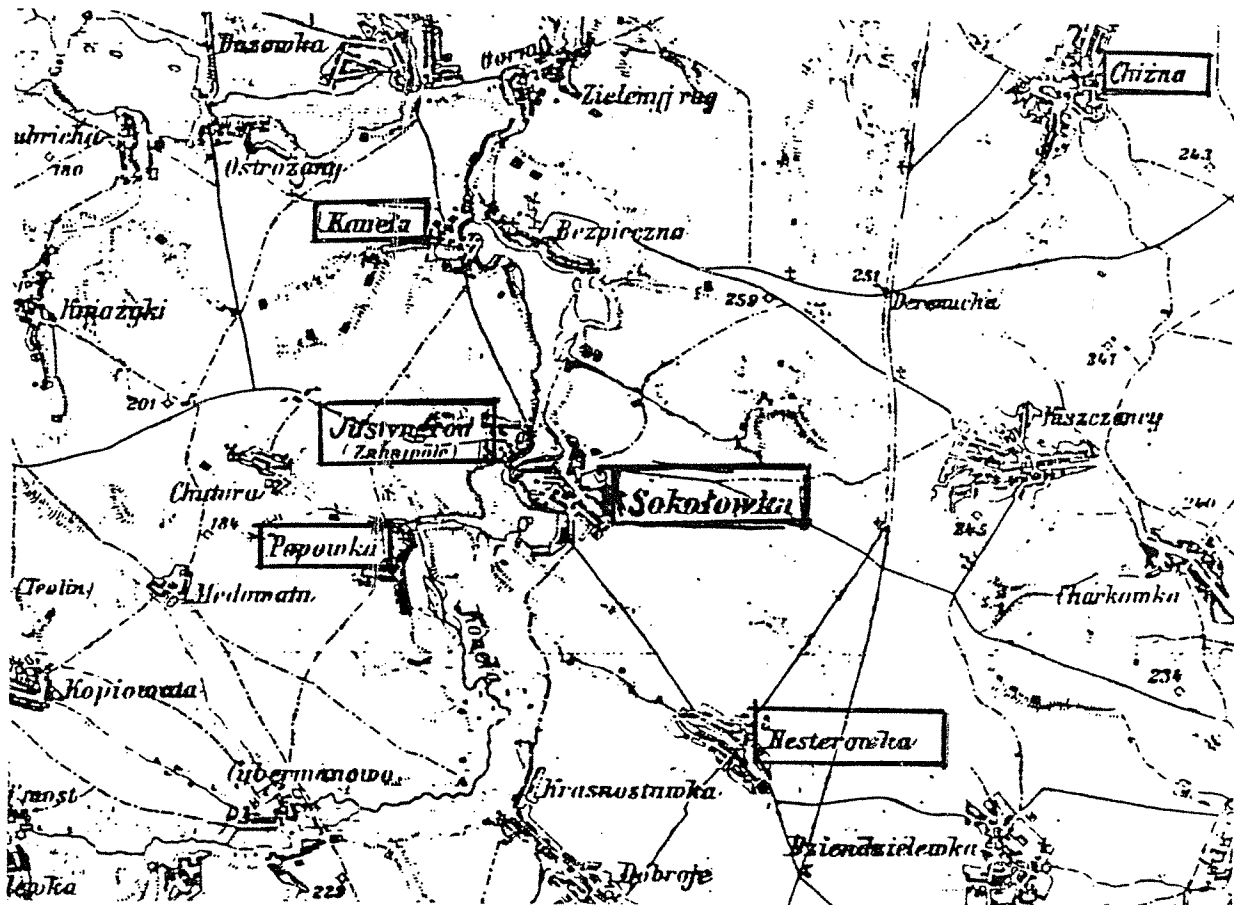


# MEMORIES



## SOKOLIFKE | USTINGRAD

REUNION

AUGUST 17 & 18, 1991

BUFFALO, NY

DRAWINGS FROM

Miller, Leo and Diana F. Sokolievka/Justingrad: A Century of  
Struggle and Suffering in a Ukrainian Shtetl. New York: Lowenthal  
Press, 1983.

COVER LAYOUT - FERNE MITLEMAN

1

We welcome you! The weekend we have all looked forward to has finally arrived. A most capable committee has put in many hours planning this event. They deserve a great deal of credit for their efforts. We hope this is the first of many get togethers.

