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President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

With more genealogical research comes more unanswered questions! Here are two such examples from my personal summer genealogical research.

In 2008, I found an 1858 Lithuanian census record showing my great grandmother (Chana Dvora Kasrilzon) living with her parents and her two older sisters (Slova Rovza Kasrilzon and Shimkha Kasrilzon). In 2016, I contact Debbie because she shares DNA with me according to our Ancestry.com DNA tests. Her great grandmother is Slova Rovza Kasrilzon. In August 2019, I contact Jim because he shares DNA with me according to our Family Tree DNA tests and he emails me his family tree showing his great grandmother as Sarah Kaslinson. I now wonder if Shimkha Kasrilzon is also known as Sarah Kaslinson.

In July 2019, I discover Valentina, Shlomit, and I share DNA according to our DNA tests on Family Tree DNA. Valentina notices that Shlomit is tracing the Sheintal surname. Sheintal is my married name. After a full day of contacting my husband's cousins and doing online research, I discovered that Shlomit and my husband share a great great grandfather, thus making them third cousins. I now wonder how Shlomit is related to me.

Because of my two DNA tests (Ancestry.com and Family Tree DNA), I find many people who share DNA with me and contact them. I often review online censuses and contact relatives to help me with my research. But, as you see, the more research I do, the more unanswered questions I have. Is Sarah Kaslinson the same person as Shimkha Kasrilzon? How is Shlomit related to me?

Shalom SRQ Live (582 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota)...learn about local Jewish Community...JGS of SW FL has a table Sunday, November 3, 2019 (1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.)

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

Volume 24, Number 3 Fall 2019

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Mishpochology is published quarterly.

www.jgsswf.org

<https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF/>

JGS of SW FL MEETING

Sunday, November 17, 2019 (1:00 PM)

Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program:

Judah P. Benjamin (Attorney General, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State of the Confederate States of America):

How He Succeeded through his Lineage by Sandy Prindle

Hear what Sandy Prindle has to say about Judah P. Benjamin;

you may find it surprising.

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

JGS of SW FL Program about Judah P. Benjamin

What was the U.S. like during the lifetime of your ancestors? Broadening your knowledge of history creates the basis for many of the reasons your ancestors did what they did. At the November meeting, Sandy Prindle will focus on Judah P. Benjamin, the "most prominent nineteenth century American Jew" according to Encyclopedia Judaica. During the Civil War, there were about 200,000 Jews living in the U.S., but none living in Sarasota or Manatee Counties. Sarasota Manatee has Jewish history dating back to the Civil War. Two historic markers and one monument in Sarasota describe the captivating story about Judah P. Benjamin, the Jewish Confederate Cabinet member who escaped from the U.S. In addition, there is a historic marker in Ellenton and a monument in Bradenton thanks to the Judah P. Benjamin Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. A plaque is affixed to Ellenton's Gamble Mansion in memory of Judah P. Benjamin. Benjamin's legacy continues in Sarasota Manatee long after his death.

Judah P. Benjamin was born in 1811 on St. Croix to Jewish parents. At the time of his birth, Benjamin was in transit with his parents from England to America. He became a politician, lawyer, senator, and during the Civil War, the second-in-command of the Confederacy. He was considered the brains of the Confederacy. He served as Attorney General, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State under Jefferson Davis. When the Confederacy collapsed after Lee's surrender to Grant, Benjamin had to flee the country. He disguised as a farmer and fled to the Gamble Mansion and hid there for two weeks. Union soldiers came to search for him. He left the mansion and went to stay in Sarasota. At 54 years old, Judah P. Benjamin fled Sarasota. He reestablished himself in England as a lawyer for 16 years and was highly honored as a leader among English barristers.

The American Jewish Historical Society Center for Jewish History states that Judah P. Benjamin was a man of multiple talents. He achieved high-ranking titles wherever he served, especially leaving an indelible mark in the South where he held more official positions than any other man during the Civil War.

Local Genealogical Groups

Please check websites to confirm.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

meets third Sunday of month at 1:00 PM from November thru April at Aviva, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota.

