



**Shapiro 2 #9837
Research Report**

**Prepared for
Michael Shapiro**

30 January 2016

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RESEARCH REPORT

OBJECTIVES

The client's objectives were:

1. Attempt to determine the lineage of Joseph Shapiro, who immigrated to the US. The records of his second marriage, which took place in the US, indicated he was son of Michael Shapiro and Ethel Zuckerman of Borisov, Russia. Allegedly Ethel was his second wife.
2. Attempt to determine the lineage of Rose (Meksin) Shapiro, wife of Joseph Shapiro, who also immigrated to the US.

KNOWN FACTS

Michael Shapiro was allegedly married twice to Mina who died in 1881 and to Ethel. The client originates from the second marriage. The client gathered lots of important information. Michael and Mina Shapiro's first child, Rosa, was born in 1880 in **Dvinsk** (now **Daugavpils**). This must be where Michael and Mina Shapiro lived since it is the birthplace of Rosa. Rosa Shapiro's gravestone in London says that she was born in Dvinsk 15.7.1880 and she passed away 28.3.1962 aged 81. Her husband Zavel was born in Minsk 22.11.1880 and died 18.8.1948 aged 68. Second child Ilya was born in 1881 also in Dvinsk. The family of Mina Shapiro (Michael's first wife) lived in Dvinsk. This fact is well-known since she was from the Vovsi family. This family is known, first of all, because of Solomon Mikhoels - the famous Jewish actor (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon_Mikhoels). He was Mina's uncle. Ilya Shapiro and Mikhoels were not only cousins but very close friends. Mina passed away in 1883 in Dvinsk, when she gave birth to Ilya.

Moreover the client stated that Joseph (Michael) Shapiro allegedly was born on 25 September 1884, 1885, 1888 or even 1900 in Borisov. He was married to Reichel (Rose) Meksin on 1 March 1909 in Nikolaev. Reichel (Rose) Meksin was born on 12 November 1888 allegedly in Nikolaev. Their son Salomon (James) Shapiro was born on 21 December 1909 allegedly in Borisov.

These were the main information which helped to start the research in the original archival records. Proving the existence of the ancestral family in Borisov was the main goal.

RESULTS

Summary

The research performed in the Minsk National State Archive was not easy. Because there was no Borisov Jewish Vital Registration it was necessary to search for other types of records which could include Shapiro genealogical data. Despite the situation it was possible to make nice progress. One strong candidate for the ancestral Michael Shapiro was found. He lived at Mińska Street and belonged to a quite rich Shapiro family in Borisov.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended searching further Borisov records at the Minsk archives. Types of records which need to be researched are presented at the end of this report. Basically it is necessary to concentrate on Borisov Notary Public records, Lists of apartments' tax payers and Conscription lists.

It is important to conduct research in Latvian's archive (probably in Riga) where records for Dvinsk / Daugavpils should be found. Michael Shapiro obviously must have lived in Dvinsk around 1883 because two of his children with Mina Vovsi allegedly were born there. It could be he even got married there with Mina. Finding their marriage records would be very important. The research also needs to focus on finding Michael's death record in St. Petersburg in 1935. It should give his parent's names or at least *otczestvo* = father's name.

Regarding the Meksin the research, this needs to be conducted in Ukraine. Finding marriage record of Joseph Shapiro and Reichel Meksin in 1909 in Nikolaev is crucial.

So the research needs to be conducted in three separate countries: Belarus, Ukraine and Latvia.

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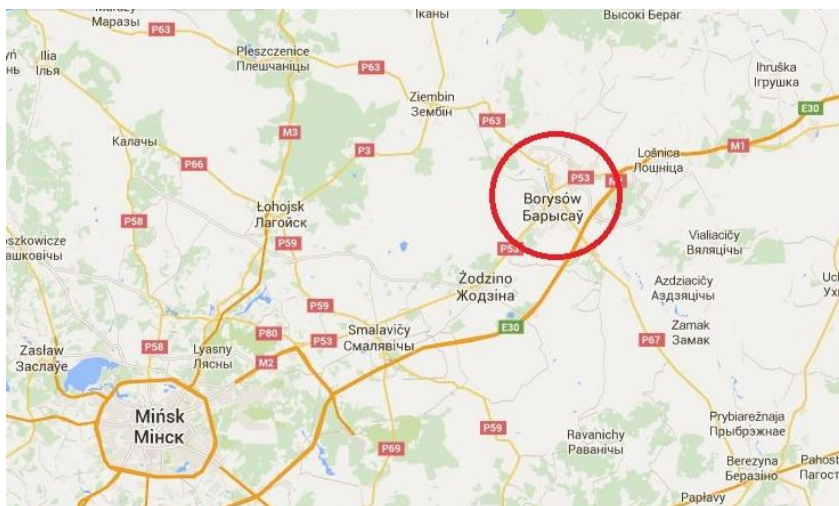
RESEARCH CALENDAR

