

SHALSHELET

THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF OREGON

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Excerpt from **Ukraine Journal, Section 2** by **Ron Doctor**

Editor's Note: After a few days in Warsaw, Poland, Ron Doctor and his brother Ken, and their guide, Alex Dunai, have crossed the border into Ukraine. In this account, Ron and Ken visit their ancestral towns of Kremenets and Novy Oleksinets. First however, they try to extract information from the State Archives of Ternopil Oblast. This turns out to be no easy task! But eventually their efforts are richly rewarded.

Thursday, September 5, 2002

The Ternopil Archives

The Archives are in an old Orthodox Church. The Church still is in use, but the Archives occupy an unused wing of it. We enter through a massive front door that leads into a dark vestibule...electricity is in short supply. There is a closed door (*all doors are closed!*) leading from the vestibule to a hallway. The first thing we encounter is a man at a desk. He is the guard, somewhat unkempt and unshaven, and no clothing or badge to indicate that he is a guard... but you know that he is. Alex exchanges a few words with him, the key words being "the Director", and we are allowed to pass.

We are there to meet with Director of the Ternopil Archives, Bohdan Khavarivsky. Alex asks the Director's Secretary to tell him we are there. She is a little surly, but eventually she goes into his office and announces us. He is *busy*, so we all wait on wooden chairs in the semi-dark hallway outside her office. After about a half hour, Alex goes back to the Secretary. When he returns, he says that the Director will see us now, but first wants to meet privately with Alex.

...Eventually, Ken and I are allowed into the Director's office. First, we are led into the Secretary's office where she opens a metal door that swings into her room. Behind the metal door is a wooden door that swings inward into the Director's office. Mr. Khavarivsky appears to be pleasant, but we learn quickly enough that you get nothing from his Archives without his permission...and you don't get his permission unless you agree to his fees.. Alex has had considerable experience with him.

We enter, exchange pleasantries and small talk, give him a few small gifts, and explain what we are trying to find and why. He says, of course we can have access to the records, but that we will have to pay a fee for copying, and it could be expensive, depending on how many records we want. And he keeps saying that these records are "*unique*". Apparently that is a code word to indicate he requires a significant payment.

The Director appears to have been all ready for us. He pulls out a map of Kremenets. He shows us several books he has on his desk about Kremenets. He shows us one of the 19th century census lists. (The records we want to start with are "Rivizskaya Skazka" lists, census records from various years in the 19th century; although taken at irregular intervals, they can be a rich source of information.)

(Continued on page 6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Welcome to Our New Members:**

Karolina Bedacht
 Kenneth J. Doctor
 Golda Edwards
 Yaac Feuer
 Jane Gordon
 David Hurwitz
 Alec Karty
 Rebecca Kopp
 Peggy Maduff
 Jennifer & Alex Sokol-Blosser
 Marcia Tayler
 Isaac Tevet

Have You Moved or Changed Your E-mail Address?

Please contact Ron Doctor at rondoctor@earthlink.net

PLEASE**Send In Your Membership Renewal Dues****JGSO BOARD MEMBERS**

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Webmaster: Christine Olsen

Mailing list maven: Walt Hellman

JGSO is affiliated with the
 Int'l Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

JGSO**2003 Meeting Schedule**

Thursday, **February 20th**

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Neveh Shalom Library

“Genealogical Resources at the
 Neveh Shalom Library”

Members will become familiar with information
 available in our library collection.

Please note day and date change.

Wednesday, **March 19th**

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Mittleman Jewish Community Center

“Ten Steps to Successful Genealogy:
 Getting Back to Basics”

Identify your sources, organize your data, what
 to do when you hit a dead end.

Sunday, **April 27th**

JGSO Annual Brunch Meeting*

10 AM—12:15 PM

Mittleman Jewish Community Center

Charge: \$5.00 (Reservations Required)

If you think you will attend. Please call

Rebecca Kopp at 503-244-8185

“To New York or...Oregon?”

Migration Patterns of East European Jews”

Speaker is noted author Ellen Eisenberg.

* This is a special meeting.

Regular Meetings are free to JGSO members.

\$2 requested donation for non-members.

