

Overview of the JewishGen
Southern African Special Interest
Group
(SA-SIG)

Roy Ogus

January 23, 2022

Agenda

1. Mission statement, Goals, Board members
2. Key activities of the SA-SIG
3. SA-SIG Web site
4. SA-SIG Newsletter
5. RootsBank database from Kaplan Center
6. SA Jewish records – on-line and other sources
7. References

Mission Statement

SA-SIG is intended to provide a forum:

- for a free exchange of ideas, research tips, and information of interest to those researching Jewish family history in the communities of South Africa, Lesotho (Basutoland), Botswana (Bechuanaland), Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia), Zambia (Northern Rhodesia), Swaziland, Mozambique and the former Belgian Congo,
- to reflect the homogenous character and traditions of Southern African Jewry,
- to address broader issues relating to the region's Jewry and its institutions and maintain contact with them
- to assist members intending to travel to the region with information and contacts,
- to promote, support and assist projects relevant to the family history and genealogy of SA Jewry.

Goals of the SA-SIG

The goals of the Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group (SA-SIG) are:

1. to bring together Jewish genealogy researchers with a common interest in Southern Africa,
2. to provide a forum (through a JewishGen listserv) for the dissemination of information about research methods, records, etc. in Southern Africa,
3. to develop a searchable database of names from data extracted from microfilms located in the LDS Family History Library and/or other areas,
4. to encourage SIG members to establish SA town Resource Networking Groups,
5. to encourage SIG members to establish SA town WebPages for their Southern African towns,
6. to encourage SIG members to submit their family trees to The Family Tree of the Jewish People at <http://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/>,
7. to encourage SIG members to translate parts of Yizkor books and submit the translations to the Yizkor Book Project <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations.html>,
8. to raise money through donations to complete projects of interest to our members.
These could include:
 - a. Shipping Records,
 - b. Obtaining and translating business directories for areas of interest with the intention of placing the information into searchable databases.

SA-SIG Board

- President: Saul Issroff, UK
- Vice-President: Roy Ogus, USA
- Vice-President Emeritus: Mike Getz, USA, z"l
- Treasurer: Ed Goldberg, Canada
- Membership: Ed Goldberg, Canada
- Newsletter Editor: Roy Ogus, USA
- Australian Coordinator: Herbert Epstein
- Canadian Coordinator: Ed Goldberg
- Israel Coordinators: Rose Lerer Cohen, Beryl Baleson
- South African Coordinator:
Colin Plen (Durban)
- USA Coordinators: Roy Ogus, Ann Rabinowitz
- Web-site Manager: Bramie Lenhoff, USA

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Key activities of the SA-SIG

- **SA-SIG Web site**

- URL: www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica
- Web pages provide an extensive collection of resources on South Africa
- Contains: Articles and commentaries, Info Files, lists and directories, databases, Community files, Youth Movements, Gallery, search engine, and much, much more!

- **SA-SIG Newsletter**

- URL: www.jewishgen.org/safrica/newsletter
- Periodic journal of high-quality and in-depth articles

- **SA-SIG discussion forum**

- URL: groups.jewishgen.org/g/main
- Part of the JewishGen discussion forums – *use hashtag #southafrica*

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SA-SIG
Home
page
and
example
pages

[\(link\)](#)

Jewish South African SIG

Welcome to the Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy
Special Interest Group (SA-SIG) home-page
<http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/index.htm>

Editor: [Dr Saul Issroff](#)
Copyright © 1999-2020 Saul Issroff, Roy Ogus,
SAfrica SIG and Jewishgen Inc.
Updated: 21 November 2021



Our purposes and goals are to bring together Jewish genealogy researchers with a common interest in Southern Africa. This page is a portal to our basic information about Southern African research and our research aspirations.

In the Contents panel below you will find links to two lists:

- 1.. *Articles and Commentaries* which contains a miscellany of essays and research papers, and ...
- 2.. *Lists and Directories* which contains pages of lists, e.g. communities and synagogues, and pages of contact addresses arranged in various classifications.

Please read our [Mission Statement](#) and our [Purposes and Goals](#). Learn how to join your fellow Southern African researchers who subscribe to our daily Discussion Group/Digest, and [become a member](#) of our SIG.

