Jack Switzer: A Bibliography

(note: while we have attempted to include as many publications as possible, Jack did not leave a comprehensive list of his writings. Only Jack’s work on historical topics have been included.)

1. Articles in Discovery, Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

1994

Alberta's First Rabbi - Hyman Goldstick.

The Frank Slide - the Jewish Connection. Re Henry L. Frank, Jewish founder of coal-mining town destroyed by 1903 landslide.

The 1893 Pine Lake Jewish Colony - a Dream Dies.

Smolensky Wedding Register Records Jewish History.

Simon Smolensky - From our Archives. History of Calgary's longest-serving and most notable rabbi.


Calgary Jews Raise Funds for Community Centre, 1926 – 1928. Based on the "Minutes of the Calgary Jewish Community Building Fund".


1995

Calgary's Jews Star as Symphonic Conductors, Musicians, Patrons, Teachers.


The First Lady of Jewish Music - Mrs. A.I. Shumiatcher. History of Luba (Mrs. A.I.) Shumiatcher, and her daughter, Minuetta Shumiatcher.

Aaron Sapiro - the Pied Piper of Farm Marketing Comes to Alberta.

Doing Your Own Oral History.

Switzer Family Reunion.
1996

*Notable Numbers - Jews in the 1941 Census.*

*Focus on Jewish Business.*


*Calgary Kosher Butchers Go to City Hall – 1923.*

*Henry N. Sereth and his Riches - Five Daughters and a Lumber Empire.*

*A Tribute to Our Small Town Jewish Families.*

*Alberta Towns and Their Jews - 1931.* Data from the 1931 federal census.

1997

*Jewish Cattlemen Remembered.*

*The Katchens - from Peddlers to Packers.*

*1924 Double Drowning Shocks Jewish Community* Recounts drowning deaths of Michael Brant and Lena Dolgin, Sept. 1, 1924.

*The Polish-Jewish Family Loan Association - 65 Years Young.*

*Two-Gun Cohen: The Calgary Years.* Morris Cohen, later a Chinese Army general, spent a small but important part of his colorful life in Calgary.

1998

*Jewish War Orphans, Adoptive Parents to be Recognized at Calgary Ceremony.*

*Charles Waterman, always a Leader.* Biography of Charles Waterman (1877 - 1970) including his role in the Jasny pogrom of 1898, his life on a Trochu homestead, his business ventures and communal service.

*Yukon Gold Rush Jews Settle in Calgary.* Brief history of the Jewish role in Yukon Gold rush, c. 1898; Joseph Barron family, Dawson residents who later came to Calgary, 1911 - 1916.

*Marcia Goldberg, a Century of Service.* Biography of pioneer Jewish socialite and community leader Marcia Calmenson Goldberg, 1886-198; wife of A.H. (Henry) Goldberg, mother of Mozah Zemans, Muriel Ginsberg.

*Lethbridge Jews Buy a Church.* Brief history of the Lethbridge Jewish community, focusing on the development of its religious institutions.
1999

*Chaim Zhitlovsky dies in Calgary, 1944.* Brief biography of Zhitlovsky, focusing on the Yiddishist philosopher's Canadian connections and influence on secular Yiddish schools, notably I.L. Peretz schools. [Note title error - date of death s/b 1943].


*Meeting to Feature Synagogue Model.* About the JHSSA AGM program featuring the House of Jacob

2000

*Lyon Grocery Part of Busy Jewish Business Block.* Lists other Jewish businesses on 9th Avenue East.

*Southern Alberta Jewish Time Lines.* Review of major dates in the area's Jewish history, including population table.

*Calgary Jew Decorated in France, 1915.* Louis Zuidema is awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal at Ypres and survives Vimy Ridge campaign in which his brother, Simon Zuidema, is killed.

*1947 House of Israel Drawing.* Includes a brief House of Israel (community building) history and displays architectural sketches of incomplete building.

2001

*Drumheller was Home to Active Jewish Community.* History of Jewish community in Drumheller and area towns, with a partial list of former Jewish residents and their business interests.

*Esther and Peretz Hirshbein - Calgary’s Yiddish Celebrities.* Famous Yiddish playwright and young poetess meet in Calgary, marry, and travel the world.


2002

*Eighth Avenue’s Log Cabin - 50 Years as a Jewish business.* Pioneer home later housed Jewish-run second-hand stores, shoe repair shop.

*Solomon Roubin - Calgary’s Mystery Rabbi.* Fragmented records provide uncertainty over Roubin’s status (c. 1912 - 16) as House of Jacob Rabbi, Talmud Torah principal.

*Little Synagogue on the Prairie.* History of Montefiore Institute synagogue and community centre (in use 1915 - 25) at Montefiore Jewish farm colony, near Sibbald, Alberta.