We would like to compile a permanent mailing list. Contact the committee to submit names and address of people you think would want to be kept informed. The committee is particular interested in landsleit out of town.

A night such as this was wanted by our parents many years ago. As the old saying goes, "Better late than never". How I wish we were able to have their physical presence.

It comforts me a great deal to know all those men who shlepped ice and pop to Delaware Park, and all those women who labored over those steaming pots of water for those hot dogs, are with us in spirit tonight.

No matter what the name, they are bursting with pride, saying as they nudge each other ---

"Duz iz mein tochter - duz iz mein zeen.  
They made possible our impossible dream"

Enjoy

Shirlee Gelman Stromberg

Our heartfelt thaks to the Reunion Committee:

Chair - Gerald Cohen	Jerry Revzin
Gloria Atlas	Sam Kaiser
Lil Berman	Rose Gandel
Max & Esther Gelman	Charlie Shuman
Si Selling	Evie Levitt
Arlene Rossen	Len & Sara Starr

A special thanks to:

Bonnie & Bill Fosbury	Ben Wiseman
Carin & Ed Case	Norm Ablove
Marsha Dautch	Ed Recoon
Dolores Grossman	Edith Newler
Marlene Simon	Sam Ablove
Shirlee Stromberg	

To anyone we inadvertently forgot, please accept our apology --

Muriel & Ferne

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## HOW WE CAME TO BE....

Once upon a time in the country of Russia there was a village called Sokolifke. That is, the Jewish community referred to it as Sokolifke, but the Russians called it Sokolovka and the Ukrainians called it Sokolievka. Sokolovka was situated on the right bank of the Konela river, a tributary of the Tykich Uhor river, in the county of Uman in the province or gubernia of Kiev.

How many Jewish families lived there in the early 1800s is not known, nor do we know when the first Jews settled there or where they came from. They might have come from the West, Poland, Germany, Austria or Hungary or they might have come from the south, the Crimea or from some Greek colonies on the northeast coast of the Black Sea. Persecution, antisemitism, expulsion from cities and lands kept the Jews constantly on the move.

And so it happened once again\_\_forced exile. In 1835, Nicholas I, the tsar of all the Russias, issued one of his many anti-Jewish decrees\_\_that Jews who lived in villages but did not own or cultivate land must be expelled to live in towns of their own. This affected about 35 Jewish families, according to Joseph Gillman who authored "The B'nai Khaim in America". He based his study on his own family, the descendents of Khaim Kaprov.

Khaim Kaprov, a candlemaker, lived on the other side of the bridge which connected Sokolovka on the east with open fields on the west. This land was owned by an absentee Polish landlord. The Jewish families moved across the bridge, established a community there and renamed it Justingrad after the landlord's wife whose name, it was said, was Justina (in Polish Justyna). In Russian the town was Yustingrad, but the Jews pronounced it as Ustingrad and continued to refer to it as Sokolifka and to themselves as Sokolifkers. The Polish Gazetteer notes that Justyngrad was once known as Zahajpol and also as Sokolovka. Justingrad was situated on the Konela river in the county of Lipovets. (Think of North Tonawanda in Niagara County and Tonawanda in Erie County).

The three dozen families of Yustingrad grew to over 500 families by the time of the first official Russian census in 1897. There were 2,521 Jews out of a total population of 3,194. The rest were peasants who lived in huts and farmed the fields on the outskirts of the Jewish shtetl.

The closest big city to Yustingrad was Uman some 20 miles to the south. But Kiev, 120 miles to the north, Odessa, 163 miles to the south and Kishinev, 164 miles southwest, were mere names of distant places to pass through on one's way to emigrate abroad.

The earliest immigrants to Buffalo from Yustingrad were Abraham Criden and Shmuel Abba Cohen who arrived in 1903. Already here were Joseph Rachman and Moishe Tuchinsky from the neighbouring town of Konela. According to Erie County Naturalization Records they came in 1901. These men in turn encouraged many of their families and landsleit to follow. More than 250 families eventually migrated to Buffalo from Yustingrad and surrounding communities.

A landsleit society was formed in 1913, the Ustingrader Unterstutzung Verein (Ustingrader Support Society) for the purpose of aiding the newcomers. When Yustingrad was stricken by the war in 1914, the Russian Revolution in 1917 and the pogroms in 1919, the Ustingrader Verein found another purpose for their existence; support for their brethren abroad.

