

Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida (published quarterly)  
**MISHPOCHOLOGY Volume 8, Number 1 March 2003**

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**JGS of SW FL Board of Directors:**

President and Editor: Kim Sheintal klapshein@aol.com  
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Publicity: Lee Ruggles lee0614@juno.com

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Mishpochology is published quarterly by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida  
Letters to the editor, articles, cartoons, artwork, and queries pertaining to Jewish genealogy are welcome.  
New Feature: Brick Walls (see page 4)

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**Next Meeting of the JGS of SW FL**

**Date: Sunday, March 16, 2003**

**Time: 11:00 AM (NOTE THE EARLIER TIME)**

**Place: JCC, 582 S. McIntosh Road, Sarasota**

**Program: Judaica Heirloom "Show and Tell" with Roger Wilson**  
**RSVP for this meeting to Kim Sheintal 921-1433, klapshein@aol.com**

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**President's Shpiel**  
**by Kim Sheintal**

In addition to recording pedigree charts with names, dates, and places, it is a good idea to bring your past to life with cherished family stories, videos, and heirlooms.

When tracing your family's history, it is important to remember the importance of preserving not only the stories of the past, but also the stories of the living. Encourage family members to record memories. Write family memoirs and keep them in a notebook and add the stories that you hear from family. There are wonderful, journal-type books for sale that are full of thought-provoking questions and space for recording the sure-to-be cherished answers. Courses are available to help and encourage you to write these stories. Tell your family stories on a video for future generations to see and hear. Display your family heirlooms proudly in your home. It is important to pass your stories, videos, and heirlooms to future generations.

The Jewish Genealogical Society Meeting on Sunday, March 16 is the opening event of the "Kallah: A Festival of Jewish Living & Learning" at the Flanzer JCC in Sarasota and will feature Roger Wilson. Roger brings 25 years of experience as an antique collector and dealer of fine arts and antiques. He has been active in the antique business in Sarasota for 15 years and also engages in lecturing on antiques and collectibles throughout Southwest Florida. Please bring one Judaica heirloom you wish to have evaluated for this "Show and Tell" discussion. Pieces need not be 100 years old, but should have some age and perhaps tell an interesting story.

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# Genealogy Calendar

## JGS of SW FL Activities

Sun., March 16, 2003 meeting at JCC (11:00 AM) **note the early time**

Sun., April 13, 2003 meeting at JCC (1:00 PM)

Sun., May 4, 2003 meeting at JCC (1:00 PM)

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### JEWISH GENEALOGY SEMINAR

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Beth Sholom will present "Jewish Genealogy: In Search of Your Bubba's Bubba" at Temple Beth Sholom (1050 S. Tuttle in Sarasota) on Sunday March 9, 2003 at 1:00. Jim Haberman is the coordinator and Kim Sheintal is the instructor.

No charge.

RSVP by March 5 to Temple Beth Sholom office at 955-8121

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### Group Trip to Lithuania & Nearby Towns

By Howard Margol (homargol@aol.com)

Due to the interest expressed, I am organizing another trip to Lithuania – June 11-21, 2003. This will be the 10th group trip I have organized and led to Lithuania. Included are visits to the various Archives, synagogues, ghettos, holocaust sites, meetings with Jewish leaders, sight-seeing, guide/interpreters, and two/three days to visit and spend time in your shtetl, or shtetlach of interest. All meals (except 1 dinner & 2 lunches) are included, the finest hotels (new & modern), modern bus with onboard toilet, and much more. I am very familiar with the Archives, the archivists, Lithuania and the main places of Jewish interest. I do not organize these group trips as a profit-making endeavor. Everything is done "at cost" but in a deluxe manner. My main object is to encourage Jews to go back to their roots, to encourage them to research their ancestors and to enable them to see the rebirth of Judaism taking place in Lithuania.

