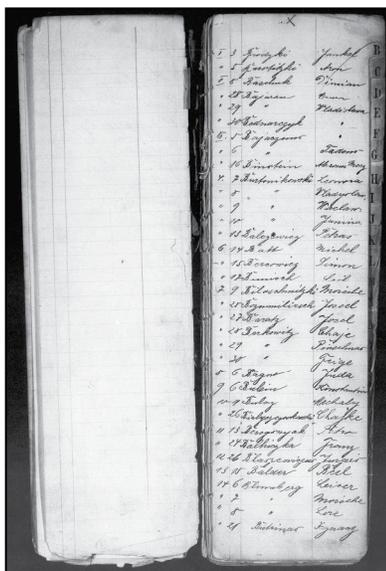


MASS-POCHMA

June 2021

Volume XXX, Number 2, Issue 98



In This Issue

<i>Presidents' Column</i>	2
<i>Editors' Column</i>	4
<i>Essay: Passion or Obsession?</i>	5
Programs	
Reverse Genealogy	7
Methodology	
JewishGen Community Databases	9
Finding Difficult Passengers	11
Successes during Social Distancing	
Searching for Frau Stepanek	13
Jews in the Old West	16
The Way We Were	
Jews Buried in Mt. Auburn Cemetery	20
Boston Queries: Two queries	24
JGSGB Calendar	26
JGSGB Board	27



From the Presidents

by *Jessie Klein and
Carolyn Kohlman*



What a year this has been!

Despite the challenges that COVID presented, our Society has continued to grow and thrive. Until we can gather (and celebrate) in person again, we will continue to make the most of our ability to present programs virtually.

This year, we have learned from speakers from far and wide. Lisa Cooper, speaking to us from England, described her father's experience growing up in the Jewish Pale. The Heidi Urich Annual Lecture scholar, Stephen Zipperstein, spoke from California about "Myth and History in the Recent Jewish Past." Taking advantage of Zoom, we have heard from many other first-time presenters to JGSGB. One repeat speaker was Steve Morse, who addressed us for the fifth time since his first talk in 2002. He, too, spoke from California.

We also learned from speakers closer to home, including our members Aaron Ginsburg ("The Joint: What Is It and How Can I Use It"), Carol Clingan and Debbie Lerner ("Beginners Workshop on Jewish Genealogy"), and Linda Levine, Gilda Bruckman, Jill Roff, and Jeanne Eberhart ("Digital Storytelling: A New Way to Share Your Information").

In addition, the JGSGB collaborated with other local historical, educational, and genealogical

groups. We co-sponsored three talks with the Massachusetts Genealogical Council (MGC), two with Hebrew College, and one each with the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts and the New England Jewish History Collaborative.

Our programs for the 2021-2022 season will remain virtual through at least February. This decision was based on the virus-related restrictions—the opening of our meeting venues, the safety of our members, and the requests of our speakers, who will again address us from around the world (Israel and Lithuania), around the country (Chicago), and around the block. See the schedule on page 26.

A few more things about which to *kvell!*

- At last summer's international conference, JGSGB received the IAJGS Outstanding Project Award for our Research Sunday programs (see the October 2020 issue of *Mass-Pocha*).
- At this spring's New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) conference, Judy Izenberg—our former co-president and Research Sunday chair and current volunteer chair—was awarded the prestigious Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Genealogy Volunteer of the Year Award.
- During this past program year, we sponsored or co-sponsored 22 programs.
- Our three Virtual Research Sunday events averaged between 55 and 60 attendees.

Something new you may have noticed

We have added closed captioning to our Zoom meetings. There is a "Live Transcript" icon in the options ribbon at the bottom of the Zoom screen that allows you to turn it on or off. Then click on the CC in the blue rectangle, and you will see the options to Show or Hide the captions.

Meet our newest board member

At our June business meeting you elected our 2021-2022 Board, and we welcomed new board member Jill Balmuth. For the past year, Jill has been working behind the scenes as publicity chair for the Society. Among other things, she broadened the Society's visibility by having us offer an item in this year's WGBH auction.

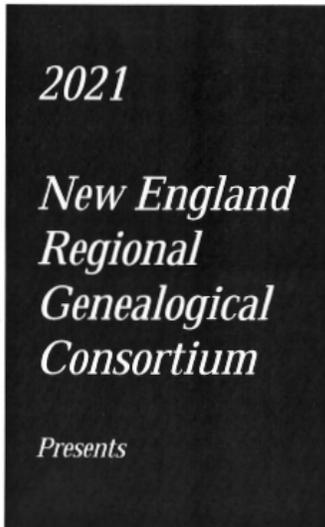
Jill got the genealogy bug in 2005 when a stranger showed up at her grandmother's funeral. That stranger turned out to be her grandmother's first cousin, who shared family stories. Jill wanted to know more, and a love for genealogy was born.

Professionally, Jill works as a project manager at Legacy Tree Genealogists. Previously, she ran her own genealogy consulting business, called Jewel Genealogy in honor of her immigrant

great-grandparents who owned The Jewel Candy Company in South Philadelphia. Jill holds a certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

We thank you all for your encouragement and support. Your participation in our programs has buoyed the spirits of all our hard-working volunteers. As we begin to get back to our pre-COVID routines and enjoy some new ways of approaching life, we wish you all a healthy summer of connecting.

Jessie and Carolyn



The Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Genealogy Volunteer of the Year Award

To

Judy Izenberg

In recognition of her outstanding volunteer service to the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium or its member societies, and as such to the field of genealogy, over and above the job to which she was elected or appointed.




Dave Robison, President April 2021

In This Issue

by **Daphnah Sage, Jay Sage,
and Martha Forsyth**

We would like to welcome Myra Fournier as the fourth member of our editorial team. She has already proved invaluable in helping to keep track of the myriad details that are involved in putting out *Mass-Pocha*. You, the reader, will be the beneficiary.



In the first article in this issue, Fern Greenberg Blood offers an essay on the pleasures and rewards of undertaking our hobby of genealogy. Our presidents certainly contributed to that with

their yeoman's job of converting from our in-person programs to Zoom. Among the programs we heard was Nikka Smith's talk. She suggested that we reorient ourselves from searching only backwards in time to working forwards in order to find relatives in more recent and current generations. The rewards can be great.

This issue includes two methodology articles. Gilda Bruckman demonstrates the detective talents she applied to decipher a German clerk's cryptic handwritten town name on a ship manifest. The JewishGen Communities Database allowed her to pin down the town in question. The second methodology article also deals with problem manifests. At last summer's international Jewish genealogy conference, our

co-president Jessie Klein learned of the "Book Index to Passenger Lists", a useful resource for locating "un-findable" passengers on a manifest.

Many of us have used the time during the pandemic to catch up on our research. Barbara Krupat finally connected with the family of the Viennese woman who protected her maternal family and other Jews after Germany annexed Austria. Professional genealogists helped her track down family members of the courageous woman. Likewise, Ken Elstein found that fellow researchers were needed in his efforts to learn about members of his mother's family who had been part of the Old West.



Myra Fournier, our new *Mass-Pocha* volunteer, is hosting the "The Way We Were" column for this issue. She chose an unusual subject, the Mount Auburn Cemetery, one of Boston's lesser-known gems, and pointed out some of the illustrious Jews buried there. In our other regular column, "Boston Queries", David Rosen shares two inquiries he received regarding Boston connections. David shows us how he approached finding the answer to each one.

Note that the Program Committee has already lined up all the speakers for the 2021-2022 program year (see p.26). Check the jgs.gb.org website regularly for details and updates.

Finally, we hope to "see" you at the virtual international conference August 1-5. Check the back page for details.



Mass-Pocha is the journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston

Mass-Pocha is a word play on "Massachusetts" and the Yiddish word for family, "mishpocha."

The contents of *Mass-Pocha* may not be reproduced in any form without prior written permission of the editor, editor@jgs.gb.org

For change of address: membership@jgs.gb.org

Mass-Pocha (ISSN 1070-4744) is free to JGSGB members. Domestic non-Massachusetts subscriptions are \$15 per year.

