Lewensztajn¹, Charlie (Zacharia)

One of the founders of the SS Party in Częstochowa. He led the fight for freedom, against the old tsarist order, for a better and more beautiful life for the Jewish masses. He was, and still is, beloved by all his friends and comrades.

He came to America soon after 1905. Here, he continued the work and the struggle which he had commenced in the home of old. He was secretary of the Czenstochauer Young Men’s, as well as the Minutes Secretary of the Czenstochover Relief and Ladies Auxiliary.

He died on 5th January 1940, at the age of fifty.

Lewensztajn, Chune

Born in Częstochowa in 1902. When he was two years old, his mother died. His father, an enlightened Jew, was a correspondent for the Warsaw newspapers Hoint [Today], Moment and others. At the age of fourteen, Lewensztajn completed the Crafts School in Częstochowa. At the time, a professional Yiddish theatre troupe was on tour in Częstochowa. Thanks to the fact that his father, as a newspaper correspondent, had free entry to the theatre, Lewensztajn was, almost every day, able to be present at the performances. This had a huge influence on him, and he began to dream of acting in Yiddish theatre. But it was only in 1920 that he realised his dream. Being a Polish soldier in the war years of 1920-21, he ended up in Russian captivity. Here, he made efforts to gain access to the drama studio which existed at the time in Leningrad [St Petersburg], under the direction of Alexander Kugel (“Homo Novus”). His first appearance was in the role of Holofernes in Judith by Christian Friedrich Hebbel.

In 1922, he returned to Poland, where he began acting in professional troupes. He appeared in different roles, such as Yankl Tshipnovtsiv in [Sholem Asch’s] God of Vengeance, Mishka Tsiganok in [Leonid Andreyev’s] The Seven Who Were Hanged and Jean Valjean in [Der] Gibor in Kaytn[²]. In 1930, he is engaged by the Vilna Troupe and plays the roles of Yankl Boyle in [Leon Kobrin’s] The Village Youth and the golem[³] in The Golem[⁴].

In 1939, he manages to escape to the Soviet territory, makes it to Ternopil, and is engaged there in the government-run Yiddish theatre. He appears in the roles of Tevye in Tevye the Dairyman [by Sholem Aleichem] and of the nobleman in Uprising by Dr Zipper⁵. Here, too, he distinguishes himself by appearing in various roles.

With the outbreak of the Russo-German War in 1941, he flees far into Russia. As he is fluent in the Russian language, he is engaged by one of the best Russian theatres, plays leading roles in a great many Soviet pieces, and is awarded the [State] Stalin Prize.

He also stars in an array of Soviet films, and among them being Meeting in the Dark, Avenger and The Riga Ghetto⁶.

In 1946, he returned to Poland. He currently performs in the Yiddish theatre in New Jersey.

Lewensztajn, Jechiel

Born on 8th July 1900 in Częstochowa, the son of Moszek-Lejb and Dwojra Lewensztajn née Dancyger. To the age of thirteen, he studied in cheder and also in a Polish primary school.

By fifteen, he had begun acting together with the renowned character actor Szlojme Herszkowicz, [Lejzer] Żelazo, and others. He appeared in 1919/20 in Germany, and arrived in America in 1920.

In 1923, he joined the Yiddish theatrical association named “Unser Teatr” [Our Theatre] directed by M. Elkin, Peretz Hirschbein, Dovid Pinski and the renowned German-Yiddish character actor Egon Brecher. In 1928, he joined the Artef [Theatre], after which he appeared in concerts [viz. variety evenings] in multiple characterisations. In 1944, he began acting with the Yiddish theatre ensemble directed by the renowned director Benjamin Zemach.

Lewit, Jakow

(The Land of Israel)

Born in 1888. In Częstochowa, he was a well-known manufacturer in the textile industry - one of the first industrialists.

