

# Rachel's Journey to America



A collaboration by Leslie Bellis-Vaughn and David J. Robinson 2014



# Rachel Bella Kahn

Born near Kiev, Russia-Ukraine in 1876

At age 4 Rachel's mother died.

From age 10 to 16 she lived with her paternal grandfather, and at age 17 she was a hired maid-servant for her wealthy paternal aunt in Bila Tserkva, Ukraine.

The local butcher's son proposed marriage but Rachel's family disallowed the match. However, the incident motivated her Great Uncle to volunteer Rachel Kahn as a *substitute* bride for an unknown Ukrainian man living in America. Here is how it happened:

The Uncle was a landlord. His tenant, Mrs. Chaya Bloome, thought she had found a suitable wife for her brother Abraham—the unknown Ukrainian man living in America. Arrangements were set and the passenger ticket purchased ... when suddenly the intended fiancé, Rachel Chavetz, changed her mind.





So Chaya met with the new recruit Rachel Kahn, and was pleased with the landlord's grand-niece as the new bride-to-be substitute for her brother.

Over the next several months Abraham Calof and Rachel Kahn exchanged photographs and correspondence. Abraham made long-distance arrangements with a travel agent northeast of Kiev in Brest Litvosk to assist Rachel in her journey.

The *goal* was to get her to the sea port in Hamburg, Germany. There she could board a steamship bound for America. But the *challenge* was getting Rachel across the notorious border between the Russian Empire and Poland.

Rachel left behind her siblings and her world in the Spring of 1894. She was 19. Her journey from Bila Tserkva, Ukraine to the German North Atlantic Coast spanned nearly 1200 miles; the majority of it by train.

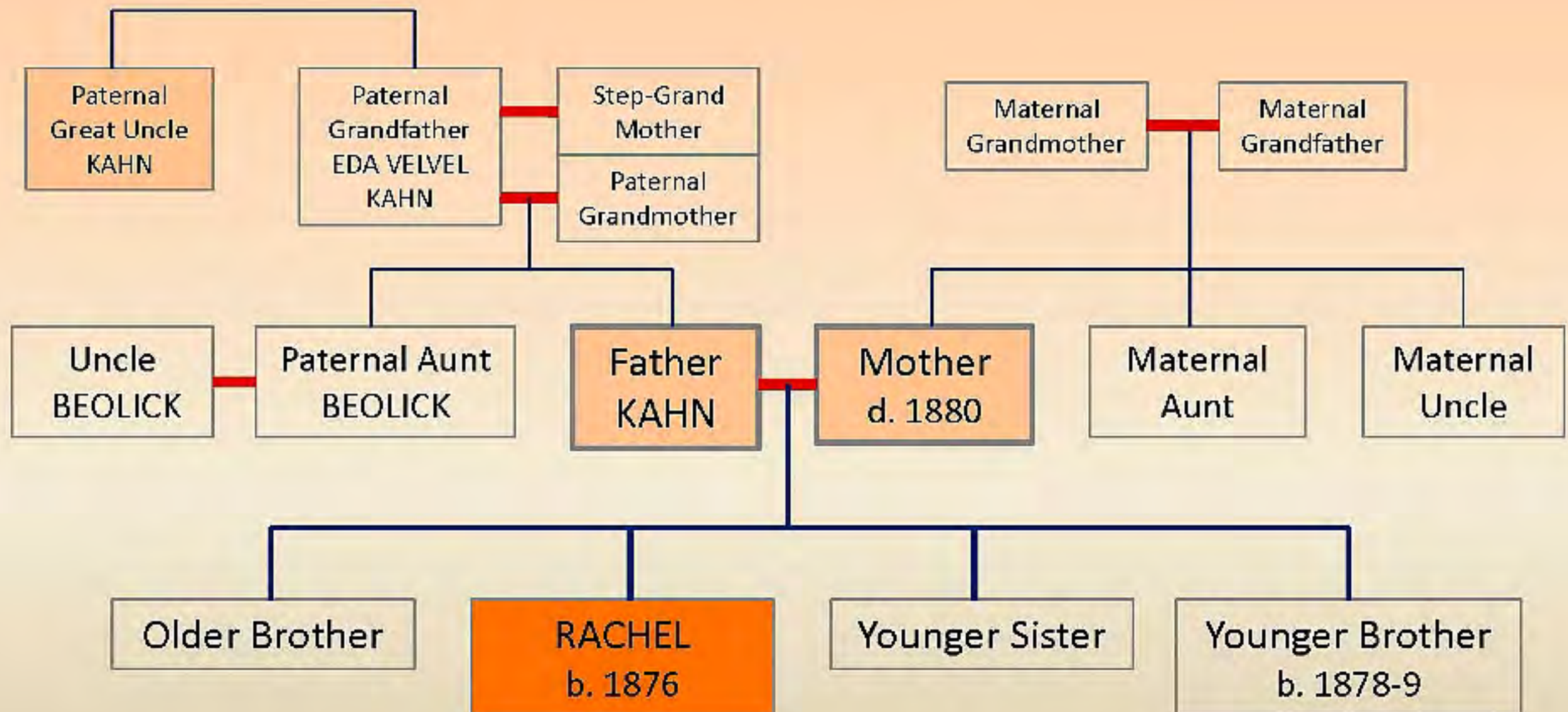
Several months earlier, before Rachel Kahn was ever in the picture, Abraham had already purchased the fare for the steam ship – steerage class for \$21.00 – in New York and mailed the ticket back to his sister Chaya in Ukraine. Everyone in the Calof Family expected Rachel Chavetz, the intended passenger and bride, to use it.

This sudden change in brides caused Rachel Kahn's situation as an emigrant some additional difficulties. While her travel pass through Europe was issued under her real name, the passenger ticket for the ship was not.

The details of Rachel's journey, and indeed her entire life story, can be found and enjoyed in the pages of her autobiography : *Rachel Calof's Story, Jewish Homesteader on the Northern Plains*.



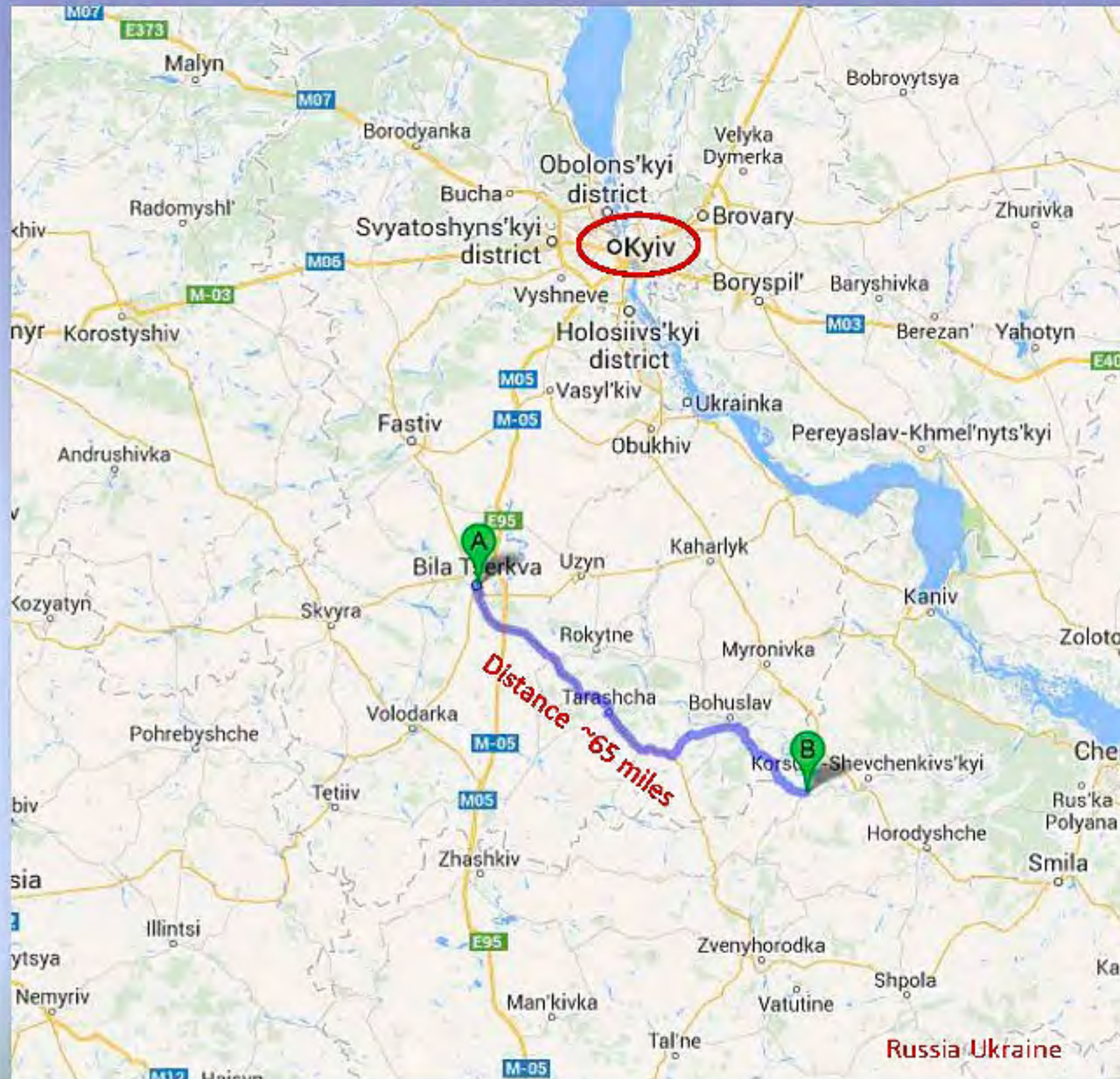
# The Kahn Family



All data in the chart comes from piecing together Rachel's own words.



# Distance between Bila Tserkva and Stebliv



(A)

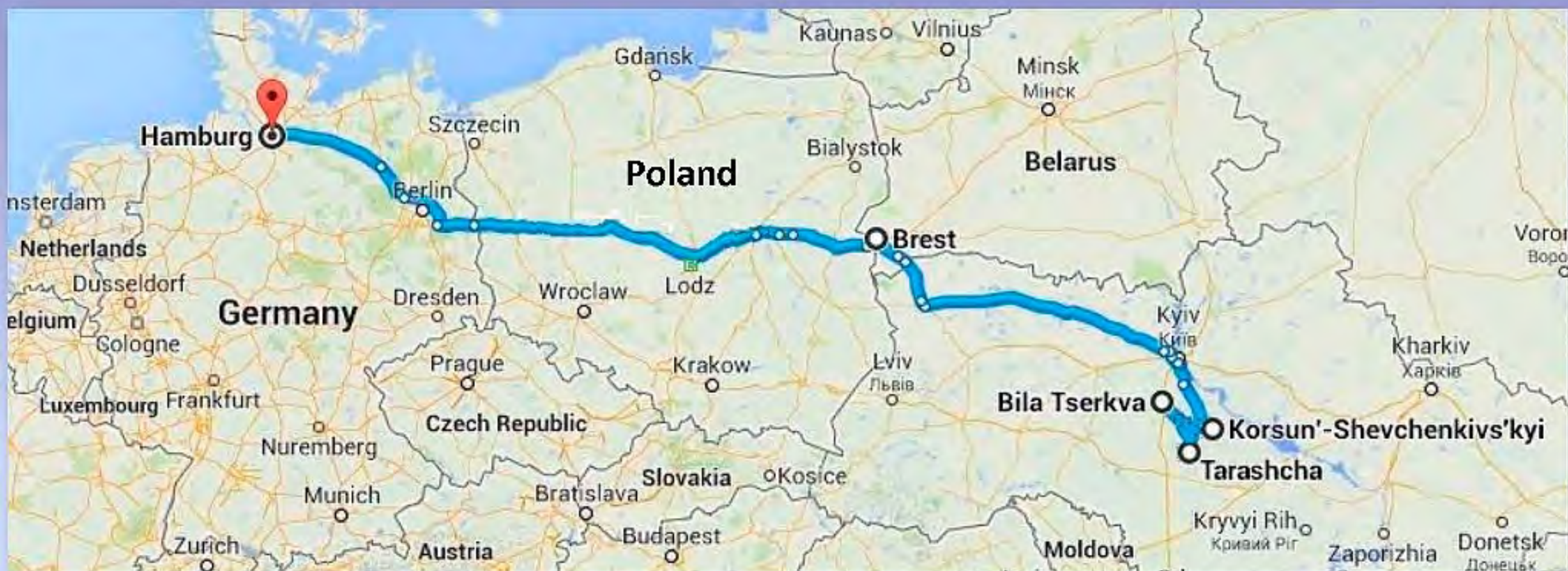
Rachel lived in Bila Tserkva

(B)

Abraham grew up in Stebliv, a village 11 miles west of Korsun



# Rachel's Journey from Ukraine to Hamburg



Rachel's Journey began in **Bila Tserkva** where she said farewell forever to her sister and brothers. She travelled south 65 miles to **Tarashcha**, where Chaya and other family members accompanied her to the station in nearby **Korsun**. Rachel boarded a train and said goodbye to all she knew.

Her next destination was the Russia-Poland Border 450 miles away in **Brest-Litvosk** (present-day Belarus). Free from the Russian Empire, her final leg of this vast journey spanned 660 miles to the Port in **Hamburg, Germany**.

All in all, Rachel travelled almost 1200 miles just to get to the ship.





SOURCE: HHLA/hamburger photo archive



SOURCE: [www.v2.needham.k12.ma.us](http://www.v2.needham.k12.ma.us)

# Port of Hamburg



SOURCE: HHLA/hamburger photo archive



# The Steamship Scandia





## The Scandia

| Associated Passenger | Date of Arrival | Port of Departure | Date of Departure |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cheifetz, Ruchel     | Jun 09, 1894    | Hamburg via Havre | May 27, 1894      |



- Built by A/G Vulcan Shipyard, Stettin, Germany in 1889 for Hamburg-American Line.
- Laid down as Scandinavia and later renamed **Scandia**.
- German flag.
- 4,243 gross tons; 370 (bp) feet long; 44 feet wide. Steam triple expansion engine, single screw. Service speed 14 knots.
- 1,430 passengers (30 first class, 1,400 third class). Two masts and one funnel. Two decks plus spar deck.
- Hamburg to New York and Philadelphia service.



Photo: Peabody Essex Museum



# What's in a Name?

Researching immigration records, especially ship manifests, is often times difficult.

Passenger surnames were *hand-written* records which typically became altered to some degree. Ship crewmembers had to interpret, as best they could, foreign-speaking passengers' verbal information, then scribe that data into the manifest by way of *phonetic* spellings. A small but common example of this transliteration is the sound of our letter 'v' which, in German, is their letter 'w'.

The manifests have recently been further transcribed and indexed into computer databases, making access easier for genealogy researchers. But the process of transcription, of interpreting old handwriting and entering the data into a computer program, has lead to further decline in accuracy from what the authentic information was originally.

Sarah Zaslovsky is our most notable example of this. She ended up being transcribed into the database as Jacob Tailowsky.

So the process of searching immigration databases can get tricky. Programs often utilize Soundex search parameters which assist in finding words or names that sound similar to the name one is attempting to locate. And through a process of trial and error using every plausible spelling version, we were able to locate manifest entries for many of the Calof Clan relatives. We then cross-checked those with other data we had, especially dates, or names of towns, or knowing that a group had traveled together, before we were convinced that a manifest entry was in fact the correct one.