Pogrom a Russian word designating an attack, accompanied by destruction, the looting of property, murder, and rape, perpetrated by one section of the population against another. But it has come to mean specifically attacks carried out by the Christian population accompanied by looting and bloodshed against the Jews in Russia between 1881 and 1921. The pogroms occurred during the periods of severe political crises in the country and were outbreaks linked to social upheavals and nationalist incitement in Eastern Europe.

It was the 6th of Av, August 4, 1919 when the first pogrom led by the rebel bandit Zeliony terrorized the Jews of Yustingrad. The first person to be killed was Rabbi Pinchas Rabinowitz. Looting and vandalism followed, hostages were taken and then killed, women were raped. There are various reports as to the number of people who were killed on the 6th and 7th days of Av, but it was most likely somewhere between 138 and 150.

After Zeliony's massacre, Yustingrad was raided often by local gangs from nearby villages. For three months, from September to December 1919, the White Army led by General Anton Denikin passes through town on their way to fight the Bosheviks. During this time many Jews fled. After Denikin's forces were defeated, they passed through Yustingrad once again, on the 10th of Tevet, in December, 1919, burning homes and killing some 200 people.

This was the end of Yustingrad as the people had known it for about 80 years. Most of the survivors moved to other communities, Zashkov, Uman, Odessa and Kishinev, and finally to the United States, Canada, Israel and Argentina.

This next wave of Sokolifkers arrived in the 1920s. By this time a strong Yustingrad community had sprung up on the East Side of Buffalo. A Sokolifke shul, Anshe Sokolovka, had been founded in 1915 and a burial society, The Holy Order of the Living, had been established. Socially the Ustingrad Society was still flourishing. There was a Men's Club, a Ladies' Auxiliary, a Patrol and Drum Corps; there were banquets and picnics in Delaware Park which are still remembered and talked about to this day.

As the children and grandchildren of these early immigrants age, we look back nostalgically to the close-knit Sokolifke community that once was. A search for roots has led some of us back to the land of our forefathers, to find relatives in the large cities of the Soviet Union. They were survivors of what was once Yustingrad.

As for the communities of Sokolovka and Yustingrad, Sokolovka is located in what is now the Ukraine and still exists as a peasant village frozen in time, but the town of Yustingrad no longer exists.

WE ARE WHAT IS LEFT OF YUSTINGRAD

August 1919 \_\_\_\_\_ August 1991

F.E.M.

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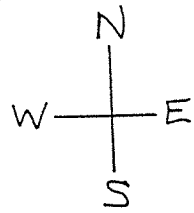
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KIEV  
120 miles N

