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Halberg, Towja (Detroit)

Son of Szulim and Chaja; born on 15th April 1885 in Częstochowa. He left Częstochowa in 1913 and came to America from Canada in 1914. He is a member of the Yiddish Folks Verein and the Chenstochover Rajoner Verein in Detroit, where he is one of the active members. He was the Verein's president for some time.

Halberg, Abram-Szlama (Detroit)

Son of Szyja-Dawid and Fajgla-Dwojra; born in Częstochowa on 25th December 1896. Came to America in 1920. In Częstochowa, he was a member of the left-wing Poalei Zion organisation and a committee of management member of the Workers' Home and the cooperative. In Detroit, he is a member of the Yiddish Folks Verein and the Chenstochover Rajoner Verein.

Halberg, Izzie (Detroit)

Son of Szyja-Dawid and Fajgla-Dwojra; born in Częstochowa on 22nd April 1892. He left Częstochowa in 1913. He arrived in America from Canada in 1914. He is an active member of the Chenstochover Rajoner Verein and also its vice-president. His two sons, Berl and Jechiel, served in the American army.

Hamer-Jacklyn, Sarah



Born in Nowo Radomsko to affluent parents with Chassidic roots. Her father, Josel Hamer, had a sock factory in secret partnership with [Reb] Szlojme-Henech Rabinowicz, the son

[sic grandson] of the *Chessed Le'Avruhom*¹.

During the First World War, [Reb] Szlojme-Henech Rabinowicz became one of the most famous *Rebbes* in Poland². He was also renowned as a businessman. He amassed a fortune, with which he aided impoverished *Chassidim*. He also built Nowo Radomsker *shtieblech* throughout Poland and Galicia. He later moved to Sosnowiec and the partnership ended. Nevertheless, Sarah's father continued running the business. He travelled extensively across the larger cities in Poland and, on one such journey, he took Sarah with him. They travelled to Częstochowa, where part of their family was living.



Josel Hamer with his children (seated - Sarah Hamer)

Częstochowa became engraved on Sarah's young memory, and she did not wish to travel home. She stayed [there] with her uncle, who had come with her father as a seller.

After a couple of days in Częstochowa, her uncle loaded Sarah up with all manner of good things and sent her off to Radomsko under the pretext that he, the uncle, needed to remain in Częstochowa due to business matters.

Since that first trip to Częstochowa, whenever Sarah's father was about to set out on the road - to Łódź, Piotrków or Częstochowa - she would pack her little suitcase without asking, and was ready to travel with him. But her father did not wish to take her with him, and her mother would then say [just] one word, "Aha, Częstochowa!"

Much water has flowed since then. Bloody wars and revolutions took place, monarchs fell. The most evil man of all times arose - Hitler, may his name be obliterated - and he put an end to our hometown and murdered our nearest and dearest. Nevertheless, her hometown of Nowo Radomsko has remained cherished in Sarah's memory; Częstochowa stands clearly before her eyes, and the little *shtetl* of

Przedbórz, where her radiant mother Frajda-Riwe was born, is also beloved to her. Sarah would travel there frequently, too.

Her father's business was going ever worse and worse. And her mother suddenly fell ill. Even before a doctor arrived, she died at the age of twenty-eight.

¹ [TN: "Mercy to Abraham"; book by Rebbe Avrum-Yissuchor-Dov Ha'Cohen Rabinowicz (1843-1892), the Second Grand Rabbi of the Radomsko dynasty.]

² [TN: Under his leadership, Radomsko became the third largest Chassidic court in Poland, after Ger and Aleksander.]

Six months after her mother's death, her father married a young lady from Łódź to whom Sarah remained distant and cold. It seems that her father was not overjoyed either, because he suddenly decided to travel to America.

They left Radomsko and tarried awhile in Antwerp, where her "auntie" Gucia (the stepmother) had relatives who were great diamond traders, and it was precisely here, in Antwerp, that the "auntie" decided that she would travel no further - she wanted them to settle in Antwerp, and did not wish to journey to a foreign and impure land. Either [stay] in Antwerp, or return home! Seeing that she was serious, Sarah's father then divorced her, gave her one thousand roubles and she returned to Łódź.

The father and his three small girls continued their journey and they travelled to Toronto, Canada, to the uncle. During the first year, her father acclimatised a little and began setting up a knitwear factory. As result of neglecting a cold, he fell seriously ill and, after a few days in bed, he died at the age of thirty-nine.

