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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

My cousin from Chicago sent me an e-mail in December to inform me that her twenty-five-year-old grandson from Houston was coming to Sarasota for ten weeks. Although I had him on my family tree as my second cousin twice removed, I never met him. Shortly after he arrived in Sarasota, I invited him to come to a genealogy presentation that I was giving for a social club in Sarasota. Knowing that not everyone in the club knows or even cares about genealogy, I tried to make my talk fun. I shared a family scrapbook that I made with family photos, pedigree charts, documents, etc. After the talk, my cousin looked at the scrapbook. He enjoyed it very much. He saw a photo of his great great grandparents. Now he wants to copy every page in the scrapbook and start tracing his family.

In addition to him, I am now in email contact with a fourth cousin, twice removed who is only twenty years old. This cousin and I have been in e-mail contact doing serious family research since he was only sixteen. He is an inspiration to genealogical researchers of any age.

We mourn the recent passing of Eunice Cohen, JGS of SW FL member. We miss her charming wit and warm smile.

Curious about the Origin of Jewish Surnames?

Sephardic surnames date back to the 1500s, but Ashkenazic Jews generally did not have surnames until the early 1800s. Howard Finkel, JGS of SW FL Program Chair, will discuss the origin of Jewish surnames at the May 17 Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida meeting. He will talk about the various kinds of surnames including patronymic, occupational, place, descriptive, and artificial. Many of the surnames to be discussed will be surnames on the family trees of JGS of SW FL members.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

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MEETING

Sunday, May 17, 2015 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: Origin of Jewish Surnames
by Howard Finkel

For details, Kim Sheintal 941-302-1433, klapshein@aol.com

Jewish Jewels of the Baltics:

Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia (August 31 - September 10, 2015)

Lithuanian Jews, also called Litvaks, were among the most influential scholars, energetic businessmen, and skilled professionals in Europe prior to WWII. In Lithuania, Jewish secular and religious institutions flourished. Home to more than 100 synagogues and some of the leading rabbinical schools of Europe, Vilnius was affectionately known as the Jerusalem of Lithuania. You are invited to join this Jewish Heritage Travel trip and discover the rich Jewish heritage and culture of the Baltics. See Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn, and other fascinating sites and the beautiful countryside along the way. You will travel with scholar Sid Leiman who will share his insights and knowledge through lectures and informal conversation. Travel in comfort while staying at deluxe hotels with fine amenities. <http://jhtravel.org/trip/lithuania-latvia-estonia-august-31-september-10-2015/>

Denmark and Jewish Genealogy

“Denmark has rich resources for Jewish genealogists as well as a great number of published genealogies dating back to the 17th century – some very elaborate with information pertaining to other countries e.g. *Forgotten Fragments of the History of the Fraenkel Family* covering the period 14th - 20th centuries based on intensive studies in archives all over Europe tracing the roots in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Holland, Poland, - including links to well-known families in other countries such as e.g. Oppenheimer, Wertheimer, Gumperz, Behrens, Lehmann, Itzig, Gans, David, Fränkel, Ephraim. Denmark has much to offer and research in the Danish archives might prove of interest to many Jewish genealogists even though they do not know of any ancestors or relatives in Denmark.” These statements are from the JewishGen Scandinavia Special Interest Group (SIG) at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Scandinavia/dk-resources.htm>.

Denmark's largest digital archive opened on February 20, 2015. “The Association of Local Archives estimates that Danish Archives contain 50 million images.” For more information: <http://cphpost.dk/news/denmarks-largest-digital-archive-opens-today.12735.html>.

Welcome New JGS of SW FL Member

Gail Fazzina

Using Emigration and Immigration Records

by Bryan Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Ft. Myers Regional Library

Many genealogists find the terminology and records related to emigration and immigration records confusing. Because our ancestors encountered multiple identity checkpoints prior to their departure to the New World, many documents were created on both sides of the Atlantic. Emigration records were created as the individual or family prepared to leave a country. These types of records could have been created at any of the following identity checkpoints such as the civil registrar in the locality of residence, border crossings (country and provincial), ports of departure, and ports of entry. The procedures which emigrants followed in the processing of reaching the port of departure, whether complying with family or local directives or laws, all generated records. Some of the most relevant emigration related records of interest to genealogists include:

1. Letters of Manumission: If a person was employed in an occupation that was considered vital to the survival of a community, he had to obtain a document showing he was released from his commitment to the satisfaction of local authorities.
2. Sale of Property: If the person owned property, they were required to dispose of everything prior to departure. It could be sold or left to relatives or friends or as bribes to facilitate the process.
3. Letters of Recommendation: Often issued by church authorities in the Old World indicating that the emigrant was in good standing.
4. Permit to Emigrate: Document that certified the person was free to leave his homeland, having fulfilled all of his financial obligations and settled his personal affairs. Emigrants had to have this document available for search at all times.
5. Indentured Contracts: Emigrants unable to pay for the trip agreed to sell themselves into service, usually for a specified length of time, to pay for their passage. The contracts were filed at the courts in the port of departure and arrival.
6. Emigrant Lists: Lists of people leaving a particular port of departure. They are available in many foreign archives, especially those located at or near ports of departure.

