

THE IVANSK PROJECT e-NEWSLETTER
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Special Supplement

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A Lost World Comes Alive.

Photographs of Ivanskers from Zvi Silberstein's Collection

Provided by his son, Jacov Silberstein, Kibbutz Magal, Israel

The Ivansk Project seeks to assemble and preserve memorabilia that illuminate the lives of our ancestors. These include photographs, emigration and immigration documents, birth and death certificates, ketubahs and other documents that would otherwise be lost forever. Thus far, only a trickle has flowed into the collection. Although many treasures have been published in previous editions of the e-Newsletter, they represent only a fraction of the material that still remains hidden in attics, drawers, shoeboxes and family albums. Words alone will never adequately capture the lost world of Ivansker Jews and that is why we keep pleading with you to share your families' memories.

Jacov Silberstein recently forwarded 14 photos from his father's collection, most of which were taken in Ivansk during the 1930s and focus on groups of young people. Jacov's father, **Zvi Silberstein** left Poland for Palestine before WW II erupted. Jacov has written a biography that highlights some events in his father's life:

The details of my father's life are very sketchy. He was an unassuming person and did not seek attention. My father was born in Ivansk but the exact date is not known, probably around 1913-1915. His parents, Yehaskel and Henea (her maiden name may have been Zelcer or Zelski), had 5 children. When my father was very young, my grandfather died, and the family struggled to survive. Consequently, my father's education was cut short and he had to work to help support the family.

As a teenager he became involved in the Zionist movement as a member of "HaChalutz" and dreamt of living in Eretz Israel. To prepare himself to become a Chalutz (pioneer), he joined a Zionist-sponsored agricultural community in Grochov, which was situated near Warsaw. And together with other young, idealistic Jewish men and women he worked hard to prepare for life on kibbutz. The money he earned was sent back to the family in Ivansk. He "specialized" in working with horses and regularly went to Warsaw to sell farm produce.

In the late 1930s my father made application to immigrate to Palestine, which was under a British mandate. To placate the local Arab population, the British permitted only token numbers of Jews to enter the country. Meanwhile, the political situation in Europe was deteriorating, and it appeared that Poland might be Hitler's next target. The HaChalutz leadership decided that they could not afford to wait for immigration permits and resolved to get their people into Palestine even if this could not be accomplished through legal channels.

In the summer of 1939, just before the outbreak of WW II, my father and a large group of his colleagues were taken to Venice where they boarded a ship (I think it was called the "Colorado"). Avoiding detection, they sailed for Palestine and disembarked at Magdiel (today it is called, Hod Hasharon). My father was sent to a small village, Tel Letvinsky (today, Tel Hashomer) near Ramat Gan to work on an orange plantation. There, he met and married my mother, Zipora Tredler (whose family came from Warsaw).

In 1940 the war was not going well for the allies. In August the Italians occupied British Somaliland in East Africa and then invaded Egypt and Greece. The British mounted a counter offensive, pushing them out of Somaliland and Egypt. Hitler came to the rescue of the Italians, and in February 1941 he sent General Erwin Rommel and the Afrika Korps into North Africa. Rommel reversed the British gains and advanced toward the Suez Canal and from there would likely have continued into Palestine and oil-rich Iraq. At this time my father enlisted in the British Army and served in the "Jewish Brigade" in Egypt and Palestine. I was born in Palestine in 1943 and somehow my father was able to get a furlough to attend my Brith.

After the Nazis were defeated my father returned to Palestine. In 1948 when the State of Israel was created, he joined the Israeli army and served as ground personnel in the air force in the War for Independence.

When he was demobilized my father began delivering ice to private homes and small businesses in Bnei Braq. At that time most Israelis had to use ice rather than electricity to refrigerate food. Carrying ice was back breaking work requiring that my father wake at 2:30 every morning to load his wagon, which was pulled by two horses. My parents managed to purchase a small home in Ramat-Gan and by the end of the 1940s my sister Henea and brother Yehaskel were born. Electricity became more widely available in the 1960s and refrigerators replaced iceboxes. My father then began delivering bottled juices to shops.

My beloved father passed away in November 1981 (zl.). We will always be proud and grateful for his life. In Poland he endured hardship and poverty, but in Israel he was able

to raise a family and provide them with life's necessities, including a good education. Today, he would derive great nachas from the accomplishments of his children and their families (including 9 grandchildren).

This special supplement of The Ivansk Project e-Newsletter presents a gallery of some of Zvi Silberstein's photographs, and we are grateful to Jacov Silberstein for sharing them with us.

Zvi Silberstein's photographs capture the lost world of our people. Their images stand before us, alive and confident, unaware of the terrible storm that was to engulf most of them. They could be our parents, our aunts and uncles, our cousins, our friends. I stare at them, transfixed by their faces. Who are they? What were they doing on the day the picture was taken? What were their dreams and aspirations for the future? What became of them?

Jacov wishes to acknowledge the invaluable help he received from **Zvi Weisdorf** (see Photo #0011/Subject #9) in identifying many of the people in the photographs. Zvi Weisdorf was a good friend of his father and a fellow Ivansker. He has written a memoir of his life, and the document is being translated into English. We intend to publish his story in a future issue of the e-Newsletter.