As the eldest of the three girls, Sarah learnt the trade of millinery (ladies' hats) - yet the whole time, a hidden restlessness pulled her and called her to "something" that was not clear to her. To travel? To wander? That "something" remained very nebulous, until one time, when she saw Yiddish theatre performed for the first time. On that occasion, Jacob Gordin's *Shechitah* [Slaughter] was being performed. She started looking for ways to gain access to the Yiddish theatre. Sarah, in fact, had two passions - acting in theatre and writing. It was in the former of these passions that she found her redemption - in Toronto, she joined a drama society and appeared with amateurs, playing great roles. Yet this did not satisfy her. She was pulled further by the big, wide Yiddish theatre.

Sarah left Toronto and came to New York to become an actress. After strenuous efforts and lengthy torments, she fought her way into the professional theatre where, for seven years, she acted with various companies in America and Canada. She acted with Boris Thomashevsky, Regina Prager and J. Adler, when they were already in the last years of their resplendence. She also acted with several other companies. She played all kinds of roles - dramatic, comic and

also as a soubrette. She had very good reviews. However, the life of wandering, not eating and not sleeping, the politics surrounding the theatre - all this undermined her health and a doctor forbade her to perform theatre for a while - maybe for a year or maybe for two.

During her time acting in the provinces, she wrote a diary encompassing the whole gypsy lifestyle - the politics behind the scenes, the jealousy and hatred that ultimately makes the ground under the Yiddish theatre collapse. It also included pictures of cities and small towns with [descriptions of] different events.

In the days when she was sad and there was a weight on her heart, she would find solace and relied through the pen.

When she stayed in New York after the lengthy wandering, she read and reread her diary time and time again, and it began to appear to her that it was not badly written at all. She decided to take it to the editors of the *Tog*, and awaited their response with a beating heart. The reply was, that *The Diary of an Actress* was extraordinarily interesting and had been written with talent. Unfortunately, they could not print the diary as it had been written, because all the Yiddish theatres would have to be closed down. It was the editors' opinion, however, that she should definitely write, because the diary showed a fine literary talent, and that she should write a story and send it to the editors.

It was then that she wrote her first story, *Florence - a Workshop Girl* and, once more, she sent it to the editors of *Tog* and awaited their response with a beating heart. And the reply arrived very quickly - with a cheque for forty dollars. And very soon, it was announced in big letters on the front page of *Tog* that, that week, they would start printing a story titled "*Florence*" by a new talented writer, Sarah Jacklyn, which would run from Saturday to Saturday. The story began to be printed on 20th April 1934.

Since then, her stories and novels have been printed, not just in the *Tog*, but also in *Weg* [Way] in Mexico, *Amerikaner*, *New Yorker Wochenblatt*, *Kinder Journal* and in the Toronto daily newspaper, *Der Yiddisher Journal*, *Journal Chicago*, and the *Yiddishe Welt* [Yid. World] of Cleveland. Many of her pieces were printed in South America, as well as in the Łódź and Warsaw

Yiddish papers, prior to the outbreak of the recent horrifying World War.

Now her first book, *Lebns un Geshtaltn* [Lives and Likenesses], has appeared, published by the Nowo Radomsker Society. This work has been very warmly received by the critics, and is receiving a great response from writers, and from readers across the country also. Yet she is far from content to sit down and rest and be satisfied with her creations until now. She is now busy writing a large novel, but her greatest dream has always been to travel home, in order to observe and absorb, and later to write. But as there is no longer a home - so [she wishes] at least to see the town where her cradle [once] stood and to be at her mother's grave; to travel to Częstochowa, where the last threads of her large family remain among the Surviving Remnant, and to see Przedbórz - the birthplace of her mother, whose radiant memory she always carries with her.

Handwerker, Icze (Chicago)



Son of Naftuli and Sura; born in Mstów on 27th September 1888. Arrived in America on 21st May 1921. In Częstochowa, he took an active part in the work of the SS Party. He also sat in prison for six months as a result of the war with the so-called "Good Boys"³. In Chicago, he is an executive member of the Chenstochover Educational Society.

Handwerker, Naftuli



³ [TN: Częstochowa Jewish gangsters; this was not the name of a specific gang, but a term used in Poland in ref. to organised Jewish criminals in general.]

Son of Berl and Ruchla; born in Mstów (Poland). He died in 1936 in Częstochowa at the age of seventy-five [74]. Father of Icze and Benny Handwerker.

