

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF JEWISH GENEALOGY

Volume I:
Sources in the
United States and Canada



edited by
Arthur Kurzweil
and Miriam Weiner

"*The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* is an answer to the prayers of both Jewish genealogists and historians. The volumes provide a unique and complete view of the diversity of research possibilities and resources that are available. Both Kurzweil and Weiner serve the reader very well indeed."

—Bernard Wax
Director, American Jewish Historical Society



"*The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* is an extremely welcome addition to the growing field of Jewish genealogical research. It surveys the field in a very useful arrangement: by geographical areas and by topics, revealing unexpected but very important sources of Jewish genealogical information.

"The editors are pioneers and ardent promoters of genealogical research, and their continuous involvement in the field assures the quality and reliability of their work. Also impressive is the selection of contributors. The publication will be an indispensable tool for all reference librarians."

—Dina Abramowicz
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research



"The question asked most frequently in genealogy is: Where can I find information on . . . ? *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* provides most of the answers for Jewish root-diggers. In these volumes, edited by two of the best-known and most-respected writers in the field, the Jewish researcher discovers how much more can be found about one's ancestry and where to look for it. Individual articles, culled from a variety of sources, published or unpublished heretofore, have been written by an international stable of researchers, all well tested in the cauldron of searching for Jewish family roots. With *The Encyclopedia*, Jewish genealogy comes of age as a recognizable science. These volumes are basic to any research in this field."

—Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern
Genealogist, American Jewish Archives

0-87668-835-0

The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy Volume I

Edited by Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner

Reviewed by Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern

We genealogists are a thirsty lot! There are always questions about our research for which we cannot find answers, so we write letters, make phone calls, buy or borrow books and periodicals, spend hours in libraries, archives, court houses and cemeteries, join genealogical societies and attend seminars - all seeking information that we can apply to our family history. But we are limited in time and income, so we can't always take advantage of all the above. Nor do these resources supply all our answers. Therefore, we are more than grateful that our burgeoning Jewish genealogy movement is producing valuable finding aids. One of the best to appear is Kurzweil & Weiner's *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy*.

This is only Volume I, devoted to "Sources in the United States and Canada." We can hope that the editors have the *koach* and perseverance to complete their projected future volumes.

If my pioneering efforts, which the editors are kind enough to compliment, are taken as a beginning (my *Americans of Jewish Descent* was published in 1960), American Jewish genealogy has just passed its thirtieth year. However, the creation of "experts" in the field and the development of a movement, as traced in the Introduction to this encyclopedia, began with the publication of Dan Rottenberg's "how-to" *Finding Our Fathers* in 1977. All of us so-called "experts" are largely self-taught through trial and error of hands-on experience. If one were hand-picking the people to create such an encyclopedia, Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner would be at the top of most people's lists. We can be grateful that they chose one another!

Like most genealogists, Arthur and Miriam be-

gan their genealogical careers in search of their own roots. Arthur soon discovered that a) Jewish genealogy is different; b) that one needs to look in many places to find data. The end result was his most helpful *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Genealogy and Personal History*, out of which came his useful workbook/textbook *My Generations: A Course in Jewish Family History*. These volumes have made him a popular lecturer to Jewish audiences, and those who have heard him know his moving discovery of his roots and Holocaust connections. Add to this his professional experience as a book editor, now Vice-President of Jason Aronson, Inc. (one of the leading publishers of Judaica), and as Editor-in-chief of *The Jewish Book Club*.

Miriam Weiner combined what she had learned compiling records and answering queries as Executive Director of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors with her genealogical interests to earn a B.A., majoring in Judaic and Holocaust studies. This made her a logical candidate to become the first Jewish genealogist certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and to move on to a full-time career as a much-sought lecturer, as a genealogical columnist in over 90 Jewish newspapers, and, most recently, as a guide for roots tours in Eastern Europe.

From their own expertise and calling on a battery of other recognizable names and sources they have compiled the answer to the genealogist perennial query, "Where do I find...?"

Very logically they begin with Immigration and Naturalization Records. Kurzweil points out their importance for genealogy, and where such records may be found. Arlene Eakle, a Mormon expert (co-editor of *The Source*), points to immigration records that exist in federal courts. Michael Brenner, current president of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (New York) takes you through passenger arrival records. Juergen Sielemann of the Hamburg State Archives, a non-Jew who has lectured at our seminars, tells what happened to the millions of emigrants, largely from

Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern is the author of *First American Jewish Families; 600 Genealogies, 1645-1990*. A Past President of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (New York City), he was the first Jew to be named a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. Rabbi Stern has also served as the Society's president. In addition, he served as an officer in various Jewish and non-Jewish genealogical societies and in two Jewish historical societies. He has been the genealogist for the American Jewish Archives since 1950.