Zvi Silberstein's photos are on the web:

1. Log on to: < <http://nortontaichman.photosite.com/ivansk/> >
2. Click on Chapter 5, Zvi Silberstein's Photos
3. Click on photos to enlarge and also view them in the Slideshow mode

Each photo is accompanied by a short, descriptive caption.

More information is given in the Ivansk Photo Catalogue, relevant sections of which are copied below.

For reference purposes, each photo is given a numerical code; for example, Ivansk #0001, Ivansk #0002, etc. And each person in a group of individuals is assigned a number; #1, #2, #3, etc.

Most of the people in the photos have not been identified. Unfortunately, Zvi Silberstein is no longer with us to provide this information. We hope that you will recognize someone and get back to us with his or her name. Please use the Photo Number and the Subject's Number when referring to a specific individual (eg, Ivansk Photo #0020/Subject #3)

If you recognize someone that has already been identified, verify the name assigned to him or her. Mistakes can occur. If you disagree with any designation, please let us know.

If you are not exactly certain of a person's name, place "??" marks before and/or after the name. Even if you don't know their full name, provide their first or last name and any other details that might lead to their identification.

In addition to names, we would also appreciate more information on the people in the photos. What can you tell us about them and/or their families? What became of them? Did they leave Europe before WW II? If not, were they destroyed in the Shoah? If they survived, tell us the circumstances. When did they emigrate from Poland? Where did they go? Are they still alive? And so on. These data will be incorporated into the catalogue.

It is important that you share the photos with family and friends, especially with first generation Ivanskers and with anyone who does not receive our e-Newsletters. First generation Ivanskers are in the best position to identify the people in the photographs.

We'd also like to hear your impressions of the images and how they affected you. You can post your comments on the web site (if you wish, you may remain anonymous). We will publish more photographic collections as they become available. But we are totally dependent on you to make this happen.

Ivansk Photo Catalogue.....a partial listing

The photos listed below can be viewed on the web (address given above)

Ivansk #0001: A Group of Young People in Ivansk

This photo was taken in Ivansk, presumably during winter in the 1930s.

A group of eight, handsome people pose for the photo.

Unfortunately, the photo is of poor quality and none of the people in it have been identified.

It has been suggested that #2 may be one of the Goldstein brothers.
(Moishe Goldstein is identified in Photo #0004/Subject 9 and in Photo #0005/Subject 4).

Note the buildings in background with open slate walls, presumably used to dry and store farm produce.

Photo provided by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0002: A Group of Young Ivanskers

This photo was taken in early spring (or late fall) in the 1930s.

The group is standing on the banks of a stream, perhaps the one that flows through Ivansk.

The identity of most of those in the photo is uncertain.

#1 Gabriel (last name unknown)

#7 Gitl Vatman

#9 (.....) Tepperman.

We do not know the first name of this woman.

Photo provided by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0003: Sisters of Zvi Silberstein

The photo was taken in Ivansk in the 1930s.

Zvi Silberstein had three sisters.

(Zvi Silberstein is seen in Photo #0010 and Photo #0011/Subject #15)

Frieda and Deborah are seen in this photo.

Deborah was older than Frieda

A third sister, **Malka Silberstein** is seen in Photo #0004/Subject #6.

Photo provided by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0004: A Group of Young People

Young people pose for a photo in the 1930s. They have the appearance of a group of college students.

#1 Unknown

#2 ??Moishe Shapira

(The same person is seen in Photo # 0005/Subject #1)

#3. Deborah Silberstein

(See also Photo #0003)

- #4 Meir Goldhar** (brother of Leah and Moshe Goldhar)
(See also Photo #0005/ Subject #14.)
 - #5 Unknown
 - #6 Malka Silberstein**
(Sister of Zvi, Freida and Deborah Silberstein; See Photo #0003)
 - #7 Unknown (A friend of Moishe Shapira)
 - #8 ??Gitl Hasan** (?Wife of Moishe Goldstein)
 - #9 Moishe Goldstein** (See also Photo #0005/Subject #4)
 - #10 Frieda Silberstein** (See also Photo #0003)
- Photo provided by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0005: A Group of Histadrut Young People

Photo taken in Ivansk, presumably in 1930s.

Those pictured are members of Histadrut "Hachalutz".

- #1 Moishe Shapira** (brother of Yacov Shapira)
(Yacov seen in Photo #0010 and Photo 0011/Subject #7)
- #2, #3 .Unknowns
- #4 Moishe Goldstein** (See also Photo #0004, Subject #4)
- #5 Unknown
- #6 (.....) Urman (or Orman)** (First name unknown)
- #7 Unknowns
- #8 (.....) Glick** (First name unknown)
(Daughter of Israel Glick.and sister of Nephtali Glick)
- #9, #10, #11, #12, #13 Unknowns
- #14 Meir Goldhar**
- #15, #16, #17, #18, #19, #20, #21, #22, Unknowns
- #23, #24, #25, #26, #27, Unknowns
- #28 Name Unknown

(Daughter of Mendel (Surname?), who worked with horses.)

