

B-J News 16: The newsletter of the British Jewry mailing list.

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Welcome to the sixteenth edition of B-J News

CONTENTS

From The Editor	page 1
Help Required-Apply Within	page 2
From the List: How to Print Trees	page 2
1911 Census- More	page 3
Social	page 7
Some Say I am a Gourmet Cook	page 8
New to the Net	page 11
From the List: Poem	page 12
Diary Dates	page 13

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FROM THE EDITOR:

It hardly seems as if we have had a moment since we were putting together the Chanukah edition of the newsletter, and here we are with Purim almost upon us. In fact, if I am honest, I was caught rather unawares myself. I actually missed my own deadline - which is a little embarrassing, to say the least. I blame the timeless vacuum of winter in "*La France profonde*", where one day is very much like another and where I feel more in tune with my ancestors than I did working in a British city for the past eight and a half years.

Dawn dawns each morning, dusk falls each evening, and the spaces in between are marked by sudden gasps of "Is it Tuesday on an odd numbered week?" (if it is then we have to put the bins out for collection in the morning) or with demands to know the date or the day from the computer screen, rather more out of interest than because we actually need to know. I had my birthday and can now understand how one could forget not only what age one has reached, but also which day one was actually born on, as being of little import, until the dentist asks for a date of birth or the cashier at the supermarket demands to know where your piece of identity was issued - and it all comes flooding back!

In mid-February I was thrown even further into the world of my ancestors when a storm hit France in the early hours of one Tuesday morning, of an odd numbered week, leaving over 800,000 homes without electricity. As dusk fell that evening, I once again reflected on how much easier our lives are, due to modern conveniences, than our ancestors' were. The same is true of genealogy. Later you will see a piece of mine on the 1911 census and I am reminded of one of my earlier ponderings ("Time Flies" in B-J News 14) on how researching has moved on since I started genealogy.

There is something rather serendipitous about this editorial. It is a little like one of those "chains" they sometimes have on the television where star X is in love with person Y whose father was the tailor to the editor of the newspaper that launched the career of model A whose sister was the love-child of the philanthropist who gave star X his or her big break. I had no power - which made me think of my ancestors who lived without electricity for much or all of their lives - which made me reflect on the 1911 census release for my article -

which reminded me how research has moved on since I started - which made me realise that it is almost exactly ten years since I started my quest and Jackye and I met - which made me remember how we had come to know each other and how we had wanted to launch an email list which required no subscription and how this led to the setting up of British-Jewry-L and from there www.british-jewry.org.uk and thus the newsletter which I was writing a piece for.

As winter in central France seems to be making way for spring, I ponder on the future. I wonder what will the next ten years see in terms of research. I dream of finding my own ancestors' records, which all "who know" tell me are lost. I have high hopes as to where British-Jewry might be going, along the way. I wonder also, what twists and turns await us all. So, whilst we are waiting to see what the future holds for us, sit back, kick off your shoes and enjoy this latest edition of the B-J News.

Sherry Landa (Viersat, France)



HELP REQUIRED - APPLY WITHIN

Over the years, the British-Jewry website, which started as a small and very speculative operation, has grown beyond our wildest imaginings. I believe we still deliver a good service but think that, with improved software and web design, we could do even better. To this end, I would be glad to hear from anyone with a **proven** IT background, experience in web-design, and a little time to spare, who would be prepared to offer advice and assistance as a deputy webmaster. The post carries no remuneration, but heaps of credit and a huge sense of pride. Interested parties, please contact sherry.landa@wanadoo.fr



FROM THE LIST: HOW TO PRINT TREES

Back in December **Angela Shire** asked about programs to print an ancestors' tree, probably using an 'hourglass' format and as compact as possible.

Bryan Diamond suggested that:

"phpjedview, an online program, hosted by various servers, e.g. Your Beginings.com, will print an hourglass but only horizontally, is free and worth trying and should be easier than using Word [I have done this for my ancestors using text boxes]."

Sherry Landa added:

"You could always print it too small to read on A4 and then run to Office World or Tesco or wherever and enlarge it to A3 (enlarge by 1.41 or 141%) and it should come out legible. Bigger sizes you have to get them to print it for you."

Angela concluded that:

"Rootsmagic (<http://www.rootsmagic.co.uk/>) appears to be the best solution as it offers the following three attributes, which should meet all her criteria: Print charts up to 57 feet wide (Note: Windows prior to XP/NT max. size 26 feet); Print charts on regular size paper and tape together, or print on large format printer; Hourglass Charts (combined ancestors and descendants) in any orientation (top to bottom, left to right, etc)."





1911 CENSUS-MORE

In December I was lucky enough to be contacted to take part in the beta testing for the 1911 census. I

was disappointed at first to find only a handful of counties live but, that said, London and Middlesex were amongst them so I thought I would have a try. I used the free search index to find family members such as PULVER and LANDA, because there are so few. The free search results need “interpretation” because they are listed in alphabetical order by first name, and not by schedule or household. The table below shows what I mean; I have removed the links to the transcripts and original schedules.

HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	ABRAHAM	M	1900	11	St George in the East	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	ABRAM	M	1904	7	Whitechapel	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	ANNIE	F	1879	32	Whitechapel	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	DAISY	F	1880	31	Hackney	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	DORA	F	1907	4	Whitechapel	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	ESTHER	F	1903	8	Whitechapel	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	HENRY	M	1855	56	Hackney	London

HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	JACOB	M	1867	44	St George in the East	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	JEFFREY	M	1885	26	Hackney	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	JENNY	F	1856	55	Hackney	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	JOSEPH	M	1908	3	Whitechapel	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	MARKUS	M	1873	38	Whitechapel	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	NELLIE	F	1872	39	St George in the East	London
INSTITUTION	PULVER	RUDOLPH	M	1890	21	St George	London
HOUSEHOLD	PULVER	SOLLY	M	1910	1	Whitechapel	London

You can copy these results into an Excel or similar spreadsheet, and sort them by any column. Because there are not that many PULVERs in London, and because there are no duplicate first names, I can easily spot my family: they are the ones in Hackney. If you had a Jacob COHEN I can see where you might have a problem! You cannot do what you could with the 1901 census when it was launched and hover over the schedule link to find the enumeration code and then work out who was in which household.

Using the index alone on some other, indirect, families, I was able to find “new” children, and others, that I was able to verify using alternative resources. The JC Project was again a huge help in verifying the birth of a

Gabriel H LOUISSON. From 1911 the GRO index on Free BMD (www.freebmd.org.uk) gives mothers' maiden names which is also hugely helpful. So, there is a fair amount of scope to use the free index, along with other subscriptions or resources you may already have, to make some progress.

The million dollar question is, as always, "Is it worth the money?" The answer varies according to need and greed. It would be very easy to spend a lot of money on this census, and you could well find yourself in a bit of trouble feeding the family on census entries at the end of the month! Personally, and it is always personal when it comes to money, I think it's expensive. It costs 30 credits to see a schedule; this can convert to as much as £3.50, depending upon your package - which in itself is not the clearest to work out. I bought 60 credits for £6.95, the most expensive pay-per-view. You can buy bigger packages which take the cost of a schedule down to £2.50. You can also save a little by getting a 10% discount as follows: go to <http://www.1911census.org.uk/> look in the top right hand corner where there is a promotional code in a box. Copy that code. Then, once registered or logged in, when purchasing credits paste the code into the vouchers box. You can use the pay-as-you-go credits on the main Find My Past website too. At present, it is only possible to view census transcripts or images on a pay-per-view basis, but at a later date there will be a subscription option which will include the 1911 census, although you will still need some sort of "top up". One way round the problem that credits go so quickly on the original images is to look at transcripts, at only 10 credits each, on pay-per-view and then, if and when you decide to buy a subscription package, view the originals. The other way round it is to travel to the TNA and book a one-hour slot on one of the sixty dedicated machines. I would use the website to find my entries first, to save time. You can then print the schedules off at the TNA for 20p per A3 copy which is a HUGE saving.

Although transcripts are significantly cheaper than schedules, one great advantage of the schedule is that it is not subject to enumerator error. Also - a major bonus - you see the handwriting and signature of the person who completed it; but beware, because this was not always the head of the household. Clearly the schedule completion was a challenge for many. Often I have seen the number of years married, and the children he had, recorded

against the husband's name, when that was supposed to go in the wife's entry. Some people named their deceased children (which is quite handy). Various "mistakes" crept in especially where married children and in-laws were present. Some people put the relationships; others used terms like "boarder" or "lodger" or "visitor". I have one ancestor enumerated twice (once at home in Leeds with his parents and again as a visitor in the household of his married aunt in Liverpool). Undoubtedly, some were never enumerated. You might get lucky in that family are together - my grandfather is with his brother and family so that was just one image to buy; on the other hand, that could mean you are thwarted in finding the separate address you might have wanted! You can also be unlucky because a schedule only shows one household so, if a family was split in a building or street, you have to pay for each household. The number of children column seems to have confused people as well. I have one family who said they had five children, all living. They had eleven in fact and at least three were deceased by 1911. I think they answered "number of children living with you" rather than number of children born! My great-aunt declared one child living, but she lost a tiny baby in 1896, just two days old. Did they forget? I wonder how people answered if they had stillborn children, and whether Jewish ancestors would interpret "live births" differently from non-Jewish ancestors. What happened if people remarried and had children with more than one spouse, did they just list the ones they had with the current spouse? Why did widows not have to list their children? What happened if people married once in *shul* and separately in a Register Office to make it legal, or because one spouse was not Jewish at the time: what did they count as number of years married? In other words, whilst some questions are answered more arise and it very much depends on how the questions were interpreted by the person who filled the form in.

Transcripts do not give you all the information you find on the schedules and you are at the mercy of the transcriber. For example, the column which records whether your ancestor was naturalised, and if so when, is excluded. You'll also find the number of children is not included on the transcript, or whether the person was employed at home. Neither the transcripts nor the actual schedules show the infirmities. This is considered sensitive information and will not be released until 3 January 2012.

Transcripts and schedules that you buy are saved in your account so you can view them as many times as you like. I also download my images and save them in a folder to view off-line. At some future date, once all the schedules are released, you will be able to get other pages associated with the schedules: these are in the class RG78 and include enumerator's schedules, so you will be able to see more information about a district.

Despite dire warnings about Find My Past being slow, and even despite having a dial up connection, I have not had too much trouble. Schedules download in about 90 seconds, varying at different times of the day, depending on how busy the site is.

Searching is not perfect: you may need to use a certain amount of trial and error and you need patience and understanding that nothing is ever perfect when it starts. At launch fuzzy search was turned off, but variant name searches are now possible. Sometimes families will not show up when you search for one member, but if you search for another then you will get everyone. If you spot an error you can report it. I reported four errors, and received email acknowledgement immediately, saying that I would get a response and an incident number for each report. After six days I was notified that one of my corrections was approved and that they would change the transcript. I never got any response to the other three error reports, but maybe their emails got lost?