Our journal, the [SA-SIG Newsletter](#), provides information of interest to those who are researching Jewish family history in the communities of South Africa, Lesotho (Basutoland), Botswana (Bechuanaland), Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia), Zambia (Northern Rhodesia), Swaziland, Moçambique, Kenya, and the former Belgian Congo.

Two extensive InfoFiles on the subject of Southern Africa Jewry are accessible from [JewishGen InfoFiles](#) in the listing of Countries and will provide a wealth of information on the history and background of the Jewish communities in Southern Africa. If you need help to get started with genealogical research then read Bernard Kouchel's [Jewish Genealogy -- Twelve Steps to Getting Started](#)

What's New?

Latest web-site additions

- Nov 2021: [Rabbis & Cantors: Rev. Isaac Zlotnick](#)
- Jan 2021: [Rabbis & Cantors: Rev. Jakub Lichterman \(addition\) and Cantor Ivor Lichterman](#)
- Jul 2020: [Rabbis & Cantors: Rev. Jakub Lichterman \(addition\)](#)
- Jul 2020: [Cape Town Orthodox \(Vredehoek\) Synagogue \(photos\)](#)
- Sep 2019: [Rabbis & Cantors: Cantor Solly Goldberg](#)
- Jun 2019: [Rabbis & Cantors: Cantor Abe Immerman \(correction\)](#)
- Oct 2018: [Rabbis & Cantors: Rev. A. P. Bender \(correction\); Rev. Abraham Levy](#)
- Sep 2018: [Rabbis & Cantors: Rabbi Dr Gerald \(Zerach\) Mazabow](#)
- Sep 2018: [SA-SIG Newsletter, Jul 2018](#)
- Jul 2017: [37th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy](#)
Saturday 23 July - Friday 28 July 2017, Orlando, Florida, U.S.A.
- Jun 2017: [Rabbis & Cantors: Cantor Shmuel Lerer](#)
- Apr 2017: [SA-SIG Newsletter, Apr 2017](#)
- Feb 2017: [Book Launch and Discussion, 23 February, Johannesburg,](#)
- Feb 2017: [Lecture by Eli Rabinowitz, 8 Feb, Gardens Shul campus, Cape Town](#)
- Jan 2017: [Picture: Roeland Street Synagogue, Cape Town](#)
- Dec 2016: [Kaplan Centre at UCT: new contact details](#)
- Jul 2016: [IAJGS Conference 7-12 August, Seattle, U.S.A.](#)
- Apr 2016: [Rabbis & Cantors: Cantor Meir Dvir](#)
- Sep 2015: [Websites page updated: RootsBank](#)
- Aug 2015: [South African Jewish Women, revised page](#)
- Aug 2015: [Bertrams Hebrew Congregation, new page](#)
- Aug 2015: [Rabbis and Cantors, additions](#)
- Aug 2015: [Poor Jews Temporary Shelter, link update](#)
- Mar 2015: [Malmesbury Hebrew Congregation, new page](#)
- Mar 2015: [Wynberg Hebrew Congregation, Cape Town, data update](#)
- Feb 2015: [Pretoria Hebrew Congregation, new web-site URL](#)
- Jan 2015: [Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, new link to](#)

What's New (partial list)

Contents

A web-site navigation bar may be found at the top and bottom of [almost] all pages

Articles and Commentaries	SA-SIG Discussion Group
Lists and Directories	SA-SIG Newsletter
Site Map	Board
Links to JewishGen	Conferences and Seminars



This Special Interest Group (SIG) is hosted by JewishGen, Inc. Providing a SIG project with a listserv does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by JewishGen or its agents.

*Articles and
Commentaries
(partial list)*

Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy SA-SIG

Articles and Commentaries

Editor: [Dr Saul Issroff](#)

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and Jewishgen Inc.

URL: <http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/index-a&c.htm>

Updated: 27 August 2015

[Morris Alexander's "Immigration" Notebook, 1911](#)

Extracts from the Morris Alexander Papers. By Ann Rabinowitz

[Cape Colony Jewish Naturalization Registers \(1903-1907\)](#)

A paper by Ann Rabinowitz.

