A GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF PINCZOW (POLAND) IN THE 18TH & 19TH CENTURIES

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The Jews of Pinczow

Pinczow is a small town in the Kielce province of Poland. According to the Yizkor Book for
Pinczow[1] and to Yad Vashem's Pinkas haKehillot series[2], the majority of the town's population
was Jewish prior to World War 2. By the mid-19th century there were about 3,000 Jews living in
Pinczow, and by the end of the 19th century their numbers grew to over 5,000. As was typical of
most towns in central Poland, Jews engaged in a very large variety of occupations; but Pinczow
is remarkable for the relatively large number of scholars and Rabbis who lived there for much of
its history. Much of the history of the Rabbinate is described in the Yizkor Book; and for the
years prior to 1614 it was the subject of a study by Simon Dubnow[3]. However, information on
ordinary families of the town is available mostly in anecdotal form, as for example in the Yizkor
book. Nevertheless, it is possible to reconstruct at least the family trees of these families from the
civil registry records of Pinczow. Birth, marriage and death records for the town have been
preserved almost in their entirety from 1810 to the present time, and they are now publically
accessible up to the year 1912[4].

Objectives

The primary aim of the project is to determine the genealogical history of the Jews of Pinczow
over an extended period of time of about 200 years. Essentially this means creating family trees
of all families in town who were using more than about 1,900 distinct surnames. The earliest
records, where surnames were *beginning* to be recorded, date to approximately 1821 when the
use of surnames was mandated. Jews tended to resist this innovation, and consequently the early
records (1810 to 1825), in the so-called "patronymic era" are characterized by the general lack of
surnames. Instead, Jews tended to use the traditional X ben Y scheme, or the Polish equivalent,
e.g. X followed by "Y"owicz. It is therefore very difficult to make good use of these early data.
Yet these extra 16 years are crucial to our understanding of the Jewish history of Pinczow: Those
early years contain records of the ancestors of much of the later population of Pinczow.
Furthermore, any elderly person who died during this period might have been born as early as
1725. Deduction of his or her parents' names would thus enable us to extend the history of a
whole family back to roughly 1700 and make links to other associated families. Accordingly,
the secondary aim of the project is to assign surnames (to the people mentioned in these
patronymic records) which their descendants eventually adopted. In order to carry out this task
for any given family, it turns out, it becomes necessary to conjecture surnames for *all* families. It
is a synergetic procedure. Therefore, a tertiary aim of the project is to demonstrate an efficient

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[1] *Sefer zikaron le-kehilat Pintshev; in Pintshev togt shoyn nisht*; M. Shener, Tel Aviv (1970); Former Residents of
  Pinczow in Israel and the Diaspora.

[2] Avraham Wein, editor; *Pinkas HaKehillot* (Encyclopedia of the Jewish Communities) – Poland Series, Vol 7
  (Districts Lublin, Kielce); Pinczow, pp 392-396; Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, (1999).

[3] S. Dubnow, *Voskhod*, 14, no. 4 (1894), pp 149–50. Dubnow's handwritten copies of the original Hebrew
  Documents accessible to him are held in the YIVO library, NY.

[4] Polish State Archives (PSA) # 23. Archive 21, Fond 2341. Some of these records have been microfilmed by the
  Church of the LDS, and can be viewed in microfilms # 119,245-119,247, 716,163-713,167, 1,192,425-1,192,427,
  1,809,016, up to the year 1884. The PSA has recently digitized the records for the entire 102-year period.

methodology for conjecturing surnames, en masse, which can be applied in the future to other town histories. In addition, it happens that Pinczow was the home of a relatively large number of scholarly families who had ties by blood or by marriage to well-known Rabbinic families all over Congress Poland and beyond. The fourth aim of the project is, therefore, to analyze these family structures, for the purpose of elaborating the history of historical personalities involved and to resolve various associated historical controversies. We envisage that several original scholarly articles will eventually result from this study. This will demonstrate the value of genealogical studies as a self-standing scholarly discipline, and the promotion of this idea in itself might be considered a fifth aim of the project.

<u>On the nature of Civil Registry Records of Jews in Congress Poland and the Reliability of such Raw Data for Research</u>

The records of Jews living in 19th century Poland are of three types:
a) Pre-1826 records for many towns in Congress Poland were kept in books wherein there was usually no separation between Jews and non-Jews. Without separate lists and in the absence of the systematic usage of surnames, care is required to identify Jews. Some Polish given names are Biblical in origin and might be erroneously identified as Jewish. Jewish records, though, can usually (but not always) be recognized by the Hebrew signatures of witnesses at the end of the document, and by the phrase "follower of the Old Testament" after the declarant's name. Pinczow's Jewish records are exceptional since, although kept in the same books as Catholic records, they were indeed listed in separate sections.
b) Post-1826 records were hand-written into books and kept separate from those of the general Catholic population. They were often (but not always) indexed at the end of each volume or year. One stylistic change after 1826 is the absence of recorded house numbers.
c) Starting in mid-1868, after a failed Polish rebellion against Russian rule, the records were written in the Russian language and in Cyrillic script.

