

JUNE 2011



THE RESEARCHER

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June 12 Meeting Preview

“Copyright Issues That Should Concern You”

David Ellis will present a program on copyright and other intellectual property challenges facing genealogists who publish family histories. Among other things, we will learn how to legally protect the material we develop and publish as a result of our research, and also how to avoid infringing the rights of others who may own copyrights and other intellectual property we may want to reproduce in the course of our research and publication.

David Ellis is an attorney in the Tampa Bay area, practicing Copyrights, Trademarks, Patents, Trade Secrets and Intellectual Property Law; Computer, Cyberspace and Internet Law; Business, Entertainment and Arts Law; and Franchise, Licensing and Contract Law. A graduate of M.I.T. and Harvard Law School, he is a member of the Florida Bar, Board Certified in Intellectual Property Law, and a registered Patent Attorney. He taught Intellectual Property, Copyrights, and Computer Law for several years as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Florida College of Law and Stetson University College of Law.

This is a topic that may affect all genealogists. Please plan to attend this important lecture.

REMINDER: NO MEETINGS IN THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST.

A field trip is being planned for the month of July to the LDS Library in Largo. More information will be forthcoming via email and will also be posted on the JGSTB website.

Our next regular meeting will be held in September.



Upcoming Events

June 12 meeting

See announcement on this page

July

Field trip to the Largo LDS Library. Date to be announced.

August 14–19

IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy Washington DC

Sept. 11 meeting

Program to be announced

31st IAJGS International Conference—Washington D.C. August 14—19

It's time to plan to attend the 31st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy August 14-19! For complete information, visit the conference website at www.dc2011.org

Registration fees : Complete details about fees for attending the conference, refund policies, and much more information are in the registration pages at <http://dc2011.org/index.php/register>

Early Bird discounts

- From **May 1 to July 31**, on-line fees are \$310 and \$210, respectively. Save \$30 off on-site rates.
- On-site registration fees beginning **August 13** are \$340 and \$240, respectively.

The fine print: These fees and discounts do not apply to daily-only or student registrations.

Extended-stay room rate

The Grand Hyatt Washington offers a basic rate of \$99 for the nights of August 9-12 and 19-22. For Saturday through Thursday, August 13-18, the regular room rate of \$199 still holds.

The complete program schedule is now online. Check the conference website at www.dc2011.org for detailed information on more than 160 presentations and workshops.

Mazel Tov to:

Clint Elbow for the successful completion of his graduate thesis!

Bill Israel on his appointment to the Board of Directors of the Litvak SIG (Lithuanian-Jewish Special Interest Group).

JGSTB welcomes new members:

Fran Segall, Charles & Beverly Serlin,
Starr Silver & Byron Kolitz

And a special welcome back to JGSTB to
Mark Baron, Golda Brunhild, David & Gail Meltzer,
Kathleen Samuels, David & Dianne Smith and Margaret Ziegler

JGSTB Meeting Highlights

March: JGSTB 1st Vice President and Program Committee Chair Barbara Smith presented a very informative program on Ancestry.com, followed by a workshop session for all in attendance at the meeting. A large number of members and guests attended the workshop and logged online to do research on Ancestry.com after the presentation.



Barbara Smith explains a point during the hands-on session at the March meeting.



Club members and guests participated in a hands-on workshop at the March meeting.

April: FamilySearch is the gateway into the vast genealogical resources of the LDS Church's Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Some excellent search tools are available to facilitate access to the millions of genealogical records at FamilySearch. New information for genealogists has been incorporated in many of these websites. Debbe Hagner updated those present at the April meeting on how to use the website.



Debbe is a professional genealogist accredited through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) in Salt Lake City. She is one of the few fully credentialed professional genealogists in the Tampa Bay area. Debbe has been doing genealogy research on her own family for over 30 years and has a Certificate in Family History Research—North American Research from Brigham Young University.

May: Peter Summers presented a program on Documenting Your Sources—An Introduction on the Content of Proper Source Citations. Copies of his "Documenting Your Sources or I know I found it someplace!" booklet were given as handouts along with a list of the Jewish Genealogy books in the Largo Library. Topics covered included the source of the document, a citation of where the information is located, personal notes and the repository where it is located. As explained to those present at the meeting, "Putting in too much information is better than too little." and "Putting it some place is better than no place."



Peter Summers is a graduate of West Point with advanced degrees from Florida State University and the University of Southern California. He spent over 15 years teaching at college level, principally at the University of South Florida. He is currently President of the Pinellas Genealogy Society of Pinellas County Florida. He has published articles in Everton's Genealogical Helper and currently writes a monthly genealogy column for a local Largo, Florida newspaper. He has been working on his own genealogy since 1972.