Eastern Europe and German-speaking lands who came through that port between 1880 and 1914. Daniel Schlyter, who heads the East European Division of the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City provides the details of the invaluable Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934. Miriam Weiner furnishes data on the little known 1907-1914 Galveston immigration and the Morton Allan Directory of Steamship Arrivals, limited to New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore, as mentioned in the bibliography that concludes the immigration section, and shown in the illustration of its title page. Suzan Wynne, well-known Washington genealogist, adds some caveats about the history and past destruction of some federal immigration records.

One of the regular features of *Search* has been its guides to research resources in most cities in the U.S and Canada that boast sizable Jewish populations. Editors Scott E. Meyer and Alan Spencer have brought together their accumulated findings, arranged by state and city. Miriam Weiner has expanded some sections from her own knowledge or drawn from other sources. Thus Suzan Wynne provides in-depth insights into records of Jewish interest in the National Archives and the Library of Congress, enlarged by Miriam to include Military Records at the Archives and the Geography & Map Division at the Library. The section on New York City relies heavily on the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (New York City) publication, *Guide to Resources for Genealogy in the New York Metropolitan Area*, edited by Estelle M. Guzik.

After an appropriate tribute from Miriam, Zachary Baker's review of the work (from *Avotaynu*) is republished. From the Guzik work, *Toledot*, or *Avotaynu* come the sections on HIAS [Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society], the libraries and archives of Hebrew Union College, Jewish Theological Seminary, Leo Baeck Institute, National Archives Northeast Region, New York Public Library, Yeshiva University, and YIVO. For Salt Lake City, Utah, Daniel Schlyter has annotated the Jewish collections at the LDS Family History Library, with John Henry Richter providing a look at microfilmed Jewish records. For Canada, Lawrence Tapper of its National Archives, and Zachary Baker, former Librarian of Montreal's Jewish Public Library, have enlarged on Meyer and Spencer's city-by-city resources. Each major community, state, or province listing ends with a full bibliography of histories and other appropriate contextual works.

Appendices include: the international roster of Jewish genealogical societies; Directory of North American Jewish historical societies, archives and museums; location and dates of naturalization

records in federal courts; microfilm numbers for Hamburg Passenger Lists in the LDS Library; list of East European towns for which aerial photos can be obtained in the National Archives Cartographic and Architectural Branch, and town plans from the USSR and Poland available in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress; the table of contents from Guzik's New York Metropolitan area book; the LDS microfilm numbers for Jewish records in France, Germany, Hungary, and Poland; the roster of National Archives branches and records centers; and, finally, biographies of the contributors. A subject index completes the work.

The volume, attractively bound in blue cloth, is copiously illustrated with historic photos, documents, and maps.

One is amazed at the wealth of detail contained in these 226 pages. For my native Philadelphia where I have researched for many years, I found resources I have never used because I was unaware of their holdings until I read them here. Conversely, I could add a detail or two from personal knowledge: e.g., the Historical Society of Pennsylvania permits visitors to research on payment of a daily fee of \$3; its collections include many Philadelphia municipal records on microfilm that are easier to access than in public records offices; among its manuscripts are hospital death records, and the collection of Caribbean genealogy compiled by the late Florence K. Abrahams. Undoubtedly other readers will have familiarity with records not mentioned in Volume I.

One other caveat: Congregations are listed for most cities and towns, but my experience has shown that few congregations have records that are accessible for research, although more of them are attempting to accumulate archives. Few congregations kept or keep vital records and they will usually tell you so when you write. If the vital record you seek is since the 1920's, you may be fortunate enough to find that the congregation has a file of its bulletins in which vital events are reported.

Personally, I can only bless the editors of *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy*, for what they have provided will undoubtedly reduce the volume of mail (too often lacking the courteous self-addressed, stamped envelope) and telephone calls I receive requesting genealogical information. For all queries—yours and mine—isn't it a boon to have so many answers in one, handy volume?☆

The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy, Volume I: Sources in the United States and Canada, edited by Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner, C.G., Jason Aronson, Inc., Northvale, New Jersey (\$30).

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF JEWISH GENEALOGY, VOLUME I: SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

edited by **Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner**

(Jason Aronson, Inc., Northvale, New Jersey, 1991, \$30.00)

This first volume of the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* handles the sources in North America, the starting point for every American researcher formally or informally seeking his or her roots.

