**WHAT CENSUS RECORDS TELL US ABOUT JEWISH FAMILIES**

**OF 19th CENTURY LITHUANIA, A CASE STUDY:**

**THE SHTETL ZEIMELIS 1816-1853[[1]](#endnote-1)**

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**GOALS OF THE STUDY**

* To share and analyze information about the Jews of the shtetl Zheymeli (the current city of Zeimelis, Lithuania) contained in the 7th, 8th & 9th revision lists (census records).
* To demonstrate the benefits of studying the census records of an entire Jewish community rather than solely those of individual families.
* To provide insight into the original archival census records prior to their reconfiguration into the digitized data files available on JewishGen.com.

**TRANSLATOR’S NOTE:** The English term “census” may refer either to the *activity* of taking a census or to the *record* of gathered information. The Russian term **PEREPIS’** [перепись – *perepis’*], usually translated as “census,” as in English may refer either to the *activity* or the *record*. Russian also has a pair of historical terms that distinguish between the *activity* and the *record*: **REVISION** and **REVISION LIST.** This set of terms applies only to the censuses of the 17th –early 19th century.

**REVISION** [ревизия – *revizia*] is the *activity* of taking a census, i.e., a periodic collection of information carried out region by region, family by family, individual by individual.

**REVISION LIST** [ревизкая cказка – *revizkaya skazka*] is the *record* of the information gathered during the  **REVISION.** Russian census records of the 17th – early 19th century, namely **REVISION LISTS,** were published in a chronological sequence of editions. Accordingly, the 7th, 8th & 9th **REVISION LISTS** are the records of the 7th, 8th & 9th **REVISIONS**. “List” in this context refers specifically to the Russian term **SKAZKA** [cказка], whose literal meaning is “story.” **SKAZKI** (plural) are records containing detailed commentary on individual subjects of the Tsar. Copies of records from the lists may be obtained from the [Office of theChief Archivist of Lithuania](http://www.archyvai.lt/en/archives/historicalarchives.html).

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

A broad review of censuses in Lithuania is not our task. Neither the censuses of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania nor the First General Census [*perepis’*] of the Russian Empire taken in 1897, nor any subsequent censuses, will be examined. Our focus will be the history of the censuses in order to analyze the nature of the information found in the records.

In 17th – early 19th century Russia, records containing detailed explanations and commentary on individual subjects of the Tsar were called **SKAZKI**. The first such record was produced in accordance with the 26 November 1718 edict of Peter I, who ordered that taxable subjects be identified on whom to place the burden of raising a regular army. His edict required that “a record of all persons be produced in a year’s time in order to accurately establish the number of males in every village” and warned of the consequences of concealment: “If any males are concealed by the owners of the males or by those responsible for them, those males will be given to the persons who report the concealment.”[[2]](#endnote-2)

Despite the warning, the number of males reported in the **SKAZKA** of 1718was unrealistically low. The Tsar therefore ordered in 1721 that the census be repeated in order to provide a revised record of greater accuracy through a stricter collection process. Henceforth the set of terms **REVISION** and **REVISION LIST** was applied respectively to the process of collecting information on the population of taxable subjects and the resulting record.

* The taking of the **CENSUS** was called a **REVISION** [*revizia*].
* The information collected on the subjects was called a **REVISION LIST** [*revizkaya skazka*].[[3]](#endnote-3)
* The subjects were called **REVISION LIST** **SOULS** [*revizkie dushi*].
* The subjects (souls) not recorded, whether by accident or intent, during the census-taking were called **OMITTED** [*propisnye dushi*].[[4]](#endnote-4)
* Lists submitted after the completion of a **REVISION** were called **SUPPLEMENTAL REVISION LISTS [***dobavochnie revizkie skazki*] **.**

**THE FIRST TEN REVISIONS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1st | 1718 -1721 |
| 2nd | 1744 -1746 |
| 3rd | 1762-1763 |
| 4th | 1782 |
| 5th | 1794-1795 |
| 6th | 1811 |
| 7th | 1815-1816 |
| 8th | 1833-1834 |
| 9th | 1850 |
| 10th | 1857-1858 |

