What are Russian Revision Lists?
A Ukraine SIG InfoSheet
Ronald D. Doctor, Coordinator, Ukraine SIG
24 March 2012

Background

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 18th and 19th centuries. The first list was created in the years 1719-1721. Subsequent Lists were in 1743-1747, 1761-1767, 1781-1782, 1794-1795, 1811, 1833-1834, 1850-1851, and 1857-1859. Supplements were taken in intermediate years, most notably 1806, 1816-1817, and 1874. These censuses were compiled on a district (uyezd or powiat)-wide basis. They include records for residents of the major towns (and many minor towns) of the district.

When Poland was partitioned in the 1790s, parts of western Ukraine became part of the Russian Empire. In these areas Revision List activity began with the 5th Revision of 1794-1795 and its 1806 Supplement. Each 5th Revision List record in the formerly Polish areas is recorded in Polish and in old Russian. Many revision lists survived through the years. They may be stored in regional State Archives and/or in historical museums. They are accessible to researchers.

The Mormons have microfilmed many Revision Lists for districts throughout Ukraine. Search the LDS Family History Library Catalog to learn whether or not there are revision list microfilms for your town's district. Here is a typical catalog entry for Revision Lists from the Kremenets district in Volhynia province, which are stored in the Ternopil State Archives.. It is for 54 microfilm reels containing data from the Lists and Supplements between 1811 and 1874. Reels:

> *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 Lists for each year are arranged successively by town name, social/economic class, and the order in which households were recorded. Each town usually begins with a title page and ends with an "attestation" or "end of section" page that may be a single paragraph. Each "social/economic class" usually is indicated clearly, written larger than the surrounding text and centered in the record. Each double page (household males on the

left page, females on the right page) is numbered. Most revision lists I've seen typically have 3 to 6 records per page (sometimes 10 or more). Each record typically has 3 to 6 names, often more. I usually assume 10 names per page (including patronymics), conservatively. Some pages will be duplicates. Some will be text. Some will be short pages with "attestations" that the recorded information is accurate. Those attestations usually include signatures of town leaders and/or rabbis. The first microfilm reel sometimes includes an "index" that identifies which social classes are on the 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. The problem for us is that the revision lists record both Jews and non-Jews. The good news is that the Jewish records usually are in coherent groups rather than scattered individually. To identify the Jewish records it is necessary to scroll through the microfilms, frame-by-frame. It helps to start with the Index (if there is one) on the first reel of microfilm to identify 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. Next you have to browse through each of the selected microfilm reels, identifying the page numbers that contain Jewish households in the "most likely" social classes. It is fairly easy to identify a Jewish household. If you see given names like Peter, Pavel, Ivan, Anton, etc, the household most likely was not Jewish. If the names were Yakov, Abrum, Menachem, Itsko, etc. the household probably was Jewish (although the name Yakov appears in non-Jewish households as well.).

For Kremenets, we reduced the 54 microfilm reels to the 15 that most likely contain Jewish records. The following list of microfilm reels containing Jewish households is pretty typical of what you may find for your town. We have added page numbers to show you how the Jewish households are distributed across the microfilms.