Source	Purpose of Search	Findings / Analysis	Doc #
http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/daugavplis/dvinsk.html		Dzvinsk (Belarusian), Dunaburg (German), Vainanlinna (Finnish), Daugpils (Latgalian), Daugpilis (Lithuanian), Dyneburg (Polish), Dineburg (Yiddish), also known in history as Borisoglebsk (Russian).	
<i>Национальный исторический архив Беларуси, ул. Кропоткина, 55, 220002, г. Минск, Республика Беларусь, Ф.24 оп.1 д.3645 Списки избирателей Борисовского уезда / Voter lists of Borisov County 1912г.</i>	Searching for the Shapiro / Zuckerman ancestral line	Found some candidates – see the report.	
<i>Национальный исторический архив Беларуси, ул. Кропоткина, 55, 220002, г. Минск, Республика Беларусь, Ф.24 оп.1 Д.3644 то же.</i>	Searching for the Shapiro / Zuckerman ancestral line	Not relevant.	
<i>Национальный исторический архив Беларуси, ул. Кропоткина, 55, 220002, г. Минск, Республика Беларусь, Д.3622 1907г. Списки избирателей по г.Борисову и уезду 7.11.1906 / Voter lists from the town of Borisov and the Borisov district.</i>	Searching for the Shapiro / Zuckerman ancestral line	Found some candidates – see the report.	
<i>Национальный исторический архив Беларуси, ул. Кропоткина, 55, 220002, г. Минск, Республика Беларусь, Ф.295 оп.1 д.4757 О</i>	Searching for the Shapiro / Zuckerman ancestral line	Not relevant.	

<p>выселении из Борисовского уезда незаконно поселившихся евреев 1890-1891 (евреи, арендующие крестьянские земли) / The eviction of the Borisov district illegally settled Jews, Jews who administrated land of farmers.</p>			
<p><i>Национальный исторический архив Беларуси, ул. Кропоткина, 55, 220002, г. Минск, Республика Беларусь, Ф.333 оп.1 д.3269 Список плательщиков государственного квартирного налога по г.Борисову / Apartment list of state tax payers in the town of Borisov 1895</i></p>	<p>Searching for the Shapiro / Zuckerman ancestral line</p>	<p>Found strong evidence of the well-to-do Shapiro family in Borisov in 1895.</p>	

RESEARCH REPORT

Basing on the information received from the client the Shapiro originated from the town of Borisov. The town of Borisov also known as Borysów (in Belarusian: Барысаў (Barysau); in Russian: Борисов (Borisow) is now located in Belarus, South East from Minsk the capital of Belarus. For that reason most of the records for Borisov are located in the Minsk National State Archive. This archive was visited in order to perform the Shapiro research.



It was hoped to do both the Shapiro and Meksin research at the same time. However it was not possible because the Meksin allegedly were from the town of Nikolaev and not Borisov. It is not known what Nikolaev this could be. Probably it was Mikołajów (in Ukrainian: Миколаїв, Mykołajiw; in Russian: Николаев, Nikołajew) which is now located in Ukraine. With the allotted time and budget it was not possible to conduct research in both places which were located in different countries. The Meksin research needs to be done as a separate project. Borisov was incorporated to the Russian Empire in 1793. In 1991 it became town of the independent Belarus. When the ancestral Shapiro supposedly lived in Borisov this town belonged to the Minsk *gubernya* and was one of the district towns. In 1880 it had only three brick buildings and the rest was of the wooden construction. The town was populated with over 15.000 people. There were only 961 Catholics in the town.

One of the first steps taken was to find what Borisov records survived. One of the primary sources is Vital Records then Censuses, Tax records, Court Records, Notary Public Records,

School records, Voter Lists and other sources which may show names. The Miriam Weiner website [<http://www.rtrfoundation.org>] did not show any records particularly related to the town of Borisov. The online database always showed Borisov in the context of Minsk *gubernya* - province which was not very useful. That is why the archival inventories available only at the Minsk State Archive needed to be researched. Choosing records which may have yielded some results was very important because it allowed conducting the research further.

