



THE RESEARCHER

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September 11 Meeting Preview

The meeting program will feature **Gregg Hickman of Lake Shore Camera Exchange in Palm Harbor, who will speak on the preservation, restoration and storage of photographs and documents.**

Gregg Hickman has been involved in photography since 1963. He is a trained photographer who did freelance photography for more than 20 years with local, national and international publications. Gregg ran the photo department for the FBI at the Tampa field office before becoming a Clearwater Police officer where he was able to apply his life-long involvement in the photographic industry and in his community through membership and activities with many related organizations.

Gregg will be covering some basics on what prints are made up of, why prints deteriorate (both color and black & white), expected longevity of different forms of image capturing media, what medias to use to store your images and the future of that media, the difference in media cards, some scanning basics, digital image organization in your computer, and image restoration examples.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING—SEE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOVE

OCTOBER 9 MEETING—HOW TO USE JEWISHGEN BY CLINT ELBOW

NOVEMBER 13 MEETING—GENEALOGYBANK & NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES BY DEBBE HAGNER

DECEMBER 11—JGSTB SOCIAL. DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

The 2011 IAJGS Conference is now history, and a great conference it was - certainly one of the best I have ever attended, and I have been to about 8 or 10 of them since my first one in 1996. It was well planned and well run, and it just had a good feel to it. The Greater Washington JGS did an excellent job as the host organization for this conference. With 1,200 genealogists attending from more than 20 countries, this was the largest attendance in the 31 year history of IAJGS conferences. And with approximately 230 scheduled activities, events, presentations, workshops, tours, SIG meetings, breakfasts and lunches "with the experts", and movies from morning until night spread over six days, the major challenge was simply to determine which ones to attend. There was no way an individual could make a serious dent in doing all that was available. Sally and I split up for most of the sessions, so we could double the number that we attended. Fortunately, about 120 of the sessions were recorded, and those recordings, along with the conference syllabus, will be in the JGSTB library for those who would like to experience a replay of what you missed. A listing of the available recordings will be posted to the JGSTB website (and our library) and will be available so you can select the ones of interest to you from our library.

Here are my personal picks for the top dozen highlights of the conference:

1. The sheer magnitude of choices from a large and varied program track had something for everyone, no matter what your interests. The sessions were grouped into logical categories making it a bit easier to plan which ones to attend.
2. The conference's Resource Room was well stocked with computers having access to many databases, some of which are not normally available, and with rare maps, rare books, translation services, sign up for tours, and personal assistance for just about anything.
3. Ancestry.com had a large presence in the Vendor Room, and all of the Ancestry.com workshops and presentations (I think there were about 6 of them) were very well attended. Crista Cowan of Ancestry.com was one of the conference's most popular speakers.
4. The conference's Keynote address was made by Sara Bloomfield, Director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, who spoke on "Honoring the Victims: It Takes a Village". The awards banquet speaker was David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States.
5. The IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award was made to Michael Tobias, vice president of programming for JewishGen. Tobias is a superbly talented and skilled programmer/analyst who has programmed JewishGen databases for the past 15 years. Every time you use a JewishGen search engine, Michael Tobias is assisting you.
6. As a Litvak on my maternal grandfather's side, I was particularly interested in hearing the Honorable Zygimantas Pavilionis, Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, who spoke on "The Importance of Jewish Heritage to the History of Lithuania." He discussed the current Lithuanian government's efforts to revitalize the Jewish heritage of Lithuania and to reach out to the world's Jews and to the State of Israel to recognize the atrocities to the Jewish community in Lithuania during the Holocaust and to repair modern Lithuania's relationship with the Jews of the world. Ambassador Pavillonis was an excellent and well prepared spokesperson for this cause, and he was open and honest with what he had to say and with answers to questions. This session was recorded, and it will be available to interested JGSTB members.
7. The genealogical research resources in Washington DC are bountiful and include the National Archives and the United States Holocaust Museum, among many others. Tours and research time could be scheduled through the conference's Resource Room.
8. A personal highlight for me was the inclusion of a large and growing number of Macintosh tracks, labs, and workshops for us Macintosh users. A "Mac Users-Schmoozers" Yahoo Group that was established at earlier conferences has grown into a sizable group that met in a "Birds of a Feather" (BOF) evening session for a discussion of Macintosh based genealogical software. I

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2011 IAJGS Conference Report

(Continued from page 2)

presented an overview of Reunion's companion programs for the iPad and for the iPhone, and also the iPhone/iPad App for Ancestry.com.

9. Another personal highlight is that I was elected to the Board of the LitvakSIG, and I will assume the duties of webmaster for the LitvakSIG's "Members-Only" website.

10. The IAJGS Annual meeting had one surprise - the Israel Genealogical Society that was scheduled to host the 2014 IAJGS Conference in Jerusalem withdrew its bid due to organizational issues within the IGS. The 2014 Conference was rescheduled for Salt Lake City, and it will be run by the IAJGS. Next year's conference will be in Paris, France, and the 2013 conference will be in Boston. There is a serious effort underway to schedule a future conference in Eastern Europe - probably in Warsaw, Poland, and perhaps as early as 2015. As for IAJGS elections, Jan Meisels Allen was elected as Vice President, replacing Michael Brenner and opening up a board seat that will be filled by appointment until the next election. All other officers and board members were reelected to continue for another term.

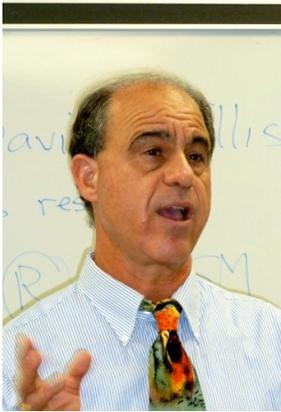
11. I was appointed to chair the IAJGS "Salutes!" Award Committee. The IAJGS Salutes! Award is to recognize any person or organization for noteworthy Jewish genealogical achievements or projects that are not covered by established awards. Salutes! awards can be made at any time during the year, and there is no deadline for submitting nominations.

12. **URGENT!** IAJGS President Michael Goldstein made a special announcement that Yad Vashem in Israel is urgently appealing to ALL Jewish genealogical societies all over the world to ask their members to complete Pages of Testimony for any Holocaust victim being researched who does not already have a Page of Testimony recorded. The names and life stories of two million Holocaust victims remain unknown. It is critically important to join Yad Vashem's efforts to recover the names of each individual Shoah victim who was murdered during the Shoah by filling out Pages of Testimony in their memory and submitting them to Yad Vashem. This is a race against time. Act now before those who still remember them are gone forever. You can search the Central database of Shoah victims' names at <http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY_HON_Welcome>. You can download instructions and a blank page of testimony from the Yad Vashem website at <http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/downloads/pdf/daf_ed_en.pdf>. Please, please do this! It is your duty!

I have said it before, and I will say it again that if you are seriously interested in Jewish genealogy, and you have never been to an IAJGS Conference, you are missing something more important than you realize. It is not just the educational tracks and workshops that are offered in abundance, but it is the total immersion in a Jewish genealogy environment, the opportunity to meet and mingle and make friends with people - amateurs and professionals - who share your interests. The stimulating atmosphere of these conferences is something that is nowhere else to be found. Many professionals are of the opinion that the IAJGS runs the premiere genealogy conference of all genealogy conferences in the world - not just Jewish ones. You really ought to put one of these conferences on your bucket list. If you cannot attend the Paris conference next year (and it will be a shorter 4-day conference), plan now to go to the 2013 conference in Boston, or better yet - the 2014 conference in Salt Lake City. Salt Lake City is the center of the genealogy universe for everyone, and it is one of the least expensive cities for a conference.

JGSTB Meeting Highlights

June:



David Ellis explained the difference between Copyrights, Trade Marks and Patents and the reasons and advantages of registering copyrights to protect your original work.

Mr. 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.

WHERE OH WHERE IS THAT MAIDEN NAME?

By Ancestry Monthly Update 10 March 2011

What do you do when you are faced with the tough task of tracing an elusive female backwards through history—and she's hiding squarely behind a maiden name? Start at home, digging through attics and sorting through family stories. Then use the following tips to discover more in records at Ancestry.com. You may find Great-Great-Grandma's maiden name and hiding place aren't so far out of reach after all.

