

SUSAN SCHLICHTING - Family KRASZEWICZ: The Translation of an Original Record

by Susan Schlichting

The following posts to and from the instructor for the Independent Study course (Nancy Holden) through the JewishGen Education portal tell the story of how my research was catapulted forward two generations and the information I gained led to the discovery of (possibly) three of my grandfather's siblings.

Topic: SUSAN SCHLICHTING - Family KRASZEWICZ

Posted: 09 July 2023

Introduction

I am researching the KRASZEWICZ family of Bialystok. The immigration of Sam and two sisters, Reisel and Beckie, can be traced to New York City. The NYC death certificate of Szmerl>Sam Krasowitz (1897-1931) shows his parents as Moishe and Chanie nee Cohen. Searching the Bialystok records, I found that Moishe and Chanie had two sons. The son, Pejsach, died as an infant.

Upon the translation of Szmerl's (Shmerel's) original birth record, it was learned that Moishe (Movsha) was a petty bourgeois from Velnyan and that his father's name was Abram. His mother's name was Khana-Ryva.

Bialystok PSA Births 1888-1905 Marriages 1887-1905 Deaths 1888-90,92-94,97-1900,02,05

Surname	Given Name	Year	Type	Akta	Father	Comments	Microfilm
					Mother	Extra Information	
KRASZEWICZ	Szmerel Mowszowicz	1896	B	32			

Notes: The JRI-PL record heading [CLICK HERE for the szukajwarchiwach site](#)

This link is the Polish State Archives (or PSA for short). Make a note of the year and Akta before you click on this link. The website is mainly in Polish with English subheadings. Note the Polish words for birth, *urodzen*; marriage, *malzenstw*; and death, *zgonow*.

I scrolled down the column labeled, "Border Dates," until I got to the row which had the dates of 1896-1896 with the name "Aktaurodzen za rok 1896." At the end of the row, it was stated that there were 235 digitized scans. Presumably, one of these scans had the original birth record.

I proceeded to browse through the thumbnails of the 235 scans. Each scanned record page was divided into several columns, their titles printed in *Cyrillic*. The rest of the scans contained the actual handwritten birth entries.

The first two columns (starting from the left margin) were key to finding the birth record. These two columns correspond to the tracking of births by sex. For instance, if the first child born in the year was a boy, then a number 1 was inserted in the male column. If the second child born in the year was a girl, then a "1" would be inserted in the female column. If the third child born in the year was a boy, then a "2" would be inserted in the male column, and so on. I used Google Translate to translate the Cyrillic headings to the two columns: the heading for the first column was *Мужской (males)*, and the header for the second column was *женского (females)*.

Armed with this understanding, I located Szmerel's birth record on the row with a 32 under the male column.

My next step was to get the birth record translated. I chose to post to [View Mate](#) on JewishGen. The process is supported with instructions. After you upload your image, create a translation request on the [JewishGen Discussion Board](#) with a link to an image that you uploaded to View Mate.

а) Книга для записки родившихся евреевъ на 1896 годъ.

ЧАСТЬ 1-я О РОДИВШИХСЯ

№	Кто совершилъ обрядъ обрѣзанія.		Число и мѣсяць рож-денія и обрѣзанія		Гдѣ ро-дился	Состояніе отца, имена отца и матери.	Кто родился и какое ему или ей дано имя.
	Мужскаго	Женскаго	Христіан-скій.	Еврей-скій			
32	"	Ш. Казаръ	14 21	Шванъ 18	Въ имп-ри Бѣлостокъ	Полякскій мѣщ. Мовца Абра-мовича Краше-вичъ, Хана-Ри-ва Мовшовна	Сынъ Ш. Шмерелъ Быв / ?