President's Message

Our year has gotten off to a good start. We have had many interesting presentations this year. March and April featured presentations on how to use Ancestry.com and the newly revamped FamilySearch.org. In May we had a presentation by Peter Summers of the Pinellas Genealogy Society on the subject of documenting primary genealogy sources. We will finish the first part of 2011 with a presentation by David Ellis who is an intellectual property/patent/trademark/copyright attorney in Largo on the subject of copyright implications of genealogy data.



Linda Zolinsky was honored by member Rita Shapiro at our January meeting. Linda Zolinsky was the founder of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay and has played a critical role in the group since then. She currently holds the position of Treasurer, which began in 2010, and has held the title of President for several years over the life of the group. Rita Shapiro chose to honor Linda for her service to JGSTB. We wouldn't be here without Linda's work. Please thank Linda the next chance you get.



Rita Shapiro (on the right) presented a plaque to Linda Zolinsky at the January meeting. Linda was honored for her service to JGSTB.

Photo by Jennifer Velt

I want to highlight two special resources that are available to our members. The first is our library. This year our library is being maintained by Emil Isaacson and Natalie Armitage. Emil has been the procurer of books for JGSTB and has built up an impressive collection of books over the years. This year Natalie Armitage was elected as Vice President in charge of library resources. Her first task has been to formalize our system of checking out books by members. Our library books are a valuable resource to the group and their safe keeping is important so that all members can enjoy them. The second resource I want members to take note of is Ancestry.com. JGSTB has a 2011 World Deluxe membership to Ancestry.com. This membership allows our members to access Ancestry.com from their home computer throughout the year and is a great benefit to our members. I hope that all members take advantage of these two resources this year.

As a final note, I want to send good wishes to our longstanding member and current Secretary, Betty Lou Rosen. Betty Lou experienced a stroke earlier this year and has been steadily improving her health. She was in good enough condition and spirits to attend our March and May meetings. Please keep her in your thoughts.



Betty Lou Rosen

Clint Elbow

President of JGSTB

The Editor's Corner

One of the first things we learn in genealogy is “spelling doesn't count!” As many times as we hear it, we don't really believe it until the first time that elusive missing record for a relative is found with a name we never would have believed could have been so badly misspelled.

I had this experience recently in looking for birth information for my uncle Israel Molaver, my father's brother. The first four children in that family were born in London between 1910 and 1914. I knew their dates of birth and their mother's maiden name. How hard could that be to find? I went onto Ancestry and looked up my father's information and both of my aunt's information in a matter of minutes...but I couldn't find my uncle Izzy, who was the youngest of the first four children. I wondered if he was possibly not born in London, and spent a while looking before I decided to try the wild card route. All I put in the search box was Israel M* and his mother's maiden name, and up came Israel Merliner, born in London in the same year and the same quarter of the year as uncle Izzy, and whose mother has the same maiden name and lived in the same district as my grandmother. I'm pretty sure this is uncle Izzy. I'll know for sure when I receive his birth certificate.

I now have all of the information I need on the four siblings to order their birth certificates from the London General Records Office, which is the equivalent of our Vital Statistics offices. A few months ago I ordered my grandparent's marriage certificate from that office, and it was a very easy transaction online. If anyone is looking for Birth, Marriage, Civil Partnership, Adoption or Death certificates from England, this is the place to start. They even have a section on researching family history on their website. Check what's available on their website at <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates>

Following are some other UK websites that might prove useful:

- www.cityoflondon.gov.uk Look under “Records and Archives” to find a catalog of the archives. The archives date from the year 1067!!!
- www.bmdindex.co.uk Look up references needed to order birth, marriage or death certificates. You will need the year, quarter, district, volume and page number to order certificates. This same information is also available on Ancestry.
- www.thegenealogist.co.uk This is an English website with a variety of genealogy information. They offer a free 30 day trial subscription, however, the number of inquiries is limited, so plan your searches carefully. They offer UK census transcripts from 1801 to 1911, BMD from the GRO indexes 1837—2005, Parish Records, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial records from the 1500s. A unique feature is a search tool in which you may enter any information you have—name, address, place of birth or even occupation.
- www.ukmarriages.org/ Source of marriage records in the UK from 1837 onwards and published by the GRO. Other records prior to 1837 are also available.
- www.ukbmd.org.uk/local_bmd This is the source of birth, marriage and death information for towns in the UK. If you do not know which town you are searching for, then try this site for the same information for the entire country: www.ukbmd.org.uk
- www.findmypast.co.uk is another source of information on births, marriages and deaths in the UK. This is a subscription site, but they offer a 14 day free trial.