Tip 1: Check indexes. Marriage indexes include both the name of the groom and bride. Find the right "him" and you'll get her, too.

Tip 2: Look nearby. Property records, marriage records and naturalization records, whether for the husband or wife, may have included witnesses from her side of the family.

Tip 3: Girl next door. The bride may have literally been the girl next door. Check your ancestor's census page (Plus a few before and after) for females in the neighborhood whose birth years, places and other details match, then do a little digging to see what became of them.

Tip 4: Other residents. Other people living in the same household could be in-laws, cousins or siblings whose last name is the maiden name you're seeking. Search to see if you can discover who other residents are and if they're actually relatives.

Tip 5: Read the newspaper. Obituaries may include the names of a woman's male siblings or cousins. Look for engagement, wedding and birth announcements, too. Go forward a few generations to see if grandparents or male lines are listed.

And, as always, climb around Ancestry.com family trees. Someone else may have jotted down a maiden name for Great-Great-Grandma's sister. Check your own research against what they've found and see if the maiden names are an honest to goodness match.

President's Message



As we are nearing the end of summer, I hope that everyone had a good summer and was able to make progress on their genealogical research. I look forward to having you back for our Fall presentations that will provide you with additional resources to aid your genealogical research.

In September we will feature Gregg Hickman from Lake Shore Camera Exchange. Gregg will show us how to manage our photos and digital images in our genealogical research. In October, I will be conducting a presentation on JewishGen. This presentation will provide an overview of what JewishGen has to offer and will include a hands-on question and answer session. Our November meeting will feature JGSTB's own Debbe Hagner who will educate us on the Genealogy Bank and Newspaper Archive resources. And, as always, we will finish the year with a social where we can visit with our friends and enjoy good food.

As we head into the Fall, it is also time to begin to think about preparing for 2012. The first item on our list is building our membership for JGSTB. Attached to the email that delivered this newsletter is a JGSTB Membership Application. Please take the time to complete the application and send it in with your dues for 2012. The more members we have, the more resources we will have to support our genealogical research.

I look forward to seeing everyone return to JGSTB for our September meeting and seeing you as 2012 members.

Clint Elbow

President of JGSTB

1940 Census Release

The 1940 Census will be released publicly on April 2, 2012, and will be accessible at NARA and on the internet. To see a blank copy of the form, go to www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/1940-census-form-fillable.pdf.

No name index will be available at that time, so you will need to know the Enumeration District the person you are researching lived in. If you are not certain of the address in 1940, you will need the address of the person in 1930. Assume that they lived at the same address in 1940, or in the same neighborhood, unless you know for certain that they had moved. Go to Steve Morse's converter utility to convert the 1930 Enumeration District to the 1940 Enumeration District. Use the site address below:

<http://stevemorse.org/census/ed2040.php?state=&year=1940>

You will need the Enumeration District from the 1930 census. Go to Steve Morse's index to find the corresponding 1940 Enumeration District. There may be one or more ED listed. If the person you are searching for is not in the same location, then you will have to wait until the indexes are released at some point in the future.

NARA Suitland Closed from Earthquake Damage

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is republished here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

The following announcement was written by the National Archives and Records Administration:

26 August 2011

Washington, DC. . . Assessments are continuing of the earthquake damage at the National Archives Washington National Records Center in Suitland, MD. Based on preliminary review by engineers, the facility will remain closed through Monday, August 29, 2011. A full review will determine when the facility will reopen. During an extensive walkthrough, National Archives Executive for Agency Services Jay Bosanko has determined that there is no known permanent damage to any records. In a statement, Mr. Bosanko said, "Our first and foremost priority is the safety of our employees and visitors to the building. We are working closely with the General Services Administration to ensure that we achieve that before we reopen the doors. We are also paying close attention to the security of the records that we store for our customers, federal agencies and members of Congress."

