

Be Fruitful and Multiply

*A Family Tree and History of the
Rubenstein Family*

*as compiled by Jere Friedman
January, 1989*

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A FAMILY TREE AND HISTORY OF THE RUBENSTEIN FAMILY

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This family tree is more than just a compilation of names and dates connected by lines. These charts represent the unique history of the Rubenstein family over what is now nearly 150 years. Starting with the birth of two people in the early 1840's, we can now count some 330 living relations on these pages. There may well be more.

These charts are but a glimpse into the recent history of our family. They whisper to us of our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and ourselves, struggling and suffering the hardships of life in the shtetls of Eastern Europe. We may get a glimpse of the long and difficult journey to America. We begin to sense the accomplishment of building successful new lives in this country.

It is my hope that everyone who studies this family tree will find it to be a source of joy and inspiration, as I have. Inspiration to know that our family is descended from such upright and hardy stock. And joy in the discovery of so many new and wonderful people that we can now embrace once again as "family".

With so many people included in this family, it is impossible for me to print and mail a copy to each household listed in the directory I've included. If you have received a copy, please be sure to make copies and share them with everyone in your immediate family. I hope that everyone will save this Family Tree and pass on a copy to each child as he or she begins a family of his or her own.

Thou Shalt Teach Them Diligently Unto Thy Children Deuteronomy 6:7

Why am I doing this?

Almost everyone that I have spoken to about this Family Tree project has asked me how and why I got involved in it. The reasons are as follows:

When my own children were born, I began to feel a connection to my parents and grandparents that I had never experienced before. I began to consider how my grandparents and their parents had found it necessary to leave their homes in Russia, and undertake the difficult journey to America. They arrived here with little money, few possessions, no jobs, and unable to speak English. Everything that they did in coming here, and all they did once they were here, was so that their children and grandchildren, and now my own children and their children to follow, wouldn't have to suffer the hardships that they had endured.

My grandparents all passed away long before my children were born. I began to realize what a terrible sin it would be if my son and daughter never knew the story of their ancestors--what wonderful people they were, and what a humble yet courageous people we are. So, inspired by both my own fascination and curiosity about my heritage, and an almost urgent desire to assemble some record to share with those now living and those yet unborn, I began to reconstruct a Family Tree for all four of my grandparents' families. This Rubenstein Family Tree is the second of four that I will make.

What you have before you now is only a step along the way. It is a story only partially told, and even more so, still very much in the making.

I DEDICATE THIS PROJECT TO MY CHILDREN JONAH AND TALITHA;
TO THEIR ENTIRE GENERATION;
AND TO THE GENERATIONS YET TO COME.

How To Use The Charts

The format that I have used is not the standard type of form employed by genealogists. Their chart starts with an individual and traces back his parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc., as far as possible. While this type of form is technically more correct for tracing an individual's lineage, I wanted to use a layout that would show us, more-or-less at a glance, just how we are related to one another in a family as large and complex as the Rubensteins'.

So, to begin: If you will look to the very left on the large fold-out sheet, you will see the names of Meyer and Frances Rubenstein. This is as far as I have been able to trace our roots to this date. Meyer and Fruma had 7 children: Leah, Chava, Moishe (Morris), Lazer (Louis), Jacob, Shava, and Frank. (At least 7--you may note that there was a difference of 25 years between Leah and Frank. There may well have been other pregnancies or children that did not survive.) The children of each of these seven is listed, from top to bottom in order of birth, on the right side of this fold-out sheet. The children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of this generation are shown in the same manner on the individual pages referred to beside each name on the right side of the fold-out sheet.

AN EXAMPLE: Meyer and Fruma's oldest child, Leah, married Mendel Greenberg and had 8 children that lived. Leah and Mendel's third child, Annie, married Abraham Stein. Now, refer to Page 3 of the additional charts and you will see that Abe and Annie had a daughter Sarah and a son Melvin (Buddy). Sarah married Aaron Friedman and they had four sons. I am Jere, the youngest, and you can see that I have two children, Jonah and Talitha. Aaron and Sarah are my parents, Annie and Abe my grandparents, Leah and Mendel my great-grandparents, and Meyer and Fruma are my great-great-grandparents!

Now that you know who I am, you can use the chart to locate your family and the rest of the Rubensteins as you read about our family history.

A FEW NOTES ON USING THE CHARTS:

BLOODLINE: On this chart, Rubenstein blood relatives are always listed on the top of a line, their spouse below (designated by "m." for "married to"). Of course, Meyer and Fruma are blood relatives to every Rubenstein descendant. And of course, your own parents, grandparents, etc., are all blood relatives to you in your particular branch of the family. But it is through the Rubenstein blood-line that everyone on this tree is related to one another.

ABOUT DIVORCE: The chart gets a little complicated when there was a marriage that results in children, and then a divorce. The successive spouses are listed as "m.1.", "m.2.", etc., with "(div.)" after the names of those who were divorced. If there were children, the charts should be read as per the following examples:

(1) Rubenstein : Rubenstein and Spouse are divorced,
m. Spouse (div.) : Rubenstein did not remarry.

(2) Rubenstein : Child
m.1. Spouse #1 (div.) : Rubenstein and Spouse #1 had a
m.2. Spouse #2 : child, divorced. Rubenstein
remarried, no children by Spouse #2.

(3) Rubenstein : Child A
m. Spouse #1 (div.) : Rubenstein had Child A by Spouse #1,
(Rubenstein) : divorced. Married to Spouse #2,
m. Spouse #2 : Rubenstein and Spouse #2 had Child B.

(4) Rubenstein : Rubenstein married and divorced
m.1. Spouse #1 (div.) : Spouse #1, no children. Married
(Rubenstein) : and had a child by Spouse #2.
m.2. Spouse #2 :
: Child

HOW TO USE THE CHARTS (cont.)

Obviously there can be any number of combinations of these examples. I realize that this arrangement is somewhat awkward, but it is the best way that I can see to delineate some complicated sequences of marriage and divorce.

In many cases there were marriages and divorces that did not result in offspring. Since my primary objective is genealogical, and not to air "dirty laundry", many of these marriages were not listed since there was no point in including those spouses' names when there were no descendants from the marriage.

ABOUT ADOPTION For the purposes of this Family Tree, all adoptees and their offspring are considered to be blood relations.

CHILD BY PREVIOUS MARRIAGE Where a Rubenstein has married a spouse who has a child by a previous marriage, it is so noted under the spouse's name.

WHAT IS YOUR EXACT RELATIONSHIP TO ALL THESE PEOPLE? At the end of this introductory section is a chart that explains how you can determine whether someone else on the Family Tree is your first, second, third, etc. cousin, your first cousin once removed, or whatever. I hope this page is self-explanatory, but if you are still confused just give me a call.

A Good Name Is Better To Be Chosen Than Great Riches

Proverbs 22:1

ABOUT JEWISH NAMES:

The name "Rubenstein" was probably pronounced more like "Roibenshtein" in the old country. It was Americanized like so many other names that were considered unpronounceable when the immigrants entered this country. Likewise, the name Greenberg or Greenburg was originally pronounced "Grünberg". I have tried to spell names authentically and consistently as much as possible.

In Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jewish tradition, a child is named after a deceased relative, both to honor the ancestor and, hopefully, to bestow the good qualities of the ancestor upon the child. If we note that Frances is the English name for Fruma, and Evelyn is the English of Chava, notice how many times Meyer, Frances, Evelyn, Rose, Louis, and other names reoccur in the Family Tree.

Some Final Notes

I would first like to thank the many, many people who helped me put together this immense Family Tree. It would be difficult to list everyone who had a part in this project. I probably spoke with a hundred or more of the people listed on these charts. In this way I was able to get all of the details for each family. Since I don't want to inadvertently leave someone out, I will just say that "You know who you are", and "Thank you very, very much". Your interest and enthusiasm for this project was very encouraging to me as the tree grew and grew.

There are a few individuals in particular, however, that I much acknowledge. First I must thank my mother, Sarah, my uncle, Buddy (Melvin), and our cousin, Irene Kay, all of whom were tremendous sources of information, ideas, and names of other people to call as the project progressed. Next, a special thanks to my brothers Murray and Lenny, who had the wisdom to make a tape recording of our grandmother Annie Stein before she passed away. Also, they made a tape, along with Uncle Buddy, of Aunt Selma, which was extremely informative about the early history of the Greenbergs in America. Then there is an extra-special thank you to Irene and Paul Rubenstein, who made several tapes of Paul's father Jake in 1978, '79, and '80.

Jake was a wonderfully cheerful and pleasant man who possessed a good memory, and these tapes were especially informative about our family's life in the "old country".

I also want to thank Steve Fass for the beautiful calligraphy titles and headings that he so graciously prepared. It seems that Steve has become the unofficial family calligrapher of late.

Please realize that it is impossible to absorb all of this information in one sitting. With so many different characters, so many similar names, and such a span of time, one's head begins to swim after a while. I have been working on this project since last June and I still have to refer to the chart often to be sure of exactly who I am talking about. Use the charts, directory, and history section in conjunction with each other and in time a pattern and flow will emerge--it's a wonderful story.

About the Holocaust: It appears that the Rubenstein family was remarkably fortunate to have escaped Europe nearly intact before WWII. Right now we are only unsure of the fate of two of Chava's daughters and their families. However, even if none of the Rubenstein family was lost in the Holocaust, we certainly cannot say that we were untouched by the Nazi atrocities. Six million of our family were exterminated--let us never forget that. I include here some sobering thoughts for you to consider:

The one million Jewish children murdered in the Nazi holocaust died not because of their faith, nor in spite of their faith, nor for reasons unrelated to faith. They were murdered because of the faith of their great-grandparents. Had these great-grandparents abandoned their Jewish faith, and failed to bring up Jewish children, then their fourth-generation descendants might have been among the Nazi executioners, but not among their Jewish victims. Like Abraham of old, European Jews sometime in the mid-nineteenth century offered a human sacrifice, by the mere minimal commitment to the Jewish faith of bringing up Jewish children. But unlike Abraham they did not know what they were doing, and there was no reprove. This is the brute fact which makes all comparisons odious or irrelevant. This is the scandal of the particularity of Auschwitz which, once faced by the Jewish believer, threatens total despair.

Mid-nineteenth century European Jews did not know the effects of their actions upon their remote descendants when they remained faithful to Judaism and raised Jewish children. What if they had known? Could they have remained faithful? Should they? And what of us who know, when we consider the possibility of a second Auschwitz three generations hence. (Which would we rather have our great-grandchildren be --victims, or bystanders and executioners?) Yet for us to cease to be Jews (and to cease to bring up Jewish children) would be to abandon our millennial post as witnesses to the God of History.

--EMIL L. FACKENHEIM

SOME FINAL NOTES (cont.)