**There are usually two or more sets of manifests per voyage :  
the Port of Departure list & the Port of Arrival list.**



# Transliteration of the Family Surnames

## Latin Letters : English

Kahalowsky

Calof

Kalov

Kalof

Kahn

Zaslovsky

## Cyrillic Letters : Ukrainian

Кагаловски

Цалоф

Калов

Калоф

Кагн

Засловски

Kahalowsky

Kahalowski

Kahavsca

Kahorsen

Kalef

Kalor

Kalov

Kalof

Calof

Kohn

Kahn

Saslovsky

Saslovsky

Karlowsky

Zaslofsky

Tailowsky

Zaslavsky

**Zaslovsky**



# Hamburg Port Authority

## Manifest Entry for Rachel

Her ticket was  
issued to  
Rachel Chavetz

|                    |                                                          |     |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Name:              | <b>Ruchel Cheifitz</b>                                   |     |
| Departure Date:    | 27 Mai 1894 (27 May 1894)                                |     |
| Birth Date:        | abt 1874                                                 |     |
| Age:               | 20                                                       |     |
| Gender:            | weiblich (Female)                                        |     |
| Marital Status:    | ledig (Single)                                           |     |
| Residence:         | Kiew, Russland (Russia)                                  |     |
| Ship Name:         | <b>Scandia</b>                                           |     |
| Captain:           | Winkler                                                  |     |
| Shipping Line:     | Hamburg-Amerikanische<br>Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft |     |
| Shipping Clerk:    | Hamburg-Amerikanische<br>Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft |     |
| Ship Type:         | Dampfschiff                                              |     |
| Accommodation:     | Zwischendeck                                             |     |
| Ship Flag:         | Deutschland                                              |     |
| Port of Departure: | Hamburg                                                  |     |
| Port of Arrival:   | New York                                                 |     |
| Volume:            | 373-7 I, VIII A 1 Band 087 B                             |     |
| Household Members: | Name                                                     | Age |
|                    | Ruchel Cheifitz                                          | 20  |



[View original  
image](#)



# Hamburg Manifest Entry for Rachel

**Verzeichniss**

der Personen, welche zur Auswanderung nach

durch Unterzeichneten engagirt sind, und mit dem Dampf-Schiffe

unter *Deutscher* Flagge nach *Hamburg* befördert werden.

Abgang des Schiffes den *24 Mai* 18*48*

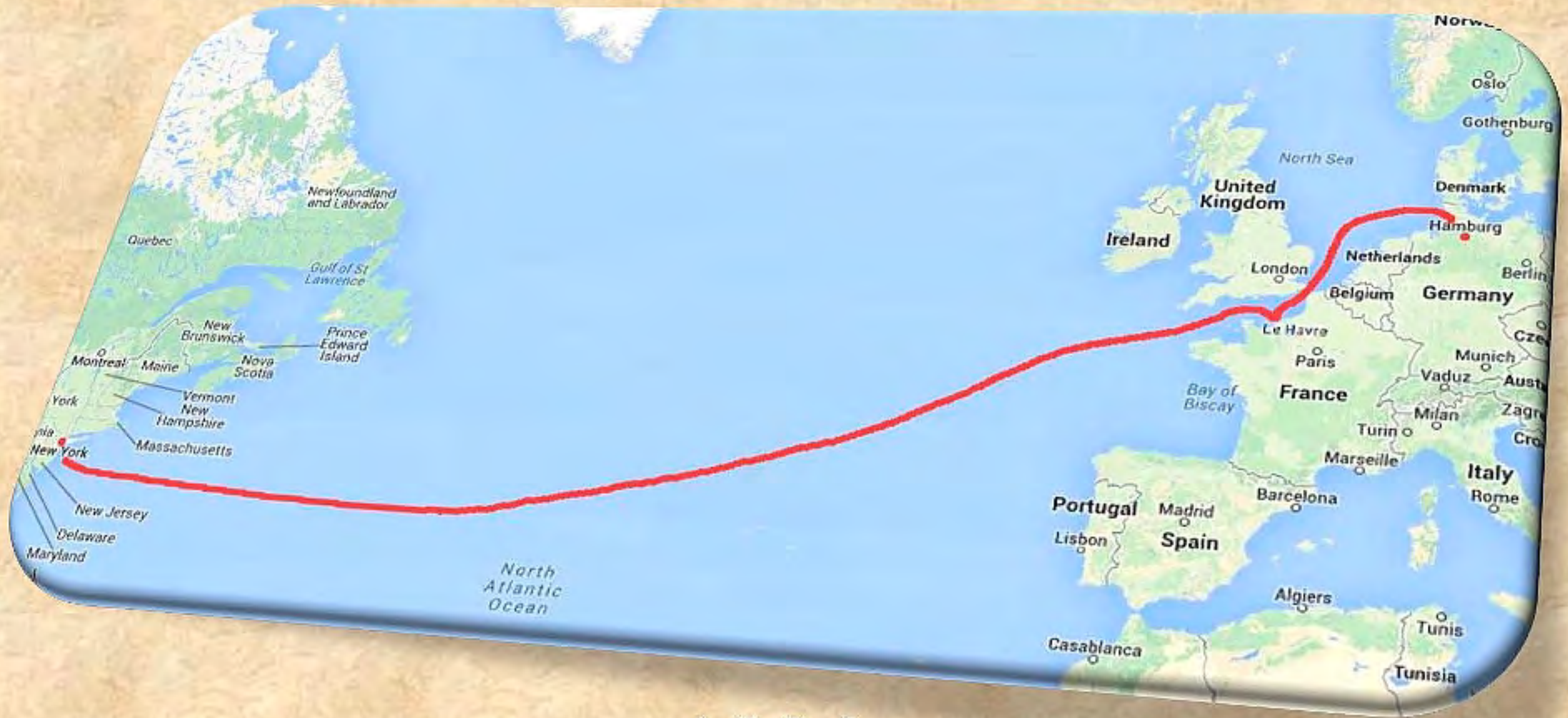
*Chapman* Captain *Winkler*

|                |               |   |   |           |             |
|----------------|---------------|---|---|-----------|-------------|
| <i>Ehepaar</i> | <i>Rachel</i> | ✓ | ✓ | <i>20</i> | <i>Hier</i> |
| <i>20</i>      | <i>20</i>     | ✓ | ✓ | <i>20</i> | <i>20</i>   |



# Trans-Atlantic Route

## Hamburg • Le Havre • New York



1894





SOURCE: [blsclblogs.baruch.cuny.edu](https://blsclblogs.baruch.cuny.edu)

# On Board

Rachel's voyage took 13 days:

Departed Hamburg 27 May 1894

Arrived Ellis Island 9 June 1894

**Your Huddled Masses ....**



SOURCE: NY Public Library



# Ellis Island



SOURCE: NY Public Library







# Ellis Island Port Authority

## Manifest Entry for Rachel

Her ticket was  
issued to  
Rachel Chavetz

S.S. Scandia

District of the City of New York,  
Port of New York.

O. Winkler Master of the *Scandia*

CUSTOMS LIST OF PASSENGERS.

-This Passenger & Baggage List is to be filed in the Office of the Collector of Customs, New York.

I, the Master of the *Scandia*, do solemnly, sincerely and truly swear that the following List or Manifest submitted by me to the Collector of Customs of the District of the City of New York, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board said vessel at *Hamburg and Ranne* port or ports the said vessel has now arrived; and that on said list is truly designated the age, sex, calling or occupation, the place of embarkation, the number of pieces of baggage, of all the passengers and cause of death of any such passengers who may have died on the voyage, and also a statement, so far as it can be ascertained, with reference to the intention of each immigrant passenger as to a place in this country, and also, in regard to Cabin passengers, the country of which they are citizens, and of passengers other than cabin passengers, their native country, their intended destination or to United States, and whether they are citizens of the United States, or not, and the location of the compartment or space occupied by each, as required by the Passenger Act of 1892 and the Regulations of the Treasury. So help me God.

Subscribed before me this *7* day of *June* 189*4*

*[Signature]*  
Deputy Collector.

† To be used for all passengers.  
‡ To be used for cabin passengers only.  
§ To be used for passengers other than cabin passengers.

| No.                                     | NAME IN FULL       | Age   |        | Sex | Calling or Occupation | Country of which they are Citizens | Native Country | Intended Destination or Localities, State or Territory | Days of journey over the Gulf, Mexico, Coast of Central America, or the Indian Sea | Transit, in Transit or intended, protected persons | Location of Compartment or Space assigned, forward, middle or aft | Number of pieces of baggage | Port of Embarkation |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|-----|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
|                                         |                    | Years | Months |     |                       |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             |                     |
| Associated Passenger<br>Rudolf Cheifetz |                    |       |        |     |                       |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             |                     |
| Date of Arrival<br>Jun 09, 1894         |                    |       |        |     |                       |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             |                     |
| Port of Departure<br>Hamburg via Havre  |                    |       |        |     |                       |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             |                     |
| 2                                       | Bryantia Kimmelt   | 30    |        |     |                       |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             |                     |
| 3                                       | Viggo Wenghus      | 18    |        |     |                       |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | Pa                  |
| 4                                       | Kasch Wenghus      | 19    |        |     |                       |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | "                   |
| 5                                       | Anton Wenghus      | 45    |        |     |                       |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | "                   |
| 6                                       | Wladislaw Hermann  | 25    |        |     |                       |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | "                   |
| 7                                       | Wilo Heyser        | 28    |        |     | merchant              |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | Germany             |
| 8                                       | Carl Wink          | 24    |        |     | "                     |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | New York            |
| 9                                       | Wihanne Markin     | 32    |        | X   | wife                  |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | Ill                 |
| 10                                      | Julius Kohner      | 21    |        | m   | labourer              |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | New Jersey          |
| 1                                       | Niels Hansen       | 21    |        | "   | merchant              |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | Denmark             |
| 2                                       | Elvine Christensen | 20    |        | X   | maidservant           |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | "                   |
| 3                                       | Niels Nielsen      | 16    |        | m   | farmer                |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | Wisconsin           |
| 4                                       | Mysala Tareviczky  | 19    |        | X   | maidservant           |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | Russia              |
| 5                                       | Ruchel Cheifetz    | 20    |        | "   | "                     |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | New York            |
| 6                                       | Leiser Abramowsky  | 24    |        | m   | labourer              |                                    |                |                                                        |                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                   |                             | "                   |

Ruchel Cheifetz

20

f

maidservant

Russia

New York



# Jewish Quarter, New York City

circa 1898



PHOTOGRAPHER: J.S. JOHNSON 1898



## Abraham Calof's Voyage

Abe emigrated from Stebliv, Ukraine in 1891. He traveled with his two nieces, Doba and Sarah Zaslovsky aboard the *S.S. Slavonia*.

Doba and Sarah were two of the four daughters of Abe's older sister Elke Ita and her husband Menashe Solomon Zaslovsky.

The girls were traveling to America, accompanied by Abe, to marry the brothers Leib (John) and Maier Calof.

Leib and Maier's father Mordechai was brother to Solomon Kalov, Abe's father. So, yes; Abe, Elke Ita, Leib and Maier were first cousins, and Doba and Sarah were related to the brothers as first cousins once removed.

Sources, including Rachel's book and Maier Calof's Memoirs, tell us that Abe's brother Charlie (Savol) Kalov was the fourth member of this party. However, Charlie does not appear to be listed on the *S.S. Slavonia* manifests.

After exhaustive research, we have reason to believe Charlie sailed on a separate concurrent ship, the *S.S. Pennland*, out of Antwerp to New York under the name Schewel Kahalowski. The four apparently met up again upon arrival in New York.

*Castle Garden* was the New York immigration processing station from 1850 – 1890. *Ellis Island* began operations in 1892.

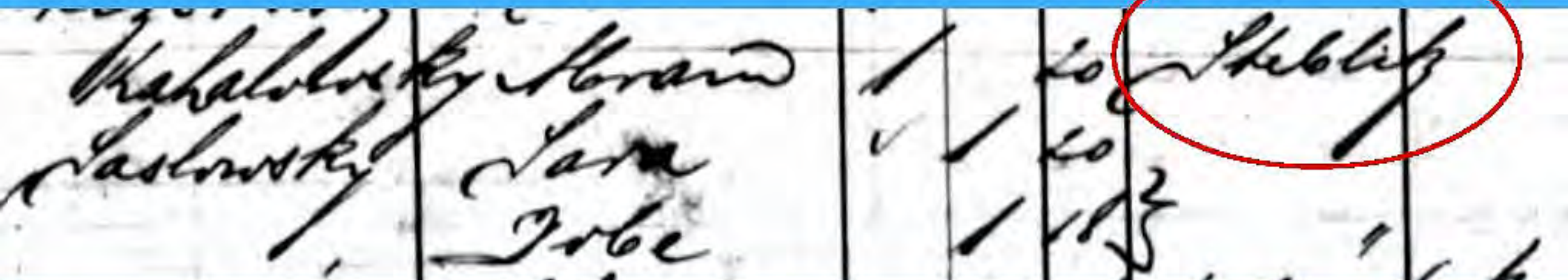




S.S. Slavonia



# Hamburg Port Authority Manifest Entry for Abe, along with his nieces Doba and Sarah



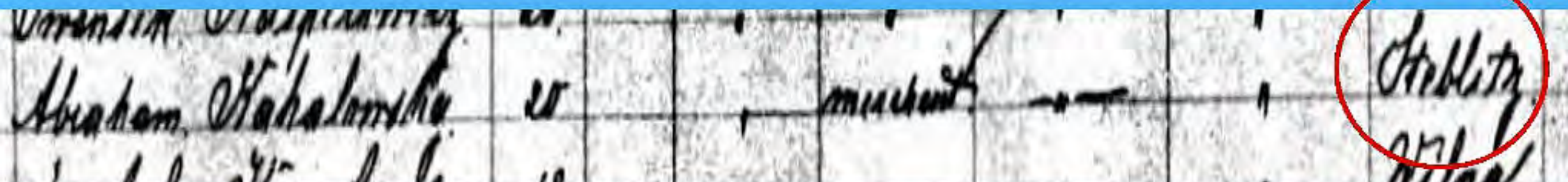
Steblitz (Stebliv)

| Name             | Departure Date | Destination | Birth Date | Age | Gender   | Marital Status          | Relationship | Residence          | Occupation                  | Ship Name | Captain | Shipping Line                                         |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-----|----------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Abram Kahalowsky | 6 Jun 1891     | New York    | 1871       | 20  | männlich |                         |              | Steblitz, Russland | Händler<br>Händler = dealer | Slavonia  | Schmidt | Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft |
| Sara Saslowsky   | 6 Jun 1891     | New York    | 1871       | 20  | weiblich | ledig                   |              | Steblitz, Russland |                             | Slavonia  | Schmidt | Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft |
| Doba Saslowsky   | 6 Jun 1891     | New York    | 1873       | 18  | weiblich | ledig<br>ledig = single |              | Steblitz, Russland |                             | Slavonia  | Schmidt | Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft |

Departed Hamburg 6 June 1891 on the S.S. Slavonia



## New York Manifest Entry for Abe Calof



Steblytz (Steblyv)

| Name               | Arrival Date | Birth Date | Age | Gender | Port of Departure | Destination | Place of Origin | Ethnicity/Race/Nationality | Ship Name | Port of Arrival    |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|-----|--------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Abraham Kahalowsky | 23 Jun 1891  | 1871       | 20  | Male   | Hamburg, Germany  | New York    | Poland          | Polish                     | Slavonia  | New York, New York |