At least in Congress Poland, before1826 the use of surnames, although required after 1821, was not common. After 1821 Jews began to adopt surnames in keeping with the law, but in some towns the transition period dragged on sometimes for as long as ten years. We note that
   a)   When the transition period lasted a long time, patronyms and surnames were often used interchangeably for many years before a surname finally "stuck". In some cases patronyms were adopted as official surnames.
   b)   It also often happened that a young male might choose a surname which was entirely different from that chosen by his father or by his brother(s). Except for references to towns of origin or to professions there was no obvious reason for the choices. Sometimes sons even chose their mother's or wives' maiden names as their own surnames.
   c)   Clerical errors often abounded (spelling, confusion between father and declarant, house number slightly off, etc.)
   d)   People sometimes had double given names. In the records they might appear with one or the other or both, and one has to be prepared for inconsistent usage. For example, sometimes a man might appear with the name Moszek, another time with the name Jakob, and other times with the full name Moszek Jakob. Of course, one has to be sure that the second name is not simply a form of patronym following the German-language tradition. Hebrew signatures, only if available, help to untangle this issue.

e) People sometimes used nicknames, and one has to be prepared to recognize them as belonging to the same person. For example, Leyb, Leybusz, Lewek are intrerchangeable. The Hebrew version is yet another variable. For the same example, Yehuda (or Juda) Leib is also interchangeable with the above. "Kinnuim" can also add to the mix. For example Aryeh is the Hebrew kinnui for the Yiddish form, Leib, but was sometimes treated as a unique name.
f) Patronyms sometimes reflected the names of the fathers, and sometimes the names of the grandfathers of the subject of the record, depending on how the questioning by the clerk was perceived – e.g. was it the patronym of the child or that of the father?
g) Although women's patronyms follow the simple grammatical rule of "owa" = wife of; and "owna" = daughter of, it often happened that a particular woman was referred to as daughter of "x" at the birth of one child, the daughter of "y" at the birth of her next child, and the daughter of "z" at the birth of yet another child. x, y, and z were sometimes her real father, grandfather or even husband's father depending on the whim or memory of the person making the declaration to the clerk.
h) Widowed heads of households often married more than once. Thus some children in the family might have one mother, while others would have a different mother. And in some cases a child who was orphaned young and never knew his or her real mother, would get used to identifying the stepmother as the mother.
i) Declared ages were rarely accurate, and often drifted further and further from the truth, the older the people became. Inconsistencies as large as 10 years were not uncommon.
j) Poor clerical handwriting can lead to errors of interpretation by the modern researcher.

Many of these sources of error or uncertainty have been reviewed by Stroweis[5].

The following is a glossary of the words used in this report:

Glossary

B,M,D	birth, marriage, and death
Akta	file number
Micro-tree	a family tree for a small group containing father, mother and children, and possibly an extended group with siblings and their children, etc, and possibly grandparents – *all living in the same house*.
Mini-tree	a family tree for an extended group containing several related households not necessarily living in the same house.
Patronym	An apparent surname based on the given name of the subject's father or, if it is more than one generation old, then it might be based on the given name of the grandfather.

Additional short-hand notations used in the patronymic era spreadsheet are given in the Annex at the end of this report.

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[5] Jean-Pierre Stroweis; A Methodology to Detect and Correct Erroneous Jewish Names in Digitized Genealogical Records: *AVOTAYNU* Volume XXVII, Number 3, Fall 2011, pp 4-11.

Methodology for Conjecturing Surnames

Although all the data is entered into a computerized and searchable database, and although we attempted to standardize variant spellings of names, it was not possible to automate the entire procedure. Human intervention is required because of the need for visual inspection of charts of micro-trees in order to match with other charts and with those generated for the post-1826 era. In addition, one of our procedural tools is to inspect the names of *couples* (as opposed to those of single people) for additional matching, especially if the families spread to adjacent houses. The use of double given names on occasion prevents an automated computerized match. The following procedure for conjecturing surnames is as objective as we can expect to make it.

Given the multiple sources of confusion described above, we have to be a little (but not too) flexible when conjecturing surnames from large bodies of data containing some variability. Rules have to be developed. The general principle used in this work is that a family should be assigned a surname only if there is a match between it and a surnamed family on at least three major counts – same house number (if pre-1826 data are compared), same parents, agreement between patronyms and the given names of parents, identical occupations, and very similar ages. A surname is assigned, recorded in red, and placed in square brackets if there are three or more positive counts. With only two counts and some other partially supporting evidence (e.g. extra information from Hebrew signatures or from witness identity), the square bracket is accompanied by a question mark. For less than two additional counts, it is too risky to assign a surname, unless agreement is supported by evidence from a third generation (later or earlier) or by a Hebrew signature, etc.

In order to successfully link patronymic era records to those of surnamed families it is important to use all of the *post*-1826 B,M, D records to chart the family trees of *all* families in town and to search for matches. This might seem like overkill if one is only interested in one or two families. However, since we are interested in identifying *all* people in the patronymic era, we are left with no choice. At the very least, this allows us to distinguish between different families with virtually identical name and age characteristics, and thus to reduce the level of ambiguity.

