



# GENERATIONS

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**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS**  
*Affiliated with United Hebrew Congregation*

Volume 10 Issue 12

December 2004

## IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:

### December Meeting

*Discussion on the Future of  
JGS St. Louis*

**Sunday, December 19  
2:00 p.m.**

**NOTE: We are back on our  
winter afternoon schedule.**

Meeting Held At:

Jablon Youth Lounge  
United Hebrew  
Congregation  
13788 Conway Road

**December  
Discussion Group  
is CANCELED**

due to the winter holidays.

### January Meeting

*Ask the Experts*

Featuring a Panel of  
Experienced Genealogists

**Sunday, January 16  
2:00 p.m.**

Meeting Held At:

Jablon Youth Lounge  
United Hebrew  
Congregation  
13788 Conway Road

**January  
Discussion Group**  
Thursday, January 27  
1:00-3:00  
United Hebrew  
Room 15

## Special Meeting to be Held in December

Although it was previously announced that there would be no December meeting, the JGS board agreed at its last meeting to hold a special meeting in December.

On Sunday, 19 December at 2:00 p.m. in the Jablon Youth Lounge at United Hebrew, members of the board will meet with all interested JGS members to discuss the future of the organization.

It has been a year since a letter was sent out alerting members to the problems the organization is having getting volunteers to take leadership positions. Although a few people have graciously volunteered to help, the general situation has not improved. The current board is committed to the organization until the end of the dues year, 30 June 2005. Elections are coming up and existing vacancies still need to be filled. Our JGS is at a crossroads.

If you care about what happens to JGS St. Louis, please come to the open meeting on Sunday, December 19. If you can't attend, please at least contact Jerry Goldberg and let him know what your feelings are. His name and contact information are inside this newsletter. We hope to see you on the 19th at 2:00.

## Yad Vashem Places Holocaust Database Online

After more than fifty years of collecting Pages of Testimony from relatives of Holocaust victims, Yad Vashem in Israel has placed its massive database online. The site went live just before Thanksgiving weekend and has already been responsible for many people finding links to family long thought lost.

Like any new Web site, it had glitches when first launched, but many of them seem to be ironed out at this time. Keep in mind, the information may not be entirely accurate, as it was submitted from memory, but, like all genealogical findings, it is a starting point. Go to [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) and you will find the link to the database right at the top of the page. See Page 2 for tips on searching.

## January Meeting

*Ask the Panel*

*Featuring Peggy Nehmen, C. Edwin  
Murray, and Ilene Kanfer Murray*

Are you hitting those genealogical brick walls? Don't know where to research next or how to unlock genealogical mysteries and solve family puzzles? Well, start writing down your questions, as the January program will feature local genealogists who can help you. In a repeat of our popular, "Ask the Panel," you can bring your road blocks to our team of local "experts," who are familiar with research techniques, resources in libraries, and special places on the Internet. They may have already solved the problems you are encountering. Get ready for a helpful and informative afternoon!

If you wish, you can e-mail your questions and problems beforehand to Joel Shedlofsky at [jshedlofsky@att.net](mailto:jshedlofsky@att.net). He will be able to inform the panelists ahead of time, so they will be better prepared to help you.

*Happy Holidays!*



# President's Message

## Success Stories

At each general meeting, I ask the membership for their success stories. I do this for a number of reasons: to congratulate the speaker for his/her accomplishment, emphasize that brick walls can be torn down, or have the membership learn of the technique involved in solving the puzzle. Sometimes, the findings relate to others in attendance. I would like to ask those of you who have had success in your research to submit to our editor, Ilene Murray (ilenemurray@mindspring.com), a brief synopsis of your research problem and how you solved it. It would be very helpful to our members to read about others' accomplishments.

## November Meeting

Have you given much thought to how your ancestors traveled within the United States after their arrival? There were many methods, one of which was discussed by our November program speaker, Robert Mullen, Collections Manager for the Missouri Historical Society. His subject was "Steamboats and Nineteenth Century St. Louis." The first steamboat to arrive in St. Louis was in 1817. He discussed the two classes of accommodations, cabin and deck. Cabin could be analogous to first class and deck to steerage, in terms most of us with later-arriving ancestors understand. Manifests of passengers were maintained by the steamboat companies, but the locations of these manifests are unknown. Most likely they were destroyed. Generally, however, they contained the names of cabin passengers and seldom the deck passengers. Mr. Mullen provided an interesting hour, describing life on the rivers for passengers using steamboats as their mode of transportation.

