

# MOMENT

*The Magazine of Jewish Culture and Opinion*

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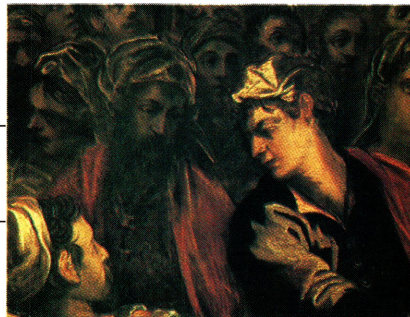
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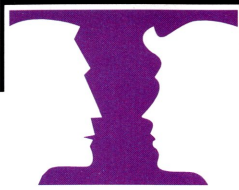
Gary Wolf reviews *Inside the PLO: Covert Units, Secret Funds, and the War Against Israel and the United States* by Neil C. Livingstone and David Halevy

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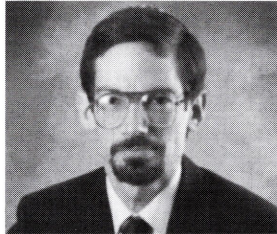
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Cover photo by Nabil/Gamma Liaison.



# WRITERS' BLOCK



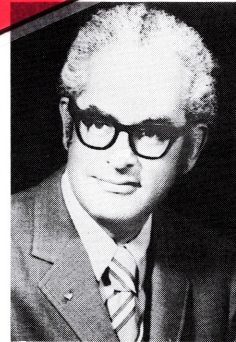
GOLINKIN



FELDMAN



WEINER



FRIEDMAN

**Barry Rubin** ("Israel's New Relations With Syria and Jordan—Opportunity and Danger," p. 22) is senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. His two forthcoming books are *Islamic Fundamentalists in Egyptian Politics* (St. Martin's) and *Revolution Until Victory: The Politics and History of the PLO* (Summit/Simon & Schuster).

**Seymour Martin Lipset** ("Is Peace Possible after the Gulf Crisis," p. 26) does his major work in political sociology, social stratification, public opinion and the sociology of intellectual life. He is Hazel Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University and cochairperson of the executive committee of the International Center for Peace in the Middle East. He has written 21 books, most recently *Continental Divide: The Institutions and Values of the United States and Canada* (Routledge, 1990).

Born in Poland, **Richard Pipes** ("Is Moscow Playing the Same Old Game?" p. 28) specializes in Soviet and Eastern European affairs. Widely reviewed and acclaimed, his most recent book is *The Russian Revolution* (Knopf, 1990). Pipes is Frank B. Baird Professor of History at Harvard University.

**W. Seth Carus** ("Did the Bush Administration Miss a Quick-Strike Military Option?" p. 29) wrote a prescient article on Iraq last year in *MOMENT* that has just been recognized by the Council

of Jewish Federations' prestigious Smolar Award (see box below). Carus is a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

**Joel Bainerman** ("Israel Might Be Better Off without American Aid—If the American Debt Were Forgiven," p. 30) is economic editor of the *Jerusalem Post*, focusing, in particular, on the economic aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Bainerman made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel) from Toronto in 1982.

**Rabbi David Golinkin** ("Responsa," p. 18) is senior lecturer in Talmud and dean of academic affairs at the Seminary of Judaic Studies of the Masorti (Conservative) Movement in Jerusalem, where he chairs the Va'ad Halachah (law committee) of the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel.

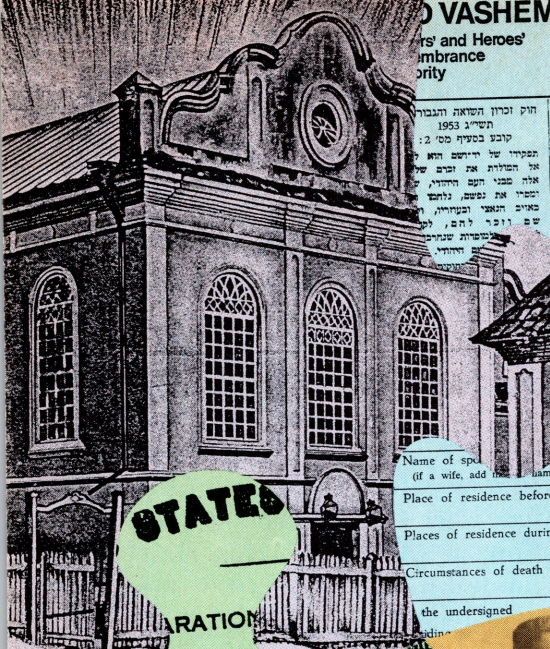
### MOMENT Author Wins Journalism Prize

Seth Carus has been awarded the Council of Jewish Federations' Smolar Award for excellence in North American Jewish journalism in the category of magazines and periodicals for his *MOMENT* article, "Iraq—A Threatening New Superpower" (December 1989). Carus's investigative report showed Iraq's potential to become the military monster it now is and placed responsibility for Iraq's access to chemical weapons with the West.

**Rabbi Louis Feldman** ("Is the New Testament Antisemitic?" p. 32) won the Excellence in Teaching award from the American Philological Association in 1981. Feldman is professor of classics at Yeshiva University and wrote *Josephus: A Supplementary Bibliography* (Garland, 1986) and *Josephus and Modern Scholarship* (DeGruyter, 1984), for which he won the Judaica Reference Book award.

An expert in Jewish genealogy and Holocaust research, **Miriam Weiner** ("Can You Name Your Eight Great-Grandparents?" p. 36) is co-editor of the forthcoming three-volume *Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* with Arthur Kurzweil. Weiner is a consultant to The Museum of Jewish Heritage under construction at Battery Park City by the New York Holocaust Memorial Commission, and she was the first Jewish genealogist to be certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists in Washington, D.C.

**Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman** ("Immediate Crises and Beyond—A Call to Action," p. 42) is president of the Leslie Wexner Heritage Foundation, which educates leadership groups in Jewish communities throughout the United States. For 25 years he served as the dynamic executive chairperson of the National United Jewish Appeal and developed its now well-established Young Leadership Program. He writes frequently on Jewish overseas needs and Israel's growth and development.



