

Special Collections, Hartley library

Archives Information Sheet 1- Jewish Genealogy

1. Genealogical material at the University of Southampton

The Archives and Manuscripts at the University of Southampton holds only a limited amount of genealogical material. The three main collections of Jewish genealogy, those of Sir Thomas Colyer Fergusson, Ronald D'Arcy Hart and A.M.Hyamson, which were formerly part of Anglo-Jewish Archives are now lodged with the Society of Genealogists in London.

Information on the collections held at Southampton can be found in C.M.Woolgar and K.Robson *A guide to the archive and manuscript collections of the Hartley Library* (University of Southampton Library, Occasional Paper 11; 1992) and C.M.Woolgar and K.Robson *A guide to the archive and manuscript collections of the Hartley Library, University of Southampton, MSS 201-300* (University of Southampton Library, Archive Lists, Catalogues and Guides Series 7; 2000). An electronic version of the guides is available at: www.southampton.ac.uk/archives

K.Robson 'Southampton University's Jewish archives as a genealogical resource' in *Shemot* (Mar 1998) pp. 20-4 gives an introduction to material of use for research into family history.

2. General notes on tracing your Jewish ancestors

It is important to note that as many Jewish families - especially those from Eastern Europe - did not have surnames when they arrived in Great Britain changes of name occurred. If these changes were conducted by deed poll and the deed polls enrolled then they can be found in records at The National Archives. For deed polls which were not enrolled, there may be material in the national or local press. The *London Gazette* has published all enrolled deed polls since 1914.

From 1837 onwards there was civil registration of births, marriages and deaths. These can be found at the Family Records Centre. Prior to this date records may exist with the synagogues. Addresses for the synagogues can be found in the *Jewish Yearbook*. The Family Division of the Beth Din, the Court of the Chief Rabbi, holds records of defunct congregations and registers of closed burial grounds and is prepared to undertake commissioned genealogical searches of its material. The Board of Deputies is the legal place of deposit for duplicate marriage registers from synagogues; these records are retained by the Board although it has deposited other of its records at the London Metropolitan Archives. The London Metropolitan Archives also holds records for the United Synagogue and the Federation of Synagogues. The London Sephardic community maintains its own records and enquiries for assistance should be addressed to the Honorary Genealogist at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue. Details of Jewish burial grounds, if in existence, can be found in the *Jewish Yearbook*. Obituaries in the *Jewish Chronicle*, which commenced publication in 1841, are another source of information. Wills proved after 1858 were registered with the Principal Probate Registry (Principal Registry of the Family Division). For the period 1796-1858, the Death Duty Registers are the best means of locating a will.

For details of individuals living in Great Britain, the census is a useful source. The earliest census returns of genealogical use date from 1841 onwards. These give details of name, age, sex, marital status, place of birth and occupation of everyone in a house and from 1851 onwards their relationship to the head of the household. The 1841 census does state whether a person was born in the county in which he was living in 1841, nor his place of birth.

For individuals who have migrated to Great Britain, records of naturalisations and denization can be found in The National Archives (classes HO1-HO3, HO5). The Aliens Department papers (HO213) has nationalisation and nationality files, 1920-61, as well as collective passports of children brought to Great Britain as part of the Kindertransport. For immigrants arriving in Great Britain from places outside Europe by sea between 1878 and 1960, there are passenger lists (BT 26). There are also passenger lists, arranged by year under the names of ports of departure, of those emigrating from Great Britain (BT27). Further papers of assistance might be: general classes of Home Office papers (HO45-HO46) and Immigration and Nationality Department papers (HO334).

Some material of Jewish genealogical interest can be found amount the index of births, marriages and deaths compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. A microfiche of this can be found at the Society of Genealogists. The Colyer-Fergusson collection which includes family pedigrees, lists of newspaper notices, and abstracts of wills, and the Hyamson collection of notes on Jewish families are also at the Society of Genealogists.

3. Useful guides and addresses for tracing your Jewish ancestors

WWW resources:

There are innumerable resources available on the web. The following are of particular assistance:

www.avotaynu.com

This gives access to (i) the Avotaynu Consolidated Jewish Surname Index which provides a gateway to thousands of Jewish surnames which appear in a range of databases; (ii) the Family Tree of the Jewish people, a database of family trees submitted by Jewish genealogists; and (iii) JewishGen which supports a variety of genealogical resources including the JewishGen Family Finder a computer index compilation of surnames and towns being researched by genealogists worldwide, together with details of genealogical societies, immigration records for the United States of America, passenger lists for America and Hamburg.

www.genuki.org.uk

The UK and Ireland Genealogical Information Service

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/familyhistory/

This gives access to the National Archives guides on family history

www.familysearch.org

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints site which contains access to extensive genealogical resources

General guides:

Anthony J.Camp *Everyone has roots: an introduction to English genealogy* (London, 1978)

David Hey *Journeys in family history* (National Archives, Richmond, 2004)

Jewish related guides:

Anglo-Jewish notabilities: their arms and testamentary dispositions (Jewish Historical Society of England, 1949)

A.Beare *A guide to Jewish genealogy in Latvia and Estonia* (London, 2001)

Arlene H.Eakle & Johni Cerny *The Source: a guidebook of American genealogy* (Utah, 1984)

Funk & Wagnall *Jewish Encyclopaedia* (1901-6)

This contains many Jewish pedigrees.

