

# Shalshelet

"Chains....."

A Publication of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon  
Summer 2011 Volume 21

## TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Abstracted from an article by Dick Eastman



Creating a first-class genealogy work is not difficult. In fact, it is expected. It should be the norm. Please consider the following "rules." If you follow these guidelines, you, too, can produce high-quality genealogy reports that will be useful to others:

1. Never accept someone else's opinion as "fact." Be suspicious. Always check for yourself!
2. Always verify primary sources (see Footnote #1); never accept a secondary source (see Footnote #2) as factual until you have personally verified the information.
3. Cite your sources! Every time you refer to a person's name, date and/or place of an event, always tell where you found the information. If you are not certain how to do this, get yourself a copy of "Evidence Explained" by Elizabeth Shown Mills. This excellent book shows both the correct form of source citation and the sound analysis of evidence.
4. If you use the works of others, always give credit. Never claim someone else's research as your own.
5. Assumptions and "educated guesses" are acceptable in genealogy as long as they are clearly labeled as such. Never offer your theories as facts.

6. Be open to corrections. The greatest genealogy experts of all time make occasional errors. So will you. Accept this as fact. When someone points out a possible error in your work, always thank that person for his or her assistance and then seek to re-verify your original statement(s). Again, check primary sources.
7. Respect the privacy of living individuals. Never reveal personal details about living individuals without their permission. Do not reveal their names or any dates or locations.
8. Keep "family secrets." Not everyone wants the information about a court record or a birth out of wedlock to be posted on the Internet or written in books. The family historian records "family secrets" as facts but does not publish them publicly.
9. Protect original documents. Handle all documents with care, and always return them to their rightful storage locations.
10. Be prepared to reimburse others for reasonable expenses incurred on your behalf. If someone travels to a records repository and makes photocopies for you, always offer to reimburse the expenses.

The above "commandments" apply to online data as well as to printed information. Following the above "commandments" will increase the value of your work and make it valuable to others.

**Footnote #1:** A primary record is one created at or immediately after the occurrence of the event cited. The record was created by someone who had person knowledge of the event. Examples include marriage records created by the minister, census records, death certificates created within days after the death, etc. Nineteenth century and earlier source records will be in the handwriting of the person who recorded the event, such as the minister, town clerk or census taker.

**Footnote #2:** A secondary record is one made years after the original event, usually by someone who was not at the original event and did not have personal knowledge of the participants. Most published genealogy books are secondary sources; the authors are writing about events that occurred many years before they wrote about the event. Transcribed records are always secondary sources and may have additional errors created inadvertently by the transcriber(s). Most online databases are transcribed (secondary) sources.

## **JEWISH POSTCARDS**

From a post on *New? What's New?*

A remarkable collection of more than 9,000 postcards of the Jewish presence throughout the world can be found at <http://www.jewishpostcardcollection.com> Most of the postcards are of pre WWII Europe, but almost every continent including Africa, North and South America, Australia and Asia is represented.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SLOVAKIA

*By Debbi Korman*

Slovakia is in Central Europe. It is one of those areas where a person could be born in the Hungarian part of the Austro Hungarian Empire, grow up in Czechoslovakia, grow old in Slovakia, and die in Ukraine – without moving 1 foot in any direction.

Because of Slovakia's unique geographical history, its records sometimes are housed in collections in Hungary, Austria and Ukraine. A researcher must be very sensitive to the border changes that affected his/her town of interest.

On JewishGen, Slovak records are in the All Hungarian database. Included in this ever expanding collection are censuses from 1828 and 1848, vital records, yizkor book necrologies, and memorials. Check out this database at:  
<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary>

The Hungarian SIG is another valuable resource on JewishGen. Researchers have compiled a number of additional databases and articles about towns and records. These resources are found at  
<http://www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/>

Specific to Slovakia is the website for Slovak Jewish Heritage. This site



includes articles on the history of Jews in Slovakia, photographs of synagogues, towns, monuments and migration of Jews into Slovakia. The site is found at:  
<http://www.Slovak-Jewish-Heritage.org>

For birth, marriage and death records, and the 1869 census for Zemplin, Nytra, and Saros counties, the place to go is the Family History Library. The collections of Jewish records for Slovak towns in all areas of Slovakia are vast. The FHL is also starting to film Jewish vital records for towns in Ukraine that were part of Slovakia before WWII. The Wiki site for the FHL's Jewish holdings has a description of the FHL collections.  
[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Slovakia/Jewish\\_Records](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Slovakia/Jewish_Records) . One may also browse the FHL catalog by town.

