Introduction to the
1898 Census
of the Jewish Population
Living in Podu Iloaiei, Romania

Table of Contents

1   Forward

It gives me great pleasure to reproduce the 1898 Podu Iloaiei Census.

The census was extracted from the State Archives in Iasi, by Dr. Itic Svart-Kara and in 1990 was published in his book **Obstea Evreiasca din...Podu Iloaiei.** It was later translated into English and made available to ROM-SIG by arrangement of Nat Abramowitz. In July 2001 I scanned it into the current electronic format (see accompanying Excel files).

KM Elias   Sep/2003
Toronto, Canada

2   The ROM-SIG Version

The following introduction appeared together with the census in **ROM-SIG NEWS, Vol. 5, No. 2, Winter 1996-97:**

Podu Iloaiei, a small and poor town in the Moldavian region of Romania, does not appear on many maps. It is about 17 miles west and slightly north of the famous city of Iasi. Yet a book of 168 tightly printed pages about this town's Jewish life was published in 1990, describing (in Romanian) its history, local economy, cultural activities, synagogues, rabbinical traditions, etc. Of special interest to genealogists, the book also contains several censuses of the Jews living in this town. The earliest was dated 1824 and the latest 1898. It is the 1898 census, consisting of some 723 names and taking up just 26 pages, that we have extracted and translated.

The task was a truly communal one: Nat Abramowitz did most of the translation, but several of the archaic words for various occupations stumped him. We sent the words out over the Internet to over 140 of our members and elicited many replies. In particular, Sandi Goldsmith just "happened" to be in Bucharest and engaged the entire staff of her husband's branch office in solving the definitions. Also, Marcel and Mary Bratu pulled out their own ancient dictionary and defined many of the words.

*The book is **Obstea Evreiasca din...Podu Iloaiei** (The Jewish Community of Podu Iloaiei), and is subtitled "Pages from the History of a Moldavian Shtetl" Much of the narrative material was written by Dr. Kara, although several others also contributed. We believe that many of the first 97 pages, which precede the census tables, would be of interest to our members, but we need one or more volunteers to review the material and translate the best parts into English. Any volunteers?*

In translating the census table, we encountered several odd words and apparent inconsistencies. Where there was not room to comment within the table, we inserted a code, such as [ac]. All such codes are explained in a list that follows the table.

We also include here a list of the occupations found in the census table. This may be useful for our readers when translating other documents.

2.1 *Explanatory Codes*

These are the explanatory codes used by Nat Abramowitz in the RomSig edition.

Aa	#1 and #3 say *vaduva* (widow), yet these are men with wives. Perhaps #2 and #4 are the widows intended. On the other hand, #56, 402, 403, 452, 517 say *vaduv* (widower), but entry is for a woman.
Ab	Entry is sotie (spouse); her name was not learned
Ac	#211: age 24, but in Podu Iloaiei for 30 years!
Ad	#224: 3 *ucenici* (apprentices)
Ae	#295: in Children column.. ..*un serv de 15 ani* (a 15-year-old male servant)
Af	#310: 1 *ucenic* (apprentice)
Ag	Various, including #312: 1 *serv* (servitor, bondsman)
Ah	#327, #328: no entry in these columns
ai	#374: 1 *frate mic* (young brother)
aj	#482: 6 children, *1 frate* (brother)
Ak	#496,497: #497 says "spouse of the *haham."* She may be the spouse of #496. Note same ages and same time in Podu Iloaiei, yet different last names.
Ba	#340: abbreviated as *serv.* Thus, we dont know the gender of this servant.
Bb	#208: says *vaduva* (widow), yet both names appear to be female
Be	#328: *venit acum* (just arrived)
Bd	#700: male's age is 21 , wife's age is 52
Be	#706: male's age is 28, wife's age is 60

2.2 *Occupations*

Nat Abramowitz had the following occupations, appearing in the census, translated from Romanian to English.

