

COMPILATIONS OF DAVID SOLLY SANDLER sedsand@iinet.net.au

COMPILATIONS ON EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWRY

***The Lithuanian Slaughter of Its Jews* published February 2020**

The Testimonies of 121 Jewish survivors of the Holocaust in Lithuanian, recorded by Leyb Koniuchowsky, in Displaced Persons' Camps (1946-48)

***Testimonies of Life in Lithuania by Leyb Koniuchowsky* published May 2020**

Testimonies collected by Leyb Koniuchowsky that display his writing skills

***Keidan Memorial (Yizkor) Book* - published June 2018**

The English version of the book first published, mainly in Hebrew, in Tel Aviv 1977. The book contains more than 80 memoirs, essays and articles that span the 500 years history of Keidan's Jewish community from its founding to its tragic annihilation in the Holocaust. The book has been translated thanks to the painstaking efforts of Aryeh Shcherbakov of Tel Aviv and Andrew Cassel of the US and Bella Golubchik in Perth, and compiled by David Solly Sandler. Anyone with roots in Keidan will surely find the book of great interest, and a valuable resource for genealogical or historical research.

***Keidan - our town in Lithuania a booklet* published February 2018**

***Krakenowo ~ a town in Lithuania ~ the story of a world that has passed* – booklet published 2017**

The reprint of the booklet printed by the South African Krakenowo Sick Benefit and Benevolent Society in 1961 to celebrate its diamond Jubilee. All articles in Yiddish have now been translated into English.

An adaptation of the *50th Anniversary Souvenir Programme of the South African Keidaner Sick Benefit and Benevolent Society*. It commences with the Jewish history and life in Keidan then tells of the destruction of Jewish life in 1941. The book then focuses on the South African Keidaner Sick Benefit and Benevolent Society.

***The Ochberg Orphans and the Horrors From Whence They Came* published 2011**

The rescue in 1921 of 181 Ukrainian War and Pogrom Orphans by Isaac Ochberg, the representative of the South African Jewish Community, from the horrors of the Pale of Settlement. This book is but a small part of a much larger and forgotten part of Jewish History, the horrors suffered by the Jews in The Pale of Settlement between the two world wars.

***The Ochberg Orphans - volume two-* published 2017**

A follow up from the first book that includes more of the stories of the Ukrainian Orphans, details of the Pinsk Orphanages and children going to South Africa and rescued by the Pinsker Orphan Relief Fund of London and modern ceremonies, books and documentaries to remember Isaac Ochberg.

***The Pinsker Orphans* published 2013**

The Pinsker Orphans book, in part a follow up of *The Ochberg Orphans* book, tells of the life and times of the children from the three Pinsk Jewish Orphanages in the 1920s and like *The Ochberg Orphans* book is but a small part of a much larger and forgotten part of Jewish History, the horrors suffered by the Jews in The Pale of Settlement between the two world wars.

***Our Litvak Inheritance* published March 2016**

This book tells of Jewish history, life and times in Lithuania and surrounds - the inheritance of most South African Jews and is the matching volume to *Our South African Jewish Inheritance*.

The Memorial Section of the Rakishok Memorial Book

This book was originally published in 1952 in Yiddish by the Rakishok Landmanschaft in Johannesburg. The book has been translated into English by Bella Golubchik.

This Was a Man Reprinted 2014

This book is the life story of Isaac Ochberg as written by his daughter Bertha Epstein and first published in 1974. Reprinted with the permission of the family of Isaac Ochberg z"l with an addendum added.

COMPILATIONS ON SOUTH AFRICAN JEWRY

***South Africa's 800 The Story of South African Volunteers (Machalnic) In Israel's War of Birth* by Henry Katzew** Reprinted with the permission of Joe Woolf in August 2016

***Our South African Jewish Inheritance* published August 2016**

This book tells of Jewish history, life and times in South Africa and is compiled from numerous articles, books and family histories. It is the matching volume to *Our Litvak Inheritance*.

***100 Years of Arc Memories* published 2006**

The Arcadia Centenary book contains the memories of over 120 children of The South African Jewish Orphanage.