STAVISHCHE  
25 miles N

ZASHKOV  
10 miles N

KONELA  
3 miles N

KNYAZHE  
16 miles W

MONASTRYSHCHE  
19 miles W

BUKY  
10 miles NE

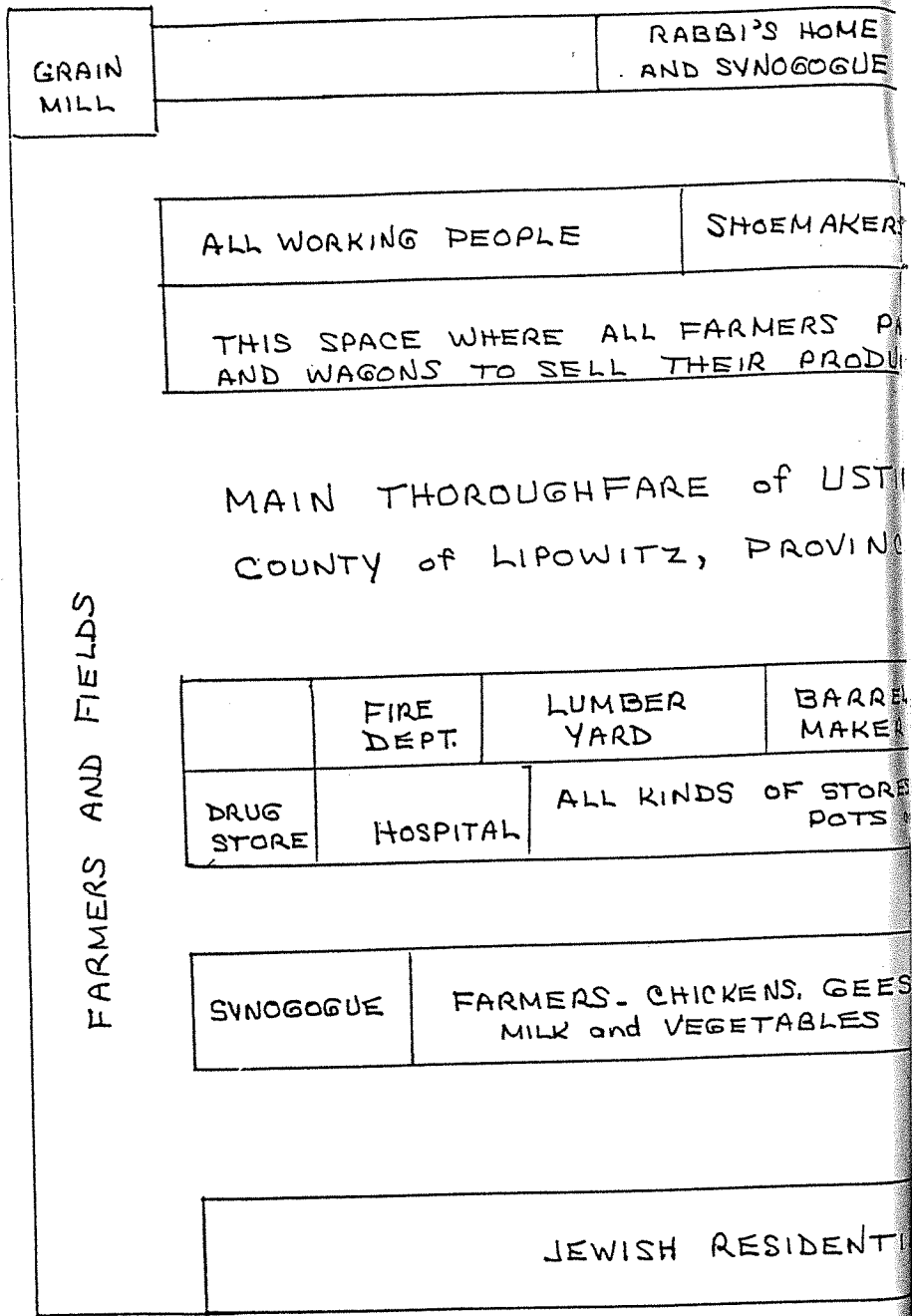
VORONOYE  
7 miles NE

NESTROVKA  
3 miles S

POPOVKA  
2 miles SW

UMAN  
20 miles S

THE PEASANTS ARE FARMERS. THEIR HUTS  
THEIR FIELDS ARE BEHIND THEIR HOME





R HUTS  
R HOME ARE OUTSIDE THE TOWN.  
S.

S HOME OGOGUE	JEWISH RESIDENTIAL AREA			
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EMAKERS	TAILORS	PLUMBERS	SYNOGOGUE	SCHOOL
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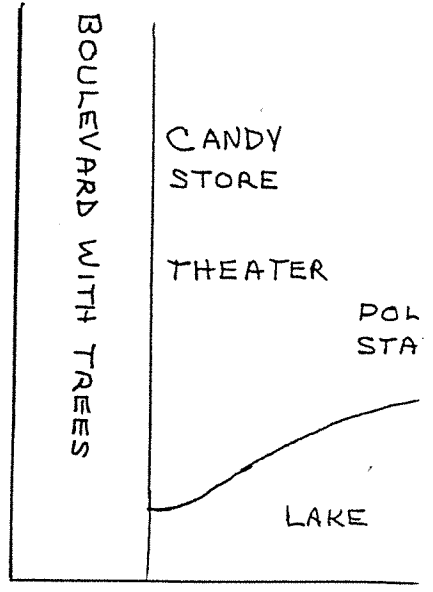
F USTINGRAD (YUSTINGRAD. JUSTINGRAD)  
ROVINC E of KIEV. UKRAINE

