



# THE RESEARCHER

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## Inside this issue:

Meeting Preview	1
Scenes From Our June Meeting	2
Hamburg Passenger Lists	3
England and Wales 1911 census	3
New Members	3
More than 80,000 Digitized Genealogy & Family History Publications Are Available Online	4
Ancestry.com to Discontinue Old Search System	5
Winter Park, FL is on the Cutting Edge of Technology	6
2013-2014 Meetings	7
New Database on Medieval Spanish Jewish Surnames	8
Announcements	8
JGSTB Library	8
Upcoming Meetings of Our Sister Societies	9
Websites to Explore	9
Officers and Committees	10
Membership Application	11
About JGSTB	12

## HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR JEWISH ANCESTORS USING FAMILYSEARCH.ORG PRESENTED BY DEBBE HAGNER, AG

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2013**

After a short business meeting, Debbe Hagner, Accredited Genealogist, will present on how to use the Familysearch.org website to research your Jewish ancestors. Attendees will gain a fuller understanding of how the website is organized, different ways you can access the website's information, and recent enhancements to the website.

Ms Hagner is a full-time professional genealogist who is accredited through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She is one of the few fully credentialed professional genealogists in the Tampa Bay area and has been doing genealogical research on her own family for over 30 years. Ms Hagner has a Certificate in Family History and North American Research from Brigham Young University.

**Library Access and  
Mentoring—1:30**

**Meeting—2 PM**

**Information:  
Janet Dixon  
727 736-3791**

**Gulf Coast Jewish Family  
and Community Services**

**14041 Icot Blvd  
Clearwater, Florida**

### Upcoming JGSTB

**Meetings:  
October 13  
November 10  
December 8**

## Scenes from the June meeting



At the June meeting, Emil Isaacson presided over a “Breaking Down Brick Walls” question and answer session and demonstrated where and how to find answers to the questions. This was followed by a hands-on work/help session with a number of club members assisting with online exploration to find information.

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

## Hamburg Passenger Lists Now Indexed for 1850-1914

Hamburg Passenger Lists have been updated on Ancestry.com at <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1068>. The name index now covers 1850-1914 (previously it was 1877-1914). This means that the bulk of this collection is now indexed, including the time period of peak migration through that port. The only remaining piece to index are the records following WWI (1920-1934).

The update adds over eight hundred thousand new records to the index, which now includes over 4.6 million names. Please note that only the years 1877-1914 have been indexed so far. However, all of the images for 1850-1934 are available. If you do not find your ancestor in a search by name, try browsing the images by year. You may want to begin by browsing the Handwritten Indexes, 1855-1934 at <http://search.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=1166>.

More information is available on Joe Everett's blog at <http://joeeverett.blogspot.com/2013/06/hamburg-passenger-lists-now-indexed-for.html>.

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**The England & Wales 1911 Census is available to search for free from 00:00 BST on 24th July 2013 until 23:59 GMT on 14th October 2013. To view these records you will need to register for free with Ancestry.co.uk with your name and email address—no credit card is required. To access this census go to: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/1911census?>**

If you click on records other than the England and Wales 1911 census you will be requested to subscribe or sign up for a 14-day trial where you must provide your credit card.

I have no affiliation with Ancestry.com or any of its subsidiaries.

Jan Meisels Allen

IAJGS Vice President

Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Anita and Hugo Freudenthal

Barry Pitegoff

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## More than 80,000 Digitized Genealogy and Family History Publications are Now Available Online

One of the greatest genealogy resources available today is the huge collection of digitized genealogy and family history publications from the archives of some of the most important family history libraries in the world. When I travel to various genealogy conferences and societies, I am often amazed at how many genealogists are unaware of these free resources. Not only are the books and other publications available free of charge, you don't even have to pay for gas to visit these libraries!

