

## א [Aleph]

### Oberman, Samuel

Born in Częstochowa on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1898. Came from Germany to America in 1913. He is a member of the *Częstochower* Branch 261 Arbeiter-Ring in New York. His son Gustave served as a sergeant in the American army.

### Oderberg, Mojsze

The Oderbergs were one of the blue-blooded families in Częstochowa. Mojsze, one of their sons, was born in 1891. At his parents' house, he received a traditional and religious Jewish upbringing – at first in *cheder* and afterwards in the *Kromotów*<sup>1</sup> *yeshiva*.

The Freedom Movement in 1904-05, which also infiltrated the *cheder* and *yeshiva*, swept him along. When he was fourteen, contrary to his family's tradition, he donned a workman's shirt and began working as a locksmith's<sup>2</sup> apprentice.

Welwel the Bundist, who worked together with him in the locksmith's workshop, tried hard to draw M.O. into the Bund. But the ideology did not work for him. He was drawn to Poalei-Zionism, particularly because a few of his *yeshiva* mates had already joined the movement.

His nickname in the Częstochowa Poalei Zion organisation was "Ben Akiva"<sup>3</sup>. In order to better serve the party, which necessitated weapons that were brought from abroad and often required numerous repairs, he decided to open a locksmith's workshop in his own home. He put this plan into effect together with Majer Grajcer, a good metalworker.

His workshop's second location was a cellar in Josef<sup>4</sup> Oderberg's building on ul. Warszawska. This building was adjacent to Markusfeld's "Kapeluszarnia". One time, the police surrounded both Kapeluszarnia and the building where the locksmithing workshop was found, and carried out a strict "*obysk*" [обыск, Rus., search]. At that precise moment, not only were there revolvers and revolutionary culture there, but also two PPS members who were runaway soldiers – one of whom had shot his officer. The other had escaped from a military prison, where he had been held for spreading literature calling to rebellion.

Luckily, the police did not uncover this cellar. Nevertheless, after the raid by the police, the "workshop" was done away with.

Sometime later, Mojsze was forced to flee to Germany. The police, who were looking for him, took his brother Nussen as a hostage. Notwithstanding, the parents managed to buy his freedom with a large sum of money.

He returned to Częstochowa sometime later, and in order not to be arrested, he went away to Łódź. He lived there from 1908 to 1913. He devoted most [of his time] to the party and cultural work. During this period, the underground party activists used the cultural societies as a legal means for their activity.

In 1913, Mojsze Oderberg returned to Częstochowa, and together with Mojsze Cieszyński was chosen as delegate to the third Poalei Zion convention in Kraków.

Shortly after the convention, he travelled away to America. Here, he did not find – be it in the *landsmannschaft* organisations or in his own Poalei Zion Party – the living fire which had blazed and gleamed in the Jewish masses back at home. He decided to form party unions from the youth, that were to become the Pillar of Fire of socialism and liberation.

In Chicago, together with a group of comrades, he founded the Poalei Zion Social Democratic Branch 2 – a union of true Borochover followers, whose slogan is "Borochovism"<sup>5</sup>. He is also the co-founder of the Social Democratic Branch 3 in Chicago, which includes a wide range of youth.

When the Poalei Zion school movement begins, he is in the foremost ranks. He becomes manager of the Maccabi schools in Chicago. He is also active in the aid work for the home of old. He becomes an active worker for the People's Relief, and when Mendel Szuchter resigns his position as manager in Chicago, he takes his place.

He is concurrently also the district secretary of Poalei Zion and co-editor of the Chicago branch of the *Yiddisher Kemper* [Jewish Fighter], edited by Dawid Pinski and later by Borochover and Zerubavel

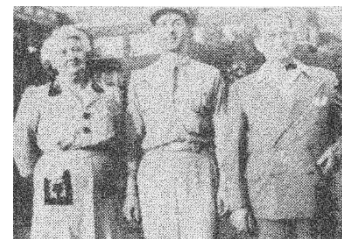
In 1921, when the split occurs in the Poalei Zion world movement, he participates in the founding assembly of the left-wing Poalei Zion, becomes a member of the Central Committee and co-editor of the party's central organ. To this purpose, he moves to New York. During all these years, he writes under the pseudonym M. Neiman and also prints articles under the names M. Bergelson and Josef Neiman in the Argentinian Yiddish *Die Presse* [The Press], the Warsaw *Arbeiter Welt* [Workers World], the Land of Israel *Naye Welt* [New World] and the New York *Proletarischen Gedank* [Prol. Thought].

When the movement for Borochover children's schools arose in America, two [such] schools were founded in Chicago, and Mojsze Oderberg became their manager.

In these last years, he has been active, apart from in the Poalei Zion Party, also in the Jewish Labour Committee, the Histadrut labour union's campaign, the Arbeiter-Ring and the *Częstochower landsmannschaft* organisation.

Mojsze Oderberg was one of the founders of the Chenstochover Independent Verein in Chicago; he was its president for three years and actively assisted in all its undertakings.

