

MIRIAM WEINER

Client Comments / Archive Research in Eastern Europe – Page 1

Thank you so much for all your superb efforts in finding my grandmother's family in Nezhin. The hundreds of documents you found enabled me to put together a genealogy going back to the late 1700s. All of us have enjoyed the videotape, pictures and maps you included. Your attention to detail and organization has made it a pleasure to work with you.

Nancy F. Brant

7260 Meadowbrook Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45237

We still gape in wonder as my husband and I record the names of my ancestors and other relatives from the town of Khotin in Bessarabia for whom you found so many records in the National Archives of Kishinev. Your report was very clear and easy to understand. The copies of the Russian documents that you provided means that we can always go back to the original data, should the need ever arise. Once again, thank you for introducing me to so many of my forebears and cousins about whom I knew absolutely nothing until now.

Bernice Altman Lindner

32 Corte Nogal
Danville, CA 94526

Thank you very much for the superb job you have done in finding the enormous amount of family members and documents for me on your recent visit to three of my ancestral towns in the Ukraine.

You discovered the entire family of my grandfather, who before your trip, I never knew existed. Your tracing and talking to a second cousin of mine from this family in Leningrad, is just miraculous.

You provided us with more than we had hoped for. It is a pleasure to work with someone as professional as you.

Alan and Marjorie Goldberg

411 Harvest Commons
Westport, CT 06880

I could not have imagined or even hoped that you would discover over 700 documents covering the five surnames I submitted. I feel for the first time that the large and deep "void" in my family history puzzle is finally being filled with names, places, communities and most of all, life. It has been a pleasure to have someone of your expertise and dedication working in my behalf.

Jeanne Andelman

(Address available upon request from Routes to Roots)

I just wanted to thank you for your extraordinary good job in finding the immense number of my relatives in my various ancestral towns in Ukraine and Poland. I never expected there to be any archival evidence of any relatives and I was astounded by the many hundreds of names that you have uncovered of my family members. Your superb efforts have made me proud to use your services.

Emil S. Dickstein, M.D., F.A.C.P.

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MIRIAM WEINER

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Posting on Prodigy: June 28, 1995

On May 9, 1995, I sent a request to "researcher extraordinair," Miriam Weiner (**Routes to Roots**) in hopes of finding genealogical information about my great-grandparents born in Tomashpol (Podolia region of Ukraine). On June 17, the phone rings. It is Miriam! "We are translating the documents for a Kushner family from Tomashpol. Did your great-grandmother have a brother named Gersh?" "No," I say, "his name was Hirsch." "H or G, it is the same name," she says. Of course, I know that, but I am numb. The shock of Miriam's statement and its implication causes me to go temporarily "brain-dead."

Do you know the names of his children" she asks? This family tree goes back to the 1700s." At this moment, I do not "know" my own name. I try to check the data in my computer, but I cannot access that either. And, I cannot find the paper file. Feeling like a blithering idiot, I hang up. I call back. "Was Hersch's father Moische Josef," she asks? Were his children named Chana-Ruchel, Moische, Dina and Feivish?" Yes, yes," I say. To which Miriam replies, "there are 24 people in this family tree. Watch the mail, a packet is coming." "Goodbye," I say and then I cry.

Lois Sernoff

2201 N. Salford St.
Philadelphia, PA 19131-2209

Letter to editor of *Mishpacha* (a journal published by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington):

During our last summer seminar (June, 1995), I contracted with Miriam Weiner, President of Routes to Roots to research my family in Byelorussia. You cannot imagine my surprise when less than three months later I received an enormous package with a wealth of genealogical information about my family extracted from archives in Grodno, the central city of the region.

In all, Ms. Weiner sent me information from 235 documents from three different archives in Grodno including 85 birth and death entries; 17 school records and 131 census records including one in which my own father appeared. The piece de résistance is a family tree that Ms. Weiner created out of the information she sent.

Cindy Koren Gerstl

805 Hyde Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902

MIRIAM WEINER

Client Comments / Customized Tours to the "Old Country"

When I begin to write of my experience with "Routes to Roots", I find myself, a person who abhors cliches and hyperbole, thinking in what seems like the most extreme of cliches and hyperbole. My admiration for what you and Vitaly Chumak have done for me and my family has no bounds. If when we began, anyone had told me that you would trace three of my four family branches back to 1750, I would have thought them foolish, and if they had said that in just a few months, my niece, Alison, and I would be having breakfast in Rovno, Ukraine, in the home of a second cousin, I would have thought them totally unrealistic since I was certain that I had no existing relatives in Ukraine. But that is what you have done and what has happened since our first contact four months ago.

Vitaly [Ukraine guide] is a treasure. My first reaction to him when he met us at the airport was that this man was a professional. The way that he acted made me feel immediately confident in him. Since I had heard many tales of the danger and difficulty of travel in Ukraine, it was a great relief. During the next ten days, there was never a time that this confidence wavered.

As a tour guide, he had a good sense of organization and importance, and very quickly had a sense of our style and interests. His knowledge of the Jewish sites and their history, and acquaintance with the people at the sites enhanced our experience. As valuable as all of his talents were, what was most profoundly important was his shepherding us through our contacts in Novograd Volinsk and Konanichi and meeting with our relatives. This required such a variety of skills that I remain in wonder. For example, when we would meet with people from the Jewish community, Vitaly would be, at the same time, translating, taking notes on the relevant connections, videotaping, and making sure that we were comfortable.

To you, I am more than grateful for your generous kindness that began with the first phone call (when you had no reason to believe that I would engage any of your services). Your maintaining a connection to everything that we were doing (in Ukraine) provided tremendous reassurance. Even before we left for Ukraine, it was a great relief to know that you would be in touch with Vitaly and us, and your contacting our family after speaking to us in Ukraine was wonderful for both them and us.

Jacquelyn Sanders, PhD

5842 S. Stony Island Ave. #26G
Chicago, IL 60637

I just want to thank you again for putting together this fabulous trip for my family. Everything was just perfect. We are still trying to put together all our pictures and films. Mariola (translator/guide in Poland) was a true delight to be with. She was very knowledgeable, very sincere and certainly very easy to travel with.

Dr. Samuel M. LeBauer

520 North Elam Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27403

MIRIAM WEINER

Client Comments / Ancestral Town Visits

Thank you very much for the excellent job you did finding information about the Berul family in the town of Novogrod Volinsk. The 64 documents and birth certificates you provided helped trace my father's family back to the late 1700s and your photograph album of the city made it come alive. Most of all I appreciate the meeting you arranged with Maria Tarpas. She remembered the Berul family and provided you with the names and addresses of two cousins now living in Israel. We have written to each other and I hope to visit them someday soon. It has been a pleasure working with you. Many thanks for everything you have done.

Shirley Berul Kline

1 Sheffield Lane
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

When you notified me from Ukraine in August 1995 that you had found Elizabeta Linsky Wiener, my father's first cousin, we were incredulous. We believed that all members of my father's family had perished in the Holocaust. Your return with the videotaped interview and photographs convinced us that this was no dream. You brought with you a photograph of a family in Europe, a copy of which had rested on my grandmother's dresser top thirty years ago. On its back was the address of my grandparents when they had first come to America. You traced our ancestry on my grandmother's side into the late 1700s. You also learned that Elizabeth's son, Boris, is currently a student at the University of Texas. We spoke to him from your home. We later had him here for several days during Passover and he was present at both our Seders.

I cannot convey strongly enough my gratitude and the appreciation of my family. May you continue to find strength for the wonderful work you do.

Dr. Mark C. Lester

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Macungie, PA 18103