



# JGSCV

## VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

### THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY

June, 2013

Volume 8 Issue 9

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We had a VERY special program on May 5<sup>th</sup> with Marian Smith, Historian, United States Immigration and Citizenship Service (USCIS). Marian spoke about the Obscure Records of Citizenship and Nationality that are available at the USCIS. These included lesser-known federal records of derived citizenship, repatriation, and correspondence covering a variety of citizenship-related problems and topics. Following a 30-minute question and answer period, Marian stayed after the meeting and answered more questions of our members and attendees. To read the highlights of Marian's program see page 8.

On March 1, 2003, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) assumed responsibility for the immigration service functions of the federal government. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was dismantled as a result of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135) which separated the agency into three components within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The USCIS Genealogy Program is a fee-for-service program that provides researchers with timely access to historical immigration and naturalization records of deceased immigrants.

As I had a very positive experience with obtaining records from the USCIS that helped break down one of my own brick walls, I did a 5-minute genealogical hint on  
June, 2013



Marian Smith, Historian, USCIS speaking at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting

#### NEXT MEETING

**SUNDAY, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:30-3:30 PM**

#### **Łódź: Manchester of Poland**

JGSCV founding board member Debra Kay-Blatt has been researching her family history for fifteen years. She has shared her learnings and insights at IAJGS conferences internationally as well as through JRI-Poland, JewishGen and our own monthly meetings.

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this success and the types of records I received. See page 12 for a summary of the genealogical hint and how to order records from the USCIS.

Hal Bookbinder facilitated the schmoozing corner. Hal is always a remarkable resource to help those with questions on how to pursue their genealogy research.

As I mentioned at the meeting, the transfer of the majority of our traveling library to be housed at the Agoura Hills branch of Los Angeles County Library is progressing. The central office has all the copied title and verso (copyright) pages and is entering the names into their on-line catalogue and making the bar code and numerical labels. I estimate that the actual placement of the books in the library will occur during the summer.

And of course don't forget the IAJGS 33rd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy- Boston August 4-9, 2013. See more on page 6. Several of JGSCV members will be there as presenters!

The National Genealogical Society held its annual conference in Las Vegas earlier this month and I was an invited speaker on the Records Access and Preservation Committee panel. Can they keep a secret! At the opening session when they were announcing their awards I heard my name called for the recipient of the President's Citation for my work on preserving records and keeping access to vital records open! I was speechless and you know - that is not my normal mode. To read more about this very prestigious award see page 7.

Many of you have asked about our meeting dates past this summer. Each year Temple Adat Elohim has a calendar meeting for the different groups that meet at the Temple and that meeting will be held May 30. Once that meeting takes place we will know what our meeting dates are from September 2013-August 2014. They will then be listed in the newsletter, posted on our website and available as a handout at the meetings.

Our July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting is our annual *Genealogy in the Round* where you get to share a brick wall, success or genealogical relevant artifact. Please start to think about what you want to share now as we are limited to 7-10 presenters-each with 5-7 minutes depending on the number of people who wish to share.

Our June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting features our own Debra Kay Blatt, speaking on *Łódź: Manchester of Poland*. Debra, a founding member of JGSCV and current Secretary, has been searching her family history for fifteen years. She has lectured at many IAJGS Conferences. She has published in the *Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal*, and has been a volunteer for JewishGen, JRI-Poland, and the Łódź Area Research Group. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Łódź grew from a small village to the second largest city in Poland. Jews migrated to Łódź from small villages and towns to work in the textile industry. This lecture will explore the many resources available at JewishGen, JRI-PL and others to document this history.

Looking forward to seeing you at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

*Jan Meisels Allen*

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



**ABOUT JGSCV . . .** The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County meets once a month, usually on a Sunday. Meetings are oriented to the needs of the novice as well as the more experienced genealogist. Members share materials, research methods and ideas as well as research success or failures. Members have access to the JGSCV library located on special shelves at the Agoura Hills Public Library. Members also receive our monthly newsletter, which is circulated by email.

2013 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send a check in the appropriate amount to JGSCV and addressed to Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain the new/renewal membership form on our website at [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) by selecting the membership button.

