Jewish, but we just cannot find the link to either prove or disprove it.

The family surname was GLADSTONE-MAHANY, but I cannot find that name before the first GLADSTONE & MAHANY boarded the boat to sail to Australia.

Then came the day not long ago when I found one word written on the bottom of a convict record: JEWISH. However, this person was not a relative of my mother's but an ancestor of my husband. It was a great surprise; although, perhaps, when you continually search for long gone relatives nothing should come as a surprise. In talking to other family members, no one had any idea that Joseph HART was Jewish; perhaps the wife he married in Australia, Sarah PARKER, was also Jewish: I don't know, just yet.

Are there, perhaps, others who have found a Jewish connection quite unexpectedly.

When I look at the various family names I wonder if there are not other stories behind them: HARDING, GRANGER, WRIGHT, STOWER, HURST, BERRY, FORD, BANNON, PERKINS, HOBSON, BALFOUR and ARTT. I know for sure that they include a number of criminals who were sent to their punishment on convict ships, and many years ago no one would admit to having a convict in the family. Now, many Australians consider themselves unfortunate if they cannot find one to add to their family tree.

One thing I am certain of is that we should never be surprised by what our family trees reveal.

Heather Denholm

THINGS MY MOTHER SAID

We may spend hours searching archives and the Net to find our ancestors, but this can often serve only to substantiate family stories and myths. My starting point was conversations with my late mother, and even chance remarks that she made, that have led me on a historical and geographical adventure. It has taken me back to England in the seventeenth century, America in the nineteenth and South Africa in the twentieth.

This is an account derived from a conversation I had with my mother in her hundredth year, and from books and scraps of paper I found on the old piano that I inherited from my great grandparents. My comments and derivatives are in italics.

“What is the earliest thing that you remember, Mummy?”

“The earliest thing is when Aunty Betty was born: not in West Hampstead, where we grew up, but in Osbaldeston Road. I don’t remember the number, but she was crying and my father said ‘What’s that cat making all the noise’ and that was Aunty Betty who was born at home in Osbaldeston Road.”

My grandfather was a very cultured man who loved opera and theatre, and introduced me to them as a young child. Aunty Betty Hart was later known as Betty Burke, the leading lady - clothed! - at the Windmill theatre. Like my mother she had studied with Terry Freedman of Terry’s Juveniles. These facts I substantiated from articles in the JC archives and a book of clippings. I am still researching her life.

“Really the next thing I remember is when we moved here - *West Hampstead* - and I was five years old”

I recently found an old Hampstead Electric Company bill to substantiate this. They also brought with them the piano that had been left by my great grandfather - according to the will I later found in Holborn - to great aunt Elizabeth Hart, and then given to my grandfather Phillip Hart. The piano still stands in my house and is still played by the great great grandchildren, but that is a story in itself. Phillip’s sister, Elizabeth, who lived nearby, had been on the Care Committee at the Jews’ Free School. In search of information on Aunt Lizzie, as she was known, I found the archives of the JFS entrances showing her and my grandfather as pupils themselves.

“Opa had a shop in Dalston. Probably we lived over it but I can’t remember that... ..he sold fancy goods, handbags, leather goods and then, at Christmas time, Christmas cards and stationery.”

“Did Nana help?”

“Probably, I can’t remember, I was very young. Then we moved to Osbaldeston Road and the boys went to a private school in Cazenove Road, but I can’t remember going to school there.”

From the birth certificates and census records I proved that the four children, Adolph, Phyllis, Edward and Bertha, lived at 10 High Street, Kingsland, where the shop was, and then moved, before living in the same house in which I have lived and brought up my children over 50 years.

“Grandma Gelbberg lived in Graham Road, Dalston”

. . . I found Grandma Gelbberg living there in the 1881 Census but not under the name of Gelbberg. According to her marriage certificate she married Louis Morris Gilberg, but the spelling of that name changed in many instances and I had to do a lot of detective work to keep up with it. The name given in that census was Gelbbery Moris living with his wife Amelia and their children Isaac, Abraham, Benjamin, Simon and Julia. Luckily, at the time I received this information my mother was standing looking over my shoulder and said:*

“Ah: Morris. That was the name of your great great grandfather. Amelia: that was my great grandmother, she had been Amelia Cohen and they came from Liverpool.

Isaac. Oh he fell on his head when he was a baby and was in a home. His sister Julia used to take him food every day to make sure he ate - fried fish on Friday! Simon. Oh yes he was the Assistant Editor of the Jewish Chronicle and very brilliant.

Abraham: that’s Abbie. He was so handsome but he went to America and died there young.

And Benjamin, that’s Uncle Benny.”

I found a large family bible in which were recorded the deaths, at very early ages, of eight other children of Amelia and Louis Morris Gelbberg.

“Grandma Gelbberg lived in Graham Road, Dalston near my father’s original shop. She had one son living at home, Benny. I used to go there with Eddie, my brother, and she used to say to me ‘What books do you read’ and I said I read stories about schoolgirls and she said ‘You shouldn’t. You should read history’ and she used to discuss politics with the late Eddie.” *Eddie went on to write plays about politics, and everyone in our family, down to our children and grandchildren, love reading and studying history.*

“Had she been well educated?”

“Possibly not. She probably educated herself. She didn’t give us any books.”

I discovered from one census that she had been born in Poland and from another that she had been born in Prussia or Russia. I am still researching when she came to England, but learnt that she married at the Seel Street Synagogue in 1859. Was she in the Jewish Temporary Shelter? Where was she educated? Which school? Where did she live as a child? How did she meet her husband who lived in Manchester? These are still unanswered questions to be researched.

“She always used to say when we went there ‘I’ll make you some kreplech’ and you know what that was? She had a big house but she had a gas stove standing on the landing, not in the kitchen, in the landing and she would say ‘I’ll make you some kreplech’ and that is what we call pasta now. And she filled it with little bits of meat.”

“How did she make it?”

“She made it there and then, rolled it out on a big table. Funny the gas stove was on the landing and I don’t remember going into her kitchen.”