² [TN: We have translated the titles of these three films from the Yiddish original; unfortunately, we have yet to find any mention of them or of this actor in any source.]
³ [TN: Although there are numerous works bearing this title, this is most likely a ref. to the piece by H. Leivick.]
⁴ [TN: We have as yet been unable to find any mention of this piece or its author in any sources.]
⁵ [TN: We have as yet been unable to find any mention of this piece or its author in any sources.]
¹ [TN: “The three named individuals - Zacharia, Chune and Jechiel Lewensztajn - were all sons of Moszek-Lejb Lewensztajn of Częstochowa.”]
in this field in Poland. He worked along with the Jewish kehilla, was one of the founders of the Industrialists and Merchants Bank [Bank Przemysłowców i Kupców] and co-founder of the Jewish Gimnazium, which, as a mark of acknowledgement, named a hall after him and his wife. He took part in almost every communal undertaking and aid operation that was organised in Częstochowa.

He arrived in the Land of Israel in December 1939. Here, in Ramat-Gan, he and his son founded a factory for spinning and weaving wool, which [also] had a thread-twisting section.

Here, too, he has remained the same communal activist and philanthropist that he was in Częstochowa, and it is on this that he spends the greater part of his life.

Lewkowicz, Bernard
Son of Jakub and Dora; born on 22nd September 1921 in Boston, MA. He died on 18th November 1944.

Lefkowicz, Sam (Szmul)
Son of Pinches and Nacha, born in 1875. The family consisted of nine children - five sons and four daughters. He was the eldest of the sons. He learned tailoring. Upon coming home from the military, he married Perl Libgot. Afterwards, he wandered to Paris. Where he lived there for four years. In 1907, he came to America.

When the Cloak Makers Union was founded, he was one of its first members. The case is the same as regards the Częstochower Branch 261 Arbeiter-Ring. In which he has held various positions. He was also a member of the Częstochover Aid Society and Relief Committee and did good work.

His three sons and two sons-in-law served in the American army.

Litmanz, Majer-Jojne z”l
Born in Moscow in 1860, and was brought home to Nowo Radomsko as a young lad by his father, Reb Zajwel (one [Tsar] Nicholas’ soldiers, who was abducted as a child from Nowo Radomsko and served Tsar Nicholas for twenty-five whole years). In 1880, he married the daughter of Nyssen-Zelig Kalka – Bajla – from Nowo Radomsko, with whom he lived for fifty years and who bore him four daughters and four sons. In 1900, he settled in Częstochowa, where he lived until emigrating to America in 1920, shortly after the First World War.

Already in his youth, Reb Majer-Jojne Litman was swept along with the Chassidic movement, which enveloped the Jewish masses in Eastern Europe. He became a passionate chassid and a devotee of Chassidic Rebbes. In Częstochowa, for a long time, he was the shames [personal attendant] of the Rebbe Reb Awigdor Szaprio, who was well-known to our landsleit.

Being at the “Rebbe’s court”, where the poor Jewish masses would come to recount their troubles and “pour out their bitter hearts”, Reb Majer-Jojne became a great lover of the poor people, of the suffering Jews, who sought aid in need and comfort in times of trouble.

In 1920, when he came to America with his family, he did not forsake the poor masses who had remained in the old home of Częstochowa. Not even for one minute did he sever the thread with those who needed aid. He was always in contact with the Rabbi of Częstochowa, Reb Nachum Asz ztt”l, with the Jewish Hospital, Linas Ha’Tzedek, Beis Lechem and the Machzikei Ha’Das Talmud Torah. Not only did he raise funds for all these institutions from his offspring, landsleit of his acquaintance and friends, but he even awoke the interest, in those suffering poverty in the city of Częstochowa, within Jews who were strangers - Lithuanians, Russians and Galicians.

It may truly be said of Majer-Jojne Litman that he himself was a one-person Relief Committee. Every year, he arranged a concert in a synagogue, the proceeds of which he would send to Częstochowa for the institutions that he loved and cherished. The synagogue’s cantor (an ardent Litvak), who [sometimes] gave free concerts, argued that he was not a Częstochower and did not even know where the city was located. He said, “So why should I tear my throat for free”? Reb Majer-Jojne entreated him with a good-natured smile, “But nevertheless, the poor little children in Częstochowa still need food and shoes”. The cantor became immediately softer and replied, “If you are the ‘ambassador’ of the poor, little Jewish children in your Polish city of Częstochowa, I cannot refuse - and I shall indeed sing with my whole heart, and without a penny of money”.