Arrived New York 23 June 1891 on the S.S. Slavonia



## New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 *about Abraham Kahalowsky*

|                         |                                                                  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name:                   | <b>Abraham Kahalowsky</b>                                        |
| Arrival Date:           | 23 Jun 1891                                                      |
| Birth Date:             | abt 1871                                                         |
| Age:                    | 20                                                               |
| Gender:                 | Male                                                             |
| Ethnicity/ Nationality: | Polish                                                           |
| Place of Origin:        | Poland                                                           |
| Port of Departure:      | Hamburg, Germany                                                 |
| Destination:            | New York                                                         |
| Port of Arrival:        | New York, New York                                               |
| Ship Name:              | Slavonia                                                         |
| Search Ship Database:   | Search the Slavonia in the 'Passenger Ships and Images' database |

## Hamburger Passagierlisten, 1850-1934 *Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934* *about Abram Kahalowsky*

| Name:              | <b>Abram Kahalowsky</b>                                                                                                                   |      |     |                  |    |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----|------------------|----|
| Departure Date:    | 6 Jun 1891                                                                                                                                |      |     |                  |    |
| Destination:       | New York                                                                                                                                  |      |     |                  |    |
| Birth Date:        | abt 1871                                                                                                                                  |      |     |                  |    |
| Age:               | 20                                                                                                                                        |      |     |                  |    |
| Gender:            | männlich (Male)                                                                                                                           |      |     |                  |    |
| Residence:         | Stebnitz, Russland (Russia)                                                                                                               |      |     |                  |    |
| Occupation:        | Händler                                                                                                                                   |      |     |                  |    |
| Ship Name:         | Slavonia                                                                                                                                  |      |     |                  |    |
| Captain:           | Schmidt                                                                                                                                   |      |     |                  |    |
| Shipping Line:     | Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft                                                                                     |      |     |                  |    |
| Shipping Clerk:    | Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft                                                                                     |      |     |                  |    |
| Ship Type:         | Dampfschiff                                                                                                                               |      |     |                  |    |
| Accommodation:     | Zwischendeck                                                                                                                              |      |     |                  |    |
| Ship Flag:         | Deutschland                                                                                                                               |      |     |                  |    |
| Port of Departure: | Hamburg                                                                                                                                   |      |     |                  |    |
| Port of Arrival:   | New York; Baltimore                                                                                                                       |      |     |                  |    |
| Volume:            | 373-7 I, VIII A 1 Band 073                                                                                                                |      |     |                  |    |
| Household Members: | <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Abram Kahalowsky</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Name | Age | Abram Kahalowsky | 20 |
| Name               | Age                                                                                                                                       |      |     |                  |    |
| Abram Kahalowsky   | 20                                                                                                                                        |      |     |                  |    |

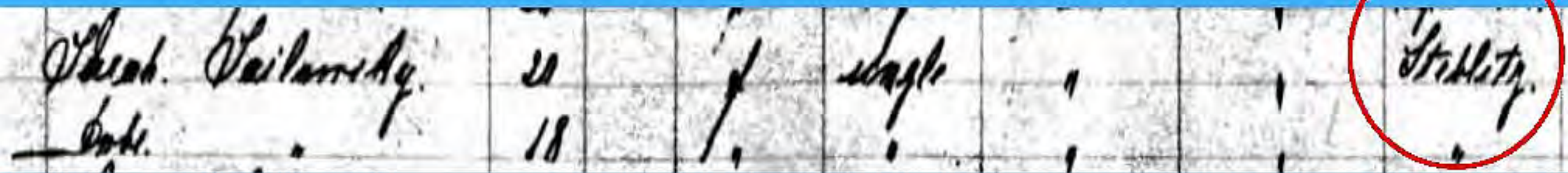


[View original image](#)

Abram Calof  
Summary of Data



## New York Manifest Entry for Doba & Sarah



Stebnitz (Stebniv)

| Name            | Arrival Date | Birth Date | Age | Gender | Port of Departure | Destination | Place of Origin | Ethnicity/Race/Nationality | Ship Name | Port of Arrival    |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|-----|--------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Jacob Tailowsky | 23 Jun 1891  | 1871       | 20  | Female | Hamburg, Germany  | New York    | Poland          | Polish                     | Slavonia  | New York, New York |
| Doba Tailowsky  | 23 Jun 1891  | 1873       | 18  | Female | Hamburg, Germany  | New York    | Poland          | Polish                     | Slavonia  | New York, New York |

Arrived New York 23 June 1891 on the S.S. Slavonia



## New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 *about Dobe Tailowsky*

|                         |                                                                  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name:                   | <b>Dobe Tailowsky</b>                                            |
| Arrival Date:           | 23 Jun 1891                                                      |
| Birth Date:             | abt 1873                                                         |
| Age:                    | 18                                                               |
| Gender:                 | Female                                                           |
| Ethnicity/ Nationality: | Polish                                                           |
| Place of Origin:        | Poland                                                           |
| Port of Departure:      | Hamburg, Germany                                                 |
| Destination:            | New York                                                         |
| Port of Arrival:        | New York, New York                                               |
| Ship Name:              | Slavonia                                                         |
| Search Ship Database:   | Search the Slavonia in the 'Passenger Ships and Images' database |

## Hamburger Passagierlisten, 1850-1934 *Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934* *about Dobe Saslowsky*

| Name:              | <b>Dobe Saslowsky</b>                                                                                                               |      |     |                |    |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----|----------------|----|
| Departure Date:    | 6 Jun 1891                                                                                                                          |      |     |                |    |
| Destination:       | New York                                                                                                                            |      |     |                |    |
| Birth Date:        | abt 1873                                                                                                                            |      |     |                |    |
| Age:               | 18                                                                                                                                  |      |     |                |    |
| Gender:            | weiblich (Female)                                                                                                                   |      |     |                |    |
| Marital status:    | ledig (Single)                                                                                                                      |      |     |                |    |
| Residence:         | Stebnitz, Russland (Russia)                                                                                                         |      |     |                |    |
| Ship Name:         | Slavonia                                                                                                                            |      |     |                |    |
| Captain:           | Schmidt                                                                                                                             |      |     |                |    |
| Shipping Line:     | Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft                                                                               |      |     |                |    |
| Shipping Clerk:    | Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft                                                                               |      |     |                |    |
| Ship Type:         | Dampfschiff                                                                                                                         |      |     |                |    |
| Accommodation:     | Zwischendeck                                                                                                                        |      |     |                |    |
| Ship Flag:         | Deutschland                                                                                                                         |      |     |                |    |
| Port of Departure: | Hamburg                                                                                                                             |      |     |                |    |
| Port of Arrival:   | New York; Baltimore                                                                                                                 |      |     |                |    |
| Volume:            | 373-7 I, VIII A 1 Band 073                                                                                                          |      |     |                |    |
| Household Members: | <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dobe Saslowsky</td><td>18</td></tr> </tbody> </table> | Name | Age | Dobe Saslowsky | 18 |
| Name               | Age                                                                                                                                 |      |     |                |    |
| Dobe Saslowsky     | 18                                                                                                                                  |      |     |                |    |



[View original image](#)

Doba Zaslovsky  
Summary of Data



## New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 about Jacob Tailowsky

|                         |                                                                  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name:                   | <b>Jacob Tailowsky</b>                                           |
| Arrival Date:           | 23 Jun 1891                                                      |
| Birth Date:             | abt 1871                                                         |
| Age:                    | 20                                                               |
| Gender:                 | Female                                                           |
| Ethnicity/ Nationality: | Polish                                                           |
| Place of Origin:        | Poland                                                           |
| Port of Departure:      | Hamburg, Germany                                                 |
| Destination:            | New York                                                         |
| Port of Arrival:        | New York, New York                                               |
| Ship Name:              | Slavonia                                                         |
| Search Ship Database:   | Search the Slavonia in the 'Passenger Ships and Images' database |

## Hamburger Passagierlisten, 1850-1934 Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934 about Sara Saslowsky

| Name:              | <b>Sara Saslowsky</b>                                                                                                               |      |     |                |    |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----|----------------|----|
| Departure Date:    | 6 Jun 1891                                                                                                                          |      |     |                |    |
| Destination:       | New York                                                                                                                            |      |     |                |    |
| Birth Date:        | abt 1871                                                                                                                            |      |     |                |    |
| Age:               | 20                                                                                                                                  |      |     |                |    |
| Gender:            | weiblich (Female)                                                                                                                   |      |     |                |    |
| Marital status:    | ledig (Single)                                                                                                                      |      |     |                |    |
| Residence:         | Stebnitz, Russland (Russia)                                                                                                         |      |     |                |    |
| Ship Name:         | Slavonia                                                                                                                            |      |     |                |    |
| Captain:           | Schmidt                                                                                                                             |      |     |                |    |
| Shipping Line:     | Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft                                                                               |      |     |                |    |
| Shipping Clerk:    | Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft                                                                               |      |     |                |    |
| Ship Type:         | Dampfschiff                                                                                                                         |      |     |                |    |
| Accommodation:     | Zwischendeck                                                                                                                        |      |     |                |    |
| Ship Flag:         | Deutschland                                                                                                                         |      |     |                |    |
| Port of Departure: | Hamburg                                                                                                                             |      |     |                |    |
| Port of Arrival:   | New York; Baltimore                                                                                                                 |      |     |                |    |
| Volume:            | 373-7 I, VIII A 1 Band 073                                                                                                          |      |     |                |    |
| Household Members: | <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sara Saslowsky</td><td>20</td></tr> </tbody> </table> | Name | Age | Sara Saslowsky | 20 |
| Name               | Age                                                                                                                                 |      |     |                |    |
| Sara Saslowsky     | 20                                                                                                                                  |      |     |                |    |



[View original image](#)

Sarah Zaslovsky  
Summary of Data



# 5,039 mi

Distance from Stebliv to  
Edmore, ND

Abraham's Hometown in Ukraine



# 4,996 mi

Distance from Bila Tserkva to  
Edmore, ND

Rachel's Hometown in Ukraine







SOURCE: EllisIslandTours.com



SOURCE: jwa.org

Welcome to a new world ...



# The promised land awaits ...





# Passenger Processing ....





# Passenger Processing ...







SOURCE: Nat'l Park Svc

Final Discharge



# Why they fled ...

The *May Laws* decreed by the Russian Czar in 1882 were designed to remove all rights and freedoms from the Jewish population.

This Law was extremely effective, and was accompanied by state-sponsored pogroms all across the *Pale of Settlement* where Jews were forced to live.

Based on her manuscript, these harsh and discriminatory laws were apparently not Rachel's primary reason for wanting to leave her miserable lot in life.

However, in the larger historical scheme, this legislation was the fundamental cause which created a mass Jewish exodus out of Eastern Europe between 1883 – 1914.



Figure 40. Five of the 49 victims of the Kishinev Pogroms in 1903. From a memorial album, J.N.U.L., Jerusalem.



# The May Laws of 1882

The major cause of emigration from Tzarist Russia in the late 1880's were the notorious May Laws of 1882. The following is a description of the background to the May Laws and their impact on the Jewish population.

The year 1881 was a turning point in the history of the Jews of Russia. In March 1881 revolutionaries assassinated Alexander II. Confusion reigned throughout the country. The revolutionaries called on the people to rebel. The regime was compelled to protect itself, and the Russian government found a scapegoat: the Jews. Government-organized anti-Jewish riots (pogroms) broke out in a number of towns and shtetls of southern Russia. These disorders consisted of property damage, looting, murder and rape.

## The May Laws stated:

1. Jews were forbidden to settle anew outside of towns and boroughs, except existing Jewish agricultural colonies.
2. Forbidden were the issuing of mortgages and other deeds to Jews, as well as the registration of Jews as lessees of real property situated outside of towns and boroughs; and also the issuing to Jews of powers of attorney to manage and dispose of such real property.
3. Jews were forbidden to transact business on Sundays and on the principal Christian holy days; the existing regulations concerning the closing of places of business belonging to Christians on such days was to apply to Jews also.
4. The measures laid down [above] shall apply only to the governments within the Pale of Jewish Settlement.

Source: Ronald H. Isaacs & Kerry M. Olitzky, *Critical Documents of Jewish History, a Sourcebook*. Jason Aronson Inc. Northvale, NJ. p. 34.

The May Laws limited Jewish college students to 10%. It encouraged the police to brutally enforce the new rules. Jews were systematically expelled from towns and villages where they had lived for almost a century. Although the pogroms were stopped, the threat of riots was kept alive by a virulently anti-semitic press. The head of the Russian Orthodox Church formulated the objectives of the government when he expressed the hope that, *"one-third of the Jews will convert, one-third will die, and one-third will flee the country."* At least part of his 'dream' came to fruition. From 1881 to 1914 more than 2 million Jews left Russia. The May Laws and their aftermath did not succeed in the way that Alexander III had hoped. True, almost one-third of the Jewish population did leave. But the remaining two-thirds became a powerful influence against Czarist Russia.



## THE PALE OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT



Map credits:

*Encyclopaedia Judaica* and Keter Publishing House Jerusalem Ltd., Cecil Roth, ed. (Jerusalem: Keter Publishing House Ltd., 1971-1972).

SOURCE: Routes to Roots Foundation .org



# Why they came ...

Freedom

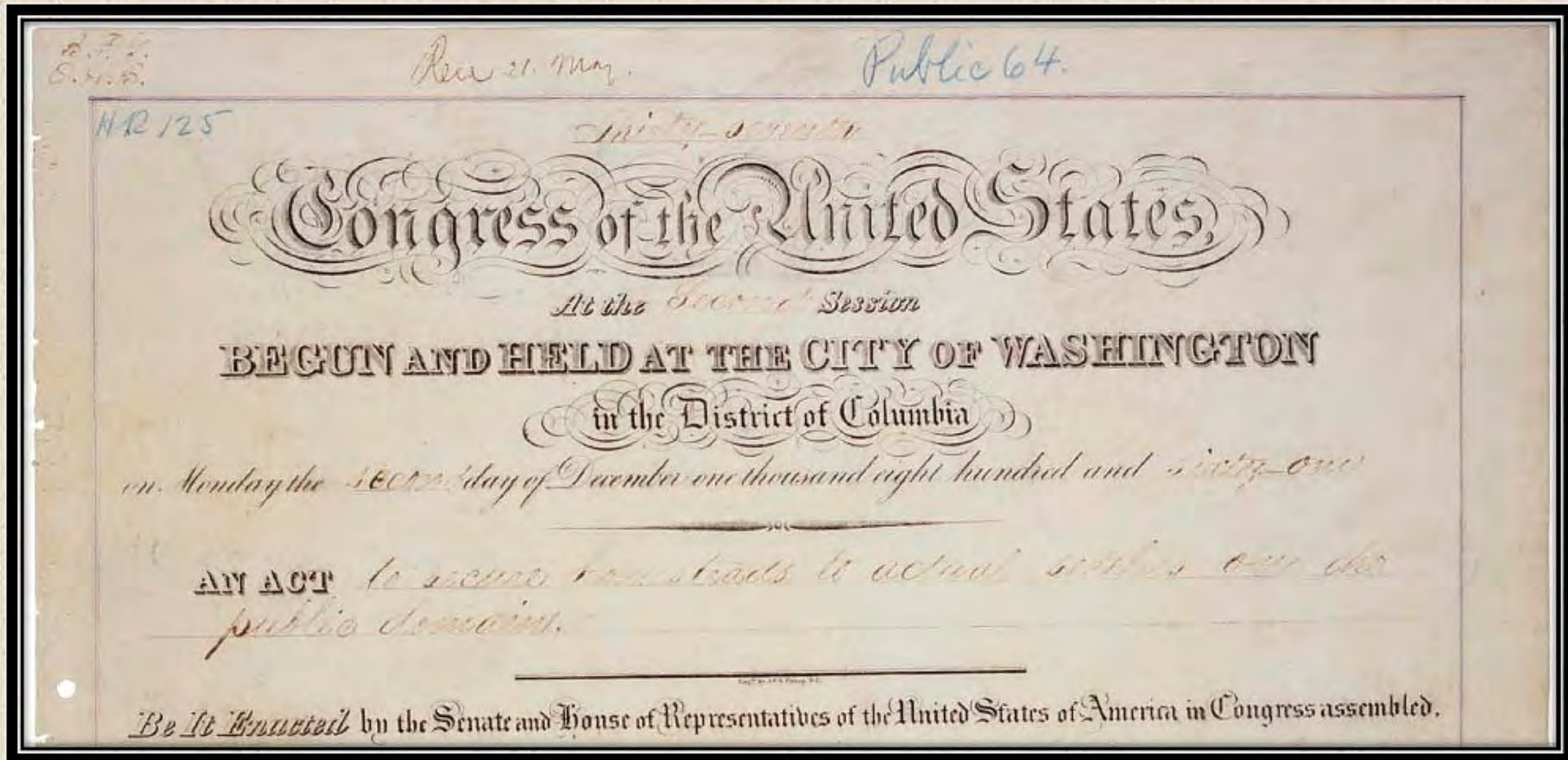
Opportunity

Equality





# The Homestead Act of 1862



Signed by President Abraham Lincoln



# HOMESTEAD ACT MAY 20 1862

THE ACT PROVIDED THAT THE HEAD OF A FAMILY OR PERSON WHO HAD REACHED THE AGE OF 21 COULD FILE ON 160 ACRES OF LAND. A FEE OF \$18.<sup>00</sup> WAS CHARGED \$14.<sup>00</sup> AT TIME OF FILING \$4.<sup>00</sup> UPON PROOF. THE HOMESTEADER HAD TO BE ON THE LAND AND START IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN 6 MONTHS FROM FILING DATE. HE HAD TO PLOW 10 ACRES INTO CROPS & ESTABLISH A RESIDENCE FOR 5 YEARS.