[Clearing House](#)

an off-line database of items relating to Southern Africa Jewish genealogy

[Concession Stores](#)

by Cecilia Muller

[The Contemporary Community](#)

[Entertainment, music and theatre](#)

Lists and Directories (partial list)

Lists and Directories

Editor: [Dr Saul Issroff](#)

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URL: <http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/index-l&d.htm>

Updated: 16 January 2015

The names of several of the sections listed below, e.g. Bibliography and Communities, were formerly prefixed with "South African Jewish."

[Associations & Societies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

- History and genealogy books listed alphabetically by title.
- An essay by Prof. Joseph Sherman on South African Literature in Yiddish and Hebrew.
- A list of Jewish newspapers.

[JEWISHGEN MALL](#)
the on-line
genealogy bookshop

[Cemeteries](#)

Includes a table of details of gravestones in the Jewish cemetery in Maputo, Moçambique, compiled by John Miller. Photographs are due soon.

[Communities](#)

Recent additions include a link to an interview with [Woolf Zelman](#), originally from Shmanz or Symanski (Simonys) Lithuania, immigrated to South Africa in the early 1900s, where he was one of the founding members of the synagogue in King William's Town.

[Formal South African Sources](#)

- Burials and Cemeteries
- Census Records
- Great Britain Emigration Records
- Home Affairs, Department of
- Naturalisation Records
- Shipping & Passenger Records
- Sources - archives
- Supreme Court, Master of the

[Genealogical conferences](#)

[Genealogical Institute of South Africa \(GISA\)](#)

Contact details for the various branches of the GISA.

[General Sources](#)

- Archive Depots,
- Genealogical Societies,
- General Libraries & Museums,
- General Resources in South Africa,
- Jewish-Interest Museums & Libraries,

*Lists and
Directories
(partial list)
– continued*

[Jewish Genealogical Societies in South Africa](#)

[Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain \(JGSBG\)](#)

LINK TO EXTERNAL WEB-SITE

[Jewish Marriages](#)

[Jewish Records Indexing - Poland](#)

Launched in early 1995, JRI-Poland is the largest fully searchable database of indexes to Jewish vital records accessible online. Five million records from more than 550 Polish towns are now indexed. More are being added every few months.

[Miscellaneous Records](#)

- SA Defence Force Archives,
- Military Cemeteries,
- Military Service Particulars,
- Commercial Company Records,
- Land Records.

[Mormon Family History Centres](#)

- Family History Centres in South Africa,
- Mormon FHL resources,
- Obtaining Mormon FHL microfilm.

[National Archives of South Africa](#)

A link to fourteen on-line databases.

NAAIRS: National Automated Archival Information Retrieval System

NARS: National Archives and Records Service

NASA: National Archives of South Africa

Gallery page

Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy SA-SIG

Gallery

photographs which do not have a place
elsewhere on this web-site

Editor: [Dr Saul Issroff](#)

Copyright © 2003-2014 Saul Issroff, Mike Getz, SAfrica SIG
and Jewishgen Inc.

URL: <http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/gallery/index.htm>

Updated: 8 June 2014

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1. [Berea Street Shul](#)
2. [Broth Zion Children's Mannequin Parade, \(Cape Town, Vredehoek Branch\), 1948](#)
3. [Chaim Weizman's visit to South Africa, 1932](#)
4. [Jewish Rhodesia Reserve Volunteers, 1916](#)
5. [Members of the Abelsky and Gordon families, Cape Town 1902](#)
6. [The Pretoria IUA campaign committee, 1969](#)
7. [Pretoria photograph](#)
8. [Pretoria Zionist Council Executive, 1950](#)
9. [State of Israel flag, 1949](#)

Gallery page – example 1

Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group (SA-SIG)
<http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/gallery/7-med.htm>

Pretoria Zionist Council Executive

With His Excellency, The Israeli Foreign Minister and Mrs. Sharett
Visit to Pretoria, May 1950

Image enlargement: [minimum](#) | [medium](#) | [maximum](#)
Click on the [BACK] button or on the image to return.

A list of names is at the bottom.



Back Row (standing) (l. to r.): J. Bloch; B. Samuelson (Vice-Chairman); A. Cooper; P. Schwartz (Youth Representative); M. Paiker (Hon. Treasurer); R. Hellman (Hon. Secretary).
Front Row (sitting) (l. to r.): S. A. Ogus (Chairman); Mrs. Sharett; His Excellency Moshe Sharett (Foreign Minister to the State of Israel); Rabbi Dr. E. Neufeld; Mrs. L. Janover (Chair-lady, Pretoria W.Z.L.); B. Gering (Chairman, S.A. Zionist Federation).
Inset: Mrs. E. Shear (Secretary).

Alec Brick's Photo Studio, Pretoria.

Gallery page – example 2

Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group (SA-SIG)
<http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/gallery/5-med.htm>

Pretoria

Photograph taken in Pretoria, circa 1905

Photograph kindly provided by Vanessa Jaffe [vj@iinet.net.il]

Click for [maximum](#) image enlargement.

Click on the [BACK](#) button or on the image to return to the Gallery.



Back Row: H. Falkson, H. Miller, Wainstein

Middle Row: Zaidel, M. Jaffe, B. Edelman, I. Slotov, (Unknown), S. Fasser, Semach Jaffe

Front Row: (Unknown), E. Blum (or Bloom), H. Arens, McCarrathers, Johnny Goldstone

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SA-SIG Newsletter

- Editor: Roy Ogus
- Has been published since January 1999
- Articles include the following topics:
 - Jewish communities in SA
 - Jewish personalities and families in SA
 - Rabbis and congregations in SA
 - South Africa-Israel connections
 - Stories of SA ex-patriots in other parts of the world
 - Detailed research topics
 - Book and periodical reviews of interest
 - New items of interest on the Internet
 - Letters to the Editor
- Newsletter delivery mode is PDF (via e-mail distribution list)

SA-SIG Newsletter (continued)

- *Archive:* Full archive of previous issues can be found at:
www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/newsletter
- *Browsing:* For each Newsletter in the archive, a pop-up view of the Table of Contents can be seen by hovering over the archive entry; clicking the archive entry will bring up a PDF copy of the full Newsletter in the browser (*see details on next slide*)
- *Searching:* A full search of every word in the archived Newsletters can be achieved by using the Google search:

<search term> site:www.jewishgen.org/safrica/newsletter

example:

grahamstown site:www.jewishgen.org/safrica/newsletter



SA-SIG Newsletter Archive

- Example of archive browsing at: www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/newsletter

SA-SIG Newsletters	
Click on the details below to display the Newsletter.	To display a contents page, hover the cursor over a label below. Click on a contents page to display the Newsletter. Click on the <i>BACK BUTTON</i> to return to this page.
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vol.15 issue 1 April 2017	contents page
vol.14 issue 4 June 2016	contents page
vol.14 issue 3 August 2015	contents page
vol.14 issue 2 December 2014	contents page
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vol.13 issue 1 Dec 2012-Jan 2013	contents page
vol.12 issue 3 Jul-Aug 2012	contents page

Click on the details below to display the Newsletter.

To display a contents page, hover the cursor over a label below. Click on a contents page to display the Newsletter. Click on the *BACK BUTTON* to return to this page.

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SA-SIG Newsletter — you can help!!

- ⇒ Contributions are welcome for all types of articles
 - original articles or references to other interesting published articles !!
- ⇒ Please also send letters to the Editor with your feedback or comments on previous issues!!
- ⇒ Editor's address: *roy.ogus@outlook.com*

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Jewish Records: Kaplan Center's Jewish Rootsbank database

Research

- Created by the South African Centre for Jewish Migration & Genealogy Studies (part of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town)
- The primary aim of the project is to research the estimated 15,000 core families who migrated to Southern Africa between 1850-1950 from England, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus.
- Research has focused on the locations where the families originated, patterns of migration to South Africa, where families first settled, communities they established, growth of families, and subsequent movements and emigration.
 - ◆ Looking at aspects such as passenger arrival lists, naturalization lists, community records, records of marriages, births and deaths, family trees, etc.

