**Going Back in Time to Trace Store / Zlotnik Ancestors**

**By Marc Goldberger**

Zlotnik family genealogical research took me to the town of Gorodok. During the examination of various sources I came across many documents where the people of Gorodok were mentioned. At some point I started to write down all the surnames I saw. Thus was born the list which is before us.

When I examined the personnel records of the first half of the 19th century, an interesting phenomenon stood out regarding the surnames of the towns' people. The vast majority of Gorodok Jews had Yiddish or German surnames that were apparently given to them by the Kahal (Jewish community) officials well before 1793 (the III partition of Poland - or not long thereafter), at the time Ekaterina II "acquired" a huge number of Jews together with the western regions. She gave out orders which forced Jews to adopt a surname. In order to know the number of subjects for the collection of taxes purposesand for organizing the draft to the army, Ekaterina II organized censuses - once every ten years, which were called Revizkie Skazki.

Most of the Jews, who were born elsewhere and settled later inGorodok, did not have surnames. So the Gorodok Kahal officials recorded surnames by place of origin, for example: Satanovskiy, Kupinskiy or according to the persons' occupation. The surnames that ended in *vich* or had Slavic root were scarce.

In records that were written both in Yiddish and Russian, there is a difference in records between the languages. For example, surnames like Satanovskiy, Kupinskiy were recorded in Yiddish as Satanover, Kupiner. An even greater dissonance lies in the surnames that were named after a certain occupation. The Kahal officials simply translated it into Russian, and the translation had generated more than a few mistakes. The first registration was written in the Yiddish part and then you can see the same in Russian. Here are some examples:

1. Yitzhak Khayat (means Tailor in Hebrew) => Itsko Portnoy (Tailor in Russian).
2. KhaimTso(y)ref (means Goldsmith in Hebrew) => Khaim Srebnik, Serebnik (Silversmith in Polish) or Zlotnik (means Goldsmith in Polish).

Surnames which originated from the persons’ role in Synagogues, Kahal, thefirst surname is the registration in the Yiddish part, then the name of the same person as written in the Russian part:

1. Khazen (Khazan in Hebrew) => Kantor. The word “Kantor” comes from the European languages - not from Russian. This means that people had family names before 1793. A family name Khazen received after 1793 was registered in the Russian part as Spivak (means Singer in Russian).

More about Khazan / Spivak is here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazzan>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spivak>

1. Shames / Shamus => Shkolnik. Shames in Yiddish was the nickname of the synagogue ("Shul" in Yiddish) servant. "Shul" is literally (Shkola) - "school" in Russian.

More on Shamash / Gabbay is here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabbai>

1. Pak surname was formed by the acronym "Parnas Kahal" (Kahal earner) - "Head of the community".

Women’s records: by government orders, the records were managed according to the usual patriarchal structure in Russia. That means that most of the records were made according to relation with respect to the head of the family or household. Women’s parents and last name are not mentioned. Death registration for example looks like this “Khayka, Ios’ wife” or “Lea, widow of Khaim”.

You cannot ignore abusive family names, which were created after 1793 as a nickname in the Russian language and have become a family name, such as: Khramoy (Lame), Kryvoy (Crooked), Slepoy (Blind).

At the beginning of the 19th century the use of the traditional biblical names as a first name was widespread, however less common names as Avner, Ovshiya, Oyvadia and Eliokim were used. They disappear completely over the years.

More on the formation of Jewish family names:<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_surname>

Here is the Russian version which is much more complete:

<https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%95%D0%B2%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B9%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B5_%D1%84%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B8>

Below is a partial list of people who were public figures in Gorodok

during 18-20C:

**Spiritual Rabbis**

GEYLMAN Shmul Leyzor 1840-1850

GUSYATINER Shliomo 1850

KHARIF Kh. 1911

KHAZEN Itsko 1850

LEV Mekhel 1848

SHILMAN Abramko 1842-1848

SHILMAN Duvid 1847

ZBRIZHER Faybish 1842

ZISKILEVICH Ovshiya 1842

ZMOYRA / ZAMIR Leyzor 1842-1850

**Starosta's – Head of Gorodok Kehila**

ABRAMOWICZ Icek 1765, 1775

ITSKOWICZ Daniel 1765

MOSZKOWICZ Note 1775

SHENKER Shmul 1909, 1911

SHNAYDERMAN Shmul 1909 – was a Head of Kupin Kehila.

SHULIMOWICZ Shmoil 1765

SZMOLOWICZ Dawid 1775

Read more about Starosta [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starosta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starostaעל)

**Starosta of recruitment**

SHAPOCHNIK T. 1851-52.