*Ben Babovnik - Soldier, Farmer and Friend.* Story of Rumsey-area bachelor homesteader.
Building Calgary’s Jewish Funeral Chapel. History of the 17th Avenue SW Chevra Kadisha Chapel.

2003

Calgary’s Holocaust Memorial: Ashes to Life. A history and description of Calgary’s memorial.


Sheldon Chumir – his Jewish roots.

Calgary Jews Face an Epidemic – 1918. About the flu epidemic and the Jewish community’s response.

Barney Gelfand: Calgary’s Fast Food Pioneer.

Eighth Avenue East- Calgary’s Jewish Business Birthplace.

Among Family on Eighth Avenue East.

2004

Harry Bell versus the Lord’s Day Alliance – 1905.

Calgary’s Jewish Newsboys.

Calgary’s Jews Fete R.B. Bennett at 1939 Farewell. The story of the gift of the Talmud given to Bennett by Rabbi J. Hertz in England

Calgary YMHA Idea Almost a Century Old.

Former Jewish Residents Active in Little Chicago Memorial Project. A summary of the Jewish presence in Royalties in Turner Valley

2006

Calgary’s Grand Story – The Jewish Connections. This is a review of D. Smith’s book

More on Jews in Mission.

Immigration Policies Shatter Marriage Plans of Calgary Jew, 1930. Jacob Switzer’s attempts to bring his fiancee to Canada.

Canada’s Military Archives Available to All. A brief guide to military research.

Strul Rabinovitz – A Great War Casualty.
Paul Belkin’s Last Mission. About a World War II casualty

2007

The Doctors Lander. About Harry and David Lander in Turner Valley and Black Diamond

Eva Brewster Focus of Lethbridge Holocaust Event; Yiddish Writer Chava Rosenberg Part of Historic Event.

Philip Yarmarko: Rockyford’s Last Doctor.

British Jews Buy Belgian Horse Ranch – 1911. About Cecil Cohen and the Salaman family purchase of a local ranch

2008

The Ratchesky Saga – A Family Settles the West.


William Epstein – One Calgarian’s Role in the Establishment of the State of Israel.

Would-be Calgarians, Lost in the Shoah, Recalled in 1933 Photos. About the efforts of the Bleviss, Davidman and Switzer families to save the Birenbaum family in Radom

Haimson Family Not Forgotten.

Sam Haimson – Heroic “Jewish” Soldier.

2009

Jacob Diamond – Portrait of a Patriarch.

Benjamin Simon – Confectioner, Junk Dealer and Russian War Hero.

Coming of Age: A History of the Jewish People of Manitoba, Book Review by Jack Switzer

2010

A Berlin Torah Redeemed and Restored. About Beth Tzedec Torah scroll restored by B’nai Brith

Calgary Women Stranded in Wartime Russia. Stories of Rebecca Diamond Block and Luba Shumiatcher

Cemetery Stories: Minnie Cobb and Jack Gerber.

President’s Message, by Jack Switzer.
Lord and Lady Marley’s 1937 Visit to Calgary on behalf of ORT.

Alberta Jews of Trail B.C.

2011

The Devenish – a century as Calgary’s Jewish Apartment Block.

Ethos – reflecting the “Spirit of the Community” for 40 years. About the Hamborger/Stein family business.

Feldman Lake, 1890: A Slough and a School. About Jewish presence in the area near Medicine Hat

2. Other Publications

“Chaim Zhitlovsky, revered Yiddish philosopher – his Canadian connections”, in Outlook, v.37, n.7, Nov./Dec., 1999


The Jewish Community of Calgary; Part II: Jewish Populations in Geographic Areas. 2001 Census Analysis Series, by Charles Shahar & Jack Switzer, 2004

“Jewish Heritage” and “Good Works and Good Business: Alberta’s Jews in the Community”, in Alberta; A State of Mind, edited by S. Sharpe, R. Gibbins et al, 2005, pp.70-75


“Murder at Moose Jaw, 1885”, in Jewish Free Press in January 18, 2008

“Ben Sterling; from Alberta dirt farmer to murder suspect in California”, in Jewish Free Press, February, 2008


“Fighting the Flu: How Calgary Jews faced the deadly epidemic of 1918”, in Jewish Free Press, Nov. 20, 2009

“When Banff was anti-Semitic”, in Jewish Free Press, v.19, n. 7, January 15, 2010
3. Public Lectures (unpublished)

*Chaim Zhitlovsky and his Influence on Yiddish Education in Western Canada, 1909-1943* presented at the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies May 2000 Conference, Edmonton

*Worship, Study and Celebration: The Synagogues of Calgary*, for Historic Calgary Week, July 27, 2005

*The Calgary Jewish Community in the 1930s*, at the Calgary Public Library, Central branch February 27, 2008

*Calgary’s Jewish Roots: Key Decades, 1904-1924*, for Historic Calgary Week, July 25, 2008