

NEW RESULTS FROM DNA STUDIES

A number of new developments have arisen from DNA studies since the writing of the Rolnick book.

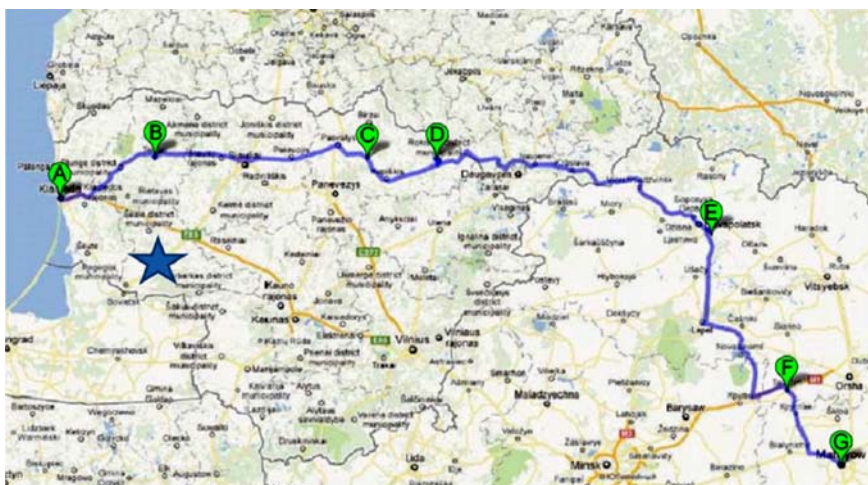
New members of the CoRolnicks YDNA-based family. *On page 390 and the following pages of the Rolnick book, I described how on the basis of YDNA studies one could suggest that a group of 10 people, which included two members of the Northern Rolnicks, were very closely related in their YDNA sequence, and might be called the Co-Rolnicks. I traced their descent from people living in Spain, perhaps at the end of the 15th century, before the Spanish Jews were expelled. In preparing for this supplement, I searched again for any additional people who could be considered members of the Co-Rolnicks group on the basis of their YDNA sequence. What I found is on the following table (compare this with the table on page 391 of the Rolnick book:*

Searching with CHZVW, J. Rolnick's ID number, at 37 Markers

User ID	Last Name	Family Origin	Haplogroup	Markers Compared	Steps
CHZVW	Rolnick J	Telsiai, Lithuania	G2a (tested)	37	0
ATR8V	Ronnen	Telsiai, Lithuania	Unknown	37	1
TYVEP	Rosenblum	Lithuania	Unknown	37	1
Y27EP	Rolnick M	Telsiai, Lithuania	G2a*	37	2
S7FKB	Hammer	Austro-Hungarian Empire	G2a (tested)	37	2
EEC6P	Drabkin	Mogilev, Belarus	Unknown	37	2
GTTY9	Stearns	Unknown	Unknown	37	3
CCTR3	Sneirson	Vabalninkas and Panevezys, Lithuania	Unknown	37	3
83TK3	Meyers	Yannisic, Lithuania	G2a1a (tested)	37	3
69GQ5	Weissman	Russia	Unknown	37	4
ZV2W5	Rothstein	Tolochin, Belarus	Unknown	37	4
JKU24	Hall	Unknown	Unknown	37	6

The new and old tables are almost exactly the same. The only difference is that two new members have joined the local Co-Rolnicks grouping. One of these is ATR8V Ronnen, a true member of the Northern Rolnicks, who was mentioned on page 55 of the Rolnick book. He had agreed to donate a cheek swab so as to confirm his membership in the Northern Rolnicks, and there he was, a full member of the Co-Rolnicks. The other new member is TYVEP Rosenblum. This cheek swab was donated by Gerald Rosenblum, a maternal uncle

of my daughter-in-law Marla Shalinsky whom I had been helping search her family's genealogy. I had written in the Rolnick book that finding only 10 people sharing the YDNA sequence of the Co-Rolnicks was "an amazing result". How amazing it is, therefore, that when Gerald Rosenblum donated his cheek swab, it extended the Co-Rolnicks grouping by this additional member. Gerald is, as far as we know, totally unrelated to the Northern Rolnicks or any member of the Co-Rolnicks grouping. The origins of Gerald's family are in the shtetl called Neishtat, the Yiddish for Kudirkos Naumiestis in Lithuania. The map below is exactly the map that appears on page 393 of the Rolnick book except that I have added, as the star, the location of the town Kudirkos Naumiestis where, as the records from JewishGen confirm, Gerald Rosenblum's grandfather Hirsh was living in 1848.



