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(Translated into English by Andrew Rajcher)

## **The Oldest Jewish Families in Częstochowa**

The city of Częstochowa came into existence in 1826 through the connecting of two small towns. Throughout the 19th century, it developed into one of the largest industrial centres of central Poland.

By 1897, the city on the Warta already had around 40,000 residents, of whom 29.5% (11,764 individuals) were Jewish<sup>1</sup>, even though, at the beginning of the 19th century, they were still forbidden to reside in Częstochowa. The great development of the Jewish community was the result of many economic, demographic, legal and others factors. However, at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, that development would not have been possible without a few families, whose members were the first to secure the right of residence in the city. They led to the Jewish Community Council being recognised by the state government and then, for a long period, played a leading role within it.

To date, no one has made the effort to research their genealogy and their mutual connections. There is no lack of research material, beginning with lists, under-utilised until now, of Jews from the last years of the Republic<sup>2</sup>, through to documentation from Prussian times<sup>3</sup>, notations in notarial records (in large part published in print by Dariusz Złotkowski<sup>4</sup>), as well as birth, marriage and death certificates preserved from the beginnings of the Duchy of Warsaw<sup>5</sup>.

This article does not claim to provide a full genealogical representation of the abovementioned families, only because the author did not conduct a complete preliminary research of the certificates. Apart from that, the sources do not always allow for the accurate reconstruction of familial connections due to, among other reasons, a lack of certificates from prior to 1808, the great mobility of Jews and the practice of using different first names and surnames which hinders identification.

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<sup>1</sup> B. Wasiutyński, *Ludność żydowska w Polsce w wiekach XIX i XX*, Warsaw 1930, p. 24.

<sup>2</sup> Kamila Follprecht, *Ludność żydowska województwa krakowskiego w czasie Sejmu Czteroletniego. Spisy z powiatów krakowskiego, ksiąskiego, lelowskiego i proszowskiego z lat 1790–1792 (ze zbiorów Archiwum Państwowego w Krakowie)*, Kraków 2008, pp. 94-105.

<sup>3</sup> Archiwum Główne Akta Dawnych (more: AGAD), General Directorate of the South Prussian Department, Ref. VI-377–378.

<sup>4</sup> Dariusz Złotkowski, „*Wiedząc dobrze to z wyroków Boga Najwyższego, iż kto się rodzi, umierać musi...*”. *Testamenty z pierwszej połowy XIX wieku w świetle akt notariuszy częstochowskich*, Edition 1, Częstochowa 2005; Edition 2, Częstochowa 2006; Edition 3, Częstochowa 2011 (subtitled: *Testamenty z połowy XIX wieku w świetle akt notariuszy częstochowskich*). Further as: *Testamenty*.

<sup>5</sup> From 1808, records concerning Jews, registered on certificates from St Zygmunt's Catholic parish in Częstochowa (State Archive in Częstochowa [APCz], Civil Register of the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Zygmunt Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej św. Zygmunta w Częstochowie [ASC, PRZ], from 1826 in separate certificates (APCz, Akta Stanu Cywilnego, Okręg Bóżniczy Częstochowa [dalej: ASC OBCz]). Due to a lack of space, I provide accurate cross-references only in exceptional cases. Certificates are supplied with indexes so that the reader can easily locate an appropriate certificate record.

A later report was written on the basis of Jewish Community Council documents and the memoirs of the oldest members of the Council, among whom were Abraham Majzel, Abraham Ginsberg, Nachman Berman, Wolf and Chaim Mojżesz Landau, as well as Lewek and Marek Kohn. This report adds that, thanks to them, a modern Jewish Community Council was established, despite the fact that they, themselves, were of an “older time”<sup>6</sup>. It is not coincidental that they were representatives of the oldest families who had settled permanently in Częstochowa. However, there were others who were also involved in the establishment of the Council.

In the literature on the subject, the most well-known, named third above, is Nachman Berman. However, it was Joachim Berkowicz, who was the first Jew to gain the right to live in the city next to Jasna Góra. For twenty three years prior to that, he was a lessee of the district and provincial propination rights in Częstochowa, belonging to Stanisław Sołtyk. In a list from 1792, “Jachim Borkowicz” is named in two places as a district lessee. At the time, he was forty years old (which, of course is an approximation<sup>7</sup>), while his family was comprised of his wife Ewa, 28 years old, his son-in-law Majer with his wife Dobra (both 18 years old), as well as his 8 year old son Lejbuś and three servants. Joachim’s older brother, Eicyk (in the sources “Hyzyk”) Berkowicz, was 44 years old and resided in a borough leader’s house with his wife Gitel (43 years old), his married, 20 year old son Abram (with his wife Dorota), his unnamed 15 year old, blind son, as well as two younger children (Berek 12 years old and Leyba 7 years old). It is easy to deduce that the father of the Berkowicz brothers was Berek. During a hearing before a Prussian Commission in 1800, Joachim Berkowicz referred to him as “Berl Loebel”, working as vodka lessee on behalf of the nobility. He died around twenty years prior to “the Polish period” (i.e. circa 1780). Through this work, he learned how to make mash, brew beer, distil vodka, etc.<sup>8</sup>

The Berkowicz brothers, as wealthy and experienced lessees, could count on the support of the nobility, which brought with it financial benefits. They benefited, too, from changes in the state ownership of Częstochowa and the surrounding area, which took place in the Second Partition of Poland in 1795. The 18<sup>th</sup> century Prussian Kings consistently favoured the principles of commercialism, traditionally acting against poor Jews, whilst facilitating the activities of the rich which, in turn, brought economic benefits to the state<sup>9</sup>.

On numerous occasions, Joachim Berkowicz would have certainly entered into various dealings with the Częstochowa municipal authorities which, for the entire century, had been contending with huge financial problems resulting from the ruin of the city and the townspeople, as well as the constantly empty municipal coffers. This explain why, on 3rd August 1795, the Mayor and the City Council permitted him to buy a site, owned by Dutkiewicz, for the construction there of a brick house, conditional upon him paying heavy municipal dues and a ban on him accepting other Jews as sub-tenants or mortgaging the house to them<sup>10</sup>. From a municipal police note regarding Jacob, dated 23rd December 1795, it turns out that this was given with the consent of all citizens since Berkowicz had often helped other residents following numerous fires (certainly lending them money for reconstruction).

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<sup>6</sup> *Zawiązanie się i wzrost gminy izraelskiej miasta Częstochowy*, „Jutrzenka” 1, 1861, No.7, pp. 52–53.

<sup>7</sup> Probably as calculated from a death certificate which, for example, gave his age as 60 at the time of death. The difference between that the actual age could be a dozen or so years. In the case of dates of birth, the author always adds “circa”.

<sup>8</sup> AGAD, Generalne Dyrektorium Departament Southern Prussia, File: VI-378, p. 56.

<sup>9</sup> Definitely legalised by the Powszechny Landrecht Pruski z 1797 roku. Por. J.I. Israel, *Żydzi europejscy w dobie merkantylizmu (1550–1750)*, Warsaw 2009, pp. 294, 303–305. Najszerzej S. Stern, *Der preussische Staat und die Juden*, Bde 1–6, Berlin 1925.

<sup>10</sup> In the document, it is stressed, several times, that this was to hinder the inflow of other Jews which J. Berkowicz was obliged to help.

On 3rd August 1795, Joachim Berkowicz, as a co-resident, swore an oath “according to the rites of his religion” (on the Hebrew Bible). Earlier, however, in the summer of 1795, Eicyk Berkowicz had taken possession of real estate, buying it for 400 zł. from Błażej Dutkiewicz, a citizen of Staszów and, earlier, of Częstochowa Stara. The site lay between a castle leasehold and land owned by a Prussian superintendent, Friedrich Schtymer<sup>11</sup>.<sup>12</sup> On 13th August, for that same amount, Eicyk Berkowicz onsold that site to his brother Joachim<sup>13</sup> who then, very soon after, began constructing a brick house on it.