In addition to the contributions of its two prestigious editors—Arthur Kurzweil, and the *Jewish Calendar Magazine's* own Miriam Weiner—there are contributions by a number of scholars across the United States. These notables include Arlene Eakle, Michael Brenner, Jurgen Sielemann, Daniel M. Schlyter, Suzan Fisher Wayne, Scott Meyer, Alan Spencer, Zachary Baker, Sybil Milton, Marsha Saron Dennis, Elaine Kolinsky, John Henry Richter, Lawrence Tapper, and Rolf Lederer.

This comprehensive compendium of information has been previewed by a number of researchers, librarians, and educators, and the early reviews are exciting, to say the least. Rabbi Malcolm Stern, of the American Jewish Archives, has written that this material can help "the Jewish researcher discover how much more can be found about one's ancestry and where to look for it. . . . With The Encyclopedia, Jewish genealogy comes of age as a recognizable science."

Dr. Solomon Gaon, of the Sephardic Studies Program at Yeshiva University, says, "This encyclopedia will be a most useful guide to any people, including the Sephardim, who want to research the past of their families and to discover the contribution of their descendants to the religious development, the culture, and the welfare of Jewry in general."

Those whose families were ravaged by the Holocaust will also find ways to rejoin the scattered strands of information. "The special section on Holocaust research will assist survivors and their children in the process of uncovering what happened to their families, where and how they died, and, most importantly, how they lived," writes Ernest W. Michel, Chairman of the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. "I only hope that survivors will take advantage of this opportunity and transmit to their children the story of what happened to us. This is the only way we can ensure the memory of what was to future generations."

And Bernard Wax, Director of the American Jewish Historical Society, has called the series in which this volume appears "an answer to the prayers of both Jewish genealogists and historians. The volumes provide a unique and complete view of the diversity of research possibilities and resources that are available. Both Kurzweil and Weiner have compiled a series of articles, book reviews, 'tidbits' of information, and bibliographies that serve the reader very well indeed.

Arthur Kurzweil is the author of *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History*, and has written a popular textbook for religious schools entitled *My Generations: A Course in Jewish Family History*. Through his books, articles, and lectures to Jewish organizations over the past 15 years, he has been in the forefront of the growing interest in Jewish genealogical research.

Miriam Weiner is the first Jewish genealogist to be certified by the Board of Certification of Genealogists in Washington, DC. An expert in Jewish genealogy and Holocaust research, she writes *Roots and Branches*, a column which appears in over 90 Jewish publications throughout the United States (including this one). A widely acclaimed popular lecturer whose programs are arranged through the B'nai B'rith Lecture Bureau, she is also Coordinator of "Routes to Roots" Genealogy Tours, offered by ISRAM travel.

From the Contents . . .

1. Immigration and Naturalization Naturalization Records

Immigration Records in Federal
Court Records

U.S. Immigration, Passenger
Records, and Steamship
Records

Eastern European Jewish
Emigration

Hamburg Passenger Lists

The Other Ellis Island

Directory of European Steamship
Arrivals

Immigration History Tidbits

2. United States Guide to Institutional Resources Arranged by City

Arizona

California

Colorado

Connecticut

District of Columbia

Georgia

Illinois

Iowa

Kansas

Kentucky

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Missouri

Nebraska

New York State

New York City/New Jersey

North Carolina

Ohio

Oklahoma

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Texas

Utah

Virginia

Washington State

Wisconsin

3. Canada: Institutional Resources Arranged by City

British Columbia

Manitoba

Nova Scotia

Ontario

Quebec

Appendixes

BOOKS

The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy Volume I: Sources in the United States and Canada

Edited By
Arthur Kurzweil
and Miriam Weiner
(Jason Aronson Inc.,
Northvale, N.J., 226 pages,
\$30)

Reviewed By
ROBERT A. COHN

The television adaptation of Alex Haley's magisterial book *Roots* triggered a renewed interest on the part of all ethnic groups to trace their genealogy as far back as possible. Two of the leading pioneers in the field of Jewish genealogy — Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner — have combined their considerable talents and dedication to edit *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy*. The first volume, covering sources in the United States and Canada, has just been published by the Jason Aronson publishing house (of which Kurzweil is vice president), which has quickly established itself as one of the most prolific publishers of high quality Jewish books in North America.

Kurzweil, who is also editor-in-chief of the Jewish Book Club, is the author of *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History* (Schocken Books), still the best one-volume general guide to the subject. He is also author of the religious school textbook *My Generations: A Course in Jewish Family History* (Behrman House), which has made Jewish genealogy accessible to religious school teachers and students.