#### **GENEALOGY HELP FROM FAR AWAY**

GENEALOGY KARMA from Mocavo matches genealogists with volunteers in distant areas offering to do local family history research including documents, photographs, etc. Of course, they ask users to return the favor if possible. You can start here: <http://tinyurl.com/awpadw5>

#### **NGS BLOG**

THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY publishes *Upfront Mini Bytes* every other week. Each issue offers eight concise and interesting bits of genealogy news designed to provide insights you can use in your family history research: <http://tinyurl.com/a34pm7o>

#### **DOCUMENTARY: NO PLACE ON EARTH**

A documentary film about Jews who hid in a cave in the Ukraine for more than a year during WWII, *No Place On Earth* is being released in selected cities across the U.S. To see the trailer go to <http://tinyurl.com/blrprhf>. The film is not yet scheduled for release in the LA area. To see where and when it is being shown, and to request a screening visit <http://tinyurl.com/ag2yw2w>

#### **YIZKOR BOOK NECROLOGY DATABASE UPDATED WITH NEW FEATURE**

JewishGen's Necrology Database now exceeds more than 320,000 files from 376 Yizkor books (of the 1,000 available). Now, when your mouse hovers over a town's name additional information about the Yizkor book opens in a small window. You may click on the town's name for more information: <http://tinyurl.com/atfezds>

#### **FIRST AMERICAN JEWS**

Geni.com has made available Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern's book, *First American Jewish Families: 600 Genealogies, 1654-1988*. It identifies more than 25,000 members of the earliest Jewish immigrants to the U.S. beginning in the colonial days. It is available to be viewed here: <http://tinyurl.com/bkfr3c7>. You may also connect directly to the database by clicking: <http://tinyurl.com/acynmo3>. It is listed on the JGSCV resources list under United States on our website: <http://www.jgscv.org>

# Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County\* (JGSCV) (\*and surrounding areas)

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with and located at Temple Adat Elohim, on



**Sunday, June 2, 2013 1:30 p.m-3:30 p.m**

2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

## The Program: Łódź: Manchester of Poland

In the 19th Century, Łódź grew from a small village to the second largest city in Poland. Jews migrated to Łódź from small villages and towns to work in the textile industry. Jews were a significant presence in the history and Łódź development of Łódź through the time of the Holocaust. This lecture will explore the many resources available through JewishGen, JRI Poland, and other sources to document this history. Many records exist from the early 1800s through the Holocaust period. The Łódź ghetto is probably the most extensively documented ghetto. The Łódź cemetery, which still stands, is one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in Europe.



**Speaker:** Debra Kay-Blatt has been searching her family history for fifteen years. She has lectured at the IAJGS Conferences in Salt Lake City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Washington DC, and Paris. She is a founding member of and is on the Board of the JGSCV. She has published in the *Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal*, and has been a volunteer for JewishGen, JRI-Poland, and the Łódź Area Research Group.



The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in Jewish genealogy and family history.

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Dues paid good through December 2013.

## JGSCV UPDATES . . .

Traveling Library books in category A and C will be available at the May 5th meeting. To request a book for a future meeting please email Jan Meisels Allen at least 5 days in advance of the meeting at [president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org).



THE SCHMOOZING CORNER is now open 20 minutes before all meetings. Come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for a sign like the one on the left. Founding JGSCV member Hal Bookbinder (right in photo right) led the Schmoozing Corner last month.



The 33<sup>rd</sup> IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Boston August 4-9, 2013. Several JGSCV members will be speaking at the Conference. Jan Meisels Allen will speak on three occasions: JGS Management, Genealogy Under Fire: Government Actions . . . , and Yizkor Book Project. Warren Blatt will speak on the following three topics: Introduction to Jewish Surnames, JewishGen 2013, Jewish Given Names. Hal Bookbinder will speak about: The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe, Ships of Our Ancestors, Why Did Our Ancestors Leave a Nice Place Like the Pale? Debra Kay-Blatt will conduct a Computer Workshop on an Introduction to JewishGen (additional fee required).