The Slovak archive holds many records which might be of interest. Unfortunately, the website for the National Archives at present is only in Slovak. The mailing address is:  
Statny Narodny Archiv  
Drortarska cesta 42  
817 01 Bratislava, Republic of Slovakia.

## Quick bytes



### NEW SEARCH ENGINE

Abstracted from Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter

A new, free, genealogy search engine has launched. The site at <http://www.mocavo.com> enables the quick search of more than 50 billion words, including names, dates and places, focusing on genealogy content.

Search results may come from industry sources such as genealogy message boards, family trees, state and local historical societies, the Library of Congress, National Archives, Ellis Island, Find A Grave, the Internet Archive, various U.S. State archives, and many tens of thousands of genealogy sites built by individuals.

### JEWISH GENEALOGY BLOGS

From a post in *Nu? What's New?*

Philip Trauring, who developed a list of Town Discussion Groups associated with Jewish genealogy, has now created a list of blogs dealing with Jewish Genealogy. They can be found at the Israel Genealogical Society website

<http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/657/7790.asp>.

### ASSETS IN ISRAEL

From a post on JewishGen

Prior to the Holocaust, many European Jews sent funds to Israel with the hope of one day making aliyah. Some funds have been converted to real estate and some are cash deposits. [Hashave.org](http://www.hashave.org) has searchable lists for persons who had these assets. The list may be searched by first name, last name, country, etc. The English list is at: <http://www.hashava.org.il/eng/assetlist>. Claiming the assets requires proof of descent from the asset owner.

### FOREIGN ALPHABETS AND PRONUNCIATION GUIDES

From a post in *Nu? What's New?*

**Alphabets.** Routes to Routes Foundation has tables of nine different alphabets: Hebrew, Hungarian, German, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian and Yiddish. Shown for each letter of the alphabet are the printed and script versions. The complete list can be found at <http://www.rtrfoundation.org/archdta.shtml>.

**Guides to Pronunciation.** The Museum of Family History site at <http://museumoffamilyhistory.org/sm.htm> has guides to the pronunciation of Lithuanian, Hungarian, Polish and Romanian.

## JRI-POLAND GOES HOLLYWOOD

From a post on JRI-PL SIG

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow's ancestral search, was told in a recent episode of NBC's "Who Do You Think You Are?" Jewish Records Indexing – Poland played an important role in identifying the records which led her to more fully appreciate her Rabbinic heritage. The Polish-Jewish records database was a key resource for her search.

Academy Award-winner Paltrow's search follows the roots of her father's (producer Bruce Paltrow), paternal line back to a long line of rabbis named Paltrowicz from northeastern Poland and the towns of Suwalki, Lomza and nearby shtetls.

The show's researchers were able to tap into JRI-Poland's online database as the starting point in documenting Paltrow's ancestry. The website has 90 record entries for Paltrow's ancestors and the WDYTYA team said "JRI Poland is a wonderful resource for anyone researching Jewish Polish ancestry and was invaluable during the research for the Gwyneth Paltrow episode."

Founded in 1995, JRI-Poland was an outgrowth of Montrealer Stanley Diamond's need for access to Jewish vital records of the former Lomza Gubernia area of Poland for research into his family's genetic history. Diamond is Executive Director and the organization has a global board, hundreds of volunteers

serving thousands of researchers, funded by groups and genealogists around the world.

JRI-Poland is creating searchable on-line indices of Jewish records from current and former territories of Poland. The vast database of records going back to the late 18th century belies the misleading notion all the Jewish records of Poland were destroyed in World War II.

The searchable database has indices to 4.2 million records from more than 550 towns, with thousands added every month, vital records and censuses from the Polish State Archives and other sources both inside and outside of Poland. The database also includes army draft lists, cemetery burial indices, ghetto death records, birth, marriage and death announcements in newspapers in Poland, and more.

JRI-Poland has been recognized by the medical and scientific communities for the potential benefit for Ashkenazic families trying to trace medical histories, particularly those at increased risk for hereditary conditions and diseases.