Jewish Records: Kaplan Center's Jewish Rootsbank database

Database

- Intention to create a comprehensive database of records and information relating to Jewish immigration to South Africa
 - ◆ ... to map the entire history of Jewish migration to South Africa with the aim of providing authoritative and definitive data for the Discovery Centre at the South African Jewish Museum (SAJM).
 - ◆ ... to integrate the genealogical data in multi-disciplinary research initiatives under the auspices of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre at the University of Cape Town.
- Genealogical data has been integrated into the searchable South African Jewish Rootsbank database → new records continually being added
- URL: www.jewishroots.uct.ac.za

SA Jewish Rootsbank database



SA Jewish Rootsbank

The South African Jewish Database

Jewish Migration and Genealogy

Home

Poor Jew's Temporary Shelter Database ▶

Kaplan Centre

FAQ

Links

Contact Us

Births

Cemeteries

Communities

Congregations

Deaths and Estates

Marriages

Military Records

Naturalisations

Passenger Arrivals

SA General

Shipping Manifests

SA-Israel

Our intention is to create a comprehensive database of records and information relating to Jewish immigration to South Africa

The thinking behind the inception of the Jewish Migration and Genealogy Project is twofold:

1. to map the entire history of Jewish migration to South Africa with the aim of providing authoritative and definitive data for the Discovery Centre at the South African Jewish Museum (SAJM).
2. To integrate the genealogical data in multi-disciplinary research initiatives under the auspices of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre at the University of Cape Town.

The primary aim of the project is to research the estimated 15,000 core families who migrated to Southern Africa between 1850-1950 from England, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus.

In broad terms the research will focus on the locations where the families originated, patterns of migration to South Africa, where families first settled, communities they established, growth of families, and subsequent movements and emigration. As such we are looking at aspects such as passenger arrival lists, naturalization lists, community records, records of marriages, births and deaths, family trees, etc.

The centre is under the umbrella of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town and will also have a public access section located at the South African Jewish Museum

There are number of people who have contributed their time and knowledge to the content of this site. We [thank everybody](#) who has shared their work, their time and their love for history and culture with us for this purpose.

The lists have been compiled from various sources. A number of the lists are updated on a regular basis. We are working to improve the site and make it more useful. If you come across any errors in the data, please let us know. We hope you find the site interesting and enjoyable.

The project can be reached at 021 650 3062 or on E-mail at Genealogy@uct.ac.za

Enter your ancestor's name

Surname

First Name

- Exact match
- Containing text
- Similar sounding names

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Jewish Records – On-line sources

- Jewish burial records and gravestone images
- South African Jewish Yearbooks
- FamilySearch
- Ancestry.com
- South African Genealogy Facebook groups
- Poor Jews Shelter

Jewish Records – On-line sources

- Jewish burial records and gravestone images
 - ◆ *JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR)*: IAJGS Cemetery Project has received the cemetery data for Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, as well several other cemeteries from the SA Jewish Board of Deputies; most records accessible online in JOWBR database – www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery
 - ◆ *Cape Town Jewish Cemeteries Maintenance Board*: Online database for Pinelands, Muizenberg, Woltemade, Maitland and Woodstock cemeteries – www.jewishcemetery.co.za
 - ◆ *Genealogical Society of South Africa (GSSA)*: Large database of gravestone images (includes some Jewish burials) – www.eggssa.org
 - ◆ LDS microfilms have some information for Cape Town cemeteries

Jewish Records – On-line sources

- Jewish burial records and gravestone images
- South African Jewish Yearbooks on SA-SIG pages
 - ♦ Series of year books for prominent Jews were published for 1929, 1942-43, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1959, 1959-60, 1960-61, and 1961-62. A further series of three similar volumes for 1965, 1967-68 and 1976-77 were published privately.
 - ♦ A searchable JewishGen database contains over 1,000 extracted entries from 1929 year book, and from 1945 book titled: *The Jew in South Africa: A record of what individual Jews are doing in various spheres of the country's life*
 - ♦ Link: www.jewishgen.org/databases/safrica/sayb.htm

Jewish Records – On-line sources

- Jewish burial records and gravestone images
- South African Jewish Yearbooks
- FamilySearch

Source: FamilySearch

- An extensive collection of Southern African records are already available from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and Namibia → more collections are being added over time
- Many of these collections contain actual document images
- LDS has completed the process of digitizing the bulk of their microfilm images and making them available on their web site at: www.familysearch.org
 - ♦ Additional records not previously available on microfilm are also being added (e.g. estate documentation, vital records, etc.)
- Images of microfilms are made available initially in browsable form, but after indexing, a full search engine is provided

