



JGSCV

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY

September, 2012

Volume 7 Issue 12

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope you had an enjoyable summer! We very much enjoyed our trip to Europe for the IAJGS Conference. We also had several unexpected genealogical experiences in Paris and in Mechelen, Belgium—about Jews during WWII being rounded-up and shipped to the camps. Both experiences will be written about in *Venturing Into Our Past* in two installments, Paris in this issue (see page 6) and Mechelen in the October issue.

JGSCV's annual Genealogy in the Round program had seven presenters talking about their genealogical breakthroughs and brick walls—see page 7 for a summary of the presentations.

Werner Frank who was able to help some of our beginners, facilitated our pre-program Schmoozing Center. This month JGSCV has five new members! We are now at an all time high for dues-paid members and the year is not yet over!

JGSCV board member Marion Werle who talked about the importance of "Citing Your Sources" in your tree, an article or your family history book, presented the genealogical hint.

JGSCV's webmaster, David Oseas, updated

September 2012



Clockwise top left: Indy Rebhun, Jan Meisels Allen, Stephen Weinstein, Tammie Williams-Anderson, Werner Frank, Marion Werle

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9th 1:30-3:30 PM

Ethics, Sensitivities, Sensibilities, Property Rights Part II

JGSCV's popular panel of experts examines important personal choices facing genealogists.

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the JGSCV resources list last month. We have an extensive list of resources covering local, national and international resources, and all are chosen to help you with your research. See: www.jgscv.org and click on resources.

Half of JGSCV's board positions are up for election each year. Hal Bookbinder is chairing the Nominations Committee, and those members who are eligible to serve will be contacted by him in the next few weeks asking if they are interested in serving. If you are interested in serving on the board, or in another capacity on one of our committees, please let Hal know when he contacts you. Our society is only as strong as its members, and new people serving in different capacities whether it be on a committee, project or the board makes our society that much stronger.

A possible project that I mentioned last month in the Highlights of the IAJGS Conference article entails photographing the memorial plaques in synagogues. This would require members to contact the various synagogues in the area to request permission and to take photographs of the memorial plaques. For those of you who are members of synagogues in the area this should be an easy contact! The plaques traditionally have the deceased's name and death dates-some may have additional information. This is a project that JewishGen is undertaking, and which was started by our sister society, JGS of Long Island. If you are interested in participating in this project, please let me know. We cannot start until we have volunteers!

Our programming for the year through July 2013 is all but complete. See page 10 for the rich programs planned. JGSCV's next meeting is September 9 when we will have the promised second part of, *Ethics, Sensitivities, Sensibilities and Property Rights-Part II*. We are delighted that several of the original participants are on panel, Hal Bookbinder, founding JGSCV Member and past president of IAJGS and Sandra Malek, lawyer and president of JGSLA, as well as two new panelists Rabbi Richard Spiegel, spiritual leader of Temple Etz Chaim and Adam Wills, Senior Editor, Jewish Journal. Remember to bring your questions.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, September 9!

Jan Meisels Allen



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

2012 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send a check in the appropriate amount payable to JGSCV and addressed to Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain the new/renewal membership form on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS IN AGOURA

Our own JGSCV president, Jan Meisels Allen will be presenting a 'genealogy for beginners' lecture at the Agoura Hills Library (29901 Ladyface Court) on Oct. 9th at 6:30 PM. You may contact the library for more information: 818-889-2278.

GESHER GALICIA MAP ROOM

Designed to be used in conjunction with more traditional genealogical resources these records may be useful when no vital records exist for a town. They include the names of landowners and homeowners and provide details on businesses and farms. Many maps include handwritten names identifying the family residence, farm or business: <http://maps.GesherGalicia.org>

TOP 100 WEBSITES FOR GENEALOGY

FamilyTree Magazine.com has published its *100 Best Genealogy Websites for 2012*. Separated into more than a dozen categories ranging from 'Best Big Genealogy Websites' to 'Best Old Map and Photo Websites' and 'Best Online Genealogy Tools'. There are also geographic categories such as New England, Midwestern and Western US as well as other countries. Visit the site at: <http://tinyurl.com/9zvk8jx>