In this manner, our important landsmann, Majer-Jojne Litman, worked tirelessly for our hometown of Częstochowa. To his very last breath, he always had in mind the suffering, hapless Jews in Poland and did everything within his power to aid them. In his house, they always discussed how to assist the sufferers in Częstochowa. He himself gathered clothes and shoes, made parcels and sent them off to Poland. His rooms were always filled with packs of items, of which he would say with pride, “They will keep the people at home alive”. He did all this very quietly, without tumult and without demanding any honour for it.

In America, too, he was beloved and respected by everyone in the synagogue where he served as shames [sacristan or custodian]. When he turned eighty, the synagogue held a banquet in honour of his eightieth birthday. This banquet was a great success and brought in over $200 in cash. The synagogue decided to give the money over to Reb Majer-Jojne as a gift. But he refused to accept this present. “Give it better to the Talmud Torah, for the poor little children”, he responded. And that is exactly what was done.

The orthodox Morgen Journal in New York
York wrote the following about our landsmann Reb Majer-Jojne Litman, a few days after his funeral:

“On Tuesday, 17th November 1942, at the age of eighty-three, one of the finest characters of the old generation died - Reb Majer-Jojne Litman z’il. Immediately following his arrival from Częstochowa twenty-two years ago, he joined the shule of the Young Men’s Hebrew Association, Fulton Avenue and 171st St., the Bronx, where he served as shames to his last day.

Reb Majer-Jojne Litman was loved and popular in the entire Crotona Park neighbourhood in the Bronx. He gained this affection through his good-heartedness and charity. Early every morning after the prayer service, a queue of dozens of people would stand, who would turn to him for aid, and no one left empty-handed. Dozens of rabbinical families in America and Poland were supported by him regularly with money and parcels.

He was also the founder of a charitable loans fund and dozens of businessmen and workers were helped by him.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, during the day, and the large synagogue was overflowing with hundreds of men and women.”

Obituaries were written by Rabbi Zalman Rajchman, Rabbi A.I. Szuchatowicz and by a boyhood friend of the deceased, Rabbi Wajntraub.

All the rabbis spoke of the rare personality of the important deceased and of his extraordinary virtue and honesty.

Litman, Bajla

Son of Majer-Jojne and Bajla; born in Częstochowa on 15th June 1894. Came to America in July 1913. He is a member of the Nowo Radomsker Society. His son Ralph served in the American army.

Litman, Dawid

Son of Majer-Jojne and Bajla; born in Częstochowa on 15th June 1894. Came to America in July 1913. He is a member of the Nowo Radomsker Society. His son Ralph served in the American army.

Lynch [Łęczycki], Szmul

Son of Uszer and Ruchla [née Goldberg], born in Częstochowa on 5th August 1892.

Before coming to America, he lived in Tashkent, Astrakhan, Persia and Bukhara. Arrived in America in 1906.

Łęczycki, Ruchla

Daughter of Lajbisz and Chaja; born in Częstochowa in 1907 and died there.

Lesz, Sam

(Chicago)

Born 1st March 1873 in Piotrków. Came to America in 1913.

Lynch [Łęczycki], Szmul Lynch’s father

Uszer Łęczycki, Szmul Lynch’s father

Son of Uszer and Ruchla [née Goldberg], born in Częstochowa on 5th August 1892.

Before coming to America, he lived in Tashkent, Astrakhan, Persia and Bukhara. Arrived in America in 1906.

Mordka and Ester (nee Trzesniewski) Levy

The parents of the Levy family

Son of Mordka and Ester Trzesniewski; born in Przedbórz (Poland) on 15th April 1886 and came to Częstochowa as a child along with his parents. Here, he learnt the carpentry trade at the Crafts School by the Talmud Torah. Chune Kolchory, Szmul Norden, Abram Apter, Chaim Win and Jankel Wajsbard studied together with him at the time. The school’s first headmaster was Menachem-Josef Szrajber; he was also the one who opened evening courses for adults and held different lectures for them every Saturday afternoon, which were interesting and to which the students listened with great attention. The first master of carpentry was Eluzor Bimko.

Levy was later active in the Bund, until he travelled to America in 1906. Here, he was one of the organisers of the organisation “Progressive Young Men’s” and, in 1908, together with his friends Majer Gelber, Moryc Kiak and Benjamin Wohndler, he returned to Częstochowa. During the time he spent there, he was member of the Craftsmen’s Club and the library.

