**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/Starosta%D7%A2%D7%9C)

**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

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

Marc Goldberger

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

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| **A**  |
| ABRAMKOVICHABRAMOWICZ / ABRAMOVICHAIZENBERGAKSELRUDALEKSANDROVSKIYALPERENAMBROCH / ANBROKHAYNBINDERAYZINMAN |
| **B**  |
| BADNERBALYNSKIYBARIBALYABARG / BORGBARKBAVERMANBAZILOVSKIYBEDRIKHOVITSER / BEDRIKHOVITSKIYBEIGEL BEKBEKELMAN / BEKILMANBELFERBENDETBERG BERDICHAVER / BERDICHEVERBERKOVICHBERMANBERNARBEYGELMANBILEKHBILENKABIRENBAUMBLAMER BLEKHMANBLEKHYAR / BLEKHER / BLEYKHERBLINDERBLOKHBLUVSHTEYNBODNAR / BODNER / BODNYARBOGOSLOVSKIYBOIMSHEYNBOLKHOVERBORUKHOVICHBRAYTMAN BREYMANBRIDERBRODERBRONSHTEYN / BROUNSHTEYNBROYTMANBUBARBUDMAN |
| **C**  |
| CHAERCHEMIROVETSKIYCHERNOSTROVKIY / CHERNOOSTROVSKIYCHORTKOVER / CHORTKIVER |
| **D**  |
| DANTSINDANTSISDARMANDEKHTERDINERDITINIS / DITINESDIZINDRAKHLYA / DROKHLYADRAZHINSKIYDREYZISDUNOVETSKIYDUVIDOVICH / DUVIDAVICHDYKHTER |
| **E**  |
| EDELMANEKHTERMONESHEL |
| **F**  |
| FAINSTEYNFEDERFELDMANFELSHTINERFELSHTINSKIYFEINSTEINFIDLER / FIDLYARFINBERGFINKELFISHFISHELIOVICHFISHLERFLEYSHAKERFLEYSHAKER / KHUSDUSFLEYSHERFLEYSHKERFLEYSHMANFRAMPILSKIY / FRAMPOLSKIY / FRANPOLSKIYFREIBERGFRENKELFRIDMANFURMANFUTERMAN |
| **G**  |
| GADILESGAIKHMANGALPERINGAMBROKHGARBAR / GARBERGARBERGGAYGEFTERGEKIRGELFMANGELLERGELMANGERSHENTSVITGERSHINTSVAYGGERSHKOVICHGERSHMANGERTSOVICHGEYLMANGIKOVATYGIMPELSGINZBARGGLANTSOVGLATSHTEYNGLEYZOR / GLEYZRGLIANTSMANGLUZGOBLER / GERLERGODLEVICHGODILISGODLISGODOVICH GODYLSGOIKHMAN / GOYKHMANGOLDENBERGGORVICHGOYSKHMANGOLDABERGOLDFARB GOLDENBARG / GOLDINBARG / GOLDINBERGGOLOVATIYGOLOVNIKGOLSHTEYNGOLTSMANGONIKMANGORENSHTEYNGOTMANGOYREKGRABERGRINBARG / GRINBERGGRINBOYMGRINFELDGROBERGROYSGROYS / KALIKAGROYSMANGRUNSHPANGRUZMANGUBERMANGUSYATINERGUSYATINSKIYGUTIS |
| **I**  |
| IKOVATIY / IKOVATYIOSHPAITSKOWICZ IUSIM |
| **K**  |
| KACHKAKALIKA GROYSKALIKA PAKKALINOVSKIYKALIRKALISHSKIYKAMENETSKIYKANTOR / KHAZENKARSHEYBEYMKARVASARSKIYKATSKATSERSKATSMANKATSNELSONKAYLERKELLERKERNITSKIYKERZHNERKHAZENKHARIFKHOMSKIYKHOTINSKIYKHOSHKHRAMOYKHUSID / KHUSYD / KHASID / KHYSDESKHUSYTKHUTINSKIYKISELIKKISHINEVSKIYKITAIKIVOVICH / KAVOVICHKLAYMAN / KLEYMANKLEYNERKLEYNERMANKLEYNMANKLOTKOVITSERKNISHMANKOENKOERENGOYZKOFMANKOGUT KOIN / KOHENKOLENKORKOLOMEERKOLOMSAR aka KOLOMEERKONSTANTINOVSKIYKORDONKORENSHTEYN / KORINSHTEYN / KORNSHTEYNKORMANKORNITSKAYAKOTLYARKOYFMANKRASILOVSKIYKRATSKRAYBARGKRAYMANKREMENETSKIYKRIGMANKRIMENERKRITSKRIVCHITSKIYKROTSKROYMANKRYMER / KREYMER / KRIMERKRYVOYKUGUTKULCHINSKIYKUPINSKIYKUSHNIRKUZINERKUZMINSKIYKVASHAKVENTSIL / KVELTSEL / KVENTSEL |
| **L**  |
| LAMDENLANDLANDA / LANDELANTSKORUNSKIYLEDERMANLEKHOVETSKIYLEMBERGLEMLIKHLERKHERLERNERLETICHEVSKIYLEVLEVITESLEYBOVICHLIBERMANLIPETS / LIPITSLIPISLITVAKLIVSHINLIVSHITS |
| **M**  |
