Rabbis, Cantors, and Kehila

Chief Rabbis and Spiritual Leaders

• GETZ, Rabbi Meir ben Elyakum (1685-1732)
  first chief rabbi of Piotrkow in 1726; also simultaneously rabbi of Lask.

• GETZ, Rabbi R. Eliakim (1705-1738)
  dayan for seven years; replaced his father as chief rabbi in 1735.

• PIOTRKOWER, Rabbi Nathan Neta, chief rabbi 1763-1766
  died at a young age; son of Rabbi Tzvi Hirsh.

• MEISELS, Rabbi Hanania Lipman (?-1811)
  chief rabbi and a great scholar; died without children.

• PIOTRKOWER, Rabbi Abraham Tzvi (1777-1819)
  chief rabbi for seven years, author of Beit Abraham; son of well-known speaker, Rabbi Eliezer, from Pocarow;
  descendant of famous rabbis; great-grandson of Rabbi Tzvi Hirsh PIOTRKOWER.

• BROMBERG, Rabbi David Isaac (?-1827)
  chief rabbi and well-known lamdan; called "The Sharp One"; author of Beth David and Chidushai HaRadak;
  son of Rabbi Reuven; later moved to Ujazd.

• PIOTRKOWSKI, Rabbi Moshe (?-1814)
  chief rabbi and well-known lamdan.

• PIOTRKOWSKI, Rabbi Aharon (?-1831)
  kabbalist, mathematician and known as very sharp;
  was a dayan in Lask; student of Rabbi Fishel of Strikov;
  son of Rabbi Moshe.

• PIOTRKOWSKI, Rabbi Itzak
  followed his father, Rabbi Aharon, as rabbi.

• KARO, Rabbi Yakov (1771-?)
  served briefly as chief rabbi,
  then left for Silesia;
  son of Gaon Rabbi Arieh Leib of Krotechin.

• BUCHNER, Rabbi David Isaac (?-1827)
  famous rabbi; author of Beit David; later served as rabbi in Czestochowa.

• EDELSTEIN, Rabbi Dov Berish (?-1831)
  chief rabbi for two years; died in the cholera epidemic of 1831.

• MEISELS, Rabbi Aaron Yehuda Jacob (Leibush) (?-1848)
  chief rabbi for a short time, also was rabbi of Kilikov and Zamosc;
  removed as rabbi in 1846 because of a misunderstanding between the Chassidim and Mitnagdim; son of Naftali Hertz MEISELS, father of Gaon Rabbi David of Nasielsk (Nasielsk).

• MORGENSTERN, Rabbi Eleazar Shalom, chief rabbi (1858-1867)
  formerly the Rav of Cichow and Shedletz (which gave up their chief rabbi only with the intervention of the police); son of Simcha Zev MORGENSTERN.

• ROSENBLUM, Rabbi Baruch Tzvi Hirsh (?-1883)
  elected chief rabbi in 1868, following the death of Rabbi MORGENSTERN;
  formerly the Rav of Radzin (1863) and Wegrow.

• KACZKA, Rabbi Isaac
  known as "Yitzhakel Charif"; famous rabbi and great lamdan; chairman of the Beth Din after Rabbi PACANOWSKI's death; grandfather of Rabbi Hanoch KACZKA, publisher of Rabbi Isaac's writings.
• **WAKS**, Rabbi Chayim Elozor (?-1889)
  elected chief rabbi in 1884, following the death of Rabbi ROSENBLUM; in 1886, he, his father-in-law
  Rabbi Yehoshua TRUNK of Kutno, the head of the Kehila, wealthy Pinchas HOROWITZ and Moshe
  WALD (sexton of the Bet Hadin) established a colony in Eretz Israel called Chitin, near Tiberias;
  published the first Hebrew seyfer in Piotrkow, Nefesh Chaya.; born in Tarnogrod near Lublin, died of a
  stroke in Kuzmitz, buried in Kalisz; one son, seven daughters, who married wealthy Chassidim; second
  wife died in Piotrkow in 1910; grandson Rabbi Isaac KALISH and a great-grandson Rabbi Menachem
  ZINGER survived the Shoah and lived in the U.S.; some descendants live in Israel as followers of Rabbi
  Chayim Elozor ALTER (grandson of Rabbi WAKS and nephew of the Gerrer Rebbe); grandson Rabbi
  Israel Yehoshua AIBESHITZ lived in Israel.

• **ROSENFELD**, Rabbi Simcha Yair (1831-1911)
  elected chief rabbi in 1890 and served until his death;
  a great and famous rabbi and excellent speaker.