Thorough research revealed no Borisov Jewish Vital Registration. Also the Censuses after 1858 are missing. At least these two sources were not found during this session. It is possible that some Borisov Jewish Vital Registration can be found in the Minsk Civil Records Office but this requires more research. Because of these inconveniences the research turned to finding other documents which may list the ancestral family. It also needs to be stated that Shapiro belonged to one of the most common Jewish names which did not make the research easier.

Ф.24 оп.1 д.3645 Списки избирателей Борисовского уезда / Voter lists of Borisov County 1912г.

The voter lists are divided into sections of different time of merchants, house owners and other tradesman.

Л.5 Владельцы недвижимых имуществ, облагаемых Государственным налогом и городским сбором по 1му съезду / Property owners, subjects to state taxes and city fees of the 1st Congress.

№450 Цукерман Нехемья Беркович, имущество оценено в 400р., проживает в м.Плещеницы / Nechemia Cukerman son of Berko from the town of Pleszczenice.

The amount of the Shapiro in the above section of property owners was huge. There were picked those which seemed to be promising candidates for the ancestral Michael Shapiro.

№467 Шапиро Михаил Яков-Лейб, 1600 , проживает в Борисове / **Michail Shapiro [son of Jakov-Lajb?]** living in the town of Borisov.

№469 Шапиро Михель Залманович, 2000, там же / **Michel Shapiro son of Zelman,** living in Borisov.

Л.36 *Владельцы недвижимых имуществ, облагаемых Государственным налогом и городским сбором по 2му съезду / Property owners, subjects to state taxes and city fees for the 2nd Congress.*

There were found plenty of Shapiro but no Michael / Joseph.

№834 *Цукерман Шмерка Рубинович, 40, Холопеничи / Shmerka Cukerman son of Rubin from Chołopienice.*

Л.37об *Владельцы торгово-промышленных предприятий, требующих выборки промысловых свидетельств не ниже 2 разряда и промышленным ниже 5 разряда, за исключением тех, которые участвуют в 1м съезде гор.избирателей / Owners of commercial and industrial enterprises etc.*

№2033 *Вовшин Зелик Ицкович, цена промыслового св-ва 10р., проживает в Борисове / Zelik **Wowszyn** son of Icek living in Borisov. The Wowszyn is probably another way of spelling of the Vovsi name.*

Л.39об *Шапиро Мордуч Гиршевич, 2, д.Рудня / Morduch Shapiro son of Hersz from the village of Rudnia.*

Д.3622 1907г. Списки избирателей по г.Борисову и уезду 7.11.1906 / Voter lists from the town of Borisov and the Borisov district.

Владельцы недв.имуществ / Property owners:

Л.14об №1653 *Цукерман Завель, г.Борисов / Zavel Cukerman from the town of Borisov.*

№1664 *Цукерман Иосель Мордухович, м.Логойск / Jozel Zukerman son of Morduch from the town of Łohojsk.*

№1720 *Шапиро Михель Залманович, Борисов / **Michel Shapiro son of Zalman** from Borisov. He must be the same one as mentioned already in 1912 Voter lists [see above].*

Плательщики Гос.кв.налога / Payers

Л.22об №2591 *Цукерман Нехемий Гиршевич, Борисов / Nechemij Cukerman son of Hersz from Borisov.*

№2592 *Цукерман Израиль Залманович, то же / Izrael Cukerman son of Zalman from*

Borisov.

Списки избирателей по г.Борисову и уезду 12.07.1907 Владельцы недв. имуществ, облагаемых Гос.налогом...,по 1 съезду / Property owners, subjects to state taxes and city fees of the 1st Congress 12 July 1907

Л.33 №281 *Шапиро Михель Залманович,250,Борисов / Michel Shapiro son of Zelman, living in Borisov. This is the same one mentioned in 1912 Voter's List. In 1907 his property was calculated to 250 and five years later to 2000 Ruble. It seems he would have been too rich in 1907 to be only 19 years old (age required to vote). So we can assume he was much older. This makes him a stronger candidate for the ancestral Michael.*

Списки избирателей по г.Борисову и уезду 12.07.1907 Владельцы недв. имуществ, облагаемых Гос.налогом...,по 2 съезду / Property owners, subjects to state taxes and city fees of the 2nd Congress 12 July 1907

Л.42об 1547 *Цукерман Иосель Мордухович,100,Плещеница / Josel Cukerman son of Morduch from the town of Pleszczenice.*

Ф.295 оп.1 д.4757 О выселении из Борисовского уезда незаконно поселившихся евреев 1890-1891 (евреи,арендующие крестьянские земли) / The eviction of the Borisov district illegally settled Jews, Jews who administrated land of farmers.

