

DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

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WINTER 2012

Jack Switzer, the Historian

Shining the Spotlight on Scoundrels, Schemers, Communists and the Ordinary Citizen

Jack Switzer (1937-2012) came to his role as our local historian by an indirect route, not from an academic career. As a Switzer, his roots here were deep and widespread. From his oral history, we learn that he was keenly aware of the struggles of the immigrant generation and the importance that social ties and community involvement played in their ultimate success. Unlike many of his peers, Jack seemed to have listened, observed and remembered what his elders were doing and talking about.

As a historian, Jack was not very interested in cataloguing the personal achievements of the rich and famous. He was interested in how "the little guy" navigated the tides of historic changes – wars, immigration, social movements. He was fascinated by the characters generally marginalized in standard narratives – criminals and revolutionary dreamers.

A question put to Jack about a date or a photograph could lead to a long winding story about a family history (often uncensored).

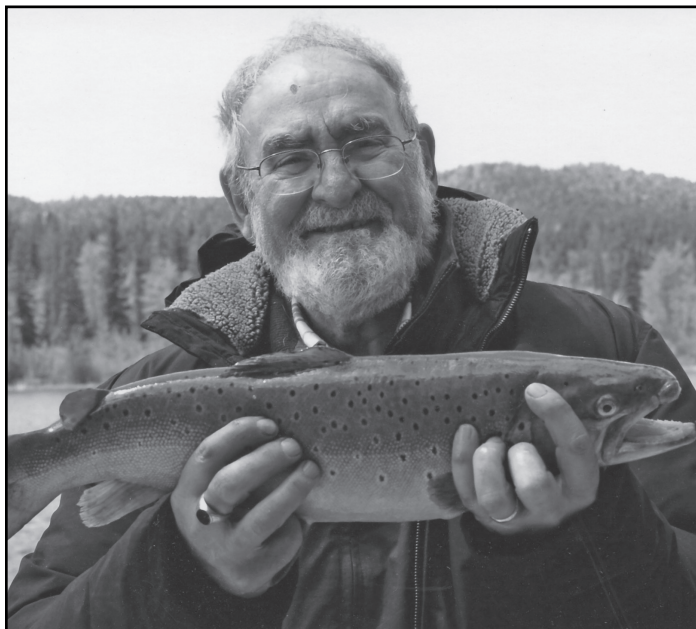
Not all his information was first hand, of course. Jack spent many hours at the Glenbow Archives and later on the internet, tracking down precise information from documents and old newspaper files. He knew that minute details often reveal an interesting story. He had the foresight to collect the primary documents that would shed light on such stories.

JHSSA has at least 45 of Jack's articles, many of them published by us. He was also the "go to" source for historians and genealogists requiring information about Calgary Jews and Jewish organizations. He published in *Alberta History* and in a number of books about Alberta social history. He often lectured in public venues around the city. One of his proudest moments was accepting the History Society of Alberta Award of Merit for 2009.

The JHSSA is fortunate to have had Jack enrich our collections with many documents and clippings and with his writing and editing work for *Discovery*, *Land of Promise* and *A Joyful Harvest*. His leadership role on the JHSSA board was greatly appreciated, especially when he agreed to take on the presidency despite his failing health. He certainly would have preferred to continue quietly with research, but he recognized the need to take on the mantle of leadership to keep the Society strong.

Former JHSSA Director Trudy Cowan summed up her appreciation of Jack's contribution to the community:

"Jack's knowledge of Jewish history in this part of the world and his willingness to share that knowledge was of incalculable value to all of us in the heritage field. The Little Synagogue on the Prairie



Jack Switzer, Fisherman, 2009. Source: Jack Switzer. JHSSA #2261.

Project is particularly in his debt. I remember Jack's talks at various meetings and conferences over the years, since even before ... forming the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta. Jack's wonderful details, always well-researched and presented with his lovely sense of humour, made all of us in the audience happy that we were able to be present to hear him."

Janice Rosen of the National Jewish Archives expressed the

Continued on Page 2

In this Issue:

Jack Switzer, the Historian.....	1
President's Message.....	2
For Freedom and Country	3
Samuel Hackman	4
Who We Are and Where We Came From	6
Stampede Memories.....	6
Thanks to "Historic" Members.....	7
JHSSA News	8
JHSSA AGM 2011.....	8

COMPLIMENTARY COPY – PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING JHSSA

President's Message

Betty Sherwood

It has been a genuine pleasure to be president of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta at such an eventful time for our organization.

