

Schl*ssel e-Gazette

Summer 2004

INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

An International Jewish Genealogy Conference, attended by over 600 people, took place in Jerusalem from July 4th- 9th.

From the perspective of "All Schlissels are Linked" the important news is that Jewish Records Indexing, the organization authorized by the Polish Government to post (Jewish) archival material on the Internet, announced that it is ready to begin indexing the 1880 Census of Tarnobrzeg.

The 1880 Census is the most important archival record whose existence we are aware of, and includes information on family units, some of which are headed by individuals who were born only 1 generation after Jews were required to adopt family names.

The challenge now is to complete the fund-raising for the project. At this juncture about 60% of the required \$2,500 has been contributed. (A special thanks to my brother Ted for getting the drive off to a running start.)



The "Tarnobrzeg/Dzikov team" pouring over documents at the conference. From the left: Chaim Laufer, Arnie Schlissel, Gayle Schlissel Riley. Chaim's great-grandmother was Zelda Laja Schlussel (Natfalit branch). His great-grandfather (Baruch Laufer) was the son of Channa Schlussel (Ten Generations) and Zelig Laufer.

Schl*ssels in Israel Meet

The presence of our veteran genealogist - **Gayle Schlissel Riley** - at the conference was the driving force for organizing the 5th meeting of the Schl*ssels in Israel Club. Gayle, who has been involved in genealogy since 1987, and has made a substantial amount of Tarnobrzeg archival material available, all of it on-line.*

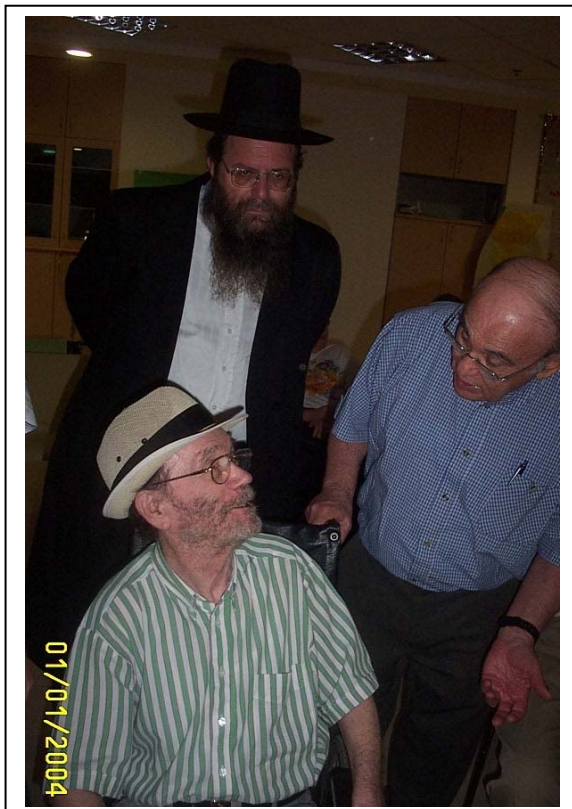
One of her most poignant finds was a "Death Register" covering the years 1903 - 1928, which she discovered in the possession of the "caretaker" of the (newer) Jewish cemetery.

In addition to honoring Gayle, the program included a home video taken by Zvi Litowsky (grandson of Sara Schlusel) during a visit to Tarnobrzeg in 1999. Sara and her husband Hoenig were owners of a well-known bakery, and the first portion of the video follows Zvi as he asks passersby and finds its location.

From the video we saw that hardly any tombstones remain in the cemetery, and most of those that do are fragmented. Some meeting participants recognized houses, or property, that once belonged to their families. But the great emotional depth of the evening was provided by Yaakov Shifman, born in Tarnobrzeg in 1922, and who as a 17 year old was expelled by the Nazis (along with the entire Jewish community in 1939) and who knew relatives of most of those present.

Thanks to Moshe Schlusel of ND Israel for allowing use of the computer projector for broadcasting the video, and Kobi Schlissel for technical services.