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### The Federation of Genealogical Societies

2003 Conference

hosted by Florida State Genealogical Society

#### Countdown to Discovery:

**A World of Hidden Treasures (September 3-6, 2003) Renaissance Orlando Resort**

Correction: 2003, not 2002, as printed in Dec.2002 issue of Mishpochology. Discover a world of new genealogical research ideas and techniques. Meet family history explorers from across the United States and from other countries who share the joy of uncovering treasure troves of information. Enjoy presentations made by nationally known speakers as they open new and exciting research paths you may have never before explored.

## 23rd Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

[www.jewishgen.org/dc2003](http://www.jewishgen.org/dc2003)

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington invites genealogists of all levels and interests to attend the 23rd Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy July 20 – 25, 2003 at the ideally located JW Marriott Hotel in Washington DC. The hotel is near major genealogy research institutions, many DC attractions, and numerous eateries ranging from food courts to gourmet restaurants. Washington provides renowned research repositories in a magnificent cosmopolitan city! Online registration is now live. There is an outstanding selection of speakers including Hadassah Lieberman, banquet speaker. The JGSGW is planning many features and events for Conference registrants.

- A CD-ROM computer disk that contains the full Conference syllabus and a newly updated version of *Capital Collections*, JGSGW's unique resource tool for the capital area. This manual describes where all Jewish genealogy relevant records and repositories are located in the Washington, DC area, their hours, and what collections and databases they hold.
- A welcome address at the Opening Reception by the Archivist of the United States, John W. Carlin.
- A special after-hours tour and reception at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and two tickets for admission to the Museum at any time during the Conference week.
- Unique programs presented throughout the Conference by experts from the Library of Congress, National Archives, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, US Immigration and Naturalization Service, and other major genealogy research institutions.
- The chance to inspect and select from the books, software, and supplies of diverse genealogy publishers and vendors.
- Internet, database, and software access, as well as computer software demonstrations and instruction.
- A gala banquet featuring a talk by Mrs. Hadassah Lieberman.
- Plus films, special exhibits, book and author discussions, and much more.

The Metropolitan Washington/Maryland/Virginia area is filled with many easily reached cultural, social, and religious attractions. Washington also provides an opportunity to visit the Washington Monument, the US Capitol, and many Federal monuments and memorials. In conjunction with the Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland, Conference attendees also will be able to visit Baltimore-area research and cultural institutions.

How can you and your family pass up attending the 23rd Annual International Conference in July 2003?

# Wonderful World of Websites

## TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

**AUSTRALIA** - Australian White Pages (many Jews emigrated to Australia in the 1930's, so you'll find some of their descendants in this online phonebook):

<http://www.whitepages.com.au/>

**CANADA** - Find over 12 million Canadian listings with postal codes for people/businesses at: <http://canada411.sympatico.ca/>

**MISC. FOREIGN COUNTRIES** - Online phone directories:

<http://www.teldir.com>

<http://www.whowhere.lycos.com/wwphone/world.html>

<http://www.globalyp.com/world.htm>

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## MAJOR SEARCH ENGINES

[www.searchenginewatch.com/links/](http://www.searchenginewatch.com/links/)

Search Engine Watch lists some top choices in various categories such as The Major Search Engines.

**Google** <http://www.google.com>

**AllTheWeb.com** <http://www.alltheweb.com>

**Yahoo** <http://www.yahoo.com>

**MSN Search** <http://search.msn.com>

**Lycos** <http://www.lycos.com>

**Ask Jeeves** <http://www.askjeeves.com>

**AOL Search** <http://aolsearch.aol.com> (internal)

**AOL Search** <http://search.aol.com/> (external)

**Teoma** <http://www.teoma.com>

**WiseNut** <http://www.wisenut.com>

**Inktomi** <http://www.inktomi.com>

**LookSmart** <http://www.looksmart.com>

**Open Directory** <http://dmoz.org/>

**Overture** <http://www.overture.com/>

**AltaVista** <http://www.altavista.com>

**HotBot** <http://www.hotbot.com>

**Netscape Search** <http://search.netscape.com>

For other categories such as Paid Listings Search Engines, News Search Engines, Metacrawlers, Specialty Search Engines, Kids Search Engines, Multimedia Search Engines, Country Search engines, & search utilities: [www.searchenginewatch.com/links/](http://www.searchenginewatch.com/links/)