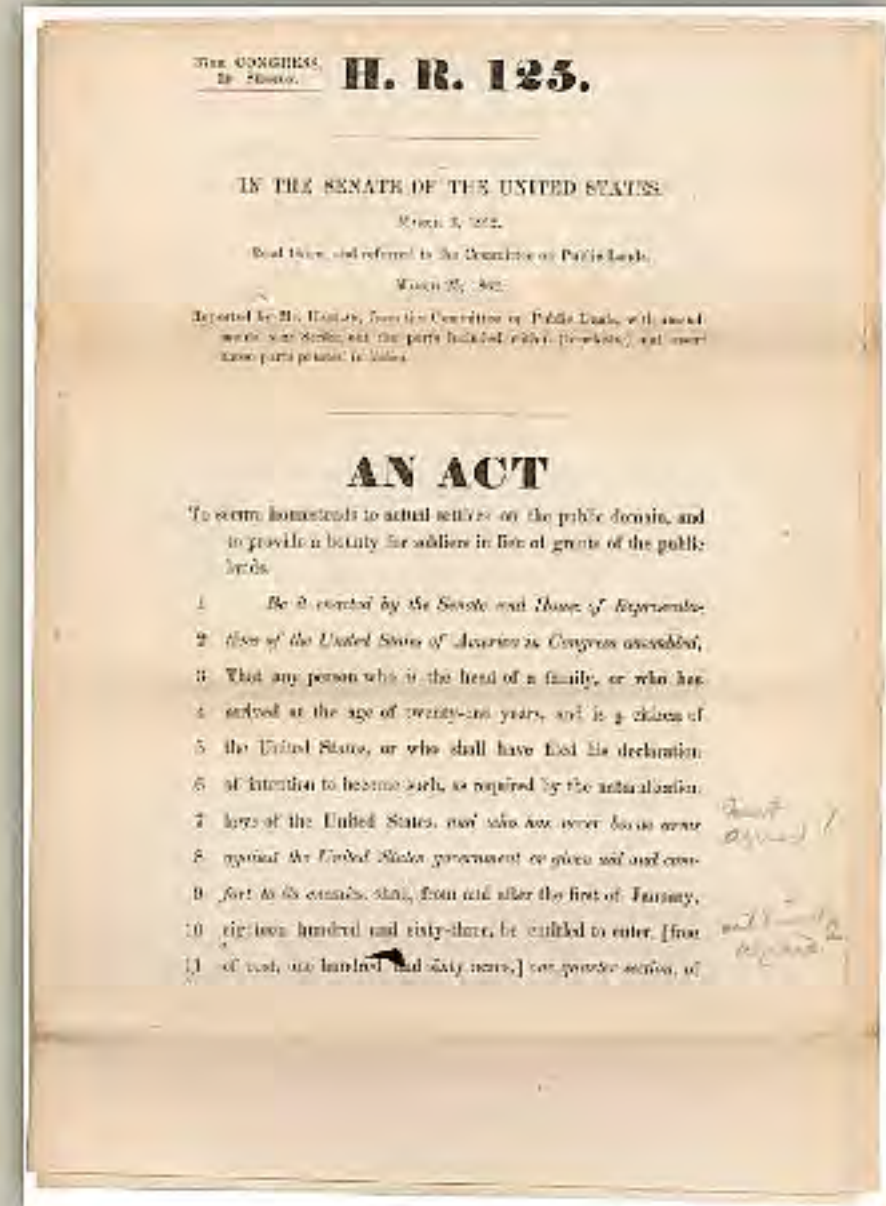


## Transcript of Homestead Act (1862)

CHAP. LXXV. — *An Act to secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and who has never borne arms against the United States Government or given aid and comfort to its enemies, shall, from and after the first January, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, be entitled to enter one quarter section or a less quantity of unappropriated public lands, upon which said person may have filed a preemption claim, or which may, at the time the application is made, be subject to preemption at one dollar and twenty-five cents, or less, per acre; or eighty acres or less of such unappropriated lands, at two dollars and fifty cents per acre, to be located in a body, in conformity to the legal subdivisions of the public lands, and after the same shall have been surveyed: Provided, That any person owning and residing on land may, under the provisions of this act, enter other land lying contiguous to his or her said land, which shall not, with the land so already owned and occupied, exceed in the aggregate one hundred and sixty acres.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the person applying for the benefit of this act shall, upon application to the register of the land office in which he or she is about to make such entry, make affidavit before the said register or receiver that he or she is the head of a family, or is twenty-one years or more of age, or shall have performed service in the army or navy of the United States, and that he has never borne arms against the Government of the United States or given aid and comfort to its enemies, and that such application is made for his or her exclusive use and benefit, and that said entry is made for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, and not either directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever; and upon filing the said affidavit with the register or receiver, and on payment of ten dollars, he or she shall thereupon be permitted to enter the quantity of land specified: Provided, however, That no certificate shall be given or patent issued therefor until the expiration of five years from the date of such entry; and if, at the expiration of such time, or at any time within two years thereafter, the person making such entry; or, if he be dead, his widow; or in case of her death, his heirs or devisee; or in case of a widow making such entry, her heirs or devisee, in case of her death; shall, prove by two credible witnesses that he, she, or they have resided upon or cultivated the same for the term of five years immediately succeeding the time of filing the affidavit aforesaid, and shall make affidavit that no part of said land has been alienated, and that he has borne true allegiance to the Government of the United States; then, in such case, he, she, or they, if at that time a citizen of the United States, shall be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided for by law: And provided, further, That in case of the death of both father and mother, leaving an infant child, or children, under twenty-one years of age, the right and fee shall ensure to the benefit of said infant child or children; and the executor, administrator, or guardian may, at any time within two years after the death of the surviving parent, and in accordance with the laws of the State in which such children for the time being have their domicile, sell said land for the benefit of said infants, but for no other purpose; and the purchaser shall acquire the absolute title by the purchase, and be entitled to a patent from the United States, on payment of the office fees and sum of money herein specified.





## 2,000,000 FARMS of Fertile Prairie Lands to be had Free of Cost

# CENTRAL DAKOTA

The United States offers as a Gift Two Million Acres to Two Million Families who will occupy and improve them. These lands lie between the 44th and 48th degrees of latitude, and between Minnesota and the Missouri River. In this belt is about

# 30 Millions of Acres

Of the Most Productive Grain Lands in the World. The attached Map shows the Location of these Lands.



## YOU NEED A FARM!

Here is one you can not simply be occupying it. It will be noticed that the

# CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN

Has Two Lines of Road that run through to these Lands. It is the only Rail Road that reaches them.

In the Northwest to the West, North and South of Watertown, are many millions of acres that you can reach by the **UNION & NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY**. Along its line in Dakota have been laid out a number of Towns in which are needed the Merchant, Mechanic and Laborer.

**CENTRAL SANCTUARY** is now, for the first time, open to settlement. The Indians have been removed and their reservations offered to those who wish to settle there.

## HOW TO GET THERE

Tag Ticket: Karen should be able to return to the CHS and NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD, to TRACY or MARSHALL, BROWNS, or to WETTERBY, NEBRASKA. If Tracy you can get tickets to all Stations West as the line is State. From Waverly, or from any Station West of Berkeley, you can get connections that will take you to the Lumber Yard, North or South of the Lake Superior. Also if the Railroad. All kinds of the CHS and NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD and all you tickets to these lines.

**AT CHICAGO YOU CAN BUY TICKETS AT**

\*CLARK STREET: 75 CANAL STREET, Corner of Madison; at the WELLS STREET DEPOT, on Kinzie Street, north of Wells Street Bridge; and at KINZIE STREET DEPOT, on the Corner of Kinzie and Canal Streets.

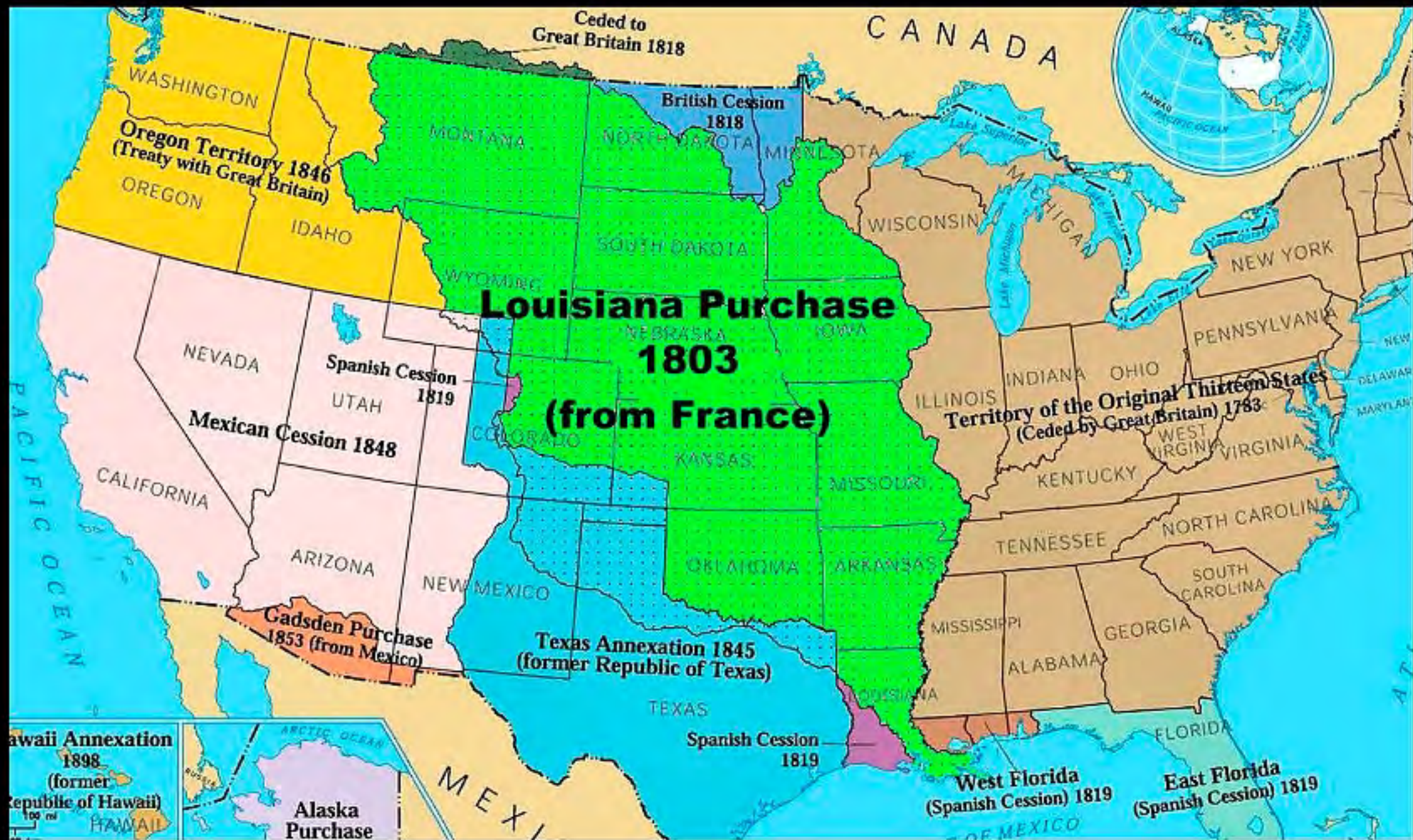
**BEAR IN MIND** You can not get to the Lands by rail  
itself, unless you go via the

**Chicago & North-Western R'y.**

Александров, А. А. // Избранные сочинения.

Poster advertising  
free land in Dakota  
and  
how to get there on the  
Chicago & Northwestern  
Railway







# Population Density in 1880



The number of people per square mile in North Dakota was (in blue 8 to 18); (in yellow 2 to 8).



## **June 1891**

**Abraham, Charlie, Sarah, and Doba**

travel together from New York to Devils Lake in Ramsey County, North Dakota to meet with their cousins **John (Leib)** and **Maier Calof**.

## **July 1891**

**Abraham** files his first papers to become a U.S. citizen on July 13, 1891 in Devils Lake.

## **August 1891**

**John & Sarah, and Maier & Doba**, marry in a double wedding ceremony in BenZion, Sullivan Township (Ramsey County) on August 16, 1891.

## **1891 – 1894**

Research to date suggests that **Charlie** remains in Ramsey County to farm, but **Abraham** soon returns to New York where, we believe, he works in the city for the next three years.

## **June 1894**

**Rachel Kahn** arrives in New York on June 9, 1894.

**Abraham** meets her at Ellis Island. They remain in New York for a few weeks before heading West to Devils Lake where **Abraham** intends to farm and acquire land in Overland Township (Ramsey County) under the Homestead Act.



# Travel to North Dakota

**Two weeks after arriving in America, Rachel and Abraham were on a train headed to Devils Lake, North Dakota. The trip took 4 days.**



PHOTO: L. VAUGHN



SOURCE: flickrhivemind.net





**Rachel and Abraham  
arrived in Devils Lake  
on or about  
June 26, 1894**

## Devils Lake North Dakota Train Station



PHOTO: L. VAUGHN



# Historical Perspective of Immigrant Jewish Farming in the Late 1800's

As early as 1882, two Jewish farming colonies were established, at Painted Woods north of Wilton and about 15 miles northeast of Devils Lake near Garske.

"They couldn't communicate and they lived like they did in their home countries," says Kamins of the settlers, who mostly emigrated from Russia.

"The Jews who came here had three strikes against them: One, they weren't farmers; two, the language; and three, poor land. There aren't any (Jews) farming now (in North Dakota) and there used to be two or three Jewish families in every town."

