



B-J News 13

The newsletter of the British Jewry mailing list
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Welcome to the thirteenth edition of B-J News

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B-J News 13 was brought to you by:
Jill Hyams *Proof Reader*
Mike Joseph *Copy Editor*
Sherry Landa *Editor in Chief*
Barbara Paris *Proof Reader*
Jackye Sullins *Proof Reader*



FROM THE EDITOR: I CAN TYPE QUITE FAST

"I can type quite fast!" a colleague said to me recently. It only took me a moment or so to realise that fast is a relative term. I wondered why I had not volunteered to type the document myself. Why had I hung back? Why had I assumed that my typing would be worse than everyone else's in the room? I don't type for a living but, hey, I do genealogy. It's true that my old "secretarial skills" teacher would be spinning in her grave if she saw my strange mixture of touch-typing and looking at the keys. However, it does it for me. I type all the time. I email and I enter data and I write articles and editorials. It takes me longer to type than to think, but I am no longer sure if it is quicker for me to hand-write. I actually think that it isn't. So, genealogy has improved my typing. If it has done this for me then it must have done other things for me.

It has helped me to problem-solve. As my husband puts it I "solutionise": at home, at work and in research. Back in the autumn we wanted some logs for the Nursery play area. We didn't want to pay for them, so I did what all good genealogists do. I considered who would have logs (from years of practice on who would have the Synagogue records I wanted). Then I worked out who was in charge of that department (you soon learn that, if you want the records, you have to go to the top because dealing with anyone else is protracted and invariably leads to the need for permission from the top). I emailed him. I used all my charm, tact and a bit of bribery (for "happy to feature the cooperation of Environment with Children's Services, in our annual report" read "make sure your cooperation is noted in the next edition of the B-J News"). Then I waited. All good researchers know the power of waiting. They know exactly when to push and when to hang back, when a gentle nudge is needed and when a moan over tardiness will result in a further delay, or worse still a blank refusal to help. Five weeks and a few emails later I was the recipient of several logs, cut to size, delivered to site and even taken round the back and placed exactly where we wanted them, and all free, gratis and for nothing! This has the ultimate appeal to the family historian in me. Why pay for something that I can get free?

Genealogy has made my processes more ordered, although there is some room for improvement in that respect. It has latched on to my logical brain and

made it take steps into the unknown. I suppose it has also helped me to empathise a bit more too, to consider people's lives and the things they did and the reasons why they did them. By looking at the motivations of my ancestors and how they must have felt and coped with the twists and turns in their own lives, I have gained a greater understanding of "the human condition". I have been able to be more sympathetic to others and to come to terms with some of the events in my own life. It has also helped me to think outside the box.

Looking back to BG (Before Genealogy) I had *very* basic computer skills. Now, I can use a spreadsheet; I can email and use specialist software programmes to store my data, and manipulate it. I can make Gedcoms and PDF files. I can tell the difference between a jpg, a tif file and a bmp file; I even know the best kind of picture file to send electronically! I can edit web pages and upload files to the World Wide Web - although where the World Wide Web actually is, I would be hard pressed to tell you. Some of these things I would have learned, undoubtedly, without genealogy. Most have been finely honed by using them so frequently for genealogy.

People pay money to learn what I have taught myself, or perhaps I should say, what genealogy has taught me. I know more, now, about European geography and history than ever before, despite having taken O-levels in both. Genealogy has broadened my vocabulary, too, and I've learned something of the history of our language; how many people know that *son-in-law* was once the term for today's *step-son*? I also know a bit about Judaism. Genealogy has taught me a lot. It's given me skills and friends and all manner of frustration and pleasure. So, next time some typing needs doing at work, perhaps I will be the one to say "I can type quite fast".

Sherry Landa



FROM THE LIST: A Sad but Somewhat Comforting Story

This thread caught Listers' interest in February

Debbie Bozkurt *started it off:*

I had to share this short story with you.

I was doing some research on my family of ISAACS, and found one of the young teenagers had fallen pregnant in the late 1870s, I think to a non-Jewish local boy. I traced them through a number of censuses and found the young baby with a family, out of London, the 17-year-old mother as a wet nurse and the lad still with his parents.....isn't it always the way? I found the two "sweethearts" had married once the boy had become of age; he was a couple of years younger than her in 1885. He now had a very poor paying job, and the girl, from a reasonable start in life, seemed to have lost her mother and family; it seemed really sad.

I then was searching the Jewish Chronicles for her mother and other siblings, and there unfortunately was a death notice for her grandson age 18, the young baby born to her unmarried daughter. It was sad that he died but, from the notice, the grandmother had welcomed him back into the fold, the young boy had gone to a Jewish school, and was buried in a Jewish cemetery.

Now I know others might not share my opinion but in Victorian days it took a lot of forgiving for the grandmother to welcome back the grandchild and it's somewhat heartening that spiritually he was allowed back into the fold.

Barbara Paris *took it up:*

I had two instances similar to Debbie's family. At least hers had a bittersweet ending. My grandmother, Rebecca ISAACS [1879] became pregnant by a non-Jewish man, my grandfather Edward TINGEY. Consequently she was banished by her father, Humphrey ISAACS [1851]. The twist in my family is that Humphrey ISAACS himself married out, to a non-Jewish girl, Catherine HEARLEY [1842], a Catholic, and they didn't get married until 1905, three years after my grandmother married - and he married in a Roman Catholic ceremony. According to my mother, and despite Humphrey's banishment, Rebecca's mother continued to love and welcome her daughter. Humphrey kept up the banishment until his death, even passing all his goods and jewellery over to the Jewish side of

the family.
I'd love to know the full story of this family of ISAACS.