In the section on our family history you will note that perhaps I have given more attention to the story of my immediate family than the stories of some of the other branches of the Rubenstein family. This is true for a couple of obvious reasons: I am most concerned with and interested in my immediate family, and I am in closest contact with the sources of that information. However, I am certainly interested in more information about the other Rubenstein families. I would be delighted to receive phone calls, letters, or tape recorded versions of stories that can help expand upon our family history.

In relating these old family stories, the question arises as to the accuracy of some of the tales. Memories falter, some people tend to exaggerate the importance of people or events as they elaborate details, etc. I have taken the attitude that for all practical purposes the stories should be taken as true. Certainly they are at least rooted in the truth, and who is left to dispute them otherwise? At this point in time, what difference does it make? What is important is that the memories be preserved.

Obviously in a project of this size there will be numerous errors, inaccuracies and omissions. I must depend upon you to look over this Tree carefully and call my attention to any and all discrepancies. Many of the dates are educated guesses, and you may be able to help pinpoint them more accurately. Check your old family records: birth and death certificates, marriage licenses or ketubahs, citizenship papers, synagogue records. In fact, I would welcome photocopies of these, to correct or verify the information, and to compile a collection of such records.

Along with photocopies of family papers, I am also very interested in assembling a collection of family photographs. You may have extra copies of old photographs that you can send, or you may wish to have copies made for others in your immediate family and an extra to send to me. Another alternative is that I have a camera set-up that I use to make copy negatives of old photographs (I have already done so with many old photos of the Greenberg family). If you are willing to trust the U.S. Postal Service to carry it, I promise that I will return your photos promptly and in good condition. Either way, just be sure to label who is in each photo, either lightly on the back, or on a separate sheet.

Next, PLEASE KEEP ME POSTED ON ANY AND ALL CHANGES as they occur: marriages, births, deaths, change of address or occupation, etc. In the meantime, I will continue to do research into our family's past and will hopefully make some new discoveries. I will try to publish and distribute an update periodically---perhaps once or twice a year.

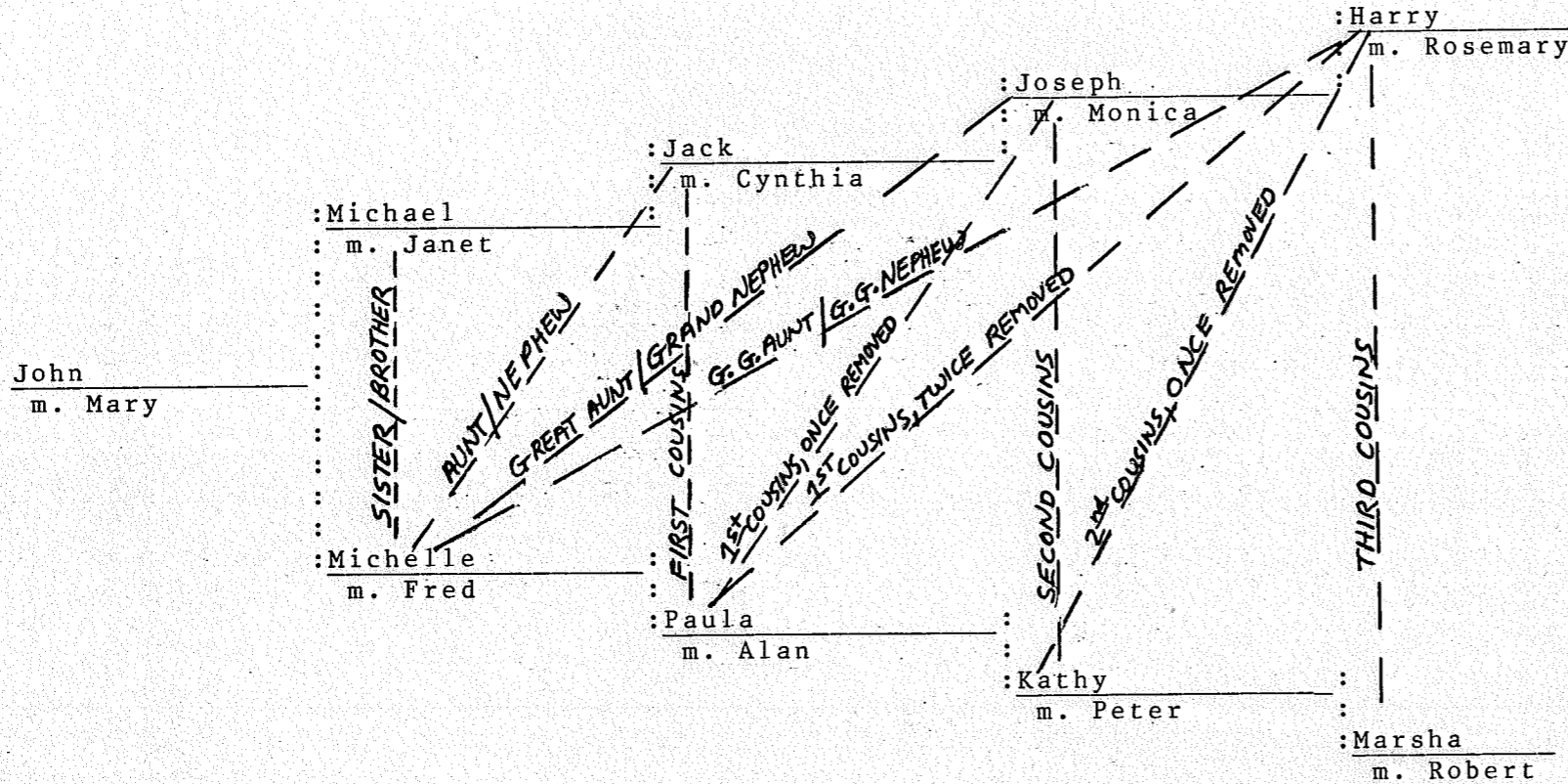
Each of us has two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, etc. The Rubenstein Family Tree represents only one major branch of lineage for each person included. I would like to encourage every family to take the time to construct a tree for all the other ancestors who did their share to bring you into this world. Our family and cultural heritage is a wonderful gift that was bought for us by long hard toil, hardship and suffering, sacrifice, and love of Torah. The least we can do is preserve the memory of our loved ones so that we can pass it on to future generations. The more we learn about our past, the better we can come to know ourselves.

A book that I found very useful in preparing this Family Tree is From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History by Arthur Kurzweil, Schocken Books, 1982. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have about doing your own family tree.

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January, 1989

WHO'S WHO ON THE FAMILY TREE




USE THIS CHART TO SEE HOW YOU'RE RELATED TO EVERYONE ELSE ON OUR FAMILY TREE

This is a fictitious family tree for the "Schwartz" family, to explain in simple terms everyone's relationship with one another. John and Mary have two children, Michael and Michelle. Michael and Janet have one son Jack, while Michelle and Fred have one daughter, Paula. Michael is Paula's uncle, Michelle is Jack's aunt, and Paula and Jack are FIRST COUSINS. Jack and Cynthia have a son, Joseph, who becomes: 1) Michelle's GRAND-NEPHEW (Michelle is Joseph's GREAT-AUNT or GRAND-AUNT), and 2) Paula's FIRST COUSIN, ONCE REMOVED. Paula and Alan's daughter Kathy is: 1) Michael's GRAND-NEICE (Michael is her GREAT-UNCLE or GRAND-UNCLE), and 2) Jack's FIRST COUSIN, ONCE REMOVED. Joseph and Kathy are SECOND COUSINS. Joseph and Monica have a son, Harry, who is: 1) Michelle's GREAT-GRAND-NEPHEW, 2) Paula's FIRST COUSIN, TWICE REMOVED, and Kathy's SECOND COUSIN, ONCE REMOVED. Harry and Marsha are THIRD COUSINS. Marsha is: 1) Michael's GREAT-GRAND-NEICE, 2) Jack's FIRST COUSIN TWICE REMOVED, and 3) Joseph's SECOND COUSIN, ONCE REMOVED. Simple, isn't it?

Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother

Deuteronomy 5:16

 WHERE ARE WE FROM?

The Rubenstein family lived in and around a village named Verbovitz (Berbovitz?), which was near a larger town named Kamenets-Podolskiy, in or near an area called Bessarabia, all of which is part of the Ukraine region of what is today the Soviet Union. During the time our ancestors lived there, Bessarabia was a part of Tsarist Russia. On the next two pages I have included two maps. The first shows a general perspective of Western and Eastern Europe, with Bessarabia highlighted so that you can see that it is north of the Black Sea and between the Prut and Dnestr Rivers. The second map is a close-up of the area, and you can see that Kamenets-Podolskiy is approximately 240 miles northwest of Odessa, 210 miles southwest of Kiev, and 300 miles north of Bucharest, Romania. (Those in my immediate family will note that it is 175 miles from Belay Cerkov, near Kiev, which is where Abe Stein was from.) All distances are "as the crow flies". It would have been much further for those travelling by foot or horse.

Some other towns have been mentioned by various relatives. Annie Stein and Selma Oritt said that the Greenberg family lived in or near Zamehav, near Kamenets-Podolskiy. Evelyn Berger said that Chava and Kiba Greenberg lived on a Duke's estate in or near the town of Yedenitz (sp?), which was also near Kamenets-Podolskiy and the towns of Terebna (sp?) and Brechen (sp?), in Bessarabia.

This area is very near the border of both Romania and a region known as Galacia, which was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. (Galacia is now part of the Ukrainian S.S.R.) Louis Greenberg used to tell his daughter Madelyn that he would sometimes swim across the Prut River into Romania. When our ancestors left their homes to come to the U.S. they would have to cross the Prut or Dnestr Rivers into Romania or Galacia, and make their way across Europe to Bremen, Germany, to get on a ship to the U.S. As you can see by looking at the map, this was a considerable distance in a time when the only transportation was by foot, horse or railroad.