In the following text we describe the steps used in the process, and we illustrate them with the data for one particular family group. We have arbitrarily chosen the HOROWICZ family for this purpose. (The author has no known relationship to this family.)

1. The first step in the procedure is to make a list (in order of Akta #s i.e., in chronological order) giving, in separate columns, the following items: family surnames, followed by given names, parents' names, professions, and house numbers. (Usually the marriage records will not have house numbers, but they will have town names.) Include all additional data, including the names of witnesses and their relationship to the family, if any. We add peculiar information in a final "comments" column. In the patronymic era attachments we use the clerk's spelling of the surname as recorded in the registry index. In those cases where there is no index we use the "surname" as recorded in the body of the text. We then enter this data in a spreadsheet. In another version (not shown) we add columns with standardized surnames and given names in order to facilitate comparisons (either visual or computer-searched). Some of these entries will have true surnames, as

opposed to patronyms. These surnamed records form the raw database from which to conjecture surnames in pre-1826 records.

2. Use post- and pre-1826 records in order to make charts of families *having* surnames, including house #s where possible. (It is very rare to find house numbers in post-1826 records). These are surname charts and could include many groups using that surname whether or not related to each other.

3. Re-order the B, D lists from the patronymic era, each in order of house #s. Our example from house # 13 is shown in Figure 1. Clearly, we have been able to conjecture seven surnames based on the principles listed above. Furthermore, even though there were five family groups associated with house # 13 (HOROWICZ, SAFRAN, MIERNIK, WAJS, and EJBUSZYC) we have shown that at least two of them were related by marriage. This was not uncommon in Pinczow, since young married couples, especially from scholarly families, often lived in the homes of the brides' parents for a fixed number of years.

4. For each house # we make micro-trees of each family group using the combined B, D lists, on a single page if possible, in order to facilitate visual inspection, all the while conjecturing surnames for those parents who are sometimes identified by patronyms, and sometimes by surnames, adding those conjectures to the B, D lists (in square brackets). We also take advantage of additional information like Hebrew signatures or declared relationships of witnesses.

5. We then re-order the B, D lists according to surnames in order to discover if members of any given family (who used surnames) might have moved around from house to house, perhaps to neighbouring ones. (House numbers are not street addresses like in modern cities and were not affixed to the buildings. They were merely an administrative device and could easily drift in people's minds even if there were no move.) This re-ordering ties multiple micro-trees together and sometimes identifies more surnames by inspection. Thus we see that some members of the same HOROWICZ family described above also appeared in house numbers 11, 12 and 14. By inspection and by comparison with the families from house # 13 we deduce four additional HOROWICZ names and relationships. These have been added to Figure 1.

Fig. 1. Records of births and deaths for occupants of house # 13 in Pinczow in the Patronymic era (1810-1825)