“Do you remember going into any other rooms?” I asked my mother.

“Yes, her drawing room was on the first floor and those chairs that you have downstairs were hers. Only they didn’t have those covers then. We had them recovered. They were a much darker blue cover which was more useful but they were old and torn, a bit shabby, so I had them recovered.

My cousin *no name mentioned* used to go there. She was her granddaughter. And she gave her beautiful silver but she didn’t give me any because my mother didn’t name me after her. So when she died she left nothing to me.”

“Why didn’t Nana name you after her?” I asked

“Nana was very fond of the theatre.” *She was a member of the Gallery first-nighters.* “She named me Phyllis because there was a very famous actress at the time called Phyllis Dare.” *You see how important it is to give family names!*

“Simmy was the co-editor of the Jewish Chronicle. He was a director of the Ideal Film Company.

I was in a film with Gladys Cooper.” I have researched this and found the company and have a small piece of a photograph showing my mother.

“Then we moved to West Hampstead when I was five and went to Clarkes College on the corner of Walm Lane, They had a place for young children and from there I went to Cricklewood High School in Chichele Road and from there to South Hampstead High School.”

Following in this tradition, my two daughters also went to South Hampstead High School and had the same classroom as my mother who was the oldest “Old Girl”. I have yet to research her at SHHS.

Remembering this conversation with my mother, and researching further to know more about her life and our ancestors, brings them back to life for me, and gives a view of social history through the eyes of individuals. We should always remember, though, to speak to people and ask questions of our families if we can.

Louise Goldschmidt

* **Editor’s Note:** Louise’s examples illustrate yet again the census procedures’ imperfections over the years! Moreover, the modern age has given rise to many more opportunities for misinformation to confuse or thwart the family history researcher of the future in different ways!

WHEN IS A JEW NOT A JEW? Update

Just as B-J News 17 was with our proof readers, and I was in the midst of my epic move to the UK, a complete stranger sent me an email. You may remember that, in my piece in that edition, I had been trying to find links between several REISS families in the UK. My new correspondent had seen my plea, on one of the French SIGs, for help with the records held at the departmental archives of the Bas-Rhin, in Strasbourg, and he sent me a collection of twelve birth, marriage and death records relating to the REISS family. Of these, I could match eleven to the family I had allotted number 1 in my piece, but the new information did not, sadly, help to prove the connection; it did, however, help me to fill in some of the blanks relating to the family.

A recap on what I had:

Family 1:

1. Salomon REISS (dates and places unknown) m. Nanette MOCH (b. 1766 d. 5 Sep. 1831)
2. Lazare REISS (b. 7 Mar. 1802 d. unknown) m. Dina BLOCH (b. 25 Oct 1805)
3. Leopold REISS (b. 19 April 1833 Bischheim, Alsace d. 6 Feb. 1882) m. Jeanne Edmonise BLUM (b. 8 Mar 1844)
4. Albert REISS (b. 9 Dec. 1862 Paris, France d. 13 Oct. 1919 Bayonne, France) m. Helena KAHN (b. 14 June 1869, Chatou, France d. 20 Jan 1944, Paris France, daughter of Julius KAHN)

Records from Bischheim verify the following:

Birth of Leopold REISS was registered on 20 April 1833 born on 19 April 1833 at 8 am to Lazare REISS aged 31, fancy goods dealer resident of Bischheim & Dinah BLOCH aged 27, of Bischheim (married couple).

Marriage at 3 pm 25 October 1825, Lazare REISS, minor? legitimately born 7 March 1802 at Bischheim, resident at Bischheim, merchant son of Salomon REISS merchant, also resident in this district & Nanette MOCH both here and consenting to Dina BLOCH, minor, legitimately born on 3 “brumière” XIV of the Republic (24th October 1805) at Bischheim, living in Bischheim, daughter of Lazare BLOCH, butcher, deceased in this district on 13 May 1809 and Judithe METZGER, wife of Abraham STERNHEIM, living in this district and consenting. Married after banns read on 2nd & 9th October. The

witnesses included Salomon METZGER age 46, butcher, uncle of the bride and Isaac STERNHEIM, 32, butcher, uncle of the bride. Some signatures were in French and some in Hebrew.

Birth registered 23rd October 1827 male legitimate child, born 22nd October at 11 pm Baruch REISS son of Lazar REISS aged 25, resident in this parish, merchant and Dina BLOCH aged 22. Witnesses were Emmanuel SICHEL aged 35, merchant & Maurice REISS aged 25, merchant, both cousins of the informant i.e. of Lazar REISS. NB Lazare & Maurice signed in French, Emmanuel signed in Hebrew.

Birth registered 21 May 1829 female legitimate daughter born 19 May at 2 o'clock Fanny daughter of Lazar REISS, 27 of the parish, merchant and Dina BLOCH age 23, witnessed by Salomon REISS (who signed in Hebrew) age 57, merchant, father of the informant i.e. father of Lazar and Leopold BLOCH age 26 of Bisteaux, brother-in-law i.e. brother of Dina.

Birth registered 25 January 1831 Caroline REISS born 24 January at 6 am to Lazare REISS, aged 29, fancy goods dealer, resident Bischheim and Dinah BLOCH aged 24 of Bischheim. Witnesses Salomon REISS aged 55 and Abraham STERNHEIM aged 45 (both witnesses signed in Hebrew)

Death registered 10 November 1830 at 9 am Eve REISS aged 24 died 9 November in the morning at Bischheim. Legitimate daughter of Salomon REISS aged 60, travelling salesman/hawker of religious wares/tracts, born Dombach Bas-Rhin living at Bischheim and Nanette MOCH, 62? born Haguenau, Bas-Rhin resident at Bischheim. Informant was Emmanuel SICHEL-age 38, relationship illegible-looks like Samuel, journeyman.