For subscriptions and change of address contact

JGSGB
P.O. Box 610366
Newton Highlands
MA 02461-0366
866-611-5698

© 2021 Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, Inc.

Genealogy: Passion or Obsession?

by Fern Greenberg Blood

My husband Larry introduced me to the joys and frustrations of genealogy research. A descendant of Mayflower-era immigrants to Massachusetts, he has been doing research for more than 25 years. I was intrigued, but since my ancestors came to America from the Russian Empire at the beginning of the 20th century, I thought there would not be much I could find compared to his 8,000-person tree. I was wrong.

Early Success

Nearly 15 years ago, I began sharing my husband's hobby. Visits to relatives on my father's side led to a young cousin who had been researching the family's history. Overwhelmed, she passed her work on to me. Naively, I took it. Initially, Larry helped me use **Ancestry.com** to find birth, marriage, and death information for the relatives we knew. Then, since most of these relatives settled in Massachusetts and Connecticut, we were able to visit city halls, where we found information that at the time was not available online.

Slowly, using Family Tree Maker, we built a database to keep track of each piece of information. (This hobby is particularly well-suited for the detail-oriented!) At first, information flooded in. The explosive growth of online database collections makes it incredibly easy to compile a vast amount of information—birth, school, marriage, military, residence, occupation, death. One exciting discovery was a 1996 U.S. Park Service interview of a relative who came through Ellis Island in 1921. The interview was part of the Park Service's Oral History Project, dedicated to preserving first-hand recollections of immigrants entering America between 1892 and 1954. Nearly 1,900 oral histories are available to the public (tinyurl.com/ParkServiceOral).

Interviews

After a few years, the flood slowed to a trickle. Having put the cart before the horse by starting with online research, I took a step back to read books and articles about conducting genealogical research. It soon became clear that the best way to learn about the dead is to interview the living! I invested in a digital audio recorder, found interview questions online, and embarked on conversations with cousins and my one surviving uncle. Twelve interviews later, I have been richly rewarded by learning about the historical context of my ancestors' lives. In addition, I have been blessed with deepened relationships with known and newly discovered relatives. Many of them have thanked me for the opportunity to share treasured memories.

Looking to Europe

Eventually the branches of those who immigrated to America became clearer. Some of the bare bones—names, dates, places—were fleshed out with stories of joy and sadness, accomplishment and tragedy. At this point, rather than trying to keep up with the birth of each new descendant, I have chosen to look further back, delving into the history of ancestors in the old country. To my surprise, many records have survived. Getting access to them, now that's a challenge! But

genealogists and researchers are everywhere. Provide a researcher with enough information about those left behind, and often amazing records come back to you. Fortunately for those seeking Jewish genealogy information, most headstones include the name of the deceased's father. In addition, among Ashkenazim it is traditional to name children after deceased relatives, providing further clues to prior generations.

The Richness of What One Finds

Genealogy is more than piling up names, dates, and places. I am not a historian, but the search for family information compels me to learn about centuries of religious, ethnic, cultural, and geopolitical history, vividly contrasting the proudly glorious and horribly tragic. It has become a vast inter-disciplinary journey. My voyages, literal and electronic, have taken me across time and space: from the pogroms of Russia, which my ancestors fled; to World-War-I France, where my great-great uncle died performing acts of heroism; to Depression-era New England, where my grandfather struggled to provide for his family and died before his time; to Florida, where I discovered an unknown branch of the family and a man who has become more of a loving grandfather than the first cousin twice removed that he actually is; to Israel, where a few descendants who survived the Holocaust resettled after the release of Soviet Jewry in the 1990s. By delving into the past, I am creating a future richer and fuller because it is enhanced with memories of heroes and strivers, sufferers and achievers. A future peopled with new friends and old, sharing an extraordinary journey of discovery.



Family portrait of Fern Greenberg Blood's paternal great-grandfather Peter Greenberg (Paltiel Postilnick, who took his wife's surname when he came to America), his wife, Libby, and their children. Their daughter, Nellie, is Fern's grandmother. Photo taken ca. 1907 in Springfield, Massachusetts.



Fern Greenberg Blood has been researching her "Russian" ancestors for nearly 15 years: GRIBELYUK in Zhivotov; GREENBERG, KOPELUSCH, POSTILNICK, and SHPINDELYUK in Pyatigory; ROSETSKY/RIZHETSKI} in Zhashkov; SILVERMAN/ZILBERMAN and TABACHNIK in Bar and Kozachky (all now in Ukraine), most of whom settled in New York City and California. Fern can be reached at Fern.Blood@jgs.gb.org.



March Program**Nicka Smith****Reverse Genealogy: Finding Cousins
and Chasing the Living***summarized by Adina Newman*

Engaging speaker Nicka Smith presented tips and tricks for finding our living relatives. In fact, much of what we do to research the dead can be applied to locating the living. Reverse genealogy research is affectionately referred to as “advanced trolling”.

Why Do We Search for Living People?

There are several compelling reasons for why we might want to search for living relatives. These include the desire to locate our biological family, to identify DNA connections, to find (or return) family documents connected to our ancestors, to discover the elders within the family, to atone for past events, and to “form and solidify family connections”.

Taking Inventory

Smith recommended that certain preliminary steps be taken before engaging in this type of research. Have you done your due diligence in conducting your own research? This is important because you do not want to reach out to the wrong people! Is your research well-sourced? Does DNA support your traditional research? Does it verify what you have been told or buck the family narrative? In the event you succeed in making contact with living relatives, can you accept that your research might be wrong?

It is also important to consider your motivations for contacting living relatives. There is a difference between a “right to know” and “do no harm”—you may have family members on both ends of the continuum. Some people believe you should leave well enough alone, while others think it is important to expose the truth. Especially with DNA, the information could be very polarizing and upsetting to the family dynamic. Make sure to consider what your plan will be if challenges arise and you end up opening a Pandora’s box.

Smith’s Go-To’s for Finding Living Relatives

What do you do if your DNA matches do not have a tree and are not answering messages? Smith presented the “greatest hits” from her toolbox. With DNA testing, begin with **Ancestry** and **23andMe**, but upload your DNA data to the other sites (**FamilyTreeDNA**, **MyHeritage**, **GEDmatch**, etc.) to increase opportunities for finding relatives. Understand that predictions provided by the commercial sites reflect a range of possibilities (e.g., a first cousin match could also be a match to a half-niece/nephew). If you have a match who fails to respond, be sure to leave your email address

in your message to make it easier for them to respond. Also try researching based on their username on the site, which might give a clue to their name or might show up in a Google search.

As far as traditional genealogical methods are concerned, the 1940 census, vital records, and especially newspapers are major resources for locating living relatives. From newspapers, you can learn much about the day-to-day activities of your ancestors and find obituaries that mention living descendants. Newspaper archives can be accessed online at many sites, including **Newspapers.com**, **GenealogyBank.com**, **ChroniclingAmerica.loc.gov**, and **FultonSearch.org**. **Newspapers.com** allows you to view and follow those who have “clipped” articles; these people could be your relatives chasing the same ancestors. Mortuaries, funeral homes, **Legacy.com**, and **FindAGrave.com** also provide a rich resource for obituaries.

Smith stressed that we leave a footprint everywhere we go. Government records, including real estate and court records, and other public records can be searched via public records aggregators, Google, and, of course, genealogy sites. These are especially valuable resources for conducting reverse genealogy.

Smith also recommended contacting the owners of online family trees on **Ancestry**, **FamilySearch**, **MyHeritage**, **Geni**, and personal genealogy websites. Social media platforms, such as **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and even **TikTok** (the last two serve the “younger” crowd), can point to family relationships, including through photos of milestone events.

Best Practices for Making Contact

As Smith said, “We want to make sure we have healthy relationships with our new cousins.” She recommended that we be genuine, upfront, and transparent in our motivations and really put our best foot forward. She also cautioned that messages sent on Facebook may go into the “Message Requests” folder and not be seen by the intended recipient, so consider finding other ways to make contact if you do not get a response.