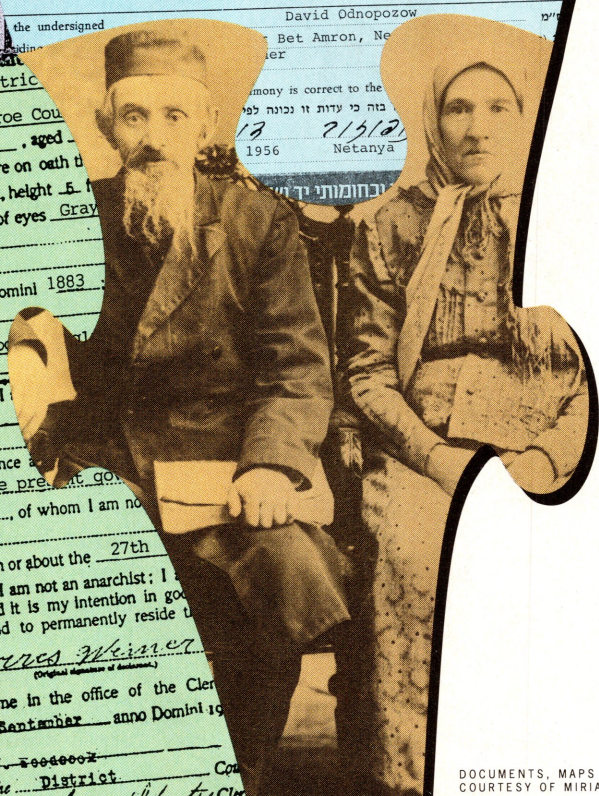
THE MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE LAW, 5713-1953 determines in Article No. 2 that

The task of YAD VASHEM is to gather into the homeland material regarding all those members of the Jewish people who laid down their lives, who fought and rebelled against the Nazi enemy and his collaborators, and to perpetuate their memory and that of their families, communities, organizations, and institutions which were destroyed.

Family name \* ODNOPAZOW  
 Maiden Name (maiden name) Henryk  
 Date of birth 4. מקום הלידה 1906  
 Place of birth Poland (פולין)  
 Name of father 5. שם האב Avraham  
 Name of mother 6. שם האם Ester  
 Name of spouse (name) none  
 Place of residence before the war Prilukr  
 Places of residence during the war Piotrkow-Trybunalski  
 Circumstances of death (place, date, etc.) Treblinka  
 Name of undersigned David Odnopozow  
 Name of witness Bet Amron, Netanya  
 Date of testimony 18/12/1956

# Can You Na

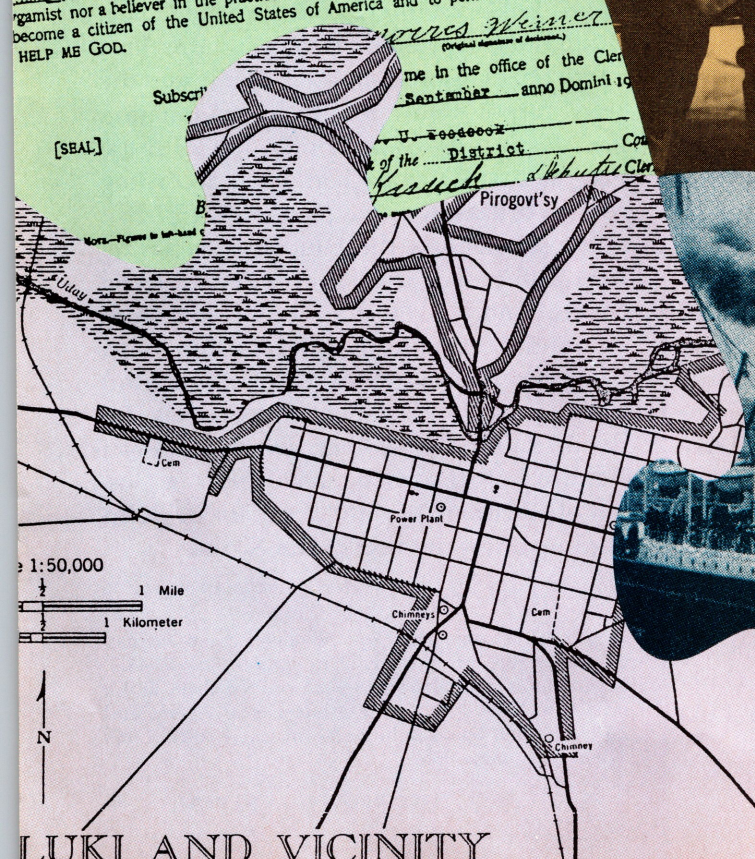
## Exploring Your Jewish Roots Leads to a Link with the Past



**DECLARATION**

I, Morris Weiner, do declare on oath that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Color White, complexion Light, height 5.5 feet, weight 150 pounds, color of hair Light, color of eyes Gray.  
 No distinctive marks.  
 Born in Sudilkov, Russia on the 20th day of December, anno Domini 1883.  
 I was born in Albia, Iowa.  
 I was educated in Albia, Iowa.  
 I was married to Mollie Weiner on the 27th day of December, anno Domini 1912.  
 I am not an anarchist; I am not a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside there.



DOCUMENTS, MAPS AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIRIAM WEINER



# How Do You Find Your Eight Great-Grandparents?

I am traveling alone. I have a wife and four children in Russia. I am a farm laborer. I have no money. I cannot read nor write. I have nobody at all in the United States. In Russia, people stated that I could get work here....

—Hirsch Zukerman  
Galveston, Texas, 1910

**H**irsch Zukerman, of Sudilkov, a *shtetl* southwest of Kiev, was typical of millions of apprehensive Russian immigrants as they entered these shores; he is significant to me, however, because he was my grandmother's first husband.

Zukerman, speaking in Yiddish, described his plight during a meeting of a Board of Special Inquiry held at the Jewish Immigrant Home in Galveston on July 29, 1910. He revealed the distressing situation of my grandmother and her four young children. They were not to join Hirsch Zukerman for three long years. Perhaps the separation was too much—they later di-

vorced in St. Louis and a short time later, my grandmother Malka married my grandfather, Morris Weiner, then known as Moische Winikur.