E-mail questions to rondoctor@earthlink.net

For updates and further details visit us at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~orjgs/>

Upcoming *Board Meetings:*

(7 PM) Mar. 12, April 23

(*members always welcome*)

Please join us!

From the President's Desk

I think the saying goes something like, "With rank comes privilege". As president of JGSO I have the dubious privilege of collecting the JGSO mail. However, that does allow me to be the first to read the many wonderful newsletters we receive. I am constantly amazed at the useful information they contain. All of these newsletters are available in the Neveh Shalom Library with the rest of our library collection.

The *Shem Tov* from Toronto, Canada tells about the Jewish heritage of Johann Strauss (Dec. 2002 Vol. XVIII #4). I learn how to care for valuable documents in the Greater Boston *Mass-Pocha* (Winter 2002 vol. XI, #4). Anyone researching the Holocaust would find the publication *Survivors of the Shoah* of interest (Winter 2002). I counted 10 pages of information about new and updated resources in the latest issue of the Greater Washington, DC newsletter *MISPACHA* (Winter 2002-03 vol. 22 #2). These and many, many other recent publications await your perusal. I hope more of our members will use and find them of value. Besides our excellent, and ever-growing library, under the eye of Harvey Klevit, Library Chairman, and Synagogue Librarian, Hilde Jacobs, there is also the JGSO web page. If you have not as yet visited this excellent site that volunteer Christine Olsen oversees, please go to: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orjgs>. The site also lists many of the books in our library. One of the benefits of membership is the ability to list the names and shtetls you are researching in the "Family Finder".

This year our April Sunday brunch will be a special treat. Ellen Eisenberg, professor at Willamette University in Salem and author of *Jewish Agricultural Colonies in New Jersey 1882-1920*, will give a different twist to immigration patterns from Eastern Europe, as well as tell about the little know Am Olam colony, New Odessa, that was established here in Douglas County, Oregon in 1883. This is a fascinating tale that you will not want to miss. This year we will be asking you to let us know if you "think" you will be attending. We certainly don't want to run out of food!

And by now I hope everyone knows about, or seen, the wonderful (or would fabulous be a better description?) third edition of *Getting Started* by Ron Doctor. Whether you are a beginner or more advanced, you will find up-to-date and useful information to help you in your family research. They will be available for purchase at all future meetings. (\$12 to members)

This year the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) conference will be held in Washington DC July 20-25. I hope Oregon will be well-represented. Not only will you find the 5 days crammed, and I mean crammed, full of wonderful new information, you will also come away inspired and fired up to work even harder in finding those elusive relatives.

For more information: www.jewishgen.org/dc2003/.

- Sandra Garfinkel Shapiro

From Our Webmaster

The JGSO website is at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orjgs>. This website is for JGSO membership and we welcome your contributions. You can read and write illustrated articles about genealogical trips overseas, and share your personal family history. There is a short Oregon Jewish History complete with a few pages of oral history from Shirley Tanzor's Portland Jewish Oral History Project in the 1970's. We have a Family Finder page where we encourage you to list people you are searching for. You can also find tools to help with your research including step-by-step instructions on how to use the census free and from your home with a library card. We keep back copies of all JGSO newsletters online.

If you would like to contribute an article, or have suggestions for the website, please contact me at: Christine-Olsen@attbi.com.

- Christine Olsen

Important New Acquisition by JGSO at Neveh Shalom Library

Where Once We Walked: Revised Edition
A Guide to the Jewish Communities
Destroyed in the Holocaust
 by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack
 With Alexander Sharon

We are pleased to announce the arrival of this invaluable resource at our Jewish Genealogy section of the Neveh Shalom Feldstein Library.

The award-winning *Where Once We Walked (WOWW)* has been completely revised and updated to reflect the changes in the political geography of Central and Eastern Europe since *WOWW* was published in 1991. There are also a number of improvements to the original edition noted below. The new edition identifies more than 23,500 towns in Central and Eastern Europe where Jews lived before the Holocaust. Includes 17,500 alternate names. Gives latitude/longitude, Jewish population before the Holocaust and cites as many as 50 books that reference each town.