Annual General Meeting – October 24:

As is customary, we honoured Jewish Canadians who reached their 80th birthday in the past year. The certificate presentation has become a joyful feature of each of our Annual Meetings. A special presentation was made to Jack Switzer²¹ in recognition of his dedication as writer, editor and president, not to mention his amazing command of local Jewish history. We are grateful that we had this opportunity to publically recognize Jack's wonderful contributions to our community before his untimely death in January. Our program "For Freedom and Country" was put into context by speakers Jean-Pierre Harvey of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Val Rimer, Commander of Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Post #2; and Dr. David Bercuson of the University of Calgary. We were gratified that such a large number of our living veterans was able to attend with their families. You will find the story behind the entire program elsewhere in this issue of *Discovery*.

House of Jacob Plaque Ceremony – November 1: It was a proud and upbeat crowd that assembled when an historic plaque was unveiled at Bow Valley College to commemorate the opening on that site of Calgary's first synagogue, Congregation House of Jacob, at Rosh Hashanah 1911. In my remarks, I drew attention to the fact that one of the Hebrew terms for synagogue is "house of learning." Brief but heartfelt greetings were brought by College President Sharon Carry; Mayor Naheed Nenshi; MLA for Calgary Glenmore Paul Hinman; Executive Director of Calgary Jewish Federation Drew Staffenberg; Rabbi Yisroel Miller of Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel and Jonathan Joffe, great-grandson of synagogue founder Jacob Diamond. Harry Sanders shared his love of local history with a multimedia presentation about the synagogue and its community. Guests had the opportunity to admire the synagogue's centennial quilt, hand-crafted in 2009, and the model of the original synagogue building



Jonathan Joffe and Mayor Naheed Nenshi unveiling House of Jacob historic plaque at Bow Valley College, November 1, 2011. Photographer: Richard Bronstein. JHSSA #4000.1.

presented with the screening of "Sholem Aleichem: Laughing in the Darkness" which unfortunately I missed but I understand the film was very well received.

Community Menorah Lighting – December 20: I was happy to represent the JHSSA, along with leaders and members of a multitude of community organizations, at the 23rd Annual Menorah Lighting at City Hall. The participation of dignitaries from all three levels of government demonstrates the importance placed on the contributions of Jewish citizens to Calgary's past, present and future.

Who We Are & Where We Came From – January 29: Alex Sharon's fascinating presentation on Jewish surnames and towns in Eastern Europe has motivated several people to become involved in tracing their family histories.

We are so fortunate and filled with gratitude to live here. Let's remember our founders and ancestors and leave an even better world for our descendants. We are currently planning programs around genealogy, Jewish and kosher food, and Polish archives. We are also working to install, within a year or two, one or more plaques to highlight historic Jewish Calgary. If you enjoy community activities, editing, genealogy, interviewing, Jewish history, proof reading, research or writing, please volunteer with the JHSSA. Tell us how you would like to become involved.

Jack Switzer

Continued from Page 1

role historians such as Jack have played on the wider Canadian Jewish scene:

"Jack Switzer was clearly a towering figure in your organization and he produced an impressive and eternally interesting body of work about Albertan Jewry.

"Having myself worked with and eventually experienced the loss of a dedicated old school historian in the person of David Rome, I feel personally for your loss. It is in a sense the end of an era when these great mentors leave us. We are lucky to have been able to work at their side while we did."

Jack Switzer left a lasting legacy through his writing, his offspring and through the many people who learned so much from him.



which was commissioned by JHSSA in 1999. It was a particular thrill for me to chair the proceedings since it was my grandfather, Hirsch Sosinsky, who conducted those first Rosh Hashanah services.

Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival – November 20: Our third Jay Joffe Memorial Program was

Filmmaker Joseph Dorman and Jonathan Joffe at the Jay Joffe Memorial Program which was part of the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film festival, November 20, 2011. JHSSA #4000.5.