Death registered 5 September 1831 Nanette MOCH aged 65, died 5th September at 3 am, born Haguenau, Bas-Rhin, resident Bischheim wife of Salomon REISS. Daughter of Mayer Chidor MOCH, born Haguenau and living in Haguenau and of Nanette MOCH deceased born Haguenau, resident Bischheim [is this an error? Seems to be saying the mother is the same as the deceased which seems unlikely]. Registered by Salomon REISS, husband of the deceased and Emmanuel SICHEL age 38, brother in law of the deceased.

Marriage 4 pm 22 October 1828 Abraham REISS, of age, legitimate child born 8 October 1773 at Dambach. Resident in Bischheim, baker widower of Eulalie SCHWARTZ who died in this parish 27 April 1827, son of Baruch REISS deceased in this parish 3 May 1820 and Rachel LEVY living in Bischheim & present. Elisabeth NEUBERGER, of age, legitimate child born May 1791? Struth; Resident in Strasbourg, daughter of Michel NEUBERGER, merchant, died at Struth 30 Jan 1821? And Ester FRANCK, died at Struth 13 Ventose XII (4 March 1804), banns published 12 & 19 Oct in Strasbourg without objection. Witnesses include Salomon REISS age 60, merchant, brother of the groom.

Death registered 28 April 1827 of Eulalie SCHWARTZ ??? Ella ABRAHAM, age 57, born Herlisheim (Bas Rhin) [Herlisheim, Haguenau], wife of Abraham REISS Baker, resident Bischheim, died 27 April. Daughter of Abraham MEYER, merchant and Malcke JACOB, witnessed by son Maurice REISS, age 25, merchant.

Birth registered 22 February 1830 Baruch REISS born 21 Feb at midnight son of Abraham REISS, 54, baker of Bischheim and Elizabeth NEUBERGER, 39 resident in Bischheim, married. Abraham signed in Hebrew.

Birth registered 6 May 1831 at 9 am Esther REISS born 5 May at 6 pm daughter of Abraham REISS age 55, baker of Bischheim and Elisabeth NEUBERGER age 40 of Bischheim witness again Salomon REISS.

Further research has found a banns and electoral register entry from Paris which looks as if Lazare REISS and Dinah BLOCH had another son: Abraham REISS, born Bischheim, Bas-Rhin, 17 July 1843, merchant/trader, resident in 1891 at 9 avenue Opera, Paris; Banns of marriage: Abraham REISS son of Lazare REISS and Dina BLOCH, of 29 rue Hamburger, Paris 9^{ème} to Emilie Mathilde DEPRES, published 13 April 1876.

There appear to have been several MOCH families in Haguenau. Some inconsistencies occur and the writing is difficult in parts but the basic synopsis is this:

1. Baruch REISS (c.1740-3 May 1820 Bischheim) & Rachel LEVY:

- a) Salomon REISS (c 1768 Dammbach-) & Nanette MOCH (c 1766 Haguenau-5 Sept 1831 Bischheim) [Nanette had a sister who was married to ???? SICHEL and a son, Emmanuel (c. 1792-)]
 - i) Lazare REISS (7 Mar 1802- ???) & Dinah BLOCH (24 Oct 1805 Bischheim- ???) [Daughter of Lazare BLOCH (c1780-13 May 1809, Bischheim) and Judith METZGER and sister of Leopold BLOCH (c1803)]
 - A) Baruch REISS (22 Oct 1827 Bischheim)
 - B) Fanny REISS (21 May 1829 Bischheim)
 - C) Caroline REISS (25 Jan 1831 Bischheim)
 - D) Leopold REISS (18 Apr 1833 Bischheim- 6 Feb 1882)
 - E) Abraham REISS, (17 July 1843 Bischheim- post 1891) & Emilie Mathilde DEPRES, banns published 13 April 1876 Paris
 - ii) Eve REISS (c1806- 10 Nov 1830 Bischheim)
- b) Abraham REISS (8 Oct 1773-) & Eulalie SCHWARTZ (c1770, Herlisheim- 27 Apr 1827 Bischheim)
 - i) Maurice REISS c 1802 & Elisabeth NEUBERGER (May 1791, Struth) married 22 Oct 1828 Bischheim
 - A) Baruch REISS (22 Feb 1830 Bischheim-)
 - B) Ester REISS (5 May 1831 Bischheim-)

There is still no conclusive proof that this REISS family was part of the same family as those running the REISS Brothers company mentioned in my earlier account, but my gut says it is highly likely that they were all related. I also posted to the Frankfort SIG asking for information about the REISS family. I was sent a link to a PDF file entitled *A Forgotten Grave - The Unwritten Chapters of an Extraordinary Family History*.* It was written in Starnberg in 1960 by Ernst von Bressendorf, and translated from German by the late Dr

Bernard Standring. It fills in the background on Bertha HALLE's family and therefore that of Leopold REISS, and it definitely proves that Bertha was Jewish, so that her children were born Jewish, as per the note on Leopold's baptism record. Sadly, that is about all it does prove, and it certainly doesn't answer the question of whether the UK REISS families were inter-related and, if so, how. Still, it was an interesting diversion, whilst it lasted.

Sherry Landa, Oxford, UK

* The file can be downloaded from

www.bressendorff.com/docs/A_Forgotten_Grave.pdf

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

For the last eleven years I have been using my computer and the Net, in a tiny country village in Australia, to research my mother's paternal family in England.

I had actually started years earlier but had kept hitting brick walls: my mother thought she came from a family called *Keyzor*. She was right in one way because of her birth certificate, but she was also wrong.

My adored grandfather, Stanley Louis Keyzor, was a well educated, urbane London Jew who was sent to Australia in 1911 for health reasons. His sister Madge and brother Leonard followed him and all three were in Sydney in 1914 at the outbreak of war.

Leonard signed up and became an *Anzac*, the name initially given to Australians and New Zealanders who fought at Gallipoli in Turkey. On that battlefield in 1915 Leonard was awarded the Victoria Cross, becoming a family and Aussie legend and a Jewish hero.

So, with all this information, and having met members of my *Keyzor-Benjamin* family in London when I was there in 1961, and with my mother still alive, I thought tracing the family would be a breeze. I was so very wrong.