As I said, I did bite the bullet and pay for a schedule. It confirmed much of what I already knew, although there was new information as well. There were a niece and a nephew listed, which gave me new names to look for. It was interesting that, despite my great-grandfather being literate, my great-uncle filled in the census form on his behalf. However the "gems" are the years married and the number of children columns. You see, I have never been able to find this marriage. I was pretty sure they were married in the UK, because of the date of arrival of Henry PULVER as stated on his naturalisation papers. Here I was able to narrow down the marriage to a year (April 1877 to April 1878) from a seven year period of 1872 to 1879. Furthermore, because I found that there were five children born, rather than the three I had already found, I was able to clarify a little further. By searching the GRO Index again I was able to find daughter Gertrude born 8 October 1878. This gives me

hope that the marriage took place in the latter half of the year (i.e. late 1877 or early 1878).

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in ink.

The contents of this Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to head of Family, Value, Boarder, or Servant, etc.	AGE that Person was on 31st Dec. 1911	SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person and his usual work.	BIRTHPLACE of Person and of his Father and Mother.	NATURALISATION of Person and of his Father and Mother.	INFIRMITY.
				Married, Single, Widowed, or Divorced.	Years married.				
Henry Pulver	Head	45	Male	Married	42	Amnial (Manufacture)	England	None	
Emily Pulver	Wife	38	Female	Married	42		England	None	
John Pulver	Son	11	Male	Single			England	None	
Edith Pulver	Daughter	8	Female	Single			England	None	
Gertrude Pulver	Daughter	2	Female	Single			Germany (Prussia)	None	
John Pulver	Son	2	Male	Single			Germany (Prussia)	None	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

(To be filled up by or on behalf of the Head of Family or other person in possession, or in charge, of this dwelling)

Write here the Number of House in Street. I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled in to the best of my knowledge and belief. I certify that the names of all persons residing in this house on the 31st Dec. 1911 are here given, and that the names of all persons who have died since the last Census are also given.

Signature: *Jeffrey Pulver for H. Pulver*
 Printed Address: *63 Upper Regent Rd. S.S.*

People also ask why they should have to pay for what are essentially public records. Below is an email from John Marsden which appeared on the MLFHS list and is reproduced by kind permission of John (see www.mlfhs.org.uk) Please note this is John's personal view on the matter. *The internet has brought about something of a paradox for record offices.*

Public records are just what it says on the can and the government makes them freely available at record offices (in particular TNA). I believe they have a statutory duty to do this. They have gone further by filming many heavily-used records both to preserve the originals from wear and to simplify, and hence reduce the cost of public access. Film/fiche allowed this to extend to extra copies at local record offices. All of this has been done at no charge to the user and funded by general taxation. Increasing interest in family history had placed many of these record offices under some pressure, particularly the old Family Records Centre, which could become almost unbearably busy at peak times. Still, the funding was found to establish and run the FRC in the first place, and this would have continued had the internet come along.

The internet has changed the way in which most "basic" research (eg GRO index and census) is undertaken. This has had the inevitable effect of reducing the footfall at record offices and in particular allowed the FRC to be closed with some saving to the government. It could be considered reasonable that this saving might be re-directed into making more information universally available by putting digital copies onto the web.

There was, however, a lie at the heart of the "free access to all" policy and that was the unspoken proviso "provided only a tiny percentage of the public took up the offer. Had all those who use the internet today descended on the FRC, it would have been necessary to expand it to cover a fair area of north London. It seems doubtful that government would have continued to offer free access had such meteoric rise in demand occurred.

The sleight of hand which has been exercised is that TNA now charges to licence out its holdings so that private operators can make a profit out of selling them to those people who in theory had free access. TNA both reduce demand on their services and obtain income for doing so.

The private operators have every right to charge. They have licence costs from TNA and indexing costs to make the material accessible. These are on top of the cost of running the IT platforms to deliver the results to users. (The government, incidentally, gets three more bites

at the cake, VAT on EU receipts, corporation tax on company profits and income tax on employees' earnings). We could argue about what level of profit is acceptable but mostly it is a competitive market and I have no wish to question the economic basis of our society! I think, nevertheless, that there is a strong argument that TNA should cover the costs of digitisation since they (and government) are beneficiaries of the process and this should reduce end user costs as well as making it easier for competitors to enter the market.

The alternative approach is that indexing is done by family history societies and other volunteer organisations. We have a history with the 1851 census which was done by FHS volunteers alone, though partially and to levels between surname indexes and full transcripts, and 1881 done with support of LDS as a full transcript, made available to anyone on CD for about £30. The reality is, however, that the level of resource FHSs can supply is totally inadequate to the demand for quick and comprehensive results. MLFHS took years over each of the above and years again to index 1891. If we were to transcribe each census in full, I suspect we would just about manage each in time for the next! This would probably be easier and more attractive if we had access to free scanned images but the reality is that we have a lot more members than ACTIVE members. I point no fingers here. I am a regular contributor to MLFHS projects but belong to three other societies for whom I do nothing and who probably think the most useful thing about me is my bank standing order each year. Although there are many users of the online sources, only a small proportion will be FHS members and fewer still prepared or able to take on any meaningful indexing.

The reality is that we must accept that if we want large record sets available quickly with full indexes, the commercial route is the only game in town. That is not to say that government is right in charging for licences (like Tom Lehrer's little girl next door - "now there's a charge for what she used to give for free") or that there should not be a not-for-profit organisation in the marketplace (FFHS FamilyHistoryOnline, however, failed to fly as was hoped).