Handwerker, Benny
(Chicago)



Son of Naftuli and Sura; born in Mstów on 15th August 1885. He married Chaja (Annie) Moskowsky. Came to America in 1905. He is a member of Arbeiter-Ring and in the Chenstochover Educational Society in Chicago. His son Harry served in the American army.

Handwerker (née Naparty), Golda⁵



Wife of Srul and Chana-Bajla [née Szuchter]; born in Częstochowa [in 1903]. Arrived in America in 1922. She died on 17th September 1941 in Chicago.

Hofman, Mojsze
(Detroit)

Son of Zalman and Jentla; born in Janów (Poland) in 1892. He married Sura Fajner. Came to America in 1922. He is a member of the Sosnowiec and



Będzin society⁶, where he is in charge of hospitality.

Horowicz, Dawid [sic Dow]-Berisz z''l'

Born in 1869, to a family of *misnagedim* and raised in the traditional religious spirit. A *maskil* himself, he was proficient both in the Hebrew language and the new literature, and in foreign languages also. Since the founding of political Zionism, he belonged to the Zionist movement. He was one of the founders of the first Zionist club in Częstochowa (during the times of the Tsar, when political organisations were forbidden). In 1916, he entered the City Council as councillor, representing the Zionists. He was also one of the founders of the Jewish *gimnazjum* and a long-standing member of its management committee and [that] of the Crafts School in Częstochowa and the Zionist Organisation, as well as being a *dozór* [representative] in the *Częstochower* Kehilla. He was one of Częstochowa's industrialists. He died in 1924.

Horowicz, Szlojme
(Toronto, Canada)

Born in Przyrów in 1876. Aged eleven, he began working in a bakery in Janów for eleven roubles a year with bed and board. Work started on Saturday night following *Havdulah*⁸ and ended on Friday [afternoon] when the candles were lit. At the age of twelve, he came to Częstochowa and worked, until the age of twenty-one, for Luzer Wilinger at the Blich⁹. He [then] served in the Russian army for five years, after which he was wed to Jentla Schlumer. In

1902, at the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War, he was mobilised. Leaving behind a wife and child, he was sent to Brest-Litovsk [Brześć Litewski]. On the way to the Far East, he travelled together with a priest who agitated for the revolutionary movement.

In 1905, Szlojme Horowicz returned to Częstochowa and joined the SS Party. At the time, he was working for Mojsze Funtowicz and Kopl Urbach. In 1907, when an acute struggle ensued between the bakery workers and the owners, Fajwisz Jakubowicz, the leader of the fight against the workers, and on account of whose denunciations several people (such as Szymon Sidycki) had been arrested, was shot. In connection with this, Szlojme Horowicz was also arrested at Urbach's bakery at Warszawska 10. Before him, they arrested Szlojme *Krashiner*¹⁰, Lajb the Big and Berisz the Fat. Later, they also detained Chaskel *Litvak* and the two apprentices, whom people called "The Black Apes". For three months, we¹¹ sat in the Piotrków prison, after which we were given a "free *visilka*" [высылка, expulsion notice].

Berisz the Fat, Szlojme Krashiner, Lajb the Big and the "Apes" were sent to Wilno, and Szlojme Horowicz to Smolensk - and from there to Homel, Kiev, Kishinev [Chişinău], Orgeev [Orhei] and Bessarabia, and all this with the *étape* [prisoners' train]. In this manner, the journey took about three months. After that, he wandered from *shtetl* to *shtetl* across quite a bit of Russia, until reaching Odessa. From there, Sz. H. journeyed back to Minsk, crossing the border in Kalisz. He made it to German Ostrów [Wielkopolski], from whence he was sent back to Kalisz. Here, he sat another three months in prison and, once again - via "*visilka*" - [travelled] through Warsaw and Brisk [Brześć] to Wilno. He spent nine months in Wilno and brought his wife there. In 1911, he returned to Częstochowa.

The bakery owners did not permit him to work. He joined a bakers' prayer quorum and, after the services, he agitated the workers to organise a

⁴ [TN: The second number is unclear, but appears to be a five; according to genealogical records based on the inscription on his tombstone in Częstochowa, Naftuli Handwerker died in 1934 at the age of 80 or 81.]

⁵ [TN: Wife of the aforementioned Icze (Isadore) Handwerker.]

⁶ [TN: The organisation's full name is "Fraternal Order of Bendin-Sosnowicer Sick & Benevolent Society, Inc."]