*To visit the Tarnobrzeg website, begin at www.Jewishgen.org
From the home page, select Shtetl links, select Poland, select Tarnobrzeg.)



Aharon Shefi consults with Yaakov Shiffman as Chaim Feldman looks on.

Torah Dedicated in Efrat

A Torah Scroll in memory of cousins Sam Schlusel and Shimon Kresh was dedicated in the Efrat Synagogue. Sam and Shimon both belong to the Shimon line on the Ten Generations tree, many of whom left Tarnobrzeg for Krakow, probably around the turn of the 20th century. Sam's family left Krakow and settled in Berlin in 1932, and managed to flee to the U.S. in 1939. He studied electrical engineering at Purdue University, and rose to a senior position in the Channel Master Corporation. Sam was married to Dorothy Slavin and the proud father of Lynn, Susan and Steven (who contributed the Torah.) Shimon's family remained in the Kolbuszowa region, and one did not have to hear many details on how the family survived the year wars to know that they experienced hell on earth. Unfortunately, Shimon was already in the throes of a debilitating disease when "All Schl*ssels are Linked" began, and I did not have the good fortune to really know him. But just observing his family at the Torah dedication service made it clear that the descriptions of him as an oak among men, not only in physical stature, but in character and values had to be true.

CCOJB Head from Naftali Branch

It has recently been learned that Philippe Markiewicz, the head of the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations (CCOJB) is the son of Lea Schlusel, daughter of Moshe Schlusel of the Naftali branch.. Thanks to Nico Sprecher of the Tarnobrzeg interest group for this important piece of information. (Credit must also be given to Vivian Oster of London. He put me on the trail earlier, but technical difficulties prevented the potential inherent in his lead from being realized.)

Ring is Found, So is DoS*

*DoS - Descendant of Schlusels

Dr. Yvette Schlusel, a lecturer in Statistics, found a man's ring on the Rutgers Campus, and distributed an email to the Faculty in an effort to find its owner. A response, although not quite what she expected, was not long in coming:

Dear Yvette,

I was stunned to see your e-mail. I am a 4th generation Schlusel. My great-grandfather, Joseph Schlusel came from Austria and settled in Passaic, NJ. I would be delighted to compare family notes with you. It is likely we are related in some way.

Best wishes,
Joel Flagler

Joel is a member of the ArthurHanan Branch. He doesn't appear on the chart yet, but he and his cousins will be filling in some of the missing details.

To read more about Joel's interesting work in Horticultural Therapy:

<http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/pdfs/fs692.pdf>

To read more about a recent application of Yvette's work:

http://store.law.com/nylj_results.asp?lqry=Schlussel

(but you will need to register to read the full article. Or I can send you a copy)

Asleep at the Wheel

The "All Schlissels are Linked" modus operandi is based on collecting, organizing and analyzing data. And sometimes during the organization stage something stares you in the face and you ask yourself how could such an important clue not have registered from the very start.

The most well-known Schlusssel in Israel is from the Leman-Schlusssel import agency. The Schlusssel was Baruch Schlusssel, who was active in the Mizrahi movement in his hometown of Rzeszow and made aliya in 1935. Baruch was the only member of his family to do so, and as a result was the only one to survive the Nazi Holocaust. He lost parents Moshe and Hinda Rachel, a brother and 4 sisters.

Long ago I downloaded Rzeszow archival records from the JRI website, and put a printout in a file with some material that was found in the Rzeszow Memorial (Yizkor) book. While reviewing that material recently I was struck by a sentence:

"Moshe Zeev was the son of Yisrael Mordechai, who was a descendant of Rabbis and Torah Scholars"

and realized I had been asleep at the wheel. Who were these "Rabbis and Torah Scholars" I have almost no doubt the reference is to Yoska the Holy One, his grandsons Laibush and Alexander Zecil, and possibly even Laibush's grandson, David Schlusssel, the Dayan (Judge of the religious court) of Munkach.