Zeimelis was not included in the first four revisions because it did not become part of the Russian Empire until 1795, when the convention of 13 October 1795[[5]](#endnote-5) formalized the town’s status. At the conclusion of the convention, on 14 December 1795 Catherine II issued a decree — “On the Division of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania into Two Gubernias”— in which she directed Prince Repnin, Governor-General of Lifland, Estland, Vilnius and Slonim Gubernias, “to send reliable persons under the supervision of the governors to accomplish a revision.”[[6]](#endnote-6)

The revision lists of the Zeimelis kahal resulting from this revision, the 5th, are not contained in the archives. We know only that 2899 Jews and Karaites were registered in 1797 in Upita District, where Zeimelis was located.[[7]](#endnote-7)

The archives moreover contain neither the 6th revision list of the Zeimelis Jewish *kahal*[[8]](#endnote-8) nor the 10th revision list of the Zeimelis Jewish community. Due to the Napoleonic War of 1812, the 6th revision was never completed. Some of its content may be surmised from the7th revision list, which gives the ages of Jewish males of the Zeimelis kahal who had been registered during the 6th revision and were still living in Zeimelis at the time of the 7th. Several revision lists from the 1870s contained in the archives of Kaunas District[[9]](#endnote-9) yield fragmentary glimpses of the missing 10th revision list, but there are too few records to be of use in this study.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SOURCES**

Table 1 gives the revision lists of the Zeimelis Jewish community to which the author had access. These are preserved in the State Historical Archives of Lithuania (LVIA).[[10]](#endnote-10)

**Table 1**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **REVISION LISTS** Used in the Study | | | | | | |
| **REVISION** Number | Compilation Date of Lists | Type Of List | Archival References to the Lists in LVIA | | | |
| Archive | Inventory | File | Leaves |
| 7th | **03-Aug-1816** | **BASIC** | 515 | 25 | 423 | 27-35 |
| 28-June-1818 | Supplemental | 321-338 |
| 8th | **26-Apr-1834** | **BASIC** | 515 | 25 | 427 | 180-207 verso |
| 07-Jun-1835 | Supplemental | 208-208 verso |
| 05-Jul-1835 | Supplemental | 209-210 |
| 10-Feb-1836 | Supplemental | 211-211 verso, 215 |
| 30-Nov-1836 | Supplemental | 212-212 verso, 214 |
| 09-Feb-1839 | Supplemental | 216-217 |
| 04-Nov-1839 | Supplemental | 218-219 |
| 18-Jul-1840 | Supplemental | 221-222 |
| 09-Dec-1840 | Supplemental | 220-220 verso, 225 |
| 24-Jan-1841 | Supplemental | 223-224 |
| 01-Dec-1842 | Supplemental | 226-227 |
| 04-Dec-1844 | Supplemental | 228-229 |
| 9th | **25-Oct-1850** | **BASIC** | 1262 | 1 | 163 | 1-28 |
| 07-Jan-1851 | Supplemental | 29 verso, 30 |
| 29-July-1851 | Supplemental | 30 verso, 31 |
| Oct-1852 | Supplemental | 35 verso, 36? |
| 09-Nov-1853 | Supplemental | 32 verso, 33 |

The tabular form of the 7th, 8th and 9th revision lists is identical, namely a double-leaf arrangement with males on the left leaf (verso) and females on the right (recto). The left leaf has five columns (see Fig. 1) and the right leaf, four columns (see Fig. 2). Instructions stipulate that “each leaf of the revision list must have printed column headings under which everything is to be written.”[[11]](#endnote-11)

The supplemental lists use the identical tabular form, but contain additional information that is not on the basic revision list, namely, **OMITTED** persons [*propisnye dushi*] who by accident or intent were not included in the initial revision, such as returnees from fleeing or temporary absence. The supplemental list of the 7th revision (1818) was especially extensive, containing information on **OMITTED** members of 35 families. Each supplemental form has its own sequential revision reference number for families or individuals. This important reference number is in the first column of the tabular form in all revision lists.

LEFT LEAF

**Family / №** [*Семьи / №*] – Family’s assigned sequential revision number. (The same assigned reference number is used on the left leaf for males and the right leaf for females.)

**Males** [*Мужской пол*] – Names of the head of household (the oldest male) and all other male family members.

**Age at time of previous revision** [*По последней ревизии состояло и после оной прибыло / лета*] – Often the year of the previous revision is given in addition to the age at that time. For persons added to the community in a supplemental revision list, that year is given.

