# INTRODUCTION

*by*
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## Until recently, there was a strong perception in Jewish communities worldwide that virtually all documents pertaining to Jews in Eastern Europe were destroyed by the Nazis during World War II.

While it is certainly true that many documents were lost, a significant number survived and can be found in archives throughout the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The interest in family history is very strong among Jews around the world. It is estimated that more than 75 percent of American Jews can trace at least one grandparent to towns within the Soviet borders as defined in 1945. The number of Jews visiting ancestral towns in the former Soviet Union is growing rapidly, and the interest in surviving archival materials has brought family historians in pursuit of genealogy into the fold of scholarly research.

With the political changes in Eastern Europe during the past few years, it has become possible to visit places and work in archives that one could only dream of a decade ago. With this access, it has become clear that there is a need to identify resources for people who wish to know more about their family history—specifically, what documents have survived, for what time periods, and in which archival repositories the documents can be found.

I visited Ukraine for the first time in 1991 and have returned several times each year since then, working in various levels of archives throughout the country. During my first visit, I met with Boris V. Ivanenko, then director of the Main Archival Administration under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, with a proposal to compile and publish an inventory of the documents in Ukrainian State Archives, accessible by town name and with a focus on the Jewish material. He was enthusiastic and expressed his willingness to cooperate. For the purposes of genealogical research, it is essential to be able to identify documents by the geographical location in which they were created—that is, either by town or district. The following methodology for gathering the material was discussed and agreed upon with Mr. Ivanenko, based upon the same format utilized in my previous book, *Jewish Roots in*



*Sevastopol, Ukraine, 1911*

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*Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories.* Mr. Ivanenko and his staff, as well as subsequent directors appointed upon his retirement, have cooperated with and assisted me throughout the project.

My first visit to Moldova was in 1992 and included lengthy meetings with the director of the Moldovan National Archives. In Moldova, I worked primarily with Antonina A. Berzoy, vice-director of the Moldovan National Archives since 1992 and director since 1995. Ms. Berzoy also agreed that the archival inventory format established for *Jewish Roots in Poland* would be followed in gathering material for this book.

## METHODOLOGY OF ARCHIVAL SURVEY

Data for the archival inventories came from many sources, including, but not limited to, archival inventories published by various archives in the former Soviet Union and elsewhere; published lists of Jewish records microfilmed by the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, Utah; inventories prepared by the author and contracted researchers; district archivists in Ukraine and Moldova who reviewed the compiled inventories; and revised and updated inventories from the Urząd Stanu Cywilnego, Warsaw Śródmieście (the repository housing twentieth-century vital records for localities formerly in Eastern Poland and within the current borders of Western Ukraine).

The information gathered from the above sources was translated and then analyzed by the author prior to coding. This was a lengthy process that led to coding by document type, which was subsequently entered into the database developed for the first volume in this series.

A computerized listing by repository, based upon the above research, was provided to the director of the Ukrainian State Archives, who then had the data sent to each oblast (district) archive and the branch or subarchive of the district archive, with the request that the material be corrected and supplemented where possible. The applicable inventory data were also sent to the director of the Moldovan National Archives for verification and supplementation. The revisions were then incorporated into the database.

It was clear from comments received from archivists that, while the bulk of the data was correct, there were entries that had been accurate at one time but no longer were since documents are transferred periodically from the ZAGS archives to the Ukrainian State Archives. Every effort has been made to update and include the most current information.

Most archives were responsive to requests for review of inventory lists and provided helpful additions and clarifications. However, some archives in Ukraine stated that the sheer size of the project was more than they could accommodate and thus did not provide the requested archival file numbers or expand the inventory lists we provided. This was particularly true in Beregovo as of December 1998, as the archive and the documents contained therein were badly damaged by heavy rains and flooding. In these cases, inventory data came primarily from published archival inventories.

## FOCUS OF THE BOOK

One of the most difficult decisions in producing this book was what had to be omitted. The focus of the book prohibits an exhaustive study of all repositories in Ukraine and Moldova. Those associated with this project agreed that the primary purpose was to concentrate on archival holdings in the state and branch archives along with documents in the ZAGS (local government offices where vital records are registered). The reader should also be aware that there is material of interest to Jewish researchers in virtually all the archives in Ukraine and Moldova (see Chapters 4 and 9). Also, there are extensive document collections relating to the Jews of Ukraine and Moldova throughout the archives in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia, which have not been inventoried for this book.

Of necessity, we have also made reference to some significant collections in local museums and in the homes of local citizens because of the uniqueness of the material.