In the February of the following year, Joachim managed to buy another property for 600 zł., this time, under his own name. The vendor was again Frydrych Schtymer, a royal *konsyliarz* (a customs and excise tax law adviser). This purchase was also for the construction of a brick house. He entered into this transaction with the full rights of a resident, which was documented in a declaration by the Mayor and the City Council. This declaration accepted Joachim Berkowicz as a fellow-resident, having sworn allegiance to the King of Prussia (Bürgereid), sworn on 19th October 1796<sup>14</sup>. In that year, Berkowicz got down to building, which cost him several thousand Rhine thalers<sup>15</sup>. He also built a distillery and a brewery because, by virtue of owning a house in the city, this gave him the right to an alcohol licence.

In 1797, the “General-Juden-Reglement für Süd- und Neu-Ostpreussen” (*General Jewish Regulations for South and New East Prussia*) appeared in Prussia which contained many restrictions against Jews, but which permitted the rich to purchase homes in cities, while others could only settle permanently there with the consent of the state<sup>16</sup>. This facilitated the activities of Joachim Berkowicz who, in 1797, changed his name to “Nachman Bermann<sup>17</sup>. His activities roused the majority of residents, especially when, soon after, more distant Jews became owners of houses<sup>18</sup>. Hence, constant processes began against the settling of Jews in Częstochowa. In particular, this mainly concerned the large and rapid profits which were being made from the production and sale of alcohol, the so-called “propinacja”.

The first such case took place in 1800 during which Bermann, among other things, produced certificates from Prussian officials which stated that “Schutz-Juden und hiesigen Einwohner” (*Protected-Jew and local resident*) Nachman Bermann provides quality grain, always pays his profits taxes to the royal cash office and exercises his entitlements well, to sell beer and alcohol in the houses built on sites No. 22 and No.23<sup>19</sup>. However, the right to make and sell beverages was restricted to three individuals who owned homes in the city and the appropriate concessions, among them being N. Berman<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., pp. 67-69. There is separate evidence of a sale by the son of the previous owner, Grzegorz Dutkiewicz - a receipt for the payment (pp. 71-73).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., pp. 67-69. The previous owner's son, Grzegorz Dutkiewicz, authenticates the sale and confirms receipt of the payment due (pp. 71-73).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., pp. 85-87.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., pp. 88-93, 95-96 (the text of the oath in both German and Polish).

<sup>15</sup> AGAD, General Directorate of the South Prussia Department, File: VI-378, p. 59, 62. He, himself, writes that it cost 14,000, whereas Council documents say 12,000.

<sup>16</sup> See J. Wąsicki, *Ziemie polskie pod zaborem pruskim. Prusy Południowe 1793-1806 (Studium historycznoprawne)*, Wrocław 1957, pp. 292-294.

<sup>17</sup> AGAD, General Directorate of the South Prussia Department, File: VI-378, pp. 62-63, among other things, clarifies that he changed his under the Juden-Reglement (Jews Regulation).

<sup>18</sup> In later times, our hero gained yet another house. In the will of Piotr Rudawski of 1819, it states Nachman Bermann owed him 4,000 zł. for the purchase of a house (*Wills*, part. 2, p. 207).

<sup>19</sup> AGAD, General Directorate of the South Prussia Department, Ref: VI-378, s. 97, 103. He also confirmed that, as a fellow-citizen of Częstochowa, he would not take part in any cases that other Jews brought against the city.

<sup>20</sup> AGAD, General Directorate of the South Prussia Department, File: VI-377, p. 132, 134, 148-149, 165, 173-180.

Prussian times were also a decisive period in the process of forming a Jewish Community Council in Częstochowa, something in which N. Berman played a leading role. As a wealthy Jew and an owner of houses in the city, he played a large part in covering the cost of community prayer services, as well as paying for the Janów Jewish Community Council to which, in the 18th century, the Jews of Częstochowa belonged. They shared in the maintenance of one rabbinical assistant.

Following the Second Partition of Poland in 1793, Janów remained in the Republic, while Częstochowa became annexed to Prussia. It was important to the Prussian authorities that their Jewish subjects were not responsible to foreign institutions. So they authorised Częstochowa Jews to build their own synagogue and to organise their own Jewish Community Council. Due to the costs involved, however, the Jews did not rush towards achieving these goals<sup>21</sup>. But the connection with Janów was also costly. The tradition of that community is a colourful story. In 1798, during the holidays in Janów, there was a dispute regarding outstanding payments due to the Jewish Community Council. When leaders of the Częstochowa Jews, Goldberg, N. Berman and Markus Kohn wanted to return home, on the orders of the Janów Jewish Community Council, the wheels were removed from their carriage. They could only ride away after the payment of an overdue amount of 32 zł. Upon their return, these outraged Częstochowianin seriously got down to the business of creating the basis for their own Jewish Community Council and N. Berman made part of his own home available for prayer services and another part for a ritual bath<sup>22</sup>. In 1799, a cemetery was established, the first burial in which took place in 1800.

The Duchy of Warsaw was established in 1807. It was also an equally difficult time for the city with the endless war demanding payments and taxes. So, in November 1808, the authorities asked three Jews, who owned alcohol licences (apart from N. Berman, there was Abraham Majzel and Markus Kohn), to pay, along with other innkeepers (Bożewski and Mroszyński), several thousand złoty into the municipal treasury. In return, they declared that they would not interfere in matters relating to the sale of alcohol, reserving the right, however, to make changes (i.e. in alcohol licensing fees)<sup>23</sup>. The proposition was accepted, but, in the end, the municipal authorities attempted to make it all back in lease payments, in order to pay their debts. Other residents, who had the right to sell alcohol, protested, offering instead to pay a profits tax like other Jews<sup>24</sup>. During the longstanding dispute, the Jewish rights-holders (Bermann, Majzel and M. Kohn) defended themselves, indicating that their rights were enshrined within the Napoleonic Code.

In the end, N. Bermann remained as a leaseholder in the city and, in all probability, held an alcohol licence and produced alcoholic beverages until 1817. He also provided financial loans to Częstochowa residents<sup>25</sup>. He lived to an advanced age. He died, on 1st August 1822, in his home on the market square at the age of seventy<sup>26</sup>. Towards the end of

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<sup>21</sup> From 1796, Janów again tried to include Częstochowa. A letter dated 1798, signed by Joachim Berkowicz Berman, Wolf Lando (Landau) and Abraham Meisel, opposed this. Ibid. pp. 8–20, 82–83.

<sup>22</sup> He later gave 120 thalers towards the construction of a synagogue (Stanisław Rumszewicz, *Żydzi w Częstochowie*, „Goniec Częstochowski” No. 227, dated 17th September 1915, p. 2; No. 229, dated 19th September 1915, p. 2). Por. Dariusz Złotkowski, *Testamenty Żydów z Częstochowy i najbliższych okolic źródłem historycznym I połowy XIX wieku*, w: *Żydzi częstochowianie – współistnienie, Holocaust, pamięć*, ed. J. Mizgalski, Częstochowa 2006, pp. 120–122.

<sup>23</sup> On this subject, Dariusz Złotkowski, *Spór o dochody z propinacji w Starej Częstochowie w ostatnich latach Księstwa Warszawskiego*, „Studia Historyczne” 41, 1998, z. 4, pp. 509–530.

<sup>24</sup> The rest of the Jews attempted to oppose these three; *ibid.*, pp. 522, 523.

<sup>25</sup> *Testamenty (Wills)*, Vol. 1, p. 56, 67, 68, 122, 130, 136 (sometimes falsely referred to as “Lachman Bermann”).

<sup>26</sup> The death certificate states the age as 76, so that he was born circa 1746. When he witnessed a wedding in 1810/11, his age was given as 62 and, in 1791, that he was 40, which meant that he was born circa 1749–1750.

his life, his businesses were, for certain, taken over by his son Lejbuś vel Lewek Bermann (born circa 1783). In 1811, he had already tried to gain, from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Duchy of Warsaw), consensus for the distilling of vodka and liqueurs, complaining that, due to fires, houses he owned had been severely damaged. This certainly referred to properties purchased by his father<sup>27</sup>. He continued to be active over the following years, during which he also sold safe-conduct permits<sup>28</sup>. However, he never attained the position occupied by his father.

