

NEW RECORDS FROM JEWISHGEN.COM

The dedicated workers at JewishGen.com have added a number of new records of Rolniks from Lithuania. Here are some of interest:

ROLNIK, Wolf		well-to-do; 4 people in family	1892	Taurage	KRA/I- 49/1/17526
		Box Taxpayers		Raseiniai	208
				Kaunas	116
ROLNIK, <u>Girsh</u>		poor; 3 people in family	1892	Taurage	KRA/I- 49/1/17526
		Box Taxpayers		Raseiniai	316
				Kaunas	117

This record shows Wolf Rolnik living in Taurage in 1892, well-to-do, with four people in the family. This is our Wolf Rolnik,, no longer living in Upyna but now in Taurage where, as we saw in chapter nine of the Rolnick book, his wife Chaya lived. Wolf and Chaya had already married and a number of children had been born to them. In 1892, four Rolnik children would have been living with them: Sarah, Dorothy, Abraham and Janie. The eldest, Fanny had by then left home and was already married to Victor Rifkin, while Roman, Robert and Lily were yet to be born. This is, of course, the last record of Wolf Rolnik in Lithuania, since by 1894 they had already reached South Africa. One can see from the record that there was another Rolnick family living in Taurage, the Girsh Rolniks. I have been unable to find any further information about them, except that Girsh's father was Zelik. The next record poses even more of a mystery:

Siesikai									
Ukmerge	ROLNIKAS / ROLNIKI	Yankel	Mausha						Foreign Passport Application
				born 1915	Left for South Africa	Single. Born in Siesikai in Ukmerge district. Photo and Lithuanian passport no 1502647 issued in 10 Apr 1933. Ukmerge are in the file.	18 June 1935	R3926	LCVA/410/6/163

Who is this Yankel Rolnik, son of Mausha (Moses), who left Lithuania, aged 25, in 1935? Yankel is, of course, Jacob. I have not come across any Jacob Rolnick in the South African records. So the new findings from JewishGen have confirmed that the Wolf Rolnik family, from which our South African Rollnicks are descended, was living in Taurage before they left for South Africa. This accords with what my mother, Lily Rollnick, had told me. But these new findings

raise new problems to solve.

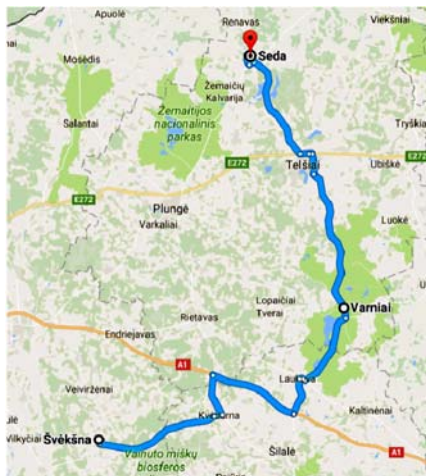
But here is a record that solved an old problem:

None of us knew the family name of Lily's mother-in-law, Sarah Stein. I recently stumbled across the following record:

Marriage Place Town / Uyezd / Guberniya	Groom Name	Groom Age	Bride Age	Comments	Rabbi	Place Recorded
					Witness 1	
Marriage Date (DD/MM/CCYY) HebrewDate	Bride Name	BrideFather Mother Place			Witness2	Record Type
						Record #
Varniai Telsiai Kaunas	SHTEIN, Shloma	Abram	20		Aron GRINBERG	Varniai
21/11/1874 1 Tevet	MELESH, Sara Leya	Berel Seda	21		Yankel KANTER Shalom GORZHD	1874 marria
						5

This shows Solomon Stein, son of Abraham, marrying Sara Leya Melesh, daughter of Berel from Seda, in 1874. Now we know that Abraham was the name of my grandfather Solomon Stein's father and we know that Philip Stein's mother was Sara and that his middle

name was Bernard. All that fits with the record. But why should the marriage have been held in Varniai? Not only was it midway between the homes of the bride and the groom but Varniai was also the home of close relatives (cousins) of Solomon Stein, the origin of both these branches of the Stein family being Seda itself.



From this we have learned that Lily's mother-in-law's maiden name was Melesh. Lily never met her father-in-law Solomon, since he had died long before their marriage, but both Lily and Sara Leya appear in the wonderful Stein-Grodzinski wedding photograph on page 363 of the Rolnick book. (Reproduced on facing page).

And here is Philip Stein, describing his mother (from his autobiography):

"I still remember Germainitz in Shvekshna. We lived in Germainitz until I was about seven. My mother leased the cattle (milk) from the Noble's bailiff. The cattle were tended and herded by the Noble's peasants. We had the milk and sold it in Shvekshna. Some years also she bought the crop of the Noble's orchard. Shvekshna was very near



the Prussian border and my mother used to take the fruit into Prussian and retail it in the market at Memel or Konigsburg. One of my mother's stories was this: There was some infectious disease rampant in Konigsburg and as a consequence when my mother came to Konigsburg with a cartload of apples she was not permitted to sell them. She took a sample of her best apples and brought them to the Inspector. How could such apples be harmful to man or beast? The Inspector was duly impressed and gave her permission to sell her apples. As she had a monopoly that day she was able to sell these apples quickly and very profitably."

The Noble mentioned by Philip was; "In 1766, Graf Palter and his heirs bought it and owned it until 1940."

http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinkas_lita/lit_00673.html

I have, I think, recently identified the town that Philip called Germinetz. It is the modern village Germinika in the map that follows. Not too far to get to Sveksna with the milk and perhaps cheese:

