

FAMILY LEGACIES

Linking the past with the present and the future
Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, Inc.

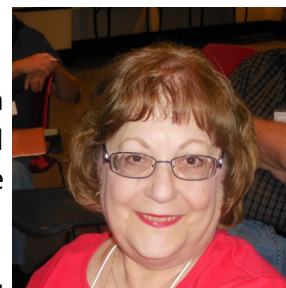


Summer 2022 Volume 26, Number 2

President's Message

June, 2022

I hope you have been busy researching the 1950 Census which was released on April 1, 2022, and have been successful. I have found numerous relatives; however, until the census is 100% indexed I will have to be patient in finding others.



This issue of Family Legacies is dedicated to 1950 census and there have been successes and failures as with everything else, so I hope you enjoy the results of our members who have contributed to this issue.

Prior to the release of the 1950 Census we gave you a challenge. We challenged you to write about your experience with the new census. The winner of the challenge is Rose O'Bryan. The "prize" is her 2023 JGSSN dues will be complementary.

June will mark our fourth meeting at the FamilySearch Library. So far attendees have had favorable comments on the newly renovated meeting space. The upstairs room is set up in classroom style so you now have a table to take notes on rather than balancing your note pad on your lap. For those asking why we left the Sahara West Library the answer is simple. It had become increasingly difficult to book a room even before the Covid lockdown. Unless we made our reservation exactly 180 days prior to our meeting at just about 12:01am we could not be sure we would be able to have any space available. It was also costing us to rent the room which would have been okay had we been able to reserve it every month. We did look at other libraries in the Clark County Library District with the same results. At one point we would have had to meet at a different location and a different day each month. We also checked with some synagogues if they would consider us but we were advised that we would have to pay for security guards and have a synagogue representative be with us while we were in the building. The same issue of room availability was also a problem. Other locations were looked at and considered, but it was the new directors at FamilySearch Library offered us their location at no charge.

The downtown location wouldn't be ideal during the week, but traffic in and around the library is defiantly not an issue on Sundays. Parking is available behind the building and on the street in front. For those members that cannot navigate the few stairs to the second floor there is a small lift to take you up and down. Beginning with the June meeting the library directors have offered to stay and turn on the computer so our members can do **one** hour of research on their computers **after** our monthly meetings. The computers will not be turned on until we notify them our meeting has ended. That being said please be mindful that they are staying on site until 4PM for our benefit so please plan your computer time so you are finished shortly before the 4PM close.

Thank you for your support of JGSSN,



FIRST IMPRESSION-1950

By Carole Montello

I'll admit, I was as excited as every other genealogist that I would finally get to see the 1950 Federal Census on April 1, 2022. It would be the first census that I would be on. My first impression, however, I was discouraged.

I used MyHeritage.com to do some exploring since it was the first one online other than the National Archives. I knew that most of my family was in Union County, New Jersey so I started at that point. I noticed that the images were much better than previous census', the pages were shorter and the writing was actually quite good, very readable. I chalked that up to there being more women hired as census takers in 1950.

There was one issue that disturbed me, "no one at home". Line after line of "no one at home", I knew eventually the people would be counted, but since it was my "first look" I figured I'd just wait a few months until the indexes with names was out. That was the first day.

The second day I thought, that was a dumb idea so I went back in and almost immediately found both my maternal and paternal grandparents, both of my father's brother's and my mother's brother. The copies were excellent, clear and easy to read. I was sure my family and I were right around the corner where I knew we were. I was wrong. My family hadn't moved to the neighborhood as yet. Okay, no problem, I knew the address and I did find my family the next day.

Over the next several days I've found other relatives and as I continue on, ED after ED I know I'll find many more, but the shock of "no one at home" still haunts me. Didn't these people know that 72 years later some genealogist would be looking for them?



I ATTENDED a JGSSN MEETING

By Mary Barkan

I attended the April JGSSN meeting. It was my first in person meeting since the pandemic and my first visit to the new meeting venue. I was excited to see fellow genealogists and to attend an in-person presentation.

The meeting was held at the Las Vegas Nevada Family Search Library. I headed out to the meeting from my neighborhood; I wasn't sure about the travel time. However, Sunday traffic was lovely, and I arrived in 20 minutes. I found a parking space on 9th Street right in front of the building. There is also parking in back of the building off Clark. You can find information about the Las Vegas Nevada Family Search Library at: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Las_Vegas_Nevada_FamilySearch_Library. This website gives extensive information about the services provided for free at this location.