Л.11об *Волосовичской волости / Wołosowicze estate*

№53 *Шапиро Нохим Герциков,Черейского о-ва,дер.Запивоцье(?Заливочье) земля Никиты Лябика 11 дес.,бессрочная аренда,по словесному договору,в аренде 22 года / Nochim Shapiro son of Herik from the village of Zapiwocze / Zaliwocze?, administrated farm of Nikita Ljabik for 22 years.*

Ф.333 оп.1 д.3269 *Список плательщиков государственного квартирного налога по г.Борисову / Apartment list of state tax payers in the town of Borisov 1895*

Л.27об №131 *Шапиро Шая,дом Динабург Раши,Минская,1р. / Szaja Shapiro, a house of Rasza Dinaburg in Mińska Street.*

Л.31об №148 Цукерман Гирш, дом Элькинда Михеля, Московская, налог 1р. / Hirsz Cukerman, a house of Michel Elkind in Moskovska Street.

Л.95об №470 Шапиро Шейна-Роха, собств. дом, Польшинская, 4-50 / Shejna-Rocha Shapiro, a house in Połyńska Street.

Л.96об №473 Шапиро Залман Давидов, собств. дом, Минская, 6-50 / **Zalman Shapiro son of Dawid**, his own house at Mińska Street # 6-50.

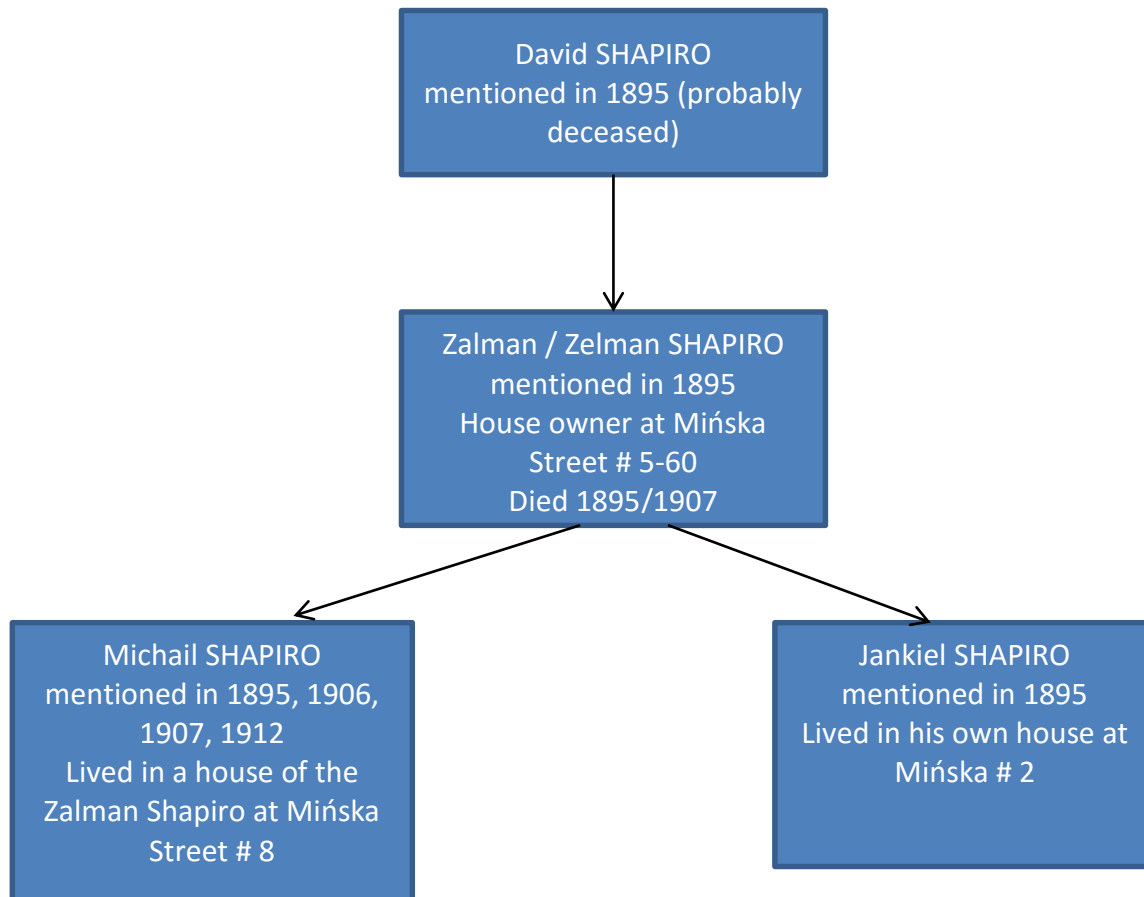
№474 Шапиро Михаил Залманович, дом Шапиро Залмана, Минская, 8 / **Michail Shapiro son of Zalman**, a house of the Zalman Shapiro at Mińska Street # 8.

