



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY (JGSCV)

Volume 2, Issue 10

July 2007

Presidents Column

At our July meeting we had an exciting and erudite presentation by Bennett Greenspan on "Jewish Genealogy and DNA." For those of us who have experienced the "end of the paper trail," there is now a relatively new way to go by examining a person's DNA, the Y-DNA and mitochondrial (mtDNA) for males and the mtDNA for females. Bennett represented his company, FamilyTree DNA, and left order forms for those who wish to purchase the DNA testing kit. The process involves a simple swab from inside your cheek. Upon analysis of the swab, you will get a report with your unique DNA alleles (DNA codings located in a certain place on a chromosome). Those wishing to order such a form either download it from the JGSCV website (www.jgscv.org) at Meetings, prior, June 2007 (handout) or make request at president@JGSCV.org.

Bennett reviewed the typical four Jewish Y-DNA signatures found in Europe (North Africa, Southern Caucasus, Cohanim and Ashkenazi Levites), and compared and contrasted "Jewish" Populations by haplogroup (a large group of haplotypes which are the genetic constitution of an individual chromosome).

Greenspan gave an example of the application of DNA analysis and how it can be potentially misconstrued. In the particular case of a significantly correlated DNA pattern match of a descendant of Sally Hemings (the alleged mistress of Thomas Jefferson) to a contemporary descendant of the Jefferson family, one might conclude that President Jefferson was the direct ancestor that fathered this individual. However, as the diagram on the right shows, the progenitor could as well have been the father or uncle of Thomas Jefferson. (For enhanced readability of this chart increase the page zoom to 150%).

Jan Meisels Allen



Speaker Bennett Greenspan and President Jan Meisels Allen

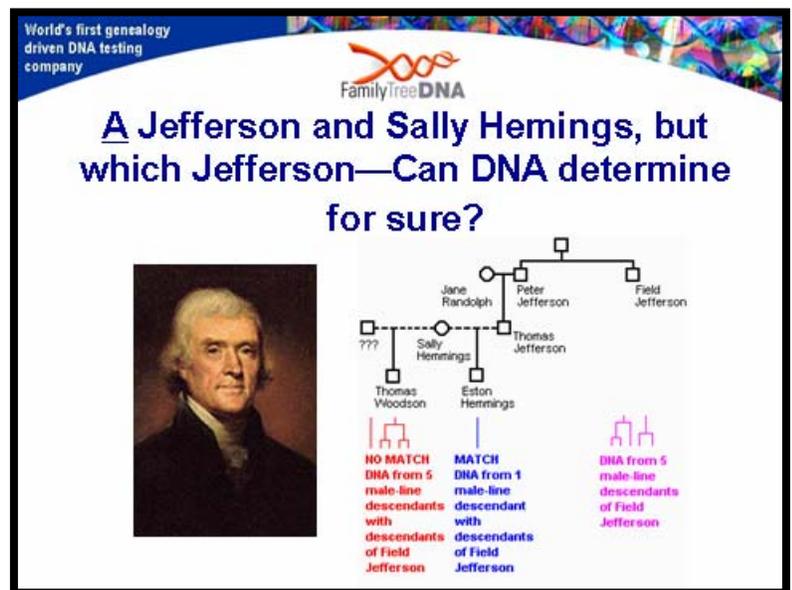


Diagram of DNA Analysis for the Jefferson Case

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING OF JGSCV IN THE MONTH OF JULY DUE TO THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY WHICH WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR IN SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 15-21. BE ADVISED THAT THE CONFERENCE IN 2008 WILL BE HELD IN CHICAGO DURING AUGUST 17-22.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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 a special shelf at the Agoura Hills Public Library. Members also receive our monthly newsletter which is circulated by email.

2007 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send appropriate amount in check made out to JGSCV and addressed to Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountain wood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain new membership or renewal forms on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

AVAILABILITY OF PALESTINE POST

Tel Aviv University has made available a fully digitized and text searchable version of the *Palestine Post* published in English during the period 1932-1950. In 1950 its name was changed to the *Jerusalem Post*, and continues to be published under that name today. The search can be for a specific issue of the newspaper or for a specific article based on the search criteria.

The range of years in which the Palestine Post was published offers a glimpse of some of the defining events of the twentieth century, including:

- World War II
- The Holocaust
- The Establishment of the State of Israel
- The British Mandate
- The Jewish-Palestinian Conflict

See <http://jic.tau.ac.il/moreshet/palestineEn.asp>

VALUABLE REFERENCE MATERIAL

Available for purchase from the Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain are specialized publications dealing with various aspects of Jewish genealogy and specific reference guides to the following national areas: United Kingdom, Germany & Austria, Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia. See website: www.jgsgb.org.uk/shopping.shtml

PORTAL INTO POLISH JEWISH LIFE

The Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland sponsors a newly created portal, POLIN, which peers into the once prolific Jewish life in Poland at <http://www.polin.org.pl> The site is presented in both Polish and English.

The objective of the website is to present information about each shtetl that is located in today's Poland. The site includes histories, photographs and videos of synagogues, cemeteries and other community institutions for more than 150 towns with more being added weekly. As for now, most of the towns presented on POLIN are located in Podkarpackie Province. There are also towns from Lubelskie, Malopolskie and Podlaskie Provinces as well.