For Freedom and Country

By Sandra Lipton and Laura Shuler

For the last 21 years the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta (JHSSA) has been seeking opportunities to bring Jewish history from the southern part of our province to your doorstep via this publication. Displays, workshops, books, educational units of study, annual meeting programs and tours are among the other strategies that we have developed to keep our history vibrant. After all, our heritage reminds us where we came from, who we are, and who we can become when we are mindful of the people who came before us. Unfortunately, opportunities to extend our appreciation are often posthumous.

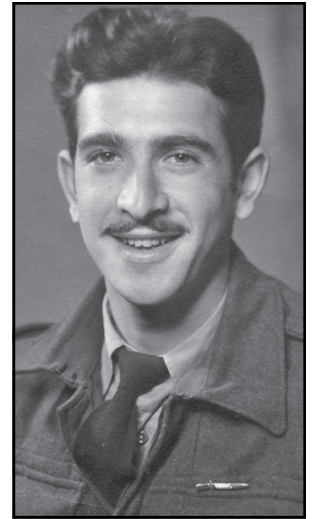
The JHSSA's Annual General Meeting is held in the autumn and since this year's meeting date, October 24, was close to Remembrance Day, it seemed fitting to create a program around the southern Alberta Jewish wartime experience of the 1940s. The many possible program suggestions ranged from the Home Front efforts to Machal volunteers in Israel but we realized that we had an occasion to present a living history program that could involve our own history makers. It was decided that 'For Freedom and Country' would give the JHSSA a meaningful way to acknowledge and honour the remaining men who had served in WWII.

The short timeframe left the program committee only a few months to gather information. JHSSA staff collected diverse lists to create a master list of over 400 veterans' names. From this, a subset of living veterans was compiled. A lot of valuable information came to light through this process, as well as from chats with Val Rimer.

The next task was to conduct oral history interviews with our veterans. Over 20 histories were recorded in person while others were conducted by telephone. We want to acknowledge the work of our

volunteer interviewers: Marni Besser, Sheila Gurevitch, Noel Hershfield, Svetlana Shklarov, Karen Roth and Laura Shuler. Additional information came from *Memories on the March*, written by Tyler Trafford and commissioned by the Jewish War Veterans of Canada Post #2 Calgary. In all, information on 40 veterans was gathered for the presentation.

Many hands were required to select, collect, sort, identify and scan photos to enhance the text. The long interviews were transcribed, checked and edited. Short anecdotes were extracted to accompany the photos that were selected for the presentation and these were then incorporated into an audio-visual presentation enhanced with music, graphics



Left: Arkady Shtein, USSR 1945.

Source: Arkady Shtein.

JHSSA #2609.

Above: Alan Freedman, Germany,

1945. Source: Alan Freedman.

JHSSA #2607.

and a very special video clip from London, England, of David Dworkin in his vintage uniform being interviewed by the CBC for the 50th anniversary of VE Day.

Our talented narrators, Donna Riback and Arnold Dvorkin, rehearsed the script to ensure that the program came to life, enthralling the audience of over 120 from beginning to end. After the program, everyone had the opportunity to view a display of military photos and interview transcripts.

As a follow-up to the AGM program, a tour of the Military Museums was organized for November 6. Participants discovered that the exhibits and the well informed docents provided a fascinating look at Canadian military history. Included were several displays and tributes related to the Jewish presence in the military and our attention was drawn to the fact that the installation of the museum theatre was largely financed by members of the Jewish community.

This undertaking has been exciting and gratifying for the people who created this tribute. Although the presentation itself is over, the project continues and still requires a great deal of work. We are still searching for living WWII veterans and their stories. We hope to publish a book as a lasting tribute to all our veterans. Additionally, the JHSSA is developing a Jewish War Veterans of Southern Alberta database that will serve as a valuable resource.

To say it was an honour to capture the memories of these valorous servicemen is an understatement. To hear their stories and to witness their humility and generosity was very humbling. One unforgettable highlight was seeing the video clip of David Dworkin. This tribute was especially precious because less than a week later the community mourned his passing. Indeed, veterans Allan Freedman, Maxwell Lipkind and Alec Sherwood have also passed away since October 24. This signifies the pressing need to record the stories of all living veterans. We hope to complete this project in the near future.



Dr. Maxwell Lipkind, c. 1945. Source: Joel Lipkind. JHSSA #2593.