A Meyer, B Rolnick, C Sneirson, D Meyers, E Weissman, F Rothstein, G Drabkin

The Rosenblum shtetl of Neishtat (Kudirkos Naumiestis) is some 180 Km from Plunge (A on the Map) or from Telsiai (B on the map), towns from where the Northern Rolnicks, Gilad Ronnen and Matthew and Jerome Rolnick, originate or from (C) Panevezys, the Snierson's shtetl and 200 Km from (D) Yannistic (Yoniskis today), the Meyers' town of origin.

One genetic step in 37 markers, which is the extent that Gerald Rosenblum differs from the Rolnicks, is expected to arise in some five generations with a probability of 50%. Five generations is perhaps 150 years. Gerald's greatgreatgrandfather, Vulf Rosenblum, four generations back, was 27 years old when we first meet him (in a JewishGen record) in Neishtat in 1848. We can take it that he was born around 1820. Our earliest Rolnik, Leib, five generations back from Gilad Ronnen/Rolnick is recorded as being born in 1760 on a record dated 1816 (page 33 in the

Rolnick book). So at that date the Telsiai Rolniks had already taken surnames. These dates are 150 to 200 years ago, just when we might hope to expect to see a relationship between the Rolnicks and the Rosenblums. The five generations ago that the DNA data suggest to be the time of the last common ancestor of the Rolnicks and Rosenblums is an approximation, of course, and the identity of the common ancestor of Vulf Rosenblum and Leib Rolnik is buried further back than the records have yet been able to show.

Some of the people whose origins are located in the map above have had additional YDNA tests done since the Rolnick book was completed. Drabkin at G above has had his analysis extended to 111 markers as has Myers at D. The two differ by six markers, suggesting that their common ancestor lived some six generations, or some 200 years ago. At the 67 markers level, Rothstein at E above can be compared with 67 markers of Drabkin. They differ by five markers, putting their common ancestor at five generations ago or 150 years. These new data fully confirm that many of the people on the map share common origins, just at about the time before surnames came into use.

I thought that maybe I could make some further progress by finding other people called Rosenblum who had donated cheek swabs for their YDNA analyses. I did find two other Rosenblum families, related to one another, and from much the same area in Lithuania as our Rosenblums had originated. But when I compared the the two sets of YDNA data I found that they were completely unrelated. So, just as there are two tribes of Rolnicks in Lithuania, there are at least two tribes of Rosenblums. It is amusing, however, that this second family of Rosenblums is only one genetic step away from our South African Rolnicks, who descend from the central Rolnicks.

User ID	Last Name	Origin	Haplo group	Tested With	Markers Compared	Genetic Distance
EHZNS	Rosenblum	Vilkija (?), Lith.	Unknown	Family Tree DNA	12	0
EMAWW	Rosenblum	Vilkija (?), Lith.	Unknown	Family Tree DNA	12	0
HF4R6	Rosenblum	Vilkija (?), Lith.	Unknown	Family Tree DNA	12	0
2NPDM	Rosenblum	Vilkija (?), Lith.	Unknown	Family Tree DNA	12	0
54BVG	Chemnick	Starodub, Russ.	J2 (tested)	Family Tree DNA	12	0
38PTH	Chemoff	Poland	Unknown	Family Tree DNA	12	0
KEC2S	Rollnick	Telsiai, Lith.	Unknown	Family Tree DNA	25	1
MJEDR	Rollnick	Telsiai, Lith.	Unknown	Family Tree DNA	25	1
TTRP7	Rolnick	Skudvile, Lith.	Unknown	Family Tree DNA	25	1

In this table are data from four different Rosenblum cheek swabs and three Rolnick cheek swabs and they are very close matches.

Actually those Rosenblums tested their YDNA at only 12 markers. A difference of one genetic marker out of 12 is a good match, enough to say that at this level of testing the two families are not unrelated. But the data are only good enough to say that the two lines separated some 500 years ago.

As Google shows us, one could easily walk the distance between the Rosenblums' Vilkija and the Rolnicks' Skaudvilė in two days:






Finding a grandfather.

On page 404 of the Rolnick book, I showed a graph that contained the DNA results of David Richards who had contacted me since he was looking for the identity of his grandfather, his father having been adopted. David started corresponding with me since his closest matches on the YDNA analysis were to Rollnicks. Here is part of the report we received from FTDNA on people who are close YDNA matches to Davis Richards: (see facing page).

