

BERKOWICZ Szmaja (1830–?), called “*Blinder Szmaja*” (“Blind Szmaja”), teacher. He was born on 23rd October 1830 in Częstochowa, the son of → Judka Berkowicz.

In Częstochowa, he ran his own *cheder*, a religious school for boys. In 1860, he was one of ten *melamdim*¹ in the city and enjoyed the highest reputation amongst them. Many of his students came from wealthy homes and would later constitute the local Jewish intelligentsia as doctors, industrialists, etc.

His wife was Dobra née Szmulowicz.

“Częstochower Cajtung” 1934, No. 45, p. 4. - APCz group 58, birth certificate 1830; marriage certificate 10/1850.

Wiesław Paszkowski

¹ TN: A melamed was a teacher in a *cheder*. (*Melamdim* is the plural.)