## The Future of JGS St. Louis is up to You!

In my previous messages, I discussed the need for additional volunteers and requested your help in filling these vacancies. We have had limited success, but not enough to provide an efficient working organization. Presently we have vacancies for secretary and committee leadership of librarian and publicity. Next year, a majority of the board members will be retiring in June, at the completion of their terms. The nominating committee for our present officers had a difficult time in 2003 finding people for those positions. Are you starting to anticipate what I'm about to say? Unless we can find new leaders, our organization, in its present form, will be history. Your board has discussed some options, some favorable, some unfavorable, for continuing as a reorganized society and to carry on our documentation efforts, but nothing is feasible without more support from the general membership.

I ask you, what research techniques have you learned since joining JGS of St. Louis?

What ancestors have been located?

What knowledge have you gained regarding the history of St. Louis?

What have you learned about immigration and naturalization procedures?

Genealogy is a two-way process. Think about all the free Web sites that are at your fingertips. Volunteers provided that information. We are no different. If those volunteers walked off the job, the sites would disappear. We are the same. No leaders and volunteers, then no society.

On Sunday, December the 19th, in the Jablon Youth Lounge, the board will lead a freewheeling brainstorming session seeking **YOUR** ideas of how to get the membership involved in the leadership and volunteering for our society. If you can't attend, please let me hear from you. All thoughts deserve to be heard and discussed. You can reach me at <jerfransl@cs.com> or 314-434-2566.

Jerry Goldberg

JGS St. Louis President

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## Some Tips for Using the Yad Vashem Database

During the first few days, the Yad Vashem database had the usual new Web site problems. However, the organization seems to be very concerned with getting things right, and in short order, many of the initial problems disappeared.

Working in the new Yad Vashem database is actually very easy. You have your choice between a Basic Search (just name and location) or an Advanced Search. The latter gives you the opportunity to look for sound-alike names using Soundex and synonyms as well as a "wild card" search, where you can use an asterisk to substitute for letters. Each is explained if you click on the question mark at the end of the line.

Once you get your list of names, you will want to click on the button marked "More Details." This will give you substantially all the information on the Page of Testimony translated into English. There is also a miniature version of each page on the left. If you click on that, you will get the full sized page, which you can save and/or print. Most of the pages are in Hebrew and have been translated using computer software. As a result, you may find translation errors.

The Webmasters are interested in correcting errors, but since they are undoubtedly busy at this time just keeping the site running under heavy usage, you may want to wait a few weeks before submitting any corrections.

## Take a Sneak Peek at Some of JGS's 2005 Programs

by Joel Shedlofsky

A wonderful line up of programs is being planned for 2005. We will start off the New Year with our third "Ask the Panel." You will be able to bring in your questions and puzzles for a panel of experts to answer or help solve. In February we will have Tom Pearson and Kathy Smith of the St. Louis Public Library show us how to research the skeletons we have in our family closets.

Our Sunday, 13 March program is one you don't want to miss. Stephen Morse will be coming to St. Louis to present to us his search engines. He will give two talks, one on all his search engines and the other specific to the search engine he developed for mining the Ellis Island database. This program celebrates JGS of St. Louis's ten years of existence. Learn more on this exciting program in future issues of *Generations*.

April will see us traveling to B'nai El to hear Rabbi D. Plotkin discuss Jewish immigration during the late nineteenth century. Rabbi Plotkin recently taught a six-week course on the 350 years of Jewish American history. Mark down Thursday, 14 April as this will be an informative and interesting program.

Other programs being considered include a Polish reverend discussing either current Jewish Polish relations or the hidden children of the Holocaust, a discussion and tour of the Saul Brodsky Jewish Library and Jewish Archives, synagogues and congregations in St. Louis's past, and presentations on other libraries where genealogical research can be done. If you have an idea for a program, please send it to Joel Shedlofsky at <jshedlofsky@att.net>.

