Next Meeting for the JGS of SW FL
Date: Sunday, December 14, 2003
Time: 1:00 PM
Place: JCC, 582 S. McIntosh Road, Sarasota
Program: The Inseparables – Genealogy & History by Dr. Winn Taplin

President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

Old encyclopedias can be valuable in research because they give a perspective on history as it existed in their time period. There is a 1911 encyclopedia online at http://1911encyclopedia.org/ and there is a 1907 Jewish encyclopedia online at http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com.   These two encyclopedias represent what was important at the beginning of the 20th century. There are descriptions of many notables of the second half of the 19th century who do not merit a mention in today's encyclopedias. The Jewish encyclopedia has a superior design. The 1911 encyclopedia does not have a full-word search engine as is true of the Jewish encyclopedia. This means that it can only be used by main topics. It also lacks the illustrations that existed in the printed work. The Jewish encyclopedia captured pictures as well as the original page images from the printed text.

The JGS December program by Dr. Winn Taplin, former president of the Genealogical Society of Sarasota, will teach you how to place your ancestors in a realistic historical context and to look beyond historical trends to the lives of those who experienced them.

Visit The New JGS of SW FL Website   www.jgsswf.org
by Jim Haberman, JGS of SW FL member

A Useful Resource for Polish Researchers

Mark Magenheim, JGS of SW FL member, recommends Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA). Membership $20/yr. (bulk rate), $25/yr. (first class rate). Membership includes: monthly journal, email consultation service, annual mtg. (Chicago or NYC usually), library access.

Mail: c/o R. Szparkowski
1603 E. Linden Lane
Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056
Email: www.pgsa.org

Genetics and Women's Cancers

Dr. James P. LaPolla, a gynecologic oncologist from St. Petersburg, spoke on genetics and cancer and how it relates to Ashkenazi Jews at the November 16, 2003 JGS of SW FL meeting. For more information on this subject, go to www.wcn.org/gcf

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida 2004 Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 18, 2004 (1:00pm): Richard Bergman from the Sarasota-Manatee Arch Family Holocaust Education Center will speak about Coexistence Exhibit. (JGS of SW FL meeting at the Flanzer JCC)

February 2004: Coexistence Exhibit at Island Park. JGS of SW FL members are needed to volunteer.

Tuesday, February 3, 2004: Coexistence Exhibit and Florida Holocaust Museum Bus Trip (Sarasota to St. Petersburg)

Sunday, February 15, 2004 (1:00pm): JGS of SW FL meeting (JGS of SW FL meeting at the Flanzer JCC)

Saturday evening, March 13 & most of Sunday, March 14, 2004: Shop Israel in Sarasota at the Festival of Jewish Foods (Kobernick House). JGS of SW FL members are needed to volunteer.

Sunday, March 21, 2004 (1:00pm): JGS of SW FL meeting (JGS of SW FL meeting at the Flanzer JCC)

Sunday, April 18, 2004 (1:00pm): Connecting the Generations (JGS of SW FL meeting at the Flanzer JCC). Bring your child, grandchild, niece or nephew (or other relative) with you and learn as a family how to trace your roots.

Sunday, May 16, 2004 (1:00pm): JGS of SW FL Pot Luck Luncheon Meeting (JGS of SW FL meeting at the Flanzer JCC)

July 4, 2004 through July 9, 2004: The 24th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem www.ortra.com/jgen2004   The conference will be held at the Jerusalem Marriott Renaissance which is conveniently located near many of the research sites that Jerusalem offers including Yad Vashem, Jewish National and University Library, Central Zionist Archives, Israel State Archives and others. There will be special room rates for conference participants.

Germanic Genealogy Workshop by Roger Minert, Germanic Genealogy Specialist
Saturday, February 28, 2004 (8:45am - 3:30pm) at Sahib Shrine Center 600 N. Beneva Rd. in Sarasota

www.rootsweb.com/~flgss/germanicworkshop.htm   Topics: Communicating with Agencies and Individuals in Europe, Civil Records in Germany, A Day in the Life of the Common People in Germany before 1900, Courtship and Marriage in Germany from 1500 to 1900. The price is $35 if postmarked by February 14, 2004 and $40 thereafter. Checks should be made payable to Genealogical Society of Sarasota and sent to PO Box 1917, Sarasota, Florida 34230-1817.