At the top of the list, just one genetic step away from David, are Stefan and Stephen Rollnick, the grandson and son of my first cousin Julian Rollnick. I had discussed Stephen's YDNA on page 395 and the following pages in the Rolnick book. However, pursuing these matters further, David and I were unable to find any link between our families. The single genetic step that separates David from the Rollnicks is an extremely slowly mutating DNA sequence, so much so that our common ancestor could have lived as much as 1000 years ago.

<u>Genetic Distance</u> ↓	<u>Name</u>	<u>Most Distant Ancestor</u>	<u>Y-DNA Haplogroup</u>	<u>Terminal SNP</u>	<u>Match Date</u>
1	Mr. Stefan Rollnick 		J-M172		5/24/2012
1	Dr. Stephen Rollnick 		J-M172		5/22/2012
2	Mr. Martin Paul Lupson 		J-M172		2/13/2017
2	Martin Robinson 	 Morris Robinson (Mordkhel Rabinowitz) abt. 1860	J-M172		1/31/2017
2	Eyal Enav 		J-M172		1/27/2017
2	Barry Goldmeier 	 Moses Goldmeier 1838 (Uttrichshausen, Bavaria)	J-M172		09/08/2015
2	Clark Kidder (for Edward J. Reese, Jr) 	 Lewis B. Levy, b. 1799, London, England	J-M172		07/05/2015
2	Benjamin Wertheimer 	 Moe Wertheimer, b. 1889 and d. 1973	J-M172		12/24/2014

But a short while ago, David received the report of an additional two genetic matches:

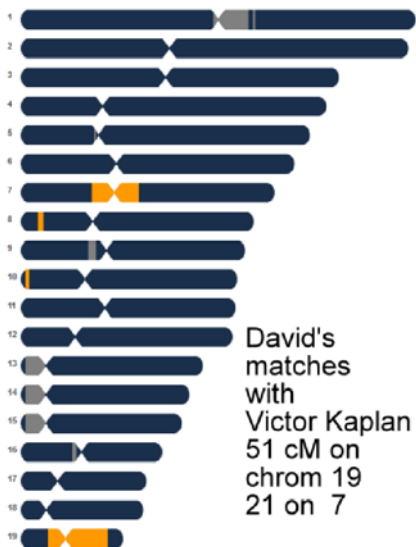
<u>Genetic Distance</u> ↓	<u>Name</u>	<u>Most Distant Ancestor</u>	<u>Y-DNA Haplogroup</u>	<u>Terminal SNP</u>	<u>Match Date</u>
0	Victor Kaplan 		J-M172		11/11/2016
1	Lou Dunst 	 Daniel Sternberg, b about 1870	J-M172		11/10/2016

The first one of these, Victor Kaplan (not his real name), was found to be at a genetic distance of 0, when the test was done at 37 markers, the usual level at which one does testing. David asked Victor to extend the test to include 67 markers. Once again, the genetic distance was zero! Calculations show that there is a 68.4% probability that David and Victor shared a common ancestor two generations ago.

Victor's grandfather was Samuel Kaplan who came to the USA in 1909. David wrote to me [I have slightly edited his remarks]:

"Wilf, I appreciate the effort. From FTDNA Family Finder, GEDmatch and ancestry.com matches I may have found out who my Grandfather is. This would be Samuel Kaplan (Schmeil Kaplan) b 28 Dec 1871 in Zloczow Austria (now Zolochiv, Ukraine). He was in Philadelphia at the right time, living not too far from the address of my Father's birth 19 Mar 1909 in Philadelphia, and was awaiting his family to come over from Austria. One of his Great Granddaughters has a match with me of 248M cM total and 53 cM longest segment ." Victor's own matches with David on the Chromosome Browser are substantial:

A match of this size would make it probable that Victor Kaplan and David Richards are probably second cousins that is, that they share a great grandfather, who would be Samuel Kaplan's father. I have not, however, been able to identify this person in the records of JewishGen.