Year	Type	House #	Akta #	Surname	Patronym	Given Name	Age	Father	Occupation	Mother	Notes
1812	B	13	26	[HOROWICZ]		Herszel		Josek Mortka (32)	plotniarz	Hai Abraamow (22)	
1812	B	13	80	MIERNIK		Hajm Jonas		Haim (50)	przekupniarz	Bayla Szmulow (28)	
1813	B	13	60	WAYS		Josek Berek		Szulim (Maier) (40)	targownik	Anna Leybusiow (26)	
1815	B	13	34	HOROWICZ		Izrael		Josef Dawid (34)	plotniarz	Haia Lewkow (30)	signed: Abraham HOROWICZ (54) duchowny
1816	B	13	1	HOROWICZ		Gittl		Berek (29)	kramarz	Bayla Abramow (24)	
1818	B	13	103	HOROWICZ		Michel Meyer		Josek (32)	bakalarz	Haia Sara Lewkow (28)	
1819	B	13	33	HOROWICZ		Taubele		Abram Mordka (57)	duchowny	Fayga Mortkow (30)	
1819	B	13	73	[HOROWICZ]	Jakubowicz	Sara Frumet		Berek (32)	handlarz	Baila Abramow (28)	witnesses: Abram Mordka HOROWICZ and his son Josek
1821	B	13	2	[HOROWICZ]	Jakubowicz	Wolf Majer		(H) Berl Yakov (28)	handlarz	Baila CHOROWICZ (23)	witness: Abraham HOROWICZ (50) duchowny & Josek Dawid HOROWICZ (35) handlarz
1821	B	13	60	HOROWICZ		Hawa Ester		Abraham (55)	duchowny	Faygele Mortkow (24)	
1823	B	13	38	HOROWICZ		Izrael Maier		Abraham (62)	duchowny	Fayga Herckow (36)	witnesses: Josek HOROWICZ (38), Boruch HOROWICZ (30)
1824	B	13	37	[SAFRAN]	Heyzykowna	Hinda Sara		(H) Eyzyk b Sender (22)		Gittl Abramow (20) HOROWICZ	
1824	B	13	73	[HOROWICZ]	Abrahamowicz	Haim		Abraham HOROWICZ (57)	duchowny	Fayga Mortkow (36)	witnesses: Abraham Mordechai HOROWICZ (63), Josek HOROWICZ (38); Abraham was the Chassidic Rebbe of Pinczow; Eyzyk was destined to become the Chassidic Rebbe of Komarno.
1824	B	13	136	[LELOWSKI - EJBUSZYCZ]	Heyzykowicz	Abraham Mendel		Eyzyk Eliaszowicz TARNOWSKI (22)	handlarz	Hana Zysl Izraelow (30)	witnesses: (H) Yonatan b Moshe (40) handlarz; Natan b Moshe (45)
1825	B	13	143	[SAFRAN]	Heyzykowicz	Abraham Mortka		(H) Eyzyk b Sender (23)	wyrobnik	Gittl Abramow (20) HOROWICZ	witnesses: Dawid HOROWICZ (38), Boruch HOROWICZ (32)
1813	D	13	73	HOROWICZ		Malka	3 1/2	Josek	handlarz	Hai	
1814	D	13	34		Dawidowa	Frumet (widow)	68	Berek			
1817	D	13	21	HOROWICZ		Ryfka Rochl	28	Zelman			husband = Abraham (duchowny)
1819	D	13	78	HOROWICZ		Taubele	7 mos	Abraham Mordka	duchowny	Fayga z Morkow	
1823	D	13	73	HOROWICZ		Izrael Majer	2 wks	Abraham (62)	duchowny	Fayge z Mortkow	
1825	B	11	95	HOROWICZ		Abraham Mortka		Ber (35)	drobny handlarz	Bayla Abramow (27)	
1821	B	12	19	HOROWICZ		Judes Fremet		(H) Yosef David (35)	plotniarz	Haia Sara Lewkow (26)	
1814	B	14	27	[HOROWICZ] ?	Wolfowna	Ryfka Ester		Abraham (41) b (H) Zev [Wolf]	wyrobnik	Gitla Herszelow (36)	
1816	B	14	64	[HOROWICZ]	Abrahamowicz	Jankel Jcyk		Josek (60) b (H) Abraham	duchowny	Haja Sara Leybuszow (30)	
1823	B	14	65	CHOROWICZ		Dawid Izaak & Perl Marya		(H) Berek (38)	handlarz	Bayla Abrahamow (26) [HOROWICZ]	
1823	B	14	96	CHOROWICZ		Perla		(H) Yosef (39)	handlarz	Haia Sara Lewkow (32)	
1825	D	11	2	[HOROWICZ]	Berkowna	Perl Marya	1 1/4	Berek HOROWICZ (30)	drobny handlarz	Bayla z Abrahamow	
1822	D	14	24	[HOROWICZ]	Wolfowiczowna	Ryfka Ester	7 1/2	Abraham Wolfowicz (handlarz)		Gitl z Herszlow	

6. We then use the micro-trees in order to identify couples born ca 1780-1810 who might have married in the time period, 1810-1825. We then conjecture additional surnames in the M list and, vice versa, using surnames found in the M list we can augment the B, D lists. Thus, we find marriage records for our example, shown in Figure 2 below:

Figure 2. Marriage records with conjectured surnames for the HOROWICZ family

Year	Akta	Surname	Patronym	Given Name	Father, occupation	Mother	Town, notes
1822	7	**[SAFRAN]**	Senderowicz	Eyzyk (20)	(H) Sender Eyzyk, handlarz	Rochl Kopelow	Chmielnik
	7	**[HOROWICZ]**	Abrahamo-wiczowna	Gitla (19)	Abraham Mortka HOROWICZ, duchowny	Hindy Dawidow	Pinczow
1818	1	HOROWICZ		Abram Mordka (60) duchowny widower	Wolf, handlarz	Sara Icykow	son = Josek HOROWICZ (37) duchowny; witness Moszek LEDERMAN (38) kupiec
	1	**[LEDERMAN]**	Berkowa	Frayndl (30) widow	Mordka LEDERMAN, dead handlarz	Klerl Wolfow	widow of Icyk **[Ber]** WOLBROMSKI from Wolbrom

Abram Mordka HOROWICZ is identified as a clergyman, and he is, in fact, none other than Avraham Mordechai HOROWICZ, the Admor of Pinczow. It is known that he had a son-in-law named Eyzyk SAFRAN, the son of Alexander Sender, the Admor of Chmielnik. Eyzyk himself was destined to become the Admor of Komarno. Although this marriage (#7) is known from Rabbinic sources[6] without the aid of our technique, marriage # 1 was not previously known. This turns out to be an extremely fruitful exercise in general, as can be seen by the relatively large number of conjectured names in the marriage (M) file, Attachment # 3. Unrelated to our HOROWICZ example, we illustrate here again, in Figure 3 below, the power of the technique by showing a sample of several consecutive marriage records extracted from Attachment # 3:

Figure 3. Sample of extracted marriage records with conjectured surnames

Year	Akta	Surname	Patronym	Given name (age)	Father	Mother	Notes or witnesses
1811	1		Joskewicz	Hajm (24)	Josek	Malka Izraelow	witness: (H) Yeshayele b Yosef
		[KANTOREK]	Jakubowiczowna	Haja (20)	Jakob (dead)	Baila Haimow	brother = Symcha KANTOREK
1811	2	**[SZWICER]**	Mozeszow	Izrael Fiszel (22)	Zelig Pinkes	Szewy Moskow	witness: (H) Zelig b Pinchas
		[KANTOR]	Joskowna	Etl (20)	Joska KANTOR	Jachet Moskow	
1811	3		Josek	Herszel (24)	Josek	Ester Nechow	
		[LANDAU] ?	Josefow	Sara (20)		Hana Joskow	
1811	4	**[WOLBROMSKI]**	Lewkowicz	Moszek (34)	Lewek WOLBROMSKI	Gittl Moszkow	
		[KATZ-RAPPOPORT] ?	Dawidowicz	Perl (26) widow	**[Dawid Ber Abele]**		Perl = widow of Moszek; parents dead

[6] Yitzchak Alfasi, *Sefer HaChassidut*, Maariv Press (1974)

7. We use the augmented B, D lists to create a master index in an spreadsheet with 4 columns: A) House #; B) Surnames including conjectured ones in square brackets (leave blank if no real surname); C) First names of **couples** born between 1780 and 1800 who would be having children during 1810-1825; and D) First names of **couples** who were parents (born before 1780) of couples who were having children during 1810-1825). Include couples from the M list (who apparently weren't having children in Pinczow), at the end of the index, and give lettered symbols to houses in which they were living. (But we double-check to see if these couples appear somewhere on the B, D lists and were somehow missed.) Sometimes this process alone identifies some additional surnames.

8. We then re-order the main index according to column C (followed by house #) and identify similarly named couples where there is agreement on two more counts (living in the same house, having the same ages and profession, etc.), thereby linking more micro-trees together, and in this way conjecture additional surnames. We add these surnames to all micro-trees involved as well as to the master index and to the house-#-ordered B, D lists and to the M list.

   For example, an 1825 marriage record lists the bride, Ryfka (born 1802), as the daughter of Abram Moszkowicz and Haja Lewkowicz. Because it is a marriage record no house number was recorded. Thus it seems like one would never be able to identify the bride's parents. (The groom was not from Pinczow). However, by scanning the list, re-ordered according to *couples* (in this case the bride's parents), we see only a single other patronymic era couple by the name Abram and Haja (also without surnames) of the appropriate ages. They lived in house # 257 and 258. Their surnames had already been independently conjectured. Abram was a TENENBAUM, while Haja was a CHYMBERSKI. The births of many of the children of Abram and Haja were recorded in house # 257. Ryfka was not among them; but that is to be expected since she was born too early (1802) for her birth to have been recorded. Unfortunately in house 257 Abram was the Lewkowicz, while Haja was the Moszkowicz. So it appears that the clerk switched the bride's and groom's patronyms while writing the 1825 record. As mentioned in the introduction, these kinds of clerical errors occurred occasionally; so we are not totally surprised. Nevertheless, the lingering doubt can be addressed by tracking the couple in the post-1826 records.

9. We then re-order the index according to column D (followed by house #) and identify similarly named elderly couples agreeing on two more counts (e.g. living in the same house, having same age and profession, etc.), thereby linking yet more micro-trees together, and in this way conjecture even more surnames. Add these surnames to the micro-trees and to the master index, and to the house-#-ordered B, D lists, and to the M list.

   For example, the 1814 marriage record of Laja Cypa (born 1792) reveals her parents to be Juda Lewek and Hana Szmulowna. We search through our list of aged couples and find exactly the same aged couple listed as parents of Brajndl (born 1802) who married in 1823. Thus we are able to link their respective micro-trees. Now, it turns out that Laja Cypa was living in the same house as Haskel KAM who was a witness to the 1822 death

of his paternal uncle, Juda Lewek. Thus we are able to not only link two micro-trees, but at the same time conjecture a surname for Juda Lewek who, it turns out, was born in 1755.

10. We then re-order the improved master index according to surnames (this time including conjectures), and use this to draw extended mini-trees. We also draw separate mini-trees of those groups which have not yet been assigned surnames.

11. We now incorporate directly the extended mini-trees into the <u>post-1826</u> trees (charted as a preliminary step) if both sets have surnames. Cross-referencing the pre-1826 mini-trees with the post-1826 family trees identifies more individuals, and reveals yet more surnames in the main trees as well as in the mini-trees. We compare those mini-trees still <u>without</u> conjectured surnames to appropriate people on the post-1826 charts, using older couples' names as a guide for cross-referencing, thus adding more conjectures. Similarly, we find elderly couples on the post-1826 family trees who are unidentified by surname and compare them with elderly couples on the mini-trees who do have surnames, thus adding even more conjectures.