Family History Societies still have a place in indexing but I doubt many will wish to undertake the census. We do rely on income from publication to under-write project costs and to keep membership subs as low as we can and the commercial sites have pretty much killed this market. We will turn more to those sources which are difficult/impossible for commercial organisations to undertake such as MIs or where the market is a local niche (local police or company records). Some of this we may be able to sell online via the commercial operators.

It is a complex world and getting more complicated all the time.

The Irish 1911 census, which differs slightly from that for England and Wales, because it includes religion, is also available on line. Here, however, downloads are free. Not all counties are available initially. In similar fashion to the England and Wales version, counties are being added gradually. However, Antrim was one of the first to come on-line so if you have ancestors in Belfast you are likely to be very pleased. See <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/> For Scotland, you need more patience. <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/help/index.aspx?1263> gives information as follows:

1911 SCOTTISH CENSUS

The position in Scotland regarding access to the 1911 Census differs from that in England and Wales. The Census in Scotland is devolved to the Scottish Parliament and Administration. Scottish legislation (Section 38 and 58 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002) exempts personal Census records from disclosure until after a 100 year closure period.

So, while 1911 Census information for England and Wales is being made available, the same does not apply to information in the Scottish 1911 Census.

The Registrar General for Scotland believes that this strikes a balance between the interest of the records to family historians and the privacy of the people recorded by the Census, some of whom will still be alive. People who completed the 1911 Census were promised confidentiality. Although that is a long time ago, it is important not to call into question the validity of the equivalent promise on modern Census forms. That could deter people from filling in the Census form, reducing the response rate and making the Census results (which are so important for many aspects of Scottish life) less accurate.

The Registrar General for Scotland plans to release the Scottish 1911 Census information just after the date of the 2011 Census (27 March 2011), by which time the 100 year closure period will have ended.

Wherever your ancestors were and whichever way you choose to search for them, 1911 census is certainly of value. However, it is not some golden goose. It is, as all the other censuses were, when they were first released, something of

a curate's egg. Hopefully, in time, as more counties are released it will become better and easier to use. Certainly, as names and places are corrected, and more search tools added, it should be less frustrating. My concern still lies in the fact that it is not possible to find ancestors with very common names; there is too much conspiring against you. With no spouse indexed, the lack of soundex searching and no way to include a child's parents, I fear the million Jacob/Yacob/Jack/Jake COHENS will simply languish in the bowels of the search engine, undiscovered by their nearest and dearest for a considerable time yet.

May your searches be fruitful, your mistakes bearable and your pockets not too dented. Good Luck.

Sherry Landa (Viersat, France)

SOCIAL:

The B-J list normally connects researchers looking for mutual ancestors, but a recent message resulted in the electronic reunion of two of our subscribers who first met some sixty years ago and who had been out of touch for almost forty of them. The transatlantic email exchange has, apparently, been fast and furious - there was, after all, a lot of catching up to be done. "California" has been seen on Skype by "London" and is reported to have aged very well indeed. "London" suspects she has fared less well and has hidden her face behind a faulty webcam! And there has been a great deal of genealogy as well.





SOME SAY I AM A GOURMET COOK - BUT WHAT ABOUT INGBER?

Some say I am a gourmet cook, as evidenced by my wide-ranging repertoire of dishes, including the greats of traditional Jewish cookery such as cholent, knishes and blintzes. However, there is one recipe that, inexplicably, I have never been able to conquer; a simple recipe that has been in my family for generations. Let me explain . . .

My mother, who was born in Manchester, England, never had anyone who could readily teach her how to cook on an everyday basis, as she was only seven when her mother died. Her older sisters and my grandfather's sister, Pessel Gruber Henick, served as surrogate cooks.

Aunty Pessel was from Drogobych, Ukraine. She lived at 19 Irwell Street, right through the "entry" from 19 Cheetwood Street where my mother lived, in an area called Strangeways which was filled with immigrants, mostly Galitzianers and Rumanians, even some Litvaks and gentiles. They all lived cramped and crowded in the old-style backstreet row houses which had been constructed for mill workers during the advent of the Industrial Revolution.

The houses did not have indoor plumbing or electricity or any of the refinements of the modern age, other than gas lighting, when the immigrants lived there. Early on, cooking was done in the fireplace or hearth with cast iron pots made specially to withstand the heat of the fire. For some fireplaces, there were niches or ovens where cooking would be done, and then there were stoves developed for wood or coal burning. The kettle and other cast iron pots would also be hung in the fireplace to cook. It was not an easy life for the family chef then, but despite this, many a grand meal would come out of these less than perfect accommodations, day after day.

In this regard, my mother would wistfully reminisce about those long ago dishes which had filled her childhood with vibrant and taste-tempting memories with a *yiddische tam*. There was *bilban*, *kichlach*, *gebratene fleisch*, *geyorene cake*, and my grandfather's specialties, *kalyeh kez* and mead, or honey wine.

My mother's favorite, by far, was made every Rosh Hashanah and Passover by her Aunty Pessel. It was *ingber*, aka *ingberlach* or *imberlach*, a carrot candy, which Aunty Pessel would make by grating a mound of carrots, mixing them with sugar, honey and ginger and adding in walnuts. My mother would be in charge of helping to crack the shells of the walnuts and then they would be mashed into smaller manageable pieces with the mortar and pestle. When all the ingredients had been cooked on top of the stove, Aunty Pessel would spread them out on a flat surface with a spatula, score them into diamond shapes and let them harden.