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## Rabbis in the Family?

If you have rabbis in your family tree, you might like to look at these articles on the subject of European and Hasidic rabbis and dynasties.

"European Rabbis Throughout the Generations"

This article discusses the historical development of the Jewish communities in Europe and the origin of the generations of rabbis and rabbinic families.

"The Hasidic Rabbinate, Part I"

This article details how the Hasidic movement was born and the persons responsible for its formation. Hasidism was founded in the area of western Ukraine.

"The Hasidic Rabbinate, Part II"

A continuation of Part I, this article details the latter generations of the Hasidic movement and the organization of the Hasidic movement into dynasties.

## International Conference on Jewish Genealogy Comes to Las Vegas in 2005

The 25th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held 10–15 July 2005 in Las Vegas, Nevada. You might want to mark those dates now on your calendar.

2005 is the silver anniversary of the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. In keeping with the silver anniversary, the 2005 event will be hosted by the Silver State's Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, under the guidance of the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies.

These are always large events. More than 1,000 researchers and experts from around the world are expected to descend on the Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel and Casino for five and a half days of intensive family history activities, ranging from lectures, films, hands-on workshops, beginners' classes, and much more.

Topics to be covered at this six-day conference include countries and regions, immigration and emigration, methodology, genetics/DNA, resources, Sephardim, and many more, totaling some 125 presentations. Computer workshops will offer hands-on classes in computer usage, genealogy software, scanning, and more. A four-hour beginners' workshop will take place on the first day.

In addition, Special Interest Groups will hold meetings and luncheons to discuss accomplishments and new projects. Birds of a Feather groups will meet to discuss interests, while informal groups will meet over coffee, in restaurants, and hallways. International archivists from Central and Eastern Europe and Israel are expected and will offer private consultations in their areas of expertise, and authors of essential research works and other relevant books will lecture and offer book-signings.

For more information about the 25th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, look at: <[www.jewishgen.org/iajgs](http://www.jewishgen.org/iajgs)>.

*(Thanks to the Las Vegas JGS for this information.)*

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The author, Dr. Yehuda Klausner, is a civil engineer and member of the Israel Genealogical Society. These articles were originally published in both Hebrew and English in the award-winning *Sharsheret Hadorot*, journal of the Israel Genealogical Society. All articles may be accessed from:

<[www.jewishgen.org/Rabbinic/journal/main.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/Rabbinic/journal/main.htm)>

Or drop by U.H. and read the actual journals, which are in our library.

You might also like to join the Rav-SIG, a Special Interest Group hosted by JewishGen for those interested in rabbinic genealogy. Go to <[www.jewishgen.org/Rabbinic](http://www.jewishgen.org/Rabbinic)> for more information.

# Meet the Members: Keith Zeff

By Sylvia Letvak Jaffe

Keith Zeff's interest in genealogy was aroused in 1984 when he visited his great-aunt, his maternal grandmother's sister in Chicago, Illinois. He recalls, "My aunt and a cousin showed me photos and recounted family history. I took notes on who descended from whom and organized my information when I returned home. Initially I did this in a spreadsheet with boxes for each family member and lines connecting the boxes. It was a very laborious process that was difficult to update and expand."

He joined JGS of St. Louis soon after it was founded in 1995, to get help from others who shared his interest in genealogy. He explains, "Advice on software and online resources, all shared by members, was particularly helpful. Jewish genealogists face unique problems due to historical migration patterns and government instigated restrictions. Changing names of families and places make tracing family history more difficult. Aligning with genealogists facing the same challenges puts me ahead of where I would be otherwise."

Keith continues, "I am not from St. Louis so JGS programs of strictly local interest, such as synagogue and cemetery records, do not benefit me. But there are many programs that are applicable to anyone in the U.S. and I have taken advantage of these programs. Some years ago, for example, a speaker talked about military draft registrations during World War I. I was able to use that information to find my paternal grandfather's home town. A recent program on ship manifests helped me locate my paternal grandmother's immigration record. JGS of St. Louis members are outgoing people willing and able to help each other."