NEW SEARCH ENGINE FOR ALL ISRAEL DATABASE FROM IGRA

The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) announced a new version of its Beta Search Engine for its All Israel Database (AID). It now provides for the ability to search names using the Hebrew or Latin alphabet: <http://genealogy.org.il>

ANCESTRY'S NEW YORK DATABASE

Ancestry.com entered into an agreement with several New York genealogy organizations and formed Ancestry.com New York, which includes a free searchable database of New York records available on Ancestry.com. Records include state censuses, naturalizations, marriages and more: <http://tinyurl.com/8g3u9jk>

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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on

Sunday, September 9, 2012 1:30: p.m. -3:30 p.m.

at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362



The Program:

Ethics, Sensitivities, Sensibilities, & Property Rights Part II

How do ethics relate to family history and genealogy? The answers range from the integrity of our research all the way to dealing with sensitive issues that may cause others distress. And, the lines are not always clearly drawn. For example, in our contemporary world it is not uncommon to learn of family scandals. But it can be difficult to appreciate the shame and stigma that may surround family secrets among older relatives. How do we tell our families' stories with a blend of truth and sensitivity? Newer issues such as DNA testing raise privacy as well as ethical questions.

How should one address a family history that includes adoption, conversion, a baby born outside of marriage? What about a family member's true religion, intermarriage, previous marriage, or sexual preference? Come prepared to ask questions on how to address your ethical issues.

Panelists:

Hal Bookbinder, founding member of JGSCV, past president of IAJGS and JGSLA, author



of IAJGS Ethics Statement. Hal received the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award for his various contributions to Jewish genealogy. Hal was recently elected to the JewishGen Board of Governors.

Sandra Malek, president of JGSLA and attorney for over 30 years concentrating on



employment law, Sandy has been active in genealogy for nearly a decade, has grown her tree to nearly 4200 individuals.

Rabbi Richard Spiegel, spiritual leader Temple Etz Chaim, Thousand Oaks since June



2000. He is an active participant and leader in the Rabbinical Assembly. Served as past president of the Pacific Southwest Region of the Rabbinical Assembly and is a member of the Board of Jewish World Watch.

Adam Wills, Senior Editor, *Jewish Journal*.



The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. (www.jgscv.org). There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a

JGSCV UPDATES . . .

Traveling Library categories A and D will be at the next meeting. Please check the website for the books included in each category <http://jgscv.org>. To request a book that is not in either category, please email Jan Meisels Allen at least 5 days in advance of the meeting at president@jgscv.org.



THE SCHMOOZING CORNER is open 15 minutes before each meeting where a knowledgeable JGSCV member will be available to answer questions, offer direction and maybe even a solution to a brick wall or two. Werner Frank helps Elyse Stafford get started.



You can also help JGSCV when you shop at Amazon.com simply by entering the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page. Start at www.jgscv.org and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one below). This will take you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you.



Correction to last month's newsletter: **Jackye Sullins** should be listed on page 6 with the IAJGS directors reelected NOT Jackye Sage. Apologies from the Editor.

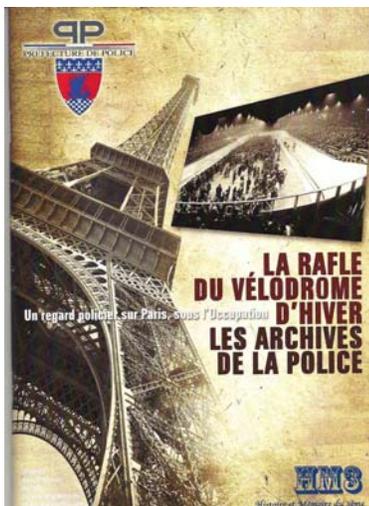
Ralph's requires everyone to reregister every September for their community contribution program. Karen Lowy will be at the September meeting to help you reregister. For those who are not yet signed up, and have a Ralph's card, Karen can help you too. This year we only had 13 people participate. With 138 members, we hope more of you will sign-up even if you are only an occasional Ralph's shopper it will help JGSCV. If you have a question regarding registering for Ralph's before the meeting contact Karen at Karen@jgscv.org.

