



משפחה

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The Jewish Genealogy Society
of Greater Washington



"Every man of the children of Israel shall encamp by his own standard with the ensign of his family" *Numbers 2:2*

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Spring 2003

President's Letter

Benjamin C. Fassberg, President
JGSGW



Do you know your beginnings? Haven't found all your ancestors yet? Are you sure there are no horse thieves in your background? Was Uncle Harry really married to Aunt Golda? And was Harry his real name or did he come into the US under another name?

If these and other questions about your background have entered your mind and you haven't found any answers or there is no one to ask about your family's past history, then it's time for you to register to attend the 23rd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy here in Washington, D.C. on July 20 through July 25, 2003.

A few examples of some of the many sessions you might attend are:

(1) How to Find 19th Century Polish Language Records, or if you think you know the name of the shtetl, or town from which your ancestor came from, then you should take in the lecture:

(2) "Through the Looking Glass: Putting the Shtetl Pieces Together". But if this is your first attempt at doing some genealogy sleuthing, perhaps you are a candidate for:

(3) A Beginner's Workshop. After you have taken the Beginner's Workshop, if you still feel a bit uncomfortable as where to turn next, then we suggest you take in the lecture:

(4) U.S. Census Records - 1880 - 1930 in the National Archives because the street address where you thought your ancestor lived wasn't quite where you thought it was or even in a different town or city. But even more revealing, you might find that your mother or father, grandmother or grandfather had a brother or sister living with them you hadn't even heard about. Now what happened to them? Did they die, or get married, or change their names? It's a puzzlement !! If some of these ancestors you hadn't heard of were females, perhaps they did get married. What's their married name? Now we recommend that you sit in on the lecture:

(5) Finding Your Female Ancestors, and The Immigrant Experience: From Steerage To Ellis Island. Perhaps you discovered that one of your

(continued on page 3)

Mishpacha

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

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משפחה

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All JGSGW members are encouraged to submit their genealogical research experiences for publication in Mishpacha. Submit articles to either editor: Sharlene Kranz (Skranz_99@yahoo.com) or Donna Sellinger (dfsmetsfan@yahoo.com)

Back issues are available from Sharlene Kranz, 4336 Albemarle Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016 for \$5 each.

Table of Contents

From the President	1
First Name Confusion	4
JGSGW Library News	5
JGSGW Board Meeting Minutes	7
Jewish Orphanages	8
MLK Library-A Valuable DC Resource .	9
Top Ten Reasons to Attend DC2003	10
A Living Memorial to the Holocaust .	13
From Nu? what's Nu?	14
Using Genetic Tests	17

(continued from page 1)

ancestors came from a Spanish or Portuguese speaking country. Now we've entered into the realm of Sephardic Genealogy. If that's the case, you had better sit in on the lecture entitled:

(6) Sephardic Genealogy and Its Resources. You've somehow found out that your ancestor came from Galicia. Is that a Spanish provence? Galicia, depending on the year you are searching, might have been part of Poland, or The Austro-Hungarian Empire, or Germany, or Russia. Sounds like you have your work cut out for you, so there are several more lectures you should attend:

(7) Jewish Records Indexing - Poland:

(8) Jewish Surnames in Russia, Poland and Galicia: Common Features and Differences:

(9) Finding Your Family in the 18th Century Records of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania/Kingdom of Poland. Well, you've taken in all these lectures and still you are having problems in finding your ancestors. Ah, never fear, we have another lecture for you to take in:

(10) Breaking Through Genealogical Brick Walls: Sharing Ideas to Solve our Research Problems.

As you can see, the above suggestions are but 10 out of over 80 speakers we will have for your choosing. Where else but at the IAJGS Convention in Washington, D.C. in July can you find so many important ideas all in one place for you to mine.

But after you mined a number of genealogical fields during the day, its time to nourish your social side at our convention. If you decide to stay in Washington on Saturday, and check in at the JW Marriott, the headquarters hotel, we strongly recommend for your evenings entertainment "The Capitol Steps" which appear in the Ronald Reagan Building just across Pennsylvania Avenue from the hotel. Sunday night is the opening reception to Spring 2003

which all registrants are invited to hear the Archivist of the United States and to nosh at the delicious tidbits and wine that will be awaiting you. And all those new people to meet !!

And for the rest of the week, you have a wonderful choice of activities to choose from - a morning Bike Tour of the city and monuments, a play or concert at the Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts and lastly, the concluding banquet on Thursday evening with Hadassah Lieberman as the guest speaker. Who knows - a potential First Lady ??

The officers and Board of Directors of JGSGW will be there to help you in any way we can. We want to make your attendance at the Conference both rewarding and pleasurable So register now by going to the DC2003 Website:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/dc2003>

Time to Volunteer!

JGSGW needs volunteers to staff the hospitality desk, tours desk, registration desk, resource room and the cyber classroom at the Conference.

We also need session monitors whose responsibilities will include insuring the rooms are properly set up for the next speaker.

Volunteer on the registration page or by email to volunteer coordinator Vera Mellen at mellen@erols.com.

You can pick the days and hours you would like to volunteer.

Attendees from out of town can also volunteer.

FIRST NAME CONFUSION

Charles Polinger, JGSGW

I have read much about how immigrants coming to America changed their names either before entering this country or after they arrived. I have also read much about how clerks at ship departures misspelled or misunderstood names, while others later made mistakes in reading the manifest- listed names. Some writers tell of immigrants changing their names in order to “Americanize” them, or to hide their identity. But, all of these situations refer to the *family*, or last names. My experience, on the other hand, has identified several confusing instances where relatives changed their *given* or first names.

I never cease to be surprised to learn that a relative who I have known or heard about for years had a different first name than I expected. My first such experience occurred in one of my first independent research attempts. I was trying to find out information about Mary Shrader, my grandmother on my mother’s side. Having heard that she was born in Manchester, England in the late 1800’s, I wrote to the Census Bureau at St. Catherines in England. I was truly disappointed when I received their letter telling me that they were unsuccessful at finding any records about my grandmother.