...and others swiftly followed:

Diane Jacobs

Remember that the child would have been considered Jewish because his mother was. So, it is not such a stretch for the grandmother to welcome him.

Louise Goldshmidt

So many people researching their Jewish families have found that their mother or grandmother married out and the children and grandchildren were never recognised after that. Now people are beginning to search for their origins. I was able to help someone to prove he was Jewish going back four generations on the maternal line. His Jewish great grandmother had married a Protestant, and so had his grandmother, and mother. He felt uncomfortable going to chapel but the priest told him he would grow out of it. He did. He returned to the religion of his great grandparents and is now Jewish again - and happily observant too.

Rosemary Rees

I have been following this thread with interest; my story is sad but, as far as I can tell, not comforting.

My great grandfather, Joseph WOOLF, was a Jew and orphaned as a child of six. In 1865, when he was 21, he married Elizabeth Jane HOLMES (his landlady's daughter) at Marylebone Register Office*. His grandmother, Alice WOOLF, died in 1876 in her 101st year, by which time Joseph and Elizabeth had several children. Alice lived in Southwark, her two daughters Sophia and Maria who placed the notices of her death (thank you, Jewish Victorian and the correspondent who discovered this for me) lived in Sheffield St WC and Kennington Park Road SE. Joseph and his young family lived in Boston Place Islington. Idly speculating on whether Alice would have known her great grandchildren (they all lived in London and not too far apart), or Sophia and Maria would have known their great nephews and great nieces (amongst whom was my grandfather), I now understand that this was very unlikely; when someone married out, the service for the dead would be read and from that time onward

they would be dead to their religion and to their family. Whilst intellectually I can understand this, on an emotional level I find it hard. Can anyone please tell me how common this was in the 19th century?

**All the places mentioned by Rosemary are in London*

Su Solomon

It depends entirely on the individual family how they treated people who married out.

Mine seemed to have been fairly understanding in the matter, but I also guess it may have something to do with them being dirt poor English Jews. They clung together like limpets; still do.

My great great aunt Sophie SLOMAN married out in 1857, and living with her at the time of the 1861 census is her brother Moss SLOMAN, he is apprenticed to Sophie's gentile husband as a shoemaker.

Jackye Sullins

Nothing is black and white. My aunt "married in" to a nasty Jewish man who gambled and abused and cheated on her. My grandparents told her if she married this man, she was dead to them and they sat shiva for her as if she were dead. A year later, she left the man: she was welcomed back into my grandparents' house with open arms. As an aside - and maybe as atonement (smile), they continued living together for the next 35 years or so even after my aunt remarried and had a family. This was in the 20th century.

Louise *made a final contribution:*

There was also the anomaly that some people considered it marrying out if one came from a Sephardic background and the partner came from an Ashkenazi background, even though both were Jewish.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

It was in a most unromantic conversation, one hot January afternoon in Adelaide that I first asked the question "where did the name Barnett come from?" It would take almost forty-three years to find the answer.

Coming from a Jewish community that didn't have much exposure to Anglo-sounding names, I was puzzled when first meeting this handsome young Jewish chap as to how he came to such a name. He didn't know the answer, but guessed it had been changed when the family emigrated from *der haim* to England some time in the late 1800s.

I married that handsome young Jewish chap and took on that BARNETT name - and so a journey began.

Many years later when desk top computers first became available, I put together - with the assistance of my mother-in-law and my son - the skeleton of the Barnett family tree. All I had were a few names and some approximations of ages, and not much else. As time moved on my interest in genealogy increased. Then the internet brought the world into our homes, vastly widening the scope for research and, over recent years, gaining momentum from the enormous growth of databases - and all from the comfort of home.

Since the commencement of British-Jewry - the very first really useful mailing list for British research - thanks so much to Sherry and Jackye - the discoveries made both by myself and to a large extent by very kind list members have been amazing.

Of the many titbits of information I have found, my most striking recollection is of first seeing the 1881 census listing for Jacob and Leah Barnett and two of their children. It made the family real and was a true *eureka* moment for me.

I began travelling the path, familiar to all genealogists, of searching for clues and evidence: records, photos, graves, certificates, relatives and all manner of things. Then the 1901 census became available, and to my surprise and delight

I found that Jacob had indeed become a British subject. Now this was important, because it would, I hoped, enable me to find out his place of origin and his name prior to Barnett.

I ordered the naturalisation records and waited anxiously. Eventually they arrived - lovely A3 sheets of paper with beautiful script; the last page held the important information for me: names of parents, Fanny and Woolf Barnett. I was totally deflated. It was surely impossible, in Alytus, the place where Jacob came from, that anyone had ever heard the name Barnett, let alone knew how to say it! I had been foiled.

Along this journey of researching the Barnett name I discovered that Leah was linked to other B-J members through her BAKER family. Baker was of course not the original name but rather Piekar (or Piekarski) and again the need to become more "Anglo" was evident.

Last year I decided to contact again an elderly relative in Leeds, who couldn't understand my fascination with, as she put it, "dead people". She was really helpful with information in general, but wasn't particularly interested in historical specifics or detail. As her father Hyman was the firstborn child of Leah and Jacob I asked if he was born in England. She insisted that he was. Well, that was a breakthrough; Hyman was born around 1877 and previously I had no evidence of the family being in England prior to the 1881 census.