Don't forget to 'friend' us on facebook and visit often for updates between meetings: <http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>

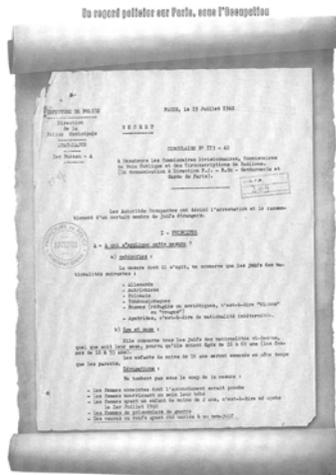
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La Raffle Du Vélodrome D' Hiver: First-time Exhibit Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the French Police Rounding up the Paris Jews

By Jan Meisels Allen



Pamphlet Cover



Police Order to Remove Jews

On July 16-17, 1942 the Prefecture of Police of Paris followed a Nazi edict and rounded up the Jews living in Paris and locked them in the Vélodrome D' Hiver – an indoor bicycle racing track located not far from the Eiffel Tower. While hoping to round-up over 25,000 Jews the police rounded up 13,152 Jews – men, women and children – put them in the Vélodrome D' Hiver. From there the Jews were sent to Drancy outside of Paris where many of the victims were temporarily confined. and then on to the concentration camps; mostly Auschwitz, The roundup was one of several aimed at reducing the Jewish population in occupied France. [The roundup was depicted in the novel and movie *Sarah's Key*.]

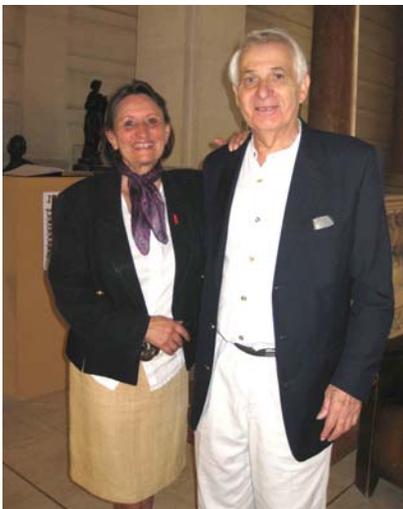
2012 is the 70th anniversary of the roundup. While in Paris attending the 32nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy hosted by Cercle de Généalogie Juive, I received an email from Randy Herschaft, Associated Press and a Jewish genealogist who advised me the police records of the round up were in a first time exhibit starting on July 19 - the day following the conference closure. The exhibit is being held in the Third Arrondissement¹—Mairie III, the arrondissement where the round up occurred as it was the home of many Parisian Jews.

The nine-page police order to remove the Jews (left) is printed in the 48-page brochure that the exhibit produced. A pdf of the brochure (all in French) is on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under resources: Holocaust entitled: La Raffle Du Vélodrome D'Hiver (see left top for cover). The order specified non-French Jews as the focus of the order, men ages 16-60, women 16-55 and children under age 16 to be taken with their parents.



Velodrome-d'Hiver

Marilou and Charles Tremil



Drancy Register



Prior to the German occupation of Paris in 1940, no roundup would have been possible because no census listing religions had been taken in France since 1874. A German ordinance on September 21, 1940, however, forced Jewish people of the occupied zone to register at a police station or sub-prefectures. Nearly 150,000 registered in the department of the Seine, encompassing Paris and its immediate suburbs. The names and addresses of those Jews were kept by the French police in the *fichier Tulard*: a file named after its creator, André Tulard, head of "Jewish Questions" at the *préfecture*.²

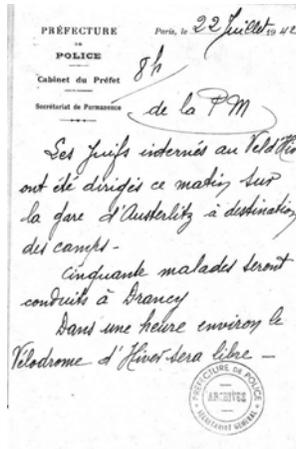
I visited the exhibit. There I was privileged to meet the person who personally petitioned the police to have the exhibit and is the driving force behind the exhibit: Charles Tremil. Monsieur Tremil was a hidden child, with his parents paying for hiding him in the country. His family-his mother and older brother were taken in the roundup and sent to Drancy and then on to Auschwitz where they were murdered.