- FHL INTL Film 2376396, Item 1. Contains Index to record group 37, series 2.
- FHL INTL Film 2376396, Delo 150, pp. 43-61 (end). **7th Revision** 1816, 16 Sep 1811 – 11 Dec 1811. Kremenets district villages. Includes peasants, merchants, townsmen, & artisans
- FHL INTL Film 2375506, Delo 150, pp. 61-147. **7th Revision** 1816, 16 Sep 1811 – 11 Dec 1811. Kremenets district villages. Includes peasants, merchants, townsmen, & artisans. Note: pp 148-154 are not Jewish households.
- 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, Vyshgorodok.
- 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, and Vyshgorodok.
- FHL INTL Film 2213482, Delo 166, pages 118 (beginning) to 623, **7th Revision**, 1816–1823
- FHL INTL Film 2213486, Delo 169, part 2, pages 1-805, **8th Revision**, 1834-1849, Kremenets, Radyvyliv and Katerburg.
- FHL INTL Film 2213487, Delo 169 (cont'd), part 1 (entire reel), pages 805-1656 (end), **8th Revision**, 1834-1849, Kremenets, Katerburg, Vishnevets, Vyshgorodok, Shumsk, Lanovtsy, Yampol, and Oleksinets.
- FHL INTL Film 2234586, Delo 169 (cont'd), part 1, pages 1656-1884 (end of part 1), **8th Revision**, 1834-1849, Kremenets, Katerburg, Vishnevets, Vyshgorodok, Shumsk, Lanovtsy, Yampol, and Oleksinets.
- 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 2346519, Delo 191, pages 391-711, 1850-1856; and Delo 192, pages 1-19, 10th Revision, 1858.
- FHL INTL Film 2270317, Delo 198, pages 1-334 (end), 10th 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), **10th Revision**, 1 May 1858 - 1 Aug 1860.
- FHL INTL Film 2269548, Delo 198, pages 1220-1814 (near end), **10th Revision**, 1 May 1858 - 1 Aug 1860.
- FHL INTL Film 2269549, Delo 199, pages 620-723, 733-839, **10th Revision**, 23 Aug 1862 – 24 Mar 1869.

We estimate that these films have almost 20,000 microfilm frames containing more than 60,000 records. I expect this will yield 150,000 to 250,000 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.

How can I obtain revision list records for my district?

The microfilms I described above are from the LDS Family History Library (FHL). In addition, the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (at Hebrew University in Jerusalem) has begun projects to obtain revision list records from archives in Central Europe. Contact them to find out if these records are available for your district.

You can obtain the FHL records by ordering the reels at any LDS Family History Center or, in person, at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The FHL has microfilm scanners throughout the Library. (Many Family History Centers also have microfilm scanners.) Once you have located your records on the microfilm reel, you can copy them to a portable hard

drive or to a USB drive, one frame at a time. This is an incredibly tedious task, but the payoff is very much worthwhile.

Now you begin the task of translating and indexing the Revision List records. You will need volunteers to help on this project.

- First, if you cannot fill the role of Project Manager, you will have to find someone willing to take on that job. The Project Manager will be to organize the translation effort, to manage the translators (volunteers and/or professionals) and volunteer proofreaders, and to keep track of translation assignments. You should be able to use Excel or another spreadsheet and be able to upload and download files via the Internet. An ability to read Cyrillic handwriting (or to develop that ability) is desirable, but not essential.

- You need proofreaders for the translated data to be sure that name entries and other data are correct and complete. Proofreaders should be able to read, but not necessarily translate, 19th century Russian handwriting. They also must be willing to follow our transliteration guidelines for the spelling of given names and surnames. And, they should have some very basic skills in using Excel since you will be working with Excel spreadsheets. Translation skill is a bonus, but not essential. We have developed a list of keywords and phrases that occur repeatedly in the Revision Lists. This will help them proofread the records.

Once you have translated and proofread your records, you, or a volunteer, will format the translation spreadsheet so that it can be submitted to the JewishGen Ukraine Database. You also will use it to prepare another spreadsheet for posting in the Ukraine SIG Master Name Index. We will help you with both of these tasks.

If you wish, Ukraine SIG will provide guidance and assistance as you develop your revision list project. We have volunteer translators and volunteers skilled in using Excel. We can help you create a JewishGen Ukraine SIG Fundraising Project to raise funds that may be necessary to acquire revision lists on disk and to pay professional translators. All you have to do is get the project initiated and oversee it.

If you have any questions, please contact me or any other Ukraine SIG Board Member.

Ron

Ron Doctor (rddpdx@gmail.com)
Coordinator, JewishGen Ukraine SIG
www.jewishgen.org/Ukraine
where Jewish genealogy is personal

Researching DOCTOR (DIOKHTER), VARER, AVERBAKH, KORENFELD ... all from Kremenets, Oleksinets, Yampol, Vishnevets

and KAZDOY (KOSODOY), DUBINSKI, DUBOWSKY ... all from Kiev, Uman, Odessa