Michael Gandy *My ancestor was Jewish* (Society of Genealogists, 1982)

Anthony P.Joseph 'On tracing Australian Jewish genealogy' *Genealogists' Magazine* (Dec 1964)

Arthur Kurzweil *From generation to generation: how to trace your Jewish genealogy and personal history* (revised edition: New York, 1994)

This places emphasis on Eastern European Jewish genealogy.

Dan Rottenberg *Finding our fathers. A guide to Jewish genealogy* (New York, 1977)

This contains a list of around three hundred individual family histories which have been published - some privately - together with an alphabetical list of family names, and a country by country description of archives and finding aids.

Sallyann Amdur Sack and the Israel Genealogical Society *A guide to Jewish genealogical research in Israel* (Teaneck, NJ, 1995)

Edgar Samuel 'Jewish ancestors and where to find them' *Genealogists' Magazine* (Dec 1953)

This article updates the one below by his father.

Wilfred Samuel 'Sources of Anglo-Jewish genealogy' *Genealogists' Magazine* (Dec 1932)

F.Smith & D.E.Gardner *Genealogical research in England and Wales* (1956) vol. I, chap. XVI pp. 254-8

'The Jews in Great Britain and the Commonwealth'

D.J.Steel & E.R.Samuel *National index of parish registers vol. iii: Sources for Roman Catholic and Jewish genealogy and family history* (Society of Genealogists, 1974)

David S.Zubatsky *Jewish autobiographies and biographies: an international bibliography of books and dissertations in English* (New York and London, 1989)

David S.Zubatsky & Irwin M.Berent *Jewish genealogy: a sourcebook of family histories and genealogies* (new edition: Teaneck, NJ, 1996)

This includes references to material in the Colyer-Fergusson and Hyamson collections at the Society of Genealogists.

Names:

Heinrich W. & Eva H. Guggenheimer *Jewish family names and their origins: an etymological dictionary* (Hoboken, NJ, 1992)

Benzion C.Kaganoff *A dictionary of Jewish names and their history* (London, 1978)

Alfred J.Kolatch *The new name dictionary: modern English and Hebrew names* (New York, 1989)

Arthur E.Franklin 'Jewish forenames' *Genealogists' Magazine* (Mar 1936)

W.P.M.Phillimore & Edward Alexander Fry *An index to changes in name under authority of Act of Parliament or Royal Licence and including irregular changes from 1 George III to 64 Victoria (1760-1901)* (1905)

Migration:

A.Baxter *In search of your European roots, a complete guide to tracing your ancestors in every country of Europe* (Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., 1985)

P.W.Filby & M.K.Meyer *Passenger and immigration lists index* (1981)

Michael Tepper *American passenger arrival records* (Baltimore, 1993)

Guides to archives:

Janet Foster & Julia Sheppard *British Archives: a guide to archive resources in the United Kingdom* fourth edition (2002)

National Historical Publications and Records Commission *Directory of archives and manuscript repositories in the United States* second edition

www.archon.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/

This gives access to contact details of record repositories in the UK and elsewhere.

Useful addresses:

American Jewish Archives, 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220

American Jewish Historical Society, 2 Thornton Road, Waltham, MA 02154

The Registrar, Family Division, Beth Din, Court of the Chief Rabbi, Adler House, 735 High Road, North Finchley, London N12

The Association of Genealogists and Record Agents, 1 Woodside Close, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6AU

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Genealogical Society, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150 and 64 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PA

Family Records Centre, 1 Myddelton Street, London EC1R 1UW www.familyrecords.gov.uk/

Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS), 31 Seven Star Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2BZ

Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Northgate, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1BA

Jewish Historical Society of England, 33 Seymour Place, London W1H 5AP

London Metropolitan Archives (formerly Greater London Record Office), 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB

The National Archives (formerly Public Record Office), Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey TW9 1LR

Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center, 625 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Principal Registry of the Family Division, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LP

Scottish Genealogy Society, 21 Howard Place, Edinburgh EH3 5JY

or Searchers' Committee, 9 Union Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LT

The Scottish Association of Genealogists and Record Agents, PO Box 174, Edinburgh EH3 5QZ

Scots Ancestry Research Society, 3 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3PY

Correspondence to be addressed to The Secretary.

The Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA

Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation, 2 Ashworth Road, Maida Vale, London W9 1JY

Western Jewish History Center, Judah L. Magres Memorial Museum, 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, CA 94705

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