The resulting candy, piquant with the pungent flavor of ginger, would be fabulous except for the bits of shell which often remained in the mixture as Aunty Pessel did not see so well and missed them when adding the nuts. It was a tiny flaw in an otherwise perfect candy confection. Who could complain?

As Aunty Pessel did not measure anything she cooked and neither did any of my mother's sisters, there was no actual recipe which was handed down from anyone. When my mother thought about it and wanted to make *ingber*, and teach me, she had no idea of what to do.

It became an obsession to find just the right recipe for *ingber*. First, I looked about to find what *ingber* meant. It turned out that it is the German and Yiddish for ginger. Actually, in middle German, it is *zingiber*, and similar spellings occur in many languages even from India where ginger is grown, and China where it was thought to have originated.



Then, I asked all of my mother's friends who were good cooks of the old style. None had heard of *ingber*. Perhaps it was due to their being mostly Litvaks and this might be a primarily Galitzianer recipe? No, how could that be? I'd heard of Litvaks making the recipe in South Africa, where the largest group of Litvak descendants lived. I'd have to try harder to find a recipe.

So, I then tried asking Aunty Pessel's remaining daughter, Golda Henick, if she remembered the *ingber*. Yes, of course, she did and she proceeded to give me the recipe. As I remember it, it was a little bit of this and a little bit of that.

Unfortunately, she was, by this time, too old - in her nineties - to make the recipe herself and show me what it was like. Her nephew's wife, Sandra Freedman, just said that the secret was to use equal parts of all the ingredients. As Sandra explained, the recipe was as follows:

Aunty Pessel's Ingber (via granddaughter-in-law Sandra Freedman)

1 lb.	Carrots
4 oz. (1/2 Cup)	Chopped Walnuts
1 lb. (2-1/4 Cups)	Sugar
1/2 Tsp.	Ginger

Grate peeled carrots on fine. Heat the carrots in saucepan with sugar. Stir on low heat until sugar was dissolved. Cook slowly until thick. Add other ingredients and cook until hardened. Remove from heat. Spread on a damp board. When cool mark in diamond shapes with a knife.

However, when my mother tried this recipe, it failed miserably.

My mother's siblings were long gone by the time I started this search, and I tried asking their children. Only Dina, the wife of my late cousin, Brian Fink, responded with a recipe which sounded delicious, but had an Israeli twist to it with orange juice as an ingredient and a different kind of nut.

Dina Fink's Ingber

1 lb. 4oz (1/2k)	Cooked Carrots
1 lb. (1/2k)	Sugar (a little less)
1/2 Cup	Orange Juice
1/2 Tsp	Salt
3 oz. (75 grams)	Ground Almonds
1 Tsp	Ginger
1 Tsp	Vanilla

Mash carrots through strainer. Pour off juice. Add rest of ingredients. Cook on low for a half hour or until thick. Stir often. Sprinkle a little sugar and ginger on a board. Spread mix. Sprinkle more sugar and ginger. Cool. Cut before hard.

No, that was not what I was looking for.

Next, I trawled through my huge collection of Jewish cookbooks looking for recipes. Hardly a one had anything for *ingber*. It was a strange and consuming odyssey which was getting nowhere fast! I was beginning to think my mother had dreamed up this *ingber* and it did not really exist at all, only in her memory.

Slowly, I began to find recipes and my mother and I tried each one of them out. There seemed to be a consistency in the ingredients and the amounts used: 1lb grated carrots to 1lb sugar, was a common theme throughout. However, when the mixture was boiled as the recipe directed, it never seemed to harden. During the preparation of one recipe, we became so disheartened at this, that we plunked the whole thing into the freezer hoping it would harden at last. No such luck! It remained an orange-reddish mush.

Some said it might be the extremely high humidity of South Florida which caused the mix to fail to harden or not letting it sit for several days. The thought of letting such a sweet mixture sit out for days brought on thoughts of every ant or bug in South Florida's tropical climate attacking the mixture with impunity! Anyhow, no matter the reason, it was tearing-out-your-hair time for both my mother and me.

Throughout all of this, we must have grated tons of carrots, not an easy task I can tell you. I was beginning to hate the thought of carrots altogether. It reminded me of the time I had made my father an old Litvak Passover recipe, *eingemachts*, which means in Yiddish "to preserve" as in preserving fruit. The recipe consisted of using large black radishes, honey, ginger and almonds. Supposedly, when completed, it would be the consistency of jam or preserves and could be spread on bread, or dollops dropped into tea, the way it was done in *der heim*. However, it had caused such a stench when it was cooking that it had driven my father out of his comfortable chair to the out-of-doors. It was an inevitable consequence of modern unfamiliarity with old ingredients and recipes.

My father, who was a chef and restaurateur, as they call it now, was very easy about all of this uproar about *ingber* and he let my mother and me struggle through the lengthy and time-consuming process by ourselves. He, in the meantime, placed himself steadfastly in front of the television engrossed in the latest football match, ignoring the hubbub. After all, my mother was almost always expected to get something like this right as she had a perfect palate and taste for things and was a very creative cook.

When I was a child, I remember that she had written to the Duncan Hines Company regarding an idea for a recipe which she thought they might like. She had added pudding to the recipe of one of their cake mixes. One day, some representatives appeared on our doorstep to speak to her about her recipe. Next thing she knew, they had incorporated her idea into their cake mix. Nothing ever materialized monetarily for her from this other than a carton of free boxes of the Duncan Hines mix. Every time we used the mix, it brought back the memory of how our mother had been creative enough to change this popular mix into something special.