FamilySearch.org - South African digital records (partial list)

South Africa Indexed Historical Records

<input type="checkbox"/>	Title	Records	Last Updated
<input type="checkbox"/>	 South Africa, Church of the Province of South Africa, Parish Registers, 1801-2004	822,707	Jan 23, 2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	 South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers (Cape Town Archives), 1660-1970	673,817	Jan 23, 2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	 South Africa, KwaZulu Natal, Vital Records, 1868-1976	613,051	Jan 23, 2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church Census Records (Worldwide), 1914-1960	12,747	Jan 20, 2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	 South Africa, Netherdutch I Registers (Pretoria Archive)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	 South Africa, Cape Province of the Master of the High C		
<input type="checkbox"/>	 South Africa, Dutch Reform Records (Stellenbosch Arch		
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Find A Grave Index		
<input type="checkbox"/>	 South Africa, Western Cape Files, 1951-1958		
<input type="checkbox"/>	 South Africa, Cape Province 1840-1972		

South Africa Image Only Historical Records



Can't find records for your ancestors when you search? Try our collections that haven't been indexed yet. Select a collection to start browsing the images.

Birth, Marriage, and Death: Showing All

Images Last Updated

South Africa, Reformed Church Records, 1856-1988

40,337 Jan 23, 2022

Probate and Court: Showing All

Images Last Updated

South Africa, Eastern Cape, Estate Files, 1962-2004

425,696 Mar 31, 2014

South Africa, Transvaal, Estate Files, 1950-1993

191,580 Jan 16, 2015

South Africa, Western Cape, Estate Files, 1974

73,456 Nov 1, 2013




Jewish Records – On-line sources

- Jewish burial records and gravestone images
- South African Jewish Yearbooks
- FamilySearch
- Ancestry.com
 - ♦ Ancestry.com also has a significant collection of South African records. Some of these databases are cross-linked from Familysearch.org, but many others are unique.
 - ♦ URL:
<http://search.ancestry.com/Places/Africa/South-Africa/Default.aspx>


Ancestry.com - South African records (partial list)

South Africa birth, marriage & death	Count
 South Africa, Estates Death Index, 1999-2014	1,402,428
 South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers, 1660-1970	540,154
 Cape Province, South Africa, Civil Deaths, 1895-1972	526,527
 South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Records, Stellenbosch Archive, 1660-2011	496,314
 South Africa, Birth and Baptism Records, 1700s-1900s	378,244

[View all South Africa birth, marriage & death \(12\)](#)

South Africa military	Count
 Web: South Africa, Second Boer War British Service Register, 1899-1902 FREE	306,672
 South Africa, Military Index, 1853 - 2004	100,877
 UK, Casualties of the Boer War, 1899-1902	54,930

South Africa immigration & emigration	Count
 South Africa, Immigration Index, 1858-1986	196,439
 South Africa, Passenger Index, 1688-1950	66,319
 South Africa, Shipping Index, 1802-1848	2,879

South Africa directories & member lists	Count
 South Africa, City and Area Directories, 1813-1962	312,374
 South Africa, Voter Indexes, 1719-1996	220,034
 South Africa, Occupational Index, 1864-1918	33,505
 South Africa, Select Academic Records, 1800-1965	18,832
 Ancestors of Welding Ring and His Wife Ida Malvina Mailler	206

[View all South Africa directories & member lists \(6\)](#)

Jewish Records – On-line sources

- Jewish burial records and gravestone images
- South African Jewish Yearbooks
- FamilySearch
- Ancestry.com
- South African Genealogy Facebook groups
 - ♦ Several Facebook groups exist for discussions about South African genealogy and Jewish South African genealogy research

Jewish Records – On-line sources

- Jewish burial records and gravestone images
- South African Jewish Yearbooks
- FamilySearch
- Ancestry.com
- South African Genealogy Facebook group
- **Poor Jews Shelter** www.jewishroots.uct.ac.za
 - ♦ Records from the London-based Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter are available in a database housed at the Kaplan Centre at the University of Cape Town → now available from Rootsbank web page
 - ♦ Many of the people who passed through the Shelter between the years of 1895 and 1914 came to South Africa, and thus the records are of particular interest to South African researchers