The order, while written on July 13 was not carried out until the 16-17th of July as they did not think it "wise" to pull off the round up on Bastille Day, July 14. Therefore, 4,500 French police waited. Circular 173-12 is the order to round up the foreign-born Jews. The exhibit included the order as well as the actual list of Jews that were registered with the Police, the list of Jews that were rounded-up and the Drancy register. Less than 100 people rounded up survived the camps.

There was the list of money or jewelry left or confiscated at Drancy. The lists included the name of the person, their birth date and place, the amount of money or value of jewelry and the signature of the person. The exhibit also showed the yellow stars that all Jews were required to wear.

The reason that 13,000+ and not 25,000 Jews were rounded up was due to some French police and resistance members who forewarned the Jews to hide or leave the area before the roundup.

A 1946 directive displayed in the exhibit shows an order to all prefectures across France directing "there must no longer remain any trace of the exceptional legislation instituted under



Jews Gone From Velodrome



State of Money or Jewelry

the occupation, and all the documents based upon the Jewish status must be destroyed.” However, the records of two police commissariats in the Third Arrondissement were spared and apparently forgotten. They were rediscovered by chance over a decade ago.

The exhibit has been extended through the end of September at the request of the rector of Paris schools so that college and high school students may visit.

A fire destroyed part of the *Vélodrome d'Hiver* in 1959 and the rest was demolished. A block of flats and a building belonging to the Ministry of the Interior now stand on the site. A plaque marking the Vel' d'Hiv Roundup was placed on the track building and moved to 8 boulevard de Grenelle in 1959. On February 3, 1993, the then French President, François Mitterrand, commissioned a monument to be erected on the site.

A memorial was also constructed in 1976 at Drancy; It stands beside a rail wagon of the sort used to take prisoners to the death camps. It is three blocks forming the Hebrew letter Shin, two other blocks represent the gates of death. The central block is composed of 10 figures, the number needed for a minyan. The two Hebrew letters Lamed and Vav are formed by the hair, the arm and the beard of two people at the top of the sculpture. These letters have the numeric 36, the number of Righteous thanks to whom the world exists according to Jewish tradition.²

On July 22, 2012, at the exhibit, French President Hollande stated, “To the Jewish martyrs of the *Vélodrome d’Hiver*, we owe the truth about what happened 70 years ago,”... “The truth is that the crime was committed in France, by France.”³

In 1995, then French President Jacques Chirac apologized for the complicit role that French policemen and civil servants served in the raid—and talked of the “collective wrongdoing”. In 1997, President Chirac ordered the Police Records to be transferred to the Mémorial de la Shoah² where one may write to find out if there are any records of your family from the round up available:



Maire du III Arrondissement

Mémorial de la Shoah
Musée, Centre de documentation juive contemporaine
17 rue Geoffroy-l’Aisnier
75004 Paris

e-mail: contact@memorialdelashoah.org
website: www.memorialdelashoah.org

The exhibit received much attention from the worldwide press. If you are interested in reading more about the exhibit, see endnote 3 below with the links to various news articles.