In 1831, he wrote a will in which his (most probably, second) wife, whose name is unknown, was to be left 600 thalers, jewellery and the right to live in his house, provided that she does not remarry. We know that Lewek Berman had a son, Aleksander, who predeceased his father. Lewek bequeathed his children 300 thalers. He left 350 thalers to Bejla's daughter and 200 thalers to her children<sup>29</sup>. Lewek Bermann's older sister was Dobra (born circa 1773), who married Majer Spiro, who was also active in Częstochowa<sup>30</sup>. However, Nachman Berman's older brother predeceased him in 1809, as did Eizyk Berman, in Częstochowa in the house at No.216. His death was announced by his brother, Nachman Berman, and his son-in-law Majer Spiro. As previously stated, in 1791, Eicyk Berkowicz lived with his wife Ewa and four sons. If any of these individuals later carried the surname Berman is a subject requiring further research.

One of the oldest Częstochowa Jewish families was the Majzel (Mayzel, Maisel, Majsl, Meisel, etc.) family. Its progenitor was Abraham, son of Mojżesz, born circa 1734 who, already by the 1770's, was remembered as a leaseholder in the Częstochowa area. Abraham Majsel was also active in the alcohol trade, as well as in commerce, and was the next Jew, during Prussian times, to succeed in purchasing property within the city. Namely, in the summer of 1796, he bought house No. 248 in the Stare Miasto (Old City) from the butcher Bernard Orlop for 250 Rhenish thalers. With that purchase, he also gained the rights of a city resident<sup>31</sup>. It was only in 1800 that he applied to the Prussian authorities for approval, claiming that the house he had purchased was an investment worth around 200 thalers, that all taxes had been paid into the royal treasury and that he buys grain wherever it is required. As a point of clarification, he explains that his first name is Abraham and that, because every Jew has his father's name as a second name, his name is "Abraham Mojżesz". Kiedy Generalny Regulamin nakazał Żydom przyjąć nazwiska, zaczął się nazywać Abraham Majzel [in the German version: Meisel]. He asked that the authorities not only approve the purchase of the house, but also approve his right to sell vodka<sup>32</sup>. He was granted both approvals.

At the end of the 18th century, Abraham Majzel was one of the leaders of the Częstochowa Jews, which already comprised sixty seven families. Among others, he became a member of the authority in 1798, which maintained the law within his own community (see above). Over the following years, he operated his alcohol licence from his own home, until the withdrawal of the Prussians and the rise of the Duchy of Warsaw. In the years 1810-1812, he manufactured and sold alcohol in Częstochowa and involved himself in the same dispute

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<sup>27</sup> D. Złotkowski, *Spór o dochody z propinacji*, p. 519, 521.

<sup>28</sup> Jacenty Sucheski owed him 399 zł. for permits, and his father 73 zł. (*Testamenty*), Part. 2, p. 324). See Part. 3, p. 47).

<sup>29</sup> He signed it as "Arye Lewek Nachmanowicz Berman" (*Testamenty*), Part 2, pp. 297–298.)

<sup>30</sup> For example, in 1814, he was a consumption lessee in the city of Częstochowa. AGAD, Government Commission of Internal Affairs (KRSW), Ref. 672, p. 146.

<sup>31</sup> AGAD, General Directorate of the South Prussia Department, File: VI-378, p. 2, 8–13. Here, he is referred to as "jud. Handelsman".

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, File VI-378, p. 19.

(as described above) as Nachman Berman. His son, Anzel, was also actively involved, as a leaseholder, in the dispute<sup>33</sup>.

Abraham Majzel died at the age of 92, on 22nd February 1823, in his home on ul. Nadrzeczna. He was a manufacturer and vendor of domestic, alcoholic beverages. His death was reported by his son Majer and son-in-law Herz Bornstein. Abraham Majzel's wife was Dobra/Dwora (nee Herszlik) and, with her, he had numerous offspring. Their daughters married prominent Jews from Częstochowa and the surrounding area. Braydla (dec'd 1816) married Berek Berman Ginsberg in 1791. Jetta (born circa 1780) married the grain merchant Chaskel Oderfeld who, in 1812, acquired his own home in Częstochowa. In 1813, Szpryncła (born circa 1787) married grain merchant Herszlik/Herz Rozensztein (their son Zyskind was born and died in 1822). In 1816, Majła (born circa 1796) married Aron Wixler of Kłobuck. Abraham Majzel also probably had other daughters - Magda (nee Majzel, born circa 1797), the wife of Aron Wulfberger (their daughter Hana was born in 1823), and Gitla (nee Majzel), wife of grain merchant Haskel Rozenfeld (their son Abram was born in 1823)<sup>34</sup>.

Abraham Majzel's sons were Anzel, Mojżesz and Majer. Anzel, sometimes referred to as Anszel Majzel (1780–1855), as already mentioned, during the years 1810–1812, tried to obtain an alcohol licence, but was also engaged in trade, for example, in agricultural produce<sup>35</sup>. In 1810, he married twenty-four-year-old Gitel, the daughter of Pinkas Dow Beer of Piotrków. According to a record dated 17th January 1817, his father-in-law sold him the Orlop house (designated as No.189) for 8,000 zł., together with the concession to produce domestic, alcoholic beverages<sup>36</sup>. His younger brother Majer (circa 1789-1855) was a merchant and owned a house. Sources refer to him as a trader (in, among other things, grain) or as a negotiator, namely a commodities broker. In the 1820's, he appears in official records as a linen manufacturer. In 1824, he became the owner of a house, designated No.128, as a gift from a cousin<sup>37</sup>. He married twice. His first marriage was to Rozalia Königsberg (circa 1792–1829) and, following her death in 1829, he married Ruchel/Rachel (nee Markowicz). Progeny from the first marriage were daughters Anna (born 1812, married Ejzyk Ginsberg in 1830), Rozalia (born 1822), Ewa/Brandla (1824-1828), as well as a son Abram Dawid (1810-1828). The last two died at the same time. The second marriage produced Jakub (born 1829), Dwora (born 1835) and Dow Beer/Bernard<sup>38</sup>.

The most interesting figure in the Majzel family was, however, Mojżesz Majzel, called Kurnik (Kornik, Kronik, Korniker, and the like), who was born in Częstochowa circa 1770. He appears as a witness on certificates in 1811. His son, Jakub, came into the world in 1812<sup>39</sup>. At the time, Mojżesz Majzel performed the duties of a pedagogue and then, later, as a

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<sup>33</sup> D. Złotkowski, *Spór o dochody z propinacji*, p. 511, 513, 514, 520, 522, 524–527 (here, both father and son are referred to as "Mazel"). Abraham also sometimes lent money to Częstochowa residents, but only small amounts; *Testamenty*, part 1, p. 136, 315.

<sup>34</sup> Parenthood cannot be confirmed here as birth certificates began being issued only from 1808. The name of the wife Abraham Majzel's son-in-law, Herz Bornstein, could not be determined. It could be identical to that of Herz Rozensztein.

<sup>35</sup> Piotr In 1819, Piotr Rudawski owed him 1,300 zł. for potatoes (*Testamenty - Wills*, Part 1, p. 207).

<sup>36</sup> AGAD, KRSW, Ref. 651, pp. 258-266. He has to pay the Majer, Majtel's unmarried (at the time) sister (1400 zł.), as well as Wolf Landau's juvenile children.

<sup>37</sup> Spis w APCz, Records of the City of Częstochowa [further: AMCz], Ref. 206.

<sup>38</sup> He died in 1862, having earlier married Pesa/Paulina (1828–1889), the daughter of Cwi Fajans (Wiesław Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski w Częstochowie. Przewodnik*, Vol. 1, Częstochowa 2012, pp. 155–156).

<sup>39</sup> APCz, ASC, PRZ, Urodziny, Item No. 24, p. 166. A short biographical entry in *Biographisches Handbuch der Rabbiner*, ed. Michael Brocke and Julius Carlebach, Munich 2009 (BHR) 1/2, p. 653, Item No. 1227. For a period of time, he lived in his father-in-law's house in Żarki (*Zarik*). His wife was Hinda, the daughter of Wolf Kalonymos.

judge of the religious court. However, earlier, his name appears on a list of twelve Jewish alcohol licencees approved by the Prussian authorities<sup>40</sup>.