Keith has close to 2,000 names in his genealogical database. He shares, "The more I learn, the more I find that I do not know. I have expanded my research to the families of my children's spouses so that my grandchildren will know their ancestry."

He shares his most exciting discovery: "Three years ago a distant cousin on my father's side asked me about family history for her eight year old son who had to do a family history project for school. I gave her information about my paternal grandfather and his parents. I also told her of a letter my aunt had received in 1946 from someone saying he was my grandfather's brother, but the letter had not been answered or even translated until the 1990's. The cousin checked the person's name on the Web and found an inquiry that turned out to be from the son of my grandfather's brother. He lived in Israel and we did not even know he existed. We confirmed the relationship by exchanging family photos by e-mail. My daughter visited the family on a USY trip to Israel.

The two sides were reunited after 95 years."

Keith and his wife Karen have been married for thirty-six years. They are the parents of four children and have one grandchild. Keith hails from Kansas City, Missouri and graduated from Washington University School of Architecture. Upon graduation, he worked for a few years in Kansas City before accepting a position in 1976 in St. Louis. He and his wife, a native of Ft. Worth, Texas, met when she was a student at the University of Texas in Austin and he was stationed in San Antonio, Texas.



He is a research director for a large commercial real estate broker and manager with offices in seven Midwestern cities. Keith also enjoys working with his hands and his most recent projects were building a deck for his daughter and son-in-law and a Sukkoth for his son and daughter-in-law. He also enjoys reading history and international political science non-fiction but tends to get time only while in airports or on airplanes when traveling for work. Genealogy, he says, is the interest he looks most forward to in retirement, but for now his fifty-sixty hour work week and spending time with his family limit his genealogical research.

Keith has also been a great help to JGS of St. Louis. He printed about 120 copies of the 200-plus page syllabus distributed to attendees at the 1997 beginning genealogy seminar sponsored by the society.

He is researching the Zeff and Shapiskovsky surnames in Suwalki Gubernia and in Lodz; Zapyski in Poland and Lithuania; Sushinsky in Grodno; Feldman, Meshevsky, and Kamenetsky in Drohitchin, Belarus; Forman and Geller in the vicinity of Rovno, Ukraine; Michoiskowicz in Lithuania, and Yonack in Lithuania and Latvia.

## Some Chanukah Suggestions for a Genealogist

- Subscription (or renewal) to *Avotaynu*, the journal of Jewish genealogy
- Gift cards to Office Max or Office Depot for supplies to help get organized
- Prepaid phone cards to make those calls to faraway relatives
- Computer goodies, such as blank CDs to save data and photos on or a flash (thumb, jump) drive

# Officers and Board Members

## Officers

President: Jerry Goldberg  
Vice President: Peggy Nehmen  
Secretary: TBA  
Acting Treasurer: Ilene Wittels

## Committees

Programs	Joel Shedlofsky
Computer	Gene Schneider
Librarian	TBA
Archivist	Ed Rosen
Tributes	Carolyn Altman
Cemetery Indexing	Cassie Buerki & Gene Schneider
Funeral Home Indexing	Jerry Goldberg
Marriage Indexing	Eunice Solomon
<i>Generations</i>	Ilene Murray
Publicity	TBA
Research	Dick Franzel
Finance	Morton Bearman

**Webmaster** TBA

## Members At Large

Eunice Solomon Carolyn Altman

## Founders

Sylvia Jaffe Art Jaffe

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### Web site:

[www.jewishgen.org/jgs-StLouis](http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-StLouis)

### How To Contact Us:

### Society E-Mail Address:

[jgsstl@att.net](mailto:jgsstl@att.net)

### President:

[jerfransl@cs.com](mailto:jerfransl@cs.com)

### Generations Editor:

[ilenemurray@mindspring.com](mailto:ilenemurray@mindspring.com)

## Discussion Group is Back in Action

By Norm Kling

As the newly appointed Discussion Group facilitator, I would like to welcome anyone wishing to find solutions to their problems with their genealogical research at the next meeting of the group, which will be at United Hebrew on 27 January 2004 in Room 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The format for the meetings will be first to discuss YOUR problems. When all of YOUR questions have been discussed, I will present some material illustrating some aspect of genealogical research in whatever time is left. Our meetings will continue to be informal as they have been in the past. To those members who have never attended one of our Discussion Group meetings, please try it. You will find it very informative as I and others have in the past. You will not only get answers to your questions, but you will also gain further insight into genealogical research by hearing the questions and answers of others. The meetings are especially helpful when we reach a road block in our research as everyone does sooner or later. Often, the meetings become rather exciting as everyone is contributing ideas to help someone overcome a block or solve some unusual problem.