You can help JGSCV when you shop at Amazon.com by simply entering the Amazon site from JGSCV's **home page**. Start at <http://www.jgscv.org> and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one on right). This will take you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you.



Ralphs requires everyone to reregister annually for their community contribution program. If you have a Ralphs card and are not yet signed up, please do so and include JGSCV as your 'community'. Your groceries cost the same but Ralphs will send JGSCV a contribution. If you need help setting this up, please ask at the front desk when you arrive at the next meeting or see <http://www.jgscv.org> under "notices".

If you enjoy and are enriched by JGSCV programs, please remember to renew your membership or join for the first time. JGSCV dues helps defray the costs required to develop such a full schedule of fertile programs and speakers to enhance your genealogical research and experience.

We are still looking for volunteers to assist in the synagogue plaque project. We have a volunteer to help with the photography but need help in contacting the synagogues and filling in the information on the JewishGen form. Please let Jan know if you will participate in this genealogical project that helps not only JGSCV but all those searching for people who lived in our area and are remembered by their Yahrzeit with a synagogue plaque .

# IAJGS CONFERENCE UPDATE



The 33<sup>rd</sup> IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will take place in Boston in August. The incredibly rich program begins at 9:30 AM Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> and runs through 12:30 PM Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Lectures, workshops, research opportunities abound for novices and experienced genealogists, as well. The preliminary schedule of programs can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/c2rox68>. You will note that JGSCV very well represented with lectures by members Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay-Blatt, Warren Blatt and Hal Bookbinder.

The Conference offers computer workshops for PC's (Sunday-Thursday) and Mac's (Tuesday and Wednesday). There is a fee of \$30 for each workshop.

Regular registration remains open until August 2<sup>nd</sup> after which On-Site Registration Fees apply (see below). Rooms remain available at the

hotel although there are periods where the site cannot catch up to availabilities – thus, it appears as though no rooms are available. So far, the hotel has been able to add rooms at the conference rate as necessary. At this time it appears no rooms for the Saturday night before the start of the conference is available—the conference cochairs are working on this. To register go to <http://tinyurl.com/adm2fgt>

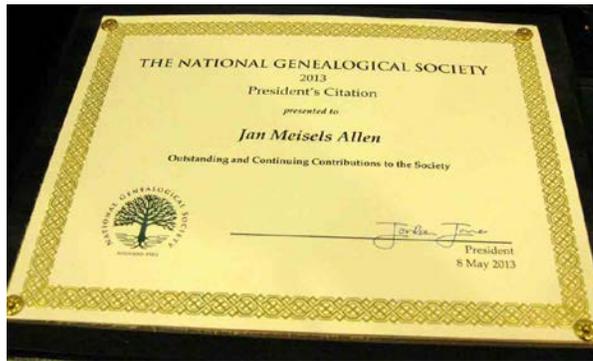
Evening events (<http://tinyurl.com/bfba3sh>) feature world-class entertainment and offer a well-deserved respite from the day's activities. Most (but not all) evening events are included in the conference registration. On different nights you can enjoy the music of The Klezmer Conservatory Band, concert pianist Mona Golabek, the Zamir Chorale of Boston and Safam's "Jewish-American Sound". On other nights you may listen to lectures from Aaron Lansky, keynote speaker and founder of the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst or Zvi Gittleman, professor of political science and Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies of the University of Michigan who will present *The Litvak-Galitsianer Wars: Jewish Cultural Geography*.

| <u>Registration Period</u>                     | <u>Primary Registrant</u> | <u>Spouse/Domestic Partner</u> |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Regular Registration<br>(May 1-August 2, 2013) | \$320                     | \$220                          |
| On-Site Registration<br>(During Conference)    | \$350                     | \$250                          |



# JAN MEISELS ALLEN RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S CITATION

The National Genealogical Society awarded its **2013 PRESIDENT'S CITATION** to our own Jan Meisels Allen. Awarded *in recognition of outstanding or unusual contributions to the field of genealogy or the society*, the recipient is chosen at the discretion of the NGS president, Jordan Jones. The Citation reads in part, "Jan has been a key leader of the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC), a joint committee of NGS, the Federation of the Genealogical Societies and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS).