**MIRIAM WEINER**

**Q.** Where did you obtain the money to purchase your ticket?

**A.** My wife's mother sold her home and gave me the money.

**Q.** What arrangements have you made for the support of your wife and children in Russia until such time as you are able to send them money?

**A.** I left her without money.

**Q.** How do you expect them to live?

**A.** She will sell her clothes to buy something to eat.

**Q.** How much did your mother-in-law receive for her house?

**A.** 110 rubles.

**Q.** Did she give you all the money resulting from the sale of her house?

**A.** Yes.

You can imagine my delight in discovering Zukerman's name on the list of tran-

STATE OF NEW YORK  
CERTIFICATE AND LICENSE OF MARRIAGE

Groom's Name: Alexander Rabin  
Groom's Residence: 488 Franklin St.  
Age: 28  
Color: White  
Single, Widowed or Divorced: Single  
Vaiden Name, if a Widow: —  
Birthplace: Russia  
Father's Name: Yeracl  
Mother's Vaiden Name: Made G...  
Number of Bride's Marriage: 1

Bride's Name: Bertha Merochin  
Bride's Residence: 858 Flushing Ave.  
Age: 25  
Color: White  
Single, Widowed or Divorced: Single  
Vaiden Name, if a Widow: —  
Birthplace: Russia  
Father's Name: Yeracl  
Mother's Vaiden Name: Made G...  
Number of Bride's Marriage: 1

I hereby certify that the above-named groom and bride were joined in Marriage by me, in accordance with the Laws of the State of New York, at 125 of Moore St. (Street), in the City of New York, this 13 of April, 1908.

Signature of Rev. Morris Medinsky



scripts of these 1910 investigations of the Galveston Movement by the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN).

Because of the concentration of immigrant Jews in New York City, Jewish leaders such as financier Jacob Schiff felt that Jews should enter the United States through another port. Schiff proposed Galveston because of its good rail connections to Midwestern towns. He raised funds for the project, including \$500,000 from his own pocket.

In conducting the interviews, the BIN was seeking to discover whether the Jews had organized some form of illegal immigration. The immigrants answered questions about their family origins, reasons for emigration, expectations of America and their experiences on the voyage. Later, during interviews in their destination cities, they talked about conditions of their employment.

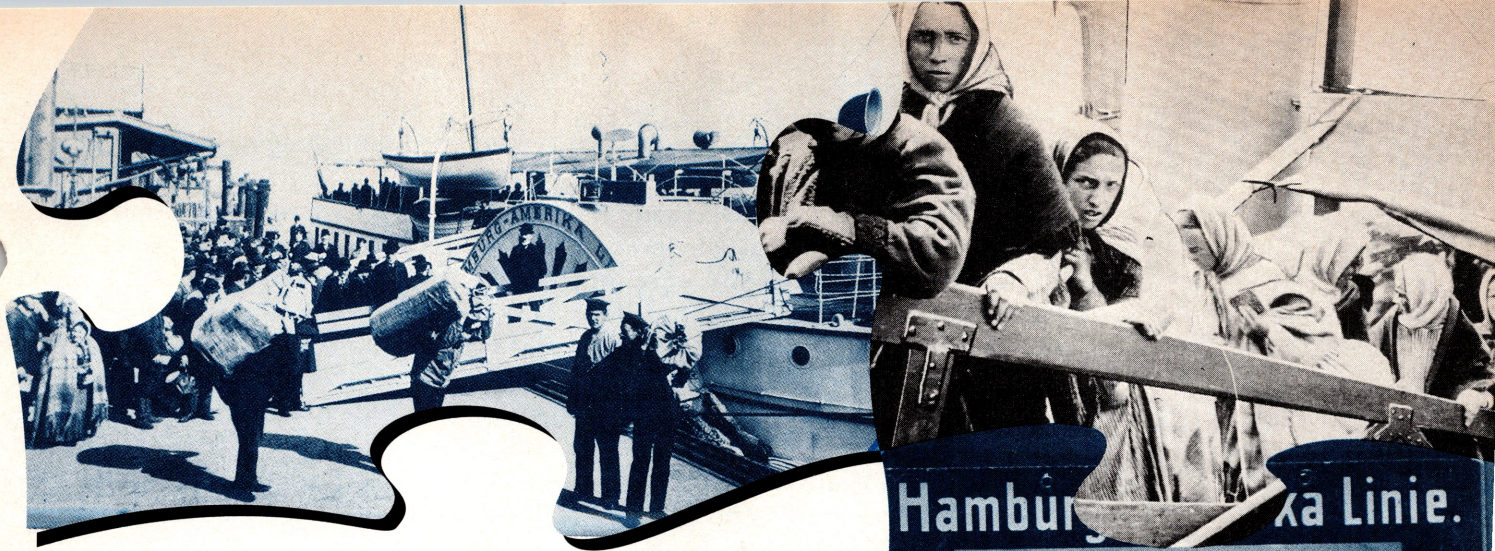
My adventures in genealogy began 20 years ago when, during a visit to New York, I telephoned relatives whom I had never met. After playing "Jewish geography" with my new-found cousins, I began constructing a family tree. Those crudely drawn charts have grown into computerized family trees for each grandparent; in one case, the tree exceeds 20 feet in length.

My previous experience as a private detective didn't hurt, but it is not required. What is required is an inquisitive mind, imagination, persistence and patience—the traits of the successful researcher. As a private investigator in the 1970s, licensed by California, I was familiar with many different kinds of records and knew that what they contained often led through doors marked "not for public use" to fruitful and, at times, startling results.