This was pre-FreeBMD days, and the only Keyzors I could find alive in the world in 1996 were in Norfolk and Suffolk. When I contacted them by snail

mail I was granted interest but puzzlement. Their family historian had traced the family back into the 1860s: they were all related, all descended from illiterate fisher folk and there were certainly no Jews in the family.

On fiche I searched the London birth registrations for my grandfather and came up with nothing for him, or Leonard, or Madge, nor could I find a marriage for their father Benjamin Keyzor and mother Julia. It was so frustrating!

The puzzle deepened when I found two opticians called Abraham and Michael Keyzor listed in Norwich between 1847 and 1855. Abraham had been a leader in the Hebrew community so had to have been related.

Three frustrating years later in 1999, my mother had to move into a nursing home and when we went through her papers we found my grandfather's birth certificate. He had been born Stanley Louis *Kyezor* to a Benjamin Kyezor and a Julia Benjamin. The mystery was solved and the search for my Kyezor ancestors began.

Isaac Kyezor and his father arrived in England from Germany some time before 1792 and settled in Cambridge. I believe the family name was probably *Kaiser* and some English person told them on arrival that the name was spelt *Kyezor* in England. To that person I have to be eternally grateful. Every person with the name Kyezor has proved to be related.

Over the years all of Isaac's sons, except one, swapped the Y and the E to declare an Anglo sounding name rather than a Germanic one.

The exception was my 3 x great grandfather Louis Kyezor Snr (1796-1869), the subject of Jewish historian Harold Pollins's book *Louis Kyezor the King of Whitton*, which he co-authored.

An orator, philanthropist, champion of the underdog and prolific letter writer to the Editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*, Louis was one of the more colourful characters of Victorian London. He was destined to be murdered in broad daylight by an irate tenant and has proved the most wonderful subject for a family historian to research.

Louis did not change his name, nor did his sons Henry or Louis Jnr: their name and Germanic heritage was special to them.



Inscription on the back of a clock made by Louis Kyezor Jnr., bought by Keira Quinn Lockyer on E Bay.

When Louis Jnr died in 1887 he left behind seven sons, my great grandfather Benjamin being one of them. It was then, with anti-German feeling rife, that all but one of Louis's sons chose to go the way of their uncles and cousins and call themselves by the name of *Keyzor*.

So I finally found my family, and over the last ten years have discovered new cousins who have helped unravel the family history, the names and relationships. We delight in sharing new finds and, as more and more of our story unfolds, we have found that the Kyezor name not only became Keyzor but sometimes Kingsley, Kaye, Keighley and Keyser - but never Kaiser.

However, there was one name change that was not deliberate.

When the *London Gazette* printed the announcement of Leonard Keyzor's Victoria Cross, they misspelt his name as *Keysor* and his story and the misspelt name went round the world. The wording on the medal, now on display in the Australian War Memorial, is Keyzor but the world knew him as Keysor VC. It was easier for my great uncle to change his name by deed poll, which he did, thus giving another variation of our family name to confuse family historians.

Now there are only five Kyezors in name and blood left in the world and sadly the name will die out with them and so become extinct. So I am writing a book about Louis Kyezor and his family to ensure the name will at least not be forgotten.

Keira Quinn Lockyer
Victoria, Australia
January 2010

AUSTRALIAN INGENUITY

Australia is a unique country. It is the only large land mass that is just one country, under its own single government.

The natives of Australia have been here a long, long time; white settlers tried to wipe them out but were not quite successful. Their correct nationality, rather than Aboriginal, is either Noongah or Koori; there are many other tribes, but these are the main two that survive today.

The First Fleet consisting of a fleet of 11 ships left England on the 13th May 1787 and arrived between the 18th and 20th January 1788. On that voyage 23 convicts died, a much lower figure than anyone expected. There were 6 convict ships, with 764 convicts, 550 officers, marines, ships' crews and the families of these people. Five of the ships carried the officers and their families, stores of food and meagre building materials and implements; a huge amount of clothing was left in England on the docks.

Between 1788 and 1850 the British sent to Australia 162,000 convicts in 806 ships.

For a country that had such an ominous start we have done really well. Perhaps it was because the country had not been long established that our soldiers became known for their tenacity: the ANZACS or Diggers.

Our land area is 7.7million square kilometres, Australia is governor over 12,000 islands, and the sea area under Australian jurisdiction is about 10 million sq km.

The land area is almost as great as the USA, excluding Alaska, and we can fit the United Kingdom in 32 times.

The Great Barrier Reef is the longest in the world, at 2010km; the world's longest straight stretch of railway track - 478km - is in Australia; we have a continuous coastline of 25,760km; and we have the longest line of sea cliffs in the world on the Great Australian Bight, a distance of 1160km.

Cutting short this list of our natural wonders, let's look at some Aussie inventions and other unique achievements. Australians are a very inventive race of people; just ask an Aussie the length of the biggest fish he's caught, and you will find out just how inventive!

- 1 Australia has given the world the Mars bar
- 2 The Tim Tam
- 3 Vegemite (OK, we like it!)
- 4 Australian Rules football: a really fast ball game without protective clothing
- 5 The boomerang
- 6 The didgeridoo: the original trumpet, but deeper
- 7 The combine harvester
- 8 Dynamic Lifter fertilizer
- 9 The Sarich Orbital Combustion Engine
- 10 The catamaran
- 11 Differential gears - or, as we say, the Diff
- 12 The black box flight recorder - which is now orange
- 13 Variable ratio rack and pinion steering
- 14 The Premix cement truck
- 15 The Hills hoist: the best thing to dry your clothes
- 16 The electric drill
- 17 Kiwi shoe polish: no, it's not a New Zealand invention!
- 18 The two-stroke lawn mower
- 19 Latex gloves
- 20 The record changer (centre spindle)
- 21 Shepherd casters
- 22 Aerogard insect repellent
- 23 The roller door you have on your garage
- 24 The Xerox photocopier
- 25 Polymer bank notes (like plastic)
- 26 The refrigerator
- 27 The Wine cask!!!! And you thought we loved beer
- 28 Our voting across the country is held on just one day and we use the Australian invention of the secret ballot
- 29 The electric pace maker
- 30 The bionic ear cochlear implant