• **TEMKIN**, Rabbi Menachem David (1861-?)
  elected chief rabbi in 1913, following the death of Rabbi ROSENFELD; led the Jewish community
  during WWI; son of Rabbi Michael TEMKIN, grandson of Rabbi David TEMKIN, a leading rabbi of
  Warsaw; married daughter of wealthy Moshe Natan HALBER of Warsaw; son-in-law was Avraham
  KOHN, brother of Lodz industrialist, Asher KOHN.

• **SHAPIRA**, Rabbi Yehuda Meir, chief rabbi from 1924-1931
  a member of the Polish parliament (Agudas Israel Party);
  became rabbi of Lublin in 1931 and was founder and head of the Yeshivat Hakhemai Lublin (Yeshiva of
  the Sages of Lublin).

• **LAU**, Rabbi Moshe Chaim (1893-1942)
  the last chief rabbi of Piotrkow, 1935-1942; educator, established a yeshiva in Prishkov,
  Czechoslovakia; supporter of the Poalei Agudas Yisroel Party; member of the Piotrkow Judenrat for a
  time; father of Naftali LAU-LAVIE and Rabbi Yisrael Meir LAU; according to witnesses, prior to
  deportation to Treblinka in October 1942, Rabbi Lau delivered a sermon on Kiddush Ha-Shem, stating:
  "Better a living death, than a dead life. Everyone who is killed as a Jew is a saint. I call upon all of you
  to realize the will of God to die for him with dignity"; then he said his Vidoi --his affirmation of faith--
  and the crowd repeated after him crying out "Shema Israel".

Rabbis

• **BELCHATOWSKI**, Rabbi Tovye Fabl
  helped to set up the first print shop in Piotrkow and became its owner in 1894;
  the shop became one of the largest print shops in Poland.

• **DREZNER**, Rabbi Raphael (1795-1859)
  Av Beit Din of Piotrkow; buried in old Lodz cemetery; son of Meir. Feiner, Rabbi Yosef (1866-1943),
  Aleksanderer rebbe;
  chief assistant to Eliaz Chaim Majzel, chief rabbi of Lodz, from 1901 and arbitrator in the Lodz
  rabbinic court; born in Piotrkow Trybunalski; killed in September 1943.

• **FRENKEL**, Rabbi Chaim
  helped set up first print shop in Piotrkow.

• **GLAZER**, Rabbi Jakob (d. 1939)
  a leading rabbi of Piotrkow; killed with his family in Sulejow on September 4.

• **HUBERBAND**, Rabbi Shimon (1909-1942)
  born in Checiny, lived in Piotrkow Trybunalski; Holocaust diarist; wrote *Kiddush Hashem*;
  see also, "The Destruction of the Synagogues of Lodz"; joined the inner circle of the Oneg Shabbat
  Archive in Warsaw; his writings,
  apparently from 1941, were found in the hidden archive material discovered after the war in the area that
  had been the ghetto.
• **LUBLINER**, Rabbi Simcha Ozer
  rabbi during the 1930s; father of Dr. Michael Lubliner.

• **PIOTRKOWER**, Rabbi Hirsh
  wealthy founder of the Bet Hamidrash in 1765; great-grandfather of Rabbi Abraham Tzvi Pacanowski.

• **ROTBAJN**, Rabbi Icek (HG”R Yitskhak of Piotrykov) (1834–ca. 1920)
  born in Gora Kalwaria; owned an ironworks factory in the 19th century;
  [The Rotbajn Family of Poland](#).

### Cantors

• **HILLEL**, Cantor Moshe
  cantor in the Piotrkower Shul in 1804.

• **MARCUS**, Cantor Joseph
  cantor in the Bet Midrash in 1804.

• **PERLMUTTER**, Cantor Lazar
  cantor from 1836; from Stawski.

### Kehila Structure in 1804

- Rabbi: Rabbi Lipman Meisels
- Intercessor and translator: Shmelke (Shlomo) Rappoport
- Two teachers
- Cantors: Moshe Hillel and Joseph Marcus; Jacob Isaac Flatow, first bass
- Sexton
- Helper of the shul
- Night watchmen: Shmuel Feivelovitch and Gershon Brandeis (and two Gentile watchmen)
- Sarah, the midwife

### Kehila Heads in 1808

- Chaim Segal
- Leyb Berliner
- Reb Josef, son of Jacob
- Reb Zachariah
• Reb Nakhum
• Reb Hirsh Piotrkower
• Avram, son of Mordechai