⁷ [TN: According to the official records, Berysz Horowicz was born in 1869 in Częstochowa to Izaak and Karolina née Potok.]

⁸ [TN: Pronounced "Havdalah" in Israeli Hebrew, lit. "separation/division"; liturgical ritual performed on Saturday evening to mark the close of the Sabbath and the beginning of the weekdays, just as the lighting of the candles on Friday afternoon marks the start of Shabbat.]

⁹ [TN: The name "Blich" appears in many Jewish localities throughout Poland, and it comes from the fact that in the past they used to bleach (blichować) sheets there; we do not know as yet where the "Blich" was located in Częstochowa.]

¹⁰ [TN: Native of a town by this name, most likely Kroszyn in Belarus, in connection with which the term "Krashiner" is found in English-language Jewish sources.]

¹¹ [TN: From the use of the pronoun "we", it would appear that Sz. Horowicz himself wrote this biography.]

union, which was later legalised by the Tsarist authorities. The union was headed by Abram Munowicz, Szlojme Horowicz, Chaskel Baklarz, Abram Rozenblat, Mojsze the Black and Rafał Wolman. Two intellectuals worked together with the union: Frida and Ganzwa.

As a result of a denunciation by the bakery owners, in 1912, Sz. H., along with a group of bakery workers, was arrested once more and imprisoned for three months.

In 1919, already in independent Poland, the union declared a strike of the bakery workers - and the entire management was tried for alleged terrorism.

The representative of the professional unions, Antony Kermaz [Kerman?] presented evidence at the trial to the effect that the *starostwo* [district office] had been bought off by the [bakery] owners. The accused were defended by Adv. Ludwik Honigwil (nowadays in America). All the accused were released.

Sz. H. was a member of the management committee of the Baker's Union until he left Częstochowa in 1930. In Toronto, Canada, where he settled, he has worked as a bakery worker.

**Handwerker (née Wajsbart),
Sura¹²**

Daughter of Elias and Ruchla [née Ickowicz] Wajsbart; born in Mstów (Poland). She died at the age of 53 in 1922 in Częstochowa.

**Hofman, Róża [Ruchla-Laja]
(Chicago)**

Daughter of Aron and Jacheta Gewercman; born in Częstochowa on 25th October 1888. Came to America on 25th October 1907. She is active communally in an array of institutions and holds respected positions.

She is a member of the Chenstochover Independent Verein in Chicago and the [Ladies] Aid Society, where she is the vice-chairlady. Her two sons, Jankiel-Josef and John, served in the American army.

**Hauptman, Abram
(Detroit)**

Son of Zalman and Jentla; born in Janów (Poland) on 25th October 1890. Came to America in 1913. His two sons, Szyja and Dawid served in the American army.

Herszlikowicz, Chana-Sura



Daughter of Abram and Dwojra-Ester Essig. She died at the age of sixty-two in Częstochowa in 1918. She was the mother of Itta Lenczner.

Herszlikowicz, Fajwel



Son of Mordche and Miriam. Died at the age of seventy-four in Częstochowa in 1924. He was the father of Itta Lenczner, New York.

Herszlikowicz, Berl



Son of Jankiel and Frajdla; born on 28th February 1887¹³ in Częstochowa. Arrived in America in 1906 from England. He left Częstochowa in 1900. Belonged to the PPS and was active among the Polish workers. In London, he continued being connected to the party and came into contact with

[Józef] Piłsudski and [Leon] Wasilewski. He travelled back to Poland for seven months and organised the general strike there. In 1905, he was a delegate of the PPS group in London to the Socialist International in Amsterdam.

Here in America, he works as a presser and is a member of locale 13.

Herszkowicz, Abram (Abe)



Son of Henech and Sura-Laja; born in Częstochowa in 1890. Came to America in 1906. He married Jetta Finkler in 1919. He is one of the founders and the former secretary of the Częstochower Branch 261 Arbeiter-Ring in New York and also a member of the *Wieluń* society¹⁴ in New York. He was one of the founders and the secretary of the Czenstochover Aid Society in New York and is nowadays a member of the United Czenstochover Relief in New York. His two sons, Irving and Bernard, served in the American army

¹² [TN: Wife of the aforementioned Naftuli Handwerker.]

¹³ [TN: The date of his birth appears in the official records as 21st February 1878.]

¹⁴ [TN: There was more than one Wieluń landsmannschaft organisation at the time in NY.]