From a preliminary evaluation, damage from Tuesday's earthquake and its aftershocks includes spalling and cracking of masonry in internal walls and stairwells, a small water leak in one stack area, and a limited amount of shelving failures in a vault within one stack area. In the shelving failures, several rows of shelving shifted into other rows or walls, causing minor crushing of some boxes of records. The records, however, appear to have remained intact. Masonry debris has fallen in the perimeter aisles of stacks and in the internal stairwells of the building.

During the closure, a small team of National Archives staff members are on-site to coordinate the response, prepare for potential complications from Hurricane Irene, and to service a limited number of emergency requests from federal agencies.

Background:

The Washington National Records Center is a part of the National Archives and Records Administration's Federal Records Centers Program. It is one of the largest records centers in the system, storing approximately 4 million cubic feet of records in 20 separate stack areas. Each year, it accepts 250,000 cubic feet of transfers, and services 500,000 reference requests. The records center houses the most diverse collection of Federal records in the Federal Records Centers Program, including records on a variety of media from several hundred Federal agencies in Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia area. <http://www.Archives.gov>

JGSTB welcomes new members:
Barry and Brenda Schneider

Meet the Members

This is a new feature so we can all get to know each other a little better. In each issue of the newsletter, JGSTB members can respond to the questions below, and add whatever additional information they would like us to know.

Here are the questions:

1. How did you become interested in genealogy?
2. How long have you been working on your family research?
3. Have you made any great discoveries—and what were they?
4. Have you run into any brick walls? Did you manage to cross over them—and how?
5. What else do you want to tell us about yourself?

Each member who wishes to participate can write responses to the above questions and give them to me at any club meeting, or if you prefer, email the responses to me at NRarmitage@centurylink.net. Be sure to include your name!

Jennifer Velt wrote:

1. I had to do a family tree for school. I was in about 5th grade or so.
2. Even though I was interested in my family history as a child, I really did not start to work on my family research until I moved to Florida. Even then, it wasn't until my mom saw an article in the Jewish Press about JGSTB, that I began my research. I have been with the organization for about 5 years now.
3. I actually have made a couple of great discoveries. I found, through the Shtetl Finder on Jewish-gen.org, family on my mother's father's side living in England. Just recently, I found on Ancestry.com, by clicking on a leaf on my family tree, a whole section of my father's step-mother's side of the family. They currently reside in Staten Island, and I talk to them from time to time, via email and telephone.
4. I have run into a couple of brick walls. There are a couple of big walls on my maternal grandmother's side, due to name changes and divorces (yes in the early 1920's). There were a couple of other smaller brick walls and Debbe Hagner from our group was able to find some information for me. This enabled me to go even further. On my paternal grandfather's side, there is also a brick wall. Part of this is due to the Holocaust, the other is due to name change and moving. I'm in the process of getting Debbe some information.

Carol Jaffe wrote:

1. Years ago when I got my first computer I started looking up surnames and posting on Genealogy.com. Nothing happened, until Oct 2007.
2. It's now over 3 1/2 yrs that I'm doing it seriously, ever since I found my first "live" cousin from a posting I answered on Genealogy.com. She stopped researching and I started.
3. Discoveries: a copy of a letter my grgrandmother wrote to her cousin; my grandmother's first cousin's yearbook photo from Univ. KY-1907; a cousin I heard about all my life from my mother and found her and her parents and siblings all buried together in Greenville, MS. Everything I find is a discovery. It's one more piece of the puzzle.
4. Yes, I have brick walls, 7 of them and I don't expect to solve them, would love to, and I keep researching. Some of them I can track just so far and the road ends.
5. I wish I started doing genealogy seriously years ago, but I didn't. I don't have anyone to ask all the questions I have, it's only what I can find by researching now. I do wonder what my parents, grandparents, ancestors & relatives would think of me doing this. I like to think they know and are pleased that I've found them and they will not be forgotten. One relative I found, we share a birthday.....he was born in 1886! I lost my job in Oct 2007 and was out of work for over 14 months, so I can thank genealogy for keeping me sane and now I wouldn't give it up for anything. The more I find the more I want to find. It's an addiction, but a healthy one.

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 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. Starting Sept. 24, a Roots Magic User's Group will meet prior to the meeting, from 1-2 PM.