Adina Newman, EdD, is a professional genealogist with specialties in Jewish genealogy, genetic genealogy, and New England. Her personal research interests include BERZAK and KHVOLIS (Bagaslaviskis, Lithuania), SHTIKAN (Daugavpils, Latvia), GLAZER (Sudykiv, Ukraine), GITER (Klykoliai, Lithuania), LEIZEROVICH and GAIL (Zagare, Lithuania), and IZYGZON (Radashkovichy, Belarus). She can be reached at adina@jgsgb.org.



Putting JewishGen's Communities Database to Work

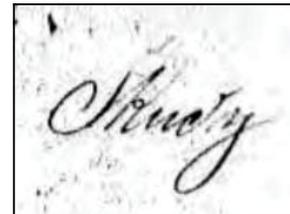
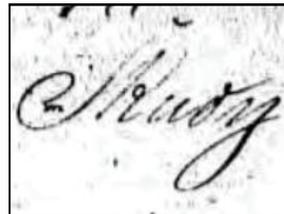
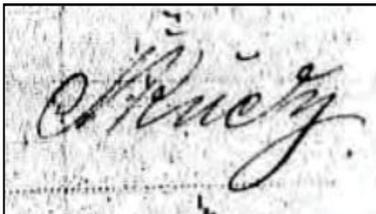
by *Gilda Bruckman*

The challenges in identifying where our ancestors who came from the Pale of Settlement actually lived are well-documented. Contributing complications include transliteration into the Latin alphabet (for example, from Cyrillic), changes in national borders, non-standardized spelling, the use of different names in multiple languages (Yiddish, Russian, Polish, German) to designate a single location, the tendency of our immigrant ancestors to identify their origins in terms of districts or provinces rather than small towns, and the practice of putting down the closest identifiable major city rather than the actual town (e.g., when travelling, saying you are from Boston when you are really from Everett or Leominster). And occasionally you can add into that mix indecipherable handwriting.

I was helping a friend who had just started to explore his roots in Eastern Europe and who came up against several of these challenges, most of which were not too difficult to overcome. However, I encountered one significant obstacle that stumped me. One of his immigrant great-grandfathers had arrived in the U.S. in 1911. Although the family name became KASSEL at some point in the mid-20th century, the family had been known in the U.S. as COHEN before that. Both the Declaration of Intention (the first step in obtaining citizenship) and the World War I draft registration card for Julius Cohen listed his place of birth as Kovno, Russia (now Kaunas, Lithuania). Being suspicious (in the way of genealogists), I wondered if this referred to Kovno the city, Kovno the district, or Kovno the province.

I suspected that the answer could be found in the ship manifest. Julius Cohen had provided the name of the ship, the ports of departure and arrival, and the date of arrival on his Declaration of Intention. This allowed me to find the manifest, which showed that Julius Cohen actually entered the U.S. as Judel KASILSKI (suggesting how the family eventually ended up as Kassel).

At this point, I was eager to see what information the manifest contained for where Julius/Judel had originated. The name of the town appeared on the manifest in three different columns: where he had been living prior to emigration, the address of his remaining relative in that place, and the town of his birth. But in each case, it was written in script that eluded my ability to decipher it.



Now I had a problem. Was I looking at an alphabet I knew, or was I looking at an old German alphabet (after all, the departure port was Hamburg)? Was the first letter “K”? Or was the swirl preceding it a separate letter or something that was part of what I saw as “K”? Scrutiny of other writing in the manifest revealed an “S” at the beginning of the name “Sore” that was equally swirly and indistinct.

Methodology

I also came to the conclusion that, while the penmanship was frequently illegible, it contained no letters from an unknown alphabet. With those two discoveries, I assumed that the first two letters of the town were “Sk”. I was also inclined to guess that the last letter was a “y”.

Now the question was what towns in the vicinity of Kovno began with “Sk” and (maybe) ended with “y”. For the answer I turned to JewishGen, where under the DATABASES tab I selected “Town Finder”. This took me to the JewishGen Communities Database. I searched for Kovno, which came up, as I had expected, as Kaunas, Lithuania, and the column showing data from 1900 listed Kovno as a town, a district, and a province.

Clearly, Judel Kasilski had not come from the town of Kovno. By clicking on the Kovno district link, I could see a list of all the towns in the district before WWI. There were 18, and none began with “Sk”, or even with “S”.

My hopes lay now with Kovno the province. I clicked on its link, and up came a list of 178 towns. Thirty-two towns down from the top of the list, I struck gold.

What I had seen on the ship manifest was now clearly “Skudy”, currently known as Skoudas in Lithuanian and in 1900 known as Szkudy in Polish, Shkod in Yiddish.

c. 1900 Before WWI Town / District / Province / Country
Kovno Kovno Kovno Russian Empire

 Skoudas , Lithuania 56°16' N 21°32' E 296 km NW of Vilnius	Skoudas [Lith], <u>Shkod</u> [Yid], Shkudy [Rus], <u>Szkudy</u> [Pol], Schoden [Ger], Skoda [Latv], Shkud, Skuodo, Skudoas, Skouds, Skouda	Skoudas Soviet Union	Skoudas <u>Kretinga</u> Lithuania	Shkudy <u>Telshi</u> <u>Kovno</u> Russian Empire	138
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------	------------

So Judel Kasilski—who went by Julius Cohen for about 30 years in the United States and then became Julius Kassel—was from Skoudas, Lithuania, in the district of Telshi, in the province of Kovno, in the Russian Empire. His town was 150 miles from the city of Kovno, where his great-grandson had previously thought he was from. The hard part had been deciphering the script on the ship manifest. JewishGen’s wonderful Communities Database made the rest of the geographical journey remarkably straightforward and gratifying.

***Gilda Bruckman** is interested in displaying visual data for genealogy. She has co-created a town map for the JGSGB Ukraine SIG showing towns being researched by SIG members and has created a map for the JewishGen Bessarabia SIG Jewish Cemeteries Project showing information on each cemetery. She is researching BRUCHMAN from Mohyliv Podolsk and Verbovets (Ukraine) and Otaci (Bessarabia); EISENSTEIN from Mohyliv Podolsk (Ukraine); GOLDFARB and KUPERBERG from Zwoleń (Poland); KRAUS from Kazimierz Dolny and Zwoleń (Poland); MALOWANY from Warszawa (Poland) and Wien (Austria); and WECHSLER (Ukraine). She can be reached at Bruckman@jgsgb.org.*



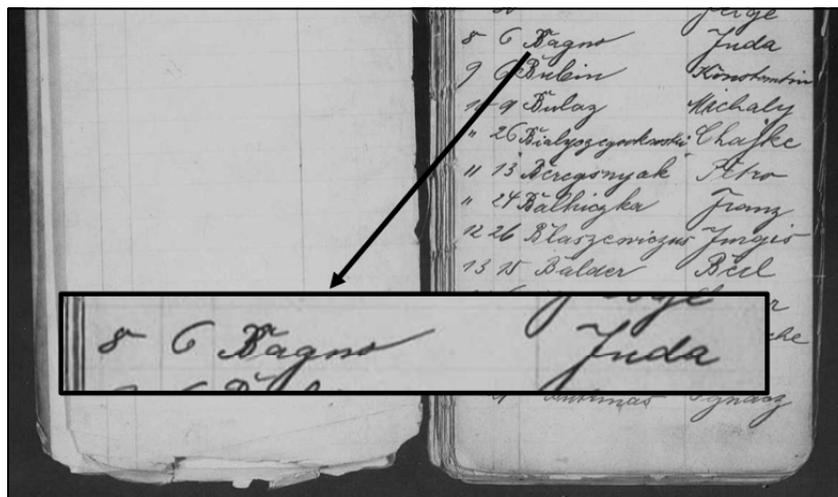
Passenger List Indexes: Dealing With Degraded Manifests

by Jessie Klein

Last summer, the annual IAJGS conference was held virtually for the first time. One talk that I found particularly interesting was Joel Weintraub's "Finding Difficult Passengers in the Ellis Island Manifests", which described ways to work around degraded manifests, such as manifests that are too difficult to read, may be missing pages, or may be damaged. Weintraub used a case study from his own family to show how to find evidence of your ancestors' voyages to Ellis Island even if you cannot find them on a manifest.

