

The Family Slight

News About Our Family and Family Website

New Website Appearance:

A major new website look has been implemented toward the goal of being a fully integrated archive and social network. The original, center, website function grid remains on the main/Home page. But, top & right side menus have been added, along with a new color scheme. These menus remain visible regardless of which page you are visiting. It is hoped that you enjoy, and can easily navigate the new pages.

If ever you get lost in the website, just remember to click a link to go back to the [Welcome Home](#) page (the new main page) or the [Website Portal](#), (the page with the butterfly & photo carousel at the top).

The original document archive is primarily unchanged. When you enter the archive, please remember that the top seven (numbered) folders contain all of the rest of the folders & documents. The left-side, archive menu is always visible when you are viewing, adding or editing documents.

The photos, maps and similar items are in folder #4, called the [IMAGES/PHOTOS](#) folder. The longer text, or mixed text & image documents, are in folder #7, called ["ORIGINAL/SCANNED DOCUMENTS"](#).

Remember that you can automatically have the current page and all subsequent pages, translated. Just enter the website from the Website Portal page: olenberg.org and then pick the language you want at the top or bottom of the page.

Thanks to Donald and David Gilner

A lot information has been added to the Gilner and Dubin branches of the family tree (now 419 people), from information provided by these two cousins: Donald is an Atlanta MD and David is an academic library administrator in Cincinnati.

When full consensus is reached between the info that was previously received from David, and the just-received submission from Donald, many gaps in our archive will have been conclusively filled. (*What remains now is to try to connect to other Gilners we know of in Illinois, in California and in other parts of the world!*)

To be posted soon is an interview of Donald's mother, Anna, from years ago. When you read and enjoy it, you will know why I have urged that all of our senior family be interviewed. These interviews are priceless & irreplaceable.

What's In a Name, Part 2

It has become obvious it is obvious that some of the assumptions that were made originally, from the old Polish records, have been incorrect...The curse of a little (read "too little") knowledge!

For example, there are names in Polish records that are not, but can be confused with, modern middle/hyphenated names. Or, they can be mistakenly interpreted to be either a woman's or her mother's maiden name. For example: The woman pictured on this page was clearly identified in an old record, as (Feigel) "Wolfovna" Gilner.

But, "Wolfovna was not, as had been assumed, her maiden name. Rather, it was her father's FIRST name, "Wolfe", with a suffix "-ovna" which means "daughter of". Based upon information from Don Gilner's mother, Anna, we know that his last name was Friedman. Thus, we know her father's full name even though we have no other full record of him as of this moment.

This old recording practice can allow us to fill in another generation, especially for males (whose last name is obvious).

It's been said that a little bit of learning can be dangerous. Fortunately the danger goes away with more study!

Within a day or so, a document will be posted at the family website that has some basics of understanding Eastern European Jewish surnames and a few notes regarding the records. Also, there will be the best current knowledge about the origin of all of our major clan's names. Be sure to make a request of the web-master if you want any other names researched.

Our Oldest Picture



Thanks to Don Gilner for sending in this photo, from about 1880, of Olenberg/Dubin/Gilner ancestors, Maier David and Feigel Gilner. See the full photo and how they are related to you by going to the family website at olenberg.org

Bialystok: Not Just a Tasty Pastry!

Research is tending to indicate that the Director clan, and possibly the Chaleff clan as well, were formerly associated with Bialystok as much or more than with Grodno, 50 miles away. The close ancestors of our Director & Chaleff clans came from in or near Grodno, but investigation seems to indicate that they were "Bialystokers" for longer than they lived in or near Grodno.

There are many Directors & Chaleffs in the Bialystok records, which go back many years. Thus, it appears that the larger part of these clans might not have lived in Grodno for all that long.

In addition, possible family records have been found from Lithuania. Based on the dates in the records, it appears that at least some family might have lived in Lithuania, and then migrated south to the Bialystok area because of outbreaks of cholera, plague and famine, that occurred before 1850 in Lithuania...as is conjectured to have occurred with the Olenberg/Olenberg clan.

Another family connection to Bialystok is that many of the Jews of Wyszok, Pultusk and Ostrow-Mazowiecka, (and other Polish cities as far away as Warsaw) fled to Bialystok when Germany invaded Poland in 1939. For many of our ancestors, Bialystok was the last place where we know them to have been alive before the holocaust erased almost an entire civilization.

You can find some pictures of Bialystok on the website, along with a narrative, translated by Gloria and Ben-Zion Rapoport, which tells the harrowing tale of the escape of the Wyszokers from their town to Bialystok.



Another emigrant "Bialystoker" from Bialystok wasn't a person. The popularity of bagels, has eclipsed the "Bialy", a tasty onion roll/pastry. The Bialy is a flat, round roll with a depression in the middle rather than a hole as in a bagel. The depression holds a savory smear of onion filling. Bialys are not glossy because they are not boiled before baking like bagels. They are hard to find outside of New York City because they do not store or ship well, except frozen.

It is unfortunate that Bialys are not well known, because they are delicious. Luckily, they are much easier to make, at home, than bagels. In honor of our family's Bialystok connection, a recipe for this delicious roll has been posted among our online recipes. Be sure to try baking some Bialys. You will be glad that you did.

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WEBSITE VISITS HAVE EXCEEDED 6,100!