

The CILEVICS (Latvian) / ZILEWITSCH (Russian) / LEAVITT (American)

CHILEVITCH / CHILOWITZ (some phonetic variations)

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My mother-in-law was born in Rezekne. I put together a 150 page book about the family. I deleted most of the stuff, especially current pictures and name of extended family in USA.

Here is some of the information from the book:

Morduch/Mordechai (unk, est 1825-1877 (

m. Khasa Sora bas Abram (1832 Krustpils – Oct 24, 1912 Rezekne (

She m2 – Dec 14, 1878 - Hirsch Tschernomordikov (1809 – d. before 1897 (

.1 Abram Yankel (Yiddish)(c 1865 Rezekne – Sept 3, 1938 Rezekne) Occupation - tailor

m1- July 21, 1887 Rezekne

Sora Rivka Savin bas Leiba/Lemka (c 1869 Sebezh, Vitebsk gub. – c 1907 Rezekne (

m2- April 25, 1913 Rezekne

Freida Feiga (nee Losev, widow) (c 1880 Vilani - Dec 1941 Riga (

.2 Chana/Anna Ethel (c 1867 – April 26, 1946) - m. Benj. Zacher, lived in NY, then Pa .

.3 Henne Hascha/ Hannah Agnes (c 1871 – Dec 1943) - m. Samuel Whitman, lived in Pa .

.4 Reisa/Rose (c 1873 – Nov 1946) m. Avraham Kavnat, lived in Johannesburg

note - These are the only known children, living in one house, from Russian family census of 1896 .

Notes:

Sora was younger. Immigration clerks guessed ages.

Abram's age changes with each document.

Latvian birth registration records were according to the Julian calendar, which is about 2 weeks earlier than our Gregorian calendar. The date the birth was registered does not necessarily mean the actual date.

Children of Abram and Sora :

- .1Mera/Mary: LR July 25, 1888, US Sept 18, 1888 – June 5, 1968 LA
- .2Chana Beila/Anna: LR Nov 27, 1889, US Dec 12, 1891 – Nov 2, 1970 Chi
- .3Morduch Leib/Max (LR Nov 26, 1891, US Nov 18, 1892 – May 6, 1982 Chi
- .4Itka Zivja/Ida (US Sept 20, 1893 – Jan 5, 1981 S Dg
- .5Chaim/Hyman (LR April 7, 1895, US April 5, 1896 – April 1, 1967 LA
- .6Honon (LR June 19, 1897 – unk) – left as young adult and never heard from again .
- .7Echiel Siman/"Hilky" (LR June 20, 1899 – 1944 Riga
- .8Isaak/Isidore (LM Oct 14, 1901, US Oct 1, 1901 – Oct 17, 1990 NY
- .9Eliezer/Leo (US July 22, 1904 – July 16, 1980 Chi
- .10 twins b/dc 1907

Abram and Freida :

- .1Khasa Sora/ "Khasja" (LR Jan 18, 1917 – April 24, 2005 Kiryat Ata, Israel

Freida (daughter of Meyer and Riva Losev) and her first husband, Mendel Leib Dobrinsky :

1. David (LR March 15, 1905 Riebini – 1971 Israel

Street names changed when the language changed when the powers in charge changed .

In 1929 Isaak Cilevics lived at 17 Glabeju St, later called Aizsargu St, now called Seiles St.

This apt, in the Jewish Quarter, was where they moved until forced into the ghetto in Sept 1941, and then presumably killed at Rumbula.

Khasja survived because her husband was in the Red Army and she traveled into Russia. David survived but his family did not.

The Rumbula memorial has stones marking some family names, placed in the shape of the Star of David .

132Dzirnavu St, apt 5, Riga

Freida moved here in Oct 1940, after Abram died, since Khasja and David were both living in Riga. Echiel moved to the same apt with his wife and daughters in March 1941.

Here are a few pictures from my 2006 trip I thought you might find interesting.

This is the remains of the Choir Synagogue, built in 1871 and burned by the Germans with Jews inside on July 4, 1941. It was the largest synagogue in Riga.

The brown building is the pharmacy, which dates from 1890, so our family probably used it. Directly across the street (not in photo) is the poorest section of Rezekne, called "America".

Stork nests are very common. We saw several on the 3 hour drive from Riga to Rezekne.

There is a Museum of Rezekne. On the wall are some old photos of life at the turn of the century. Since they don't have a museum book, the best I could do was take pictures of the pictures! In the center background, you can just see the church steeples.

Mary and Sam Senter – Los Angeles

Mera/ Mary (LR July 25, 1888, US Sept 18, 1888 Rezekne – June 5, 1968 LA (Immig as Mary Chelevitz arrived Dec 15, 1905 on "Caledonia" from Glasgow to NY going to Uncle Sam Whitman in Pa., came alone .

Annie and Carl Ross – Chicago

Chana Beila/ Anna (LR Nov 27, 1889, US Dec 12, 1891 Rezekne – Nov 2, 1970 Chicago (Immig as Chane Cilesvics (misread, transcribed as Cilenrcz) arrived Sept 24, 1911 on "Neckar" from Bremen to NY, with Max, going to Chicago to Sam Senter .

Max and Becky Leavitt – Chicago

Morduch Leib / Max (LR Nov 26, 1891, US Nov 18, 1892 Rezekne – May 6, 1982 Chicago (Immig as Mordche Cilesvics (transcribed as Nordche Cilenrcz) arrived Sept 24, 1911 on "Neckar" from Bremen to NY, with Annie, going to Chicago to Sam Senter .

