

ר [Reish]

Rusak, Mojsze-Zalman



Son of Jakow; born in Działoszyn and died there at the age of sixty in 1919.

Rusak, Chaja



Daughter of Kaufman and Nacha Lewkowicz; born in Działoszyn. She died at the age of sixty-eight in Działoszyn, in 1928.

Rosen, Jack

Son of Isidor and Mary; born in New York on 24th June 1915. He married Annie [Hannah] Druz on 4th February 1938. Their son Matthew was born on 12th March 1941, and their daughter Margie on 11th June 1944 – both in New York.



Annie Rosen-Druz

Jack Rosen is a long-standing member of the Zaloshiner Chevra Anshei Bnei Achim in New York.

Rosen, Isidor (Icek Rusak) & Mary



Isidor Rosen



Mary Rosen

Son of Mojsze-Zalman and Chaja; born in Działoszyn on 10th October 1890. At the age of nineteen, he married Mary Staszewski, the daughter of Josef and Ruda. She was born on 10th July 1892 in Działoszyn.

The troubles he experienced as a young lad in his small *shtetl*, living through the times of the reaction in the period of 1905, as well as his difficulties in fighting his way to a respectable life and providing for a wife, forced him to emigrate.

With ten roubles in his pocket and with the address of unknown cousins who were living in America, he left Działoszyn. He arrived in America in November 1919 [sic 1909¹]. The telegram which he sent out to his cousins was set aside and forgotten by them because, just then, it was the season and none of them had enough time to come take him from the ship. He sat for three days at Castle Garden², until a *landsmann* - Zuken Rozental – from there.

When he arrived in New York, he went to work in a workshop for three dollars a week and - as the custom was - having no profession in his hands, he began by sweeping up in the shop, and very rapidly became a foreman in the ladies' waists³ workshop of his cousins.

His parents wished him to return to Poland and report for the *prizyv* [Russian military service], but he opted against this and employed every means to remain in America. He decided to bring his wife over to America. She had stayed in Poland. And, indeed, on 10th October 1913, his wife Mary came to New York.

For a while, both of them worked, fighting their way to a bit of business. The business did not go very well. More than once, he was forced to give up and start anew once again. During this period, his family increased by three children - two sons and a daughter. Later, Rosen entered business with a partner and, after a certain period of difficulties, the business went better from day to day.

After the First World War, his wife kept the promise she had made to her parents and she journeyed, along with her children, to her hometown to see her parents and rejoice with them. All three children received a college education and are nowadays partners in the Rosen family business. Of the large family which they left behind in Poland, they [i.e. the Rosen family] were only able to bring over three siblings.

The Rosen family generously supports all Jewish institutions and has never forgotten its home of old. Isidor Rosen is a long-standing active member of the *Erste Zaloshiner Chevra Anshei Bnei Achim*, is treasurer of the Zaloshiner Relief Committee and Chairman of the Loans Fund of the Progressive Friends in [sic of⁴] the Bronx. Mary Rosen is the first president of the Zaloshiner Ladies Auxiliary, the first president of the Star Charities [sic Charity] Sisters, a member of the Board of Directors in the Shield of David and Vice-President of the Ladies Society for Friendship (a home for girls). The Rosen family respond to every appeal of the United Czenstochover Relief warmly and generously.

Their son Rubin was a lieutenant in the American army.

¹ [TN: According to the Ellis Island records, he arrived on 31st October 1909. This is also corroborated by the fact mentioned subsequently, that his wife joined him in 1913.]

² [TN: Former immigration centre, which ceased to operate as such in 1890 and became the New York Aquarium; the ref. here is most likely to Ellis Island.]

³ [TN: Type of blouse.]

⁴ [TN: We have found one mention of this association in the contemporary Yiddish press.]

Rotman, Chaja (née Waga)



Daughter of Jakub-Cwi [Hersz] and Bajla-Gitla [née Binder]; born in Częstochowa in September 1898.

Her parents were *balebatische* [middle-class], pious people - especially her mother, who imprinted her stamp of religiosity upon the family, which consisted of two sons and two daughters. Her mother extensively aided the poor and needy folk. She gave to charity and served as an example to her neighbours and friends, in the hope that, with her good deeds, she would have a hefty reward in the world to come.