***More Arc Memories* published 2008**

A follow-up of the Centenary book, with the memories of more than 100 children and a section of 17 chapters on the Ochberg Orphans.)

***Memories of Oranjia, The Cape Jewish Orphanage (1911-2011)* published 2014**

This centenary book is a collection of the memories of many generations of children (over 120) who were in the care of The Cape Jewish Orphanage which was established in 1911 in Cape Town South Africa.

***Michael Perry Kotzen - The Arc Memory King* published October 2018**

This 333 page book is made up of all the Arc Memories and Arc Correspondence of Michael Perry Kotzen who passed away in July 2018. The book tells of his acting career and his life in general in South Africa, Israel and Australia and was mainly compiled as a gift for his family. He would have been 95 on the 10th of October 2018 and the family plan to celebrate his birthday.

My Goldberg and Plein Family Inheritance and

My Sandler and Silberman Family Inheritance. ... published April and May 2019

In these two large volumes I share with my relatives all my family history, documents, research and photos gathered over the past 50 years.

***Parktown Boys' High 1969 Matriculants* published December 2019**

This 439 page volume is made up of the history of Parktown Boys and the school photos, memories, and biographies of the 1969 matriculants.

Art and Photography books compiled;

The Art of Eli Zagoria, published 2014 ex South African from Arcadia

Louis Touyz's art of Jewish Festivals and Festivities, published 2015 ex South African from Arcadia

Elaine Roenfeldt's art of Kalamunda and Surrounds,

Brian Sanger's photography of Perth and Surrounds and Fremantle

About David Solly Sandler

Like over 90% of South African Jews my ancestors are Litvak, from Lithuania, Latvia and surrounds, and what many of us have in common in our family trees are relatives who perished in the Holocaust. More correctly they were slaughtered or murdered.

All the proceeds from sale of these compilations together with all my other compilations on South African Jewry go to Arcadia Jewish Children's Home (formerly The South African Jewish Orphanage) in Johannesburg, where I spent my childhood from 1956 to 1969 and aged 3 to 17.

Today they still take care of Jewish children in need in Sandringham, as part of the Johannesburg Chevrah Kadisha that provides cradle to death services for the Jewish community.

Please contact me for books or more information –

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More About David Solly Sandler

David was born in Johannesburg South Africa in 1952. He grew up in the care of Arcadia Jewish Children's Home (formerly The South African Jewish Orphanage) in Johannesburg, where he spent his childhood from 1956 to 1969 and aged 3 to 17. David qualified as an accountant in 1976 and emigrated to Australia in 1981. He married and has two daughters and retired in 2007 to compile books on Jewish History. His first compilation in 2006 was *100 Years of Arc Memories* celebrating the centenary of Arcadia and one book led to another.

Like over 90% of South African Jews his ancestors are Litvak, from Lithuania, Latvia and surrounds, and what many have in common are relatives who perished in the Holocaust. More correctly they were slaughtered or murdered.

The full proceeds from sale of these compilations go to Arcadia Jewish Children's Home (formerly The South African Jewish Orphanage) in Johannesburg. Today they still take care of Jewish children in need in Sandringham, as part of the Johannesburg Chevrah Kadisha that provides cradle to death services for the Jewish community. Over R2 million has been raised for Arcadia so far.

Books are priced from US\$25 to \$80 and include delivery by courier which takes up to three weeks. Discounts apply to multiple orders.

To order books or for any further information please contact:

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Researcher tells of holocaust before the Holocaust

[San Diego Jewish World](#) April 12, 2017

By David Solly Sandler



David Solly Sandler

PERTH, Australia — It all started in 1999 on a holiday to London, Israel and South Africa where I met up with many of my brothers and sisters from Arcadia, The South African Jewish Orphanage, where I had spent my childhood from age 3 to 17 (1956-1969). They entrusted me with their photos of our stay in Arcadia and on my return to Perth, Western Australia, I compiled a *cut and paste* photo album which I photocopied and distributed widely.