Upcoming Meetings of Our Sister Societies

[Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida](#) meets at 1 PM at the Kobernick House 1951 N. Honore Ave in Sarasota. **There will be no meetings for the months of June, July, August, September or October.**

[Suncoast Genealogy Society, Inc.](#) meets the fourth Saturday of the month at 2 PM at the Palm Harbor Library 2330 Nebraska Ave. in Palm Harbor. **There will be no meetings for the months of June, July and August.**

Websites to Explore

<http://stevemorse.org> There is lots of valuable information on this site. It is a must for those just beginning in genealogy, and useful to everybody, no matter how long you have been searching.

www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/ This address takes you to the genealogy area of the National Archives and Records Administration. It is especially valuable for searching Immigration and Naturalization information. Information is online now about the upcoming release of the 1940 Federal Census in April 2012.

www.interment.net/ Cemetery burial records from thousands of cemeteries worldwide.

www.sherlockcohn.com/index.html Do you have old family photos that you would like to know the date of? Ava Cohn aka Sherlock Cohn, The Photo Genealogist, brings a lifelong fascination with heirloom photographs and a multidisciplinary background to photo dating and interpretation.

<https://www.familysearch.org/learn/researchcourse> Learn the basic methods and key resources to start your family history. There are almost 150 courses available online. Most are about 30 minutes long. These are the courses that Debbe Hagner discussed at the April meeting. There is a great deal of useful information here on a variety of topics.

<http://blog.eogn.com/> Dick Eastman's FREE daily newsletter by email for genealogy consumers, packed with straight talk - hold the sugar coating - whether the vendors like it or not! This is the most popular online genealogy magazine in the world, as measured by Alexa. This is an interesting daily read, covering a variety of subjects.

<http://www.online-convert.com/> This is a free online file converter that will convert audio, video, images, documents, ebooks, archives and more. The site is free and easy to use and no software installation is needed. Registration is not necessary to use the site, however, registration enables access to additional features, such as the ability to automatically send the converted file by email.

Learning to Misspell Your Ancestor's Name

Julianna Smith

Genealogy 101 teaches us that we need to learn how to misspell our ancestor's last name. Lord knows a lot of others probably did over the years. Beyond misspelled names, we may find ancestors who changed their name for whatever reason. I have two ancestors who took on the name of their stepfathers, and over several generations, one of the surnames in my husband's family tree morphed from Gruenzweig to Greenzweig to Greene.

My own great-grandfather spelled his last name Mekalski and Menkalski, and to really confuse me, for more than ten years he also adopted the name Wagner. He couldn't find work because they weren't hiring Poles. Since he spoke German, he arbitrarily changed the family name to Wagner and found work. When World War I broke out, being German wasn't so popular so he reverted to Menkalski. To further complicate things, the family used a variety of endings. His sister Bertha used the feminine ending –ska (Menkalska), and several other relatives, including his father went by Mekala.

And of course our ancestors weren't the only ones to change their names. Clerks and census takers with bad handwriting all took a crack at them, and then well-intentioned indexers took their turn. (That said, the story about names being changed at Ellis Island is a myth. Passenger manifests were created when the immigrant purchased his ticket overseas, and furthermore, Ellis Island employed interpreters to communicate with immigrants. There is an excellent article by historian Marian Smith on the subject here.)

So what's a family historian to do? Here are several ideas.

Research Wide

Learn as much as you can about the family and take note of the people they associated with (e.g., extended family, sponsors, witnesses, business partners, neighbors, etc.). Knowing who your ancestor regularly interacted with could help you identify him with his "new" name. For example, my grandmother had told us about the Wagner name, and although I thought I had them in the 1910 census using that surname, there were a few discrepancies that made me question whether I had the right family. Grandma had also told us how after her mom died, their neighbor, Mrs. Glass used to look in on them. Finding Mrs. Glass enumerated nearby helped to prove I had the right family.

Use Wildcards

In cases where the variant name is somewhat similar to the name you're used to seeing, wildcards can help in your searches on Ancestry.com. Here are the basics for using wildcards:

- An asterisk (*) matches zero or more characters (e.g., Ann* matches Ann, Anne, Anna, Annabelle, etc)
- A question mark (?) matches one character (e.g., Ann? matches Anne, Anna, but not Ann)
- First letter can now be a wildcard
- Either the first or last character must be a non-wildcard character
- Names must contain at least three non-wildcard characters

So, I could use Me*kal* and capture all of the variants for Menkalski, Mekalski, etc. Similarly, Gr?en* would pick up the Gruenzweig/Greenzweig/Greene variants.