#29, #30, #31, #32, #33, #34, Unknowns

#35 (.....) Rotenberg (First name unknown)

#36, #37, #38, #39, #40 Unknowns

Photo provided by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0006: Unknown Woman

Photo taken in Ivansk presumably in 1930s.

Photo made available by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0007: Unknown Family

Photo taken in Ivansk presumably in 1930s.

Identity of family unknown

Photo provide by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0008: Unknown Women

Photo taken in Ivansk during winter, 1937.

Unfortunately, the photo is of poor quality and the women are unidentified.

Photo provided by Jacov Silberstein.

Ivansk #0009: Zvi Silberstein and Others

This photo was taken in the 1930s presumably in Ivansk.

#1 Zvi Silberstein

#2, #3 Unknowns

Photo provided by Jacov Silberstein.

Ivansk #0010: Zvi Silberstein and Jacov Shapira in the British Army

Photo presumably taken in Palestine in 1940s after the men had joined the British army to fight the Nazis.

Photo made available by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0011: Meeting of Ivanskers in Tel Aviv

This gathering took place in 1948 or 1949 in Tel Aviv.

- #1 Ben Israel Rotenberg**
- #2 Meir Kahn**
- #3 Unknown**
- #4 Reisel Pinchewski**
- #5 Unknown**
- #6 (.....) Grinspon** (first name unknown)
- #7 Jacov Shapira**
- #8 ?? Zoma Verseger Katz** (Lives in Tel Aviv)
- #9 Zvi Weisdorf**
- #10 Ben Zion Tepperman** (lives in Canada)
- #11 Unknown**
- #12 Shmuel (or Ed?) Dreilinger**, (son of #13 and #16)
- #13 Ed (or Shmuel?) Dreilinger** (husband of #16)
(We are not certain of the first names of #12 or #13)
- #14 Nurit Dreilinger**,. (Daughter of #13 and #16)
- #15 Zvi Silberstein**
- #16 Shoshana Dreilinger** (Wife of #13)
- #17 Bela Nissenbaum** (Lives in Rosh le Zion)

#18 Malka Rotenberg

#19 Yehoshua Nathan Blumenfeld

Photo made available by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0012: Shmuel Mayerowicz

Date unknown. Photo may not have been taken in Ivansk.

Husband of Peisel (Pola) Mayerowicz (Photo #0013)

Shumel is mentioned in the testimony of Yitzhak Goldstein (see e-Newsletter #3, March-April, 2004).

His brother, Alter Mayerowicz, was married to my Chayah Lederman (both died in Bogota). Their daughter Perla Zundel, a widow, lives in Israel on Kibbutz Hatzor.

Photo provided by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0013: Peisel (Pola) Mayerowicz

Wife of Shmuel Mayerowicz (Photo #0012).

Her maiden name was Mislashov.

Was she born in Ivansk???

Photo provided by Jacov Silberstein

Ivansk #0014: Four Ivanskers

This photo was taken in Israel but the date is not known.

#1 Zvi Silberstein

#2 Moishe Shapira

#3 Zvi (Hershel) Weisdorf

#4 Jacov Shapira

Photo provided by Jacov Silberstein.

The Ivansk Virtual Cemetery *and* Yiskor Book Project

Have you submitted information about your ancestors for the Ivansk Virtual Cemetery and Yiskor Book Project? If not, please get to it!

We are collecting the names of our people who were buried in the Ivansk Cemetery before the liquidation of the town's Jews by the Nazis. We also seek the names of those who were murdered by the Germans in the town or transported to Treblinka.

Don't forget to seek help from 1st generation Ivanskens and from those who do not receive our e-Newsletter.

The information required is detailed in the "index card" shown below. Fill it out for each person. Do not worry if you don't have all the information; do the best you can.

You'll find more information about this project in The Ivansk Project e-Newsletter, Number 4, May-June, 2004.

IVANSK VIRTUAL CEMETERY AND YIZKOR BOOK PROJECT	
Surname, given names:	
Place of birth:	
Vital dates:	
Cause of death:	
Father's name / birthplace:	
Mother's name and maiden name/ birthplace:	
Spouse's name:	
Business / career:	
Location of dwelling (on the Kesten-Brauner map):	
Names of children:	

E-mail your cards to Arthur E. Zimmerman at:

<< arthurz@look.ca >>

or post them to:

514 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5R 2Z5.

Ivansk Project Subscriber Directory (IPSD)

The IPSD will contain the names/addresses of Ivanskers who receive our publication. As well, you can list the names of Ivansker families and individuals who you are trying to locate, identify or learn more about.

A full description of the IPSD is provided in The Ivansk Project e-Newsletter, Number 5, July-August 2004.

Your participation in the IPSD is voluntary. If you elect not to participate, you'll still receive the e-Newsletter. The data you submit will only be shared with other members of our community.

The Directory will be published in the fall.

You must submit your data by September 15th to be listed.

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- With comments, questions, suggestions, etc.
- If you are missing earlier editions of the e-Newsletter.
- If you want to add someone to our mailing list.
- If you want your name removed from our mailing list.