Л.97об №480 Шапиро Елья Янкелев, собств. дом, Полоцкая, 8 / Elja Shapiro son of Jankiel, a house at Połocka Street.

Л.98об №484 Шапиро Янкель Залманович, собств. дом, Минская, 2 / Jankiel Shapiro son of Zalman, his own house at Mińska # 2.

The above information was extremely important to find. It seems that Michail Shapiro son of Zalman is the same one who appeared in 1906/7 and 1912 Voter's Lists. In 1895 he lived in a house at Mińska Street # 8 which belonged to his father Zalman Shapiro. If he lived in a house by himself it means he could have a family already. This makes him a strong candidate for the ancestral Michael Shapiro who died in St. Petersburg in 1935! Even more fascinating thing was finding that Michael's father Zalman also lived at the same Street of Mińska but in his own house # 6-50. It was learned that Zalman was son of David Shapiro! In a house # 2 at Mińska Street lived Jankiel Shapiro son of Zalman. He lived in his own house. He must have been brother of Michail. This shows that at least this Shapiro branch was quite well-to-do. Zalman Shapiro must have owned at least three houses and all located at the Mińska Street # 2, 6-50 and 8.

Down below chart presents the relationship of the Shapiro family who lived at the Mińska Street in the town of Borisov in 1895. This can be the ancestral line!



The research focused on searching documents of not primary genealogical value. It is because so far it is not known what happened to the Borisov Jewish Vital records. As it was stated in the very beginning of the report the first step taken was to choose those records which could bring some results. Borisov documentation located in the Minsk National Archive is huge and choosing the right material was a separate research itself. Analyzing chosen material was a second big step taken. Two candidates of the ancestral Michael Shapiro were revealed: 1) Michail Shapiro [son of Jakov-Lajb?] who appeared only once in 1912 as property owner of 1600 Ruble. It is not sure if he was a son of Jakov-Lajb or he used three names Michail Jakov-Lajb. 2) The other candidate which seems to be a strong one is Michel / Michail Shapiro who was son of Zelman / Zalman. He and his father belonged to quite well-to-do Shapiro branch. This matches the client's family lore too.

In order to proceed further it is recommended continuing research in the Minsk National

Archive in Belarus. It might be important focusing on some Notary and Court Borisov records. Since it was found that the Shapiro in Borisov was well-to-do family or at least it was proved they had some property (three houses) they might be present in the Borisov Notary Records. Notary Records contained non-confrontational cases such as: last wills (testaments), inheritances, deeds, cessions, sales and purchases of all kind, premarital contracts, etc. Such documents can certainly be of great value and add to each family history a data which cannot be found in any kind of parish registers, metrical books, or civil registers. It will be important searching the following Borisov Notary records.

Fond 1447 Borisov Notary Public Mackiewicz 1883-1908

Fond 1472 Borisov Notary Public Fotyński 1884

Fond 1471 Borisov Notary Public Szczaglatev 1887

Fond 1469 Borisov Notary Public Mackiewicz 1906

Fond 1432 Borisov Notary Public Nakrewicz 1912-1914

Also it needs to be focused on Fond Ф.581 *Старший нотариус Минского окружного суда* / The main Notary Public of Minsk Court District 1885-1917.

Another type of records which need to be reviewed is Conscription Lists Fond Ф.1492 *Борисовское уездное рекрутское присутствие Минской губернии* / Borisov Conscription List.

Fond Ф.485 *Борисовское уездное с 1866г., 2х-классное городское-с 1879, 3х-классное городское - с 1889, Высшее начальное с 1913г* contains all kind of school records from 1883 to 1918. They include also extracts of births records of students. It is quite possible among them the ancestral Shapiro can be found. He must have had some education.

Fond Ф.234 *Судебный пристав Минского окружного суда Н.С.Бурцев* / The Burcev Minsk district court bailiff 1884-1902 looks interesting for further investigation. It contains plenty of Jewish records.



Very important appears another fond 346 *Список плательщиков квартирного налога по г.Борисову* / Apartment list of state tax payers in the town of Borisov from 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1912. They should be researched thoroughly.

Tadeusz H. Pilat MLS, AG®