Immigration records are documents created as one enters a particular country. Immigrants faced the same complexity of legal hurdles to enter, become established, and obtain citizenship in America as they did leaving the Old World. These hurdles generated lots of potential records. Some of the most relevant immigration related records of interest to genealogists include:

1. Ship Passenger Lists (also called immigrant lists, arrival lists, or manifests) were created at port of entry.
2. Hospital Record: Many ports of entry has designated areas, sometimes called pest hospitals, where sick and infirm passengers were quarantined until they were well or deported. Many local newspapers printed names of detailed passengers. For those who were not deported, they usually had to be issued special health certificates.
3. Alien Registrations: At various times in American history, Congress mandated that incoming aliens had to be registered on a regular basis, particularly in the late 1700s, early 1800s, and after 1929.

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://www.iajgs.org/blog/ijgm/poster-competition/>

IAJGS Poster Contest: Deadline June 20, 2015
(2012 poster winners were Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida members Lynn Teichman and Navia Natkin. Their design is currently the top banner on the IAJGS website.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66y49BnxLfQ>

Changing Borders of Poland

<http://archives.jdc.org/explore-the-archives/>

Explore the American Joint Distribution Committee Archives

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej4EjoomDPo&feature=youtu.be&o_xid=64471&o_lid=64471&o_sch=Email

Exploring the Ancestry YouTube Channel

<http://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/02/24/science/dna-generated-faces.html>

DNA Generated Faces

<https://www.elephind.com/>

Online Archive of Worldwide Historic Newspapers

<http://familyhistorydaily.com/family-history/werent-ancestors-smiling-old-photos-reason-revealed/>

Why Your Ancestors Did Not Smile in Photos Before 1900s

<http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/newspapers/>

Free NY State Newspaper Site

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4633851,00.html>

Lithuania's lost Jewish archives come to life online

<http://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/deathcertificates/>

Missouri Death Certificates, 1910 - 1963

http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com/2015/02/switched-at-birth-unravelling-century_27.html

lady discovers her "Irish" father was really an Ashkenazi Jew who was accidentally swapped with another baby when they were both born on the same day at Fordham Hospital in 1913

<https://strangepilgrimage.wordpress.com/2015/01/22/and-who-wouldve-thought-it-figures/>

lady discovers her Irish heritage after being raised Jewish

<http://podroznicy.com/en/poland/jewish-cemetery-bialystok>

Jewish cemetery in Bialystok (video)

<http://www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu/2015/01/18/documentation-new-technology-the-jewish-cemetery-in-bialystok-by-drone/%E2%80%9D>

Documentation and new technology... the Jewish cemetery in Bialystok, by drone...

<http://www.jewishgen.org/education/>

JewishGen online interactive courses in Jewish genealogy

<http://www.genealogycenter.org/Community/E-zine.aspx>

Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library

Is Parkinson's Disease Hereditary? by Liz Zeisler
Like HEXA in Tay-Sachs and BRCA in breast cancer, a gene called LRRK2 can lead to Parkinson's in Ashkenazi Jews

Did you know that about 10% of all cases of Parkinson's disease (PD) are genetic and that the LRRK2 gene in particular is the most common known genetic contributor to Parkinson's disease known to date? Did you also know that a LRRK2 mutation is found among 15% of Parkinson's disease patients of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry?

While this news may surprise you, there are several important facts you should know. While having a mutation in the LRRK2 gene can increase your chance of developing Parkinson's disease, many people with the mutation will not go on to develop the disease. The LRRK2 gene is the subject of intense investigation by Parkinson's disease researchers around the world because of its potential to lead to medical breakthroughs for all people with PD, not just those with a genetic form. Further, there are opportunities for people in our community to get involved in research that could make a difference for millions of patients worldwide.