I learned that as ships sailed to New York, the ships' pursers would use the manifest to create what was called the "Book Index to Passenger Lists". It shows on what page and line the passenger's name appears in the manifest itself. Computer indexes to those books have been created by familysearch.org, allowing one to search for names.

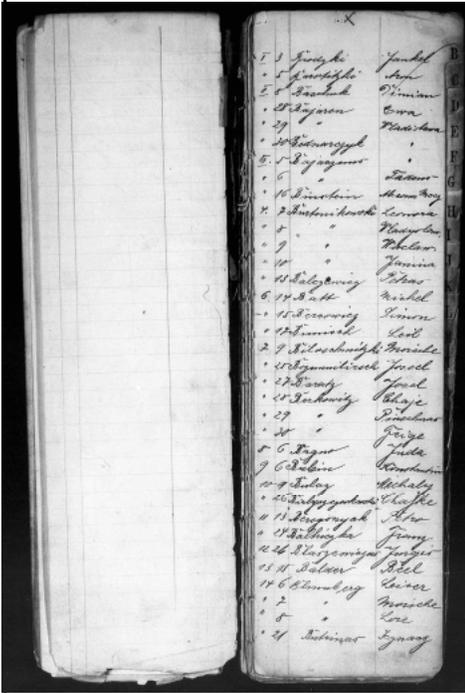
I already have all the manifests for my immigrant grandparents, but, like many of us, I enjoy collecting documents that, while they may not add anything new, help tell the story. I decided to search the index for my maternal grandfather, Juda BAGNO, who sailed from Hamburg on the *Batavia* in November 1910. In the "Book Index to Passenger Lists" I was able to find the page with my grandfather's name, including his manifest group or list number in the leftmost column (8 in this example) and line number in the second column (6 in this example). That information allows you to browse to the correct page in the digital image of the microfilm of the ship manifest.



I was also able to scroll to the book cover

If you want to hear Weintraub's talk, you can watch his video "Finding Difficult Passengers on the Ellis Island Manifests" on YouTube.com (search for "JDW Talks" to see all his talks or for this specific title, including the quotation marks, to get to it directly). He also has an article in the JewishGen InfoFiles entitled "Finding Immigrant Names on Degraded Ellis Island Manifests".

Methodology



Here are the details for doing the search I described above.

1. Go to **familysearch.org**
2. Near the top of the home page, click on the “Search” tab
3. In the drop-down menu, click on the “Catalog” item
4. Under “Search by:”, click on “Titles”
5. In the “Titles” box that opens, enter: New York Book Index to Passenger Lists
6. Click on the “Search” button. The results will include two links that will allow you to do a name search in the book indexes depending on the dates.
 - a. Book indexes to New York passenger lists, 1906-1921: NARA RG85 publication T612
 - b. New York book indexes to passenger lists: COLLECTION RECORD, 1906-1942
7. Click on the name of the book of interest.

Jessie Klein is co-president of JGSGB and one of the directors of the “JGSGB Introduction to Genealogy” course. She is researching ancestors in Poland and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. She can be reached at Klein@jgsgb.org.



For more useful lectures, consider attending this summer’s IAJGS virtual conference. See back page for more information.

Searching for Frau Stepanek

by *Barbara Riemer Krupat*

In September 1938, six months after the *Anschluss* (Germany's annexation of Austria), Anna LANDAU, my 21-year-old mother, left Vienna with one suitcase in hand. Saying goodbye to the only life she knew, she bravely left her parents, not knowing if she would ever see them again. My mother made it safely to England and then the United States. Her parents, my grandparents, stayed behind until the spring of 1939, when they too were able to leave for England.

While still in Vienna, they remained in their apartment building protected by the superintendent of the building, a feisty, Christian woman, Anna STEPANEK, who hid them and a number of other Jewish tenants in the attic of their building. According to the stories told by my mother, Frau Stepanek was not afraid of the devil or the Nazis. When the SS came looking for Jews, she would firmly face them down, lock the gate, and refuse to let them into the building, telling them that there were no more Jews in the building, that they had all left. Over the years these stories were told to my children by my mother and later to my grandchildren by their parents and me.

I always wanted to know more about Frau Stepanek. Who was this woman? How many Jewish tenants did she save? What risks did she take to save them? Did she have a family who knew her story of saving Jewish men and women during the war? Most importantly, I wanted my children and grandchildren to know that there were people who would risk their lives to protect and save others. It was time to find out more and track down Frau Stepanek and her descendants. It was time to honor this brave woman and perhaps even nominate her for addition to the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem in Israel (YadVashem.org/righteous.html).



Anna Stepanek in front of Tandelmarktgasse 12 in 1969

Getting Started

We had very little information to go by. I had my mother's testimony about Frau Stepanek from an interview she gave that is archived at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. I also had one picture of Frau Stepanek standing in front of Tandelmarktgasse 12, the building in which they lived. I did not know her first name or the spelling of her last name. Since my genealogy skills were rather primitive, I knew I would need some help with my search. I had recently gone to a lecture given by Farid CASSELL about her book, *The Unanswered Letter*, which was based on extensive research about the BERGER family's attempted escape from Vienna in 1939. I emailed her, and she suggested that I try to find other families in the building who had escaped and survived so that the story could be verified by others.

Identifying Other Tenants of the Building

There was one family from the building that had also emigrated to the U.S. When I was a child, we would often visit this family in Brooklyn, but I was no longer in touch with them. I did, however,

remember most of their first and last names. A mutual friend arranged for me to connect with Renee STEINIG, a professional genealogist, who managed to track down some contact information for this family. This led eventually to George FRANKEL, whose father had lived in that building. I was delighted to find out that he too had heard stories of Frau Stepanek and that the stories he heard from his father were similar to mine. He was very interested in my project and willing to work with me in honoring Frau Stepanek.

Serious Research

George posted a message on the JewishGen Discussion Group and in less than 24 hours heard from Wolf-Erich ECKSTEIN, a well-known Viennese Jewish genealogy researcher and former manager of the Vienna Jewish Community's records office. Using Viennese birth, baptismal, and grave records, he compiled extensive background information on Frau Stepanek and her husband, including birth, marriage, and death dates, addresses, occupations (house caretaker, shoemaker), and first names (Anna, Ferdinand).

Most importantly for our research, he provided the name of her son, also named Ferdinand, who was born in 1904 and died in 1941 during World War II. He, in turn, had one son, Walter Stepanek, born in 1932 and died in 2012. Although this information had given us hope that we might find living descendants, we hit a dead end; we could find no further evidence of any children or other living relatives with whom we could share Anna's story.

However, a few weeks later, Wolf-Erich told us that he had located the wife of Anna's grandson, the late Walter Stepanek. Erika Stepanek was still alive and living in Vienna. Wolf-Erich told her about our project, and she informed her son, Rainer. Within a few days, we connected with Rainer via email, and he was eager to set up a Zoom meeting.

The Zoom Meeting

The Zoom meeting took place on January 10, 2021. It included Rainer, his mother Erika, his friend Heidi (who served as an excellent translator), George Frankel, my husband, and me. It was an exhilarating and emotional experience that brought tears to everyone's eyes, especially Rainer and his mother. We shared stories about Anna. Rainer was 13 years old when she died at the age of 95, and he remembered her well from visits that he and his father made every Saturday to Tandelmarktgasse 12. She told him stories about the Jewish families that she protected and her bravery and heroism. As Rainer told us, "In the house, she was the emotional switchboard for all worries and problems and enabled families of Jewish origin, including some friends, to hide during the Nazi rule and to use the last few opportunities with Anna's money to flee."

Not only did she hide Jewish families in the attic or basement, but she brought them food, helped them pay for their train tickets, and escorted them to the train station for departure. Some people were able to remain hidden in her care throughout the entire war. Two or three times she was questioned by the Gestapo, but through connections her husband had, she was released. It was clear that she did all this without ever expecting any compensation, but out of a sense of compassion.