Sept. 24 Baseball and Genealogy by John Mangan

Oct. 29 Mini Seminar with Drew Smith as speaker. See announcement with complete information on page 13 of this newsletter.

Nov. 26 Great Explorations by Nancy Allen.

International Jewish Genealogy Month

This year, International Jewish Genealogy Month will be the Hebrew month of Cheshvan, from October 29 to November 26. To support the event a poster is created annually in a competition. This year's winner was created by Jillian Beroza of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island. Copies of the poster will be distributed to Jewish genealogical societies for placing in synagogues and other Jewish institutions in their area. Some societies plan events in conjunction with Jewish Genealogy Month to encourage other members of the Jewish community to research their family history. Previous posters can be seen at <http://www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html>.

Websites to Explore

www.GenealogyBank.com This is a huge historical newspaper archive, including rare and hard-to-find newspapers from 1690 to the present day. Featuring more than 5,000 U.S. newspapers with over 1 billion names from all 50 states, GenealogyBank is one of the most extensive online historical newspaper archives available. A list of newspapers available by state and city shows which years are covered. If you need a specific newspaper or time period, you can check to be sure they have those newspapers in their collection before subscribing to the service.

http://genealogy.about.com/od/surnames/tp/maiden_names.htm This is an interesting site that ties in with the article on page 3 of this issue. There is more information on this site about locating maiden names, with links to other related sites.

www.understandingyourancestors.com This site was created by Leslie Albrecht Huber for those tracing Western European ancestors. There is a lot of information packed into this site. Take some time to see if she has anything useful to you.

// EXPLORING ROOTS
// BRANCHING OUT
// CONNECTING FAMILIES



INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH

Cheshvan 5772 • October 29 to November 26, 2011

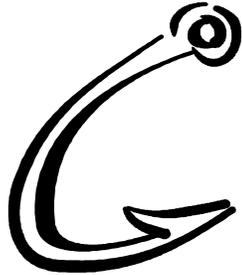
www.iajgs.com



Submitted by  Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island Designed by Jillian Beroza

How I got Hooked on Genealogy?

Debbe A. Hagner, AG



When I was young there was a wooden framed document dated 1866 from the King of Wurttemberg to Johann Christian HAGNER hanging on the wall at my Grandparents house. I always wondered what that was, it piqued my interest. I found out that it was presented to my grandfather, Johann Christian Hagner, after the Austro-Prussian War (also called the Seven Weeks War, the Unification War, or the German Civil War). Wow! Now I really wanted to know more. I wanted to know all about all my relatives, where they lived and what they did. This one framed award and my Grandfather's family stories sparked my interest in genealogy when I was just 8 years old. Now that wooden frame hangs on my office wall. It reminds me of how I got hooked on genealogy.

My Grandfather had put together a photo album of various people in the family. Every time, I visited my grandparents in Florida, I would flip through the pages of the photo album and wanted to learn more about the people in the photo album. I had been born with a hearing loss that caused me to miss hearing many family stories; but seeing the pictures helped me learn more about my relatives. I depend on lip-reading to "hear" so having the person's name written under each picture made it easier for me to understand the relationships. One story I remember Grandpa telling me was that we were the "Von Hagners," but I could never prove it.

I heard various names in the family – Aunt Martha, Aunt Rose, Aunt Bernice, Aunt Betty, another Aunt Rose, Uncle Eric, Uncle Ted, Aunt Meta, Uncle Bruno, Aunt Frieda, and Uncle Clinton etc. Growing up I heard names of people that I never met – Bill, Gussie, Adele, and Uncle Bruno. I asked my Grandfather to write down the names and how these people were related so I could see the information rather than relying on hearing the stories. He wrote their names on paper, one by one, making a chart for me back to my great grandparents. Wow, this really opened my eyes...now I wanted to know more information. (This chart was getting me "hooked".) I was still confused with the two Aunt Rose's – one of them was really a Great Aunt Rose (who was my grandmother's sister) and the other one was my maternal uncle's wife (related only by marriage). My family decided to make changes so we always knew exactly who we were talking about: my great aunt became Auntie Rose and the other one remained Aunt Rose.