In the early 90s before there was much genealogy on the internet, I went every Tuesday night, for about two years to this library to work on my family history. Those were the days of ordering microfilm from Salt Lake City and then spending hours scrolling through pages and pages on film. The staff was very helpful. When Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polikoff began a yearly trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for Jewish genealogists, I gradually stopped going to the local library. It was nice to be back.

I had heard that the LDS building had been recently remodeled. The interior was bright and welcoming. The ground floor contains computers and various workstations, books, and copying equipment. It looked like a very comfortable place to conduct research. There were volunteers to greet people and help with questions.

JGSSN was meeting on the second floor. There is an elevator. There are less than ten steps to the next level, so I climbed. There were JGSSN board members outside the meeting room. I saw Joan Nazer, Joanne Green and Ben Kempner at the sign-in tables where I picked up a name tag. It was wonderful to see fellow genealogists in person. The meeting room itself was great! For this meeting it was set up with worktables and comfortable adjustable chairs. It was nice to have a work surface for note taking. The room had good lighting and good acoustics.

JGSSN President Carole Montello was in the meeting room greeting members and guests. There was a table where handouts for the meeting were available. The pre-meeting chat was about the 1950 census which had been released to the public 10 days previously. People swapped tips for searching the census. There were stories about successes and failures. The general conclusion was that families could be located on the census with a little bit of perseverance but the name indexes coming in the next few months would be very welcomed. For me, once again talking with fellow genealogists was a highlight of the afternoon.

The presentation was given by Wayne Stoker from the Las Vegas Nevada Family Search Library. He began by sharing information about how the 1950 census was using AI to create name indexes. I don't know much about machine learning, so this was fascinating. For example, AI did not count "no one home" as a name. He also showed how humans were checking the indexes. The process seemed easy, and volunteers are always needed. You can contact Ben Kempner if you would like to help index the census. Wayne is an expert on this topic. The handout was informative. I found the section on the Family Search Library Wiki to be especially valuable. In all it was a great afternoon. The JGSSN board has found a great place to meet. I'll be back for the May and future meetings.

1950 CENSUS STORIES

by Ben Kempner

I found my great-uncle, Ben Youngman, in the 1950 census. He was living with his wife in Los Angeles. Someone fibbed about his age, as he was 74 at the time, 70 was listed on the census. His birthplace was in Galicia, but the census indicates Russia. Of course, his birth location, in current-day Ukraine, was part of the U.S.S.R. in 1950. Family rumor has it that he left Austria in 1900 to evade the authorities, but no proof of that has yet been found.

I have yet to find my parents or me (well, I was just a gleam in their eyes in 1950) or my wife's parents or my uncle. I hope this is an indicator of more indexing yet to be done and not that they all missed being counted in the census.



MY 1950 CENSUS STORY

By Rose O'Brian

I am feeling very frustrated with the inability to find my mother in the 1950 census. My mother, my sister and I were living on London Road in Duluth, Minnesota and at the time her name was Joy Smith. I have found her ex-husband, Earl Smith and his mother Dora living together in Mc Gregor, MN and I can find my Weyer grandparents. My mother did have a brief marriage to a man named Clarence Lawyer, so we spent a year in Bemidji, MN. I attended kindergarten there and after that we went back to Duluth. She divorced him in Duluth and so far, I am having no luck searching his name in the census either.



MY 1950 CENSUS EXPERIENCE

By Judy Deaton

So far my experience with the 1950 census has proven that I and the entire neighborhood didn't exist. This does not mean that I will abandon the search, but I have put in the names of all the neighbors that I can recall and no one is listed. I was 11 years old and I think I was aware of my surrounding. I am getting some real "laugh out loud" moments from the lines that read "no one at home, vacant building and call back see". Here are some machine translations: Mora AtTons, Varant Gladys and the last one was Carlbark Sue. After reading JGSSN's e-mail about Ancestry I did find myself and the rest of the neighborhood but we are all living in National City, CA not Palm City, CA. Who knows why-only the Shadow knows!