In addition, at one time, my mother worked for James Neville McArthur, the noted founder of McArthur Dairy, one of the largest such agricultural enterprises in the state of Florida. Very often, given her perfect palate, he would have her taste proposed new brands of ice cream and give her opinion of them. She knew her stuff and did not mince any words about things which did not meet her exacting standards.

So, I had complete faith that she would eventually figure out the *ingber* problem. However, that was never going to be as my mother became ill and later passed away never uncovering the secret of making the perfect *ingber* that she fondly remembered. For many years, I gave up on any further sleuthing regarding *ingber*. For, how would I ever know if it was done correctly, or had the right *tam*? The person who knew was now gone. It seemed a silly goose chase to pursue.

Soon enough, though, I had an added incentive to continue. My cousin, Rose Yodaiken, sent me her recipe for *ingber*. It was at least fifty-five years old, and she had learned to make it with her mother, Sadie Fink Josephson, my mother's sister, when she was a youngster in Dublin, Ireland. My Auntie Sadie

was a fabulous cook and everything she made was delicious as I remembered from childhood meals she had made me.

Sadie Fink Josephson's Ingber (via daughter Rose Yodaiken)

1-1/2 lbs	Carrots
16 ozs.	White Sugar
3 tsp	Ginger
4 ozs.	Walnuts or Almonds
1	Lemon, juice of

Boil or pressure cook carrots until soft (press through colander to remove liquid). Chuck into big pan and add warmed sugar. Cook 30 minutes, medium/low light until mix thickens. Keep stirring as bottom of pan can "catch" easily. When thick, add ginger, nuts and stir. Only when really thick, add lemon juice. Cook gently until juice evaporates and test a tiny amount on saucer with a tiny drop of water like when you make jam. You may need to keep cooking until nix stays firm. Then spread on sugared board and leave until cool and firm, but not cold. Cut into diamonds and leave on board overnight. You can put in a plastic bag to protect from bugs. It should be completely set by morning.

According to my cousin Rose, the derivation of this recipe was up for grabs. It may have been from our Auntie Bessie, my mother's oldest sister and the fountainhead of all of the heirloom recipes in the family or, from the well-known *Florence Greenberg's Anglo-Jewish Cookery Book, 1958*. Sometimes, it is difficult to determine what is an heirloom, or what is an adaptation from a popular cookbook.

Following this lead, I posted an inquiry on the British-Jewry digest on the Internet, <BRITISH-JEWRY@rootsweb.com>, asking for anyone who had the Florence Greenberg book, 1958 edition, to respond and check for an *ingber* recipe for me. Immediately, I was overwhelmed by individuals who were happy to oblige with lookups. It is surprising how many people had this basic cookery book. It seemed to be equivalent to Americans having a Jenny Grossinger's *Art of Jewish Cooking*, also published in 1958, or, actually, a more modern choice, Joan Nathan's *Jewish Holiday Cookbook*.

Florence Greenberg's Ingber

1 lb. Carrots
1 lb. Caster Sugar
4 oz. Chopped Nuts
½ tsp. Ground ginger

Scrape and wash the carrots, then grate on a fine grater. Put into a saucepan with the sugar, place over an asbestos mat, and stir over a very gentle heat till the sugar has dissolved. Then continue cooking very slowly till all the moisture is absorbed and the mixture is very thick, keeping it very well stirred. Test a little on a plate, and when it sets hard add the nuts and ginger and remove from the heat.

Spread on a damp board, and when cool mark with a knife. When cold break into pieces along the marks.

After reviewing this recipe, it appeared that my Aunt Sadie's version might have been a candidate for an heirloom recipe as it was that much different in quantities and ingredients from Florence Greenberg's to be a bit special. Perhaps I had found my family's original recipe after all.

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(To be continued: Ingber resolution)

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue, B-J News 17, will be available to download from the website on or before Wednesday 5th August 2009. The submission deadline is therefore Sunday 12th July 2009. Contact us at sherry.landa@wanadoo.fr



NEW TO THE 'NET (OR UPDATED)

NEW WEBSITE FOR KIWI ANCESTORS

<http://bdmhistoricalrecords.identityservices.govt.nz> is a new website which has BMD records for New Zealand. Its Home Page outlines what is available:

"Welcome to the Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records website, where you can search New Zealand Government records for births, deaths and marriages (BDM).

The historic data available for you to search is limited so that information relating to people who might still be alive, can be protected. Information available includes:

- Births that occurred at least 100 years ago
- Stillbirths that occurred at least 50 years ago
- Marriages and eventually Civil Unions that occurred 80 years ago
- Deaths that occurred at least 50 years ago or the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago.

You may wish to view the Search Results your searches will return.

Researching life events has never been faster. Try it for yourself by going to Search."

Reviews of this website are most welcome, either via the list or to us for inclusion in the next newsletter by emailing sherry.landa@wanadoo.fr

UKBMD MULTI-REGION WEBSITE

You can now search all the UKBMD areas at once, should you wish (see below for the "blurb" from <http://www.ukbmdsearch.org.uk/>). Regions are: Bath, Berkshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, North Wales, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Wiltshire and Yorkshire.

"The aim of this search facility is to complement the main county BMD websites and not to replace them. If you know the area where you need to look, it is recommended that you use the main county site instead of this search facility as the main county sites offer more options, such as saving the output to a file.