### Ovietzky (Owieczka), Morris (Chicago)



Son of Josef and Margula; born in January 1890 in Częstochowa. He married Cesia Koniecpolska. He arrived in America on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1913. He is a member of the Chenstochover Educational Society in Chicago. His sons Willie and Martin and his son-in-law Morris Ginsberg have served in the American army

<sup>1</sup> [TN: See details on this Chassidic group in the article "The Shtiebel of Kromotów Chassidim", *Sefer Częstochowa*, Vol. I, col. 598.]

<sup>2</sup> [TN: The term "Schlosser" used in the original, while primarily meaning "locksmith", also includes other branches of similar metalwork.]

<sup>3</sup> [TN: Heb. "Son of Akiva". This sobriquet was not derived from Oderberg's father's name, as he was called Kalman and not Akiva, but is most likely connected to the 1<sup>st</sup> century sage Rabbi Akiva, who was seen as a role model for the religious Zionists youth groups at the time.]

<sup>4</sup> [TN: Josef was his father's brother.]

<sup>5</sup> [TN: Palestine-based Marxist Zionism, which foresaw cooperation between the Jewish and Arab working classes in establishing a joint Marxist state.]

### Ovietzky, Jankiel

Son of Pinches and Jentla; born in Częstochowa on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1886. Arrived in America on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1909. He is a member of the Branch 295 Arbeiter-Ring. His son Saul has served as a sergeant in the American army.



Jankiel Ovietsky's parents

### Auslender, Efraim (Chicago)

Son of Josef and Chana; born in New York on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1903. He is an executive member of the Chenstochover Aid Society in Chicago. His son Leibel has served in the American army.

### Iżbicki, Isidor

Son of Chaim and Rywka; born in Częstochowa in April 1895. Arrived in America in 1923. He is a member of the Erste Zaloshiner Chevra Anshei Bnei Achim in New York.

### Iżbicki, Abram (Tel-Aviv)



Son of Wolf and Ester, born in 1915. He received his social training in the Zionist-Socialist youth organisation Freiheit [Freedom] and Yardenia<sup>6</sup>. From 1932, he was secretary of the Zionist-Socialist

Hitachdut [Unity] workers party, and later a member of the party council.

Following the deportation of the Częstochowa Jews, he fled to Będzin and joined the ranks of the underground fighters, which consisted mainly of youths who were the sole survivors from dozens of towns and shtetls in Poland. Afterwards, the underground resistance moved to Oberschlesien [Górny Śląsk].

Acting in behalf of the movement, he managed to rescue many young people from camps and ghettos and hid them in the bunkers (the popular name for the [different] hideouts). He travelled under false papers as a Volksdeutsche [ethnic German]. He helped smuggle people first across the Polish-Slovakian border and then across the Slovakian-Hungarian one.

In Budapest, he was once more active in organising the youth. He was a committee member of the Haganah and Hatzalah (self-defence and rescue [squads]).

In May 1944, he was the first one to cross the Hungarian-Romanian border and arrived in Bucharest.

Hundreds of refugees would later take this route. A great proportion of them reached Bucharest. Shortly afterwards, he already travelled legally from Konstanz [sic Konstanza (Constanța, Romania)] to the Land of Israel, where he arrived on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1944.

### Israel, Jochewed (née Rubel) (Chicago)



Daughter of Mojsze and Fajga Rubel; born on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1894 in Piotrków. At the age of nine, her mother gave her over to a seamstress, where she worked for two years. Her elder sister Rywka, who was working in Częstochowa, then took her

with her to Częstochowa, where they worked together in second-hand clothes<sup>7</sup>.

At the age of twelve, Jochewed Israel joins the Bund and takes part in the strikes that the Bund conducts among the tailoring workers. In 1913 she is wed to Icze-Dawid [Izraelowicz], a grandson of the Kroserke<sup>8</sup>, and she comes to America together with her husband and sister.

### Israel (Izraelowicz), Harris



Son of Dawid and Jean<sup>9</sup>; born in 1867 in Częstochowa. He came to America in 1888. He was the director and member of 22 organisations in New York, including the United Czenstochover Relief. He died in June 1941.

### Ajzner, Charles

Son of Mojsze and Malka; born in Częstochowa on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1892. He arrived in America on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1910.

### Ajzner, Icek (Icchok)



Born in Polimanitz<sup>10</sup>, near Krzepice (Poland); husband of Mindla Ajzner and father of Lemel, Pinches, Lajbisz, Willie, Harold, Mary, Beatrice and Frances. Died in New York on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1940 at the age of ninety-five.

<sup>6</sup> [TN: Zionist student movement.]

<sup>7</sup> [TN: They were presumably employed in sorting and repairing old clothes in a shop that sold them.]

<sup>8</sup> [TN: Apparently nickname of one of his grandmothers; the meaning is unknown, and as it is neither connected to the surnames or towns of origin of his two grandmothers, Perla Izraelowicz née Lewkowicz from Częstochowa and Rywka Zajnband née Federman from Wolbrom, it is likely that it was derived from an occupation.]