Jewish Records – Other sources

- SA Board of Deputies, Johannesburg
- South African Friends of *Beth Hatefutsoth*
- Miscellaneous Museums
- *KehilaLinks* web sites

Jewish Records – Other sources

- SA Board of Deputies, Johannesburg
 - ◆ Official central Jewish organization: represents to the government all major Jewish organizations and congregations
 - ◆ Source of burial information for South African Jewish cemeteries
 - ◆ Extensive (over 60 years) collection of indexed newspaper clippings referring to individual Jews in the country
 - ◆ Newspaper archives of Jewish and Yiddish publications
 - ◆ Passenger Lists of 1924 - 1929; data has been added to Kaplan Center Rootsbank database
 - ◆ Access by e-mail and by regular mail
 - ◆ Link – www.jewishsa.co.za
 - ◆ Reference: Full article in *Shemot*, August 2012

Jewish Records – Other sources

- SA Board of Deputies, Johannesburg
- South African Friends of *Beth Hatefutsoth*
 - ◆ Significant research completed to document the information about Jewish families living in a number of South African towns and communities – results have been compiled in a series of volumes titled *Jewish Life in the South African Country Communities*. URL: <http://www.jewishcountrylife.co.za/>
 - ◆ Publication status:
 - *Published (5 volumes)*: Northern Transvaal, Western Cape and Karoo, Southern and Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Orange Free State
 - *Pending (3 volumes)*: Southern and Western Transvaal and Gauteng



Jewish Records – Other sources

- SA Board of Deputies, Johannesburg
- Jewish Burial records
- Miscellaneous museums
 - ◆ Cory Library for Historical Research, Rhodes University, Grahamstown: extensive materials about the Cape, and especially the Eastern Cape
 - ◆ Jewish Pioneers Memorial Museum, Port Elizabeth, Cape Province
 - ◆ Jewish Museum, Cape Town
<http://www.sajewishmuseum.co.za/home/>
 - ◆ National Library of South African Library
<http://www.nlsa.ac.za/NLSA>

KehilaLinks web pages

- JewishGen's *KehilaLinks* (formerly *ShtetLinks*) are web pages which commemorate the places where Jews have lived around the world: <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Asia.html>
 - Each page is a rich source of materials for each community
- *Existing Southern African KehilaLinks pages*: Brakpan (in progress), Benoni, Bloemfontein, De Aar, Cape Town, Germiston, Graaff Reinet, Grahamstown, Kwekwe (Que Que) in Zimbabwe, Johannesburg, Kimberley, Mauritius in Indian Ocean, Maputo (Lourenço Marques) in Mozambique, Muizenberg, Oudtshoorn, Paarl, Pietersburg, Port Elizabeth, Potchefstroom, Pretoria, Springs, Stellenbosch, Uniondale, Uppington, Vryburg, and Witbank
- Contact Eli Rabinowitz, elirab@iinet.net.au, to contribute materials to any of these new sites (as well as to any of the existing sites), or to discuss the creation of a new town site

Agenda

1. Mission statement, Goals, Board members
2. Key activities of the SA-SIG
3. SA-SIG Web site
4. SA-SIG Newsletter
5. RootsBank database from Kaplan Center
6. SA Jewish records – on-line and other sources
7. References

References

(click to access)

SHEMOT

THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

AUGUST 2012, VOL. 20, 2

SPECIAL SOUTH AFRICAN EDITION

RESEARCHING SA JEWISH GENEALOGY

by Roy Ogus and Saul Isroff

FIRST, some historical background. South Africa lies at the southern tip of the African continent with a population of approximately 43 million. Prior to 1600, the key inhabitants of the region were the Bushmen and Hottentot of people in the west and the Bantu tribes who lived in the east, who migrated down from the interior of Africa. European interest in the Cape of Good Hope, on the southernmost tip of South Africa, arose from its strategic location on the sea route from Europe to the East Indies. In 1652, the first European settlers from the Dutch East India Company set up a supply base at the present site of Cape Town, for its ships on their way to the Far East.