Now I was on a mission. I needed to find Hyman's birth. Looking through the 1877 indexes there was one possible match - a baby Barnett born in December 1877. I sent for the certificate with the proviso that the parents must be Jacob and Leah. I was lucky: this was indeed "my" Hyman. I posted a message on B-J saying I would love to find the elusive marriage of his parents, and back came a most unexpected reply saying there was a marriage in February 1877 in Leeds for a Jacob BERZYNSKI and Leah BECCA. This was too good to be true; it felt right. The details matched and it was easy to see how Becca and Baker could be the same person.

So again I waited, this time for the marriage certificate. Oh what a disappointment: no father's details were given. The next step was the London Beth Din. I wrote, and waited anxiously for the papers to arrive. The Beth

Din were most expedient, and about a week later there arrived two photocopied pieces of paper, with rather indistinct Hebrew and English writing. Oh why didn't I take more notice in Hebrew School? Then I turned the papers over - and there, written in English, were the names I had been looking for. Jacob Barnett had changed his name from Berzynski to Barnett some time in 1877 after his marriage in February and before the first child's arrival in December.

It only took forty-three years, but it was worth waiting for. I was so proud of my persistence and tenacity - and I patted myself on the back! I'm only sorry members of the extended family found it to be rather "ho-hum", but then they didn't gain the satisfaction I did. My husband and children of course were delighted, and also pleased Jacob had, so long ago, changed his name to something much easier to spell than Berzynski.

Naomi Barnett
Melbourne, Australia

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue, B-J News 14, will be available to download from the website on or before Saturday 16th August 2008. The submission deadline is therefore Sunday 27th July 2008. Contact us at sherry.landa@wanadoo.fr



THE STRANGE CASE OF MR TOPLITZ'S BURIAL REMAINS A MYSTERY

In the middle of December I posed B-J a question. I realised that it wasn't quite on topic, and that it probably wasn't something any of us had come across before, but nevertheless, as B-J is the most helpful of places, I thought it worth a shot.

During the cataloguing of tombstone photos from Hong Kong, Happy Valley Jewish Cemetery, an unusual inscription came up: "Internal organs of M. S. Toplitz 10.5.1921". A Google search produced a *New York Times* announcement of his death "in China, while travelling", giving his full name, Melville S. Toplitz. The questions of why only his internal organs were buried, and why there was a tombstone - albeit a small one - containing little information and no Hebrew inscription, remained and, to be honest, still do.

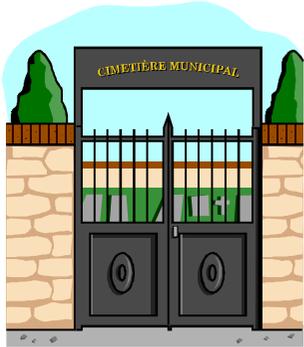
Within half an hour or so of posting my message, we had considered and ruled out a Post Mortem as an answer. It had seemed feasible, but B-J knew better; we learnt that organs are removed, weighed and returned to the body. Next to be considered was embalming; this was ruled out when a lister explained that only blood is removed.

This left the following three possibilities as put forward by the group: firstly, that he loved the area so much that he wanted a part of him to remain there; secondly, that his organs were all that remained; and thirdly, that his body was returned for burial in San Francisco, his organs having first been removed.

Jeremy kindly offered to see if there was any reference to Mr Toplitz being buried "back home" and to see if the probate records hold any clues; this research is thus far incomplete.

Meanwhile, the knowledge and, as importantly, the scope of information that can be gained, simply by asking a question on B-J, never ceases to amaze me. My thanks go to all who helped and, since there were over twenty exchanges, I apologise for not naming everyone individually.

Gaby Laws



THE CEMETERY PROJECT

www.genpals.com

When Gaby and I started our project in the summer of 2007, we thought that it would be a simple matter of photographing the stones and abstracting such information as was immediately available from the inscriptions. It very soon became apparent, however, that we were inescapably drawn into uncovering the stories behind the inscriptions: who

these people were, how they related to others within the same or different burial grounds and whether we could match them to individuals whose names appeared in published Synagogue and civil records or known genealogies. Had we not forced ourselves to curb our natural ferreting instincts, we might still be researching the initial four or five stones we photographed in Brady Street Cemetery!

Not all Worn Stones are Old Stones

We quickly discovered that clarity of inscription did not necessarily relate to the age of a stone. Some that appeared to be very old were often three or four decades younger than our initial guesstimate, whilst the reverse applied to others that possessed clearly incised characters. To date, the oldest surviving stone is that of *Michael ben Shimon* [ID:I1446], died 12 December 1793. The earliest birth is that of *Solomon BENJAMIN*. [ID:I1330], 1716 -1803/4. Both are in Brady Street.

Two Pillars of the Community

It was in Brady Street, too, that we found two persons of apparently unimpeachable virtue, but whose identities remain tantalisingly elusive. The mortal remains of *Yitzhak ben Yisrael Yaacov* [ID:I2037], died 1804, lie beneath a well-preserved stone with a clearly incised inscription of great complexity, which was kindly decoded for us by Jeremy I. Pfeffer¹. The name is in the form of an acrostic, formed by the first character of every line, with the year of his death, 5564, given as a *Gematria* of the Hebrew words meaning "raiser of the orphans". He was apparently a charitable man who cared for orphans, and the inscription is a poetic eulogy describing his work and monetary contributions towards their welfare, but who he was remains a mystery. Equally mysterious

is his female counterpart, *Miriam wife of Moses LEVY* [ID:I2309]. Among the last of the Brady Street burials, she lies beneath a magnificent and much photographed memorial, singled out for mention by Dr. Sharman Kadish in her book *Jewish Heritage in England - an Architectural Guide*²:

"... the middle of the Cemetery, close to the mound, is a very rare Jewish example of a bust of a woman: *Miriam, wife of Moses Levy, identified as Miriam Levey (sic) 1801-1856 a welfare worker who opened the first soup kitchens in the East End. Her tomb is in the form of a square obelisk with four faces, decorated with figurative reliefs*"

We anticipated a plethora of data concerning this benevolent woman, but were unable to find so much as a verifiable civil death certificate, and certainly no mention of her in the Jewish or National press, or works of reference. Her husband's Hebrew name is *Moshe bar Eliezar*, and the couple might be the Moses (government contractor, age 62) and Mary Levy (age 51) enumerated with their family at Highbury House, Battersea, in 1851. However, although his wife is not listed, this Moses is shown as married in the 1861 return. If anyone can throw any light on either of these virtuous but elusive personages we should be very pleased to hear from them.