In 1913, he came to America a second time. He then became a member of the Częstochower Arbeiter-Ring Branch 261 and also of the Częstochower Aid Society. He is also a member of the Adler’s Young Men [Independent] Association. He is one of the most active members of the United

* [TN: There were several Jewish landsmannschaft organisations at the time with “Progressive Young Men’s” in their names, which is invariably followed by the words “Benevolent Association.”]
Czenstochover Relief in New York and of the Czenstochover Yidn Book Committee.

—

Levy, Icsek (Isidor)

Son of Mordka and Ester Trzesniewski; born in Przedbórz (Poland) on 15th July 1882. At the age of thirteen, he came to Częstochowa to learn to be a painter with his uncle. In the summer months, he actually helped his uncle - the master - make a living. During the winter months, when there was no painting work, he worked in different small factories, such as in Godl Wajnberg's cufflinks factory and others. He ate "days" with the different foremen and was eventually compelled to travel back to his parents in Przedbórz. Sometime later, Icsek returned to Częstochowa, because he felt that he had capabilities for painting, and he presented himself for work with the well-known sign painter, Chaim-Josef Cymberknopf, who was probably the first sign painter in Częstochowa. He took Icsek for one year, and paid him thirty roubles for work with the well-known sign painter, Chaim-Josef Cymberknopf, who was probably the first sign painter in Częstochowa. He took Icsek for one

year, and paid him thirty roubles for each season. He later brought his parents down to Częstochowa, who settled there and took over the work at the Talmud Torah.

Icsek Levy was a friend of Jakow-Ber Silver, and the latter began frequenting their home. They even started dressing the same. Within a year or two, they began thinking of acting in the theatre, because Jakow-Ber was a great reader of books. In fact, they decided to adapt the Talmud Torah.

In 1907, he married Chana Fiszkowicz in New York. Six years ago, he began attending the Art Students League of New York, and he currently paints different scenes from nature, such as flowers, fruits, [etc.]. He has already painted a few oil paintings, and water colours also. He has not yet lost the talents of his youth.

Icsek Levy is a member of the Częstochower Branch 261 Arbeiter-Ring, the Wilner Society, the United Czenstochover Relief Committee and the Czenstochover Yidn Book Committee. His son Benjamin served in the American army.

---

Landau, Lajbel

He was known in Częstochowa as a melamed and a dozor [kehilla representative] and the gaboy [custodian] of the Study-Hall. He died in 1936 at the age of seventy-five in Częstochowa.

---

Landau, Chana-Gitla

Wife of Lajbel Landau; born in Częstochowa. She died there at the age of sixty in 1929.

---

Lachman (née Rychter), Rajzla

When the rooms at the Workers Home in Częstochowa were filled with youthful, proud song, people knew that this was Comrade Różka's voice. In life and in the party's work, however, she was serious, faithful and devoted with all her heart. She had worked all the years back at home and, when she arrived in the Land of Israel with her husband and two children, she fell ill and spent the last two years of her life lying in hospital or at home. In the last weeks before her death, her comrades and friends Abram Gotlib, Symcha Rajch, Judl Dancyger, Jakow Gotlib (her brother-in-law), Godl Frajtag and others kept vigil by her bedside. In the last days of her life, she would say, "I suffered to live and now I suffer to die".

She died in 1942 at the age of forty-two.

---

Lazarowicz, Dr Leopold

Son of Dawid and Cywia (née Gurski); born in Częstochowa in 1895. In 1914, he completes the Russian gimnazium in Częstochowa, after which he studied medicine in Warsaw. In 1922, he graduated as a Doctor of Medicine. As a student, he was a management committee member of the Jewish Academic Circle in Częstochowa.

From 1922 to 1939, he practiced, independently, in Warsaw as a...
specialist in internal diseases. He also worked in the Jewish Hospital in Warsaw. He was a member of the board and vice-president of the Warsaw branch of the TOZ in Poland. During a certain period, he also held the position of secretary of the Jewish Medical Association in Warsaw.¹³

He arrived in America in 1941. He passed an exam in medicine and opened an office in Manhattan as a physician of internal diseases.