Barbier	hairdresser; **frlzer** = hair-cutter
Belfer	teacher (elementary, not high school)
Birjar	probably **bijar:** coachman
Blanar	furrier
Blat	plasterer
Boiangiu, boiangita	Dyer
bragagiu bulgar	Person who produces or sells *braga,* a soft drink made from maize, rye or millet, boiled and fermented Monica Talmor says, "There were, and probably still are, bars in Romania which served only this drink, and where men usually went to socialize. I remember going with my father to such a place and eating cheese pie."
brutar, brutirfe	baker
Butnar	cooper, barrelmaker
Cafegiu	coffee house keeper
caramidar	brickmaker
Casap	butcher
ceaprazar	manufacturer or merchant selling silk or golden thread to make laces/cords, ribbons, tassels to adorn adorn military uniforms; by extension, manufacturer of military caps and other accessories of military costumes. On the other hand, we are told: ceprezar.....beretmaker, maker of small caps but not of hats.
Ceaus	minor official: doorkeeper, courier, usher, leader of small group of minor officials
cirnatar, carnatar	person who makes or sells sausages
ciubotar	bootmaker
Cizmar	shoemaker
Cofetar	confectioner
Cojocar	coatmaker, perhaps of animal skins; not a furrier
comerciant	merchant; dealer
contabil	accountant (rather than bookkeeper)
cotiugar	carter; wagoner
covrigar	bagelmaker
Croitor	tailor
croitorcasa	seamstress
Dacal	probably, daical: piwate tutor, *or* Orthodox church Jeacoa (not a Jew)
Fierar	ironworker
Haham	*schochet* (ritual slaughterer of chickens)
Hangiu	innkeeper
invatator	teacher
liber, libera	self-employed handyman
medic	physician
moasa	midwife
muncitor	laborer

Murar	miller
Pescar	fisherman; appears sometimes in census as pascar
Pietrar	stone mason
pitar	bread maker
precupet, precupeata	huckster
propr. case	owmer of property; landlord
rabin	rabbi
Roman ardelean	Transylvanian novelist, or writer of romances set in Transylvania
rotar	wheelwright
sacagiu	water carrier
saidacar	craftsman who makes ecclesiastical (church, synagogue) objects and attire.
scortr	makes small, simple rugs or carpets
serv., serva	servant or waiter
stoler	joiner
tinichigiu	tinsmith
veterinar	veterinarian

3   The Electronic Version

3.1 *How It Was Produced*

The census was scanned into electronic format by KM Elias in July/2001 from the ROM-SIG hardcopy. Unfortunately the results were not perfect. The Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software had difficulty with Romanian accented letters such as S and T. In most cases S became a special character and T became a J. The resulting document was edited and these were changed to unaccented S and Ts. Therefore when you see letters S and T, please beware that they may really be accented letters (pronounced as Sh and Tz respectivley). The OCR software caused other problems as well. We corrected whatever we found, however there is the possibility that some errors were overlooked.

3.2 *New Features*

We have also added a new column, Last Name, to the electronic version of the census. The ability to sort by last name will help researchers find information more easily.

In most cases we arrived at the surname by stripping away everything except the last word of the full name. This rule does not always work well, especially in the case of women. For example:

Record#	Full Name	Assumed Last Name	Comment
4	Bella Smil Lupu	Lupu	Smil Lupu may have been Bella's husband. Lupu may have been his middle name rather than surname.
11	Solomon sin Moise	Sin Moise	His surname may be "sin Moise". However he may not have a surname and this only means that he is the son of Moise.
12	Moise sin M. Solomon	Sin M. Solomon	
18	Smil M. Rosu	Rosu	
33	Rifca Simon Itic		Simon Itic may have been Rifca's husband. Itic may have been his middle name rather than surname

The Excel file shows the list arranged in four different sequences:
1. Record#
2. Last Name
3. First Name
4. Wife's First Name

4   Additional Notes

4.1   *Surnames*

Some JewishGen/PoduIloaiei researchers have been disappointed not finding their ancestors in the census. I must caution that the census in its current form may not be complete. The material went through a lot of different processes:
- Kara transcribing from the source documents (which themselves may have been incomplete)
- Printing of Kara's book
- Nat Abramowitz transcribing and translating the material in the book for publication in the RomSig Journal.
- My electronic scanning of the RomSig material. (After scanning there was still a lot of tidying up to do, but that wouldn't account for missing records – only mispelled names).

But I wouldn't rush to any conclusions. I was also perplexed why the siblings of my great-grandparents were missing from the census, until I found other civic records showing them residing in some of the surrounding communities.

Another major obstacle in identifying ancestors is the fact that a large number of entries appear without surnames. Apparently the adoption of surnames was a rather late innovation in PI. Nat Abramowicz couldn't find his father on the census because he didn't adopt the name Abramowicz until he left PI for America.