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**Important Note to Remember**

The inventory lists provided by the Ukrainian State Archives and the Moldovan National Archives often list only the year-span of documents, followed by the archives' file numbers. For example:

Years:   1842–1844;1857;1859–1861;1873
Archive file numbers:   270/2/4,7,9,12;273/1/3–4

As a result, it is not always possible to identify which archive number corresponds to a particular year or year-span. Therefore, the archival inventories in this book should be used **in conjunction with** the *fond/opis/delo* (name/number) descriptions held in the Ukrainian State Archives and the Moldovan National Archives.

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## YIZKOR BOOKS (MEMORIAL BOOKS)

*Yizkor* books were published after World War II by groups of *landsmanshaftn* societies (Jews from the same town or region) to commemorate the history and destruction of their towns. These books, hundreds of which have been published, are generally in Hebrew and Yiddish. They contain many photos, maps, memoirs, testimonies, town histories and lists of Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Many of these books are indexed. Often a *yizkor* book for one town will include information about smaller nearby towns and villages.

The largest collection of *yizkor* books can be found in the Yad Vashem Library in Jerusalem. In the United States, the Library of Congress; the New York Public Library; the Holocaust Memorial Center in West Bloomfield, Michigan; the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum have the largest collections of *yizkor* books.

On the Internet, a current listing of *yizkor* books (together with other books about specific localities) can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/database.html>.

## DOCUMENTS INCLUDED IN ARCHIVAL INVENTORIES

Documents included in the archival inventories can be divided into two groupings:

- Documents created by the Jewish community, including metrical books; Jewish school records and Jewish hospital records; *kahal* (Jewish community council) documents (including Jewish community and organization records); *pinkassim* (Jewish register books); and other documents relating to the Jewish community.

- Documents created by local and district government offices, institutions and organizations that include birth, death, marriage and divorce records; family lists and books of residents; lists of males created for conscription lists; election and voter lists; documents created during the Holocaust period, including transport lists, property records, lists of people confined in ghettos and concentration camps, and confiscated property lists; emigration records; property records; police files; public-school records; name changes; tax lists; bank records; applications for business licenses and occupational lists; notary records; local government records, including wills and transfer of property to and from the Jewish community; and many other related documents.

## LANGUAGE: TOWN-NAME SPELLINGS AND ALPHABET

A major consideration in preparing this book for publication was the issue of language and how it related to the spelling of town names. Due to border changes during various wars and the recent emergence of the independent countries of Ukraine and Moldova, documents within the archives of these countries are written in Polish, German, Russian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Moldovan (the same language as Romanian) and Yiddish. The Ukrainian language came into official use when Ukraine declared its independence in 1991. For example, pre–World War II documents in Ukrainian archives are usually in the Russian language, while documents in the archives in Western Ukraine in Ivano-Frankovsk, Lvov and Ternopol (pre–World War II) are written in Polish or German, and documents in Southwestern Ukraine are in Hungarian. The finding-aids and indices are generally in Russian throughout Ukraine. In the Moldovan National Archives, documents written prior to 1917 are in the Russian language, while those documents written from 1917 to 1945 are in Moldovan.

This book deals with both documents and localities. Towns in Ukraine are now known under their Ukrainian names, but at the time many of the photographs in this book were taken (particularly town signs), the Russian names were still on the signs, or in some cases, the town signs reflected a combination of both Russian and Ukrainian letters.

The language spoken by the general populace in Ukraine varies. In Western Ukraine, one is more likely to hear Ukrainian or Polish and in Southwestern Ukraine, people speak Hungarian. Throughout the rest of Ukraine, Russian is the primary language. In Moldova, it is common to hear both Moldovan and Russian spoken among the populace.

The dilemma of how to accommodate both the current national language (town names) and Russian spellings (archival documents) was a major issue in the layout of this book.



*This typical home in Russia brings to mind stories told by many immigrants of sleeping on shelves above the fireplace in order to keep warm, c. 1905.*     7

Contributing authors and archivists tend to use either the Ukrainian or Moldovan language. Yet those people reading this book will remember their ancestral roots in Lvov (or Lemberg or Lwów), but not present-day Lviv. This is especially true in Western Ukraine, where the pronunciation changed, as in the city of Rovno (Russian), now known as Rivne (Ukrainian). In Western Ukraine, town names changed significantly, both in spelling and pronunciation, and the reader is referred to Appendix 3, *Place-Name Variants in Eastern Galicia.* In all other areas of Ukraine, the difference between Russian and Ukrainian place names is less marked. If spelled differently, it is also pronounced differently, if only slightly.

While it would have been preferable to be consistent throughout this book in the transliterated language of the town names, due to the foregoing factors and the ultimate goal of wanting this book to be consistent with ancestral town names as we knew them (as well as the language of the documents), town names in this book are transliterated from the Russian language in the archival inventories and in the pictorial sections of towns (Chapters 3, 8 and 11; and Appendix 1, *Selected Bibliography* [localities]). The transliterated spelling (from Russian) of town names is based upon the entries in *Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust,* by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack (Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu, 1991) and as defined by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Therefore, the Ukrainian transliteration and spelling of town names are used in addresses only. For transliteration purposes and style consistency, the apostrophe found in current Ukrainian spellings was omitted.