**Public / State Rabbis**

GODLEVICH Shmiel - 1909-1914.

GODLIS Gershko - was fired in 1879.

LEVIN Yankel - was appointed in 1879.

RABINOVICH Yankel - 1847-1848.

SHPEREL Duvid - 1842-1847.

TROVBERMAN Mordko Gersh - 1848-1850.

**Mohalim**

KOYFMAN Berko

MENKIS Gershko

SATANOVKIY Menakhem

SHILDINER Shimon

ZISKENKEDOVICH Shaya

**Khazan**

SPIVAK / KHAZEN Ovshiya Ber

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1845 | B | Rabbi |

Marc Goldberger

**Surname index of Gorodok residents during the 18-20c.**

|  |
| --- |
| **A** |
| ABRAMKOVICH  ABRAMOWICZ / ABRAMOVICH  AIZENBERG  AKSELRUD  ALEKSANDROVSKIY  ALPEREN  AMBROCH / ANBROKH  AYNBINDER  AYZINMAN |
| **B** |
| BADNER  BALYNSKIY  BARIBALYA  BARG / BORG  BARK  BAVERMAN  BAZILOVSKIY  BEDRIKHOVITSER / BEDRIKHOVITSKIY  BEIGEL  BEK  BEKELMAN / BEKILMAN  BELFER  BENDET  BERG  BERDICHAVER / BERDICHEVER  BERKOVICH  BERMAN  BERNAR  BEYGELMAN  BILEKH  BILENKA  BIRENBAUM  BLAMER  BLEKHMAN  BLEKHYAR / BLEKHER / BLEYKHER  BLINDER  BLOKH  BLUVSHTEYN  BODNAR / BODNER / BODNYAR  BOGOSLOVSKIY  BOIMSHEYN  BOLKHOVER  BORUKHOVICH  BRAYTMAN  BREYMAN  BRIDER  BRODER  BRONSHTEYN / BROUNSHTEYN  BROYTMAN  BUBAR  BUDMAN |
| **C** |
| CHAER  CHEMIROVETSKIY  CHERNOSTROVKIY / CHERNOOSTROVSKIY  CHORTKOVER / CHORTKIVER |
| **D** |
| DANTSIN  DANTSIS  DARMAN  DEKHTER  DINER  DITINIS / DITINES  DIZIN  DRAKHLYA / DROKHLYA  DRAZHINSKIY  DREYZIS  DUNOVETSKIY  DUVIDOVICH / DUVIDAVICH  DYKHTER |
| **E** |
| EDELMAN  EKHT  ERMON  ESHEL |
| **F** |
| FAINSTEYN  FEDER  FELDMAN  FELSHTINER  FELSHTINSKIY  FEINSTEIN  FIDLER / FIDLYAR  FINBERG  FINKEL  FISH  FISHELIOVICH  FISHLER  FLEYSHAKER  FLEYSHAKER / KHUSDUS  FLEYSHER  FLEYSHKER  FLEYSHMAN  FRAMPILSKIY / FRAMPOLSKIY / FRANPOLSKIY  FREIBERG  FRENKEL  FRIDMAN  FURMAN  FUTERMAN |
| **G** |
| GADILES  GAIKHMAN  GALPERIN  GAMBROKH  GARBAR / GARBER  GARBERG  GAY  GEFTER  GEKIR  GELFMAN  GELLER  GELMAN  GERSHENTSVIT  GERSHINTSVAYG  GERSHKOVICH  GERSHMAN  GERTSOVICH  GEYLMAN  GIKOVATY  GIMPELS  GINZBARG  GLANTSOV  GLATSHTEYN  GLEYZOR / GLEYZR  GLIANTSMAN  GLUZ  GOBLER / GERLER  GODLEVICH  GODILIS  GODLIS  GODOVICH  GODYLS  GOIKHMAN / GOYKHMAN  GOLDENBERG  GORVICH  GOYSKHMAN  GOLDABER  GOLDFARB  GOLDENBARG / GOLDINBARG / GOLDINBERG  GOLOVATIY  GOLOVNIK  GOLSHTEYN  GOLTSMAN  GONIKMAN  GORENSHTEYN  GOTMAN  GOYREK  GRABER  GRINBARG / GRINBERG  GRINBOYM  GRINFELD  GROBER  GROYS  GROYS / KALIKA  GROYSMAN  GRUNSHPAN  GRUZMAN  GUBERMAN  GUSYATINER  GUSYATINSKIY  GUTIS |