Several years passed when I eventually learned of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain and began corresponding with them. I asked them if they could research Mary Shrader, given the same background information. They were only able to locate the birth record for a “Maria Shrader” of Preswick, England. I requested a copy of the birth certificate anyway, and that’s when I was surprised beyond belief. This person, Maria Shrader was born in the same year I expected for Mary, in the town of Preswick, which is in Manchester, and her mother’s maiden name was the same as

the one I knew. She was obviously the Mary I was seeking. But, for another surprise, Maria’s (or Mary’s) mother’s first name was not Bessie as I was told, but was Rebecca. When and how the changes were made, I will probably never know, but I did learn something new about the people we knew well as Mary and Bessie, and I was pretty certain I had located my relatives.

Later I was researching another relative, known to me as Aunt Shirley. I tried the Social Security Death Index, since I knew that Aunt Shirley had worked in the US and had died in the 1960’s. When the record arrived, however, I learned that Aunt Shirley was actually Aunt Sade; after a conversations with my mother I found out that, yes, Sade did not like her original name and so she had everyone call her Shirley.

Other relatives, it turns out, have been playing tricks with their first names as well. Clifford, for instance was actually Jacob, and he changed his name to his wife’s for reasons we can only guess. I found out on Uncle William’s tomb stone that he was actually Uncle David, with William being his middle name. And of course, the guy everyone called Bibby was actually Robert. But why did the 1920 New York census list my Aunt Rosie’s son as Arthur when everyone knows her son was Michael? So far the family looks at me like I’m crazy when I say Arthur was Rosie’s son and Janette, not Jean, was her daughter, but that is what the records show.

OK, so maybe searching for someone with a different first name than we expected isn’t as perplexing as having a different family name to research, but it definitely can make our searching a little trickier than we want. It just pays to be open minded and flexible when searching for a deceased relative. At the same time, the surprises we find enrich our genealogical experiences and, believe me, add to lively family discussions.#



JGSGW Library News

Judy Mostyn White, JGSGW librarian

Greetings and Happy Family Hunting!

The JGSGW library collection is housed at:

Isaac Franck Jewish Public Library
[IFJPL]

4928 Wyaconda Road
Rockville, MD 20852
Telephone: 301-255-1970

The IFJPL hours change seasonally, but generally they are open all day on Mondays and Wednesdays, afternoons and evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Friday mornings, and the morning of the fourth Sunday of the month. Always call them first to check their hours before going to use our library. Directions to our library can be found on our web site, under Resources, Library.

JGSGW members who wish to use our library should go to the main desk of the IFJPL. There, you sign in, and be sure to put JGSGW in the appropriate category beside your name. You will receive a key to our locked cabinets. Unlock the doors, and use our materials. PLEASE return materials to the same location from which you took them. Close and lock our cabinets, and return the key to the person at the main desk.

Virginia members should be aware of the Jack Klein Memorial Library of Jewish Genealogy & History, located at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, 703-370-9400. Contact JGSGW member, Faith Klein, for more information.

THANK YOU'S

Here's a THANK YOU to the following library volunteers who have helped since last time:

JGSGW member, DAN GROSS, for frequent general help at the library, especially with the catalog.

JGSGW member, RICH MEYERSBURG, for updating our library computer.

JGSGW member, SHARLENE KRANZ, who donated her computer to the library.

US Holocaust Memorial Museum Librarian, MICHLEAN AMIR, for help with assigning call numbers to our books, and doing OCLC checks.

NEW BINDERS

Binder #7: Reorganized by country, with many new entries Eastern European Countries:

Hungary

item 1: bibliography on Hungarian Holocaust

item 2: Momumenta Hungariae Judaica, bibliography on sources of Hungarian Jewry by Louis Schonfeld

item 3: Hungarian Jewish Genealogy, Yizkor books, counties, addresses

item 4: Hungarian genealogical word list

Czechoslovakia

item 1: Genealogical Research for Czech & Slovak Americans

item 2: Holocaust deportees from Boskovice, Hungary

item 3: Newsletter of International Council of Jews from Czech.

item 4: Czech. application form for vital information

item 5: Czech. Jewish cemeteries

item 6: Czechlovakian Jews, 120 pages of names of Jews, many with addresses

item 7: Beth Theresienstadt, pamphlet in Hebrew & English, describes the Jews of the town

(continued on next page)

Yugoslavia

item 1: Patriarch of Dubrovnik's "Jew Street" _ 1977 Wash. Post article

Romania

item 1: Romanian area handbook

item 2: life in Lambrooka, Jewish Agricultural Village in Bessarabia, Romania, by Marlene Zakai. Donated by JGSGW member, Marlene Zakai. Thank you, Marlene.

item 3: list of voters and protocols from Iasi (Jassy), Romania, in Cyrillic

item 4: Romania: The Sudits & Other Jewish Discoveries by Paul Pascal

item 5: My Romanian Ancestor Quest, 1989 by Gertrude Singer Ogushwitz, with useful addresses, map, etc.

item 6: Bukovina _ geography, social, political & economic history, etc., prepared under direction of Historical Section of the Foreign Office, donated by JGSGW member, Dave Fox. Thank you, Dave.

General

item 1: Hebrew University pamphlet on archival sources of Russian Jewish History

item 2: Gazetteers & maps of Eastern Europe in the Library of Congress

item 3: East European Archival Research From Your Home, by Robert Weiss, a bibliographic guide

NEW BOOKS

DS 135 .G4 K872; "Die jüdische Gemeinde in Kuppenheim" by Gerhard F. Linder, published 1999. The Jewish community of Kuppenheim, Germany, bibliography, index, in German, plus a compact disc in back cover.

CS 14 .A75; "Genealogy software guide" by Marthe Arends, published 1998. Includes index.

CD 3023 .A35 #79; "World War II records in the Cartographic and Architectural Branch of the National Archives" by US National Archives and Records Administration, published 1992. Bibliography, index.

DS 135 .G4 K34; "Geschichte der Juden im Landkreis Karlsruhe" by Jürgen Stude, published 1990. History of Jews of Karlsruhe region, Germany, register of Jews, bibliography, place name index, in German.