Ida and Louis Greenberg - Chicago

Itka Zivja / Ida (US Sept 20, 1893 Rezekne – Jan 5, 1981 San Diego (

Immig May 27, 1913 thru Canada to Pt Huron, Mich with Hymie .

Hymie and Helen Leavitt – Los Angeles

Chaim / Hyman (LR April 7, 1895, US April 5, 1896 – April 1, 1967 LA) Hillside Cem, LA

Immig May 1913 thru Canada and Mich with Ida

Izzy and Celia Leavitt – Brooklyn

Isaak / Isidore (US Oct 1, 1901 Rezekne – Oct 17, 1990 Bkl (

First immig as Isaak Zilewitz Jan 30, 1930 Hamburg to CapeTown, then

Immig as Isak Zilevitschs arr Oct 7, 1930 on “Majestic” Southampton to NY to brother-in-law

m. Rezekne Oct 20, 1923

Ceitke/Celia Gantzer (LR July 1, 1903 Ludza, Latvia – Jan 28, 1974 NY (

Immig as Zeitka Cilevics arr July 25, 1932, adm July 26, on “Bremen ”

from Bremen to NY to husband (and sister, mother in NY (

Izzy’s occupation – was tailor, then operated fish market

Rezekne marriage license of Izzy and Celia, Oct 1923

Leo and Mary Leavitt - Chicago

Eliezer / Leo (US July 22, 1904 Rezekne – July 16, 1980 Chicago (

Immig as Leiser Cilevic arrived Nov 30, 1922 on “Lituania ”

from Libau to NY going to Illinois to brother Max

Hilky and Roza Cilevics - Rezekne

Echiel Siman / “Hilky” (LR June 20, 1899 – 1944 Riga?) (he might have been doing labor (

mc 1919

Roza/Rebecca Serebro (c 1902 – Dec 1941 Riga (

Israel “Srol” (c 1921 – 1941 Rezekne (

Rachel (c 1925 – Dec 1941 Riga (

Mera (c 1929 – Dec 1941 Riga (

.Abram's sister – Zacher line – NY and Pa

(Chana / Anna Ethel (c Dec 1867/69 Rezekne – April 26, 1946 Pa

Immig as Chana Sachur arrived Nov 24, 1913 on "Carmania" from Liverpool to NY

(m. Chaim Benzion b. Joseph / Benjamin Zacher (c 1864 Vilani – March 29, 1930 NY

.Abram's sister – Whitman line – eastern Pa

Henne / Hannah Agnes (c 1871/73 Rezekne – Dec 31, 1943 Pa (

Immig as Henr. Gnese Wittmann arr June 12, 1895 on "Willehad" from Bremen to NY going to Phila .

m. June 1893 Shloima b. Iekhiel / Samuel Whitman b. Michael (c 1871 – June 7, 1932 NY (

Immig as Salamon Wittmann arr June 26, 1893 on "Lord Gough" from Liverpool to Phila. going to aunt

Why Pa? Family believes many Jews started businesses in the coal mining towns. Max Zacher was

on the Lackawanna train from NY to Scranton when it stopped at E. Stroudsburg. He liked the look of the

town so he got off and stayed there. Some of his cousins later joined him .

Abram's sister – Kavnat line – S. Africa

Reisa / Rose (c 1873 Rezekne – Nov 1, 1946 Johannesburg

m. Abraham Kavnat (18?? – 1938 Joh (.

immig to S. Africa prob. early 1900's

DOBE STOLBOV GANTZER

Dobe Stolbov was born 1874 as Riva, so either her name was Dobe Riva or Riva Dobe. The Latvian records show Riva but often first and middle names were used interchangeably .

Some records indicate she was born in Riebini, although she said Rezekne. Possibly both are correct, since Riebini was located within the Rezekne district. Her mother was Pesa

Entel b. Shmuil bc 1850 Rezekne, death uncited, but possibly between 1925-1930 (based on great-granddaughter's name). Her father was Itzhak b. Nachman b 1839 Riebini, died after 1900. Dobie died Feb 7, 1954 in Brooklyn ; cemetery records are under Dobie , gravestone says Dora Gantzer. She immigrated as Doba Gentzer (Gancers), arriving Dec 1931 , on "Bremen" from the port of Bremen, Germany, to be picked up by daughter Mary .

) Latvian archives/passport photo (

),(Doba had 3 children: Nachman Gancers who married Doba Serebro, Mary (Wasserman and Celia (Leavitt). In photo below baby Norman is son of Nachman and Doba, who came to USA as the only survivor in his family. His father died in an accident, his mother and two .younger sisters were killed in the Holocaust

Norman applied for citizenship in Aug 1943 while in the army in S.C. On the papers he wrote he was born Dec 12

as Naftolis Gancer, immigrated as Naftalijs Gancers on "Samaria" from Liverpool, (1922) .arriving Oct 1, 1938

back: unknown but possibly a niece of Dobie, Izzy Leavitt, Celia, Mary, Doba – 1923

front: Dobie, Norman, Nachman

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(1922)as Naftolis Gancer, immigrated as Naftalijs Gancers on "Samaria" from Liverpool, arriving Oct 1, 1938 .

Doba Serebro Gancers and her daughters Rocha and Pesa died 1941 .

Her son Norman came to US in Oct 1938. Celia and her daughter

Sylvia came to US in July 1932. Dobie came to US in Dec 1931. Celia's

.sister Mary came to US in 1923

1931 – Doba, Rocha, Pese, Norman, Dobie, Sylvia, Celia

in Rezekne 1924