We illustrate this with one of many, many cases in point: At the death of a certain Tewel GOLDFARB (1758-1830) Tewel was recorded as the son of Icyk and Malka. His surviving wife was listed as Perl. A search of our mini-trees for couples with the unique combination of Tewel and Perl reveals the existence of such a couple, whose surname can now be conjectured. At Perl's death, also in 1830, she was listed as the daughter of Gabryel and Bayla RABINOSTWA, suggesting a Rabbinic origin. Thus it is not surprising that Tewel and Perl had a daughter, Malka, who was married to Abram Mendel EJBUSZYC (1798-1823) who was the son of the Rabbi of Pacanow. The latter used the toponym, LELOWSKI-WADISLAWSKI, suggesting a multi-town career. Tewel and Perl also had a son, Saul, living in Chmielnik, but who died in Pinczow in 1823. (He had no surname; but we can now assign it, obviously). Saul married in Chmielnik in 1814 to the daughter of the Rabbi of Chmielnik, Dov Ber (no surname)[7]; but we believe we can determine his identity, as there are only two possible known candidates. Clearly, there is a lot of interesting history to be fleshed out here.

12. We then ultimately re-order the improved B, D lists according to the original Akta # for publication.

The resulting chart for our HOROWICZ family is shown in Figure 4. (See Attachment # 5 for a more legible uncoloured version of the chart.) This is a fusion of the post-1826 data (generally characterized by actual surnames) plus the pre-1826 data augmented by conjectured surnames. We have shown in yellow those persons and events, whose existence or links would not have otherwise easily been deduced in the absence of the conjecturing process. An additional two generations has thus become accessible stretching back to about 1710 in this case.

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[7] The source of the 1814 marriage record is confidential; information is available upon request.
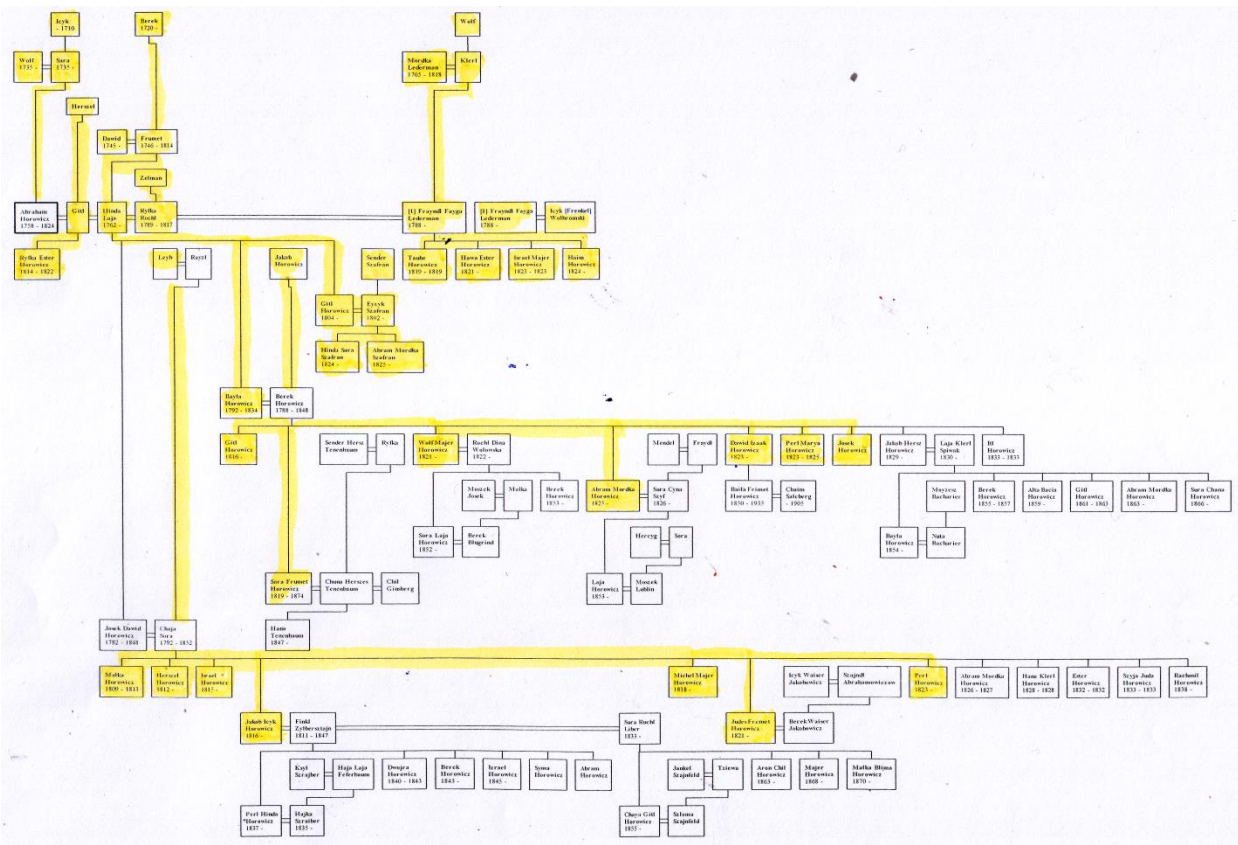
Figure 4.
Ancestors and descendants of Avraham Mordechai Horowicz of Pinczow (1758-1824)