DS 135 .L5 A6658; "Jewish community of Lithuania on the 10th anniversary of the revival" by Simonas Alperavicius, published 1999. Jewish community of Vilnius area. Donated by JGSGW member, Lynn Levin, in loving memory of Rubin Levin. Thank you, Lynn.

CS 996 .J4 S5; "Mohelbuch: Lazarus Lieber Dreyfus aus Endingen/Kanton Aargau und seine Familie" by Lazarus Lieber Dreyfus, published 1999.

Mohel book for Oberendingen, Switzerland, 1827-1863, bibliography, in German with some Hebrew.

DS 135 .C5 P58; "The social history of the Jews of Hong Kong: a resource guide" by Caroline B. Pluss, published 1999. Bibliography of newspaper and newsletter articles, books, journal articles, correspondence, private collections and documents, and photographs.

F 105 .J5 C64 v.1; "Jewish cemeteries of Hartford, CT" by Edward A. Cohen, published 1995. Where known, gives location, name, maiden name, death, birth, parents, and spouse of decedent.

OLD BOOKS

Here are some of our older books that have been entered some time ago into the computer system of the IFJPL, with a description and their new call numbers:

F 129 .B7 L3; "Brownsville: the birth, development and passing of a Jewish community in New York" by Alter F. Landesman, published 1971.

History of the Jews of Brownsville, N.Y. with map, index and bibliography. Old call number G35.5. Donated by JGSGW member Al Hirshfeld. Thank you, Al.

F 869 .L89 J5; "Jews of Los Angeles: urban pioneers" edited by Norton B. Stern, published 1981. History of Jews of LA with bibliography. Old call number G10.2.

HE 945 .A2 D5; "Morton Allan directory of European passenger steamship arrivals" published 1980. Lists passenger ship arrivals at the ports of NY 1890-1930 & 1904-1926, Philadelphia 1904-1926, Boston 1904-1926, and Baltimore 1904-1926, indexed alphabetically by steamship line. Old call number RG37.1. Donated by JGSGW member, Sallyann Sack. Thank you, Sallyann.

JV 7590 .H64; "Hoffnung Amerika" compiled by Karin Schulz, published 1994. Emigration from Europe to America from the late 1800's to the 1950's, with bibliography. In German. Old call number G1.5.

HV 8950 .U6 C65; "Emigrants in chains" by Peter Wilson Coldham, published 1992. A social history of forced emigration to the Americas of felons and other undesirables 1607-1776 with bibliography. Old call number RG15.1A.

PG 2576 .U5; "Russian surnames" by Boris Ottokar Unbegaun, published 1972. Etymology of Russian personal names with bibliography, in Russian. Old call number RG54.6.

Z 720 .A46 G415; "Archive und archivare" published 1986. Names and addresses of archives, and index of archivists, in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, in German. Old call number G24.

Z 5313 .U5 B32; "Lest we forget: a guide to genealogical research" 8th ed. 1992. Genealogical resources of libraries and archives in the Washington, DC area. Old call number RG31.1.

If you have any questions or comments about our library, suggestions for new purchases, or want to volunteer, you can reach me at 301-977-0154, or at mostyn@erols.com. Just please don't telephone between 6-8 p.m or weekend mornings. Till next time, Happy family hunting!#



Mishpacha will be running a synopsis of the minutes from the JGSGW Board meetings in this and future issues.

Minutes of JGSGW Board Meeting of February 2003

The meeting was held at the home of Sharlene Kranz. It was called to order by Ben Fassberg at 10:54 a.m. on Sunday February 9, 2003.

Attendees:

Ben Fassberg, President; Simone Bercu, Vice President Membership; Ben Okner, Corresponding Secretary; Ben Ternier, Vice President, Programming; Sonia Pasis, Hospitality; Sharlene Kranz, Treasurer & Mishpacha; Vera Mellen, Member-at-Large; Donna Sellinger, Co-editor Mishpacha and webmaster; Rich Meyersburg, Recording Secretary; Liz Lourie, Workshops.

Minutes of the January 2003 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer: We are solvent. Most members renewed, about 10% renewed for 3 years.

Mishpacha: Third issue copy deadline is March 1. This will be the final issue before the conference.

Library: Judy wants to have a mitzvah day in March.

Programming: Ben Ternier reported that he is working with Dick Goldman regarding the March 30 meeting, which will be a joint meeting with JGS Maryland. The lecture will be by John Colletta, and the topic will be "Turning biographical facts into real events."

At the April 6 meeting Sharlene will talk about "Undiscovered Gems in Jewish Genealogy - in the local area". This will be in conjunction with JHS.

(continued on next page)

For May 4, our speaker will be Ori Soltes, who will speak about the history of Jewish immigration to the U.S.. Our final meeting of the year will be on June 22 at JCCNV, and will feature our conference chairpersons, who will talk about the conference.

In addition we will have the introduction of new officers and a pot luck lunch.

Workshops: Second beginners workshop was held in January with Rich Meyersburg teaching it. Seven people attended. The next will be in April with Marlene Zakai teaching it. Rich reported on the status of setting up an internet workshop. He is having problems finding a site to hold the workshop. A suggestion for a future intermediate workshop is "Holocaust research," with Peter Lande teaching it. Another idea for a workshop is "How to self publish your family history."

Meetings: Our next general meeting, which will be held in conjunction with JGS MD will be on March 30. The next board meeting will probably be about a month from now.

Webmaster: Things are going well, except when JewishGen sometimes goes down.

Old Business: We will sort the directories for mailing after the meeting.

2003 IAJGS Convention: Ben Okner reported that conference registration is open at our website. If you need to process and goes smoothly (as long as you don't screw up the numbers in your credit card).

JHS will conduct a tour of old Jewish Washington during the conference, and will have a display of this at the Marriott.

Conference Security: We will have adequate security. Arrangements are being made now.

Hardware: We are looking into getting volunteer donations of computers (IBM).

Coordinating Volunteers: Vera still getting inputs; we are also getting volunteers through registration.

Spring 2003

Liability Insurance for the Convention: Ben Fassberg and Sharlene Kranz are exploring options for liability insurance.

Auditing Books: Auditor engaged to audit the records of the conference.

New Business:

Ben Fassberg is looking into a place to house our library (Beth El in Arlington, B'nai Israel, Beth El in Bethesda).