- 31 Aspro
- 32 Relenza the world's first anti 'flu drug
- 33 Spray-on skin developed by Dr Fiona Woods; used to treat the Bali bomb victims in 2002 for the first time
- 34 The world's first vaccine to prevent cervical cancer called Gardicil
- 35 The Calyx drill (used for drilling LARGE holes in rock)
- 36 The world's first movie to have the story continuing with lantern slides while the reels were changed; it was called *Soldiers of the Cross*
- 37 The first full length feature movie *The Kelly Gang*. It was five years before any other country followed, during which time Australia made quite a lot.
- 38 The Fairlight CMI (Computer Musical Instrument)
- 39 Calisthenics, the forerunner of the floor routines in the Olympic Games
- 40 The Australian Crawl, now called the Freestyle swimming stroke
- 41 The Tote method of betting
- 42 Race Cam, a tiny camera in race cars and in cricket stumps, etc
- 43 The winged keel
- 44 The teleprinter
- 45 The Mills Cross, a radio telescope
- 46 The Coolgardie safe, forerunner of the refrigerator
- 47 And here's the good one: Penicillin. Howard Florey the inventor was Australian
- 48 The X-ray
- 49 The pedal wireless: no electricity or battery. Don't worry just sit and pedal and listen
- 50 Physiotherapy was first used medically in Australia
- 51 Blast Glass used in embassies through the world; it resists bombs
- 52 The Ute now known in other countries as a pick up truck
- 53 We have never fought a war in our own country
- 54 We have the world's most unusual animals: kangaroo, platypus, koala and many others
- 55 The Akubra hat
- 56 We have a holiday declared just for a horse race: the Melbourne Cup
- 57 Ugg Boots are Australian
- 58 Drizabone coats: waterproof coats with a shoulder cape
- 59 The world's two largest monoliths - humungous rocks - are in Australia: Uluru (Ayres Rock) and Mount Augusta in the middle of North WA
- 60 We have one animal and one bird - the kangaroo and the emu - that, no

matter what, cannot walk backwards or go in reverse, so they are on our coat of arms

61 We have family-owned properties that are larger than some countries; one is over a million acres in size: El Questro in the Northern Territory, and there are many more almost as large.

62 This time last year I stood out in our driveway and watched the comet McNaught - named after the Australian who found it - without the aid of binoculars; I even took some photos with an ordinary digital camera.

63 And finally: Australia has given the world ME. I am PROUD to be an Australian! I'm proud to be the descendant of a Marine in the First Fleet, and a convict or six, and free settlers who chose to come here, liked what they saw and were happy to stay. I am proud that I am of English, Irish and Scottish heritage. I am proud to be married to a man who has a similar heritage, but he also has at least one Jewish ancestor. It is nearly Australia Day and I'm proud to fly the flag and speak our national language: Strine.

So ave a gday mate and ilbisseinya.

Heather Denholm

Editor's notes:

1. *Some readers - particularly non-Australians - may wish to challenge one or two of the claims in Heather's list!*

2. *In case anyone has the chutzpah to suggest that Heather doesn't know the date of Australia Day, we can confirm that she wrote this before 26th January.*

THE STORY - SO FAR - OF A FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Who could possibly have known, or even guessed, during those winter days early in 1896 that the rather inane scribblings of a schoolboy would have attracted family favour, taken root and blossomed into an annual family newsletter known as *The Moon*. The hundred-and-fifteenth annual edition is about to be released. Looking back over my incomplete set of 64 copies, it is clear that there have been three distinct eras in the life of *The Moon*. The first era covered its founding and the early years of total input by a single writer. It was during the second era that gradually more and more people submitted contributions, but participation was mostly limited to a single branch of the

Joseph family. As the third era came into being in the mid 1990s, a dramatic change took place in both style and content. The ever-increasing use of email communication enabled a new editor to broaden the invitation list for submissions to the entire extended family of descendants of David Aaron deSola, and desktop publishing enabled him to prepare a newsletter worthy of the approaching twenty-first century.

The First Era: 1896-1911

The boy's name was Pinto Joseph, and he was twelve years old. His great-grandfather, Henry Joseph, had left England more than a century earlier to become part of the pioneer anglophone community that settled in Quebec after it came under British control in 1760. Henry Joseph had married a local girl named Rachel Solomons, whose father, Levy Solomons, had first moved to Montreal as a young man in the 1760s. Around the same time Rachel's much younger mother, Rebekah Franks, had also settled in Montreal as a young girl with her father, Abraham Franks. The Joseph, Solomons and Franks families were all Jewish, and had all crossed the Atlantic from homes in England. Their pioneer role as part of the newly arrived anglophone community ran parallel to their role in establishing the Montreal Jewish community that thrives to this day.

As the great-great-great-grandson of Abraham Franks, Pinto was a sixth generation Quebecker. Even though more than a hundred and thirty years had passed since the arrival in Quebec of Pinto's ancestors from England, the British connection remained strong. His father, Montefiore, picked as his bride the London born Annette Pinto - which explains the boy writer's rather unusual forename. To cement the British connection even more, two of Montefiore's sisters married two of Annette's brothers and settled in London. All of this is to make the point that letter-writing was an important component of this family's life, the means by which they remained connected.

In passing, and because it will become more relevant later on in the story of this family newsletter, it is of interest to note that roughly three decades before these Joseph-Pinto marriages took place, there had been both a Joseph-deSola and a Pinto-deSola marriage. All of these cemented an extended family that traced its origins to the marriage of David Aaron deSola and Rebecca (Rica) Meldola. Whether or not one can argue that any or all of the Joseph,

Solomons and Franks families may have had Ashkenazi backgrounds, the Joseph-deSola-Pinto marriages firmly established the Sephardic ancestry claimed by most of the family.

I return now to Pinto Joseph and his role as the twelve-year-old founder of *The Moon*.