Final Thoughts

A few months ago, all we knew was that a brave woman had hidden our grandparents in the attic of their building during the Nazi rule in Austria. However, through the assistance of a committed community, we have now met her descendants and know far more about this brave woman and her family. We hope that this story will inspire our children and grandchildren to live lives of righteousness and valor and to know that even in dark times there is still goodness in our world. We have filed an application with Yad Vashem to enshrine Anna Stepanek as a member of the Righteous Among the Nations.



Barbara Krupat in front of the building with her mother and family in 2001.

Barbara Krupat, in addition to discovering the woman who saved her grandparents lives, is researching her father's RIEMER/OWIDE/KAMPLER families of Tarnow (Poland) and the KRUPAT family from Dvinsk (Russia, now Daugavpils, Latvia). Barbara can be reached at Krupat@jgsqb.org.



My Jewish Family in the Old West

by Ken Elstein

Solving genealogical mysteries includes lots of collaboration and lots of history, leading to the real human beings who so often appear merely as names and dates. My late mother once told me that her father's family included California '49ers. However, she did not know any details, since her father died when she was only 12. Here is the story as I have uncovered it.

Twenty years ago, I did not believe that I would be able to research sources in Europe, so I began with the limited goal of identifying every one of my ancestors who had ever lived in the United States. In the end, however, I needed to undertake both American and European research.

When I started, I did not even know the names of my German-speaking great-grandparents. Fortunately, I was able to learn their names—Abram and Bertha LEVY—and to find them in the 1870 and 1880 U.S. censuses. I found the 1880 census because it was the first one to list my grandfather, Daniel Webster Levy (1878-1928). Everything else worked backwards and then forwards from that.

Living with Abram and Bertha Levy in 1880 were Abram's brother Jacob and his wife Esther. Also listed were an "uncle" Lewis DAVIS and some other Davis cousins who were identified as coming from "Holland" (that was a surprise!). In the 1870 census there was also an 18-year-old named Theresia LIPPMAN, who turned out to be Bertha Levy's sister.

11	Street	House No.	Dwell No.	Family No.	Name	Race	Sex	Age	Birth Month	Relationship	Single	Married	Widow/D	Married C	Occupation		
13	Eighth Street	226	62	222	Levy	M	M	40			1				Wholesale Clothing		
14					Bertha	M	F	30		Wife	1					Keeps house	
15					Isidore	M	M	12		Son	1					At School	
16					Kellie	M	F	7		Daughter	1					At School	
17					Lawrence	M	M	4		Son	1						
18					Daniel	M	M	2		Son	1						
19					Jacob	M	M	30		Brother	1						Wholesale cloth.
20					Esther	M	F	28		Sister-in-law	1						
21					Lewis Davis	M	M	52		Uncle	1						
22					Samuel	M	M	46		Cousin	1						Secretary
23	Levy	M	F	18		Cousin	1										
24	Harriet	M	F	23		Servant	1										

1880 census	30	Levy	M	31	M	Clothier
	31	Bertha	F	24	F	
1870 Census	32	Isidore	M	3	M	
	33	Lippman	F	18	F	
	34		F	13	F	

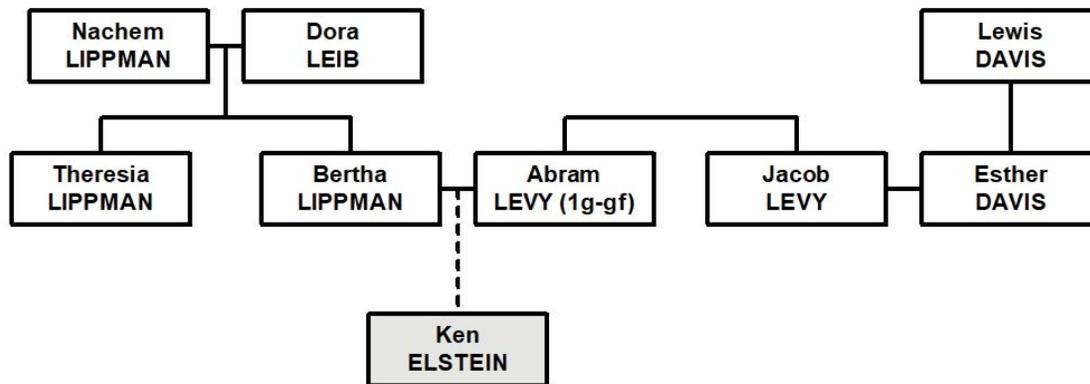
Success During Social Distancing

Post Office *Amsterdam, N.Y.*

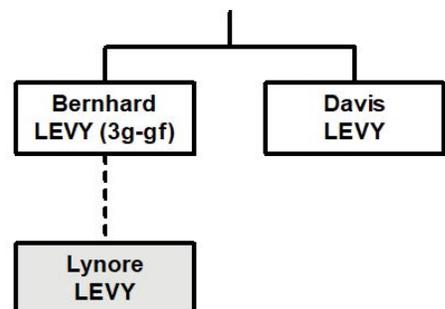
Dwelling-houses— the numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.
			Age.	Sex.	White, black, or mulatto.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1		<i>Catharine Gading</i>	<i>7^{1/2}</i>	<i>F</i>					<i>Amsterdam</i>
<i>428</i>	<i>452</i>	<i>Louis Davis</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Ortho</i>		<i>1000</i>	<i>Poland</i>
3		<i>P. Davis</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>F</i>					<i>do</i>
4		<i>Esther Davis</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>F</i>					<i>Amnia</i>
5		<i>Louis Davis</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>M</i>					<i>Schemelaty</i>
6		<i>Bertha Lippman</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>F</i>					<i>Poland</i>

1860 Census

Further research uncovered these Davis cousins in the 1860 census—but in Amsterdam, New York, not in Holland! Apparently, the census taker heard Amsterdam and assumed Holland. Living with them was their daughter Esther Davis and a 14-year-old named Bertha Lippman. This is the Bertha who later married Abram Levy, while Esther Davis married Abram's brother Jacob Levy. Bertha's parents were listed on her 1866 marriage certificate as Nachem Lippman and Dora LEIB. (However, her name was mistakenly listed as Devora HILLER on her death certificate.) Here is the partial tree.



I posted information about these individuals on my favorite site, **WikiTree.com**, which is free and requires no subscription. Several months later, I was contacted by a woman who was collaborating with a friend named Lynore Levy. They were trying to get information about a Davis Levy, brother of Lynore's third-great-grandfather Bernhard Levy. I assumed that the combination of the surnames Davis and Levy in her family was probably just a coincidence. Fortunately, however, the three of us began a long collaboration and eventual friendship. To the right is Lynore's tree.



The brothers Bernhard and Davis Levy appeared in mid-1800s census records living near the Sutter's Mill gold mines. Both were born in Kurnik, Prussia, and buried in San Francisco. By now I

had discovered that my great-grandmother, Bertha Lippman Levy, had also been born in Kurnik. It seemed that there had to be a connection.



Davis Levy Boardinghouse

On October 3, 1901, Davis Levy was savagely murdered. A Frenchman named George “Joe” Levy was arrested in Oregon while trying to escape on a ship. He was tried on strong circumstantial evidence, convicted of murder, and sentenced to hang. (Despite the shared surname, Davis Levy, Joe Levy, and my Levy relatives were not related to each other.)

Davis Levy had no descendants and did not leave a will. Western newspapers were filled with speculation about his family, though they did know that it included his brother Bernhard Levy and a Morris Hiller LIPMAN. Altogether, 12 people would eventually be identified as likely heirs, including Bertha Lippman Levy (Abram Levy’s wife) and Esther Davis Levy (married to Abram Levy’s brother Jacob). We had now documented the connection.