Committee for the Future: Ben Fassberg has established a new committee with: Sharlene Kranz, Rita Margolis, Mike Getz, Peter Lande, Ernest Fine, and Suzan Wynne. The committee will be developing a plan for five years into the future, including, "How much should we do in the computer area?"

Nominating Committee: Ben Fassberg has set up a committee with: Flora Gursky, Sonia Pasis, Lillian Greenberg, and Bernard Norwood.

Contacts with local Hebrew Schools: JGSGW is setting up a family history course for middle school students. Sallyann Sack has written a book on this. Ben Fassberg also has a pamphlet from Bob Friedman from JGSNY.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Jewish Orphanages in the US web site updated

Marge Spears Soloff's web site at <http://shell4.bayarea.net/~elias/hnoh> has been updated with new information. Material on Jewish Orphanages in New Orleans, Baltimore, and Atlanta has been added as well as new census information for Jewish children's homes in New Orleans and New York.

MLK Library - a Valuable DC Resource

Charles Polinger, JGSGW

In spite of all the new internet options for obtaining genealogical information, you



still can't beat going to the source for research. That means going to the place where your relatives were born and were raised to look up local

records. For me, that meant going to Washington, DC where many of my direct ancestors spent much of their time. As it turns out, I live near Washington, DC, where many genealogical researchers find a unique advantage. Some of the ones that come to mind immediately are the National Archives of the United States and the Library of Congress, not to mention the Latter Day Saints (LDS) Libraries spread throughout the area. However, while doing research on my family history, I have been successful at finding some links and connecting information at a lesser known resource, the *Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Library*, located conveniently at 9th & G Streets, NW, Washington, DC, near the Gallery Place Metro stop.

Many members of my family, after arriving in New York, migrated to Washington, DC sometime around 1910 or possibly earlier. They likely relocated in order to find jobs, especially in the US Government, or to take advantage of the growing housing construction taking place. For instance, my grandfather, David, moved from New York to DC around 1912, and found a job as a printer. He then ended up working for the US Bureau of Printing and Engraving doing something with the \$5 plates. He came here with his bride-to-be, my grandmother, whereupon they were married in DC. Uncle Jack followed David, and years later my mother and father emigrated from

New York to DC. And that's how my story began.

So far, I have only tapped a few of the resources of the MLK Library. My research always takes place in the "*Washingtonian Room*," which covers a large part of the 3rd floor. A helpful, knowledgeable librarian resides in this room to provide assistance, and the room contains four or five microfilm readers, as well as several racks of microfilms. I now have a sizeable collection of obituary notices copied from either the "*Washington Post*" or the "*Washington Star*" newspapers, which are on microfilm dating from the mid -1800's. You do have to know the date of death, and then look for the following day's notices to locate the obituary. The newspapers have not indexed their obituaries.

I have found some surprising information in these death notices. For example, I have learned how many brothers and sisters a certain relative had, and where they lived at the time of death. These leads have allowed me to search in other cities and states for long-lost relatives. Nicely, the obituaries give the married names of female relatives, something that is often difficult to find. A cautionary note, though, when getting information off obituaries. I have found that the data is only as good as the memory of the person providing it, and that sometimes has its flaws.

With the opening of the 1930 census records at the US Archives, it has become important to learn where people lived in 1930 in order to determine their all-important enumeration district (ED). The *City Directories* at the MLK Library have proven to be a boon in finding this information. These directories are on microfilm and are easy to use. They are organized alphabetically, of course, and there are far fewer names than there are today. I was fascinated to find out what profession people had and to learn where they had lived. With the street address at hand, one can

(continued on page 19)

The Ten Top Reasons to Attend the 23rd Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC

by Milton R. Goldsamt and Elias Savada, JGSGW

<http://www.JewishGen.org/DC2003>.



The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) will be hosting the 23rd International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies (IAJGS) Conference on Jewish Genealogy, July 20-25, 2003.

Some of those new to the field may wonder: *why attend such a major conference?*

Attending an international conference can help advance your research in an extremely effective way. This year's event is expected to be the biggest international seminar ever, with between 1,200-1,500 attendees. Previous conferences have set a high standard, and this summer's session promises to match or exceed those.

The Conference website offers secure online registration and hotel booking. In addition, there are tabs with a wide variety of information, including: help getting to and around in Washington; speaker listings, bios and presentation topics; information on vendors and exhibits; descriptions of area records repositories; summaries of tours and attractions; listings of local restaurants; an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) area; and a currency converter for those traveling from outside the U.S. Inquiries not answered at the website may be sent to JGSGWDC2003@AOL.COM. A prompt answer will follow.

Here is the Top Ten list of reasons to attend!

Reason 10. The Cities of Washington and Baltimore, and Their Unique Attractions

The Washington–Baltimore metropolitan area filled with first-rate museums and art galleries, major theaters, historic neighborhoods, and major attractions such as the National Zoo, Union Station, the Lincoln and Spring 2003

Jefferson Memorials, the Baltimore Harbor, and Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Most attractions in Washington are reachable either by a short walk from the conference hotel, a quick Metro train or bus ride, or via local taxicabs. One attraction that shouldn't be overlooked is the conference hotel itself. The spacious JW Marriott Hotel is convenient to research repositories, major airports, the DC Metro system, Amtrak. You can easily walk to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, other museums, and the National Archive. By registering early, you can assure a highly reasonable hotel rate for the full conference period.

Reason 9. Tours and Attractions for General and Judaic Interests

An eclectic assortment of tours and "extra-conventional" events are available for attendees and their guests and family. Fully described at the "Tours & Events" tab of the Conference website, tickets can be purchased online during, or after, the registration process. Some tours have a limited capacity, so register early for the best selection.

Reason 8. The Nearby Records Repositories

While in Washington, you probably want to experience the first-hand pleasure of conducting your own research. Let us help you jump the hurdles in conducting research into your ancestral town, peruse Yizkor/memorial books, examine Holocaust records, photocopy passenger lists, or view naturalization records. Washington is blessed with a large number of major

archival repositories with Jewish-relevant records. The JW Marriott Hotel is within walking distance or a short Metro ride from the Holocaust Memorial Museum, National Archives I, and the Library of Congress. Before attending the conference, you should read and re-read information at the conference website's "Repositories" tab on these local facilities.)