The Garske colony near Devils Lake also was started in the early 1880s. It suffered through some horrendous years, but was reported to be a success in 1901. An account stated, "All of the farmers threshed in good season. This is the first time that the crop of the Jewish farmers has been threshed before November since they have been here."

The settlement, sometimes called Iola, was considered the northwest's oldest Jewish settlement in 1912, but it had melted away by the mid-1920s.

One of the Devils Lake settlement children, Lottie Kaufman, later became the wife of famed movie producer Adolf Zukor.

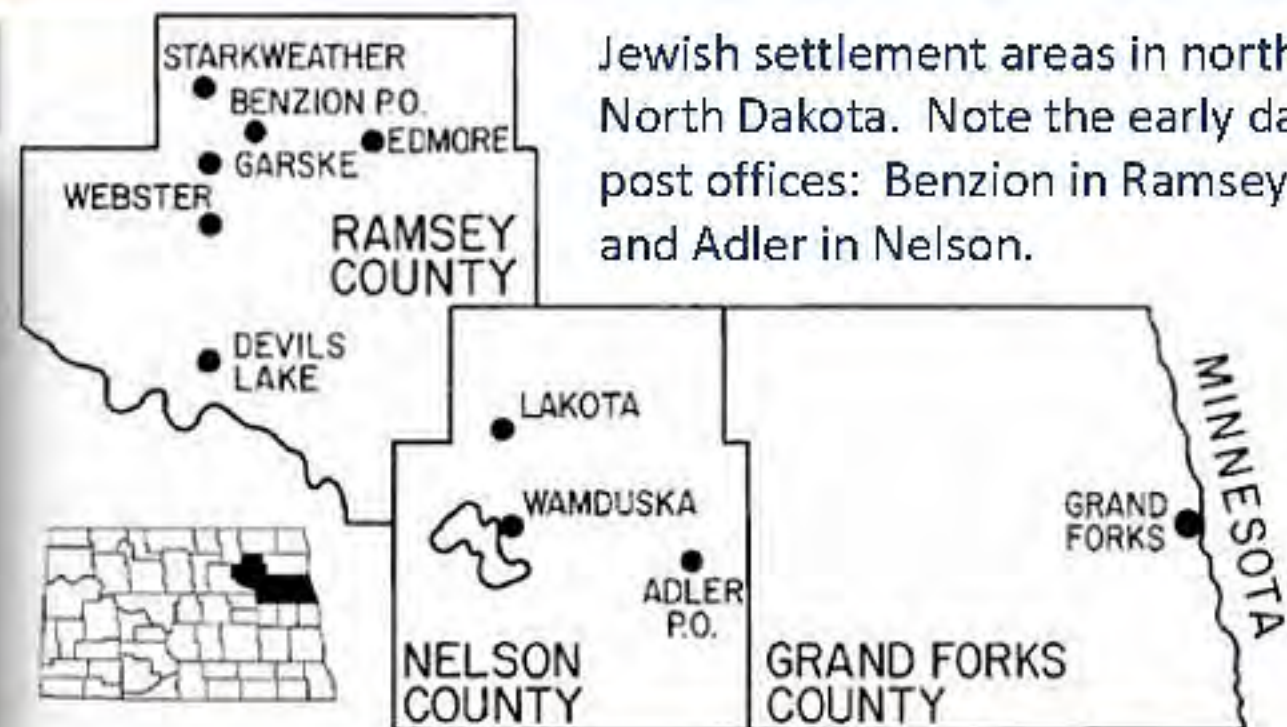


In North Dakota five major and two minor homestead colonies once existed. Over four

hundred Jewish individuals filed on land in these settlements. (Though the term *colony* was used from the earliest days, it can be misleading. In effect, they were rural neighborhoods containing great numbers of Jewish farmers, but mixed with non-Jewish settlers.) But there were what might be called noncolony Jews too. Federal Land Office records indicate that at least four hundred additional Jewish men and women took up land as individuals or small groups and clusters elsewhere in the state.

The Jewish agriculturally oriented migration to the Dakotas came about because of the political and internal upheavals that were taking place in Russia in the late 1800s. Russian nationalism had been growing throughout the middle decades of the nineteenth century. The assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881 gave further impetus to a wave of increased national feeling, of religious intolerance, and of political and economic oppression which was directed at all foreign ethnic groups in the empire. Its consequences were dramatic. At least one-fourth of all North Dakota's eventual immigrants (Germans, Ukrainians, Jews, and Crimean-Czechs) could be classified as refugees from Russia's internal tensions.

The oppressive activities focused on Jews in a special way. At times resorting to personal assault and occasionally even massacre, the peasantry in some Russian provinces turned against its fellow citizens of Jewish background. Jewish residents, both farm and city people, found themselves caught in a two-edged grip: popular resentment and official discrimination. As a result, from 1882 to 1920 almost 2.5 million Jews came from Russia and eastern Europe to the United States.



Jewish settlement areas in northeastern North Dakota. Note the early day rural post offices: Ben Zion in Ramsey County and Adler in Nelson.





# Overland Township

The pioneers that chose to homestead in Township 157 North, Range 62 West came in the 1880s. The earliest were Russian Jews who settled in the southwest corner of the newly plotted township. They were followed by Scandinavians, Germans, Canadians, and first generation Americans from the Midwestern states.

According to the 1900 census, they numbered 100 hardy souls. They built sod houses and barns; they broke the virgin soil with teams of oxen, mules or horses; they faced a day's journey "overland" to market the fruits of their labors in Devils Lake; they received their mail at places named Benzion, Tola, or Fox Lake; they provided schools for their children and welcomed the arrival of the railroad and the establishment of the new market places of Derrick and Edmore.

Organized August 1, 1901



# The First Six Months

Although Rachel arrived at the Calof colony at the end of June in 1894, she and Abraham did not immediately marry.

The Calofs had no money. Provisions had to be acquired before the coming winter. Plus, they needed money to file additional land claims.

So Abe worked every day at the nearby Anderson Farm for three months – July, August and September, so he could earn \$75; money that would help ensure their survival.

Under the Homestead Act, women were allowed to file claims but only if they were single. Marrying right away would have prevented Rachel from filing a 160-acre claim in her name for the benefit of the family.



Threshing Machine (NDSU Archives)

Year: 1894 ▼

Enter the Amount of Money: \$ 75

\$75 of 1894 dollars would be worth:  
**\$2,027.03** in 2013

\$75 of 2013 dollars would be worth **\$2.78** in  
1894



These are the reasons why Abe and Rachel had to postpone their wedding until the end of that year.



# Wedding Day



Mr. & Mrs.  
Abraham Calof

Sunday  
December 2, 1894

## Marriage License.

The State of North Dakota, }  
County of Ramsey. } ss.

In the County Court.

Application having been duly made to me as Judge of the County Court in and for the County and State aforesaid, and it having been made to appear that the parties are of proper age and that there are no consanguineous or other legal impediments, now therefore this certificate is duly issued.

To any Person Authorized by Law to Perform the Marriage Ceremony, GREETING:

KNOW YE, That license is hereby granted and you are authorized to join in matrimony  
Abram Calof of Ben Zion U.S. aged 24 and  
Rachel Wrohn of " " " aged 22, and  
of this you will make due return within thirty days, according to law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County  
(Seal) Court, at Devils Lake, in the County and State aforesaid, on this  
23<sup>rd</sup> day of November A.D. 1894

D. D. Sull

Judge of the County Court.

## Certificate of Marriage.

The State of North Dakota, }  
County of Ramsey. } ss.

I, Abraham Greenberg Rabi of  
Congregation Bet Shalom of the County and State aforesaid, qualified by due authority of law to perform the  
marriage ceremony, hereby certify that the persons named in the foregoing License were by me joined in marriage  
according to the ordinances of God and the laws of the State of North Dakota, at Greenberg  
in the County and State aforesaid, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December A.D. 1894

IN THE PRESENCE OF

Benie Greenberg  
John Anderson

WITNESSES.

Abraham Greenberg

\*An ordained Minister or duly qualified Justice of the Peace.

Readers of Rachel's Story have assumed that she and Abe married on 8 November 1894.  
This document proves they had not filed for the license until 23 November.



## 1903

[illegible]

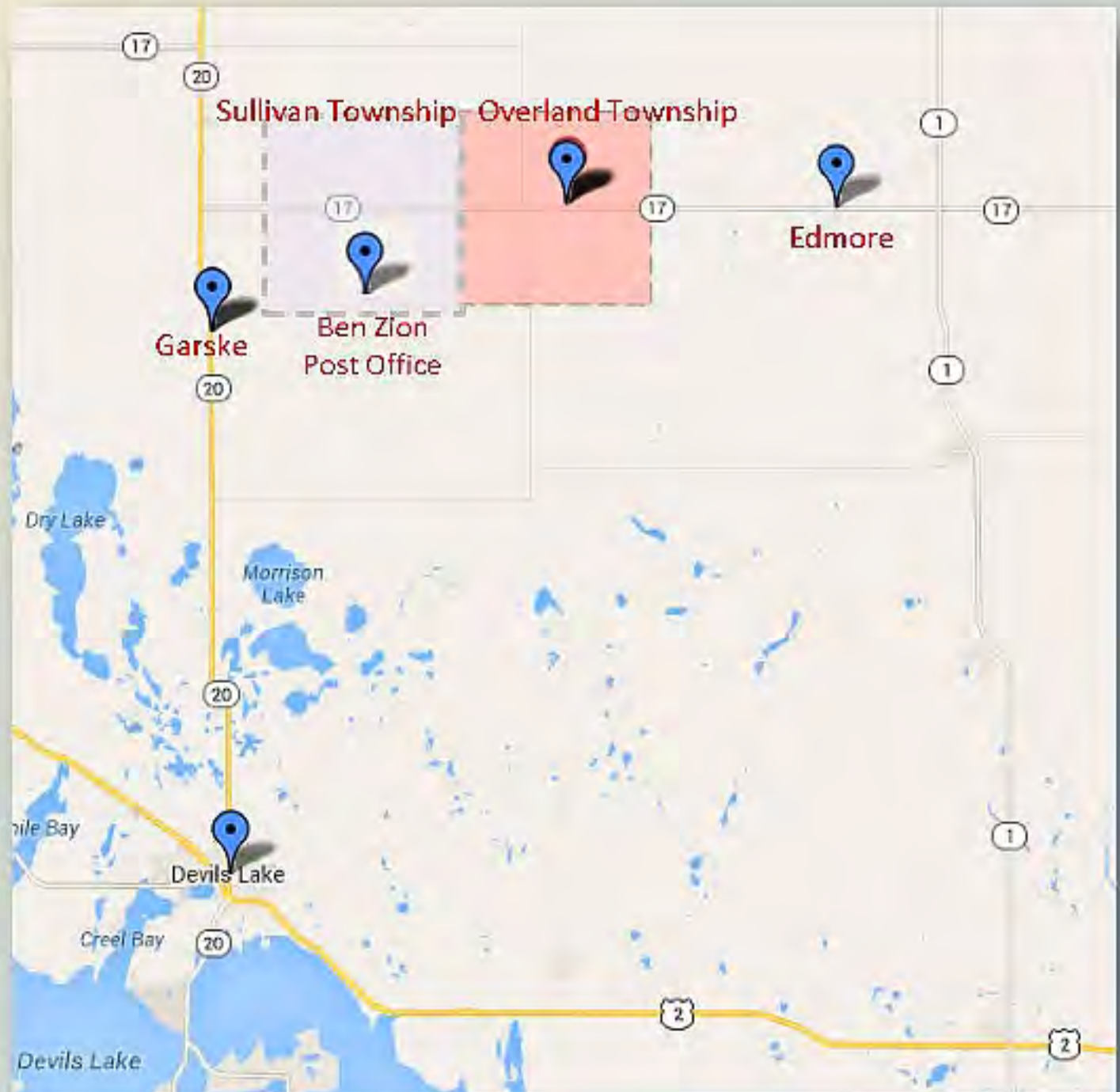
Hand-copied from 1965 Devils Lake Inter-Creek Soil Map  
Harbor and McMillenburg Map Publishers, Rock Ford, IL.  
Computer reproduction by Jerry and Kathy Straben, 2000

Cato Twp.

1900 Pop. 100

- Residence

# Overland Township 1903





# Overland Township 1903

Area Enlarged

|                        |                    |                       |                  |                       |                      |                        |                        |                       |                          |                        |                            |                     |                      |                    |               |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Fred Haverstraw<br>160 | F. Howard<br>120   | Ole J. Johnson<br>160 |                  | A. Donahue<br>160     | Isaac Adelman<br>160 | Nathan Herwitsch<br>80 | D. Strahan<br>160      | J. P. Morseth<br>160  | O. J. Morseth<br>160     | State Land<br>160      | State Land<br>320          |                     |                      |                    |               |
| 19                     |                    | James Griswald<br>160 |                  | 20                    |                      | 21                     |                        | 22                    |                          | 23                     |                            | 24                  |                      |                    |               |
| A. H. Hanson<br>160    |                    | Gertrude James<br>160 |                  | Oscar Talbot<br>160   | Oscar Talbot<br>160  | Ole Nilson<br>160      | Alfred Anderson<br>160 | Ike Pyes<br>160       | Moses Kalof<br>160       | Paul Komm<br>160       | Gus Komm<br>160            |                     |                      |                    |               |
| Isaac Becker<br>120    |                    | Solomon Kalof<br>80   |                  | Saval Kalof<br>80     |                      |                        |                        |                       |                          |                        |                            |                     |                      |                    |               |
| E. Ruben<br>40         | Isaac Becker<br>40 | Wm. Faulk<br>160      | Ida Kalof<br>160 | Solomon Kalof<br>80   | Saval Kalof<br>80    | Moses Kalof<br>160     |                        | Oscar Talbot<br>160   | Theodore DeKeyser<br>160 | Louis Mavil<br>160     | John Rockford, Est.<br>160 | F. W. Miles<br>160  | G. Ethel Bice<br>160 | Knowles<br>160     | Butler<br>160 |
|                        | Ida Ruben<br>40    |                       |                  | 29                    |                      | 28                     |                        | 27                    |                          | 26                     |                            | 25                  |                      |                    |               |
| Davis Ruben<br>160     | Dora Ruben<br>40   |                       |                  | Abram Kalof<br>160    |                      | Anthony Haley<br>160   |                        | School Land<br>320    |                          | State Land<br>160      |                            | M. Komini<br>160    |                      | R. V. Bice<br>320  |               |
| 30                     |                    | 31                    |                  | 32                    |                      | 33                     |                        | 34                    |                          | 35                     |                            | 36                  |                      |                    |               |
| Wm. McNamee<br>160     |                    | Henry Miller<br>160   |                  | State Land<br>320     |                      | School Land<br>320     |                        | Hyman Liberman<br>320 |                          | A. Peelen<br>320       |                            | A. P. Larson<br>160 |                      | C. A. Dodge<br>640 |               |
| Martin Winn<br>160     |                    | Wm. McNamee<br>160    |                  | Jake Berkowitz<br>160 | Francis Weego<br>160 | Israel Meil<br>160     | Sarah Liberman<br>160  | 320                   |                          | A. P. Lauritzen<br>160 | A. P. Larson<br>160        | F. L. Bina<br>160   |                      |                    |               |

Pink Shaded Area = the 160 acre claim by Rachel Kahn, filed 3 Oct 1894 in Grand Forks.

This claim was later cancelled by relinquishment 16 Jan 1900. Ida Pyes then purchased the claim that same date, and received a land patent as Ida Kalof in 1901 after she married Abe's brother Moses Kalof.



