

Shumsk – U.S. Immigration

(Based on Ellis Island Immigration Data 1892 – 1923)

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Introduction

Most passengers who immigrated to the United States from 1892 to the early 1920s passed through Ellis Island. Ellis Island is in the New York City Harbor and was a processing station for new immigrants. The Ellis Island Foundation has digitized and indexed these immigration records and has made the database available to the public (www.ellisland.org). The database contains Passenger Ship Manifests from 1892 through 1924. These are lists of all the passengers that were on the ship. The manifests contain personal information about each passenger, including the following:

- Passenger Name
- Nationality
- Race
- Age
- Gender
- Marital Status
- Occupation
- Height
- Eye Color/Hair Color
- How much money they have with them
- Who paid for their ticket
- Physical Disabilities
- Ability to Read and Write
- Place of Birth
- Name, Address and Relationship of their closest relative in their place of last residence
- Name, Address and Relationship of the person they will be staying with at their Destination

The Kremenets District Research Group (KDRG) is identifying and digitizing all Jewish passenger records of passengers who were born or lived in towns within the Kremenets District of present day Ukraine. At the moment we are focusing on Kremenets, Shumsk and Vishnevets, but we will include other shtetls in the future. This will enable us to combine the information from these records with data from other document translation projects that the group is doing. A complete list of these projects is on the Kremenets Shtetlinks website (<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kremenets/web-pages/about-kremenets.html>). This work includes:

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- Kremenets area Birth/Death and Marriage Records 1870 - 1907
- Kremenets area Tax/Census Lists 1811 - 1870
- Kremenets Area Tax Lists 1935/1936
- Kremenets Area Jewish School Student Lists
- Miscellaneous Documents from the Ukrainian Municipal Archives regarding Lawsuits and Army Draft of Jewish Inhabitants

We hope to receive the Kremenets Birth/Death records 1908 - 1932 in the near future.

All of these documents are written in different languages and the information has never been correlated together before. The database that we are creating enables people with a family history connected to the Kremenets area to find information about their families that dates back centuries. The information is incomplete. There are holes in our information. **But the fun part is trying to pull together your own family history from the fragments of information found in original documents that we have translated and computerized!**

We have been working on this for 10 years. It will take us many, many more years to finish correlating the information that we have obtained.

But let's get back to the Shumsk Ellis Island topic.

Slides

(Slide 1) - Shumsk emigration to the U.S.

We have the names of 340 Shumsk residents who passed through Ellis Island. There may be more but sometimes they slip through our programs because the Ship manifests were hand written 100 years ago. Sometimes the town names are so extremely misspelled that they are unreadable or unidentifiable.

This slide shows how many Shumskers immigrated to the United States between 1900 and 1923. Note that during the 1914 - 1920 years (World War 1 and its aftermath) there is no immigration at all. Note also that Shumsk emigration peaked in 1921. This is the same for Vishnevets and Kremenets as well - **1920 and 1921 were crucial years to get out of the Kremenets area!**

Regarding Vishnevets, Mr. Louis Rothman, who lived in New York but was originally from Vishnevets, returned to Vishnevets with \$70,000 sewn into his underclothes to help the poor in Vishnevets. He enabled 264 men, women and children of Vishnevets to immigrate to New York in 1920 and 1921.

In 1924 the United States closed their doors to the Eastern European immigrants who had been pouring into the country.

(Slide 2) Shumsk - U.S. Destination Cities

A majority of Shumskers immigrated to New York City. Other major destinations were Omaha, Nebraska and St. Louis, Missouri. These cities are in the Midwestern United States and are considered the "bread basket" of the United States because wheat farming is a major form of commerce. Other major Shumsk destinations were Boston and Philadelphia on the U.S. Eastern Coast.

(Slide 3) European Exit Ports

Most Shumskers travelled to Antwerp, Rotterdam, Bremen and Hamburg to board ships to the United States. Some traveled from these ports to the east coast of England, then by train to Liverpool, where they embarked for America. This indirect immigration often was less costly than direct passage from north European ports.

(Slide 4) Most Popular Ships

These are actual photographs of some of the more popular ships in which Shumskers sailed to the United States. The Lapland, Kroonland and Veederland were also popular with the people of Vishnevets and Kremenets. Each ship would take on 1500 passengers for the 6 to 20 days journey to the United States. Onboard conditions were very difficult and many people were hospitalized on arrival.

(Slide 5) - Ellis Island Records

The information that exists on the "Closest Relation at Last Residence" fields and the "Closest Relation at Destination" fields of the Ellis Island Ship Manifests has never been indexed before. This information enables us to match up families who have different names, but who went to the same relative or left the same relative in the old country. This enables us to identify family connections that are not visible in the birth and death records.

(Slide 6) - Family Connections

For example among the Shumskers we can see family connections between the family names shown in Slide 6.

(Slide 7) - Yaninger Family Example

Here is an example of how the Yaninger, Rosenberg and Hechtman families are connected. The connections are drawn from multiple ship manifests.

(Slide 8) - Summary

The EIDB data provide many new insights concerning inter-family relationships.

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We have completed work on Vishnevets and Shumsk and are currently processing Kremenets data. This is a 2 -phased process:

- 1) identifying the records relevant to each town, and
- 2) transcribing the handwritten origination/destination information from the manifests to the computer.

We are working with 2500 passengers from these three cities. When we finish Kremenets, we will move on to Berezhets, Katerinovka, Vyshgorodok, Oleksinets and others.

The "person at destination" information provides insight into how immigrant names were anglicized by families in America. This can help if you want to trace your family after arrival to America. (For example, see Slide 8)

Also note that the destination addresses on the manifests can be correlated with the U.S. Census and City Directory records which are available through Ancestry.com to find additional information about your families in the United States.

When we finish transcribing the Kremenets data we look forward to merging the data together to see what inter-shtetl Shumsk/Vishnevets/and Kremenets family connections we can identify.

Feel free to contact me if you would like to see if we have information on your family.
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