Many of the investigative techniques de-

## How to Begin Your Genealogical Research

- Begin your search with what is familiar. Interview older family members (see box, p. 48), and ask for copies of family documents, photos, or records; sometimes a family Bible contains documentation of births, marriages and deaths. When you travel, make it a point to visit and interview distant family members. Call or write these relatives and tell them of your project. Most will be pleased to cooperate.
- Write for copies of birth, marriage, naturalization and death records for each ancestor. Vital statistics are held at city, county or state offices. When writing to request vital records be as specific as possible on the year, full name and location of the event.
- If you know your ancestor's port of entry and approximate date, obtain a copy of the ship's manifest by writing to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The manifest includes information such as name and address of relative at destination, occupation, age, valuables in possession, and last residence. A master index to passenger lists, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* compiled by P. William Filby and Mary K. Meyer, contains the immigrant name, age, place and year of arrival as well as the source from which the information is derived. To find the vessel that your ancestor arrived on, check the *Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals*; it lists the date that ships arrived into ports in New York, 1890-1930, and Baltimore, Boston, and Philadelphia, 1904-1926.
- Check U.S. Census records taken every ten years since 1790 and available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and on microfilm at its regional branches. The Archives will furnish copies of census pages prior to 1910 (the 1920 census will become available in 1992). Your ancestor's name and state will enable you to use the index to find the specific census district and then locate the actual census record. Census information varies and can include the handicaps of household members, occupation, value of personal estate, ability to speak English, birthplaces of parents and military service records.
- Check cemetery records. If you know where your ancestors lived and most likely died, you can write to the local cemetery caretaker. If visiting the cemetery, look at neighboring graves for other family relationships.
- Contact synagogues where your ancestors lived for local histories of the community. You may find information on an individual's Jewish activities, as well as records of life cycle events.
- Request probate records (wills, inventories, letters of guardianship) of deceased ancestors. These often list family members and relationships as well as personal possessions. If a person died intestate (without a will) the property was probably administered by the local court where the person died.
- Old local newspapers can also provide information. Look up death, marriage and birth notices; they often contain biographical information.
- Turn to a genealogical library (see box, p. 46).
- Record and organize your data on charts. There are also a number of computer programs available for this purpose. Begin with yourself and work backwards recording essential information on birth, marriage, divorce, death, occupation and place(s) of residence. Cite your sources so that future readers can locate the same information.



In Russia,  
the spirit of  
glasnost is  
beginning to  
provide a  
glimmer of  
hope for  
avid  
genealogists.



veloped in the course of interviewing witnesses apply as well to oral histories of family members (see box on p. 48). When interviewing my grandmother's first cousin, Gertie, age 93, I asked her many times if her father had any sisters or more than one brother. Each time, she replied "no." As a private investigator, I learned to try different approaches for the same information. I asked Gertie for whom she was named. She paused a moment and replied "For my Aunt Golda." "And who was Aunt Golda?" I asked. Gertie smiled and said, "My father's sister."

I have logged many frequent-flyer miles in pursuit of family history and in ancestor-hunting. During a trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where my mother grew up, a visit to Congregation B'nai Emunah disclosed a published synagogue history spanning over 50 years. It contained many references to my family, including photos. One particular entry described my grandfather's efforts to develop an audience for drive-in movies in 1923.

During the same trip to Tulsa, I went to the hospital where my grandfather had died and requested copies of his patient history. I learned he had three sisters, in addition to the two brothers known to me.

Like millions of others, I trace my roots to the Soviet Union—to Russia where the spirit of *glasnost* is just beginning to provide a glimmer of hope for avid genealogists. Even within the framework of *glasnost*, access to vital records and on-site research in the Soviet Union is not yet possible.

Before *glasnost*, the frustration of having to find other sources to trace Russian relatives led me to the Library of Congress's

COURTESY OF HAMBURG STATE ARCHIVES



substantial collection of Soviet telephone books. First, I wrote to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., requesting a search through their Russian telephone book collection for my grandmother's family name. I received a reply that included photocopies of the pages from the phone books of six cities in the Soviet Union; these copies listed a dozen people with the name I had requested—my family name, "Odnopozow." I was astonished since my U.S. relatives assumed that the entire family had emigrated or perished during the Shoah.

I had a brief letter written in Russian to all 12 potential Russian cousins, carefully explaining how I obtained their names. I told them I was researching the Odnopozov family whose primary origins were in Priluki, Poltava district, but cousins had also lived in Piryatin, Smela, Rudovka, Romny, Lubny and other nearby villages—all in the Ukraine. The letter concluded with a request for a response.

While waiting for answers, I located a member of this same family who had emigrated from the Ukraine in the 1960s and now lives in Holland. He invited me to interview his mother and within a few weeks I was on a plane to Holland, where I ac-

complished something beyond my expectations.

My newly discovered cousin and I spent three days telephoning the individuals listed in the Soviet telephone books. We reached 11 of the 12 people, although some of the listings were more than 10 years old. The first step involved calling directory assistance for each city to verify that the numbers were still correct. A central telephone operator in Moscow handled this procedure. The Russian operators were generally not cooperative, but persistence paid off. (Such telephone calls can be made from the United States, but be prepared to wait, sometimes until the next day, for your call to be connected by a Soviet operator.)

My cousin and I spoke with 19 members of our family, all tracing their roots to the same small town in the district of Poltava. We obtained more names and telephone numbers as well as invitations to visit our Soviet relatives. Eventually we added more than 70 names to the growing Odnopozov family tree. One young woman said her father had been working on an Odnopozov family tree for many years. Another new-found cousin told us her son had moved to Denver in 1973. I turned to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), which put me in touch with my Denver cousin, Vladimir.

Written requests to the Soviet Union for family records in the very recent past have usually resulted in a form letter response after seven or eight months stating, "The records you request cannot be located." One person, however, who has had virtually unlimited access to Soviet archives is Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, a research associate at the Ukrainian Research Institute and a fellow of the Russian Research Center at Harvard University. Grimsted explains the Soviet Union's complex archival system in her three volume Russian archive directory (see box, p. 46). Using Grimsted's third volume, on the Ukraine, I found the name and address of an archive in the small town of Priluki, northeast of Kiev, where my maternal grandmother, Miriam Odnopozov Rabkin, was born.

In a brief letter to the archive, written in English, I explained that my family formerly resided in Priluki and I was interested in learning more about the town's local his-

### **Soviets Release Concentration Camp Records—May Fill Gaps in Family Histories**

Kept secret in the Soviet Union for 45 years, 270,000 names of people who perished in concentration camps and 130,000 names of forced labor workers in German camps are now released.

