

Welcome Message for New Members

16 September 2009

Welcome to the Kremenets Shtetl CO-OP. We are a group of 398 people worldwide who trace their ancestors to Kremenets, Ukraine and the nearby towns of the Kremenets District. This message describes our activities. Several following messages will give you an update on current activities and details about some of our projects.

The Kremenets Shtetl CO-OP is involved in several major activities:

- Translate to English the vital records of Kremenets (1870-1907), which are on Mormon microfilms, and other records that we are able to obtain. (Translation has been completed!)
- Translate to English the Yizkor Books and other materials relating to Kremenets.
- Translate to English about 200 documents obtained from the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (Jerusalem), focusing initially on the interwar years.
- Coordinate restoration and documentation of the Kremenets Jewish Cemetery and other Jewish cemeteries in the Kremenets Uyezd (District).
- Translate to English the Revizskaya Skazka (Revision Lists, Census) records for Kremenets and surrounding towns.
- Translate the Kremenets Kahal records
- Assist members in obtaining DNA testing at discounted rates
- Provide a contact point for former Kremenetsers and their descendants
- Gather and post information about Kremenets and Kremenetsers, including an Indexed Concordance of Personal Names and Town Names extracted from the documents we obtain.
- Initiate new projects that can help us trace our Kremenets ancestors and memorialize the Jews of Kremenets-District towns.

Our interests extend to the large number of towns in the Kremenets District. Our records include data on people registered in 493 different towns. (See our Indexed Concordance of Personal Names and Town Names for a complete list. It is searchable and soundexed, and is on our website at

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kremenets/web-pages/master-surnames.html>

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In a sense, we are a landsmanshaft for Kremenetsers, successor to the post-WW2 Organization of Kremenets Emigrants.

We have completed translation of all 15,549 vital records that we received on cd-rom from the LDS, and have proofread the 1870-1877 & 1893-1895 birth records and 1870-1872 & 1894 death records. The proofread records are on-line at JRI-Poland (<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/>), but our Indexed Concordance includes entries for *all* records, and is available on our website (see above). The Indexed Concordance currently has 68,523 entries. It should be your starting point for researching your Kremenets-District ancestors.

I have added your name to our Kremenets Shtetl CO-OP e-mail distribution list. For more information about our activities, please take a look at the following websites:

- The Kremenets ShtetLinks website (<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kremenets/>). It contains most of the above material (or links to the other sites) as well as additional information about Kremenets (history, photos, etc.).
- JRI-Poland at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/kremenet.htm>. This is an introduction to our vital records on the JRI-Poland website.
- Go to <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/jripldat.htm>. Scroll down the list until you get to Kremenets. There you will find an inventory of the 7 Mormon microfilms for Kremenets and a Surname List derived from the 1870 birth and death records. We will post additions to this list as well as translations of the full listings as they become available.
- Translations of the two Yizkor Books and the 18 Landsmanshaft Booklets will be posted at the Kremenets entry on the JewishGen Yizkor Book website <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations.html#K> as they become available. (Scroll down the list until you get to Kremenets.) The Kremenets Yizkor Book website on JewishGen also has translations of the record of a 1747 Blood Libel trial and a circa 1966 Memorial Album that is in Israel.
- The Kremenets Discussion List on Rootsweb is a place to meet and discuss common issues with others whose ancestors come from the towns of the

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Kremenets District. It is easy to subscribe. Just click on one of the following links (or paste the link into your web browser):

- [Subscribe to UKR-KREMENETS-L](#)
- [Subscribe to UKR-KREMENETS-D \(digest\)](#)

The Digest accumulates messages during the day and sends all of them to you in a single e-mail, instead of sending them one at a time as they come in. Or, just send me a message telling me you wish to subscribe to the List.

The Yizkor Books are in Yiddish and Hebrew, but they are easier to translate because they are printed, not handwritten. We provide our translators/transliterators with translation aides to ease their tasks. We have completed all the Hebrew translations. Now we need translators for the Yiddish pages and proofreaders for the completed translations. Please let me know if you can help. The more volunteers we have, the faster we can get our Kremenets materials posted and available for everyone.

The Cemetery Project is especially important. In 2006, we obtained a grant from the Hanadiv Foundation to begin restoration and documentation work on the Cemetery. As a result of that work we discovered that the Cemetery has almost 3 times more matzevot (gravestones) than originally thought ... about 7,500 in various states of disrepair. We have photographed and translated about 3,200 of these. Plans to continue the multiyear restoration work currently are on hold while we try to identify funding sources for the work. Besides matzevot in the Jewish cemetery, we have discovered modern era Jewish graves in the Monastery Cemetery, gravestones under the paving of the parking lot at the former Gestapo HQ (now a Youth Sports Facility), and matzevot under a proposed pathway at the Lyceum. All together, we estimate that there are several hundred to 1,000 additional matzevot outside of the large Jewish Cemetery.

We have obtained digitized images of 14 LDS microfilms containing the Jewish Revision Lists (Censuses) for Kremenets District towns. These cover the years 1811 through 1873. We have launched a new project to translate and index the 13,500 pages contained on these microfilms. We estimate these microfilms contain about 40,000 records and that they will yield more than 150,000 names! These records are not just for the town of Kremenets. They are census records for most of the towns in the Kremenets District.

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We invite you to visit our Shtetlinks website (<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kremenets/web-pages/index.html>) often because we constantly add new material and update existing material. Please let me know if you have database or web skills. Ben Buckwold and Adam Bronstein have done a wonderful job developing and updating our website.

I try to send out occasional updates on our progress to our e-mail list. I also send announcements of new items as they become available on one of the websites. Those who donate either time or money to either the Cemetery, Yizkor Book or Vital Records project receive pre-release copies of translations. The generosity of our members enabled us to complete the Vital Records translation, and to get started on the Revision Lists. We hope you also will help fund our work by making a donation to our Kremenets account at JRI-Poland. Contributions to "Jewish Records Indexing - Poland" may be made by check, bank draft, money order, or credit card. Be sure to specify that your contribution is for the Kremenets Shtetl CO-OP. Send your donation or credit card information to:

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland, Inc.
c/o Sheila Salo, Treasurer
5607 Greenleaf Road
Cheverly, MD 20785 USA

Telephone: (301) 341-1261
Fax: 1-810-592-1768 (24 hours)
E-Mail: ssalo@capaccess.org

Be sure to specify that your donation is for the Kremenets General Fund. When you send your donation, please send me an e-mail message to let me know the amount you contribute and the date of mailing so that we can be sure the donation gets applied properly. If your employer has a matching gift program, please think about matching your donation through that program.

The Kremenets Shtetl CO-OP is affiliated with Jewish Records Indexing - Poland, Inc. (JRI-Poland), which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible in the U.S. and Canada to the extent permitted by law.

Once again, please be sure to let me know whether or not you can help translate from either Russian, Polish, Hebrew, or Yiddish to English. If you can help, I will

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send you a set of guides that we have developed to help standardize the translations we do, along with complete instructions for doing the work.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact either Sheree Roth (our Co-Coordinator, ssroth@pacbell.net) or me. We'll be happy to help you any way we can. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

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