# Rachel Kahn Homestead Claim

## Recorded in the Tract Book

|      |    |    |     |    |       |      |                      |
|------|----|----|-----|----|-------|------|----------------------|
| Ref. | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | Mack Holm            |
| 21   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | Polmer Holm          |
| 22   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | Carol Holm           |
| Home | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | Anthony Hall         |
| 23   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | Thom Hall            |
| 24   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | Richard Holm         |
| 25   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | William J. Carlson   |
| 26   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | Ida Rubin            |
| 27   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | George P. Glath      |
| 28   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | David Rubin          |
| 29   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | Ida Rubin            |
| 30   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | William Glath        |
| 31   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | Burdette D. Townsend |
| 32   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | David Rubin          |
| 33   | NE | 29 | 157 | 62 | 16000 | 1000 | Loba Rubin           |

Approved Aug 27th 1900

Nov. 9/99 13535 U.S. S.C. no. 5421, April 23, 1900.

Jan. 18-1895 13923 U.S. S.C. no. 5647, U.S. Aug. 20, 1900.

Jan. 18-1895 13942 U.S. S.C. no. 6245, U.S. Aug. 12, 1901.

May 20/94 13637 U.S. S.C. no. 5300 U.S. Dec. 23, 1899.

Jan. 23, 1895 13943 U.S. S.C. no. 6120, U.S. July 9, 1901.

Oct. 30/99 13126 U.S. S.C. Canceled by order of Jan. 16, 1900 14256.

May 22, 1900 18760 U.S. S.C. Com. to Cash 16329 Jan. 24, 1902, 800.00

May 28, 1900 18773 U.S. S.C. Com. to Cash 16150, U.S. Aug. 12, 1901, 800.00

Jan. 16, 1900 18510 U.S. S.C. Com. to Cash 16064, U.S. May 27, 1901, 800.00

May 22, 1900 18760 U.S. S.C. Com. to Cash 16329 Jan. 24, 1902, 800.00

Homestead Sec 30 Twp 157 Rg 62 160.00 acres \$10.00 Rachel Kohn [sic]  
[ E ½ of NE ¼ ] and [ E ½ of SE ¼ ]

Oct 3 of 94 receipt# GF Cancelled by relinquish Jan 16, 1900



# Rachel's Signature on Land Sale Documents



*Remoune Kouropse* (SEAL)  
*(Rachel Calof)*



*Abraham Calof* (SEAL)  
*Remoune Kouropse* (SEAL)  
*(Rachel Calof)* (SEAL)

July 8, 1914





**Abraham and Rachel Calof Family - 1905**  
**Devils Lake, North Dakota**



# Home Sweet Home



North Dakota Homesteader's Sod House  
[rs006661- North Dakota State University Archives]

Abe and Rachel had a 12' x 14' shack



## PATENTS RECEIVED

### BIG CRIST OF THEM WAITING CLAIMANTS AT THE LAND OFFICE.

The following patents have been issued and are ready for delivery at the Grand Forks land office:

Cavalier County—Clara J. Knapp, Abraham Snellenberger, Hugh Monchief, Elizabeth Moffett, Butler Lamb, Duncan Mann, John J. Reilly, Robert McLean, Arnold Kubler, John G. Walstad, Anton O. Wold, James W. Pollock, Richard W. Padden, Annie Fischer, Peter Baber, Peter Spenst, William Hoelgen, James Mirehouse, John Gilbert, Bernard Hibbert, Alex Wilson, William H. Wilson, Wendel Hamerl, Ole A. Olson, Jacob Zahalka, Rosa C. Larson, Peter H. Rose, Frank Hodgins, Dan A. Munroe, Albert C. Rose, Peter Christoferson, James Devauv, Peter Delvo, Abram Holappe, William Walker, John A. Rock, heirs of Peter Karpian, Robert Booth, John Weston, Nellie Quinzel, heirs of G. D. Gillies, John S. Swanson, heirs of Kisten Anderson, William Reinholm, Albert Flach, Joseph B. Dunbar, George Ratson, Duncan McEwen, Thomas Parker, Samuel Kirma Emil Haugge, Edwin P. Pettis, Charles Kochmsteadt, Mary L. Haverly, Joseph F. Hannah, Margaret Labing, Charles McCormack, Adam Gellnes, Wilhelm Ruz, Melvin J. Chase, James H. Montgomery, John Montgomery, Henry Witzel, William Reilly, Andrew Anderson, George Mereshith, Gust Anderson, Frank Langevin, James D. McMillan, L. Larson.

Ramsey County—Ole T. Melland, Frank Hurst, Raymond O. Gravelle, Corie J. Ham, Charles L. Barnes, Fred Repp, Michael D. Kavanaugh, Julius Anderson, John Serungard, Frank Emil Carleson, William W. Scott, Sigurd B. Holt, Andrew Roskoff, Joseph Glick, Sarah Thompson, Annie Dahlen, Ramsey Olson, John M. Fosside, Abram Calof, Joseph E. Yeo, Andrew L. Brown, Thomas Space, Olof Nelson, Stanislaus Pare, Grinnur S. Grinnon, Thorla-



SOURCE: Stan Calof Collection

Abraham and Rachel's Homestead



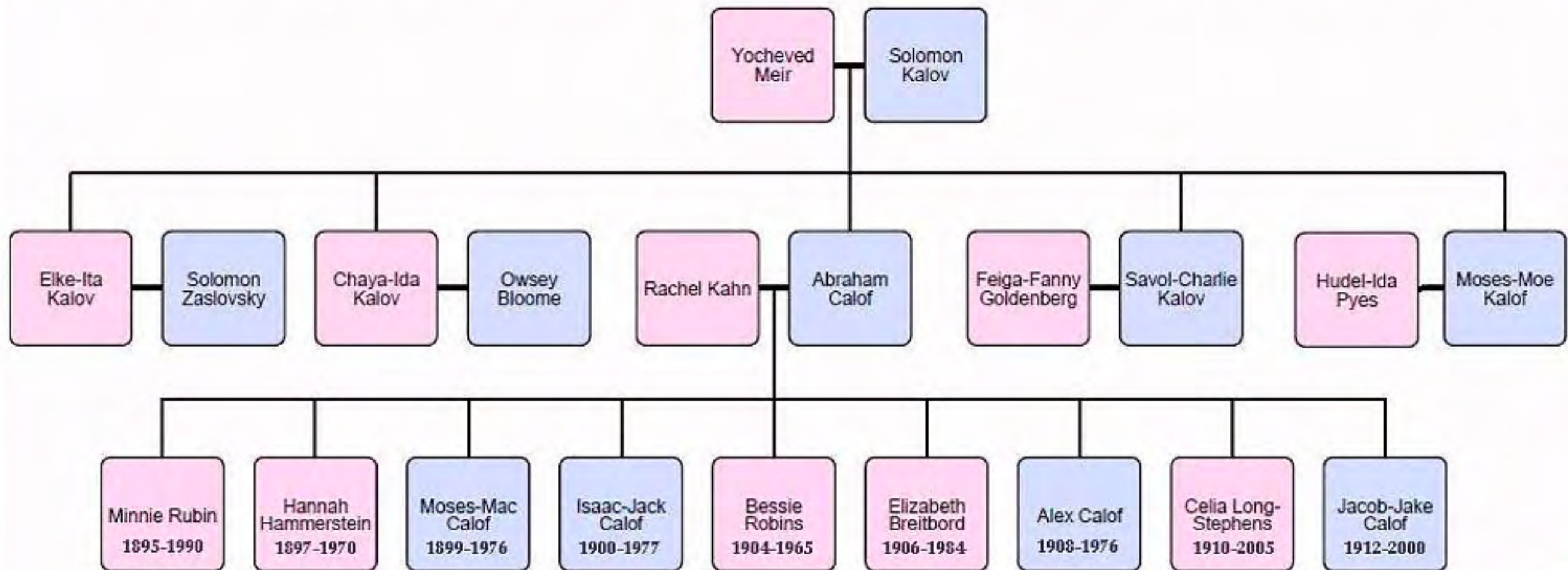


SOURCE: Stan Calof Collection

## The Abraham Calof Family 1919



# Family of Rachel & Abraham Calof





**Citizens of the  
United States  
of America  
July 1896**



SOURCE: Abram Calof Collection

**A wife automatically  
received citizenship under  
her husband's application**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, } ss.  
County of Ramsey.  
I, Abram Calof do swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and that I do, absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure, forever, all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Power, Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Czar of Russia where subject I was. And further, that I never have borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the degrees of nobility of the country whereof I have been a subject, and that I have resided within the United State for five years last past, and in this State for one year last past.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, this 6 day of July, 1896.  
T. L. Saunders Clerk  
By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy.

DISTRICT COURT,  
Second Judicial District.

Abram Calof

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, } ss.  
County of Ramsey.  
And now, to-wit: At a term of said Court, now being held at Devils Lake, in and for the County of Ramsey in said State, upon the foregoing oath and affidavit and upon further proof having been made by the production of a certificate that the said Abram Calof did, before the clerk of District Court of Ramsey Co. N.D. on July 13, 1896

DISTRICT COURT,  
Second Judicial District.

the same being a Court of Record, having common law jurisdiction, make the requisite declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce all other allegiance, as required by the laws of the United States;

IT IS ORDERED BY THE COURT, That the said Abram Calof be, and he is hereby admitted to be, a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

By the Court, D. E. Morgan Judge

A True Record. Attest:  
T. L. Saunders Clerk



# A Community of Immigrants

## Victoria and Overland Schools

The early settlers, in what was to become Overland Township, started a school for their children as soon as they themselves were established. The first school was located in the SW 1/4 Section 20 on Solomon Calof's land. The first session was held June 10-June 29, 1901. Micheal Dillon was the teacher and there were seven students. Five of them were Calofs, children of Abraham and Charles Calof. Perhaps this was the reason that the school was known as the "Calof School" although it was officially Victoria #1, District #35. The students were instructed in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, language, and physiology. The teacher's salary was \$32 per month. Most of the students were in the primary classes.

In the early years the schools were moved around, probably to accommodate the larger families. Victoria #1 appears in sections 20, 29, and 32 on the early plot maps. There were as many as four schools operating in the district until 1923 when the patrons of the district voted to split the township in the middle, into east and west districts. The western half of the township retained the name of Victoria, and the eastern half became known as the Overland District #40.

## Township Government

There were 100 people living in Township 157 North, Range 62 West according to the 1900 census of the United States. Most of them were first generation Americans having been born in the Midwestern states. The next largest group came from Russia and were part of the Jewish community that had sprung up northeast of Devils Lake. They were all farmers or farm laborers with the exception of one, who listed his occupation as a tailor. These earlier settlers were eager to organize their political unit. Thus early in 1901, 29 men and one woman, Margaret McCarthy, signed a petition and presented it to the Ramsey County commissioners calling for an election and organizational meeting.

This meeting was held at the Abraham Calof School in Section 20 on August 1, 1901. Thirty-three voters cast ballots and elected the following slate of officers: E. H. Alspach, chairman; Gust Komm and William McNamee, supervisors; Joseph Zunich, clerk; John P. Morseth, treasurer; Ole Morseth and George Graham, justices of the peace; and Martin Winn and Thomas Briggs, constables. The naming of the township seemed to be a bigger problem as eight names were suggested—Dering, McKinley, Sherman, Overland, Noble, Aetne, Sarah, and Victoria, the unofficial name of the area. Overland received the majority of votes, most likely from the Overland Trail that ran through the township from Ft. Totten to the Turtle Mountains. The first meeting of the new officers was quickly convened. The main order of business was the bonding of the officers. It was decided to reimburse residents at the rate of \$2 per day when their day was devoted to the business of the township. The officers were also to receive \$2 per meeting. The township was divided from north to south into two road districts—the East one-half and the West one-half. Residents were also chosen to serve on jury duty. More than one meeting per year seemed to be a common practice in the early years. Interest in the business of the township was high and often there were 30 to 40 people at the annual meetings.

Road work was the main business of the township. The residents were eager to make a little money to work out their taxes. Wages were 25 cents per hour for a man or 50 cents for a man and a team of horses. In 1903, it was decided to purchase a Steel Eta Grader from the Austin Western Company of Chicago for the sum of \$1,400.00. By 1916, contracts were issued for the building of roads.



# Rachel and Abe's Biography in the North Dakota History Books

## Abraham and Rachel (Kahn) Calof

Rachel Bella Kahn was born in March of 1876 in Russia. She was the second oldest of four children. Her mother died when she was four years old. Her father remarried, but her stepmother was not kind, so Rachel left home as soon as she could and worked for her father's sister. Again, life was hard for Rachel and an arranged marriage in America seemed the answer to her troubles.

Abraham was born July 16, 1872, to Solomon and Charadh Kalov in Russia. The family, which included Abraham, his parents, and two brothers, Charles and Moses, arrived in America via Ellis Island in July 1891. The family was lured to the Dakota prairie by the promise of free land. Their destination was a Jewish settlement northeast of Devils Lake, N.D.

NOTE: Several dates in this narrative *do not* match up with the genealogical data we've uncovered.

In the summer of 1894, Abraham went to New York to work and await the arrival of his bride. Rachel arrived in September after a 22 day voyage. They stayed two more weeks while Abraham worked so that they could take the train to North Dakota. They were greeted at the depot in Devils Lake by Charlie Calof, Abraham's brother.

After a long day's journey to Overland Township, Rachel finally arrived at her new home. Abraham and Rachel were married November 18, 1894. The newlyweds were forced to spend the winter in a 12 x 14 foot homestead shack with the elder Calofs, Abraham's brother, 24 chickens, and one calf. They were so poor that they could only afford to heat one shack and as yet there were no outbuildings for the livestock. These living arrangements continued for several winters even as their family grew. Rachel looked forward to the coming of each spring so that she, Abraham, and their children could move to their own place and enjoy the dignity of privacy.

The Calofs were the parents of nine children, all born while they lived on the farm in Overland Township. Minnie, the eldest, was born in August 1895; Hannah, March 1897; Moses, May 1899; Isaac, 1901; Bessie, 1902; Elizabeth, 1906; and Alec, April 1907. For her last two births, Rachel traveled to Edmore to be near a doctor. Celia was born November 12, 1910, and Jacob, March 4, 1912. All of the children attended Victoria School #1 with the exception of Jacob.

After much difficulty and a lot of hard work, Abraham was able to build a home for his growing family in 1902. He built it on his land in the SW 1/4 Section 29 of Overland. Their home became a gathering place for the Jewish families in the area. Finally in 1917, because of poor health, Abraham and Rachel decided to leave the farm and moved to St. Paul, Minn.

Rachel wrote about her early years and the harsh life on the prairie in Yiddish in a notebook with a pencil. Her memoirs were found many years after her death in 1952, translated, and published.





## ***Rachel Bella Calof*** ***Yiddish Autobiographer, Homesteader*** ***1876 -1952*** ***Devils Lake, North Dakota***

Rachel Bella Kahn was born in Russia in 1876. Her mother died when Rachel was just four years old. She later lived with her grandfather and her aunt, and in 1894, at age eighteen, she traveled to the United States for an arranged marriage to Abraham Calof. Many of Calof's relatives had already come to America, and most of them had traveled to North Dakota to claim homestead lands. Feeling that homesteading was their best opportunity to succeed in America, Rachel and Abraham journeyed to the region near Devils Lake, North Dakota to become homesteaders. Over the next 23 years, she and her husband carved out a life for themselves on the North Dakota prairie. Rachel gave birth to nine children in harsh and primitive conditions, and despite several dangerous illnesses and accidents, all survived. Eventually she and her family became well known and respected throughout the area, and she and her husband were integral to the establishment of the first organized local school district. For this work, they received letters of commendation from Presidents William Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson.