The documents include 46 *Sterbebücher* (death books), containing nearly 70,000 death certificates from the Auschwitz concentration camp, and lists of prisoners in Sachsenhausen, Gross Rosen, Dachau and Buchenwald. The original documents are housed in Arolsen, Germany; the International Red Cross has received a complete record of the names.

In September the American Red Cross opened its Holocaust and War Victim's Tracing and Information Center in Baltimore to service people who want to know the fate of relatives in the Shoah or who need certification of internment for survivors of forced labor camps seeking reparations or pensions. The center coordinates the tracing efforts of all American Red Cross chapters, other national societies and the International Red Cross in the hope that family reunifications will be possible. It also serves as an information and referral source. The newly released names are accessible to local Red Cross chapters, when they contact this Baltimore office.

Genealogist Miriam Weiner says almost every Jewish family suffered losses during the Shoah: "For each of our ancestors who came to America, there were cousins, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles who remained behind, who had children, and many later became one of the six million Jewish victims." The average genealogist seldom uses the documents, detailed lists and photographs available from archives maintained by concentration camp museums, ghettos and annihilation centers, she adds.

In addition to the 400,000 names made public this fall, some concentration camps have open archives. The document center at Majdanek, near Lublin, Poland, contains records of more than 350,000 people who perished at Majdanek. The archives at Auschwitz/Birkenau camp have more than one and one half million documents.

- For the newly released names from the Soviet Union, address inquiries to local chapters of the American Red Cross or call the Baltimore center at 1-800-818-9277.

- For names of victims at Majdanek, write to Krystyna Madalowa, Panstwowe Muzeum at Majdanek, Droga Meczennikow Majdanka 67, Lublin 20-325, Poland.

- For names of victims at Auschwitz/Birkenau, contact Panstwowe Muzeum, 32-603 Oswiecim, Poland.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**BUREAU OF HEALTH**

**CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH**

OF REGISTRY  
OF ALBANY  
COUNTY OF ALBANY  
STATE OF NEW YORK

(No. 21 Dana Ave St.; 16 Ward) Registered No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Deceased Mrs. Hoday Adnopolz (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name and number.)

**PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS**

PLACE OF DEATH 21 Dana Ave

HOW LONG RESIDENT HERE 6 days (If death occurs away from usual residence, give facts called for under "Special Information.")

AGE 9 YEARS \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS \_\_\_\_\_ DAYS

SEX Female COLOR White

MARRIAGE Married OCCUPATION Housewife

BIRTHPLACE Russia DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF FATHER David Petakhinsky

PLACE OF FATHER Russia

NAME OF MOTHER Sarah - Golatinsky

PLACE OF MOTHER Russia

STATE PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE GIVEN TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF

(Signature) G. G. G.

(Address) 1114 \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

DATE OF DEATH Mar. 27 (Month)

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended the deceased \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ 1962 to \_\_\_\_\_ 1962 and that I last saw her alive on \_\_\_\_\_ 1962 and that death occurred, on the date above stated, and that the CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:

CHIEF CAUSE Cholera

CONTRIBUTORY Exhaustion

(Signed) J. M. M. (Address) 372 Madison Ave

SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions and Recent Residents.

Former or Usual Residence \_\_\_\_\_ How long at Place of Death? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was disease contracted, and at what place of death? \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Mar 27

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I found the name of an archive in the small town of Priluki where my maternal grandmother, Miriam, was born.



story. Six weeks later, a cordial response, signed only Natalia, arrived listing several books on the town history and an offer to continue corresponding with me. Natalia included her office phone number, but indicated she does not speak English, although she can read and understand it. She asked me to locate the descendants of a former resident of the town, Selman Abraham Waksman, who immigrated to the U.S., became a famous microbiologist and eventually was awarded the 1952 Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology. A little research on my part produced the name and address of the surviving son, which I sent to Natalia with a further request for specific information about my family members.

I received the most exciting correspondence and documentation in my 20 years of research: extracts of 17 birth records for Odnopozov family members, including my grandmother, three of her first cousins and other relatives whose exact relationship I am now determining.

To my knowledge, this was the first instance where a local archive sent documentation of Jewish vital records in the U.S.S.R. in response to a letter from a U.S.

citizen. But that wasn't all; Natalia did some research on her own and in her letter says:

You will also be interested to learn that people from this family live now in our town...I spoke with local residents. Before the war, 1941-1945, several Odnopozov families lived in our town. My mother was acquainted with Boris Odnopozov, who was killed at the front. They also recall Mariya Odnopozov, whose family was evacuated to Chelyabinsk during the war. Luba Odnopozov worked in 1944-1945 in the town archives, then she married and left town. As old-timers maintain, her older sister lives in Priluki but has changed her surname. It is possible I will succeed in finding her by inquiring of people of Jewish nationality living in our town.

Recently a protocol was signed by the U.S. National Archives coordinator, Patricia Eames, and N. N. Mitrofanov, first deputy director general of the Main Archival Administration of the Soviet Union's Council of Ministers, providing for the future establishment of the Soviet American Genealogical Archival Service (SAGAS) to facilitate family history searches in the Soviet Union. On the American side, SAGAS will be a clearinghouse to provide assistance on genealogical inquiries and will be located in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Soviet SAGAS will distribute inquiries to the appropriate archives and establish research methods and guides.

I continued searching for my cousin Ricardo Odnoposoff, whose name I discovered in a listing from *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*, sent to me by a friend. He and his brother Adolfo Odnoposoff, violinist and cellist respectively, were listed as musicians who had played many concerts in the Soviet Union. I traced Ricardo through the Vienna telephone directory; Adolfo, I learned, had moved to Texas in 1975, where he became a professor of cello at North Texas State University.

I received a long letter from Ricardo Odnoposoff a few months later, telling me about a family gathering in Moscow attended by several branches of our family, all related to one another but not previously known to each other until my telephone calls from Holland. Ricardo wrote that I was toasted *in absentia* for my efforts

*continued on page 46*



## Can You Name Your Eight Great-Grandparents?

continued from page 41

to discover and reunite the family.