She would tell her children different tales from Jewish history, in order to influence them by this to observe the Jewish religious customs. And, as much as she wished to see her children as people with a worldly education, the fear that they should be "spoilt" prevailed - as a result, it was [only] with difficulty that Chaja Waga attended a Jewish academy and later a Polish *gimnazjum*.

The Waga family The Waga family Chaja Waga's father owned a toy factory. He sold his products to Russia. With the advent of the First World War, the factory had to be closed down. After the War, he began to manufacture mirrors. In this field, too, he displayed capabilities. He had a strongly developed talent for inventions - he liked to do everything himself.

In the later years, his two adult sons helped him. The elder one, Mojsze, was a *yeshiva* student to the age of fifteen, after which he began to study accounting and other professions; he had a proclivity for singing, and dreamt of becoming a cantor. He studied with the city's cantor, Zyskind Rozental and, later, in Abram-Ber Birenbaum's cantorial school. But he interrupted his studies and began to work in his father's factory once more. Years later, however, when he was married to [Icek-Majer] Preger's daughter, Chana, and [they] already had grown children,

he once again attempted to become a cantor. He went to Warsaw and studied there at a cantorial school. Upon his return to Częstochowa, he led the prayer services at the "German *Shule*" [New Synagogue] on the *Shabbes* of Hanukah. A large crowd came to hear him and his mother was very proud of her son.

The times of Chaja Waga's youth began with the outbreak of the First World War. The belief that the War would end quickly kept the youth back from any cultural activity. It was only sometime later that a revival started in the cultural life of Jewish Częstochowa and, as Chaja Waga says, a profound impression was made on her by Raphael Federman's first Yiddish lecture on Dr Chaim Żytlowski's *Jew and Man* [?].



Lajzer Rotman

From then onwards, she began to read books in Yiddish, took an interest in Jewish issues and became closer with the Yiddish language. She went through this period alongside her friend Ester Fuks (nowadays a teacher in Soviet Russia). It was, during this time, that the professional union of the

helping the union in their work. They became the librarians of the union's library and generally participated in the union's communal work.

A large part of the Jewish workforce was grouped around this union, which at the time was located on ul. Spadek [ed: later renamed ul. Garibaldi]. They then conducted broad cultural activity, in which Chaja Waga actively took part.

Sometime later, the Educational Union for Jewish Workers was established in Częstochowa. They arranged literary evenings, courses for adults, a library and a reading room. She worked alongside Comrades Raphael Federman, Szojel Landau, Jakow-Icek Zarnowiecki, Alkona Chrobolovsky, Michał Szlezinger ("Dudek"), Michał Alter, Mojsze Weksler, Josef Szajnweksler, Mojsze Berkensztadt, Lajbis Berkowicz, Fradel Bratt, Herszl Gotajner, Szmul Frank, the Finkelsztajn brothers, Rajze'le Frajtag [sic Fajertag] and others.

One of their most important tasks was organising a kindergarten, which was later named for I.L. Peretz. Chaja Waga became an assistant teacher to Juza Sztam there. She concurrently did a two-year Fröbelian [teachers'] course in the Polish language by Madzia Zalcman. One year later, she took over the leadership of the second kindergarten - *Vereinigte*. She was connected to the kindergartens and secular Yiddish schools in Częstochowa over a period of four years.



The Waga family

leather workers was organised in Częstochowa. The union's secretary was Szojel Landau. Under his influence, Chaja Waga and her friend started

In the communal work, Chaja Waga met Raphael Federman and became

intimate friends⁵ with him, and this had a great effect on her and widened her horizons for the communal work. Their mutual feelings of friendship strengthened and encouraged her for many years. However, subsequent events changed her path in life. Nevertheless, her communal work helped her withstand her difficult experiences and mitigated them. For three years, she ran a kindergarten in Warsaw; [then one for] a year in Nowo Radomsko, and [another for] a year in Grodno, where she was also the kindergarten's founder.

Alongside her cultural work, Chaja Waga also participated in political life. She was a member of the SS [Party] (later Vereinigte), took part in the professional movement, was a member of its political council, and participated in the party's conventions. She was a candidate in the elections to the Czeŝtuchowa City Council. Following the liquidation of the Vereinigte Party, she withdrew from political life. The growth and blossoming of the Yiddish scholastic system became her ideal. She considers this the most beautiful period of her youth.

