

Riga House Registers Project

Mid-Term Report
(December 2010)

The goal of the project is to create the database of Latvian Jewish population resided in Riga before WWII upon the examination of House Registers stored at Latvian State Historical Archives and to combine families' data and establish according relationships thereafter. At the beginning of the research, the use of the early House Registers of 1920—1930-ies was considered as a priority: this was the time period when individuals from across the country had re-evacuated to Latvia after WWI; in most cases, returnees arrived to Riga first and after a short indeed registered stay moved to the other regions of Latvia. Accordingly, the Registers contain the data on natives of Latvia, not only Riga. Furthermore, this was the time period when a significant number of Latvian inhabitants permanently left the country and emigrates' data is hardly found at other preserved documents.

House Registers as a form of population registration represent the unique historical source. However, like any data source, the critical approach is required. The records of family names, maiden names, father's names, dates and places of birth, occupation and marital status are often inaccurate. It mainly concerns the data of house registers of early 1920-ies since the information for the records was provided verbally. E.g., the transliteration of last names into Latvian language for booking at a house register in some cases led to their misspelling; the use of both Julian and Gregorian calendars for birth dates might impact the data accordingly. The completeness of records in the house registers may vary, too.

By the first reporting period, 7000 individual names were added into the database (ref. the attachment). The work has been continued in accordance to the schedule and currently there are 12000 names stored in the database already and it is planned to reach the total of 14000 individual records by the period of annual reporting.

In Riga, house registers were reestablished on July 15th, 1920. Upon the decision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of April 13th, 1923 and in accordance to the existing rules of citizens' accommodation and departure registration, the owners of the houses were obliged to keep a proper house register book compliant to the defined format and should have registered all house residents within 24 hours of appropriate accommodation or departure. These records then had to be applied immediately to the corresponding police department. At resident departure, the special remark should be made in the house register specifying the date and place of departure. Based upon the data of house register, the corresponding remark in citizen's passport was included. (Board Bulletin (Valdības Vēstnesis), 1923 № 76 (1923.11.04. № 907).

The presented database allows to establish kinships within the limits of the present documents' array and to follow up the accommodation and relocation of people to the period of occupation of Latvia in WW2 (1941).

Data sorting by family names allows identifying individuals with identical and similar last names. This, however, is not the main determinant for kinships, indeed provides a ground for further research and work completion.

Family name	Maiden name	Given name	Date of birth	Place of birth	Citizenship or place of origin	Address	Occupation	Gender	Family status
LIMONIK		Arie	1926		Russian citizen	Marijas 22/Avotu 1-11		M	Child
LIMONIK		Bella	1913		Russian citizen	Marijas 22/Avotu 1-11		F	Child
LIMONIK		Moisey	1886	Dubno, Poland	Russian citizen	Marijas 22/Avotu 1-11	Trader	M	Married
LIMONIK	MARKUSE	Natalia	1888 07	Mitau	Russian citizen	Marijas 22/Avotu 1-11	Housewife	F	Married
LIMONIK		Perla	1923		Russian citizen	Marijas 22/Avotu 1-11		F	
LIMONIK		Serafima	1920		Russian citizen	Marijas 22/Avotu 1-11		F	Child

In the above case, there is Limonik family of Moisey (Mozes) as the family head and his wife Natalia Limonnik, maiden name Markuse. The reference to the maiden name allows continuing the search by last name Markuse.

Family name	Maiden name	Given name	Father's name	Date of birth	Place of birth	Citizenship or place of origin	Place of residence	Address	Occupation	Gender	Family status
MARKUSE	JOSSELOWITSCH	Hanna	Sorach	1892 06	Daugavpils	Jelgava	Riga	Dagdas 4-10	Housewife	F	Married
MARKUSE		Meyer	Jankel	1898 07	Jelgava	Jelgava	Riga	Dagdas 4-10	Uppermaker	M	Single

Data sorting by addresses allows spotting the range of citizens simultaneously accommodated at the same address. As a generic rule, relatives of the same family shared the same apartment. This particular case is considered in the table below.

This gives a new possibility to search and establish relationship within the representatives of 5 more families:

LEWIN
MASO
NIEDEL
NEUMARK
JACOBSONH

Family name	Maiden name	Given name	Father's name	Date of birth	Place of birth	Citizenship or place of origin	Place of residence	Address	Occupation	Gender	Family status
JACOBSONH	LEWIN	Rosa		1903 02 01	Riga Chashniki	Latvian citizen	Riga	Dagdas 4-10		F	Unmarried
LEWIN		Ruvin		1865	Vitebsk pr.	Latvian citizen	Riga	Dagdas 4-10		M	Married
MASO		Sora	Isak	1911	Riga	Former Russian citizen	Riga	Dagdas 4-10		F	Unmarried
MASO		Mosus	Isak	1907	Riga	Former Russian citizen	Riga	Dagdas 4-30	Salesman	M	Married
MASO	NEUMARK	Merja	Schaja	1906	Kovno pr.	Former Russian citizen	Riga	Dagdas 4-30	Housewife	F	Married
LEWIN		Blume		1897 07 05	Riga	Latvian citizen	Riga	Dagdas 4-10		F	Unmarried
LEWIN		Gloser		1901 17 06	Riga	Latvian citizen	Riga	Dagdas 4-10		M	Single
LEWIN		Salaman		1908 19 06	Riga	Latvian citizen	Riga	Dagdas 4-10		M	Single
NIEDEL	LEWIN	Rochel	Ruvin	1905 05 01	Riga	Riga	Riga	Dagdas 4-10		F	Married
NIEDEL		Rosa	Mowscha	1926 02 07	Riga		Riga	Dagdas 4-10		F	Child
NIEDEL		Mowscha	Awsey	1902 13 08	Riga	Riga	Riga	Dagdas 4-10	Upper-maker	M	Married