One of those who attended the family gathering was the father of the woman we had called from Holland, the man who had been working on the family tree for years. He later sent it to me via Ricardo, drawn on cardboard and taped together in sections. It added 70 names to my growing family tree. This cardboard family tree was in Russian, of course, but it has since been translated by my Denver cousin, Vladimir, who has pledged to help preserve our mutual family history.

Part of the pleasure of recreating the lives of my ancestors is digging into the places where they lived and the historical context in which they lived. Eventually I hope to walk the streets of my ancestors' *shtetls*. A research trip to the Library of Congress (Geography and Map Division) in Washington, D.C., introduced me to one of the best map collections in the world. There I discovered street maps for some small towns in Eastern Europe such as Priluki (home of the Odnopozows) and Konotop, the ancestral home of my grandfather, Alexander Rabkin. My next find was aerial photos for the towns, available through the National Archives in Washington, D.C. as part of captured German documents from World War II.

To discover more about the towns where my grandparents grew up, I placed notices in Jewish newspapers throughout the world. The result is a continuing correspondence with former residents of those towns. I have met many of my pen pals and revel in the stories they tell me about growing up in the old country. Unfortunately, I waited too long to ask those questions of my own grandparents and I am grateful to hear similar stories second-hand.

Later, while doing research at the National Archives, I checked the name index of the State Department central office and found an entry for Israel Abramovich Odnopozov—another Russian cousin. The source was a 1930 excerpt from the newspaper *Pravda* in Moscow listing persons executed in connection with a charge of "counter-revolutionary damager." This material was declassified in 1980.

More conventional records include the marriage record for my maternal

grandparents, Alexander Rabkin and Marrie Adnopo (as Miriam's name appears on the marriage certificate), who were married in 1905 in Brooklyn. The marriage application disclosed the names of both sets of grandparents, including maiden names, and listed another relative who witnessed the marriage.

A 1912 death certificate in Albany introduced me to my previously unknown great-grandmother, Hodey Retshinsky Adnopo, who died one year prior to my mother's birth. Only then did it become clear that my mother, Helen, was named for her grandmother, Hodey (Hudda).

Procedures vary from one state to another regarding access to birth, marriage and death records. Massachusetts, for example, allows on-site research by individuals. New York, on the other hand, limits access for certain years to preserve confidentiality and does not permit you to handle the original records. In this instance, a letter to the city of Albany with the approximate date of death (within a three-year span) produced the 1912 death certificate for a \$3 fee.

My grandfather, Alexander Rabkin, caused me grief because he seldom gave the same date of birth. On an employment application he stated 1890 as his

## How To Find Information

### Archives and Libraries

- American Jewish Archives, 3101 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220

Has congregational and communal records from the U.S. and many personal records; extensive Holocaust material from World Jewish Congress Archives; special collection on microfilm from other sources; over 10,000 photographs and 1,500 audio recordings.

- American Jewish Historical Society, 2 Thornton Rd., Waltham, MA 02154 (on Brandeis University campus)

Over 4 million items including newspapers, periodicals, photographs, Yiddish films, records of Jewish farming communities in New Jersey, Industrial Removal Office records and Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Boston documents. Request guide to its genealogical sources.

- Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (AJGS), 1485 Teaneck Rd., Teaneck, NJ 07666

International umbrella group of all Jewish genealogy societies, maintains information about societies throughout the world. For a list of the society nearest your home, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the AJGS above.

- Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, P.O. Box 1149, Jerusalem 91010, Israel

Surviving records from Europe and the Middle East including extensive collections for Germany, France, Poland and Italy; published genealogies and family histories.

- Beth Hatefutsoth (Museum of the Diaspora), P.O. Box 39359, Tel Aviv 61392, Israel

Computer registry of family names and their meanings; database of Jewish communities based on entries from *Encyclopedia Judaica*, *yizkor* books (memorial books for synagogues or towns) and local histories; personal interviews; atlases, gazetteers and other sources.

- Douglas E. Goldman Jewish Genealogy Center (at Beth Hatefutsoth, see above).

Computerized repository for Jewish genealogies from around the world. Access

information on-site or by mail requests.

- Family History Library, 35 Northwest Temple St., Salt Lake City, UT 84150

Jewish records on microfilm that go back several centuries, including births, marriages, deaths, divorces, cemetery and census records; circumcision records; family names and school records for Germany, Poland, Hungary and France indexed by present town name. Microfilm can be brought by request to the nearest branch library upon payment of small fee.

- Israel State Archives, P.O. Box 1149, Jerusalem 91919, Israel

Holdings include Turkish census records; German and British consulate records and Mandate Citizenship Index.

- Jewish Theological Seminary Library, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027

Largest collection of Hebraica-Judaica in the Western hemisphere, including records of French and Moroccan Jewish communities; *yizkor* books; vital records of congregations; rabbinic records and communal records from Europe.

- Leo Baeck Institute, 129 E. 73rd St., New York, NY 10021

Records of Jews in German-speaking lands.

- Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540

See: *Local History & Genealogy, Hebraic Division, Map Division, European Division*. Collections include telephone books (worldwide), *yizkor* books, extensive maps and gazetteers. A huge collection of maps of every part of the world for different time periods and a fine collection of atlases and town plans, including many cities and towns in Russia and Poland. Some maps show individual houses. Copies of most maps can be purchased or duplicated.

- National Archives, 8th St. & Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20408 (Regional branches throughout the U.S.)

Records for the U.S. Census, 1870-1910; military records; court records; maps; passport and visa applications; indices to some ship passenger lists (send for free orientation packet). Files of aerial and ground level photos

birth date because he didn't want his prospective employer to know he was really 75 years old. Later, when he was ready to request social security benefits, he listed his true date of birth—1875. (Eligibility for the draft is another reason discrepancies in age often are found on old documents.)