You may search up to 25 years at once. You may search all the regions at once, or limit the search to two or more regions. Single region searches should be run on the individual county sites."

UKGLD LAUNCHED

On 27th February a companion site to UKBMD, called UKGDL, was launched. From UKGDL's home page:

Genealogy and Family History are usually mentioned in the same breath as being the same hobby, but really they are two halves which go together to make a whole.

Building your family tree by collecting the raw events data such as birth, marriage and death dates is the genealogy side of the hobby. Finding out about the people, who they were, where they lived and what they did is the Family History side.

UKBMD has evolved over the years to act as an aid to help you find on-line data to build your genealogical trees, but its strength is in raw genealogical data rather than your family history.

So, UKBMD now has this companion web site: UKGDL

UKGDL aims to help you find out the history of your family by linking to web sites that have on-line data which will help you discover what your families did and how they lived.

School lists, trade directories, electoral rolls, passenger lists, old photographs etc., are all valuable sources of information which can help you complete your family tree –many are now listed under UKGDL's menus.

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



FROM THE LIST: POEM

Terry Newman, of Sydney, Australia, has been grappling with the maddening and all too common problem of identifying the subjects of photographs in an old family album. He was moved to send the list the following poem, with due acknowledgement to Pam Harazim (as quoted in: Dawn-in-NZ's blog, Strangers in a Box) <http://bygonedaysphotography.blogspot.com/>

STRANGERS IN A BOX

Come, look with me inside this drawer,
In this box I've often seen,
At the pictures, black and white,
Faces proud, still, and serene.

I wish I knew the people,
These strangers in the box,
Their names and all their memories,
Are lost among my socks.

I wonder what their lives were like,
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways.

If only someone had taken time,
To tell who, what, where and when,
These faces of my heritage,
Would come to life again

Could this become the fate,
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories,
Someday to be passed away?

Take time to save your stories,
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours,
Could be strangers in the box



DIARY DATES

Taken from GENEVA website

<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/>

10 March 2009 to 31st August 2009 inc.

March	1- 31	Nottingham, NTT	Talk & Tours @ Galleries of Justice: The Development of Prisons from Punishment to Reform
March	2- 30	Maidstone, KEN	Starting Out In Family History
March	10	ONLINE	Scottish Research Online
March	11	SoG, LND	Military History on the Internet
March	12	SoG, LND	Visit: St. Johns Gate Grand Priory Church & Museum
March	14	Brompton by Northallerton, NRY	Brompton Heritage & Family History Day
March	14	SoG, LND	I'm Stuck
March	14	Woking, SRY	Family History Day at Surrey History Centre with Nick Barratt
March	16	ONLINE	Searching for Wills & Administrations in England & Wales
March	18	SoG, LND	Family History Resources at the Oxfordshire Record Office
March	19	SoG, LND	Family Historian Software for Advanced users
March	20	ONLINE	Writing Your Family History
March	21	York, YKS	Family History Fair
March	21	Sherborne, SOM	Winter Workshop - Computers
March	25	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was from Eastern Europe

March	26	SoG, LND	Visit: British Library Newspapers
March	27	Poole, DOR	Workshop - Life in the "Big House" - Upstairs and Downstairs
March	28	Kew, SRY	Federation of Family History Societies AGM / GM
March	28	Haywards Heath, WSX	Conference and AGM
March	28	SoG, LND	Open Day with Beginner's Lectures - FREE
March	28	Rotherham, YKS	Family History Fair
March	29	Norwich, NFK	The East Anglia Family History Fair
April	1	SoG, LND	The Parish Chest
April	1	Barlborough, DBY	Free Oral History Capture 1 Day course
April	3	SoG, LND	Visit: Lambeth Palace
April	4	Pudsey, WYK	Pudsey Family & Local History Fair
April	4	SoG, LND	Walk: Stepney to Mile End Old Town
April	4	SoG, LND	Family Historian Software for Beginners
April	4	Birmingham, WMD	First Steps Beginners One Day Course
April	5	Stockport, CHS	The Stockport Town Hall Family History Fair
April	6	SoG, LND	Genealogy from your Armchair - What's Free Online
April	6	Shepperton, MDX	Free drop-in family history advice session at Shepperton Library
April	8	SoG, LND	Using Regional Newspapers

April 14 Woking, SRY *Erroneous entry - see March 14 above for Family History Day at Surrey History Centre*

April 15 SoG, LND [Women in the 1800's: Widowhood](#)

April 17- Peterborough, 19 NTH [30th Anniversary Conference and AGM](#)

April 18 Gloucester, GLS [Gloucestershire FHS Open Day & Fair](#)

April 18 Woodford, CHS [North West Group of Family History Societies Annual Conference](#)

April 18 SoG, LND [Family History for Beginners Full Day](#)

April 18 Norwich, NFK
... *to Sept 2009* [Research Module for Family History & Genealogy](#)

April 22 SoG, LND [My Ancestor was Dutch](#)

April 23 SoG, LND [Old & New Poor Law](#)

April 23 ONLINE [Caribbean Family History](#)

April 25 Aberdeen, ABD [Scottish Family History Fair](#)

April 25 Keighley, WYK [Family History Fair](#)

April 25 Canterbury, KEN [Exam Techniques Day School](#)

April 25 SoG, LND [Trades, Professions & Guilds](#)

April 25 SoG, LND [Off the Beaten Track: Family History Resources for Somerset & Dorset](#)

April 25 Chatham, KEN [The Parish, The Poor and the Land](#)

April 25 Scotch Corner, CLV [Cleveland FHS Spring Family History Day](#)