VOLUNTEERS FROM ENTIRE COMMUNITY NEEDED
   Entire month of February 2004: **Coexistence Exhibit** (presented in Sarasota by the Sarasota-Manatee Arch Family Holocaust Education Center at City Park near downtown). This is an exhibit from the Museum on the Seam of Jerusalem. This exhibit, fresh from its European tour, provokes dialogue and helps to illustrate the simple idea that there are more similarities among us than differences between us. The thirty-three large panels, each about sixteen feet wide and ten feet high, at this exhibit will entice the viewer to explore the images and words and relate them to his or her own life, his or her existence. Members of Jewish organizations and synagogues in the community are needed to volunteer.
   Saturday evening, March 13 & all day Sunday, March 14: **Shop Israel in Sarasota at the Festival of Jewish Food** (co-produced by the Jewish Housing Council and the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation at Kobernick House). To help improve the Israeli economy, there will be a Shop Israel in Sarasota. Members of Jewish organizations and synagogues in the community are needed to volunteer.
   If anyone in the JGS of SW FL would like to volunteer, sign-up sheets will be available at meetings.

BUS TRIP TO COEXISTENCE EXHIBIT & FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
   The Tuesday, February 3, 2004 chartered bus trip goes to the **Coexistence Exhibit** (an outdoor exhibit of 33 very large panels at Island Park in Sarasota that comes from the Museum on the Seam in Jerusalem, which brings together artists from around the world and the wisdom of the sages to give image and voice to the conflicts that seem so ubiquitous throughout the world) and **Florida Holocaust Museum** in St. Petersburg. Trip includes a tour of Coexistence Exhibit followed by a visit to St. Petersburg for lunch and tour of the Florida Holocaust Museum. For more information, contact Kim Sheintal at 921-1433 or klapshein@aol.com

JEWISH GENEALOGY BOOKS FOR SALE
Cookbook by JGS of SW FL and Workbook by JGS of Palm Beach County

Shtetl Kettle, a cookbook with recipes by ancestors and members of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida, is $10 and available at JGS of SW FL meetings. **The Jewish Genealogical Workbook** developed by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County that was awarded the Outstanding Publication Award at the IAJGS Conference held in Washington, D.C. in July is now $15.00 plus $5.00 shipping and available by mailing check (payable to JGS of Palm Beach County) to Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, PO Box 7796, Delray Beach, FL 33482-7796.

Welcome New Members – Stan Midler and Joel Schwartz

JGS of SW FL Library

Lorraine Greyson recently donated *There Once Was A World* by Yaffa Eliach to the JGS of SW FL library

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Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County Is Celebrating

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County is commemorating its 15th anniversary on Sunday, December 14, 2003 for a luncheon at Tropical Acres in Dania Beach. The cost is $20. Keynote speaker is Dr. Henry Abramson, associate professor of history and Judaic studies at Florida Atlantic University. He will discuss "Two Jews, Three Opinions." His talk will help you bring your ancestors to life and understand what forces drove them to leave their homes and sail across the Atlantic to an unknown land. Members of the JGS of SW FL are invited. RSVP by Dec. 1. More information: www.jgsbroward.org