Weiner, who is known to readers of the *St. Louis Jewish*

Light and over 90 other Jewish newspapers throughout the country as the author of the popular column on Jewish genealogy called "Roots and Branches," is the first Jewish genealogist to be certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists in Washington, D.C. She is a leading expert in Holocaust and Jewish genealogy research and has written numerous articles that have been published in *Guide to Jewish Living*, a supplement to *The New York Times*; *Outlook* magazine; and other national publications. She is also a much-sought-after lecturer, whose programs are arranged through the B'nai B'rith Lecture Bureau. In addition, she is the coordinator of "Routes to Roots" Genealogy Tours, offered by ISRAM Travel.

In their introduction to this, the first volume of a projected three-volume project, Kurzweil and Weiner state that *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* "is conceived and designed as a new reference tool in the continually growing number of publications whose purpose is to help the Jewish family historian in his or her research. It is not conceived as the definitive reference tool for its field; indeed, such a conception would be impossible. Rather, it is an ambitious attempt to bring together experts and specialists who can offer sound guidance for the Jewish genealogist."

The volume is arranged in two chapters, the first dealing with various aspects of immigration and naturalization records as resources for the researcher. Immigration records in federal courts; passenger records; steamship research; records of Eastern European Jewish emigration via the port of Hamburg from 1880-1914; and an article by Weiner on "the other Ellis Island," the port of Galveston, Texas, are among the useful and well-written entries in the first chapter.

Chapter two, comprising the balance of the volume, is a state-by-state, province-by-province, city-by-city guide to institutional resources on genealogy throughout North America. Kurzweil and Weiner spare no

effort to provide the most detailed and comprehensive listing of useful sources, both general and Jewish, for genealogical research ranging from the casually curious to the serious scholar.

The entry for St. Louis, for example, includes a complete list of all Jewish cemeteries and descriptions of each; listings of all Jewish newspapers published throughout the history of the Jewish community and where microfilm copies are located; and a description of the Jewish Archives at the Saul Brodsky Jewish Community Library. There are also descriptions of all synagogues and temples as well as an exhaustive list of general community resources, both governmental and private, including the Missouri Historical Society, the Mercantile Library and local courts and recorders of deeds offices. Among the useful references cited in the book are monographs by local Jewish historians Donald I. Makovsky and Murray B. Darrish.

Kurzweil and Weiner dedicate their first volume to their own ancestors. Kurzweil says the book is "for my parents, Evelyn and Saul Kurzweil," pointing out the talmudic injunction, "One should revere his father and mother as he reveres God, for the three are partners in Him." Weiner's dedication is "to the memory of my grandparents, Moische Winikur and Malka Ochs, Alexander Rabkin and Miriam Odnopozov, who inspired me to walk in the footsteps of my ancestors."

These dedications explain the dedication of Kurzweil and Weiner to their important work, which is truly a labor of love for both of these significant scholars. The fruits of their labor are now being made available to the general Jewish public through the publication of this handsome and extremely valuable encyclopedia, which will have a place of honor on bookshelves throughout North America.

Most of the books reviewed in the *St. Louis Jewish Light*, are available at the Saul Brodsky Jewish Community Library.

The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy

Sources in the
United States and Canada

A comprehensive three-volume source covering all aspects of Jewish genealogical research, edited by the field's two foremost authorities.

The field of Jewish genealogy has become increasingly popular in recent years. Amateur and experienced researchers have displayed a strong interest in examining family histories in an effort to trace the paths of past generations. While there are several sources available to help one conduct this type of research, the continued growth of the field demands a comprehensive resource that can be used to obtain pertinent information.

The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy, Volume I: Sources in the United States and Canada is the first in a three-volume set developed to meet this crucial need. In it, authorities Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner have combined their considerable knowledge to produce the definitive guide for helping the Jewish family historian find source material. Subsequent volumes in this set will focus on non-North American sources and topical issues such as the Holocaust and Sephardic Jewry.

Containing informative articles by a wide variety of prominent authorities in the field, *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy, Volume I: Sources in the United States and Canada* is a goldmine of information. It is the one sourcebook that Jewish genealogists will need as they journey through their family history.

Place your credit card order
now by calling our toll-free
number, 1-800-782-0015.

ADVANCE PRAISE for The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy

An Indispensable Tool

"*The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* is an extremely welcome addition to the growing field of Jewish genealogical research. It surveys the field in a very useful arrangement: by geographical areas and by topics, revealing unexpected but very important sources of Jewish genealogical information.

"The editors are pioneers and ardent promoters of genealogical research, and their continuous involvement in the field assures the quality and reliability of their work. Also impressive is the selection of contributors. The publication will be an indispensable tool for all reference librarians."