When Alexander Rabkin immigrated to America in 1904, he had considerable wealth in comparison to his fellow immigrants. Through the National Archives in Washington, D.C., I sent for the ship manifest for the SS *Numidian*, arriving from Glasgow, Scotland. While most passenger records are indexed from 1897 to the present, some ports

are indexed from as early as 1800. I had previously determined the ship name from my grandfather's naturalization petition. The manifest states he had the princely sum of \$70 in his possession. The petition included name and address of a relative at his destination, occupation, age and last residence. A letter to the Steamship Historical Society in Baltimore produced a photo and short history of the SS *Numidian*.

My paternal grandfather, Morris Weiner, came to this country in 1912, according to his "first papers," known officially as the Declaration of Intention (to become a citizen). Immigration and naturalization documents have

great value for the family historian. Morris Weiner's declaration provided the date and place of his birth, a physical description, the name and place of birth of his wife (my grandmother) and the specifics of his arrival: Liverpool to New York, arriving December 29, 1912, on the SS *Celtic*.

To get copies of his naturalization papers, I wrote to the U.S. District Court in St. Louis, where he was naturalized; these documents are also available from Immigration and Naturalization Services in Washington, D.C. On a local level, the naturalization records are generally indexed alphabetically; getting immigration records from Wash-

for various cities and towns in the Soviet Union. An alphabetical index by town makes photos easy to locate. On file are copies of *The Holocaust: The Nuremberg Evidence, Part One: Documents* (Jacob Robinson and Henry Sachs), jointly published by Yad Vashem and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (1976), includes a digest, index and chronological tables.

• New York Public Library, 42nd St. & Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10018

*Jewish Division:* Community histories and many yizkor books.

*Map Room:* Extensive and detailed map collection. Gazetteers and maps, including pre-19th century New York City maps. The collection of 1:250,000 Army Map Service (AMS) maps for Eastern Europe (N501 Series) includes a generally complete map set for the Soviet Union on a scale greater than 1:250,000.

*Microform Room:* Borough directories for New York City; censuses for greater New York area; indices; births, marriages, deaths in New York City; back issues of the *New York Times*.

*Local History & Genealogy:* Indices to federal census records.

• Search Bureau for Missing Relatives, P.O. Box 92, Jerusalem 91920, Israel

Index to all Jews residing in Israel, including biographical data.

• Yad Vashem, P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel

Memorial to victims of the Holocaust, extensive library and archives includes more than 2.5 million Pages of Testimony completed by surviving relatives and friends; largest collection of yizkor books in the world; *landsmanshaftn* records; extensive collection of victim and survivor lists; thousands of eyewitness accounts from survivors indexed by family name and location; duplicates of records from the International Tracing Service in Arolsen, West Germany.

• Yeshiva University, 2520 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10033

*Archives:* Collections of Orthodox Jewish institutions and individuals; records of the Central Relief Committee and rescue efforts and biographical data on famous American Jews.

*Gottesman Library of Hebraica-Judaica:*

rabbinic materials, family histories, biographies, Jewish community histories, yizkor books and data on tombstones in Jewish cemeteries.

• YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1048 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10028

Records of Jews in Yiddish-speaking lands, including yizkor books, *landsmanshaftn* records, rabbinic encyclopedias, extensive photo collections, HIAS immigration records, regional histories, biographies and periodicals.

### Manuals and Sourcebooks

• Cohen, Chester G. *Shtetl Finder Gazetteer*. Reprint. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1989.

• Epstein, Ellen & Mendelsohn, Rona. *Record and Remember: Tracing Your Roots through Oral History*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1978.

• Grimsted, Patricia Kennedy. *Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the U.S.S.R., Vol. I: Moscow and Leningrad* (1972), Vol. II Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Belorussia (1981), Vol. III Ukraine and Moldavia (1989), Lawrenceville, NJ: Princeton Univ. Press.

• Guzik, Estelle M., ed. *Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area*. New York: Jewish Genealogical Society, 1989.

• Kaganoff, Ben Zion C. *A Dictionary of Jewish Names and Their History*, New York: Schocken Books, 1977.

• Kurzweil, Arthur. *From Generation to Generation*. New York: Schocken Books, 1981.

• Kurzweil, Arthur. *My Generations: A Course in Jewish Family History*. New York: Behrman House, 1983.

• Kurzweil, Arthur and Miriam Weiner. *Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, to be published in 1990.

• Mogilanski, Roman. *The Ghetto Anthology*. Los Angeles: American Congress of Jews from Poland and Survivors of Concentration Camps, 1985.

• Rosenstein, Neil. *Latter Day Leaders, Sages and Scholars: Bibliographical Index*. Elizabeth, NJ: Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy, 1983.

• Rosenstein, Neil. *The Unbroken Chain:*

*Biographical Sketches and the Genealogy of Illustrious Jewish Families from the 15th-20th Century*. Rev. ed. Elizabeth, NJ: Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy, 1990.

• Rottenberg, Dan. *Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy*. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1986.

• Sack, Sallyann Amdur. *A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1987.

• Sack, Sallyann Amdur and Suzan Fisher Wynne. *Russian Consular Records Index and Catalog*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1987.

• Wiesenthal, Simon. *Every Day Remembrance Day*. New York: Henry Holt, 1987.

• Stern, Malcolm H. *First American Jewish Families. 600 Genealogies, 1654-1988*. Rev. ed. Baltimore: Ottenheimer Publishers, 1990.

• Yad Vashem. *Pinkas Ha-Kehillot*. (Romania, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Netherlands, Yugoslavia, Latvia/Estonia) Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 1972-1989 (on-going).

• Zubatsky, David & Irwin M. Berent. *Jewish Genealogy: A Sourcebook of Family Histories & Genealogies*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1984.

### Periodicals

• Avotaynu: *The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, P.O. Box 1134, Teaneck, NJ 07666. Quarterly magazine with articles from contributors throughout the world.

• Search: *The Quarterly Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois*. P.O. Box 48102, Niles, IL 60648. Articles on methodology and data; notable for its series of guides to research resources in many cities.

### Every Family Needs A Family Historian

• A Beginner's Kit (55 pages) showing how to start researching your family history, includes charts, lists of archives and libraries, maps, a bibliography, family group sheets and more, can be ordered by sending \$12.50 to Miriam Weiner, 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094.