**Who of that number departed / When**  [*Из того числа выбыло / когда именно*] – Reason for departure and year of departure.

**Age of males present at time of current revision** [*Ныне налицо /лета*]

RIGHT LEAF

**Family / №** [*Семьи / №*] – Family’s assigned sequential revision number. (The same assigned reference number is used on the left leaf for males and the right leaf for females.)

**Females** [Женский пол] – Names of the female members of the household. Patronymics of women and maiden names of married women are rarely given.

**Temporarily Absent / From when** [*Во временной отлучке / c которого времени*] – This column is left blank.

**Age at time of current revision** [*Ныне налицо / лета*]

Figure 1. Left leaf of a revision list (males).

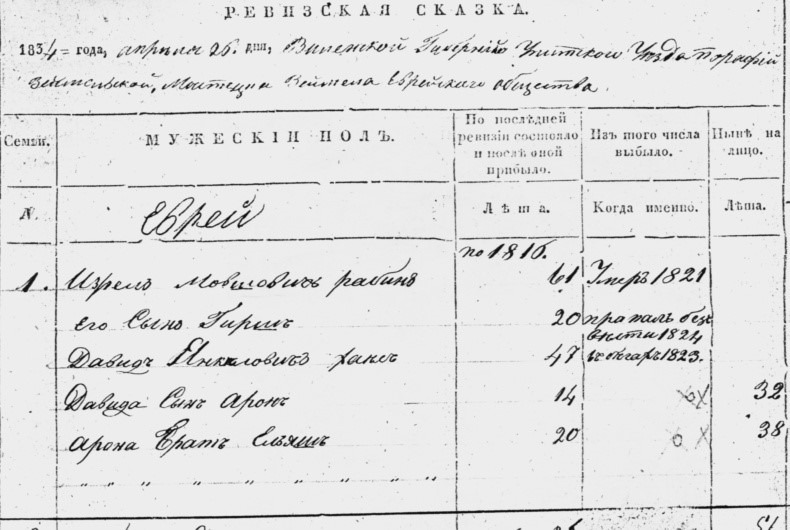
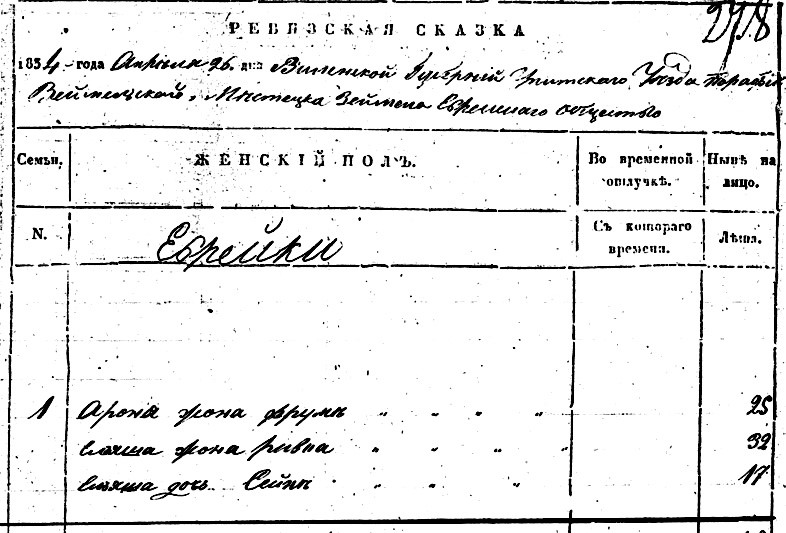


Figure 2. Right leaf of a revision list (females).



**IMPRECISION IN REVISION LISTS**

The headings of the first two columns on both the left (male) and right (female) leaf contain ambiguous instructions. The first column (**Family / №**) of the 7th revision lists states:

3) Revision lists are to be written by household based on the сourtyard [*dvor*] where the family lives at that time, not at the time of the previous revision.

4) The sequential revision number for each household or family is to be written on both the male and female leaf.[[12]](#endnote-12)

Based on this wording, the sequential revision number of a single household might include not only family members but neighbors living in the same house. The ambiguity is retained in the instructions applying to the 8th revision.[[13]](#endnote-13)

Also the second column (**Male / №** on the left and **Female / №** on the right) contains ambiguous instructions that apply to both the 7th and 8th revisions. In this case the ambiguity concerns the names of the registered persons, resulting in a variety of discrepancies.