In Appendix 3, *Place-Name Variants in Eastern Galicia,* the town names are listed in Polish first, but are alphabetized according to the Roman alphabet, since it is anticipated that the primary readership of this book will be an English-speaking audience.

Town names ending in -skiy (including Khmelnitskiy, Kamenets Podolskiy, Novograd Volynskiy, Vladimir Volynskiy, and others) are spelled in a modified version of the Library of Congress System (which would normally be transliterated from Ukrainian with the ending -skii or -sky) in order to be consistent with the locality spellings in the *Selected Bibliography* and archival inventories.

## ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVAL DATABASE

In a project of this magnitude, it is inevitable that errors and omissions will occur. The database is being maintained on an ongoing basis and updated upon receipt and verification of new information. Therefore, readers are invited to submit any additions or corrections to the publishers' attention, and new data will be included in any future editions of the book.

## TOWNS IN WESTERN UKRAINE (GALICIA)

It is important to know the names of the district and sub-district for towns located in Western Ukraine (Eastern Galicia) in order to determine where documents might have been registered. See the extensive listing in *Finding Your Jewish Roots in Galicia: A Resource Guide,* by Suzan F. Wynne (Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu, Inc., 1998).

## NOTES ON THE TRANSLITERATION OF HEBREW AND YIDDISH

### Hebrew

A slightly modified version of the American Library Association/Library of Congress (ALA/LC) Hebrew romanization table is used for the transliteration of Hebrew bibliographical information. The ALA/LC Hebrew romanization table uses ḥ for the Hebrew letter *het,* kh for *khaf,* ' (apostrophe) for *'ayiin,* and ts for *tsade* (with the exception of ḥ [*het*], diacritical marks appearing in the ALA/LC Hebrew table have been omitted). In other respects, Hebrew transliterations should be straightforward.

Proper names (including place names) are transliterated according to the ALA/LC Hebrew table when they appear *within* the bodies of bibliographical entries (*e.g.,* titles, names of publishers). *Author headings* appearing at the beginning of entries usually employ either Roman-alphabet forms that appear within the works or forms that are found in standard reference sources (encyclopedias, bibliographies and library catalogues). In cases where this information is not available within the works, names are systematically transliterated according to the ALA/LC Hebrew romanization table.

### Yiddish

The YIVO Yiddish romanization table, found in Uriel Weinreich's *Modern English-Yiddish, Yiddish-English Dictionary* (New York: YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1968), is used for the transliteration of Yiddish bibliographical information. The YIVO table uses kh for the letters *khof* (Hebrew *khaf*) and *khes* (Hebrew *het*). Yiddish words of Hebrew or Aramaic derivation (*e.g., matsev*) use transliterations found within entries appearing in the Weinreich dictionary. In other respects, Yiddish transliterations should be straightforward.

Proper names (including place names) are transliterated according to the YIVO Yiddish table when they appear *within* the bodies of bibliographical entries (*e.g.,* titles, names of publishers). Author headings appearing at the beginning of entries usually employ Roman-alphabet forms that either appear within the works or are found in standard reference sources (encyclopedias, bibliographies and library catalogues). In cases where this information is not available within the works, names are systematically transliterated according to the YIVO Yiddish romanization table.

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**Important Note to Remember**

It is anticipated that the primary readership of this book will be an English-speaking audience. Accordingly, town names in the archival inventories in Chapter 12 are alphabetized in the alphabetical order of the English language, based upon transliterated Russian names of localities.

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## JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

The Jewish Historical Institute (JHI) in Warsaw, Poland, is the central repository in Eastern Europe for Jewish documents relating to localities in Poland as defined by the pre-1939 borders. Therefore, holdings at the JHI include documents for towns located in the former Polish provinces of Stanisławów (now Ivano-Frankivsk), Tarnopol (now Ternopil) and Lwów (now Lviv). These provinces (formerly known as Eastern Galicia) are within the current borders of Ukraine. The JHI archival holdings include many unique and interesting documents.

## OTHER REPOSITORIES IN POLAND

The Urząd Stanu Cywilnego (USC) offices throughout Poland are the repository for civil vital-record registrations. In Warsaw, the Urząd Stanu Cywilnego, Warszawa-Śródmieście office's unique collection of Jewish vital records from Eastern Galicia is subject by law to access restrictions, but research requests for specific records are permitted, and certified copies of records are provided when located. Documents older than 100 years are transferred to the Polish State Archives, Archiwum Główne Aakt Dawnych (AGAD), located in Warsaw.

## LDS COLLECTION OF VITAL RECORDS

The Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS Library) has microfilmed civil transcripts of church records and Jewish records worldwide, including those from some towns in Ukraine and Moldova. Consult a local Family History Center's Locality Catalogue to determine whether vital records for a specific town have been filmed.

Microfilming in Ukraine and Moldova is an ongoing project, and to date, only a very small part of the Jewish records (metrical books) has been filmed.

## THE INTERNET

Until recently, genealogists were limited in their research by having to spend countless hours in libraries and dusty archives—many of which were hundreds, if not thousands of miles away from home, had limited hours and contained books or documents in foreign languages. With the advent of the Internet, there is now a wealth of information available that can be accessed from the comfort of one's home by computer through the World Wide Web, mailing lists, USENET newsgroups, e-mail and a rapidly expanding list of other resources.

For example, rather than consulting a gazetteer, anyone with Internet access can utilize the JewishGen ShtetlSeeker and locate an ancestral town's latitude and longitude and a list of towns within a certain distance of such a town.

JewishGen is the official home of Jewish genealogy in cyberspace, hosting a mailing list and Web site. Additional projects of JewishGen include the ShtetLinks project, which allows people with an interest in a particular shtetl or larger locality to share information; and the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF), which is a computer-indexed compilation of surnames and towns currently being researched by almost 20,000 genealogists worldwide. It contains entries for most towns in Eastern Europe where Jews once lived.

The advent of the Internet has provided a major tool whereby genealogists can tap into a wealth of resources and databases to share information around the globe. Ten years ago, it was difficult to fathom a communications explosion that would provide access to such extensive resources. Today the ease and speed of e-mail communication and Internet access has motivated people in even the most obscure and small towns to participate equally in the search for their roots in archival and library databases.

## JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

There are more than 70 Jewish genealogical societies (JGSs) worldwide, with the number increasing steadily. For a complete and current list, contact:

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES, 104 Franklin Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705 <http://www.jewishgen.org/iajgs>

In addition to the JGSs, the following Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are composed of genealogists interested in a specific geographic region of Ukraine and Moldova:

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|---|---|
| GALICIA | <http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia> |
| ODESSA | <http://www.jewishgen.org/listserv/sigs.html> |
| VOLHYNIA | <http://shangrila.cs.ucdavis.edu:1234/heckman/volhynia> |

JewishGen Internet URLs:

| | |
|---|---|
| JEWISHGEN | <http://www.jewishgen.org> |
| JRI-PL | <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl> |
| SHTETLINKS | <http://www.jewishgen.org/ShtetLinks> |
| SHTETLSEEKER | <http://www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker> |
| SHTETLSCHLEPPERS | <http://www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSchleppers> |
| JGFF | <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff> |

Eastern European genealogical societies in North America:

EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC., P.O. Box 2536, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 4A7 <http://www.eegsociety.org>
FEDERATION OF EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES, P.O. Box 510898, Salt Lake City, UT 84151 <http://feefhs.org>

Revizskaya Skazka (list of inhabitants), 1859, living in Khotin. No. 45/33 is the family of Duvid Shteinberg, with five generations and 22 names. 19

**Editor's Note:** *Below is a translation of a portion of the original document (highlighted above). It has been reformatted for clarification; years of birth were determined by subtracting the age listed above (in the right column on both pages) from the year of census, 1859.*

|                   MALES                   |              FEMALES              |

**Duvid Shteinberg** (son of Leib), born 1795-died 1853
    **his wife:** ................................................................ **Dvoira** (daughter of Ios), born 1802
    **his sons: #1 Mekhel**, born 1818
          his wife: .................................................Genya, born 1821
          his sons:   Volko, born 1835
                   his wife: .......................................Khaya, born 1832
                   his daughter: ...............................Tsirlya, born 1857
                   his son:    Yankel, born 1858
               Itsko, born 1840
               Shlioma, born 1846
               Ios, born 1855
           his daughters: ..........................................Tsirlya, married
                                             Leya, married
                                             Merka, born 1849
        **#2 Shaya**, born 1826
          his daughter (from first wife): ...............................Khaya, born 1855
          his wife #2 .............................................Basya, born 1819
        **#3 Moshko**, born 1843
    **his daughters:** ............................................................... **Golda**, married
                                                           **Chantsya**, married

Four-page questionnaire, dated 1934, submitted by the National Executive Committee of the General Zionist Organization in Lvov to its branch office in Skala. The response contains important data about the Jewish community, including population figures (5,200, total; 1,700 Jews); names and functions of the 12 members of the branch leadership; and data on schools, the library (1,812 books), city council (16 members, three of them Jews), and the Hebrew school (78 children).

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