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## PEOPLE SEARCH & BACKGROUND CHECK ONLINE

<http://www.ussearch.com>

Locate/learn about living family - facts such as age/location

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## PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGISTS AND RESEARCH SERVICES

(general) <http://genealogypro.com/index.html>

(Jewish) <http://genealogypro.com/directories/Jewish.html>

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## Webpages by Stephen P. Morse, San Francisco

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/EIDB/intro.html>

<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/>

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## CYBRARY OF THE HOLOCAUST

Online library of Holocaust resources:

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

## JGS OF SW FL

### JANUARY MEETING

### WEBSITE RECOMMENDATIONS

**GOOGLE** <http://www.google.com>

### BARREL OF GENEALOGY LINKS

<http://www.cpcug.org/user/jlacombe/mark.html>

**JEWISHGEN** <http://www.jewishgen.org>

**CYNDI'S LIST** <http://www.cyndislist.com>

**LDS SITE** <http://www.familysearch.org>

**US GENWEB** <http://www.usgenweb.org>

**ANCESTRY** <http://www.ancestry.com>

**ROOTSWEB** <http://www.rootsweb.org>

**FEEFHS** <http://www.feefhs.org>

**OBIT CENTRAL** <http://www.obitcentral.com>

**ANYBIRTHDAY** <http://www.anybirthday.com>

### ACCESS GENEALOGY AND VITAL RECORDS

<http://www.vitalrecords.accessgenealogy.com>

### NATIONAL ARCHIVES

<http://www.nara.gov>

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## ONLINE LISTING OF GENEALOGICAL QUERIES BOARDS & GENEALOGICAL SEARCH ENGINES

<http://www.gledhill.com/genealogical%20queries.html>

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## Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness

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

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness was begun by two researchers who saw the need for such a service in their region. This small site grew very rapidly from just a statewide service to an international one. Many Internet researchers give of themselves unselfishly in aiding others in their research. This project expands on this premise by going one step further: The 4347 volunteers of this movement have agreed at least once per month to do a research task in their local area as an act of kindness. The cost to you would be reimbursing the volunteer for his expenses in fulfilling your request (video tape, copy fees, etc.). This is not a FREE service. Successful genealogical research is based upon people helping people. Our volunteers unselfishly provide information available in their area to those who live far away. We ask that you return to this site after being helped in order to return the favor in YOUR home area to someone else! If just one person volunteers from each county in the United States, and from other countries, once per month, researchers everywhere will benefit tremendously!

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## ACCESS GENEALOGY AND THE U.S. MILITARY

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/>

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/military/>

U.S. military resources for the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War & the Gulf War

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## Ask a librarian for help from one of the states in US

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/stlib/askalibrarian/map.html>

## Shop Israel in Sarasota

The Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation and the Jewish Housing Council are hosting "Shop Israel in Sarasota" at the Festival of Jewish Food, Saturday evening March 8 and all day Sunday, March 9, 2003 at Kobernick House. In addition to the wonderful food, there will be jewelry, Judaica and arts from over 95 Israeli artisans for sale. Sales from the "Shop Israel in Sarasota" will benefit the Israeli economy. Local Jewish organizations are needed to supply volunteers. If interested, notify Kim Sheintal (921-1433 or klapshein@aol.com)

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## JGS of SW FL Library Is Growing

The following books were donated by Lorraine Greyson:

*Roots in a Moving Stream: The Centennial History of Congregation B'Nai Jehudah of Kansas City, Missouri 1870-1970* by Frank J. Adler  
*Immigrant Kids* by Russell Freedman

The following books were donated by Diana Cohen:

History of the Jews in Russia and Poland (Vol. I) by S. M. Dubnow  
History of the Jews in Russia and Poland (Vol. II) by S. M. Dubnow  
History of the Jews in Russia and Poland (Vol. III) by S. M. Dubnow

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Harold Atkins  
Elsie Freedman  
Tony and Jan Joseph  
Howard and Susan Levin

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## WANTED: NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Have you an interesting genealogical experience, family story, a wonderful research success story, discovered a great website that helped you with your genealogical research, or a research tip that you would like to share with our readers? If so, please contribute to the JGS of SW FL newsletter via US mail or e-mail. Please submit to: Kim Sheintal 4462 Violet Avenue Sarasota, Florida 34233 klapshein@aol.com

Deadline for summer 2003 issue is April 1, 2003.