One who strayed from the fold

From the records of non-conformist burials³, we knew that these included people whose names suggested a Jewish background but, as these poor souls were invariably small children or babies, paupers from the workhouses, prison inmates or other unfortunates, whose remains would have been interred in communal unmarked graves, we had no expectation of finding any memorials. Thus, it was with a degree of surprise that, during a sunny Open London Weekend stroll in Bunhill Fields⁴, we came face to face with a somewhat austere

but well preserved stone (not on the Website) erected to the memory of *Miss/Mrs(?) Rebecca HART MYERS*, who died 12 February 1803, age 47 years. The inscription ends with a verse from Romans 11:36. Rebecca HART MYERS was daughter of one, and sister to another, pillar of the early Anglo-Jewish Community, Dr. Naphtali HART MYERS (died London 1788) and his

son, Dr. Joseph HART MYERS (born New York, died London, 1823).^{5 & 6} In 1819, a daughter of Joseph HART MYERS, also called Rebecca, died tragically young one year after her marriage to Isaac Cohen; a double tragedy for Naphtali who first "lost" his daughter to conversion, and later a beloved granddaughter to an early grave. In his will, dated 1788⁷, among other bequests, he left to his "daughter, Rebecca Hart Myers, an annuity of £50 ... for her natural life and for her sole use ...". Apart from this will, which later gave rise to law suits⁸ featuring several of her non-Jewish beneficiaries, as well as her nephew, Dr. Joseph HART MYERS, we have



found no other information on Rebecca, daughter of Naphtali. Although, one can be pretty certain, there must have been a lot of talk, not least within the closed circles of the senior members of the community, nothing seems to have reached the public press; and today, in that quiet haven at the heart of London's City Road, her memorial mutely stands "like Ruth amid the Alien Corn".

And one who entered it.

In the well-tended Jewish Cemetery in Hong Kong there stands an imposing stone, decorated with wreaths, ribbons and garlands, dedicated to *James Henry OXBERRY* [ID:12579], born in Blaydon, Newcastle upon Tyne, 6 March 1871, died 19 December 1925.

The Hebrew inscription on the stone reads:

" the memorial stone of the tomb of a perfect and upright man who feared God and avoided evil ... Isaac Oxberry, who departed for his eternal home on the 3rd day of Tevet and his days were ... years"⁹

An obituary in the Hong Kong Telegraph¹⁰, dated Monday, 21 February 1925, describes him as the Proprietor of the Palace Hotel, Kowloon. It goes on to relate that Mr. OXBERRY was a native of Yorkshire and, as a young man, had been a member of the services. He later joined the staff of the Hong Kong Hotel and had been proprietor of the Palace Hotel for the past eight years. He was a very keen "Buffalo"¹¹ - he had attained the highest rank - and also a Freemason. He was also an active supporter of many sporting organisations

on the island. The funeral at the Jewish Cemetery was conducted by R.I. ELIAS, assisted by Mr. D.S. GUBBAY, and, among the chief mourners, were Messrs I.L. and H. GOLDENBURG, E. ABRAHAMS and N. MOSES. They may well have been surprised by the departure from Jewish ritual that followed its conclusion, when, we are told, a Mr. G. SHERRIF conducted a Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes service, with the members lined up round the grave. We have found a probable birth certificate in March Quarter, 1872: OXBERRY, James, Gateshead, 10a 826, a year later than the date given on the stone. The following look the most promising matches in the 1881 and 1891 censuses:

1881

OXBERRY, Thomas, Head, Married, 41, Glass Bottle Blower, Harwent Hill, Durham

OXBERRY, Hannah, Wife, Married, 42, York

OXBERRY, Mary Ann, Daughter, Single, 16, Dressmaker, York

OXBERRY, George, Son, Single, 13, Scholar, Blaydon, Durham

OXBERRY, Thomas, Son, Single, 11, Scholar Blaydon

OXBERRY, James, Son, Single, 9, Scholar, Blaydon

RG number: RG11 Piece: 4967 Folio: 143 Page: 109

35 Adolphus St, Dawdon, County: Durham

1891

OXBERRY, Thomas, Head, Married, 51, Glass Bottle Maker, Durham, Harvent Hill

OXBERRY, Hannah, Wife, Married, 52, York, Yorkshire

OXBERRY, James, Son, Single, 19, Glass Bottle Maker, Durham, Blaydon On Tyne

OXBERRY, Thos Wm, Grandson, 8, Scholar, Whitwood, Yorkshire

RG number: RG12 Piece: 3763 Folio: 110 Page: 20

Address: 50, Cambridge Street, Castleford, County: Yorkshire (West Riding)

We have not located him in the returns of 1901, by which time he may have already been in Hong Kong.