He later decided on a career as a rabbi and worked in Prussia as Mose ben Akiba Kornik. He was the rabbi of Złotów (German: Flatow) in Western Prussia, as well as in Głogów in the Dolny Śląsk region, being closely associated with the Tiktin family. This was not coincidental as the Tiktin family, which produced three Wrocław and Śląsk rabbis, was closely connected with Częstochowa and with the Landau and Kohn families, and Gedalia Tiktin was born in the city on the Warta<sup>41</sup>. When, in April 1814, Głogów was liberated from the French army, Mojżesz Majzel wrote a short Hebrew prayer of thanks, *Tefilla we-toda*. The German translation appeared in print in Wrocław in that same year. Following the death of Abraham Tiktin, he compiled a funeral prayer, *Ebel Yachad*, which appeared in 1824. His most important work is the homily *Yemin Moshe* (Breslau 1824). He was also the author of *Davar Be-Ito*, which appeared in Wrocław in 1817, as well as a commentary to the Book of Esther, entitled *Teshuat Khen*, published in Brzeg Dolny where, circa 1823, Mojżesz Majzel became the rabbi.

However, in 1830 or shortly thereafter, he returned to Częstochowa<sup>42</sup> and is named in Jewish Community Council budget papers as the substitute rabbi or “Chief Clergyman”. He was paid a regular salary, having settled on a small remuneration. In 1837, it is stated that the payment was made at “desire of the whole Council”<sup>43</sup>. In later documents from the end of 1830, it is stressed that he had settled on an amount of 250 zł and that he diligently applied himself to “the promotion of study and education” amongst his fellow Jews. He was the *de facto* rabbi of the Jewish community, even though he had not received approval from the authorities and had never sought it. He carried out his duties until his death, in a situation of dispute with Zachariasz Weingott<sup>44</sup>, who had the support of a majority of the Jewish Community Council.

Mojżesz Majzel died on 13th March 1839<sup>45</sup>, leaving a wife Hinda, nee Kalman (his first wife was called Zysla) and seven children. He was survived by his son Jakub and numerous daughters - Gitka (born circa 1803), Laje (born circa 1805), Gitla (born circa 1808), Róża (born circa 1815), Polonia (probably Apolonia, born circa 1817) and Dobra (born circa 1825). Chaja/Sora (born circa 1797) who married Gedalia Goldberg of Janów in 1815, Hinda who married Jakub Kempner in 1832 and Paulina who married Benjamin Weinsztein in 1837.

The Kohn family is another rich Częstochowa family which had already settled in Częstochowa by the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Its patriarch was Markus Lejbel Kohn, also by occupation a vendor of alcohol within the local jurisdiction of the nobility. In 1800, he gave evidence that he had already lived here for twenty five years. He can be identified with Marek Lewkowicz,

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<sup>40</sup> *Częstochowa. Dzieje miasta i klasztoru jasnogórskiego*, Vol. 2: *W okresie niewoli 1793–1918*, ed. Ryszard Kołodziejczyk, Częstochowa 2005, p. 22. He still appears as a publican in 1815.

<sup>41</sup> Biographical entries for Abraham (dec'd. 1820), Salomon (dec'd. 1843) and Gedalia (dec'd. 1886) Tiktin in BHR I/2, pp. 856–859.

<sup>42</sup> In 1832 he is a witness to the will of Lewek Berman (*Testamenty*, pp. 297–298).

<sup>43</sup> APCz APCz, AmCz, Ref. 453, 454, 455, 459, 460. He also received charitable legacies (*Testamenty*, Part. 2, pp. 286–287).

<sup>44</sup> About this: J. Spyra, Miejsce rabina w gminie żydowskiej w Królestwie Polskim w I połowie XIX wieku. Spór o Zachariasza Weingotta w Częstochowie, „*Studia Judaica*” 19. 2016, No.1 (37). pp. 157–186.

<sup>45</sup> According to a notation of the certificate, he died on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1839 (APCz, ASC, OBCz, 1839, poz. 19). W. Paszkowski writes in *Cmentarz żydowski*, 1, p. 156, he grave is preserved but with a date of death as 15<sup>th</sup> February.

named in a 1791 list as an alcohol vendor aged 30, with his wife Estera (26 years old), sons Berek (aged 10) and Leyb (aged 8), as well as a daughter Dobra<sup>46</sup>.

As a merchant during the Prussian period, Markus Lejbel Kohn gained the right to distill spirits in the city. In 1796, he succeeded in buying a house, purchasing No.25 from the Prussian Major von Eberhard. In the following year, 1797, he successfully applied to the Prussian authorities of Śląsk for approval of the purchase of the house. Markus Kohn also took the “Bürger-Brief” oath, namely swearing allegiance, as a resident of Częstochowa, to King Fryderyk Wilhelm<sup>47</sup>. During the proceedings in 1800, he was also required to present certificates from the Prussian authorities which stated that, at each time of “Profit” from his production of alcoholic beverages, he had paid all the royal taxes<sup>48</sup>. As with Joachim Berkowicz and Abraham Majzel, he benefited from the right to exercise his alcohol licence from his own home. So he was also engaged in the alcohol production dispute which occurred in 1810–1812. At the same time, the authorities treated him differently to the way they treated other alcohol beverage producers, who were not owners of their own premises. He was one of the leaders of the Częstochowa Jewish Community Council between 1798 and 1805. Prior to 1810, he was the Council’s treasurer<sup>49</sup>. He died on 24th December 1813 at the age of sixty<sup>50</sup>. His wife was Estera, daughter of Markus Berman, who was still alive in 1814.

Markus Lejbel Kohn probably had numerous offspring. For the moment, it is safe to say that he had a fabric merchant son, Berek Kohn, and a daughter Rezla (born circa 1784) who, in 1808, married Pinkus Landau, son of Wolf. Another son was Lewek (Leon) Kohn (circa 1781-1845) who, just like his father, was a vendor of alcohol in the city between 1810 and 1812<sup>51</sup>.

In the following years, his situation was similar to that of his father’s, but he did not hesitate to seek the help of state institutions. Finally, in 1814, the City Council signed a contract with him which allowed him, for a few years, to produce alcohol in the city (the contract, dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 1814, was signed before Leśniewski, a notary). Against future debts, Kohn was required to pay several thousand into the municipal coffers. However, the government authorities did not approve the contract and the municipality retained the amount paid, keeping it against overdue property taxes. Long-term attempts to regain the money proved ineffective, so Lewek Kohn sued the city, in the Kalisz tribunal, for the return of 5,912 zł. He was successful. The municipal authorities and the Congress Kingdom of Poland Prosecutor appealed the decision, but the Appeal Court upheld the decision of the lower court. That still did not settle the matter<sup>52</sup>.

At the time of his death, L. Kohn owned two houses and an inn in Częstochowa. He had inherited the houses from his father. He had bought the inn, in 1832 for 18,000 zł., from the widow of Jan Nepomucen Brzozowski, a Justice of the Peace of the District of

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<sup>46</sup> K. Follprecht, *Ludność żydowska województwa krakowskiego (The Jewish Population of the Kraków Province)*, p. 96, 104; AGAD, Generalne Dyrektorium Departament Prus Południowych, Ref. VI-378, p. 55.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., VI-377, pp. 2–4; Ref. VI-378, pp. 41–45. Ibid., Ref. Already, by 1794, he had gained royal consent, from Berlin, to buy himself a home in Częstochow (p. 47).

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., Ref. VI-378, p. 52, 55.

<sup>49</sup> AGAD, CWW, File. 905, pp. 49–50.

<sup>50</sup> AGAD, KRSW, File 651, p. 256.

<sup>51</sup> Probably as Loebel Kohn, he operated his alcohol licence, in 1812, in the inn near a salt warehouse. (*Częstochowa. Dzieje miasta*, p. 37).

<sup>52</sup> The dispute lasted until 1848. (AGAD, KRSW, Ref. 672, pp. 145–152, 157). In order to find counter-arguments, city councillors accused L.Kohn of selling alcohol in spite of the contract being unapproved, thereby putting at risk of loosing more than 19,000 zł. They were unable to prove this.