Some of the numerous improvements are:

4,500 more synonyms. An additional 4,500 synonyms for towns (new total: 17,500) were made possible due to our discovery of two remarkable name-change gazetteers that gave the pre-World War I names for towns that were once part of the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires.

Hundreds of towns located. Hundreds of towns that could not be located in *WOWW* have now been located and their exact latitudes/longitudes have been added.

800 towns added. The original version of *WOWW* was rather rigorous, containing nearly 23,000 towns. This new work includes an additional 800.

Town names changed to contemporary names. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, thousands of town names in Belarus and Ukraine have been changed from their Russian names to Byelorussian and Ukrainian names.

Expanded and improved soundex. The Daitch-Mokotoff soundex index has been expanded and improved. Certain Polish and Romanian letters that do not sound identical to their English equivalents have been double coded.

Eleven new sources of information about the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe have been added including all the towns identified in Miriam Weiner's books *Jewish Roots in Poland* and *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova*, the new *Pinkas Hakehillot* (Encyclopedia of Towns), *Finding Your Jewish Roots in Galicia*, and others.

Many original sources have been updated, such as the yizkor book collection, the holdings of the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library, and those of the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People.

This important addition to our collection can be borrowed from the library by JGSO members.

- Harvey D. Klevit

Also New in our JGSO Library Collection

These two excellent new reference books are a wealth of information. They are the first two in a series. Both are by Jonathan Shea and William Hoffman. They are:

“In Their Words: A Genealogist’s Translation Guide - Volume I: Polish”

“In Their Words: A Genealogist’s Translation Guide—Volume II: Russian”

And....Thank you, Harvey Klevit for all your work on the new Shalshet logo!

The Value of a Family Web Site and E-Mail Distribution List by Harvey D. Klevit, M.D.

Last year Barbara Walters reported on 20/20 quintuplets who had been followed by ABC News from birth until the day they entered college. Their surnames rang a bell, and lo and behold, I found some Pisners in my Klivitzky family tree. I sent out an "all points bulletin" on our family web site and e-mail distribution list. I was rapidly informed by several cousins back east that, of course dummy, these now famous quints were related to us; they were my second cousins twice removed! I was able to find a picture of four of them as they entered University of Maryland's freshman class. The picture resides on our Klivitzky Family Web Page at:

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/k/l/e/Harvey-D-Klevit/PHOTO/0054photo.html>

It was *borrowed* from The University of Maryland Web site which explains: "... Pisner(s), followed by a camera crew from ABC's "20/20" newsmagazine, moved into residence halls last August and began the standard slate of classes required of most freshmen. ... are pursuing majors in communication, One plans to study architecture, and another, ... his high school's "Artist of the Year," will apply his skills in graphic design. The only one to stray from the pack is the youngest, who will attend Salisbury University on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Magazines and newspapers have documented every major milestone in their lives, from birth to their first school days to getting their driver's licenses. They have made national television appearances with the likes of Barbara Walters, Ricki Lake, Phil Donahue and Leeza Gibbons. The quints even starred in a car commercial in which they all piled into a Kia sedan and drove around their neighborhood, demonstrating that even big families like small cars". (University of Maryland Web Site)

Producing a family web site is not difficult. A number of proprietary genealogy software packages provide space on their web servers for individuals using their products. I have been quite pleased with the one I was able to create using Family Tree Maker 8.0. One simply clicks on "Publish Family Tree to Internet" and follows on-screen instructions. One can then publish a large number of family photographs, memorabilia, links to related family web sites as well as a searchable family tree. To peruse my web site go to:

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/k/l/e/Harvey-D-Klevit/?Welcome=1043285879>

Personal web sites and e-mail communication can be a great way to find out more about your family. I am convinced that people are more inclined to share genealogical information via the internet than by the US mail...laziness and the cost of a 37-cent stamp can be major deterrents.

JewishGen Is Now Part of the Museum of Jewish Heritage

As of January 1st, 2003, *the* Internet site that we rely on so extensively became a division of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust located in Battery Park, Lower Manhattan, New York City. JewishGen founder Susan King will continue to focus her attention on growth and improvement as Managing Director of JewishGen. In addition, two longtime key volunteers, Warren Blatt and Michael Tobias, have been hired as full-time employees of the Museum.