This got the ball rolling and soon Ex Arcadians from around the world were writing to me to thank me for the album and sharing their memories. The older generation asked "*What about us?*" and I encouraged them to send in their photos and to share their memories too. I compiled further *cut and paste* and photocopied albums and *Arcadia Memory booklets* and each publication generated more interest.

2006, the centenary of Arcadia was approaching, and I announced that I would be compiling an Arc (Arcadian) Centenary Book and more memories flowed in, partly through the internet.

100 Years of Arc Memories, a 530 page book with many photos, and containing the memories of over 100 children, was published in 2006 and this stimulated another large inflow of memories. Perhaps the skeptics were impressed and now wanted to be part of this *coming out*.

In 2007 I retired and in 2008 *More Arc Memories* with almost 600 pages was published. It contained the memories of 96 children and also the details of 17 *Ochberg Orphans*.

The Ochberg Orphans were a group of 177 rescued from the horrors of the Pale of Settlement and brought out to South Africa in 1921 by Isaac Ochberg, the representative of The South African Jewish Community. They were originally known as the Ukrainian War and Pogrom Orphans and half were placed in the care of Arcadia (the South African Jewish Orphanage) and half in Oranjia (The Cape Jewish Orphanage).

I realized the Ochberg Orphans deserved their own book and I devoted the next three years gathering their stories, mainly from their children and grandchildren.

I also discovered and learnt of the horrors that Jews faced in the Pale from 1914 to 1922, namely: WWI; the Spanish Influenza Pandemic; The Russian Revolution; The Polish fight for independence; Wholesale Pogroms perpetrated by the troupes of White Russian General Denikin, Ukrainian hero Symon Petlura and Belarusian short time president Stanisław Bułak-Bałachowicz; Man-made famine in the Ukraine and hunger and starvation and diseases.

This period and the horrors suffered by the Jews is a forgotten part of Jewish history, is completely overshadowed by the Holocaust and has been called the *holocaust before the Holocaust*. Much of its details were covered up and are unknown and so capturing this history is important.

Details of these horrors were in the Jewish press around the world, together with appeals for help, and the Jewish Communities aided their suffering brethren:

– The American Jewish Joint distribution Committee (JDC) entered into an agreement with the American Relief Administration and with their feeding programs fed almost two million Ukrainians on a non-sectarian basis. The JDC also supported many Jewish communities in the Pale.

– Canada rescued 150 orphans, mainly from the Rovno area. They examined over 8,000 to find *healthy ones* that were transported to Toronto for adoption.

– South Africa sent funds and supplies to Poland and the Ukraine, transported children to Kfar Yeladim in Israel and supporting them there. They also rescued the 177 orphans, collecting them mainly from orphanages supported by the JDC.

These horrors mentioned above are listed as the causes of death of the parents of the Ochberg Orphans and are related in *The Ochberg Orphans and the Horrors from whence they came* – published in 2011. This compilation of 650 pages includes memories of over 130 of the 177 children rescued and also tells of the help given by Jews around the world to their suffering brethren: the JDC with their feeding programs and support of communities, Canada rescuing 150 orphans, and South Africa sending funds and supplies, transporting children to Kfar Yeladim in Israel and supporting them and rescuing the 177 orphans.

I included all memories sent in and these ranged from *a to z* in all respects. Generally I sought more information to properly complete each memory and at times it required many exchanges of correspondence. Some memories I gathered spending hours on the phone typing and questioning. Many times I had information from the records of the Ochberg Orphans that their children who were writing their memories were unaware of and I also had numerous group photos to share.

After completing *The Ochberg Orphans* I once again had unfinished business, 120 letters in Hebrew and Yiddish, written by the children remaining behind at the three Pinsker Orphanages to Alter Bobrow, their teacher and the man who had saved them in 1917 (WWI) and who together with his colleagues helped establish the three Pinsker Orphanages. Alter assisted Isaac Ochberg and accompanied 44 orphans from Pinsk to South Africa in 1921 as part of the Ochberg Orphans group.