In February 1896, Pinto lived at 113 Grande Allée in Quebec City with his parents and four siblings, ten-year-old Irene, nine-year-old Edward (who later became my father-in-law), four-year-old Kenneth and baby Rosetta who was just eighteen months old. Pinto was hard at work on his project for Purim - known in the Sephardic community as Pureem.

The story of the Jewish holiday of Pureem is told in the Scroll of Esther, and is celebrated on 14 Adar, which in 1896 (or 5656 in the Jewish calendar) corresponded to Friday 28 February, beginning at sunset the previous evening. Very briefly, the word Pureem means Lots, and refers to the way in which the villain, Haman, chooses a date for the annihilation of the Jews of Persia. The long and involved tale continues until the heroine, Esther, outwits Haman and saves the Jews. In Talmud, the tone for Pureem is set with the words “when Adar arrives, our joy increases”. It is a time for merry-making, and in the Joseph family one mode of its expression was in the use of words, with witticisms, puns and just plain silliness taking centre stage. There was also the exchange of small gifts, and Pinto’s project was to devise a gift in the form of a letter to the family that he called the Holiday Moon, in which he would indulge in such manipulations of language as he felt would amuse the reader. In all fairness, it should be added that this was not a totally original idea. For several years in the 1840s, when they were young men, Pinto’s great uncles in Montreal put out a family newsletter that they called the Blue Book, for which they wrote semi-topical items expressed with a wry sense of humour.

The first edition of *The Moon* was handwritten on both sides of a piece of paper that had been folded into a four page document. Pinto had ambitiously planted the number 00000001 at the top of page one. Among his news items came reports such as: “Miss F. P. Cat took a fit. It is said that it came from eating out of the swill-pail”, then tales of a man who broke his spine, but “it is not serious as Dr. Joseph has glued it”. Among announcements was news of the birth of a girl doll to Miss Irene Joseph, and the death by suicide of Mary

Jemina, beloved wife of James Bird “Mrs. Bird committed suicide by cutting off her head”. At the weekly meeting of the Joseph card club, cribbage was played instead of euchre. Farm news and recipes for totally inedible food filled the gaps, and on the final page Pinto, again with great ambition, announced the Holiday Moon would come out on Pureem, two days of Passover, Pentecost, Rosh Hashanah, Kippur, two days of Tabernacles and the first night of Hanukah. When asked how he came up with a name for his paper, Pinto is said to have replied that there already existed papers called *The Sun* and *The Star*, so he would have *The Moon*. The title stuck, but the plan for multiple issues per year never got off the ground.

For Pureem in 1897, issue number 2 was released. It held the same sort of ghastly accident reports and awful recipes, but in a moment of slight easing towards reality, spoke of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, ending with a suggestion that all schools get a month of extra holidays to celebrate. Remembering their own school days, everyone can relate to hopes such as these.

After four years, phase one of this early era ended as Pinto Joseph left Quebec City for McGill University in Montreal, and phase two began when his brother Edward took over the writing tasks, mainly as a solo act but incorporating ideas from his siblings, for another twelve years. Edward’s passion for absurdity ensured that Pinto’s early style would continue, with reports on events such as the reciprocity question: “It is stated that a straw vote amongst the wheat growers shows strongly in favour of reciprocity - it is believed, however, that this is merely chaff, and is not binding”. It was during these years that Edward began to refer to himself as the “Eddietor”.

The Second Era: 1912-1995

By 1912, the Joseph siblings were growing up, and Edward recognized the need to expand both the content and distribution of *The Moon*. Pinto had left town in 1899, first to McGill University in Montreal and then to America, where he married in 1909: “the bride was attired in white, the groom in black, and the carriage was ‘tired’ in rubber: guests were not tired at all”. Irene also married in 1909 and moved around a bit before settling in Montreal: “papa junior and mamma junior were united in woolly matrimony - the happy couple were shoo’ed away and had a ferry good send off”. Kenneth left for McGill

and after his 1913 graduation moved around for a while before marrying in 1917 and settling in Toronto. Edward married in 1918 but, in common with their sister Rosetta, remained in Quebec.

Slowly, Edward got more and more relatives to contribute items, and then he hit on the idea of remaining Editor-in-Chief, but appointing someone else each year to do the creative donkey-work needed to produce an issue. Typewriters and carbon paper had entered the picture as publication aids, and it was up to the guest editor to laboriously type up to twenty pages a year.

The Moon for 1936 begins solemnly with the notation that it is an *In Memoriam Issue for His Late Majesty King George the Fifth*; and there is a more serious expression: “We were very sorry to hear of the recent illness of Aunt Clarisse and wish her a speedy recovery”. Mostly, however, the writings are meant to amuse. Such as:

A dog from Quebec was named Bubbles,
Who formerly made many puddles;
When this he outgrew
He set right in to chew,
So we're not at the end of our troubles.

People write of their travels, their achievements, their visitors: “We were visited by two newly-found cousins, Francesco deSola from San Salvador and Lily Lightstone from Paris, as well as our well-known cousin Charlie Davis from London and cousin Buena Blok from London”. Actual pieces of news, however, are rare indeed: pieces in line with Pinto’s early absurdities were still the preferred bits of nonsense for Pureem.

There were a few news items in the 1945 editorial, including “the departure from Montreal of Nancy overseas with the Red Cross Nurse Corps” and “we hope and pray that by the time next year’s edition goes to press, final victory will be ours”; the remaining fourteen pages were filled with the usual bits of Pureem nonsense.

Very slowly over the next twenty-five years, two things happened. Firstly a few extra members of the family contributed letters (including the Davis sisters from England in 1947), but this quickly ended with a reversal to the

“Joseph family with the Grande Allée connection”. Sadly there was tension in the family over who could or could not contribute, but fortunately Edward, the eternal peacemaker, kept things from getting too difficult. Secondly, the letters began to give more information, even though many were still liberally sprinkled with unidentifiable initials and nicknames. Clearly, in those days, nobody foresaw the need for copies of *The Moon* to be source material for family historians.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the Grande Allée connected family increased enormously by marriage and the addition of new generations. After more than six decades in the role of Editor-in-Chief, the by now almost totally blind Edward handed over *The Moon* archives, along with the role of assigning the annual guest editor, to Rachel Esar in Montreal. Rachel was the daughter of Edward’s sister, Irene. It was during the 1980s that people seemed to awaken, at least a little bit, to the realization that *The Moon* could also be a repository of family history. Nonetheless, the original style of inane scribblings set by Pinto all those years ago still lived in the writings of contributors. It seems to have become a family trait, especially for Pureem.