- November 17, 2019: Judah P. Benjamin: How He Succeeded through his Lineage by Sandy Prindle
- December 15, 2019: Now That I Started, What Do I Do with the Information by Scott Mandel
- January 19, 2020: DNA Successes in and in Spite of Endogamy by Lara Diamond
- February 16, 2020: Stepping Stones of Europe by Corky Stern
- March 15, 2020: Using the DNA Websites: A Tour of the Tools by Peggy Jude
- April 19, 2020: Yiddish Radio Project by Baila Miller

President: Kim Sheintal (klapshein@aol.com, 941-302-1433)

Website: <http://www.jgsswf.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF/>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

meets second Sunday of month at 1:30 PM refreshments, library access, socializing, 2:00 PM program from September thru June except April 2020 and June 2020 (please call for details) at Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater.

President: Bruce Hadburg (bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com, 727-796-7981)

Website: <http://www.jgstb.org>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pg/JGSTB/

Genealogical Society of Sarasota

meets second Saturday of month at 10:00 AM mingling, 10:30 AM program from October thru May at Selby Public Library, 1331 1st St., Sarasota.

President: Nancy Johnson (choco8448@gmail.com, 941-752-9819)

Website: <http://gssfl.com/>

Germanic SIG meets second Wednesday of month at 10:00 AM from October thru April, no meeting in December at Fruitville Public Library, 100 Apex Rd., Sarasota.

Contact: Karen Dwyer (karensdwyer@yahoo.com, 941-756-7037)

United Kingdom SIG meets fourth Tuesday of month at 10:15 AM from January thru April at Fruitville Public Library, 100 Apex Rd., Sarasota.

Contact: Susan Well (swell01060@yahoo.com)

Irish SIG meets Saturday, November 2 at 10:15 AM at Fruitville Public Library, 100 Apex Rd., Sarasota.

Contact: Regina Negrycz (gss@gssfl.com)

New England SIG meets third Tuesday of month at 1:00 PM from October thru May at Fruitville Public Library, 100 Apex Rd., Sarasota.

Contact: Chuck Ford (cford1620@verizon.net)

Computer SIG meets at various dates at Fruitville Public Library, 100 Apex Rd., Sarasota. (Thursday, October 24, 2019: 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM) (Thursday, November 21, 2019: 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM) (Friday, January 24, 2020: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM) (Saturday, February 22, 2020: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM) (Monday, March 30, 2020: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM) (Wednesday, April 22, 2020: 10:15 AM - 1:00 PM)

Contact: Marilyn Wethington (marilyn@familyandtrees.com)

DNA SIG done virtually for GSS members only.

Contact: Regina Negrycz (gss@gssfl.com)

Poland SIG meets once a month at 10:15 AM from November through April at Gulf Gate Public Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota.

Contact: John Michaels (johnm@oakton.edu)

Manatee Genealogical Society

meets first Tuesday of month at 10:00 AM from October thru May (with the exception of January when the meeting is the second Tuesday) at Manatee County Downtown Central Public Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd. W., Bradenton.

President: Karen Dwyer (president@mgsfl.org, 941-756-7037)

Website: <https://mgsfl.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ManateeGenealogicalSociety>

Roots Magic SIG meets second Monday of month (excluding summer) at 2:00 PM at Westminster Courtyard, 222 Old Main St., Bradenton.

Contact: Phyllis Doucette (pdoucette05@gmail.com, 941-518-3460)

DNA SIG meets one Tuesday each month at 5:30 PM at South Manatee Public Library, 6081 26th St. W., Bradenton.

Contact: Peggy Jude (peggyjude04@gmail.com)

Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Club

meets first Monday of month at 7:00 PM from November thru April at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Lakewood Ranch.

Contact: Donna Moughty (moughty@mac.com, 941-907-2914)

Website: <https://www.irishfamilyroots.com/lakewood-ranch-genealogy/>

Englewood Genealogical Society

meets October thru May at Elsie Quirk Public Library, 100 Dearborn W. St., Englewood.