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How Jews Got Their Names

Other than aristocrats and wealthy people Jews did not get surnames in Eastern Europe until the Napoleonic years of the early 19th century. Most of the Jews from countries captured by Napoleon, Russia, Poland, and Germany were ordered to get surnames for tax purposes. After Napoleon's defeat, many Jews dropped these names and returned to "son of" names such as: MENDELSOHN, JACOBSON, LEVINSON, etc. During the so called Emancipation, Jews were once more ordered to take surnames. In Austria, the Emperor Joseph made Jews take last names in the late 1700s, Poland in 1821 and Russia in 1844. It's probable that some of our families have had last names for 175 years or less. In France and the Anglo Saxon countries, surnames went back to the 16th century. Also, Sephardic Jews had surnames stretching back centuries. Spain, prior to Ferdinand and Isabella, was a golden spot for Jews. They were expelled by Isabella in the same year that Columbus left for America. The earliest American Jews were Sephardic. In general, there were five types of names (people had to pay for their choice of names; the poor had assigned names):

1-- Names that were descriptive of the head of household:
Examples: HOCH (tall), KLEIN (small), COHEN (rabbi), BURGER (village dweller),
SHEIN (good looking), LEVI (temple singer), GROSS (large), SCHWARTZ (dark or black), WEISS (white), KURTZ (short)

2 -- Names describing occupations:
Examples: HOLTZ (wood), HOLTZKOCKER (wood chopper), GELTSCHMIDT (goldsmith),
SCHNEIDER (tailor), KREIGSMAN (warrior), EISEN (iron), FISCHER (fish)

3-- Names from city of residence:
Examples: BERLIN, FRANKFURTER, DANZIGER, OPPENHEIMER, DEUTSCH (German),
POLLACK (Polish), BRESLAU, MANNHEIM, CRACOW, WARSHAW

4 -- Bought names:
Examples: GLUCK (luck), ROSEN (roses), ROSENBLATT (rose paper or leaf),
ROSENBERG (rose mountain), ROTHMAN (red man), DIAMOND, KOENIG (king),
KOENIGSBERG (king's mountain), SPIELMAN (spiel is to play), LIEBER (lover),
BERG (mountain), WASSERMAN (water dweller), KERSHENBLATT (church paper),
STEIN (glass)

5-- Assigned names (usually undesirable):
Examples: PLOTZ (to die), KLUTZ (clumsy), BILLIG (cheap)

W<small>onderful</small> W<small>orld of</small> W<small>ebsites</small>

*Check these websites for Family Finder Lists/Members Websites to discover who is tracing the same surnames/ places as you.