Continued on Page 7

Samuel Hackman (1890–1916)

Calgary's First Jewish Fatal Casualty of World War I

By Joe Spier

In 1905, Abraham Hackman, his wife Pearl and their three sons Israel (Jack), Shmaike (Samuel) and Sholom (Solomon) emigrated to Canada from the town of Akkerman in the Bessarabian region of Russia. Jack was then 18, Samuel 16 and Solomon 14.

Akkerman was located in that part of Russia known as the Pale of Settlement, the area in which the permanent residence of Russian Jews was permitted. In 1905, the population of Akkerman was 28,308 of which 4,846 were Jewish. That year was a terrible time for the Jews of Russia as a wave of pogroms swept the country, leaving thousands of Jews dead and many more wounded. Akkerman was not exempt. The Hackman home was destroyed and all of their belongings looted. The family was only saved from the butchery by good neighbours who hid them in attics and in cellars. Afterwards, to escape the horror, the Hackmans fled Russia.

At that time, long before the "None Is Too Many" years between 1933 and 1945 when Canada, to its shame, effectively closed the nation's doors to Jews trying to escape Nazi persecution, the country was actively seeking immigrants of all faiths to build the nation. And so the Hackman family came to Canada, spending their first year in Montreal.

Alberta in 1905 had just become a Province and it, together with Manitoba and Saskatchewan, were actively soliciting settlers by offering, for a \$10 fee, homesteads – 160 acres of undeveloped land – to any person who was the sole head of a family or to any male over the age of 18. The stipulation was that the homesteader must cultivate the ground and reside on the land or in its vicinity for at least six months of the year for a period of three years. Advertisements were placed in eastern newspapers including *The Jewish Times* (Montreal).

The Hackman family took notice and in 1906 headed for Calgary where the "Dominion Lands Office" for filing Alberta homestead claims was located, and in which maps of the lands available for homesteading were kept. Jack, the oldest son, went out to scout for favourable land. He went first by train to Olds and then a further 90 miles in a rented "democrat", a four-wheeled buggy drawn by two horses, ending up near Rumsey where he picked the land he wished to file on. The Hackman

family would eventually end up owning 640 acres, as Abraham and each of his three sons would be entitled to claim 160 acres.

More Jewish families came to settle nearby lands, creating what became the Jewish farm colony of Rumsey. The colony would have a synagogue and a Jewish baseball team. At its height in the early 1920s, the Rumsey colony, together with the nearby Trochu colony, would have a Jewish population of 238. The Jewish farming experience was largely one-generational. While a few Jews remained, in the mid- to late-1920s most, including the Hackmans who left the farm in 1926, began departing for superior opportunities available in the towns and cities.

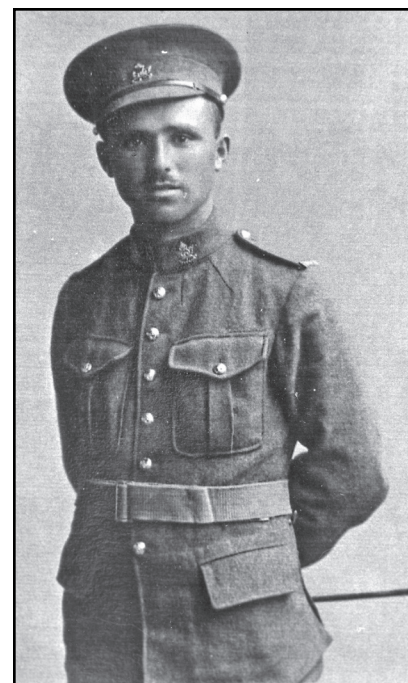
Records for 1917 indicate that the Hackman family had by then built a farmhouse, barns, had 250 acres under cultivation and owned seven horses, two cows and 150 chickens. But the lure of the city also attracted the Hackmans. All of the family members would work the farm but various members would spend part of each year in Calgary where in 1913 Abraham Hackman had purchased a house at 629 – 2nd Avenue NE in the Bridgeland (then known as Riverside) district. That house is still standing.

In 1915, Samuel Hackman, the middle son, then aged 25 and a bachelor, was living in Calgary at the family house and was working at Royal Crown Soapworks, a soap factory.