During the conference's opening days, orientation sessions will be held to acquaint attendees with each major repository's holdings. Throughout the week information sessions will cover specific collections and databases provided at each site.

Reason 7. The Cyber Classroom, Cyber Café, and Online Data Resources

The Cyber Classroom has been created to offer registrants a first-hand opportunity to see and use the latest computer technology and web-based genealogy advances. Computers will be used for CD-ROM and online research, instruction and tutorials. Nearby, the Cyber Café will allow you to check your email while schmoozing with friends and sipping coffee. Both settings will be linked to Internet via high-speed T-1 access lines. Computers will be free of charge to conference registrants. Demonstrations of genealogy software and basic instruction for using computers in advancing your family research will be held, and volunteers will be available to help you use an extensive variety of online, offline, and paper materials.

The USHMM has agreed to allow Cyber Classroom users access to its *List of Name Lists*, which consists of a locality- by- locality listing of Holocaust material, including name lists. This will be the first time this database has been available outside of the museum. By special permission of the LDS Family History Centers (through Regional Manager Alain L. Allard), New York City's microfilmed Department of Health birth, death, and marriage indexes will be

available for viewing in our Resource Room.

Reason 6. The Vendor Area

Right now you can check out the list of exhibitors at the "Vendors" tab of our website. In July, stop by the Vendor Area and have a first-hand opportunity to examine and possibly purchase the most current and relevant books, software, supplies, and other genealogical items that can directly benefit your family history research or Judaic interests.

Reason 5. First-Rate Networking Opportunities

Networking is one of the most important reasons for attending a genealogy conference, and we'll provide lots of space and opportunities to do that. You can network with other conference attendees researching the same surnames or regions of the world, and be able to informally discuss your research with them. You'll be able to ask questions and learn key facts about the shtetl you're investigating, where key types of records are stored, or how to bypass hurdles in your research. You can unearth efficient research strategies that could save you valuable hours, days, or even years of wasted effort and money. You can schmooze with old friends and meet new ones. There'll be lots of tables and chairs throughout the hotel and its meeting areas to encourage people to take a few minutes, sit, and chat.

Our "Ask the Experts" tutorial sessions will be available on an individualized basis and free of charge during the week. We'll have an expert panel, ready to help you leap those "brick walls" and logjams in genealogical research. Appointments can be set up in advance to provide this personalized assistance, with a chance to sit in on others' sessions and learn by listening over a shoulder. More information about the "Ask the Experts" tutorial and lecture sessions can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/dc2003/experts.html>

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Be sure to attend the Birds of a Feather gatherings, where you'll meet others with common interests, those researching your ancestral town. A number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have scheduled meetings at the Conference. Eight will have sponsored luncheons, including the Belarus, Geshet Galicia, Latvia, Southern Africa, and Hungarian SIGs. Reserve your seat at these luncheons while registering, while space still permits. There will be a "SIG Fair" at the Conference, to provide resource information and excellent networking opportunities for those researching the geographic regions associated with various SIGs.

Reason 4. Book Talks/Author Appearances, Photographic Exhibits, and the Art/Essay Contest Display

Several noted authors will report on recently-published books they've written on genealogy-relevant topics. These include Blake Eskin, on *A Life in Pieces: The Making and Unmaking of Benjamin Wilkomirski*, which delves into Holocaust child survivors in Riga, Latvia; and Dr. Nehamia Polen, translator of *The Rebbe's Daughter: Memoir of a Hasidic Childhood*, which won the 2002 National Jewish Book Award (which focuses on life in Kozienice, Poland during 1905-1906). Further information about these authors can be found at <http://www.JewishGen.org/DC2003/bookauthors.html>.

The Conference will present an exhibition of photographs taken on a Jewish heritage tour to Poland by Alex Oldfield of Ontario, Canada. Another historical exhibit consists of aerial photographs showing the history and growth of the Jewish community of Washington, D.C. from its earliest beginnings in 1850 to the present. Finally, winning artwork and essays submitted by Washington and Baltimore religious school students about the theme *L'Dor Va-Dor*:

From Generation to Generation in Art and Prose will be displayed.

Reason 3. The Conference's Opening Address by Chief Archivist of the United States John W. Carlin

Mr. Carlin's keynote address will launch the conference week. He is the head of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the nation's recordkeeper. Mr. Carlin received a commendation from the U.S. Senate for NARA's help in research tracing "Nazi Gold" looted from Holocaust survivors.

Reason 2. The Conference Banquet and Speaker Hadassah Lieberman

The Conference's closing evening and its banquet adds a rich patina to the events of the week. IAJGS will present its awards to genealogical societies and individuals for their achievements and contributions to Jewish genealogy. This year's banquet speaker is Hadassah Lieberman, wife and campaign partner of presidential candidate Senator Joseph Lieberman. Her address will have a genealogical theme. Mrs. Lieberman was born in Prague, Czech Republic, and is the daughter of Holocaust survivors of Dachau, Auschwitz, and a Jewish slave labor camp. She will provide a firsthand account of her family's experiences in Eastern Europe during WWII, and as immigrants starting a new life in America. Banquet tickets are available at the online registration.

Reason 1. Renowned Speakers from Around the World

This year's program is a very rich one that is responsive to the needs and interests of beginner, intermediate, and advanced genealogists—a program so plentiful that it may be hard to attend all the sessions you'd wish to! Expert speakers from the United States and abroad will feature in-depth talks on a wide array of high-interest topics, resources, geographical areas, and historical periods. The speakers come from within Jewish genealogy and

outside, as the field comes to recognize that genealogy is intertwined with other intellectual spheres. Experts associated with major area archives—the Library of Congress, the National Archives I and II, USHMM, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service—will present talks on research strategies and information sources of special interest to Jewish genealogists.

A full listing of the speakers, their biographies, and topics of their talks appears at the conference website.