Endnotes

1. Arrondissement is the term for any of the administrative districts in France.
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vel%27_d%27Hiv_Roundup
3. <http://tinyurl.com/cfvm8sd> AP story
<http://tinyurl.com/bwufffr> BBC story
<http://tinyurl.com/9qnd4pd> Jerusalem Post
<http://tinyurl.com/9ppvaij> New York Times
<http://tinyurl.com/bsuknl4> Los Angeles Times

Agoura Hills Library

Home of the JGSCV Permanent Library

Marion Werle generously donated to the JGSCV permanent library located at the Agoura Hills Library a copy of *Evidence Explained* (second ed) 2012 by Elizabeth Shown Mills. The general genealogy community considers this book the “bible” for citation. Citing one’s sources is imperative for your family tree as well as writing your family history or any genealogical articles. By placing this book in our permanent–non-lending library, you may access this book along with the rest of our permanent library whenever the library is open: Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 am-8:00 pm, Thursday 11:00 am- 5 pm and Friday and Saturday 10:00 am- 5:00 PM. The library has copying facilities as well as computers to aid with your research. The Agoura Hills Library, a branch County of Los Angeles Public Library System is located at 29901 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301. See JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under library-permanent for a list of which genealogical journals and books are in our permanent library.

The Friends of the Agoura Hills Library Book Cellar (located in basement/garage) holds a used book sale each Saturday. The Book Cellar is the place where JGSCV has been able to purchase a number of books for our traveling library at \$1.00 rates! Paperback books start at \$0.50, trade paperbacks and hard cover books start at \$1.00. There is an extensive Judaica selection. A unique feature of the Book Cellar is the request list, where patrons may request a book, and when it is donated, you are called and the book is put aside—there is no requirement to purchase. A disclaimer—JGSCV president Jan Meisels Allen is on the board of the Friends and JGSCV member Tom Allen is the president of the Friends.

2012 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Sunday, Sept. 9th 1:30-3:30 PM *"Ethics, Sensitivities and Property Rights – Part II"*
– Hal Bookbinder, Rabbi Richard Spiegel,
Adam Wills, Marion Werle

Sunday, Oct. 7th 1:30-3:30 PM *"Jewish Surnames"* – Warren Blatt

MONDAY, Nov. 5th 7:00-9:00 PM *"From the Spanish Inquisition to the Present: A Search for Jewish Roots"* - Genie Milgrom

Sunday, Dec. 2nd 1:30-3:30 PM *"Getting The Most Out Of Ancestry.com"* – Crista Cowan, 'The Barefoot Genealogist' Ancestry.com

2013 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Sunday, Jan. 6th 1:30-3:30 PM *"Jewish Genetic Disorders Across the Diaspora"* Gary Frohlich, Genzyme and Catherine Quindipan, Cedars Sinai Medical Center

Sunday, Feb. 10th 1-5 PM *"Annual Assisted Research Afternoon"* – LA Family History Library

Sunday, March 3rd 1:30-3:30 PM *"Researching Your Canadian Family"* – Marion Werle

Sunday, April 7th 1:30-3:30 PM TBD, Yom Hashoah Day

Sunday, May 5th 1:30-3:30 PM *"Obscure Records of Citizenship and Nationality"*, Marion Smith, USCIS

Sunday, June 2nd 1:30-3:30 PM *"Lodz, The Manchester of Poland"*, Debra Kay Blatt

Sunday, July 14th 1:30-3:30 PM *"Genealogy In The Round"*

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Harry and Debbie Enenstein

Indy Rebhun and Jeff Spector

Elyse Stafford

HIGHLIGHTS FROM GENEALOGY IN THE ROUND

Seven of JGSCV members presented their genealogical achievements or brick walls at the August 5 meeting

Werner Frank talked about three pre-Shoah victims where he was able to find information from the International Tracing Service (ITS), Yad Vashem, Dachau Museum, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum—which provided the same ITS information as ITS had directly as the records have been shared with the Museum. Werner also mentioned the wealth of information one may obtain by using the World Catalogue (www.worldcat.org) that permits interlibrary loans at no cost to the borrower.

Sara Hyman talked about Chevra Kadisha finding names in Israel and that www.FindMyGrave.com was a source for Chevra burials in the US where she was able to find relatives buried at Mt. Hebron in New York. Cemetery records indicated the person had been residing in Pilgrim State Mental Hospital and her genealogical challenge is to try to obtain the mental health records from New York State.

Tammy Williams-Anderson focused on keeping an open mind as one may not necessarily find what they were looking for—at first she did not know what she was looking at. On a death certificate, she found her grandmother's name. She found relatives on the census living in the same building and used revision (census) lists from JewishGen to help go back on her family tree.