In fact, over the past decade, studies of the genetics of Parkinson's disease have revolutionized the pursuit of a "disease-modifying treatment" – a therapy that can slow or stop the progression of PD. To date, no disease-modifying treatment has been discovered – it is the single greatest need of Parkinson's disease patients today. For this reason, families of Ashkenazi Jewish heritage that carry a LRRK2 mutation have a vital role in this research.

One study in particular, the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (or, PPMI for short), is seeking to understand why the LRRK2 gene can sometimes lead to Parkinson's disease. PPMI is the landmark study of The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and is taking place at 32 clinical sites worldwide. The goal of PPMI is to identify indicators of PD progression to ultimately enable early and accurate detection and potentially help identify new and better treatments for future generations of people with Parkinson's disease.

Today, PPMI needs volunteers to participate in this study and is seeking individuals who meet either of the following criteria:

- **People with PD** who are of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry
- **People without PD** who are related to someone with PD AND who are of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry

Because PPMI is an observational study, participants do not take any experimental drug or placebo. Individuals who meet either of these criteria may be eligible to receive genetic counseling and testing at no cost to determine if they may qualify to participate in PPMI. Find out how you can get involved by visiting www.michaeljfox.org/ppmigenetics or calling (888) 830-6299. Studying the genetics of Parkinson's disease could revolutionize the development of new treatments for patients worldwide. Families who carry the LRRK2 gene play a unique role in pursuit of a cure. I hope you'll take this unique opportunity to join forces with Jewish families worldwide committed to speeding scientific progress that can touch countless lives. The intended study outcome is to create a data bank that can be shared worldwide (Tel Aviv University is a study site, and in the U.S. sites include University of South Florida in Tampa. The goal is to better understand PD and find a disease modifying genetic cure. Goal is to complete recruitment by the end of 2015.

Allen County Public Library Genealogical Center

The ACPL Genealogy Center is a unique and valuable resource for the Northeastern Indiana community and the entire genealogical community at large. They have one of the largest research collections available, incorporating records from around the world. Their staff specializes in genealogy and is always available to help. ACPL belongs to the JGS of SW FL.

35th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy

In Jerusalem July 6 – July 10, 2015

In cooperation with My Heritage

The conference will be a truly international "Promised Event". Speakers and registrants hail from round the globe representing 20 nations to date including New Zealand, American Samoa, the Americas, Africa, and all of Europe.

The keynote speaker will be Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, one of the most prominent figures in Israeli society today. (See the website for his full biography.) Rabbi Lau, a child survivor of the Holocaust, is an outstanding activist and orator. He will bring a message to genealogists reinforcing the value of their work researching individuals and families. Master genealogist Dick Eastman will be speaking at the closing banquet. In the mid-1980s, at the dawn of the World Wide Web, Eastman pioneered one of the first online Genealogy Forums. By 1996, he created a weekly online newsletter called "Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter" which has grown from a circulation of 100 to more than 60,000 genealogists.

For more details about the conference, go to the website at <http://iajgs2015.org/>.

Michael Goldstein, Chairman, chairman@iajgs2015.org

History of Avotaynu Inc.

Avotaynu Inc. began in 1985 as the publisher of its namesake, Avotaynu, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy. To date 117 issues of Avotaynu have been published. In 1991, the company expanded its efforts to provide the tools genealogists need to research their Jewish family history by publishing its first book, the award-winning *Where Once We Walked*. To date, the company has published 70 books. For its publishing efforts, the company received the "Body of Work" award of the Association of Jewish Libraries. This award has been given only four times in the past 20 years. In 2001, Avotaynu added "Nu? What's New?," a weekly e-zine that provides information about current events that affect Jewish family history. In 2009, Avotaynu introduced the Avotaynu Anthology, which provides the online ability to search back issues of the publication using a full word search engine provided by Google. Avotaynu Online is its newest venture.

JGS of SW FL 2015 Membership Application

Single Membership: \$25/year Family Membership: \$30/year

Mail Check (payable to JGS of SW FL) with this form to:

Liz Klaber 4461 Violet Avenue Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Two Categories: “Research Timeline” and “Possibly Family”

by Kim Sheintal

Like many genealogists, I update pedigree charts, family group sheets and scrapbooks. In addition, I update two unique categories among my family research, I have a personal “Research Timeline” category which is categorized by surname. I list the date I made each special discovery with a short story about the discovery. Here is an example of some of the highlight from my Jaffe Research Timeline:

- 1- June 1993 – I remembered that I had an old family album that belonged to my grandmother. I look at it. I found a photo glued to a black page with white writing that read, “Harry, Ma, Grandpa, Me, Ed, 4/23/22, Douglas Park.” From this picture, I realized that this picture was taken in 1922 in Chicago with my grandmother, her brothers, her mother, and her grandfather. Until I looked at this photo, I had no idea that my great great grandfather immigrated to US (Chicago). Since then, I discovered that my great great great grandfather came to US (New York).
- 2- July 1993 – I received the death certificate for my great great grandfather Samuel Pinkus Jaffe which listed his father as Morris Jaffe and his mother as Lena Berman.
- 3- Mid 1990s – I obtained a photo of my great, great, great grandfather which was taken in New York City.