Częstochowa<sup>53</sup>. When, after the linking of Old and New Częstochowa in 1826, the authorities established the *Fundusz Budowlany (Building Fund)*, in 1830, L. Kohn obtained a building loan of 10,000 zł.<sup>54</sup> He belonged to a circle of people who favoured a more modern approach to Judaism.

With his wife Rychla/Rywka (nee Pilar/Pilerman, born circa 1773), with whom he lived for 42 years, Lewek (he also used the name “Leon”) Kohn had numerous offspring – in total, twelve children, with three dying in childhood. She died in 1839 at the age of 66. In 1840, he remarried Zysla, daughter of Kałman and Cyna Orbach of Działoszyn. She was the widow of Lewek Granis.

Of Lewek (Leon) Kohn’s sons, Herz Naftali was the oldest. The next two were Eicyk and Moryc (1823–1870), who held various alcohol licences. His daughters married well-to-do Jews who were well-regarded within the community. In 1815, Dobra (born circa 1793) married Gerson Mojżesz (Majer), son of Mojżesz Landau. Hindla married Izaak Glickson. In 1829, Ridla/Rozalia (born circa 1811) married Adolf Mojżesz Landau. In 1830, Freidla/Franciszka married Izaak Feigenblatt<sup>55</sup>. In 1825, Liba married the widower Herz Fajans, a cloth merchant from Sieradz. Marianna (born circa 1804) married Walentyn Dawid Herszel who, in 1839, lived in Kępno<sup>56</sup>.

In his will, drawn up in 1839, Lewek (Leon) Kohn left everything to his children. Herz received the house, No.19, on the corner of the Market Square and ul. Mostowa, along with the inn, valued at around 26,000 zł<sup>57</sup> and was appointed Executor of the will. He was to pay 6,000 zł. to his brother Eicyk and 1,173 zł. to Moryc. Similar amounts were left to the sisters. His other property (No. 26) was left to the Glikson and Landau couples, namely his daughters Hindla and Ridla (and their husbands Izaak Glikson and Adolf Landau). However, the inn in Old Częstochowa, at No.’s 90 and 91, on ul. Targowa, valued at 19,000. Zł., Kohn left to his daughter Frayndla and her husband Izaak Feigenblatt. The daughters who received ownership of property were, in turn, to pay stipulated amounts of money to their remaining sisters Dobra Landau, Liba Fajans and Marianna Herszel<sup>58</sup>.

The oldest son, Herz Naftali Kohn (circa 1802–1862), was a prosperous spice merchant (in 1825). Later, he became the owner of the Lipicze estate in the Wieluń District, north-east of Częstochowa<sup>59</sup>. This occurred through a privilege of the Administrative Council, dated 8/20th February 1833, on the strength of a contract dated 8/20<sup>th</sup> October 1842<sup>60</sup>. Był wielokrotnie członkiem częstochowskiego dozoru bożniczego. He is considered as a leader of Częstochowa “progressives”<sup>61</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> D. Złotkowski, *Kierunki aktywności gospodarczej częstochowskich Żydów w XIX wieku w świetle akt notarialnych*, [in:] D. Rozmus, S. Witkowski (ed.), *Żydzi na Górnym Śląsku i w Zagłębiu Dąbrowskim. Historia. Kultura. Zagadnienia konserwatorskie*, Krakow 2011, p. 43.

<sup>54</sup> *Częstochowa. Dzieje miasta*, pp. 253–254. Por. *Testamenty*, Part 1, p. 298; Part.2, p. 243.

<sup>55</sup> Earlier, his wife had been Zysla (dec. 1829), the daughter of Rabbi Jozef Landau.

<sup>56</sup> They married in 1822, Marianna appearing as “Anna”, eighteen years old, her husband being Hertz Herszel, 22 years old, the son of Abram Lebel Herszel of Wieruszów (ASC, PRZ, Śluby 1822, Item 10).

<sup>57</sup> With the responsibility of repaying 10,000 zł obtained from the government through the Building Fund.

<sup>58</sup> *Testamenty (Wills)*, Part 3, pp. 139–144. In 1859, the Feigenblatts sold property No. 91 (now 174), at the Nowy Rynek, to Józef Sulikowski (Ibid., Part 3, p. 522).

<sup>59</sup> In 1858, the village was co-owned by Herz K Eisenschatz and Simich Estera Kohn, namely the wife of Dr. Kranz, daughter of Herz Kohn from his second marriage. However, after his death in 1862, one quarter of the village belonged to his daughter Rychla (D. Złotkowski, *Kierunki aktywności gospodarczej (Directions of Economic Activity)*, p. 37, 40).

<sup>60</sup> A. Eisenbach, *Dobra ziemskie w posiadaniu Żydów (Property Owned by Jews)*, in: *Spółeczeństwo Królestwa Polskiego (Congress Kingdom of Poland Communities)*, Vol. 3, ed. W. Kula, Warsaw 1968, p. 288. The village of Lipicze

Herz Kohn married three times. His first wedding took place in 1817, at the age of eighteen, to Hendla Kohn<sup>62</sup>, whom he ultimately divorced. However, she gave him three sons - Markus, Mojżesz/Michał and Izaak<sup>63</sup>. His second wife (beloved, as indicated in his Will) was Feitsche Chaje (Fanny), nee Markusfeld, from Kraków. She gave him two further sons (Wilhelm and Józef), as well as two daughters (Symcha Estera, who married Dr Kranz, and Rychla). In 1841, he married his third wife, Augusta/Golda of the Wrocław Tikin family, with whom he had a daughter (Zelma /Szulamis) and a son (Lewka)<sup>64</sup>.

Herz Kohn also left a Will in 1859, in which he left his estate (above all, the Lipicze estate, the house in Częstochowa, together with a shop and all its fixtures and fittings) at the disposal of his last wife. He warned his older children against challenging this bequest because their education had cost him a great deal. Ultimately, each child was to be given financial security, which was to be the responsibility of the eldest son, Markus<sup>65</sup>. Markus/Mordechaj Kohn (ok. 1819/21–1891) działał początkowo jako arendarz. Był dwukrotnie żonaty: najpierw w 1844 roku z Fajglą Landau Kronenberg (zm.1852), po raz drugi z kuzynką Esterą, córką Ridli/Rozalii Kohn i Adolfa Landaua. Był także członkiem dozoru bożniczego od 1857 roku.

Markus certainly had offspring, Lejb Kohn and a brother, namely Berek Kohn, a cloth merchant<sup>66</sup>. The issue here is that the surname Kohn (as well as Kohin, Kohen, Cohn) derives from the descendants of the biblical Aaron, and is quite common. It is therefore impossible to state that all Kohns, living in Częstochowa, belonged to the same family. Some took on nicknames (e.g. Cymerman, Lax) in order to differentiate themselves from others. At that time, there were two wealthy Berek Kohns, maybe even three, one of whom was involved with the Hassidim.

The Majzel family, already discussed above, was strongly linked with the Ginsberg family, the oldest of whom was Abraham, who was active at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His services to the local Jewish community are unknown. However, they must have been significant since, in a report dated 1861, he was included as one of the benefactors of the Jewish Community Council. Better known is Berek Berman (Dow Beer) Ginsberg (circa 1771–1827), who was certainly his son. He was one of the wealthiest of Częstochowa Jews. Berek Ginsberg was a craftsman, running a shop in his home at No.28 in the Rynek (Market Square), the property of Tomasz Werner. He owed him 5,000 zł., secured by a mortgage on the house, where Ginsberg lived. He also possessed a licence for the sale of tobacco and snuff, which was a state-owned monopoly. (He was a *Ferleger*, as charmingly written in the certificate dated 1825, from the German *Verleger*, a composite tenant).

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Węzykowizna consisted of thirty farm lands and 7.5 peasant lands, to which was added 7.3 hectares of forest and a distillery. The residents comprised sixteen Christians and one Jew, probably the administrator.

<sup>61</sup> But he also kept contact with Jews of differing religious options (*Testamenty(Wills)*, Part. 3, p. 228).