There is an old saying about two heads being better than one. Why not let two or more heads help solve your problems and expand your genealogical knowledge?

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## Mail to Canada Must Follow Rules

Canadian customs officials are cracking down and may not let mail that's improperly addressed into Canada. All letters heading into Canada "must contain the full name and address of both the sender and recipient, printed in ink or typewritten," the U.S. Postal Service reminded Americans. "The crackdown is due to tighter Canadian security measures and reflects changes to the Canada Customs Act." That means packages or envelopes addressed to "Grandma" or "Aunt Ruth" could be rejected, U.S. officials said. Also, the last line of the address must show only the word "CANADA" and the Canadian Postal code in capital letters.

According to the press release, Canadian Customs officials say there is a backlog of incoming mail with incomplete addresses. "Those letters and parcels will be returned to the sender if possible. Canada Post spokesperson John Caines said Canadian Customs officials have become increasingly vigilant about incoming mail."

*This information was posted on the Internet on 19 October 2004. The entire article, entitled, "Backlog at Border Delaying International Mail in the Canada Post" can be read at: <[www.cbc.ca/story/canada/national/2004/10/19/canadapost\\_delay041019.html](http://www.cbc.ca/story/canada/national/2004/10/19/canadapost_delay041019.html)>.*

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## Genealogy Events of Interest: January 2005

### St. L. Genealogical Society & St. L. County Library Present:

Saturday, 8 January 2005 10:00 a.m. at Co. Library Headquarters Auditorium

*Early American Migration Research*

Speaker: C. Edwin Murray

For more information on this program, go to <[www.stlgs.org](http://www.stlgs.org)> or call 314-647-8547.



### National Genealogical Society Presents:

*Winter Warm-up Conference in Phoenix, Arizona*

20-22 January

Featuring many of the country's top genealogists in one day of hands-on workshops and two days of seminars

For more information: <[ngsgenealogy.org](http://ngsgenealogy.org)> or contact Ilene Murray

# What We Learn from Others: The Sharing of Ideas

By Marilen Pitler

*ZichronNote*, the journal of the San Francisco Bay Area JGS, February 2004

## Search for Passport Applications Online

Copies of passport records from 1925 to the present are available online at <[www.travel.state.gov/passport\\_records.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport_records.html)> or by mail: Research and Liaison Section, Passport Services, Department of State, 1111 19th Street NW, Room 500, Washington, D.C. 20524-1705. According to the article, there is a \$45.00 fee, and unless the owner of the passport was born one hundred or more years ago, a copy of his or her death certificate is required. Records prior to 1925 are at the National Archives and may also be found online at <[www.archives.gov/research\\_room/genealogy/research\\_topics/passport\\_applications\\_microfilm.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/research_topics/passport_applications_microfilm.html)>. The article goes on to say, "Microfilmed copies of indexes and applications are also at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. For film numbers, go to <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)> and do a subject search in the catalog for **Passports—United States**. Two points to keep in mind: U.S. passenger arrival records list travelers as well as immigrants. Check them to determine dates of travel. Years ago passports were valid for much shorter periods of time than they are now. A frequent traveler might have several applications on record."



*Mishpochology*, newsletter of the JGS of Southwest Florida, March 2004

"Wonderful World of Web sites" contains some interesting sites. Among them is a link to "Hungarian Jewish Roots," containing information on the territory of the former Hungarian Kingdom; they have been researching this area for the past two years: <[www.jewishroots.hu/](http://www.jewishroots.hu/)>.