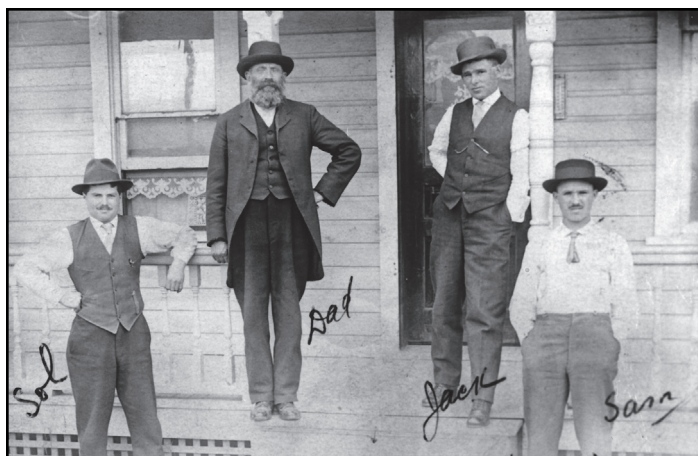
When World War I broke out in 1914, all the Dominions of the British Empire, including Canada, immediately supported the United Kingdom's declaration of war against Germany. Canada would mobilize an expeditionary force of 620,000 men and women, of which 67,000 did not return.

On September 17, 1915, Samuel Hackman quit his job, walked into an army recruiting office and volunteered to serve in the "Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force". Jack, his older brother, described Samuel as "a boy of ideals, a boy concerned with the rights of men, with justice and against dictatorship."

When taking his enrolment medical history, Samuel was noted to be 5 feet, 6 inches in height, weighing 145 pounds (not imposing of stature), of dark complexion, black hair, brown eyes and in good health, deemed fit for service. Samuel Hackman was now an infantryman in the Canadian army, committed to serve "for the duration of the war." Given service number 160123, Samuel was assigned to the 82nd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force as a private. The 82nd Battalion was based in Cal-



Sam Hackman, c. 1915. Source: Miriam Hackman Bloomberg. JHSSA #787.



Abraham Hackman and sons, 1912. Source: Miriam Hackman Bloomberg. JHSSA #785.

Continued on Page 5

Samuel Hackman

Continued from Page 4

gary and was made up of recruits from the area.

Samuel received much of his battle training at Sarcee Camp, a training facility for military personnel on land at the outskirts of Calgary, part of the Sarcee Indian Reserve, which was leased by the Canadian militia. The camp was near what is now the intersection of Sarcee and Glenmore Trails. Sarcee Camp, a tent city, was originally designed to accommodate about 6,000 troops but often held almost twice that number. Samuel's training consisted of a half hour of exercise on the parade square commencing at 4:30 in the morning, with the rest of the day mostly consumed by instruction in bayonet fighting, rifle practise and physical training. Close order drilling in formation was one of the main activities of the recruits. Long marches were a fact of life as the men needed to be in top physical condition when they arrived in France. After the supper hour, Samuel was free to play ball, write letters or just relax.

In May 1916, the 82nd Battalion received their overseas call-up orders. Samuel, together with 34 officers and 1,006 enlisted men boarded the train for Halifax where, on May 20th they embarked upon the *RMS Empress of Britain* for the nine-day voyage to Liverpool.

The *Empress of Britain* was a transatlantic ocean liner built for the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. (CPR) in 1906, the fastest ship on Canadian service at the time. The *Empress* was pressed into war service and converted to a troopship in 1915. After making 190 round-trip voyages on the North Atlantic, she was scrapped in 1930. The CPR named two later ships *Empress of Britain*. One was sunk by a German U-boat in 1940, the largest British merchant ship lost in World War II. The other plied the Atlantic from 1955 until 1963 when she was sold and re-named. The CPR no longer owns any ships.

Following arrival in England, the 82nd Battalion was taken to the Pioneer Training Depot at Otterpool near Kent in the southeast of the country. There, the Battalion was disbanded and the men sent as replacements for casualties suffered by other units in the field. While waiting to be assigned to another fighting battalion in France, Samuel would have continued to be drilled and trained in anti-gas measures and musketry.

After six weeks in England, Samuel was ordered to France, where on July 17, 1916 he was "taken on strength" by the 4th Canadian Infantry Battalion (Central Ontario). The Battalion had been in mainland Europe since early 1915 and was soon dubbed the "Mad Fourth". By the time Samuel joined the unit, the Battalion was already bloodied in the battles of Ypres, Festubert and Mount Sorrel.