He is a staff member of the New York Post-Graduate [Medical] School and Hospital and the Metropolitan City Hospital.

Here in New York, he is also active in the community:
1.) executive member of the American OSE;¹⁴
2.) delegate to the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Services;
3.) member of medical staff of the Veteran Service [?];
4.) medical advisor to the Relief Committee of the Polish embassy, and
5.) secretary of the American-Polish Medical Alliance.

Lifszyc, Simon

Son of Mojsze-Majer and Pessa; born in Praska (Poland) on 14th June 1885. Came to America in June 1902. During his time in America, he has twice visited Poland and the Soviet Union. He is a member of the Częstochower Branch 11 of the Jewish People’s Fraternal Order in New York

Lipski, Mauryce [Moszek]

Son of Wolf and Stefa [Sura-Gitla née Wieluńska]; born in Piotrków. He was one of the largest timber dealers in Częstochowa. He died at the age of eighty-three, in 1936, in Częstochowa.

Lipska, Felicja [Fajga]

Daughter of Bernard [Berek] and Chana [Elina] Hamburger; born in Częstochowa. She was the wife of Mauryce Lipski. Died in Częstochowa at the age of seventy-two in 1929

Lipski, Ludwik

Son of Mauryce and Felicja Lipski; born in Częstochowa in 1885.

Lederman, Kopl

Born 7th May 1915 in Częstochowa. His father, Fiszl Lederman, was a shoemaking worker, as was his grandfather Szymon Lederman and his grandfather’s brother, Mojsze. In those days, cobbling was a livelihood that was passed from generation to generation.

His mother Mania [Mariem] (née Szwarcbaum) was a simple, honest woman. Her two main goals in life were to raise her children to a better life than that which she had (a goal which she achieved only partially) and to help her husband make a living.

The Lederman’s home only saw meat twice a week; fish was only to adorn the Shabbes table. Nowadays, being already in America, when Kopl thinks of his deceased mother, she rises before his eyes as a symbol of the Jewish women who, despite the heavy yoke that they bore upon themselves, always dreamed of a better life - if not for themselves, then at least for their children. And they looked out to that bright little corner which is called America.

Like all Jewish children, at the age of four, Kopl began to study in cheder. There, he learnt Ivri, Chumash-Rashi and Talmud. More than once, Kopl’s Rebbe made him understand a chapter of Chumash by giving him a thoroughspanking. Kopl’s grandfather, Reb Mendel (Szwarcbaum), hoped to see his grandson become a melamed or even a shochet.

In 1921-22, other winds began to blow in Częstochowa. The Yiddish secular primary school was born on ul. Króńska, which was one of the most beautiful chapters of Jewish life in Częstochowa. With pride, Kopl mentions the Yiddish school where he and other Jewish children were educated as conscientious Jews, who knew how to fight for their rights and never bowed under the fascist rod.

When he mentions the Częstochowa Yiddish primary school, K.L. does not forget to pay his respects to those who helped build the school. But more than anyone else, he remembers the activists and teachers who worked and fought for the primary school in Częstochowa itself - Comrade Raphael Federman, Comrade Bratt, the schoolmistress Waga (now Mrs Rotman), Comrade Lajbisz Berkowicz, Mojsze Lederman and many other brilliant figures of Częstochowa, who gave up their time and health for our school.

After completing the primary school, K.L. began to work as an apprentice with a tailor, in order to learn the trade. During this period, the Częstochowa Garment Union was founded. The goal was to demand an eight-hour workday and that the master should treat his apprentices and journeymen better. The struggle for an eight-hour workday was a very difficult one but, thanks to the unity in the ranks of the workers, it was won. Thus, life became a little easier for the poor tailors’ hired workers.

¹³ [TN: This association’s full name was “Żydowskie Stowarzyszenie Medyków Uniwersytetu Józefa Piłsudskiego w Warszawie.”]
¹⁴ [TN: Worldwide Jewish health organisation, nowadays based in Paris, France; its Polish branch was known as the TOZ.]
¹⁵ [TN: “Ivri” is reading from the Hebrew prayer-book, “Chumash” is the Hebrew Pentateuch and “Rashi” is the commentary of the medieval French sage Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki.]
With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, K.L. had the good fortune to come to America. His two uncles in New York, after hard efforts and work, managed to bring him over - for which he is grateful to this day.