DNA studies help show that the Silberstein's original name WAS Thier (or a cognate)

On pages 260 and 261 of the Rolnick book I recounted how the Silberstein family had a tradition that the family name was originally Thier or something like that, and that it had been changed to Silberstein as the family crossed the border from Lithuania into Germany around 1866. Naomi Silverton, great granddaughter of Johanna (Rolnik) and Hermann Silberstein, sent in her cheek swab in May of 2013, beginning a three-year search for the original name of the Silberstein family. For

a long time, her search was fruitless until one day, using the genealogical search program GEDMATCH which integrates the results of DNA analyses made on the various competing DNA search frameworks, she received the following result:

Autosomal			X-DNA			Name	Email
Total cM	largest cM	Gen	Details	Total cM	largest cM		
▼	▼	▼ ▲		▼	▼	▼ ▲	▼ ▲
141.6	24.2	3.3	X	0	0	Judith Henrietta Brown S	bstreet1464@sbcglobal.net
155.8	17	3.3	X	19.5	11.9	*Linda C	Lars.Menk@gmail.com
127	35.1	3.4	X	0	0	Wilfred Donald Stein	wilfostein@gmail.com
127.5	21.9	3.4	X	0	0	Keith Alan Rothschild	krothschild@gmail.com
127.4	21.9	3.4	X	0	0	Keith Alan Rothschild	krothschild@gmail.com
121.6	12.8	3.4	X	7.9	7.9	*SusanL	s.leferson@verizon.net
115.6	24	3.5	X	0	0	*KAR Pat	krothschild@gmail.com
107.7	22.3	3.5	X	0	0	*KAR	krothschild@gmail.com
110	16.8	3.5	X	6.1	6.1	*orderedchaos	lizzamay@gmail.com
116.1	15.8	3.5	X	10.1	10.1	Uncle Bernie	RobinGoldstein@gmail.com

The format of GEDMATCH is rather different from the FT DNA results that I have shown previously, but the principle is the same. Take a look under the heading Autosomal to the column headed Total cM. The top name is Judith Henrietta Brown S and she has a total of 141.6 cM of overlapping DNA. I am only number three on this list at 127 cM. Naomi and I are second cousins once removed so Judith Henrietta Brown S is at least as close as that to Naomi. This is the email that Naomi received in answer to her query to Judith [I have edited it somewhat]:

“Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 10:33 AM

Subject: Gedmatch to J.S.

Hi Naomi,

Your email address popped up and I thought that this would be a less cumbersome way to reply to you.

I am Judy Street, the J.S. on Ancestry DNA....

My family history isn't nearly as extensive as yours but we may have a common link from *my father's parents' side*.

Bernard Bloomberg and Yetta Tear were born and lived in Lithuania, USSR.

On an England census form they listed Poland as where born and on the U.S census they listed Russia as where born. I was able to link them to Lithuania through my *Grand Aunt Molly who's husband's name was Lefflor* and he was from Lithuania and knew the Tear and Bloomberg families.

Tear is very similar to the spellings you have in your background of Tier and other variations.

This is my family history as best as I have been able to track through Ancestry.

Bernard Bloomberg and his wife Yetta Tear Bloomberg along with Yetta's sister Becky Tear, left their home in Lithuania, USSR in 1889-90 and travelled to Hamburg, Germany where they boarded a ship that took them to Liverpool, Lancashire, England. They then travelled South to North Central Leeds, in Yorkshire, West Riding. "

Here is a portion of the 1891 England census that lists Bernard Bloomberg, his wife Hettie (Yetta) and her sister Beckey:

Bernard Bloomberg	Head	M	21		Tailor
Hettie do	Wife	M	23		Tailor's
Beckey Tear	Servant	S	14		do

Compare this with what Naomi found on JewishGen:

Searching for Surname (phonetically like) : THIER AND Givenname (DM soundex) : ETTA 7 matching records found. Run on Wed, 06 Jan 2016 06:04:46 -0700													
Town	Uyezd	Gubernia	Surname	GivenName	Father	Relationship	Sex	Age Last Revision	YearLeft	Comments	Day	Page	Publication Type
							Age This Revision	Reason			Month	Registration #	Archive / Fond
											Year	Former Registrations	Microfilm
Krakes												53	Family List
Kaunas			TYR	Nokhemia Meyer	Isdel	Head of Household				Tyr Nokhemia Lozer?			KRA/I-61/2/5530
Kaunas							31				1874	18	
			TYR	Samuel	Nokhemia Meyer	Son						53	Family List
							6 months				1874	18	KRA/I-61/2/5530
			TYR	Tsire Roche		Wife						53	Family List
							25				1874	18	KRA/I-61/2/5530
			TYR	Tsire Hyene	Nokhemia Meyer	Daughter						53	Family List
							10				1874	18	KRA/I-61/2/5530
			TYR	Ete born 1868	Nokhemia Meyer	Daughter						53	Family List
							6				1874	18	KRA/I-61/2/5530
			TYR	Rive Ete born 1871	Nokhemia Meyer	Daughter						53	Family List
							3				1874	18	KRA/I-61/2/5530
			TYR	Sore	Nokhemia Meyer	Daughter						53	Family List
							2				1874	18	KRA/I-61/2/5530

The birth dates fit the 1901 uk census

Ete and Rive on this list match almost exactly what one could see on the 1891 England census record, and with the information that Judith had provided one can now see that Naomi's original family name must have been Tyr as it is transliterated from the Lithuanian records, fitting well with the family tradition that it was something like Thier meaning "animal".