When Samuel arrived, the 4th Battalion was not in the trenches at the front lines but had been pulled out to reserve army areas. For the next six weeks, the men of the Battalion spent much of their time training, being inspected and moving from village to village on foot or by rail. During this period, in correspondence home, Samuel wrote about how much he liked France but not as much as England, the fields of wheat and oats under cultivation, the large scale of gardening, how he was having a very good time, not lonesome and going to a concert at the YMCA (which provided overseas entertainment for the troops) every night. However, everything was about to change. On August 31st, the 4th Battalion was ordered to join the Battle of the Somme.

The legendary Battle of the Somme, named after the river in northern France near where it was fought, commenced on July 1, 1916. The battle, one of the largest of the war, was an attempt by Allied forces to break through the German lines along a 25-mile front and draw German forces away from Verdun to relieve pressure away from the beleaguered

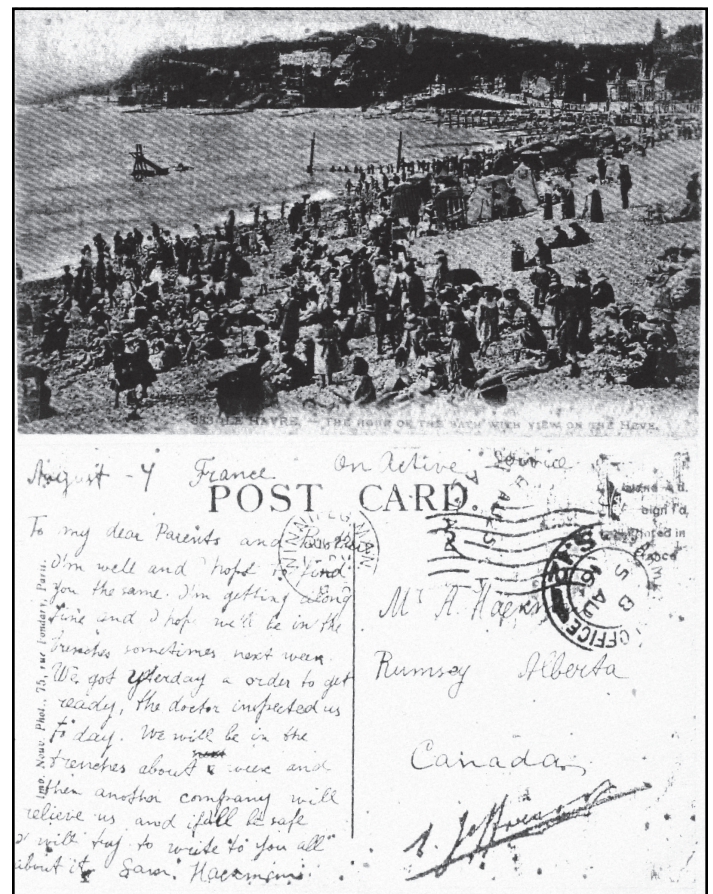
French forces fighting there. The battle is best remembered for its first day in which the British suffered 57,420 casualties, including 19,240 dead – the bloodiest day ever in the history of the British army.

At the end of August, Samuel's battalion took to the front line trenches relieving an Australian unit. For the next 18 days, the front line did not move, as there were no attacks by either the Allies or the Germans, just constant artillery barrages, machine-gun and rifle fire causing casualties on both sides.

On the morning of September 19th, the Battalion received orders to attack the German trenches. The attack was subsequently called off for unspecified reasons but that evening the Germans initiated their own assault and managed to secure a foothold. When Samuel's Battalion launched a counter-attack, the Germans had already pulled out. The next day the enemy attacked again but were repulsed. The Battalion was then ordered to launch their own assault but that too was promptly cancelled as the troops were exhausted from the previous fighting. During those two days, Samuel's Battalion suffered 158 casualties. Then on September 22nd, one Company of soldiers from Samuel's Battalion was sent to support another Canadian battalion attacking enemy trenches. It is not known if Samuel was part of this group.

As September 24, 1916 dawned, it became bright and sunny at the Somme. On that day, Samuel Hackman died in action. There is some uncertainty surrounding his death. Originally, it was reported that he died at the 44th Clearing Station, a military hospital. That report was subse-

Continued on Page 6



Military postcard sent home from France by Sam Hackman in August 1916.