This issue of *Mishpochology* also has a very informative article called "Googling Genealogy Style—Learn How to 'Google' as You've Never 'Googled' Before." Please visit our library to read the article, or go to <<http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/aa052902a.htm>>.

For additional genealogy tips, try this link: *About Genealogy*, Explore Genealogy Articles by Topic at <<http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/?once=true>>.



*Branches*, newsletter of the JGS of Greater Miami, Inc., March 2004

The article "Not All Army and Air Force

Records Were Burned in 1978" tells about how some of the records that were burned in the fire at the National Personnel Records Center here in St. Louis can be reconstructed. The article states that on "July 12, 1973, about 80 percent of the Army records for personnel discharged between November 1, 1912 and January 1, 1960 were destroyed. Air Force veterans with names from 'Hubbard' to names beginning with 'Z' with discharge dates between September 25, 1947 and January 1, 1964 were also destroyed." An article that was written in the December 30, 2003 issue of the *Miami Herald* states that some records may be reconstructed from other sources. Include as much information as possible, such as "full name during military service, place of entry into service, branch of service, last assigned unit, approximate dates of service, where discharged, service number or Social Security number," and write to:

National Personnel Records Center  
Military Personnel Records  
9700 Page Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

The article, "Interesting New Web site," tells about *Jewish Data*, which is located at [www.jewishdata.com/](http://www.jewishdata.com/). The Web site states, "Jewish Data is one of the largest professionally compiled Jewish genealogical resources of its kind currently available. We have over 100,000 records including images of tombstones, school yearbook pages, and Citizen Declaration documents. New records are added consistently." There are no charges to use the "Ancestor Search Engine" to locate names; full access requires an annual membership fee of \$59.95. Check out the site to see a listing of all its databases.



*Shem Tov*, JGS of Canada (Toronto), March 2004

The article, "How to Subscribe to and Use City Directories," says: "You can obtain some great help, by going into <<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/citydir/>>; there is no charge for a subscription and you can unsubscribe at any time. Then, post a message on <[city-directories-l@rootsweb.com](mailto:city-directories-l@rootsweb.com)> and ask for the help you need—put the name of the city in caps, at the beginning of your subject line, and then outline the rest of the subject—such as "NEW YORK CITY—GOLDBERG—1960s lookup request."

"Make your subject heading clear and concise to get more responses. Put in the city, year(s) you want and surname. Many people won't open messages that don't state exactly what the writer is looking for."

# Adolph Proskauer, 1838–1900

## Jewish Confederate, 12th Alabama Infantry

### Co-founder of Jewish Hospital

Adolph Proskauer was born in Breslau, Prussia, about 1838. When he was sixteen, he came to the United States with his father, and perhaps other family members. He located in New York, and his father went to Virginia. (In the 1870 census of Virginia, there is a John Proskane, age 59, born in Prussia, which could be the elder Proskauer. He is listed in Jefferson Ward of Richmond, a city that boasted a large Jewish community.) Proskauer went into mercantile life at once and soon afterwards he moved to Mobile, Alabama, in which state he subsequently attained prominence. He married a Miss Koch, who came of a well-known family in Mobile.

#### Joseph's War Career

At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the 12th Alabama Infantry of the Confederate Army as a private. The 12th was formed in Richmond in July 1861, first brigaded under General Ewell and later General Rodes. The 12th fought in many major battles. At Seven Pines, the regiment was in the advance that opened the battle. It bore a conspicuous part at Boonsboro and also at Sharpsburg, where Proskauer was wounded the first time. In the spring of 1863, it was in the resistless [*sic*] column of Rodes at Chancellorsville, where it charged three lines of breastworks and was badly mutilated. Proskauer received his second wound in that assault, this time in the head. At Gettysburg, the 12th was on the extreme left and pressed the enemy in confusion throughout the town, then supported General George Pickett's assault. Afterwards it protected the rear. The third wounds of Adolph Proskauer were received here (twice in the arm and leg). Col. Proskauer received his fourth wound in May, 1864, at Spotsylvania (once in the arm). On January 12, 1865, he retired because of his wounds at Gettysburg. He was promoted then to color sergeant and captain. His bravery led to several promotions and the appointment to be an aid of Albert Sidney Johnston, until he received the rank of major. (There is some disagreement between the wounds and the engagements, between the obituary and Web sources.)