Over the last few years she has tracked legislation that may impact genealogists' access to the Social Security Death Index in the US Congress and access to vital records in many states. She is relentless in writing statements as appropriate to House and Senate Committee Chairs as well as Governors and state representatives advocating open records access. She is a dynamo on RPAC as the voting member representing the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). She doggedly finds bills being proposed which affect records access and brings them to the attention of RPAC, and thus the genealogical community. She has served in any

roles, including Vice President, IAJGS; President, Jewish Genealogical Society of Conejo Valley and Ventura County; and Board Member, Friends of the Agoura Hills Library.

Jan receives the President's Citation for her vigilance in support of records preservation and in defense of public access to public records."

Jan Meisels Allen of course, is President and a founding board member of JGSCV. Please join in congratulating Jan for receiving this well-

deserved recognition. A hearty 'thank you' for her willingness to share her knowledge and insights would surely be appreciated, as well.

For those interested in records access and all genealogists should please subscribe to the IAJGS Records Access Alert by going to: <http://tinyurl.com/brxf62z> and follow the instructions to enter your email address, full name and JGS [ JGSCV] affiliation You will receive an email response that **you have to reply** to or the subscription will not be finalized.

**JGSCV Welcomes New Members  
SHELLEY and JANE REBEN  
MURIEL SCHLOSS**

# Highlights From: Obscure Records of Citizenship and Nationality Program

*By Jan Meisels Allen*

JGSCV was privileged to have as our May 5<sup>th</sup> speaker, Marian L. Smith, Historian, United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). It was six years since Marian last presented to JGSCV. This presentation focused on lesser-known federal records of derived citizenship, repatriation, and correspondence covering a variety of citizenship-related problems and topics. While the records discussed were created after 1906 some involve events that occurred years or decades before. The USCIS Genealogy Program is a fee-for-service program that provides researchers with timely access to historical immigration and naturalization records of deceased immigrants.



The Federal government assumed the responsibility for naturalization records in 1906 and therefore while there are some records (including correspondence) for people who immigrated before 1906—the vast majority of records are for those who arrived in the United States in 1906 or later.

There is a name index to the Bureau of Naturalization Correspondence files 1906-1946 (A3388) and the Immigration Correspondence Index (T458). The petition file was retained temporarily—if naturalization was granted then the file was moved to the person's C-File. The certificate of naturalization file (C-File) is in USCIS custody and these files you may request using the USCIS Genealogy Program.

Examples Marian used included a person who lived in New York but was naturalized in Missouri in 1918---and the index card showed 1935. He was naturalized in the military when he was stationed in Missouri, and he did a name change and new certificate in 1935. Therefore, one should not assume it's not "your person" if the dates "don't work" from the information you currently have. The example used was of Joseph Israel Cohen who changed his name to David Berger. After 1929, photographs were included on naturalization and replacement naturalization documents.

To apply for repatriation [to get one's US citizenship back], some former citizens went to US embassies. Since the U.S. courts were not part of that process, the only records available are at the USCIS. Many of the repatriation records belonged to women born in the United States who married non-citizens. Regardless of where they lived, before the law changed in 1922, these women lost their citizenship. Between 1922 and 1936 the women would have to be naturalized. After 1936, they received a certificate of citizenship and naturalization was not required. More women than men needed to be repatriated. Loss of citizenship due to marrying a non-US citizen was not the only reason US citizenship was revoked.. . Men who went to a foreign country to fight

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in a war against a country with which the US was at war lost their US citizenship. An example given was Samuel Ashe who in 1939 crossed the US-Canadian border to fight in WWII—and the USCIS records for him show the notation: USCAR—US Citizen repatriation.



There are two indices: A name index and a subject index—they are not the same. The name index will be an aide in finding naturalization correspondence files. Anything can create a correspondence file. Examples of oaths of allegiance, naturalization requests and letters were shown. The subject index would also include case files, which would have certificates of naturalization, received from consuls [State Department] abroad.