—Dina Abramowicz

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

A Unique Contribution to the History of the Holocaust

"*The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* is a unique contribution to the history of the Holocaust. The special section on Holocaust research will assist survivors and their children in the process of uncovering what happened to their families, where and how they died, and, most importantly, how they lived.

"The survivor community owes a great debt of gratitude to the experts in Jewish genealogical research. I only hope that survivors will take advantage of this opportunity and transmit to their children the story of what happened to us. This is the only way we can ensure the memory of what was to future generations."

—Ernest W. Michel

Chairman

World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors
Jerusalem, 1981

With This Book Jewish Genealogy Comes of Age

"The question asked most frequently in genealogy is: 'Where can I find information on...?' *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* provides most of the answers for Jewish root-diggers. In these volumes, edited by two of the best known and most respected writers in the field, the Jewish researcher discovers how much more can be found about one's ancestry and where to look for it. Individual articles, culled from a variety of sources, published or unpublished heretofore, have been written by an international stable of researchers, all well tested in the cauldron of searching for Jewish family roots. With *The Encyclopedia*, Jewish genealogy comes of age as a recognizable science. These volumes are basic to any research in this field."

—Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern

Genealogist, American Jewish Archives

A Most Useful Guide

"This encyclopedia will be a most useful guide to many people, including the Sephardim, who want to research the past of their families and to discover the contribution of their descendants to the religious development, the culture, and the welfare of Jewry in general."

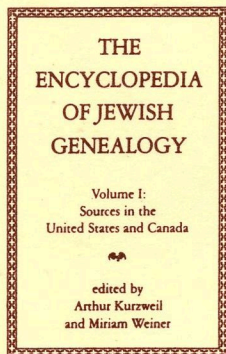
—Dr. Solomon Gaon

Sephardic Studies Program
Yeshiva University

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Arthur Kurzweil is the author of *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History* (Schocken) and *My Generations: A Course in Jewish Family History*. A writer and editor, he lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and three children.

Miriam Weiner, the first Jewish genealogist to be certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists in Washington, DC, is an expert in Jewish genealogy and Holocaust research. Her column, "Roots and Branches," has appeared in over 90 Jewish newspapers throughout the country, and her articles have been published in *Guide to Jewish Living* (a *New York Times* supplement), *Outlook Magazine*, and other national publications.



The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy

Volume I: Sources in the United States and Canada

edited by Arthur Kurzweil
and Miriam Weiner

Cloth; 0-87668-835-0; 208 pages; \$30.00

The field of Jewish genealogy has become increasingly popular in recent years. Amateur and experienced researchers have displayed a strong interest in examining family histories in an effort to trace the paths of past generations. While there are several sources available to help one conduct this type of research, the continued growth of the field demands a comprehensive resource that can be used to obtain pertinent information.

The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy, Volume I: Sources in the United States and Canada is the first in a three-volume set developed to meet this crucial need. In it, authorities Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner have combined their considerable knowledge to produce the definitive guide for helping the Jewish family historian find source material.

This volume brings together a vast amount of material available to aid the researcher. The contributors offer valuable insights and advice, including how to locate and decipher immigration and naturalization records and directions for using The National Archives and The Library of Congress. Specific sections focus on resources in states with large Jewish populations and detail the exceptionally useful documents housed by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Canadian sources needed by the researcher are explored thoroughly in the final chapter of this work.

An Answer to the Prayers of Jewish Genealogists

"*The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* is an answer to the prayers of both Jewish genealogists and historians. The volumes provide a unique and complete view of the diversity of research possibilities and resources that are available. Both Kurzweil and Weiner serve the reader very well indeed."

—Bernard Wax
Director, American Jewish Historical Society

With This Book Jewish Genealogy Comes of Age

"The question asked most frequently in genealogy is: Where can I find information on...? *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* provides most of the answers for Jewish root-diggers. In these volumes, edited by two of the best-known and most-respected writers in the field, the Jewish researcher discovers how much more can be found about one's ancestry and where to look for it. Individual articles, culled from a variety of sources, published or unpublished heretofore, have been written by an international stable of researchers, all well tested in the cauldron of searching for Jewish family roots. With *The Encyclopedia*, Jewish genealogy comes of age as a recognizable science. These volumes are basic to any research in this field."

—Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern
Genealogist, American Jewish Archives

For further information or to place an order, contact Nancy Scholem, National Sales Manager, toll free at 1-800-441-9909 or FAX 1-516-826-2336.



JASON ARONSON INC.
230 Livingston Street
Northvale, NJ 07647