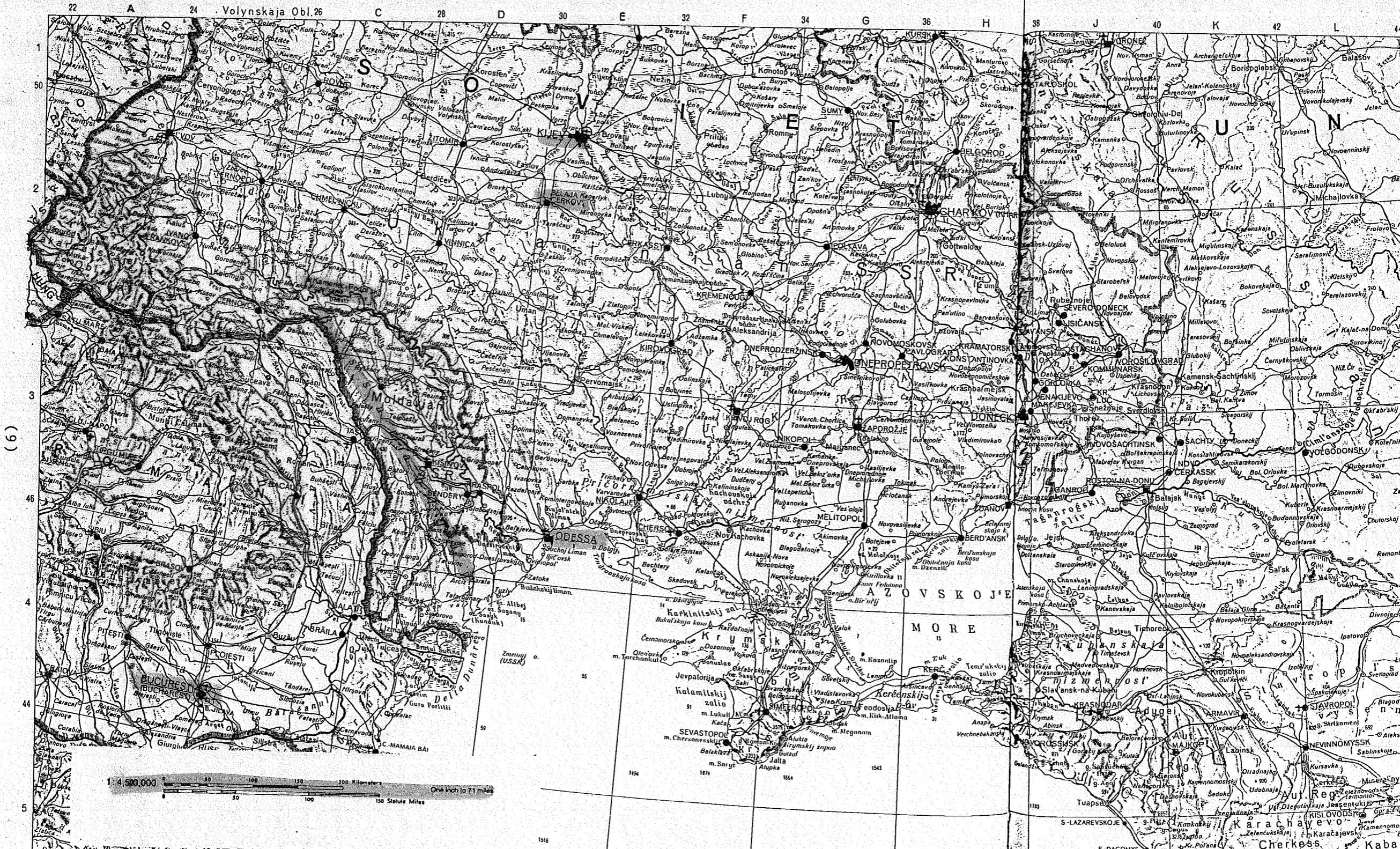
After the devastation of World War II, many groups of "landsmann" (people from the same town or village) got together and wrote "Memorial Books" to commemorate the memory of those villages destroyed in the Holocaust. These books describe the town, its people, and the way of life there, often with photographs and accounts of the families and people who lived there. Kamenets-Podolskiy is still on the map, so it may not have been destroyed, but it may be safe to assume that most or all of its Jewish population left (as did most of the Rubensteins) or were killed or driven off by pogroms or the Nazis. I have located numerous Memorial Books for Kamenets-Podolskiy. Unfortunately, all but one are written in either Hebrew or Yiddish. The title of the one in English is Kamenets-Podolsk; a memorial to a Jewish community annihilated by the Nazis in 1941; edited by Leon S. Blatman, New York, 1966. This book is located in the Jewish Division of the New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd St. If any of you are able to visit this library and examine this book, please let me know what you find.

I have included copies of several listings from the New Encyclopedica Britannica about this region, which give some details about its history and geography. Keep in mind that rulers, empires and borders changed often over the centuries, but the people who lived in these places had to endure and make their living day by day.



(8)

1:13,500,000
0 100 200 300 400 500 Kilometers
0 100 200 300 400 500 Statute Miles
One inch to 213 miles



(6)

1:4,500,000
0 50 100 150 200 Kilometers
0 50 100 150 Statute Miles
One inch to 71 miles

Bessarabia, Russian BESSARABIYA, Romanian BASARABIA, Turkish BESARABYA, region in eastern Europe that passed successively, during the 15th to 20th century, to Moldavia, the Ottoman Empire, Russia, Romania, and the Soviet Union. It is bounded physically by the Prut River on the west, the Dnestr (Dniester) on the north and east, the Black Sea on the southeast, and the Kiliya (Chilia) arm of the Danube delta on the south. Bessarabia borders Bukovina (an area divided in 1947 between Romania and the U.S.S.R.), Romanian Moldavia, the Ukraine, and Dobruja (an area on the Black Sea divided in 1940 between Romania and Bulgaria).

Although the early history of Bessarabia is obscure, it is known that Greek colonies were founded along its Black Sea coast (7th century BC) and that it was probably included in the kingdom of Dacia (2nd century AD). The Slavs began to enter the area in the 6th century, but their settlement was interrupted by invasions of other peoples from the East (ending with the Mongol invasion in the 13th century).



Bessarabia

At the end of the 14th century the southern portion of the region became part of Walachia (the name Bessarabia probably is derived from the Walachian dynasty Basarab); and in the 15th century the entire province was incorporated into the principality of Moldavia. Shortly thereafter the Turks invaded and captured Akkerman and Chilia (1484) and annexed the southern portion of Bessarabia, dividing it into two *sancaks* (districts) of the Ottoman Empire. The remainder of Bessarabia fell under Turkish domination when Moldavia submitted to the Turks in the 16th century. The region remained under Turkish control until the 19th century.

Then Russia, whose interest in the area had developed during the 18th century (it had occupied the region five times between 1711 and 1812), acquired Bessarabia and half of Moldavia (Treaty of Bucharest, 1812). The name Bessarabia was applied to the entire region. Russia retained control of the region until World War I (with the exception of a strip of southern Bessarabia, which was in Moldavia's possession from 1856 to 1878). During the beginning of the 19th century Russia granted Bessarabia autonomy (1818-28) and allowed it a Moldavian governor and archbishop. But by the end of the century, Russification in both the civil and ecclesiastical administrations was the dominant policy.

A nationalist movement developed in Bessarabia after the Russian Revolution of 1905; and in November 1917 (after the Russian revolutions of 1917) a council (*sfatul țării*) was established. It declared Bessarabia's independence on Jan. 24, 1918, and voted to unite with Romania in December. The Treaty of Paris (Oct. 28, 1920) confirmed this union, but the Soviet Union never recognized Romania's right to the province. After the German-Soviet Treaty of Nonaggression was signed (Aug. 23, 1939), the Soviet Union demanded (June 26, 1940) that Romania cede Bessarabia and the northern portion of Bukovina. The Romanian government complied; Soviet troops entered the region on June 28. In August 1940 the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic was created out of the central districts of Bessarabia and a strip of Ukrainian territory on the other side of the Dnestr; Kishinev became its capital. The northern region of Bessarabia (Khotin) and the coastal plain from the Danube to the Dnestr were incorporated into the Ukrainian S.S.R. During World War II Romanians occupied Bessarabia and temporarily reorganized it as part of Romania. The Soviet Union seized it in 1944, and the territorial arrangements of 1940 were reestablished.

Bessarabia contains much of archaeological interest, including mounds and barrows of early epochs, remains of a wall built by Trajan, some traces of Greek and Roman towns, and some forts along the Dnestr built by the Genoese in the 14th century. *See also* Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Galicia, Polish GALICJA, German GALIZIEN, Russian GALITSIYA, eastern European province that was a part of Poland before Austria annexed it in 1772; in the 20th century it was restored to Poland but later divided between Poland and the Soviet Union.

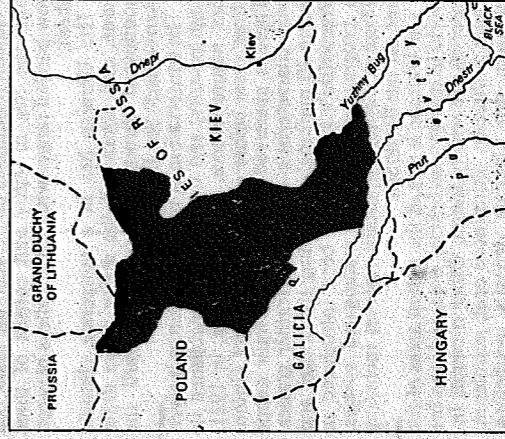
Incorporated into Kievan Russia by Grand Prince Vladimir in 981, eastern Galicia (also called Red Ruthenia, or Red Rus), being the country around Halicz (Halich, or Galych) on the upper Dnestr, east of the Zbruch confluence and west of the headwaters of the San River, became independent in 1087; during the next century it developed into a rich and powerful principality. In 1199 Prince Roman of Volhynia annexed Galicia, and under his rule and that of his son Daniel (reigned 1238-64), the united principality defeated its enemies Poland and Hungary and asserted itself as a major state in eastern Europe. The principality was weakened, however, by internal struggles between the princes and boyars (noblemen) who often held the real power in the principality, and, though Daniel was crowned king of Galicia by a papal legate in 1253, he was also compelled to recognize the suzerainty of the Mongol khan, who had conquered the Russian lands in 1237-41.

Galicia, however, did not become an integral part of the Mongol empire as did other Russian lands, and in 1323, when Roman's dynasty died out, a Polish prince, Boleslaw Jerzy of Mazovia, was elected by the boyars to rule Galicia. After his death (1340), the Polish king Casimir III the Great annexed Galicia to his lands (1349). Under Polish rule Galicia was settled by Polish gentry, who became the dominant social class, and received Polish legal, social, and religious institutions.

When Poland was first partitioned in 1772, eastern Galicia, together with the territory to the west, between the San and the Vistula, was attached to Austria; and in 1795 further lands, both west and east of the Vistula, passed also to Austria. After the adjustments of 1815 (Congress of Vienna), Austria's Polish possessions were called the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria; and the 1815 Republic of Cracow was added to them in 1846. In 1848-49 Austria abolished serfdom in Galicia and after 1867 allowed the region a large degree of administrative autonomy. During the late 19th century, however, the Ukrainian population, which constituted the majority of the inhabitants of eastern Galicia, objected to the increasing domination of the Polish population over them and developed a strong Ukrainian nationalist movement.

