

Russian Revizskie skazki as a resource in your family research
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Revizskie Skazki (Revision Lists)



Tsar Peter I The Great

- Tsar Peter I The Great ordered the first Revizskie Skazki in 1718, to pay for the “Great Northern War” with Sweden.
- The Revizskie Skazki aimed to count all ‘souls’ in the Russian Empire. Their primary purpose was to fund the military.
- Along with the living, Revizskie Skazki enumerated those who had died or departed since the prior one.

Chronology of Revizskie Skazki and of the 1st All-Russia Census

1 st	(1719-1724)	Population = 15.7M; included only the names of men.
2 nd	(1743-1747)	Population = 21.2M; again, included only the names of men.
3 rd	(1761-1767)	Population = 23.2M; this and all remaining Revizskie Skazki. except the 6 th , enumerated females by name.
4 th	(1781-1782)	Population = 28.4M; first to include Belorussia and the Ukraine.
5 th	(1794-1795)	Population = 37.4M; first to include and identify Jews.
6 th	(1811)	Population = 41.0M; incomplete due to Napoleonic War; it did not enumerate females by name.
7 th	(1815-1817)	Population = 46.3M; conducted to complete the 6 th Revizskie Skazki.
8 th	(1833-1835)	Population = 59.1M; excluded some western provinces.
9 th	(1850-1851)	Population = 68.5M; again, excluded some western provinces.
10 th	(1857-1858)	Population = 74.6M; final Revizskie Skazki.
1 st All-Russia Census	(1897)	Population = 125.6M; counts 5,215,800 Jews, 94% of whom reside in the Pale of Jewish Settlement in western Russia.

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1850 Revizskie Skazki page showing male Buchbinder ancestors

REVIZSKIE SKAZKI (REVISION LIST)				
РЕВИЗСКАЯ СКАЗКА.				
1850 года Октября 30 дня, Волынской Губернии Города				
Dubno October 30, 1850 Volinsk Gubernya Town of				
Семья.	Dubno МУЖЕСКИЙ ПОЛЪ.	По послѣдней ревизии состояло и послѣ оной прибыло.	Изъ того числа выбыло.	Илиъ на лицо.
№	Еврей Male Jew	Age at the prior Лѣта. Rev. List (1833)	Status change since Когда именно. prior Rev. List	Current Лѣта. age
3.	Берко Шлоимовичъ Бухбиндеръ. — Berko Shloimovitz Buchbinder	48	Умеръ въ 1848 г. Died in 1848	
	Берка Соловья: Абрамъ Ицко. — Berko's sons Abram Itsko	11	— " —	27
	Шимонъ. — Shimon	1/2	Умеръ въ 1837 г. Died in 1837	

- Shloimo was my 4th great grandfather as shown in Berko's patronymic.
- Berko was my 3rd great grandfather. He was born in 1785 (1833 less 48) and died in 1848.
- Abram Itsko was my 2nd great grandfather. He was 27 in October 1850.
- Shimon was the younger son of Berko. He died in 1837 as a 5- or 6-year-old.
- Shmuel, my great grandfather was not born until 1860, ten years after this Revizskie Skazki.
- This is the 3rd family group on the page and hence the "3" in the first column.

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1850 Revizskie Skazki page showing female Buchbinder ancestors

REVIZSKIE SKAZKI (REVISION LIST)			
РЕВИЗСКАЯ СКАЗКА.			
1850 года Октября 30 дня, Волынской Губернии Города		Town of	
Дубна. -		Dubno	
Семья.	ЖЕНСКИЙ ПОЛЪ.	Во временной отлучкѣ.	Цифрѣ на лицо.
№	Еврейки Female Jew	Съ котораго времени.	Лѣта.
3	Abram Itsko Buchbinder's wife, Chava Surla	Status change since prior Revision List	Current age
	Абрамъ Ицко Бухбиндера жена Хава Сурла.		24
	Ея дочь Деметр.		2.
	Daughter, Esther		

- Chava Surla was my 2nd great grandmother. She was 24 in October 1850
- Esther was the 2-year-old daughter of Abram Itsko and Chava Surla.
- Note that there is no column for age at the prior Revizskie Skazki for women.
- The women's page is to the right of the men's page in the Revizskie Skazki.
- This is the 3rd family group on the page and hence the "3" in the first column.

Jewish surnames in Russia (and the West)

"At this census, every Jew must have or accept their known hereditary surname or nickname, which must already be preserved in all acts and records without any change, with the addition of the name given at birth or by faith. This measure is necessary for the better organization of their civil status, for the most convenient protection of their properties, and for the settlement of disputes among them."

"Regulation on the organization of Jews"
December 9, 1804.

- Prior to the 19th Century, few Jews in Russia had family surnames.
- An 1804 ukase (Tsarist decree) required Jews to take family surnames.
- I believe that in 1804, my 5th great-grandfather, Itsko, took the name of his profession (in Yiddish, not Russian) for himself and his family.
- My ancestors assumed patronymic middle names. So, Berko ben Shloimo became Berko Shloimovitz Buchbinder.
- An 1834 ukase mandated that Jews were not to change their surnames.
- Some descendants who emigrated kept the Germanic spelling of the surname; others Anglicized it to "Bookbinder".

References

- **The Imperial Russian Revision Lists of the 18th & 19th Centuries**, Joseph B. Everett, BYU Scholars Archive, 5/2018
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- **Russian Revision Lists: A History**, Boris Feldblym, Avotaynu (journal), Fall/1998
- **What are Russian Revision Lists? A Ukraine SIG InfoSheet**, Ronald D. Doctor, Coordinator, Ukraine SIG, 3/2012