In her announcement on December 31st, King expressed her desire to "provide as seamless a transition as possible". She says "We are committed to focusing our energies on ensuring that valuable resources and research information will be made available to the Jewish community worldwide as quickly as possible".

(Excerpt from Ron Doctor's Ukraine Journal, continued from page 1)

From the side of his desk he pulls out a very large book, one of the archival books of Kremenets records, allowing us to glance through it and photograph the *title page*. When we ask if we can examine the book more closely, he says we can, but we will have to do it in his office. That isn't practical, so Alex asks if we may examine the census and family lists in the reading room. After considerable discussion, the Director allows us to do that. But first, he would have to order retrieval of the other records we want to see and arrange for a worker to be in the room with us. (He is afraid we will take photos of the records, Alex said.) So, we agree. Can we do it now? No. It's too late. Come back tomorrow!

Kremenets - Our First Glimpse

We still had a few hours of daylight, so we decided to drive out to Kremenets to look around. The countryside from Ternopil begins as mostly flat farmland. Not huge farms that stretch for miles as in the U.S. but much smaller plots of land, about the size of two large residential lots in the U.S. There are no fences. Everyone knows which land belongs to whom. This is a legacy of the communist system when the state owned all the land.

As we approach Kremenets, the countryside changes to rolling hills. Soon, we are in a hilly, forested area. Very pretty. Kremenets is in a valley and along its hillsides. The town is a mix of new (1950's-'70's) and old (19th and early 20th century) buildings. At the town center is a large park. Much building renovation is going on. Alex starts asking around about the Jewish cemetery. We get conflicting directions, and soon find ourselves on an old dirt road pocked with potholes. We pull aside onto a grass edge. There is an old woman working the land across a ravine. Alex calls to her and asks about the cemetery. "Up the hill", she says. Interesting. Which hill, and how do we get up it? She gets very agitated when we apparently head the wrong way. A car approaches. Alex flags it down and asks directions. "Up the hill", the guy says. "Which hill?", Alex asks. He points to one. We start off in that direction, but the old woman is yelling, "No, no, not there!" We go anyway. Then, off to our left, up the hill, we see the first tombstones.

Over a rise in the hill is the Jewish cemetery. It is huge. It stretches from near the base of the hill in the valley close to town, all the way up to the top, and this is steep terrain. The brush is more overgrown than I thought it would be. My plan to take a lot of pictures of individual tombstones will not work. It would be a helter-skelter approach, and I don't want to waste time doing that. Ken gets a number of good photos of the terrain and of individual matzevot though. We walk through the cemetery. Alex says he never has seen one this extensive...It's starting to get dark, so we head back down the hill to the car. Alex gingerly proceeds down the "road".

Friday, September 6, 2002

Back to the Ternopil Archives - A Very Exciting Discovery

Early Friday morning, Alex and I return to the Archives. The Director has not yet appeared, so the staff won't bring us the records. Finally, a half hour later he comes in. It turns out he has not yet asked his staff to retrieve the records. He and Alex have another private session. While we wait, I catch a glimpse of some women in a small office. They are huddled around a tea service, certainly not working, whatever work is supposed to be. Alex explains later that people here haven't been paid in months. So, as in many places in Ukraine, they do "pretend work for pretend pay". Soon our records appear and we settle into the reading room, watched, not too carefully, by a young woman who is totally bored.

We get to work on the records. Alex works on one set of books. I work on another. These "books" are 1-1/2 to 2 feet thick! (see photo at the end of this on-line Shalshélet.) They contain original census records (not copies) from 1858. So, here we are handling 150-year-old paper without gloves! This would never be allowed in the U.S. When we find records we want, we insert pieces of paper to mark the pages we want copied. Time flies by. Ken comes in and agrees to look through another book. Before we know it, it is lunchtime and we must leave the Archives. We have found a number of records, but there is still much to do. The books we're using are placed in a locked cabinet and we head out to lunch, but not before Alex shows me a record he found from the 6th Revizskaya Skazska for 1811. This is a census record for my Vurer family from Yampol. It takes my Vurer line back to my 6th great-grandfather, Aron Vurer, born before 1735! The Vurers lived in Yampol for more that 270 years before my grandmother Reizl emigrated. I am so excited that I can hardly contain myself. This is success beyond my wildest dreams!