"A CANDLE LOSES NOTHING BY LIGHTING ANOTHER

AN UNUSUAL CENSUS LISTING

By Carole Montello

Just like all genealogists I was waiting for the 1950 Federal Census (well, I have been waiting since the 1940 census was released). It would be the first census I would be enumerated on, but that wasn't what I found unusual.

In July I will be returning to New Jersey to celebrate my aunt's 90th birthday. Since the census was out I thought it would be a nice gesture to put together a family history for her. She is my aunt by marriage so I didn't have any information about her family on my Family Tree Maker program. For the most part my search was easy until I got to her grandparents, Hyman and Rose Cohen, but that isn't where this story is going.

I asked my aunt where they were living in 1950. I knew most of my family was in Elizabeth, Union, New Jersey. My aunt's mind is still very sharp and she gave me her address within minutes of receiving my e-mail request. Since I tend to do things the hard way I was going page by page looking at census' in Elizabeth. Then I got the brilliant idea to hop on over to Ancestry.com to get the ED. Could have saved myself a lot of wear and tear on my eyeballs had I started with that. I located the census page easy enough but what surprised me was what I found.

My aunt, nee, Sondra Telsner's parents, Alexander and Ida Telsner were the two last entries on the page for Garden St, but where were Sondra and her brother, Daniel? One would assume that the very next page would continue on with the family, but that wasn't the case. I went over the page following Alexander and Ida three or four times, enlarging it so be sure I was seeing what was actually on that page. No mention of Sondra or Daniel. Where were they? Were they visiting their grandparents, Hyman and Rose in Brooklyn on census day? Couldn't be, it was a school day and they should have been in school.

On the second page after Alexander and Ida's page I found them. They were listed as a daughter and son of George and Rosalie Allen. Their names were correct, Sondra Telsner and Daniel Telsner, but why were they listed with the Allen family? It looks to me as if the enumerator tried to correct their address, but why weren't they on the page following their parents? Didn't their mother tell the enumerator that she had two children? Didn't the enumerator write the information down or did he/she forget and just make the correction when he/she got to the Allen household?

I've been looking at census records since the mid 1970's and I have never seen anything like this. I know the minute my Aunt Sondra sees this she is going to say it is wrong. Well, yes it is, but as the saying goes, "it is what it is". A very unusual census listing indeed.



"THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE YOU WILL LEARN. THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN, THE MORE PLACES YOU WILL GO".

BY DR SEUSS

THE 1950 CENSUS HAS ARRIVED

By Mary Barkan

The 1950 census has arrived! I was so excited to begin researching this new record group. I had made a list of people I wanted to find. For some, I thought I knew where they should be living. For others, I had no idea. I used the search page at <https://1950census.archives.gov/>

I searched for Emanuel Friedman and his family in Detroit, Michigan. This would be the last census on which Emanuel appeared. The census was taken in April 1950. Emanuel would suffer a fatal heart attack in August of 1950. I hoped the 1950 census would tell me:

1. Where was Emanuel Friedman born? I had conflicting stories/information stating that he was born in New York City, or that he was born on the ship bringing his family to America, or that he was born on the ship bringing his family to America docked in New York Harbor. I have not been able to find a NYC birth certificate for him. He was born (somewhere) in 1900/1901.
2. Emanuel Friedman married twice. The family of his second marriage would be the one on the 1950 census. I hoped to find his only child from his first marriage, Bernard Friedman, living with the family. I wanted to know if Bernard had been born in Detroit, Michigan or in New York City. Either location would help me narrow down when Emanuel arrived in Detroit and when and/or where he married his first wife. I had not found a record of his first marriage. I knew that Emanuel had married his second wife Muriel in Michigan. I needed more information about Emanuel's first family.

On the archives search page, I entered State – Michigan, County – Detroit, Wayne, Name- Emanuel Friedman. There they were! In Michigan, Wayne County, Detroit, Ed 85-561, Sheet 9. Success!

Did the 1950 census answer my questions? Emanuel was listed as born in New York. Another piece of information on the side of New York City as his birthplace. His second wife Muriel was born in Michigan, and his two children, Jack and Janice were born in Michigan.

Emanuel's son Bernard from the first marriage was not listed with the family. I could not find him so I will wait until the states of New York and Michigan are indexed by name.