There are several interesting facts which our sample analysis reveals:

a) The Admor, Avraham Mordechai HOROWICZ (non-Levy), seems to have married at least four times. His brides were Hinda Laja bat Dawid (died between 1803 and about 1809); Gitl bat Herszel (died between 1814 and 1817); Ryfka Rochl bat Zelman (died 1817); and Fraydl Fayga bat Mordechai LEDERMAN (died after 1824). This is probably the first time that these matrimonial details have been revealed for this well-known Rabbi.

b) Avraham Mordechai HOROWICZ's paternal ancestry is known from Rabbinic sources. His father was Zev Wolf MARGOLIS, Av Beit Din of Zarnowiec and Wolbrom[8]. The MARGOLIS surname here stretches back to Menachem Mendel MARGOLIS (ca 1575-1652) of Przemysl and Pinczow and beyond. Avraham's brother and uncles kept the

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[8] Genealogical section in: Meir Horowitz, *Pa'aneach Raza*. This is an Appendix to *Yad Hamo'oir* by Yitzchak Halevi, Warsaw (1931). See http//www.Hebrebooks.com #39328. Meir Horowicz of Kielce was born in 1868. He was the great-grandson of Avraham Mordechai (see Fig. 4). This work states that Avraham Mordechai was supposedly the son of, and named posthumously after, an earlier Avraham Mordechai; and it also states that the daughter who married Eyzyk SAFRIN was named Liba. Neither of those two assertions are borne out by the civil registry records analyzed in the present study. On the other hand, considering the possible sources of error listed above, Abram Mordka's patronym, i.e. Wolfow, may very well refer to his grandfather, who would clearly be the only father-figure he ever knew. Also, we cannot rule out that Avraham Mordechai's daughter's full name could have been Liba Gitl.

surname MARGOLIS. So why did Avraham Mordechai adopt the surname, HOROWICZ? This has never been answered. Furthermore, it is probably not by chance that one of Avraham Mordechai HOROWICZ's daughters married Berek HOROWICZ (a true Levite, and possibly her cousin. We know that Berek was a Levite because one of his sons, [Jakob] Herszel, signed in Hebrew as such.) It appears to the present author that Avraham Mordechai may have adopted his mother's maiden name some time after 1814, prior to which he was content to use the patronym Wolfow (son of Wolf). The record of his last marriage in 1818 reveals that his mother was Sara, the daughter of Icyk. If Icyk (born ca 1710) was the true Levitical HOROWICZ, then one good candidate for his identity is the famous Rabbi of Hamburg, Yitzchak (HaLevi) HOROWICZ, who was born in 1715. He did indeed have a daughter Sara[9] (not married to a Wolf MARGOLIS, though); so our speculation might be wrong; but it is worth checking if Sara was married more than once. It is also worth checking if there was more than one contemporary Rabbinic Icyk HOROWICZ. In any case, the identities of Sara and of Berek ben Yakov HOROWICZ, are worthy of further study.

c)   Avraham Mordechai's first wife, Hinda Laja, was the daughter of Dawid and Frumet. Indeed, Avraham Mordechai's mother-in-law seems to have died in his house # 13. The chances are very high that Dawid and Frumet were from Rabbinical families; and this too is worth further investigation. The chances are also high that Avraham Mordechai settled in his wife's hometown, and that Dawid himself might have been from Pinczow, perhaps an early Rabbi, on whose identity we can now easily speculate using the Pinczow data at hand.

All, in all, this single example of a fascinating and prominent family may end up being the subject of a scholarly article, all because of the analysis of patronymic records. And this is only one of the 100 or so scholarly families which we have already analyzed. Space and time constraints prevent us from giving details here for more than this one sample family. However, attachments # 1, # 2, and # 3 are proof of the vast amount of conjecturing already accomplished.

We have applied the technique to over 293 families / surnames so far. The surnames are listed in attachment # 6. The results to date for the pre-1826 data are shown in Attachments # 1 (births), # 2 (deaths) and # 3 (marriages). Patronyms are given in lower case except for the leading letter, while the conjectured surnames are shown capitalized within square brackets and in red. The assembled family trees are charted in attachment # 7. We note that, at this point in the research, out of the 2,900 extant patronymic era entries in attachments # 1, # 2, and # 3, only 1,073 remain without surnames, for an overall success rate of 63%. At this rate one might, therefore, expect that an additional 172 family names could be conjectured in principle. This is an upper limit, since the male lines of some of the families living in Pinczow between 1810 and 1825 could have died out or moved away, or could have simply solidified their then-current patronyms as actual surnames. Interestingly, the total number, 465, of potential family names, agrees with an approach starting from the post-1826 era, as follows:

There are exactly 1,901 family surnames in use during the time period 1826-1912, as shown in alphabetical order in attachment # 8. (This does not include those families which retained and used patronyms as effective surnames). Not all of these families are relevant to our research,