The JRI-Poland database is an **absolutely essential resource** for any researcher with roots in any part of current day Poland and some areas of pre-WWII Poland that are now in part of other countries. The database tools make it easy for a researcher to identify potentially relevant records and obtain copies of those records either from the Polish State Archives or microfilms held by the LDS Family History Library. Check it out at [www.jri-poland.org](http://www.jri-poland.org)

## FINDING THAT MAIDEN NAME

By Debbi Korman

We want to trace our mother's families as well as those of our fathers. But sometimes we hit a brick wall trying to find a maiden name. Here are a few search tips, some of which I found in a recent article on the subject from Ancestry.com.

**Check indexes to marriage licenses and the marriage licenses themselves.** Marriage indexes often cross reference the name of the groom and the bride. Find the right "him" and you'll get her, too. The marriage record itself will nearly always also give the names of the bride & groom's parents. So, never stop at the index.

**Check census records.** The bride may have literally been the girl next door. With knowledge about the bride's age, or the first name of any person in her family, you might find that she was living near the groom. Other residents of a household might also be relatives.

**Check newspaper articles: obituaries, engagement and marriage announcements, and divorce notices.** Newspaper articles and notices are excellent sources of maiden names. Sometimes the reference is not direct. For example, in an obituary the maiden name might not be listed, but reference might be made to the woman's surviving sibling, father or cousin. There may be many leads in other types of articles about your ancestor.



**Check immigration records, passport records and naturalization records.** If the woman immigrated after she was married, the ship manifest might reflect the name of the relative with whom she was living in Europe before she immigrated. Passport and naturalization records also might reflect maiden names or, the witnesses to these records might have been relatives on the woman's side of the family.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW JGSO MEMBERS

Randi Alberts-Markiz  
Roberta B. Altmark  
Cheryl Clahr  
Lesile Peltz

## JEWISH RECORDS INDEXING- POLAND ANNOUNCES NEW DATA

From a post on JRI-PL SIG

JRI-Poland has posted a new batch of indices. As researchers of Polish Jewish ancestry are aware, Jewish Records Indexing - Poland creates indices of Jewish vital records from two prime sources. They are:

\* LDS (Mormon) microfilms of Jewish records, generally ending in the 1860s to 1870s. These are indexed under JRI-Poland's Shtetl CO-OP project.

\* Index pages purchased from the Polish State Archives or indices created by archival staff (prior to November 2006). These are for Jewish records that were not filmed by the LDS. These are indexed under the JRI-Poland PSA project.

New and/or updated files with approximately 73,580 index entries have been added to the JRI-Poland database. The "new" data was previously indexed under the PSA project and is now \*finally\* funded and eligible to go on the database. (For a few towns, many years of additional data is now online.)

The new and/or updated data is from the following towns:

Brzesko  
Czyzewo  
Frampol

Gostynin (Books of Residents)  
Grabowiec  
Hrubieszow  
Jarczow  
Jozefow Bilgorajski  
Krasnobrod  
Krasnystaw  
Lancut (1910 Census)  
Laszczow  
Leczna  
Nowy Sacz  
Nowy Wisnicz  
Nowy Zmigrod  
Raciaz (Books of Residents)  
Radymno  
Sokolow Malopolski  
Szczepieszyn  
Tarnobrzeg  
Tomaszow Lubelski  
Turobin  
Uchanie  
Warszawa  
Wysokie (in the Zamosc area)  
Zamosc  
Zolkiewka

Except where noted, the new/ updated data signifies indices to birth, marriage and death records.

The records for a number of these towns are located in the Zamosc branch of the Polish State Archives and a separate announcement is being made concerning these records by Zamosc Archive Coordinator, Shelley Pollero.

Note: The Online Status column in the Your Town pages has not yet been updated and so the new data is not yet reflected.

JRI-Poland's searchable database is at: [www.jri-poland.org](http://www.jri-poland.org)

## CONTACTS FROM DNA TESTING LEAD TO IRISH RECORDS

By Nadine Goldfoot

I'm so excited I can't stand it. Through DNA testing I did through "23 & Me", I found a Mr. Levin in Canada who shares some of my genes. As it turns out, Mr. Levin is a pretty good researcher and with the few facts that I gave to him, he was able to find records of the 1893 marriage of Nathan Abraham Goldfoot in Dublin Ireland! This might be MY grandfather, Nathan Goldfoot.

Mr. Levin sent me a link to the marriage index on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and told me that I could order the complete record from the General Record office of Ireland.