<sup>62</sup> In the marriage certificate as “Hendla Michałowiczówna”, aged seventeen, daughter of Józef Michałowicz, a merchant of Częstochowa and of Dobra (nee Markowicz). Her grave is preserved (W. Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, p.124) here as the daughter of Józef ha-Kohn. She died in 1878 as a divorcee. So, her father was a different merchant named Józef Kohn.

<sup>63</sup> One of them was certainly born in 1823. Maurycy (ASC, PRZ, Born 1823, Item 399). In 1836, Ludwik Madaliński rented Izaak Kohn deed of Kościelec for six years (D. Złotkowski, *Kierunki aktywności gospodarczej (The Directions of Economic Activity)*, p. 41). Perhaps, this was an undertaking by Herc Kohn, under his son’s name.

<sup>64</sup> According to a census of Częstochowa permanent residents, the last one (born 1854) also used the first name Leon, Leopold and was a teacher. A daughter was born in 1851.

<sup>65</sup> *Testamenty*, Part 3, pp. 442–444.

<sup>66</sup> He married Gitla (nee Szaj). In 1809, a daughter, Rychla, was born to them.

His wife was Brayndel (nee Majzel), daughter of Abraham, with the marriage taking place circa 1791. She died in 1816, after twenty five years of married life<sup>67</sup>. In 1823, Berek Ginsberg married again, this time to Rayzel, daughter of Elisza Anthor from the Free City of Kraków. She died in 1825, at the age of thirty four<sup>68</sup>. Berek Berman Ginsberg, himself, died on 16th January 1827, having left a Will written only one week earlier. Thanks to that, we know that his fortune consisted of a mortgage on the Werner house worth 5,000 zł. and a shop valued at 19,000 zł. (reduced by liabilities in the amount of 2.800 zł.). He left his estate in the hands of his numerous offspring, namely his daughters - Klara (circa 1802-1860), from 1822 the wife of Icyk Fraymann, Dobra (circa 1805-1880), from 1829 the wife of Natan Segal Landau, and his five sons - Majer, Eicyk, Juda, Mordka and Abram. Each was to receive a prescribed amount of money<sup>69</sup>. Karolina, who in 1819 married Icek Weyzen of Włoszczowa, was not mentioned in the Will<sup>70</sup>. As carers of his youngest children, Berek Ginsberg named his elder son Majer and son-in-law Icyk Frayman, as well as his brother-in-law Rabbi Mojżesz Majzel, known as “Kurnik”, who at that time lived in Brzeg Dolny in the Śląsk region<sup>71</sup>.

Berek Ginsberg's main heir was his elder son Majer Ginsberg (circa 1800-after 1861) who, in 1823, married Rozalia (born circa 1804), the daughter of Moritz Königsberg of Lubliniec, and then, in 1829, married Rosa Landau. In the 1830's, he was a linen manufacturer. Just like his father and grandfather, he was also active within the local Jewish community, for example, as treasurer of the Jewish Hospital (see below). Of his numerous offspring<sup>72</sup>, his sons Jakub (born 1829) and Izrael (born 1840.) remained in the city, while Adolf (1839-1898) established himself as a manufacturer in Berlin<sup>73</sup>.

Genealogically speaking, determining the descendants of Berek Ginsberg is made complex by the fact that, apart from Majer, his other sons used two first names, which leads to the problem of identifying them. In 1833, Majer Ginsberg's younger brother, Juda/Jakub (1811-1874)<sup>74</sup> married twenty year old Salka/Salomea Dawidowicz, the daughter of Berek and Szandla. His second wife was Rebeka/Balbina (circa 1844–1870). Juda's son was Karol Ginsberg (1833-1893) who, in 1855, married Rosa/Rozalia, the daughter of Berek Kohn, at the time, the richest Jew and the owner of a large mill. This allowed Karol Ginsberg to expand his business interests, among which, in 1872, he constructed a modern paper factory next to the mill. Already, by 1860, he had been elected to the board of management of the

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<sup>67</sup> As Rumszewicz writes, she was the first Jewish woman to be buried in the Jewish cemetery in Kucelin, which was established in 1799.

<sup>68</sup> In his Will, he wrote that he took a dowry of 600 zł. for her but, that after his death, it should be returned to her mother. In 1823, that marriage produced a son, Pinkus Elias, who certainly died in childhood.

<sup>69</sup> APCz, Notary Ignacy Budrewicz, Ref. 5, Item 4. In *Wills (Testamenty)*, Part 2, p. 115 erroneously “Sermer”. A review by D. Złotkowski, *Testamenty Żydów z Częstochowy i najbliższych okolic źródłem historycznym I połowy XIX wieku (The Wills of Jews of Częstochowa and Nearest Surroundings Based on Historical Sources of the First Half of the 19th century)*, in: *Żydzi częstochowianie – współistnienie, Holocaust, pamięć*, ed. J.Mizgalski, Częstochowa 2006, pp. 128–129.

<sup>70</sup> She probably died childless prior to 1817, as her father does not mention her in his Will.

<sup>71</sup> *Testamenty (Wills)*, Part 2, pp. 113-115. To the Family Council which was to administer his estate, he appointed Józef Kohn, Mojżesz Tobiasz, Berek Barmach, Joachim Lerner, one of the leaders of the Częstochowa Chassidim and Jakub Moszyn, namely Rabbi Brassa (see J. Spyra, *Miejsce rabina*, p. 181).

<sup>72</sup> Among others, the daughters from his first marriage - Berta (born 1824), Brandel, Ruchel (born 1826), Jacheta (born 1830).

<sup>73</sup> See <https://www.geni.com/people/Adolf-Ginsberg/6000000029243716988>.

<sup>74</sup> I identified him from a notation on a certificate dated 1811. (APCz, ASC, PRZ, Urodziny (Birthdays), p. 135, Item 5), the son of Berek Berman and Brandla (nee Abram) – In my opinion, the notation was meant to be “Judek” (even though it could be the diminutive of the male name נטא – Neta or Note in the Ashkenazi version).

synagogue, a position he held many times. He endeavoured to reform the Jewish Community Council with a new spirit<sup>75</sup>.

Eicyk/Izaak<sup>76</sup> Ginsberg (1809-1876) was also notable in the history of Częstochowa. He was prominent for trading in, among other things, devotional items<sup>77</sup>. He was later a II Guild merchant, a Częstochowa City Councillor and a member of the synagogue Board of Management from 1841 to 1848. Several Częstochowa residents owed him money, from 100 to over 1,000 zł.<sup>78</sup> In 1830, he married Anna (nee Majzel). Berek Ginsberg's next son, Markus/Mordka (born circa 1814) was a long-term linen merchant, as long as it was still profitable. He married Jetta (nee Treitel) - children Braindla (born 1838) and Debora (born 1839). Later, he took on various interests, including construction. For example, in 1854, "well-known for his reliability and skill, Markus Ginsberg" undertook the renovation of the bridge across the Ostatni Grosz weir, for which he was paid 790 rubles<sup>79</sup>.

The connection between the family of Berek Ginsberg and other individuals carrying the same surname is unknown. For example, there was linen manufacturer Jakub Ginsberg (born circa 1808) who, in 1822, married Anna Friedländer, or Lewek Ginsberg of Pilic who, in 1841, was a cotton manufacturer in Kamienica Polska<sup>80</sup>.

As already stated, it is difficult to conduct genealogical research on families carrying the most popular surnames, e.g. Kohn. This applies even more to the Landau family, which was one of the most numerous in Częstochowa. Many of them carried additional nicknames (e.g. Etengier, Gutenteger, Kronenberg and Gutenberg). This family could also boast of its past roots in Częstochowa. Wolf (Wolf Mojżesz) Landau (circa 1749-1811), the son of Abraham, was the next Jew to purchase a home in the city by the Warta. This took place in 1796. However, it was not until 1803 that, at his request, he received approval from the Prussian authorities<sup>81</sup>. Abraham was still alive in 1829, when he was a witness to the wedding of his grandson Abraham, the son of Wolf, to Rozalia Kohn, along with the groom's paternal uncle, Mojżesz<sup>82</sup>. However, Wolf Landau, by that time, was deceased. He died on 24th November 1811 at the age of 62. His wife was Estera (nee Herszlik-Gutenteger). He was active on the Jewish Community Council and, in 1798, he was one of its leaders. Wolf's younger brother, Mojżesz or Chaim Mojżesz Landau (circa 1766/70-after 1832) was also active in the Jewish Community Council, being recognised as one of its founders. In 1814, he was a *liwerant*, namely someone engaged in supplying the army<sup>83</sup>. In 1811, he owned house No. 27 in the Market Square. In 1832, he lived, together with his son Natan, in his own home at No.38, living off his own finances<sup>84</sup>.