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## BRICK WALLS

When you hit a brick wall in your genealogy research, ask a JGS member for help. Submit your "Brick Wall" with your name, email, and phone number and it may appear in a future issue of Mishpochology. Mail your "Brick Wall" to klapshein@aol.com or Kim Sheintal 4462 Violet Avenue Sarasota FL 34233. Those responding will be asked permission to have response published.

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## Jewish Genealogy Month: April 3 to May 2

View poster at [www.avotaynu.com/poster.htm](http://www.avotaynu.com/poster.htm)  
Theme this year is "Where Once We Walked"

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## FACTS ABOUT JEWISH SURNAMES

Information in the first paragraph from *Climbing Your Family Tree* by Ira Wolfman and information in the last paragraph from <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kolomea/nameorigin.htm>

Jewish surnames sometimes are made up of acronyms, abbreviations that combine a number of words. The common Katz often comes from *kohen tzedek*, two Hebrew words that mean "righteous priest." Segal, also Chagall, stands for *segan leviah*, meaning "priest of righteousness." And Schatz comes from *shaliah tzibur*, Hebrew for "representative of the congregation."

Hereditary family names developed at different times for different groups of people. The Chinese, for example, had hereditary family names dating back to 4th century, before the Common Era. Scandinavian countries developed mandatory family names as recently as mid-1800s. Jewish family names became more common in the 10th and 11th century as more Jews moved to the cities. The Jews of Spain, Portugal, and Italy had hereditary family names starting in the 14th century. In 1781 Emperor Joseph II of Austria promulgated the Edict Of Toleration for the Jews, which established the requirement for mandatory hereditary surnames. The Jews of Galicia did not adopt family names until 1785. Family names were then required throughout the Austrian Empire by the year 1787, with the exception of Hungary. The great bulk of the Jews in Germany and Eastern Europe continued to follow the tradition of using the personal name plus the father's name (patronymic system). For example, Yisrul ben Zalman, Avraham ben Zevi. Since Jews often had to move from one country to another, their surnames names often changed as they were translated from one language to another. For example, a Jew may have had the name Weiss. It means white in German, but would become Blanco in Spain, Feher in Hungary, etc.

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### Global Name & Population Database:

[http://www.pdom.com/genealogy\\_population.htm](http://www.pdom.com/genealogy_population.htm)

By entering your full name on this site, you can find out how many people in the US share your full name. By entering a particular surname, you can find out how many people share your surname in the United States and/or the world. Find out the 100 most common surnames or first names in the major culture/language groups of the world.

### Last Names Meaning Dictionary:

<http://www.last-names.net/>

Find the ethnic origin and meaning of surnames. See exactly how many families in America shared your surname and where they lived in the 1920 census.

### Hamrick Software – US Surname Distribution:

<http://www.hamrick.com/names/>

Enter a surname and get a map of the United States showing the distribution of people with a particular surname within the 50 United States for 1850, 1880, 1920, 1990, or all years.

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## HOW WERE JEWISH SURNAMES DERIVED?

Information from the Kolomea research group surnames of interest origins and/or meanings, researched by Saul Zeichner.  
<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kolomea/nameorigin.htm>.

In Galicia, the name a family received was often determined by the size of the registration fee that a particular family could afford to pay. Those families who were wealthy and/or could afford to pay a large fee received names that in German either denoted some form of wealth or related to something pleasant. For example, a precious metal like gold in Goldstein, or a flower like rose in Rosenthal. A lesser sum paid would get a name based on more common items like Stahl (steel) or Eisen (iron). Those who were poor and could pay the lowest fee received names often related to nonsense syllables. Most Jewish surnames were derived from one or more of these patterns:

**Patronyms** - names based upon those of the father; such as, Aronson (son of Aaron)

**Local Place names** - names based upon the name of a local city, town or place; such as, Rottenberg (a city in Germany).

