

## Roots And Branches

# Make the Family History a Best Seller

BY MIRIAM WEINER

Suppose you've been gathering family information for years and your files are filled to overflowing. You've collected photos, documents, family stories and recipes, oral histories, maps, and correspondence. There comes a time to stop gathering (at least temporarily) and to decide what to do with all these records.

One of the things you can do is to publish all this information in book form to serve as a legacy for future generations and provide a link to the past for your family.

With only a little further effort, your family history could find its place among the world's great libraries. Thousands of people are publishing books about their own family histories — and many have actually found their way to library shelves.

When your published family history is hot off the press and copies have been sent to family members, it is time to prepare a mailing list of those places that collect genealogies so that your family history will be accessible to researchers and your descendants for generations to come.

The first obvious place is your local public library. You'll be surprised to find a welcome for your book in the local history and genealogy division or in the Judaic Division, if there is one. A visit to the New York Public Library reveals an extensive collection of private genealogies in both divisions.

Your book should be copyrighted by sending two copies to the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.; its catalog is available in libraries all over the country.

Keep in mind that Judaic libraries throughout the country also collect genealogies.

Among these are the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (New York), the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York and Los Angeles), Yeshiva University (New York and Los Angeles) and the University of California at Los Angeles.

Various Jewish archives in the U.S. are well known for their genealogical collections. Nationally, there is the American Jewish Archives

the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and the Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

On a local basis, many synagogue and temple libraries include genealogies. You might want to include university libraries in your home town on your mailing list.

If you trace your roots to German-speaking lands, the Leo Baeck Institute in New

trees in its massive computer, thereby becoming the central repository of Jewish genealogical data worldwide. This, too, should be on your mailing list.

In researching their roots, many people learn of the existence of family members who perished in the Holocaust. Some even dedicate the family history to those victims. In *Finding Our New Family in the Old World* (1987), Bernard D. Newman of Pittsburgh writes in his dedication, "This family history is written as a Memoriam for the following men, women and children who perished between the years 1941-1945 during the Holocaust and atrocities of World War II. Had their lives been spared, how much larger and richer our family would be today."

In the event your book makes reference to family members who perished in the Holocaust, it should ultimately be sent to the United States Holocaust Museum (Washington D.C.) and the Museum of Jewish Heritage (New York City), although it will be some time before these two museums are completed. Also include the library at Yad Vashem (Jerusalem) and your local Holocaust Resource Center.

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(Cincinnati), and, on a local level, there are collections in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Dallas, and St. Louis — to name but a few.

Then there are the hundreds of genealogical, biographical and historical societies which would make a fine home for your family genealogy. For instance, the American Jewish Historical Society in Waltham, Mass., should certainly have a copy of your family history. But don't forget your local Jewish historical society as well.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society collection includes over 63,000 volumes, 23,000 manuscripts and 3,000 microfilm and microfiche on genealogy, local history and biography.

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has the largest collection of genealogical material in the world, including thousands of genealogies. Other libraries known for their vast genealogical collections include the Newberry Library in Chicago,

York would be happy to add your family history to their collection.

Your mailing list in Israel should include the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, the Jewish National and University Library, and the Diaspora Research Institute at Tel Aviv University.

The Douglas E. Goldman Jewish Genealogy Center at Beth Hatefutsoth at Tel Aviv University is the newest and potentially most valuable of the genealogical resources in Israel. The goal of the Center is to store all known Jewish family