The more I learned, the more I wanted to learn more, so I asked my Grandfather more and more questions. I finally got a better picture of the various names on the genealogy chart. One by one, we were covering all the different people. I was puzzled about Aunt Betty and Uncle Eric because they were not on the chart. I finally came to find out that they were not relatives — they were high school friends of my parents. Calling friends Aunt and Uncle was a custom for my family. My parents explained that they did not want my sisters and me to call them just Betty and Eric or Mr. and Mrs. Dumke. Since they were close friends, we added Aunt and Uncle as a term of respect. We recently went to visit Aunt Betty, who lives in California and is now well into her late 80s. She got a kick out of seeing us and that we were still calling her "Aunt Betty". It was wonderful to see her after more than 25 years and she remembered many stories about my mother and father and her deceased husband, Uncle Eric. But I am now getting ahead of myself in my story of being hooked on genealogy.

Back to the beginnings....along the way, I heard many funny, fascinating and sad stories. I heard names of people that I had never met. I asked where and who they were. I found out that my cousin Adele was in the

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Navy, so that explained why I did not see her often. She died at 34 in the Veteran's Hospital. I found out Bill was my cousin and that he lived in Milwaukee with his stepmother after his father had passed away. Then I heard the sad story of my Uncle Gussie – he was my father's brother who died in 1943 when he was 21 years old of a rare disease called Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), which was a form of polio or MS. Recently, my father gave me some letters, written to Uncle Gussie by some Army friends during his illness. The stories that those letters tell from 1942 were very enlightening. The more I find out about what happened to these family members, the more I want to know!

When I was in High School – my mother and her sister (Aunt Martha) received letters from Germany. I was curious: who were these people? how were they related to me? This gave me another set of names that I never heard of. Now I am curious! The names on the list were my maternal grandfather's family; I never met him as he died before I was born. Except for Uncle Bruno, all my grandfather's brothers and sisters were left behind in Germany. Why? I wanted to know the whole story: why they came to America and when. The more information I received, the more information I wanted. Every answer opened up a new question. Aunt Martha helped me write a simple letter in English asking for more information about the Helbig side of the family. It was not easy getting information as they were living on the East German side. I received a great deal of help from "Aunt" Ella who was a clerk in a church in Germany. She was able to get copies of various documents in German.

As I was growing up I did not know a lot about genealogy and family history. I would get my facts mixed up (sometimes because of my hearing loss and sometimes just because I had an imagination) like thinking our family came here on the Mayflower and arrived on Plymouth Rock or that we were related to some royal family. I am sure that after seeing a Thanksgiving play, many children imagine their Grandparents were Pilgrims. HA! As I got older and really learned more about my family's history, I discovered that most of my family came to America during 1880-1890's. Christ Hagner's real name was Johann Christian Hagner in Germany. He came to Chicago before the Chicago fire in October 1871 when he was about 25 years old. Like many immigrants, there were changes in the name. When I asked Grandma about her family, she would tell me that her maiden name was BRAUN. I immediately thought I was related to Eva Braun (Hitler's partner). I jumped to a conclusion too fast! That is why when I got older I wanted to find out the real stories!

In 1981, I got a job at IBM in Binghamton, New York. I soon bought my first computer. Now I could start compiling my family history. I purchased genealogical software called "Roots" by Quinsept, which no longer exists today. I entered about 1,000 names. I really thought I had completed my Family History! But I soon realized that there was, and still is, so much to discover. So much more to learn and uncover!

I eventually switched to Family Origins and then to Roots Magic as Roots was no longer being supported. It is much easier to keep track of all the names if you have a computer program to help you and there are many to choose from. During that time, I took informal classes on genealogy in Binghamton, New York. The instructor had a scrapbook with different documents. The scrapbook gave me ideas about the various kinds of documents and I started collecting them about my family and recording them into the computer. Now, I not only had names but also documents. I was really getting "hooked"!