If one is unable to find a naturalization record, it is worth searching the subject file and name index to determine if there is correspondence. As USCIS uses Soundex for name searches, having the exact spelling of a person's name is not required.

A derivative file includes documents for those who gained citizenship by marrying a citizen. It also includes minor children who “derived” their citizenship when a parent was granted citizenship. Examples of microfilms from the National Archives were used to show the record number and the actual document which has the file number. Marian suggested that if one has an ancestor who was naturalized after 1906 to do an index search.

Five years residence is required before someone may become a naturalized US citizen.

Genealogy requests to the USCIS are under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). If the birth date is less than 100-years from date of request, proof of the person's death is required—a photograph of a headstone or an obituary notice are examples that are acceptable if a death certificate is unavailable.

The USCIS website: <http://uscis.gov/historyandgenealogy> is where to go to sign up for the free genealogy or history and library notifications. The site has a Genealogy Notebook and is currently featuring deportation records and the quick guide to finding INS case and correspondence files related to specific individuals. If you go to <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy> and click on “order on line” you can submit your electronic request for a search. If the file number is known you may request the documents in the file.

## JGSCV MEMBER BENEFITS

- Annual assisted research afternoon at the Family History Library
- Members-only emails from the president announcing special events and free opportunities with Ancestry and other genealogical organizations and other items of genealogical interest
- Use of the traveling library at president's home – with an advance appointment
- For the first year of membership, JewishGen's Warren Blatt will assist with one concise question per month. He won't do your genealogy but with well thought out questions, he can help you on your genealogical journey.
- NEW! Members-Only Workshops on valuable genealogy tools

# A GENEALOGICAL VISIT TO TEXAS

*By Helene Rosen*

As a teenager my Aunt Esther asked me if I knew that we had a relative who was a captain for the Confederacy. She said his name was Captain Alexander. That conversation sparked my lifelong interest in genealogy.

Captain Alexander was born Alexander Seelig but at some point decided that he would rather be called Seelig Alexander. That name stuck and other family members then adopted the last name of Alexander.

Aunt Esther gave me some basic family information that was further expanded by Arky Pollokoff and then in recent years, with the aid of the internet, by me. The Alexander family still fascinated me. A high position on my bucket list included a visit to Texas to see their graves and the town where they lived. This April I had that opportunity.

In Austin I visited the grave of Sprinze Seelig Badt (pronounced "bought" -- referred to as Grandma Badt by Aunt Esther), the family matriarch. She is the mother of Captain Alexander and his siblings. She is also my ggggrandmother. The story is that our branch is descended from a daughter of hers that never came to this country. Grandma Badt traveled back and forth between Texas and Europe to visit her.

Sprinze Badt is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery, located directly across the I35 freeway from the University of Texas on Martin Luther King Blvd. Many prominent Texans are buried there and I found a published walking tour of the cemetery in the Austin Visitors Center on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Sprinze's grave is located in the Beth Israel #1 section. That small section is in the rear, at the corner of Navasota Street and E 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

The information on her tombstone is interesting. Usually when we think of something carved in stone, we think that it must be true.

But in her case, it is not likely. Her tombstone states that she was born in 1776 and died in 1888 at 112 years of age. In the 1880 census she is reported as being 93 years old and her husband



Joseph Badt as 65. That would mean that she aged 19 years between 1880 and her death in 1888. Also it means that she would have given birth to Captain Seelig Alexander at age 48. So it doesn't seem right to me. And I wonder what the decision making process was that led to the choice to carve on her tombstone that she died at 112 years old.

Near Sprinze's grave are the graves of Rosa Alexander, Samuel Seelig, and Minnie Seelig, also family members. Across a small path is the grave of Abe Alexander. Exactly who this is unknown. He is not Captain Alexander's brother Abe because the dates don't match.

The town where the Alexander's lived was La Grange, best known today as the site of the "best little whorehouse". Back when the capital of Texas was selected, La Grange lost the vote to Austin by one vote. La Grange is about an hour SE of Austin by freeway. It is a

charming small town with a population of 4700. Seelig Alexander and his family were primarily grocers. Abe Alexander was a hatter in a nearby town. All were prominent citizens and involved in various organizations, including Masons.