I had not been able to find information about my grandfather on my own. I knew that my grandfather was married more than once and that he had been in Ireland. Several years ago another researcher discovered that a Nathan Goldfoot, in 1893, had traveled through the port of Londonderry, Ireland, and boarded the ship Parisian, headed for Winnipeg via Quebec. We determined that this Nathan spent several months of 1893 Ireland before sailing.

So now I have two mysteries. Is this Nathan Goldfoot MY Nathan Goldfoot? And, what happened to the first wife?

Goldfoot is a rare surname. Knowing that my grandfather's first name was

Nathan, and that he had been in Ireland, makes me nearly certain that I have the right person. I have also learned that this Nathan had the middle name of Abraham, which is an important name in the Goldfoot branch that immigrated to South Africa. The name Abraham could connect those two branches.

Now, for the price of 10 euros plus postage, I have mailed my request for the marriage certificate. I hope that the certificate contains much more information than I already have.

## **CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS IS NOW ONLINE**

Abstracted from Nu? What's New?

Back issues of the *Canadian Jewish News* (1960–1993) are now online and searchable at <http://multiculturalcanada.ca/>.

Other publications at the site include the *Canadian Jewish Review*, *Jewish Western Bulletin* and other Canadian ethnic newspapers. Searched word(s) are not highlighted on the results page. To search a specific newspaper or group of newspapers, click "More Options" which is below the "Search the Collections" header. In the resulting window, check off the publications of interest.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JGSO's library collection is available to the public at Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. JGSO members have check-out privileges. Call (503) 246-8831 for library hours.**

\*\*\*\*\*



## **ON LINE TELEPHONE AND BUSINESS DIRECTORIES**

Abstracted from posts on *Nu? What's New?*

Logan Kleinwaks' genealogy indexer website at <http://genealogyindexer.org> is quickly becoming a fantastic source of old telephone directories and business directories for European cities and some non-European countries. Using these directories is a great way to pinpoint your ancestors in particular times and locations, and/or find out what their trades or occupations were.

The site includes a common index to nearly 400 different historical directories mostly from Poland, Galicia and Romania with some from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Russia, Bukowina, South America and United Kingdom. Recently added were the 1943 Hungary Telephone Directory, a 1939/1940 Warsaw telephone directory and a 1940 Latvian telephone directory.

Of course, not everyone is listed in the directories. However, it is surprising how many ancestors actually are included, and for that reason, it is worth the time to search the directories.

There are images of each page of the directories, and internal searches for names may be done for each page. You may select the country to be searched. Then, once the results come up, there are arrows under the location shown at the top of the page to advance to more pages. The site

is user friendly, but it takes time to do your searches.

### **1943 Hungarian Telephone Directory**

The 1943 Hungary Telephone Directory is a telephone directory and small trade directory. It includes listing for many towns in Hungary, not just Budapest. Upper Hungary & Carpathian Business Directories.

The Upper Hungary and Carpathian Ruthenia Business Directories are in the process of being scanned but the majority of the pages are available. You cannot do a name search for the whole book, but you can do a name search for each page. *[I looked through the directories, found the towns where I thought I might find persons of interest, and then I did a name search. That was a successful strategy for me. Ed.]*

The Carpathian directories which are available are:

1925, 1930, 1937 and 1938 Carpathian Ruthenia Business Directories and the 1924/1925 Romania Business and Organizational Directory, Vol. II (excl. Bucharest) . There is a 1970 Bucharest telephone directory available.

### **Warsaw Directories**

The 1939/1940 Warsaw telephone directory is from Yad Vashem's collection. Making this directory so easily accessible to the public was made possible by the generous cooperation of Yad Vashem.

In addition to Warsaw, the directory also includes telephone listings from some towns in the surrounding area. Many of the entries include a personal name, occupation, street address, and telephone number. There is also a small (but not comprehensive) Warsaw business directory at the end.