I wanted to print out the census page to share with my daughter in law. Emanuel Friedman was her grandfather. I could not get a good, clear image on the archives page.

I switched over to ancestry.com. Ancestry had some states that had been name indexed, including: (as of this writing, 26 April 2022) Alaska, Delaware, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, Overseas Islands, Panama Canal Zone and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Indexing on more states was in progress.

I would not be able to find Emanuel Friedman's family by searching on his name, but I did have the enumeration district. I located Michigan, Wayne County, Detroit, and entered the ED 85-561. Selecting the ED, I paged through until I came to page 9 and there was the family. The screen image was much clearer than the archives page. I printed out a crisp, clear, copy and basked in my success.

THE 1950 CENSUS HAS ARRIVED Con't

Now I have only dozens of other families to find. It will certainly be easier when the 1950 census is indexed by name, but it is not impossible to find family now using the archives page.

Here is how I used the *Ancestry.com* to locate the census image I wanted to print:

Ancestry.com

At the top of the page, from the drop-down menu for Search

Select Census and Voter Lists

Select Narrow by Category

Scroll down the page to Included Data Collections

Select 1950 United States Federal Census (it is free!)

(This page has a search form for the 1950 census. It is only good for states that have been indexed. If you page down, you will come to a list of states that have been completely indexed. I check here every few days to see if any states I want to search have been completed. My thanks to Lhyra at Ancestry.com for her help on Ancestry SMS Messaging in locating this page with the state updates of 1950 indexing.)

On the right side of the page locate Browse This Collection

Enter your census page information - State, County, Town, ED number

Select your ED number for your page

Page forward until you find your page



“PEOPLE ASK YOU FOR CRITICISM, BUT THEY ONLY WANT PRAISE”
BY SUMMERSET MAUGHAM

IT'S A SMALL WORLD – Genealogy

By Alan Goodsite

My *MS OneDrive* sends me a daily email link to my backed up photos that have a connection to that day. On April 6, there were pix of “The Castle”, one modern and one from 100yrs ago. The Castle was a castle shaped home built in circa 1908 in my hometown’s rural Conklin area where I was raised. It’s about 5 miles south from the edge of town and is now the town Community Center & clerk’s office since the ‘40s, and it’s a mile south of the town’s 1982 built baseball and soccer and event park, named for Leo Schnurbusch the town’s long-time Youth Commissioner.

On April 7 I tuned into some *MyHeritage* genealogy seminars including one about the just released 1950 Census. From that guidance I looked into the available enumeration district reports for the area and in the first few enumerator pages I saw many familiar names from those decades ago including Leo Schnurbusch whose home address was less than a half mile from the park.

Decades ago, Schnurbusch was my Little League coach at many games in the little ballpark behind the Castle. An amazing trip back in time.



ENUMERATION DISTRICTS

From Family Tree Magazine May/June 2022

Enumeration districts (EDs) are the geographical units created to administer censuses, and knowing which included your ancestor’s home is crucial for browsing census images. According to the National Archives, the country was divided into some 180,000 EDs for the 1950 census, and census images are organized by state and ED number.

ED maps indicate how an area was carved up. (They’re useful as records in their own right, too). Boundaries between EDs were typically visible features (rivers, roads, etc.) or political boundary lines (county borders, state lines, etc.). Officials assigned EDs such that one enumerator could canvas all the residences in that ED in one census period. As a result, more populated areas (read: places with more residences) had more EDs than less populated areas.

Note that ED numbers are not unique and were repeated from state to state, so it’s critical to know which state you’re referencing. For Example, Ohio’s ED 1-14 covers some of the city of Lima, which California’s ED1-14 is part of the city of Hayward in San Francisco Bay. The first number indicates county and was assigned alphabetically by county name.



The BARKAN FAMILY on the 1950 CENSUS

By Mary Barkan

In genealogy you are encouraged to start with yourself. At the head of my search list for the 1950 census was – me! I thought I knew where my family was in 1950. My father was in the US Marine Corps. I had been born in 1949 in Quantico, Virginia. Several photos of me as a baby listed Quantico on the back as the location where the photo was taken. Using the search site *1950census.archives.gov*, I entered Virginia (the state), Prince William (the county) and then my father’s name – Eugene Flynn. On the first page of results my father’s name appeared. I clicked on it and there we were. Right where we should have been in Quantico, Virginia, Prince William County, ED 76-9, Sheet 39. After years of searching census records, it was great fun to find myself on a United States Federal Census.