At an outdoor café we have a good lunch of Ukrainian borsch and potato varynikis and enjoy people-watching. About ninety minutes later we return to the Archives to continue our research. It seems that we just resumed our work, when suddenly, our room monitor announces that the Archives will close in 15 minutes. The Archives closes at 3 PM on Fridays. Alex enters into some intense discussions in rapid Ukrainian. He ends up marching into the Director's office while I continue searching for records. When he returns, he says we have to close up everything and take the books that have records we want to the Director's office. There we will get the records copied...*after hours*.

Everyone leaves. The Archives is locked up. We are alone. The Director comes out of his office into the Secretary's office where the copy machine is. Alex shows him what we want copied. In all, there are about 25 records on 50 pages. The Director says something in Ukrainian, which Alex translates as, "So *many* pages. This will be very expensive. These records are *unique*." "How much?" we ask. He hems and haws, and finally says, "\$100... American." Alex looks at me. I look at Alex. I'm not sure what to say since I don't know how much English the Director understands. I mention that it sounds like an awful lot of money. Alex indicates to me that we can't bargain with this guy. So I agree. The Director says, "You have to pay in advance...now." Out comes my wallet. I put a \$100 bill on the desk in front of the Director. He picks it up.

He looks at the first page to be copied. It contains about six records, including the one we want. He puts the page on the copy machine, then pulls out two pieces of paper to mask off everything except the one record we want. Alex explains that the Director is afraid we will sell the other records on the page, so he doesn't want us to have them. He makes a copy...but it is the wrong record. So he goes through the process again. This goes on for about 3 copies. Then he stops, turns to Alex and says this is taking more time than he thought it would, and "there are so many records, and they are *unique*." I can feel my wallet getting ready to jump out of my pocket. Sure enough, he says he can't finish this today; we'll have to come back on Monday, and the cost will be a little higher. How much higher? Not much. Certainly less than \$50. Reluctantly we agree. Alex explains that we can't come back on Monday. They negotiate and settle on Sunday morning. We will meet the Director at the front door at 10 AM.

The Jewish Community of Ternopil, Erev Rosh Hashonah

Back to the hotel to rest and clean up a bit. We have been invited to a Jewish community dinner.....When we arrive the hall is filled with tables and the tables are filled with people. The dinner is potluck. There are about 100 to 150 people here...out of about 400 in the Ternopil Jewish community. Most are elderly. Notably missing, except for a handful, are people in their 20s and 30s. Later we're told that age group has immigrated to Israel, and they continue to emigrate. So the community keeps getting older and older....We are directed to a wooden bench with a few vacant seats. Alex, Ken and I are given yarmulkas to wear, but Alex doesn't need one. He pulls one out of his pocket. It's hard to make conversation since the people around us (all elderly) don't speak English and my Russian is not sufficient to hold a conversation. The man across from me tries to speak to me in Yiddish, but I don't understand. Neither does Alex, so he reverts to Russian. Alex sits between Ken and me and tries to interpret two running conversations.

There are some people giving inspirational talks at a microphone in front of the hall. We can't see them. A pillar blocks our view. There is a women's choir singing songs like *Jerusalem of Gold* with electronic keyboard accompaniment. They are actually pretty good, but speakers and choir are ignored as everyone is talking. (Jewish gatherings are the same the world over!) There is not a trace of a religious service for Rosh Hashonah...not even when one of the two Chasidic young men in attendance takes the microphone. Doesn't matter. No one is listening anyway. Then there is a Shabbat candle lighting ceremony. Two young women and an older woman say the prayers over the candles and bread. No one pays attention...and this ceremony is supposed to be at the beginning of dinner, not the end, but they just do what they can do. Still no signs of a Rosh Hashonah service. There is no Rabbi for the community. The nearest Rabbi is in L'viv (a two hour drive). After more songs by the choir and a couple of solos, dinner comes to an end.