All Galicia became a part of Poland after World War I and postwar controversy. When World War II began, the Soviet Union seized eastern Galicia to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. After the war, eastern Galicia remained a part of the U.S.S.R., while western, Polish-settled Galicia was attached to Poland.

Volhynia, also spelled VOLYNIA, Polish WOLYN, area of the northwestern Ukraine that was a principality (10th-14th century)

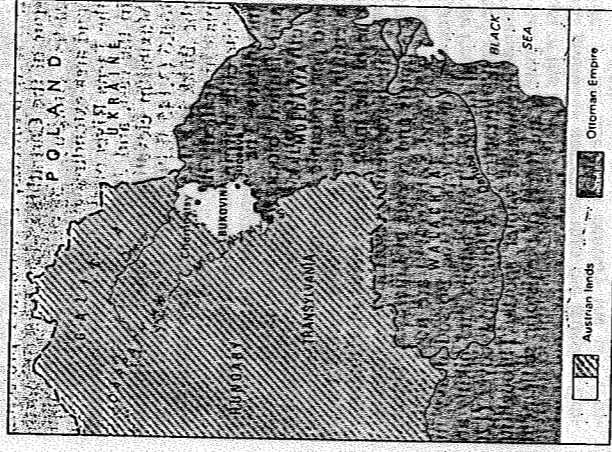


Volhynia c. 1250

Adapted from A. Tishchenko and G. Fedorov, *Map of Eastern European History*, George Philip & Son Ltd., London

and then an autonomous component of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, ruled largely by its own aristocracy (after the late 14th century). The region became prominent during the 12th century, when many emigrants from the declining Kiev principality settled in Volhynia and its even more westerly neighbour Galicia.

Bukovina, eastern European territory consisting of a segment of the northeastern Carpathian Mountains and the adjoining plain, divided in modern times (after 1947) between Romania and the Soviet Union. Settled by both Ukrainians (Ruthenians) and Romanians (Moldavians), the region became an integral part of the principality of Moldavia in the 14th century. It acquired its own name and identity only in 1775, however, when it was ceded to Austria by the Turks, who then controlled Moldavia. Austria, regarding Bukovina as a strategic link between Transylvania and Galicia, administered it first as a part of Galicia (1786-1849), then as a duchy and a separate crown land; it also developed Bukovina's chief city, Chernovtsy (Chernowitz, Cernăuți), into an important educational and commercial centre. After Romania gained its independence (1878), it sought unification with Bukovina and occupied it when Austria-Hungary collapsed (1918). Although local Ukrainians had tried to incorporate their districts in northern Bukovina into the Western Ukrainian National Republic, Romania gained control of the whole province (Treaty of Saint-Germain; 1919) and pursued a Russification policy there. During World War II, Soviet troops occupied northern Bukovina, which became part of the Ukrainian Soviet



Bukovina in 1775

Socialist Republic under the peace treaty of 1947; the ancient Moldavian capital Suceava and the surrounding area went to the Romanian People's Republic.

In 1199 Prince Roman Mstislavich of Volhynia (died 1205) united the two territories into a powerful principality which dominated Kiev; successfully battled the Poles, Lithuanians, Hungarians, and Polovtsy (or Cumans); and was sought as an ally by Byzantium. Roman's son Daniel (reigned 1221-64) reunited Volhynia with Galicia in 1238 (the union had lapsed after Roman's death), built cities (e.g., Lvov), encouraged a flourishing east-west trade through his lands, and fostered the development of fine arts. In 1260, however, Mongol invasion and forced to recognize the Mongol khan as their overlord.

In the course of the 14th century Volhynia was absorbed by the Lithuanian state and Galicia by Poland. After the Polish-Lithuanian union of 1569, Volhynia was ceded to Poland. It remained a Polish territory until the second partition of Poland (1793) transferred most of it to Russia. After World War I it was divided between Russia and Poland and after World War II the entire region became part of the Ukrainian S.S.R. and was divided into three *oblasti*: Volyn, Rovno, and Zhitomir.

Ukraine, Ukrainian and Russian **UKRAINA**, steppe region southwest of Russia proper, now primarily in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Various states existed in this territory (which was not widely called the Ukraine until the 19th century): Kievan Rus (9th-13th century), the Galician-Volhynian Principality (11th-14th), the Cossack Hetmanate (17th-18th), and the Crimean Khanate (15th-18th). See also Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

In the 9th century the Dnepr River became an important trade route between the Baltic and Black seas, and Kiev became eastern Europe's major political and cultural centre. The name Rus, which first designated the lands around Kiev, later came to include the entire Kievan domain. Under the rulers Vladimir I (St. Vladimir) and Yaroslav I (Yaroslav the Wise), Kievan Rus in the 11th century reached the height of its power (see *also* Rurik dynasty). The 12th and 13th centuries saw the decentralization of power and a shift in trade routes. The Mongol conquest in the mid-13th century marked the end of Kievan power, but the Galician-Volhynian Principality in the western Ukraine continued into the 14th century.

In the 14th century Lithuania annexed most of the Ukrainian lands except for the Galician Principality, which passed to the Kingdom of Poland; the southern Ukraine remained under Mongol control. The division of the Kievan metropolitane into two separate jurisdictions for Muscovy and Lithuania in 1458 marked the increasing differentiation among the former lands of Kievan Rus. After the Union of Lublin (*q.v.*) in 1569, the Ukraine was transferred from Lithuania to Poland. The negotiation of the Union of Brest-Litovsk (*q.v.*) in 1596 divided the Ukrainians into Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic faithful.

Religious dissent and social strife were augmented by the Zaporozhian Cossacks, nominally subjects of the Polish king but in fact a class of free warriors. From their stronghold on the Lower Dnepr, called the Zaporozhian Sich, the Cossacks in 1648, led by their hetman (military leader) Bohdan Khmelnytsky, rose against the Poles and formed a quasi-independent, if short-lived, state. Khmelnytsky's need for help against the Poles led to an agreement with the Muscovite tsar in 1654 (see Pereyaslav Agreement), which was considered an act of submission by the Muscovites. Poland-Lithuania was forced to recognize Muscovite suzerainty over Kiev and the lands east of the Dnepr, and the Cossack Hetmanate was gradually absorbed into the Russian Empire; in the late 18th century the last remnants of Ukrainian autonomy were abolished. The Russian annexation of the Crimea (1783) opened the coastal region of the Black Sea to colonization, and the area was rapidly settled and became a major grain-exporting region in the first half of the 19th century.

In the 18th-century partitions of Poland, the Russian Empire obtained the Ukraine lands west of the Dnepr, except for Galicia, which went to Austria. A Ukrainian national movement developed in the 19th century. In the Russian Empire, the movement faced political repression and restrictions against the Ukrainian language (1863-1876). In Austria-Hungary, conditions were more favourable. By World War I, Ukrainians of Galicia had set up a network of cultural, political, and religious institutions.

After the Russian Revolution of February 1917, a Ukrainian Central Rada (*rada*, "council"), led by Mykhaylo Hrushevsky, was formed in Kiev, and after the Bolshevik Revolution in October the Russian Communist government set up a Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in Kharkov. Several governments struggled for control of the Ukraine during 1917-21, when the Soviet government emerged victorious. In 1924 the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic became one of the constituent republics of the Soviet Union.

Following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Ukrainians seized the Galician capital of Lemberg (Lvov, Lviv) on Nov. 1, 1918, and proclaimed a Western Ukrainian National Republic (*zuniR*), which united January 1919 with the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR) of Symon Petlyura (*q.v.*). Soon, however, Ukrainian troops were driven from Galician territory (June 1919). Bukovina was annexed by Romania, and the former Ukrainian provinces of Hungary were included in the new Czechoslovak state.

In the interwar period, the Soviet government carried out a policy of rapid industrialization and collectivization of agriculture. Collectivization met with peasant resistance, and a famine in the early 1930s took an estimated 5,000,000 lives. In that same decade, under Stalin, political repression increased; the policy of introducing the Ukrainian language into all aspects of the republic's life ended, and non-Marxist cultural and scholarly activities were curtailed. In eastern Galicia, Ukrainian resistance to Polish rule led to a cycle of repression and terrorism. In Bukovina and Bessarabia, the Romanians looked with disfavour on Ukrainian institutions. Only in Czechoslovak Transcarpathia did Ukrainians enjoy broad political and cultural rights.

The German-Soviet Treaty of Nonaggression (1939) brought the Polish territories of eastern Galicia and western Volhynia into the Ukrainian S.S.R. The German attack on the Soviet Union in June 1941 and rapid conquest of the Ukraine initially found some local support but soon provoked guerrilla resistance. After the defeat of the Germans, all the ethnically Ukrainian lands became part of the Soviet Union. In the western Ukraine, collectivization in the late 1940s and the abolition of the Ukrainian Catholic Church (1946) caused dissatisfaction and prolonged the wartime guerrilla resistance. Controls were relaxed after Stalin's death in 1953, but government policy continues to emphasize the Ukraine's ties to Russia. Dissatisfaction among intellectuals with the nationality and human rights policies of the republic has given rise to a dissident movement, members of which have received lengthy prison sentences. See *also* Bukovina; Cossack; Galicia; Volhynia.

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, also called **UKRAINE**, Russian **UKRAINSKAYA SOVETSKAYA SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA RESPUBLIKA**, or **UKRAINA**, *Academiya Nauk* romanization **UKRAINSKAJA SOVETSKAJA SOTSIALISTICHESKAJA RESPUBLIKA**, or **UKRAINA**, Ukrainian **UKRAINSKA RADYANSKA SOTSIALISTYCHNA RESPUBLIKA**, or **UKRAINA**, union republic of the Soviet Union, one of 15.

The following article summarizes the administrative history, geography, demographic patterns, economy, and culture of the modern Ukrainian S.S.R.; for additional treatment of its geography and history, see **MACROPAEDIA: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**.

The Ukrainian S.S.R. lies in the southwest of the European Soviet Union, bordered by the Belorussian S.S.R. on the north; the Russian S.F.S.R. on the east; the Sea of Azov, the Black Sea, the Moldavian S.S.R., and Romania on the south; and Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland on the west. The capital is Kiev.

The Ukraine consists almost entirely of level plains averaging 570 ft in elevation and occupying a considerable portion of the East European Plain. The northeastern portion of the Ukraine is a spur of the Central Russian Upland. The Black Sea Lowland extends along the shores of the Black and Azov seas, and in the Crimean Peninsula it becomes the North Crimean Lowland. In the west the Carpathian Mountains extend for more than 150 mi. The Crimean Mountains lie between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov and consist of three low parallel ranges with fertile valleys between them.

The Ukraine lies in a temperate climatic zone, and almost all the major rivers drain southward through the plains toward the Azov-Black Sea Basin.