**Vocational** - names based upon a person's vocation; such as, Schneider (Tailor).

**Family Symbols and/or Signs** - names based upon family symbol or a sign that hung at or by the home; such as, Rothschild (red shield).

**Animal Names** - names derived from animal; such as Lowe, Loeb (from Judah the Lion which became Judah Lowe or Loeb)

**Names Describing Personal Characteristics** - names; such as, Klein (small), Gross (large), Weiss (white)

**Names Derived From Feminine Names or Words** - names; Such as, Rosen (from rose)

**Names Derived From Acronyms or Denoting Lineage** - often from Hebrew; such as, Bruck (Ben Rabbi Akiba), Levy (priests)

**Name That Indicate Son-in-Law Of**

**Fanciful Names That Were Imaginatively Invented**

### Books with naming information:

*A Dictionary of Jewish Names and History*  
by Benzion Kaganoff

*The Complete Dictionary of English and Hebrew First Names*

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## YIDDISH EQUIVALENTS FOR ENGLISH NAMES

The information in this paragraph is from the website <http://jewishwebindex.com/language1.htm>

There are NO Yiddish equivalents for English names. There are Yiddish names, many of them based on Hebrew, Biblical or Rabbinic names. When folks emigrated from their shtetl, or came to this country, they decided for whatever reason, to change their name to be "more American." Sometimes they were able to find a rough, sound-alike or look-alike name. Rarely could their Yiddish name be translated into an exact English name. For Biblical names, for example, the English equivalents (e.g. Moses for Moshe) were available, but when you're Americanizing your name, why use one that lets people know you are Jewish.

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## SOUNDEX SYSTEM

<http://www.infoukes.com/genealogy/primer/census.html>

Soundex System is an Indexing system that was formulated by the federal government with Remington Rand Corp in the 1930s under President Roosevelt's Works Program during the depression. The system allows names that sounded alike, but were spelled differently, to be indexed together. A code number was assigned to consonants but the vowels were ignored. The first letter of the surname was retained for the code and was followed by only three numbers (obtained from the letters in the surname). The name Kowalczyk would be coded as K422.

Soundex Code:

- Consonants are given numbers, Vowels and semi-vowels are ignored.
- The first letter of the surname is retained.
- Double letters, or two letters with the same code are coded once.
- Surnames less than four digits are filled out with zeroes.
- Surnames longer than four digits are codes only with four.

Code Key Letter and Equivalents:

- b, p, f, v = 1
- c, s, k, g, j, q, x, z = 2
- d, t = 3
- l = 4
- m, n = 5
- r = 6
- W, H and Y are treated like vowels and are not coded.

## GENEALOGY DEFINITIONS

[www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/faq.html#GAOSGLOSARY](http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/faq.html#GAOSGLOSARY)  
[www.genealogy.com/00000736.html?Welcome=1044713632](http://www.genealogy.com/00000736.html?Welcome=1044713632)

### *brit, bris*

[Heb] = circumcision ceremony.

### *chevra kadisha*

[Heb] = burial society.

### *guberniya*

[Rus] = province of the Russian Empire, pre-1917. There were 15 guberniyas in the Pale of Settlement, plus 10 guberniyas in the Polish provinces (Kingdom of Poland).

### *kehilla* (pl. *kehillot*)

[Heb] = Jewish community.

### *ketuba* (pl. *ketubot*)

[Heb] = marriage contract, document usually written in Aramaic.

### *landsmann* (pl. *landslayt*)

[Yid] = townsman, someone from the same town.

### *landsmanshaft* (pl. *landsmanshaftn*)

[Yid] = township society; organization of people from the same ancestral town/village.

### *mishpacha*

[Heb/Yid] = family.

### *shtetl* (pl. *shtetlach*)

[Yid] = town, village.

### *yahrzeit*

[Yid] = anniversary of death, using the Hebrew calendar.

### *yichus*

[Heb] = genealogy; pedigree; family background

[Yid] = family status/prestige.

