

WEKSLER Joachim Chaim (1884–1941), industrialist, local government and Jewish community activist, social activist. He was born on 19th March 1884 in Pławno, in the Noworadomszczański District (Radomsko). He was the son of Salomon (circa 1846-1907), the owner of a brush factory and co-owner (together with Chil Helman, Jakub Rotszylid and Wanda Piątkowska) of plots of land in Ostatni Grosz (from 1916, a district of Częstochowa). His mother was Liba (circa 1846-1895) née Rozenbaum. He was the brother of Henryk Henocho (1870-1903), the owner of a toy factory (at II Aleja 18) and a shop (at II Aleja 20) in Częstochowa.

Until 1939, Weksler owned a currency exchange and lottery office. He also owned a toy factory (at I Aleja 6), the majority of its production being exported to the Russian Empire. In 1909, at the Industry and Agriculture Exhibition in Częstochowa, he was awarded a bronze medal for his products (hand-laid rubber alphabets). On 18th January 1917, he formed a partnership with Salomon Rodał (“Rodał & Weksler”).

He was active in industrialist, merchant and craftsman circles. In 1913, he was one of the co-founders and later a board member of the Manufacturers and Merchants Association in Częstochowa. He belonged to the board and council of the No. 2 Częstochowa Crafts Savings and Loan Society. At the beginning of the 1930s, he was a board member of the Industrialists and Merchants Cooperative Bank.

He sat on the boards of “Mizrachi”, the Craftsmen’s Club and the Jewish Association of Property Owners. From the second half of the 1920s until 1939, he was president of the local Jewish Community Council [*gmina*] and was also a member of the New Synagogue.

He was elected five times to the Częstochowa City Council - in 1917 in the district elections, then again in 1925, 1927, 1934 and 1939. He served on various committees – for the poor, city development, opinion-making [PR], municipal investments and special subsidies for the maintenance of the sewage system. He was a delegate to the County Health Fund in Częstochow.

He was active charitably and communally. He was on the board (as treasurer) of the “Linias Hacedek” Society to Aid Poor and Sick Jews. He was vice-president of the Interest-Free Loan Fund for Jews. In 1921, he co-founded the Association of Jewish Secondary Schools in Częstochowa and was a member of the Committee for the Construction of a Jewish Gimnazjum.

Weksler was active patriotically. In 1919, he took part in the appeal for Polish recruits and, in 1920 (during the war with the Bolsheviks), he financially supported the Committee to Aid the Polish Soldier (operated through the Jewish Community Council).

He lived in his own tenement building at I Aleja 6. He also owned real estate in Ostatni Grosz in Częstochowa.

He died on 23rd January 1941 in Częstochowa and was buried in the local Jewish cemetery.

His wife was Balbina Bajla née Bacharia (23rd October 1883 Częstochowa – 31st March 1943 Częstochowa), the daughter of Mendel and Małka née Warszawska, who was a board member of the Shelter for Girls at ul. Fabryczna (Mielczarskiego).

The couple had two daughters:

- Libęa Niuta (1905 Częstochowa - 1938 Jerusalem), who graduated from the Jewish Community Gimnazjum in Częstochowa. In 1925, she was a student in the Law Faculty at the Jagiellonian University. She later studied at the University of Vienna. In 1934, she graduated from the Medical Faculty of the University of Warsaw. She died during a typhus epidemic in Jerusalem;
- Teresa Tauba Tola (30th June 1920 Częstochowa-), married Stefan Wurzel, who died in the war in 1939. She survived the occupation and later married Mieczysław Harley, a Polish Army officer, who had graduated in law in Wilno.

Kulczykowski, *Żydzi – studenci UJ*, p. 692 (re: daughter Liba); Paszkowski, *Cmentarz żydowski*, vol. I, p. 245 (re: parents and brother). – Surma-Jończyk, *Spółdzielczość Żydów*, p. 262; Szwed, *O samorządzie terytorialnym*, p. 366; Mizgalski, *Tożsamość polityczna*, p. 181. – “Częstochower Cajtung” 1934, No. 2, p. 6, 1935, No. 52, p. 1, 1936, No. 49, p. 1, 2, 5; “Express Częstochowski” 1928, No. 289, p. 4, 1929, No. 10, p. 2, No. 103, p. 5, 1930, No. 89, p. 2; “Głos Wolności” 1923, No. 1, p. 4 (re: brother Henryk); “Goniec Częstochowski” 1914, No. 119, p. 1 (re: brother), 1917, No. 160, p. 4, 1919, No. 88, p. 2, 1920, No. 204, p. 3, No. 304, p. 3; “Nasz Głos Powszechny” 1936, No. 3, p. 4; “Nowy Express Częstochowski” 1927, No. 70, p. 4; “Ostatnie Wiadomości Częstochowskie 1934, No. 36, p. 6; “Słowo Częstochowskie” 1934, No. 241, p. 5. – “Ziemia Częstochowska”, vol. XVII, 1990, part 2, p. 195. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, pp. 291, 292, 41 (advertisement); *Przewodnik po Wystawie Przemysłu i Rolnictwa 1909*, p. 116; *Rocznik adresowy 1901*, p. 550. – APCz, akta m. Częstochowy 27/69, k. 113; MagCz 4998, k. 2, 5011, pp. 8, 5503, pp. 316, 319, 384, 5573. – “Książka adresowa 1939–1940”, p. 1

(manuscript in ODDC collections). – Information from granddaughter, Eva Harley from Forest Hills (USA) as well as documents and photographs in her possession.

Juliusz Sętowski, Wiesław Paszkowski