Along came the 1990s. My husband, Bill, was one of those who began to think about holding a family reunion in Montreal in the summer of 1995 to mark the hundredth issue of the family newsletter. As the only son of Edward Joseph, who had died in 1979, Bill wanted his own now grownup son, David, to lead the organization of the reunion and take over editorship of *The Moon*. The personal computer era had arrived, and David had both the skill and personality to handle the role of editor, assuming the mantle held for so many decades by his grandfather. As the saying goes: you win some, you lose some. The family agreed to David’s leadership role in organizing the family reunion, but voted for Sarah Orkin to edit the hundredth edition of *The Moon*. Sarah was the eldest sister of Rachel Esar who had recently died. David would take over for the hundred-and-first edition in 1996.

The reunion was an enormous success, and in 1996, our family newsletter entered the third era of its existence.

The Third Era: 1996 to date

The hundredth issue of *The Moon* straddled the second and third eras. The usual collection of photocopied pages included not only letters from the core contributors of the past, but also from other descendants of David Aaron deSola - in other words, the invitation list for the August 1995 reunion served also as the invitation list for submissions to the family newsletter. By now it was known that David Joseph would follow his role as organizer of the reunion with that of editor of *The Moon*. The archival collection was already in his possession.

When volume 101 appeared at Pureem 1996, with its banner heading "*The Moon - Since 1896*", recipients were delighted. This professionally printed booklet included thirty-three family letters supplemented by nine more segments, including social, cooking and humour sections, a kiddie korner and, of course, birth and death announcements. Tastefully written obituaries provided welcome tributes to respected family members, and the writings of the living reflected a more informative approach to reportage, without being dull. Nevertheless, the annually anticipated forays into fun, with humour ranging from the subtle to the totally ridiculous, were still evident throughout many of the pages. The silliness associated with Pureem was - and still is - around.

Each subsequent issue has followed basically the same pattern, with adaptations as indicated by current needs and circumstances. The kiddie korner didn't last long, but the family history section that David started in 1997 continues. One of the columns David regularly writes covers, in jocular fashion, all the milestone birthdays for the coming year. Illustrations for articles and letters are encouraged, and while they remain black and white in the printed version, they can be viewed in colour on the family website - which is password protected. The mailing list is updated most carefully each year, with everyone identified by reference to their antecedents and descendants; the list has grown from 14 to 131 people. The 2009 issue of *The Moon* was 122 pages long, compared to 84 pages in 1996.

All in all, *The Moon* provides family members with a wonderful communication vehicle that keeps 150+ households in touch with one another - if they so wish.

The evolution of *The Moon* from 1896 to 2009 is astonishing. While I never met Pinto Joseph, I certainly did know Edward Joseph, and feel confident that both brothers would be mightily pleased with the way *The Moon* of today has adapted to the twenty-first century. They would salute their grandnephew/grandson, David Joseph. As do I.

Anne Joseph
December 2009

PUZZLE BREAK ANSWERS

1. Pure-Rim
2. Muzzle-TOff
3. Hoots-Paw
4. Meg-IlIer
5. Tuba-Ove
6. Mitts-Four
7. Shiver
8. Ballet-Booster



DIARY DATES

Taken from GENEVA website
<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>
1st March 2010 to 31st July 2010 inc.

March	4 SoG, LND	Evening Skills Course 18 weeks - Intermediate -
March	6 Llanfyllin, MGY	Montgomeryshire GS Open Event (with various local society stands)
March	6 SoG, LND	Scottish Poor Law

March	7	Port Sunlight, CHS	The Merseyside & Cheshire Family History Fair	March	31	SoG, LND	Child Migrants
March	10	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was an Artist	March	31	SoG, LND	Visit: Wesley's Chapel
March	12 & 26	Poole, DOR	Intermediate Family History Course - pre 1837	April	7	SoG, LND	Using the findmypast.co.uk Website
March	13	Northallerton, NYK	Record Office Open Day + family/local history display event	April	7	SoG, LND	Every Journey has Two Ends: Getting the Most out of Passenger Lists
March	13	SoG, LND	Family Historian Software for Beginners	April	7	SoG, LND	Lunatic Asylums & their Records
March	17	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was Irish	April	9-11	Thame, OXF	31st Guild Conference and AGM
March	19	Canterbury, KEN	Exam Techniques Afternoon School	April	10	Pudsey, WYK	Pudsey Family and Local History Fair
March	19	SoG, LND	Using Pay-per-View Websites for Family HIstory	April	10	SoG, LND	Tracing Family who went to Australia
March	20	Sherborne, DOR	Winter Lecture: Spring 1911- Where do you think they were?	April	11	Stockport, CHS	The Stockport Town Hall Family History Fair
March	20	Haywards Heath, SXW	Conference and AGM	April	16 & 30	Poole, DOR	Beginners Family History Course - back to 1837
March	20	Brompton Northallerton, NRY	Brompton Heritage & Family History Day	April	17	Gloucester, GLS	Gloucestershire FHS Open Day & Family History Fair
March	20	Northallerton, YKS	Family History Skills Day	April	17	Birmingham, WAR	First Steps - Beginner's one day course
March	20	Gateshead, TWR	Irish Ancestry day	April	17	SoG, LND	Family Tree Maker Software for Beginners
March	24	SoG, LND	Getting the Most from the Society	April	17	SoG, LND	Family Tree Maker Software for Advanced users
March	27	York, YKS	Family History Fair	April	21	SoG, LND	Using the Society Catalogue
March	27	SoG, LND	Open Day with Free Lectures for Beginners	April	21	SoG, LND	Researching Yeoman Farmers
March	27	Plymouth, DEV	Plymouth History and Archives Day Conference	April	24	Chatham, KEN	My Victorian Ancestor
March	27	Llandudno, GWN	FFHS Annual General Meeting & General Meeting	April	24	Sheffield, YKS	Sheffield & District Family History Society Fair
March	28	Norwich, NFK	The East Anglia Family History Fair	April	24	SoG, LND	My Ancestor came from Lancashire
				April	24	SoG, LND	The Master Genealogist Software - Advanced