The head of the family (the oldest male) is ordinarily referred to by given name, patronymic, and surname. The remaining family members are referred to by given name and their relationship to the head of household, such as son, brother, nephew, brother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter, wife, mother, etc. but their patronymics are rarely given.

In the current Russian system of anthroponymy, a person’s name consists of three elements: given name, patronymic and surname. However, in the first half of the 19th century to which our study relates, this system was still in the process of development for significant strata of the Russian population, including Jews. Consequently the compilers of the lists ran into difficulties when completing the second column.

At that time, the personal names of Jews differed from those of Russians both in nomenclature and structure. Whereas Russians had a single given baptismal name selected from a limited list of saints’ names,[[14]](#endnote-14) Jews usually had two given names, such as Abram-Zelik, Dov-Ber, Naftali-Girsh, etc. The first was a synagogue name used to sign Hebrew documents; the second name, called *kinui* [кинуй],[[15]](#endnote-15) was used in everyday life.

In Russian, patronymics were formed by adding a suffix to the given name of the father. In the case of Hebrew names of Jews used in a religious context, the name of a person’s father, preceded by *ben* or *bar* (son) or *bat* (daughter), was appended to the given name as an aid to identification.

Surnames for the Jews of the early 19th century were generally lacking. In 1804 a law applying to Jews directed that “each Jew must have, or take, his own inherited surname, which must be used in all records and writing without change, together with the name given according to faith, or at birth.”[[16]](#endnote-16) The process of carrying out this directive went on for years. Four years later, in 1808, a law again ordered “all Jews to take a surname, wherever that has not yet been done.”[[17]](#endnote-17) Jews did not differ much in this regard from other non-privileged classes of society since “at the end of the 19th century, not only among peasants but even in the merchant class, the establishment of permanent surnames was not yet complete.”[[18]](#endnote-18)

Not stating the full name of the oldest male in the household in the revision list was practiced widely during the 7th revision of 1816. The surname was often lacking, as in these examples from the 7th revision list: № 12 Itsko Shmuilovich, № 13 Volvel’ Borukhovich, № 23 Faivish Abramovich, and № 27 Aleksandr Kofmanovich. Examples from the 8th revision list of 1834 include № 12 Aleksandr Kofmanovich, № 13 Mikhel’ Yankeliovich, № 22 Kushel’ Naftelovich, and № 23 Yefroim Khaimovich. In these cases it is difficult to determine whether the patronymic or the surname is lacking, since Russian surnames ending in “-ich” (i.e. derived from patronymics) are indistinguishable from actual patronymics such as Shmuilovich, Borukhovich, Abramovich, Kofmanovich, and Yankeliovich.

Analogous difficulties arise in personal names consisting of two given names. For example, the 7th revision list of 1816 includes № 25 Itsek Yankel’ Movshovich, № 33 Iosel’ Shimen Arenovich, № 46 Gabriel’ Ber Leybovich, and № 54 Yan Girsh Gilerovich. It is difficult to know in these cases whether the second personal name is a *kinui* or the given name of the father, and furthermore whether the second name is a patronymic or a surname.

In other cases a surname occurs in a form that is unrecognizable from revision to revision. In the examples here and below, the revision year is immediately followed by the family’s sequential revision number. The underline indicates inconsistencies that occur in a surname from revision to revision.

1818 № 08 Yovis In 1834 № 33 Yavejs  
1818 № 32 Krumfis In 1834 № 72 Trusfus  
1818 № 33 Deber In 1834 № 75 Beder

Inconsistencies in the orthography of Jewish given names and patronymics also occur from revision to revision. Judging from the signature of the compiler and scribe of the list from the revision of 1816, the list was compiled in Hebrew and then translated into Russian. Later lists were subject to the law of public reading three times at community meetings “so that the villagers themselves could confirm that no one was omitted from the list.”[[19]](#endnote-19) The need for the input of the residents in recognizing their own name on the lists supports the likelihood that the lists were originally compiled in Hebrew. In the subsequent translation of given names, patronymics, and surnames into Russian by various compilers, discrepancies often occurred when one alphabet was transliterated into another.

In this regard Yulij Gessen wrote: “Distortions of names were made by illiterate rabbis and councils; the absence of a firmly established pronunciation, which was different for Polish, Lithuanian and Southern Russian Jews, opened up a broad vista for further distortion in copying names from one document to another.”[[20]](#endnote-20) The consequences are clearly evident in alternations between pairs of letters from revision to revision: “sh” or “s”, “ch” or “ts”, “z” or “zh” and others.

In a number of cases the increase in age from revision to revision does not correspond to the actual interval of years, as in the following examples:

1834 № 03 Movsha Yudelevich Gel’ is 46. In 1850 № 03 he is 52 (rather than 62).   
1834 № 31 Ber Leybovich Ber is 23. In 1850 № 31 he is 41 (rather than 39).

It is impossible to determine whether such inconsistencies were errors by the compiler or scribe or were intentional alterations. In especially doubtful cases, the underline indicates inconsistencies in age from revision to revision.

**TABLE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS**

We have compiled in a single table the personal information of all the Jews of Zeimelis extracted from the revision lists from the years 1816-1853 ([Table 2](http://www.barrymann.net/zeimel/Index1816-1853/ZSkazki1816-1853-Table-2.doc)).

The column headings of our table differ from the headings found in the revision lists. The revision list contains nine columns as described earlier, whereas this table combines into one column the information from nine columns. To accomplish this, we place all information about each family member in a single cell of the table. For example, for married men we include information about the wife in the same cell. This allows us to condense into a single row of three cells the information about each individual or married couple extracted from 27 cells of three revision lists.

Such an arrangement is necessitated by the nature of the sequential revision numbering system of families used in the 7th, 8th and 9th revisions. In the 8th revision of 1834, families and their members were listed strictly according to their sequential revision number carried over from the 7th revision of 1816 and its 1818 supplement. The total number of families, however, differed from the 7th to the 8th revision. The same sequential revision numbering was again used In the 9th revision. In order to maintain the family’s sequential numbering from revision to revision in cases where all male members of a family were absent, non-family **OMITTED** individuals were written in. Examples are families 1850 № 69 and 1850 № 77.

Maintaining consistent enumeration of families enables us to identify individuals easily despite variations in names and errors in ages from revision to revision. Use of our table is nevertheless somewhat problematic since the total number of families in the 10th revision does not agree with the total number of families in the 7th and 8th revisions, despite the fact that the 10th revision preserves the same sequential numbering of familes from the 9th revision.

Now let us examine other features of our table.

In the revision lists, each family is identified by a sequential revision number by which the members of a given family are arranged in cells on a single row of the table. In our table, by contrast, each family member or married couple has its own cell, where the sequential revision number is given first. In our table a family may therefore fill several vertical cells within a column, where all members of the family are identified by the same sequential revision number. Empty cells occasionally occur between individual family members due to changes in the composition of the family from revision to revision.

In the revision list of 1816, we see indications that specific families were staying in inns. We note this information in the cell for the first representative of the family. To identify the current name of populated places where the inns were once located is difficult. Our suggestions are placed in square brackets after the name of the inn.

The age of males is given in numerical form (the word “years” is not used) immediately following the name. First is given the age, in parentheses, from the column **Age at time of previous revision**. Next is given the age, without parentheses, from the column **Age at time of current revision**. Then the age of females is given, without parentheses, at least based on the current revision.

Example: 1816 № 1 Izrael’ Movsheliovich Rabin (56) 61; wife Frejde 61.

**OMITTED** males are designated by the letter “p” (for Russian *propuschen*) preceding their age. Infant males born since the previous revision are designated by by the letter “n.”

Examples:

1816 № 9 Itsek Davidovich Ber (p) 25; wife Dajl’e 22  
1834 № 3 Son Abel’ [Itsykovich Ber] (p) 17

In the 7th revision, occasionally the place from which the person arrived is given instead of the age at the time of the previous revision. In the table this information is given in parentheses preceding the person’s age at the time of the current revision.

Example: 1816 № 37 Abram Zhundolovich Pamats (arrived in 1815 from Posvol’) 36; wife Dvore 40.

In the supplemental revision list of 1818, Family № 24 is listed under the heading **Hospitalized and Indigent**, that is, ill and indigent. In the column **Included in the last revision and present after it / Age**, the notation for Families № 24 and № 25 is “Allegedly hospitalized,” while **OMITTED** is stated for the remaining families. Evidently at the time of the earlier revision of 1811, the adult males of Families № 24 and № 25 were absent due to illness.

In the 8th and 9th revisions, often the column **How many departed / When** contains notations such as “died in [year], fled in [year], disappeared without notice in [year],” etc. When the age from a specific revision list is thus lacking, we give the notation verbatim.

Examples:

1834 № 1 Izrael’ Movshovich Rabin (61), died in 1821.  
1834 № 1 David Yankeliovich Khaes (47), fled in 1823.  
1834 № 2 Iosel’ Ber Yankeliovich Per (35), disappeared without news in 1824.

Since we know the person’s age from the previous list (in this case, the 1816 revision list), we can calculate the approximate year of birth and age at death.

At the end of each revision list, the compilers give the total number of males and females and authenticate the list with a signature, usually in Hebrew, transliterated into the Roman or Cyrillic alphabet. One of the lists is signed in Russian. In our table, the summary notations are given with their grammatical peculiarities retained. The Hebrew signatures are given in transliteration.

**GENEALOGICAL RESULTS OF THE DETAILED STUDY**

While the identification of individuals in specific families is easy in the 8th and 9th revision lists because the family revision numbers are identical, it is more difficult between the 7th and 8th revisions when the surname was absent in the 7th or had markedly changed. Our table solves this problem for persons registered from the 7th to 9th revisions by demonstrating all changes or variations in name, transliteration, age, marriage and family composition.

Changes in surname may be identified by comparing neighboring cells in the same row. This is possible in simple cases – Bron (1816 № 18) to Broyn (1834 № 15), Baienski (1816 № 39) to Baenska (1834 № 15), and Kats (1816 № 52) to Kach (1834 № 21). It is also possible in the case of more complicated changes such as those mentioned earlier -- Yovis to Yavejs, Krumfis to Trusfus, Deber to Beder; and even in a completely unrecognizable change such as Ber (1816 № 4) to Itsko (1834 № 2).

Comparison of neighboring cells moreover sometimes allows resolution of the indeterminate ending “ich,” which could designate either a patronymic or a surname. For example, from the fact that Volvel’ Borukhovich (1816 № 13) and Vol’f Borukhovich Yavejs (1834 № 4) are the same person, it follows that Borukhovich is a patronymic and Yavejs is a surname missing in the 7th revision list. Likewise Mikhel’ Morkovich (1816 № 35) and Mikhel’ Morkelovich Yozer (1834 № 14) are the same person, from which it follows that Morkovich is his patronymic and Yozer is his surname, missing in the 7th list. In these cases we add to the table the missing surname in square brackets [Yavejs] and [Yozer] in the cell for information from the 7th list.

Sometimes a surname missing in the 7th list appears in the 8th, but is supplied not for the oldest male but for his sons or even grandsons.

Examples:

1834 № 13 Mikhel’ Yankeliovich lacks a surname, but his son is Yankel’ Shvarts.  
1834 № 43 El’yash Peyletovich lacks a surname, but his son is Abram Zak.  
1834 № 56 Gershon Itsykovich either lacks a surname or it is indistinguishable from a patronymic, but his grandsons are Yudel’ and Meyer Yankeliovich Its.

1834 № 71 Rubin Abramovich lacks a surname, but his son is Shender Ber.

Sometimes the surname lacking in the 7th list appears only in the 9th, as for example: 1834 № 46 Borukh Itsykovich with his first brother Khaim and second brother Iosel’ lack surnames, but in the 9th list, Khaim has the surname Ber.

In rare cases, a surname is lost in the succeeding revision, as for example:

1818 № 29 Ber Borukhovich Glezer. In 1834 № 69 Berel’ Borukhovich.  
1834 № 34 Abram Gileliovich Gurvich. In 1850 № 34 Abram Gileliovich.  
1834 № 80 Gabriel’ Movshovich Prukhne. In 1850 № 80 Gabriel’ Movshovich.

After establishing a surname that was lacking for the oldest male, we add it in square brackets for every member of the family for whom the surname was lacking. We also add in the same set of brackets the patronymic for every member of the family if the given name of the person’s father was not noted in the cell. Accordingly:

1816 № 1 Izrael’ Movsheliovich Rabin.  
The row below: Son Girsh [Izraelevich Rabin].  
The row below that: Daughter of Izrael’, Muske [Rabin].

Our additions in square brackets were made on the basis of the given name and surname of the oldest members of the family in the given revision list. Only when the surname was lacking in that particular list did we make the addition on the basis of their surname in the subsequent revision. Accordingly:

1816 № 2 Son Aren [Davidovich Khajs] and the same in 1834 № 1 David’s son Aron [Khaes].

For 101 families registered in the 7th revision, we reconstructed 35 surnames that were lacking. Such a striking lack of surnames is not surprising in that the process of acquiring permanent surnames, as mentioned above, went on for many years. Given names of many Jews who lack surnames are encountered in documents even as late as the middle of the 19th century. Many examples are given in the “Book of Issued Papers from 1852 to 1855,” compiled in the Zeimelis Jewish community.[[21]](#endnote-21)

The reconstruction of many Jewish surnames missing in the 7th revision and the emergence of non-obvious changes in later revisions in our opinion demonstrate the genealogical effectiveness of detailed study of the revision lists of a Jewish community.

**FURTHER OBSERVATIONS AND AUXILIARY TABLES**

Detailed study of the revision lists allows us to make valuable additional observations on the population of the Zeimelis community. These are contained in the following set of auxiliary tables.

[Table 3](http://www.barrymann.net/zeimel/Index1816-1853/ZSkazki1816-1853-Table-3.doc) Observations on the work of the compilers.

[Table 4](http://www.barrymann.net/zeimel/Index1816-1853/ZSkazki1816-1853-Table-4.doc) Absence of males by death.

[Table 5](http://www.barrymann.net/zeimel/Index1816-1853/ZSkazki1816-1853-Table-5.doc) Absence of males by flight, disappearance or recruitment.

[Table 6](http://www.barrymann.net/zeimel/Index1816-1853/ZSkazki1816-1853-Table-6.doc) Absence of males by conversion to Christianity.

[Table 7](http://www.barrymann.net/zeimel/Index1816-1853/ZSkazki1816-1853-Table-7.doc) Male mortality.

[Table 8](http://www.barrymann.net/zeimel/Index1816-1853/ZSkazki1816-1853-Table-8.doc) Male Births.

[Table 9](http://www.barrymann.net/zeimel/Index1816-1853/ZSkazki1816-1853-Table-9.doc) Alphabetic index of Zeimelis revision lists of 1816-1853.

Because males were subject to taxation, compilers of the revision lists were eager to trace the disappearance from the community of every male. For example, compilers noted the exile to Siberia of Iosel’ Leybovich Rubin in 1841 (1850 № 20), but the lists make no mention of the disappearance of women from the community by death or other causes, since they were not subject to taxation.

With much less attention than that given to departure from the community, compilers noted the appearance of new subjects. Table 8 on male births based on the 8th and 9th revisions shows an improbable jump in birthrate in the years immediately following the 7th revision. Evidently the compilers had hidden some of the **OMITTED** by calling them “newborn” and then intentionally reducing their ages so as not to exceed the interval of years between revisions. The exceptionally low number of very young newborns, especially in the 9th revision, suggests that most of them were intentionally omitted from this revision. This hypothesis is confirmed by the low number of boys in the table of male deaths (Table 5).

Table 2 gives families in the sequence in which they appear in the revision lists, which is not alphabetical. Therefore in order to find a specific family, one must do a computer search, yet many of the names within the cells are given in square brackets. This complicates the search, since the searcher does not know whether or not the name has square brackets and if so, where the square brackets are located. In order to make the search somewhat easier, bold type is used for male surnames wherever the family has more than one male surname.

Since surnames often change from revision to revision, the most recent variant is given in bold type. Surnames ending in “ich” that are indistinguishable from patronymics are given in bold italics. In the majority of cases, these are most likely the patronymics of individuals whose surnames were not given in the lists.

Since all bolded surnames are included in the comprehensive table (Table 2), in order to find a family there, one should first find a representative of that family in the Index (Table 9) in order to determine the year of the revision list and the sequential revision number of the family. Then the family may be located in Table 4.

**DIRECTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY**

This paper concludes the first stage of the author’s projected broad study of the archival documents of the Jewish community of Zeimelis.