The conservation of natural resources is given high priority, and the Ukraine established its first nature reserve, Askaniya-Nova, in 1921, three years before entering the Soviet Union. There is preserved a portion of virgin steppe with characteristic fescue and feather grasses. Some 40 mammals, including the onager and Przewalski's horse, have been introduced in a program of breeding endangered species. There are other important reserves including one on the Black Sea.

The Ukraine is one of the richest areas of the world in manganese-bearing ores, and iron-ore reserves are widely found. Other minerals include anthracite, bituminous coal, petroleum, titanium ores, bauxite deposits, nephelites, aluminates, mercuric sulfide, ozokerite, potash, rock salt, phosphorites, and natural sulfur. Numerous mineral springs are the centres of Ukrainian health spas.

The Ukrainian S.S.R. has a major ferrous-metal industry, producing nearly half of the Soviet Union's cast iron, more than 40 percent of its steel and rolled steel, and about a quarter of its steel pipe. Mining is also a very high proportion of the Soviet total. Manufactured goods include metallurgical equipment, diesel locomotives, tractors, and television sets. The Ukrainian chemical indus-

try accounts for half of all the coke and for a fifth of the mineral fertilizers and sulfuric acid produced in the Soviet Union. The food industry accounts for three-fifths of the national output of granulated sugar. Virtually all of the energy for industrial processes in the Ukraine is provided by fossil fuels.

Almost 8,000 collective farms (*kolkhozy*) and 1,700 state farms (*sovkhozy*) employing mechanized farming methods raise cattle for meat and milk, cereals, and sugar beets.

The Ukraine is, together with Belorussia, one of the founding members of the United Nations; the two are the only UN members that are not at least nominally fully sovereign nations. In other respects the government of the Ukraine is similar to that of the other Soviet republics; the Communist Party of the Ukraine chooses members of a Supreme Soviet, who are then ratified (unopposed) by the voters every four years. The Supreme Soviet appoints a Presidium and a Council of Ministers (cabinet).

Education is required in the Ukraine between the ages of 7 and 17. Ukrainian is the main language of instruction, although there are schools in which Russian, Moldavian, Polish, Bulgarian, Hungarian, French, German, Spanish, or English is dominant. There are correspondence schools and more than 140 institutions of higher education. The Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian S.S.R. coordinates the work of numerous scientific institutions. Illiteracy was virtually eliminated by the 1920s. All news media, including scores of broadcast stations and more than 2,000 newspapers, are strictly controlled by the republic. Education and health services are free and paid out of taxes.

The Ukrainian literary tradition goes back to pre-Christian times, and oral literature earlier still. In the Soviet period the journal *Litertaturna Ukraina* published work by members of the Ukrainian Writers Union such as V. S. Zernylyak, N. Ia. Zarudny, Gonchar, and Lesya Ukrainka. Music, particularly folk music, has great vitality. Contemporary composers include Konstantin Yankovych, Yuli Meyrus, and the Mayboroda brothers, Yury and Platon. Theatre is also a venerable Ukrainian tradition, going back to the early 18th century and perpetuated in modern times not only on the stage but also in cinema. Area 233,100 sq mi (603,700 sq km). Pop. (1983 est.) 50,461,000.

A Brief History of the Rubenstein Family

1840 to Present

PLEASE NOTE: For the purposes of clarity, I shall refer to Meyer and Fruma's son Jacob as "Big" Jake, and Moishe and Shaindel's son Jacob as "Little" Jake.

Much of the information was derived from several tapes made of Little Jake, as well as tapes made of Annie Greenberg Stein and Selma Greenberg Oritt.

MEYER AND FRUMA RUBENSTEIN: Little Jake said that Fruma's family, the Kolichmans, were rather well-to-do. They had one or more stores, and Meyer managed a store for them. Little Jake said that it was a hardware store. (Rochelle Savetman said it may have been a drug store.)

Annie Stein said that she vividly remembered that when she was about 9 years old a very wealthy uncle, Sh'miel Kolichman, passed away. (I must assume that this was a brother of Fruma, so it would have been Annie's great-uncle.) Sh'miel owned "alot of timber and factories." All of his children were well educated and had professions. One was a doctor, another may have owned a prescription store. Because of restrictions on what kind of work the Jews could do in Russia, Sh'miel's children had to move away to a different country (Roumania, perhaps?) where they could practice their different professions. When they returned for the funeral, they were called "Auslanders" (foreigners) by the locals. Annie remembers that it was a very large funeral.

Little Jake said that Meyer died at age 64 of cancer. Jake gave conflicting times when Meyer passed away, but depending upon which date he passed away, Meyer would have been born either around 1841 or 1845.

LOUIS RUBENSTEIN (Jewish name Eleazar, "Lazer", became "Louis" in English) was the first of Meyer and Fruma's children to come to the U.S. Little Jake said he may have come through England for awhile, but I have not been able to verify that. He arrived in Baltimore around the turn of the century, and met and married Ida there. He began peddling for a living, and apparently his travels took him to Leaksville Spray, North Carolina for awhile, as that is where Evelyn and Ben were born.

Louis soon made enough money to bring over his brother Jacob (Big Jake), and then Frank. After Frank got settled in Hattiesburg (see below), Louis and Jake joined him there. The three were partners at one time in a store called "Rubenstein Brothers", and later Louis had a store called "L. Rubenstein". During the week, one, two or all three of the brothers would go out peddling, and then return for the busy days of Friday and Saturday. Little Jake said that at one time they owned a blind horse to peddle with because they couldn't afford a seeing horse! Once there was an accident involving the blind horse and Louis narrowly escaped injury.

Louis' daughter Evelyn married Sam Friedman in Baltimore around 1920. At this time Louis was already ill, so he sold his store to Harry Shor, who was working for him, and moved to Baltimore. He bought some real estate in Baltimore, but learned that he had been duped into thinking there were tenants when in fact there were none, and so he lost money on that deal.

Louis died in Baltimore of tuberculosis, although they told people it was heart failure because of the stigma against TB at that time.

Around 1939-40, Sam Friedman came to Mobile at the invitation of Abe Stein (see Leah Rubenstein's family). He went to work in Mobile and saved his money, and in the 1940's he opened Friedman's Jewelers. In the 1970's oil and gas were discovered on several tracts of land the family owns north of Mobile.

Ben Rubenstein sold insurance for much of his life. Later he had a used and antique furniture business in Coral Gables, Florida.

Rose Rubenstein married Paul Desser, who was a taxi driver in Baltimore.

Mike Rubey was in the jewelry business and owned Ross Jewelers in Mobile. Gertrude Rubenstein worked in Mike Rubey's jewelry store, then at Brookley Field Air Force Base in Mobile. When Brookley was closed in the mid-1960's, she was transferred to Philadelphia, where she worked until retirement.

JACOB RUBENSTEIN was the second Rubenstein to come to the U.S. He worked in Baltimore for awhile, then joined Frank and Louis in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He moved to Mobile and became a citizen there on April 28, 1915. In the 1920's he moved to Waynesboro, Mississippi, where he married Eunice. He worked for Franklin Stores (see below) in Louisiana for awhile, and then moved to Laredo, Texas, where he eventually opened five stores along the Mexican border. One was a Diana Shop, the others were Army surplus stores.

I would like to pause here and relate one of the pleasant adventures that I had in making this Family Tree. Mom knew that Jake had divorced Claire some time after Rosalie was born and had moved back to Mississippi and remarried. But we had no idea what became of him after that. Rosalie had lost touch with him and could not tell us, and none of the other Rubensteins that I asked could remember. Then Mom remembered that Izzie and Irene Greenburg had lived in the same small town in Mississippi when Jake was there. I called Irene, who said the name of the town was Waynesboro, he married someone named Eunice, and they had moved to Laredo and had three children named Evelyn, Frances and Meyer. Then Mom remembered that a friend of hers in Mobile had a sister in Laredo, so I called the sister, who put me in touch with Patsy Sanatin in Laredo. Patsy sees that the Jewish cemetery in Laredo is kept up, and she had Eunice's address where she sends the bill for the upkeep on Jake's plot every year. And that, in brief, is how a little detective work tracked down yet another branch on the Family Tree.

FRANK RUBENSTEIN was the youngest of Meyer and Fruma's seven children. Little Jake said that at one time he helped manage Meyer's store. Jake also told a story that Frank was drafted into the Russian Army, and when it was time to go Fruma made a big basket of food and goodies for him to take. He stayed in the army only about 2 months, by which time he'd eaten all the goodies. So he went AWOL, took off his uniform and sold it in the nearest village, and returned home. The family was surprised when he showed up, and when they asked him what happened he said he didn't like the army and wasn't going back.

Obviously this was a dangerous situation, so Frank hid out with his brother Moishe and his family for several weeks and wrote to his brothers Louis and Jake in America. They sent him a ticket, and he waited until dark one night to slip across the border.

When he arrived in Baltimore, Louis gave him a little money to buy merchandise and sent him out peddling. He saved enough to buy a horse and wagon and headed south, buying and selling goods along the way. Eventually, he reached Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and when he saw that nearby Camp Shelby had so many soldiers stationed there, he recognized a great opportunity. He opened a store, and soon Louis and Jake joined him, as previously mentioned. They soon opened another store in Sumrall, Mississippi. On a buying trip to Baltimore around 1910, Frank told one of his buyers that he was looking for a good woman to marry. The buyer introduced Frank to the Shor family. The girls' mother or grandmother told him that Yetta was the oldest, so he could marry her or forget it. Not only did he marry Yetta, but Frank eventually brought the rest of the Shor girls to Hattiesburg and married them off (see the special section on the Shor family at the end of the Rubenstein family history).

The stores were immensely successful, especially during World War I when Camp Shelby had some 40,000 soldiers. Frank and his brothers were able to bring the rest of the family over from Russia by about 1923. Many of them came into Frank's business, as will soon be told. In particular was Harry Greenburg, who came to Hattiesburg in 1914-15 and soon became Frank's partner as they began opening more stores.

About 1921 Frank opened a Rubenstein Brothers store in New Orleans, and moved the corporate headquarters there. During the 1920's he and Harry opened other stores in New Orleans, and then across the South. Many of the stores were called "Franklin", others were called "Diana Shops" after his daughter, Dena. By 1929 there were stores in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and El Paso, Texas; Birmingham, Alabama; Atlanta, Georgia; and many other towns in the South. The larger cities had several stores each. The Crash of 1929 severely crippled the organization, and Frank and Harry were forced to liquidate all of the stores except New Orleans, San Antonio, Houston and Dallas. As the economy began recovering in the mid 1930's, Albert and Marcus joined the business in 1938 and they began expanding again. By 1961 there were 117 Franklin Stores. In 1961, Albert bought a discount store, "Barkers", and went into the discount store business. The company went into Puerto Rico in 1961, and by 1970 there were 17 Barkers and 40 Franklin Stores in Puerto Rico.