| **I** |
| IKOVATIY / IKOVATY  IOSHPA  ITSKOWICZ  IUSIM |
| **K** |
| KACHKA  KALIKA GROYS  KALIKA PAK  KALINOVSKIY  KALIR  KALISHSKIY  KAMENETSKIY  KANTOR / KHAZEN  KARSHEYBEYM  KARVASARSKIY  KATS  KATSERS  KATSMAN  KATSNELSON  KAYLER  KELLER  KERNITSKIY  KERZHNER  KHAZEN  KHARIF  KHOMSKIY  KHOTINSKIY  KHOSH  KHRAMOY  KHUSID / KHUSYD / KHASID / KHYSDES  KHUSYT  KHUTINSKIY  KISELIK  KISHINEVSKIY  KITAI  KIVOVICH / KAVOVICH  KLAYMAN / KLEYMAN  KLEYNER  KLEYNERMAN  KLEYNMAN  KLOTKOVITSER  KNISHMAN  KOEN  KOERENGOYZ  KOFMAN  KOGUT  KOIN / KOHEN  KOLENKOR  KOLOMEER  KOLOMSAR aka KOLOMEER  KONSTANTINOVSKIY  KORDON  KORENSHTEYN / KORINSHTEYN / KORNSHTEYN  KORMAN  KORNITSKAYA  KOTLYAR  KOYFMAN  KRASILOVSKIY  KRATS  KRAYBARG  KRAYMAN  KREMENETSKIY  KRIGMAN  KRIMENER  KRITS  KRIVCHITSKIY  KROTS  KROYMAN  KRYMER / KREYMER / KRIMER  KRYVOY  KUGUT  KULCHINSKIY  KUPINSKIY  KUSHNIR  KUZINER  KUZMINSKIY  KVASHA  KVENTSIL / KVELTSEL / KVENTSEL |
| **L** |
| LAMDEN  LAND  LANDA / LANDE  LANTSKORUNSKIY  LEDERMAN  LEKHOVETSKIY  LEMBERG  LEMLIKH  LERKHER  LERNER  LETICHEVSKIY  LEV  LEVITES  LEYBOVICH  LIBERMAN  LIPETS / LIPITS  LIPIS  LITVAK  LIVSHIN  LIVSHITS |
| **M** |
| MAKIVSKIY / MAKOVSKIY  MALAMUD / MALOMUD / MELAMUD  MANDELBLAT  MARGULIS  MARKULESHTSKIY  MATSEYVA SHLEYGOR  MAYDLIN  MEDZHIBOZHSKIY / MEDZHIBESKIY  MENKIS  MERMILIS / MERMALIS  MERSHELIS  MESIK  MESTYALMAN  MEYLMAN  MEYERSON  MIKHAYPOLSKIY / MIKHELPOLSKIY  MILMAN  MILSHTEYN  MIROCHNIK  MITBRAIT  MITELMAN  MOKHER  MORDER  MORTKOVICH  MOSHKOVICH  MOSZKOWICZ  MUCHNIK  MUR |
| **N** |
| NEMGAZER  NENTSIS  NESTRIBITSER  NIKOLAEVSKIY  NISENGOLTS / NYSENGOLTS  NITSMAN  NOSOVODER  NOVIK  NOVOKONSTANTINOVSKIY  NOYMAN  NUDELMAN  NULIK  NULMAN aka NUDELMAN |
| **O** |
| OBERMAN / OUBERMAN  OKSMAN  ONIKMAN  OSTERENIK / OSTERNIK |
| **P** |
| PAK  PAKHTER / POKHTER  PAN  PARYLIS / PARILIS / PERILIS  PASKE  PASKIVATY / PASKOVATY / PASKYVATY  PATIKH  PATSIORNIK  PEK  PEPEK / PIPIK / PYPEK / PUPEK / PEPYK  PERELMITER / PERELMUTER  PEREPLETCHIK / PREPILCHIK / PREPLCHIK  PERKIN  PITTELMAN  PREPLECHIK / AINBINDER  PERTSELYAN / PERTSILAN  PIGRASH / PIGRYSH / PIGRISH  PIKOR / PEKOR  PILAT / PILIT  POGREBINSKIY  POLYAK  POREKHNER  PORILIS / PORYLIS  PORINIS  PORTER  PORTNOY  PORTNOY / KHAYAT  PROSKUROVSKIY |
| **Q** |
|  |
| **R** |