Indy Rebhun, showed video clips of her trip to Tarnow [Galicia] Poland. From using old family letters written in the 1930's and 1940's she was able to find the home where the family members who wrote the letters had lived

before they were killed when the Jews were taken to the forest outside of Tarnow and murdered. Indy's ancestral town trip was part of her March of the Living trip to Poland. Indy and her husband Jeff are two of our newest members!

Stephen Weinstein discussed the use of online unclaimed property files where he typed in names of relatives and found someone who had the same name as his grandmother. Stephen discussed his methodology in trying to determine if the person was his grandmother or someone with the same name in the small Upstate NY town who worked in a summer camp—as did his grandmother.

Marion Werle talked on how she found her great grandfather's ship manifest that she had been searching for 15 years—and found it in the www.FindMyPast.com database. She talked of her earlier assumptions, which the record disputed, and the various name spellings she had used. Her suggestion to the audience was that not all search engines are the same and not "created equal" and to keep on searching. [FindMyPast, part of Brightsolid, is making their entrance into the US marketplace and offering a special subscription rate of \$4.95 per month based on a one year subscription (<https://www.findmypast.com/account/register?registerreason=payments>)]

Jan Meisels Allen talked about the opening of the first-time exhibit commemorating the 70th anniversary of the French Police rounding up the Paris Jews and sending them to Drancy and eventually to Auschwitz. The round up was called La Raffle Du Vélodrome D' Hiver as the Jews were locked into the Vélodrome, a bicycle velodrome, near the Eiffel Tower. See page 6 for more about the exhibit.

A 1940 CENSUS UPDATE

By Jan Meisels Allen

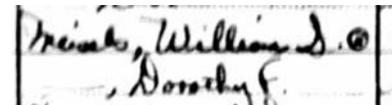
I mentioned several months ago when the 1940 Census was released that I had not been able to find my parents in Connecticut as they were not living at the address I had for them nor what was listed in the 1940 City Directory—which was published six months after the census was taken. When Ancestry.com <http://tinyurl.com/76sqbo4> announced this month that they had completed the name indexing for all 50 states I was delighted as I thought I would find my parents—at the time no other program had yet released the name-index for Connecticut.

This week, FamilySearch, part of a consortium, (<https://familysearch.org/1940census/>) also announced they completed name indexing all 50 states. I typed in “Meisels” for Connecticut and the response was “returned zero good matches for Meisels”. This happened in both Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org.

While many of the FamilySearch name-indexers were in North America, I knew that some of the Ancestry name-indexers were offshore so creativity was needed in finding the spelling. David Oseas suggested I search only by first name in the state they were residing—, which I did and found them on Ancestry—listed as “Weish”. I contacted Ancestry and they showed me how to submit a correction—it is very easy:

- Go to the search 1940 census <http://tinyurl.com/76sqbo4> , fill in the blanks including the misspelled name, date of birth, place of birth (if you know them) click on search;
- When the page that has all the printed information on it appears, under page tools, click on view/add alternate info;
- Fill in with the correct information;
- Make certain you click on where you give an explanation of why you are changing it—in my case I said the correct spelling of my parents surnames was on the census form and the name-index needs to be corrected.
- It will take about a month for the correction to be made. For More information on how to correct names on the 1940 Census on ancestry.com : <http://tinyurl.com/8anzryz>

While Ancestry spelled the name “Weish” and FamilySearch spelled it “Weiski”, one can see the difference in the “M” vs. the “W” in the actual census.



Note: Ancestry cannot change a misspelled name in the original census document but they can still place a note about it so that others searching the “correct” spelling will be able to find the name.

While Ancestry is a subscription-based website, it has committed to making the 1940 census available to all at no charge through 2013. FamilySearch a free website, is collaborating with Archives.com and FindMyPast.com in the name-indexing project. Once a state is name-indexed, it is available on all three sites. As each genealogical website uses different search engines, when doing your searches, consider using the multiple websites if one isn’t working well.