In the economic squeeze of the early 1970's the company's fortunes stumbled again, but were beginning to recover when the company was bought out by Slader-Walker in 1974. Under a contractual arrangement Albert remained with the firm until 1980.

LEAH RUBENSTEIN and Mendel Greenburg were engaged to be married at about 8 years of age, and were married when they were about 16. (Remember, the marriages were all arranged by the parents in those days.) Mendel had a dry-goods store and the family lived on a farm near Kamenets-Podolskiy. Annie Stein and Selma Oritt said the village they lived in or near was Zamekhav. (NOTE: At this time I do not have any evidence to indicate that Mendel Greenberg and Kiba Greenberg, who married Chava Rubenstein, were related to each other. However, considering they were from the same locale and married sisters, it may be possible that Mendel and Kiba were at least distant cousins, if not more closely related. If indeed Mendel and Kiba were related, then Leah and Chava's descendants would be related on both the Rubenstein and Greenberg sides.) (ANOTHER NOTE: After arriving in the U.S., it seems that Mendel, Goldie and Annie used the "berg" spelling for their name, while the rest of the family used "burg". Keep in mind that many immigrants were very loose with spellings of their family names.)

Leah was pregnant 5 or 6 times and lost each child before or shortly after birth. Goldie was the first child to survive.

In 1912, Leah and Mendel's oldest son, Louis, was about to be drafted, so his uncles Louis, Jake and Frank Rubenstein sent a ticket for him to join then in America. (As bad as it was for the other peasants in the Russian army, it was even worse if you were Jewish.) In coming to the U.S., Louis' ship landed first at ports on the East Coast, but he had a ticket for Galveston, Texas, and had to stay on the ship until it landed at Galveston. (At that time, so many immigrants were coming in through New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore that the government had begun bringing people in through Galveston in the hopes that they would migrate west.)

Louis had heard that Chicago was where it was all happening, so he went there and got a job in a comb factory. He didn't like Chicago after all, and so he left and went to Hattiesburg, possibly by way of Baltimore. He went to work for Frank Rubenstein in Hattiesburg.

In 1913, Mendel took his oldest daughter Goldie and they came to America. They arrived in Baltimore around Halloween, 1913. At first they stayed with Sam Friedman's parents and family, who were all from the same area in Russia. (Sam later married Louis Rubenstein's daughter, Evelyn.) The Friedman's were getting ready for Sam's Bar Mitzvah. Mendel went to work as a presser in a clothes factory, and Goldie got a job sewing in a "sweat shop" (clothes factory). They saved money quickly and sent tickets for the rest of the family to join them.

However, the authorities knew that Louis should have been inducted into the army, and would not issue the family passports because they could not produce Louis. Leah took the children and had to hide in the woods for 2 days and nights before paying some men to carry Leah and the children across the river on their shoulders, into Galacia. By the time they got to Bremen, Germany, they had missed the ship that Mendel had sent tickets for. They had to wait another 2 or 3 weeks for the next ship. The steamship company put them up in a large room or hall with many other people. Annie Stein recalled that at night a German man would say in German, "Everybody go to sleep--lights out!" During the day she toured Bremen with a young man she met while waiting.

They finally left for America. Annie recalled that they were seasick for days. Also, Leah lost all of her jewelry en route. They were on the water for several weeks. The family arrived in Baltimore on the first day of Passover, 1914. Mendel and Goldie had made a down payment on a furnished house ("Dishes and everything!" according to Annie) for the family. Mendel was very observant and would not let them work until after Passover.

Annie got a job sewing clothes in a sweat shop, also. Harry was about 17, with no skills, and could not get a job in Baltimore, so he went to Hattiesburg and went to work for Frank Rubenstein. Max probably went to Hattiesburg also. The three younger children, Selma, Izzie and Sam, were required to go to public school in Baltimore.

Annie recalled that at one point the sweat shop workers went on strike and won the right to choose "piece work" (they got paid by the number of pieces they finished) or "week work" (paid a straight wage by the week). Annie chose piece work because she could make alot more money. Goldie used to tell her daughter Irene that she got paid 2¢ per pocket she sewed, and would walk the 10-12 blocks to and from work each day to save the 5¢ car fare.

Louis Rubenstein came to Baltimore on a buying trip and Annie asked him for a job so she could get out of the sweat shops. Likewise, Goldie got a job with Frank Rubenstein, either shortly before or after Annie went to Hattiesburg.

Why was Hattiesburg, Mississippi such an attractive place for all these Rubensteins? For one thing, Hattiesburg was in the heart of the Mississippi virgin pine forests, and lumbering and turpentine making, etc. were major industries. There were numerous small lumber camps scattered around, and the workers were a nearly captive clientele for anyone who could open a small shop in one of these towns. Hattiesburg was the county seat, and the center for commerce and banking in the area. Additionally, Camp Shelby was a major Army base nearby. There was a

flow of soldiers through the area, and during World War I thousands of men were shipped through Camp Shelby.

Men like Louis, Jake, and Frank Rubenstein could start out selling wares from a backpack or horse, going from farm to farm throughout the area. When they saved a little money, they opened a store in Hattiesburg or one of the lumber camp towns. On Saturday all of the farmers, lumbermen, etc. would come to town to buy whatever goods they needed. From these humble roots our ancestors were able to take hold and get established in their new land, America. Once one person or family got established they would help newcomers get started, often "staking" them to a store in one of the outlying towns.

Annie met and married Abe Stein in Hattiesburg. The Rubensteins helped them open a store in Collins, Mississippi, near Hattiesburg. But Collins was just too small, so after a few months they moved back to Hattiesburg. They opened a store called "The Hub", which thrived during World War I, as Hattiesburg's economy boomed with the expansion of nearby Camp Shelby. Sarah was born in Hattiesburg in 1917. By 1919, Annie and Abe had saved perhaps \$10,000 and decided to move back to Baltimore, where there was kosher food, real synagogues and real Jewish culture. Abe opened a store in Baltimore but it did not do well. Melvin (Buddy) was born in 1920. The family returned to Hattiesburg in 1922. Selma recalled that Annie (her Jewish name was Chana) was "Mendel's favorite", and he visited her in Hattiesburg on several occasions.

In 1923, Mendel was dying of leukemia. Annie went to Baltimore and would visit him in the hospital daily, taking him food since he wouldn't eat the non-kosher hospital food. He realized that death would come soon, and he asked to be taken home so that he could die in peace.

Annie and Abe did well again in Hattiesburg during the 1920's. Abe had a store called "The Leader." Leah lived in Hattiesburg for several months in 1929. Annie would fuss constantly over Leah's diet. Leah had a heart condition and high blood pressure. Selma recalls that Leah was very feisty and full of energy. She was an excellent cook and baker. Leah returned to Baltimore, and remarried a year or so before her death. All of her children were very upset that she remarried.

Abe lost everything he had when the banks closed after the Crash in 1929. The Depression years from 1929-32 were very tough times. Abe opened a specialty shoe shop but that failed. He opened a dry goods store. Annie and an employee would run the store Monday through Friday, while Abe took on a sales route for the Missouri Garment Co. selling a line of ladies' house dresses to stores in the region. He would return to Hattiesburg on Friday and the store was open until 11 p.m. on Saturday, as all the farmers, lumbermen, etc. came to town.

In his travels, Abe noted that he sold more to merchants in Mobile, Alabama, than any of the other places he called on. Also, merchants in Mobile re-ordered sooner than any place else. Abe got the impression that Mobile would be a better place to do business, so one day he took Annie and the children to Mobile to check it out. Mobile had a real Shul, which was important. But even more important (or so it seemed) was the large store that carried a full line of kosher foods. The family decided to move to Mobile.

Frank Rubenstein had operated a Diana Shop in Mobile, but it went out of business in 1929. Abe rented the building, which still had all the old store fixtures, printed bags and stationery, etc. Because he had been bankrupted in 1929, he still could not get credit, so Abe borrowed \$700 against his life insurance and went into business. His suppliers would ship him \$100 worth of merchandise and when he paid for that they'd ship more.

In 1935, Abe and Annie opened a store in Mobile that they called "The Franklin", and brought in Sam Greenburg to manage the store. In 1938, Aaron Friedman came to Mobile after working for Selma (see below). Aaron and Sarah were married in 1939.

Harry Greenburg worked for Frank Rubenstein for many years, and became a partner with Frank. Later, Harry left Frank and went to Dallas and opened a store there for a while. Later, he went into business with Selma in the Diana Shops (see below).

Max Greenburg also worked for Frank Rubenstein. When Frank expanded all over Texas, he sent Max to Laredo to supervise the stores there. Later, Max left Frank and became a partner with Louis Greenberg.

Goldie worked for Frank Rubenstein in Hattiesburg, where she met and married Sam Percoff. When they met, Sam was a drummer (salesman) for a clothes factory in Baltimore. They married in 1917 and went to Clarksburg, West Virginia, where Irene was born. They were in Baltimore for a short time, then around 1922 they moved to Richton, Mississippi, near Hattiesburg, where the Rubensteins set them up in a store. They made a lot of money in Richton but it was too small of a town, so they moved back to Hattiesburg. (Goldie made hats that they sold in their stores for a good profit.) Goldie and Sam owned a general dry goods store in Hattiesburg and did well, but lost the store in the Depression. In 1931-32 they moved to Laurel, Mississippi and bought the Diana Shop there from Frank Rubenstein, as he was liquidating his stores at that time. They did well in

Laurel. In 1944 or '45 Goldie and Sam sold the store and moved to Baltimore. Sam intended to retire there, but said his relatives kept borrowing money from him, so they moved to Mobile and opened "Manuel's Stout Shop" in 1948. Goldie sold the store after Sam died.

Louis Greenburg worked for his uncle Frank Rubenstein in Hattiesburg and met and married Eva in 1916-17. (I have a short section about the Shor family after the Rubenstein family histories.) He became a citizen and was eligible for the draft and receive a notice to report to Camp Shelby on Nov. 15, 1918. World War I ended on Nov. 11, 1918, so he didn't have to go.

Madelyn and Bobbie were born in Hattiesburg, and then Louis moved the family to New Orleans and tried building houses for awhile. That failed, so he went back to work for Frank. He was sent to Birmingham to open the store there, then to San Antonio, where they stayed until 1940-41. He then became a partner with his brother Harry and sister Selma in the Diana Shops (see below). Louis and the family moved to New York for a few months but didn't like it there, so Harry sent him to Jacksonville, Florida to open the store there. Louis had a heart attack shortly after moving to Jacksonville.

Louis decided that he loved his brother and sister but just couldn't work with them (all of the Greenbergs were very strong willed and individualistic), so he moved the family back to San Antonio and went into business for himself. He opened a small chain of stores, one of which was named "Roberts". A few years later Max Greenburg left Franklins and became a partner with Louis, supervising 4 stores in Laredo. All of the stores sold ladies ready-to-wear.