Not being a member of a “union”, in the first months it was difficult for him to find a “job”, and he was forced to make do with 12-15 dollars a week. Nevertheless, he worked diligently and was happy to be in America. He reminded himself of the Częstochower landsleit who had come to America twenty or thirty years before, who had much worse conditions against which to fight.

When the War broke out in Europe, the horrific news reached him that his father, Fiszl Lederman, had been one of the first victims of the Nazi beast. Two years after his arrival in America, the attack on Pearl Harbour took place. Lederman joined the American army. Three months later, he was shipped overseas. He was in Australia, New Caledonia and the Fiji Islands, and participated in the hard battles in Guadalcanal in 1942-43. The six months in Guadalcanal were the worst in all his life, and he always mentions them with pride. Kopil L., a young Częstochowa lad, took part in the finest chapter of the battles of the American army, which was the first victory in the Second World War.

Now, he is back in America. His health has been impaired by the tropical malaria, but his spirit of freedom and brotherhood, and his will to help create a free world – a world for which we, the Częstochowa youth, and the fallen heroes of Guadalcanal fought - has not been broken.

K.L. has lived to see the utter defeat of the yellow, brown and black beasts but, at the same time, also the extermination and destruction of all the Jewish communities in Poland and the deaths of our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and friends. This lays upon us, those saved from annihilation, a heavy obligation to work together to aid the surviving remnants of our brethren across the ocean, and to not become discouraged or weary to continue working and fighting for the existence of our people.

Lenchezner, Israel & Estera
[née Koplewicz]

[Both] were born in Lelow (Poland); they died in 1914.

They were the parents of Szaja (Charles) Lenzchner

Lenchezner, Szaja

Son of Israel and Estera; born in Lelew (Poland) on 18th November 1881. Came from Częstochowa to America on 13th April 1906. He is a member of the Erste Zaloshiner Chevra Anshei Bnei Achim, where he is chairman of the loans fund, and also of the Williams Avenue Synagogue. He is very active in the United Czenstochover Relief Committee in New York.

Lenchezner, Itta[-Laja]


She belongs to the following organisations:

- New Lots Ladies Aid Society (former president);
- New Lots Penncylvania Talmud Torah (fmr. trustee);
- Ezras Yisomim [Orphans Aid] in Brownsville [NY] (fmr. vice-president);
- Beth-El Hospital Auxiliary (fmr. chairlady);
- Jefferson Moshav Zkeinim [Old Age Home] (member); East New York “Wi” [?] (fmr.);
- American Jewish Women Volunteers (mbr.);
- Zaloshiner Chevra Anshei Bnei Achim Ladies Auxiliary (one of the founders, fmr. president and current chairlady);
- Hadassah in East New York (mbr.);
- Czenstochover Ladies Auxiliary (chairlady);
- Czenstochover Relief Committee (vice-president), and
- Czenstochover Yide Book Committee (executive mbr.).

Her children are Mojsze and Perl Lenzchner; [the latter] married Murray Schatz, a lawyer.

Lederberg, Frances

Lesser, Icek

Son of Anszel and Matla; died at the age of seventy, on 10th April 1925 in Częstochowa.

Lesser, Zelda

Daughter of Efroim and Chaja-Rajzla Garbinski; born in 1863 in Praszka (Poland). Came to America on 18th September 1923. She was a member of the Chenstochover Rajoner Verein in Detroit. Died on 19th October 1938 in Detroit.

Lesser, Benny

(Detroit)

Son of Icek and Zelda; born in Częstochowa in 1894. Came to America in 1922. His son Sidney served as a sergeant in the American army.

Lesser, Lajb

Son of Icek and Zelda; born in Częstochowa on 17th March 1883. Arrived in America in 1914. At first, he lived in Galveston (Texas) and afterwards in Detroit. For the last twenty years, he has lived in Chicago.

Lajb Lesser was one of the co-founders of the Chenstochover Independent Verein, which was organised in Chicago in 1938. He always participated in all the important works carried out by the Chenstochover Independent Verein. He was also secretary of the Chenstochover Independent Verein’s Cemetery Committee. He also belongs to the Chenstochover Educational Society and to various other important communal organisations.