| MAKIVSKIY / MAKOVSKIYMALAMUD / MALOMUD / MELAMUDMANDELBLATMARGULISMARKULESHTSKIYMATSEYVA SHLEYGOR MAYDLIN MEDZHIBOZHSKIY / MEDZHIBESKIYMENKISMERMILIS / MERMALISMERSHELISMESIKMESTYALMANMEYLMANMEYERSONMIKHAYPOLSKIY / MIKHELPOLSKIYMILMANMILSHTEYNMIROCHNIKMITBRAITMITELMANMOKHERMORDERMORTKOVICHMOSHKOVICHMOSZKOWICZMUCHNIKMUR |
| **N**  |
| NEMGAZERNENTSISNESTRIBITSERNIKOLAEVSKIYNISENGOLTS / NYSENGOLTSNITSMANNOSOVODERNOVIKNOVOKONSTANTINOVSKIYNOYMANNUDELMANNULIKNULMAN aka NUDELMAN |
| **O**  |
| OBERMAN / OUBERMANOKSMANONIKMANOSTERENIK / OSTERNIK |
| **P**  |
| PAKPAKHTER / POKHTERPANPARYLIS / PARILIS / PERILISPASKEPASKIVATY / PASKOVATY / PASKYVATYPATIKHPATSIORNIKPEKPEPEK / PIPIK / PYPEK / PUPEK / PEPYKPERELMITER / PERELMUTERPEREPLETCHIK / PREPILCHIK / PREPLCHIKPERKINPITTELMANPREPLECHIK / AINBINDERPERTSELYAN / PERTSILANPIGRASH / PIGRYSH / PIGRISHPIKOR / PEKORPILAT / PILITPOGREBINSKIYPOLYAKPOREKHNERPORILIS / PORYLISPORINISPORTERPORTNOYPORTNOY / KHAYATPROSKUROVSKIY |
| **Q**  |
|  |
| **R**  |
| RABINOVICHRADELRAKHMILEVICHRAPOPORTRATNERRAYZREYDELREYMANREZNIK / SHOKHATROSHASHER / ROSOSHER / ROSHOSHERROYKHROYTBARGROYTMANROZENBLITRUBIRMAN |
| **S**  |
| SAPOSHNIK / SHAPOCHNIKSAPOSHNIK / SHUSTERSAPOZHNIK / SANDLERSASSATANOVSKIYSCHULTERSEREBRENIKSEREBRENIK / TSOREF, SREBNIK / TSOREFSERKISSERVITS MEYLER / SERVETS MEILERSEZELMANSHAFAR / SHAFER / SHAFIRSHAFRIRSHAIERSHAIKHSHAPOCHNIKSHAROVETSKIYSHAROVSKIYSHATAVSKIYSHENKELMANSHENKER / SHENKIRSHENKHERSHEYKHET / SHOYKHET / SHAYKHETSHEYNKELMAN / SHEYNKILMANSHEYNTSISSHIKHERSHIKHMANSHILDINERSHILMANSHISTER / SHUSTERSHKOLNIKSHKOLNIK / SHAMESSHLIOMOVICHSHMAIOVICHSHMUKLERSHNEYDERSHNAYDERMAN SHOFEROVICHSHORSHPERELSHPERGALSHPIGELMANSHPITELMANSHRAYBERMANSHRAYER / SHRAERSHTARKMANSHTERMANSHTIERZONSHUKHALTER / SHUKHGALTERSHULIMOWICZSHVARTSSHVARTSBURDSHVARTSMANSHVETSSHVETS / SHUSTER, SHVETS / SHISTERSIGALSIROTA - BERGSLALITERSKALETSKIY / SKALETSKI SKOTINENSKOY/SKOTINERSKOTININERSKOTININER / SKOTINYANSKISKOTINYANSKIYSLEPAKSLEPOYSLOBKOVETSKIY / SLOPKOVETSKIYSMOTRICH SMOTRICHESKIYSOFIRSOLOBKOVETSKIYSOYFERSPEKTER / SPEKTORSPIVAKSPIVAK / KHAZENSTERNIK / STARNIKSTUDNITSSURONIZHEVSKIYSYGALSZMOLOWICZ |
| **T**  |
| TAKSERTARNORUDSKIY / TARNARUDSKIY / TORNORUDSKIYTEYTELBOYM / TEYTILBOYMTISHMANTORNORUDERTRABER / TROBERTRABERMANTRAUBERGTROVBERMANTRYNKMANTSATSKATSATSKINTSIDILKIVER / TSIDULKOVERTSIGELMANTSIPISTSIRULNIKTSOLIOVICHTSOYREF / ZLOTNIK / SEREBRENIK / SREBNIKTSUKERMANTSYB |
| **U**  |
| UBERMANURININSKIYUSHERZON / USHERZUNUSHIROVICH |
| **V**  |
| VALOVICHVARTSMANVASERGUN / VASERGUNTSVASERMANVAYNERVAYNGURTVAYNMANVAYNSHTEYNVAYNTRUBVAYSER / VAISERVAYSMANVEITELIANER / VEITELKHNERVEKERVERETNIKVEYTSMANVINNIK / VINIK / VINYK / VYNYKVINKOVETSKIYVINOKURVITLESVOLFVOLFTSUN VOLIOVOCH / VOLOVOCH / VOLFOVICHVOLOCHISKIY |
| **Y**  |
| YAMPOLSKIYYANKELEVICHYANOVERYARMOLINETSKIYYAVETSYUDINSHNAYDER |
| **Z** |
| ZAIONCHIKZAKZAKSZAMAKHOVZAMIKHOVSKIYZAMIRZANVELEVICHZAVADIVKERZAYDMANZAYGIRMANZBRIZHAR / ZBRUZHERZELTSENITSER aka DANIOKERZEMELMANZHVANETSKIYZILBERMANZIGELBOYMZIGMANZILBERMANETSZILBERMINTSZINGMANZINKOVETSKIYZISKILEVICH / BARA"DZISKENKEDOVICH / ZISKINDIOVICHZITSENSHNITSERZLOTNIK aka ZOLOTNIKZLOTNIK / TSOREFZMOYRA / ZAMIRZUN |