April 29 SoG, LND [Tracing Gypsy & Traveller Ancestors](#)

May 2 SoG, LND [Family History Research in Norfolk](#)

May 2 SoG, LND [Finding Burials & Wills](#)

May 3 Barbican
Exhibition Centre,
LND [The 2009 Family History Event](#)

May 6 SoG, LND [1911 Census Online Explained](#)

May 6 SoG, LND [Finding Foundlings](#)

May 9 SoG, LND [In & Out of the Workhouse](#)

May 9 SoG, LND [Drawing up a Family Tree](#)

May 9 Preston, LAN [Internet for Family Historians](#)

May 11 SoG, LND [Visit: Fishmongers' Hall](#)

May 13 SoG, LND [Getting the Most from the Library Catalogue \(SOGCAT\) - Free](#)

May 13 SoG, LND [My Ancestor was a Coalminer](#)

May 16 Harrogate, NRY [Guild Non-UK Sources Seminar: Hampsthwaite, Harrogate](#)

May 16 Sherborne, SOM [Open Day. Theme - Past Occupations](#)

May 16 Canterbury, KEN [The Parish & The Poor - Day School](#)

May 16 SoG, LND [Introduction to Title Deeds Workshop](#)

May 16 SoG, LND [Introduction to Manorial Records Workshop](#)

May 20 SoG, LND [My Ancestor was a Photographer](#)

May 21 SoG, LND [Visit: Hackney Archives](#)

May 23 SoG, LND [Family Tree Maker Software for Beginners](#)

May 23 SoG, LND [Family Tree Maker Software - Advanced users](#)

May 27 SoG, LND [My Ancestor was a Weaver](#)

May	27	SoG, LND	British Civillian POWs at Ruhleben	June	20	Canterbury, KEN	Diploma in Genealogy Examination
May	30	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was Scottish	June	20	SoG, LND	Walk: London Churchyards
June	1-30	Nottingham, NTT	Talk & Tours @ Galleries of Justice - Behind Bars: Stories from the County Gaol	June	22-26	Canterbury, KEN	Tracing Your Family History - Residential Course
June	3	SoG, LND	Westminster City Archives for Family History Research	June	24	SoG, LND	New to SoG Orientation Tour
June	4	SoG, LND	Bright Lights, Big City: Rural to Urban Migration	June	24	SoG, LND	Genealogy in Early British Censuses 1086-1841
June	6	Shrewsbury, SAL	Shropshire Family History Society's Open Day	June	27	York, YKS	Yorkshire Family History Fair
June	6	SoG, LND	Family Historian Software - Practical	June	27	SoG, LND	Latin for Beginners
June	6	SoG, LND	Tracing pre-1841 London Ancestors: Land & Property Records	July	1	SoG, LND	Problems in London Ancestry
June	7	Maidstone, KEN	The Kent Family History Fair	July	2	SoG, LND	Visit: Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives & Museum
June	10	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was in the Fire Brigade	July	4	SoG, LND	Using Ordinance Survey Maps for Family History Research
June	11	SoG, LND	Visit: Parliamentary Archives at the House of Lords	July	4	SoG, LND	Careers in Genealogy: Successful Writing for Family & Local History Publications
June	13	Canterbury, KEN	Higher Certificate Examination	July	4	Preston, LAN	Family History - Stuart to Georgian
June	13	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was Welsh	July	11	SoG, LND	Tracing Ancestors in Cambridgeshire
June	13	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was in the British Army	July	12	Leeds, WYK	Medieval Records - For Family and Local Historians
June	17	SoG, LND	My Ancestor came from Belgium	July	18	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was Irish
June	19	SoG, LND	Visit: Hyde Park Family History Centre	July	22	SoG, LND	Ecclesiastic Courts
June	19-21	Stirling, STI	Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor - Routes to Your Scottish Roots	July	25	SoG, LND	Transportation: Who Went Where & When
June	20	Bideford, DEV	Devon FHS Summer Special	July	25	SoG, LND	Careers in Genealogy: The Road to becoming a Member of AGRA & Running a Genealogical Practice
June	20	Swindon, WIL	Family History Open Day				

July 25 Aylesbury, BKM [Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day](#)

August 1 SoG, LND [The Master Genealogist Software for Beginners](#)

August 1 SoG, LND [Tracing Female Ancestors](#)

August 8 Amersham, BKM [Guild New Members Seminar: Amersham Free Church Hall](#)

August 8 SoG, LND [The National Archives for Family History: The Catalogue & Online collections](#)

August 8 SoG, LND [Writing your Own Life Story: Workshop](#)

August 12 SoG, LND [The Census Overseas](#)

August 15 Worcester, WOR [The Midlands Family History Fair](#)

August 15 SoG, LND [Before Parish Registers](#)

August 15 SoG, LND [My Ancestor was German](#)

August 17 SoG, LND [Genealogy from your Armchair - Whats Free Online](#)

August 20 SoG, LND [Visit & Harpsichord Recital: Handel House](#)

August 22 SoG, LND [My Ancestor was a Londoner](#)

August 28- Birmingham, 31 WMD *FFHS Conference has moved to Nottingham ...*

August 28- Nottingham, NTT 31 [Open the Door & Here are the People - Family and Local History Conference hosted by the Halstead Trust](#)

August 29 Nottingham, NTT [FFHS General Meeting](#)

August 29 SoG, LND [Why Can't I Find Them in the Census? - Workshop](#)

August 29 SoG, LND [Prisoners & Policemen](#)