In 1927, in Poland, she met B. M. Rotman, whom she married - and that same year, they came to America. Here, she worked for a time in the Sholem Aleichem kindergarten. After some time, she journeyed with her husband to Europe. She also visited Czeŝtuchowa.

Nowadays, she lives in New York with her husband and her son Lajzer, who was born in August 1934.

Of her family in Poland, [only] her brother Szlomo with his wife Rena and their son Ludwik - who were hidden for twenty-two months in one of the bunkers in Czeŝtuchowa - were, by some miracle, saved from Hitler's beasts. Her brother also wrote a diary, of more than three hundred pages about his experiences during the period of Nazi rule in Czeŝtuchowa⁶. The other members of her family - her parents and her brother Mojsze with his wife and two children - perished during the War. Her youngest sister, Fajge'le, died after a serious illness at the blossoming age of twenty-one in 1937. Of her hundreds of friends in her hometown of Czeŝtuchowa, with whom she was connected for more than half of her life, only a few individuals have remained.

A gladdening moment of genuine, loyal friendship during the Second World War was for her the arrival in America, as a refugee, of Raphael Federman, thanks to the Jewish Labour Committee. Nowadays, she is active in the United Czeŝtuchover Relief Committee in New York and is taking part in the publication of this book, *Czeŝtuchover Yidn*.

Rozenblat [Rosenblatt], Max

Son of Chaim-Szymon [sic Chaim-Szmul] and Chawa [née Birman]; born in Nowo Radomsko on 1st October 1888. He came to Czeŝtuchowa in 1902.

For several years, Max Rozenblat lived in Paris, where he married Rachelle Gutman and came to America in 1915. He is a member of the Czeŝtuchauer Young Men's Society in New York. His two sons - Hymie (Dr of Philosophy) and Benny [Bernard] - voluntarily joined the American army.

Rozenblat [Rosenblatt], Joe

Son of Chaim-Szymon [sic Chaim-Szmul] and Chawa; born in Nowo Radomsko in 1896. He settled in Czeŝtuchowa and came to America on 16th January 1921. He is an active executive member of Branch 11 of the Jewish People's [Fraternal] Order, the United Czeŝtuchover Relief Committee in New York and of the *Czeŝtuchover Yidn* Book Committee, and also in the Rozenblat-Dykerman Family Circle. He married Bella Reid.

Rubin, Sidney

Son of Icek and Lena; born on 15th November 1902 in Czeŝtuchowa. Came to America in December 1912.

Rubin, Irving

Son of Icek and Lena; born on 14th July 1910 in Czeŝtuchowa. Arrived in America in 1911.

Rubin, Saul

Son of Icek and Lena; born in May 1907 in Czeŝtuchowa. Arrived in America in December 1912.

Rozenfeld, Dawid



Born in Łódź. He died at the age of thirty-one, being in the service of the Russian army in Mukden [Shenyang, China] during the Russo-Japanese War. Dawid Rozenfeld was the father of Regina Cooperman née Rozenfeld.

Rubel, Moszek



Son of Zelig and Laja; died at the age of eighty-two in Czeŝtuchowa.

Rubel, Fajgla[-Jenta née Głogowska]



Daughter of Wolf [Głogowski] and Dobra [née Bogdanski]; died at the age of eighty-two in Piotrków.

⁵ [TN: According to R. Federman's 1957 autobiography "On the Shores of the Warta and East River", he and Chaja Waga were romantically involved.]

⁶ [TN: This diary was published in 1949 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the title "Churbn Czeŝtuchow" (The Destruction of Czeŝtuchowa).]

**Rudnicki, Zysser
& Szajndla (née Fajner)**

They died in Częstochowa.

Rabinowicz, Szlojme (Sam)

Son of Izrael-Mordka and Sura-Gela [née Lipska]; born in 1896 in Sieradz. He came to America from Częstochowa in 1913. He married Judes [Yetta] Joroff. His son-in-law Isaac Flekman served in the American army as a lieutenant.

Radosh⁷, Clara & Mojsze [Morris]



Mojsze-Zalman Rozen

Son of Mendel and Brajndla; born in Częstochowa in 1883. Member of Arbeiter-Ring Branch 471 [in Brooklyn, NY]. His son Allen [David] and Herbert served in the American army.

Ruk, Szmul [sic Szlama⁸]



Born in Częstochowa. His father was a tailor, and taught his son the same trade. During the First World War, he, like many others, went away to work in Germany.

He came to America in 1923. Here, he

took part in the work of the Czenstochover Relief Committee and also organised and headed the Czenstochover Youth Club [?].

In 1933, when the central committee of the patronages to support the political arrestees in Poland was founded in New York, he was elected secretary - an office which he held until 1935.

A serious illness cut his young life short. He died in May 1935.

Honoured be his memory!

Rykman, Icyk



Son of Chaim-Lajb and Majtla [née Izbicka]; born on 26th December 1880 in Częstochowa. Arrived in America in 1900. Member and Vice-President of the Young Men's.

Richter, Ruchel⁹



Daughter of Lajbisz and Brajndla Altman; born in Przrów on 10th July 1894. Came from Canada to America in September 1914. She was one of the active members of the executive committee of the Częstochower Branch

261 Arbeiter-Ring in New York. For a long period, she was chairlady of the Czenstochover Ladies Auxiliary and a member of the *Czenstochover Yidn* Book Committee. She died on 17th December 1944 in New York.

Rembak [Remback], Majer



Son of Ajzyk and Kajla; born in Rębielice [Królewskie, Kłobuck County] (Poland) on 25th February 1886. He came to America from London in 1921.

In America, he was active in communal life and in the Labour movement. He wrote in the columns of the Yiddish press on various communal and workers' issues. He was an active member of the Częstochower Branch 261 Arbeiter-Ring in New York, the United Czenstochover Relief in NY, and of other organisations. He died on 13th December 1943.

Upon his death, obituary resolutions [viz. notices¹⁰] were published by the following organisations: Local 9 of the ILGWU [International Ladies Garment Workers Union], the Mutual Aid קאָלפּיראַל¹¹ Society, the Arbeiter-Ring, the B. Schlesinger Cloak Finishers branch of the Jewish Socialist Union [JSV] and the Medem Club in New York.

Before leaving Poland, he lived in Częstochowa and was active in the professional movement and in the General Jewish Labour Bund ("Bund") in Poland.

Richter, Zalman & Chana

In memoriam

Dave Richter

⁷ [TN: We have not been able to ascertain this family's original surname; Morris and Clara Radosh are buried in the Mount Sinai Memorial Parks and Mortuaries, Los Angeles, Ca.]

⁸ [TN: Appears in the Częstochowa archives as Chaim-Szlama Ruk, b. 1900, and in the Ellis Island passenger records as Salomon Ruk, tailor, aged twenty-two, born in Częstochowa, who arrived on 14th July 1923 on the SS Zeeland from Antwerp, Belgium.]

⁹ [TN: From the itinerary she followed to arrive in America and from the dates thereof, it is quite clear that Ruchel was the wife of Szyja Richter, who is mentioned as the last listed in this book's section.]

¹⁰ [TN: We have found several "obituary resolutions" published by organisations in the contemporary Yiddish press, and they are simply notices of the deaths of members.]

¹¹ [TN: Most certainly a misprint of the English word "Cultural" – thus, the Mutual Aid Cultural Society.]

Richter, Nathan



Son of Herszl and Frymet; born in Częstochowa on 5th June 1894. Came to America on 25th November 1913. He is an active executive member of the Chenstochover Rajoner Verein in Detroit. His son Eli served in the American army.

Rajch, Brojna¹²
(Detroit)



Daughter of Szlama and Estera Kolin [née Wieluńska]; born in 1900 in Myszków (Poland). Came from Częstochowa to America in 1922. She is a member of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order in Detroit. Her son Sam served in the American army.

Richtiger, Dawid



Son of Mordka and Ruchla; born in Częstochowa on 16th October 1890. Came to America in 1909. He is a member of the Bendiner Society, the Arbeiter-Ring Branch 176 and the Chenstochover Independent Verein in Chicago.

During the recent war, he gave blood to the Red Cross eight times - and his wife Róża four times. Their son Louis was a lieutenant in the American army.

Richter, Szyja



Son of Ezriel and Blima-Rajzla; born in Lisowice (Poland) on 12th October 1888. Arrived in Canada in 1913 and in America in September 1914. He is a member of the Częstochower Branch 261 Arbeiter-Ring and of the United Czenstochover Relief in New York.

¹² [TN: This individual appears in genealogical sources as Bronia (Bertha) née Kolin, wife of Chaim Rajch (Hyman Rich).]