ARIZONA Greater Phoenix Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc., division of AZ Jewish Historical Society http://aspin.asu.edu/azjhs/
ARIZONA Jewish Historical Society of Southern Arizona, Genealogy Group No website
CALIFORNIA Jewish Genealogical Society, Los Angeles www.jgsla.org
*CALIFORNIA Jewish Genealogical Society of Orange County www.jewishgen.org/jgsoc/index.html
*http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsoc/famfinder.html
CALIFORNIA Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Springs No website
*CALIFORNIA Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/
*http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/insearchof.html
*CALIFORNIA San Diego Jewish Genealogical Society www.sdjgs.org
*http://www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs/surnames.html
*CALIFORNIA San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs
*http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/member-pages.html
CONNECTICUT Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc. www.geocities.com/jgsct
COLORADO Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/
D.C. Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw/
FLORIDA Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc. www.jgsbroward.org
FLORIDA Jacksonville Jewish Genealogical Society No website
FLORIDA Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami, Inc. www.jgs-miami.org
FLORIDA Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando www.rootsweb.com/~fljgscf/
FLORIDA Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. www.jewishgen.org/jgspbci/
FLORIDA Jewish Genealogical Society of SW FL www.jgsswf.org
FLORIDA Jewish Genealogical Society of Tallahassee tfn.net/clubs (look under societies)
FLORIDA Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay No website
GEORGIA Jewish Genealogical Society of Georgia, Inc. www.jgsg.org
ILLINOIS Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/
*ILLINOIS/INDIANA Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society www.lincolnnet.net/ijgs
*http://www.lincolnnet.net/ijgs/famfind.html
*LOUISIANA Jewish Genealogical Society of New Orleans www.jewishgen.org/jgsno
*http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsno/famfind.htm
*MARYLAND Jewish Genealogical Society of Maryland www.jewishgen.org/jgs-maryland
*www.jewishgen.org/jgs-maryland
MASSACHUSETTS Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, Inc. www.jgsgb.org
MASSACHUSETTS Western Massachusetts Jewish Genealogical Society www.wmjgs.org
MICHIGAN Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan www.jgsmi.org
*MISSOURI Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis www.jewishgen.org/jgs-StLouis
*http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-StLouis/surnames.html#surnamelist
NEVADA Jewish Genealogical Society Southern Nevada, Inc. Website under development
NEW HAMPSHIRE Jewish Genealogical Society of New Hampshire www.jgsnh.org
*NEW JERSEY Jewish Genealogical Society of Bergen County, Inc. www.erosenbaum.netfirms.com/jgsbc
*(click on members' home pages for surnames/places family finder)
NEW JERSEY Jewish Genealogical Society of North Jersey http://community.nj.com/cc/jgsnorthjersey
NEW YORK Jewish Genealogical Society of Buffalo No website
NEW YORK Jewish Genealogical Society of the Capital District (NY), (JGSCD) No website
NEW YORK Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island www.jewishgen.org/jgsli
NEW YORK Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (in New York City) www.jgsny.org
NEW YORK Jewish Genealogical Society of Rochester www.jgsr.org
OHIO Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Cincinnati No website
OHIO Jewish Genealogical Society of Cleveland www.Clevelandjgs.org
OHIO Jewish Genealogical Group, Columbus Jewish Historical Society www.gcis.net/cjhs
OHIO Jewish Genealogical Society of Dayton No website
*OREGON Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon www.rootsweb.com/~orjgs/
*www.rootsweb.com/~orjgs/
*PENNSYLVANIA Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia www.jewishgen.org/jgsp
*http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsp/ror.htm
PENNSYLVANIA Jewish Genealogical Society of Pittsburgh www.jewishgen.org/jgs-pittsburgh/
TEXAS Dallas Jewish Historical Society, Jewish Genealogy Interest Group www.djhs.org
TEXAS Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society www.texsys.com/ghjgs
TEXAS Jewish Genealogical Society of San Antonio www.jewishgen.org/JGS-sanantonio/
UTAH Utah Jewish Genealogical Society www.rootsweb.com/~utjgs/Index.htm
*WASHINGTON Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State www.JGSWS.org
*http://www.jgsws.org/trees.htm
WISCONSIN Wisconsin Jewish Genealogical Society No website

Jewish Records Indexing – Poland (JRI-Poland)

http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland is an independent organization hosted on the Internet by JewishGen. The goal of Jewish Records Indexing - Poland (JRI-Poland) is to create a searchable on-line database of the indices of 19th century Jewish records from current and former territories of Poland. Where such records are available, they may include towns that are now part of Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus.

A remarkable number of Jewish vital record registers have survived the ravages of time and the upheavals of history. Moreover, many of these registers -- generally covering the years 1808 to 1865, and in some cases beyond – have been microfilmed, making the records accessible in Family History Centers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) - Mormons. *Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories,* (Miriam Weiner, Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc. 1997), presents an inventory of the surviving Jewish vital records of Poland and brings to light the millions of additional records not microfilmed by the LDS.

The project was an outgrowth of Stanley Diamond's need for broad-based access to the Jewish vital records of the former Lomza Gubernia for genetic research purposes. In late 1994, the idea was proposed to twelve fellow researchers. Responding to the suggestion that such an initiative was possible, the project was founded in 1995 by Steven Zedeck of Nashua, NH and Michael Tobias of Glasgow, Scotland. Zedeck and Tobias not only had a deep interest in the records of this area, but also had the technical skills to bring the project to life. Diamond became Project Coordinator in January 1997. JRI-Poland is managed by a board of volunteers.

The majority of the indices in JRI-Poland come from two sources. The first is the indexing of the LDS microfilmed records, comprising about 2,000 films from more than 500 towns and villages. The second, launched in early 1998, is the JRI-Poland / Polish State Archives Project. While the LDS films contain approximately two million records, there are an estimated additional five to seven million 19th century records that were not filmed. Generally, these cover the last 25-35 years of the 19th century, when many of our grandparents and great-grandparents lived in Poland. Only records more than 100 years old are available for this indexing project.