These digital books are available at:

[Google Books](#)

[Archive.org](#)

[Allen County Public Library](#)

[Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library](#)

[Brigham Young University Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library](#)

[LDS Church History Library](#)

[Family History Library](#)

[Houston Public Library - Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research](#)

[Mid-Continent Public Library - Midwest Genealogy Center](#)

The menus and the search methods will obviously vary from one site to another. However, a few minutes spent exploring each site's holdings could pay big dividends.

I will say that most newcomers search only for names. In fact, I'll admit that I do the same on my first search on a new web site and I suspect a lot of other experienced genealogists do the same. However, after exhausting the search for names, most experienced genealogists start looking for other search terms. I always look for locations. Many times, I have been successful at finding some tidbit about an ancestor by searching for the county or the town in which he or she lived, even after a search for the person's name produced no results at all.

One of my more successful searches came from searching for the name of the small town in which my great-great-grandparents lived. I knew he was a farmer so I searched for his name plus the name of the small town in which they lived. I was rewarded with a scanned digital booklet of only 42 pages, printed in 1842, that listed all the farmers in the county, along with a detailed description of the farm and even the assessed value of the property. It listed the total acreage of their property, the number of acres under cultivation, the number of acres of woodlands, the number of barns and out-buildings, how many head of cattle, sheep, and swine that they owned, and even the number of chickens. It also listed the crops they sold. I learned a lot more about my great-great-grandparents in that small booklet than I ever found in census records!

When searching old books and other printed information, you have to be creative. You should search not only for locations, but also for fraternal organizations, religious affiliations, veterans' organizations, labor unions, and anything else you can think of.

## **Ancestry.com to Discontinue Their “Old” Search System**

Ancestry.com is continuing to make changes to their search functionality as a part of their efforts to improve the search experience. Some features will be added and some will be discontinued. Many of us have used the “old” search—along with the “new” search. Ancestry found that only 2 percent of their subscribers are still using the “old” search mechanism. They plan to discontinue their “old” search within the next six months. They sent a notice to those who use the “old” search that they identified and asked their comments on a survey about potential improvements by asking about the importance of certain search related activities and what the users of “old” search liked and disliked about “old” search.

To identify which areas of the experience they should focus on this year, Ancestry.com has drawn on customer input, usage data, usage patterns and their old search function for inspiration. From all of that, they are looking at making the time on Ancestry.com more productive by improving these areas of the search experience in 2013:

- More relevant search results with the best results at the top
- Easier refining and control of your search results
- Keeping a better history of the work you have done
- Publishing more new content and more corrections to existing content
- Performance improvements to return results faster

Ancestry advised, as they begin to make these improvements, they will no longer maintain two separate search systems for the site. This is because maintaining two systems limits the resources they can use to make improvements and increases the complexity of every improvement they are trying to make. Additionally, continuing to maintain the two systems limits their ability to direct more investment into other areas like adding more record collections and correcting existing collections.

The announcement that was sent to the 2 percent subscribers that still use the “old” search mechanism is not available on their website—at least at the time of this posting.

In an effort to continually improve your experience on Ancestry.com, we are asking for feedback on our search function. Our plan is first to gather feedback from our core users. We will take all of that feedback into account when we are merging the functionality of Old Search and current search into a consolidated search experience.

You can take the survey here: [http://ancestry.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_8ubNXU8liQcxqVD](http://ancestry.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8ubNXU8liQcxqVD)

**Jan Meisels Allen**

**IAJGS Vice President**

**Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee**

The following article was contributed by Bill Israel

## Winter Park, Florida is on the Cutting Edge of Technology From Orlando Sentinel 6/29/13

Although they've been dead for decades, some of Winter Park's most prominent citizens are getting a tribute that's very 21st-century: their own smart-phone app. The city is introducing an app that will allow visitors at the two city-owned cemeteries to find graves, learn about their occupants and even get directions via GPS. "It'll pick up your location and walk you right to it," said city Parks Director Brenda Moody. The free WPC (Winter Park Cemeteries) Explorer app, available for Android phones and tablets, is downloadable at app stores such as Google Play. The Apple version, for iPhone and iPad, is expected in about two weeks.