Others were more successful in finding their ancestors amongst the non-surnamed entries such as Avram sin Moise. So look closely at all the entries.

4.2 *Given Names*

The letters in the Romanian alphabet do not always sound phonetically the same as they do in English. Consequently the Hebrew and Yiddish origins of many given names listed in the census may not be readily apparent. The following table shows the origins.

Romanian Spelling	Gender F=Fem.	Origin H=Hebrew	Corresponding Hebrew or Yiddish Transliterated into English	English Meaning or Current English Spelling
Aba		H	Aba	father
Adela	F		Adela	
Aizic		H	Yitschok	Isaac
Alla	F		Alla	
Alta			Alta	old
Altar			Altar	old
Alter			Alter	old
Ana	F		Ana	
Ancel			Anshel	
Aron		H	Aron	Aaron
Avner		H	Avner	Abner
Avram		H	Avraham	Abraham
Baba	F		Baba	grandmother
Basa	F		Basa	
Basea	F		Basia	
Basia	F		Basia	
Beika	F		Beika	
Beila	F		Beila	beautiful
Bela	F		Bela	beautiful
Bella	F		Bella	beautiful
Bercu		H	Boruch	
Beris			Berish	bear
Besa	F		Besa	
Beti	F		Beti	
Blima	F		Blima	
Brana	F		Brana	
Bruha	F	H	Bracha	
Calman			Kalman	
Cearna	F		Cherna	
Cerna	F		Cherna	
Chitla	F		Chitla	
Chiva	F	H	Chava	
Clara	F		Clara	
Copel			Copel	

Romanian Spelling	Gender F=Fem.	Origin H=Hebrew	Corresponding Hebrew or Yiddish Transliterated into English	English Meaning or Current English Spelling
Crana	F		Crana	
Dadiil			Dadiil	David
David		H	David	
Dina	F	H	Dina	
Dobris	F		Dobris	
Dvaire	F	H	Devorah	Deborah
Dvoira	F	H	Devorah	Deborah
Elca	F		Elca	
Elias		H	Eliyahu	Elijah
Elie	M/F	H	Elie	
Enta	F		Enta	
Ester	F	H	Esther	
Estera	F	H	Esther	
Eti	F		Eti	
Etla	F		Etla	
Faibis			Faivish/Favel	
Faiga	F		Faiga	bird
Feiga	F		Feiga	bird
Fisel			Fishel	
Fitla	F		Fitla	
Freida	F		Freida	happy
Frima	F		Frima	religious
Froim		H	Ephraim	
Gehedala		H	Gedaliah	
Ghedale		H	Gedaliah	
Gheila	F	H	Gila	joy
Ghersan		H	Gershon	
Ghersen		H	Gershon	
Ghersin		H	Gershon	
Ghidale		H	Gedaliah	
Ghidole		H	Gedaliah	
Ghitla	F		Ghitla	good
Gitla	F		Gitla	good
Golda	F		Golda	gold
Gute	?		Gute	good
Haia	F	H	Chaya	
Haike		H	Haike	Chaim
Haim		H	Chaim	
Ham		H	Chaim	
Hana	F	H	Chana	
Hania	F	H	Hania	Chana

Romanian Spelling	Gender F=Fem.	Origin H=Hebrew	Corresponding Hebrew or Yiddish Transliterated into English	English Meaning or Current English Spelling
Hanja	F		Hania	
Hanta	F	H	Hanta	Hannah
Hava	F	H	Chava	Eve
Heilic			Heilic	
Herjel			Hershel	horse
Herscu			Hershke	horse
Hinda	F		Hinda	
Hinde	F		Hinde	
Huna	F	H	Chana	Hannah
Iancu		H	Yaakov	Jacob
Ichil		H	Yitschok	Isaac
Idea	F		Idea	
Idel		H	Yidel/Yehuda	Judah
Idla		H	Yidel/Yehuda	Judah
Ihil			Ihil	
Ilie		H	Ilie/Eliyahu	Elijah
Inghel			Yingel	little boy
Ioil		H	Yoel	Joel
Ioina		H	Yona	Jonah
Ioli		H	Yoel	Joel
Iosef		H	Yosef	Joseph
Iosif		H	Yosef	Joseph
Iosub		H	Yosef	Joseph
Isac		H	Isaac	
Istera	F	H	Esther	
Ita			Ita	
Ita	F		Ita	
Itic		H	Yitschok	Isaac
Itla	F		Itla	
Iuclea		H	Yaakov	Jacob
Iulia	F		Yulia	
Kiva		H	Akiva	
Laba	F		Leiba	
Lea	F	H	Leah	
Leia	F	H	Leah	
Leiba	F		Leiba	
Leibe	F		Leiba	
Leibu	F		Leiba	
Leizer		H	Elazer/Eliezer	
Lemel			Lemel	
Liba	F		Leiba	