In addition, as a way of supplementing information in vital records, or even substituting other sources for towns whose records are missing, JRI-Poland now includes a growing number of secondary listings. These range from Bialystok District listings in the Grodno Gubernia 1912 Voters List to indices to burials in the Warsaw Cemetery. Instructions about how to get further details or background information about each particular group of listings are at the bottom of the JRI-Poland search results.

The JRI-Poland database has grown steadily and now includes indices to more than 1.5 million records from more than 260 towns. Most of the indexing of microfilmed records is done by volunteers organized into Shtetl CO-OPs; some of the difficult Cyrillic script entries (from the post-1867 Russian years' registers) are transliterated by professionals whose work is funded by contributions from both individuals and groups of Jewish genealogists. Indexing of records in Poland is handled by Warsaw-based professionals, funded by researchers around the world.

JRI-Poland has been recognized by the international medical and scientific community because of the potential benefit of the database for Ashkenazic families trying to trace their medical histories, particularly those at increased risk for hereditary conditions and diseases.

The Vital Records of Poland
(Excerpted from JewishGen *InfoFile* "PolandV" courtesy of Warren Blatt.)

Civil registration in Russian Poland (Kingdom of Poland = Congress Poland) began in 1808. The records were kept in "Napoleonic format" (paragraph-essay style). From 1808 to 1825, Jewish registrations were recorded in the Roman Catholic civil transcripts. Beginning in 1826, separate registers were maintained for each religious community (Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, Russian Orthodox, etc.). Records were in the Polish language from 1808 until 1867. From 1868 to 1917, the official language of documents was Russian. When Poland regained its independence in 1918, documents were once more written in the Polish language. These documents are very informative -- for example, a birth registration usually contains the names and ages of both parents, the date, time and place of birth, the father's occupation, and often both grandfathers' given names.

The registers are stored in many different archives and town halls across Poland. Records after 1899 are generally in each town's civil records office (Urzd Stanu Cywilnego); records before 1900 are in regional branches of the Polish State Archives. A large proportion of civil registers survived and for many towns they are complete.

By the time filming in the Polish State Archives stopped in 1992, the Mormons had microfilmed more than 2,000 reels of mostly pre-1880 Jewish vital records for more than 550 cities and towns; records for a large number of smaller villages are found within the films of nearby larger towns. A list of available films -- detailing towns, years and record types -- can be viewed and downloaded on the JRI-Poland web site. This list also indicates the status of the indexing work for each film; it also notes the films on permanent loan at Mormon Family History Centers in Los Angeles and New York City and Queens, New York, as well as in the collection of the Douglas E. Goldman Jewish Genealogy Center, Beth Hatefutsoth, Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, Tel Aviv.

Some helpful guides to translating the Jewish vital records of Poland:

> "*A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents,"*
> by Judith R. Frazin. 2nd ed. (Chicago: JGS of Illinois, 1989). 311 pp. ISBN 0-9613512-1-7
> Available from JGS of Illinois, P.O. Box 637, Northbrook, IL 60065-0637. $25.

> *Russian-Language Documents from Russian Poland: A Translation Manual for Genealogists,*
> by Jonathan Shea. (Orem, UT: Genealogy Unlimited, 1989). 73 pp. ISBN 0-921811-05-6.
> {Helps translate documents such as vital records from Russian Poland for 1868-1918}.
> Available from Genealogy Unlimited, P.O. Box 537, Orem, UT 84059. $12.

How to Use the Jewish Record Indexing - Poland database:

The JRI-Poland database is a research tool, a valuable FIRST step in finding clues to locating family records from among the millions of Jewish vital records for hundreds of Polish towns.

Where a large percentage of the records for a town or group of towns has been indexed, the database *can* quickly bring a wealth of information. It *can* reduce much of the initial scrolling through LDS microfilms in the search for particular surnames or the towns in which families with those names lived. The database search program can remove some of the guesswork when exact spellings of ancestors' surnames in Poland are not known; JRI-Poland uses the Daitch-Mokotoff soundex system for this purpose.

Surname lists, linked from the "Contents of the Database" page, are a compilation of family names appearing one or more times in the vital records of each town indexed to date. All variations in the spelling, as they were written by the town registrar in the civil records, have been included in each surname list. This new feature aids researchers who may not initially recall all the names in their family. It also helps identify surnames not picked up by their soundex search.

- The JRI-Poland database does *not* contain actual vital records; searches provide index entries with names, record numbers and years of the records (although the year of a birth itself, for example, may differ) as well as the microfilm number containing the actual documents of interest. In a few instances there may be additional data, but this will vary from town to town or year to year within a town's records. Sources of additional information (LDS microfilm numbers, links to instructions for ordering a copy from the PSA, etc.) are at the bottom of the list of search results.
- The database is "three times" removed from the original record and thus errors may have crept in along the way.
  1. The original record is the actual handwritten registration in the vital record register.
  2. The "secondary" record is the index created by the town clerk at the end of the year.
  3. The "tertiary" record is the entry in the JRI-Poland index, based on and created from the second index (2).

For further information and guidance on how to gain the optimum benefits in researching Jewish vital records of Poland, read "*The Power of Extracts*," "*Don't Let a Little Extraction Scare You!*" and "Hidden Treasures in Polish Vital Records" by Lauren B. Eisenberg Davis (Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal, Vol. 1, Numbers 1 and 2, Vol. 3, Number 1 respectively). The tutorial for the system can be found at http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/psabasketinst.htm. You can search the database at http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/jriplweb.htm and see how it works.

Ordering Records from Polish State Archives - Expansion of JRI-Poland's New System
by Mark Halpern (willie46@comcast.net) Director, PSA Order Processing Center

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland is very pleased to announce that agreement has been reached with the Polish State Archives (PSA) to extend the new online order processing system - the "Shopping Basket System" - to thirteen additional Archives and their branches as of November 4, 2003. Since late last year, the JRI-Poland Order Processing Center has worked with the State Archives in Bialystok and its Lomza branch testing a Shopping Basket system for ordering copies of vital records indexed by JRI-Poland/PSA Projects. This pilot project has been very successful and the system will now be expanded to the following Archives & their branches:

AGAD - Central Archive of Historical Records
Bialystok, Lomza Branch, Czestochowa, Kalisz, Krakow, Lublin, Lodz, Poznan, Przemysl, Rzeszow, Siedlce, Suwalki, Warsaw, Grodzisk Mazowiecki Branch **, Lowicz Branch, Mlawa Branch, Pultusk Branch,Zamosc   ** *Includes records formerly held in Gora Kalwaria, Nowy Dwor Mazowiecki and Rawa Mazowiecka Branches.*

We expect that the remaining Archives and branches, not part of the Shopping Basket system as of November 4, 2003, will be added in early 2004. This includes Kielce and its Pinczow, Sandomierz and Starachowice branches, Piotrkow Trybunalski and its Tomaszow Mazowiecki branch, Plock and its Leczycz branch, Radom, and Torun and its Wloclawek branch.

The Shopping Basket System allows researchers to create a "Shopping Basket" for copies of records to order by clicking on index entries in the results web page of a JRI-Poland database search. Orders can be saved and subsequently amended, modified, or deleted. When a researcher is ready to order, payment can be made by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or US Dollar check or money order. There is absolutely no danger that an order can be mistakenly placed while online. At this time, researchers must mail in their order and payment for the order to become official. Each record ordered will cost the researcher $10. However, there is a minimum charge per branch of $15. (Therefore, if you order one record from Lodz and one from Pultusk, the total charge will be $30.) JRI-Poland will receive researcher payments and arrange for periodic bank transfers in Polish currency to each Polish Archive branch.

