

September 2009

Russian Revision Lists for the Kremenets District

Russia began compiling *Revizskie Skazki* (singular is *Revizskaya Skazka* or Revision List) in 1719. These censuses, which were used to levy poll taxes, continued intermittently through the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The first list was created in the years 1719-1721. Subsequent Lists were in 1743-1747, 1761-1767, 1781-1782, 1794-1795, 1811, 1816, 1833-1834, 1850-1851, and 1857-1859. Supplements were taken in intermediate years, most notably 1806, the years following 1816-1817, and 1874.

When Poland was partitioned in the 1790s, the Kremenets District became part of the Russian Empire and Revision List activity began in the District with the 5<sup>th</sup> Revision of 1794-1795 and its 1806 Supplement. The Kremenets *Revizskie Skazki* are stored at the Ternopil State Archives in Ternopil, Ukraine. They are accessible to researchers.

Between 1999 and 2001, the Mormons microfilmed the Revision Lists for the Kremenets District stored in the Ternopil Archives. The result is 54 microfilm reels containing data from the Lists and Supplements between 1806 and 1874. Here is the description from the LDS' Family History Library:

Record group 37, series 2, files 149-151, 156-199. 54 microfilm reels.

Revision lists (census lists used to levy a poll tax) (7th-10th revision) for Kremenets district, Volhynia province, Russia; later in Ternopil oblast, Ukraine. The lists contain the names of all taxable persons from each city, town, village or estate arranged by household, giving the relationship to the head of house and ages. Many of the lists also include supplemental lists made in years following the initial revision (e.g. revision lists for 1816 may include supplemental lists dating from between 1817 and 1834). Text in Russian.

The microfilms became available in 2003.

The Lists for each year are arranged successively by town name, social class, and the order in which households were recorded. Each double page (household males on the left page, females on the right

page) is numbered. Most pages have more than one record, sometimes as many as eleven. The first reel includes an "index" that identifies which social classes are on each reel. There is no other index to the Lists or the microfilms.

### Identifying and Obtaining the Jewish Records

Obviously, these records are invaluable to our genealogical activities. At the IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City in July 2007, I combed through the Index on the first reel of microfilm trying to determine which reels contain data for social classes that might include Jews. We know that Jews were not nobility, gentry, clergy, cossacks, native peoples, or peasants. The most likely social classes are merchants (*kupetsiy*), bourgeois (*meshchaniniy*), artisans (*remeslennikiy*), and, of course, Jews (*Yevreyskii*). They also might be in the agriculturist (*zemledel' cheskiy*), citizens (*grazhdoniy*), or honorary citizens (*pochetnyy grazhdaniniy*) classes. The most likely social classes are on 13 reels of microfilm. We scanned through each of these 13 reels, identifying the page numbers that contain Jewish households in the "most likely" social classes. It was fairly easy to identify a Jewish household. If the given names were Peter, Pavel, Ivan, Anton, etc, the household most likely was not Jewish. If the names were Yakov, Avraham, Menachem, Yitschak, etc. the household probably was Jewish (although the name Yakov appeared in non-Jewish households as well.). Here is the list of microfilm reels containing Jewish households, including the page numbers on which those households are recorded.

- FHL INTL Film 2376396, Item 1. Contains Index to record group 37, series 2.
- FHL INTL Film 2376396, Delo 150, pp. 43-61 (end). 6th Revision, 16 Sep 1811 - 11 Dec 1811. Kremenets district villages. Includes peasants, merchants, townsmen, & artisans
- FHL INTL Film 2375506, Delo 150, pp. 61-153. 6th Revision, 16 Sep 1811 - 11 Dec 1811. Kremenets district villages. Includes peasants, merchants, townsmen, & artisans
- FHL INTL Film 2213479, Delo 165, pp. 266-285. 7th Revision 1816-1827, 2 Jun 1816 - 4 Oct 1827, Kremenets district villages. Includes peasants, merchants, townsmen, & artisans. Includes Kremenets, Radzivilov, Shumsk, Vyshgorodka.
- FHL INTL Film 2213480, Delo 165, pp. 286-1125 (end). 7th Revision 1816-1827, Kremenets district villages. Includes

peasants, merchants, townsmen, & artisans. Includes Kremenets, Radzivilov, Shumsk, Vyshgorodka.