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<sup>75</sup> AGAD, Rząd Gubernialny Piotrkowski. Anteriora, Ref. 2506, p. 415, 554; Wiesław Paszkowski, *Na częstochowskim Cmentarzu Żydowskim. Szkice genealogiczne i historyczne*, (in:) *Tożsamość i stereotypy. Żydzi i Polacy*, ed. Jerzy Mizgalski, Małgorzata Soja, Częstochowa 2014, pp. 285–286. He left a son, Herman.

<sup>76</sup> Eicyk is identified from his date of birth, 14<sup>th</sup> March 1809, the son of Berek Ginsberg - Izaak.

<sup>77</sup> AGAD, CWW, e.g.. Ref. 1460.

<sup>78</sup> AGAD, CWW, Ref. 1460; *Testamenty*, Part 3, pp. 210, 253, 277, 397.

<sup>79</sup> *Częstochowa. Dzieje miasta (Częstochowa – the History of the City)*, p. 277. In the following year, brothers Majer, Eicyk and Markus Ginsberg were, however, accused of smuggling and, as "contrabandists", found themselves under police supervision.

<sup>80</sup> AGAD, CWW, Ref. 1542.

<sup>81</sup> AGAD, Generalne Dyrektorium Departament Prus Południowych, Ref. VI-377, pp. 343–344.

<sup>82</sup> APCz, ASC, PRZ, Śluby (Weddings) 1829, Item 15 (This record has been confirmed by family connections.)

<sup>83</sup> Certificates; Stanisław Szymański, *Do dziejów Żydów w Częstochowie w okresie konstytucyjnym Królestwa*, „*Biuletyn Żydowskiego Instytutu Historycznego*” 1961, No. 39, p. 36.

<sup>84</sup> APCz, AMCz, Ref 206; D. Złotkowski, *Testamenty Żydów z Częstochowy (Wills of Częstochowa Jews)*, p. 122. So that S. Szymański, *Do dziejów Żydów*, p. 28 is incorrect when he states that the first Jew to buy a house in Częstochowa was Mojżesz Landau in 1800.

Both these two brothers established two main familial lines. Wolf Landau's sons were Pinkus Landau (1789–1813, grave preserved), the husband of Rezla Kohn, daughter of Markus, to whom, in 1813, a son Izaak was born in 1813. The other son was Gerson Wolf Landau (born circa 1796/1799), “owner of a cloth warehouse”, namely a cloth merchant. His first marriage was to Haja (nee Greydyner). Following her death, he married his cousin, in 1826, Gitla, daughter of his paternal uncle Mojżesz Landau. In around 1846, he lived in Bolesławiec. He had at least six children<sup>85</sup>; Abraham-Adolf Landau, who was born on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1811, two months before the death of his father. In 1829, he married Ridla/Rosalia, daughter of Lewek (Leon) Kohn<sup>86</sup>. Abraham's use of the name “Adolf” indicates his inclination towards a more modern lifestyle and understanding of Judaism. However, Wolf's daughter was Ruchla (born 1788), who married Salomon Tiktin (1791-1843), the son of Abraham, at the time Assistant Rabbi of Głogów. From 1816, he was Assistant Rabbi for the Śląsk region. The majority of Tiktin's biography tells us that he married in 1808 or earlier, as their son Gedalia was born in Częstochowa in 1808<sup>87</sup>. However, according to a Częstochowa certificate, the marriage between Ruchla Landau and Salomon (Source: “Dyktyń”) took place on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1809 and their son Wolf was born on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1812<sup>88</sup>. So, either Gedalia Tiktin was born before the date of the official “civil” marriage of his parents, or he could be one and the same person mentioned as being born in 1812 and registered under the name of “Wolf”. (There are no other Częstochowa certificates, from those years, relating to the Tiktin family).

Mojżesz Landau and Ruchla/Rudla (nee Jachimowicz of Wolfów) had more children. From the reporting of the death of Ruchla Landau, who passed away in 1828 at the age of 50, it turns out that she left a husband, six sons and two daughters. The following sons can be identified as:

1. Gerson Mojżesz (Majer), born circa 1799, who was a manufacturer and owned house No. 27 on the Market Square. In 1815, he married Dobra, the daughter of Leon/Lewek Kohn. They had at least three children<sup>89</sup>
2. Dawid Landau Kronenberg (circa 1800-1847), merchant, husband of Estera (nee Rozenberg, born circa 1799), who left five children<sup>90</sup>
3. Natan Segal Landau<sup>91</sup> (born 1806), a merchant who, in 1829, married Dobra, the daughter of Berek Ginsberg, with whom he had at least three children
4. Joachim/Nechemiasz, a rabbi
5. Abram, born in 1811

<sup>85</sup> Abram 1824, Herszlik 1825, Rochla 1829, Estera 1830, Józef 1838, Pinkus 1840. In 1861, Dr Adolf Stern appointed him as one of the Will's Executors (*Testamenty (Wills)*, Part. 3, pp. 50,76).

<sup>86</sup> M Among others, they had a daughter Ruchla, born in 1839.

<sup>87</sup> HR I/1, p. 858 (for further literature). Jedyńie *Jüdisches Lexikon* Bd. IV./2, Berlin 1927, p. 950 states that he was born in 1810. The correct date of the marriage is provided by Aron Heppner and, Isak Herzberg in *Aus Vergangenheit und Gegenwart der Juden und der jued. Gemeinden in den Posener Landen*, Breslau 1929, p. 979.

<sup>88</sup> APCz, ASC, PRZ, Śluby 1809/10 (Weddings 1809/1810), Item 6; Born 1812, Item 26. In the second instance, Salomon Tiktin is referred to as a merchant from Częstochowa.

<sup>89</sup> Markus Markus Wolf born circa. 1810; Salomon born 1822 and Pinkus born 1826. In 1838, Markus Wolf married Hinda Zand, the daughter of Józef and Judyta Heymann. He is mentioned in: *Testamenty (Wills)*, Part 3, p. 543 as guardian to the children of Haskel Landau.

<sup>90</sup> Rajzel, wife of Berek Rozenberg of Warsaw; Faygla (born 1827), wife of Markus Kohn of Częstochowa, Abram, Szmul and Ruchla/Rachela born 1834. In his 1846 Will (*Testamenty (Wills)*, Part 3, pp. 249–251), he left each of his children 10,000 zł. His Will omits his children who died in childhood - Itta (1821-1822), Józefa (1822-?), Irna [?] (1824-?), Cecylia (1825–1826). Ruchla/Rachela (1834–1866) married Mosze/Moritz Hill. The 1847 Will in Hebrew has also been preserved. (*The Jews of Częstochowa. Coexistence – Holocaust – Memory / Żydzi częstochowianie. Współistnienie – Holocaust – pamięć*, ed. Jerzy Mizgalski, Częstochowa 2005, p. 57).

<sup>91</sup> According to a list of houses (Ref. 206), he is mentioned, at No.38, as the son of Mojżesz Landau. He owed 1,000 zł to Mendl Horowicz (*Testamenty*, Part 3, p. 198)

6. The sixth was certainly Jakub Mojżesz Landau, a merchant<sup>92</sup>.

The two daughters were:

1. Gitla (born circa 1805) who, as stated previously, married Gerson Wolf Landau in 1826
2. Rudla/Rosa, która w 1829 roku wyszła za Majera Ginsberga<sup>93</sup>.