Eventually Louis closed the stores in San Antonio. He and Bobbie went into the oil business for a little while. Then Bobbie went to New York to work for Diana Shops. Louis sold his share of the Laredo stores to Max and intended to retire. Then he became interested in his son-in-law Ben Ruttenberg's costume jewelry business, and became a partner with him until he died.

Madleyn described Louis as a typical Greenburg--"a workaholic". She says that he was a quiet man, who gave alot of thought to something before he made a decision. He liked to play chess. Unlike Frank Rubenstein, or his brother Harry and sister Selma, who were big gamblers (both in business and for pleasure), Louis was by nature very conservative.

Selma came to Hattiesburg in 1923, where she met and married Ira Beck. Ira was a first cousin to the Shors (see Shor family, below). Selma and Ira moved to Sumrall, Mississippi and opened a ready-to-wear store, possibly with Harry Greenburg. Selma said they were the only Jews in town. Next, Selma opened a store in Brookhaven, Mississippi, and then "Beck's" in Hattiesburg. When Selma decided she wanted a divorce, she sold Ira the three stores for \$10,000. He gave her \$5,000 and was to pay out the rest over time. Selma went back to Baltimore to be with Leah, who was not well. During the Depression Ira was about to go bankrupt and wanted to list Selma as a creditor so he could get out of paying her the rest of the money. But he had given Harry Greenburg some cash to hold, and Harry forced Ira to pay off Selma before he would give back the rest of the cash. Selma used this money to go back into business in 1936. She opened a store in Tallahassee, Florida. Others had advised her against it, saying she would go broke in 3 months. Within a year she had made enough money to open a store in Albany, Georgia. Soon after that she opened a store in Rome, Georgia.

Harry Greenburg had worked for Frank Rubenstein for all these years but was ready to go out on his own. He called Selma and asked her "How would you like to go into the chain store business?" Selma replied, "I'm already in the chain store business!" In 1938, Selma and Harry opened a store in Baltimore called "Greens". Selma put her brother, Sam Greenburg, in the store in Albany as manager. Selma's buyer had known Aaron Friedman from Philadelphia, when they had worked together. Aaron came to work for Selma. After a few months, the store in Baltimore had a fire. Selma was working on opening stores in Augusta and Valdosta, Georgia, so she sent Aaron to work in Mobile until she needed him in Valdosta. As you already know, Aaron never left Mobile.

Harry had \$50,000 from when he left Franklins, and Selma put up her stores as collateral and they went into the chain store business, operating Diana Shops. Practically every small town in the Southeastern U.S. had a Diana Shop. Selma said that at one time she was opening a new store every week-end.

When discount stores came on the scene in the early 1940's, Selma and Harry were afraid that specialty shops might be on the way out, so they bought a chain of discount stores already operating on the West Coast. They opened their largest Diana Shop in Jacksonville, as well as a discount store they called "The Outlet", which was managed by Sam Greenburg. Diana, Inc. was eventually listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and operated some 250+ stores across the U.S.

Selma married Sam Oritt, and Sam and Harry couldn't work together. Selma and Sam moved to Miami, and Selma gave up her working interest in Diana Shops. Later, she bought a large tract of swampy land and developed it into a very successful cemetery operation.

Sam Greenburg worked for the Rubensteins, and Abe Stein in Mobile for awhile, before working for Selma and Harry in the Diana Shops. Later, he and Annie had their own store, "Lahn's", in Jacksonville.

Izzie Greenburg served in the Army and was a cook at Fort Barancas in Pensacola. He met and married Irene in Pensacola. After his discharge, Abe Stein set him up in a store in Pensacola, and would send him merchandise as Izzie was able to sell it. Izzie and Irene were able to get established and were successful in Pensacola.

MOISHE RUBENSTEIN met Shaindel Yganlnitzer when he stayed at the inn her father owned where they lived in Russia. Shaindel's mother had died when Shaindel was born. Her father remarried, and at age 14 or so Shaindel began running the inn. When Moishe came through, he met Shaindel and asked her father to arrange the marriage.

Little Jake remembered that Moishe had a grocery and dry goods store in Verbovitz. (He said the town got its name from the type of tree, "Verbes" (sp?) that grew along the river.) The family lived in the back of the store. The Jews all lived in one part of town, (or, possibly, all of Verbovitz was Jewish), separate from the Gentiles. Jake remembered being afraid to go near the Russians because they would throw stones at the Jews. If Shaindel had to visit with the Gentiles, she would take bread to throw to their dogs so that she could go into the Gentiles' houses without being bitten.

When Jake was about 12 years old, Moishe sent him to another town to buy goods to sell in the store. Jake rode in a horse drawn wagon with a driver, who was Gentile. It was a 4 or 5 day trip, day and night, through the snow. They had to get off the wagon and walk up hills to lighten the load. It was very cold and one night they stopped in a target town (Mollef, or Mallef (sp?) near the Dnestr River?) and Jake asked the driver to get him a drink of whiskey to warm up with. The government ran the store that sold whiskey, and when they went inside they had to take off their hats because the Tzar's picture was on the wall. The driver bought Jake a flask of whiskey and a roll. Moishe had given Jake a list of what to buy for his store: kerosene, baking powder, sugar, coffee, etc. Moishe had to borrow the money to buy the goods and would pay it back as the goods were sold. He had to make this trip for supplies every 4 or 5 months.

All of the Rubensteins spoke Yiddish. They also knew a little Russian. In those days the children started Cheder (religious school) at age 3. The older boys or men would carry the small children on their backs when the snow was too deep. The town had a rabbi, who was paid a meager salary. Moishe was a very learned and well respected man. He had a big say in selecting a new rabbi.

The nearest doctor was 7-10 miles away. Jake recalled having to walk to get the doctor when his grandfather Meyer was sick. He rode back with the doctor in his buggy, driven by a driver. Then he would have to ride back with the doctor to get the prescription filled in the doctor's town, and walk back home. (Jake said the small drug store in Verbovitz couldn't always be counted on to have the right medicines.)

Before his grandfather died, Jake would spend time with Meyer and Fruma and have Shabbos dinner with them sometimes. On one tape Jake said that Meyer died about a year before Jake's Bar Mitzvah, and in another tape he said it was about a year before Jake came to America, hence the question about Meyer's birth and death dates. I have selected the earlier date of death, and since Jake said he was 64 years old when he died, that puts Meyer's birth around 1841.

Shaindel's parents lived about 50 miles away. It took all day and into the night for the family to get there by horse and wagon (only the "rich" people could afford a buggy). Shaindel's mother had died giving birth to her, and she was raised by a step-mother. After coming to the U.S. she lost touch with the rest of her family, according to Jake.

Jake remembered that Shaindel would make a universal salve that she used for everything when someone was hurt or sick. Shaindel kept geese, and in the winter she would keep them in the attic of the house. One time, when Jake was 8 or 10 years old, he was feeding the geese and fell out of the attic and broke his arm. They took him to a "specialist" who was able to set the bone.

Jake said that his younger brother Sam was a very wild child. One time he was hanging off a wagon they were riding in and got his foot caught in the spokes of the wheel and it was badly mangled. Shaindel had to take him to a specialist and stay there 2 weeks, but it healed alright. Another time Sam fell into a pile of builder's lye stored in Moishe's store and got some in his eyes. He couldn't open his eyes for 2 or 3 weeks and everyone was certain that he would be blind. Finally he was able to open his eyes and see, but he had a spot on his eye for the rest of his life.

Moishe would go to Shul every day. He'd come home from Shul, sit where it was warm and read the Bible to the others, eat dinner, and go back to Shul. Shaindel knew Hebrew, and she also helped in the store and knew the business well. Moishe was well known and respected in the community. He was the most religious of his brothers and sisters and gave a lot of money to charities, both in Russia and after coming to the U.S.

Around 1910, Moishe's oldest son Abraham was about to be drafted. Louis, Jake and Frank Rubenstein sent him a ticket to come to the U.S. But when he was given an eye exam (probably in Bremen, before getting on the boat), they found that he had trachoma (apparently a common eye disease among the Eastern Europeans) and rejected him, so he had to return. The family wanted to send Isaac, the next son, but they knew he was about draft age and the family would have to pay a big fine if they couldn't produce him. So they decided to send Little Jake, who was about 16 or 17 at the time. Jake got a passport by saying he was going to visit relatives in nearby Austria-Hungary. He recalled spending Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur in Austria, and then went to Bremen to get on the ship to the U.S. The ship took 13 days to get to Philadelphia. Jake said he was terribly seasick for the first 2 or 3 days, but was okay after that. The ship had a kosher kitchen for the Jewish passengers. He had to stay on the ship for the 3 days it was in Philadelphia. Then it took another 7 days to get to Galveston. Jake said that when he got off the ship in Galveston he saw a black man for the first time in his life.

From Galveston Jake went to Hattiesburg, where he worked for his uncles Louis and Frank for about 10 years. He went to night school to learn English. While in Hattiesburg he met and married Esther. (Esther and Sam's wife Della were sisters.)

In 1917 Jake was about to be drafted, so Frank suggested that he enlist and get into the Quartermaster Corps. at Camp Shelby. That way he could stay in the area and help in the store on week-ends. He did this, and became part of the camp staff, and remained at Camp Shelby while units were shipped overseas during WWI. He worked in Frank's store on Fridays and Saturdays. When the war was over, Frank put in an application saying he needed Jake back in his business, so Jake was discharged.

From Hattiesburg Jake went to San Antonio and worked for Louis Greenburg for 10 years. Then he went to Baltimore for 3 years, and then to Mobile, where Abe Stein helped him get started in business.

Jake's brother Isaac came to the U.S. through a company in Europe that guaranteed immigrants a job once they got here. I believe Jake said Isaac got out of Bremen on the last boat that left before World War I broke out. When he arrived in the U.S. he was sent to Nashville, Tennessee to work in a soap factory. He didn't like that and got a job with a company selling snacks and drinks on passenger trains. Later he came to Hattiesburg. Rebecca was from Laurel, Mississippi. Eventually Isaac had a fruit and vegetable business.

When Moishe and Shaindel's son Abraham was rejected from going to the U.S., he returned home and went into the Russian Army. He served 3 years and 8 months and was discharged. World War I started soon after his discharge. Afraid that he'd be called back, he travelled around so that the authorities wouldn't know where he was. Then, in 1917, the Bolshevik Revolution occurred and the whole country was thrown into turmoil. Times were bad for everyone, and worst of all for the Jews. There were pogroms--Moishe's store was robbed or set on fire several times. Moishe and family had several narrow escapes. Fearing for his family's safety, Moishe sent his daughters to stay in Romania. Rose used a cousin's passport and came to the U.S. with another family in 1921. She met Philip Pearlman on the boat to the U.S. and married him later in Baltimore. Philip had left Russia to avoid going into the army.