The website is open to anyone wishing to initiate a new shtetl or add data to an existing shtetl.

MORE ON JEWISH COMMUNITIES

ShtetLinks, a project of JewishGen, Inc., is another source providing the history of Jewish communities at www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org. This activity encourages anyone with an interest in a place where Jews have lived to commemorate that location by creating an individual web page with information, pictures, databases and links to sites that provide additional data connected with that place. ShtetLinks is not confined to Ashkenazim (descendants of eastern European Jews); it is open to Sephardim (descendants of Jews from Spain and Portugal), Mizrachim (Jews from Asia) and Jews from other places, as well. In fact, the database is organized into eleven geographic areas: Americas, Asia and Africa, Belarus, Europe, Middle East, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Moldova, and Ukraine. There are also 24 regions and districts of Eastern Europe identified with accompanying descriptions.

CEMETERY DATABASE ENHANCED

A major update is announced for JOWBR, JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry, at www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery There are now 689,125 burial records in 1,525 cemeteries and cemetery sections online viewable at www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/tree/CemList.htm.

**Come to the Jewish Genealogical Society
of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County***
(* and surrounding areas)



**Sunday, 19 August 2007, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks**

The Topic:

**"Highlights of the 27th IAJGS International Conference
on Jewish Genealogy"**

Come and listen to JGSCV members who attended the 27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (July 15-20, 2007 in Salt Lake City) who will share the highlights of the program, activities of the Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings, report on the 44 films in the Jewish Film festival, and have experienced a genealogical break through found doing research at the Family History Library and more!,

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV.

For more information contact information@JGSCV.org

See: www.JGSCV.org

Or call Jan Meisels Allen @ 818-889-6616

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates

**All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks**

No JGSCV meeting in July due to the IAJGS Conference July 15-20, 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah

August 2007 meeting as posted above. Future meetings will be as follows:

September, 2007, no meeting due to the Jewish holidays

October 14, 2007, "How to Begin Your Genealogy Research — Part IV," focused on using the resources of the Family History Centers, presented by Debra Kay Blatt and Warren Blatt

November 11, 2007, "How the Jews Won the West," presented by Gladys Sturman

December 9, 2007, "Using the Internet beyond JewishGen and the Steve Morse Website," presented by Ron Arons

January 6, 2008, "Overview of Records at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service," presented by Marian Smith

Subsequent 2008 meetings: Feb 10, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1

New Books, Journals For JGSCV Libraries

Recently JGSCV received several donations from members and friends of journals and books, which are now in our two libraries. If you have genealogically relevant books that you would like to donate, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@JGSCV.org . Additions to the traveling library (these are brought to the monthly meetings):

American Jews in World War II Volumes I, II: "The Story of 550,000 Fighters For Freedom" by I. Kaufman, 1947. This is a compilation by the Bureau of War Records of the National Jewish Welfare Board. Volume I tells stories of individual Jewish soldiers, sailors, marines, nurses, medics, chaplains, etc. Volume II lists the names of Jewish service men and women who died in their country's service, who were wounded in action or have won awards for outstanding acts of heroism in World War II. Not every person of Jewish faith who served in World War II is listed if they do not meet one of the aforementioned three criteria.

Gedenkbuch: Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland, 1933-1945 ;Two volumes published by the Bundesarchiv Koblenz, 1986.

This is the first edition of a listing of German victims of the Shoah issued by the German government. This version has since been replaced by the 2006 four volume augmented publication available at the Wiesenthal Center library.

Genealogy 101: How To Trace Your family's History and Heritage- Barbara Renick 2003. A primer in how to do genealogy- while geared for beginner's, many of the tips included in the book are helpful for those who have been doing genealogy for a while.

Wrestling with the Angels: A History of Jewish Los Angeles- Phil Blazer and Shelley Portnoy, 2006

A fully illustrated history of the Jewish community of Los Angeles from its beginning in 1850 to the present time.

Additions to the permanent library

Collecting Dead Relatives, Laverne Galeener-Moore, Genealogical Publishing, 1987

How to Trace Your Family History: A Basic Guide to Genealogy, Bill Linder, Everest House, 1978

Searching Your Ancestors, Gilbert Doane, University of Minnesota Press, 1973

Back Issues:

Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy

Vol. 7 (1991); 8 (1992); 9 (1993), 10 (1994), 11 (1995), 12 (1996) 13 (1997) 14 (1998) and new issue Spring 2007, Vol XXIII

Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly: January, April, July 1982 (Vol. XIV # 2,3,4)

JGSCV's permanent library is located at: Agoura Hills Library, a branch of the Los Angeles County Public Library, located at 29901 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills (818-889-2278) The library materials are not circulating but may be used at the library- Ask the Reference Desk librarian for the JGSCV collection which is located on several shelves behind the reference desk. Each month current copies of newsletters from sister JGSs are placed in our permanent library. You should take the opportunity to visit our permanent library and read the articles in these journals and newsletters to better help you with your research.

- We welcome contributions from our members regarding their genealogical research experience. Submit your story to this Newsletter at newslettereditor@jgscv.org .

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Ken Saul, Diane Wainwood, Cherie Wrigley

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