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## A Little Page of History of the Częstochowa Jewish Community in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

### **Jewish Livelihoods at That Time**

The life of the Częstochowa Jewish community, at that time, transpired without any specific obstacles. The tsarist government, as usual, issued decrees and created diverse difficulties. But our brethren, the children of Israel, always found ways to weaken those decrees and to ensure their economic existence. Amongst them, there were also some Jews who opened businesses for the sale of petroleum although, to do so, required a special permit. They found lobbyists for the cause both in Piotrków and spreading up to Warsaw, where the central government agencies were located. But they did what was required and they received the necessary permits.

### **Prizyv [Ru. Призыв; Draft] Troubles**

Especially great, at the time, were the troubles encountered by young Jewish men who did not present themselves for the "*prizyv*" (above all between 1896 and 1898). Jews had no excessive yearning to serve "Phonya" [nickname for a Russian; from the name Aphonasy, which was very popular in the 19<sup>th</sup> century] and become torn from their families for some years.

The Russian government fined the families, of those required to enlist and who did not present themselves, 300 rubles. This was a large enough sum at the time, such that many of them were not able to pay at all.

### **A List of Jews Fined**

Among those wanted and fined (in 1898) we find the name: Altman, Bornsztajn, Amsterdamer, Hauptman, Korpel, Solnicki, Goldberg, Najman, Częstochowski, Lewkowicz, Besser, Frenkel, Grynsztajn, Likiernik, Pasternak, Furman, Zimnowoda, Kalinus, Kolin, Buchman, Ratner (the first from Grabówka and the second from Dźbów), Braun, Rykman, Bochenek, Mursztajn, Milsztajn, Frajman, Rozencwajg, Najman (from Bukowno) and others.

Whether the aforementioned eventually presented themselves to the *prizyv* or whether they paid the fine imposed upon them, we cannot know from these documents. But one thing is known - that many of them presented "poverty certificates" and did not pay the fine.

One, a certain Szykgold, protested in writing and argued - What does this mean? Why should I pay for my brother? Should I have to guard him and answer for his not presenting himself to the *prizyv*?

Life continued as it had been.

### **The First Founders of the synagogue**

In 1787, five Jews named Markus, Genig, Grandsztajn, Kohn and Berman requested permission to build a synagogue in Rajcher's house for 300 worshippers from 65 families. They justified their petition stating that, on the High Holidays, there was a lack of places in their other houses of prayer. There is no mention, in the available documents, of when and if their request was agreed to.

### **A List of Community Members in 1836**

In the archives, which are left from the olden times, we have found the following list of Częstochowa worshippers from 1836.

We think this list should be published in our "Memorial Book"! It is very much possible that, among the surviving remnant of Częstochowa Jews, there are grandchildren and great-grandchildren of these worshippers.

It is a list of the men who, in 1836, had places (pews) in the synagogue and we present it without any changes\* :

Sztronberger [perhaps Strumberger] Gecel (Czeladnik), Michter Lipman, Gecel, Połęczynger Lewek, Turomicz Jakob, Kaminski Abraham (from Rędziny), Mruwka Izaak, Gek Wolf (from Rubanka), Broniatowski Mendel, Krakower Bajrech, Groman Hersz, Miętkiewicz Abraham, Martonicz Oskar (Iser), Śpiewak Chune, Szwagier, Szlosberger, Berman (Weber), Winer, Wolf, Sefer Szymon (from Rędziny), Czyszewski Lewek, Obtoń Mojsze, Wajsblum Henech, Ajzen Leizer, Biegun Lewek, Hamburger Joachim, Czumstyn Lewek etc.

This was formulated in 1842 by the *dozores* Breszel, Cyna Winer [and] Zajdman (it is also signed by the secretary Bursztynski).

The auction to sell the pews was shared by J. Zilbersztejn, A. M. Liberman, Józef Altman, Józef-Leib Jungerman, Rifst, Tunder [and] S. Kolchoy. The minimum bid for the auction was 250 rubles. They received 310 rubles and 25 kopeks.

One Jechiel Goldberg sued because he had been moved to a different pew.