Similar Sounding Names

Since some ancestors didn't know how to read and write, they may not have even known how to spell their name and the spelling may have been left to the interpretation of the record keepers. My 3rd great-grandmother's death certificate lists her maiden name as Bridget Dwyer. Baptismal records for her children list her maiden name as Dwyer, Ware, Toire, Wire, and Weir. On a recent trip to Ireland, my mother looked at their original parish records there and found that it was listed as both Wire and Wyre. Try saying your ancestor's name in different ways and see what similar sounding names you can come up with.

It's also helpful to learn about pronunciation. I was confused as to the Menkalski and Mekalski variations until I learned a little about Polish pronunciation. As it turns out ę is pronounced "en" so Mękalski is probably the Polish spelling and Menkalski the phonetic spelling.

Look-Alike Letters

In addition to the phonetic difficulties, we can also run into problems with names or letters that look alike. In one instance this error also brought a new ethnic flavor to the name where one indexer listed John Mekalski in the 1920 census as John McKalsky.

Vowels, particularly a and o, are often mistaken for one another and many consonants can be easily mistaken for each other, particularly when penmanship clearly wasn't the record creator's strong suit! "The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy" lists the following letters that are often confused: A and S; T and F; J, G and Y; I and J; K and R; O and Q; P and R; U and W.

(Continued on page 8)

Learning to Misspell Your Ancestor's Name *(continued from page 7)*

Scrap the Surname

Sometimes when we're searching, we don't need to get hung up on a surname. Try omitting the surname and using other details you know about your ancestor to zero in on him or her. Family structure can be very helpful. I found my uncle's family in 1930 by entering his brother's first name, the county where they lived, and his mother and father's first names. You'll be surprised at how often this can work.

Don't give up

You may find mention of deliberate name changes in court, naturalization, and other records. I found a record of John Menkalski's Wagner alias in his alien registration. Church records mentioned the names of the ancestors who took on the surnames of their stepfathers. The following was on the back of Emma Chouanniere's marriage certificate:

Notation—She calls herself after her step father, her own father's name was Miller.

So don't give up. Finding your ancestors when their name has changed—intentionally or unintentionally, temporarily or permanently—can be challenging, but with a little determination and persistence, they can be found. Good luck!

Reprinted from Ancestry.com Learning Archives 23 February 2011

Article submitted by Daniel Epstein

Officers of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

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Webmaster: Clint Elbow	skyhawk54058@gmail.com	727 692-5334

Food Bank Request

When you arrive for meetings you may have noticed the bags and boxes of canned and non-perishable food in the hallway just past the reception desk. The Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services operates a food bank for the benefit of those in need and our donations help make it possible for them to carry out their mission. If you are able to bring canned or non-perishable food to donate, it will be greatly appreciated. Every little bit helps!

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services provides JGSTB, at no cost, a meeting facility, a mail room, Internet service, storage for our library and hospitality supplies and use of its audio-visual and computer equipment. The food donations requested are a small token of appreciation for all of that.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual dues - \$25 - make check payable to *JGSTB*

Mail check and application form to:
Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay
c/o Treasurer
14041 Icot Blvd.
Clearwater, FL 33760

DATE OF APPLICATION: _____

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (street, city, zip): _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____

BUSINESS TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

APPLICANT'S FAMILY NAMES AND LOCATIONS BEING RESEARCHED

SURNAME	TOWN	COUNTRY

DUES PAYMENT RECEIVED: Date _____ Amount _____

Payment in (cash or check #) _____

Received by _____

For further information contact Clint Elbow, President:

(727) 692-5334

skyhawk54058@gmail.com

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TAMPA BAY

We're on the web!

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgstb/>

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month, except for the months of July and August. Meetings are held at the Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida. Library access and pre-meeting social begins at 1:30 PM; the meeting begins at 2:00 PM.

JGSTB was founded in 1999 by a group of individuals in the greater Tampa Bay area who were interested in learning how to research their Jewish family roots. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited to attend our meetings. Beginners as well as experienced researchers are welcome. An extensive library of books, maps, videos, CDs, periodicals and other materials on Jewish genealogy, as well as genealogy in general, is available for use by all members. Members may check out items to take home. A listing of the library contents can be viewed on our website.

For further information on the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay or directions to the meeting, call Sally Israel at 727 343-1652.

The JGSTB is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)—an independent non-profit umbrella organization coordinating the activities and annual conference of more than 75 International and local Jewish Genealogical societies around the world.

You can contact us by email at: jgstampabay@gmail.com

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