Eventually, the harsh living conditions and physical demands of homesteader life and numerous pregnancies took their toll on Rachel and Abraham Calof, and they moved to St. Paul, Minnesota in 1917. In 1936, Rachel began to record her autobiography in longhand in a standard writing tablet. Her handwritten memoir, entitled *My Story*, eventually made its way into the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where it was discovered in the early 1990s. It was edited and published as *Rachel Calof's Story* in 1995. It stands as an excellent history of a family's struggles, hardships, failures and successes on the vast American prairie. *Rachel Calof's Story* is a fine example of the difficulties endured by homesteaders and the ingenuity and strength of spirit that was required to succeed.

Rachel Bella Calof later moved to Washington state and died there in 1952 at age 76.



Adelman, Joseph 

b. unknown d. Aug. 14, 1907

Canter, Anna 

b. 1902 d. 1914

Canter, Joseph  

b. 1905 d. 1918

Ettinger, Simon 

b. 1853 d. 1891

Greenberg, Israel  

b. 1892 d. 1903

Greenburg, Charlotte 

b. 1902 d. 1906

Kalov, Solomon  

b. Feb. 2, 1825 d. Mar. 1, 1909

Mill, Israel

b. unknown d. unknown

Mill, Mandel  

b. 1860 d. Jun. 2, 1935

Parks, Benny 

b. Jan. 31, 1910 d. Feb. 13, 1910

Shumozen, M. 

b. unknown d. 1901

Yaffe, John  

b. 1891 d. 1918

# Sons of Jacob Cemetery

Garske, North Dakota



SOURCE: [www.SONorthdakota.org](http://www.SONorthdakota.org)

The 12 known Interments out of at least 15 souls from the Garske Colony believed to be buried in this Jewish cemetery.

Abraham and the Calof Family were part of the establishment of this cemetery for the Homesteaders.

Rachel's father-in law Solomon Kalov is buried here.





## JEWISH HOMESTEADERS

|                   |                    |                    |                    |                     |               |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| CHARLEY ABRAHAM   | ISAAC DELAVECH     | BENIE GREENBERG    | ABRAHAM LESCHENSKY | SAM ROSENTHAL       | JACOB WOLF    |
| ABRAHAM ADELMAN   | ISAAC EDELMAN      | JACOB GROSSMAN     | MENDEL LEVITZ      | ISRAEL M. ROSENWATE | MAX WOLFSON   |
| JOSEPH ADELMAN    | SIMON ETTINGER     | JOSEPH W. GROSSMAN | HYMAN LIBERMAN     | BESSIE RUBIN        | JOHN YAFFE    |
| PIT ALSWANG       | LASER FILIS        | HERMAN HOFFMAN     | RACHEL LIEBERMAN   | DAVIS RUBIN         | JOSEPH ZIMICH |
| ISAAC BECKER      | DORA FRANKEL       | DAVID HOLLANDER    | SARAH LIEBERMAN    | DAVID SCHAPERA      |               |
| JAKE BERKOWITZ    | ARON FRIEDMAN      | MAX HOLLANDER      | H. MARGOLIS        | ISAAC SCHAPERA      |               |
| LEVI BRITSK       | HERMAN FRIEDMAN    | SAM HOLLANDER      | LOUIS MAVIL        | JOSEF SCHAPERA      |               |
| ISRAEL BUCHMANN   | JACOB FRIEDMAN     | NATHAN HORWITZ     | ISRAEL MILL        | SAMUEL C. SCHAPERA  |               |
| ABRAM CALOF       | LENA FRIEDMAN      | LUIS KAHAN         | MAX MILL           | JACOB SCHECTER      |               |
| MAIER CALOF       | ZENDA GILMAN       | SAVOL KALOV        | MICHAEL MOSCHITSKA | HALLECK SCHECTER    |               |
| BARNETT CANTOR    | JOSEPH J. GOLDBERG | SOLOMON KALOV      | HEIMS NATHAN       | ESTHER SCHLEMISON   |               |
| FRED CANTOR       | SAM GOLDBERG       | HERC KAPLOW        | SIMON NATHAN       | MAX SCHULMSON       |               |
| SIMON CLITCHEN    | SOLOMON GOLDBERG   | LOVE KASLOW        | NUDELMAN           | ABRAHAM SHERMAN     |               |
| KATIE COHEN       | SOLOMON GOLDSTEIN  | ALBERT KAUFMAN     | M. OXMAN           | WOLF SHEROWITZ      |               |
| RUEBEN COHEN      | LOUIS GOODERMAN    | HERMAN KAUFMAN     | CHARLES PARKS      | JACOB SOLOMENSKE    |               |
| LOUIS GOLOSKY     | HEMIS GRAWDIG      | ABRAHAM KEMPINSKY  | ABRAHAM PENNER     | ISAAC SPERIDH       |               |
| ARON COMONOW      | ABRAHAM GREENBERG  | SIMON KLIZEN       | MOSES PLENTNICHKY  | ABE STEREN          |               |
| SARAH COMONOW     | BEN GREENBERG      | BINEY KOHN         | IKE PYES           | HYMAN WALK          |               |
| THEODORE DEKEYZER | MOLLIE GREENBERG   | MAX KOHN           | MAX PYES           | S. L. WINEMAN       |               |
| IDA U. DELAVECH   | PHILLIP GREENBERG  | MUSKO KOLDV        | ABRAHAM RACKNER    | EMMA WOLF           |               |





## These are the 104 Names on the Monument Honoring the Original Jewish Homesteaders of the Garske Colony

|                   |                    |                    |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Charley Abraham   | Herman Friedman    | Love Kaslow        | Max Pyes            |
| Abraham Adelman   | Jacob Friedman     | Albert Kaufman     | Abraham Rackner     |
| Joseph Adelman    | Lena Friedman      | Herman Kaufman     | Sam Rosenthal       |
| Pit Alswang       | Zenda Gilman       | Abraham Kempinsky  | Israel M. Rosenwate |
| Isaac Becker      | Joseph J. Goldberg | Simon Klizen       | Bessie Rubin        |
| Jake Berkowitz    | Sam Goldberg       | Biney Kohn         | Davis Rubin         |
| Levi Britsk       | Solomon Goldberg   | Max Kohn           | David Schapera      |
| Israel Buchmann   | Solomon Goldstein  | Mosko Kolov        | Isaac Schapera      |
| Abram Calof       | Louis Gooderman    | Abraham Leschensky | Josef Schapera      |
| Maier Calof       | Hemis Grawoig      | Mendel Levitz      | Samuel C. Schapera  |
| Barnett Cantor    | Abraham Greenberg  | Hyman Liberman     | Jacob Schechter     |
| Fred Cantor       | Ben Greenberg      | Rachel Lieberman   | Halleck Schechter   |
| Simon Clitchen    | Mollie Greenberg   | Sarah Lieberman    | Esther Schlemison   |
| Katie Cohen       | Phillip Greenberg  | H. Margolis        | Max Schulmson       |
| Rueben Cohen      | Benie Greenberg    | Louis Mavil        | Abraham Sherman     |
| Louis Colosky     | Jacob Grossman     | Israel Mill        | Woolf Sherowitz     |
| Aron Comonow      | Joseph W. Grossman | Max Mill           | Jacob Solomenske    |
| Sarah Comonow     | Herman Hoffman     | Michael Moschitska | Isaac Spetior       |
| Theodore Dekeyzer | David Hollander    | Heims Nathan       | Abe Steren          |
| Ida U. Delavech   | Max Hollander      | Simon Nathan       | Hyman Walk          |
| Isaac Delavech    | Sam Hollander      | Nudelman           | S.L. Wineman        |
| Isaac Edelman     | Nathan Horwitz     | M. Oxman           | Emma Wolfe          |
| Simon Ettinger    | Luis Kahan         | Charles Parks      | Jacob Wolfe         |
| Laser Filis       | Savol Kalov        | Abraham Penner     | Max Wolfson         |
| Dora Frankel      | Solomon Kalov      | Moses Plentnichky  | John Yaffe          |
| Aron Friedman     | Herc Kaplon        | Ike Pyes           |                     |
|                   |                    |                    | Joseph Zurich       |



# Chapters Beyond the Farm



SOURCE: Stan Galof Collection



## A Desire to Tell Her Story

In 1935-36 while still living in St. Paul, Rachel hand wrote her life story, in her native Yiddish language, on a 5 x 7 inch writing tablet.

The pages remained in a trunk for 44 years until Rachel's daughter Elizabeth Breitbord resurrected her mother's manuscript sometime around 1980.

The narrative was later translated into English by a family friend, and eventually in 1995 it was published by Indiana University Press.

In addition to the 91 page autobiography, the book also contains historical perspectives by two associate professors, and an epilogue by Rachel's youngest son, Jacob Calof.







SOURCE: Stan Calof Collection

Saint Paul, Minnesota circa 1944





SOURCE: Stan Galof Collection

Elizabeth Breitbord and Minnie Rubin, daughters of Rachel



# Dust to Dust

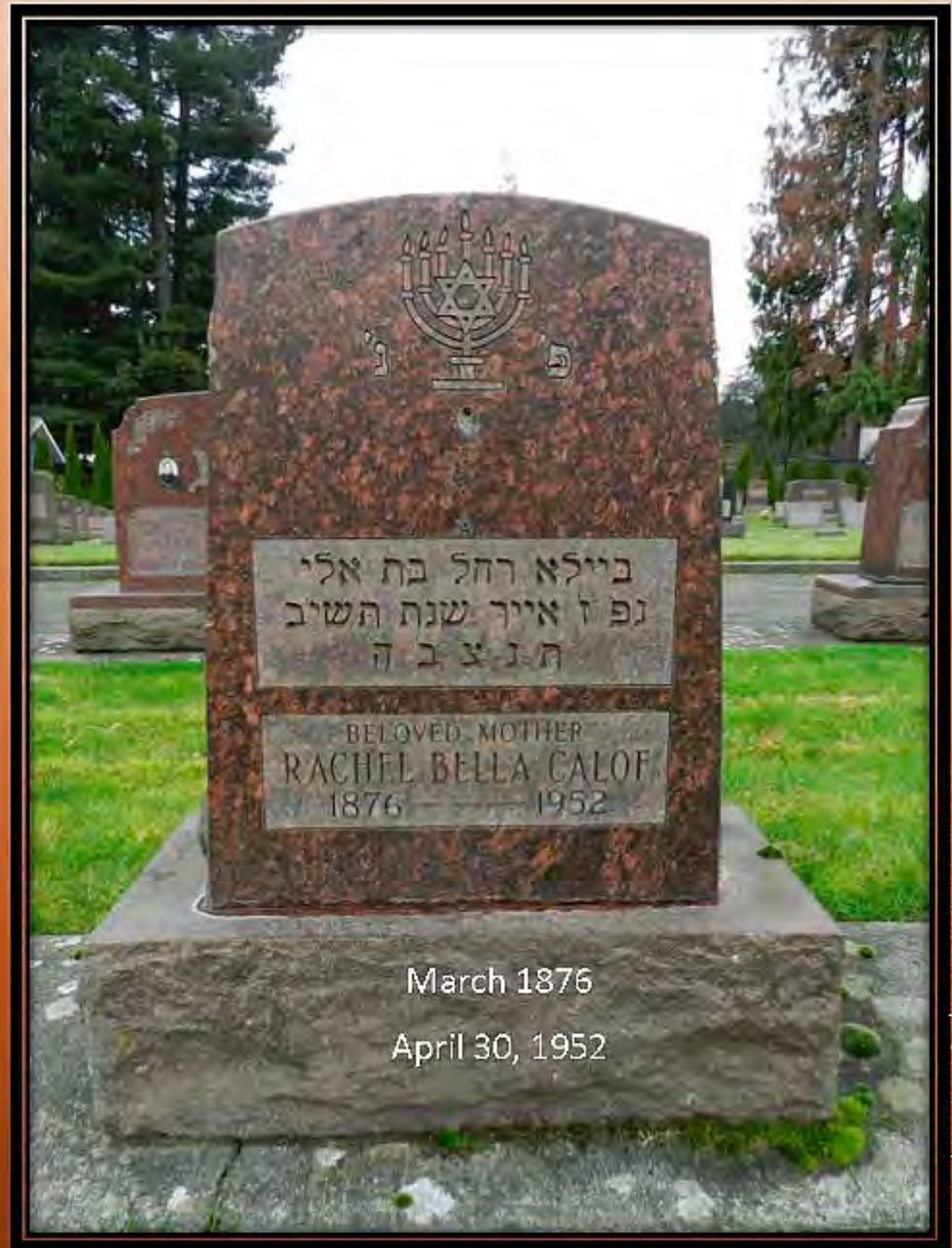
## MRS. ABRAHAM CALOF

Funeral services for Mrs. Rachel Ella Kahn Calof, 76, of 614 20th Av., will be held at noon tomorrow in the Jewish Chapel, with burial in Herzl Cemetery.

Mrs. Calof died yesterday. She was born in Russia and came to the United States 60 years ago. She and her late husband, Abraham, homesteaded near Devil's Lake, N. D., and later lived in Minneapolis several years. She came here from Duluth, Minn., about five years ago.

Mrs. Calof was a member of the Jewish Pioneer Women's Club and Herzl Congregation here. She was a member of the auxiliary of the Workmen's Circle in Minneapolis and the B'nai B'rith in Duluth.

Surviving are four sons, Jacob Calof, Seattle; Mac and Jack Calof, both of St. Paul, and Alec Calof, Minneapolis; five daughters, Mrs. Minnie Rubin, Seattle; Mrs. Bessie Robins, Winnipeg, Man.; Mrs. Ceil Longbottom, Portland, Ore.; Mrs. Hannah Hammerstein, St. Paul, and Mrs. Elizabeth Breitbord, Duluth, and 18 grandchildren.



March 1876

April 30, 1952

Herzl Memorial Park, Seattle Washington



# Dust to Dust



b. 16 July 1872

d. 15 April 1942

Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery, St. Paul Minnesota



Serial: The Atlantic Monthly Volume 0082 Issue 489 (July 1898)

Title: *The Russian Jew in America* [pp. 128-139]

Author: Cahan, Abraham

Collection: Journals: Atlantic Monthly (1857 - 1901)

## THE RUSSIAN JEW IN AMERICA.

ONE afternoon in the summer of 1881, when the Jewish quarter of Kieff was filled with groans and its pavements were strewn with the débris of destroyed homes, a group of young men entered one of the synagogues of the ancient city. They were well dressed, and their general appearance bespoke education and refinement. The rabbi had proclaimed a day of fasting and prayer, and the house of God was crowded with sobbing victims of the recent riots, but as the newcomers made their way to the Holy Ark silence fell upon the congregation. The young men were students of the University of St. Vladimir, and although sons of Israel like the others, their presence at a synagogue was an unusual sight.

"Brethren," said the spokesman of the

delegation, struggling with his sobs, "we are a committee of the Jewish students of the university, sent to clasp hands with you and to mingle our tears with your tears. We are here to say to you, 'We are your brothers; Jews like yourselves, like our fathers!' We have striven to adopt the language and manners of our Christian fellow countrymen; we have brought ourselves up to an ardent love of their literature, of their culture, of their progress. We have tried to persuade ourselves that we are children of Mother Russia. Alas! we have been in error. The terrible events which have called forth this fast and these tears have aroused us from our dream. The voice of the blood of our outraged brothers and sisters cries unto us that we are only



strangers in the land which we have been used to call our home ; that we are only stepchildren here, waifs to be trampled upon and dishonored. There is no hope for Israel in Russia. The salvation of the downtrodden people lies in other parts, — in a land beyond the seas, which knows no distinction of race or faith, which is a mother to Jew and Gentile alike. In the great republic is our redemption from the brutalities and ignominies to which we are subjected in this our birthplace. In America we shall find rest ; the stars and stripes will wave over the true home of our people. To America, brethren ! To America !”