About 7,600 people are buried or entombed in the two city-owned cemeteries — Palm Cemetery on New York Avenue and the smaller Pineywood Cemetery on Lakemont Avenue. Burials go back as far as 1898, when Palm was for white residents and Pineywood for blacks. Prominent Winter Parkers buried at Palm Cemetery include U.S. Sens. Paula Hawkins and Ed Gurney, artist Albin Polasek, folk musician James Gamble Rogers IV, 23 former mayors and city founder Loring Chase, who deeded the cemetery's land.

The app will get you to any grave, and soon it will offer each person's date of birth, death and interment, along with an image of the headstone. Bios and photos are so far available on relatively few people. That will change as Moody uploads more information. Already, cemetery visitors can learn that the home of Alfred Rogers (1822-1907) was the second building in town, after the train station. And Henry Chubb (1858-1918) was one of the city's first officials, elected alderman in 1887 and later mayor. "It'll be neat to stand in front of Albin Polasek's headstone and have his life story pop up," Moody said. "It's a little more personal."

The idea for a cemetery app grew out of the city's online burial search function, which has been available since 2011 and provides limited information, such as date of death and grave location. Designed by Web-Cemeteries, the app is the first of its kind in Central Florida, and one of only a handful in use across the nation. A similar system is in use, on a much larger scale, at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. From the app's home screen, the user can enter the name of a person buried in one of the cemeteries. Information including burial date and plot number will come up, along with a photo and bio if available. Click "view map" and a pin marking the grave and a blue dot marking the user's location will appear. For those whose information has not been added yet, clicking the "www" button brings up a form for submitting life history and more.

The city hopes relatives will contribute information about less well-known cemetery occupants. "Notables to us is not just founding fathers," Moody said. "It could be a lifelong teacher or anyone who has contributed to the community." Janna Baumann, the city's cemeteries manager, said the app will be a boon for genealogy buffs. "Ancestry.com is huge right now," Baumann said. "With the new site, there'll be ways to discover your family's history and put the pieces together." The city spent \$8,000 on the app and software upgrade that came with it, Moody said. She's working on adding self-guided tours of notable graves in both cemeteries. The tour option also could be customized for visitors who might have several loved ones buried in different places. Baumann expects the app to prove popular as a way for families of the deceased to memorialize their loved ones. "It's a nice tribute that everybody can have."

# JGSTB

## 2013-14 Meeting Schedule

Programs are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Date	Topic	Presenter
September 15	How to Use Familysearch.org	Debbie Hagner
October 13	Update on Ancestry.com	Bob Bryan
November 10	Maneuvering the Steven Morse Websites	Pete Tanner
December 8	Roundtable/Holiday Social	All
January 12	Jewish Gen - Topic to be announced.	Nolan Altman
February 9	Basic Jewish Genealogy with New Tricks for the More Experienced Learner – Part 1	Emil Isaacson
March 9	Basic Jewish Genealogy with New Tricks for the More Experienced Learner – Part 2	Emil Isaacson
April 13	Holocaust-Related Genealogical Research	Tentative—Holocaust Museum.
May 18	To be announced	
June 8	Genealogy Software Utilities *	

\* Demonstration of several utility programs useful for genealogy such as: Dropbox, Skype, Google Voice, Google Earth, Evernote, Mozy/Carbonite online backup, Online software (Googledocs), automatic backup software, GEDCOM utilities and more.



## **New Database on Medieval Spanish Jewish Surnames**

A major new database of medieval Spanish Jewish surnames that have survived into the current Diaspora now exists at <http://www.sephardicgen.com/databases/MedievalSurnames.html>.