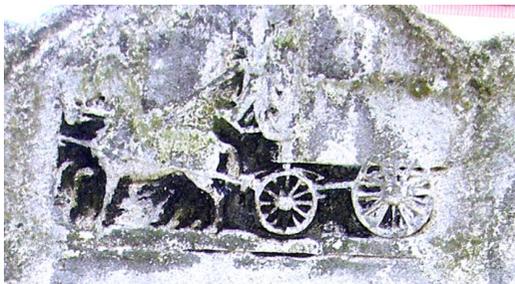
PALACE HOTEL.
 Tel.: Kowloon No. 3. Tel. Ad: "PALACE"
 Three Minutes from Kowloon Wharf, Ferry
 Wharf and Railway Station.
 Entirely under English Management.
 Electric Light and Fans Throughout.
EVERY ROOM WITH PRIVATE BATH.
 Lounges, Bar and Billiard Rooms. Unrivalled
 Cuisine under the personal supervision of
 the Proprietress.
TERMS MODERATE
 Special Terms to Families on application to—
 Mrs. J. H. OXBERRY,
 Proprietress.
 45]

An advertisement in the Hong Kong Daily press¹⁰, dated 4 October 1926, the year following his death, suggests he was married, but we know nothing about his wife or other family connections. Beyond the fact that he was buried in a Jewish cemetery, at a service conducted, in part, by Jewish Ministers, there is nothing to suggest that James OXBERRY was born into a Jewish family or officially entered the faith via conversion or

through marriage.

Carvings and Symbols

Apart from the standard carved symbols that appear on Jewish tombstones - Cohen or priestly hands; a pitcher and water, denoting a Levite; a chopped tree, denoting a man or woman who died young; a hand and candles denoting a wife making the Sabbath blessing - one or two more unusual symbols have caught our eye.



Emanuel MINDEN [ID:I1312], 1791-1855, is listed in both the 1841 and 1851 censuses as Broker and Licensed Victualler respectively; which of these occupations is reflected in the rather crude carving of a horse and cart is hard to say!

copyright K. Bolton

In Edmonton Cemetery, a rather beautiful monument erected to the memory of a beloved daughter, *Rosie HARRIS* [ID:I2420], who died aged six years three months, is ornamented with a carved dove, perched on a branch and holding a scroll.



Also in Edmonton, we found *Alfred Prosper ABOHBOT* [ID:I3], adorned with an unusually graphic depiction of what we think may be a Masonic Handshake.

copyright K. Bolton

The Edmonton tomb of *Benjamin MYERS* [ID:I207], 1822-1890, is ornamented with a book, symbol of his profession of printer, whilst the quill

and paper or parchment which ornaments the stone of *Moses Phillips* [ID: I378] in Brady Street, clearly symbolise his profession of writer.

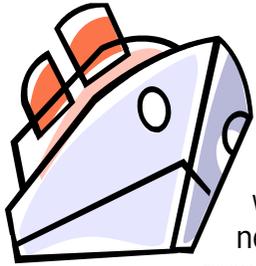


The site statistics

Since launching the site on B-J at the end of October 2007, we have added the small, beautifully maintained, Jewish cemetery in Hong Kong and, by the time this article appears in B-J News, the Western Synagogue Cemetery in Fulham should be almost completely - if not fully - uploaded, making a total of at least 1300 stones, with around 200 more in the pipeline. There are also 23 general views of the various cemeteries, 10 cemetery histories and several items of interest and narratives. Additionally we have over 3,200 individuals on site. As new information comes to hand, we regularly check and update the data already online. We are pleased to receive your comments, and hope you get as much pleasure and interest from the site as we do in researching it.

Angela Shire

1. Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rehovot, Israel
2. Jewish Heritage In England An Architectural Guide. English Heritage 2006 ISBN: 10 1905624 28 X
3. <http://www.findmypast.com> "City of London Burials 1742-1904"
4. http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/living_environment/open_spaces/bunhill.htm
5. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~kaub/Myers/nhm1711.htm>
6. History of the Great Synagogue [London] by Cecil Roth <http://www.jewishgen.org/JCR-UK/susser/roth/index.htm>
7. Prob 11/1172
8. National Archive W1815 S61 C 13/200/24/ C 13/215/27/ C 13/244/16
9. Translated from the Hebrew by B-J member J R-W
10. intermittently available on http://hkclweb.hkpl.gov.hk/hkclr2/internet/eng/html/frm-bas_srch.html
11. <http://www.freemasonry.bcy.ca/texts/buffaloes.html>



KATHLEEN KAYE AND THE SINKING OF THE LUSITANIA

Ten years ago, when I started compiling the Sarah LYON family tree, I had a great deal of early success which kept me going, and to this date I am still adding new branches. The tree is fascinating as it connects with many well-known people about whom hundreds of articles have been written. One of the lesser known, but very interesting, was a woman named Kathleen KAYE. Her ancestors had come from Poland where her grandfather had been a schoichet (ritual slaughterer) named Jacob KIRSCHBAUM. He had emigrated from Krakow to England around 1855, and changed the family name to Kaye; it took a while to trace his descendants.

I found a branch of the family in Wales, and was told that Kathleen KAYE had been on the *Lusitania* when it sank in 1915 having been torpedoed by a German submarine. This intrigued me and I found a write-up in the New York Times of May 10th 1915, which called Kathleen a heroine at the age of 14. The search for details about her, and her subsequent life, was not easy, and I could not find her birth on the FreeBMD database. It later turned out that her name was Hannah Ermine Kathleen KIRSCHBAUM and she was born in London in 1898, which means that she was not 14 but 16 years old when the *Lusitania* sank. Even so, it was hard to imagine sending such a young woman alone to Canada, to visit family, and then on to the U.S. At least, it appears that she was alone because nowhere is it stated that she was accompanied on her return home from the U.S.