Now one might argue that Yisrael Mordechai was a contemporary of David, but I would counter that when the Rzeszow Yizkor Book was compiled (in the 1970's) these time distinctions became blurred. Conversely, I would ask: If not Yoska and his line, who were the authors of the Yizkor book referring to?

When asked if she had ever heard that her family was related to the Dayan of Munkach, Sara Cahana, the "matriarch" of the Rzeszow Schlusssels, responded "I was always told that they were distant relatives". So the Leman-Schlusssel branch is now being grafted on to Ten Generations, the trunk of the Schl*ssel Family Tree.

Dan Klapper Strikes Again

The First Strike - During the early stages of this project Dan Klapper sent an email stating that his grandmother was related to the Dayan of Munkach. I must admit ignorance at the time and did not know the significance of the statement. When the first stage of data collection was complete, and the information was posted to the website (www.Schlissel.org) I began filing all the papers that had accumulated in the process. By this stage I knew that who the Dayan was, and that his many tractates included the story of Yoska the Martyr, and traced the Schluskel family back to him. Thus began an intensive effort to determine the basis for Dan's statement that his grandmother was his relative. The number of coincidences during this effort was nothing short of amazing, the final series beginning with an email from Bayla Granovsky, now of Jerusalem, who put many of the pieces in place, with the very final link tying the Klappers to the Dayan found in the Yad VaShem archives.

Strike Two – From the outset Dan had told me that his Schluskel/Klapper line had been very close to, and believed it was related to, members of another branch called Majdan/Kolbuszowa,(the town -- about 40km south of Dzikow - which it called home). However, many efforts to find the link did not bear fruit. Until, with Mazal Tov, the grandson of Moshe Weinman (of the M/K branch) married, and one of the guests at the festivities – not from the Schluskel side – provided Dan with the missing link. “Your genealogists chart shows the two matriarchs of the branch, but it is missing their brother Mordechai.” Mordechai was Dan's great-great grandfather. Once again the family belief that it was related to another branch was demonstrated to be the case. One more branch to the Ten Generations trunk.



Joseph Schluskel, a grandson of the Dayan of Munkacz, at a luncheon following his grandson's Bar Mitzvah , celebrated at the Kotel.

Anne Kleinman Surfaces – Partially

The solution to one of the intriguing mysteries of Phase 1 of “All Schl*ssels are Linked” - how are Abbie Shrank (Israel Mendel branch) and Marsha Levine (Usher/Mariem branch) are related was provided by Anne's aunt, Vivian Kleinman. And what a solution it was, showing an incredible number of inter-cousin marriages that linked at least 3 Tarnobrzeg Schlusssel “dynasties”. Anne had visited the Schlusssel website earlier, but her interest was re-kindled during a shiva call to the family of the late Gertrude Epstein. Gertrude (Arthur Hanan branch) was well-known among Schlussels in the Queens area for organizing gatherings of Schlusssel descendants whom she believed were all related. (Yes, she was the progenitor of “All Schl*ssels are Linked”). In any event, Anne recently informed me that she had done a Family History project while in high school (+/- 25 years ago.) It has recently been discovered in a cousin's attic, and with some luck Anne will be regaining possession soon. And with even more luck, it will shed some new light on the early period of the Schlusssel family.

Schlussels in Israel to Convene During Succoth

The Schlussels in Israel Club will spend a day at Kibbutz Alumim on the third intermediate day of Succoth (Sunday, Oct 3, 2004). The program will begin at 10:30a.m. with a Memorial Service to mark the expulsion of the Jewish community from Tarnobrzeg (and neighboring Shtetl).

Lunch will be served in the Kibbutz Succoth, after which there will be tours of the Kibbutz, and a host of activities for children and parents alike.

The day at the Kibbutz will end with coffee and cake at 17:30

Efforts will be made to keep costs low.

Transportation from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem will be arranged if necessary.