<sup>9</sup> [TN: דזשיין in the original, which is one of the common Yiddish spellings for "Jean"; unless his mother also emigrated to America, this must be a misprint, as there surely were no Jewish women in Częstochowa in the 1800s with such names.]

<sup>10</sup> [TN: פאלימאניץ in the original, most likely a misprint; we have found no locality bearing an even remotely similar name in the Krzepice area.]

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**Ajzner, William**

Son of Izydor and Mina; born on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1892 in Częstochowa. Arrived in America in 1907.

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**Ajzner, Pinches**

Son of Mordche and Sura. Died at the age of seventy-nine in Częstochowa in 1937.

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**Altman, Henry**  
(New Rochelle, NY)

Son of Kopl and Fajgla; born in Przyrów in March 1887. Arrived in America in July 1920.

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**Amsterdam<sup>11</sup>, Benjamin**  
(Philadelphia)

Son of Abram and Guea [sic Gnendla]; born in Mstów, near Częstochowa, in 1903<sup>12</sup>. Member of the B'nai Brith Shalom super [?]. His son Gustave is a major in the American army.

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**Amsterdam, Charles Louis**  
(Philadelphia)

Son of Abram and Gwendolyn<sup>13</sup>; born June 1890 in Częstochowa. Arrived in America in 1902.

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**Amsterdam, Szlojme**  
(Philadelphia)

Son of Joel and Perl; born on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1881 in Częstochowa. Arrived in America in 1905. Member of the *Warszawer Social* [?].

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**Astor (Ast), Alter**  
(Chicago)

Son of Szyja and Mindla; born in Lelów (Poland) on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1888. He married Chaja Wajsfelner and came to America in April 1913 from Częstochowa. He is a member of the Bendiner<sup>14</sup> Society, the Hebrew Progress and the Chenstochover Educational Society in Chicago.

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**Akerman, Dawid & Chana**  
(London)

Born in 1882 in Lublin to religious parents. At the age of fourteen, he arrived [in Częstochowa] as apprentice in bronze work and at sixteen moved to Warsaw, from which he returned to Częstochowa in 1903.

While he was back in Warsaw, he already belonged to the Bund. In Częstochowa, he became acquainted with Dawid Malarski, Mendel Szuchter, Majer Fajnrajch and Kopl Gerichter and became one of the most dynamic activists in the SS Organisation. During a strike at Wajnberg's factory, he met Josef Number One (Dr Josef Kruk), who saw Dawid Akerman as a model conscientious Jewish worker and very soon harnessed him to the party work. Along with Aron and Nuchem Singalowsky, they helped build the SS Organisation up in Częstochowa.

When Dawid Malarski was arrested in 1905, Dawid Akerman was sent to Warsaw to "Zalman Bourgeois" [Z. Majzner], who acquainted him with a "technician" who was to help free Malarski from prison.

During the October strike of 1905, Dawid Akerman, as representative of the committee, was in charge of the provision of food to the striking Jewish workers that was arranged at Golda's teahouse.

In 1906, he married Chana Ajchel from Lublin.

In 1909, he left Częstochowa and moved to Warsaw, and a year later – to London. At first, he worked there as a silversmith and then set up a bijouterie workshop. With time, he developed an export and import business of bijouterie and different haberdashery articles, with which he is engaged to this day.

Until 1924-25, he was connected with the SS group in London, which during the First World War was headed by Dr Josef Kruk. Akerman, together with D. Dawidowicz, also participated in the foundation of ORT in London and took part in an entire array of communal and aid undertakings.

His house in Stamford Hill is the place where Dr Josef Kruk and a whole series of leaders of communal organisations would live when they visited London.

Dawid and Chana Akerman visited New York in 1946, were welcomed at a meeting of the United Czenstochover Relief and contributed to the aid fund for Częstochowa.

Dawid and Chana Akerman are active to this day in various communal organisations in London. They have three sons: Jerome (in the RAF during the War), Ernie and Murray.



*The father of Cyna Orzech*

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<sup>11</sup> [TN: The following three individuals were two brothers and their nephew, the son of a third brother. As the reader will see, some of their details have become embroiled.]

<sup>12</sup> [TN: According to historical and genealogical sources, Benjamin was born in 1881; 1903 is the date his father emigrated to the US.]

<sup>13</sup> [TN: Most likely the same Gnendla mentioned above]

<sup>14</sup> [TN: Bendin is the Yiddish name for Będzin.]

### Cyna Orzech



Son of Aba and Fajgla; born on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1893 in Częstochowa. Arrived in Canada on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1926. Belongs to the Arbeiter-Ring; founder of the Bundist branch, the Chenstochover Aid Society and the aid society of the Bakers Union.

Cyna Orzech, a baker by trade, was an active figure in the Częstochowa professional unions, an old Bundist activist back in the tsarist times, and also a contributor to the Częstochowa *Arbeiter Zeitung*.

In 1938, Orzech visited his hometown Częstochowa, where he was welcomed festively by his old comrades.