I also keep a “Possibly Family” category of all of the lines of a particular surname that I have not yet linked to my tree. For example, I have 18 Klapman lines that I am researching (not all spelled “Klapman”). With my Klapman research, only one of the 18 lines is actually connected to my Klapman line. In my Klapman research, I have a list labeled 1-18 and write a short description about each Klapman line. My goal is to connect the 18 Klapman family trees into one big family tree. Here are examples of four of my 18 Klapman trees:

- 1- Descendants of Aaron KLAPMAN (Canadian branch, originally from Plock Russian Poland)
- 2- Descendants of Johel Jakubowicz KLOPMAN (Chicago branch, originally from Raciaz Poland)
- 3- Descendants of Hershel KLOPMAN (originally from Raciaz, many settled in France)
- 4- Descendants of Abraham KLAPMAN (originally from Jitomir Russia, many settled in Boston)

I am constantly adding to both categories and review them from time to time. These lists are a helpful reference and serve as a quick summary of many years of research. These lists are the treasures of my genealogical research.

Florida Hosts

National Genealogical Society Conference

Florida will be the host state for the National Genealogical Society 2016 Family History Conference, *Exploring the Centuries: Footprints in Time*. The conference will be held May 4 thru May 7 2016 in Fort Lauderdale.

Survivors of the Shoah Foundation

Dennis Greis donated two Shoah interview tapes (made by his father’s first cousin Heinz from Australia) to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida library.

Announcing Avotaynu Online!

Avotaynu Inc. is pleased to announce the creation of “Avotaynu Online,” an exciting new venture intended to stimulate collaboration among Jewish genealogists in all its forms. Leading participants in the various areas of genealogical research will provide in-depth articles on events and discoveries on a regular basis.

Avotaynu Online will be available free of charge from the venture's website at <http://avotaynuonline.com/>, which will be shared simultaneously on Facebook and Twitter. Reports will be delivered in different formats, including text, video, and podcasts.

As a bonus to readers, all articles from 2007-2011 published in Avotaynu, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, are available at no charge at the Avotaynu Online website. Articles from all other years will continue to be available on a subscription basis by visiting

<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Anthology.htm>.

Subscribe Now! Readers are encouraged to subscribe to the Avotaynu Online news feed by registering their email addresses at the top of their web page, and to also follow public commentary on its articles by “liking” the official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AvotaynuOnline> as well as our pages at Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Pinterest and other social media outlets.

By virtue of its focus on the in-depth reporting of specific subjects, Avotaynu Online is intended to be entirely distinct from the existing print journal, Avotaynu, which for over three decades has covered the broad spectrum of Jewish family history research, and from the weekly “Nu? What’s New?,” which reports breaking stories in the world of genealogy.

Avotaynu Online aims to promote conversation within the genealogical community on the subjects it covers. Unlike print, which is a one-way medium, readers of articles will be encouraged to respond to their authors directly from their pages, and to engage them in developing new lines of thinking. Similarly, unlike print, our authors will be encouraged to revise their articles with new or revised information as soon as it becomes available, so that their stories will continue over time to remain fresh and accurate.

Experiment and Collaborate Avotaynu intends to experiment and collaborate. It is their belief that there are subjects tangential to Jewish genealogy that may be of great interest to their readers, such as Jewish travel, history, demographics, and health issues. In the past they have been limited by available space in their quarterly when deciding whether to cover these interesting subjects. The availability of virtually unlimited space on their Avotaynu Online website will free them from this limitation. They have also developed partnerships with prestigious institutions such as the Leo Baeck Institute and the International Institute of Jewish Genealogy, among others, so that they may bring readers the best thinking from some of the genealogy's leading experts.

Principal Managing editor of Avotaynu Online will be Adam Brown, who has for many years been a Curator for the collaborative online family tree hosted by Geni/MyHeritage and is the founder of the Jewish DNA Project at FamilyTreeDNA. Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus will be Editor-in-Chief and Gary Mokotoff will be Publisher.

What is New?

Remember that what is new in genealogy is finding what is old.