Still, we had questions about the genealogy. Bertha and Esther were both heirs to Davis Levy, but their Levy husbands were *not* heirs. This required additional research, including patiently searching 19th-century records from Kurnik, Prussia. These records enabled us eventually to determine that Davis Levy’s surname derived from his father’s given name Leib. Although the father was Leib KOSTRZYNER, the surname Levy (except for Dora Leib, who remained in Europe) was used by

Finally we hit pay dirt. What we learned was great news for our research but not great news for Davis Levy. In the 1870 census, he was listed in Idaho as a “huckster” (in those days, a peddler or seller of small wares), but he eventually saved up enough money to open a hotel and buy the neighboring buildings. Most of his tenants were prostitutes. Boise’s Jewish (!) mayor Moses ALEXANDER and others tried—and failed—to rein in his “business interests” during the 1890s. The Idaho Territory had just been admitted as a state, and they wanted to be more respectable.

Murdered for Money.

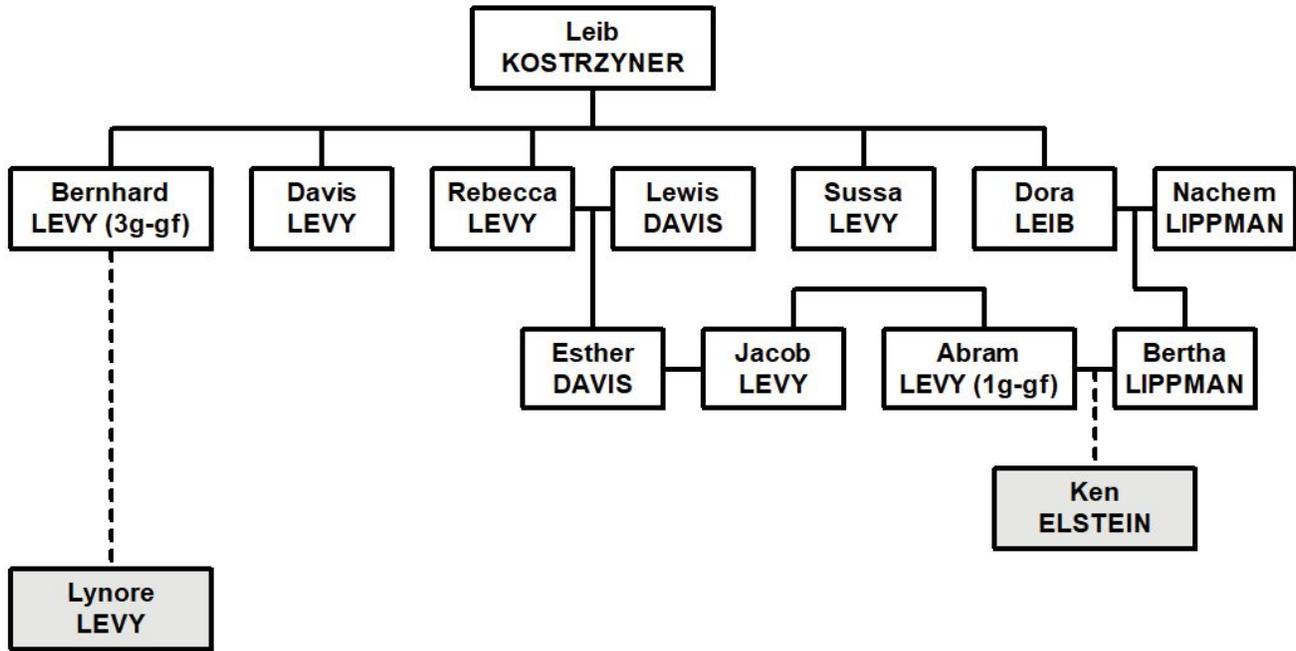
Boise, Idaho, Oct. 7.—The putrid remains of Davis Levy, a wealthy miser of this city, were found lying on a bed in the rooms of his Main street block. He had been murdered by strangulation.

Levy seems to have been killed in a filthy little room at the head of the stairs of the rooming block that he used as an office, kitchen and bedroom. A rope was put around his throat and a gag in his mouth. The body was carried into an unoccupied room and laid on the bed. The smell from it led to the discovery.

It is supposed the deed was committed for the purpose of robbery. The old man collected his rents about the first of the month and was in the habit of depositing his money in bank on the fifth. The amount was usually \$500, deposits of smaller amounts being made later in the month. No deposit was made for this month, and the supposition is the robbers got at least \$500. They ransacked an old trunk in the den and the papers were strewn all over the floor. In the batch were certificates of deposit for \$5163 and notes for several times that sum.

Success During Social Distancing

his children: Bernhard, Dora, Davis, and two other sisters, Rebecca and Sussa. Rebecca was the mother of Esther Davis. Here is the connected tree (my great-grandfather Abram Levy is designated as "1g-gf"). It shows that Lynore is my fourth cousin once removed.



George "Joe" Levy

You may be wondering about the fate of the convicted murderer. By now Boise mayor Moses Alexander had become the first observant Jewish governor of any state. A week before the scheduled hanging, he pardoned George "Joe" Levy, who was released. However, Joe was later convicted of white slavery and served eight years in federal prison.



***Ken Elstein** is the treasurer of the Western Massachusetts Jewish Genealogical Society. He can be reached at Elstein@jgsjb.org.*



Jews Buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery

by Myra Fournier

Founded in 1831 as a non-denominational cemetery, Mount Auburn Cemetery sits on 175 beautifully manicured acres on the Watertown-Cambridge line. As much a park as a cemetery, visitors enjoy meandering its winding lanes, cataloguing birds, and studying gravestones. Given that the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts owns and manages more than 100 Jewish cemeteries in the Greater Boston area, why have some Jews chosen instead to be buried at Mount Auburn?

Historical Background



Mount Auburn Cemetery is a treasure. As the first cemetery in the U.S. planned in a garden layout, it led the movement away from the traditional, more severe burial ground or graveyard. This park-like design set the style for other suburban American cemeteries and embodied an accepting attitude toward death. The Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

After its founding, the Mount Auburn Cemetery became a popular tourist destination. In 1848 there were 60,000 visitors, making it the most visited site after Niagara Falls and Mount Vernon. Today, however, few are aware of its famous occupants or experience its tranquil atmosphere.

Why Some Jews Choose Mount Auburn

Helen ABRAMS, a long-time Mount Auburn volunteer docent, leads walking tours focused on Jewish notables buried at Mount Auburn. She identified several reasons why Jews are buried at Mount Auburn.

1. There were no Jewish cemeteries in the Boston area in 1831 when Mount Auburn was consecrated. The first Jewish cemetery was not established until 1844, when 40 congregants affiliated with Temple Ohabei Shalom (Boston's first synagogue and my own childhood synagogue) purchased a burial ground in East Boston.
2. Conservative and Orthodox Jewish cemeteries did not permit non-Jews to be buried on their grounds, so couples from a mixed religious marriage turned to Mount Auburn. This may have been the case with Supreme Court Justice Felix FRANKFURTER and author Bernard MALAMUD, whose wives were not Jewish.



3. Some Jews, such as Polaroid founder Edwin LAND, perhaps did not want to be identified as Jews. (In a 2016 article in the *Times of Israel* entitled “The Mysterious Jews of Mount Auburn Cemetery,” author Matt Lebovic reported that Edwin Land said he fled Judaism “for business reasons.”)
4. For some, the reasons are personal or historical. We may feel at peace planning our burials at Mount Auburn because we will become part of a rich history or because relatives are buried there or because family members might visit our gravesites owing to the beautiful surroundings. That is why I chose it for myself. The combined ashes of my mother and stepfather are interred directly into the earth at Spruce Knoll, a lovely garden area at Mount Auburn. Mine will join theirs when the time comes.

How Do We Know Who Is Jewish at Mount Auburn?

Mount Auburn has always been non-denominational. There are no sections for any particular religion, and there are no records that denote the religious affiliations of the dead.

The most comprehensive attempt to identify Jews buried at Mount Auburn comes from Rabbi Joshua SEGAL in his 2007 book, *A Self-Guided Tour of Monuments of Jews Buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts* (Jewish Cemetery Publishing, LLC). Sadly, it is out of print.