Outside we meet some leaders of the Jewish community, among them, David Feinstein. He is recognized by the Jewish Agency (which distributes food and money) as the leader of the Jewish community of Ternopil Oblast, including the 20 or so Jews in Kremenets. We'll meet with him to discuss restoration of the Kremenets cemetery

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on Sunday, after Alex and I finish getting our copies at the Archives. As we stand around talking, I notice some teenagers nearby. They are curious, and listen attentively to our conversation. One of the kids is wearing a t-shirt that catches my eye. The writing on it is in English. It says, "We are all one". When I look closer, I see that this is a "Jews for Jesus" t-shirt. I don't know if the kid understands the message he is promoting. I point it out to Ken. No one else seems to notice....The evening ends, and we return to Hotel Ternopil.

Saturday, September 7, 2002

Kremenets

This is our day to meet with Mayor Andriy Andriyevich, Larisa Klyuch, the Kremenets Jewish Community relief coordinator, and Tamara Senina, who is associated with the Kremenets Museum. (Tamara is building a new museum exhibit about Isaac Stern who was born in Kremenets.) The meeting is held around a conference table. The Mayor explains that he wants to create a Kremenets historic district that will include the Jewish cemetery. They want to put up plaques at locations of historical interest. They have begun an inventory of such places. Ken asks how many Jewish sites are in their inventory. None. What about the Great Synagogue? It no longer exists. The site is now part of a park. Hmmm. I had been told that the Great Synagogue is now a bus station. No. What is now the bus station was a different Synagogue.

They want our Kremenets group to pay for plaques at former Jewish sites. Their estimated cost starts out at \$50 per plaque and gradually escalates, depending on size and materials. However, I'm much more interested in taking care of the cemetery first. We're not going to have money to do everything they would like us to do. We agree to do the cemetery project on a "phased" basis. The Mayor will have his staff work up a cost estimate for clearing the cemetery of brush and mapping the layout. Larisa might be able to get some Kiev students to transcribe the Hebrew on the tombstones. The Mayor's staff will draft a letter for me to review and sign. He figures my endorsement will help get an historic district created. If that can be done, then there may be Ukrainian federal money available to pay for parts of the project. Our Kremenets Shtetl Co-op will begin a fundraising effort.....We agree to meet again when I return to Kremenets near the end of our trip.

After the meeting, Larisa, Tamara, Alex, Ken and I have lunch at a local café...we walk over to the site where the Great Synagogue once stood. It was once on a street full of houses. That street is gone now. The park that replaces it fronts the main street of Kremenets across from City Hall. From there we walk over to the Museum. They have done a remarkable job of putting together WW II exhibits - including ones about the partisans and about the Jews of Kremenets....This could be a significant tourist attraction.

Next stop is the site of the mass grave, where 15,000 Jews were murdered by the Nazis. A stark monument marks the isolated site surrounded by small farm plots in an industrial area off a dirt road. Larisa tells us that funds had been appropriated for the monument to be surrounded by parkland but that the previous local officials had siphoned off the money. That's why there should be control over the cemetery project disbursements.

Novy Oleksinets

Now we are going to visit Novy Oleksinets, to walk the land our Doctor (Diokhter) ancestors once walked. We drive into the center of town and park near City Hall. While Ken and I are taking pictures, a horse-drawn wagon comes clapping up. These wagons are common throughout Ukraine. They are kind of V-shaped, but with a flat bottom. Some have old wooden wheels, but most have rubber wheels that look like small auto tires. There is a bench seat in front, and some have a bench seat that runs the length of the wagon. An older man with rough, leathery tanned face and hands drives the wagon. A young boy of 9 or 10 and a woman are in the back of the wagon. We ask if we can take pictures. They happily agree. We ask them through Alex if there are any Jews in town. No. The last one left some years ago. Is there a Jewish cemetery? This elicits a lot of rapid conversation. Two women amble up and join the discussion. No, there isn't a cemetery anymore—but there used to be one. After more discussion, Alex convinces the man to show us where the cemetery was. He wants to take us there in his wagon, but Alex says we will drive, and he can ride with us. He is reluctant at first, but then jumps into the car. He assures us the boy in the wagon will be ok.