Romanian Spelling	Gender F=Fem.	Origin H=Hebrew	Corresponding Hebrew or Yiddish Transliterated into English	English Meaning or Current English Spelling
Lifsa	F		Lifsa	
Lisa	F		Lisa	
Lupu			Lupu	
Mahla	F		Machla	
Maia	F		Maia	
Malca	F	H	Malca	
Malka	F	H	Malka	
Manase		H	Menashe	
Manea	F		Manea	
Maria	F		Maria	Miriam
Matla	F		Matla	
Meer		H	Meyer	
Meier		H	Meyer	
Meir		H	Meyer	
Mendel			Mendel	
Meolich		H	Melech	king
Mer		H	Meyer	
Metla	F		Metla	
Michel		H	Michel	
Mihel		H	Michel	
Mina	F		Mina	
Mindla	F		Mindla	
Mirca	F		Mirca	
Misca	F		Mishka	
Moisa		H	Moshe	Moses
Moise		H	Moshe	Moses
Muisoc		H	Moshe	Moses
Naftule		H	Naftali	
Nahama	F	H	Nechama	consolation
Nahman		H	Nachman	
Nesa	F		Nesa	
Nuham		H	Nacham	
Nusan		H	Natan	
Nusim		H	Nissim	
Nuta		H	Nuta	
Otemia	F		Otemia	
Pavel			Pavel	Paul
Perla	F		Perla	pearl
Pesa	F		Pesa	
Pincu		H	Pinchas	
Posla	F		Posla	

Romanian Spelling	Gender F=Fem.	Origin H=Hebrew	Corresponding Hebrew or Yiddish Transliterated into English	English Meaning or Current English Spelling
Rebeca	F	H	Rivka	Rebecca
Recha	F	H	Rachel	
Reiza	F		Reiza	rose
Reizl	F		Reizl	
Rica	F		Rica	
Rifca	F	H	Rivka	Rebecca
Risla	F		Risla	
Riva	F	H	Riva	Rebecca
Rivan		H	Rivan	Reuben
Riven		H	Rueven	Reuben
Roiza	F		Roiza	rose
Roza	F		Roza	rose
Ruhala	F	H	Ruchala	Rachel
Ruhla	F	H	Rachel	
Runa	F		Runa	
Saia		H	Shaya	Isaiah
Saim		H	Shaya	
Sapsa			Shepse	sheep
Sara	F	H	Sara	Sarah
Sein	F		Sheyna	beautiful
Seina	F		Sheyna	beautiful
Seina	F		Sheyna	beautiful
Seindl	F		Sheyna	beautiful
Seindla	F		Sheyna	beautiful
Seindle	F		Sheyna	beautiful
Seine	F		Sheyna	beautiful
Sender			Sender	Alexander
Sifra	F	H	Shifra	
Sima	F		Sima	
Simon		H	Shimon	Simon
Slima		H	Shlomo	Solomon
Sloim		H	Shlomo	Solomon
Smil		H	Shmuel	Samuel
Sofia	F		Sofia	
Sofica	F		Sofica	
Solomon		H	Solomon	Solomon
Sosa	F		Sosa	
Strul		H	Yisroel	Israel
Sulem		H	Shalom	
Sulim		H	Shalom	
Sura	F	H	Sarah	

Romanian Spelling	Gender F=Fem.	Origin H=Hebrew	Corresponding Hebrew or Yiddish Transliterated into English	English Meaning or Current English Spelling
Teba	F	H	Tova	
Teitl	F		Teitl	
Tipra	F	H	Tziporah	
Tirla	F		Tirla	
Tivia		H	Tuvia	
Toba	F	H	Tova	
User		H	Asher	
Vigder		H	Avigdor	
Volf			Volf	wolf
Zaida			Zaida	grandfather
Zeida			Zeida	grandfather
Zeilic			Zeilic	
Zelda	F		Zelda	
Zisla	F		Zisla	sweet
Zisu			Zisu	sweet