BARREL MAKER	WAGON MAKER	BLACKSMITH	ROPE MAKER
F STORES POTS o d PANS	IN LINE. CLOTHING, GROCERIES		

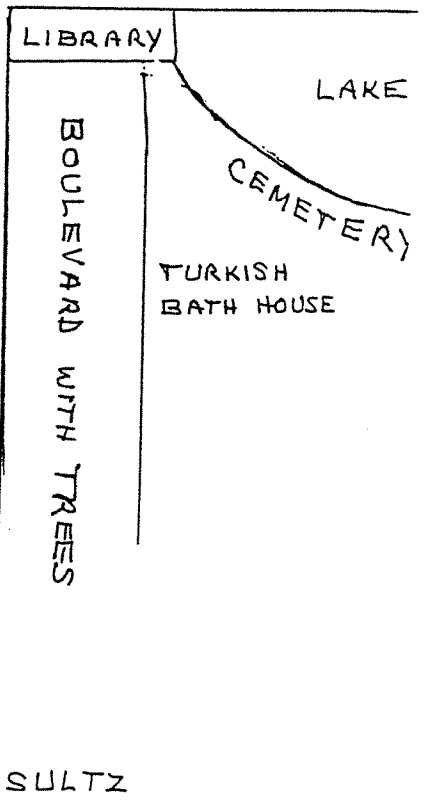
GEES BLES	HORSES MARKET and SHEEP	CATTLE BOUGHT and SOLD
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DENTIA L SECTION
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MAP OF USTINGRAD ACCORDING TO DAVID SULTZ