Contact: D'Ann Still (president@egsfl.org)

Website: <http://egsfl.org/>

SIG Groups: Beginning Genealogy, Eastern Seaboard States, British Isles and Europe, Family Tree Maker, Midwest States, Mac/Reunion, Scandinavian, Roots Magic, and DNA.

South Bay Genealogical Society

meets third Tuesday of month at 10:30 AM round table, 12:00 PM lunch, 1:00 PM program from September thru May, at United Methodist Church, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. W., Sun City Center. Cost is \$15. Reservations: Dotty Love 813-634-2749.

President: Bill Simmons (doc49sbgs@gmail.com, 814-205-6170)

Society Email Address: southbaygs@gmail.com

Website: <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~flsbgs/index.htm>

Charlotte County Genealogical Society

meets at Mid-County Regional Public Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte or Fort Myers Regional Public Library, 1651 Lee St., Fort Myers.

President: Judy Malbuisson (941-380-1448)

Website: <https://ccgsi.org/>

Passing of Nora Banner

Nora Banner, a JGS of SW FL charter member, passed away on August 30, 2019. Nora presented "A Genealogical Journey" at the November 1996 JGS of SW FL meeting. Her travelogue, filled with stories, showed the remote village of her great grandparents in Romania and how she traveled to get there. This village still has no cars. To her big surprise on the trip, she met someone in the town who remembered her great grandfather. In 2018, JGS of SW FL members, Leah Cook and Kim Sheintal, were happy to discover that they are related to Nora as a result of their DNA tests.

Jewish Genealogy Facebook Groups

by Melissa Mendelsohn

<http://jewishgenealogysurnameproject.com/facebook-groups/>

The above link will take you to a list of Facebook Groups pertaining to Jewish Genealogy Research. The most popular link is Jewish Genealogy FB Groups-listed by country, then towns.

If anyone has groups to add, please email me the link to:

jewishgenealogysurnameproject@gmail.com

Galician Surname Recursion and the Implications for DNA Analysis

by Jeffrey Knisbacher

Most readers with Galician ancestors are probably aware of the fact that when Jewish couples in 19th century Galicia (and sometimes into the 20th century) were married only in a religious ceremony, that marriage was not recognized by the Austro-Hungarian civil authorities. The children that resulted were assigned their mother's maiden name, which was then often adopted by the fathers, as well. What many may not be aware of is that there is a "recursive" issue here. Recursion in mathematics refers to a function that is applied within its own definition and thus, in theory, can grow without limit. It is easier to understand in a similar linguistic application where, for example, adjectives can, theoretically, be added before an English noun without limit; e.g., the used car, the red used car, the beautiful red used car, the expensive beautiful red used car, etc. A more interesting example is the children's nursery rhyme about the house that Jack built: this is the dog that killed the cat that ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack built (with a total of at least 11 clauses, to the endless fascination of children).

How does that apply to Galician Jewish genealogy? As a quick example, my father's mother was Cilli SZYDLOW, married to Isak Moshe KNISBACHER, from Lysiec. Her father was Me'ir SZYDLOW—until records were discovered showing that his surname was actually ROSENBLATT. In other words he was known as SZYDLOW because of his wife's surname. So, we might ask, was my paternal grandmother's maiden name really Cilli ROSENBLATT? But here's the rub. How do we know that ROSENBLATT wasn't derived from Me'ir's mother's name and that his father came into the world with yet another name, whatever that might have been—and so on back to the time that Jews took or were assigned surnames?

What this means in practice is that a given Knisbacher surname that I come across may not be from someone who is in a direct paternal line from an original Knisbacher (with whose descendants I should share Y-DNA), but a name derived from a Knisbacher mother, with whose descendants I would share only autosomal DNA. A specific example is one Adolf (Avraham) Knisbacher, who married a Gisella Schmerler from Nadworna. I first found out about him from a listing in the Nadworna yizkor book, where Adolf's surname is given (by Gisella Schmerler's brother) but not his first name. Adolf turned up later in some Jewish surname lists for Berlin and later still in the 1939 German "minority" census, which then added the Nazi-required "Israel" to his name. It seemed this Adolf was likely from Nadworna since I had by then learned of a family of Knisbacher Holocaust survivors (brothers Isak and Aron, Aron's wife Esther and their daughter Toby) who arrived in the U.S. in 1951 and claimed to be from Nadworna. But if Adolf really was from Nadworna, I wondered why his first name was not known to Gisella's brother?