On February 2, 1882, a public meeting was held at Chickering Hall, New York. The proceedings were presided over by William R. Grace, then mayor of the city, with Judge Noah Davis, Hamilton Fish, Robert L. Stuart, Anson Phelps Stokes, Charles H. Van Brunt, Joseph H. Choate, and other well-known citizens as vice-chairmen. Ex-Secretary Evarts and the Rev. Dr. Hale were the principal speakers. The resolutions, adopted unanimously, and which met with the hearty approval of the entire American people, recited “that the citizens of New York have heard with sadness and indignation of the sufferings

inflicted upon the Jews of Russia,” and “that in the name of civilization we protest against the spirit of mediæval persecution. In this age the recognized equality of all men, irrespective of their religious confessions, an essential element in American constitutions, is a principle and a practice which secures the loyal devotion of all classes. This is eminently true of the Hebrews, who constitute faithful citizens and subjects wherever accorded the rights of manhood.” The resolutions continued : “We sympathize with our fellow citizens of the Hebrew faith in their sorrow for their afflicted brethren in Russia, and in their energetic efforts for the welcome of the exiles.”

The two gatherings, held in two hemispheres, mark the opening of an important chapter in the history of the Jewish race, the beginning of a new great exodus of the wandering people. In the summer following the Chickering Hall meeting almost every incoming transatlantic steamship brought hundreds of Russian refugees to these shores.

Before 1882 the emigration of Russian Jews to America was restricted to the provinces lying about the Niemen and the Dwina, notably to the government of Souvalki, where economical conditions caused Catholic peasants as well as Jewish tradesmen and artisans to go



elsewhere "in search of bread." Some of these Lithuanian and Polish Jews sought their fortune in the southern districts of the empire, where their brethren enjoyed a high average of prosperity, while the more venturesome crossed the frontier to embark for the New World. Among the Jews of the south (Ukraine and New Russia) and of the central provinces (Great Russia) self-expatriation was an unknown thing. But with the breaking out of the epidemic of anti-Jewish riots, which rendered thousands of well-to-do families homeless and penniless, Hebrew immigration to this country underwent an abrupt change in character as well as in volume.

Not only did the government of Alexander III. blink at the atrocities and practically encourage them, but it even sent a series of measures in their wake which had the effect of depriving new multitudes of "stepchildren" of their means of livelihood, and of dislodging thousands of families from their long-established homes. The cry "To America!" was taken up by city after city and hamlet after hamlet, till its fascinating echo reached every synagogue in the empire. Many left because they had been driven from their homes, and these were

joined by many others who, while affected neither by the outbursts of mob violence nor by the new restrictions, succumbed to the contagious example of their co-religionists and to a general sense of insecurity and of wounded race pride. The efflux which had hitherto been sporadic suddenly became epidemic. The prosperous and the cultivated — an element formerly rare among the Jewish arrivals at New York — came to form a respectable minority in nearly every company of immigrants which, thanks to the assistance of the Hebrew communities of western Europe and of this country, the steamships brought from the domains of the Czar. The Jewish college student, whose faith barred him from the educational institutions of the empire, sought these shores in order to complete his studies, and many a graduated physician, chemist, dentist, architect, and artist came here to take up the profession from which he was interdicted at his birthplace.





Solomon Kalov



Sons of Jacob Cemetery  
Garske, North Dakota

## Abraham's Mother and Father



Yocheved Kalov



Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery  
St. Paul, Minnesota



Rachel, Yecheved and Abraham Calof





Brothers Savol Kalov and  
Abraham Calof  
Pre-1900



Brothers Moses Kalof  
and Abraham Calof



Moses Kalof  
Hebrew Sick Benefit Cemetery  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

**Brothers**  
Abraham "Abe" Calof  
Savol "Charlie" Kalov  
Moses "Moe" Kalof





Charlie (Savol) Kalov  
Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery  
St. Paul, Minnesota



Fanny Kalov (nee Feiga Goldenberg)  
Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery  
St. Paul, Minnesota



Daughters Alice & Lillian  
North Dakota circa 1910

## Savol Kalov Funeral Today

Services for Savol Kalov, 85 years old, 144 Iglehart ave., who died Monday, will be at 2 p. m. today in the Aaron Funeral chapel, Oakland and Pleasant. Burial will be in Chesed Shel Emes cemetery.

Mr. Kalov was born in Russia in 1863 and came to this country in 1891. He lived near Devils Lake, N. D., until 1916 when he retired and moved here.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Alice Liebman and Mrs. Lillian Malmquist and two sons, Henry and Max, the latter of Minneapolis.







PHOTOGRAPHER: Colyn Ward

## Rachel and Abe's Children

Minnie Calof Rubin  
Shaarie Torah Cemetery  
Portland, Oregon



PHOTOGRAPHER: L. Vaughn

Hannah Calof Hammerstein  
Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery  
St. Paul, Minnesota



PHOTOGRAPHER: L. Vaughn

Moses ("Mac") and Mary (nee Miller) Calof  
Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery  
St. Paul, Minnesota



PHOTOGRAPHER: D.K. Railsback B.



**Jack (Ike, Isaac) Calof**

Jack and Peggy (nee Staff) Calof  
Green Hills Memorial Park  
Rancho Palos Verdes, California

PHOTOGRAPHER: Carolyn Schmidt Alves



**Bessie Calof Robins**

Rosh Pina Memorial Park  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada



SOURCE: D. Robinson

**Elizabeth Calof Breitbord**

Mount Sinai Memorial Park  
Los Angeles, California

Celia Calof Long Stephens WA

PHOTOGRAPHER: L. Vaughn



**Jacob (Jake) Calof**

Hills of Eternity  
Seattle, Washington

**Alex (Elick) Calof**

Beth El Cemetery  
Crystal, Minnesota



PHOTOGRAPHER: Susie McQuillen





**Abe's older sister Chaya**  
 Ida (Chaya Kahalovsky) and Owsey Bloome  
 Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery  
 St. Paul, Minnesota



PHOTOGRAPHER: L. Vaughn



SOURCE: D. Robinson

**Abe's niece Dora Zaslovsky Goodman**  
 Philip and Dora Goodman  
 Grand-daughter Ruth Joy Lockshin  
 Shaarey Zedek Cemetery  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada



SOURCE: D. Robinson

**Abe's niece Zelda**  
 Daughter of Abe's older sister Elke Ita Zaslovsky  
 Zelda Zaslovsky Robins (Rabinovitch)  
 Shaarey Zedek Cemetery  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada



**Abe's brother-in-law**  
**Menashe Solomon Zaslovsky**  
 Husband of Abe's older sister Elke Ita  
 Shaarey Zedek Cemetery  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

SOURCE: D. Robinson





SOURCE: D. Robinson

#### INSCRIPTION

An elderly important man, son of Mordechai,  
who died in the month of Av, age 77  
[ died 28 Aug 1943 / 27 Av 5703 ]

**Abe's cousin Leib ("John") Calof**

**Abe's niece Sarah Zaslovsky**

Leib and Sarah Calof  
Shaarey Zedek Cemetery  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

#### 1921 Census of Canada about Sarah Caley

| Name:                      | Sarah Caley                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----|------------|----|-------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|
| Gender:                    | Female                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Marital Status:            | Married                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Age:                       | 48                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Birth Year:                | abt 1873                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Birth Place:               | Russia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Relation to Head of House: | Wife                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Spouse's Name:             | John Caley                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Father Birth Place:        | Russia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Mother Birth Place:        | Russia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Year of Immigration:       | 1916                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Racial or Tribal Origin:   | Austrian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Province or Territory:     | Manitoba                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| District:                  | Winnipeg North                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| District Number:           | 39                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Sub-District:              | Winnipeg (City)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Sub-District Number:       | 29                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| City, Town or Village:     | Ward 3, Winnipeg                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Township Number:           | 374 Maneloke                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Municipality:              | Ward 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Neighbors:                 | View others on page                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Household Members:         | <table> <tr> <th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr> <tr> <td>John Caley</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sarah Caley</td><td>48</td></tr> <tr> <td>Roy Caley</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr> <td>Joe Caley</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Max Lalof</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sam Lalof</td><td>10</td></tr> </table> | Name | Age | John Caley | 55 | Sarah Caley | 48 | Roy Caley | 23 | Joe Caley | 20 | Max Lalof | 14 | Sam Lalof | 10 |
| Name                       | Age                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| John Caley                 | 55                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Sarah Caley                | 48                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Roy Caley                  | 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Joe Caley                  | 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Max Lalof                  | 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |
| Sam Lalof                  | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |     |            |    |             |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |           |    |



View  
Original  
Record

View original image



SOURCE: D. Robinson

#### INSCRIPTION

An elderly woman, Sarah, daughter of  
Menashe, died on 20 Tamuz 5715  
[ died 10 July 1955 ]



Abe's cousin Maier Calof  
Abe's niece Doba Zaslovsky

Maier and Doba Calof  
Agudath Achim Cemetery  
Los Angeles, California



On an adjacent farm lived the Sullivan family. Often, Doba could see Sullivan's horses against the horizon and she wrote,

Himmel un erd  
Un Sullivan's ferd  
Heaven and earth,  
And Sullivan's horses.

What more vivid, concise description of the view on a prairie farm could be penned. And with only nine syllables.

Excerpt from "Life in a Pioneering Jewish Farm Community at Devil's Lake, ND"  
by Grandson Dr. Arnold Rogers, 1982.



Doba and Maier Calof

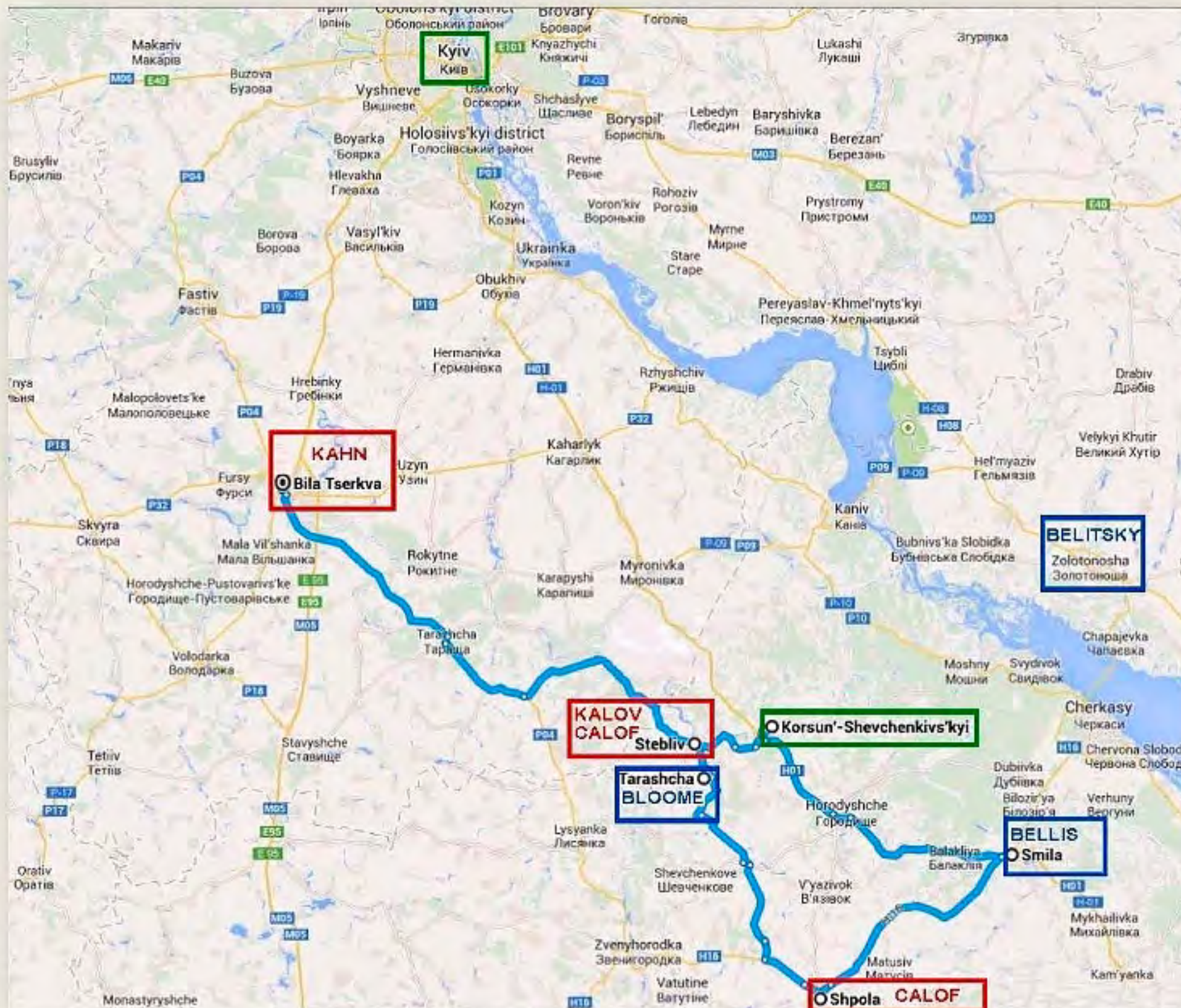


SOURCE: D. Robinson

1943-46?



# Family Shtetls in Ukraine





# A Life Worth Celebrating

WELCOME

VIDEO

THE SHOW

THE WOMAN

KATE FUGLEI

CREATIVE TEAM

MUSIC & MORE

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INFO



## RACHEL CALOF

A Memoir with Music

starring

KATE FUGLEI

adapted for the stage by Ken Lazebnik

music and lyrics by Leslie Steinweiss

directed by Ellen S. Pressman



“Actress Kate Fuglei gives a tour-de-force performance in *Rachel Calof*...”

Julie Congress, 8/15/11, nytheatre.com

“Kate Fuglei carries the one-woman show in her captivating portrayal...”

Suzy Evans, 8/15/11, BACKSTAGE.com

[www.rachelcalof.net/rachelcalof.net/Welcome.html](http://www.rachelcalof.net/rachelcalof.net/Welcome.html)



# RACHEL CALOF

A MEMOIR WITH MUSIC

STARRING KATE FUGLEI

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY KEN LAZEBNIK  
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY LESLIE STEINWEISS  
DIRECTED BY ELLEN S. PRESSMAN

June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

At the Robert E. Fawcett Auditorium  
at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, ND

Tickets available at the Lake Region Heritage Center

Adult      \$10      Family (Immediate)      \$25

This dynamic, solo theatrical event is based on the memoir of a Jewish bride who emigrated from Russia to North Dakota in 1894 to marry a man she had never met, determined to make a new life as a homesteader. For four years after she arrives, she and her husband live in a twelve by fourteen shack with her in-laws and their children. Years later, at the age of 55 and living in St. Paul, Rachel chronicled her story which was discovered by her children after her death. This memoir with music is complete with humor, compassion, and a detailed account of the hardships she encountered.



Rachel's Story will once again be performed on stage in June 2014.

This time, the drama will play out in Devils Lake which is 25 miles south of where the Calof Farm used to be in Overland Township.





“ I had traveled a long and often torturous way from the little *shtetl* in Russia where I was born.

It wasn't an easy road by any means,  
but if you love the living of life you must know  
the journey was well worth it.”

- Rachel Bella Calof