Further announcements will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, be sure and **RESERVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3**

"All Schl*ssels are Linked" U.S Tour Under Consideration

The tour, which will take place between Purim and Passover, will cover the 3 main areas where Schl*ssels are concentrated - NY/NJ, Florida and Michigan. The purpose of the tour is to share the information that has been gathered to date in an interactive forum, and to reach out to those Schl*ssels who have not yet provided information on their branches.

Picture Gallery

One From America

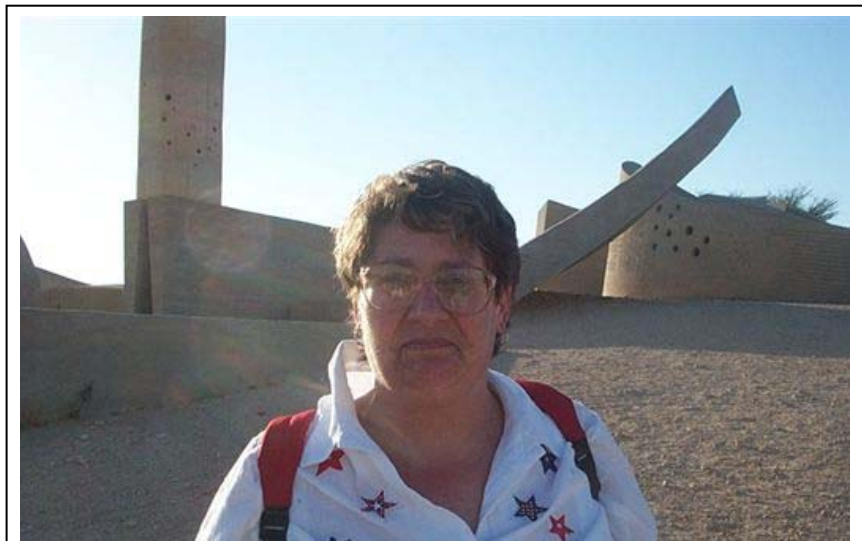
Earlier Schl*ssel e-gazettes have carried features on Debbie Schlussel, the feisty political commentator (Detroit branch) , and Damian Schlussel (Ten Generations), the Air Force Captain whose exploits would cause a James Bond stuntman to fret. Jews in the military is one of Debbie's interests, and led to them having a rendezvous in Washington recently.



From the left: Neil (Damian's father) Debbie and Damian. All Schlussels.

Side Benefits

All work and no play would make Gayle a dull girl. So she and I took a break from comparing genealogical notes to do some sight seeing around Beer Sheva. In the background: Monument to the Negev Brigade.



Exquisite Freedom in the Negev

Cousin Kenny Charles Schlussel (Naftali branch) has spent the last 2+ years experiencing the world - Australia, New Zealand and an extended stay in Thailand from where he explored neighboring countries. In May he arrived in the Holy Land and spent some with the Schlissels of Beer Sheva.



From the left: Kenny Charles, Arnie and his wife Patriss, daughter Karen and son Doron. Not present is daughter Hagit.

At Long Last



Philip Schlussel has been active in Jewish community life for 45 years, and has been in Israel at least three times since “All Schl*ssels are Linked” was launched. But each time getting together proved evasive. This time I was determined to make the trip to Jerusalem come what may, until at almost the last moment we discovered that Phil’s itinerary would take him to the Ben-Gurion University Medical School, less than 3 miles from my front door.

Humanitarian Service

Dr. Richard Schlussel (Larimi Branch), a pediatric urologist, was affiliated with Mt. Sinai, but recently transferred to Columbia. In searching for his new email address I found the following link reporting on a humanitarian mission which he led..

http://www.mshq.org/msh/msh_news.jsp?url=/msh_news/armenia_Schlussel.html



[MSH previous news archive.url](#)

The All Schl*ssels are Linked Newsletter is published periodically. Contributions by or about Schlussels, and Descendants of Schlussels, are encouraged. So too are visits.

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