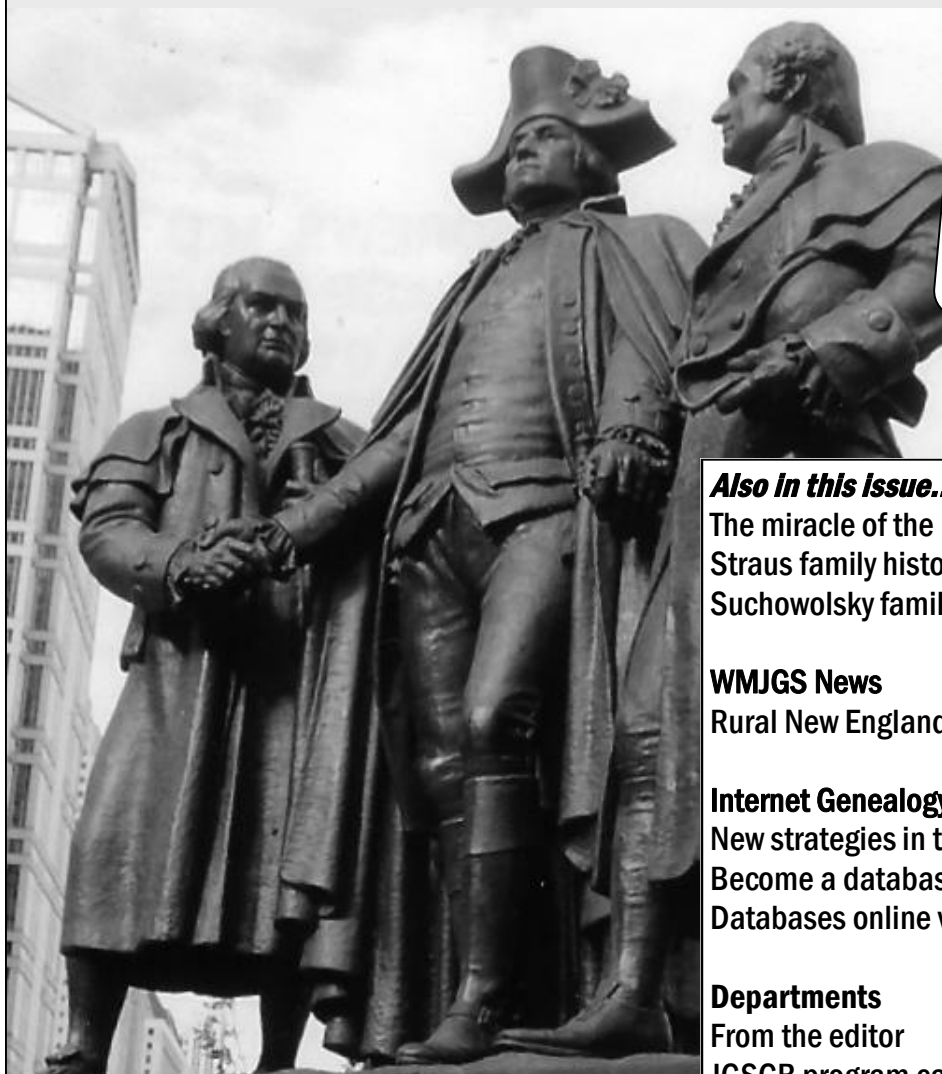


MASS-POCHMA

Summer 2005

Volume XIV, Number 2, Issue 51

George Washington's Jewish soldiers



**The role of Jews in the
Revolutionary War**
— story on page 12

**Genealogical
adventures in Poland**
*Yale Reisner speaks on
the Genealogy Project
at JHI in Warsaw*
- May meeting report
on page 6

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From the editor**In this issue...**

by Sharon Guzik

My great-great-grandfather, Yitzak Jedwab, was a tailor and shoemaker in Pinczow, Poland, in the late 1800s. All his children with the exception of one married daughter left Poland to come to the States in the early 1900s. That one daughter and her family perished in the Holocaust. I know this because my grandfather's cousin, Louie Sherman, had done some family research, which he summed up in a series of trees. I have a photocopy of those trees, which so far I've taken verbatim. I was reminded by Heidi and Judy, our co-presidents, in their column on page 4, that I really should find primary documentation to confirm what I think I know.