Off we go in search of the site of the Jewish cemetery...onto narrow, rutted dirt roads, into farmland. We pull up near a small corn patch. He points out the site to us. It is farmland. Not a sign of the cemetery. The Nazis destroyed it he says. Down the road comes an old woman, on foot. When she approaches we begin talking to

her. She remembers the cemetery, but it wasn't here. It was about 100 feet more up the road. We go look...still no indication. We ask permission to take her picture. She readily agrees. When we show her the picture on the digital camera, she is ecstatic. "You are like lords" she says. And she gives me a big hug. Close up, I can see little spiders crawling on her kerchief. The conversation continues, rather animated. She says there are tombstones remaining from the cemetery "up near the dam". Now our old man remembers, and says he will show us.

Off we go again to an area near a small earthen dam. Sure enough, there are a few tombstones lying there, half buried by mounds of undergrowth and debris. I try to clear some of the moss from the face of a tombstone. I can't see any readable inscription.... It's humbling to think one of these tombstones might well have been for one of my ancestors.

Sunday, September 8, 2002

Back to the Ternopil Archives...Again

Today we are meeting Director Khavarivsky to finish copying the records we found last Friday. We arrive at 10AM and wait for awhile, but he does not show up. Alex goes to call his home. When he returns, he says the Director has been tied up with personal matters but will be here shortly. About 15 minutes later he arrives. We go upstairs, into his Secretary's room. He looks at the stack of documents. He looks at us. Then he and Alex get into a discussion. There are so many documents...and they are "unique". Uh-oh. There is that word again. I know what's coming. He says, "This will cost more than I estimated on Friday." What a surprise. How much? On Friday he had said "less than \$50". Now he says it will cost \$90. I almost start bargaining with him, when I catch a glance from Alex. No bargaining. And, he wants the money in advance. I make a comment about this being too much. But I am prepared for this. I previously had taken a couple of hundred dollars from my money belt and put it in my wallet. I take out my wallet and start looking through the Hryvnas. The Director blanches, and says something to Alex. As I pull a \$100 bill from the wallet, Alex tells me the Director thought I was going to give him Ukrainian Hryvnas instead of dollars. I put the money on the desk. The Director picks it up. There is more discussion with Alex.

Now the Director goes to the copy machine and starts the whole masking/copying process again. When he mistakenly includes an additional record on the copy, he takes a pair of scissors and cuts out the record that isn't ours. Alex gets each copy from the Director, checks to be sure it is the one we want and hands it to me. I mark it to indicate the source of the record, and add it to my folder. When the Director sees the census records from Yampol, he remarks that he didn't know his Archives included Yampol records. In the 19th century, Yampol was in Volhynia Guberniya, much of which is now Ternopil Oblast. However, now Yampol is in Khmel'nitski Oblast. So, the Director figured that all Yampol records would be in the Khmel'nitski Oblast State Archives. There are so many records in these different Archives, and in the past, there was so little interest in them, that the Archivists really don't know what they have. Until funds become available for comprehensive indexing projects, this situation is likely to continue. The message to genealogists is—don't assume the records you seek are not in an Archive. There is a reasonable chance that records do exist but are not recorded on any lists, indexes, or catalogs.

Alex and I previously had talked about getting access to more records when we return to Ternopil next week. The problem is that the Director will be gone then. So, after we have our copies safely tucked away, Alex asks about getting access. The Director sends me out of the room again. Then after a few minutes, Alex calls me back in. Yes, the Director agrees that we can look at some records when we return, but not census records, because those are "unique". Instead, we can look at the Family Lists. He will leave written instructions with his staff giving us permission.

The days have been packed with emotion-laden events. This trip is overwhelming, but in a good kind of way. There are so many sights, sounds and events to absorb..... Tomorrow we leave for Kiev.

{to be continued}

In Honor of Elliot Axel's 70th Birthday
From his daughter, Lynne Fitzsimmons

UPCOMING EVENTS

JGSO MEETING

Thursday, February 20th
7:30 - 9:30 PM
Neveh Shalom Library
2900 SW Peaceful Lane
Portland, Oregon

“Genealogical Resources at the
Neveh Shalom Library”

Please Note: Place, Day and Date Change

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SHALSHELET

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Alex Dunai at the Ternopil Archives with census record books containing *original* documents.