In the future, we propose to analyze the book of local inhabitants from 1864, the contents of the family lists of 1874-1876, the Jewish metrical books beginning in 1858, and some other documents. At the same time, we propose a critical comparison of the information contained in the sources.

1. The author’s Landsman Barry Mann from Texas was the initator of this study. Our fathers were natives of Zeimelis. Barry made available to the author extensive material from his family archive, always sharing newly available information. In the course of his research, the author also received valuable comments and advice from the Chief Archivist of the Lithuanian State Historical Archives, Galina A. Baranova, thanks to whom this study was substantially revised. The author is greatly indebted to these persons for their important assistance.

   The Russian text of this article is available at:

   http://www.barrymann.net/zeimel/Index1816-1853/ZSkazki1816-1853-Introduction.doc [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Полное собрание законов Российской империи. [Собрание 1-е.] Тома 1-45. СПб., 1830. (Hereafter 1 ПСЗ) № 3245. (Complete Collection of the Laws of the Russian Empire. [First collection.]). Vols. 1-45. St. Petersburg, 1830. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. 1 ПСЗ № 3707. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Даль, В. И. Толковый словарь живого великорусского языка. Том 3. Переиздание, М., 1999. С. 503. (Dal’, V. I. Explanatory Dictionary of the Living Great Russian Language.) Vol. 3. P. 503. Reprint, Moscow, 1999. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Конвенция относительно раздела Польши, заключенная между Россиею и Пруссиею, при участии Австрии 1795 г. октября 13-го [24-го]. (Convention on the Partition of Poland Concluded Between Russia and Prussia, with the Participation of Austria 1795, October 13 [24].) See Стегний, П. В. Разделы Польши и дипломатия Екатерины II. 1772, 1793, 1795. М., 2002. С. 444-447. (Stegnij, P. V. The Partitions of Poland and the Diplomacy of Catherine II, 1772, 1793, 1795.) Pp. 444-447. Мoscow, 2002. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. 1 ПСЗ № 17417. Великое Княжество Литовское делилось на Виленскую и Слонимскую губернии. (The Grand Duchy of Lithuania Was Divided into Vilnius and Slonim Gubernias.) [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Гессен, Ю. И. История еврейского народа в России. Том 1. Л., 1925. С. 85. (Gessen, Yu. I. History of the Jewish People in Russia.) Vol 1. P. 85. Leningrad, 1925. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Prior to 1844 the Zeimelis Jewish community was called the Zeimelis *kahal*. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Kauno apskrities archivas. Fond I-259. Ap.1. B. 185. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Lietuvos valstybes istorijos archivas. [Hereafter LVIA]. (Lithuanian State Historical Archives.) [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. 1 ПСЗ № 25882. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. 1 ПСЗ № 25882. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Полное собрание законов в Российской империи. [Собрание 2-e.] Тома 1-55. СПб., 1830-1884. (Hereafter 2 ПСЗ) № 6265. (Complete Collection of the Laws of the Russian Empire. [Second collection.]) Vols. 1-55. St. Petersburg, 1830-1884. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. Унбегаун, Б.-О. Русские фамилии. М., 1995. С. 11. (Unbegaun B.-O. Russian Surnames.) P. 11. Moscow, 1995. [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. Еврейская энциклопедия. СПб., 1908-1913. Том 8, С. 144.. (Jewish Encyclopedia.) Vol. 8. P. 144. St. Petersburg, 1908-1913. [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. 2 ПСЗ № 21547. [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. 2 ПСЗ № 22837. [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. Антонов Д. Н., Антонова, И. А. Метрические книги России XVIII – начала XX в. С. 139. М., 2005. (Antonov, D. N., Antonova, I. A. Metrical Books of Russia of the 18th – Beginning of the 20th Century). P. 139. Moscow, 2005. P. 139. [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. 2 ПСЗ № 6265. [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
20. Гессен, Ю. И. Имена еврейские по русскому законодательству. // Еврейская энциклопедия. СПб., 1908-1913. Том 8, С. 150. (Gessen, Yu. I. Jewish Names according to Russian Legislation. Jewish Encyclopedia.) Vol. 8. P. 150. St. Petersburg, 1908-1913. [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
21. LGIA. F. 1262. Op. 1. D. 163. L. 204-256 v. [↑](#endnote-ref-21)