Date Posted: 17 July 2023

Hi Nancy,

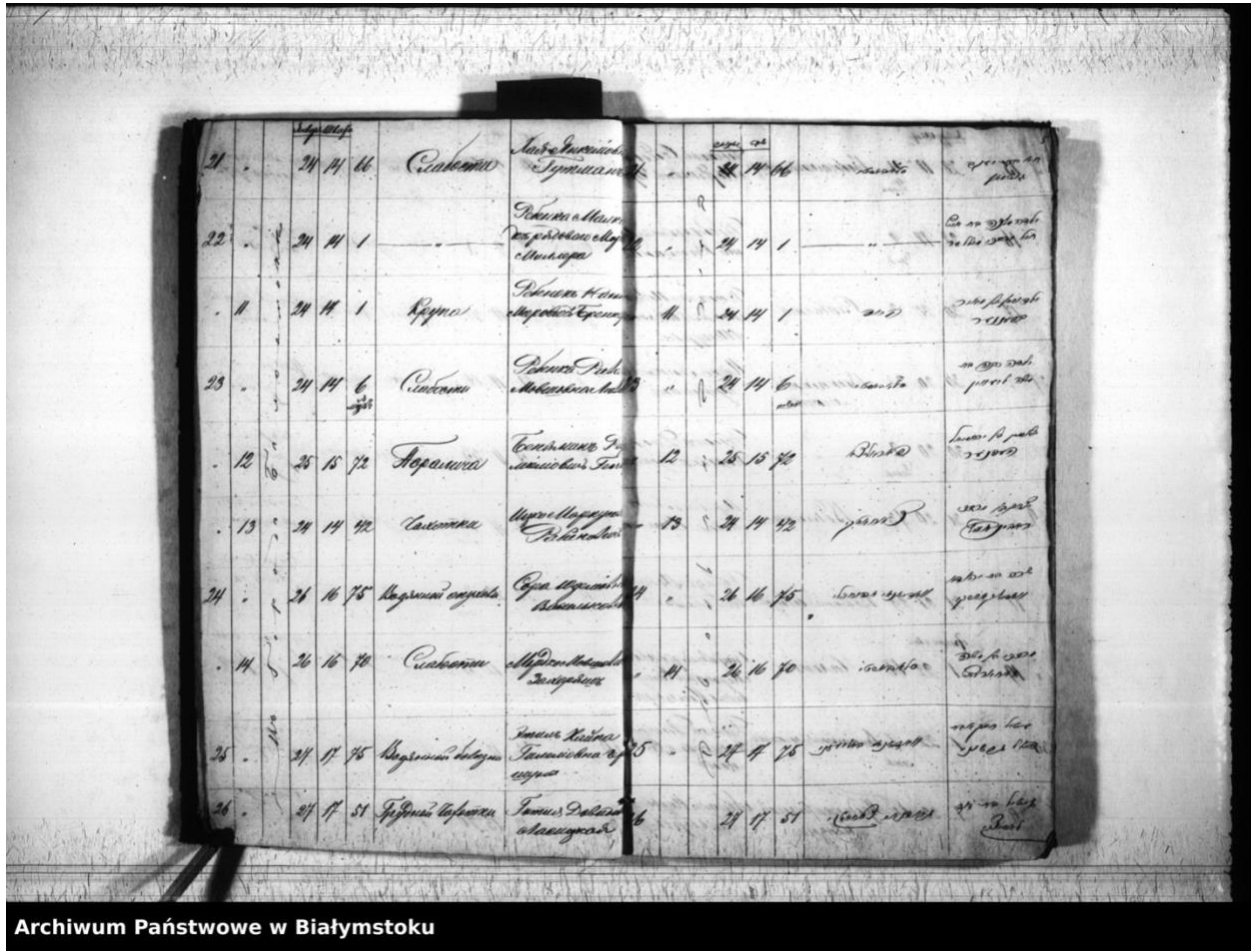
I received a response back from a translator for a record that I sent to View Mate. The translator said it was NOT a record for KRASZEWICZ. I don't know whether I made a mistake or the JRI-Poland link to the PSA is in error. I decided to run it by you to get your opinion. It was a Bialystok death record for Chackiel Krosewicz d1871 Akta 21M. Here is the JRI-Poland record:

KROSEWICZ Chackiel 1871 D 21M Abram 1191935

I found the record in Scan 7 of 19. Item 21M was at the top of the page. (I interpreted the M after the number 21 to mean that Chackiel was a male and therefore his record appears in the left most column) Separately I checked with Beider's Handbook of Askenazic Given Names, Index #3 Index to Male

Names in References to Latin Characters and confirmed that Chackiel is a form of Ikheskl and is indeed a male name.)

 Thanks, Susan



Posted By: administrator
 Date Posted: 17 July 2023

Susan

Isn't that 21 in the female col?

- Chaikel ben Abram is in the second col, which is the male col.

<https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/en/jednostka/-/jednostka/17474555>

scan 9 of 80

Have you tried using the Russian keyboard for translations?

<https://www.lexilogos.com/keyboard/russian.htm>

Stevemorse has one too

Then you have to put it into Google translate

 Nancy

Posted By: 907986

Date Posted: 17 July 2023

Nancy,

I see that the second column in your example is the male column, and in fact, Family Search has a Wiki instruction for Jewish columnar records in Russian that agrees with your assertion. On page 3, it specifically addresses the male and female columns for death records and I assume birth records follow the same format, male on the right and female on the left.

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/img_auth.php/b/be/1 - Instruction - Reading Jewish Death Records in Russian.pdf rel="nofollow –

BUT I am really confused. My very first submittal to View Mate was Shmerel's birth record and I found the record using the Akta in the left column. I also used the Akta number in the left column to locate Lejb's death record. The translators' responses confirmed with their translations that the records corresponding to the left columns were the correct ones.

а) Книга для записки родившихся евреевъ на 1896 годъ.

ЧАСТЬ 1-я О РОДИВШИХСЯ

№	Кто совершилъ обрядъ обрѣзанія.		Число и мѣсяць рожденія и обрѣзанія		Гдѣ родился	Состояніе отца, имена отца и матери.	Кто родился и какое ему или ей дано имя.
	Мужскаго	Женскаго	Христіанскій.	Еврейскій.			
32	"	Ш. Казаръ	14 21	Шванъ 11 18	Въ мѣстѣ Бобровъ	Родильскій мѣст. Мовца Абрамовъ Крамевъ, Жана-Рива Мовцовна	Сынъ Шмерель Годъ /?

71	"	"	"	"	53	Храмъ Божіе	Мовца Абрамовъ Крамевъ
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Notes:

1. Shmerel's birth record at Akta 32 (JRI-Poland entry after PSA record link): <https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/en/jednostka/-/jednostka/17474836> Scan 14 of 235

KRASZEWICZ Szmerel Mowszowicz 1896 B 32

Translation of the above PSA record: son Shmerel, born on Jan 14 (Shvat 11) 1896 in town Bielostok, circumcised by Sh. KATS on Jan 21 (Shvat 18), father petty bourgeois from Velnyan???(or Volnan), Movsha son of Abram KRASHEVICH and Khana-Riva d/o Movsha

2. Lejb's death record at Akta 71M (JRI-Poland entry after PSA record link)

<https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/en/jednostka/-/jednostka/17474859> Scan 24 of 141

KRASZEWICZ Lejb Abramowicz 1899 D 71M

Translation of the above PSA record: Leyb son of Abram, 53, of chronic bronchitis

Why do these two records use the Akt numbers in the left column when Szmerel and Lejb are both male?