Abe had married and his sons Philip and Sidney were born. His first wife died and he married Pessie, who raised the boys as her own. Finally, Louis, Big Jake, Frank and Little Jake sent tickets and Moishe, Shaindel, Sam, Sarah, Thelma, and Abe and his family (apparently Abe's trachoma had been cured) all came to the U.S. through Bremen. Pessie was pregnant and gave birth to a daughter a few days after the ship left Bremen. It was a French ship named "La Touraine", so Abe and Pessie named their daughter Touraine. The family was given special attention en route because of the newborn baby. They landed in Baltimore in 1922.

Moishe opened a religious book and artifact store on Lombard Street in Baltimore. He was always known as a very devout, learned and charitable man.

Abe worked as a presser for awhile, but Pessie's father and brothers were in Milwaukee and had a successful bag business going. Abe and Pessie moved there and Abe went into business with his in-laws. Later Philip took over the business. Abe was also remembered as being very philanthropic in the community.

Rose's husband, Philip Pearlman, was in the junk business in Baltimore. Sarah married Jacob Polsky, who had a grocery store and later was a salesman for a line of men's furnishings. Sam Rubenstein was a merchant and lived in Mobile, Alabama. Thelma married Jacob Goldberg, who was from Jerusalem and was a merchant when he came to the U.S.

CHAVA RUBENSTEIN married Kiba Greenberg (son of Jacob Zelig and D'vora Leah), who was the bookkeeper on a Duke's estate in or near the city of Yedenitz (sp?), and also near the towns of Terebna (sp?) and Brechen(sp?) in Bessarabia. (As stated earlier, I have not yet established any familial relationship between Kiba and Mendel Greenberg. While it is certainly possible that they were related, we must assume they were not until we find some proof that they were related.)

The Duke was very wealthy and owned a large estate. Timber was a main source of income. When someone in the Duke's family got married there would be a huge wedding. Guests would come from all over and stay for a week--they'd set up large tents to live in on the grounds of the estate. There would be huge feasts and much celebrating.

Kiba held an important job as bookkeeper on the estate, and was relatively wealthy. All of Chava and Kiba's children were educated, including the daughters. In fact, their youngest daughter Pessie married her tutor and remained in Russia. We do not know if they had any children, or what may have become of them. Likewise, Chava and Kiba's oldest daughter, Rivka, remained in Russia. We do not know her husband's name, but he went to Brazil after Rivka died. They had at least one son, Shlomo, who married someone named Sarah, but what became of them or any other offspring of Rivka is unknown. A son of Chava and Kiba, whose name we do not know, went swimming at a time of year that he wasn't supposed to (perhaps the river was too swift?) and drowned.

Evelyn Rose recalls that her mother, Nettie Greenberg, said that Chava had once been attacked by wolves while sledding in the snow.

Both Chava and Kiba died in one of the flu epidemics that ravaged Europe during and after WWI. I have estimated their year of death as 1919. Chava was 53 when she died, so that puts her birth somewhere around 1866. (Those in Chava's family will want to know that Kiba had a sister, Pearl, who went to Chicago. Some of you may want to try to find out what became of her.)

Frank Rubenstein sponsored Sophie Greenberg to the U.S. I was told that Abe Bernstein, who was a cattle broker in upstate New York, saw her photograph and thought she was so beautiful that he arranged to have her brought over so he could marry her. Sophie and Abe Bernstein were married after WWI. (An interesting story: The Bernstein family name was originally Katz. They were unable to get papers to come to America, until one of the family members found papers on a dead soldier. The soldier's name was Bernstein, so the Katz family got passports and came to the U.S. as Bernsteins.)

In Nettie's family, Libby and Evelyn Sklar married first cousins Seymour and Bill Goldweber. Bill was a musician and he used his middle name for his stage name, Bill Merrill. Bill and Evelyn's son's name is Michael Merrill.

Abraham Greenberg's wife, Lilly, was a neighbor and good friend of Sophie and Nettie Greenberg when they lived in Terebna.

Here I must tell you another story about my adventures in researching this Family Tree. As Irene Kay and I were contacting various relatives for information, Selma Oritt kept insisting to Irene that a neighbor of her's in Bal Harbour was somehow related to the Rubensteins. I kept waiting for the connection to turn up as I located and identified all of Moishe, Louis, Jake, Frank and Shava's descendants. No luck. Selma was adamant. Finally, Uncle Buddy and Aunt Doris Claire visited Selma early last fall, and got Evelyn Rose's phone number.

When I called Evelyn, she told me she had always been told that she and Selma were related, but she never knew how. She remembered that when she was a child in Baltimore, Selma's mother Leah Rubenstein had lived with the Sklar family for a while before she passed away. Evelyn's mother Nettie called Leah "Tante Leah." When Evelyn told me that her grandfather's name was Greenberg, I was really confused--Selma kept insisting that we were related on the Rubenstein side! But Evelyn did give me enough information that a few things began to fall into place.

I remembered that Moishe's daughter Sarah had said there was another sister besides Leah and Shava. At the time I had discounted that because not one of the many other people I had talked to had mentioned a third sister. I called Milton Polsky back and asked for the name of the third sister that his mother had mentioned: it was Chava! Next, I felt that what Evelyn had told me about Kiba and Chava living on an estate tied in strongly with Judy Shampaine's story about Shava staying on a relative's estate while fleeing Russia. Also, Judy had thought that Shava had had 6 brothers and sisters, not 5.

This was all pretty exciting, but the clincher did not come until I got in touch with Rusa's daughter Evelyn Berger. When I told her I thought we might be related on the Rubenstein side, she replied "Oh yes, there was an Uncle Frank..."

Had it not been for Selma's insistence and a little detective work, I would have overlooked an entire branch of the Family Tree. I suppose that the fact that Chava and Kiba died in Russia and only the children came over caused the rest of the family to lose touch with Chava's branch. At any rate, I would like to learn more about Chava and Kiba and their descendants, when and how they came to the U.S., and what they did after they got here.

SHAVA RUBENSTEIN married Mordecai Aaronson, who ran a wholesale grocery in Verbovitz. Mordecai was well respected and loved by all the peasants because he would always help them out if they needed it. If they didn't have money, he would let them have food and pay for it later, when they were able to. Mordecai died at age 37 of pneumonia or during one of the flu epidemics during or after World War I. (I have arbitrarily placed his date of death as 1919--does anyone have better information?)

During the Russian Revolution times became very dangerous for the family because of the fighting between the Red and White Russian factions. Additionally, there were pogroms against the Jews. Shava saw that she had to take the children out of the area, so she hired a horse-drawn sled. The neighbors helped Shava and the children get away because Mordecai had always been so helpful and good to all of them. She had to hide the children in the sled and cover them with straw and tell them to be very still and quiet as they rode.

When they got to the Dnestr River at the border of Romania, they stayed in some warehouses with about 40 other people. After waiting one or more days, at about 3 A.M. a light was flashed on the other side of the river to signal that it was safe to cross. They crossed the frozen river on foot. (One account that I heard was that it was Shabbos, and some of the people refused to go because they refused to ride on the Sabbath. Shava said she wouldn't risk the lives of her children just for the sake of keeping the Sabbath, and so they crossed over.)

Once in Romania, the family stayed for several weeks with some relatives (an aunt, uncle or cousin?) who lived on a large estate near Bucharest. (I'm not sure if this would be Chava and Kiba Greenberg, or perhaps another relative, possibly on the Aaronson side of the family.)

Frank Rubenstein sent them tickets to come to America, so they went by train to Antwerp, Belgium, and got on the ship to the U.S. Frank had sent first class tickets instead of steerage, as most immigrants to the U.S. used. They landed at Ellis Island in 1920 or 1921, and stayed in New York for a few weeks. The family went from there to Baltimore, where Louis Rubenstein was by this time. Shava got a house and had a small store in front, where she sold thread and sewing notions, candy, etc.

Joe, Abe and Meyer sold newspapers before and after school each day. When they were old enough to leave home, Joe went to New Orleans to work for Frank Rubenstein, Abe went to Mississippi, and Meyer went to New Orleans to work for Frank.

Shava moved to New Orleans to be with her sons. In 1932, Frank sent Joe to El Paso, Texas to manage a Franklin Store, and Shava moved to El Paso about a year later. Joe, Abe and Meyer opened their first "Aaronson Brothers" store in 1941. Abe was 4-F and ran the store while Joe and Meyer were in the service during World War II. After the war they began opening more stores and expanded the company rapidly. By 1965 there were 58 Aaronson Brothers stores from Texas to California. When the Mexican peso was devalued, the stores lost a large percentage of their trade. The company closed about 25 stores under Chapter 11 reorganization. In the mid-1970's, Volume Merchandise bought out the company.

Rose Aaronson married Izzie Goldberg, who had several stores.

Gertrude Aaronson married Herman Marcus, who operated a large clothing manufacturing operation.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT: THE SHOR FAMILY

I am including a short review of the Shor family because it is so extensively tied in with the Rubensteins.

The Shor family was from the same area in Russia as the Rubensteins, possibly as town named "Grading". Moishe and Esther Shor had 7 daughters and no sons. As mentioned earlier, when Frank Rubenstein came to Baltimore on a buying trip, he met and married Yetta Shor, the oldest daughter. It seems that Yetta's sisters kept coming to Hattiesburg and getting married, as follows:

Eva Shor married Louis Greenburg, and Mollie Shor married Harry Greenburg, Frank Rubenstein's nephew. Irene Shor married Barney Auerbach, who was Abe Stein's first cousin.

Becky Shor married "Z" Cohen, who worked for Frank in Hattiesburg. Dora Shor married Dave Levine, who was a son of the rabbi in Hattiesburg and brother of Abe Levine (Abe later lived in Mobile). Dave had a vending business, a magazine distributorship, and later a liquor store in Hattiesburg. Sylvia Shor married Murray Bright, who also worked for Frank Rubenstein.

Also as mentioned earlier, Selma Oritt married Ira Beck, a first cousin to the Shor sisters. (Ira's mother was a sister to either Moishe or Esther Shor.) And Louis Rubenstein sold his store to Harry Shor when he left Hattiesburg. Harry and his brother Nathan were also first cousins to the Shor sisters (I assume their father was a brother of Moishe Shor).

When Moishe Shor died, Esther moved in with Irene and Barney Auerbach and lived with them for many many years before she passed away. Barney managed a Diana Shop in Hattiesburg for Frank Rubenstein. Later, Irene and Barney's son Leonard went to Laredo to manage a Franklin store there.