Visit our website to register online (a downloadable registration form is also available). Early bird registration for the full conference week is available at reduced rates through May 15, 2003. Space is limited at some events (particularly the Monday night session at USHMM), so it's best to register early.#

Milton R. Goldsamt, Ph.D. is a research statistician and psychologist who currently belongs to two genealogy societies, and has been researching his admittedly rare surname and family's roots in western Galicia since 1985. He presently is Public Relations Chair for the 23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

Elias Savada is co-chair of the 23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy and has been an active member of the JGSGW board for several years, maintaining its membership database and editing its annual membership directory. He is director of the Motion Picture Information Service, a copyright search firm, and co-wrote *Dark Carnival*, a biography of horror director Tod Browning. He is an online film critic and has published articles in *Avotaynu* and *Mishpacha*, the JGSGW newsletter. He has 7,300 people on his family tree.

This article also benefited from suggestions made by the other conference co-chairs, Sheri M. Meisel and Benjamin A. Okner.#

JewishGen, World's Leading Internet Jewish Genealogy Resource, To Join Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

Deborah Tropp, dtropp@mjhny.org

(New York, NY) - Effective January 1, 2003, JewishGen, a world renowned Jewish Genealogy website, will become a division of the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City. The Boards of the Museum and JewishGen approved the plan in December.

An Internet pioneer, JewishGen was founded in 1987 by Susan E. King and has grown from a bulletin board with only 150 users to a major grass roots effort bringing together hundreds of thousands of individuals worldwide in a virtual community centered on discovering Jewish ancestral roots and history. On JewishGen, researchers share genealogical information, techniques, and case studies. With a growing database of more than seven million records, including some material from previous centuries, the website is a forum for the exchange of information about Jewish life and family history and has enabled thousands of families to connect and re-connect in a way never before possible.

"For many Jews, knowledge of their family history perished in the Holocaust; JewishGen fills in the missing pieces of the puzzle," said Dr. David G. Marwell, Museum Director. "Our Museum allows visitors to identify with the themes of 20th century Jewish history and has helped our public to identify with Holocaust survivors and opened new doors of understanding. With JewishGen, we will be able to take our message worldwide."

"Genealogy research is much more than just searching for names, dates and places," said Susan King, founder of JewishGen. "It is vitally important that

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researchers also understand the details of Jewish heritage and history; the Museum provides context for the lives being researched. That's what makes this relationship so exciting. Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust will also allow us to professionalize what has been an all-volunteer effort."

Ms. King, who will report to Dr. Marwell, will be the Managing Director of JewishGen and will remain in Houston where JewishGen is based.

Among JewishGen's features are the Family Tree of the Jewish People containing data on more than two million people; the Yizkor Book Project, an ongoing effort to translate memorial books which contain previously inaccessible information on the fate of Jewish communities and their inhabitants affected by the Holocaust; and the Holocaust Global Registry, a central database of and for Holocaust survivors and their families. The Holocaust Global Registry is already responsible for re-connecting several families after more than 60 years of separation.

The Museum is located on the waterfront of Lower Manhattan in Battery Park City. The Museum's core exhibition is organized around three themes: Jewish Life a Century Ago, The War Against the Jews, and Jewish Renewal. With more than 2,000 photographs, 800 artifacts, and 24 original documentary films on display, the Museum uses personal stories and artifacts to present 20th century Jewish history and the Holocaust in a context of universal truths that speak to people of all ages and backgrounds. The Museum is in the middle of an 82,000-square-foot construction project that will contain a theater, classrooms, and special exhibition space, among other facilities. The East Wing, set to open in fall 2003, will enhance the Museum's mission of remembrance and education.

From Nu? What's Nu

Gary Mokotoff

YIVO Photo Collection on Internet

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research has placed a portion of their Photograph collection, some 17,000 photos of Jewish life in Eastern Europe, on the Internet at <http://yivo1000towns.cjh.org>. Titled "People of a

Thousand Towns", it provides a visual record of thousands of communities where Jews lived before the Holocaust. Most of the pictures are of people, and in some cases they are identified by name. There is a search engine that allows you to isolate pictures by town or by keyword.

The pre-World War II Jewish communities are located in Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. They span the late 19th century to the early 1940s and document the lives of large Jewish centers as well as many smaller towns and villages. The online presentation covers only a small fraction of YIVO's extensive photographic holdings, one of the world's foremost collections of photographs of Jewish life around the world.

Articles on World War I and World War II Draft Registration Cards

"Ancestry Daily News" featured articles by Michael John Neill on the genealogical value of draft registration cards for World War I (<http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/5056.asp>) and World War II (<http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/5474.asp>).

"Ancestry Daily News" is a regular e-zine of Ancestry.com. It features the latest additions to the Ancestry.com database, an article each day on how to do your genealogical research more effectively. Subscribe to it from the Ancestry.com Home Page. Click on the link to "FREE Genealogy Newsletters."

“Genealogy” a Spam Word?

I receive about 70 e-mails a day of which about 30 are spam. So I recently decided to use a spam editor called “MailWasher.” MailWasher works by allowing you to preview the incoming e-mail. You can then assign a specific e-mail address (or domain) to the category of Friend or Blacklist. In future runs of gathering e-mail it will direct new messages to the Friend or Blacklist categories, or Normal category if the e-mail address is new.

One valuable feature of MailWasher is that it allows you to set up rules for detecting spam. For example, I added a rule that declares as spam any e-mail that has in the body of the message the word “Nigeria,” “Nigerian,” or “Strictly Confidential,” the source of numerous e-mails about get-rich schemes. The author of MailWasher has done a valuable service in providing prewritten rules for deleting spam based on his personal experience.

I installed the prewritten spam rules on my computer and was amazed to find that one of the rules was that any message that had the word “genealogy” in it should be considered spam. Apparently companies such as Genealogy.com, Ancestry.com and a host of other commercial enterprises send out so much junk mail that the author of MailWasher considered it all spam.

Information about MailWasher can be found at <http://www.mailwasher.net>. It is shareware. It works for me.

Two Holocaust-related JewishGen Databases Are Updated

JewishGen has announced that its Holocaust Database and Yizkor Book Necrology Database have had recent updates.