April	25	Worthing, SSX	The South Coast Family History Fair	June	2	SoG, LND	London Cemeteries & Burial Grounds
April	28	SoG, LND	Family Historian Software for Advanced Users	June	4	SoG, LND	Genealogy from your Armchair: What's Free Online
May	1	SoG, LND	Tracing the History of a Business	June	5	Sunderland, TWR	Sunderland History Fair
May	1	SoG, LND	Berkshire & Thames Valley Family History	June	5	Shrewsbury, SAL	Shropshire FHS Open Day
May	5	SoG, LND	Tracing Female Ancestors	June	5	SoG, LND	Blogging for Family History
May	6	Canterbury, KEN	Family Roots, weekly evening course	June	5	SoG, LND	Drawing up a Family Tree
May	8	SoG, LND	Organisation of the Parish & Records Created 1550-1840	June	6	Maidstone, KEN	The Kent Family History Fair
May	8	SoG, LND	Marriage Law & Practice in the Long Eighteenth Century	June	6-8	Scarborough, NYKS	Cancelled - Discovering and Detecting - A Family History Residential
May	12	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was Catholic	June	9	SoG, LND	A Historical Walk around Wapping
May	15	Chester, CHS	Guild Maps and Mapping Seminar	June	12-13	Tenterden, KEN	WITHERIDGE FHS AGM & Family Reunion
May	15	SoG, LND	Family History for Beginners	June	12	SoG, LND	DNA Tests & Heredity
May	15	Wareham, DOR	Romany & Traveller FHS Society Day and AGM	June	12	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Shopkeeper
May	19	SoG, LND	Visit: Carlyle's House	June	12	Torquay, DEV	Devon Craftsmen - Disappearing Traditions
May	19	SoG, LND	Child Evacuees of World War II	June	16	SoG, LND	Great Ormond Street Hospital Archive: Patient Historic Database
May	22	SoG, LND	News about LDS Online Sources & Understanding IGI Sources	June	19	Salisbury, WIL	Wiltshire FHS Open Day
May	22	SoG, LND	My Ancestors came from Devon	June	19	SoG, LND	Walk: London Cemeteries & Lost Burial Grounds
May	26	SoG, LND	Visit: Museum of London Archaeological Archive	June	23	SoG, LND	Stuck in London
May	27	SoG, LND	Visit: St. Martin-in-the-Fields Parish Church	June	26	York, NYKS	Yorkshire Family History Fair
May	29	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Londoner	June	26	SoG, LND	The Workhouse and Settlement & Removal Issues
				June	26	SoG, LND	Computers for Family History: An Introduction
				June	30	SoG, LND	Family History Resources at the

Parliamentary Archives

July	3	SoG, LND	<u>Fishing and Fishermen</u>
July	3	SoG, LND	<u>Writing Family History part 1: Starting Out</u>
July	7	SoG, LND	<u>My Ancestor fought in the Battle of Britian</u>
July	10	Leeds, WRY	Event cancelled - <u>Day School</u>
July	10	Canterbury, KEN	<u>Grow Your Family Tree residential course</u>
July	10	SoG, LND	<u>History & Comparison of Parish Registers, BT's and Other Sources for BMDs</u>
July	17	SoG, LND	<u>The 1911 Census Online- Workshop</u>
July	17	SoG, LND	<u>Writing Family History part 2: Expanding your Family History Biography</u>
July	17	Tring, HRT	<u>Romany & Traveller FHS Open Day</u>
July	24	Aylesbury, BKM	<u>Buckinghamshire FHS Open Day</u>
July	24	SoG, LND	<u>My Ancestor was in the Coast Guard</u>
July	24	SoG, LND	<u>The India Connection</u>
July	31	SoG, LND	<u>Finding & Understanding Wills</u>
July	31	SoG, LND	<u>Writing Family History part 3: Developing your Writing Further</u>

INFORMATION FROM 1939 NATIONAL ENUMERATION (forwarded from the SOG Newsletter by Miriam Margolyes)

Following a Freedom of Information Act challenge the National Health Service is offering a new service covering England and Wales.

As a result of the National Registration Act in 1939 the civilian population was recorded as at 29th September 1939. The Register was the responsibility of the Registrar General and was fairly similar to a census with names, sex, age, occupation, marital status and residence.

Data was collected for each household and a National Registration number was assigned to each person. The information was subsequently used for a number of purposes including the issue of war-time identity cards and later used for allocating National Insurance Numbers.

Those called up for military service at that date were not recorded. Also if a person was elsewhere at that date then they will not be recorded with their family.

Data will now be provided for a non-refundable fee of 42 pounds even if the search is unsuccessful. The information will only be provided if the named individual is recorded as dead or if the applicant can prove that they are dead (a death certificate may not be sufficient evidence!). You have to download a form from the link below, print and complete it and send it off with a sterling cheque.

Information will be provided in one of three ways

- Information about a named individual
- Information about a named individual and up to 9 others at the same address
- Information about an address and up to 10 residents at that address

Enquiries will take about a month to process. The applicant needs to know at least the full names and date of birth of the named individual or the exact address or the National Registration number.

There appear to be some anomalies with the provision of this data for family historians. It is not clear whether all the other individuals at the address have to be dead too and whether proof has to be given for each one before details are released.

I guess that the price is set to generate considerable revenue and to put off too many enquirers.

Time will tell whether the system works.

Details are at -

www.ic.nhs.uk/news-and-events/news/nbs-ic-launches-the-1939-register-service