Joachim/Nechemiasz (circa 1809/1811-1866) stands out here. He was first a teacher in Częstochowa. He then chose the career of a clergyman, performing the duties of a rabbi for his community. He endeavoured to be appointed Rabbi to the Jewish Community Council, but did not succeed. He was considered not sufficiently affluent. In 1838, the synagogue board requested the authorities to exempt him from a “Directors Tax” of 5 zł. They argued that Joachim Landau, a member of “the local clergy”, was poor and, together with his family, lived with the support of his father-in-law Samuel Cyterman, and “is engaged in nothing more than Hebrew education [!]”<sup>94</sup>. In 1830, he married Gitla Cyterman. They had six children, among them being Dawid Icyk Mosiek (1843-1903) who, in 1864, married Estera (nee Rozen, circa 1846–1913)<sup>95</sup> and Hana (1833-1839).

Another individual with the Landau surname and working as a rabbi was Jonas Landau, who linked his religious responsibilities with the conduct of various commercial ventures. In Częstochowa certificates, he appears as a merchant (in 1827). In 1830, he joined into a dispute regarding the position of community rabbi, offering himself for the position to succeed Zachariasz Weingoc. He had earlier served as a rabbi outside of Częstochowa<sup>96</sup> and was the owner of a spoon factory. In 1841-1842, he was a lessee in the Częstochowa community. He was also active as a money lender<sup>97</sup>. He died in 1871 as a wealthy man. In 1837, he gave his son Szaja 3,000 zł on the occasion of his marriage to Marianna Kohn<sup>98</sup>. For a time, he owned a house in Częstochowa, which he sold to Mendel Horowicz<sup>99</sup>. It was said that he was related to 2/3 of Częstochowianin but, as it seems, he is not descended from the “Częstochowa” Landau’s. It is possible that he belongs to the Landau’s from Opatów, members of which were active in Szczekociniec. The Landau family lived in nearby Janów<sup>100</sup>.

It is hard, however, to more accurately establish the blood relationship of the aforementioned “main” Landau line with others like, for instance, the Landau’s with the

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<sup>92</sup> The merchant Jakub Mojżesz Landau is named by D. Złotkowski in *Miasta departamentu kaliskiego w okresie Księstwa Warszawskiego (Studium gospodarcze)*, Częstochowa 2001, p.152. He would have to have been someone other than the husband of Fraydla (nee Berek Landau Etengier), mentioned in the next footnote.

<sup>93</sup> A daughter was certainly Fraydla (nee Berk Landau Etengier), wife of the merchant Jakub Landau, whose death in 1822 was reported by her husband and brother Dawid L. Kronenberg.

<sup>94</sup> APCz, AmCz, Ref. 448, p. 34. Date of death (W. Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, p. 141).

<sup>95</sup> W. Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, pp. 140-141. Joachim Landau was born in Janów.

<sup>96</sup> In Szczerców, as written in AGAD, KWK, Ref. 710. However, in a birth certificate, he is named as the Rabbi of Szczekocin and a merchant in Częstochowa (APCz, ASC, PRZ, Births 1828, Item.69). He is certainly the person as Jonas Landau, who was chosen as Rabbi of Przasnysz in 1828. (AGAD, CWW, Ref. 1664).

<sup>97</sup> In 1836, he again requested to be confirmed as a rabbi in Częstochowa or for the return of 60 zł which he had paid for the consensus in 1830.

<sup>98</sup> APCz, ASC, OBCz, Weddings 1837, p. 27. Jonas Landau is described here as “a rabbi by vocation of the Jewish faith”. He date of death – ibid. Deaths 1871, item 55.

<sup>99</sup> *Testamenty*, Part. 3, p. 310. Another one of his sons was Wilhelm Landau.

<sup>100</sup> The will of Mośek Jozefowicz Landau of Janów, in 1814 is discussed by D. Złotkowski in *Testamenty Żydów z Częstochowy*, p. 124.

nickname Etengier<sup>101</sup>. Family connections were usually very complicated and require time-consuming research. Apart from that, as can be seen, members of the families, discussed here, often married amongst themselves - the Ginsberg's most often with the Majzel's, the Kohn's with the Landau's. Sometimes, alliances were decided upon for the conduct of economic activities or for prominence within the forum of the Jewish community<sup>102</sup>.

On issues which served the good of the local Jewish community, the members of these families acted together. For example, this was the case when the income from the Kosher Tax for 1840-1842, belonging to the state, was leased to a company owned by five Jews - Majer Majzel Kurnik, Majer Ginsberg, Gerszon Wolf Landau, Józef Lichtman and Herszlik Pański. They succeeded, however, in sub-leasing this income to another person for a higher amount. The surplus amounted to 8,041 zł or 1,206 rubles. They gave that income to the Jewish Community Council for the purpose of establishing a hospital for poor Jews, appointing M. Ginsberg as treasurer<sup>103</sup>. In exchange, they regarded, as obvious, that their voices on Council matters (and their places on the synagogue board) would be heard. Mutual connections, however, did not preclude disputes between individual families. For example, in 1858, Maurycy Kohn accused Majer Ginsberg, being responsible for the recording of a mortgage on the hospital building for the community, of entering his own surname and that of Gerson Wolf Landau, thereby appropriating it for themselves. In the end, that when it was assigned to the Jewish Community Council, it was done on the principle that it was a donation<sup>104</sup>.

Researchers into the genealogy of Częstochowa Jews still have many puzzles ahead of them to solve, including issues relating to families mentioned in this paper. How expressions mentioned or the nickname Kurnik, used by some members of the Majzel family<sup>105</sup>, could indicate that they originally came from Kórnik in the Wielkopolska region. The question also remains - what is the connection between the Częstochowa Landau's to others with the same surname, e.g. with the very influential 18<sup>th</sup> century Landau family of Małopolska, or those in Opatów, who included the well-known Prague rabbi and rabbinical author Ezechiel Landau (1713-1793)<sup>106</sup>. Even more intriguing, on certificates, is encountering the surname Tiktin amongst the descendants of Markus Lejbel Kohn<sup>107</sup>.

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<sup>101</sup> For example, Chaskiel Landau Etengier, a stallholder, died in 1865 at the age of 49 (*Testamenty*, Part 3, pp. 542–544). He sold his home to Wolf Markus Landau.

<sup>102</sup> See J. Spyra, *Miejsce rabina w gminie żydowskiej*, especially pp. 176–186.

<sup>103</sup> The house was purchased in 1840 for 750 rubles and a Jewish hospital was established there (AGAD, CWW, Ref. 1542, Folios 340–349; KRSW, Ref. 672, pp. 180–182).

<sup>104</sup> He also showed that only his father Lewek and brother Herz Kohn assigned their kosher income for the benefit of the Jewish Community Council (AGAD, CWW, Ref. 1542, pp. 279–309, 340–349; Archiwum Państwowe w Łodzi, Rząd Gubernialny Piotrkowski, Ref. 2505, p. 950, 981; Ref. 2506, . 95, 98).

<sup>105</sup> Majer Majzel, the brother of Mojżesz is described similarly (Ibid., Ref. 2505, p. 666) as well as his descendants: son Szlama/Salomon (who, in 1851, married Brandla/Brygida Wolberg, daughter of Aron and Mayta, nee Majzel, and the grandchildren. They also appear later on certificates with the surname Majzel-Kurnik.

<sup>106</sup> His father was Jewish community leader Juda ben Zwi Hirsch Halevi Landau. Biogram w BHR I/2, pp. 555–561. Por. Hirsch Horowitz, *Die jüdische Gemeinde Opatow und ihre Rabbiner*, „Monatschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums“, 74 (1930), H. 1/2, pp. 10–23; Gershon D. Hundert, *The Jews in a Polish Private Town. The Case of Opatów in the Eighteenth Century*, Baltimore–London 1992, pp. 159–160.

<sup>107</sup> A witness to the marriage of Anna Kohn to Herz Herszel in 1822 is her brother, mentioned as Hertz Kohn Dyktyń (APCz, AMCz, ASC, PRZ, Śluby 1822, poz. 4). He is also mentioned in the same manner on the burth certificate of Maurycy (Ibid., Births 1823, Item 399). For the connection of the Tiktin family with Częstochowa, see Spyra, *Miejsce rabina*. pp. 160, 162, 171, 181–182.