As it turns out, when checking into information about yet another Knisbacher family that I received around 2002, I discovered that this Adolf/Avraham was the brother of Karol Baron (son of Marcus Baron and Frieda Knisbacher) and they were from Tlumacz. So Adolf was not from a paternal line of Knisbachers and his one son Joachim, had he survived, would not have been a Y-DNA match to me. A recent check of JRI-Poland listings shows that even my assumed Nadworna KNISBACHERs, brothers Aron and Isaac, both buried in Colma, CA, may not have been Y-DNA matches to me either,

but rather the children of a mother Breina KNISBACHER (listed on their Social Security applications with that maiden name) and a father Yitzhaq Leib GRAUER, who then adopted his wife's and children's surname.

The other side of this coin is I CAN be a Y-DNA match with males who no longer carry the Knisbacher surname (because someone along the line either changed the name on their own or had his wife's surname attached to his children, and, by derivation, to him). While I have known for a long time that this was possible, it has just been in the past two weeks that an actual Y-DNA match has turned up, with a non-Knisbacher surname derived from the adopted name of a non-Knisbacher female. The specific example is a male (first name withheld for privacy reasons) Sperber, a 111 marker Y-DNA match to me, with a direct paternal line going back to a marriage between a Dawid Knisbacher and a Pessie Sperber. Clearly whenever old records show the surnames of female Knisbacher spouses, those names need to be carefully investigated.

A final note. This problem of identifying someone's "real" surname resulted in a frustrating embarrassment for me. When my father passed away on June 2, 1995 in Baltimore, the family agreed that we would use the back of his tombstone to memorialize those of his relatives who had been murdered in the Holocaust. However my research into those unfortunate victims depended entirely on what was available in microfilm records that could only be accessed through a physical presence at the Library of Congress or the National Archives in Washington, D.C. There was no Internet access back then. So it turns out that the seven lines at the very bottom of the tombstone shown below are largely incorrect. They were mostly based on microfilmed Soviet Special Commission records in Ukrainian that were both wrong in some details and blurry and difficult to read, as well. New information that has come to light over the past two decades, both from the Internet and a trove of pre-war pictures discovered by a cousin in Israel, requires the following corrections:

1. Because of the habit of men taking their wives' names, my father's uncle Shimon (possibly Shimshon according to some records) was actually GOLDSTEIN from Mikulyczyn, married to my father's sister Sura KNISBACHER. His sister Sima GOLDSTEIN was married to Sura's brother Shikl (Yehoshua) KNISBACHER. They and their son Dov were also victims and should have been recorded here. The correct names of Shimon and Sura's two daughters were Henka and Bronya.
2. The maiden name of my father's uncle Laib KNISBACHER's wife Fannie, was SPIRA.
3. The first name of my father's uncle GROCH, was Natan, married not to Sura but to my father's aunt Tova KNISBACHER. They had three children: sons Menahem Mordechai and Yitzkhaq (Itsko), and daughter Dvora. All were murdered.

I should point out that my father may have known of the GOLDSTEINs and GROCHs, but he never met them. He was never in Poland, which they never left (as far as we know).

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2019 IAJGS Conference Reviews

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/IAJGSConference/reviews/>

Wonderful World of Websites

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZKF11JGZ9jICrwUtXIhcT7RVmUmVd9CIWmym6Pv9eyY/edit>
The New JewishGen.org Discussion Group - Member Guide

<https://www.jewishgen.org/jewishgen/updates.html>
JewishGen Updates

http://blog.myheritage.com/2019/02/introducing-the-theory-of-family-relativity-a-genealogy-game-changer/?utm_source=tofr_autoclusters_annmnt&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=403299&utm_term=tofr&tr_date=20190402
Jewish Heritage Theory of Relativity

<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/tree/CemLis.htm>
JewishGen Cemetery Inventory

<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/>
JewishGen Holocaust Database now includes more than 2.75 million records from approximately 200 component databases.