#### After the War

After the war he took a prominent part in reconstruction and was complimented for his services to the state during several terms in the legislature. He was asked to be mayor of Mobile during the outbreak of yellow fever. The 1870 census of Alabama lists Adolph Proskaner, 31 and Flora Proskaner, 17, in Mobile, 2nd Ward, roll 31, p. 59.

In about 1886 he left Mobile with his family and took abode in St. Louis. He was identified with Manhattan Life Insurance Co., which was in the new Mermod and Jaccard Building, as a manager. He served

as president of the Merchants and Cotton exchanges and the old Harmonie Club. Adolph was one of the main spirits in the Duodecimo Club, the Columbian Club, and the Confederate Veterans Association. He served as director of Temple Israel and of its school boards. Adolph Proskauer was one of the co-founders of Jewish Hospital.

Major Proskauer died December 13, 1900, at his home at 4428 West Belle Place, just northwest of the V.A. Hospital. He had been sick for only a few days and died from "grip pneumonia." He was survived by his widow and their children: A.J., Miss Grace, and Miss Jennie Proskauer. A committee of members of the Merchant Exchange met to prepare resolutions of respect to his memory. He was buried in Mt. Sinai Cemetery, at 8430 Gravois Road, Section 62. Lot 3, Block 61.



#### Sources:

*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, Dec 15, 1900  
[www.mocivilwar.org/history](http://www.mocivilwar.org/history)  
[www.archives.state.al.us](http://www.archives.state.al.us)  
[www.missouridivision-scv.org](http://www.missouridivision-scv.org)



*This article appeared originally in the November, 2003, issue of The Army Argus and is reproduced here with permission. The Army Argus is the official publication of Sterling Price Camp #145, Sons of Confederate Veterans, located in St. Louis. It is the Sons of Confederate Veterans' oldest continuing camp west of the Mississippi. Thanks to Chuck Jackson for submitting the article and the information about the camp to Generations.*

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St. Louis Genealogical Society  
invites you to its third annual  
Open House  
Sunday, 30 January  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
#4 Sunnen Drive, Maplewood, Missouri  
(South of Manchester Rd.  
between Big Bend and Hanley)  
Ample parking; Light refreshments  
Tour the office; Learn about classes;  
Meet the volunteer staff.

## Inquiries

I am seeking information about Belle BRENNER SEILER and Charles SEILER. I saw from your Web site where they are buried but am interested in any other information about them. If there are any descendants who would be willing to share information with me, I am a granddaughter of Rose Brenner, sister of Belle. Thank you!

Janis Steinmetz Gostlin  
681 Woodbine Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415-472-1157  
janisgostlin@sbcglobal.net

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I'm looking for a history of the family of Jules BAER, born in Würzburg, Germany about 1975 [*sic*] and cofounder of Stix-Fuller-Baer [*sic*]. My mother was the grandchild to Hermann Baer, the father of Jules B.

Hansmartin Unger  
St. Gallen, Switzerland  
hans-martinunger@freesurf.ch

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I'm writing you at the suggestion of Miriam Weiner. She's planning to research my grandmother on her next trip to Ukraine. My grandparents were married in St. Louis in 1911 or 1912. I know the marriage index is

not complete, but possibly someone working on the project might have encountered a record of their marriage.

Grandfather: Ziskind STATLAND, son of Velvl Statland and Sarah ? from Ushomir.

Grandmother: Chaye CHAK, daughter of Moishe Chak and Esther-Sora ? from Olevsk.

I'm especially seeking Chaye's mother's father's name and maiden name. Thank you.

Bill Levine  
wlevine@cox.net

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I am seeking information about my grandfather, William S. SILVERMAN. He was born on 26 October 1907 and died on 1 December 1969. I want to know if he fathered any other children besides my mother, Marsha A. (Silverman) ZUCKERMAN.

Wendi (Zuckerman) Larrabure  
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East Patchogue, NY 11772  
631-447-2433  
NYWendi@verizon.net



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