Years ago, already searching for Thier on JewishGen, we had found:

Town	Surname	Given	Father	Relationship	Age This	Reason Left	Comments	Date	Page	Publication
Krakes Kaunas Kaunas	OZERETSKY	Ginsh	Abram		26		cabman	1852	268	Craftsmen KRA-1-61/2/1739
	OZERETSKY	Chaim	Abram		22		cabman, Ginsh's brother		1412	
	TYR	Judel Orel	Itako	Head of Household	55		tailor, resides in Tytuvenai		33	
	TYR	Itako	Judel Orel	Son			tailor, resides in Tytuvenai			

Here was a Judel Tyr, a tailor from the Krakes community, residing in Tytuvenai, but that time we had no DNA data linking him to us.

Now Tytuvenai was the birthplace of Herman Silberstein according to his death certificate recorded in Germany that Naomi had found already in 2012:

The transcription is from old German Gothic script. :

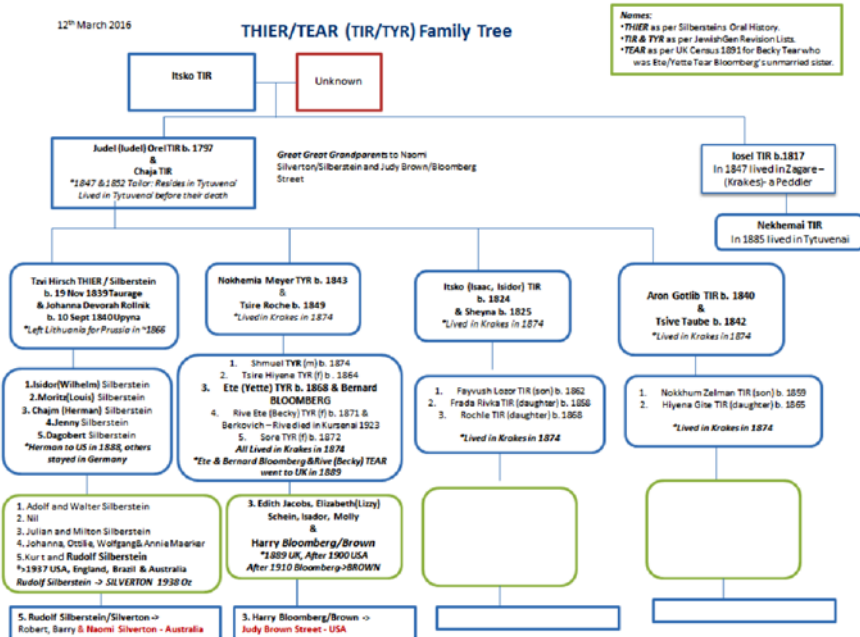
"Death Certificate of the Chazan Hermann (Zvi) Silberstein. Berlin, dated 11. November 1912:

Das Krankenhaus der jüdischen Gemeinde zeigte an, daß der pensionierte Kantor Hermann Silberstein, 70 Jahre alt, mosaischer Religion, wohnhaft in Magdeburg, Viktoriastraße 3. geboren zu Tauroggen in Rußland [W'...r] Sohn des Kaufmanns Juda Silberstein und dessen Ehefrau Chaja, Geburtsname unbekannt, beide verstorben, zuletzt wohnhaft in Zitowiau, Gouvernement Kowno in Rußland."

It shows that Hermann was born in Taurage, his father Juda's and mother Chaya's last address as Zitowiau, which is today Tytuvenai.

The evidence is complete. Herman Tyr, son of Juda [Yudel] came from the shtetl Tytuvenai in Lithuania, he married Johanna Rolnik and with their newly formed family crossed the border into Germany where they became the family Silberstein.

The following family tree summarises the information that Naomi found:



So Naomi Silvertown and Judith Street are second cousins, which fits the DNA results!

The further story of the Silbersteins can be found in chapter eight of the Rolnick book.