Rabbi Segal utilized the following criteria to identify Jews who are buried at Mount Auburn:

1. Use of Hebrew or Yiddish
2. Jewish symbol or artwork
3. Recognizably Jewish phrase or quotation
4. Presumed Jewish surname
5. Famous personality of Jewish origin

Rabbi Segal reported that the first identified Jew buried at Mount Auburn (in 1893) was Julius EICHBERG, legendary violinist and founder of the Boston Conservatory.

A number of Jews are buried around picturesque Willow Pond.

Who Are the Notable Jews Buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery?

Without a doubt, the most famous Jews buried at Mount Auburn are Justice Felix Frankfurter, novelist Bernard Malamud, inventor Edwin Land, and psychologist Abraham MASLOW.

However, I would like to introduce you to three equally remarkable, but less well-known, Jews who are buried there. Their lives are fascinating, and they made monumental contributions to the Jewish community and the wider world.



Willow Pond

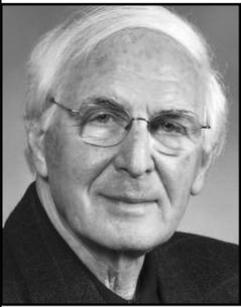
Gisela WARBURG WYZANSKI (1912-1991). A tireless social activist, Gisela was born in Hamburg, Germany. In the 1930s she worked with Youth Aliyah, the organization that arranged visas for thousands of Jewish children in Germany and other occupied countries so that they could immigrate to Palestine.

Wyzanski herself came to the U.S. as a refugee in 1939 and continued her social activism. She was a long-time national board member of Hadassah and worked for 25 years as the Boston fund-raising chair of UNICEF. Wyzanski was also one of the founders of the “Window Shop,” a cooperative in Cambridge that operated between 1939 and 1972 to help refugees establish themselves in Boston. [For a brief history of the shop, see the Wikipedia article. Ed.]



The Window Shop

On a personal note, my paternal aunt, herself an immigrant, worked as a waitress in its café during the early 1960s, and I remember fondly many trips to see her there. For those of you too young to remember, in its last iteration the Window Shop was located on Brattle Street, now the site of the Cambridge Center for Adult Education.



Hans F. Loeser

Hans F. LOESER (1920-2010). A soldier, scholar, and activist, Hans was born in Kassel, Germany. After spending 1937-1940 at a school outside London, he reunited with his parents in New York.

In 1942, Loeser volunteered for the U.S. Army, where he was part of the Ritchie Boys program for native German-speaking soldiers deemed especially valuable for intelligence work. He subsequently volunteered for the 82nd Airborne Division and participated in the battle at Nijmegen and in the Battle of the Bulge. In the post-war period, Hans served as Chief of Section in the U.S. Military Government for Bavaria, where he was heavily involved in de-Nazification programs. These programs worked to remove Nazis and Nazism from public life in Germany and across occupied Europe.

In 1950, Loeser graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School and joined the prestigious Boston law firm of Foley, Hoag & Eliot, where he had an illustrious career, eventually becoming Managing Partner of the firm and chair of the Boston Bar Association’s “Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.”

In 2007, Loeser received the “Give Liberty a Hand” award from the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). He said of himself: “Since the day I became a citizen in 1942, I have publicly argued with my government on issues of war, nuclear arms, and civil rights. I have cherished the right to do so, as well as our fundamental values of fairness, equity, and justice.”

Mildred SPIEWAK DRESSELHAUS (1930-2017). Dubbed “The Queen of Carbon Science,” Dresselhaus was the first female Institute Professor at M.I.T. She specialized in nanotechnology—the use of matter on an atomic, molecular, and supramolecular scale. (I don’t understand what that means, but I’m confident many of you do.)

Dresselhaus was born in Brooklyn to Polish Jewish immigrant parents and brought up in the Bronx. During the Great Depression, she contributed to family income by completing piecework assembly at home and toiling in a zipper factory.

As a child, Dresselhaus received a scholarship to a music school in Greenwich Village. There she realized that her neighborhood school was vastly inferior and decided to further her educational prospects at Hunter College High School, then Hunter College, Cambridge University, and Radcliffe. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Dresselhaus joined M.I.T. as a professor in 1967 and had an extraordinary 57-year career there. She started researching carbon when few researchers had any interest in the subject. Her work explained the nanoscale properties of materials and developed the foundations for technologies that have led to, among other products, lithium-ion batteries.



Mildred Spiewak
Dresselhaus

The following is a sampling of her awards:

- IEEE Medal of Honor (first female recipient), 2015
- National Inventors Hall of Fame, induction 2014
- Presidential Medal of Freedom, 2014
- Enrico Fermi Award (second female recipient), 2012
- ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences, 2009
- L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards for Women in Science, 2007
- Weizmann Women and Science Millennial Lifetime Achievement, 2000
- National Medal of Science in Engineering Sciences (first woman), 1990

You may remember Dresselhaus as the face of a 2017 General Electric television advertisement—aimed at increasing the number of women in STEM roles—that asked the question, “What if female scientists were celebrities?”

Acknowledgement

Many thanks to members of the Friends of Mount Auburn for helping me discover its beauty and history, especially its Jewish history. If you have information about Jews buried at Mount Auburn, please submit the information to friends@mountauburn.org.



Myra Fournier, the new Mass-Pocha editorial assistant, is relatively new to genealogy. Motivated by the rise of anti-Semitism and having spare time during COVID, Myra became interested in identifying more closely with her Jewish roots. She is particularly interested in KLAPPHOLZ, KOCHMAN, and SCHLEIN from Magdeburg and SCHLESINGER, MEYER, HOLZ, and GRUENBERG from Berlin (Germany). Within a year, and with much help, Myra connected with relatives in England, Israel, South Africa, and Germany, as well as in the States (one new-found cousin lives in the next town over from her). Myra can be reached at Myra.Fournier@jgs.gb.org.



Two Queries on the JGSGB Answering Machine

by David Rosen

Debra from California left a message on the JGSGB answering machine, including a call back number. She was hoping to learn the name of the Boston-area synagogue at which her father, Colman Wilbur KRAFT, had observed his bar-mitzvah ceremony.

In the message she said, "He passed away last year, and we are trying to track down his Hebrew name for the grave marker."

My own experience is that the congregation is unlikely to have such a record. Nevertheless, I searched for the name Colman Kraft in the *Jewish Advocate* archives on the website of the Boston Public Library, and I was able to discover the name of the family's synagogue in Chelsea, Massachusetts: Temple Emmanuel. The synagogue still exists and has a website at TempleEmmanuelofChelsea.org. I reported this to Debra, and she was pleased to have the opportunity to contact the synagogue.

(Note: Online access to the Boston Public Library newspaper archives is available to cardholders. Any Massachusetts resident can obtain an eCard at www.bpl.org/get-a-library-card.)

Prior to coming up with the *Jewish Advocate* article that identified the synagogue, I had found the World War I draft registration card for Debra's great-grandfather, Nathan/Nisan KRAFT. It was unusual in two ways. First, it was Nathan's wife Minnie who appeared at the draft board to register Nathan, since he was ill at the time; second, the local draft board registrar was his son Meyer!