Soon afterwards, some employees left the firm and started independent farming in the surrounding area. They became known as *Boers* [farmers] and were soon joined by French and German settlers. By 1795, the white population had spread some 500 miles from Cape Town and the colony had a total population of 60,000.

Their descendants are Afrikaners (people of Dutch, German and French descent) who speak Afrikaans, which derives from Dutch. Afrikaners now comprise some 60 per cent of the white population, inhabitants of European descent, who number about six million.

The remaining two-fifths are mainly of British descent and speak English as their native language. Their forebears arrived in the 1820s. Jews are included as part of the English group. After France conquered The Netherlands in 1795, the British occupied the Cape Colony to keep it out of French hands and it was formally given to them in 1814.

Boer resentment

The Boers soon came to resent British colonial rule as English was the only official language. In 1834, Britain abolished slavery throughout its empire, ruining a number



The Gardens Synagogue in Cape Town, built in 1863. The Cape Town Hebrew Congregation was founded in 1841, making it the oldest congregation in South Africa

of Boer farmers who depended on slave labour to work their farms. This dissatisfaction came to a head in 1836, when there was a mass exodus of Boers from the Cape Colony into the interior of the country.

This journey, known as "The Great Trek" brought the Boers into direct contact with the Bantu living there which resulted in many clashes and much bloodshed. Eventually, the Boers settled in areas now known as Natal, the Orange Free State (OFS), and the Transvaal.

During the 1850s, Britain annexed Natal, but recognized the independence of the Transvaal and OFS republics. In 1870, an extremely rich diamond field was found where Kimberley now stands in the Cape. This resulted in a mass influx of people from Britain and elsewhere, as fortunes were sought. Mining diamonds, gold and other minerals soon became the basis of the economy. Disputes between the Boers and the British followed and Britain annexed the Kimberley area in 1871 and the Transvaal in 1877. The First Anglo-Boer War took place in 1880, resulting in a victory for the Boers.

Shemot, Volume 20,2-1

Jewish Genealogical Research in South Africa

Roy Ogus
r_ogus@hotmail.com

South Africa's Jewish community is large and important. Although we may not know it, many of us have South African connections because our ancestors' siblings or cousins emigrated there. During the great wave of emigration from Eastern Europe (1881-1930s), many Jews, especially Lithuanians, left for the economic opportunity and freedom of South Africa. Following the recent emigration of many South African Jews during periods of political unrest in the country, the end of apartheid in 1994 has revitalized our cousins' homeland.

The conference presentation provides an overview of the key sources of documentation and information of genealogical value that can be found in South Africa, and describes how these materials can be accessed and researched. It also provides an overview of South African history as a backdrop for the discussion of Jewish migration to that remote area.

JEWISHGEN SOUTHERN AFRICAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SA-SIG)

The Southern African Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group (SA-SIG) has been created to provide a forum for a free exchange of ideas, research tips, and information of interest to those researching Jewish family history in the communities of South Africa, Lesotho (Basutoland), Botswana (Bechuanaland), Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia), Zambia (Northern Rhodesia), Swaziland, Mozambique, Kenya, and the former Belgian Congo.

The SA-SIG home page can be found at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica>

These web pages are a portal to the SIG's extensive information about Southern African genealogical research, as well as provide access to other resources such as SA-related databases, and the South African-related microfilms available in the Mormon Family History Library (FHL).

OTHER KEY INTERNET RESOURCES

Article on Southern African genealogical research

<http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/index-a&o-source/SA-Research-Shemot-Aug-2012s.pdf>

SA Jewish Rootsbank database

<http://www.jewishroots.uct.ac.za/>

SA National Archives Web site:

<http://www.national.archives.gov.za>

The Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter Database:

<http://www.jewishroots.uct.ac.za/Shelter.aspx>

FamilySearch records on South Africa:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1&countryId=1927115>

Mormon FHL Resources for South African Jewish Genealogy Research

<http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/mormon-fhc/mormon.htm>

Cape Town Jewish Cemeteries Maintenance Board:

<http://www.jewishcemetery.co.za>

South African White Pages

<http://phonebook.yellowpages.co.za>

SA Genealogy Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7627302901>

A full summary of the key resources available for Southern African genealogical research can be found at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/conferences/SA-SIG-Resources.pdf>

July 2017

Thank you!