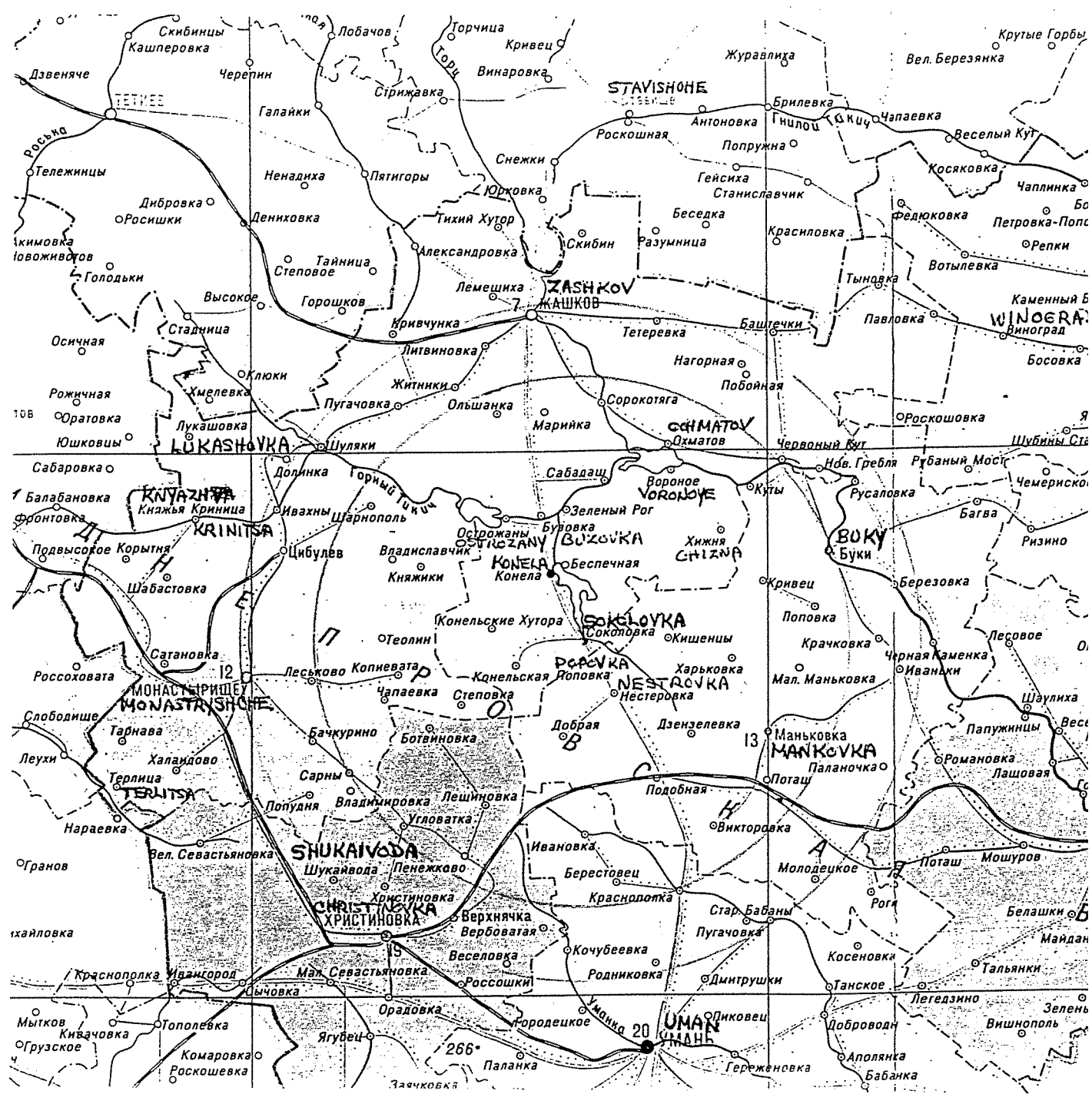


BRIDGE to SOKOLIFKE





Priluki  
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 A  
 KIROVO-  
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 EB  
 HERSON  
 ХЕРСОН  
 Golaia P  
 Голка Пг  
 Sk  
 Су



53 YEARS AGO

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### Blessing By Our Rabbi

My Dear Landsliute:

I take the opportunity on the occasion of celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our Verein, to bless and wish you all health, wealth, success and happiness.

Rabbi Gedaliah Kaprow.

## GREETINGS

From Our President



To the Officers and Brothers:

### USTINGRADER UNTERSTITZUNG VEREIN

At the occasion of our 25th Anniversary, I wish to offer my heartiest and most sincere congratulations upon the reaching of this great milestone of our existence. Twenty-five years ago we were but a small group of landslite aspiring to grow larger and to fulfill the purpose for which we were organized.

Although this group has grown considerably, we are even more ambitious to forge ahead as we now have to our credit 25 years of varied experiences which has through united effort bound us together to still further the purposes and obligations of our organization.

So let us now, Officers and Brothers, as we set forth together to reach other anniversaries, work in unison so that our organization can grow still stronger and still greater; and in years to come we can look upon our 25th Anniversary as the starting point of our greater success.

ISIDOR ROSENBERG,  
*President.*

28 YEARS AGO

## GREETINGS

From Our President



To the Officers and Brothers of the Ustingrader Verein:

At this moment when we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of this organization, I am honored to be able to extend to all of you, my sincere congratulations for a job well done. It is indeed heartwarming that all through the years, you have been able to keep together the family spirit that some of you, or your parents brought with them from Ustingrad. This is the spirit of our people, to live together, extend a hand in friendship, and maintain some of our tradition in the home.

It is my sincere hope and wish that you will continue this family spirit and friendship for many, many years.

BENJAMIN CHAZEN

28 YEARS AGO

COMPLIMENTS OF <b>MR. &amp; MRS. MAX POZARNY</b>
MR. & MRS. PARETZ SHUMAN In Honor Of Their Children's 25th Wedding Anniversary <b>MR. AND MRS. SOLOMON DANKNER</b>
In Honor of Our Grandchildren <b>EARL AND ELAINE ZUBKOFF; ELLEN AND RICKY SAFFER</b> MR. AND MRS. MORRIS BRONSTEIN
Compliments of <b>MR. AND MRS. HYMAN GREENSPAN</b> <b>MR. AND MRS. OSCAR GREENBERG</b> In Honor Of Their Grandchildren
<b>MR. AND MRS. JOE CHERNELLA</b> In Honor Of Their Grandchildren
<b>MR. AND MRS. HENZEL AND CHILDREN, PHIL AND LEE AND GRANDCHILDREN STEVE AND ELLEN</b>
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES ON YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY MAY THERE BE MANY MORE SUCCESSFUL YEARS <b>DAN ROSEN, REALTOR</b> 285 DELAWARE AVENUE <span style="float: right;">PHONE: TL 2-0333</span>
Compliments of <b>ROBERT STAMB</b>
Compliments of <b>Mr. AND MRS. ED SHULIMSON</b> <b>MR. AND MRS. NAT BAGEL AND GRANDCHILDREN</b> IN MEMORY OF WIFE, MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER
Compliments of <b>HAROLD GOLDMAN</b>
MRS. BESSIE COOPER IN MEMORY OF HUSBAND <b>MORRIS COOPER</b>