The Pinsker Orphans – the life and time of the children from the three Pinsk Jewish Orphanages in the 1920s was published in 2013. This compilation tells of the establishment of the three orphanages in Pinsk, includes the translation of the 120 letters, gives more details of the 44 children who went to South Africa in 1921 and details the work of *The Pinsker Orphan Relief Fund of London* who brought out 29 children in 1924 and 34 in 1926 to London for adoption. I made contact with some of the descendants of the orphans saved in London and their memories are included and so too are the memories of some of the committee of the Fund. This book tells of the assistance given to the orphanages by the JDC and reveals more of our forgotten history, the horrors

of Jewish life in Poland in the 1920s. It also tells of Beis Aharon, a school and orphanage in Pinsk, currently run by Yad Yisroel from Brooklyn.

2011 was the centenary of Oranjia (The Cape Jewish Orphanage) and I knew there were plans afoot to compile a centenary book but it got bogged down. I offered to help the Oranjia Committee, but this was declined, and for a short time I worked with their author, to produce a book jointly, but this hit problems and so I took it upon myself to collect the memories of the children of Oranjia and in 2014 published *Memories of Oranjia* which included the memories of another 75 children.

Also in 2014 *This was a Man* – the life story of Isaac Ochberg – by his daughter Bertha Epstein was reprinted. It tells of his rise from rags to riches and his enormous bequests to the Jewish National Fund (JNF) and Hebrew University.

In March 2017 I published *The Ochberg Orphans – volume two* with the memories or further memories of 20 orphans, further information gathered on the Ochberg Orphans and details of modern day events remembering Isaac Ochberg and the children he saved.

At Ramat Menashe in Israel there is now a new tourist destination, a park with a monument to Isaac Ochberg and a large limestone mound with plaques to each of the children saved. This was built by the JNF to honour Isaac Ochberg who left the largest donation of his time and Kibbutz Dalia and Kibbutz Gal Ed were established on the land acquired with this donation. Bennie Penzik, whose parents were Ochberg Orphans, urged the JNF to establish the park and founded *The Ochberg Heritage Committee* in Israel.

I had not set out initially to compile these books and it seemed like an unknown force had drawn me along a path with each compilation creating the momentum for the next compilation.

Many of those that shared their memories have passed away and I am pleased that they left this legacy for their children and grandchildren.

Now I am focused on the history of South African Jewry

Like most South African Jews, all my ancestors came from Lithuania and for many years I had been the family historian, collecting details and memories and photos from my older relatives. I was asked by a cousin to write our family history but because I did not have enough detailed history about my family and because I am not a writer, I decided instead to compile the history of South African Jews in general.

After many years of research in February 2016 *Our Litvak Inheritance*, the Jewish History of Lithuania, was published. This history in general is in fact the history of all Lithuanian Jews. This was followed in August 2016 by *Our South African Jewish Inheritance*, that relates South African history and the Jewish contribution. *South Africa's 800 -The Story of South African Volunteers in Israel's War of Birth in 1948-1949* by Henry Katzew was reprinted in 2016 at the request of Joe Woolf one of its editors.

I am currently working towards republishing in English South African Yizkor (Memorial) books and Landsleid (Benefit Society) booklets and articles in Yiddish or Hebrew need translating into English. These books mainly of Eastern European Jewish history, are now 50-60 years old and would be hardly used as they are not fully in English and generally they cannot be removed from libraries.

Towards this end I published *The Memorial Section of the Rakishok Memorial Book* in 2014 and *Krakenowo ~ a town in Lithuania ~ the story of a world that has passed* – in 2017, a similar fate of many small towns in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust.

There are also memories of Jewish communities in the larger towns and cities in South Africa to be collected and published and my own family history.

The full (gross) proceeds of all my compilations go to Arcadia or Oranjia, who still take care of Jewish children in need in Johannesburg and Cape Town, and all royalties for online purchases go to the JDC.

For any publications mentioned above please contact me and also let me know if you have any publications of Landsleid (Benefit Society) or of communities in South Africa.

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After being orphaned in 1956 at the age of three, Sandler was raised in Arcadia, the South African Jewish Orphanage, where he remained for 13 years. He qualified as a chartered accountant in 1976, married in 1979, and migrated to Perth, Australia, in 1981. He is the father of two daughters. Sandler may be contacted via segsand@inet.net.au