[9] Neil Rosenstein, *The Unbroken Chain* (1st edition), Shengold Publ.: NY (1976), p. 561

though. We have re-sorted these family names on the basis of the years when the names were first recorded and when they were last recorded during this time period. The colour-coded entries of this reorganization are shown in attachment # 9. This is a view of Jewish Pinczow treated as an organic whole, as a function of residential time interval, showing which families had longstanding homesteads in town, which ones died out or moved away or whose children moved away, and which ones moved into town to stay for the short or long term. Those at the red end of the spectrum lived closest to the patronymic era, while those at the violet end of the spectrum lived closest to 1912. Clearly, the ones bunching up at the 1912 limit of data-availability were those which suffered during the Holocaust. The entries bunching up at the 1826 limit are those which are most likely to have extended back into the pre-1826 era. We reason that if a family did not record childbirths by 1830, then they were relative "newcomers". We do not wish to minimize the importance of the vast majority of these families, but for our purposes of identifying those families which were likely the *patrician* families of the 18th century and, in order to conjecture missing surnames, then our best hope for success would be to focus on those families with events recorded between 1826 and 1830. (To be sure, we had to cross-check the marriages and deaths of the "later" families for potential relevance). Their numbers, according to attachment # 9 add up to 446 – a number which is very similar to the one estimated above as the likely number of patronymic era families whose surnames could potentially be conjectured.

The only pre-1826 persons which will forever remain unidentified, by researching Pinczow records alone, are those whose families died out prior to 1826 or those who moved to another town or whose identifiable children moved to another town in order to marry and/or to settle. Of course, we may bump into these people in the course of future research of other towns; and so their identities may yet be forthcoming.

Post-1826 Records - Results of Extractions, Translations, Databasing, and Analysis

As mentioned above, progress in conjecturing surnames and thus progress in extending family trees back to ca 1700, requires us to examine exhaustively the data for at least the 446 key families. We could not know their identity or importance in advance; and so all the civil registry records from the years 1826 to 1912 have been extracted, transliterated where necessary, and entered into a data base. (See attachment # 4.) It comprises 26,864 records for 1901 unique family names. Thousands of hours were required for this aspect of the work alone. Thereafter, an additional 2,000 hours were required to factor the data into 1901 individual family files, many with up to 500 event entries per family, and then printed. (Because maiden names of mothers and of parents' mothers are often recorded, many events redundantly appear in more than one family file; so there are close to 100,000 events to process). These files formed the basis for assembling complete family trees[10]. In addition, of the 293 patronymic era families already analyzed, above, 107 family names do not appear in the post-1826 database. Those families appear to have died out or moved away prior to 1826. So altogether there are 1901 + 107 = 2,008 unique family trees for which we fully expect to publish computerized charts in due course, as a memorial to the decimated Jewish population of Pinczow.

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[10] Of the 446 critical family histories required to conjecture the remaining 37% of the patronymic era surnames, we have completed the analysis (in handwritten form) for 83 of them. To this we add the 293 patronymic era trees already completed.

Conclusions

The stated objectives of the project were:
   a) to develop a methodology for the conjecturing of surnames of Jews who were experiencing births, marriages and deaths in Pinczow prior to 1826. These are names that their descendants eventually adopted;
   b) to apply the above methodology to the approximately 465 families living in Pinczow from ca 1700 to 1825;
   c) to determine the genealogical history of the Jews of Pinczow distributed among 2,008 families over a 200 year period from ca 1700 to 1912 by combining the patronymic era data (including conjectured surnames) with the post-1826 data;
   d) to analyze the genealogical history of the scholarly class of Jews of Pinczow and thereby expand on missing information and contribute to the resolution of associated controversies discussed in the Rabbinic literature; and
   e) to promote the field of Jewish genealogy in academic settings.

The author is pleased to report that all of the raw data is now in hand, completely processed and organized into a ready-to-use format for the assembly of exhaustive family trees for the 2,008 distinct families known to have lived in Pinczow between ca 1700 and 1912. The author has completed the conjecturing process for all but 37% of the records in the patronymic era, and this percentage is expected to drop dramatically once the entire conjecturing process is complete. At the same time, such an advance would synergistically augment the post-1826 family tree assembly enormously. The author has presented 293 family tree charts, and has an additional 83 at hand. About 100 of them are of scholarly Rabbinic families, and the author is currently preparing publications concerning several of them. We have used the HOROWICZ family history as an illustration of the entire scope of the project.   We expect to see the complete family tree of the Jews of Pinczow in due course. And, finally, we believe that we have aptly promoted the cause of Jewish genealogy as an academic subject. The methodology shown in this project can be applied to other towns of a similar size to Pinczow and, given the number of hours required, can easily be adapted to a Masters if not a Doctoral project.

In retrospect, we believe that all of the aims of the project were realistic for the two-year time frame, except for the actual charting and digitization of over 2,000 family trees. Aside from the actual publication initiative, the remaining work is more of a routine nature and can be carried out more leisurely.

Appendix 1: Symbols used in the Patronymic-era spreadsheets

f	= father
m	= mother
b	= brother
si	= sister
s	= son
d	= daughter
h	= husband
w	= wife
sil	= son-in-law
bil	= brother-in-law
fil	= father-in-law
mil	= mother-in-law
mu	= maternal uncle
pu	= paternal uncle
rel	= relative
gs	= grandson
gd	= grand-daughter
gf	= grandfather
gm	= grandmother
(H)	= symbol denoting Hebrew signatures