Besides being signed besides by the Częstochowa city-president, H. Czapkin, the document is signed by:

Abraham Czapkin, J. Tornberg, M. Salmenowicz, Z. Presno, J. Pelc, C. Mientkewicz, J. Kaufman, Jankel Kaufman, Abraham Kozak, Jankel Rajuo(?), A. Krumpf(?), P. Zajdman, Ch. Grinfeld, J. Glazson, A. Grabiner, J. Windman, M. Birngas, Majer Baum, Kac, Mojsze Kila, A. Berfeld (Belfer?), Abraham Goldsztajn, H. Helman, J. Herc, Ickowicz, K. Szczupak, J. Elman, A.L. Geler, K. Geler, A. Niwiele, Gotweiner, D. Zelikowicz, W. Kopnicki, N. Naman, T. Wajsenbarter, Jarost, M. Fajgenbaum, M. Iser, J. L. Szajn [or perhaps letter "shin"], A. Warszawer, L. Karmy [?], G. Welgram, L. Kasz, D. Kopinster, Z. Szwidorski, D. Brokman, B. Glinzman, D. Moszkowski, J. Majers, Aron Alter, M. Brokman, K. Katz, Ch. Ronecki, Koniempolski, J. Herc, D. Jerkowicz, Held, Kalmes, Rzepkowicz, Fern, M. Kaminichok, Aron Goldsztajn, K. Lewenkop, M. Taler, Morytz Epsztajn, Ch. Zielonka, H. Zielonka, I. M. Lajntop, N. Kajzer, J. Szajnfeld, Ch. Podembic, R. Wislicki, G. Wajnglas, Elyohu Nazean, Ch. G. Manutowski, Jakob Goldman, L. Lederman, Tajnfus, Firenlecht, S. Tenenbaum, H. Zeligman, Ezra Kliser, Mendel Abramowicz, Henryk Zamski, T. Teper, Perec Lipa, Mintzer, Szlojme Weler, Mendel Rewolia, Dovid Greszel, J. Częstochowski, Diamant, Lersztal, Ritnicki, Zorger, Lerner, D. Sztajn, L. Landau, N. Nunberg, M. Patasewicz, S. Lisek, T. Refuk, E. Birman, Perwet Alter, Michał Pron, J. Sztoch, M. Iaskin [or Joskin], Zelik Lichter,

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\* [Translator's note: Many of these surnames are apparently now obsolete and despite intensive searches, I've been unable to find them. In such cases I've endeavored to use Polish spellings. Where the initial J. is used for a given name, it sometimes may be I. or Y. instead.]

Izrael Marinow, Althelf, M. Spiewak, Alter Kornbusz, Aron Troyakowski, G. Jafowicz, A. Lewkowicz, Słomka, Slodyn, Ch. Szaniczeszia [?], Józef Behm, Fajsberg, A. J. Gold, Wolf Szpigelman, H. Sztajnic, M. Częstochoowski, Alter Grinbaum, S. Weler, J. Szwarcbaum, Ch. Szadchen, Izidor Richter, Wolf Szajkewicz, M. Ludowiec, H. Birman, S. Winower, M. Henig, Dovid Pencer, J. Glaziled [?], N. Szajkewicz, M. Rozenaft, J. Bursztyn, H. Grinbaum, D. Biber, L. Helkon, M. Ruzewicz, D. Hersz, C. [Tz.] Pataszewski, R. Fajntal, M. Frenkel, L. Blumental, Alexander Drejer, Oderberg, Wolf Szaja, H. Zalc, H. Helfer, Szmul Wierzbicki, S. Matysiak, Markus Goldsztajn, M. Malinek, A. Ganzwa, G. Brygel, Jakob Bochenenek [perhaps should be Bochenek], Jankel Dawidowicz, N. Frajerman, J. Rafalowicz, Chaim Wajsman, Szmul Tanc, Mendel Alter, R. H. Truskolaski, Jakob Gotejner, B. Betker, M. Plawner, Izaak Szor, Menachem Szajn, Ely Fojersfus, Berman, Landau, J. Częstochoowski, Kokel, Dzalowe, Szmul Ezriel, Joske Kolin, A. Trajbaum, P. Trajbaum, M. Jaśkowicer, L. Kolc, M. Sz. Kolin, Dovid Kon, D. Baderm, Jakob Klajn, Grylak, Mojsze Reszwicz, Szymon Pinsker, Z. Efriticz, M. Izraelow, Tremski, Enzes, D. Landau, D. Rauch, M. Efron, J. L. Kloc, M. Ragacz, M. Isewek, Hocherman, Jakob Bencinberg, Józef Wajsman, Józef Lew, M. Rifsztajn, M. Hamburger, Izidor Szwarc, Aba Riftajn, A. Jungerman, M. Kolecki, Bałaban, Patomek, Abraham Najfeld, A. Gelner, M. Tenenbaum, C. [Tz.] Frank, Z. Lwow, M. Abrahams, Hercl Rozenblat, T. Haberman, M. Prozere, Z. Joselewicz, Jakob Altman, N. Bersuchtork (?), Icek Goldman, B. Milersztajn.