Source: Miriam Hackman Bloomberg.

Who We Are and Where We Came From

*Presentation by Alex Sharon,
January 29, 2012 at the JCC*

By Barbara Joffe and Therese Nagler

Some 40 families are wiser about their roots following the JHSSA presentation by Alex Sharon, co-author of *Where Once We Walked*, who enthusiastically shared a two-hour synopsis of Jewish migrations. The talk encompassed expulsions of Jews dating from earliest times through the Spanish Inquisition, pogroms following the Black Death and other such events. In the late 18th century the Pale of Settlement was established, in effect a giant ghetto. The Pale contained as many as four million Jews who were no longer allowed in Russia proper.

Mr. Sharon, whose passion is genealogy, then treated those present to a better understanding of the sources of Jewish surnames. What had begun for him as a project translating Russian papers and records evolved into an interest in documenting shetl locations and the origins of Jewish surnames. Generally surnames were not widely used until the late 1700s when they became required for purposes of taxation, etc.

Every "Baum, Berg or Blatt" was given the opportunity to discover the etymology of the family name. Sharon presented research tools such as *Where Once We Walked*, or *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*. These and many other publications are available for research in the JHSSA office.

Samuel Hackman

Continued from Page 5

quently changed to state that he died of wounds in the field. The earlier report is probably correct as early in the morning on September 24th, the 4th Battalion had been pulled out of the trenches to the rear. In addition, the Clearing Station was located in the village in which Samuel was buried. Samuel was likely wounded during one of the engagements with the enemy or by artillery fire in his own trenches and later succumbed to those wounds in the hospital. In the end, it is not really important.

Private Samuel Hackman was laid to rest in the British Cemetery at the village of Puchevellers in the Somme region of France, in grave III.D.31 alongside 1,756 British and Commonwealth troops who fell in the Great War and found their final resting place there. Each headstone is uniform. In death, all are equal with no distinction made on account of military rank or civilian status.

As a final act, the Canadian Government, in 1921, delivered a Memorial Plaque and Memorial Scroll to Samuel's parents and presented Samuel's mother with the Memorial Cross, a medal symbolizing the personal loss she suffered as the mother of a member of the Canadian Forces who lost his life in active service.

The Battle of the Somme in which Samuel was killed ended on November 14, 1916. British and Commonwealth troops gained only two miles of ground and lost about 420,000 soldiers in the process. The outcome of the Battle remains a matter of controversy, likely not a victory for either side.

On August 15, 1916, his final letter home, Samuel Hackman wrote to

Stampede Memories

*Request for Stampede photos and anecdotes
for 2012 Stampede Centennial*

2012 marks the centennial of the Calgary Stampede. To celebrate the occasion, JHSSA would like to mount a display featuring our community's Stampede connections, from the photos of local Jewish families watching the 1912 parade to recent community Kosher Stampede breakfasts. Did you have your first job at the Stampede – or perhaps your first date? We are interested in photos, documents and stories that illustrate how local Jews worked, played or won prizes at the Stampede. Contact our office at 403-444-3171 or jhssa@shaw.ca.



David Dworkin on Shorty, ready for the Stampede parade, c. 1932.

Source: Delsie Dworkin. JHSSA #2608.

his mother, "Don't worry much about me. I'm alright and I believe that I'll see you yet and we will be together. It is the opinion here of the men and officers that the war won't last very long the way our troops are pressing the enemy from all sides. I'm not downhearted and I'm still very courageous." Samuel was wrong. He would not see his mother yet and the war would last another two years.

Sources include *Twenty Years of Pioneering* by Jack Hackman (unpublished memoir); copies of Sam Hackman's military postcards home, donated to JHSSA by his niece, Miriam Bloomberg; military records from Library and Archives Canada at www.collectionscanada.gc.ca.

Joe Spier is a retired Calgary lawyer and community leader with a keen interest in Jewish history.

Thank You to our “Historic” Supporters

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta would like to thank all current members for their support. The individuals listed below are our “historic” members – they have continued their support for the past fifteen years and in many cases, even longer. We are very grateful for their continued interest and financial support.