I was fascinated by Yale Reisner's experiences at the Lauder Foundation's Genealogy Project in Warsaw (page 6). This led me to think I should investigate Yitzak's daughter's family in more detail and hopefully find out more about them. Perhaps it will even lead to more family connections. After all, miraculous things do sometimes happen; on page 9, witness Leah Cook's discovery of a family connection with a fellow JGSGB member made through the donation of a book!

My great-grandfather, Samuel Jedwab/Levy, fifth of Yitzak's six children, found his way to Chicago where he opened a shoe repair shop. Although not as famous as Lazarus Straus and sons, he deserves to have his entrepreneurial story told in as full color as theirs. Joan Adler, speaking at our June meeting (see page 10), explained that we need to put our ancestors in a context by using social history to bring them more fully to life.

Social history is one of the things Michael Hoberman is doing in his research on rural New England Jews (on page 17), many of whom became

small business owners similar to Yitzak. Joel Andrews provides the context for his Revolutionary ancestors on page 12. Their stories both surprise us and remind us that there were Jews here long before the Revolutionary War and many played important roles in the fight for independence.

On page 22, Alex Woodle suggests some strategies for finding ancestors online "lost" due to transcription errors. Great-grandpa Samuel eluded me in the Ellis Island passenger arrival database until I finally found him listed as "Schmul Lewa." Oddly enough, this had been transcribed accurately, unlike the examples Alex gives. Still, as David Rosen reminds us on page 24, much of the genealogical data that is free online has been transcribed by volunteers, who, despite transcription errors, have done us all a great service. Perhaps we should each consider giving back to the genealogical community by doing some transcribing ourselves.

Mass-Pocha is the journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston.

Mass-Pocha is a word play on "Massachusetts" and the Yiddish word for family, "*mishpocha*."

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Mass-Pocha (ISSN 1070-4744) is published several times per year and is free to JGSGB members. Domestic non-Massachusetts subscriptions are \$15 per year. For subscriptions and change of address, contact MEMBERSHIP@JGSGB.ORG or JGSGB, P.O. Box 610366, Newton Highlands, MA 02461-0366.

Front cover photo: A sculpture in downtown Chicago depicting George Washington flanked by Robert Morris, superintendent of finance, and Haym Salomon, Jewish American patriot and financier.
(Photograph courtesy of Dr. Joseph "Joel" Andrews.)

JGSGB fall program calendar

Write Your Family History *Now!*

September 11, 2005, 1:30 PM—4:30 PM

Temple Emanuel, 385 Ward Street, Newton, MA

Genealogists are great at doing research and collecting many facts about their family. However, for any of a number of reasons, they delay publishing the results of their research. Mike Karsen will explain how you can publish your findings in books that vary from a simple 30 pages to one that contains detailed biographies and also places your family in historical context. He stresses the importance of organizing your findings and sharing them as soon as possible.

A professional genealogy speaker and instructor, Mike Karsen is a member of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and the Genealogy Speakers Guild. Mike has lectured and taught classes in genealogy across the country and has presented at state, national, and international conferences. Having published five of his own family histories, Mike has inspired many others to actually sit down and write their own family history.

Dates to mark on your fall calendar

October 16, 2005 - How to organize your research notes - presentation by Rhoda Miller

November 13, 2005 - Researching my family in Europe: Successes and failures
presentation by Thomas Fischer Weiss

Check www.jgsgb.org for updates. To join our email list of meeting notifications send a request to EMAIL@JGSGB.ORG. If you have suggestions for programs or speakers, please send a note to the Program Committee at PROGRAM@JGSGB.ORG.



JGSGB to meet at Temple Emanuel

Beginning in September, most of our meetings will be held at Temple Emanuel, 385 Ward Street in Newton Centre.

Temple Emanuel is a beautiful building with excellent meeting spaces. They have provided us space to house our resources as well as host our meetings. It is a convenient location—only a short ride from Center Street near the intersection with Route 30 or from the Mass Pike Exit 17—with ample parking in its parking lot and on nearby streets. Their audio/visual equipment is also of high quality.



Temple Emanuel in Newton

We thank Temple Reyim for its hospitality in hosting our meetings for the last few years.