Here are a few of the major features of the Shopping Basket system:

* Records of interest are selected online, creating an order. You simply point and click on the desired record index and it is added to your shopping basket. This only applies to records indexed as part of a PSA project. Records indexed from LDS microfilms will not be clickable and cannot be ordered using this system.

* Your shopping basket can include orders from more than one PSA Archive or branch. Separate orders are automatically created for each branch.

* Researchers print and snail mail orders and payment to the JRI-Poland PSA Order Processing Center in Merion Station, Pennsylvania, USA. A printable form for credit card payment can be accessed by clicking a link on the Order Form.

* The Order Processing Center electronically transmits the order(s) to the Archive(s). Within 30 days each Archive will send copies by registered or priority airmail directly to the researcher.

Previous Order Systems No Longer Available - If you previously ordered records from the AGAD Archives through the JRI-Poland AGAD Order Center, you will now be using the Shopping Basket System. All AGAD orders sent to the AGAD Order Center and postmarked November 3, 2003 or before will be processed by the AGAD Order Center. Orders postmarked November 4, 2003 or later will be returned to the researcher for submission to the JRI-Poland PSA Order Processing Center using the Shopping Basket system. The current "Request for Quotation" system was eliminated November 4, 2003. However, some of the Archives and branches are not ready to join the shopping basket system on November 4, 2003. These Archives and branches will be added to the shopping basket system as soon as practical. We at JRI-Poland are excited to introduce this user-friendly system and we thank the management of the Polish State Archives and their branches for their cooperation and their enthusiastic role in the development of this system. Our appreciation is also extended to our many volunteers who have helped make the JRI-Poland / PSA project a success and to all the researchers whose generosity has made possible the remarkable growth of our database. All of us at JRI-Poland wish you continued success in your research.
We hope the use of the Shopping Basket system will lead to many exciting discoveries in the future.

The Name Adoption Lists
by Larry E. Oppenheimer

Prior to the 19th century, most Ashkenazi Jews in western Europe did not have fixed family names. In 1808 the French administration required Jews in areas under its control to choose and register family names. This was done on a town by town basis, with each individual or each head of household appearing before a government official to declare an official name, both first and last name, for every Jew. These declarations were recorded on Namensannahmelisten , or name adoption lists.

While the format and content of the lists vary, they usually contain the individual's "old name", new name, and often relationship to the head of the household. As an added bonus, some of the entries are signed by the declarer (sometimes in Hebrew.) All of the lists I have seen are written in French, usually in difficult to read script. Some of the lists have been indexed. This is a great help, since the person doing the indexing could usually, but not always, decipher the then current script.

The genealogical value of these lists is tremendous. They provide a "snapshot" of the Jewish population of the community. For small towns it is often possible to work out the relationships between many of the inhabitants, even when these are not explicitly spelled out in the list entries. In many places the adoption of fixed family names coincided with the civil, rather than religious, authorities maintaining vital records (births, deaths, marriages), so the lists can yield clues as to what vital records to look for in local and regional archives. The "new names" also provide some insight into the prevailing political/social conditions. For instance, it was common to take French names (Jacques, Pierre) as well as the names of the current political leaders, such as Maria or Theresa.

What is the main problem in using name adoption lists? Finding them. Unfortunately, many of the lists were never indexed with the holdings of the various archives where they reside. Some are accessible through the Family History Library. They may be indexed as Namensannahmelisten, Matrikel (register), or as "name change", or some other way. Try looking under the name of the town you are interested in, surrounding towns, the nearest big city, or the regional administrative center. Typically, one film contains the lists for a large number of neighboring communities, not all of which are indexed with the data for the film. To make things more interesting, the books containing the lists were often filmed so that the odd numbered pages are separated from the even numbered pages. It takes a bit of work, but if you can find the relevant material, it is worth it.

In addition, some lists have been abstracted on Web sites such as <http://www.a-h-b.de/AHB/links_e.htm>, which at least lets the researcher know which lists exist. There are also numerous threads on this subject, which can be found in the JewishGen Discussion Group Archives.