My first stop was the historic Jewish cemetery, located past the high school, at the south end of Vail Street. The cemetery is on private property, literally in someone's front yard, where the street ends. There are only 32 graves in this peaceful place.



David Vogel met us at the cemetery and explained what he knew about its history. David is a resident of La Grange, president of a small synagogue in a neighboring town and active in the Texas Jewish Historic Society. He is also the cemetery overseer.

Most of the burials here are family members. Last names include Alexander, Gans, Hellman, Ostrowski, Sass, and Szmiderski. Detailed information on each burial can be found on the internet. Seelig Alexander and his wife Bertha are prominently buried here.

An interesting grave is that of Mendel Ostrowski, son of Aaron, a one-year-old child.

It is the only burial in the cemetery that faces west, not east. My later genealogy records indicate that Aaron Ostrowski had two more children and then moved to Chicago. I can't help but wonder if today's living family members have any knowledge of this child, long ago buried in Texas. I've never been able to locate any of them and wonder where they are now.

There is an interesting story concerning the grave of Cecilie Alexander Szmiderski. When she passed away, her distraught husband (formerly a Polish military officer) threatened to commit suicide at her gravesite. He never did though and eventually he remarried and lived out a long life.

Next was a visit to the town archives located upstairs above the library. While there I purchased two small picture books about La Grange. One of them had a photo of a live oak tree in front of Abraham Alexander's house on Washington Street. The house itself was not pictured and it no longer exists today. One of Abraham's grandchildren was Bertha Louise Hellman, a noted artist. I looked her up using Google and found examples of her work. Indeed she was quite talented. One of her paintings was described as "live oak in front of grandmother's house".

The last stop in La Grange was the new town cemetery. About a dozen newer Alexander graves located there in a large plot, one passing away as recently as 1988.

The remaining Alexander family descendants have now all left La Grange. But their memories live on there and they have not been forgotten.

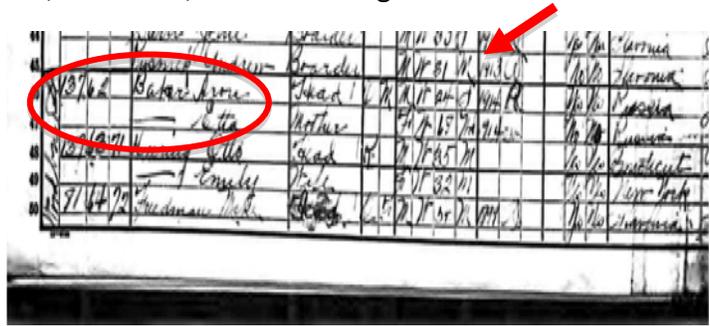
# How The USCIS Helped Break Down a Brick Wall

By Jan Meisels Allen

This is a summary of the 5-minute genealogical hint given at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. USCIS answered the question: What was Aaron Baker's original name.

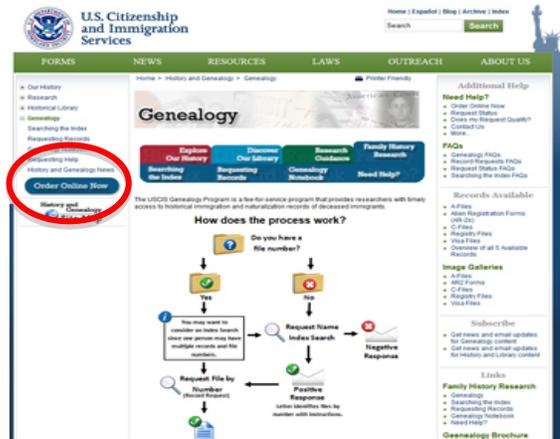
What I Knew:

Aaron Baker was my maternal Aunt Anna's husband for 57 years—they married in 1922. He was a farmer in Torrington Connecticut, born in Kovno, Lithuania, and according to the 1920 and 1930 censuses he immigrated in 1914 to the United States. He immigrated with his mother Etta. The 1920 census noted his immigration year—1914 and said he had applied for naturalization: PA. At that time he was living in Torrington with his mother Etta.