### *yizkor*

[Heb] = memorial.

An **abstract** is a summary of a particular record or document. It usually contains only the most important information from the original document. Sometimes you may use abstracts instead of original documents when you do your research, and you may also create them for yourself when looking at original documents.

**Ahnentafel** numbers are a numbering system used to identify each individual in a family tree. The formula states that an individual's father is twice that individual's number, and that an individual's mother is twice that individual's number plus one. For example, if your Ahnentafel number is 1, your father's is 2, and your mother's is 3.

Your **ancestors** are the individuals from whom you are descended. For example, your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on are your ancestors. (In general, we don't call our parents and grandparents our "ancestors." When we talk about ancestors, we are normally referring to more distant, deceased relatives.)

A **biography** is a book written about a particular individual. You can also find compiled biographies, which are books that contain short biographies of many different people. A compiled biography normally is about a specific group of people. For example, you can find compiled biographies about individuals who were involved in a particular profession or who lived in a particular area. You can usually find the following information in a biography: occupation, accomplishments, affiliations, and family information.

A **birth record** contains information about the birth of an individual. On a birth record, you can usually find the mother's full maiden name and the father's full name, the name of the baby, the date of the birth, and county where the birth took place. Many birth records include other information, such as the birthplaces of the baby's parents, the addresses of the parents, the number of children that the parents have, and the race of the parents, and the parents' occupations.

A **census** is an official enumeration of the population in a particular area. In addition to counting the inhabitants of an area, the census generally collects other vital information, such as names, ages, citizenship status, and ethnic background. The United States government began collecting census data in 1790, and has done so every 10 years since that date. Selected states have also conducted their own censuses over the years.

Today, a **cousin** is normally the children of an individual's aunts and uncles. In colonial times, however, it often meant niece or nephew. When looking at older records, be careful about establishing relationships based on the word "cousin."

A **declaration of intention** is a document filed in a court by an alien who intended to become a United States citizen. It could also be a declaration filed by a couple in a local court, indicating their intention to marry.

Your **descendants** are your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on -- anyone to whom you are an ancestor.

**Directories** come in all types: city, telephone, county, regional, professional, religious, post office, street, ethnic, and school. The directories you search will depend on the type of information you know about the individual. The information that you can find in a directory depends on the type of directory. For example, city directories normally list names and addresses. In some city directories you can also find information such as children's names, marriage dates, death dates, and birth dates.

**Emigration** is when an individual leaves their home country to live in another country.

A **family group sheet** is a form which presents genealogical information about a nuclear family -- a husband, a wife, and their children. A family group sheet usually includes birth dates and places, death dates and places, and marriage dates and places. Family Tree Maker for Windows can help you create family group sheets for your family.

**Immigration** is when an individual goes into a new country to live.

**Land records** are deeds -- proof that a piece of land is owned by a particular individual. The information you receive from the records will vary, but you will at least get a name, the location of the property, and the period of ownership.

A **marriage record** contains information about a marriage between two individuals. On a marriage record, you can at least find the bride's and groom's full names, the date of the marriage, and county where the marriage took place. Many marriage records include other information, such as the names and birthplaces of the bride's and groom's parents, the addresses of the bride and groom, information about previous marriages, and the names of the witnesses to the marriage.

**Military Records:** The US government has always kept records on all military and civilian workers. Most of these files have very detailed information, such as the individual's name, their spouse's name, date of birth, place of residence, which wars the individual served in, their military organization (Navy, Marines, or Army), when the individual's service began and ended, where and when the individual died, and where the individual was buried. The amount of information you get will depend on the record and the point at which the file began. The National Archives has the following types of military records: pension records, bounty land records, service records, personnel records, draft or conscription records, regular military forces records, and burial or cemetery records.

**Naturalization records** document the process by which an immigrant becomes a citizen. An individual has to live in the United States for a specific period of time and file a series of forms with a court before he or she can become naturalized. Naturalization records provide the following information: place and date of birth, date of arrival into the United States, place of residence at the time of naturalization, a personal description, and sometimes the name of the ship that the individual arrived on and the individual's occupation.