The directory is divided into several sections, the most valuable being section III. They are:

Anin, Babice, Baniocha, Bialoleka Dworska, Blonie, Boernerowo, Brwinow, Choszczowka, Chotomow, Dabrowka, Debe Wielkie, Falenica, Golkow, Grodzisk, Henrykow, Jablonna, Jeziorna, Jozefow k. Blonia, Jozefow k. Otwocka, Kampinos, Karczew, Klembow, Kobylka, Laski, Legionowo, Leszno k. Blonia, Lomianki, Marki, Miedzeszyn, Miedzylesie, Milanowek, Milosna, Mlociny, Modlin, Nadarzyn, Nieporet, Nowy Dwor, Okuniew, Otwock, Ozarow, Piaseczno, Piastow, Podkowa Lesna, Pomiechówek, Pruszkow, Pustelnik, Pyry, Radosc, Radzymin, Raszyn, Rembertow, Serock, Skolimow, Stara Milosna, Struga, Sulejowek, Swider, Ursus, Wawer, Wesola, Wiazowna, Wilanow, Wlochy, Wolomin, Zabki, Zaborow k. Blonia, Zakroczym, Zegrze, Zielonka, and Zlotoklos

For those who wish to browse Section III, the entries begin with Anin on image 560 – <http://genealogyindexer.org/view/193940W/560>

Although the telephone listings are mostly alphabetized by surname, being able to search the full text of this directory can yield information that would be difficult to find by merely browsing by surname. You can search a street address or occupation to find surnames. Also, you can search by Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex or using the advanced methods shown at <http://genealogyindexer.org/advanced>

This website also includes many other directories specific to Warsaw or with coverage including Warsaw covering years 1939/1940, 1938/1939, 1930, 1913/1914, 1909, 1908, 1870, 1869, 1863, 1852, 1826, 1821, 1807/1808, and 1784.

### **ON-LINE 1912 NEW YORK CITY & LONG ISLAND ALMANAC**

From a post on Jewish-Gen

Google eBooks has added an interesting 1912 almanac which contains valuable historic information. It is the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle Almanac 1912: a book of information, general of the world, and special of New York city and Long Island*.

One section is “Hebrew Societies” not only lists the names and addresses of the societies, but names of persons associated with those societies. You may search of individual names in the book. The book is at: <http://tinyurl.com/3j26mht> or [http://books.google.com/books?id=E8qWAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA652&source=gbs\\_selected](http://books.google.com/books?id=E8qWAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA652&source=gbs_selected)

**ON-LINE BOHEMIA AND  
MORAVIA RESEARCH SOURCE –  
TOLEDOT.ORG**

From a post on *Eastman's Online  
Genealogy Newsletter*

Julius Müller started a nonprofit Jewish family history center based in Prague, the Czech Republic, called Toledot, the Hebrew word for "descendants." The organization's goal is to coordinate genealogy projects, develop Jewish genealogy databases and preserve Jewish heritage for future generations. The center offers research tools for people looking for information on their Moravian and Bohemian ancestors. The organization's website, which includes its databases, is <http://www.toledot.org>

Toledot's main activity is digitalization. Müller is currently putting a collection of books online from the genealogical organization Jewish Familiants of Bohemia, which contains three generations of descendants from the Czech Republic. There are 170 books from Bohemia and 50 from Moravia. Müller is about halfway through the Bohemian project and has received support from the Jewish Museum in Prague, among other organizations.

You can read more in an article by Jacy Meyer in the Prague Post, an English-language newspaper published in Prague at <http://www.praguepost.com/tempo/8140-nonprofit-helps-jewish-families-trace-their-ancestry.html>

**Jewish Genealogical Society  
of Oregon (JGSO)**  
[JGSOregon@gmail.com](mailto:JGSOregon@gmail.com)

Membership is open to all, regardless of religious background or level of experience. Members range from those just starting in genealogy to long-time family researchers. Membership is for the calendar year.

Send checks to:

**Jewish Genealogical Society of  
Oregon**  
**PO Box 19736**  
**Portland, Oregon 97280**

Yearly dues  
\$23 for individuals  
\$30 for family  
\$10 student

Membership benefits include a free copy of *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy: A Handbook for Beginners*  
Quarterly newsletter *Shalsholet*  
Meeting notices  
Monthly meetings Sept-June.  
Access to JGSO reference library with checkout privileges.

**JGSO BOARD**

Barbara Hershey, President  
Golda Edwards, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Debbi Korman, Secretary & Newsletter  
Joe Mayer, Treasurer  
Toby Blake, Membership  
Dorothy Yellin, Librarian  
Nadene Goldfoot, Publicity  
Barbara Hershey, Programs  
Ron Doctor, Member at Large

**From:**  
**Jewish Genealogical Society of**  
**Oregon**  
**PO Box 19736**  
**Portland, Oregon 97280**

**To:**

**Address Correction Requested**