Next, I wanted to find the family of my husband Barry Barkan. I thought his family, father Alfred Barkan, mother Frieda, and brothers Morris and Jerry should be in Brooklyn. Once again, I used the *1950census.archives.gov* to search for the family.

I entered New York, Brooklyn, and Alfred Barkan. No luck. I entered Frieda Barkan. No luck. I entered Barry Barkan and there he was. Right at the top of the page, line one with his brothers listed below him, ED 24-46, Sheet 21. His parents Alfred and Frieda were probably on the previous page. From this search page I could not go to the previous page.

I exited the search page and began again. This time I entered New York (the State) Kings (the county) Brooklyn (the city) and ED 24-46. I did not enter a name. I clicked on the Population Schedule button to bring up the census pages. There are 31 pages in this ED. When the images appeared, I advanced the images until Sheet 21. There was Barry. I reversed to the previous page. There at the bottom of the page were listed Barry’s father, Alfred H. Barkan, head of the household, occupation salesman in retail clothing. On the next line was Barry’s mother, Frieda K. Barkan. I had found my husband’s family across two census pages.

Even though the states of New York and Virginia have not yet been indexed by name, I was able to find my top two family searches!



“WE SHALL NOT FAIL OR FALTER; WE SHALL NOT WEAKEN OR TIRE; NEITHER THE SHOCK OF BATTLE NOR THE TRIALS OF VIGILANCE WILL WEAR US DOWN, GIVE US THE TOOLS AND WE WILL FINISH THE JOB”.
BY WINSTON CHURCHILL

THINGS I WANT TO KNOW BUT ARE UNABLE TO ASK

Joan Nazer

Growing up in a closely knit Jewish family in New York, I was fortunate to know my maternal grandfather (David Levenson). He was born in the Lithuanian city of Kaunas (now known as Kovno) which, in 1885 was part of Russia. Through researching the data bases of JewishGen and LitvakSig, I gathered information about many of my grandfather's siblings, several of whom I had met growing up.

Whenever I had asked my grandfather what life was like in Russia when he was young, he became very quiet and answered "*it was hard*". If my grandfather were alive today, I would ask him to explain that statement. I would ask him to describe his parents. What sort of people were they? I know that his mother's name was Sheyna Fradel (Jennie Francis) Kerlofsky, and his father's name was Yaakov (Jacob) Levenson. I know very little else about each person except that Sheyna had died when my grandfather was young. Part of the information I would like to ask him would be "*who took care of your family? Who helped shape your life and values?*"

Since I am unable to ask him these questions, the only way to get my answers is to continue with my research.

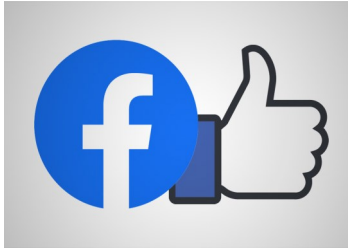


IT'S HERE

The 1950 Census records was released by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) on April 1, 2022. You will now be able to access these records on Ancestry, FamilySearch, JewishGen, MyHeritage, etc.

Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada Inc.

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<https://www.facebook.com/JGSSN>

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We will remain in contact with our members by:

- ◆ E-mailing our quarterly newsletter **Family Legacies**
- ◆ E-mailing our monthly **News to Note**
- ◆ Updating our website **www.jgssn.org**
- ◆ Sending E-mails with timely **genealogy information**
- ◆ You can also send us an E-Mail at **info@jgssn.org**

Upcoming meetings (Held at LDS FamilySearch library, at 509 S 9th street):

July 17: "Immigration and Naturalization" by Margaret Louis, at 1:30pm.

Sept 18: "Intro to Sperling Kronberg Mark Holocaust Resource Center" by Susan Dubin, at Temple Beth Sholom, limited to members only. Registration required due to space limitations.

Oct 16: "True Stories of Young Women and Anti-Nazi Resistance" by Joanne Gilbert, at 1:30pm.

Nov 20: "My Journey from Shanghai to Las Vegas" by Bert Reiner, at 1:30pm.