VICTOR WAGNER AND FAMILY  
In Memory of Their Father and Mother  
**LOUIS WAGNER, HUDEL WAGNER**

MRS. BESSIE COOPER  
In Memory of Husband  
**MORRIS COOPER**

COMPLIMENTS OF  
**HARRY AND JENNIE REKON**

MR. AND MRS. DAVID SULTZ  
In Honor of Their Grandchildren  
**LORUE AND GERRY**

COMPLIMENTS OF  
**MR. AND MRS. LOUIS COHEN**

COMPLIMENTS OF  
**MR. AND MRS. SAM KAPROW**

**MR. AND MRS. BEN CHAZEN**  
In Honor of Their Grandchildren

COMPLIMENTS OF  
**MR. AND MRS. MORRIS LEVIN**

**MR. AND MRS. HARRY RECOON**  
In Honor of Their Grandchildren

**MR. AND MRS. ALEX BIALYS**  
In Honor of Their Grandchildren

COMPLIMENTS OF  
**MR. AND MRS. LIPA FOON**

COMPLIMENTS OF  
**MR. AND MRS. HARRY SHULITSKY**

**MR. AND MRS. MAX RAINES**  
Wish All The Members Good Luck on  
Their 50th Anniversary and Many More Years to Come



## In Memoriam

**ROCHELL, MICHAEL AND ILEENE ZEFF**  
IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR GRANDFATHER  
**FRANK CONNUCK**

IN MEMORY OF  
**JOSEPH MANDEL**

**VICTOR DOZORETZ**  
IN MEMORY OF BELOVED FATHER AND HUSBAND  
**SAMUEL DOZORETZ**

MRS. SARAH CRAMER IN MEMORY OF HER DAUGHTER  
**ESTEL SHAFRIN**

SARAH SARAN AND CHILDREN IN MEMORY OF  
HUSBAND AND FATHER  
**BEN SARAN**

MR. AND MRS. REUBEN BRAUNSTEIN IN MEMORY OF PARENTS  
**JOEL AND RACHEL BRAUNSTEIN**

MR. SAMUEL CUSHNER IN MEMORY OF  
**HIS WIFE**

MR. JOSEPH FINGOLD IN MEMORY OF  
**HIS WIFE, MARIAM**

MR. HARRY COHEN IN MEMORY OF  
**HIS DEPARTED WIFE, SHIFRA COHEN**

PAULINE GELMAN IN MEMORY OF HUSBAND  
**DANIEL GELMAN**

MR. & MRS. DAVID KAIZER IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS  
**CHARLES & RONY KAIZER**

MR. & MRS. LOUIS CAPROW IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS  
**MR. & MRS. MAX CHONE CAPROW**  
**MR. & MRS. JACOB ROSE BISNOY**

Congratulations to Ustingrader Verein  
on Their 50th Anniversary

**HOLY ORDER OF THE LIVING, INC.**

## **In Memoriam**

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM SNITZER IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS  
**MR. AND MRS. ABRAHAM SNITZER**  
**MR. AND MRS. IZAK AND IDA KAPCHOK**

MR. AND MRS. HARRY KRIDEN IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS  
**SALOM ETZCHOK, ETA CRIDEN**  
**MR AND MRS. BEN AND IDA TERNOFSKY**

CECIL LENEWITZ IN MEMORY OF HUSBAND  
**MORRIS LENEWITZ**

MR. ECHIL CARL IN MEMORY OF  
**HIS WIFE, GITHEL**

MRS. CLARA PLATT IN MEMORY OF HUSBAND  
**ESHIKA PLATT**

LEAH BRODSKY IN MEMORY OF  
**PINNIE BRODSKY**

MARLIN AND JULIES IN MEMORY OF GRANDPARENTS  
**CHYEM AND MAREM KAPROVE**

SOHINKI FAMILY IN MEMORY OF  
**JACOB SOHINKI**

MOLLY CONNUCK IN MEMORY OF  
**IRVING GIRSHMAN**

MR. AND MRS. LOUIS COHEN IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS  
**AZIK AND SURKA COHEN**

BRONSTEIN AND ROVNER FAMILIES IN MEMORY OF  
**MR. AND MRS. HYMAN AND ZIZEL ROVNER**