I often wondered what happened to Kathleen, and scoured the websites looking for information about the *Lusitania* and its passengers. There was one site, hosted by Michael POIRIER, who was also interested in her, and we exchanged emails - but neither of us could go any further in our search. Fast forward five years, and one day I idly put in the name of this mysterious family member and bingo, it came up on an art website. It seemed that her awful experience of survival on the high seas had not deterred Kathleen from further voyages; in her early thirties she set out once again on a boat, this time bound for California, with ten pounds in her pocket. On board she met an American

artist named Carl BRANDIEN, her senior by twelve years, who was intrigued by this young woman who had set out alone, with little money, on an adventure to visit California. They formed a team and decided to travel around the world painting the beautiful sights they saw. However, their dream was spoiled by rumours of the impending war, and they travelled to New York where they settled down and married. Kathleen became an American citizen, and in their later years they moved to Florida where she died in 1963. Carl died two years later. I still wonder what she did in the years between her rescue and setting off on another adventure, but will probably never know.

The story doesn't quite end there. Recently I was researching another branch of the family and was looking through some notes someone had sent me. There was a name, George MAURICE, and a note in brackets mentioning the *Lusitania*. Once again the web provided information and it turned out that George MAURICE was not as fortunate as Kathleen Kaye: he sadly died in the tragedy. The two were not related, and it was a strange feeling to find two people connected with the tree both involved in such a momentous event.

Judy Wolkovitch



JUST FOR LAUGHS: A PROUD JEWISH MOTHER

Given that the possibility of 2008 seeing the election of the first woman President of the USA seems to be receding, the following glimpse of the future may be of interest:

The year is 2016 and the United States has elected the first woman as well as the first Jewish president, Susan Goldfarb. She calls up her mother a few weeks after Election Day and says, "So, Mom, I assume you will be coming to my

Inauguration?"

"I don't think so. It's a ten hour drive, your father isn't as young as he used to be, and my arthritis is acting up again."

"Don't worry about it Mom, I'll send Air Force One to pick you up and take you home; and a limousine will pick you up at your door."

"I don't know. Everybody will be so fancy-schmantzy; what on earth would I wear?"

"Oh Mom" replies Susan, "I'll make sure you have a wonderful gown, custom-made by the best designer in New York."

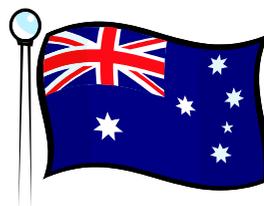
"Honey," Mom complains, "you know I can't eat those rich foods you and your friends like to eat."

The President-elect responds, "Don't worry Mom. The entire affair is going to be handled by the best caterer in New York, kosher all the way. Mom, I really want you to come."

So Mom reluctantly agrees and on 20 January 2017, Susan Goldfarb is being sworn in as President of the United States. In the front row sits the new President's mother, who leans over to a senator sitting next to her. "You see that woman over there with her hand on the Torah, becoming President of the United States?"

The Senator whispers back, "Yes, I do."

Says Mom proudly, "Her brother is a doctor."



JEWISH GENEALOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY (AUSTRALIA)

A national conference on Jewish genealogy will be held in Canberra on Sunday 26th and Monday 27th October, 2008, with optional visits to archives, and an antique Jewish cemetery in Goulburn, New South Wales, on the following two days.

The Conference will provide a varied programme combining a mixture of lectures/seminars and panel forums, with visits to national Institutions and genealogical resources. This conference will have special interest for those researching the 1500 free settlers and convicts who arrived in the Australian colonies from England before 1850 and later waves of immigration in the nineteenth century.

Please indicate your expression of interest to conf2008@ajgs.org.au

By expressing your interest, you are not registering for the Conference. A Conference Programme, and a list of accommodation near the Conference venue, with rates, will be available soon.

For updated information and further details visit <http://www.ajgs.org.au/conf08/>

Lionel Sharpe
Melbourne, Australia
On behalf of the planning committee

JOHN HEREFORD

The son of a Jewish lawyer, Joachim Hayman Herzog was born in 1925 at Wilmersdorf, Berlin. In 1933, when the Nazis came to power, his parents fled to England, where Joachim was educated at the prestigious Sevenoaks School.



In 1943, at the age of 17, Joachim joined the RAF, volunteering for flying duties and changing his name to what he considered the nearest sounding English equivalent, John Hereford. He became a member of a small group of aircrew known as "spec ops" (special operators), that included a number of other Jews, some of them also from Germany. The spec ops were wireless operators, each flying as the eighth member of a bomber crew occupying a screened-off, lonely and unheated position in the rear of the aircraft. They used highly secret specialised radio equipment to disrupt the

Luftwaffe's night fighter operations over Germany by jamming their control frequencies.

Flying in the main bomber stream, the spec ops tracked communications between the German night fighter controllers and their pilots. Using a jammer codenamed ABC (Airborne Cigar), the operator tuned his own receiver over those most frequently used by the German controllers. As soon as one was identified, the spec op set his ABC to the same frequency, and emitted electronic "noises" to render the controller's instructions unintelligible. The spec op then followed the controller as he tried to communicate on another frequency and the jamming process would begin again. On a few occasions the spec op would broadcast false instructions to the enemy pilots. The role of these specialists is little known, yet they made a major contribution to defeating the formidable German night fighter organisation.

John Hereford's first flying operations were in a bomber support role. In addition to jamming the enemy radio frequencies, small strips of metal foil, known as "window", were dropped to jam the German early-warning radar. It was only after ten such operations over Germany, and in support of the Allied landings in Normandy, that he transferred to 101 Squadron operating Lancaster bombers. This squadron specialised in the ABC role, and Hereford flew a further twenty one sorties during intense night bombing operations over Germany before he was rested early in 1945.

101 suffered the highest casualties of any RAF squadron, and it was not until after the war that it was learned that the Germans had perfected a technique to home in on the Lancasters' transmissions. The Jewish spec ops flew in the full knowledge of the high casualty rate, and the fate of some who were shot down remains unknown.

At the end of the war Hereford was sent to Germany with the Air Disarmament Wing and spent many months at the Hermann Goering Research Institute for Aeronautics. He acted as an interpreter and analyst for Operation Surgeon, the collection of monographs and debriefings from German scientists about their research work. This was followed by the selection and removal to Britain of the equipment thought to be valuable.

Hereford also monitored German telephone calls, and was intrigued by the number of messages that ended with *acht und achtzig*. When he married up the numbers - 88 - to the letters of the alphabet he realised that the senders were signing off "HH" - Heil Hitler. His discovery led to the arrest of a number of senior Nazis who might otherwise have escaped.

During this time, Hereford fell in love with and married, a leading ballerina, Ursula Vaupel; a blonde, blue-eyed beauty, she had danced for, and been introduced to, Hitler in Berlin. At the end of the war she had fled barefoot as the Soviet Army advanced on the devastated city. Despite her ragged appearance, a fellow railway passenger recognised her and produced a photograph of her from his wallet.

Having left the RAF, with the rank of Warrant Officer, Hereford decided to make a career in the hotel business, learning his trade from the kitchens up,

and rapidly achieving a number of prominent positions in the industry. The now well-established mini, midi or maxi weekend breaks stemmed from his marketing initiatives.

John Hereford died in December 2007, aged 82.

Mike Joseph, by kind permission of the *Daily Telegraph*

The full Daily Telegraph obituary upon which the above is very largely based, may be found at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/12/13/db1301.xml>

DIARY DATES

Taken from GENEVA website

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

15th March 2008 to 31st August 2008 inc.



March	15	Sherborne, DOR	Workshop: Trades
March	15	Northampton, NTH	Family & Local History Fair
March	19	SoG, LND	Research Before Parish Registers
March	20	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 5 Victorian Census Returns & Finding Aids
March	25	SoG, LND	Powerpoint for Family Historians
March	26	SoG, LND	Get to Grips with The National Archives Online Resources
March	27	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Royal Marine
March	27	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 6 Pedigrees - Development, Layout and Conventions
March	29	Plymouth, DEV	Devon and Cornwall FHSs' Family History Fair, also FFHS AGM & GM
March	29	SoG, LND	Apprenticeship Records for Family Historians

March	29	SoG, LND	The Master Genealogist Software - Intermediate-Advanced
March	29	Preston, LAN	Study Day: On the parish. The Poor Law and its records pre-1834
April	2	SoG, LND	Immigration: Australia and New Zealand
April	3	SoG, LND	Company and Business Records for Family Historians
April	3	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 7 Newspapers, Directories, Electoral Registers & Poll Books
April	4-6	Bideford, DEV	GOONS 29th Annual Conference and AGM
April	5	Pudsey, WYK	Pudsey Family and Local History Fair
April	5	Hereford, HEF	Herefordshire Family History Fair
April	5	Birmingham, WMD	First Steps in Family History
April	5	SoG, LND	Accidents at Work: How to Find Records for Family History
April	6	Stockport, CHS	The Stockport Town Hall Family History Fair
April	9	ONLINE	Searching for Wills and Administrations in England & Wales
April	9	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Thatcher
April	10	SoG, LND	Kensington & Chelsea Local Studies Archives (visit)
April	10	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 8 - The Library of the SoG & its Catalogue
April	10	Poole, DOR	Workshop Organising and Presenting & Writing Up your Family History research
April	10	Oxted, SRY	Family History using the Internet

		workshop at Oxted Library					
April	12	Haywards Heath, WSX	Annual Conference and AGM	May	2	Poole, DOR	Intermediate Course (Pre 1837) Part 11 (part 1 25 Apr)
April	12	SoG, LND	Palaeography for Beginners: Learning to Read Tudor & Stuart Handwriting	May	2-4	Olympia, LND	<i>Who Do You Think You Are? Live</i> Family History Show <i>Note dates: now Fri-Sun, not Sat-Mon (3-5) as originally announced</i>
April	16	SoG, LND	Divorce Records at the National Archives	May	3&5	Chesterfield, DBY	Family History Event
April	17	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 9 - Parish Registers part 1	May	7	SoG, LND	Mobile Genealogy
April	17	Poole, DOR	Beginner Course Part 1 (Part II 24 April)	May	8	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 11 Wills, other Probate Documents & Reading Old Handwriting
April	19	Scotch Corner Hotel (A1), NRY	Spring Family History Day	May	10	Huddersfield, WRY	Family and Local History Fair
April	19	SoG, LND	Off the Beaten Track: The West Midlands	May	10	Canterbury, KEN	Reading Old Documents
April	19	SoG, LND	Careers in Genealogy: Research in Probate	May	10	SoG, LND	Using Legacy Software
April	19	Preston, LAN	Study day: Please Sir, Can I have some more: the poor law and its records, 1834-1948	May	10	SoG, LND	Off the Beaten Track: Tracing Ancestors in Cornwall
April	20	Worthing, SSX	The South Coast Family History Fair	May	10	London, LND	Guild Palaeography Seminar: London Metropolitan Archives
April	23	SoG, LND	Researching French Ancestry	May	14	ONLINE	TNA Catalogue - Finding People (In Association with TNA)
April	24	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 10 - Parish Registers	May	14	SoG, LND	Tracing the Lives of Professionals
April	24	Poole, DOR	Beginner Course Part II (Part I 17 April)	May	14	Horley, SRY	Family History using the Internet workshop at Horley Library
April	24	Redhill, SRY	Family History using the Internet workshop at Redhill Library	May	15	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 12 Wills, Probate Documents & Reading Old Handwriting pt2
April	25	Poole, DOR	Intermediate Course (Pre 1837) Part 1 (Part II 2nd May)	May	17	SoG, LND	Open Day with Free Beginner's Lectures
April	26	ONLINE	Caribbean Family History	May	17	Caterham, SRY	Free drop-in family history advice session at Caterham Valley Library
April	26	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was Scottish				
April	26	Sheffield, SYK	Sheffield & District Family History Fair				
April	26	Salford, LAN	North-west Group of Family History Societies, Annual Spring Conference				