## What to Ask in an Oral History Interview

- Was your name changed? If so, what was the original name?
- Do you know the origin of the name?
- Who were you named after and how are you related to that person?
- What towns did your family come from in Europe? Where were those towns located?
- In what other nearby towns did you have family members?
- Who was the first ancestor in your family to immigrate from the old country? When did he/she come?
- When your ancestor came to this country, did he/she travel with other relatives? Who were they?
- Who received your relative when he/she first immigrated and did he/she join a *landsmanshaftn* society?
- Do you know the name of the ship and port of entry?
- Do you know if your immigrant ancestor was naturalized? If so, in what court and when?
- Do you have any old family documents or old photos?
- What was life in Europe like? What are some of your early childhood memories?
- What were the family occupations—in the old country and the early years here?
- Did any of the family members serve in the military armed forces, either here or in the old country?
- Were there any special family traditions that have been handed down through the years?
- What were the names and relationships of family members who perished during the Shoah?
- What contact continued with the old country? Did you receive letters from relatives who remained in Europe? Were those letters saved?
- Do you know of any cousins (including distant cousins) who emigrated to the U.S., Canada, South America, England, France, Australia, South Africa and Israel before and after World Wars I and II?
- Do you have names and addresses of relatives who continue to live in the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe?
- Is there a cousins' club or family circle club in existence?
- Do you know of any relatives who have recorded the family history? Has anyone published a history of your family?

ington requires completion of a detailed form.

When I read my grandfather's physical description—"5'2", 160 lbs."—I worried that I would forever be on a diet.

Another document in the naturalization process, the Petition for Naturalization, contains additional information such as "name under which you entered the U.S.," in my grandfather Morris's case, "Moische Winikur." This gave me his name in the old country, a name often unknown to present-day descendants of immigrants. The petition also lists names and birth dates for Morris's children and has a photo of Morris attached. The final document in this series, the Certificate of Naturalization, provides scant biographical data.

Now that I knew the exact date and port of arrival in this country, I could obtain a copy of the passenger manifest of the SS *Celtic*, which arrived December 29, 1912, in New York Harbor. I wrote to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and requested a photocopy of the record. Soon I received the Manifest of Alien Passengers for the United States, which told me that my grandfather was 29 when he arrived in New York from Sudilkov. It also gave the names of his nearest relatives in the old country along with their town of residence, Sudilkov. The passenger record also revealed that my grandfather could read and write.

Now I was ready to learn something about Sudilkov, which turned out to be a small village in the district of Volhynia in the western Ukraine. I began researching where Sudilkov and nearby Shepetovka were on the map, what life was like there and what Morris Weiner/Winikur left behind.

Although I was unaware of specific family members who perished during the Shoah, it soon became obvious that our family could not have escaped completely because many of them had remained in Russia. A letter to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, yielded the names of two Odnopozows who perished in Treblinka. In 1956, the surviving son submitted two Pages of Testimony to Yad Vashem for his mother and brother listing his address. Subsequently, the son changed his name from Odnopozow to Ud, which I learned means "firebrand from the fire." It took many months to

locate David Ud, the sole survivor of his family, now living in Tel Aviv with his wife, Franka. I have since met with David and he told me much about the Odnopozow family, with translations by Franka. When he saw the 20-foot Odnopozow family tree, the look on his face froze. He was amazed to find such an extended family throughout the world.

Although the destruction during the Shoah and subsequent Communist governments in Eastern Europe has made it difficult for many Jews to trace their family lines, the recent warming of relations with a number of Eastern European countries has made available new and astonishing records. According to Valentina Fatyukhina, head of the Soviet Red Cross research department, identity cards for thousands of Auschwitz prisoners and victims detailing birth, parents' names, dates, circumstances of death and other biographical information have surfaced. The International Red Cross in Germany recently completed microfilming these "death books," which contain nearly 70,000 neatly recorded names in 46 huge volumes. Many historians and genealogists welcome the release of this material (see box, p. 40).

A division of the Jewish Agency, the Search Bureau for Missing Relatives in Jerusalem, helps reestablish contact between Jewish survivors in Europe and their relatives in Israel, the United States and elsewhere. Its director, Batya Untershatz, has reunited hundreds of people with relatives whose whereabouts were unknown, in some cases, for 40 years.

Researchers are now studying family trees to get to the root of genetic diseases. In developing your family history, you can create a medical chart of your ancestors. If there is a history of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, cancer, glaucoma or diabetes in your background, knowing it may help your doctor in diagnosis or prevention of these diseases. (See Notes and News, p. 53.)

There are also the Jewish genetic diseases to consider. Tay-Sachs is the most well-known Jewish genetic disease, but the National Foundation for Jewish Genetic Diseases distributes an informative pamphlet describing seven diseases affecting Ashkenazi Jews.

In building your medical genealogy, you can check past U.S. censuses for

data about ancestors. Census records from 1850 to 1910 have columns of information pertaining to the physical or mental condition of individuals, and the 1880 census also has a column indicating any sickness or disability. In addition, the 1860-1885 mortality schedules list those who died during the 12 months prior to the census. These records are generally useful sources of information, providing name, age, place of birth, occupation, cause of death and length of illness. Both census and mortality schedules can be found at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., or in its regional branches throughout the country.

Grandparents often can provide health information spanning five generations. Your local March of Dimes will provide a family health tree chart, genetic counseling booklet and family medical record-health history guide.

Family trees date back to the Bible. Genesis contains extended sections of family listings and there are numerous commentaries on the significance of the

genealogies. For the *Kohanim* (priests), a general genealogical list was maintained in the Temple, which recorded genealogical information on all priestly families; even the *Kohanim* who lived in the Diaspora provided the genealogical center in Jerusalem with full details of their marriages. A priestly tribunal, which convened in a special room in the Temple, was responsible for the upkeep of the genealogical lists and the verification of genealogical data.

We are links in a great chain of history extending to the future. What began in the Bible continues to the present day in our own experiences. Throughout my journey into the past and the exploration of my family history, I have discovered previously unknown relatives and reunited branches of the family who have been out of touch for generations. In the process, I have experienced a renewed pride in my Jewish heritage and a special bonding with my ancestors. I have also had fun. ♪

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