The Holocaust Database now contains about 300,000 entries of the names of persons caught up in the Holocaust, both victims and survivors. For example, it now includes the names of more than 70,000 people interned at Dachau concentration

camp. Also recently added is a list of 57,000 Jewish survivors who were in Poland after World War II. The database can be searched at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust>.

The Yizkor Book Necrology Database now has nearly 140,000 entries from the necrologies of 157 different yizkor books. It can be searched at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Yizkor>. Yizkor books are memorial books that commemorate Jewish communities of Central and Eastern Europe that were destroyed during the Holocaust. To date, more than 1,000 have been published. Most include a listing, a necrology, of the townspeople who were murdered.

More on Release of Canadian Census Records

An excellent critique of the proposed legislation that will allow release of 20th-century census records of Canada can be found at <http://www.globalgenealogy.com/Census/S13written.htm>. It is written by Gordon A. Watts, one of the prime movers of making these records available to the public.

It is not uncommon for legislative bills to receive a rigorous critique when first made available to the public. Watts comments do not imply he is opposed to the bill but rather that it needs a lot of cleaning up. For example, he notes that the bill as written allows access by genealogists or historians 92 years after a census is taken, but the researcher may not disclose the information discovered in those records for an additional 20 years. Watts notes that the restriction is useless and should be removed from the bill because it can be avoided by telling people where the information might be found. As now written, a genealogist would have to say “it is against the law for me to tell you who Great-grand-aunt Sarah married, but if you go to the following repository and fill out a request...”

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eGenConference Is Planned

Just when you think that every conceivable way of educating genealogists has been invented, Family History Radio (that is the company's name) has come up with the idea of holding conferences over the Internet—they are calling it an eGenConference. Why travel to Washington to attend the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, or to Orlando, Florida, to the "Conference for the Nation's Genealogists" sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies? From the comfort of your home, you can participate (after paying a \$69.95 registration fee) in a conference that will "feature genealogy speakers and presenters, round table discussions with industry professionals, exhibitors, and Genealogy School social events, not to mention a virtual store with family history related products and services." Family History Radio itself started with the unusual concept of having live audio programs (hence the company's name) about genealogy over the Internet. Now they plan to have a total three-day eConference from June 10-12, 2003.

Family History Radio states there will be a virtual exhibit area where participants can visit virtual booths, view and demo products and purchase items online. There will be rooms to pick up press materials, view presentations and obtain literature. There will be an online school where participants can take lessons on a variety of genealogy topics. During the conference visitors can visit the eGenConference Virtual Social Hall where they can interact with other genealogists, visit discussion rooms on special topics of interest and learn more about genealogy societies, products and services.

The project has the approval of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and Genealogy.com, both of whom are cosponsoring the event. Information about the

conference can be found at http://www.familyhistoryradio.com/fhr_sp/egeninfo.php.

Should Jewish genealogists consider it? Probably not. Although the Program has not yet been divulged, it is unlikely to include lectures of interest to Jewish researchers. If I was looking for a second conference to attend (first choice, by far, being the annual International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Washington this July), I would announce to my family, "We're going to DisneyWorld" and take them to the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Orlando, Florida, from September 3-6. Not only is the area a great tourist attraction, but the program of the conference will include lectures of Jewish interest, plus methodology lectures by the finest experts in American genealogy. The FGS conference web site is at <http://fgs.org/2003conf/FGS-2003.htm>

IAJGS Planning Genealogy Cruise

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies is planning a cruise that will mix pleasure with genealogy. The cruise, scheduled to take place December 1-5, 2003, will sail from Miami, Florida, to Key West (Florida) and Cozumel, Mexico. Nine lecturers will be giving talks that range from "Getting Started" to "Holocaust Research". All lecturers but one are members of the IAJGS Board of Directors. Additional information can be found at the IAJGS web site <http://www.jewishgen.org/iajgs/cruise/cruise.htm>.

"Nu? What's New" is published biweekly by Avotaynu, Inc.



Using Genetic Tests, Ashkenazi Jews Vanquish a Disease

By GINA KOLATA

The New York Times Feb. 18, 2003

A number of years ago, five families in Brooklyn who had had babies with a devastating disease decided to try what was then nearly unthinkable: to eliminate a terrible genetic disease from the planet.

The disease is Tay-Sachs, a progressive, relentless neurological disorder that afflicts mostly babies, leaving them mentally impaired, blind, deaf and unable to swallow. There is no treatment, and most children with the disease die by 5.

The families raised money and, working with geneticists, began a program that focused on a specific population, Ashkenazi Jews, who are most at risk of harboring the Tay-Sachs gene. The geneticists offered screening to see whether family members carried the gene.

It became an international effort, fueled by passion and involving volunteers who went to synagogues, Jewish community centers, college Hillel houses, anywhere they might reach people of Ashkenazic ancestry and enroll them in the screening and counsel them about the risks of having babies with the disease. If two people who carried the gene married, they were advised about the option of aborting affected fetuses. Some matchmakers advised their clients to be screened for the gene, and made sure carriers did not marry.

Thirty years later, Tay-Sachs is virtually gone, its incidence slashed more than 95 percent. The disease is now so rare that most doctors have never seen a case.

Emboldened by that success and with new technical tools that make genetic screening cheap and simple, a group is

aiming even higher. It wants to eliminate nine other genetic diseases from the Ashkenazic population, which has been estimated at 10 million, in a worldwide screening.

The groundwork is laid, the group says. Its members — genetic counselors, geneticists and pediatricians at the New York University School of Medicine, the Montefiore Medical Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine — point out that the genes for the major recessive diseases that afflict Ashkenazim have been isolated. New technology allows screening for all those diseases, plus Tay-Sachs, at once.

That, some geneticists say, is what the Human Genome Project has promised, an ability to scan a person's genes and find those that can cause disease.

Critics say such projects are just what worry them about the genome project. People will receive a flood of genetic information that may be difficult to understand and interpret about diseases, unlike Tay-Sachs, that can have courses that are impos-

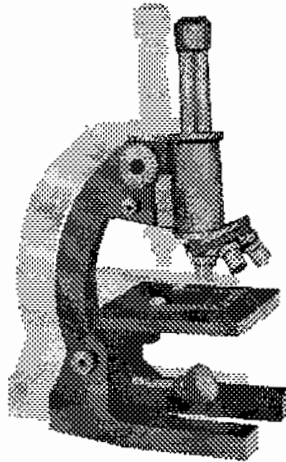
sible to predict.