- FHL INTL Film 2213481, Delo 165, pp. 1126-1443, 7th Revision 1816-1827; and Delo 166, pages 1-475 (end), 1816 - 1823. Kremenets district villages. Includes peasants, merchants, townsmen, & artisans. Includes Kremenets, Radzivilov, Shumsk, Vyshgorodka.
- FHL INTL Film 2213482, Delo 166, pages 118 (beginning) to 623, 7th Revision, 1816-1823
- FHL INTL Film 2270287, Delo 189, pages 1 (beginning) to 425, 9th Revision, 25 Oct 1850 - 28 Jun 1853; and Delo 190, pages 1-190 (end), 1850-1856.
- FHL INTL Film 2270288, Delo 190, pages 190-730, 9th Revision, 1850-1856; and Delo 191, pages 1-390 (end), 20 Dec 1850 - 13 Jun 1855.
- FHL INTL Film 2346519, Delo 191, pages 391-711, 1850-1856; and Delo 192, pages 1-19, 10<sup>th</sup> Revision, 1858.
- FHL INTL Film 2270317, Delo 198, pages 1-334 (end), 10<sup>th</sup> Revision, 1858. (Note: Delo 198 begins after page 1327, near the end of the reel.)
- FHL INTL Film 2269547, Delo 198, pages 334-1219 (end), 1 May 1858 - 1 Aug 1860.
- FHL INTL Film 2269548, Delo 198, pages 1220-1814 (near end), 1 May 1858 - 1 Aug 1860.
- FHL INTL Film 2269549, Delo 199, pages 620-723, 733-839, 23 Aug 1862 - 24 Mar 1869.

Thanks to the extraordinary volunteer work of SARA MAGES, SHEREE ROTH, and LARRY STEINHAUER, we used the Family History Library's microfilm-to-digital scanners to obtain digitized images of all the Jewish records on each microfilm except for Film Nos. 2269547, 2269548, and part of 2270317. (We just ran out of time.) We owe these volunteers a great big THANK YOU! The work was tedious, copying these images to computer disk, frame-by-frame ... by-frame ...

When we complete this task for the remaining microfilms, we will have about 13,000 microfilm frames containing about 40,000 records. I expect this will yield more than 150,000 names! And, keep in mind that these records are not just for the town of Kremenets. They are census records for most of the towns in the Kremenets District.

[A New Project: The Kremenets Revision List Translation Project](#)

Now we begin the task of translating and indexing the Revision List records.

- We need people who can read Russian. To do this work, you need to be able to read, but not necessarily translate, handwritten Cyrillic. You also must be willing to follow our transliteration guidelines for the spelling of given names and surnames. And, you should have some very basic skills in using Excel since you will enter your data into an Excel spreadsheet. Translation skill is a bonus, but not essential. We are developing a list of keywords and phrases that occur repeatedly in the Revision Lists. This list will help you make sense of the records.
- After we do some of the translations we also will need volunteers to proofread the translated data to be sure the name entries and other data are correct and complete.

If you can help or if you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail at [rondoctor@earthlink.net](mailto:rondoctor@earthlink.net).

This is a massive project ... even larger than our vital records project. As you can imagine, it is VERY important, because it has the potential for stretching our family histories back to the early 1700s and it will serve as a bridge between the era of permanent surnames and the time periods when only patronymics were used.

If you can't help with one of the tasks I listed above, you still can help get the project done by donating to our Revision List Project Fund. Donations will be used strictly for hiring professional translators.

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:

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**Be sure to specify either that your donation is for the Kremenets Revision List Project, or that it is for the Kremenets General Fund.** And, if you send a donation, please send me an e-mail message to let me know the amount you donate, and the date of mailing so that we can be sure the donation gets applied properly.

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Ron Doctor  
Co-Coordinator, Kremenets Shtetl CO-OP/JRI-Poland  
an activity of the Kremenets District Research Group