

## Kłobuck, a *Shtetl* Near Częstochowa

The town of Kłobuck is eighteen kilometres from Częstochowa. This proximity bound the two communities together, not only geographically, but also financially and culturally.

Before the War, Kłobuck youth would go walking on a Saturday afternoon - we walked so far that we reached the large, alluring city of Częstochowa.

My father, Reb Zalman Wajchman z"l, was fond of recounting, to the children, various events from the First World War. Among other things, he told them of the great hunger and the need that reigned, in general, and in Częstochowa in particular. The *shtetl* Kłobuck was actually filled with agricultural produce, and the people of Częstochowa would come to buy food, with which Kłobuck greatly aided Częstochowa.

My sainted father's best friend was the *shoichet* and *mohel* Reb Mojsze Sandler who was, in addition, also a good cantor. Częstochowa was in need of a *shoichet*, *mohel* and cantor just then and as the *shtetl* Kłobuck had an understanding of the religious needs of the large city, it was decided that Reb Mojsze Sandler would move to Częstochowa.

Kłobuck possessed a very great physician - a Pole - who was truly a very fine man and a friend of the Jews. The health fund in Częstochowa desperately wanted this Dr [Tadeusz Jan] Biluchowski, and, this time also, the town of Kłobuck did not deny Częstochowa's request. He was much cherished there, as proven by the fact that, shortly afterwards, he was elected to the Polish Parliament (Sejm). This Dr Biluchowski remained true to his humanistic ideals and treated Jews in a very friendly manner all his life<sup>1</sup>.

From my childhood years, I recall that Kłobuck also worked along Częstochowa in the cultural-political arena. The Kłobuck Zionist Youth Organisation, with its leader Szmul Gliksman RIP, helped organise the youth in Częstochowa. They did much to assist in the establishment of the *Ha'Tchia* [The Revival] and *Gordonia* organisations in Częstochowa.

It is, indeed, no wonder that my mother Macha Wajnman, who is currently living in Sweden, and I - as well as all [other] *Kłobuckers* - see ourselves as one big family with the *Częstochowers*.

During the Second World Inferno, when the Nazi beasts destroyed Jewish life in Częstochowa, Kłobuck Jewry met the same tragic fate.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Dr Biluchowski died of natural causes in Częstochowa in 1941 (source: Encyklopedia Częstochowy).]