<https://thehill.com/regulation/lobbying/450124-dna-testing-companies-launch-new-privacy-coalition>
DNA Companies Launch New Privacy Coalition

<https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612880/more-than-26-million-people-have-taken-an-at-home-ancestry-test/>
At Home DNA Testing

<https://fpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Privacy-Best-Practices-for-Consumer-Genetic-Testing-Services-FINAL.pdf>
Privacy Best Practices for Consumer Genetic Testing Services

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yFAMGAzuFM&t=17s
2019 IAJGS Volunteer of Year Award

<http://www.iajgs.org/jgscv/pdf/Practicing%20Safe%20Computing%20Articles.pdf>
Safe Computing

Ancestry Announces Two Improved Features

IAJGS was invited to participate in an invitation-only conference call with Ancestry staff and other genealogical reporters where they introduced two improved features: new member profile and new messenger. While both are in Beta they are 100 percent available to users.

New Profile

As with the “old” profile to access it go where it says account (upper right) and on the drop box click on profile. Under your name is a green BETA sign. If it is gray then it is off, and switch it to on. Make certain it is on. On the same “ribbon” it will say “You’re viewing the new profile”. On the left it will say “personal profile”.

Similar to the “old” profile it will have your name, location, websites, language(s) spoken, research interests. There is a place for a photo. Ancestry has researched and found any photo and location filled in will result in an increase three-fold your

responses. It can be a photo of you, your pet or anything, as long as there is a photo there the response rate is higher. Crista Cowen, the Barefoot Genealogist, uses a photo of her feet!

On the new profile are also your DNA estimates along with matches. These only appear in on your private profile not your public profile. Displaying the name of private searchable trees, people, records one still has to grant permission for others to access this on your profile. There is also the opportunity to add a link to a personal website that you would like to share with others - see the paper clip just below it lists the date you have been an Ancestry member.

On your public tree the personal profile is on the upper left. The public profile does not contain your ethnicity estimates. However, if you want your ethnicity matches on your public profile you can chose everyone on Ancestry or only you on your personal profile. The public profile has your photograph, name, location, since you were a member, the last time you logged in, the language(s) you speak, and your research interests. If you have a family tree uploaded it will also display your family tree if you have designated it as a public tree.

For privacy concerns “new DNA Matches” cannot be shown to anyone.

Messaging

For those of us who have been wondering if someone actually received our emails through Ancestry this is a big improvement. This has been rolled out as a Beta and not all subscribers and guests will get it immediately - but will in a short period of time. Worldwide it will be available by June 2019. What is a big positive is that it is in real time! This will tell us if our messages were read and more.

We were advised that the folders’ capability will not be migrated over and there was some discussion among the invited guests about this. Whether Ancestry will reconsider this at a later date was not discussed.

Another enhancement is one can send attachments or copy a link in the new messaging system.

One can search the body and content of the message.

At the time of writing this posting (March 2019) there is nothing on the Ancestry website about these new changes. Watch for them I am certain they will be forthcoming.

Their most recent blog post is about the new features they introduced at RootsTech last month on ThruLines, MyTreeTags and improved DNA Matching.

<https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2019/04/09/you-asked-we-answered-new-updates-to-our-latest-innovations/>

I have no relationship with Ancestry and am posting this solely for the information of the reader.

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

Selby Library is Family History Library Affiliate

Four Levels of Access to Records on Familysearch.org.

1: Open Access - records you can obtain from any location, including home. 2: Affiliate Access - access to records within an affiliate location provided you are logged into your Family Search account and connected to the affiliate location’s wifi (either on one of their computers or your laptop/tablet). 3: Family History Center Access - access to some records that have the camera and key icon. 4: Family History Library Access - access to all of their records at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.