| RABINOVICH  RADEL  RAKHMILEVICH  RAPOPORT  RATNER  RAYZ  REYDEL  REYMAN  REZNIK / SHOKHAT  ROSHASHER / ROSOSHER / ROSHOSHER  ROYKH  ROYTBARG  ROYTMAN  ROZENBLIT  RUBIRMAN |
| **S** |
| SAPOSHNIK / SHAPOCHNIK  SAPOSHNIK / SHUSTER  SAPOZHNIK / SANDLER  SAS  SATANOVSKIY  SCHULTER  SEREBRENIK  SEREBRENIK / TSOREF, SREBNIK / TSOREF  SERKIS  SERVITS MEYLER / SERVETS MEILER  SEZELMAN  SHAFAR / SHAFER / SHAFIR  SHAFRIR  SHAIER  SHAIKH  SHAPOCHNIK  SHAROVETSKIY  SHAROVSKIY  SHATAVSKIY  SHENKELMAN  SHENKER / SHENKIR  SHENKHER  SHEYKHET / SHOYKHET / SHAYKHET  SHEYNKELMAN / SHEYNKILMAN  SHEYNTSIS  SHIKHER  SHIKHMAN  SHILDINER  SHILMAN  SHISTER / SHUSTER  SHKOLNIK  SHKOLNIK / SHAMES  SHLIOMOVICH  SHMAIOVICH  SHMUKLER  SHNEYDER  SHNAYDERMAN  SHOFEROVICH  SHOR  SHPEREL  SHPERGAL  SHPIGELMAN  SHPITELMAN  SHRAYBERMAN  SHRAYER / SHRAER  SHTARKMAN  SHTERMAN  SHTIERZON  SHUKHALTER / SHUKHGALTER  SHULIMOWICZ  SHVARTS  SHVARTSBURD  SHVARTSMAN  SHVETS  SHVETS / SHUSTER, SHVETS / SHISTER  SIGAL  SIROTA - BERG  SLALITER  SKALETSKIY / SKALETSKI  SKOTINENSKOY/SKOTINER  SKOTININER  SKOTININER / SKOTINYANSKI  SKOTINYANSKIY  SLEPAK  SLEPOY  SLOBKOVETSKIY / SLOPKOVETSKIY  SMOTRICH  SMOTRICHESKIY  SOFIR  SOLOBKOVETSKIY  SOYFER  SPEKTER / SPEKTOR  SPIVAK  SPIVAK / KHAZEN  STERNIK / STARNIK  STUDNITS  SURONIZHEVSKIY  SYGAL  SZMOLOWICZ |
| **T** |
| TAKSER  TARNORUDSKIY / TARNARUDSKIY / TORNORUDSKIY  TEYTELBOYM / TEYTILBOYM  TISHMAN  TORNORUDER  TRABER / TROBER  TRABERMAN  TRAUBERG  TROVBERMAN  TRYNKMAN  TSATSKA  TSATSKIN  TSIDILKIVER / TSIDULKOVER  TSIGELMAN  TSIPIS  TSIRULNIK  TSOLIOVICH  TSOYREF / ZLOTNIK / SEREBRENIK / SREBNIK  TSUKERMAN  TSYB |
| **U** |
| UBERMAN  URININSKIY  USHERZON / USHERZUN  USHIROVICH |
| **V** |
| VALOVICH  VARTSMAN  VASERGUN / VASERGUNTS  VASERMAN  VAYNER  VAYNGURT  VAYNMAN  VAYNSHTEYN  VAYNTRUB  VAYSER / VAISER  VAYSMAN  VEITELIANER / VEITELKHNER  VEKER  VERETNIK  VEYTSMAN  VINNIK / VINIK / VINYK / VYNYK  VINKOVETSKIY  VINOKUR  VITLES  VOLF  VOLFTSUN  VOLIOVOCH / VOLOVOCH / VOLFOVICH  VOLOCHISKIY |
| **Y** |
| YAMPOLSKIY  YANKELEVICH  YANOVER  YARMOLINETSKIY  YAVETS  YUDINSHNAYDER |
| **Z** |
| ZAIONCHIK  ZAK  ZAKS  ZAMAKHOV  ZAMIKHOVSKIY  ZAMIR  ZANVELEVICH  ZAVADIVKER  ZAYDMAN  ZAYGIRMAN  ZBRIZHAR / ZBRUZHER  ZELTSENITSER aka DANIOKER  ZEMELMAN  ZHVANETSKIY  ZILBERMAN  ZIGELBOYM  ZIGMAN  ZILBERMANETS  ZILBERMINTS  ZINGMAN  ZINKOVETSKIY  ZISKILEVICH / BARA"D  ZISKENKEDOVICH / ZISKINDIOVICH  ZITSENSHNITSER  ZLOTNIK aka ZOLOTNIK  ZLOTNIK / TSOREF  ZMOYRA / ZAMIR  ZUN |