Susan

Posted By: administrator

Date Posted: 18 July 2023

Well, I looked it up to make sure using the Shea-Hoffman Book

In Their Words Vol II Russian p 233

"A Jewish Columnar Birth record"

Not suggesting you buy it, but here is more about it

<https://fromshepherdsandshoemakers.com/2020/06/10/shea-and-hoffmans-russian-genealogical-translation-guide-is-now-available-as-an-e-book/>

Nancy

Posted By: 907986

Date Posted: 19 July 2023

Well, this has been weighing heavily on my mind as I didn't understand why I kept mistaking the male column for female and vice versa. I consulted Shea and Hoffman's *Following the Paper Trail* <https://www.avotaynu.com/books/FPT.htm> which has a much abbreviated section on Russian and there is a picture of a columnar Russian Orthodox birth certificate with detailed translation on page 196. Bottom line is that for whatever reason sometimes the columns are switched and they were male left/female right for my mgf Shmerel's birth record. Here is the excerpt from Shea's book that I consulted which shows the reverse of the Jewish Columnar Birth Record you are citing above. [See photo of page below.] Now I have learned to decipher the two Russian words (if they are printed as opposed to handwritten) that mean male and female under the heading of Birth Number.

It is hard enough to begin trying to translate Russian documents without the added complication of deciphering non-standard characters and scrawled handwriting; so here is a rendering of the material on pages 2 and 3 of the document in standardized typeface and cursive.

ВЫПИСЬ ИЗЪ МЕТРИЧЕСКОЙ КНИГИ. ЧАСТЬ ПЕРВАА Ѡ РОДИВШИХСА за 1915 годъ.							
Счетъ родившихся		Мѣсяцъ и день		Имена Родившихся	Званіе, имя, отчество и фамиліа родителей, и какого вѣроисповеданія	Званіе, имя, отчество и фамиліа восприемниковъ	Кто совершилъ таинство крещенія
Мужска пола	Женска пола	рожденія	крещенія				
2		Января 11 17		Владиміръ	Виленьской губерніи, Виленьскаго уѣзда, деревни Нахомова крестьянинъ Федоръ Антоновичъ Силявка и его законная жена Анастасія Георгіевна оба православные	Александръ Михайловичъ Микулічъ и Сусанна Матфеевна Кордикъ	Священникъ Евгеній Крышановскій съ псаломщикомъ Димитріемъ Слуцкиемъ

Что сія коп[ія съ подлиннымъ] актомъ вѣрна, бѣ томъ подписомъ и приложеніемъ церковной печати удостоверяю.
Г. Авлонія, Волн. У.С.А., мѣсяца Января 24го дня, 1917 года. № 4.

The top line, ВЫПИСЬ ИЗЪ МЕТРИЧЕСКОЙ КНИГИ, ЧАСТЬ ПЕРВАА, Ѡ РОДИВШИХСА, ЗА 1915 ГОДЪ, says exactly the same thing as the first line on the cover page, but the Old Church Slavonic type-style may make it hard to recognize. Remember that the "А" is the same as modern "Я," and "Ѡ" is the same as modern "О." So this simply means "Extract from the Registry Book, Part One, of Births, for the Year 1915." Here is a breakdown of the contents of the entry by columnar heading.
Счетъ родившихся: Мужска пола 2 / женска пола — "Number of the births: Male sex, 2 / Female sex —." The number of births for each sex was recording in this column. In this case the bearer of the document was the [unclear] in 1915. Incidentally, this usage is not standard Russian, by which "of the

Susan

Summary Conclusion

Translating an original birth record can reap big rewards in searching for clues to your ancestors' life stories. I know it did for me when researching my maternal grandfather, Szmerel, from Bialystok.

Translation of this one record provided me with:

- His (original) given name
- The given names of his father, mother, and paternal and maternal grandfathers
- The town and social class of his father

The most important lesson that I learned from this experience? Be sure to check the column headings on columnar records to confirm which column represents which gender. In Russian, the word for male is **Мужской**, for female it's **Женского**. (When you are interpreting records written in the Polish language, the word for male in Polish is **Męskiej**, for female it's **Zenskiej**.)