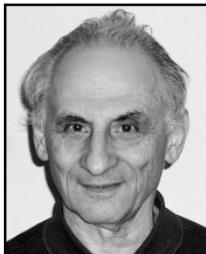
REGISTRATION CARD										REGISTRAR'S REPORT							
SERIAL NUMBER 1 808					ORD. NUMBER A 1093					20-5-10. C							
1 <u>Nathan</u> <u>Kraft</u>										DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT							
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: <u>110 Orange St. Chelsea Suffolk Mass.</u>										HEIGHT		BUILD			COLOR OF EYES		COLOR OF HAIR
										Tall	Medium	Short	Slender	Medium	Squat	27	28
										21	22	23	24	25	26	Brown	Brown
3 <u>45</u> 4 <u>March</u> <u>15</u> <u>1873</u>										23 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify)							
										no							
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/>										20 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:							
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 13 <input type="checkbox"/> 14 <input type="checkbox"/>										<u>sick in bed at home</u>							
15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?										<u>Minnie Kraft appeared to register him.</u>							
16 <u>groceries</u>					17 <u>for myself</u>					<u>Meyer L. Kraft</u>							
18 <u>Orange St. Chelsea Suffolk Mass.</u>										Date of Registration _____							
19 <u>Minnie Kraft</u>										LOCAL BOARD DIVISION #2							
20 <u>110 Orange St. Chelsea Suffolk Mass.</u>										CITY HALL, CHELSEA, MASS.							
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE										(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)							
<u>Nathan Kraft</u>										(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)							

In another message on the JGSGB answering machine, a woman with a French accent asked if it was possible to help her friend in France locate a possible November 1865 advertisement in a Boston newspaper. Her friend has an ancestor with the surname GINTY, which she pronounced with a soft 'G'. Her friend believes that he performed in a play at Boston's Tremont Theater in mid-November 1865. The play was entitled "Bataille de Dames" (Battle of Ladies). A Google search for that French title brought up a copy of the play: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/12472>

I realized that theater offerings would be listed in the local newspapers. However, my usual resources, the archives of the *Boston Globe* and *Jewish Advocate*, were not going to help, since in 1865 neither had yet begun publication. The Boston Public Library does have among its online resources some 19th-century newspapers. After logging in and going through the following menu sequence

- Newspapers >
- Historic Newspapers >
- 19 Century US Newspapers >
- Gale Primary Sources Nineteenth Century Newspapers

one can click on "Advanced search", which allows one to specify a keyword and a date. After trying several keywords (the optical character recognition, OCR, that is used to build the keyword index often reads words incorrectly), the keyword that finally worked was "Bataille" with the date 1865. I was pleased to see exactly the news coverage that would delight her French friend.



David Rosen is a retired engineer who has been a long-time member of JGSGB. He serves on the JGSGB Board as Director of Special Projects, Archives, and Queries. His family came from Narewka, near Białystok (Poland). Send your Boston-related queries to David at queries@jgs.gb.org.

Dramatic and Musical.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOSTON THEATRE.—Second week of "Arrah na Pogue."
BOSTON MUSEUM.—Second time of "The Serf." "Friend Waggles."
HOWARD ATHENAEUM.—Engagement of Miss Helen Western. "The Corsican Brothers." "Wandering Minstrels."
THEATRE COMIQUE.—Singing, dancing and pantomime. "The May-day Festival." "Kimbs."
BUCKLEY'S SERENADERS.—A varied programme of Ethiopian Minstrelsy. The Scottish gymnasts. "How are you Older."
TREMONT TEMPLE.—Second week of Blind Tom's concerts
MEIGONAGH.—Frankenstein's Panorama of Niagara.
TREMONT THEATRE.—M. Julgnet's French dramatic company. "Bataille de Dames."
CHICKERINGS' HALL.—Shakespearian Reading. Miss Margaret Stewart Sedgwick. "Macbeth."

THE FRENCH THEATRE.

A brilliant audience enjoyed the *rentrée* of M. Julgnet's company of French comedians at the Tremont Theatre last evening. The piquant comedy "Bataille de Dames" was given with that care and attention to detail which is so seldom seen on the American stage. M^{lle} Lar met was, as usual, charming, and M. Rodasseau, whether as a gentleman of rank or "le Hon. oncle Robert," is always the careful and intelligent actor. The new comers, M^{lle} Amélie Hiery and M. M. Armand Genty and Edmond Livry, made a very favorable impression last evening. Stern necessity compels us to say only in conclusion that on Wednesday M^{lle} Pauline Potel will appear for the first time in this city in "Les Premières Armes de Richelieu."

*Boston Daily Advertiser, 14 November 1865
(Boston's first daily newspaper)*





JGSGB 2021–2022 Programs (Preliminary)

For the foreseeable future, meetings will take place via Zoom, usually at 1:30.
Be sure to check www.jgsgb.org for details and updates.

- June 30:** 7:00 PM: *An evening with John D. “Jack” Warner, PhD, Archivist of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.* MGC program, co-sponsored by JGSGB. Free, but registration is required, massgencouncil.org/m-o-r-e.
- Sept. 19:** Two talks by Thomas MacEntee:
Google for Genealogists **and** *The Genealogy Do-Over.*
- Oct. 3:** *Beginners’ Genealogy Workshop,* with Carol Clingan and Deborah Lerner.
- Oct. 17:** *Jewish Immigrant Life:* Daniel Soyer.
- Nov 7:** *What You Need to Know About Jewish Family Names:* Sallyann Amdur Sack.
- Nov 21:** *Eastern European Jewry:* Samuel Kassow.
The Heidi Urich Annual Lecture on Jewish Genealogy, co-sponsored by JGSGB and Hebrew College. Free.
- November** Beginning of the annual 8-week Jewish Genealogy course.
- Dec. 5:** *Research Sunday.* Research and translation help.
- Dec. 19:** *Vilnius, the Jerusalem of Lithuania:* Daniel Gurevich.
- Jan. 23:** *Tips for Using Genealogical Sources at Yad Vashem:* Serafima Velkovich.
- Feb. 6:** *Research Sunday.* Research and translation help.
- Feb. 27:** Two talks by Ellen Kowitt:
2022 Jewish Resources Comparison of the Giants: Ancestry, Family Search, FindMyPast, and MyHeritage **and** *Creative Strategies for Ukraine Research.*
- March 20:** *Tracing American Jewish History through the Cohens in the Census:* Meredith Hoffman.
- April 3:** *What’s New at the Routes to Roots Foundation Website:* Miriam Weiner.
- May 1:** *Research Sunday.* Research and translation help.
- May 22:** Two separate programs:
10:00 AM: *DNA Beginners’ Workshop:* David Ellis, **and**
1:30 PM: *The Genetic Origins and Migrations of the Jewish People:* Adam Brown..
- June 12:** *Strategies for Analyzing Endogamous DNA:* Alec Ferretti

Admission is free for members, \$5 for guests. Check website for details & updates.
www.jgsgb.org 866-611-5698 info@jgsgb.org

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, Inc.

P.O. Box 610366, Newton Highlands, MA 02461-0366

www.jgsgb.org

866-611-5698

info@jgsgb.org

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston is dedicated to helping you discover your Jewish family history. We offer monthly education programs and a comprehensive beginner's course, maintain an extensive collection of research materials, and publish the award-winning journal *Mass-Pocha*.

JGSGB is a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC), and the Massachusetts Genealogical Council (MGC).

The JGSGB is run entirely by volunteers and an elected Board of Directors.

President
Treasurer
Secretary

president@jgsgb.org
treasurer@jgsgb.org
secretary@jgsgb.org

JGSGB Directory of Services:

Book Group
Email Announcements
General Inquiries, Special Projects, Archivist
E-Newsletter Editor
Introduction to Jewish Genealogy Course
Library Services
Mass-Pocha Co-Editors
Membership, Internal Operations, Technology
Past President
Program Chair
Publicity
Research Projects
Research Sunday
SIG Chair
Speaker's Bureau
Special Publications
Volunteers
Webmaster

bookgroup@jgsgb.org
email@jgsgb.org
info@jgsgb.org
enews@jgsgb.org
course@jgsgb.org
resources@jgsgb.org
editor@jgsgb.org
membership@jgsgb.org
past-president@jgsgb.org
program@jgsgb.org
publicity@jgsgb.org
projects@jgsgb.org
ResearchSunday@jgsgb.org
sig-chair@jgsgb.org
outreach@jgsgb.org
publications@jgsgb.org
volunteers@jgsgb.org
webmaster@jgsgb.org

Join JGSGB — join.jgsgb.org (or complete and mail this form)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Home phone: _____
Email: _____

Membership Categories

- \$35 Single
 \$45 Dual
 \$60 Individual Sustaining
 \$60 Dual Sustaining
 New
 Renew

Mass-Pocha subscription only (for non-Massachusetts residents)

- \$15 New
 Renew

JGSGB is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible in accordance with applicable law.

Jewish Genealogical Society
of Greater Boston

P.O. Box 610366

Newton Highlands, MA 02461-0366

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit No. 51799



41st IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

from the past into the future

August 1 - 5, 2021 ♦ All Virtual Conference

iajgs2021.org