The 1930 census had him married to my aunt and living with their two sons: Allen and Merrill. It stated he immigrated in 1914 and that he was a naturalized citizen. I could not find his ship's manifest and I had **assumed** his original name was Beker or Bekerowitz.

I was going to Boston in late October for an IAJS board meeting –I thought I would go a day ahead and do some personal genealogy. Knowing that he was naturalized between 1920 and 1930 from the census records, and that he “probably” immigrated in 1914 I contacted the New England Historic and Genealogy Society asking if they had any records that would either show his naturalization or his name change. They replied they did not and referred me to the National Archives North East Region. They also replied that they had nothing they could find. Super storm Sandy prevented my original plan to go to Boston a day early—and as neither organization could assist, I contacted Marian Smith at the USCIS and asked if it was worthwhile to make an inquiry to them. Marian let me know that she found his file and it was interesting—the file had 12 documents in it! She also told me his original name was Israel Buruchowitz! I should fill out the USCIS forms and submit the payment to get the records. I went to the JGSCV website <http://www.jgscv.org> and clicked on “resources”: United States and scrolled down to the USCIS link: <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy> and completed the on-line form and payment.



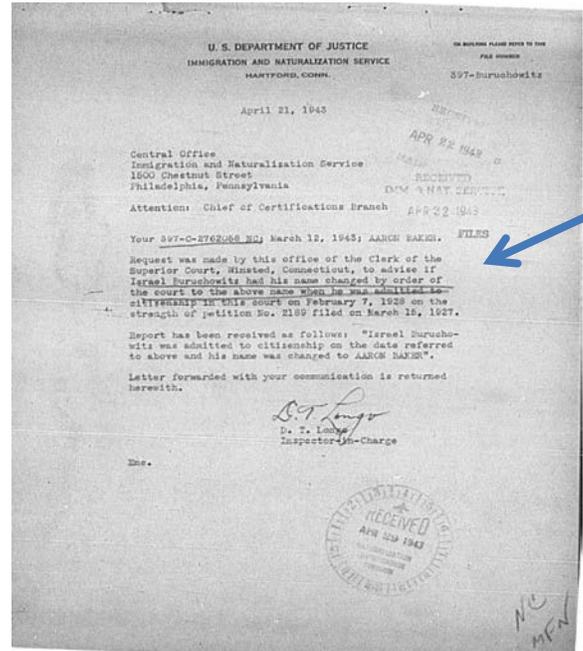
When I received the packet, the cover letter explained that they identified 12 documents but were only enclosing 10 documents in their entirety and two partially as under the Freedom of Information Act others were named and they could not provide their confidential information—such as birthdate,

Social Security number etc. These would have pertained to my aunt and their eldest child and as I did not need them I did not pursue the appeal which was offered.

### Name Change

Of most interest was the New Naturalization Lost or Mutilated Form where Aaron attests that “it was burned up by mistake in burning other papers which I thought were no longer needed”. Aaron started his inquiry for a replacement of his naturalization papers several months after the US entered World War II—he probably needed them to prove he was not an alien during the war.

Other documents included in the file and sent to me were: Certificate of Naturalization; Duplicate Naturalization Certificate, a query about different names on the Petition for Naturalization (Israel Buruchowitz) and the Declaration of Intention (Aaron Baker), the name change letter, the new naturalization form when the original is lost or mutilated, and a letter to the Immigration and Naturalization Service dated February 1, 1943 complaining that he had started the reapplication process in February 1942 in their Boston office and followed their suggestions, paid the fee, filled out the forms and told to appear at a local court in April 1942 where he was interviewed and had heard nothing since.



## 2013 FUTURE MEETING DATES

**Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** 1:30-3:30 PM “Lodz, The Manchester of Poland”, Debra Kay Blatt

**Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>** 1:30-3:30 PM “Genealogy In The Round”

**NO MEETING IN AUGUST DUE TO IAJGS CONFERENCE IN BOSTON  
AUGUST 4-9**