Mathilde Tagger has labored for six years, searching through 138 books and some 600 periodicals to create a database of “documented” Jewish surnames in medieval Spain that have survived as surnames into the present. The database consists of 20,526 citations for 12,134 unique name spellings and provides sources for the information.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Help Wanted:** The Hospitality Committee needs your help. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and/or cleanup at meetings, baking or purchasing treats for meetings, greeting guests and someone to sit at the front desk of the building until the start of the meeting. If you are able to volunteer some time, please contact Tom Dixon at 727 736-3791, or email to [tdixon11@verizon.net](mailto:tdixon11@verizon.net) or see Tom at the meeting. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

**Newsletter Submissions:** If you have an article, suggestion, or a favorite website that you would like to share, please email the information to me at: [nrarmitage@centurylink.net](mailto:nrarmitage@centurylink.net). Success stories from your genealogy research are of great interest and will be much appreciated by all of us.

**Have you checked out our updated website?**  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgstb/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgstb/)

**Do you have time to volunteer for JGSTB? We would love to have your help.**

### **JGSTB Library**

**Our library lending policy is that books may be borrowed for one month and are to be returned the following month. If you have books signed out, please return them at the next meeting. Thank you!**

## Upcoming Meetings of Our Sister Societies

### Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

No club meetings until November 2013.

To learn more about JGS, visit [www.jgsswf.org](http://www.jgsswf.org).

### 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, FL.

September 28 Debra Fleming presents "Using Genealogy Bank"

October 26 **Mini Seminar:** Researching German Americans and Irish Americans presented by Joanne Chubb King  
**Starts at 1 PM. Contact John Mangan to register at John8530@aol.com**

November 28 Nancy Allen presents "Great Explorations"

### Pinellas Genealogy Society

Meets at 11 am on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the

Largo Library 120 Central Park Dr. Largo, FL

Phone: 727 586-7410

[www.rootsweb.com/~flpgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flpgs)

### Websites to Explore

<http://jpress.org.il/view-english.asp>

The Historical Jewish Press.

This is a place to look for personal announcements in addition to persons appearing in news articles or ads. Newspapers in various languages.

[www.elephind.com](http://www.elephind.com)

FREE worldwide newspaper lookups. The site

presently contains 1,205,603 individual newspapers with 1,141 titles.

There are interesting websites listed in the articles in this newsletter.

Check for the various websites in the articles throughout this issue.

## Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

### Officers:

**President: Natalie Armitage**

**1st Vice President: Vicki Adelson**

**2nd Vice President: Janet Dixon**

**Secretary: Betty Lou Rosen**

**Treasurer: Linda Zolinsky**

### Committee Chairs:

**Hospitality: Tom Dixon**

**Librarian: Jocelyn Mandell**

**Library Acquisitions: Emil Isaacson**

**Membership: Richard Adelson**

**Newsletter Editor: Natalie Armitage**

**Programs: Vicki Adelson**

**Publicity: Janet Dixon**

**Webmaster: Pete Tanner**

### Planning Committee:

**Lawrence Blum**

**Rita Shapiro**

**Jennifer Velt**

**Plus the Officers & Committee Chairs**



**Debbe Hagner, AG, will present a program at the September 15th meeting on using the [Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org) website to research your Jewish ancestors.**

**Come and learn the latest that [Familysearch](http://Familysearch.org) has to offer.**

## Food Bank Request

When you arrive for meetings you may have noticed the bags and boxes of 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 contribute non-perishable food, it will be greatly appreciated.

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services provides JGSTB, at no cost, a meeting facility, a mail room, wifi 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 :**

[jgstampabay@gmail.com](mailto:jgstampabay@gmail.com)

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 & pre-meeting social begin at 1:30 PM; the meeting is 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.

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 80 International and local Jewish Genealogical societies around the world.

You can contact us by email at: [jgstampabay@gmail.com](mailto:jgstampabay@gmail.com)

The newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay (JGSTB)  
Natalie Armitage, Editor Email: [nrarmitage@centurylink.net](mailto:nrarmitage@centurylink.net) Telephone: 352 341-5188  
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