Sam & Lauren Bell
David & Sonia Bickman
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Ted Busheikin
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We would also like to welcome our new members for 2011-2012

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Avrum Bay
Leona Bell
Linda Cohen
Len Himelfarb
Cecil Kline
Mort Levitt
Bernard & Merryl Magidson
Dorothy McDonald
Jacques & Lila Mydlarski
Karen Roth
Alex Sharon
Ron Switzer
Blair Waldman

For Freedom and Country *Continued from Page 3*

Any assistance with this ongoing project would be greatly appreciated. Please help us by identifying any Jewish servicemen and women that are living in southern Alberta. Please let the JHSSA borrow photos, artifacts and memorabilia for scanning purposes. We would welcome assistance with interviewing, transcribing or editing. If there is any component that interests you, please contact our office at 403-444-3171 or jhssa@shaw.org.

Some sources of information on Jewish Servicemen in WWII:

Canadian Jewish Congress. *Jewish War Heroes*. 1944. <http://www.cjhn.ca/wpp-images/CJCCNA/docs/FA-1-6-Jewish-War-HeroesNo3.pdf>

Jewish Canadian Military Museum – [http://www.jcmm.ca/Veterans Affairs Canada](http://www.jcmm.ca/Veterans%20Affairs%20Canada) – <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/second-world-war#booklets>

Canadian Jewish Casualties in the Armed Forces (Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee) – <http://www.cjccc.ca/en/cjccc-national-archives/canadian-jewish-military-casualties/>

The Memory Project Digital Archive – sponsored by the Dominion Institute – <http://66.241.252.164/digital-archive/profile.cfm?collectionid=230&cnf=wwII>

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JHSSA News

Tombstones: A Living Record

Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 2:00-3:30 pm in the Calgary JCC

JHSSA archivist Agi Romer Segal will describe the main features of Jewish tombstones and discuss how they can be used for genealogical and historical research. This information may also be helpful in planning your family tombstones. The program is free and open to the general public.



Future Programming

JHSSA is currently working with other organizations to bring two interesting programs to our community. In mid-April the Calgary JCC will be hosting an extensive *Herzl Exhibit* for three weeks. JHSSA has agreed to support this program by adding a display of material from our archives related to Herzl and to Zionism in Calgary. If you have an item related to Theodore Herzl in your home, please consider lending it to us for this exhibit. We would also like to provide volunteer hosts and docents for the exhibit. If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours, please contact our office at jhssa@shaw.ca or 403-444-3171.

In June we hope to host two scholars from the Jewish Gene-

alogy and Family Heritage Center in Warsaw. They will present a lecture and a workshop on Jewish resources in Eastern Europe. We will publicize the details once we have confirmed the dates.

If you have a programming suggestion for JHSSA, please let us know.

Oral History Committee seeks interviewers and transcribers

Want to learn more about people in our community? Got great personal skills? JHSSA is looking for volunteers to join our oral history project. Training will be provided. Please contact our office at 403-444-3171 or jhssa@shaw.ca for details.

JHSSA Directors in the Community

Congratulations to talented JHSSA Director Paul Finkleman, recipient of two awards: 'The Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up Award of Achievement', and the 'Calgary 2011 Poetry Slam' award. He represented Calgary at the National Spoken Word Finals in Toronto this winter.

JHSSA Director Harry Sanders will be presenting the keynote talk at the Annual General Meeting of the Chinook County Historical Society on March 27, 2012. He will talk about the role of hotels in small town Alberta.

For History Buffs

The Jewish Telegraph Agency has launched a new service – JTA Archive – that sends a weekly email featuring This Week in Jewish History. To become a subscriber contact newsdesk@jta.org.

Directions West History Conference will be held at the University of Calgary in June. For details consult the conference website at <http://www.hist.ucalgary.ca/dnswest/>.

JHSSA AGM 2011



2011 Heritage Certificate Recipients at our Annual General Meeting, October 24, 2011. Back, left to right: Hazel Cosman, Helen Goldenberg, Ruth Levitt, Clarice Cohen. Front, left to right: Esther Meyer, Jacques Mydlarski, Lou Pomerance and Aron Eichler. Photographer: Impressions by Switzer. JHSSA #4107.35.

DISCOVERY

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The editors welcome submissions for publication relating to areas of Calgary and Southern Alberta Jewish history. All articles should be typed, documented and sent for consideration.

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