My Dad invited me to go to Salt Lake City with my stepmother who does genealogy. She and I would help one another with our genealogy. Since then I have found much information on the family, especially on the German lines. To help me learn more, I took informal classes in New Port Richey, Florida after I was laid off from IBM in 1991. In this class I learned about the local LDS Family History Center. To this day, I still work there 3 days a week on genealogy. I was getting better at understanding the record keeping and learning how to use the Family History Library Catalog, which contain the records that are kept at the Family History Library (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or Mormon) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 1994, I decided to take some formal courses from Brigham Young University in Family History. I received a Certificate in Family History and I finished the two years home correspondence program in 6 months. From one of the courses, I was able to learn how to read German handwriting. This was important because both sides of my family were from Germany.

I attended several genealogy conventions on various levels – local, state and national. Every time I went, I met wonderful people and I learned a great deal about the field of genealogy. There is always some new

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Information being released or discovered.

I began to accumulate paying clients, and every year I would go to Family History Library in Salt Lake City to do research on my family and those of my clients. I met several genealogists who specialize in German and they really helped me to learn more German genealogy. I decided to work on my accreditation and specialized in the Midwestern states. Since my family did not arrive in the Midwest before 1870, I had to use another family for my portfolio. I used my cousin's wife's family, since they were in Wisconsin and Iowa back in 1840's. I had to fly to Salt Lake City to take the 8 hour written exam. The exam covers several areas in the Midwestern states – Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Minnesota and Iowa. You have to pass the exam with 90 or better in order to receive the accreditation. I am only the second hearing-impaired person to receive accreditation from the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. You have to renew the certification every 5 years. Today, the accreditation program is under International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen) located in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Currently, I have over 25,000 names in my genealogy database. One of the lines goes back to the 1400s and the remainder to the 1600s in Germany. I have been to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City over 20 times and every time I go there I always find something new! I have over 8,000 documents which support my genealogical data. I still have several more to find! Once you get into genealogy it is very easy to get "Hooked" — you just want to find more and more. I always found great pleasure in finding a "paper trail" on your ancestor that you have never met. It is just amazing what that one paper can tell you, and that it can lead you to many more papers and more and more.

My Dad always asks me "Are you done yet?" I tell him NO! I know I will never get back as far as I would like to. I have most of my line as far back as I can with what information is available today from the LDS films. The Family History Library has over 2.5 millions films. Over the course of 25 years, I have looked at over 2,000+ microfilms. I have three lines that are my "brick walls". A "brick wall" is a term for a place in your genealogy that seems to get stuck on or an end! But does it really END?? I believe over time as the records become more and more available – I just might find a break thru. Every now and then, I try to work on something – as there always something to do - keep up with new babies born and new marriages or divorces and those that pass. I try to keep up with my German lines, as it is easy to forget the handwriting and the language if you don't keep up. To continue my education, I am going to study how to read Latin because some of my family was Catholic and many of the church records are in Latin. That will be a little challenging to me. My brother-in-law's family comes from Italy. In order to research his side of the family, I wanted to learn to read Italian, so I am also studying reading Italian. See? There is always something new to study and learn!

My schedule now includes giving speeches and classes on genealogy in many cities around Florida, Milwaukee and in Salt Lake City. I want to help others get "Hooked" by sharing my experiences and offering support like I have received. I gave several classes in sign language for the Utah Deaf Genealogical Association in June 2008. I enjoyed helping other hearing-impaired genealogy enthusiasts. I offer several classes from Beginners to Advanced Genealogy and several specialized topics in the New Port Richey, Florida area. I am also involved in several genealogy societies. I have held various positions as President, Vice-President, Membership Chairperson, and Publicity Chairperson.

I have written several articles that can be viewed on-line by using Google:

1. Ancestry Quick Tip - Organizing Your To-Do List to Be More Effective on 25 Aug 2007
2. Ancestry Magazine - Record Those Records on January/February 1996
3. Chicago Genealogist periodical - Gustav Hagner meets Anna Waldschmidt, 1890, IL: Winter 2002. Vol. 35, Issue 2
4. The Deaf Family History Conference In Salt Lake City By Debbe Hagner, AG at <http://utdeafgen.blogspot.com/>

Hooked on Genealogy? Yes! I guess you can say that, thanks to love, support and continued help of many people and family.

So, are we done yet? N E V E R!

Officers of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

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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.



Your Planning Committee at work!

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

jgstampabay@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

The newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay (JGSTB)

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

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