May	18	Maidstone, KEN	The Kent Family History Fair			Front During the Great War	
May	20	Camberley, SRY	Family History using the Internet workshop at Camberley Library		June 12	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Huguenot
May	21	SoG, LND	License to Marry		June 14	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Civil Servant
May	22	SoG, LND	Family Historian Software - Advanced		June 14	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Bastard
May	22	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 13 - First Steps at Kew		June 14-	Styal, CHS	Heritage Open Day with Family History display, research, advice and resources
May	24	SoG, LND	Writing up your Family History		15		
May	24-26	Brighton, SXE	Botting family world reunion		June 15	Milton Keynes, BKM	The Home Counties Family History Show <i>Note one day only, not 14&15 as originally posted here.</i>
May	28	SoG, LND	Library Tour		June 16	SoG, LND	Using Pay-Per-View Websites
May	28	SoG, LND	Local History Resources for Family Historians		June 17	ONLINE	All you ever wanted to know about Civil Registration 1837 - 2005
May	29	SoG, LND	Hyde Park Family History Centre (visit)		June 17	ONLINE	Planting the Tree: Foundations for your English & Welsh Family History
May	29	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 14 - The Armed Forces		June 18	SoG, LND	Immigration: The British in Patagonia
May	31	SoG, LND	Palaeography for Improvers		June 21	Trowbridge, WIL	Wiltshire Family History Society Open Day
June	4	SoG, LND	Using the Society of Genealogists Library		June 21	Exeter, DEV	Summer Special
June	4	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Bigamist		June 25	SoG, LND	Society of Genealogists Databases Online
June	4	Staines, MDX	Family History using the Internet workshop at Staines Library		June 25	SoG, LND	London Administrative Boundaries for Family Historians
June	5	SoG, LND	Beginners Skills Course 15) - Family History in Practice		June 26	SoG, LND	Family Historian Software for Beginners
June	7	Sunderland, TWR	Sunderland History Fair		June 27	Egham, SRY	Free drop-in family history advice session at Egham Library
June	7	SoG, LND	London Cemeteries		June 28	York, YKS	Yorkshire Family History Fair
June	7	Shrewsbury, SAL	Shropshire Family History Society's Open Day		June 28	SoG, LND	Off the Beaten Track: Lancashire, Cumberland, Westmoreland & Cheshire
June	11	SoG, LND	Non-Combatants and Others - The Home		June 28	SoG, LND	Pauper Palaces: Records of the Poor post 1834
					June 28	Kerry, MGY	Kerry Open Morning Summer 2008

June 30-4 July	Canterbury, KEN	Tracing Your Family History	August 9	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was a Blacksmith
July 1	Farnham, SRY	Family History using the Internet workshop at Farnham Library	August 9	Durham, DUR	Guild Hands-on Practical Computer Seminar: Durham University
July 3	SoG, LND	Manorial Records	August 16	SoG, LND	Off the Beaten Track: Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire & Derbyshire
July 5	Leeds, WRY	"Death and Taxes" Day School	August 16	SoG, LND	My Ancestor was in the Army - Workshop
July 5	SoG, LND	Tracing Caribbean Roots	August 18	SoG, LND	Genealogy from your Armchair: What's Free Online
July 7	SoG, LND	Scared of Mouse? The Next Step	August 20	SoG, LND	The Elephant & Castle
July 12	Swansea, GLA	GFHS Open Day - The Waterside Museum	August 23	SoG, LND	Using the India Office Library
July 12	SoG, LND	Maps for Family Historians	August 23	SoG, LND	Home Office Certified Industrial Schools 1857-1933
July 16	SoG, LND	Family Historian Software practical	August 27	SoG, LND	Village Crafts
July 19	SoG, LND	DNA tests & Heredity for Family Historians	August 29-31	Colchester, ESS	Joint Essex Soc. for FH & Suffolk FHS Residential FH Conference <i>The Way We Were</i>
July 19	SoG, LND	London's East End & The Cockney Language	August 30	SoG, LND	The National Archives for Family History
July 22	Ash, SRY	Free drop-in family history advice session at Ash Library			
July 23	SoG, LND	Our Women Ancestors - Tracing Female Lines			
July 26	SoG, LND	London Repositories for Family Historians			
July 30	SoG, LND	History of Islington through Photographs			
August 2	SoG, LND	All you need to know about the Census			
August 7-9	Long Beach, CA, USA	Sail Into Your Past Aboard The Queen Mary!			
August 9	SoG, LND	Careers in Genealogy: The Road to AGRA & Running a Genealogical Practice			