**Née** literally means "born." It is usually used to refer to a woman's maiden name. For example, "Mary Lincoln, née Todd."

**Passenger lists** are lists of the names and information about passengers that arrived on ships into the United States. These lists were submitted to customs collectors at every port by the ship's master. Passenger lists were not officially required by the United States government until 1820. Before that date, the information about each passenger varied widely, from names to number of bags. The contents of post-1820 passenger lists also varied over the years, with more information being collected in the later years. However, the lists always included each individual's name, age, sex, occupation, and nationality. Later passenger lists began to include information such as marital status, last place of residence, destination in the United States, personal description, and birthplace.

A **pedigree chart** is a form for recording an individual's ancestry. It usually includes that person's parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on, but does not include brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and other relatives.

**Primary sources** are records that were created at the time of an event. For example, a primary source for a birth date would be a birth certificate. While you can find birth dates on other documents, such as marriage certificates, they would not be primary sources for the birth date, because they were not created at the time of the birth.

A **progenitor** is a direct ancestor. For example, your father's father is your progenitor. Your father's father's brother is not your progenitor.

A **secondary source** is a record that was created a significant amount of time after an event occurred. For example, a marriage certificate would be a secondary source for a birth date, because the birth took place several years before the time of the marriage. However, that same marriage certificate would be a primary source for a marriage date, because it was created at the time of the marriage.

The **Social Security Death Index** is an index of Social Security Death records. Generally this includes names of deceased Social Security recipients whose relatives applied for Social Security Death Benefits after their passing. Also included in the millions of records are approximately 400,000 railroad retirement records from the early 1900s to 1950s. You can find the following information in the Social Security Death Index: the individual's name and Soundex code, birth date, death date, Social Security number and state where it was issued. Seventy-seven percent of the records contain the Zip Code of the individual's last known

residence and the primary location associated with it. Fifteen percent of the records contain the Zip Code of the address where the death benefit payment was sent and the primary location associated with it.

As you may know, most last names can be spelled in a variety of ways. For example, "Smith" can also be spelled "Smyth," "Smithe," and "Smythe." This is one of the reasons why the Works Progress Administration created **Soundex** in the late 1930s. Soundex is a method of giving names sound codes. It is important to understand, because it was used by the United States government to index the surnames of some of the United States census records and ship passenger lists. By grouping together last names that sound similar, Soundex allows people to search for ancestors, even when the surname may have been recorded in any of several different spellings. Only the 1880, 1900, 1920, and part of the 1910 census have Soundex indexes.

**Vital records** document the "major" events of an individual's life: birth, marriage, death, and divorce. In general, vital records weren't kept in the United States until the early 1900s. Vital records usually contain the full name of the individual involved in the event, the date of the event, and the county, state, or town where the event took place. Many vital records contain much more information. For example, marriage records often record the names and birthplaces of each individual's parents. Divorce records usually list the names of the couple's children. Death certificates often mention where the individual will be buried, and also give the name of the individual who reported the death.

A **witness** is an individual present at an event such as a marriage or the signing of a document who can vouch that the event took place.

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail check (payable to JGS of SW FL) to: Kim Sheintal 4462 Violet Avenue Sarasota, FL 34233  
Single Membership \$20 per year      Family Membership \$25 per year

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

THE ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
OF  
**TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM**

AND

**THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

PRESENT

- A SEMINAR -

**“Jewish Genealogy: In  
Search of Your Bubba’s  
Bubba”**

Sunday, March 9, 2003 - 1:00 pm  
at Temple Beth Sholom  
1050 South Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota

Recent advents in the availability and accessibility of historical records and on-line databases, through the Internet and other media, have made researching one’s ancestry surprisingly easy and amazingly revealing. Kim Sheintal, President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida, will conduct a Sunday afternoon seminar at the Temple for beginners wishing to learn how to go about exploring their family tree. A real-time, multimedia demonstration including Internet-based searching, will be included. Please plan on attending this informative and thought provoking presentation.

Kindly RSVP by phone to 955-8121 no later than March 5 for this no-charge event