Some see the project as a test case. "It is a model for delivering these genetic services," said Dr. Michael M. Kaback, a geneticist at the University of California at San Diego. "That is why it is important."

Dr. Kaback, an architect of the Tay-Sachs screening, emphasized that worldwide screening for 10 diseases would be difficult, requiring careful attention to detail and to assessing the project as it starts. But, he said, "It could work."

The project ethicist, Nancy Neveloff Dubler, who directs the bioethics program at Montefiore, said the effort could show the positive side of screening. "These are largely diseases that take a terrible toll

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early in life," Ms. Dubler said. "We could save families from sorrow and chilearly in life," Ms. Dubler said. "We could save families from sorrow and children from suffering. That's a tremendously important goal."

Some experts, however, worry about stigmatizing Jews. "It's a dilemma," said Jayne C. Gershkowitz, director of the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association.

Ms. Gershkowitz fears that Jews will be seen as a people uniquely afflicted with 10 genetic diseases. In fact, most diseases occur in the general population, too, although the genes are much less prevalent.

Other ethnic groups have their own genetic diseases. For example, people of Mediterranean ancestry may have genes for an iron storage disease, beta-thalassemia, and blacks and Mediterraneans may have genes for sickle cell disease.

Others worry about how people will use the screening information and whether or not they should. Lori B. Andrews, a professor of law and an ethicist at the Chicago-Kent College of Law, said the screening might be the start of a troubling era, as people receive information they may not be prepared to handle about diseases that may or may not prove deadly.

"How much information do we want, and what do you do with it?" Professor Andrews asked. "This is not like other medical areas, where there is a clear treatment. This has an impact on self-concept and on relationships with others. It is not a simple blood test."

As many as one in three Ashkenazim has one of the genes, but those carriers are fine. The disease occurs just when a child inherits a gene from each parent. If two carriers of a mutated gene have children, each baby has one chance in four of inheriting the mutation from each parent, giving rise to the disease.

Not every disease is like Tay-Sachs. Others affect some people who inherit two copies of the mutated gene and spare others, with no way of knowing who will be ill.

Yet, the Tay-Sachs history has shown what is possible, said Dr. Harry Ostrer, a project leader. Dr. Ostrer, also the director of the Human Genetics Program at N.Y.U., said that before the Tay-Sachs screening began in the 1970's couples had no idea that they might have a child with the disease until it was diagnosed. The experience of watching babies suffer and slowly die was so sad that many of the parents never had other children.

The screening changed that. Now, Dr. Ostrer said, the number of babies in the United States with Tay-Sachs has dropped, from 50 a year to 5, and most of those are born to couples who are not Jewish and but happen to have the mutated gene.

Many scientists assumed that the next steps would be straightforward. Just find the genes for the other major recessive diseases in the Ashkenazim, and those diseases, too, would die with screening.

The genes were found. In some cases, parents of affected children raised the research money themselves.

But, said Dr. Susan J. Gross, a geneticist at Montefiore and Albert Einstein, which began a Tay-Sachs program in the 70's, nothing happened. Dr. Gross and others watched with dismay as babies continued to be born to couples who had no idea that they carried aberrant genes. Doctors were either unaware of the tests or were not offering them to their patients. Jews were unaware that they were at risk or did not ask for or receive testing.

"The current medical model is not working," Dr. Gross said.

She decided that the solution was to offer testing to the world's Jews rather than wait for people to ask for it. "I can't see any other way to get this fixed," Dr. Gross said.

The group worked with the Trust for Jewish Philanthropy, which convened experts on genetic disease research and testing and asked them for advice.

"The opinion I had was, 'Why not?'" said Dr. Charles R. Scriver, a geneticist at McGill University in Montreal. In previous decades, Dr. Scriver directed screening in Montreal to identify carriers of Tay-Sachs and beta-thalassemia, a genetic disease that causes severe anemia.

High school students were told about the diseases and offered an opportunity to be tested and given information about the results. Although those who chose to be tested learned about their genes, no one else could see their results.

"The Tay-Sachs and thalassemia carrier screening programs over their 30-year existence in Montreal have resulted in an almost complete absence of new cases of these two diseases," Dr. Scriver said.

Some critics ask about ensuring that people understand more complicated Jewish diseases, which may be more typical of genetic diseases in general. In Gaucher's disease, people can have a serious illness starting in infancy with anemia, bone pain and enlarged livers and spleens. While there is an effective treatment, it has cost as much as \$150,000 a year. Half the people who inherit two copies of the mutated gene have no symptoms at all until their mid-40's, and some may never develop symptoms at all.

"You cannot predict who will have the severe disease," said Dr. Arno G. Motulsky, a geneticist at the University of Washington and a member of the advisory board to the group that wants to screen for the 10 disease genes. "This becomes a very tricky issue. How should you counsel?"#

(continued from page 9)

then go to the US Archives, 4th floor research room, and convert the street address to an *Enumeration District* (ED), which then leads to the 1930 census. Even more interesting, one can actually visit the site where long lost relatives once lived.

Unlike the Archives, I have found most information I needed at the MLK Library on my own with little difficulty. The room is rarely crowded and, unlike the Archives, the microfilm readers in the library have printers connected. Printing cost a few cents, so be sure to take along some change.

In conclusion, any genealogical researcher with relatives who lived in the Washington, DC, area would likely find a visit to the Martin Luther King Jr. library a worthwhile effort. There are links in this room that are difficult to find in other arenas. For more information, the Library has a web site:

<http://www.DCLibrary.org>.

Following are some of the resources available at the MLK Library:

Building permits

Cemetery records, various cemeteries, 1856 to 1959

Census index 1860 to 1890

City directories 1861 to 1967

DC Records of Public Hearings

Marriage and Death Notices 1800 to 1850

Polks Washington City directory

Washington Post Newspapers, 1877 to present

Washington Star Newspapers, 1852 to 1973

Washington Times Newspapers

Washington Times Herald 1939 to 1954



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