The next sorting by the address represents a listing of all members of BRESLAV family

Family name	Maiden name	Given name	Father's name	Mother's name	Date of birth	Place of birth	Citizenship or place of origin	Place of residence	Address	Occupation	Gender	Family status
BRESLAV	BRESLAV	Scheina			1876 23 04	Rezekne	Latvian citizen	Riga	Jumaras 20a-9	Worker	F	Married
BRESLAV		Haim	Izrik		1909 14 01	Rezhitsa	Latvian citizen	Riga	Maskavas 48-19	Tailor	M	Single
BRESLAV		Esther			1911 02 08	Riga	Latvian citizen	Riga	Matisa 119-4		F	Unmarried
BRESLAV		Haim	Meier	Lea	1915	Riga	Riga	Riga	Stabu 59-18		M	Child
BRESLAV		Israel / Asriel	Meier	Lea	1910 25 03	Riga	Riga	Riga	Stabu 59-18		M	Child
BRESLAV		Meier Jese	Schohum		1881 02 02	Riga	Polotsk	Riga	Stabu 59-18		M	Married
BRESLAV		Riva			1911 18 10	Riga	Latvian citizen	Riga	Stabu 59-18		F	Unmarried
BRESLAV		Riva / Rebecka	Meier	Lea	1911 18 10	Riga	Riga	Riga	Stabu 59-18		F	Child
BRESLAV / BRESLAV / BRESLOV		Schohom	Meier	Lea	1908 19 07	Riga	Riga	Riga	Stabu 59-18		M	Child
BRESLAV	DOLGITZER	Lea	Samuel		1884 01 04	Riga	Riga	Riga	Stabu 59-18		F	Married
BRESLAV		Scheina			1876 23 04	Rezekne	Latvian citizen	Riga	Stabu 59-27		F	Married

Next sorting by the address shows us all members of the BRESLAV family

Family name	Maiden name	Given name	Father's name	Mother's name	Date of birth	Place of birth	Address	Gender	Family status
BRESLAV / BRESLAV / BRESLOV	DOLGITZER	Scheina			1881 02 02	Riga	Stabu 59-18	M	Married
BRESLAV		Lea	Samuel		1884 01 04	Riga	Stabu 59-18	F	Married
BRESLAV		Haim	Meier	Lea	1915	Riga	Stabu 59-18	M	Child
BRESLAV		Israel / Asriel	Meier	Lea	1910 25 03	Riga	Stabu 59-18	M	Child
BRESLAV		Riva			1911 18 10	Riga	Stabu 59-18	F	Child
BRESLAV		Riva / Rebecka	Meier	Lea	1911 18 10	Riga	Stabu 59-18	F	Child
BRESLAV		Schohom	Meier	Lea	1908 19 07	Riga	Stabu 59-18	M	Child
BRESLAV		Meier Jese	Schohum		1881 02 02	Riga	Stabu 59-18	M	Married

This is evident that Meier's wife was Lea, the daughter of Samuel DOLGITZER, born on April 1, 1884.

The next data sorting by the family name DOLGITZER and the address of Stabu 59-18 demonstrates the following data range:

Family name	Maiden name	Given name	Father's name	Daye of birth	Place of birth	Citizenship or place of origin	Residence	Address
DOLGITZER		Hirsch	Schmuel	1899 07 08	Riga	Vitebsk	Riga	Stabu 59-18
DOLGITZER	KLODANS	Manika		1900 07 01	Riga	Latvian citizen	Riga	Stabu 59-18
DOLGITZER		Minna	Samuel	1894 23 02	Riga	Vitebsk	Riga	Stabu 59-18
DOLGITZER		Minna		1912 19 08	Riga	Latvian citizen	Riga	Stabu 59-18
DOLGITZER	WEISBEIN	Nechama		1861 03 09	Beshinkovichi,	Vitebsk pr.	Riga	Stabu 59-18
DOLGITZER		Schmuel / Sammel	Leiba	1855 05 12	Vitebsk	Vitebsk	Riga	Stabu 59-18

Upon the analysis of available information it may be concluded that DOLGITZER family head was Schmuel / Sammel, the son of Leiba, born on December 5th, 1855 in Vitebsk. His wife indeed was DOLGITZER, born WEISBEIN, Nechama, born on September 3rd, 1861 in Beshinkovichi, Vitebsk province.

The search of information by the address of Stabu 59-18 leads to the assumption that the brother of Nechama was:

WEISBEIN Haim Moschus 1878 05 05 Riga Stabu 59-18 M Single

The examination of the birth records made by Riga Jewish community in 1878 may result in identification of the names of Haim's and probably Nechama's parents.

In conclusion, the information stated above demonstrates the approach of step-by-step examination of House Registers to combine the data and establish the related interpersonal links.